

Caithness District Partnership

Cold homes, fuel poverty and affordable warmth

30 October 2015

Alan Grant, Community Liaison Officer

Challenge

Eradicate fuel poverty by 2016 where practicable

ie:- eradicate situation where householders are required to spend more than 10% of income on all household fuel use to maintain satisfactory heating

Fuel Poverty

The Facts

Households in fuel poverty

Scotland 36% Highland 50%

Pensioners in fuel poverty

Scotland 54% Highland 69%

Changeworks Scottish Fuel Poverty map

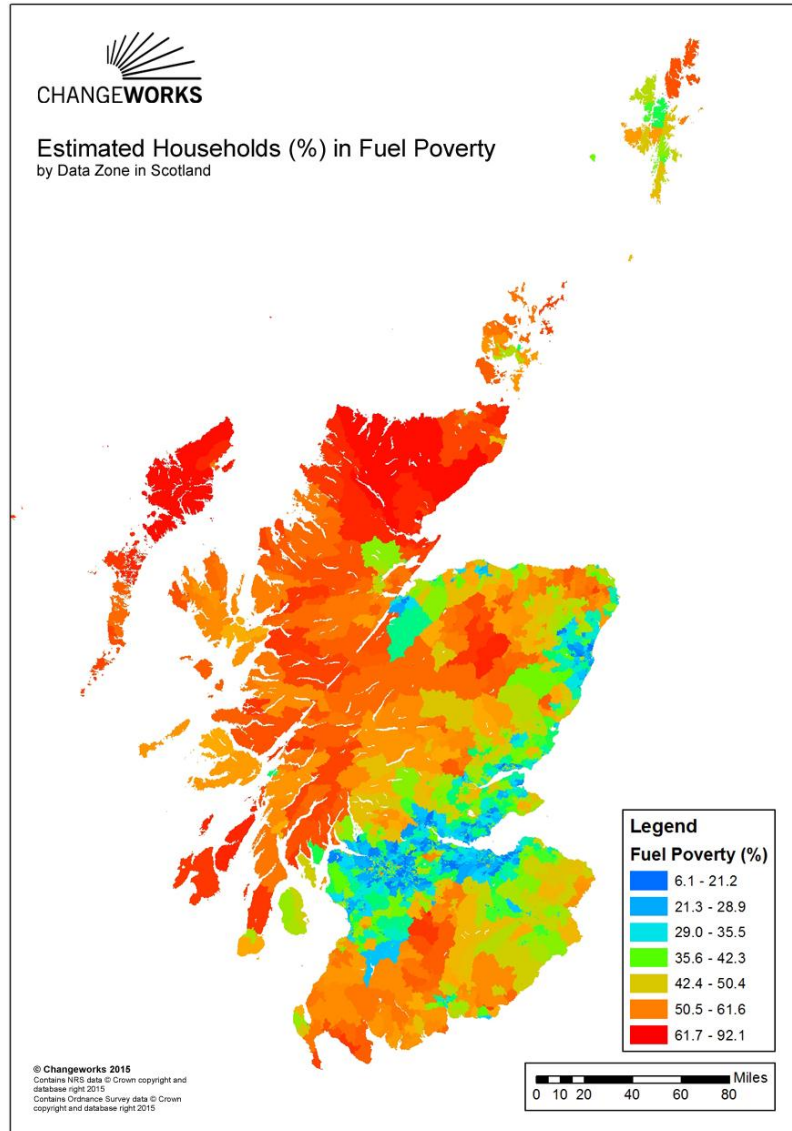
Main Contact

Henry Russell

Data Consultant

0131 539 8579

hrussell@changeworks.org.uk



Changeworks Highland Fuel Poverty map

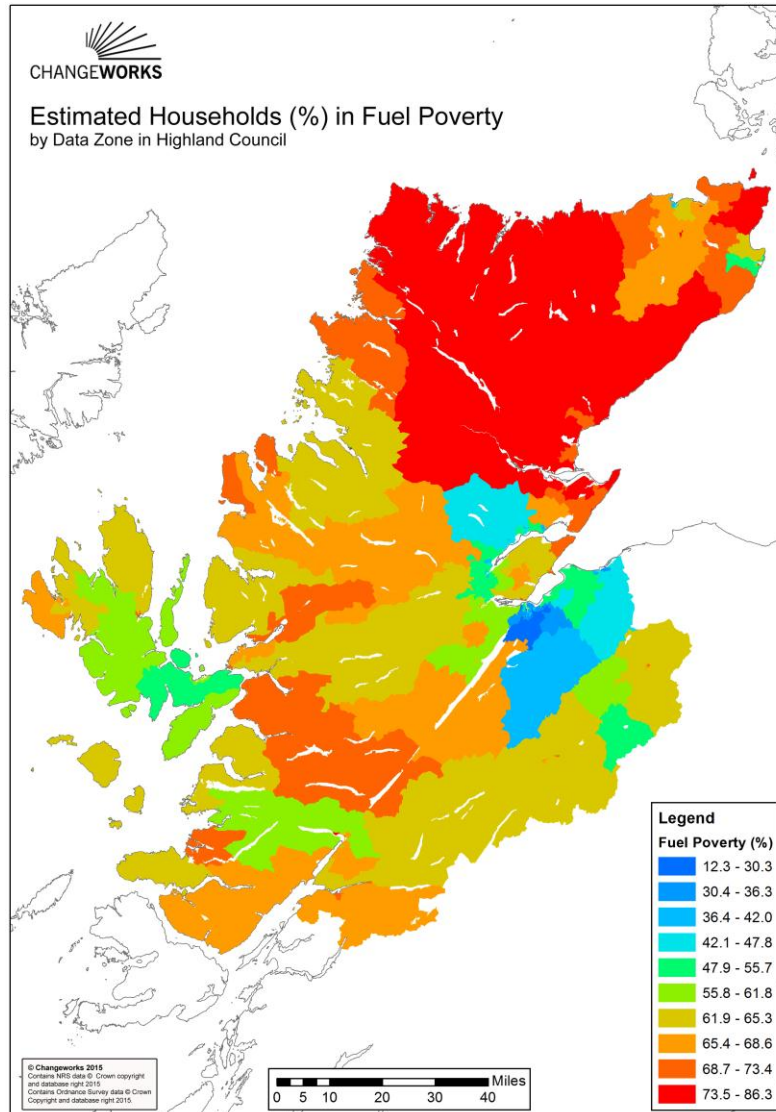
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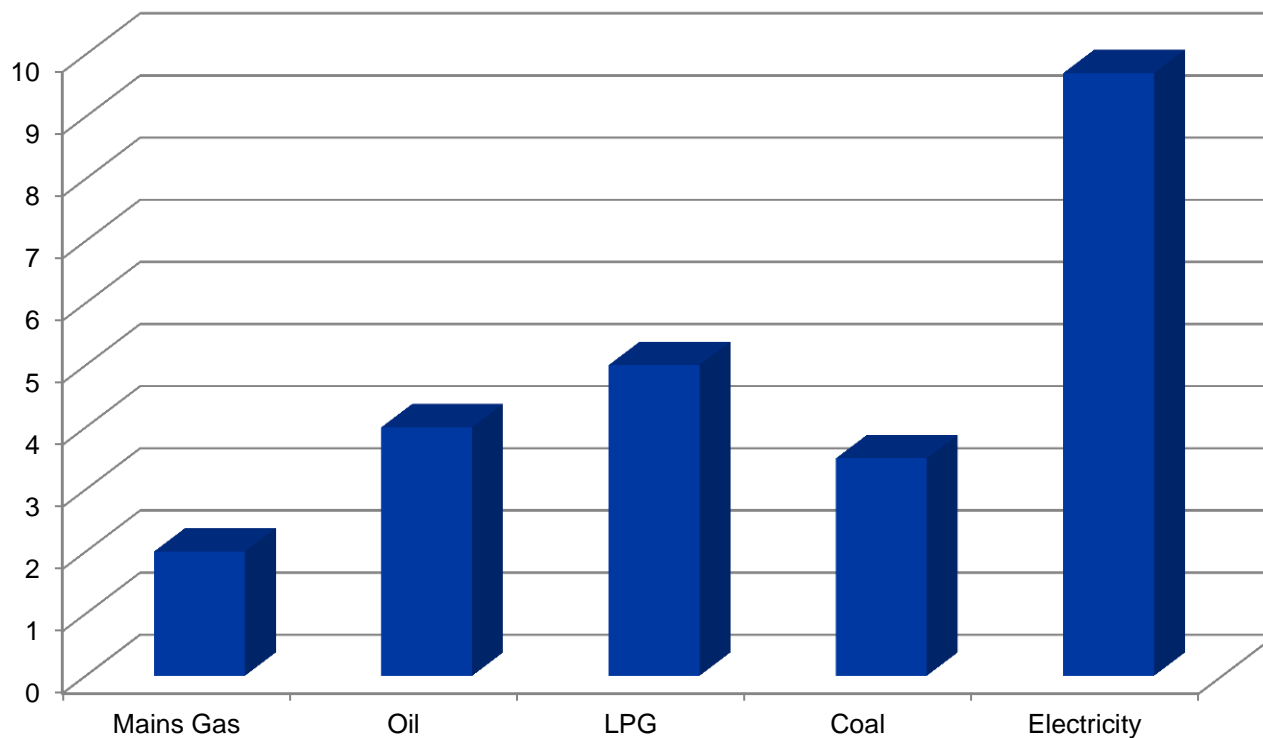
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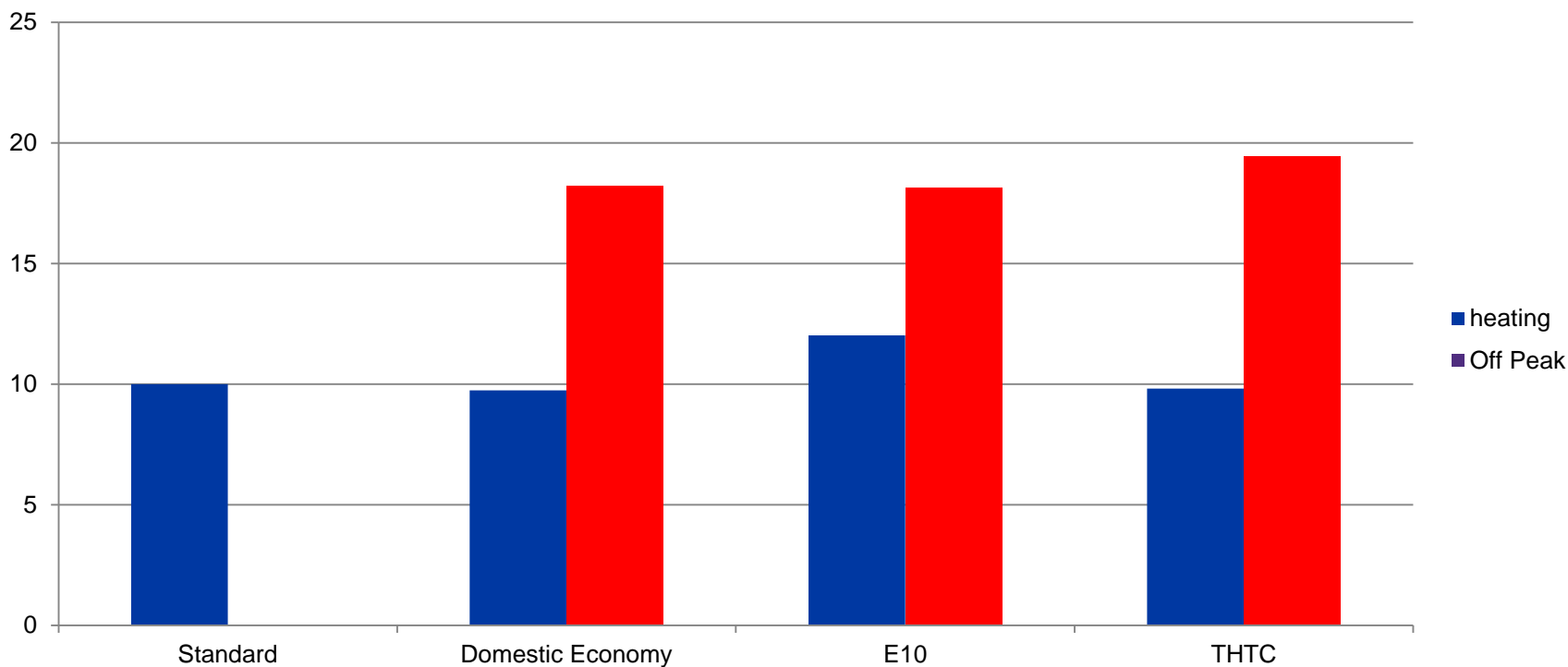
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Fuel Prices - pence per unit of energy



Electricity Costs



Impact of cold, damp homes

- Affects morbidity - circulatory diseases and respiratory illnesses
- Negative impact on mental health
- Affects all ages but **particularly children and the elderly**
- 4,060 seasonal increase in excess winter deaths in UK due to **cold housing** in 2013/14 Source: National records of Scotland

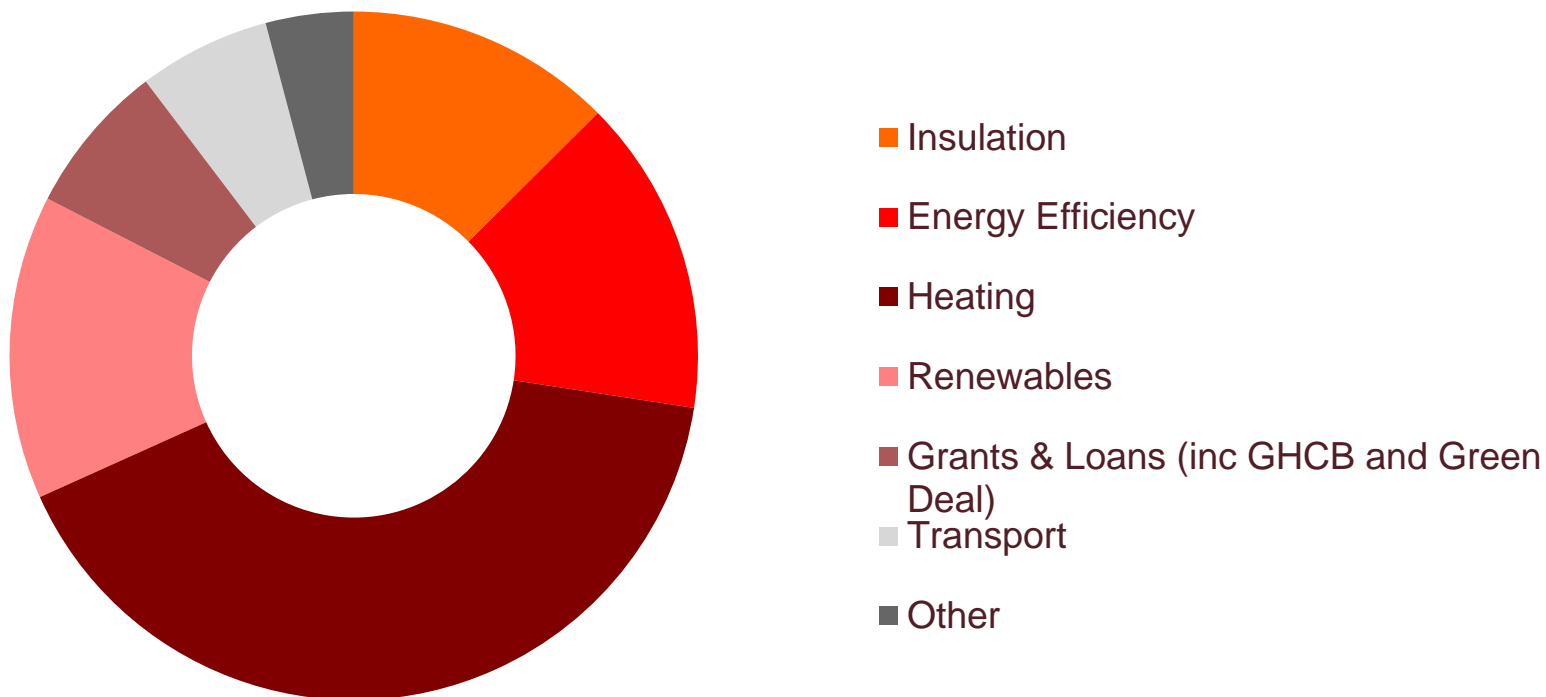
Home Energy Scotland advice centre Highlands and Islands

- One of 5 Home Energy Scotland advice centres
- Provides free, impartial, expert advice
- Funded by Scottish Government
- Free phone number **0808 808 2282**

