

## **AMENDMENT**

### **Flintshire County Council notes:**

1. Recognises that the UK Government has made difficult choices, including changes to the winter fuel allowance eligibility, as a result of 14 years of economic mismanagement.
2. That the remove of the winter fuel allowance from many pensioners is strongly opposed by charities and other organisations that work with older people, and
3. That this policy will see many older Flintshire residents left worse off.

### **Flintshire County Council believes:**

1. That this change will mean that many older people in Flintshire will incur financial hardship and that there are potentially increased risks to health.
2. The commitment to the triple lock and a targeted approach to the Warm Home Discount is welcome and must be maintained.
3. That given the proposed Government action, the Council should taken positive steps to support affected pensioners, especially the most vulnerable, by disseminating information and advice through its website, social media and Connects Centre.

### **Flintshire County Council resolves:**

1. To write to the Prime Minister, expressing the council's opposition to the removal of the Winter Fuel Allowance and to reconsider this proposed action
2. To write to the County's MPs to make them aware of our concerns.
3. That if the changes go ahead, to promote the Government campaign to encourage eligible to apply for Pension Credit to ensure low-income pensioners continue to receive the Winter Fuel Payment.
4. The chief executive to write to Age UK and other leading age related charities to ensure there is a greater uptake in Pension Credits across Flintshire heading into winter, opening up space in our libraries, connect centres and community 'warm hubs' to AGE UK to encourage sign ups and raise and awareness that the £300 winter fuel payment can be paid up until April next year.
5. In addition to this, the chief executive on behalf of all councillors to write to Welsh Government to push for greater funding into the hardship funds and we draw down on funds to support our vulnerable with a one off payment of £x (to be agreed) and to write to our MPs and MSs to push for the threshold for Pension Credit to be uplifted to bring more people into eligibility
6. That locally we will encourage pensioners to find out about the financial support they may be entitled to, including Pension Credit, nationally through Advicelink Cymru, and locally by visiting the Cost of Living Hub on the FCC website, and through our social media feeds and Connects centre network to help eligible.