

## **Sunderland Affordable Warmth Steering Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

- **Introduction**

Everyone should have access to a warm home that they can afford to heat, but for many households in the city this is difficult to achieve. The reasons for this can include poor insulation, inefficient heating, low incomes and the cost of fuel. Cold and energy inefficient homes are detrimental to health and many households are in fuel poverty.

The role of the Affordable Warmth Steering Group will be to ensure that a strategic, multi-agency approach will be taken to help reduce fuel poverty, improve affordable warmth, improve health and well-being and reduce excess winter deaths, particularly for the most vulnerable groups in the city. In addition, improvements in energy efficiency and promoting carbon savings will also be a key focus for the group.

- **Vision**

The Group will work to a vision, that being;

“To work in partnership to ensure that everyone in the city can afford to live in a warm, safe home. Homes will be energy efficient; have reduced carbon emissions achieved through greater awareness and understanding which leads to improved health and quality of life”

- **Membership of the Group**

Membership is open to all agencies and individuals who can make a positive contribution to improving affordable warmth and reducing fuel poverty in the city.

- **Frequency of meetings**

The Group will meet on a monthly basis up to the end of December 2014 and then bi-monthly from February 2015.

- **Chairing of the Meeting**

The meeting will be chaired by the Council's Head of Housing Support and Community Living up to the end of December 2014, after which the position will be reviewed.

- **Reporting Arrangements**

The Group will report to the Adult Partnership Board on a bi-annual basis

- **Outputs for the Group**

- The development of an Affordable Warmth Strategy and Action Plan;

- **Outcomes for the Group from the Strategy and Action Plan**

- Improved housing stock
- Improved health and well-being for households at risk of fuel poverty
- Reductions in fuel poverty
- Increased energy efficiency and reduced energy use
- Reductions in excess winter deaths
- Reduced costs for the health service, particularly in reducing hospital admissions, and less cost for health and social care services per se
- Improved quality of life
- Reduced social exclusion
- Improved air quality in the home
- Enhanced capability and resilience of individuals
- Behavioural and cultural change
- Environmental benefits in the reduction of CO2 emissions