



Action for Warm Homes

Warm Homes Matter: Recommendations to an incoming UK Government

Introduction

NEA is a charity that works to end fuel poverty, promotes energy efficiency and tackles inequality in the energy market locally and nationally¹. This paper has been produced in advance of the General Election on 8th June² and highlights the opportunity for the affordability of energy to be a top priority for the next UK Government; benefiting both the economy and consumers - particularly those living in a cold home.

NEA calls on the next UK Government to make energy efficiency a key focus, linked closely to a new strategy for decarbonising the UK's heating supply, and to halt the recent drop off in the delivery of home energy efficiency improvements. Enhanced energy efficiency programmes will reduce the cost to energy consumers of the transition to a low carbon energy system and simultaneously improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable, as well as creating economic growth in all parts of the UK.

Whilst fuel poverty is a devolved issue, many of the drivers are significantly impacted by the actions of the UK Government. A future UK Government must work much more closely with the devolved nations to tackle fuel poverty and develop a more coherent response. The impact of Brexit on energy consumers must be explored as a priority. We hope all political parties will find this briefing helpful. We also urge activists and party members to ensure that action for warm homes features prominently in manifesto commitments.



Who is affected and why act now?

- ❖ Between 2004 and 2014 average annual domestic gas prices soared by over 125% and domestic electricity prices increased by over 75%³. In recent months, most major suppliers have announced further price increases⁴
- ❖ High energy prices badly impact the economy; curtailing growth and increasing inflation⁵ which squeezes spending on other essential goods and services⁶. Most worryingly, the greatest impacts are still disproportionately felt by some of the most vulnerable people in our society
- ❖ Despite respective national statutory duties⁷, around 4 million UK households are still unable to heat and power their homes due to the combination of high energy prices, low levels of household income, the physical quality, energy efficiency characteristics of the dwelling and the degree of vulnerability of the occupants
- ❖ Many other households also face increasingly unmanageable situations; repaying large or growing debts whilst being excluded from signing up to the cheapest energy deals⁸. This can create huge anxiety which exacerbates existing mental health problems, leading to further depression and potentially suicide⁹
- ❖ The physical impacts of living in a cold, damp and inefficient home are also well documented and cause unnecessary suffering, premature mortality and across the UK continue to kill as many people as smoking, lack of exercise and alcohol abuse¹⁰
- ❖ A baby born today and living in cold housing is also almost three times more likely to suffer from coughing, wheezing and respiratory illness. Existing evidence also highlights infants living in cold conditions have a 30% greater risk of admission to hospital or primary care facilities¹¹
- ❖ As the child develops, this in turn impacts on long-term educational attainment, either through increased school absence through illness or because they are unable to find a quiet, warm place to study in the home¹². In adolescence, one in four teenagers living in cold housing are at risk of multiple mental health problems¹³
- ❖ Home energy improvements help to tackle these issues and one detailed study showed an 80% decrease in the rate of sickness absence from school for children with asthma and recurrent respiratory infections¹⁴. Despite this progress almost one in five households with a child under 16 live in fuel poverty and the risk increases for lone parent households, one in four of whom are fuel poor¹⁵
- ❖ In February 2017, NEA organised Fuel Poverty Awareness Day, the national day to highlight these problems and some of the excellent work being undertaken locally to try and tackle the issue. Our campaign reached over 2 million people and even went viral on social media¹⁶.

Summary of our key recommendations

Target further action on energy prices alongside co-ordinated support to drive up low household incomes

- Ensure low income households that benefit from existing schemes like the Warm Home Discount (WHD) and wider support like the Priority Services Register (PSR) are on their energy supplier's cheapest tariff
- Expand access to the WHD to all energy suppliers with over 50,000 customers
- Act on new powers within the current Digital Economy Act to reduce administration costs of disbursing rebates and extend support for automatic energy bill rebates to working families
- Fund a co-ordinated campaign to reduce the number of unclaimed benefits and help passport households through to other support services

Accelerate current commitments by making energy efficiency a key national priority

- Meet the required investment to honour current fuel poverty commitments and accelerate delivery with a more ambitious aim to bring all low income households up to the standard of a new home by 2025
- Ensure the National Infrastructure Commission include energy efficiency as a key part of the upcoming Infrastructure Assessment
- Create a comprehensive and national energy efficiency programme linked closely to any new strategy for decarbonising the UK's heating supply

