



Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement Committee

Report by John Sherry, Head of Financial Inclusion & Transformation

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GLASGOW'S LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT 2025/26

Purpose of Report:

To provide Elected Members with an overview of work undertaken to reduce child poverty in Glasgow during 2025/26, outline the proposed approach for the coming year, and seek endorsement of the draft Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) 2025/26.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

1. note the contents of the attached draft Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) for 2025/26; and
2. agree that the draft LCPAR is referred to the City Administration Committee for approval.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1.1 Introduction

This report provides Elected Members with an overview of the work undertaken to reduce child poverty in Glasgow during 2025/26 and outlines the intended focus for the coming year. It also requests endorsement of the draft Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) 2025/26 along with a recommendation to submit this for approval to the City Administration Committee.

1.2 Background

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 (“the Act”) places a statutory duty on Local Authorities and NHS Boards to jointly develop and publish an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR). This is Glasgow’s eighth LCPAR.

The Act is a key driver for change, as child poverty can undermine health, well-being, educational attainment and all aspects of a young person’s life with a lasting impact into adulthood. The Act sets out four ambitious headline targets for 2030, which are shown below:

- 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

The Scottish Government’s 2026–2031: Bringing Hope, Building Futures is the third plan prepared under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. It sets out the national actions and investments that will be taken to 2031, with many also supporting local action here in Glasgow. The plan introduces four national themes which are also used within Glasgow’s 2025/26 LCPAR to describe progress:

- Increasing Earned Incomes;
- Reducing the Costs of Living;
- Maximising Incomes from Social Security and Benefits in Kind; and
- Supporting Children and Families to Thrive.

1.3 LCPAR Focus

The Scottish Government guidance to Local Authorities and Health Boards on the completion of the LCPAR sets out the core components required and recognises the significant endeavour involved in producing a detailed report. It acknowledges the long-term nature of much of the work to tackle child poverty, including the foundational activity that is both fundamental and significant, even where impact may not be seen immediately.

On that basis, the Scottish Government welcomes annual reports providing a focus on specific activity, with a much deeper and more comprehensive report every three to four years. This aligns the LCPAR framework with other appropriate strategic reporting timeframes. The guidance continues to highlight the importance of detailing strategic context, a needs assessment, the involvement of those with lived experience, and reflection on success to date.

Scottish Government feedback on Glasgow’s 2024/25 LCPAR was positive, highlighting its concise, strategic and focused approach as a good standard for

LCPAR reporting. There was particular interest in developing a greater understanding of the barriers that can limit progress and the ability to make a difference for families. This has helped inform the approach taken within the 2025/26 report.

Glasgow's eighth LCPAR builds on this approach, retaining a concise and strategic focus while providing greater consideration of the barriers and challenges that can limit progress. The report also uses the four themes set out in the Scottish Government's 2026–2031: Bringing Hope, Building Futures to describe much of the local activity: Increasing Earned Incomes; Reducing the Costs of Living; Maximising Incomes from Social Security and Benefits in Kind; and Supporting Children and Families to Thrive.

Bespoke statistical analysis of child poverty in the city, provided by the Centre for Civic Innovation, continues to inform our approach. This is complemented by lived experience insights, helping to build a fuller understanding of how poverty is experienced by families and the multiple and overlapping barriers that can affect their ability to move out of poverty.

The report also highlights how activity to tackle child poverty is embedded across Community Planning partners. More detailed information on the extensive range of child poverty activity across the city can be found through the associated LCPAR webpage and tracker.

The report also highlights the significant investment being aligned across the Council, Scottish Government and Community Planning partners to support Glasgow's child poverty ambitions, alongside future investment commitments that will strengthen this work further.

1.4 Future Actions

There is much still to be done if Glasgow is to meet the challenging child poverty targets set for 2030. Building on progress during 2025/26, the city will continue to bring services and partners together around shared ambitions, with a greater focus on understanding and addressing the barriers that limit progress for families.

This work is about more than immediate interventions. It is part of a longer-term journey towards public service reform, creating a sustainable model that addresses the wider structural barriers that keep families in poverty.

Glasgow will continue to strengthen the links between child poverty and wider equalities agendas, recognising how multiple disadvantages can combine and intensify. A particular focus will be on working with those most affected by multiple and overlapping barriers, ensuring their voices shape both the design of services and the direction of future reform, with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) providing an important foundation for this work.

Alongside this, the city will continue to strengthen its approach to measuring and reporting the collective impact of partners, supporting a better understanding of where progress is being made and where further action is required.

2 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: There are no new financial implications arising directly from this report. The attached LCPAR sets out existing and planned investment supporting Glasgow's approach to tackling child poverty.

Legal: **None**

Personnel: **None**

Procurement: **None**

Council Strategic Plan: Yes: **Grand Challenge 1** – Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities:
Mission 1 – Tackle child poverty in our city using early intervention to support families.

The LCPAR also contributes to *Mission 2* – Meet the learning and care needs of children and their families before and through school, and *Mission 3* – Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities.
Activity to increase earned incomes also supports **Grand Challenge 2** – Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens, *Mission 1* – Support Glasgow residents into sustainable and fair work.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify. Yes. The LCPAR describes a range of existing and new activities that contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes. Supporting programmes will continue to be subject to Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) as required.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? No significant negative impacts have been identified. The report sets out a positive direction of travel, with particular emphasis on intersectionality and supporting those most affected by multiple disadvantages.

<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i>	Yes. The work described in the LCPAR is targeted to assist families experiencing financial hardship, recognising the links between income, cost of living, wellbeing, and access to opportunity.
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Climate Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:</i>	Yes. Activity described in the LCPAR aligns with Climate Theme 1 (Communication and Community Engagement) and Climate Theme 4 (Health & Wellbeing). In addition, place-based initiatives and circular economy approaches, such as pre-loved provision, contribute to sustainable outcomes.
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<i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i>	No adverse impacts identified.
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<i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i>	Yes.
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Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	No privacy or data protection impacts.
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Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
YN

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out	NA
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3 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the contents of the attached draft Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) for 2025/26; and
2. Agree that the draft LCPAR is referred by the Committee to the City Administration Committee for approval.