

CAN Executive Meeting Minutes

10 October 2013 @ 10:30 am
London Borough of Camden Town Hall

Present:

Darsh Chauhan	(DCh)	CAN National Secretariat & Vice Chair, East Midlands CAN
Tina Cowley	(TC)	E.ON
Rachel Jones	(RJ)	Chair, West Midlands CAN
Rob Leeson	(RL)	CAN National Secretariat
Karen Lond	(KL)	Chair, East Midlands CAN
Paul Maplethorpe (Chair)	(PM)	CAN National Chair & Chair, East Pennine CAN
Carol White	(CW)	Chair, South East CAN
David Colbourne	(DC)	Chair, North West CAN
Oliver Myers	(OM)	CAN Representative and Policy Advisor
Rob Ballington	(RB)	London HECA Forum Representative
Peter Gudde	(PG)	Vice Chair, Eastern HECA
Fern Leathers	(FL)	DECC
Abigail Gallop	(AG)	LGA

Apologies:

Jane Mears	Vice Chair, East Pennine CAN
John Kolm Murray	National CAN Deputy Chair
Paul Hinsley	Chair, HECA East
Jo Gill	Chair, London HECA
Stuart Pye	Vice Chair, North West CAN
Neil Short	Chair, South West CAN
Charles Garrett	Vice Chair, South West CAN

Welcome and Introductions

PM welcomed the group and introductions were made.

1. Minutes of 11 July 2013 & Matters Arising

- 1.1 The minutes were read and accepted as a true record of the meeting. The following matters arising were addressed:
- 1.2 Page 3, 4.2 Oldham has a scheme with their CCG. An article has been submitted to CAN news.
- 1.3 Page 4, chase DECC action with FL.
- 1.4 Page 5, JKM and PM have exchanged emails about this.
- 1.5 Page 6, 6 chase with FL. Oldham have provided a briefing note to DECC and DC now has clearance to circulate this and will send this round to exec.
- 1.6 Page 9: approached Paul Ogden from the LGA but Abigail is coming instead

Action: DC to send briefing note around the Executive

Action: Speak to FL about the above issues

2. Sponsor's Update – Tina Cowley, E.ON

- 2.1 There was really good feedback from E.ON on the Coventry conference, it went down really well. Angela Porter has been working with CAN as well as TC.
- 2.2 E.ON have launched an online Energy Saving toolkit. Aimed at E.ON customers, it uses data that E.ON holds to give relevant hints and tips on reducing energy bills and can give comparisons to similar properties in their neighbourhood.
- 2.3 E.ON has given a £750,000 grant to Age UK towards their Handy Person Service. This will help elderly people with benefit health checks, draught proofing etc.

- 2.4 The ECO is going well. In Liverpool, E.ON is working with Maison Vert to identify potential customers who can benefit from assistance. Case study: a customer living in a 3 bed terrace with electric heating (although gas network was available) was referred. E.ON put in full gas central heating under HHCRO. The customer was very happy with the installation and gave excellent feedback on how well things went. The client hadn't realised that E.ON had funded the work!
- 2.5 E.ON is working with installers to reduce the installation timeframes.
- 2.6 DC There must be a change of policy as previously storage heated flats didn't qualify.
- 2.7 There are concerns about ESAS and the two-tier service. Customer gets better service through ESAS but getting referrals to ESAS is difficult. There is also a limited time window for installation. Some contractors are not willing to do the work for funding available therefore there is an excess. Raising that excess can take more than three months, as LA's now have to approach charities who may only meet quarterly. As a result of the delay the client gets thrown out of the system.
- 2.8 E.ON is working on this. They have compiled a list of pre-authorized extras, e.g. vertical flues. E.ON does not automatically fund things over and above like TVRs, scaffolding, asbestos removal, etc. If there are extras then contractors provide a quote and E.ON review the requests twice a week, to feed back to installers. If E.ON cannot fund the extras then the customer needs to fund the work themselves. If the customer is thrown out of the system, customers then have to fund these if not approved.
- 2.9 If the customers file is closed due to a delay in raising funding, the customer can reactivate their file once funding has been raised by contacting E.ON. It is up to the customer to reactivate their file.
- 2.10 RJ: Is E.ON converting electric heating to gas as standard because most utilities are saying no?
- 2.11 TC: E.ON has to be sensible in volume but they will consider them. They are not actively turning lots away. Tina is not aware of situations where such requests have been refused.
- 2.12 TC: Oil boiler installations are considered on a case by case basis. Currently E.ON are the only utility who will consider oil boiler installations and will pay the larger contribution of the install, however these measures will not be fully funded and a considerable cost contribution will be required from the customer.
- 2.13 RB: Are there many new boilers going into old systems? This may affect the warranty on new boilers.
- 2.14 TC: There was a case with corroded radiators so a request was made for new radiators and E.ON did fund this.
- 2.15 RJ: A common problem is that the six different utilities are doing things differently. E.g. some won't do anything with a back boiler. Therefore it is a little like a postcode lottery.
- 2.16 KL: The answers on ECO in the CAN members' survey was a fairly general thumbs down.
- 2.17 PM: A regional report has involved the local university interviewing several people and not one customer has a clue about who has paid for their ECO work.
- 2.18 TC: There is more opportunity for publicity when doing entire streets but it is difficult otherwise. Magnets on boilers could help?
- 2.19 As soon as TC has a definitive list of pre-approved measures, she will forward this to group. This should be ready in next few days. Just because certain items are not on the list this doesn't mean they will not be considered. Everything is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Action: *TC to forward list of pre-approved measures.*

