

Affordable Warmth in Cumbria Project Update



People across Cumbria have been getting a helping hand in keeping themselves and their homes warm this winter by Cumbria County Council and the other members of the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Partnership.

The aim of the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Partnership is to establish links to fuel poor homes, attract funding and promote referral mechanisms across the county, leading to better insulated homes with lower energy bills and increased income through benefit checks.

To help spread the message, Cumbria County Council launched the “Taking the ‘Brrr’ out of Cumbria” campaign. The aim of this initiative was to:

- Raise awareness generally about the risks to health posed by prolonged exposure to cold weather.
- Provide advice and highlight practical action people can take to help look after themselves and the more vulnerable members of their community.
- Signposting people to the various streams of financial support on offer that the partnership has been able to secure.

We took this campaign into the community with a series of roadshows – one in each district – and by distributing our campaigns materials far and wide through partner organisations and our own public facing services.



Roadshow at Dunmail Park in Workington

What help is available?

Thanks to diligent cooperation and a successful bid to the Department of Health ‘warm homes, healthy people fund’ there is now a wide variety of help available to a range of Cumbrian people. The bid, which resulted in £477,500, was in addition to £100,000 already raised by the partnership resulting in a total winter warmth fund of almost half a million pounds available to the county’s households.

The partnership is proud to offer a range of support services – from prevention measures to emergency help - which are highlighted on the following page. These offers are all available for a limited time only so we are encouraging people to make their applications as soon as possible. Our message is very much one of actions taken today can make a sustainable and lasting effect for many years to come.

These services are managed by different partners however they can all be accessed by contacting the Cumbria Warm Homes helpline on **freephone 0800 328 8419** who will signpost people to the most appropriate service.

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to keep you warm



Cumbria warm homes project

Cumbria warm homes offers free home energy health checks to **any Cumbrian resident** with the aim of providing free or discounted energy saving measures such as lost insulation, tank lagging, cavity wall insulation and draft proofing. People can access this by calling the Cumbria Warm Homes helpline on **0800 328 8419** or by visiting www.cumbriawarmhomes.org.uk

Closing date for applications - 31 December 2012

Winter warmth fund

The winter warmth fund, managed on behalf of the partnership by the Cumbria Community foundation, is inviting applications from the **more vulnerable members of the community** such as the elderly, families on low incomes with young children, and those who have poor health or disabilities. The fund can provide grants of £125, or £250 in exceptional circumstances, to help pay for heating bills. People should make their initial enquiries to the Cumbria Community Foundation on **01900 62681** or by visiting www.cumbriafoundation.org

Closing date for applications - 31 March 2012

Hot spots

Hot spots are managed on behalf of the partnership by Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency. Again hot spots are aimed at **vulnerable people** and will cover up to £200 of fast financial and practical help to repair heating systems, maintain boilers, provide replacement heaters or help make a cold home more energy efficient. People should make their initial enquiries to the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency on **01539 726624** or by visiting www.crea.co.uk

Closing date for applications - 31 March 2012

EON's free insulation and £100 off energy bills

We are working with EON to promote their offer of free insulation to **low income families and pensioners**. Those who take up this offer may also be eligible to claim a one-off payment of £100 to help with their energy bills. The offer is open to anyone on an annual household income of less than £16,190 and in receipt of child tax credit, claiming state pension credit and satisfying the eligibility criteria. People should make their initial enquiries to EON on **0845 302 4253** or by visiting www.eonenergy.com/which

Closing date for applications - 31 July 2012

Where can people find out more?

More general information and advice on keeping warm during winter is available by visiting the Cumbria County Council website at www.cumbria.gov.uk/brrr

Who makes up the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Partnership?

The Cumbria Affordable Warmth Partnership comprises Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Community Foundation, Healthy Communities Partnership, Age UK, Cumbria Advice Network, Cumbria Citizen's Advice Bureaus, Action with Communities in Cumbria, 6 District Councils, Churches Together, NHS Cumbria, Cumbria Children's Centres, Carers Organisations, Cumbria Centre for Independent Living, Energy Saving Trust and EON.

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