



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	18 June 2018
Report By:	Aubrey Fawcett Chair of Programme Board	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Lynsey Logsdon	Contact No:	N/A
Subject:	Child Poverty Workshop		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Alliance Board of the feedback from the workshop that was held as part of the previous Alliance Board meeting on 19 March 2018.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Child poverty is a major issue in Inverclyde with 25.73% of children living in poverty after housing costs. Furthermore, it is predicted to increase to 35% from 2019-2021. (Source: End Child Poverty). For this reason, a specific workshop session that focused on the issue of child poverty was held with the Alliance Board on 19 March 2018.
- 2.2 Sonya Scott from Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS delivered a presentation on the Child Poverty Scotland (Act) 2017 and this was followed by a presentation by Grant McGovern, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Corporate Policy on the Inverclyde context.
- 2.3 Members of the Alliance Board were then asked to consider the work that is taking place within their organisation to address the issues of child poverty and to then discuss how the Alliance Board could work collaboratively to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The Act requires that each local authority and relative NHS Health Board must jointly prepare annual Child Poverty Local Action Reports (LARs) from 1 April 2019.
- 2.4 Details of the feedback obtained from the members of the Alliance Board are detailed in section 6 of this report. Members of the Alliance Board were asked to consider where there are gaps in relation to what is currently being done to tackle child poverty and suggest what potential action could be taken by the Alliance Board by working in collaboration that would make a real difference to the issue of child poverty.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

1. Notes the feedback obtained from the workshop on child poverty; and
2. Agrees that a draft Local Action Report is brought back to a future meeting of the LOIP Programme Board and Alliance Board to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

Aubrey Fawcett
Chair, Programme Board
Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 A workshop on child poverty was held with the Alliance Board on 19 March 2018 in order to:

- Inform members of the Board of the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017;
- Highlight statistics and the local context relating to child poverty in Inverclyde;
- Obtain information from Board members of steps being taken within their organisations to tackle child poverty; and
- Identify where there are gaps and potential for the Alliance Board to work in partnership to tackle child poverty.

5.0 THE CHILD POVERTY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2017

5.1 Under the new Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 there is a requirement for all local authorities and relevant Health Boards across Scotland to reduce child poverty. The Act sets out four national statutory income based targets to be achieved by 2030. The four targets are:

- Less than 10% of children are in relative poverty
- Less than 5% of children are in absolute poverty
- Less than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
- Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty

5.2 The Act requires that each local authority and relative NHS Health Board jointly prepare annual Child Poverty Local Action Reports (LARs) from 1 April 2019. The first report will cover the financial year 2018/19. These annual reports must set out the activity undertaken during the reporting period and those planned going forward to meet the 2030 targets.

5.3 The Act also introduces a new requirement for local authorities and each relevant Health Board to jointly prepare a Local Action Report (LAR) as soon as practicable following the end of each financial reporting year. The commencement of the LAR requirement will come into force from **1st April 2019** and will reflect activities undertaken by the local authority in 2018/19.

5.4 LARs must set out any measures taken in the previous reporting year for the purpose of contributing to the meeting of the child poverty targets set out in the Act. The LARs **must** include any proposed measures that will be taken to contribute to the meeting of the targets. This means that the action reports should articulate how any activity which has been undertaken in the previous reporting year, or is proposed to be taken, has contributed or will contribute to the meeting of the targets.

5.5 The range, role and collaborative engagement with partners delivering activities at a local level to tackle child poverty **must** be reflected in the LAR. However, partners delivering these activities must also be involved in the forward planning element.

5.6 The Act states that local actions must:

- Include income maximisation;
- Include support for families at increased risk of poverty; and
- Include partners.

6.0 FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOP

6.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 states that local actions to tackle child poverty must include partners and members of the Alliance Board were therefore asked at the workshop to consider what actions could be taken by the Alliance Board collectively. Below are the key suggestions that were made:

- Better information sharing between partner organisations would enable data held by

each partner organisations relating to families at risk of child poverty to be shared. This would provide organisations with a fuller picture of the circumstances of children who are living in poverty and allow more effective, targeted and joined up action to be taken.

- Members of the Alliance Board felt that there would be added value in carrying out further analysis of available data. There is a perception that the impact of poverty on families is getting worse, however, there is no data available to show whether this is just a perception or whether the gap between those families living in poverty and those that are not is widening.
- Actions focused on income maximisation are another requirement of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and members of the Alliance Board felt that providing employment opportunities and particularly the availability of long term sustainable jobs is vital. In addition, all organisations that sit on the Alliance Board should be living wage employers.
- Affordable childcare provision and flexible working practices were identified at the workshop as important preventative measures to stop families from living in poverty. Each organisation that sits on the Alliance Board should give consideration as to how they could help their employees to access affordable childcare and whether they offer sufficient flexible working practices that meet the needs of their employees.
- Increasing access to green space, especially amongst children and those living in our poorest communities is one of the key issues identified in the LOIP that we need to tackle. Evidence shows that access to good quality green space has positive benefits for everyone, but particularly children and young people with reduced levels of stress.

6.2 A draft Local Action Report (LAR) to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 will be submitted annually, with the first LAR being submitted in April 2019. The draft Local Action Report will set out the actions that will be taken forward and will be mapped to the template in the guidance on the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Legal: none at present
Finance: none at present
Human Resources: none at present
Equality and Diversity: none at present
Repopulation: repopulation remains a key priority within the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.
Inequalities: the Locality Partnerships will be working specifically to tackle inequalities on a geographic basis.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 n/a

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 n/a