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Executive Summary

This JSNA chapter provides an up to date picture of current levels of Child Poverty in Nottinghamshire and its impact. It should be read in conjunction with the 2011 Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment.

Growing up in poverty can affect every area of a child's development and future life chances. We know that the most disadvantaged children are less likely to achieve their academic potential, secure employment and gain a sense of future financial security. They are more likely to suffer from poor health, live in poor quality housing and unsafe environments. Poverty has blighted the lives of individuals, families and entire communities for generations and is an issue that could undermine the wider social and economic policies across Nottinghamshire. Growing up in poverty can mean being cold, going hungry, not being able to join in activities with friends, and not being able to afford even one week's holiday.[1]

The Child Poverty Act 2010 placed new statutory duties upon top tier local authorities and their named partners to prepare a joint child poverty strategy which set out the measures that the Local Authority and each partner propose to take to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their area. The government has since amended the Child Poverty Act, replacing the income targets with a duty to report on Life Chances, contained in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.

The Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy 'Building Aspiration: working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire[2]' was developed by asking partners to make organisational pledges to tackle poverty. Organisations were asked to shape their

[1] Child Poverty Action Group 2016
[2] Nottinghamshire County Council (2011) *Building Aspiration: working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire* http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childandfamilypovertystrategy0911.pdf

pledges based on a series of recommendations made in the local child poverty needs assessment[3].

The following priorities have been highlighted in the implementation of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy:

- Target localities of Nottinghamshire with greater levels of poverty to ensure outcomes in these areas are improved and children and families thrive in safe, cohesive communities and neighbourhoods.
- Increase educational attainment, employment and skills amongst children, young people and parents in Nottinghamshire; reduce dependency on welfare benefits and ensure work pays.
- Raise aspirations and improve the life chances for children and families so that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor experiences and outcomes.
- Support families to acquire the skills and knowledge to access responsive financial support services, money management, and debt crisis support.
- Support families with complex problems compounded by poverty and disadvantage.

The Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy brings together existing activity and initiatives that contribute to the overall aims of the child poverty strategy e.g. improving the educational attainment of children eligible for free school meals. The action plan attached to the strategy focuses on areas that require further partnership action, rather than focusing on existing individual agency actions.

The following table provides a list of some of the key local strategies that impact on work to tackle child poverty and improve the outcomes for children and families living in poverty:

Child Poverty Act 2010	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/9/contents
Welfare Reform and Work Act (2016)	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/7/contents/enacted
Building Aspiration: Working Together to Tackle Child and Family Poverty in Nottinghamshire (September 2011) Refreshed Oct 2014	www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/child-poverty/child-poverty-strategy
Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2017	www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/child-poverty/child-poverty-strategy
Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy Equality Impact Assessment (September 2011)	http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/equalities/egia/archivedegia/?entryid134=195854

[3] Nottinghamshire County Council (2011) *Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment* http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/learningandwork/childrenstrust/childpoverty/childpovertyservicemapping.htm

Child Poverty Data sets	www.gov.uk/government/statistics/personal-tax-credits-children-in-low-income-families-local-measure-2013-snapshot-as-at-31st-august-2013
Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment (February 2011)	www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/child-poverty/child-poverty-strategy
Nottinghamshire Family and Parenting Strategy	http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/parenting-and-family-support
Nottinghamshire Early Years Improvement Plan 2015-16	http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/plans/councilplansandpolicies/policy-library/?entryid100=407182&q=0~closing+the+gap~11026959~Children+and+Families~
Nottinghamshire Closing the Gap Strategy	http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/2414/notts-closing-the-gaps-strategy-refresh-fof-2014-16.pdf
Nottinghamshire Children, Young People and Families Plan	http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/children-young-people-and-families

Whilst rates of child poverty as measured by the Children Living in Low Income Households dataset have fallen slightly over the last 3 years, they are not falling quickly enough to significantly improve outcomes for children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

- The 2016 Social Mobility Index indicates that out of 7 districts, four are classed as Social Mobility Cold Spots, meaning that there is low social mobility in these areas. Good social mobility is a key indicator of how we are preventing poor children from becoming poor adults. In particular, Nottinghamshire rates poorly for Youth Social Mobility with a lower than average attainment at A level and a low number of young people going to top end universities.[4]There are fewer children in poverty in Nottinghamshire compared to England (18.0%) and the East Midlands (17.0%). However, Nottinghamshire's levels of child poverty are slightly higher than other East Midlands two tier authorities and also slightly higher than most of our statistical neighbours, with the exception of Kent.

- Worklessness is still a key reason why many children in Nottinghamshire are living in poverty; this may be compounded further with forthcoming welfare reforms. However, the JSNA also identifies that in-work poverty remains an issue in Nottinghamshire and emerging changes to Universal Credit may exacerbate this.

[4] The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission *The Social Mobility Index February 2016* https://**www.gov.uk**/government/publications/**social-mobility-index**

- A reduction in funding for local services has meant that they have focused more closely on targeting services to the most deprived areas. The Troubled Families programme, in particular, measures performance explicitly around reducing Child Poverty[5]. Many other services, whilst not aimed specifically at tackling Child Poverty, have performance indicators which help mitigate the effects of poverty and help prevent poor children becoming poor adults.

- The government approach to measuring Child Poverty is changing, moving away from focusing on income targets and towards measuring improved outcomes for children and young people around educational attainment, worklessness and family functioning. This requires new thinking from commissioners and service providers as to how to best align the Pupil Premium, the Troubled Families programme and the Work Programme to provide a package of universal support for those eligible for Universal Credit.

Unmet Need and Gaps

There is increasing focus in tackling child poverty on improving family functioning and enabling more parents to return to work. This has led to to the identification of the following gaps:

1. **Family and parenting support for families with children aged 5-19 with need below Level 3 of the Nottinghamshire Pathway to Provision[6].**

   There has been a reduction in parenting and family support services from the local authority and commissioned partners for those families who do not meet Level 3 of the Pathway to Provision. Generally, services are intervening when problems are more entrenched and there are higher thresholds to access to more targeted provision. However, this needs to be balanced with the fact that more schools are using Pupil Premium money to employ their own family support staff, although this does not apply to all schools. Health Visitors, GPs and Children's Centres have all retained a universal element to their family support delivery.

2. **Support for parents with couple relationships**

   There is an increasing body of evidence that suggests that couple conflict plays a major role in negative outcomes for children and young people[7]. However, currently services focus on improving children's behaviour and improving parental self- efficacy[8]

3. **Effective support for adults with mental health difficulties to return to work**

   There are a rising number of adults claiming Employment Support Allowance as a result of mental health difficulties. Whilst both the Troubled Families programme and local Work Programme have sought to engage with these adults, the rising number of ESA claimants indicates that there is still further work to be done in this area.

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[5] Nottinghamshire County Council *Family Outcomes Plan 2014*

[6] http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/pathway-to-provision

[7] http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/what-works-to-enhance-inter-parental-relationships-and-improve-outcomes-for-children

[8] Parental Self Efficacy – the belief that one will be able to perform parenting tasks successfully. Research suggests that this is associated with an increased quality of parent –child interactions, increased parental warmth and responsiveness and parental involvement with and monitoring of adolescents.

4. **Financial support for families where neither parent works**

   Changes in entitlements to welfare benefits over the next two years are likely to mean that families where neither parent works will be worse off. There is currently no local Welfare Assistance Scheme and there is likely to be increased pressure on Discretionary Housing payments going forward

5. **Local authority sites for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families.**

   There are no local authority owned and run sites for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families. This effectively means that there is no equivalent to affordable, social housing for this group. The only sites available are privately run so are the equivalent to being in the private, rented sector.

Recommendations for Consideration by Commissioners

Poverty is real but not inevitable. We can do something about it and must tackle its underlying causes. To reduce poverty, there is no single response that will succeed on its own. We need to account for the nature of jobs at the bottom end of the labour market, the cost of essential goods and services, whether people are able to reach their potential, and the choices that individuals make, as well as the way services respond.

