



## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2018-0040, 20 February 2018

# Child poverty in London

By Gloria Tyler  
Feargal McGuinness

## Summary

A Westminster Hall debate on Child Poverty in London is scheduled for Thursday 22 February 2018. The Member leading this backbench business debate is Siobhain McDonagh MP. >

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Key figures

## Child poverty in London: headline figures

Poverty is typically measured with reference to household income. In London, child poverty rates are much higher if we also take into account the cost of housing.

- Around 700,000 children in London were in relative low income in 2013/14 to 2015/16, after accounting for housing costs. This was 37% of all children in London, the highest rate of all countries and regions of the UK. The equivalent UK rate was 29%.
- 300,000 children in London were in relative low income based on their household income before deducting housing costs. This was 17% of all children in London, compared to a UK rate of 19%.
- Around 300,000 children in London in relative low income after housing costs lived in the private rented sector. A similar number of poor children are in the social rented sector, while 100,000 live in owner-occupier households. The number of poor children in the private rented sector has sharply increased over the past decade.
- Around 500,000 children in London relative low income after housing costs lived in families where at least one person was in work, compared to around 200,000 in families where no one worked. However, this partly reflects many more children in working households to begin with and the risk of poverty remains much higher for children in workless households.

## Poverty rates in London

Poverty is typically measured with reference to household income.<sup>1</sup> Income can be measured either before or after deducting housing costs. In London, poverty rates are much higher when we look at households' income after deducting housing costs, reflecting the high cost of housing in London relative to the rest of the UK.

### Relative low income

A person is in relative low income if their household income is below 60% of UK median income in that year. In the three years 2013/14 to 2015/16:

- 37% of children in London were in relative low income after housing costs (AHC) – around 700,000 children
- 17% of children in London were in relative low income before housing costs (BHC) – around 300,000 children.<sup>2</sup>

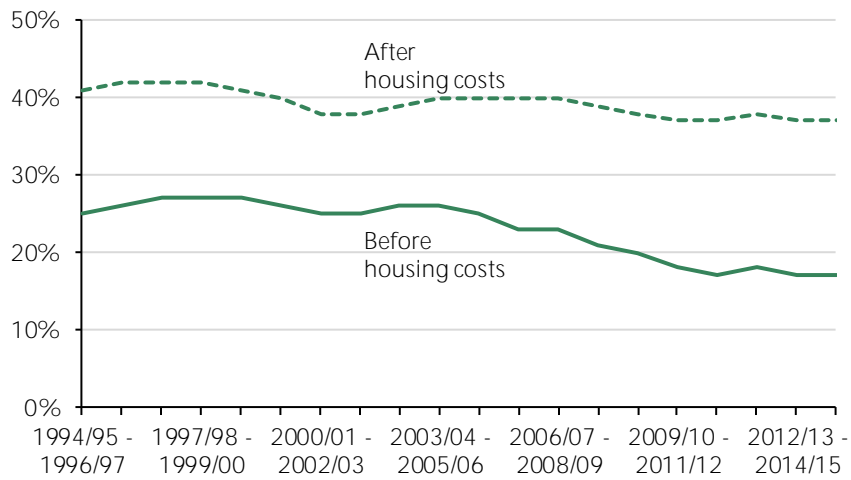
The proportion of children in relative low income AHC was higher in London than in all other countries and regions of the UK. London has a slightly lower proportion of children in relative low income BHC compared to the UK as a whole.

<sup>1</sup> For further discussion on how poverty can be measured, see section 1 of the Library's briefing paper on [Poverty in the UK: statistics](#)

<sup>2</sup> DWP, *Households below average income, 2015/16*, Table 4.17ts. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

### Child poverty rates in London compared to the UK

Three year averages for 1994/95-96/97 to 2013/14-15/16

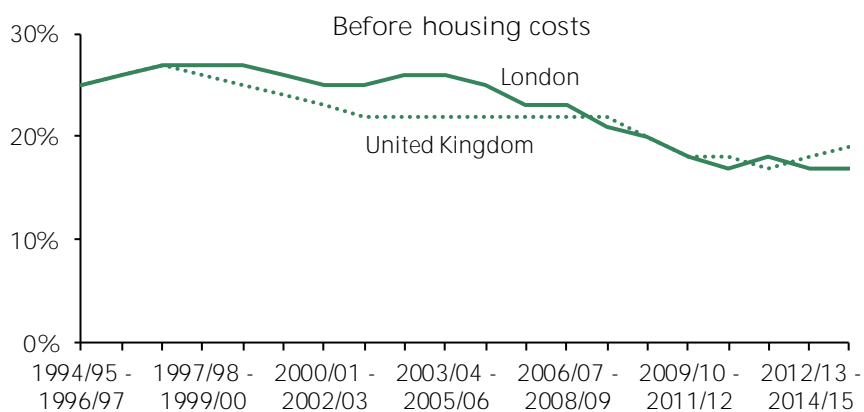
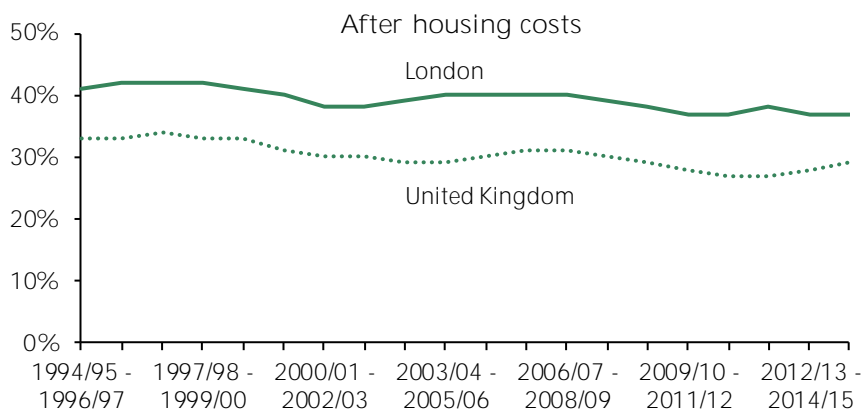


Source: DWP *Households below average income, 1994/95-2015/16*

Although the proportion of children in relative low income in the UK is lower than it was twenty years ago, it has started to increase in the last few years, based on incomes both BHC and AHC. This is not observed in the most recent data for London (for 2013/14 to 2015/16), although it could be disguised by averaging effects or survey error.

