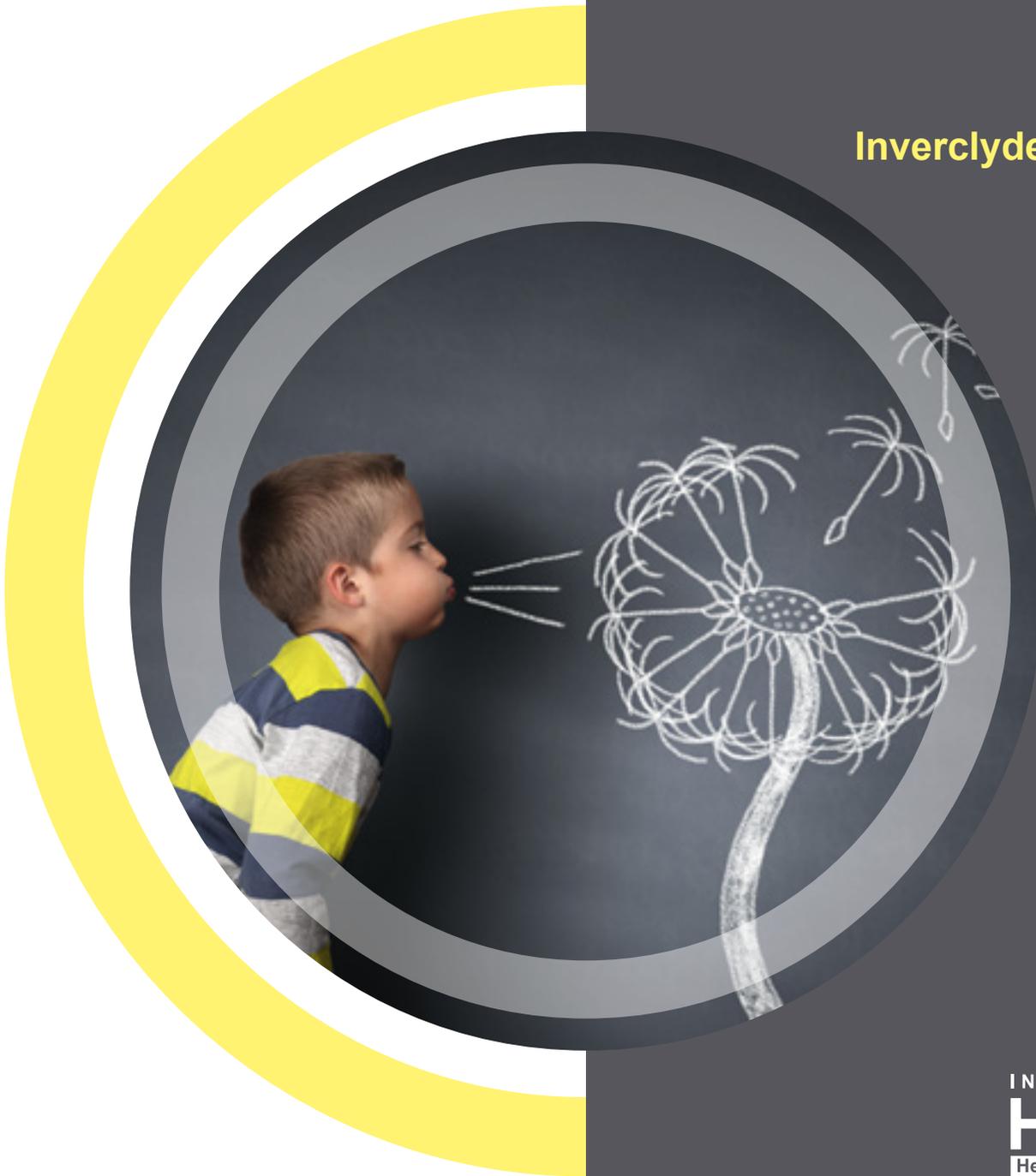


# Inverclyde Local Child Poverty Action Report

2019-20



INVERCLYDE  
**HSCP**  
Health and Social  
Care Partnership

Inverclyde  
council



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# Foreword

**Poverty has a profound impact on children's rights in a range of ways including education, health and future chances in life and urgent action is required to tackle the issues. Recognising the inequalities that exist in Inverclyde has been significant to our partnership working to mitigate child poverty and has been the foundation that has allowed our response to COVID-19. This has been a collective effort with our local stakeholders and communities to uphold the rights of our children and make a difference with the people who need support the most. Albeit, we know that our challenges are huge, but our hearts are big.**

The Scottish Government published the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation on 28 January 2020. The data showed that Inverclyde continues to suffer from very high levels of multiple and acute deprivation levels of acute deprivation in Inverclyde have doubled between 2016 and 2020.

The most deprived data zone in Scotland is located in Greenock Town Centre. This datazone is impacted from low income, low employment, poor health, reduced education and crime rates. We know that children living in deprived areas have lower school attendance, lower levels of attainment and are far less likely to move into further education, employment or training. Furthermore, child poverty can have a negative impact on children and young people being able to access and realise their fundamental rights as stated in the UNCRC. All these factors contribute to the higher levels of multiple deprivation and highlight the multi-faceted challenges around tackling child poverty. Despite the high levels of poverty, Inverclyde has many areas to be proud of including being eighth in the school leavers league table with 95.8 per cent of pupils securing a job, training or a place at university or college, being the 3rd top performing local authority in Scotland for participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards with young people achieving 32 Gold, 50 Silver and 148 Bronze Awards and being 1 of only 2 local authorities that have 100% schools participating in the UNICEF Rights Respecting

School Award. In relation to education, evidence shows that our schools are raising standards and are succeeding reducing the poverty related attainment gap and ensuring our children are knowledgeable on their rights and how to access these. The Concert Band and Wind Orchestra achieved Gold and Gold Plus awards at Regional and National Events. Inverclyde are the only local authority in Scotland who has qualified for the finals each year since the festival started 10 years ago. This year the band qualified for the national finals in Manchester, the only school band from Scotland.

The current research highlights that the Covid-19 pandemic has a disproportionate effect on those living in areas with higher levels of deprivation, with the NRS statistics showing that Inverclyde has a higher ratio of deaths than the Scottish average. The Covid-19 pandemic has created an increase in anxiety and insecurity for those facing economic, health and social inequalities; already vulnerable to life choices. It is likely that that many more families in Inverclyde will be at risk of falling into poverty for the first time due to the consequences of COVID-19. Inverclyde, Child Poverty Action Group is planning and reviewing how to recover from the impact of this keeping children's rights at the centre of planning and decision making and taking cognisance of employment especially amongst our 16-24 year olds, the ongoing and possible rising demand for food, fuel and shopping, and inequalities around accessing the internet, benefits and welfare.

This year's Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) outlines our current actions and good practice areas and the progress that we have achieved to date, as well as highlighting the challenges that lie ahead. We continue to build on our strengths and remain innovative in approaches to reduce child poverty and support and improve life chances for the families of Inverclyde.

**Aubrey Fawcett**  
Chief Executive  
Inverclyde Council

**Jane Grant**  
Chief Executive  
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde



# Introduction

**This is Inverclyde's second Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR); it focuses on selected actions being undertaken locally to reduce child poverty in Inverclyde and to mitigate poverty for the wider population. The report will outline the progress made from last year's LCPAR, the impact made in 2019/20 and our future priorities for improvement for 20/21.**

NHSGGC's corporate and acute services child poverty and poverty approach is being reviewed by their Corporate Management Team in September 2020.

Inverclyde is a partner on NHSGGC's child poverty leads network. The network has shared good practice and problem solved issues such as employability / parental employment fund; childcare and housing in the last year. The network has developed a set of long term objectives which network partners have signed up to.

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 live in households that are in relative poverty
- Less than 5% of children live in households that are in absolute poverty
- Less than 5% of children live in households that are in combined low income and material deprivation
- Less than 5% of children live in households that are in persistent poverty

An interim target of 18% relative poverty has been set for 2023 - 24.

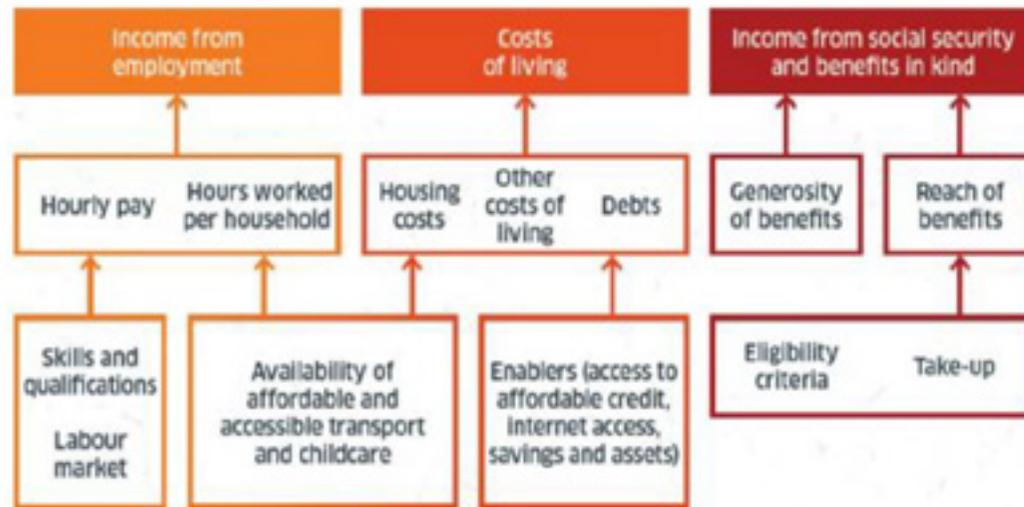
The Act requires that each local authority and associated NHS Health Board must jointly prepare annual LCPAR's. This report will cover the financial year 2019/20. These annual reports must set out the activity undertaken during the reporting period and those planned going forward to meet the 2030 targets.

An essential element in reducing child poverty in Inverclyde is effective engagement and connection with our local communities experiencing poverty. By developing a greater understanding and raising awareness across partners and the community of the causes and effects of poverty, we have delivered services in a more targeted way to enhance the services that we are providing. Most importantly of all, it will ensure that the voices of those who matter are being heard.

In recognition of this, Inverclyde's Local Child Poverty Action Group is representative of partners who can make a difference; Inverclyde Council, Inverclyde HSCP, Public Health Scotland, Housing and 3rd sector partners. This positive partnership working has formed the basis of this report. Local and national data has been used within this report to gauge an overall understanding the good practice locally and the areas requiring improvement.



The Scottish Government direct drivers of poverty fall in to 3 main categories:



According to Scottish Government's 'Every Child Every Chance' Delivery Plan 2018 - 2022, focus was given to the following characteristics of families more likely to be affected by poverty:





# Inverclyde - people and place

## The Population of Inverclyde 2020

As at 30 June 2019 the estimated population of Inverclyde was 77,800 this is expected to decrease by 2028. It is estimated that there will be less births in Inverclyde resulting in a natural decrease in population. The percentage of the population that are children aged 0 to 15 years is projected to fall by more than twice the Scottish average, -14.2%, compared to -6% in Scotland. The population projection for % of 0-15 year old is expected to fall by 14.2% compared to a fall of 6% in Scotland by 2028 (population projections for Scottish Areas, published March 2020).

## Deprivation in Inverclyde 2020

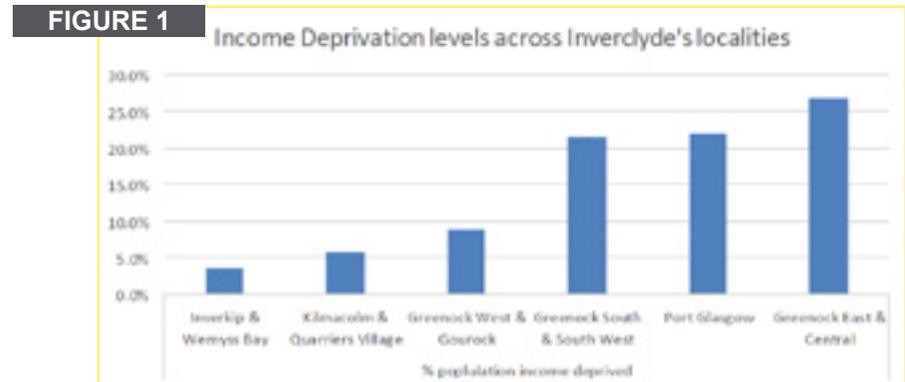
The latest Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data published in January 2020 shows that 51 (44.7%) of Inverclyde's data zones are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland, this is the 2nd highest local share in Scotland behind Glasgow. Inverclyde also suffers from very high levels of acute deprivation with 21 data zones in the 5% most deprived in Scotland. The most deprived data zone in Scotland (ranked 1) is in Greenock Town Centre and East Central.

Income and employment deprivation are highly significant issues for the whole of Inverclyde. The data zone has the second highest level of income deprivation in Scotland and the highest level of employment deprivation in Scotland.

In Inverclyde:

- 13,945 (17.7%) of the local population is income deprived, compared to 12% in Scotland, but levels rise dramatically in our most deprived data zones.
- There are 7,126 people in Inverclyde that are employment deprived. This is 14.3% of the population and is higher than the Scottish average of 9%.

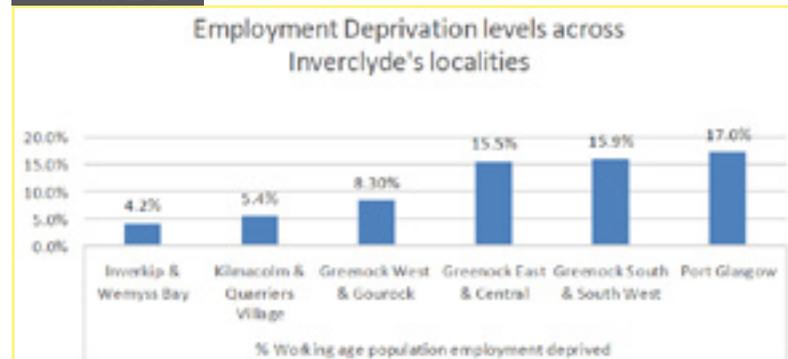
The graph below details % population income deprived and % working age population employment deprived, split into Inverclyde's localities (figure 1):





The graph to the right details % population employment deprived, split into Inverclyde's localities (figure 2):

**FIGURE 2**



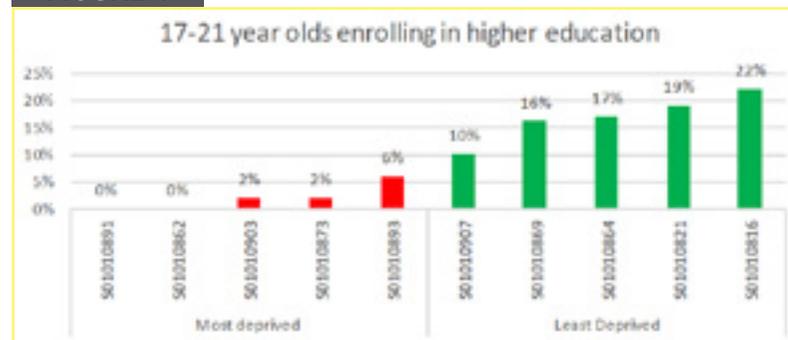
In relation to qualifications, there remains a gap between those gaining qualifications in the community, the graph below showing the most deprived areas against the least deprived areas (figure 3).

