



Norman Kerr

Energy Action Scotland

&

Fuel Poverty Forum



Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum

An Independent Advisory Group to Scottish Ministers to help them deliver the fuel poverty target.

Members include EAS, Child Poverty Action Group, COSLA, SFHA, Age Scotland, NHS Scotland, Poverty Alliance, CAS, EST, Energy Suppliers Shelter and others.



Fuel Poverty Forum Key recommendations

Definition of fuel poverty – no change without evidence base

Area Based Schemes most effective way of delivering assistance

Maintain HEEPS programme at £200m/p.a.

Scottish Government to explore alternative funding routes



Fuel Poverty Forum Key recommendations

HEEPS to embody solutions for those remote from the gas grid

Hard to treat properties – particularly in remote and island situations – to become a priority

Recognise that the barriers to installing measures are often social rather than technical

Scottish Government to improve quality of reporting on the HEEPS programme and the effectiveness of the measures delivered



Fuel Poverty Forum Key recommendations

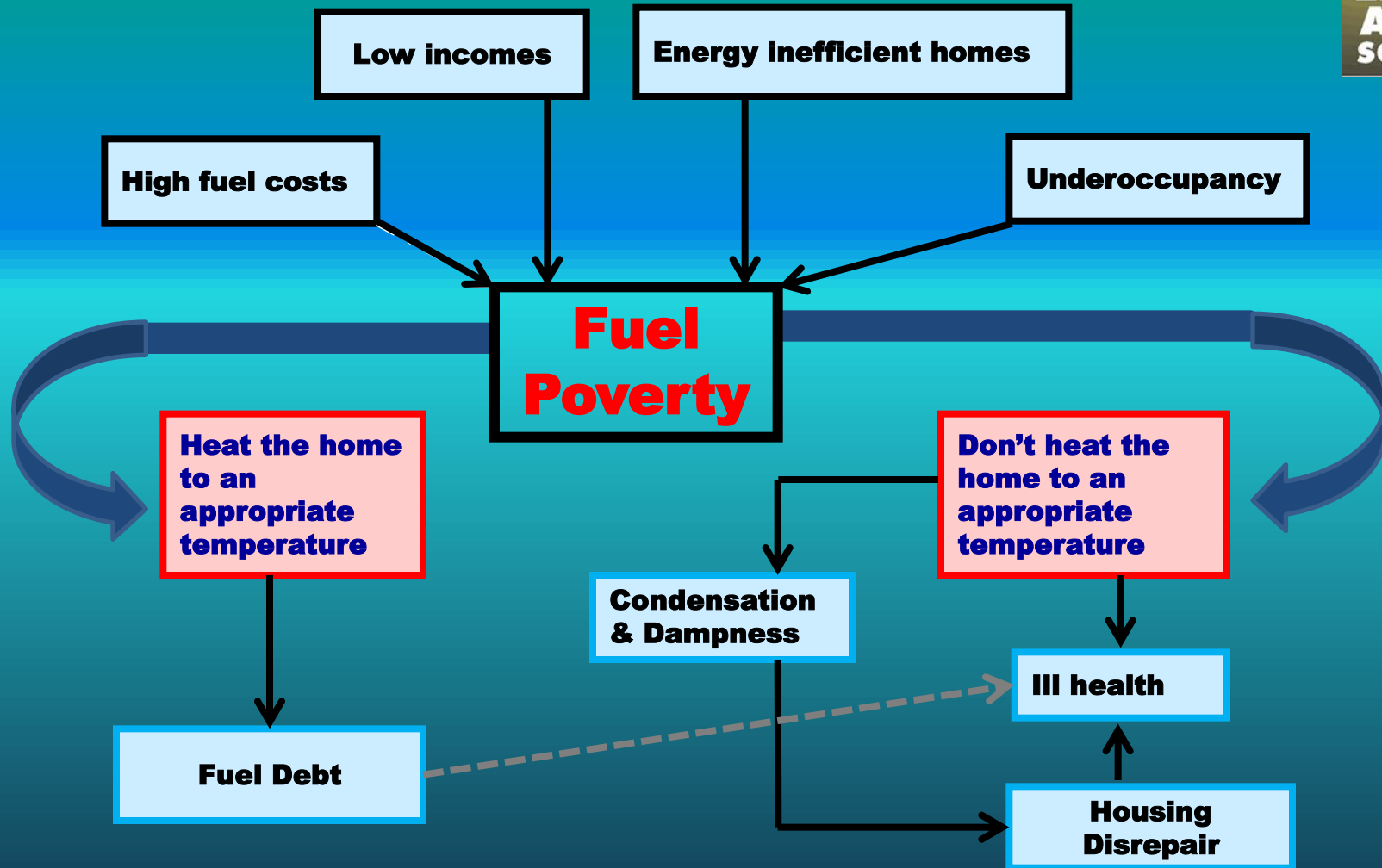
Scottish Government clearer on developing firm links between fuel poverty measures, health and other social services

