

**Every  
child,  
every  
chance**



# **The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22**

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# Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

- The Act sets four **child poverty reduction targets** to be met by 2030:
  - To reduce relative child poverty from about 1 in 4 now to 1 in 10 by 2030
  - Other targets focus on living standards over time, material deprivation and persistent poverty.
- Scottish Ministers have to produce 3 multi-year '**delivery plans**' on how to meet the targets
- **Local partners** have to produce annual plans
- The **Poverty and Inequality Commission** will scrutinise progress over time.

# Every Child, Every Chance

- **The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22** was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018.
- It sets out key actions to reduce child poverty, based on **three main drivers** of child poverty reduction:
  - Increasing family incomes from work
  - Reducing household costs
  - Maximising family income from social security
- It also looks at **partnership and prevention** to boost life chances of children/young people now who may be parents themselves in 2030.

# Highlighted actions

This Delivery Plan contains many actions on child poverty that the Scottish Government will take between 2018 and 2022. **Here are some highlights.**



## Work and earnings

1. **£12 million investment in new, intensive employment support for parents.** This will help those already in work to build skills, progress through their careers and earn more. It will also support those who are unemployed to move into work.
2. **Increased funding for the Workplace Equality Fund.** £750,000 is being made available to support employer-led projects that advance equality at work, with a focus on parenthood, progression, and families at high risk of poverty.



## Costs of living

3. **A new minimum payment for the School Clothing Grant across Scotland.** This will give most low income families more money for school uniforms and sports kit.
4. **£1 million on new practical support for children experiencing food insecurity during school holidays.** New research will also help us understand what further action is needed at a national level to address this problem.
5. **New support for childcare after school and in the holidays.** This will help low income parents reduce childcare costs, work more flexibly and increase their incomes.
6. **A new focus on families in our Warmer Homes Scotland programme.** This will deliver an average saving of £350 per year off fuel bills for new customers.
7. **£3 million investment in a new Financial Health Check service.** Personalised advice will help low income families maximise their incomes, avoiding the 'poverty premium' of higher costs for essential goods and services.
8. **£1 million for the Carnegie UK Trust's Affordable Credit Loan Fund.** By growing the affordable credit sector, more parents will be able to access affordable credit when they need it, reducing the problems caused by insecure incomes.



## Social security

9. **A new income supplement**, which in time will provide vital financial support for parents on low incomes.
10. **A new Best Start Grant.** This new and expanded grant will offer three more generous payments at key stages for children in lower income families during the early years.



## Helping families in other ways

11. **£2 million investment to test the innovative Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland programme** in an urban centre, a small town and a rural community, helping to improve a range of outcomes for children.
12. **£1.35 million new investment for the further education sector to develop initiatives with colleges in local areas and for the Student Awards Agency for Scotland's outreach programme.** These preventative approaches will help ensure young people who have grown up in poverty have sustainable routes to positive destinations and out of poverty.
13. **An initial £500,000 for a new tailored community education programme for Gypsy/Traveller families.** This will provide specially tailored play and early learning opportunities for pre-school children and their parents living on Gypsy/Traveller sites, amongst a range of other support.



## Partnership working

14. **A new £7.5 million Innovation Fund with The Hunter Foundation.** This joint investment will support new thinking and new approaches to preventing and reducing child poverty.
15. **£500,000 for the Healthier, Wealthier Children approach.** This will help secure financial and practical support, through healthcare settings across Scotland, for pregnant women and families with children at risk of or experiencing poverty.

# Priority families approach provides equality focus



- Our plan is to develop all the actions in the delivery plan with these priority families in mind
- We will be monitoring and evaluating to make sure these families benefit from our interventions

# Colleges actions in delivery plan

## **1. Commit £150,000 from the Tackling Child Poverty Fund to expand the SAAS Outreach Programme.**

This programme proactively provides face-to-face, digital and published student information. It currently reaches, through its events, an estimated 30,000 young people and their parents/guardians, with a particular focus on widening access. The funding will help expand this successful model to reach children and young people from our priority families, making sure they can access the funding support available.

## **2. Support the further education sector to develop initiatives with colleges in local areas, investing £1.2 million over the course of the Delivery Plan.**

These will support or scale up preventative approaches, helping ensure young people who have grown up in poverty have, through further education, a sustainable route to positive destinations and a route out of poverty. This work will also take account of the needs of young mothers and fathers in further education, acknowledging the particular support they need and enabling them to build a future for themselves and their families.

# Contact

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