

15 October 2014

London has highest child poverty rate

The Campaign to End Child Poverty has today published new figures showing that London contains 14 out of the top 20 local authorities with the highest rates of child poverty across the UK.

The Campaign is publishing today a new report and data that provides a child poverty map of the whole of the UK including a full data set showing the child poverty rate for every ward, local authority and constituency in London (attached).

Tower Hamlets is the London borough with the highest rate at (49%) and Richmond upon Thames the lowest (15%). In fifteen of the 33 London boroughs between one third and a half of children are poor.

Half of the top 20 UK parliamentary constituencies with the highest child poverty rates are in London. Bethnal Green and Bow which has 49% children in poverty is the highest in London and the lowest are Wimbledon, Twickenham and Richmond Park which each have 15%.

The child poverty hotspots in terms of London local authorities are:

- Tower Hamlets 49%
- Hackney 41%
- Newham 41%
- Manchester 39%
- Westminster 39%

The local authorities with the lowest rate of child poverty in London are:

- Richmond upon Thames 15%

- City of London 16%
- Sutton 20%
- Kingston upon Thames 21%
- Bromley 21%

David Holmes, Chair of the Campaign, said:

“These figures reveal just how widely and deeply child poverty reaches into our communities, even those areas generally regarded as well off. Far too many children whose parents are struggling to make a living are suffering as a result and missing out on the essentials of a decent childhood that all young people should be entitled to. We can and must do better for our children.

“Poverty ruins childhoods and reduces life chances. Failing to invest properly in children is a false economy: already child poverty costs the country £29bn each year and in the long run taxpayers will foot an even higher bill for correcting the damage.

“We are calling on politicians of all parties to urgently set out a clear roadmap towards ending child poverty which includes the additional actions needed and the measures by which progress will be tracked.”

London boroughs: percentage of children in poverty (after housing costs)

Barking and Dagenham	37%
Barnet	27%
Bexley	23%
Brent	35%
Bromley	21%
Camden	36%
City of London	16%
Croydon	30%
Ealing	31%
Enfield	37%
Greenwich	33%
Hackney	41%
Hammersmith and Fulham	31%
Haringey	36%
Harrow	29%

Havering	23%
Hillingdon	28%
Hounslow	30%
Islington	38%
Kensington and Chelsea	28%
Kingston upon Thames	21%
Lambeth	34%
Lewisham	34%
Merton	25%
Newham	41%
Redbridge	31%
Richmond upon Thames	15%
Southwark	34%
Sutton	20%
Tower Hamlets	49%
Waltham Forest	35%
Wandsworth	27%
Westminster	39%

London constituencies: rates of child poverty (after housing costs)

Barking	37%
Battersea	26%
Beckenham	16%
Bermondsey & Old Southwark	36%
Bethnal Green and Bow	49%
Bexleyheath and Crayford	23%
Brent Central	39%
Brent North	31%
Brentford and Isleworth	27%
Bromley and Chislehurst	22%
Camberwell and Peckham	36%
Carshalton and Wallington	22%
Chelsea and Fulham	24%
Chingford & Woodford Green	27%
Chipping Barnet	23%
Cities of London & Westminster	31%
Croydon Central	31%
Croydon North	35%
Croydon South	21%
Dagenham and Rainham	33%
Dulwich and West Norwood	30%
Ealing Central and Acton	29%
Ealing North	32%
Ealing, Southall	32%
East Ham	42%
Edmonton	43%
Eltham	27%
Enfield North	38%
Enfield, Southgate	26%
Erith and Thamesmead	33%
Feltham and Heston	33%

Finchley and Golders Green	26%
Greenwich and Woolwic	35%
Hackney North & Stoke Newington	41%
Hackney South & Shoreditch	42%
Hammersmith	34%
Hampstead and Kilburn	31%
Harrow East	29%
Harrow West	31%
Hayes and Harlington	35%
Hendon	31%
Holborn and St Pancras	39%
Hornchurch and Upminster	21%
Hornsey and Wood Green	27%
Ilford North	28%
Ilford South	37%
Islington North	38%
Islington South and Finsbury	39%
Kensington	30%
Kingston and Surbiton	23%
Lewisham East	33%
Lewisham West & Penge	32%
Lewisham, Deptford	36%
Leyton and Wanstead	33%
Mitcham and Morden	32%
Old Bexley and Sidcup	18%
Orpington	20%
Poplar and Limehouse	49%
Putney	28%
Richmond Park	15%
Romford	23%
Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner	16%
Streatham	32%
Sutton and Cheam	17%
Tooting	28%
Tottenham	42%
Twickenham	15%
Uxbridge and South Ruislip	24%
Vauxhall	37%
Walthamstow	37%
West Ham	41%
Westminster North	43%
Wimbledon	15%

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Notes to editors:

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(1) In January 2014, the Institute for Fiscal Studies published projections showing that under current policies child poverty will rise from 2.3m (2011-12) to 3.2m by 2020 on the statutory Before Housing Costs measure. The Government says it is on course to end child poverty by 2020. On the After Housing Costs measure, the IFS projected child poverty would increase from 3.5m (2011-12) to 4.6m by 2020. IFS predictions for child and working-age poverty from 2010 to 2020 can be found here <http://www.ifs.org.uk/bns/bn144.pdf>

(2) Polling by You Gov last year uncovered strong public concern about poverty across the political spectrum <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/news/news/new-poll-shows-public-believe-government-action-on-child-poverty-falling-short-/23/197>

(3) The full national report is attached with the email distribution of this release and can be obtained on request under embargo from the Campaign (see contact details below) and will be published on the campaign's website on 15 October 2014.

(4) These estimates have been compiled for End Child Poverty by Donald Hirsch and Laura Valadez, Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP), Loughborough University using a methodology introduced for this year's figures to better reflect both out of work and in work child poverty levels. The estimates are based on official benefit and HMRC tax credit data and have been adjusted to reflect unemployment rates and the differing risks of child poverty for in and out of work families. A more detailed explanation is contained in the report.

(5) Ward level data sheets for UK regions can be provided on request during the embargo period (please see regional contact details below). The local data has been produced to correspond as closely as possible to the official definition of poverty used by the government in its regional and national data. However, direct comparisons between the two data sets should not be made (a full explanation of the methodology can be found in the report).

(6) An End Child Poverty representative will be available for comment in national, regional or local media.

(7) The Government has legal duties under the Child Poverty Act 2010 to reduce child poverty to a series of targets across a set of measures by 2020. Every three years the government must publish a child poverty strategy setting out how it will do this. The government's current child poverty strategy, for 2011 to 2014, can be found here:

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/CM%208061>

(8) The Campaign to End Child Poverty (www.endchildpoverty.org.uk) is made up of more than 150 organisations from civic society including children's charities, child welfare organisations, social justice groups, faith groups, trade unions and others, united in our vision of a UK free of child poverty.

(9) Follow the report and see the map on Twitter with #childpovertymap

Contacts:

London and UK national media only

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