



What do we think about work in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2021-2022?



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Child poverty means children living in a household where there may not be enough money coming in from jobs or benefits to pay for housing and basic things like food, clothing or staying warm.



The Scottish Government made a report called the 'Child Poverty Progress Report' to say how work was being done to **reduce** child poverty.

Reduce means to have less.



The Poverty and Inequality Commission and its Experts by Experience Panel have looked at what the Scottish Government is doing to meet the child poverty targets to see if work is going well.

A **target** is what the government is working towards to help make things better.



The **Experts by Experience Panel** are a group of people who know a lot about poverty because they are experiencing it now.



Children and young people have also shared their views with us about the work the Scottish Government is doing.

What work has gone well in 2021-2022 to reach the child poverty targets?



The coronavirus pandemic made it difficult to get facts, figures and information.



This made it difficult for us to decide if work towards meeting the child poverty targets has gone well.



It seems likely that in 2020-21 there may be less child poverty because of:

- temporary increases in benefits
- a fall in the amount of money coming into households that had an income close to the middle income of all households in the country



Both these things are not likely to be the same in the future.



A **commitment** means that something will happen.

Work is going well on Scottish Government commitments like:

- the Scottish Child Payment
- housing that people can afford
- funded early learning and childcare
- supporting people in work



Do we think the work being done is enough to meet the child poverty targets?



Commitments made during 2021-22 and in the 2022-2026 Delivery Plan now make it more likely that the Scottish Government will meet one of its 2023-2024 child poverty targets.



Putting the Scottish Child Payment up to £25 per week is likely to make the biggest difference.



It is not clear if the Scottish Government will meet the other targets.

There has been a big increase in the **cost of living** – how much it costs to buy food and to stay warm.



This will make it much harder to meet some of the targets.

Families will not see their quality of life get better.



The Scottish Government know that to meet their 2030 targets there must be a lot less child poverty.



This will not happen unless work is done to change the things that force people into poverty like:

- not having a job
- having a job that does not pay enough
- not having choices and chances



The Scottish Government cannot wait until the next Delivery Plan to decide what more work is needed.

By then it will be too late to put plans into place to meet the final targets.

What other work do we think is needed to meet the child poverty targets?

The Scottish Government must now focus on:



- doing the work they have agreed to do
- doing the work quickly and doing it well
- developing new policies and plans to meet the 2030 targets
- doing work to change the things that force people into poverty



To hit the 2030 targets the Scottish Government must start developing work to be done on:



- changing the **economy** - how the country produces and uses goods, services and money
- housing
- transport

Recommendations – what we want to see happen

The Scottish Government must:



1. Make sure there is lots of information about how the Delivery Plan work will be done, and when it will be done by.

Make sure the information is published and checked.



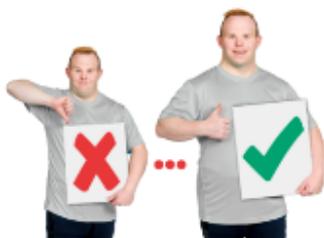
2. Make sure government policies and plans make a difference in reducing child poverty.

Make sure this can be proven to the Poverty and Inequality Commission and other organisations.



3. Publish good facts, figures and information about:

- actions in the Delivery Plan
- how the work will affect families that are living in poverty
- show how the government is learning and changing work it is doing so that things get better





4. Put out information about how experts by experience have been part of the design, delivery and checking of actions in the Delivery Plan.



5. Work with the Poverty and Inequality Commission to develop work to meet the 2030 targets, particularly work on the economy, housing and transport.



6. Take action now to make the cost of living crisis easier for people to cope with.



7. Make sure it uses facts, figures and information about the 4 child poverty targets when it decides what work is needed to make the cost of living crisis easier for people to cope with.

Agree to put out information about how it was decided what work is needed.



8. Ask the UK Government to raise the money needed to protect people against the cost of living crisis.

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