

Aberdeen City

Local Child Poverty Action Report

2019 - 2020

Authors	Derek McGowan (Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment) Tracy Davis (Child Health Commissioner)
Ratified by NHS	
Ratified by LA	
Published	

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Foreword

The publication of our second, joint Local Child Poverty Action Plan, coincides with the remobilisation of services as we emerge from lockdown and begin to shape what will be a very different future. Working hard to reduce inequalities as a result of poverty has always been high on the public health and wellbeing agenda, but now more than ever, the impact of Covid-19 compels us to place an even greater urgency on the actions that we need to take to support our communities.

Tackling poverty and addressing inequalities requires a multiagency approach and we have strong relationships and shared values across our Community Planning Partnerships that enable this. The complex origins of poverty require us to be creative in our response and this presents us with opportunities to work in innovative ways with our voluntary sector colleagues too. We will be exploring opportunities across our organisations to support our staff, many of whom may be experiencing the impacts of poverty in their own lives. We want them to feel supported and secure, and to know where to turn to for help. We also want them to be well equipped to identify and respond appropriately to those in their care who are experiencing poverty.

The most important stakeholders in helping us to understand the impacts of poverty and informing our actions to address it are those experiencing it. Children and families have been less visible during lockdown, and for that reason we know that there is a lot for us still to understand about their experiences during that time. What has been particularly difficult for them? What are their fears for the future? What would help them the most? We are committed to listening to the voices of children, young people, and families to help us shape our response to tackling child poverty in Grampian and you will read about our plans within the report.

We are fully committed to eradicating child poverty by 2030. Indeed, **Every Child** does deserve **Every Chance**.

Caroline Hiscox
Chief Executive
NHS Grampian
Council

Angela Scott
Chief Executive
Aberdeen City

Introduction

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017¹ (the Act) sets out four interim income targets to be met by 2023, and four statutory targets to be met by 2030, encouraging Local Authorities and Health Boards to work towards those targets. The Act introduced a statutory requirement that Local Authorities and Health Boards must jointly produce an annual report and action plan that outlines the actions that they are taking, and will take, to reduce child poverty.

It is a complex task to measure poverty accurately and as such, four measures have been introduced to aid in measuring against the targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The targets are set on an 'after housing costs' basis; the income families have left after they have paid for their housing:

- **Relative poverty:** a child is in relative poverty if they live in a household where equivalised income for the financial year in question is less than 60 per cent of the median equivalised net income for that financial year.
Target: Less than 10% of children will live in households that are in relative poverty
- **Absolute poverty:** a child is in absolute poverty if they live in a household with an income below 60 per cent of the median equivalised net income in 2010–11.
Target: Less than 5% of children will live in households that are in absolute poverty.
- **Combined low income and material deprivation:** a child is in combined low income and material deprivation if they live in a household with an income below 70 per cent of the equivalised median net income for that year and are unable to afford a number of basic goods and services (material deprivation).
Target: Less than 5% of children will live in households with combined low income and maternal deprivation
- **Persistent poverty:** a child is in persistent poverty if they have been living in Scotland and in relative poverty for three of the past four years.
Target: Less than 5% of children will live in households in persistent poverty

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2017/6/contents/enacted>

Context

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, aligns with other statutory duties and local reporting requirements to support the direction towards tackling child poverty. The **Fairer Scotland Duty**² places an overarching statutory duty on public bodies to have due regard to exercising functions in such a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. The **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**³ (specifically Articles 3, 6, 12, 26 and 27) are of particular support to the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**⁴(UNCRC) is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world, coming into force in the UK in 1992. The vision and ambition to help children and young people experience their rights has been set out within the 'progressing the human rights of children in Scotland: 2018-2021 Action Plan'⁵. This includes raising awareness of children's rights and involving them in policy decisions.

Each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) must prepare and publish a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which sets out local outcomes as prioritised by the CPP, and in doing so is required to endeavour to reduce inequalities to outcomes that result in socio-economic disadvantage. This is a duty placed on CPP's under the **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**⁶. In September 2019, Aberdeen City Council adopted Community Planning Aberdeen's LOIP as the Child Poverty Action Plan for the years 2019-22. Equally, the **Education (Scotland) Act 2016**⁷ requires that education authorities must apply due regard to the need to carry out school functions in a way designed to reduce inequalities of outcome for those pupils experiencing them as a result of socio-economic disadvantage.

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-interim-guidance-public-bodies/pages/>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents/enacted>

⁴ <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

⁵ https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/progressing_human_rights_children_scotland.pdf

⁶ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/contents/enacted>

⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/8/contents/enacted>

Child Poverty in Aberdeen City

In 2019 Aberdeen City was home to 228,700 people, and of these 35,423⁸ (15.4%) were children aged from birth to age 16. There are 48 primary schools and 11 secondary schools, and as of March 2019 there were 542 Care experienced children and young people in the city. 93.2% of school leavers achieved a positive destination. Of Aberdeen City's 283 data zones 29 are in the 20% most deprived, which is 2.08% of the national share. 104, 7.45% of the national share, are in the 20% least deprived.

78.5% of the population aged over 16 are employed which is slightly higher than the Scotland comparison (74.5%), with average gross weekly pay (by place of residence) being £599.40; slightly higher than the Scottish average of £577.70. 19.4% of those over age 16 in Aberdeen City are 'economically inactive'. This includes students, those with long or short term illness, retired people, people looking after family or home, and those that may be discouraged from working. Of these, 24.6% want to be working and are actively seeking employment. There are 13,900 workless households in Aberdeen City, however the sample size is too small to give an accurate estimation as to the number of these households with a child (or children) up to the age of 16.

The most recent Strategic Needs Assessment identifies that around 5500 children in Aberdeen are living in poverty. A standard definition of child poverty means growing up in families without the resources to 'obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities' which are the norm in 21st century Scotland. Existing strategies to tackle poverty in Aberdeen include ['Towards a Fairer Aberdeen that Prospers for All 2017-2020'](#). This identifies a number of priorities that we have been tackling along with partners, placing an emphasis on a partnership approach. Activity against these priorities can be seen in our progress table later in this report. The [Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023](#) identifies six strategic outcomes including adequacy and improvement of housing supply; the prevention of homelessness; improvement in private sector renting, and reducing fuel poverty. These are supporting outcomes which create the right conditions for tackling child poverty through a focus on mitigation for all families.

⁸ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2019>

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)⁹ gives us some high level data that enables a comparison against certain indicators as a gauge of poverty over recent years. These cannot be mapped across as a direct measure against the targets in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, but can be used to monitor child poverty and its drivers at a local level.

