

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY FOR  
SCOTLAND**

**MARCH 2012**

## **INTRODUCTION**

[The Child Poverty Act 2010](#)<sup>1</sup> (the Act) requires Scottish Ministers to publish a child poverty strategy and to lay an annual report in the Scottish Parliament on measures it has taken under the strategy. This is the first annual report on the [Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland](#)<sup>2</sup> (the strategy) which was published in March 2011.

### **Our approach to tackling child poverty**

The strategy set out the Scottish Government approach to tackling child poverty. It made clear that tackling child poverty is a long term undertaking, with many factors influencing child poverty levels.

The strategy set out our 2 main aims in respect to tackling child poverty. They are to **maximise household resources** and **to improve children's wellbeing and life chances**.

It also set out a number of key measures which will all contribute towards meeting the income based targets in the Act, and to the goal that children in Scotland do not experience socio-economic disadvantage.

However, given the lack of powers in relation to the tax and benefit system, which have a large part to play in meeting the income based targets, this Government's approach is to protect the income of households, and to reduce household expenditure where possible, along with a range of measures designed to protect children and families from the effects of living in poverty.

The Programme for Government sets out our ambitious programme of change and reform, which reaches into every part of government and society. At its heart are four themes: prevention, place, workforce development, and performance.

Our vision encompasses a Scotland where people collaborate; creating a new social partnership, with Scots empowered to take responsibility for improving their own lives. This requires the creation of a renewed sense of community and personal responsibility, maximising the opportunities presented by our greatest asset - our people.

There are also a number of measures in the budget which help those on low incomes:

- Free prescriptions - Council Tax Freeze - Concessionary fares - Free Personal Care;
- Food and Health programme; Keep Well; Health Works - all targeting people with low incomes;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/9/contents>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/14094421/0>

- Early Years Framework and Early Intervention initiatives;
- Educational Maintenance Allowances;
- Energy Assistance Package and Energy Advice Services; and
- Targeting job creation in the Clyde gateway areas of low employment.

The poorest in our communities who rely heavily on public services will also benefit from the measures in this budget which protect front line services and jobs.

We will go into further detail on some of these areas in the body of the report.

The commitment to implement the Early Years Framework will benefit those children and families furthest removed from opportunity and prosperity, while programmes supporting Early Intervention also reinforce our commitment to break the patterns and cycles of poverty that persist in Scotland.

### **Local Partners**

The report does not attempt to cover in any detail the vast range of activity across local government and the third sector which impacts on child poverty. The strategy recognises the vital role that these sectors play in tackling child poverty in Scotland, and this report references some of this work, for instance the Early Years Taskforce and new preventative spending measures which will be run across Government, Local Authorities and Health Boards.

The work local authorities and the third sector do on income maximisation and advice provision, employability support and a range of other activity is extremely important, and we know that some local authorities are bringing forward child poverty strategies. We are doing what we can to help them with these – see measure 11 and the update on the Employability and Tackling Poverty Learning Network. We also provided match funding to the STV / Hunter Foundation Appeal in 2011 which focussed on child poverty. The funds from the appeal supported a number of projects with larger organisations in Scotland, and they also reached small projects in every local authority area in Scotland ensuring real local action is being taken to tackle child poverty by grass root third sector organisations.

Despite funding cuts imposed by the UK Government, local government's share of the overall Scottish Budget was maintained in 2011-12 and we provided councils with a total funding package of £11.5 billion. The vast majority of this funding for local government, including funding for tackling child poverty is provided by means of a block grant. It is the responsibility of each local authority to allocate the total financial resources available to it on the basis of local needs and priorities having first fulfilled its statutory obligations and the

jointly agreed set of national and local priorities including the Scottish Government's key strategic objectives.

### **Limitations of devolved powers**

The powers of the Scottish Parliament cover many very important areas in relation to tackling child poverty across a range of areas such as health, education and housing; however policies reserved to the UK Government have a significant influence on poverty levels in Scotland. The welfare state and tax and benefits systems play a large part in supporting those who are in poverty now.

[Independent analysis](#)<sup>3</sup> forecasts that the impact of UK Government policies on personal tax and benefits will result in a UK wide increase in relative child poverty by 700,000 by 2020/21. On this basis UK Government measures are conflicting with their stated aims to reduce poverty and meet the targets in the Child Poverty Act 2010.

It is clear that the UK Government's policies on tax and benefits and the welfare system will have a significant and detrimental impact on vulnerable groups and individuals across Scotland and do nothing to tackle the scourge of child poverty.

The Scottish Government believes the Scottish Parliament should have control over tax and benefits in Scotland in order that a more socially progressive system of taxation and benefits could be developed to better serve the people of Scotland.

### **What this report will cover**

This report does not seek to identify all the measures the Scottish Government have taken since the publication of the strategy, but will focus on the key measures which tie in with the [Programme for Government](#)<sup>4</sup> which was published in September 2011.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/5711>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/08102006/3>

## **SECTION 1 - PROGRESS ON TARGETS**

**Child Poverty Act Targets:** Broadly stated, the UK-wide child poverty targets<sup>5</sup> provided for in the Child Poverty Act are:

- **The relative low income target** - that less than 10% of children live in households that have a household income of less than 60% of median household income.
- **The combined low income and material deprivation target** - that less than 5% of children live in households that have a household income of less than 70% of median household income **and** experience material deprivation.
- **The absolute low income target** - that less than 5% of children live in households that have a household income of less than 60% of the median household income for the financial year starting on 1 April 2010<sup>6</sup>.
- **The persistent poverty target** - to reduce the proportion of children that experience long periods of relative poverty (that is to reduce the percentage of children who live in households that have a household income of less than 60% of the median household income for three years out of a four-year period) with the specific target percentage to be set at a later date<sup>7</sup>.

