

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Understanding Family Poverty in Glasgow 2026



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Councillor Richard Bell
Leader
Glasgow City Council

I am very proud to support the seventh Understanding Family Poverty in Glasgow report and my first as Leader of the Council. I want to help everyone in this city as much as we possibly can. I know that our citizens have character and resilience like no other city – and that our people are our greatest asset – and like any asset, they need to be nurtured and cared for.

The City Government has made a commitment to tackle inequalities and poverty and help break down the barriers that stand in the way of all our families flourishing – and the city's current challenges including homelessness and social cohesion have been well documented. We already have an impressive track record of the extensive work being carried out to streamline, improve, challenge, and deliver existing services and develop new strategies aimed at helping those in need.

These include targeted pilots in areas like Drumchapel – to find solutions we need to understand what our families are experiencing and how this has a wider impact on communities – and the extreme changes needed to help all our children, young people, and families. We can only help more families by working with partners and communities and using the lived experience, insights and data, displayed in this annual report to help tackle the challenges we face and I will use my position as Leader to lobby both Governments to make sure our communities get the financial support we deserve and need.



Susanne Millar
Chief Executive
Glasgow City Council

Over the past year my colleagues and I have been working hard to continue to focus on delivering the services that make our families feel safe, supported and connected in the communities they live in.

Families are Glasgow's greatest asset – if they flourish and achieve their aspirations the city grows healthier and economic opportunity for our citizens increases. Intensive work is being undertaken by the council with our communities and partners to address inequalities and poverty, and I am glad to see that this report provides us with the data and family insights to further focus that work.

We also recognise that real concerns and pressures on families and communities are a source of social tension, alongside the exploitation of these pressures by those seeking to spread misinformation. These key concerns for families contribute to and are caused by poverty.

As we continue to implement the radical change required to tackle poverty those concerns will be front and centre of the way we work with our families and partners to achieve the best outcomes for our city.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Understanding Family Poverty in Glasgow 2026

This is the seventh 'Poverty in Glasgow' report. It brings together quantitative data and lived experience to build a rich understanding of how poverty affects children, young people and families across the city.

Poverty remains the most significant challenge facing the city and a major barrier to improving outcomes for children, families and communities. Reducing family poverty is at the heart of the work of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership, embedded in Glasgow City Council's Strategic Plan and reflected in national commitments set out by the Scottish Government.

These strategies recognise that poverty is both a cause and a consequence of wider inequalities, affecting not only individual life chances but also the strength, cohesion and resilience of communities. Poverty can undermine people's connection to place, limit participation in community life and weaken the social networks that help individuals, families and neighbourhoods thrive.

Poverty is complex and rarely the result of a single issue. Circumstances change over time, meaning that families can move into and out of poverty, often facing multiple and interconnected challenges. This requires coordinated action across organisations, recognising that no single service or intervention can address poverty on its own.

It also requires a continued shift from responding to the impacts of poverty towards preventing hardship wherever possible through early intervention, sustained support and action on the underlying causes of inequality.

Tackling poverty requires us to organise our efforts around the needs of children and families within the communities they live, bringing together services, partners and local assets to create sustainable change. By taking both a person centred and a place-based approach, we can better understand the circumstances affecting families, respond to local needs and strengthen the conditions that support community wellbeing, resilience and opportunity.

This report provides the evidence needed to guide decisions on where to focus collective effort and investment, helping children and families and the communities in which they live to flourish.

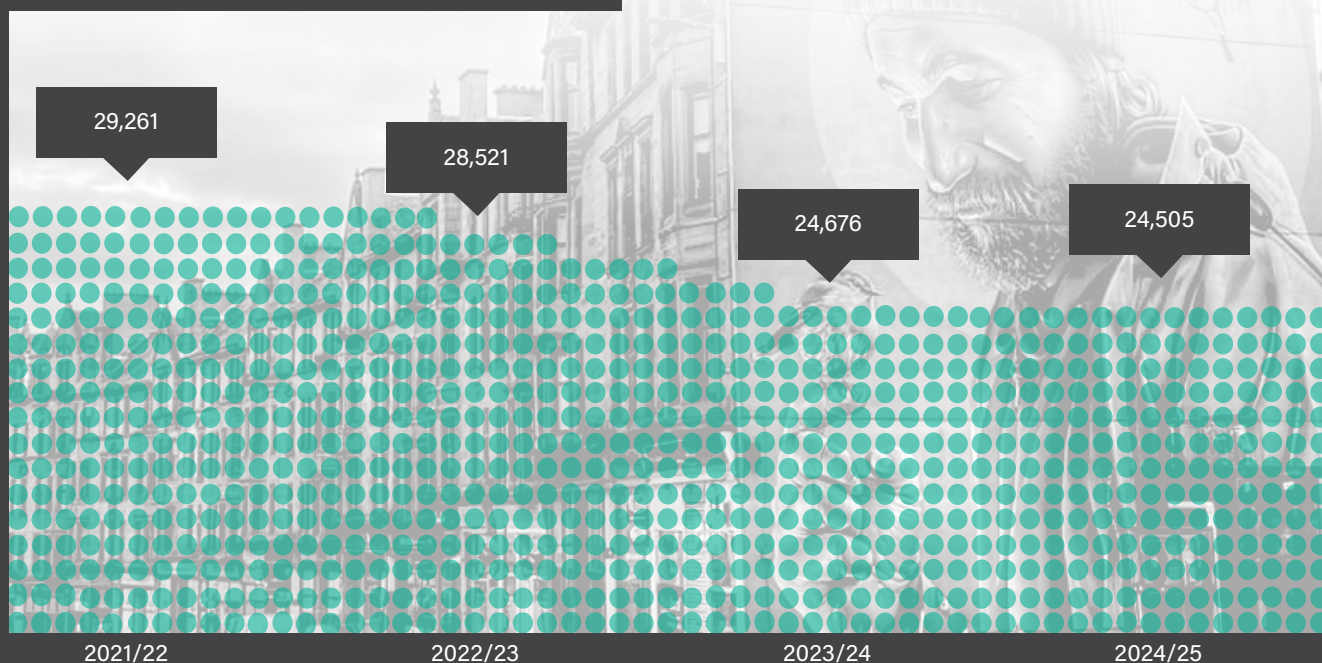
THE SHAPE OF POVERTY IN GLASGOW

Numbers alone cannot tell the full story of family poverty, but they help us understand its scale, reach and changing nature. This section provides an overview of the latest evidence on child poverty in Glasgow, offering a foundation for the lived experiences, practitioner insights and system challenges explored throughout the report.

The analysis focuses on financial year 2025/26 and therefore does not yet capture any impact from the lifting of the two-child benefit limit on 1 April 2026. To understand the extent of child poverty across the city, we draw on two key sources: the DWP's Children in Low Income Families publication and Glasgow City Council's Council Tax Reduction administrative data.

Children in relative poverty in Glasgow (BHC)

Between 2022/23 and 2023/24 we saw the expansion of the Scottish Child Payment to include children under 16.



DWP Statistics

This year, the DWP have adjusted the way they calculate child poverty in their latest release (2024/25) of the Children in Low Income Families. There are two main changes:

- Improved accuracy by bringing in additional income data from the benefits system. This has included refinement of statistics back to financial year 2021/22
- Now includes statistics for children in poverty After Housing Costs (AHC)

25%
24,505

From the latest DWP statistics we see 24,505 children in poverty before housing costs (BHC) in Glasgow during financial year 2024/25.

30%
28,759

This year's publication shows that 28,759 children are living in relative poverty AHC in Glasgow during financial year 2024/25.

Council Tax Reduction Data

As with previous years, the core of the analysis within this report comes from Glasgow's Council Tax Reduction system. This data provides us a broad understanding of the scale of child poverty in the city and allows us to see how this fluctuates from month to month, taking an average over the financial year.

26%
25,485

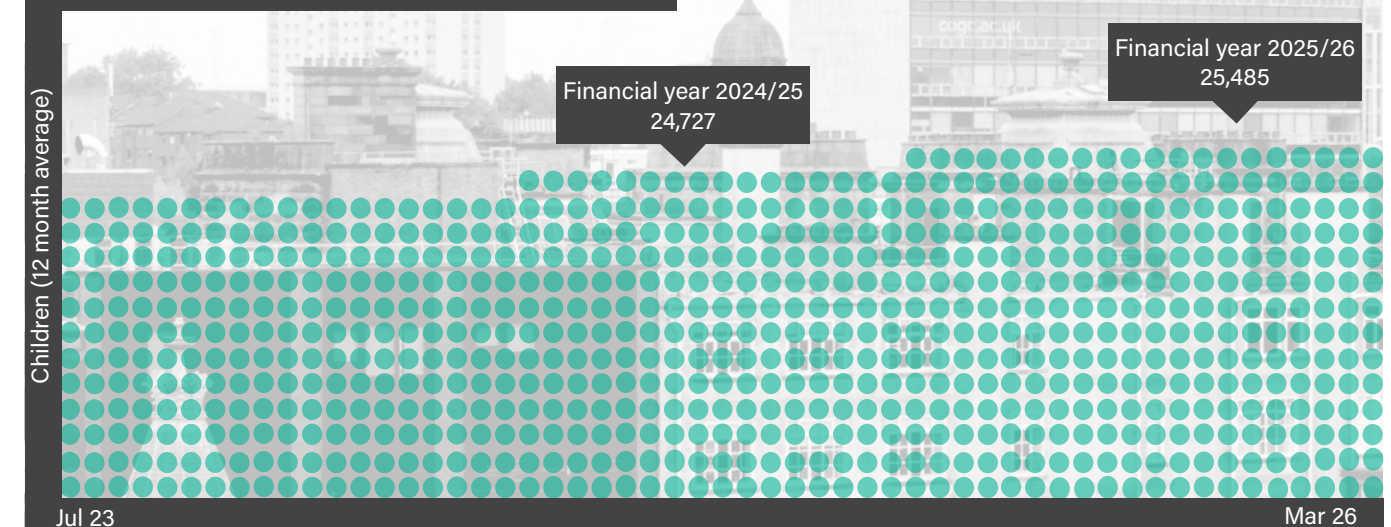
children in 2025/26 were from 13,488 families, in Glasgow experiencing relative poverty (BHC).

37%
9,541

children experiencing relative poverty in Glasgow are living in deep poverty. Since the previous financial year, this shows a reduction of 290 children living in deep poverty.

Rolling average

For those in receipt of CTR, poverty is increasing as we can see from a rolling average of poverty over a twelve-month period from July 2023.



POVERTY IN MOTION

A family's circumstances can change quite quickly, which could see them being in poverty again. This shows that some routes out of poverty aren't always sustainable.

Whilst the Council Tax Reduction data shows that poverty is increasing, it's important to understand that when focusing on the specific families that are living in poverty, it can become quite transient.

