

Child poverty and family wellbeing needs assessment update

November 2015

Introduction

This document provides an update to the Child poverty and family wellbeing needs assessment 2014 on key child poverty measures.

Child poverty in Hackney

Despite demographic changes Hackney has high rates of relative child poverty according to the official measure although there has been a reduction in recent years.¹ In 2013 the rate in Hackney was 28% leaving Hackney with the fourth highest rate of child poverty in London, alongside Camden, and below Westminster (30%), Islington (33%) and Tower Hamlets (36%). This was above the London rate (22%) and the England rate (18%).

Children living in relative poverty after housing costs

The official definition of child poverty is based on a measure **before** housing costs have been deducted. Commentators point out that the official definition lowers child poverty rates in areas like London. This is due to the high cost of accommodation and the resultant high level of housing benefit received, which artificially boosts income.

The End Child Poverty Campaign uses a measure for estimating child poverty based on disposable income **after** housing costs have been deducted. The Hackney rate for children living in poverty stood at 41% in 2013. This is the second highest rate in the country and in London after Tower Hamlets (49%) and on a level with Newham (also 41%).²

Please see the link below for more information on the definitions of child poverty.

[Definitions child poverty.pdf](#)

Deprivation in Hackney

Overall Hackney is the 11th most deprived local authority³ in England (of 326 local authorities) in the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). However, this is an improvement on the 2010 IMD where Hackney was ranked as the most deprived local authority. Hackney has seen the largest percentage point decrease in the proportion of neighbourhoods classified as highly deprived of any local authority in England, from 42% (2010) to 17% (2015).

Trends in child poverty

Since 2007 Hackney's relative child poverty has been falling. We have seen a reduction of 21 percentage points from 49% to 28% between 2007 and 2013. Hackney has had the second highest reduction out of all of our statistical neighbours – behind

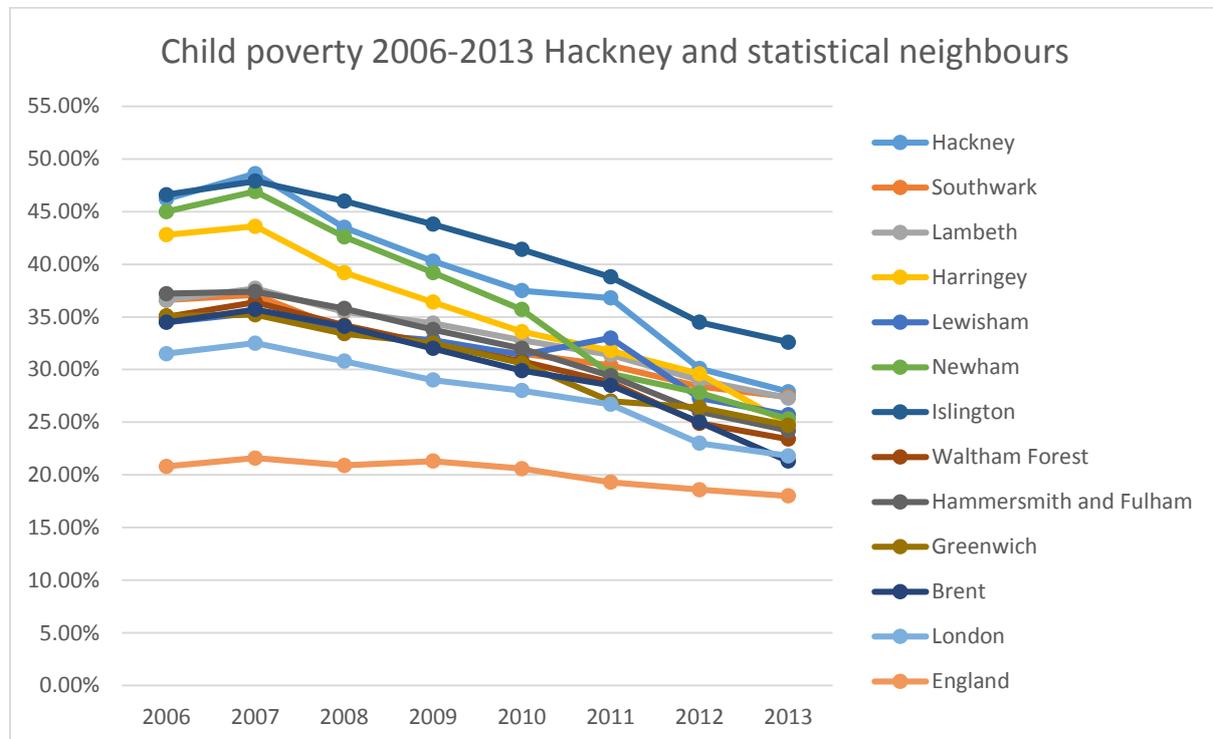
¹ HMRC Official measure: The percentage of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits where reported incomes are below 60% of the national median income (before housing costs).

