



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	10 December 2018
Report By:	Louise McVey Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Gail Baxter Corporate Policy Officer (Poverty)	Contact No:	712746
Subject:	Inverclyde Every Child, Every Chance Poverty Event		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Alliance Board on the Every Child, Every Chance Poverty Event held within Inverclyde on 2 October 2018, to coincide with Challenge Poverty week.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The event was the first of its kind locally and was very successful with 103 people attending from various Services, Organisations and the 3rd Sector. Of those attending, 26% of participants were from Inverclyde Council (Education Services); 17% from other Services within Inverclyde Council and 15% of participants were from the HSCP. The remainder of participants, 42%, were from the 3rd Sector.

2.2 Presentations were delivered by Professor Stephen Sinclair, Co-Director of the Scottish Poverty & Inequality Research Unit, Sara Spencer, Cost of the School Day Project Manager and Dr Noreen Shields, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

2.3 Three workshop sessions were held in the morning session with a focus on 'good practice - what is working'. The focus of the afternoon workshop was the development of a Local Action Report for Inverclyde, which requires to be submitted to the Scottish Government in June 2019.

2.4 45 evaluations were completed with positive feedback received. Participants were also asked to pledge an action to implement before Christmas that will make a difference to Child Poverty in Inverclyde. The feedback from the evaluation and the pledges made is provided in Appendix 1 for the information of the Programme Board.

2.5 The event was a success for Inverclyde, providing participants with the opportunity to gain an insight into the requirements for the Local Action Report, providing networking opportunities with other Agencies/Services and increasing the knowledge and understanding of participants as to what services are available that can support families living in poverty. This work aligns closely with the work being carried out to tackle inequalities, which is one of the strategic priorities in the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.

2.6 Appendix 2 shows the national income based targets to reduce child poverty by 2030. To inform the development of the Inverclyde Local Action Report, data at a local level will be required from all partners to help show progress towards the achievement of these targets locally.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a. Notes the success of the first Every Child, Every Chance event in Inverclyde
- b. Considers the Analysis of Evaluation Report that is provided in Appendix 1.
- c. Notes that all partners will be required to contribute to the development of the Inverclyde Local Action Report.

Louise McVey
Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Fairer Scotland Strategy set out a vision to ensure that Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up. To realise this outcome, it is committed to eradicating child poverty. Evidence suggests that poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of children who experience it. A 2013 study found that child poverty in the UK cost at least £29 billion a year.
- 4.2 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act was given Royal Assent in December 2017. It sets out four ambitious headline targets for 2030. Scotland is now the only part of the UK with statutory targets to reduce child poverty.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

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

- Four statutory national **income** targets, to be met in the financial year beginning 1 April 2030.
 - Places a duty on local authorities and health boards to report annually on activity taken, as well as, planned action to contribute to the reduction of child poverty by 2030.
 - Four **interim income** targets, to be met by Scottish ministers in the financial year beginning 1 April 2023 and 2026.
 - Places a duty on Scottish ministers to publish child poverty delivery plans in 2018, 2022, and 2026, and to report progress towards meeting the 2030 targets.
 - To report on delivery plans annually.
 - The creation of a Poverty and Inequality Commission to be established from 1 July 2019 with functions related to the child poverty national reduction targets.
- 4.3 For ease of reference, Figure 1 at Appendix 2 sets out the following:
- The statutory requirements;
 - The definitions of the four income categories;
 - The Scottish percentage for each category; and
 - The 2030 targets.

5.0 INVERCLYDE EVERY CHILD, EVERY CHANCE POVERTY EVENT

- 5.1 As part of national Child Poverty Week, a local event was held with a particular focus on tackling child poverty. The event was very successful with 103 people from various Services, Organisations and the 3rd Sector attending. Of those attending, 26% of participants were from Inverclyde Council (Education Services); 17% from other Services within Inverclyde Council and 15% of participants were from the HSCP. The remainder of participants, 42%, were from the 3rd Sector.
- 5.2 Presentations were delivered by Professor Stephen Sinclair, Co-Director of the Scottish Poverty & Inequality Research Unit, Sara Spencer, Cost of the School Day Project Manager and Dr Noreen Shields, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.
- 5.3 Participants were given the opportunity to attend 3 'good practice – what is working' workshops at the morning session. Seven workshop, each focussing on a different topic were available:-
- Corporate Parenting
 - Child Refugee Resettlement
 - Health Visiting – Universal Pathway
 - Kinship, Benefits and DLA
 - Holiday Hunger
 - Supporting Families
 - Attainment Challenge

- 5.4 In the afternoon, Professor Stephen Sinclair delivered a presentation on 'Developing Local Child Poverty Action Reports'. Participants were split into 3 groups to discuss how Inverclyde can develop a Local Action Report and what the focus of the report should be. The information from these sessions has been collated by Inverclyde Council's Corporate Policy Officer (Poverty) and will inform the development of the Inverclyde Local Action.
- 5.5 45 evaluations were completed with positive feedback received. Participants were also asked to pledge an action to implement before Christmas that will make a difference to Child Poverty in Inverclyde. The feedback from the evaluation and the pledges made is provided in Appendix 1 for the information of the Alliance Board.
- 5.6 The event was a success for Inverclyde, providing participants with the opportunity to gain an insight into the requirements for the Local Action Report, providing networking opportunities with other Agencies/Services and increasing the knowledge and understanding of participants as to what services are available that can support families living in poverty. This work aligns closely with the work being carried out to tackle inequalities, which is one of the strategic priorities in the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.
- 5.7 Appendix 2 shows the national income based targets to reduce child poverty by 2030. It should be noted that there is no data for combined low income and material deprivation or persistent poverty at a local level. To inform the development of the Inverclyde Local Action Report however, work will be carried out with partners to identify what information is currently available to help demonstrate progress towards the achievement of these targets locally.

6.0 NATIONAL CHILD POVERTY FORECASTS

- 6.1 The Alliance Board should be made aware that the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) forecasts that relative child poverty in Scotland will increase to 29% by 2019-2021, and that absolute child poverty will increase to 25%. The Scottish Government guidance states that this projected increase is in part due to the impact of welfare reform.
- 6.2 The Scottish Government has commissioned Landman Economics to produce projections of the four target measures, to give an idea of how they would be likely to behave in the coming years if no further policy and practice changes were made. This is shown in Appendix 3.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Legal: The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act places a legal requirement on Councils and NHS Health Boards to produce a Local Child Poverty Action Report.

Finance: There are no financial implications associated with this report at present.

Human Resources: There are no HR implications associated with this report at present.

Equality and Diversity: There are no Equality and Diversity implications associated with this report at present.

Repopulation: A reduction in poverty levels will improve the quality of life for many residents in Inverclyde. Improved satisfaction levels may encourage more young people to stay in the area and may make Inverclyde a more attractive place for those considering moving to the area.

Inequalities: Inequalities and poverty are inextricably linked therefore reducing poverty will have an impact of reducing inequalities in the area.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

APPENDIX 1

Every Child Every Chance

Poverty Event - 2nd October 2018

Analysis of Evaluations

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Inverclyde hosted an event during Challenge Poverty week at the Beacon Arts Theatre “Every Child Every Chance”.

Overview of the Day

103 people from various Services (Organisations and 3rd Sector) attended the event. Participants included 26% from Inverclyde Council (Education), with 17% from other Services within Inverclyde Council and 15% HSCP.

The event launched with an opening speech from Councillor Jim Clocherty. Professor Stephen Sinclair, Co-Director of the Scottish Poverty & Inequality Research Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University followed with a speech about Challenges and Opportunities.

Sara Spencer, Cost of the School Day Project Manager from Child Poverty Action Group presented a speech about The Cost of the School Day, and Dr Noreen Shields, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, inequalities, gender and health issues delivered a speech around Healthier Wealthier Children.