3. Secretariat Update – Darsh Chauhan & Rob Leeson

- 3.1 The last three months have been really busy with the conference, survey, awards and magazine.
- 3.2 Finances: The CAN finances are healthy. CAN does not owe any debt. The Secretariat will now begin chasing money owed from the events. There are many organisations including local authorities who owe CAN money.
- 3.3 News magazine: the electronic version of the Carbon Action News went out in time (before the Coventry conference). Unfortunately due to a problem at the printers the hard copies went out after the Coventry event.
- 3.4 The next magazine (the last edition of 2013) will be circulated around the end of November. A request for articles has been sent out.
- 3.5 Conference & Awards: both received really good feedback. The delegates enjoyed the range of speakers. Jamie Torrens the speaker from DECC was rated the best speaker at the event. Members were also pleased to see the return of the awards and receive peer recognition for their work. Whilst the turnout for the awards was not as high as expected, the event was enjoyable. We did not have many private sector delegates for the evening Awards meal.
- 3.6 An area of concern is that there was no nomination for the Welsh award and there have been no responses to the Member's survey from Welsh colleagues. At the April conference in Cardiff, it was

hoped that the relationship between CAN and Welsh colleagues would be rekindled. PM has agreed to make some contact with Steve Martin to discuss.

- 3.7 Member's Survey: The survey has now closed. 108 responses were received. The survey has presented some interesting results which are: there is an even split on the name change. Around 30% want the change to HECA, 30% want to stay as CAN and 30% had no preference either way. ECO has presented several problems to LAs. Members are happy with E.ON's involvement. Most LAs did submit HECA reports though many felt that it did not really do much profile raising for their work within the authority. Members still want CAN to serve a networking function, though there is some support for CAN to become more active. There will be a detailed report in the next CAN magazine.
- 3.8 It was also agreed to report some of the interesting finds of the survey to DECC.
- 3.9 Web: RL will look into setting up twitter accounts and other social media. RL requested that the CAN Exec contribute more to the forum. There is not really a culture to blog within our members so maybe an advert in the next edition of CAN news may help spur more activity. OM commits to doing one post. RL will send email if he hasn't by the end of the week.
- 3.10 RL is attempting to resolve the Barracuda spam filter problem.
- 3.11 The next Conferences will be in London in January, Manchester in March/April, Taunton in June/July and Coventry again in September with the annual awards. Hopefully a train station will have been constructed on site at the Coventry venue by next year which may encourage more people to attend. A suggestion for theme was made: Development of Fuel Poverty strategy – raising the energy efficiency of fuel poor households. The conferences should also look at welfare reform and getting households up to SAP band B by 2030.
- 3.12 Chairs Away Day: depending on the consultation of the next Fuel Poverty Strategy, a Chairs Away should be organised for either January (the day after the conference) or in February. The day should focus on collating a CAN response to the fuel poverty consultation. Views on the consultation should also be collected via the web forum and the Executive should take information from the survey results. A fixed date will be circulated in the near future.

Action: PM to email Steve Martin in Wales.

Action: DC to organise Chairs Away Day and circulate a date to the Executive.

