

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

11th Meeting (Session 6), Thursday 04 May 2023

Roundtable Discussion

Cost of Living: Lone Parents

Note by the Clerk

Introduction

1. In November 2022, the Committee agreed to hold a one-off session to hear the views of stakeholder organisations on the impact of the cost of living crisis on lone parents. This session follows a one-off session on the impact of the cost of living crisis on disabled people and unpaid carers on 27 April.

Background

2. The cost of living crisis has had a significant impact on people's lives, exacerbating existing inequalities, particularly those in low income households. This was highlighted by the committee's [Robbing Peter to Pay Paul: Low income and the debt trap report](#) in July 2022.
3. In November 2022, [One Parent Families Scotland](#) (OPFS) published its report [Living Without a Lifeline](#) focusing on single parenting and the cost of living crisis. The report was informed by a consultation asking single parents about the day-to-day issues they face and what policy areas the government must prioritise to support them. As part of the report, OPFS describes the daily struggles many single parents are dealing with and the sacrifices they have to make to meet the needs of their families.

Roundtable discussion

4. This week's meeting will take the format of a roundtable setting. Panel members attending in person will be seated at the committee table amongst members.
5. It is intended that the session will be a free-flowing conversation providing a better understanding of the impact of the deepening of the cost of living crisis, how things have changed for lone parents and whether [the current policies](#) and support need to be reviewed.

Clerk to the Committee
17 April 2023