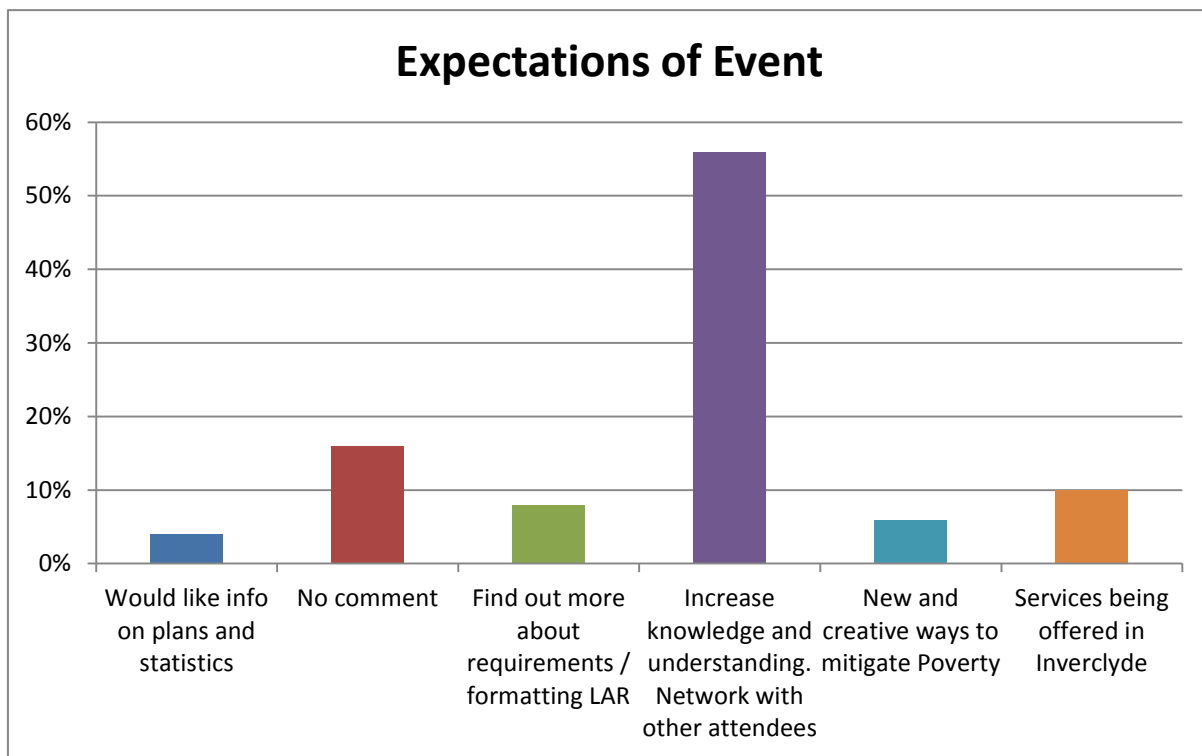
Following the speeches and a short tea break, the attendees split into seven different ‘good practice – what is working’ workshops, attending three each with the workshops lasting approximately 20 minutes:-

- Corporate Parenting
- Child Refugee Resettlement
- Health Visiting – Universal Pathway
- Kinship, Benefits and DLA
- Holiday Hunger
- Supporting Families
- Attainment Challenge

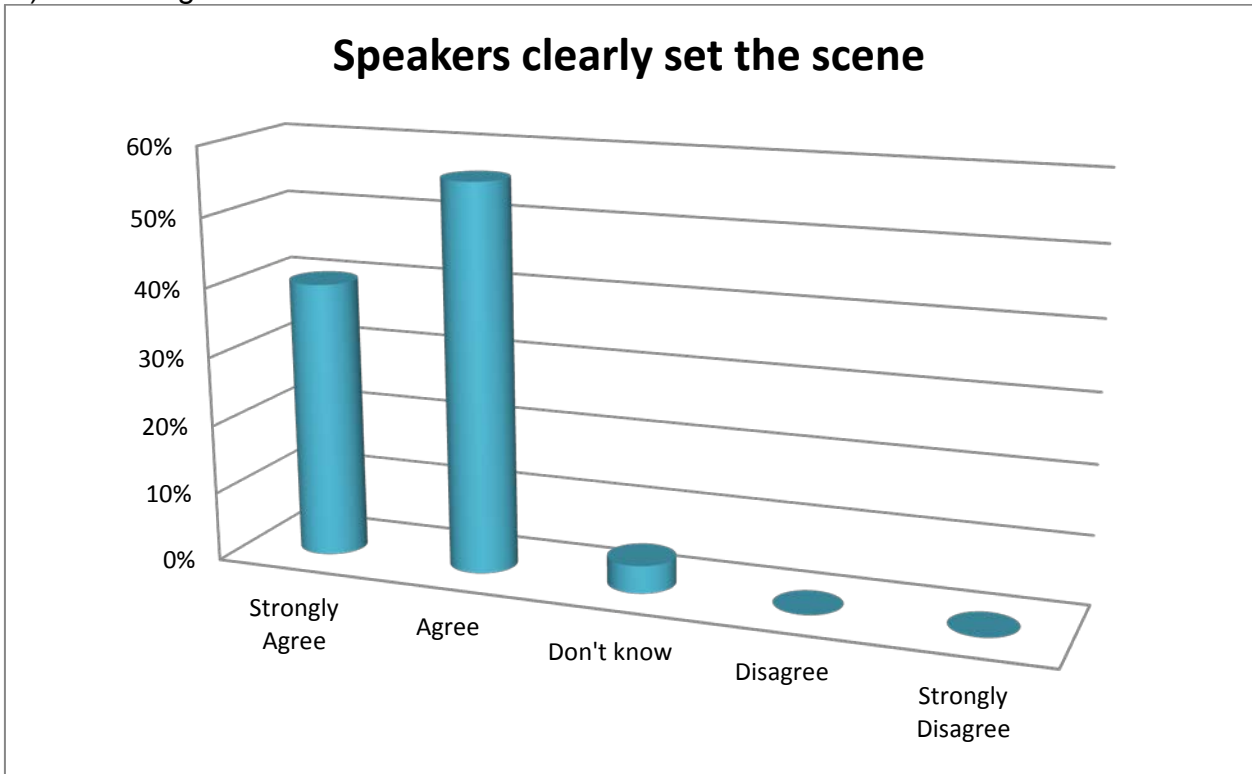
Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development, welcomed everyone back to the afternoon session and passed over to Professor Stephen Sinclair to outline the requirements for “Developing Local Child Poverty Action Reports”, followed by discussion (in 3 separate groups) on how Inverclyde can develop a Local Action Report.

