



Social Justice

...a Scotland where **everyone** matters

Foreword

THE FIRST MINISTER
DONALD DEWAR MSP

We are committed to promoting social justice and equality of opportunity for everyone in Scotland.

When I launched the Social Inclusion Strategy in March of this year I said that Scotland was on the threshold of a new future. A future where everyone matters, where together we can build on the commitment to social justice which lies at the heart of political and civic life in Scotland. We need to harness the efforts of many to the greater good of all, and establish social justice as the hallmark of Scottish society.

Much has happened since March. The Parliament has been elected, a powerful Ministerial Taskforce on Poverty and Inclusion has been established under Communities Minister Wendy Alexander to lead our social justice agenda. The Scottish Social Inclusion Network has continued to identify areas for priority attention and the UK Government has published *Opportunity for all: Tackling poverty and social exclusion*.

This report is the outcome of all this work, setting out a vision of a Scotland where everyone matters. Here we set out targets and milestones - measures by which we can live up to our vision.

We cannot right the wrongs of the past overnight. We know many of Scotland's injustices are complex and deep-rooted. But our aim is to achieve real and lasting change in people's lives that can be seen and felt. Above all we wish to make child poverty a thing of the past within a generation.

The purpose of this report is to commit Scotland to a set of targets that can only be achieved if we follow them up by action and change. Our Action Plan will be published in the spring. But it starts with targets. Our targets for Scotland are ambitious, but by working together we can achieve a Scotland where everyone matters.



The establishment of the Scottish Parliament should not only be a matter of pride but of possibility. As we enter the 21st century, every Scottish citizen deserves a life of opportunity and freedom from poverty. The Parliament has a vital leadership role to play in achieving those goals.

If we are to build that Scotland characterised by social justice we should be willing to measure our successes and face up to our failures. This document gives Scotland a set of targets against which to measure year by year whether we are living up to our promises through an Annual Scottish Social Justice Report.

Too often, past strategies to tackle poverty and injustice in Scotland have been more about consequences than causes and places instead of people. What is really new about this report is that for the first time we address both people and places in the fight against poverty. Throughout, our targets are focused on people, and changing their lives. How we grow up. How we live. How we work. How we raise families. How we grow old.

The public, private and voluntary sectors all have a role to play in changing peoples' lives for the better. It is a challenge for the whole of Scotland. Achieving our targets will also be about more than what we spend. It will be about how we spend, whom we work with and how we organise for change.

Our vision is for a new nation with new politics - built on enduring values. In making those commitments to social justice for Scotland we can only deliver in partnership with the United Kingdom. As we look forward, we can take inspiration from all those who, in their time, have advanced the cause of social justice: individuals like Robert Owen, Elsie Ingles, John Wheatley, William Beveridge and Aneurin Bevan.

Just as, at the start of the last century, progressive politicians from various traditions laid out their vision for a different Scotland around public health, decent housing, the right to education, to work and fairness at work and for universal suffrage. Today, Scotland's Parliament and Executive should be no less ambitious in our time, and together, it can be our achievement.

Wendy Alexander



Targets for tackling poverty

The Scottish Executive has put social justice at the heart of our Programme for Government. Here we set out our commitment to social justice and to meeting our principal aim, defeating child poverty in Scotland within a generation.

In this first phase, we:

- ›Set out our vision, our targets and our milestones for delivering social justice in Scotland.
- ›Provide new directions for the future allocation and use of public resources to deliver that vision.

By setting out our vision, targets and milestones for tackling poverty and injustice we lay the foundations for an Annual Scottish Social Justice Report. That report, to be published from next year, will measure progress against longer-term targets and shorter-term milestones. Scotland will know if we are moving towards a fairer, more just nation.

The Annual Scottish Social Justice Report will be based on the measures we outline here.

›Targets for 2020 - ambitious targets that will stand the test of time, stamping out injustice and defeating child poverty.

