

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

25 September 2019

LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT

Report by Executive Director (Housing & Environment) (Report No. 19/279)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents the Perth & Kinross Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) 2019/20 submitted to the Scottish Government on 30 June 2019. The report was approved by the Children, Young People and Families Partnership and the Community Planning Partnership Board on 14 June 2019.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 received royal assent in December 2017. The act sets out ambitious targets to tackle and eradicate child poverty by 2030 with interim targets set for 2023.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government produced their own report “Every child, every chance” in March 2018. However, the Act also places a duty on local authorities to work with health partners to develop and produce their own Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) and Action Plan. Progress updates on the plan are also required to be published annually.
- 1.3 The key messages within “Every child, every chance” are:
 - recognition that poverty is fundamentally about a lack of income and sets out the three main drivers of child poverty.
 - the LCPAR actions must prevent children and young people in poverty now becoming poor parents by 2030.
 - targets can only be achieved through partnership working.
 - meeting the targets requires a radical change.
 - a need to place a focus on families who are most at risk of poverty.
- 1.4 The Perth and Kinross LCPAR (Appendix A) makes direct links with the recommendations within the Fairer Futures report, which recognised that poverty and inequality were underpinned by structural factors in the labour market, housing market, social security systems, transport and accessibility to services.
- 1.5 This is the first report and has been developed in collaboration with a range of partners. It provides a starting point to further develop our approach to tackling the impacting factors which lead to poverty.

- 1.6 In Perth and Kinross, around one in five of our children – approximately four thousand - are in poverty. The report provides details of estimated levels of child poverty against each of the ward areas and highlights that child poverty is an issue that is affecting all of our communities.
- 1.7 It is recognised that, within Perth and Kinross, we face specific challenges that negatively impact on household income, including:
- lower wage jobs - issues around zero hours contracts, seasonal work and high living costs.
 - availability of affordable housing and rising costs of private sector housing.
 - the availability and cost of transport, particularly in rural areas.
 - the negative impact of Welfare Reform and universal credit leading to high levels of rent arrears and an increased risk of homelessness for many households.
- 1.8 The LCPAR summarises some of the many positive actions that all partners are progressing to mitigate the impacts of child poverty. It also sets out a number of high level actions that we intend to move forward to further improve our approach to tackling child poverty in Perth and Kinross. In summary, these are:
- undertake a more comprehensive evaluation of our current activities to determine their impact on reducing and preventing child poverty and in particular the impact on the groups who are most likely to experience poverty. This will enable us to identify the most powerful interventions and identify gaps.
 - place a greater focus on collaboration with organisations and services making more effective connections for the people they serve.
 - take a more preventative and proactive approach to delivering better outcomes for those experiencing challenges in their lives.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 As the Community Plan and our Fairer Futures work are the strategic context within which our LCPAR is set, progress will be reported to the Community Planning Partnership, Children, Young People & Families Partnership, Perth and Kinross Council's Council meeting and the Public Health Child Poverty Working Group. This will ensure a consistent message and approach around tackling the drivers of child poverty.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council:
- (i) endorses the Local Child Poverty Action Report
 - (ii) notes the next steps and actions outlined within the Local Child Poverty Action Report

- (iii) notes that the CPP Executive Officer Group will focus on delivering those recommendations within the Local Child Poverty Action Report
- (iv) requests that feedback and further updates on the Local Child Poverty Action Report is brought back to the Community Planning Partnership and Council, along with next steps.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Housing & Environment)	27 August 2019

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan

1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement Perth and Kinross Council Corporate plan have five concurrent outcomes which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. All five outcomes are relevant to this report:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Corporate Plan

1.2 Proposals contained on this report support the following Corporate Plan Priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life.
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens.
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy.
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any future financial implications will be reported to the appropriate committee.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no direct workforce implications arising from this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no direct workforce implications arising from this report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- a reduction in the number of children in Perth and Kinross living in poverty
 - fair and equitable access to services and support with a greater focus on prevention
 - greater awareness among communities about poverty and reduction in stigmatisation

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- 3.4 The proposals recommended in this paper have been considered under the act and the pre-screening has identified that the proposals will have no environmental effects, it is therefore exempt. The reasons for concluding this is that the recommendations will have no environmental effects.

Sustainability

- 3.5 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change

(Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:

- in the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
- in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes.
- in a way that it considers most sustainable.

3.6 No steps are required to be undertaken in this area.

Legal and Governance

3.7 Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted and there are no direct legal implications of this report.

Risk

3.8 Any risks associated with this report will be mitigated by the monitoring and reporting procedures which have been established.

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 This report and action plan has been developed with representation from across all services within the Council. All relevant Senior Management Teams have been consulted along with the Executive Officer Team.

External

4.2 This report and action plan has been developed in partnership with NHS Tayside and with representation from third sector organisations and approval by the Community Planning Partnership.

5. Communication

5.1 A communications plan will be developed to deliver key messages relating to child poverty to a wide range of audiences and communities.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 Background papers referred to in the preparation of this report are referred to within the report.

3. APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix 1: Perth and Kinross Tackling Child Poverty Action Report