

# Towards 2016

## Tackling Fuel Poverty in Scotland

The work of the  
Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum

"The Scottish Government is committed to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. There is no place for fuel poverty in such a society."

Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary

- Successive Scottish Governments have recognised that fuel poverty can no longer be an acceptable part of Scottish life;
- The target of eradicating fuel poverty "as far as is reasonably practicable, by 2016" is not just a worthy aspiration but a statutory commitment.

# Context

- Statutory Commitment (post election)
- Central Heating Programme - Review
- Climate Change Agenda
- Rising prices (reversing the trend)
- Reinvention of Forum



# Terms of Reference

- The Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum is an Advisory Group whose role is to advise Scottish Ministers on fuel poverty issues
- The Forum will have an independent chair appointed by Scottish Ministers
- The Forum will develop an annual work-plan and report to Scottish Ministers on its completion
- The Forum will meet over the next two years after which its role and remit will be reviewed.
- The Forum should establish links with the English Fuel Poverty Advisory Group to ensure discussion of Scottish interests in reserved matters.
- The Forum's remit on reserved as with devolved issues is to advise Scottish Ministers
- The Forum is expected to establish its own ways of working

# Forum Membership (1)

## Fuel Companies

- Scottish Gas
- Scottish Power
- Scottish and Southern Energy

## Housing

- Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
- Shelter

## Local Government

- CoSLA
- The Scottish Home Energy Conservation Act Officers Network

# Forum Membership (2)

## Third Sector

### Anti-Poverty & Consumer

- Age Concern and Help the Aged Scotland
- Children's Fuel Poverty Coalition
- Citizens Advice Scotland
- Consumer Focus Scotland
- Poverty Alliance

### Energy & Conservation

- Association for the Conservation of Energy
- Energy Action Scotland
- Energy Saving Trust
- Friends of the Earth Scotland

# Forum Membership (3)

OFGEM (as observers)

Scottish Government (secretariat)

Independent Chair

The Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum is an independent Advisory Group and does not necessarily represent the views of Scottish Ministers.



# Energy Assistance Package

## Key Points

- Holistic (and therefore flexible) home and householder
- Synergy (easier seen/said than done)

### Objectives:

To provide a comprehensive approach that addresses all three of the factors affecting fuel poverty: energy prices paid, income levels and energy efficiency investment.

To future proof housing stock against fuel poverty, by improving the energy efficiency of the stock and therefore reducing future energy use and contributing to carbon saving, as this will maximise the impact of other measures that affect fuel poverty.

To maximise the impact of Government and other funding, through synergy and coordination of funding streams.

# 1. Initial Advice

- Phone + Area-based
- ESSAC network

2. Benefit / Tax credit check  
+ Eligibility social tariff  
+ home energy audit  
(115,000 households)

### 3. Standard Package

Working with companies' CERT strategy, covering the most cost effective measures: loft insulation, water tank insulation, cavity wall insulation, and draught proofing; other measures, e.g. real time displays, would be added if changes are made to allow these under CERT.

(around 40,000 households)



## 4. Enhanced Measures

We believe that the 2016 target can only be met if all those who receive current Warm Deal benefits and remain fuel poor after Stage 3 have access to an enhanced package.

However, due to currently limited resources, we recommend those most affected by fuel poverty are prioritised in the short term rather than assigning priority on a first come first served basis.

We recommend that in the short term the programme should prioritise those who receive Warm Deal benefits and live in a private sector house which has poor energy efficiency.

We propose that energy inefficient houses are defined as where an energy audit has shown that the performance of house is rated as an F or G on an Energy Performance Certificate.

We expect this to pick up hard to treat homes and those without central heating systems.

# Not the complete answer:

We do not believe that this Package alone will take us to the 2016 target.

That requires a step change in investment, as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Governments in London and Edinburgh must work together on this with energy companies and others if we are to show that we mean it when we say that fuel poverty is unacceptable.

# Current Forum Remit

To work together to ensure that so far as is reasonably practicable, no-one in Scotland is living in fuel poverty by 2016.

Specifically it will:

- monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Energy Assistance Package;
- identify issues arising and identify remedial action;
- advise Ministers on further actions required; including addition of new measures to the EAP; and
- liaise with FPAG to develop an appropriate link that will ensure Scottish interests are fed into reserved policy areas.