

## AGENDA ITEM No. 8



<b>Meeting of East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership</b>  <b>Held on</b>	Integration Joint Board  13 August 2025
<b>Agenda Item</b>	8
<b>Title</b>	Local Child Poverty Action Report 2024/25
<b>Summary</b>  This report provides members of the Integration Joint Board with an overview of the statutory duty placed on health boards and local authorities to work together to develop, produce and deliver Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs). This is the seventh annual LCPAR which provides a profile of child poverty in East Renfrewshire plus details of both previous and planned actions to tackle the drivers of poverty.	
<b>Presented by</b>	Alexis Chappell, Chief Officer
<b>Action Required</b>  The Integration Joint Board is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Note the Local Child Poverty Action Report as required under the Child Poverty Act 2017,</li> <li>b) Approve the report for publication, subject to NHSGGC Population Health and Wellbeing Committee approval; and</li> <li>c) Note that this report supports the delivery of The Promise and the HSCP Strategic Plan.</li> </ul>	
<b>Directions</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> No Directions Required <input type="checkbox"/> Directions to East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) <input type="checkbox"/> Directions to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directions to both ERC and NHSGGC	<b>Implications</b>  <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="flex: 50%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Finance  <input type="checkbox"/> Policy  <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equalities         </div> <div style="flex: 50%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Risk  <input type="checkbox"/> Legal  <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairer Scotland Duty         </div> </div>

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**East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board****13 August 2025****Report by Chief Officer HSCP****Local Child Poverty Action Report****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the annual East Renfrewshire Local Child Poverty Action Report required by the Child Poverty Scotland Act 2017.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. The Integration Joint Board is asked to: -
  - a) note the Local Child Poverty Action Report as required under the Child Poverty Act 2017;
  - b) approve the report for publication, subject to NHSGGC Population Health and Wellbeing Committee approval; and
  - c) note that this report supports the delivery of The Promise and the HSCP Strategic Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Tackling child poverty is a key priority for both Scottish Government and East Renfrewshire Council. Scottish Government's Child Poverty Action Plan "Best Start, Bright Futures" sets out the approaches being taken at a national level. Each local authority, along with their health board, is required to publish an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) which describes the approaches being taken at a local level.
4. The LCPAR guidance allows for multi-year action planning, with annual progress updates. The [2024 East Renfrewshire LCPAR](#) sets out our approach to tackling child poverty (2024 – 2027). Specifically, we committed to:
  - improving our understanding of the circumstances of families in, or at risk of, poverty;
  - improving income from employment for parents;
  - enhancing gains for families from income maximisation and social security; and
  - reducing costs of living.
5. Child poverty in East Renfrewshire is the lowest in Scotland, at 12% or 2,842 children. This has fallen since last year which was 14% or 3,247 children. This decline is encouraging and suggests that our efforts are making a measurable impact. However, these figures are still above the targets set out in the Child Poverty Act, which aim to reduce child poverty in Scotland to 10% by 2030. Therefore, we need to continue to prioritise action to tackle child poverty and continue to work in partnership to deliver on this.

## REPORT

6. The 2025 LCPAR provides updates on progress between April 2024 and March 2025. The report describes actions taken, includes relevant progress measures where available, and provides case studies to illustrate areas of good practice. Progress highlights include:
- Improved understanding of the circumstances of families in, or at risk of, poverty  
Across the partnership, we have explored a range of different data sources, engaged directly with low-income parents about the issues which matter to them, and established Community Hubs in places which are most convenient for families. This improved understanding has informed our service delivery, including Thrive Under 5 infant nutrition programme. This was offered across the whole authority area, in recognition that some families living in more traditionally affluent areas may be experiencing financial hardship.
  - Improved income from employment for parents  
In 2024/25, supported twice as many 'in-work' parents compared to the previous year, demonstrating our commitment to address in-work poverty. We also introduced a new project, Time to Flex, aimed at creating a local employment market which meets the needs of parents and carers, with one local employer achieving a flexible working accreditation.
  - Enhanced gains from income maximisation and social security  
Recognising the important role of frontline services engaging with families, we delivered anti-poverty training and continued to develop strong referral pathways from services such as health visiting and maternity. Over 3,000 families were supported by money advice services, which achieved over £2 million of total financial gains, and managed over £2 million of debt for households with children.
  - Reduced costs of living  
We have taken action to address the cost of the school day, with over half schools undertaking an audit to identify and reduce the financial barriers faced by families. We have also worked in partnership to tackle fuel poverty and secured over £60,000 in relation to energy costs for families.
7. Beyond the statutory obligations of the Child Poverty Act, we also recognise the importance of the LCPAR to complement and support delivery of The Promise. The report includes details of actions taken to support care-experienced young people and their families who face financial barriers. This includes supporting 23 young people to open Junior ISAs, delivering over 200 books monthly, and delivering an Inclusive Holiday Programme to help parents and carers remain in employment.
8. Further, the LCPAR underpins the HSCP strategic outcomes. Tackling poverty is integral to ensure children are enabled to live healthy and fulfilling lives and includes examples of early years and healthy family projects, such as Peas Please and HENRY, which aims to support families adopt healthier eating and lifestyle habits. It also includes details about Barrhead Brighter Futures programme which focuses on ensuring communities are resilient with better opportunities for health and wellbeing. And the economic empowerment project to support those affected by domestic abuse demonstrates action to keep people safe and protected.

## CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

9. The Child Poverty Oversight Group includes colleagues and partners from East Renfrewshire Council, HSCP, NHSGGC, ER Citizens Advice Bureau, Police Scotland, Barrhead Housing Association and Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

### Finance

10. There is no financial resource allocated to this report; all activities are delivered within existing budgets or Scottish Government allocations for a specified purpose.
11. Action to tackle child poverty is taken through core staffing resources.

### Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

12. The integral aim of the LCPAR is to reduce inequality amongst families in East Renfrewshire. The primary focus is reducing socio-economic inequality by tackling the underlying causes of poverty and supporting those groups most at risk of poverty. The work around child poverty is also closely linked with the HSCP Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming work and supports the delivery of some Equality Outcomes. Recognising the gendered nature of domestic abuse, including financial abuse, and the action taken to address this as detailed within the LCPAR.

## DIRECTIONS

13. This is primarily a progress and performance update, therefore there are no directions.

## CONCLUSIONS

14. This report details the actions taken during 2024-2025 to support families in, or at risk of, poverty and, where possible, the impact which these actions have had.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

15. The Integration Joint Board is asked to: -
  - a) note the Local Child Poverty Action Report as required under the Child Poverty Act 2017;
  - b) approve the report for publication, subject to NHSGGC Population Health and Wellbeing Committee approval, and
  - c) note that this report supports the delivery of The Promise and the HSCP Strategic Plan.

## **REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT**

Alexis Chappell, Chief Officer HSCP  
[Alexis.Chappell@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Alexis.Chappell@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

Claire Coburn, Strategic Services Lead Officer  
[Claire.Coburn@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Coburn@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Best Start, Bright Futures: Scottish Government tackling child poverty plan 2022-2026](#)

[East Renfrewshire LCPAR 2024](#)

[The Promise Progress Report](#)

[HSCP Strategic Plan 2025-28](#)