

Best Start, Bright Futures Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026

Annex 5

March 2022

Introduction

Each new or significantly refocused intervention featured as part of [the second Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#) is analysed here.

We show how each policy links to the targets, via the drivers of child poverty. We describe the type of impact anticipated, and the numbers of people or households impacted. We also indicate where policies are linked to particular outcomes for a priority group as well as showing how progress will be monitored and/or evaluated.

This analytical structure ensures consistency and transparency, and provides a clear explanation of how our assessment of the impact on child poverty has been arrived at.

While [the Plan](#) includes mention of many policies, we have only assessed for impact those policies that are either newly introduced or significantly amended. As such, each page of this document focuses on each of those policies. Furthermore, we are only including policies that directly link to one of the three drivers of poverty. That is, income from employment, cost of living or income from social security/benefits in-kind. In addition, however, there are some policies that aim to enhanced life chances for individuals or families, with the ultimate aim of impacting on one of the drivers of poverty. We have added an extra box to reflect this policy aim.

The list of policies included in this annex are:

Part A: Providing the opportunities and integrated support parents need to enter, sustain and progress in work

- Parental Work Offer
- Social Innovation Partnership
- Accessible Financial Advice
- Health Visitor Advice Commitment
- Early Learning and Childcare, School age childcare and holiday childcare
- Scottish Carer's Assistance
- Connecting Scotland
- Transport – (Affordability, Accessibility and Inclusiveness)

Part B: Maximising the support available for families to live dignified lives and meet their basic needs

- Whole Family Wellbeing Fund
- Scottish Child Payment
- Best Start Foods
- Best Start Grant
- Affordable Homes
- Gypsy/traveller Accommodation Fund
- Benefit Cap support through discretionary housing payments
- Tackling Fuel Poverty
- Low-income Winter Heating Assistance
- Child Winter Heating Assistance

Part C: Supporting the next generation to thrive

- Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
- Scottish Attainment Challenge
- Education Maintenance Allowance
- Scottish Welfare Fund

Employability Offer to Parents

The employability offer to parents is designed to bring together a range of services and support, including employability, childcare, health, transport and family wellbeing. There are two main objectives: one is to reduce out of work poverty by supporting unemployed and inactive parents/carers into work. The other is to reduce in-work poverty, by supporting parents who are in work to increase their wages and/or hours. The parental offer aims to provide a menu of support for every parent, which would be applied based on the need and circumstances of the individual parent/family.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
The ambition of the 'out-of-work' package is to reach around 51,000 parents, with an aim to ultimately move up to 10,000 into sustained work. In addition, the 'in-work' package ambition is to reach around 34,000 parents, with the aim to ultimately support up to 3,000 to increase their earnings ¹ . Across all of employability related policies (for example SIPs, challenge fund, work with employers and partners) we will be working to stretch this ambition to support up to 12,000 parents to access and sustain employment as a result of actions taken over the lifetime of the plan.	Direct impact through increasing income from employment.	Estimates derived from best available data from similar programmes, with estimated improvements to conversion rates to sustained outcomes based on possible improvements in performance resulting from the integrated approach. A small lag in outcomes (for both in and out of work support) and some attrition (out of work support only) was assumed. However, these estimates are highly optimistic and outcomes may well be achieved later and/ or at lower rates.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby < 1

Mothers aged <25

The proposition will aim to target unemployed and inactive parents/carers and also those already employed but still in poverty. Delivery will be channelled through the infrastructure already in place for No one Left Behind across the 32 local authorities. The menu of support would be the same for every parent, but applied based on the need and circumstances of the individual parent or family unit.

Tracking progress

A monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed. We will ensure that this aligns appropriately with ongoing and planned monitoring and evaluation activity in the employability area, for instance around the [Shared Measurement Framework](#), [No One Left Behind](#) and the [Young Person's Guarantee](#).

¹ Not all of these outcome estimates will be achieved within the period of the plan

Social Innovation Partnership (SIP)

The SIP's wellbeing and capabilities approach to policy and practice tackles poverty and inequality by supporting people to live flourishing lives, based on what matters to them, through more person centred and holistic responses.

