

ANGUS COUNCIL

5 NOVEMBER 2020

ANGUS JOINT CHILD POVERTY LOCAL ACTION REPORT

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG – DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

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. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 was introduced to set targets relating to the eradication of child poverty; to make provision about plans and reports relating to the targets; and to establish the Poverty and Inequality Commission . In order to tackle this growing challenge the legislation requires each Local Authority and relevant Health Board to jointly prepare and publish an annual local child poverty action report. This report presents to Council for approval the Angus Child Poverty Local Action Report 2020.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Angus Council:

- (i) Approve the Angus Joint Child Poverty Local Action Report 2020 prepared in partnership across Angus

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

The contents of the Angus Joint Child Poverty Local Action Report 2020 are aligned with the Angus Community Plan 2017-2030.

3. BACKGROUND

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

Due to the growing impact of child poverty the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out four ambitious headline targets for 2030 that establish Scotland as the only part of the UK with statutory 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

For over a year the Angus Community Planning Partnership's (ACPP's) Child Poverty Working group have been taking forward this work – conducting mapping of current and new activity and supporting practitioners to prioritise activity.

This Child Poverty Local Action Report covers the period April 2019 to July 2020 and therefore includes additional work undertaken to support local people during the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

4. CURRENT POSITION

The Angus Community Planning Partnership have committed to putting poverty and wellbeing at the heart of all of its strategic work.

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 this links to the improved referral pathways identified by the NHS to ensure 100% take up of services, for example, baby boxes.

Through the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families the Council's work as part of the Tayside Children's Service Collaborative (Report 331/18 refers) has also committed partners to work together to reduce the impact of poverty on our children, young people and families. We are therefore working to tackle child poverty at both a county wide and regional level.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act introduced the requirement for local authorities and each relevant Health Board to jointly prepare and publish a Child Poverty Local Action Report. This report, alongside the mapping, sets out the background and current picture in Angus, what actions are being taken to tackle each of the three drivers of poverty and our planned way forward.

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

5. PROPOSALS

The Child Poverty Local Action Plan is split into the three drivers of poverty:-

- Income from Employment
- Reducing the Cost of Living
- Income from social security benefits and benefits in kind

This model is aligned to the guidance received from Scottish Government and has allowed us to prioritise the actions within the mapping. Key activities identified include maximising income from benefits, improving referral pathways within health so that children and families receive the support they need, holiday initiatives to ensure young people have healthy activities and COVID-19 specific interventions to ensure local people have the support they need.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications are identified within the mapping however the majority of actions will be delivered within existing budgets and with existing resources or through the securing of additional funding streams.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There is a regional implication for this work following the 2019 Child Poverty Summit where a number of regional actions were identified. They will be taken forward as part of the Tay Collaborative for Children, Young People and Families.

8. CONSULTATION

To prepare the report significant consultation has been carried with partners within regards to monitoring local activity, planned activity and the report itself.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Every Child, Every Chance, The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22

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List of Appendices:

- Child Poverty Local Action Report 2020