Effective strategies to tackle child poverty.

Sally Knock

Understanding Child Poverty

Our Strategy to Tackle Child Poverty Now

A Strategy to 2020

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The Government uses three measures to define child poverty:

Relative low income: children living in households with income below 60 per cent of contemporary median equivalised household income.

Absolute low income: children living in households with income below a specific level (equal to the relative low-income threshold for the baseline year of 1998-99 expressed in today's prices).

Material Deprivation and low income: children living in households that lack certain goods and services and have an income below 70 per cent of contemporary median equivalised household income.

People who work with child poverty every day use different language:

children or families in need

Families lacking money

Chaotic families

Deprived communities

Disadvantaged children

Less well off families

Understanding Child Poverty

Children who experience poverty feel the effects now and in the future.

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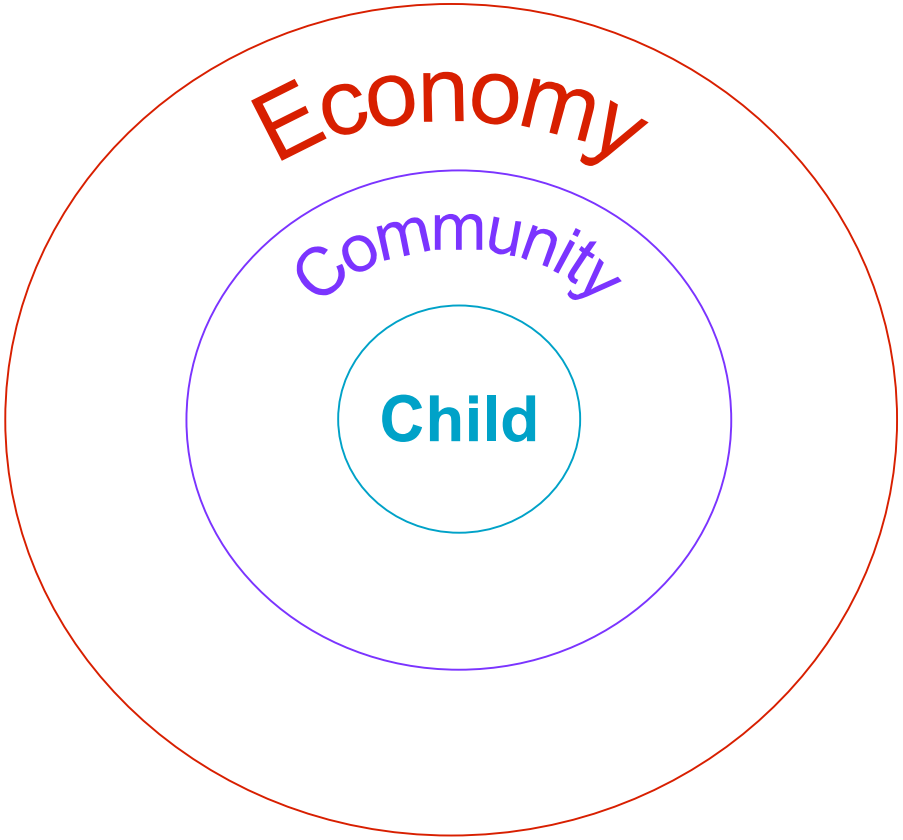
The effects of children poverty are far reaching.



Our strategy to tackle child poverty now

There are four key components to tackling child poverty:

Increasing employment and making work pay.

Financial and material support.

Developing Communities

Improving Children's Life Chances

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Our strategy to tackle child poverty now

Ending child poverty must be everybody's business.

Government

Local Authorities

Families

Local Services

Employers

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Our strategy to tackle child poverty now

Children's Centres have a critical role to play.

Employment services

An employer

Welfare advice

Increasing employment and making work pay.

Financial and material support.

Childcare

Training

Early education

Housing services

Safe spaces

Developing Communities

Improving Children's Life Chances

Parenting support

Health services

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A strategy to 2020

The Government has a target to end child poverty by 2020

…we are developing a strategy to 2020….

… and will be enshrining the target in legislation.

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Pilots will help to show us what works.

- **HMRC advisors in children's centres**
- **Work focused services in children's centres**
- **Child Development Grants**
- Local Authority Innovation
- Childcare Affordability Pilots
- Improved housing support for teenage parents
- Extension of In work Credit
- Family Intervention Pilots
- 'Opportunity London'

HMRC Advisors in Children's Centres

- HMRC advisors working in children's centres to increase take up of tax credits.
- Testing different ways of delivering advice and services.
- Started in Preston and Newham, but will be extended.

Work Focused Services in Children's Centres

- Jobcentre Plus advisors and other work-focused services in children's centres.
- In 30 children's centres across 10 local authorities from early 2009.
- £7.8 million over 3 years.

Child Development Grants

- Financial rewards to encourage ‘hard to reach’ families to utilise childcare and other children’s centre services.
- In 10 local authorities from early 2009.
- £12.75m over 3 years.

Summary:

Child poverty is measured using household income, but is evident across many aspects of a child's experiences and life chances.

Ending child poverty is everybody's business. There are four key elements to our strategy to tackle child poverty:

- Increasing employment and making work pay;
- financial and material support;
- developing communities, and
- improving children's life chances.

We are developing a Strategy to 2020 and using pilots to test new approaches.

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