

Making the case for a child poverty strategy: a review by the Church of England

Introduction

In January 2021, the Bishop of Durham and Andrew Selous MP, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, wrote to a diverse range of organisations with a track record of researching and responding to child poverty. These organisations were invited to submit their ideas for a child poverty strategy, focusing on how to tackle the underlying or systemic causes of poverty.

This paper attempts to summarise the evidence and recommendations presented in the submissions we received from fourteen organisations, with a particular emphasis on identifying common ground. In addition, we also invited a small number of bishops to convene regional groups of church leaders and practitioners to offer a grassroots perspective on child poverty in their local area. Their responses are integrated into the analysis below. See Appendix 1 for a full list of respondents.

We hope this review will stimulate a debate within parliament about the need for a coherent, long-term, cross-party strategy to reduce child poverty, as part of the broader debate about ‘levelling up’ and how to ensure an equitable recovery from the pandemic.

What is the scale and nature of child poverty?

There was general agreement across the different organisations that child poverty is a serious issue that needs addressing. Many organisations quoted the official DWP statistics showing that 4.3 million children were living in poverty in 2019-20, the latest year for which this data was available.

Furthermore, this problem has worsened during the pandemic, as studies suggest that the economic and social effects of lockdown have disproportionately affected low-income families and children.¹ The Legatum Institute estimates that up to 120,000 more children are living in poverty as a result of Covid-19, and that this number would have been significantly greater without the protective measures taken in March 2020.

Many organisations, such as the JRF, CPAG, and The Children’s Society, state that child poverty has been rising in recent years. According to the DWP’s *relative* poverty measure, there are between 700,000-900,000 more children in poverty than in 2010/11 (or between 400,000-600,000 more children in poverty than in 2009/10 as of 2021). On the *absolute* child poverty measure, which is quoted by the Prime Minister and other Ministers, child poverty has remained broadly stable over this period, having fallen substantially over the previous decade. The overall number of children in poverty has also been relatively stable on the alternative measure developed by the Social Metrics Commission since around 2000 (see Table 1 below), although a higher proportion of families are now deeper in poverty.²

¹ See, for example: <https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/policypost/Poverty-in-the-pandemic.pdf>

² See Figure 35 from Social Metrics Commission (July 2020) ‘Measuring Poverty 2020’: <https://socialmetricscommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Measuring-Poverty-2020-Web.pdf>

Table 1: Total number of children living in poverty, 2000-2020

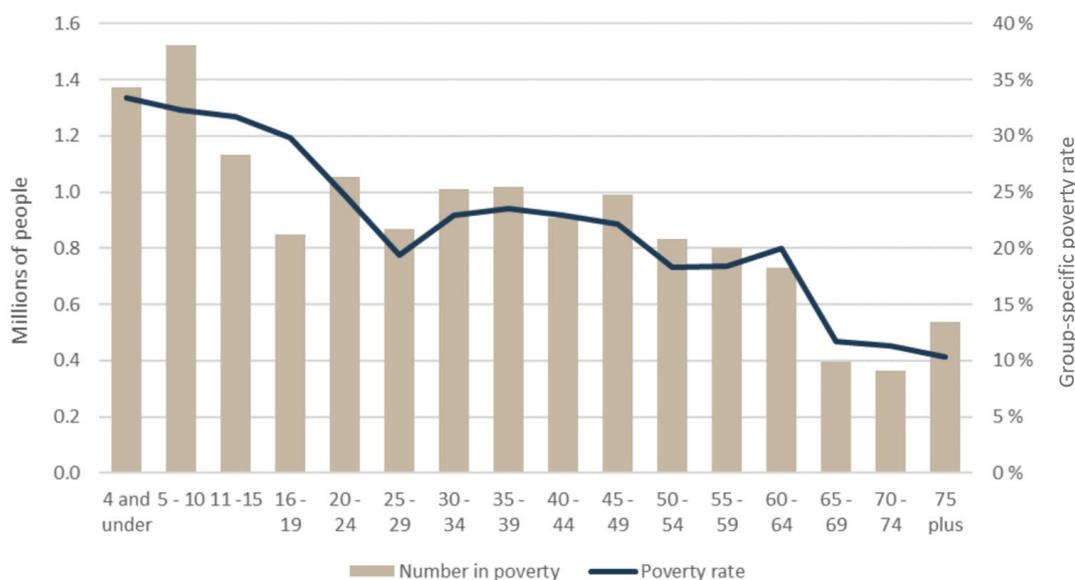
Year	Absolute child poverty ¹		Relative child poverty ²		Child poverty (Social Metrics Commission) ³
	BHC	AHC	BHC	AHC	
2000/01	4.1m	4.8m	2.9m	3.9m	4.2m
2010/11	2.3m	3.6m	2.3m	3.6m	4.4m
2019/20	2.4m	3.5m	3.2m	4.3m	4.5m
Change: 2000-2010	-1.8m	-1.2m	-0.6m	-0.3m	+0.2m
Change: 2010-2020	+0.1m	-0.1m	+0.9m	+0.7m	+0.1m