	Recommendations	**Lead**
	Strategy and Integrated Commissioning	
1.	Consider the social mobility index rankings and identify actions to address highlighted areas and develop a coherent narrative around social mobility and life chances which informs decision making.	Nottinghamshire County Council and District Councils
2.	Review the recommendations in the Life Chances Strategy and consider how commissioners and planners will implement them locally. In particular, consideration of how to implement the recommendation by the Centre for Social Justice of how to best align the Pupil Premium, the Troubled Families programme and the Work Programme, in order to provide a package of universal support to those eligible for Universal Credit[9].	Nottinghamshire County Council, District Councils, Department for Work and Pensions
3.	Commissioners and planners should consider how to implement the new Framework for Supporting Teenage Mothers and Young Fathers[10]	Nottinghamshire County Council
4.	Active targeting of localities with higher rates of child poverty, and groups of children and families affected by the impact of child poverty.	Notts County Council, Clinical Commissioning groups, District Councils
Increasing family incomes		

[9] *Delivering a Life Chances Strategy* Centre for Social Justice March 2016
[10] Published by Public Health England and Local Government Association 2016

5.	Commissioners should consider how current adult mental health provision enables people to return to or remain in work.	Nottinghamshire County Council, CCGs
6.	Ensure that all services working with families have an element which specifically supports parents to gain and retain paid employment and build the workforce capacity to do this.	Nottinghamshire County Council and Schools
7.	Consider how economic development can help create a local safety net for low income families. In particular, exploring the role of Children's Centres in supporting parents of young children back into work, and the role of Local Government in providing, co-ordinating and publicising financial assistance and free childcare. This requires joined up commissioning to take place across Local Authority departments, not just within Children's Services.	Department for Work and Pensions, Nottinghamshire County Council, District Councils
Intelligence and improving data		
8.	Consider how existing data gaps may be filled and move to an evidence based approach to commissioning all services, particularly around Pupil Premium impact, food poverty and debt.	Nottinghamshire County Council, Districts Councils, VCS
9.	Consider developing a social mobility and life chances dataset, in order to inform commissioners and planners.	Nottinghamshire County Council, District Councils
Family Support		
10.	Commissioners should consider how to provide high quality couple relationship support through existing family support services and build the capacity of the workforce to do this.	Nottinghamshire County Council
11.	Continue to promote access to free childcare through staff signposting to families and publicity campaigns	Nottinghamshire County Council
12.	Scope the feasibility of conducting a poverty proofing pilot in Nottinghamshire schools	Nottinghamshire County Council

Full JSNA report

What do we know?

1. Who is at risk and why?

Children living in poverty are a risk of a range of poor outcomes; and likewise these outcomes can also impact on future economic status and poverty. For example, children living in poverty are less likely to do well at school, which in turn reduces their opportunity to gain meaningful employment. Breaking the cycle of poverty is therefore a priority for Nottinghamshire; and work to reduce child poverty levels and reduce the impact of poverty is critical to achieve a wide range of positive outcomes for children, their families and future generations.

National research indicates that in general:

- In the most deprived areas birthweights are on average 200g less on average than in the richest areas. Stillbirths and mortality in the first week are twice as likely in low socio-economic status (SES) groups as in high SES groups.
- Children in disadvantaged families are ten times as likely to die suddenly in infancy, 2.5 times as likely to suffer chronic illness (e.g. asthma) as a toddler, twice as likely to have cerebral palsy and over three times as likely to suffer mental disorders.
- They are also likely to have more severe forms of asthma and more likely to require hospital admissions for diabetes.
- Disadvantaged children are more likely to suffer acute infectious illnesses like pneumonia.
- Securing a successful educational start for our youngest children, and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, is crucial. It can mean the difference between gaining seven Bs at GCSE compared with seven Cs and is estimated to be worth £27,000 more in an individual's salary over the course of their career.
- Children eligible for free school meals are less likely to achieve five A-C grades at GCSE than their peers and are more likely to be excluded from school.
- Rates of teenage pregnancy are higher among communities affected by deprivation and poverty and are higher where educational attainment is lower. The poorer outcomes associated with teenage motherhood also mean the effects of deprivation and social exclusion are passed from one generation to the next. Teenage mothers and their children are less likely to do as well as their peers. Children of teenage mothers have a 63% increased risk of being born into poverty compared to babies born to mothers in their twenties and are more likely to have accidents and behavioural problems.
- By the age of three, children from poorer background will have heard on average 30 million fewer words than children in high income families. 61% of these children have no books at home.
- Children in poverty have higher rates of self-harm, and young men who experienced child poverty are twice as likely to commit suicide. If mental health inequality was erased (i.e. if mental health across the population was brought up to the level of those in the highest socio-economic groups), mental disorders in children would be reduced by 40%[11].

[11] Child Poverty Action Group website 2016

- Deprivation and social class gradient are also identified as significant risk factors for avoidable injuries in the Marmot review[12].
- Child obesity prevalence in areas with the highest level of income deprivation is almost double that of areas with the lowest level[13].
- Whilst many parents living in poverty parent their children well, living in poverty is recognised as causing high levels of stress, which may in turn impact on adult's ability to parent effectively. A recent study from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation indicates that nationally there is a need for better evidence gathering regarding the link between child abuse and neglect and poverty and how poverty impacts on the rates of child abuse and neglect[14].
- Poor parenting is associated with a number of poor health outcomes for children and young people including poor emotional health wellbeing, poor behaviour and poor diet and nutrition.
- The Minimum Income Standard is a calculation based on basket of goods and services that the public think is needed to maintain a minimum acceptable standard of living. It is updated annually by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and provides a useful way of measuring poverty in both material and income forms.
- The consumer prices index shows prices being 19% higher in 2015 than in 2008, but a minimum acceptable basket of goods and services costs over 25% more, whilst earnings have risen at around 11%.[15]
- The 2015 update indicates that families with children are at the highest risk of all low income groups of having income below the MIS[16] In addition, since 2008, the income of households on benefits have fallen substantially relative to the MIS, particularly families with children. For a lone parent of one child, benefits provide nearly 60% of the MIS compared to nearly 70% in 2008[17].
- Data from the Department of Work and Pensions shows the current risk factors nationally around employment status and family size and age of the youngest child. These indicate that those families at most risk of being in poverty are those where no adult works, there are three or more children and there are children under 5[18].

The Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Partnership published a thorough needs assessment in 2011 which identified the following groups who are most at risk of living in poverty and in need of targeted interventions across Nottinghamshire to tackle the impact of poverty. These at risk groups broadly reflect national trends in Child Poverty.

- Households dependent on out of work benefits
- Families on low-incomes
- People with low skills - these are individuals who leave school with low levels of formal attainment
- Families with parents on low pay

[12] The Marmot Review. *Fair Society. Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post-2010.* London: s.n., 2010.

