



Tackling Poverty in Renfrewshire

Tackling Poverty Strategy 2015-2017

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Foreword by Councillor Mark Macmillan

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission presented the Community Planning Partnership with its findings on child poverty in Renfrewshire in March 2015, along with some challenging recommendations for the Council and our partners. Our Tackling Poverty Strategy responds to these challenges, and provides the blueprint for our approach to tackling poverty.

The findings of the Commission were sobering. Too many of Renfrewshire's children continue to live on the breadline, and it's predicted that child poverty will rise across the country over the course of the next few years. Many of the key causes of poverty are out of Renfrewshire Council's direct control, but it's vital we use our influence to affect change where we can.

Our council priorities are to increase opportunity in employment and education, support the most vulnerable members of our community and put in place the necessary strategic investment that will deliver positive change for Renfrewshire. Tackling poverty is core to achieving all our priorities, and therefore needs to be firmly at the centre of everything we do.

Our strategy puts tackling poverty at the heart of our role as a service provider, educator, employer, community leader and landlord. Our commitment is demonstrated by our early investment of a £6 million Tackling Poverty Action Plan over the next two years, which will deliver a raft of preventative and emergency measures to fight deprivation. We're committed to strong leadership around tackling poverty, both for our partners in Renfrewshire and on a national stage.

Poverty is not inevitable and we should not underestimate our ability to affect change locally. We already provide services everyday that stop people falling into poverty, and which mitigate the impacts of living in hardship.

Renfrewshire is entering an exciting time of investment and regeneration. I want everyone in Renfrewshire to be able to access the benefits of investments such as the City Deal and our Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy, and we will do everything in our power to address the inequalities Renfrewshire faces.

The strategy and action plan provide a comprehensive roadmap for the next two years. It is the beginning of a long journey, and we will face significant challenges, but doing nothing to address the issue of child poverty in Renfrewshire is not an option.

Councillor Mark Macmillan

Case Study:

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission was set up to assess the nature, causes and impact of child poverty in Renfrewshire, and make recommendations for the introduction of a strategic approach for the Community Planning Partnership. It published its report and recommendations in March 2015.

The Commission was the first of its kind in Scotland, and this is what made its recommendations different; they are designed to be delivered in partnership, and focused on making a difference at a local level.

More information on Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission can be found at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/tacklingpoverty

Executive Summary

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Strategy sets out a blueprint for our approach to tackling child poverty in Renfrewshire. It is supported by a £6 million Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which can be found at Appendix A.

Renfrewshire's strengths and challenges

Renfrewshire has already started innovative work to tackle poverty.

We will continue to deliver and expand programmes which are already having an impact, and continue to invest in developing innovative approaches which address the causes of poverty.

Renfrewshire is facing a time of unprecedented opportunity.

We will put tackling poverty at the heart of all of our major investments, making sure that we narrow inequalities and that everyone in Renfrewshire benefits.

Renfrewshire also faces real challenges.

We will protect low-income families from the brunt of the cuts we face and we will challenge UK welfare reforms which risk more children being pushed into poverty.

Our approach

Maximising incomes is at the core of our Tackling Poverty Strategy, but we have produced a comprehensive strategy and action plan which also seeks to address the persistent inequalities faced by people living in poverty.

We aim to prevent people from experiencing poverty in the first place, as well as mitigating the impacts of poverty and supporting people to lift themselves out of poverty.

We will look to build on what is already working well as well as developing ways of doing things differently.

Local people have a central role in defining the success of this strategy, and we will make sure that the stories and voices of people living in poverty remain at the centre of our decision-making.

Case study:

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission was set up to assess the nature, causes and impact of child poverty in Renfrewshire. The Commission made recommendations for the introduction of a strategic approach to tackle poverty across Renfrewshire.

Our priorities

The strategy sets out a clear vision and six priorities:

1. Income and employment

Increase the number of households who can access employment that provides an acceptable standard of living.

2. Managing money

Prevent financial crisis and support low income families to make the most of their money.

3. Health

Improve levels of physical and mental health of children in low income families.

4. Attainment

Close the educational attainment gap between children from low-income families and their better off peers.

5. Neighbourhoods

Create neighbourhoods where people want to live and can afford to live.