Source: HBAI Statistics (Table 4.3tr and Table 4.4tr), Social Metrics Commission (2020)

1. Poverty threshold is measured relative to 2010/11 median income held constant in real terms.
2. Poverty threshold is measured relative to contemporary median income.
3. Poverty threshold is based on a weighted average of the previous three years. The most recent figure is for 2018/19 (not 2019/20).

Quite a few organisations pointed out that children are now much more likely to be in poverty than any other age group. This differential is particularly marked on the Social Metric Commission’s measure of poverty, which takes into account childcare costs in calculating families’ disposable incomes – see Chart 1.

Chart 1: Poverty rate and numbers in poverty by age group, 2018-19



Source: Legatum Institute (2021)

Whichever poverty measure is used, certain groups of children are substantially more at risk of being in poverty than the average (31%), including children living in lone parent families (49%), larger families with three or more children (47%), and Bangladeshi (68%), Pakistani (53%) and Black families (48%).³ The IEA point out that *persistent* poverty is especially high among lone-parent families.

Child poverty is also significantly higher in the North East (37%) and London (38%), after adjusting for housing costs. The North East Child Poverty Commission (NECPC) note that the North East has experienced by far the steepest rise in child poverty between 2014/15 and 2018/19 - up by 9 percentage points.

Our own analysis of local child poverty statistics shows that areas with **high and rising levels of child poverty are no longer confined largely to Labour constituencies** (see Table 2). Following the election in December 2019, there are 45 Conservative constituencies with child poverty rates in excess of a third, compared with just 15 in 2015 (see Appendix 2).

Table 2: Child poverty rates by constituency and party

	Number of constituencies	Average child poverty in 2014/15	Average child poverty in 2018/19	Change in child poverty: 2014-2019
Liberal Democrat	11	19.4%	19.6%	+0.2%
Conservative hold	307	24.4%	24.6%	+0.2%
SNP	48	22.3%	24.6%	+2.3%
Conservative gain from Labour	54	29.9%	33.2%	+3.3%
Labour	202	33.9%	37.6%	+3.8%
All constituencies	651	27.9%	29.7%	+1.8%

Source: own analysis using End Child Poverty's local child poverty statistics:

<http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty-in-your-area-201415-201819/>

Whilst workless households face the greatest risk of being in poverty (69%), most organisations highlighted **in-work poverty as a growing problem**. In-work poverty is now the norm, with around three-quarters of children in poverty living in a family where at least one parent is in work. The risk of being in poverty ranges from 6% for children in families with two parents in full-time work, to 40% for children with one parent in full-time work and one non-working parent, and 54% for children with a single parent in part-time work.

