

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**ANGUS COUNCIL - 8 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - 27 OCTOBER 2022**

**ANGUS JOINT CHILD POVERTY LOCAL ACTION REPORT: OUR BRIGHT FUTURES**

**REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG – DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ABSTRACT**

Child poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of the children who experience it. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 was introduced to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up and live. In order to tackle this growing challenge Scottish Government have requested each Local Authority and associated Health Board produce a Joint Child Poverty Local Action Plan. This report presents to Council for approval the Angus Community Planning Partnership's (ACPP's) Child Poverty Local Action Report 2021/22 and Action Plan 2022/23; and for Scrutiny and Audit Committee, to review and scrutinise.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 It is recommended that Angus Council:-

- (i) Review and approve the Angus Joint Child Poverty Local Action Report 2021/22 and Action Plan 2022/23 prepared in partnership across Angus
- (ii) Note the change of name from Angus Joint Child Poverty Local Action Report to 'Our Bright Futures Report'.

1.2 It is recommended that Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) review and scrutinise the Angus Joint Child Poverty Report 2021/22 and Action Plan 2022/23.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLANS**

The contents of the Local Child Poverty Action Report are aligned with the Angus Community Plan 2017-2030 and Council Plan 2020 - 2024.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The challenge remains for our children and their families struggling in the context of inequalities like child poverty with low income, poor quality housing, lack of social and economic opportunity and the impact of mental health, substance use and domestic abuse affecting communities. Covid-19 has made these already significant difficulties more pronounced.

3.2 In addition to this, the current Cost of Living Crisis and challenges around increasing fuel prices have put significant pressure on our families. The action plan outlines actions to help support our communities through this period of uncertainty.

3.3 Scottish Government recently published the Best Start, Bright Futures Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26 which sets out the interim targets for 2023/24 with final targets to be met by 2030 aligning with timescales for Scotland to Keep The Promise. These final targets are noted below: -

- 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

This is a summary report covering the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 which has brought our year 4 report back in line with Scottish Government reporting periods.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The Angus Community Planning Partnership have committed to put addressing poverty and wellbeing at the heart of all our strategic work.
- 4.2 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced the requirement for local authorities and each relevant Health Board to jointly prepare an annual Child Poverty Local Action Report. This report sets out the measures taken in the area of the local authority during the reporting year for the purpose of contributing to the meeting of the child poverty targets. This report, alongside the action plan, 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.
- 4.3 This plan should be read in conjunction with The Angus Promise Plan 2021-24 which focuses on the specific needs of children, young people and families who are on the edges of the care system, in the system or have moved on to independence.

#### **5. PROPOSALS**

The Child Poverty Local Action Report 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;

- increased engagement with local people,
- maximising income from benefits,
- improving access to services,
- referral pathways within health so that children and families receive the support they need, and
- holiday initiatives to ensure young people have healthy activities.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

All financial implications are identified within the mapping however the majority of actions will be delivered within existing budgets or through securing additional funding. As such there are no additional financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations in this report.

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There is a regional implication for this work through the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) delivered in partnership across the three Local Authority areas of Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross, along with NHS Tayside. This work is delivered alongside the Child Poverty Action Report to deliver on the priorities contained in The Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and families. The five priority areas are

- Pre-Birth and Early Years
- Learning and Attainment
- Health and wellbeing
- Looked after children, care leavers and young carers
- Safeguarding and child protection

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An Equality Impact Assessment and Fairer Scotland Duty assessment has been carried and is attached.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

To prepare the report significant consultation has been carried out 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.
- The Angus Promise Plan 2021-24.

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List of Appendices:

- Our Bright Futures Report 2021/22
- Our Bright Futures Action Plan 2022/23



## Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

### Step 1

**Name of Proposal** (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions): Child Poverty Local Action Report

### Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment No

**(A)** If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people Yes

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics No

(iii) It is for information only No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year No

(v) It is technical Yes

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

**(B)** If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment Yes

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Yes

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

### Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service: Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

The Local Child Poverty Action Report is a statutory requirement linked to the Child Poverty Act 2017

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

This proposal aims to highlight the links to this work and the wider equalities agenda.

(iv)Is it a new proposal?      No      Please indicate      OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function?      Yes Please indicate: Annual Report

### Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees	Yes
Job Applicants	No
Service users	Yes
Members of the public	Yes

### Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

**Internal data** (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

As part of this summary year 3 report a lot of work has been done with local communities to ensure their views are part of the wider service planning. We have also through the Child Poverty steering group engaged with local partners and statutory organisations.

