

# Child Poverty: Parental Employment Inquiry

## Submission by East Renfrewshire Council

13 September 2022

What employability services are there in your area that currently provide support targeted at parents, particularly parents in the 'priority groups' set out in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan?

Parental Employment Support Key Worker Employability Support (part of our Work EastRen Employability Services offer) with a particular focus on lone parents, family where the parent or child has a disability, parents with 3 or more children, parents from an ethnic minority, and parents with youngest child under 1 years old or parents aged under 25 years old. Works in partnership with an adviser from the Money Advice and Rights Team who provides better off calculations and financial advice and guidance.

Other providers include DWP, SDS and we have a carers centre that can provide support for parents / children who are caring for a family member.

How do these projects link to other relevant services, for example, local childcare providers, local training providers, and local employers?

The Parental Employment Support (PES) key worker links in with other employability services locally including local training providers and local employers through our Local Employability Partnership (LEP). The programme offers an Employment Recruitment Incentive (ERI) through the Business Liaison Officer who has well-established links with local employers throughout the East Renfrewshire vicinity. The programme also has close links with local childcare providers both internally and externally. Joint working with Money Advice and Rights Team.

What specific challenges does your local employability partnership face, for example, because of geographic area or levels of poverty?

The Local Authority area has lower levels of child poverty compared to our neighbours therefore there is a mentality that the issues doesn't affect East Renfrewshire as it is classed as an affluent area.

There are also poor transport links within the local authority area which means that employment roles are not always easily accessible or frequent.

The area also faces challenges in accessing childcare as the childcare that is needed for the roles, has extensive waiting lists. Education places for Holiday Camps have been cut due to increasing number of people accessing these - in turn means that families are unable to access the free holiday camp spaces.

Cost of Living crisis will have an impact on all walks of life – incomes being squeezed, rising in-work poverty, increased unemployment, food insecurity, fuel poverty, child poverty, unequal impacts of energy rises, negative impacts on sectors – particularly hospitality, job insecurity, rising house costs, disadvantaged communities will be hit the hardest.

How do you expect employability service delivery in your area will change in response to the second Child Poverty Delivery Plan?

We hope to be able to offer more accessible roles and routes for parents to get back into employment and to offer more support for childcare funding. It would be beneficial to be able to monitor the families for a period of time as with the cost of living crisis families may gain employment but over time this may not be easy to maintain if it involves paying for childcare, travel etc.

We will look to local demand and data to ensure that we have the right provision in place including targeted courses, programmes and in consultation with local employers.

How will you integrate the requirements of the Child Poverty Delivery Plan into your broader approach to employability?

We will do this in consultation with our LEP and through our local and regional delivery and services plans.

What support does your employability partnership need from the Scottish Government to implement the second Child Poverty Delivery Plan?

To have more flexibility around funding for childcare / transport and work-based placements which are funded for unemployed parents who are looking to get back into employment. Multi - annual funding with maximum flexibility.

What does your data collection tell you about what is needed in your area to support employability amongst the priority groups set out in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan?

More accessible childcare places in the areas that families need them, better transport links around the local authority as there are jobs and parents who want to work however, they are constantly challenged with timings and costs of travel and school drop off/pick up. Opportunity to offer certificated training to parents during school hours and funded posts that work in with school hours of school holidays.

Creating more jobs that are good, high paying and secure

Is there a suitable project in your area that focuses on people we know are at higher risk of poverty that you think we might be able to visit?

Parental Employment Support Key Worker (PES)