

Fife Child Poverty Action Report 2021/22



Foreword

With fairness at the heart of everything, our aim is for Fife to be a place where people thrive and have enough money to take control of their lives and meet their full potential. We want Fife to be a place where communities really matter, where people set the agenda and contribute to how change is being delivered.

Recent rises in the cost of living makes achieving our aim a challenge. Pre-existing challenges have been compounded to create an environment where many children and families are in poverty and struggling to deal with crises.

Despite these challenges, we have ambition and determination to change the tide in Fife and help our families access the support they need, when they need, where they need it and for as long as they need it. We have a vision for Fife where crises are averted, and our approach is person-centred, holistic and based on prevention and early intervention.

This report presents a lot of positive work that has been undertaken during 2021/22 by organisations and services across Fife that are working towards a brighter future for our children and families in poverty. The report presents a new approach we will be taking in Fife that brings tackling all aspects of poverty under one plan. This has been built on our learning from the pandemic and seeks recovery and renewal for Fife.

We are committed to working towards a Fife that's fairer, that supports our struggling children and families and takes a rights-based approach to ensure every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to give them the best start in life and provides them with a bright future.

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Introductory Remarks

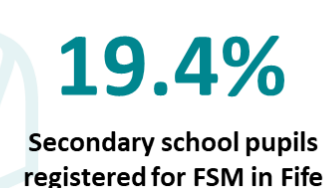
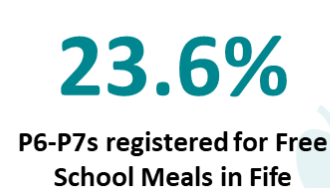
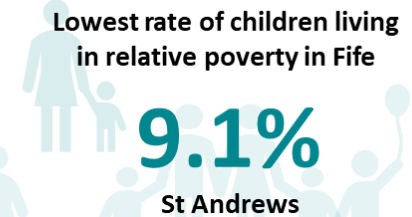
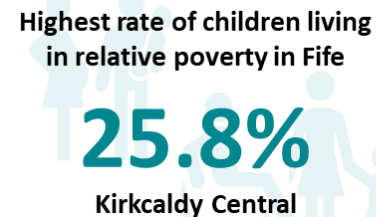
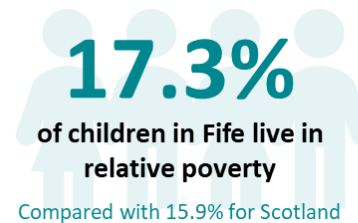
In the last few years, poverty has remained an issue for many families in Fife. Recent rises in the cost of living will push many more families with children into hardship and will make getting out of poverty more difficult for those already struggling to feed their families and heat their homes.

Child poverty rates remain high in Fife at 17% with little improvement since our first Local Child Poverty Action Report was published in 2019.

Successfully tackling child poverty will require us to work with families in different ways, through greater collaboration and joined up support. To achieve this, we will:

- Make it easier for families to access services through a no wrong door approach
- Challenge stigma and attitudes that prevent families from accessing the services they need
- Make better use of intelligence to proactively reach families in need, with a focus on prevention rather than just responding to crisis
- Maximise family incomes and remove cost barriers to participation
- Utilise community wealth building approaches to help to break the poverty spiral
- Explore sustainable approaches to basics such as food security and welfare provision

Please note: Caution is needed in interpreting large changes for the year ending 2021 to data for previous years, given discontinuities in data collection owing to the pandemic. Relative and absolute poverty are reported here as before housing costs. More information is available at [KnowFife](#).



of Fife families live in fuel
poverty

of Fife families live in
extreme fuel poverty

Governance and Reporting

The Fife Child Poverty Group is responsible for the co-ordination, production, publication and monitoring of the Local Child Poverty Action Report. The group is made up of multi-agency representatives, all with an interest in reducing child poverty in Fife.

As a result of the new Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-2024, changes are being made to the governance and reporting on child poverty.

In order to better bring closer together the Local Child Poverty Action Report and Plan for Fife, better alignment has been suggested for child poverty work with new recovery and renewal structures. There is a significant overlap between child poverty actions and actions to reduce poverty more generally. Therefore, at its meeting in May 2022, the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board agreed to make changes to the way child poverty is reported in Fife:

- Instead of a separate child poverty report, there will be a new annual report on Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis in Fife, which will have a focus on the impact of actions on children and families to ensure it meets the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

- The Child Poverty Group will become a subgroup of the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board with a revised membership and focus.
- Fife Partnership will formally sign off the annual report, with the report going first to the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board and the Children in Fife Partnership for approval. Previously the report was not signed off by Fife Partnership.

In matters of attainment and positive destinations, particularly the poverty-related attainment gap, Fife Council's Children's Services Plan is the lead document for the education of children and young people in Fife, and officers will continue to work together to ensure there is alignment and connections between both the Children's Services Plan and the new Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan.

View all our previous Local Child Poverty Action Reports at the links below:

- [Fife Child Poverty Action Report 2018/19](#)
- [Fife Child Poverty Action Report 2019/20](#)
- [Fife Child Poverty Action Report 2020/21](#)

Recovery and Renewal

Our response to poverty needs to address crisis by getting people urgent assistance, but it also needs a focus on preventing crisis in the first place by exploring new, longer-term approaches to tackling poverty. In Fife, we've committed to a new priority to tackle poverty and prevent crisis as part of our [Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-2024](#).

In 2017, we set out ten-year ambitions in the Plan for Fife. These ambitions are all about change and how we bring this about over a ten-year period. These are still our ambitions, but the three-year review of the Plan, combined with our experience of the pandemic, has shown that to achieve these ambitions we will have to change how we work. This is because progress has not been as fast as we would have liked, and the COVID-19 pandemic also brought new challenges.

The updated Plan for Fife sets out the key recovery and renewal priorities. The three key priorities for recovery and renewal, all supported by an overarching approach of community wealth building, are:

- Tackling poverty and preventing crisis
- Leading economic recovery
- Addressing the climate emergency

It is vitally important that the work to address child poverty doesn't happen in a silo. It must be connected to activity that addresses wider poverty issues. In addition, interdependencies exist with other areas, particularly in our work of building and maintaining wealth in Fife through

Community Wealth Building and economic recovery, as well as addressing the Climate Emergency through achieving a Just Transition that leaves no one behind. We must build on the benefits of shared purpose and collaborative approaches that were critical to the success of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and take this forward through our work to tackle persistent poverty in Fife.

Over the next three years we will be aiming to deliver five key outcomes for tackling poverty and preventing crisis.

- More people's incomes are maximised and there is increased access to benefits
- People are protected from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs
- Homelessness is reduced with people in temporary housing for shorter lengths of time
- More people have crisis prevented through a *no wrong door* approach ensuring early and joined up support
- Improved use of data and evidence from those in poverty to target spend on prevention of crisis

When families reach out to us for help it should be easy for them to do this. All partner services need to work together to make sure that processes and systems are better joined up, so that no matter where or how people reach out, they receive the services they need.

We want to support families to have control of their lives. Recent experience has reinforced the importance of taking time to work alongside people, to build relationships and to develop good networks of support. We know that small empowering interactions between people and service providers can boost a person's psychological resources which can, in turn, increase their ability to overcome disadvantage. We are pleased to see this reflected in the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan - [Best Start, Bright Futures](#).

We are committed to ensuring our work continues to address the impact of poverty on, and meet the needs of, the priority groups. We know from experience and evidence that some families are more likely to be impacted by poverty – women, lone parents and families where a parent or child is disabled.

In line with The Promise, we recognise that we need to have a continued significant and persistent commitment to ending poverty and mitigating its impacts for Fife's children, families and communities and that space needs to be provided where the impact that poverty has on families can be discussed openly to support all children to grow up loved, safe and respected.

We recognise that more support must be given to families experiencing poverty to tackle the additional pressures it causes and mitigate its impacts, supporting families in their communities, through maximisation

of the assets of the community and community-based relationships whilst ensuring that the way support is delivered does not stigmatise people.

We will ensure our approach to poverty takes a children's rights approach. Over the last year, links between child poverty and children's rights have been strengthened with better connections made between these two important policy areas. We are committed to promoting children's rights in Fife and, in particular, the aspiration that Article 27 of the UNCRC can be fulfilled for all children: *Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.*

Effective change needs to be based on much better evidence to ensure the right things are done from the start and to check that they are delivering the right outcomes. Evidence is essential when applying for resources, including funding, and we are focused on developing our evidence base and ensuring we can measure the impact of our actions on families receiving our support.

Moving forward, we will report annually on the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan, in particular, presenting the impact on children and families to ensure we are meeting the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

The new Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan 2021-2024 can be found at Appendix 2.

Our Child Poverty Action Plan – progress with the plan

Before we make the switch to our new Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan, we have to report on the progress undertaken in 2021/22 on the Local Child Poverty Action Plan set out in our last report.

To date, the work of the Fife Child Poverty Group has been to raise awareness of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and co-ordinate the collation of the impact of the range of actions being undertaken across services. This has focused on the three drivers of poverty: income from employment, income from social security and benefits in kind, and cost of living. Our progress report (provided in Appendix 1) is structured by these drivers as well as setting out two actions labelled 'indirect' as they are designed to ensure we have the right foundations for tackling child poverty.

The following case studies illustrate the issues faced by many families in Fife and the support they have received during 2021/22 from Fife service providers.

Case study:

The Cost of Living

Impacted priority groups:

- Mother aged under 25
- Child aged under 1
- Lone parent

Fife Gingerbread

www.fifegingerbread.org.uk

After deciding to leave a volatile relationship, the client received support from **Fife Gingerbread**. The client was 18-years old with an 11-month-old child and was recently homeless.

The client was supported by Fife Gingerbread to secure suitable housing, as well as with the financial outlay to create a safe, nurturing home environment for her and her child. The client required help to apply for funds for items for her home such as white goods and furniture. Fife Gingerbread were able to provide £50 to purchase essentials for her child. There are items the client can't afford on her own like a chest of drawers and a tumble dryer; and views these as a luxury she can't afford.

The client was provided with guidance to ensure she was claiming all the benefits she was entitled to such as Universal Credit, Child Benefit and Scottish Child Payment. Maximising her income and helping her to budget meant she could manage day-to-day costs of living like food, clothes and activities, as well as paying the fuel meter.

Every penny goes to cover the day-to-day costs of living, which leaves little room for unexpected items or big purchases. Fife Gingerbread continues to support the client and empowers her to provide her child with the best possible start in life. The client has shared that living this way is very stressful, and she does hope to be able to work but is worried about the upfront costs of childcare and other expenses of starting a job.

Case study:

Income Maximisation

Impacted priority groups:

- Family with more than three children
- Lone parent

Citizens Advice & Rights Fife
Money Talk Team

www.cabfife.org.uk

The client made a self-referral to **Citizen's Advice & Rights Fife** (CARF) via the main helpline but was also referred to the **Money Talk Team** by her Health Visitor. She had a 9-month-old baby, a 4-year-old and an 8-year-old, living in a three-bed private let in East Fife. The client was recently separated from her partner and she wasn't working. She relied on Child Benefit for her three children.

A benefit check was carried out by the MTT adviser, which showed she was entitled to £1,313.12 Universal Credit (UC), which included the standard element, the child responsibility element and the housing element. The MTT adviser also explained that UC was a qualifying benefit and meant that she was entitled to apply for a number of other benefits.

The client felt that the Child Maintenance arrangement between her and her ex-partner was fine so far but understood that she could use the Child Maintenance calculator on the gov.uk website if she wanted a more accurate estimation of what she should be receiving in future.

During the appointment, they looked at the client's income and expenditure to identify other areas where expenditure could be reduced. This included identifying savings relating to the client's television package, food shopping and mobile phone tariff. At the appointment, the client disclosed that she was spending a lot on gas and electric but felt that the property was always cold. The MTT adviser made a referral to St Andrews Energy Network for an assessment of energy usage and suggestions for energy saving techniques.

When reviewing the case, the client confirmed that her award of UC was granted (£40 more than estimated during the benefit check) and her applications were being processed for relevant Scottish social security benefits and Council Tax Reduction.

The client's financial gains from this appointment totalled £1,422 in supplementary benefits as well as £1,137 per month from Universal credit. The client was extremely grateful for the help and support as she had never claimed benefits before, and this was all new to her.

Case study:

Immigration System

Impacted priority groups:

- Lone parent
- Ethnic minority family

The client came to the UK from Gambia several years ago with her family and has used the ESOL service extensively to learn English. Following her husband's death in 2020, her and her children's immigration status became unclear with the Home Office making an interim decision to allow her and the children leave to remain. The client was signposted to the council's **Welfare Support** service.

Widow's Allowance was her main source of income, and she had no recourse to public funds. The Widow's Allowance award only lasted 18 months and was not long enough for the immigration process to be completed. The Welfare Support Worker was unsuccessful in appealing the decision for an extension of this allowance and for the recourse to public funding. The family continued to reside locally in their Fife Council property, with no rent or council tax charges levied at that time.

Although the client can speak and read English, at times she did not comprehend her situation, especially when having to deal with a complex immigration process. The Welfare Support Worker acted as a single point of contact for the client and sought legal advice to help her deal with the immigration system. Costs were eventually waived by the Home Office; however other support had to be arranged locally. The local pantry was able to provide food to the family in way that met their cultural and religious needs.

Significant brokerage with other services and agencies was required to help the client and her children.

Fife Council
Welfare Support

www.fife.gov.uk

Case study:

Financial struggles with a disability

Impacted priority groups:

- Families with a disabled adult or child
- Ethnic minority family

Fife Council
Support & Connect

www.fife.gov.uk

A Polish couple with two children, one of whom is disabled were referred to **Support and Connect** from the child's school as they were struggling financially.

Due to the language barrier, the Welfare Reform Co-ordinator required a translation service and arranged the first appointment through a translator. At this meeting, the co-ordinator completed an income and expenditure assessment, and the mother was able to provide access to her Universal Credit journal.

The family had a large amount of rent arrears outstanding and were not being paid for the second bedroom they needed due to having a child with significant disabilities. The family were also missing out on claiming Discretionary Housing Payment. The family also felt they were not receiving the correct amount of Disability Living Allowance due to their child's needs.

Due to the rent arrears and a need to connect the family to other agencies, a referral was made to **Putting People First** asking them to help with rent arrears, assist with DHP and connect the family to other support in their local area. A referral was also made to CARF to review the family's DLA claim.

Since the referrals were made, the family are now receiving DHP, and an arrangement is in place to pay-off their arrears. The family have received a Connecting Scotland Chromebook and router with 24-months connectivity to help ensure the family are not digitally excluded. They are awaiting confirmation from Social Work regarding funding that was applied for purchasing an orthopaedic mattress for their child with disabilities.

