

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Operational Delivery Committee
DATE	13 th January 2021
REPORT TITLE	Child Poverty Action Report
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/21/009
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Derek McGowan
REPORT AUTHOR	Derek McGowan
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the Child Poverty Action report for 2019/20, as required by the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 approve the joint Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian Child Poverty Action Report 2019/20 for submission to the Scottish Government.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 (the Act) fully entered into force on the 1st July 2019. The Act sets out steps required by the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Health Boards to tackle child poverty. The Act identifies four definitions for poverty; identifies targets to be achieved by 2030, and a requirement for Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to agree a Child Poverty Action Plan, to be report to Scottish Ministers on this annually.

- 3.2 Poverty is defined in the Act under four different headings:

- Relative poverty
- Absolute poverty
- Combined low income and material deprivation
- Persistent poverty

- 3.3 At Operational Delivery Committee on the 17th September 2019, the Committee agreed to adopt the Local Outcome Improvement Plan as the Council's Child Poverty Action Plan for the years 2019-22.

4 Child poverty targets

- 4.1 Section 1 of the Act sets out targets that the Scottish Ministers must meet by 2030. These are that, of children living in households in Scotland:
- (a) less than 10% fall within relative poverty
 - (b) less than 5% fall within absolute poverty
 - (c) less than 5% fall within section 5 combined low income and material deprivation
 - (d) less than 5% fall within section 6 persistent poverty
- 4.2 Section 2 of the Act sets out Interim targets, that must be met by the Scottish Ministers in the financial year beginning with 1 April 2023. These are, that, of children living in households in Scotland—
- (a) less than 18% fall within relative poverty
 - (b) less than 14% fall within absolute poverty
 - (c) less than 8% fall within combined low income and material deprivation
 - (d) less than 8% fall within persistent poverty
- 4.3 These measures cannot yet be defined at a Local Authority level. However, the most recent data [available](#) suggests that in Aberdeen 21.5% of children are living in poverty, defined as ‘below 60% median income after housing costs’. This is reducing, having reached 22.8% in 2016/17. This demonstrates that the positive steps being taken by the Council and partners in tackling child poverty are having an impact.

5 Local Child Poverty Action Reports

- 5.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 (the Act) requires each Local Authority and NHS Board to publish a Child Poverty Action Report (CPAR) and undertake annual monitoring and reporting to demonstrate progress against agreed targets.
- 5.2 A local child poverty action report must describe any measures taken in the area of the local authority during the reporting year by the local authority and each relevant Health Board for the purpose of contributing to the meeting of the child poverty targets, and measures that are proposed to be taken to meet these targets.
- 5.3 Additionally, a local child poverty action report must describe any income maximisation measures taken in the area of the local authority during the reporting year to provide pregnant women and families with children with—
- a) information, advice, and assistance about eligibility for financial support,
 - b) and assistance to apply for financial support; and any measures taken during the reporting year, or which are proposed to be taken, in the area of the local authority in relation to children living in households whose income

is adversely affected, or whose expenditure is increased, because a member of the household has one or more protected characteristics.

6 Scrutiny of the targets.

- 6.1 The Act states that progress against these targets will be scrutinised nationally by the Poverty and Inequality Commission. However, at a local level it is the responsibility of the Local Authority and Health Board to publish, as soon as practical after the end of each financial year, a report on progress locally. The submission of this report is later than anticipated this year, this is due to the focus on responding to Covid-19 and the late availability of some data sets required to provide a more comprehensive view of work that has been undertaken.

7 Child poverty in Aberdeen.

- 8.1 The most recent Strategic Needs Assessment identifies that around 5500 children in Aberdeen are living in poverty. The priority around child poverty is also monitored through the Integrated Children's Services plan.
- 8.2 As stated earlier in this report, the most recent data suggests that in year 2018/19, 21.5% of children living in Aberdeen were living in poverty, defined as 'below 60% median income after housing costs'. A key tool in identifying local measures required to tackle this is the Population Needs Assessment (PNA). The current PNA will be refreshed in early 2021 to inform the refresh of the LOIP. This will provide an opportunity to look afresh at poverty in all its forms across the City and ensure that the correct partnership approaches and measures are being taken to address the issue.
- 8.3 Due to the Act requiring joint reporting, this report consists of two separate submissions. The first, at Appendix A, is the joint Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian report for Aberdeen City, and this details the service level work that has been ongoing to tackle child poverty locally. The second report is the Annual Report on Aberdeen's Local Outcome Improvement Plan. This is the first annual report on the LOIP and demonstrates the partnership work being delivered to tackle child poverty locally.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The financial implications relating to this report stem from failure to achieve the outcomes sought for children and families across the City. Public services face significant challenges on expenditure currently, with financial projections indicating that these pressures will remain. Demand management is a key driver in helping meet these challenges, and failing to address child poverty may mean that costs associated with child poverty do not reduce, adding to projected pressures in coming years.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The preparation and publication of the CPAR fulfils Aberdeen City Council's duty to produce a Local child Poverty Action Report under section 13 of the Act .

11. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	Risk relates to non-achievement of targets long term and failing to reduce demand through early intervention in key drivers. Failure to achieve the outcomes desired will mean residents requiring support from public agencies for longer.	M	Joint working and multi-agency service redesign to identify appropriate measures.
Legal	Risk relates to failure to comply with statutory requirements	L	Provision of the LOIP as Aberdeen City Child Poverty Action Plan; annual reporting.
Employee	None	L	
Customer	Failure to meet statutory targets	L	This work will improve outcomes for children and families across the City.
Environment	Risk as opportunity	L	Meeting the LOIP outcomes will improve the environment for children.
Technology	None	L	
Reputational	Risk relates to failure to meet the statutory targets.	L	Meeting the LOIP outcomes.

12. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	This report demonstrates the positive range of work being undertaken at service and partnership level to improve the quality of life for families and children in poverty.

Prosperous People	This report demonstrates the positive range of work being undertaken at service and partnership level to improve the quality of life for families and children in poverty.
Prosperous Place	This report demonstrates the positive range of work being undertaken at service and partnership level to improve the quality of life for families and children in poverty.
Enabling Technology	

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	This report demonstrates the priority being given to children in poverty. Children are our current and future customers and improvement made here will impact on their whole lives.
Organisational Design	<p>The TOM design allows for work on child poverty to be delivered in several Clusters, as well as through strategic work such as the LOIP, Local Development Plan and Local Housing Plan.</p> <p>The focus on Early Intervention in tackling poverty clearly manifests in work undertaken by Early Intervention and Community Empowerment; Integrated Children and Family Services; Capital; Corporate Landlord and Place Planning.</p>
Governance	This relates to the tracking of the outcomes, which will be undertaken through existing scrutiny of the LOIP, and through Council governance structures at annual intervals.
Workforce	As we move to the final Target Operating Model in March 2021, roles and responsibilities will be checked to ensure work around poverty is relevant.
Process Design	As new methods of undertaking work are identified processes will be updated and normalised to ensure children and families in poverty benefit.
Technology	As new methods of undertaking work are identified processes will be updated and normalised to ensure children and families in poverty benefit.
Partnerships and Alliances	As we are presenting the LOIP as the Child Poverty Action Plan, we are confident that partners across the City have been involved in the creation of this plan, and will be involved in delivering the outcomes identified.

13. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	There is no adverse impact on any protected characteristic.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	The aim of the LOIP is to improve outcomes for all. The Fairer Scotland Duty is considered against strategic decisions.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 [Committee report of 17th September 2019](#)

15. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Joint Aberdeen City and NHS Grampian Child Poverty report

Appendix B – [Annual Return on Aberdeen City LOIP 2019/20](#)

Appendix C – [Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#)

16. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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