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
SIP partners currently reach thousands of people with varying levels of need, including children and families. They operate across the country offering a wide range of support activities. For example they are estimating to reach 15,000 care experienced and disadvantaged young people through the Scottish Mentoring and Leadership programme, and a range of SIP projects will support over 3,000 parents through their Flourishing Lives programme to move towards sustained work and other positive destinations during the plan period.	The SIP consists of various partners delivering a range of support activities which may variously affect any of the three drivers. For instance, flexible childcare services can impact upon a parent's ability to find suitable work, increasing earnings from wages. Other areas of SIP work have impact through less direct mechanisms; for instance, building confidence and social skills so that people are able to engage with services and institutions. Some partners work directly with young people to support them so they do not themselves become parents/carers in poverty.	The learning partner to the SIP (I-SPHERE) has confirmed there is positive impact on outcomes through the SIP's wellbeing and capabilities approach and some individual partners have independent evaluations of their particular approaches. This may not translate into child poverty reduction in the short or medium term.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Partners take various approaches to engaging with beneficiaries including through referrals from the public sector, being embedded in schools, and in their local communities. Some SIP partners work specifically with people in the priority groups with delivery models focused on women and their family's wellbeing, including financial inclusion, flexible working and flexible childcare. Another works with BAME individuals to support their employability needs.

Tracking progress

The learning partner will continue to track the impact of the SIP approach at the delivery and systems level. The next phase of the learning programme will focus in particular on understanding impact and change at the system level. Separate evaluation will be commissioned for the Scottish Mentoring & Leadership programme. The first outputs from I-SPHERE's work on impact are planned to be published in May 2022.

Accessible Financial Advice

To enhance access to financial advice and support, in places where families already go. This commitment builds on the Healthier Wealthier Children policy that was in the first delivery plan. The policy aims to expand partnership working in different health settings, along with education settings and wider community settings.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
This policy is still in development and scale of impact has not yet been modelled. However, in aiming to make financial advice more accessible, the intent is to reach as many households as possible.	Increased access to financial advice impacts upon income from social security as people can find out to what they are entitled and how to apply. More general money management advice can impact on cost of living.	The policy is currently being developed and it is too early to state.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

This policy is targeted at families in poverty and on low incomes and aims to provide easier access to advice services. Services will be designed to ensure priority family groups are reached as part of this.

Tracking progress

The policy is still in development but evaluation will be built into the work to enable impact measurement.

Health Visitor Advice Commitment

We will work with health visitors to build their confidence and competency in discussing financial circumstances with all families and understanding the individual barriers to accessing the support they are entitled to.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
The target group are pregnant women and families with young children who are on the Universal health visitor pathway. The aim is to roll this out across Scotland by the end of 2024. Health visitors see around 45,000 new parents every year and around 250,000 families on their service from 0-5 overall (of these about a quarter will require more intensive support).	Increased access to financial advice impacts upon income from social security as people can find out to what they are entitled and how to apply. More general money management advice can impact on cost of living.	Relatively confident that the policy could have an impact at scale on families with young children.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Pregnant women and families with young children who are on the Universal health visitor pathway.

Tracking progress

We will create a CPD plan which will show the level of training. We will look to test policy into practice through adding questions to local evaluations on whether families with young children feel more supported. This will be part of the follow up actions from recommendations from the [Health Visiting Pathway Evaluation](#) carried out in 2021.

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), school age childcare and holiday childcare

To build on the expanded universally accessible offer of 1140 hours of high quality ELC to realise outcomes for children and their families long-term. Both funded ELC and the new school age childcare offer will make a contribution to child poverty through their impact on household finances and through help to support parents into employment.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
With the increase to 1140 hours of funded ELC, eligible households currently save up to £4,900 per child per year. It is estimated that around a quarter of children eligible for the universal ELC offer live in relative poverty.	Direct impact through reducing costs of living. Indirect impact on boosting income from employment.	Childcare policies make a contribution to reducing household costs and are an important enabler for allowing parents to work.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Funded ELC is a universal policy for all three and four year olds and has a targeted element for around a quarter of two year olds (those whose parents are in receipt of certain low or no income benefits; for children in care and; children of parents with care experience). The development of a school age childcare offer will be available for all children, however the commitment that those on the lowest incomes will pay nothing will make a specific contribution to children living in poverty. The 2022 summer holiday programme providing coordinated access to food, childcare and activities is specifically targeted towards children from the priority family groups.

Tracking progress

The 1140 monitoring and evaluation strategy will set out the approach to evaluating the contribution that ELC makes to outcomes around parental employability. The economic evaluation of 1140 is also likely to focus on the impact of the policy on household income and parental employment. Evaluation of the new policy for one and two year olds will be developed alongside the policy design. Monitoring and evaluation plans for the school age childcare offer still require to be developed.

