

Warmer times for farming family

It's not just Mrs C's family members who have benefited from the Warmer Homes Shropshire initiative – the calves on the farm are feeling the positive effects too.

The project offers free first-time central heating installation to eligible households through a grant scheme designed to help people reduce their heating costs.

And for Mrs C, her husband and their children Will who live in Wem, the grant was very welcome news.

“There was absolutely no heating in our house, just a coal fire, but after successfully applying to the Warmer Homes scheme, we've had an entire new central heating system installed and it's great,” Mrs C said.

“We've gone from being cold all the time, to now being warm all the time, and it's lovely to be able to just switch the heating on whenever we need to. It's such a change from before.”

She said the system was very efficient, and when the heating is switched on, the house is soon up to temperature and stays consistently warm.

“My daughter was known as ‘the blanket queen’ before we had the heating put in because she loved her blankets, but now she doesn't need them any more.”

Mrs C said the family felt a little awkward coming forward at first for the scheme as they weren't sure they would qualify, and were unsure who they should contact for more details.

“But once we found the right person dealing with our area, it seemed very easy to get our application sorted and we're delighted to have been accepted for the scheme.”

The family runs a farm too and at this time of year they're busy feeding the calves.

“Previously we only had an immersion heater so if we forgot to put it on, there was a real problem, but now we have instant hot water for warming the milk for the calves which is brilliant.

“Accessing the Warmer Homes scheme was easy and it didn't cost us anything which is amazing – people may think it seems too good to be

true, but it really is a great scheme that has changed our lives completely.”