

**SURF Open Forum:
'Community Regeneration – What do we know about poverty?'
12th March 2008, Edinburgh**

Bibliography Sources

Some relevant Scottish Government publications:

- “Achieving Our Potential: A Framework to tackle poverty and income inequality in Scotland”
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/20103815/0>
- “Poverty in Scotland: a brief overview of the evidence” The annex to the consultation document contains a summary of key poverty figures.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/02/01150409/13>
- The Income and Poverty Statistics web-area includes information about trends, guide to data sources, key figures links to statistical publications:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/IncomePoverty>
- Scottish Economic Statistics: 2008. Includes an article about low pay and in-work poverty and chapter 5 is about the distribution of household income across Scotland
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/29150444/0>.

Micro-simulating child poverty in 2010 and 2020. (Institute for Fiscal studies)

This comprehensive and solidly evidenced-based paper setting out some forecasts on making further progress in reducing child poverty. The authors' central forecast is that child poverty will fall by more than half a million between 2006–07 and 2010–11, to around 2.3 million. This reflects: benefit and tax credit increases that have been announced by the government, but not yet implemented; the slowdown in the economy from 2008 to 2009; and the likely real rise in most means tested benefits and tax credits in April 2010 if inflation is forecast to be negative. This would mean that child poverty had fallen by around a third between 1998–99 and 2010–11, but that it would remain 600,000 higher than the government's target.

<http://www.ifs.org.uk/comms/comm108.pdf>

Financial Capability for Social Housing Tenants

This guide is described as a resource for front line staff, social landlords and practitioners to use in financial capability work with social housing tenants. It could be used in several settings including:

- life skills work with vulnerable tenants
- literacy and numeracy classes
- as a resource for front-line staff

Chapter six may be particularly useful to staff who want to act as advocates or champions for financial inclusion and capability within their organisation.

<http://www.housing.org.uk/default.aspx?tabid=288&mid=835&ctl=Details&ArticleID=927>

Fuel Poverty & Health – A guide for primary care organisations and public health and primary care professionals.

Produced by the National Heart Forum, the Eaga Partnership Charitable Trust, the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Help the Aged and the Met Office. The purpose of this toolkit is as an aid to the prevention of poverty-related illness. Intended for professional practitioners in health and related care. It is, nevertheless, a very comprehensive, yet accessible document that will be useful as a reference document for a wider range of practitioners and activists.

<http://www.heartforum.org.uk/downloads/FPbook.pdf>

Cold Comfort: A review of coping strategies employed by households in fuel poverty.

A comprehensive review of the evidence available on this theme, commissioned by Energywatch. The aims were to establish the degree to which there is an adequate understanding of the problems posed by fuel poverty for households in such poverty, and to obtain an improved understanding of the welfare impacts of fuel poverty;

- o reducing their use of fuel, including by rationing fuel, or self disconnection for pre-payment customers, resulting in cold homes
- o taking financial measures, for example by reducing household expenditure on food
- o getting into debt, which appears to be a more common strategy amongst younger households and particularly those with young children.

http://www.cesi.org.uk/Resources/CESI/8079_Energywatch_Cold%20Comfort.pdf

National Energy Action

Offers free access to a large database of articles, research reports etc. on fuel poverty:

<http://www.nea.org.uk/fuel-poverty-research-publication-database/>

Paper on a stakeholders seminar on energy suppliers' social initiatives in Glasgow on 07.08.2008

A short but informative report on a stakeholders seminar hosted by Energy Action Scotland, with funding from Scottish Power to gauge their support for the current social activities provided by energy suppliers.

<http://www.eas.org.uk/downloads/stakeholders%20Questions%20and%20replies.pdf>

Intergenerational Links Between Child Poverty and Poor Health in the U.K.

High quality, evidence based report from the End Child Poverty campaign (a UK coalition). The report reveals how children from disadvantaged families are more likely to be born underweight and weigh, on average, 200g less than babies in the richest families. Equally disturbing, children living in poorer families are also two and a half times as likely to suffer chronic illness as toddlers and twice as likely to have cerebral palsy. It highlights the impact of poverty on foetal development, early infancy, health throughout childhood and into adult life, in what is known as the 'poverty health cycle'.

<http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/news/press-releases/health-of-children-in-poverty-a-timebomb-waiting-to-go-off/24/116>

What is Needed to end Child Poverty in 2020

This is a review of a series of papers on the theme from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF). The general conclusion is that the existing UK Government's strategy is hugely ambitious and that significant progress had been made, but progress has seemingly stalled in more recent times. Key points arising out the papers and review are attached as an appendix.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/what-needed-end-child-poverty-2020>

Appendix

Key Points from JRF series of papers on work and child poverty

- *Over the last few years a significant reduction in child poverty has been achieved, backed by significant resources. However, further progress depends on a big shift that raises the level of resources invested and widens the scope of anti-poverty measures.*
- *The strategy requires over two million more children to be taken out of poverty, four times the progress since 1997. No single policy can achieve this. Only if worklessness is reduced and benefits raised and working parents' earnings improved does the strategy stand a chance of success.*
- *Improvement of in-work incomes is particularly needed – there has been little progress on reducing in-work poverty and existing policy tools seem inadequate.*
- *The child poverty strategy will need to help parents into jobs but also consider factors affecting their earnings opportunities, including:*
 - *the adequacy of childcare;*
 - *job flexibility for parents;*
 - *the level of parental skills; and*
 - *how these are used by employers to create quality employment.*
- *Ending child poverty will depend not just on provision but on the behaviour of individuals, employers and public bodies, including:*
 - *decisions taken by families about working patterns, including whether both members of a couple work, as well as the number of working hours;*
 - *whether employers offer parents good quality jobs, with hours that meet their wants; and constraints; and*
 - *whether government agencies provide support that genuinely responds to individuals' needs.*
- *Families, employers and government need to work together to combat child poverty:*
- *This partnership needs to deliver improved routes into work, so that parents can work in a way that complements their family lives.*
- *It needs to repair the damaging mistrust between families and the state, and create a benefits and tax credits system that reliably helps families to escape poverty.*
- *Finally, basic benefits need to provide an adequate foundation for improvement in families' lives, enabling them to avoid hardship and debt.*