



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together



Child Poverty Commitment 2023–2026

Getting it right for
South Lanarkshire's
children, young people
and families



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1. Introduction

Our commitment to tackling child poverty in South Lanarkshire is that we will build on the success of our work to support families, documented in our previous Local Child Poverty Action Reports that tell the story of how we are helping families cope with cost of living challenges.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places a duty on South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire to produce a joint, annual Local Child Poverty Action Report which details what we are doing to support families. Since our first annual report was published in 2019, we have been working to identify where we can better support families and how we can take a longer term sustained approach to this activity.

Our work is supported by the following vision:

We will provide support to South Lanarkshire families in order to tackle child poverty head on, through an offer of the right support, at the right time and delivered in the right way.

This vision will guide our work over the next three years and we will report the progress of our work by publishing an annual update to report what we are doing to help our families.

Poverty cannot be addressed in isolation and our local communities and wider partnerships are key to achieve our vision and making sure that work to tackle poverty and in particular child poverty is integral to all that we do.

Our partners include the Department of Work and Pensions, Social Security Scotland, Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) and our vibrant third sector, South Lanarkshire Council, Skills Development Scotland, South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership and our families and communities.

Families in some circumstances are more at risk of child poverty, that is; lone parent families, minority ethnic families, families with a disabled adult or child, families with a younger mother (under 25), families with a child under one, larger families (three + children) and care experienced families. Understanding the circumstances of families and their needs will be essential in providing the right support, at the right time, delivered in the right way.

Whilst there are many challenges in delivering the right support to families, with the commitment to working together over the next three years, we can achieve our vision and make a valuable contribution towards the goals contained in Best Start Bright Futures, the national child poverty delivery plan.



Cllr Joe Fagan
Leader of South
Lanarkshire Council



Martin Hill
Chair of NHS
Lanarkshire Board



2. Where we are now

Families in South Lanarkshire are facing the rising cost of living and particularly of fuel and food, which means that money is stretched even further than it was before.

The families identified in the priority groups highlighted above, along with children and young people who are care experienced, or who find themselves in circumstances of child abuse or neglect are at the forefront of our planning processes.

Our commitment to The Promise and making sure that children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected is central to our approach. The foundations of Family, Voice, Care, People and Scaffolding will provide a strong framework for our offer of support, which will have close links to our commitment to Keeping The Promise to South Lanarkshire's families.

Ensuring lived experience and the voice of children, young people and families aligns well with our preparation for UNCRC incorporation across public services and our refreshed vision for Getting It Right For Every Child puts families at the centre of everything we do.

South Lanarkshire's recently refreshed Community Plan, our Council Plan 'Connect', the Children's Services Plan for 2023 -26 and NHS Lanarkshire's developing healthcare strategy 'Our Health Together' share our ambition of improving outcomes for children, young people and families in South Lanarkshire.

Our work on neighbourhood planning supports communities to articulate where they are facing the greatest inequalities and work with them to devise local solutions that make a positive difference. Much of this work involves children and families in very practical ways, helping communities support each other and making sure that the resources are used to the best effect.

A strong commitment to tackle poverty in general is embedded in the Economic Development Strategy, Community Wealth Building Strategy and Children and Young People's Health Plan Lanarkshire and NHS Lanarkshire's commitment to be an exemplar anchor organisation.



