

## ENERGY MINISTER AND CAMBRIDGE CAB HELP PEOPLE CUT THEIR FUEL BILLS

Rising fuel bills are stretching household finances and people are looking for ways to save money on their energy bills – and **Cambridge Citizens Advice Bureau** is here to help. Advisers at the Bureau are predicting a 32% increase in fuel debt enquiries this year, based on figures so far recorded. **Charles Hendry MP, Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change**, attended a public advice staged by the Bureau in the City's Grand Arcade on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January**.



Cambridge Citizens Advice Bureau gave practical advice and help as part of **Big Energy Week (16-21 January 2012)** to help people cut their fuel bills and get all the financial support they are entitled to.

The event on last week aimed at providing consumers with the information they need to make more informed choices about energy providers, benefit entitlements, fuel conservation and many other fuel issues. Advisers from the Bureau will be in the Arcade all day, along with a representative from the new **SmartLIFE Low Carbon Centre** which is based on the Cambridge Regional College Campus, giving consumers direct access to advice and information on saving money on energy bills.

**Rachel Talbot, CEO of Cambridge CAB**, said: ***“More and more people are coming to us for advice on how to spend less on their fuel bills. Through Big Energy Week we want to tell people that help is at hand and that there are things they can do to cut their fuel bills.***

***Between now and the end of March we will be***

*L-R: Nigel Brown OBE, Chairman on Cambridge CAB, and Charles Hendry MP, Minister for Energy and Climate Change*

***running a series of free energy advice drop-in sessions called ‘Warm Homes Healthy People’, funded by Cambridge County Council and the Department of Health, in community locations across Cambridge and South Cambs. People can sign up for these sessions by contacting the Bureau on 0844 848 7979.”***

Cambridge Citizens Advice Bureau is urging people to speak to their energy supplier to check that they're getting the best deal and are on the cheapest payment method - and to save energy by insulating your home – most energy companies are offering free and/or discounted insulation.

You could save more by switching energy suppliers and an accredited switching website can help you do this. Plus it's important to check that you are getting all of the benefits and tax credits that you're entitled to – as you could be missing out on money that could make pay it easier to pay your fuel bill. You can pick up a leaflet with tips and advice on cutting your fuel bills at Cambridge Citizens Advice Bureau or in Grand Arcade on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Big Energy Week is an advice campaign coordinated by Citizens Advice to help consumers spend less on heating their home.

A new website – [www.bigenergyweek.org.uk](http://www.bigenergyweek.org.uk) - is full of tips on how to cut your energy bills.