

Edinburgh Pentlands MSP hails move to tackle child poverty

MSP HAILS RADICAL MOVE TO TACKLE CHILD POVERTY IN EDINBURGH

Local MSP, Gordon Macdonald, has heaped praise on the SNP's announcement of a new social benefit designed to lift children across Scotland out of poverty.

By the end of 2022, eligible families across Edinburgh will now receive an extra £10 a week for every child under 16 – low income families with children under the age of six will be fast tracked and start to receive the benefit in early 2021.

This announcement means that eligible families with two children under 16 will receive an additional £1,000 a year to spend on day to day essentials from clothing to school equipment.

Once fully rolled out, the payment will benefit up to 410,000 children across Scotland – not only supporting those in poverty and but also preventing those on the breadline from sliding under. There is no cap on the number of children in eligible families.

The announcement has been celebrated by anti-poverty campaigners who have branded the new benefit a “gamechanger”.



Gordon Macdonald MSP

SNP MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands, Gordon Macdonald, said:

“This is a radical and very welcome announcement – and it’s exactly what we need if we are to reduce child poverty levels here in Edinburgh, in the face of ongoing welfare cuts from the UK Tory government.

“The ambition of this SNP Government to tackle poverty and give our young people from low income backgrounds the very best start in life is clear.

“I know the new Scottish Child Payment will be a welcome boost to many young families in Edinburgh when it’s fully rolled out over the coming years.

“But the sad reality is, this SNP Government is fighting poverty with one hand tied behind its back – without Westminster imposed austerity this benefit could do go further and reach more families.

“This move is the mark of a serious Government – willing to take bold action to address the needs of Scotland’s people.” John Dickie, Director of the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) in Scotland, said:

“This new payment is an absolute game changer in the fight to end child poverty – £10 a week for each child will make a real difference to families struggling to put food on the table, heat their homes and pay for the ordinary school trips, sport and other activities that are fundamental to a decent childhood. Today’s announcement is a landmark recognition of the role the Scottish social security system can play in ending child poverty.” Peter Kelly, Director of the Poverty Alliance, added:

“Amid a rising tide of poverty, the new Scottish Child Payment will act as a lifeline for families struggling to stay afloat. An additional £10 per week will help unlock tens of thousands of children from poverty and underlines the important role that Scottish social security powers have to address poverty.”