### Children in relative low income, London and the UK

Three year averages for 1994/95-96/97 to 2013/14-15/16



Source: DWP *Households below average income, 1994/95-2015/16*

## Absolute low income

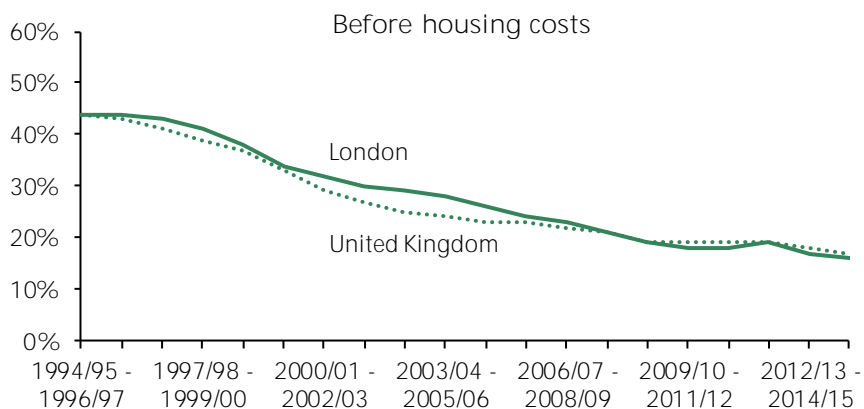
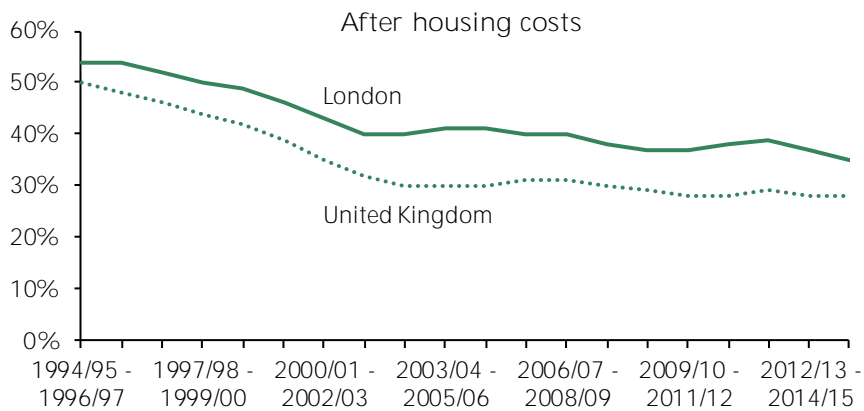
Another common measure of poverty is absolute low income. A person is in absolute low income if their household income is below 60% of median income in a fixed year (2010/11), adjusted for inflation. So this measure looks at the extent to which living standards of the lowest-income households are changing over time, while the relative low income measure looks at inequality between the poorest households and middle-income households.

16% of children in London were in absolute low income BHC and 35% were in absolute low income AHC in the three years 2013/14 to 2015/16.

Across both London and the UK, the proportion of children in absolute low income fell sharply between the mid-1990s and early 2000s. Since then, rates of absolute low income have continued to decline steadily based on incomes BHC, but have fallen more slowly on an AHC basis.

### Large falls in share of children in absolute low income over the past twenty years

Three year averages for 1994/95-96/97 to 2013/14-15/16



Source: DWP *Households below average income, 1994/95-2015/16*

## Material deprivation

Household income may not always reflect the extent to which a family can afford necessities. Another way of looking at poverty is to consider whether households are able to access key goods and services. A child is in low income and material deprivation if their parents are unable to access a certain number of specified goods and services and their household income before housing costs is below 70% of the UK median.

13% of children in London were in low income and material deprivation 2013/14 to 2015/16, similar to the proportion for the UK as a whole.

For more information on measuring poverty based on material deprivation, see section 9 of the Library's briefing paper on [Poverty in the UK: statistics](#).

## Comparison with other regions

A time series for child poverty in London and other UK regions is provided in [data tables](#) published alongside the briefing paper on *Poverty in the UK: statistics*. Use the drop-down menu in cell B4 to select the region of interest.

% of children in relative low income by region			
Three year average for 2013/14 to 2015/16			
	Relative low income		Low income and material deprivation
	Before housing costs	After housing costs	
London	17%	37%	13%
West Midlands	23%	33%	14%
North West	21%	30%	15%
Wales	20%	30%	14%
Yorkshire and the Humber	22%	29%	16%
East Midlands	21%	29%	14%
North East	20%	28%	16%
South West	17%	26%	10%
Northern Ireland	23%	26%	12%
East of England	16%	25%	9%
South East	13%	25%	8%
Scotland	17%	23%	11%
United Kingdom	19%	29%	13%

Source: DWP *Households below average income, 2015/16*, Table 4.6db

## Local figures

There is a marked difference in child poverty levels between Inner London and Outer London. This is true based on incomes BHC as well as incomes AHC:

<b>Child poverty in Inner and Outer London</b>			
% of children, three year average for 2013/14 to 2015/16			
	Relative low income		Material deprivation and low income
	BHC	AHC	
London	17%	37%	13%
Inner London	22%	42%	18%
Outer London	14%	34%	10%
United Kingdom	19%	29%	13%

Note: BHC = based on income before housing costs, AHC = based on income after housing costs.