Percentage of children living in poverty in 2017/18 by Parliamentary Constituency¹⁰	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs	Percentage change since 2016/17 (after housing costs)
Aberdeen Central	18%	22%	+3%
Aberdeen Donside	13%	15%	-4%
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	13%	14%	-3%

Values

NHS Grampian host a Child Poverty Working Group, chaired by the NHS Child Poverty Lead, with representation from the three Local Authorities. The objectives of the working group are to determine and manage child poverty actions that specifically relate to health that are deliverable on a Pan-Grampian basis, and to determine ways in which to support partnership delivery of actions against the wider impacts of poverty. In Aberdeen City the Tackling Poverty Action Group is chaired by Aberdeen City Council's Poverty Lead, with engagement and participation from NHS Grampian. The joint Child Poverty Action Report has passed through single agency and multiagency governance routes for ratification prior to publication. Within NHS Grampian the System Leadership Team have ratified and approved the plan. It also has the endorsement of both NHS Grampian and Local Authority Chief Executives.

Our joint Child Poverty Action Plan has been developed through the Community Planning Partnership, with a commitment from all partners to work together in tackling child poverty. Actions to address child poverty are also embedded throughout the LOIP. Specific child poverty actions are developed through the Tackling Poverty Action Group, which has good engagement from all Community Planning Partners, including the Third Sector. The Tackling Poverty Action Group is accountable to the Integrated Children's Services Board who has oversight of the LOIP as it relates to children and young people, and a responsibility to drive forward the integration of children's services.

⁹ https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/

¹⁰ <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2019/>

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)¹¹ is the national approach to supporting children and young people. It is intended as a framework that will enable organisations who work on behalf of children and their families to provide a consistent, supportive approach for all. GIRFEC is based on children’s rights and the principles reflected in the UNCRC¹². The aim is for children in Scotland to grow up feeling loved, respected and able to meet their full potential at home, at school and in the wider community. Every child and young person should be **Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included**. GIRFEC recognises that every child and young person is unique and that their wellbeing will be influenced by their own experiences and changing needs as they grow, therefore there are no set levels of wellbeing, but rather the provision of a framework by which to identify and address needs early. It is an approach that requires a united and integrated multiagency system, and is the foundation on which we develop our action plan to tackle child poverty in Grampian.

In February 2020 the Independent Care Review¹³ published a series of reports highlighted the strong link between poverty and looked after children, and the need for a systemic change in how we support families particularly by recognising and responding to the stresses of living in poverty. The **Promise**¹⁴ (and the **Pinky Promise**¹⁵ for younger readers) was informed by carefully listening to over 5,500 care experienced children and adults, families and the paid and unpaid workforce to properly understand what needs to change. The **Plan**¹⁶ outlines what we need to do to make sure that required change happens, and how Scotland can better invest in our children and families is reported in **The Money**¹⁷ and **Follow The Money**¹⁸. **The Rules**¹⁹ discuss the current legislative framework and how this must change to achieve the **Promise**. The Care Review identified foundations by which Scotland needs to focus its improvements to achieve better outcomes for children. One of these is ‘family’. Families reported the difficulties and stress cause by worrying about not having enough money to live on, often having to make very difficult choices between basic needs. These are very important reports and they should inform our local planning in response to addressing inequalities as a result of poverty.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>

¹² <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

¹³ <https://www.carereview.scot/conclusions/independent-care-review-reports/>

¹⁴ https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Promise_v7.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Pinky-Promise.pdf>

¹⁶ https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/The-Plan_pages.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/The-Money.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Follow-the-money.pdf>

¹⁹ https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/The-Rules_pages.pdf

Reflections on feedback for year one reports from the Poverty and Inequality Commission

In November 2019 the Poverty and Inequality Commission published their report following a review of the first set of LCPARs. 10 reports were selected to represent a range of local authority size, urban/rural coverage and rates of child poverty. There were several key areas that the Commission had a particular interest in; reference to the UNCRC, actions taken to support particular vulnerable groups (asylum seekers, homeless people, victims of domestic abuse for example), and how the reports are being communicated and disseminated.

The Commission was instructed to look for evidence of involving people with **lived experience**; not just whether or not the views of people with lived experience of poverty were being sought, but how their experience was being used to inform the development of local plans. Included in our priorities for 2020/21 are clear actions to capture the lived experience of children, young people and their families with regard to their experiences of poverty and within different contexts. We will take a strategic approach to ongoing engagement and will ensure that what we learn through the voice of lived experience is translated into action within our plans. To this end, a proportion of the annual Healthier, Wealthier Children funding allocated to Boards this year will be directed at enabling a research proposal through Robert Gordon University that will capture both women's experience, and professional's experience of the implementation of the Financial Inclusion Pathway. In addition, we have commissioned a project in partnership with CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East)²⁰ to capture the experience of children living in poverty across Grampian, and while the impact of COVID-19 will delay initial timescales, this work will be prioritised when it is safe to proceed.

Tackling child poverty is one of our key priorities and it is acknowledged that **leadership** at all levels is crucial to achieving this. The Commission assessed how this was reflected at local level. While it is important to align our action plans specifically to the drivers of child poverty and that the steps taken to achieve progress towards the outcomes are explicit and detailed, it is also important to ensure that child poverty is realised as a priority locally, and work to raise the profile of the child poverty agenda is supported at the most senior level within the organisation. The adoption of the LOIP in Aberdeen demonstrates the desire to tackle Child Poverty using a Community Planning approach.

²⁰ <https://www.cfine.org/>

Year One reports showed good contextual knowledge of child poverty across the local area. Strengths, challenges and opportunities were well defined. There are challenges being faced by all local authorities in that the four **data** measures used in relation to the targets are not available at local authority level. While there are various data sources that provide a proxy measure and build a picture of poverty at a local authority level, these do not correspond to the measures precisely. Recent ISD Data published in December 2019 shows the three local authority areas across Grampian faring much better than the Scottish average with regard to the percentage of children living in low income families. In Aberdeen, the most recent assessment is that 21.5% of children are living in poverty, defined as 'below 60% median income after housing costs'. This is however, not representative of those pockets of our communities where we know hidden poverty and 'in work' poverty exists.

There is no single preferred measure of child poverty locally, so in year one we used a range of data sources to build a picture of where low income families are likely located. It is felt that even with clear local measure/s it would be very difficult to influence using local levers alone as there are too many external influences (wider political and economic shifts, or pandemics for example) that would make it difficult to set a local target with any confidence. However, including monitoring and evaluation targets is important in helping us to respond accordingly if actions are not having the desired impact.

Through taking a **partnership** approach to producing a shared report and action plan we can make our aspirations to tackling child poverty clear, enabling shared needs assessment, shared priorities and the development of greater clarity around governance. In an endeavour to share best practice we are encouraged to reflect on the successes and challenges of working in partnership, and to include local experiences within our reports. We should also look beyond our local authority/ health board partnerships and to consider how we engage with third sector and private sector partners. The plans that we have for this year, to capture lived experience and to expand our Financial Inclusion Pathway, will further build on relationships with our third sector partners and will extend to wider corners across all organisations.

The commission identified four categories of actions within the first year plans.

1. Actions which are fundamental to tackling poverty and are very closely linked to the drivers (payment of the living wage, maximising uptake of benefits, advice on reducing food and energy costs).