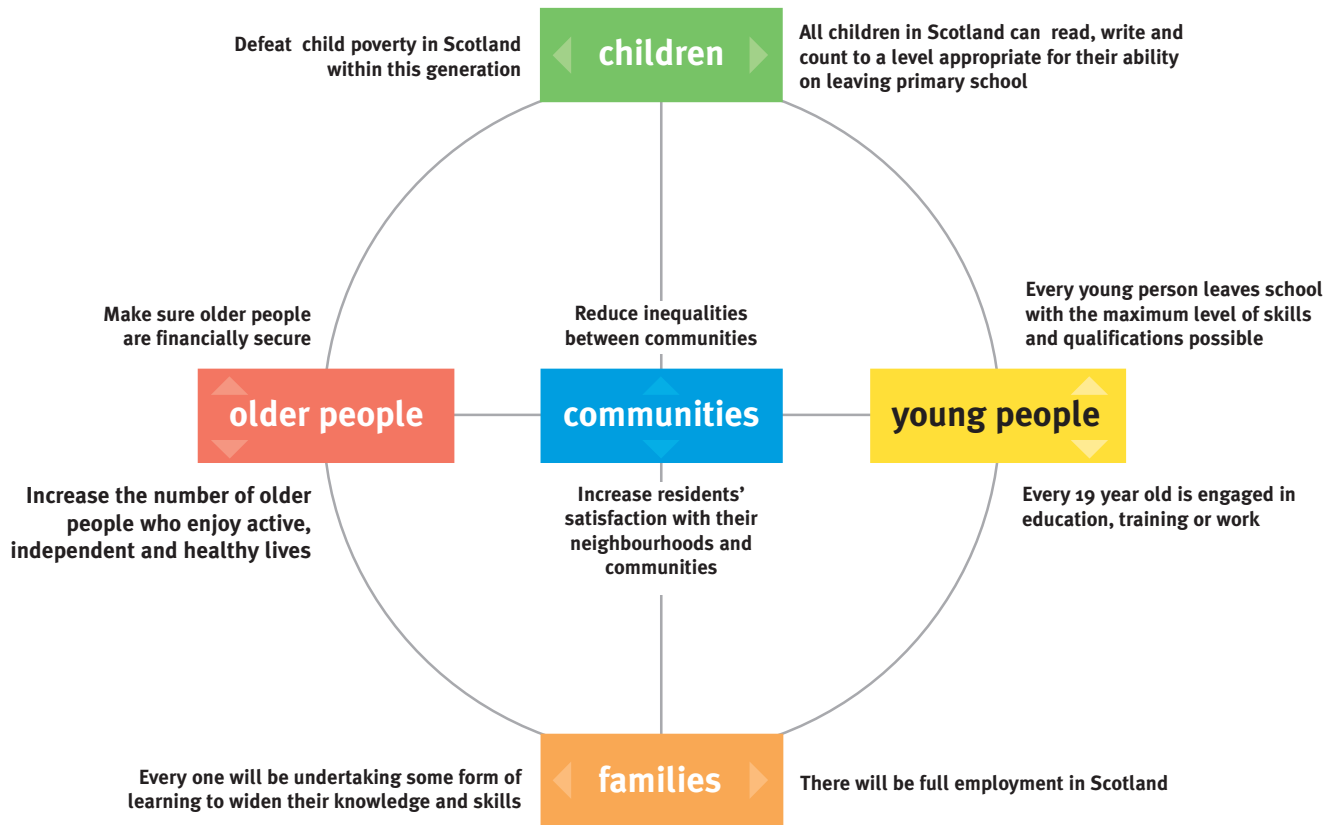
›Milestones - short term milestones towards delivering the long-term targets.

Publishing an Annual Scottish Social Justice Report each year from now means starting to measure what matters. Here we lay out what matters. We are starting now to collect the data we need to publish the Annual Scottish Social Justice Report - 10 targets, 29 milestones and a wealth of technical pieces of data (outlined in the technical document). Together it adds up to the most comprehensive framework ever for tackling poverty in Scotland.

Achieving our ambitious targets can only happen through partnership with colleagues across the UK. We share a common commitment to delivering social justice. A belief that we are stronger together and weaker apart as people, as communities and as nations.

Earlier this year the UK Government's *Opportunity for all: Tackling poverty and social exclusion* laid out UK benchmarks in reserved areas and we have taken these on board. In devolved areas we map out distinctive Scottish measures. But wherever lead responsibility lies, poverty is something that we can only defeat together.

Life Cycle



Phase 2

Action Plan - the way ahead

The targets in the Scottish Social Justice Report can only be delivered through focus, leadership and “new directions” in the allocation and use of public, private and voluntary sector resources. The second half of this document spells out these “new directions” in spending, joined up working and community leadership necessary to make change happen on the ground.

We will drive home those “new directions” in Spring when we will publish our Action Plan, setting out how we, and our partners, will provide the means to deliver the milestones.

Meaningful change requires a new set of tools to help fight injustice. Our Action Plan will include new initiatives and policies from across the whole of the Scottish Executive. It will require the active commitment - in written statements - from

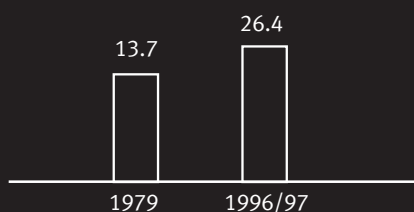
agencies, communities and the private sector that describe their contribution to the fight. And it will show how the principles of equal opportunities and sustainable development should underpin social justice.

But the starting point is to build a consensus on what needs to change - the **targets**. And also how we will get there - the **milestones**. The challenge is daunting, but the prize is immense.

How did we get here? A rising tide of poverty

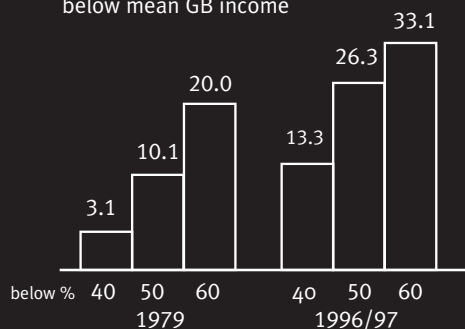
To fully understand the severity of the problem we are facing we need to understand what has happened over the last twenty years when the 80's and early 90's saw a significant increase in the numbers of people living in poverty.

% children in Scottish households with no working adults



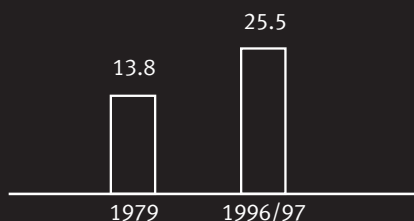
source: DSS-Households Below Average Income

% Scottish population in households below mean GB income



source: DSS-Households Below Average Income

% Scottish population living in working age workless households



source: DSS-Households Below Average Income

Economic management characterised by cycles of boom and bust in the economy damaged growth prospects and led to some communities suffering disproportionately. With little help to get back into work, unemployment blighted the worsening position of the poorest communities. At the same time the benefits system failed to adapt to changes in the labour market and society and became part of the problem. It failed to respond to the increased numbers of lone parents or to sick and disabled claimants in receipt of out-of-work benefits by providing them with new opportunities. The culture became one of simply paying out benefits, rather than providing people with active help to get back into work.

Other key policy areas contributed to this decline. The education system failed to give all our children the skills they need for later life. So too in health, with people from poor neighbourhoods tending to be ill more often and die earlier.

The extent of the worsening position over the last twenty years can be seen from the following statistics:

➤The number of people in Scotland living in relative poverty more than doubled

➤The proportion of children in Scotland living in households with relatively low incomes increased two and a half times

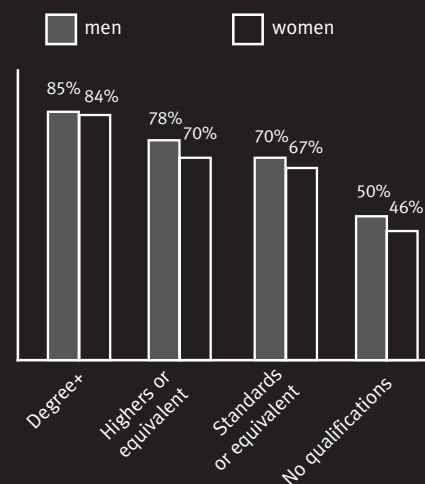
➤The proportion of Scottish children being brought up in workless households doubled

➤People from the poorest areas in Scotland are now nearly three times as likely to die early than people from the richest areas

➤People in Scotland without a qualification have less than an even chance of being in employment, yet more than 4000 pupils left school in 1997 without any Standard Grades

This was the legacy inherited in 1997. It was a pattern of poverty, neglect and decline that needed to be reversed.

% of men & women in employment by highest qualification



source: Labour Force Survey-Spring 1999

The record since 1997

Since 1997 many changes have been introduced which have started to turn around our appalling inheritance.

Low-income families are benefiting from:

- ›The introduction of the first ever National Minimum Wage.
- ›The introduction of a Working Families Tax Credit which will benefit 140,000 families in Scotland by 2000, with a Minimum Income Guarantee for a family with someone in full-time work of £200 a week.

Families with children are benefiting from:

- ›An increase in child benefit of 36% between 1997 and 2000.
- ›The introduction of a Children's Tax Credit from 2001.
- ›The provision of nursery places for all 3 and 4 year olds.
- ›On average British families are now £740 a year better off as a result of the last two Budgets.

Workless households are benefiting from:

- ›The New Deal which has helped reduce long term youth unemployment by 60% and long term unemployment by 40% in Scotland.
- ›A new single point of entry to the benefits system, ONE.
- ›The expansion of new Modern Apprenticeships for young people and the planned introduction of Individual Learning Accounts to improve skills.

People's health is benefiting from:

- ›The biggest ever hospital building programme in Scotland to provide 8 major new developments.
- ›The planned development of a network of Healthy Living Centres.
- ›More patient centred care through Walk in/Walk out services, an additional 80 One Stop Clinics and streamlined booking systems.
- ›Shorter waiting lists.

