



# Child Poverty Delivery Plan and Current Commission Priorities

# The Commission's approach to this round of advice

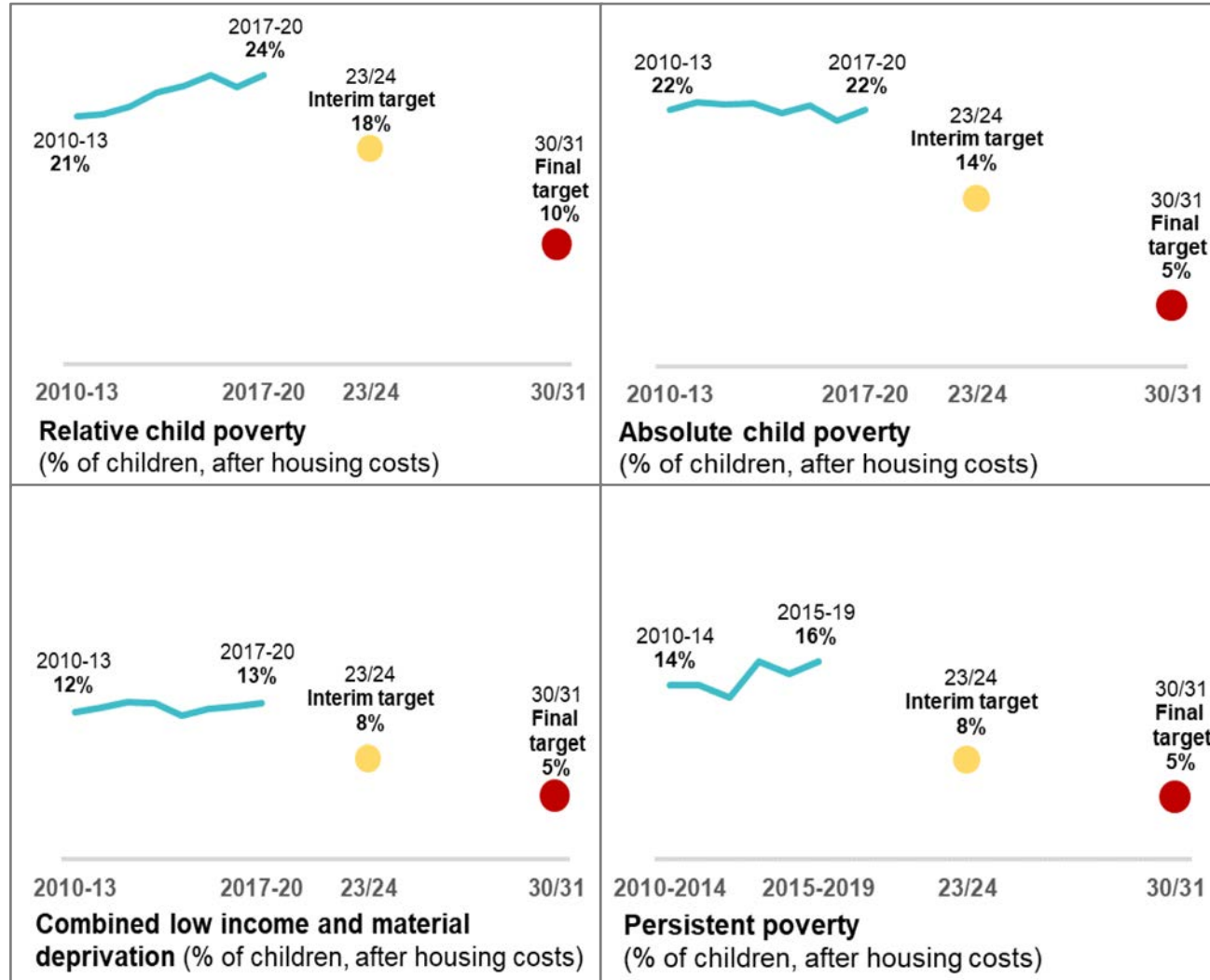


- The Commission's statutory duties include monitoring progress towards the Child Poverty reduction targets and providing advice to Scottish Ministers on their Child Poverty Delivery Plans.
- The PIC worked with and heard from third sector and community organisations, think tanks, academics, experts by experience, and SG and local government officials.
- We set up a panel of 19 experts by experience to work jointly with us on developing our recommendations.
- The Commission's view is that we are far from where we need to be and yet the interim targets must be met by 2023. Much more needs to happen at a greater scale and pace if we are to deliver on this commitment to Scotland's children.

