

MORAY POVERTY 2022-2025: Proposed Governance Structure for Delivery

Contents

Background	2
Existing Poverty Strategy and Associated Action Plans	2
Structured and measurable progress on delivery of action plans including child poverty	3
Statutory Requirements – Child poverty	8
Glossary.....	9

Background

The following Poverty Governance structure (**Figure 1.**) sets out arrangements that aim to improve communications, monitoring, reporting, delivery and governance across the groups involved in the poverty agenda. It is recognised that due to the passage of time and the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic (Covid) that activities, membership and structures have altered since the original remits were established. There is now an opportunity for refreshed Partnership commitment and resource focus as the Community Planning Partnership develops its next Poverty Strategy and Action Plan for delivery.

Moray like the rest of the Country must deal with post Covid recovery and a cost of living crisis. People are in need now and predictions suggest that the situation will worsen. While it has always been the aim to plan and act strategically to reduce future poverty, circumstances now require a rapid response to the situation on the ground and the Partnership will seek to co-ordinate resources accordingly.

Existing Poverty Strategy and Associated Action Plans

The current Moray Community Planning Partnership (MCP) **“Child Poverty Action Plan”** was approved by The Moray Community Planning Board (MCPB) at their meeting of 10 February 2021. At this meeting, it was also agreed that in relation to the LOIP Delivery Framework that the Board:-

*“Note that work is underway to clarify and develop **working arrangements and governance for poverty** the outcome of which will be reported to a future meeting of the Board.”*

The current Children’s Services Plan (CSP) contains one (of 4 priorities) priority around mitigating the impact of Poverty and in future, it is anticipated that the Child Poverty Action Plan will be incorporated into the CSP. Although the Child Poverty Plan is not restricted to children and involves families, consideration is required of the need for a refreshed Moray Poverty Strategy, including people in Moray experiencing poverty who are not within the scope of the Child Poverty Action Plan). This revised governance model will assist Community Planning Partnership in defining the scope of new work and ensuring it can be delivered.

Addressing poverty within Moray will be informed by evolving factors and reflected in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Poverty Topic within ‘Raising Aspirations’ priority. To aid this, improved statistical data and intelligence gathering will be used along with feedback from agencies, communities and those with lived experience of poverty.

Structured and measurable progress on delivery of action plans including child poverty

The proposed structure improvements detailed *below* are derived from Programme and Project methodologies which seek to ensure progress happens and that this progress is visible and measurable. The aim is to improve communications and provide a delivery focus. The intelligence gathered from themed project activity within the working groups, including feedback from communities and agencies will inform the strategic approach taken and help identify and remedy any gaps. Similarly, barriers to project progress can be escalated to senior partners and dealt with effectively.

The action and working groups should operate as flexibly as possible in both membership and meeting frequency, being led by the project work required and co-ordinated and managed by the identified lead person for each group. To ensure progress, it may be necessary for these working/action groups to meet frequently, however, to ensure a focus on action, business may also take place via telephone calls or emails. These groups will be action /project delivery focussed, with strategic guidance coming from the **Fairer Moray Forum (FMF)**. Working/action groups will report progress on planned actions to the FMF at least quarterly. Where possible **suitable** existing bodies/groups will fulfil the role of these working groups.

- The FMF ‘will represent the strategic level of governance and direction, by supporting action/working groups with guidance and knowledge across a wide range of poverty relevant specialisms. Group membership should be reasonably flexible but given the statutory responsibilities relating to the Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, there will be representation from both Moray Council and the NHS.

Reports provided by the Action/Working groups will come forward to the FMF making clear where progress is on target and where remedial action may be required. Information will be considered related strategic poverty priorities where appropriate. These reports will allow FMF to measure strategic progress and be effective in dealing with any issues or new information requiring escalation.

- The **FMF** would provide in addition to the development of the Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, all strategic guidance and oversight of delivery, informed by the intelligence and project reporting coming from the action/working groups. The Membership of FMF is crucial and must comprise senior members of partnership agencies with the required authority to resolve escalated issues and remove wherever possible blockages to progress in reducing Poverty in Moray.

The FMF would meet roughly quarterly and be responsible for providing progress updates to the Moray Community Planning Board/Officers Group and have ownership of the Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.

Figure 1.

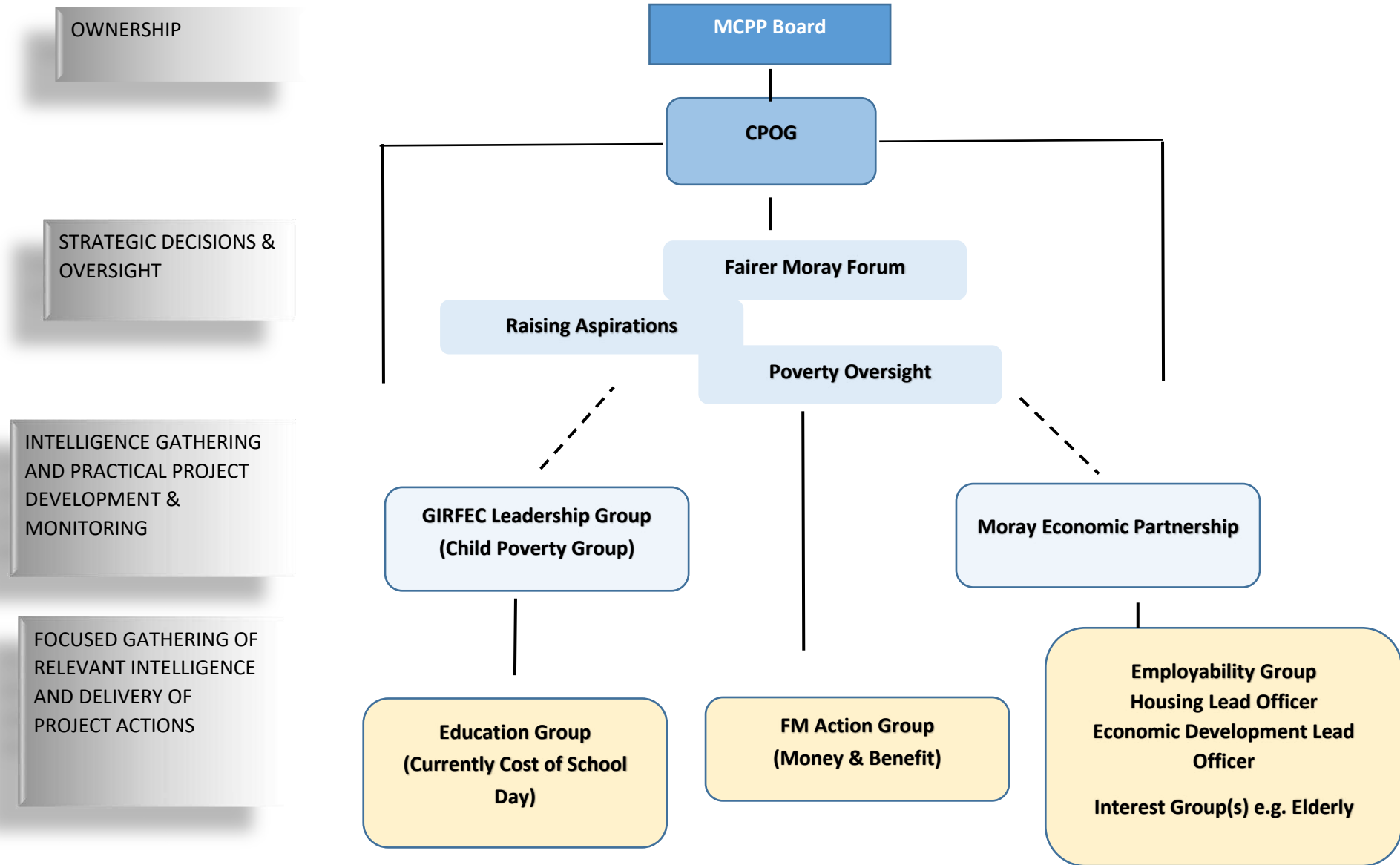


Table 1. Poverty Groups

GROUP	REMIT/PURPOSE/MEMBERSHIP (more details on following pages)	EXPECTED ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS
MORAY COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD (MCPP Board)	Statutory Body representing all partner agencies across Moray. ‘Owners’ of the Poverty Strategy and associated Action Plan.	Provide Senior Authority, guidance and direction via Moray Community Planning Officers Group (MCPOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance, approval and ongoing commitment at the highest Community planning Level
MORAY COMMUNITY PLANNING OFFICERS GROUP (MCPOG)	Focussed group of partner lead officers, tasked with agreeing high level actions to create/initiate relevant work streams and remove organisational blockages.	To provide updates to MCPP Board and to receive progress updates / issue escalations from FMF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final reporting sign off and resolution of escalated issues to remove any barriers to progress including resources. Contribution towards statutory annual reporting requirements of Moray Council and NHS
FAIRER MORAY FORUM (FMF)	A strategic delivery group within statutory community planning partnership structures, including the strategic elements of MC and NHS Child Poverty statutory duties (GIRFEC Group). Planning for the future and advising on developing the agenda to respond to emerging issues, make progress and remove barriers. It should also be where partners agree to share, allocate resources, expertise and data intelligence.	To review existing activities/programmes/projects, local intelligence, consultation and engagement feedback, identify strategic gaps, review poverty data and measure attributable impact and receive relevant reports from partner agencies to ensure a comprehensive approach to tackling poverty across Moray. Develop plans and strategies to address the agreed priorities relating to poverty. Provide advice and recommendations to MCPOG and MCPB on areas for development where greatest impact on inequalities can be effected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Meetings Project delegation to relevant action/working group Receive escalations and progress reports from relevant action/working group Sharing of information (incl. meeting dates, minutes and agendas) with relevant action/working group.