Action: Chairs to regularly update the web forum.

Action: RL to look into the development of CAN's use of social media channels.

Action: Articles for CAN news to be sent to RL.

4. Representation, consultations and policy

Engaging with the public health agenda

- 4.1 PM: In the East Pennines region, the NHS group used to meet quarterly and PM is now on that group since health has moved to the LAs. NHS Energy Officers are talking about fuel poverty and energy efficiency and they are looking for routes into this work. PM has told them about CAN and given them the website address. PM will try to get more members to attend CAN meetings. They want to have an energy officer within the network who can advise on where to send people for installations.
- 4.2 PG: In the Eastern region they are looking to get an energy officer into health rather than a health officer into energy efficiency. The Health and Wellbeing strategy has this as a priority and has some funding to put towards raising awareness of fuel poverty and energy efficiency. Condensation and damp seems to be something they are concerned about. JKM is running the MouldMonster scheme, maybe they can contact JKM for some information/ideas.
- 4.3 DCh: It has been very difficult to get a health speaker for conferences. Most say they are interested but too busy to attend. Hopefully we will be able to secure a speaker for the London conference.

Warm Homes Healthy People Fund

- 4.4 WHHPF will not be continuing this year. We are repeatedly being told that the funds are now in the ring-fenced LA amount and it's up to them to set their own budgets. The health minister inferred that additional money had been put in for this but actually there is less money overall than in previous years and in a lot of areas the money has already been spent/allocated.

Warm Front data

- 4.5 Warm Front did provide CAN with the data but then, as soon as they had sent it, told us not to use it for reasons of data protection. They have offered to provide the data but with addresses removed.
- 4.6 It was agreed for RL to challenge DECC's issues with Data Protection and if necessary contact the Data protection Commissioner. There are concerns that data protection should not be an issue as the data is the same as the data on an EPC which is publically available.
- 4.7 It was suggested that CAN offer to make the data available through a password protected mechanism.

DECC's Big Energy Saving Network

- 4.8 DC was invited to a meeting in September which was aimed at training volunteers to encourage people to switch tariffs. As it was the third or fourth meeting, nearly everything had been previously decided. It is likely to be a one off scheme.
- 4.9 The money was going to NEA and CAB. There is a legal reason why the money could not go directly to LAs. Yesterday was the closing date for bids. Three people will deliver training to 140 individuals over 5 sessions each. £4700 paid to do this which is compensation for costs. 160 champions will have to deliver by March 2014. Information advice leaflets will be available.
- 4.10 DC asked, if LAs can't have money, can LA staff attend the training? DC is still waiting on a reply.
- 4.11 DC discussed with RL the possibility of offering the CAN forum as a way of communicating with people. This would be for questions that volunteers and champions might have. DC will keep RL informed on this issue.
- 4.12 There is no collective switching this winter.
- 4.13 Utilities were offering additional cash back on standard tariffs. This will soon be illegal. They are moving to new tariffs. There will be: four tariffs for dual fuel; four tariffs for pre-payment etc, so there will still be a lot of tariffs.
- 4.14 DC will inform the group by email if anything else comes out.

DECC's Domestic Private Rented Sector Working Group

- 4.15 JKM had attended a meeting but there has been no feedback from him.

Action: JKM to provide feedback to the Executive.

