



Committee on Fuel Poverty

Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) Meeting, 9 May 2019

All members of the Committee were present: David Blakemore (Chair), Jenny Saunders, Liz Bisset, Paul Massara, Lawrence Slade and Anu Singh.

Invited guests: Peter Broad and Gillian Cooper from Citizens Advice and Anna Clarke from RSM UK Consulting.

The BEIS Sponsor and Secretariat were present, as well as BEIS analysts and officials from the Fuel Poverty Strategy team.

Introductions

1. Anu Singh joined CFP on 1st May bringing expertise on adult social care and health. Anu is Vice Chair of the Whittington Health Integrated Care Trust in north London, has been a statutory Director of Social Services and is passionate about service improvement and community empowerment.

Minutes of last meeting and actions

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2019 were approved and subsequently [published](#) on the CFP web pages.

3. The majority of actions from the last meeting had been completed, and remaining actions were being progressed.

Members' Interests

4. No potential conflicts of interest specific to the meeting's agenda were declared. The Chair, David Blakemore, reported that he is a Trustee of Swinton Lock Activity Centre, a charity which provides support to victims and survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation. The charity is in contact with BEIS on other matters, and there are no potential conflicts of interest.

Research report: Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards enforcement in the private rented sector

5. Anna Clarke, RSM UK Consulting, presented the outcome of CFP's commissioned research. The RSM research looked into the question: "To achieve the housing stock improvement and reduction in fuel poverty sought from the new Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards, what alternative enforcement models could be adopted and how might they work?"

6. Following discussion and feedback on the report, RSM will work to convert this into a final report.

7. Members agreed to develop a set of priorities arising from the RSM Report to highlight these to Government officials and stakeholders once the final report is published on the CFP webpage.

CFP 2019 Research Projects

8. Members discussed potential research projects to be commissioned in 2019 and agreed to investigate a couple of suggestions, and to decide on viable ones to take forward.

CFP's Clean Growth Challenge Fund

9. Chair agreed to update Members following a proposed meeting with the Minister.

CFP's Annual Report: Priority Areas

10. Members shared thoughts around timing and substance for the next CFP Annual Report.

Citizens Advice update:

11. Peter Broad and Gillian Cooper of Citizens Advice gave an update on progress with the Citizens Advice's Fuel Poverty 2018 Work Plan, and shared details of current and planned activity. Some of these included:

- continuing with a number of outreach campaigns such as Big Energy Saving Week providing guidance for consumers on cutting their bills, getting financial support, and encouraging consumers to switch to better energy deals;
- focusing on action required to increase impact on outreach, supporting vulnerable consumers such as making the [Energy price Comparison](#) tool easier to use; impact of Smart Meter roll out on consumers, and working with Ofgem on market trends and related impacts;
- In 2019-20 Citizens Advice will continue their programme of work to ensure that the needs and interests of all energy consumers are central to the plans for the future energy market. They will be publishing several research studies this summer some of which will include: looking at improving support for consumers in vulnerable situations; looking into accessibility and future energy supply business models; looking into the experience of heat network consumers on pre-payment meters; and reporting on findings of Ofgem's ECO supplier workshop.

CFP Forward Look

12. Communications Planning: Members discussed future meetings with key stakeholders.

Other discussions

13. Members discussed:

- Progress on the CFP's 2018 Annual Report Recommendations.

Future Meetings

14. Meetings currently scheduled for 2019 are:

- 24 July
- 26 September
- 13 November