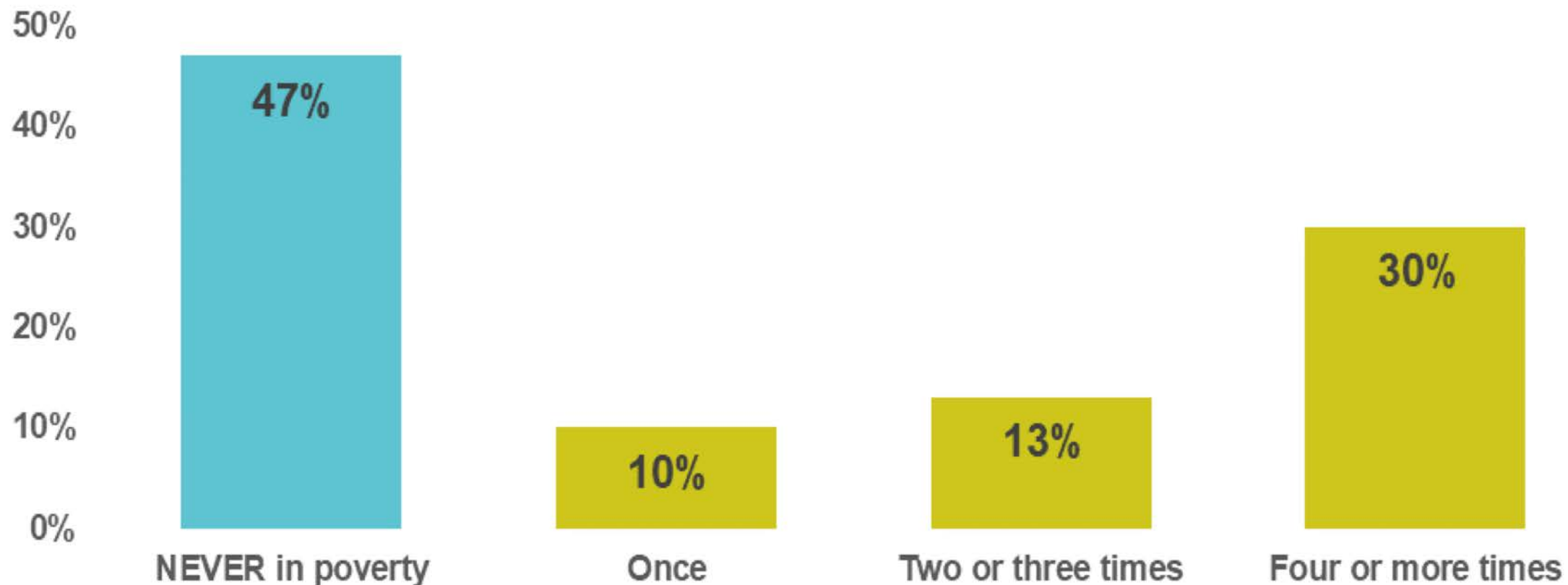
# We are not moving in the right direction



**POVERTY AND  
INEQUALITY**  
COMMISSION



# Poverty is dynamic



Source: Analysis of 9 waves of [Growing Up in Scotland](#) data

# Priority Families



<b><i>All children</i></b>	<b>240,000 (24%)</b>
Lone parent families	90,000 (38%)
Minority ethnic families	60,000 (38%)
Families with a disabled person	100,000 (29%)

