



... keep you well!

Councils and organisations across Somerset working together to help and support households to keep warm and well this winter

Warm Homes ...Keep You Well!

Somerset was recently successful in a bid to the Department of Health, Warm Homes, Healthy People fund, receiving £190,000 and are now in process of ensuring that the most in need in the community are able to benefit from this.

The Warm Homes ... Keep You Well! project will help to address some of the effects of cold weather. Currently local councils, the NHS and voluntary organisations work across Somerset to address the problems of living in a cold home, however we know that people with certain health conditions, young children, and those who are older or have a disability are more vulnerable and likely to experience greater ill health in the winter months.

The project is making available a large number of items which will be installed in cold homes by Ridgeway Care and Repair (the county approved Care and Repair agency) including draught proofing, pipe lagging, secondary glazing film, cylinder tank jackets and carbon monoxide detectors, for those on low incomes or in receipt of means tested benefits. This will be through a simple application process on a first come first served basis. For more details call Ridgeway on 01823 692909.

Other advice on energy efficiency, home heating and insulation as well as benefit checks can be accessed by calling the Centre for Sustainable Energy on 0800 082 2234.

In addition there will be a series of community events across Somerset in the next three months – look out for the posters and publicity on when and where these are happening. There will be a wide range of information available at these events including free energy saving light bulbs, also a chance to enter a prize draw for memberships to the Somerset Community Oil Scheme.

Another outcome is further training to frontline staff who visit people in their own homes to enable them to recognise the signs of cold homes, the impact on health and ways to resolve this.

For more information on the **Warm Homes ...Keep You Well!** project please contact Carolyn Arscott, Health Promotion Manager, NHS Somerset on 01935 385048 or email carolyn.arscott@somerset.nhs.uk