Urgently extend protections for vulnerable tenants and give landlords clarity on how they can invest in their properties to make them cheaper and easier to heat

- Provide urgent clarity to landlords on how they will be required to invest in potentially life threatening properties
- Ensure poorly converted flats and shared properties such as bedsits and hostels and other Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) are fully covered by new national standards

Extend and re-target current fuel poverty support and address gaps in provision

- Extend the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) for 10 years to create a £6.5bn fund and certainty to the heating and insulation industries and focus it on those in or at risk of living in a cold home
- Ensure all fuel poverty supplier-led schemes take account of the particular needs of vulnerable consumers
- Make immediate funds available for first time gas central heating systems to complete economic gas connections to fuel poor homes
- Retain the Winter Fuel Payment and if any reform is made, the existing budgets must be ring-fenced to help low income pensioners access lower energy bills and energy efficiency improvements to protect them from the cold

- Introduce a national Better Boilers scheme to replace or repair inefficient or broken boilers with A-rated ultra-low emission appliances. The full cost of these measures must be met for low income households to avoid ill health, cut £3.6m spent a day by the NHS treating the impacts of cold homes, reduce winter deaths, lower CO₂ emissions and improve air quality
- The planned roll-out of smart meters and in home displays (IHDs) must be completed to end estimated bills, estimated energy usage and give households accurate information and advice they understand

Investigate the impact of Brexit on energy consumers fully

- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the regulators Ofgem and Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation (NIAER) should run a call for evidence to clarify which elements of the Energy Union and related EU policies the UK should adopt
- The 2030 Energy Saving Target and all related energy efficiency requirements should be transposed in the UK

Work with the Devolved Nations

- A future UK Government must work much more closely with the devolved nations to mirror energy efficiency as an infrastructure priority consistently across the whole of the UK and unlock access to public and private investment
- An immediate priority is to build a UK-wide recognition of the impact of cold homes on health and establish a joint ministerial summit. This could lead to an ongoing UK-wide taskforce to review the key actions that must be taken across each of the nations to reduce cold related mortality and morbidity
- The next UK Government must provide adequate oversight and regulation of the heating oil industry to protect vulnerable consumers across the UK, ensuring they have similar safeguards to natural gas and electricity consumers

Build on local good practice and replicate consistent outcomes in all our towns and cities

- All local authorities must fulfil their current duties in relation to enforcing housing standards and the next UK Government should support and resource local authorities' activities under the Home Energy Conservation Act
- The next UK Government should encourage civic leaders and local authorities to produce Fuel Poverty Action Plans to meet fuel poverty commitments and put large towns and cities on a path to zero carbon by 2050

Target further action on energy prices alongside co-ordinated support to drive up low household incomes

The Prime Minister recently described energy as an essential service. She also stated energy prices are highest for those on low incomes and switching alone is not working¹⁷. Whilst some early progress has been made following the Competition Market Authority (CMA)'s Market Investigation¹⁸, NEA believes further action is required to safeguard customers, particularly the most vulnerable.

According to the CMA, a credit meter customer with a dual fuel, Standard Variable Tariff (SVT) could save around £300 per annum by being on a fixed deal¹⁹ or being put on their supplier's best tariff. They also proposed a central database to encourage and prompt these consumers to shop around and switch which is now being developed by Ofgem. NEA believes there is a significant risk that some vulnerable consumers will be confused by these new marketing techniques and will be encouraged to switch away from suppliers that provide them with automatic discounts on their electricity bill. A blanket SVT cap could also have wider distributional impacts for those who have switched and are now on fixed deals²⁰. Any further interventions on energy prices must therefore be targeted and implemented carefully. This could be achieved by ensuring the new database is not used to market better deals until low households that benefit from existing schemes like the Warm Home Discount and wider support like the Priority Services Register (PSR) are also put on their energy supplier's cheapest tariff.

This would not address the needs of low income consumers who are currently with most of the smaller suppliers who could still miss out on the annual £140 WHDS rebate. This should be addressed by building on voluntary actions and expanding access to the WHDS to all energy suppliers over 50,000 customers. A further million working families²¹ also miss out on support provided by the WHDS each year. This issue arises because unlike the current automatic arrangement for low income pensioners, other low income consumers have to apply each year to their energy supplier, typically within the summer period. Therefore many low income customers of working age (who are theoretically eligible but may be unaware that this support exists or who miss the application deadline) can still end up paying for the policy and not benefiting from it. NEA believes the new powers within the current Digital Economy Act can help address this and these new powers must extend support for automatic rebates to low income working families. Equally this information will also help reduce administration costs for obligated suppliers and enable them to offer this assistance more cost effectively on behalf of all their customers; a dual proportionate benefit.

