

**Understanding the health impact of cold homes and fuel poverty Sheffield 8-9<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Venue: Cadman Room, Millenium Gallery, Sheffield,  
Arundel Gate, Sheffield, S1 2PP**

Directions: <http://www.museums-sheffield.org.uk/museums/millennium-gallery/planning-a-visit/how-to-get-to-the-millennium-gallery>



The sixth Fuel Poverty Research Network (FPRN) event is being held in collaboration with the ESRC funded seminar series on cold homes, fuel poverty and their impact on health. This event will mark the last meeting of the ESRC seminar series.

Over the last few years, the series has considered the influence of social and health inequalities, and focused on policy influences, impact and interventions. Research on the health impact of cold homes and fuel poverty has tended to focus upon discrete disciplines such as epidemiology, housing, energy efficiency and energy provision.

Through the FPRN, this event will bring together a unique multi-disciplinary perspective to examine the interrelationship between factors and identify research priorities for the future. Day 1 will be an interactive day discussing current evidence and identify research priorities. Day 2 will be an opportunity for all stakeholders (academic, public sector, industry and voluntary sector) to develop new research collaborations and projects that address these research priorities.

## DAY 1: Agenda 8 November 2018

- 10.00 Arrival and refreshments
- 10.30 Introduction and welcome (Including introduction to Open Space for day 2)
- 10.45 Health impacts of cold homes and fuel poverty: setting the scene  
*Graeme Sherriff*
- 11.20 **Cold homes, fuel poverty and health (1)**  
(1 hour session: 3 x 15 minute presentations plus 15 minutes for panel Q&A)
- 1. Thermal comfort, health, and energy vulnerability David Ormandy and Veronique Ezratty, Warwick Medical School - Health Sciences, Service des Etudes Medicales d'EDF, Levallois-Perret*
  - 2. Lived experiences of fuel poverty: Impact on health Aimee Ambrose: CRESR, Sheffield Hallam University*
  - 3. Examining fuel poverty and health: new insights and future research priorities. Helen Stockton Research Manager, Jamie-Leigh Ruse Senior Research & Policy Officer, National Energy Action*
- 12.20 Open Space update
- 12.50 Lunch
- 13.30 Fuel poverty and health: Reflections on past research and priorities for the future. Brenda Boardman. (30 mins presentation + 15 mins Q&A)
- 14.15 Lightning talks (6 talks, 1 hour)
- 15.15 Refreshment break
- 15.30 **Cold homes, fuel poverty and health (2)**  
(1 hour 15 min session: 4 x 15 minute presentations plus 15 minutes for panel Q&A)
- 1. Being Warm Being Happy: keeping warm for adults with a learning disability Beth Taylor, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Sheffield and Speak Up*
  - 2. Transformative or same old situation: What is the value of an enhanced installation and follow-up energy advice for vulnerable households getting a new smart meter? Nicky Hodges (CSE) and Steve Brogden (British Gas)*

*3. Jenny MacPhail Barnsley Local Authority: Barnsley's approach to addressing fuel poverty*

*4. Energy vulnerability and emotion: the lived experience of social housing tenants. Tom Hargreaves and Noel Longhurst, University of East Anglia Science, Society and Sustainability Research Group (3S): Emotional Health and Fuel Poverty*

- 16.45 Open Space update and process for Day 2
- 17.00 Research Funding landscape  
*Research Services University of Sheffield*
- 17.30 Closing comments

## **DAY 2: Agenda 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

- 08.45 Tea/Coffee
- 09.00 Overview of Open Space
- 09.15 Discussion groups
- 10.30 Refreshment break
- 10.45 Discussion Groups
- 11.30 Presentations of research ideas and plans
- 12.00 Lunch and close

## Hotels in Sheffield

### ***Premier Inn***

St Mary's Gate, Young Street, Sheffield, S1 4UP

<https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/south-yorkshire/sheffield/sheffield-city-centre-st-marys-gate.html>

### ***Jurys Inn***

119 Eyre St, Sheffield S1 4QW

[https://www.jurysinns.com/hotels/sheffield?gclid=CjwKCAjwIIXbBRBhEiwAWV-5nqW5WEhIqQBrt\\_J-o6IJThaf3tAPERMkNOHXVdU8KeW7oKuMZS5JlXoCYdIQAvD\\_BwE&gclid=aw.ds&dclid=CJ\\_Hu56azNwCFQVj0wodMUKJdw](https://www.jurysinns.com/hotels/sheffield?gclid=CjwKCAjwIIXbBRBhEiwAWV-5nqW5WEhIqQBrt_J-o6IJThaf3tAPERMkNOHXVdU8KeW7oKuMZS5JlXoCYdIQAvD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds&dclid=CJ_Hu56azNwCFQVj0wodMUKJdw)

### ***Novotel***

50 Arundel Gate, Sheffield S1 2PR

<https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1348-novotel-sheffield-centre/index.shtml#origin=novotel>

### ***St Pauls Mecure***

Norfolk Row, Sheffield S1 2JE

<https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-6628-mercure-sheffield-st-paul-s-hotel-spa/index.shtml#origin=mercure>

# Lightning Presentation Summaries

## Presentation 1

*Title: Occupant Behaviour as a Fourth Driver of Fuel Poverty?*

*Presenter: Ade Kearns*

*Affiliation: Glasgow University?*

We have been using longitudinal data to examine those factors which influence movements into and out of fuel poverty over time. Some of the interesting aspect of our work include the use of an experiential measure of fuel poverty (and comparing it to the expenditure based ratio measure), and a focus on the influence of health as a facet of vulnerability to, rather than from, fuel poverty. On this basis we argue that occupant behaviour should be considered a fourth driver of fuel poverty, and that fuel poverty itself might be better conceived as Warmth and Energy Deprivation.