Children's education is benefiting from:

- ›Reduced class sizes.
- ›A huge investment in 100 new or renovated schools and the creation of 60 New Community Schools.
- ›New attainment targets, early intervention initiatives, home school projects and after-school clubs to help ensure no child misses out on the best start in school.
- ›Increased access, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to further and higher education.

Older people are benefiting from:

- ›The Minimum Income Guarantee of £78 a week for a single person, over £121 for a couple, now rising in line with earnings.
- ›A five-fold increase in the Winter Fuel Payment to £100 and the new Warm Deal Scheme to help conserve energy and reduce bills.
- ›The restoration of free eye tests and free TV licenses for over 75s.

Looking to the future - a Scotland where **everyone** matters

As we enter the 21st Century every Scottish citizen deserves freedom from poverty and equality of opportunity.

The creation of Scotland's Parliament demands that we stand back and reflect on the sort of Scotland we can build. If we are to build a Scotland characterised by fairness and justice we need to be willing to measure our successes and face up to our failures.

This report sets ambitious targets. Building a new Scotland characterised by fairness and justice may take a generation. But by moving beyond endless analysis and the development of strategies to taking action and setting targets, we can sign up all those committed to changing our country for the better.

This report does just that. Scotland now has a set of targets against which to measure year by year through an Annual Scottish Social Justice Report whether we are living up to our promises.

Working together

Scotland now has a Scottish Executive and a UK Government, defined by its commitments to combining enterprise with social justice, high and stable employment and the ending of child poverty within a generation. These are shared objectives, which the Scottish Executive will deliver in partnership with the UK Government.

The main driver of poverty over the last 20 years has been worklessness. But already in two short years, long-term youth unemployment in Scotland is down 60% and long-term unemployment is down 40%. Our success in achieving economic stability has created the basis for sustainable growth, the alleviation of poverty and a far-reaching attack on the root causes of social injustice. It is now possible for the UK Government and the Scottish Executive to work together to deliver social justice in Scotland:

- › getting people back to work
- › investing in children
- › tackling pensioner poverty

Sound economic management provides the foundations for our policies for creating opportunities to work and modernising the tax and benefits system to provide work for those who can and security for those who cannot. We can only deliver our vision if we commit to a modernised welfare state and modernised government.

The Scottish Executive - with our responsibilities for education, health, environment and housing has a responsibility to concentrate on tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. We are putting in place a range of new programmes from Family Centres to New Community Schools to measures to tackle fuel poverty. We are building a safe, clean environment in which to live. But social justice is about more. We also have to challenge systems that promote injustice and which stop people playing a full role in their families, their communities and Scotland.

People and places

Too often past strategies to tackle poverty and injustice in Scotland have been more about places than they have been about people. Both matter - and so to keep our focus on the *people* of Scotland we have chosen the lifecycle as the way to set targets. How we grow up. How we live. How we work. How we raise families. How we grow old. By targeting poverty and injustice in each phase of our lifecycle, we can stop deprivation becoming a way of life and being passed on through the generations.

Our communities need to be supported to be able to take more ownership of their own destinies. Too many Scottish communities and neighbourhoods are isolated and disadvantaged, or in danger of becoming so. We believe that every community matters and we need to work together with them to plan for a more inclusive future.

Our dual emphasis is reflected in this report as we set targets and milestones for people and places.

A modern Government for a modern age

We can only deliver social justice if we commit to modern, effective government, which promotes social justice across each area of government policy and practice. And achieving our targets will be about more than how much we spend. It will be about how we spend, whom we work with and how we organise for change.

All the research on tackling injustice points to the need for connected milestones and actions to achieve social justice. We recognise that our targets cannot be achieved by our action alone. They are targets for us all to aim for, working in partnership - the Scottish Executive, other national agencies, local government, the NHS and the voluntary, community and private sectors, working alongside a UK Government that shares our aspirations.

Throughout, our targets are focused on people and changing their lives. Governments, agencies and organisations can provide the conditions, but success will be about people's lives changing. It is a challenge for the whole of Scotland.

›The targets outlined in this document are designed to last.

›To endure beyond any one administration.

›To act as a benchmark against which Scotland can measure its success.

One hundred years ago, progressive politicians from various traditions laid out their vision for a different Scotland. Their challenges around public health, decent housing, the right to education, to work and fairness at work and for universal suffrage were right for their time. Scotland's Parliament should be no less ambitious in our time.

every child matters



LONG TERM TARGETS

Defeat child poverty in Scotland within this generation

All children in Scotland can read, write and count to a level appropriate for their ability on leaving primary school

OUR VISION

A Scotland in which **every child matters**, where every child, regardless of their family background, has the best possible start in life

Too many of our people have been born into poverty, grown up in poverty and died in poverty. This will only change with determined action.

Too many of our children are held back by not having access to opportunities to grow, learn and play in a safe and healthy environment. By the time they leave primary school, too many of our children are unable to read, write and count to a satisfactory level, or even possess the basic life-skills that they will need.

And this poverty of experience and opportunity is more likely to be passed on to the next generation.

Our historic challenge is to break this obscene cycle of deprivation. We will focus our action now on the health and welfare of babies and young children; the early life-skills of young children; and improving children's experience of learning at primary school. By combating family poverty, we will make sure no child lives in poverty and suffers from unequal opportunities.



MILESTONES

›Reducing the proportion of our children living in workless households

›Reducing the proportion of our children living in low income households

›Increasing the proportions of our children who attain the appropriate levels in reading, writing and maths by the end of Primary 2 and Primary 7

›All of our children will have access to quality care and early learning before entering school

›Improving the well-being of our young children through reductions in the proportion of women smoking during pregnancy, the percentage of low birth-weight babies, dental decay among 5 year olds, and by increasing the proportion of women breastfeeding

›Reducing the number of households, and particularly families with children, living in temporary accommodation



every young person matters



OUR VISION A Scotland in which **every young person** has the opportunities, skills and support to make a successful transition to working life and active citizenship.



The early teens are the next make or break period in a person's life. By the age of 16, a significant proportion of our young people will have struggled to achieve basic entry-level qualifications demanded by a fast changing world of work.

Others will have become increasingly isolated or alienated, so by the time they leave their teens, they are in danger of entering a downward spiral of low paid, insecure work, or even dropping out completely.

We have to end this downward spiral. We have to narrow the gap in attainment for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. Our actions must help them access the same opportunities as others and reduce their isolation from mainstream activities - including schooling.

We want to focus support on the most vulnerable young people who are in greatest danger of becoming permanently excluded - Whether it is from difficult choices that anyone faces at this age or from particularly difficult circumstances some young people find themselves in.

LONG TERM TARGETS

Every young person leaves school with the maximum level of skills and qualifications possible.

Every 19 year old is engaged in education, training or work.



MILESTONES

➤ Halving the proportion of 16-19 year olds who are not in education, training or employment.

➤ All our young people leaving local authority care will have achieved at least English and Maths Standard Grades and have access to appropriate housing options.

➤ Bringing the poorest-performing 20% of pupils, in terms of Standard Grade achievement, closer to the performance of all pupils.

➤ Reducing by a third the days lost every year through exclusion from school and truancy.

➤ Improving the health of young people through reductions in smoking by 12-15 year olds, teenage pregnancies among 13-15 year olds and the rate of suicides among young people.

➤ No-one has to sleep rough.



every family matters

OUR VISION

A Scotland, in which **every family** is able to support itself - with work for those who can and security for those who can't.

Too many people are out of work or are in jobs that leave them in a vulnerable position and 'work-poor'. This means many families in Scotland are experiencing poverty, whilst others still experience isolation. Many barriers exist that prevent people from taking up working and learning opportunities. These barriers are not always economic - they can be barriers of health, barriers of learning, or barriers of personal circumstances.

We will deliver employment and income related policies by working together with the UK Government. We will focus our activity to make sure everyone is in a position to benefit from learning throughout their lives - whether academic, vocational or life-skills - as a person's ability to earn is closely connected to the level of skills and qualifications they have. And we will make sure that particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable groups can access increased opportunities, including access to a full range of services.

LONG TERM TARGETS

There will be full employment in Scotland.

Every one will be undertaking some form of learning to widen their knowledge and skills.



MILESTONES

› Reducing the proportion of unemployed working age people.

› Reducing the proportion of working age people with low incomes.

› Increasing the employment rates of groups, such as lone parents and ethnic minorities, that are relatively disadvantaged in the labour market.

› Increasing the proportion of students from under represented, disadvantaged groups and areas in higher education compared with the overall student population in higher education.

› Increasing the proportion of people with learning disabilities able to live at home or in a 'homely' environment.

› Improving the health of families by reducing smoking, alcohol misuse, poor diet and mortality rates from coronary heart disease.

every older person matters



OUR VISION

A Scotland in which every person beyond working age has a decent quality of life.

Too many older people in Scotland experience financial insecurity, isolation and poor access to services. This means that although people can expect to live longer now than in the past, the quality of life for many in retirement is not satisfying or enjoyable. Poor health, poor housing and a fear of crime can all limit an older person's independence and ability to participate in the life of their communities.

We will tackle poverty and injustice for older people in partnership with the UK Government. Actions on incomes and pensions will be underpinned with actions that improve access to better services and improve opportunities for older people to live secure and fulfilling lives, and make sure older people are able to maintain their dignity to provide a better quality of life.

LONG TERM TARGETS

Make sure older people are financially secure.

Increase the number of older people who enjoy active, independent and healthy lives.

MILESTONES

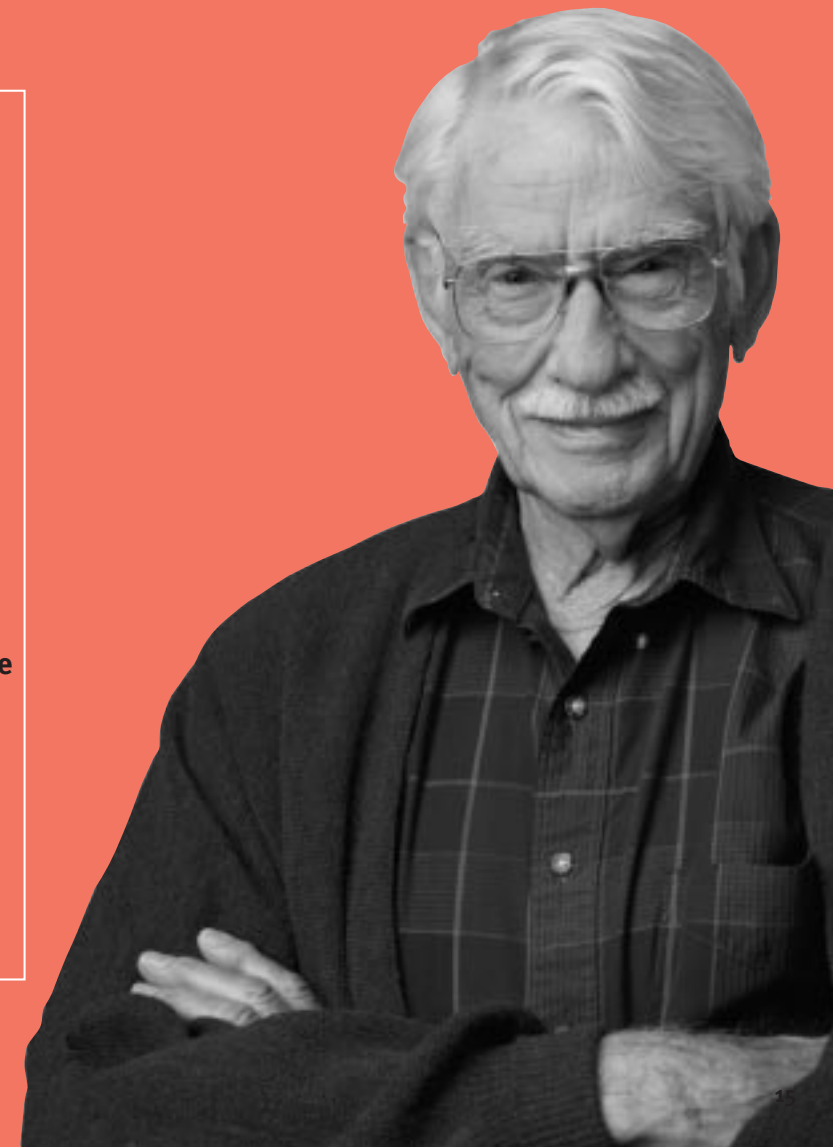
› **Reducing the proportion of older people with low incomes.**

› **Increasing the proportion of working age people contributing to a non-state pension.**

› **Increasing the proportion of older people able to live independently by doubling the proportion of older people receiving respite care at home and increasing home care opportunities.**

› **Increasing the number of older people taking exercise and reducing the rates of mortality from coronary heart disease and the prevalence of respiratory disease.**

› **Reducing the fear of crime among older people.**



every community matters

OUR VISION

A Scotland in which **every person** both contributes to, and benefits from the community in which they live

The strength and wellbeing of communities and neighbourhoods is vital because this is where we live together. And it is how we live together that can make or break a community. For too many of Scotland's communities, there is a concentration of linked problems - high unemployment, poor health, poor services, poor quality of environment, inadequate housing and high crime.

Scotland has some of the most disadvantaged communities in the UK. And it is not restricted to our urban areas. Our rural communities also face many obstacles because of isolation, lack of opportunities or

difficulty in accessing the opportunities that are available. We will tackle the problems in the worst of these areas and prevent others from becoming disadvantaged. We will do this through an integrated approach to strategic planning, involving communities in the renewal of their own neighbourhoods and by making sure these communities can influence what happens in their own area. We will make sure services, including health and community care, are organised around the needs of the individuals and communities rather than the benefit of the agencies which deliver those services.

LONG TERM TARGETS

Reduce inequalities between communities.

