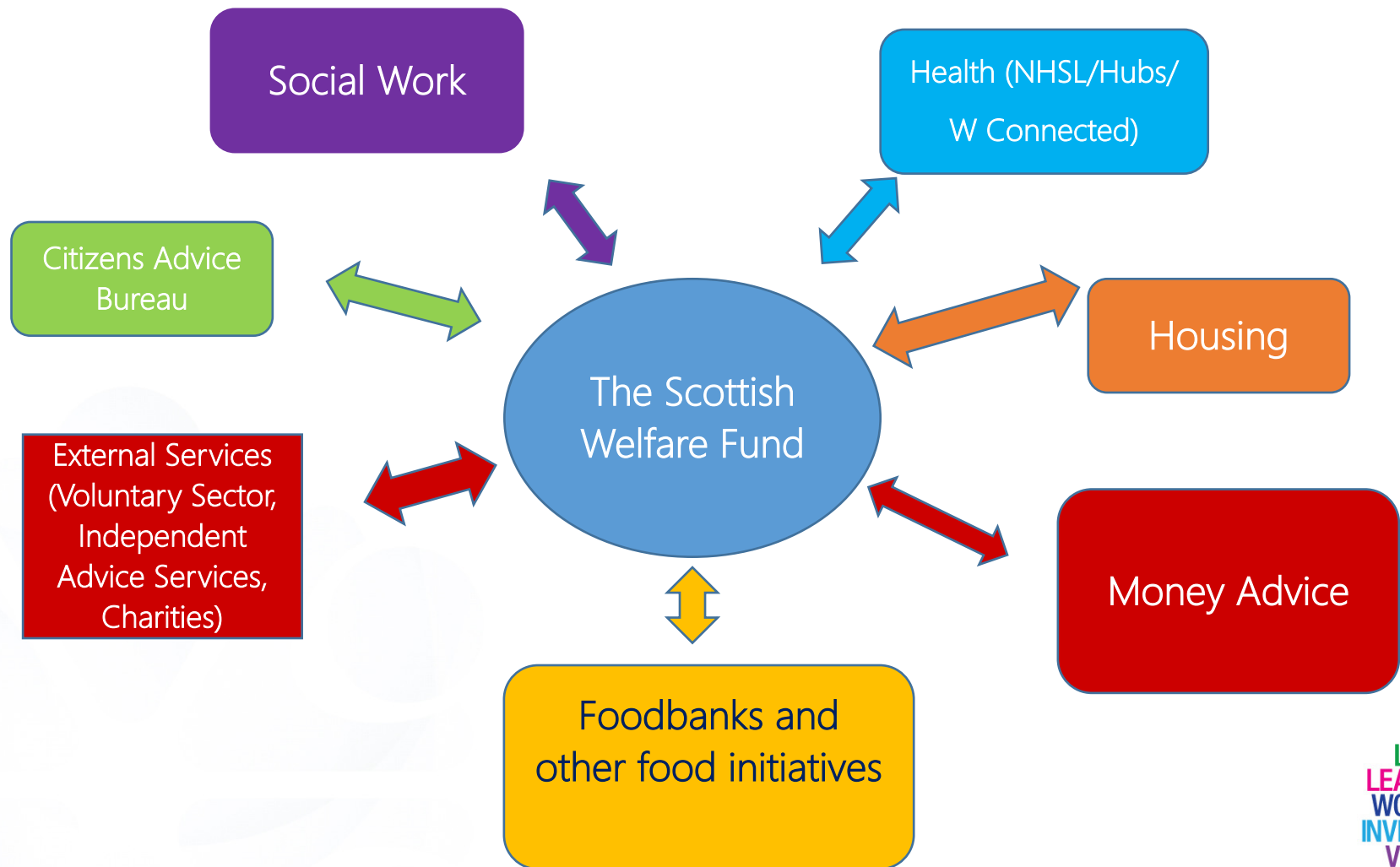


# What Tools Do We Have To Tackle Food Poverty?



# Why Is The Referral Gateway Important?



A woman presented to Basics Foodbank saying she had no food. She had been living in Northern Ireland, but had returned to care for her father. The woman has 3 children (2 of whom are disabled) due to the move there was a mix up with her benefit leaving her £900 a month short. She was required to pay out £500 to secure a private let for her and her children near her dad, due to the delays in sorting out housing benefit.

The children were enrolled in schools, and she was called into a meeting in the High School as her oldest child wasn't wearing a blazer. The woman told the school about her financial situation, however, was told the blazer was protocol and the boy should attend in uniform.

# Why Is The Referral Gateway Important?



What Happened.....

The woman purchased the blazer and PE kit out of very limited income. As a result she and her family had to go to the foodbank.

The foodbank referred the woman to the Tackling Poverty Team, she was assisted with a crisis grant and free school meal applications.

What Could Have Happened.....

“We know that school costs add up quickly and we want to make sure all families are getting the support they need, we can make a referral to the Tackling Poverty Team and they will contact you to check if you are eligible for some extra support”

# Does Cash First Work?



*“The money made a positive impact, I was able to buy shopping, food and summer clothes for the children. I wasn’t aware of the welfare rights service and what they did – I am going to get some help claiming PIP”*

***Mother of 4 children (shotts)***

*“I could not believe this, I literally had £1 in my purse, nothing in the bank and 3 days away from “pay day” I was at my wits end, with 2 children to feed , I really did not know what I was gong to do. £300 going into my account saved our lives; I could buy and cook them healthy food, didn’t have to worry about the electricity and gas and bought my wee girls new shoes. Thank you so much.”*

***Mother of 3 children (Abronhill)***

*“We were awarded £500 for our family...it was great, I bought extra food, clothes and topped up the pre payment meters for gas and electricity. We were able to pay off a virgin media bill that was causing my some anxiety”*

***Couple with 3 children (Coatbridge)***