² End Child Poverty Campaign, Child Poverty Map of the UK, October 2014

³ Using the rank of the extent summary nature of deprivation

Newham where child poverty has fallen from 47% to 25% (a reduction of 22 percentage points).

The graph below shows the similar pattern of reduction for Hackney’s statistical neighbours.



HMRC child poverty data 2006-2013

Reasons for the reduction

The Institute for Fiscal Studies⁴ reported that the reduction in relative child poverty rates did not reflect increases in the real incomes of low income households with children, but was driven instead by the reduction in median income, and hence the relative poverty rate.

Analysis of local data between the 2001 and 2011 census suggests this is also true in Hackney – falling median income combined with increases to benefits and tax credits rather than increased employment drove the child poverty rate down.

In-work poverty in Hackney up to 2012

Although the majority of households who come within the child poverty definition in Hackney are on out of work benefits, the majority of the shift in child poverty rates up to 2012 was within families in work and in receipt of tax credits.

Analyses of census data showed similar rates of change in population between the wards with the highest reduction in child poverty rates and the wards with the lowest reduction which pointed to another reason for the change.

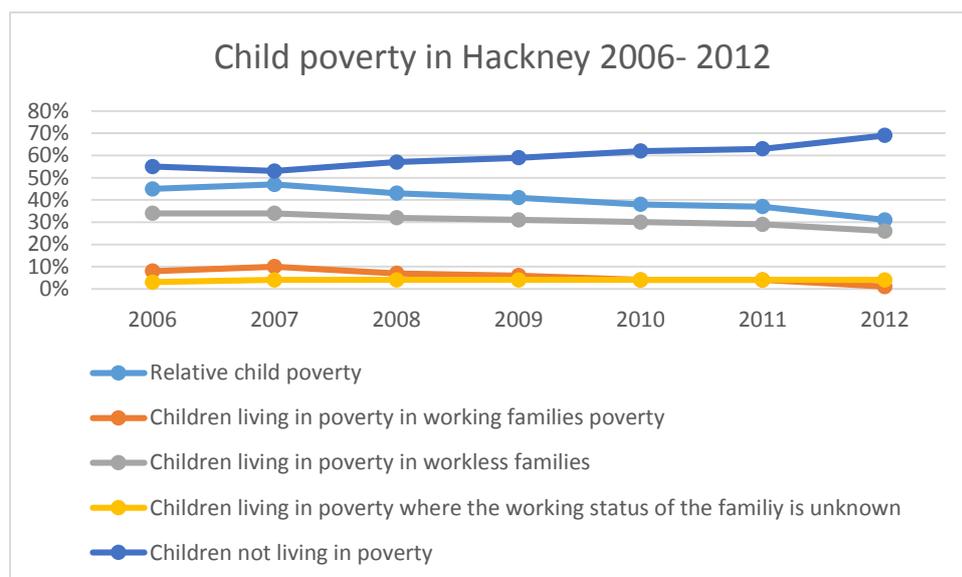
The four wards (New River, Lordship, Cazenove and Springfield) with the highest reduction, had between a 60 and 70% change in child poverty for children in families

⁴ Living standards, poverty and equality in the UK:2012

receiving Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit with an income < 60 median income.

As these families would have been in low paid work, with the addition of child tax credit and working tax credit, it is likely that they were close to the median income figure and as this fell (In 2010-11- median income fell by 3.1% from £432 per week to £419 per week) they no longer met the poverty definition.

The graph below shows the percentage of children in poverty in working households has reduced from 4% to 1% between 2006 and 2012.



HMRC child poverty data 2012

Although median income remained static from 2011/12 to 2012/13 following two years of decrease, there was a further reduction in relative child poverty from 37% to 30% during this period. Although reform of welfare benefits had started, some benefits including Child Tax Credit were being uprated by more than the 2012/13 RPI inflation rate, which would mean an increase in income for certain families, for example, those in receipt of Child Tax Credit.

