

Tackling parental worklessness

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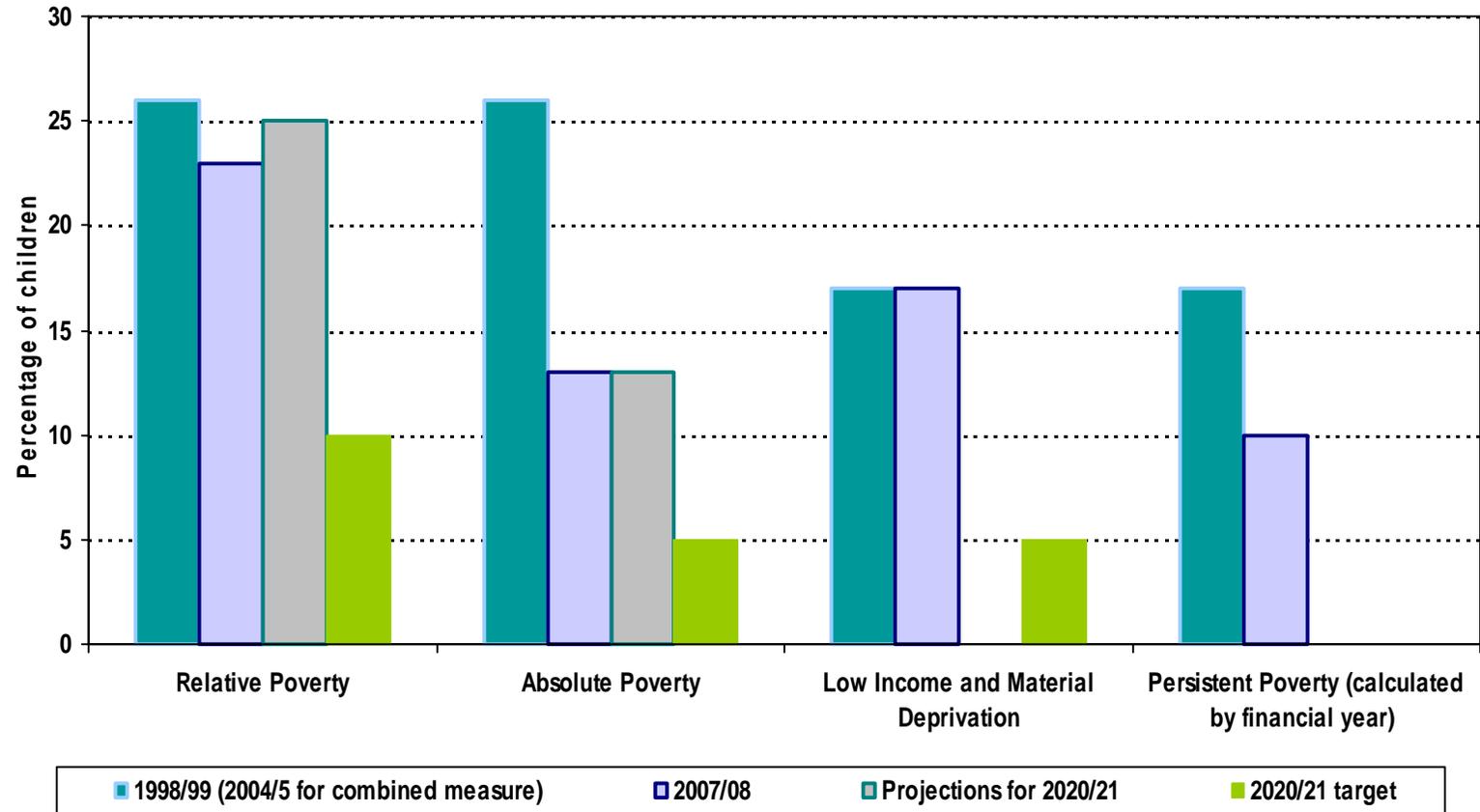
HM Government

The Child Poverty Act 2010 enshrines in law the commitment to end poverty by 2020

