



Dundee

Fairness and Child Poverty Report

**How Dundee is working
together to make life
fairer for children, young
people and families.**

**Young
person's
edition
2025/26**

This report is based on Dundee's Fairness and Local Child Poverty Action Plan 2025/26.



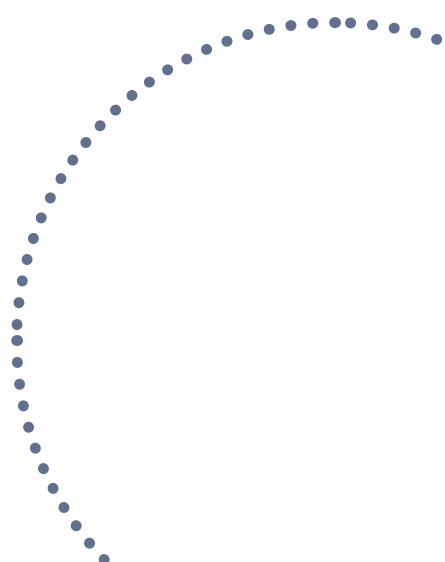
Inside this report you will learn:

- ✓ How poverty affects children and families in Dundee
- ✓ What organisations across Dundee are doing to help
- ✓ What has improved over the last year
- ✓ What happens next.



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Everyone deserves a good life

Hello,

Everyone should have what they need to live well, be healthy and feel included.

But some families in Dundee find it difficult to afford things like food, heating, clothes, travel and activities.

When people do not have enough money for the things they need, they may be living in **poverty**.

This report explains how poverty affects children and families in Dundee and what people across the city are doing to help.



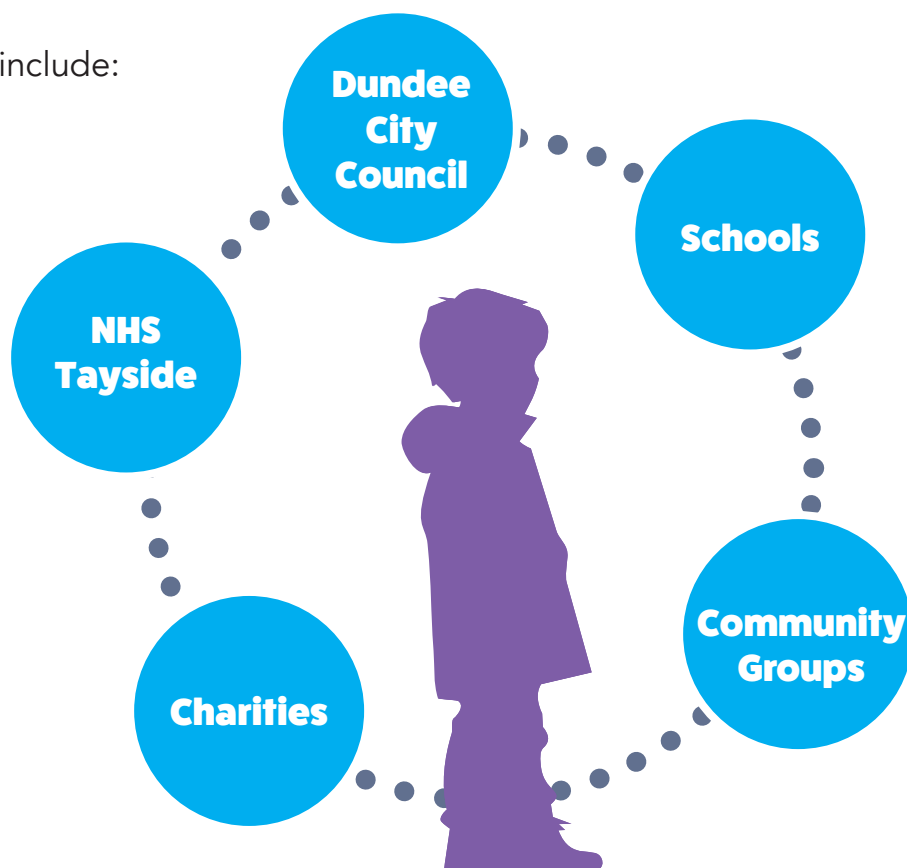
We want every child and young person in Dundee to:

- ✓ Have what they need
- ✓ Feel included and valued
- ✓ Be healthy and happy
- ✓ Have opportunities for the future

Who helps families in Dundee?

