

**Management Committee**

**Date: 30 June 2021**

Hence the Child Poverty Action Plan and the should in turn be linked to key Council and Health Board strategies and plans, for example 2023. It should be noted that child poverty and chi are a wider responsibility that Council departments and partners need to be cited on.

The Plans also link to the **Fairer Scotland Duty**. This is an overarching strategic duty on public bodies (including local authorities). It has interactions with the Equality Act 2010 and Scotland Act 2016; and came into force on 1 April 2018.

decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions, have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-

In ensuring that this obligation is met, Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessments

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIA ) to be completed. Work is currently taking place in Argyll and Bute to integrate these two assessment documents into one process.

**2. The 2017 Act set four targets relating to ending child poverty**, which the Scottish Government committed to trying to achieve by 2030. The targets for children living in households in Scotland are that:

less than 10% of children live in relative poverty (relative poverty is less than 60% of average household income for the year taking account of the size and composition of the household);

less than 5% of children live in absolute poverty (absolute poverty is less than 60% of average household income for the financial year beginning 1 April 2010);

less than 5% of children live in combined low income and material deprivation (low income is defined as less than 70% of average household income for the year,

### **3. Child Poverty Figures for Argyll and Bute:**

child poverty data published by the Department for Work and Pensions in March 2020 and housing cost data from the Valuation Office Agency and income data from the Understanding Society survey found the following.

#### **Children Living in Poverty below 60% median income before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC) in Argyll and Bute.**

2014/2015 AHC 20.7%

2018/2019 BHC - 17.3%

2018/2019 AHC 23.4% - (3056 children)

New Scottish Government figures for Argyll and Bute released on 19/05/2021:

2019/2020 AHC - 23.3% (3000 children)

Figures to be released next year will reflect the impact of the pandemic economic impacts of EU exit and are likely to be higher.

#### **4.0 Detail**

In 2019 the Argyll and Bute Child Poverty Action Group was formed to oversee the implementation of the local Child Poverty plan, review it annually and find ways to best use existing resources and develop new initiatives. Members of the group included Councillor Currie, Senior Managers from the HSCP, Employability, The Food Group, Education, Benefits, Advice Services, Housing and the Third Sector; the Lead on child poverty work was taken by Joanna MacDonald, Chief Officer for the HSCP.

The Covid19 pandemic and the first lockdown prevented meetings for a period as group members were called away to other work but were continued later in the year. This was reflected across Scotland and the Report was not released until August. Local area plans were also delayed and Argyll and Bute completed theirs in November. However the Scottish Government wanted to get reviewing back on track, hence there will be a shorter time between reviews this year, with the next being required by the end of June or as soon as possible after this date. The second review report 2020 - 2021 will go to the Community Services Committee on 10/06/2021, the IJB on 16/06/2021 and the CPP on 30/06/2021. Following approval and publication there is an obligation for it to go to Scottish Government.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

The current Child Poverty Action Plan Review 2020 – 2021 sets out the current situation in terms of child poverty in Argyll and Bute and makes particular reference to areas such as

The plan sets out work that has been happening to address child poverty in Argyll and Bute and some

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