



# Warm Homes Campaign

## Leeds North East

### Fabian Hamilton MP

#### LOW INCOMES

22% % of pensioners are claiming pension credit in your constituency.

This equates to: **3,940** Pensioners

#### COLD HOMES

The average SAP in this region is: **49**

**995,000** cavity walls in this region are not filled.

During the winter of 2007-2008 there were **23,800** excess winter deaths in England. More than **90%** of excess winter deaths occur in the pensioner population.

At this time of historically high fuel prices and little indication of them falling, fuel poverty is at its highest level since 1998. It is now more important than ever to do more to avert such a high number of preventable deaths. Energy efficiency schemes such as Warm Front provide heating and insulation improvements to ensure that the home is adequately and affordably heated and the occupants are free from the health risks posed by cold damp homes; a factor known to exacerbate conditions such as circulatory and respiratory disease.

**10.0%** of households in this constituency live in fuel poverty\*



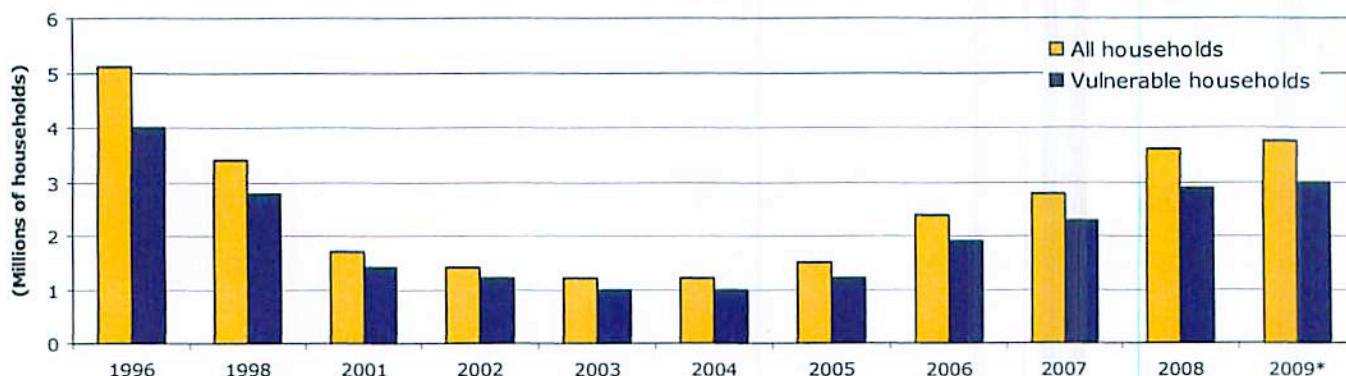
**40**\*\*

Number of Excess Winter Deaths in your constituency during the winter of 2007-2008

**57**\*\*

Average number of Excess Winter Deaths in your constituency over the last five winters (2003-2008)

Trends in fuel poverty in England



Source: Annual report on fuel poverty statistics 2009 (DECC) \*NEA estimate Spring 2009)

**For a more detailed explanation of the figures used please see overleaf.**

\*Fuel poverty estimates for 2006 provided by DECC 2009. \*\*EWD figures sourced from ONS and reworked at NEA 2009; SAP and Cavity wall data sourced from EHCS 2006.

INDICATOR	ENGLISH AVERAGE/TOTAL
NEA's estimate takes into account the effect of recent fuel price increases. <sup>1</sup>	NEA
Number of households living in fuel poverty	3,750,000
Percent of households living in fuel poverty	17.9%
Excess winter deaths during the winter of 2007-08 <sup>2</sup>	23,800
Average SAP across all <u>Fuel Poor</u> households in England <sup>3</sup>	36 (SAP Band F)
Percentage of homes failed the thermal comfort element of the Decent Homes Standard (all tenures) <sup>3</sup>	15.4%

<sup>1</sup> NEA's estimate relates to the incidence of fuel poverty in 2009 and incorporates post-2004 fuel price movements. This estimate is calculated using the full income definition of fuel poverty (which classes housing subsidies as household income)

<sup>2</sup> ONS 2008

<sup>3</sup> EHCS 2007 Average sap band across households in fuel poverty.

## Definitions and policy context...

### Government Commitments on Fuel Poverty

The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy sets out the Government's objective of eradicating fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010 and for all households by 2016. Major progress in reducing fuel poverty since 1996 has been halted and reversed by drastic increases in gas and electricity prices. Since 2003, the average annual domestic dual fuel bill has increased by 114%

### Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty results from a combination of poor heating and insulation standards, low household income and high energy prices. Fuel poverty is defined as the need to spend more than 10% of household income in order to provide a warm and healthy living environment.

### SAP

The energy efficiency of a dwelling is assessed through a SAP rating which measures heating and insulation standards using a scale from 1-100; the higher the rating the more energy efficient the property. The average SAP rating for all houses in England in 2007 was 50. The Government has indicated that a SAP rating of 65 would effectively guarantee affordable warmth for individuals or families occupying such a property whilst a SAP rating below 35 can be considered as representing a significant health hazard under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. There are currently more than 2 million households in England with a SAP rating below 30.

### Affordable Warmth in Social Housing

From April 2006 the Housing Health and Safety Rating System came into force and replaced the fitness standard as the statutory element of the decent homes standard. Under this new definition there are 1.1 million social sector non-decent homes and 6.5 million private sector households living in non-decent homes. Some 4.8 million homes (22%) have category 1 hazards as assessed under the new HHSRS. In the private sector 4.2 million homes (24%) have category 1 hazards present compared to 500,000 (13%) in the social sector.

### Excess Winter Deaths

The Office for National Statistics defines excess winter death as the extent to which the incidence of mortality in the winter period (December-March) exceeds the average of the two non-winter periods (April-July and August-November). Excess Winter Death is much more prevalent amongst elderly people and is much more common in the United Kingdom than in other European countries with comparable standards of living but with even more severe winter climates.

### Pension Credit

Pension Credit is taken as a useful indicator since it combines two major elements that predispose to fuel poverty – older households and household income.