

## MP welcomes cold weather payouts

MP Mark Lancaster has welcomed the cold weather payments which have been made this week to residents of Milton Keynes who qualify.

Cold Weather Payments of Â£25 per week are paid by the Department for Work and Pensions to people on certain benefits. The payment is made automatically when the temperature in the local area drops to 0 degrees for an average of 7 days.

The payment was introduced in 2010 in the hope that it would help those most in need to keep warm and prevent fuel poverty. Those who qualify include people receiving Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and also those in receipt of Pension Credit.

Mark Lancaster said "Following the considerable drop in temperature over the past week I am pleased to see that the government are offering support to people in Milton Keynes most in need. The Cold Weather Payment was introduced to support those most vulnerable and in difficulty during the winter months. I hope this will ensure that they stay warm and I am pleased to see that residents in Milton Keynes are benefiting."