

Health inequalities, fuel poverty, and cold homes

What's the link and what can we do about it?

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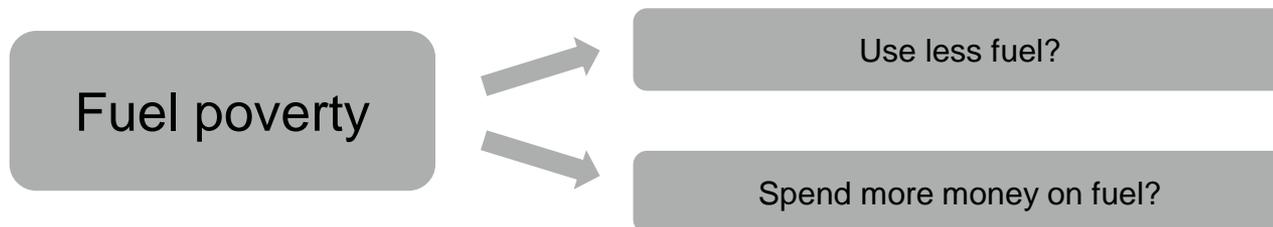
Health inequalities, fuel poverty, and cold homes

What's the link and what can we do about it?

1. Fuel poverty in Scotland
2. The impact of fuel poverty on health
3. The impact of health on fuel poverty
4. What needs to happen?
 - Ongoing
 - Policy
5. More information

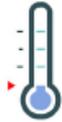
Fuel poverty in Scotland

- A household is in **fuel poverty** if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, it would be required to spend more than 10% of its income on all household **fuel** use.
 - Proposed new definition:
 - Income is considered after housing costs
 - Income element added: ‘...and after these costs would be left with less than 90% of Scotland’s Minimum Income Standard’
- 649,000 households in Scotland (26.5%)



The impact of fuel poverty on health

- The impact of less fuel use on heating on health...



Cold homes are linked to cardiovascular, respiratory and mental health problems for all ages



Children in cold homes are twice as likely to suffer respiratory problems



Cold homes increase the incidence of common colds and influenza and exacerbate conditions such as arthritis and rheumatism

- The impact of less non-heating fuel use on health...

- Diet
- Isolation

- The impact of spending more money on fuel...

- Fresh fruit?
- A warm winter coat?

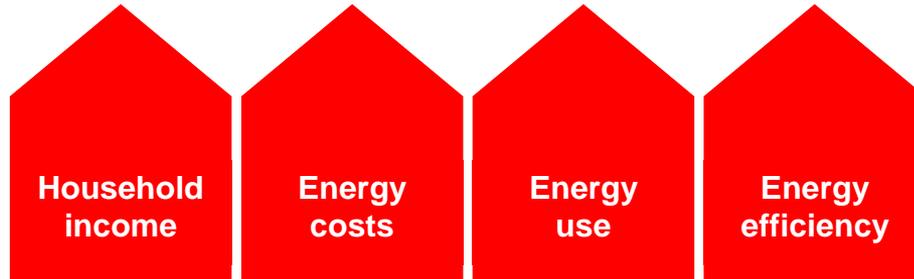


The impact of health on fuel poverty

- Health conditions can have an impact on fuel poverty...
 - Debilitating conditions resulting in being unable to work or spending more time in the house
 - Cancer and it's treatment
 - Dialysis/oxygen machine
- ...and exacerbate the results
 - Need to keep medication refrigerated

What needs to happen?: Ongoing

- Tackle the four main drivers of fuel poverty



- Good quality signposting and advice
 - e.g. with the health sector
- Regulation on minimum energy efficiency standards

What needs to happen?: Policy

- 'Warm Homes Bill' / Fuel Poverty (Scotland) Bill due to be introduced
 - Cross-party support
 - Feeds in from the Scottish Government's consultation on a new fuel poverty strategy
 - Ambitious targets and regulation required
- Existing Homes Alliance
 - Joint statement
 - Parliamentary reception 29th May 2018
- Your role?
 - Consider links for your organisation
 - Campaigning and policy work, & service delivery
 - Sign up to the joint statement & attend the reception

For any more information

- **Shelter Scotland and Energy Action Scotland (2017), Catalogue of health-related fuel poverty schemes:**
<https://tinyurl.com/healthrelatedfuelpoverty>
- **Shelter Scotland (2017), Working with the health sector to tackle fuel poverty:**
<https://tinyurl.com/workingwithhealth>
<https://blog.scotland.shelter.org.uk/linking-health-and-fuel-poverty-new-catalogue-of-schemes-shares-whats-happening-throughout-scotland/>
- **Existing Homes Alliance Scotland**
<http://existinghomesalliancescotland.co.uk/>
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<https://blog.scotland.shelter.org.uk/way-finally-tackling-fuel-poverty/>