6. How organisations should work

Narrow inequalities by working in a way which is inclusive, effective and evidence-based.

Delivering and evaluating

Tackling poverty is a long-term aspiration that cannot be achieved in the next two years; our strategy is the next step in a long and challenging journey ahead.

The strategy provides the structure for our Action Plan, but also describes what our priorities are when delivering everyday services. It outlines what we are doing that is already working, as well as what we would like to do differently.

We still have a lot to learn. We will closely measure and evaluate our activities, and learn lessons about what works.

What is poverty?

There are a number of different ways of describing poverty, with a wide range of definitions and measurements.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation defines poverty as ‘When a person’s resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs (including social participation).’

Poverty is, first and foremost, about household income. However, the experience of poverty is often much wider and more complex than just having a low income, with some people experiencing a range of disadvantages that extend beyond just not having enough money.

We understand that many people that we might describe as ‘living in poverty’ do not consider themselves to be living in poverty, or don’t associate with words like ‘poverty’ at all.

Some areas of Renfrewshire have much higher levels of poverty than others, and we often call these ‘deprived neighbourhoods’ as a result of area-based measures of poverty such as the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation. In some cases, the actions in our strategy are focussed on areas where we know there are more people living in poverty. However, we recognise that there are people living in poverty in all of Renfrewshire’s communities, and therefore challenge the view that poverty can be determined by where you live.

“Poverty is changing, and our response needs to change”

Renfrewshire
Tackling Poverty Commission

People don't tend to stay in poverty forever. Many people who experience poverty will do so only for a short time, or will move in and out of poverty. Many of our actions will target people who are living in poverty, whereas other actions are focussed on preventing people from moving into poverty by supporting people universally through life events or moments of transition (such as having a baby).

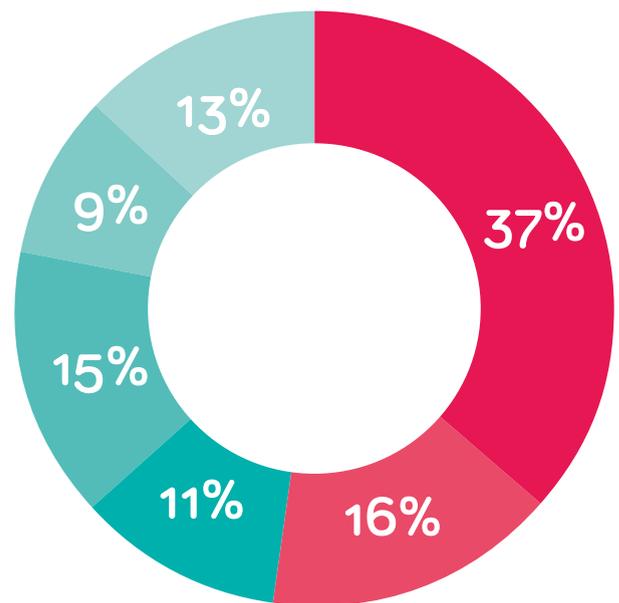
Some groups of people are at a higher risk of experiencing poverty, such as disabled people, lone parents and care leavers. That doesn't mean that all people in these groups experience poverty, but it does mean that we need to think about the needs of these groups of people when we deliver our action plan.

“Measures are only part of the picture of the scale and the impact of poverty.”

Renfrewshire
Tackling Poverty Commission

Families with children are the biggest group in poverty

Source: Households below average income (DWP, 2014)



- 37% couple with children
- 16% single with children
- 11% couple without children
- 15% single men without children
- 9% single women without children
- 13% pensioners

Poverty in Renfrewshire

The Tackling Poverty Commission carried out a detailed assessment of poverty in Renfrewshire which forms the evidence base for this strategy. The Commission's report details the key findings from its assessment of poverty in Renfrewshire. There is also a detailed 'Poverty Profile' of Renfrewshire, which supported the Commission's findings and can be found at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/tacklingpoverty

Summary of key findings

Fact:
In Renfrewshire, more than 1 in 5 of our children is growing up in poverty

Fact:
Paisley Jobcentre Plus has the highest number of sanctions in the west of Scotland

