

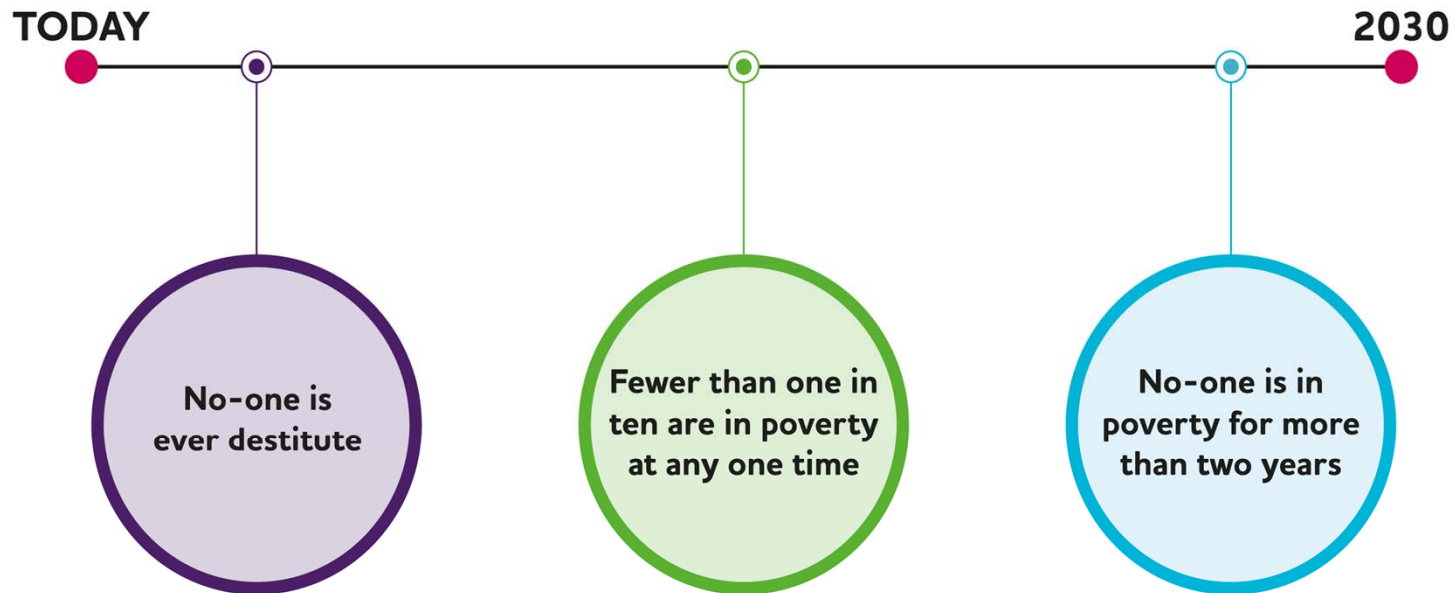
**Solving poverty:
Twists, turns and policy in Scotland**