The UK Secretary of State is responsible for meeting these targets by 2020 and producing regulations which will set out specific elements of the targets, such as what counts as qualifying household. The Scottish Government currently publishes Scottish statistics against each of these targets in the annual publication Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland (PIIS).

Due to the statutory requirement to publish this report at this time, and the publication schedule for the Household Below Average Income Statistics (the statistics that most of the figures in PIIS are based on) the most up to date figures we have are for 2009/10 – the year before the strategy was published.

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<sup>5</sup> All income poverty measures are Before Housing Costs. References to "household income" in the bullet points are to equivalised net household income. "Equivalised" for these purposes means adjusted to take account of variations in household size and composition. Please note that some of the details of how the targets are defined are to be set out in regulations.

<sup>6</sup> This will be adjusted to take account of changes in the value of money since the base year (2010).

<sup>7</sup> The target percentage cannot be set because the required data is not yet available. It is hoped that the data will be available before 2015 and the intention is for the target to be set before 2015.

## Poverty statistics in Scotland

[Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2009-10](#)<sup>8</sup> shows the most comparable figures in Scotland relating to the targets in the Act to be:

- Relative low income – 20% - down from 21% in 2008-09
- Low income and material deprivation – 15% - down from 16% in 2008-09
- Absolute low income<sup>9</sup> – 10% - down from 11% in 2008-09
- Persistent poverty<sup>10</sup> – 13% for period 2005-08, the same as previous period 2004-07

PIIS 2009-10 provides further information and analysis of trends across a range of poverty statistics. PIIS 2010-11 is due to be published in May / June 2012.

Further details on key Scottish Government targets relating to child poverty can be found on the [Scotland Performs website](#)<sup>11</sup> which is updated whenever new data becomes available. The following national indicators were identified in the strategy as being key indicators.

- **Decrease the proportion of individuals living in poverty**
- **Increase healthy life expectancy at birth in the most deprived areas**
- **Increase the proportion of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations**

The national performance framework was refreshed in December 2011. The national indicator relating to individuals in poverty was retained, and another specific indicator was added relating to children's' deprivation. The other 2 indicators have been replaced with indicators relating to healthy birth weight of babies, and the proportion of young people in learning, training or work. The refreshed indicators (shown below) all show no change in the most recent figures, apart from that relating to birth weight of babies as there is not data available for this measure as yet.

- 1. Reduce the proportion of individuals living in poverty**
- 2. Reduce children's deprivation**
- 3. Increase the proportion of babies with a healthy birth weight**
- 4. Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work**

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/05/povertystats0910>

<sup>9</sup> The absolute low income target reported on in PIIS is based on a baseline of 1998-99. Data is not yet available for the year starting 1 April 2010

<sup>10</sup> These figures are based on data from the British Household Panel Survey which is being discontinued. It is being replaced by a new survey called Understanding Society and data from this new survey will be used to set the target for persistent poverty.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms>

## **SECTION 2 - SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MEASURES**

This section identifies some of the key actions taken under the strategy. It does not seek to identify every action taken by the Government, or cover every individual measure contained in the strategy.

The key measures identified in the strategy are.

- 1. to reduce levels of child poverty and minimise the impact of socio-economic disadvantage on children**
- 2. to increase the numbers of parents in good quality employment**
- 3. to increase household incomes**
- 4. to reduce pressure on household budgets**
- 5. to ensure that more children have positive outcomes in the early years, and that more children grow up in nurturing, stable households, with good parenting and home learning environments**
- 6. to reduce health inequalities among children and families**
- 7. to ensure that children and young people receive the opportunities they need to succeed, regardless of their socio-economic background**
- 8. to ensure that more young people are in positive and sustained destinations**
- 9. to ensure that families receive the support they need, when they need it – especially the most vulnerable**
- 10. to reduce levels of child poverty and minimise the impact of socio-economic disadvantage on children through communities and place**
- 11. to drive change through working with local partners**

The following sections provide an update on some actions taken by the Scottish Government in respect of the measures shown above.

### **1. MEASURES TO REDUCE LEVELS OF CHILD POVERTY AND MINIMISE THE IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE ON CHILDREN**

This first measure sets out the key principles of the strategy rather than being measure in itself. Achieving progress on measures 2 – 11 which take account of these principles will ensure that this measure is met.

Our desire to tackle child poverty is characterised by our ongoing efforts to move funding from crisis management to early intervention and prevention, as outlined in the Programme for Government, and our continued implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child and

implementation of Curriculum for Excellence across Scotland – further details on both of these areas of work are given in the following sections.

We are also encouraging involvement of communities and people within them as part of our policy making process. For example, our proposals for the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill are exploring how we can help communities to own certain public sector assets, have their voices heard in local decisions and tackle vacant and derelict property in their communities.

All of the measures in the strategy contribute to ensuring children in Scotland do not experience socio-economic disadvantage. They are all focussed on achieving the Governments Purpose. Progress towards this can be tracked through the Scotland Performs website

## **2. MEASURES TO INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF PARENTS IN GOOD QUALITY EMPLOYMENT**

The availability of jobs, and ensuring that Scotland has people with the skills, to take up available jobs with good prospects is key to tackling child poverty in Scotland. The strategy set out a range of activities being undertaken by the Scottish Government in this area and this section highlights some of the key actions we have taken in the last year.

In total this Government has put in place support for 46,500 training opportunities in 2011/12, demonstrating once again our commitment to training and investing in Scotland's people;

- we are supporting 25,000 apprenticeship opportunities - the highest ever number of modern apprenticeships in Scotland;
- we have put in place support for 14,500 places to help individuals of all ages who are unemployed access the Labour Market; and
- we will also support 7,000 Flexible Training Opportunities to specifically help meet the needs of our smaller employers and businesses.



## **CASE STUDY – MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS - CALEDONIAN PETROLEUM SERVICES**

Engineering services firm Caledonian Petroleum Services (CPS) realised several years ago that it had an aging workforce and a widening skills gap which needed urgent attention.

CPS Operations Director Bob Steel said: "We knew that as a Scottish employer it was our responsibility to ensure young people were given the opportunity to learn, earn and contribute, not only to the future of our organisation but also our industry and our country. A boardroom decision was taken to start an apprenticeship programme."

CPS is so impressed with the success of the Modern Apprenticeships programme that it has decided to recruit annually, so it has apprentices at all stages across the four-year cycle of Modern Apprenticeships. Since the inception of its Modern Apprenticeship programme, CPS has recruited 27 apprentices. The company's skills gap has now narrowed and the average age of its employees has dropped to the late 30s.

Mr Steel explained: "CPS has seen the massive skills and financial investment we have made pay off as the first apprentices completed their training. They are confident, dynamic, enthusiastic and motivated individuals who have succeeded on their learning journey while ensuring the continued success of our company on the way."

(Case Study provided by Skills Development Scotland)

To accelerate Scotland's growth we recognise that it is critical that our skills and training support is substantial, sustainable and flexible. That is why we have introduced incentives aimed directly at **supporting Scottish Businesses**.

We have introduced the **Employer Recruitment Incentive**. This initiative offers a £1,000 incentive direct to small and medium sized businesses to recruit a participant aged 18+ who have been unemployed for 6 months or more into a new job. This will support up to 5000 new jobs for individuals, including those who are participating in Skills Development Scotland's adult pre-employment programme, "Training for Work".

We have also introduced a fund for **Small Business Employment Support**. This fund will assist companies with less than 50 employees increase recruitment by providing an extra £1000 subsidy to small businesses which face particular challenges in meeting the miscellaneous cost of recruiting additional staff, such as drafting contracts of employment or setting up or expanding payroll systems.

We have also funded **Community Jobs Scotland (CJS)**. CJS is a £14m one year pilot scheme aimed at helping up to 2,000 long-term unemployed young people aged 16-24 into employment. Further details of CJS initiative are given in the section describing measures to ensure that more young people are in positive and sustained destinations.

### **3. and 4. - MEASURES TO INCREASE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AND TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS**

The main levers for increasing household incomes and reducing pressure on household budgets lie with the UK Government through the tax and benefits system; however there are a range of measures the Scottish Government can take in this area.

The Scottish Government has for some years **funded initiatives which work with people to ensure that they receive the benefits to which they are entitled:**

We are continuing to provide funding to **Macmillan Cancer Support** to provide advice to families on how to ensure they claim all the money they are entitled to across the 5 cancer treatment centres in Scotland and in 2 NHS Boards for patients with long-term conditions. To date, investment of £1.5million has resulted in financial gains of £21million for 8,000 service users alongside significantly improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

As well as providing financial advice and support, the service also offers targeted provision of employment and vocational rehabilitation support and advice to ensure that, where appropriate, patients are supported to remain economically active during treatment or are assisted to do so after treatment as a part of their overall rehabilitation.

We are also funding **NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde** for the Healthier, Wealthier Children project in 2011/12. This project provides advice and support to vulnerable families in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area, with a multi-agency approach to referrals and intervention - see case study on page 11 for more information..

Since May 2009, investment of £2.74million, across a range of projects, by the Scottish Government has generated over £29 million in financial gain for over 120,000 people/households.

Our **partnership with the Money Advice Service** has resulted in a jointly funded programme which will make £7 million available over the next three years to help Scots deal with problems such as multiple debts, repossession and eviction. The Money Advice Service

will also provide £500,000 of financial support to projects run in partnership with the Improvement Service, Accountant in Bankruptcy and Money Advice Scotland. These will involve research to arrive at a shared understanding of best practice for local authority commissioning of debt advice services, a pilot project on directing clients to the most appropriate sources of advice, and capacity-building work with voluntary sector agencies to increase compliance with the Scottish National Standards for advice.