**FIGURE 3**



There remains a gap in 17 – 21 years olds enrolling in higher education, with a higher amount enrolling within the least deprived areas compared to the most deprived areas. The graph below shows that within the most deprived area, there are datazones (Greenock Town Centre & East Central and Low Bow & Larkfield, Fancy Farm, Mallard Bowl) with 0% of 17 – 21 year olds enrolling in higher education rising to 22% in one of the least deprived area (Kilmacollm Central) (figure 4).

**FIGURE 4**





Based on data collected by DWP and HMRC, the graph below shows the percentage of children in households below 60% median, before housing costs, by local authority, 2014/15 to 2018/19. Inverclyde has the 18th highest level of poverty before housing costs, with a 3.3% increase from 2014/15 to 2018/19, however 0.7% less than the Great Britain total. The figures use mid-year population estimates to calculate percentage rates (figure 5).

Between Jan to December 2019 there were 35,700 economically active residents between the age of 16 – 64 living in Inverclyde, of those, 72.2% were in employment compared to Scotland's figure of 77.5%. 1,700 (4.8%) residents between of 16 – 64 years were unemployed. Scotland's figure was 3.5%. The number of people living in Inverclyde now claiming Universal Credit has increased mainly due to the impact of Covid-19. Figures from DWP showed that 8,502 (figure 14th May 2020) people were claiming Universal Credit.

Poverty is fundamentally about lack of money and Inverclyde's Child Poverty Action Group have been working in partnership with Public Scotland to identify local data sets and to map out service provision for families living in poverty. This has resulted in a comprehensive analysis of the challenges around inequalities and poverty in Inverclyde, the findings of this analysis are attached as appendix 2 and referred to throughout this report.

### Income from employment

Labour market demand: Employment opportunities in Inverclyde, whether measured by vacancies or jobs, are scarce compared to Scotland. In 2018, there were 63 filled jobs for every 100 working-age people in Inverclyde, compared to 82 per 100 in Scotland. Labour market demand as measured by jobs density increased steadily in Inverclyde between 2012 and 2016 but fell slightly between 2016 and 2018 (Figure 6).

FIGURE 5

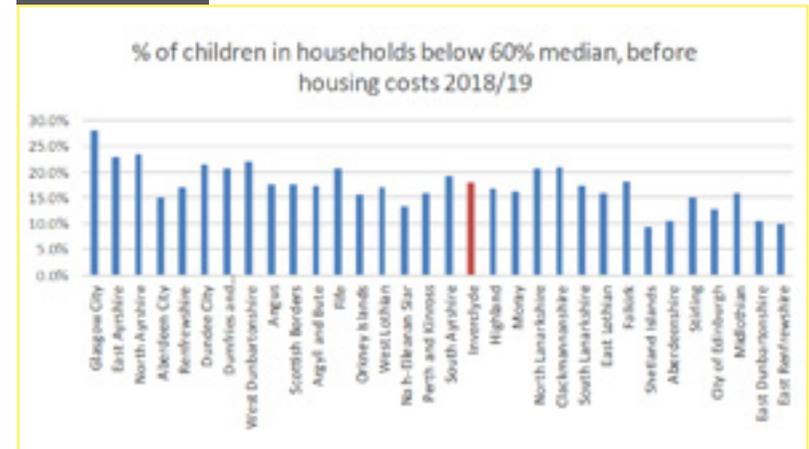
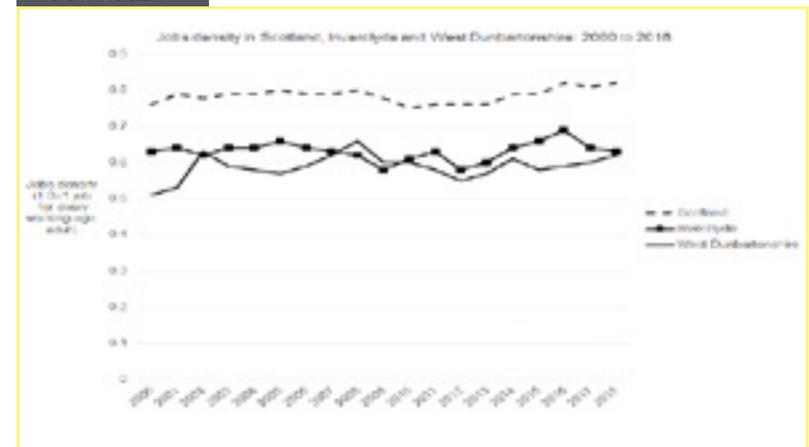


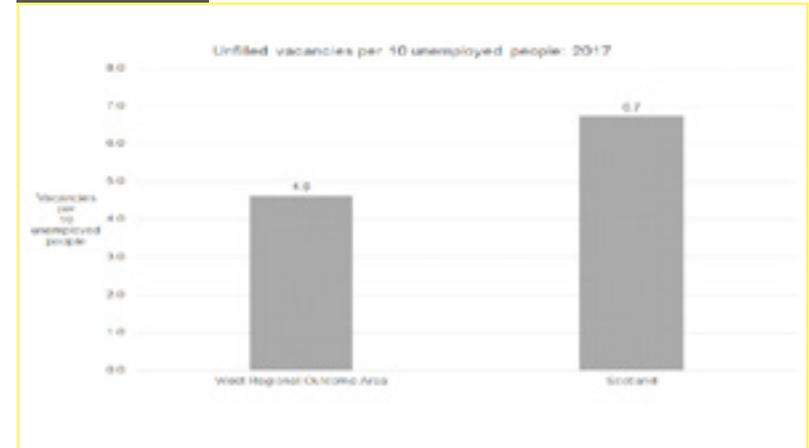
FIGURE 6





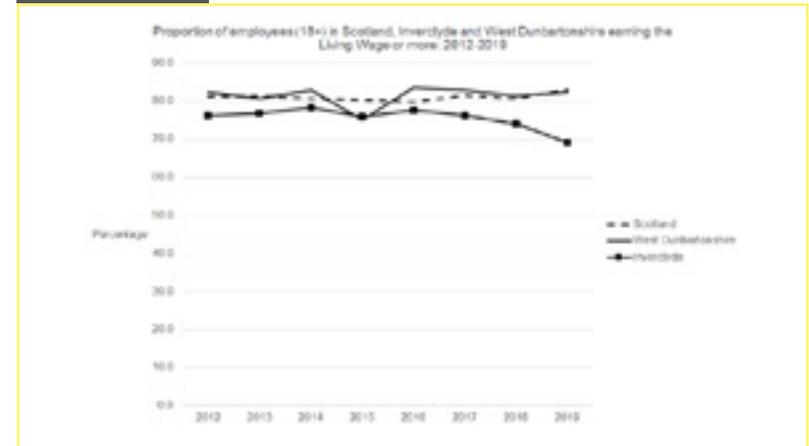
A second measure of labour market demand is unfilled vacancies, shown as a rate per 10 unemployed people. In the West area (including East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, and West Dunbartonshire), there were 4.6 vacancies for every 10 unemployed people, compared to 6.7 for every 10 unemployed people in Scotland as a whole (Figure 2). The latest vacancy data is for 2017 (figure 7).

**FIGURE 7**



Wages: The latest wage data suggests a higher proportion of Inverclyde employees are low paid, compared to both Scotland and West Dunbartonshire. In 2018, 74% of employees in Inverclyde were paid the Real Living Wage or above, compared to 81% in Scotland and West Dunbartonshire. The proportion of Inverclyde employees paid the Real Living Wage or above decreased between 2016 and 2019 (Figure 8).

**FIGURE 8**





In 2019, 9% of employees who work in Inverclyde are paid the National Minimum Wage, compared to 6% in Scotland and 5% in West Dunbartonshire. Between 2017 and 2019, the proportion of Inverclyde workers who were low-paid appears to have increased, while remaining stable in both West Dunbartonshire and Scotland (Figure 9).

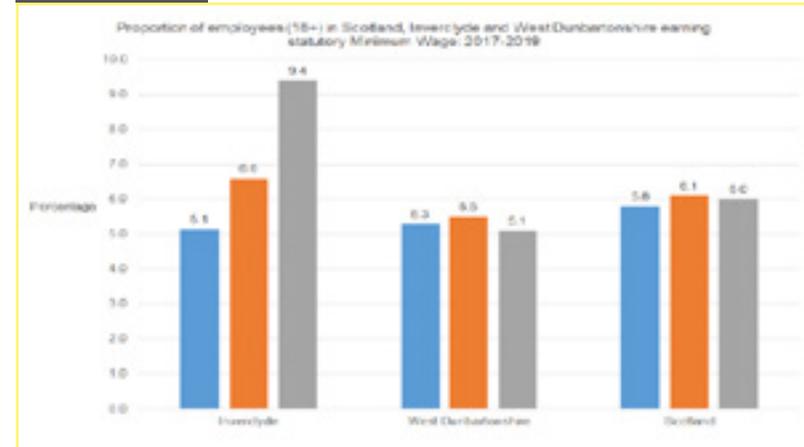
The full report of findings can be found in Appendix 2 of the document.

There are 16 accredited National Living wage employers in Inverclyde. Together they employ an estimated total of 8,751 staff. An estimated 1938 of those workers have received a pay rise onto the Living Wage as a result of accreditation.

NHSGGC's recruitment team has a range of employability outreach activity, which includes Inverclyde. In addition, there was liaison with Local Authority Leads around NHSGGC connections in relation to the Parental Employability Fund. Also, NHSGGC commissioned workshops from Family Friendly Working Scotland for local employers in the NHSGGC area in the Healthy Working Lives Scheme.

NHSGGC provides a range of employability outreach activity, Inverclyde is included in this. In 2020/21, in line with guidance from national Healthy Working Lives partners, NHSGGC aims to undertake a family friendly audit of its policies. In terms of Living Wage Accreditation, Inverclyde will work to influence partners, including the NHS to achieve accreditation.

**FIGURE 9**



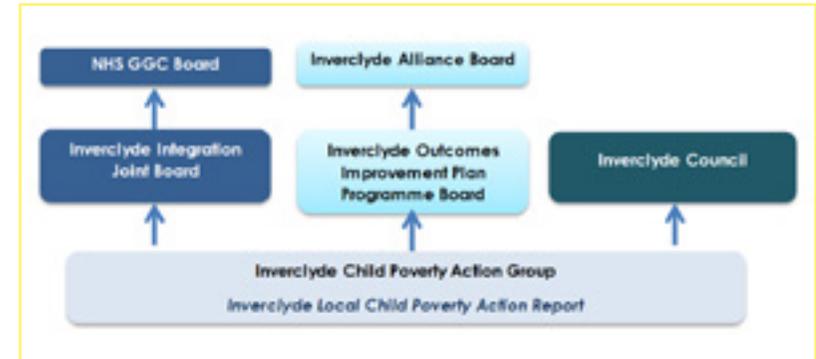


# Governance and accountability

Immediate responsibility for the governance of this Inverclyde LCPAR rests with the Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group. This group meets on a regular basis and is chaired by the Corporate Director of Education Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council.

The Inverclyde Alliance Board, supported by the Programme Board provides governance, leadership and scrutiny to the work of the Child Poverty Action Group, as well as helping to co-ordinate partnership activity.

Inverclyde Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde have joint responsibility for implementation of the LCPAR therefore relevant committees receive regular progress on delivery.



## Links to other plans and strategies

The Inverclyde Alliance vision for Inverclyde is:

*Nurturing Inverclyde:*

***Getting it Right for Every Child Citizen and Community***

The Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan set out 3 strategic priorities that reflects both the need and aspirations of our communities with the aim of reducing deprivation and inequalities. The three strategic priorities are:

- Population
- Inequalities
- Environment, Culture and Heritage

As part of the Community Planning element of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Inverclyde Alliance has a responsibility to develop locality plans for those areas of Inverclyde which experience the greatest inequalities. Inverclyde has established local communication and engagement groups and published Locality Action Plans for all 6 locality areas in Inverclyde. However, the areas that experience the greatest inequalities in Inverclyde are:

- Port Glasgow
- Greenock East/Central
- Greenock South/South West

The links between the LCPAR and the area's high level strategic plans.



The delivery of the actions and projects within this LCPAR make a significant contribution to the delivery of a range of strategic plans and priorities for partners across Inverclyde and these are noted in the Delivery Plan in Appendix1. All of the actions within the delivery plan help to build and deliver on children and young people's access to their rights as outlined within the UNCRC and a wide range of ways, as well services meeting their duties to promote and uphold the rights of children and young people as outlined in the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014.



# Inverclyde HSCP

**Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde HSCP work with partners around Child Poverty and in March 2020 committed £1 million towards anti-poverty initiatives. The Child Poverty Action Group agreed priorities and work plans in relation to supporting families in financial distress.**

## Income, Employment and Training

In 2018/19 the Council developed a pre- apprenticeship pilot for twelve pupils, primarily in S4, who were not fully engaged in school who may benefit from taking them out of school for vocational training purposes and building on the opportunity to access their rights (article 29) “A child or young person’s education should help their mind, body and talents be the best they can be”. Despite the impact of COVID-19, five of the pupils in the childcare group achieved an SCQF level 4 qualification in childcare whilst the Engineering and Construction cohort all achieved SCQF level 4 units in a variety of related topics.

Inverclyde Council will develop a bridge between school and the success of the Councils existing modern apprenticeship programme. It is proposed to offer the pre-apprenticeship programme for a second cohort of twelve pupils from across Inverclyde between August 20 and June 21. In addition it is proposed to offer a level 2 apprenticeship to the year 1 cohort in the area of last year’s development over a period of 18 months from August 2020. Finally it is proposed to offer the five modern apprentices who are due to finish on the Councils existing modern apprenticeship programme a two year contract at an entry level post to allow them time to gain further experience and enhance their job prospects.

## Food Insecurity and the Cost of Living

The Council has provided a £25 per fortnight payment to every child/ young person entitled to receive free school meals throughout the Covid period ensuring access to their right to adequate food (article 27). The current is due to end on the 28th August and has benefited approximately 3700 children. It is recognised in Inverclyde that the Christmas period puts a major financial strain on families with limited

income and would propose that a one off payment made in the middle of December to each child/young person in receipt of free school meals and would allow qualifying families to buy healthier food over the Christmas period.

In addition to the FareShare community food initiative already being funded for a further 12 months, there is an opportunity to establish a local Food Pantries in one of the localities with the greatest inequalities. The Food Pantry organisation is offering to support local authorities and third sector organisations develop a concept and build on their framework of good practice. The Food 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 and healthy food at a price that is affordable.

