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**New statistics show 30 per cent of children are living in poverty in the north west**

* Across the region 30 per cent of children are living in poverty
* The highest levels are in Manchester where 42% of children are living in poverty
* Manchester also has the 9th highest rate of child poverty for all local authorities across the UK

Today the End Child Poverty Coalition launches their annual child poverty statistics for the UK, revealing child poverty levels at a local authority and Westminster constituency level. This research, carried out by Loughborough University on behalf of the coalition, shows that 30 per cent of children and young people in the NW region are living in poverty, which is 9 children in a classroom of 30. In Manchester this figure reaches 42% of all children and young people – or a staggering 12 children in a classroom of 30 (see table below for a list of the 10 highest Local Authority areas in the NW).

Across the region the number of children living in poverty has barely changed in the last 10 years, in 2010/11 31% of children were living in poverty. Meaning there has only been a decrease of 1 percentage point between 2010/11 and 2021/22.

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.

Liv Eren, 18, from Halton, in Cheshire, grew up in a family on a low income and is an End Child Poverty Coalition Ambassador.

She said: "I remember how poverty made me feel. Always being acutely aware of your social position forces you to mature a lot earlier. I remember a group of us telling a teacher that we wouldn't be able to go on a school trip when she wondered why no one had signed up. At 11-years of age and knowing about your parents finances and what they can afford– no child should be in a position to know that.

“And I missed out on normal things kids were doing after school too. Mum couldn't afford childcare, so we were going to work with her in the evenings then having to be at school for 8am and we were absolutely shattered

“It is a hard pill to swallow knowing that the issues you faced growing up are still rife today. I walk to college everyday passing children from my primary school with broken school shoes looking absolutely shattered as though they have not had anything to eat.”

Rachel Walters, End Child Poverty Coalition Coordinator said;

“Child poverty isn’t inevitable, the government can make changes to ensure that families are able to afford the basics for their children. We need urgent decisive action to ensure that next year we aren’t reporting exactly the same figures for the NW region. All children in the North West, and across the UK, deserve to live free of poverty and to have the same chances as their peers.”

This data covers the first year of the Covid 19 pandemic, which was also the year that saw poorer households receive the £20 Universal Credit uplift. Whilst in other regions across the UK it seems that this uplift has had more of an impact on child poverty figures, this trend is not reflected in the NW. This could be because many people in the region were in receipt of legacy benefits, so were not receiving Universal Credit payments during the pandemic. As a result they would not have received the extra cash uplift.

If the government truly wants to ‘level up’ the country and begin to tackle child poverty MPs must continue to find ways of making social security more adequate in the long term so that every family can afford the essentials. Specifically the government must ensure:

1) Universal Credit payments deductions are reduced and the benefit cap abolished.

2) There is improved access to free or affordable childcare.

3) Free School Meals in England and Wales are extended to all children in families receiving Universal Credit.

The table below shows the 10 Local Authorities in the North West with the highest levels of child poverty

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| --- | --- |
| **Local Authority** | **Percentage of children living in poverty in 2020/21** |
| Manchester | 42% |
| Oldham | 39.3% |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 37.6% |
| Bolton | 37.5% |
| Pendle | 37.5% |
| Hyndburn | 36.1% |
| Burnley | 36.1% |
| Rochdale | 35.8% |
| Liverpool | 33.4% |
| Blackpool | 33.3% |

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. You can access 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 webpage will be live: [www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty)
4. 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.