Levels of poverty in key wards in Renfrewshire

Source: Poverty in your area (End Child Poverty, 2014)



of children are living in poverty in Paisley North West



of children are living in poverty in Johnstone North, Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch



of children are living in poverty in Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank

“[You] feel like you are looking in on the rest of the world as there is such a divide”

Participant, Star Project

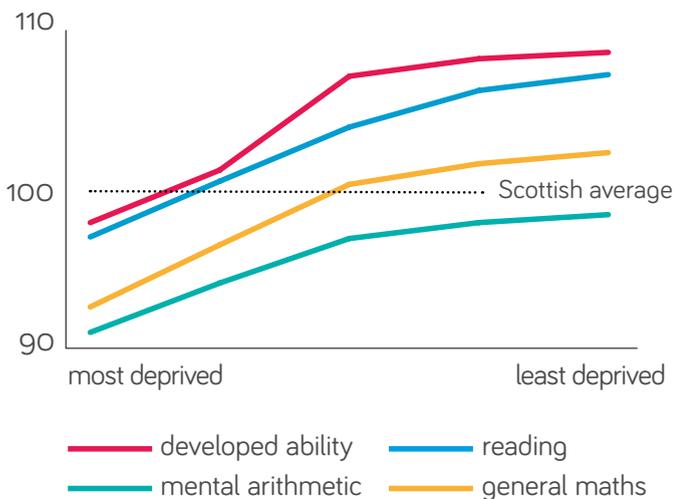
“The existence of poverty isn’t due to individuals and if we accept that poverty is societal problem then we have to also accept that there is a societal response. Scotland is one of the richest countries in the world and yet we have families who are unable to eat properly. As a society, we need to say that we will no longer tolerate the existence of poverty.”

Poverty Alliance

Fact:
A parent with two children aged 5 and 14 will be classed as living in poverty if their income (before tax but after housing costs) is less than £269 a week

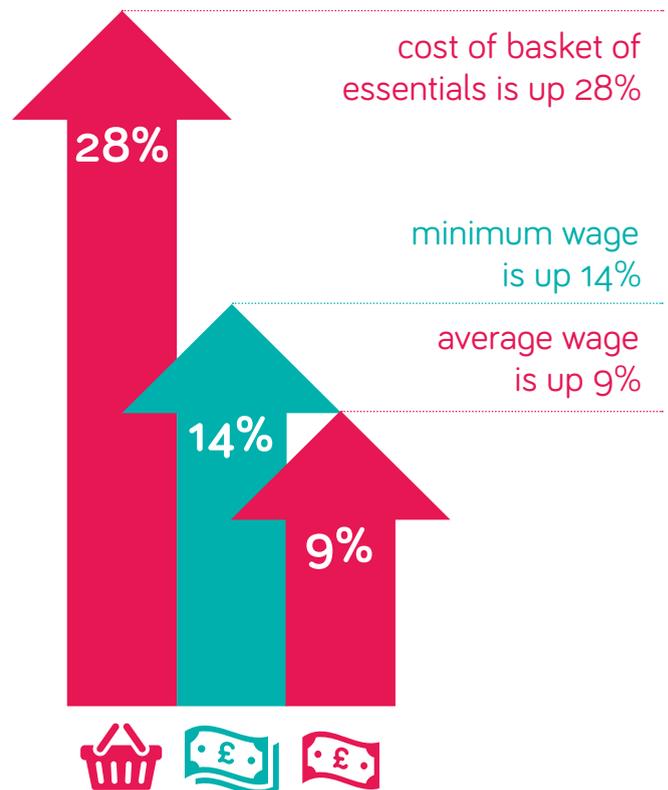
Deprivation and attainment at p5 in Renfrewshire

Source: Renfrewshire Council pupil attainment data (2014)



Inflation rates

Source: A minimum income standard for the UK (JRF, 2014)



Fact:
A boy born in Bishopton lives on average 16.4 years longer than a boy born in Ferguslie Park

Our approach:

Renfrewshire's strengths and challenges

Renfrewshire has already started innovative work to tackle poverty

Renfrewshire has already established itself as a real leader in Scotland for its approach to tackling poverty.

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission was the first of its kind in Scotland to look specifically at child poverty at a local level, and sets ambitious recommendations for the Council and our partners to meet.