Fuel Poverty Strategy Advisory Group

- 4.16 OM attended the meeting on behalf of CAN. Gareth Baynham-Hughes facilitated a range of speakers on framework for fuel poverty strategy. They are drawing up first principle targets and what the key deliverables are. They are sticking with Hills definition. They have not got very far with guidance on how to find people in lower left quadrant of graph. The concern is where do you place most importance. All resources could get focussed on removing the gap for people below a certain level or they could just focus on reducing the average gap or they could do something in between.
- 4.17 There is a danger that if RD SAP is used, properties could be made more efficient but the fuel poor remain fuel poor, especially in private rented accommodation as they may just be forced out of a nice home into another energy inefficient home or their incomes remain low so they are still fuel poor.
- 4.18 There is a need to be pragmatic this time and set a proper achievable target. This is unlikely to lead to a target for total eradication. It seems as though the focus will be on amelioration.
- 4.19 There are one million living in energy efficient properties but they are just poor. They are still a burden on NHS etc. but they are being ignored. Some have income at the moment but are "waiting" to be fuel poor as their homes are not energy efficient. The definition is good academically but will not help everyone who is vulnerable. The Government will not change the definition now.
- 4.20 CAN needs to talk about what our views are on other things where we can have an influence.
- 4.21 CAN needs to look at the vulnerable clients who will be missed out under the Hills definition.
- 4.22 If there is a requirement to bring all homes up to SAP band D by 2030 and band B by 2050, then this means visiting properties twice. For some properties it is not possible to bring them up to these standards. The target must be achievable for individual LAs.
- 4.23 If it is just going to be a strategy for fuel poor households, then it needs to be clear that it is not a fuel poverty strategy per se but in fact it just focusing on energy efficiency.
- 4.24 There needs to be something in the strategy for CLG and health.
- 4.25 The LGA are only doing stuff on climate change and the growth agenda, so this is relevant to them. If the strategy goes for an energy efficiency rating then what would be the appropriate rating, SAP or EPC? It will probably be EPC as there are changes happening next year. The problem is that LAs need to pay for EPC data or use highly inaccurate data. EPC data also misses houses that haven't had an EPC done. If measured specifically with SAP ratings LAs which don't have years of data to use will have problems.
- 4.26 WHECA, the last strategy, was not a real strategy. They need to make sure that programs work toward the targets they set. E.g. ECO HHCRO isn't working for this. There is a massive gap in funding between ECO and the Golden rule. DECC fall back to the Hills report which says that levy funding is more effective than tax payer funding. In most rural counties people are off mains gas, which is where a lot of fuel poverty is. Therefore the most vulnerable cost more to deal with. Tactically a call for exchequer funded programmes is not worthwhile. ECO is moving those with the smallest fuel poverty gap and not the lowest. So the gap will widen.
- 4.27 It was expected that HHCRO would provide more cavity wall insulation but it is mainly doing boiler installations.

- 4.28 E.ON has had trouble finding lofts and cavities to do. The EPC will show if other measures are available if contractors are only targeting boilers. E.ON will then do these measures as well. E.ON is seeking off-gas areas, targeting external solid wall etc to make sure these don't miss out.

Name Change

- 4.29 In the members survey there is no clear preference for CAN or HECA. Whilst it can be argued that CAN is more inclusive and powerful as a brand, only 16% of respondents to the survey selected carbon as a priority for the work.
- 4.30 It was agreed, by vote, not to change the name of National CAN, though regions are free to revert to HECA if they wish. The results of the survey together with the looming General election and uncertain future render it unwise to change the name at present though this is something that needs to be reviewed in the future. There is no certainty about the future of HECA so maybe CAN is the better option for the time being.

Action: DCh to secure a speaker from Health for the next conference.

Action: RL to contact Warm Front about the data and if necessary contact the Data Protection Commissioner.

Action: DC to email any updates from the Big Energy Saving Network to RL.

5. Regional Updates

5.1 East Pennines

Name: John Mallinder

CAN Position: Representative

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

Meetings planned with Green Deal ECO Providers on Leeds City Region Framework with a view to mini-tendering during 2014:

SSE 8 October

Wilmott Dixon 30 October

Keepmoat TBC

NEA National Conference 16-18 September

Leeds City Region Energy Forum 19 September – work to identify aspirations and appetite to collaborate around new European Funding regime.

Leeds City Region Green Deal ECO Officer Working Group 12 September. Current work around procurement.

Sheffield City Region Green Deal ECO Officers Working Group 1 October. Current work around business case.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

4th October – Fuel Poverty Summit (Barnsley Civic)

Well attended by local authority health professionals and partner organisations. Expected follow up meeting to progress practical service links and joint working opportunities identified in the workshops.

Details of any current projects:

Leeds City Region Green Deal ECO Framework is out to tender, at the ISOS stage at present. LCR scheme expects to be live April 2014.

Interim framework in place – preferred suppliers are Keepmoat, Wilmott Dixon and SSE.

Sheffield City Region Green Deal ECO Framework under development. Consultants Verco and Marksman have been engaged to develop the business case bringing market intelligence around governance, delivery, finance, procurement and legal aspects to the consortium.

