

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

is.
improvement service

Tackling Child Poverty in Scotland: Examples of Policy and Practice

Driver: Cost of Living



Contents

Introduction	3
Policy and Practice Examples	4
1. Fuel Poverty	6
2. Transport	9
3. Housing	11
4. Affordable Credit	15
5. Food/Food Insecurity/Holiday Hunger	17
6. Digital Inclusion	21
7. Other	22
Appendix 1: Links to Further Information about Child Poverty in Scotland	24

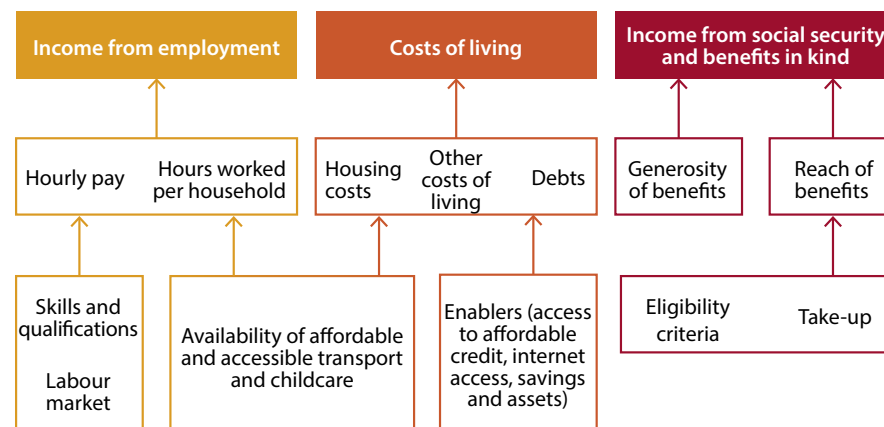
Introduction



The direct drivers of poverty fall into 3 main categories – income from employment, costs of living, and income from social security. The ‘cost of living’ generally refers to the prices of goods and services considered essential to day-to-day life. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation’s Minimum Income Standard (MIS) includes the following

categories of essentials: housing; household goods and services; transport; food and drink; clothing; personal goods and services; social and cultural participation; and childcare. For more information visit <https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-annex-2-further-technical-information/pages/2/>.

Figure 1: Summary of the Drivers of Child Poverty



Policy and Practice Examples



These examples of policy and practice in addressing different aspects of child poverty have been drawn from the 2019/2020 Local Child Poverty Action Reports. These have been collected to share practice which will be of potential interest to other local authorities. At this stage these are not formally evaluated and should not be considered as 'best practice'. The intention of this document is not to 'map' the range of activity underway in Local Authorities and it is not an exhaustive overview of examples from reports. It exists simply to provide examples of activity that might inform upcoming approaches to the development of content for reports, or might encourage report authors to find out more about some of the examples included.

The examples have been presented according to the key driver of poverty they might seek to address, although clearly there will be overlap in terms of the number of drivers that some of the following examples could fall within.

Wording has been changed in some of the examples to reduce the amount of text and if any mistakes have been introduced into the text as a consequence of that please let us know.

If you would like to find out more about any of the examples quoted below, please contact the National Co-ordinator for the Local Child Poverty Action Reports who can provide contact details.

In all cases you can ask yourself:

- How would this approach work in my local context? Do I know what is already happening in my area and would this approach add to this?
- What more can I do to ensure that this approach benefits those who are most likely to experience child poverty i.e. the priority groups?

- Will the benefit reach those with protected characteristics?
- If I make a change, how will I know that I am making a positive difference?

Within this section:

1. Fuel Poverty
2. Transport
3. Housing
4. Affordable Credit
5. Food / Food Insecurity /Holiday Hunger
6. Digital Inclusion
7. Other



1. Fuel Poverty

North Ayrshire

Providing Advice on how to Minimise Costs for Energy

The North Ayrshire Corporate Sustainability Team provides general energy efficiency advice to the public on a weekly basis, by responding to enquiries and by using our referral process with internal and external agencies (current average three referrals per week). Corporate Sustainability are also an active member of the Local Energy Advice Forum (LEAF), a partnership which aims to increase domestic energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty within North and East Ayrshire.

