



Item No: 14

Meeting Date: Wednesday 24th January 2024

Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

Report By: Gary Dover, Assistant Chief Officer, Primary Care and Early intervention
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Glasgow Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) 2022/23

Purpose of Report:	To report on the most recent Glasgow Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) and the GCHSCP contribution to this.
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Background/Engagement:	Under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 ('the Act') Local Authorities and NHS Boards have a statutory duty to jointly publish annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs). This is Glasgow's fifth LCPAR and includes work undertaken through and by GCHSCP staff.
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Governance Route:	The matters contained within this paper have been previously considered by the following group(s) as part of its development. HSCP Senior Management Team ☐ Council Corporate Management Team ☒ Health Board Corporate Management Team ☒ Council Committee ☒ Update requested by IJB ☐ Other ☐ Not Applicable ☐
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Recommendations:	The Integration Joint Board is asked to: a) Note the requirement to publish an annual (LCPAR) and support the work described for 2022/23;
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	b) Note the continued work, across GCHSCP services to mitigate and prevent child poverty; and c) Note the HSCP's contribution to both the Child Poverty Pathfinder.
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Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:

Priority 1 : Prevention, early intervention and well-being
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Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:

Reference to National Health & Wellbeing Outcome(s):	Outcome 1 – People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer. Outcome 4 – Health and social care services are centred in helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.
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Personnel:	No direct personnel implications.
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Carers:	No direct implications for carers of the publication of the LCPAR.
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Provider Organisations:	No direct implications beyond noting the cost of living implications for organisations acting to support families affected by poverty.
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Equalities:	An updated GCC Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and the current and proposed actions focus on mitigating the disproportionate sex, disability and race differences in child poverty https://glasgowcity.hscp.scot/publication/eqia-child-poverty-glasgows-local-child-poverty-action-reports-2023
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Fairer Scotland Compliance:	Yes
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Financial:	None
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Legal:	None
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Economic Impact:	Reducing child poverty will have a significant benefit for inclusive growth
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Sustainability:	N/A
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Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:	N/A
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Risk Implications:	Rises in child poverty increase demand on health and care services, hence the continued requirement for services to mitigate and prevent child poverty.
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Implications for Glasgow City Council:	GCC has approved the publication of the LCPAR.
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Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde:	NHSGG&C has approved the publication of the LCPAR.
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Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	
Direction to:	
1. No Direction Required	☒
2. Glasgow City Council	☐
3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	☐
4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	☐

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report on the Glasgow Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) and the GCHSCP contribution to this.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 ('the Act'), Local Authorities and NHS Boards have a statutory duty to jointly develop and publish annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs). This is Glasgow's fifth LCPAR, it includes work undertaken through GCHSCP.

- 2.2 The Act sets out four ambitious targets for 2030, which are shown below, (bracketed figures are the interim 2023 targets):

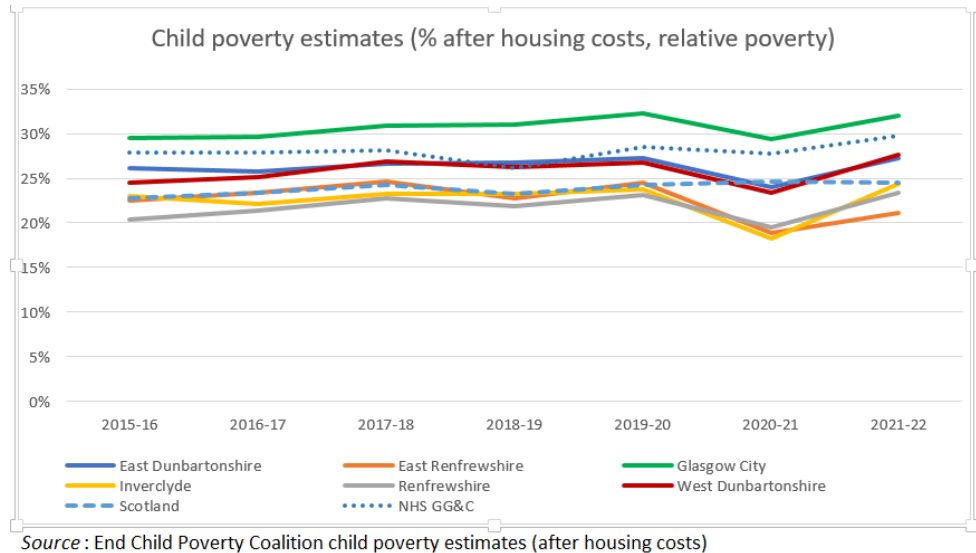
- Less than 10% of children are in relative poverty (18%), *defined as those with income below 60% of the middle household income in the UK*
- Less than 5% of children are in absolute poverty (14%), *defined as income below the poverty threshold from 2010/11.*
- Less than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation (8%), *defined as the proportion of children in families that cannot afford basic essential goods and services because of a low income (below 70% of the middle household income)*
- Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty (8%) *defined as those in relative poverty for three or more out of four years*

- 2.3 The three main drivers, and therefore levers for reducing child poverty are; income from work, costs of living and income from Social Security and Benefits in kind. These drivers are used to describe the range of interventions to be included in local reports.