Scottish Carer's Assistance including Carer's Additional Person Payment

To provide consistent support for unpaid carers to allow them to continue caring, if they wish to, in good health and wellbeing, allowing for a life outside of caring. Replaces Carer's Allowance.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
Over 80,000 unpaid carers currently receive Carer's Allowance. Proposals for Scottish Carer's Assistance will expand the number of people who may benefit in future. Carer's Additional Person Payment will support carers in receipt of Scottish Carer's Assistance who are caring for more than one person who is getting a disability benefit.	Direct impact upon carers through social security payment, providing extra financial support to carers, which also impacts upon those for whom they care.	Uncertain of <i>direct</i> benefits on child poverty; further actions will be considered to effectively evaluate the impact on poverty as part of wider evaluation.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Targeted at unpaid carers of people getting disability benefits, particularly carers with the most intensive roles, who tend to be on lower incomes. It is estimated that around 90% of those who receive the current Carer's Allowance benefit live in a household with a disabled person. Lone parent families are estimated to account for around 11.5% of recipients. Data on the proportion of recipients who have children or fall into each of the other priority categories is not available, although around a quarter of CA recipients are caring for a disabled child. The benefits are not specifically targeted at children in or at risk of poverty, but are targeted at those on lower incomes and may benefit a number of people in the priority families. Take-up of Scottish Carer's Assistance will be difficult to measure as the criteria mean it is challenging to work out the number of those eligible who do not apply. However, Scottish Government is committed to maximising carers' take-up of all available support as identified by our [Benefit Take-up Strategy](#).

Tracking progress

The reach of the benefit will be monitored using Social Security Scotland statistics. A broader range of equality information will be collected for Scottish Carer's Assistance than for Carer's Allowance. The planned evaluation approach for the benefit will be similar to that set out in the [evaluation strategy](#) for devolved benefit. This is likely to include commissioned qualitative research with carers and quantitative research making use of available data gathered by Social Security Scotland.

Affordable Transport

Supporting work to address the affordability challenges of transport for families living in poverty; includes Free Bikes scheme for school children, under 22s bus travel and Fair Fares Review (FFR) which will assess the range of discounts and concessionary schemes. Affordable transport options facilitate access to education, employment, training and other essential services.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
Initial baseline work for the Free Bikes initiative suggests between 80,000 and 120,000 children of school age will benefit. All young people aged 5-21 are eligible for the under 22's bus scheme and have the potential to benefit from it. The scheme is estimated to extend free bus travel to up to 930,000 children and young people.	Affordable transport is intended to provide people greater access to education, employment and essential services which can enhance income from employment. Low fares and reduced car journeys can impact positively on the cost of living.	Research is being commissioned to explore the relationship between independent cycle travel for school children, and the parent/guardian's increased access to employment hours. People in lower income households use bus services more frequently and so children, families and households in or at risk of poverty are expected to experience the greatest relative benefit.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

The FFR is targeted across all households. The Free Bikes and Under 22s Scheme are explicitly targeted at children and young people. Free Bikes is targeted at school aged children between 4 and 18, with separate consideration for those requiring adapted bikes due to additional needs. Free travel for under 22s will benefit larger families. Eligibility for Free Bikes will be determined by a child poverty metric yet to be confirmed. All people aged 5-21 are eligible to apply for a card enabling free bus travel, though not all will take it up.

Tracking progress

The [National Transport Strategy Delivery Plan](#) (NTS2) sets out how the strategy will be delivered and the transport child poverty commitments for transport will be captured under the Plan. There are regular updates on NTS2 actions providing detail on how the priorities and outcomes will be achieved, and how they align with wider SG delivery plans, such as the Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

Transport – Accessibility and Connectivity

Increase the availability and connectivity of buses whilst keeping fares lower by subsidising operators.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
The policy is targeted at all households. Specific modelling for child poverty has not been undertaken.	Maintaining lower fares has a direct impact on reducing household costs. Increasing the availability and connectivity of buses helps to improve access to work, education, and healthcare for all households, including those in poverty. This can in turn help to increase earnings from work.	Confident of positive impact given that people from lower income households are more frequent bus users.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

The transport availability package is targeted at all households, but the demographics of bus users mean that it will have a greater impact on low-income households. [Data from the Scottish Household Survey](#) shows BAME individuals, and disabled people are more likely to use buses.

