

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education
to Cabinet
of 18 June 2024**

Subject: Child Poverty Strategy 2024-2029

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet endorsement of the new South Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy 2024-29, agreed by the Community Planning Board in April.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1.1 endorses the new Child Poverty Strategy attached as Appendix 1; and**
- 2.1.2 notes the new Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) attached as Appendix 2.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government, through the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 (the Act), set out poverty mitigating related targets to be achieved by Community Planning Partnerships by 2030. The key drivers that impact on child poverty have been stated within the Act's Delivery Plan as:

- Income from employment;
- Cost of living; and
- Income from social security and benefits in kind.

- 3.2 In 2022 the Scottish Government produced a new delivery plan – [Best Start, Bright Futures](#). The plan recognises the significant contribution partners have made toward tackling child poverty since the Act was introduced but highlights the strategic challenges that have emerged over the past few years, including the pandemic and cost of living crisis.

- 3.3 South Ayrshire Council has been progressing a Child Poverty Action Plan since 2018 with the update available [here](#).

- 3.4 Following discussion with the CPP Board in April it was agreed that meeting our ambitions around child poverty would benefit from a more focused, strategic approach.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 From the outset of the development of the Child Poverty Strategy, steps have been taken to ensure that partners from representative organisations have been included in the engagement work undertaken as part of the development process. Public Health Scotland has played a key part in leading and facilitating sessions with partners and engaging with those who have lived experience.
- 4.2 Strategy development has been supported by a core working group which comprised officers from Public Health Scotland, South Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran (Health Improvement).
- 4.3 Using a strategic needs analysis and system mapping approach, a strong evidence base was collated to identify areas for consultation with communities with experience of poverty.
- 4.4 Using the evidence gathered, three priorities were developed and agreed by the core working group:

Priority Area 1	Priority Area 2	Priority Area 3
<i>A child poverty system in South Ayrshire that delivers for the workforce and our communities.</i>	<i>Coordinated income maximisation following principles of proportionate universalism*¹</i>	<i>High quality, flexible, accessible, and affordable education and childcare.</i>

- 4.5 Short-, medium- and long-term actions have been identified on page 21 of the strategy to help focus partners' collective efforts at addressing the 3 priority areas. Actions plans will be developed to monitor progress and a performance management framework will be developed to support performance reporting and government returns.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Not applicable.

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¹ *Proportionate universalism = work to improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of all employment and education opportunities for the benefit of all with extra targeted support into these opportunities for those most at risk and work to ensure that when needed, the social security safety net offers the best level of support in the most accessible manner.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 The risks associated with rejecting the recommendations are a failure to meet the statutory obligations.

9. Equalities

9.1 A completed summary of the new Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is attached as Appendix 2.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contributes to all three priorities of the Council Plan (Spaces and Places; Live, Work and Learn; and Civic and Community Pride).

13. Results of Consultation

13.1 Page 15 of the strategy details the consultation undertaken in the development of this strategy.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and Councillor Stephen Ferry, Portfolio Holder for Education, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

Implementation	Due date	Managed by
Actions to be taken forward	Ongoing	Community Planning Partnership

Background Papers [South Ayrshire Child Poverty documents.](#)

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