Putting People First

Putting People First is a service being tested in Kirkcaldy that seeks to explore and test new ways of preventing crisis and mitigating the impact of hardship at an earlier stage by focusing on underlying issues. The service is made up of staff in Housing, Community Social Work and Community Learning & Development. (This is a key action in the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan).

Case study:

Long-term support

Impacted priority groups:

- Lone parent

Fife Gingerbread
Making it Work for Lone
Parents

www.fifegingerbread.org.uk

The client joined **Making it Work for Lone Parents** in August 2016 after fleeing domestic abuse and relocating to be closer to her parents. The client was the mother of an 8-month-old when she started receiving support from **Fife Gingerbread**.

Despite being in a good housing situation and managing money well, the client wasn't working and often her and her daughter would have to go without due to their financial situation. Over the years, the client has required various supports from Fife Gingerbread such as festive packages, Heat & Eat payments and support to get digital kit to stay connected during the pandemic.

Making it Work for Lone Parents supports lone parents on their journey towards work with staff from Fife Gingerbread and CARF working collaboratively. Over time, the client joined confidence building classes, art sessions and cooking groups. She made some good friends and found peer support for herself and her daughter. Her daughter was provided with a nursery place, and the client became a Fife Gingerbread volunteer where she facilitated a arts and crafts group with another parent. Alongside this, she was also engaging in support to help her process the domestic abuse and trauma she had experienced.

Throughout her journey, the client was focused on finding work when she was ready to do so, seeing it as her only way out of poverty and to fully provide for her daughter.

Her daughter started school in 2020 and the client found work as a Catering Assistant at a local school. She was supported with the process of securing work, understanding her benefits and sustaining the role. As part of this, a benefit calculation was completed by **CARF** to ensure she would be better off financially in work. The extra income really benefited her family, and in 2021 she decided she no longer needed support from Fife Gingerbread.

However, the door is never closed, and this year she needed some light touch support to help her sustain work due to her health issues. This highlights the motivation of lone parents and the need for long term support to enable families to progress into sustainable routes out of poverty with continued support where needed.

Concluding Remarks

Although macroeconomic factors and national anti-poverty strategies and policies can have the greatest impact on the drivers of child poverty, it is the role of Local Authorities and NHS Boards to make public services beneficial to everyone in the community, whilst working in collaboration with partners, both locally and nationally.

As we move forward, the focus on child poverty and the priority groups will be maintained and captured in the new Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan as we have done in our previous Child Poverty Action Plan.

We believe that by having child poverty integrated within our wider poverty plan, work will be strengthened with a renewed focus to address persistent issues and take a preventative approach.

Child Poverty Group partners

Citizens
Advice &
Rights
Fife



Fife Centre for
Equalities



Fife
COUNCIL



Fife Health
& Social Care
Partnership



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Appendix 1

Progress on the Fife Child Poverty Action Plan for 2021/22

Action	Progress
Income from employment	
Promote banking and affordable credit options	<p>During 2021/22, 98 loans were approved by Conduit Scotland for Fife, approximately half of the previous year. As the economic situation continues to deteriorate, the majority of loan applications are declined for affordability reasons and work continues in the sector to overcome these barriers and adapt services to meet needs. Work is also ongoing to support alternatives to loans, potentially through other types of hardship provision.</p> <p>Additionally, 2021/22 was a challenging time for credit unions in the UK, with Fife's Kingdom Community Bank being no exception. A few credit unions have been lost in Scotland and England due to lack of financial viability and smaller credit unions are struggling with reducing membership, fewer loans and a stronger regulation framework. Fortunately, Kingdom Community Bank is very robust with healthy deposits, a strong loan book and good repeat business.</p> <p>The pandemic impacted on most people's finances, people saved more and didn't go on foreign holidays, so savings are healthy, but loans have reduced. This has resulted in lower income from loan interest, but Kingdom Community Bank has reduced its operating costs and managed to make a modest profit. Kingdom Community Bank was able to pay a small dividend to members and reduce some loan interest rates to make loans more affordable for customers.</p> <p>Kingdom Community Bank membership continues to grow each month, giving further optimism that it has been able to steer these financially challenging times well and will continue to serve more than 8,000 members for many years to come.</p> <p>Going forward, Kingdom Community Bank is looking to grow payroll savings through Fife employers, engage more with schools, pilot new access points in local communities and deliver information sessions to Members.</p>
Work with Fife employers to support family friendly workplace	<p>The Workplace Team, Health Promotion Service, FH&SCP continue to promote family friendly workplace policies and provide support to employers to promote Good Work, develop relevant policies and undertake the Healthy Working Lives programme.</p> <p>Face to face interactions were again restricted during the year due to the ongoing pandemic and therefore the highlighting and promoting of Family Friendly workplace information has relied mostly on digital communication. This has involved:</p>

policies e.g., Fair Work, Good Work

- Providing information on Good Work, including its characteristics, alongside local and national strategies on the Workplace Team’s [website](#).
- Monthly newsletters to an established distribution list of around 300 contacts from Fife workplaces. The Good Work focussed [newsletter](#) was circulated in January 2022 and was viewed by 153 people.
- Virtual presentations to partners including the benefits of Good Work/Fair Work.
- Bite-size communications via Microsoft Sway have highlighted topics such as [Workforce Mental Wellbeing](#) (issued May 2021 and received 192 views).
- Social media communications, mainly using Twitter and LinkedIn to share information for employers. This has included examples of raising awareness of child poverty amongst these groups. The Good Work social media script in July 2021 received 1,097 impressions and 38 engagements.
- Development of case studies relating to core components of Good Work, for example in [partnership with Youth 1st](#) highlighting the importance of flexible working, mental wellbeing and communication.
- This year we have also strengthened links to partner organisations and worked with them to highlight child poverty issues to workplaces. For example, Fife Gingerbread highlighted their Making It Work for Lone Parents employability project and Fife Council’s Fuel Poverty Team raised awareness of fuel poverty and the associated health harms it can cause.

Promote Fife as a Living Wage region and look at the role of procurement in supporting this

Funding for the pilot ‘Making Glenrothes a Living Wage Town’ ended in 2019/20 and there has been little activity on promoting the Living Wage since then, primarily due to resources being diverted to support businesses to deal with the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

That said, there are currently 94 accredited Living Wage employers in Fife, with the vast majority maintaining their accreditation over the period of the pandemic.

The table below shows the latest available data on the percentage of employee jobs earning below the real living wage. The figures for April 2021 show that an estimated 17% of employee jobs in Fife were paid less than the real living wage. It is interesting to note that the improvement in the Glenrothes area following the Living Wage Town pilot project appears to have been maintained, and that the increased percentage for Fife as a whole appears to be attributable to a significant fluctuation in the figure for Dunfermline over the past 2 years.

Percentage of employee jobs earning below the Living Wage Foundation Rates					
Area / Parliamentary Constituency	Apr-15	Apr-16	Apr-19	Apr-20 (1)	Apr-21 (1)
Dunfermline and West Fife	21.0%	21.5%	21.6%	12.1%	20.4%
Glenrothes	17.2%	16.7%	15.9%	14.2%	14.6%
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	25.0%	25.5%	18.6%	14.5%	14.5%
North-East Fife	30.3%	30.3%	20.1%	21.4%	18.7%
Fife	21.6%	18.9%	18.9%	14.9%	17.0%
Scotland	19.6%	16.8%	16.8%	15.1%	14.4%

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

Note1: Estimated figures for 2020 and 2021 are subject to more uncertainty than usual. The data for both years include employees who were furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme; more people were furloughed and on reduced pay in April 2020 than in April 2021. The ONS also believes that complexities resulting from the pandemic and its restrictions slightly inflated average pay growth rates in 2021.

