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**ROBERT GORDON
UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN**

**Midwives', health visitors', family nurse practitioners' and women's
experiences of the NHS Grampian's Financial Inclusion Pathway in
practice: A qualitative investigation of early implementation and
impact**

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1. Robert Gordon University: School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Practice, Aberdeen, Scotland
2. NHS Grampian Public Health Directorate , Aberdeen, Scotland

Health professionals' key conclusions

- Health visitors and family nurses - **important and legitimate role** in practice **to talk about financial challenges with clients and signpost.**
- **Awareness, concern and sensitivity** about the **existence of poverty** their caseloads.
- Had **nuanced understanding** and associated **concerns about the risks, as well as the benefits** of raising financial matters **during routine consultations.**
- Concerned about **own knowledge of benefit entitlements** and **capacity to support clients in the context of limited time.**
- Raising financial issues in routine clinical care work is **challenging 'emotional labour'**, in the **context of demanding professional caseloads.**

Key parent conclusions

- **Worried about repercussions** about **disclosing financial difficulties** to health professionals ...this a big barrier to conversations that could lead to a financial advice referral.
- **Establishing trust and rapport**, careful and sensitive enquiry, **positive framing of income maximisation** and carer continuity are perceived to aid discussion about financial challenges.
- **Unclear and mixed picture regarding outcomes** associated with the Financial Inclusion Pathway income maximisation intent, at this time.
- Meanwhile, insufficient household income, **debt-caused-by-deductions** and **experiences of food insecurity** remain significant challenges for lone parents and families on low incomes.
- Findings are important in light of **Scottish Government 2022-2026 Local Child Poverty Delivery Plan**, the socio-economic COVID fall out and the **current cost of living crisis**.

Recommendations and dissemination

Co-produced recommendations with steering group members

1. Dissemination
2. Organisational support needed for staff
3. Health care professional training needs
4. Parent-focused issues
5. Research questions arising

Current dissemination activity and impact

- Conference presentations:
 - Nourish Scotland Dignity workshop 2021
 - 6th Global Public Health Nursing conference 2021 - Prize for best presentation
 - Scottish Public Health Faculty Conference 2022
- Past and planned dissemination activity within NHS Grampian, including with Health Inequalities Action Group
- Presentation to Scottish Govt's Poverty and Inequalities Commissioners and Children and Young People's Commissioner Oct 2022