Renfrewshire has been investing in innovative programmes that have already started to make a difference to people living in poverty across the area, such as our economic development programme 'Invest in Renfrewshire' and our early years strategy 'Families First'.

We will continue to deliver and expand programmes which are already having an impact, and continue to invest in developing new and innovative approaches. We will also continue to focus on prevention and early intervention.

Case study: A Better Council

We are constantly looking for ways to improve the services we provide, and increasing our focus on addressing inequalities. Our new Customer and Business Services function brings many of our front-line services together, such as our customer service centres, benefits teams and advice services. By doing this, we can make sure the service we deliver is much more streamlined, and reduce the need for people to contact lots of different teams, or to give us information multiple times. We're also bringing together teams that work in health with our social care teams as part of Health and Social Care Integration. Through our Customer Access project, people will be able to contact us in more convenient ways, such as paying bills online—and our customers who need more assistance face-to-face will be able to access help more easily.

“[The cuts] risk putting local authorities in a situation where they will be unable to meet their statutory duties and unable to deliver critical services to their poorest and most vulnerable citizens”

Cost of the cuts, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Renfrewshire is facing a time of unprecedented opportunity

There are big plans for Renfrewshire, with strategic investments like the City Deal and Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy bringing major investment into the area.

The £1.13 billion Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal is an opportunity to transform Renfrewshire's economy by increasing employment and supporting growth with improved transport links.

We also have plans for Paisley which build on its rich cultural heritage, which will have a wider effect on all of Renfrewshire. This focus to put Paisley back on the map will also see Paisley bid for UK City of Culture 2021.

**Fact:
The City Deal is expected to create 15,000 construction jobs while work is underway on its projects and 28,000 permanent jobs in the region when work is finished.**

We will put tackling poverty at the heart of all our major investments, making sure that we narrow inequalities and everyone in Renfrewshire is able to benefit.

Renfrewshire also faces real challenges

The UK government's welfare reforms have already had a significant effect on people in Renfrewshire. The latest announcement of welfare reforms still needs to be developed, but it is likely that new welfare cuts will continue to hit Renfrewshire families hard. Further devolution of powers within the Scotland Bill poses potential opportunities to mitigate these impacts, but many areas of welfare reform will remain within the control of the UK Government.

Fact: Ferguslie Park is one of the 20 most affected wards in Scotland by welfare reform.

Shrinking budgets and increases in demand for services will also continue to put pressure on local government budgets. Renfrewshire Council faces a significant shortfall between the money we receive and the costs of the services we must provide over the next three years.

Renfrewshire Council is proud of its success in protecting low income citizens from reductions in funding and we will continue to make sure that we protect low income citizens from cuts to front-line public services wherever possible.

We will continue to condemn UK welfare reforms that risk more of Renfrewshire's children being pushed into poverty, and continue to mitigate the impact welfare reform locally.

Our approach: Vision and priorities

Vision: We want a Renfrewshire where no child lives in poverty. All children should be able to achieve their potential and feel healthy, happy and valued, no matter how much money their parents or carers have.

We want a Renfrewshire where everyone understands that tackling poverty is everyone's responsibility. We believe that if we act locally, and in partnership, we can make a real difference.

Our strategy has six key priorities, which are linked to the outcomes within the Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland. These outcomes are often referred to as Pockets, Prospects and Places.

National Outcomes

 **Pockets**
maximising the financial resources
of families on low incomes

 **Prospects**
improved life chances of children
in poverty

 **Places**
children from low income
households live in well-designed,
sustainable places

Local priorities

The strategy is guided by six key priorities for tackling poverty in Renfrewshire:

Income and employment
Increase number of households who can access employment that provides an acceptable standard of living.

Managing money
Prevent financial crisis and support low income families to make the most of their money.

