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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Alliance Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 March 2019</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Louise McVey Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Gail Baxter Corporate Policy Officer (Poverty)</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>712746</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Draft Local Child Poverty Action Report Template</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Alliance Board for the draft Local Child Poverty Action Report Template.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

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

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

- 2.2 The Act requires that each local authority and relative NHS Health Board must jointly prepare annual Child Poverty Local Action Reports (LARs). 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. The report requires to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

- 2.3 The Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group agreed that the Inverclyde LAR should focus on a small number of set themes. Each theme provides an overview of current service provision and what is planned for the year ahead. This draft Report template is provided for the consideration and approval of the Alliance Board in Appendix 1.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board approves the themes and detail of the draft Local Action Report Template.

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

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

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

### 4.2 Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

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

- Four statutory national **income** targets, to be met in the financial year beginning 1 April 2030.
- A duty placed 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.
- A duty placed on Scottish ministers to publish child poverty delivery plans in 2018, 2022, and 2026, and to report progress towards meeting the 2030 targets.
- Delivery plans to be reported annually.
- The creation of a Poverty and Inequality Commission to be established from 1 July 2019 with functions related to the child poverty national reduction targets.

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

4.3 A previous report outlining feedback from the 'Every Child Every Chance' event in October 2018 was presented to the Alliance Board on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

## 5.0 DEVELOPING INVERCLYDE'S LAR

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

5.2 To facilitate this, an Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group has been established with the following leads:-

Name	Designation	Service / Organisation
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Inverclyde Council
Aine McCrea	Service Manager, Children & Families	Inverclyde HSCP
Fiona Houlihan	Service Manager, Children & Families	Inverclyde HSCP
Jackie Semple	Children's Planning and Improvement Officer	Inverclyde HSCP
Gail Baxter	Policy Officer (Poverty)	Inverclyde Council
Louise McVey	Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager	Inverclyde Council
Tracy Bunton	Principal Benefits and Customer Services Officer	Inverclyde Council
Anne Glendinning	Service Manager, Children & Families	Inverclyde HSCP
Janet Stitt	Team Leader, Public Health and Housing	Inverclyde Council
Grant McGovern	Head of Inclusion, Culture and Communities	Inverclyde Council
Linda Wilkie	Early Years	Inverclyde Council
Steven McNab	Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications	Inverclyde Council

Hugh Scott	Community Learning and Development	Inverclyde Council
Stephen Parsons	Acting Head of Education	Inverclyde Council
Alison Gillespie	Implementation Lead	CELCIS
Nicola Hurrell	Health & Wellbeing and Poverty Linked Initiatives Officer	Inverclyde Council

5.3 The Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group agreed that the Inverclyde LAR should focus on a small number of set themes. Each theme provides an overview of current service provision and what is planned for the year ahead. This draft Report template is provided for the consideration and approval of the Programme Board in Appendix 1.

5.4 In accordance with the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, the Local Action Report will be submitted annually, with the first LAR submitted in June 2019.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 n/a

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

Appendix 1 see attachment

Appendix 1 Draft Local Action Report Template

Poverty Driver:							
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	Source of info and Contact details
Implement Automated Payments (School Clothing Grant, Free school meals, EMA)	Education Services and Finance Services, Inverclyde Council		<p>Education Services currently provide application forms directly to families who have previously received School Clothing Grants/Free School Meals. The application forms are also sent to schools to encourage families who may be eligible to complete and return the application forms. There is also a full communication exercise using social and local media to encourage an increase in the take up of the benefits. Inverclyde uses the same form for applications for free school meals and clothing grants.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b></p> <p>Work is currently being undertaken to explore methods of using information already held by Council for Council Tax Reduction purposes to automate payments to ensure families received the benefits without the need to complete additional application forms. The application process may be a barrier to some eligible families so removing the responsibility to complete and submit a form with supporting evidence would increase the number of families receiving payments. It is acknowledged that not all scenarios will fit an automated process so the manual application will remain for those who require this.</p>		Families with school aged children who are eligible for School Clothing Grants, Free School Meals and EMA		Tracy Bunton
Ensure eligible families receive appropriate	HSCP		<p>Social Work Services has a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their community who are in need by providing a range of services. This means that kinship carers and the children for whom they are caring can ask for assistance under this provision. Kinship payments are</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>	This action is intended for children subject to legal status of		Anne Glendinning (Nan Sinclair) –

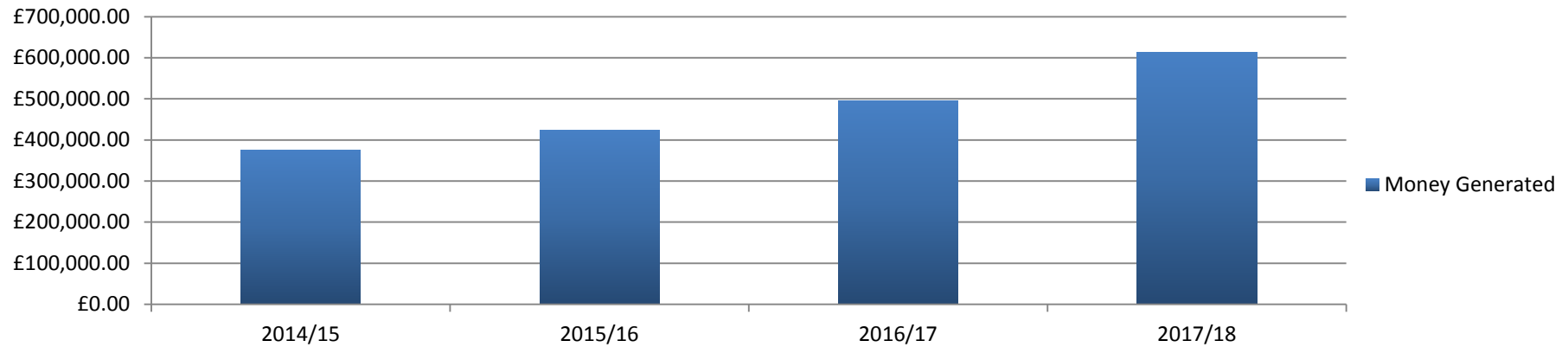
Appendix 1 Draft Local Action Report Template

Poverty Driver:			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	Source of info and Contact details
Action	Who action is carried out by	Resources allocated					
Kinship Payments			<p>paid until at least the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Inverclyde Council provides a kinship allowance to carers who meet certain criteria and have been assessed and approved by social work services as formal kinship carers.</p> <p>Examples of the kind of help offered are outlined below:                      Access to individual social work support                      Financial support                      Advice on welfare rights and legal options                      Training in relation to behaviour management, child development, attachment, effects of separation and loss                      Advice on managing difficult behaviours                      Advocating on behalf of carers to relevant agencies such as health, housing and education                      Regular local support group meetings for kinship carers</p> <p>All kinship carers have an Income maximisation check from a welfare rights officer, supporting the notion that good advice is crucial in ensuring the financial basis of a placement is sound. This formed part of the Healthier Wealthier Children programme and involves the following robust process :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying the correct kinship allowance</li> <li>• Identifying the correct level of benefit and tax credit entitlement</li> <li>• Kinship allowance paid by the local authority</li> </ul> <p>The above demonstrates ways that efficiencies can be realised from the local authority budgets and most importantly, it plays a part in developing a stable secure and nurturing placement</p>		Section 11 Children (Scotland) Act 1995' or Section 83 Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011.		

