



WARM HOMES HEALTHY FUTURES



Newsletter May/June 2025

Warm Homes, Healthy Futures is a nationally co-ordinated network, connecting health and social care sectors, that delivers support locally to keep people warm, safe, and healthy at home. Together, health, housing and energy experts are working to tackle fuel poverty and improve health for tens of thousands of people across England, Scotland, and Wales.

Welcome to the Warm Homes, Healthy Futures newsletter



Hi, I'm Laura and I work on Warm Homes, Healthy Futures.

I am so proud to be working on the programme and to be able to support health professionals access warmth, safe and healthy home solutions for their patients. I have the privilege of running monthly Referral Partner Drop-ins and a Delivery Partner Forum where we have built a picture of the people supported through the programme and the best ways for local systems to work together to provide the holistic support they need.

We're currently planning a 'deep dive' into the experience of our 50-plus health and social care referral partners. Look out for communications coming to you shortly.

Laura Beesley, Local Authority Co-ordinator, National Energy Action



NEWS IN BRIEF

- Over **4,500 individuals** have received support through our specialist energy advice and benefits teams, resulting in more than **£2.2 million** in previously unclaimed benefits being unlocked for clients.
- Our reach continues to grow, engaging thousands of people through hundreds of community events held across Great Britain.
- We're proud to collaborate with over 20 dedicated energy advice organisations and more than **60 referral partners** from health, social care, and the voluntary sector.
- A recent drop-in event brought together referral partners to reflect on their experiences and share insights into the programme's impact.
- Our delivery partner network also reconvened for a peer-to-peer forum, fostering mutual support and sharing of best practice and success stories.
- In addition, we've continued to assist individuals with essential gas appliance servicing, referring them to appropriate funding sources when additional help was needed.



BERNARDO'S STORY

Bernardo, Carmen, and their granddaughter live in private rented accommodation. Bernardo, 80, is disabled, and Carmen supports him in managing multiple long-term physical and mental health conditions. Inefficient electric heating and an old hot water cylinder saw the family's electricity arrears reach £3,700.

National Energy Action helped secure a £1,000 credit to the family's energy account from the Fuel Debt Relief Fund and £700 from the Warm Home on Prescription Fund. Additionally, an application to their energy supplier's trust fund wrote off the remaining debt. Further support included a Winter Warmth Support Pack, a social water tariff to reduce their annual water bill by £100 and a Benefit Entitlement Check, which led to Carmen receiving carer's allowance.





FROM OUR PARTNERS

Insight from Macmillan partners in Lincolnshire

It is vitally important that people undergoing systemic anti-cancer treatments keep warm because treatments can weaken the immune system and make them more susceptible to infections, especially in cold weather. Furthermore, side effects like fatigue, dehydration, and anaemia can increase the risk of hypothermia, where the body loses heat faster than it can produce it.

Some types of chemotherapy can cause nerve damage, a condition called peripheral neuropathy. This can cause heightened sensitivity to cold, which can lead to pain in the patients' hands and feet. It can make it difficult for patients to tolerate cooler temperatures. Staying warm and avoiding exposure to cold temperatures can help prevent these infections.

Referring patients to the Warm Homes, Healthy Futures programme will help provide warmth, safety and healthy home solutions for our patients.

Beverley Flockhart - Macmillan Cancer information and support service in Lincolnshire Lead Nurse



REFERRALS MADE EASY

If you want to make a referral, get in touch with us at healthyfutures@nea.org.uk and we'll direct you to our simple referral process.



IN PRACTICE

A survey of 2,128 UK health workers carried out by Medact in March 2025, reveals that seven out of 10 health workers regularly see patients forced to go without energy because they cannot afford their bills.

68% of health workers say high energy bills contribute to avoidable hospital emissions and 45% have sent patients home, knowing that their housing situation would make them ill again.

See the full article at www.medact.org/2025/blogs/homes-for-health-survey/



POLICY BRIEFING

National Energy Action has submitted a response to the review of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy. Three key themes have emerged:

1. The updated strategy should be more ambitious than the previous one.
2. A 'worst first' approach should be maintained, focusing on the experience of fuel poverty, not just the adequacy of housing
3. The strategy must provide a 'warmth first' approach.

Find the consultation summary at www.nea.org.uk/publications/national-energy-action-response-to-review-of-the-fuel-poverty-strategy-summary/





SPOTLIGHT ON... ON A MISSION TO DELIVER TAILORED HEALTHCARE

SeaFit is a joint initiative run by the Fishermen's Mission and the Seafarers Hospital Society. They bring services to the quayside such as dentists, hearing checks, community pharmacy, physiotherapists, diabetes and cholesterol checks. This gives fishermen easier access to health and wellbeing providers to help them make positive lifestyle choices.

Fishermen often struggle with cold related health conditions such as Reynauds disease, hearing loss and hypertension. They find it difficult to take time off work to attend a single medical appointment.

National Energy Action staff attended four joint health service provider events run by SeaFit this year, all tailored to suit fishermen's working hours and the range of health issues they face. Tailoring healthcare services to accommodate people's lifestyles or needs is an effective way to help address poor access to health provision.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

National Energy Action is offering fully funded training for frontline workers who support individuals with health conditions or disabilities made worse by cold homes.

This training focuses on carbon monoxide awareness, particularly in fuel poor households, and is tailored to those involved in the Warm Homes, Healthy Futures project.

Over 100 different organisations have received training through the programme to date, so don't miss out on the opportunity to enhance your knowledge and support vulnerable groups more effectively.

Visit: www.nea.org.uk/carbon-monoxide-course/



COMING UP

Wednesday 4 June 10am-10:45am

Referral partner drop in session

Tuesday 10 June 2pm-3:30pm

Delivery partner forum

Warm Homes, Healthy Futures in-person conference

Hold these dates for events taking place in:

Manchester - 16 September 2025

London - 23 September 2025

Further details to follow.

Get in touch with us and join the Network at: healthyfutures@nea.org.uk

