

AMBITIONS TO TACKLE CHILD POVERTY ARE AT RISK WHEN CORE BUDGETS ARE UNDER THREAT

To tackle child poverty we need:

- Fair funding for revenue and capital budgets
- A joined up and holistic approach to policy development and funding across Scottish and Local Government
- Flexibility to provide the most appropriate, joined up support for low income families, to meet their range of needs

To support families and address persistent, intergenerational issues, Councils have a unique role at all life stages. Early learning and childcare, education, community learning, employability, benefits support, advice services, crisis intervention, mental health services, addiction support - these services prevent family breakdown and more costly future interventions. By combining targeted mitigation programmes with services that support citizens into employment, Councils provide sustainable routes out of poverty.

Tackling child poverty and contributing to the 2030 targets depends on these essential services:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICES are working to create jobs that pay the Living Wage and provide training opportunities to suit family circumstances and maximise

Scottish Government investment in Early Learning and Childcare.



FAMILY BASED ACTIVITIES such as holiday lunch clubs are not only providing food but a range of vital links to other services such as employability, income maximisation, housing and

Social Work.



EDUCATION SERVICES are using vital investment to support schools to address the poverty-related attainment gap- this involves working with key stakeholders across Councils, as well

as partners and communities to address literacy, numeracy and wellbeing.



Through early intervention and prevention, **SOCIAL WORK SERVICES** are supporting individuals and families to work through complex, deep-rooted issues and resolve social, emotional and financial problems as early as possible- and this will often include effective crisis intervention when required.



CATERING SERVICES in schools provide a much-needed meal for many children who live in poverty, using cashless catering to avoid social stigma.



HOUSING AND PLANNING to ensure families have safe, suitable, affordable places to live and that they can engage with employment, local services and their communities.

Our vision: Scotland's communities are sustainable, vibrant places to live, work and visit.



COSLA

#essentialservices

Tackling Child Poverty



TRANSPORT to ensure parents can access suitable employment and children can take advantage of all educational and social opportunities available to them.



Equal access to **HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE (ELC)**, supporting children and their families to reach their full potential – as well as ‘wrap-around’ and holiday care for school age children.



Effective and intuitive delivery of local **BENEFITS** including council tax reduction, free school meals, school clothing grants, education maintenance allowance and the Scottish Welfare

Fund to ensure no child is missing out on support to which they are entitled.



A range of **ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICES** are supporting families to maximise income by getting the benefits they are entitled to, avoiding homelessness and linking to support networks within communities.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act presents a historic opportunity for local and national government to take a strategic, preventative, coherent approach to maximising income and reducing outgoings for families in the short, medium and long term.



The risks of not investing include a generation of children continuing to live in poverty and unable to reach their full potential; homelessness; persistent unemployment in some families; hunger; family breakdown and its wider societal costs.

Tackling child poverty needs a joined-up, long term approach across Scottish Government, to allow local authorities to make valuable local connections across services and focus on early intervention and prevention