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MEDIA INFORMATION

PAYING THE PRICE OF BEING POOR

Low income households face extra costs for fuel, financial services and the costs of education according to a new report launched today.

Paying the Price of Being Poor looks at what should be done to help low income households who are penalised simply because they do not have buying power.

Director of the think tank, the Bevan Foundation, and author of the report, Victoria Winckler, said ~~More~~ More and more households are facing tough times in the recession. Managing on a low income is made harder because gas and electricity companies, as well as banks and other financial services, favour people who pay by direct debit or who are in regular jobs.

The Bevan Foundation worked with Consumer Focus Wales, National Energy Action Cymru and Save the Children Cymru to come up with its

recommendations. Key findings showed a need for the Welsh Assembly

Government to:

- Reduce the cost of school uniforms
- Create guidance on fair debt collection
- Provide new ways to pay energy bills

The report is launched 12:30pm on Tuesday 17th November at the Senedd.

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Note to Editors:

1. The Bevan Foundation is a think tank concerned with social justice in Wales and registered charity no. 1104191
2. ~~Paying the Price of Being Poor~~ will be launched at 12:30pm on Tuesday 17th November 2009 in the Media Briefing Room of the Senedd, Cardiff Bay. Hard copies of the report will be available at the event. Alternatively you may download the report from www.bevanfoundation.org
3. Brian Gibbons AM will be chairing the launch.
4. For Further information on the Bevan Foundation please see our website . www.bevanfoundation.org