



SHARE Social Housing Forum 5

Friday 25th May 2007

*Gloucester City Homes, Atlantic Suite
Southgate Street, Southgate House, Gloucester*

Attendance

Colin Coopey, Gloucester City Homes
Emma Wall, Cheltenham Borough Homes
Lisa Wilks, Stroud District Council
Julie Sherman, Cam Parish Council
Heather Watts, Scottish Power
Paul Simpson, Domestic & General Insulation Ltd
Stephen McDonnell, Gloucester City Council
Roger Sparks, Housing Enabling Officer, Cheltenham Borough Council
Ruth Kirkup, Stroud District Council
Kaye Welfare, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Paul Sheridan, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Shirley Goodey, Powergen EON
Martin Harris, Fosseway Housing Association
Sarah Giff, Severn Wye Energy Agency

1. Welcome and introductions

Kaye Welfare welcomed everyone to the Forum. All attending introduced themselves and their organisation.

2. Progress updates and notes from last meeting.

- Notes from last meeting – KW attended social landlords forum and has also spoken at Bromford Housings Learning at Work event.
- PS has done mailout to neighbourhood projects and doctors surgeries of Ask Penny posters to promote the Freephone number advice line.
- All RSL's to ensure they have links to the SHARE website and vice versa the project website is www.socialhousingaction.com
PS has not received any details from RSL's but has details of most of their websites which will go as links on SHARE website.
- KW promoted SHARE materials available, including Ask Penny posters, post-it type note pads, SHARE thermometer cards & Banners. (One banner currently at Fosseway & Ruth Kirkup took the other for SDC)

- PS promoted talks and home visits available for RSL's with SLA and told of current series of talks to Gloucester City Homes sheltered housing and offering home visits whilst there to residents.
- Following on from Affordable Warmth session at last Forum, KW facilitated an affordable warmth session at Two Rivers Housing for staff and tenants. SG announced review of Affordable Warmth Strategy from 2001. The review is on 27th June 2007.(contact SG for more info)

3. Training

Sarah Giff gave details of training sessions available and update on sessions completed to date. She is keen to deliver more sessions during the summer months to staff & tenants, and not necessarily just to staff and tenants of an individual RSL, as some of the previous sessions have had lively discussions through having residents of several RSL's present.

4. EEC3 presentation

Heather Watts gave presentation of what is required from energy suppliers under EEC3 which has been renamed as Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). The requirement for everyone to have an electricity smart meter fitted within 10 years is extra to CERT. 40% of works to target priority group. HW recommended that all housing providers should be talking to energy suppliers about funding for energy saving projects. Loft top-up's are more expensive to do than cavity walls because less carbon saving counted but suppliers may be looking to offer very good deals if have not met their targets. CERT starts on 1st April 2008 but projects can start from Jan 1st.

There followed a discussion about small quantities of unfilled cavities found in some recent surveys. These small percentages of properties could now be acceptable to do, but records of housing stock not accurately kept. Shirley Goodey reported Powergen still have money available, if you want to contact her. Currently working with Fosseyway to do all properties.

KW suggested maybe use buying power to do insulation on all properties in an area rather than by housing association.

5. Meet the suppliers

There was a 15 min break in meeting to give everyone present an opportunity to talk to HW from Scottish Power & SG from Powergen about their projects.

6. Roundtable

Stroud District Council

Tenants Energy Network (TENS) - Ruth Kirkup started by giving apologies for Sandra and Linda not being at meeting, TENS came out of a training session with tenants and the 1st initiative is to arrange distribution of 30,000 CFL's to Stroud Council tenants. They are also producing biodegradable bags with 0800 512 012 freephone number on them which they will also give out containing information leaflets. Dealine 18th June for any materials to go in bags. They are also looking into issue of disposal of CFL's at end of life. Currently reviewing how to distribute these bulbs, possibly using village agents and tenants.

They can offer advice to everyone but CFL's only to tenants.

Leyhill prison are producing wood brickettes from waste & selling for 30p/kg. SDC are looking into supplying these to homes with coal fires.

Third of properties have NSH but not enough budget to change to central heating so tenants training on heating controls.

Also providing CO monitor cards to all tenants which last for upto 3 months. SG said GRCC doing 'proper' CO monitors which last a lot longer.

Fosseway

Mark group currently doing loft and cavity wall insulation to 100 properties through Powergen.

Gloucester City Homes

During 06/07 central heating programme, wrote to 12 tenants in appropriate housing about installing solar hot water system. Only one responded. Found 2 other properties and got quotes from Valliant & Worcester Bosch. 2 Worcester Bosch systems installed in the end as Valliant twice the price and Morrison's fitters Bosch trained. They also had monitoring equipment installed. Pete West SWEA produced specification and explained system to tenants. Currently looking into funding options and need to raise awareness of benefits of solar hot water. Pictures of the finished insulation passed round.

Ruth asked if we could have 1 page report from tenants, KW said we should develop this into SHARE case study.

7. Ideas for next Forum

Issues around pre-stressed reinforced concrete properties

Insulating hard to treat properties.

Funding for external solid wall insulation

Arrange another visit to properties with ground source heat pumps and structural thermal cladding in Banbury as many people interested were unable to make last visit.

Sarah Giff offered to get speaker on EPC's for social housing for future meeting.

Next Forum 14th September