

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Function:</u>	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment
<u>Date:</u>	8 th June 2022
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Child Poverty data
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UPDATE:

At Operational Delivery Committee on the 19th January, the annual Child Poverty Action Report for 2020/21 was considered. Committee were advised that this report had been compiled without access to the annual child poverty statistics for that year, and that a service update would be provided once data for this year was available.

It is considered vital when interpreting child poverty data and performance that an annual trend comparison is available, in order that an assessment can be made of work done to reduce child poverty rates.

On 31st March 2022 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) released data for the year 2020/21, in the form of Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data. The data is heavily caveated due to issues with the collection of data during the lockdown period, which is limited compared to previous years. Due to the discontinuities and bias present in the data, the DWP state that it would be difficult for users to make meaningful statistical assessments of trends and changes in that year, and that they have decided not to publish additional breakdowns for that year.

Due to this limitation, it is impossible to state with any certainty the rate of child poverty in the city in the year 2020/21, and therefore assess the true impact of work done to reduce child poverty.

Aberdeen City Council continues work to eradicate poverty in all its forms, including child poverty. Reports will be presented later in the year on progress being made against the Child Poverty Action Plan for this year, as well as the Child Poverty Action Report for 2021/22.

Derek McGowan