

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:-

- The largest falls in poverty rates seen in the past 20 years have been among the older population and children. But despite improvements over time, children remain the most at-risk group in terms of poverty, with rates far above average, followed by working-age adults with children
- 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 2019/20 highlights an increase in poverty across Scotland. In Angus there have been increases in workless households, unemployment and

referrals for food banks.

- The Scottish Government's current programme of building 50,000 affordable homes with 35,000 for social rents is a direct response to tackle poverty. In Angus the new Housing Strategy aims to support local people and puts poverty at the heart of key actions.
- 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.
- The Scottish Government published Every child, every chance (the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan) (Scottish Government, 2018). In its first annual progress report on the plan, the Scottish Government (2019) acknowledged that it is still early days but most of the actions set out in the plan have been carried out or are in progress.
- Overall, poverty was lower in 2015–18 than it was in 1999–2002, but since 2009–12, poverty rates have started to shift upwards.
- Working-age people without children have not seen much change in their poverty rate over time. The poverty rate for this group tends to be lower than for other sections of the population, but there are notable exceptions – demonstrated by the high rates of destitution for single men under the age of 25.



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?

The Child Poverty Working group are in place to take forward the Community Planning priority 'Reduce Child Poverty'. In order to do so this group have conducted a mapping exercise of current and new activity, supporting practitioners to prioritise activity. The group activities are underpinned by the four ambitious headline targets for 2030 set by Scottish Government as part of the Child Poverty Act:

- 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

Looking ahead, Scotland must accelerate progress towards meeting the child poverty targets and address the factors that are threatening to lock more families in poverty and push poverty rates up to historic highs.



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 2020/21 financial year and what has happened during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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.

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