Some families can move in and out of poverty over the course of the year. When they leave poverty, but remain in receipt of CTR we can begin to understand some of the reasons for this:

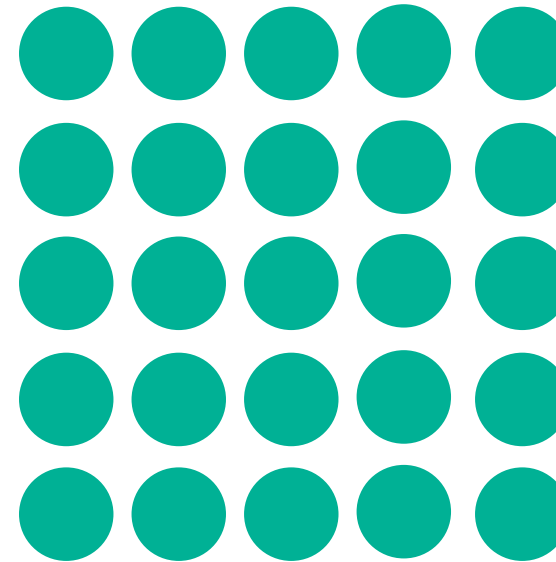
- They have gained or left employment
- There has been a change to their benefits
- They have had a child over the age of 16 leave school (for the purposes of benefits and poverty, a child is classified as someone under the age of 18 and in full time education)
- The birth of a new child



Poverty in Glasgow is not static

Looking across 12 months of data highlights the movement of families in and out of poverty and those that remain consistently.

In April 2025, there were **13,885** families in relative poverty

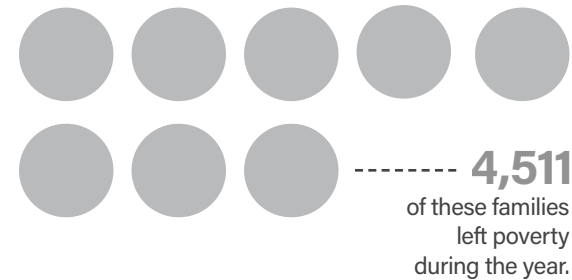


The cycle of families moving in and out of poverty repeats from month to month. Typically, there are a similar number of families entering poverty as there are leaving.

In April 2025, there were 13,885 families in relative poverty and when comparing that directly with March 2026, where there were 13,830 families in poverty, this shows a simple reduction in 55 families experiencing relative poverty. However, only 69% of the families who were in poverty in April 2025 were in poverty every month through to March 2026.

Over the course of the financial year, 11% of families have moved in and out of poverty multiple times. This group of families demonstrate the need for more sustainable approaches to keeping families out of poverty.

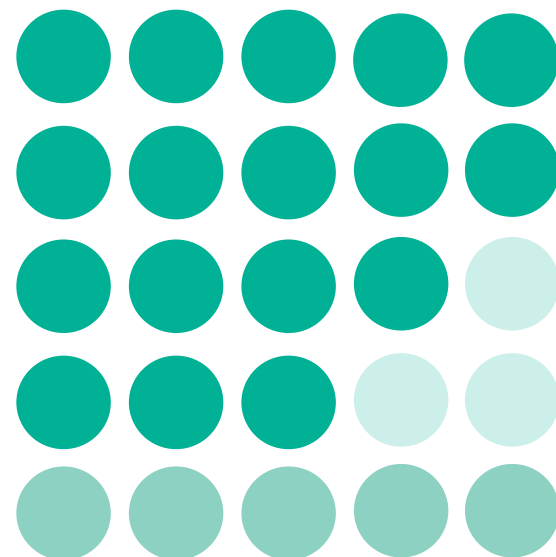
By March 2026...



The remaining 20% of families in poverty in March 2026 are families who have fallen into poverty at some point during the year and then remained there consistently. A preventative approach would stop people from falling into poverty and reduce the overall number of people in poverty significantly.

Investigating the individual families at each month throughout the financial year, demonstrates that 18,341 families with 34,434 children were in poverty for at least one month.

In March 2026, there were **13,830** families in poverty



----- **9,500**
of those families remained in poverty across the year.

----- **1,510**
of those families moved in and out of poverty across the year.

----- **2,820**
of those families entered poverty during the year then stayed.

Deep Poverty

A family is considered to be in deep poverty if their weekly income is less than 40% of the UK median income.

37%
5,000

families living in poverty in Glasgow are experiencing deep poverty. This 1 in 10 families in Glasgow.

37%
9,541

(37%) 9,541 children living in poverty in Glasgow are experiencing deep poverty. This is 1 in 10 children in Glasgow.



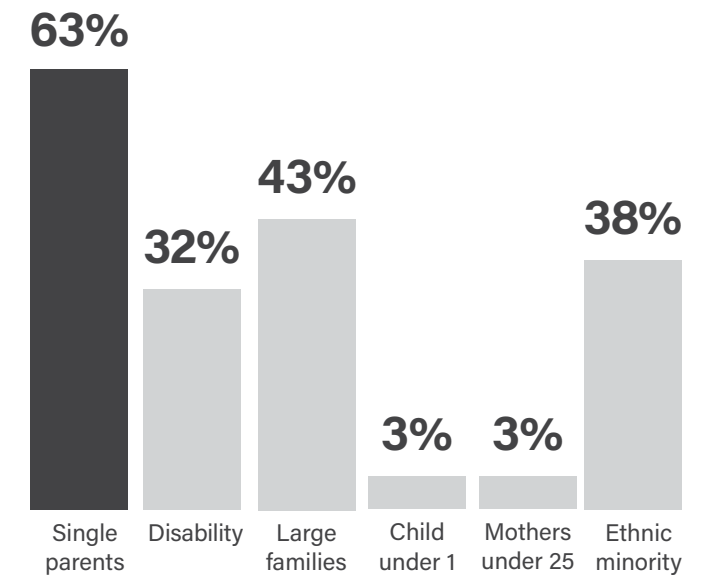
Who Is Most Affected by Poverty?