Finally, half of all fuel poor households in England are in work²² but despite welcome interventions such as the increase in the living wage, many still struggle to afford a range of essential services, not just energy. In turn, this curtails spending in poorer communities which restricts growth. For many other low income households that are economically inactive or unable to work they have also found their incomes have stagnated or reduced²³. In response, NEA wants the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to work more closely with other Government departments and the third sector to fund and support a co-ordinated national campaign to reduce the number of unclaimed benefits and help passport households through to other support services²⁴.

Accelerate current commitments by making energy efficiency a key national priority

The UK Government's own analysis states³⁰ that had no improvements been made in home insulation and more efficient heating systems since 1970, household energy consumption would have almost doubled. In addition, the average new home built in England requires about half as much energy per square meter as the average existing home. The UK Government's own analysis highlights further cost effective investments in energy efficiency could also save the equivalent output of up to 22 power stations³¹. NEA's analysis shows that investment in domestic energy efficiency will improve energy security and the UK's trade balance; gas imports currently account for approximately £30m per day (over £10bn per year).

Currently, low income households living in the least efficient homes pay on average an extra £1,345 per year to keep warm compared to a typical household³². This additional energy expenditure is over four times more than consumers lose out on because they are on SVTs. The next UK Government must therefore continue to prioritise energy efficiency, build on existing fuel poverty commitments and frameworks³³ and enhance the existing commitment to insulate 1 million homes by 2020. Overall, an investment of £20bn is required to get all (current) fuel poor homes in England to at least an Energy Performance Band C by 2030 (broadly the same standard as a modern home³⁴). According to the Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP)³⁵, the Climate Change Committee (CCC)³⁶ and think tanks such as Policy Exchange³⁷ current resources are less than half of what is required to meet these commitments. A further £6bn of investment would also be required to bring all low income households (not just those that are currently fuel poor) up to EPC band C by 2025 across the UK³⁸.

An ambitious energy efficiency programme would also capture major local and macro-economic benefits. A recent report produced by Cambridge Econometrics and Verco³⁹ noted an ambitious energy efficiency programme can save domestic consumers over £8 billion per annum in total energy bill savings; return £3 to the economy per £1 invested⁴⁰; help create a 26% reduction in imports of natural gas by 2030; increase relative GDP by 0.6% by 2030 and increase local low and medium skilled employment by up to 108,000 net jobs. These benefits would also be felt in every constituency and ensure the UK economy does not miss out on a key market for SMEs, which will be valued at €80-120 billion by 2030⁴¹. NEA is part of the Energy Efficiency Infrastructure Group (EEIG) which is finalising plans for a comprehensive Buildings Energy Infrastructure Programme and a related Energy Efficiency Delivery Vision. An incoming UK Government must take the opportunity to build on this work and make sure energy efficiency becomes a vital part of our national infrastructure. This new approach has notable support from a range of organisations and no other infrastructure investment can deliver so much.

CBI: "A new government must act swiftly to make energy efficiency a national infrastructure priority²⁵"

Bright Blue: "The economic benefits of incentivising home energy improvements should be viewed in the same way as infrastructure investment, as they comfortably meet the government criteria²⁶"

Policy Exchange: "Make energy efficiency a national infrastructure priority²⁷"

The UK Government's Committee on Fuel Poverty: "We believe that the benefits of designating energy efficiency as a national infrastructure priority should be assessed, thereby potentially helping to unlock access to public infrastructure funding²⁸"

ResPublica: "Energy Efficiency should be made a national infrastructure priority²⁹"

Urgently extend protections for vulnerable tenants and give landlords clarity on how they can invest in their properties to make them cheaper and easier to heat

Currently, privately rented homes are causing the greatest hardship and the most acute risks (such as possible gas explosions or carbon monoxide poisoning) for their residents⁴². The introduction of minimum energy performance standards in the worst Private Rented Properties in England and Wales is a welcome and necessary regulation and comes into force next year. The next UK Government will be required to provide urgent clarity to landlords on how they will be required to meet these requirements and invest in these potentially life threatening properties⁴³.

