

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Improving Life Chances Group

| Date                       | Time  | Venue   |
|----------------------------|-------|---|
| Thursday, 06 December 2018 | 10:00 | Corporate Meeting Room 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN |

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Head of Corporate Governance

### Membership

J Melrose, Area Support Team; K McIntyre, Engage Renfrewshire; S Wright, Police Scotland; L King and N Harkness (both Scottish Children's Reporter Administration); M Gallacher, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services; M Gilligan, Skills Development Scotland; J Paterson, Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee; P MacLeod, J Trainer, G McKinlay, O Reid and A Morrison (all Renfrewshire Council); F MacKay, S Clocherty, L Jack and J Dougall (all Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); J McKellar, Renfrewshire Leisure; C Nicol, University of the West of Scotland; and S Graham, West College Scotland.

### Chair

P MacLeod, Director of Education & Leisure and J Dougall, Head of Health & Social Care (West Renfrewshire), Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership.

## Items of business

### Apologies

Apologies from members.

### Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- |          |  |                |
|----------|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Minute of Previous Meeting</b>  | <b>3 - 6</b>   |
|          | Minute of previous meeting held on 7 September 2018.   |                |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Rolling Action Log</b>  | <b>7 - 8</b>   |
|          | Report by Director of Finance & Resources.   |                |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Matters Arising</b>   |                |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Priorities and Indicators</b>   | <b>9 - 16</b>  |
|          | Report by Partnerships Planning & Development Manager, Chief Executive's Service, Renfrewshire Council.  |                |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Early Action System Change Update</b>   |                |
|          | Verbal update by Community & Partnerships Manager, Engage Renfrewshire and Health Improvement Lead, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership. |                |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Aspiring Communities - Study into Isolation, Loneliness and Social Connections</b>  |                |
|          | Presentation by RAMH and Acumen.   |                |
| <b>7</b> | <b>An Update on Child Poverty Legislation</b>  | <b>17 - 22</b> |
|          | Report by Health Improvement Lead, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership.  |                |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Local Employability Partnership and No-one Left Behind Update</b>   |                |
|          | Verbal update by Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland.  |                |
| <b>9</b> | <b>Update on Work on other CPP Groups</b>  |                |
|          | Verbal update by Partnerships Planning & Development Manager, Chief Executive's Service, Renfrewshire Council.                                     |                |



## Minute of Meeting Improving Life Chances Group

| Date                      | Time  | Venue   |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| Friday, 07 September 2018 | 10:00 | Corporate Meeting Room 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN |

### PRESENT

K McIntyre, Engage Renfrewshire; M Gilligan, Skills Development Scotland; J Paterson, Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee; F MacKay, S Clocherty, L Jack, J Dougall (all Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); J McKellar, Renfrewshire Leisure; and C Nicol, UWS.

### CHAIR

It was agreed that in the absence of John Trainer, Fiona MacKay, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership would chair the meeting.

### IN ATTENDANCE

S Graham and C MacDonald (both Renfrewshire Council).

### APOLOGIES

M Gallacher, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, J Trainer, Children's Services (Renfrewshire Council).

1 **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the meetin of the Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities Group held on 25 June 2018.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

2 **MATTERS ARISING**

**IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES GROUP – ROLE, REMIT AND TIMETABLE OF GROUP** – The Group was advised that Jackie Dougall, Head of Health & Social Care (West Renfrewshire) had agreed to co-chair the Improving Life Chances Group with John Trainer, Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice. F MacKay welcomed Jackie to the meeting.

**EARLY ACTION SYSTEMS CHANGE** – It was agreed that K McIntyre would provide updates at future meetings of the Group on the Early Action Systems Change; would send notification of the job advert for Lead Officer for the project for distribution to the Group.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That regular updates from the Early Action Systems Change project be submitted to future meetings of the Group;

(b) That the job advert for Lead Officer of the Early Action Systems Change project be circulated to members;

(c) That the updates be noted.

3 **ROLLING ACTION LOG**

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That actions RF.27.02.15(5) and RF.09.02.16(4) be removed from the Action Log as they were now complete;

(b) That the updates be noted; and

(c) That the Rolling Action Log be approved.