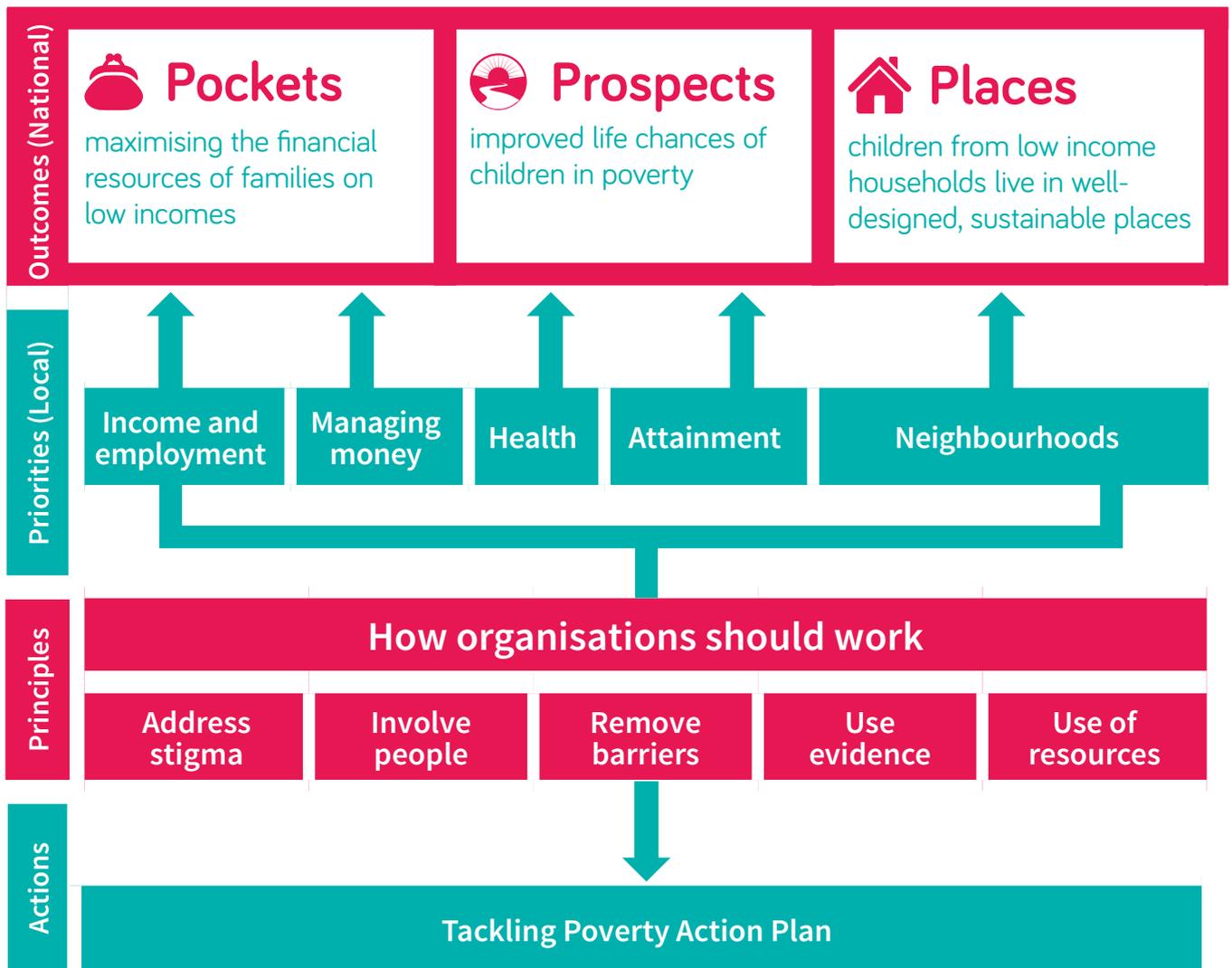
Health
Improve levels of physical and mental health of children in low income families.

Attainment
Close the educational attainment gap between children from low-income families and their better-off peers.

Neighbourhoods
Create neighbourhoods where people want to live and can afford to live.

How organisations should work
Narrow inequalities by working in a way which is inclusive, effective and evidence-based.

Tackling Poverty Strategy: Our Approach



Maximising financial resources of families on low incomes

There are currently more families in poverty who are working than not working. In-work poverty is rising, and its being driven by low pay, unstable contracts and rises in the cost of living.

Welfare reforms are taking money out of the pockets of people in Renfrewshire, and further welfare reforms targeted at working-age people are likely to hit families even harder.

Major investments such as the City Deal and Paisley Town Centre Heritage and Asset Strategy will bring a real boost to Renfrewshire's economy, but we need to make sure they also deliver for local people living in poverty.