A programme to deliver replacement and top up loft insulation and cavity wall insulation for council properties continues to support EESH compliance. In addition, the Corporate Sustainability team continue to promote energy efficiency to the general public as well as other council departments.

The Welfare Reform Advice Team visit our tenants and complete a survey and matrix as part of this visit to discuss fuel poverty and offer referral to Citrus energy for any fuel related issues such as debt, switching suppliers etc. Warm Homes Discount is also discussed and assistance to apply is provided if applicable. As part of the Financial Inclusion Pathway, referrals can be made to HomeEnergy Scotland.

Aberdeenshire

Energy Summit

Families from the Aberdeen Voices lived experience forum worked with Elected Members and energy companies to hold an energy summit to identify ways of reducing fuel costs for low income families.

Argyll and Bute

Tackling the Heat or Eat Dilemma

Fuel poverty in Argyll is at one of the highest levels in Europe, due to poor housing, high energy prices/lack of mains gas, low wages, vulnerable demographics, bad weather and exposure. Fuel poverty affects 1 in 3 households in Argyll. Recent data has revealed a further 5% rise in electrically heated households in fuel poverty across Scotland as a whole. Due to the time-consuming practical difficulties of working across Argyll and Bute, home visits can be costly. Yet ALIenergy's extensive experience has proven that for many vulnerable customers, home energy visits are crucial and far more effective than telephone advice. This is supported by independent research, e.g. Baker (2019) 'Never try and face the journey alone: Exploring face-to-face advocacy needs of fuel poor'.



For 2020/21, funding received from Energy Redress will deliver energy advice sessions and energy efficiency toolkits to households across Argyll and Bute, particularly homes off the gas grid. Electrically heated households on the common THTC and E10 restricted meters pay most and are likely to be under heating their homes as a result. The THTC tariff unit cost is

4.2x higher than mains gas with no simple options for switching. A switch to E7 from THTC could result in 18% saving.

Funding received from the Robertson Trust will continue our work targeting households using foodbanks and facing the eat or

heat dilemma. Funding from RES will provide 100 Winter Warmth toolkits.

Fife

Targeting Flu Jag clinics

The Citizens Advice and Rights Fife (CARF) partnership with Cosy Kingdom, Unforgotten Forces and NHS Fife utilised the 2019/20 flu jag season to engage with people and families with disabilities and at risk of fuel poverty.

Renfrewshire

Energy Advocacy

The Council has an Energy Advocacy service. One of the three advocates works exclusively with families with children and pregnant women. The main source of referral is through our Families First teams. The Advocate also receives referrals from Health Visitors, Social Workers and Housing and Macmillan Cancer Support etc. Advocates visit clients to understand their issues – and can refer to a wide range of services. The Advocates service in 2019/20 has saved 565 clients over £168k in ongoing savings and £66,723 in write offs and Warm Home Discounts. Families First alone referred 141 families, saving them approximately £34,000 in ongoing savings and almost £12,000 in one-off savings.



During 2019/20 Renfrewshire HSCP Planning and Public Health

carried out work to reduce energy costs. The team co-ordinated with Home Energy Scotland to deliver interventions within the Renfrew Health and Social Care Centre. The interventions aimed to support staff and visitors of the centre to increase their knowledge on how to minimise their costs of energy in their homes.

NHSGGC Acute sites access to fuel poverty advice and interventions is available for all patients in partnership with Home Energy Scotland.

budgeting support. THAW funds the electricity vouchers fulfilled by the Foodbank and directly provides Cosy Home packs and Grants

North Ayrshire

Solar Panels

We have installed Solar Panels where appropriate to assist with energy costs. The social housing rooftop photovoltaic (PV) project came to an end in 2020. The final number of PV systems installed on properties is 290 (895kWp) and 165 of these installations (518kWp) were installed before the deadline and successfully registered for the Feed in Tariff (FIT) subsidy.



Orkney

Reducing Fuel Poverty

THAW Orkney provides support to households in fuel poverty to heat their homes. Their mission is “To work for households in all Orkney communities to reduce levels of fuel poverty and achieve affordable warmth”. Services provided include information and advice on energy efficiency, Tariff switching support, assistance with accessing grant funding, advocacy, income maximisation and



2. Transport

Glasgow

Travel pass pilot with SNIPS

To support pregnant women, many of who struggle to meet the additional costs associated with their pregnancy, health and social care partners worked with Money Matters to deliver an enhanced money advice service in the Special Needs in Pregnancy Service (SNIPS) maternity matters service.

This vulnerable group of women includes teenagers; asylum seekers and refugees; women experiencing addictions or mental ill health; with long term conditions or learning disability - and the majority are lone parents.

By the nature of their vulnerability and the need for ongoing advocacy, these women are less likely than others to have the ability

to pay for transport, attend their hospital appointments, and will be least likely to locate and access a travel expenses office.

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership, as part of its child poverty work, is funding the pilot at a cost of £10,000 to develop and test the provision of free access to transport for these women.

Since lockdown in late March 2020, the SNIP's Maternity Matters project has not been on any of the maternity sites in NHS GGC and travel by public transport was not recommended for pregnant women as a result of Covid-19. This has delayed the pilot.

A proposal that clients are given a prepaid card for their travelling expenses has been put forward to the Maternity Monitoring group and if approved, processes will be put in place to ensure that those in most need will be identified by Maternity Matters and SNIP's Midwives.

East Renfrewshire

Transport Studies

During 2019-2020 East Renfrewshire undertook two transport studies with the aim of explaining how we will make East Renfrewshire's transport links more accessible, attractive and seamless. The studies identified evidence of transport poverty through the use of heat maps and by comparing the costs of transport on the west and east side of the authority; the cost and availability of public transport was higher in the least affluent areas.

Fife

Research

The Let's Talk... about Transporting People project is involving people in designing the future of subsidised passenger transport services. Locally, the North East Fife Anti-Poverty Group commissioned research for a N.E. Fife Rural Transport Study that explores the costs and benefits of establishing a scheme of support for bus travel for the unemployed. Aim is for families in Fife to be able to access affordable transport. (Currently paused 2021)

East Ayrshire

Spot light session on Access to Affordable Transport

Access to affordable transport was identified as a priority in the first LCPAR. The focus during 2019/20 has been ensuring a consistent strategic approach across our partnership to lobbying for effective transport solutions for East Ayrshire. A spotlight session on transport was convened with a wide range of community planning partners. A briefing outlining the partnership position in relation to strategic transport developments, referencing transport as a local driver of child poverty, was subsequently developed and circulated to

partners; and this shared agenda continues to be taken forward through all appropriate forums. An options appraisal in relation to a municipal bus service is also in progress and will be concluded during 2020/21.

Falkirk

Test of Change

Plans in place to start a test of change in paediatric AHP clinics in Falkirk with Falkirk Council's travel lead – halted by the pandemic. Working to gather support from DWP to identify those entitled to concessionary travel cards. Employment and Training Unit have adapted their travel reimbursement process to ensure equality of access to skills development and employability provision. This ensures participants can travel and attend provision regardless of individual financial circumstances and decreases accessibility issues for those experiencing poverty. Participants are issued with a bus pass on a weekly basis while attending provision in the early stages of their interventions support. Those who undertake programmes of more than 3 hours a day will also be eligible for a subsistence payment. Participants who take part in programmes of 16 hours or more a week will be provided with travel and subsistence payments, directly into their bank account in advance of attendance to alleviate the need to pay out expenses and have these reimbursed to them. For those who have issues with bank related debt, referral and support will be sought from community advice services and an alternative payment method established





3. Housing

Inverclyde

COVID response

Inverclyde were allocated £71,000 as a one off sum to Councils to allow more generous Discretionary Housing Payments to be made during the Covid period. Following analysis of the current Housing Benefit and DHP data Inverclyde will award DHP up to 100% of the difference between Universal Credit Housing costs or Housing Benefit entitlement capped at £200 per month with the payment being made for a period of no more than 6 months. This will provide short term help which is in line with the purpose of DHP and would allow households time to improve their circumstances by finding employment or moving to more affordable homes and helping the children and young people living within these households to access their right to adequate housing and a good standard of living (article

26 & 27). This payment would be applicable in the Private Rented Sector.

The Council maintained the payment of Crisis Grants throughout the Covid period and took the decision in March to increase payments by 20% to provide greater financial support to those in most need. It is recommended that the 20% enhanced payment is continued for the remainder of 2020/21. In addition it is proposed that the Community Care Grant which assists with individuals setting up home be paid to not only high priority cases but also medium priority cases. This will allow payment to be made to more individuals and for additional items for the home including washing machines, floor coverings and additional furniture.

West Dunbartonshire

Local Housing Strategy

The Local Housing Strategy has a 10-point success plan. Some of which have a direct impact on the drivers of poverty. These include, for example:

- Maximise the delivery of new affordable housing through the 'More Homes Better Homes West Dunbartonshire' initiative;
- Reduce the impacts of climate change and fuel poverty by supporting energy efficiency measures across all housing sectors;
- Introduce a Housing Options approach to prevent homelessness;
- Work with partners to reduce repeat homelessness and increase tenancy sustainment in the social rented sector;
- Adopt a more holistic joined up approach to improving standards in the Private Rented Sector;
- Improve education, training and job opportunities for West Dunbartonshire residents by building on existing strong links through Working 4U.



Within the context of promoting good quality housing, West Dunbartonshire has introduced a Scheme of Assistance to help home owners with information and advice and practical assistance about improving, repairing and maintaining their homes. This will help families to reduce the associated cost of property maintenance.

Scottish Borders

Housing Needs and Aspirations Study

The Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People in the Scottish Borders Study was developed throughout 2018 and the findings and report were finalised in April 2019.

The focus of this work has been on the housing needs and aspirations of young people aged between 16 and 34 years. The study has been undertaken to support the vision of the Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 in that “every person in the Borders lives in a home which meets their needs”. It also supports the priorities in the Integrated Children and Young People’s Plan 2018-21, particularly priorities 2 and 3.

A progress report on the first year has been produced including key highlights and significant achievements in 2019/20, as well as key developments for the year ahead. Some of these actions are:

- Engage with transport initiatives and seek to link with housing to maximise impact e.g. Explore opportunities to subsidise first months travel for new Modern Apprentices at SBC
- Develop and implement the private rented sector strategy to improve access to and quality in the private rented sector.
- Work with community councils and other community representatives to consider whether there is interest and capacity within communities to enable new community led housing development
- Review model of access to social housing in Scottish Borders across all providers to minimise time in temporary accommodation and achieve Rapid Rehousing Housing leads support the development of the Local Child Poverty Plan.

East Ayrshire

Neighbourhood Coaching



Neighbourhood Coaching is an innovative housing approach which seeks to redefine and reimagine the traditional relationship between social landlord and tenant within East Ayrshire, 're-programming' Housing Officers into Neighbourhood Coaches to deliver three innovations (with emphasis on the customer's strengths and potential, focused

on positives, connecting customers to services and to other customers to build community empowerment – building a network of support and supporting tenancies). There has been a reduction in tenant evictions.

West Dunbartonshire Council

Preventing Destitution

The council has established a process for rent abatement that aims to alleviate/prevent destitution by providing conditional short term relief from housing payments for families where tenancy sustainment is threatened. This approach is designed to encourage early engagement between tenant and landlord and develop short and longer term solutions. In order to prevent re-occurrence tenants should be signposted to support services for financial health checks. In exceptional circumstances Housing services staff have the discretion to award small discretionary sums from a hardship fund to provide short term relief and avoid homelessness. Longer term

solutions will be sought through the provision of ongoing support to address the cause of these prevailing circumstances.

Argyll and Bute

Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme

Argyll and Bute Council operates this scheme which can help people to access rented accommodation in the private sector. Instead of a new prospective tenant having to find the deposit that is often required, the council will guarantee that the deposit will be paid if any damage is done to the property while the tenant is living there. The tenant will agree to reimburse the Council for the cost of any loss or damage to the property caused by an act/s of neglect or negligence by themselves or their visitors. In 2019/20 six households were helped with this scheme.



Perth and Kinross

Sustaining Tenancies Fund

A Sustaining Tenancies Fund was introduced in 2018 and supports vulnerable Local Authority households who are struggling financially and who have or may build up rent arrears, potentially placing their tenancy at risk. Since 2019, the fund supported, along with other household types, 59 households with 120 dependent children where financial hardship existed, to clear their rent arrears levels thereby increasing their level of disposable income. These households were supported financially to reduce their outgoings and importantly 120 dependent children did not suffer the threat of homelessness. This financial assistance was provided alongside ongoing engagement with

individual households to maximise their income and assist with budgeting skills.

Private Landlord Forum to be planned, to raise awareness of affordability and child poverty within the private sector. Wider ongoing engagement with local social housing providers. Discussions to be scheduled with RSLs to share information gathered through affordability model and further discussion to promote affordable rents.



4. Affordable Credit

Renfrewshire Council

Affordable Credit Alliance

The Council has worked with the local TSI, Engage Renfrewshire, and others to establish the Renfrewshire Affordable Credit Alliance. It works collectively to support to improve and promote affordable credit provision and discourage use of illegal lending and 'loan sharks'. The Council has also invested in Credit Unions, working with them to aid their development and sustainability. CUs have been promoted as an alternative to high cost lenders and the Council, although no longer providing funding, still meets regularly with the local CUs to offer support. It is intended that CUs will be promoted as part of the Council's developing Staff Financial Welfare Strategy, 'Money Mindful'.

West Dunbartonshire

Understanding Credit (Illicit Money Lending)

During the period 2019/20 we developed a proposal to work with Trading Standards Scotland to highlight the risk of illicit and high interest lending. The project design and preparation has been carried out by the community learning team at West Dunbartonshire Council; the Youth Alliance/Adult Learning Partnership; and West Dunbartonshire Trading Standards Team. Working with Trading Standards Scotland, we have secured funding to employ a project co-ordinator for two years. A project officer will be appointed and a series of learner engagement events and awareness events will be delivered. The initial focus will be on raising awareness of credit/debt and financial capability within schools will be followed by a series of community-based events.

East Dunbartonshire

Debt Reduction Service



The Council supports the local CAB to provide debt reduction services with monitoring reports showing significant gains in debt reduction. They promote the Credit Union through intranet and other communications.



5. Food/Food Insecurity/Holiday Hunger

Glasgow

Children's Holiday Food Programme Spring 2020

The council provided £2million for the 3rd year in succession to fund the Children's Holiday Food Programme that provides a hot meal and snack to Glasgow's nursery, primary and secondary pupils during school holiday periods. The usual format is for children/young people to attend various venues where they are provided with a nutritious meal(s) and some form of activity. However with the introduction of lockdown due to COVID-19 the usual format for the programme was not possible. The lack of activities however meant that there was some unused funding so the food programmes could extend between a further 2 to 6 weeks. Of the 64 organisations funded to provide a service during the Spring Holidays, 57 were able to continue to deliver through their contingency plans. This

meant that 16,967 children/young people benefitted from the Spring Programme reaching a total of 9,953 households.

South Lanarkshire

Good Food Strategy

The South Lanarkshire **Good Food Strategy** has been published that aims to move towards a healthier, fairer and more sustainable food systems – with aims to reduce food insecurity and poverty.