Increase residents' satisfaction with their neighbourhoods and communities.

MILESTONES

➤ Reducing the gap in unemployment rates between the worst areas and the average rate for Scotland.

➤ Reducing the incidence of drugs misuse in general and of injections and sharing of needles in particular.

➤ Reducing crime rates in disadvantaged areas.

➤ Increasing the quality and variety of homes in our most disadvantaged communities.

➤ Increasing the number of people from all communities taking part in voluntary activities.

➤ Accelerating the number of households in disadvantaged areas with access to the Internet.



Measuring our progress

Our milestones are intended to provide focus and therefore do not cover every aspect of our social justice programme. We have built on the work done by the Social Inclusion Network to develop a range of indicators after the launch of the Social Inclusion Strategy, extending it to cover the lifecycle theme, which concentrates our attention on people.

At the same time we are determined not to fall into the trap of being interested in only what we can measure. We don't have enough empirical knowledge about some areas. Indeed, we don't have enough information yet to know in all areas how big a change we need to achieve before people can see real progress.

To publish the first Annual Scottish Social Justice Report next year will require us to start new data collection now. But we do not only want to track problems. We also want to drive change. So we are also commissioning new research to tell us more about poverty in Scotland and to understand better how problems link and reinforce each other. Level of income is clearly a vital component of poverty but other factors also matter, and we will do more work to bring clarity and greater definition to increase our understanding.

These are long-term problems that need long-term targets. Because we need to know how we are progressing over time, we will monitor the milestones over the

term of the Parliament. The Annual Scottish Social Justice Report will track progress against the milestones.

The UK Government has a set of indicators that cover reserved matters. Some of these are particularly important in our understanding of the extent of social injustice in Scotland and we have included these within our milestones. The UK Government will lead on the data collection and analysis for these.

The technical document, which should be read alongside this report, gives more detail on how the targets and milestones will be measured and how new data collection will be managed.

Social justice and equal opportunities

We will promote equal opportunities and challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices.

Some groups within our society suffer persistent injustice. This is often caused and exacerbated by discrimination and prejudice. Women form a significant proportion of groups vulnerable to poverty, especially lone mothers and elderly women. People from minority ethnic communities and people with disabilities also suffer injustice or discrimination, and continue to encounter barriers to their full participation in employment and in society more generally. Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation restricts opportunities and contributes to

injustice. Age discrimination, too, means that society is failing to benefit from the skills and experiences of all its members.

We are working to make sure equal opportunities for all is part and parcel of all our programmes. Gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, age - these should not be allowed to affect choice and opportunity in the new Scotland.

Social justice and expenditure

Delivering social justice will involve people, places and processes. It will require new ideas, organisations, professional perspectives and community commitments. But it will also need a more effective rethink of how to allocate and use public budgets. Here we describe how we have begun to develop such budgetary systems within the Scottish Executive and the discussions we have begun with other social partners.

Clearly the long-term targets and milestones set out here will both shape, and be shaped, by public, expenditure decisions at UK and Scottish levels. But it is not simply the amounts of money involved in particular programmes and places, which will help deliver the outcomes we want. Rather the ways in which budgets are integrated across sectors such as education, health and housing, targeted between places and people, and spent in line with community preferences also matter. We are aiming for a budgetary system that is driven more by local requirements and preferences rather than the

traditional vertical structures or 'silos' of government.

Our commitment to transparency and accountability in budgets has to be matched by a desire to make expenditures effective and relevant to the problems perceived and experienced by particular communities and groups. Three areas of change are being explored.

The budgetary system

The budgetary system, which allocates public expenditure to particular spending programmes is traditionally planned and implemented within single government departments. Yet achieving social justice requires actions that involve programmes spanning more than one department. A start was made on this during the Comprehensive Spending Review which plans up to 2001-02 but we will need to build on this during the review process next year which will set plans for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. For the Scottish Executive to tackle complex issues, such as poverty, in more effective ways, the process will have to ensure departments prioritise activities that support disadvantaged individuals and areas -poverty proofing- and encourage cross-departmental working. Programme integration starts at the top of the spending process.

Integrated local actions

Integrated local actions, often involving expenditures by different government agencies and a range of council departments, are now essential aspects of partnerships to promote area regeneration and individual wellbeing. Partnership action may be frustrated however by local budgetary processes. In some instances the localised mix of available budgets may not match the required pattern of spend within the project, even where the overall funds would meet strategic requirements. That is, there are localised mismatches in the mix of budgets and its alignment with the problems. There may also be instances where some critical issue blocks local progress yet none of the partners has relevant spending powers.

