

Charity Urges SNP Ministers to Prioritise Scotland's Poorest Children

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A prominent children's charity has urged Scottish National Party (SNP) ministers to take stronger action to ensure the country's most disadvantaged children are not left behind. Save the Children, which focuses on child welfare and advocacy, told *The Herald* that vulnerable children in Scotland are frequently overlooked in government policy.

The charity emphasised that while the Scottish Government has made efforts in areas such as child poverty and education, these measures are not going far enough to reach those most in need. Speaking to *The Herald*, representatives from Save the Children highlighted persistent gaps in support systems, particularly for children in low-income households who face significant barriers to education and development.

Save the Children's Scotland director, Claire Telfer, pointed out that public funding and programmes intended to tackle child poverty often do not reflect the lived experiences of the poorest families. She urged SNP ministers to ensure future policy decisions are shaped with direct input from affected communities and are rooted in long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes.

According to Scottish Government data, nearly one in four children in Scotland lives in poverty. Campaigners argue this figure underlines the urgency of implementing targeted support for families grappling with rising costs, limited access to childcare, and educational inequalities. Telfer emphasised the need for strong political leadership to reverse trends that have left many young people without the support they need to succeed.

The charity's comments come amid wider political debate over the effectiveness of the SNP's policies on social welfare and education. As the cost-of-living crisis continues to affect working-class communities, organisations like Save the Children are calling for more inclusive and sustained efforts to address poverty at its source.

The Scottish Government has responded by pointing to its commitment to reducing child poverty through initiatives such as the Scottish Child Payment and expansion of free childcare. However, critics maintain that implementation has been inconsistent and that more must be done to measure impact and ensure accountability.

As pressure mounts, the spotlight remains on whether SNP ministers will heed the call to better support Scotland's most vulnerable children, those who, campaigners say, have been sidelined for too long.