Interim framework in place – preferred suppliers are Npower, SSE and E.ON. The ECO brokerage was facilitated by Re:allies initiative supported by Efficiency North and Procure Plus

Green Deal Pioneer Places Fund – currently delivering, expected to complete March 2014. Working with Keepmoat Regeneration and University of Sheffield, currently in Town Centre, Pogmoor and

Dodworth areas. Target to deliver 5 show homes, sign up 75 Green Deal Plans and install 38 external solid wall insulations. The show home measures have been installed; 100% capital spend and 90% revenue spend achieved.

Green Deal Communities LA Fund – Barnsley will not now be making a bid due to lack of resources.

Fuel poverty in Barnsley has had no investment for three years as a direct result of government budget cuts.

Ambitions to deliver a fuel poverty project. This depends on securing internal underspend for which competition is fierce. This is expected to be a small scale targeted initiative estimated in the £200k range.

Any other comments, e.g. issues or barriers:

Green Deal Pioneer Places – major issues around availability of Green Deal Finance have caused long time delays. Legal debate ongoing at board level around onus clauses between our provider Keepmoat and DECC at board level. Locally this has caused customer complaint and general lack of confidence amongst industry in the Government's ability to deliver upon its promise.

Still major resistance to Green Deal in the market. Many local installers have not undertaken training due to the perceived cost / time / bureaucratic complexity of achieving accreditation to PAS 2030. Barnsley College tell us that only 1500 green apprenticeship places have been taken up out of a national pool of 24,000.

SMEs have not been able to access funding for level 3 traditional trade skills (eg. electrical, plumbing) meaning that the root of the training tree has been withered. This is key because the upgrades to green deal installers skills are built upon this basic training.

Lack of resources within local authorities following successive years of financial cutbacks has reduced our capacity to develop bids and sustain projects in the field. Third sector organisations cannot often deliver the scale and technical complexity of programme that we require independently therefore training and capacity building are becoming increasingly important aspects of getting anything done, particularly engaging the community.

5.2 North West CAN

Name: David Colbourne
CAN Position: Chair

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

Meeting held on 9 July with presentations from Merseyforest ion RHI, Dupont on Phase change materials and Instagroup on Greendeal and their approach.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

Many members attended the NW retrofit event held in Liverpool. This unfortunately clashed with the CAN Coventry event.

Details of any current projects:

NW CAN collated most of the live links to HECA reports from its members. (document available on request).

Currently reviewing membership.

Any other comments, e.g. issues or barriers:

NW CAN were pleased to support and recommend Stockport Homes for the NW CAN regional award winner.

5.3 East Midlands CAN

Name: Karen Lond
CAN Position: Chair

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

EMCAN held a combined meeting with the NEA Fuel Poverty Forum on the 2nd October at Nottingham. Speakers included Dora Slater from DECC updating us on HECA; of the 40 East Midlands councils 35 (87.5%) have submitted links to their HECA reports. Peter O'Neil from InstaGroup presented on the Green Deal the customer journey and Jimmy Pugh NEA on gave an interesting overview of Welfare Reform; NEA also provided a Policy Update and in the afternoon ran a Green Deal/ECO workshop. The meeting was well attended with over 50 attendees of which half were local authorities.

EMCAN year's sponsorship with InstaGroup Snug Network finishes on 31/10/13 and they are not renewing their contract.

Sponsorship for our next EMCAN meeting has been secured from the Energy Audit Company: the meeting will be on 10th December in Leicester and is our AGM: presenters include the sponsors and Lucy breeze from the LGA.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

Next NEA East Midlands Fuel Poverty Forum is planned for February 2014

Details of any current projects:

Many of the regions LA's are planning to bid for DECC Green Deal Communities Funding or have already submitted bids.

Any other comments, e.g. issues or barriers:

Levels of sponsorship will determine how long we can continue to pay for the services of our secretary: we will review this at the end of December 2013.

5.4 Eastern HECA

Name: Peter Gudde
CAN Position: Vice Chair

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

Meeting held 9th October, Bury St Edmunds. Focus on Solid Wall Insulation (SWI) with a case study by BC Kings Lynn and North Norfolk and presentation by Dyson Energy.

Forum discussion around SWI.

Open floor discussion – funding, where Warm Homes Healthy People was heading.

Potential link up of meetings with NEA.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

Discussions underway to share meeting date with NEA. Likely meeting date – late January-early February 2014

Details of any current projects:

Suffolk – procurement process using concessionary agreement for ECO and Green Deal (GD) provider into Suffolk

- Broadland and South Norfolk, working with Norwich. Bid focus: making GD better for hard to treat properties.
- Bedfordshire consortium bid via GD with Herts, Beds and Bucks as community Interest co.
- Colchester considering GD procurement route.
- Essex Energy Partnership going to market for supply of GD services.

