Children's Scorecard

2022-2026

Table Of Contents

Background

The Scottish Government has set 4 ambitious interim and long-term targets to address the challenge of reducing child poverty.

4 Child Poverty Targets	
By 2023	**By 2030**
Fewer than 18% children living in relative poverty	Fewer than 10% children living in relative poverty
Fewer than 14% of children living in absolute poverty	Fewer than 5% of children living in absolute poverty
Fewer than 8% of children living in families with combined low income and material deprivation	Fewer than 5% of children living in families with combined low income and material deprivation
Fewer than 8% of children living in persistent poverty	Fewer than 5% of children living in persistent poverty

The Scottish Government asked local authorities to consider how they can help achieve the child poverty targets by acting to
• Increase income from employment
• Reduce the essential costs of Living
• Increase income from social security and other benefits in kind.

In response to this request, Perth and Kinross Council decided to go directly to parents and families affected by poverty to ask what help and support they needed to increase family income and reduce essential costs.

PKC commissioned research on the lived experience of families affected by poverty in Perth and Kinross. The research was conducted by the Poverty Alliance and the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University. The research was conducted between May and June 2021 and the report published in November 2021.

This research has helped us to develop the first iteration of the Perth and Kinross Offer for children and families affected by poverty. It has also formed the basis of the Children's Scorecard which will measure how well our services are impacting on children and families affected by poverty.

The Offer addresses the outcomes that are landed for each child and family. The Children's Scorecard will serve as a barometer for the work that Perth & Kinross Council is undertaking to meet the needs of all children and families affected by poverty.

It identifies areas of accomplishment and areas of challenge. It will help us to evaluate our approaches to child poverty – and our delivery of the Perth and Kinross Offer for children and families affected by poverty. It will identify changing circumstances and highlights current and new issues and challenges which require to be addressed through our Business Management and Improvement Plans.

This first year of the Children's Scorecard will establish a baseline from which progress in subsequent years can be measured.

Child Poverty Scorecard

Section 1: What parents told us about poverty and their experience of our services

What Parents Told Us About Poverty

Living in Perth and Kinross

- **Good place to live**. On the whole, Perth and Kinross as a region, and the localities within, are viewed positively by families experiencing poverty. Opportunity for ready access to leisure, formal and informal, is widely appreciated.
- **Luck**. Families experiencing poverty in Perth and Kinross often used the descriptor 'luck' to rationalise positive experiences. This conveys a sense of gratitude for what they have, and an acknowledgement that others may not be as fortunate as themselves. It also suggests that a sense of rights and entitlement does not prevail.
- **A Perthshire trade-off.** Many families experiencing poverty accept or understand poor provision – for example in housing, or rural transport – as part of the price to be paid for where they live.

Families Experience of Poverty in Perth and Kinross

- **Intense poverty exists.** There is evidence of abject poverty in Perth and Kinross. Sometimes, such poverty has is a passing intensity, which may be triggered by unforeseen circumstance (e.g. breakdown of a household appliance; loss of employment; change in family arrangements). Intense poverty may subside, rather than disappear, becoming an enduring challenge of seasonal pinch points, e.g. increased living costs during summer when children are not in school for part of the week, or in winter when energy bills are higher and Christmas brings additional expense.
- **Family support.** For those with access to it (which does not apply to all families experiencing poverty), the support provided by families – at critical stress points and in everyday life – is acknowledged and highly valued. Families are a key source of childcare support, and a resource that is drawn on in times of crisis.
- **Time pressure**. Time pressures are reported by many families experiencing poverty. The challenges of managing children's lives and the challenges of combining work and family life are the primary sources of this stress.
- Cost of living. Housing, transport and food expenditure is reported to place strain on family budgets, particularly in rural areas.
- **Cumulative impacts**. Many of the challenges faced by families experiencing poverty are encountered by other families. However, the difficulties in facing these challenges on a low income – without the ability to drawn on a safety net of financial resource – exacerbate these problems. Similarly, the cumulative impact and interaction of these problems impacts on family life.
- **Stigma.** Many of the families described issues related to stigma, with narratives indicating stigmatisation was even experienced when accessing support.

Parental Experience of PKC Services

Referrals work. There is much evidence of effective cross-referral and integration of support pathways. Where this works, it is not received as being 'passed on', but rather as being directed to the right source. Successful referrals were reported within services, and across services. Positive impacts of this included being connected to support in a timely manner which was critical for prevention of intensification of problems.

Key individuals. Many parents experiencing poverty made reference to a key individual who provided them with critical support and/or who 'made things happen'. These interventions were often understood as someone going 'above and beyond' duty, rather than delivering routine service. These sources of key support were found across a range of service areas.

Individuals, Departments and the Council. Although people experiencing poverty did not always praise individuals or specific departments/services, on the whole, there was much more evidence of positive than negative appraisal of service rendered. In contrast, "the Council" tended to be viewed more negatively.

How services are delivered. The way in which services are delivered is important. There were several examples of people experiencing poverty reporting that staff had shown a lack of empathy toward them, or had failed to appreciate the situation in which they found themselves. Poor communication was noted for some, and public information was found to be lacking.

Utilising local sources of information. It was striking how many parents, turned to local sources for information about what was available to them. These local sources were not Council-led, but were often informal groups that had emerged utilising platforms, such as Facebook or Whatsapp.

