

Keeping Warm in Later Life - Impact update May 2011

Consultation responses

We have responded to three national consultations using data and findings from the KWILLT project. These responses were submitted in May 2011. If you would like copies of our consultation responses do let us know.

Hills review June 2011

An independent review of fuel poverty definitions and targets is currently underway, commissioned by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Professor John Hills, a social policy expert is leading the review, and has issued a call for evidence to inform a report that will be published early 2012. The call for evidence specifically requested information with a strong evidence base relating to;

- the nature of the issues at the core of fuel poverty
- what makes fuel poverty distinct from poverty defined in various ways
- the impacts of fuel poverty, its extent and who it most affects
- whether the current definition of and target for fuel poverty allow the issue at its core to be tackled effectively and, if not how the definition and any target might be amended to address this
- whether, and to what extent, the current definition of fuel poverty allows Government to focus resources and policies on those who most need support
- the cost-effectiveness of measures to address fuel poverty (including measures impacting on income, fuel bills and thermal efficiency of homes)
- how, under any definition, the fuel poor can best be identified and help targeted to them

The review is a crucial part of development in relation to the future of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy. We think that the Keeping Warm in Later Life research has a number of findings which can provide vital evidence to inform the review and hopefully future policy.

Ofgem retail market review June 2011

Ofgem's Retail Market Review (2011) demonstrated that further action is needed to make energy retail markets in Great Britain work more effectively in the interests of consumers. Consumers are at risk from a number of features in the market which reduce the effectiveness of competition. They believe that further radical actions are now required. In their Retail Market Review document (2011) Ofgem outline a range of initial proposals for consultation designed to make it much easier for consumers to identify who is offering the cheapest tariff; make it easier for new suppliers to enter the market; enforce and strengthen Probe remedies in both the domestic and non-domestic market; and increase the transparency of company accounting practices.

The Kwillt project team have responded to this consultation using study findings to indicate how vulnerable people are susceptible to some of the problems they raise in the Review. We indicate how these may be contributing to health inequalities experienced by vulnerable older people.

Call for evidence by the Energy Bill Committee. June 2011

The Energy Bill had its second reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday 10 May 2011 and has now been sent to a Public Bill Committee for scrutiny. The Energy Bill Committee has made a call for written evidence from anyone with relevant expertise and experience or a special interest in the Government's Energy Bill. The flagship policy in the Bill is the 'Green Deal', a scheme whereby householders, private landlords and businesses would be given finance upfront to make energy efficiency improvements, which would then be paid for by energy bill savings.

The Kwillt project team have responded to this call and provided evidence from the findings to indicate how vulnerable older people may respond to the Green Deal. We indicate how some aspects of the Green Deal may contribute to health inequalities experienced by vulnerable older people. Particular concerns about the Green Deal are that:

- It that requires assessment of the home and the household energy bills to demonstrate that energy efficiency installations will accrue savings on energy bills. These assessments may be off putting to older people who value privacy regarding their home and finances.
- It is a loan based system where funds are released to the household and repaid from savings from energy bills. Older people, especially if from low income households, are debt averse. They will put off asking for help from a loan rather than grant based system. Our data supports this and indicates older people will not access an initiative that will saddle the home with debt especially if they will not live to see the benefit, or they want to pass on their home to family debt free.

Publications

Keeping Warm: Social Connectedness and Technology (A Case Study of Rotherham (England): Technology and Health in the Elderly) *Adelaide Lusambili; Angela Tod; Catherine Homer; Jo Abbott; Kath McDaid; Jo Cooke* Provisionally accepted for publication in The International Journal of Health, Wellness and Society

NEA Today (2010) Technological visibility and keeping warm among the elderly December. Issue 15 p22

Publications planned

- Overview paper in BMJ or European Journal of Public Health. *Angela to lead*
- Sociology of Health and Illness paper picking up on one of the main themes e.g. mindset. *Adelaide to lead*
- Practice and professional Journals e.g. CPHVA, Nursing Standard, Health Service Journal. *All to take a lead where appropriate*
- Health and Social Care in the Community paper - findings related to social care policy and practice. *Jo Cooke to lead*
- Housing, Environment and Energy Efficiency Journals. *Kath to inform of Journals that are relevant*
- Nudge - Implications for Public Health - Using findings to reflect on how nudge would work or not. Aim for public health Journal. *Angela to ask Peter Allmark to lead.*
- Article commissioned by Older People's Nursing. *Angela to lead*
- Article on social constructivism, lay epidemiology and social marketing *Jo Cooke, Angela, Adelaide and Catherine*
- Assets and behaviour: how personal and contextual assets influence health related behaviour. Aim for Health promotion International. *Goeff Green, Angela and Catherine*

