

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
<b>DATE</b>	21 June 2023
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Child Poverty Action Report
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CUS/23/170
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andy MacDonald
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Jacqui McKenzie
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Paul Tytler and Eleanor Sheppard
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.1

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek delegated authority to submit the draft statutory Child Poverty Action Report for approval by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the attached Child Poverty Action Report;
- 2.2 Notes that the Child Poverty Action Report will be considered by the Education and Children's Services Committee;
- 2.3 Instructs the Interim Director Children and Families Services to submit the Child Poverty Action Report to Community Planning Aberdeen Board for approval; and
- 2.4 Instructs the Interim Director Children and Families Services to publish the Child Poverty Action Plan on the Council's website following approval by the Community Planning Board.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places a duty on local authorities and health boards to report annually on activity they are taking, and will take, to reduce child poverty. The proposed Child Poverty Action Report (Appendix 1) satisfies this duty.
- 3.2 The social determinants of health support our shared belief that no single agency or partner can achieve the aspirations of 'Best Start, Bright Future' and therefore address child poverty alone. The Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), which promotes prevention and early intervention, is our shared Partnership Plan to address poverty and inequality of outcomes across Aberdeen City. The Council Delivery Plan is fully aligned to this overarching

## Partnership Plan.

- 3.3 Over the last year, considerable work has been undertaken to align Partnership Plans for children with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Aligning Plans more closely will help ensure that all of our single and multi-agency work impacts positively on the child poverty agenda. As a result, the Child Poverty Plan has now been embedded within the Children's Services Plan.
- 3.4 The Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 was approved by the Education and Children's Services Committee on 21 March 2023, and subsequently by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 19 April 2023. The LOIP has subsequently been updated to reflect the agreed Plan.
- 3.5 Delivery of the Children's Services Plan is overseen by the Children's Services Board with progress against improvement projects and progress against national policy (such as child poverty) reported to Community Planning Aberdeen. The Board will now lead on the development and presentation of annual Child Poverty Action Reports.
- 3.6 The Children's Services Board has liaised with the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group in their preparation of the Child Poverty Action Report for 2022-23 to ensure that activity beyond the scope of Children's Services is sufficiently captured. The draft report is contained in Appendix 1. Following approval by the Community Planning Board Aberdeen, the Interim Director – Children's and Families Services will publish the report on Aberdeen City Council's website.
- 3.7 The Chair of the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group is currently leading a series of workshops to explore the interface and synergies between the many workstreams and initiatives in place to address poverty. Learning from these workshops will be reflected in the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 3.8 The data landscape around Child Poverty in Scotland is relatively complex and is constructed around a series of official and experimental statistics provided by both UK and national government agencies, e.g. DWP, alongside academic research papers and publications which are aligned with the priority Child Poverty indicators outlined by the Scottish Government.
  - 3.8.1 Some care needs to be exercised in directly comparing published data outcomes as although these are generally derived and collated from single primary sources of income information (StatXplore and Households Below Average Income publications) these may be overlaid with additional parameters or filtered by particular characteristics such as relative and absolute poverty, before or after housing cost data, and household profiles and status.
  - 3.8.2 The term 'Children in Low Income Families' is a summary data descriptor which may be used interchangeably within publications to describe Relative Poverty, which is the most commonly used poverty measure, Absolute Poverty or as a proxy indicator of deprivation levels (that are focused around accessibility to selected goods and services) although neither of the Poverty Measures are directly relatable to deprivation outcomes.

3.8.3 Relative Poverty relates to household incomes that fall below 60% of median income estimates at national level in the same year whilst the Absolute Poverty line is set at 60% of inflation adjusted median incomes from 2010/11.

3.8.4 Relative Poverty is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are keeping pace with the growth in incomes in the economy as a whole whilst the latter descriptor is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are seeing their incomes rise in real terms.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places a duty on local authorities and health boards in Scotland to jointly prepare and publish annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports describing:

- a) measures taken to meet child poverty targets;
- b) proposed measures to meet child poverty targets;
- c) income maximisation measures to provide pregnant women and families with children with (i) information, advice and assistance about eligibility for financial support and (ii) assistance to apply for financial support; and
- d) measures taken or proposed to be taken in relation to households whose income is adversely affected, or whose expenditure is increased, because a member of the household has one or more protected characteristics.

#### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

#### 7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)  *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	Risk of not changing our local system to reflect changes in national policy	Delivery of the Children's Services Plan.	L	Yes
<b>Compliance</b>	Risk of not complying	The Plan complies with the Statutory Guidance	L	Yes

	with legislation			
<b>Operational</b>	Risk that we make a lesser impact by working to a high number of strategic plans	The Plan pulls all strategic Plans together to help maximise impact	L	Yes
<b>Financial</b>	Risk that we don't have sufficient resource to meet the needs of priority groups	The Plan will help us make best use of available resource by ensuring partners work to a common purpose.	L	Yes
<b>Reputational</b>	Risk that we don't prioritise those in greatest need.	Mitigated by undertaking a detailed strategic needs assessment and extensive consultation process to support the development of the Children's Services Plan	L	Yes
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	No environmental risks identified	n/a	n/a	n/a

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b><u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u></b>	
<b>Impact of Report</b>	
<p><b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b></p> <p>Work with the city's universities, North East Scotland College and businesses to increase educational and the number of care experienced young people and young people from deprived communities, going onto positive destinations, including further and higher education, vocational training and apprenticeships.</p>	<p>The needs of children and young people most often require a strong multi-agency response. This Plan will support the further integration and collaboration across services supporting children and families to help realise improved outcomes.</p>

<p>Ensure local education services identify young people with mental health problems and help them get early support and help, where appropriate, to transfer to adult services.</p> <p>Ensure the Council follows best practice as a corporate parent to get the best outcomes for looked-after young people, those in kinship care and those with additional support needs such as autism, developmental disorders or mental health problems.</p> <p>Commit to realising the potential of each individual, by seeking to widen curriculum choice and implement progressive choices.</p>	
<p>Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The activities described within the report impact on the Prosperous Economy section of the LOIP, stretch outcome no 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026</li> </ul>
<p>Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The activities within the report support the delivery of Children &amp; Young People Stretch Outcomes 4 to 5 in the LOIP:</p> <p>LOIP stretch outcome 4: 95% of children (0-5 years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026</p> <p>LOIP stretch outcome 5: 90% of children and young people will report that their experiences of mental health and wellbeing have been listened to by 2026</p> <p>LOIP stretch outcome 6: As corporate parents we will ensure 95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026.</p> <p>LOIP stretch outcome 7: 95% of all our children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods, will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026</p> <p>LOIP stretch outcome 8: 30% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026</p>

	LOIP stretch outcome 9: 95% of our children with disabilities will experience a positive transition to adult services by 2026
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	N/A
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b> Regional Economic Strategy	The Children's Services Plan prioritises prevention and is closely aligned with the National Improvement Framework. The Plan is designed to bring all statutory plans for children into one plan to improve service delivery.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	IIA completed for Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 <a href="https://online.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Files/EqualityHumanRight/20b_Childrens%20Services%20Plan%202023-2026.pdf">https://online.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Files/EqualityHumanRight/20b_Childrens%20Services%20Plan%202023-2026.pdf</a>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	not required
<b>Other</b>	None

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 CFS 23/077 Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023-2026

## 11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 Child Poverty Action Report 2022-23

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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