

CHILD POVERTY

We're continuing to act on child poverty. Here's what we've been doing – and our next steps.

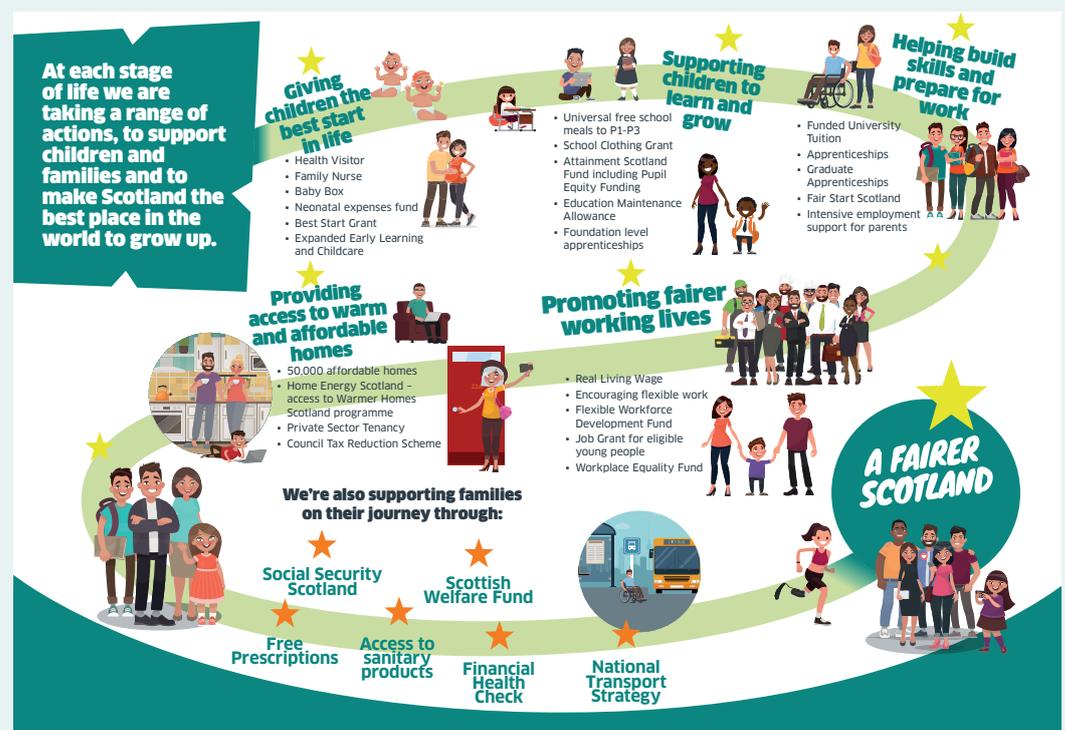
AROUND ONE IN FOUR children in Scotland lives in poverty. We find this figure unacceptable, especially in a modern, thriving country like ours. That's why we are working hard to reduce child poverty.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets in statute ambitious targets to significantly reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The Act also establishes a robust framework requiring regular delivery plans to be published alongside annual reports on progress made to deliver on the targets both at a national and local level.

In 2018 we published the first Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, *Every Child, Every Chance*. This plan outlined the actions that will be taken to tackle the key drivers of child poverty. In June 2019 we published our first progress report outlining progress we've made across each of the actions.

What we're doing

In late 2018 we launched the Money Talk Team Service, offering one-stop, personalised advice to ensure people can maximise their income and access the best value goods and services.



The service – available through a freephone telephone number (0800 085 7145) or in person at Citizens Advice Bureaux – covers things such as benefit uptake, access to free school meals, school clothing grants, council tax reduction uptake and how to find cheaper deals on energy and other utilities.

Up to January 2020, the service has supported over 15,000 people and realised over £13 million in financial gains for clients.

This year we're introducing the new Scottish Child Payment, worth £10 per

week, for low-income families with a child under six. We're prioritising this age group because evidence shows that almost 60% of children in poverty live in a family with a child of six and under.

We are continuing to invest in the massive expansion of funded early learning and childcare. Funded hours will increase from 600 to 1,140 hours for all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds, by the end of August, 2020.

We're also investing an additional £7 million in the Parental Employability

Support Fund this year. This extra funding will provide employability support for parents both in and out of work and improve links between local employability services and the expansion of early learning and childcare in all 32 councils in Scotland.

Next steps

Our next progress report is due in June. Meanwhile the first payments from the Scottish Child Payment will be made by Christmas.

Read more: www.gov.scot/policies/poverty-and-social-justice/child-poverty/

