Foreword
by the Leader of the Council

The fight against Fuel Poverty is vital to the well being of all of South Ayrshire’s residents and is a challenge that the Council is proud to address in this strategy.

As well as making houses more comfortable and affordable to heat, eradicating this problem is key in combating poverty, improving the health of residents, ensuring quality affordable accommodation and improving the sustainability of South Ayrshire in terms of the environment, the economy and social inclusion.

This is not something we can do alone and success is dependent on other agencies and individuals understanding the issues and making the connections to bring together their wide and varied expertise to develop the solutions we need. I call on those professionals from health, housing, welfare and energy and the public to join with us to remove this scourge, which has no place in a modern society.

Councillor Andrew Hill
Leader of the Council
1. **A Fuel Poverty Strategy for South Ayrshire**
   - What is fuel poverty?
   - What causes fuel poverty?
   - What effects does fuel poverty have?
   - Why produce a Fuel Poverty Strategy?
   - What is the Fuel Poverty Strategy trying to achieve?

2. **Work to date**
   - Review of best practice
   - Review of policy and legislation
   - Baseline study
   - Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 activities

3. **Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty**
   - Energy Efficiency
   - Fuel Poverty

4. **South Ayrshire Fuel Poverty Strategy**
   - Aim
   - Principles and approach
   - Themes
   - Partnerships
   - Circumstances beyond local control

5. **Action Plan**

6. **References**
What is fuel poverty?

1.1. Fuel poverty is a general term used to describe a situation where a household, due to the relative costs of heating their home to a comfortable and basic standard, is having difficulty in affording their fuel bills.

1.2. This may result in a household spending a high proportion of their income on their heating costs, and thus not being able to afford other essential needs, such as food or social activities.

1.3. Fuel poverty is therefore often described as where a household must make a choice between “eating or heating”.

1.4. The Scottish Executive defines a fuel poor household as one that must spend 10 per cent or more of its income on its fuel bills to adequately heat their home. See South Ayrshire Council (2002a) for a more detailed discussion of how fuel poor households are defined.

1.5. Furthermore, if a fuel poor household must spend 20 per cent or more of its income on fuel bills it is said to be in extreme fuel poverty. Households spending between 8 and 10 per cent of income on fuel bills are held to be at risk of falling into fuel poverty.
What causes fuel poverty?

1.6. Fuel poverty is a complex problem that is a result of the interaction of three different factors (South Ayrshire Council, 2002a):

- Income - fuel poverty is closely linked to poverty and low incomes. The lower a household’s income, the more likely it is that their fuel bills will be over 10 per cent of that income.

- Fuel costs - have a major effect on fuel poverty. If a household’s fuel bills rise from £10 to £15 a week, this could be the difference between a household being able to afford the bills and being pushed into fuel poverty.

- Energy efficiency of the housing stock - a more energy efficient dwelling makes better use of the heat that is paid for, by reducing wastage. Therefore, an energy efficient dwelling costs less to heat.

1.7. This is illustrated in more detail in figure 1.

What effects does fuel poverty have?

1.8. Fuel poverty has a wide range of impacts on the well-being of the affected households, but indeed also on the economy, the environment and the health of society, as shown in figure 2.

1.9. Perhaps the most important and obvious effect of fuel poverty is its effect on people’s health. Research indicates that there are 40,000 more deaths during the winter months in the UK than would be expected (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2001). Around 60 per cent of these deaths are attributable to the effects of living in a cold home (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2001).

1.10. This is due to the effects of cold on people’s health:

“Illnesses such as influenza, heart disease and strokes are all exacerbated by cold, and cold homes can also promote the growth of fungi and [the] number of dust mites - often linked to conditions such as asthma ... There is also evidence to suggest that cold homes can increase the time taken to recover from other illnesses” (Scottish Executive, 2002a:5)

1.11. Fuel poverty - like most forms of exclusion - is also self-perpetuating. For instance, the health effects of living in a cold home negatively impacting upon children’s educational attainment, in turn negatively impacting upon their future earning-potential, and thus making it more likely that they will themselves fall into fuel poverty.
**Why produce a Fuel Poverty Strategy?**

1.12. South Ayrshire Council is developing a Fuel Poverty Strategy in order to ensure a co-ordinated and effective approach is taken to tackle what is a complex problem. A Fuel Poverty Strategy is also required by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, which states that local authorities have a duty to prepare a strategy that ‘ensures, so far as reasonably practicable, that persons do not live in fuel poverty’.

