

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Public Protection Committee
<b>DATE</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Assurance on Child Poverty Action Plan
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CUS/21/086
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andy MacDonald
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Derek McGowan
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Derek McGowan
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1.3, 1.5

---

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide assurance to the Committee that the Child Poverty Action Plan Report 2019/20 has been agreed by Operational Delivery Committee.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Committee:-

- 2.2 Notes that that the Council approved the Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report for 2019/20 in accordance with the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 at the meeting of the Operational Delivery Committee on 13 January 2021;
- 2.2 Notes that following the Operational Delivery Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report for 2019/20 was submitted to the Scottish Government as required.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 (the Act) fully entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 reported 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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Council agreed to adopt the Local Outcome Improvement Plan as the Council's Child Poverty Action Plan for the years 2019-22. This was noted at the meeting of the Public Protection Committee on 4 December 2019. The attached Child Poverty Action Report satisfies the requirement to report annually to Scottish Ministers on progress towards meeting Child Poverty targets.

### 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 Child poverty in Aberdeen.

- 5.1 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. It is important to note that this report does not include any of the responses to Covid-19, as these were almost entirely delivered in the financial year 2020/21 and will be accounted for in this year's report. However, it is anticipated that the number of children in Aberdeen living in Poverty will rise due to the effects of the pandemic.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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 and satisfies the annual reporting requirements. 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 following the adoption of the LOIP as the Child Poverty Action Plan. Together these provide assurance on the work being done by Aberdeen City Council on Child Poverty/

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this assurance report.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this assurance report.

## 8. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
<b>Financial</b>	Risk relates to non-achievement of targets long term, and failing to reduce demand through	M	Community Planning Aberdeen scrutiny of progress on outcomes at regular intervals;

	early intervention in key drivers. Failure to achieve the outcomes desired will mean residents requiring support from public agencies for longer.		commissioning intentions approved by Council
<b>Legal</b>	Risk relates to failure to comply with statutory requirements.	L	Adoption of the LOIP as Aberdeen City Child Poverty Action Plan.  Provision of the Child Poverty Action Report 19/20  Provision of the LOIP annual report 19/20
<b>Employee</b>	None.	L	
<b>Customer</b>	Failure to meet statutory targets as outlined above.	L	This work will improve outcomes for children and families across the City.
<b>Environment</b>	Risk as opportunity.	L	Meeting the LOIP outcomes will improve the environment for children.
<b>Technology</b>	None.	L	
<b>Reputational</b>	Risk relates to failure to meet the statutory targets.	L	Meeting the LOIP outcomes.

## 9. OUTCOMES

<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Prosperous Economy</b>	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.
<b>Prosperous People</b>	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.
<b>Prosperous Place</b>	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.
<b>Enabling Technology</b>	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.

<b>Design Principles of Target Operating Model</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Customer Service Design</b>	This report places children at the heart of service planning and design. Children are our current and future customers and improvement made here will impact on their whole lives.
<b>Organisational Design</b>	The Organisational structure allows for work on child poverty to be delivered in a number of Clusters, as well as through strategic work such as the LOIP, Local Development Plan and Local Housing Plan. There is a focus on Early Intervention in tackling poverty and this is likely to be most evident in Early Intervention and Community Empowerment; Integrated Children and Family Services and Place Planning.
<b>Governance</b>	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.
<b>Workforce</b>	Roles and responsibilities are reviewed through service redesign to ensure work around poverty is captured and relevant.
<b>Process Design</b>	As new methods of undertaking work are identified processes will be updated and normalised to ensure children and families in poverty benefit.
<b>Technology</b>	As new methods of undertaking work are identified processes will be updated and normalised to ensure children and families in poverty benefit.
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	We are confident that partners across the City have been involved in the creation of this plan, and are involved in delivering the outcomes identified.

## 10. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Equality &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>	This will impact positively upon protected characteristics of age in that it will improve outcomes for children.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required

<b>Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty</b>	Agreeing the use of the LOIP to act as the CPAR is a positive move in addressing socio-economic disadvantage. There is no disadvantage foreseen to any protected characteristics, and the aim of the LOIP is to improve outcomes for all.
------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

A – Child Poverty Action Report 2019/20  
 B – Annual report on the LOIP 2019/20

**12. APPENDICES (if applicable)**

None

**13. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

Name                      Derek McGowan  
 Title                        Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment  
 Email Address            [demcgowan@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:demcgowan@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
 Tel                            01224 522226