4 **LOCAL EMPLOYABILITY PARTNERSHIP (LEP) UPDATE**

M Gilligan gave a verbal update on the role, remit and work being carried out by the Local Employability Partnership (LEP). It was agreed that a copy of the Terms of Reference for the LEP would be circulated to the Group.

An update was given relating to the Scottish Government's No-One Left Behind plan to deliver more effective and joined-up employability support across Scotland. It was noted that regular updates would be submitted to the Group.

The Group was advised that the 'Celebrating Success' Awards in Renfrewshire, which recognised the hard work and effort of local people, would be held in Paisley Town Hall on Monday 19th November 2018 and a link to the event would be sent to members of the Group.

Discussion took place on school leaver destinations linked to health issues. J McKellar advised that Renfrewshire Leisure Ltd had issued a questionnaire to school pupils relating to physical activity, the results of which would be available at the end of October. It was agreed that Renfrewshire Leisure would present their findings of the questionnaire at the next meeting of the Group.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That a copy of the LEP Terms of Reference would be circulated to the Group;
- (b) That it be noted that regular updates from the No-One Left Behind plan be submitted to future meetings of the Group;
- (c) That a link to the Celebrating Success Awards be sent to Members;
- (d) That it be agreed that Renfrewshire Leisure would present the findings of the Active Schools questionnaire at the next meeting of the Group; and
- (e) That the verbal presentation be noted.

**5 IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES WORKSHOP FEEDBACK**

The Partnerships Planning and Development Manager delivered a presentation in relation to the feedback from the Improving Life Chances Workshop which took place on Friday 24 August 2018.

After discussion, the Improving Life Chances Group identified the top three issues for the Group to address.

- (i) child poverty;
- (ii) skills and employability – with emphasis on positive destinations for people with disabilities; and
- (iii) mental health – with a focus on loneliness/isolation as an issue and physical activity as a way of addressing this.

It was agreed that a set of actions and indicators would be identified around the three issues and that the topics be shared with the Children's Champions' Board and other relevant groups to ensure there was no duplication and the research and outcomes enhanced current delivery of service in the Partnership.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the indicators: (i) child poverty; (ii) skills and employability – with emphasis on positive destinations for people with disabilities; and (iii) mental health – with a focus on loneliness/isolation as an issue and physical activity as a way of addressing this be agreed as issues for the Improving Life Chances Group to address;
- (b) That the actions/indicators be developed with milestones and targets; and
- (c) That the topics be shared with the Children's Champions' Board and other

relevant groups to ensure there was no duplication and the research and outcomes enhance current delivery of service in the Partnership.

**RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP  
IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES GROUP  
ROLLING ACTION LOG**

**KEY**

Action is on track

Areas for concern that will impact on completion date if not fixed. Action required to bring up to satisfactory level

Past deadline date and action required.

| Action No.           | Action   | Action Owner            | Status | Expected Date of Completion | Actual Date of Closure | Update & Comments   |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <u>ILC.250618(1)</u> | The role of Chair be deferred to the next meeting of the Group. Members wishing to declare an interest to contact the Clerk of the Group.  | ALL MEMBERS             |        | Next meeting                |                        | <u>ILC.070918(2)</u><br>Jackie Dougali, Head of Health & Social Care (West Renfrewshire) had agreed to co-chair the Group.        |
| <u>ILC.250618(6)</u> | <u>No-One Left Behind – Next Steps For The Integration And Alignment Of Employability Support In Scotland</u><br>The Renfrewshire Local Employability Partnership to co-ordinate the contribution of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership to appropriate actions in the No-One Left Behind action plan. | MG/SG/JT                |        | Future Meeting              |                        |   |
| <u>ILC.070918(2)</u> | <u>Early Action Systems change</u><br>(i) K McIntyre to provide regular updates to Group<br>(ii) Notification of job advert to be sent to members  | KMcI & SC/CMacD         |        | Future meetings             |                        | <u>ILC.17.09.18</u><br>Job advert sent to members   |
| <u>ILC.070918(4)</u> | <u>Local Employability Partnership(LEP)</u><br>(i) LEP Terms of Reference to be circulated to Group;<br>(ii) Celebrating Success award information to be circulated to members<br>(iii) Renfrewshire Leisure to present findings of Active Schools questionnaire   | CMacD<br>CMacD<br>JMckK |        | Future meeting              |                        | <u>ILC.12.09.18</u><br><u>LEP Terms of Reference and information relating to Celebrating Success Awards circulated to Members</u> |
| <u>ILC.070918(4)</u> | <u>Improving Life Chances Workshop</u><br>(i) Topics agreed to be shared with Children's Champion Board and other relevant Groups to avoid duplication;<br>(ii) Actions/Indicators to be developed with milestones and targets;  | SG/PMacL/JD             |        | Future meeting              |                        |   |