In Grampian we have embedded a Financial Inclusion Pathway into practice through routine enquiry within the Universal Health Visiting and Family Nurse Pathway. This includes routine enquiry about finances at pre-birth, 11-14 days, 13-15

months and 4-5 years. This complements Aberdeen City Council's Financial Inclusion Team by providing services in routine settings.

We are working hard with pregnant women to reinforce the importance of attending for antenatal care, with the aim to increase the number of vulnerable mothers eligible and in receipt of the Best Start Maternity grant.

2. Actions which tackle child poverty but need a clearer articulation of how they do so (expansion of early years childcare, closing the attainment gap)

We are continuing to grow and sustain Making Every Opportunity Count (MEOC) as an overall approach across public and third sector partners in Grampian to support cultural shift - with everyone, every system and service doing a little to enable people to live as well as they can.

We are endeavouring to put in place an intelligence led and evidence based approach for the Pupil Equity Fund, so that the allocation of funding to schools will help close the poverty related attainment gap.

3. Supporting actions which create the right conditions for tackling child poverty (transport, availability of affordable housing)

Aberdeen has seen significant investment in our housing stock, with work beginning on the Council's 2000 new Council House programme, and almost £33m invested in Affordable and Mid-Market rent properties in the City during the year 2019/20.

4. Actions which do not directly tackle child poverty but are around the mitigation of poverty or focused on all families.

The development of plans for Aberdeen to be awarded Child Friendly City status.

Community benefit clauses in procurement activities requiring tenderers to commit to undertaking some form of social benefit in addition to the core purpose of the contract.

The total amount awarded through the Scottish Welfare Fund in the year was £892,215

Poverty is defined against the reasonable expectation that everyone should be able to meet their basic needs; which includes the need to be able to function as a citizen of society. Child poverty in Scotland is mainly due to causes, or drivers, partially or wholly outside a parents control and usually completely outside children's control. These include aspects of social security, income from employment and the costs of living.

COVID-19

As we plan and prepare our report and action plan we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic which is having an unprecedented impact on our country. Many families are experiencing extensive challenges, such as loss of employment and financial insecurity, less support and protection with regard to pre-existing vulnerabilities, and the additional strain that lockdown may have placed on family relationships. We know that the impact of these challenges will be felt far into the future as our families and communities take time to establish a new 'normal' and this will be reflected in our action and improvement plans for the coming year and beyond. The significant measures taken to support families through the response to this Pandemic will feature as part of next year's report, as they have almost all been delivered since 1st April 2020.

Progress Overview: 2019/20

The following templates provide an overview of progress against the actions that we said we would take to start tackling child poverty in year one. Feedback from the Poverty and Inequality Commission has been particularly helpful in enabling us to refine our approach and applying this to the development of our future plans.

The three main drivers of Child Poverty:²¹

Employment: Income from parent's work and earnings is not sufficient to lift them from poverty

Household costs: The costs of living that household have to cover are too high

Social Security: Income from social security, particularly for families with children, and is now inadequate to lift families from poverty

	On target and within timescales.
	Some risk to targets or timescales. Mitigation required.
	Significant risk to targets, timescales or objective. Requires escalation.

²¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/>

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
<p>Reinforce and promote the importance of attending for antenatal care, with the aim to increase the number of vulnerable mothers eligible and in receipt of the Best Start Grant</p> <p>Income maximisation teams to continue supporting people to claim for their eligible benefits.</p>	<p>Increased uptake of social security</p>	<p>NHS Grampian</p> <p>ACC Department of Work and Pensions</p> <p>Social Security Scotland</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>March 2020</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; text-align: center;">On Track</p>
Progress					
<p>A report on the take up of the Best Start Grant to the end of March 2020 gives an overview of high level statistics for the period December 2018 to December 2019; and for Best Start Foods (August 2019 to March 2020)²². 9,245 applications were received from households across the NHS Grampian - 6% of the total number of applications received. 69% of these were authorised. Quarterly figures are made available, however there is currently no function to compare each quarter.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council, Department for Work and Pensions, and Social Security Scotland have made £4.7million available to households in backdated benefit claims through the work of Income Maximisation Teams.</p>					

²² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-grant-and-best-start-foods-high-level-statistics-to-31-march-2020/>

