

Southampton Warmth for All Partnership (SWAP)

Progress Report
March 2006 to March 2007

Southampton City 
Primary Care Trust



Solent Energy Efficiency Advice Centre

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Southampton Warmth for All Partnership -

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National and Local context

Fuel Poverty was highlighted as a key issue for the South East in the annual report of the Regional Director of Public Health (2005) published in 2006. An estimated 91, 400 older people throughout the region have no central heating which clearly contributes to colder homes. Portsmouth has the highest proportion of elderly without central heating in the region of 24.5%. Southampton is one of the eight other areas noted as having rates above 10%.

The report also highlighted the 20-40,000 extra winter deaths that occur in England compared with other months of the year. Those most susceptible to higher death rates in winter are the over 85s. There are 28% more deaths among this age group in the South East during winter months, equating to 2,360 people dying, at least, in part from the cold each year.

Despite the availability of Warm Front grants and other support for people to achieve warmer homes it has been difficult for services to reach those who are eligible and particularly those who need it most. The health sector has been identified as having access to information about people living in cold homes and therefore has been targeted to act as a conduit for referrals.

Definition of Fuel Poverty

A household that needs to spend more than 10% of its income to provide an adequate standard of warmth defined by the World Health Organisation to be 21°C in the living rooms and 18°C in other occupied rooms.

Table 1. Effect of temperature on health

Indoor Temperature	Effect
21° C	Recommended living room temperature
18° C	Minimum temperature with no health risk, though may feel cold
Under 16° C	Resistance to respiratory diseases may be diminished
9-12° C	Increases blood pressure and risk of cardiovascular disease
5°C	High risk of hypothermia

Background:

In May 2004 Southampton Fuel Poverty and Health Strategy was produced in response to the Southampton City Energy Summit 2003. It provided details of how Southampton City PCT, in partnership with other agencies, would address fuel poverty in Southampton.

Fuel poverty links in with a number of national, regional and local strategies which are important drivers for the Primary Care Trusts (PCT) activities, including:

- **The NHS Plan, 2000:** under the ninth priority of reducing health inequalities.
- **National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease, 2000:** 34% of excess winter deaths are caused by circulatory disease.
- **National Service Framework for Older People, 2001:** Addressing fuel poverty will have an impact: Standard 3, on developing intermediate care; Standard 6, on falls prevention; Standard 7, Mental Health, and Standard 8, the promotion of health and active life in old age.
- **Tackling Health Inequalities- A programme for Action, 2003:** Fuel poverty is associated with excess winter deaths, of which there were an estimated 88 excess deaths in Southampton during 2001-2002.
- **Priorities and Planning Framework for 2003-2006:** the basis of the Local Delivery Plan, of which relevant priorities include: Coronary Heart Disease; Mental Health; Older People, and reducing waiting lists and bed-blockers, by improving conditions for returning home.
- **Fuel Poverty and Health Toolkit 2003-2006:** Nationally, the 'Fuel Poverty and Health Toolkit' was developed by a partnership between the National Heart Forum, The Eaga Partnership Charitable Trust, the Faculty of Public Health, Help the Aged and the Met Office. It also takes into account supportive documentation by the national energy efficiency charity (NEA) (endorsed by the Faculty of Public Health):
- **Choosing Health, making healthy choices easier 2004:** The White Paper identified the importance of addressing health inequalities within local communities, and ensuring that the health sector identified ways to highlight the benefits available to vulnerable individuals.
- **Our Health, Our Say, Our Care 2006:** promoting independent living of vulnerable groups.
- **South East Public Health Observatory Technical report: Excess winter mortality in the South East' 2006**

The Fuel Poverty and Health Toolkit links in with Southampton City's Later Years Partnership and Later Years Health and Well Being Strategy, and Southampton City's Draft Accident Prevention Strategy and Falls Prevention Strategy. As part of the action plan a multi-agency group was formed called the Southampton

Warmth for All Partnership (SWAP) and it is the work of this group that is documented in this report. The group membership includes:

- Public Health Consultant Southampton City Primary Care Trust
- Health Promotion Specialist Southampton City Primary Care Trust
- City Council
- Department of Works and Pensions
- Energy Efficiency Advice Officer
- Age Concern representative
- PCT Community Health Nurses
- Eaga representative
- Sure Start representative

Aims and objectives of Southampton Warmth for All Partnership:

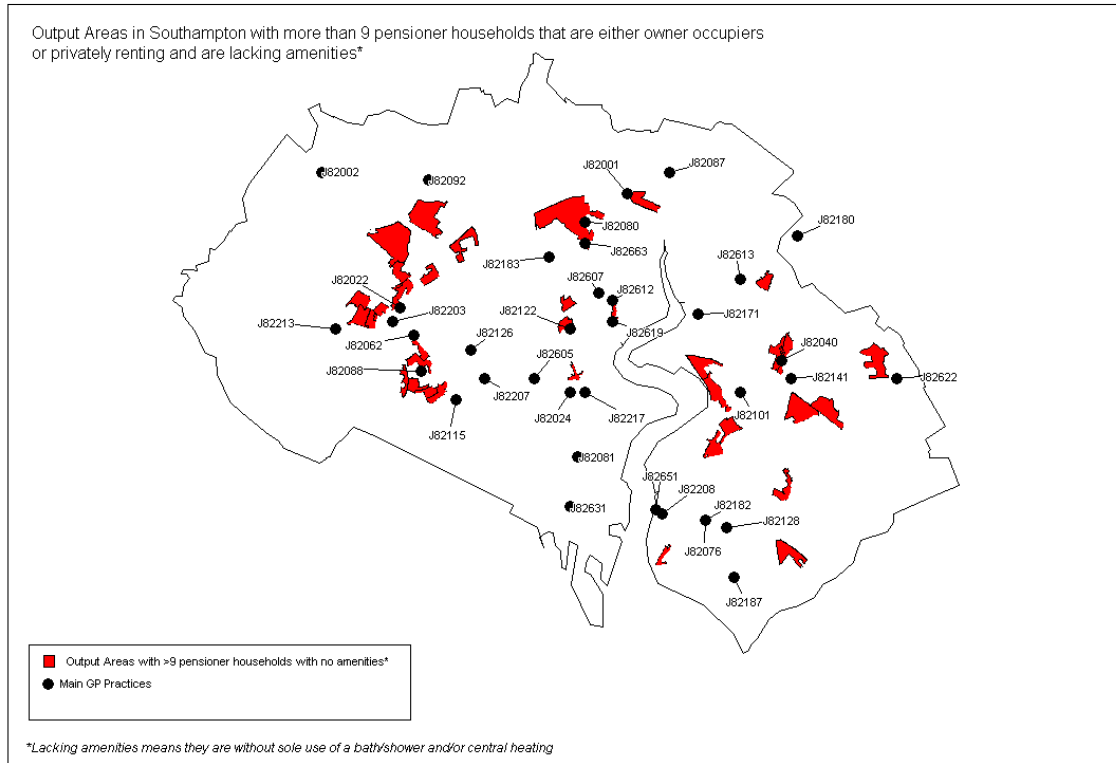
To reduce health inequalities associated with fuel poverty and improve the quality of life of older people living in fuel poverty.

- Eliminate fuel poverty in Southampton by 2010
- To increase the number of qualified referrals to 70% of expected by 2007, 80% by 2008, 90% by 2009 and 100% by 2010.

Accountability of the partnership will be to member organizations, and also include feedback to the Later Years Partnership.

We aimed to use local data to target which high risk groups are more likely to experience health problems as a consequence of fuel poverty. Initially the focus was upon older people, as they experience the most health effects from fuel poverty. In 2006 we have also concentrated on vulnerable families with young children through Sure Start.

Figure 1.
Southampton City – Output areas were more than 9 pensioner households (owner occupiers or privately rented lack bath/shower and or central heating)



ONS 2001

Table 2.
Southampton City pensioners receiving state allowances August 2006

Benefit	Number	Percentage of resident pensioner population
State Pension (60+ year olds)	33,350	77.8%
Attendance allowance (65+ year olds)	4,760	14.5%
Carers allowance (60+ year olds)	840	2.0%
Disability living allowance (60+ year olds)	3,020	7.0%
Incapacity benefit & severe disablement allowance (60+ year olds)	1,130	2.6%
Pension credit (60+ year olds)	9,840	23.0%

Source: DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, Hampshire County Environment Dept. 2005-based Small Area Population Forecasts.

Notes: Data relates to August 2006. Figures for attendance allowance, carers allowance and disability living allowance include all those entitled even if they were not claiming at that time.

Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten; Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

Specifically the following groups, (who are eligible for Warm Front grants) are targeted:

- Older People who live in Private Rented Accommodation with no central heating
- Older People who live in Owner Occupied Accommodation with no central heating
- Vulnerable families with young children

Summary of Actions undertaken – March 2006/07

- 10 SWAP meetings were held to maintain momentum and to set strategic goals.
- Training session for NHS and Social Care Intermediate (Community) Care
- Information given to parents at a Sure Start baby clinic
- Presentation to Practice Managers in September prior to the Winter flu campaign and some GP practice took the opportunity to promote Warm Front Grants
- Link to the winter flu campaign engaged primary care practices in distributing leaflets and information during the influenza vaccination season. GP Practices were encouraged to take part either by distributing information in their mailouts or when patients attended the practice for their immunization or both. Several members of the SWAP team attended flu clinics at GP surgeries to promote Warm Front.
- Respiratory Unit Southampton General Hospital - A Warmfront leaflet was included in all appointments sent out. Leaflets, including Keep Warm Keep Well, and posters were used in clinics to highlight keeping warm and well. A member of the SWAP team continues to educate patients and NHS staff on a 6 week pulmonary rehabilitation course as part of a welfare benefits session.
- Age Concern held a Safety and Warmth Event – there was an SWAP member (Eaga representative) promoting Warm Front grants and answering questions from the public.
- Southampton Voluntary Services (SVS) printed a half page article on Warm Front grants in their newsletters.
- The Later Years Partnership (interagency and public) meetings had presentations on Warm Front and within Southampton City Council departments.
- The ‘Small Steps Campaign’ was run by Southampton City Council to coincide with the winter flu campaign. City centre billboard posters and posters on buses promoted energy efficiency and Warm Front
- Keep Warm Keep Well and Warm Front leaflets, posters and multi-lingual DVD stocked in the Resource Centre at Public Health were made available to NHS staff to use.

