



Challenge Poverty Week 2021 - Factsheet for Monday

Monday 4th October 2021

Launch of Challenge Poverty Week 2021

Dumfries & Galloway Council are very happy to again be supporting Challenge Poverty Week 2021 – the annual Campaign Awareness Week delivered by The Poverty Alliance throughout Scotland.

Challenge Poverty Week is designed to highlight that poverty is a problem we can solve and to showcase solutions we can all get behind.

We very much hope that we can achieve together all of the following this Challenge Poverty Week 2021:

- To raise a unified voice against poverty and show that we all want to live in a more just and equal Scotland.
- To build awareness and support for solutions to poverty.
- To change the conversation around poverty and help end the stigma of living on a low income.

Challenge Poverty Week 2021's Key Messages are:

- Too many people in our society are locked in the grip of poverty, restricted from playing a full role in society.
- But in Scotland, we all agree that poverty can, and must, be solved.

On each day during Challenge Poverty Week, we will focus on a different theme and these themes each have accompanying key messages. Due to the ongoing Covid 19 Pandemic, all of our information will again be made available online and we encourage everyone to log onto our new Challenge Poverty Week Pages each day to receive all of the help and assistance which will make their lives easier.

All of the solutions offered are designed to help you to increase your incomes and reduce your costs which we know is the quickest way to escape from poverty.

The Daily Themes we are highlighting this week are as follows:

- **Tuesday 5th October – Financial Wellbeing**

We will be highlighting the support from our Dumfries and Galloway Council Financial Wellbeing Teams and Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service plus additional services all of whom will be able to help you too increase your incomes and reducing your costs.

- **Wednesday 6th October – Social Security Scotland**

Our national partners Social Security Scotland will be providing all of their resources including factsheets, social media resources, flyers and videos. Each of these will provide information on all of the Benefits which are currently available to apply for and how to make Applications for these payments and the support available to everyone within our Region.

- **Thursday 7th October 2021 – Employment**

As well as highlighting all of the support which we have available, we will also feature information and contacts for our partners including Skills Development Scotland who can help anyone facing unemployment or who may already be unemployed to access Training Opportunities to help anyone get back into work.

- **Friday 8th October 2021 – Home, Fuel, Digital Connectivity & Food**

This day will feature a wide range of support mechanisms including Housing and Homelessness, Support for Fuel Costs, Food Insecurity and where to access support and additional projects including our Council's Period Dignity Project.

- **Saturday 9th October 2021 – Supporting Young People**

Our Young People's Services Teams will be showcasing all of the projects and services which are on offer all throughout our Region which offer confidential help and support to young people who are facing a range of challenges at this time.

- **Sunday 10th October – Tackling Poverty throughout our Communities**

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway are in the process of re-launching their Tackling Poverty Forum which offers support to all third sector organisations though-out the region who tackle all forms of poverty and we will highlight how all Groups can get involved. We will also be featuring details on how Dumfries and Galloway Council are helping to tackle poverty throughout our Region, we will be highlighting the new Poverty and Inequalities Partnership which was

launched in August 2021 and we will also hear from local Elected Members on how we are continuing to prioritise tackling poverty each and every day.

We will also be hearing from a number of Community Groups who support people each and every day and the impacts which their projects have had to change the lives of those which they support.

The Poverty Alliance are also hosting online Events throughout Challenge Poverty Week which are all free to attend. These include the below:

Challenge Poverty Week Lecture 2021

5 October 2021, 6.30pm-7.45pm



The Poverty Alliance and the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit (SPIRU) at Glasgow Caledonian University are delighted that **Baroness Ruth Lister** will deliver this year's Challenge Poverty lecture. Across a distinguished career as a campaigner and academic Professor Lister has explored how we understand and conceive poverty, and how these understandings impact both the experience of poverty and our responses to it. Recurring themes in her work include the connection between poverty and human rights; the differential experiences of poverty; discourses of poverty, in particular the experience of 'othering'.

For the Challenge Poverty Lecture 2021 Professor Lister will explore these themes and what they mean for addressing poverty in Scotland during and after the pandemic.

