

How Can We Make Most Effective Early Interventions in Vulnerable Communities to Deliver Long- Term Regeneration?

Laura Ross

Scottish Government

Policy drivers for tackling poverty and income inequality



- Solidarity Purpose Target
- New Child Poverty Bill
- New Socio-Economic Duty
- New UK Government implications?

***Achieving our Potential* themes:**

- Tackling income inequality
- Longer term measures to tackle poverty and the drivers of low income
- Supporting those experiencing poverty
- Making the Benefits and Tax Credits system work better for Scotland
- Supporting partners and engaging wider society

Solidarity Purpose Target:

“To increase overall income and the proportion of income earned by the three lowest income deciles as a group by 2017”

Poverty in Scotland

- **1 in 6 people in Scotland are poor, including 210,000 children**
- **21% of children are in poverty**
- **38% of households in poverty have someone in work**
- **52% of children living in poverty are in households with working adult**
- **470,000 working-age adults are in poverty (up from 440,000 10 years ago)**
- **Not just an area deprivation problem- 77% of people in poverty live outside 15% 'most deprived' data zones**

Who is in the bottom 3 deciles?

- Economically inactive families (25%) (7)
- Single pensioners (22%) (4)
- Single parents (12%) (11)
- Couples with no children (9%) (23)
- Unemployed families (8%) (2)
- Families in full time work (7%) (41)

(figures in brackets indicate proportions in top 7 deciles)

Tackling inequalities – key principles

- Focus on prevention, risk identification and early intervention
- Action at individual, environmental (family, community, society) and service level
- Positive opportunities, empowerment and capacity building
- Joined up services
- Universal service provision tailored to individual need

Is it happening?

- Financial Inclusion:
Income maximisation, financial capability eg Macmillan Cancer, Linkwide
- Healthier, Wealthier Children
- Energy Assistance Package
- Working for Families
- Girvan Family Connections Project
- West Fife Enterprises
- Cash in Your Pocket Partnership Aberdeen
- Aberlour Outreach projects
- Making Money Work

Expectations of SOAs

- **Key messages:** “... some social issues, like intergenerational disadvantage/deprivation, are deeply embedded, complex and improvement may take time. The key is to start with ambition and let experience temper that rather than let ‘realism’ drive out ambition.”
- “Big 3” social policies: all require shift of resources towards early intervention and prevention to tackle long standing “wicked issues”

Expectations of SOAs

- Clear set of priorities based on the Framework and clear assessment of local needs.
- Priority areas highlighted:
 - Moving people into work
 - Income maximisation
 - Financial inclusion
 - Multiple and complex needs
 - Working with the third sector
 - Good local data.

Expectations of SOAs

- Economic Recovery Plan and immediate priority areas:
 - Fuel poverty
 - Strengthening employability advice and support
 - Financial advice for vulnerable people
 - Fairer Scotland Fund: strategic deployment
- Child poverty
- Community engagement
- Involvement of third sector and private sector

Support for CPPs

- Learning networks: community regeneration and tackling poverty, employability
- Poverty toolkits
- Adaptive leadership
- Data and analytical support
- Capacity building work with the IS