Hard Edges Report – <https://lankellychase.org.uk/resources/publications/hard-edges-scotland/>

Income from Employment assessment - [https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_priorities/reducing\\_child\\_poverty?page\\_id=863](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_priorities/reducing_child_poverty?page_id=863)

Cost of Living Assessment –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_priorities/reducing\\_child\\_poverty?page\\_id=864](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_priorities/reducing_child_poverty?page_id=864)

Income from Social security benefits Assessment –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_priorities/reducing\\_child\\_poverty?page\\_id=865](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_priorities/reducing_child_poverty?page_id=865)

Regional Skills Assessment -

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_priorities/reducing\\_child\\_poverty](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_priorities/reducing_child_poverty)

Child Poverty Report 2020 –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/agenda\\_item\\_no\\_8\\_report\\_no\\_26820\\_angus\\_joint\\_child\\_poverty\\_local\\_action\\_plan\\_appendix\\_1](https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/agenda_item_no_8_report_no_26820_angus_joint_child_poverty_local_action_plan_appendix_1)

Community Plan Annual Performance Report (Reducing Child Poverty is a priority) –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/angus\\_community\\_plan\\_annual\\_performance\\_report\\_20192020](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/angus_community_plan_annual_performance_report_20192020)

**Internal consultation** (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

Service Design sessions were held as the new approach to service planning which flagged up poverty and how we address it. The Council Plan also highlights how we as a Council have an aspiration to eradicate poverty as part of the Strategy on a Page.

Angus Council Plan –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/council\\_information/plans\\_policies\\_and\\_strategies/council\\_plan\\_2019\\_2024](https://www.angus.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/plans_policies_and_strategies/council_plan_2019_2024)

**External data** (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

Hard Edges Report - <https://lankellychase.org.uk/resources/publications/hard-edges-scotland/>

National Childrens Bureau - <https://www.ncb.org.uk/resources/major-reports>

Child Poverty Action Group – <https://cpag.org.uk/>

Joseph Rowntree Reporting - [https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/budget-2018-tackling-rising-tide-work-poverty?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsLWDBhCmARIsAPSL3\\_1VRhxE\\_JK9B5rkQS7pYj-Ph5yBhW-Hiltf11NEHAWsdujLnqBNPH0aAjuEEALw\\_wcB](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/budget-2018-tackling-rising-tide-work-poverty?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsLWDBhCmARIsAPSL3_1VRhxE_JK9B5rkQS7pYj-Ph5yBhW-Hiltf11NEHAWsdujLnqBNPH0aAjuEEALw_wcB)

[https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/budget-2018-tackling-rising-tide-work-poverty?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsLWDBhCmARIsAPSL3\\_1VRhxE\\_JK9B5rkQS7pYj-Ph5yBhW-Hiltf11NEHAWsdujLnqBNPH0aAjuEEALw\\_wcB](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/budget-2018-tackling-rising-tide-work-poverty?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsLWDBhCmARIsAPSL3_1VRhxE_JK9B5rkQS7pYj-Ph5yBhW-Hiltf11NEHAWsdujLnqBNPH0aAjuEEALw_wcB)

**External consultation** (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

Citizens Survey: Forms the basis of our local consultation due to COVID restrictions –

<https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2020-06/Info%20Report%20Citizens%20Survey%20Schedule%201.pdf>

<https://angushousingblog.wordpress.com/2019/09/30/smoothing-the-hard-edges-community-event-in-arbroath/>

**Other** (general information as appropriate).

The Child Poverty Action Report is underpinned by local information, this has been supplemented by recent data on the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the plan there are details of investment, statistics and testimonials as to why the activity will take place for example - £1 million has been allocated through the Tay Cities Deal for rural broadband which will help us to support the expansion of broadband infrastructure to help Angus businesses to compete globally and improve accessibility for our citizens.

