

Social Justice and Social Security Committee
Thursday 29 May 2025
17th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Evidence session on Eradicating Child Poverty

Note by the Clerk

Introduction

1. At its meeting on [23 January 2025](#), the Committee agreed to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice to provide evidence on the work being done by the Scottish Government to reduce child poverty in Scotland.

Child poverty statistics

2. At its meeting on [6 February](#), the Committee agreed to schedule an evidence session on 3 April to seek initial views from key stakeholders on the [Scottish Government's child poverty statistics](#). The statistics are published annually each March and show whether the interim targets set in the current Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan have been met.

Third Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan

3. On [25 February](#), the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice wrote to the Committee to let Members know that the Scottish Government is undertaking engagement to inform the development of the third Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan and to invite views from the Committee on what should be included in the Plan.
4. At its meeting on [6 March](#), the Committee considered the Cabinet Secretary's request. Members agreed to provide a response and requested an extension to the deadline to seek the views of key stakeholders to inform the Committee's response. A deadline of 13 June was agreed.

Written submissions

5. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the evidence session with stakeholders that was scheduled for 3 April was cancelled. Members agreed to seek written evidence from those who were due to attend the meeting to provide evidence on the Scottish Government's child poverty statistics and the third Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

6. The Committee received written submissions from:

- [The Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)
- [CPAG](#)
- [Home-Start](#)
- [Aberlour](#).

Engagement

7. On 14 May, some of the Committee's members met with representatives of [Changing Realities](#), a participatory project involving parents and carers living on a low income who are working with researchers, artists and the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) to document people's experiences and identify changes.
8. Participants in the project shared their views on what should be the priorities for the next Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. A note of the meeting was circulated with the papers for last week's Committee meeting.

Clerks to the Committee
May 2025