

# Collaborative Community Action on Fuel Poverty

## Hastings Event

13<sup>th</sup> May 2016



*Action for Warm Homes*

# Background to NEA

- **NEA has helped millions of households throughout the UK gain access to energy advice and energy efficiency grants**
- **Over 440,000 heating and insulation measures have also been installed to over 360,000 homes through NEA's Warm Zones subsidiary community interest company which focuses on delivering energy efficiency solutions to low income households in deprived areas.**
- **NEA also provide the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency Group, which was first established in 1995 as the Parliamentary Warm Homes Group, to raise awareness of the problem of fuel poverty and the policies needed to eradicate it.**
- **On the 15th January 2016, NEA announced the first projects to be funded under a £26.2 million health and innovation programme which will bring affordable warmth to over 6,000 fuel poor and vulnerable households in England, Wales and Scotland.**
- **The programme is split into three distinct funds; two programmes are being delivered by NEA – the Technical Innovation Fund and Warm and Healthy Homes Fund ; and the third is being delivered by NEA's subsidiary Warm Zones cic.**
- **In March 2016, NEA also agreed a partnership with Smart Energy GB to be part of a consortium made up of us, Energy Action Scotland, Charities Aid Foundation and Media Trust to deliver a part of its consumer engagement campaign.**

# Fuel poverty is a huge national challenge

## THE COLD HOMES CRISIS

**CAN WE AFFORD TO WAIT?**

COLD HOMES ARE  
CURRENTLY A BIGGER  
KILLER ACROSS  
THE UK THAN  
ROAD ACCIDENTS,  
ALCOHOL OR DRUG  
ABUSE

# BBC Panorama programme – Too Poor to Stay Warm



- **BBC's Panorama highlighted people are still getting ill and dying needlessly because they live in cold home**
- **Held the previous Government to account for failure to meet the 2016 target**
- **Included some excellent case studies showing the difficult daily choices people face trying to keep themselves or families warm**
- **Also focused on the need for energy companies to be flexible and innovate to provide other services to address identified needs where 'reasonably practicable' to do so**
- **Particularly relevant for current protections related to customers on the PSR and the need for vulnerable consumers to be treated fairly**

# Impacts felt locally...

- **In Hastings we know around 5850 households are unable to afford to heat their homes**
- **An estimated 297,000 households in the South East living in fuel poverty**
- **Health as a result of cold homes puts a huge strain on already stretched public resources and services**
- **This means each winter local health services struggle to cope with cold-related hospital admissions and repeat GP visits**
- **NEA estimates that every local Health and Wellbeing Board in England is spending, on average, over £27,000 each day, or £10million per year on treating patients with health conditions caused or worsened by living in cold, damp housing.**
- **Nationally, cold homes cost health services £3.6 million per day, and in the past four years alone over £5 billion of tax payers' money has been wasted**
- **Many organisations are also having to increase debt and income advice provision and are currently expanding services such as food banks, crisis energy payments or debt write off programmes**
- **The large amount owed by many householders to their energy providers curtails economic activity within poorer communities**
- **Advice and support and practical heating and insulation improvements can help address all of these problems**