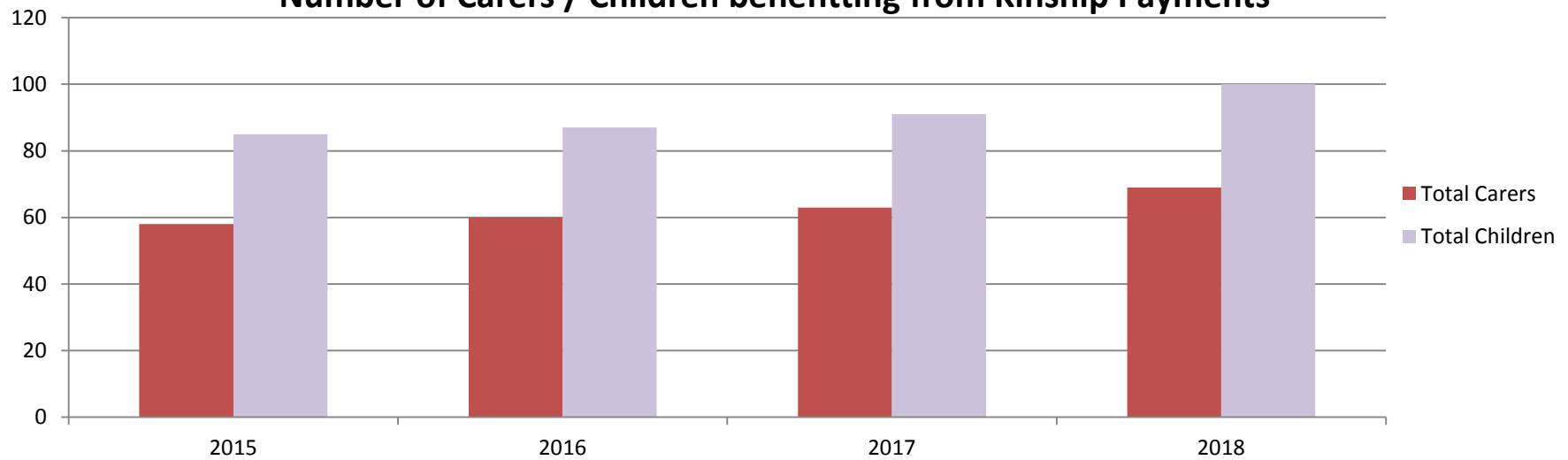
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			<p>for children and young people. The following page shows both total money paid in Kinship Payments and the number of carers/young people benefitting from Kinship Payments from 2014/15 to 2018/19.</p> <p><b>The year ahead</b> Continue to provide a robust process to ensure families are receiving correct benefits.</p>				

### Total Kinship Payments



### Number of Carers / Children benefitting from Kinship Payments





Appendix 1 Draft Local Action Report Template

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Maximise Income for eligible residents.	HSCP		<p>Inverclyde HSCP Advice Service providing money advice, benefits advice and welfare rights representation, is predicted on a rights-based perspective that contributes to the alleviation of poverty and effects of debt in the community. It plays a vital role in working to protect the well-being of vulnerable claimants and consumers; and also supports the wider Inverclyde economy by ensuring residents receive the support they require during these times of change and uncertainty. The challenges facing Inverclyde residents are diverse and vary from the effects of continuing austerity, growing reliance on personal debt and continued welfare reform.</p> <p>The provision of an effective one stop, holistic advice service is an effective method of delivering advice and is relevant to the Statutory duty of Inverclyde Council to deliver advice and assistance to promote the social welfare of Inverclyde residents.</p> <p>Within the context of the continuing impacts of welfare reform and devolved social security, Inverclyde Council commissioned a review of all advice provision across Inverclyde. This offered the opportunity for Inverclyde HSCP Advice Service, and other partner organisations, to consider if the current models of service delivery best meet the needs of service users going forward.</p> <p>In March 2018 the positioning statement of Social Security</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>	Due to the Service and Advice available, this Action covers all priority groups.		Derek Flood

Appendix 1 Draft Local Action Report Template

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			<p>Scotland Agency (SSSA) was published with a strapline of ‘Dignity, Fairness, Respect.’ Advice Services have engaged in a discussion with SSSA to explore job shadowing opportunities for SSSA workers to understand the role of Advice Services and the challenges of dealing with the current social security system. SSSA are keen for this to happen viewing it as ‘an opportunity that will be of great benefit.’</p> <p>The following page shows statistics from Advice Services from 2015/16 to 2017/18.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b>            Advice Services will continue to offer high standard advice, information and support to Service Users.            A key task for Advice Services will be to revisit the ‘Healthier Wealthier Children’ income maximisation model currently operating in Inverclyde to consider improvements in referral pathways and explore how to further extend the coverage and effectiveness of the initiative.            Advice Service remains as committed as ever to make an active contribution to Inverclyde HSCP’s vision of improving lives.</p>				

Appendix 1 Draft Local Action Report Template

	2015/2016	2016/17	2017/18
Advice First Calls Handled (Inbound and Outbound – includes calls from internal departments. N.B. some enquiries may require multiple calls to resolve the issue)	10,945	12,435	11,209
Face to Face Appointments Scheduled (Port Glasgow and Greenock) (Many clients require multiple appointments to resolve their issue <sup>1</sup> )	2776	3414	3390
Home Visits	214	222	166
Vulnerable Groups – New Clients (Advice Outreach for Hard to Reach Groups – Homelessness, Addictions, Mental Health)	315	444	278*
Macmillan Cancer Support Advice and Welfare Rights - New Clients	370	384	329*
Welfare Rights appeals scheduled (Some clients may require multiple appeals, e.g. appeal is adjourned, goes to Upper Tribunal or is revised in client favour prior to hearing)	698	591	1033
Welfare Rights Cases with final outcome decision in favour of the appellant	74%	70%	75%
Money/debt interventions carried out with clients (2 new Money Advisors started in August 2017)	258	824	1021 <sup>2</sup>
Amount of multiple debt managed by Money Advice Team	£1,393,712	£2,098,654.95	£2,178,052.28

<sup>1</sup> Universal Credit issues are requiring multiple interventions/appointments to attempt to resolve.

