

Minutes: London Fuel Poverty Partnership

Date: 12 May 2022

Time: 15.00 – 16.30

Location: Online

Attendees

Shirley Rodrigues (SR)	Greater London Authority (Co-chair)
Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard (DWB)	Greater London Authority (Co-chair)
Peter Smith (PS)	National Energy Action
Matt Copeland (MC)	National Energy Action
Adam Scorer (AS)	National Energy Action
Haydn Banks (HB)	National Energy Action
Dr Joanne Wade (JW)	The Association for Decentralised Energy
Emily Webster (EW)	NHS Sustainability Network
Dan Alchin (DA)	Energy UK
Martin O'Brien (MOB)	Association of Local Energy Officers London
Carol Carter (CC)	Origin Housing Association/National Housing Federation
Gavin Dick (GD)	National Residential Landlords Association
Dan Wilson-Craw (DWC)	Generation Rent
Maureen Paul (MP)	Ofgem
Lauren Kennedy (LK)	Ofgem
Anna Martinez (AM)	Association of Directors of Public Health London
Jessica Skilbeck (JS)	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Zoe Guijarro (ZG)	Citizens Advice
Alba Kapoor (AK)	Runnymede Trust
Jennifer Yin (JY)	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

GLA officers: John Kolm-Murray (**JKM**), Alice Bradley (**AB**), Catherine Barber (**CB**), Paul Youngman (**PY**), Bianca Donnelly (**BD**), Paul McNamee (**PM**)

Apologies:

Prof Kevin Fenton, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

Dr Jo Sauvage, NHS Sustainability Network

Actions:

- **NEA** to support working groups on the 4 main themes of Health, Decarbonisation of Heat, Cost of Living and PRS to convene before the next Fuel Poverty Partnership meeting in the Autumn to develop action plans. Leads **NHS, NEA, ADE and GLA**.
- **London Councils** to nominate representative after the Local Govt Elections

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 SR and DWB welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

1.2 DWB outlined that the Fuel Poverty Partnership met before the pandemic but now was the right time to meet in light of the cost of living crisis.

2. Progress update

- 2.1 JKM provided an update on behalf of the GLA and outlined some of the current schemes including:
- Warmer Homes programme for mainly private sector homes. £43m funding this for this year.
 - Warmer Homes Advice Service (WHAS), London Power and Retrofit Accelerator also supporting households
 - Other non-energy cost of living support schemes including funding a pilot benefit check service and Cost of Living Hub.
- 2.2 Adam Scorer, NEA explained why current situation is a crisis. Super charged by energy, but not just energy.
- Food Foundation – 7.3 million adults going without food all day. 7 in 10 billpayers expect to struggle to meet their bills
 - September 2021 estimate on fuel poverty – around 4 million households, jumped to 6.5 million in April and likely to increase again in October
 - No blip, prices likely to be sustained for next 18 months to 2 years.

3. Revised Terms of Reference

- 3.1 SR presented the revised terms of reference to the partnership. These were agreed.

4. Partnership Objectives

- 4.1 The Partnership agreed to establish four working groups as follows:
- Health: NHS England London to lead
 - Private Rented Sector: GLA to lead
 - Cost of Living crisis: NEA to lead
 - Decarbonisation of Heat: Association for Decentralised Energy to lead
- 4.2 The importance of housing associations in addressing fuel poverty was discussed. The new possible Environmental Impact Rating (EIR) incentivising electrification of heat in the private rented sector was raised.
- 4.3 It would be important to sharpen focus on lobbying points to Central Government, a lot of effort made but been difficult to get message across.
- 4.4 Concerns that support available to tenants in PRS might not be reaching those at risk of fuel poverty. Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs), bill payer tends to be property owner. Split incentives in PRS in terms of tenant experiencing energy efficiency improvements but landlords paying for it isn't the same in HMOs.

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 Next meeting of the FPP is in the autumn but need to coordinate before then. NEA will collate resources and circulate minutes and agree approach for coordinating workstreams.
- 5.2 London Councils will be invited to nominate a representative after their Transport and Environment Committee has met with a new membership following the borough elections.

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