



East Renfrewshire Local Child Poverty Action Plan

2019-2020 (Year 2)

We want all children in East Renfrewshire to experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed. This is a summary of the actions we are taking in East Renfrewshire to reduce child poverty. This includes what we have done in 2019-2020 and what we plan to do in 2020-2021, to increase family incomes and reduce costs.

The actions are reported under three areas:

- Income from employment
- Income from social security and benefits in kind
- Costs of living

It is important to note that the actions taken were prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. The future actions were set at a time of responding to the crisis and therefore are subject to change.

We will use local and national data to monitor progress.



PROFILE OF EAST RENFREWSHIRE

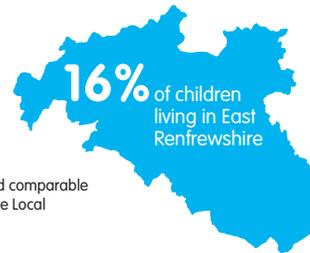
East Renfrewshire has a proportionately large population of children living in the area and a proportionately low level of child poverty in comparison to the national average. However, there is disparity in levels of poverty across the authority; varying from around one in twenty children living in poverty in the more affluent areas, to almost one in three in the less affluent areas.

The proportion of children living in poverty in East Renfrewshire is lower than the Scottish average, and comparable with the family group of Local Government Benchmarking Framework

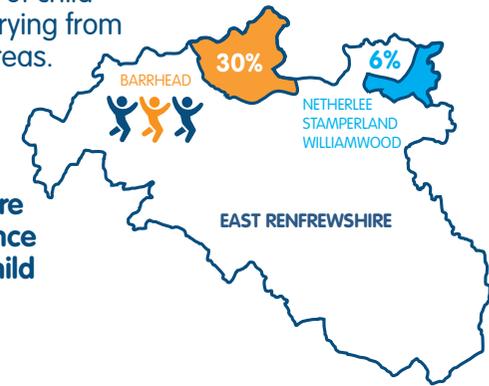
3,600
children living poverty within East Renfrewshire



This is lower than the Scottish average and comparable with East Renfrewshire's family group in the Local Government Benchmarking Framework.



Within East Renfrewshire there is a large difference in the levels of child poverty by area



INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rates and the proportion of workless households are lower in East Renfrewshire than the Scottish average, however we are already seeing a rise in the rate since COVID with further increases anticipated.

East Renfrewshire residents receive the highest average weekly full time pay in Scotland. However, residents are unlikely to be employed locally as those working in East Renfrewshire have the lowest weekly pay in the benchmarking group, with many workers earning less than the living wage.

What we have done in 2019-2020

- ✓ Brought 10 new City Deal Community Benefits jobs to the area, including 2 new apprenticeships
- ✓ Supported 3 foundation apprenticeships and 66 skills and training opportunities created and targeted at low income families
- ✓ Recruited 19 Modern Apprentices, including 2 lone parents
- ✓ Supported 8 care experienced young people to participate in a traineeship programme
- ✓ Hosted 3 jobs fairs which included local employers in care provision, hospitality and retail
- ✓ Continued work towards becoming a Living Wage accredited employer and continued to encourage local employers to adopt Fair Work practices
- ✓ Employed a Parental Employability Support Office to promote and provide a programme to support parents to progress in employment and address any barriers

What we intend to do in 2020-2021

- Review council procurement and community benefit processes to maximise focus and contribution to fair work
- Establish a Living Wage Action Group to develop and deliver an action plan to increase the number of local businesses with real Living Wage accreditation
- Implement a local model of the Parental Employability Support programme to increase skills, income, new employment and sustained employment
- Map, review and promote in-work support programmes to low income families

INCOME FROM SOCIAL SECURITY AND BENEFITS IN KIND

East Renfrewshire residents are less likely than the Scottish average to receive income from social security and benefits



This rate in East Renfrewshire (3.3%) is lower than the Scottish average of 5.4% and 330 of these claimants were between the ages of 16 and 24.