West Dunbartonshire

Free School Meals Expansion

In December 2019 the West Dunbartonshire Council agreed to an expansion of access to free school meals. This major expansion will

be phased in at schools across the area over the next two years. The £950,000 investment in 2020/21 will be partially funded by a rise in Council Tax of 4.84%.



Aberdeenshire

Breakfast in Schools

In 13 Aberdeenshire Academies an extra £1 was added to all FSM accounts from 8.00am Mon – Fri until after the morning break giving pupils £3.85 per day to spend and allows £2.85 to be spent at lunch. At Fraserburgh Academy an additional 50p is added to all FSM accounts; at 3

further Academies the FSM account allowance of £2.85 is available to spend from 8.00am. The launch of breakfast club has greatly reduced the number of late starts.

East Renfrewshire

Breakfasts in schools

During 2019-20 Barrhead High School piloted a breakfast ‘Grab n Go’ initiative following engagement with Glasgow University on evidence-based interventions to support raising attainment. Free breakfasts of toast and fruit were made available to all pupils in partnership with Greggs and supported by PSA training. Focus groups with pupils provided positive feedback across all stages and demographic groups reporting that they now ate breakfast whereas they didn’t before. The school noted a positive impact including on the health and wellbeing of the wider school population. The school intends to continue this for August 2020.

North Ayrshire

Breakfast In School

In the 2019-20 academic year free breakfast provision was provided to young people entitled to FSM in four secondary schools. This is funded through the Scottish Attainment Challenge and is being piloted to assess if this has a positive impact on improving school attendance.

North Ayrshire

Food System

Currently working on a North Ayrshire Food System with North Ayrshire Foodbank and our community organisations to develop networks of community fridges, larders, community supermarkets and food co-ops in line with a more sustainable approach to food with dignity.

Angus

Social Supermarket

LA financial support for families in receipt of FSM to access membership of a local social supermarket (run by a social business) - (social supermarket model, therefore not a foodbank model, open to all, providing access to in-date fresh food that would otherwise be destroyed).



Angus

Holiday Hunger



Parents and children were invited to attend free '**Holiday Food & Fun**' drop-in sessions during October 2019. Partners including VAA, Education and Lifelong Learning, CPP, CAB, Home Start, Fire Service, Welfare Rights, ADHD Support worked together to provide an opportunity for families to access a free and healthy lunch whilst being able to engage with and take advice from various

agencies. Children and parents could access toys, books and games. This is a model which could be used successfully in other localities, however there is a need for staff, co-ordination and funding.

Outcomes:

- 8 different support agencies were on hand to give advice;
- 143 attendees enjoyed a free healthy lunch;
- 9 home fire safety checks were carried out (post event);
- 3 volunteers were identified - developing skills for life and work;
- 27 benefit investigations identified £9,198 of unclaimed entitlements;
- 9 parents and children participated in basic cookery classes;
- £150 Period Poverty products were accessed.

Inverclyde

Food Pantry

In addition to the FareShare community food initiative already being funded for a further 12 months, there is an opportunity to establish local Food Pantries in an area of the greatest inequalities. The Food Pantry organisation is offering to support LAs and the 3rd sector develop a concept and build on their framework of good practice. The Pantry is set out as a shop and displays a variety of good quality food, sourced from FareShare Glasgow, where members of the community can choose from a subscription and/or membership fee. The pantry model targets those on a low income and/or recovering from crisis providing fresh, healthy, affordable food.

North Lanarkshire

The Food Referral Gateway

The Food Referral Gateway continues to be promoted and used. Following COVID there has been a number of food initiatives opened up to try and help their communities. A survey was sent to all providers to help inform a Good Practice Guide as well as identifying any gaps in our localities. The Good Practice Guide has been produced to ensure our vulnerable residents have access to information and advice services to assist them.