Tracking progress

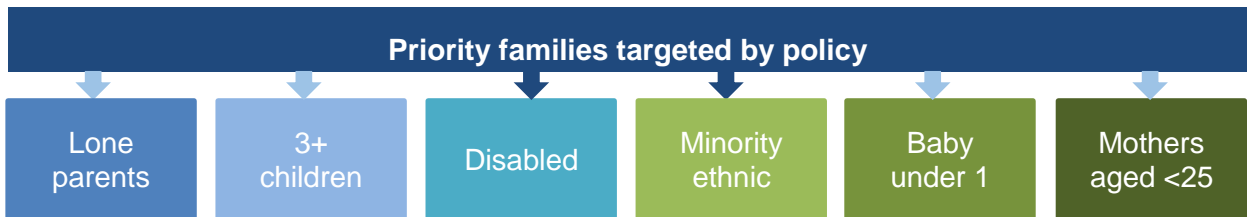
The [National Transport Strategy Delivery Plan](#) (NTS2) sets out how the strategy will be delivered and the transport child poverty commitments for transport will be captured under the Plan. There are regular updates on NTS2 actions providing detail on how the priorities and outcomes will be achieved, and how they align with wider SG delivery plans, such as the Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

Transport – Inclusiveness (improving passenger information)

Supporting work to address the inclusiveness challenges of transport for families living in poverty. The Improving Passenger Information initiative will look to provide people with as much information as possible, including information on fares and connections, in advance, to plan out transport and travel requirements.



Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
As the package is not a policy primarily aimed at tackling child poverty, we have not modelled the scale of the impact on the target groups. The package is aimed at all households so potentially wide-reaching.	Research by the Poverty and Inequality Commission in 2019, found that poor travel connections and the expense of multiple tickets are common transport barriers for families living in poverty. Having more accessible information allows people to make potential savings by choosing the best rates and options and planning journeys accordingly. This may have a secondary effect on people’s access to work, education and services.	Confident of positive impact given that people from lower income households are more frequent bus users.



The aim is to improve public transport information for all passengers. The open data information service needs to be the reliable ‘one true source’ of Scottish travel data for onward use, acting as an enabler for people looking to use more sustainable travel options than the car.

Tracking progress

The [National Transport Strategy Delivery Plan](#) (NTS2) sets out how the strategy will be delivered and the transport child poverty commitments for transport will be captured under the Plan. There are regular updates on NTS2 actions providing detail on how the priorities and outcomes will be achieved, and how they align with wider SG delivery plans, such as the Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

Connecting Scotland

To close the digital divide, by bringing digitally excluded people online. By initially focussing on child poverty priority families, the programme can unlock the best value of digital inclusion, maximising the return on investment in areas such as employability and skills, income maximisation and health.

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
To bring up to 300,000 people online through Connecting Scotland and eligibility will initially be targeted specifically at child poverty priority families.	Digital inclusion impacts directly on each of the drivers of child poverty. Use of the internet makes it easier to: find out about and apply for benefits; search and apply for jobs, as well as develop the digital skills needed for work; minimise the 'poverty premium' by being able to shop around for cheaper products and services.	The benefits of digital inclusion are widely recognised and increasingly important. Evidence from earlier rounds of Connecting Scotland indicate positive outcomes for device recipients and our existing evaluation framework will be adapted to be able to report the benefits realised for priority families of maximising income from earnings and benefits, and reducing household costs.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

The existing reporting framework will track devices and internet connection delivered to families to demonstrate uptake. Representatives from the priority groups will be actively involved in the design of the future service.

Tracking progress

Connecting Scotland has an evaluation framework in place that tracks the benefits reported by its customers using surveys and interviews delivered periodically to each cohort being supported. This framework will be built on to measure interventions in terms of whether the target groups are being reached, the extent to which they are engaging online and any positive outcomes realised from being digitally supported.

Whole Family Wellbeing Funding

To enable a transformation shift in the way family support services are delivered from crisis intervention to preventive support that is wrapped around the individual needs of families. This change will support our ambition to significantly reduce the number of children and young people in care by 2030. The fund forms a key element of the Scottish Government response to keep [the Promise](#).

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
System wide enhancement	Indirect impact through system wide change in delivery	Explorative

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

The changes sought from the fund are system-wide in nature to ensure that the right support is in place for all children, young people and the adults that care for them. All families in need of support will be targeted. All priority families will be included.

Tracking progress

The evaluation approaches for the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding are currently under development, with input from stakeholders and The Promise Scotland. Governance arrangements are in place for the 2022-23 Whole Family Wellbeing Funding to provide oversight and ensure the approach to evaluation covers appropriate outcomes. Learning from 2022-23 will influence governance arrangements and evaluation approaches for future years.