Towards the end of the Event, evaluations were given to the remaining attendees. Analysis from the questions asked are shown on the subsequent pages.

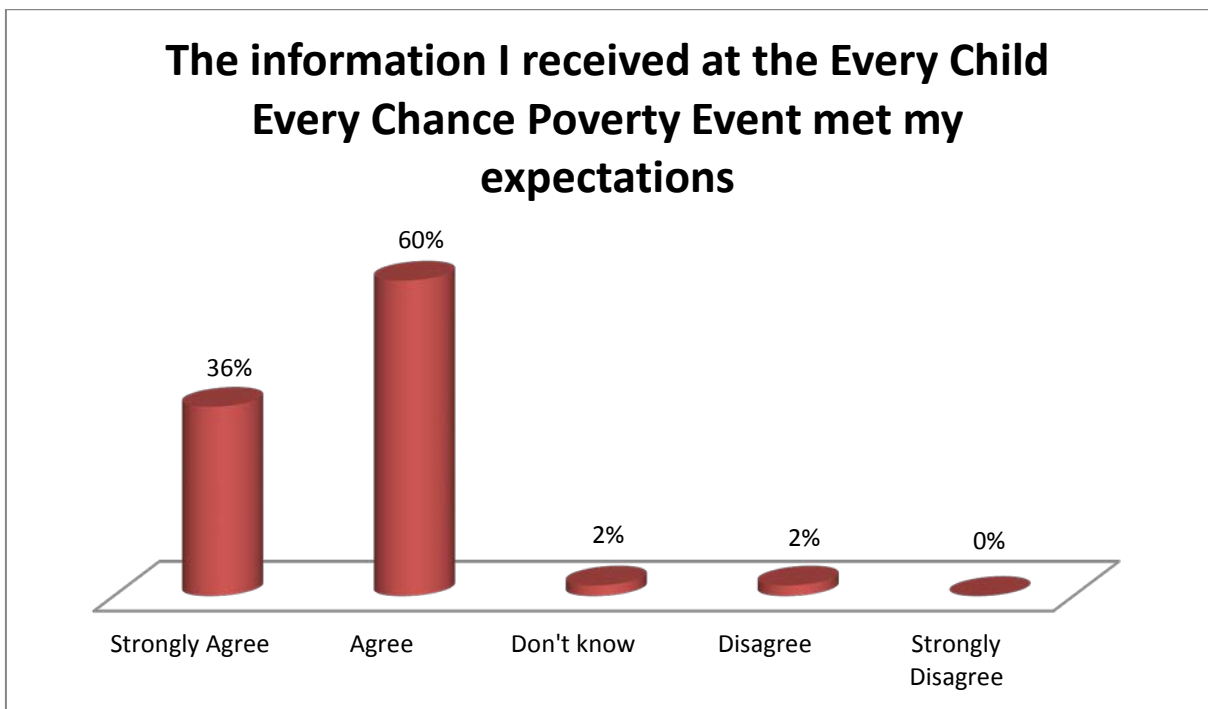
Consolidated results show over half of the respondents (56%) expected to increase their knowledge and understanding and network with other attendees, 10% wished to find out Services being offered within Inverclyde, 8% expected to find out more about requirements/formatting the Local Action Report, 6% hoped to find new and creative ways to mitigate Poverty and 4% wanted more information on plans and statistics.



96% of the respondents agreed the speakers clearly set the scene for the Event with 4% (2 people) answering 'don't know'.

