

Argyll and Bute Council: Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Section 1: About the proposal

Title of Proposal

Child Poverty Action Plan Review 2021 - 2022
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Intended outcome of proposal

<p>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. This review report aims to meet that obligation. Progress and challenges are noted and proposed new work is flagged up.</p>

<p>It is intended that children, young people and other stakeholders are able to see what actions are being taken to tackle child poverty in Argyll and Bute.</p>

Description of proposal

<p>This is the third review of the initial Child Poverty Action Plan Report, published in June 2019; reviews will take place annually up to 2030.</p>

Business Outcome(s) / Corporate Outcome(s) to which the proposal contributes

Child Poverty outcomes; noted under Outcome 4.
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Lead officer details:

Name of lead officer	Mandy Sheridan
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Job title	Service Improvement Officer
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Department	HSCP
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Appropriate officer details:

Name of appropriate officer	Fiona Davies
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Job title	Chief Officer
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Department	HSCP
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Sign off of EqSEIA	
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Date of sign off	
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Who will deliver the proposal?

The Argyll and Bute Child Poverty Action Group which is led by Fiona Davies

Section 2: Evidence used in the course of carrying out EqSEIA

Consultation / engagement

Consultation did take place with children and young people prior to the initial Child Poverty Report. Due to the covid-19 emergency it was not possible to do this prior to this current review report. However a child friendly version of the report was compiled for the last review and was used to inform children and young people. In the past year there has been some engagement and a child friendly version of this review will be shared along with information regarding an online mailbox where feedback can be left. There has also been engagement in schools with regards to hearing pupil voice and some young people attended the Poverty Awareness Training that took place this year. Information sharing has also taken place with other stakeholders, through the Living Well Networks and other service user groups run by Argyll and Bute Child Poverty Action Group Members, for example in areas such community planning, housing and the third sector.

In addition, at the National Conference on Local Action to Tackle Child Poverty on Wednesday 6th October 2021, Ishabel Bremner and Mandy Sheridan led a seminar on Tackling Child Poverty in Remote and Rural Places.

Since that time a meeting has taken place with Professor John McKendrick (SPIRU), David Reilly and Fiona McHardy (Poverty Alliance) and members of the AB CPAG to discuss ways of improving communication and engagement. A communications and engagement sub group has been formed to take this further.

Data

Fairer Scotland Duty 2018; Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017; Equality Act 2010; Child and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill 2020.

Other information

Guidance from and discussion with, the National Coordinator for local Child Poverty Action Reports, Hannah McCulloch (Improvement Service). Data regarding the nature of child poverty in Argyll and Bute; see for example: NOMIS; Child Poverty Dashboard; NOLB Data Toolkit; SIMD 2020V2 Local Authority Analysis.

<https://sway.office.com/ZFXcz7nnLSIEHJDe?ref=Link>

Gaps in evidence

The best use of multiple data sources to best support work on child poverty is a major issue across Scotland. Workshops and consultation on this issue are ongoing, run by the Improvement Service and the Scottish Government. Proposals to date include:

- Establish a multi-disciplinary working group on Tackling Child Poverty through Innovation in Data and Intelligence;
- Use expertise and good practice identified through the working group and partnership with SAVVI and/or the Data Transformation Framework to inform a training resource to include overview of relevant GDPR, existing practice examples, input from the Information Commissioner and the Scottish Government.

Section 3: Impact of proposal

Impact on service users:

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Protected characteristics:				
Age			X	
Disability			X	
Ethnicity			X	
Sex			X	
Gender reassignment				
Marriage and Civil Partnership		X		
Pregnancy and Maternity				
Religion		X		
Sexual Orientation			X	
Fairer Scotland Duty:				
Mainland rural population			X	
Island populations			X	
Low income			X	
Low wealth			X	
Material deprivation			X	
Area deprivation			X	
Socio-economic background			X	
Communities of place?			X	
Communities of interest?			X	

Impact on service deliverers (including employees, volunteers etc):

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Protected characteristics:				
Age			X	
Disability			X	
Ethnicity			X	
Sex			X	
Gender reassignment			X	
Marriage and Civil Partnership		X		
Pregnancy and Maternity			X	
Religion		X		
Sexual Orientation			X	
Fairer Scotland Duty:				
Mainland rural population			X	
Island populations			X	
Low income			X	
Low wealth			X	
Material deprivation			X	
Area deprivation			X	
Socio-economic background			X	
Communities of place?			X	
Communities of interest?			X	

If any 'don't know's have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?

How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?

No negative impacts identified.

Section 4: Interdependencies

Is this proposal likely to have any knock-on effects for any other activities carried out by or on behalf of the council?

The work detailed in the Child Poverty Action Plan Review, links to a number of different areas. For example it affirms work being children's rights into policy and practice. This review notes a wide range of poverty focused actions taking place in areas including: employability, housing, fuel poverty, benefits and social security, perinatal mental health, youth work, free school meals and free period products.

Details of knock-on effects identified

As a plan that brings diverse actions under the umbrella of tackling child poverty, it works to give a clearer picture of the whole and facilitates multi-agency working and new work. Examples of this would include the Flexible Food Fund and the help and advice book "Do You Have Money Worries". Another good example would be the range of training events for staff and others that has been delivered this year and is ongoing. These offer poverty awareness as well as practical skills in addressing poverty issues. This training will have a very positive knock-on effect in the practice of participants and the lives of service users supported, respected and understood better as a consequence. By doing this, the review and the work it reflects, has the potential to impact on most of the Council's / Health Board's / Partner activities. It is also felt that by raising the importance of addressing child poverty and better understanding the needs of children and families, decision making across the Council, Health Board and partners, will be improved.

Section 5: Monitoring and review

How will you monitor and evaluate the equality impacts of your proposal?

Equality impacts will be monitored by the Argyll and Bute CPAG. This group will ensure that each activity produces positive outcomes for children and meets the aims and objectives of the Councils Outcome Improvement Plan 2013 – 2023 and its Equality Policy. The group will also ensure that key legislation is adhered to, including: Fairer Scotland Duty 2018; Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017; Equality Act 2010; Child and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Outcomes of monitoring will be reflected in the minutes of the groups meetings, reports to governance groups (CPP, IJB etc.) and in the next annual review report. In all its actions the group will ensure that the rights of children are respected and due regard is given to the UNCRC and The Promise.