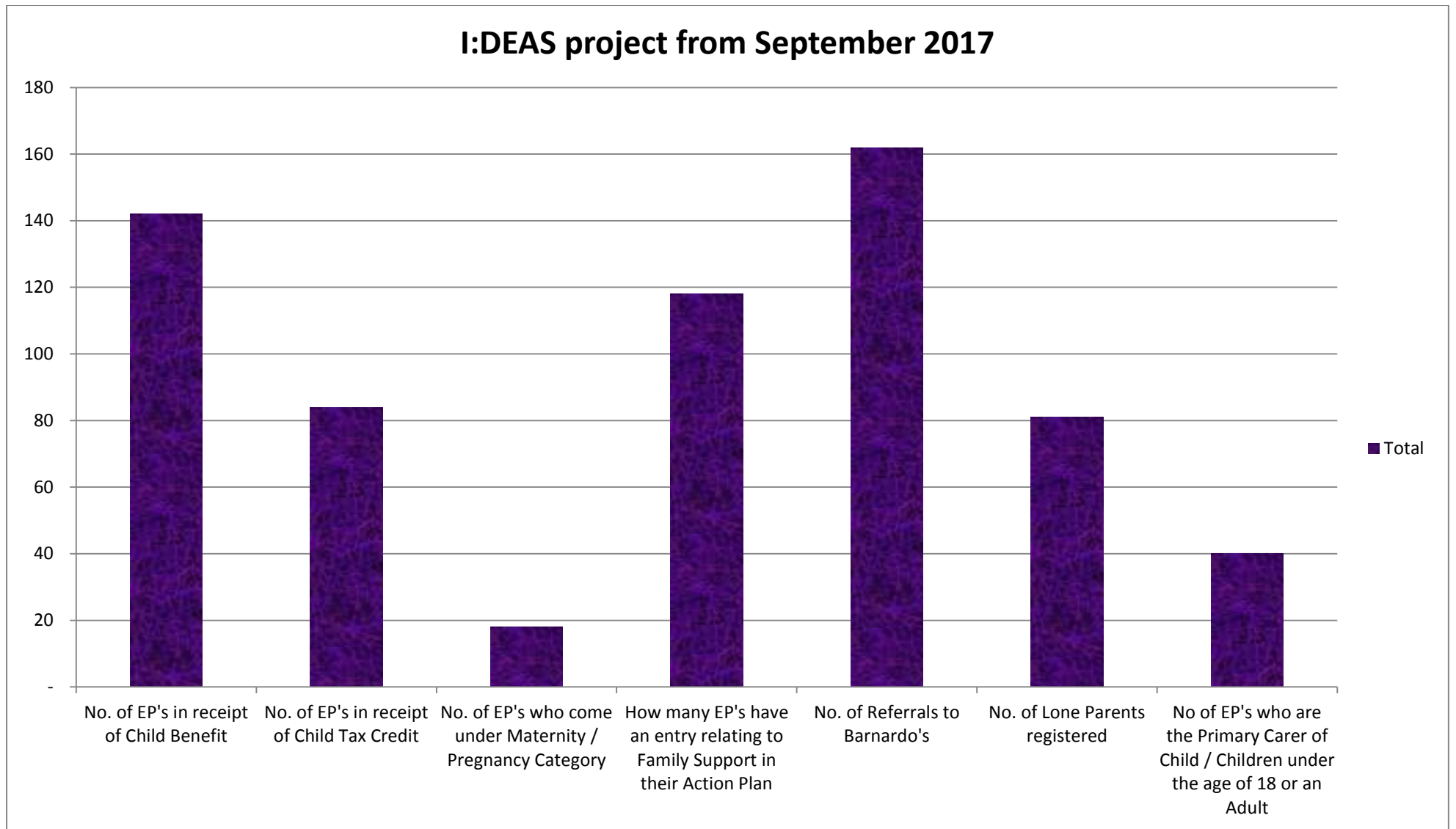
<sup>2</sup> Money Advice interventions now include all correspondence on behalf of client, including liaising with creditors.

Appendix 1 Draft Local Action Report Template

Poverty Driver:							
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			<p>I:DEAS (Inverclyde Delivering Effective Advice and Support) Project offers a service to individuals/families who:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live in a workless household</li> <li>• Live in a low income household</li> <li>• Living in a single parent household (could also be homeless and meet one of the above)</li> </ul> <p>Eligible participants (Eps) go through a registration process and have an allocated Mentor who will support them as much or as little as they require.</p> <p>I:DEAS offer a truly holistic service with regard to finances and inclusion in society. Partners are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CVS</li> <li>• Future Stills</li> <li>• HSCP Advice First</li> <li>• Barnardo's</li> <li>• The Wise Group</li> <li>• Financial Fitness</li> <li>• Scotcash</li> <li>• Community Learning Development</li> </ul> <p>There are dedicated workers in each of these organisations who all work together as a wider team.</p> <p>The allocated Mentor will walk hand in hand with the participant and will provide ranging degrees of support</p>				Nicola Bissett, I:DEAS Project

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			<p>dependant on the individual. From the Services available above, I:DEAS will improve a person's current situation with their finances and ensure they have the skills and capacity to be able to continue with positive finances through their lives. A big part of the service is to ensure that those who are socially excluded due to debt will no longer be, I:DEAS will provide family support if required.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b></p> <p>Funding (by European Social Fund and The Big Lottery) has been sourced until March 2020. This project will continue to support local eligible participants. I:DEAS project are looking for volunteers and peer supporters to support the good work.</p>				



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Poverty Driver:							
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Improve income maximisation referral uptake within antenatal, community child health, early years education and other community based services.			<p>Healthier Wealthier Children (HWC) was a project that aimed to help families at risk of poverty. The project worked closely with antenatal and community child health, early years education and other community based services working with families at risk of poverty. It aimed to target pregnant women and families with young children experiencing, or at risk of, child poverty, as costs increase and employment patterns change around the birth of a child. Following the cessation of funding in October 2010 there was agreement for Inverclyde Advice First to provide income maximisation services and collate numbers of people benefiting and report on the financial gains received. Funding was then withdrawn in 2013. Inverclyde no longer had a dedicated resource which meant that the publicity and promotion to Health Visitors and Midwives to encourage referrals greatly reduced. Initially Health Improvement staff picked this up, however, due to lack of capacity this ceased. There is no longer a separate referral form or process meaning referrals have been subsumed into the generic referral process for Inverclyde Advice First.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b>                      NHS GGC have received £63,750 for 2018/19 for enhancement of referral pathways into income maximisation for pregnant woman and families with children. This funding will also be available next year. The money should be used for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create local capacity in Health Board areas to establish or enhance referral pathways</li> </ul>		This Action covers all priority groups due given it is aimed at antenatal, community child health, early years education and other community based services.		

