

## **Advice from LCDI on Keeping Warm this winter**

### **Winter Fuel Payment**

Are you aged 60 years or over? If you are you may get a Winter Fuel Payment to help you keep warm this winter

Winter Fuel Payments are paid to help with winter fuel bills each year. There is extra money for eligible households that include someone aged 80 or over. The amount paid depends on your household circumstances.

You should automatically receive a payment without having to make a claim if you received a payment the previous year, or you are getting a state retirement pension or any other social security benefit except child benefit and housing benefit.

If you are not in receipt of a qualifying benefit contact 08459 15 15 15 to make your claim, you must claim before the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### **Warm Homes Scheme**

The Warm Homes Scheme is grant funded by the Department of Social Development and provides insulation measures such as cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and heating measures to make your home warmer, healthier, and more energy efficient.

If you own your own home or rent from a private landlord and are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, you may be eligible for a grant under the Warm Homes Scheme.

The maximum you can receive is £850 through Warm Homes and £4,300 available from Warm Homes Plus.

For free, confidential assistance on the above and all Social Security Benefits, Tax Credits, Employment Issues, Housing, Money Advice, and a Disability Advocacy Service, call in personally at the Advice Centre at Limavady Community Development Initiative our contact 028 777 65438 to arrange an appointment. The Advice centre also offers its services on an outreach basis in community centres for further details contact the above number.

## How will my circumstances affect whether I get a Winter Fuel Payment?

If your circumstances are as follows:

- you qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment and you live alone and
- no-one else in your household qualifies for a Winter Fuel Payment, or you get State Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance (Income based) or Employment and Support Allowance (Income related)

Then you will get:

- £250 if you are aged 60 to 79 or
- £400 if you are aged 80 or over

If your circumstances are as follows:

you don't get State Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance (Income based) or Employment and Support Allowance (Income related) and

- you live with at least one other person who
- qualifies for a Winter Fuel Payment

Then you will get:

- £125 each if you are both (or all, if you live with more than one other person) aged 60 to 79
- £200 each if you and at least one other person are aged 80 or over; or £275 if you are the only person aged 80 or over (others in the household will get £125)

If you live in a residential care home or an independent hospital and, during the week of 21-27 September 2009, you are not getting State Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance (Income based) or Employment and Support Allowance (Income related) you should get

- £125 if you are aged 60 to 79 or
- £200 if you are aged 80 or over.