When we consulted with local church leaders and practitioners in four geographically-diverse dioceses, they all agreed that child poverty – and the social issues associated with it – have worsened considerably in 2020 and 2021, with many families experiencing poverty for the first time as a direct result of the pandemic. They reported that:

- The number of people in receipt of out-of-work benefits is rising significantly, with a further rise in unemployment anticipated when the furlough scheme ended.

³ The figures quoted here are from Table 4.5db of the DWP's Households Below Average Income, 2019/20.

- Low paid furloughed workers struggled to get by on 80% of their pay, whilst others have been unable to access the scheme at all.
- Local schools are noticing significant gaps in reading and writing, with a widening in the learning gap between pupil premium and non-pupil-premium children since March 2020;
- Poor and insecure housing is compounding existing mental health problems, due to families being confined in overcrowded housing.
- Domestic violence has risen, as victims are isolated and unable to seek support, with many turning to substance abuse as a coping strategy.
- The pandemic has seen an increase in behavioural problems among younger children.
- They anticipated a “deluge” of people seeking debt advice when the ban on evictions was lifted.

When asked about the issues affecting their communities, they identified a wide range of inter-related economic and social problems related to child poverty:

- Food poverty as seen in the rising number of families using food banks and students arriving at school hungry;
- Relational poverty – broken relationships, sofa surfing, and domestic violence;
- Physical and mental health concerns among both parents and children;
- Educational inequalities, aggravated by uneven access to online learning during the pandemic.
- Substance misuse and gangs, including children being drawn into County Lines;
- Unaffordable, overcrowded and unhealthy housing, especially in the private rented sector;
- Fuel poverty, with many families having to choose between heating and eating;
- Problem debt/rent arrears, and the fear of eviction

Whilst these are often the most visible symptoms of poverty at grassroots level, quite a few organisations pointed out that the defining feature of poverty is families not having enough income or resources to meet their minimum needs, which in turn restricts choices, opportunities and the ability to participate fully in society. All organisations agree that poverty is complex, and that it is not always possible to disentangle its causes and effects. Single parent families, for example, are more likely to experience poverty than a two-parent family, but financial pressure can also lead to relationship strain and breakdown.

What does an effective child poverty strategy look like?

There was widespread agreement across the organisations’ responses that we need a **cross-departmental approach** to child poverty, with formal structures for overseeing and driving forward this work. The CSJ, for example, recommended that Government “*re-establish a Cabinet Committee for Social Justice, bringing together Ministers from across Government (including DWP, DfE, MHCLG, and the Treasury) to drive forward the agenda.*” The aims of this Committee would be three-fold:

- To provide political leadership and oversee the setting of priorities across government, specifically on social justice, equality and poverty;
- To actively encourage and support cross-Government working, recognising that policy to deliver social justice outcomes cannot be developed or delivered in silos; and
- To look for the hidden poor and those with no voice such as victims of modern slavery, the homeless and victims of child abuse.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) agreed that a joint or central unit to drive action across government can be an effective way to deliver these aims. However, they warned that the success of any child poverty strategy would be dependent on the **political will** to address child poverty, and the active and ongoing commitment from the Prime Minister and Chancellor, without which progress would be limited.

There was also a clear consensus on the **need for an agreed measure of child poverty** so that progress can be tracked, preferably with **specific targets for reducing child poverty** over time. The Legatum Institute strongly promoted the Social Metrics Commission measure, which looks at a family's resources, including savings, as well as unavoidable expenses such as childcare and housing. The JRF also recommended use of the Social Metrics measurement framework, alongside their own measure of destitution to capture the most extreme manifestations of poverty.

Another fundamental aspect of a successful child poverty strategy, cited by several respondents, is that it **needs to have a local dimension**. This is key to ensuring that policy responses are shaped by the context and needs of each local area, including partnering with local charities. Church groups gave many examples of how they are helping to address poverty in their local area through holiday hunger programmes; supporting food banks and mutual aid schemes; providing financial capability training; mentoring and tutoring pupils with complex needs; and running mental health first aid awareness courses; as well as signposting people to other local services.

