

End Child Poverty members in Scotland

**Media release
Embargoed until: 00:01 14 October 2020**

New local child poverty data reveals need to ratchet up action at every level of government

* **Child poverty rising in nearly every Scottish local authority area**
* **New data reveals impact of housing costs**
* **Local authority and constituency data available below.**

Child poverty has risen in nearly every Scottish local authority and Westminster constituency since 2014/15, according to research published today by the End Child Poverty coalition. The new data shows the scale of the challenge faced by UK, Scottish and local government if commitments to end child poverty in Scotland are to be met and the promise to level up opportunities for children across the UK realised.

The research by Loughborough University shows that, even before the pandemic, levels of child poverty in Scotland ranged from one in  seven children in the Shetland Islands to nearly one in three in Glasgow, once housing costs are taken into account. The varying impact of housing costs on levels of child poverty in different parts of the country is highlighted.

The data shows London boroughs and parts of Birmingham dominating the list of UK local authorities where child poverty is highest.

However the campaigners say that there can be no room for complacency in Scotland. They highlight that the impact of poverty on children is well documented with children from low income families more likely to experience worse physical and mental health; do less well in school; and have fewer opportunities in the future.

The coalition is calling on the UK Government to recognise the scale of the problem and its impact on children’s lives. They are urging UK Ministers to set out an ambitious plan to use Westminster powers to tackle child poverty across the UK, and are asking the Holyrood government to build on the Scottish child poverty delivery plan already in place.

They welcome the new Scottish child payment which will see eligible children under six entitled to £10 per week additional support from February 2021, with all under 16s benefitting by the end of 2022. However they say that just to stop child poverty rising will require a doubling in the value of the new payment, and that families need urgent cash support now to bridge the gap until it’s roll out.

The report is based on data published by the Department for Work and Pensions in March 2020, and on estimates of the effect of housing costs on poverty rates produced by the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University, based on survey evidence. Earlier this year, Boris Johnson was rebuked by the statistics watchdog for his repeated misuse of child poverty statistics. The Statistics Authority upheld a complaint from the End Child Poverty coalition judging that on three separate occasions his statements on child poverty were ‘incorrect’.

Speaking on behalf of members of End Child Poverty in Scotland, John Dickie, said:

*“The Prime Minister must urgently face up to the true extent of child poverty across the UK rather than resorting to his own inaccurate statistics. An ambitious plan to put this shameful situation right would be transformational for millions of children in Scotland and across the UK. As a matter of urgency we are calling on the Chancellor not to go ahead with planned cuts to Universal Credit which would see families lose out on £1000 a year. Given today’s data, this cut is unconscionable.*

Mr Dickie also called for more action from government in Scotland:

*“Here in Scotland the Holyrood government’s child poverty delivery plan and prioritisation of the new Scottish child payment are hugely welcome. But these new figures highlight the importance of keeping housing costs affordable, the importance of reviewing the value of the Scottish child payment and the urgent need to use existing payment mechanisms, like local authority school clothing grants, to provide extra financial support to families right now.”*

End Child Poverty is calling for an urgent UK Government plan to end child poverty including:

* Uprating of housing assistance in line with inflation;
* Retaining the £20 uplift in Universal Credit introduced at the start of the pandemic, which the Government has indicated will end in April 2021(retaining the uplift is supported by over 63k people who have signed a [petition](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/don-t-cut-universal-credit-lifeline) to the UK Government);
* Ending the benefit cap and the two-child limit on benefits;
* Investing in all children with an increase to child benefit

***The full*** [**report**](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Local-child-poverty-indicators-report-october-2020.docx) ***‘Local indicators of child poverty after housing costs, 2018/19’, as well as tables with local*** [**data**](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/local-child-poverty-estimates-ahc-october-2020-1.xlsx)***, are available at:*** [***www.endchildpoverty.org.uk***](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk)

