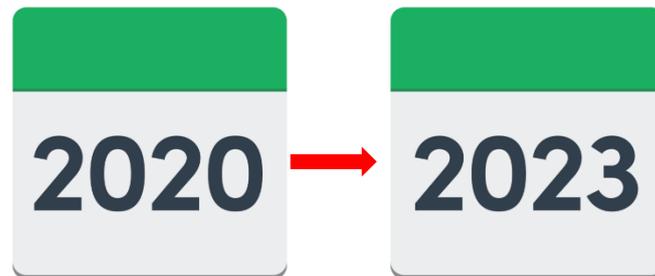


# Poverty and Inequality Commission Plan 2020 – 2023



## Introduction



Poverty is not having enough money to buy things like food, clothing or housing.



We want to work with other organisations to reduce poverty and inequality in Scotland.

Inequality means not being treated equally and fairly.

Reduce means to have less.



This plan says what we are working on until the end of 2023.

## What is the Poverty and Inequality Commission?



The Commission works to:

- Give advice to Scottish Ministers about poverty and inequality in Scotland.

This includes advice on government policies like the Child Poverty Delivery Plan to see if it is making a difference.



- Check to see if things are changing and what work is still needed.
- Check if money, materials and staff being used well.



- Ask everyone to do what they can to reduce poverty and inequality.

## What do we want to see happen?



The Commission wants a Scotland where nobody lives in poverty and everyone is treated equally.

## How will we work as a Commission?



**We will be brave and tell the truth.**

- We will say what is right, not what is easy
- We will ask questions about things we think are not right.



## **We will use information.**

- Use facts and figures and information that people tell us to work well and to check how well things are working.



## **We will listen to people and be accessible.**

- It will be easy for people to get in touch with us and to know about our work.
- We will listen to people who have lived through poverty and inequality.



## **We want people to be treated with dignity and respect.**

- People living in poverty are sometimes not treated fairly or equally. We want this to change.



## **We want to be heard.**

- We will speak up for people who do not always have their voices heard.



## **We will be person-centred.**

- We will keep people, their lives, and what they can achieve at the centre of what we do.

# Background



Coronavirus has made inequality worse.

Some people have been affected more than others.

This means some people are more likely than to be poor than other people.



It has made the most difference to people who:

- are from a minority ethnic background
- are female
- have a disability
- do not have a lot of money coming into their household
- are in jobs that do not pay well and do not last for long.
- live in a deprived area.



A deprived area is one where people have more difficulties in different parts of their life.



When we look at how things should change after the coronavirus pandemic We must think about structural inequalities.



Structural inequality means our society does not treat everyone fairly and equally.

Everyone does not have the same choices and chances.

This means some people are more likely to be poor than other people.

## What is our most important work?



We want to listen to experts by experience and have them at the centre of our work.

Experts by experience are people who have lived in poverty and have not being treated equally.



We asked the Poverty Alliance and Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit to make guidance about how to work with experts by experience.

They worked with experts by experience to make the guidance.

The guidance says we must:



- put people and relationships at the centre of our work
- make sure we keep telling people about our work and how we are using their information.
- make sure they know their views are important to us.
- Work in an intersectional way.



Intersectionality is a way to understand how identities work together.

An identity is how you see yourself.

We all have different identities that make us who we are.



We must look at why people are not treated equally and fairly because of their identities.

What works to make things better for one person might not work for someone else.



We have 4 priorities – work we think is most important.

# Priority 1: Make sure that having less poverty and inequality is at the centre of all policies and work.

## How will we do this?



The Commission will:

- Look closely at Child Poverty targets to see if they are working well and what work is needed.

A target is work that needs to happen.



- Look closely at Local Child Poverty Action Reports.

Give advice and information to help local work meet the child poverty targets.



- Give advice to the Scottish Government on what should be in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan in 2022.

This will help child poverty targets to be reached by 2030.

- Give advice to Scottish Ministers about poverty and inequality.



- Make a report which looks at the progress Scottish Government is making in reducing poverty and inequality and shows what work still needs to happen.



- Make recommendations – things we think should happen.  
Encourage Scottish Government, councils and other organisations to do the work.