Source: DWP, *Households below average income*, Tables 4c and 4.6db

Official poverty figures, as published in the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) annual [Households below average income](#) (HBAI) report and based on data from the Family Resources Survey, are not available for geographies smaller than Inner and Outer London. This is because there are not enough survey respondents to provide data for more local geographies. However, some unofficial estimates are available.

## Constituency estimates

Researchers at Loughborough University have produced [unofficial estimates](#) for child poverty by local authority, constituency and ward for the End Child Poverty campaign.<sup>3</sup> These are largely based on benefits and tax credits data and attempt to estimate the proportion of children falling under an income threshold broadly analogous to the threshold for relative low income. The estimates are not directly comparable to the official figures in HBAI.

Based on the End Child Poverty figures, 54% of children in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency were in relative low income after housing costs at July-September 2017, the highest share of any UK constituency.

Figures for London constituencies are presented in the table. Data for all UK constituencies are published on the [End Child Poverty website](#).

<sup>3</sup> Laura Valadez-Martinez and Donald Hirsch, *Compilation of child poverty local indicators, update to September 2017*, published on End Child Poverty website, [Poverty in your area 2018](#), 24 January 2018

## Estimated number of children in relative low income at July-September 2017

End Child Poverty estimates for July-September 2017. Rank is out of 73 London constituencies.

Constituency	BHC	AHC	Rank	Constituency	BHC	AHC	Rank
Bethnal Green and Bow	39%	54%	1	Mitcham and Morden	21%	32%	41
Poplar and Limehouse	37%	53%	2	Lewisham West and Penge	20%	32%	42
Edmonton	31%	45%	3	Kensington	20%	32%	43
Westminster North	30%	44%	4	Harrow East	20%	31%	44
East Ham	30%	44%	5	Ealing Central and Acton	20%	31%	45
Holborn and St Pancras	30%	44%	6	Dulwich and West Norwood	19%	30%	46
Hackney South and Shoreditch	29%	43%	7	Ilford North	19%	30%	47
Tottenham	29%	43%	8	Battersea	19%	29%	48
West Ham	29%	42%	9	Brentford and Isleworth	19%	29%	49
Islington South and Finsbury	27%	42%	10	Tooting	18%	29%	50
Brent Central	28%	41%	11	Hornsey and Wood Green	18%	29%	51
Ilford South	27%	41%	12	Enfield, Southgate	18%	28%	52
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	27%	40%	13	Chingford and Woodford Green	18%	28%	53
Enfield North	26%	40%	14	Eltham	18%	28%	54
Islington North	26%	39%	15	Finchley and Golders Green	18%	27%	55
Bermondsey and Old Southwark	25%	39%	16	Chelsea and Fulham	17%	26%	56
Barking	25%	38%	17	Uxbridge and South Ruislip	16%	25%	57
Walthamstow	25%	37%	18	Carshalton and Wallington	16%	25%	58
Camberwell and Peckham	24%	37%	19	Hornchurch and Upminster	16%	25%	59
Vauxhall	24%	37%	20	Bexleyheath and Crayford	15%	25%	60
Hayes and Harlington	24%	37%	21	Chipping Barnet	15%	24%	61
Croydon North	24%	37%	22	Kingston and Surbiton	15%	24%	62
Greenwich and Woolwich	23%	36%	23	Romford	15%	24%	63
Lewisham, Deptford	23%	35%	24	Bromley and Chislehurst	14%	22%	64
Ealing, Southall	23%	35%	25	Croydon South	13%	21%	65
Hammersmith	23%	35%	26	Orpington	12%	20%	66
Dagenham and Rainham	23%	35%	27	Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner	12%	20%	67
Cities of London and Westminster	22%	34%	28	Sutton and Cheam	12%	19%	68
Lewisham East	22%	34%	29	Old Bexley and Sidcup	11%	18%	69
Harrow West	22%	34%	30	Wimbledon	10%	15%	70
Erith and Thamesmead	22%	34%	31	Twickenham	10%	15%	71
Hendon	22%	34%	32	Richmond Park	10%	15%	72
Feltham and Heston	22%	33%	33	Beckenham	9%	15%	73
Leyton and Wanstead	22%	33%	34				
Croydon Central	22%	33%	35				
Hampstead and Kilburn	21%	33%	36				
Putney	21%	33%	37				
Ealing North	21%	33%	38				
Brent North	21%	32%	39				
Streatham	21%	32%	40				

Source: Figures calculated by Laura Valadez-Martinez and Donald Hirsch (Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University), published by End Child Poverty, [www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2018](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2018) [accessed 20 February 2018]

These estimates need to be viewed with caution. The starting point is local data on the number of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits, or living in families in receipt of tax credits with reported income less than 60% of median income. The results need to be adjusted because otherwise they substantially overestimate poverty

in workless households and underestimate poverty in households where someone is in work. Therefore, figures are scaled in order to sum to national estimates for child poverty in working and workless households as reported in HBAI. However, that is clearly a crude fix and will not take into account specific local circumstances beyond what is reflected in the statistics on receipt of tax credits and out-of-work benefits. We should also be wary because the latest unadjusted data on benefits and tax credits suggest a decrease in the number of poor children, contrary to the trend in the official statistics for the UK (from the HBAI report).