Our Priorities

Priority 1

Increase the number of households who can access employment that provides an acceptable standard of living.

Priority 2

Prevent financial crisis and support low income families to make the most of their money.

What is already working well

We've already invested heavily in boosting Renfrewshire's economy, with a particular focus on improving youth employment rates through our **Invest in Renfrewshire** programme, which has made a real impact.

We have refocused Invest in Renfrewshire to specifically address inequalities, extending our service to work with all ages and on key issues for tackling poverty such as in-work progression. We're also working more intensively with people who have more barriers to employment.

Case study: Invest in Renfrewshire

Invest in Renfrewshire is an integrated economic development programme which aims to generate jobs, bridge the skills gap, and support business growth. Invest in Employability provides help and support to any unemployed person looking for work. The service aims to tackle poverty in the area through reducing unemployment and supporting local people to realise and fulfil their potential in employment. Invest has provided wage incentives to create an additional 882 new and additional paid posts (jobs, internships, apprenticeships and traineeships). Invest has also helped a further 2000 people (young people and adults) find wider employment opportunities and it continues to work with around 2000 job seekers each year.

“Central to any strategy for tackling poverty is to maximise incomes, this is true to families both in and out of work”

Poverty Alliance

Renfrewshire Council has been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions locally, in particular to prepare for the introduction of **Universal Credit** in Renfrewshire. We've put Income Advisers into all of the local Jobcentres to provide budgeting support, and we're one of two local authorities working with the Department for Work and Pensions nationally on their response to the Oakley review on **benefit sanctions**.

We've been working hard to increase payment of the **Living Wage** across Renfrewshire, but we'll be doing more to encourage this across the Community Planning Partnership. We aim to take advantage of the changes being introduced by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act to do more to leverage our procurement spend in support of our tackling poverty objectives.

We have a number of successful advice projects in Renfrewshire that are already making a huge difference to people living in poverty. We will extend advice projects which have received promising evaluations, such as **Healthier Wealthier Children** and **Energy Advice Renfrewshire**. We've also set up the **Advice Partnership Renfrewshire**, which includes a range of advice-giving organisations across Renfrewshire.

What we will do differently

We will be looking at how we might deliver more **flexible and affordable childcare** in Renfrewshire, and whether there might be other models of delivery that might better suit some low-income families.

We will be looking at how we build on the co-location work with the Department for Work and Pensions to avoid **benefit sanctions** and the harm these can cause.

We will make **advice** as easy to access as possible in Renfrewshire, making sure people who need advice can get appointments quickly and at a convenient place.

We will also be piloting new projects that support people to develop their **digital and financial skills**, and testing more innovative and sustainable ways of doing this work by involving people more closely in the design and delivery of the projects.

Improved life chances of children in poverty

Children from poorer families in Renfrewshire are getting an unfair start in life. The attainment gap in schools means poorer children often do less well at school than their more affluent peers. This 'gap' widens as children go through school, with fewer poorer children heading off to 'positive destinations' and ultimately, to better paid work.

There is also a large life expectancy gap in Renfrewshire, with a boy born in Bishopton living on average 16.4 years longer than a boy born in Ferguslie.

Our priorities

Priority 3

Improve levels of physical and mental health of children in low income families.

Priority 4

Close the educational attainment gap between children from low income families and their better off peers.

What is already working well

There has already been significant investment in supporting children's early years in Renfrewshire, most notably through our early years strategy 'Families First'

We're expanding our Families First programme to add three new localities, in Johnstone, Foxbar and Gallowhill, based on the results of a successful evaluation from University of Glasgow.

It is essential that we promote good mental health and wellbeing for young people in Renfrewshire. We have successful **peer-mentoring** projects currently operating in two of our secondary schools, and we will be rolling that out across all of our schools. We will also be supporting that with arts, cultural and sports opportunities that improve health and wellbeing for young people.

“Growing up in poverty can have a huge impact on a child’s future. Addressing the attainment gap in schools is critical to making sure children from low-income families are able to achieve their potential.”