NHSGGC participated in national research in partnership with Health Scotland and NHS Ayrshire and Arran on the cost of the pregnancy pathway. Key actions being taken forward from 2020/21 include partnerships considering the costs of attending services for families; of purchasing items for a new baby and affordable childcare.

## Welfare Support

The Scottish Government allocated £5 million as a one off sum to Councils to allow more generous Discretionary Housing Payments to be made during the Covid period of which Inverclyde were allocated £71,000. 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.

## Digital Inclusion

The Council has received an allocation of £433,000 from the Scottish Government to ensure that all secondary school pupils in receipt of free school meals have access to an appropriate device and connectivity. This makes significant inroads into many households suffering from digital exclusion. The Council has previously approved an £80,000 investment from the Anti-Poverty earmarked reserves to provide free Wi-Fi for a five year period in 8 Community Centres in addition to the existing infrastructure within the Council Libraries estate. The council and its partners will continue to develop a strategy for digital inclusion focusing on young people, lone parents, families where English is a second language and those who are engaged in training but need access to digital equipment to help with their course. The strategy will include ensuring the people have hardware, connectivity and ability by working in partnership to provide additionality. Inverclyde HSCP has also committed £24,000 towards buying laptops for care experienced children across the district. All of this progress will help children and young people to access a range of rights including participation, inclusion, the rights to access information and the right to education and is instrumental in closing the gap for those children and young people in being able to access and realise their rights.

Pupils, regardless of whether they have a computer and internet access or not, have been provided with resources from their schools

to continue learning at home during lockdown – with staff in contact regularly with young people and their families to offer support and advice.

## Build on a strong community and third sector base

There is an opportunity to build on the excellent Community response to the Covid pandemic to improve capacity and resilience. Many groups received financial support from time limited Scottish Government schemes and it is proposed that the Council creates a fund to receive applications for support to allow projects which support the vulnerable and isolated to continue.

## Inverclyde's Attainment Challenge

Inverclyde continues to make progress in reducing the poverty related attainment gap. The attainment of all pupils within SIMD 1 and 2 is increasing in all aspects of Literacy and Numeracy at all stages. Raised attainment in both literacy and numeracy at combined primary levels illustrates a reduction in the poverty related attainment gap.

A working group has been set up locally to raise awareness to school pupils, staff and parent / carers on reducing the cost of the school day. Training has been offered to school staff with the first training session being a success. Further training dates will be arranged.

Cost of the School day is now a standing agenda item on the Parent Council Chairs meeting with ideas from Parent Council Chairs being taken on board.

Feedback from parents on what currently works well and changes they would like to see has been piloted at one Primary School as well as during two community events during Challenge Poverty Week. It is hoped this can be widened to other schools working with Parent Council Chairs within Inverclyde.



## Inverclyde HSCP

In response to the generational, social health and economic inequalities, 6 big actions have been identified to address the drivers that impact on poverty. These are outlined in Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Plan.

- Care Experienced Young People (CEYP) Attainment Fund maximises learner participation by providing opportunities for personal achievements. The CEYP Attainment Fund has bought 125 laptops and dongles to challenge digital poverty and support children, young people and their families to access their rights in a range of ways.
- HSCP are working to fight against food insecurity – in partnership with Riverclyde Homes (Communities Fund) – 425 children were supported by Children’s Services and have benefitted from cash for kids and have been supported to access their right to food.
- Creative Health and Wellbeing Workshops through one of Inverclyde’s secondary schools provided online learning opportunity via webex for 10 young people over a 6 week period to:
  - express themselves creatively
  - learn new creative skills
  - connect with others to maintain positive mental health.
  - relieve anxiety and stress

The above partnership working included the Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Art Department, RigArts and CEYP and their peers.

- As a consequence of COVID-19, there has been an increase in the number of people volunteering. This has given a greater pool of mentors for CEYP at home between the ages of 8-14yrs which has helped to build confidence and resilience and a readiness to learn.
- Training to midwives at Inverclyde Royal Hospital was provided on the importance of routine enquiry money worries, how to refer on Badger net and new maternity related social

security benefits. The aim was to increase money advice referrals to Healthier Wealthier Children.

- Work has continued within maternity services to increase referrals to financial inclusion services. As part of the SNIPs service, financial inclusion service direct access pathways have been set up to prevent sanctions and issues of conditionality for women.
- Inverclyde’s Local Child Poverty Action Group future direction is based on evaluating, improving and collaborative working with NHS partners. The group identified areas of joint working which was followed by workshops led by NHS Health Scotland, looking at data available and prioritising areas we wish to focus on.

## Public Health Scotland

Public Health Scotland are now working in partnership with Inverclyde’s Child Poverty Action Group to develop a Whole System’s Approach to explore how we can bring the skills and knowledge locally and nationally to strengthen the work of this partnership and ultimately maximise a collective impact on reduction child poverty. This will enable Inverclyde to further establish the gaps and understand the data. This process will amplify the work from the workshops, and give rich information to scrutinise. Locally, we require to focus on improving our data collection and analysis in order to increase our understanding of the needs of the priority groups and the community as a whole.

## Poverty Alliance Scotland - Get Heard Inverclyde

There is a need to connect people within our communities, with services and organisation to provide information, support and advice that is meaningful and helpful, in order to prevent them from entering or being left in poverty. The voice of the people with lived experience of poverty and inequality will be recognised through both the locality planning and participatory budgeting process. A community based approach with the support of the third sector and the volunteers will ensure that the most relevant voices are heard. Discussions have



commenced with Get Heard Scotland to work in collaboration with Inverclyde Council to engage, involve and empower people affected by poverty and get their engagement on the policies and decisions that most impact their lives. The Poverty Alliance Get Heard Project would provide Inverclyde with a qualitative research report.

## **NHSGGC**

NHSGGC has consulted with lower paid staff. Many had money worries, from the research changes to attendance management procedure, wage slip messages and nurse registration processes all include money worries messages. In addition, staff money worries clinics are being piloted.

## **CVS Inverclyde**

The local Third Sector Interface (TSI) organisation, which offers support to community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises across Inverclyde, including those who support children and families. Another role of a TSI is to host networks. CVS Inverclyde has 2 networks that directly support children and young people, particularly those experiencing multiple types of poverty.

- The Resilience Network was launched in February 2020 to bring together colleagues from both public sector and 3rd sector organisations to work together to help the people of Inverclyde to build resilience and foster hope. Among the network's areas of activity are support around food insecurities, employment and interview skills, parenting support and gaining qualifications.
- In June 2020, CVS Inverclyde relaunched the children and young people's network as the Best Start in Life Network. This new network uses the collective knowledge and experience of professionals and providers to develop a collaborative approach that will ensure the children and young people of Inverclyde really do have the best start in life. The first meeting focused on the themes of poverty, early intervention and holistic family/community approaches.

The second meeting discussed Covid-19 recovery and a partnership approach to mitigating the impact of lockdown on children and young people's attainment.

CVS Inverclyde is also a member of the national TSI Children's Services Network, which is hosted by Children in Scotland. This network provides the opportunity to share best practice, receive regular updates from a national level and raise local issues to influence national policy.

## **Acute financial inclusion services**

Acute financial inclusion services support families from across NHSGGC including Inverclyde. The SNIPs financial inclusion service, the Children's Hospital and the adult Acute financial inclusion services all provide direct support and advice about welfare benefits and provide support to apply for and access eligible benefits, debt advice and help with energy issues. The SNIPs financial inclusion service also has a vital advocacy support element.

Best Start Grant information was shared with early years staff and a quality improvement programme initiated to increase referrals to money advice services

NHS public health colleagues have continued partnership working with both the DWP and SSS. A NHSGCC pilot with the DWP at QEUH, which will, when safe to do so, will be co-located with Support Information Services and with direct patient access. This will initially support benefit issues e.g. Universal Credit accounts while in hospital.

## **Best Start Grants**

Social Security Scotland is an Executive Agency of the Scottish Government. They have been set up to administer the new Scottish social security system.

Benefits are being introduced in stages. The benefits introduced to date are mostly in the form of one-off or lump sum payments. From



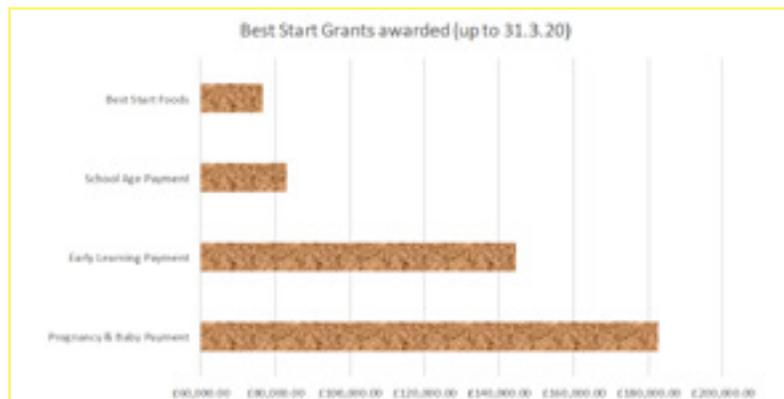
next year more complex disability benefits will be delivered.

When fully operational, 16 benefits will be delivered supporting people who are:

on low incomes, have disabilities, carers, young people entering the workplace, and to help people heat their homes.

Social Security Scotland continue to work closely with partners to ensure eligible families receive grants available.

The graph below details grants provided to Inverclyde families:



### Family Nurse Partnership

Family Nurse Partnership offer intensive support to mums aged 19 or under. This involves engaging with the young mums during pregnancy through a mixture of weekly and fortnightly home visits. Developing a therapeutic relationship and using this to create a secure base and as a vehicle for positive behaviour change. The Family Nurses support the young mums with a variety of issues such as claiming benefits, housing options, managing a household budget, training, employability and CV writing skills. The role of the Family Nurse is to support the young mum with these aspects but with a continuous encouragement towards self-efficacy.

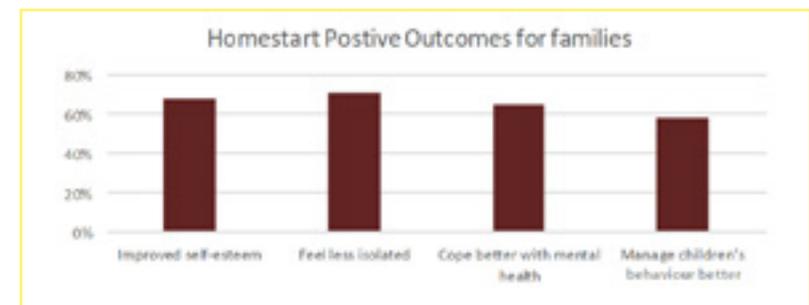
Within Inverclyde, 86% of mothers participating in the programme lived in SIMD 1 & 2 areas (2019).

### Homestart

Homestart provides emotional and practical support and friendship to help parents with young children, in order to give every child the best possible start in life. Parents grow in confidence, strengthen their relationship with their children and widen their links within the local community. There are currently 3 members of staff within Inverclyde and 40 volunteers. 60 families and 108 children have been supported from 2015 to present through home visiting.

Families require support for reasons including:

- Social Isolation
- Parents' poor mental health
- Difficulties managing children's behaviour
- Parents' low self-esteem
- Stress caused by family conflict





## Additional support for families in poverty

Families are referred to foodbank / Belville Community Gardens, donations (clothes, buggies, prams, toys) are requested through volunteers / Facebook and hardship fund are available for families in extreme need.

*'I was at breaking point and it was either me or taking the children into care. For parents' mental health this is a vital service, because it is providing the support that nowhere else is providing in Inverclyde'*

*'They're great for putting you in touch with other organisations .... We had went a long period of time without any actual income. It was the volunteer who went and got us put in touch with the food bank'*

The above quotes are from families supported by Homestart.

## Belville Community Gardens Trust

This is a registered Scottish charity formed in 2014 by local people to bring community groups and individuals together in the east end of Greenock, Inverclyde. The organisation promotes a safer, stronger community around improving lifestyles, and health primarily through gardening, horticulture and healthy eating, breaking social barriers for young and old alike and offer the chance of new learning experiences, improved community relationships, a sense of pride in the environment and improved mental and physical wellbeing.

As well as food growing, they also redistribute surplus food from our Inverclyde community fridges and at their weekly "Soup and a Blether" pay as you feel community meal, with a community larder table available for food sharing.

The garden employs five staff working on a range of projects with a strategy to engage local community groups training people in construction skills, food growing and cookery skills.

## Barnardo's Nurture Services Inverclyde

Barnardo's Nurture Services Inverclyde provides a wide range of universal and specialised opportunities to promote family wellbeing. The highly skilled staff base within the service offers children and families across Inverclyde a wide range of support in a bespoke and individualised manner. Individuals across the age range of 0-18 years are supported through the services in Early Years, Primary and Secondary Attainment and Thrive. These services across Nurture delivers the core principal of children and families being at the centre. The needs based supports also produces best outcomes for improving wellbeing and family life. Barnardo's work alongside children and families to support and improve areas of family life such as:

- Positive Learning Experiences
- Increase Social Capital
- Positive/Improve Family Relationships
- Improve Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Stable and Secure Family Environment

## Parklea Branching Out

This is a local not-for-profit third sector organisation and Charity, based within the Parklea Park area in Port Glasgow.

The focus of Parklea's activities is horticulture therapy which are used to deliver a range of training, supported employment, work experience, recreational and social facilities to young people and adults with neurodevelopment conditions, which can include a wide range of cognitive disabilities and other complex diagnosis, such as; Autism, Down's Syndrome, Fragile X, Williams Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, acquired brain injury, communication difficulties and multiple and physical disabilities.

In the delivery of Parklea's current programmes, they work in partnership with Inverclyde Council and HSCP and other referring partner agencies in terms of client referral and service contract funding.



Parklea have adapted and responded to COVID-19's challenging situation and consider the impact that this may have on the Charity and for our very vulnerable clients, who in addition to their learning disability have very different and complex needs and other underlying issues that can include poor mental and physical health, physical disabilities, long term health conditions, low self esteem/low confidence and high levels of anxiety or depression. Individuals can also have other social needs and for some can be socially isolated.

In addition, many live in deprived communities and disadvantaged households. Parklea chose to do this in a range of ways by reaching out to our people through home delivery of food boxes, cooked meals and beautiful flowers and plants that the clients helped to grow and nurture.

### **Inverclyde Community Development Trust**

Inverclyde Community Development Trust exists to create jobs, provide services and remove barriers. It is an organisation that uses a combination of community development, enterprise and creativity to improve the quality of life for local people. Our focus is on the things that matter for the people of Inverclyde with over thirty years of experience in providing a wide range of services and support across the community. The Trust's main areas of work are Employability services, training, befriending, refugee support, arts and heritage, active travel and community food projects.

### **Morton in the Community Trust**

Morton in the Community Trust is a registered charity and has been operational since March 2013. They help to create a healthier and safer region by working closely with key partners in the public and private sectors to create inclusive programmes that engage people of all ages and abilities.