#### **CASE STUDY – TACKLING CHILD POVERTY THROUGH MAXIMISING HOUSEHOLD INCOME - HEALTHIER, WEALTHIER CHILDREN PROJECT**

Working in partnership to tackle child poverty and inequality can produce meaningful and far-reaching results. The Scottish Government-funded Healthier, Wealthier Children project has been operating in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area since October 2010 and has succeeded in embedding financial inclusion referrals into care for pregnant women and families that are experiencing or at risk of poverty.

Key to the project is the ethos that tackling child poverty is everyone's business, and that money and debt worries need to be routinely discussed as part of holistic assessments. It brings together maternal and early years health and social care professionals with third sector providers of money advice, debt advice, and income maximisation services which explore benefit and tax credit entitlement. Onward referrals from advice services are also made to address related issues such as kinship care, fuel poverty, homelessness, addiction, mental health and immigration advice.

At the end of January 2012, over 2,500 referrals had been made to advice services which resulted in 54% uptake among pregnant women and families. Six out of 10 people accessing the advice services received some type of intervention with a total annual recorded gain of just over £2.7million and £328,000 in one-off lump sums. The majority of referrals - 80% - were made by midwives and health visitors.

Within the health board area 10 community health (and care) partnerships and 6 local authorities are involved in the delivery of the project, which is being evaluated by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health. A learning network has been established to share information and support emerging good practice across the partnership.

The project has developed from a desire to try new approaches to tackling child poverty in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde board area which is home to significant proportions and

concentrations of poverty and disadvantage. It also seeks to build on the key principles and themes which unite the Early Years Framework, Equally Well and Achieving our Potential.

For more information and detailed case studies visit [http://www.nhsgg.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=home\\_hwc](http://www.nhsgg.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=home_hwc) .

We are committed to a **'Social Wage'** for Scots – this is made up of a range of measures designed to protect the income of people in Scotland. This is made up through a range of measures, for example we have met commitments on free concessionary travel and prescription charges, and in the last year we have announced that we will carry through our manifesto commitment to freeze council tax for the duration of this parliament. We will also keep university education free for Scottish students so that access to higher education is based on the ability to learn, not the ability to pay.

The social wage will directly benefit low income families in Scotland. Those on lowest incomes have benefited from the abolition of prescription charges, which were an unfair tax on ill health, and the freeze on council tax for the duration of this Parliament, which in relative terms, will provide most benefit to households whose incomes are in the lowest 10 per cent. The cumulative saving for an average Band D household thanks to the council tax freeze over the period 2008-13 is over £500 and by extending the freeze for the lifetime of this Parliament the same household will have benefited by around £1,200 in total based on an additional £70 million being provided each year.

We have also demonstrated our full support for the principles of the living wage, an important tool to tackle low pay, and we are leading by example where we have the powers to do so. We implemented a **living wage through our own Scottish Public Sector Pay Policy in 2011** and we are raising this rate to £7.20 from April 2012 in line with the uprating announced by the Scottish Living Wage Campaign in August 2011.

The introduction of the living wage ensures that every employee of the Scottish Government, the NHS and our agencies, receives at least the living wage of £7.20 an hour. We encourage employers across Scotland to pay the living wage to their employees where they feel they can.

We are also making available an additional £9.5million for **fuel poverty and energy efficiency programmes** in the current year, taking the total spend for 2011/12 to £57.5million.

In addition, the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment asked the Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum to lead an urgent **Review of the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy** reporting back to Parliament early this year with a Statement of policy and an action plan. The Forum will look at how best to ensure that the Scottish Government's Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Programmes can lever in additional support from Energy companies and other sources.

## **5. MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT MORE CHILDREN HAVE POSITIVE OUTCOMES IN THE EARLY YEARS, AND THAT MORE CHILDREN GROW UP IN NURTURING, STABLE HOUSEHOLDS, WITH GOOD PARENTING AND HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

Giving children the best start in life will maximise learning for children and young people and will enhance their development with life-long benefits to individual wellbeing. This view is backed by an ever-growing source of compelling evidence from across the globe. More recently physiological evidence of how children's brains develop has persuaded many of the importance of nurturing children in a supportive environment in the first three years of a child's life to give them the best start in life. Positive change can be achieved later in life but the greatest impact and benefits come from the early years.

The [Early Years Framework](#)<sup>12</sup>, published jointly by Scottish Government and COSLA in December 2008, sets the strategic direction for early years policy in Scotland. The Early Years Framework highlights the importance of all national and local agencies, the third sector and independent sector working together to deliver improved outcomes for children. The Early Years Framework, its approach to transformational change and its emphasis on preventative spend, underpins all that we are doing in terms of giving every child the best start in life.

Parenting was highlighted in the Early Years Framework as a key element for transformational change. We are developing a **national parenting strategy** that encourages agencies to work together to support parents and help them develop their parenting skills. The strategy will include all family members involved in nurturing children,

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/0>

parents, grand parents, step parents, parents living apart and kinship carers. This will also include the corporate parent for those children for whom it is in their best interests to have an alternative to parental care.

#### **CASE STUDY – EARLY YEARS / HEALTH INEQUALITIES - FIRST STEPS PROGRAMME, LANARKSHIRE**

The First Steps programme, being run by NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Community Regeneration Partnership, provides support to vulnerable first time mothers living in the 15% most deprived data zones in South Lanarkshire, as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The programme addresses health and other inequalities that can impact on a child throughout its life. The aim of the programme is to give the best possible start to the children and so break the cycle of poverty, which is often multi-generational.