Renfrewshire’s Tackling Poverty Commission

Case study: Families First

Families First is a family support programme. It started with two ‘core teams’, one in Ferguslie and one in Linwood, to help families build a better future for their children, with a focus on 0–8 years. The teams offer a support package that starts with staff building trust and quickly moves forward to helping the families achieve their potential. Some families have a key worker working very closely with them for months, while others come to drop-in sessions for a chat—and they know the teams are there if they need them. 371 families have been supported by Families First core teams, with £1million of income generated for local families.

What we will do differently

We will invest £2 million to **address the attainment gap** in Renfrewshire. The primary focus of this work will be developing new approaches to teaching reading across Renfrewshire. We’re also focusing on improving how we support parents to engage with their children’s learning at school and at home.

We will set up a fund dedicated to supporting families with the **cost of the school day**, and we will work with young people to better understand the impacts of the cost of the school day on their learning.

We will set up a new joint team focussed on **positive destinations** that will make sure that young people from low-income households get the support they need to move on to work or further education that meets their aspirations and abilities, such as improving work experience opportunities.

Children from low income households live in well-designed, sustainable places

Changes to the housing landscape mean that more and more people are living in the private rented sector, but lack of regulation and standards within the sector mean tenants have poorer security of tenure and little protection from escalating rents.

Many of Renfrewshire's communities continue to face deprivation despite significant investment in housing regeneration, with high turnover of tenancies and low demand for social housing in some areas. We believe that putting local people back in the driving seat is key to addressing some of these issues.

Our priority

Priority 5

Create neighbourhoods where people want to live, and can afford to live.

What is already working

Street Stuff is a successful partnership programme which provides activities for young people, and helps make communities feel safer.

Shelter Scotland has launched an innovative new project in Renfrewshire called **Foundations First**, which aims to support families at risk of homelessness across the range of tenures. This project embodies many of the principles of the Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Commission, such as co-production and community capacity building.

“Power should be shared, with communities allowed to set their own priorities, and resources devolved to help them achieve them.”

Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Commission

Case Study: Street Stuff

Street Stuff is a youth engagement project celebrating its fifth year in operation and supported by Renfrewshire Council, St Mirren Football Club, Engage Renfrewshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland. It works with children and young people in their own communities, through the deployment of resources, including football pitches and shipping containers with various equipment (games consoles, dance mats, exercise equipment)

Here are some of the ‘headlines’:

- Reduction in anti-social behaviour and low-level offending across the local authority by 75% since 2009.
- Street Stuff has won 13 awards and been recognised in the Scottish Parliament as a model of best practice.
- Average annual attendance figures of 20,000 children and young people since 2009.
- 200 young people have become volunteer coaches, with 15 securing employment through the programme.

What we will do differently

We will pilot **asset-based approaches** to regeneration by introducing ‘community builders’ into communities. They will build networks, encourage communities to set their own priorities and support them to build their capacity. We’d like to do this in an area where we already have some planned physical regeneration activity and devolve some money out to communities.

We will increase enforcement of **private rented sector** landlords, to improve housing standards for tenants. We will also be working with social landlords across Renfrewshire to make sure that **social housing rents** are fair and affordable.

We will be offering a range of **volunteering and work experience** opportunities in community safety and in partnership with the police, to give young people a chance to improve their employability while helping to keep their communities safe.

Principles

How organisations should work

The Commission made a set of recommendations around how organisations should work, which are the key principles of how the Tackling Poverty Strategy will be delivered.

Our priority

Priority 6

Narrow inequalities by working in a way which is inclusive, effective and evidence-based.

Address stigma

We all have a responsibility to challenge the stigma associated with poverty, but the Commission's engagement with citizens was particularly challenging around how we address stigma within our own organisations.

We will be launching a campaign to tackle stigma, which will initially be targeted at staff members across the Council and Community Planning Partnership.

“Everyone felt blamed. A feeling of ‘eye rolling’ and ‘you again’”

Participant, Star Project

Involve people

It's clear that services designed without people who have direct experience of poverty often fail to meet their needs. In particular, the Commission recommended co-production and peer support as models for Community Planning Partnership work moving forward.

We will continue the engagement approach of the Commission throughout the life of the Strategy and Action Plan, in particular working with third sector organisations as facilitators for conversations with the community.

Remove barriers

It's important that we remove barriers to accessing our services, and people told us that even some of our free and universally available services have barriers that we weren't aware of.