The final step in producing the End Child Poverty figures is to adjust for more recent changes in the number of working and workless families at the national level, using data from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey up to July-September 2017.

Local figures on "children in low-income families" are also [published by HMRC](#). This is simply the (unadjusted) number of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits, or living in families in receipt of tax credits with reported income less than 60% of median income.

## Housing and poverty

Child poverty is much more common in the private rented sector and social rented sector in London than among households who are owner-occupiers.

In the three years 2013/14 to 2015/16, 55% of children in the private rented sector and 55% of children in the social rented sector in London were in relative low income AHC. This is around 300,000 children living in each sector. 11% of children in owner-occupier households in London were in relative low income AHC (around 100,000 children).<sup>4</sup>

On this measure, the number of poor children living in the private rented sector has roughly tripled since the mid-2000s. At the same time the number of children in poverty in the social rented sector has fallen: The chart below, taken from the New Policy Institute and Trust for London's *London Poverty Profile 2017*, shows child poverty levels by housing tenure over the past two decades:

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<sup>4</sup> Adam Tinson et al, [London's Poverty Profile 2017](#), New Policy Institute and Trust for London, 8 October 2017, p37, based on analysis of DWP Family Resources Survey. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.



Number of children in London in relative low income AHC, by housing tenure:

Three year averages for 1994/95-96/97 to 2013/14-15/16



Source: New Policy Institute/Trust for London analysis of DWP, *Households below average income* dataset, published in [London's Poverty Profile 2017](#). Annotations by Commons Library.

## In-work poverty

The majority of children in poverty in London live in families where at least one person is in work ("working families"). Analysis by the New Policy Institute and Trust for London indicates that around 500,000 children in London in relative low income AHC lived in working families in the three years 2013/14 to 2015/16, compared to around 200,000 children in families where no one was in work.<sup>5</sup>

However, these numbers partly reflect the fact there are many more children in London in working families than there are in workless families. The risk of poverty is still much greater for workless families: around 70% of children living in workless families in London were in relative low income AHC, compared to around 30% of children in working families.

Over the decade to 2013/14-2015/16, the number of children in working families in relative low income AHC has increased by around 200,000, balanced by a similarly-sized decrease in the number of poor children in workless families.<sup>6</sup>

## Number of adults in employment

Around 11% of children<sup>7</sup> in London lived in households where no one was in work in January-December 2016, similar to the UK as a whole (12%). However, the proportion of children living in households where

<sup>5</sup> Adam Tinson et al, [London's Poverty Profile 2017](#), New Policy Institute and Trust for London, 8 October 2017, p32, based on analysis of DWP Family Resources Survey. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

<sup>6</sup> Adam Tinson et al, [London's Poverty Profile 2017](#), New Policy Institute and Trust for London, 8 October 2017, p32, based on analysis of DWP Family Resources Survey

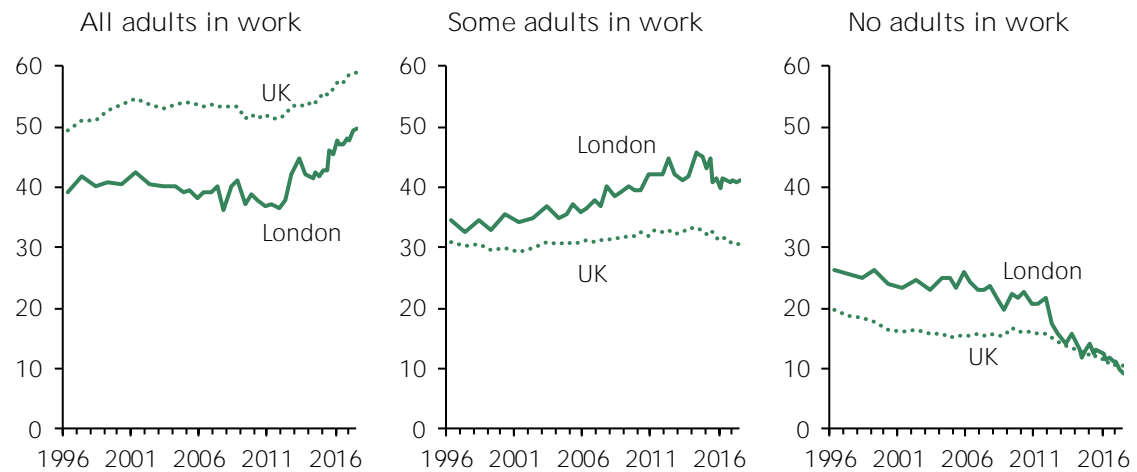
<sup>7</sup> Children aged under 16 only.

all adults are in work was lower in London (49%) than for the UK (56%). Instead, London had a higher proportion of children in households where only some adults are working (40%, compared to 32% for the UK).<sup>8</sup>

Since 2012, the proportion of children in households where all adults are in work has sharply increased, mirrored by a sharp fall in the proportion of children in workless households, as can be seen from the charts below.

Previously, from the mid-1990s up to 2010, there had been a decrease in the proportion of children in London living in households where all adults were working or in households where no adults were working. This was balanced by an increase in the share of children living in households where at least one adult was in in work.

