

LSE and Trafford Hall Housing Plus Think Tank: Tenants' experiences of energy saving in social housing

Summary and outline programme

Monday 1st – Tuesday 2nd June
Trafford Hall, near Chester

Summary

Housing Plus is about social landlords playing a **wider role in communities** where they are based. In poorer areas social landlords need to reinforce their role as landlords with support for tenants if they are to manage their properties and make neighbourhood good places to live in. Tenants need this wider help in order to cope with changes in rents and cuts in benefits, maximise employment opportunities and develop new skills. Fuel poverty and energy inefficiency make it difficult for tenants and landlords – juggling bills becomes inevitable but difficult.

Energy Plus is about helping social landlords and tenants find ways to reduce energy use in homes to tackle fuel poverty, pay rising bills and combat arrears. Some social landlords are doing innovative projects, but there is a need to share this knowledge within the sector and more widely. Energy saving is now critical. Energy insecurity, the cost of staying warm, the 'heat or eat' dilemmas facing many tenants, and the urgency of climate change provide a real incentive for Energy Plus.

We want to understand what the main problems are, how tenants are coping with rising energy bills, what initiatives work best and what landlords can do to help tenants save energy, stay warm and use new 'smart' technologies efficiently. We want to gather real evidence and share it widely. We are interested in discovering

- who are the most vulnerable and worst affected tenants;
- what can be done;
- what landlords are developing that works best in saving energy;
- what tenants are doing to help landlords and reduce their own energy bills;
- what work is being done around the energy saving agenda, such as new jobs opportunities for tenants, advisory and community roles;
- what training is on offer.

This think tank is specifically for **social housing tenants, tenant representatives** and **frontline staff** who accompany tenants and can contribute to the debate.

LSE and Trafford Hall Tenant Think Tank: Outline Programme

Monday 1st June

- 15.30 – 16.00 Registration and refreshments
- 16.00 – 16.30 **Session 1: Getting to know each other and Trafford Hall**
- 16.30 – 17.30 **Session 2: What we know about heating our homes and energy saving**
- 17.30 – 18.15 **Session 3: Energy saving walkabout / information session for mobility-impaired**
- 18.15 – 18.30 Free time
- 18.30 – 19.30 Dinner
- 19.30 – 21.00 Fun energy-saving quiz with prizes!

Tuesday 2nd June

- 8.00 – 9.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 – 9.10 Welcome back and warm up for the day
- 9.10 - 9.30 **Session 4: The big threat of climate change**
- 9.30 – 10.30 **Session 5: How landlords can help**
- 10.30 – 11.00 Break and refreshments
- 11.00 – 12.00 **Session 6: How to stop wasting energy**
- 12.00 – 12.20 **Session 7: How communities can generate their own energy**
- 12.20 – 12.30 Round up of the morning
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 – 14.30 **Session 8: Making our local environments green**
- 14.30 – 15.30 **Session 9: Brainstorm, top ideas and round-up**
- 15.30 End (refreshments will be available)