In-work poverty in Hackney from 2012 to 2013

In Hackney relative child poverty has fallen again from 30% in 2012 to 28% in 2013. Unlike between 2011 and 2012, the reduction in child poverty rates is within workless families. However there has been a slight increase of children living in poverty where the working status of the family is unknown⁵.

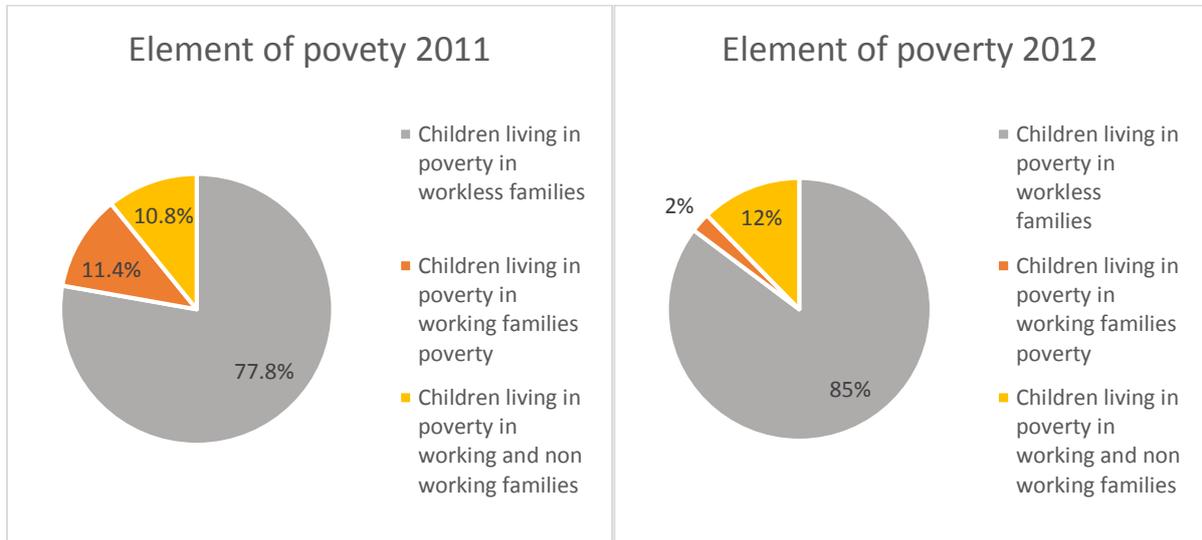
The number of children in working families in poverty has increased slightly, although the percentage has remained stable due to an increase in the total number of children in the borough. This is in line with national trends.

The changes could be a result of changes in family employment as well as the changing demographic in Hackney. This does not change the prediction that changes

⁵ Families migrating from receiving their child allowance through Child Tax Credit instead of Income Support may have moved from one category to the other

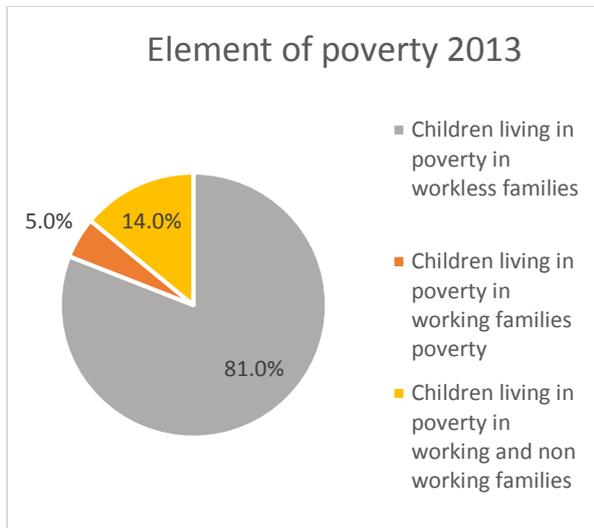
to benefits and tax credits is likely to increase child poverty across all categories in the coming years.

The changes can be seen in the charts below that look at the children in each category as a percentage of the total number of children in poverty and how this has changed from 2011 to 2013.