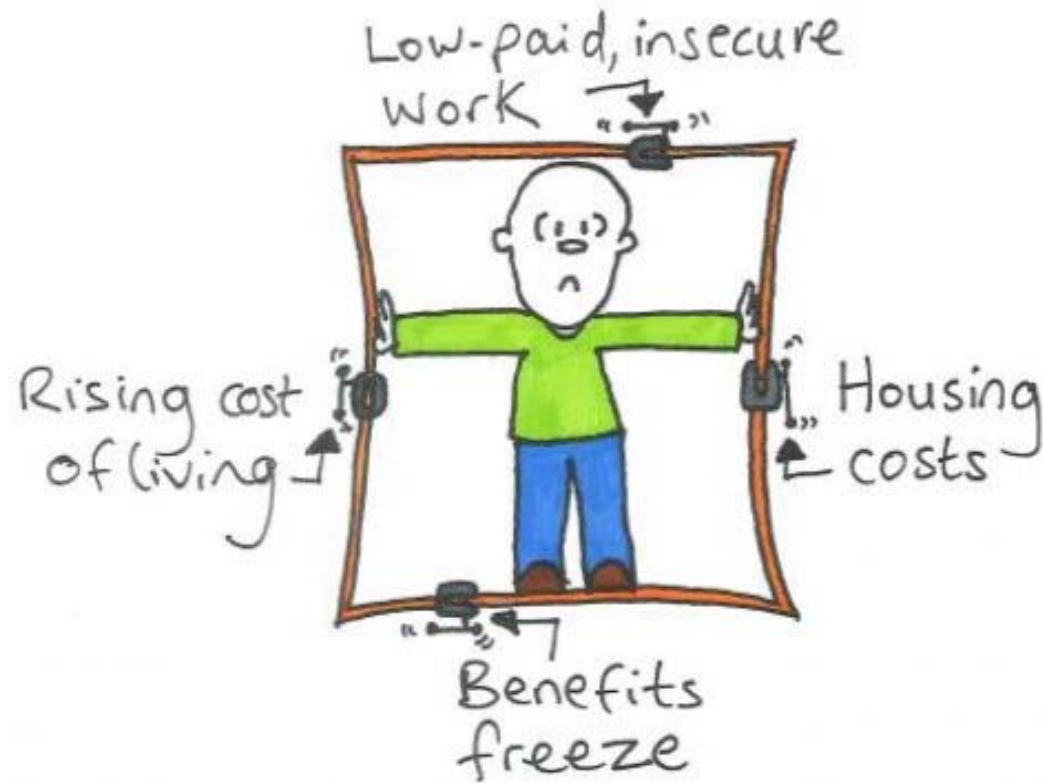
Jim McCormick, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Edinburgh 1 in 5 Conference, 26 April 2019

Our vision for a poverty free UK

where by **2030**:

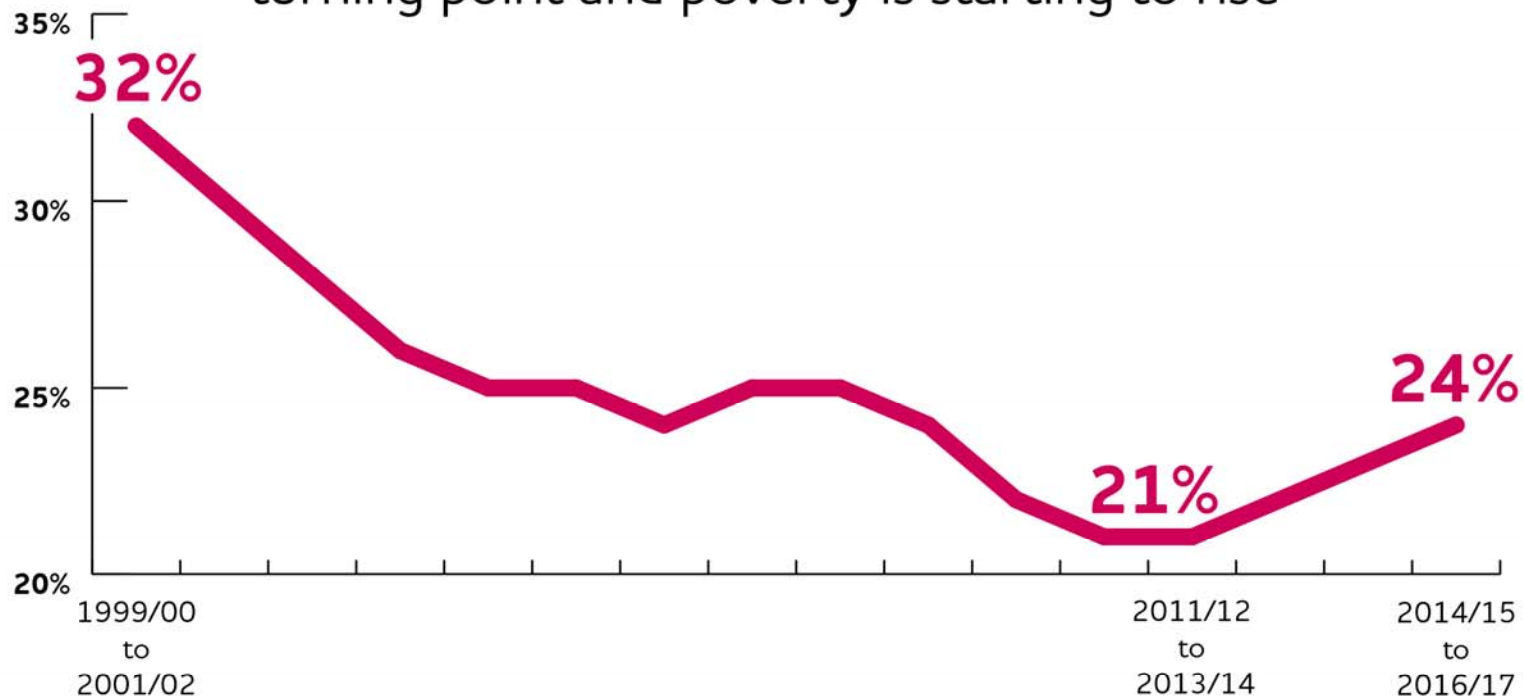




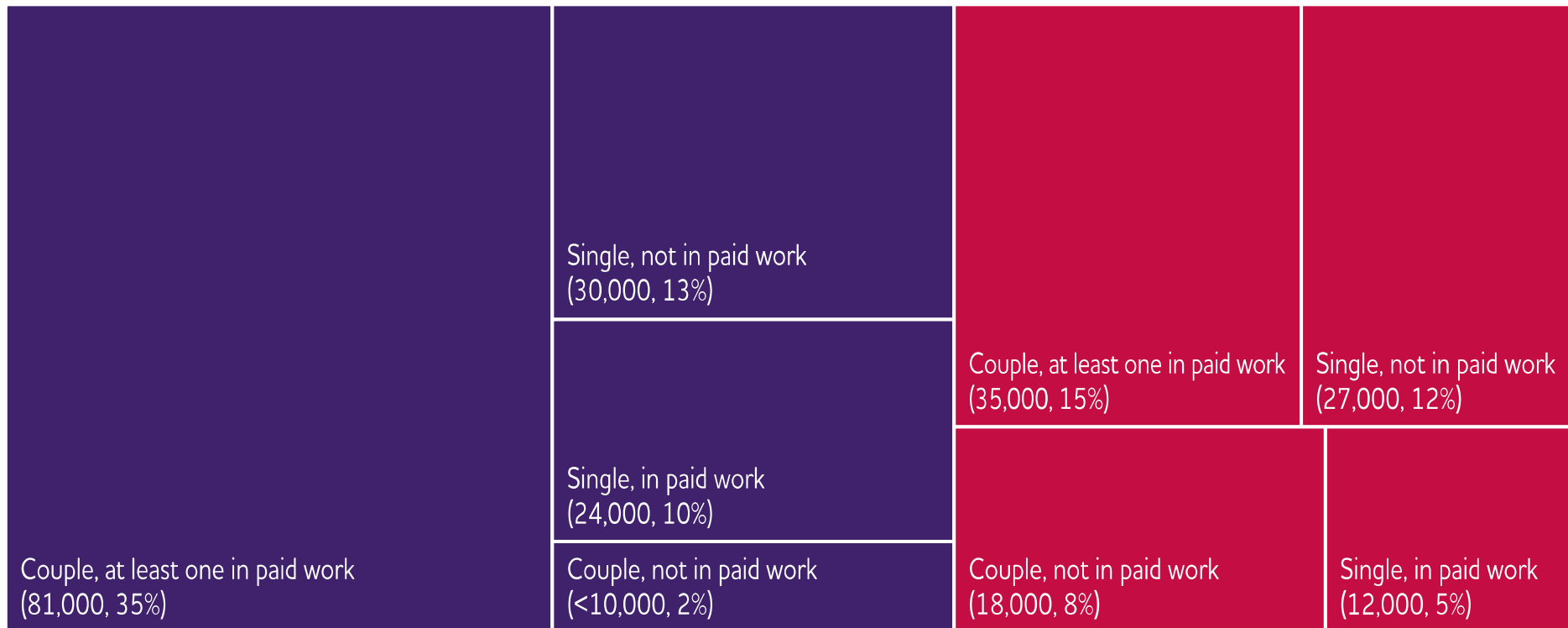
Low-paid, insecure work, housing costs, the benefits freeze and the rising cost of living combine to lock people in poverty.

