

<b>Report on</b>	Keep Warm Packs - Distribution within Mid Ulster area.
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Fiona McClements

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To advise Members of the availability and distribution of Keep Warm Packs as part of the Council's Health and Wellbeing programmes.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	With fuel costs and cold weather it can be difficult for people to heat their homes and keep warm. Mid Ulster District Council provide a number of services for residents including the Fuel Stamp Savings Scheme, Energy Efficiency advice, and the Affordable Warmth Programme. In addition, depending on funding is the availability of Keep Warm Packs.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Keep Warm Packs have been part of the Public Health Agency funding for a number of years in the three legacy Council areas.
3.2	There are a limited number of Keep Warm Packs available and the Public Health Agency has developed criteria to ensure that packs go to those who are most at risk from living in a cold home. Public Health Agency have emphasised that knowledge of individuals or household circumstances or a visit to the household is preferred to ensure packs are going to those most in need.
3.3	There are a number of different packs, including adult packs (male and female) and family packs for children of various ages. The packs contain a number of items including gloves, hats, socks, blankets and cotton bags. Each pack includes an information leaflet to ensure that the contents of the pack are used correctly.
3.4	Distribution of Keep Warm Packs in the legacy Council areas ranged from distribution through a small number of community groups in one area to a combination of distribution methods through elected members, community groups, general public requests and through visits to homes by Council staff working in Health and Wellbeing.
3.5	The number of packs being made available has reduced in recent years. Due to the limited number of packs, it is recommended that distribution is managed through Environmental Health – Health and Well Being staff visiting homes through Affordable Warmth or Home Accident / Energy Efficiency Programmes and liaising directly with the Community and statutory organisations working in this area. As through these arrangements a more holistic approach can be taken to help address fuel poverty and related issues and ensure that any other stressors in the home are identified and onward

	<p>referred to the local Health and Social Services and other Agencies in a timely and efficient manner.</p> <p>It is recommended that Members refer any potential recipients to the Environmental Health team not only for the receipt of a Keep Warm Pack but also for the other related Health and Wellbeing programmes available.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: Packs funded by the Public Health Agency.</p> <p>Human: N/A</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<p>That members note the content of this report and agree the programme as outlined at Section 3.5 for distribution of Warm Home Packs and related Health and Well Being Programmes .</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1 6.2 6.3	<p>Appendix 1 Pack contents</p> <p>Appendix 2 Criteria for distribution</p> <p>Appendix 3 Distribution Form</p>