Suffolk has produced introductory guidance for householders on SWI – produced by Climate Consulting as part of Defra funded Climate Skills Fund. Developed with planners, conservation officers, building control inspectors. Available on <http://www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Greenest-County/SGBN/Householder-Guide.pdf>

Watford and 3 Rivers doing solid wall project at moment — funding from DECC - fully funded for home owners.

Any other comments, e.g. issues or barriers:

Understanding the funding landscape:

- where people are going;
- what funding is on horizon (e.g. core funding through Councils, access to funding through ECO etc., bid funding, Public Health funding)
- how people are approaching getting hold of funding
- potential community partnerships
- access through LEPs.

Eastern region underperforms when it comes to securing energy related public funding.

5.5 West Midlands CAN

The last LA meeting was a sub-regional meeting in the south of the region, where we looked at district heating options including costs and revenue The meeting also covered the latest OFGEM changes for energy supplies around billing.

LA's in the West Midlands have been focusing on developing their plans around ECO and Green Deal delivery. Birmingham has Carillion as its partner and due to its procurement framework some LA's are able to access this partnership. Therefore a number of LA's are currently negotiating KPI with Carillion with a focus on use of local supply chain.

ECO is being delivered across the region in varying ways, the key areas are through social housing with high levels of funding being achieved in some areas. The challenge area for the rural counties of the West Midlands is HHCRO and its challenges around funding for those off the mains gas.

5.6 South East CAN

Name: Carol White

CAN Position: Chair

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

6/2/14

Greenwatt Way 5/6/14

10/10/14

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

NO OTHER EVENTS CURRENTLY ORGANISED

Details of any current projects:

Jo Allatt – Arun part of Sussex Energy Partnership led by West Sussex; Brighton and Hove; East Sussex have chosen Corillion as their provider for their ECO projects.

Louise Ellison – pushing Green Deal; have 3 assessors in the private sector team; eco social housing side

About to start a new build housing project; difficulties engaging with residents to encourage them to live in them; well insulated problems getting people to use the heating system correctly; heat exchange systems; radiator controls; residents opening windows – any learning on how to engage with people?

Dan Shaw – part of Kent and Medway partnership; rolling out scheme November; work on ratio 1:4 to fully fund solid wall insulation scheme. Now full time role. Bid for section 106 money for landlords to fit solar schemes alleviate fuel poverty.

Cliff Darby – looking get eco funding park homes; working with Action Surrey.

Hazel Hill – major redevelopment and refurbishment happening in Bracknell town centre; working in energy matters shop dealing with insulation and green deal.

Carol White – Working with their contractor Kier on housing stock ECO projects x 300 homes. Also working with local accredited EWI installer on approx 500 houses and maisonette to insulate via ECO (they are 3M Jespersen ex naval homes/ solid wall and all electric). Also working in partnership with Solent Green Deal managed by Portsmouth CC and with Hampshire CC on a 'Switch Hampshire' Scheme.

Paul White – housing association based in Tonbridge Wells; 6500 older stock; getting it upgraded to decent homes standard; 800 properties HTT, SWI/ timber framed; working with Kent and Medway partnership engaging with groups. Carried out stock carbon assessment using Parity; challenge delivering incremental payment for solar hot water; heat pumps; 500 off gas properties; 190 oil heated properties; balance electric storage heaters; rolled out SPV programme 250 properties; heat pumps solar hot water; got online platform to analyse feedback.

Dale Hoyland – project managing 3 affordable warmth networks; providing fuel poverty training; climate awareness; working with community interest company green deal together; free boiler schemes; other technologies. Working for the last 3 years on Greenwood Close Hillingdon, code level 5 development – running lots of tenant activities to build a green community; social housing project – will share learnings from this.

Cati Smith – looking at ECO funding social housing stock; thermal imaging course with local residents.

Amanda Martin – procured ECO provider; yet to decide with green deal.