Dumfries and Galloway

Holiday Hunger

The approach to Holiday Hunger was changed in November 2019 to include activities as well as food provision. This new model of delivery also ensured that there has been free holiday food provision and activities for P1 to P6 children entitled to FSM in every ward since October 2019 and was delivered in the October, Christmas and February school holidays 2019/2020. This new model of delivery has seen a 34% increased uptake by children and young people.

East Dunbartonshire

Snack and Play Programme

The Snack and Play programme was delivered across the primary schools in Place areas in 2019-20 during school holidays, providing activities and food for children and support for parents. This involved the East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust providing a space for children to learn and have a snack during the holidays at local community centres. Further to the positive evaluation of the Snack and Play programme, from children and parents alike, the Council agreed to extend the programme to cover more school holidays and four more primary schools in 2020-21.

In addition, we carried out our planned participative action research in the Hillhead area of Kirkintilloch. CPP Team led on a pilot summer programme over ten weeks (twice weekly) – working with targeted families identified by schools/early year's workers. A partnership approach was taken by the Community Development Worker including a Family Learning Worker, Leisure and Culture staff and the local foodbank. Food was provided by the foodbank and used to encourage/teach families how to cook and eat together. Links were also made with social work and adult learning for specific individuals.

Ten families took part with a range of outcomes for children and parents including increased confidence, friendships, cooking ability, training and employment accessed arts and crafts, decreased isolation, volunteering and sport – the course culminated in a family sports day. Feedback was positive with children saying their best bit was the food (making pizza), sock puppets and learning together.

City of Edinburgh

Discover Programme

During 2019-20, the Council launched automation of free school meals and continued to develop Discover! in partnership with Edinburgh Community Food. The Discover! programme aims to reduce the cost of the school holidays with children living in poverty being recommended by schools to the programme. It works with families during the school holidays and its aims are reducing food and financial anxiety, fun family learning to help close the poverty related attainment gap; improving health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation. It also offers a range of support and advice services including CHAI, Home Energy Scotland and Skills Development Scotland.



The number of recommendations to Discover! has grown steadily. Feedback from families consistently refers to the difference it is making in terms of food anxiety, fun, high quality learning activities, helping improve family relationships and access to services that help reduce household spending.



6. Digital Inclusion

Scottish Borders

Inspire Learning Programme

Inspire Learning is a £16million 1:1 education transformation programme which

Scottish Borders Council has centrally funded prior to COVID19. By March 2020 every secondary pupil had their own managed iPad to take home, and by July 2020 iPads were provided to primary pupils in classes P6-P7 for the academic year 2020/21. This initiative has assisted greatly with the avoidance of digital exclusion and the widening of access via the provision of technology and equipment has been very well received by schools, students and their families.

- Future Action for 2020/21 Action Plan: Help early years clients with digital inclusion by providing them with a voucher to purchase a mobile Action/phone to enable them to claim grants



7. Other

Orkney

Christmas present drive

Every Child Deserves a Christmas grant programme – 313 grants of £50 distributed across Orkney in December 2019. Help From Home – financial support for families’ travel costs where a child has to attend NHS on Mainland Scotland. Every Child Should be Warm in Bed – 120 Warm Bedding Bundles (£83 each) delivered in 2019. School holiday poverty – specific support to families struggling financially during school holidays

Renfrewshire

Families First Service – potentially better in access to benefits

The service supports families with children aged 0-8 years. It provides help, support and advice in a family focussed way, covering

promoting wellbeing, positive relationships, energy and employment advice and establishing good family routines. The service supports families to maximise their income and manage debts through embedded income advisers. The service has a dedicated Energy Advocate and a designated Employability Officer. Families First takes a holistic approach to supporting families by providing a single point of contact for parents, grandparents and carers. This year the service generated £1.68m for 191 families, by assisting with over 1000 issues

North Ayrshire

Real Nappy Incentive Scheme

The Council became the first in the UK to provide free “birth to potty” real nappy packs. The scheme could save families up to £1,300 per child on the cost of disposables and reduce environmental impact of nappies by 40%. The council already offers a Real Nappy

Incentive Scheme which provides a free trial pack. Those who use the trial pack will be able to request the full new ‘birth to potty’ pack, containing 20 birth to potty nappies, biodegradable liners and a laundry bag. Funded by the reduced costs of the Council sending disposable nappies to landfill.

