

Written Ministerial Statement

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Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Child Poverty Strategy

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Mrs A Foster (The First Minister) and Mr M McGuinness (The deputy First Minister): We have today laid before the Assembly the Executive's Child Poverty Strategy.

The Child Poverty Act 2010, enacted on 25 March 2010, required us to publish and lay before the Assembly a Child Poverty Strategy by 25 March 2011, prepare and publish annual reports on that strategy and revise the strategy every third year. The Executive's first Child Poverty Strategy, 'Improving Children's Life Chances' was published in March 2011, annual reports have been produced each year and a review of the strategy was initiated in its third year. This Strategy represents the Executive's revised Strategy as required by section 12(3) of the Child Poverty Act.

Tackling poverty and disadvantage is a priority of this Executive. This Strategy sets out an approach and a series of actions focused on improving the economic well-being of families and children's educational attainment, health and environment to improve both their well-being and life chances, reducing both the number of children in poverty and the impact of poverty on children.