Scottish Child Payment

To tackle child poverty by providing direct financial support to families with eligible children.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
SCP is available to all who are eligible (through a qualifying benefit). It is forecast that over 300,000 children will receive payments for each of the next five years.	Increasing income through benefits aims to directly reduce rates of child poverty.	As all of the people benefiting from Scottish Child Payment live in households in receipt of low income benefits, the policy is considered to be well targeted at families in poverty or at risk of poverty. Internal modelling estimates that a £25 Scottish Child Payment could reduce the relative child poverty rate (after housing costs) by 5 percentage points in 2023/24

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

All households with children with a parent or carer on a qualifying benefit can apply for SCP. There is no cap on the number of eligible children. The application process has been designed to reflect the needs of the priority groups. For example, offering a streamlined application process with other benefits (best start) is more convenient for households with a child under 1, and providing a range of accessible formats and languages increases uptake.

Tracking progress

Social Security Scotland publishes quarterly [statistics on applications and payments for Scottish Child Payment](#). An interim evaluation gathered information on the immediate impacts on wellbeing and financial stability. Findings will be shared later this year (2022). Further evaluation will be carried out after full roll-out of the payment.

Best Start Foods

The policy seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of children in Scotland by ensuring low-income families can access the healthy foods that some may otherwise struggle to afford.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
It is anticipated that around 67,000-69,000 payments will be made annually over the period of the plan once the income thresholds have been removed.	Direct impact through increasing income from social security and thus reducing cost of living for the family.	In combination with other support (such as the Scottish Child Payment) it is anticipated to help achieve targets.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

The policy targets pregnant women and families with a child under the age of three who are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. There is no limit on the number of children. Children aged under three, with British citizenship, and whose parent or guardian meets the financial eligibility criteria but do not have a qualifying benefit due to having no recourse to public funds are also eligible for support. Young mothers under 18 are automatically entitled, without the need for a qualifying benefit. Once they turn 18, they will continue to be eligible for Best Start Foods during pregnancy and can claim up until the child turns one. To maximise take up, a single form can be used to apply for Best Start Foods, Best Start Grant and Scottish Child Payment. Social Security Scotland has taken a proactive approach and has written to families directly inviting them to apply. Information can be obtained from DWP and HMRC to identify families who may be eligible.

Tracking progress

Social Security Scotland currently publishes [statistics on applications and payments for Best Start Foods](#). Best Start Foods is being evaluated in accordance with the principles set out in the Social Security [evaluation strategy](#) published in November 2019. The evaluation will be published in Summer 2022.

Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant aims to help tackle the impacts of child poverty by giving eligible families additional money when their children make transitions in the early years, adding to the family budget and avoiding the need for borrowing. This policy replaces the Sure Start Maternity Grant in Scotland.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
It is estimated that between 57,200 and 58,800 payments will be made annually over the period of the plan.	Direct impact through increasing income from social security.	Interim evaluation showed that the payments eased financial strain on low income families, prevented some families from going into debt, and led to positive outcomes for child and parent alike.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

The target group is low income families (with a pregnant women or a young child) in receipt of a qualifying benefit. Under 18s, and 18 and 19 year olds who are still dependent on someone are automatically entitled, without the need for a qualifying benefit. To maximise take up, a single form can be used to apply for Best Start Foods, Best Start Grant and Scottish Child Payment. Social Security Scotland has taken a proactive approach and has written to families directly inviting them to apply. Information can be obtained from DWP and HMRC to identify families who may be eligible.

Tracking progress

Social Security Scotland publishes [statistics on applications and payments for Best Start Grant](#). Best Start Grant is being evaluated in accordance with the principles set out in the Social Security [evaluation strategy](#). The [interim evaluation](#) was published in December 2020. Policy impact is identified using a “theory of change”. The evaluation gathered information on the immediate impacts on wellbeing and financial stability. A final evaluation will be undertaken in 2024 and will look at the impacts where all three Best Start Grant payments were received for a child.

Affordable Homes

Increase the supply of affordable housing and further strengthen housing planning process with a strong focus on housing needs by size and location to ensure that larger family homes are delivered where they are required.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
The Scottish Government has a clear commitment to deliver 110,000 affordable homes by 2032, of which at least 70% will be available for social rent and 10% will be in our remote, rural and island communities. Around a third of affordable housing supply households will have children.	Increasing the availability of affordable housing with rents lower than market rent, particularly in the social sector, can help decrease the amount of income spent on housing. For those households who receive housing benefit or the housing element of universal credit (who constitute between a quarter and a third of all households in the private rented sector), the benefit of lower rents may be offset by lower benefit income. They will still benefit to some extent from lower rents unless all of their private rents had been covered by their housing entitlement. We will also increase the supply of affordable homes for larger households, where these are required, as well as homes that have been delivered to Housing for Varying Needs standards.	Confident of positive impact where families obtain social housing.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

All low income households. Not specifically targeted at priority family groups, however, there will be a strong focus on housing needs by size and location to ensure that larger family homes are delivered where they are required.