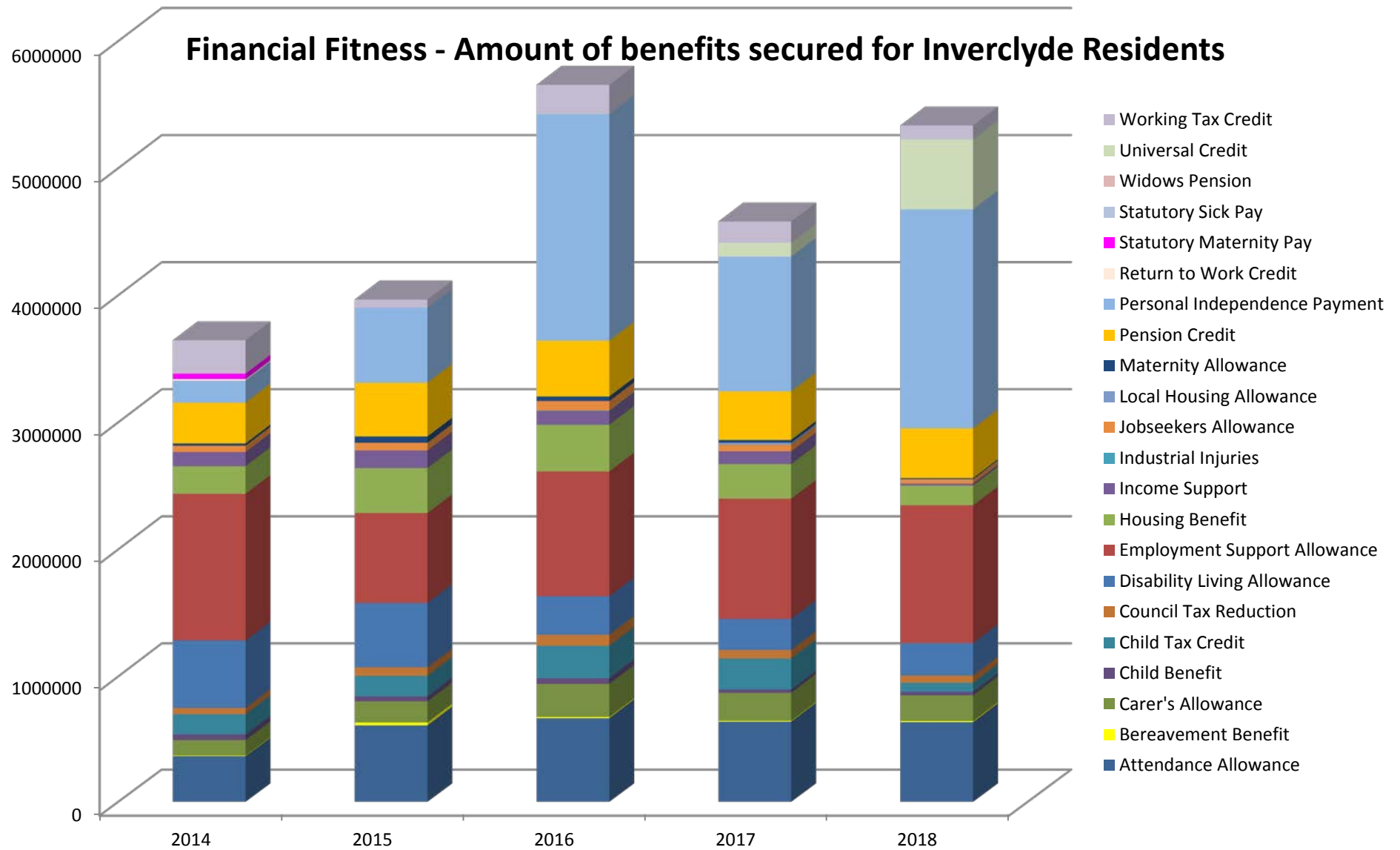
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan and delivery training on child poverty, money matters and referral pathways for universal maternity and health visiting workforce</li> <li>Develop formal referral pathways (including consideration of electronic referrals)</li> <li>Negotiate additional capacity with local advice services.</li> </ul> <p>Inverclyde Council has been allocated £2704 of the £63,750. The proposed way to spent eh money locally is to commission CPAG (Child Poverty Action Group) to deliver input around maternity and other benefits. At the same time we will ask them to do a refresh on HWC (Healthier Wealthier Children) and set up an inbox for HWC referrals. The training will be delivered to approximately 25 Health Visitors and midwives before the end of the financial year. In turn, the 25 Health Visitors/Midwives will become local 'champions' and train all Health Visitors/Midwives locally. Impact will be measured by the increase in referrals from Health Visitors/Midwives.</p>								
Maximise Income for eligible residents.	Financial Fitness		<p>Financial Fitness's aim is to tackle poverty by ensuring local people have access to welfare benefit and financial advice and information in their own communities. They therefore tackle social exclusion, poverty and deprivation by providing a grass roots service of advice which is free, independent, impartial and confidential. Furthermore, this service is provided in the local communities, through home visits or the use of various local venues which are easily accessible. The following page shows the amount of benefits Financial Fitness has secured for Inverclyde Residents from 2014 – 2017 split by benefit type. The total amount secured for each year is as follows:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="712 1348 1525 1380"> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>2015</td> <td>2016</td> <td>2017</td> <td>2018</td> </tr> </table>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		Due to the Service and Advice available, this Action covers all priority groups.	Paul Findlay, Financial Fitness
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018							



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			£3,645,462	£3,966,258	£5,655,419	£4,580,191	£5,335,741				
			<p>This is an indication of just how many benefits are going unclaimed in the area and highlights the continuing need for the service across the district. These statistics, however, fail to show the full extent to which people's lives have been impacted upon. Many Inverclyde residents are able to make informed lifestyle choices based on need rather than affordability. Clients have been affected personal in the following ways:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased income leads to healthier living as clients have greater access to better foods, exercise and leisure facilities.</li> <li>• Clients are now able to deal with existing debt and budget accordingly due to higher household income.</li> <li>• Many locals now experience greater self-esteem and confidence due to higher household income.</li> <li>• Many locals now experience greater self-esteem and confidence due to increased social inclusion.</li> <li>• Clients will tend to spend relatively high amounts of their extra income on local services and businesses, thus improving the local economy.</li> <li>• Higher incomes generally lead to less erratic lifestyles, as rent/mortgage, council tax and other household priorities can be paid timeously.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b> 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.</p>								



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Reduce cost of school day within Inverclyde's schools and nurseries.	Education Services		<p>Head Teachers attended both a workshop and Inverclyde's Child Poverty Event where there were presentations with regards to the Cost of the School Day and how schools can assist in reducing this.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b>                      Whilst Schools have implemented ways to assist with reducing the cost of the school day (see below for some of examples from our local schools), further awareness is required for school staff, pupils and parents/carers. Inverclyde has agreed to train local Cost of the School Day 'champions' who in turn will raise awareness within all schools.</p> <p>Some of the ways in which our local schools are assisting to reduce the cost of the school day:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of additional PE kits to increase participation and allow all children to exercise in comfort (kept and laundered in school)</li> <li>• Uniform swap/bank</li> <li>• Reduction in the amount of non-uniform day with no set donation</li> <li>• Reduction in fundraising for charities</li> <li>• Offer support for school trips to ensure everyone gets the opportunity to attend.</li> </ul>		This action covers all priority groups.		

