

Assessment for Relevance Form

This is a legal document stating you have fully considered the impact on the protected characteristics and is open to scrutiny by service users/external partners/Equality and Human Rights Commission

What is being assessed:	Board Paper: Investing in the future: tackling child poverty
Named Officer / Directorate:	Michelle Kennedy & Lindsay Murphy Public Health Department

Protected Characteristics	Impact Rating Positive, Adverse or Neutral Impact	Rationale (provide evidence for your rating)
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Socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, discrimination, poor working conditions and a lack of education can all affect an individual's ability to access services. This can also be further broken down depending on protected characteristics (listed below).

Please be aware the Board Paper 'Investing in the future: tackling child poverty' is an overarching board paper that stands alone and also has an action plan with 11 priority areas, each with separate actions associated with them. This 'Assessment for Relevance form' considers the overview paper and notes points, where relevant around individual actions.

<p>Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people 	<p>Positive</p>	<p>The overarching principle of this work is to reduce child poverty across Ayrshire and Arran. The actions being undertaken will help increase income to families and thus resources available to children from benefits through financial inclusion pathways.</p> <p>To deliver this, NHS Ayrshire & Arran works in partnership with the three local authorities and community planning partners to reduce the impact of poverty on children's lives. The Pan-Ayrshire Infant, Children and Young People's Programme Board (ICYPPB) provides the partnership vehicle to support and improve the health and social outcomes for infants, children and young people in Ayrshire and Arran and provides a strategic view across Ayrshire for children's health and social outcomes and health inequalities.</p> <p>The focus of the group is prevention and early intervention and the role it has to play in improving child health outcomes, breaking the cycle of health inequalities in Ayrshire and Arran. It proposes ways of encouraging all agencies to work together to offer infants, children and young people the best start in life and</p>
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		realise their full potential. This begins before birth and continues through the early years of life, school years and transition to adulthood supported by the national practice model, 'Getting it Right for every Child' (GIRFEC).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 	Positive	<p>As above this work is to reduce child poverty, however, the wider impacts of insecurity of income, food and housing on parents and wider family cannot be overlooked and therefore there is potential wider positive impact for the families. One example of this is the mapping that has taken place to enable families to take up their entitlement to the Best Start food and vitamins. The Workplace Team has been raising awareness with businesses around entitlement of employees to paid time off to go to their antenatal appointments.</p> <p>We also recognise that there are households that are at higher risk of poverty, including where the mother is aged under 25. Within the dental work, dental care is free up to the age of 26, this information has been shared mainly with those working with those who are care experienced, and going forwards the dental team will endeavour to promote this where possible.</p> <p>Furthermore, NHS Ayrshire & Arran carries out dedicated employability initiatives in partnership with local authority employability services reaching a range of adults across Ayrshire and Arran including parental employability offers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older People 	Neutral or positive	<p>As above this work is to reduce child poverty, however, the wider impacts cannot be overlooked and therefore there is potential wider positive impact for the families including those with kinship care responsibilities.</p> <p>Various interventions have been undertaken to help individuals access help with gas and electricity, and heating their home. Also help with signposting them to support.</p>
Disability (incl. physical/ sensory problems, learning difficulties,	Neutral	Actions are open to all. No actions specifically target those with a disability,

communication needs; cognitive impairment, mental health)		<p>however, in the previous year work took place within Rainbow House to promote financial inclusion pathways, raising awareness of child poverty with staff and providing easier access to claiming expenses from appointments. This is an area we will consider further in the future as one of the priority families.</p> <p>The Financial Inclusion training is offered in person and includes a video of a lived experience person navigating the system. Consideration is being given to it being recorded so that it can be accessed online in the future.</p> <p>The Comms Team has been consulted with poster design to ensure they are accessible to people.</p>
Gender Reassignment (trans)	Neutral	Actions are open to all regardless of Gender Reassignment status.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Neutral	Actions are open to all regardless of Marriage and Civil Partnership status.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive	<p>The action plan includes work on the Cost of Pregnancy recommendations, which will have benefits for pregnant women and their families. As part of their work, NHS A&A maternity staff raise the issue of financial inclusion as part of the booking process.</p> <p>Some Maternity Care Assistants (MCAs) have now attended the child poverty and financial inclusion workshop.</p> <p>We will continue to plan and develop actions across the life course with regards to poverty from conception onwards.</p>
Race / Ethnicity	Neutral	Actions are open to all. No work has targeted ethnic minority communities; however, this is an area that will be considered going forwards as a priority family group. Interventions and documentation are being offered/written in English, however, if there was a request for a different language, we would aim to accommodate this.
Religion / Faith	Neutral	Actions are open to all regardless of Religion and Faith.

Sex (male/female)	Neutral or positive	Where possible, actions are open to all regardless of sex. However, there are some actions that will have more beneficial outcomes for one sex, i.e., the cost of pregnancy recommendations in relation to pregnant women. Furthermore, we are aware that women are most likely to be in caregiver roles in the families which can impact on their ability to work. Single parents in particular may be at more risk of poverty and we will continue to consider how we can target efforts.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	Where possible, actions are open to all regardless of sexual orientation.

If you have answered positive or adverse impact to any of the groups, an equality impact assessment should be carried out (see flowchart on page 4).

Impact on socio-economic disadvantage?	Rationale (provide evidence for your rating)
People living on a low income compared to most others in Scotland	Positive. The overarching principle of this work is to reduce child poverty across Ayrshire and Arran. The actions being undertaken will help increase income to families and thus resources available to children from benefits through Financial inclusion pathways. The action plan aims to reduce or mitigate against the effects of child poverty (which then spans out into wider families); for example we are trying to increase financial inclusion support and reduce the impact of some areas affecting the cost of living.
People living in deprived areas	Positive. The overarching principle of this work is to reduce child poverty across Ayrshire and Arran. Actions at a local level are more likely to be achieved through the Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs) and Plans which are joint plans between Local Authorities and NHS, noted in this report. NHS and Local Authorities have a joint duty to deliver annual LCPARs and Public Health deliver this role working closely in partnership with partners to align activities across local and NHS plans and build understanding of the public health impacts of poverty.
People living in deprived communities of interest	Positive. The overarching principle of this work is to reduce child poverty across Ayrshire and Arran. Actions at a local level

	are more likely to be achieved through the Local Child Poverty Action Plans which are joint plans between Local Authorities and NHS, noted in this report. In addition to the child poverty workstream of the ICYPTCPB, tackling poverty more broadly sits within the Inclusive Health workstream of Public Health providing us with a key position to target efforts to specific communities of interest such as those affected by violence, homelessness and substance misuse.
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Employment	The work being taken forward within NHS Ayrshire & Arran to reduce child poverty also looks at the issue of employment. NHS Ayrshire & Arran has an Employability Steering Group, which includes members from our partner organisations to support people into employment. A number of initiatives are underway to encourage individuals into employment including Modern Apprenticeships and initiatives such as Project SEARCH. NHS Ayrshire & Arran is keen to broaden other routes into employment and continues to explore different avenues.
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If the policy involves a strategic decision you should carry out a [Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment](#).