Keeping warm and well this winter

What government help is there?

If you receive Pension Credit or Housing Benefit, apply for a **£150 Warm Home Discount** towards your electricity bill. Helpline: 0800 731 0214 www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme. For Park Homes see: charisgrants.com/partners/park-homes Tel: 01733 421021

If you were born before 27 June 1960 you should receive a **Winter Fuel Payment** of between £100- £300. Helpline: 0800 731 0160 www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

If you receive Pension Credit you'll get a **£25 Cold Weather Payment** for every 7day period where temperature is ≤0°C

Don't forget a gas safety check! – Older homeowners can qualify for a free gas safety check from their energy supplier (This isn't a substitute for regular servicing). If you rent, ensure your landlord organises one.

Should I switch energy supplier? Compare deals online or by phone; your new energy supplier organises the switch. Ofgem accredited comparison services include:

www.uswitch.com Tel: 0800 6888 557

www.simplyswitch.com Tel: 0800 011 1395

www.moneysupermarket.com Tel: 0333 123 1983

Consider if you prefer fixed or variable rates and check any discounts for direct debit, smart meter, paperless bills.

Do you use oil for heating? – consider a bulk buying scheme to lower costs, such as Wiltshire Community First Tel: 01380 722475 www.communityfirst.org.uk

Need an energy grant or energy advice?

£200 Wiltshire Surviving Winter Grants are available through Age UK Wiltshire for older people who are on a low income and at risk of fuel poverty.

Warm & Safe Wiltshire deliver comprehensive free energy advice service for Wiltshire and Swindon. Tel 0800 038 5722.The service offers advice on:

- Eligibility for local and national energy grants for energy saving improvements, boiler repairs or replacement
- Insulation, heating and draft proofing and guidance on resolving damp and condensation issues
- Heating systems and controls
- Understanding fuel bills, managing fuel debt and switching energy suppliers and fuel tariffs

Can I join the Priority Services Register? – offers free services and support, including help during a power cut for more vulnerable customers. Call your own energy and water companies to register. You can also register with Scottish & Southern (power distributors in Wiltshire) on 0800 294 3259

What about smart meters for your gas and electric? – to help increase awareness of your usage and prevent estimated bills which could save money. Contact your energy supplier

Useful Resources

- Energy Saving Trust - www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
- Gov Energy Advice tool www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency & Home Energy Advice Line on 0800 098 7950
- If you smell gas - National Gas Emergency Service 0800 111 999
- If you have fuel debt there may be charitable grants available or support from your council's 'Crisis Fund'