There is a renewed focus on the real Living Wage as part of the wider Plan for Fife ambition around Community Wealth Building and the intention is now to continue to take forward a place-based approach that will next target the Kirkcaldy area. Work on the development of this next project is still at the early stages and is still to be fully scoped.

The role of procurement in supporting the promotion of the real Living Wage has been further highlighted by ambitions set out in the Scottish Government's new National Strategy for Economic Transformation. Opportunities to develop this approach as part of public sector procurement arrangements in Fife are currently being considered as part of our approach to Community Wealth Building.

Disruption to supply chains as a result of global shocks are continuing to have a significant economic impact, and wages are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living. Although this puts the real Living Wage very much in the spotlight, it also means that is a very big ask of employers, many of whom are struggling to simply survive.

Develop and implement a new, locally informed framework for commissioning employability services in the area through the No

Delivery of the No One Left Behind programme commenced on 30 April 2021 with six projects comprising of one project for adult delivery, two youth projects, two projects to support families and one specialist provision for health and disabilities.

Adult Provision – **Spring Forward** - is delivered by Fife ETC (BRAG) and provides employment support for people aged 25 years and older. This is a partnership approach involving BRAG enterprises, Kingdom Works, Citizens Advice and Rights Fife (CARF), Clued Up, Fife Voluntary Action (FVA) and Frontline Fife.

One Left Behind programme and Parental Employment Support Fund

There are two programmes which have been commissioned through the Young Person’s Guarantee funding. Fife Council’s ‘EASYP’ programme is targeted at the 16-18 years age group. BRAG’s ‘Brighter Futures’ is targeted at the 19-24 years age group. These are distinct provisions with the local authority and third sector respectively.

- **EASYP** is a partnership involving Fife Council Education, Employability and Communities & Neighbourhood services and helps young people to identify individual circumstances, strengths, disadvantages/barriers, training and skills needs, and work aspirations to inform a tailored multi-option employability offer with 121 key worker support provided end to end.
- **Brighter Futures** by BRAG in partnership with Clued Up and APEX focuses on longer term unemployed young people with low attainment levels, a lack of skills, potential drug or alcohol misuse issues, engagement with social work or community justice. The nature of this proposal was more linked to the 19-24 bracket with activity focussed on community engagement and outreach work to identify and engage with these young people with these characteristics.

Specialist provision has three projects delivering employability activity:

1. **Out to Work** by Fife Employment Access Trust delivers a service for clients whose mental health is a barrier to them accessing employment.
2. **Square Start** by BRAG Enterprises supports single parent families from South & West Fife, Dunfermline and North East.
3. **Making it Work in Fife** by Fife Gingerbread completes the single parent families offer by delivering support for single parent families from the Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth areas.

Number of clients registered on NOLB programmes, 2021/22

316 clients

Spring Forward
(adult provision)

155 clients

EASYP
(youth provision)

381 clients

Brighter Futures
(youth provision)

52 clients

Out to Work
(specialist provision)

46 clients

Square Start
(specialist provision)

75 clients

Making it Work in Fife
(specialist provision)

Cost of living

Develop our approach to concessions and cost reduction to ensure cost is not a barrier to participation

During Fife Partnership's review of the Plan for Fife and the subsequent release of the updated Plan for Fife covering 2021-24, there was a renewed commitment to the development of a full concessions and cost reduction scheme. The group looking at tackling poverty and crisis prevention considered direct financial support and cost reduction. A new pricing and concessions policy has been developed for physical activity, sport and leisure, with significant scope to include other areas of concessions and cost reduction.

A new approach to concessions and cost reduction would not necessarily be confined to council services. For example, the group looked at recent research into transport barriers in North East Fife such as being able to travel to a new job, accessing social security or travel for food. In another example medical charges for certification were identified as a barrier for people on very low incomes where a comparatively modest charge represented a significant portion of weekly income for some individuals and families.

Following on from this, a project has been established to produce a new concessions scheme for implementation. The project will review concessions across all council services and partners and will propose a new standardised approach to concessions with an aim to reduce barriers to participation and enable access to opportunities for low-income groups.

Identify and address cost barriers to participation in school

Cost of the school day information and the toolkit have been shared with all schools via the Equity Network in October 2021. The Poverty Alliance provided training for 39 pupil support assistants. Individuals identified pledges and next steps which included, reviewing World Book Day, providing a take what you need trolley and providing backpacks to S1 with stationary resources. The Headteacher from Queen Anne High school shared with other Headteachers the work undertaken in her school to reduce the cost of the school day.

All 18 Secondary schools have removed curricular costs relating to subjects such as Home Economics, Art and Design Technology. There are no costs for any pupils studying any subject in secondary school.

Staff in Fife have been encouraged to take part in the Scottish Government's consultation on school uniforms.

A mix of online and face to face tutors were provided for 40 young people in S4 to support with their Numeracy and Literacy qualifications. This either took place 1-1 or in small groups face to face during school or online after school.

All Secondary schools provided supported study sessions for senior phase pupils during the Easter Holidays.

Every young person who needs one now has a device suitable to complete schoolwork at home (i.e., not a phone).

Café Inc has continued to provide a universal offer of food during school holidays across Fife.

Ensure there are effective, dignified mechanisms for supporting people

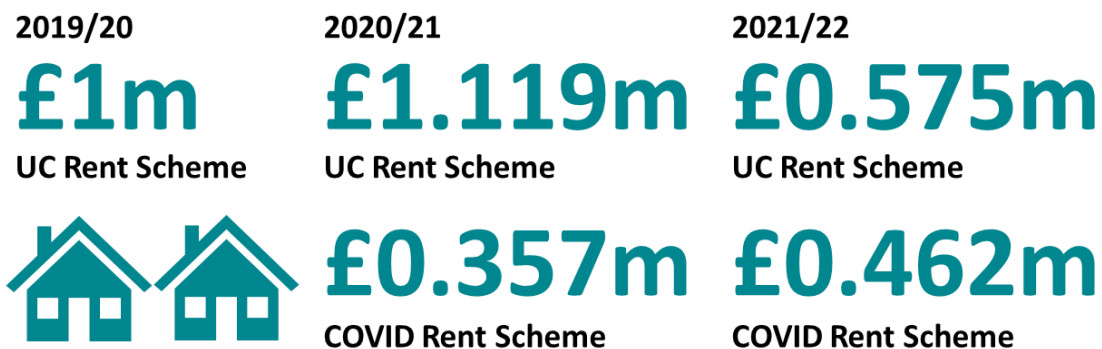
In partnership with Fife Health & Social Care Partnership's Food and Health team, the Feeding Fifers initiative, used social media to engage with communities and promote positive food and health messages. Currently the page reach is 1,148 people, with 257 engagements, and is viewed mainly by women (91.90%). During the latter part of 2021 a competition was launched to encourage more engagement, a "Spotlight on . . ." feature highlighting

