

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Tackling Poverty & Inequalities 2024

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Assessment ID | IIA-002000 |
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| Approved By | Amanda Roe |
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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Integrated Impact Assessment for Tackling Poverty & Inequalities and supporting the Child Poverty Action Report.

Aims of Tackling Poverty & Inequality, Aberdeenshire Principles:

Reducing the number of children/people living in poverty.

Preventing children/people falling into poverty.

Enabling children to live poverty free in adult life.

Improve the well-being of people living in poverty.

During screening 6 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 3 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Children's Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities

In total there are 29 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated. The impact on 3 groups is not known, information is provided in the detailed sections of this document.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by amanda.roe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

| | |
|---|-----|
| Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres? | No |
| Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities? | Yes |
| Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources? | No |
| Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community? | No |
| Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity? | No |
| Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics? | Yes |
| Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council? | Yes |
| Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome? | Yes |
| Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights? | Yes |
| Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing? | Yes |

3. Impact Assessments

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Children's Rights and Wellbeing | No Negative Impacts Identified |
| Climate Change and Sustainability | Not Required |
| Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty | No Negative Impacts Identified |
| Health Inequalities | No Negative Impacts Identified |
| Town Centre's First | Not Required |

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

| Indicator | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Unknown |
|-------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Safe | Yes | | | |
| Healthy | Yes | | | |
| Achieving | Yes | | | |
| Nurtured | Yes | | | |
| Active | Yes | | | |
| Respected | Yes | | | |
| Responsible | Yes | | | |
| Included | Yes | | | |

4.2. Rights Indicators

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy</p> | <p>Article 2 - Non-discrimination Article 3 - Best interests of the child Article 4 - Protection of rights Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 18 - Parental responsibilities and state assistance Article 23 - Children with disabilities Article 27 - Adequate standard of living Article 28 - Right to education Article 30 - Children of minorities / indigenous groups Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture Article 42 - Knowledge of rights</p> |
|--|---|

4.3. Positive Impacts

| Impact Area | Impact |
|-------------|--|
| Achieving | Working with Education and Children's Services to look at Cost of the School Day and the use of Pupil Equity funding to enable equity and inclusion. Ensuring young people are supported at transition areas of their life through a range of employability programmes increases skills and experience for their future. |
| Achieving | Working with Education and Children's Services to look at Cost of the School Day and the use of Pupil Equity funding to enable equity and inclusion. Ensuring young people are supported at transition areas of their life through a range of employability programmes increases skills and experience for their future. |
| Active | Through working with LLA a range of activities will be developed , informed by children and young people to improve their health & wellbeing ensuring they can participate in an active lifestyle. |

| Impact Area | Impact |
|--------------------|---|
| Active | Through working with LLA a range of activities will be developed , informed by children and young people to improve their health & wellbeing ensuring they can participate in an active lifestyle. |
| Healthy | Access to food and skill development relating to shopping, preparation and cooking meals. Access to fresh food and vegetables through FareShare. Direct payments for free school meals allowing access to breakfast, break and lunchtime meals. Linking to Active Schools to enable positive mental health and physical wellbeing. Increased range of mental health supports available for Aberdeenshire children, young people and families. |
| Healthy | Access to food and skill development relating to shopping, preparation and cooking meals. Access to fresh food and vegetables through FareShare. Direct payments for free school meals allowing access to breakfast, break and lunchtime meals. Linking to Active Schools to enable positive mental health and physical wellbeing. Increased range of mental health supports available for Aberdeenshire children, young people and families. |
| Included | Ensuring we work with marginalised groups and community champions to include children and young people in priority groups affected by poverty and those with protected characteristics are not further marginalised. The development of a lived experience network will ensure those who feel marginalised are represented and are informing services, policies and practice. |
| Included | Ensuring we work with marginalised groups and community champions to include children and young people in priority groups affected by poverty and those with protected characteristics are not further marginalised. The development of a lived experience network will ensure those who feel marginalised are represented and are informing services, policies and practice. |
| Nurtured | Enabling children and young people to feel included as part of their community. Embedding trauma informed practice and developing services and policy through Rights Based Approach. |
| Nurtured | Enabling children and young people to feel included as part of their community. Embedding trauma informed practice and developing services and policy through Rights Based Approach. |
| Responsible | Ensure children, young people and families are equal partners through coproduction of services and programmes ensuring the ownership stays with those most effected by these developments. |
| Responsible | Ensure children, young people and families are equal partners through co production of services and programmes ensuring the ownership stays with those most effected by these developments. |

| Impact Area | Impact |
|-------------|--|
| Respected | Ensuring children and young people are enabled to participate and that their rights are upheld. Recognising the importance of the voice of children and young people in decisions being made that impact on them. |
| Respected | Ensuring children and young people are enabled to participate and that their rights are upheld. Recognising the importance of the voice of children and young people in decisions being made that impact on them. |
| Safe | We are looking to develop safe places for young people to go and participate in projects / activities. This has been identified as a gap so we now have 2 youth projects, 1 youth work training course and 4 TP&I youth workers. |

4.4. Evidence

| Type | Source | It says? | It Means? |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Other Evidence | Lived Experience Forum and Network | The voice of lived experience continues to be embedded across the work of TP&I and it's partners. | Those with lived experience can highlight areas of improvement, inform and co-produce service redesign, policy and practice. The input of those with lived experience, including young people, has been used to develop the Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Action Report and identify priorities for Tackling Poverty & Inequalities. |

4.5. Information Gaps

Those children and young people who are part of Local Voices participate in informing decisions and those we can reach through youth groups and our third sector and other Aberdeenshire Council services however we recognise this does not necessarily reach a wider range of voices of children and young people.

