**EXTENT OF CHILD POVERTY IN WELSH COMMUNITIES LAID BARE BY NEW DATA**

**EMBARGOED: 00:01, Monday 5th June 2023**

**Startling new analysis by Loughborough University for the End Child Poverty Coalition reveals that more than one in five children live in poverty in all Welsh local authorities.**

New analysis undertaken by Loughborough University has revealed the extent of child poverty across Wales. Child poverty rates are highest in Blaenau Gwent (30.3 per cent) and Ceredigion (30 per cent), but even in Monmouthshire, the local authority with the lowest child poverty rates, more than one in five children live in poverty (21.4 per cent).

Reacting to the data, Dr Steffan Evans, Head of Policy (Poverty) at the Bevan Foundation said:

 *“This new analysis highlights how poverty is a problem in all Welsh communities. Blaenau Gwent and Ceredigion are very different in many ways but with more than three in ten children living in poverty both local authorities, the latest data highlights the need to view poverty as a national problem not an urban/ rural problem or a valleys/ cities problem.”*

Across the whole of Wales 27.9 per cent of children live in poverty after housing costs. When looking before housing costs a staggering 79.8 per cent of children living in poverty live in working households.

**Claire Atchia McMaster** Director of External Affairs at Turn2us responded to the latest analysis:

*“Poverty is not a problem of the past and although these statistics are shocking, we believe poverty can be solved. The fact that seven in ten children experiencing poverty are in working households is a symptom of low paid unstable jobs and benefits that haven’t kept up with the true cost of living. This study shows that financial security goes beyond people’s ability to budget or their individual drive to succeed, it’s our economy and social safety net that aren’t working properly. These findings provide a compelling reason for the Welsh Government to make urgently needed updates to its Child Poverty Strategy, because even one child without enough to eat is one too many in 2023.”*

The report also highlights that children from larger families are significantly more likely to live in poverty. In 2021/22, the UK poverty rate among children with two or more siblings was 42 per cent, compared with 23 per cent and 22 per cent among children in families with one or two children. With so many children living in poverty, the need to take action has never been greater. Dr Steffan Evans added:

*“At a UK level the End Child Poverty Coalition is calling for the two-child limit for those claiming Universal Credit to be scrapped, given the clear link between the policy and child poverty rates in larger families.*

*In Wales, the Welsh Government is currently working on updating its Child Poverty Strategy. The latest analysis makes it clear that this new strategy must be accompanied by action that will help put money in families’ pockets and improve access to services.”*

Ends

**Notes to editors**

Images available [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GZECuwl1NVrqgvfV4jHELt2jT0WZ9UUp) (please credit Save the Children). Local authority and constituency data available below:

* 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)

**Contact**

For comment in English or Welsh contact Dr Steffan Evans on steffan.evans@bevanfoundation.org or 07794946550

**About Turn2us:**

Turn2us is a national poverty charity that offers practical information and support to people facing financial insecurity. We work alongside those who have experienced not having enough money to live on, to develop tools and services that help people cope with life-changing events such as job loss, illness, or bereavement.

Visit the Turn2us website to use the Benefits Calculator to find out what welfare benefits and tax credits you could be entitled to, a Grants Search to learn if you might be eligible for support from over 1,500 charitable funds, and a range of information and resources to help those of us who are struggling to get by.  We also provide direct financial assistance through a range of specific grant funds that are managed directly by the charity.

**About the Bevan Foundation:**

The Bevan Foundation is Wales’ most influential think-tank. We create insights, ideas and impact that help to end poverty and inequality. We are independent, informed, inspiring and inclusive in everything we do.