

Holyrood
magazine

One-day conference

This conference can
contribute up to five
hours towards your
CPD target

CPD
CERTIFIED
The CPD Certification
Service

holyrood.com/childpoverty



TACKLING CHILD POVERTY IN SCOTLAND

Meeting national targets through local activity

Wednesday 29th September, Edinburgh

Keynote speakers include:

Alex Neil MSP *Minister for Housing and Communities, The Scottish Government*

Councillor Harry McGuigan *COSLA Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing and Safety*

Donald Hirsch *Social Policy Consultant and Head of Income Studies, Centre for Research in Social Policy, University of Loughborough*

Linda de Caestecker *Joint Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Glasgow City Council and Chair, Glasgow Child Poverty Group*

Paul Bradshaw *Research Director, Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen)*

*Also including a speaker from the **Poverty Truth Commission***

TACKLING CHILD POVERTY IN SCOTLAND

Meeting national targets through local activity

Wednesday 29th September, Edinburgh



WELCOME

Ten years on from the UK government pledging to eradicate child poverty by 2020, it is far from clear that the goal will be achieved. It is a challenge that has been embraced by The Scottish Government and local authorities, as well as a wide range of voluntary organisations yet, in spite of ten years of action across the board to address the problem, the UK has failed to meet its target of halving child poverty by 2010.

This *Holyrood* magazine Child Poverty conference is both a progress report and a unique opportunity to participate in a national consultation event. Speakers will present evidence of progress, share good practice and outline plans for future action at national and local level. Later in the day, delegates will be able to contribute ideas and comment on The Scottish Government's strategy to meet the targets placed on it by the UK Child Poverty Act. The Act, passed earlier this year

at Westminster, places a statutory duty on the devolved administrations to help meet the 2020 target.

If we have found it hard to bring about a substantial and sustained reduction in child poverty over the past ten years now, as the country struggles through recession, the total eradication of child poverty represents a truly daunting task.

The cost to society, to the economy and to individuals and families of failing to eradicate child poverty is already high. It is paid for in diminished lives and unfulfilled potential, in poor health and depressed communities. If the pace of change is not accelerated and sustained, child poverty will still be a reality in 2020.

Join us at this timely event to help ensure we meet the commitment to improve the lives and chances of Scotland's most deprived and most vulnerable children and their families.

Linda Dunion

Director, See~Change Consultancy
CONFERENCE CHAIR

Session One

Understanding need and overcoming challenges

Session one will look at the current child poverty landscape, helping to further understand the real need and the challenges of overcoming this social ill. Morning evidence sessions will hear statistical and personal accounts of lives lived in poverty, examining what this means in terms of current and future policy development. What evidence is there that current policies are / are not working? Where does there need to be more work done? In times of reduced budgets and restricted resources, hear recommendations for where governments – both local and national – should be looking to invest, and why, in order to make progress towards the ambitious national targets.

08:50 **Registration and refreshments**

09:35 **Welcome and introduction by the Chair**
Linda Dunion
Director, See-Change Consultancy

09:45 **Understanding circumstance, experiences and outcomes**
Paul Bradshaw
Research Director, Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen)

09:55 **Poverty: A personal perspective**
The Poverty Truth Commission
Representative to be named

10:05 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
The cost of child poverty
Donald Hirsch
Social Policy Consultant and Head of Income Studies, Centre for Research in Social Policy, University of Loughborough

10:25 **Questions and discussion with speakers**

10:45 **Refreshments**

Session Two

Our national commitment and starting locally

The UK Child Poverty Act was passed in April 2010, enshrining in law the commitment to reduce and eventually eradicate child poverty across the UK. The Scottish Government, in line with the requirements of the Act, has made a national commitment to this goal – a goal which will be achieved through local developments and improvements. This session will hear a national update, including what the Child Poverty Act means for Scotland, before looking at the responsibilities and opportunities at local level, such as the role of SOAs. Finally, hear about what is being done in one of Scotland's largest and most deprived areas at grass roots level.

