

# Addressing Child Poverty in Scotland – Financial Inclusion Pathways in Early Years, Children & Family Services



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[www.healthscotland.scot](http://www.healthscotland.scot)

# Housekeeping

- No planned fire drill/test
- Fire exits- location and muster point
- Male, Female & Accessible toilets- locations
- Comfort breaks & refreshments

# Collaborative Event



# Aims

To progress the development of financial inclusion pathways in Scotland by:

- sharing evidence from a national perspective;
- exchanging examples of existing financial inclusion referral pathways and;
- harnessing information and resources to support the development of local partnerships and pathways.

# NHS Health Scotland



Our **vision** is a Scotland in which all of our people and communities have a fairer share of the opportunities, resources and confidence to live longer, healthier lives.

Our **mission** is to reduce health inequalities and improve health.

# What are health inequalities?

Health inequalities are the **unfair** and **avoidable** differences in people's health across social groups and between different population groups.

# What causes health inequalities?

The fundamental causes of health inequalities are rooted in the political and social decisions and priorities that result in an unequal distribution of **income**, **power** and **wealth** across the population and between groups.

*There is a link between socio-economic disadvantage during the early years and health inequalities. The opportunity to reduce the impact of these inequalities is likely to decline as children age.*

Briefing on child poverty, NHS Health Scotland, 2013.

<http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/20578.aspx>

*Having insufficient money to lead a healthy life is a highly significant cause of health inequalities*

Marmot Review, England 2010.

<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>



# State of Child Health

Report 2017

**RCPCH**

Royal College of  
Paediatrics and Child Health  
*Leading the way in Children's Health*

RCPCH 2017

*The State of Child Health 2017  
Recommendations for Scotland*  
Royal College of Paediatric and  
Child Health

[http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/system/files/  
protected/page/SOCH-  
recommendations-Scotland.pdf](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/system/files/protected/page/SOCH-recommendations-Scotland.pdf)

‘Those children from the most deprived backgrounds are experiencing much worse health compared with the most affluent.....

.....more likely to have negative health outcomes, to be born with low birth weight or fail to thrive and be exposed to risks that perpetuate ill health such as poor diet, lack of physical activity, parental drug or alcohol misuse and being in care.....**More must be done to reduce the number of children living in poverty in Scotland and to minimise the impact of deprivation on health outcomes.’**

## What can we do?



Provide intensive support  
for most vulnerable  
children



Maximise household  
income and resources



Support parents to move  
into sustainable paid  
employment

Focus on interventions in the early years that prevent or reduce the health impact of poverty in those most at risk of, or already experiencing difficulties.