Action for Children and others argue that the views of children, young people and families who have experienced poverty must be sought in the development and implementation of the strategy. Ministers and officials should also seek the input of organisations representing low-income families.

In addition, many of the responses emphasised the need for any strategy to **start early** and **focus on prevention**. Echoing the findings of the Leadsom Report, Home-Start UK emphasised the importance of the first 1,001 days from pregnancy to two years old in laying the foundations for lifelong physical and mental health:

“These early years within the family are pivotal and precious as parents’ hopes and wishes for their children meet with the challenges of their lived realities, their experiences, and the choices available to them. Whatever the desires of parents to do the very best in giving their children a good start, childhood in the UK today means there is no guarantee of parents being able to provide the basic needs for security, healthy food, a comfortable home, suitable clothing, space to play safely, and positive learning opportunities.”

Related to the need for a preventative approach to child poverty, nearly all the responses take a **broad view of poverty**, recognising that policymakers must employ a range of levers to tackle child poverty, including family, education, housing, and health, alongside changes in the tax and benefits system. Each of these areas is explored in more depth in the following section.

What policies need to be included in a child poverty strategy?

This section summarises the main policy areas that need to be covered by any child poverty strategy, drawn from the responses of the different organisations, as well as the four church groups. While there was no single policy that all the organisations agreed would be fundamental, there was significant agreement over six broad areas or themes that need to be included in such a strategy:

- Family Support;
- Early Years and Childcare;
- Education;
- Housing;
- Jobs; and
- Social Security.

These issues were highlighted by organisations from across the political spectrum, showing that there is broad-based agreement around what the foundational areas should be for a successful child poverty strategy.

Although we have not included it as a whole section, it is also worth noting that addictions and debt is a significant issue too – mentioned by a few of the contributions. There is evidence for the link between addictions and poverty, and while debt is a consequence of poverty, it has its own unique and very pernicious consequences on those who are already poor. Christians Against Poverty and other similar debt-cancelling organisations, are a vital resource for many in poverty. Highlighting free resources like these are another important way of addressing poverty in the country.

Here, we summarise the core principles that would need to be included under each of the headings in the bullet points. We also list some of the specific policy suggestions made by individual organisations.

(I) Family Support

CSJ, Group of 8, Home-Start UK, IEA, JRF, Kids Matter, Marriage Foundation, and NECPC all suggested policies around supporting families better and preventing families from being unable to stay together.

CSJ point out that *“family instability or breakdown can, and usually does, cause immediate hardship for a family and can have devastating long-term consequences for a child.”* They emphasise the quality of the parental relationship and the importance of stable family relationships. The Marriage Foundation underline the importance of marriage, in particular, in providing *“the stability that buffers against the risk of family breakdown and so often poverty in turn.”*, citing evidence that couples who marry are more likely to stay together and their children tend to have better outcomes.

Similarly, the JRF state that services should help parents stay together where that is possible. Where it is not possible, the goal should be to help them separate well and maintain good relationships with their children (where appropriate).

Kids Matter argue that fathers, as well as mothers, need to be engaged, making the case for a “whole-family approach”. They make a link between supporting families and the Government’s broader levelling up agenda: *“It is difficult to think of a more effective way in which the government might realise its vision to ‘level up’ Britain and ensure quality of opportunity than through ensuring access to high-quality local family services which start in maternity and run throughout childhood.”*

As already noted, Home-Start UK highlighted the importance of the first 1,001 days from pregnancy in a child’s development and, therefore, parents’ need for a facilitating and supportive environment

to enable them and their children to thrive. They summarised this under three broad aims: supporting nurturing relationships, reducing sources of stress for parents, and building core skills.

The North East Child Poverty Commission advocate for a programme of long-term investment in services that are targeted but universal, in order to build social solidarity, reduce the risk of stigmatisation, and 'normalise' such services as part of *every* childhood.

