

For the benefit of people across Scotland, COSLA expects a UK government, working with their devolved governments, to respect the democratic mandate of Councillors and put the **LOCAL** back into Local Government by:

Working collectively across the spheres of government to accelerate work to tackle the causes and effects of poverty, particularly the impact on children.

What this would unlock for our communities:

- **Early engagement and involvement** in policy making with UK and devolved Government would enable place-based decision-making for councils and their partners.
- **The needs of children and young people must be at the heart of national policy and decision making** to ensure that supports and services are appropriate and joined up – including across education, childcare, and mental health support.
- **Policy and funding must ensure that children and young people can benefit from the support of a wide range of professionals** - teachers, social workers, school support staff, family workers, youth workers or any professional that meets their needs.
- **Councils having adequate and flexible resource** from UK and devolved Governments to support families financially and into quality, affordable housing at the earliest opportunity is the most effective way to ensure that homelessness and child poverty are consigned to history.
- **Moving away from disparate, small pots of funding** would allow local responses to poverty that reflect the diverse nature of Scotland's communities – what is needed in Lerwick may be different from what is needed in Linlithgow. Councils need flexibility and resource to support children and young people beyond the school gates, so everyone gets the most from their education.
- **Empowering councils to meet their ambitious aims** on poverty reduction better protects women and girls from violence and discrimination - and spheres of government working more closely with councils ensures we can better examine what's needed to reduce violence against women and girls on a local level.



Unlock our potential