

Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

This assessment has applied the interim guidance from Scottish Government available online at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/6918/2>

Name of Proposal	Child Poverty Local Action Report
Lead Department/Service	Strategic Policy and Planning

What is the aim of the proposal?

Every Child, Every Chance – the national Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan - clearly sets out the drivers of child poverty and priority groups who were at higher risk of child poverty. In 2017 Scottish Government passed the Child Poverty Act and made it a statutory requirement for Local Authorities in partnership with Local Health Boards to produce a Child Poverty Local Action Report.

Stage 1 – Planning – Is this proposal/decision strategically important or not?

Plans are required to be presented to the Scottish Government by local authorities and NHS Health boards, but we know that solving poverty requires collaborative working across a range of partnerships. This plan should be read in conjunction with Every Child, Every Chance, The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22, which was published on 29 March 2018 at www.gov.scot/everychild

The Child Poverty Action Report is also aligned to the Fairer Scotland duty to pay due regard to reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

YES – Begin the Fairer Scotland assessment process during development of the proposal. Move to Stage 2.	NO – There is no requirement for a Fairer Scotland assessment. Move to Stage 5.
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Stage 2 – Evidence

What evidence do you have about socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in relation to this issue or decision?

Is it possible to gather new evidence, involving communities of interest?

Notes

'socio-economic disadvantage' means living on a low income compared to others in Scotland, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services. Socio-economic disadvantage can be experienced in both places and communities of interest, leading to further negative outcomes such as social exclusion.

As part of the report we have created a poverty profile which underpins the mapping work. Key statistics include:-

- Child poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of the children who experience it. A 2013 study found that child poverty in the UK was costing at least £29 billion a year.
- Data for the period 2014-17 suggests 230,000 children were living in poverty in Scotland. This is equivalent to one in every four children.
- In Scotland, around 7 in 10 children living in poverty live in a household where at least one adult is working, and 10% of children are living in persistent poverty.

- In Angus (after housing costs) we have 4,273 (19%) children living in poverty (2017) with the worst hit ward Arbroath East and Lunan. In this area 28.5% of children are living in poverty.

One of the key actions moving forward is to map the current employability services provided in Angus which will enable a shift in resource and economies of scale to be achieved.



Stage 3 – Assessment and Improvement

In discussion, consider: What are the main impacts of the proposal? How could the proposal be improved so it reduces or further reduces inequalities of outcome?

Over the past 6 months Angus Community Planning Partnership have developed a Child Poverty Working group to take forward this work – conducting the mapping of current and new activity, supporting practitioners to prioritise activity and organising a regional child poverty summit to co-produce the delivery plan. Due to the growing impact of child poverty the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act sets out four ambitious headline targets for 2030 that establish Scotland as the only part of the UK with statutory income targets on child poverty:

- Less than 10% of children are in relative poverty
- Less than 5% of children are in absolute poverty
- Less than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
- Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty

Here in Angus we are now putting poverty and wellbeing at the heart of all of our strategic work as a Community Planning Partnership. This has been seen with the locality approach to identify local challenges and ensure effective engagement with our communities.

Significant investment in the Early Years agenda in Angus will help to pave the way towards 'Getting it right for every child' from day 1 and links to the improved referral pathways identified by the NHS to ensure 100% take up of services for example baby boxes.

Further work is planned as part of the stage 4 mapping where short, medium and long term activities are planned out to achieve the targets set by the Scottish Government.



Stage 4 – Decision

This stage is for an appropriate officer to confirm that due regard has been paid. They should be satisfied the body has understood the evidence, considered whether the policy can narrow inequalities of outcome, considered improvements and the links to socio-economic disadvantage and equality.

This action report is aimed to reduce child poverty not just across Angus but across the whole Tay area. This Local Action Plan for Angus outlines the challenges faced, how this plan links to existing activity, what we intend to do over the 2019/20 financial year and some areas we would like to explore further in the future.

Between 1st April and 30th June 2019, we will produce a report detailing our progress against this action plan. This will be submitted to the Scottish Government, and to a newly created Poverty & Inequality Commission, for external scrutiny of our progress.

Locally to ensure accountability of actions and delivery it has been agreed that the Child Poverty Local Action Plan will be progressed and monitored through the Angus Integrated Children's Services Group. This group aims to co-ordinate and integrate actions across all children's services. In addition, actions that can be delivered across the Tay area will be co-ordinated through the Tay Children's Collaborative. As an interim process the Child Poverty working Group will also remain for 6 months.

	Prepared By	Reviewed By:	Approved By:
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