

A Warm Reception for TV Legend

TV presenter Mike Neville is the latest person to receive help from Gateshead Warm Zone.

Mike, aged 69, a familiar face to millions throughout the region from his 40-year broadcasting career, was delighted to find out that he qualified for free loft and cavity wall insulation from the zone just by being over 60-years-old.

Gateshead Warm Zone, which started work in October 2005, will visit more than 90,000 homes in the Borough over the next five years looking for households that need its help.

Once the Warm Zone team identifies eligible people - that's anyone aged over 60, or anyone in receipt of certain benefits, or those who are in fuel poverty - it installs free loft and cavity wall insulation.

"This is a great scheme for the people of Gateshead," said Mike. "I'd urge everyone to take advantage of the scheme simply by answering a few questions when the Warm Zone team knocks on your door. I never thought I'd get the work done free, but now my house will

be much warmer this winter and my fuel bills will be lower."

Free benefits checks and energy efficiency advice will also be available to all homes to help increase incomes and cut fuel bills.

Karen Hindhaugh, Director of Gateshead Warm Zone said: "By insulating homes we are helping people to save money, save energy and do their bit for the environment.

"By combining this with our comprehensive benefits entitlement service, we can ensure that everyone in Gateshead can enjoy a warm and healthy home."

Gateshead Warm Zone is a not-for-profit organisation working in partnership with Scottish Power, National Grid, Gateshead Council and the Gateshead Housing Company.

Over the duration of the project, more than 90,000 homes will be visited in the Borough and it is thought that more than 35,000 households will benefit from free energy saving measures.



Mike Neville with one of the Gateshead Warm Zone