<p>facing food crisis while working towards a significant reduction in household food insecurity</p>	<p>key food providers across Fife was introduced, a “Grow your own” advice spot is being developed, and a volunteer has been providing recipe ideas and photographs of food she makes using pantry items for publishing on the page.</p> <p>Those involved with community food initiatives continue to have had the opportunity to obtain the relevant training through online REHIS e-learning Elementary Food Hygiene in the earlier part of the year, an easing of restrictions has enabled some in-person learning to take place. The team supported 140 learners to obtain a REHIS Food Hygiene certificate online and 7 learners in-person from more than 29 groups across the whole of Fife during the period of April 2021-March 2022.</p> <p>Fifteen REHIS Elementary Cooking Skills courses ran during the period providing 75 learners with certificates over 9 venues across four areas of Fife. Seven new REHIS Cooking Skills Presenters were enrolled during the period bringing the total up to 27 presenters across 6 of the 7 areas. Presenters come from nurture and family centres, the voluntary sector, CLD, Education and Community Use.</p> <p>A refresh of the training matrix offers an opportunity to tailor a section for volunteers working in community food initiatives, enquiries show that alongside REHIS qualifications a First Aid certificate and Manual Handling training would prove useful. Other suggestions made by initiatives include Mental Health First Aid, Dignity, IT, communications, HAZMAT, dealing with aggressive behaviour, and Addictions spotting and referring.</p> <p>A multi-agency Fife Food Provider Network is being created to gather data from community food initiatives to information resource allocation and support for the sector.</p>
<p>Improve access to local, affordable and flexible childcare, including exploring parent led approaches to take advantage of learning, training and job opportunities</p>	<p>The expansion of 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare was fully implemented from August 2020 and accessible to all families with 3- and 4-year-olds, as well as some families with 2-year-olds. Parents can access up to 1140 hours of ELC at a range of services, including local authority nurseries as well as private and voluntary sector services and childminders in partnership with Fife Council to provide funded ELC. Parents can choose from term-time or full year provision to meet their children’s care needs and can opt to share their funding between services – a child may attend a nursery school and a childminder in the same week for example. Parents with children who will have their fifth birthday after the start of the school year and the end of February can now choose to defer their child’s start to school for a subsequent year whilst accessing an extra year of funded ELC. This deferral year can now be accessed at local authority provision or any service which is partnership with the Council. The amount of eligible two-year-olds accessing funded ELC continues to increase. The criteria has now been expanded to include parents who have been care experienced in the past.</p> <p>Nearly all breakfast cafes in Fife have now reopened. The remaining breakfast cafes will reopen at the beginning of the new term after the summer holidays. A small recruitment exercise will be required to adequately staff these services, which will take place over the summer holidays.</p> <p>All playschemes will be operating over the summer holidays. Children will be referred into the playschemes so we can provide targeted support primarily focused on supporting children who would experience food insecurity. Part of the playscheme programme is to offer experiences, including taking the children on outings, which they may not be able to access. This summer is the first time in two years we are taking the children off site to a wide range of venues.</p>
<p>Provide support to families to meet</p>	<p>Fife Council Housing Service has been supporting families to meet housing costs through a £1m per annum Universal Credit (UC) rent support fund to support Council households affected by rent arrears following a transition to UC. In April 2020, an additional £1m was set aside as rent support for self-</p>

housing costs or to find affordable sustainable housing

employed and furloughed Council tenants whose employment has been impacted by Covid-19. This funding was continued into 2021/22 although the ending of furlough reduced the requirement across the year. Eligible households have been engaged and support channelled through either the UC or Covid-19 rent support scheme.

Amount allocated to Fife Council rent schemes, 2019/20 – 2021/22



The number of new homelessness presentations has remained on trend during 2021/22 but the demand for statutory temporary accommodation has increased significantly with around 940 households and around 400 children occupying some form of temporary accommodation provided by Fife Council on a weekly basis. Access to permanent housing has been significantly affected by the Pandemic which has reduced turnover and housing options across tenures dramatically over the last two years.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
New homeless presentations	2,502	2,537	2,597
Children in Temporary Accommodation	394	305	274
Average Days in temporary accommodation	143	92	98

Fife has continued to prioritise progress towards the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan by investing in Housing First services, reducing transitions for vulnerable households and providing support to access a sustainable tenancy for a range of customers.

Reduce the number and percentage of households experiencing fuel poverty

The Scottish Housing Condition Survey (SHCS) published in 2021, reported a 2% decrease in households in fuel poverty and remained static for households in extreme fuel poverty for the survey period 2017-19. At that time this translated to 41,000 households currently living in fuel poverty in Fife. Whilst the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was leading to an expected increase in the level of fuel poverty, the Scottish Government is not publishing updated figures in 2022 due to the interruption in their rolling survey programme.

Fife Council has a service level agreement in place with the Cosy Kingdom Partnership which is reviewed annually with progress monitored quarterly. Around 57,700 households accessed online information and 524 received a home energy advice visit. Over 130 fuel poverty events were held with agencies and the public. Just over 2,150 households accessed the Scottish Government and local fuel poverty advice and support schemes and around 6,950 households received in-depth energy advice. Around 2,000 people received income maximisation support and just under 890 household received practical energy saving measures from the 'handy' service. Around 2,700 households were assisted with fuel top-ups and households gained an estimated £1.3m additional income through poverty interventions.

With escalating energy costs, changes in the energy cap and the cost-of-living crisis starting to impact late in 2021-22, a range of new fuel poverty measures are being put in place to support households in the year ahead including £1m additional fuel poverty funding.



Improve affordable and sustainable travel and public transport, particularly in rural parts of Fife and during evenings and weekends

The Council continues to support/fund bus services in Fife where these are not commercially viable but deemed to be socially necessary. Many of these services operate in rural parts of Fife in the evening and weekends. These services are regularly reviewed to meet demands and changing circumstances and a public consultation is about to begin (mid-May to end June 2022) on the Services we provide in North East Fife.

Since the last update the Scottish Governments free bus travel scheme for Under 22's was launched in January 2022. This allows all persons Under 22 years of age to travel free on a registered bus service. It is hoped that this will offer young people travel opportunities that they may have not been able to use before due to cost. It is also intended to promote and retain bus use in younger people in a sustainable way.

The workforce Mobility programme which is being led on region basis (part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal) is looking at employers and employee's locations to develop systems to allow better transport links. Work in this area is still at an early stage but progressing well.

Fifebus, which is the Council Demand Responsive Transport Service for those in our communities who are unable use conventional public transport (due to some form of disability) is being expanded to offer a free ring and ride service Fife wide. This expanded service should launch mid 2022.

There is also work being done to look at ways to speed up bus services through the award the Council received as part of the Bus Partnership Fund (Scottish Government). The outcomes for this could include the construction of some mobility hubs allowing interchange between modes of transport (cycling, walking, bus etc) as well as bus priority measures to decrease bus journey times.

There is no one project to deliver this action but a package of ongoing passenger transport service improvements across several areas, including:

- Regular review and renewal of subsidised bus service contracts in different areas of Fife
- Local implementation of national schemes such as under 22s free bus travel
- Developments within Workforce mobility project as part of Edinburgh City Deal
- Bus Partnership Fund which will support infrastructure improvements to improve bus journey times and create new transport interchange points (exploring feasibility of introducing this in High Valleyfield)

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Co-ordinate support locally to deliver mitigation measures and monitor the impact of welfare changes

Poverty affects a significant proportion of the Fife population and can have a big impact on many areas of peoples' lives. This can include their mental health and wellbeing, their ability to develop skills, find or maintain employment and can threaten basic needs such as access to food and housing. There are many organisations in Fife that contribute to this action.