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| **Children living in poverty, below 60% median income after housing costs, by Scottish local authority** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Local authority** | ***Number*** | ***Percentage*** | **Percentage point change (2015-19)** |
| **2014/15** | **2018/19** | **2014/15** | **2018/19** |
| Aberdeen City | 6439 | 7471 | 19.2% | 21.5% | 2.3 |
| Aberdeenshire | 7622 | 7938 | 15.6% | 16.1% | 0.5 |
| Angus | 4253 | 4608 | 21.6% | 24.0% | 2.4 |
| Argyll and Bute | 2876 | 3056 | 21.2% | 23.4% | 2.2 |
| City of Edinburgh | 14145 | 15295 | 18.8% | 19.5% | 0.7 |
| Clackmannanshire | 2250 | 2409 | 24.8% | 26.8% | 2.0 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 5610 | 6141 | 23.4% | 26.2% | 2.8 |
| Dundee City | 5812 | 6540 | 24.5% | 27.3% | 2.8 |
| East Ayrshire | 5250 | 5899 | 24.8% | 27.9% | 3.1 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 2899 | 3109 | 15.7% | 16.1% | 0.5 |
| East Lothian | 4188 | 4489 | 22.3% | 23.3% | 1.0 |
| East Renfrewshire | 2791 | 2940 | 15.4% | 15.2% | -0.2 |
| Falkirk | 6555 | 6929 | 23.1% | 24.5% | 1.4 |
| Fife | 15390 | 16993 | 24.0% | 26.3% | 2.4 |
| Glasgow City | 26146 | 31823 | 27.0% | 31.8% | 4.8 |
| Highland | 8637 | 9054 | 21.5% | 23.0% | 1.6 |
| Inverclyde | 2904 | 3013 | 22.1% | 23.8% | 1.7 |
| Midlothian | 3713 | 4068 | 22.8% | 23.2% | 0.4 |
| Moray | 3480 | 3617 | 21.0% | 22.4% | 1.5 |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | 768 | 847 | 17.3% | 19.5% | 2.2 |
| North Ayrshire | 5895 | 6448 | 25.2% | 28.3% | 3.0 |
| North Lanarkshire | 15503 | 16528 | 24.4% | 26.2% | 1.8 |
| Orkney Islands | 691 | 779 | 19.8% | 21.9% | 2.1 |
| Perth and Kinross | 5013 | 5403 | 20.4% | 22.2% | 1.7 |
| Renfrewshire | 6083 | 6958 | 20.2% | 23.0% | 2.8 |
| Scottish Borders | 4132 | 4544 | 21.6% | 23.9% | 2.3 |
| Shetland Islands | 549 | 608 | 12.8% | 14.4% | 1.6 |
| South Ayrshire | 4167 | 4404 | 23.3% | 25.0% | 1.7 |
| South Lanarkshire | 12083 | 12799 | 22.0% | 23.2% | 1.2 |
| Stirling | 3168 | 3285 | 20.5% | 21.3% | 0.8 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 3861 | 4310 | 24.6% | 27.4% | 2.8 |
| West Lothian | 7632 | 8380 | 21.7% | 23.7% | 1.9 |

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| **Child poverty, % of children below 60% median income, before (BHC) and after (AHC) housing costs, by Scottish local authority** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **2018/19** | **2018/19** |  |
|  | **BHC** | **AHC** | **percentage point difference**  |
|  |  |  | **between BHC and AHC** |
| Aberdeen City | 14.9% | 21.5% | 6.6 |
| Aberdeenshire | 10.4% | 16.1% | 5.7 |
| Angus | 17.6% | 24.0% | 6.4 |
| Argyll and Bute | 17.3% | 23.4% | 6.1 |
| City of Edinburgh | 12.6% | 19.5% | 6.9 |
| Clackmannanshire | 20.8% | 26.8% | 6.0 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 20.6% | 26.2% | 5.6 |
| Dundee City | 21.4% | 27.3% | 5.9 |
| East Ayrshire | 22.9% | 27.9% | 5.0 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 10.4% | 16.1% | 5.7 |
| East Lothian | 15.8% | 23.3% | 7.5 |
| East Renfrewshire | 10.0% | 15.2% | 5.2 |
| Falkirk | 18.1% | 24.5% | 6.4 |
| Fife | 20.5% | 26.3% | 5.8 |
| Glasgow City | 28.0% | 31.8% | 3.8 |
| Highland | 16.7% | 23.0% | 6.3 |
| Inverclyde | 17.7% | 23.8% | 6.1 |
| Midlothian | 15.7% | 23.2% | 7.5 |
| Moray | 16.1% | 22.4% | 6.3 |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | 13.4% | 19.5% | 6.1 |
| North Ayrshire | 23.4% | 28.3% | 4.9 |
| North Lanarkshire | 20.6% | 26.2% | 5.6 |
| Orkney Islands | 15.6% | 21.9% | 6.3 |
| Perth and Kinross | 15.7% | 22.2% | 6.5 |
| Renfrewshire | 16.9% | 23.0% | 6.1 |
| Scottish Borders | 17.6% | 23.9% | 6.3 |
| Shetland Islands | 9.3% | 14.4% | 5.1 |
| South Ayrshire | 19.2% | 25.0% | 5.8 |
| South Lanarkshire | 17.2% | 23.2% | 6.0 |
| Stirling | 14.9% | 21.3% | 6.4 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 21.9% | 27.4% | 5.5 |
| West Lothian | 17.1% | 23.7% | 6.6 |

