

Women's Economic Empowerment Project



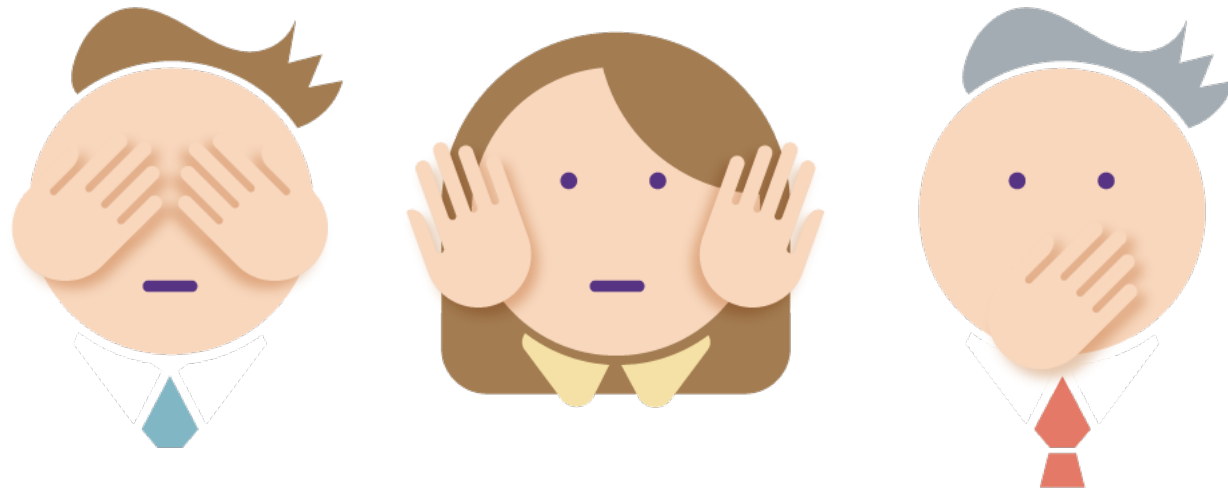
Scottish Women Budget Group

SWBG Women's Survey – please take



Aim of the Project

- To build the participants' knowledge and direct experience of the Scottish Budget process by engaging in viewings of the presentation of the Draft Budget and the Budget Debate in the Scottish Parliament, including visits to the Parliament and meetings with MSPs and proceedings in the Chamber.



Working Together Agreement



Get involved and share your thoughts – we all have something to contribute



Listen and respect other voices



Don't talk over each other – monitor your airspace



Know its ok to ask if we don't know something



Ok to disagree but don't be disagreeable



Maintain confidentiality

Scottish Budget Process



Pre-Budget Scrutiny



Ministerial Statement



Finance and Public Administration Committee Debate



Stage 1 Debate in the Chamber



Stage 3 Debate in the Chamber



Stage 3 Debate in the Chamber



Small Groups

What were your impressions of the budget process, including the Committee hearing and the Stage 3 reading in the Scottish Parliament?

After participating in the workshops is there anything you have learned that you would like to share?

Do you feel that women and issues affecting women (more likely to have caring responsibilities, gender pay gap, gender- and sex-based discrimination, different infrastructure needs, etc.) are reflected sufficiently in the current Scottish budget? Why? Why not?

SWBG Women's Survey – please take





Gender Budgeting and Women's Economic Empowerment

WiSE Centre for Economic Justice
With SWBG, GDA and WiMPLE
6 March 2024
Angela O'Hagan

Gender budgeting

- Challenges assumption that budgets are gender-neutral.
- Examination of allocation of public resources for impact on women and men.
- Redistribution of resources to advance equality.
- Gender impact assessment and gender policy analysis reveal different and unequal outcomes for women and men from public spending decisions.

What is gender budgeting?