Support and Connect, an Education initiative from Fife Council, aims to support families facing difficulties around welfare reform and poverty. This includes working one to one with parents who are referred from schools, Social Work and Family Support Services to maximise income, support them with benefits and refer to specialist agencies when appropriate. The initiative also has a discretionary fund for whitegoods, furnishings, and flooring.

Support and Connect works closely with many agencies including Social Security Scotland and Citizen's Advice & Rights Fife. Regular updates from support agencies, DWP and Social Security Scotland are shared in Education's Equity update to all Fife Council schools and nurseries. Staff are encouraged to share these via their social media channels.

Fife Council's **Welfare Support service** provides support to individuals and families in crisis, usually through in-person Community Job Clubs. The number of people engaging with Welfare Support services was 1,582 during 2021/22, an increase of 740. This was across both the face-to-face service and telephone support. 1,158 people were in contact via the telephone service and 424 people attended in-person Community Job Clubs.

Fife Council Welfare Support Service



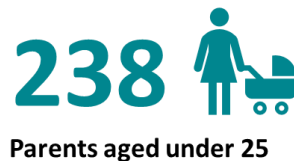
1,134 people needed more than an hour of initial support such as benefit and money advice due to the complexity of their circumstances. This is nearly 80% of all contacts and is largely due to the deductions from Universal Credit, which takes time to understand the levels of deductions.

The Welfare Support Assistants are spending an increasing amount of time referring and writing applications for support to the Scottish welfare Fund, Fife Council's Hardship Fund, the Aberlour Hardship Fund and other support services as families are struggling financially with rising fuel debts and costs.

Fife's Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board has set up a Fuel Poverty task group to plan actions to mitigate the expected winter crisis and to coordinate support across Fife.

The **Scottish Welfare Fund** has experienced a sustained high level of demand throughout 2021/22. A total of 29,770 Crisis Grant applications and 4,086 Community Care Grant applications were received. This is only slightly lower than the number of applications for both Crisis Grants (31,535) and Community Care Grants (4,198) in 2020/21.

Scottish Welfare Fund *



* All applications made by families by household vulnerability in 2021/22 (Q4 data not yet available)

To support staff and encourage them to act with respect and empathy and to be in a position to challenge misconceptions and pre-conceived ideas of poverty, Fife's multi-agency **Poverty Awareness Training Group** identifies, coordinates and develops training for frontline staff and managers to ensure they have the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality.

The Poverty Awareness Training Programme ran from September 2021 to March 2022 offering nine e-learning and virtual courses that were delivered with support from partners such as Public Health Scotland, Poverty Alliance, Child Poverty Action Group, Fife Health Promotion Service, Citizens Advice & Rights Fife, Fife Gingerbread and Fife Council Fuel Poverty Team.

Virtual delivery consisted of three courses - 'Universal Debit' (delivered 3 times), 'Supporting Low Income Households' (delivered 4 times) and 'Wave of Life – The Child's Voice when Living in Poverty' (delivered twice). The number of participants for each course has been lower than if they were delivered in a face-to-face environment meaning there were fewer places available. Across the three courses on offer, a total of six workshops were delivered with three having to be cancelled due to low numbers or trainer absence. A total of 121 applications were received from practitioners from across all sectors - 51 attended, 21 cancelled and 9 did not attend. Work is ongoing to ensure staff still have an opportunity to attend if they were unsuccessful in getting a place on the course or if the course was cancelled.

In addition to the wider programme, targeted work is being explored, which will be aimed at specific staff groups such as Welfare Support workers. Targeted training will focus on more specific knowledge that will aid staff working directly with vulnerable families.

The next steps for poverty awareness training are planning and developing the 2022-2023 Training Programme, piloting a series of Poverty Awareness Drop-In sessions and developing a Fife Knowledge and Skills Poverty Training Framework (actions captured in the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan).

Integrate accessible income maximisation at key points in service provision across the partnership

There are five key projects where income maximisation has been embedded or introduced over 2021/22 with direct relevance to the problem of child poverty. CARF income maximisation services have a significant role to play in the alleviating of poverty amongst children and mitigating against the physical and mental harms of living in child poverty.

Money Talk Team

In 2021/22, the project was staffed by only one member of staff at 0.8 FTE a reduction on the previous year of 1 FTE. Despite this, and the ongoing difficulty impact of Covid on maternity services, 542 families were assisted with a financial gain of over £600k. This is testament to the work of the maternity professionals and CARF who have made significant strides in embedding this in the expectant mother journey. There are current plans to expand the project with a further 0.6FTE should appropriate funding be sourced.

Barnardo's Stronger Families

In May 2021, this project was launched and has subsequently engaged with 42 families who have had, or been at risk of, social work involvement. This is a particularly intensive project working with the family to increase incomes, improve financial literacy and strengthen bonds. To date the project has secured over £45k in financial gain but has, more importantly and alongside Barnardo's, improved relationships within the family unit to give hope and

increased stability. It has been interesting to note that 59% of those engaging with this project had never previously engaged with an advice service, demonstrating that the provision of income maximisation advice within existing services in itself improves accessibility.

Making it Work for Families and Making it Work for Lone Parents

The historically successful “Making it Work” projects continue to play a significant role in alleviating child poverty through targeting lone parents and families. MIWFF has held 125 appointments with families and secured £42.5k in financial gain for families. Additional data for this project has identified that fuel debt is becoming an increasing concern with 60% of total debt in Q4 relating to fuel debts. This is a concerning development and one which is unlikely to ease in the coming months.

MIWLP has engaged with 84 lone parents and secured over £82k in financial gain. It has a strong track record of removing debt as a barrier to progressing to employment and has reported that in 2021/22, 75% of those engaging with the project no longer see debt as a barrier. Both MIW projects identify low levels of Child Maintenance and plans are in place with Fife Gingerbread and partners to bring renewed energy to the Bairns Come First Child Maintenance campaign.

Boosting Budgets

This project has had a number of delays as a result of Covid. Working alongside Fife Council’s Support and Connect team, the project has now started in April 2022 within identified schools working with identified families who are identified as being at risk of a non-positive destination on leaving school.

In 2021/22, CARF financial gain stood at approximately £8.7m, much of which will have mitigated against the effects of child poverty.

Improve advocacy and support to enable families and pregnant women to deal with benefit changes, maximise income and be more financially resilient

Delivery of a Financial Inclusion Referral Pathway is a key area which all NHS Boards must deliver on as part of the Scottish Government Child Poverty agenda. The pathway ensures that all Midwives, Health Visitors and the Family Nurse Partnership have the skills, knowledge, awareness and confidence to ask all pregnant women and families with young children about money worries and that they are aware of and adhere to the requirements of the referral pathway.

Fife Health Promotion Service led on this work and developed training and a dedicated pathway in partnership with Citizens Advice and Rights Fife. To date a total of **159 participants** have attended the training. Most recently the training took place as a digital drop-in session and was extended to include other health professionals, with many from occupational therapy and nursing in attendance. A total of **67 participants** took part in the **7 drop-in sessions** made available.

Renew awareness raising around child maintenance, centred on a children's rights approach

This year Fife's Child Maintenance Working Group have reframed the approach and updated the branding of Bairns Come First which is the original child maintenance campaign. The group has engaged locally with MP Peter Grant to discuss the issues of child maintenance and the Child Maintenance Service and contributed to a Public Accounts Committee that is addressing the challenges.

The pandemic has certainly affected child maintenance whether that be precarious employment for non-resident parents or changes to the CMS systems/staffing, and One Parent Families Scotland published a report which incorporates this - [Children in Scotland being failed by Child Maintenance Service](#).

A proposal has been drafted for a test of change in Fife in 2022/23 to support more lone parents to successfully claim child maintenance, and better understand the data around this locally and what can be done differently/better.

Indirect actions

Understand Fife's child poverty priority groups by reviewing data and considering ways of engaging with the priority groups to coproduce support

The Fife Child Poverty Group monitors child poverty related statistics and policies, including the new Scottish Government Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026 – Best Start, Bright Futures, which showed that 90% of the families in child poverty were in the six priority groups. We will continue to monitor actions, particularly their impact on the priority groups, which should assist with planning to support those groups.

Through the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan we will improve our use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on the prevention of crisis. This action will be carried forward in the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan by focusing on children and families in poverty and the priority groups through the following actions:

- Use data and project intelligence to deliver better outcomes
- Improve data sharing across Fife Partnership
- Develop a systematic approach for targeting anti-poverty spend focused on tangible impact that increases prevention measures
- Improve community voice structures at local and regional level ensuring direct connectivity to decision makers. This will include work on the voice of children and young people with a specific project to gather their experiences of living in poverty in Fife.

Improve awareness and the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Trauma Informed Approaches are promoted through the Trauma Steering Group and the Fife Trauma Training Collaborative which developed an E-learning module in line with NES Knowledge & Skills Framework at the Trauma Informed and Skilled levels. By May 2022, 2,900 ECSD staff had passed the Level 1 (Becoming Trauma Informed) module and 2202 have accessed the Level 2 (Developing Your Trauma Skilled Practice) – course via Fife Council site.

ECSD Staff Trained	March 2021	March 2022
Level One	2673	2900
Level Two	1328	2202

The 'Be That Person' Reflective Workshop has been delivered virtually several times since March 2020, as part of the Health Promotion Programme, and to various groups of staff in ECSD and community partners who requested Trauma Informed training which was interactive and reflective. We are also now co-facilitating "Sowing Seeds – taking a Trauma Informed Lens" training with Health Promotion colleagues. Work is underway through the Relationships and Behaviour group to develop core training resources for all education staff, and these include updating the De-escalation pack and developing Trauma Informed Practice training. This will be in collaboration with key partners in child psychology and NES.

The three Trauma Champions, based in the NHS, HSCP and the Council, have been meeting with key partners and are working to ensure that Fife continues to deliver services which are Trauma Informed in their values, engagement with clients and supporting the wellbeing of staff. A Trauma Project Manager will soon be in post and will have a strategic oversight of this work across Fife.

Appendix 2

Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan 2021-2024

Expected Outcome	Actions	Lead Partners	Impact on child poverty
More people's incomes are maximised and there is increased access to benefits			
More people have their benefits checked when engaging with services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver integrated income maximisation from benefits across key service points Embed welfare advisors in GP surgeries and food banks 	Citizen's Advice & Rights Fife (CARF)	Includes delivering income maximisation services to families that likely fall into one or more priority groups
<p>Increased income and support for financially insecure families in Levenmouth</p> <p>Reduction of child poverty levels in Levenmouth</p> <p>Staff are enabled to support families with finances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver an income maximisation project in the Levenmouth area to target child poverty levels and enable three key staff groups to support families who are financially insecure 	Fife Council – Education Service	Specifically targets child poverty levels in an area with some of the highest rates of child poverty in Fife
<p>More families have their incomes maximised through referrals from schools</p> <p>Staff in schools are enabled to raise financial issues with families</p> <p>Improve budgeting skills and cooking on a budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver support for parents in managing their money through the Boosting Budget project. This will run in 20 schools during 2022-23 to financially vulnerable families 	<p>Fife Council – Education Service</p> <p>CARF</p>	Delivers support to parents that likely fall into one or more priority groups

Families and pregnant women are more financially resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve advocacy and support to enable families and pregnant women to deal with benefit changes, maximise income and be more financially resilient. 	HSCP - Health Promotion Service	Targeted at a priority group and will likely impact other priority groups e.g. families who fall into more than one category
Staff have increased awareness of poverty and how to provide support to those who need financial help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a tiered training programme on welfare support to increase the range and number of staff participating in Poverty Awareness training 	HSCP - Health Promotion Service	Raises awareness of child poverty among key staff groups working across Fife Partnership
More people have increased income through access to benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver targeted campaigns to increase take up in benefit entitlement • Understand the number of unclaimed benefits in Fife • Develop proposals for take-up campaigns 	CARF	Includes delivering income maximisation services to families that likely fall into one or more priority groups
More families have increased income through access to Child Maintenance Reduced child poverty	<p>Understand the barriers to paying and claiming Child Maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of Child Maintenance amongst staff working within family support and financial inclusion • Develop and implement an income maximisation / take-up campaign on Child Maintenance • Highlight children's rights to Child Maintenance 	Fife Gingerbread	Targeted at a priority group and will likely impact other priority groups e.g. families who fall into more than one category
People can access information and advice on money matters online and self-serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there are additional ways people can access services, advice and information out with office hours to support those in in-work poverty • Provide online access and support/advice to ensure income maximisation 	Fife Council - Communications and Customer Insights	Provides universal information and advice that any family can use

<p>More households can manage their household budgets through improved literacy</p> <p>People are supported to get online and apply for work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people to get online and access benefits and provide job search support • Develop a tracking financial gain system to show impact of welfare support • Embed financial literacies into Adult Basic Education programming 	Fife Council – Communities & Neighbourhoods Service	Delivers support to clients who may be parents that may fall into one or more priority groups
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Expected Outcome	Action	Lead Partners	Impact
People are protected from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare cost			
<p>Minimise the costs of accessing services</p> <p>Reduced barriers to participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove cost barriers to participation by reviewing Fife Council’s concessions policies and implement a new approach to make services more affordable for people on low incomes 	Fife Council – Communities & Neighbourhoods Service	Benefits for families by minimising costs
<p>More people can travel to access services and jobs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate an additional bus concessions scheme for the unemployed, building on work carried out in North East Fife 	Fife Council – Communities & Neighbourhoods Service	Benefits for families by minimising costs
<p>Increased take up of free school meals (meals taken in school) by secondary school pupils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a short-term project to increase the take-up of school meals and identify school champions to lead on communications with pupils and parents 	Fife Council – Facilities Management	Benefits for families by minimising costs

<p>Fewer families are impacted by holiday hunger during school holidays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Café Inc Fife Council free holiday meals is delivered in school holidays • Partnerships at Area level are developed to ensure demand is met 	<p>Fife Council</p>	<p>Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups</p>
<p>More people have access to local, healthy, affordable food</p> <p>Reduced food insecurity</p> <p>Increase in community led food support – foodbanks, larders and community fridges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and support a community food network to strengthen community-led, and community owned, responses to food insecurity including food banks, fridges and pantries • Grants scheme for community food projects set up • Collate data on food support and demand to identify gaps • Build community ownership around access to low-cost, high quality food products by working with community food providers 	<p>Fife Council – Communities & Neighbourhoods Service</p> <p>NHS Fife Public Health</p>	<p>Benefits for families by minimising costs</p>
<p>More households can heat their homes – reduced fuel poverty</p> <p>Individuals and families who are experiencing or are at risk of fuel poverty are supported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map and identify gaps in the support of people in fuel poverty • Establish mechanisms for longer term funding settlements for the third sector partners offering fuel poverty support to build sustainability and allow them to recruit staff to provide services • Provide ongoing training of frontline staff on fuel poverty empowering them to support tenants • Identify further ways to deliver support to private tenants and owners 	<p>Fife Council – Housing Services</p>	<p>Benefits for families by minimising costs</p> <p>Raises awareness of child poverty and fuel poverty among key staff groups working across Fife Partnership</p>