Dipna Pattni – launched Green Deal scheme with partners 2 months ago; social housing private sector; Dover, Tonbridge Wells, Dartford; received DECC funding covering collective switching – aiming to do another switching project in Dec via I-chooser.
PV panels in 1000 social housing stock; air source heat pumps

Lucy Martins – offering 50 green deal free assessments; no one taken up finance yet; some will do small improvements and fund them; 3 referred to eco of which 2 were landlords. Working with conservation officers to get advice on older properties
Converted station got eco funding for SWI – general info available on website; not promoting green deal broadly. Undertook property mapping, lots of off mains gas; some electric properties in central Basingstoke; looking at assisted gas connections.

Jonathan Denning – part of Southampton consortium; backlash from pioneer places project; 500 assessments, interested in following through to green deal plans, but difficulty getting one, software issues; finance etc; decided against it. Working to get a proper HHCRO scheme in place launched last month; slow take up

James Robinson – Surrey Heath working with partners on DECC bid £1m

5.7 South West CAN

No report received

5.8 London HECA Forum

No report received

5.9 CAN Cymru Housing

No report received

Action: Chairs to email regional updates to RL.

6. Guests: Fern Leathers, DECC and Abigail Gallop, LGA

- 6.1 Introductions were given by everyone present. PM welcomed the guests and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Fern Leathers, DECC

- 6.2 At present fuel poverty is undergoing a review of the framework. This began with the Hills Review. The Hills definition is the accepted definition. The previous definition was not providing the correct policy incentives. Hills allows for below income and higher energy costs which allows us to measure the gap of fuel poverty.
- 6.3 The current framework which includes a target for eradication of fuel poverty by 2016 is no longer adequate. Government is concerned with what will happen to fuel poverty beyond 2016. DECC believe that there should be a statutory obligation to tackle fuel poverty and have proposed a framework which places a duty on the Government to have an objective to tackle fuel poverty in primary legislation, but with the detail of the target set out in secondary legislation. These amendments to the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act have been proposed as part of the Energy Bill which is currently going through parliament and it is expected to receive Royal Assent in December 2013. It is around this time that they will begin looking at what proposals there are for a new target. These will be published and consulted upon.
- 6.4 It is expected that there will be a strong focus on energy efficiency, but DECC realises that this is not the only issue to consider. Feedback will be sought on targets and indicators. DECC are keen for there to be supplementary targets and indicators along the way. The indicator is complex but can distil down characteristics to target people in fuel poverty on the ground
- 6.5 DECC are also keen to learn what are the health benefits of fuel poverty interventions. They are keen to make the case for joint health and fuel poverty strategy. DECC is interested to hear what the new public health landscape means from our perspective, and what should be in the strategy. They want to know what is helping and what isn't helping. It is the first time since 2001 we'll have a new strategy.
- 6.6 Q: About targets to improve energy efficiency, what is the mechanism to be used to ascertain whether a house needs intervention?
A: It will probably be a SAP based target but DECC is still working on the methodology.
- 6.7 Q: Where someone lives and whether the property is on or off mains gas has a huge impact on whether they are fuel poor. There might also be restrictions on what can be done to a property e.g listed status will prevent any modifications. If it comes down to the only thing that can be done is improve income, is there anything we can do?
A: DECC is focussed on energy efficiency but income is also an issue that needs addressing. Being off gas is a key characteristic of high fuel poverty. DECC is very keen to hear about this sort of thing.
- 6.8 Q: The LIHC (Hills definition) misses out people who are poor but have energy efficient homes. They still need to be addressed as they are still vulnerable and have impacts on the NHS. The new definition is a barrier to tackling this.
A: DECC would dispute that. The conclusion of the Hills Review was there fuel poverty was a distinct problem from poverty more generally, and in part this is because there is a difference between the experience of those with biggest fuel poverty gaps. However we acknowledge that there are a lot of people making difficult trade-offs, which is why might still want to ensure that there is still support for people below the income threshold whether they are fuel poor or not. The new definition is much more robust and allows us to identify characteristics of fuel poverty in a way that couldn't have done under the old definition.
- 6.9 Q: The target will be a target from national government rather than a local government target. How will LAs find people below poverty line?
A: Currently we use benefits as proxies at the moment. DECC will need to think about how to target people who don't claim benefits for example. They have been talking to DWP about universal credit. At a national level, benefits is the best proxy for identifying low income.
- 6.10 Q: Is a benefit proxy better than SAP band for targeting?
A: The Holy Grail would be SAP rating + Income proxy
- 6.11 Q: The amount of households in fuel poverty above SAP 60 is only a very small percentage. We should be aiming towards getting better data on SAP as this is more likely to be a much better proxy than benefits. E.g. A list of properties below SAP 40.
A: Data sharing can be a solution but we have to demonstrate very specific benefits to justify the use of data sharing.