1.13. In preparing this strategy, South Ayrshire Council is required to take account of the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement 2002, published by the Scottish Executive (2002a), and of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 2001 (Department of Trade and Industry, 2001). These documents provide the framework for all fuel poverty related actions in Scotland. In addition, the Local Housing Strategy 2003 - 2008 (South Ayrshire, 2003d) provides a framework for all housing related action in South Ayrshire.

Section 1: Fuel Poverty Strategy for South Ayrshire

Figure 1 - Causes of Fuel Poverty
2.1. To ensure that the Fuel Poverty Strategy is as effective and as relevant as is possible, South Ayrshire Council has completed several background studies already. The reports of these studies accompany this document (South Ayrshire Council, 2002a; 2003a; 2003b).

**Review of best practice**

2.2. South Ayrshire Council is not the first local authority to develop a Fuel Poverty Strategy, and as such was keen to learn from the experience of others. A review of best practice in tackling fuel poverty and developing fuel poverty strategies was therefore undertaken (see South Ayrshire Council, 2003b). This review looked at the 5 Councils in England that were awarded Beacon Council status for ‘Tackling Fuel Poverty’ in 2002-3, as well as the work of Edinburgh City Council in Scotland. A meeting was also held with the Dundee Community Energy Partnership to discuss their work.

2.3. The lessons learned from this review of best practice have been incorporated into this Fuel Poverty Strategy, both in the approach taken and in the actions adopted.

**Review of policy and legislation**

2.4. As already noted (see Figures 1 and 2), fuel poverty is a complex problem due to the multiplicity of contributing factors and the many possible effects it can have on an individual or household. As such, efforts to tackle fuel poverty will necessarily cut across many areas of legislation, policy and strategy.

2.5. A review of this policy and legislation was undertaken (see South Ayrshire Council, 2003b), as it provides statutory obligations, targets and approaches that the Fuel Poverty Strategy has to take into account. These have been incorporated into the Fuel Poverty Strategy as appropriate.
Baseline study

2.6. South Ayrshire Council recently commissioned a Local House Condition and Household Survey (2002). The information from this study has been analysed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the fuel poverty ‘baseline’ in South Ayrshire (i.e. the current situation) (see Chapter 3) and has therefore provided a solid base for the actions in this Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 activities

2.7. South Ayrshire Council initially set targets to promote the efficient use of energy within South Ayrshire in 1997. Since then, it has been working to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock of all tenures in the area, by providing insulation, energy efficient appliances, and advice and awareness raising.

2.8 The results of these efforts has seen an increase in the energy efficiency of its own stock by 29%, RSL stock by 5% and that of the private stock by 8%. These activities will have gone some way to helping households in South Ayrshire to avoid fuel poverty.
Introduction

3.1 This chapter is based upon the results of the Local House Condition and Household Survey conducted by South Ayrshire Council in 2002.

This survey was a representative sample of properties in the private sector covering both the physical condition of the property, including a National Home Energy Rating, and a socio-economic survey of householders. Internal records relating to the energy efficiency of the Local Authority stock have also been used in order to comment on the Local Authority stock where possible.

Energy Efficiency

3.2 The main method for measuring the energy efficiency of a property in Scotland is the National Home Energy Rating (NHER). This assessment generates an energy rating for a dwelling on a scale of 0 (poor) to 10 (excellent), based on the total energy costs per square metre of floor area required to achieve a standard heating regime. The assessment procedure is not, therefore, based on what the household actually spends to maintain the heating regime of its choice, but on the theoretical costs of maintaining a standard regime for a standard level of occupancy.
### NHER profile of the Housing Stock in South Ayrshire

3.3 Properties are put into the following NHER bands.

- **Poor** = NHER 2 or less
- **Moderate** = NHER 3 - 6
- **Good** = NHER 7 - 10

The following refers to the entire housing stock in South Ayrshire:

- The median NHER score is 5.4 (compared to a national average of 6)
- When grouped into bands the following levels of energy efficiency is found:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>South Ayrshire</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 The following information relates specifically to the private sector.