These range from physical literacy classes in nursery schools through to non-elite coaching sessions for 2 – 16 year olds, employability training for people of all ages, promoting healthy lifestyles, and

physical and mental well-being sessions. There are more than 5,000 people engaged in these programmes on an annual basis.

### **Challenging Inverclyde Poverty Group**

Formed in November 2018 in response to poverty being identified as an issue that has a negative impact on the lives of people across Inverclyde.

People experiencing poverty need to be involved in the design of solutions including work to address the underlying causes of poverty. Challenging Poverty Inverclyde are one of the HSCP Advisory Groups, facilitated by Your Voice to work alongside Inverclyde Council and local health and social care providers to ensure that the views of local people are heard when planning and developing services.

Over the past year concerns have been raised which people in our community face on a daily basis. These include welfare reforms and the benefits system - the inequity of Universal Credits and Zero Hour Contracts (in work poverty), health, employment, and travel. We have also highlighted that too many of Inverclyde's children, young people and families have limited opportunities to partake in many aspects of everyday community life due to poverty.

The CIP group has been working to raise awareness of / promote:

- Local resources to help mitigate poverty
- The cost of the school day
- Universal Basic Income
- Scarcity theory and how this can lead people to make poor decisions

CIP group have also worked with national organisations including:

- Universal Basic Income (local survey online) - Scottish Governments Cross Party Working Group & Compass CIP's
- Oxfam Scotland – local inequalities workshop
- Poverty Alliance Scotland – Get Heard Programme



# COVID-19 - impact on Inverclyde

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the world, but there are certain groups of people for whom the virus and the measures to stop the spread of the virus will have a greater negative impact. Those living in socio-economic disadvantage and who are already experiencing the greatest inequality of outcomes are more likely to struggle to access their fundamental rights, experience poor health, lack of income, poor and cramped housing, fuel poverty, poor educational attainment and lack of access to greenspace. They are unlikely to have any savings to help cover additional unplanned costs or gaps in income. All this means that if they contract the virus, they are potentially more likely to have poorer outcomes as well as being more likely to spread the virus around their immediate family. Additionally, the restrictions in place are likely to exacerbate the inequalities experienced by those on low incomes, low wealth, and living in deprived areas and in material deprivation.

COVID-19 related deaths in Inverclyde were first reported in the week commencing 23 March 20 when there were 3 reported deaths. The peak death rate with COVID-19 was week 15, commencing 6 April 2020 when there were 32 deaths. From week 10 to week 23 there were 112 deaths with covid19, by the end of July 2020 there were 116 deaths with COVID-19 which is 14.8 per 10,000 population.

NHSGGC's corporate and acute child poverty approach to COVID-19 is described in the September 2020 report to the Corporate Management Team.

## Cost of Food, Fuel and Living

Whilst families are being asked to remain at home, there has been an increase in food, fuel and living costs, with the cost of living rising more for those living in poverty due to transport issues, and having to shop more locally can be more expensive. This can also increase stress for single parents having to take their children to the shops with them as they have no current means of childcare.

Fuel costs have increased for families due to requiring heating on for longer periods and Wi-Fi, television, laptops, tablets being on / requiring charged more often due to additional use including school work.

Other living costs include families buying laptops/tablets to enable their children to do their school work from home, additional stationery, activities and toys to keep their children occupied during lockdown, and childcare costs to ensure spaces are still available when childminders / private nurseries re-open.

## School meals

Initially packed lunches were provided to children entitled to free school meals and children who attended the Hub Schools either because their parents are front line workers or because they have been identified as vulnerable. In total 5,662 packed lunches have been distributed. Fortnightly food bags were distributed to all young people who were entitled to free school meals and school clothing grants. This was difficult to sustain because of the lack of a reliable delivery supply and because of how resource intensive it became in a time of social distancing.

The alternative has been paying money directly into accounts. Money was initially paid into accounts of those entitled to clothing grants in schools and their siblings in early years. Other children with ASN and those entitled to qualifying criteria places in early years were written to and asked to get in touch with their bank details. £25 per fortnight is given to each child and currently more than 3,300 children are receiving this.

Bags of food (including baby bags) are made up for the most vulnerable families to ensure that children who are in danger of missing out have access to a food delivery. Over three hundred bags are delivered each fortnight.

## School Hubs

There are 10 hubs (providing childcare) in place for key workers and vulnerable pupils with the highest daily attendance reaching 192. Staff from all schools are contributing to the hubs. Inverclyde has been able to offer a place to all key workers who required it



### Local Food insecurity

Inverclyde Council is working in close partnership with the local community, business, and public and third sector organisations to ensure that everyone who needs a food aid receives it. The Council with Scottish Government Food Fund has allocated funding to the community and third sector organisations.

The I58 Project is the local Trussell Trust food bank who have a good local community connection especially with those who are vulnerable, on low income, in financial risk, unemployed or marginalised. The I58 project is based in the most deprived datazone in Inverclyde but provides a range of services across Inverclyde including Christmas Hampers, Financial Advice, baby boxes and food bags, relying on the support of local donations and supermarket surplus food, both of which have diminished in the past few weeks. Providing funding to the I58 project has enabled them to extend their criteria to support people who have recently lost their jobs, reduced hours or been furloughed and cannot afford to feed their family.

Funding has also been used to support Belville Community Garden Trust (BCGT). BCGT have delivered self-isolation food boxes, prescriptions and meals to people who have contacted them or been referred and needing support and food. This includes chilled and frozen meals for clients who do not have the capacity or are too ill to cook for themselves.

Scottish Government funding has been provided to Fareshare to provide Local Authorities with excess food to distribute to organisations and in turn members of the Community. Approximately 2 tonnes of food is provided per week to Inverclyde.

Local community organisations who have been distributing food to people who access their service include:

- Branchton Community Centre and Parklea Branching Out delivering hot meals and food parcels
- Barnardos, Homestart, Community Development Trust and Compassionate Inverclyde deliver food parcels
- Homeless Centre receive food for their residents, and people who have recently moved into their own tenancy.

A One Stop Telephone help line has been set up to support local residents to ensure they receive the support and advice they require.

NHSGGC Support and Information Services have partnerships in place to provide emergency food packages for people in need being discharged from hospital. This also includes a money advice pilot for patients being discharged from Stobhill Mental Health inpatient Unit. • Homeless Centre receive food for their residents, and people who have recently moved into their own tenancy.

### Fuel Poverty

Partner referrals for our HEAT support have actually reduced as we work through COVID-19. This is down to a majority of partners working in “emergency” mode at this time. (e.g. Housing Associations are a main referring partner but have not been working business as usual – letting properties, chasing for unpaid rent etc.)

HEAT have been proactively engaging with the communities they serve through direct contact with groups and organisations through to increased activity in social media. This has meant that they have been able to increase the number of households supported.

All of the support has been targeted at vulnerable households who have are in or in danger of self-disconnect. This is normally where a household is shielding or where the household income has been impacted by COVID-19.

Below is project savings for HEAT as a whole. This covers all Customers engaged which includes Inverclyde (other areas covered are Glasgow, North and South Lanarkshire, East and West Dunbartonshire.

	Apr to June 2019/2020	Apr to June 2020/2021
Households receiving energy support	556	853
Project savings accrued	£349,398	£268,382



Savings accrued was greater last year. This is due to a number of strands of support not being available due to COVID-19.

NHSGGC has a programme to increase access to advice about tackling fuel poverty to those accessing NHS services (in partnership with Home Energy Scotland).

### Income and Employment

There is an additional pressure on low income families due to Covid-19 who were already struggling being furloughed, or have lost their jobs. There will undoubtedly be an increase in unemployment in the near future due to the impact Covid-19 is having on businesses.

DWP are working with West College Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Inverclyde Community Development Trust and Street League who are starting a new programme for 18 – 24 year olds.

### Digital inequalities

People within Inverclyde who do not have internet access are socially and economically isolated in a range of ways and having access online helps with improved employment opportunities, higher levels of educational attainment and cheaper products.

During the Covid 19 lock down period, Inverclyde Council, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and Belville Community Garden Trust provided computers to young people who do not have access to a device and who have been offline since schools closed because of the coronavirus outbreak.

School estates have received funding for an upgrade of Wi-Fi provision and connectivity.

### (CVS Inverclyde) 3rd sector support

Inverclyde Alliance partnership with CVS Inverclyde ensures that wider organisations are supported to apply for funding, access volunteers and deliver services within the community who have also received funding directly from the Scottish Government to meet local need. This has included approximately an additional 9000 hot meals and sandwiches from Branchton Community Centre. Barnardo's, Homestart, Inverclyde Community Trust, Parklea and Inverkip Community Hub are supporting approximately 268 individual families with food through their own organisations.

In addition to this, people who phone Inverclyde Council's shielding phoneline or humanitarian aid 'one stop shop' phone number are referred to CVS Inverclyde. The Inverclyde Community Link Worker (CLW) team, managed by CVS Inverclyde, provide support and signposting to other relevant agencies/organisations in the community. Furthermore, CVS Inverclyde and Compassionate Inverclyde are working in partnership to deliver a new prescription collection service for local residents needing support during COVID-19. These organisations, alongside volunteers from the local community, work together to ensure everyone in need receives their prescription on time.

### COVID-19 Scottish Government Measures

The measures announced by Scottish Government on 18th March to support communities are summarised below:

Support to Communities
£50m hardship fund.
£45m additional funding for Scottish Welfare Fund.
£50m for Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
£70m food fund.
£50m wellbeing fund
£40m supporting communities
£20m for a Third Sector Resilience Fund.
£25m reserve.



# Progress reports 2018/19

The following tables highlight updates on actions included within 2018/19 LCPAR:

Income from Employment	
What we said we would do in 2018/19	What we did
<p>Recruitment of 12 pre apprenticeships</p>	<p>11 young people remained on this programme. A Community Learning Development Worker is employed to support and encourage the young people.</p> <p>Funding has been granted for another 12 young people to participate in this programme commencing Autumn 2020.</p> <p>In 2018/19 the Council developed a pre- apprenticeship pilot for twelve pupils, primarily in S4, who were not fully engaged in school who may benefit from taking them out of school for vocational training purposes. Despite the impact of COVID-19, five of the pupils in the childcare group achieved an SCQF level 4 qualification in childcare whilst the Engineering and Construction cohort all achieved SCQF level 4 units in a variety of related topics.</p> <p>Inverclyde Council will develop a bridge between school and the success of the Councils existing modern apprenticeship programme. It is proposed to offer the pre-apprenticeship programme for a second cohort of twelve pupils from across Inverclyde between August 20 and June 21. In addition it is proposed to offer a level 2 apprenticeship to the year 1 cohort in the area of last year's development over a period of 18 months from August 2020. Finally it is proposed to offer the five modern apprentices who are due to finish on the Councils existing modern apprenticeship programme a two year contract at an entry level post to allow them time to gain further experience and enhance their job prospects.</p>
<p>SAMH Individual Placement Support service (IPS)</p> <p>To link wider to local Employability Pipeline and Employability Health Outcomes</p> <p>Explore options to extend provision to include pathways related to Primary Care</p> <p>Strengthen the linkages within Fairstart projects to enable local reporting and monitoring.</p>	<p>This work continues to be under discussion with the local authority and wider partners at the IREP (Inverclyde Regeneration &amp; Employability Partnership).</p> <p>As with the wider employability pipeline discussions with the local authority, this area of work remains currently aspirational, with no further developments at this point.</p> <p>Fairstart are part of the IREP (Inverclyde Regeneration &amp; Employability Partnership) to allow this work to progress.</p> <p>7 Progress Reports 2018/19</p>



Income from Employment	
What we said we would do in 2018/19	What we did
<p>Stepwell led the Whole Life Restore Programme which involved life skills training, resilience workshops, pre-vocational and vocational qualifications, one2one employability support, work placement and supported employment opportunities</p>	<p>Whole Life Restore was for residents of Inverclyde who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are in receipt of unemployment benefit</li> <li>• Have a 'lived experience' of criminal justice, addictions and/or homelessness</li> <li>• Are ready to explore their future aspirations including actively looking to progress into employment or other positive destinations.</li> </ul> <p>12 people completed the Stepwell programme with one job outcome and four people achieving vocational training.</p> <p>Stepwell are part of discussions to establish a framework to mitigate food insecurity through food aid, food access and food equipment.</p>
<p>Attainment Challenge</p>	<p><b>Increase in attainment for targeted groups of pupils in literacy and numeracy</b></p> <p>Recent reports indicate that we continue to make progress in reducing the poverty related attainment gap. The attainment of all pupils within SIMD 1 and 2 is increasing in all aspects of Literacy and Numeracy at all stages.</p> <p>The National Improvement Framework data comparisons from 17/18 and 18/19 illustrates raised attainment in both literacy and numeracy at combined primary levels and therefore a reduction in the poverty related attainment gap. At 3rd level numeracy attainment has also increased. Inverclyde's attainment at all levels and reducing the Poverty Related Attainment gap is either better or in line with the national average.</p> <p><b>Increase in teachers' knowledge and skills to engage children in learning in literacy and numeracy</b></p> <p>There is an increasing number of staff engaging in training particularly in early years and primary. This training has also been strengthened by including effective feedback within these approaches to ensure pupils make further progress in their learning. These highly impactful interventions are improving both professional knowledge and pupils' learning. Through the development of pedagogy and a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment pupils are making very good progress in literacy and numeracy and the poverty related attainment gap is being reduced.</p> <p>The Speech and Language Therapy team have worked closely with the Early Level Coaching and Modelling Officer to plan, and implement, Level 1 Word Aware training across 6 target attainment challenge nurseries improving pupils language and vocabulary development.</p> <p>Training for staff in SEAL (Stages of Early Arithmetical learning) in some early years establishments is improving pupils' early understanding of number and laying foundations to secure further progress.</p>



Income from Employment	
What we said we would do in 2018/19	What we did
<p>Attainment Challenge</p>	<p>Some staff from different departments within the secondary sector have engaged in training for Literacy across Learning. This training is supporting staff in improving access for pupils to the wider curriculum and increasing opportunities for the individual in all aspects of life.</p> <p><b>Increased confidence in assessment and planning</b></p> <p>Staff across all sectors continue to engage in establishment, cluster and inter-authority moderation activities. Staff are more confident in the use of benchmarks to support judgements of achievement of a level. As a result the shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment pupils are making very good progress in literacy and numeracy and the poverty related attainment gap is being reduced.</p> <p>All staff continue to plan using the Literacy and Numeracy pathways to ensure progression.</p> <p><b>Increased teacher skill in on-going assessment and reflective planning to meet the needs of children</b></p> <p>Staff across all sectors are increasingly using improvement methodologies to select the right interventions for individuals and specific groups of learners resulting in more positive outcomes for pupils. Small tests of change are integral to a range of professional learning activities identifying interventions which improve learning and teaching and increase attainment .This approach enables and empowers staff to consider and evaluate developments using their own research informed by local and national policy.</p> <p>Staff across all sectors have been involved in high quality training which is impacting on learning, teaching and assessment. Staff continue to engagement with our “Learning, Teaching and Assessment “ policy providing strategic guidance on planning and assessment. This session some school staff have been trained in creating High Quality assessments in numeracy. The Outreach teachers have been closely tracking cohorts of pupils to measure their progress. The findings have been impressive with one school reporting that 96% of the pupils who have received support are now on track or beyond.</p> <p><b>Increase in parental awareness of children’s learning in literacy and numeracy</b></p> <p>Inverclyde’s attainment plan sets out an integrated multiagency approach to closing the equity gap.</p> <p>Barnardo’s have been involved in delivering family learning events within Attainment Challenge schools. On average the attendance is 59 families per week.</p> <p>Barnardo’s reports that 94% of parents are indicating improved engagement in their children’s learning. Of the families they work with 169 parents are more engaged in their child’s learning since receiving a bespoke package of support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 109 parents have attended Team Around the Child Meetings.</li> <li>• 96 have started to attend Parent’s Night.</li> <li>• 99 parents are now attending school reviews.</li> </ul>