Many organisations work together to support children, young people and families across Dundee.

These include:



Together, they can make a big difference.

What is poverty?

Child poverty means not having enough money for all the things a family needs to live well.

It can mean:



Not always having enough money for food



Living in a home that is difficult to heat



Missing out on clubs, hobbies, trips or activities



Worrying about the cost of clothes or school items



Finding it harder to afford travel



Worrying about money at home

Poverty can affect people in different ways, and everyone's experience is different.

Why does poverty happen?

There isn't just one reason.

A family might have money problems because their job does not pay enough, they cannot find work, things like food and clothes cost more, someone in the family is unwell, or they are not getting all the support they could get.

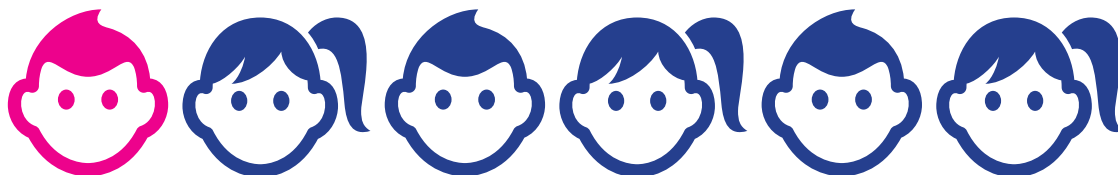
It is never a child's fault if their family is having money problems.

Everyone's experience is different.

Child poverty in Dundee

The latest information shows around **4,100** children in Dundee live in families that may not have enough money for all the things they need.

That is about **1 in 6** children across the city.



Every child deserves the chance to be healthy, happy and do well in life.

That is why people and organisations across Dundee are working together to help families who don't have enough money for the things they need

How is Dundee helping?

People across Dundee are working together to help families and make life fairer for children and young people.

This work focuses on six important areas:

1 Inclusion and Belonging

Helping everyone feel welcome, included and part of their community.



2 Work and Wages

Helping parents and carers find jobs, learn new skills and get better pay.



3 Benefits and Advice

Helping families get the money they are entitled to and advice when they need it.



4 Learning and Education

Helping children and young people learn, do well at school and achieve their goals.



5 Health and Wellbeing

Helping children, young people and families stay healthy and feel well.



6 Homes and Communities

Helping families have safe, warm homes and good places to live.



Making everyone feel included

Everyone should feel welcome, respected and part of their community.

1

What is happening?

- Helping people get online
- Helping to stop unfair treatment
- Helping community groups
- Listening to people who have experienced these challenges themselves



What's going well?

- Fewer children needed foodbank support than in previous years
- New community projects are helping people support each other

Helping families earn more

Having a good job and fair pay can help families afford what they need.

2

What is happening?

- Helping parents into work
- Helping people learn new skills and gain qualifications
- Giving people opportunities to get experience at work
- Encouraging employers to pay the Real Living Wage to all their staff.

What's going well?

- There are now **118 Living Wage employers** in Dundee, who choose to pay workers more than the government minimum wage
- More than **200 opportunities for young people** were created, including apprenticeships and training



Helping families get the money they are entitled to

3

Families should be able to get the money, advice and help they are entitled to.

What is happening?

- Advice about benefits and money
- Help with food during school holidays
- Help to keep homes warm
- Free school meals
- Help in schools, hospitals and communities



What's going well?

- More children are getting free school meals
- Families can now get advice and help in more places across Dundee

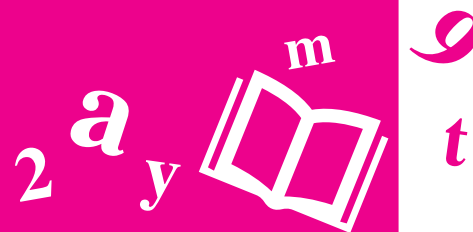
Helping children do well at school

4

Every child should have the chance to learn, do well and achieve their goals.

What is happening?

- Reducing the Cost of the School Day
- Breakfast support
- Help with school uniforms
- Helping children come to school regularly
- Helping children learn and do their best



What's going well?

- Every Dundee school now has a Cost of the School Day plan, with ways to help families with school costs and make sure children can take part in activities and trips
- The difference in **reading, writing and maths results** between children in richer and poorer areas is getting smaller

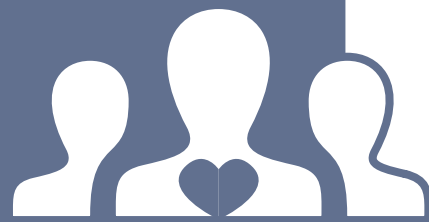
Improving health and wellbeing

Everyone should be able to get help to stay healthy and feel well.

5

What is happening?

- Help for people who are struggling with mental health or how they feel
- Training to help prevent suicide
- Help to stay healthy
- Help for children and families
- Help for people affected by drugs or alcohol



What's going well?

- People affected by drugs or alcohol can now get help through the Recovery Network, which brings together people and services that can support them
- More help is available for young people who are feeling worried or anxious
- Children are getting help to attend health appointments

Making homes and communities better

Every child deserves a safe and warm place to live.

6

What is happening?

- Helping people who do not have a safe place to live
- Helping make homes warmer and cheaper to heat
- Helping people know their rights when renting a home
- Helping community projects
- Creating places where people can meet and spend time together



What's going well?

- Fewer children are living in temporary accommodation, which is a place to stay until they have a more permanent home
- More homes are getting work done to help keep them warm and use less energy
- Community groups received over £1 million through What Matters to You to help local projects.

What's changed this year?

People and organisations across Dundee are working more closely together to help children, young people and families.

Here are some of the things that happened this year:

Financial Support



£687,000+

in benefits was found for people through NHS services



5,300+

school clothing grants given to families

£872,000+

was used to help families with food during the school holidays



Housing Support



4,800+

households got help to pay for their housing

£4 million+

was used to help people with their housing costs



Travel and Activities

82%

of Dundee's 5 to 21-year-olds now have a free bus pass



More

children and young people took part in activities and clubs



Health and Wellbeing

1,355

people received support through Hope Point, a place where people can go for help



300+

workers learned how to help people who are feeling worried, upset or struggling with their mental health



What still needs to improve?

Dundee has made progress, but there is still more work to do.

Some children and families continue to face challenges:

- Too many children and families don't have enough money for all the things they need.
- Some families are finding it hard to afford food, heating and other everyday costs.
- Some children need more help to stay healthy.
- Some people are still paid less than the Real Living Wage.
- Children in poorer areas do not always have the same opportunities to do well at school.



People across Dundee will keep working together to make things better.

Young people's voices matter



my ideas!

Young people from the City-Wide Pupil Voice group read this report and told us what they thought.

They told us what they liked, what was difficult to understand and what we could do to make it better.

We listened to their ideas and used their feedback to improve this report.

Their ideas will also help us make future reports easier to understand and more useful for young people.

What we want for children and young people in Dundee

We want Dundee to be a place where every child and young person can:



Dundee still has work to do, but people across the city are working together every day to make life fairer for children, young people and families.

By listening to children, young people and families, we can keep making Dundee a better and fairer place for everyone.

Every change can make a difference. Together, we can help every child and young person have the best possible future.

Need help?

If you are worried about money or something in this report affects you or your family, you don't have to deal with it on your own.

Talk to an adult you trust, such as a parent, carer, teacher, Guidance Teacher or support worker.



dundeecity.gov.uk/costofliving



dundee.gov.uk