



Fuel poverty, health, and priorities for winter

Kate Urwin



Fuel poverty

Estimated 6.3 million households will be in fuel poverty after 1st October 2023 on 10% definition (NEA)

I just can't deal with my energy bills at all. I am in such a constant state of anxiety now that I was unable to cope with going into [town] on Saturday for the first social event I would have attended since last year. Mostly, I don't even get out of bed

I use the electric oven frugally and cook more than one meal when in use and then reheat in the microwave or eat cold the second meal the following day. We bath when we can afford it. Last winter we tried to avoid using the heating and used an old duvet over ourselves at night when we watched TV. I no longer know what to do and fear for the winter.

BBC

NEWS

Heating on prescription scheme suggests fewer NHS visits

7th Sept 23

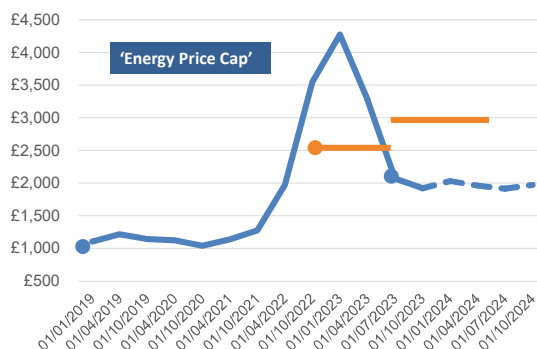
- NHS spends £540 million treating people living in cold homes
- 2022/23 – Trial to pay energy costs for 823 households living in Gloucestershire, Aberdeen, London and Middlesbrough
- Most people over 65 with a respiratory problem
- The data suggests a reduced need for primary health care services - GP appointments, out of hours services and prescriptions

Current energy prices

Energy price cap – maximum price energy companies can charge based on average consumption

- Electric = 2,900kWh
- Gas = 12,000kWh

Changes to average energy prices



'Energy Price Guarantee'
= government subsidising bills

1st Oct 22 – 30th Jun 23 = £2,500

This is now irrelevant as the price cap has dropped and we will always pay whatever is cheaper

From 1st July 23

Reverted to price cap rates

1st Jul-30th Sept = £2,074

1st Oct-31st Dec = £1,923

1st Jan-31st March = £2,033 (very uncertain)

Priorities this winter

Identify households in cold homes and/or energy debt & refer to local support schemes



Raise awareness of government schemes



Make sure energy suppliers are aware of vulnerability in the home



Be aware of link between cost of living/energy crisis & an increased risk of carbon monoxide



Training opportunities

Health & social care practitioners



- One-off 1.5 hour online training session
- 4 upcoming dates <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/699599259217>

Community Energy Ambassadors



- More in-depth online training course (3 x 1.5 hours)
- Future dates <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/energy-ambassadors-141409>

Thanks!

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