In terms of specific policy recommendations, there was strong support from JRF and others for the recommendations in the recent Government review to revitalise children's centres and family support services into **family hubs**, which it is hoped will deliver universal support services, including parenting and relationship support, as well as helping to connect parents and build their support networks. Both NEPC and Group of 8 said that these should be run by local charities and communities with support from councils.

Organisations also highlighted other ways in which families can and should be supported, for example:

- essential high quality mental health services – especially perinatal services – in every part of the country (JRF)
- improved drug and alcohol treatment services to break destructive behaviour patterns (CSJ);
- transferable tax allowances to remove the financial penalty of marriage (IEA)
- a more effective child maintenance system aimed at minimising poverty for all family members (JRF)
- a Number Ten Family Policy Unit to champion and disseminate the evidence base for building stronger families (Marriage Foundation).
- more family link workers or advocates in schools, to identify problems and intervene before situations become too stressful (Diocese of Exeter)

(II) Early Years and Childcare

CPAG, End Child Poverty, Group of 8, Home-Start UK, IEA, JRF, Kids Matter, Legatum, NECPC, and Action for Children all identified early years support and childcare as a vital element in a successful child poverty strategy, with Action for Children stating that high childcare costs were one of the key drivers of child poverty.

There was agreement across these organisations that, in the words of CPAG, "*the child poverty strategy needs to include a plan to provide high quality, affordable childcare, available when families need it*". Not only does this enable parents to work, but it also ensures that younger children get the benefit of early years education, and that school-age children can benefit from enriching extra-curricular activities and holiday clubs.

IEA highlighted the particular burden of childcare for lone parent households, who may be in work but lack the financial support of others to help with this cost. Within the Legatum Institute's focus on the need for an effective measure of poverty, they listed childcare as an essential cost to be considered within a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy.

Many of the organisations made more specific policy suggestions within the broad area of childcare and early years support. For example, JRF recommended continued improvement of parental leave,

maternity pay, and paternity pay. They also proposed moving to a graduate-led and higher paid workforce; making childcare free for those on the lowest incomes; and moving to a supply-led funding system with most funding going directly to providers.

(III) Education

The Children's Society, CPAG, CSJ, End Child Poverty, Group of 8, JRF, Kids Matter, Legatum, and NECPC all mentioned education in their responses. While Home-Start UK and IEA did not explicitly mention education in discussing policy responses, the former talked about how inequalities in child development persist and deepen during the school years, and the latter highlighted "*the failing of white and black boys from poor homes in school*" as a serious social problem for our country. Kids Matter also framed education as a critical issue, stating how "*there is already a huge discrepancy in educational attainment between children growing up in poorer areas and their wealthier counterparts... School closures are likely to have widened this disadvantage gap further still.*"

CSJ and CPAG are good examples of the general argument made by different organisations. CSJ emphasised education as a root cause of poverty, with it being "*unacceptable that young people should have their future life chances determined by their background*". CPAG similarly argued that "*children should have the same educational opportunities wherever they grow up and income should not be a barrier to pursuing these opportunities*".

JRF called for measures to attract and retain high-performing teachers at schools that are struggling to recruit in disadvantaged areas. With CPAG, they also highlighted the common theme of 'poverty proofing' the school day, by reducing the cost of: school uniforms; transport; school trips; and materials for homework and subjects such as art and cookery classes.

The Children's Society made two specific policy recommendations: that Free School Meals should be extended to all families in receipt of Universal Credit and that extended schools, which involves schools providing before and after school childcare, holiday childcare, and a range of other support services for children and their families, should be rolled out in every school.

Church leaders in London requested more funding for extended school activities, such as breakfast clubs and after school clubs, which would allow parents with school-age children to work full-time without paying for childcare. Given the scale of social problems for children in poverty, church leaders in Coventry wanted a fundamental review of Ofsted, including a greater emphasis on financial education and preparing children for work.

(IV) Housing

End Child Poverty, Home-Start UK, IEA, JRF, Action for Children, Group of 8, and NECPC all mentioned housing in their responses.