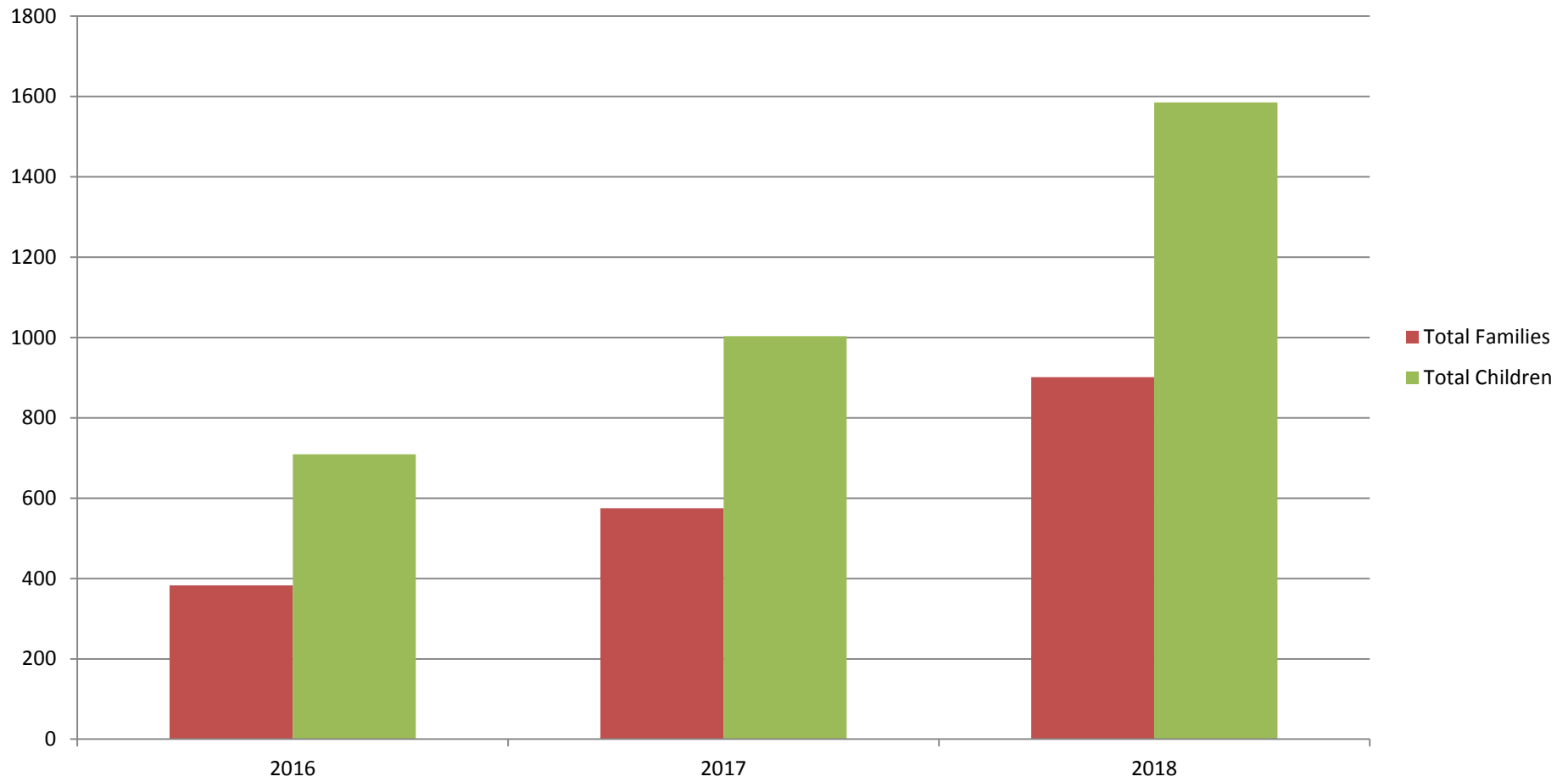
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Provide holiday clubs for Inverclyde families.	Education Services		<p>Families within Inverclyde Council are benefitting from school holiday clubs which offers family play and fun with a light lunch.</p> <p>Families were able to enjoy a range of activities including reading, arts and crafts and outdoor games.</p> <p>Families had access to the school family support workers, arts, craft, Bookbug sessions and family cooking. Children were encouraged to take part in the Inverclyde libraries Summer reading challenge.</p> <p>Families were welcome to attend any of the hubs at dates and times that suit their needs.</p> <p>In addition and for the first time the Scottish Attainment Challenge also provided lunch for the Stay and Play project that is offered from Play4All in Craigmarloch Additional Support Needs School.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b></p> <p>There will be holiday hubs running in 9 locations over the spring break. This will provide a total of 29 play sessions. Consultation with CLD, libraries, Barnardo's, CMO's and Family Support Workers has</p>		This action covers all priority groups.		<b>Nicola Hurrell</b>

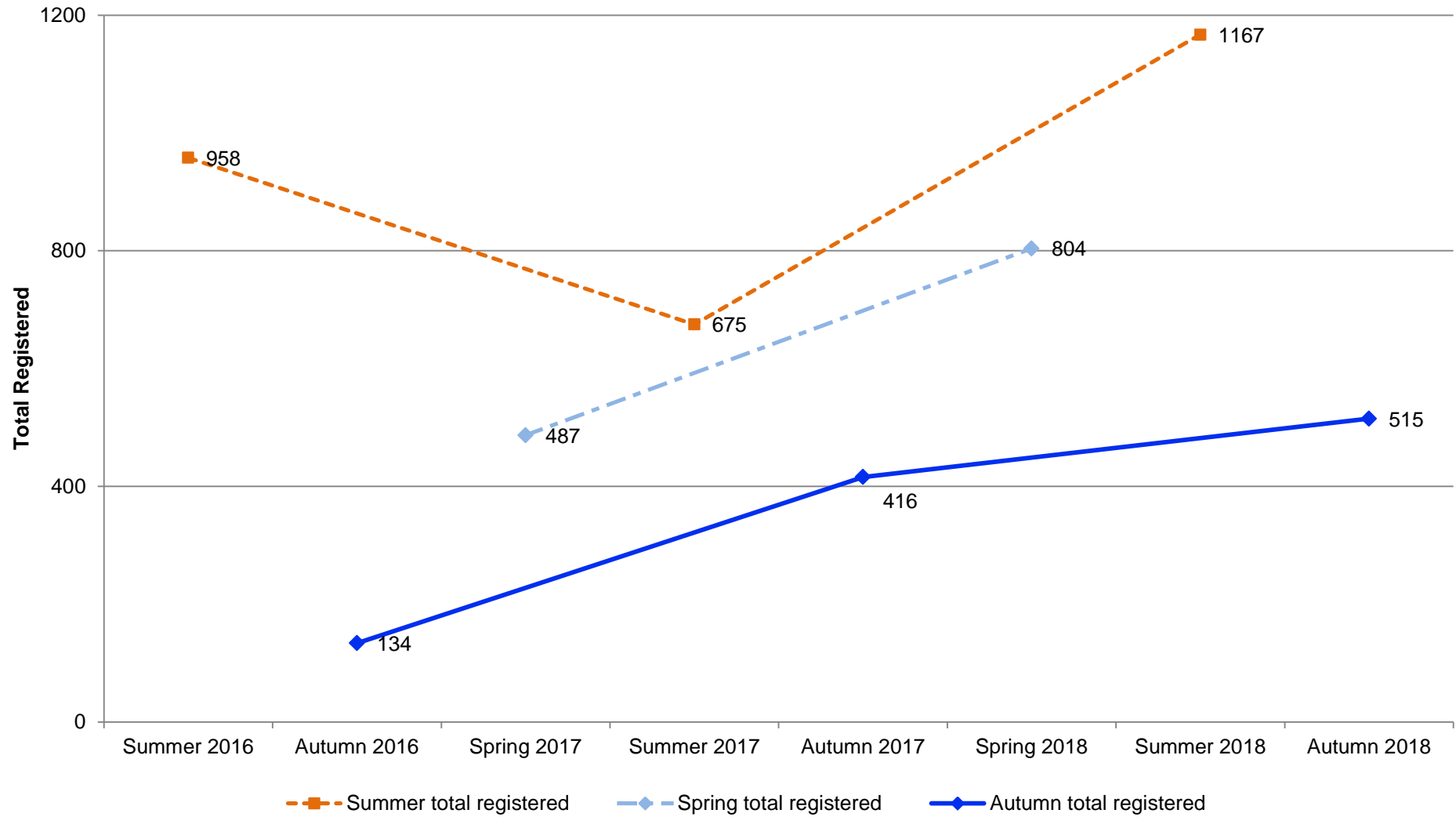
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			taken place to begin planning for Spring, Summer and Autumn 2019 holiday hubs. Additional resource is available during 2019 as Home School Link Workers will be supporting the family support workers running the holiday hubs.				

