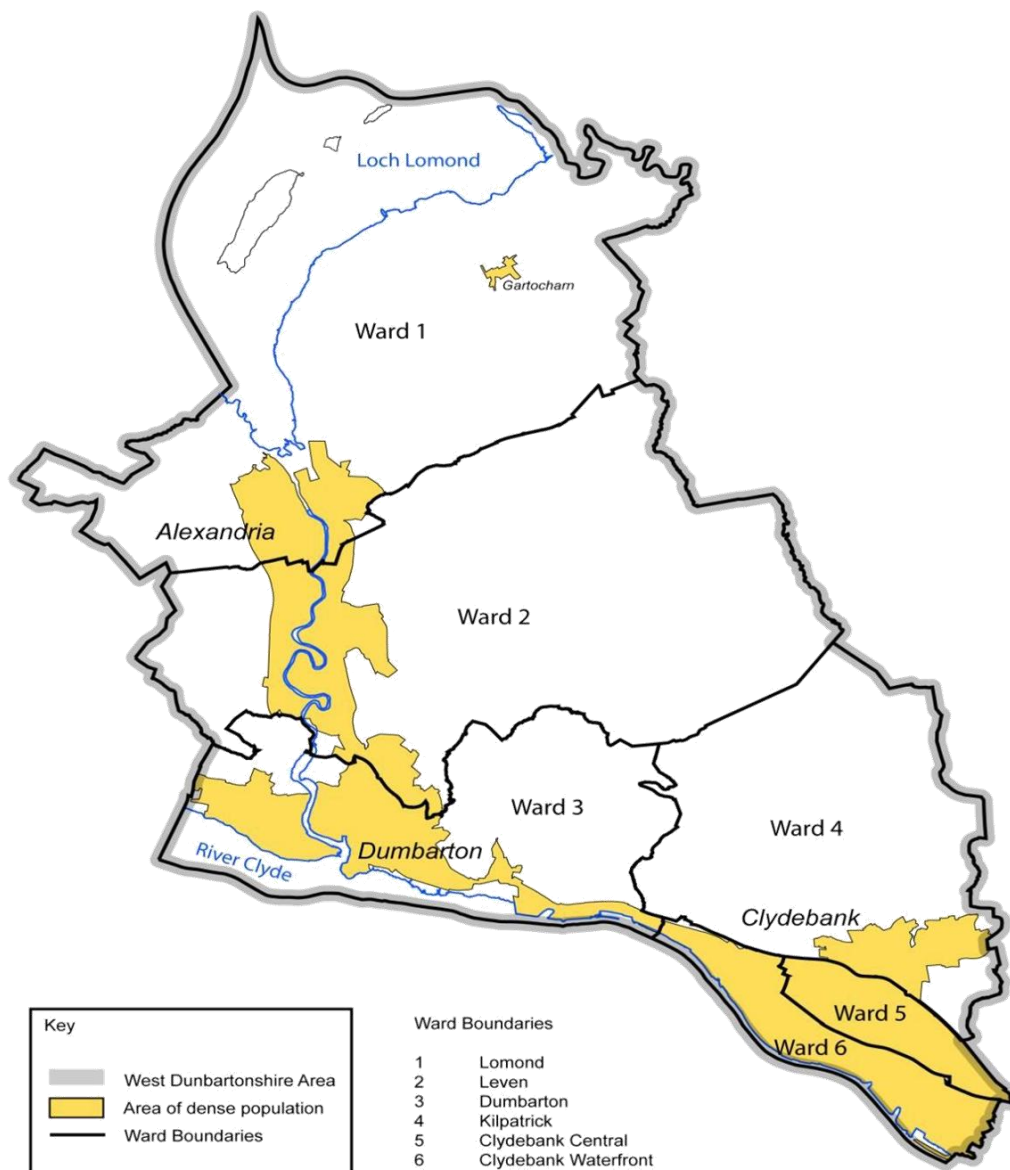


Improved Life Chances: West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Annual Report 2025-2026



West Dunbartonshire Multi Member Ward Map



West Dunbartonshire Council OS Licence No. 100020790 2007

[Local Child Poverty Action Reports | Improvement Service](#) link to other reports for reference

Forword

We know that too many children and families in West Dunbartonshire continue to experience poverty and financial hardship. Many households are still living with the lasting effects of several years of rising costs, low incomes and financial insecurity. For families already facing disadvantage, even small increases in everyday expenses can make it difficult to meet essential household costs, build financial resilience or plan for the future.

The impact of poverty extends far beyond income alone. It can affect children's health and wellbeing, educational attainment, opportunities to participate in activities with their peers, and their overall life chances. Poverty also places significant pressure on parents and carers, particularly those balancing work, caring responsibilities, health issues or other complex challenges.

Tackling child poverty therefore remains one of the Council's key priorities. Through our Community Planning Partnership and the Family Prosperity Network, we continue to work closely with partners across employability, education, health, housing, money and debt, social work, and the third sector to provide coordinated support that addresses both the causes and consequences of poverty.

This report demonstrates the breadth of activity taking place across West Dunbartonshire to increase household income through employment, maximise access to social security and financial support, and reduce the costs facing low-income families. It also highlights the importance of whole-family approaches that help prevent crisis, strengthen resilience and improve outcomes for children and young people.

There is no single solution to child poverty, but the commitment shown by partners across West Dunbartonshire continues to make a real difference to the lives of local families. By listening to lived experience, strengthening partnership working and focusing our efforts on what matters most, we are helping families access opportunities, improve financial security and build brighter futures.

I am grateful to all partners, staff, community organisations and volunteers who contribute to this work. Together, we remain committed to delivering the ambitions of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act and ensuring that every child in West Dunbartonshire has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their circumstances.

.

Councillor Martin Rooney
Leader of West Dunbartonshire Council

Contents

Forword.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Defining Poverty	1
Living in West Dunbartonshire.....	3
Addressing Child Poverty	10
Family Prosperity Network.....	12
What we have done (Key Achievements 2025/26).....	14
What we will do in 2026/27	17
Alleviate Immediate Hardship	17
Maximisation Income (Benefits and Debt).....	21
Reduce the Cost of Living	25
Maximise Income from Employment	29
Family Prosperity Network Partnership Working (Cross Cutting).....	35
Summary	40
Appendix 1: Family Prosperity Network Objectives and Approach	41
Appendix 2: How we will know we are Successful	42

List of Tables

Table 1: Child in Low-Income Families	7
Table 2: Proportion of Child Living in Relative Low-Income Families	8
Table 3: Cash First Fund 25/26: Reduce Reliance on Foodbanks Grant.....	19
Table 4: Fairer Futures Cash First Grant 25/26	20
Table 5: Information and Advice Key Outcomes	24
Table 6 Employability Progress Indicators.....	29
Table 7: Priority Groups Supported.....	30

Introduction

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out statutory requirements for addressing child poverty across Scotland. It requires the Scottish Government to publish national delivery plans and to be advised and scrutinised by the independent Poverty and Inequality Commission. The Act also places a duty on local authorities and health boards to jointly produce annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports, demonstrating how they are working together to reduce child poverty.

Importantly, the legislation sets ambitious national targets: by 2030, fewer than 10% of children should be living in relative poverty, fewer than 5% in absolute poverty, fewer than 5% in combined low income and material deprivation, and fewer than 5% in persistent poverty. This document is the 2025/26 report for West Dunbartonshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board.

[Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#)

Defining Poverty

Households are considered to be in poverty if their income falls below 60% of the UK median net disposable household income. These income-based measures are ‘equivalised,’ meaning they are adjusted to reflect household size and composition to provide a fair comparison of living standards across different types of households.

In 2025/26, the relative poverty threshold after housing costs was approximately £20,000 per year for a working-age couple without children and around £29,000 per year for a couple with two children. These thresholds provide an indication of the income level below which households are considered to be living in relative poverty.

These figures are the latest available Households Below Average Income (HBAI) statistics for Financial Year Ending 2025, (DWP, 2025) ¹. Household income remains one of the strongest determinants of poverty and life chances. Families living below these thresholds are more likely to experience financial insecurity and face barriers to accessing the goods, services and opportunities that most people regard as part of a reasonable standard of living. Sustained low income can affect housing quality, fuel poverty, food security, educational attainment, physical and mental health, and overall family wellbeing. Improving household income therefore remains central to national and local efforts to reduce child poverty and tackle inequality.

The Drivers of Poverty (The Cause)

The drivers of child poverty in Scotland, as opposed to the effects, can be complex and interrelated, but the main factors that contribute to child poverty include:

1. **Low income or inadequate wages:** Families with low income, including those in low-paid jobs, may struggle to make ends meet, pay for necessities, and meet the needs and demands of their children.

¹ People in Low Income Households (2025) : [Households Below Average Income: An analysis of the UK income distribution: FYE 1995 to FYE 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

2. **Poor quality or insecure employment:** Insecure employment, such as zero-hours contracts or part-time work, can lead to fluctuating income and impact families' ability to plan and budget effectively.
3. **Welfare reform:** Changes to the welfare system, including cuts or reductions in benefit payments, can impact low-income families disproportionately, leading to increased financial pressures and difficulties in accessing support.
4. **High costs of necessities:** The high costs of essential goods and services, such as housing, food, energy, and childcare, can place a significant burden on families with low income.

These factors all contribute to the risk of children and families living in poverty, and a multi-faceted approach is needed to tackle the issue effectively. Tackling issues in these areas will form the foundation of our approach.

Who is Affected?

According to the latest Scottish poverty statistics, around one in four children in Scotland lives in poverty. Almost 90% of children experiencing poverty are from one or more of the six priority family types identified by the Scottish Government. These family types are therefore the focus of our interventions aimed at reducing child poverty and improving outcomes for children and families.

The family types and proportion of that group in poverty are illustrated below:

Families Most Likely Affected by Poverty					
Lone Parent Families 38%	Disabled 29%	3+ Children 32%	Minority Ethnic 38%	Youngest Child <1 year old 34%	Mothers Younger than 25 Years 55%

West Dunbartonshire has a higher-than-average prevalence of looked after children and young people and families where children have Additional Support Needs (ASN). Both groups face increased vulnerability to poverty and poorer long-term outcomes. For this reason, we have identified looked after children and young people and children with ASN as local priority groups, ensuring that our interventions are responsive to the specific challenges within West Dunbartonshire.

The Impact of Poverty

Living in a household with low levels of income not only has a significant detrimental impact on the lives of children it also has far reaching effects on society. These impacts include:

1. **Health Impacts:** Children living in poverty often lack access to adequate nutrition, healthcare, and safe living conditions, leading to higher rates of illness and developmental issues. (Increasing the demands on the healthcare system).
2. **Educational Barriers:** Poverty can limit access to quality education and learning resources, affecting a child's ability to succeed academically and later in life. (Greater social inequality and division).
3. **Emotional and Psychological Effects:** The stress and instability associated with poverty can lead to mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression, and can

impact a child's emotional development. (Increasing need for specialist support services).