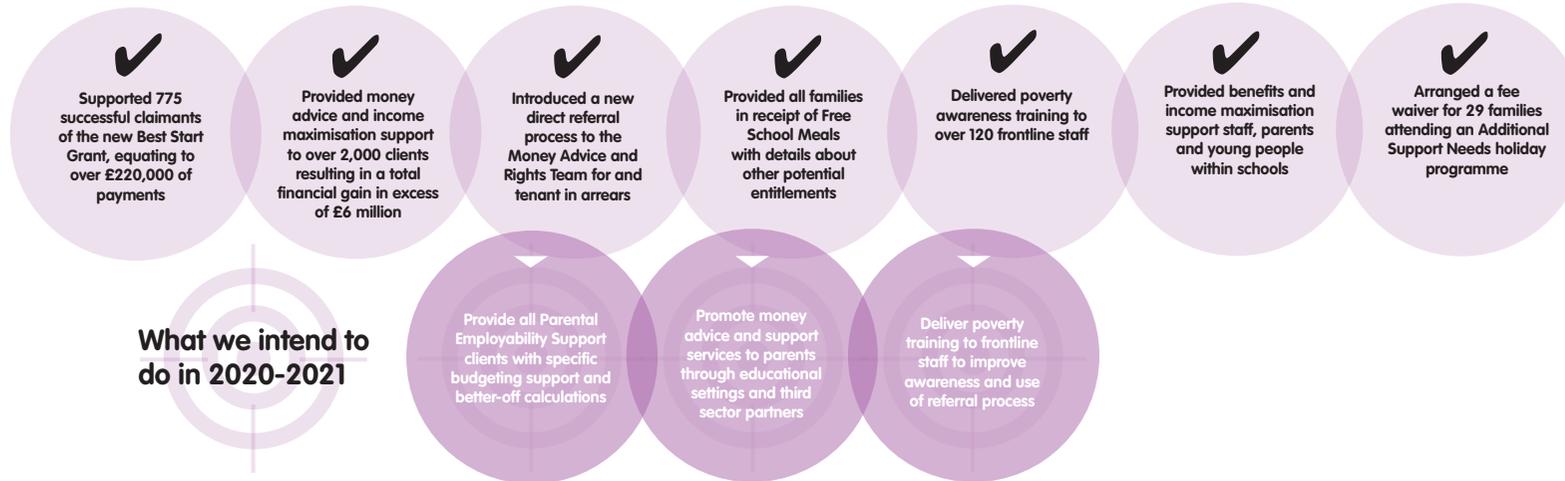


Within East Renfrewshire 7.6% of all primary pupils from P4 to P7 were registered for free school meals, this increased from 7.4% in 2016 and is lower than the Scottish average of 17.1%.



In secondary schools 7.2% of pupils are registered for free school meals, which is, again, lower than the Scottish average of 14.4%, this figure has reduced steadily every year since 2012 when 9.8% of pupils were receiving free school meals.

What we have done in 2019-2020

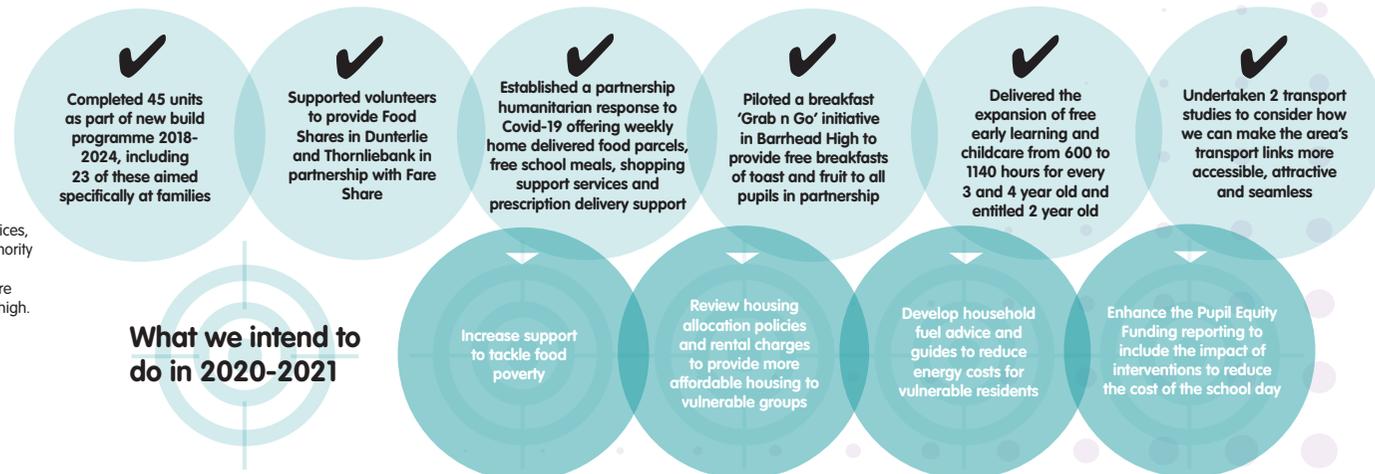


COSTS OF LIVING

What we have done in 2019-2020



Average house prices, average local authority rent and average council tax paid are all comparatively high.



Useful contacts

If you have money worries, you can contact our Money Advice and Rights Team on:
mart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or 0141 577 8420

If you need employment support, you can contact Work East Ren on:
worker@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or 0141 577 8438

Have your say

We would love to hear your opinions on the work we are doing to reduce child poverty. We are keen to get feedback on the actions we are taking and your ideas about other areas for action.

listening@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or 0141 577 4011