Seven First Steps workers (FSWs) engage with mothers in the ante natal or early post natal period to assess need and develop an individual action plan. Based on the objectives in the action plan, the worker provides ongoing support and guidance to the mother to help her achieve her objectives, largely in the shape of regular home visits.

It is a key objective of the FSWs to support the mother to engage with local services and support agencies to help her to achieve her goals. This maximises the potential for impacts to be sustained beyond the lifetime of the FSW support.

First Steps has been subject to independent evaluation since it began, which has informed the ongoing development of the programme. The evidence obtained from evaluation to date has showed improvements in maternal health, wellbeing and confidence at both the antenatal and postnatal stages, as well as an improvement in parenting skills.

Recognising that play is central to how children learn, both in terms of cognitive skills and softer skills around relating to other people, we have delivered the two-year £4 million **Go Play** fund, building capacity in the play sector in Scotland and offering more chances for children aged five to 13 years to participate in free play.

Our ongoing commitment to promoting the benefits of free play opportunities and quality play spaces for children is being strengthened by a £3m funding package over three years, from

2012 – 13. This funding will build on the *Go Play* fund and in particular its two most positive results – the play ranger model and enhanced landscapes for play.

Through increasing support for ***Bookbug the PlayTalkRead*** campaign we continue to encourage parents and carers – especially those in our more deprived and isolated communities – to play, talk and read more with their babies and young children to help drive home the importance of positive interaction with their children from day one, and offer practical support and ideas on how to create the best foundations for children’s development.

We have announced a £4.5 million **Communities and Families Fund**. Parents, families and communities have the biggest positive impact on children in their earliest years and we want to empower local communities to shape local provision for children and families.

## **6. MEASURES TO REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES AMONG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Health in Scotland is improving and we continue to take action to address the health inequalities which exist between our more affluent and more deprived communities. These long-standing problems cannot be solved quickly but we are taking and will continue to take significant action to address them through our efforts to reduce alcohol consumption, cut smoking rates, encourage active living and healthy eating, and promote positive mental health. This section sets out some other specific actions we have taken since the publication of the strategy.

The challenge set out in [\*Equally Well - the report of the Ministerial Task Force on health inequalities\*](#)<sup>13</sup>, was to try new ways of addressing the underlying causes of poor health that drive inequalities in health and other social outcomes. A key theme of *Equally Well* was the requirement for joint working within Scottish Government, across public sector delivery agencies and with communities.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/25104032/16>

In July 2011 we [published an evaluation of the first three years of 8 Equally Well test sites](#)<sup>14</sup>. The test sites had a common goal of trying to promote different ways of working in public sector organisations, traditionally constrained by bureaucracy and fear of failure. The eight Test Sites focussed on different themes, such as methods of improving mental wellbeing; health inequalities in early years; integrating health into current and future city and local planning; looking at community regeneration and development through the adoption of a neighbourhood management approach involving all key community planning partners and supporting people to find decent work.

While the evaluations do not provide evidence in health outcomes due to the long term nature of health inequalities, they do provide lessons for managing the process of change needed to support empowering communities and integrated service provision, and so link in with measure 11 on driving change through local partnerships.

We are committed to sharing the key messages of these evaluations as widely as possible. Since their publication in July we have been engaging a number of key audiences both externally (COSLA, SOLACE, NHS Chief Executives) and internally to ensure the lessons emerging from this evaluation and those of the Healthy Weight Communities initiative are able to influence decisions about the future planning, design and delivery of effective, integrated, preventative services.

The evaluations of the Equally Well test sites will also inform the work of the Scottish Government's **Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities**, which is due to reconvene next year.

We are also taking action to ensure **learning from health-based pilots is promoted across the health service and wider public sector** to highlight the important role that health and their local partners play in supporting families at risk of poorer outcomes. Early learning from the **Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)** programme which offers advice on issues ranging from parenting skills and child development to employment and education has been shared with a wider audience, through a Think Tank Event, focussed on the modernising nursing agenda and the results of external evaluation of the **Barnardo's 'You First' programme**, a group work programme for young, first time parents, will be made available before the Summer 2012.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/16607-equallyWellEvaluationResearchReport.pdf>



## 7. TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVE THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY NEED TO SUCCEED, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

A good education is extremely important factor in a child going on to succeed in later life and in this section we report on actions we have taken in this area

In September 2011, we published the ['CfE Action Plan 2011/12 - Giving Young Scots an Even Better Education'](#)<sup>15</sup>.

The Plan prioritises support from the SG and its national partners in the following four areas:

- developing understanding of the new qualifications
- further developing CfE in primary schools, building on the success of implementation there so far
- enabling parental engagement at every level, and providing additional information and resources for parents where needs are identified
- raising standards and attainment levels through excellence in learning and teaching

The CfE Management Board's [Curriculum for Excellence Implementation Milestones](#) document also highlights key programme milestones that local authorities and educational establishments are working towards delivering in 2011 – 12, plus some of the support they could expect to receive from the Scottish Government and its partners.

Under the plan we have provided parents/carers with more information and resources on the benefits of CfE, including in the key areas of assessment, profiling and reporting progress. We have also hosted large scale events for practitioners in all subject areas to input to the development of the new qualifications and explore progression from the broad general education to the senior phase, and clarified the support that secondary schools and departments can receive to help them prepare for the new qualifications.