Income from Employment	
What we said we would do in 2018/19	What we did
<p>Attainment Challenge</p>	<p>Community Learning and Development continue to support pupils and families living in SIMD 1 &amp; 2 by offering a wider range of interventions to develop and improve softer skills. There has been delivery expansion in some key areas including supporting,volunteering and in building the capacity of parents.</p> <p>As a result parents feel more confident to approach teaching and support staff and are less stressed when carrying out home learning activities.</p> <p>Many establishments have also organised workshops to involve parents in their child's learning.</p> <p><b>Consistent use of common tracking system to effectively use data to support learning and teaching, and the identification of target cohorts</b></p> <p>Staff across establishments report on how the common tracking system and quality of data has improved their work, and ultimately outcomes for pupils. The Heads of establishments continue to be supported in collating and providing data as strong evidence to identify specific areas for improvement. Each primary and secondary establishment are provided with a Data pack with strong robust data.</p> <p><b>Increase in children's reading for pleasure</b></p> <p>The Libraries Inspire schools programme is being delivered in all Inverclyde libraries and led by YPS team. The Bookbug programme is also fully supported through libraries increasing pupils' enjoyment of reading. An increasing number of sessions in Reading for Pleasure in partnership with schools are planned and delivered with schools reporting positive impact. Tiddlers and Lunch Club Literacy Session Leader training has been identified to involve parent volunteers and is currently being organised by CLD.</p> <p>The Summer Reading Challenge is delivered with the aim of ensuring reading levels do not 'dip' over the long summer holiday period. Library staff inspire children to read six books over the summer holidays to promote reading for pleasure and establish or maintain positive reading habits. The number of children joining Inverclyde Libraries is increasing as a direct result of this initiative. With Inverclyde being one of Scotland's smallest authorities, this success is proof positive that the Summer Reading Challenge plays a key part in increasing access to public services for young people in Inverclyde.</p>



## Cost of Living

What we said we would do in 2018/19	What we did
Reduce cost of school day within Inverclyde's schools and nurseries.	<p>12 teachers have been trained as local champions in raising awareness on reducing the cost of the school day. Training has been offered to school staff with the first training session being a success. Further training dates will be arranged. Cost of the School day is now a standing agenda item on the Parent Council Chairs meeting with ideas from Parent Council Chairs being taken on board.</p> <p>Presentations have been given to some Parent Council meetings within schools, and more will be planned.</p> <p>Feedback from parents on what currently works well and changes they would like to see has been piloted at one Primary School as well as during two community events during Challenge Poverty Week. The feedback has been discussed with the Head Teacher who has made changes where relevant. One example being allowing parents more time to save for school trips which has been implemented.</p>
Continue tackling fuel poverty in the area through the Energy Efficiency Scotland Programme: Area Based Scheme (ABS).	<p>Local Councils, COSLA and the Scottish Government are working hard to deal with fuel poverty, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to tackle the threat of climate change and have developed Energy Efficient Scotland, a 20 year programme aimed at making Scotland's existing buildings near zero carbon wherever feasible by 2050. As part of a range of programmes aimed at achieving these objectives,</p> <p>the Scottish Government has developed and funded the Area Based Scheme (ABS).</p> <p>The new build affordable housing supply programme will similarly reduce household bills through increased energy efficiency.</p>
Free Sanitary Products	<p>Free sanitary products have been available to all primary and secondary school pupils since October 2018 through a variety of discrete delivery methods. The initiative was expanded in January 2019 to include community locations and there are now in excess of 70 community locations throughout Inverclyde offering access to products. These include public toilets, libraries, community centres, GP surgeries and food banks.</p> <p>COVID-19 lockdown measures resulted in the public being unable to access free sanitary products in school or community locations. The first temporary solution implemented was the universal inclusion of sanitary products in food parcels. The second temporary solution was the introduction of an online ordering facility. Inverclyde Council worked with Hey Girls to develop a web link, allowing Inverclyde residents to order the products they required for delivery to their home address. From 1 May 2020 to 3 July 2020 over 700 orders have been sent to Inverclyde residents. Online ordering will continue to be promoted through social media, in the local press and by partners.</p>



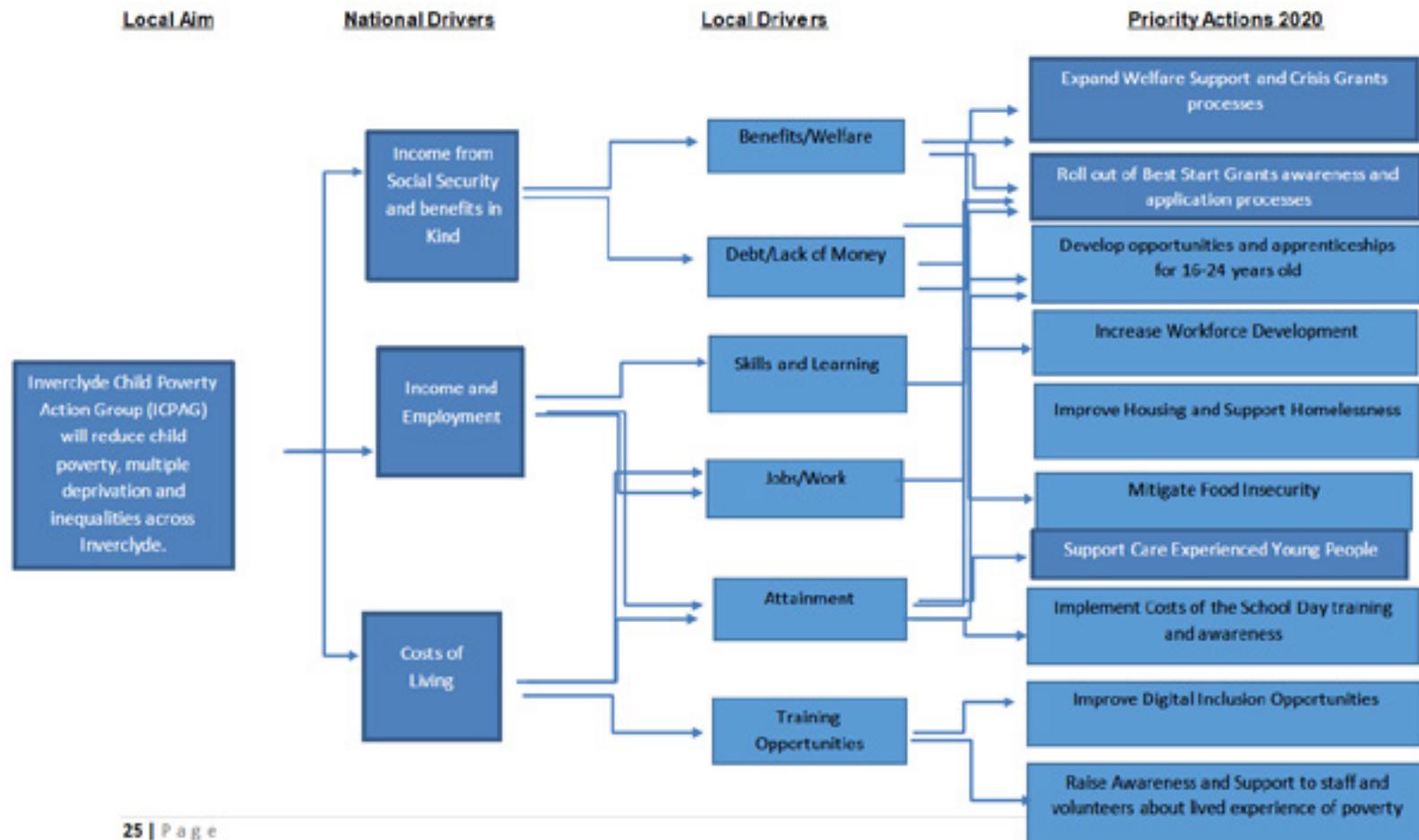
Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind	
What we said we would do in 2018/19	What we did
Financial Fitness will continue to support clients through the benefits system's biggest change since its conception, with a host of benefits affected. Clients are being notified of changes and up-to-date advice.	Financial Fitness will continue to support around 2,500 new clients annually through the benefits system's biggest change since its conception, with a host of benefits affected. Of particular significance is the ongoing roll-out of Universal Credit, the transfer from Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payment and the introduction of 6 new benefits administered by Social Security Scotland. Clients are being notified and supported through these changes and given up-to-date advice, benefit checks, form filling assistance and advocacy support. Clients are also entitled to receive money advice from our in-house Money Adviser.
Ensure eligible families receive appropriate Kinship Payments.	Income, benefits and allowance are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure payment is maximised. If changes are known between reviews, Kinship allowance will be reassessed.  There are (as at 25th February 2020) 119 Kinship children living in 79 households. This is an increase from 2018 figures (100 Kinship Children living in 64 households).
Change in eligibility criteria for free school meals, school clothing grants to allow more families to qualify.	The income threshold for the locally enhanced Free School Meals and School Clothing Grant scheme has been increased in line with the increase to the Scottish Living Wage for 2020/21 applications.  The result of the increased earnings threshold is that by 30 September 2019, 309 additional families qualified. 464 additional pupils received a school clothing grant of £145 and 333 children in Primary 5 and above now have free school meals as a result of the enhanced policy.



# Plan on page

Inverclyde's Child Poverty Action Group meet on a regular basis and have agreed on local priorities and shared outcomes to reduce Child Poverty, multiple deprivation and inequalities across Inverclyde with the Primary Drivers being Education & Learning, Income & Employment and Communication & Information.

The Plan on a page drills down to priority actions the Child Poverty Action Group will undertake 2020/21 to work towards reducing Child Poverty.





# Appendix 1 - Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/20

Income from Employment						
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans
Apprenticeship programme for young people who are disengaged with learning or at risk of leaving school without qualifications	Head of Regeneration and Planning	£250,000	<p>The programme would combine on-site training with local employers and desktop learning between school and with West College Scotland, to build confidence and self-esteem, increase learning and enable the young people to be ready for employment and have the skills to apply for jobs when the opportunity arises. The scheme would also include creating and maintaining employment for the young people who came through this pipeline for a 2 year period. Initially 12 young people would be selected from across the 6 secondary schools, this would build on the learning and experience of the pre-apprentice programme that commenced in August 2019.</p> <p>Inverclyde Council will develop a bridge between school and the success of the Councils existing modern apprenticeship programme. It is proposed to offer the pre-apprenticeship programme for a second cohort of twelve pupils from across Inverclyde between August 20 and June 21. In addition it is proposed to offer a level 2 apprenticeship to the year 1 cohort in the area of last year's development over a period of 18 months from August 2020. Finally it is proposed to offer the five modern apprentices who are due to finish on the Councils existing modern apprenticeship programme a two year contract at an entry level post to allow them time to gain further experience and enhance their job prospects.</p>	August 2020 to June 2022		Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan, Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan, Inverclyde Children Services Plan



Income from Employment						
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans
The Care Experienced Young People Attainment Fund maximises learner participation by providing opportunities for personal achievements	Chief Education Officer and Chief Social Work Officer	£163,200	Increase the number of care experienced young people gaining Nat 4 and Nat 5's; particularly those looked after at home. Increase the number of care experienced children and young people involved in community activities. Increase the number of care experience children and young people expressing satisfaction in being involved in these new activities.	3, 6 monthly after starting these activities	This action covers all priority groups as the Scottish Attainment Challenge covers all young people living in SIMD 1 & 2 areas within Inverclyde	Attainment Challenge Plan, Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan, Education, Standards and Quality Report, Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan, Corporate Parenting Strategy
Care experienced young people between the ages of 16 – 24 years remain in positive destinations			Increase the number of care experienced young people accessing modern apprenticeships. Track the supports that work to promote sustainability and learn what works. Promote professional and peer networks, inclusive of Proud2Care to support this.			Corporate parenting strategy



Income from Employment						
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans
Positive destinations for school leavers			<p>A record number of school leavers in Inverclyde are moving into employment, education or training, according to official figures.</p> <p>Inverclyde is eighth in the school leavers league table with 95.8 per cent of pupils securing a job, training or a place at university or college.</p> <p>There are also no 'unknowns' – students whose destinations are unaccounted for when they leave school – for the tenth consecutive year.</p> <p>Inverclyde is 0.8 per cent above the Scottish average of 95 per cent for pupils moving into positive destinations - a new record best for the area.</p> <p>The council has jumped from number 26 in the positive destinations table in 2017/18 to the eighth position in 2018/19.</p> <p>There were 694 school leavers locally during 2018/19.</p>	3, 6 monthly after starting these activities	This action covers all priority groups as the Scottish Attainment Challenge covers all young people living in SIMD 1 & 2 areas within Inverclyde	Attainment Challenge Plan, Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan, Education, Standards and Quality Report, Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan, Corporate Parenting Strategy



Income from Employment						
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans
Explore a workforce refresh scheme to free up opportunities for advancement for existing employees and ultimately create “entry level” vacancies which we would aim to fill from the target demographic.	Head of ODHR	£0	Explore the need to create job opportunities for people in the SIMD areas as a route to get individuals and families out of poverty with all the benefits that brings. Covid has made the need even greater with large increases in unemployment already and more forecast. Most commentators cite the young as being the ones who will find it hardest to gain employment whilst those who work in the “casual” sector have largely fallen through the cracks of the various support schemes. In addition Covid will cause a proportion of the Council workforce to evaluate their work/life balance and whether the time has come to leave the Council/reduce hours. Various initiatives will be explored and assessed to create job opportunities and traineeships aimed at the targeted demographic.	3, 6 monthly after starting these activities	This action covers all priority groups as the Scottish Attainment Challenge covers all young people living in SIMD 1 & 2 areas within Inverclyde	Attainment Challenge Plan, Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan, Education, Standards and Quality Report, Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan, Corporate Parenting Strategy