[13] Public Health England (2014) 'Child Obesity and socioeconomic status data factsheet'

[14] Bywaters et al T*he Relationship between poverty, child abuse and neglect :an evidence review* Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2016

[15] Hirsch D 2015 The Cost of a Child CPAG 2015

[16] Parley, M and Hirsch D 2016 *Households below a Minimum Income Standard* 2008/9 to 2013/14 Joseph Rowntree Foundation

[17] *A Minimum Income Standard for the UK* Joseph Rowntree Foundation

[18] Department of Work and Pensions *Households Below Average Income –an analysis of income distribution 1994/95 -2013/14* June 2015

- Children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Children in lone-parent families, especially where the parent is not working.
- Families with three or more children
- Pregnant teenagers, teenage parents and their children[19]
- Children of offenders
- Families with one or more disabled adults
- Young carers
- Social housing tenants, those in properties unfit for purpose and the homeless
- Families experiencing domestic violence[20]
- Children of parents who use alcohol or substances
- Some Black & Minority Ethnic Groups including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Groups
- Young offenders
- Young people who misuse drugs and alcohol
- Looked after children and care leavers
- 16-25 year olds, especially those not in education, employment and training
- Homeless young people

2. Size of the Issue locally

2.1 Child poverty in Nottinghamshire

The national child poverty measure is defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of median income. The data is analysed and provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). National, regional, Local Authority and ward level child poverty data is published annually. The latest data for 2013 was published on in September 2015.[21]

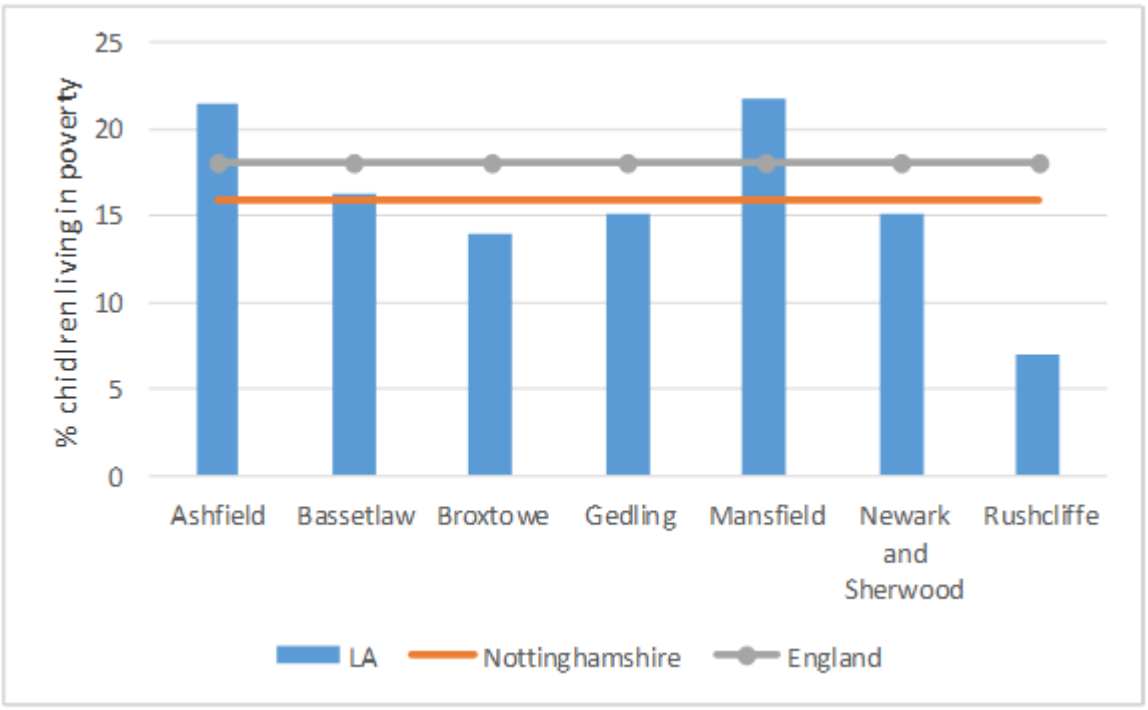
In 2013 across Nottinghamshire 26,065 children and young people aged 0-19 were identified as living in poverty, which equates to 15.9% of the 0-19 population. There are fewer children in poverty in Nottinghamshire compared to England (18.0%) and the East Midlands (17.0%).

From 2012 to 2013 there has been a 0.1% reduction in the number of children living in poverty in Nottinghamshire.

Figure 4 identifies child poverty levels for each district in comparison with the England and Nottinghamshire proportion of children living in poverty. Only Mansfield and Ashfield have higher child poverty levels than the England average.

[19] Teenage Pregnancy JSNA 2014
[20] Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence and Abuse JSNA 2014
[21] Department of Work and Pensions *Children Living in Low Income Families dataset* September 2015

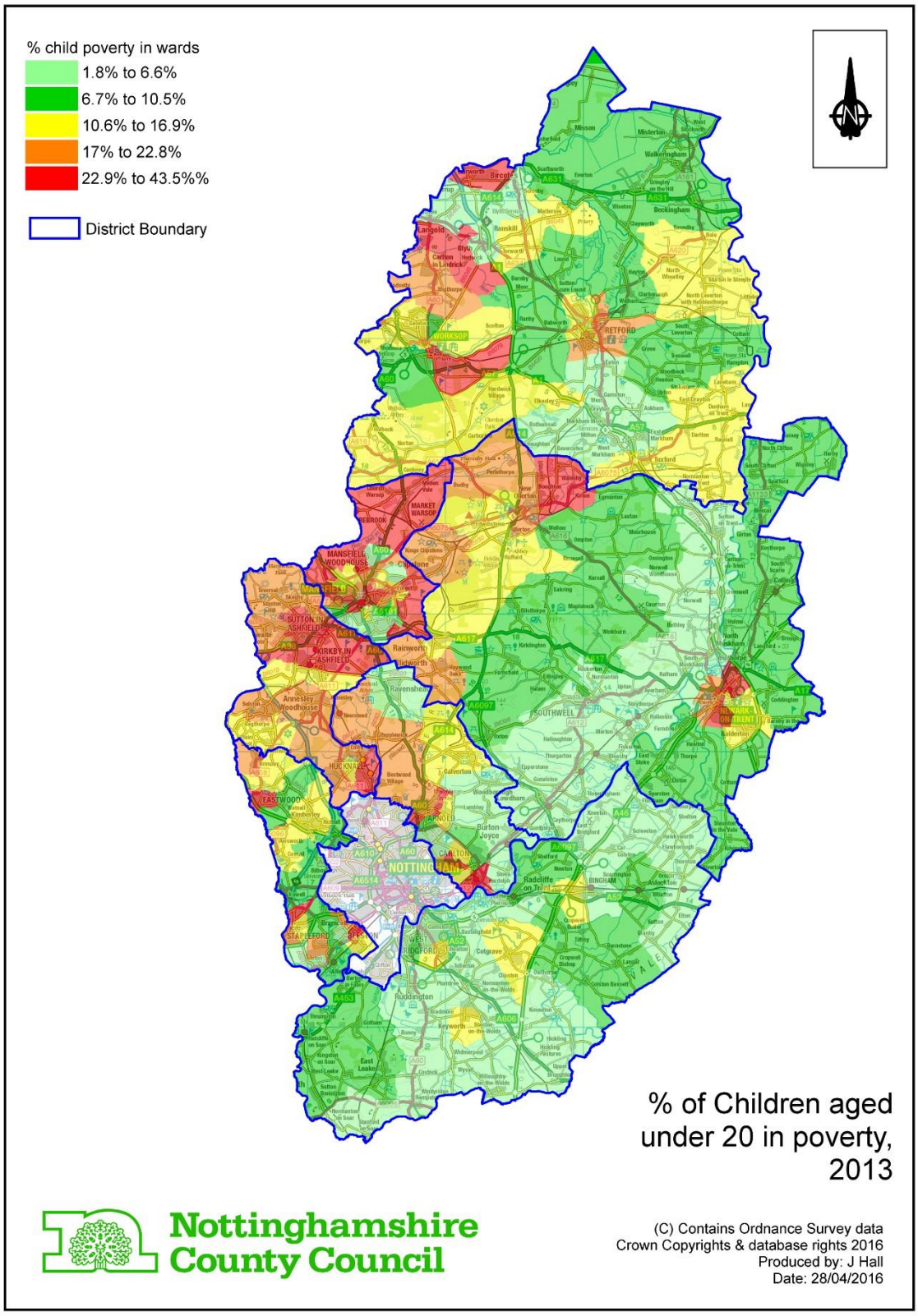
Figure 4: 2013 District child poverty levels in comparison with England and Nottinghamshire child poverty levels.



Source: Department of Work and Pensions *Children Living in Low Income Families dataset* September 2015

The spread of child poverty across Nottinghamshire is not equal with greater levels of child poverty located in central and northern districts. Ward level child poverty data indicates a number of wards which experience child poverty levels that are significantly higher than the national, regional and Nottinghamshire levels and are shown in figure 5.

Figure 5: 2013 % of children under 20 living in poverty across Nottinghamshire wards.



There are 54 wards in Nottinghamshire identified as target wards, where child poverty levels exceed the national figure of 18%. All districts, with the exception of Rushcliffe have target wards as identified below:

a. Ashfield 9 out of 15 wards
b. Bassetlaw 5 out of 25 wards
c. Broxtowe 4 out of 21 wards
d. Gedling 8 out of 22 wards
e. Mansfield 20 out of 36 wards
f. Newark and Sherwood 8 out of 25 wards
g. Rushcliffe 0 out of 28 wards

In addition to the target wards, Nottinghamshire currently has 12 child poverty hotspots, where over 30% of children live in poverty. They are:

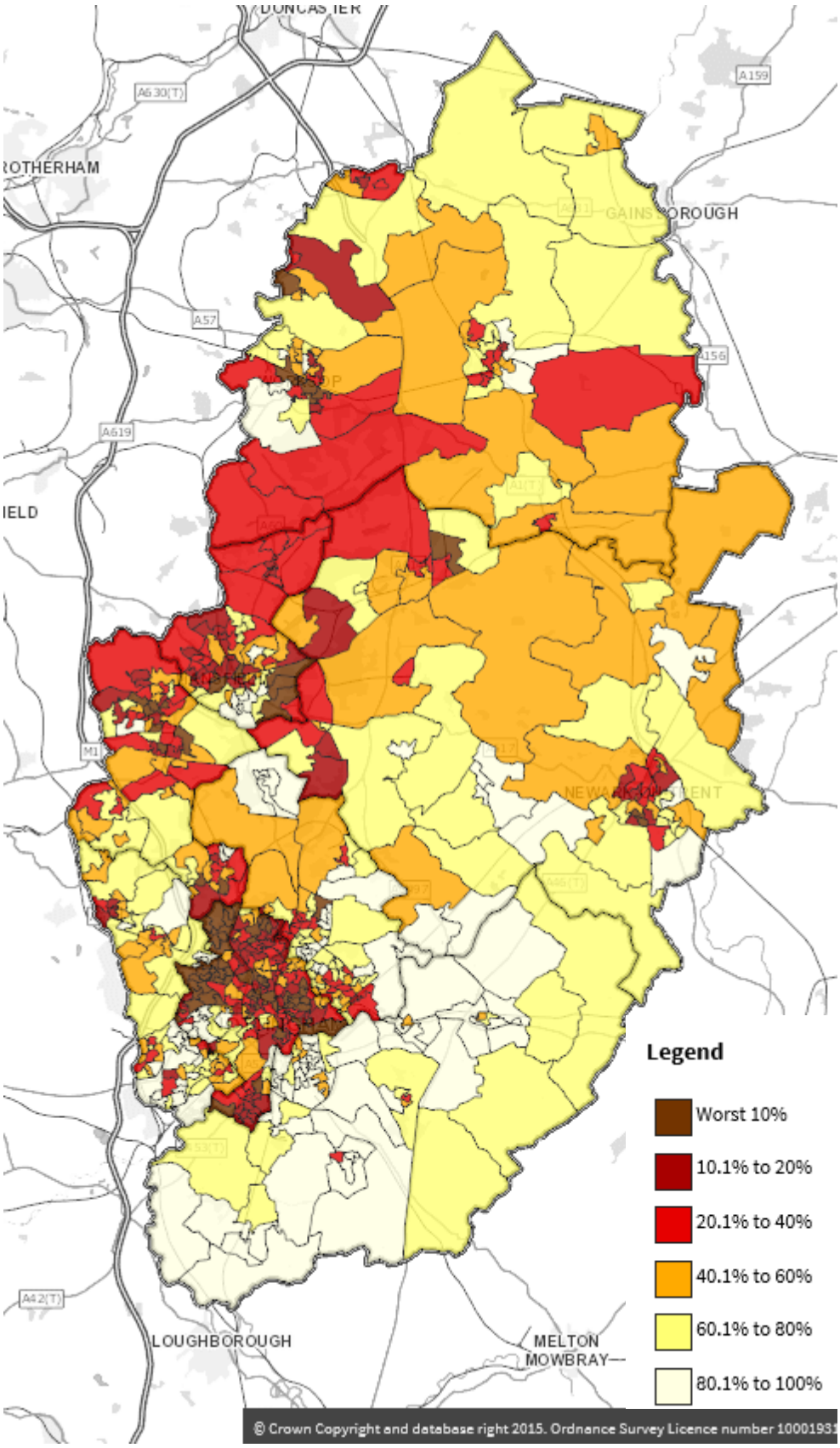
WARD	DISTRICT
Oak Tree (43.5%)	Mansfield
Carr Bank	Mansfield
Woodhouse	Mansfield
Devon	Newark and Sherwood
Kirkby in Ashfield East	Ashfield
Ransom Wood	Mansfield
Penniment	Mansfield
Killisick	Gedling
Worksop South East	Bassetlaw
Newgate	Mansfield
Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill	Mansfield
Ladybrook	Mansfield

It is interesting to note that whilst ward boundaries have changed over the past four years, the geographical area of the hotspots has remained largely the same. Oak Tree ward in Mansfield has the highest levels of child poverty across Nottinghamshire, in 2013 43.5% of children aged 0-19 were identified as living in poverty.

Detailed ward maps can be found at http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/child-poverty

The updated Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), published in September 2015, indicates that areas of high child poverty broadly match those of the highest deprivation (Figure 6). More detailed Lower Super Output area maps can be found at Nottinghamshire Insight http://www.nottinghamshireinsight.org.uk/insight/districts/nottinghamshire/indices-of-multiple-deprivation-2015.aspx

Figure 6: Nottinghamshire Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015 by Lower super output area (LSOA). Darker areas indicate higher levels of deprivation (see legend)



2.2 Worklessness

The table below indicates that children aged 10 and under are more likely to be living in out of work benefit households across Nottinghamshire.

Figure 7: Number of Children living in all Out-of-work Benefit Claimant Households by Local Authority and Age at May 2014

Local Authority	Age 0-4	Age 5-10	Age 11-15	Age 16-18	Total number of Households
Ashfield	1,960	1,840	1,190	510	2,900
Bassetlaw	1,270	1,150	830	360	1,930
Broxtowe	1,030	910	610	320	1,550
Gedling	1,150	1,020	690	340	1,770
Mansfield	1,630	1,570	980	480	2,510
Newark and Sherwood	1,190	1,090	790	360	1,810
Rushcliffe	450	460	320	170	800

Source: DWP 2015 *Children living in Out of Work Benefit Households Snapshot May 2014*

The Social Mobility Index, published by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, indicates a low overall social mobility ranking for Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood, Broxtowe and Ashfield. The Social Mobility Index is based on a number of indicators based around educational attainment and employment. (For full list of data and Nottinghamshire rankings, please see Appendix A). This shows that Broxtowe, Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield sit in the bottom 25% of local authorities in terms of social mobility.

Figure 8: Social Mobility Ranking for Nottinghamshire Districts (Social Mobility Index February 2016)

Overall ranking of LA out of 324 LADs in England where 1=best	Ranking
Rushcliffe	44
Gedling	204
Bassetlaw	230
Broxtowe	270
Ashfield	289
Newark and Sherwood	313
Mansfield	317

The Family and Childcare Trust's annual *Family Report Card* is currently the only annual assessment of how family friendly the UK is. It analyses national and local data across four different categories: financial resources; work life balance; essential services for families and

children; and infrastructure such as housing and childcare. Nottinghamshire is classed as having below average family friendliness, in particular around the level of adults skills.[22]

2.3 The impact on health and wellbeing locally

These at risk groups experience the following negative impacts as a direct result of living in poverty.