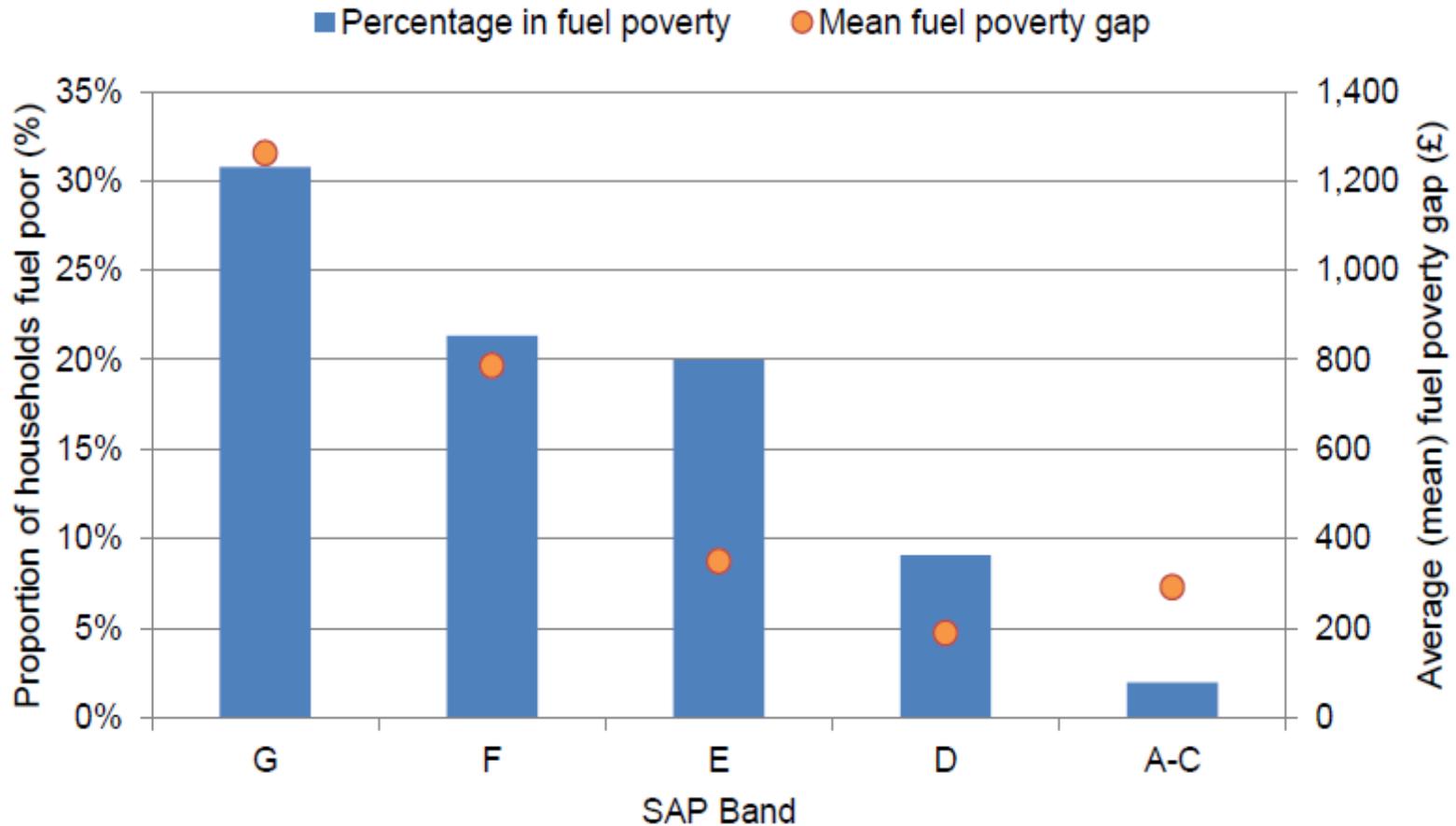
**The only we can address  
these huge challenge is....**