In addition, poorly converted flats and shared properties such as bedsits and hostels and other Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) will not currently be fully covered by these new national standards. A recent NEA survey highlighted that this is despite them being the worst rental properties and most have such inadequate heating and insulation that it is impossible to keep them warm and free from damp⁴⁴. Taking urgent action in these two key areas immediately after the election will make early progress to reduce the public costs that failure to enforce housing standards locally presents, in particular, costs to health services⁴⁵. Most importantly, it will raise a common expectation of the living standards which should be expected in one of the biggest economies in the world and shift the burden away from tenants to lead complaints about their landlords.

Extend and re-target current fuel poverty support and address gaps in provision

Another key priority for the next UK Government is the future *Energy Company Obligation (ECO)* scheme and to address the aforementioned collapse in the delivery of home energy efficiency improvements which has reduced by an average of 75%⁴⁶ compared to 2008-2012. NEA welcomed the UK Government's Spending Review 2015 announcement that ECO will run for 5 years from April 2017 and the longer term scheme from 2018-2022 will be focused on helping households out of fuel poverty. This commitment must be honoured and on that basis, ECO should be extended beyond 2022. However, this energy supplier-led scheme currently fails to take account of the enhanced needs of vulnerable consumers and has a significantly reduced budget. The recent lengthening of the transition scheme to 18 months (from the original proposals of 12 months) also means a delay to the fully-focused, better targeted scheme. This will lead to a large shortfall in activity for the poorest households with the highest energy costs. There is also a big gap in provision for low income or vulnerable consumers who cannot afford to repair or replace existing gas boilers.

NEA's report *In from the Cold*⁴⁷ has also recently highlighted the need to make immediate funds available for first time gas central heating systems to complete economic gas connections to fuel poor homes. NEA recommends setting the fund at £25 million per annum and reserving £37.5 to help cover the funding gap estimated at £43.5 million for first time gas central heating over the 18 month ECO2T transition period (April 2017 to September 2018). NEA estimates a £37.5 million non-gas fund could support around 9,375 households and deliver up to £142 million in lifetime bill savings.

In addition, the *Winter Fuel Payment (WFP)* currently provides tax-free help to pay for heating bills. Some organisations have suggested that the Winter Fuel Payment should be significantly modified⁴⁸ or even called for its budget to be diverted to other areas of public spending to pay for social care⁴⁹. Whilst generational equity is important, NEA stresses an incoming Government should maintain the WFP and if reformed, strengthen the stated aim of “tackling fuel poverty amongst pensioners”⁵⁰. NEA believes this could allow low income pensioners to access the support in a different way, for example to provide targeted rebates or cover costs such of repairing or replacing existing gas boilers so they are not left vulnerable to the effects of the cold or unsafe gas appliances.

NEA also has a long-standing interest in *Smart Meters* and their roll-out in Great Britain, particularly with regard to their impact on vulnerable consumers. NEA has completed a number of research projects into smart meters, including *Smart for All* (Phases 1 and 2) which looked at consumer vulnerability during the experience of smart meter installation on behalf of the UK Government and *An Extra Help Scheme for Vulnerable Smart Meter Customers* which interviewed stakeholders to assess potential models for delivering additional assistance during the roll-out. More recently, to help directly overcome access, engagement and savings barriers, NEA has become a partner in the Smart Energy GB in Communities programme. The project aims to support vulnerable consumers and tackle potential exclusion in this national infrastructure programme throughout the roll-out of smart meters and In Home Displays (IHDs). The next UK Government should continue to prioritise the roll-out of smart meters alongside IHDs to ensure the most is made of opportunities to end estimated bills, estimated energy usage and give households accurate information and advice they understand. This technology is also the foundation for many other domestic technological advances⁵¹.

Investigate the impact of Brexit on energy consumers fully

On 23 June 2016 the UK voted to leave the European Union. Whilst the most compelling drivers for action on cold homes are based on domestic legislation (Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000⁵², Climate Change Act⁵³, Housing Act⁵⁴, Fuel Poverty Targets⁵⁵ and minimum energy performance standards in the private rented sector⁵⁶) and related UN Sustainable Development Goals⁵⁷, Brexit could provide some key opportunities to reduce the cost to energy consumers. Equally, unless certain EU targets are met, and some limited legislation continues to be transposed (or additional domestic actions are taken) the UK leaving the EU could have a negative impact on those who struggle to keep their homes adequately warm. There is currently huge uncertainty around which existing EU targets the UK will continue to try and meet and which legislation will be transposed. NEA has recently called on the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the regulators Ofgem and Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation (NIAER) to run a joint call for evidence to clarify which elements of the Energy Union and related EU policies the UK should adopt. NEA also stated it believes the 2030 Energy Saving Target and related requirements should be transposed in the UK and the next UK Government should enhance efforts to meet the UK’s energy saving potential⁵⁸.