2. Where we are now

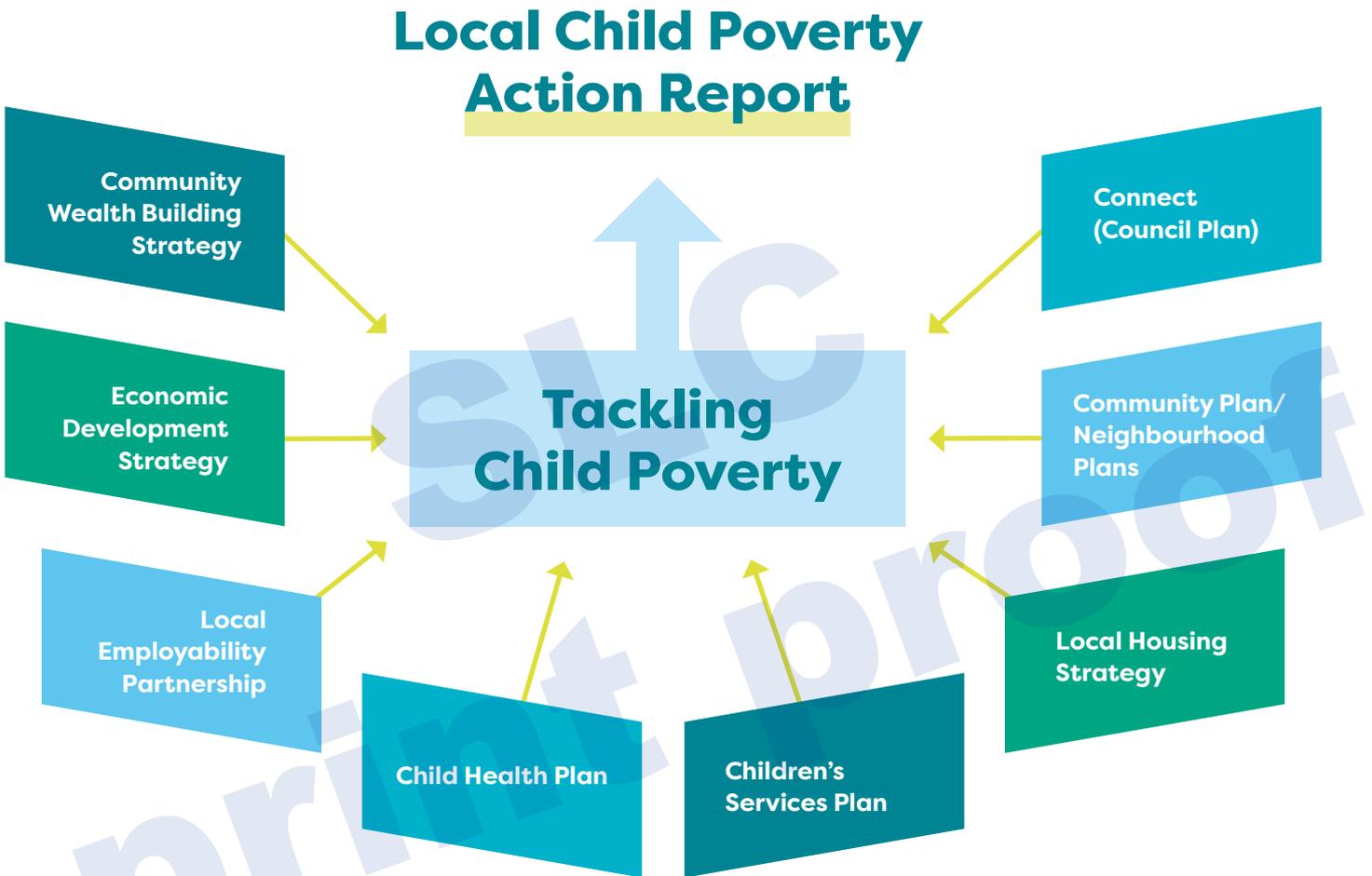
This integrated approach underlines the outcomes in the National Performance Framework, including that children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected so they realise their full potential and that we tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, and wealth where we can.



2. Where we are now

Our integrated approach

The diagram below explains the connections across the various processes in place in South Lanarkshire to tackle poverty and reduce its impact on children, young people, and families.



This integrated approach to **poverty** is informed by our shared commitment to the key themes of:

- ▶ **People** – we need to develop a whole family approach
- ▶ **Places** – we need to provide good quality suitable and sustainable places to live
- ▶ **Progress** – we need to progress and improve our offer of support
- ▶ **Planet** – we need to work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places.

3. What we are going to do

This section explores some of the ways we will support families over the next three years across the substantial range of activity to address and mitigate child poverty and underlines our commitment to bring this all together through our child poverty report to report on our shared aims and ambitions.

Income from Employment

Providing additional support to parents to help the take up of employment makes a difference, including childcare opportunities, access to suitable employment, qualifications, and suitable transport options. Taking an integrated approach to parental employment and designing support based on the collective needs of the whole family will be part of this offer.

This will include employer recruitment incentives, support for long-term unemployed parents, additional childcare options in our local communities and access to mental health provision if required.

The improvement work for this theme will be led by the Local Employability Partnership.



Our aim	What we will do	How we will know if we are successful
Support more parents into better employment situations	Develop a whole system approach to supporting parents' employability journeys	Increased number of jobs created for working age parents
Support more young people into positive post school destinations	Provide the right support to pupils who need extra help to make a positive post school transition	Reduced gap in school leavers entering a positive destination between most deprived 20% and least deprived 20% areas
Support more care experienced young people into positive post school destinations	Provide the right support to care experienced school leavers to sustain a positive destination	Increased proportion of care experienced young people in a positive destination
Offer meaningful employee upskilling support to enhance employability options	Provide a programme of workforce development training and opportunities for staff that improve skills and knowledge	Increased number of staff benefiting from upskilling opportunities
Support more parents into free childcare provision that helps improve employability options	Develop and distribute information resources to raise the awareness of childcare provision across parents and service providers	Increased uptake of funded early learning and childcare entitlement for 2- and 3-year-olds

3. What we are going to do

Cost of living

Making best use of available funding, e.g. the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, Social Work Hardship Fund, Summer of Fun monies and budgets allocated to support cost of the school day activities makes a difference to families.

