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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. NB 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?

Caution - Please Read this:

Our Advice Note has been carefully prepared and is, as far as we know, accurate at the date of publication. However, things change very fast in the world of technology and in government schemes. Sometimes parts of Advice Notes become outdated and may not offer best advice very soon after publication. We do our best to keep them up to date with the limited resources we have. Furthermore, our advice may not be appropriate for your particular circumstances. We advise that you get advice from a relevant expert before making changes. We may be able to offer further advice or make suggestions on who to contact if you get in touch with us. We are not technical experts but have many years of offering common sense advice and we recommend you should not rely on our Advice Note alone for making decisions. The national advice centre Energy Savings Trust is a good source of information.

See <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>