There are six priority groups outlined by The Scottish Governments Every child, every chance: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2018-2022 as groups that are disproportionately affected by child poverty. The data that we have allows us to see which of these groups each family in poverty belongs to.

These groups are:

- Single parent families
- Families where someone has a disability
- Families with 3 or more children (large families)
- Families with a child under 1
- Families with a mother under 25
- Families from an ethnic minority background

Children in poverty by priority group



Single parents

Families with only one parent in the household.

69%
9,309

families living in poverty are single parent families.

63%

of children living in poverty come from single parent families. This is 15,951 children.



- Single parents
- Disability
- Large families
- Child under 1
- Mothers under 25
- Ethnic minority

Number of children in single parent families and a second priority group.

36%

of single parent families in poverty have someone in the household with a disability.

38%

of single parent families in poverty are experiencing deep poverty

Families with a disability

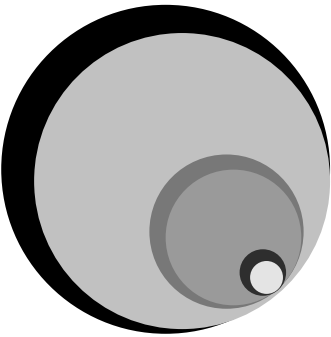
Households where at least one family member has a disability.

35%
4,705

families living in poverty have someone in the household who has a disability.

32%

of children living in poverty live in families where someone has a disability. This is 8,097 children.



- Single parents
- Disability
- Large families
- Child under 1
- Mothers under 25
- Ethnic minority

Number of children in families with a disability and a second priority group.

13%

of families in poverty where someone has a disability are in receipt of child disability payments.

20%

of families where someone has a disability in poverty are experiencing deep poverty.

Large families

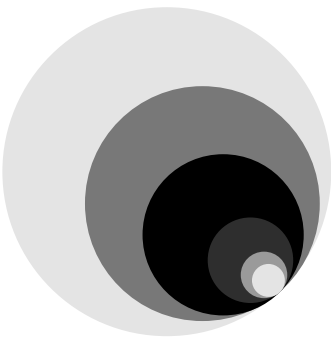
Families with three or more children.

23%
3,158

families living in poverty have 3 or more children.

43%

43% of children living in poverty live in large families. This is 10,995 children.



- Single parents
- Disability
- Large families
- Child under 1
- Mothers under 25
- Ethnic minority

Number of children in large families and a second priority group.

37%

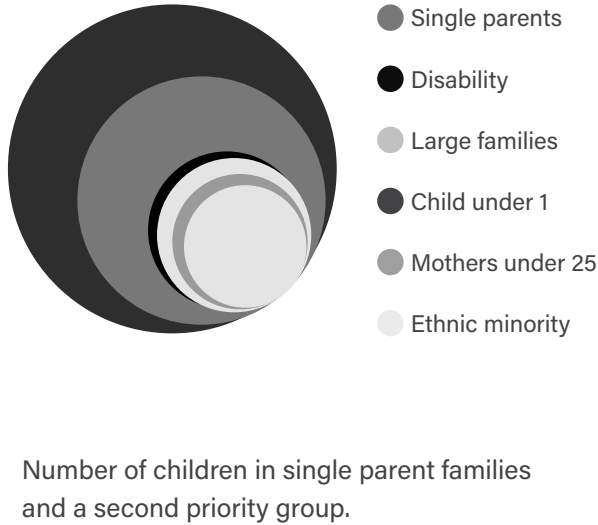
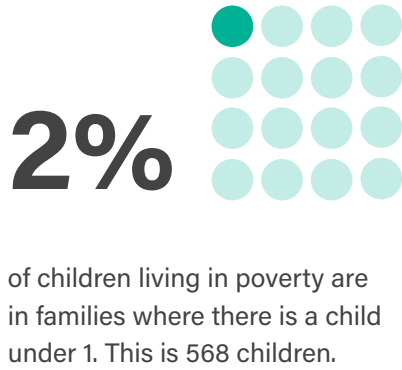
of large families in poverty are experiencing in-work poverty.

37%

of large families in poverty are experiencing deep poverty.

Child under 1

Families with a child under the age of 1.



