

Child Poverty Briefing Note

2012 data release

Introduction

The Council's Child Poverty Framework 2011-2014: Together on Poverty set out a series of indicators on poverty and surrounding issues. This report presents an updated summary of all available indicators and some additional context.

Child Poverty Measure

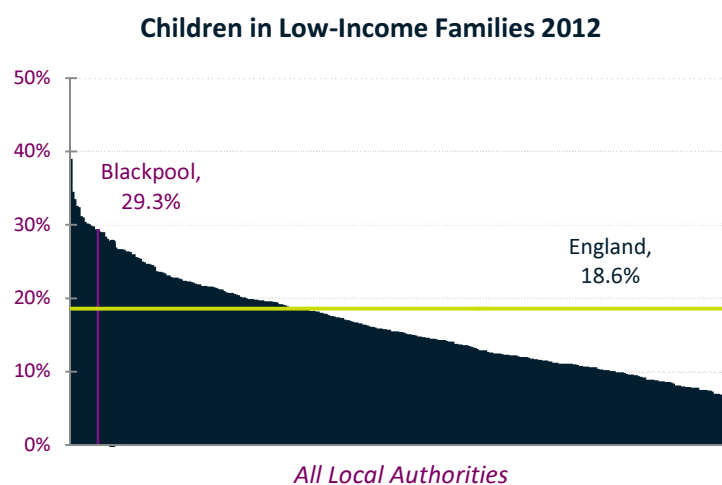
The official local area child poverty measure is the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure produced by HMRC and is: "children living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60% of national median income".

Data is released annually but covers a time period 2 years prior to that date e.g. the most recent data is for 2012. The reason for this delay is that the measure is based on actual reported family income rather than surveys or estimates and is available down to small areas including wards, meaning that the data is very accurate.

2012 Position

The chart right, shows the % of children in low income families in 2011, compared to all authorities in England and to the English average. It highlights:

- **9,145 children** in Blackpool live in low income families
- This accounts for **29.3% of all children**
- Blackpool ranks **14th highest in England**



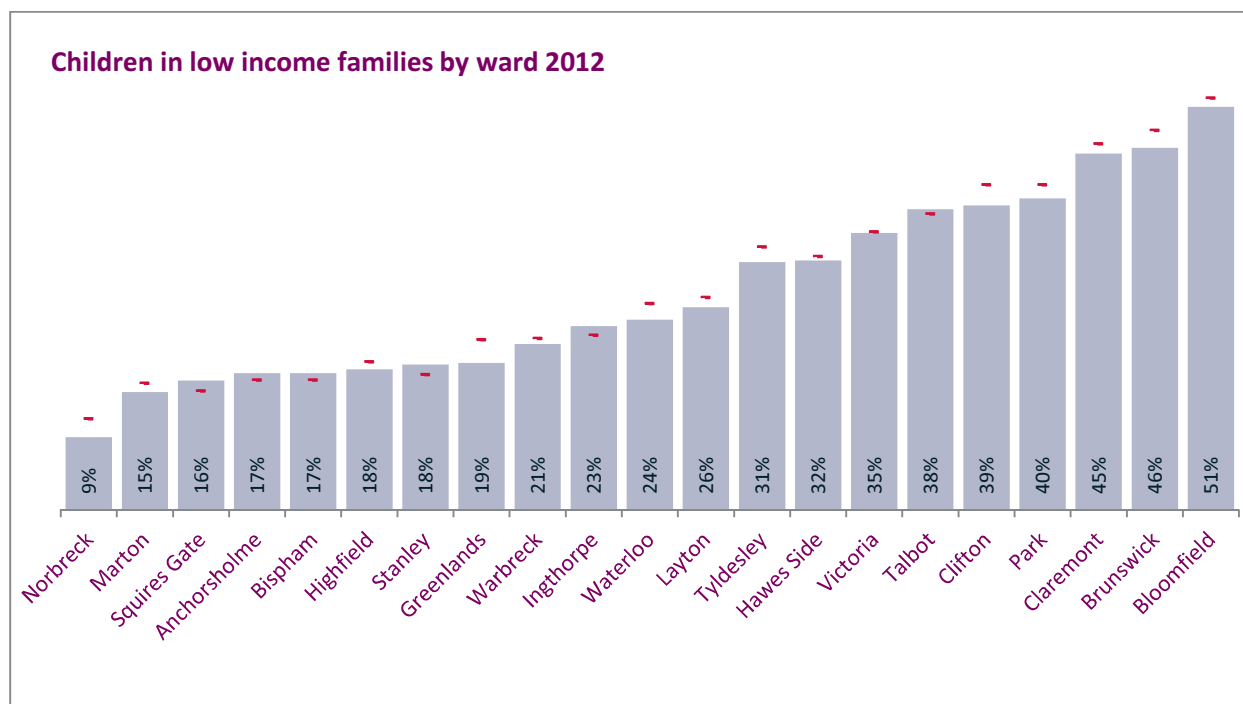
Changes since 2011

- Overall, in percentage terms **Blackpool has seen a small reduction in the proportion of children in poverty between 2011 and 2012**. Reducing from 9,425 children (30.2%) to 9,145 (29.3%). This ends a trend of decline from 2008-2011.
- Despite this improvement, **Blackpool is now ranked higher (worse) for the level of children in poverty compared to other areas**. From 21st highest in 2011 to 14th in 2012. This is because while Blackpool reduced by -0.9%p the average reduction across all Local Authorities was a stronger -1.6%p. Other areas improved at a faster rate.
- A further factor is that in 2012 the income distribution changed nationally with generally lower incomes. The low income threshold, which is 60 per cent of the median income, fell from £218 in 2011 to £204 in 2012. Other measures of welfare reform were also introduced. This might mean

families previously considered to have poor incomes are no longer counted, but their circumstance may remain the same.

Ward Distribution

- **All wards** have some children living in poverty.
- **Bloomfield, Claremont, Brunswick, Park and Clifton** wards each have more than 40% of children in poverty.
- Half of Blackpool's wards rank amongst the 20% of all wards nationally with the highest levels of children in poverty.



Family demographics

- 86% of children in poverty live in **families claiming Income Support or Job Seekers Allowance**
- 67% of children in poverty live in **lone parent families**
- 33% are **young children aged 0-4**, 12% are dependents aged 16-19
- 56% live in 1-2 child families, 44% live in families with 3 or more children
- In total there are around **4,900 families with low incomes** in Blackpool.

Detailed map of Child Poverty

The map on the right shows the distribution of children in low income households in Blackpool for small areas.

- The largest percentages of children in low income households are in the central areas of Blackpool.
- Bloomfield, Brunswick, Claremont, Park and Clifton have several pockets of children in poverty above 42% of all children in those areas.

The map of poverty shares many similarities with maps for:

- Child Protection Plans
- Indices of Deprivation 2010
- Free School Meals Recipients
- Out-of-work Benefit claimants

The Blackpool Child Poverty Needs Assessment also highlighted potential links (not cause and effect) between child poverty and:

- Employment
- Education & Skills
- Health outcomes
- Areas with higher Crime levels
- Areas with high Fuel poverty
- Teenage pregnancy