**To: Improving Life Chances Group**

**On: 6 December 2018**

**Report by: Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive's Service**

**TITLE: Priorities and Indicators**

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Improving Life Chances group has discussed and identified three initial priorities for action following a development workshop session. These priorities align with national policy direction and with indicators previously agreed by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group. The Improving Life Chances Group is now invited to confirm or amend its priorities and agree work to develop targets for indicators in relation to the priorities.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Improving Life Chances Group:
- (a) Confirm the decision made in September 2018 to initially focus the initial work of the group on child poverty, skills and employability and addressing loneliness and isolation through physical activity and/or identify other priorities for action.
  - (b) Agree that one, three and ten year targets be developed for those indicators that are relevant to the priorities agreed by the Improving Life Chances Group.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The development workshop on Improving Life Chances considered the issues of what made group life chances, how the Improving Life Chances group should work and what the areas of focus should be. The following feedback summary was presented to the Improving Life Chances group in September:

### **Good Life Chances**

- Encouragement – stable support network
- Aspirations, options, path to fulfil potential
- Positive start in life and positive transitions
- Absence of “chaos”
- Support to overcome barriers where they exist (circumstantial or societal attitudes)
- Access to decent income level and good housing

### **What We Should Do As A Group**

- Pick two or three issues to work on – research and identify improvements
- Look at our systems – where can we improve the experience people get and the contribution to outcomes (do we make things easy or difficult for people)
- What can we do now to make things different in a year’s time

### **Areas Of Focus**

- Skills, employability and income – joining up activity to improve actions for groups with poorer outcomes
- New duties regarding child poverty
- Physical exercise – focusing on less active children, transition “drop off” points, staying mobile and connected in later life
- Enabling positive transitions – life changes, rehabilitation, recovery
- Addressing stigma and perceptions

3.2 The meeting of the Improving Life Chances Group in September agreed three initial priorities that the group should focus its work on during 2019/20. The three priorities initially agreed at the meeting were:

- Child poverty.
- Skills and employability – with emphasis on positive destinations for people with disabilities.
- Mental health issues caused by loneliness and isolation – with an emphasis on how physical activity/exercise can help address these issues.

3.3 The improving Life Chances group is invited to reaffirm these three priorities and/or identify other issues to be addressed

3.4 It was agreed at the September 2018 meeting that the Improving Life Chances Group should review the suite of indicators previously agreed by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group. These are attached at Appendix 1. The indicators within this suite that are relevant to the Improving Life Chances group are highlighted in bold. These map to the three initial priorities of the Improving Life Chances Group as follows:

| Child Poverty  | Skills and Employability  | Impact of Physical Activity In Addressing Mental Health Issues Caused By Loneliness and Isolation  |
|--|---|--|
| Specific child poverty indicator will also be included in the finalised Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership indicator framework. | <p>Employment rate 50+.</p> <p>Employment rate of disabled people.</p> <p>Participation of 16-19 year olds in education, training and employment.</p> | <p>Percentage of children in Primary 1 that are at risk of being obese or severely obese.</p> <p>Percentage of people participating in 150 minutes of moderate physical activity per week.</p> <p>It is also proposed that an indicator be developed following the outcome of the current Scottish Government consultation on Loneliness and Isolation</p> |

3.5 Work will now take place in advance of the meeting of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership in March 2019 to identify a set of one, three and ten year targets. For the indicators set out above, this will involve partners engaged in tackling child poverty, the Local Employability Partnership and partners engaged in promoting good mental health, promoting healthy weight and physical activity and addressing loneliness and isolation.

3.6 The three areas of work identified as initial priorities at the September 2018 Improving Life Chances group meeting align with national policy direction.

3.7 The focus on child poverty aligns with the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and the national Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan published in 2018 (see link below).

