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**NEW ANALYSIS REVEALS SHARPLY RISING CHILD POVERTY IN EAST MIDLANDS HOT SPOTS**

* Since 2015 East Midlands has seen the second fastest rise in child poverty in the UK
* Child poverty rates now above 40% in Nottingham and Leicester
* End of pandemic support driving sharp rises nationwide
* End Child Poverty Coalition calls for two-child limit for those claiming Universal Credit to be scrapped

**Child poverty has risen faster in the East Midlands than almost every other region in the UK, with particularly shocking increases in the region’s big cities, according to a new analysis carried out by Loughborough University for the End Child Poverty Coalition.**

Since 2015, child poverty in the region has risen by 8 percentage points – only the North East of England has seen a sharper rise in this period. The new analysis shows that in Nottingham and Leicester in particular, over 40 per cent of all children now live in poverty – a rise of over 10 percentage points.

Though the East Midlands has seen a particularly sharp rise, this reflects broader national trends. According to the new analysis, the rise has been driven by many factors. An end to the additional support made available during the pandemic has driven up the number of children in the UK experiencing poverty to 4.2 million last year (29 per cent of all dependent children aged 0-19), with an increasing number living in working households. Some 71 per cent of child in poverty live in households where at least one adult works, a rise of 6 percentage points since last year.

Lone parents in work especially are struggling with more than a quarter (26 per cent) of all children going through poverty being raised by an adult in full-time employment by the same measure.

There is a clear correlation between children in receipt of disability living allowance and the rate of child poverty at a local level. Additionally, in every region of the UK, children from Black and minority ethic communities are more at risk of being in poverty than those with white ethnicity*.*

The analysis, carried out by Loughborough University for the End Child Poverty Coalition, also shows how children in larger families are significantly more likely to be experiencing poverty in England and Wales.

Barnardo’s is the largest children’s charity in the UK, and a member of the End Child Poverty Coalition. It delivers services across the East Midlands and its staff have seen the impact of child poverty first hand.

**Hugh Sherriffe, Barnardo’s Director of Children’s Services in Central England, said:** “These statistics confirm what we are seeing in our services across the East Midlands. Things are getting harder for children and families. We are making more food bank deliveries and referrals than we used to and we’ve seen a huge increase in families needing support from Barnardo’s Crisis Fund. Parents are struggling to feed and clothe their children, and in some cases haven’t been able to afford fuel to get them to school.

“There is one policy change that we know would make a direct and immediate difference, and that is to scrap the two-child limit for those claiming Universal Credit. The policy is unfair in the indiscriminate impact it has on children, and there is no evidence it has achieved its aims. Abolishing the two-child limit would immediately lift 250,000 children in the UK out of poverty, and the government could make this change now.”

Amelia, age 25, grew up in a small town in the East Midland in family on a low income and is an End Child Poverty Coalition ambassador. She said: My family experienced times where my dad was unable to work due to illness and this meant we were reliant on just one income to make ends meet. We didn't qualify for support meaning we missed out on opportunities such as school trips, or extra-curricular activities. The worry and anxiety households face shouldn't be dismissed as it can have a real long-term effect on young people into their adult life. Behind each statistic will be a family with children who have their own stories to tell."

**Notes to editors:**

* Hugh Sherriffe, Barnardo’s Director of Children Services in Central England is available for interview. Images available [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GZECuwl1NVrqgvfV4jHELt2jT0WZ9UUp) (please credit Save the Children). Local authority and constituency data available at the end of this release.
* The full report ‘**Local indicators of child poverty after housing costs, 2021/22**’ as well as tables with Constituency and Local Authority data and further information about the coalitions’ key positions are available [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GZECuwl1NVrqgvfV4jHELt2jT0WZ9UUp).
* The End Child Poverty Coalition is made up of 101 organisations including child welfare groups, social justice groups, faith groups, trade unions and others. Together with a group of Youth Ambassadors, members campaign for a UK free of child poverty. Further information on the Coalition can be found [here](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yljl9ie7e6hnq3x/AAAL1KZKpzNahRhIWLnX2RJQa?dl=0&preview=End+Child+Poverty+Policy+Positions+Designed.pdf).
* The statistics on local child poverty rates after housing costs presented in today’s report are calibrated to the Department for Work and Pensions’ (DWP) Households Below Average Income (HBAI) dataset for FYE 2021 and FYE 2022. The DWP’s data has undergone extensive quality assurance prior to publication but, due to sampling issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic, users are encouraged to exercise caution when interpreting this data. We further recommend that users of these Local Child Poverty Statistics focus on longer-term trends to understand how poverty has changed in an area rather than year-on-year changes which are prone to fluctuations.
* More information about the DWP’s Households Below Average Income dataset is available [here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/households-below-average-income-for-financial-years-ending-1995-to-2022)

**About Barnardo’s**

Last year Barnardo’s provided essential support to over 357,000 children, young people, parents and carers through more than 790 services and partnerships across the UK.

We provide vital support to the children and families who need us most, to help with a range of issues including mental health, child sexual abuse and children in care.

We listen to children and young people and work to bring about positive change so that they can have a brighter future.

Visit [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/) to find out more.

**Call the 24-hour press office number on 020 8498 7555.**

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