**% of children living in households where all, some or no adults are in work**  
 Quarterly data, not seasonally adjusted



Note: Figures count children aged under 16 living in households containing at least one person aged 16-64 only.  
 Source: ONS *Working and workless households in the UK: July to September 2017*, Table M

Statistics on regional employment rates and earnings are presented in the Library’s briefing paper on [Labour market statistics: UK regions and countries](#).

<sup>8</sup> Figures are based on children aged under 16 living in households with at least one member aged 16-64. Source: ONS Annual Population Survey via Nomis (*Annual Population Survey – households by combined economic activity status*).

## 2. Parliamentary material

### 2.1 Written questions

HM Treasury: Poverty: Children:  
[Written question - 126853](#)

Asked by Kate Osamor (Edmonton)

Asked on: 06 February 2018

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 5 February to Question 125706, on Poverty: Children, if he will make an assessment of the effect of the freeze on (a) child benefit and (b) child tax credits on child poverty in the last seven years.

Answered by: Elizabeth Truss

Answered on: 12 February 2018

The proportion of people in absolute poverty is at record lows. Since 2010 there are 600,000 fewer people in absolute poverty, including 200,000 fewer children. Work is the most effective way out of poverty and unemployment has not been lower since 1975. From 2008 to 2015, average earnings grew by 12%, whereas most working-age benefits increased by 21%.

Department for Work and Pensions: Poverty: Children:  
[Written question - 125655](#)

Asked by Tulip Siddiq (Hampstead and Kilburn)

Asked on: 30 January 2018

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what progress her Department has made towards meeting the 2020 poverty reduction targets set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010; and if she will make a statement.

Answered by: Kit Malthouse

Answered on: 06 February 2018

Tackling child poverty and disadvantage is a priority for this government. To do this requires an approach that goes beyond the safety net of the welfare state to tackle the root causes of poverty and disadvantage. This is why the income-related targets and the requirement to publish a child poverty strategy set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010 have been repealed. In their place, we introduced statutory measures to drive action on parental worklessness and children's educational attainment – the two areas that we know can make the biggest difference to disadvantaged children. The

Government has a statutory duty to report annually to Parliament on these indicators and will do so again in March 2018.

The links to the latest report and available data are below:

- Statutory report  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workless-households-and-educational-attainment-statutory-indicators>
- Children in workless households  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/workingandworklesshouseholds/julytoseptember2017>
- Children in long-term workless households  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/childrenlivinginlongtermworklesshouseholdsuk2016>
- Children's educational attainment at key stage 4 for all pupils and disadvantaged pupils  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2016-to-2017>

HM Treasury: Poverty: Children:  
[Written question - 125131](#)

Asked by Richard Burden, (Birmingham, Northfield)

Asked on: 26 January 2018

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps his Department plans to take in response to the recent findings of the End Child Poverty coalition on the levels of child poverty in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Answered by: Elizabeth Truss

Answered on: 01 February 2018

The proportion of people in absolute poverty is at record lows. Since 2010 there are 600,000 fewer people in absolute poverty, including 200,000 fewer children. Work is the most effective way out of poverty and unemployment has not been lower since 1975. The government is also taking action to boost the household incomes of low earners. From this April, the National Living Wage will increase to £7.83. Over 1.6 million people are expected to benefit and this is equivalent to a pay rise of £2000 for a full-time worker since its introduction. There is more to do and the government is committed to delivering a country that works for everyone. Last April, the government published its "Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families" strategy. This focused on measures that tackle the root causes of poverty.

HM Treasury: Poverty: Children:  
[Written question - 121206](#)

Asked by Laura Smith (Crewe and Nantwich)

Asked on: 05 January 2018

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effect of rising household debt on levels of child poverty.

Answered by: Elizabeth Truss

Answered on: 15 January 2018

The proportion of people in absolute poverty is at record lows. Since 2010 there are 600,000 fewer people, with 200,000 fewer children, in absolute poverty. Work is the most effective way out of poverty and unemployment has not been lower since 1975. We are helping people retain more of what they earn by raising the personal allowance, successive increases mean that a basic rate tax payer will be £1,075 better off in 2018-19 than in 2010-11, and to help with the cost of living we are also freezing tax on fuel and alcohol. To support working parents we are introducing Tax Free Childcare, providing support of up to £2000 per year for each child, and are doubling free childcare available for 3 and 4 year olds to 30 hours a week, saving in total around £5,000 a year per child. We are also banning letting agent fees and have published a draft bill to require Ofgem to implement a cap on standard variable and default energy tariffs. However, there is more to do and the government is committed to delivering a country that works for everyone. Last April, the government published its "Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families" strategy. This focused on measures that tackle the root causes of poverty, including specifically problem debt.

## 2.2 Oral questions

[Universal Credit: Child Poverty](#)

HC Deb 5 Feb 2018, Vol 635 c1200 - 1201

Diana Johnson (Kingston upon Hull North) (Lab)

If she will make an estimate of the number of children who will no longer be living in poverty as a result of the roll-out of universal credit. [903744]

Karen Lee (Lincoln) (Lab)

If she will make an estimate of the number of children who will no longer be living in poverty as a result of the roll-out of universal credit. [903747]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Kit Malthouse)

Both hon. Ladies are right to recognise the role that welfare reform is playing in alleviating child poverty. Work is the best route out of poverty, and universal credit strengthens the incentives for parents to move into and progress in work. However, it cannot be considered in isolation: it is a key component of a broader strategy to move Britain to a higher wage, lower welfare and lower tax society.

Diana Johnson

Owing to policies pursued since 2010, we now have 20,700 children in poverty across Hull, and food poverty and holiday hunger are growing, including, despite what the Secretary of State says, in working families. Will restricting free school meals in universal credit create a cliff edge and make the situation even more dire in the most disadvantaged communities?