Housing. It was acknowledged that there was a housing shortage and that there was a long waiting list for Council housing. The lack of availability was leading people to accept whatever was offered, which was not always ideally suited to their needs, for example, some were living further away from family support, or living in accommodation without sufficient bedrooms.

Childcare. Childcare was a particular challenge for those in-work. Although all were aware of entitlement, availability did not always dovetail with need, and available provision often required additional cost to either access the provision, or to pay for additional hours beyond universal entitlement. Childcare was constraining opportunities to access paid employment.

Education. Schools were viewed positively and were often acknowledged as a source of wider information beyond education. School meals were not viewed to be meeting all children's needs.

Leisure. Children were widely reported to be actively engaged in leisure and sporting activities outside of school. Families also reported utilising the local environment for seasonal 'incidental' leisure.

Transport. Transport services were viewed positively in the city of Perth. In contrast, the availability and cost of transport in rural areas was often criticised. There was understanding of the difficulty in delivering rural transport. Many families in rural areas reported the necessity of having access to a car.

Poor provision generates costs. Providing a service does not always lead to needs being met. Notably, with regards to housing, childcare and school meals, perceived inadequacies in provision led to family spend, e.g. paying extra for heating, paying for packed lunches where school meals do not meet children's needs.

Poor provision generates work. Service inadequacies creates work for others. There is a need for systems thinking to reduce the overall workload, which would also be less time-consuming and stressful for services users. This does not only imply a shift of workload between organisations, but also leads to a shift of workload within organisations (for example, Welfare Support offering routine advice on availability/entitlement, as this information cannot be accessed independently with ease).

Extracts from Lived Experience of Child Poverty in Perth & Kinross.

Wellbeing

Link to the "Offer"

Reduce the negative impact of poverty

Reduce negative impact of poverty
Help families to escape poverty

- Every child in a secure, warm, dry home
- Every child's learning is supported
- Parents have access to fair work and good jobs
- Parents and children influence the services they use
- No child goes hungry, ever
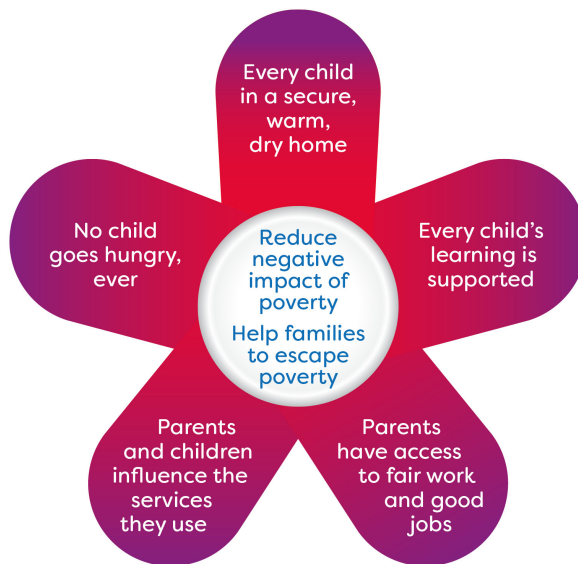
Parents asked for

- Help for families with issues around mental health or wellbeing
- Timely support for mental health for children and young people experiencing stress/distress

Indicators

- Information for families on sources of wellbeing and mental health support
- Funding for programmes or interventions to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Number of families with 0-2 year olds in nursery provision
- Evidence of family centred, multidisciplinary working across social work, learning disabilities, addiction and substance misuse
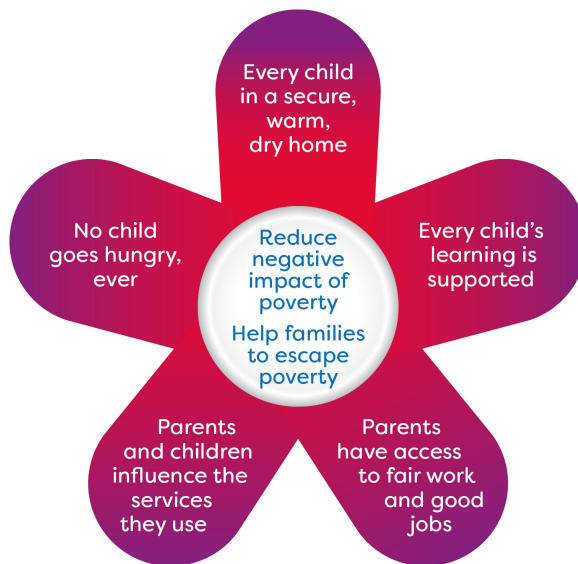- Learning from social needs screening project is captured

Wellbeing - Current and Desired Performance

Indicator	Current Performance	Desired Performance
Information for Families on sources of wellbeing and mental health support	PKC Parent Portal contains information on how to support wellbeing and where to go for help; NHS Tayside CAHMS Facebook page; The Lighthouse website resources page.	Increased traffic to Parent Portal Establishment of website to provide one stop shop for parental advice by TRIC
Funding for programmes or interventions to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.	£50,000 to fund Home Start support for mental health of parent and children at home. Aberlour and Barnardo's funding.	Increase support available to children and young people experiencing wellbeing challenges
Number of families with 0-2 year olds in nursery provision	38 families	Increase the number of families entitled to a place, to access a nursery provision
Evidence of family centred, multi-disciplinary working across mental health, learning difficulties, domestic violence and addiction.	Unborn Baby Multi Agency Support Group identifies pregnant women who need additional support	Increase in referrals from partner agencies outwith NHS Tayside.
Learning from social needs screening project is captured	Social needs screening is not currently undertaken. this is a pipeline project at the scoping stage with the Child Protection Committee.	Social needs screening following all child concern reports identifies and addresses the impact of poverty on those children and families about whom there has been a child concern report raised.

Link to the "Offer"

Reduce the negative impact of poverty

Every child in a secure, warm, dry home

No child goes hungry, ever

Reduce negative impact of poverty

Help families to escape poverty

Every child's learning is supported

Parents and children influence the services they use

Parents have access to fair work and good jobs

Parents asked

- To be treated with empathy and undestanding
- That service providers understand it can be difficult for parents to admit they are struggling to make ends meet and ask for help

Indicators

- All Frontline Workers and Service Managers to complete Child Poverty Training
- Where possible to automate requests for Council concessions
- Initiatives taken to reduce stigma promote dignified entry points for help and support

Dignity and Stigma- Current and Desired Performance

Indicator	Current Performance	Desired Performance
All Frontline Workers and Service Managers to complete Child Poverty Training	A Child Poverty Training Programme with experiential learning is in development.	All locality frontline workers and managers complete course.
Where possible to automate requests for Council Concenssions	A working group has been established to look at automation and streamlining of Council concessions	Automation of Council Concessions is maximised.
Initiatives taken to reduce stigma and promote dignified entry points for help and support	The Council takes a Cash 1st approach to promote dignity. Further work is required in this area to identify dignified entry points for all help and support provided whether in cash or kind.	£4.9 M is distributed via Cash 1st apprpoaches on a range of benefits from Education Maintenance Allowances, School Clothing Grants , Tenancy Sustainment Funding etc.

Crisis Support

Link to the "Offer"

No child goes hungry, ever
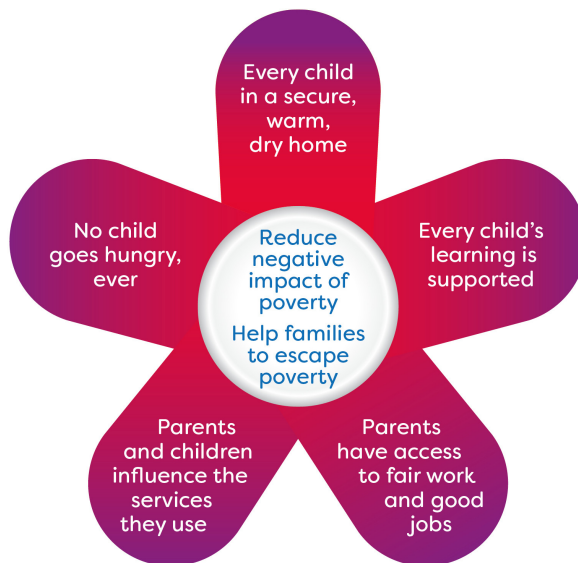
Parents asked for

- Accessible information on sources of help and support for parents in crisis - money, welfare benefits, in-kind support
- Help accessing support in times of crisis when they are experiencing stress
- Key worker approaches - where one person helps source support across a range of organisations
- Help with form filling and navigating the welfare benefits system
- Cash First Approaches
- Welfare Benefits Checks/Money Advice offered to Council employees
- Support for Foodbanks and Community Groups offering in-kind or crisis support

Indicators

- Accessible information is provided on where to get help across a range of print, digital and social media platforms
- Priority Families to be offered welfare benefits check
- Key Worker and Social Prescribing Approaches deployed
- Cash 1st Approaches deployed where possible
- Welfare Benefits check/ Money Advice to be offered to all PKC employees
- Funding and support for Community and Third Sector Groups offering crisis support to families

Crisis Support - Current and Desired Performance

Indicator	Current Performance	Desired Performance
Accessible information is provided on where to get help across a range of print, digital and social media platforms	Feeling the Pinch (Winter) and Struggling to feed the Family (Summer) awareness campaigns provided across print, digital and social media platforms. Winter Feeling the Pinch achieved 250,000 hits. Struggling to Feed the Family leaflet was distributed digitally via Headteachers in all PKC schools	Cost of Living Crisis public awareness campaign focussing on benefits, energy efficiency, food and crisis support planned.
Priority families to be offered Welfare Rights Check	1309 families with dependent children received benefits advice including 113 minority ethnic families. PKC do not currently record Priority Family Status and a high number of respondents decline to specify ethnicity.	2000 Priority families to be offered welfare rights check
Key Worker and social prescriber approaches deployed	6 Social Prescribers funded via H&SCP to provide support to vulnerable clients	Social needs screening approaches are deployed in localities.
Cash 1st Approaches where possible on Council Concessions	575 Pupils receiving Educational Maintenance Allowance; 1492 (15%) of Primary Pupils and 783 (10%) of Secondary Pupils receiving School Clothing Grants. Tenancy Sustainment Fund of up to £200,000 available to prevent homelessness. Disbursals to end Jan 2022 included £395,000 in Crisis Grants; £866,000 Self Isolation Support Grants, £211,000 from Financial Insecurity Fund, £1.2M from the Low Income Pandemic Payment and £775,000 in Discretionary Housing Payments. This amounts to a total of £4.9M	£4.9M is provided in a range of cash first approaches deployed by PKC.
Welfare Benefits/ Money Advice to be offered to all PKC employees	Not currently undertaken	Welfare Benefits advice is offered to all PKC employees.
Funding and other support for Community and Third Sector Groups providing crisis support to families.	£20,000 to Perth Foodbank; £256,000 provided for Eating Well Living Well and Community Food Initiatives. Food Co-ordinator Post funded to support community and emergency food provision. 17 Breakfast Clubs operate across PKC. £17,100 to Pink Saltire and £20,000 shared between 3 Gypsy/Traveller groups	Funding and Support to Third Sector Organisations supporting families affected by poverty increases.