Highland households receiving energy advice

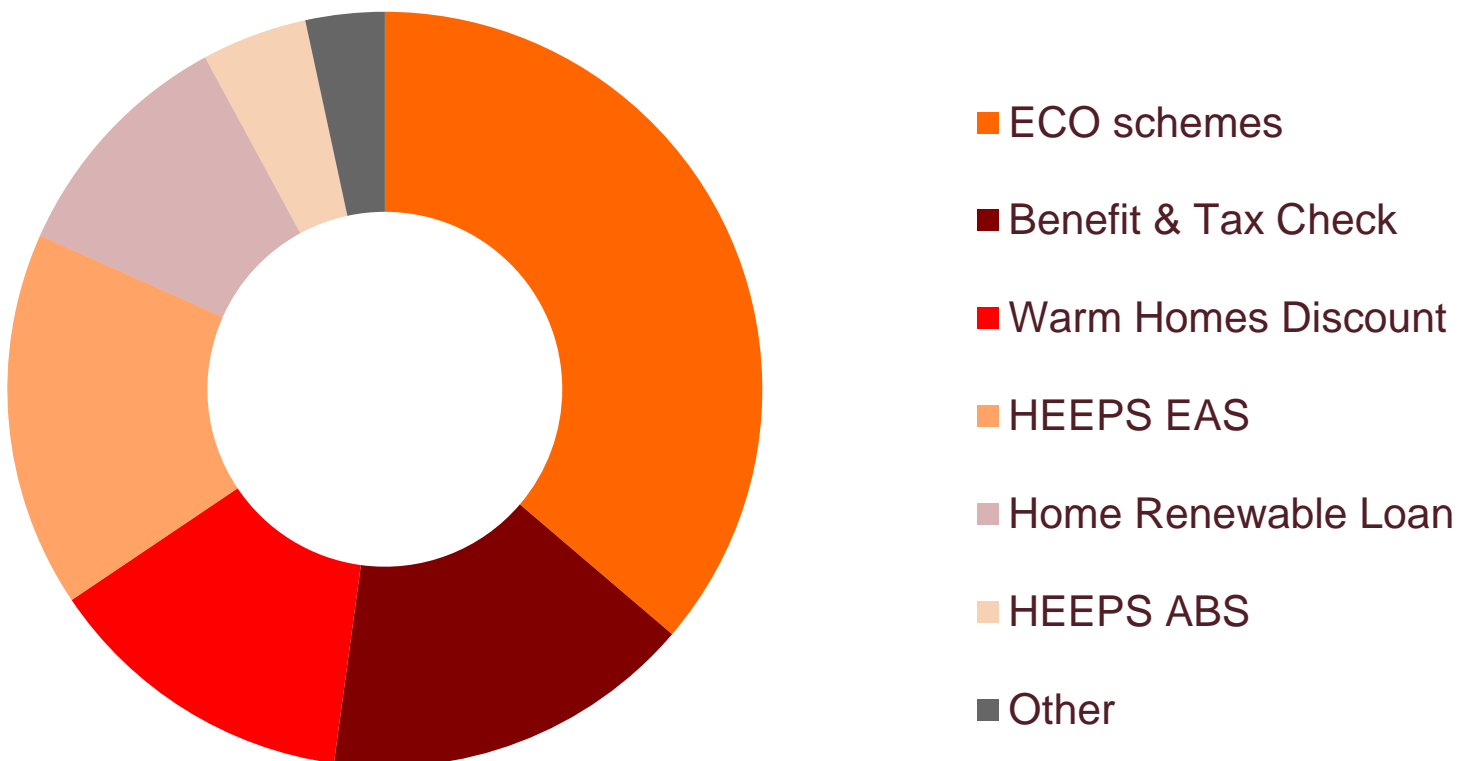
11,688 requests for advice

From 8,426 households during y/e 31 March 15



Highland households referred to schemes

4,316 referrals made
for 2,388 households during y/e 31 Mar 15



New national scheme launched Sep 15

- Scottish Government announced new national fuel poverty scheme called **Warmer Homes Scotland**
- £225m to deliver scheme
- Delivered by Warmworks, joint venture between Changeworks, Energy Saving Trust and Everwarm
- Provides full support and advice from insulation to heating and domestic renewables

Warmer Homes Scotland



Who is eligible? **NB eligibility at 14 October 2015**

The household must meet all following criteria:-

- Be homeowners or tenants of a private-sector landlord
- Live in home as main residence
- Lived there for at least 6 months (unless in receipt of a DS1500 certificate)
- Live in home with an energy rating of 54 or lower

And

Warmer Homes Scotland



And.....