We will take an integrated approach to supporting families e.g., Housing, Money Advice and NHS Lanarkshire will work together to support families identified as at risk of being in fuel poverty and we will identify ways where possible for families to access services and opportunities at little or no cost.

Our aim	What we will do	How we will know if we are successful
Reduce the impact of energy and household bill increases on families	Provide practical support for families to reduce household energy costs	Increased number of homes being energy efficient
Reduce financial barriers to education for school age children	Schools will develop innovative support as part of the Cost of the School Day initiative	Increased number of pupils benefiting from Cost of the School Day support
Reduced housing costs for families	Maintain affordable rents for council homes, benchmarked against Scottish average	Rents for council homes remain lower than the Scottish average
Reduced homelessness of family households	Provide housing support service provision to improve homelessness prevention and support tenancy sustainment	Reduced number of families presenting as homeless
Support digital inclusion for families in the most deprived areas	Awareness and promotion of the Digital Inclusion Group to highlight support for families – including signposting	Increased number of families benefiting from digital inclusion support
Support families experiencing Food Poverty	Delivery of breakfast clubs in schools	Increased number of pupils benefiting from a healthy breakfast before school
Reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours	Support families in higher poverty areas to reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours	Reduced number of pregnant women living in SIMD 1 and 2 smoking

3. What we are going to do

Income from benefits

We will collectively work together to support families maximising the uptake of benefits through our Money Matters Service and with the support of the Citizen’s Advice Bureau. We will provide information and training to staff to ensure our workforce is poverty informed and can help families access the advice and support required to cope with financial worries.

This improvement work will be led by the Children’s Services Whole Family Wellbeing Group who will report into our Child Poverty leads Group on a quarterly basis.

Our aim	What we will do	How we will know if we are successful
Increase the uptake of benefits and entitlements for families	Continue to provide bespoke benefits advice and support to families	Increased number of benefit applications approved
Families are more aware of changes in available benefits	Partners will distribute updated benefits information to staff and families using a range of communication methods	Increased number of benefit applications approved

How will we achieve our aims?

- ▶ Working together across services, sharing of knowledge and expertise to deliver better results for families through the LCPAR group and the organisations it represents
- ▶ An evidence based, outcome focused approach which gives consideration to the needs of the priority groups at highest risk of child poverty
- ▶ Putting families with lived experience at the heart of our decision making and design of services
- ▶ A longer-term approach to setting achievable targets that help us contribute towards our local aims and the aims set in the national delivery plan
- ▶ Annual updates for our families on our work and progress towards agreed targets
- ▶ An integrated approach across key strategies and plans to ensure that tackling poverty activity is embedded in all that we do



4. Monitoring of progress

Delivering on our ambitions

A Performance Framework is in place to help us monitor our progress and will be updated annually to help us monitor what is working well and what needs to change to achieve our vision. In addition, the activity in this framework will be supplemented by the wide range of activity being delivered by the range of partnerships and strategies identified in the diagram above.

There will be regular reporting to the council's Management Team and NHS Lanarkshire to help keep track on progress.

In addition to the three sections above we have agreed a small number of key indicators that will tell us if we are making the required difference we desire for our families. These are:

- ▶ Percentage of children (0-15) living in relative poverty (after housing costs)
- ▶ Percentage of children in low-income families (before housing costs)
- ▶ Percentage of households with children not managing well financially (over the previous 12 months)
- ▶ Percentage of children living in families that are unable to afford the bare necessities
- ▶ Percentage of fuel poor households

We aim to use our combined resources effectively to ensure we deliver services which promote wellbeing, prevent adversity, and provide the right help at the right time to those who need it.

5. Appendices

The Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/local-housing-strategy

South Lanarkshire's Community Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/CommunityPlan2022-2032

South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2023 -26, Working together making a difference

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/childrens-services-plan

Children and Young People's Health Plan Lanarkshire

bit.ly/NHS-children-young-peoples-health-plan

Best Start, Bright Futures, the national child poverty delivery plan

bit.ly/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan

South Lanarkshire's Community Learning and Development Strategy and Action Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/community-learning-development-strategic-plan

Community Wealth Building Strategy

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/community-wealth-building-strategy

'Connect' the Council Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-plan

If you need this information in another language or format,
please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.
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