- Communication – the group provides an avenue for updates and exchanges e.g. on City Council actions, training taking place for city council staff, neighborhood wardens, some voluntary services, Refugee Action.
- Websites – Southampton City PCT website carries a pdf copy of Keep Warm Keep Well and Solent Energy Efficiency Advice Centre information.
- Media coverage was less this year due in part to the milder winter. An interview with a SWAP member was aired on Unity 101 radio.

Progress to Goals

Since the commencement of the Warmfront grants to March 2007 a total of 4519 households in Southampton have been assisted. (See Appendix 1 at the end of this report). We still have a long way to go to meet our targets.

In 2006/7 Southampton made 445 referrals with residents receiving 1091 measures at a cost of £661,623.91, which was a reduction on the previous two years.

GP practices in areas where high numbers of people aged over 60 years who were living in their own home and without heating were particularly targeted. There were 323 responses as a result of this campaign, most of these residents were eligible for Warmfront grants.

Moving Ahead

Although there has been clear progress in achieving the goals of SWAP there is still more work to be done to increase grant awareness and uptake. Over the next few years the idea is to consolidate work to date, reinforcing the link to the flu campaign so that it becomes routine, continuing with training and raising the profile of SWAP both in the PCT and at the Later Years Partnership. We also propose to explore these other options:-

- Working systematically with voluntary agencies and churches.
- Explore the option of working with schools, passing messages from school children to their families.
- Work with other organisations that share similar goals including the neighbourhood partnerships
- Participate in campaigns such as “Warm Safe and Well”.
- Develop relationships and links with individuals who may be interested in advocating for the work of SWAP.
- Develop a “Triggers Card” to raise and maintain awareness across all those who visit people’s homes who may be at risk of fuel poverty.
- Continue to make use of appropriate language leaflets and resources.
- Continue to work to ensure older people have access to grants.

- Work to train district nursing teams, practice nurses, occupational therapists and social workers to maximize referrals.
- Work with the Respiratory Centre in Southampton General to raise awareness with their patient groups
- To raise awareness amongst Social Cares staff to provide information to their vulnerable clients
- Run awareness campaigns through Community Pharmacies
- Make the flu campaign a regular event with health promotion events occurring alongside in larger practices, particularly in areas of high owner-occupied and private rented housing.

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 SWAP Partnership

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<http://www.nhs.uk/nationalplan/nhsplan.pdf>

National Heart Forum, The Eaga Partnership Charitable Trust, the Faculty of Public Health, Help the Aged and the Met Office 'Fuel Poverty and Health Toolkit' (2003)
<http://www.heartforum.org.uk/downloads/FPbook.pdf>

South East Public Health Observatory 'Technical report: Excess winter mortality in the South East' (2006)
<http://www.sepho.org.uk/Download/Public/10098/1/excessWinterMortality.pdf>

South East Regional Director of Public Health Annual Report (2005)
<http://www.go-se.gov.uk/497648/docs/289820/phar2005.pdf>

Appendix 1 Warmfront grants and energy efficient measures to households in Southampton

	Year 00/01	Year 01/02	Year 02/03	Year 03/04	Year 04/05	Year 05/06	Year 06/07	Year 07/08
Replacement Boiler	0	34	46	46	107	134	138	60
Electric Heating	0	71	70	55	115	76	32	7
Foam Insulated Hot Water Tank	0	9	2	3	0	3	2	1
Wall Heating	0	80	45	12	3	3	0	0
Gas Central Heating	10	146	66	36	67	71	61	19
Heating Repairs	2	63	95	58	131	121	152	72
New Gas Supply	0	0	2	5	11	4	2	2
Hot Water Tank Jacket	16	59	22	32	86	41	14	1
Draughtproofing	115	483	137	186	417	151	69	15
Loft Insulation	87	333	157	255	502	217	93	26
Cavity Wall Insulation	122	359	171	215	462	224	111	30
CFL	275	787	626	560	1116	615	417	134
Security Measures	25	138	143	4				
Heating Rebate								49
	Year 00/01	Year 01/02	Year 02/03	Year 03/04	Year 04/05	Year 05/06	Year 06/07	Year 07/08
Households	290	939	518	540	1055	732	445	135
Spend	£70,848.12	£526,371.23	£394,767.15	£378,865.77	£888,170.84	£812,341.27	£661,623.91	£261,860.03