4. **Cycle of Poverty:** Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to remain in poverty as adults, perpetuating a cycle that is difficult to break. (Requiring intensive support to break the cycle of ambition/expectations).
5. **Social Inequality:** Child poverty contributes to broader social inequality, affecting not just the individuals but society by limiting opportunities and perpetuating disparities.

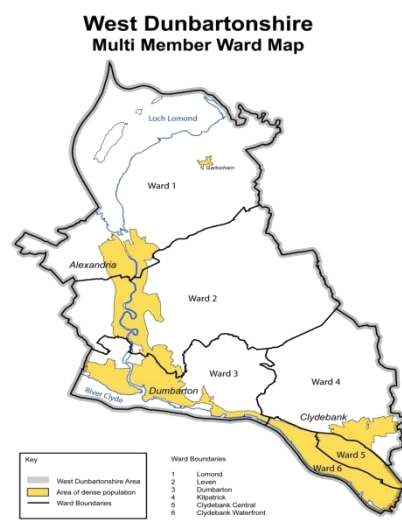
Addressing child poverty, has therefore, significant beneficial effects for individuals, families and society. This report sets out how we are organised and the measures in place to address child poverty.

Living in West Dunbartonshire

West Dunbartonshire shares borders with Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Stirling, Renfrewshire and Glasgow and includes the towns of Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria and, according to National Records of Scotland (NRS)², has a population estimate of 89,120 residents. NRS provides figures that from 2023 state, 15,061 (16.9%) were in the 0-15 years age group with a further 8,556 (9.6%) in the 16-24 years age group³.

The local authority consists of 121 of Scotland's 6,978 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data zones and 17 Community Council areas. These are set within six 'multi-member' wards, illustrated in **Map 2**:

1. Lomond.
2. Leven.
3. Dumbarton.
4. Kilpatrick.
5. Clydebank Central.
6. Clydebank Waterfront.



West Dunbartonshire Drivers of Poverty

Despite its strengths, West Dunbartonshire is one of the areas in Scotland most affected by the legacy of post-industrial decline. Its three towns, Alexandria, Clydebank and Dumbarton continue to face significant economic challenges, with persistent and concentrated poverty and deprivation impacting many communities.

²nrsscotland: [West Dunbartonshire - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#) (accessed 8th September 2026)

³ West Dunbartonshire Council [West Dunbartonshire In Numbers 2025](#) (accessed March 2025)

There are 121 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Data zones in West Dunbartonshire:

- All six multi-member wards in West Dunbartonshire have areas with comparatively high incidences of multiple deprivation.
- Approximately 35,000 (39%) of the resident population are living in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, making West Dunbartonshire one of the local authority areas with the highest concentration of deprivation nationally.

The key drivers of poverty identified in the legislation include low-income levels and the rising cost of living. While there are many sources of labour market information, examples provided by NOMIS⁴ (Office for National Statistics) illustrate West Dunbartonshire's comparatively poorer labour market profile. West Dunbartonshire continues to experience comparatively lower employment rates and higher levels of economic inactivity than the Scottish average. These factors, combined with health inequalities, lower skill levels within some communities and barriers to accessing sustainable employment, reinforce the need for targeted employability support to address these drivers of poverty.

Employment and Economic Activity

West Dunbartonshire has an economic inactivity rate of 25.5%, which is higher than both the rate for Scotland (22.3%) and Great Britain (20.8%).

At 23.7%, almost one in four working-age households in West Dunbartonshire are workless. While this represents a slight improvement from 23.9% in 2024/25, it remains substantially higher than both the Scottish average of 17.5% and the Great Britain average of 14.4%, highlighting both the scale of local need and the gap still to be addressed.

The figure for economically active in West Dunbartonshire (74.5%) is lower than both Scotland (77.7%) and Great Britain (79.2%). Of those in employment, there is a higher proportion in West Dunbartonshire reliant on part-time work (35.3%) a reduction from 36.4% in 24/25. This is higher than the figure for Scotland (32.7%) and Great Britain (31.2%).

A review of the NOMIS statistics reveals that the job density in West Dunbartonshire is estimated at 0.62; this is lower than the figure for Glasgow (1.05), Scotland (0.83), and Great Britain (0.85). While there are comparatively higher numbers of people out of work, there are also comparatively fewer opportunities available in West Dunbartonshire.

Key point:

Addressing unemployment, economic inactivity and worklessness remains central to tackling the income drivers of poverty in West Dunbartonshire. Employment rates continue to lag behind the Scottish average. Workless household levels remain significantly higher than national rates, and local job density indicates fewer employment opportunities than elsewhere in Scotland. These challenges reinforce the need for continued investment in employability, skills development and fair work opportunities to support residents into sustainable employment and reduce the risk of child poverty.

⁴ NOMIS West Dunbartonshire Labour Market Profile [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) _ (accessed September2026)

Welfare Benefits

The number of people in receipt of out of work benefits is a contributory factor to the level of child poverty. In West Dunbartonshire 3.9% of the population in the 16-64 years group is in receipt of out of work benefits and represents 2,165 people. This is higher than the average in Scotland (3.1%) and slightly lower than Great Britain (4.0%).

18.4% of households in West Dunbartonshire are in receipt of the main benefits, this represents 10,640 people. This compares unfavourably with the figure for Scotland (13%) and Great Britain (11%).

Public Health Scotland demonstrated the scale of disadvantage in their Public Health Scotland Child Poverty Dashboard. Their figures showed:

- 95% take up rate for the Scottish Child Payment (for children under 16) in West Dunbartonshire, this is in line with the figure for Scotland (94%).
- 765 'Best Start' payments authorised from 1,140 applications (67.1%), is higher than the figure for Scotland (64.8%) This includes Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods.
- While access to free school meals may assist in addressing the impact of poverty only 71.4% of primary school children took advantage of the resource - this compares favourably to the figure for Scotland at (58.4%). 52% of secondary school children eligible took advantage of the resource, comparing unfavourably to the Scottish figure of (62.7%).
- In 2025/26, there were 5,262 family households in receipt of Universal Credits or Child tax credits.
- In 2025, 640 households in West Dunbartonshire were affected by the Two-Child Limit, representing 76.2% of households receiving Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit with three or more children. This was higher than the Scottish average (73.9%) and reflects the continuing impact of welfare policy on family incomes.
- 385 children in West Dunbartonshire are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- 50 households with children or a pregnant household member were living in temporary accommodation, representing an 11% increase from 45 households in 2024/25.
- 43% of households in West Dunbartonshire were living in fuel poverty, significantly higher than the Scottish average of 31%. West Dunbartonshire had the second-highest fuel poverty rate in Scotland, behind Orkney Islands (51%).

In effect, more people in West Dunbartonshire rely on benefits for their income. However, in some cases, families are not obtaining access to the available benefits.

Key point:

Poverty isn't just about low wages, but about a cluster of disadvantages; insufficient income, capped benefits, deductions from entitlements, higher living costs, and missed opportunities to access help. Addressing challenging financial circumstances and maximising access to full benefit entitlement will feature strongly in our approach addressing poverty.

Child Poverty in West Dunbartonshire

In 2025, West Dunbartonshire had an estimated **15,065 children aged 0-15 years**, representing **16.9% of the population**, compared to 15,450 children (17.4%) reported in 2024/25 ⁵:

Latest education data from the Pupil Census Supplementary Statistics 2025 shows that **12,226 pupils** attend schools in West Dunbartonshire.

¹⁶:

- Approximately 6,200 pupils in the 32 primary schools in West Dunbartonshire.
- Approximately 5800 pupils in the five secondary schools in West Dunbartonshire
- Approximately 241 pupils attend specialist Additional Support Need (ASN) settings in West Dunbartonshire.

A total of 5,281 pupils (43.0%) have an identified Additional Support Need (ASN), which is significantly higher than historic levels and reflects the increasing prevalence of ASN across Scotland. Nationally, 43.0% of pupils were identified as having an ASN in 2025, compared with 40.5% in 2024.

Children with Additional Support Needs

National evidence continues to demonstrate a strong relationship between poverty and Additional Support Needs (ASN). Children from low-income families are disproportionately likely to require additional support and experience poorer outcomes across a range of measures. Poverty itself can contribute to ASN through its impact on health, wellbeing, attendance, attainment and wider family circumstances.

In West Dunbartonshire, ASN pupils represent a significant proportion of the school population, with 43.0% of all pupils identified as having an additional support need. Many ASN pupils live in communities experiencing high levels of deprivation, meaning they can face multiple and intersecting disadvantages.

Families with ASN children often face a double disadvantage, combining lower household incomes with the additional costs associated with caring responsibilities, specialist equipment, transport and support services. Children and young people with ASN are also more likely to face barriers to participation in school activities, extracurricular opportunities and wider community life. For this reason, children with ASN continue to be recognised as a local priority group within our child poverty approach, alongside the six national priority family types.

There are numerous sources of information about child poverty. We have used the UK Government publication Children in low-income families: local area statistics, financial year ending 2024 to illustrate the scale of child poverty in West Dunbartonshire. Published in March 2025, these statistics provide the latest local authority-level data on children living in

⁵ Scottish Government: Pupils in Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pupil-census-supplementary-statistics/> (Accessed June 2026)

⁶ Scottish Government: Pupils in Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pupil-census-supplementary-statistics/> (Accessed June 2026)

relative low-income families and now incorporate the impact of the Scottish Child Payment.
[Children in low income households](#)

However, data on the scale of child poverty remains difficult to reconcile directly with the statutory Scottish Government child poverty targets. The figures contained within Children in low-income families: local area statistics are most closely aligned with the Scottish Government's relative poverty measure and provide a useful indication of the scale and concentration of child poverty locally. [Scot Gov Child Poverty Statistics](#)

These figures provide an indication of the scale and extent of child poverty in West Dunbartonshire and enable comparison with other local authorities across the Glasgow City Region over time. They illustrate both the extent and intensity of child poverty locally, while highlighting the gap that remains between current outcomes and the Scottish Government's 2030 target of reducing the proportion of children living in relative poverty to 10%.

Table 1: Child in Low-Income Families (Relative Low Income, Before Housing Costs), FYE 2022-2025

Authority	FYE 2022	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	FYE 2025	FYE 2025 %
East Dunbartonshire	1,548	1,460	1,220	1,204	6.2%
East Renfrewshire	1,672	1,627	1,463	1,476	7.4%
Glasgow City	24,308	23,371	19,621	19,565	19.8%
Inverclyde	1,816	1,782	1,526	1,464	12.0%
North Lanarkshire	10,470	10,138	8,340	8,025	13.4%
Renfrewshire	4,124	4,013	3,343	3,304	10.8%
South Lanarkshire	7,814	7,684	6,365	6,463	11.5%
West Dunbartonshire	2,587	2,437	2,005	1,870	12.6%
Glasgow City Region Total	54,339	52,512	43,883	43,371	-
Scotland	121,130*	117,677*	98,177*	97,179*	10.6%
United Kingdom	2,260,427	2,433,559	2,359,021	2,429,265	19.3%

There are numerous sources of information about child poverty; we have used data from DWP Stat-Xplore's Children in Low Income Families (Relative) dataset to illustrate the scale of child poverty in West Dunbartonshire and compare our position across the Glasgow City Region.

