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Clare Haughey MSP
Convener, Health, Social Care & Sport
Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email

12 March 2026

Dear Convener,

This afternoon I have laid *Bringing Hope, Building Futures* before the Scottish Parliament. As the third and final Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, this sets out a robust and enduring framework for 2026-31 that will enable the next Scottish Government to meet the statutory 2030 child poverty targets. Focusing on action in the first year, this provides foundations on which any incoming administration can build and reflect its own policy priorities and plans for accelerating progress.

The Plan and associated documents can be read in full at [Bringing Hope, Building Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#). For ease the Plan is provided alongside this letter.

The framework established retains focus on the drivers of child poverty reduction and outlines four key themes – increasing earned incomes, reducing the costs of living, maximising incomes from social security and benefits in kind, and supporting children and families to thrive. It also maintains focus on the families and groups at greatest risk of poverty, including the six priority family types we have previously identified, taking a gendered approach to ensure our actions can create change for those parents, families and children who need it most.

Through the Scottish Budget and Spending Review we have already committed to a range of measures to tackle poverty and reduce the cost of living for families. This includes investment of more than £100 million over three years to support delivery of a universal breakfast club offer for primary school aged children, with provision in all primary and special schools by August 2027, and our commitment to increase the value of our Scottish Child Payment to £40 per week for all children under the age of 1.

The Plan goes further, backed by considerable investment including every penny of funding previously committed to our Two Child Limit Payment, to accelerate progress over the coming year and deliver real and tangible change for families across Scotland.

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Today I have announced a range of new measures to strengthen support for families. Building on investment committed to our Colleges Raising Income through Skills and Education (RISE) initiative, this includes a new £2 million Training Access Fund and £10 million Flexible Workforce Development Fund – to help parents access the skills and training they need to enter, sustain and progress in work. I have announced our intention to invest up to £19 million to develop a new Transport to Employment offer for low income parents, supporting parents with transport costs to access training and employability support, and a further £15 million for childcare support. I have also set out our commitment to invest a further £9 million to help mitigate the impact of the UK Government’s Local Housing Allowance freeze – preventing homelessness, and supporting up to 18,000 families to meet rent costs and maintain their tenancies.

Underpinning the action in *Bringing Hope, Building Futures* is our commitment to enabling Whole Family Support and realising a transformative shift toward support that is more joined-up, easier to navigate, and shaped around what families really need. Building on our existing investment in Fairer Future Partnerships and Whole Family Wellbeing Funding, we have set out how we will go even further. This includes the launch today of a new £20 million [Whole Family Support Third Sector Delivery Fund](#) to help scale up support for families in their communities. It also includes investing up to £5 million in new and ambitious data projects which makes the best use of data and helps families receive the support they need.

The Plan reinforces the importance of working with NHS Boards, including through increased investment to expand the Family Nurse Partnership Programme, a further £2.2 million to expand Whole Family Support in General Practice in Glasgow – delivering targeted preventative support for 500 families, and through investment of £4.2 million to strengthen NHS Scotland’s employability infrastructure and deliver 200 paid placements for parents at greatest risk of poverty.

Informed by wide ranging consultation and engagement with stakeholders, parents, children and young people across Scotland, the Plan details 15 interconnected areas where focused action is needed over the life of the next Scottish Parliament. Ending child poverty cannot be achieved by government alone, it requires all of Scotland to play its part, and this Plan acts as a catalyst to accelerate progress ahead of 2030.

We have also published updated modelling which estimates that Scottish Government will keep 100,000 children – or 1 in every 10 – out of relative poverty next year. This is the scale of the difference we have made together in Scotland, and the impact that our action will have against the strongest headwinds.

Bringing Hope, Building Futures provides a framework which is grounded in hope – recognising the progress we have made to date and committing to building on this by taking further ambitious action to deliver lasting change for our children and communities.

I am grateful for the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee’s response to our call for evidence last year, which has helped to shape the Delivery Plan.

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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