GROUP	REMIT/PURPOSE/MEMBERSHIP (more details on following pages)	EXPECTED ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS
Fairer Moray Forum Action Group (FMFAG)	Bringing action focus to strategic work of FMF focused mainly on financial security but with wider aspects as appropriate, taking account of feedback from agencies. This level is 'management and delivery' of operational matters to give effect to the strategies and plans and deliver day to day service developments. Also to work jointly across partners and co-ordinate efforts for best results and efficient use of resource.	To investigate and deliver relevant current poverty project outcomes related mainly to financial security. To take practical actions and escalate recommendations or issues to the strategic FMF body based upon findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Meetings • Issue/recommendation escalation to FMF • Provide intelligence and programme/project reports to FMF • Pilot projects based upon current issues and opportunities.
EMPLOYABILITY WORKING GROUP	Delivery of Employability focussed actions and projects Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising Income from Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overcoming barriers such as affordable Childcare ○ Access to Training and Development for excluded groups and individuals ○ Access to further Education for excluded groups and individuals ○ Fair working conditions 	To provide organised and time bound delivery of specific projects and actions within a specialist field of expertise and knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project deliverables • Specific Anti-Poverty Actions • Poverty Intelligence and measurable impact feedback

GROUP	REMIT/PURPOSE/MEMBERSHIP (more details on following pages)	EXPECTED ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS
HOUSING LEAD <i>Housing related input to be handled and allocated through the head of Housing & Property</i>	Delivery of Multi tenure Housing focussed themes, actions and projects Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel poverty (Local Housing Strategy) • Access to Affordable Housing 	To provide organised 'themes' delivery of specific projects and actions within a specialist field of expertise and knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects • Actions • Poverty Intelligence and measurable impact feedback
EDUCATION WORKING GROUP <i>(Cost of School Day Group as exists Further consideration to be given to oversight and co-ordination of whole education agenda)</i>	Delivery of Education focussed themes, actions and projects Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEF and SEF • Cost of School Day • Access to free Period Products • Raising attainment and aspiration 	To provide organised delivery of specific projects and actions within a specialist field of expertise and knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects • Actions • Poverty Intelligence and measurable impact feedback
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Lead <i>ED related input to be handled and allocated through the head of Economic Growth & Development</i>	Delivery of Economic Development focussed themes, actions and projects Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Affordable Credit and Community Wealth Building • Connecting economic opportunity with identified economic need 	To provide organised delivery of specific projects and actions within a specialist field of expertise and knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects • Actions • Poverty Intelligence and measurable impact feedback

Generally, these roles require further development to ensure that at the various levels there is:

- I) Evidence led planning linked to strategic direction
- II) Action to deliver plans on a partnership basis
- III) Monitoring and checking to ensure progress is made, barriers are removed and good work is built upon
- IV) Responsiveness to emerging issues and that reported issues are endorsed and incorporated (or not)
- V) Horizon scanning and preparing for next steps and prioritising
- VI) Expertise to inform partner and partnership decisions

Statutory Requirements – Child poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places statutory responsibilities upon Moray Council and the NHS to reduce child poverty. Child poverty is inextricably linked to the wider poverty agenda and has many interdependent factors. Child Poverty is specifically discussed and progressed by the Child Poverty Group (CPG). In the revised governance structure at **Figure 1**, the Strategic oversight role for child poverty will continue to be carried out by the GIRFEC Leadership Group (GLG). If appropriate these groups could merge in future to avoid repetition of group membership and allow for clearer communications across poverty projects and actions, however, the volume of business also needs to be considered and retaining two groups at present may enable better management of the overall agenda. It will be necessary however to ensure that those partners with a legal duty to reduce child poverty (Moray Council and the NHS) have representation at the FMF and GLG and working group levels. It should also be noted that as part of these legal requirements, the Scottish Government currently require a progress report to be submitted annually.

Glossary

Acronym	Full Name
CPB	Community Planning Board
CPOG	Community Planning Officers Group
MCPP	Moray Community Planning Partnership
FMF	Fairer Moray Forum
FMFAG	Fairer Moray Forum Action Group
GLG	GIRFEC Leadership Group
CPG	Child Poverty Group
LOIP	Local Outcome Improvement Plan