

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

1st Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Thursday, 19 January

Child poverty and parental employment inquiry

Note by the Clerk

Introduction

1. This paper invites the Committee to agree to consider further approaches to its inquiry, evidence received, correspondence, and draft reports in private at future meetings.

Background

2. On [16 December 2021](#) the Committee agreed some of its longer-term inquiry work. This included an inquiry into child poverty and local approaches.
3. The Committee considered its overall approach to its inquiry on 9 June 2022 and agreed to come back to the detailed approach at various stages of the inquiry.
4. Stages of the phased approach were agreed as follows.

| Date | Phase |
|----------------|--|
| June to Aug 22 | Phase 1: Call for views from local employability services 8 week consultation |
| Oct to Dec 22 | Phase 2: Local case studies/visits to develop draft recommendations |
| Jan to May 22 | Phase 3: Call for views and evidence sessions Testing draft recommendations with stakeholders with national call for views and evidence sessions |
| June 2023 | Phase 4: Scottish Government evidence |
| Sept 2023 | Phase 5: Publication of Committee's Report |

Phase 1

5. Over the summer 2022, a targeted call for views aimed at the 32 [Local Employability Partnerships](#), was undertaken. Five local authorities sent a submission. Their responses are available on the engagement section of the inquiry page [here](#).

Phase 2

6. On 23 August 2022, the Committee attended an informal focus group on employability programmes hosted by the Glasgow Local Employability Partnership. A note from the focus group is available [here](#) to help inform.

7. At its meeting on 10 November 2022, the Committee agreed further visits to complete phase 2 of the inquiry. The aim of Phase 2 is to allow the Committee to develop draft recommendations for how the Scottish Government could improve its support to local areas and comment on progress in developing the employability announcements made in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

8. On 16 January, three Members from the Committee undertook a visit to North Ayrshire. On 19 and 20 January, six Members will attend a series of community visits in Uist.

9. Following the visits, Members will be required to consider their approach to the next phases of the inquiry.

Decision

10. To assist the Committee with consideration of its next steps, the Committee is invited to consider and agree to discuss further approaches, evidence received, correspondence, and draft reports, in private at future meetings.

**Clerks to the Committee
16 January 2023**