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Promote the Neonatal Expenses Fund with the aim of identifying vulnerable parents who are eligible, so that they may can be supported so spend as much time as possible with their babies while they are receiving care in the neonatal unit.	Reducing the cost of living	NHS Grampian Friends of the Neonatal Unit	March 2022	March 2020	
Progress					
All parents who have a baby admitted to the neonatal unit are provided with the information that they require with regard to the Neonatal Expenses Fund. Through liaison within the clinical management structure, an application form has been included within the universal information pack provided to all families on admission. The aspiration for the future is to develop a mechanism for data collection, enabling an oversight of uptake of the fund and to use this information to further target promotion so that all vulnerable, eligible families can benefit.					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Provide more support to children and families in the earliest years through delivery of the Universal Health Visiting Pathway (UHVP) and Family Nurse Partnership Programme.	<p>Increased uptake of social security</p> <p>Reducing the cost of living</p>	NHS Grampian	March 2022	March 2020	
Progress					
<p>All Health Visitors and Family Nurses are talking to families about financial inclusion and income maximisation through routine enquiry within the UHVP. Generic email addresses have been set up with Financial Support Services in each of the three Local Authorities, and data requirements have been determined. There is still an Information Governance obstacle to overcome, in that NHSG IG have requested further information on the referral process and how information will be shared (with an agency external to NHSG).</p> <p>Health Visitors and Family Nurses feel that they would benefit from group workshops/ shared learning as to their experiences of implementation of the Financial Inclusion Pathway. This will present an opportunity to promote MEOC. Online training, events, updates will be added to the partnership websites.</p> <p>Online updates, training and shared learning opportunities will be applied to the NHSG website.</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
<p>Develop an intelligence led and evidenced based approach for the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF), so that the allocation of funding directly to schools will help to close the attainment gap</p> <p>Use of Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Funding totalling £ 635,732.56 to benefit those pupils in each of the 7 identified Challenge Schools</p> <p>Minimise the costs of the school day and maximise the uptake of free school meals and school clothing grants by eligible families.</p> <p>All schools to consider poverty proofing within their own unique context</p>	<p>Reducing the cost of living</p> <p>Income from Employment</p>	<p>Partnership Child Poverty Action Groups</p> <p>Social Security Scotland Education and Children's Services Social Security Scotland Local Authority Poverty Action Groups</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	<p>March 2020</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; text-align: center;">On Track</p>
Progress					
<p>Scottish Attainment Challenge (PEF) Funding totalling £ 2,845,080 has been used to benefit those pupils in receipt of free school meals. All schools analysing the poverty related attainment gap in their own context, and the impact of poverty on pupil attainment, to plan appropriate targeted interventions to address this. Around 2,400 children and young people across the city accessing targeted interventions in primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>7 SAC schools – 4 primary and 3 secondary utilising funding to minimise the impact of poverty on children and families and mitigate against its most adverse effects in respect of pupil attendance, engagement, attainment, opportunities and achievement.</p> <p>4 pledges have been agreed by the Education Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No child or young person will start school without a breakfast</i> • <i>All children and young people will have access to affordable school uniform and appropriate clothing for the North East</i> • <i>Costs will not prohibit the participation of children and young people in the life of the school</i> • <i>Parents, carers and children and young people will have easy access to financial advice</i> <p>A guidance leaflet has been developed for schools to inform thinking on how to reduce the cost of the school day.</p> <p>A visual guide on how DSM scheme will be influenced by the need to reduce the costs of the school day has also been developed.</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Continue to grow and sustain 'Making every Opportunity Count' (MeOC) at a Community Planning Partnership level	<p>Reducing the cost of living</p> <p>Increased uptake of social security</p>	All services within the Community Planning Partnership	March 2022	March 2020	
Progress					
<p>The aspiration is that MeOC be the framework by which conversations could be had about all aspects of Financial Inclusion. It was agreed that the ethos and principles of MeOC would provide the structure for the development of the Child Poverty Action Report, incorporating all that is being delivered.</p> <p>Opportunities to introduce the MeOC model have been identified, however there is still work to be done to roll it out more widely and embed it as a sustainable framework.</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Via Healthier, Wealthier Children: (Developing financial inclusion referral pathways in Scotland's funding plan) develop and implement a Midwifery and Early Years Practitioners pathway, policy and procedure to financial support services across Grampian.	Reducing the cost of living. Increased uptake of social security.	NHS Grampian Local Authority Poverty Action Groups Social Security Scotland	March 2021	March 2020	
Progress					
<p>Around £8k was allocated to NHSG through the Healthier, Wealthier Children's fund for 2018/19. This was used to fund Health Improvement staff to establish and implement the process, guidance, resources and governance for the Financial Inclusion Pathway. There is still an Information Governance obstacle to overcome, in that NHSG IG have requested further information on the referral process and how information will be shared (with an agency external to NHSG).</p> <p>An allocation of £22k has been issued for 2019/20. See planned actions for 2021/22 against the funding below.</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Working with national and local partners to support the Universal Credit provision, including the creation of an advice booklet; assisted digital learning through Libraries, and training of Housing staff to ensure knowledge of the system and its impact	Reducing the cost of living. Increased uptake of social security.	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian Department of work and Pensions Police Scotland Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) Social Security Scotland	March 2021	March 2020	
Progress					
Housing staff have been trained, an advice pack has been created and is available. Assisted Digital learning is being provided.					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Investment in Scottish Housing Quality Standard , including replacement window and insulation work to address fuel poverty in homes	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council	March 2021	March 2020	
Progress					
<p>The percentage of Aberdeen City households considered to be in fuel poverty is 21.1%. In 2018/19- 83.29% of homes met the Scottish Housing Quality Standards In 2018/19 245 new window installations were undertaken In 2018/19 299 new doors were installed</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
<p>Attainment and Transitions to Adulthood Improvement Group established to increase the number of young people living in priority areas who progress to a positive and sustained destinations</p> <p>Increase in the number of apprenticeships offered in priority areas</p>	Income from Employment	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p>	March 2021	March 2020	
Progress					
In 2017/18 91.5% of school-leavers went on to a sustained positive destination.					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
10,000 free meals will be provided to children through the award winning Food and Fun initiative	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council CFINE ACVO Community Groups	March 2021	March 2020	
Progress					
In 2018/19 the number of meals provided was 10,699					




Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Continue to expand the provision of free sanitary products	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian CFINE	March 2021	March 2020	
Progress					
The number of sites where free sanitary products can be accessed continues to grow.					

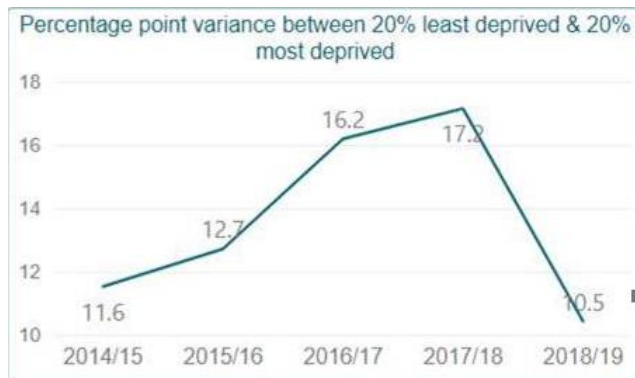
Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Development of UNICEF Child Friendly Cities accreditation programme	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian Police Scotland UNICEF	March 2021	March 2020	
Progress					
Action currently being refined with responsibilities shared across the partnerships.					

Activity undertaken	Partners involved in activity	Assessment criteria
Economy		
Support to those on, or transferring to, Universal Credit, and those on benefits.	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>NHS Grampian</p> <p>Department of work and Pensions</p> <p>Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE)</p> <p>Social Security Scotland</p>	<p>All Housing Officers trained in advising and supporting on Universal Credit issues.</p> <p>At the end of 2019/20 there were 3976 Council tenants on Universal Credit.</p> <p>Financial Inclusion Team assisted 154 new households with children and 89 households with children that were opened before 1 April 2019 to access unclaimed benefits. This enabled a cumulative gain of £652,096.51 for these households in 2019/2020.</p>
Investment in Scottish Housing Quality Standard, including replacement window and insulation work to address fuel	Aberdeen City Council	<p>21.1% of households are believed to be in fuel poverty in Aberdeen.</p> <p>Number of homes meeting SHQS – 2019/20 – 88.14% (19,252 properties)</p> <p>Number of replacement windows</p> <p>Windows: 2019/20 – 291 properties</p> <p>Heating systems – 1245 energy efficient heating systems installed</p>

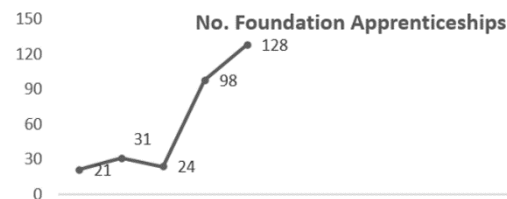
poverty in homes		Energy Efficient Standard for Scottish Housing (EESH) – 92.5% of properties within scope of EESH (20,285 are within scope)
Provision of Heat with Rent for Council Housing	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Heat and Power Ltd	Number of 2 bedroom or larger family homes benefitting from Heat with Rent – 1882
Use of Scottish Attainment Challenge (PEF) Funding totalling £ 2,845,080 to benefit those pupils in receipt of free school meals	Aberdeen City Council Third Sector partners School Communities	<p>All schools analysing the poverty related attainment gap in their own context, and the impact of poverty on pupil attainment, to plan appropriate targeted interventions to address this. All SAC plans quality assured by the central education quality team and by the Education Scotland Attainment Advisor.</p> <p>Around 2,400 children and young people across the city accessing targeted interventions in primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>The majority of city schools have implemented a range of interventions using PEF funding, some of these are targeted at specific pupils, others support a wider group. Many pupils, particularly in schools with high allocations of PEF funding, are accessing more than one intervention and it is therefore difficult to accurately identify which specific intervention has led to assessed improvements. In some cases, it is likely there has been a cumulative beneficial effect of several targeted interventions. Although this makes accurate evaluation and reporting more difficult, ultimately, of course, the result is positive for children and young people.</p> <p>Almost all schools report encouraging early evidence of improvements around mental health and wellbeing, resilience, emotional wellbeing and pupil engagement. As well as reference to specific data such as pupil attendance, schools report positive changes in areas such as improved pupil confidence in their own abilities and increased engagement in learning.</p>

		<p>The majority of schools are beginning to note improvements in attainment in literacy and numeracy for pupils targeted for specific interventions. In some schools this has led to a reduction in the poverty related attainment gap, as the rate of improvement for targeted pupils has outstripped others. This is particularly noticeable in the primary schools which also benefit from Scottish Attainment Challenge funding.</p> <p>Across the city there is evidence of the wider impacts associated with the additional funding. There has been an increase in collaborative working, both within and across schools and teachers planning and working together has contributed to the development of a more positive and collegiate ethos underpinned by the sharing of practice across individual schools and across Associated School Groups. In some cases, for example, this has included pooling of resources and collaborative working to source professional learning opportunities for staff on specific priorities e.g. The Visible Learning Approach.</p> <p>The majority of city schools have considered sustainability as part of their planning work, and this has led to a focus on building staff skills and capacity, sharing and embedding of practice, and improving use of data in planning and evaluation. However, it is recognised that the availability of additional resource has been key to achieving positive impacts, particularly for the most disadvantaged pupils.</p>
<p>Use of Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Funding totalling £ 635,732.56 to benefit those pupils in each of the 7 identified</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council Third Sector partners</p>	<p>7 SAC schools – 4 primary and 3 secondary utilising funding to minimise the impact of poverty on children and families and mitigate against its most adverse effects in respect of pupil attendance, engagement, attainment, opportunities and achievement.</p> <p>City schools have well-established relationships with a wide range of Third Sector partners, and we plan to continue to support and develop these partnerships to promote child and family learning. These include programmes such as breakfast clubs, designed to promote attendance and reduce lateness, activities to promote engagement and positive attitudes to learning, pupil counselling and family learning packages. Physical and mental health and wellbeing are fundamental to children and young people being able to engage fully with learning, as a result a number of partners are engaged in working with our schools to deliver programmes aimed at increasing confidence</p>

<p>Challenge Schools</p>		<p>& self-esteem, improving communication (talking & listening), improving literacy (reading & writing) and increasing motivation. A number of these focus on pupils participating in sporting activities, while others focus on developing social skills, supporting the wider family, establishing routines, offering practical advice and signposting other sources of support.</p> <p>There is evidence that some young children have delayed language acquisition and a subsequent need to ensure that we have a means of upskilling our workforce to address this. Our work with the PEEP (Parents as Early Educators) programme and recognises the importance of supporting parents in their vital role as early educators of their children. Post COVID-19 we will continue to work with our NHS colleagues to develop a shared, evidence-based approach to supporting the development of young children’s speech, language and communication skills.</p>
<p>Developing the Young Workforce</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p>	<p>Data for 2019/20 is not yet available. The tables below show the most recent data available.</p> <p> Variance Tables - Sustained Leaver De</p> <p> Variance Tables - Initial Leaver Destin:</p> <p> Positive Initial and Sustained Destinatic</p> <p>Attainment and Transitions to Adulthood Improvement Group established to increase the number of young people living in priority areas who progress to a positive and sustained destinations.</p>



Increase in the number of apprenticeships offered in priority areas



Children and Young People		
Provision of £1.6million Fairer Aberdeen Fund through Participatory Budgetting approach to support local organisations to deliver support to communities	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) Community groups	Annual returns on activities as required under grant agreements from the following projects: Cummings Park Community Flat Printfield Community Project STAR Community Flat Tillydrone Community Flat CFINE Tackling Food Poverty Middlefield Community Project Under 11s Middlefield Youth Flat Fersands Youth Work Fersands Family Centre Twos Group and Family Support Worker St Machar Parent Support Project Home Start CAB Money Advice Outreach CFINE SAFE Pathways St Machar Credit Union
Free meals provided to children through the award winning Food and Fun initiative	Aberdeen City Council CFINE ACVO Community Groups	2019-20: 10,732 meals provided
Continuing support for	Aberdeen City Council	Recommissioning of Big Noise Torry for the period 2020-26. At mid-March 2020, Big Noise Torry was engaging regularly with around 530 children and young people from the Torry

Big Noise Torry / SISTEMA programme	SISTEMA Scotland	<p>community. That included: around 15 babies/toddlers signed up to Little Noise; 125 Nursery children; 260 P1-3s receiving Big Noise sessions during the school day (including around 50 also participating in after-school); and 180 participating in the after-school club. An outline of the programme delivered is contained in the table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="696 379 1906 1078"> <tr> <td>Little Noise</td> <td>Weekly</td> <td>Babies and Carers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursery Sessions</td> <td>Weekly</td> <td>All children attending Walker Road and Tullos nursery classes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary 1-3 In-school sessions</td> <td>Twice Weekly</td> <td>All P1-3 children at Walker Road and Tullos primary schools</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional Support Classes</td> <td>Weekly</td> <td>Targeted at young people across the stages in primary school. Focus on developing literacy skills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Big Noise After-School Club</td> <td>Delivered Monday to Thursday weekly</td> <td>For young people from P3 – P7 from Walker Road and Tullos Primary Schools</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Big Noise Holiday Clubs</td> <td>Delivered Monday to Thursday weekly</td> <td>Open to all after-school participants for eight weeks during the spring, summer and October school holidays</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Priority Families Additional Support</td> <td>Ongoing support as and when required</td> <td>Targeted engagement with approximately 30 families to provide individual input / relationship building towards engagement.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult Orchestra</td> <td>Weekly</td> <td>For parents and community members in Torry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Volunteering Programme</td> <td>Ongoing</td> <td>Opportunities for adults from Torry community and across Aberdeen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aberdeen – Wide Holiday Programme</td> <td>Defined weeks within holiday programmes</td> <td>Extending the music education offer to children from across Aberdeen (working alongside the Big Noise Torry children)</td> </tr> </table>	Little Noise	Weekly	Babies and Carers	Nursery Sessions	Weekly	All children attending Walker Road and Tullos nursery classes	Primary 1-3 In-school sessions	Twice Weekly	All P1-3 children at Walker Road and Tullos primary schools	Additional Support Classes	Weekly	Targeted at young people across the stages in primary school. Focus on developing literacy skills	Big Noise After-School Club	Delivered Monday to Thursday weekly	For young people from P3 – P7 from Walker Road and Tullos Primary Schools	Big Noise Holiday Clubs	Delivered Monday to Thursday weekly	Open to all after-school participants for eight weeks during the spring, summer and October school holidays	Priority Families Additional Support	Ongoing support as and when required	Targeted engagement with approximately 30 families to provide individual input / relationship building towards engagement.	Adult Orchestra	Weekly	For parents and community members in Torry	Volunteering Programme	Ongoing	Opportunities for adults from Torry community and across Aberdeen	Aberdeen – Wide Holiday Programme	Defined weeks within holiday programmes	Extending the music education offer to children from across Aberdeen (working alongside the Big Noise Torry children)
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Provision of free sanitary products	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian CFINE	<p>Free sanitary products are available in all primary, secondary schools as well as Westburn and Craigelea Children’s Centre. In 2019/20, approximately 159,264 products were delivered to these sites.</p> <p>54 sites in total are providing access to free sanitary products.</p>																														

