

# **Ending Child Poverty: everybody's business**

## **Executive Summary**

**An assessment of:**

- **children living in poverty**
- **the effects of living in poverty**
- **and the barriers to breaking the poverty cycle in Bradford District**



## **Child Poverty - Executive Summary**

### **1. Introduction**

Childhood experience lays the foundations for later life. Growing up in poverty can damage physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, which are all determinants of outcomes in adult life. While some children who grow up in low income households will go on to achieve their full potential, many others will not. Tackling child poverty will help to improve children's lives today, and it will also enhance their life chances: enabling them to make the most of their talents, achieve their full potential in life and pass on the benefits to their own children.<sup>1</sup>

Child Poverty means growing up in a low income household. When children and families experience poverty and deprivation, they have a standard of living that is well below average and which most people would consider unacceptable in Britain today. Tackling income poverty and material deprivation must be at the heart of the agenda for promoting fairness and opportunity for all.

### **2. Measuring Poverty in Bradford District**

The vast majority of data that is available describes relative poverty and is related to means-tested benefits. The main caveat to be applied to this kind of measure is that benefits often need to be applied for; and if a family is living in poverty but there are barriers to them applying for the relevant benefits then they will not appear in the statistics.

For the purposes of this document Child Poverty is defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit whose reported income (including benefits) is less than 60 per cent of the median income, or families in receipt of Income Support or Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance

### **3. Summary of Issues**

#### Children Affected By Poverty

##### District wide

- Over 30% of children in the District live in poverty, that's almost one in three; rising to two in three in some areas. This equates to 40,800 children aged 0-18.
- Over 60% of children in the District live in low-income households compared to 44% nationally.
- The proportion and number of children living in the District is growing. If all things were to remain equal and the child poverty rate was to remain at 31.4% by 2031 the number of children living in poverty would increase by almost 13,000. All things will not remain equal and the proportion of children living in poverty is increasing meaning that the number of children living in poverty is expected to increase even further.

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<sup>1</sup> Ending Child Poverty: Everybody's business

### Geography

- Half of all the children living in poverty in the District live in just 6 wards:
  - Manningham
  - Bradford Moor
  - Little Horton
  - Bowling & Barkerend
  - City
  - Toller
- The disparity between different Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) is stark, ranging from 1% of children living in poverty in parts of Ilkley, Wharfedale and Craven Wards to 68% in parts of Bowling & Barkerend and Little Horton.
- The wards which saw the biggest increase in numbers of children living in poverty between 2006 and 2007 were:
  - Manningham
  - Bowling & Barkerend
  - Little Horton
  - Bradford Moor
  - Toller
  - Heaton
  - Keighley Central
  - City

### Demography

- Families with four or more children are more likely to be living in poverty than those with 1, 2 or 3 children.
- Roughly equal numbers of children living in poverty come from families headed by a couple as by lone parents. However, as the proportion of children living in poverty in an area grows the likelihood of them coming from a family headed by a couple increases.
- Tong appears to be an exception to the rules; larger proportions of the children living in poverty there come from smaller families and come from families headed by a lone parent.
- Bradford District has a higher proportion of children living in poverty in families headed by a couple who are claiming Working Tax Credit than nationally.

### Effects of living in poverty

- Children born in the most deprived areas of Bradford District are more likely to have shorter lives than those born in the least; they are also more likely to die in their first year of life.
- Children born to mothers living in the most deprived areas are less likely to be breastfed;  
Babies who are not breastfed are more likely to:
  - Develop a number of conditions including gastrointestinal, respiratory and urinary tract infections.
  - Be hospitalised as the result of infection.
  - Have a higher prevalence of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity and type-2 diabetes.

- Rates of teenage conceptions are higher in the more deprived areas. Children born to teenage parents are more likely to experience poverty and poor health outcomes creating a negative cycle whereby each generation suffers increasingly poor health outcomes.
- Children living in the most deprived areas are likely to experience poor oral health which has a number of impacts:
  - Pain, discomfort, sleepless nights and time off school
  - Problems with communicating
  - Low self-esteem and social confidence
  - Difficulties enjoying a variety of foods
- Early indications show that obesity is linked to poverty; as deprivation increases so does poverty. Research suggests that the working-age obese may be 15-20% less likely to be in employment than the non-obese, other things being equal.
- Higher numbers of children living in areas of deprivation are subject to child protection plans than those living in less deprived areas.
- As deprivation increases the chances of a child achieving good levels of development at Foundation Stage decreases; they are also more likely to fall into the lowest scoring 20%.
- Children who are eligible for Free School Meals are less likely to do as well at Key Stages 2 and 4 than their peers. They are also less likely to do well after statutory education; fewer achieve full level 2 or 3 qualifications and more fall into the NEET category (Not in Education Employment or Training).
- Children living in deprived areas are more likely to enter the Youth Justice System than those living in less deprived areas. Children living in the most deprived areas are less likely to do well at school and more likely to become NEET (Not in Education Employment and Training) when they leave school.

#### Barriers to progress

- While there are a large number of skilled people living in the District, there are also around 52,000 people with no qualifications at all. This represents around 18% of the adult working age population, and is the highest proportion of all districts in the Leeds City Region.
- Nearly 1 in 3 people of working age in Bradford are out of work and 19% of the District's working age population is claiming out of work benefits.
- The numbers of Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimants are increasing and more are moving into long term unemployment.
- Average weekly earnings are 20% below that of the national average.
- 30% of households have an annual income of £10,000 or less compared with 22% nationally.
- The average house price in the District is £105,603; this is lower than the national average. 41% of private sector dwellings are deemed non-decent; this is much higher than the national average. The fact that the average income in the District is much lower than that nationally makes it much harder for families to repair and improve their homes.
- 55% of dwellings occupied by households from the Black and Minority Ethnic community are considered non-decent.
- 28% of Bradford District's residents are under the age of 20.

- Bradford District has a growing population; by 2031 the size of the 0-19 population is projected to increase by 32%.
- Birth rates within the District are higher than the regional and national averages (81 births per 1,000 women compared to 62 and 64 respectively).
- Increase in the proportion of births to mothers who themselves were born outside the UK indicating increasing numbers of children arriving at schools who do not have English as their first language.
- The number of migrant workers registering to work in the District each year has doubled since 2005; the numbers coming from some A8 countries, Poland and Slovakia continue to increase.
- The proportion of children in schools with a Special Educational Need (SEN) is higher than that of the regional and national averages and is increasing at a faster rate.