4.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

| Measure | Timescale |
|---|--|
| Continue to expand the Aberdeenshire Lived Experience Network (ALLEN) which is formed of third sector partners and Aberdeenshire council services who work with more marginalised or less easy to reach groups and individuals. | Ongoing Network information: https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network |

4.7. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Young people form part of our 'Local Voices' lived experience forum and contribute to discussion about service improvement.

In September 2022 TP&I funded an 'Over2Youth' event which was developed and delivered by youth groups from central Aberdeenshire, highlighting issues of inequalities important to them and that impact on their lives. They are now continuing this work to develop actions to make changes.

4.8. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Article 12 - Respect for children's views:

Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.

We recognise that taking a right's-based approach is key to embedding our practice of working with those with lived experience as partners which will ensure services and activities support young peoples wellbeing.

Tackling Poverty & Inequalities allocate funding to a range of services and third sector partners to ensure children young people and their families have positive outcomes which improve and promote wellbeing. All funded projects take makes safeguarding a priority as part of their practice.

4.9. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

By embedding Children's Rights into our practice we provide support and promotion of young people's wellbeing through inclusion, participation and the importance of children and young people co-developing services and opportunities which meets their needs.

4.10. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The children and young peoples' rights and well being implications are likely to help towards closing the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life, which may contribute to children and young people living a poverty free life in adulthood.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

| Indicator | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Unknown |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|----------|---------|
| Age (Younger) | Yes | | | |
| Age (Older) | Yes | | | |
| Disability | Yes | | | |
| Race | Yes | | | |
| Religion or Belief | | | | Yes |
| | Will find out by: This data will not be identified | | | |
| Sex | Yes | | | |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | Yes | | | |
| Sexual Orientation | | | | Yes |
| | Will find out by: This data will not be identified | | | |
| Gender Reassignment | | | | Yes |
| | Will find out by: This data will not be identified | | | |
| Marriage or Civil Partnership | Yes | | | |

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

| Indicator | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Unknown |
|--------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Low income | Yes | | | |
| Low wealth | Yes | | | |
| Material deprivation | Yes | | | |
| Area deprivation | Yes | | | |
| Socioeconomic background | Yes | | | |

5.3. Positive Impacts

| Impact Area | Impact |
|-------------|--|
| Age (Older) | <p>Through increasing opportunities and access to services for parents or kinship carers who are living in low-income households ensuring improved outcomes.</p> <p>We have developed targeted support pathways for older people in relation to rural & remote communities.</p> <p>Working with some of this community to look at fuel poverty and it's impacts and develop recommendations and actions to improve service delivery.</p> |

| Impact Area | Impact |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Age (Younger) | We have developed targeted support pathways for specific client groups. Priority families are now identified and are involved and undertaking projects using a rights based, person led approach. |
| Disability | Through increasing opportunities and access to services. We have developed targeted support pathways for disabled households. Working with some of this community to look at fuel poverty and it's impacts and develop recommendations and actions to improve service delivery. |
| Marriage or Civil Partnership | Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised. |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | The development of the targeted support pathways for specific client groups includes families with new babies. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised. |
| Race | Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised. |
| Sex | Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised. |
| Area deprivation | Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. People living in poverty or at risk of living in poverty will experience a reduction of stigma from accessing services and opportunities which will improve their outcomes. |
| Low income | Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Increased household income for those living in poverty and at highest risk of poverty through benefit up take and income maximisation. |
| Low wealth | Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised. |
| Material deprivation | Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Increased access to services will close the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life. |

| Impact Area | Impact |
|--------------------------|--|
| Socioeconomic background | Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Continue to support the lived experience forum the challenges of living in poverty and experience inequalities will be raised and address to ensure services and opportunities are accessible, where and when require |

5.4. Evidence

| Type | Source | It says? | It Means? |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| Other Evidence | Lived experience, service and partner experiences: web page | Challenge Poverty Week 2022/23 - highlight challenges, barriers and ongoing work to change how we can improve delivery of and access to services https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/tackling-poverty-inequalities/ | This means that we are listening to our services users and our partners to understand how we can do things differently to ensure we can deliver on the Aberdeenshire Principles to tackling poverty & inequalities |
| Other Evidence | Lived Experience Forum | How we work with lived experience voices in Aberdeenshire https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/lived-experiences-online-forum/ | That we recognise the importance of hearing from those who have directly experienced poverty or live on low incomes to learn how we can do things better to improve their outcomes. |
| Other Evidence | Aberdeenshire Lived Experience Network | How important it is for TP&I to work in partnership with internal and external partners across Aberdeenshire. https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network | That we can make our resources work more effectively to deliver outcomes that improve the lives of families and individuals across Aberdeenshire through knowledge of shared practice and expertise. And that we can reach those more marginalised or less heard voices through existing and trusted relationships they have with third sector organisations. |

5.5. Engagement with affected groups

Local voices is a lived experience forum which are asked their views on a range of topics/ issues/ services on a monthly bases.

Using Social media additional weekly engagement has been undertaken.

We have begun projects with youth groups and a fuel poverty project with housing tenants and property owners.

5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Local Voices membership reflects those families with protected characteristics. Through partnership work with those who support marginalised groups and through community champions supporting these communities.

5.7. Evidence of engagement

The Child Poverty Local Action Report (year 5) <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/finalaberdeenshire-local-child-poverty-action-report-22-23.pdf>

Fuel Poverty Project: <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Fuel-Poverty-Project-Report-November-2022.pdf>

5.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The approach to tackling poverty & inequalities focuses on tackling the root causes of poverty and building people's capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.

The Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund is used to support services and opportunities that improve the live chances of those most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.

The Child Poverty Action Report reflects our continued commitment to reducing poverty across all our communities.

5.9. Improving Relations

Ensure that the Lived Experience continues to reflect those target groups outlined the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022 – 26 Best Start Bright Futures

Continue to build on the partnership work which has been developed around this area.

Report progress to Area Committees, Policy Committees and Health & Social Care Partnership.

Highlight good practice at a local and national level

5.10. Opportunities of Equality

The approach to tackling poverty & inequalities focusses on early intervention and prevention – tackling the root causes of poverty and building people's capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.

Accessing appropriate services and opportunities will contribute to reducing child poverty, social justice, support housing first principles, reducing homelessness and reducing inequalities across Aberdeenshire.

Through identifying and addressing the barriers faced by those who are at risk of poverty or living in poverty should result in a reduction of inequalities

6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

6.1. Health Behaviours

| Indicator | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Unknown |
|--------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Healthy eating | Yes | | | |
| Exercise and physical activity | | Yes | | |
| Substance use – tobacco | | Yes | | |
| Substance use – alcohol | | Yes | | |
| Substance use – drugs | | Yes | | |
| Mental health | Yes | | | |

6.2. Positive Impacts

| Impact Area | Impact |
|----------------|---|
| Healthy eating | To deliver the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) action plan which aims to make healthy eating and active living possible and achievable for everyone in Aberdeenshire. |
| Mental health | <p>Raise awareness and improve access to services aimed at pupils to improve physical and mental well-being of children and young people experiencing poverty.</p> <p>Raise awareness and improve access to wellbeing services for priority families through the development of hubs and interventions that prevent crisis within the family.</p> <p>Deliver and fund a range of community-based well being programmes.</p> |

6.3. Evidence

| Type | Source | It says? | It Means? |
|----------------|------------------------|---|--|
| Other Evidence | Mind Yer Mind campaign | Through our Community Planning Partnership we have access to resources such as the Mind Yer Mind campaign: https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/news-and-events/mind-yer-mind-campaign/ | This means we can access resources to share with our priority groups |

| Type | Source | It says? | It Means? |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Other Evidence | Child Poverty Action Plan | <p>Outlines what we need to do to provide services and support to those who have had their mental health further impacted.</p> <p>We know there is increased stress and worry that living on a low income brings and deterioration of people's mental health.</p> <p>There had been significant increase in mental health and anxiety because of the pandemic which is being exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, particular for young people and their families.</p> | Through raising awareness and new opportunities people's wellbeing will improve. |

6.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Through working with Live Life Aberdeenshire and the Health and Social Care Partnership and Public Health partners we are able to support delivery of activities for young people across Aberdeenshire, linking to holiday programmes and active schools activities. As well as working with partners to deliver on the Aberdeenshire Food Strategy through the Healthy Eating Active Living Health and Wellbeing Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority, Health and Wellbeing. We are also working with colleagues in the Education and Children's Services to deliver on the actions to support the outcome 'Increase range of mental health supports available for Aberdeenshire children, young people and families'

7. Action Plan

| Planned Action | Details |
|--|--|
| To continue to develop and deliver the Child Poverty Action Plan | <p>Lead Officer Annette Johnston</p> <p>Repeating Activity Yes</p> <p>Frequency Ongoing</p> <p>Duration 2022-2026</p> <p>Expected Outcome The intention of this Action Plan is to improve outcomes for all families living in poverty or at risk of living in poverty, but the key emphasis will be supporting families where the risk of children living in poverty is highest. To this end the Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Action Plan will focus on the needs of 'priority families' who are at high risk of poverty</p> <p>Resource Implications Time of TP&I staff, those with lived experience and partner organisations. TP&I budget to cover costs of funded programmes within the plan.</p> |