As one of our priority areas, the Scottish Government is **supporting young people in an effort to help them develop better money management skills**, including budgeting and understanding credit. Financial Education is now being offered as part of Curriculum for Excellence, ensuring that all children and young people develop key financial skills. Financial Education provision, when effectively delivered in schools, is key to developing the lifelong skills and habits that will enable young people to manage their money effectively in

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<sup>15</sup> [www.ltscotland.org.uk/resources/c/cfeactionplan2011.asp](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/resources/c/cfeactionplan2011.asp)

later life, and in time will hopefully lessen the requirement for money advice services and financial advice services being offered to adults in crisis situations.

The Education (Lower Primary Class Sizes) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010, **requiring a new lower class size maximum of 25 pupils in P1**, came into force from August 2011. Our intention in making these Regulations was to reduce the largest P1 classes and give all children the best start possible to their education. The class size limit of 25 is regarded as a 'ceiling' and does not preclude local authorities from pursuing local class size policies that would result in smaller classes than set in Regulations.

## **8. MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IN POSITIVE AND SUSTAINED DESTINATIONS**

We have funded **Community Jobs Scotland (CJS)**. CJS is a £14m one year pilot scheme aimed at helping up to 2,000 long-term unemployed young people aged 16-24 into employment.

### **CASE STUDY - COMMUNITY JOBS SCOTLAND - CHRISTY, 21, IMPACT ARTS, EDINBURGH**

Twenty one year old Christy joined Impact Arts Edinburgh as a Fab Pad Creative Assistant through the Community Job Fund Programme in October 2011. Christy had been unemployed for a year after her previous employer was forced to reduce her hours due to the recession. She had applied for thirty jobs and been invited to only 4 interviews, and was beginning to become disheartened. Christy has always had a keen interest in the arts, taking Art as well as Craft and Design at school and was searching for a position to utilise her skills in these areas. The Community Jobs Scotland positions with Impact Arts were advertised and were ideally suited to Christy's skills and abilities.

Christy applied for both the Fab Pad Creative Assistant and Eco-chic Fashion Freak Assistant and successfully gained a position as Fab Pad Creative Assistant. This post was assisting a qualified interior designer to work with young people who have experienced homelessness and to help them transform their first tenancies into homes.

At the interview Christy was able to answer questions fully and appeared to have a good grasp of the position and the duties involved. Although she had little experience in working with young, vulnerable participants it was felt that Christy was enthusiastic and eager to learn, and she had the right attitude for the job.

Christy was given a full employees induction to the organisation, and was afforded the opportunity to experience other programmes outside of Fab Pad, and the result of this was that she was immediately comfortable in her role:

*'My induction was very welcoming and informative and the opportunity to work on a number of programmes during the first month gave me a real understanding of Impact Arts'*

She felt that she was tackling her role and tasks well but would like to develop more skills in interior design in order to become more hands on in the workshop. The Fab Pad Interior Designer whom Christy was assisting developed a skills matrix for her to work through, which gave her the opportunity to learn new skills such as soft furnishing and furniture restoration. In addition to this Christy was also trained in Child Protection and received Challenging Behaviour Support training. One of Christy's favourite aspects of her work involved going on home visits with the interior design team:

*"This gives me more of an insight into the Fab Pad Programme and how it works for participants at home it really helps me to understand the importance of my role in making this happen"*

After three months at Impact Arts Christy had become an integral member of the team. Her confidence working in groups and on one-to-one activity with the participants in the workshops continued to grow daily. Christy progressed to working closely with administration staff to gain an understanding of how Impact Arts record participant's progress, which heralds a new challenge in her development.

Working with Impact Arts has made Christy realise that she would like to continue working in the creative enterprise sector. She has enjoyed the challenges of working with young people and feels her age has actually been an asset in understanding the views of the young people she works with:

*" I love to support them to work through their challenges, the changes in teenage life even in the short time since I have been a teenager are huge and I want to help people make positive changes"*

*(Case study provided by SCVO)*

Community Jobs Scotland is being delivered by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisation (SCVO) and Social Enterprise Scotland (SES) in partnership with the Scottish

Government. SCVO are responsible for identifying, allocating and monitoring the jobs and SES have responsibility to organise and deliver the additional employability training element.

Key elements of the current programme are:

- An opportunity for unemployed people to be given a training opportunity in the third sector for a minimum of 6 months which would allow them to make a contribution to their communities;
- 2,000 young people with six month contracts of 25 hours or more per week, for at least the minimum wage;
- Available for 16-24 year olds, with eligibility extended to adults aged 25+ in areas of high unemployment;
- Enhancement of longer term job prospects for participants through concrete work experience;
- Job specific training and additional customised training which enhances the participant's wider prospects of securing a permanent job; and
- Support for the third sector as it seeks to continue to deliver services to communities across Scotland.

We have also continued to support **Modern Apprenticeships** in Scotland. Our priority is to ensure that training places are of a high quality and that modern apprenticeships lead to sustainable employment opportunities, and the apprenticeship programme will continue to play a role in ensuring that we have the skills and capacity required to service the Scottish Economy now and in the future

In recognition of the increasing levels of unemployment for young people up to the age of 24 in Scotland and continuing additional barriers for unemployed adults to accessing an apprenticeship we will target a proportion of apprenticeship places in 2011/12 to supporting 20-24 year olds and unemployed adults into new employment opportunities across all sectors.

