

The socio-economic duty: a blow for equality

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TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2024, JACK JONES HOUSE

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WiFi name: Unite Guest

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**Resolve
Poverty**

The Socio-Economic Duty

Laura Burgess, Head of Policy & Research

Who we are

Working locally to end poverty nationally

3 strategic priorities:

- Maximising the financial resources available to households.
- Implementing effective strategic responses to poverty.
- Equipping stakeholders with the knowledge they need to tackle poverty.



What we do

Three interdependent strands of work

- Advocacy, policy and research
- Programmes
- Knowledge development





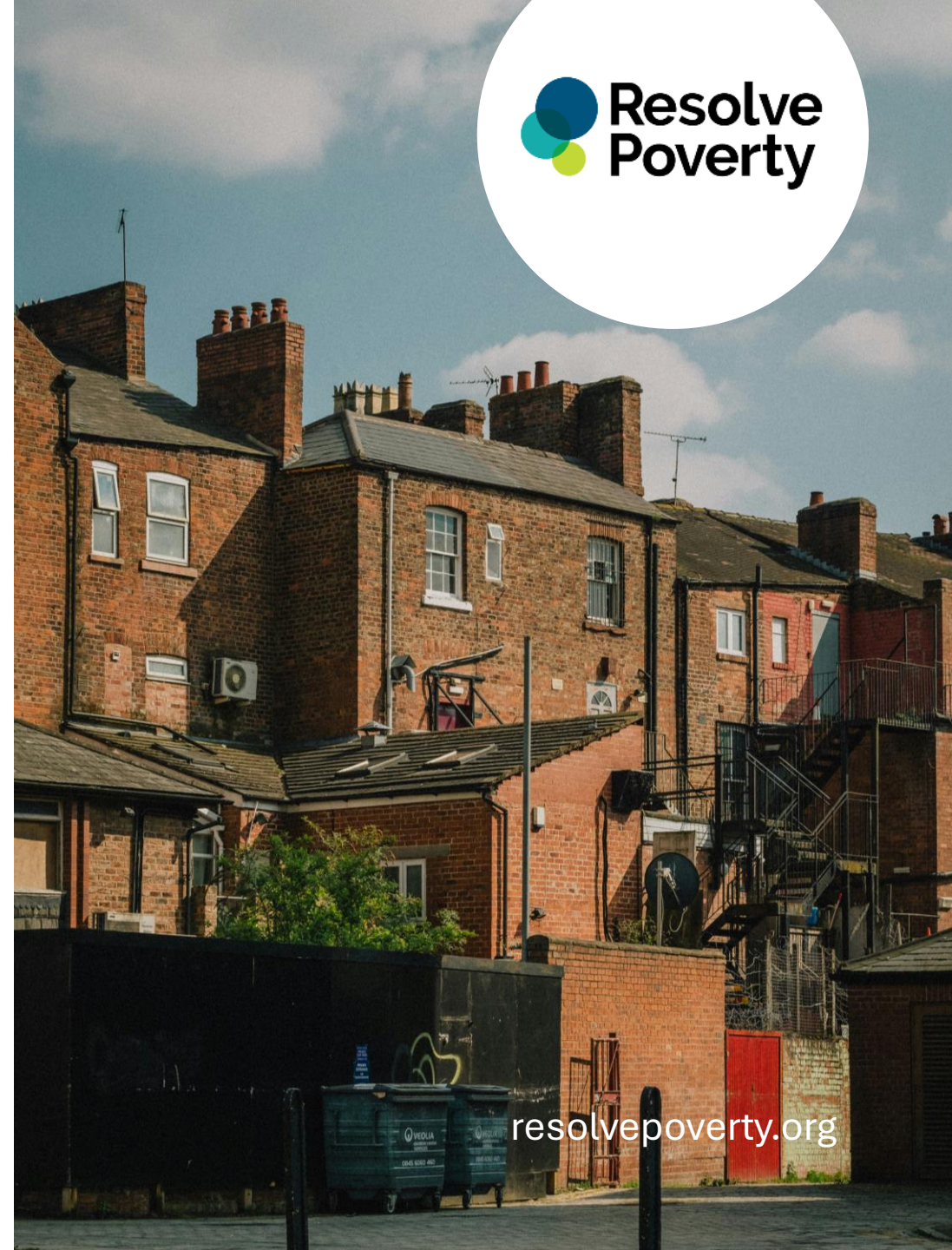
The socio-economic duty

- Contained within Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010.
- Not yet enacted into law, but Labour Party 2024 manifesto commitment.
- Places a requirement on public bodies to consider how their decisions impact people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
- Scotland, 2018 & Wales 2021.
- One for Equality campaign



Voluntary adoption

- Local authorities and other public bodies can voluntarily adopt the duty.
- New Resolve Poverty research out next week:
 - 22% councils have adopted the duty.
 - Most prevalent in the north west and GM specifically.
 - More common in Labour-majority councils.



Benefits of local adoption

- ***Improving outcomes*** for local people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
- ***Supporting cross***-organisational and cross-departmental working.
- ***Raising awareness of socio-economic inequalities*** within organisations and among partners.
- ***Ensuring widespread organisation commitment to***, and consideration of, socio-economic inequalities.
- ***Supporting the participation of low-income residents*** in decisions that affect them, especially in the context of cuts to services.
- ***Achieving greater consistency*** in practice.
- ***Support efficient and effective*** allocation of resources.



Case study

Transport for Greater Manchester

- Adopted the duty in August 2022
- Greater focus on on reducing socio-economic disadvantage across GM
- Embedding the voices of people with lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage into strategy design – Poverty Reference Group.
- Supports other protected characteristics.



Case study

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

- Adopted 2021 as part of the equality analysis process
- Agreed to annual reporting on the duty from 2023
- Driving license bursary scheme – 195 additional firefighters in 2022, 48% from the 10% most deprived areas of Merseyside



Case study

Welsh Government

- Enacted 2021, 'A More Equal Wales'
- Vaccination transformation programme – ensure equitable vaccination uptake across communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage
- Covid-19 SSP enhancement scheme





National context

- Government manifesto commitment
- Cabinet Office working towards enactment
- No formal timescale, but positive direction of travel.

Work with us

Resolve Poverty has worked with organisations and public bodies across to country to support and develop their responses to poverty.

We can work with you on a number of areas of work, including:

- Developing effective anti-poverty strategies
- Understanding, adopting and implementing the socio-economic duty
- Strategic partnerships and partnership working
- Evaluation of your anti-poverty work
- Designing local responses to poverty

Contact: Tom Waring, Business Development Executive
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Our training offer



- Tackling Poverty with Data
- Maximising Household Income
- Valuing Lived Experience
- Poverty Awareness Training

Previous clients include:



Manchester Local
Care Organisation

Save the
Children

Get in touch



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Thank you for listening

Any questions?