Kit Malthouse

Undoubtedly, as my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State said earlier, children are five times more likely to be in poverty if they are in a workless household. The Government's entire thrust is to get as many people into work as possible, and we would never contemplate anything that would get in the way of those kinds of incentives. As my hon. Friend the Minister for Employment said, nobody will lose out under the current proposals on free school meals; in fact, there might well be more recipients in the future.

Karen Lee

Figures published last month show that 27% of children in my constituency live in low-income households—and these are families who rely on universal credit. Does the Minister believe that it is acceptable that families living in poverty in Lincoln have to rely on food banks, particularly when due to problems with the roll-out of universal credit?

Kit Malthouse

I am sure that the hon. Lady, like me, welcomes the 43% fall in the claimant count in her constituency over the past few years—[Hon. Members: "That wasn't the question."] On her question, as she and many Members will know, the causes and drivers of people going to food banks are complex. [Interruption.] In my constituency, for example, the food bank was established in 2006—at the height of Labour's conduct of the economy and welfare system—but the Department needs to think carefully about some of these issues, and we will be doing so in the future.

Michael Tomlinson (Mid Dorset and North Poole) (Con)

I warmly welcome my hon. Friend to his place. Does he agree that, on the important subject of children living in poverty and universal credit, it is important to have a sensible, grown-up discussion and debate, rather than bandying around unqualified figures?

Kit Malthouse

My hon. Friend makes a strong point, and he is absolutely right. National statistics, on a number of measures, have shown child poverty falling. In particular, we have seen 200,000 children over the past few years move out of absolute poverty.

Michelle Donelan (Chippenham) (Con)

For too long, parents have been able to hide their earnings from their child maintenance payment calculations, creating and adding to child poverty. What action are the Government taking to stop this?

Kit Malthouse

As my hon. Friend knows, the child maintenance system was put in place to enable greater co-operation between parents, on the basis that that often results in a much better outcome for children, but there are parents who fail to do so, and for those circumstances, we have invested significantly in the financial investigations unit of the Child Maintenance Service. We will be consulting further on what more we can do to strengthen our enforcement powers.

Margaret Greenwood (Wirral West) (Lab)

I welcome the Minister to his place. When the benefit freeze was introduced in April 2016, inflation stood at 0.3%; it is now over 3%, and food prices in December were over 4% higher than a year earlier. A recent study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies showed that one in four of Britain's poorest households are struggling with problem debt, and new figures from the End Child Poverty coalition show that in some parts of Britain, such as Bethnal Green and Bow in London and Ladywood in Birmingham, over half of children are living in poverty. Their families are no longer just about managing. Will the Government end the social security freeze that is pushing families into poverty?

Kit Malthouse

I would advise the hon. Lady to be slightly careful about the statistics she is using. As we heard earlier, there are some particular problems, but in that report in particular there were enormous caveats saying that the measures were not accurate and the numbers not necessarily reliable, particularly on a constituency basis. The Government are committed to a strategy to tackle poverty that involves work, and since 2010 we have 954,000 fewer households in unemployment and moved into work. That is the best thing we can do for their futures.

## 2.3 Other Parliamentary material

### [Early day motion 936](#)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

Session: 2017-19, Date tabled: 08.02.2018

Primary sponsor: Corbyn, Jeremy

Sponsors: Rayner, Angela, Abrahams, Debbie, Watson, Tom, Abbott, Diane, Brown, Nicholas

That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that the [Free School Lunches and Milk, and School and Early Years Finance \(Amendments Relating to Universal Credit\) \(England\) Regulations 2018](#) (S.I., 2018, No. 148), dated 6 February 2018, a copy of which was laid before this House on 7 February, be annulled.

[Strengthening Families](#)

HC Deb 8 Feb 2018 Vol 635, C 629 - 666

[Free School Meals/Pupil Premium: Eligibility](#)

HC Deb 6 Feb 2018 Vol 635, C 527WH – 544WH

[School Holidays \(Meals and Activities\) Bill](#)

HC Deb 19 Jan 2018 Vol 634 c 1246 - 1250

[Food Poverty: Merseyside](#)

HC Deb 16 Jan 2018 Vol 634, C280 - 302

[Poverty and Disadvantage](#)

HL Deb 14 Dec 2017 Vol 787, C 1708 - 1725



### 3. Press Articles

[Council plans free school meals all year to tackle 'holiday hunger'](#), Libby Brooks, The Guardian, 16 February 2018

North Lanarkshire proposal comes as teachers report seeing more malnourished pupils. A Scottish council plans to provide free meals to children who need them 365 days a year, in a scheme that will be the first of its kind in the UK if approved at a council meeting next Tuesday.

[Surge in poverty rates among children of public sector worker parents;](#) May Bulman, The Independent, 15 February 2018

One in seven children whose parents work in public sector jobs now live below headline – an increase of 40 per cent in eight years, according to TUC research. The research shows that since 2010, an extra 150,000 children have been pushed into poverty, with families where both parents work in the public sector hit hardest by the Government's pay restrictions and benefit changes.

[We cannot let London outstrip other regions on social mobility,](#) Iain Martin, The Guardian, 14 February 2018

The capital sends more pupils receiving free school meals to university than anywhere else. We need to redress the balance

For our region, the east of England, the university participation rate for students entitled to free school meals at 15, across our local authorities, is an average of 16% - the participation rate for all students is 34%.

Compare this to the London local authorities, which are 38% and 44% respectively. In the east of England, only one local authority, Luton, comes close to matching these participation rates for students on free school meals with the average level, whereas in London there are eight local authorities where the participation rates are higher in the free school meal cohort than overall.

