

7 Minute Briefing Poverty

Why does it Matter?

Poverty has negative impacts* on children's health, social, emotional and cognitive development, behaviour and educational outcomes. Poverty puts an additional strain on families, which can lead to parental mental health, relationship problems and financial problems. There is also a link between poverty and alcohol and drug misuse issues

What is poverty?

Poverty is not having enough material possessions or income for a person's needs. Poverty may include social, economic, and political elements. Absolute poverty is the complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter

Questions to Consider

What might you observe in a family living in poverty? What might a child living in poverty tell you? Can you think of ways you can support a family living in poverty? How do you gain the child's view of their lived experience? What do you do well to address the issue of poverty in your team/service? How can we improve?

Key Messages

1-4 children live in poverty in Scotland.
Risk of poverty increase where there are issues of: unemployment, disability, ethnic minority, households of 3 or more children, children under 1 year of age, young parents
Child poverty can be found anywhere
Actions to tackle child poverty must reach priority groups and meeting their need, as well as achieving the right balance between in work and out of work child poverty is paramount.

What to look out for

Children who live in households with low incomes and experiencing material deprivation; parents living on low incomes and forgo basic necessities to ensure that their children have what they need. Children living with adverse childhood experiences

Poverty



Categories of Poverty

Child Poverty - Is mainly caused by factors out with a parents control which include the socio-economic and environmental context in which they live
Food Poverty –is complex and there are many different factors that can exacerbate the impact on individuals and families

Responding to Poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 has resulted in the publication of the Every child, every chance delivery plan 2018-2022. To support this we can continue to work together to identify and address adverse childhood experiences. Support families to achieve financial inclusion through signposting to money and welfare support service such as the income maximisation service in your area. **If Child Protection Concerns arise – follow agency guidance** [Moray, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City](#)