We have also retained the **Education Maintenance Allowance** which will benefit 35,000 young people in Scotland, allowing many from low-income households to remain in education.

## **9. TO ENSURE THAT FAMILIES RECEIVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED, WHEN THEY NEED IT – ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE**

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people through a shared approach to service provision (including adult services where parents are involved). It is about how practitioners across all services for children and adults put the needs, experience and wishes of children and young people at the heart of the process.

Over the last year we have **increased our contact with Community Planning Partnership (CPP) areas across Scotland** to the point where we are now either fully or partially engaged with every CPP area in Scotland in support of implementation of GIRFEC.

In the last year, the GIRFEC Programme Board - which is made up of senior staff representatives from the Scottish Government and our principal stakeholders (COSLA, SOLACE, ACPOS, ADES, ADSW, ASLO and Third Sector bodies, along with Scotland's Commissioner for Scotland, Tam Baillie) has **published an action plan** which sets out a range of objectives to support the implementation of GIRFEC across Scotland. The action plan provides a vehicle for engagement with these and other stakeholder and partner bodies. Board members are actively involved in supporting that process in their own geographical areas and business sectors (e.g. NHS, Local Authorities, and Police).

Professional leads in health and education within the Scottish Government GIRFEC team, themselves seconded in from stakeholder organisations on the basis of their expertise, are engaging with the policy teams across the Scottish Government to ensure that GIRFEC is embedded in all relevant Scottish Government policy areas.

We have also undertaken work focussing on specific vulnerable families, and groups. We continue to provide **funding to the One Parent Families Scotland lone parent helpline** which is a free, independent helpline for lone parents and anyone affected by the issues surrounding one parent families. The helpline provides advice on a range of the measures identified in the strategy, such as access to childcare, accessing welfare benefits, and employability advice.

We have been working to **address the action points contained in the [Report and Action Plan for the Review of Services for Disabled Children and Young People](#)**<sup>16</sup> which was

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/342923/0114135.pdf>

published in February 2011. A review group, consisting of Local Government, health board, academic and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector representatives has been acting in an advisory capacity to the Scottish Government and overseeing implementation of the actions contained in the report.

The National Review will deliver a number of projects, with examples being;

- the production of a Moving and Handling Guide for practitioners and families involved with moving and handling disabled children and young people;
- consideration of how GIRFEC works in relation to disabled children, supported by production of case studies and other guidance to help professionals working with this group.
- a participation project was undertaken looking at disabled children's views of services and their experiences of life in general. The findings of this project are currently being considered with a view to informing future policy.

A progress report on the action plan will be published in April 2012.

In September 2011, the Minister for Children and Young People and Minister for Public Health wrote to the Care inspectorate commissioning it to **design a new model of scrutiny activity for children's services** to follow on from the completion of the second round of child protection inspections. This would take into account child wellbeing and integrated inspection, with the child at the heart of the process. The overarching approach for inspection should be based on:

- the principles of *Getting it right for every child*
- the notion that the child must be at the centre of inspection
- developing an approach to inspection that closely links with self-assessment and performance management
- joint working between Scrutiny Bodies

The new approach is set to be developed using a test site in April and piloted in a series of local areas from July.

## 10. TO REDUCE LEVELS OF CHILD POVERTY AND MINIMISE THE IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE ON CHILDREN THROUGH COMMUNITIES AND PLACE

In December 2011 we launched [Achieving a Sustainable Future: The Regeneration Strategy](#)<sup>17</sup>. It sets out our vision for a Scotland where our most disadvantaged communities are supported and where all places are sustainable and promote well-being. This is a key priority for Government.

To deliver this vision we need to approach regeneration in an holistic way ensuring we address the economic, physical and social needs of our communities. And we need to put communities at the heart of our approach. We recognise that the changes required to make communities sustainable will only be achieved when the communities themselves play a part in delivering that change.

To support this we are developing the **People and Communities Fund**, which will provide £7.9m per year, for the next 3 years, specifically to increase our support for community-led regeneration.

We are also at the early stages of developing proposals for the **Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill** through a wide ranging dialogue. We are exploring how legislation can help communities to own certain public sector assets, have their voices heard in local decisions and tackle vacant and derelict property in their communities.

This work complements an impressive range of activity taking place across urban and rural communities led by organisations like Development Trusts and Community Based Housing Associations. We need to build on this and work together to deliver the ambitions within the Regeneration Strategy, so that we make a practical and sustained difference and deliver the change that is needed.

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/12/09110320/0>

## 11. TO DRIVE CHANGE THROUGH WORKING WITH LOCAL PARTNERS

Our Early Years Framework establishes a national consensus around the principles for early intervention. To drive forward delivery we have established an **Early Years Taskforce**. Jointly chaired by the Scottish Government, Health and Local Government and involving elected politicians, practitioners and experts from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The role of the Taskforce is to develop the strategic direction for the early years agenda and co-ordinate policy across Government and the wider public sector to ensure that early years spending is prioritised by the whole public sector.

