

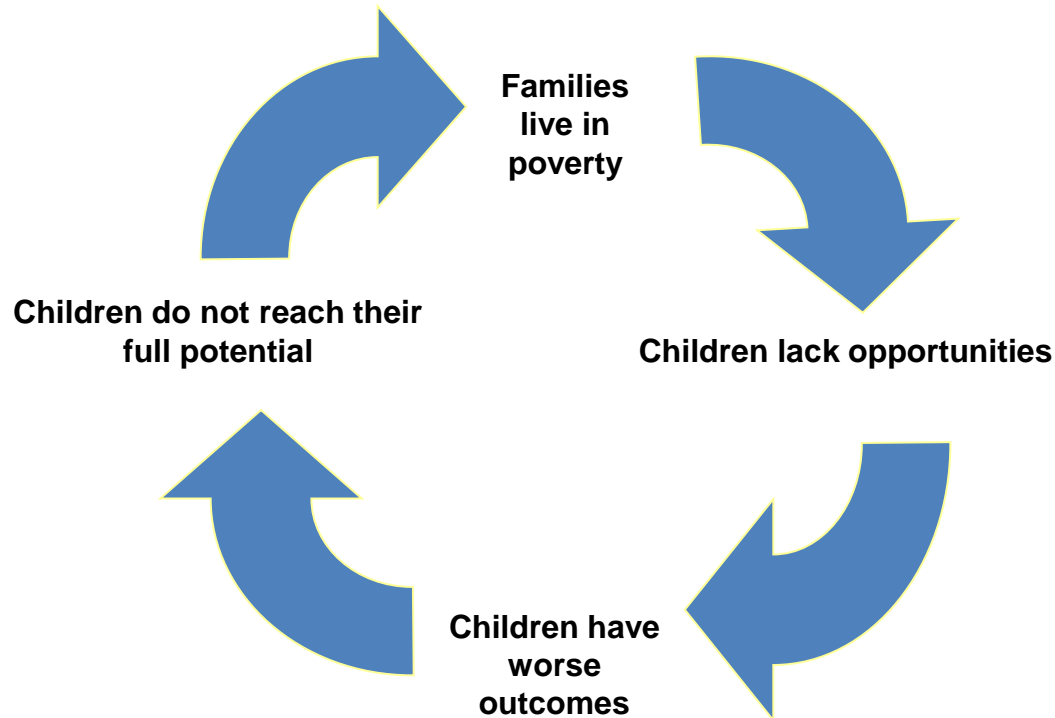
Child poverty – making a difference

Child Poverty Unit – Government Offices
June 2010

Why tackle child poverty now?

- 2.8m (22%) children live in relative income poverty (2008/2009)
- Action is needed now to break the cycle of poverty and prevent it from impacting on future generations
- Reducing child poverty can benefit the local economy in the long term
- Child Poverty Act places duties on local authorities and partner organisations to co-operate to tackle child poverty
- Local partners can also maximise the expertise of unnamed partner organisations when meeting these duties – such as those in the third sector

Action is needed now to help break the cycle of poverty



Strong case for local partners to take action

Families will be better off:

- More children enjoy and achieve
- Increased wellbeing
- More inclusion and opportunity
- Less stress, debt and difficulty
- Able to make a positive contribution
- Better long term outcomes

Communities will be better off:

- Less deprivation and disadvantage
- More spending in the community
- Investment in the local economy

Local services will benefit:

- Better outcomes and more targets met.
- Reduced need for services leading to savings.

The Child Poverty Act establishes the key objectives and main policy areas for UK child poverty strategy

Meet the 2020
Income targets

Minimise socio-
economic disadvantage
for children

LIFE CHANCES

**EMPLOYMENT
& SKILLS**

PLACE

**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

AT RISK GROUPS

The Strategy will need to:
(a) consider what action is needed in each area 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: (c) which groups are most at risk of poverty and disadvantage; and (d) consider the impact of policy measures for each group

What the Act means for local partners

- All local authorities and their partners have a **duty to co-operate** to tackle child poverty
- Statutory local partners for the Act include; district councils, police, strategic health authorities, PCTs, transport agencies, Jobcentre Plus, probation services and Youth Offending Teams
- All local authorities must conduct and publish a **local needs assessment** – setting out the needs of those in poverty in their area
- All local authorities and their partners must develop **joint child poverty strategies** – using evidence from their needs assessments

The Child Poverty Act establishes

The Act sets out four targets to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and beyond:

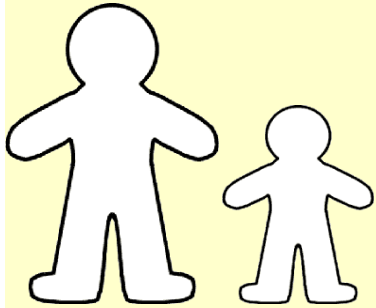
- **Relative low income**
- **Combined low income and material deprivation**
- **Absolute low income target**
- **Persistent poverty target**

The Act also sets a target for government to minimise socioeconomic disadvantage on children

The Act also sets out how government will be held accountable, by publishing:

- A **strategy** every three years to 2020, the first to be published within 12 months of the Act being passed. An **annual report** setting out progress towards meeting the commitment
- The Act requires **local authorities and their delivery partners** to work together to tackle child poverty and set out the contribution that they make in their local area
- An **expert commission** will be established, bringing together leaders in the field to provide advice to Government to inform the child poverty strategy

Financial support helps ensure work pays

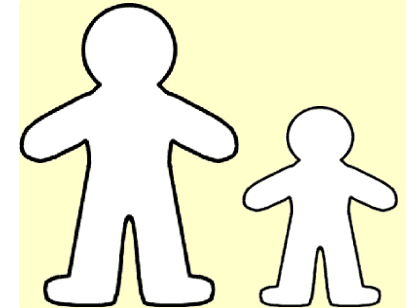


Non working family

Benefits provide financial support for families who are not in work. But taking up benefits alone may not be sufficient to lift them out of poverty.

Work is the best route out of poverty

If parents are aware of in-work support it increases the likelihood that they will move into work



Working family

Tax credits and benefits help make work pay.

Employment and Skills - making the difference

- Work is the main route out of poverty - making work pay better needs to be a priority
- Skills and training are important elements of the pathway to work and will support parents and children to aspire and achieve
- Flexible , sustainable work that pays is needed to support parents to get and stay out of poverty
- Opportunities to actively engage through volunteering , mentoring and engaging with local communities offer parents tasters of the world of work.

A comprehensive offer of support is available to help tackle child poverty

- Regional Government Office child poverty advisors
- Child Poverty Act guidance/advice particularly re Needs Assessments
- Child poverty pilots – including lessons learnt
- School Gates employment project
- Child Poverty Unit website (not currently available)
- “Core offer” of supporting organisations; C4EO, Beacon authorities, Government Office child poverty advisors, IDeA, CWDC and National College
- Basket of indicators

More information is available at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/childpoverty

All Government websites are currently under review and are subject to change following the recent change of government