NI Child Poverty Press Release - to be released in tandem with the UK-wide PR

* 22.2% of children in Northern Ireland are experiencing poverty, with rates as high as 28.5%, 27.6% and 26.3% in Belfast West, Belfast North, and Newry and Armagh constituencies respectively.
* 62.7% of children in Northern Ireland who experience poverty live in households with at least one adult in work.
* 37% of children in lone parent households in Northern Ireland experience poverty after housing costs
* End Child Poverty Coalition is calling for the two-child limit for those claiming Universal Credit to be scrapped, as evidence shows children with two or more siblings are more likely to be going through poverty.

Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network (NIAPN), a member of the End Child Poverty Coalition, is gravely concerned about the high percentage of children who are living in poverty in Northern Ireland and across the UK.

A NIAPN spokesperson said: “We welcome this important data on child poverty rates by constituency and local authority launched by the End Child Poverty Coalition. The numbers of children in poverty across the UK is a massive indicator of a punitive and unjust social security system and wages that remain too low to pull the working poor out of poverty. We hope that MPs, MLAs and local councilors use this data to guide their anti-poverty policies and commit to a long overdue NI Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Whilst child poverty in Northern Ireland has seen a slight reduction in 2021/22 and has been kept at bay in comparison to the shocking figures from other parts of the UK, this is in no small part due to the welfare mitigations implemented here. However, there is nothing to say that this will be a long term trend, as the two-child policy dis-proportionally impacts children in NI, as there are more households with children and more children in those households here in comparison to the rest of the UK.

Additionally, the massive increase of private rents over the past few years, whilst the local housing allowance remains frozen will push more children into poverty. Particularly because the majority of lone parents rent in the private sector here in NI.

We are facing a perfect storm of the cost-of-living crisis, high inflation, low wages, no childcare strategy, the 2-child policy, massive cuts to public spending, along with a lack of devolved government.

NIAPN calls for all Northern Ireland’s 18 MPs to join the All Kids Count campaign and commit to scrapping the 2-child policy, which is the most cost-effective way of reducing child poverty. It would lift 250,000 children out of poverty across the UK, and a further 850,000 children would be in less deep poverty at a cost of just £1.3 billion.

-ENDS

UK wide press release