Costs of Living																							
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans	Links to other Poverty Driver(s)																
Housing	Starterpacks	£37k	<p>Starterpacks is a charity run organisation providing household goods to homeless people entering a tenancy and families living in poverty. The charity relies on public support to continue its work within the community. Referrals are received from Services such as Barnardo's, Housing Associations, HSCP, Health Visitors, Womens Aid and Refugee Resettlement.</p> <p>In April 2019, the referral form was modified to include priority groups noted within Every Child Every Chance, Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. This gives an indication (when relevant section is filled in by referrer) of the priority groups being supported by Starter Packs with over 50% being Lone Parents. Note, some of the families being referred fall into more than one priority group. The number of Starterpacks provided from January 2017 to December 2019:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Starterpacks</td> <td>414</td> <td>464</td> <td>403</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Families</td> <td>144</td> <td>137</td> <td>130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children</td> <td>237</td> <td>226</td> <td>227</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2017	2018	2019	Starterpacks	414	464	403	Families	144	137	130	Children	237	226	227	Ongoing	Changes to the referral form in April has allowed priority groups to be captured (where filled in). Please see graph below.		
	2017	2018	2019																				
Starterpacks	414	464	403																				
Families	144	137	130																				
Children	237	226	227																				



Costs of Living																					
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans	Links to other Poverty Driver(s)														
			<p>There has been a significant reduction in number of packs going out, due to reduction in properties being let during COVID19. Packs are being given out to those struggling with poverty and entering private tenancies. This will increase with changes to lockdown measures and Starterpacks will continue provide to service users.</p> <div data-bbox="981 799 1565 1093" data-label="Figure"> <table border="1"> <caption>Priority group receiving Starter Packs*</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Priority Group</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3+ children</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disabled</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lone parents</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minority (Ethnic)</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mother under 25</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youngest child under 1</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>*This information is taken from referrals from April 2019 – December 2019 when the referral form was adapted to include Priority Groups.</p>	Priority Group	Percentage	3+ children	10%	Disabled	10%	Lone parents	50%	Minority (Ethnic)	5%	Mother under 25	15%	Youngest child under 1	15%				
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3+ children	10%																				
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Costs of Living							
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans	Links to other Poverty Driver(s)
Housing Regeneration	Housing Strategy		Following the SIMD report Planning and Housing Strategy have commissioned consultants to examine the Eastern Gateway area of Inverclyde as a strategic housing priority to look at the options around housing led regeneration of that area looking at Greenock Town Centre (the most deprived area in Inverclyde) will be next to be examined.	Ongoing	All priority groups		Income from Employment
			<p>People within Inverclyde who do not have internet access are socially and economically isolated in a range of ways. Having access online helps with improved employment opportunities, higher levels of educational attainment and cheaper products. Inverclyde are working with partners to ensure the following groups receive digital access where they do not have at present:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of the community who are currently shielding</li> <li>Members of the community who are actively seeking employment</li> <li>School pupils who require digital access in order to support blended learning due to Covid-19.</li> </ul> <p>The Council has received an allocation of £433,000 from the Scottish Government to ensure that all secondary school pupils in receipt of free school meals have access to an appropriate device and connectivity. This makes significant inroads into many households suffering from digital exclusion.</p> <p>The Council has previously approved an £80,000 investment to provide free Wi-Fi for a five year period in 8 Community Centres in addition to the existing infrastructure within the Council Libraries estate.</p> <p>The Council will support the young people who received a device sourced by Belville Community Gardens will receive connectivity (WIFI) be provided by the Council for a 12 month period.</p>				



Costs of Living							
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans	Links to other Poverty Driver(s)
Food Insecurity	3rd Sector Organisations  Inverclyde Council		<p>Food insecurity within Inverclyde has been a concern pre-Covid-19, however, has been exasperated with the current pandemic and families losing income with very little money to afford food. Approximately two tonnes of food per week is distributed to 10 local organisations who either redistribute within the community and/or make hot meals. As at 27th May 2020, Fareshare provided Inverclyde with the following:-</p> <p>25 tonnes of food which is 59,525 meal portions. £89,287 value of stock distributed. Fareshare will continue to provide food to Inverclyde until end of September 2020. Food insecurity will remain a priority within Inverclyde due to the need pre-Covid-19 and the long term effect Covid-19 presents to families losing income. It is therefore proposed that Inverclyde establish a membership with FareShare Glasgow to provide Inverclyde with approx. 40.8 tonnes of food on an annual basis which will be distributed to families via local community organisations. Inverclyde Council has provided a £25 per fortnight payment to every child/young person entitled to receive free school meals throughout the Covid period. The current scheme costs approximately £80,000 per fortnight and is due to end on the 28th August and has benefited approximately 3700 children. It is recognised that the Christmas period puts a major financial strain on families with limited income and would propose that a one off payment made in the middle of December to each child/young person in receipt of free school meals and would allow qualifying families to buy healthier food over the Christmas period. On the basis of a one off payment of £40 this would cost approximately £150,000.</p>	By December 2020	Entitled to Free Clothing Grant and Free School Meals		



Costs of Living							
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans	Links to other Poverty Driver(s)
Establish local food pantries	Inverclyde Council / 3rd Sector	£60,000	In addition to the FareShare community food there is an opportunity to establish local Food Pantries across the 3 localities with the greatest inequalities. The Food Pantry organisation is offering to support local authorities and third sector organisations develop a concept and build on their framework of good practice. The Food Panty 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 and ambient food at a price that is affordable. Currently action is being taken to research and develop the concept of having Food Pantry shops in Inverclyde.	By December 2020	Entitled to Free Clothing Grant and Free School Meals		
Cost of School Day			12 teachers have been trained as local champions in raising awareness on reducing the cost of the school day. Training has been offered to school staff with the first training session being a success. Cost of the School day is now a standing agenda item on the Parent Council Chairs meeting with ideas from Parent Council Chairs being taken on board. Presentations have been given to some Parent Council meetings within schools, and more will be planned. Feedback from parents on what currently works well and changes they would like to see has been piloted at one Primary School as well as during two community events during Challenge Poverty Week. The feedback has been discussed with the Head Teacher who has made changes where relevant. One example being allowing parents more time to save for school trips which has been implemented. Going forward it is anticipated to raise awareness to parents/ carers through engagement at school events. This will allow their views to be taken on board. Further training will be offered to staff within educational establishments.	Ongoing	All priority groups		



Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind							
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans	Links to other Poverty Driver(s)
Expand Welfare Support	Inverclyde Council	£150k DHP £220k SWF	<p>Following analysis of the current Housing Benefit and DHP data it is proposed to 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. This payment would be applicable in the Private Rented Sector. The estimated cost of this scheme would be capped at £150,000 with the balance of £80,000 coming from the existing DHP budget. 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.</p> <p>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. The cost of the 2 proposal together for the period to 30 June, 2021 is approximately £220,000 and would be contained in the one off extra funding allocation by the Scottish Government for Crisis Grants.</p>	2020/2021	People including families living in private tenancies, lone parents and families with disabilities who are more likely to be on low incomes.		



Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind																							
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated	Summary and how impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Link to other plans	Links to other Poverty Driver(s)																
HSCP staff contribute to reducing child poverty	Chief Officer and Head of Service, Children & Families and Criminal Justice	Staff resources to provided training / to attend training / audit EMIS data	All health staff will offer income maximisation advice at home visits, and this will be recorded on EMIS. All health staff have been issued with the GG&C money advice service leaflet. Health Visitors will refer people on to a number of nationally led and established initiatives which provide free, safe and consistent access to formula milk. Health visitors will sign post families to local resources; 3rd sector provisions, food banks and income maximisation services. Social workers will also do this and section 22 payments are available for immediate needs.	Reports to the Joint Children Services Partnership (3 monthly)	action covers all priority groups for families living in Inverclyde	Strategic Plan, Inverclyde Children's Service Plan, Mental Health Strategy, Parenting Strategy, Inverclyde Alliance Local Outcome Improvement Plan	Living																
Best Start Grant – Local Roll Out	Social Security Scotland		<p>The following grants are now available:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Benefit Name</th> <th>Launch Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Carer Allowance Supplement</td> <td>Aug 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment</td> <td>Dec 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment</td> <td>Apr 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Best Start Grant School Age Payment</td> <td>June 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Best Start Foods</td> <td>Aug 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Funeral Support Payment</td> <td>Sep 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Young Carer Grant</td> <td>Oct 2019</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Job Start Payment</b> - Launched on 17th August 2020 to support 16 to 24 year olds, or up to 25 years old for care leavers, into work after being unemployed for six months or more. Further information can be found on the Social Security Scotland site.</p> <p><b>Going Forward</b> - During 2020/2021 Social Security Scotland will launch Child Winter Heating Allowance and Scottish Child Payment. These benefits will have a huge impact to families on low incomes.</p>	Benefit Name	Launch Date	Carer Allowance Supplement	Aug 2018	Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment	Dec 2018	Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment	Apr 2019	Best Start Grant School Age Payment	June 2019	Best Start Foods	Aug 2019	Funeral Support Payment	Sep 2019	Young Carer Grant	Oct 2019		This action will benefit all priority groups.	Inverclyde Corporate Plan, Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan, HSCP Strategic Plan	
Benefit Name	Launch Date																						
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Young Carer Grant	Oct 2019																						



# Appendix 2- Public Health Scotland Data Profile

## Income from employment

**Labour market demand:** Employment opportunities in Inverclyde, whether measured by vacancies or jobs, are scarce compared to Scotland. In 2018, there were 63 filled jobs for every 100 working-age people in Inverclyde, compared to 82 per 100 in Scotland. Labour market demand as measured by jobs density increased steadily in Inverclyde between 2012 and 2016 but fell slightly between 2016 and 2018 (Figure 1).

A second measure of labour market demand is unfilled vacancies, shown as a rate per 10 unemployed people. In the West area (including East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, and West Dunbartonshire), there were 4.6 vacancies for every 10 unemployed people, compared to 6.7 for every 10 unemployed people in Scotland as a whole (Figure 2). The latest vacancy data is for 2017: the next update will show the position in 2019.

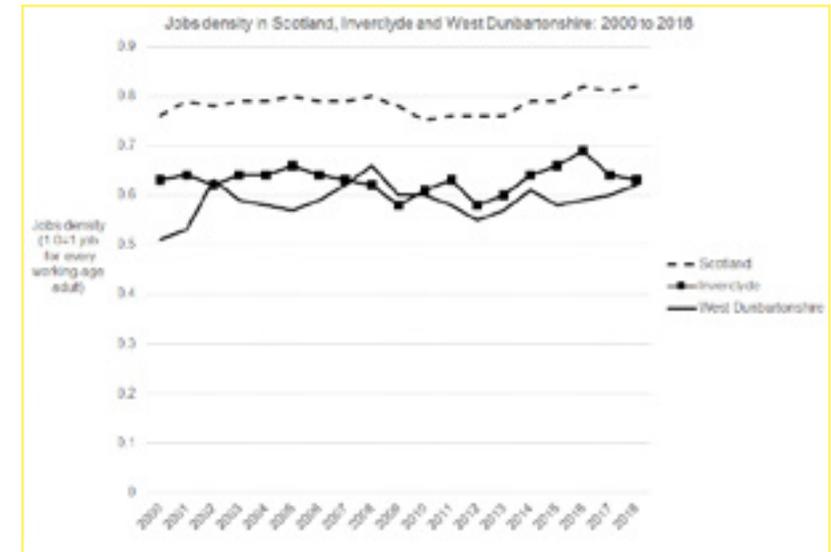


FIGURE 1

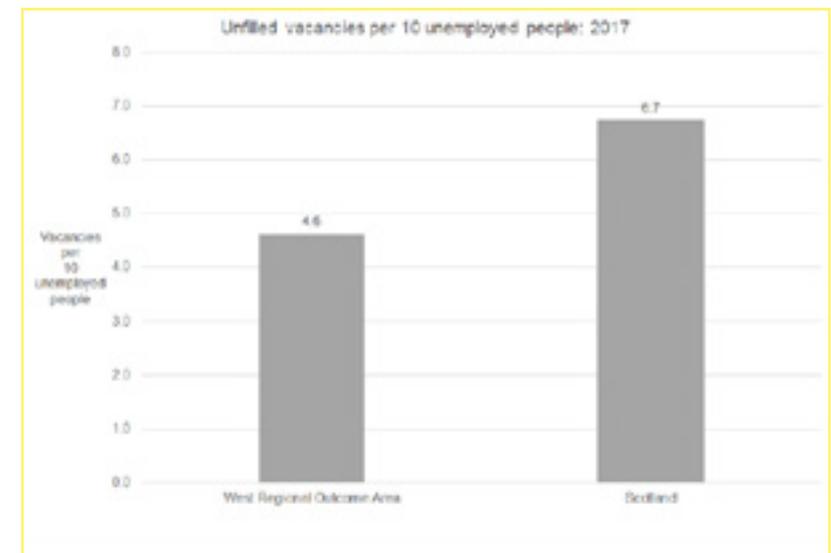
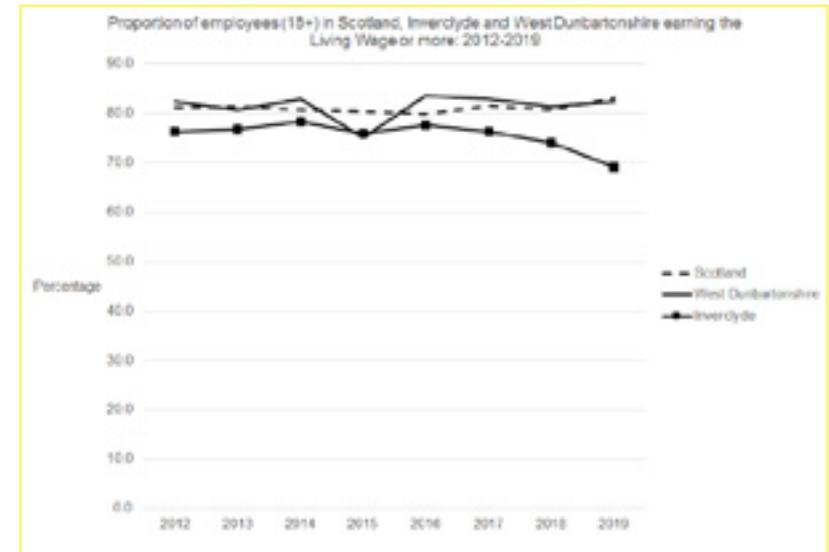


FIGURE 2

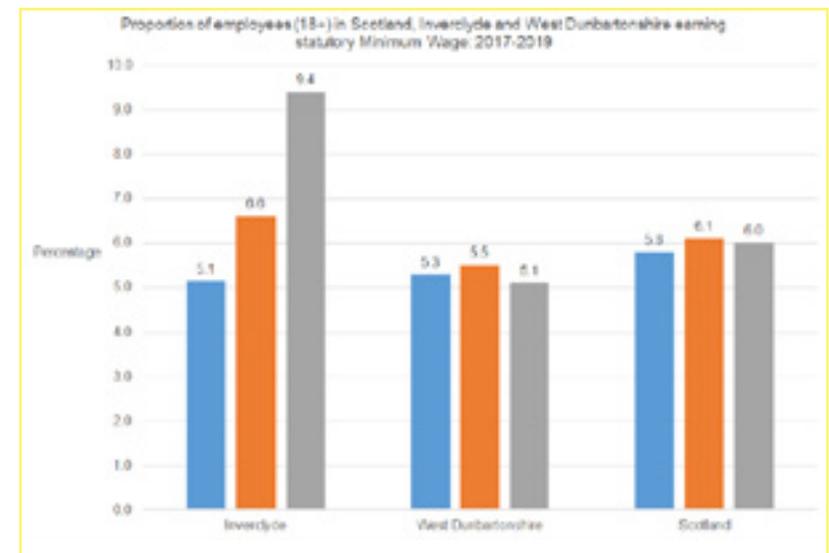


**Wages:** The latest wage data suggests a higher proportion of Inverclyde employees are low paid, compared to both Scotland and West Dunbartonshire. In 2018, 74% of employees in Inverclyde were paid the Real Living Wage or above, compared to 81% in Scotland and West Dunbartonshire. The proportion of Inverclyde employees paid the Real Living Wage or above decreased between 2016 and 2019 (Figure 3).

