

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Children in Scotland welcomes new social tariff from Scottish Gas**

**Children in Scotland welcomes the announcement today that Scottish Gas will introduce Scotland’s largest social tariff, designed to lower gas and electricity bills for up to 140,000 customers defined by the government as vulnerable.**

Paula Evans, policy officer, Children in Scotland, said: “This is a significant step forward that we hope will benefit the thousands of children and families in Scotland living in fuel poverty. However, we want to find out more about exactly who is set to benefit.”

Children in Scotland has been part of a network of organisations working together since January 2005 to campaign for measures to eradicate fuel poverty among children living in Scotland. Current figures show that the recent fuel price increases have raised the number of children living in fuel poverty in Scotland to over 100,000 – more than double that found in the last household survey four years ago.

In Child Poverty Action Group’s Poverty: the facts, half of low income families blame the “cold, damp and draughty” nature of their homes for their children’s ill health; the same report also found that nearly 1 in 5 of single parent families live in fuel poverty.

Scottish and Southern Energy already have a discounted package for vulnerable customers and Children in Scotland would call on other major suppliers in Scotland to follow suit.

**Notes for editors:**

- Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provisions are of the best possible quality and able to meet the needs of a diverse society.