15%

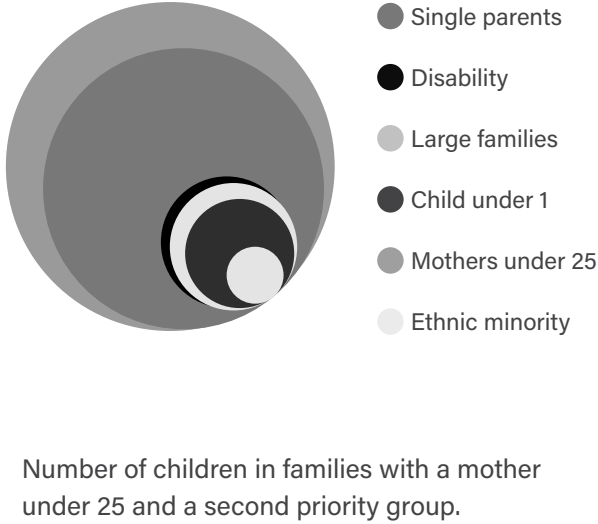
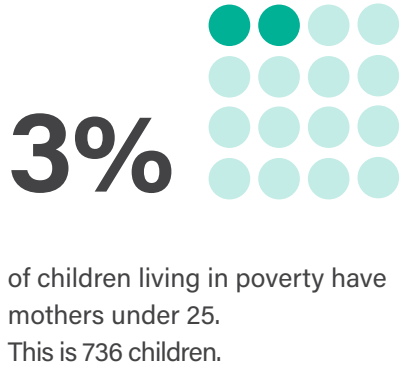
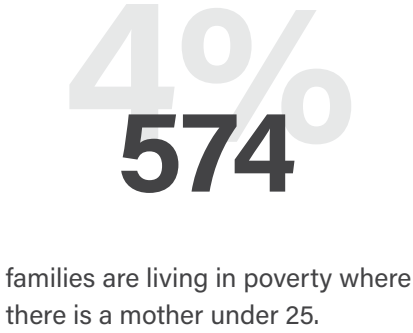
of families with a child under 1 in poverty are living in temporary accommodation.

37%

of large families in poverty are experiencing deep poverty.

Mothers under 25

Families where the mother is under the age of 25.



93%

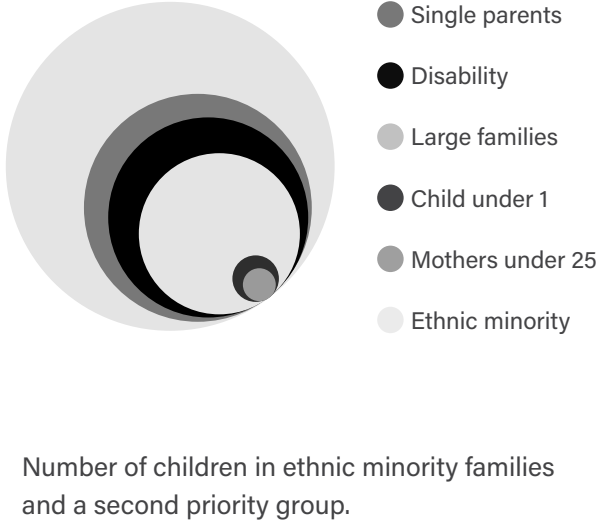
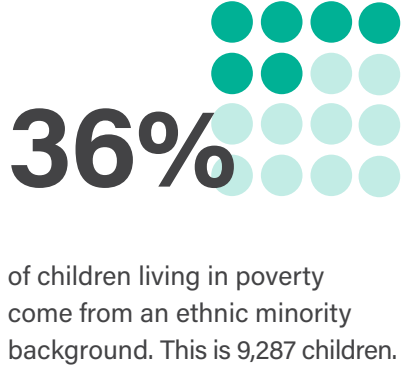
of families with a mother under 25 have a child aged 0-5.

60%

of mothers under 25 in poverty are experiencing deep poverty.

Ethnic minority families

Families from an ethnic minority background.



35%

of families from an ethnic minority background in poverty are experiencing in-work poverty.

41%

of ethnic minority families in poverty are experiencing deep poverty.

FAMILIES AS OUR GREATEST ASSET

Families are fundamental to Glasgow's wellbeing and prosperity. Through the relationships they sustain, the care they provide and the contribution they make to their communities, families help create neighbourhoods that are connected, resilient and full of life.

Yet families do not experience their lives through separate services or policy areas. Housing, childcare, employment, income, health and community support interact every day. A change in one can quickly affect the others, strengthening family stability or adding further pressure. This section examines what families have told us about three closely connected foundations of family life: a secure and suitable home, accessible childcare, and meaningful opportunities for work, learning and participation. It considers how poverty can weaken these foundations and what families need from communities, services and wider systems to feel secure, exercise choice and build a positive future.

Recognising families as assets means looking beyond need alone. It means valuing their strengths, relationships and knowledge, while creating the conditions in which every family can participate in and contribute to the life of the city.

Poverty hindering families

Families that are in poverty face a complex combination of financial, practical and emotional pressures. These challenges are rarely experienced in isolation. A challenge in one part of family life can quickly create pressure somewhere else. This reflects the direction of Glasgow's approach, which promotes support that is flexible, responsive, connected, trauma-informed, strengths-based, rights-respecting, community-focused and prevention-led.

The impact of poverty is not experienced in the same way by every family. Factors such as family size, caring responsibilities, health conditions, disability, employment circumstances, language, culture and entitlement to benefits all influence how families experience hardship and how they respond to it.

As a result, there is no single pathway into poverty and no single solution that will work for everyone. The national Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan recognises that child poverty cannot be solved through one intervention alone. It requires coordinated action across employability, childcare, housing, public services, social security, income maximisation and family support.

Change of circumstances affecting family's

For many families, sustained pressure forms part of everyday life, and some families have developed enduring ways of managing difficult circumstances over generations. While this can strengthen resilience and coping strategies, it may also reduce opportunities to identify emerging needs and provide support before difficulties escalate. Parents described balancing housing pressures, childcare responsibilities, financial worries, employment demands and family wellbeing all at once. These factors were not described as separate challenges, but as part of an ongoing process of adapting to multiple and overlapping demands.

Poverty is not always a fixed state. Families can move in and out of poverty as their circumstances change. However, these changes can be destabilising and difficult to recover from, especially when several pressures happen at once.

362

Families a month on average, were falling back into poverty after having left poverty in the past 6 months.