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| **Child poverty, % of children below 60% median income after housing costs (AHC), by Westminster constituency** |
| **Parliamentary constituency** | ***Number*** | ***Percentage*** | **Percentage point change (2015-19)** |
| **2014/15** | **2018/19** | **2014/15** | **2018/19** |
| Aberdeen North | 3334 | 4087 | 22.0% | 26.5% | 4.5 |
| Aberdeen South | 1925 | 2322 | 13.9% | 16.0% | 2.1 |
| Airdrie and Shotts | 4151 | 4410 | 25.5% | 27.2% | 1.7 |
| Angus | 3320 | 3649 | 22.9% | 25.7% | 2.8 |
| Argyll and Bute | 2809 | 3021 | 20.6% | 23.2% | 2.5 |
| Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock | 3913 | 4212 | 26.2% | 28.6% | 2.5 |
| Banff and Buchan | 3246 | 3365 | 20.1% | 20.8% | 0.7 |
| Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk | 3436 | 3886 | 22.4% | 25.2% | 2.8 |
| Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross | 2385 | 2546 | 23.1% | 25.6% | 2.5 |
| Central Ayrshire | 3630 | 3959 | 24.7% | 27.0% | 2.3 |
| Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill | 4294 | 4548 | 24.0% | 25.9% | 1.8 |
| Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East | 3398 | 3745 | 21.3% | 23.3% | 2.0 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 3753 | 4058 | 24.3% | 26.8% | 2.5 |
| Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale | 3014 | 3310 | 21.2% | 23.8% | 2.6 |
| Dundee East | 3385 | 3607 | 21.5% | 23.1% | 1.7 |
| Dundee West | 3236 | 3801 | 24.6% | 28.2% | 3.6 |
| Dunfermline and West Fife | 3887 | 4342 | 21.1% | 23.2% | 2.1 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 2289 | 2292 | 16.2% | 15.6% | -0.7 |
| East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow | 3242 | 3602 | 18.3% | 20.3% | 2.0 |
| East Lothian | 4172 | 5058 | 22.2% | 26.2% | 3.9 |
| East Renfrewshire | 3119 | 3326 | 17.2% | 17.2% | 0.0 |
| Edinburgh East | 2808 | 3088 | 21.6% | 22.8% | 1.2 |
| Edinburgh North and Leith | 2909 | 3116 | 19.0% | 19.9% | 0.9 |
| Edinburgh South | 2105 | 2180 | 14.7% | 14.7% | 0.0 |
| Edinburgh South West | 2884 | 3049 | 18.6% | 19.2% | 0.6 |
| Edinburgh West | 2432 | 2900 | 14.3% | 15.8% | 1.5 |
| Na h-Eileanan an Iar | 700 | 799 | 15.8% | 18.4% | 2.6 |
| Falkirk | 4274 | 4594 | 21.8% | 23.8% | 2.0 |
| Glasgow Central | 3859 | 5561 | 32.8% | 41.3% | 8.5 |
| Glasgow East | 4316 | 5313 | 27.1% | 30.6% | 3.5 |
| Glasgow North | 2473 | 2882 | 27.7% | 31.2% | 3.5 |
| Glasgow North East | 4150 | 4850 | 28.0% | 33.4% | 5.4 |
| Glasgow North West | 3672 | 4289 | 24.8% | 29.0% | 4.2 |
| Glasgow South | 3820 | 4350 | 26.4% | 30.8% | 4.4 |
| Glasgow South West | 4549 | 5298 | 28.0% | 31.8% | 3.9 |
| Glenrothes | 4390 | 4853 | 27.1% | 29.8% | 2.7 |
| Gordon | 2098 | 2550 | 11.5% | 13.5% | 2.0 |
| Inverclyde | 2818 | 2926 | 21.4% | 23.2% | 1.7 |
| Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey | 3697 | 3912 | 20.4% | 21.5% | 1.1 |
| Kilmarnock and Loudoun | 4091 | 4624 | 24.3% | 27.6% | 3.3 |
| Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath | 4706 | 5293 | 26.2% | 29.2% | 3.0 |
| Lanark and Hamilton East | 3673 | 3865 | 23.0% | 23.8% | 0.7 |
| Linlithgow and East Falkirk | 4885 | 5173 | 22.1% | 22.5% | 0.4 |
| Livingston | 4580 | 5152 | 21.2% | 24.2% | 3.1 |
| Midlothian | 3497 | 3843 | 21.4% | 21.8% | 0.4 |
| Moray | 3367 | 3552 | 20.4% | 22.0% | 1.6 |
| Motherwell and Wishaw | 4518 | 4821 | 26.2% | 27.7% | 1.5 |
| North Ayrshire and Arran | 3957 | 4237 | 24.8% | 27.6% | 2.8 |
| North East Fife | 2158 | 2402 | 18.9% | 21.1% | 2.3 |
| Ochil and South Perthshire | 3790 | 4031 | 21.2% | 22.5% | 1.3 |
| Orkney and Shetland | 1346 | 1470 | 17.3% | 19.0% | 1.7 |
| Paisley and Renfrewshire North | 2954 | 3421 | 18.7% | 20.8% | 2.0 |
| Paisley and Renfrewshire South | 2817 | 3380 | 19.8% | 24.8% | 5.0 |
| Perth and North Perthshire | 3438 | 3690 | 22.0% | 23.8% | 1.9 |
| Ross, Skye and Lochaber | 2399 | 2478 | 20.7% | 22.3% | 1.6 |
| Rutherglen and Hamilton West | 4491 | 4720 | 23.3% | 24.4% | 1.0 |
| Stirling | 3099 | 3202 | 20.0% | 20.7% | 0.7 |
| West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine | 1904 | 2139 | 10.2% | 11.4% | 1.2 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 3867 | 4305 | 24.7% | 27.4% | 2.7 |

