

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**STEEP RISE IN CHILD POVERTY IN YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER LEAVES A THIRD OF CHILDREN BELOW THE BREADLINE**

The End Child Poverty coalition has today published figures mapping child poverty across the UK, factoring in the devastating effect of housing costs on families in Yorkshire and Humber. The new figures show that since 2014/15, child poverty in the Yorkshire and Humber region has risen by 6 percentage points, the second biggest hike in the country.

The research estimates that there are now parts of Yorkshire and Humber where over a third (34%) of children are growing up in poverty - compared to one in five, in areas in the country with the lowest child poverty rates.

The parts of Yorkshire and Humber with the highest percentage of children living in poverty include:

* Bradford with 39.8% of children living in poverty – or 49,800 babies children and young people.
* Kingston Upon Hull with 38% of children living in poverty – or 19,403 babies children and young people.
* Kirklees with 36.6% of children living in poverty – or 31,972 babies children and young people.
* Sheffield with 36.4% of children living in poverty – or 37,773 babies children and young people.
* Leeds with 35.9% of children living in poverty – or 54,273 babies children and young people.

It is estimated that over a third of a million children in Yorkshire and Humber are living in poverty after housing costs are factored in to government data.

For low income families this can mean using food banks and parents skipping meals to feed their children, not being able to afford winter coats or school uniforms, or suffering from the mental worry that comes when you are not able to pay your bills. We know that certain families are more likely to experience poverty. In 2020/21 40% of children in lone parent households were in poverty (compared to 24% of those in couple parent households).\* The latest data available\*\* also shows children from Black and minority ethnic groups are more likely to be in poverty, at 46 per cent, compared with 26 per cent of children in white British families.

**Tiegan Boyens, a 20 year old student from York and an End Child Poverty Youth Ambassador said;**

“*I have lived in York the majority of my life and sadly these findings come as no surprise to me, which is concerning. I remember when I first learnt about the extent of poverty in York, and the wider area. I was surprised as you wouldn’t be able to tell going around York especially in central parts- which present as fairly well off. A lot of people didn’t and still don’t realise the extent of childhood poverty in Yorkshire but it is there. The fact the situation has gotten worst over the past five years, despite efforts of many to help this growing number, is worrying for me as a young person living here. What does that mean for young people’s futures? It means young people won’t get the care free childhood everyone deserves, as they are having to worry about the basics, including whether their family is going to be able to eat. They will not have the same chances to have the best life possible.”*

**Rachel Walters, End Child Poverty Coalition Coordinator said;**

*“Poverty can have a devastating effect on children lives. It can hold children back from attaining a good level of health or development, stop them doing well in school or reaching their potential when they start work.*

*“As the cost-of-living crisis risks sweeping ever larger numbers of children into poverty, once appointed a new Chancellor must ramp up efforts to protect family incomes, so they can afford the basic necessities of life.”*

The End Child Poverty Coalition believes the figures released today show child poverty rates remain alarmingly high in the UK and despite promises to ‘level up’ the country, there has been little progress on reducing suffering for children on the scale this country needs.

**ENDS**

\*Calculated from Households below Average Income for the financial year 2020/21. Note that caution should be used in interpreting HBAI statistics for 2020/21 due to sampling issues related to the pandemic. Further information is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/households-below-average-income-for-financial-years-ending-1995-to-2021)

\*\* Calculations from Households Below Average Income statistics on the number and percentage of people living in low income households for financial year 2019/20, Tables 4\_3db & 4\_5db. Department for Work and Pensions.

**Notes to editors**

1. The End Child Poverty coalition (www.endchildpoverty.org.uk) is made up of around 75 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. These include Child Poverty Action Group, The Children’s Society, Buttle UK, Gingerbread, Oxfam GB, Action for Children, TUC, Save the Children, and the National Children’s Bureau.
2. You can get in touch with the coalition by emailing rachel@endchildpoverty.org.uk or on 07918 567577.
3. Here are links to the [full report](https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Local-child-poverty-indicators-report-2022_FINAL.pdf) and [data tables](https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Child-Poverty-AHC-estimates-2015-2021-FINAL.xlsx), once the embargo has lifted this website will be live: [www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty)
4. Images available [here](https://we.tl/t-E8fOJUFnRm) (please credit Save the Children) <https://we.tl/t-I2qWq1DSNY>
5. The figures are based on the Department for Work and Pensions Children in low income families: local area statistics which estimates the poverty rate before housing costs. A statistical model is used to estimate child poverty after housing costs which draws on household survey data alongside local area statistics on private rent levels. The statistics are calibrated to regional 3-year averages from Households Below Average Income (HBAI) for the financial years 2018/19 to 2020/21. The HBAI figures for 2020/21 are less reliable than earlier years due to sampling issues related to the pandemic. This should be kept in mind when interpreting the statistics released today, but the impact is lessened by the use of three-year averages for regional figures. More information on HBAI is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/households-below-average-income-for-financial-years-ending-1995-to-2021/households-below-average-income-an-analysis-of-the-income-distribution-fye-1995-to-fye-2021).

Users are advised that the data for individual local authorities and parliamentary constituencies are subject to small statistical fluctuations year-on-year and should be considered within the context of the regional or the longer-term local trend.