### Total number of families / children benefitting from Holiday lunch clubs within Inverclyde



### Total Registered Attendees for Summer Holiday Clubs



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The Scottish Attainment Challenge – maximise every child and young persons opportunity to achieve their potential and succeed by providing equity in education.	Education Services		<p>Particular focus is on closing the poverty-related attainment gap by improving activity in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in our communities with the highest concentrations of deprivation.</p> <p>The aspirational local vision is to develop practice which is both effective and sustainable. In order to improve outcomes in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing as well as narrow the attainment gap, parental engagement, workforce expertise, meeting learning needs and leadership will be transformed. Our vision is that every school will be a nurturing school, with benefits to the pupils of improved attendance, attainment and well-being. New interventions are implemented alongside the scaling up of interventions that have been developed as small pilots or tests of change.</p> <p>Inverclyde’s project is based on a sustainable model which focusses on upskilling our permanent workforce. This has led to the establishment a range of posts with an emphasis on a coaching and modelling role. Our CMOs are leading improvements in pedagogy across the authority.</p> <p>There are opportunities for leadership development at all levels, recognition of and use of staff skills to develop practice across our community of schools.</p>	August 2023? Requires clarification	This action covers all priority groups	Attainment Challenge Plan	Pat Robertson



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			<p>The programmes implemented for literacy, numeracy and health and well-being are evidence based. All changes to practice are monitored for impact and effectiveness. Practice which has been measured for impact and found to be effective is then shared across the authority, leading to long term improvements.</p> <p>Parental engagement is a focus within our Families and Communities workstream, with Family Support Workers providing bespoke packages of support, Community Learning and Development staff delivering tailored learning packages to young people and parents and our libraries staff supporting parents to support literacy at home.</p> <p>There have been improvements across the authority in the quality of learning and teaching, matched by improvements in the progress of learners, especially P1 – P3, particularly in relation to literacy and numeracy. There are noticeable improvements in numeracy at S3. Across the broad general education and into the senior phase there is clear evidence that Inverclyde is making progress in narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap.</p> <p>Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) has been paid by Scottish Government to local authorities by means of a ring-fenced grant with indicated amounts that should be allocated directly to each school. The mount</p>				

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			<p>allocated to each school has been decided according to the number of pupils in P1 – S3 who are eligible to be registered for free school meals.</p> <p>Schools submit annual plans to the authority officers outlining how they intent to use their PEF. The plans are supported by national and local guidance. All schools are expected to link their PEF plans to their annual improvement planning process through the ongoing Standards and Quality and Improvement Plan. The table on the following page outlines Spending proposals of Pupil Equity by Equity Intervention.</p> <p>The latest key findings from Mid-Year Progress Report shows at June 2017:-</p> <p><b>Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P1 Pips results have improved in average scores for all focus schools in reading and maths, with 8 out of our 9 target schools above the national average for Maths and 4 of our target schools above the national average for Reading.</li> <li>• 92% of pupils in P1 made appropriate progress, or better, according to their Maths standardised assessments, with Attainment Challenge focus schools improving from 8% from last year’s figures, compared to an</li> </ul>				

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			<p>overall gain of 4% across the authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of pupils in P1 made appropriate progress, or better, according to their Reading standardised assessments, with Attainment Challenge focus schools improving by 5% from the previous years figures, compared to the same figure across the authority.</li> <li>Teacher Professional Judgements this year demonstrate increased number of pupils achieving appropriate levels of Curriculum for Excellence.</li> <li>Overall attendance at professional learning opportunities has increased.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher Professional Judgements this year demonstrate increased numbers of pupils achieving appropriate levels of Curriculum for Excellence.</li> <li>Professional Learning opportunities</li> <li>Attendance at professional learning opportunities has increased.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in attainment for targeted groups of pupils in literacy and numeracy.</li> <li>Increase in teachers' knowledge and skills to engage children in learning in literacy and</li> </ul>				

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			numeracy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased confidence in assessment and planning.</li> <li>• Increased teacher skill in on-going assessment and reflective planning to meet the needs of children.</li> <li>• Increase in parental awareness of children’s learning in literacy and numeracy.</li> <li>• Consistent use of common tracking system to effectively use data to support learning and teaching, and the identification of target cohorts.</li> <li>• Increase in children’s reading for pleasure.</li> </ul>				

**Summary of Pupil Equity Spending proposals by Equity Intervention**

1. Early Intervention	2. Social & Emotional Well being	3. Health & Well being	4. Targeted Support Literacy
Eyecos Classroom Assistants Early Years Learning Assistants Active Play Programmes Language Assistants Staff Additional Responsibilities	Counselling Programmes Bespoke Counselling Play Therapists Welfare Officers	Health & Well-being coaches Nurture Groups Breakfast Clubs Outdoor Learning Play Coaches Counselling Programmes	Staff Development Accelerated Reading Numeracy Recovery SEAL Targeting Phonics Development Reading Programmes Additional Staff Targeted Support Differentiated Support Classroom Assistants Staff Additional Responsibilities
5. Professional Development	6. Wider Engagement	7. Partnership Working	8. Resources
High Quality Learning and Teaching Developing Pedagogy Coaching Support Visible Learning Literacy training PEF PT's Differentiated Support	Family Learning Officers Extra-Curricular Sport Clubs Family Library Outdoor Play Areas Family Support Residential Seminars Enhanced Supported study STEM Weekends	Counselling Services Cluster Welfare Officers CLD Support Coaching Support Outreach Workers Children's Advocacy Officer Residential	Administrative Assistants Digital IT Wi-Fi