[Child obesity rates in Newham the third highest in London,](#) Alex Shaw, Newham Recorder, 14 February 2018

One in four (27.6 per cent) of Year 6 pupils in the borough are considered obese, according to an NHS report made public yesterday.

The data found children aged between 10 and 11 years old in Newham are more than twice as likely to be obese than the borough with the lowest figure, Richmond upon Thames (12.6pc).

[More than half of Tower Hamlets children living in poverty, new figures show,](#) The Docklands and East London Advertiser, 8 February 2018

The statistics, revealed by the End Child Poverty coalition, found that more than 32,600 children were living below the poverty line last year - equating to 53.4 per cent of youngsters.

The figures also showed that of those children, 15,301 live within the Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, and 17,361 within Poplar and Limehouse.

[Tower Hamlets has reduced child poverty - by shipping it elsewhere;](#)

Rabina Khan, The Guardian, 31 January 2018

Statistics show a drop of 6% since 2010. But that's thanks to rising rents and benefit caps forcing families out of the borough.

Tower Hamlets has the highest child poverty rate of any UK local authority, research released by the End Child Poverty Coalition on 24 January shows.

Rabina Khan is an independent councillor in Tower Hamlets, and was formerly the portfolio holder for housing

[Nearly half of all children in London, Birmingham and Manchester live in poverty, finds study: Most deprived parts of UK increases in child poverty -with levels in areas of London and Birmingham more than 53 per cent of all children, according to findings,](#) May Bulman, The Independent, 24 January 2018

The "shocking" figures have been attributed to the benefit freeze - which has been in place since 2015 and leaves children's benefits frozen until the end of the decade - as well as the high cost of credit for low income families, leaving many "spiralling into debt".

[Help a Hungry Child: A huge thank you to our readers as appeal raises more than £1m,](#) Eleanor Rose, The Independent, 12 January 2018

*The Independent's* charity appeal reached the finish line today with more than £1 million donated — and the launch of [Team Felix](#) to raise even more funds for London's hungry children when it competes in the capital's first-ever official half-marathon.

The phenomenal total — donated with the help of you, our readers — means that thousands of primary school pupils across London will not go to bed hungry as they are provided with tasty and nutritious free food.

[Magic Breakfasts for all pupils boost school standards,](#) Richard Vaughan, i-News, 11 December 2017

The Willow Primary School sits in the heart of the Broadwater Farm Estate in north London and has become a beacon of excellence thanks, in part, to its inclusive breakfast policy.

[Children in London to receive less than family pet this Christmas, child poverty charity figures reveal,](#) Francesca Gillett, Evening Standard, 2 December 2017

Data from 22 children's charities in the capital revealed thousands of children say they do not enjoy Christmas - and the average value of gifts spent on many disadvantaged children totals just £19.55.

This figure compares to the average £22 spent on a family pet in the UK and is far below the £145 worth of gifts given to the average child in Britain on Christmas Day.

[Poverty is a major contributor towards poor health of London children, say doctors](#), Eleanor Rose, Evening Standard, 11 May 2017

The health of London's children is being blighted by poverty that sees families struggle to feed themselves and heat their homes, according to a new survey of children's doctors.

## 4. Press releases

[More than half of children now living in poverty in some parts of the UK](#), End Child Poverty, 24 January 2018

The End Child Poverty coalition has today published figures providing a new Child Poverty map of the UK. The new figures reveal that there are now constituencies within the UK where more than half of children are growing up in poverty – compared to one in ten, in the areas with the lowest child poverty rates.

The local child poverty estimates are broken down by parliamentary constituency, local authority and ward. Child poverty is the highest in large cities, particularly in London, Birmingham and Manchester. Among the twenty parliamentary constituencies with the highest levels of childhood poverty, seven are located in London, three in Birmingham, and three in Manchester.

[Campaign group and Green Party MP relieved after pushing for DWP to halt the disappearance of thousands of children from childcare data](#), 4 in 10, 16 January 2018

Caroline Lucas MP:

“I am delighted that, after initially trying to brush the issue under the carpet, DWP ministers have acknowledged that 4in10 and local authorities have identified a serious problem with Universal Credit in relation to the two year old childcare offer, and have now committed to fixing it from March. This will benefit hundreds of the most disadvantaged young children.”

[Universal credit: One million children in poverty to miss out on free school meals](#), The Children’s Society, 19 December 2017

The regions worst affected by child poverty stand to lose the most from the proposed eligibility criteria. In London 212,000 children are projected to miss out on free school meals

[Benefit cuts set to increase child poverty, with biggest rises likely in North East and Wales](#), Institute for Fiscal Studies [IFS], 2 November 2017

“If the government sticks to planned benefit cuts, it should not be surprised if, according to the official measure, absolute child poverty rises. Every region and nation is projected to see an increase in child poverty, with the largest increases in the North East, East Midlands, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and the smallest in London, the South East, and South West.”

## 5. Reports

[London's Poverty Profile 2017](#), Adam Tinson, New Policy Institute for Trust for London, October 2017

- The latest data for London's Poverty Profile (from 2016 and 2017) shows a mixed picture
- While the overall poverty rate has fallen slightly in recent years, it remains higher than the rest of the country
- The cost of housing is the main factor explaining London's higher poverty rate
- 700,000 children in London are in poverty – 37%
- Around 70% of children in poverty in London are in a working family
- The proportion of households whose income is below 50% of median income (rather than 60% - official poverty measure) has risen by 1.5 percentage points in the last five years
- There are people in poverty in every London borough
- Every borough has areas where the poverty rate is above the rest of England average.
- Wealth inequality, which is higher than income inequality, is a significant issue in London
- In London, wealth for someone just in the top 10% is now 295 times higher than someone just in the bottom 10%. In 2010–12 it was 160 times higher

[London Child Poverty Report 2018](#), The Childhood Trust, 2018

This report was conducted by postgraduate students at the London School of Economics to help stimulate the conversation about child poverty in London and suggest some possible solutions. It is based primarily on previously published academic research and reports from campaigning organisations but also makes use of a small number of original case studies.