### **Step 6: Evidence Gaps.**

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold?      Yes

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

A geographic breakdown of poverty linked to our populations ethnic breakdown  
Equalities programmes delivered within a health setting

**Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups?** Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.**

A lot of work has been done to ensure that people are put at the centre of all the work we do. Sessions were held throughout the Council with these themes:-

- Continuing to care for our people (citizens and colleagues)
- Acknowledging our core role is to serve
- Working more collaboratively across the organisation and with partners, to best serve our public
- Developing our culture of honesty and integrity to build trust
- Demonstrating and operating with respect for others
- Treating people fairly and with equity

Age

### **Impact**

Positive - Additional investments will support the priorities – To reduce child poverty, improve mental health and wellbeing and Improve accessibility and connectivity.

Disability

### **Impact**

Positive - Additional engagement on access to services will support those with disabilities

Gender reassignment

**Impact**

Positive – Greater alignment of services will support those undergoing gender reassignment

Marriage and Civil Partnership

**Impact**

No impact

Pregnancy/Maternity

**Impact**

Positive – Specific actions within the action plan focus on ensuring those entitled to benefits and baby boxes etc have access

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

**Impact**

Positive – all actions are available and accessible to all residents of Angus

Religion or Belief

**Impact**

Neutral – all actions are available and accessible to all residents of Angus

Sex

**Impact**

Positive There is a project which involves services to support women (see Step 12). The transport initiative will also have a greater positive impact on women, as statistically women use bus services more than men.

Sexual orientation

**Impact**

Neutral – all actions are available and accessible to all residents of Angus

**Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected**

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

A big part of this year's report was the Angus Voices pilot. The Voice of Families is an ongoing project to design services to meet the needs of our communities ensuring that those directly affected by poverty had a say in the new services being designed. This was done using existing relationships with local people and established a working group in all Localities of interested parties. This gave local people the opportunity to discuss poverty related issues which then helped to inform and implement positive strategies for improvement.



Priority Groups - Some types of households with children are known to be at a particularly high risk of poverty. These include households with single parents, three or more children, disabled household members, of a minority ethnic background, with a child aged under one, or a mother aged under 25. These groups do not cover everyone at higher risk of poverty, but taken together, they cover the majority of households with children that are in poverty. These groups were part of the Listening events held.

**Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?**

Alongside the development of the Child Poverty Action Report is a communications plan which outlines the requirements of the report and statutory responsibilities placed on ourselves and NHS Tayside. A wide range of consultation has been carried out which ensures this is a co-produced document which again limits risk.

**Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.**

The Child Poverty Action Report is in place to support those in poverty therefore no negative impacts have been identified.

**Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?**

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](http://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.

**Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?**

Within the action plan there are actions focused around mitigation and alleviation which very much link to those in poverty – our data suggests those in our Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation are based in areas of Arbroath, Forfar and Brechin. These statistics are linked to poor attainment and malnutrition therefore the work identified in the plan are whole family interventions. This work is also linked to 2 pilot projects underway focusing on Transport poverty and services to support women.

**Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

### **Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?**

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.

### **Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.**

A geographic breakdown of poverty linked to our populations ethnic breakdown – Through ongoing engagement work we will aim to increase opportunities to engage with this group.

Equalities programmes delivered within a health setting – new indicators are being embedded into NHS monitoring to capture the information required for Report 4 and onwards.

**Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings?** Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.**

**Low and/or No Wealth** (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future).

**Impact**

Positive Impact – Due to the nature of this report there will be a positive impact on those with low or no wealth as it includes interventions to maximise income through the drivers of poverty.

**Material Deprivation** (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

**Impact**

Positive Impact – Due to the nature of this report there will be a positive impact on those with material deprivation as it includes interventions to maximise income through the drivers of poverty, specifically around increasing income from employment, social security benefits and in kind.

**Area Deprivation** (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

**Impact**

Positive Impact – Due to the nature of this report there will be a positive impact on those with deprived due to the area they live as it includes interventions to maximise income through the drivers of poverty, specifically around increasing income from employment, social security benefits and in kind.

**Socio-economic Background** i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

**Impact**

Positive Impact – Due to the nature of this report there will be a positive impact on those with deprived due to their background as it includes interventions to maximise income through the drivers of poverty, specifically around increasing income from employment, social security benefits and in kind.

**Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.**

Please see the Child Poverty Local Action Report action plan as it outlines a series of activity to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

<http://bit.ly/2T4V26I>

**Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?**

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.

**Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?**

The Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment will be published alongside the Child Poverty Action Report on the Angus Council Website, NHS Tayside Website and available on request in a variety of formats as required.

**Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation.** Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Shelley Hague

Reviewed by: Doreen Phillips

Approved by: Mark Armstrong

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.

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