

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New figures show more than a third of children in Greater Manchester living in poverty

Interviews with Graham Whitham, End Child Poverty Coalition Spokesperson and CEO of Greater Manchester Poverty Action are available. Case studies available. Images available [here](#) (please credit Save the Children). Local authority and constituency data available at the end of this release.

- Across the Greater Manchester region 37% of children are living in poverty
- The highest levels are in Manchester where 44.7% of children are living in poverty, closely followed by Oldham (43.6%) and Bolton (41.6%)
- Child poverty has risen in nine out of ten Greater Manchester boroughs since 2014/15
- Rising proportion of children experiencing poverty (seven in ten) live in working households

Today the End Child Poverty Coalition launches its annual child poverty statistics for the UK, revealing child poverty levels at a local authority and Westminster constituency level.

This research, carried out by Loughborough University on behalf of the coalition, shows that 37% of children and young people in Greater Manchester are living in poverty, the equivalent of a staggering 11 children in a classroom of 30. In Manchester this figure reaches 44.7% of all children and young people.

The new research confirms the Greater Manchester Parliamentary seats with the highest levels of child poverty – with at least 40% of children now growing up poor in a third of the region’s constituencies: Oldham West and Royton (51.3%), Bolton South East (50.9%), Manchester, Gorton (50.8%), Blackley and Broughton (49.4%), Oldham East and Saddleworth (48.6%), Manchester Central (48.1%), Bolton North East (45.9%), Rochdale (44.8%), Ashton-under-Lyne (41.6%).

Four of the city region’s local authorities also now feature in the list of the twenty council areas with the highest child poverty rates in the whole of the UK – with Manchester having the third highest child poverty rate in the country.

Table 1 The 20 local authorities with highest child poverty rates, 2021/22

| Local authority | % of children below 60% median income after housing costs, 2021/22 |
|-----------------------|--|
| UK | 29% |
| Tower Hamlets | 47.5% |
| Birmingham | 46.4% |
| Manchester | 44.7% |
| Sandwell | 44.6% |
| Newham | 43.7% |
| Oldham | 43.6% |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 43.5% |
| Hackney | 43.4% |
| Walsall | 43.3% |
| Wolverhampton | 43.3% |
| Pendle | 42.5% |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 42.2% |
| Barking and Dagenham | 42.1% |
| Bolton | 41.6% |
| Hyndburn | 41.6% |
| Nottingham | 41.0% |
| Burnley | 40.7% |
| Leicester | 40.6% |
| Middlesbrough | 40.6% |
| Rochdale | 40.5% |

Commenting on the figures, Graham Whitham, End Child Poverty Coalition spokesperson and CEO of Greater Manchester Poverty Action said: “These new figures are shocking but not surprising. Child poverty rates have been rising in Greater Manchester for a number of years, and government failure to adequately support people means there is no safety net when something like the pandemic or cost-of-living crisis hit.

“Crisis responses and temporary sticking plasters are very clearly not working, and the UK government has no plan or strategy to address poverty. We need to see real policy change that protects and supports our poorest households, such as ending the two-child limit on benefits.

“While many of the main drivers to tackle poverty lie with central government, there are ways we can reduce poverty locally. We urge employers across Greater Manchester to pay the Real Living Wage, which reflects the real cost of living in a way that the statutory minimum set by government doesn’t. We also encourage local authorities to develop anti-poverty strategies which implement robust responses to poverty, and to use the Household Support Fund to give families money rather than in-kind support such as food parcels and energy vouchers.”

Across the North West as a whole the number of children living in poverty has seen a worrying increase in last 7 years, rising 5.4 percentage points since 2014/15. During this time, child poverty only rose by one percentage point across the UK.

Nationally, the cost-of-living crisis has driven up the number of children experiencing poverty to 4.2 million last year (29 per cent of all dependent children aged 0-19), with an increasing number living in working households.

Some 71 per cent of them live in households where at least one adult works.

CASE STUDY

A mum-of-four from Stretford supported by Greater Manchester Poverty Action has struggled with limited benefits for the past year and a half.

Her money problems began a few years ago when her partner suffered an accident at work, forcing him into unemployment until after his operation and two-year recovery process.

