



## Note of End Fuel Poverty Coalition meeting

Thursday June 10 2010 at Artillery House

### Present:

Jonathan Stearn (Chair) – Consumer Focus	JS
William Baker – Consumer Focus	WB
Caroline Heijne – Admin support / National Right to Fuel Campaign	CH
Jenny Holland - Association for the Conservation of Energy	LB
David Timms - Friends of the Earth	DT
Cerys Roberts – Macmillan Cancer Support	CR
Andrew Sharp – NCT	AS
Bob Smytherman – FPRA	BS
Piya Malik – NEA	PM

Apologies were received from a number of other members of the coalition.

Notes in order of discussion

### 1. Future of Warm Front - WB

- To date there was no statement about the future of Warm Front and there is considerable concern about it being scrapped.  
There was evidence that those involved were pessimistic about the future, including attitude of civil servants and Eaga.
- Previous problems with the scheme, which had now been largely addressed, meant that it still has a negative perception from many MPs, affecting their view for its future. There was also a perceived problem for civil servants in explaining the scheme to Ministers.
- It is one of the most effective programmes dealing with fuel poverty and there should be quite a fight for its retention. This should include pushing for keeping it and for commitments to its long term future.
- The draft letter was discussed and it was agreed that it should go out early next week. Amendments to include an additional paragraph with some figures about the value of Warm Front.
- Discussion about range of circulation and other messages from EFPC.

**ACTION:**

- WB** add details on Warm Front, including health impact;
- WB** to revise letter and get agreement from supporters  
- letter to be sent to Ministers, in Treasury, DECC and DCLG, accompanied by copy of Charter;
- PM** to circulate to new APPGFP (name to be agreed);
- ACE** to circulate to all MPs;
- CH** to draft statement for Facebook, agree and post;
- WB** to draft, agree and send letter to Times.

## **2. All Party Parliamentary Group - PM**

- PM reported that the group is to be called the All Party Parliamentary Group on Fuel Poverty. The name was intended to link it to the statutory fuel poverty targets and the aim was to clarify the issues of fuel poverty. The name would be agreed at the first meeting and registered after that.
- The agreed co-chairs were Caroline Lucas, Green, and Kelvin Hopkins, Labour. PM was still talking with Conservative and Lib Dem MPs to aim for a cross party leadership.
- The first meeting was to be on July 7, 2-3.30pm in Committee Room 5.
- The discussion raised the issue of energy efficiency, which was important in relation to fuel poverty and to the climate change agenda, and whether this was covered by the remit of the new Group, or any other APPG. PM said that there was a lot of liaison between the different groups to counter the proliferation of groups and to encourage joint efforts.  
The issue of who pays was also raised in the context of this group, for dealing with the issue of additions to fuel bills for energy and fuel poverty related action.

**ACTION:** CH to circulate details of meeting to EFPC.

## **3. Housing and Fuel Poverty**

- BS spoke about the FPRA campaign in relation to leaseholders and fuel poverty and the letter that they were sending to Chris Huhne, DECC.
- It was agreed that FPRA should keep EFPC informed and that CH would put a note on Facebook.
- DT and JH said that they were working on the issues of energy, the green economy and the private sector.
- There was a discussion of the issues, links to existing legislation and regulation and any other work that had been carried out in relation to these issues.

## **4. Energy Security and Green Economy Bill**

- There was a discussion about PAYS and the need for assessment of who pays, who misses out, the impact on other programmes and effectiveness, or otherwise, in relation to fuel poverty.
- There was some current research and evaluation which will show the impact of PAYS, who will benefit, relevance to those in fuel poverty and possible impact on other programmes
- There was discussion about looking back at work done on recent Energy Act and whether this would help with amendments to proposed bill.
- **ACTION:** CH to arrange meeting to start work on the bill.

## **5. Energy Act – Price Support**

- WB reported that there was still no news on where the Government stands on the price support mandate.
- The data matching trials, aimed at pilot groups of pensioners, had been more successful than anticipated and was beginning to be rolled out to all eligible pensioners.
- There was still work to be done on using the mandate to support a wider range of those in fuel poverty. May be links to Welfare Reform Bill.

- There was a discussion about the impact of widening the groups eligible for price support and the impacts this would have, and who benefits given that the funding was coming from customers.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Date: Proposed meeting end of July.