

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Strategic Lead Housing and Employability****West Dunbartonshire Council: 29 May 2019**

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Child Poverty Action Report 2019**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on development of the West Dunbartonshire Child Poverty action report.
- 1.2** The action report is developed jointly by the local authority and NHS and must be published on-line by 30 June 2019.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** Council is recommended to note:
- (a) The final draft report is attached as Appendix 1 to this paper. The action report will be finalised as soon as 2018/19 year end data are available.
 - (b) The Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) and support the implementation of emerging actions and progress indicators.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 (CP Act) was passed by the Parliament on 8th November 2017 and received Royal Assent on 18th December 2017.
- 3.2** The intention of the CP Act is to 'set targets relating to the eradication of child poverty' as well as making provision for plans and reporting relating to achievement of these targets. It requires the Scottish Government to meet four income based child poverty targets by 2030 as well as set out and report on the actions they will take to meet those targets.
- 3.3** In addition the Act places a duty on local authorities and health boards to report annually on what actions they are undertaking to contribute to reducing child poverty.
- 3.4** The local child poverty action report must set out a range of commitments to address the key drivers of poverty:
- Increasing income through employment;
 - Maximise income from the social security system; and
 - Reducing household costs.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The Improvement Service has been engaged by the Scottish Government to support the development of the local reports. The team at the Improvement Service has produced a briefing that suggests key stakeholders may wish to ensure they are aware of a number of issues. These include:
- Who has responsibility for development of the LCPAR in your area;
 - What arrangements are in place to allow for joint working with the health board and / or wider community planning partners in development and implementation of the LCPAR;
 - What opportunities key stakeholders will have to inform and scrutinise the development and implementation of the LCPAR;
 - The extent to which local residents have been given a meaningful opportunity to feed into the development of the LCPAR;
 - The extent to which measures are in place to check whether policies included in the LCPAR are having an impact over time;
 - The extent to which other local commitments (such as those resulting from the Fairer Scotland duty, Education (Scotland) Act 2016, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 are reflected in the LCPAR;
 - Whether the LCPAR describes measures that constitute a 'Step-change' in the local approach to tackling child poverty.
- 4.2** Taking each of the Improvement Service suggestions in turn we can identify progress that has been achieved to date in West Dunbartonshire.
- 4.3** A draft report: *'Improved Life Chances for all Children, Young People and Families: West Dunbartonshire, Local Child Poverty Action Report, June 2019'* has been compiled.
- 4.4** The report has been firmly set within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning: 'Plan for Place' and HSCP Strategic Plan. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- 4.5** The overall management and partnership working is being developed primarily through the West Dunbartonshire Nurtured DIG.
- 4.6** The responsibility for compiling the local child poverty report lies with Working 4U staff. This reflects their role in maximising income from benefits, supporting people to secure sustained employment and providing access to learning and training opportunities that will improve access to employment.
- 4.7** A regional group has been established to ensure NHS input is consistent across the NHS GG&C area. NHS reps have been involved and have provided input to the report and resources to encourage referrals to the income maximisation services from health professionals/Health visitors. There is work underway to embed these services within GP practices.

- 4.8** The report has been developed with the support of the Information and Advice Partnership; Youth Alliance and Adult Learning Partnership. A community based event will be held in June to promote the report and seek third sector and local resident input to future action areas.
- 4.9** The report is based on an action plan framework with activity that will be tracked and reported through the West Dunbartonshire Council performance management system (Pentana). We will establish a baseline against the activities in the first year by gathering information from council and other service client information management systems (e.g. Advice Pro). This will provide the basis for setting a benchmark and assessing the extent of step change achieved.
- 4.10** The West Dunbartonshire Report highlights (as required) existing activity. It also highlights potential opportunities. Examples of these include:
- Establishing support link for families through 'No Home for Domestic Abuse';
 - Work between Working 4U and Housing Services to reduce rent arrears while providing support for tenants to secure employment;
 - Establishing joint work between Education Services and Working 4U to ensure that families have access to support and employability development services (to address and escape poverty) through the Family Opportunity Hubs, Foundation Apprenticeships and access to mainstream apprenticeships within the public and private sector;
 - Work between Working 4U and Health Services to embed welfare/employability services in GP practices.
- 4.11** These actions with input from Housing health and Social care and Education services, combined with the input of the third sector through various partnerships will encourage the development of the step change required.