Tracking progress

For the Affordable Housing Supply Programme, we will report on progress with delivering the 110,000 affordable homes target; the estimated number of households with children who have been helped into affordable housing; the number of social/mid-market homes for larger households that have been delivered, and the number of homes that have been delivered to Housing for Varying Needs standards.

Gypsy/traveller accommodation fund

To deliver more and better Gypsy/Traveller accommodation and improve living conditions for Gypsy/Travellers. Gypsy/Travellers have poorer outcomes than settled people across health, education, life expectancy etc. Child poverty is a subsidiary objective and not an explicit outcome for the Fund.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
There are 397 publicly provided Gypsy/Traveller pitches across 29 sites in Scotland. Projects funded in the first round are planned to improve standards on 76 pitches in 3 local authorities.	Indirect by improving living conditions which in turn are intended to lower costs of living and allow access to other support services/employment.	The Site Design Guide represents a very significant improvement in the quality of accommodation by comparison with current minimum standards for sites and responds to needs identified by residents. It is therefore very likely to improve quality of life for residents, though direct impact on child poverty is unclear.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

All Gypsy/Travellers families on public sector sites will benefit, however, not all will have children. The policy is particularly likely to reach families with three or more children, lone parent families, minority ethnic families and families with a disabled person.

Tracking progress

This is a new policy. We are in the process of developing an evaluation. The first stage will be to develop a theory of change, linking to outcomes for residents including child poverty.

Benefit cap support through discretionary housing payments (DHPs)

This policy aims to provide support to households whose benefit entitlements have been reduced by the benefit cap. The same benefit cap level is applied to both families and couples without children, meaning families suffer more stress due to higher costs.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
We know that around 97% of the households impacted by the cap are families with children, with lone parent families disproportionately impacted, losing an average of £208 per month as of August 2021.	Discretionary housing payments (DHPs) are distributed by local authorities to households in receipt of housing benefit, or the housing element of Universal Credit who are struggling with housing costs. Benefit cap mitigation is one of the permitted uses of DHPs.	DHPs would directly support households with the cost of housing where their benefits have been capped. Data from DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) on the effect on eligibility of the removal of the £20 per week uplift to universal credit is not yet available so exact estimates of numbers of houses capped is not yet possible.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

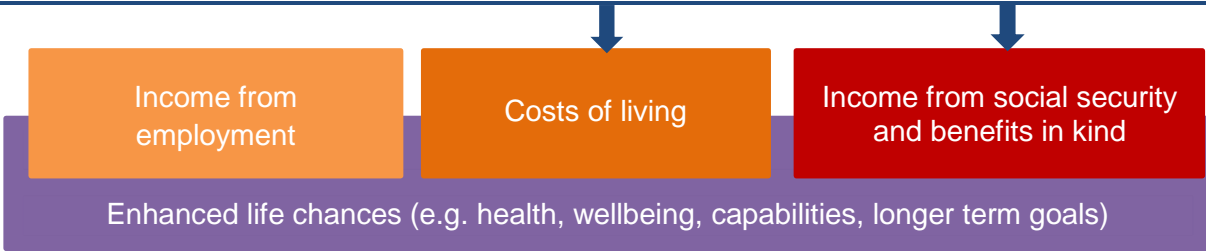
DHPs are distributed by local authorities where benefit caps have resulted in struggles to pay housing costs. The policy could affect any of the priority family groups, though chiefly lone parents who account for 68% of eligibility. There will need to be work with local authorities on their processes of identifying eligible households and getting payment to them.

Tracking progress

At present local authorities do not return data on the recipients of DHPs, just on their spending against the funding streams of DHPs (bedroom tax, benefit cap, local housing allowance assistance, and core purposes). We will look to improve their level of reporting.

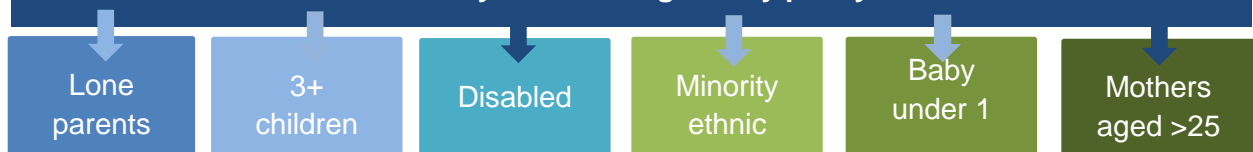
Tackling Fuel Poverty

Tackle fuel poverty through addressing the affordability and efficiency of home energy use. Reduce and ultimately eliminate emissions from heating buildings.



Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
The Fuel Poverty target set is that, by 2040, no more than 5% of households are fuel poor with no more than 1% in extreme fuel poverty (definitions of both set out in legislation). Meeting our emissions reduction target will require over a million homes to switch from fossil fuels by 2030, and for all homes to reach a good standard of energy efficiency by 2033.	Funded support to install energy efficiency measures for households in fuel poverty reduces the costs of heating. Energy advice and support can help people find out about ways to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Winter benefit payments, help with energy costs for those who need increased heat in cold weather. Regulatory measures will be introduced to increase the energy efficiency of buildings. The £10m Fuel Insecurity Fund (2022/23) provides crisis support for households currently struggling with fuel costs. An extra 16,400 jobs will be supported across the economy in 2030 due to the deployment of zero emissions heat.	Given the commitment to meeting the targets, there is confidence that this policy will significantly impact benefit those in, or at risk of, fuel poverty – many of whom will also be in one of the priority households.

Priority families targeted by policy



The policy focuses on all households in fuel poverty. There is evidence that households headed by younger people (16-24), by women, and where a member has a long-term health condition are more at risk of fuel poverty, so mothers under 25 and disabled people may experience greater relative benefit. Our approach to targeting our Heat in Buildings support programmes includes low income families, supporting them with the help they need to manage their energy bills. Targeting approach under review to maximise its effectiveness.

Tracking progress

The Fuel Poverty Strategy will be supported by a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework. This framework will be developed in consultation with the independent Scottish Fuel Poverty Panel – appointed by Ministers in December 2021 as required by the Fuel Poverty Act 2019. The Heat in Buildings Strategy will be supported by a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework which will be published in due course.

Low Income Winter Heating Assistance (LIWHA)

The primary focus of this benefit is to provide financial support to those on low incomes who may need additional help with the cost of their domestic heating during the winter months.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
Approximately 400,000 households will be eligible for a winter heating assistance payment (at the value of £50 annually).	A guaranteed payment will provide those who require increased heat in the winter with support towards the cost of their heating.	The policy is expected to have a positive, albeit small, impact on the households with children that meet the criteria for the qualifying benefits.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Eligibility for LIWHA will continue to be based on someone within the household being in receipt of reserved benefits. It is intended that the payment of LIWHA will be made to eligible households automatically. Take-up and promotion of reserved benefits are outwith the control of the Scottish Government. Households which do not apply for the support they are eligible to receive from the UK Government may not receive additional help from the Scottish Government.

Tracking progress

A monitoring and evaluation process for LIWHA will be in place prior to its launch. Once payments have commenced, on-going engagement with key stakeholders through a Stakeholder Reference Group will provide opportunities to monitor the impact of the policy.

Child Winter Heating Assistance

To provide support with the cost of domestic heating during the winter months for severely disabled children.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
The Scottish Fiscal Commission estimates that there will be 19,000 children and young people eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance in 2021/22, receiving an annual payment of £202, with total payments of £3.8m. This will be updated by 5% in 2022/23.	The payment intends to help mitigate the additional heating costs that the households of the most severely disabled children and young people face in the winter months. However, the payment does not have to be spent directly on heating costs.	The CWHA is not means tested and there are no associated targets, however, we know that households with a disabled adult or disabled child, or both, have a higher proportion of children who live in relative poverty.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Children and young people in receipt of the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance or Child Disability Payment or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment receive an automated payment. Existing data on disability are not comprehensive enough to allow us to produce robust estimates of the number of people who would be eligible but do not apply for a qualifying benefit.

Tracking progress

Social Security Scotland will publish annual statistics on the delivery of CWHA, covering the number of eligible children and young people, as well as data on client feedback and diversity and equalities analysis. Delivery will be subject to formal evaluation as part of the [Devolution of Disability Benefits: Evaluation Strategy](#).

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

GIRFEC is the national, well-established approach to improving outcomes for babies, children, young people, and families. The shared model and language enables children, young people, families, and practitioners to work across services so that support is well-planned, joined-up and streamlined, helping to prevent or mitigate childhood adversity and trauma.