Working with the Devolved Nations

Whilst fuel poverty is a devolved issue, many of the drivers are significantly impacted by the actions of the UK Government. An incoming Government must recognise that austerity, welfare reform and energy prices are hindering attempts by the devolved nations to tackle fuel poverty. A future UK Government must therefore work much more constructively with the devolved nations to tackle the underlying causes of fuel poverty and develop a more coherent response. There are also good practice examples across all the UK nations and sharing this experience routinely can support positive improvements in the health and wellbeing of the population at large and especially those households in vulnerable circumstances.

A particular priority is to build a UK-wide recognition of the impact of cold homes on health. NEA believes a joint ministerial summit with representatives from across all four nations' governments should be held by Winter 2017/18. The outcome of this should include a joint public commitment formally recognising the importance of cold homes as a key determinant of ill health. The statement should also hold relevant national departments, local government and competent bodies to account for reducing cold-related premature mortality and the public costs of inaction. The summit should also seek to establish an ongoing UK-wide taskforce (again with representatives from across all four nations' governments) which would review the actions being taken across the nations in detail – assessing national frameworks, relevant policies, and local action - and seek agreement on the key priorities that each nation can implement across the coming winter 2018/19 and beyond.

Priorities in Northern Ireland

NEA has a national office in Belfast which aims to address the increasing serious levels of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland⁵⁹. NEA NI works closely with the Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Coalition⁶⁰ which recently outlined how to reduce the alarming level of cold homes in NI⁶¹. As well as calling on the UK Government to make energy efficiency an infrastructure priority, they also called for adequate oversight and regulation of the heating oil industry to protect vulnerable consumers, ensuring they have similar safeguards to natural gas and electricity consumers. This is particularly important in Northern Ireland as heating oil is the main fuel source with 68% of households reliant on this unregulated fuel. In January 2016 the price of oil was at an all-time low, but since then the price has increased by 60%⁶². In terms of national schemes (which are outside the direct control of a future UK Government), NEA NI has highlighted current and future schemes should be effectively targeted at those who need the most support to reduce their heating costs and any emerging scheme must ensure that the energy justice principles of the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP) are embedded as a key principle.

Priorities in Wales

NEA also has a national office in Wales where an estimated 291,000 households can't adequately heat and power their homes. NEA Cymru works with Citizens Advice Wales to lead a Coalition supported by a range of key organisations working to take forward the fuel poverty agenda⁶³. The Coalition produced its manifesto 'Ending Wales' Cold Homes Crisis' for the National Assembly for Wales' election in May 2016.

The manifesto introduced five key priorities for domestic action for the next Welsh Government and also called on the UK Government to support their efforts and make energy efficiency an infrastructure priority and drive wider improvements in the energy performance of buildings and tackle fuel poverty. The Welsh Government's Infrastructure and Wales' Investment Plan⁶⁴ subsequently aims to achieve and drive up energy efficiency improvements in the private rented sector to tackle fuel poverty. There is however a pressing need to mirror energy efficiency as an infrastructure priority consistently across the whole of the UK and unlock further access to national, UK or GB-wide funding.

Build on local good practice and replicate consistent outcomes in all our towns and cities

Fuel poverty is a large and growing problem in many large towns and cities across the UK. For example, cold homes affect over a million Londoners, including around 300,000 children. This has prompted the Mayor of London to commit to producing a Fuel Poverty Action Plan and put London on a path to zero carbon by 2050. To offer immediate assistance, Londoners struggling to afford to heat their homes also benefit from a new fund to replace or repair inefficient or broken boilers. Better Boilers - is the first ever pan-London scheme and will help fuel-poor home-owners in London to keep warm by replacing or repairing inefficient or broken boilers with A-rated ultra-low emission appliances, and will reduce annual energy bills by an average of around £150 per household. It also aims to reduce cold-related ill health and winter deaths, lower NOx emissions to help improve air quality, avoid acute risks such as carbon monoxide poisoning and save up to 310 tonnes of carbon emissions a year. NEA hopes a future UK Government would introduce this form of support to other localities.