- Older dwellings tend to have lower NHER scores (over 50% of pre 1919 properties in South Ayrshire have a poor energy rating).

Table 3.1

- Poor energy ratings are found most significantly in tenement flats, converted flats and detached houses, whilst good energy ratings are highest amongst mid-terraced and 4 in a block properties.

Source: Local House Condition and Household Survey 2002
Table 3.2

- The majority of dwellings (66%) have full gas central heating and 71% use the primary heating boiler to provide hot water.

- Storage heating, where used, is primarily used in rural areas whilst warm air systems when used are almost exclusively used in urban areas.

- The most common thickness of roof insulation is 150mm. Approximately 6% (2,460) dwellings have 200mm or more insulation, which is about half the number which have no loft insulation. Over 20% of privately rented properties have no insulation compared to 12% in the owner occupier sector and 6% within housing association properties.

Table 3.3
* The chances of a property having double glazing increases as a property age decreases, e.g. 89% of post 1964 properties have double glazing compared to 72% of pre 1919 properties.

* People living in properties with poor energy efficiency ratings are just as likely to be satisfied with their properties as those with higher ratings.

**Fuel Poverty**

3.5 The Executive has adopted the following definition of fuel poverty.

‘A household is in Fuel Poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, it would be required to spend more than 10% of its income (including Housing Benefit or Income Support for Mortgage interest) on all household fuel use.’

It should be noted that the definition of income used in the above statement is not exactly the same as the definition of income used in the Local House Condition and Household Survey. However, this also applied to the Scottish House Condition Survey.

3.6 The following relates to all households in South Ayrshire.

- Approximately 7,000 households (14%) are fuel poor. This compares to a national picture of 13%.

- The trend across NHER bands indicates that a slightly higher proportion of the fuel poor are in the moderate category with a correspondingly lower proportion in the good category. The proportion of fuel poor households in the poor category is roughly proportionate to the number of households in that category.

- Fuel poor households are significantly less likely to be found in dwellings built post 1964 although only slightly more likely to be found in pre 1919 properties. This is similar to the national picture.

- Fuel poverty appears to be highly significant in the South Carrick area but also more likely than expected within Ayr. Nationally, the fuel poor are more likely to be living in rural areas.

- Whilst the incidence of fuel poverty is more prevalent within the private sector, as opposed to the social rented sector, it is particularly prevalent amongst those who own their house outright and private renters. Nationally, the prevalence of fuel poverty is significantly higher among private renters.
Table 3.4: Fuel Poverty by Tenure

- Single pensioners are the most likely households to be fuel poor as within Scotland as a whole.

Table 3.5: Fuel Poverty by Household Types

- Households with low (£100-199 per week) and very low (less than £100 per week) incomes are much more likely to be fuel poor than others. Fuel poverty is virtually non-existent amongst those with incomes of more than £300 per week. This reflects the national picture.

- It should be noted that national fuel poverty figures have recently been revised. It has not been possible to date to fully verify South Ayrshire’s data against national data.

Following full verification, further work will be done on analysing fuel poverty, including making further comparisons with national statistics and looking at extreme fuel poverty (more than 20% of household income spent on all household fuel use). These results will then be studied in detail to inform policy development.
Aim

4.1 The aim of the Fuel Poverty Strategy is to meet the various targets set by the Executive and South Ayrshire Council, in the short and longer term, as shown in figure 3 below. Details of the programmes and policies that contain these targets are contained in the accompanying report (South Ayrshire Council, 2002b). By meeting these targets, the Fuel Poverty Strategy aims to reduce and eventually eradicate the problem of fuel poverty in South Ayrshire.

4.2 The Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement has set the target of eliminating fuel poverty for all households by 2016. Fuel poverty for vulnerable households - such as the elderly - is to be eliminated by 2010 under the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy.

4.3 In addition, the Scottish Executive has set a short-term target of a 30 per cent reduction in fuel poverty by 2006. A medium-term target (for 2010) is also to be set later this year, when the results of the Scottish House Condition Survey 2002 are published.

4.4 South Ayrshire also has energy efficiency targets to meet under the Scottish Executive’s Central Heating Programme and the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. These respectively seek to install central heating in the homes of older people over 60, and promote energy efficiency more widely. The ongoing work of South Ayrshire Council in this area (South Ayrshire Council, 2002b) can help to reduce fuel poverty and so feeds into the Fuel Poverty Strategy.
4.5 Lastly, the work of the fuel poverty strategy can help fulfil the Scottish and UK Governments targets to reduce CO2 emissions and produce more renewable energy.

**Principles and approach**

4.6 The principles and approach adopted by the Fuel Poverty Strategy (as illustrated in figure 4) are that the actions taken to further the four themes must be:

- Both preventative and curative: the ultimate aim of the Fuel Poverty Strategy must be to prevent fuel poverty from occurring in the first instance, so that households do not have to cope with the negative effects it results in. However, there are also many households who are currently in fuel poverty and need to be helped out of that situation. Therefore, the Fuel Poverty Strategy needs to contain a combination of preventative and curative actions.

- Both geographic and thematic: fuel poverty has a strong geographic element, as it affected by patterns of households and dwellings. However, these patterns as subject to change as households move between dwellings and as their circumstances change. Therefore, the Fuel Poverty Strategy needs to target its action geographically and according to themes (e.g. helping particularly vulnerable household types, such as the elderly).

4.7 The approach of the Fuel Poverty Strategy is that any individual action must meet at least two of the principles above (i.e. must geographic or thematic, and must be preventative or curative). This ensures that the actions are appropriately focused and provide sufficient coverage to be effective.

4.8 Furthermore, the links between different actions, which may be linked through any one of the four main principles, are examined. For instance, actions may be linked by geography in that they are operating in the same part of South Ayrshire. Where actions are linked in this way, they must be compared to ensure that they are not duplicating or working against one another.

**Themes**

4.9 This Fuel Poverty Strategy will take action - in line with the approach outlined above - under several key themes developed from the Review of Best Practice (South Ayrshire Council, 2003a).
• Leadership: South Ayrshire Council will take the lead on fuel poverty within the local area, acting itself to make a difference and to encourage others in their efforts.

• Working with others: South Ayrshire Council cannot tackle fuel poverty alone, as it is too complex a problem. South Ayrshire Council will therefore work in partnership to find solutions to the problem of fuel poverty.

• Understanding the problem: The work already undertaken by South Ayrshire Council has increased the understanding of the local fuel poverty situation. South Ayrshire Council will seek to build on this understanding and communicate it to others in order to find the most effective ways of tackling fuel poverty.

• Carefully planning activity: To deal with the many causes and effects of fuel poverty South Ayrshire Council and its partners will work in a long-term and carefully co-ordinated fashion, and will continually monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any actions taken, seeking to constantly improve how it deals with fuel poverty.

Partnerships

4.10 This Fuel Poverty Strategy is the result of an extensive process of consultation and joint-working.

4.11 The partners involved in producing this Fuel Poverty Strategy are South Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Energy Scotland and South Ayrshire Care and Repair.

Circumstances beyond local control

4.12 Fuel poverty does not operate within a closed environment, and the factors that cause fuel poverty in South Ayrshire are affected by circumstances at both Scottish and UK levels. For example, fuel prices are affected by UK energy policy by economic factors, incomes are affected by the performance of the national economy and by Government policies on welfare and regeneration, and energy efficiency is affected by Building Standards and Planning legislation which are set by the Scottish Executive.

4.13 This Fuel Poverty Strategy recognises these limitations, however, and will seek to influence national action as far as possible in order to improve the local fuel poverty situation.
Figure 3 – Targets for the Fuel Poverty Strategy

- Install central heating for all council tenants
- Install central heating for all housing association tenants
- Improve NHER of average dwelling to: 5.5 (private sector) 8.6 (RSL sector) 7 (council sector)
- Install central heating for all private sector pensioners
- Reduce fuel poverty by 30% from 2002 levels
- Reduce fuel poverty by 100% for vulnerable households
- Reduce fuel poverty by 65% from 2002 levels
- Reduce fuel poverty by 100% for all households
- National renewable energy production targets
- National CO₂ reduction targets

Year
Overall Aim
To eradicate fuel poverty by 2016 across all housing tenures and to reduce it by 30% by 2006 from 2002 levels.

