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Charity No. 1159816

Energy Advice Drop In
The Wellbeing Centre
Church Stretton
Thursday's 10.00 – 12.00



INFORMATION SHEET No. 22 DATE OF ISSUE January 2018

Affordable Warmth – Help Check List

- Is cheapest energy tariff being used?
- If on a Key / Card meter is electricity supplier making a surcharge for having a key meter? Some suppliers do not do this.
- If on Economy 7 are time clock settings correct?
- Is the house adequately insulated? In some circumstances there may be ECO (energy company obligation) funding to insulate homes for free. Check with Marches Energy Agency <https://mea.org.uk>
- Would energy saving advice be appropriate – offering ‘no cost energy’ efficiency advice for householder action?
- Are heating systems understood and working correctly?
- Is the home drafty? No cost or low cost draft proofing can make a positive difference. N.B. It is not advisable to block up air supplies for open fires – there could be risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Finances

- If of working age and on low income, is any available benefit support being claimed?
- If unemployed, has a benefits check been completed to see if appropriate, further finance assistance is available? Advice is available from local Citizens Advice Bureau or local authority benefits service.
- If of pensionable age, are Winter Fuel Allowance / Cold Weather Payments being received? Warmer Homes Discount Scheme is offered by some energy companies for those on certain qualifying benefits. This has to be applied for annually.
- If claiming any form of state benefit has a benefits check been completed?
- If in real hardship has an application been made to the energy company's Support Fund?
- Some water companies offer support to those suffering exceptional hardship – this can include medical conditions.
- If using oil / LPG or wood for heating has the Shropshire Community Resource Oil Buying Scheme been approached?
- If there is difficulty raising money for an oil delivery, some credit unions have a special scheme to help.

- If in fuel debt has all effort been made to get repayments down to a manageable amount? Advice can be sought from Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Is there a Local Authority support scheme for those lacking Affordable Warmth?
- Are there local charities which could be approached to provide one off financial support?
- Do members of the household understand why it is difficult for them to achieve Affordable Warmth?