<p>Affordable, local childcare is available across Fife</p> <p>Free activities and support for days out are available for families in the school holidays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to local, affordable and flexible childcare including exploring parent-led approaches to take advantage of learning, training and job opportunities • Explore current offering for school holiday childcare provision and holiday playschemes and identify a Fife-wide offering for holiday experiences 	<p>Fife Council - Education Service</p>	<p>Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups</p>
<p>More people have access to affordable credit and banking options in Fife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote banking and affordable credit options • Develop a work plan for the Affordable Credit Group based on the research • Extend credit union membership • Ensure there is a wide range of access opportunities to affordable credit, including promotion overall and the extension of online options 	<p>Fife Council – Communities & Neighbourhoods Service</p>	<p>Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups</p>
<p>People are supported out of debt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a joined-up approach to debt across partners that provides access to debt advice online and outwith working hours • Increase promotion of debt write offs the Council makes using the Council Tax Allowance Scheme for those with unmanageable debt • Develop a joined up corporate debt approach across front line staff and services • Promote the Debt Arrangement Scheme (DAS) to save people the cost of engaging a Trustee to advocate for manageable repayment plans 	<p>Fife Council – Revenues Services CARF</p>	<p>Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups</p>

<p>Reduce the number of people in low paid work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Fife as a Living Wage region and look at the role of procurement in promoting the Real Living Wage • Support anchor organisation work towards Real Living Wage accreditation • Targeted approach to achieve Real Living Wage regional status 	<p>Fife Council - Business & Employability Services</p>	<p>Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups</p>
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<p>LACER funding is utilised to deliver multiple interventions that support local economic recovery and ease cost of living impacts for low-income households</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional funding to Scottish Welfare Fund to address the shortfall in available funding • Provide funding to Cosy Kingdom to support people who are suffering from fuel poverty with the aim being to alleviate fuel poverty • Provide hardship support for those who are not eligible for the Scottish Welfare Fund and need basic needs covered such as fuel top ups, weekly shopping, and other emergencies • Provide staffing support for projects which supply charitable goods (including excess goods) and services to vulnerable households in Fife, including the Big Hoose Project • Invest in small grants of up to £5,000 for projects designed to transform or diversify town centre business operations and/or include environmental sustainability/energy measures • Facilitate pre-employment training to address long term unemployment and enable grass roots work to promote positive destinations to young people • Additional funds for Breakfast clubs, After School Clubs and childcare • Deliver £3,000 grants for 400 businesses for product/process improvements that lead to net zero transition interventions • Invest in rates hardship relief to give financial headroom for struggling businesses affected by the pandemic/cost of energy costs 	<p>Fife Council</p>	<p>Some measures will benefit families who are living in poverty or crisis directly</p>
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Barriers to parental employment are reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a new, locally informed framework for commissioning employability services in the area through the No One Left Behind programme and Parental Employment Support Fund 	Fife Council - Business & Employability Service	Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups
Tackle period poverty People have access to the products they need free of charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make period products free and obtainable for anyone who needs them in Fife 	Fife Council – Communities & Neighbourhoods Service Fife Council – Education Service	Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups

Expected Outcome	Action	Lead Partners	Impact
Homelessness is reduced with people in temporary housing for shorter lengths of time			
Less time is spent in temporary housing for those experiencing homelessness Reduction in transitions for homeless families by converting temporary accommodation to permanent tenancies per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace 20% (100) scatter flats per year through conversion to mainstream tenancies and reprovion 	Fife Council – Housing Service	Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups
Reduction in repeat homeless presentations and increased tenancy sustainability Reduction in Homelessness through Housing Options, Prevention and Tenancy Sustainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Housing First Model for 75 tenancies per year focussed on groups at risk of homelessness Implement Housing First for Youth approach for under 25-year-olds Establish at risk groups with partner services Commission additional Housing First services 	Fife Council – Housing Service	Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups

Enhanced range of supported accommodation Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the range of accommodation with support options available to vulnerable families • Develop new models of supported temporary accommodation provision – Core & Cluster • Diversify alternative models of supported provision – Houses in Multiple Occupation Model • Decommission or repurpose a number of accommodation unit style temporary accommodation resources to promote mainstream options in the community • Establish support needs assessment tool with Personal Housing Plans 	Fife Council – Housing Service	Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups
Raising Standards and improve customer journeys giving improved health and well-being outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommission a range of housing support and homelessness services with an enhanced focus on prevention and early intervention • Develop scoping tool and complete with partners for 1-2-1 meetings • With organisations obtain financial and statistical breakdowns • Organise short life working groups to develop future goals for PSP agencies within the RRTP • Analyse data collated through the Commissioning Framework • Develop Service Level agreements with agencies 	Fife Council – Housing Service	Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups
Increased Opportunity and Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Transitional Affordable Housing programme 	Fife Council – Housing Service	Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups

Expected Outcomes	Action	Lead Partners	Impact
More people have crisis prevented through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support			
Joined up frontline support reducing people reaching crisis Contact and referral processes are made simpler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move the 'no wrong door' approach from pilot stage to organisational change with a focus on how frontline services are accessed and delivered 	Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis (TPPC) Board	Includes looking a whole family support which will benefit different families and is likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups
Front line staff are empowered to help people with benefits and welfare support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a tiered training programme to support and empower front line staff to develop positive relationships with clients and help them with benefit and welfare support 	HSCP - Health Promotion Service	Raises awareness of child poverty among key staff groups working across Fife Partnership
People have access to crisis payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplify access to welfare funding and explore a cash-first approach 	TPPC Board	Likely to benefit families that fall into one or more priority groups

Expected Outcome	Action	Lead Partners	Impact
Improved use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on prevention of crisis			
Better targeting of support based on evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use data and project intelligence to deliver better outcomes 	TPPC Board – Intelligence subgroup	Intended to deliver better outcomes for families in priority groups
Better targeting of support based on evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand Fife's child poverty priority groups by reviewing data and work done previously on priority groups in Fife 	TPPC Board - Child Poverty subgroup	Intended to deliver better outcomes for families in priority groups
Data is shared more easily across Fife Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve data sharing across the Partnership (acting on evidence) 	TPPC Board – Intelligence subgroup	Intended to deliver better outcomes for families in priority groups

Increases prevention measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a systematic approach for targeting anti-poverty spend focussed on tangible impact that increases prevention measures 	TPPC Board – Intelligence subgroup	Intended to deliver better outcomes for families in priority groups
More decisions are made in collaboration with people who have lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve community voice structures at local and regional level ensuring direct connectivity to decision makers 	Fife Council – Communities & Neighbourhoods	Intended to deliver mechanisms for involving lived experience of poverty in co-design and co-production of services
Children and families are involved in decision making Structures are defined and communicated to those who should use them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider and implement ways of engaging with the priority groups to coproduce support 	TPPC Board - Child Poverty subgroup	Intended to deliver mechanisms for involving lived experience of poverty in co-design and co-production of services
More structures to support community engagement in decision making More people in the community are influencing decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen work with the National Standards for Community Engagement network and work with community groups and organisations to build opportunities for community influence 	Fife Council – Communities & Neighbourhoods	Intended to deliver mechanisms for involving lived experience of poverty in co-design and co-production of services