

# It Is Not A Choice!

## Summary Recommendations

### 1. Tackling poverty & stigma

Plans and actions by governments should aim to eliminate poverty and the related mental health crisis, not just alleviate its symptoms – including with preventative measures.

### 2. Protecting wellbeing

Invest in wellbeing in a way to works for children and families - addressing the trauma of poverty, prioritising the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, and creating a Hobby Guarantee.

### 3. Incomes that reflect reality

Social security, employment and means tested support need to be made sufficient to meet human dignity and provide a path out of poverty. The labour market must be brought closer to families.

### 4. Lowering costs for living

When families face crisis, greater costs and barriers is not an appropriate response. Match the Welfare Fund to real needs. Ensure affordable energy provision and public transport works for those who need it most.

### 5. Making debts manageable

Invest in dignified debt support. Set a 6 month moratorium on public debts recovery. Ban the compulsory installation of prepayment meters and write off school meal debt.

### 6. Homes for all families

Ensure access to affordable, safe and warm homes of sufficient size. Enhance housing support and repairs services. Invest in the Winter Support Fund. Support families to make their housing a home.

### 7. Delivering on a wellbeing economy

Children and young people should be able to live with dignity. Place wellbeing and children's rights budgeting at the core of decision-making. Increase public investment in social and wellbeing infrastructure. Working with children, young people and families on low incomes to set long term priorities in a wellbeing framework that effectively implements change for future generations. Recognise and fairly value vital contributions to social wellbeing.