



improvement service

*The 'go to' organisation for
Local Government
improvement in Scotland*

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Programme Manager for
Child Poverty and SAVVI

Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

The Act consists of the following key elements:

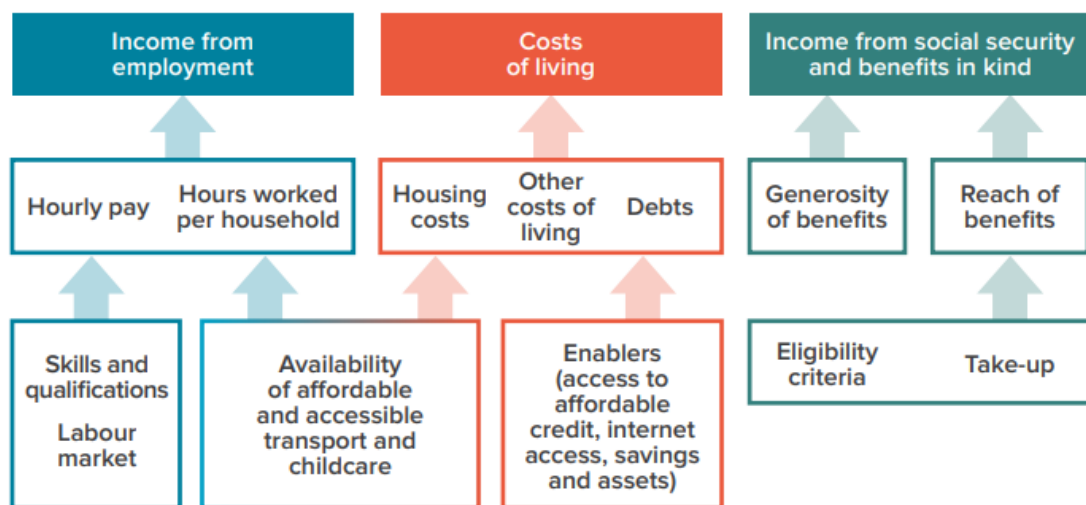
- Four **interim targets** to be met by 2023 and **final targets** to be met by 2030
 - Less than 10% of children live in relative poverty (18% in 2023)
 - Less than 5% of children live in absolute poverty (14% in 2023)
 - Less than 5% of children live with a combination of low income and material deprivation (8% in 2023)
 - Less than 5% of children live in persistent poverty (8% in 2023)
- Duties on **Scottish Ministers** to publish:
 - Delivery Plans in April 2018, 2022, and 2026
 - Annual progress reports
 - A final progress report setting out whether targets have been met

What	<u>Scotland's vision</u> To improve the wellbeing of people living in Scotland now and in the future.		
	<u>Scotland's National Outcomes</u>		
	Connected We participate freely in the civic, cultural and social life of our communities.	Healthy We live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.	Secure We live safe lives, free from violence and injustice.
	Prosperous We have a successful wellbeing economy which supports a good standard of living for everyone, with fair work and the opportunity to thrive.	Skilled We have the knowledge and skills we need throughout our lives to realise our full potential.	Sustainable We live in a healthy environment, enjoy the natural environment and protect it for future generations.
	<i>These outcomes apply equally to everyone in Scotland and localise the UN Sustainable Development Goals</i>		

Angus	13.2	16.1	2.9
Argyll and Bute	10.4	13.7	3.3
City of Edinburgh	8.7	13.1	4.4
Clackmannanshire	14.7	17.0	2.3
Dumfries and Galloway	14.2	17.4	3.2
Dundee City	13.6	17.0	3.4
East Ayrshire	14.5	16.7	2.2
East Dunbartonshire	6.2	7.8	1.6
East Lothian	9.3	12.2	2.9
East Renfrewshire	7.4	8.5	1.1
Falkirk	12.7	13.9	1.2
Fife	13.9	16.2	2.3
Glasgow City	19.8	23.3	3.5
Highland	12.0	14.2	2.2
Inverclyde	12.0	15.4	3.4
Midlothian	10.0	12.7	2.7
Moray	13.1	15.1	2.0
Na h-Eileanan Siar	11.1	12.9	1.8
North Ayrshire	15.4	18.0	2.6
North Lanarkshire	13.4	14.8	1.4
Orkney Islands	11.0	12.2	1.2
Perth and Kinross	11.2	13.3	2.1
Renfrewshire	10.8	12.7	1.9
Scottish Borders	10.8	15.0	4.2
Shetland Islands	7.7	9.3	1.5
South Ayrshire	13.3	15.0	1.7
South Lanarkshire	11.5	12.8	1.3
Stirling	9.8	10.9	1.1
West Dunbartonshire	12.6	15.2	2.6
West Lothian	12.0	13.8	1.8



