



## CPAG in SCOTLAND'S PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT: 2021 - 2026

In 2017 all political parties in the Scottish parliament unanimously passed the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act. The Act sets legal targets that mean the next Scottish government will have to ensure fewer than 18% of children are living in poverty by 2023/24, on course to less than 10% by 2030.

Important steps have already been taken, yet **1 in 4 children in Scotland are now living in poverty** and, without further action, this figure is set to rise. This **child poverty is not inevitable**. The right policies, a strong legal framework and a clear commitment and adequate investment can end it.

**All Scotland's policy levers, tax and spending powers** must be used to the fullest to ensure families have the resources they need to give their children a decent start in life. Employment, education, housing, and childcare policies must be developed with the goal of preventing and ending child poverty at their heart.

**Our Programme for Government** outlines the key policies and investments that must be made. None of these solutions on their own are a silver bullet. But together they would make a huge difference to tens of thousands of children currently denied the opportunities that growing up in Scotland should offer everyone.

*'Anything that is going to put extra money into the family budget is a good thing, is a positive thing... There has to be something done. There has to be radical plans.'* Liam, lone parent of a disabled child



CPAG in Scotland calls upon the 2021–26 Scottish parliament to:

- **put reducing child poverty at the heart of the Scottish budget process** and use Scotland’s tax and spending powers to ensure the nations income and wealth is harnessed to prevent and reduce child poverty;
- **ensure economic recovery and business support policies contribute to achieving child poverty targets;**
- **double the Scottish child payment from £10 per week to at least £20 per week within the first year of the new parliament** and then increase it so that, whatever the impact of other policies, less than 18% of children are living in poverty by 2023/24;
- **end the need for foodbanks by 2026** including by maintaining enhanced investment in the Scottish Welfare Fund and ensuring a cash-first approach to income crises replaces the distribution of emergency food;
- **remove barriers to work for mothers and for parents affected by disability**, and tackle the labour market inequality they face;
- boost the provision of **funded, good quality and flexible childcare;**
- **remove financial barriers to education** for children in Scotland, including the costs of curriculum materials, digital devices and connectivity, school trips, clothing and healthy meals; and
- develop Scotland’s social security system so that it **supports everyone to claim the benefits they are entitled to.**

To discuss the recommendations in this Programme for Government, please contact:

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