Poor physical and emotional health

In areas of high child poverty, such as Mansfield and Ashfield, significantly higher numbers of people reported being in poor or very poor health than elsewhere in the County.

There was higher infant mortality and lower life expectancy in Mansfield and Ashfield. Breastfeeding rates were noticeably higher in Rushcliffe, than more deprived areas of the County.[23]

Issues related to socio-economic deprivation across the county have a considerable influence on levels of need, with more deprived areas generally having higher risk factors for poor emotional and mental health in children and young people.

Children living in areas of high child poverty are less likely to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables per day and have lower levels of physical activity.[24] They are less likely to access regular meals and more than half a million children in the UK are now living in families who are unable to provide a minimally acceptable diet[25].

Obesity is strongly related to socioeconomic status in children and this result remains, almost entirely consistent, across a range of different socioeconomic status indicators. There is an almost linear relationship between obesity prevalence in children and the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 (IMD) decile for the area where they live. Child obesity prevalence in the most deprived tenth of local areas is almost double that in the least deprived tenth. The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) shows a similar increase in child obesity as income deprivation increases. Child poverty hot spots align with areas with greatest levels of childhood obesity.

Children in low income families are at particular risk of avoidable injuries[26].

Poor mental health outcomes in adults leading to long term unemployment

Nationally and locally, those families where no one works are at a greatest risk of living in poverty.

The number of adults claiming Jobseekers Allowance has fallen dramatically, from 16,725 in Nottinghamshire in August 2012 to 8,068 in August 2015. However, this has been mirrored by

[22] Rutter J Where are the most Family Friendly areas in England? Family and Childcare Trust 2015
[23] The People of Nottinghamshire JSNA 2015
[24] Nottinghamshire JSNA Diet and Nutrition chapter 2015
[25] Peachey, Smith and Sharma (2013), *Families in need of food parcels – the food poverty crisis unwrapped,* Essex: Barnardo's, http://www.barnardos.org.uk/families_in_need_of_food_ parcels_-_2013.pdf
[26] Nottinghamshire JSNA 'Avoidable Injuries Chapter'

an increase in adults claiming Employment and Support Allowance.[27] In Nottinghamshire there was an overall rise of claimants of ESA from 11,550 in 2012 to 28,420 in 2015, the most marked increase being in adults with mental health difficulties, where claims rose from 4,550 in August 2012 to 12,820 in August 2015. These adults tend to be the furthest away from the job market and the most vulnerable to the impact of welfare reform, making these families more likely to live in persistent poverty.

Lower skill levels leading to lower pay

Low skills are linked to less secure, lower paid employment, leading to a greater risk of poverty. There is a below average proportion of Nottinghamshire residents with high skills (NVQ4 or above) relative to the national level. Educational attainment of the workforce in the County is lower than the average for England at all levels but particularly for NVQ4 and above. Attainment is higher than the East Midlands for NVQ levels 3 and above[28].

Variation in income across the County

There is a variation across the district of gross median annual income, with Rushcliffe having the highest median income and Mansfield the lowest.[29] The areas with the lowest skill levels tend to have the lowest median income.

There is also a considerable variation between the percentages of jobs paying below the Living Wage as set by the Living Wage Foundation at £8.25 p/h. The lowest percentage is in Ashfield which is 19.9% and the highest in Mansfield at 36%.

Lower Educational attainment

Good educational attainment is strongly linked to preventing poor children from becoming poor adults and breaking the cycle of poverty.

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board produced a briefing paper of in February 2016 which compared the number of children under 5 achieving a good level of development educationally, with IMD rankings in Nottinghamshire. Their research indicates that there is a strong correlation between the lowest achieving areas and deprivation levels. There is a strong correlation between the lowest achieving areas and those not in employment, education and training at age 16.

Nottinghamshire reflects national trends in that the educational achievement of disadvantaged children is lower than their non-disadvantaged peers.

Despite some improvements in closing the gap at the end of primary and secondary education, the gap is widening for children of pre-school age when assessed against the Early Years Foundation Stage profile in Nottinghamshire. Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) are 1.3 times less likely to have a 'Good Level of Development' compared to those who are not eligible for FSM.[30] In Nottinghamshire in 2015, 41% of children eligible for FSM achieved a

[27] Employment and Support Allowance is paid to those who are unable to work due to illness or disability.
[28] The People of Nottinghamshire JSNA 2015
[29] *Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2015 Office of National Statistics*
[30] Children living in families claiming the following benefits are entitled to free school meals

- income Support
- income Based Jobseekers Allowance

good level of development compared with 68.6% who were non-FSM, a gap of 27.6. In 2014 the gap was 27.1 and in 2013 the gap was 23.7. The gap is widest in Rushcliffe, an area rated as having high social mobility.

It is notable that since the last Child Poverty JSNA chapter was written, the educational attainment gap at Key Stage 4 has narrowed in all the districts, except Broxtowe, where the gap has remained the same; and Rushcliffe continues to have the widest gap. Nottinghamshire's overall score on the Social Mobility Index for educational attainment remains low compared to other top tier local authorities.

Children eligible for FSM are more likely to be excluded from school than non-free school meals pupils. It is particularly notable that whilst permanent exclusions for non-FSM children fell between 2012 -2014, there was a rise in the number of permanent exclusions for those eligible for FSM.

Pupils eligible for FSM also had higher rates of unauthorised absence compared to non-FSM children.

Housing Issues

The 2014 Homeless Watch survey indicated that on the day of the survey 178 children were presented as homeless. Of those, 47% were from Nottinghamshire and 44% were children under 5. 26% of the total number presenting as homeless cited fleeing domestic violence as the reason for their situation.[31]

Home ownership across Nottinghamshire is relatively stable with between 60-70% of families with children owning their own home.

Data for families waiting for Local Authority housing is not available locally.
In addition, children who live in the following accommodation are potentially at more risk of avoidable injuries (this includes multiple occupied housing; social and privately rented housing; temporary accommodation and high rise)[32].

There are no local authority owned and run sites for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families in Nottinghamshire. This effectively means that there is no equivalent to affordable, social housing for this group. The only sites available are privately run so are the equivalent to being in the private, rented sector.

Debt

There is insufficient local data available to measure the impact of debt in Nottinghamshire.

- an income-related employment and support allowance
- support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190

[31] Housing JSNA
[32] NICE. (2010). New NICE guidance to reduce number of child injuries and deaths http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/pressreleases/preventingunintentionalinjuriesunder15s.jsp

National data from the Bank of England indicates that levels of unsecured personal debt are rising, however, there is currently a gap around data locally.

Local data indicates that debt relief orders and bankruptcies have either remained static or decreased. However, benefits and debt issues generated the highest number of Nottinghamshire CAB enquiries across all districts in 2014. It is also worth noting that the highest proportion of enquiries about benefits were related to Employment and Support Allowance.

Safeguarding and Family Support

Good family functioning and high quality family support are recognised as mitigating the effects of poverty and preventing poor children from becoming poor adults.

The highest number of children on Child Protection plans live in Mansfield and Ashfield, which also has the highest number of Early Help referrals. The highest number of requests for support are around parenting and child behaviour.

There is a strong correlation between the lowest achieving areas and domestic violence. 75% of children living in households where there is domestic violence are likely to witness these incidents.[33]

The highest proportions of lone parents live in Mansfield (15.96%), Ashfield (13.73%), Bassetlaw (13.17%) and Gedling (13.09%). The lowest proportion lives in Rushcliffe (9.35%).

Issues related to socio-economic deprivation across the county have a considerable influence on levels of need, with more deprived areas generally having higher risk factors for poor emotional and mental health in children and young people.

Teenage parents are most likely to live in areas of greatest deprivation; teenage conception hot spots are comparable with child poverty hot spots across Nottinghamshire, with highest rates in Mansfield.

Crime and anti-social behaviour hot spot wards correlate in the main with child poverty target wards across Nottinghamshire. The public perception of parents taking enough responsibility for the behaviour of their children also generally shows a relationship with the county's picture of deprivation.

3. Targets and Performance

Central Government has moved away from the target to reduce child poverty to 10% by 2020 and will instead measure children's life chances, rather than simply income levels. The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 states that children's life chances will be measured in the following way:

- Number of children living in workless households
- Number of children living in long term workless households
- The educational attainment of children at Key Stage 4

[33] Domestic Violence JSNA 2014

- The educational attainment of disadvantaged children at Key Stage 4.

The government is soon to publish its Life Chances Strategy, which means that there are likely to be wider targets around family breakdown, debt and addiction which we will work towards.

There is a local Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan in place. The action plan seeks to identify where further partnership action is required to tackle Child Poverty, rather than identifying actions that individual agencies are already taking. It is divided into three areas:

a) mitigating the effects of poverty,
b) lifting families out of poverty
c) preventing poor children becoming poor adults

Key actions include supporting the development of credit unions, rolling out Child Poverty awareness training for frontline staff and supporting family's money management skills. The action plan is regularly reviewed and updated by the Child Poverty Reference group.

There are a number of other strategies and commissioning plans that also contribute to the child poverty strategy. These strategies include their own targets which are linked to this work.

Closely linked to the Child Poverty Strategy is the Closing the Gap Strategy, which seeks to narrow the educational attainment gap between children on free school meals and those not on free school meals, a key indicator in terms of preventing poor children becoming poor adults. Actions include developing new ways of working at a locality level to raise attainment and supporting a whole systems approach to planning and commissioning.

Qualitative research with children and young people living in low income areas is being undertaken, to develop a greater understanding of how services make a difference to children and young people's lives.

Finally, the Nottinghamshire Family and Parenting Strategy seeks to develop a more multi-agency, co-ordinated approach to supporting families and parents. Family and parenting support is widely recognised as a key factor in mitigating the effects of poverty and building resilience in children and young people.

4. Current Activity and Service Provision

There are no dedicated services established to focus on child poverty as activity is embedded within the work of Nottinghamshire County Council, Health partners, Children's Centres, District Councils, Police, Probation, Jobcentre Plus as well as the Voluntary and Community Sector including Citizens Advice Bureau and Credit Unions.

Children's Centres and the Troubled Families programme in particular have a focus on low income households, and measure performance explicitly around reducing Child Poverty[34]. Combined they offer an integrated Family Services for the most disadvantaged families and those facing a number of poor outcomes. The Nottinghamshire Family Service provides support for parents to go back to work and support with budget management.

The majority of parenting support provided by the local authority and partners focuses on improving children's behaviour, improving parental efficacy and promoting strong early

[34] Nottinghamshire County Council *Family Outcomes Plan (2015)*

attachment between mothers and children. However, recent research from the Early Intervention Foundation indicates that it is conflict between couples which has the biggest negative impact on outcomes for children and young people[35].

A reduction in funding for family support services has meant that commissioners and services have focused more closely on targeting services to the most deprived areas. Many other services, whilst not aimed specifically at tackling Child Poverty, have performance indicators which help mitigate the effects of poverty and help prevent poor children becoming poor adults.

It is recognised that early intervention is effective in mitigating the effects of poverty and lifting families out of poverty, however, families need to have a higher level of need to be eligible for a number of services, the interventions are generally shorter and those services which are available to support families at a lower level are often based on school decisions about Pupil Premium spending or the capacity of the local voluntary sector to fill the gaps.

"In 2010, £3.2 billion was allocated by central government for local authority early intervention services. By comparison, the early intervention allocation for 2019-20 will be £939 million, a cut of £2.3 billion. This is a real terms reduction of 71% for early intervention services between 2010-11 and 2019-20"[36].

Countervailing this, since 2011 the government has introduced the Pupil Premium and in 2014, the Early Years Pupil Premium. These are monies allocated directly to schools and early year's settings to support the most disadvantaged children. Commissioners are planners are unable to gather factual local intelligence regarding how pupil premium is spent in all schools, in particular Academy schools.

It should be also noted, that there has been a reduction in outreach support for parents to go back to work from Jobcentre Plus in Children's Centres.

Local examples of provision

4.1 Early Years Improvement Plan

It is widely recognised that intervening early is key to improving outcomes for children and young people and the Early Years Improvement Plan lays a number of key measures which tackle child poverty including improving school readiness. Raising educational attainment in the early years has also been a focus of activity over the past four years, with the local authority conducting a county wide campaign to encourage parents of disadvantaged 2 year old children to take up their entitlement to 15 hours free early education per week. The key aim of this work is to ensure the most disadvantaged children receive opportunities to enable them to have the best start in life.[37]

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35 http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/what-works-to-enhance-inter-parental-relationships-and-improve-outcomes-for-children-

36 Action for Children, National Children's Bureau , Children's Society *Losing in the long run – trends in Early Intervention Funding* March 2016

37 2 year olds in families in receipt of the following benefits are eligible: Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax, the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit, support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit). They are also eligible if: they're looked after by a local council, they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan, they get Disability Living Allowance , they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order.

Figure 8: Nottinghamshire's take up of free childcare for eligible disadvantaged two year olds, spring 2015

District	2 Year Take up Rate (Spring Term 2015)
Ashfield	52%
Bassetlaw	61%
Broxtowe	66%
Gedling	81%
Mansfield	65%
Newark & Sherwood	50%
Rushcliffe	99%

Three and four year olds in working households are currently eligible for 15 hours of free childcare; the key aim of this national initiative is to support parents to increase their hours of employment by reducing the barrier of having to access expensive childcare provision. This is due to be rolled out in September 2017.

Figure 9: Nottinghamshire's take up of free childcare for eligible three and four year olds in working households, spring 2015

District	3 - 4 Year Take up Rate (Spring Term 2015)
Ashfield	97%
Bassetlaw	95%
Broxtowe	91%
Gedling	89%
Mansfield	95%
Newark & Sherwood	98%
Rushcliffe	101%

4.2 Family Nurse Partnership

Another example of activity which supports the Child Poverty Strategy vision is the Family Nurse Partnership. The work is highlighted within a pledge from Public Health who have commissioned the work. The Family Nurse Partnership is an intensive evidence based preventive programme for vulnerable, first time young parents that begins in early pregnancy and ends when the child reaches two years old. The programme goals are to improve antenatal health, child health and development and parents' economic self-sufficiency. The Family Nurse Partnership is known to improve the following outcomes:

- improvements in antenatal health
- reductions in children's injuries, neglect and abuse
- improved parenting practices and behaviour
- fewer subsequent pregnancies and greater intervals between births

- improved early language development, school readiness and academic achievement
- increased maternal employment and reduced welfare use
- increases in fathers' involvement

4.3 Children Centre Services

Children's Centre Services provide a core offer of childcare, early education, health and family support services for families with children up to the age of five years. They aim to tackle child poverty and social exclusion by working with parents to be, parents, carers and children to promote physical, intellectual and social development of babies and young children so they have the best start in life.

An example of one of their activities was delivered by Broxtowe Children's Centres in April 2016 through their "Holiday Kitchen" initiative. For many vulnerable and low-income families' nursery and school holiday periods are a time of stress and indebtedness. They make up at least 13 weeks, or 25 percent, of the year. For these families, the opportunity gaps regarding nutrition, learning, financial security and play are most pronounced during holidays. In addition to poor nutrition, social isolation, emotional, financial and family stress can undermine children's school readiness, cognitive functioning, well-being and social integration.

Based on a simple formula of *Holiday learning, food and play for families who need it,* Holiday Kitchen works to complement government investments to meet Child Poverty commitments laid out in the 2010 Child Poverty Act. It does this by providing a structured programme of meals and activities for children during the educational holidays.