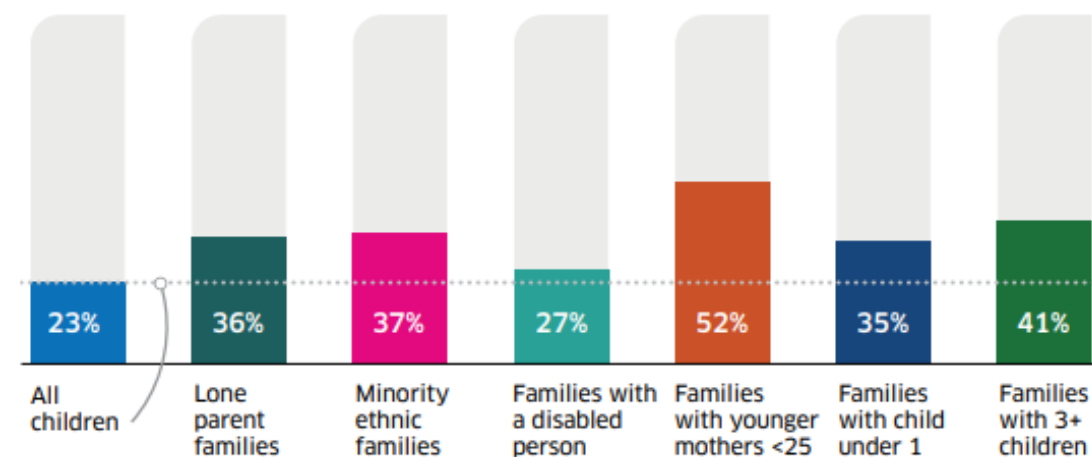
 Increasing earned incomes	 Reducing costs of living	 Maximising incomes from social security and benefits in kind	 Supporting children and families to thrive
• Providing aligned skills and employment support for parents and young people • Expanding the availability of flexible and affordable childcare for families • Ensuring public transport is available, affordable and accessible and connects parents and young people to work • Driving positive change in labour market and workplace conditions	• Delivering more social and affordable homes for families • Ending child homelessness • Making homes cheaper to heat • Tackling public sector debt	• Strengthening support through social security • Maximising take-up of Scottish and UK Government benefits • Making money and debt advice more accessible for families	• Delivering Whole Family Support • Supporting young families: investing in early child development • Ensuring children and young people can reach their full potential • Making best use of data to support children and families and improve public services



A continued focus on those at greatest risk of poverty

This plan maintains our focus on the families and groups at greatest risk of poverty.

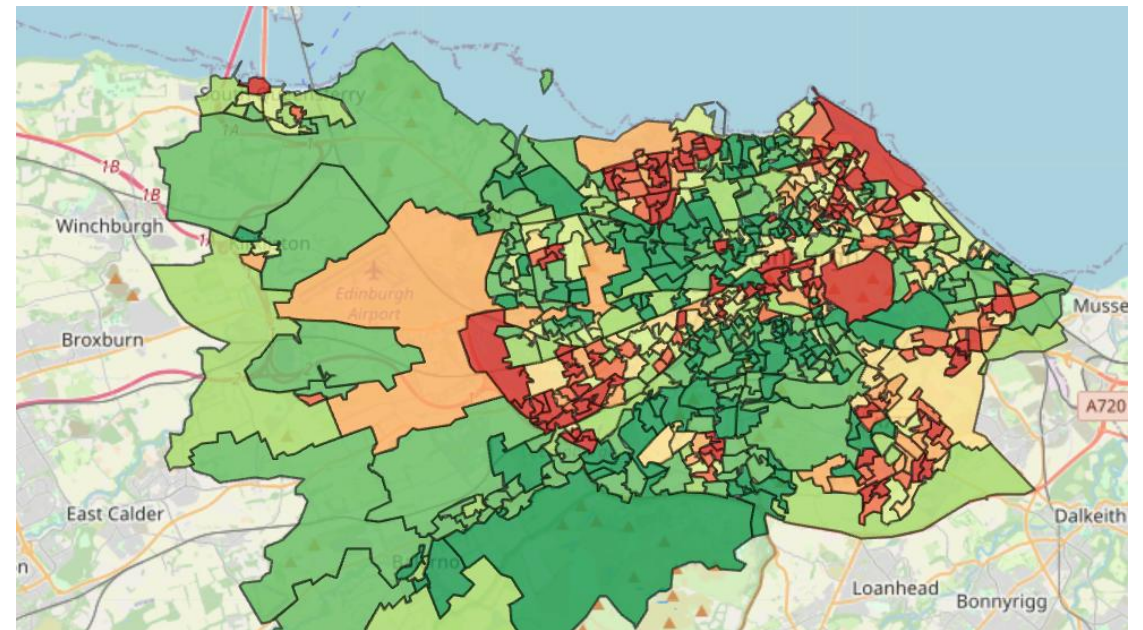
We know that around 90% of all children in poverty live in the [six priority family types](#) identified in our first delivery plan:



Roystonhill, Blochairn, and Provanmill - 03

58 Children
31 Households
25.4 Children per 100
£203 Below the Poverty Line

[Back to Wards](#)





1

Find out who your local child poverty lead is — and contact them.
(And yes, this works both ways!)



2

Bring child poverty leads into Local Development Plan conversations early.



3

Apply the priority families lens when assessing how new developments will affect those most at risk of poverty.

Planning Skills: Integrating Land Use Planning and Child Poverty

Lucie Thyne
Planning for Place Programme



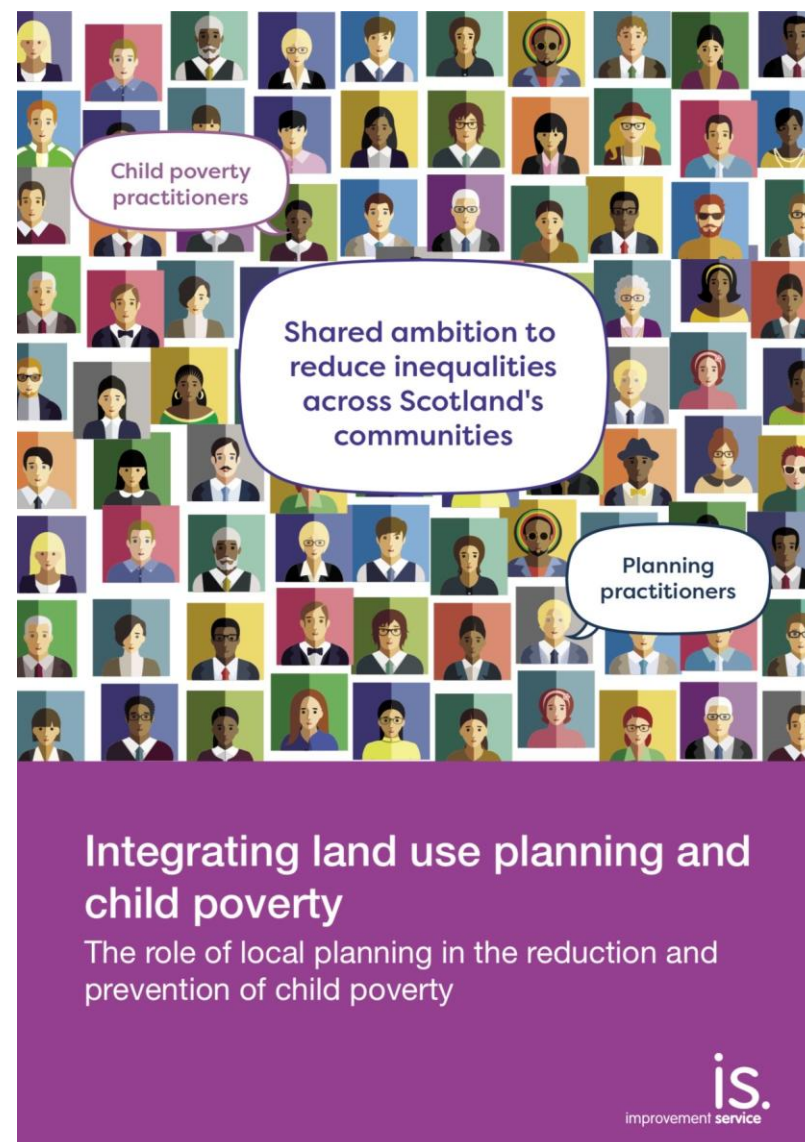
Briefing Paper



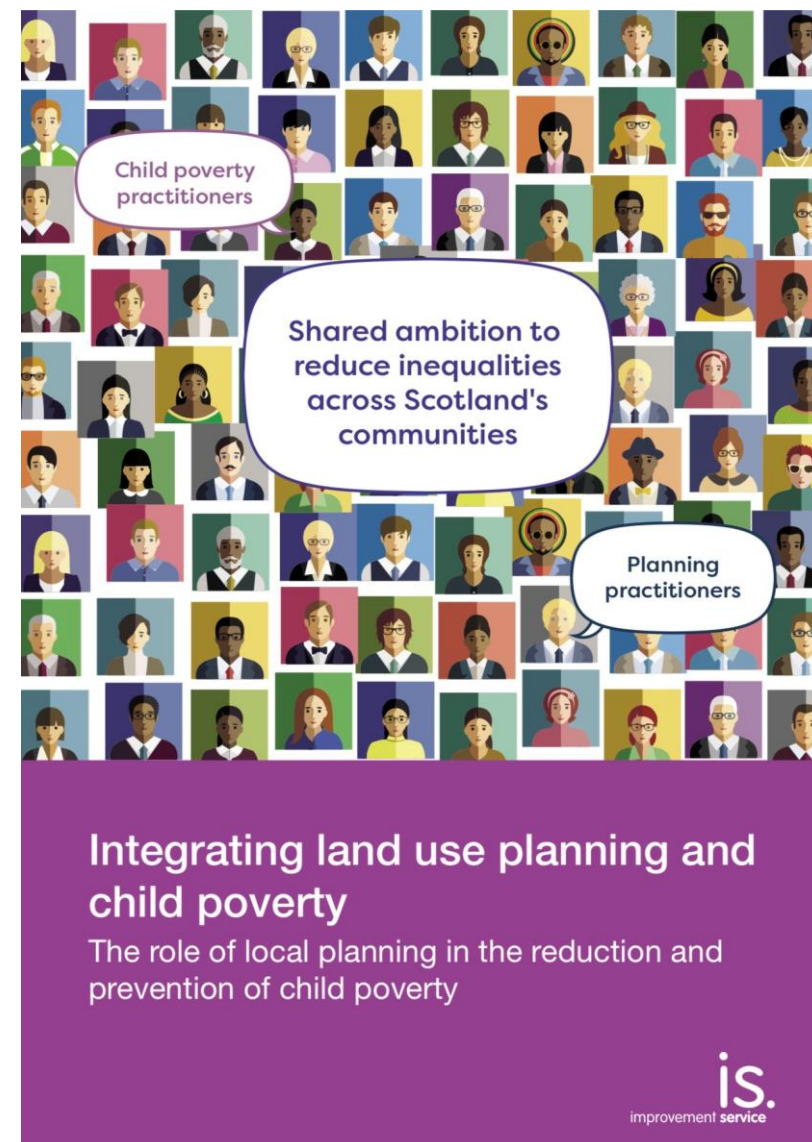
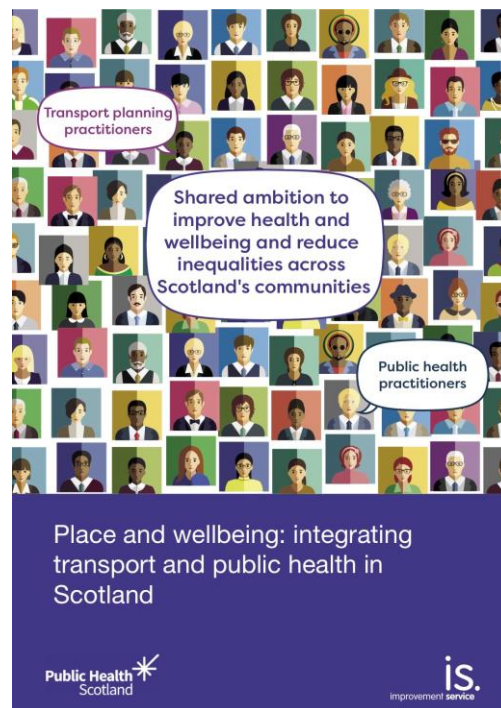
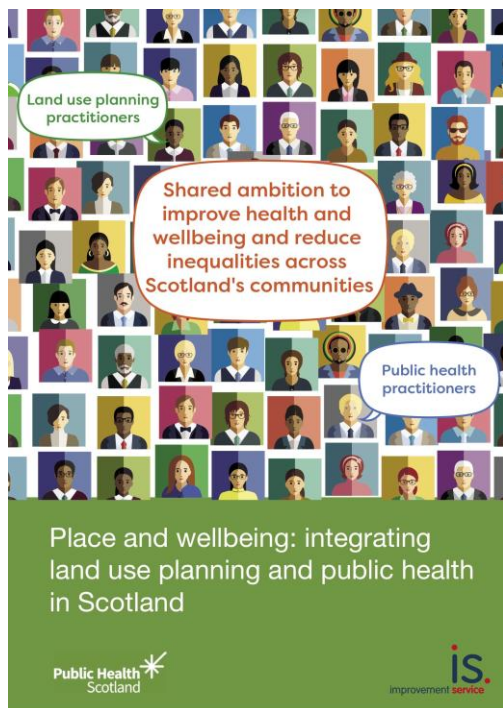
Lucie Thyne
Planning for Place Programme

