Dear Angela,

Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill Delivery Plan

Many thanks for your letter of the 15 December 2017 on the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill and the Delivery Plan to meet the targets set out in this legislation.

The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee welcomes the opportunity to respond to you and believes consulting with Committees not traditionally associated with scrutinising issues concerned with child poverty is a welcome and positive step.

In terms of challenges, the Committee suggests you might wish to consider:

- the impact of climate change on communities which may exacerbate issues associated with poverty (such as flooding); and
- the rural aspect of many of the challenges you have identified, such as the availability and affordability of housing.

In terms of the potential roles for agencies outwith the Scottish Government, the Committee suggests you might consider those working to improve equality of access to the outdoors and Scotland’s natural environment, which can be beneficial for physical and mental health. The maintenance and creation of greenspace in communities is particularly important in this regard, and the Committee wonders whether you might wish to consider this subject as part of your deliberations. In addition, the Committee suggests that you might consider schemes aimed at improving the employability of young people through access to the outdoors and the development of rural skills.

Yours sincerely,
Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee