



Tackling Child Poverty in Scotland: Get Heard Scotland

Local Community Discussions 2021-2022



Outline

- Child Poverty Act
- Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plans
- The new TCDP 2022-2026
- Discussion questions
- Next Steps



What is Get Heard Scotland?



- GHS is a community engagement programme that seeks to get the voices of people at the community level heard at the national policy level.
- The COVID 19 pandemic has changed the way we work, with discussions now taking place online as opposed to in-person.



The Child Poverty Act 2017

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act sets out four ambitious headline targets for 2030 that will establish Scotland as the only part of the UK with statutory income targets on child poverty

- Child Poverty Bill was **unanimously** passed in November 2017

Duties on Scottish Ministers to publish:

- **Delivery Plans by April 2018, 2022, and 2026**
- Annual progress reports
- A final progress report setting out whether the targets have been met
- Duty on **local authorities and health boards** to produce annual reports on activity they are taking to reduce child poverty; both retrospective and forward looking
- Provisions for a **statutory Poverty & Inequality Commission**

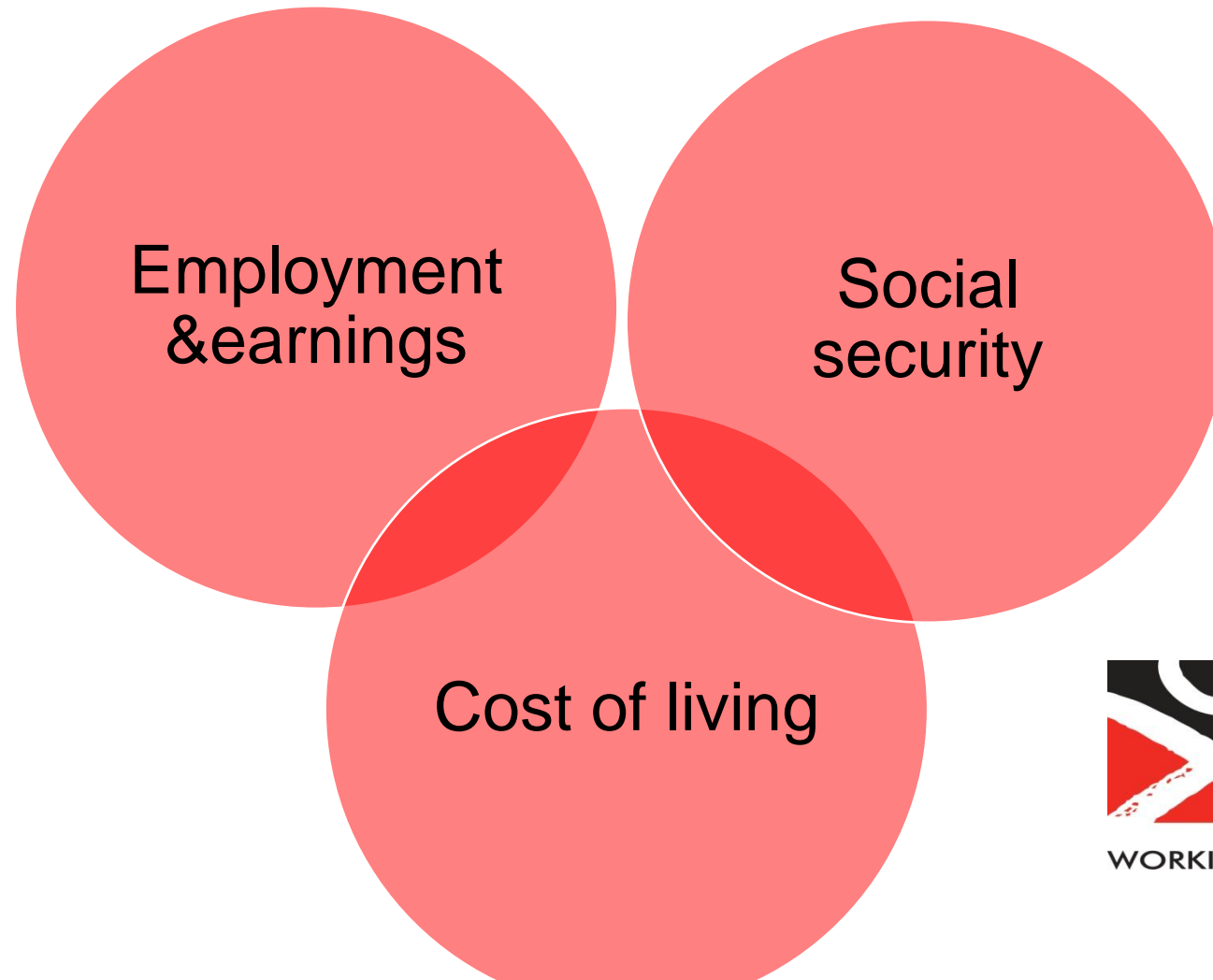


Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan: Priority families

- Lone parents:
- Disabled Parents:
- Large families (3+ children)
- BAME families
- Families with a child under 1 year
- Mothers who are under 25 yrs



Interventions by Scottish Gov't



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Employment earnings

- Parental Employability Support Fund - Fair Start Scotland & LAs, (No One Left Behind - 2023)
- Additional support for disabled parents in 2021
- New Job Start Payment for young parents (17th August 2020) £250 & £400 cash payment in transition to work.

Extra funding for training for young people & funding for national retraining schemes.

- Supporting the Living Wage
- Increase in early learning childcare



Cost of living

- Increase in school wear grants (£100 national minimum) & funding for holiday hunger schemes.
- Supporting income maximisation work (benefit take up strategy) increasing awareness of and access to Scottish benefits.
- Funding to reduce inequalities & damages posed by the pandemic, including reducing the digital divide. 30,000 h/h online in 2021 through Connecting Scotland.
- Establishing an Advisory Board composed of partners & people with lived experience of poverty to advise Government on solutions.



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Social security

- Best Start Grant: 3 payments
- New Carer's Allowance Supplement- £230.10 every six months.
- New Scottish Child Payment – £10 /wk payment due end of Feb 2021 for under 6 years.
- Replacing Healthy Start Vouchers with Best Start Food Payment Card (£17 & £34)



TCPD 2022 – 2026 Questions

1. What are your views on the Scottish Government's current approach to tackling child poverty? (referring to the three main drivers: income from employment, cost of living and other sources of income) *[Prompt - is there anything you think has been particularly effective / will make a real difference?]*
2. What are the biggest barriers you face when tackling child poverty in your local area?
3. What do you think should be the key priorities going forward to tackle child poverty at a national and local level? *[Prompt - What national interventions and priorities would help you to tackle child poverty in your community?]*



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Questions continued

4. In relation to the six priority groups most at risk of poverty, are there any other priorities that the Scottish Government should be focussing on in tackling child poverty?

5. What other considerations should the Scottish Government make in developing the new Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plans (2022-2026)

6. In the future, is there a key policy that you think could make a very significant change in tackling child poverty?



Questions cont'd



Any other comments and observations?



Next Steps



- Discussion will inform our response to SG
- SG has developed a timeline for developing a new plan
- Plan to be published early 2022
- Get your voices heard in responding to SG public consultation later in the year
- Help identify parents for Focus Group discussions
- TPA will publish report from this work with members & SG



Get Heard Scotland: Keep in Touch!



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