Felicia Szloboda
Child Poverty Team

Place and wellbeing: integrating land
use planning



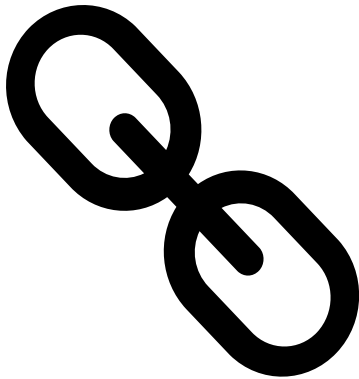
Briefing Paper Suite



Purpose of Briefing

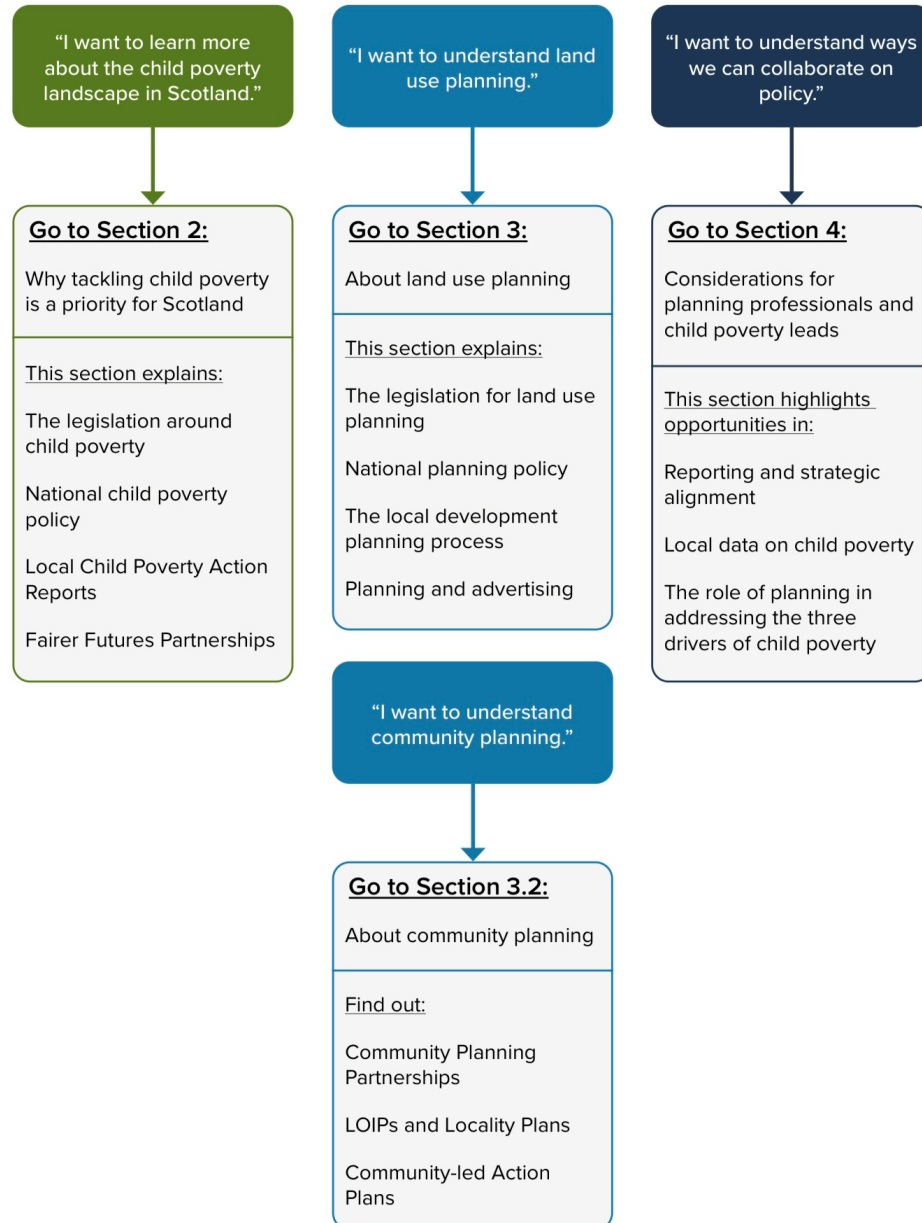


This briefing explores the interconnected systems shaping both child poverty reduction and place planning in Scotland. Its purpose is to foster mutual understanding and spark discussion on how professionals in these fields can collaborate to deliver transformative change for low-income families and accelerate progress towards eradicating child poverty.



How to navigate the briefing

Figure 1



Child poverty

- ◆ Tackling child poverty is a top priority at both local and national levels.
- ◆ The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets ambitious targets to significantly reduce child poverty by 2030, focusing on increasing household income and reducing essential costs, especially housing.
- ◆ Under the Child Poverty Act, Scottish Government has published three Child Poverty Delivery Plans, which each emphasise strategic, preventative, and place-based approaches that support parental employment and child wellbeing.
- ◆ Local authorities and health boards publish annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports, outlining local actions taken and planned.
- ◆ Recent investment in sixteen local Fairer Futures Partnerships aims to tackle child poverty through integrated and locally driven support systems.
- ◆ Child poverty is routinely prioritised in Local Outcome Improvement Plans, with a strong commitment to intelligence-led approaches and the inclusion of lived experience, particularly among the six 'priority family groups' most affected.



Land use Planning



Place planning



- ◆ Land use planning in Scotland has undergone significant reform, introducing new outcomes to reduce inequality and improve wellbeing.
- ◆ The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 establishes how planning can contribute to creating better places for people.
- ◆ National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) sets out a vision for sustainable, liveable, productive, and resilient places, aligning with national outcomes on poverty reduction and children's rights.
- ◆ Scotland's 34 planning authorities are responsible for guiding land use, making planning decisions, and managing development that delivers on national outcomes.
