

Maternal and Child Health Network

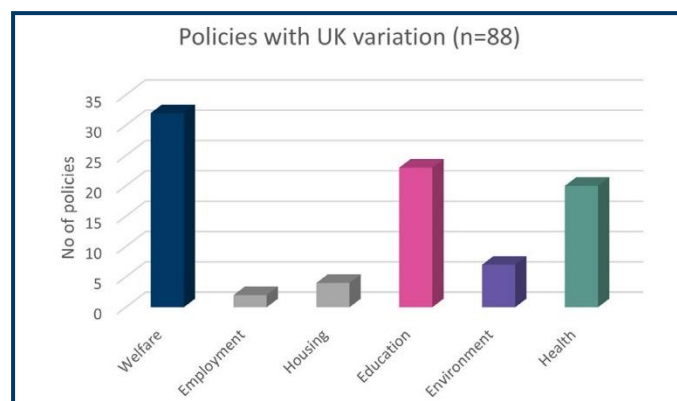
Mapping Policies Across the 4 UK Nations



**What policies matter to you and your organisation?
You can help with our policy prioritisation exercise.**

Executive Summary

- Giving every child the best start in life is a key policy goal for a healthier society.
- Child and maternal health are not just affected by health policies. Welfare, housing, employment, education and environmental policies are also important.
- Our rapid review of UK policy identifies a number of policy areas that vary across the 4 UK nations.
- We plan to study the impact of such policies upon child and maternal health outcomes.
- To progress, we now require input from policymakers and key stakeholders on which policies to prioritise.



We are preparing summary frameworks to provide a quick overview of what is different between the 4 UK nations.

Introduction

Each child's health is affected by socioeconomic, cultural, political and environmental factors (collectively known as the social determinants) that act at the national, community, household, and family level.

Interventions to tackle the social determinants of health can result in better outcomes during pregnancy and early childhood. These health improvements will reduce the prevalence of adult non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and narrow health inequalities.

Methodology

We have undertaken a rapid review of the UK policy landscape. The systematic search strategy was guided by the social determinants of health framework to identify welfare, employment, health, housing, education and environmental policies. A total of 335 policies were identified, which were filtered and prioritised using essential criteria.

Results

We found 88 policies that vary across the 4 UK nations.

What policies should be prioritised?

Welfare policies

- Maternity Grants (e.g. Sure Start Maternity Grant/Healthy Start)
- Universal Credit – various mitigating measures in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- Discretionary housing payments
- Lone Parent Obligations
- Scottish Child Payment/Job Start Payment

Education policies

- Early Years Education and Childcare Provision; Early Years Deprivation Grants
- Education Maintenance Awards

Health policies

- Healthy Child Programme
- Health Visiting Programmes/Family Nurse Partnership
- Baby box; Teenage pregnancy strategies
- Minimum Unit Pricing

Environmental policies

- Smoking bans

To get involved please complete our [online poll](#) or come along to our small group discussions. For more information contact [Emma Stewart](#)