Key Aims:
1. To eradicate fuel poverty in the Council housing stock;
2. To facilitate fuel poverty programmes in private sector and housing association properties;
3. Raise awareness and provide good quality fuel poverty advice;
4. To make warmth more affordable by maximising incomes and reducing fuel costs;
5. Establish partnerships to tackle fuel poverty and develop a referral system between agencies;
6. To coordinate the delivery of the fuel poverty strategy.

### Action Plan

#### Aim 1: To eradicate fuel poverty in the Council housing stock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>TASKS</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY &amp; PARTNERS</th>
<th>PROPOSED START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.1 Identify the potential number of fuel poor in Council properties. | - Maintain NHIS database of Council stock with data from Capital programme, maintenance programme and local fuel cost changes.  
- Analyse running costs in comparison with minimum income levels. Aim to have each property affordable to a tenant in receipt of benefits.  
- Identify the potential addresses of those in fuel poverty both including and excluding housing benefit from income. | SAC Energy Management | 2004 |
| 1.2 Install energy efficiency measures | - Install all efficiency measures up to the ‘South Ayrshire Standard’ and to meet the Social Housing Quality Standard.  
- Where properties are still potentially not affordable with all standard energy efficiency measures installed identify other methods to make them affordable. | SAC Energy Management  
SAC Housing | 2004  
2005 |
| 1.3 Avoid under-occupancy of properties | - Encourage use of allocations policy to avoid under-occupation of properties. | SAC Housing | 2004 |
| 1.4 Promote energy labelling | - Provide indicative energy rating and annual running costs to prospective new tenants | SAC Energy Management | 2005 |
Aim 2: To facilitate fuel poverty programmes in private sector and housing association properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>2.1 Ensure energy efficiency grants are claimed</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY &amp; PARTNERS</th>
<th>PROPOSED START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Establish and run grant take-up campaign</td>
<td>SAC Energy Management/ Energy Agency/Care and Repairs/SAC Building Control</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Work with local agencies (see 5.2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2005</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>2.2 Identify fuel poor households</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY &amp; PARTNERS</th>
<th>PROPOSED START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Front line staff, volunteers etc to recognise signs of fuel poverty and make referrals (see 5.4)</td>
<td>SAC Energy Management, SAC Social Justice, Housing Associations/Care and Repairs</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Collect data from local house condition surveys, Scottish house condition surveys, other local surveys</td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Housing associations to identify fuel poor in their stock</td>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>2.3 Decrease incidence of cold related illness and death</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY &amp; PARTNERS</th>
<th>PROPOSED START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide support to health professionals to provide fuel poverty advice</td>
<td>SAC Energy Management/ Energy Agency/HB Ayshire and Arran, SAC Social Work</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Expand database of health professionals to provide information and briefings to</td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Target those most at risk from cold related illness</td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>2.4 Promote a good energy efficiency standard</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY &amp; PARTNERS</th>
<th>PROPOSED START DATE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Promote the benefits of energy efficiency to householders, builders, developers, architects</td>
<td>SAC Energy Management/ Energy Agency/SAC Planning/ SAC Social Justice</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Target private landlords to provide affordable warmth</td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Objective