**Note:** Carers of disabled children and adults are at a high risk of poverty.

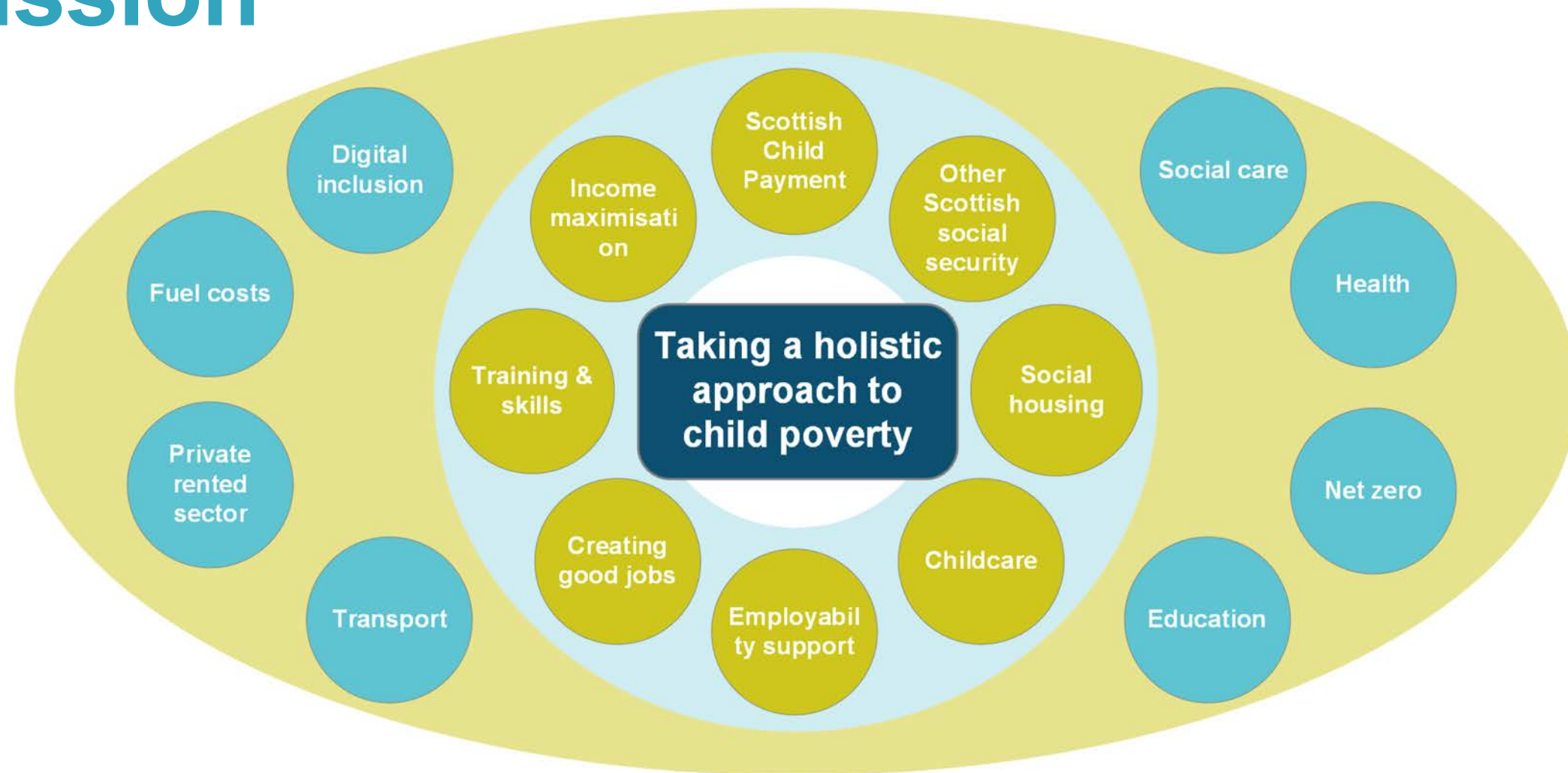
Other priority group families at a higher risk of poverty include families with young mothers aged under 25 (55%), larger families with more than 3 children (32%) and families with a child aged under 1 (34%).

# What the Commission said would be needed in the next Child Poverty delivery plan



- **Actions taken so far are evidently not on a scale or pace sufficient to meet the interim or final targets.**
- We need a clearer picture of **what the collective impact of any actions** are expected to be.
- SG must **monitor and evaluate whether that impact is being realised.**
- The SG should be more open to **risk and innovation.**
- We need **further action on social security in the short term.**
- We need to see Child Poverty reduction at the centre of policies across Scottish Government.

# National Mission



## None of the main drivers to child poverty sit in isolation



*“It’s very much like a hurdle race that you are running when you are poor and on benefits. And you manage to clear one hurdle, be it the transport to a job or the childcare, and then straight away there’s another hurdle in your way that’s even higher than the one you’ve just cleared. It’s that unrelenting difficulty of life.”*

Panel member



# What's in the Plan



- ❑ Greater acknowledgement of scale and pace of investment that will be needed
- ❑ More evidence of a joined up approach where different areas of government make a contribution to reducing child poverty.
- ❑ Increase in Scottish Child Payment to £25 pw and large increase in Employability (£81m) spending and a more holistic approach to support offered.
- ❑ Recognition of importance of Lived Experience in informing the design of policies and their roll-out.

# What's in the Plan?

- ☐ Improved publication of analysis informing policy decisions.
- ☐ Greater investment in embedded advice services in schools and GP surgeries.
- ☐ Parental Transition Fund
- ☐ Action to fully mitigate the Benefit Cap
- ☐ Greater automation and data sharing to maximise take-up of benefits

# What's not in the Plan?



- Planned actions to reduce the cost of transport for low income families.
- How employers will be involved in reducing barriers to employment.
- Still more to do in joining up and putting child poverty at the core of policies across government.
- Actions to address the structural causes of poverty rather than the difficulties that individuals face.
- Read the full Delivery Plan here -

<https://www.gov.scot/news/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-26/>

# What must happen next

- Failure to meet the targets is not inevitable, **the targets can be met but will require SG to use all the levers available to it and deliver action at a greater scale and pace with significant investment.**
- **No single policy or collection of small number of actions on their own will be enough.** SG must put tackling poverty at the core of design and delivery of all its work. This requires stronger leadership and accountability.
- Meeting the targets will have significant costs attached, particularly the interim targets where further social security increases will be necessary. The SG should be planning how to raise/reallocate funding for this now. **Every pound spent should have some means of assessing whether it contributes towards the targets.**

# Commission's Work Programme



The Commission has identified four key work streams for the coming year:

- Child poverty
- Cost of living – Urgent advice request from Cabinet Secretary, had already planned intelligence gathering visits and awareness raising
- Devolved Tax powers - for revenue and to support redistribution
- Embedding intersectional analysis across the Commission's work

Also responding to consultations (e.g. Parental Transition Fund), evaluating the impact of our experts by experience panel, and publishing the outputs from the Commission's Poverty and Inequality in Scotland scrutiny work.



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