<p>Expansion of Early Years provision</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p>	<p>Number of Pupil Support Assistants</p> <p>Early Years – 7.1 FTE</p> <p>Development of Integrated Children and Family Services family learning offer to ensure full utilisation from August 2020</p> <p>Development of Ready, Steady, Two to support delivery of high quality services to eligible 2s</p> <p>The Educational Psychology team have developed and offered Emotional Literacy for Support Assistants (ELSA). ELSA provides knowledge, practice and coaching on an incremental learning model for PSAs and mid-year evaluations are positive. In preparation for the expansion to 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare, the team have developed an invaluable Ready, Steady, Two resource to support staff to work with eligible 2s and those who have not met developmental milestones.</p> <p>Considerable work has been undertaken in preparation for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare including the development of a new ELC admissions process. This will see the universal availability of PEEP in all ELC settings. The programme is currently being re-set in light of delays resulting from social distancing measures and will now be delivered virtually over 5 half day sessions. The course will cover the Why, What and How of the Peep Learning Together Programme (LTP), to enable staff to deliver it effectively to support the families that they work with. The LTP is an evidence-based programme that helps parents and carers to support their young children’s development by valuing and building on the play and learning opportunities in everyday life https://www.peeple.org.uk/ltp</p> <p>20 practitioners have recently undertaken the training with a further 3 suites of training fully booked which will result in 18 further trained practitioners. By August 2021 every ELC setting, both Local Authority and Funded Provider, will have a fully trained PEEP practitioner to work with and support families.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken to improve knowledge of the impact of poverty on families. The introduction of ELC Excellence and Equity practitioners has had a positive</p>
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		<p>impact on supporting children and their families in our priority areas. In partnership with community groups The Excellence and Equity Practitioners have been involved in initiatives such as 'Healthy Family Fun Day' which showcases a variety of services across the community that are available to support and advise families. Through the delivery of PEEP groups, outdoor learning sessions and Book Bug sessions they have supported the positive engagement of families in their children's learning. Early engagement with families through links with toddler groups has supported the building of relationships and smooth transitions into the ELC setting.</p>
GIRFEC	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Partnership Improvement Group in place to continually improve agreed partnership approaches</p> <p>A terms of reference has been agreed and the composition of the group is currently being refreshed.</p>
Aberdeen City Council National Improvement Framework Plan 2019/20 agreed.	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Scrutiny through Integrated Children's Services Board; Education Operations Committee and annual reporting to Council</p> <p>NIF self evaluation</p>
<p>Reducing the cost of the school day.</p> <p>Minimise the costs of the school day and maximise the</p>	Aberdeen City Council	<p>4 pledges were agreed by the Education Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No child or young person will start school without a breakfast</i> • <i>All children and young people will have access to affordable school uniform and appropriate clothing for the North East</i> • <i>Costs will not prohibit the participation of children and young people in the life of the school</i> • <i>Parents, carers and children and young people will have easy access to financial advice</i>

<p>uptake of free school meals and school clothing grants by eligible families.</p> <p>All schools to consider poverty proofing within their own unique context</p>		<p>Almost all schools have in place arrangements to ensure children and young people can access food at the beginning of the school day if they require it. Recognising that food poverty and the availability of affordable, healthy food at anytime of the day continue to be of major concern for families, schools continue to work with other agencies and the third sector to improve access for all. Schools work with a range of suppliers to offer choice and reduce the costs of school uniform, also promoting cheaper, non-badged versions of uniform items which are widely available at much lower cost than badged items. Most schools offer one of a range uniform “recycling” provisions where donated school uniform can be accessed for free or in exchange for outgrown items.</p> <p>A few schools use PEF funding to provide school uniform to all pupils and the clothing grant application process is signposted to all parents, with support to complete this if required. There are a few informal arrangements between schools where unwanted clothing is donated and available free to those who need it. A guidance leaflet and posters for primary and secondary schools have been developed to inform thinking on how to reduce the cost of the school day and all schools have reviewed their practice to ensure all learners can access the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. A few schools use PEF or other funding to support this.</p> <p>Schools continue to work with third sector and other agencies to signpost families to sources of financial support and advice.</p>
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Library provision and access	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Number of young people (Under 16) joining the Library service 2018/19 - 2168</p> <p>Number of Bookbug gifting bags, Baby, toddler and Primary 1 - 13,833</p> <p>Number of Early Years Bookbug outreach sessions - 29 involving 211 children</p> <p>Number of library visits by educational establishments 986 with 13,933 children</p> <p>Aberdeen Reading Challenge participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 637 children and young people • 137 families <p>Number of children attending library service events 2018/19 – 20,512 (some were cancelled latterly due to the Covid pandemic)</p>
Transport	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Lochside Academy in Aberdeen opened in August 2018 merging 2 established secondary schools (Torry and Kincorth). The area of Torry is one of the poorest areas in Aberdeen and the move to the new school requires children from Torry to travel between 2 to 3 miles. Free transport is provided for all children attending Lochside Academy from Torry (approx. 450). The provision of supported bus services was in recognition of the distance and safety concerns of the walk to the school, although the provision is not statutory and in normal circumstances a fare would be required to be paid, taking into account the deprivation in the area Aberdeen City Council has provided free travel for the children from Torry and this includes free travel on commercial bus services also between 07:00 - 18:00, so children can participate in extra-curricular activities and fully engage in the school community.</p>
Adults		
Provision of £1.6million Fairer Aberdeen	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Annual returns on activities as required under grant agreements from the following projects:</p> <p>Cummings Park Community Flat</p> <p>Printfield Community Project</p>

Fund through Participatory Budgeting approach to support local organisations deliver support to communities	Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) Community groups	STAR Community Flat Tillydrone Community Flat CFINE Tackling Food Poverty Middlefield Community Project Under 11s Middlefield Youth Flat Fersands Youth Work Fersands Family Centre Twos Group and Family Support Worker St Machar Parent Support Project Home Start CAB Money Advice Outreach CFINE SAFE Pathways St Machar Credit Union
Provision of free sanitary products	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian CFINE	Free sanitary products are available in all primary, secondary schools as well as Westburn and Craigielea Children's Centre. In 2019/20, approximately 159,264 products were delivered to these sites. 54 sites in total are providing access to free sanitary products.
Expansion of Early Years provision	Aberdeen City Council	Number of Pupil Support Assistants Early Years – 7.1 FTE
Improved knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences	Community Planning Partners Care Experienced Young People	The phased roll out of the MCR Pathways programme to offer support to Care Experienced young people across the city continues with evidence that almost all pupils engaged with the programme to date have been increasingly able to talk positively about their school experiences. The wider achievement programme with Sport Aberdeen has offered greater engagement with the creative arts. Both programmes have helped increase timely attendance, increased confidence and reduced exclusions.