Trusted intermediaries needed to engage households

Delivery of HEEPS schemes should prioritise local employment opportunities and wider economic activity (green jobs)

The issue of up-skilling the local labour force must also be addressed

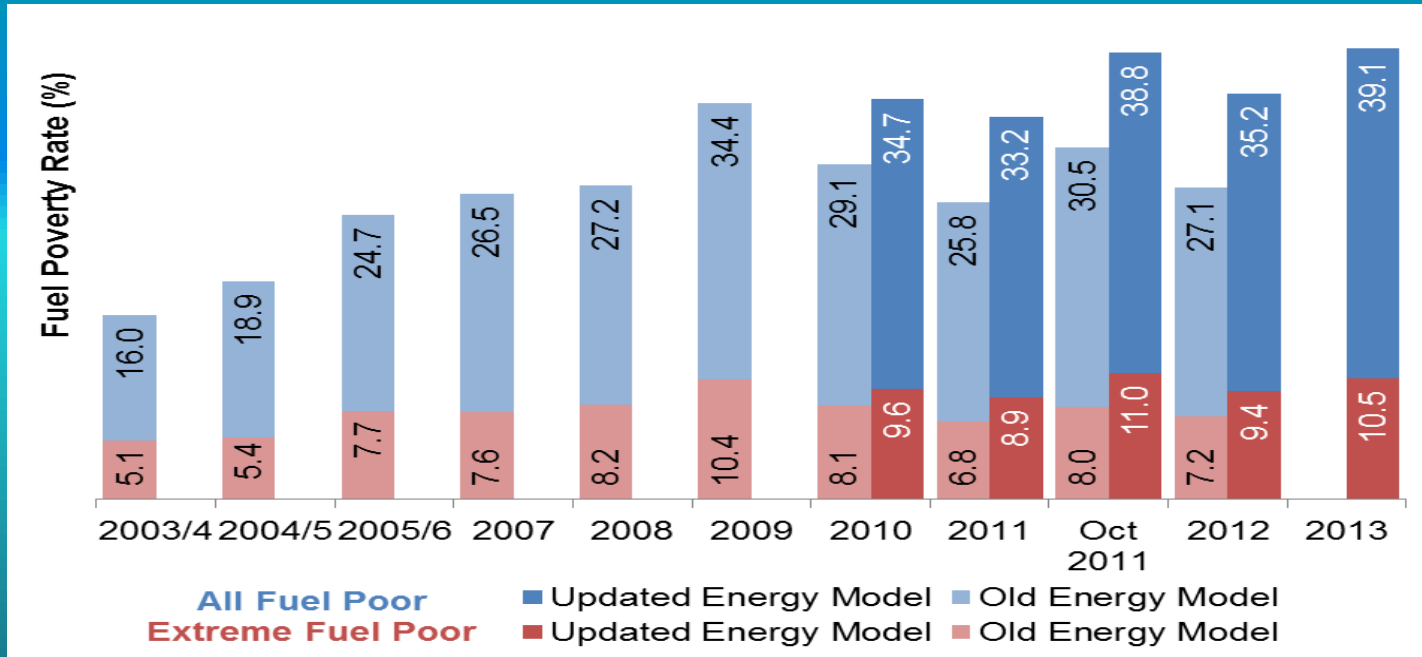
Causes of Fuel Poverty



Fuel Poverty in Scotland



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Health and other partnership links to address fuel poverty

**Scottish Government Good Places Better Health
Launched 2008 and reporting in 2013**

**GPs at the Deep End - GPs working in 100
general practices serving the most socio-
economically deprived populations in Scotland.**

The Community Links Practitioners

ALISS – A Local Information System for Scotland.

Indoor Temperature and Health

18°C – 24°C = no threat to health

Below 16°C = reduced resistance to respiratory infections

Below 12°C = increase in blood pressure/viscosity

Below 9°C = after two or more hours, deep core body temp falls

Below 5°C = high risk of hypothermia



Outdoor Temperature and Health

- Excess winter deaths – average 2.5k pa in Scotland
- Circulatory disease (including heart attacks and strokes) account for 40% of excess winter deaths.
- Respiratory illnesses account of 33% of excess winter deaths
- For each excess winter death there are another 8 emergency admissions