- The latest figures show that in FYE 2025, 1,870 children aged under 16 in West Dunbartonshire were living in relative low-income families before housing costs, representing 12.6% of all children. This remains higher than both the Scottish average (10.6%) and neighbouring authorities including East Dunbartonshire (6.2%) and East Renfrewshire (7.4%), although lower than Glasgow City (19.8%). Within the Glasgow City Region, only Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire recorded child poverty rates above the Scottish average.
- The latest statistics also demonstrate a reduction in the number of children living in relative low-income families in West Dunbartonshire, falling from 2,587 children (17.1%) in FYE 2022 to 1,870 children (12.6%) in FYE 2025. Similar reductions have been seen across Scotland and much of the Glasgow City Region.

- The statistics published in 2026 use a revised methodology and incorporate the impact of the Scottish Child Payment within household income calculations. As a result, figures from FYE 2022 onwards should not be directly compared with those published in previous Local Child Poverty Action Reports using the older methodology. The data nevertheless provides a robust indication of the scale and concentration of child poverty locally and demonstrates the continued importance of coordinated action to increase family incomes, improve access to employment and progression opportunities, and provide whole-family support.
- Under the revised methodology, the number and proportion of children living in relative low-income families has fallen across West Dunbartonshire since FYE 2022, reducing from 2,587 children (17.1%) to 1,870 children (12.6%) in FYE 2025. However, child poverty remains above the Scottish average and continues to affect almost one in eight children locally.

The absolute numbers in **Table 1** provide an indication of the scale of child poverty. **Table 2** provides an insight to the comparative proportions of the population experiencing child poverty, again the methodology changes as detailed above need to be taken into consideration.

Table 2: Proportion of Child Living in Relative Low-Income Families in West Dunbartonshire

Local Authority	FYE 2022 (%)	FYE 2023 (%)	FYE 2024 (%)	FYE 2025 (%)
East Dunbartonshire	8.1%	7.6%	6.3%	6.2%
East Renfrewshire	8.7%	8.4%	7.4%	7.4%
Glasgow City	25.4%	24.3%	20.1%	19.8%
Inverclyde	15.1%	14.9%	12.6%	12.0%
Renfrewshire	14.0%	13.5%	11.0%	10.8%
North Lanarkshire	17.2%	16.9%	13.9%	13.4%
South Lanarkshire	14.1%	13.9%	11.4%	11.5%
West Dunbartonshire	17.1%	16.3%	13.4%	12.6%
Glasgow City Region (average)	15.0%	14.5%	11.9%	11.7%
Scotland	13.6%	13.2%	11.0%	10.6%
United Kingdom	18.4%	19.6%	18.8%	19.3%

Source: DWP Stat-Xplore, Children in Low Income Families (Relative), Local Authority by Age and ONS NOMIS Population Estimates, Local Authority by Age.

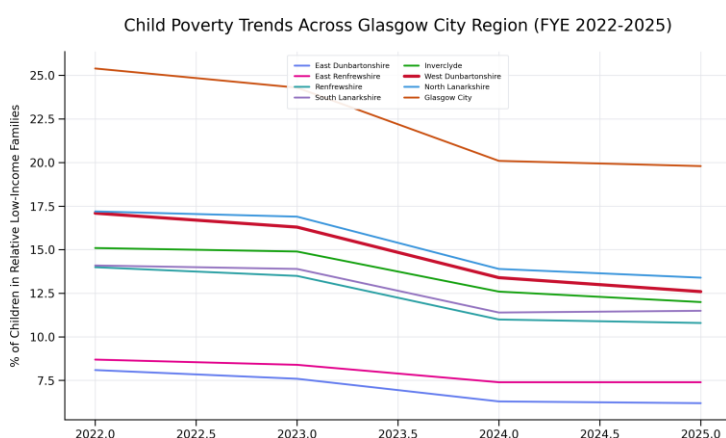
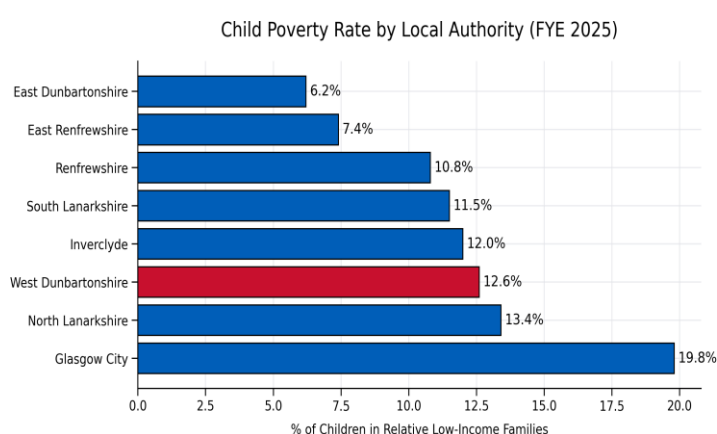
- West Dunbartonshire's child poverty rate (12.6%) is higher than the Scottish average (10.6%) but lower than the United Kingdom average (19.3%).
- West Dunbartonshire's child poverty rate is 0.9 percentage points higher than the Glasgow City Region average (11.7%).
- Within the Glasgow City Region, West Dunbartonshire has the third highest child poverty rate (12.6%), behind Glasgow City (19.8%) and North Lanarkshire (13.4%).
- Whilst child poverty in West Dunbartonshire has reduced, the rate remains 6.4 percentage points higher than East Dunbartonshire, the best-performing local authority in the Glasgow City Region, and 5.2 percentage points higher than East Renfrewshire.

Table 2 presents the proportion of children aged under 16 living in relative low-income families before housing costs using the Department for Work and Pensions' revised Child Poverty Statistics methodology. The dataset incorporates the impact of the Scottish Child Payment and provides a new baseline for reporting child poverty from FYE2022 onwards.

The revised statistics indicate a reduction in both the number and proportion of children living in relative low-income families in West Dunbartonshire since FYE2022. The number of children affected has fallen from 2,587 children (17.1%) in FYE2022 to 1,870 children (12.6%) in FYE2025, a reduction of 717 children.

Despite this improvement, child poverty remains a significant challenge locally, with approximately one in eight children in West Dunbartonshire living in a relative low-income household. West Dunbartonshire's child poverty rate remains around 2 percentage points above the Scottish average, reinforcing the need for continued partnership action to increase family incomes, improve access to good quality employment and progression opportunities, and provide coordinated whole-family support.

Caution should be exercised when comparing these figures with those reported in previous Local Child Poverty Action Reports. The Department for Work and Pensions introduced a revised methodology in 2026 which recalibrated the historical series and incorporated the impact of the Scottish Child Payment within household income calculations. Accordingly, figures from FYE2022 onwards should be treated as a new baseline for reporting child poverty.



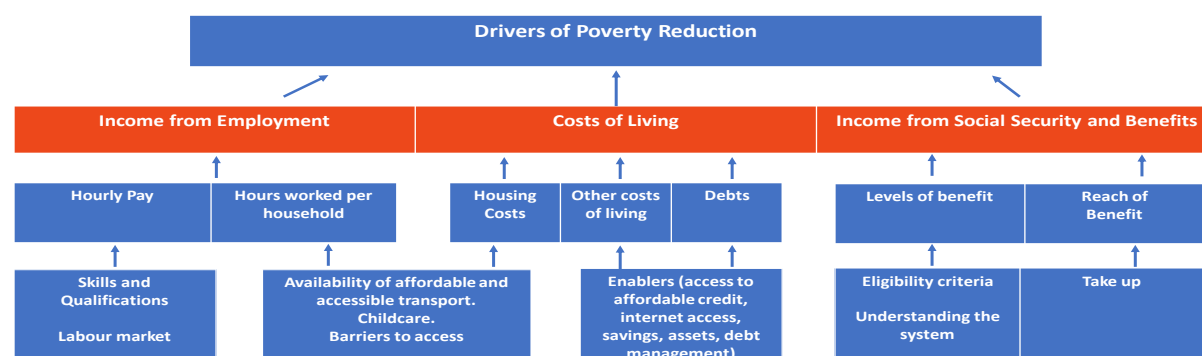
The Trend Chart above highlights how Child poverty rates have fallen across all Glasgow City Region local authorities between FYE2022 and FYE2025. In West Dunbartonshire, the proportion of children living in relative low-income families reduced from 17.1% to 12.6%,

a decrease of 4.5 percentage points. Despite this improvement, West Dunbartonshire continues to have the third highest child poverty rate in the Glasgow City Region, behind Glasgow City (19.8%) and North Lanarkshire (13.4%), and remains above the Scottish average of 10.6%.

Drivers of Poverty Reduction

Addressing the drivers of child poverty remains crucial to creating healthier, more equitable communities. The Scottish Government's current tackling child poverty delivery plan, *Bringing Hope, Building Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2026-2031* identifies the drivers of poverty reduction as maximising income, addressing the cost of living and maximising income from social security and benefits.

The Drivers of Poverty Reduction



Key Points:

*Delivering action that contributes to the drivers of poverty reduction will be the focus of our efforts. In West Dunbartonshire, children with ASN are recognised as a **local priority** group within our child poverty work, alongside the six national priority family types. Identifying this priority group has enabled us to target support more effectively, inform service planning, and attract funding to deliver provision that meets the needs of these families.*

Addressing Child Poverty

The Scottish Government's *Bringing Hope, Building Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2026-2031* sets out a continued commitment to reducing child poverty through increasing family incomes, reducing the cost of living and providing support that helps children and families to thrive. The plan places particular emphasis on supporting priority family groups and recognises the importance of partnership working across public, private and third sector organisations to deliver sustainable change.

The priorities within the delivery plan closely align with the work already being delivered and will continue to be delivered across West Dunbartonshire by statutory and voluntary organisations. The focus on income maximisation, employability, access to social security, affordable childcare and family support reinforces local efforts to tackle the causes and consequences of poverty.

The delivery plan provides a strong framework for partners to continue developing targeted, preventative approaches that improve financial security and wellbeing for local families. By aligning local activity with national priorities, West Dunbartonshire can continue to support

families most at risk of poverty and contribute towards Scotland's child poverty reduction targets.