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- 2.4 National data on child poverty (after housing costs) shows 32% (35,891) of Glasgow's children living in relative poverty in 2021/22, a rise from 29% the previous year.

This rise contradicts the fall in Scotland overall however is more modest than other local authorities with significant populations in poverty.



- 2.5 For more recent and local data the Council held data for families in receipt of Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Reductions (CTR) has been analysed for the fourth consecutive year. This shows

- fewer children in households in receipt of housing benefit were in poverty 24% (24,252) in 2023 than the previous year.
- Poverty levels remain deep and on average families in relative poverty are now £115 per week below the poverty line compared to £107 per week pre pandemic.

3. LCPAR 2022/23 Summary

- 3.1 This is the briefest report so far, for readability spotlighting newer developments delivered by the Council, NHS and third sector under each of the three drivers of child poverty <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/30213>. The report includes a link [here](#) to more information on the wider range of initiatives in the city, many of which have been spotlighted in previous reports.
- 3.2 The report spotlights the Child Poverty Pathfinder transformational programme that brings together the local public and third sector, along with the Scottish Government to contribute to the delivery of the national “*Best Start, Bright Futures – Child Poverty Action Plan*” locally. The Pathfinder, established in early 2022, has agreed a dual focus; reducing child poverty levels, whilst also identifying and addressing systemic barriers to enable prioritisation of prevention and earlier intervention. The work throughout 2022/23 has focused on improving access to financial supports through the ‘No Wrong Door’ approach (the partnership between the holiday activity programme and Glasgow Helps shows this in action) and progressing data sharing between agencies to support benefit take up. The development of the Child Poverty dashboard and intention to focus on specific groups of families to consider an integrated response that lifts families out of poverty is planned.

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- 3.3 The report describes the employability support for parents and how this has grown over the last 12 months with full rollout of projects delivered using the Parental Employment Support Fund
- 3.4 The Glasgow's Children's Holiday Food and Activity Programme is spotlighted. In 2022/23 a total of £2.33m was invested in the programme through the council to third sector organisations, providing vital support to 13,150 children and young people during the Easter holidays, 25,837 in the summer and 8,714 during the October break. As well as investing in a variety of engaging activities, the programme also ensured that participating children and young people between 0-18 years were provided with nutritious food. In the summer of 2022, the programme piloted a partnership with Glasgow Helps. Staff were available by telephone and also attended a variety of holiday activity events. Families were signposted directly to Glasgow Helps and information was provided to 686 families during the summer and 333 families in October.
- 3.5 Welfare activity was also spotlighted. The introduction of the Scottish Child Payment and the significant take-up efforts in Glasgow have seen a total of 25,945 applications being made by local families since its introduction with payments valued at £9.6m made so far. The Welfare Advice in Health partnership (WAHP) test of change was also reflected in the LCPAR as a service introduced during 2022. This has embedded a welfare rights provision in the most deprived communities within the city through General Practice.
- 3.6 The report highlights that the risk of growing up in poverty is disproportionately higher for families with particular protected characteristics, and escalates with intersectionality. The financial support initiative delivered through the Glasgow Disability Alliance last year, the One Parent Families Scotland programme in Glasgow and the work of the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership (GVAWP) to prevent and eradicate financial and economic abuse are briefly described.

4. GCHSCP Child Poverty Action

- 4.1 Staff within GCHSCP are actively engaged in developing and delivering on the child poverty agenda. During 2022/23 this has included:
- 4.2 Financial Advocacy service for women in the Special Needs in Pregnancy (SNIP's) pathway, funded from multiple sources. The service aims to help address existing financial or welfare issues and build resilience for the future. A total of 190 referrals were made to the service during 2022/23 (down from 243 in the previous year) and a total of 292 repeat clients were also seen (up from 258 in the previous year). The profile of service users includes:
- 90% of women supported would be classed as living in poverty when referred (often with less than £6k pa income from all sources).
 - 50% of service users identified that they had a disability.
 - 45% of new service users were BAME and 32% have needed an interpreter to engage with the service
 - 53% of those who used the service were <25 years old

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- 35% were lone parents with dependents and a further 45% were single parents who were expecting their first child

Financial gains of £552,896.02 were secured for clients last year, and a further £89,626.05 of debt managed. 98 travel cards were also provided to women who had no money to pay for travel to their maternity appointments.

- 4.3 The Healthier Wealthier Children (HWC) service enables community based NHS staff to refer families for financial advice, recognising that having children significantly affects family finances, and is thus both preventative and mitigates pressures for families that are struggling. The service has been delivered from variable funding sources for a decade and adopted internationally. During 2022/23 a randomised control trial of their pilot HWC programme commenced in Sweden, targeting areas with high rates of child poverty, if successful this will embed 'budgeting and debt advisors' with child health staff throughout Sweden to identify and refer families for support. In Glasgow in 2022/23, referrals were up 5% at 3,260. £2.6m in financial gains were achieved for families, with over £802k debt managed (£181k housing and £621k non-housing debt).
- 4.4 In September 2022 members approved changes to enable Health Visiting and Glasgow City Family Nurse Partnership staff to make Section 22 destitution payments to enable a more flexible, needs-led response to financial hardship, fuel poverty and destitution. The principal mechanism to support families in poverty remains the universal pathways supports including Healthier Wealthier Children, to enable families to get longer term financial security. Alongside this tracking of Section 22 applications is being undertaken and an evaluation of change will be completed next year.
- 4.5 Staff are supporting the young people through the Promise Partnership in responding to the consultation on a proposed Scottish Care Leaver Payment. The consultation, closing in January'24, seeks views on the purpose and eligibility of a potential payment of up to £2,000 for young people leaving care. The payment would form part of the broader package of support which already exists for those with experience of care e.g. the Care Experience Bursary and Council Tax Exemption for care leavers.
- 4.6 Poverty is the second highest issue addressed by Community Link Workers (CLW's). In 2022-23, 6409 patients were supported with poverty or income related issues. 3,950 people were referred on to other organisations and 1,645 were signposted to other support. These services/supports varied from financial advice, legal advice, food banks and a range of other support services. CLWs undergo a wide range of training to support them in their role and last year staff attended CPD sessions on welfare advice/financial benefits and information or service awareness sessions on financial inclusion. CLWs have supported patients to access food, help with energy costs, clothing, household items, transport and a range of other areas. "Thanks for the help relating to my employment and also referring me to a money advice service. My mental health has improved since I got the help from this worker."

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- 4.7 A [Cost of Living Guide](#) was developed for use by HSCP services and third sector organisations. The guide aims to make it easier for people within communities to be directed to appropriate supports. The guide is clearly presented under the themes: Food Supports, Money Advice Supports, Energy and Fuel Supports, Crisis Supports, Specific Population Supports, Housing/Legal Supports, Practical Supports, Support Directories and Helpline Supports. In response to an evaluation with services and users, the guide is now available online on the following [link](#) to share with ease. A resource has also been developed to support social work staff to be aware and know how to support families to apply for key benefits available to them, this includes the Scottish Child Payment and other benefits such as the school clothing grant etc.
- 4.8 Thrive Under 5 has continued to grow in the three participating communities during its second year of operation. There has been continuation of the Financial Inclusion Pathway with Money Matters and further expansion of the Alexandra Rose voucher scheme. The scheme is now active in the Ruchazie area with the Scottish Pantry Network (Drumchapel site: 63 families, 134 eligible children and Ruchazie site: 50 families, 94 eligible children). The Financial Inclusion Pathway has accumulated £267,062 of financial gains for participating families in 10 months. A programme of free family physical activity sessions for under 5s has been operating with Early Years Scotland in each of the three neighbourhoods since early 2023 and training/activity coordinated through local Thrive Under 5 networks. Year two evaluation is currently underway and will be available in the spring.
- 4.9 Welfare Advice in Health Partnerships. Providing financial advisors in 84 General Practices in Glasgow one day per week. This service was established in February 2022 with Scottish Government investment for two years initially. The programme has been very well received within General Practice's locally. Last year 5,472 patients were referred, resulting in 9,908 individual welfare rights and money advice cases and over £5m in financial gains. Further, £1.6m in debt was managed, the majority (£1.2m) for non-housing debt. Discussions are ongoing over future funding for the service, with a reduced funding award to September 2024 initially. 59 practices will retain 1 day per week and a further 20 practices will move to 1 day per fortnight (lowest referring practices) and 5 practices will have the service discontinued.
- 4.10 Welfare Rights staff have been providing on-going support to Social Workers supporting kinship carers and working with Glasgow Life's "Family Finance Key Workers" project taking referrals from that project for benefit maximisation.
- 4.11 Members approved at their meeting in November the uplift payments for Kinship and Foster carers, recognising the increasing costs for those in this position. These uplifts have been enacted and payments were received during December for those in this position.
- 4.12 Welfare advice staff have continued to support and train social work colleagues in a wide range of welfare changes and basic knowledge. Health Improvement staff have also continued to raise awareness of child poverty (through training and advocacy) and develop programmes that challenge the

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stigma and costs of inclusion in everyday services such as the nursery and school day.

5. Recommendations

5.1. The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- a) Note the requirement to publish an annual (LCPAR) and support the work described for 2022/23;
- b) Note the continued work, across GCHSCP services to mitigate and prevent child poverty; and
- c) Note the HSCP's contribution to both the Child Poverty Pathfinder.