



Tackling Fuel Poverty: Warmer, Healthier, Fairer

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium



Thursday 7th December

10:15am – 4:30pm

Central London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.

Tackling Fuel Poverty: Warmer, Healthier, Fairer

Overview

According to a 2016 report, published by charity National Energy Action, a child born in Britain today may never see fuel poverty eradicated. The most recent statistics outlined in the Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics, 2017 outline that in 2015, the proportion of households in fuel poverty in England was estimated at 11.0 per cent (approximately 2.50 million households). This is an increase of 0.4 per cent from 2014. Gas and electricity bills have gone up nearly £800 in eight years, roughly 151% since 2004, and the number of people living in fuel poverty has been rising steadily since 2014. The consequences of living in a cold home include an increased likelihood of ill health, including hypertension, heart disease, stroke, influenza and asthma.

In response to these figures, the UK Government has developed various initiatives in an attempt to tackle rising levels of fuel poverty. Examples include the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (2013), which require(s) energy suppliers to provide measures that improve the ability of low-income households to heat their homes. In December 2014, the Government introduced a new statutory fuel poverty target for England to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of a Band C, by 2030. In support of the implementation of this target, in 2015 the Government released 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm: a fuel poverty strategy for England'. The strategy sets out interim milestones to lift as many fuel poor homes in England as is reasonably practicable to Band E by 2020; and Band D by 2025, alongside a strategic approach to developing policies to make progress towards these targets.

Despite these efforts to tackle fuel poverty, a significant proportion of the UK's population is still struggling to afford energy. Previous efforts to remedy this problem in the past have not always been successful. A 2001 initiative launched by Scottish Government to eradicate fuel poverty in Scotland by 2016 fell some way short of achieving its target, with an estimated third of the Scottish population still struggling to heat their homes today. Energy Action Scotland have suggested that the strategy lacked a focus on the three main causes of fuel poverty; housing that is energy inefficient, the high price of fuel bills, and low disposable household income. With the number of fuel poor households on the rise, it is vital that we now learn from the successes and mistakes of the past, in order to deliver effective contemporary measures to combat fuel poverty.

This timely symposium provides an invaluable opportunity for local authorities, housing associations, the NHS, third sector practitioners, energy providers and other stakeholders to examine measures to assess progress and identify strategies to successfully tackle fuel poverty and address the emerging challenges for achieving the statutory target.



'Fuel poverty is a problem for all of society, and the Government cannot tackle it alone. That is why partnership is a key theme of the fuel poverty strategy. It is important for the Government to play a leadership role, but also to work in partnership with local government, businesses and the charitable sector. Only by making the most of the varied skills and resources of each of those partners will we, collaboratively, be able to tackle fuel poverty.'

- Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Climate Change and Industry, March 21st 2017, House of Commons Fuel Poverty Debate

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/M5NUZ/



Why Attend?

- ✓ Analyse the Government's approach to tackling fuel poverty - assess the progress made in meeting the statutory target, identify gaps and consider the next steps in policy
- ✓ Assess the impact of Brexit on the energy market and the fight against fuel poverty
- ✓ Examine the importance of awareness raising initiatives and discuss methods to motivate positive action from local and national government
- ✓ Develop effective fuel poverty strategies for local authorities
- ✓ Promote methods to engage in effective multi-sector working and fuel poverty partnerships
- ✓ Discuss energy market reform to better tackle fuel poverty and better protect vulnerable consumers
- ✓ Discuss the role of new innovation and technologies in tackling fuel poverty and driving down delivery costs such as the introduction of smart meters to households across the UK by 2020
- ✓ Discuss the role of new innovation and technologies in tackling fuel poverty and driving down delivery costs

Who Should Attend?

- Local Authorities
- Local Housing Authorities
- Private Energy Sector Professionals
- Energy Efficiency Professionals
- NHS Professionals
- Public Health Professionals
- Teams in Housing Associations
- Housing Officers
- Fuel Poverty Team Leaders
- Fuel Poverty Professionals
- Third Sector Professionals
- Central Government
- Income Officers
- Income Management Officers
- Financial Wellbeing Managers
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- Social Housing and Support Officers

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Programme

- 09:30 Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:15 Chair's Welcome and Introduction
- 10:30 **Session One: Tackling Fuel Poverty: Reviewing Government Strategy and Meeting the Needs of Fuel Poor Households**
- Analyse the Government's approach to tackling fuel poverty: assess the progress made in meeting the statutory target, identify gaps and consider the next steps in policy
 - Assess the impact of Brexit on the energy market and the fight against fuel poverty
 - Ensuring the energy market works for everyone: protecting vulnerable customers and considering options to create a fairer, more transparent system
 - Raising awareness and influencing positive action: assessing the importance of awareness raising initiatives and motivating action on fuel poverty at both the national and local levels
 - Reforming Private Sector Housing: Assessing the 2017 EPC minimum standards regulations and giving effective guidance to landlords
- 11:15 Morning Refreshments
- 11:30 **Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One**
- 12:30 Networking Lunch
- 13:30 **Session Two: Warmer, Healthier and Fairer – Empowering Local Authorities, Public Health Bodies and the Housing Sector**
- Developing effective fuel poverty strategies for local authorities: implementing achievable local targets and sharing best practice on council actions to combat fuel poverty
 - Implementing successful fuel poverty partnerships: creating frameworks for effective multi-sector partnership working on fuel poverty
 - Providing warm homes through improved energy efficiency and innovation: building energy efficient houses and considering other energy saving innovations such as the proposed introduction of smart meters in all homes by 2020
 - Managing health risks associated with fuel poverty: engaging with the health sector and developing effective referral systems to reduce fuel poverty and associated ill-health
 - Delivering effective fuel poverty training programmes: providing front-line staff such as Housing Officers the tools to identify and reduce fuel poverty
- 14:15 Afternoon Refreshments
- 14:30 **Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two**
- 15:30 Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 15:40 Networking Reception

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact us on 020 3137 8630 or email info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

Event Details

Date: Thursday 7th December 2017
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

Forthcoming Events

Safeguarding Against Extremism in Higher Education: Preventing Hate and Protecting Freedoms
5th September 2017



Pandemics and Infection Control: Addressing contemporary challenges and strengthening pandemic preparedness
6th September 2017

Tackling Potholes and Improving Road Maintenance: Developing a Sustainable Strategy to Address Potholes on UK Roads
7th September 2017

Promoting Growth through a Strong Intellectual Property Policy: Supporting UK Research, Development and Innovation
12th September 2017

Working in Partnership to End Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence
13th September 2017

Combating Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery: Developing a Stronger Multi-Agency Response for the Identification of and Support for Victims of Trafficking
14th September 2017

Young Runaways and Missing Children: Enhancing Prevention, Protection and Provision in Every Local Area
19th September 2017

Improving Child Health and Wellbeing: Developing Practical Solutions to Combat Rising Levels of Childhood Obesity
20th September 2017

Providing Support in Periods of Transition for Children and Adolescents with Autism
21st September 2017

Putting Victims First: Supporting Victims of Crime in their Journey through the Criminal Justice System
26th September 2017

Testing Times for Animal Welfare: Raising Standards at the Time of Slaughter or Killing
27th September 2017

Considering the Future of Prostitution in the UK: Supporting sex workers and exploring the question of decriminalisation
28th September 2017