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
GIRFEC is universal and targeted in design and approach. All children, young people and families, where need has been identified, through assessment of wellbeing (based on SHANARRI indicators) are eligible for support.	In enabling the coordination of services, GIRFEC improves the wellbeing of families and mitigates childhood adversity and trauma with potential impact upon life chances.	It is difficult to identify specific causal impacts from this policy - which has wide application - however, we know that adverse childhood experiences can lead to physical and mental health problems in adulthood.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

GIRFEC is delivered through services and people who work with children, young people and families. A personalised child's plan should be put in place when support across multiple services is needed. The plan should explain what should improve for the child, the support that will be provided, the actions to be taken and why the plan has been created. This relies on the effective implementation of GIRFEC, which includes assessment of wellbeing and needs, supported by effective multi-agency working. Local authorities, health, and other service providers may create their own local guidelines within the overall GIRFEC approach; there is a risk of inconsistency in the implementation of GIRFEC.

Tracking progress

An Outcomes Framework for Children, Young People and Families is being developed which provides a holistic understanding of wellbeing, based on what children and families have told us matters, and rooted in GIRFEC and children's rights. The Framework also provides a consistent approach to demonstrate progress in improving outcomes at local and national levels, enhancing our understanding of the collective impact from a range of policies, services and frontline practice, including actions set out in this Delivery Plan.

Scottish Attainment Challenge

To use education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty related attainment gap.

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
All 32 local authorities will receive direct, targeted Scottish Attainment Fund investment. 97% of schools in Scotland will receive Pupil Equity Funding.	Closing the poverty based attainment gap aims to ensure that disadvantaged children can progress to positive destinations after school. Ultimately, this policy has the potential to enhance skills, qualifications and earning potential for children affected by poverty.	Measurable impact will only be apparent in the long term and will depend on other factors. However, evidence thus far (Progress report: 2016-2021) shows that poverty related attainment gap is starting to narrow.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Support is targeted to children and young people who are socio-economically disadvantaged. Local Authorities and schools will continue to make local decisions on how best to support children and young people impacted by poverty, with targeted support also for care experienced children and young people. Head teachers can exercise professional judgement to determine if other children not in a priority family group would benefit from interventions funded through Pupil Equity Funding. Success of the policy depends on various factors, including the engagement of children and parents. Ongoing monitoring will seek to identify risks and address challenges.

Tracking progress

Local Authorities and schools will continue to be supported by Education Scotland to monitor and report on progress. A new Framework for Recovery and Accelerating Progress is in development to help provide clear direction to improve outcomes for those children and young people most impacted by poverty. [Annual evaluations](#) are published assessing programme impact and implementation.

Education Maintenance Allowance

To support eligible young people from low income households to participate in learning and further education. The policy provides financial support of £30 per week to assist young people (aged 16-19) by removing financial barriers to participation and influencing the decision of the young person to continue in education.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
Over 29,000 school pupils, college students and individuals on learning agreements received EMA payments over 2017-18.	Indirect by improving educational attainment, positive destinations and reduced youth unemployment	It is anticipated that EMA will indirectly impact on child poverty by resulting in higher attainment, increased positive destination and reduced youth unemployment.

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Priority families are most likely to be in poverty and young people from all these families are likely to benefit.

Tracking progress

The programme is an entitlement and demand led programme which is administered by local authorities and colleges on behalf of Scottish Ministers. Annual statistics are collated and produced by Scottish Government, the [most recent figures are for the period 2017/18](#). Information published includes the volume of EMA recipients and additional demographic breakdown by age, gender and SIMD residency.

Scottish Welfare Fund

The policy aims to help meet unexpected, immediate short-term needs, or to help eligible individuals to establish or maintain a settled home, through the provision of occasional financial or other assistance. Awards are discretionary. Child poverty is not an objective of the policy.

Income from employment

Costs of living

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Enhanced life chances (e.g. health, wellbeing, capabilities, longer term goals)

Potential size of impact	Type of impact	Certainty of impact
A third of households which receive Scottish Welfare Fund awards have children.	Short term	No impact anticipated

Priority families targeted by policy

Lone parents

3+ children

Disabled

Minority ethnic

Baby under 1

Mothers aged <25

Individuals on low incomes who face an unexpected crisis which puts their wellbeing at risk or who have been in prison, hospital, residential care or another institution or who have been homeless or living an unsettled way of life (or who would otherwise be in such a situation without the provision of support).

Tracking progress

The [Scottish welfare Fund Independent Review service](#) at the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman carry out independent reviews of decisions that councils have made on community care and crisis grant applications. As child poverty is not an objective of the policy, the review does not include progress towards child poverty targets.



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