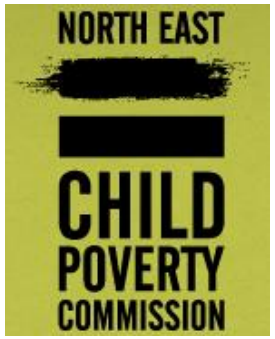

North East Child Poverty Commission

https://nechildpoverty.org.uk

@nechildpoverty

North East Child Poverty Commission

- Since 2019, hosted by – but independent of – Newcastle University.
- Stakeholder network of representatives from different sectors in the region:
  - Local authorities, children's and youth charities, wider VCSE sector, housing organisations, public health, academics, schools/education, social work, faith community
- Overarching aim: ***'to provide a strong regional voice to raise awareness of the issue of child poverty in the North East and to work collaboratively to tackle the problem'.***

Defining child poverty

- Relative poverty (below 60% median household income), after housing costs

North East Child Poverty Commission:

- Primarily a structural problem, not the fault of individuals or people's characteristics.
- Defining feature: families not having enough money to meet their basic needs and participate fully in society.
- Not inevitable or unsolvable – but highly policy-responsive.

National picture (2018/19)

- 4.2million children living in poverty in the UK
- 30% of all children – 9 in a classroom of 30
- Poverty affects:
  - 43% of children living in households with three or more children
  - 46% of children from BAME families
  - 44% of children from lone parent families
- 72% of children in poverty are from working households; and 51% are under the age of five.

Regional picture (2018/19)

- **North East:** second highest rate of child poverty in the UK at 35% (behind London at 39%)
  - Almost 11 children in a classroom of 30
- **North East:** UK's biggest recent rise in child poverty (from 26% to 35%, between 2014/5 and 2018/19)

NORTH EAST [redacted] CHILD POVERTY COMMISSION

20 UK local authorities which saw the steepest increases in child poverty, 2014/15 to 2018/19

Local authority	% of children living in poverty after housing costs		
	2014/15	2018/19	%age point increase
UK	28%	30%	2ppt
Middlesbrough	28.6%	41.1%	12.5ppt
Newcastle upon Tyne	28.2%	39.2%	11.0ppt
South Tyneside	27.0%	37.3%	10.3ppt
Hartlepool	27.5%	37.3%	9.8ppt
Sunderland	27.2%	36.0%	8.8ppt
Gateshead	24.7%	33.5%	8.8ppt
Bradford	29.5%	38.3%	8.7ppt
Redcar and Cleveland	26.4%	35.1%	8.7ppt
County Durham	25.4%	34.0%	8.6ppt
Leicester	29.4%	37.8%	8.5ppt
Blackburn with Darwen	30.9%	39.1%	8.2ppt
Darlington	25.7%	33.9%	8.2ppt
Oldham	31.8%	39.9%	8.1ppt
Pendle	31.0%	38.8%	7.8ppt
Northumberland	24.3%	32.0%	7.7ppt
Stockton-on-Tees	25.3%	33.0%	7.7ppt
Nottingham	29.4%	37.0%	7.6ppt
Birmingham	34.2%	41.6%	7.4ppt
North Tyneside	23.7%	31.0%	7.2ppt
Manchester	33.6%	40.6%	7.0ppt

NORTH EAST [redacted] CHILD POVERTY COMMISSION

20 UK Parliamentary constituencies which saw the steepest increases in child poverty, 2014/15 to 2018/19

Constituency	% of children living in poverty after housing costs		
	2014/15	2018/19	%age point increase
UK	28%	30%	2ppt
Middlesbrough	31.2%	47.2%	16.0ppt
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	31.7%	45.2%	13.5ppt
Birmingham Hodge Hill	40.5%	53.8%	13.4ppt
Bradford West	34.9%	47.8%	12.9ppt
Birmingham Ladywood	41.8%	54.5%	12.7ppt
Birmingham Yardley	32.4%	44.7%	12.4ppt
South Shields	28.2%	39.3%	11.1ppt
Bradford East	36.4%	46.9%	10.5ppt
Newcastle upon Tyne East	27.1%	36.8%	9.7ppt
Bolton South East	37.1%	46.7%	9.6ppt
Sedgefield	23.5%	33.0%	9.5ppt
Hartlepool	27.6%	37.1%	9.5ppt
Oldham West and Royton	38.5%	48.0%	9.4ppt
Gateshead	26.0%	35.3%	9.3ppt
Blackburn	38.1%	47.3%	9.2ppt
Jarrow	23.5%	32.6%	9.1ppt
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	24.2%	33.2%	9.0ppt
Manchester Gorton	38.6%	47.6%	9.0ppt
North Durham	24.3%	33.3%	9.0ppt
Easington	25.8%	34.6%	8.8ppt

Everyday impact of child poverty

Children and young people in the North East:

- Highest proportion of pupils eligible for FSM
- Most likely to be living in materially-deprived, low income families, aged under 10 (Action for Children)
- More likely to go without a range of ‘basics’ than anywhere else (CPAG)
- Most likely to be in families with no or little savings to shield from economic shocks (Action for Children)