IEA rate housing as one of *the* most important factors, arguing that "*all these problems would be reduced or eliminated if housing costs were much lower*", and argue that this affects families throughout the country. Other organisations highlighted the need for better quality and more secure, as well as more affordable, housing.

The NECPC states that more affordable housing would not only reduce pressures on household incomes and improve families' living conditions, but would also remove barriers to parental employment and lead to improved educational outcomes for children.

According to the IEA, the underlying problem is an overly restrictive planning system, citing the German experience where *"allowing houses to be built is, something close to a silver bullet in relation to a wide range of policy objectives, including child poverty."* For the JRF, the real problem is a shortage of social housing, making the case for 145,000 new units a year over the next five years.

Action for Children, along with many other organisations, argue that the increase in local housing allowances during the pandemic should be retained and keep pace with actual rents. JRF also make the case for targeted grants in the short-term to help the large number of families who are in housing arrears as a result of the pandemic.

(V) Jobs

CPAG, CSJ, End Child Poverty, Group of 8, JRF, NECPC, and Purple Shoots all mentioned the significance of work in what they believed would make for a successful child poverty strategy.

CSJ say a defining principle should be: *"promoting work for those who can as the most sustainable route out of poverty, while offering unconditional support to those who are severely disabled and cannot work."* To make the biggest possible difference, efforts should be concentrated on reaching those individuals and families who are entrenched in worklessness.

Other organisations highlight the prevalence of in-work poverty, from which it follows that any successful strategy will require action to tackle low pay and insecure work. According to the JRF, only 1 in 6 low paid workers escape low pay over ten years, so more needs to be done by Government and employers to support training and progression.

The JRF see the recovery from Covid as an opportunity for the Government to take an active approach to economic growth, stimulating the creation of new jobs in ways that would address problems that pull people into poverty – for example by investing in energy efficiency measures to tackle fuel poverty; building social housing to lower housing costs; and expanding the number of jobs in social care while improving their quality and pay.

Several organisations made specific recommendations in relation to employment policy. CPAG, for example, made a strong case for voluntary employment support programmes, which have been shown to be very effective promoting in-work progression and job satisfaction, as well as providing a net saving to the Exchequer. Key design features include: discretionary funds to support work and training; supportive, individually tailored, one-to-one relationships with advisers; work experience provided alongside training; in-work mentoring to assist job retention and advancement; and a family-friendly environment for training.

Other specific policy recommendations include:

- strengthening and extending youth employment schemes such as Kickstart (Group of 8);
- delivering high-quality careers advice in school, alongside strong links between schools, local employers and training providers (JRF)
- enabling more young people to access high-quality apprenticeships, especially those from ethnic minority groups, young disabled people, and young women (JRF).

- removing barriers to employment for parents/carers, including the lack of affordable/ flexible childcare and work disincentives such as the loss of free school meals (NECPC);
- earmarking funding for microfinance organisations to enable people to create their own routes out of poverty (Purple Shoots);

(VI) Social Security Policy

The Children’s Society, CPAG, End Child Poverty, Group of 8, NECPC, JRF, Purple Shoots, and Action for Children all explicitly mentioned social security in their responses.

This is the most contested area, where differences in the responses are most evident. All organisations agree that income matters, but they disagree on the extent to which income transfers through the tax-benefit system are part of the solution to child poverty.

On the one hand, The Children’s Society’s submission focuses almost entirely on changes to the welfare system, arguing that this *“would play an extremely important role in boosting household incomes to help lift families and children out of poverty”*, and pointing to previous periods when investment in child benefit and tax credits has led to a substantial reduction in child poverty.

On the other hand, the CSJ’s submission argues that *“the vast majority of people cannot and will not have their lives changed through ever-increasing benefit rates”*, focusing instead on the need to tackle the root causes of poverty, such as worklessness and family breakdown. The IEA argue that reducing child poverty by substantial further redistribution through the welfare system is unaffordable in view of the looming pensions crisis.