***Collaborative Community  
Action on Fuel Poverty***

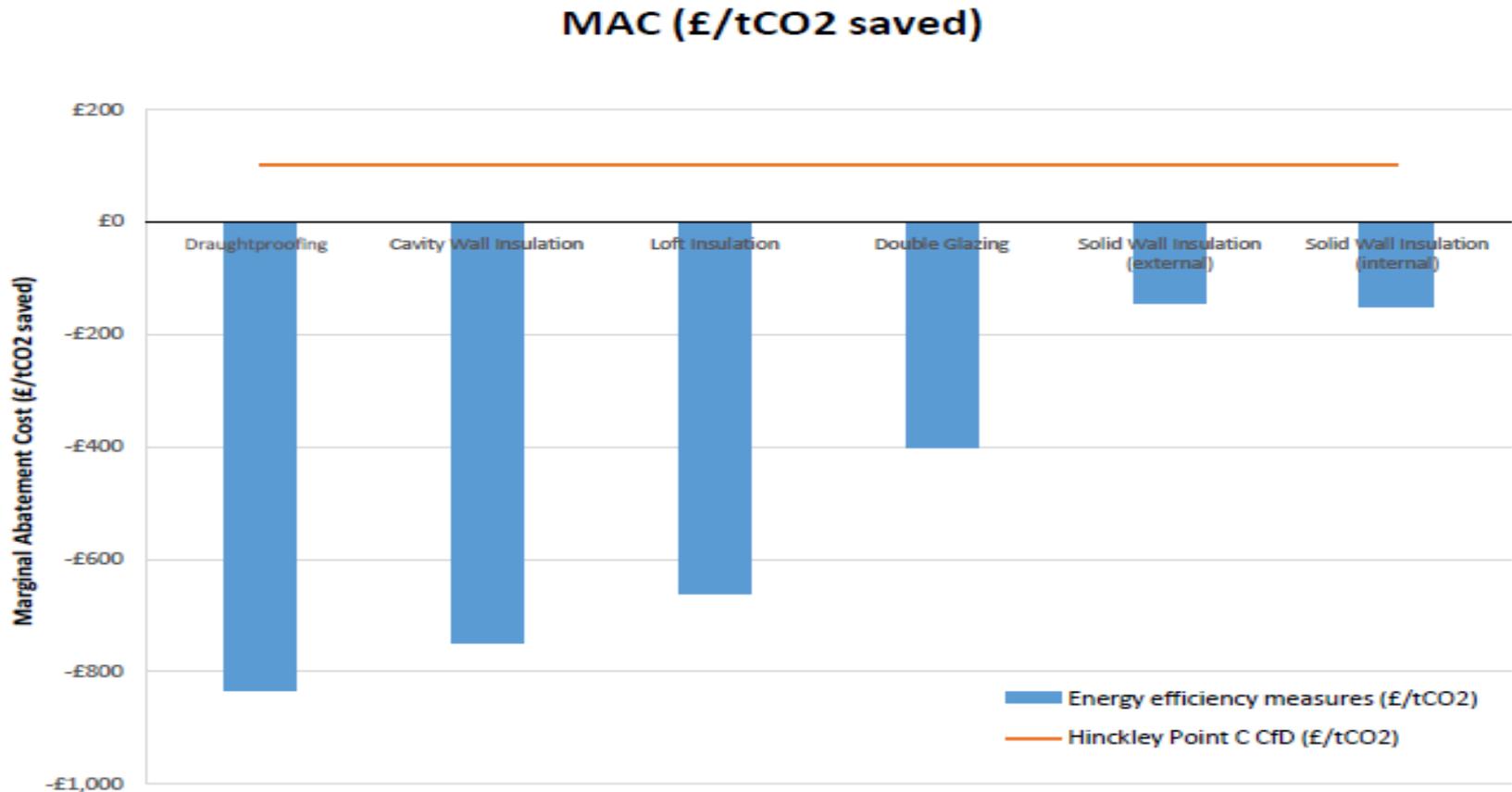
# EAST SUSSEX WARM AND HEALTHY HOMES PROJECT

- **NEA is funding a East Sussex Warm and Healthy Homes project to support East Sussex Winter Home Check service and fuel poverty reduction programme**
- **Coordinated by the East Sussex Energy Partnership provides a single-point-of-contact health and housing referral and intervention service for vulnerable people in cold homes**
- **Public Health team at East Sussex County Council also funds a countywide fuel poverty coordinator post hosted by Hastings Borough Council**
- **Other key Partners: *NHS Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford Clinical Commissioning Group, High Weald Lewes Havens Clinical Commissioning Group, Your Energy Sussex.***
- **Referral partners: *Eastbourne Borough; Hastings Borough; Lewes District; Rother District; Wealden District; Communities Matter; Energise Sussex Coast; Citizens Advice East Sussex (CAES) consortium of Citizens Advice Bureaux; Sussex Community Development Association; Action in Rural Sussex***

# Why energy performance bands matter most to fuel poor households



# Energy efficiency can also obviate [or defer] the need to build new power stations, subsidise existing electricity capacity and reduce electricity network and reinforcement costs



