

Easy read summary

Child poverty



Working to make sure there is less child poverty



Child poverty means children living in a household where there may not be enough money coming in from jobs or benefits to pay for housing and basic things like food, clothing or to stay warm.

The effects of growing up in poverty on children



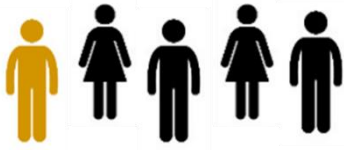
Children living in poverty are more likely to:

- have mental and physical health problems
- have less qualifications
- grow up being cared for by other people as well as their parents, for example foster parents or grandparents
- experience **stigma** and bullying at school.



Stigma means being judged and mistreated because of your background.

The number of children living in poverty has been going up



1 in 5 children were living in poverty in Scotland in 2011.



More than 1 in 4 of all children in Scotland were living in poverty in 2019/20.

That is 2 hundred and 60 thousand children.

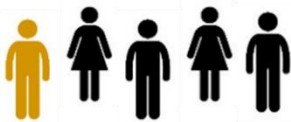
The cost of living crisis is likely to mean more children living in poverty



The **cost of living crisis** means that the cost of everyday things like food and staying warm is going up by very large amounts.

Many people are finding it difficult to pay for these things.

The Scottish Government has said it will reduce child poverty



The Scottish Government wants the percentage of children living in poverty to go down to:

- 18 per cent of children by 2023/24
This is less than 1 in 5 children.
- 10 per cent of children by 2030/31
This is 1 in 10 children.



The Scottish Government thinks it can meet the 2023/24 child poverty **target** mainly by making changes to the benefits system.

A **target** is what they are trying to achieve.



The Scottish Government has not said how the 2030/31 target will be met.

A lot more planning will be needed to hit the government's child poverty targets for the future.

Working together to make sure there is less child poverty



A lot of Scottish Government policies and the money it spends, work to help children out of poverty instead of finding ways to stop children ever being in poverty.



The Scottish Government has said how it will reduce child poverty.

The government's second tackling child poverty delivery plan runs from 2022-2026.



Organisations must work together to make sure the work in the plan happens and check if it is making a difference for people.



Policies and plans must include the views of children and families with experience of poverty.



Gaps in national and local facts, figures and information have made it difficult to:

- develop policies for the people who need the most help
- decide how well the plan has worked.