To support this the £270 million **Early Years Change Fund** (commencing in 2012-13) has been established. NHS Boards and local government will top up a Scottish Government contribution of £50 million. The Early Years Change fund represents the Scottish Government, Local Government and NHS Scotland's commitment to shift resource to prevention and early intervention, and signifies a significant shift to preventative spend over the current Parliamentary term.

The Scottish Government also operates the **Employability and Tackling Poverty Learning Network** in order to assist local learning and development; build capacity through workshops and training; create support tools; share best practice and promote communication and networking across Scotland. Examples of Learning Network activity since the launch of the strategy include publication of:

- a [child poverty online resource](#)<sup>18</sup> which equips local practitioners with the tools, knowledge and arguments they require to tackle the problem in their local area.
- a [poverty sensitive decision-making guide](#)<sup>19</sup> which demonstrates how practitioners can take poverty into clearer consideration when making budgeting decisions, service changes or developing policy.
- a [guide to effective local measurement of poverty](#)<sup>20</sup>.
- a [collection of case studies demonstrating effective practice in tackling poverty](#)<sup>21</sup>.

The Scottish Government also continues to support stakeholders in the development of local multi-agency partnerships on employability and poverty, which sit within the broader Community Planning Partnership framework.

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/gatewaychildpoverty.aspx>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/povertysensitivedecisions.aspx>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/measuringpovertygateway.aspx>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/whatworksintacklingpoverty.aspx>



## CASE STUDY – SG / THIRD SECTOR WORK TO DRIVE ADOPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE IN LOCAL AREAS

The Poverty Alliance is undertaking a scoping exercise into the use of Poverty Sensitive Decision Making on behalf of the Scottish Government. The aim is to establish the stage local areas are at in terms of being more 'poverty sensitive' and strengthening the case for taking poverty into account during the policy cycle and service or budget decision making.

The finished product will be a short report that contains 8 – 10 case studies highlighting where policy and decision makers at local and national level have taken poverty into account when making choices or spending decisions over differing policy and/or service options.

These studies will highlight key issues related to poverty sensitive decision making by interviewing key stakeholders within authorities, support the Scottish Government in promoting and strengthening the practical case for poverty sensitive decision making in local and national government and among Community Planning partners, and supplement materials already available from the Scottish Government.

## **SECTION 3 – WHAT NEXT**

The strategy is to be implemented over 3 years, and we believe our long term approach is the right one, so we will continue to implement the strategic goals we set out when we published the strategy, and work towards implementing the key measures identified within it.

Over the remainder of the strategy we will continue to press forward with the Programme for Government, moving expenditure to **early intervention and prevention initiatives** where possible and taking forward the legislative programme which includes a **Children's Services Bill, and a Sustainable Procurement Bill** – both of which have the potential to drive improvements in child wellbeing.

The Children's Services Bill will **deliver a minimum of 600 hours per year of early learning and childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds and looked after 2 year olds by 2015**, benefitting around 120,000 children in Scotland. This is the highest level of funded provision anywhere in the UK. Increased access to flexible, affordable early learning and childcare provision will support parents to access improved employment opportunities – particularly those in negative cycles of worklessness and low paid employment.

We will continue to support unemployed young people into work and training opportunities through the **Opportunities for All** initiative. In February 2012, Angela Constance, the Minister for Youth Employment announced an additional £6 million to support the continuation of Community Jobs Scotland in 2012/13, taking forward the best of the current CJS initiative, in partnership with SCVO and Social Enterprise Scotland.

This one year programme aims to provide up to 1,000 young unemployed people aged 16-19 with job specific training and additional customised training which will help enhance their prospects of long term employment.

Funding for Scottish Government **fuel poverty and energy efficiency programmes** will be £65million in 2012-13 and 2013-14, rising to £66.25million in 2014-15. That's a 35% increase on the £48million initially being provided in 2011-12 and illustrates clearly the importance that we attach to supporting vulnerable households affected by fuel poverty. Importantly, these services will refer people to support for money advice and checks to see if they're receiving all of the benefits and tax credits that they're entitled to.

Recognising the importance of local delivery in tackling child poverty, in **2012-13 we will provide councils with a total funding package of £11.5 billion**, maintaining 2011-12 funding levels. For the Spending Review period 2012-15, local government have agreed to a settlement that maintains their 2011-12 level of revenue funding inclusive of resources to freeze the Council Tax, but with additional resources to maintain teacher employment and the new floor that will give all local authorities at least 85% of the Scottish average revenue funding.

We will also continue to encourage Local Authorities to pay a **living wage** to their staff, wherever it might be appropriate.

Through the **Welfare Reform Scrutiny Group** we will be working with a range of stakeholders across the public and third sectors to ensure the changes required by the UK Governments Welfare Reform Act 2012 are implemented in Scotland in the best way possible for the people of Scotland, and will do what we can to mitigate the effects where possible.

We have also agreed to **provide match funding of up to £1 million for the STV / Hunter Foundation Child Poverty Appeal in 2012**, following the success of the 2011 appeal which saw a wide range of organisations across the whole of Scotland benefit from the generosity of the Scottish public and the match funding provided by the Scottish Government and we will be working with them to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding child poverty.

The Scottish Government cannot solve this problem by itself, and it is important the whole of Scottish society is behind efforts to eradicate child poverty in Scotland.