



Programme for Government SNAPSHOT FOR WOMEN

Children & Education

Children

- Introduction of the Scottish Child Payment:
 - new benefit to increase family incomes and reduce child poverty, £10 per week for each eligible child in a family, every four weeks.
 - no cap on the number of children that families can claim for.
 - uprated annually in line with inflation.
 - introduced first for families with children under 6 in recognition of the fact that of all children in poverty, almost 60% live in a family where a child is under six years old.
 - Before the pandemic, estimated that could support up 170,000 children (this has most likely increased exponentially since).
 - Aim to start taking applications for under 6s in November 2020 and for first payments to be made to eligible families from the end of February 2021.
- New Child Winter Heating Assistance in winter 2020, subject to DWP providing the necessary data on time:
 - provide families of the most severely disabled children with £200 per child to help with the cost of heating in the winter months.
 - approximately 16,000 children to qualify this year.
- Continue to review and transform maternity and neonatal services over 5 years through the Best Start programme.
- Committing to reset the pledge of 1140 free ELC hours for 3- and 4-year olds and the most vulnerable two-year olds with an assessment of readiness for the full implementation across Scotland to be announced in December 2020.

- Committing to develop and deliver a framework for school age childcare during this Parliamentary term. This will set out a vision for school age childcare in Scotland and the steps to be taken to make it more accessible and affordable.
- Incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children into Scots law, to the maximum extent of the Scottish Parliament's powers before the end of this Parliament.

Education

- Providing up to £50 million to local authorities to help implement guidance regarding schools and enhanced cleaning measures and use of PPE where appropriate.
- £80 million of additional investment in education staff, sufficient for the recruitment of around 1,400 additional teachers and 200 support staff this year:
 - this will intensify support for individuals or groups of pupils who have significant gaps in their progress as a result of lockdown, support young people who are shielding, support small groups of learners who need more intense support and cover classes for teachers who are shielding.
 - Provides scope to alter class sizes to provide more teaching and learning, and to enable more physical distancing where this is challenging.
- Encourage local authorities and schools to target support where it is most needed, giving them flexibility to redirect Attainment Scotland Funding to help mitigate the impacts of school closures on the most disadvantaged families.
- Pupil Equity Fund allocations of over £250 million for two years (2020/21 and 2021/22), extending the programme for a year after the current parliamentary term.
- Investing £30 million as part of a digital boost through provision of laptops for disadvantaged children and young people:
 - includes £25 million for rollout of digital devices to pupils to enable them to study.
 - in total, around 70,000 devices and 18,000 connectivity solutions will be provided to children and young people.

- Implementation of an Equity Audit to deepen understanding of the impact of the pandemic on children from disadvantaged backgrounds and set clear areas of focus for accelerating recovery.
- Review the level of school clothing grant with local government to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of families.
- Develop and deliver a new mental health training and learning resource for all school staff.
- Allocate £3 million to a new Youth Work for Education Recovery Fund, supporting young people to engage with youth work activities that build their confidence and skills, support their health and well-being, and address the poverty-related attainment gap.
- Appoint a leading education expert to carry out an independent review of the handling of awarding of qualifications in 2020:
 - ensure a broader independent review of the Scottish approach to assessment and qualifications takes place which will consider best practice globally and provides recommendations.
 - Provide additional funded places for university.
- Carry out a student income and expenditure survey in Scotland to provide a detailed picture of student finances, and how it affects experiences of higher education.
- Develop a lifelong learning strategy that ensures youth and adult learning are integrated within wider education and skills system, including seeking to increase provision for vulnerable adults.