[Bringing Hope, Building Futures: Tackling child poverty delivery plan 2026-2031 - gov.scot](#)

In West Dunbartonshire, statutory and voluntary services work alongside each other to support children and families affected by poverty. Statutory services, led by West Dunbartonshire Council and NHS partners, provide a range of financial and practical supports, including free school meals, clothing grants, holiday programmes, and help to access social security benefits. They also deliver family support through family hubs and early intervention services that promote wellbeing, strengthen parenting capacity, and improve outcomes for children.

Voluntary organisations complement this support by providing emergency food, school uniforms, holiday meals, and other practical assistance to families experiencing hardship. By working together and coordinating support, statutory and voluntary services help address immediate needs, build family resilience, and ensure that communities have a voice in shaping local responses to poverty. This collaborative approach creates a strong network of support aimed at reducing the impact of child poverty across West Dunbartonshire.

Family Prosperity Network

In 2024 the ‘*Family Prosperity Network*’ was established with the explicit aim of contributing to the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire vision by addressing child poverty:

‘To develop West Dunbartonshire as a place where people choose to live, work, explore, visit and invest.’

The Family Prosperity Network (Lead Group) will draw on representatives from community planning partners, third sector organisations and employers, incorporating the voices of people with direct experience, to co-ordinate joint efforts that have an impact on poverty and disadvantage.

The Family Prosperity Network aims to:

- Broaden the understanding of child poverty and raise awareness of the actions and potential actions that could be taken.
- Co-ordinate approaches and stimulate partnership working designed to:
 - Alleviate immediate hardship and crisis through cash first approaches.
 - Reduce the cost-of-living for families with children with specific emphasis placed on those most in need.
 - Maximise income from benefits through the provision of good quality debt and money advice, guidance and representation and focussed campaigns.
 - Maximise income from employment through the provision of employability and learning services.
- Monitor and report on progress.

Key Point

The Family Prosperity Network will lead in preparing the local child poverty annual report with Community Planning West Dunbartonshire and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde providing strategic oversight and scrutiny of the network’s actions. This approach will ensure that the report not only complies with the statutory requirements within the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 but will also ensure that the aims of child poverty legislation and associated actions are considered in the wider strategic and policy context.

The Family Prosperity Network will encourage continuous improvement by:

1. Bringing local partners together, through the Family Prosperity Network, to work together co-ordinating activity, co-designing services and agreeing shared outcomes relating to child poverty.
2. Bringing together information from a range of sources (including statistical data, information from local delivery partners, including the third sector) to develop a greater understanding of the factors that prevent families moving out of poverty.
3. Adopting a co-ordinated approach to ensuring the voices of lived experience are reflected in the development of local priorities, policies and services.
4. Providing pathways out of poverty in the long term, by aligning policy and planning in key policy areas, such as economic development, employability

support, travel/transport, education, community-based learning and skills, housing and benefits to ensure parents and young people can access high-quality support.

5. Ensuring the journey within and between the support services provided by the council, private and third sector is as seamless as possible.
6. Developing a proportionate framework of indicators to ensure progress towards shared outcomes can be understood, reported and continuously improved.

Progress and Impact

The Family Prosperity Network continues to strengthen West Dunbartonshire's collective response to child poverty by bringing together organisations that influence the key drivers of poverty, including employability, income maximisation, family support, housing, health and education. Through improved partnership working, shared priorities and a coordinated approach to service delivery, the Network has increased local capacity to address poverty and respond to emerging needs.

The intended impact aligns with the key performance indicators in Appendix 2.

What we have done (Key Achievements 2025/26)

In 2025/26 we made progress in addressing poverty on several fronts.

We maximised income from work by:

- Ensured 'Fair Working Practices' are conditions of employability service grants awarded by the Local Employability Partnership and investment supported parents within the priority groups.
- Supported 190 businesses with start-up advice through Business Gateway.
- Provided 62 local people with start-up grants to assist them with their business start-up costs.
- Focussed employability services on parents and supported 225 economically inactive, unemployed or low-income parents to secure a positive destination: employment or improved employment; apprenticeship; further/higher education; volunteering.
- Supported 459 participants to enter employment.
- Staged two jobs' fairs and a youth employability day to raise awareness of employment opportunities and encouraged parents to engage directly with employers.
- Hosted a business breakfast for local employers, promoted fair working practices and highlighted support available when employing parents affected by poverty.
- Supported 690 unemployed and low income employed parents to access employability services tailored to their needs and those of their families, helping them move closer to sustainable work and improved household income.
- Supported 1089 young people and adults to enter education or training, strengthening skills for future employment.
- Assisted 829 young people and adults to gain a qualification, improving employability and long-term prospects.
- Delivered a volunteering project offering an accredited SCQF Level 4 qualification, followed by a paid work placement to support parents on their pathway to employment.
- Delivered a Paid Work Placement Programme hosted by West Dunbartonshire Council Departments to help residents gain experience, skills and confidence to move into sustainable employment.
- Continued to deliver Dignity Foundation Network (DFN) Project Search for young people with learning disabilities and/or autism, supporting them into meaningful employment pathways and helping their parents access appropriate benefits.
- Secured Fairer Futures Partnership Funding through the Family Prosperity Network to support families and young people impacted by justice, focusing on the priority families.
- Delivered anchor NHS regional supplier development programme and ensuring contracts have implementable social benefit clauses.
- NHS Golden Jubilee's hosted an annual Careers Information Evening attended by approximately 150 pupils from S3 to S6, showcasing the career pathways available within the organisation.
- NHS Golden Jubilee and the NHS Scotland Academy welcomed school age pupils to participate in a range of events and activities to support employability including school visits and presentations. These opportunities were provided through working with partners including the Kings Trust, Skills Development Scotland and Developing the Young Workforce.

We maximised income from benefits and addressed crisis by:

- Delivering designated Family Opportunity Hub case-managed support in schools and the community helping parents stabilise financial crises and access opportunities for learning and work.
- Generating £9.3 million in additional benefits for residents in West Dunbartonshire.
- Supporting residents to manage £1.3m in debts.
- Continued development of the food insecurity network and providing grants to food banks and food pantries to support their development.
- Used Scottish Government funds to facilitate year 2 of 'cash first' grant to assist people to address food insecurity.
- Used Fairer Futures Funding to establish Cash First Grant for families who were justice impacted.
- Promoted access to Scottish Welfare fund for parents affected by poverty and disadvantage.
- Facilitated a financial referral pathway for maternity services and health visitors.
- Stronger Starts Stronger Futures Maternity Matters Service engaged with 10 clients in West Dunbartonshire, the service across all areas achieved over£19k in financial gains, demonstrating strong value for those supported.
- Through Whole Family Wellbeing activity, support continued to shift towards earlier intervention and whole-family approaches. 72 families involving 148 children were supported and successfully discharged through outreach services, while a further 69 families involving 128 children received intensive one-to-one support. In addition, 283 families participated in themed group programmes. By addressing challenges earlier and reducing the need for crisis intervention, these services support improved family wellbeing, parental capacity and financial resilience.
- Cuppa and Connect expanded delivery into schools and recorded 434 family connections during 2025/26, improving access to support within local communities and helping families navigate services, access advice and build support networks.
- NHSGGC Royal Hospital for Children Money & Debt with Advocacy Service provides support to families of children attending the hospital as inpatients or outpatients. 284 referrals were made to this service across GGC with 8 referrals from families in West Dunbartonshire.
- Raising the issue of money worries in maternity services is a public health approach within NHSGGC maternity care to promote supports to expectant mothers surrounding financial or debt concerns, and refer them to money advice/ financial inclusion services. In 2025/26 there were 36 direct referrals from maternity services and 28 from health visiting services in WD

We reduced the cost of living by:

- Allocating funding to cost of living initiatives that will assist families to reduce their cost of living while encouraging participating in leisure and community-based activities.
 - Funding summer activities for school pupils during school holidays.
 - Funding access to leisure facilities.
 - Supporting capital projects designed to reduce the cost of living.
- Providing access to free period products in schools and communities throughout West Dunbartonshire.
- Supporting digital inclusion through the provision of laptops and mobile devices, enabling unemployed and low-income parents to access Working4U services, training and employment opportunities.
- Maximising the value of community benefit commitments through procurement contracts, generating employment, training, volunteering and community support opportunities that contribute to reducing poverty and inequality.
- Maximising access to passported benefits. (School Clothing Grant, Education Maintenance Allowance and Free school meals).

Reinforced our commitment to ‘The Promise,’ with action that included:

- Continued development of ‘West Dunbartonshire for Families’ hubs providing a one-stop-shop supporting families through the 10 principles of family support.
- Continued investment in Whole Family Wellbeing approaches, supporting a shift towards earlier, relational and preventative support that helps families access the right support at the right time.
- Provided Council Tax exemption for care leavers up to the age of 26 years, to reduce financial pressures and support independent living.
- Continued to provide rent abatement for eligible care leavers in full-time further education, reduced housing costs and supported participation in learning and positive destinations.
- Provided guaranteed interview opportunities for care experienced young people who apply for Modern Apprenticeship vacancies within West Dunbartonshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Provided a £2,500 setting-up home grant for care leavers moving into their first tenancy, helping to remove financial barriers to independent living.
- Strengthened the voice of care experienced children and young people through advocacy services, Voices of the Promise, the Rights Advisory Board and youth-led initiatives. This included the development and delivery of *Unheard Voices, Unbroken Spirits*, a musical written, produced and performed by care experienced young people.
- Continued to recognise care experienced families as a locally identified child poverty priority group, ensuring targeted support for those at increased risk of poverty and disadvantage.

What we will do in 2026/27

In 2026/27, we will continue to address child poverty by focusing on actions that enhance family incomes and improve financial wellbeing. We will support families experiencing immediate hardship and use this as a platform for longer-term interventions that reduce living costs, maximise household income through benefit uptake and financial inclusion, and improve parents' employability, skills and access to sustainable employment. We will also work with partners to support access to education, training and opportunities that help families build financial resilience and improve outcomes for children.

Alleviate Immediate Hardship

West Dunbartonshire Council provides access to a range of crisis grants including, for example, the Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments and Cash First Funds. While they do not solve the issue of poverty, they offer a safety net for individuals facing financial hardship or emergencies.

The key reasons for this support centre on addressing triggers that can unbalance an otherwise stable situation. We also, where appropriate, use the support to connect with those who are most disadvantaged and offer a gateway to address the underlying causes of their circumstances. The aim is to:

1. Provide **Immediate Financial Assistance**: Crisis Grants are designed to help individuals who are facing a disaster or emergency, where there is an immediate threat to their health or safety. This can include situations like sudden loss of income, unexpected expenses, and other urgent needs.
2. Provide **Support for Low-Income Households**: These grants aim to support people on low incomes who may not have other means to cover essential expenses and the rise in cost of living. This helps prevent further financial instability and ensures that basic needs are met.
3. **Prevent Homelessness**: Discretionary Housing Payments can help individuals cover housing costs, such as rent, to prevent homelessness. This is particularly important for those affected by policies like the bedroom tax.
4. **Assist in Maintaining a Settled Home**: Community Care Grants, another component of the Scottish Welfare Fund, help individuals establish or maintain a settled home, especially after leaving care, prison, or homelessness.
5. **Provide Holistic Support**: The Scottish Welfare Fund takes a comprehensive and integrated approach, aiming to provide support to individuals and families in crisis, ensuring their immediate needs are met and helping them stabilise their situation. Additional financial capability support will be provided through the Family Opportunity Hub and West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Bureau, offering households “financial health checks” alongside wider support services.

Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Welfare Fund can provide an immediate source of funding to support people with limited resources to overcome difficult circumstances at trigger points that challenge their resilience. It can help during emergencies to protect individuals and their families as well as providing funds to maintain a safe home or affording essential household items.

In West Dunbartonshire during 2025/26:



In 2026/27 we will:

- Develop our methods to focus support on priority family groups likely to be affected by disadvantage.
- Use our data sources to identify and link uptake of support with areas of higher comparative deprivation.
- Work in partnership with Welfare Fund to support households receiving crisis assistance to access wider advice and support services, helping to address the underlying causes of poverty and reduce the likelihood of future financial crises.
- Feedback to Scottish Government about our findings on the impact of Fairer Futures Cash First Grant and the need for this type of support.

Cash First Approach

West Dunbartonshire Council recognise that when families face financial hardship, providing direct financial assistance is often the most effective way to alleviate immediate hardship. Through our Cash First approach, we have successfully delivered initiatives for the past four years with WDC Household Grant, Cash First Fund and more recently the Fairer Futures Cash First Grant demonstrating the positive impact that financial support can have on individuals and families experiencing crisis.

Cash First support helps alleviate immediate hardship while preserving dignity and choice, allowing people to decide how best to meet their own needs. This approach promotes autonomy, reduces stigma, and enables households to respond to their unique circumstances

In 2025/26 the Cash First funds were:

- **Cash First Fund:** Addressing Food Insecurity. Funded by the Scottish Government to test ways to reduce reliance on foodbanks. This fund ended in September 2025.
- **Fairer Futures Cash First Grant** – Supporting families in West Dunbartonshire who are justice impacted.

Cash First – Addressing Food Insecurity and Reducing the Reliance on Foodbanks

This was a two-year project based on a strong network of organisations developing and delivering access to cash first approaches. These project support residents to address short term needs while assisting them to become more resilient and able to manage life transitions more effectively.

Households could access the fund up to three times over the course of a year. Each individual awarded funding is also offered financial capability. This fund was open to priority family groups and in 2025/26 has processed 247 applications awarding £36,685. The fund closed in September 2025 with 915 applications being processed awarding £96,675 in cash first grants with 71% of individuals who were awarded funding also engaging with financial capability support including the completion of better off calculations, increase income through social security benefits, debt management and employability support.

Table 1: Cash First Fund 25/26: Reduce Reliance on Foodbanks Grant

Priority Target Group	
Homelessness or Threat of Eviction	22
Household with 3 or more children	30
Household with children aged under 2	34
Household with parent(s) aged under 25	19
Household with Health Issues/Disabled Person	61
Household on Low Income	200
Household with care responsibilities and/or younger carer(s)	45
Lone Parent	86
Minority Ethnic Household	12
Single Income Household (Single person)	159
Household with kinship care responsibility and/or experience in the care system	8
Individuals with no recourse to Public Funding	1
Other	

* Many households have incidence of more than one priority characteristic.

Fairer Futures Cash First Grant

In September 2025 Working 4U set up The Fairer Futures Cash First Grant. This was a crisis support fund designed to provide people and families who are justice impacted and experiencing financial hardship with direct financial assistance, helping them meet their immediate essential needs in a way that promotes dignity, choice and independence.

From September 2025 – March 2026 120 successful applications were processed with £26,200 being awarded to eligible individuals in West Dunbartonshire.

Table 2: Fairer Futures Cash First Grant 25/26

Priority Target Group	
Homelessness or threat of eviction	21
Household on Low Income	52
Household with 3 or more children	14
Household with care responsibilities and/or younger carer(s)	26
Household with children aged under 2	16
Household with parent(s) aged under 25	7
Household with Health Issues/Disabled Person	43
Household with kinship care responsibility and/or experience in the care system	19
Individuals with no recourse to public funding.	1
Lone Parent	57
Minority Ethnic Household	3
Single Income Household (Single person)	73

In the forthcoming year we will:

- Continue to deliver support through the Fairer Futures Cash First Grant, prioritising low-income families and households who are justice impacted experiencing financial hardship, with a focus on child poverty priority groups.
- Enhance our financial capability offer by providing money, debt and income-maximisation support to grant recipients, helping families improve their financial resilience and access their full benefit entitlement.
- Explore and pursue opportunities to expand our cash first approach through external funding opportunities and partnership working, enabling additional direct financial support for families where resources become available.

Maximisation Income (Benefits and Debt)

The West Dunbartonshire Information and Advice Partnership, led by West Dunbartonshire Council (Working4U) consists of locally based Information and Advice service providers that provides residents with coordinated, accessible financial support. The partnership works to maximise household income through benefits uptake, provide debt advice and repayment solutions, and tackle financial exclusion. It ensures that people facing hardship receive early intervention, crisis support, and longer-term guidance to build financial resilience. By pooling expertise, sharing resources, and reducing duplication, the partnership improves outcomes for individuals and families, helps prevent poverty, and supports wider community wellbeing and inclusion. The partnership collates information about key outcomes and reports these through the Local Government Benchmark Framework.

Access to debt and welfare benefits advice is essential due to the complexity of the welfare system, which can lead to errors and low uptake particularly harming disadvantaged individuals and families.

A range of benefits continued to see changes throughout 2025/26:

- Scottish Social Security has now successfully transferred all existing Disability and Carer benefits over from UK Department for Work & Pensions (DWP).
- DWP have now completed the transfer of all recipients from the legacy benefits that were replaced with Universal Credit.

Advice partners have been supporting residents manage these transitions.

Some of the upcoming changes taking place in 2026/27 which will help families include:

- The abolition of the two-child limit affecting Universal Credit,
- An increase in the earnings limit, allowing carers to work more hours without affecting their benefits,
- An additional Carer Support Additional Person Payment if you care for more than one qualifying person.

Maximising welfare benefits can provide significant advantages for families. These advantages include:

1. Financial Support: Welfare benefits offer essential financial assistance, helping families meet basic needs such as food, housing, and clothing.
2. Improved Nutrition: increased income can ensure families have access to healthy meals, which is crucial for overall well-being, especially for children.
3. Stability During Hard Times: Welfare benefits can provide a safety net during periods of unemployment or unexpected financial hardship, reducing stress and anxiety.
4. Housing Security: Assistance with debts can help families avoid homelessness, stabilise living conditions, and create a conducive environment for children's development.
5. Long-Term Benefits: Utilising welfare benefits effectively, including promoting uptake of the Five Family Payments through Social Security Scotland — such as the Scottish Child Payment, Pregnancy and Baby Payment, Early Learning Payment, School Age Payment, and Best Start Foods, can help families build a foundation for future stability, allowing them to set and achieve long-term goals. Overall, maximising welfare benefits can help families maintain stability, improve their quality of life, and create opportunities for growth and self-sufficiency.

Managing Debt

Providing support to manage debt can bring numerous benefits to families, including:

1. **Financial Clarity:** Professional advice helps families understand their financial situation, including income, expenses, and outstanding debts.
2. **Debt Reduction Strategies:** Experts can provide tailored strategies for reducing debt, including budgeting, negotiation with creditors, and prioritising payments.
3. **Creditor Negotiations:** Advice can include support in negotiating with creditors/council for lower interest rates or more manageable repayment plans.
4. **Improved Budgeting Skills:** Families learn to create and maintain budgets, enabling better control over spending and making informed financial decisions.
5. **Stress Relief:** Understanding and addressing debt can significantly reduce stress and anxiety related to financial instability and give them confidence to make better financial and life choices.
6. **Access to Resources:** Families may be directed to additional resources, such as government grants or financial aid.
7. **Enhanced Planning for the Future:** Expert guidance helps establish a plan to achieve long-term financial stability, including saving for emergencies and retirement.
8. **Improved Credit Score:** Managing and reducing debt can lead to improved credit scores, enabling better loan terms and future financial opportunities.

Overall, securing advice and support for debt management can empower families to regain control over their finances, reduce stress, and work towards a more secure financial future.

Mr B Builds Financial Stability and Wellbeing for His Family

Mr B is a single parent living in West Dunbartonshire with his children. He was referred to Working4U for support with financial difficulties, debt concerns, and benefit entitlements. At the time of referral, Mr B was experiencing poor health, significant financial pressures, and uncertainty about his ability to meet the needs of his family.

Through support from Working 4U keyworker, a full benefits check was completed to ensure Mr B was receiving all available financial support. Assistance was provided to challenge the fit for work decision through a Mandatory Reconsideration, apply for disability-related benefits, and secure reductions in housing and council tax costs. A review of his circumstances also identified additional benefit entitlements relating to the children in his care, including support available to kinship carers and families with disabled children. As a result, Mr B's household income increased significantly

Alongside benefit maximisation, Mr B sought support with long-standing debt issues. With debts of more than £80,000 and increasing pressure from creditors. He was supported through a formal debt solution process which resulted in his unaffordable debts being written off. This removed a major source of stress and allowed him to focus on his health and caring responsibilities.

The impact on Mr B and his family has been significant. The Mandatory Reconsideration was successful, resulting in an award of Limited Capability for Work and removing the requirement to actively seek employment while managing his health and caring responsibilities. Additional benefits and reductions in household costs increased financial security, while the debt solution provided a fresh start and reduced anxiety. The family now has greater financial stability and is better able to meet day to day living costs.

Partnership working has been central to Mr B's progress, involving the Department for Work and Pensions, Social Security Scotland, West Dunbartonshire Council Benefits Team, Working4U Learning, and Money Team. Through this collaborative approach, Mr B has been able to improve his financial situation, reduce stress, and create a more stable environment for his family.