In 2019, 9% of employees who work in Inverclyde are paid the National Minimum Wage, compared to 6% in Scotland and 5% in West Dunbartonshire. Between 2017 and 2019, the proportion of Inverclyde workers who were low-paid appears to have increased, while remaining stable in both West Dunbartonshire and Scotland (Figure 4).



**FIGURE 3**



**FIGURE 4**

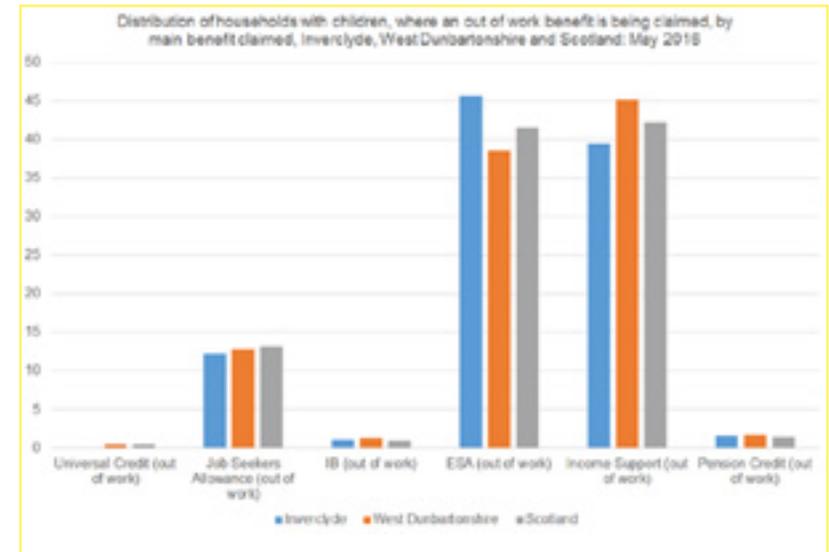


**Barriers to employment:** Many parents not in work in Inverclyde are claiming benefits related to long-term health problems. In 2016, before the roll-out of Universal Credit made reasons for claiming more difficult to interpret, almost half (47%) of households with children in Inverclyde claiming an out of work benefit were receiving incapacity benefits, compared to 38% in Scotland. Only 13% of households with children claiming an out of work benefit were claiming Job Seeker’s Allowance or its Universal Credit equivalent (Figure 5).

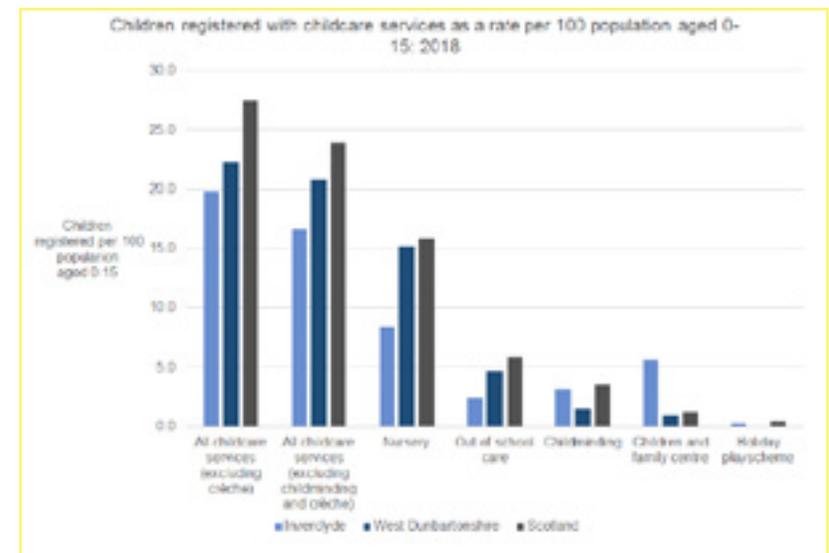
**Childcare:** There are fewer children registered with all childcare services (excluding crèches) in Inverclyde, compared to Scotland and West Dunbartonshire. In 2018, there were 19.8 children per 100 registered with childcare providers in Inverclyde, compared to 22.3 in West Dunbartonshire and 27.5 in Scotland. However, family and child centre provision is much more important in Inverclyde (Figure 6). Relatively few families with children in Inverclyde claim childcare costs through Tax Credit or UC.

**Discussion points**

- How can anchor institutions protect the health of parents and prevent their health from deteriorating in the first place?
- What services are available to promote sustainable employment for parents with health problems?
- Does the current quantity and mix of childcare meets local need? Would local measures of capacity be more meaningful?



**FIGURE 5**



**FIGURE 6**



Children with developmental concerns: In 2018/19, 1 in 4 children in Inverclyde were identified as having a potential concern with their emotional/ social wellbeing and cognitive development at 27-30 months. This was higher than West Dunbartonshire and much higher than Scotland (Figure 7).

Young adults' participation in education, employment and training: Young adults in Inverclyde are less likely have a Modern Apprenticeship compared to Scotland and (especially) West Dunbartonshire (Figure 8). Overall participation rates for 16-19 year olds are comparable to other parts of Scotland, but young people in Inverclyde are less likely to be in employment and more likely to be in education (Figure 9).

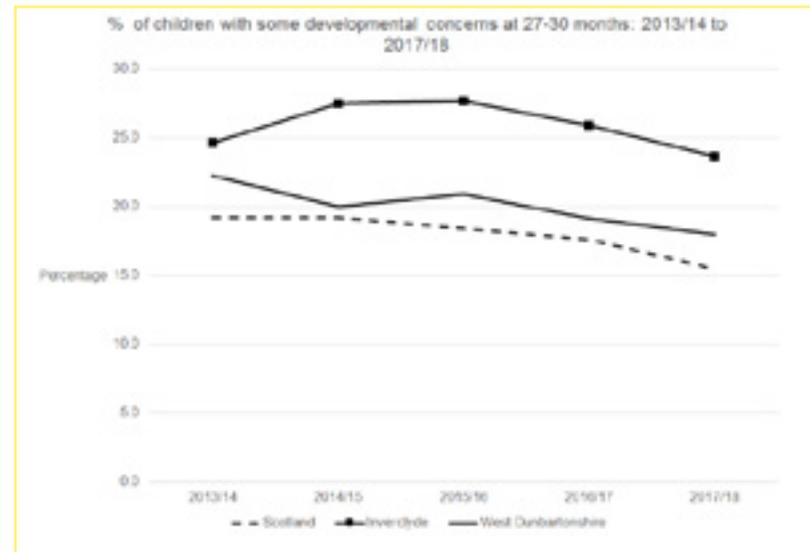


FIGURE 7

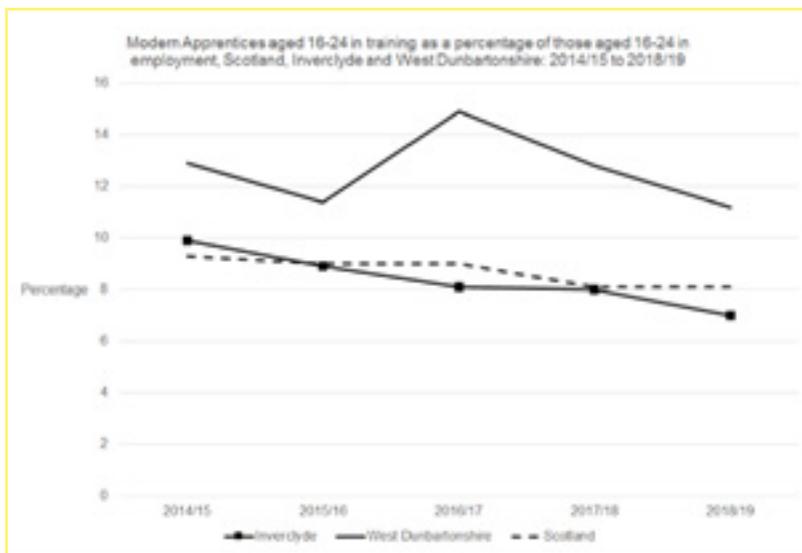


FIGURE 8

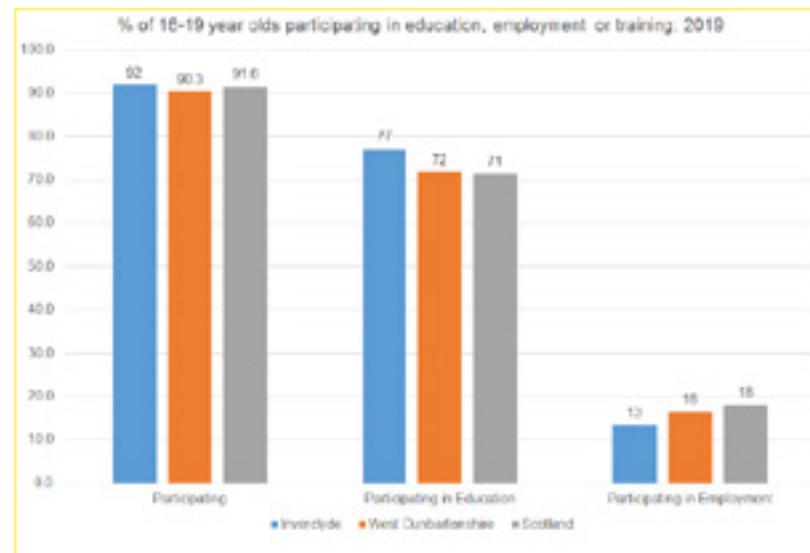


FIGURE 9



**Economic development:** Inverclyde has relatively few enterprises per head of population compared to other local authorities, though a slightly higher rate than West Dunbartonshire (Figure 10).

Gross Value Added per capita in Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire was low compared to Scotland but slightly higher than East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and Helens burgh and Lomond (Figure 11).

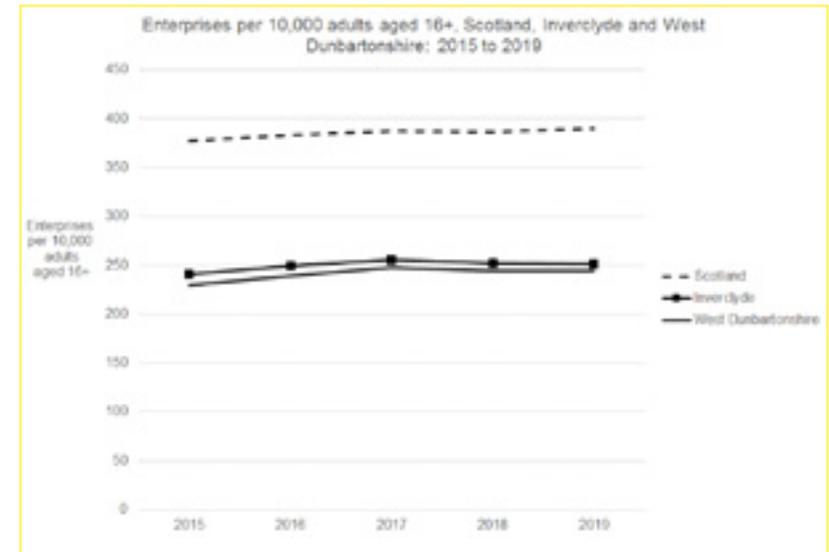


FIGURE 10

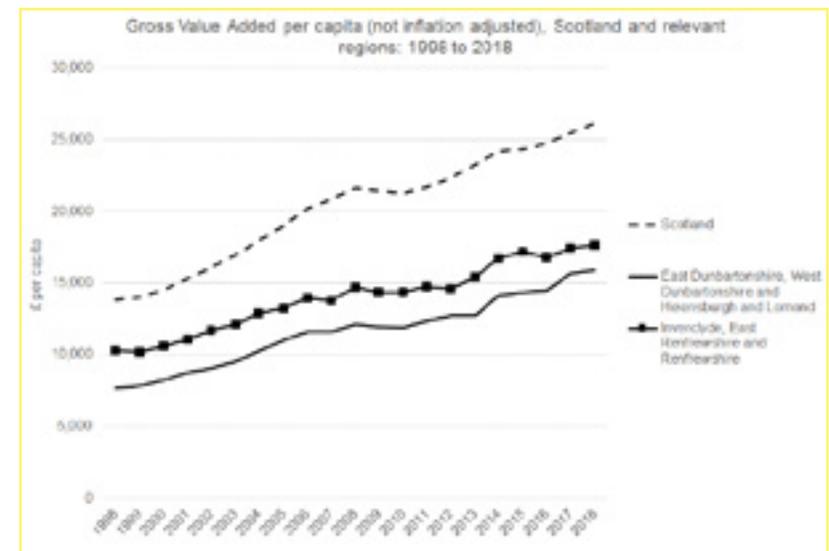


FIGURE 11



## Income from social security

In February 2020, there were 2,505 households with dependent children claiming housing support in Inverclyde, 69% on Universal Credit and the rest on Housing Benefit.

For every 100 households with dependent children in Inverclyde, 30 claimed housing support, slightly lower than the figure reported for West Dunbartonshire (33 per 100) but higher than for Scotland (23 per 100). In February 2015 (before the national roll-out of UC), the rates were 28 per 100 in Inverclyde, 34 per 100 in West Dunbartonshire and 22 per 100 in Scotland (Figure 12a).

In the latest time period (October to December 2019), 74% of crisis grants applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund in Inverclyde were successful. This was a high proportion compared to Scotland (64%) but below that observed for West Dunbartonshire (82%). Award rates from the SWF in Inverclyde remained consistently higher than both Scotland and West Dunbartonshire until 2017 but declined steadily until July-September 2019 before levelling off (Figure 12b).

\* Inverclyde shifted from underspending to overspending the SWF in 2017/18, so unlikely to reflect reduced need.