Housing

Link to the "Offer"

Every child in a warm, dry, secure home
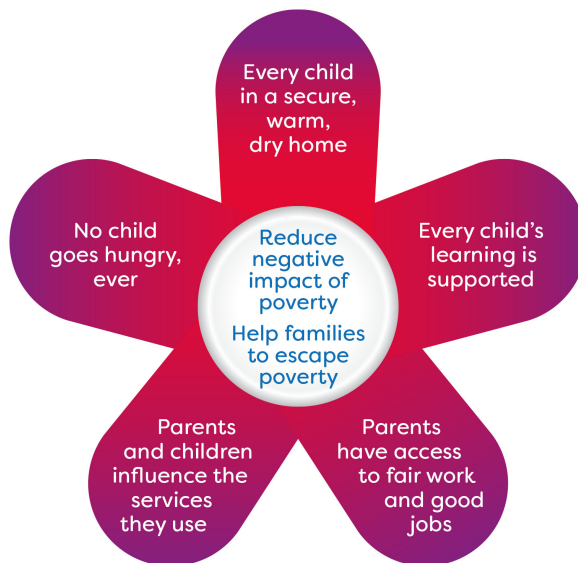
Parents asked for

- Increased supply of affordable housing
- Ensure houses are let in a good state of repair
- Improve Communications

Indicators

- Number of new affordable houses built
- Number of affordable home let from PKC own stock
- Number of families housed with affordable rents guarantee
- Take-up of Tenancy Sustainment Fund
- Number of families housed with Rent Bond Scheme
- Satisfaction rates at Settling-in Visit.

Housing - Current and Desired Performance

Indicator	Current Performance	Desired Performance
Number of new affordable houses built	183 built between April 21 and Jan 2022	600 affordable homes built by 2027
Number of affordable homes let from PKC own stock	600 voids were let between April 21 and January 2022. There has been an increase in the number of lets (15.5%) which is due to the new build programme and the vacancy chains this creates	Increase in number of houses available for let arising from new build programme and vacancy chains it creates.
Number of families housed with affordable rents guarantee	157 houses have been let with the affordable rents guarantee - 54 of which were supported with grant funding via the EHI scheme.	This figure cannot be predicted as it is demand-led.
Take-up of Tenancy Sustainment Fund	216 referrals have been either approved or partly approved. 100.49% of the budghet has been paid with a further 12.88% committed	Ensure the budget is met
Number of Families housed with Rent Bond Guarantee Scheme	143 households have been rehoused with the Rent Bond Guarantee Scheme .	This figure cannot be predicted as it is demand-led.
Satisfaction rates at Settling-in Visit	642 Settling-In visits were due to be undertaken between April 21 and Jan 2022. The completion rate for the year to date is 79%	Target 90%

Education

Link to the "Offer"

Every Child's Learning is Supported
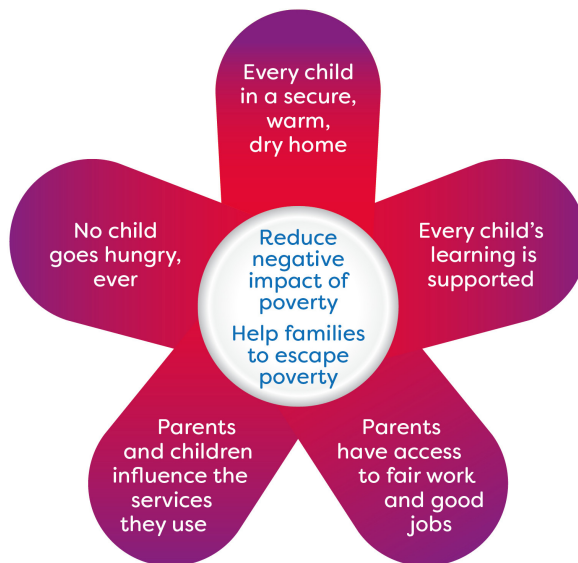
Parents asked for

- Information about help available to struggling families
- Information on how to access help around school costs with assurance that these will be handled discretely and sensitively
- Improvements in the quality of school meals
- Affordable after-school provision to support parental employment

Indicators

- Availability of information to support families via print, social media and web-based tools
- Schools inform parents on how to request support providing clarity and reassurance that all requests will be handled sensitively
- Increased Take-up of school meals across all ages
- Number of affordable after school and wraparound childcare places
- Further engagement with partner provider nurseries to meet commitment to Living wage
- Cost of the School day considered and enacted by all schools

Education - Current and Desired Performance

Indicator	Current Performance	Desired Performance	
Availability of information to support families via print, social media and web-based tools	'Struggling to feed the Family' leaflet distributed digitally via Headteachers to all pupils before commencement of Summer Term. Information shared on Fuelled for Fun, School Holiday Programme and Emergency Food providers in the community	Information on support available for parents and families is shared before each holiday period signposting parents to help with food, fuel, holiday activities, access to mental health support and other issues of concern.	
Schools inform parents on how to request support providing clarity and reassurance that all requests will be handled sensitively	information on how individual schools provide this has not been gathered	Parents are informed on how to ask for help with costs associated with school and it is explained how requests will be handled.	
Increased take-up of school meals across all ages	8249 pupils are registered for free school meals (73.5% of Primary and 9.2% of Secondary Pupils). 66% of those registered for free school meals took them on the register day.	Increase number of pupils taking up a free school meal.	
Number of affordable after school and wraparound care places	3 Out of School Care Clubs, 3 Kids Clubs, 3 Wraparound Care Services and 6 Holiday Care Services are provided.	Increase number of children using after school and wraparound care places	
Further engagement with partner provider nurseries to meet commitment to Living Wage	All partner provider nurseries show commitment to meeting Living Wage	Confirmation that funded providers are paying the real living wage or when they intend to be paying as per contractual commitment and Funding Follows the Child	

Childcare

Link to the "Offer"

Parents have access to fair work and good jobs
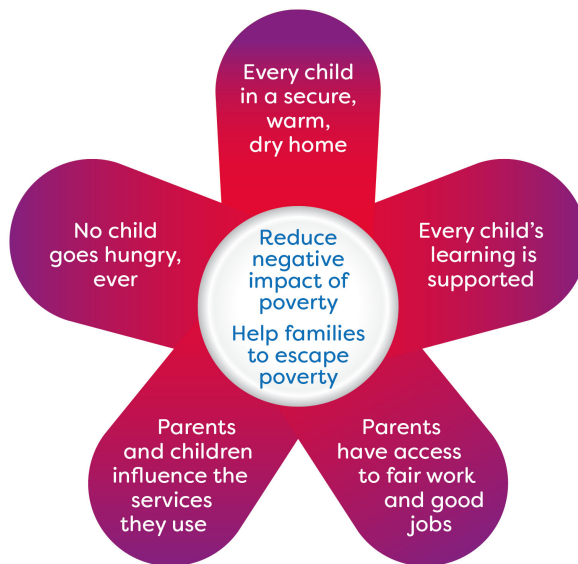
Parents asked for

- Increased access to accessible and affordable childcare
- Flexible childcare options to support parental employment
- Accessible information on available childcare options, places and costs

Indicators

- Number of communities supported to develop their own childcare solutions
- Number of childcare places provided by PKC
- Number of childcare places available across public, private and third sectors
- Number of childminders working in partnership with PKC.
- Development of Childcare Information Website

Childcare - Current and Desired Performance

Indicator	Current Performance	Desired Performance
Number of communities supported to develop their own solutions	Out of School Care - Pitlochry; 8 Safe Start Services delivered across Perth & Kinross.	Communities interested in developing their own provgision are well supported by the central ELC team to progress towards set up.
Number of childcare places offered by PKC	51 ELC settings are provided with capacity for approximately 2000; Third sector provides 34 settings with capacity for approximately 1000; Childcare provision includes 12 kids clubs offering 401 places and 3 WAC settings offering 124 places.	Flexible childcare solutions are offered to parents across all ELC communities in Perth & Kinross. Children settle well and make good progress in their learning and development. Parents are happy with the level of provision and child experience.
Number of childcare places available across public, private and third sectors?	This information is not currently held by Perth & Kinross Council. It should be available when the TRIC establishes the childcare information website.	There are sufficient childcare places across public/community/private provision to support parental employment.
Number of childminders in partnership with PKC	20 childminders offer 30 places.	Flexible childcare places solution available to all parents across ELC communities in Perth and Kinross. Children settle well and make good progress in their learning and development. Parents are happy with the level of provision and child experience.
Childcare Information Website	Parents can use the "Find my nearest Childcare" via the Perth and Kinross Council website.	Parents have easy access to information they need regarding childcare. Development of web-based one stop information point encompassing childcare.

Transport

Link to the "Offer"

Reduce the negative impact of poverty
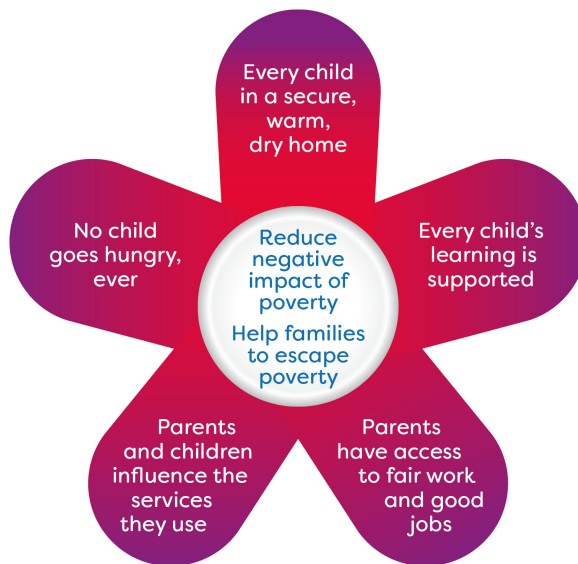
Parents asked for

- Improved transport links in rural areas to support parental employment patterns
- Affordable local transport options

Indicators

- Take-up free bus passes for under 22s
- Information on discounted tickets/travel
- Increase in the number of community transport schemes - especially within rural areas
- Support for Community Transport Groups
- Establishment of on-demand responsive transport schemes

Transport - Current and Desired Performance

Indicator	Current Performance	Desired Performance
Take-up of free bus travel passes for under 22s	4000 applications processed between January and March 2022.	26,000 bus passes issued to all aged 5 - -21 year olds
Information on discounted tickets and travel schemes in Perth and Kinross	This is not something currently undertaken by Perth & Kinross Council.	Information on discounted travel tickets will be obtained from Stagecoach and provided to the public via our Cost of Living public information.
Increase in the number of community transport schemes, especially in rural areas	PKC provide support to the Community Transport Forum. We provide £14,000 of funding towards community transport schemes.	Secure more funding to increase financial support to community transport schemes.
Support for Community Transport Groups	PKC currently support 25 community transport providers.	Increase the number of community transport providers.
Establishment of demand responsive transport schemes	2 Demand responsive transport schemes operating in West Kinross-shire and Kinlochrannoch.	To increase the number of demand responsive transport schemes in deep rural areas.

Child Poverty Scorecard

Section 2: The Perth & Kinross offer for families affected by poverty

We want to work with our partners and communities to tackle inequality and provide better outcomes for individuals, building stronger more resilient communities.

• We will redesign services based around what we hear from communities.

• We will work more closely in communities and strive to deliver a one Council approach to Child Poverty.

• We will empower more decision making in communities with budgets and resources.

This first iteration of the Perth and Kinross Offer for Families Affected by Poverty has been informed by initial consultation. We will deepen our engagement with families affected by poverty and with the community organisations which currently support them. The Offer will develop over time as communities, businesses and citizens engage in our crusade against child poverty.

Every child in a secure, warm, dry home

No child goes hungry, ever

Every child's learning is supported

Reduce negative impact of poverty

Help families to escape poverty

Parents and children influence the services they use

Parents have access to fair work and good jobs

No Child Goes Hungry, Ever

We will:
- deliver a Food Security Strategy
- boost the numbers taking free school meals
- take a Cash 1st approach and help families maximise income from Benefits
- support a network of food banks and community larders

No child goes hungry, ever

We ask that you:
- seek help at the earliest possible moment
- donate to food banks and community larders when you can
- use food banks and community larders when you need to

Perth and Kinross Council

- Delivered £5.5 million client financial gain secured via social security benefits for struggling families.
- Provided £20,000 to Perth Foodbank which provided emergency food to 1795 children last year
- Funded a "Fuelled for Fun" school holiday programme where every child who attended received lunch and snacks
- Provided £20,664 for emergency food provision to Broke not Broken for community distribution
- Funded a Good Food Co-ordinator to work with third sector and community organisations to improve food security, reduce food waste and improve sustainability.

Every Child in a Warm, Dry, Secure Home

Perth and Kinross Council

- Use a rent affordability toolkit to ensure that no family pays more than 22% of its income in rent - and most pay between 13 and 19%;
- Ensures Council rents are lower than the Local Housing Allowance so tenants on Housing Benefit do not have to find extra cash to cover their rents
- Is Investing £15 million in increasing the pool of affordable houses by buying back ex-Council houses
- Reduced homelessness by 12% through our focus on Homes First, delivery of homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing and tenancy sustainment

Every Child's Learning is Supported

We will:
- reduce the cost of the school day
- provide every child digital access to support learning at home
- provide free school meals to all who need them
- provide access to leisure, sports, arts, music and cultural activities

Every child's learning is supported

We ask that you:
- get to know your child's teachers so you can confide in them when help is needed
- make sure your child has breakfast and a nutritious, hot meal at lunchtime
- create quiet spaces/times at home to support home learning
- get help with benefits to increase family income

Perth and Kinross Council

Provided 3000 children with digital access to support learning at home
Distributed £1.7 million through the Pupil Equity Fund in 2021/22 to help close the poverty related attainment gap.
Developed and maintained 149 green spaces and parks for play, leisure and recreation
Provided an average of 9000 free physical activity and active schools sessions in each school year in Primary and Secondary schools (pre Covid) and 1678 sessions across 25 different activities in the first term of 2021/22.
Provided Early Learning Practitioners, Family Support and Community Link Workers to support families with children.

Perth and Kinross Council

Secured £2.1 million to deliver employability, skills training and support
Secured £216,000 from the Parental Employment and Support Fund to help Parents from Priority Families get the skills and support they need to find work
Provided online learning opportunities for 110 adults to help them into employment, education and training
Helped 256 people find fair work and good jobs on completing one of our employability programmes
Established 5 Skills Academies in Hospitality, Digital and Green Skills and HGV and LGV Licenses for entry into the haulage industry
Supported 13 care experienced young people on to positive destinations including college and employment.

26

We will:

- make sure all services are shaped by those who use them
- develop a Children's Scorecard with parents to measure our impact on child poverty
- listen to parents and children regularly and often, and in different ways
- set up a Child Poverty Scrutiny Panel to challenge us to do better

Parents and children have a say in the services they use

We ask that you:

- engage with our Services and let them know what works for you
- listen to your child and let us know their views about play, school life and their wellbeing
- get active in your local school and Community Council
- join in with local groups to create and deliver your own services

Perth and Kinross Council

Developed a Children's Scorecard with parents to measure our impact on child poverty

Undertook a research project with Glasgow Caledonian University and the Poverty Alliance on the "Lived experience of Child Poverty in Perth and Kinross". The feedback we received from parents provided the challenge statements for the Children's Scorecard and gave us a clear steer on what services and support struggling families need and want.

Child Poverty Scorecard

Section 3: Measuring Child Poverty

Measuring Child Poverty

Perth & Kinross Council have agreed 26 indicators to measure child poverty across Perth and Kinross.

General Indicators

1	Number of Children Living in Poverty
	%age of Children Living in Poverty
2	%age Children living in Acorn 4 & 5 Neighbourhoods
3	%age of Families Not Managing Financially
4	%age Families with No Savings

Income from Employment

5	Number (000's) Below Living Wage
	%age workforce Below Living Wage
6	Number (000's) Underemployed
	%age Underemployed
7	Number (000's) Employed 16-64
	%age Employed 16-64
8	Number (000's) in Lower Paid Work
	%age in Lower Paid Work
9	Job Density
10	Average (Median) Earnings by Place of Residence

Essential Cost of Living

11	Average (Median) Monthly Rents Private Sector and Local Authority
12	Net Annual Income Socially Rented Households
13	Fuel Poverty by Household Characteristics and Dwelling Attributes

Essential Cost of Living (continued)

14	Households in Fuel Poverty
15	Dwellings with Energy Efficiency Rating of F or G

Income from Social Security & Benefits In kind

16	Claimant Count
17	Number of Workless Households
	%age of Workless Households
18	Pupils Registered and Taking Free School Meals
19	Best Start Grants
20	Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grant Applications

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

21	%age Children with No Development Concerns/ A Concern at 13-15 Months, 27-20 Months and 4-5 Years Old
22	Number in Workforce with No Qualifications
	%age of Workforce with No Qualifications
23	Total Tariff Scores for School-Leavers by SIMD
24	Proportion of S4 Pupils Staying on by SIMD
25	Looked-After School-Leavers with SCQF Level 4
26	Young People (16-19) in Education, Training or Employment

This is the first time we have reported on the 26 indicators identified in the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2020 and indicates if progress has been made.

The year has been extraordinary due to the impact of COVID and the lockdowns imposed to protect people. This is reflected in the figures in this report.

The full impact of Covid has not yet fed through to the statistics and data that we have gathered. Next year's report will give us a clearer understanding of the impact of COVID on children and poverty.

The Indicators cover the scope and extent of poverty, and help to identify if we are making progress on

helping families
- Maximise Income from Employment
- Reduce the Cost of Living
- Maximise Income from Social Security and Benefits In-kind.

It also helps to identify if we are successful in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Number of Children Living in Poverty

5155 or 22.6% 2019/2020
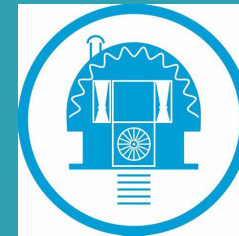5138 or 22.2% 2018/19

Priority Families

Just under half of those living in poverty

are in lone parent families

1 in 5 HHs
have a disabled family member

737
lone parent families have a disabled member

415 HHS
are gypsy travellers - the largest community in Scotland

2.3% are in Black and Ethnic Minority Families

There is a significant East European minority - roughly 2% of the population

1 in 7 families have 3 or more children

Income from Employment

72,100 or 74.6% of People are in Work

6800 fewer than in 2019

13000 or 16.5% of the workforce earn less than the Living Wage of £9.50 an hour

1,000 fewer than in 2019. We don't know if these people lost their jobs or secured better pay

8.2% are Underemployed (they would like to work more hours)

Small Change on the last figures of 6.9%

24,000 are in lower paid work

An increase of 3,200 on 2020 figures

Job Density is 0.77

This means that there are 77 jobs for every 100 people aged 16 - 64 (2020)

In 2018 there were 82 jobs for every 100 people aged 16 - 64.

Income from Employment (cont'd)

£574.90
Average Earnings

Pay Gap with Scotland widens to £47.10

Wages increase by a small margin - but pay gap widens significantly

Pay Gap with Scotland £11.90 in 2019 and £24 in 2020

Gender Pay Gap

£140 a week for full time workers.

£228.50 a week for all workers

Increased by £32 a week on 2020 for full time workers

Perth & Kinross tops the league table for Employment Rate Gap between men and women in Scotland

Essential Cost of Living Indicators

Average Monthly Rents

Private Sector
2 bedrooms - £573 (2020 - increase of £9 on 2019)
3 Bedrooms - £762 (2020 - increase of £3 on 2019)

Local Authority
2 bedrooms - £300.69 (2020 - Increase of £4.21 on 2019)
3 bedrooms - £334.01 (2020 - Increase of 32.77 on 2019)

1 in 3
Private Tenants

experience extreme fuel poverty - twice the rate of those in social housing.
(2019 - Pre Covid Figures as No Scottish Household Survey has been completed)

Private Tenants in a 2 bed house on Housing Benefit have a £114 shortfall to cover every month.

Private Tenants in a 3 bed house on housing benefit have a £167 shortfall to cover every month.

Many of the indicators in this section derive from the Scottish Annual Household Survey which has been interrupted due to the COVID19 pandemic and therefore some indicators are not available or have not been updated.
We have therefore included some supplementary indicators overlea which show where the essential cost of living is increasing for families today.

Essential Cost of Living Indicators

Food

Cost of food in the United Kingdom increased 4.2% in December of 2021 over the same month in the previous year. It is the highest food inflation since September of 2013. Food campaigners have pointed out that the actual food inflation rate for the poorest is significantly higher as supermarkets have increased the prices of their own brand basic goods.
https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jan/26/cost-of-living-crisis-ons-inflation-jack-monroe

Energy Costs increased by 54% in April and are set to rise by a further 50% in October

Cost of Petrol/Diesel is UP by 27.7%

Inflation is predicted to be at 6% in April 2022 - benefits will rise by 3.1% in April

34

Income from Social Security and Benefits In-kind Indicators

2815
Claimant Count

Down from 4270 in October 2020
This could be a problem as fewer people are in work

6000
13.5% of Households are Workless (2020)

An increase of 500 on 2019 and a decrease of 400 on 2018

5007 (47.6%) Primary Pupils
548 (7.5%) Secondary Pupils
Registered for Free School Meals
(2019)

2405
Families getting a Scottish Child Payment

3625
Best Start Grant Applications Worth £1,569,970

An increase of 985 applications and 3469,560 in money paid out in the previous year

2370 (Jan to Sept only)
Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Payments of £320,142

Estimated 20% reduction on applications and awards in 2020

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Indicators

Children with No Development Concerns (2020)

At 13 - 15 months - 78.7% down 3.5% (2019)

At 27 - 30 months - 79% down 5.8% (2019)

At 4 -5 years - 75.5% - down 1.7% (2019)

6300 (7%) (2020)
of the Workforce had
NO qualifications

Marginal Increase on 2019

Young People in Education, Employment or Training (T/F)

Pupils staying on after
S4 by SIMD
Total Tariff School
Leavers by SIMD
T/F

Children from the poorest areas are 20 times more likely to be in the child protection system

References

General Indicators
Number and %age Children Living in Poverty
This is a reliable measure of child poverty as it takes housing costs into account - families in private rented homes will pay significantly more for housing than those in social housing.
http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty-in-your-area-201415-201819/
Most Socially and Financially Challenged Households
Useful tool for local identification and analysis using other data to understand poverty related gaps. However overall figure gives a valid headline indicator.
Source: ACORN (PKC held), https://acorn.caci.co.uk/downloads/Acorn-User-guide.pdf
Managing Financially
Data is derived from Scottish Household Survey - and provides a broad indication of families who are struggling financially   https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00548546.pdf
Households with No Savings
Data is derived from Scottish Household Survey - and provides a broad indication of families who are struggling financially   https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/LATables2017/2017Excel

Income from Employment Indicators
Earnings Below the Living Wage
Reliable measure of families in poverty
Source: ASHE https://www.gov.scot/publications/annual-survey-of-hours-and-earnings-2019/
Underemployment
Underemployment is a key driver of in-work poverty
https://www.gov.scot/publications/regional-employment-patterns-scotland-statistics-annual-population-survey-2018/
Employment
Reliable measurement of employment rates within local economy   https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157428/report.aspx#tabempunemp
Lower Paid Work
Lower paid work is a key driver of in work poverty   https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157428/printable.aspx
Job Density
Indicates ratio of job seekers to pop aged 16 - 64. https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157428/printable.aspx
Median Gross Weekly Earnings
Measures whether wages are increasing, stagnant or decreasing over time   https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157428/printable.aspx
Essential Cost of Living Indicators
Rents
Housing costs are a determinant of family disposable income and poverty https://www.gov.scot/publications/private-sector-rent-statistics-2010-2019
Income of Social Renters
Important measurement of affordability of social rented housing https://www.gov.scot/publications/social-tenants-scotland-2017/
Fuel Poverty
Energy Efficiency of Homes is an important driver of fuel poverty Source: Scottish House Condition Survey 2016 -2018 https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-house-condition-survey-local-authority-analyses/

Income from Social Security and Benefits In-kind
Claimant Count
Indicates no and %age people living on benefit - useful real time indicator to track changes   https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157428/printable.aspx
Workless Households
Workless Households are at greatest risk of poverty   https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157428/printable.aspx
Free School Meals
Important Measurement of Child Poverty https://www.gov.scot/publications/school-healthy-living-survey-statistics-2019/pages/2/

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
To be added

 Statistics given are for 2021 unless otherwise stated