



Child Poverty

What is poverty?



- There are many definitions of poverty:

‘ Those with incomes below 60% of the UK median are considered to be poor as their incomes are so far from the norm that they face problems participating in society.’

(Achieving Our Potential, Scottish Government, 2008)

- Poverty is multifaceted however one of the main causes is low income.
- In recent years there has been an increase in ‘in-work’ poverty.

Who is most at risk?



- Groups at greater risk:
 - Lone parents (particularly mothers)
 - People with disabilities
 - BME community
 - Kinship carers
- Times of greater risk:
 - Relationship breakdown
 - Birth of a child
 - Recession

Child poverty in Scotland



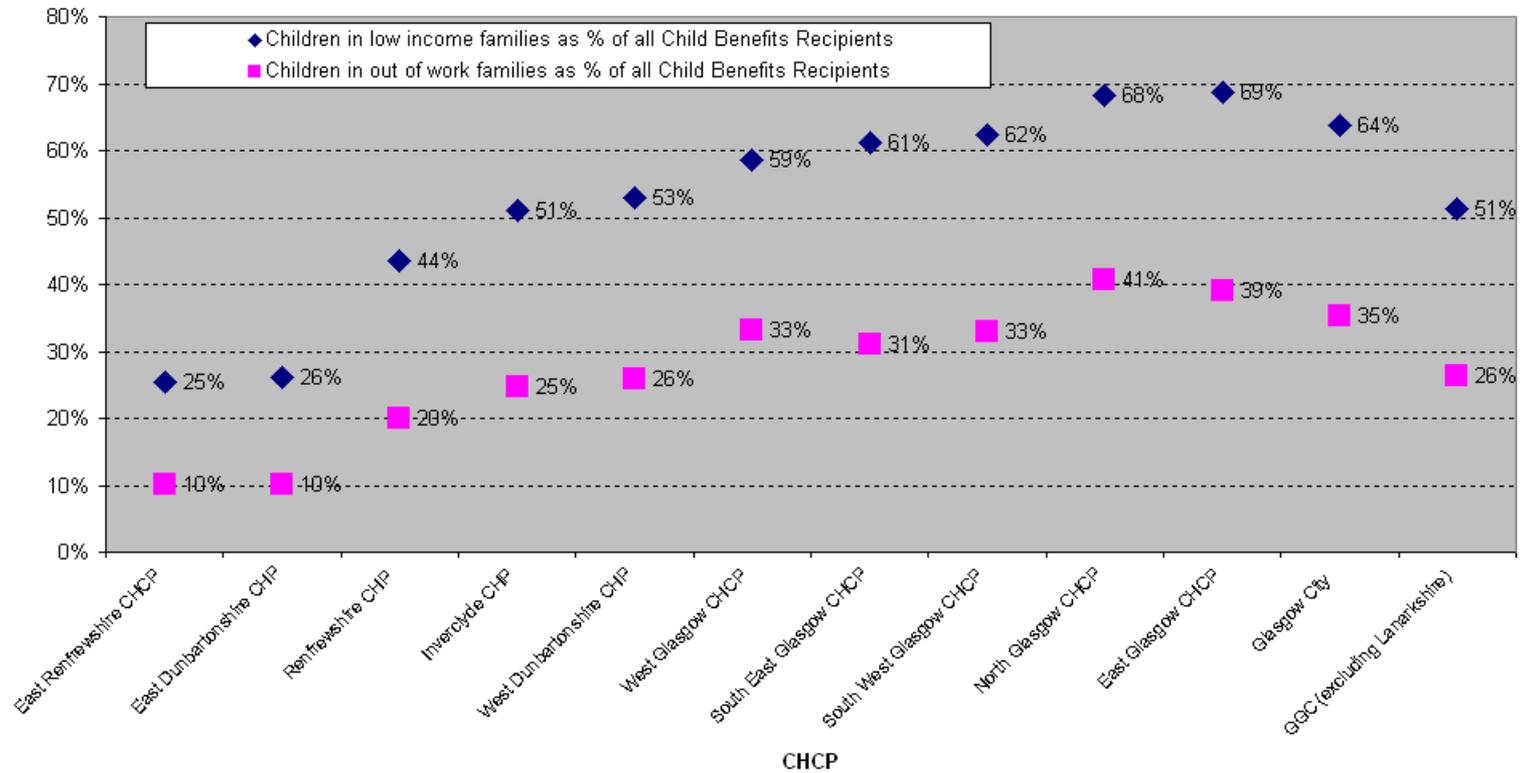
- Eradicate child poverty by 2020.
- Progress to reduce poverty has stalled in recent years.
- 210,000 children in Scotland live in poverty.
- 90,000 of which live in severe poverty.

Child poverty in Glasgow



Children in workless and lone income households (in families on out of work benefits) by Greater Glasgow and Clyde CHCP, 2006

Source: HM Revenue & Customs data; SNS



Living in poverty



Living in poverty can have a profound impact on health, education and development.

- Poorer maternal health.
- Increased parental stress.
- Higher incidence of behavioural problems.
- Impact of chronic illnesses can be greater.
- Lower education attainment and fewer qualifications.

What can be done?



- Support to improve attainment and achievement.
 - Parenting programmes.
 - Nurture classes.
 - Smaller class sizes.
- Lessen the impact of poverty on health.
 - Healthy Start vouchers.
 - Inequalities Sensitive Practice.
- Reduce number of families living on a low income.
 - Employment opportunities.
 - Affordable childcare.
 - Money advice.

Healthier, Wealthier, Children

- Financial inclusion project for pregnant women and families with young children.
- Maximising family income is a practical intervention that can help reduce child poverty.
- Project aims:
 - Provide financial advice to pregnant women and families to: maximise their income, reduce household outgoings and manage their money.
 - Encourage early stage referrals and establish referral pathways.
 - Explore potential partnerships between health staff and financial inclusion agencies.

Healthier, Wealthier, Children

- The project commenced in November 2010.
- 200 referrals received in North West by 31st March 2011.
- Majority of referrals have come from Health Visitors and Midwives.
- The project is being monitored by researchers attached to Glasgow Centre for Population Health.

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Key policies



- Global Level
 - UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- UK Level
 - Child Poverty Act (2010)
- National Level
 - Equally Well (2008)
 - Achieving Our Potential (2008)
 - Early Years Framework (2009)
 - Child Poverty Strategy (2011)
- Local Level
 - An Unequal Struggle (2009)
 - Glasgow Single Outcome Agreement (2009)