Housing as a foundation of wellbeing

Housing emerged as one of the strongest influences on family wellbeing. Sudden changes in housing can be unsettling for families, especially when they need to move away from schools, services, family members, neighbours or trusted community organisations. Families rarely describe home in terms of bricks and mortar. Instead, they speak about safety, belonging, stability, comfort and spending time together as a family.

72%

of families in poverty in Glasgow live in socially rented properties

Families highlighted that creating a home involves more than having a place to live. Many described feeling truly settled only after they had been able to personalise their home and establish connections within their community. Building relationships, developing routines and fostering a sense of belonging within a neighbourhood is the core of putting down roots and feeling at home.

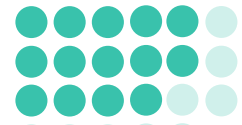


Home is everything to me, for my kids. To us, it means being safe.

Family engagement session

Family drop-in session in response to

“when caring for my family I feel...”



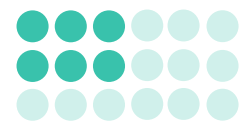
14 OF 23

people said they felt calm



It's a comfort zone where my family is. A place we can chill out and spend time together.”

Parent at family engagement session



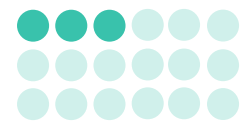
6 OF 22

people said they felt they never had free time



Home is busy all day and night. I have 3 kids so it's like a job looking after them and my house.”

Parent at family engagement session



3 OF 22

people said they felt they could use some help



There's daily housework to do. I need someone to take care of babies so I can do things around the home.”

Parent at family engagement session



The annual child benefit statistics show that there are 8,125 families in Glasgow with 3 or more children, 3,158 of which are in poverty, 61% of these live in socially rented housing.

Overcrowded housing and poor conditions can add to stress and affect children's wellbeing. Families described the practical and emotional impact of overcrowding, including increased stress, reduced space for children to play, and difficulty keeping homes organised. Families often described larger housing not as a luxury, but as something that would improve wellbeing, reduce pressure and create a more suitable environment for children to grow up in.

1,040 families in poverty are living in temporary accommodation 2,734 children in poverty live in these households.

Services are working to support families into homes that better meet their needs and to open access to local spaces for families who are homeless or living in temporary accommodation. Glasgow City Council has identified that some people living in larger homes may wish to move into smaller or more suitable accommodation. The Housing Transfer Initiative Scheme is an innovative service supporting families in overcrowded housing to move into larger homes by helping households move into properties that better suit their current needs.

Warm, safe and comfortable homes come up repeatedly as the core of family life and the foundation from which adults and children develop. They provide a place for respite and are where we spend our time to tackle the tricky everyday problems that arise in everyday life. Good quality housing, local amenities and places to spend time create better places. Good quality places and neighbourhoods provide the foundation.



Childcare as family support

Childcare was described as one of the most important forms of support available to families. While childcare is often discussed in relation to employment, families and professionals consistently highlighted its wider contribution to family wellbeing.

A good home combined with quality childcare can provide respite, reduce isolation, improve confidence, create opportunities for social connection, and support children's development. It can also help parents engage in training, volunteering, education and employment.

Childcare provision and early years

Across the 225 nurseries in Glasgow, there are 14,790 children registered, accounting for 66% of children under the age of five.

**38%
2,002**

of children under five who are in families in poverty attend nursery



I'd like to see more access to childcare that's coordinated for different age groups.”

Citizen drop-in session

Although support is often described as available and accessible, this is not always reflected in families' experiences. Gaps in provision, eligibility thresholds and financial pressures can create barriers to accessing support, leaving some families unable to get help when they need it most.

Parents described childcare as one of the biggest practical challenges affecting family life. Many spoke about difficulties accessing sufficient childcare, coordinating provision across children of different ages, and managing the period after funded childcare hours are exhausted. Families linked childcare not only to employment, but to wellbeing, reduced stress and the ability to spend quality time together.

Informal childcare, community networks and whole family support

Families spoke about the challenges of navigating everyday life without the support networks that were once more widely available. Illness, caring responsibilities, employment changes and financial pressures can quickly affect the wellbeing of an entire household. As services may only operate 9-to-5, many parents described relying on friends, relatives, neighbours and community groups for practical and emotional support.

“There needs to be more promotion of what's out there for families. If our family support worker didn't suggest the dance academy then I would never have found it.”

Parent at family engagement session

These relationships make it easier to solve the problems that come up in daily family life.

“My child has really grown through play group, I can see improvement.”

Parent at family engagement session

“We need more community spaces, events, in more areas of the city so parents can go to one in local areas. We need to bring people together.”

Parent at family engagement session

Whole family approaches recognise that poverty does not affect individuals in isolation. Challenges experienced by one family member often have consequences for everyone else.

Clubs and activities

Families spoke about struggling to afford sports clubs, leisure activities, social opportunities and everyday experiences that allow children to develop friendships and feel connected to their communities. Previous engagement work, through Glasgow's Play Sufficiency Assessment has similarly highlighted the importance of free and affordable places and local infrastructure for children and young people to play and socialise.

School holidays were frequently highlighted as times of increased pressure. Parents spoke about balancing work with childcare, higher food costs when free school meals are unavailable, and the additional expense that comes with keeping children occupied during long holiday periods.

Employability

“I would like to see more jobs in schools, as shop assistants, something that's suitable for me. I can't find anything that's part-time so I can help my husband. I have four kids and rent to cover, one income can't manage everything.”