5. Options Appraisal

- 5.1** None required

6. People Implications

- 6.1** A range of actions and progress indicators have been identified and 'scorecard' for tracking and reporting progress has been developed.
- 6.2** The scorecard will require input from a range of service departments, partners and associated organisations. Key individuals have been identified and each person will ensure that the actions and progress reports that reflect their contribution to addressing child poverty will be updated.
- 6.3** Staff from Working4U will coordinate the ongoing development of the scorecard and reporting.
- 6.4** West Dunbartonshire will contribute to the regional actions by attending and supporting work identified thorough the NHS GG&C Child Poverty group.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 There are no financial or procurement implications.

8. Risk Analysis

8.1 The risk analysis centred on the compilation of the report. This is now complete and therefore no longer applicable.

8.2 Future risks centre on maintaining and updating the information for the 'child poverty report scorecard' and ensuring the actions and progress indicators remain relevant.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

9.1 The child poverty report is explicit about the target group for support. This includes:

- Expectant mothers;
- Households with children whose income or expenditure is adversely affected because there is a member of the family has one or more protected characteristic, as set out in the 'Equality Act 2010';
- Lone Parents;
- Families with three or more children;
- Families where the youngest child is under one year old;
- Mothers aged less than 25 years.

9.2 At a local level Community Planning West Dunbartonshire has emphasised the need to include:

- Families and children with experience of the care system;
- Children with care responsibilities; and
- Those living in areas of high material deprivation.

9.3 As such the approach is entirely consistent with equalities legislation, policy and approaches.

10. Environmental Sustainability

10.1 There are no environmental implications with this report.

11. Consultation

11.1 A number of consultative activities have been undertaken as part of the process for developing the report. This has included:

- Consultation with key stakeholders through the West Dunbartonshire Delivery Improvement Groups;
- Nurtured Delivery Improvement Group Development session in December 2018 to identify priorities;
- Ongoing progress updates to Nurtured Delivery Improvement Group;
- Improvement Service Review of early draft in January 2019;

- Ongoing reporting at COSLA Health and Wellbeing Group;
- Circulation of drafts for contribution by key stakeholders;
- Update at Community Planning Board (February 2019).

11.2 Prior to publication a community conference will take place in Clydebank Town Hall on June the 4th and an elected members' seminar is planned for June 2019.

12. Strategic Assessment

12.1 In order to address poverty and disadvantage West Dunbartonshire's Community Planning Management Group has adopted five key outcomes for the partnership that reflect the requirements of the Scottish Government '*Fairer Scotland Action Plan*' (2016)¹. The Fairer Scotland Action Plan is built on five high-level ambitions and outlines 50 actions to help tackle poverty, reduce inequality and build a fairer and more inclusive Scotland. These priorities are now the focus for partnership activity and investment in West Dunbartonshire.

12.2 Each priority is supported by a suite of outcomes that are the focus of activity in thematic Delivery and Improvement Groups (DIGs) that will be measured through a performance and improvement monitoring framework.

12.3 The scope and breadth of the requirements in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 means, that while the report will be managed through the Nurtured DIG other Delivery Improvement Groups in West Dunbartonshire Community Planning will have an interest in its progress. This includes, but is not limited to, for example:

- The Flourishing DIG with its interest in employability support in the context of 'No One Left Behind'²;
- The Empowered DIG, with its interest in delivering 'The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2016'³; and
- The Independent DIG, with its emphasis on supporting the health and quality by, for example, the provision of access to financial capability support within GP practices and other community health settings.

¹ Scottish Government (2018) Fairer Scotland Action Plan 2018 Progress Report: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-action-plan-progress-report-2018/> (accessed 27/12/2018)

² Scottish Government (2018). '*No One Left Behind: Next Steps for Employability Support*' <https://www.gov.scot/publications/one-left-behind-next-steps-integration-alignment-employability-support-scotland/> (Accessed 27/12/2018)

³ Scottish Government (2015) '*The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015*. <https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/> (Accessed 27/12/2018)

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Appendices: DRAFT WD Child Poverty Action Report

Background papers: None

Wards Affected: