Cross-Party Group on Poverty: Inquiry into poverty and stigma

Call for written evidence

Overview

The Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Poverty in the Scottish Parliament wants to hear your views on poverty-related stigma, as part of its inquiry into the issue.

Background

Over one million people in Scotland are living in the grip of poverty. In addition to their day-to-day struggle to get by, many face the impact of poverty-related stigma. Poverty-related stigma creates divisions between people who are 'poor' and who are 'non-poor' which act to justify and entrench socioeconomic inequalities, as well as cause people living in poverty to feel socially excluded and ashamed.[1]

Poverty-related stigma can have a range of implications for the kind of support and services people are able to access, how they are viewed and treated by services, the media and the wider public, and how people experiencing poverty see themselves.

Progress has been made in Scotland in recent years in relation to challenging prevailing stigmatising narratives, including through the establishment of a Scottish social security system that explicitly states its commitment to dignity, fairness and respect. But people living on low incomes still face stigma-related challenges and barriers that must be addressed.

The CPG on Poverty's inquiry into poverty and stigma seeks to identify the causes, impacts of and solutions to poverty-related stigma. Your views will help to shape the inquiry's final report, which will be published in May.

How to submit your views

The deadline for submissions is 5pm, Friday 11th March. Please send your submission to neil.cowan@povertyalliance.org. Our preference would be for submissions to be Word documents, but please submit your views in whichever format suits you. It is not essential to answer every question; please answer as many or as few questions as you wish.

In your submission, please include:

- Whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation
- Your name and/or your organisation's name
- Your organisation's address (if applicable)
- Your contact email address

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[1] Lister, R. (2015). 'To count for nothing': poverty beyond the statistics. Journal of British Academy, 3, 139-165

Inquiry questions

<u>Section 1: Impacts of stigma</u>

1) What is the scale and extent of poverty-related stigma in Scotland?

2) What are the key impacts of poverty-related stigma on you and/or the people that your organisation works with?

3) How does poverty-related stigma impact on communities that are more likely to be affected by poverty?

4) Does poverty-related stigma impact on the ways that public services are delivered? If yes, please give examples.

    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Don't know

5) Do particular groups of people living on low incomes (for example women, disabled people, Black and minority ethnic people, young people) experience stigma in different ways? If yes, please give examples.

    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Don't know

<u>Section 2: Causes of poverty-related stigma</u>

6) In your view, what is the primary cause of poverty-related stigma?

7) What role do you believe the media, including social media, play in causing poverty-related stigma?

8) What role do you believe public figures (politicians, business leaders, celebrities, and others) play in creating and/or perpetuating poverty-related stigma?

9) How do public bodies and public services contribute to poverty-related stigma? Please provide examples if possible

10) Are there any other bodies, organisations or individuals that you believe play a role in creating and/or perpetuating poverty-related stigma? If so, please detail.

<u>Section 3: Tackling and ending stigma</u>

11) What is the key change that can be taken that would help tackle poverty related stigma?

12) What changes can the media make to help end poverty-related stigma?

13) What role can public figures play to help end poverty-related stigma? Please give examples of existing good practice where possible

14) What changes can public services and public bodies make to help end poverty-related stigma? Please give examples of existing good practice where possible

15) What other bodies or organisations do you believe have a responsibility for helping to end poverty-related stigma, and what particular changes can they make?

16) Is there anything else that you would like to tell us in relation to the drivers, impacts and solutions to poverty-related stigma?

For further information please contact:

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