

# Dying to be warm

Affordable Warmth Summit  
15 April 2010

Dr Richard Harling, Director of Public Health

# Typical scenario

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**80 year old Mrs Smith  
of Bank Road dies in  
hospital 3 weeks after  
she was found lying on  
the floor in her cold  
home**

*“ Mrs Smith was found lying  
on the floor, in a cold home  
by a neighbour, who noticed  
the free newspapers  
sticking out her letter  
box...it was said that she  
worried about putting on  
the gas fire... she had fallen  
before and struggled  
breathing ”.*

# Best practice

- LAA targets:
  - Tackling fuel poverty
  - Supporting vulnerable people maintaining independent living;
- Affordable Warmth Strategy backed by districts;
- Training service providers to identify people at risk of fuel poverty;
- Flyover thermal imaging;



# Best practice

- Energy advisors in flu clinics;
- Signposting services;
- Winter Pressures Plan;
- COPD Nursing support commissioned for weekends and emergency service in winter;
- Integrated nursing models;
- Use of assistive technologies;



# Recommendations

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- Countywide strategic plan - performance managed through Worcestershire Partnership;
- Better use of data;
- List of lists of vulnerable people who are all offered support/services;
- Declaration/pledge to tackle fuel poverty;
- Positive campaign.

# What can you do?

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- Sign the pledge;
- Communicate with your organisation and ensure they commit to improvements and deliver their responsibilities;
- Find better ways to work in partnership, fill the gaps and stop duplication.

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