Holiday Kitchen recognises that a nutritious diet and continued learning opportunities are cornerstones upon which wider education and wellbeing outcomes are built.

On this basis it provides positive family-focused learning, food and play activities during school holidays that aim to improve children's wellbeing, educational opportunities and life-chances. More explicitly it is committed to pursuing positive outcomes in three key objective areas:

a) **Improved social inclusion and aspiration** - related outcomes include improved school readiness and reduced opportunity gaps for social participation.

b) **Improved family nutrition and wellbeing** - related outcomes include reduced food poverty, obesity and poor mental health.

c) **Reduced financial and emotional strain** - related outcomes include reduced debt, social services referrals and safeguarding risks.

There is strong evidence from the evaluations that the short term aims of 'Improved opportunities for family bonding and learning outside the home' and 'improved social inclusion' were achieved, specifically through the shared meal times and the opportunities for meeting and talking to other families. There is also clear evidence that the short term aims of 'reduced financial strain' and 'reduced family indebtedness' were realised through the provision of breakfast, lunch and the free activities for the children.

From the evaluations it is clear that further opportunities to take part in future Holiday Kitchens would also alleviate financial strain, albeit in the short term again. There was evidence that the medium term goal for parents of 'Improved family knowledge of nutrition/fitness/well-being' was met through the focus on healthy food and activities.

Similarly 'Improved parental mental well-being' was frequently alluded to in the adults' Evaluations, particularly the comment from one dad who said *"It has given me some drive and a new found sense of worth and that I can perhaps contribute to society, and not allowed my depression to be all encompassing".*

4.4 Voluntary and Community Sector Services

There is also increased activity in the voluntary and community sector specifically focussed on tackling poverty. Local churches, through organisations such as Together for Nottinghamshire are providing budgeting courses, support for homeless families and are supporting the roll out of credit unions in school, through the Lifesavers project.

Home Start Schemes across Nottinghamshire monitor parents' confidence with managing household budgets, as well supporting families to access debt and money management support services.

Another key voluntary sector organisation is the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), which provides high quality information and advice to families, particularly around debt, housing and benefit entitlement.

4.5 Credit Unions

In terms of financial inclusion[38], Credit Unions have been shown to provide a number of financial services to low income families at an affordable cost. Nottinghamshire currently has two credit unions covering the County

Nationally, resources have been invested in tackling loan sharks, with a dedicated team based within Trading Standards pursuing a successful strategy in prosecuting offenders. Work has been done in Nottinghamshire to raise the profile of the team and to encourage higher reporting of illegal money lending activity.

5. Evidence of what works

There is a wealth of information identifying routes out of poverty and improving outcomes for the most disadvantaged children and families.

Nottinghamshire has produced a summary of evidence of what works to lift children and families out of poverty, as well as what works to mitigate against the effects of poverty. This information has been used by partners to help shape their contributions to the local strategy. The literature review summary is available from www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty.

Examples included in the review:

- Work is the most important route out of poverty for working-age people, but not a guaranteed one. For some economically inactive people, especially severely disabled people, paid employment is not a realistic option. In these cases, increases in social security benefits could be the most important ladder out of poverty.

[38] Financial inclusion or inclusive financing is the delivery of financial services at affordable costs to sections of disadvantaged and low-income segments of society, in contrast to financial exclusion where those services are not available or affordable.

- Success in education and training is an increasingly important route out of poverty for young people, but there is evidence of increasing polarisation between those who stay on and gain qualifications and those who do not.
- Maintenance payments can be a ladder out of poverty and into work (by acting as a wage supplement) if they are regular and not offset by falls in benefit.
- Basic benefits need to provide an adequate foundation for improvement in families' lives, enabling them to avoid hardship and debt.
- Interventions that target children and their families through birth to the age of five are important in ensuring that families are supported early to enable the improvement of children's life chances.
- Schools and other stakeholders such as Children Centres could be doing more to raise the aspirations of parents to improve the attainment of poorer children.
- Good parenting can help mitigate the effects of poverty and help prevent poor children from becoming poor adults
- The cost of the school day is significant for low income families and costs can create barriers to participation and negative experiences for children and young people.[39]. Pilots run in the North East, Glasgow and North Lincolnshire indicate that schools which used a poverty proofing audit tool were able to identify and implement small , no cost changes , such as improving communication with parents about financial support, which helped remove or mitigate these barriers. Schools also reported an increased awareness of the issues facing poor families. [40]

6. What is on the horizon?

Projected service use and outcomes in 3-5 years and 5-10 years

6.1 Welfare Reforms

In the next five to ten years, the most significant change will be the full roll out of Universal Credit, now scheduled to be completed in 2021. So far, Universal Credit has had little impact on families as its rollout in Nottinghamshire has largely been restricted to single people and people without children. However, the government aims to achieve £12 billion pounds of savings on welfare and has indicated that it will seek to make some of those savings through Universal Credit, rather than reductions in tax credits.

There are also likely to be changes to families incomes through the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016, which introduces a number of changes to benefit entitlement; the impact of which is likely to fall most heavily on those who are out of work, have three or more children and those with very young children.

In work poverty still remains an issue with significant sectors of the local economy in some districts paying wages below the Living Wage. A number of recent studies have indicated that the reforms in the Welfare Reform and Work Act are likely to increase the number of children living in income poverty. Whilst proposed reductions to tax credits have not been progressed, it would appear that these savings are now being made through changes to Universal Credit.

[39] At What Cost- exposing the impact of poverty on school life – Children's Society 2014
[40] The Cost of the School Day – CPAG Scotland 2015

From April 2016, a four year freeze on working age benefits was introduced.[41] This is significant as the income of families on out of work benefits already falls below the Minimum Income Standard, with a freeze on benefits, it is likely to fall further.

The ability to backdate new claims for Housing Benefit will be limited to a period of four weeks down from the current limit of three months.

From April 2017, there will be an extension of parental responsibility before benefits can be paid[42]; and new claims for Employment and Support Allowance will no longer support the extra financial cost of disability.

The benefits cap will be reduced to £20,000 for Nottinghamshire, due to the lower levels of rent in Nottinghamshire, this will impact mainly on families with 3 or more children. These families will then be dependent on discretionary housing payments, but there is no guarantee that they will be able to cover the shortfall.

6.2 Family Income

Countervailing the welfare reforms is the introduction of National Living Wage in April 2016 which means that workers on minimum wage will be paid 50p per hour extra than at present at a rate of £7.20 p/h. A recent report identifies Mansfield as one the areas that is likely to benefit most from its introduction, with an estimated 31% of workers expected to receive a pay rise[43].

However, there are a number of important caveats to this. Firstly, the National Living Wage is set £7.20 p/h, however, the Living Wage Foundation suggests that it should be £8.25 ph., based on the Minimum Income Standard. In 2015, the minimum income standard for a couple with two children aged under 11 was £36,079.

Secondly, the National Living Wage will have no benefit for those on modest incomes, but paid above the minimum wage, those who are under 25, or those who are out of work.

There is also evidence to suggest that for a couple both earning the national Living Wage to achieve the minimum income for an acceptable standard of living, both parents need to be working full-time. This does not fit the current model of family functioning, where either one parent works full time and the other part time or one parent does not work at all.

From September 2017, 30 hours free childcare for parents working more than 16 hours per week will be available. This will be a key enabler for parents to return to work as it removes the cost of childcare as a barrier to employment

6.3 Life Chances Strategy

The government has also committed to publishing a Life Chances Strategy. Whilst the detail around this is just emerging, it is clear that supporting family functioning and promoting good parenting will form a central part of the strategy and a wider group of parents will be

[41] Working age benefits include Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Child Benefit and Housing Benefit.