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Employability			<p>The purpose and structure of the Employability Pipeline is to provide Inverclyde residents with a tailor made pathway of support, where their individual circumstances, barriers, needs and aspirations are assessed and delivery organisations work collaboratively to support and progress each individual through their personal pathway towards, and into, a positive destination.</p> <p>The Inverclyde Employability Pipeline provides a range of employability support to local residents looking for work, or looking to improve their employment situation. It also supports Inverclyde businesses to train and grow their workforce.</p> <p>The Council contract with relevant organisations to deliver services that are of high quality and provide best value for money.</p> <p>Currently, three main contractors deliver services on behalf of the Council (see below)</p>				Employability Partnership
Employability			<p><b>Stepwell Consultancy Ltd</b> is a local Social Enterprise company specialising in improving the health, well-being and employment opportunities of local people who have a health condition that is preventing them from moving into employment.</p>				

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			<p>Their <b>“Progress”</b> programme delivers support that enables people to identify their barriers and builds positive coping strategies whilst working on a plan to improve their physical and mental health activities available through “Progress” include Stress and Condition Management, Counselling, Mentoring, Vocational Training, Personal Development and Supported Employment/Work Placement opportunities.</p> <p>Stepwell work in partnership with a number of local services and employers to provide specialist client support when needed, ensuring a connected quality service is provided for every client’s individual needs.</p> <p>Commissioned by Inverclyde Council as part of the wider Inverclyde Resilience Project with funding from Scottish Government, Whole Life Restore employability programme was established.</p> <p>Whole Life Restore is an innovative employability programme that is locally delivered, specialist in nature, inventive in its flexibility and utilises a holistic, person centred and asset based approach within a restorative and supported employment delivery model.</p>				

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			<p>Whole Life Restore is 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>Attending Whole Life Restore will not affect any benefits and provides access to an extensive and collaborative range of therapeutic interventions, life skills training, resilience workshops, pre-vocational and vocational qualifications, one2one employability support, work placements and supported employment opportunities.</p> <p>Awaiting Case Study from Stepwell</p>				
Employability			<p><b>Inverclyde Community Development Trust (ICDT) Ltd</b> provide job seeking advice and support, vocational skills training, and personal development programmes for young people and adults, to improve confidence, motivation and skills to enable progression to employment. Specialist services are available from Inverclyde's Financial Fitness organisation and literacies support by the Council's</p>				



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			<p>Community Learning &amp; Development department.</p> <p>For those more “job ready” there is the Employer Engagement service, providing support with CV’s, job applications, and matching suitable clients with local job opportunities.</p> <p>Specifically for young people aged 16 – 29 years, the ESF Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), is a service aimed at getting young people into employment. The YEI programme incorporates “Future Jobs”, which provides fixed term paid work placements within a range of local organisations.</p> <p>For those in low paid and/or low skilled employment there is scope to take part in training that can enhance your employment opportunities.</p> <p><b>For Employers</b> – A dedicated Employer Engagement Team will work with local employers to support them to recruit from target client groups. Assistance with all aspects of the recruitment process is available as well as financial support via Wage Subsidy/Employer Recruitment Incentives. A specific YEI Wage Subsidy is available to employers hiring from the 16 – 29 year client base.</p>				

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Employability			<p><b>Inverclyde Advice &amp; Employment Rights Centre</b> is a local organisation providing a unique service to Inverclyde by supporting people in work who are experiencing difficulties with their employer. The organisation works with the client and their employer at the earliest possible stage, to resolve issues with a view to maintaining the client in employment.</p> <p>Inverclyde Advice &amp; Employment Rights Centre works in partnership with a range of services including Welfare Rights, Local Trade Unions, Legal firms and Occupational Health units to ensure the required mix of expertise is available for an individual client. <b>To arrange meeting</b></p>				
Best Start Grant – Local Roll Out			<p>Initial roadshows were arranged and held in various locations in Scotland, stakeholders were invited to attend. Inverclyde were included in events in Glasgow on Wednesday 24 October and Johnstone on Monday 5 November however a full timetable was issued to allow flexibility of venues and dates. Following the roadshows the presentation, links to Web pages, advice etc was shared together with Q&amp;A docs. Stakeholders were asked that this was shared across the LA area.</p> <p>Best Start Grant opened at 00:01 on Monday 10 December. The response to the launch of Best Start Grant Pregnancy and baby Payment has been</p>	10th December 2018 (Pregnancy and Baby Payment), Summer 2019 (Early Learning Payment), Summer 2019 (School Age	This action will benefit all priority groups.		Sharon Collins, SSSC

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			<p>unprecedented with more than 4000 claims being submitted on the first day. This incredible response is largely down to the excellent support from stakeholders.</p> <p>Meetings have taken place with local groups to promote the benefits and raise awareness. One group have requested information packs in other languages. These will be given out January 2019 and a session planned for the families. Calls have been made to; play group, Local Nurseries etc to further raise awareness. National Engagement lead and local delivery for Social Security Scotland have engaged with CVS Inverclyde and other partners and stakeholders regarding sharing publicity and publications to utilise their communications routes. Information has also been publicised through Inverclyde Council's Social Media.</p> <p>Social Security Scotland have appointed a Local Delivery Relationship Lead for Inverclyde who will work on building relationships, work collaboratively with existing local agencies and services and provide face to face pre-claim support in offices, outreach centres or home visits.</p> <p>Organisations and individuals have made enquiries about BSG as a result of the publicity already out there. . To Summarise BSG;</p>	Payment)			

