

Gordon Macdonald

July
2019

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

Radical Move to Tackle Child Poverty



Gordon has heaped praise on the SNP's announcement of a new social benefit designed to lift children across Scotland out of poverty.

By the end of 2022, eligible families across Edinburgh will receive an extra £10 a week for every child under 16 – low income families with children under the age of six will receive the benefit in early 2021.

This means that eligible families with two children will receive £1,000 a year for day to day essentials from clothing to school equipment.

Once fully rolled out, the payment will benefit up to 410,000 children across Scotland – not only supporting those in poverty but also preventing those on the breadline from sliding under. There is no cap on the number of children in eligible families.

The announcement has been celebrated by anti-poverty campaigners who have branded the new benefit a “gamechanger”.

Gordon commented, “This is a radical and very welcome announcement – it’s exactly what we need if we are to reduce child poverty in the face of ongoing welfare cuts from the UK Tory government.”

“The ambition of this SNP Government to tackle poverty and give young people from low income backgrounds the very best start in life is clear.

“But the sad reality is, this SNP Government is fighting poverty with one hand tied behind its back – without Westminster imposed austerity this benefit could do go further and reach more families.”

Redhall Walled Garden



The Redhall Walled Garden is operated by the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) and Gordon recently caught up with the team. The garden offers a safe place for people to learn to deal with the challenges of recovering from enduring mental health problems.

The service is delivered from within a beautiful two acre 18th century walled garden. The garden and surroundings provide individuals with an environment conducive to positive well-being.

Gordon praised the work saying, “Redhall uses a therapeutic horticultural approach to help people develop self-management, improve their wellbeing, and actively engage them in educational, volunteering, and employability opportunities”.

Out and About...

Tiphereth Summer Fair



Gordon attended the summer fair held by Tiphereth, a Camphill community based in Edinburgh, which provides quality professional care services and social enterprises for people with learning disabilities.

Gordon said, "I have been coming up here for the last eight years.

"I was given a tour after I was first elected and I thought, 'What a fantastic project' and I have tried to help out ever since".

At the event, Gordon had the honour of drawing the winning tickets for the prize draw.

Army Training Visit



During a recent visit to the Army training Unit (Scotland) at Redford Barracks in the constituency, Gordon spoke to several Reservist trainees. The Unit is responsible for all phase one training to reservists in Scotland.

After a welcome by the Commanding Officer at Redford Barracks, Gordon observed the Reservists in training and was shown a demonstration of equipment.

Gordon noted, "I met with a great bunch of Reservists who highlighted what they and their employers get from the training".

Stock Exchange



Tomás Carruthers, the founder of Borse Scot, the soon-to-launch Scottish Stock Exchange that aims to focus on "capitalism for good", met with and discussed his plans with Gordon. The launch is due to launch in the latter half of 2019.

Commenting, Gordon said, "This will be the first time since 1973 that Scotland has had its own stock exchange, when the old exchange was absorbed by the London Stock Exchange Group".

On 9 May 2019, Scottish Enterprise awarded the project £750,000 in grant funding to support the creation of 45 highly skilled jobs.

Institute of Marketing Visit



Gordon visited the Institute of marketing at their Riccarton offices in the constituency and will be hosting their 50th anniversary in October in the Parliament.

Contact Details

By email gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

Home visit Available for those who cannot travel

By phone 0131 443 0595

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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library

2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre

3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library

4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfgangs Library (Not 24 Dec)

5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Com. Centre (Not 31 Dec)

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands