Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021–22 – Progress noted.

5 There was submitted and, following consideration and discussion, noted, the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021 -22, produced by Glasgow City Council and Greater Glasgow and Clyde National Health Service (GGC NHS), which

(1) detailed the work undertaken over the last twelve months, to reduce child poverty and support Glasgow's communities during the pandemic;

(2) explained that vulnerable families were more susceptible to the social and economic impacts of the pandemic lockdown and the recovery period, with issues such as money worries, the cost-of-living crisis, claiming benefits for the first time and lack of employment opportunities having a significant impact;

(3) advised that the challenges for Glasgow's families were ever increasing, and that it was important to continue to work with them to better understand what they need;

(4) highlighted the importance of using data as a key tool in measuring child poverty levels and the importance of continuing work with colleagues in the Centre for Civic Innovation (CCI) on that analysis, and that analysis of data held on families across the city for the period February 2020 to February 2021, including Local Authority administered benefits, in addition to take up of educational entitlements, before housing costs, identified the level of poverty those families were and are still experiencing;

(5) referenced key statistics on child poverty levels in Glasgow, in relation to

(a) the CCI 2021 "Understanding Child Poverty Report", which assessed that

- there are 2,510 more children living in relative poverty than pre Covid-19; 27,995 children compared to 25,485 in February 2020;

- Poverty levels have deepened and on average families in relative poverty are now £115 per week below the poverty line compared to £107 per week pre pandemic;

- Families where at least one adult is in employment are, on average, £69 per week worse off and this has increased by £12pw during the pandemic, where there are no adults in employment, on average households with children are £10 per week worse off than pre pandemic at £122 per week below;

- The pandemic has resulted in an additional 1,650 children in lone parent families living in relative poverty. These children, now totalling 17,792, live in households that are on average

£110 below the poverty line; and

- Families in households where there is someone with a disability are on average £71 per week below the poverty line and Post pandemic there are 570 children living in these households; and

(b) the Scottish Government, which as well as setting ambitious targets for reducing child poverty by 2030, had also set interim targets for reducing child poverty by 1st April 2023, notes that statistics for Glasgow show that 24.6% of children are living in relative poverty and 20.2% living in absolute poverty;

(6) detailed outcomes achieved to reduce child poverty, through a number of programmes and initiatives: digital support, employability schemes, the appointment of a Financial Inclusion Officer, fuel poverty initiatives, the Parental Employment Support Fund and Glasgow's Pathfinder Model: "Removing Barriers to Effective Support, as detailed in the report, and further explained using case studies; and

(7) indicated that despite the number of positive outcomes already achieved, the level of child poverty continued to outgrow the progress being made by the Council, GGC NHS and 3rd sector community organisations and that the activity to challenge and raise awareness of child poverty has been taken forward at every opportunity and would continue to be a focus of partnership work with the Scottish Government, particularly to support local communities in their COVID-19 renewal and recovery.