[UK Poverty 2017](#), JRF Analysis Unit, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 4 December 2017

Examines poverty rates in the UK, and looks at how figures have changed over the past two decades.

Includes: [Child Poverty data](#), Joseph Rowntree Trust, 17 November 2017

Where a child lives in the UK, the number of children in their family and their parents work status all effect the likelihood that they will be in poverty.

[Ending Hunger in the Holidays](#), Feeding Britain, December 2017

Holiday clubs provide an urgently needed safety net to protect children from hunger and social isolation, but an incomplete one, and one that is increasingly strained.

[Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2017–18 to 2021–22](#), Institute for Fiscal Studies [IFS], November 2017

If the latest forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) were to prove correct, and the government were to stick to current plans for changes to benefits (including the roll-out of universal credit), we estimate that between 2015-16 and 2021-22:

Absolute child poverty would increase by around 4 percentage points

Absolute child poverty is projected to increase the most in Wales, the North East, East Midlands and Northern Ireland

[The Real Face of Child Poverty in the UK in 2017](#), Buttle UK, 4 August 2017

This report sets out to investigate the current reality of living on low incomes in the UK today. It highlights the changing profile of those that are disadvantaged and the level of insecurity and uncertainty that they face, backed up by data and analysis collected by Buttle UK.

As the country's largest grant-giving charity that gives funds directly to children, young people and families, we have been able to analyse 125,000 grant applications made in the last 10 years, creating a unique dataset of the demographics and experiences of some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Key findings:

The profile of those families that are struggling most is changing

Low-income families are the hardest hit by recent economic changes and are subject to a 'poverty premium'

Parents have to make choices between spending money on food, bills or their children

[Still Too Poor to Pay - Council Tax Support in London - 2017/18 Update \(September 2017\)](#) Child Poverty Action Group

[Moving to The London Living Wage: A Guide for Local Authorities in London](#), Child Poverty Action Group, August 2017

[Child Hunger in London: understanding food poverty in the capital](#), IPSOS Mori Social Research Institute for Greater London Authority, August 2013

We want this report to build support for the Mayor's aim to make London a 'zero hunger city' [by 2020](#).

## 5.1 Library briefing papers

[School meals and nutritional standards \(England\)](#), Robert Long, Commons Briefing papers SN04195, 8 February 2018

Eligibility for free school meals will alter as Universal Credit is rolled out and several of the existing qualifying benefits for free school meals are abolished. Following a consultation, the Government announced in February 2017 it would be introducing an earnings threshold for eligibility through Universal Credit from April 2018, with some protections in place for existing claimants.

[School Holidays \(Meals and Activities\) Bill - 2nd reading](#), Andrew Mackley and Robert Long, Commons Debate packs CDP-2017-0264 , 12 January 2018

The [School Holidays \(Meals and Activities\) Bill 2017-19](#) is a Private Member's Bill presented to Parliament by Rt Hon Frank Field MP, and received its First Reading on 5 September 2017.

[Food poverty in Merseyside](#), Feargal McGuinness; Jennifer Brown; and Steven Kennedy, Commons Debate packs CDP-2018-0008, 12 January 2018

A Westminster Hall debate on Food poverty in Merseyside is scheduled for Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 2.30pm. The Member leading the debate is Stephen Twigg MP.

[Poverty in the UK: statistics](#), Feargal McGuinness, Commons Briefing papers SN07096, 16 June 2017

Information on the levels and rates of poverty in the UK, including historical trends and forecasts for future years. The focus here is on poverty defined in terms of disposable household income

[Rising Inflation and Freeze of Working Age Benefits](#), House of Lords Library Briefing packs LBP-2017-0099, 13 November 2017

This House of Lords Library Briefing Pack has been prepared in advance of the debate on the impact of rising inflation on families affected by the freeze of working age benefits.

## 6. Other material

[Tackling child poverty and health inequality in London](#), London Assembly and Mayor of London

Over a quarter of London's children live in poverty. We want this to end. We're also working in partnership to improve the health of young Londoners.

[4 in 10 London Children Live in Poverty](#): working to end child poverty in London

The UK is one of the richest countries in the world, yet there are 3.6 million children growing up in severe and persistent poverty. The situation is even worse in London, where [4 in 10 children live in poverty](#). 4in10 was created in response to this crisis of child poverty in London. The project is run by a small team of staff and volunteers who aim to tackle child poverty by:

- creating a network of like-minded voluntary and community organizations, Local Authorities and individuals from across London
- building the capacity of London organizations and individuals interested in tackling child poverty
- providing a forum for London organizations and community members to share best practice, skills, knowledge and expertise on child poverty
- campaigning on key issues that affect the capital's 600,000 children currently living in poverty.

[If we want to improve social mobility, we have to address child poverty](#), Kerris Cooper and Kitty Stewart, LSE British Politics and Policy blog, 12 July 2017

Child poverty has been 'deprioritised' in recent years, but our research demonstrates that if we want every child to have a fair start in life we cannot continue to ignore poverty.



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