



Inverclyde Alliance

**AGENDA ITEM NO:**

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Alliance Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>15 June 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Louise McVey Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Gail Baxter Corporate Policy Officer (Poverty)</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>712746</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Child Poverty Action Report - Progress</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Inverclyde Alliance Board with progress on the annual Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/20.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 there is a requirement for all local authorities and relevant Health Boards across Scotland to reduce child poverty. The Act sets out four national statutory income based targets to be achieved by 2030. The four targets are:-
- Less than 10% of children are in relative poverty
  - Less than 5% of children are in absolute poverty
  - Less than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
  - Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty.
- 2.2 The Act requires that each local authority and relative NHS Health Board must jointly prepare an annual Child Poverty Local Action Reports (LAR's). The report will cover the financial year 2019/20. This annual reports must set out the activity undertaken during the reporting period and those planned going forward to meet the 2030 targets. Based on advice from Improvement Services and Scottish Government, the report submission will be later than expected due to the current situation with COVID-19.
- 2.3 The Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group agreed that the Inverclyde LAR should focus on a small number of set priorities, in line with the Scottish Government drivers of poverty. The drivers of poverty are Income from Employment, Costs of Living and Income from Social Security, each driver provides an overview of current and local service provision.
- 2.4 The structure of the Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report 2019/2020 is still being formalised and formatted but will include the three drivers of poverty with local data and demographics, the governance and accountability arrangements and updated progress within each of the plans around Cost of the School Day, Employment for 16-24 year olds, Digital inclusion, food insecurity and the impact of Covid – 19 on local child poverty. A progress report from actions included within 2018/19 Local Action Report will also be contained with the report.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a. Notes the progress made towards tackling child poverty and the themes and detail of the draft Local Action Report Template.
- b. Notes that the draft Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report 2019/2020 will be presented at the next meeting on Inverclyde Alliance in the Autumn 2020.

**Louise McVey**  
**Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Fairer Scotland Strategy set out a vision to ensure that Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up. To realise this outcome, it is committed to eradicating child poverty. Evidence suggests that poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of children who experience it. A 2013 study found that child poverty in the UK cost at least £29 billion a year.

## 4.2 Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

This legislation sets out a clear agenda for measuring, reporting on and reducing child poverty levels across Scotland. There are a number of statutory requirements which are set out below:

- Four statutory national **income** targets, to be met in the financial year beginning 1 April 2030.
- Places a duty on local authorities and health boards to report annually on activity taken, as well as planned action to contribute to the reduction of child poverty by 2030.
- Four **interim income** targets, to be met by Scottish ministers in the financial year beginning 1 April 2023 and 2026.
- Places a duty on Scottish ministers to publish child poverty delivery plans in 2018, 2022, and 2026, and to report progress towards meeting the 2030 targets.
- To report on delivery plans annually
- The creation of a Poverty and Inequality Commission to be established from 1 July 2019 with functions related to the child poverty national reduction targets.

Scotland is now the only part of the UK with statutory targets to reduce child poverty.

## 5.0 Developing Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report (LAR)

5.1 The range, role and collaborative engagement with partners delivering activities at a local level to tackle child poverty must be reflected in the LAR. However, partners delivering these activities must also be involved in the forward planning element. The Inverclyde Local Child Poverty Action Group fulfils this role and remit ensuring that partners are involved in local planning, research, data collating, reporting and reviewing actions and activities for child poverty and the annual LAR, in line with legislation.

5.2 The Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group agreed that the Inverclyde LAR should focus on a small number of set priorities, in line with the Scottish Government drivers of poverty. The drivers of poverty are Income from Employment, Costs of Living and Income from Social Security, each driver provides an overview of current and local service provision.

5.3 In accordance with the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act and based on advice from Improvement Services and Scottish Government, the report submission will be later than expected due to the current situation with COVID-19. Actions within this report will be added when received from Services.

5.4 The structure of the Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report 2019/2020 is still being formalised and formatted but will include;

Data on Child Poverty within Inverclyde including demographics, SIMD data highlighting Income and Employment Deprivation, Working age people with no qualifications: 17 – 21 year olds enrolling in higher education and percentage of children living below 60% median, before housing costs (based on data from DWP and HMRC)

Governance and Accountability – Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group is responsible to collate and coordinate the actions and report on the local activity around child poverty and the Inverclyde Local Child Poverty Action Report. The Inverclyde Alliance Board, supported by the Programme

Board provides, governance leadership and scrutiny to the work of the Child Poverty Action Group.

Actions, plans and priorities – Plan showing priorities within Inverclyde identified by collaborative working with NHS partners, priorities being Apprenticeships, Digital Inclusion, Cost of the School Day, Food insecurity, Housing, employment for 16 – 24 year olds, Workforce Development, Awareness, Support. Progress Report from Actions included within 2018/19 Local Action Report. New actions linked to the Drivers of Poverty – this is work in progress due to COVID-19 service response

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Legal: The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act places a legal requirement on Councils and NHS Health Board to produce a joint Local Child Poverty Action Report.
- 6.2 Finance: There are no financial implications associated with this report at present.
- 6.3 Human Resources: There are no HR implications associated with this report at present.
- 6.4 Equality and Diversity: There are no Equality and Diversity implications associated with this report at present.
- 6.5 Repopulation: A reduction in poverty levels will improve the quality of life for many residents in Inverclyde. Improved satisfaction levels may encourage more young people to stay in the area and may make Inverclyde a more attractive place for those considering moving to the area. Repopulation remains a key priority within the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.
- 6.6 Inequalities: Inequalities and poverty are inextricably linked therefore reducing poverty will have an impact of reducing inequalities in the area.

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 n/a

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None