## Presentation 2

*Title: The link between retrofit and health - Myth-busting*

*Presenter: Tom Woolley*

*Affiliation: Bevan Architects*

For many years, the literature on measures to deal with fuel poverty using insulation etc. has claimed that this results in significant health benefits for householders. The evidence for this is somewhat questionable and data is hard to find. Considerable scientific and anecdotal evidence on the other hand suggests that retrofit insulation measures can lead to serious unintended consequences that can have a negative health impact. Tens of thousands of people suffer from damp and mould growth as a result of cavity wall, loft insulation, dry lining and even external wall insulation. Hazardous, flammable and endocrine disrupting materials are introduced into houses aggravating respiratory conditions and causing many other problems. Synthetic chemical insulation materials are now known to be bad for older buildings, but alternative breathable hygroscopic materials, are rarely used. The book "Building Materials, Health and Indoor Air Quality" and a future book on Insulation materials will provides the basis of this research.

## Presentation 3

*Title: Beyond ill health: Understanding the multiple harms of fuel poverty through the Capabilities Approach*

*Presenter(s) and Affiliation(s): Victoria Pellicer, Institute of Innovation and Knowledge Management, Universitat Politècnica de València, and **Neil Simcock, Liverpool John Moores University (presenting)***

It is widely recognised that fuel poverty can have serious and detrimental impacts upon people's wellbeing and life quality. These harms are typically conceptualised and examined with regards to human health, both physical and mental. Although extremely valuable, such perspectives may also marginalise other ways that human lives can be blighted as a result of fuel poverty. This paper seeks to provide a multi-dimensional and theoretically-attuned account of the relations between fuel poverty and wellbeing, through the use of the Capabilities Approach and specifically Nussbaum's normative theory of Central Capabilities. Drawing on in-depth qualitative research with households in 4 European countries, we demonstrate how many of the capabilities articulated in Nussbaum's theory are directly contravened during the experience of fuel poverty. We conclude by reflecting on the implications of our work for fuel poverty research and policy, as well as the opportunities opened up by adopting the Capabilities Approach.

## **Presentation 4**

*Title: 'Old and Cold' - how cold homes affect the elderly demographic.*

*Presenter: Caroline Hughes*

*Affiliation: University of Bath*

Summary: Each year in the UK there are on average 28,870 excess winter deaths, over 90% of which are in the elderly. There is a clear link between cold homes and poor health, especially in older people, as sub-optimally heated homes increase the risk of health problems that are prevalent in this demographic. With an ageing population residing at home for longer, ensuring the elderly live in warm homes is increasingly significant. Despite this, the internal temperatures, heating patterns, levels of comfort and health problems in this demographic are not known. This research, which would be reported on in the 5-minute lightning presentation, involves monitoring the internal temperatures, humidity and heating patterns of 43 households with occupants aged over 65 for two heating seasons, together with monthly questionnaires recording comfort and health data. Outcomes show that older people are comfortable at lower than recommended temperatures, which may affect their health.

## **Presentation 5**

*Title: Household Based Energy Efficiency Rating: a new approach to targeting the fuel poor*

*Presenter: Kevin Jobson and William Baker*

*Affiliation: energy Audit Company and Citizens Advice/Eaga*

The UK Government developed the Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating (FPEER) system as a method of monitoring progress in tackling Low Income High Cost (LIHC) fuel poverty. FPEER has a number of problems. Some relate to its basis in the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for measuring home energy standards. Some relate to the LIHC approach to measuring fuel poverty. In brief, FPEER overlooks many households that struggle to afford their fuel costs and could benefit from cost effective improvements to their homes. We have developed an alternative rating system, the Household Based Energy Efficiency Rating (HBEER), which is based on both the FPEER and LIHC methodology. As such it eliminates the problems associated with FPEER and helps target vulnerable homes that would otherwise be overlooked. It also provides a practical tool for assessing the extent of fuel poverty in a local area. Finally, while it results in a larger number of households currently described as 'fuel poor', unlike FPEER, this number would decline rapidly through concerted policy action.

## **Presentation 6**

*Title: Cold start: health effects of energy poverty on youth*

*Presenter: Kim O'Sullivan*

*Affiliation: University of Otago*

Important and lasting health effects of energy poverty and cold housing experienced in childhood are increasingly understood. I introduce these child-specific effects of energy poverty and present key findings of research undertaken in New Zealand with youth to explore their experiences of energy poverty.