This year's lecture will take place online. For more information and to register please [click here](#)

Poverty Alliance Annual Conference 2021

Rights in Recovery: Protecting Rights and Tackling Poverty After Covid
8 October 2021, 9.45am- 2pm

The impact of the pandemic has been different across our society. People living on low incomes, disabled people or people with long term health conditions, people from black and ethnic minority communities, and those who were in low paid employment have all been at greater risk. As we now look towards a period of

recovery from the pandemic, this conference will look how we can both tackle poverty and ensure that the human rights of those who have been most affected can be protected and extended.

The speakers at the conference include **John Swinney MSP**, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery Plans, **Professor Olivier de Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, **Judith Robertson**, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, **Talat Yaqoob**, writer and campaigner, and **Bruce Adamson**, Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland, **Moira Tasker**, CEO of Inclusion Scotland.

For more information and to register [please follow this link](#)

Challenging Poverty within Dumfries & Galloway

How are Dumfries and Galloway Council continuing to tackle poverty and inequalities throughout our Region?

Our first Anti-Poverty Strategy which began in 2015 and was one of the first to be delivered by a local authority in Scotland was due to come to an end in 2020. We commissioned an Independent Evaluation into the impact of our first Strategy together with a second separate project which made recommendations on the way forward to tackle poverty and inequalities within our Region.

Both of these separate detailed Reports are available on our website. A new Poverty and Inequalities Strategy has now been successfully developed and consulted upon which was agreed by both our Communities Committee and our Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Board. This new way forward will be delivered by our Council and more importantly all of our Community Planning Partners until 2026.

This new Strategy has resulted in the formation of our new Region Wide Poverty and Inequalities Partnership which is independently chaired.

Our Council has reinforced our commitment to tackling all forms of poverty and inequalities by supporting this new Strategy and we again allocated Policy Development Funding to a wide range of projects in our annual Budget in March 2021.

What is the main change in terms of our new Poverty and Inequalities Strategy?

The main difference is that our new Strategy will be jointly delivered by Dumfries and Galloway Council and all of our Community Planning Partners together. We know that no one body can eradicate poverty but by all working together and pooling all of our resources, we can significantly reduce both the impact to those who are in poverty and the risk of families and individuals falling into poverty.

During our Budget Setting Process in March of this year, we committed £652,050 in funding to reinforce our commitment to further reducing all forms of poverty throughout our Region. This funding both continues to support existing projects such

as our Welfare and Housing Options Support Team who help tenants with complex issues who are at risk of losing their tenancy and a range of new projects too.

We allocated funding towards Holiday Food Fund payments to children in Nurseries, funding to increase the annual School Clothing Grant to the sum of £134 per pupil, support for community transport throughout the Region and also funding towards the Taxi-Card Scheme which offers dedicated transport to our most vulnerable residents who have no other method of transport to ensure that they can attend essential medical appointments.

We also continued with our allocation of funding to support the Solway Credit Union and the Stranraer Credit Union who both offer low-cost affordable credit and we again covered the costs of the Membership and Delivery Fees for the 15 Projects within our region who receive surplus food supplies from Fareshare. All of these supplies are then delivered or collected by those most in need from the various food banks supported throughout our Region.

During the last financial year, this project alone supplied £872,874.60 worth of food which equated to 244,402Tonnes of Food which if split down would make 581,916 Meal Portions.

£200,000 of funding was also allocated to our Area Committee's which is currently being allocated to projects which fit the priorities of each Committee to tackling poverty within their local Area.

For more information on all of the above including the Reports highlighted, please log onto [Poverty \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](http://Poverty.dumgal.gov.uk)

Please log on and help us to highlight all of the help and assistance which is available every day to anyone in need. All of the Dumfries and Galloway Council Services and Partner Organisations are here to help you and we are ready for your call.

Log onto <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/CPW2021>

For more information on Challenge Poverty Week 2021, please log onto [Challenge Poverty Week – The Poverty Alliance](#)

Please contact Challenge.Poverty@dumgal.gov.uk or our Anti-Poverty Officer Wendy Jesson on 0788 094 2909 for more information on tackling poverty and inequalities within Dumfries and Galloway.