- ◆ All planning authorities will prepare Local Development Plans aligned with NPF4, serving as the main tool for planning how land is used across Scotland, and how this might impact on the local social and economic outcomes of a place and its communities.
- ◆ Community-led Action Plans and Local Place Plans empower residents to shape development priorities, identify barriers, and influence investment. These plans can amplify the voices of those experiencing poverty, which is critical to reducing inequalities.
- ◆ Community and locality planning are also central to Scotland's place-based approach.

Planning and the three drivers of child poverty



Increasing income from employment:

Planning can improve access to jobs by supporting developments near public and active transport hubs and areas of high poverty, promoting mixed-use neighbourhoods, and championing access to work and training that does not rely on private vehicle ownership and fosters women's safety.



Reducing household costs:

By allocating land for affordable, energy-efficient homes close to services and transport, and supporting 20-minute neighbourhoods and local living principles, good planning helps families cut housing and travel costs. Inclusive public spaces and play areas also reduce costs for low-income families and support wellbeing.



Increasing income from social security:

While less direct, planning can promote physically accessible community services, which can mean advice and support services are easy to reach and that digital infrastructure is available, helping families access the benefits they are entitled to.

How the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes Impact on Child Poverty



PLACE AND WELLBEING OUTCOME BRIEFING

Resources: Housing and Community

Housing and community can have a positive impact on people when everyone has access to:

- A home that is affordable, energy efficient, high quality, and provides access to private outdoor space.
- A variety of housing types, sizes and tenancies to meet the needs of the community. And of a sufficient density to sustain existing or future local facilities, services and amenities.
- A home that is designed and built to meet need and demand, is adaptable to changing needs and includes accessible/wheelchair standard housing.
- New homes that are located and designed to provide high levels of climate resilience and use sustainable materials and construction methods.
- Homes that are designed to promote community cohesion.