Financial Gain	Amount
Debt Written Off	£89,331
Additional Person Carer Support Payment	£10.43 (weekly)
Council Tax Reduction Backdate	£3040.84

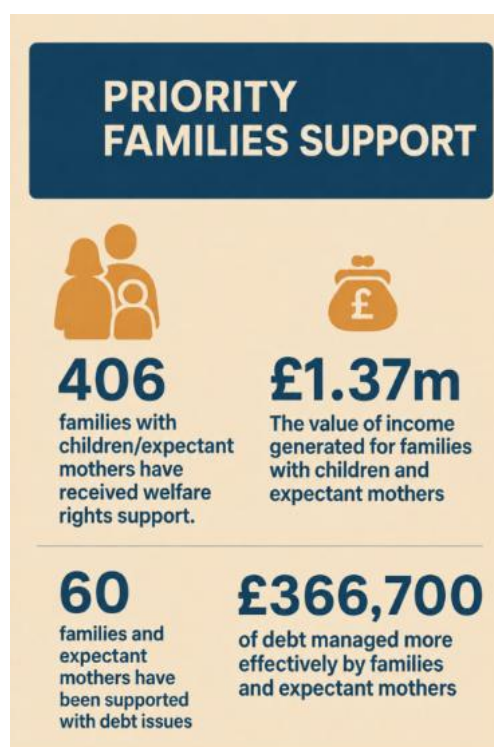
Progress

Over the course of the year the partners achieved some notable outcomes.

Table 3: Information and Advice Key Outcomes

Outcome	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Debt Managed	£1.2m	£1.4m	£1.3m
Benefit Maximisation/Financial Gain	£8.2m	£9.2m	£9.3m

Of those supported many were from priority families likely to be affected by poverty and disadvantage.



In the forthcoming year (2026/27) we will maintain progress in alleviating child poverty by maximising benefits and managing debt. We will monitor progress by recording and reporting on the:

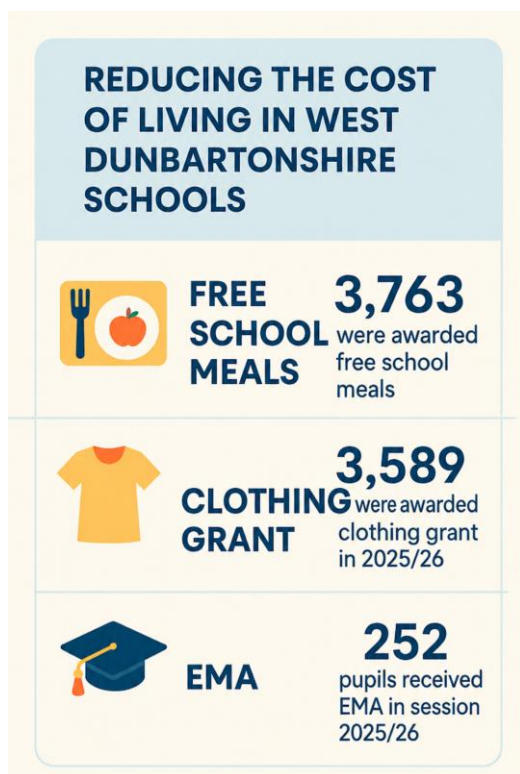
- Total number of clients from households with dependent children accessing local authority funded money and welfare rights advice due to debt, and total debt owed.
- Total verified financial gain for clients from households with dependent children accessing local authority funded money and welfare rights advice.
- Reinforce referrals and support to address the cause of the hardship.

Reduce the Cost of Living

Our work to reduce the cost-of-living for families with children with specific emphasis placed on those most in need.

West Dunbartonshire Cost of Living Initiatives

In 2025/26:



Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

Free nursery/school meals and the footwear and clothing grant are available for parents on low income in West Dunbartonshire and all children in Primary 1-5 are automatically entitled to free school meals and therefore do not have to apply for access. The clothing grant award for eligible primary pupils is £125 and £150 for secondary school.

Educational Maintenance Allowance

An Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly allowance of £30 payable to young people who have achieved 100% attendance each week at school.

West Dunbartonshire Council will continue to review the numbers in receipt of EMA's, ensuring it is accessible to all who require it. Our intention is to ensure that all pupils who are eligible receive the full entitlement.



Young Scot

The Young Scot National Entitlement Card is one of the benefits offered the national youth information and citizenship charity 'Young Scot.' The National Entitlement Card (NEC) provides access to discounts that are designed to help young people make the most of their money. This includes, among other incentives, free bus travel for those aged between 5 – 21 years.

14,156 young people in West Dunbartonshire benefited from free bus travel, helping families save money while improving access to education, employment, sport, culture and other opportunities.

Housing and Support

The cost of housing has a significant bearing on levels of poverty, and as such, housing provision, management and associated support services are vital tools in reducing child poverty at a local and national level.

The West Dunbartonshire Local Housing Strategy 2022/27 sets out how West Dunbartonshire Council and its partners address housing challenges and opportunities, with a 10-point success plan that directly contributes to tackling the drivers of poverty through the provision of affordable, sustainable and secure housing.

In 2025/26, the Council strengthened this approach through a range of actions to support families most at risk of disadvantage, homelessness and financial hardship. These included:

- Affordable Housing Supply – delivery of new high-quality, energy-efficient homes through the More Homes West Dunbartonshire programme, supporting families into secure and affordable tenancies and increasing the supply of housing that remains accessible to lower-income households.
- Homelessness Prevention and Housing Solutions Rapid Rehousing – continued implementation of the Housing Solutions Strategy which contains the Council's wider response to rapid rehousing outcomes, focused on preventing homelessness wherever possible, reducing the time families spend in temporary accommodation and improving tenancy sustainment outcomes through early intervention and targeted housing support.
- Financial Assistance – provision of targeted support through Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs), Scottish Welfare Fund Community Care Grants and other housing-related assistance, helping families manage housing costs, address financial crises and maintain settled accommodation.

- Tackling Fuel Poverty – investment in energy efficiency improvements across the Council's housing stock in line with EESSH2 objectives, reducing household energy costs, improving thermal comfort and helping low-income families mitigate the impacts of rising energy prices.
- Housing Support Services – delivery of tailored housing support and tenancy sustainment services for vulnerable households, helping families access appropriate accommodation, maximise income, manage tenancies successfully and avoid repeat homelessness.

The Council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2026/27 to 2030/31 further demonstrates the contribution that housing investment can make towards reducing child poverty. Recognising a historic shortage of larger family accommodation, the SHIP places a specific emphasis on increasing the supply of four-bedroom and larger homes through both the new build and buyback programmes delivered by the Council and partner Registered Social Landlords. A target has been established for 10% of all homes delivered through these programmes to comprise larger family housing.

The impact of these measures is already being realised. In the last reporting year, the Council's buyback programme directly assisted households including 43 homeless children into permanent accommodation.

In addition, analysis of recent housing completions identified that new council housing developments helped 131 children move from homelessness into safe and secure permanent homes, demonstrating the significant contribution that increased affordable housing supply can make to improving outcomes for children and families.

The Council's strategic approach has also been recognised nationally, with the Scottish Government commending the approach adopted within the SHIP to support the delivery of affordable housing and contribute towards tackling child poverty.

Together, these actions demonstrate the critical role that housing plays in addressing child poverty across West Dunbartonshire. By increasing the supply of affordable family housing, preventing homelessness, reducing housing and energy costs, and supporting families to access and sustain settled accommodation, the Council is helping to address both the immediate pressures and longer-term consequences of poverty.

Secure, warm and affordable housing provides a stable foundation from which children can thrive, supporting improved health, educational attainment, family wellbeing and life chances. Through continued investment in housing provision, homelessness prevention and targeted support services, West Dunbartonshire Council is making a significant contribution to reducing inequalities and delivering lasting improvements in outcomes for children and families across the area. We've introduced a number of housing related measures to monitor these impacts including:-

- Number of children housed through new build and buyback programmes.
- Number of homeless children moved into permanent accommodation.
- Average time homeless families spend in temporary accommodation.
- % of family tenancies sustained after 12 months.
- Number of households with children prevented from becoming homeless.

These measures would provide a stronger evidence base for demonstrating the direct impact housing interventions are having on reducing child poverty and improving outcomes for families across West Dunbartonshire.

Maximise Income from Employment

West Dunbartonshire Local Employability Partnership, led by the Council (Working4U Service), was established to co-ordinate local employability services. The 'West Dunbartonshire Local Employability Partnership' supports sustainable inclusive economic growth by helping residents maximise their potential and access fair work opportunities.

We do this by:

- Providing specialist employability providers with grants to deliver tailored support.
- Offering high-quality advice on employment, training, and career pathways.
- Helping residents build skills, confidence, and resilience to overcome barriers to work.
- Supporting vulnerable families with targeted help to improve household income and reduce the risk of child poverty.

Over the last four years, the Partnership has set ambitious stretch targets that take account of local socio-economic challenges, as well as the resources available to address them.

Table 4 Employability Progress Indicators

Progress Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total number of local people being supported through apprenticeships and in-work progression	373	362	367	301
Number of local people entering education or training	1,469	1,064	1,178	1,089
Number of local people gaining a full qualification	756	867	1,021	829
Number of local people entering employment	421	439	537	459

We have made significant progress in helping parents overcome the barriers that prevent them from securing employment and maximising their income through work. Through initiatives such as *No One Left Behind*, Fairer Futures Partnership the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and upskilling opportunities provided through Skills Development Scotland Modern Apprenticeship contracts, 690 unemployed and low-income parents accessed employability services tailored to their needs and those of their families. These services have supported parents to move closer to sustainable employment and improved household income.

A substantial proportion of those supported were families most likely to experience poverty and disadvantage. **Table 7** provides a breakdown of the priority groups reached through this support:

Table 5: Priority Groups Supported

Priority Groups Supported	2024/25	2025/26
Lone Parent	240	279
Disabled Child / Family Member	137	157
Three or More Children	114	138
Minority Ethnic Family	75	130
Parent Under the Age of 25	37	32
Child Under One Year	40	38
West Dunbartonshire Priority Group - ASN Child	-	264
West Dunbartonshire Priority Group - Care Experienced	-	31

- Of the 690 individual parents supported during 2025/26, 774 instances of support were recorded across the six national child poverty priority family groups, reflecting the fact that many parents experience multiple risk factors and may be represented in more than one category. For example, a lone parent may also have three or more children or be caring for a disabled child
- When West Dunbartonshire's locally identified priority groups are included, namely families with a child with Additional Support Needs (ASN) and care experienced families, this rises to 1,069 priority group instances. This demonstrates that support is being successfully targeted towards those families most at risk of poverty and disadvantage, while also highlighting the multiple and complex challenges experienced by many families accessing support.
- Lone parents remained the largest national priority group supported, followed by families with a disabled child or family member, families with three or more children, and minority ethnic families
- The significant reach into both national and local priority groups demonstrates the effectiveness of partnership working, referral pathways and targeted engagement activity across West Dunbartonshire.
- The number of parents from priority family groups supported increased from 457 in 2023/24, to 643 in 2024/25, and further to 690 in 2025/26. This represents an increase of 233 parents (51%) over the two-year period and an increase of 47 parents (7%) since 2024/25.
- The number of national child poverty priority group instances increased from 643 in 2024/25 to 774 in 2025/26, representing an increase of 131 instances (20.4%). This demonstrates an increased reach into families most at risk of child poverty and highlights the effectiveness of targeted engagement and support activity.

