



Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee – March 2018

Child Poverty in Nottingham City Briefing Note on Prevalence and Action

Definition of Child Poverty

“Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged and approved, in the societies in which they belong”. (Townsend; 1979)

The poverty line is 60% of median income, which means that a lone parent with two children, earning below £15,444, are considered to be living in poverty.

Prevalence of Child Poverty in Nottingham

25,148 children (38.23%) living in Nottingham are considered to be living in poverty, once you have taken into the costs of housing. (Data available at <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2018/> on 06.03.18) We are 15th nationally for this indicator.

Arboretum has the highest % of children living in poverty in Nottingham City but 11 wards have a higher % of children living in poverty that the Nottingham average.

Percentage of children in poverty, Jul-Sept 2017 Local Authority and wards*	BEFORE HOUSING COSTS		AFTER HOUSING COSTS	
	Number of children	%	Number of children	%
Nottingham	16,455	25.02%	25,148	38.23%
Arboretum	756	36.51%	1,078	52.10%
Aspley	1,979	29.39%	2,996	44.49%
Basford	921	22.22%	1,431	34.52%
Berridge	1,297	28.73%	1,923	42.60%
Bestwood	1,099	24.69%	1,691	38.00%
Bilborough	1,222	27.46%	1,853	41.65%
Bridge	630	25.81%	958	39.25%
Bulwell	1,167	25.43%	1,800	39.21%
Bulwell Forest	526	17.78%	831	28.07%
Clifton North	496	19.12%	778	30.00%
Clifton South	680	20.19%	1,061	31.48%
Dales	1,184	28.13%	1,773	42.12%
Dunkirk and Lenton	148	26.45%	223	39.77%
Leen Valley	703	25.50%	1,054	38.26%
Mapperley	614	21.40%	952	33.17%
Radford and Park	659	30.94%	972	45.63%
St Ann’s	1,117	30.27%	1,675	45.39%
Sherwood	659	20.26%	1,027	31.54%
Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey	198	21.32%	308	33.15%
Wollaton West	322	10.59%	521	17.11%

Whilst Nottingham is the 8th most deprived according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) it is ranked 4th most deprived according to a sub-set of this data, the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). According to IDACI, Nottingham is the most deprived Core City. The only local authorities who have a higher rank are Tower Hamlets, Islington and Middlesbrough.

There is evidence that poverty directly influences demand for services and therefore the costs of delivery in a local authority area. A report published in 2016 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 'Counting the Cost of UK Poverty', estimates that 58% of activity in relation to services for children and young people is attributable to poverty. Nationally, this leads to an estimate of poverty costing £5.9 billion in additional spending on social services and 1.6 billion on childcare and early years.

We have recently been part of a national research study (Bywaters et al) looking at the correlation between poverty and deprivation and child welfare interventions (children becoming looked after and children being subject to child protection plans). The research found that, "children in some places are much more likely to be looked after than children in other places and in each local authority (LA) these differences are systematically linked to how poor they and their families are. In England, children in the most deprived 10% of small neighbourhoods were over ten times more likely to be looked after or on a child protection plan than children in the least deprived 10%".

There is a clear correlation between the impact on child poverty and other recently published data on social mobility. Nottingham City is ranked the 13th lowest local authority for social mobility according to the Social Mobility Commission's 2017 State of the Nation report.

The Impact of Child Poverty

The Child Poverty Action Group has published national data in relation to the impact of child poverty on a number of indicators.

- In the most deprived areas birthweights average 200g less than in the richest areas.
- Children in disadvantaged families are ten times as likely to die suddenly in infancy, 2.5 times as likely to suffer chronic illness (e.g. asthma) as toddlers, and more likely to suffer acute infectious illnesses like pneumonia.
- Children in poverty have higher rates of self-harm, and young men who experienced child poverty are twice as likely to commit suicide.
- Adults who experienced poverty as children are 50% more likely to have illnesses, which limit their daily life (e.g. arthritis), high blood pressure, respiratory illness, certain disabilities and mental ill-health.
- By the age of three, poorer children are estimated to be, on average, nine months behind children from more wealthy backgrounds.
- According to Department for Education statistics, by the end of primary school, pupils receiving free school meals are estimated to be almost three terms behind their more affluent peers.
- By 14, this gap grows to over five terms.
- By 16, children receiving free school meals achieve 1.7 grades lower at GCSE.

