Media release

EMBARGOED: 00:01, Monday 5th June 2023

**Three quarters of London children in poverty are in a working household**

- Breakdown of London local authority data available below

Three quarters of children in poverty (74.5) in London have at least one parent with a job (measured before housing costs are accounted for), new analysis for the End Child Poverty coalition of charities shows.

While overall, 33% of London’s children are in poverty (after housing costs are factored in), with Tower Hamlets recording the highest child poverty rate in the UK at 47.5%, children from minority ethnic groups are far more at risk of poverty (46%) than those with white ethnicity (20%), the analysis shows. And London lone parents are especially struggling, with 48% of children in one parent families below the poverty line.

London children who have a disability are more likely to be experiencing poverty than those who don’t – at 35% and 32.8% respectively. And children with more than two siblings are also at greater risk– nationally, 42% of children in working families with three or more children are in poverty, compared to 22% of families with one or two children. Among non-working families, the national figures are 75% for families with three or more children and 64% for families with one or two children. More than 50,000 London households are subject to the two-child limit in universal credit and child tax credit according to Government data. \*

Today’s End Child Poverty figures, for the year to March 2022, include a six-month period in which the universal credit £20 weekly uplift was in place but do not cover the months in which the cost of living crisis took hold. With the £20 uplift now cut, and inflation persistently high, the charities are warning of more child poverty rises to come.

Although child poverty is highest in the North East and West Midlands, it remains high in London- four of the 20 UK local authorities with the highest child poverty rates are in the capital.

**The 20 local authorities with highest child poverty rates, 2021/22**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local authority** | **% of children below 60% median income after housing costs, 2021/22** |
| **UK** | **29%** |
| Tower Hamlets | 47.5% |
| Birmingham | 46.4% |
| Manchester | 44.7% |
| Sandwell | 44.6% |
| Newham | 43.7% |
| Oldham | 43.6% |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 43.5% |
| Hackney | 43.4% |
| Walsall | 43.3% |
| Wolverhampton | 43.3% |
| Pendle | 42.5% |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 42.2% |
| Barking and Dagenham | 42.1% |
| Bolton | 41.6% |
| Hyndburn | 41.6% |
| Nottingham | 41.0% |
| Burnley | 40.7% |
| Leicester | 40.6% |
| Middlesbrough | 40.6% |
| Rochdale | 40.5% |

The figures show the big effect that London’s high housing costs have on family finances - 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.

**The 20 local authorities with the highest after housing costs (AHC) compared to before housing costs (BHC) poverty rates, 2021/22**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Local Authority** | **% of children below 60% median income AHC** | | |
| AHC | BHC | **Percentage point difference** |
| **UK** | **29%** | **20%** | **9ppt** |
| Tower Hamlets | 47.5% | 26.7% | 20.8ppt |
| Hackney | 43.4% | 23.4% | 20.0ppt |
| Camden | 39.6% | 19.8% | 19.8ppt |
| Newham | 43.7% | 24.1% | 19.6ppt |
| Islington | 37.2% | 18.5% | 18.7ppt |
| Barking and Dagenham | 42.1% | 23.9% | 18.2ppt |
| Southwark | 36.2% | 18.4% | 17.8ppt |
| Waltham Forest | 38.1% | 20.5% | 17.6ppt |
| Lambeth | 35.5% | 18.1% | 17.4ppt |
| Westminster | 31.4% | 14.2% | 17.2ppt |
| Haringey | 35.1% | 18.0% | 17.1ppt |
| Brent | 35.6% | 18.5% | 17.1ppt |
| Greenwich | 35.9% | 18.9% | 17.0ppt |
| Lewisham | 32.8% | 16.8% | 16.0ppt |
| Ealing | 31.5% | 15.7% | 15.8ppt |
| Redbridge | 32.4% | 16.7% | 15.7ppt |
| Hounslow | 31.9% | 16.2% | 15.7ppt |
| Enfield | 30.9% | 15.6% | 15.3ppt |
| Harrow | 30.6% | 15.4% | 15.2ppt |
| Hillingdon | 31.0% | 15.9% | 15.1ppt |

Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) Alison Garnham said:

*Child poverty is the ugly side of London. A third of the city’s children don’t have what they need to thrive - and that number will rise if Government continues to turn a blind eye to the fact that families don’t have enough to live on. Abolishing the two-child limit and benefit cap, increasing child benefit and extending free school meals are the critical actions needed. Without them, more children in London will be hungry and cut off from the joys of childhood*. *Protecting children is surely a first duty of Government – Ministers must act.*

Joseph Howes, Chair of the End Child Poverty Coalition, said:

*“The pandemic and now the cost- of- living crisis have meant more and more children are having to go without food and a warm home.*

*“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 out of poverty, and the government could make this change now.*

*“We were encouraged to hear in January that the Labour Party is reviewing the policy, yet they must commit to scrapping it altogether ahead of the next election if they are to successfully deliver on their commitment to lead an assault on child poverty”.*

**Notes to editors:**

* The full report ‘*Local indicators of child poverty after housing costs, 2021/22’*, commissioned from Loughborough university, **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)

* The two-child limit policy restricts child allowances in universal credit and tax credits to the first two children in a family, unless the children were born before April 2017 when the policy was introduced.

\*Source:<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/universal-credit-and-child-tax-credit-claimants-statistics-related-to-the-policy-to-provide-support-for-a-maximum-of-2-children-april-2022/universal-credit-and-child-tax-credit-claimants-statistics-related-to-the->

Media contact: Jane Ahrends 07816 909302