

Victoria Borwick AM
Chair, Health & Public Services Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA



Dear Victoria,

Thank you for writing to me on the Health and Public Service Committee's report on tackling fuel poverty in London. We welcome efforts to tackle fuel poverty in London which take into account the city's particular challenges. I have detailed our responses to the recommendations contained in the report below.

Recommendation 1:

We welcome the mapping tool but would suggest a greater degree of granularity. Such is the localised diversity of many London wards that targeting fuel poverty measures at ward level may not be entirely effective. Data at Lower Level Super Output Area would undoubtedly see greater use of the dataset by boroughs. The GLA should work with London Councils and other partners such as NHS London to examine and overcome barriers to utilising datasets such as those held by the health service.

Recommendation 2:

The London Carbon Action Network would be happy to establish a London Affordable Warmth & Health Forum. The collective expertise of the members of LKAN is significant and their experience will be very useful. London Councils and the GLA must play important roles and should also commit resource to ensure that this is an effective forum for the planning of co-ordinated but locally delivered action across London.

Recommendation 3:

We would welcome the creation of Affordable Warmth Zones across London that would benefit from the next phase of RE:NEW funding. The committee should be aware however that there may be a conflict with the central aim of RE:NEW 2 to deliver maximum CERT funding into London as many of the areas of severe fuel poverty have high proportions of hard to treat homes and flatted buildings often unable to access CERT funding. A proportion of the funding from RE:NEW 2 should be used to facilitate the installation of loft and cavity wall insulation in hard-to-treat homes.

Recommendation 4:

We fully support the call for a regional ECO obligation for London. Consideration should be given to an additional regional allocation to take account of London's historic shortfall and very high number of hard to treat homes.

Recommendation 5:

We support this however our concerns apply about unequal access to CERT funding for different parts of London and would suggest separate commitments for Inner and Outer London to address the even greater deficit in the former area.

Recommendation 6:

We support this and recommend that the GLA look at the affordable warmth advice services operated by boroughs such as Islington and Camden for models of best practice. We have some concerns that the move to a single national Energy Saving Trust advice service will impact on the

London Carbon Action Network

C/o JOHN KOLM-MURRAY
Energy Services, Islington Council, 222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR
Tel: 020 7527 3800 Fax: 020 7527 2332 (please mark FAO JOHN KOLM-MURRAY)
Email: john.kolm-murray@islington.gov.uk

availability of local information and a service will be required that acknowledges London's particular energy efficiency challenges.

Recommendation 7:

We support this but would additionally call for a referral process to be agreed with energy suppliers in order that advice agencies can refer clients directly for the Warm Home Discount rather than merely signpost them to this. This referral process should also allow referrals to suppliers' Priority Services Registers.

Recommendation 8:

We fully support the development of such a plan and recommend that best practice from leading boroughs is considered, particularly from those who have made effective links with health services. The London Affordable Warmth and Health Forum would be an ideal vehicle for engaging boroughs and other stakeholders in strategy development. In addition to agreeing measures to tackle the need for widespread solid wall insulation such a strategy will also need to have a robust plan for addressing London's many flatted properties. Development of the strategy should involve NHS London and the London Health Improvement Board on the health side. We would recommend that the Association of London Borough Planning Officers is involved in any consideration of the challenges surrounding hard-to-treat dwellings.

Yours sincerely,



John Kolm-Murray
Chair, London Carbon Action Network

Cc: Jo Sloman, Assistant Scrutiny Manager