This is why it is one of Scotland's Place and Wellbeing Outcomes.



How the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes Impact on Child Poverty



The evidence tells us:



Provision of good quality affordable housing is associated with improved physical and mental health outcomes including quality of life.



Poor quality housing and homelessness are associated with adverse health conditions.



Unaffordable housing is associated with poorer mental health, particularly for certain groups such as people on a low income.



Inadequate ventilation can lead to poor indoor air quality, which can negatively impact on health.



Fuel and wider poverty negatively impact people's mental health.



Fuel poverty can be a particular problem in rural areas because households may not be able to access cheaper forms of fuel.



The energy efficiency of homes can help with heating homes adequately.



Housing should be located close enough to enable residents to easily access facilities and services, social networks, employment and transport.



Security of tenure can help people to feel settled, put down roots, and maintain family and social networks.



Older people and people with disabilities can find it difficult to access good quality affordable housing that meets their needs.

How the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes Impact on Child Poverty



Adverse Impacts

- In Scotland, there are rising numbers of families in unsuitable accommodation, where they are experiencing safety concerns, overcrowding, and a lack of amenities.
- Poor quality homes leads to higher rates of respiratory illness, stress, and poor mental health.
- Insufficient amenities leads to reduced ability to study at home and increased school absences.

Positive Impacts

- Conversely, access to good quality, affordable, energy efficient housing is essential for children's health and long term development.
- Well located homes improve families' access to work, school, healthcare, and other services.
- Good quality homes support children's health and wellbeing, as well as community stability and cohesion.



The cost of child poverty is high; reducing and preventing poverty benefits everyone.

Child poverty is associated with higher exposure to social and environmental factors which, without adequate support, may contribute to challenges later in life, including mental and physical health difficulties, a heightened risk of substance misuse and reduced life expectancy. It also places significant financial pressure on local and national services, highlighting the importance of early intervention and sustained support. According to [research by Institute For Public Policy Research and Save the Children](#), poverty costs Scotland's economy at least £2.4 billion per year. This figure includes increased public spending on health, education, and social services, lost tax revenues and reduced economic participation.

Areas for the greatest opportunities:

- Strategic overview of planning
- Decision-making at a local level
- Family-focused initiatives

Contact us

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service.org.uk)





**East Ayrshire Council
Development Planning team**

**Community wealth building and
LDP2**

Community wealth building in Ayrshire



- On a regional basis, ‘*Community Wealth building*’ is firmly embedded across Ayrshire.
- The Regional Economic Strategy – guiding the delivery of the Ayrshire Growth Deal and investment decisions regionally – put CWB at its heart with its vision stating:
‘Ayrshire will be a region where wealth is shared fairly, to enable people of all ages to live full and healthy lives.’
- Challenge for land use planning –
 - Could the LDP contribute to community wealth building principles?
 - What practical measures could the LDP put in place?



Community wealth building in our LDP



What did we do?

- As part of the spatial strategy of LDP2 – introduced a specific CWB policy, supporting developments by communities and for communities.
- New proactive ‘exemptions policy’ for development on vacant and derelict land.
- Continued support for community benefits related to renewables and minerals
- **Skills and employment plan policy**

Community wealth building in our LDP



Skills and Employment Plan policy

- Developers of major developments are required to submit a Skills and Employment Plan with their application. Plans should:
 - Set out how the development will **provide training and employment opportunities** for EA residents
 - Set out how the **supply chain and maintenance arrangements** can maximise benefits to the local economy
- Overall purpose – encourage developers to think more about how their developments can be integrated into the local economy.

Policy SS10: Skills & Employment

Developers applying for planning permission for a major development as defined by the hierarchy of development are required to submit a skills and employment plan demonstrating how they will look to provide training / skills and employment opportunities for residents in East Ayrshire. Developers should also demonstrate what consideration has been given to their supply chain and maintenance arrangements, to explore ways in which their developments can maximise the benefit to the local economy. Non-statutory planning guidance will be prepared to provide information on what should be included within a skills and employment plan.

Community wealth building in our LDP



Skills and Employment Plan policy – is it working?

- Limited opportunity to monitor it so far
- Generally something that is being conditioned
- Plans that we have had submitted so far – primarily major housing developments
- Key benefit – use it as a hook to connect major developers to our employability colleagues
- Challenge around monitoring
- Where do we go with LDP3?