

Innovations in Scotland in response to the impact of poverty on education

By Stephen McKinney and Stuart Hall

This short paper will provide some key themes from the three main strands of innovation responding to the issue of the impact of poverty on Education; the response from the Scottish Government and local authorities; the response from the research community and the response from the professional community. The response from the Scottish Government includes:

- **School Improvement Partnership Programme (2013-)** An action research programme involving a process of collaborative inquiry which creates leadership opportunities and professional learning. A key feature of the SIPP is the evaluation support provided by the Robert Owen Centre at Glasgow University. Embodies much of the thinking behind the policies and publications previously outlined.
- **The Attainment Challenge (2015)** - £100m fund aimed at supporting pupils in the authorities of Scotland with the highest concentrations of poverty and deprivation. This is primarily focused on primary schools and seeks improvements in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. There are seven initial pilot local authorities involved in the challenge.
- **National Improvement Framework (2016)** – seeks improvement in attainment, specifically in reading, writing and numeracy, Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children, Improvement in children and young people’s health and wellbeing, Improvement in sustained school leaver destinations for all young people. Just beginning to be rolled out.

The response from the Research and professional community includes:

- **The Cost of the School Day (2015)** – Report from the Child Poverty Action Group focused on helping local authorities and schools identify the hidden costs for school children from backgrounds of poverty and deprivation.
- **Closing the Attainment gap in Scottish education (2014)** – guidance for local authorities and schools to help them close the attainment gap that is associated with poverty in Scotland.

The response from the professional community includes:

- **Face up to Child Poverty (2015)** – This a set of guidelines produced by the EIS to help teachers and schools identify the needs of children from backgrounds of poverty and deprivation.