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

For further information, or requests to speak to Scottish members of End Child Poverty please contact John Dickie, Director of CPAG in Scotland on 07795 340 618 or at jdickie@cpagscotland.org.uk

1. The research was carried out by Dr Juliet Stone and Professor Donald Hirsch at the Centre for Research in Social Policy, at Loughborough University using Before Housing Cost data produced by the Department for Work and Pensions in March 2020, together with housing cost data from the Valuation Office Agency and income data from the Understanding Society survey. The full [report](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Local-child-poverty-indicators-report-october-2020.docx) and [data](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Local-child-poverty-indicators-report-october-2020.docx) is published  at [www.endchildpoverty.org.uk](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk)
2. Note that the total number of children in poverty shown in the data tables only includes those aged under 16 and is therefore lower than in the main national poverty statistics, which also includes 16-19 year olds in full-time secondary education.
3. For more information about End Child Poverty’s complaint to the Office for Statistical Regulation and their judgement visit [www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/pms-use-of-child-poverty-statistics-misleading/](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/pms-use-of-child-poverty-statistics-misleading/)

**About End Child Poverty**

End Child Poverty is a coalition of 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. For more details visit: [**www.endchildpoverty.org.uk**](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.endchildpoverty.org.uk%2F&data=02%7C01%7Crnewson%40ncb.org.uk%7Ca868bf4030b64fad74fe08d833bf8720%7Cadc87355e29c4519954f95e35c776178%7C0%7C0%7C637316244992028784&sdata=VZ147meKF9s%2BnshrN2xOjlL3Ml20%2F3iF%2BwMFVTR06vg%3D&reserved=0)

End Child Poverty members in Scotland include Aberlour, Action for Children, Barnardo’s Scotland, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) in Scotland, Children 1st, Close the Gap, Engender, One Parent Families Scotland, Oxfam Scotland, Poverty Alliance, and Save the Children.