

The work of Energy Champions as part of the Healthy Homes Project

The work of the Energy Champions in rural communities, is to support the work of the Healthy Homes Project. This will involve helping any low income and vulnerable local residents in your community who may fit the criteria of having an existing health condition that is made worse by living in a cold home and making referrals to the project. Energy Champions will have to get permission from the individual to do this and we will provide a consent form for them to sign. This will be part of the training.

The Energy Champions will get training in a range of issues that relate to cold homes and health issues: We will endeavour to run training events close to you, to minimise the cost of travel.

The Training will cover:

- Fuel Poverty issues; Keeping warm in Winter, Energy saving tips, information on Warm Homes Discount, Cold Weather payments and the Priority Service Register.
- Homes visits – procedures
- How to complete a Healthy Homes Referral Form and Healthy Homes Health Survey for clients (if required).
- How to produce a simple Home/Domestic Emergency Plan
- Explanation of the information pack for each client (the Energy Champions will have a number of these to give out)
- Policies, procedures and completing project documentation

We do not expect Energy Champions to be experts, so each volunteer will receive an Information File giving details on a range of energy related subjects and contact details to signpost people to help on issues that cannot be dealt with by the project. This resource will be updated as new initiatives and information on the subject comes along during the duration of the project, which runs through until the end of 2016.

Energy Champions can visit community groups/Parish Councils in their locality if they wish to spread the word about the Healthy Homes project.

In addition, we would like Energy Champions help create a Village Directory which can be given out to all residents, which will have helpful information. (Emergency contact details for water, electric, gas, heating oil and LPG supplier, local coal merchant, Local Authority Customer Services, local plumber, handyman etc.) The list here is not exhaustive and support will be given to help produce this. This will only be required if this is not already provided to the community.

Finally, we are working with Knit and Natter groups across East Yorkshire to produce a Winter Survival Pack, designed as a stop gap measure to the client group. This will provide a variety of items from the following list; Hat, Scarf, Socks and Gloves, a Shawl and a Draught Excluder, plus an insulated Mug. Energy Champions will be able to request a free Pack if they feel that this would benefit someone in their community.

Our aim is to sell these from Sept 2016 onwards to anyone as a possible Xmas gift. The cost will be £10 and £5 will go back to the Knit and Natter groups who have provided this and the rest back to the project to add some sustainability. If you have a Knit and Natter group in your community, you could ask if they would like to be involved and let HWRCC know.

Policy and Procedures:

The Energy Champion should work no more than a maximum of 10 hours per week, which can be organised to fit around any existing commitments.

Incidental expenses incurred by the Energy Champions will be reimbursed and where necessary, travel. In order to maximise our budget, we would encourage Energy Champions who need to travel to locations beyond their village to organise multiple visits in one day, rather than across the

week. Travel expenses forms will be provided and will need to be returned to HWRCC on a monthly basis to re-imburse the individual.

Because Energy Champions may need to visit residents in their homes, we will ask that they are all DBS checked and we will pay for this and provide the necessary forms to be completed by the individual Energy Champion.

Lone Working procedures will need to be adhered to, if Energy Champions need to enter resident's homes. This will involve ringing or texting our office prior to entering a property and again when having left the property.

A pack of HWRCC policies will be provided to cover issues that may arise as part of your work and you will be asked to sign a form to show that you have read these.

Peter Hirschfeld

HWRCC Jan '16