# Potential to join up the business case for action

- **Increasing level of consensus amongst industry, academics and non-governmental organisations is that the benefits of enhancing energy efficiency are vast**
- **Cost-effective investment in all forms of energy efficiency could save the UK 196 TWh in 2020, equivalent to 22 power stations**
- **International Energy Agency (IEA)'s report '*Capturing the multiple benefits of energy efficiency*' demonstrated the potential for:**
  - **New jobs and economic growth**
  - **Reduced pressure on health services**
  - **Improve energy security and reduce carbon emissions**
  - **Energy efficiency programmes have benefit to cost ratio of 4:1**
- **....at the same time as providing a long-term, sustainable solution to unaffordable fuel bills for all consumers**

# National Infrastructure Commission

- **NEA responded to the NIC's call for evidence on energy priorities**
- **Highlighted smart meter rollout should be included as a priority**
- **Also urged NIC to state that DNOs had a key role in improving how electricity demand and supply could be better forecast**
- **Also highlighted projects where DNOs are already identifying and aggregating local balancing services**
- **Highlighted role of NIC helping local authorities and other private sector partners lead on city-wide domestic retrofit projects (particularly in core cities)**
- **First advice to UK Government was encouraging**
- **Whilst domestic energy efficiency did not feature in first set of recs explicitly NIC recognise domestic consumers can benefit from energy storage and demand flexibility**
- **The Government's National Infrastructure Delivery Plan, published on 23 March 2016, also includes sections on domestic energy efficiency and domestic heat**
- **NIC will also produce National Infrastructure Assessments [NIAs] annually and consensus still growing on NIC Commission to seize broader energy efficiency opportunity**
- **Read NEA's response [here](#)**

# Existing collaborative projects highlight the scale of opportunity...

- **Aggregating and controlling electric night storage loads in eight tower blocks - Lead partner CityWest Homes Limited**
- **Extending the benefits of solar PV using domestic energy storage**
- **NEA has also trailed some DNO-led projects aiming at reducing load as an alternative to network reinforcement**



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY INNOVATION AWARD SCHEME



# **ASHP, SOLAR PV AND HEAT RECOVERY IN OFF-GAS HOMES (AMICUSHORIZON)**

- **The project aims to evaluate a 'whole-house' approach to improving the energy efficiency of rural off-gas homes in Kent and East Sussex**
- **It will install air-source heat pumps (ASHP) and combined solar PV/thermal (PV-T) in 21 homes, and a heat pump with a Heat Recovery Unit in a further 4 homes.**
- **The project will determine the savings expected from these technologies in fuel, poor households, and the impact on the SAP ratings on these properties from the installation of the proposed technologies.**
- **Energise Sussex Coast is AmicusHorizon's trusted energy advice partner in Sussex they will provide tenants with expert in-home advice on the control of their new renewable energy heating systems.**
- **Also provide energy tariff switching and more general energy and water efficiency advice**

# Role of local authorities and local agencies

- **Providing 'crisis' support**
- **Providing informed advice – making effective referrals**
- **Creating the strategic framework for action and co-ordinating delivery**
- **Taking advantage of national policies but not relying on them fully**
- **Identifying ward level areas of high fuel poverty, wider deprivation and poor housing. Using this information to target initial delivery at groups that are in most need**
- **Liaising with Local Enterprise Partnerships, local Health and Wellbeing Boards, energy and water suppliers, Electricity and Gas Network Operators to identify local co-funding sources**
- **Carrying out stock audits (SAP assessment and a deeming pre intervention EPCs)**
- **Checking what approaches are necessary then prepare recommendations CO<sub>2</sub> savings, cost of measures, projected energy bill reductions, provide a list of potential revenue streams**
- **Enforcement against landlords who rent out properties below EPC band E or are in category 1 or 2 hazard of excess Cold as determined by HHSRS**

## **Key opportunities covered today....**

- **Steps to address exclusion in the energy market**
- **How to improve the Warm Home Discount Scheme**
- **Ensuring the successor to ECO is fit for purpose**
- **Improving conditions in the Private Rented Sector**
- **Gas Network extensions and the Central Heating Fund (CHF)**
- **Reforming and a refocused RHI scheme**
- **Finding the hard to reach**
- **Making the most of the smart meter roll-out**
- **Working with the National Infrastructure Commission to seize smart energy and energy efficiency opportunities**
- **Addressing barrier to access EU Structural Funds**