We are examining ways in which partners in integrated projects may be able to co-fund such action, for example by re-allocating a limited share of their local budgets to partnership funds or to other partners, as illustrated in BOX A. This local flexibility has to be matched to overall agency accountability but local blending of spend should be part of the tool kit available to local organisations in the future.

Community expenditure patterns

Community expenditure patterns matter. In recent years we have learned more about the patterns and consequences of measures to promote neighbourhood regeneration. Even when the direct spending on regeneration initiatives is significant, it is only a small part of the overall actions that shape the quality of places and the lives of those who live there. We know that mainstream programme expenditures and services, such as education, social security and health provision, may often be the key government influences on localised wellbeing.

One way of improving spending decisions by agencies and of giving communities a greater say is to produce detailed information on local spending patterns. Some pilot studies have already been undertaken in Scotland, see Box B. Our intention is to further improve the method for producing such figures and, in due course, produce total spending budgets for all of the area-based Social Inclusion Partnerships.

Social justice and personalised services

The Modernising Government programme is the Government's commitment for modernising the country's public services. One of its main aims is to deliver public services to meet the needs of citizens, not the convenience of service providers. Harnessing new technologies for the benefit of people will help achieve this.

Pilots such as ONE, which brings together the Benefits Agency, Employment Service and departments of local authorities, show how people-centred services can work to the benefit of the individual, assisting with work and job-readiness as well as claim making.

We recognise the crucial importance to Scotland's economic and social wellbeing of making full use of digital information and communications technology to deliver modern and efficient public services. We believe every community and individual in Scotland should have high quality access to digital technology and information no matter where they live or what their circumstances. The work of the Digital Scotland Ministerial Committee and the Digital Scotland Task Force will co-ordinate action and help to create the conditions where Scotland can use leading edge technology to put people first.

Box A Care in the community

We expect £140 million to be transferred from Health Boards to local authority social work departments and the voluntary sector to help them provide care in the community for people who were previously in long-stay hospitals. This contribution is designed to enable people to live in their own homes, or in a homely setting, as part of the community. The creation of Community Care Trusts in Grampian and Angus are examples of local initiatives. These pool statutory agencies' resources to lever external finance and develop social care, health and housing services in the community.

Box B Identifying locality spending

Two pilots have been carried out to identify the spending by all the various public sector organisations in an area.

› **In Greater Easterhouse spending by all the Council Departments and by other organisations involved in the Greater Easterhouse Partnership (including Greater Glasgow Health Board and Scottish Homes) has been identified and added up. It amounts to over £100 million every year.**

› **In West Edinburgh the financial inputs for key activities has been identified, including lifelong learning, community care and developing the local economy. The revenue expenditure from public services in West Edinburgh amounts to £44 million and capital expenditure almost £6 million per year.**

Further work to refine the methodologies will be carried out, including how to access information on services from outside the area. This approach should provide the information needed to help communities and local agencies ensure they get the most benefit from the resources invested.

OUR VISION FOR DELIVERING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SCOTLAND

A Scotland in which **every child matters**, where every child, regardless of their family background, has the best possible start in life.

A Scotland in which **every young person** has the opportunities, skills and support to make a successful transition to working life and active citizenship.

A Scotland, in which **every family** is able to support itself - with work for those who can and security for those who can't.

A Scotland in which **every person beyond working age** has a decent quality of life.

A Scotland in which **every person** both contributes to and benefits from the community in which they live.

The way forward

Here we have set out our vision and long term targets for social justice in Scotland and we have provided focus by setting out milestones that will mark progress towards these. It will be essential that we develop our budgetary processes and use of public resources in a way that sets delivering social justice at the heart of all our priorities.

In the spring we shall be publishing our Action Plan. Here we shall set out how we will begin to deliver our objective of social justice and defeating child poverty in Scotland. We will set out our programmes along with those from across departments and agencies that show how all the actions come together to achieve our common aim. All of these actions together build on the foundations laid down by the UK Government to tackle poverty and inequality of opportunity.

The first Annual Scottish Social Justice Report will follow - and we will monitor progress annually thereafter.

By setting down the statement of what everyone in Scotland deserves we can begin to tackle the difference between what we aspire to and what we experience. Over time as we work together, develop new policies and initiatives, and monitor progress towards our vision we will have a real and lasting effect in Scotland.

Delivering social justice is no short-term fix. But with a UK Government and Scottish Executive working in partnership now we have the opportunity to deliver a better future for our children, families, neighbourhoods and Scotland.

Our vision of a Scotland where everyone has the opportunity to participate to the maximum of his or her potential will require sustained effort over many years. But with determination and a readiness to embrace social justice as a common, central goal of Scottish society, it can be achieved.





SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Making it **work together**

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The document is also available on the Scottish Executive website www.scotland.gov.uk/inclusion or by contacting Susan Haddon, Scottish Executive, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