

The Child Poverty Bill

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- Measuring success in eradicating child poverty
- Setting a vision and driving progress towards 2020
- Establishing an accountability framework
- Taking into account the economic situation
- Local action to tackle child poverty
- A UK wide approach
- Timescales

Measuring success

- Duty on Secretary of State to meet four UK wide targets by 2020:
 - Relative poverty: less than 10% of children living in relative low income poverty (households with less than 60% of median income)
 - Material deprivation: less than 5% of children living in combined material deprivation and low income (households with less than 70% of median income)
 - Persistent poverty: % of children living in relative poverty for three out of four years (level to be set by the end of 2014)
 - Absolute poverty: less than 5 % of children living in families with income below absolute threshold (level to be set by the end of 2014)

Setting a vision and driving progress

- Duty on Secretary of State to publish and lay before Parliament a UK child poverty strategy
- The strategy must describe action needed across different ‘building blocks’ within 3 year lifetime of strategy and by 2020:
 - Employment and skills
 - Financial support
 - Health, education and social services
 - Housing, environment and social inclusion

Setting a vision and driving progress

- The strategy must:
 - Be published within 12 months of Royal Assent and refreshed every 3 years
 - Set out steps to meet the targets and to ensure children do not experience socio-economic deprivation
 - Take into account progress made in each ‘building block’ under the previous strategy
 - Be prepared in consultation with local government, children and others

Establishing an accountability framework: annual reports

- **Duty on Secretary of State to publish UK wide annual reports**
- **Annual reports must:**
 - Be laid before Parliament
 - Describe progress towards meeting the targets and in implementing the strategy
 - If a strategy has not been fully implemented, explain why this is the case
 - Final report must assess whether targets have been met and if not, explain why

Establishing an accountability framework: the Commission

- Child Poverty Commission to be established on Royal Assent
- Provides advice to Government in preparing strategy
- Secretary of State can request advice on other matters linked to targets
- Advice will be made public and Secretary of State must have regard to it
- Members will have experience of child poverty policy and research and working with families experiencing poverty

Local action to tackle child poverty

- Duty on local authorities and partners to co-operate to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their area
- Duty to carry out a child poverty needs assessment;
- Duty to prepare a joint local child poverty strategy; and
- Duty for local authorities to take their duties to reduce child poverty into account when preparing or revising their Sustainable Communities Strategy

A UK wide approach

- UK wide targets, strategy and reports
- Separate Scotland and Northern Ireland strategies setting out action which contributes towards targets and ensures children do not experience socio-economic deprivation
- Reference to strategies prepared under Welsh Measure
- Commission provides advice on Scottish and Northern Irish strategies and includes members appointed by Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland

Timescales

- Introduced June 2009
- Carryover Bill – some Commons stages in fifth session
- Royal Assent in 2010
- Work in advance to develop strategy and improve local delivery