While we have supported, and will continue to support, significant numbers of parents to secure positive outcomes and improvements in their lives, the impact on their lives is clear.

These benefits include:

1. **Financial Stability:** securing work provides a steady income, reducing financial stress and improving living conditions for the family.
2. **Improved Quality of Life:** With better income, parents can afford better housing, nutrition, healthcare, and education for their children, enhancing the overall quality of life.
3. **Positive Role Model:** Achieving a qualification and career success sets a powerful example for children and break the cycle of poverty.
4. **Increased Self-Esteem:** Gaining qualifications and securing a job can boost self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment, leading to a positive outlook on life.

NHS Golden Jubilee

Throughout 2025/2026, NHS Golden Jubilee (NHS GJ) worked with West Dunbartonshire partners to deliver a host of activities aligned with the child poverty driver of income through employment. Activities ranged from King's Trust enrichment events delivered by the NHS Scotland Academy, attending the West College careers event and facilitating site visits and tours for local high school pupils.

Examples of activities include:

- The NHS GJ's annual Careers Information Evening was attended by approximately 150 pupils from S3 to S6. Attendees were targeted through active engagement with the Local Employability Partnership, the West Dunbartonshire Council Working 4 U service and the local school networks across West Dunbartonshire.
- The Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel (GJCH) delivered a Basic Hospitality Skills course in collaboration with Hub International. The course aimed at those under 24 years old with no employment and no formal educational background, reached 72 local participants. This resulted in 8 work experience placements which led to 2 full time roles within the GJCH.

NHS GJ activities provided young people in West Dunbartonshire with knowledge, experience and encouragement to explore careers in the NHS. They increased awareness of the wide range of roles available beyond traditional clinical positions such as doctors and nurses. For many events, this included the range of hospitality roles within the GJCH. By highlighting the breadth of opportunities, many of which have entry-level requirements, the events encouraged interest from individuals who may not previously have considered a career in healthcare or hospitality. Events also helped identify alternative pathways for those who may not have received the qualifications required for direct access into their preferred role. In addition, events allowed young people to engage with NHS GJ staff who shared knowledge and experience of their own career journey while supporting meaningful community engagement. NHS GJ also provided a 4-week senior phase work experience placement with West Dunbartonshire Council's 'Career Ready' team. The placement significantly increased the participant's confidence and led directly to employment.

As an Anchor Institution, NHSGGC continues to create opportunities for people to access sustainable employment and develop rewarding careers within the NHS. During 2025/26, 109 apprentices, including Graduate Apprentices, were supported through a range of training

programmes, with 42 Modern Apprentices progressing into permanent employment on completion. Career-focused engagement also supported 94 DWP clients, helping to increase awareness of NHS career pathways and reduce barriers to entering the workforce. In addition, outreach activities delivered through STEM events and Scottish Apprenticeship Week engaged around 2,000 people, promoting opportunities to progress into education, training and employment.

The following case study based on lived experience serves to illustrate the benefits of comprehensive support.

Miss C Gains Financial Stability and Begins Her Journey Towards a Future Career

Miss C is a young lone parent with a daughter. She was referred to Working4U by the NHS Family Nurse Partnership when her daughter was six months old. At the time, after the birth of her daughter Miss C was experiencing significant financial hardship. As a care experienced young person with ADHD, she faced additional challenges and had recently left a coercive relationship.

Through support from her keyworker, applications were completed for Child Benefit, Scottish Child Payment, Best Start Foods and amendments to Universal Credit. Additional support was secured through shopping vouchers, Cash First Funding and the West Dunbartonshire Council Welfare Fund, helping Miss C overcome immediate financial pressures and establish greater stability. This support enabled her to access all benefits she was entitled to and develop confidence in managing her finances.

As her situation improved, Miss C began exploring options for her future. She then focused on pursuing further education and a career in nursing.

The impact on Miss C and her daughter has been significant. With increased confidence and financial security, Miss C successfully secured a place on the SWAP Access to Nursing course at Glasgow Clyde College. Support was also provided to secure a student bursary, childcare funding, a nursery placement, travel costs, and a laptop to support her studies.

Miss C has quoted:

"I have been involved with Working 4U and they have been a massive help, from supporting me with benefits, getting me vouchers when I'm struggling financially, getting me grants and helping me access funding for my college course."

Partnership working has been central to Miss C's progress, involving the NHS Family Nurse Partnership, Glasgow Clyde College Student Funding Team, Social Security Scotland and Nursery. With the right support in place, Miss C is now taking positive steps towards a nursing career and building a brighter future for herself and her daughter

Financial Gain	Amount
Scottish Welfare Fund – Crisis Grant	£530
Best Start Food Payment	£440
Cash First Fund	£43.50 (4-weekly)
Child Benefit	£25.60 (weekly)
Laptop	£120

In the forthcoming year we aim to consolidate the achievements to date and continue supporting parents in their journey towards and into employment.

In 2026/27 we will:

- Work through the Family Prosperity Network (FPN) data group to focus efforts on communities facing the highest levels of disadvantage, building on the 51% increase in support for priority groups achieved over the past two years.
- Collaborate with external employability service providers to ensure their interventions support the most vulnerable and that they meet fair work standards.
- Strengthen the role of the local employability partnership in encouraging access to opportunities for vulnerable residents within anchor organisations.
- Continue to build on and design services with a focus on priority groups to ensure continued progress and greater alignment with the Childrens Services Integrated Plan.

Assuming a similar level of *No One Left Behind*, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Local Growth Fund combined match the previous year's funding, and Skills Development Scotland Modern Apprenticeship contracts, we anticipate that we will:

- Support 200 people through apprenticeships and in-work progression.
- Support 1,000 people to enter education or training.
- Support 1,000 people to achieve a qualification.
- Support 220 parents to secure a positive destination, including employment or improved employment, apprenticeships, further/higher education, or volunteering.
- Assist 400 people to secure employment.

Family Prosperity Network Partnership Working (Cross Cutting)

Integrated Children's Services Plan

In West Dunbartonshire there is a shared commitment to Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). GIRFEC is an evolving process of assessment, analysis, action and review based on a National Practice Model. The approach supports practitioners working with children, young people and families to identify needs at the earliest opportunity and coordinate support that improves outcomes and reduces inequalities.

The current West Dunbartonshire Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 has continued to provide a strong framework for partnership working across education, health, social work, third sector organisations and communities. The Plan is aligned with Community Planning priorities and focuses on ensuring that children and young people:

- Have the best possible start in life and are ready to succeed.
- Are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Have improved life chances, particularly those at risk of poorer outcomes.

Progress and Impact

During 2025/26, the Integrated Children's Services Partnership continued to strengthen its focus on early intervention, prevention and whole-family support, recognising the significant impact that poverty and inequality have on children and families. There has been continued progress in developing services that are relational, community-based and centred around the needs and rights of children and young people.

Partnership activity has supported improvements across a range of priorities, including children's rights, care experience, mental health and wellbeing, educational attainment, poverty reduction and inclusion. Existing programmes have been maintained and strengthened, while new approaches have been developed to respond to emerging needs and identified gaps in provision.

A key feature of this work has been the continued development of Family Wellbeing and Whole Family Support approaches, helping partners to intervene earlier, reduce crisis demand and improve coordination of support for families experiencing financial hardship and multiple disadvantages.

The Family Prosperity Network continues to play a significant role in supporting delivery of the child poverty ambitions within the Integrated Children's Services Plan. Through collaboration with partners across employability, income maximisation, education, housing, health, childcare and community services, the Network provides a key mechanism for addressing both the drivers and impacts of poverty.

Through the development and delivery of integrated services, partners have continued to support actions that reduce the cost of the school day, improve access to financial inclusion and income maximisation services, strengthen employability pathways for parents and carers, and ensure families can access coordinated support at the earliest opportunity. These approaches contribute directly to local child poverty objectives and support delivery of the Scottish Government's child poverty ambitions through increased household income, reduced living costs and improved family wellbeing.

As the next Integrated Children's Services Plan is developed, the Family Prosperity Network will continue to support implementation and ensure that child poverty remains a central

consideration across partnership planning, service design and delivery, helping to improve outcomes for children, young people and families across West Dunbartonshire.

Educational Services

A range of approaches are being implemented across Educational Services to address child poverty and narrow the poverty-related attainment gap. As a result, the impact of these interventions on outcomes for children and young people has ensured:

- Positive attainment and equity outcomes being achieved for children and young people living in the most deprived communities.
- The contribution of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), Strategic Equity Funding (SEF), Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision and family support interventions in reducing barriers to learning.
- The impact of the SHINE holiday programme has helped address food insecurity and increased opportunity to participate in a range of holiday activities.

Our key strategic priorities in educational services have been tackling child poverty and improving educational outcomes for children and young people affected by socio-economic disadvantage. Educational Services has maintained a strong focus on equity through implementation of the Strategy for Excellence and Equity and the Scottish Attainment Challenge. Planning has prioritised closing the poverty-related attainment gap, improving health and wellbeing, strengthening partnerships with families and communities, and raising attainment for all learners.

Attainment and Equity

Recent Educational Services reporting demonstrates that West Dunbartonshire continues to perform strongly in attainment and equity measures compared to national comparators. Children and young people from the most deprived communities continue to achieve positive outcomes in literacy and numeracy, with local attainment gaps remaining narrower than many national comparators. In primary schools serving the most deprived communities, attainment in reading and writing was reported as 4 percentage points higher than the Scottish average, while numeracy attainment was 3 percentage points higher. At secondary level, attainment for young people living in the most deprived areas was 10 percentage points higher than the national average in literacy. In addition, West Dunbartonshire continues to maintain poverty-related attainment gaps in literacy and numeracy that are narrower than the national average, demonstrating sustained progress in improving both equity and excellence

[Children and young people in deprived areas achieving in education | West Dunbartonshire Council](#)

Pupil Equity Funding and Strategic Equity Funding

Schools continue to utilise Pupil Equity Funding to deliver targeted interventions aimed at overcoming barriers associated with poverty. Funding supports:

- Additional teaching and support staff;
- Family support workers;
- Literacy and numeracy programmes;
- Attendance and engagement initiatives;
- Wellbeing and nurture approaches; and
- Targeted support for vulnerable learners and families.

These interventions reflect national evidence identifying family engagement, attendance improvement and targeted support as effective approaches to reducing the poverty-related attainment gap.

Early Years and Early Intervention

Educational Services continues to prioritise early intervention through high-quality Early Learning and Childcare provision and targeted support for vulnerable and eligible children.

Key approaches include:

- Early identification of need;
- Enhanced support for vulnerable two-year-olds;
- Improved transitions into primary education;
- Multi-agency planning and intervention; and
- Additional support for care experienced children and young people

These approaches are recognised nationally as key contributors to reducing long-term inequalities in attainment.

