

# National Energy Action

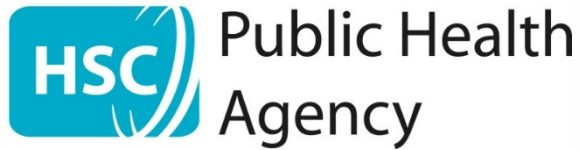
## Fuel Poverty Action Guide Launch

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018



Action for Warm Homes  
Northern Ireland

# Thank you!



Action for Warm Homes  
Northern Ireland

# Northern Ireland Context

- Mortality
- Health Inequalities
- Income inequalities
- Energy
- Present Issues



# Mortality and Life Expectancy

- 640 Excess Winter Deaths in 2015/16
  - 20% Circulatory
  - 23% respiratory
- Life expectancy\*

**Male** life expectancy in most deprived areas 74.5 and 81.1 in least deprived areas;

**Female** life expectancy in most deprived areas 79.6 and 84.1 in least deprived areas and actually declined in two areas

**Average for NI Female 82.3 Male 78.1**

\* Health Inequalities Annual Report 2018 Department of Health



# Health Inequalities

- Respiratory mortality in under 75s in most deprived areas almost three and a half times than least deprived;
- Respiratory admission rate in the most deprived areas double the rate in the least deprived;
- Rates of suicide and self-harm admissions in the most deprived areas were around three and a half times the rates seen in the least deprived areas.

Health Inequalities Annual Report 2018 Department of Health



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# Cold Related Illnesses

- Asthma
- Chronic bronchitis or emphysema
- Colds and flu
- Coronary heart disease
- Worsening of long term illnesses in the winter or slower recovery from illness
- Falls and accidents
- Hypothermia



# Income Inequalities

- In Northern Ireland we have 12,500 millionaires\*
- The NI absolute poverty threshold is £280 per week BHC (average income is £452)
- 281,000 individuals in absolute poverty
- 81,000 children in absolute poverty
- 153,000 working age adults in absolute poverty
- 46,000 pensioners in absolute poverty
- Whole Population: represents 288,000 (after housing costs)

Data from Department for Communities Poverty Bulletin 2016/17

\*UK prosperity Map 2017



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# Domestic Energy

- Electricity is currently cheaper than ROI/UK per unit price
- Prepayment is used by 44.1% of electricity domestic customers
- Domestic prepayment is favoured by gas customers at 62.4% of the sector
- Gas is cheaper than ROI and UK

Data provided by Utility Regulator

Transparency report Q1 Jan-March 2018



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# Present Issues

- Brexit: impact on economy
- Full implementation of Welfare Reform
  - Approx. 300,000 households affected
  - Mitigations Package due to end 2020
- Precarity of employment: 51,000 *not permanent in some way*
- 26% of workers not getting National Living Wage.  
Highest % in UK



# About the Fuel Poverty Action Guide

- Why we produced it



# Importance of Advice

- Great information sources available online;
- This however needs to be complemented by handholding to navigate the system;
- Energy advice not only covers access to schemes but other areas such as budgeting, paying for fuel and payment methods;
- Ensure key gate keepers, such as health professionals have ease of referring;
- One stop shop;
- Verbal advice at home or over the phone is more effective at encouraging behavioural change;
- Quality, impartial, independent.



# About the Fuel Poverty Action Guide

- What it contains:
  - Warmer homes
  - Maximising income
  - Paying for energy
  - Switching
  - Services for vulnerable
  - Contacts and complaints



# About the Fuel Poverty Action Guide

- Printed copy of 1st Edition
- Will be updated online [www.nea.org.uk](http://www.nea.org.uk)
- Concise but acts as signposting tool
- Aims to help identify, help quickly and easily



# Any Questions?

Please contact NEA NI on  
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