This meant they were a family of six with just £100 to see them through the month once all bills were paid (not including food shopping).

The mum-of-four said: “We went without eating properly to make sure the kids were fed. I wasn't able to do anything with the kids, like treat them or take them out. Christmas was very hard and we relied on present donations, which made me feel useless.

“This made my mental health deteriorate (along with other personal issues) and there was a lot of stress and sleepless nights.

“We felt like there was no way out. I couldn't return to work due to looking after my partner and kids. It made me feel worthless and hopeless, severe depression kicked in.”

The mum-of-four was put in touch with Greater Manchester Poverty Action's Money Matters programme by her children's school. The programme helps people to maximise their income and manage debts.

She said: “They were a massive help and didn't stop until they turned over every stone and did everything they could think of that would help us financially. It's been a long year and a half battle with living on very minimal to now becoming that bit more stable.”

Ends

Notes to editor:

- Table showing the percentage of children living in poverty in all Greater Manchester local authorities:

| Local authority | 2021/22 | Percentage point change (2015-22) |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Manchester | 44.70% | 9.30% |
| Oldham | 43.60% | 11.10% |
| Bolton | 41.60% | 8.80% |
| Rochdale | 40.50% | 7.60% |
| Salford | 37.40% | 5.10% |
| Tameside | 36.10% | 5.20% |
| Bury | 34.20% | 3.70% |
| Wigan | 31.10% | 2.80% |
| Stockport | 26.60% | 1.50% |
| Trafford | 22.30% | -1.30% |

- Table showing the top ten child poverty rates by Greater Manchester constituency:

| Parliamentary Constituency | 2021/22 | Percentage point change (2015-22) |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Oldham West and Royton | 51.30% | 11.40% |
| Bolton South East | 50.90% | 12.70% |
| Manchester, Gorton | 50.80% | 11.10% |
| Blackley and Broughton | 49.40% | 10.00% |
| Oldham East and Saddleworth | 48.60% | 11.20% |
| Manchester Central | 48.10% | 8.70% |
| Bolton North East | 45.90% | 8.60% |
| Rochdale | 44.80% | 5.30% |
| Ashton-under-Lyne | 41.60% | 8.90% |
| Salford and Eccles | 37.30% | 5.80% |

- The full report ‘Local indicators of child poverty after housing costs, 2021/22’ as well as tables with Constituency and Local Authority data and further information about the coalitions’ key positions are available [here](#).
- The statistics on local child poverty rates after housing costs presented in today’s report are calibrated to the Department for Work and Pensions’ (DWP) Households Below Average Income (HBAI) dataset for FYE 2021 and FYE 2022. The DWP’s data has undergone extensive quality assurance prior to publication but, due to sampling issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic, users are encouraged to exercise caution when interpreting this data. We further recommend that users of these Local Child Poverty Statistics focus on longer-term trends to understand how poverty has changed in an area rather than year-on-year changes which are prone to fluctuations.
- More information about the DWP’s Households Below Average Income dataset is available [here](#).

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What is the End Child Poverty Coalition?

The End Child Poverty Coalition is made up of 101 organisations including child welfare groups, social justice groups, faith groups, trade unions and others. Together with a group of Youth Ambassadors, members campaign for a UK free of child poverty. Further information on the Coalition can be found [here](#).

Who are Greater Manchester Poverty Action?

Greater Manchester Poverty Action is a not-for-profit organisation that works to prevent and reduce poverty across Greater Manchester and beyond. The organisation influences policy and practice, runs programmes to boost household income and financial resilience, and works with the public, private and VCSE sectors to enact change. Its vision is a Greater Manchester free from poverty in which all residents can access the benefits of living in a diverse and vibrant city region. Greater Manchester Poverty Action is a member of the End Child Poverty Coalition, leading the Coalition's North West media work.

Work includes:

- [Local anti-poverty strategies: good practice and effective approaches](#)
- [Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign](#)
- [Money Advice Referral Tools](#), supporting people to access advice and maximise their income
- [Money Matters programme](#), providing debt and benefit advice in schools
- [Fortnightly newsletters and regular policy and research updates](#)

Further information can be found by visiting <https://www.gmpovertyaction.org/>.