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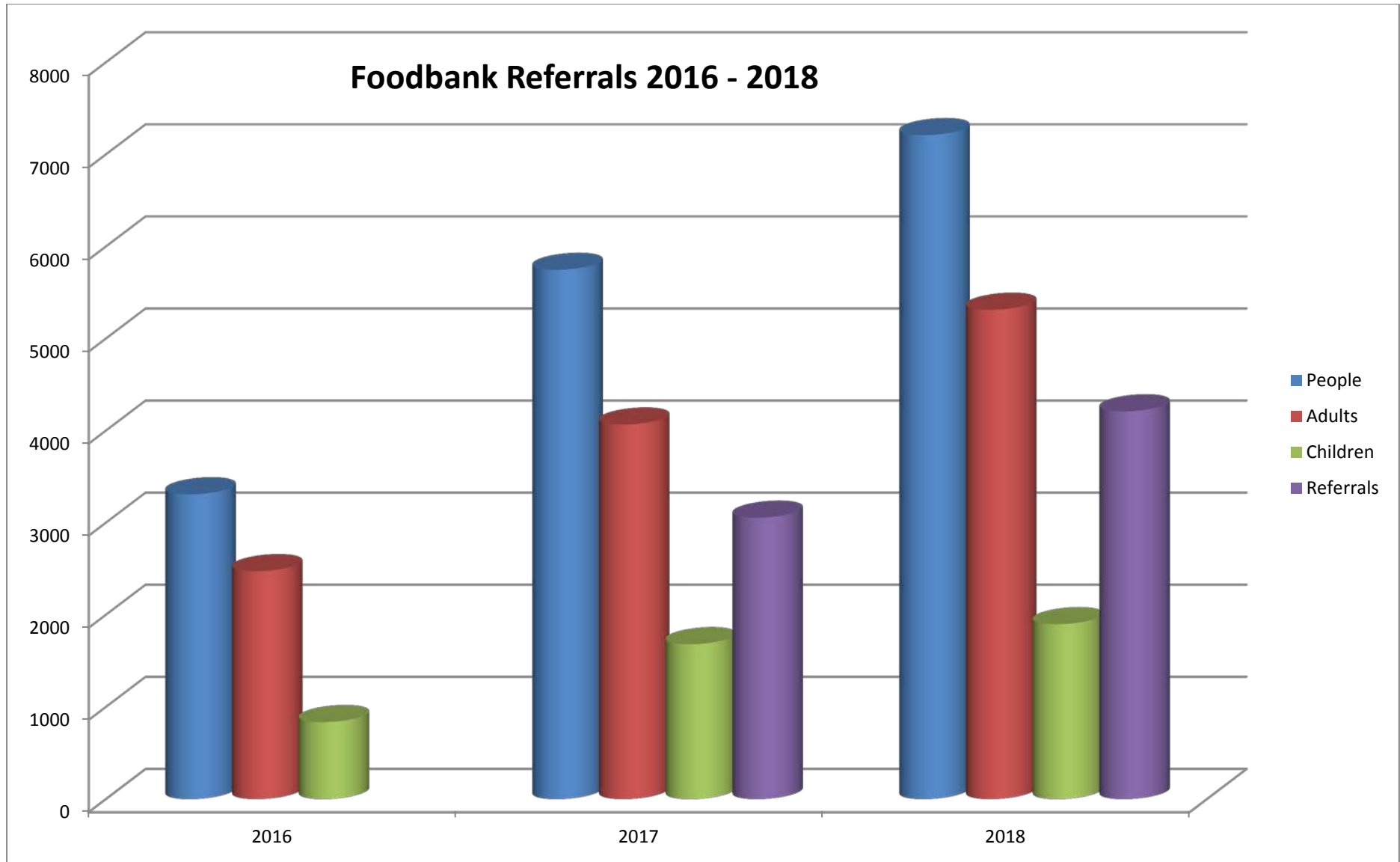
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			<p><b>A Pregnancy and Baby Payment</b>, available from 10.12.18 - will help with expenses in pregnancy or having a new child, for example maternity clothes, a pram or additional heating. This replaces the DWP's Sure Start Maternity Grant. Pregnancy and Baby Payment - pays £600 for a first child, and £300 for other children. There will be an extra £300 if there is a multiple birth.</p> <p><b>An Early Learning Payment</b>, available by Summer 2019 – will help with costs during nursery and early learning years to support child development, for example travel costs, trips out and toys for home learning. Early Learning Payment – A payment of £250 when a child reaches the age of 2 or 3 years.</p> <p><b>A School Age Payment</b>, available by Summer 2019 – will help with the costs of preparing for school, for example a school bag, after school activities such as swimming or football, or helping with the cost of school trips. School Age Payment – A payment of £250 around the time a child would usually start school.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b></p> <p>Moving forward engagement will continue within Inverclyde to ensure that the information surrounding not just the pregnancy and baby payments but the additional elements due to be available from Summer</p>				

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			2019 are publicised and available to ensure families in Inverclyde are aware of Best Start Grant and support them to claim these new benefits. Inverclyde would benefit from receiving Local statistics in order to measure against local information.				
<b>Provision of food to Inverclyde Residents in need</b>	<b>I58 Project</b>		<p>INVERCLYDE FOODBANK I58 PROJECT All food given out by Inverclyde Foodbank is donated. Non-perishable, in date food is donated via ‘Supermarket Collections, Schools, Churches, Businesses and Individuals. There are currently 25 volunteers who meet clients over a cup of tea and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.</p> <p>Foodbank has seen a significant rise in referrals over the last 2 years with the roll out of Universal credit having an impact on this increase. Referrals to the foodbank are received from 137 local agencies / services.</p> <p>Services available in addition to Foodbank are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel bank – referring clients for fuel vouchers</li> <li>• Baby bank – referrals specifically for baby items such as food and nappies</li> <li>• Uniform bank – referrals for school uniforms. Foodbank are also keen to support local schools in promoting ideas within schools to</li> </ul>				

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			<p>have their own uniform banks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas hampers – self referrals accepted</li> <li>• Christians against Poverty – free debt counselling charity with money management and budgeting courses available for adults, adults with literacy needs, Students, Secondary School pupils, Primary 7 pupils.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b></p> <p>Foodbank will continue to provide and support local residents in need, and refer to other agencies where appropriate. They will continue to raise awareness of the Services available to residents through liaising will referring agencies.</p>				



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Putting an end to Period Poverty in Inverclyde	Education Services		<p>Menstruation, or periods, is a natural bodily function of women and young girls. There are a number of women and girls in Scotland who are unable to afford essential sanitary products during menstruation due to poverty. Inverclyde Council have rolled out access to free sanitary products for pupils across all of its primary, secondary schools, libraries, youth clubs and community centres.</p> <p>Inverclyde have received £28,000 to purchase the sanitary products and suitable storage for the schools. Workshops and training sessions will also be organised to promote access.</p> <p>Providing access that protects dignity and avoids anxiety, embarrassment and stigma, will ensure that everyone can participate in education at all levels.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b></p> <p>In addition to the plastic boxes located in toilets, there will be tote bags purchased for the back of toilet cubicle doors in secondary schools to ensure a variety and quantity of products can be accessed in privacy.</p> <p>On 30 November 2018, COSLA Leaders agreed to the proposed funding to expand access to free sanitary products and “aim to increase the number</p>				



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			and range of places where sanitary products are available for those who need them. We will do this through working with a range of public and private sector organisations and with additional third sector partners to expand the geographical spread of support". The budget allocated for 2019/20 is £72,947.				
<b>Use of Young Scot card to allow secondary pupils on Free School Meals to be credited during school holidays.</b>			<p>Whilst holiday clubs are available for Primary school children, their siblings and parents/carers, there is currently no provision for Secondary school pupils to receive food during holidays.</p> <p><b>The Year Ahead</b></p> <p>It has been agreed by Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group to liaise with Young Scot to discuss the possibility of progressing towards achieving electronic payments during school holidays for pupils in receipt of Free School meals. Discussions are currently in progress.</p>				