**EMBARGOED: 00:00 Wednesday 19th May, 2021 **

Interviews, further briefing and stats available. Images available [here](https://we.tl/t-E8fOJUFnRm) (please credit Save the Children). Local authority and constituency data available below.

**New data - 38% London children living in poverty**

* **More than half of children in 5 London constituencies in poverty**
* **High housing costs are pushing many families to the brink**
* **Data shows scale of the ‘levelling up’ challenge**

New figures released today show that even before the pandemic, London had more child poverty than any other UK region with 38% of the capital’s children below the poverty line once housing costs are taken into account, compared to 31% for the UK as a whole.

The research from Loughborough University for the End Child Poverty coalition shows fourteen of the 20 UK local authorities with the highest child poverty rates are in the capital. In five London constituencies, more than half of children were below the poverty line even before large numbers of people started losing their jobs as a result of the pandemic (see tables below).

While rates of child poverty have grown faster over the last five years in some areas outside the capital - notably the North East - and rents rose slightly less overall in London in that period than in the rest of the UK, the new data shows the heavy toll that the capital’s high housing costs take on family budgets - all of the 20 UK local authorities with the biggest difference between child poverty rates before and after housing costs are taken into account, are in London. In some London boroughs child poverty rates more than double once housing costs are accounted for. In Hackney for example, ignoring housing costs, 23% of children are in poverty. But after taking housing costs into account, the child poverty rate is 47.9% (Table 5 of the report).

The coalition is calling on the UK Government to recognise the scale of the problem and its impact on children’s lives and to create a credible plan to end child poverty which must include a commitment to increase child benefits. Given the extent to which families are already struggling, the planned £20 p/w cut to Universal Credit come October should also be revoked, with the support extended to those on the ‘legacy’ benefits system.

Anna Feuchtwang, Chair of the End Child Poverty Coalition said:

“*The figures speak for themselves – the situation for children couldn’t be starker. We all want to live in a society where children are supported to be the best they can be, but the reality is very different for too many.*

*“The UK Government can be in no doubt about the challenge it faces if it is serious about ‘levelling up’ parts of the country hardest hit by poverty. After the year we’ve all had, they owe it to our children to come up with a plan to tackle child poverty that includes a boost to children’s benefits. And they need to scrap plans to cut Universal Credit given parents and children are having a tough enough time as it is.”*

Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group, said:

*“We should be moving mountains to end child poverty but instead the numbers are climbing and there’s no Government plan for ending the problem. The UK will not be levelled up until child poverty is tackled. The Government must urgently bring forward a plan to end child poverty and the first action point should be reinvesting in children’s benefits. No child should be left behind because a family is experiencing tough times.”*

The full report ‘Local indicators of child poverty after housing costs, 2019/20’ as well as tables with Constituency and Local Authority data are available now on an embargoed basis from CPAG press office (as below) and from 00.01hrs Wednesday [here](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/local-child-poverty-data-2014-15-2019-20/).

London’s overall child poverty rate has risen from 37% since 2014/15. Nationally, three quarters (75%) of children living in poverty in 2019/20 were in households with at least one working adult; up from two thirds (67%) in 2014/15.

**The 20 local authorities with highest child poverty rates, 2019/20**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local authority**  | **% of children below 60% median income after housing costs, 2019/20**  |
| **UK**  | **31%**  |
| Tower Hamlets  | 55.8%  |
| Newham  | 50.0%  |
| Barking and Dagenham  | 48.1%  |
| Hackney  | 47.9%  |
| Waltham Forest  | 45.3%  |
| Southwark  | 43.1%  |
| Islington  | 42.7%  |
| Lambeth  | 42.6%  |
| Birmingham | 42.5%  |
| Greenwich | 42.0%  |
| Manchester | 41.8%  |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 41.2%  |
| Hounslow | 40.9%  |
| Haringey | 40.6%  |
| Sandwell | 40.0%  |
| Brent | 40.0%  |
| Redbridge | 39.7%  |
| Middlesbrough | 39.4%  |
| Luton | 39.4%  |
| Lewisham | 39.0%  |

**The 20 parliamentary constituencies with highest child poverty rates, 2019/20**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Constituency**  | **% of children below 60% median income after housing costs, 2019/20**  |
| **UK**  | **31%**  |
| Bethnal Green and Bow  | 59.6%  |
| Hackney South and Shoreditch  | 56.3%  |
| Birmingham Ladywood  | 54.5%  |
| Birmingham Hall Green  | 54.3%  |
| Birmingham Hodge Hill | 52.0% |
| Vauxhall  | 51.6%  |
| West Ham  | 51.2%  |
| Poplar and Limehouse  | 50.6%  |
| East Ham  | 50.0%  |
| Walthamstow  | 49.8%  |
| Birmingham Perry Barr | 48.9% |
| Barking  | 48.9%  |
| Warley | 47.8% |
| Tottenham  | 47.6%  |
| Bermondsey and Old Southwark  | 47.4%  |
| Bradford West | 47.3% |
| Wallsall South  | 47.1% |
| Manchester Gorton  | 46.8%  |
| Bradford East | 46.7% |
| Holborn and St Pancras  | 46.4%  |

**ENDS**

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 **NOTES TO EDITORS**

* The research was carried out by Dr Juliet Stone and Professor Donald Hirsch at the Centre for Research in Social Policy, at Loughborough University based on the latest Before Housing Cost child poverty data from DWP published in March 2021.
* Report and data all available now on an embargoed basis from CPAG press office on 07816 909302 and from Wednesday 00.01 hrs here [Local child poverty data 2014/15 - 2019/20 | Improving the lives of children and families (endchildpoverty.org.uk)](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/local-child-poverty-data-2014-15-2019-20/)
* For a family of one adult and one child, 60% of median income, after housing costs, in 2019/20 was £223 week
* For a family of one adult and two children, £280 week
* For a family of two adults and one child, £343 week
* For a family of two adults and two children, £400 week

**About End Child Poverty**

End Child Poverty is a coalition of organisations from civic society including children’s charities, child welfare organisations, social justice groups, faith groups, trade unions and others, united in our vision of a UK free of child poverty. For more details visit www.endchildoverty.org.uk.