Most organisations take an intermediate position, recognising the importance of redistributive policies within an effective child poverty strategy, alongside education, housing, family, and childcare policies. The Legatum Institute, for example, estimates that Covid-related increases in the generosity of benefits have insulated more than 600,000 people from poverty, whilst also arguing that policymakers should use a range of levers to tackle poverty, rather than simply focusing on redistribution through the tax and benefits system.

In a similar vein, the JRF points to the cuts and freezes to social security in the decade before the pandemic as a central driver of rising poverty, whilst presenting the need to raise and protect family incomes as only one, albeit important, element of a six-pronged strategy to reduce child poverty.

The need for a multi-faceted approach to child poverty is summed up in the submission from the End Child Poverty (ECP) coalition:

“We must renew our contract with children. Reconfirm their right to a happy, secure, healthy childhood. And place that right at the heart of our economic recovery. That can only happen with a comprehensive and ambitious cross-government child poverty strategy that addresses household income through: investment in social security; tackling the major areas of high cost for families – childcare and rent; and addressing low pay and insecure work.”

ECP identify the two-child limit and the benefit cap as the two of the main drivers of rising child poverty in recent years, citing estimates that, by the end of this parliament, 1.3 million children will be pulled into, or deeper into, poverty as a result of the two-child limit alone.

Specific policy recommendations to strengthen the social security safety net include:

- increasing Child Benefit by £10 per week per child and increasing Child Tax Credit and the child element of Universal Credit by £10 per week (Children’s Society).
- abolishing the two-child limit and benefit cap (ECP and others)
- expanding access to free school meals to all families in receipt of universal credit and equivalent benefits (CPAG and others)
- reforming Universal Credit, by ending the 5-week wait for the first payment; converting advance payments into non-repayable grants; and removing the requirement to pay childcare costs upfront (NECPC)
- removing NRPF conditions to parents with leave to remain in the UK where they have children under 18 years old (Children’s Society)
- reducing the tapering effect of Universal credit for people who move into self-employment and allowing people on benefits to test trade without losing their benefits (Purple Shoots)
- building on the progress already made with the Covid Winter grant by committing to ongoing funding of £250m a year to support Local Welfare Assistance Schemes (TCS).
- working with people who have direct experience of claiming social security to redesign the system, so that it supports people effectively through times of need (JRF)
- establishing an independent body to provide advice on the adequacy of benefit levels, in order to de-politicise uprating decisions - similar to the role played by the Low Pay Commission in relation to the National Minimum Wage (Action for Children).

Summary

This report has identified a significant level of agreement across different organisations on what an effective child poverty strategy would look like and on the broad policy areas that should be included in such a strategy:

- It requires a cross-departmental approach, with the active commitment of the Prime Minister and formal structures for driving forward this work;
- There needs to be an agreed measure of child poverty, such as the Social Metrics framework, with specific targets for reducing poverty over time;
- The strategy should have a local dimension, including an important role for local charities, and should take on the views of families and children with direct experience of poverty;
- It must start early, focus on prevention, and take a broad view of poverty, which means employing a range of policy levers, including:
 - a facilitating and supportive environment for parents, starting at pregnancy;
 - high quality and affordable childcare when families need it;
 - measures to address educational inequalities and promote opportunities;
 - better and more secure and affordable housing for low-income families;
 - tackling worklessness and providing routes out of low paid and insecure work; and
 - boosting family incomes at times of need through the social security system.
- Whilst there is not universal agreement on specific policies, the following proposals would seem to command widespread support:
 - family hubs delivering universal services, including parenting & relationship support;
 - extended school activities and extra-curricular activities for school-age children;
 - poverty proofing the school day, by reducing the cost of uniforms, school trips, etc;
 - increasing the level of housing support for low-income families in rented housing;
 - employment support programmes to promote in-work progression; and

- removing the two-child limit and benefit cap.