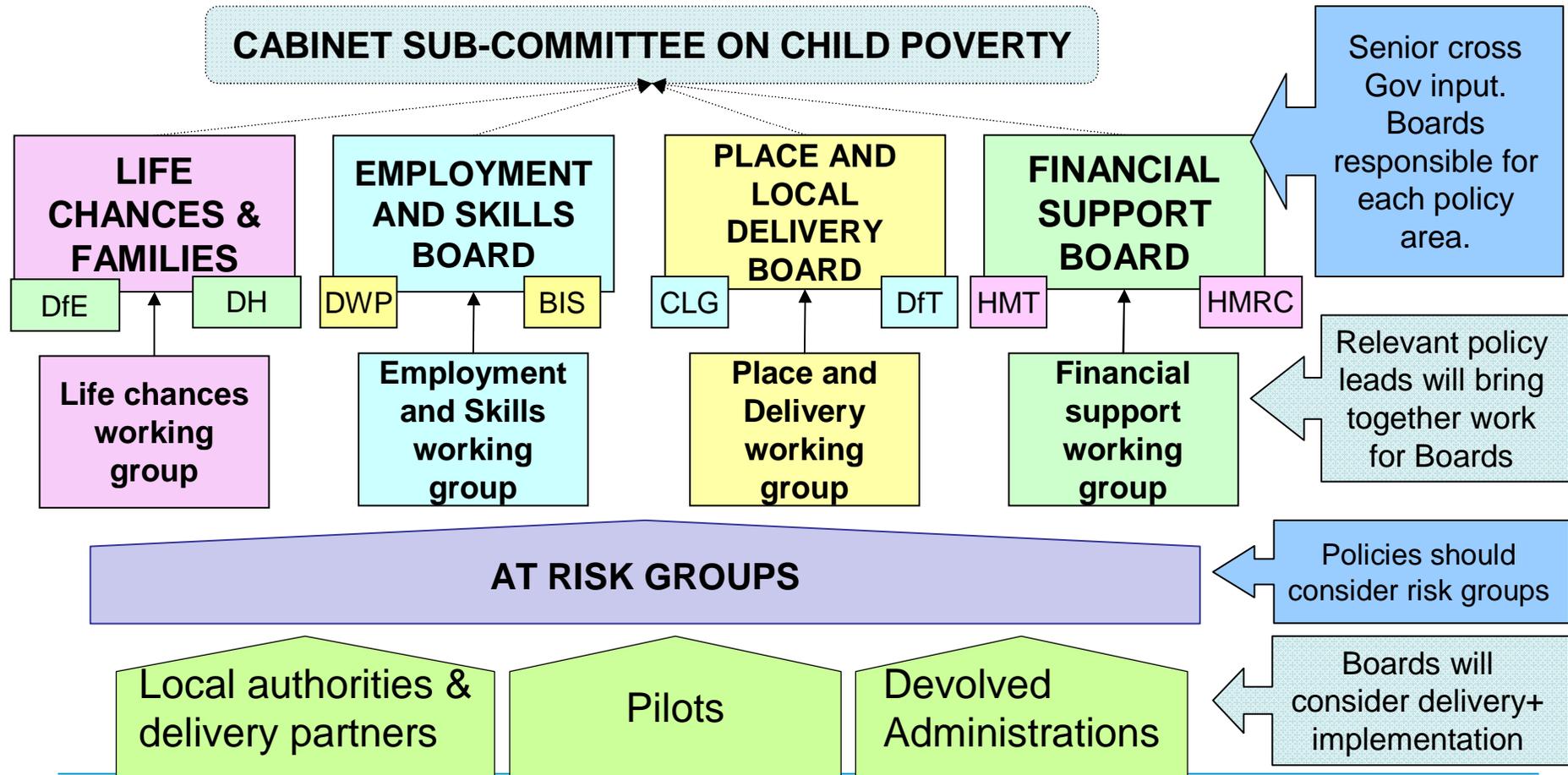
The Act also sets out how Government will be held accountable on Child Poverty by publishing:

- A **strategy** every three years to 2020 and an **annual report**. The first strategy must be published by **March 2011**, and will cover the first 3 years of the strategy.
 - The Strategy will need to: (a) propose the action needed in order to meet the targets and minimise socio-economic disadvantage, and (b) assess what progress needs to be made by 2014.
 - It will also need to assess: which groups are most at risk of poverty and disadvantage; & consider the impact of policy for each group.
- The Act also requires **local authorities and their delivery partners** to produce local strategies, based on local area needs assessments.

And there is work to do to meet the income targets in the Act

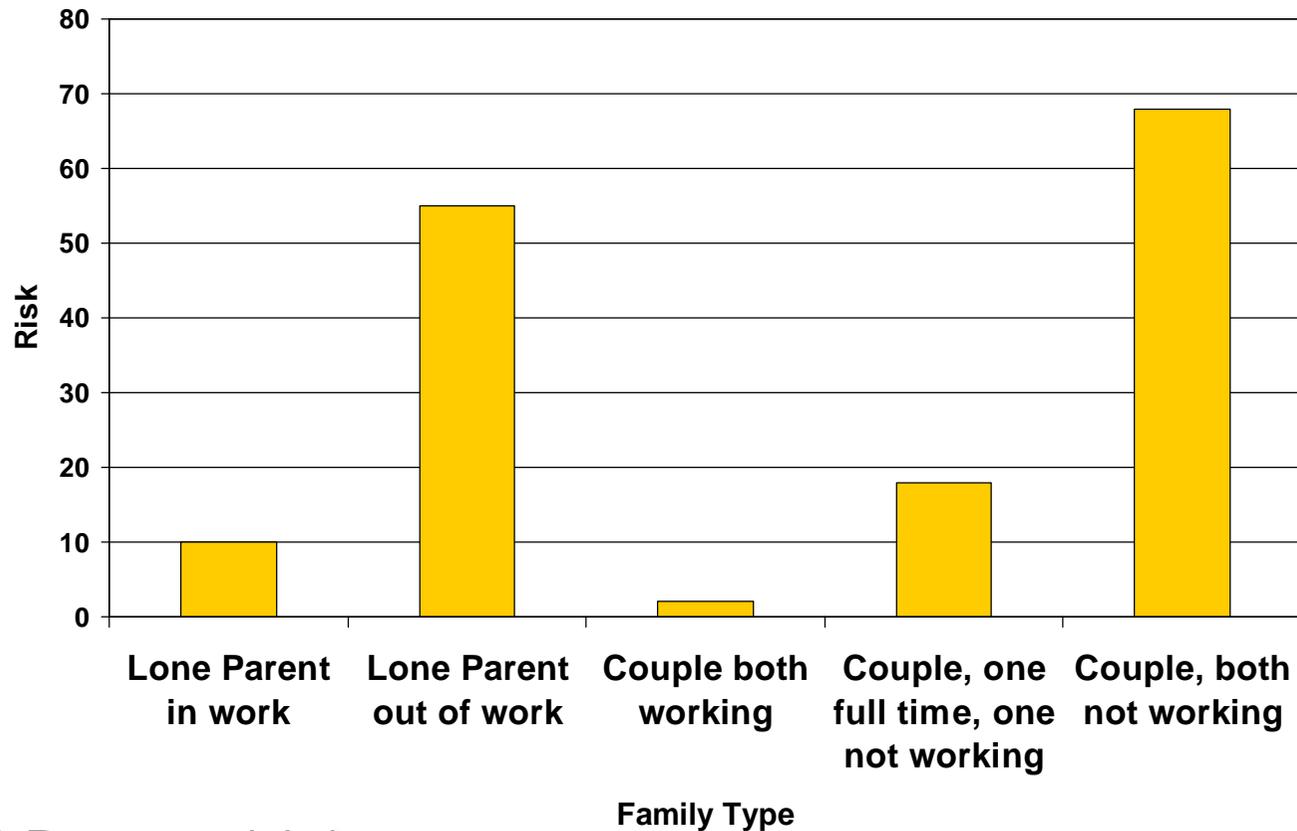


CPU has created a new governance structure to strengthen engagement across Government



And at the heart of an integrated approach, employment offers the best route out of poverty

The risk of living in relative low income before housing costs (%)



Tackling worklessness requires action across a number of areas

Life Chances

Early years – focussing Sure Start on the neediest families and recruiting extra health visitors (DfE)

Schools – pupil premium and targeting disadvantaged pupils (DfE)

Youth – policies aimed at at-risk youth groups to increase participation and attainment e.g. apprenticeships (DfE)

Families - good quality home environment to support learning and development e.g. Family Intervention Projects for families with multiple problems (DfE/HO/MOJ etc)

Employment and Skills

DWP Work programme (DWP)

- incentivising contractors to support additional costs of parents moving into work
- supporting at risk groups through the work programme
- supporting wider outreach activity through JCP

Other policies (DWP and BIS)

- flexible working; managing ill health/disability at work; in work progression and skills policies

Place and Local Delivery

- **Housing Programmes** - Supporting People and Supply and Quality of Housing (CLG)
- **Regeneration Funding (CLG) and Transport Funding (DfT)**
- **Localism** - Increased freedoms for Local Authorities and Partners and Community Budgets (HMT and CLG)

Financial Support

Structural Benefit Reform (DWP and HMT)

- Universal credit proposals could improve incentives to work and take up rates of benefits for some groups.
- Design of childcare offer under the new benefit system.

Financial inclusion, debt, and capability (DWP, HMT, BIS)

Housing Benefit and Take Up (DWP, HMT)



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And key to success will be local action tailored to meet local needs

- Local partnerships
- Role of local employers and businesses
- Engagement with voluntary and community sector and other providers of employment advice, training and wider support
- Scope for JCP to engage in community outreach work, such as primary schools, children's centres and mobile units
- Links in to other services and positive outcomes for families