- Make sure the Scottish Government listens to experts by experience when decisions are made about policies and plans.



- Use an intersectional way of looking at information.

Encourage Scottish Government and other organisations to work in the same way.

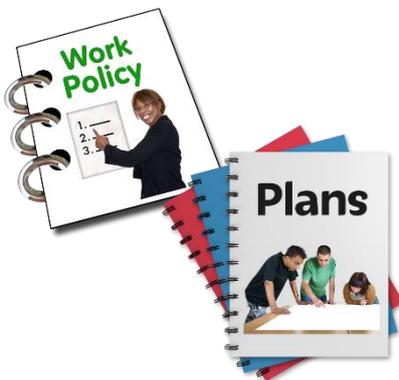


- Work with many different people and organisations to get information.



- Work with Scottish Ministers and officials across Scottish Government and ask them questions when we think work is not happening fast enough.

## **We will know this is working if these things happen:**



- Our advice is in:
  - The Scottish Government's Child Poverty reports
  - The Child Poverty Delivery Plan
  - Policies and work plans



- The Programme for Government has reducing poverty and inequality at the centre of the work.
- New areas of government work to reduce poverty and inequality.

## Priority 2: Use facts and figures to show how policies are reducing poverty and inequality, and what more needs to happen.

### How will we do this work?



The Commission will:

- Look closely at how well the child poverty targets are working and make a report every year.



- Make sure facts and figures are included in policies.  
Show how we decide if policies are working well.
- Include facts and figures in our own work.

### We will know this is working if these things happen:



- The way the Scottish Government spends money and its policies show how they will make a difference and how they will decide this.



- The Commission's work and recommendations uses different types of facts, figures and information.



- We use an intersectional approach when we look at information and make recommendations.

### **Priority 3: Ask the Scottish Government and others to do things to stop poverty and inequality getting worse because of coronavirus.**

### **Change the things that cause poverty and inequality in the first place**

### **How will we do this work?**

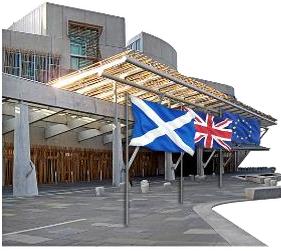
The Commission will:



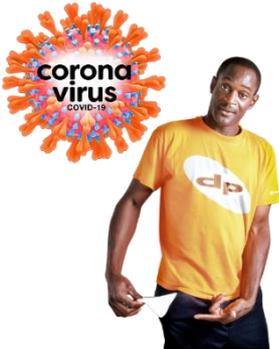
- Have a group that looks at how to change the things that cause poverty and inequality.



- Work on the main problems people in poverty have:
  - work and earnings
  - the benefits system
  - and housing.



- Give recommendations to the Scottish Government on what work would make this better.



- Work with the UK Social Mobility Commission to get information about how coronavirus has affected young people who do not have much money in their household.

This information would be useful for policies in all four nations of the UK.



- Make sure experts by experience are part of the Commission's work on coronavirus recovery.

## **We will know this is working if these things happen:**



- Our advice looks at the causes of poverty and inequality.
- Scottish Government policies show they have listened to the Commission's recommendations about the causes of poverty and inequality.

## **Priority 4: People listen to the Commission's ideas.**

**We get more people to understand what poverty and inequality is. We encourage everyone to be part of making this better.**



The Commission will:

- Work with TV companies and newspapers and social media to tell them about our work.
- Work with other organisations to reach groups who do not have their voices heard about poverty.
- Work with organisations who are also working on poverty and inequality.



**We will know this is working if these things happen:**



- The Commission is seen as an expert and is asked what they think by the media.



- The Commission is asked to speak at events and be part of discussions.

Other organisations want to work with the Commission's work.



- Experts by experience think the Commission is doing good work.
- The Commission's work is included in articles, policies and plans.

## How will we check if things are going well?



We want to know what you think about our plan and our work to make it happen.

Email your comments to:

[Info@povertyinequality.scot](mailto:Info@povertyinequality.scot)



We will keep checking to see if work is going well.



We will put information in our annual report.