Appendix 1: List of organisations who responded to our call for evidence

Action for Children

Centre for Social Justice

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)

The Children's Society

End Child Poverty

Group of 8

Home-Start UK

Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

Kids Matter

Legatum Institute

Marriage Foundation

North East Child Poverty Commission

Purple Shoots

Diocese of Coventry

Diocese of Durham

Diocese of Exeter

Diocese of London

Appendix 2: Conservative constituencies with the highest rates of child poverty in 2015 and 2019

#	2019 Constituency	Child poverty in 2018/19	2015 Constituency	Child poverty in 2014/15
1	Stoke-on-Trent Central*	45.5%	Walsall North	37.9%
2	Pendle	45.2%	Pendle	36.7%
3	Stoke-on-Trent North*	44.3%	Chingford & Woodford G	36.6%
4	West Bromwich West*	44.2%	Stoke-on-Trent South	36.1%
5	Walsall North	43.9%	Clacton	36.0%
6	Bolton North East*	43.5%	Montgomeryshire	35.5%
7	West Bromwich East*	42.9%	Hastings and Rye	35.3%
8	Wolverhampton NE*	42.7%	North Cornwall	35.2%
9	Hyndburn*	42.2%	Hendon	35.0%
10	Burnley*	42.1%	Harrow East	34.9%
11	Dudley North*	41.6%	Dover	34.2%
12	Harrow East	41.4%	Bournemouth West	33.8%
13	Wolverhampton SW*	41.2%	Plymouth, Moor View	33.8%
14	Stoke-on-Trent South	40.4%	Brecon and Radnorshire	33.5%
15	Leigh*	40.2%	Totnes	33.4%
16	Peterborough*	39.3%	St Ives	33.2%
17	Hastings and Rye	39.2%	Torrige and West Devon	33.2%
18	Dewsbury*	39.0%	Chatham and Aylesford	33.1%
19	Chingford & Woodford Gn	38.7%	Southampton, Itchen	33.1%
20	Hendon	38.5%	Romford	33.0%
21	Great Grimsby*	38.2%	Gravesham	32.8%
22	Keighley*	37.9%	North Devon	32.5%
23	Birmingham, Northfield*	37.5%	St Austell and Newquay	32.5%
24	Dudley South	37.4%	Dudley South	32.4%
25	Halesowen & Rowley Regis	37.3%	Stourbridge	32.2%
26	Bury North*	37.3%	Halesowen & Rowley Regis	32.0%
27	Blackpool South*	36.9%	Bexleyheath and Crayford	31.9%
28	Romford	36.0%	Uxbridge and South Ruislip	31.9%
29	Dover	35.8%	Camborne and Redruth	31.9%
30	North Cornwall	35.6%	Hornchurch and Upminster	31.8%
31	Bishop Auckland*	35.6%	Bridgwater & W Somerset	31.8%
32	Stourbridge	35.4%	Torbay	31.6%
33	Southampton, Itchen	34.9%	Sittingbourne and Sheppey	31.6%
34	Redcar*	34.9%	South East Cornwall	31.5%
35	Clacton	34.8%	Folkestone and Hythe	31.5%
36	Bexleyheath and Crayford	34.6%	Milton Keynes North	31.3%
37	Hornchurch and Upminster	34.5%	Great Yarmouth	31.2%
38	Blyth Valley*	34.4%	Isle of Wight	31.1%
39	Ipswich*	34.1%	Truro and Falmouth	31.1%
40	Scunthorpe*	34.0%	South Thanet	30.8%
41	Uxbridge and South Ruislip	33.5%	Gloucester	30.8%
42	Great Yarmouth	33.5%	Carmarthen W & S Pem'shire	30.6%
43	Darlington*	33.5%	Preseli Pembrokeshire	30.5%
44	Wakefield*	33.4%	Milton Keynes South	30.5%
45	Blackpool N & Cleveleys	33.4%	Havant	30.5%

*Conservative gain from Labour at the 2019 General Election.