

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE**Academic Board Committee – 01 May 2026****Tackling Child Poverty – College Sector RISE Initiative****Report by Vice Principal Education, Skills and Student Success****1. Introduction**

This report provides an update to members on the Raising Income through Skills and Education (RISE) Fund, a national programme of activity being progressed by the Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council and Colleges Scotland, with the aim of supporting the delivery of interventions that contribute to tackling child poverty.

The RISE Fund will provide targeted funding to colleges in Academic Year 2026/27 to deliver new or expanded activity focussed on adult learner support for people in priority family groups who experience poverty, with a specific emphasis on skills, employability and progression into sustained employment.

2. College Sector RISE Initiative

Tackling child poverty is a central priority of the Scottish Government, with a particular focus on supporting parents and carers to access learning, skills development and employment opportunities that increase household income.

The RISE Fund has been established to support this national mission by enabling colleges to deliver flexible, responsive and locally-informed interventions that support adults from low-income households to gain skills and qualifications that improve employability and progression outcomes.

The funding will be targeted at the six key priority groups outlined by the Scottish Government, by employing a place-based approach through the college sector and utilising the wider partnerships maintained by colleges to ensure whole family support approaches are adopted. These priority groups are:

1. Lone parent families
2. Minority ethnic families
3. Families with a disabled adult or child
4. Families with a mother aged under 25
5. Families with a child under one
6. Larger families (3+ children)

The funding is intended to complement and align with existing national programmes, including No One Left Behind and Community Learning and Development, rather than duplicate existing provision.

A national RISE Programme Steering Group has been established to support delivery of the programme across the college sector. The group includes sector representatives from colleges, alongside Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council and Colleges Scotland officials. The purpose of the steering group is to inform, advise and guide the successful delivery of RISE activity, with particular responsibility for supporting effective

use of funding, advising on evidence-based allocation approaches and ensuring consistent monitoring of impact.

Discussions within the steering group have highlighted support for allocations being informed by evidence of need and place-based factors, rather than a competitive application-only model. Members have also emphasised the importance of ensuring funding reflect levels of deprivation and child poverty. The steering group has also discussed the potential for collaborative and thematic approaches to delivery, where this would enhance impact and ensure effective use of resources across regions.

The RISE Fund represents a significant opportunity for Glasgow Kelvin College to build on existing work to support learners from low-income households, particularly parents and carers, and to further align curriculum and learner support activity with the national mission to tackle child poverty.

The College is represented on the RISE Programme Steering Group and is contributing to national discussions on funding methodology and effective delivery models. Further updates will be provided to Committee as national guidance is finalised and as implications for local delivery become clearer.

3. Resource Implications

Colleges will receive access to a national funding allocation for Academic Year 2026/27 to support delivery of RISE activity. Funding is intended to support new or expanded initiatives rather than existing activity. The Scottish Funding Council has confirmed that it will route RISE funding directly to colleges, with options for allocation methodologies being developed and tested with the steering group.

4. Impact on Students

The RISE Fund is intended to support improved access to learning, skills development and employment outcomes for adults in priority family groups, with the potential for positive indirect impact on children and families experiencing poverty.

5. Risk and Assurance

There are no immediate risks identified arising directly from this update. Oversight through the Programme Steering Group is intended to provide assurance on effective delivery and impact.

6. Equality

Tackling child poverty is closely linked to wider equality objectives.

7. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report

8. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- i. Note the progress of national work relating to the RISE Initiative; and
- ii. Note that further updates will be provided as national arrangements are finalised.

9. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from Robin Ashton, Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality Enhancement.

Glasgow Kelvin College
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