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/publication/2018/03/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/documents/00533606-pdf/00533606-pdf/govscot%3Adocument>

3.8 The focus on skills and employability aligns with No One Left Behind – Next Steps For The Integration and Alignment Of Employability Support in Scotland (see link below).

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/publication/2018/03/one-left-behind-next-steps-integration-alignment-employability-support-scotland/documents/00533376-pdf/00533376-pdf/govscot%3Adocument>

- 3.9 The focus on mental health issues caused by loneliness and isolation and the mitigating benefits of physical activity align with emerging work on loneliness and isolation and the findings of the Children's Health and Wellbeing survey in Renfrewshire. The focus on this work also aligns with the Scottish Government's Active Scotland Delivery Plan and A Healthier Future – Scotland's Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan (see link below).

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/publication/2018/07/active-scotland-delivery-plan/documents/00537494-pdf/00537494-pdf/govscot%3Adocument>

Author: Stuart Graham, Partnerships Planning and Development Manager, Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive's Service, 0141 618 7408

## Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Indicators

### Our Renfrewshire Is Thriving

#### Indicators

1. Percentage of population that is of working age (16-64 years)
2. Overall employment rate
- 3. Employment rate 50+**
- 4. Employment rate of disabled people**
- 5. Participation of 16-19 year olds in education, training and employment**
6. Employment in the manufacturing sector
7. Employment in cultural and creative sectors
8. Visitor spend within Renfrewshire
9. Opportunities to see or hear something positive about Paisley and Renfrewshire
10. Number of VAT/PAYE registered businesses in Renfrewshire
11. Gross Value Added
12. Number of vacant ground floor commercial units in Paisley Town Centre
13. Median weekly earnings for full-time employees:
  - (a) living in Renfrewshire
  - (b) working in Renfrewshire
14. Affordable House Completions
15. Private House Completions

## Our Renfrewshire Is Well

### Indicators

1. (a) Number of people who assessed their health as good or very good  
(b) Number of people who assess their health as good or very good. Renfrewshire average compared against SIMD 1 (the most deprived datazone)
2. **Percentage of children in Primary 1 that are at risk of being obese or severely obese**
3. **Percentage of people participating in 150 minutes of moderate physical activity per week.**
4. The percentage of adults who smoke
5. Percentage of patients who started treatment within 18 weeks of referral to Psychological Therapy
6. Child and adolescent mental health - % of patients seen within 18 weeks
7. The gap between minimum and maximum male life expectancy in the communities of Renfrewshire
8. Suicide rate
9. Number of acute bed days lost to delayed discharges (including Adults With Incapacity)
10. Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible
11. Percentage of adults with intensive care needs receiving care at home
14. Percentage of homecare clients aged 65+ receiving personal care
15. Unintentional harm indicator to be developed.

**It is also proposed that an indicator regarding isolation and loneliness be developed following the outcome of the current Scottish Government consultation.**

## Our Renfrewshire Is Fair

### Indicators

1. Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks in most deprived areas
2. Number of people living in 5% most deprived areas
3. Percentage of people rating their neighbourhood as a place to live:
  - (a) Very good
  - (b) Fairly good
4. Percentage point gap in % pupils achieving expected level for their stage in literacy between pupils living in 30% most deprived areas and people living in 70% least deprived areas (SIMD)
5. Percentage point gap in % pupils achieving expected level for their stage in numeracy between pupils living in 30% most deprived areas and people living in 70% least deprived areas (SIMD)
6. Average complementary tariff score (S4)
7. Average complementary tariff score (S5)
8. **Percentage of school leavers with positive destinations**
9. Cultural participation rate for people in the most 5% of deprived Communities
10. Estimated prevalence of problem drug use amongst 15-64 year olds (percentage of total population age 15-64)
11. Rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions per 1,000 population
12. Drug related hospital discharge rate per 100,000 population
13. Qualifications NVQ4 and above % of Population 16-64 years
14. Average time from household presenting themselves as homeless to completion of duty (number of weeks)
15. Number of people :
  - (a) registering to volunteer
  - (b) placed in volunteering positions