North Ayrshire

Childcare Provision – Eligible 2’s

Working together with the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative, a project was undertaken to increase uptake of eligible 2-year-old places within the Garnock Valley area. The project involved the significant role of Universal Early Years staff as a key point of contact to support early intervention and support for



families. The project achieved a 75% increase in uptake and the approach can easily be scaled up. The Early Years Partnership Plan will use the learning from the project to roll out to other areas across North Ayrshire. The eligibility criteria awareness will be shared with other Universal Early Years Teams and partners across the Local Authority.

South Lanarkshire

Eligible 2’s

South Lanarkshire have worked to increase the available childcare provision and support the uptake of funded early learning and childcare for 2 and 3 year olds. They have seen an increase from

10% to 15.5% in the uptake of 2 year old places for children with entitlement over the 12 months to March 2020. Health Visitors and Family Nurses have provided information about free places to parents at the earliest opportunity and especially across families that need to most support at the 13-15 month and 27-30 month health review. Health visitors can help signpost parents to nurseries who can advise parents if they are eligible for either a funded place or would be exempt from charges as a ‘family seeking work’ or through one of South Lanarkshire’s low income exemptions. Early Years staff are also working with the wider workforce designed to encourage parents to take up 2 year old places.

East Ayrshire

Exploring the cost of pregnancy

Evidence shows that there can be cost-related barriers to accessing NHS services, even when universally provided and free at point of access. PHS, GCPH, NHS GGC and NHS AA commissioned research to explore the financial impact of pregnancy and having a new baby on low-income families from urban (GGC) and rural (AA) populations.¹ The research identified cost-related barriers experienced by these families in accessing antenatal healthcare, and exploring what health services can do to support the financial wellbeing of expectant parents. The research findings highlight a range of factors contributed to the financial pressures experienced by expectant and new families in receipt of low income. An action plan has since been developed based on the recommendations from the research.

Cost of the School Day

For examples of activity which seek to reduce the cost of the school day, please visit <https://cpag.org.uk/cost-of-the-school-day>

1. https://www.gcph.co.uk/publications/951_exploring_the_cost_of_the_pregnancy_pathway

Appendix 1



Links to Further Information about Child Poverty in Scotland

- [Knowledge Hub](#)

Taking Action on Child Poverty in Scotland is a group with members who are interested in tackling child poverty in Scotland. It's free to join and you get immediate access a range of information and the opportunity to link with others working to tackle child poverty in Scotland

- [Improvement Service Child Poverty Pages](#) which includes links to all published local child Poverty Action Reports

- [Public Health Scotland](#) Child Poverty Information and Resources

- [Poverty and Inequality Commission](#)

- [Child Poverty Scotland Dashboard](#): national data on child poverty in Scotland

- [Child Poverty Action Group Scotland](#)

- [Poverty Alliance](#)

These resources were pulled together by the National Co-ordinators for the Local Child Poverty Action Reports based at the Improvement Service and Julie Arnot, Senior Health Improvement Officer (Child Poverty), Public Health Scotland.

To get in touch, please email:

rebecca.spillane@improvementservice.org.uk

hanna.mcculloch@improvementservice.org.uk

julie.arnot@phs.scot

iHub
Quarrywood Court
Livingston
EH54 6AX

Tel: 01506 282012
Email: info@improvementservice.org.uk
www.improvementservice.org.uk

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

The logo for Improvement Service, featuring the letters 'is' in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. The 'i' has a red dot above it, and the 's' has a red dot at the bottom right. Below the 'is' is the word 'improvement' in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by the word 'service' in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font.
improvement **service**