



A MANIFESTO FOR ENDING CHILD POVERTY:

Our Priorities for the 2022 Scottish Council Elections Summary

Every child has a right to a decent standard of living that meets their physical and social needs and supports their development. We believe all children should be safe, warm, fed, and able to play and learn. Yet not all families have an adequate income to meet these needs. They are now acutely vulnerable to rising food and energy prices. Across Scotland one in four children are living in the grip of this poverty. Poverty is fundamentally about a lack of money. It excludes children from the everyday activities and opportunities that their better-off peers enjoy.

However, child poverty can be solved.

Local authorities have a key role to play in ending child poverty in Scotland. Councils must prioritise action to end child poverty and use all policy levers to their fullest to ensure families have the resources they need to give their children a decent start in life. Economic development, employment, education, transport, housing and childcare policies must be developed with the goal of preventing and ending child poverty at their heart.

We believe we can end child poverty in Scotland. We are calling on council candidates to:

- **Ensure robust, time-bound plans are in place to tackle child poverty with clear outcomes and indicators to measure progress at the local level. Sufficient resources must be allocated to this work.**
- **Ensure access to an adequate supply of affordable, secure, good quality family housing.**
- **Support 'fair work' employment opportunities for all parents, with a particular focus on groups who face barriers to good quality employment including women, single parents, disabled people and Black and minority ethnic people.**
- **Ensure economic development investment decisions help tackle the drivers of child poverty.**
- **Use local powers to deliver more cash support to families.**
- **Improve access to high quality, affordable, accessible and flexible funded childcare to enable parents, particularly mothers, to access the labour market and increase their working hours.**
- **Remove all financial barriers to education for children.**
- **Invest in holistic family support.**
- **Improve data sharing to help make sure families get the support they are entitled to.**