Conference presentations

2011 16-18th May: Keeping warm in later life: tackling money, mindsets and machinery. RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference. Harrogate. England, UK (*Oral presentation*)

2011 7th March: *Tod AM. Lusambili A. Cooke J. Abbott J. Homer C. McDaid K.* Factors influencing older people keeping warm at home. Fuel Poverty: Time for Change. National Energy Action Yorkshire and Humber Regional Conference. University of York St Johns, York, England. (*Invited plenary speaker*)

2011 20-22nd January: *Tod AM. Lusambili A. Cooke J. Abbott J. Homer C.* Keeping Warm in Later life: Social Connectedness and Technology International Conference on Health, Wellness and Society, Berkeley, CA, US (*Oral presentation*)

Accepted

2011 30th June. Homer C. Tod AM. Will new policy address behaviour change in order to support the elderly to keep warm in the home? Health and Wellbeing Faculty Research Conference, Sheffield Hallam University. Sheffield (*Poster*)

2011 4 July. *Tod AM; Lusambili A; Homer C; Abbott J; McDaid K; Cooke J.* Fuel Poverty in a Changing World. Faculty of Public Health Conference: Public Health in a Changing World. University of Birmingham

2011 July 18/19: *Tod AM; Lusambili A; Homer C; Abbott J; McDaid K; Cooke J.* Choosing warmth: factors influencing on choices regarding keeping warm at home in later life. Well-being 2011: First International Conference exploring the multi-dimensions of well-being. Hosted by University of Birmingham and RIBA (*Poster*)

2011 Sept 8-9 *Tod AM; Lusambili A; Homer C; Abbott J; McDaid K; Cooke J.* Factors influencing older people keeping warm at home Health and Wellbeing Conference: Royal Society of Public Health International Conference. London (*Poster*)

2011 Sept 7-10: *Tod AM; Lusambili A; Homer C; Abbott J; McDaid K; Cooke J* Disjointed Structural Systems And Keeping Warm for the Elderly in Winter. European Sociological Association: Social relations in turbulent times, Geneva /Switzerland (*Oral presentation. One of under 200 selected from over 3600 abstracts submitted*)

2011 Sept 14-16 *Tod AM.* Managing energy bills in a high cost, low carbon world. A Green Future Fit for the Fuel Poor: National Energy Action Annual Conference. Harrogate (*Invited presentation*)

2011 Sept 19th *KWILLT Consultation Conference. Dissemination and solution generating event. Carlton park Hotel, Rotherham*

2011 Oct 16-19: *Tod AM; Lusambili A; Homer C; Abbott J; McDaid K; Cooke J.* Disjointed Communication and Keeping Warm In Winter for Older People. International Conference on Communication in Health Care (ICCH). Chicago North Western University, American Academy on Communication Healthcare in partnership with European Association for communication in HealthCare (EACH) (*Poster*)

Project involvement

Older Warmer Wise. Angela Tod invited to be an Advisory Board member. This is a Comic Relief funded project based at South Yorkshire Energy Centre that involves developing trainer older people as Energy Champion Volunteers in Sheffield. June 2011 - May 2013

BIBA Study: the incidence of hypothermia in elderly patients Brought Into hospital By Ambulance and examination of the characteristics of those affected. A study based at North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust in co-operation with North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NEAS). Led by Dr Eileen Scott, University Hospital of North Tees. Currently in development for submission to Research for Patient Benefit

Delivering and reporting on a shared public health agenda. Project in development with Prof Geoff Green and Catherine Homer

Local dissemination

District Nurse Meeting, April 2011

Carers Day Event in Rotherham town centre, June 2011

Older Peoples Forum Event at Clifton Museum, Rotherham, June 2011

Policy and practice impact

There have been a number of meetings and strategies to ensure the study findings are linked into local and national policy and strategy. These are listed below.

- Study findings integrated into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in Rotherham for 2010/11 and again in 2011/2012
- Meeting on 16th June with Carl Petrokofsky (Specialist in Public Health, Dept of Health South East (DHSE)). DH Lead on Fuel Poverty and excess winter deaths. Specialist in Public Health,
- Meeting on 20th June 2011 with the newly appointed Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Cllr Ken Wyatt) and his Senior Advisor (Cllr Alan Buckley) in Rotherham.
- Meeting on 29th June with Cathy Read and Paul Moore, Y&H Regional Leads on Fuel Poverty and Affordable Warmth
- All member seminar at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council 1st November 2011

Angela Tod
June 2011