Because of their intrinsic understanding of their local areas and the fact they already have relevant strategic responsibilities and relationships with community based organisations and agencies, many other local authorities help enhance joined up action on fuel poverty. NEA has consistently championed the key role local authorities must play in addressing fuel poverty and the importance of them fulfilling their current duties in relation to enforcing housing standards. Despite the duties, and signs that local authorities may have a greater role in the delivery of energy efficiency schemes, deep cuts to council funding continues to make it more challenging than ever (and in some cases impossible) to commit resources or take action locally. As well as struggling to address fuel poverty specifically, local authorities also have a key role to play in reducing domestic carbon emissions, reducing air pollution and facilitating public health responsibilities. NEA urges the next UK Government to support and resources encourage other civic leaders and local authorities to continue to take this local action under the Home Energy Conservation Act. Taking joined up action on these areas will also help harness the purchasing power of large towns and cities, drive new solutions and create a stronger local business infrastructure.

Reference and further information

¹ NEA undertakes key research, advocacy and work collaboratively with partners from local and national government, industry and the third sector to deliver practical solutions to people living in cold homes. NEA has a network of offices throughout England and also has national offices in Cardiff and Belfast which also work to support deprived communities and low income energy consumers in Wales and Northern Ireland respectively. NEA also works closely with our sister organisation Energy Action Scotland (EAS) to ensure we can collectively provide a genuine UK wide reach. Please visit www.nea.org.uk.

² Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

³ House of Commons Library, Debate Pack, Number CDP 2017/0090, Debate day 16 March 2017.

⁴ Ibid, page 8 Number CDP 2017/0090, Debate day 16 March 2017.

⁵ The Bank of England (BoE) expects consumer prices to rise to 2.7 per cent by the end of this year, but other economists think that might be at the more conservative end of predictions.

⁶ Independent commentators like the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), have highlighted how low income households are disproportionately impacted by spending higher percentage of their outgoings on fuel. Household Energy Use in Britain: A Distributional Analysis, Institute for Fiscal Studies and University College London funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (reference 11-2886) and by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) through the Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy.

⁷ The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act is the foundation of fuel poverty targets in England and Wales, the Housing (Scotland) Act provides the basis for fuel poverty objectives in Scotland and there is no legislative driver for the eradication of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland. In addition, Wales does not have the same powers devolved power as Scotland and Northern Ireland.

⁸ Many low income and vulnerable consumers, have a poor credit history; they are worried about losing out on support like the Warm Home Discount; or they face cost barriers if they attempt to switch back to a standard meter.

⁹ Christians Against Poverty (2015) The poor pay more: Prepayment meters and self-disconnection.

¹⁰ Association for the Conservation of Energy (March 2015) Chilled to Death: The Human Cost of Cold Homes, page 2. Last year the BBC's Panorama also highlighted people are still getting ill and 9,000 people died needlessly because of cold homes in England

¹¹ Child Health Impact Working Group (2006) Unhealthy Consequences: Energy Costs and Child Health. Boston, MA: CHIWG.

¹² NEA (2013) The Many Faces of Fuel Poverty. Page5.

¹³ NEA (2013) The Many Faces of Fuel Poverty. Page5.

¹⁴ Somerville M et al. 2000. Housing and health: does installing heating in their homes improve the health of children with asthma? Public Health; 114, 434-39.

¹⁵ Children's Society, the families behind fuel poverty statistics, 19 February 2016.

¹⁶ See #fuelpovertyawarenessday

¹⁷ The Prime Minister was speaking at the Conservative Party Spring Forum in Wales on the 17 March 2017

¹⁸ NEA welcomed the introduction in April of a price cap for Pre-Payment Meter customers

¹⁹ Energy market investigation Summary of final report, CMA, 24 June 2016, p32.

²⁰ In 2016 NEA announced that we would jointly fund the Big Energy Saving Network (BESN) along with the UK Government. The £1.7 million programme supports organisations to deliver a programme of outreach to vulnerable households and train frontline workers to tackle exclusion within the energy market and enable advisors to help vulnerable households make decisions about tariffs, switching, how to access the Priority Services Register and energy efficiency programmes.

