



Energy Summit Will Leave Poorest Families Out in the Cold

Commenting on plans to help families manage rising energy bills Family Action Head of Policy and Campaigns Rhian Beynon said:

“These latest Government initiatives on energy prices will leave the poorest families out in the cold. Plans to encourage consumers to switch to Direct Debits to pay energy bills will do nothing to help the most vulnerable families who face the daily choice of heating their home or putting food on the table. Some of the most vulnerable families we work with do not have bank accounts because they don’t have the income coming in to afford them. Families choosing between heating and eating will find no comfort in these measures. They need financial support from the welfare system to help them heat their homes not empty words which are meaningless to them.”

Ends

Notes to Editor

The proportion of low income households without a bank account is 5%. If Post Office Card Accounts are not included this figures rises to 11%

<http://www.poverty.org.uk/73/index.shtml>

About Family Action

Family Action has been a leading provider and services to disadvantaged and socially isolated families since 1869. We work with over 45,000 children and families a year by providing practical, emotional and financial support through over 100 services based in communities across England. A further 150,000 people benefit from our educational grants and information service.