



Children in Scotland, Children in Wales, Children in Northern Ireland and Children England have, since 2013, led an alliance urging both the UK government and the devolved governments to implement the 2013 European Commission recommendation 'Investing in Children – Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage'.

The recommendation encourages member states to protect funding for services that support children and their families, even in the context of implementing policies of austerity. In particular, it asks member governments to take the following actions

- supporting parents' access to the labour market and making sure that work 'pays' for them
- improving access to affordable early childhood education and care services
- providing adequate income support such as child and family benefits, which should be redistributive across income groups but avoid inactivity traps and stigmatisation
- stepping up access to quality services that are essential to children's outcomes – improving access to early childhood education and care including for children under 3, eliminating school segregation, enhancing access to health, housing, social services
- supporting children's participation in extra-curricular activities and in services and decisions affecting children such as social services, education, alternative care.

The UK Alliance believes that children have the right to good and equitable outcomes in health, learning and development. They should not be disadvantaged by family circumstances, over which they have no control; even less should they be disadvantaged by deliberate actions of government.

The new UK government is committed to pursuing policies and introducing legislation that will result in severe and profound reductions in welfare expenditure and in the public services that support children and their families. Even where the policies of the devolved governments oppose and aim to mitigate the effects on a £12 billion reduction in welfare spending, their hands are to a large extent tied.

We urge all our newly elected representatives at Westminster, and our devolved governments, to take every opportunity to protect our children and to implement fully the EC recommendation. We ask them, in particular, to

give a voice to disadvantaged children, young people and families, to hold the UK Government to account on the objectives of the recommendation, and to demand that the new government engages with the reality of the UK's child poverty crisis.

[Investing in Children makes social and economic sense.](#) By prioritising children and young people in all our actions, we are not only delivering on a commitment to support those who are being hardest hit by the crisis, but also making best use of our limited resources and delivering savings in the long term. Early intervention and prevention saves money, protects children and rewards society. [Investing in Children makes social and economic sense.](#)

Children in Scotland
every child - every childhood



Children in Wales
Plant yng Nghymru

**Children
England**
Charities working for
children and families

CiNI
Children in Northern Ireland

The **Alliance for Investing in Children** (UK) is a coalition led by Children in Wales, Children in Scotland, Children England and Children in Northern Ireland. The Alliance is working with our partners across the UK supporting the wider Joint Action led by the EU Alliance for Investing in Children coalition to aid the implementation of the European Commission Recommendation '[Investing in Children- Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage](#)'. The **Alliance for Investing in Children** (UK) has undertaken a series of activities in support of the campaign which has included consultation with children and young people, high level conference in December 2014 and a report outlining the principle legislation, policies and programmes for tackling child poverty in the four nations. Resources may be accessed here - <http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/our-work/poverty/allianceforinvestinginchildren/>