11:05 **MINISTERIAL ADDRESS**
Scotland's commitment to eradicating child poverty
Alex Neil MSP
Minister for Housing and Communities, The Scottish Government

Followed by questions to the Minister

11:35 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Recognising local responsibilities and opportunities
Councillor Harry McGuigan
COSLA Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing and Safety

11:55 **CASE STUDY**
Linda de Caestecker
Joint Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Glasgow City Council and Chair, Glasgow Child Poverty Group

12:15 **Questions and discussion with speakers**

12:35 **Lunch**

Session Three

Sharing good practice

In this session, delegates will share good practice relating to tackling some of the main components identified as cause and effect of poverty. Hear evidence and discuss projects working to break intergenerational cycles of poverty; get more parents in to work; improve the take-home wage of those struggling on low incomes and improve housing conditions for families living in poverty. What is currently being done across the country and where can we go next?

13:25 : **SHARING GOOD PRACTICE EVIDENCE SESSIONS**

Topics to be covered include:

- **Early years and early intervention**
Hear examples of good practice in linking the three social strategies of *Equally Well*, *Achieving Our Potential*, and the *Early Years Framework* as well as work being done to engage with families in early years to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.
- **Improving employment and tackling in-work poverty**
A recent Save the Children report highlighted that 72 percent of children living in poverty have no parents in work whilst the remaining 28 percent struggle on low wages. What is being done to facilitate the take-up of employment by parents and what can be done to ensure that those who are in work are taking home a decent, living wage?
- **The role housing and communities can play**
Squalid conditions and unaffordable housing can trap families in a life of poverty. What is being done across the country to invest in housing, regeneration and communities and how is this having a positive, measurable impact on the health and social inequalities suffered by the country's poorest families?

Including short discussion time on each identified topic

14:55 : **Afternoon refreshments**

Session Four

Developing the Scottish strategy

Due to present to Parliament in April, The Scottish Government's *Tackling Poverty Team* is currently working to develop Scotland's Child Poverty Strategy. The final session of the day will be solely devoted to feeding into the development of the strategy, building on the debate and discussions had during the day and providing an opportunity to help shape one of the most significant developments and documentation of commitment in this field for a generation.

15:10 : **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

These interactive round table discussions will be held as part of a consultation exercise around the development of the Scottish Government child poverty strategy and will look to centre around creating practical solutions and processes for addressing poverty, and specifically child poverty, in Scotland.

Including an introduction by a representative of The Scottish Government

16:10 : **Summary and closing remarks by conference Chair**

16:20 : **Close of conference**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Conference Chair: Linda Dunion

Director, See~Change Consultancy

Linda established the See~Change consultancy in 2007 after 20 years working for Scottish charities. Through See~Change, Linda helps to improve the effectiveness of voluntary and public sector organisations working to achieve social change. During her career, she has held posts with Age Concern Scotland, SEAD (Scottish Education and Action for Development), Scottish Down's Syndrome Association and spent five years as the first Campaign Director of the mental ill health anti-stigma 'see me' campaign.



Paul Bradshaw

Research Director, Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen)

Since joining ScotCen in 2005, Paul has managed the Growing up in Scotland study, a large scale longitudinal birth and cohort study of 8000 Scottish families. Paul is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of the project, undertaking key activities for each wave of data and analysing and reporting findings. With their 2010 research papers, the Centre published details on the circumstances of persistently poor children looking at how many children experience persistent poverty, which children are most likely to experience this and what the outcomes for these children and their families were.



Donald Hirsch

Social Policy Consultant

As poverty advisor to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (1998-2008), Donald played a leading role in developing the Foundation's analysis of child poverty. In 2008 he conducted an analysis of the cost of child poverty in Scotland for the Scottish Government and last year published papers including 'Ending child poverty in a changing environment' and 'A minimum income standard for Britain'. Donald is also currently Head of Income Studies at the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University where he continues his analysis of what incomes people in Britain need in order to fully participate in society and what policies are needed for this to come about.



Alex Neil MSP

Minister for Housing and Communities, The Scottish Government

As the Scottish Minister responsible for Housing and Communities, Child Poverty comes under the remit of Alex Neil MSP whose work centres around improving health and wellbeing for Scotland's people. He will be directly involved in the delivery of Scotland's child poverty strategy which is currently being developed in response to the Child Poverty Act 2010.



Councillor Harry McGuigan

COSLA Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing and Safety

In his career, Cllr McGuigan has held positions ranging across Economic Development, Education, European Affairs, Housing and Social Work. As spokesperson for COSLA, as well as an elected member for both Motherwell District and North Lanarkshire Council, he is driving forward improvements across local government in Scotland in tackling child poverty.

Holyrood would like to thank our partners



