

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR(2) –12-06(p1) Annex C

Date: Thursday 21 September 2006

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Home Energy Efficiency Scheme - The First Five Years

The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) was introduced during November 2000 and is the Assembly Government's main vehicle for tackling fuel poverty across Wales. The Scheme provides grants to make people's homes warmer, more energy efficient, and more secure. The Scheme has been specifically targeted towards households on certain passport benefits who may need help to keep warm and secure, and the aim of the Scheme is to reduce fuel poverty by lowering fuel bills and improving domestic energy efficiency. The Scheme is aimed at people aged 60 and over, lone parents with children aged under 16, and disabled and chronically sick householders. The Scheme in Wales is managed, on behalf of the Assembly Government, by Eaga Partnership a social enterprise owned and operated partnership.

HEES however isn't just about tackling fuel poverty. It brings practical health benefits by ensuring that vulnerable people, particularly the elderly, have warm and well insulated homes. This will have an impact on reducing health problems associated with winter illness; sustainability benefits, by ensuring that Welsh households are more energy efficient, thus burning less fuel.

HEES advisory Group

Since the Scheme's inception in 2000 Eaga established an advisory group involving key stakeholders from across Wales. Over the time the Scheme has been running, members have included Care and Repair Cymru; Wales Council for Voluntary Action; Royal National Institute for the Blind; National Public Health Service, Energywatch, WFHA and Local Authorities. The Advisory Group provides an opportunity for the Scheme Manager to discuss the Scheme with stakeholders who are in a position of representing the case for the applicant, as well as the Scheme. The Group holds the Scheme Manager to account.

Benefit Entitlement Check

The Benefit Entitlement Check (BEC) was introduced as part of HEES in August 2004 and allows the Scheme to assist households by identifying extra benefits that would increase household income. The installation of energy efficiency measures by themselves helps reduce the amount of energy used and therefore helps bring down fuel bills. If this is then combined with the option of undertaking a BEC the affect that this can have on the income of vulnerable households living in fuel poverty is

significantly greater. Over 25% of eligible applicants to the Scheme now take advantage of the BEC and as a result over 1,900 extra benefits are identified each year which translates into an extra ?96 per month being identified per client.

Social Housing – support

At the outset of the HEES Scheme in Wales, the Assembly Government gave a commitment to provide local authorities and housing associations with access to the Scheme. To date some ?16m has been allocated to help improve the energy efficiency of social housing in Wales, and to help take tenants out of fuel poverty. Local Authorities and Housing Associations in Wales bid for monies from the Scheme on an annual basis, and offer complementary funding to ensure tenants receive the benefits of the partnership.

Partnership Working

Keep Well This Winter – Keep Well This Winter is a campaign funded by the Assembly Government’s Health Directorate to promote the messages of Keep Warm, Keep Well and Keep Safe to those over 60 or disabled throughout Wales. HEES is the main focus of the Keep Warm message.

Pembrokeshire County Council – Pembrokeshire County Council have been awarded over ?900k from HEES. More than 590 tenants in local authority homes in the County have benefited from new heating systems, as a result of the partnership jointly funded by the Council and Eaga.

Wrexham County Borough Council – Transco’s Affordable Warmth programme, in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council and Eaga, have been instrumental in developing a pilot project to extend the mains gas network at Llay, a 450 house estate. The project enabled 70 plus HEES eligible households to have efficient gas-fired central heating systems installed while a further 200 households received assistance from the Council who installed heating systems.

Denbighshire County Council – HEES was able to provide ?68k towards the costs of the partnership project established between the Bodelwyddan Gas Committee, Denbighshire County Council, ES Pipelines and British gas. The aim of the project was to expand the mains gas network to over 110 homes within the community of Bodelwyddan. HEES funding was used to contribute towards the extension of the gas network while supplying central heating and other measures to eligible households.

Scheme outputs

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Totals
Completed Properties	11,021	14,446	12,572	13,149	9,836	61,024

Number of measures	23,465	38,025	40,502	38,101	36,952	177,045
Spend on measures	?5.1m	?10.2m	?10.6m	?14.5m	?13.9m	?54.3m

Measures by Tenure/Property Type

		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Measures	7,177	25,158	27,868	24,473	30,909	
Cost	?3.4m	?7.3m	?7.5m	?11.6m	?11.8m	
Measures	3,057	9,455	9,664	4,920	3,543	
Cost	?1.3m	?2.3m	?2.7m	?2.2m	?1.2m	
Measures	535	2,056	1,103	1,562	1,606	
Cost	?0.1m	?0.5m	?0.3m	?0.6m	?0.6m	
Measures	252	1,344	867	736	875	
Costs	?0.05m	?0.2m	?0.1m	?0.1m	?0.2m	

HEES by Local Authority Area

		2001-02*	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
Properties		821	379	294	194	1,688	

measures	573	1,846	1,134	857	718	5,128
Cost	?0.2m	?0.6m	?0.4m	?0.4m	?0.3m	?1.9m
Properties		301	295	330	285	1,211
Measures	561	816	875	900	965	4,117
Cost	?0.1m	?0.3m	?0.3m	?0.4m	?0.4m	?1.5m
Properties		710	464	727	476	2,377
Measures	1,403	1,989	1,425	2,047	1,679	8,543
Cost	?0.4m	?0.7m	?0.5m	?0.7m	?0.7m	?3m
Properties		957	1,256	1,276	1,170	4,659
Measures	1,648	2,440	3,738	3,567	3,861	15,254
Cost	?0.4m	?0.6m	?1m	?1.08m	?1.2m	?4.3m
Properties		1,400	736	931	578	3,645
Measures	1,623	3,288	2,244	2,459	1,862	11,476
Cost	?0.6m	?0.9m	?0.7m	?1.06m	?0.8m	?4.06m
Properties		412	857	600	604	2,473
Measures	481	1,052	2,510	1,839	2,070	7,952
Cost	?0.1m	?0.2m	?0.5m	?0.5m	?0.7m	?2m

Properties		372	285	286	226	1,169
Measures	353	897	820	896	753	3,719
Cost	£0.1m	£0.2m	£0.2m	£0.2m	£0.3m	£1m
Properties		522	437	623	444	2,026
Measures	1,072	1,377	1,288	1,772	1,713	7,222
Cost	£0.4m	£0.5m	£0.5m	£0.8m	£0.6m	£2.8m
Properties		429	470	718	491	2,108
Measures	842	1,280	1,513	2,038	1,778	7,451
Cost	£0.2m	£0.3m	£0.5m	£0.9m	£0.7m	£2.6m
Properties		553	462	581	439	2,035
Measures	1,186	1,602	1,356	1,850	1,635	7,629
Cost	£0.3m	£0.5m	£0.4m	£0.7m	£0.6m	£2.5m
Properties		583	475	708	495	2,261
Measures	730	1,507	1,503	1,907	1,810	7,457
Cost	£0.2m	£0.6m	£0.7m	£1.02m	£0.7m	£3.22m
Properties		743	252	359	299	1,653
Measures	1,428	1,804	810	1,089	980	6,111

Cost	£0.4m	£0.4m	£0.3m	£0.3m	£0.3m	£1.7m
Properties		175	88	147	134	544
Measures	439	440	289	466	437	2,071
Cost	£0.1m	£0.1m	£0.1m	£0.1m	£0.2m	£0.6m
Properties		657	612	667	765	2,701
Measures	788	1,657	1,929	1,973	2,546	8,893
Cost	£0.2m	£0.4m	£0.6m	£0.8m	£1.1m	£3.1m
Properties		511	523	464	358	1,856
Measures	1,143	1,417	1,391	1,402	1,149	6,502
Cost	£0.3m	£0.3m	£0.3m	£0.5m	£0.5m	£1.9m
Properties		589	278	425	371	1,663
Measures	596	1,305	710	1,158	1,192	4,961
Cost	£0.3m	£0.6m	£0.3m	£0.5m	£0.5m	£2.2m
Properties		398	311	357	277	1,343
Measures	1,110	1,028	887	1,014	995	5,034
Cost	£0.2m	£0.2m	£0.2m	£0.3m	£0.3m	£1.2m
Properties		1,227	1,079	1,402	1,095	4,803

Measures	3,076	3,639	3,527	4,319	4,061	18,622
Cost	£0.8m	£1.2m	£1.2m	£1.5m	£1.4m	£6.1m
Properties		1,499	1,078	1,067	1,029	4,673
Measures	2,045	4,057	3,398	3,063	3,449	16,012
Cost	£0.4m	£0.6m	£0.8m	£1.2m	£1.6m	£4.6m
Properties		595	283	391	352	1,621
Measures	1,098	1,739	833	1,114	1,174	4,958
Cost	£0.3m	£0.4m	£0.3m	£0.5m	£0.4m	£1.9m
Properties		545	463	263	311	2,127
Measures	508	1,638	1,581	743	1,023	5,493
Cost	£0.1m	£0.3m	£0.4m	£0.3m	£0.4m	£1.5m
Properties		467	495	533	296	1,791
Measures	846	1,859	1,344	1,492	1,089	6,630
Cost	£0.4m	£0.5m	£0.6m	£0.7m	£0.4m	£2.6m

* Information on number of properties not available for this year

Number of Complaints

	Scheme Manager	Installers	Scheme	Total	Number of complaints as a % of completed properties
2005-06	23	178	9	210	2.0%
2004-05	18	113	14	145	1.1%
2003-04	35	190	6	231	1.8%
2002-03	129	72	7	208	1.4%
2001-02	99	60	14	173	1.6%

Benefit Entitlement Checks

	Number of Benefit Entitlement Checks offered	Number of Benefit Entitlement Checks completed	Number of additional benefits identified	Average weekly increase per client
2005-06	12,246	3,292	1,986	?19.04
2004-05	8,041	1,312	585	?16.59