**A specific child poverty indicator will also be included in the finalised indicator framework.**

## **Our Renfrewshire Is Safe**

### **Indicators**

1. % of adults who agree with the statement “Renfrewshire is a safe place to live”
2. Number of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour reported to Renfrewshire Council Community Safety Services
3. Number of complaints regarding youth disorder
4. Percentage of new unpaid work orders/requirement complete by the required date
5. Number of Home Fire Safety visits
6. Number of reported hate crime incidents
7. Number of reported domestic abuse incidents

## **Sustainable and Connected Indicators**

### **Indicators**

1. Percentage of people who agree with the statement “I can influence decisions”
2. CO2 emissions (tonnes) from public buildings
3. Percentage of people with home internet access





**To: IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES GROUP**

**On: 6 DECEMBER 2018**

**Report by: Laura Mullen  
Health Improvement Lead  
Mental Health, Addictions, Financial Inclusion & Employability**

## **TITLE: AN UPDATE ON CHILD POVERTY LEGISLATION**

### **Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Improving Life Chances board on the recently passed Child Poverty Act and the responsibilities of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership in contributing to tackle child poverty in line with this legislation.
- 1.2 Scotland is to become the only part of the UK with statutory targets to tackle child poverty after the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill was unanimously passed by the Scottish Parliament on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The Bill will:

- Set in statute targets to reduce child poverty by 2030
  - Place a duty on ministers to publish child poverty delivery plans at regular intervals and to report on progress annually
  - Place a duty on local authorities and health boards to report annually on what they are doing to contribute to reducing child poverty
  - Introduce a Poverty and Inequality Commission which will be established from 1 July 2019, with functions related to the child poverty reduction targets
- 1.3 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act sets out four ambitious headline targets for 2030 that will establish Scotland as the only part of the UK with statutory income targets on child poverty.

The Act sets out four statutory, income-based targets to be achieved by 2030:

- Less than **10%** of children are in relative poverty
- Less than **5%** of children are in absolute poverty
- Less than **5%** of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
- Less than **5%** of children are in persistent poverty

Please see appendix 1 for poverty definitions.

## **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Renfrewshire Community Planning partners are asked to identify senior managers who will be responsible for the joint development of Child Poverty local action reports and identify how this will be aligned into current governance structures.

## **Prevalence**

- 3.1 In Renfrewshire recent data (End Child Poverty, 2018) indicates that over 7400 children live in poverty (after housing costs) with over 2000 children living in the Renfrew South / Gallowhill and Paisley North West ward areas. This is an improvement from previously reported data in 2016, which highlighted that 8073 children lived in poverty. Child Poverty has decreased from 33.07% in 2016 to 28.59% in 2018 in Paisley North West, the most deprived ward in Renfrewshire.

## **Evidence**

- 4.1 Research using Growing Up in Scotland data has shown that financial vulnerability affects most families in poverty and is associated with maternal emotional distress which has a direct and indirect link to poorer child wellbeing and development (Treanor, 2016a). This suggests that programmes that improve parental wellbeing would have a positive impact on children's development and wellbeing. Furthermore, Treanor (2016a) uses income maximisation projects such as Healthier Wealthier Children (HWC) as an example of good practice and highlights that developing links between universal services can effectively contribute to the reduction of child poverty.
- 4.2 These findings are supported by Cooper & Stewart (2017), who updated a previous systematic review and added to the evidence which supports the findings that money itself does impact on children's cognitive development, physical health and social and behavioural development.
- 4.3 The researchers highlighted 2 main dominant theories on why income impacts on children's development; The Investment Model and The Family Stress Model.
- 4.4 The Investment model suggests that income impacts on parental ability to invest in goods and services which contribute towards healthy child development. Examples include spending on creating a home environment which facilitates learning e.g. books, educational toys, extracurricular activities, days out, space to study and good quality housing.
- 4.5 The Family Stress Model describes the emotional pathways which may affect children's outcomes. Managing on low incomes may have an effect on the stress levels and impact on parent's mental health. This may in turn have a negative impact on parenting for example more harsh parenting during stressful situations like low income. This is detrimental to child development.