[42] These include: a requirement to attend a work focused interview when the youngest child reaches one, a requirement to carry out work preparation when the youngest child reaches two and a requirement to find work once the child reaches three

[43] Resolution Foundation March 2016

encouraged to seek support. It is potentially significant for a number of reasons. Firstly, it may be a universal offer, based on the principle that all parents may benefit from support, not just the most vulnerable. This may be helpful in de-stigmatising parenting support and encouraging vulnerable families to access it where appropriate. Secondly, it explicitly links parenting support to tackling child poverty.

The government has abolished the income based targets around reducing child poverty and replaced them with outcomes based targets around educational attainment and worklessness. However, it will still continue to publish annual datasets that measure income poverty.

All the changes outlined above have the potential to place more pressure on services, during a time of decreasing resource. Whilst the support back to work in the form of free childcare is very welcome, there will be a number of challenges for the local authority in growing the early year's sector sufficiently, so demand does not outstrip supply.

7. Local Views

Since 2014, the Child Poverty Reference group has rolled out a series of child poverty awareness workshops. These workshops area aimed at frontline staff working with families and have been attended by staff from across the County Council and partner agencies, both in the statutory and voluntary sectors. To date, approximately 300 staff have attended the workshops. This has allowed Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Partnership to gather service provider views of the nature and extent of poverty in Nottinghamshire. Service providers reported seeing the effects of poverty in the families that they are working with. The impact of domestic violence was highlighted as a particular issue, as was the need for support for families with budgeting and managing finances. The general perception of service providers was that resources to support families living in poverty had been significantly reduced and some service providers saw a need for a more advocacy style approach to be used when working with families.

Service providers were concerned about the short term nature of the support being offered to families and schools in particular felt that there were gaps in family support, particularly around families with levels of need below Level 3 on the Pathway to Provision. Finally, service providers felt that the opportunities to network and to keep up to date with service provision had been reduced and that this was hampering their ability to support families effectively.

Service providers also highlighted an issue of inter-generational worklessness, with many citing the fact that they came into regular contact with these families. This is interesting in that national evidence seems to suggest that the majority of families where no one has ever worked tended to live in London or were headed up by a single adult living in the house.

What does this tell us?

8. Unmet needs and service gaps

There is increasing focus in tackling child poverty on improving family functioning and enabling more parents to return to work. This has led to to the identification of the following gaps:

Family and parenting support for families with children aged 5-19 with need below Level 3 of the Nottinghamshire Pathway to Provision[44].

There has been a reduction in parenting and family support services from the local authority and commissioned partners for those families who do not meet Level 3 of the Pathway to Provision. Generally, services are intervening when problems are more entrenched and there are higher thresholds to access to more targeted provision. However, this needs to be balanced with the fact that more schools are using Pupil Premium money to employ their own family support staff, although this does not apply to all schools. Health Visitors, GPs and Children's Centres have all retained a universal element to their family support delivery.

Support for parents with couple relationships

There is an increasing body of evidence that suggests that couple conflict plays a major role in negative outcomes for children and young people[45]. However, currently services focus on improving children's behaviour and improving parental self- efficacy[46]

Effective support for adults with mental health difficulties to return to work

There are a rising number of adults claiming Employment Support Allowance as a result of mental health difficulties. Whilst both the Troubled Families programme and local Work Programme have sought to engage with these adults, the rising number of ESA claimants indicates that there is still further work to be done in this area.

Financial support for families where neither parent works

Changes in entitlements to welfare benefits over the next two years are likely to mean that families where neither parent works will be worse off. There is currently no local Welfare Assistance Scheme and there is likely to be increased pressure on Discretionary Housing payments going forward

Local authority sites for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families.

There are no local authority owned and run sites for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families. This effectively means that there is no equivalent to affordable, social housing for this group. The only sites available are privately run so are the equivalent to being in the private, rented sector.

9. Knowledge Gaps

It is interesting to note that some of the data gaps identified in the 2011 Child Poverty Needs Assessment are still to be addressed. In particular it has been hard to get a clear local picture

[44] http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/pathway-to-provision

[45] http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/what-works-to-enhance-inter-parental-relationships-and-improve-outcomes-for-children

[46] Parental Self Efficacy – the belief that one will be able to perform parenting tasks successfully. Research suggests that this is associated with an increased quality of parent –child interactions, increased parental warmth and responsiveness and parental involvement with and monitoring of adolescents.

of housing need and levels of personal debt. In undertaking this work, it has become apparent that there is less capacity across the board to collect data and analyse it.

The Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Partnership also needs to:

- Understand better the nature and extent of food poverty in Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire has seen an increase in the number of food banks, which are run by volunteers. Local data indicates that there has been a 50% growth in food banks over the past three years, with there now being more than 30 across the County. This corresponds with a threefold increase in demand for food parcels. This work has already begun with detailed research undertaken in North Nottinghamshire, but needs to be extended across the County and have a specific focus on children and families[47].

- Identify data around the number of people working on zero hours contracts.

- Which information and advice services are available for families and what they are being asked to advise on?

- Recognise and understand the extent of inter-generational worklessness in Nottinghamshire and what the makeup of workless households is.

- Gain a better understanding of why the Early Years educational attainment gap is widening.

- Gain a better understanding of the local impact of Early Years Pupil Premium and school age Pupil Premium

- Gain a better understanding the link between parenting and poverty and poverty and child abuse and neglect. This was also identified in last needs assessment.

- Have a clear picture of who is entitled to free school meals and how many parents are claiming their entitlement.

- Understand more about the impact of universal free school meals for children under 8 years old.

- Gain a clear picture of the nature and extent of support for couple relationships in the County to prevent relationship breakdown of parents and financial instability

[47] Bentley et al *Food Bank provision for families in North Nottinghamshire* , Sheffield Hallam University March 2015

What should we do next?

10. Recommendations for consideration by commissioners

	Recommendations	Lead
Strategy and Integrated Commissioning		
1.	Consider the social mobility index rankings and identify actions to address highlighted areas and develop a coherent narrative around social mobility and life chances which informs decision making.	Nottinghamshire County Council and District Councils
2.	Review the recommendations in the Life Chances Strategy and consider how commissioners and planners will implement them locally. In particular, consideration of how to implement the recommendation by the Centre for Social Justice of how to best align the Pupil Premium, the Troubled Families programme and the Work Programme, in order to provide a package of universal support to those eligible for Universal Credit[48].	Nottinghamshire County Council, District Councils, Department for Work and Pensions
3.	Active targeting of localities with higher rates of child poverty, and groups of children and families affected by the impact of child poverty.	Nottinghamshire County Council, Clinical Commissioning groups (CCG's) District Councils
Increasing family incomes		
4.	Commissioners should consider how current adult mental health provision enables people to return to or remain in work.	Nottinghamshire County Council, CCGs
5.	Ensure that all services working with families have an element which specifically supports parents to gain and retain paid employment and build the workforce capacity to do this.	Nottinghamshire County Council and Schools
6.	Consider how economic development can help create a local safety net for low income families. In particular, exploring the role of Children's Centres in supporting parents of young children back into work, and the role of Local Government in providing, co-ordinating and publicising financial assistance and free childcare. This requires joined up commissioning to take place across Local Authority departments, not just within Children's Services.	Department for Work and Pensions, Nottinghamshire County Council, District Councils
Intelligence and improving data		
8.	Consider how existing data gaps may be filled and move to an evidence based approach to commissioning all services.	Nottinghamshire County Council, Districts Councils

[48] *Delivering a Life Chances Strategy* Centre for Social Justice March 2016

9.	Consider developing a social mobility and life chances dataset in order to inform commissioners and planners.	Nottinghamshire County Council, District Councils
Family Support		
10.	Commissioners should consider how to provide high quality couple relationship support through existing family support services and build the capacity of the workforce to do this.	Nottinghamshire County Council
11.	Continue to promote access to free childcare through staff signposting to families and publicity campaigns	Nottinghamshire County Council
12.	Scope the feasibility of conducting a poverty proofing pilot in Nottinghamshire schools	Nottinghamshire County Council