Health Impacts of Fuel Poverty



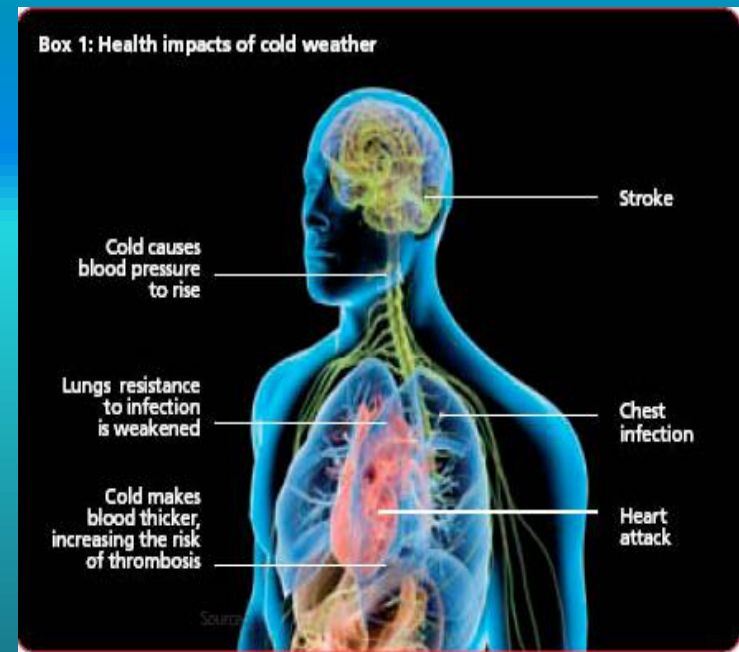
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Direct

- Heart conditions
- Stroke
- Respiratory disease
- Falls, injuries
- Hypothermia

Indirect

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Stress
- Behavioural development
- Education development/attainment
- Social health and emotional wellbeing
- Dietary opportunities
- Carbon monoxide poisoning



Impact on Health Services

Increase in hospital admissions

Increased demand on GP services

Increased need for Community Health and Social Work Services

Annual cost to NHS of treating winter-related disease caused by cold housing is £850m+

Annual cost to NHS of treating asthma is now over £1bn



The way forward

Continuation of Scottish Government programmes
HEEPS etc.

Greater integration of Health/Social care and
Housing

REEPS

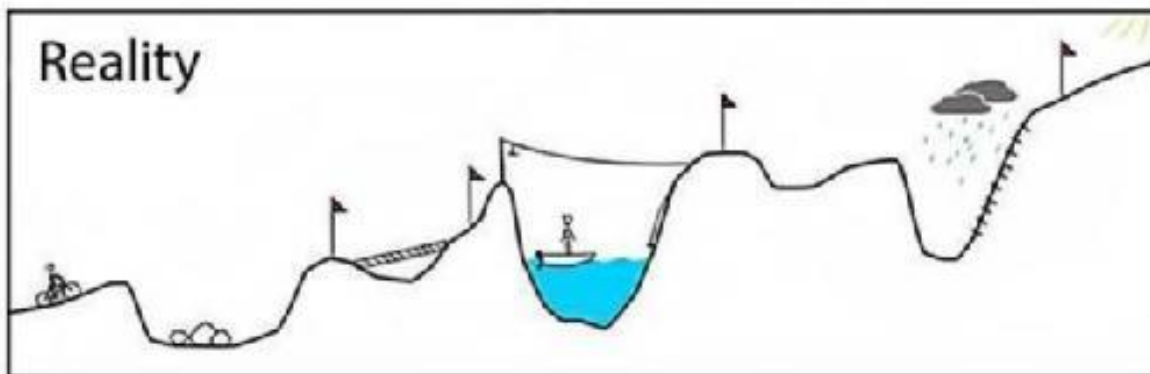
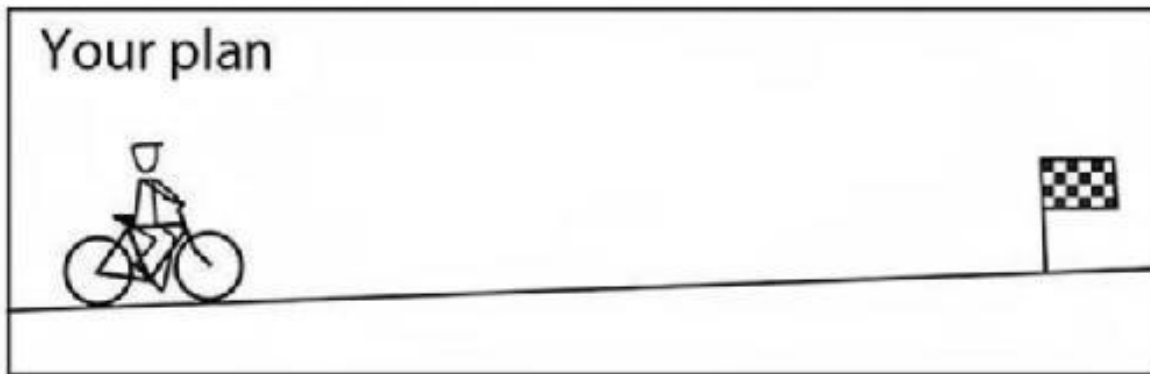
Smith commission – further devolution

Further regulation of the Energy Industry

Local community Action



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Questions and Discussion