²¹ Along with NEA the Children's Society have highlighted the problem of families who are struggling to meet the costs of heating their homes and the impact on their children who are forced to grow up in a cold home. Around 1.9 million children living in poverty are in families that do not get a warm home discount

²² Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics Report 2016, DECC, 2016.

²³ The Resolution Foundation's report, *As Time Goes By*, tracks the scale of income growth across different generations over the last 50 years.

²⁴ According to Age UK, around 1 in 3 eligible households eligible for Pension Credit are not claiming this benefit. Receiving Pension Credit not only increases income it also passports claimants to other forms of financial and practical support such as automatic energy rebates and assistance through the Government's energy efficiency schemes

²⁵ Effective Policy Efficient Homes, Confederation of British Industry (CBI) 2015, p2.

²⁶ Better Homes: Incentivising Home Energy Improvements, Hall and Caldecott 2016, p27.

²⁷ Too Hot to Handle? How to decarbonise domestic heating, Howard and Bengherbi 2016, p.14.

²⁸ A report on initial positions, Committee on Fuel Poverty 2016, p4.

²⁹ After the Green Deal: Empowering people and places to improve their homes, recommendation 5, Rosenow and Sagar 2015.

³⁰ Energy Efficiency Deployment Office Evidence Brief, DECC, 8 February 2012. The publication also noted that in 2010, 24 per cent of UK primary energy demand was lost through energy generation, transformation and distribution losses.

³¹ DECC Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (November 2012)

³² The Government's most recent fuel poverty statistics, "Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics Report 2016", Office of National Statistics

³³ In England, the statutory target is to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by 2030. This is supported by interim milestones.

³⁴ EPC certificates compare current ratings of properties to see which are more energy efficient. They help tenants, landlords or home owners find out how they can save energy and money by installing improvement measures. The EPC certificate shows how much the average household would spend in this property for heating, lighting and hot water. It's graded from A to G, with A meaning an energy efficient, well-insulated, probably modern home, and G meaning a draughty old building where the wind rattles the walls. Typically, an older property with no retrofitted energy-saving technology will be around a D grade.

³⁵ This breakdowns as £1.9bn to meet the 2020 EPC E milestone, a further £5.6bn to meet the 2025 EPC D milestone and a further £12.3bn to meet the 2030 EPC C target.

³⁶ Addressing fuel poverty and meeting carbon budgets go hand in hand (CCC), 7 October 2014.

³⁷ Warmer Homes - Improving fuel poverty and energy efficiency policy in the UK, 2015, Policy Exchange

³⁸ This breakdowns as £1.9bn to meet the 2020 fuel poor EPC E milestone, a further £5.6bn to meet the fuel poor 2025 EPC D milestone and a further £12.3bn to meet the 2030 fuel poor EPC C target in England. A further £6bn would be required to ensure all low income households (not just those that are currently fuel poor) are brought up to EPC band C by 2025 across the UK. This investment does not fall to central Government solely; it must be defrayed across a number of parties (central government, private and social landlords; LAs, utility companies, escos, gas and electricity network operators as well as other key actors such health agencies, charities and community groups.

³⁹ The report "Building the Future: The economic and fiscal impacts of making homes energy efficient"

⁴⁰ Please NB any investment does not fall to central Government solely; it must be defrayed across a number of parties (central government, private and social landlords; LAs, utility companies, escos, gas and electricity network operators as well as other key actors such health agencies, charities and community groups.

⁴¹ European Commission - Press release: Clean Energy for All Europeans - unlocking Europe's growth potential, Brussels, 30 November 2016.

⁴² Fuel Poverty and Homes in Multiple Occupation, produced by Future Climate and National Energy Action, 2016.

⁴³ From April 2018, landlords will not be able to rent out properties with energy efficiency ratings below EPC Band E (exemptions apply). The regulations apply to the domestic private rented sector in England and Wales. This is defined in section 42 of the Energy Act 2011 as properties let under an assured tenancy for the purposes of the Housing Act 1988, or a tenancy which is a regulated tenancy for the purposes

of the Rent Act 1977. A high percentage of fuel poor households also live in the worst properties in the deepest fuel poverty are renting from private landlords, they must be prioritised for assistance.

⁴⁴ Fuel Poverty and Houses in Multiple Occupation, produced by Future Climate and National Energy Action, 2016.