Altogether, just under 4050 families in Inverclyde were receiving support from UC or tax credit system in December 2019. In Inverclyde, UC is more important to low-income families than elsewhere in Scotland (in West Dunbartonshire, 34% of low-income families are on UC, while in Inverclyde, it's just over half).

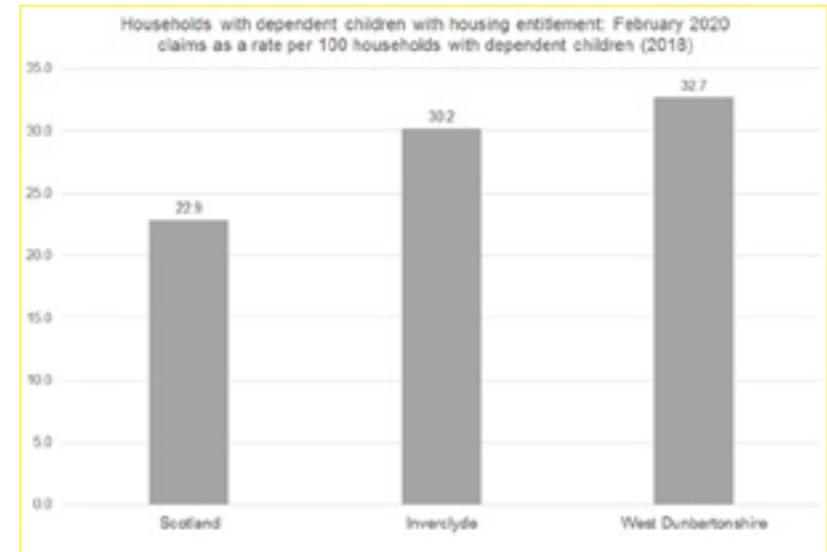


FIGURE 12a

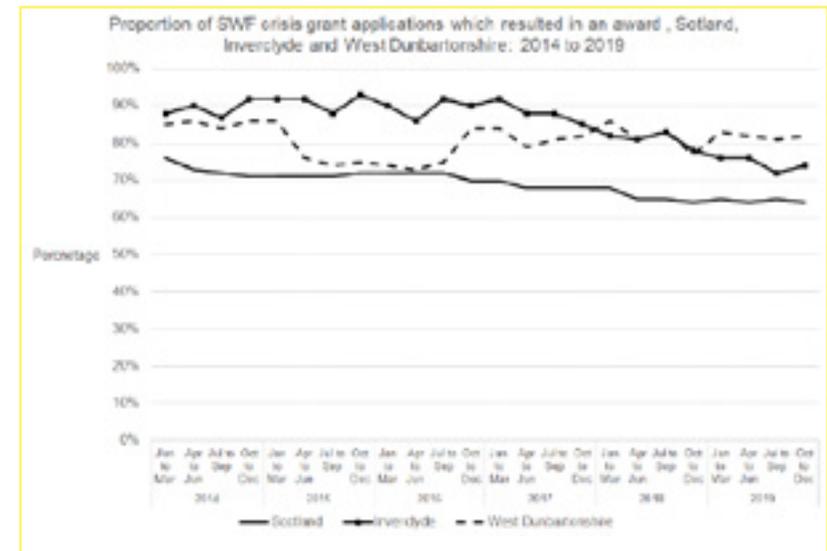


FIGURE 12b



In August 2019, £49,000 was paid out by the Scottish Welfare Fund to households in Inverclyde. In the same month, £240,000 was deducted from households claiming Universal Credit in Inverclyde (Figure 13).

In February 2020, 68 families with dependent children were capped in Inverclyde (point in time estimates), a rate of 27 per 1000 families claiming housing benefit or UC with housing entitlement. This was a slightly higher rate than the Scottish average (25 per 1000) and higher than the rate for West Dunbartonshire (23 per 1000). There is some evidence that Inverclyde’s position has deteriorated over time (Figure 14).

Many more families in Scotland are affected by the two child limit than by the benefits cap (8,500 versus 3,200 in April 2019) – see Figure 15. Families in employment are not exempt from the two child limit. We don’t know what the picture is locally.

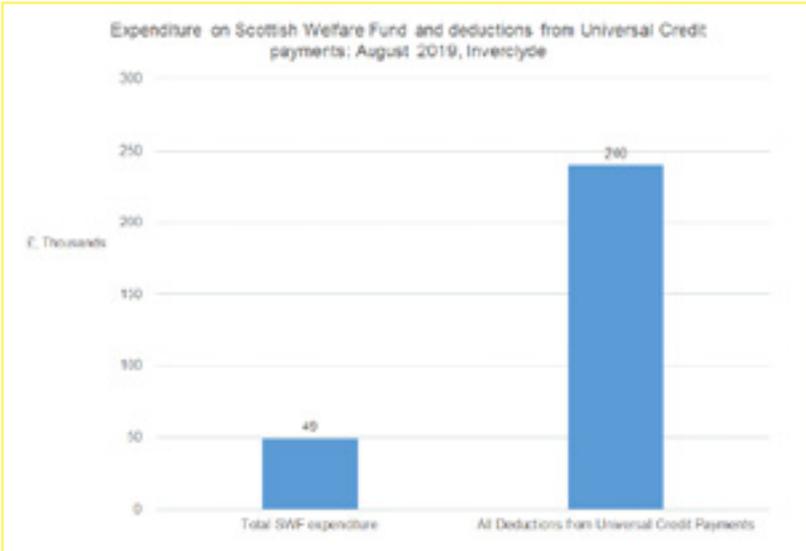


FIGURE 13

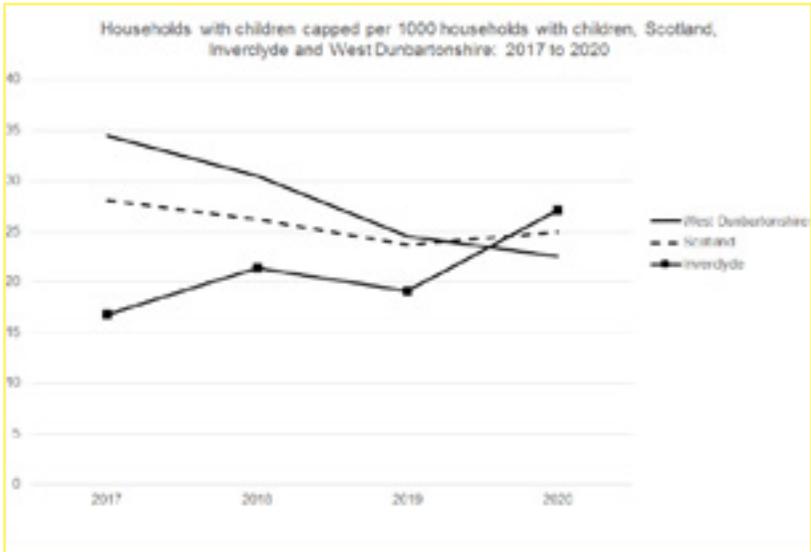


FIGURE 14

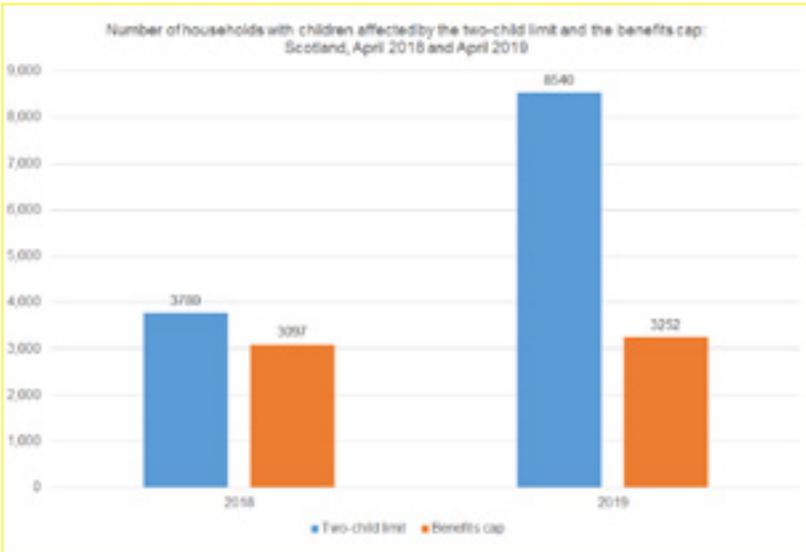


FIGURE 15



## Costs of living

Private rental costs in Inverclyde/Renfrewshire are higher than West Dunbartonshire but lower than Scotland. In Renfrewshire/Inverclyde, average monthly rent of a 3-bedroom property was £666 pm, compared to £639 pm in West Dunbartonshire and £857 pm in Scotland (Figure 16).

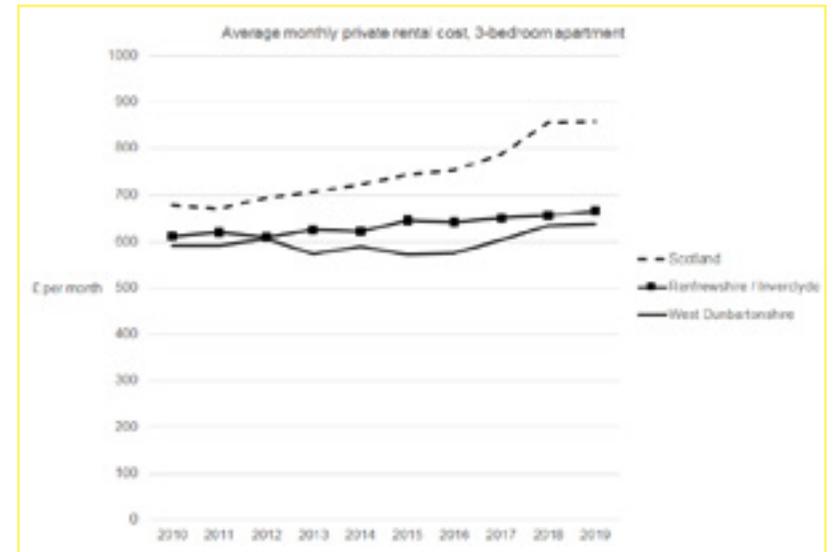


FIGURE 16



Social rental costs in Inverclyde tend to be higher than both West Dunbartonshire and Scotland (Figure 17). Weekly rents for 3 bedroom properties for the largest social landlords were £93 per week in Inverclyde (River Clyde Homes) and £82 per week in West Dunbartonshire (West Dunbartonshire Council).

The rate of discretionary housing payment awards was lower in Inverclyde compared to West Dunbartonshire and Scotland (Figure 18). However, the average discretionary housing payment made in Inverclyde was higher than both areas (Figure 19).

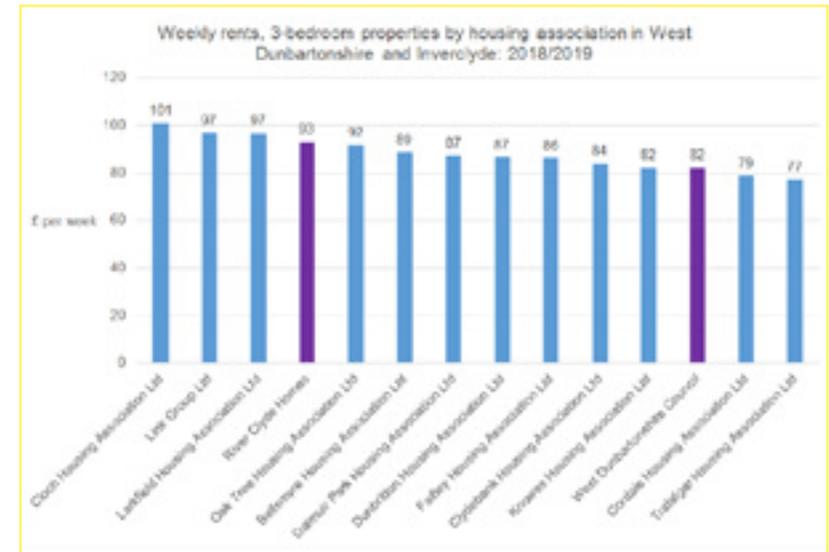


FIGURE 17

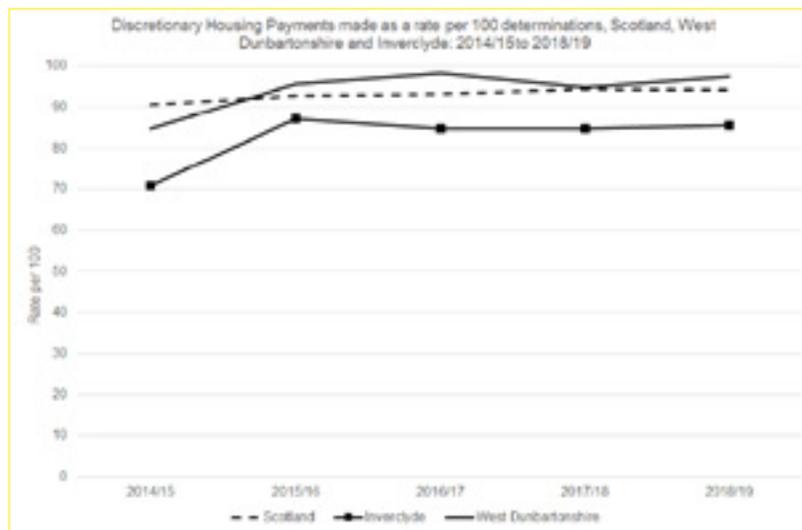


FIGURE 18

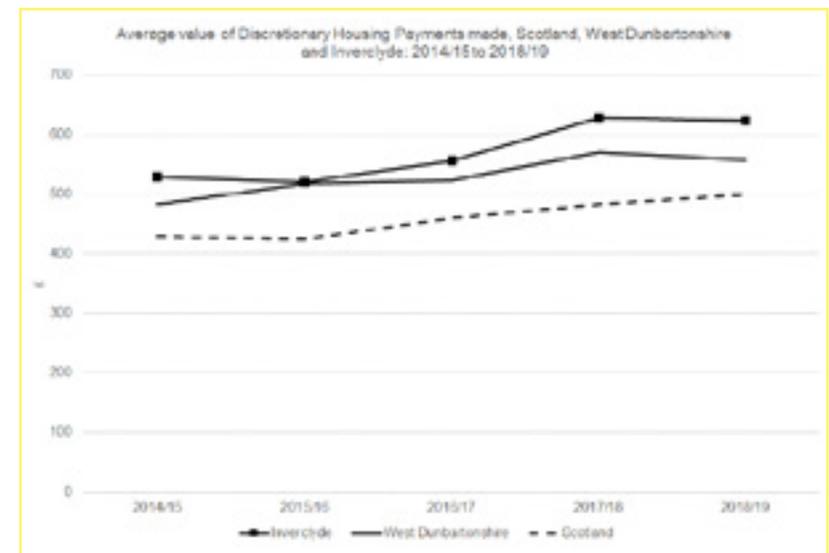


FIGURE 19



# Contact us

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