

# Report

Report to:	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>2 February 2022</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Tackling Poverty Working Group Progress Report</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ update the Executive Committee on the progress of the Tackling Poverty Working Group and present recommendations for approval.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the work which has been undertaken by the Tackling Poverty Working Group be noted; and
- (2) that the recommendations outlined in Section 5 of the report be approved.

## 3. Background

3.1. At its special meeting held on 27 February 2019, the Council approved proposals for a Cross-party Working Group to be formed on Tackling Poverty. An initial meeting was held on 12 February 2020, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Group did not meet again until 3 February 2021 at which the Group considered its forward work plan.

A copy of the Working Group's Terms of Reference is attached as Appendix 1.

## 4. Work undertaken by the Group

4.1. On 3 February 2021, the Working Group agreed that it was interested in investigating the various approaches the Council is taking to Tackling Poverty and the contributions of each of its Resources.

4.2. The Working Group has held 7 meetings to date, and an overview of the topics covered is provided in Table 1.

Meeting Date	Items Considered
12 February 2020	Terms of Reference
3 February 2021	Covid-19 Financial Advice and Support Local Child Poverty Action Report Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 South Lanarkshire Analysis Report Forward Workplan
31 March 2021	Resource Updates Finance and Corporate Resources Contribution to the Tackling Poverty Agenda

26 May 2021	Community and Enterprise Resources Contribution to the Tackling Poverty Agenda Fair Work
11 August 2021	Forward Meeting Plan Update Welfare Support Update Lived Experience Feedback to CPP Board Local Child Poverty - Examples of Policy and Practice from the Improvement Service Education Resources Contribution to the Tackling Poverty Agenda
6 October 2021	Housing and Technical Resources' Contribution to the Tackling Poverty Agenda Labour Market and Economic Recovery Living Wage Sub-Group Update Funeral Poverty Sub-Group Neighbourhood Planning Update Local Child Poverty Action Report Lived Experience Feedback to CPP Board
8 December 2021	Health and Social Care Contribution to the Tackling Poverty Agenda Access to Free Sanitary Provision Joint North and South Lanarkshire Community Planning Work on Inequalities Lived Experience Feedback to CPP Board

Table 1

4.3. To date the Working Group has:-

- ◆ gained an understanding of the contributions to the Tackling Poverty agenda from each of the Resources within the Council
- ◆ considered this in the context of the data which is available around poverty and its impact
- ◆ taken note of the lived experience feedback provided from various groups with experience of the effects of poverty
- ◆ examined the work of various partnership groups which address aspects of poverty related issues

4.4. On 8 December 2021, the Working Group agreed to hold its final meeting on 11 January 2022 to agree the recommendations to be presented to the Executive Committee for approval, in line with the Terms of Reference (see Appendix 1).

**5. Recommendations from the Working Group**

5.1. The Group has agreed that the following recommendations be referred to the Executive Committee and that future work of the Council should:

- consider how we are articulating the impacts of work in order to build an understanding of the most effective approaches to tackling poverty
- use the information gathered on impact and lived experience to determine the best solutions which should be resourced to address poverty related issues
- make use of the Fairer Scotland Duty as a means of ensuring all council services are held to account regarding reducing the impact of poverty on people's lives

- create an action plan which is focused on how to co-ordinate this work and integrate it with other workstreams both within the Council and with the work of partners

5.2. If these recommendations are approved by the Executive Committee, officers would be asked to develop the action plan which would contain the specific actions including responsibilities and timescales to deliver these recommendations. The work of the Tackling Poverty Working Group has been crosscutting and has been an effective way of pulling together all the work the Council has been doing to tackle poverty. The action plan will recognise existing work being carried out, including statutory requirements for reporting, and be aligned to the actions in the new Council and Community Plans which are under development. This would then be reported back to the Executive Committee at a further meeting.

## **6. Employee Implications**

6.1. There are no immediate employee implications arising from this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1. Any financial implications will be met within existing budgets.

## **8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

8.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained within this report.

## **10. Other Implications**

10.1. There are no other implications arising from this report at present.

## **11. Equality Impact Assessment**

11.1. There is no requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment arising from this report.

**Paul Manning**  
**Executive Director**  
**Finance and Corporate Resources**

14 January 2022

## **Link to Council Ambitions/Objectives/Values**

**Vision:** Improve the Quality of life for everyone in South Lanarkshire

**Council Values:** Focussed on people and their needs; Working with and respecting others; Fair, open and sustainable; Excellent Employer

**Council Objectives :**Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration; Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth

## **Previous References**

- Executive Committee

## **List of Background Papers**

- None

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Ext: 5783 (Tel: 01698 455783)

Email: [rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1

### **Tackling Poverty Working Group**

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### **1 Powers and Responsibilities**

- 1.1 To have a strategic overview of initiatives in relation to poverty prevention and reduction.
- 1.2 To consider and agree a workplan which will focus on particular areas, for example, the Local Child Poverty Action Plan, welfare reform, benefits maximisation advice and support, reducing the costs of living, the employability programme and poverty awareness raising and engagement activities.
- 1.3 To refer any recommendations arising, as appropriate, to the Executive Committee.

##### **2 Membership**

- 2.1 11 members with provision for named substitutes (Political balance: 4 SNP; 3 Labour; 2 Conservative; 1 Independent Group and 1 Liberal Democrat)
- 2.2 To be chaired by a member of the Working Group - appointed at the first meeting of the Group.

##### **3 Meeting Arrangements and Practice**

- 3.1 To meet as required.
- 3.2. Meetings not held in public - Internal Working Group.