Meet one of the following conditions:-

- Be aged 60 or over, have no working heating system and be in receipt of a **passport benefit**
- Be aged over 75 and in receipt of a **passport benefit**
- Pregnant and / or have a child under 16 and in receipt of a **passport benefit**
- Have a disability and be in receipt of any level of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independent Payment
- Be a carer in receipt of Carers Allowance
- Have been injured or disabled serving in the Armed Forces and be in receipt of Armed Forces Independence Payment/War Disablement Pension
- Have an injury or disability from an accident or disease caused by work and be in receipt of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Warmer Homes Scotland



Who is eligible? **NB eligibility as at 14 October 2015**

Passport benefits are:-

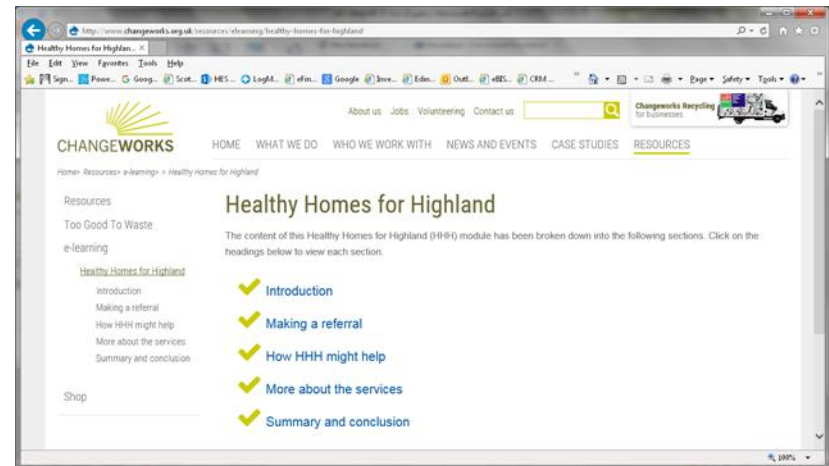
- Guarantee element of the Pension Credit
- Attendance Allowance
- Universal Credit or any of the benefits due to be replaced by Universal Credit (Income Based JSA, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit)
- Council Tax Reduction
- Carer's Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Armed Forces Independence Payment
- War Disablement Pension
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Partnership working

- Healthy Homes for Highland
- Local groups and networks
- Age Concern
- Highland Affordable Warmth Partners' Group
 - developing reports for Community Planning
- Scottish Rural Fuel Poverty Task Force

Healthy Homes for Highland

- Help most vulnerable access a **range** of affordable warmth services through the support of trusted intermediaries
- E-learning tool to help staff understand more about Healthy Homes for Highland, its benefits and how to refer clients



<http://www.changeworks.org.uk/resources/elearning/healthy-homes-for-highland>

Healthy Homes for Highland

How to refer

- Help your client call 0808 808 2282 and mention Healthy Homes
- Use Referral Cards
- Refer on line



The card is titled "HEALTHY HOMES for HIGHLAND" and "Dachannan Fallain airson na Gàidhealtachd". It is divided into three steps:

- STEP 1:** "By completing this card you have agreed for your details to be passed on to the HEALTHY HOMES for HIGHLAND partner* to provide the advice and assistance you have requested."
 - Making your home warmer and ways to reduce your fuel bills (including free or grant funded improvements)?
 - Getting more income from tax credits and benefits?
 - Money issues including dealing with problems of debt?
 - How your home could be made safer for you - including free smoke alarms?
- STEP 2:** "WOULD YOU LIKE HELP AND ADVICE ON:"
- STEP 3:** A form for personal details:
 - First Name: _____
 - Surname: _____
 - Address: _____
 - Postcode: _____
 - Telephone: _____
 - Name of Referring Officer: _____
 - Contact number/email: _____
 - Name of Referring Service: _____
 - Preferred contact time e.g. Thursday 2pm: _____

Additional text on the card includes: "You have been referred to the HEALTHY HOMES for HIGHLAND partnership.", "You will be contacted very soon with energy advice or fire safety advice.", "The partners on the local Home Energy Scotland advice centre, the Highland Council, Highland Council and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.", "For further information please call: 0808 808 2282 Freephone", and "Referred by: _____".

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/997/housing_advice/529/healthy_homes_for_highland

How might you help address fuel poverty In Caithness?

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