- 4.6 Cooper and Stewart (2017) conclude that there is strong reason to believe that reducing income poverty would have important and measurable effects on children's environment and their development. In addition, Treanor (2016b) proposes that extending and adapting models like HWC to address child poverty could support other work currently implemented to improve outcomes for children and families, such as the Early Years Collaborative. Summing up that combining a financial inclusion role could provide an effective mechanism for addressing a wide range of early year's national priorities.
- 4.7 This evidence supports the effectiveness of interventions such as HWC which aims to maximise family income through the delivery of welfare / financial advice services. It is recommended that any associated investment which supports the implementation of The Child Poverty legislation be targeted to support the delivery of these evidenced based income maximisation services such as Healthier Wealthier Children.

## **5 Risks**

- 5.1 Universal Credit has now been rolled out 'Full Service' within Renfrewshire as of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Evidence from the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) in Scotland early warning systems have indicated that the rollout of Universal Credit full service has left many claimants in financial hardship (CPAG, 2017).
- 5.2 Claimants wait weeks before receiving any Universal Credit payment. This initial wait is causing some claimants extreme financial hardship. Claimants can ask for an initial payment within those weeks but not all claimants are aware that this is an option.
- 5.3 The Trussell Trust who co-ordinate Foodbanks nationally have stated that if the roll out of Universal Credit continues to have this same impact, Foodbanks won't be able to catch everyone who falls (2017). Given that those who need the assistance of Foodbanks are in crisis, there is potential for these crisis situations to have a significant detrimental effect on children's development, both from Investment and Family Stress model viewpoint. From the evidence it would suggest that the roll out of Universal Credit would significantly impact on the ability to invest in home environment or minimise family stress, which in turn has the potential to be detrimental to a child's development.
- 5.4 Currently funding for both HWC and some of the Families First Hubs within Renfrewshire is funded through Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Project. Renfrewshire Council have committed to continue the delivery of the Tackling Poverty Programme, however the resources available are less and it is unclear whether HWC can continue to be supported at current levels. Given the risk to both income maximisation services and the roll out of Universal Credit, there is significant risk to children and their development within Renfrewshire.

## **6 Healthier Wealthier Children**

- 6.1 The HWC project was established within Renfrewshire in November 2010. The project aimed to develop new approaches to providing money and welfare advice to pregnant women and families at risk of, or experiencing Child Poverty. The project was initially funded by the Scottish Government during the pilot phase, then by Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership (CHP) / Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and more recently Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Project.
- 6.2 The project in Renfrewshire has generated over 2000 referrals into the service from various sources, the majority being Health Visitors. The project has maximised income of over £5 million in Renfrewshire alone.
- 6.3 In response to the success of HWC within Renfrewshire, this welfare / financial advice model was embedded within projects in 2 of the most deprived areas of Renfrewshire, initially in Ferguslie and Linwood. The Families First Hubs aimed to provide additional support for families in target areas to address the issues that impact on children's development. This included a specific welfare advisor to support families with any welfare/ finance issues.
- 6.4 The income advisors within the Families First Hubs have received 1436 referrals which has resulted in £6,161,646.00 income maximisation for the families who are supported by the Families First Service.
- 6.5 The HWC project is a universal service for pregnant women and families under 5 in Renfrewshire. In addition, the Families First welfare advisors delivered a more targeted intervention for families in need of additional support, within areas of deprivation. This may be viewed as an example of proportionate universalism implemented to tackle child poverty within the Renfrewshire area.
- 6.6 The sustained effort of the HWC and targeted intervention from Families First Hubs to maximise income for families may have contributed in some way to the reduction in Child Poverty prevalence within the Renfrewshire area.

