

Developing a Fuel Poverty Action Plan for London

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Background

- Majority of following drawn from an Action Plan for London discussion document
- Developed by GLEEN with input from others
- Not yet an action plan – but a start

Key issues

- 182,000 households in fuel poverty
(2003 – basic income definition)
- Most of improvement over 1996 figures (nationally)
has been due to:
 - **income** measure (61%),
 - **fuel price** changes (22%) – nb increases since then,
and
 - **energy efficiency measures** (17%)

Mayor's Energy Strategy

A number of proposals relating to fuel poverty

- 3: There should be no occupied dwelling in London with a SAP rating of less than 30 by 2010, and less than 40 by 2016. The Mayor will seek to have these targets included in future revisions of the London's Housing Strategy and requests boroughs to do the same in their housing strategies.
- 4: To take account of London's high housing costs, the Mayor defines fuel poverty as the need to spend more than 10% of household disposable income (which includes benefits minus housing costs) on all domestic fuel use in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.
- 5: London should work to eradicate fuel poverty in London based on disposable income, which should at least match progress nationally.
- 63: Calls on the government to address the funding gap for a key proportion of fuel poor households in London and the rest of the UK.

Suggested objectives

- **Key Objective 1**

All Londoners should receive their right to a decent income as a key factor in the reduction of fuel poverty.

- **Key Objective 2**

There should be a technical solution fully funded by national and local fuel poverty programmes to improve any London home to a minimum standard of thermal comfort.

- **Key Objective 3**

All Londoners in fuel poverty should have access to a social tariff.

Suggested actions

The actions are divided into five themes:

- **Influencing fuel poverty policy, strategy, funding and delivery in the region**
- **Researching and informing the fuel poverty debate in London**
- **Establishing the framework for local fuel poverty action**
- **Supporting local fuel poverty work**
- **Delivering, monitoring and evaluation the Action Plan**

Suggested action

Influencing fuel poverty policy, strategy, funding and delivery in the region

		Action Priority
1	Establish fuel poverty targets for London that reflect local conditions	*****
2	Establish agreement of London boroughs for this Action Plan	*****
3	Ensure specific fuel poverty targets are adhered to and addressed in relevant plans and policies in London	****
10	Ensure close links between regional and local affordable warmth strategies	***
16	Represent the views of the Partnership and lobby for change in appropriate forums and as opportunities arise	*****

Suggested action

Researching and informing the fuel poverty debate in London

		Action	Priority
4	Provide a consistent regional framework for research and evaluation to promote evidence based policy and practice		*
5	Identify and measure the impact of fuel poverty in the region by developing intelligent data systems		*****
6	Identify and co-ordinate data sets to map homes at risk of fuel poverty in London at a precision useful for scheme design, and to make this information freely available		**
13	Establish effective packages of income, fuel price and energy efficiency measures tailored for London homes		*****
14	Identify gaps in funding schemes to address fuel poverty in the region		****

Suggested action

Establishing the framework for local fuel poverty action

		Action	Priority
7	Develop a multi-agency Communication Plan which will raise awareness of fuel poverty at all levels throughout the region		*****
8	Improve co-ordination and communication between regional and local organisations and encourage sign-up to regional objectives		***
9	Establish training needs and co-ordinate training and support programmes for key organisations and individuals		****
15	Maximise regional access to national funding for fuel poverty activity		***

Suggested action

Supporting local fuel poverty work

		Action	Priority
11	Disseminate good practice being done at a local level through mentoring systems and good communication		***
12	Facilitate activity in each borough such that all boroughs contribute to the agreed regional targets		*****

Delivering, monitoring and evaluating the Action Plan

		Action	Priority
17	Establish responsibilities and reporting requirements and appoint a Project Manager		*****
18	Establish a regional champions group from key delivery agents		*****
19	Monitor progress towards the targets and produce an annual report		***

Suggested tasks include

- **Find/Apply for funding and appoint project manager**
- **Establish contact with the main programmes active in London**
- **Establish barriers and opportunities for integration of plan objectives into existing schemes**
- **Establish champion group**
- **Identify schemes which adhere to the key objectives and establish a network of good practice in London**
- **Agree fuel poverty targets and indicators for London with key organisations based on the proposals in the Action Plan**

Next steps

- **Getting input & commitment from stakeholders – high level & practitioners**
- **Obtaining funding to do the above and take forward the action plan**