- 6.12 Q: LAs need to be part of the solution but LAs need resources (cash) Often there are a lot of one-off grants. The same LAs miss out each time. Is it possible to have a dedicated pot of funding for all LAs?
A: It would be lovely to have a large pot of funding but unfortunately this is not possible.
- 6.13 AB stated that about a year ago Energy UK set up a session with the Department of Health which looked at super priority groups. The GPs attending the session said they would not refer one of their patients to an energy company for energy efficiency improvements. They stated they would refer to LAs as they are partners but not to utilities. This was stated to add to the argument of the important role of LAs.
- 6.14 Q. LA knowledge is key. Once you regenerate an area the population changes. People move from one fuel poor household to the next. If we eradicate neighbourhoods in fuel poverty, then we can work from the worst neighbourhoods towards the best.
A: DECC does not disagree. It is useful for DECC to show where these things are possible. They would like to receive evidence for this.
- 6.15 AB said that LGA have done a lot of case studies on the role of local authorities, which are on the LGA's website.
- 6.16 Q How fuel poverty outcomes are delivered needs to be looked at. In reality HHCRO is delivered by commercial enterprises. It is almost like a postcode lottery with some utilities allowing some measures and not others.
A: We will be reviewing the first phase of ECO in time to influence the new strategy, and it will be important to learn lessons from how this first phase has delivered as we make adjustments to the scheme.
- 6.17 Q: We want a scheme that will hit a targeted area but also an individual vulnerable person. If it is attached to SAP ratings then this could potentially lead to a licence to print money for people who do SAP ratings. Data is stored but there are data protection issues even between depts. This makes data sharing difficult. Also LAs are often asked to pay for data but this shouldn't be the case. The Government has to bite the bullet and do something with income or demolition. Maybe they should embrace newer technologies like air source heat pumps etc.
A: Government reports do say that air source heat pumps are cost effective.
- 6.18 Q: Will DECC have regional workshops?
A: if it's felt this would be useful then this could be looked into but it is a small team with a limited budget. Saying that, DECC would like to hear from as many people as possible. The target will be a national Government target, not one placed on LAs.
- 6.19 Q: There needs to some sort of funding incentive if LAs are to deliver these targets. Not all LAs have funding to help deliver targets. Are incentives ever going to be strong enough to get a combined LA response?
A: Could work together as a number of LAs.
- 6.20 Q: The ECO definition of rural is so weak that the most rural districts either is out or don't show any interest. Utilities are going to the larger rural areas (towns) rather than the isolated hamlets or individual homes that really do need the intervention. Rotherham, for example, does not have a single rural area under the definition. The word rural is drivel.
A: Will feed this back to colleagues.

Abigail Gallop, LGA:

- 6.21 AG is now working on mental health, personalised health budgets and carers. Paul Ogden is the public health lead. Dan McCartney is the new lead on environment and Cllr Katie Hall is the new chair of the LGA Community Wellbeing board. Fuel poverty is a key priority for her.
- 6.22 DoH cold weather plan was released on 25 October. A letter has been sent to all LAs (Chief Executives) to let them know. There is no funding this year though. There is a list of health and wellbeing chairs on the LGA website.
- 6.23 The LGA send out a monthly bulletin. CAN can send things to AG that we would like to reach health and wellbeing boards.
- 6.24 There are some examples where boards are investing in fuel poverty work. Seasonal mortality is an indicator in public health outcomes framework.
- 6.25 The influence of LAs on public health is broad. Budgets have been ring fenced for two years. There will be more flexibility in the long run.
- 6.26 In the next few weeks Dan McCartney will be sending a survey on ECO and the Green Deal. CAN will be happy to circulate this to members.
- 6.27 The LGA want to focus on cost savings, improving disposable income levels to allow people to spend more and boost economic growth. The LGA is looking for best practice examples.

There is however a very short time frame. The focus is now split between health, seasonal mortality and how work on fuel poverty saves LAs money.

7. AOB

7.1 There was no other business.

8. Date of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting will be held on **9 January 2014** at Camden Town Hall, London. Invited speakers include: Ofgem.