

## A warm East Valley welcome for the Warm Zone

27/01/2009

NORTH Staffs Warm Zone\* (NSWZ) has received a warm welcome from councillors this month as its energy efficiency campaign extends further across Stoke-on-Trent.

Thousands of householders in the city's East Valley Ward will be able to find out in the next few weeks if they qualify for FREE or cut-price home insulation.

Baddeley Green, Milton, Smallthorne and Sneyd Green are the latest neighbourhoods to be included in NSWZ's ongoing work to eliminate fuel poverty and boost energy efficiency across North Staffordshire.

The project will not only help to reduce the area's overall 'carbon footprint' -it will also enable families to make savings on their annual fuel bills.

Around 35% of the 123,000 homes to be visited by the Warm Zone team will benefit from no-cost cavity wall and loft insulation, whilst other householders can take advantage of the CHEAPEST discounted offer in the area, at just £99 per measure.

And there are a million other reasons for residents to find out how the Warm Zone could help them too...

NSWZ's benefits advice service - which aims to secure payouts for people who may not realise they are eligible, or who have previously failed to make a successful claim - has just passed the £1 million mark in cash secured for Stoke-on-Trent claimants!

Councillor Joan Bell, Stoke-on-Trent City Council's portfolio holder for Community Safety, said: "The city council works closely with Warm Zone to help boost energy efficiency across Stoke-on-Trent. It is vital that people in the East Valley Ward take this opportunity to see if they can benefit from such schemes."

"Home insulation not only helps to reduce residents' bills but also improves the carbon footprint of the whole city."

Letters have already been sent out to residents across East Valley Ward telling them about the scheme, and NSWZ's team of assessors are now

following that up with door-to-door visits and leafleting.

All it takes for householders to determine their eligibility for free or discounted insulation are a few simple home energy questions to check the energy efficiency rating of their property.

Following the survey, all being well, the surveyor will then arrange for the necessary insulation work - free or discounted - to be carried out.

NSWZ spokesperson Sophie Thorley, Zone Director said: "We would encourage anyone in Stoke-on-Trent's East Valley Ward receiving one of our questionnaires to fill them in and return them as soon as possible. - They have nothing to lose and could end up hundreds of pounds a year better off as a result."

To find out more about NSWZ's 'no cost/low cost' home insulation scheme, visit it's website - [www.nswz.co.uk](http://www.nswz.co.uk) - where you can also complete an online self-assessment.

Alternatively, telephone NSWZ on 01782 238443 to find out more about saving money and energy, or to arrange a home visit/assessment by a Warm Zone representative.

Anyone wishing to access the NSWZ benefits advice service can call 01782 238443 and ask to speak to a Benefits Service advisor.