



## Challenge Poverty Week 2021

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dumfries & Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership



“On the Up” was Dumfries & Galloway Council’s first Anti-Poverty Strategy covering the period from 2015 to 2020 and following on from its successful evaluation, a new way forward to tackle poverty and inequalities was developed and agreed by both Dumfries & Galloway Council and also our regionwide Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership.

The new approach builds on the learning from our first Strategy, and a thorough assessment of the current challenges facing the area, in the form of a new Poverty and Inequalities Strategy that can engage all stakeholders within Dumfries and Galloway that are able to contribute to the achievement of our vision.

Following on from the above, a new Poverty and Inequalities Partnership has been developed which includes all members from the former Tackling Poverty Co-Ordination Group and all of our Region’s community planning partners.

This new partnership has appointed an Independent Chair, Professor Malcolm Foley who now leads the monthly meetings of the Partnership which began in August 2021. Three Sub-Groups have now been agreed which will take forward all of the six new Objectives which will ultimately achieve the new Vision of the Strategy detailed below:

**Our vision is of a Dumfries and Galloway in which local action has driven poverty as low as possible and has mitigated as far as possible the impact of poverty when experienced.**

Our new Poverty and Inequality Strategy Objectives are:

- Outcome Objective 1: Tackle severe and persistent poverty and destitution
- Outcome Objective 2: Maximising income of people facing poverty
- Outcome Objective 3: Reducing the financial pressures on people in poverty

- Outcome Objective 4: Building individuals and communities' ability to deal with the effects of poverty
- Enabling Objective 1: Building organisational and system capacity
- Enabling Objective 2: Addressing barriers to access

Our Sub-Groups are all detailed below:

- Sub-Group 1 – “Tackling severe and persistent poverty and destitution” and “Building individual and community resilience to poverty”.
- Sub – Group 2 – “Measuring income of people facing poverty”
- Sub-Group 3 - “Reducing financial pressures on people facing poverty”
- Sub-Group 4 – Child Poverty

This means a Dumfries and Galloway where:

- Far fewer people experience persistent and severe poverty and destitution.
- Those most vulnerable to experiencing poverty receive the help they need.
- Residents get the support they need from the benefit system.
- Residents in poverty do not face extra costs because of poverty, nor the extra costs of rural of poverty.
- Those experiencing debt get the help they need to deal with it.
- People are not digitally excluded because of poverty.
- People have greater ability to manage financial challenges.
- Individuals and families dealing with poverty can access the support they need in local communities from organisations they trust.
- People needing support to deal with, and /or exit poverty, get to that support at the right time.
- Poverty is not a barrier to accessing public services or employment.

Our Vision for partners working to tackle poverty in Dumfries and Galloway is one which builds on the work already happening in the area, where:

- Local partners maximise their impact through a partnership, whole organisation, whole system and action-focused approach.
- Organisations and staff at all levels within them understand the contribution that their organisation and team, and they personally, can make to tackling poverty in all their work.
- Every initiative taken forward by the public and voluntary sectors considers its impact on people in poverty, and access issues for people in poverty, and their actions do not at any point add to the burden of people in poverty.
- Funding and activity focuses most on those in most need.
- Organisations learn from each other's successes and mistakes.

The new Poverty and Inequalities Strategy is focused on:

- Setting out its own key objectives that will guide new and additional work.
- Reversing the above approach, setting out mechanisms for influencing other strategies, action plans and policies, rather than bringing other strategies into this one.

And the Strategy will support the development and delivery of projects, services and practices which:

- Directly increase the amount of money in people's pockets.
- Reduce the financial pressures on people in poverty.
- Increase individual, household and community resilience to poverty.
- Reduce barriers to accessing services that tackle poverty
- Reduce the poverty-related barriers to accessing services generally.

For more information on our new Poverty and Inequalities Partnership, please contact Wendy Jesson, Anti-Poverty Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Council on 0788 094 2909 or by e-mail on [Wendy.Jesson@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.Jesson@dumgal.gov.uk).