- Children living in poverty are almost twice as likely to live in bad housing. This has significant effects on both their physical and mental health, as well as educational achievement.

Causes of Child Poverty

Low paid work – Two-thirds (67 per cent) of children growing up in poverty live in a family where at least one person works.

Worklessness - This is a major cause of poverty. In 2009/10, 42 per cent of all families below the UK poverty line contained no working members. In Nottingham we have 25,400 workless households and 13,100 children living in workless households.

Workless Households (Jan-Dec 2016)			
	Nottingham	East Midlands	Great Britain
Number Of Workless Households	25,400	222,900	3,043,300
Percentage Of Households That Are Workless	23.1	14.9	15.1
Number Of Children In Workless Households	13,100	105,700	1,353,400
Percentage Of Children Who Are In Households That Are Workless	21.8	11.7	11.4

Source: ONS annual population survey - households by combined economic activity status
Notes: Only includes those households that have at least one person aged 16 to 64.
Children refers to all children aged under 16.

Inadequate benefits - In 2009/10, for example, CPAG estimate that a family with one child claiming jobseeker's allowance received only 65 per cent of the amount they required to live above the poverty line.

Children in large families are at a far greater risk of living in poverty – 36% of children in poverty live in families with three or more children.

How are we tackling child poverty in Nottingham City?

Access to high quality education from early years through to Key Stage 5 is a key enabler for children and young people to become more socially mobile and escape child poverty.

- 60.75% of eligible families are accessing their early years entitlement. This is an area for continued focus to increase take-up.
- Currently there are 83 PVI childcare settings in the City, 78 of these have been inspected by Ofsted and 72 (92%) are judged to be Good or Outstanding.
- In maintained schools and academies, early years provision is given its own sub-judgement as part of the overall inspection of the school. Of all early years provision in maintained schools and academies 89% were judged good or outstanding for their early years provision sub-judgement as at 31 March 2017.
- Work through the Education Improvement Board is supporting improvements in the quality of primary, secondary and special schools in the City. 84% of children and young people are educated in schools judged to be good or outstanding.

Nottingham City Council's continued investment in early help and early intervention will support families facing poverty and deprivation. The Child Poverty Action Group state that protection of Children's Centres provision is key to alleviating the impact of child poverty.

Programmes like Small Steps, Big Changes are currently implementing a range of projects that will mitigate or alleviate the potential impact of child poverty for families with children aged 0-3 in 4 wards in the City. This includes the rollout of family mentors, parenting programmes and initiatives like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Nottingham's Priority Families (PF) programme has a focus on supporting complex families, with multiple needs and who are likely to be experiencing poverty and deprivation.

Since 2015, the programme has worked with 2879 families and have demonstrated significant and sustained progress for 1274 families.

Outcomes data available in December 2017 (991 PbR families) shows that:

- Domestic violence was present as a need in 60.3% of families and in these families, 1747 individual DV issues were identified. We were successful in addressing 69.8% of these issues.
- 28.2% of families had education needs identified at the start of intervention (persistent absence, repeated fixed term exclusion etc.). This totalled 466 education issues and we delivered positive outcomes against 60.9% of those issues identified.
- 47.0% of families had worklessness identified as an issue. We were successful in supporting 67.9% of families to make progress to work or to find work.
- Crime and anti-social behaviour was identified in 13.2% of families with 179 individual issues identified. We were successful in delivering significant and sustained improvement against 53.6% of those issues identified at the start of intervention.

We are working closely through the Troubled Families Employment Advisors (TFEAs) with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure a focus on tackling worklessness. 359 (of the 1274) claims to date through the PF Programme have been for continuous employment. We are also raising the awareness of the importance of employment as a key issue to be identified and addressed through assessment and planning in mainstream services for vulnerable children and families.

Priority Families have funded a pilot parenting programme for more complex families who would otherwise require targeted family support. Since August 2017 there have been 95 referrals with 83.2% (79) of those families going on to receive a parenting intervention. Of the 79 who received support, 75.9% have not subsequently been open to Targeted Family Support or Social Care services, which demonstrates that needs have been met.

Nottingham City currently commissions Advice Nottingham, a consortium of providers across the City, to deliver benefits, debt and employment advice.

We are currently exploring options to create greater integration of advice services in the City with services supporting our most vulnerable and complex families. This is in anticipation of the rollout of Universal Credit in the City in October 2017 to ensure that professionals are able to access timely support and advice to meet the holistic needs of families facing financial stress.