Family engagement session

Employment was viewed as important, but parents emphasised that jobs must be secure, sustainable and compatible with family life. We learned that employment decisions are framed as family decisions rather than individual decisions. Some people may be unable to work due to caring responsibilities, illness or disability, but still require opportunities that provide meaning, connection and purpose. Work needs to be financially worthwhile, compatible with caring responsibilities and practical within the realities of everyday life.

Families are often navigating a range of services on behalf of their children and for large families each child has different needs and services that they need to engage with. For large families and multi-generational households, they are at much greater risk of living in overcrowded housing. This adds to the pressure of supporting children especially in their early years and leaves less room for families to engage with opportunities or support around their employment.

“Home is busy all day and night. I have three kids so it's like a job looking after them and my house.”

Family engagement session

The transition from childhood to adulthood can be particularly difficult for families. The effects of overcrowding can be exacerbated by young people leaving full-time education yet remaining in the family home especially when there are other young children in the household. Families described the financial impact that occurs when young people are no longer classed as dependants for benefit purposes but continue living at home. Support systems often assume young people will immediately become financially independent and pursue education, training or employment but this is not always the case.

The young people transitioning into adulthood are also likely to become parents and may have children in their own family home relying on their parents for support.

For example, with Universal Credit, a family only gets additional money for a child aged 16-19 if they are in full-time non-advanced education or undertaking an unpaid training course that is not attached to a job. This means that for many, if a child leaves school at the age of 16, they will see a reduction in their income from benefits.

In March 2026, there were 3,540 non-dependent adults living with families in poverty that aren't included in the child poverty statistics.

82%
of those are aged 16-24, likely young people who have left full-time education but remain in the family home.

11%
of non-dependents aged 16-24 in families in poverty live with a child aged 0-5.

This is a gap in how poverty is understood and measured. Families may still be supporting young people financially and emotionally, even when those young people no longer appear in child poverty statistics.



The above graph shows peaks in the number of applications for the Scottish Welfare Funds' crisis grant made by families in poverty during April, October and January. These 3 months coincide with school holidays, January being further complicated by the impact of the festive season. We also heard from young people who told us about the importance of having safe, warm, well-lit spaces for them to go, especially during the darker, colder months as the sun sets so early in winter that it can feel unsafe for young people to spend time outdoors without safe places they can go.

“The time of day has a big impact, like at night when there's broken street lamps and it's dark.”

Survey asking young people about play spaces

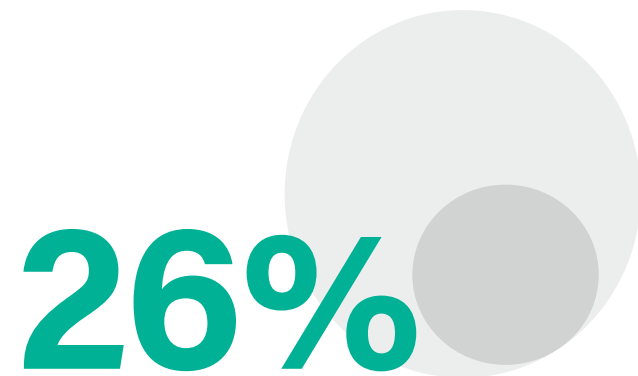
Despite this drop in income, families still need to support their younger children as well as their non-dependent adult children who may require support for education, training or apprenticeships. This matters for Glasgow because the Integrated Children's Services Plan highlights the need to support children, young people and families through integrated, strengths-based, responsive and preventative services.

Families highlighted the importance of purpose, aspiration and opportunity as key aspects of family wellbeing. Parents described wanting greater access to flexible employment, education, volunteering and opportunities that would improve their confidence and financial circumstances. Childcare plays a key role in creating the space needed to pursue these opportunities.

Coordination and partnership in the system

To find sustainable employment, parents and carers need to make arrangements for their family and interact with multiple services at the same time. Where these services work well together, families are more likely to have positive experiences and better outcomes. Where they do not, families can find themselves repeating their story, attending multiple appointments and attempting to navigate systems that do not communicate effectively with one another. Parents experiencing in-work poverty highlighted the difficulties of balancing employment, childcare and household responsibilities. Others described the challenges of finding work that offered sufficient flexibility to meet family needs.

The balance of income from employment against the cost of childcare is a calculation that parents and carers often need to weigh against each other. This is exacerbated by inflexible work where hours can't be guaranteed or doesn't fit around the demands of family life.



26%
of the families in 2025/26
experiencing relative
poverty have at least one
adult in employment.



Strong foundations for families

The evidence in this section is clear: housing, childcare and employability cannot be addressed effectively in isolation. Together, they shape family income, wellbeing, security and opportunity. When one foundation becomes unstable, pressure can spread across the household. When they work well together, families have greater scope to plan, participate and thrive. Poverty is therefore not only an issue of income. It is also shaped by whether families have a secure and suitable home, childcare that meets their needs, fair and flexible opportunities, safe and welcoming places, and support that is easy to access and coordinated around their lives.

Glasgow's response must reflect this reality. Tackling child poverty requires coordinated action across housing, childcare, employability, communities, public services, businesses and the third sector. It also requires families to be involved in shaping solutions, drawing on their experience, capabilities and relationships to strengthen local support and create lasting change. The opportunity is to organise support around families rather than expecting families to navigate disconnected systems. By investing in the foundations of family life and acting earlier when circumstances change, Glasgow can reduce pressure, widen opportunity and build stronger communities in which children, parents and carers can all thrive.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS: WHERE NEXT?