### Aim 3: Raise awareness and provide good quality fuel poverty advice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Lead Agency &amp; Partners</th>
<th>Proposed Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3.1 Raise awareness and update partners | - Establish a PR campaign with regular progress newsletters and information on current grants targeted at various interest groups.  
- Design a web page for the use of agencies. | SAC Energy Management/ Energy Agency/ SAC Housing/SAC Communications/SAC ICT | 2005 |
| 3.2 Promote energy awareness in schools | - Give energy awareness lessons to P4/5 and S1/2 pupils.  
- Provide in-service training for teachers on energy topics within the curriculum | Energy Agency/SAC Energy Management/SAC Education | 2004 |
| 3.3 Provide a quality advice service from trained staff. | - Provide written reports giving advice to residents.  
- Provide face-to-face advice to residents.  
- Provide free telephone advice for residents.  
- Produce materials for target groups. | Energy Agency/ SAC Energy Management | 2004 |
| 3.4 Give support to advice workers | - Develop and provide briefing sessions for front line staff, health professionals, volunteers and advisors  
- Identify training needs of advice providers  
- Develop specialist briefing sheets e.g. for those working with elderly, health professionals | Energy Agency/ SAC Energy Management/ SAC Housing/ SAC Social Work/ NHS Ayrshire and Arran | 2004 |
Aim 4: To make warmth more affordable by maximising incomes and reducing fuel costs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>TASKS</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY &amp; PARTNERS</th>
<th>PROPOSED START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4.1 Ensure benefits are claimed and designated benefit claims | • Provide benefit cheques for residents  
• Run awareness campaigns for front-line staff  
• Draw up promotion plan to encourage take-up of benefits claims | SAC Welfare Rights | 2004 |
| 4.2 Ensure people have access to the cheapest fuel supplier and most appropriate payment methods | • Provide information and advice on prices and payment methods  
• Support those experiencing difficulties with payments or billing issues  
• Maintain and manage preferred supplier arrangement for void council properties to benefit new tenants  
• Promote alternative payment methods to pre-payment meters | SAC Trading Standards/ SAC Councillor for Housing/ SAC Energy Management/ SAC Energy Agency/ SAC Housing/ SAC Energywatch | 2005 |
| 4.3 Fuel switching to cheaper heating fuel | • Seek to extend the gas network to villages not currently served  
• Discourage installation of electric heating  
• Investigate district heating feasibility | SAC Energy Management/ SAC Strategy & Design/ SAC Housing | 2004 |
Aim 5: Establish partnerships to tackle fuel poverty and develop a referral system between agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Lead Agency &amp; Partners</th>
<th>Proposed Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5.1 Set up inter-agency referral mechanism | - Develop database of target groups, agencies and individuals.  
- Develop links with groups providing fuel, debt, welfare rights and energy efficiency advice  
- Establish a sign-posting and monitoring agency  
- Produce contact information to include:  
  - who to refer to  
  - what each agency offers  
- Set up a feedback mechanism to keep referrers and clients informed | SAC Energy Management/ SAC Social Justice/ Energy Agency | 2006 |
| 5.2 Raise awareness of fuel poverty amongst agencies to promote the use of the referral mechanism once it is established | - Run briefing sessions for agencies and produce literature  
- Identify key people in each agency to ‘own’ referral process  
- Provide fuel poverty support to advice agencies (see 2.4) | Energy Agency/ SAC Energy Management | 2006 |
Aim 6: To coordinate the delivery of the fuel poverty strategy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>TASKS</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY &amp; PARTNERS</th>
<th>PROPOSED START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 6.1 Co-ordinate implementation of the strategy | • Establish a co-ordinating body to provide direction for the implementation of the strategy  
• Co-ordinating body to gain strong corporate commitment and commitment from other agencies to participate  
• Co-ordinating body to ensure aims of the strategy are integrated in other policy areas and to keep it high on the political agenda | South Ayrshire Council | 2004  
                                             |                                                                                        |                  | 2004  
                                             |                                                                                        |                  | 2004  
| 6.2 Monitor, evaluate and review the strategy | • Establish reporting mechanisms  
• Evaluate progress towards targets  
• Review the strategy in the light of developments in fuel poverty and related issues at a national level  
• Share best practices with other local authorities | SAC Energy Management | 2004  
                                             |                                                                                        |                  | 2004  
                                             |                                                                                        |                  | 2004  
| 6.3 Seek adequate resources for the strategy implementation | • Identify additional resources required to achieve aims  
• Identify external sources of funding  
• Make funding bids and negotiate with potential funders | South Ayrshire Council  
BAC Energy Management | 2004  
                                             |                                                                                        |                  | 2004  
                                             |                                                                                        |                  | 2004  

It is programmed to commence all tasks, resources permitting, within the first three years of the production of the Fuel Poverty Strategy.

It is envisaged that all tasks will be ongoing for the life of the strategy (up to 2016).


Local House Condition and Household Survey (2002). Data from survey as analysed.


References


