

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Function:</u>	Children and Families
<u>Date:</u>	16 August 2023
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Child Poverty Annual Reports
<u>Author:</u>	Eleanor Sheppard
<u>Chief Officer:</u>	Eleanor Sheppard
<u>Contact Details:</u>	Esheppard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

UPDATE:

Background

- 1.1 At its meeting of the 21st June 2023, the [Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee](#) instructed the Interim Director – Children’s and Family Services, to further clarify the integration of the Child Poverty Plans and Reports into Integrated Children’s Services Planning and reporting, including the necessity to incorporate an Integrated Impact Assessment(IIA) in the Plan but not subsequent outcome reports.

Context

- 1.2 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places a duty on local authorities and health boards to produce a shared plan on how they intend to address child poverty. The legislation also guides annual reporting on progress.
- 1.3 The shared Child Poverty Plan can sit independently of other plans, or can be embedded within other shared Plans for children. In order to fully maximise the impact of our work around child poverty, our shared partnership Plan to address child poverty has been embedded within our Integrated Children’s Services Plan as part of the refresh of the Integrated Children’s Services Plan.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 21 March 2023, the [Education and Children’s Services Committee](#) considered a report on an Integrated Children Services Plan advising that “The Children’s Services Plan is one of a suite of Statutory Plans which support delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Strategic plans for children include our Corporate Parenting Plan, Child Protection Improvement Plan, Children’s Rights Report, Aberdeen City’s Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan, the education National Improvement Framework Plan, Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan and Accessibility Plan, our Community Learning and Development Plan, Community Justice Plan, Locality Plans and [our Child Poverty Plan](#).” It was also noted that “The Children’s Services Board agreed the need to better integrate the full range of statutory Plans into the Children’s Services Plan 2023-2026.” The plan was backed up by an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), so that the Councillors were in a position to consider whether due regard to the public sector equality duty had been given in formulating the plan.

- 1.5 At its meeting on 21 June 2023, the [Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee](#) considered the [statutory report](#) on work undertaken to address child poverty as outlined in the Integrated Children's Services Plan. Reference was made to the previous IIA which had been completed as the Integrated Children's Services Plan (detailed at 1.4 above) was developed.
- 1.6 An IIA must be undertaken when plans and policies are being drafted. IIAs do not require to be undertaken separately when reports on the outcomes of previously agreed plans are being presented to Committee.
- 1.7 Given that an IIA was not required to accompany this report, it is accepted that reference to the previously undertaken IIA has created some confusion. Please accept my apologies for this, and this will be addressed at the next meeting of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee. Future reports will not include reference to the IIA undertaken as part of the planning process.