Looking ahead: From insight to action

This report has shown that child poverty is about far more than household income alone. Families experience poverty through a complex interaction of financial pressures, housing, health, caring responsibilities, employment, childcare, relationships and the systems they rely upon for support. Poverty is dynamic, shaped by life transitions and changing circumstances, and its impact is often felt across every aspect of family life. At the same time, the evidence demonstrates the importance of trusted relationships, strong community connections, coordinated support and services designed around the realities of family experience.

A consistent message throughout this report is that meaningful progress requires more than individual interventions. It requires partners across the city to continue working together to strengthen prevention, improve coordination, build on community strengths, and ensure that the voices of families and practitioners are embedded in how services are designed, delivered and improved. The challenge of child poverty is significant, but so too is the opportunity to create a more connected, responsive and family-centred system of support.

The findings presented here are not intended to provide definitive answers, but to contribute to a shared understanding of where further learning, collaboration and innovation may be most valuable. By continuing to bring together data, lived experience, practitioner insight and collective leadership, Glasgow can build on existing strengths and accelerate progress towards its ambition of becoming a city where every child, young person and family has the opportunity to thrive.

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

Since 2019 the Centre for Civic Innovation have been using Council Tax Reduction data, provided by the DWP to Corporate Finance, to understand the scale of child poverty in Glasgow. Whilst it doesn't cover every family experiencing poverty, it demonstrates a high level of detail into family circumstances. Not a model, a real snapshot of families in the city using administrative data.

For example, in Govan, there are 225 families with a child aged 0-5 experiencing poverty. Together they have: 481 children and are per week on average: £145 below the poverty line.

The CTR data is collected and processed monthly to produce an average number of families and children in poverty during the financial year. This smooths out any trends in the data caused by how the system works, providing a more accurate overview of child poverty in the city than would be seen if a single month's snapshot was to be used.

Other administrative datasets are linked to the CTR data enhancing the analysis with further information relating to family circumstances.

Phrases we use

This report uses many phrases and ideas that aren't always easy to understand. Below outlines the common phrases to ensure a shared understanding of the terms used across the report.

Poverty thresholds, also known as 'the poverty line'

If the total income of a family falls below the poverty threshold, 60% of UK median income, then that family is in relative poverty. The poverty threshold is adjusted based on the number of adults and children that live in the household. The poverty thresholds we use are before housing costs.

In-work poverty

A family is in in-work poverty if there is an adult within their household who receives some level of income from employment but is still experiencing poverty.

Relative poverty

A family is in relative poverty before housing costs if their total weekly income is below the poverty threshold. For a family with 1 adult, 1 child under 14 years old and 1 child over 14 years old, the poverty threshold before housing costs is £474 per week.

Deep poverty

A family is in deep poverty if their total weekly income is below 40% of the UK median income. For a family with 1 adult 1 child over 14 years old and 1 child under 14 years old, the poverty threshold is £316 per week.

Priority groups

The term priority group comes from the Scottish Government's Every Child, Every Chance (2018) Delivery Plan and refers to families who have certain characteristics which mean they are more likely to experience poverty.



WHERE DOES THE DATA COME FROM

Council Tax Reduction Data

Capita One Revenues and Benefits is the database that holds all of Glasgow City Council's Council Tax Reduction (CTR) information. The data we received from this database is taken on the 10th of every month.

The Council Tax Reduction data forms the backbone of this piece of analysis. It contains information on the address of each household, who lives there and the income each household receives. In addition to this we also received new data in the form of the income breakdown for households in receipt of Universal Credit.

Poverty thresholds

The poverty thresholds are calculated based on the equivalised UK household median income. The UK median income is taken from the UK governments analysis of the Households Below Average Income publication. The weights used for the equivalisation come from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

There are currently 60 different household compositions identified in the Housing Benefit data. In order to ensure the measurements used are as accurate as possible, these weighting are used to calculate the threshold for each family in receipt of CTR.

Education data

To understand ethnicity and children with additional support needs (ASN), data is gathered from the SEEMiS database held within Education. This database is used by all local authorities across Scotland to maintain school pupil records.

This data provides information on ethnicity and ASN for all children attending school in Glasgow. There is no unique identifier that can be used to join this with the CTR data, so a data match exercise was undertaken. This process provides an 81% match between the data sets.

City and Ward Populations

The Ward and city populations come from the UK Government and are based on their statistics on the number of households with children in receipt of Child Benefit.

Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Welfare Fund is a support fund set up by the Scottish Government and administered at the discretion of local authorities. This data is collected and held by the council's Financial Services department and holds information on all applications made.

Housing

Glasgow City Council holds data on all domestic properties within the city which captures a wide range of information. This is linked to the CTR data based on the address of the property, providing an 84% match between the data sets.

Caveats

As the primary data source only contains CTR data, there may be families experiencing poverty not captured by this. Households with children that are in receipt of Universal Credit and are not claiming Council Tax Reduction will not be included.

However, the data that we have provides information on enough families that it can highlight specific problem areas and show that it will likely be an issue for those that aren't captured.

One important point to note is that the income data within the CTR system does not include the Scottish Child Payment, so this isn't included in any income calculations.

The two-child benefit cap was removed in April 2026, as this report focusses on the financial year 2025/26 it will not show the impact that this change in policy has had for families in Glasgow.

The data that is held also doesn't include families with No Recourse to Public Funds. This group will be largely refugees and asylum seekers who currently do not have the right to claim benefits from the DWP or other public bodies. This presents another gap; however, this is also excluded from the DWP's Children in Low Income Families publication.

To see the data in further detail, please visit Glasgow's child poverty dashboard at:
<https://cciglasgow.org/child-poverty-dashboard/>



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