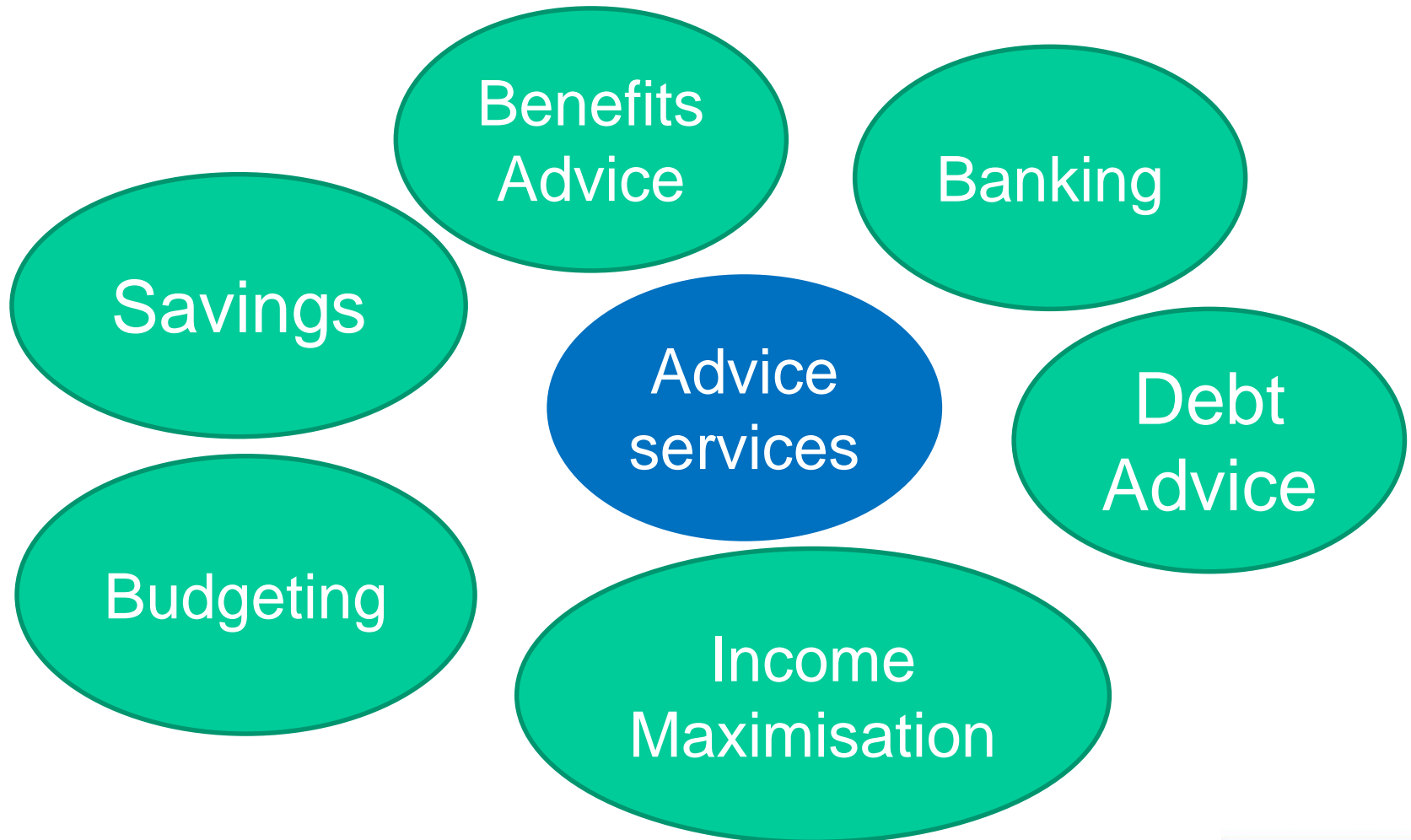
## Early years workforce

- understanding health inequalities in the early years, focusing on the impact of childhood poverty and adversity on children's health and wellbeing
- understanding the factors and actions that protect and build resilience in children including play and attachment

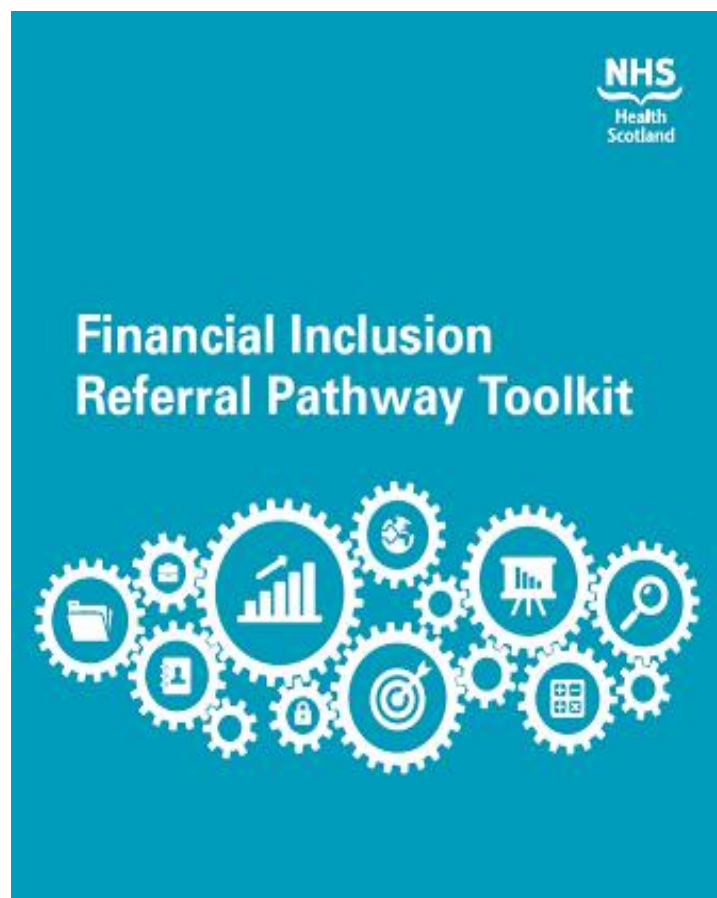
*‘If low socioeconomic status is the pre-eminent condition impacting health, then perhaps poverty should be considered a disease or at least a risk factor to be treated with income* (Bloch et al., 2008; Bloch, Rozmovits, and Giambrone, 2011; Costello, Erkanli, Copeland, & Angold, 2010). *Treating the disease of poverty with income or some kind of financial support is a political economy “medicine”. ’*

**Stephen Bezruchka** International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies (2015) 6(2): 204–229 <http://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/ijcyfs/article/view/13499>

# Financial inclusion



# NHS Health Scotland's Financial Inclusion Referral Toolkit



[http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/1255/financial-inclusion-referral-pathway-toolkit\\_aug2016\\_english.pdf](http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/1255/financial-inclusion-referral-pathway-toolkit_aug2016_english.pdf)

On behalf of **NHS Health Scotland**, I pledge to help the Scottish Government in its ambition to end child poverty in Scotland. We will take a number of key actions that will help, including:

- \* By September 2017, develop and deliver training resources and events (in partnership) to raise awareness of child poverty and its impact on health and wellbeing amongst public services staff.

- \* By March 2018, work in partnership with NHS Boards to develop national referral pathways between NHS services and local advice services to maximise the incomes of patients.

- \* By March 2018, promote the importance and adoption of routine enquiry about money worries by NHS staff to help patients maximise their incomes and referral to advice services where necessary."

Gerald McLaughlin,  
Chief Executive, NHS Health Scotland



Read the full pledge on p84

## NHS Health Scotland's pledge

### A Fairer Scotland Action Plan (Scottish Government 2016)

# Role of Universal NHS Services

## Midwives and health visitors

- Asking pregnant woman and families with young children about money issues as part of routine enquiry
- Active referral pathway to local advice service that is sensitive to needs of pregnant women and families with children
- Supported by learning and workforce development (awareness raising and understanding of poverty and its impact on health and wellbeing)

Universal Pathway for Health Visiting

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00487884.pdf>

Scottish Woman-Held Maternity Record

# Opportunities

- SG Child Poverty Bill publicised 10 February
- SG A Fairer Scotland Action Plan
- SG strategic review of advice in Scotland
- Universal Pathway for Health Visiting in Scotland
- SG Link Worker programme
- Health and Social Care Partnerships
- And .....???????