Family Engagement and Child Poverty

The Parental and Family Engagement Strategy continues to support families impacted by poverty and aligns with the Child Poverty Action Group Cost of the School Day framework.

Targeted support is provided to:

- Families experiencing poverty;
- Care experienced children and families;
- Young carers;
- Families on the edge of care; and
- Children and young people with additional support needs.

SHINE Holiday Programme

The SHINE (School Holidays Involve Nurture and Engage) programme continues to provide a significant local response to holiday hunger.

The programme delivers:

- Free holiday activity programmes;
- Meal provision during school holidays;
- Community-based opportunities for children and families; and
- Targeted support for vulnerable groups and children with additional support needs.

This investment contributes directly to reducing food insecurity, promoting inclusion and supporting the wellbeing of children and young people during holiday periods.

Educational Services continues to deliver a robust and evidence-informed approach to tackling child poverty and narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap. Through targeted use of Pupil Equity Funding, early intervention and early years provision, strengthened family engagement and investment in holiday hunger programmes, West Dunbartonshire has maintained positive attainment and equity outcomes for children and young people affected by poverty. These approaches are consistent with the priorities of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and the 2026 National Improvement Framework. Continued progress will require sustained focus on early intervention, partnership working and targeted support, particularly in light of the ongoing reduction in Strategic Equity Funding.

The Promise in West Dunbartonshire

The Promise is Scotland's commitment to ensuring that all children grow up loved, safe and respected. It recognises that poverty can create significant challenges for families and that improving family wellbeing is fundamental to preventing children from experiencing care wherever this is safe and appropriate.

During 2025/26, West Dunbartonshire continued to strengthen its implementation of The Promise through greater participation, improved support for care experienced children and families, and service redesign focused on early intervention and family support. A significant milestone was the development of the Voices of the Promise project, funded through £160,000 of Corra Promise Partnership Funding. This has increased opportunities for children, young people and families with lived experience of care and support services to influence both strategic planning and service delivery. The project has established an Experts by Experience group and supported young people to shape local priorities, including work around siblings relationships.

Supporting children to remain within family networks has remained a key priority. West Dunbartonshire continues to have one of the highest proportions of looked after children living in kinship care in Scotland, with 49% of looked after children living in kinship care compared with a national average of 34%. During 2025/26, work progressed to improve

support for kinship families through revised assessment procedures, the development of an Independent Kinship Panel and exploration of a dedicated point of contact for kinship carers.

There has also been significant expansion of independent advocacy provision for care experienced children and young people, ensuring that more children and young people are supported to have their views heard in decisions affecting their lives. Alongside this, work has continued to strengthen trauma-informed practice, improve support for sibling relationships and embed a more compassionate, rights-based approach across services.

West Dunbartonshire continues to deliver a range of anti-poverty measures for care experienced young people, including Council Tax exemption up to age 26, rent abatement for care leavers in further education and apprenticeships, a £2,500 tenancy set-up grant, access to housing through the Care Leavers Housing Protocol, funded early learning and childcare for eligible care experienced families, and free leisure passes for care experienced young people aged 12-26 years.

Priorities for 2026/27

The priorities for the coming year are focused on ensuring that family support, participation and early intervention remain central to Keeping The Promise. This includes:

- Continuing implementation of the "What Would It Take?" redesign programme to safely reduce the need for children to enter care and increase support available to families at an earlier stage.
- Strengthening support available to kinship carers and kinship families.
- Expanding opportunities for children, young people and families to influence service design and decision-making through Voices of the Promise, the Champions Board and wider participation activity.
- Further developing data and evidence to better understand children's and families' experiences and inform service improvements.
- Continuing to strengthen advocacy, trauma-informed practice and support for brothers and sisters relationships.
- Supporting implementation of national Promise reforms, including changes arising from the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill.

This work will support West Dunbartonshire's commitment to reducing the impact of poverty on children and families while continuing to deliver on the ambitions of The Promise.

Stronger Starts, Stronger Futures

Stronger Starts, Stronger Futures is a partnership between West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnerships which provides targeted support to women experiencing a range of challenges during pregnancy, including poverty, homelessness, mental health difficulties, problematic substance use, domestic abuse and social work involvement. Through a holistic and person-centred approach, the programme helps women maximise their income, improve financial capability and access wider support to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. During 2025/26, the service continued to build strong partnership links with maternity services, social work and third sector organisations, ensuring women received support at an early stage. In West Dunbartonshire, 12 referrals were received, with 10 women engaging with the service. Across 44 recorded contacts, the project secured financial gains of £19,438.36 through benefit maximisation, debt advice, council tax support, energy-related assistance and access to charitable funding.

Feedback from participants demonstrates the wider impact of the programme beyond financial gains. Women reported feeling listened to, supported and less isolated at a time when many felt overwhelmed and unsure where to seek help. The service helped improve knowledge and confidence around benefits, legal rights, budgeting and financial management, enabling participants to make informed decisions for themselves and their families. During 2026/27, Stronger Starts, Stronger Futures will continue to focus on alleviating immediate hardship, increasing household income and reducing cost of living pressures for vulnerable families, while strengthening partnership working and ensuring support is available at the earliest opportunity to improve outcomes for mothers and children.

Summary

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare and publish annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs).

The report should illustrate action that will contribute to the reduction of child poverty. Specific emphasis should be placed on income maximisation for families with children and those families whose income/expenditure is adversely affected because of a member's protected characteristics.

We have identified, throughout the report, activity and services in West Dunbartonshire that are designed to achieve that aim. We will co-ordinate these efforts through the Family Prosperity Network and will report progress through Community Planning West Dunbartonshire.

Our Planned approach and measures of success are outlined in Appendix 1 and 1a.

Appendix 1: Family Prosperity Network Objectives and Approach

Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD) Vision 'To develop West Dunbartonshire as a place where people choose to live, work, explore, visit and invest.'						
Family Prosperity Network Aim: To work in partnership through the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire to reduce the level of child poverty in West Dunbartonshire and bring it closer to the City Region average. Objectives: We will do this by improving our understanding and raising awareness of how poverty affects families and children and by addressing the drivers of poverty through partnership working. Our focus will be placed on actions to: • Alleviate immediate hardship through cash first approaches. • Reduce the cost-of-living for families with children with specific emphasis placed on those most in need. • Maximise income from benefits through the provision of good quality debt and money advice, guidance and representation and focussed campaign. • Maximise income from employment through the provision of employability and learning services						
Our approach: The Family Prosperity Network will take the lead in co-ordinating efforts that aim to have an impact on addressing the drivers of poverty and reporting progress. Working alongside the Community Planning Partnership Delivery Improvement Groups and existing partnerships we will use the available knowledge and expertise to investigate the lived experience and impact of poverty on parents and children's lives and work together to mitigate that impact by addressing the drivers of poverty (crisis, income, costs). The Family Prosperity Network will collate information provided by existing partnerships and organisations to illustrate what has been done and what will be done to alleviate child poverty. This will inform priorities for action; provide content for the Local Child Poverty Annual Report; and form the basis of progress reports for the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire Management Board.						
WDCPP: Nurtured, Flourishing, Safe, Empowered, Independent						
West Dunbartonshire Council (W4U)/ NHS GG& Clyde lead with Key partnerships input from:						
Community Empowerment WDCVS The Food Insecurity Network Cash First Project (Reduce the cost of living alleviate immediate hardship and cash first fund – understand lived experience)	Children and Families Integrated Services Education Services The Promise SHINE Programme (Reducing the cost of living, for example reducing the cost of the school day - alleviate hardship-)	Health and Social Care NHS GG&C Golden Jubilee Health Improvement Team Social Care Services Community Justice Targeted actions and Opportunities/understand lived experience.	Benefit and Debt Information and Advice partnership. Working4U Citizens Advice Bureau Social Security Scotland DWP (maximise income from benefits)	Economic Development, Local Employability Fair Work Employability Social Benefit (maximise income from work)	West Dunbartonshire Crisis support and Cost of Living Initiatives Welfare Funds Discretionary and Passported benefits (Alleviate hardship reduce the cost of living)	Housing Solutions Partnership WDC Housing Services RSL (Alleviate Hardship/Trigger events)
Success: Specific Actions to address drivers of poverty and progress indicators: Residents understanding whats available and report improvements in their quality of lives because of support						

Appendix 2: How we will know we are Successful

We will now we have been successful when parents can tell us that they know where to go to obtain help, they find the services relevant, and they are confident that help will assist them to make the changes they need to address their circumstances. Importantly, they can also report that they have improved the quality of life for themselves and their children.

Meanwhile, the Family Prosperity Network has established several indicators that will demonstrate the outcome of actions that we are taking to address child poverty. We have grouped these into categories based on the drivers of poverty reduction and set them alongside our aim to stabilise household circumstances.

These are the baseline indicators; further indicators will be developed as new approaches are established.

Alleviate Immediate Hardship

- Number of families from priority groups receiving support through the Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments.
- Number of families from priority groups receiving support from the West Dunbartonshire 'cash first' initiative funded by the Scottish Government.

Income from Employment:

- Number of parents from child poverty priority groups supported employability initiatives.
- Number of parents from priority groups receiving training.
- Number of parents from priority groups securing a qualification.
- The number of parents from child poverty priority groups into work.
- The number of parents from child poverty priority groups into work in anchor institutions (including NHS and local authorities), from child poverty priority groups.
- Number of Modern Apprentices recruited from child poverty priority groups.

Income from Benefit

- Total verified financial gain for clients from households with dependent children accessing local authority funded money and welfare rights advice.
- Total number of clients from households with dependent children accessing local authority funded money and welfare rights advice due to debt, and total debt owed.

Cost of living

- The proportion of parents not making full use of 1140 hours, by priority group parents.
- The number of eligible parents who uptake entitlement to 2-year-old places at ELCC.
- Proportion of priority families in receipt of passported benefits and child benefits.
- Number of households with dependent children in Council Tax arrears.
- Number of households with dependent children in rent arrears, living in social housing.
- Number of patients (pregnant women, families with children) referred to money and welfare rights advice from the following settings: Midwifery; Health Visiting; Family Nurses and GP settings (and financial gain for those referrals).

This document is available in other languages, large print and audio format on request including:

Arabic هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.



British Sign Language users can contact us via [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#),

Chinese (Cantonese) 本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

Gaelic

Tha an sgriobhainn seo cuideachd ri fhaighinn ann an cànanan eile, ann an clò mòr, agus ann an cruth claisneachd ma thèid iarraidh

Hindi अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

Urdu

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔

Polish

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formacie audio.

Ukrainian

Цей документ також доступний іншими мовами, великим шрифтом та в аудіоформаті за запитом.



01389 737527



West Dunbartonshire Council, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton, G82 1QL



communications@west-dunbarton.gov.uk