		The Champions Board met regularly throughout 2019/20, allowing Care Experienced Young People the opportunity to raise issues directly with Community Planning partners, and shape how services are delivered.
Reducing the cost of the school day	Aberdeen City Council	Provision of free school meals – 2202 enrolled for these in addition to those in P1-P3 who are automatically entitled: P1 – 2015; P2 1967, P3 1964 Provision of school clothing grants - 1946 Number of families auto-enrolled for privileges – 90 enrolled for free school meals through this process.
Place		
Investment in affordable housing through Strategic Housing Infrastructure Plan (SHIP)	Aberdeen City Council Registered Social Landlords Developers Scottish Government	The Aberdeen City Affordable Housing Programme, developed by the council details a range of affordable housing projects including RSL and Council Social Rent. It also includes RSL mid-market rent and LAR Housing Trust mid-market rent as well as Low-Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) which are properties that housing developers will deliver directly. In 2019/20 there were 401 affordable housing completions which is the highest number of affordable homes delivered in Aberdeen through the affordable housing supply programme. In total during 2019/20 Aberdeen City Council's total allocation for affordable housing was £32.537m.
Community Learning and Development Strategy 2018-22 agreed.	Aberdeen City Council	568 activities run by CLD team: 239 Youth Work 113 Healthy Minds 113 Family Learning 103 Adult Learning

		<p>1087 unique participants:</p> <p>554 Youth Work 227 Adult Learning 203 Family Learning 111 Healthy Minds</p> <p>New enrolments:</p> <p>819 Youth Work 442 Adult Learning 357 Healthy Minds 295 Family Learning</p> <p>Total learner hours: 24533</p>
<p>Agreement of Local Housing Strategy 2018-23. Aim of ensuring people in Aberdeen live in good quality sustainable homes, which they can afford and that meet their needs.</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>Community Planning Partners</p> <p>Private Rented Sector</p> <p>Local Housing Associations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is an adequate supply of housing across all tenures and homes are the right size, type and location that people want to live in with access to suitable services and facilities. 2. Homelessness is prevented and alleviated. 3. People are supported to live, as far as is reasonably practicable, independently at home or in a homely setting in their community. 4. Consumer knowledge, management standards and property condition is improved in the private rented sector. 5. Fuel poverty is reduced which contributes to meeting climate change targets. 6. The quality of housing of all tenures is improved across the city.

<p>Development of UNICEF Child Friendly Cities accreditation programme</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council Police Scotland UNICEF</p>	<p>Significant work has been undertaken to evaluate our current practices and approaches and to inform the creation of a joint action plan which will be supported and delivered by a range of our Community Planning Partners. Through discussion with a range of professionals and young people, we will be prioritising a number of key areas in accordance with the award framework. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • Communication • Co-operation and Leadership • Place • Participating and, • Child-Friendly Services. <p>These focus areas require all services to child and young person friendly and to routinely apply a child rights-based approach (CRBA) to design, develop and commission services. They also ask that children and young people are genuinely considered throughout the decision-making processes.</p> <p>Work towards achieving CFC status has seen a steady increase in the number of committee reports which consider children's rights and council officers are now more consistently seeking direct engagement with children and young people on issues that directly affect them.</p> <p>Examples of this include the engagement of 3343 children and young people during consultation around the review of holiday patterns. As we work to become a Child Friendly City, we have worked closely with our digital partner, Microsoft, to develop an Equalities and Child Rights Impact Assessment. This will embed a greater understanding and broader understanding of the importance of children's rights and ensure that all Council decisions are informed by the extent to which they help uphold these.</p>
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Community Benefit Clauses	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Clauses within contracts and frameworks requiring tenderers to commit to undertaking some form of social benefit in addition to the core purpose of the contract.</p> <p>Training & recruitment; providing sub-contracting opportunities or otherwise improving the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the local authority's area.</p> <p>For example, the provision of apprenticeship and placement schemes, Real Living Wage provision, employability engagement activities, promotion of adopting and fostering.</p>																
Scottish Welfare Fund	Aberdeen City Council	<p>During the year 2019/20 the following numbers of grants were distributed:</p> <p><u>Crisis Grants</u></p> <table data-bbox="680 676 1137 820"> <tr> <td>Single parents</td> <td>1870</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Couples with children</td> <td>461</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other with children</td> <td><u>128</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2459</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Community Care Grants</u></p> <table data-bbox="680 900 1137 1043"> <tr> <td>Single parents</td> <td>809</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Couples with children</td> <td>158</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other with children</td> <td><u>48</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1015</td> </tr> </table> <p>Total amount awarded - £892,215</p>	Single parents	1870	Couples with children	461	Other with children	<u>128</u>	Total	2459	Single parents	809	Couples with children	158	Other with children	<u>48</u>	Total	1015
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Priority Families	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>Action for Children</p> <p>Police Scotland</p>	<p>The Priority Families Service supports families who are affected by multiple problems and at risk of poor life outcomes. A whole family approach is delivered through a dedicated Support Worker and a Police Officer with families receiving up to 12 months of intensive and persistent support in their own home, school and community to address the issues affecting them. The team also comprises an Employment Coach and an Activity Support Co-ordinator and is registered with the Care Commission.</p>																

		<p>Outcomes for families supported in 2018/19 (comparing 6 months pre-intervention and 6 months post intervention) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 96% reduction in criminal charges · 68% reduction in Police vulnerable person's reports · 62% improvement in parenting skills · 71% improvement in family routines · 58% improvement in home living conditions · 69% of children/young people and 83% of adults reported improved physical fitness/participation in sport and activities and an improved understanding of healthy living. · 76% of adults reported improved personal functioning and wellbeing · 84% of adults participated in employability activities
Fairer Scotland Duty	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>NHS Grampian</p>	Consideration of the impact of new strategies on socio-economic inequality.

Priorities for 2020/21

During 2020/21 there has been a very strong focus on mitigating the impacts of Covid-19 across the City, with high profile examples being the creation and disbursement of the Lord Provost's Charitable Fund; the distribution of Crisis Grants, delivery of free food packages; maintaining school lessons through Google classroom, and the development of the 'Fit Like' Hubs. This response will be reported on extensively in the Child Poverty Action Report for 2020/21, that will be delivered in mid 2021.

In addition to this work, work has continued where possible to work towards the LOIP outcomes through identified Improvement Charters. The following priorities have also been identified:

New Actions for 2020/21					
Via Healthier, Wealthier Children Fund (HWCF): Capturing the lived experience of children in poverty	Reduce the cost of living. Engagement and participation Enabling Tackling stigma	NHS Grampian Aberdeen City Council CFINE Robert Gordon University	March 2022	March 2021	
Update to March 2021					
In the generic feedback received against the first year LCPAR's, the need to capture the lived experience of people in poverty was highlighted as an opportunity whereby regions could strengthen their action plans by enabling those experiencing poverty in their communities to inform and influence planning activities. Further emphasis was put on this with the recommendations of the Independent Care Review (previously referenced) published in February 2020. The recommendations were based on the voices of care experienced children and young people; many of whom had experience of poverty.					

A proportion of the HWCF has been allocated to develop a creative approach to capturing the lived experience of children in poverty. A creative based approach to engage with children attending a holiday programmes with CFINE was intended, but has had to be deferred due to Covid-19. While this activity will indirectly give children and young people some knowledge and skills that may reduce the cost of living in the home (cost effective cooking, recycling), it will have added benefits not directly linked to the drivers of poverty, such as helping to tackle the stigma of poverty.

Seeking to understand the lived experience of children in poverty has become more important than ever as we begin to see the impacts of COVID-19 on our society. We will apply the GIRFEC framework in working with children to continue to hear their voices, and will support and enable them to inform and influence actions.

Via Healthier, Wealthier Children Fund (HWCF): Research into the implementation of the Financial Inclusion Pathway	Increasing uptake of social security Reducing the cost of living	NHS Grampian Robert Gordon University	March 2022	March 2021	
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Update to March 2021

A research proposal to understand the experiences of women, and of Health Visitors and family Nurses, around the implementation of the Financial Inclusion Pathway has gained ethics approval. Focus groups were due to start in summer 2020, however there is likely to be some delay due to Covid-19.

This research will let us know how women feel about enquiries being made with regard to their financial situation. The output will enable us to share learning with clinical colleagues and financial support agencies. If there are things that can be done to improve the pathway or make it more acceptable to women then modifications can be made at an early stage. Where the pathway is working well will share these experience, letting colleagues know that their efforts are valued by women.

The research report will be published and appended to our 2021/22 LCPAR.

Capturing the lived experience of low income families	<p>Increasing uptake of social security</p> <p>Reducing the cost of living</p> <p>Increasing income through employment</p>	<p>NHS Grampian</p> <p>Robert Gordon University</p> <p>CFINE</p> <p>Fersands Project</p>	March 2022	March 2021	
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Update to March 2021					
<p>NHSG has commissioned a study to capture lived experience of low income families. The study will be undertaken by Robert Gordon University in partnership with CFINE, the Woodside Pantry and the Fersands project. It had been anticipated that participants would be recruited and interviews conducted in March and April 2020, however this has been deferred due to Covid-19. It is hoped that the study will now be able to commence in late summer/ early autumn.</p> <p>Measures to determine ‘in work’ poverty are difficult to determine, but one of the indicators used is the number of working families claiming Working Tax Credits. In data published for 2017/18 showed that working families in Aberdeen City were least likely to be claiming Working Tax Credits, indicating that as a local authority area the comparative rates of in work poverty are less than other parts of Scotland.²³ However local data tells us that there are still families, where at least one adult is working, that are still experiencing poverty across Aberdeen. This is anticipated to be even more so, as we emerge from COVID-19.</p>					
<p>Providing more support to children and families in the hospital setting by providing advice, signposting and warm hand-overs to specialist financial support services, with regard to all aspects of income maximisation</p>	<p>Engagement and participation</p> <p>Tackling stigma</p> <p>Increasing uptake of social security</p> <p>Reducing the cost of living</p>	<p>NHS Grampian</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>SAMH</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	

²³ <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/life-circumstances/income-and-employment/data/working-age-poverty>

Update to March 2021					
<p>SAMH has been commissioned to deliver pilot project for 6 months starting in summer 2020. A Primary Care Link Worker with experience in engaging with families, income maximisation/ financial inclusion knowledge, and strong links with support services would attend the hospital setting one day per week (RACH and Aberdeen Maternity Hospital) to offer direct support to families and/or provide warm hand-over to specialist financial support agencies as required. The service would include all aspects of 'money matters', including debt advice, support to apply for social security benefits, budgeting, and employability for example.</p> <p>Clinical staff would benefit from the increased confidence of having an 'expert' colleague to offer this support to families, and who will share their knowledge with the wider team as required. This work will also link well with Child Protection and neglect priorities.</p> <p>Anonymised data will be collected over the pilot period to provide information with regard to numbers of contacts, types of support required, onward referrals and outcomes. The pilot will be evaluated to inform a sustained service implementation. Unfortunately the pilot start has needed to be deferred due to the impact of COVID-19.</p>					
Promote and distribute information and resources designed to address aspects of poverty	<p>Increasing uptake of social security</p> <p>Reducing the cost of living</p> <p>Increasing income through employment</p>	<p>NHS Grampian</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>Third Sector Partners</p>	March 2022	March 2021	
Update to March 2021					

Several new measures to support people experiencing poverty as a result of COVID-19 have been introduced, such as the furlough scheme, and financial grants for certain groups. Many third sector agencies are also offering support, such as One Parent Scotland Families, Scotland who are launching an energy fund²⁴ on 12th June to support single parent families. We have a role in ensuring that those that can benefit from such opportunities are aware of them and can be supported to access them if required, and as such we will develop a forum/mechanism whereby people can access information easily, and in one place where possible.

Investment in affordable housing through Strategic Housing Infrastructure Plan (SHIP)	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council Registered Social Landlords Developers Scottish Government	March 2022	March 2021	
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Update to March 2021

²⁴ <https://opfs.org.uk/get-involved/news-and-events/news/100k-funding-for-fuel-payments-secured-by-one-parent-families-scotland/>

351 units completed, £29.4m budget to deliver these.

<p>Improve knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences with a view to better understanding the long term impacts of poverty and interconnected work-streams</p>	<p>Reducing the cost of living Income from employment</p>	<p>Community Planning Partners Care Experienced Young People</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	
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Update to March 2021

Actions to engage directly with care experienced young people are reflected in Corporate Parenting action plans. Learning and reflection as a result of the recent Care Inspectorate report²⁵ on the review of inspections for children and young people in need of care will be incorporated into our planning.

²⁵

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/5817/Review%20of%20findings%20from%20inspection%20programme%20for%20CYP%202018%20to%202020.pdf>