## **Extern Responds to Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy**

Extern has submitted a detailed response to the Northern Ireland Executive’s **Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy**, setting out our support for the vision to eradicate poverty and our recommendations to strengthen its impact.

In our response, we **strongly welcome** the strategy’s focus on collaboration, sustainability, and the three key pillars—**Minimising Risks, Minimising Impacts, and Exiting Poverty**—but we also call for:

* **A rights-based approach** that reflects the dignity and agency of those with lived experience of poverty.
* **Stronger commitments on mental health**, recognising it as both a cause and consequence of poverty, and investment in trauma-informed services.
* **Action on housing and homelessness**, including rent controls, social housing investment, and rapid rehousing measures.
* **Support for care-experienced young people**, people leaving custody, and other groups at heightened risk of poverty.
* **Digital inclusion strategies** to ensure no one is excluded from vital services, education, or employment opportunities.

Extern also highlights the need for **clear funding plans, measurable targets, and independent oversight** to ensure the strategy delivers real, lasting change.

**Read our full response**