We will be introducing poverty into our impact assessment process to make sure the services we design and deliver are accessible, appropriate and meet people's needs.

Use evidence

It's important that the decisions that we make are evidence based, but we want to make sure that we use evidence wisely. We've identified in our strategy and action plan which activities are proven, and which are promising.

We will robustly monitor and evaluate our action plan, and make the details of performance and evaluations widely available.

Use of resources

In a time of shrinking budgets and increasing demand, it's important that we make the most of our combined resources to have the most impact.

We will pilot work across the Community Planning Partners to better understand our collective spend on tackling poverty across all of our service areas, and look at opportunities for joint resourcing.

“It's not just what you do that's important; it's also how you do it”

**Renfrewshire's
Tackling Poverty Commission**

Case Study: Digital Strategy

Increasing digital participation is a key part of our approach to tackling poverty. We will be developing a new digital strategy for Renfrewshire, with digital participation at the core, focussing on how we can improve access to technology and the internet and support people to build their digital skills. We will initially target those who face the most barriers; people living in poverty, disabled people and older people.

Our digital participation plan embodies many of the principles of our tackling poverty strategy, for example:

- The digital participation plan was designed in close consultation with local people, and citizens will form a central part of the reference group as the plan is delivered.
- It addresses stigma and removes barriers by ensuring that digital access and training is located in accessible locations which are used by target groups. Person-centred support will be provided to trained staff using accessible technology.
- The digital participation plan will develop and pilot new approaches, evaluate success locally and feed into a national digital skills framework to provide a coordinated, consistent approach to measuring digital participation across Renfrewshire.

Delivering the strategy

The Tackling Poverty in Renfrewshire programme is owned by the Community Planning Partnership. This is essential to make sure that the Strategy and Action Plan are delivered in true partnership.

A Tackling Poverty Steering Group has been set up which comprises senior officers across the Council and Community Planning Partners. This group will meet quarterly and will drive the delivery of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

Tackling poverty is a long-term aspiration, and cannot be achieved in the next two years. The focus of our Strategy and Action Plan will be to build a more robust evidence base for the anti-poverty impact of the work we are already doing, and to test the new approaches recommended by the Commission. This will allow us to produce a long-term, evidence-based and sustainable approach to tackling poverty in 2017.

The Community Planning Partnership will report annually on its progress implementing Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission's recommendations and the success of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

“Tackling poverty is everyone’s responsibility. The Council, its Community Planning Partners and wider organisations such as employers and housing providers, will need to work in partnership on shared priorities and deliver real leadership around anti-poverty practice in Renfrewshire and beyond.”

Renfrewshire’s
Tackling Poverty Commission

Measuring Success

Measuring poverty can often be challenging, as there are many different ways of measuring levels of poverty. Often these measures are not collected regularly, and are only available nationally. It is also predicted that child poverty levels in Scotland may start to rise again, and many of the reasons for this (such as UK welfare reform) are out of Renfrewshire Council's control.

We will monitor a range of measures that give us a more responsive picture of poverty in Renfrewshire, by looking at key causes and impacts locally as well as poverty levels themselves. We believe this is a more practical approach than adopting a single measure or target.

We will produce a "Poverty in Renfrewshire" dashboard quarterly, which will highlight key national and local poverty measures. This will help us to understand whether poverty is getting better or worse across Renfrewshire. It will also be aligned to the Scottish Child Poverty Measurement Framework.

A key part of our strategy is assessing how effective the Tackling Poverty Action Plan is. We will closely measure the impact of our activities, and learn lessons about what works.

Many of the activities in our action plan have been proven to be successful, such as Families First and Street Stuff, and have already had robust external evaluations. These evaluations will continue to assess the success of these projects.

There are also activities within our action plan which test new approaches which appear promising, such as our plans around developing new approaches to teaching reading. These will be robustly evaluated to get better evidence about their impact, investing in external evaluations from subject-matter experts such as the University of Strathclyde.

It's essential that local people have a role in defining the success of this work, and the role of people's stories and voices cannot be underestimated. We have continued the engagement approach of the Commission, and these relationships and conversations are an essential part of the work going forward.

If you would like information in another language or format please ask us.

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੇਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

 0300 300 0330

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