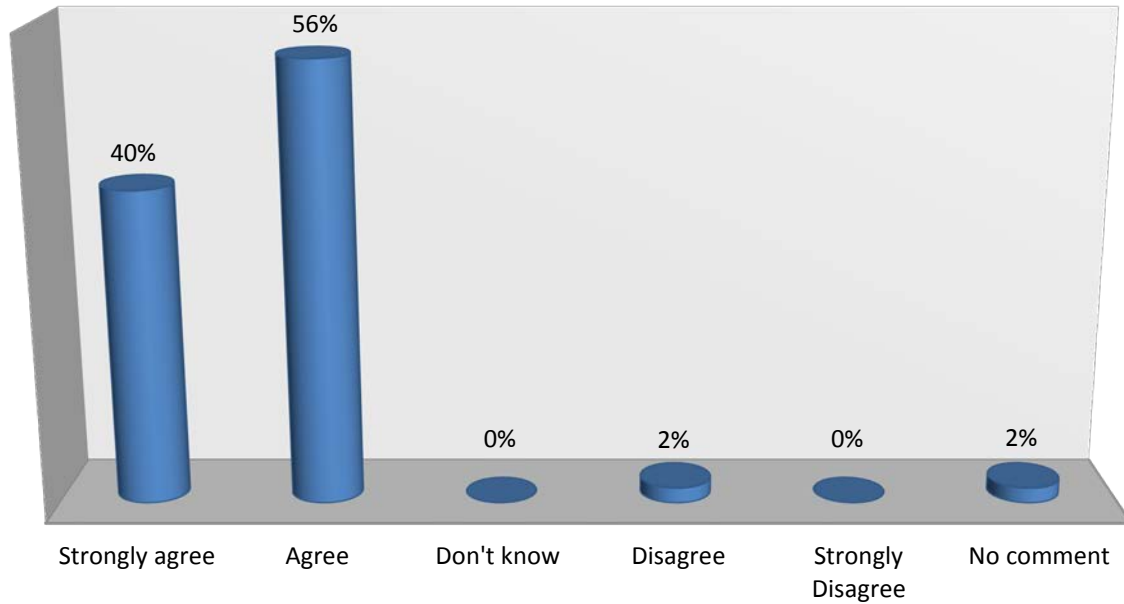


96% of the respondents agreed the information received met their expectations. 1 person didn't know if it met their expectation, and 1 person disagreed.



Encouragingly 96% of respondents will take ideas shared back to their Service to assist in tackling child poverty. 1 respondent disagreed and 1 didn't comment.

I will take ideas shared at the 'What is working?' workshop back to my services to tackle child poverty and inequalities



Pledges by respondents

Align with Children's Rights Work

Contact MP for free travel for care experienced young people

Detail in report to be more than a statutory requirement

Ensure Child Poverty is considered in work going forward (Ch & YP sub group)

Prioritise early phasing - additional hours to families experiencing poverty

Find out more about Service and what it does to support Children

Pursue free Public Transport for Children experiencing poverty

Progress automation of Education Benefits process development

Establish family engagement programme

Remove Stigma

Suggest Poverty awareness training for staff

Volunteer for Foodbank

All of the above were pledges from 1 respondent each

Promote Service

Raise awareness and share knowledge

Closer multi agency working

Pledged by 4 respondents

Pledged by 5 respondents

Pledged by 5 respondents

Clearer referral routes and increase referring to Other Services

Discuss ways of reducing cost of school day. Use the toolkit

Pledged by 7 respondents

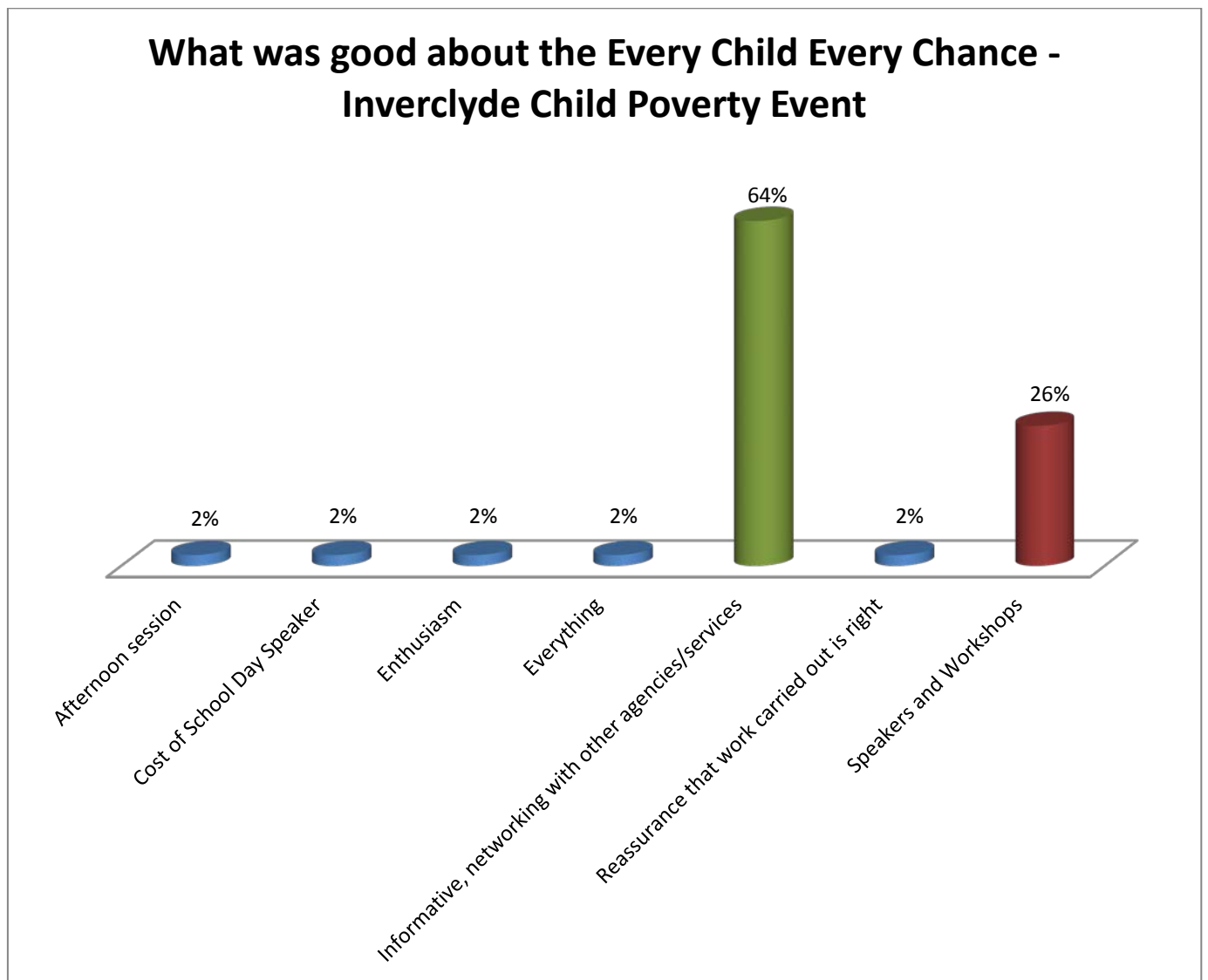
Pledged by 8 respondents

Positive comments against this question. Themed results show 64% found the Event informative and felt there was positive networking with other Agencies and Services. 26% specifically mentioned Speakers and Workshops were good.

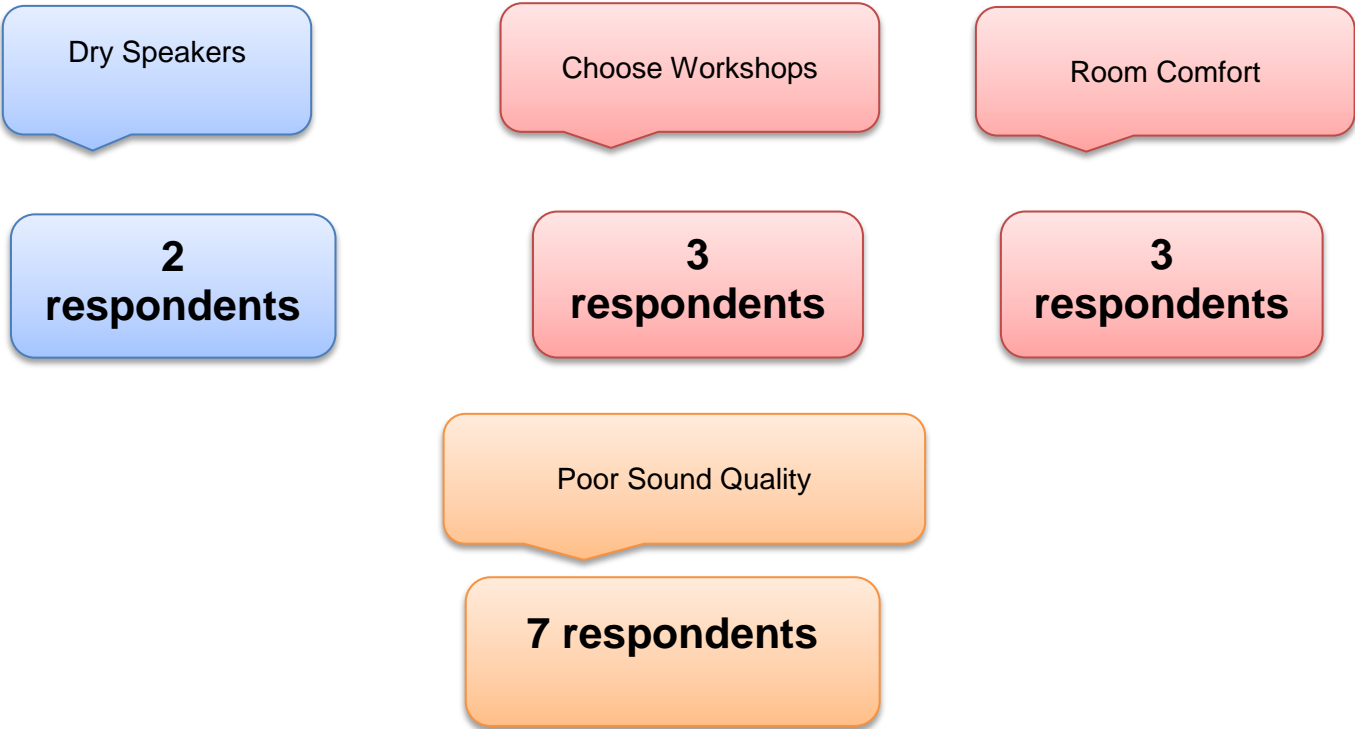
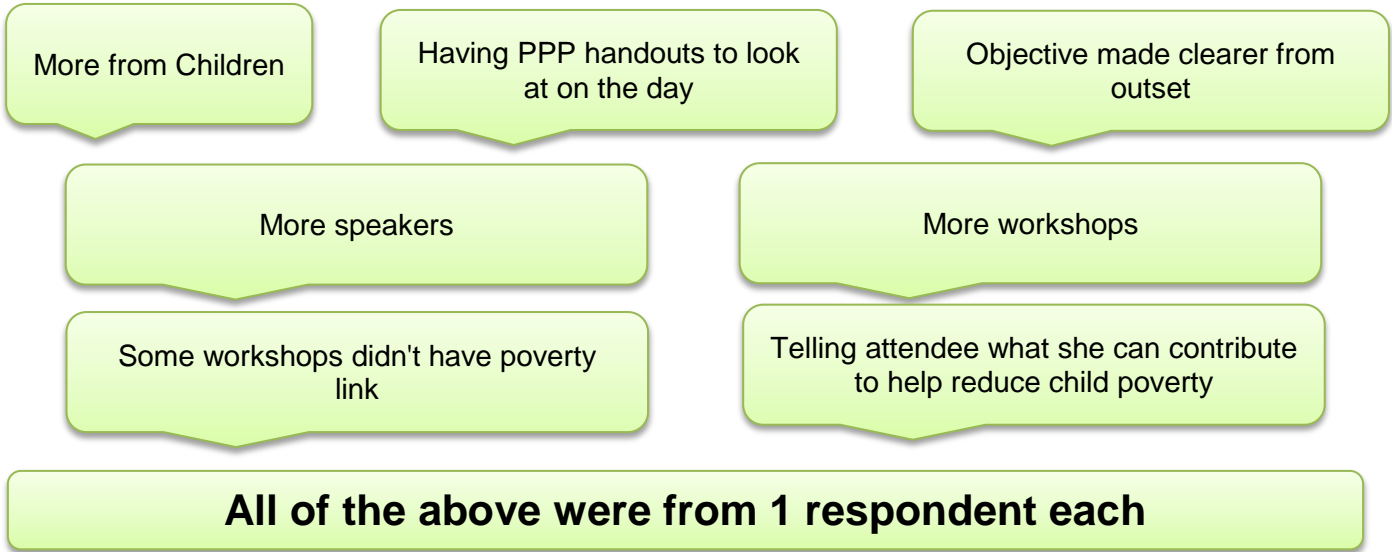
Other positives mentioned about the Event include:-

- Afternoon session
- Cost of School Day Speaker
- Enthusiasm
- Everything
- Reassurance that work carried out is right. *

* Whilst work is currently carried out, we know this is not enough to improve / meet the targets.



What could have been better?



Reassuringly, 26 respondents (more than half) did not comment on what could have been better.

Conclusion

The 'Every Child Every Chance' Event was a success for Inverclyde, with attendees gaining an insight into the requirements for the Local Action Report, gaining more information in relation to Poverty within Inverclyde, networking with other Agencies/Services and increasing their understanding of Services available.

Next Step

Engage with the Services to ensure Pledges are progressed. Meet with Agencies / Services to establish (in relation to tackling Poverty in particular the 3 main drivers – Income from Employment, Costs of Living and Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind):-

- Their level of awareness (ensure they are aware of the 3 key drivers)
- Identify and assess their existing action plan
- Evidence of continual performance – what is working and lessons learned.
- Action plan for improvements

Child Poverty Act

Appendix 2

Contains 4 ambitious income-based targets to reduce child poverty in Scotland by 2030. All are based on the income left to a household after they have paid their rent or mortgage – i.e. After Housing Costs.

Relative poverty

This measures poverty relative to the rest of society.

It is the proportion of children living in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of the median (middle) UK income in the current year.

2030 target level <10%
Current level : 26% (260,000 children)



Absolute poverty

This measures changes in poverty relative to a point in time

It is the number of children living in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of the median UK income in a base year – currently 2010/11 - adjusted for inflation.

2030 target level: <5%
Current level: 24% (230,000 children)



Combined low income and material deprivation

Measures whether households are able to afford basic necessities

The number of children living in households with equivalised incomes below 70% of the median UK income AND going without certain basic goods and services.

2030 target level: <5%
Current level: 12% (110,000 children)



Persistent poverty

Measures whether people have been living in poverty for a number of years

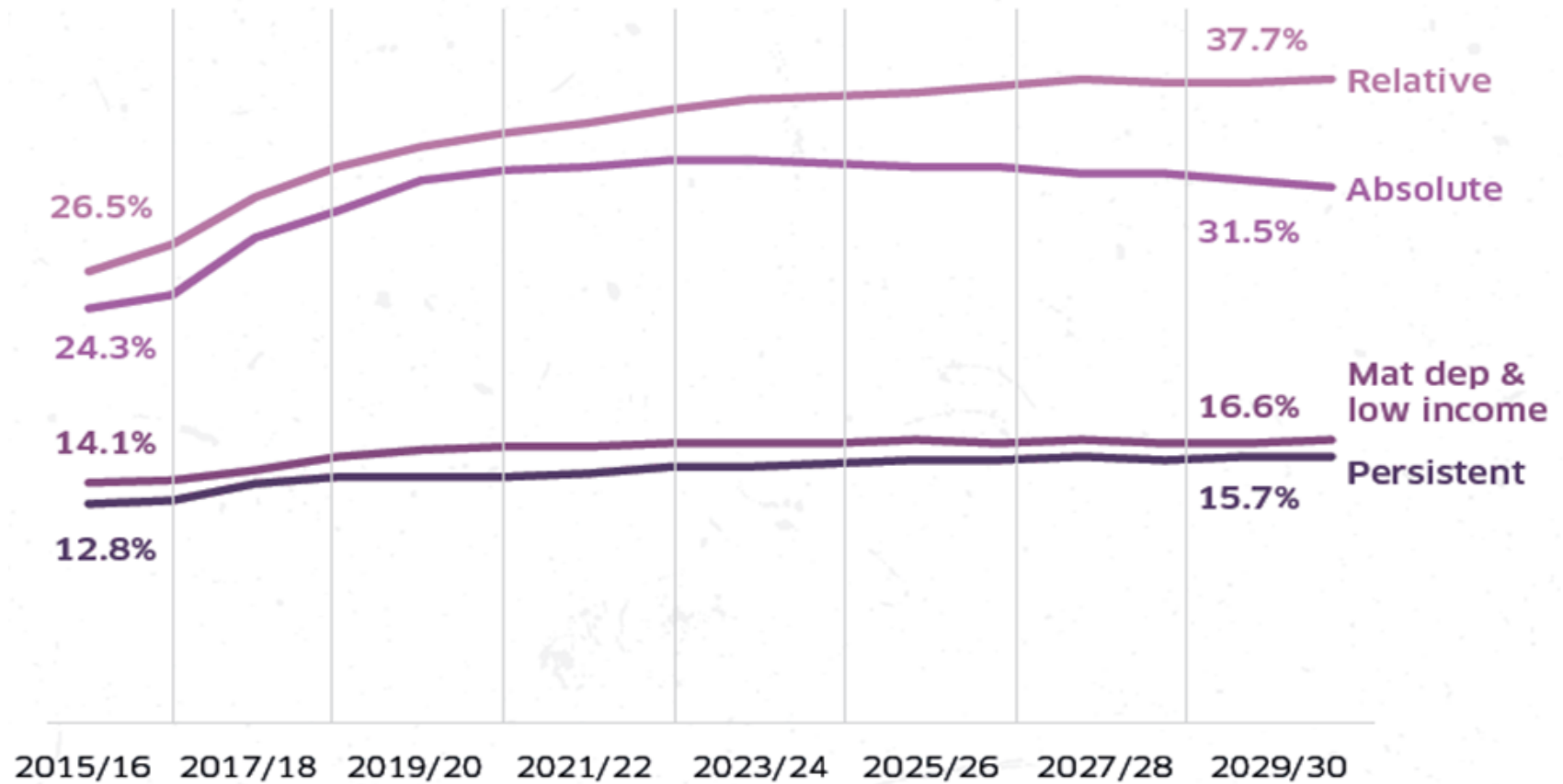
The number of children who have lived in relative poverty in 3 of the last 4 years.

2030 target level: <5%
Current level: 12%



Projected Poverty Rates

Appendix 3



- **Forecasts based on existing UK government policies and no action taken in Scotland**