Child poverty: progress is unravelling

Scotland's progress on reducing **child poverty** has reached a turning point and poverty is starting to rise

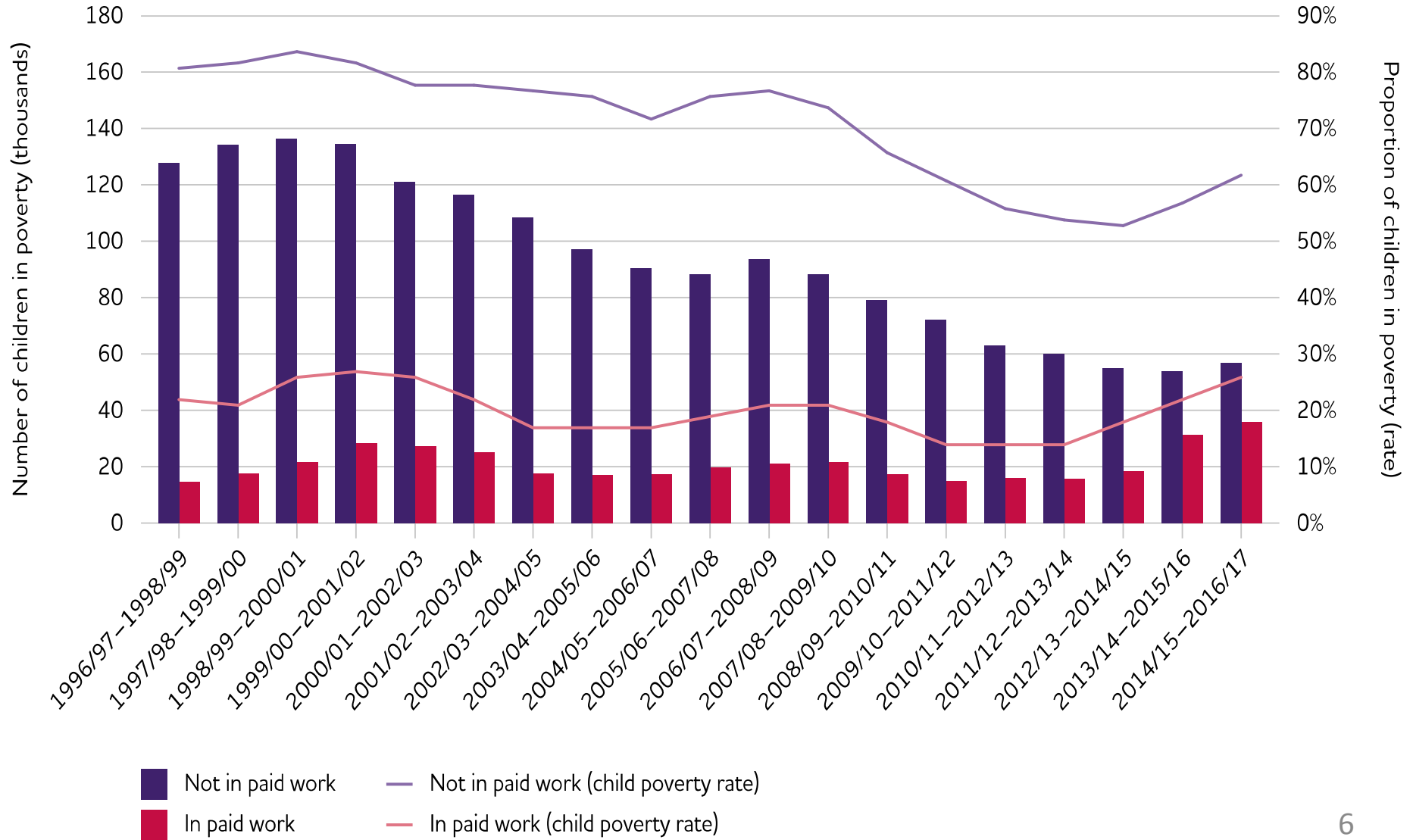


Child poverty in Scotland: family circumstances



No disability in family
 Disability in family

Child poverty: lone parent families



Earnings have increased at the bottom, but **changes to tax credits** have pulled in the other direction



Source: JRF Analysis Unit

Taking action: the Scottish landscape

- » **Duties:** Child Poverty Act with targets, annual progress reports - Scottish Government, Councils, NHS
- » **Policy:** Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan - intensive employment support, financial health checks, Income Supplement from 2022
- » **Action plans:** Disability Employment, Gender Pay Gap, Fair Work
- » **Delivery:** Social Security Scotland – Best Start Grant, focus on take-up in the Social Security Act
- » **Scrutiny/advice:** Poverty & Inequality Commission

Edinburgh Poverty Commission: Four Ps

Government, employers, housing, public and market services can all boost the odds of solving poverty.

- **Pockets:** boost incomes and reduce costs - fair work, social security, co-located advice and affordable credit
- **Prospects:** improve the quality of opportunities available to people in/close to poverty - early years support, education attainment, progression at work
- **Places:** develop liveable places: affordable and decent housing; reliable transport; local hubs.
- **Participation & Power:** build capacity of people with direct experience of poverty to advocate for change

**Poorly paid,
precarious work
with few career
opportunities
damages
mental health**

**Private rents are beyond the reach
of most people on low incomes,
even if working full-time**

**Disabled and long-term sick
people face higher costs for
energy and transport**

**Lack of flexible work
and affordable care
for single parents and
carers.
It's practically
impossible to be a
parent in some jobs.**

**[Amanda] is a homeless
single mum due to rent
arrears caused by the
benefit cap. She and her
children are living in a
Premier Inn with no cooking
facilities**

Education



Benefits



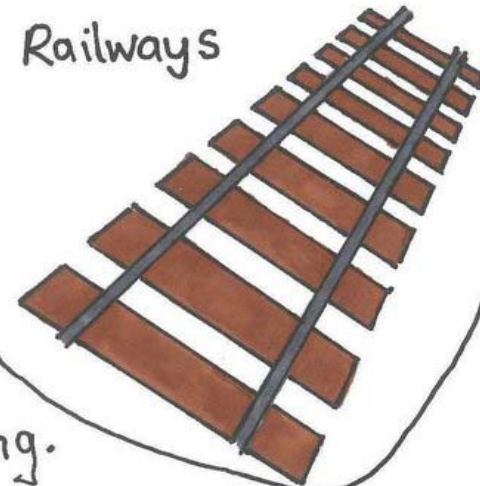
NHS



Police



Railways



We all rely on publicly funded services. Benefits are a vital public service when we're struggling.



The economy we have today was designed – and it can be redesigned to work for everyone.

@jrf_uk #SolveUKPoverty

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