- “A **tool** to bring about change. This means persuading policy-makers (government, parliament, civil servants) to think about what **impact spending and revenue** raising decisions will have on gender equalities and to adopt policies that will bring about greater equality between women and men.” (UK Women’s Budget Group)
- Gender budgeting is a **process of gender analysis** applied to decision making processes in budget allocations and revenue raising decisions. It is commonly defined as “a gender-based **assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures** in order to promote gender equality” (Council of Europe 2009:4).
- “the budget process is the **gateway for resource allocation**, as well as a key determinant of the standards and qualities of public policy formulation, it is natural that the budget be considered for its likely impact on **gender-responsive public governance**” (Downes, et.al. 2017:2)
- The budget “reflects the **values** of a country - who it values, whose work it values and who it rewards ... and who and what and whose work it doesn’t.” (Pregs Govender, in Budlender 1996, p.7).

Gender budgeting

Core purpose of gender budgeting is to “change policies, programs and resource allocation so that they promote gender equality and the empowerment of women” (Sharp and Dev, 2004).

Gender budgeting *examines* the resources allocated to policy proposals and their potential effects on women and men. It seeks to *redistribute* resources in a way that remedies imbalances in women and men's use of, access to and benefit from public services and finance.

Rationale

Gender budgeting ***activates*** gender mainstreaming by

- Completing the policy process
- Integrating resource allocation and spending decisions with policy decisions

Benefits

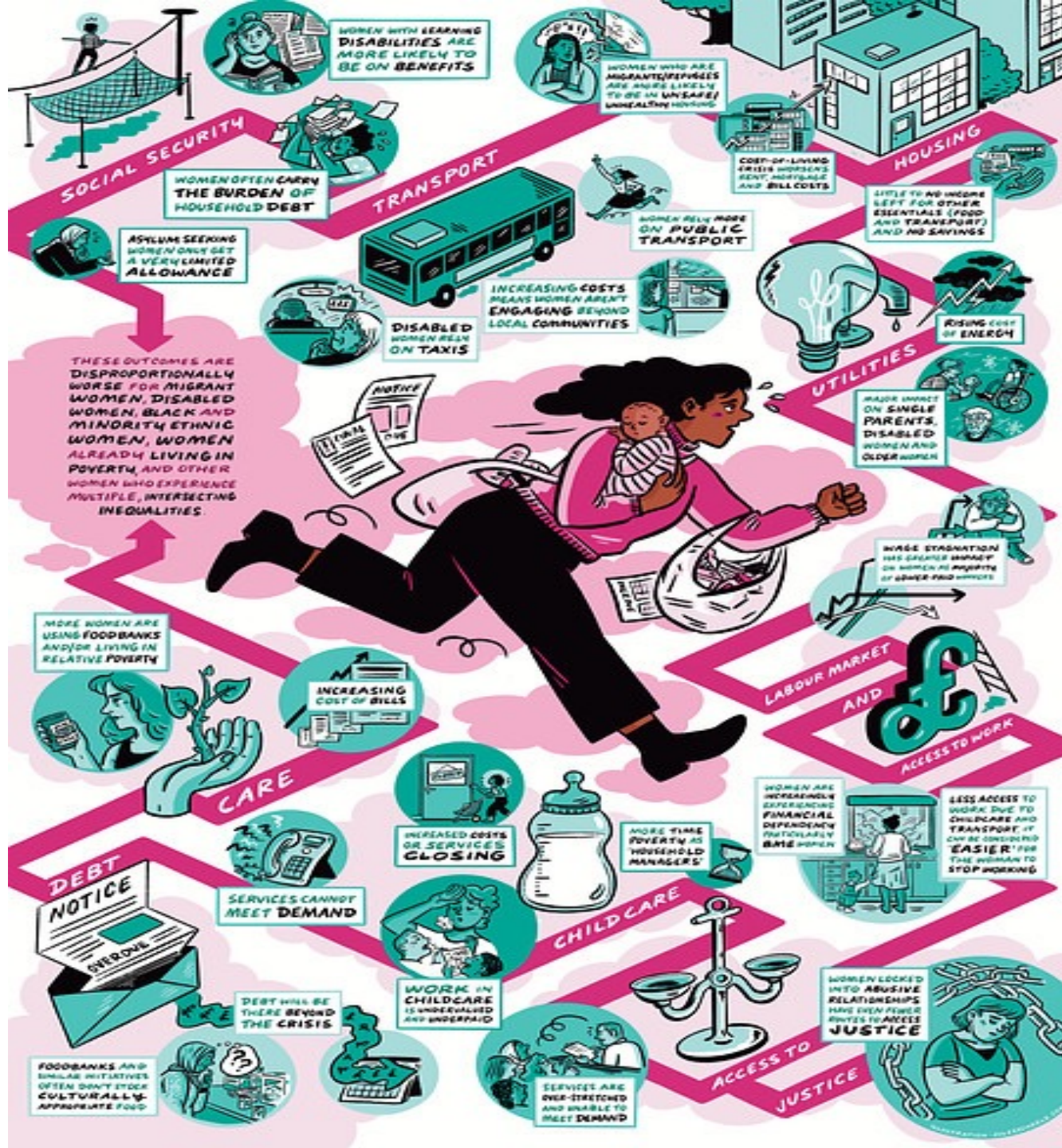
- Clarity in policy making and resource allocation
- Advances gender equality through more gender equal outcomes from public resources
- Improves transparency in resource and policy decision making

Benefits

- Clarity in policy making and resource allocation
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Tools for gender analysis

- **Gender analysis**
- **Gender Impact Assessment**
- **Gender Audit**
- Beneficiary Analysis
- Incidence Analysis
- Outcome evaluation
- DATA
 - Intersectional, disaggregated data



Scottish Budget:
2024-25

Gender Budgeting in Practice – GDA



DISABLED WOMEN, COST OF LIVING CRISIS & NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE CHARGING POLICIES



DISABLED WOMEN & THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS ?

In the [SWBG 2023 Cost of Living Survey](#) 44% of those who had social care costs told us that they struggled to manage them with 41% telling us they had to make changes to other household spending to manage these costs. Of those who told us they struggled with these costs 57% had children.

In our work with [Glasgow Disability Alliance](#) the figure increases to 63% struggling to manage these costs and 26% having to make changes to other household costs.

'I always feel like Damocles Sword is above my head as my Care Plan has not been re assessed since July 2022 and I have had many care changes. My care contribution has been increased by £42 a week. My increase with Working Tax Credit and PIP is £18.93 p/w. I already cut my budget in half because of utility bills but now I am very stressed.'

THE IMPACT OF NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL CARE CHARGES ?

Women who took part in our survey, told us that social care charges were making it more difficult for them to manage increased household costs.

When we looked at this we found:

- Glasgow City Council's policy sets different income levels for Under 60s and Over 60s. Unless this can be objectively justified then this could amount to age discrimination. This is not considered within the Equality Impact Assessment.
- The income level above which charges are clawed back, are set below relative poverty levels for Under 60s it is £8,120 per year for a single person and £12,376 for couples for over 60s it is £13,104 & £17,576 respectively.
- The disregard levels for the financial assessment for those with disability related costs are not transparent so it is unclear if these reflect the actual costs people pay for the support they need i.e. help with gardening.
- Given that it is estimated that [7,242 children](#) live in relative poverty in a disabled household in Glasgow and that 57% of those who completed our survey struggled with social care costs had children it is possible this policy is exacerbating this situation, particularly given the lower income threshold for those Under 60.



Gender Budgeting in Practice – Fa'side Women and Girls Group

- Influencing development of poverty plan – using disaggregated data
- Reviewing income level at which you are eligible for school uniform grants
- Poverty plan considering impact of childcare, looking at issue of multiple births
- Raised issue with Headteachers and PTA re cost of school day and school uniforms (difference in price for girls blazers from boys blazers)
- Raised issues with levels for disability related expenditure in non-residential social care charging

Small Groups

What would you want to ask decision makers about issues which are important to you?

How do you feel about your own influence on economic decision-making in Scotland?

Which barriers are there to economic and political participation of women in Scotland?
How could these barriers be reduced?

Next Steps?

