

Training

Supporting Families with Financial Impact of Covid

30 June 2021



INTRODUCTION

- Procure a training programme
- General poverty awareness
- Specialist training courses
- Similar courses have been delivered by;
 - CPAG,
 - The Poverty Alliance and
 - One Parent Families Scotland
- Cover our aims, objectives and learning outcomes
- Proposed activities
- Next Steps



SETTING THE SCENE

- In 2017 Child Poverty (Scotland) Act introduced by SG
- Projected levels of poverty in Scotland would increase due to Welfare Reforms such as benefit freezes and 2 child limit on tax credits.
- Anticipated impact if nothing was done is that by 2030
 - 38% of children would be in relative poverty
 - 32% of children in absolute poverty
 - 17% of children would be combined low income and material deprivation
 - 16% of children would be in persistent poverty
- Responsibility on the Council and the HSCP to work to reduce child poverty by 2030/31

IMPACT OF COVID ON FAMILIES

- IPPR report Weathering the Winter Storm published October 2020
- In A&B – SWF for Crisis and Community Care Grants stats comparing 2019/2020 volumes to 2020/2021 show;
 - Increasing number of applications up by 12.9% to 2,613 in 2020/2021
 - Increasing number of awards, 17% to 1,593
 - Increase in number of claims with children in the household of 22.3%
 - Disproportionate increase in number of households with children claiming SWF grants

TRAINING - RAISING AWARENESS

- Overarching training programme
 - General poverty awareness programme
 - Specialist training course for specific sectors of workforce
- Aimed at all Council staff primarily in Education, Social Work, Housing, Customer Services, Revs and Bens
- NHS Highland, HSCP, third sector, other Community Planning Partners including RSLs, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Argyll College , DWP



AIM

Develop and deliver high quality, engaging and accessible programme of training which would improve local workers' understanding of poverty and their interactions with people experiencing poverty, including particular vulnerable groups



OBJECTIVES

- Encourage a wide range of workers in Argyll and Bute to see that they have a role to play in supporting people experiencing poverty
- Make the voices of people with experience of poverty an integral part of the training
- Address myths, negative stereotypes and views towards people living in poverty and enable all participants to engage with people positively and act with respect and empathy



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Increase understanding of the nature of poverty in Argyll and Bute, its causes and consequences, and how these link with inequalities.
- Increase awareness of discrimination and stigma associated with poverty and how workers can positively address this.
- Increase knowledge about the different impacts of poverty and ways in which it affects people such as food poverty, fuel poverty, homelessness, the impacts of welfare reform and in-work poverty.
- Improve skills in engaging and working with people experiencing poverty, including the practical ways of working that are most likely to help
- Increase the knowledge of local sources of support and advice including the Argyll and Bute Advice Network
- Provide an opportunity to share good practice and learn from examples of things that have worked well.



ACTIVITIES

- Depending on staff numbers;
 - Up to 12 poverty awareness training sessions to be delivered by teleconference
 - 2 specialist Single Parent poverty awareness training sessions
 - Up to 6 specialist Benefit awareness training sessions
 - An e-learning module that can be shared with all CPPs

GENERIC SESSIONS

- Half Day sessions focussing on;
 - Raising general awareness of poverty in Scotland and how it relates to Argyll and Bute.
 - Increasing their knowledge of key drivers of poverty, low pay, welfare reform
 - Increasing their knowledge of experiences of living on a low income
 - Increasing their knowledge of the impact that stigma and negative language/attitudes can have on people living in poverty
- Sessions to be participative and interactive, working in small groups through a series of exercises and presentations

SPECIALIST SESSIONS

SINGLE PARENTS

- Half day sessions with focus on
 - Increasing awareness of the misconceptions around single parents and the unique issues they encounter that lead to poverty
 - Enabling an understanding of the impact of poverty and the barriers to the alleviation of poverty
 - Enabling an understanding of the barriers to work faced by single parents and how working practices can be single parent proofed.
 - Promoting and celebrating the voice of single parents and providing ongoing resources to support practitioners working with single parents in Argyll and Bute.
- Explore real single parent case studies as a method to identify with and focus on why a single parent may move into poverty.
- Enable interaction and discussion throughout with participants working in groups in the exercises to embed an understanding of single parent poverty, challenge stigma and explore barriers faced by single parents such as a alack of childcare and welfare reform.

SPECIALIST SESSIONS

BENEFITS AWARENESS

- For staff from different sectors across Argyll and Bute, sessions to cover;
 - Supporting low-income families manage benefit change
 - Support vulnerable clients manage the benefit system
 - Supporting young learners claim entitlements to benefits and student funding
 - Care-leavers and the benefit system
 - Child Poverty and welfare reform
 - Scottish Welfare Fund issues for decision makers



DEVELOP E-LEARNING COURSE

- Short interactive course covering;
 - What causes poverty, how people experience poverty and what the consequences are
 - What staff are likely to encounter people impacted by welfare reform and struggling to make ends meets
 - Practical tools to help staff support hard-up households and sources of other learning and information.

NEXT STEPS

- Identify the number of staff across all CPP organisations that could benefit from this training – Friday 15 July 2021
- Issue a mini – tender specification seeking a delivery partner to deliver this training – 31 July 2021
- Evaluate response and award contract 30 August 2021
- Planning time with delivery partner and CPP organisations to schedule sessions in a way that maximises attendance to include twilight sessions for Education staff and/or others
- Training delivery to commence from 1 October 2021.

CONTACT DETAILS

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