## **7 For Consideration**

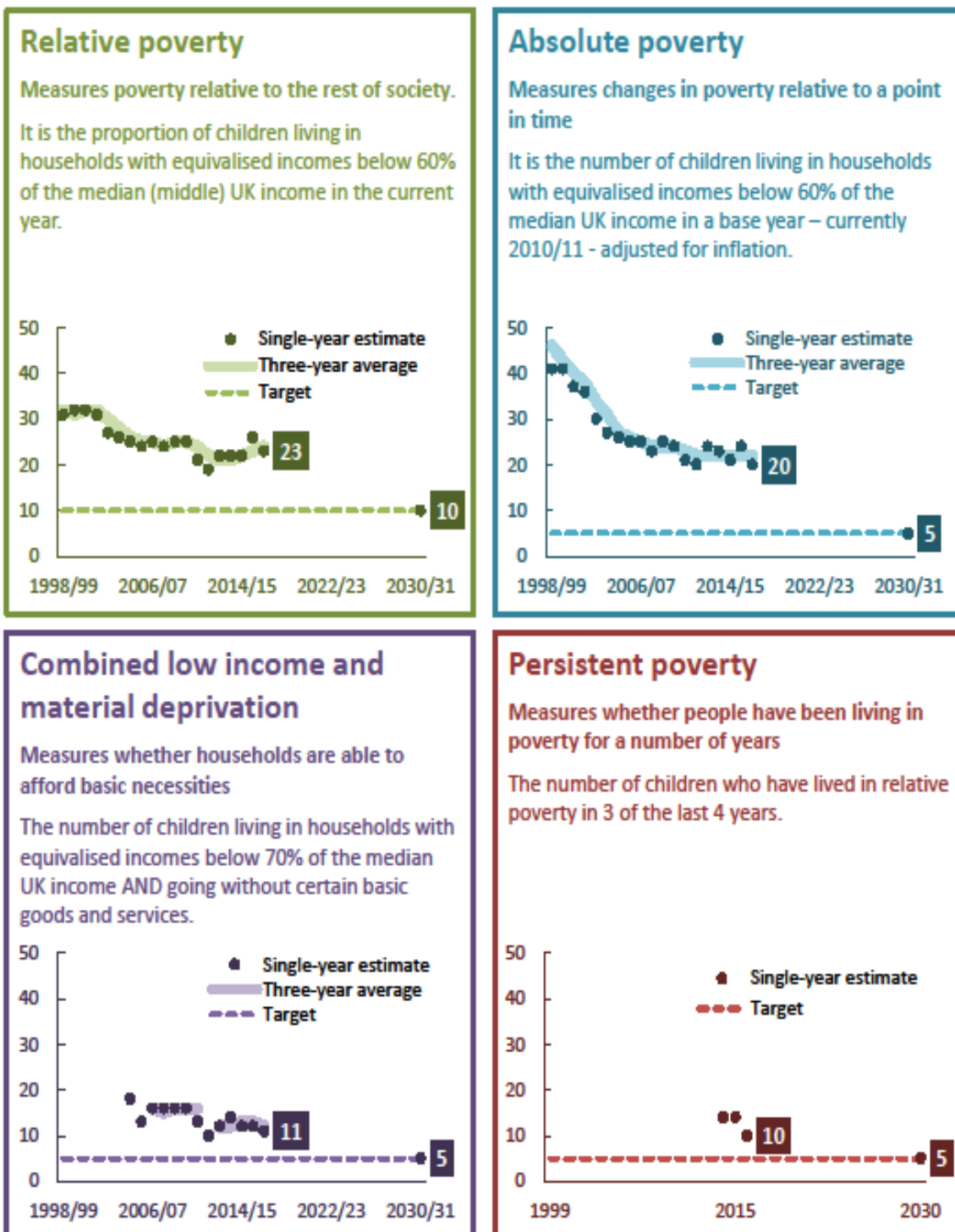
- 7.1 Renfrewshire Council and Renfrewshire HSCP have joint responsibility to develop and publish Child Poverty Local Action Reports. The first report is due on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The report has links into other Community Planning and Local Authority reporting duties, these include Fairer Scotland, Children's Services Plan, Community Empowerment Act and the Education Act. The report should aim to detail activities which have been implemented to contribute towards Child Poverty, in the previous year and planned activity for the coming year. The reports must include detail on how Renfrewshire will target those with protected characteristics and those from priority groups (lone parents, families with 3 or more children, ethnic minority families, families with children under 1 and mothers under 25).
- 7.2 Examples of activities may include the development of monitoring arrangements with Renfrewshire HSCP Children's Services. This would aim to identify the number staff referring into the Healthier Wealthier Children programme and highlight those staff members who may need additional support.

8.1

## Child Poverty update

22 March 2018

The Child Poverty Act 2017 contains four ambitious income-based targets to reduce child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The charts show the targets and the latest poverty estimates. Trends over time are best shown using three-year averages of the estimates. Single-year estimates can be used to understand the situation at a certain point in time.



Author: **Laura Mullen, Health Improvement Lead, Mental Health, Addictions, Financial Inclusion & Employability**