⁴⁵ NEA press release, Cold homes claiming needless lives and costing every local Health and Wellbeing Board in England over £27,000 each day, 26 February 2016. This extrapolates an estimate from The cost of cold - Why we need to protect the health of older people in winter, 2012, Age UK which uses the Building Research Establishment's evidence. They use this housing stock information, alongside assumptions about energy costs and local health cost data to estimate the health cost to the NHS of energy inefficient dwellings. They then identify repair solutions which provide direct benefit to the NHS through reduced injury rates and treatment costs. The results the tool generates are recognised by Government and endorsed by organisations like the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, The Institute of Health Equity, Age UK and the NHS Alliance.

⁴⁶ CCC, Meeting Carbon Budgets – 2016 Progress Report to Parliament, June 2016 highlighted annual rates of cavity wall and loft insulation in 2013-2015 were 60% down and 90% down respectively on annual rates in 2008-2012

⁴⁷ In from the cold: The funding gap for non-gas fuel poor homes under ECO, and a proposal to fill it, February 2017, NEA.

⁴⁸ Warmer Homes - Improving fuel poverty and energy efficiency policy in the UK, 2015, Policy Exchange

⁴⁹ In 2013, Think tank CentreForum were the first to organisation to suggest taking away the winter fuel payment from any pensioners who does not qualify for means-tested pension credit to fund social care reforms.

⁵⁰ Winter Fuel Payment, Great Britain Official Statistics at winter 2014/15, Department for Work & Pensions, p.2:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462178/winter-fuelpayment-official-statistics-winter-2014-to-2015.pdf

⁵¹ In addition, in future consumers must not be negatively impacted by changes to current network charging arrangement or a requirement for consumers to adopt time-of-use pricing if they have inelastic energy usage and may need to maintain high demand at peak periods.

⁵² Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/31/section/1>

⁵³ The Climate Change Act 2008: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

⁵⁴ Housing Act 2004: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/34/contents>.

⁵⁵ In England, the statutory target is to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by 2030. This is supported by interim milestones. For more information see Cutting the cost of keeping warm: A fuel poverty strategy for England, UK Government, March 2015.

⁵⁶ From April 2018, landlords will not be able to rent out properties with energy efficiency ratings below EPC Band E (exemptions apply).

⁵⁷ UN Sustainability Goals (SDGs) apply to all nations. The most relevant from a fuel poverty perspective are Goal 1: No poverty: Goal to end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. This involves targeting the most vulnerable and increasing access to basic resources and services; Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy: Note this is mainly focused on affordable and universal access to electricity by 2030. Focus on investing more in clean energy sources e.g. solar, wind etc. So relevant to FP debate re extent to which policies are funded through levies on consumer bills and how governments tease out tensions between affordable and clean components of goal; Goal 7 does have sub goal to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030 so nice links between 1 and 7 re targeting most vulnerable if apply to ee policy and Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries including sub goal by 2030 progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average. Report here:

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1684SF - SDG Universality Report - May 2015.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1684SF_-_SDG_Universality_Report_-_May_2015.pdf).

⁵⁸ UK Government estimated in their 2012 Energy Efficiency Strategy that cost effective investments in energy efficiency could save the UK 196TWh in 2020, equivalent to the output from 22 power stations⁵⁸.

⁵⁹ Up-to-date fuel poverty official statistics for this year are not available. The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey official statistics are expected at the end of 2017 however in 2011 Fuel Poverty effected over 294,000 households in 2011 or 42% of all households.

⁶⁰ The Coalition has a membership base of over 100 organisations from across Northern Ireland; representing businesses, environmental groups, trade unions, the health sector, local councils, consumer groups, housing associations, rural support networks, the voluntary sector, student unions, young persons groups, older persons groups and faith groups

⁶¹ Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Coalition, A Manifesto for Warmth, 2016.

⁶² Consumer Council of Northern Ireland data collected on home heating oil historical prices, figures represent average price heating oil 500L refill in Northern Ireland 2009-2016.

⁶³ As well as NEA and Citizens Advice the Wales Fuel Poverty Coalition includes Age Cymru, Care & Repair Cymru, Community Housing Cymru, Children in Wales, Friends of the Earth Cymru, Oxfam Cymru, Shelter Cymru, Disability Wales, Cynnal Cymru North Wales Energy Advice Centre and Warm Wales.

⁶⁴ CCC, Meeting Carbon Budgets – 2016 Progress Report to Parliament, June 2016. More recently that investment in energy efficiency targeted at fuel poverty must double.