HMRC child poverty data 2011

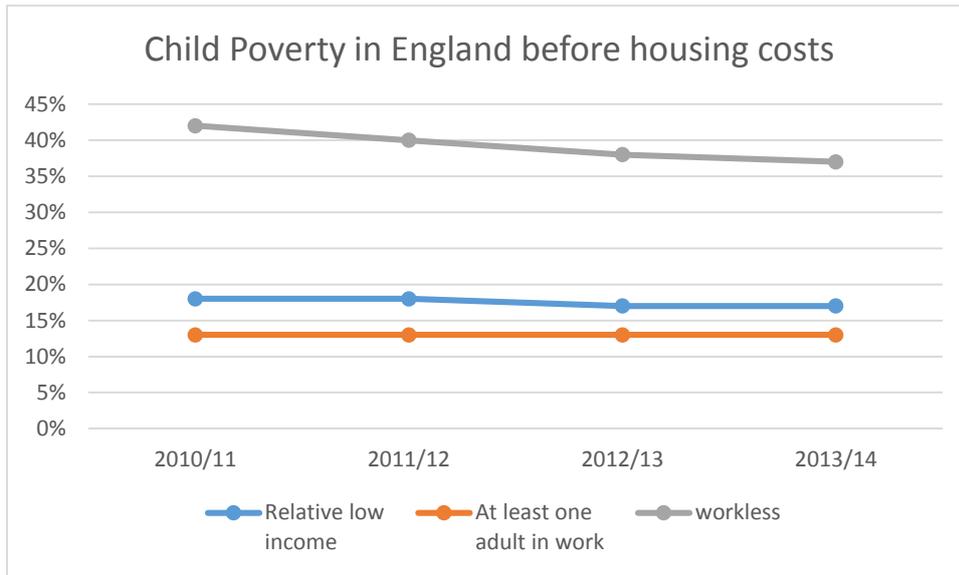
HMRC child poverty data 2012



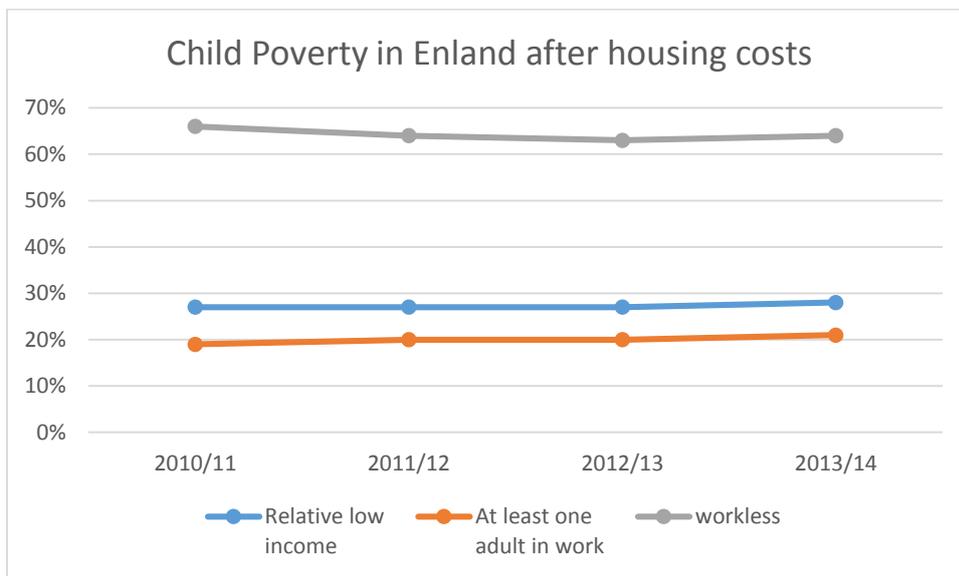
HMRC child poverty data 2013

In-work poverty – national evidence

More recent Household Below Average Income (HBAI)⁶ data from 13/14 shows that nationally 37% of children in workless families were in relative low income before housing costs compared to 13% in families where at least one person works. This has remained static since 2010. The graph below shows that there is a similar trend if child poverty is measured before and after housing costs.



HBAI data 2013/14



HBAI data 2013/14

⁶ HBAI data is only available at national level and differs from the Children in Low-Income Families measure. See appendix 1

In 2013/14 children in families where at least one adult was in work made up 64% of all children in low income households (before housing costs), despite the lower risk of relative low income for this group. This reflects the fact that children in families where at least one adult was in work reflect a much larger proportion of the total number of all children.⁷

Absolute poverty – national evidence

Absolute poverty measures whether the income of low income households has changed in real terms and, unlike the relative poverty measure, is not subject to fluctuations in the median income.

Absolute poverty measures whether the income of low income households have changed in real terms whereas a change in the relative poverty rate means that the incomes of low-income households have changed relative to those of middle income households. As stated above when median income fell while the income of poorer households were more stable, this caused substantial falls in relative poverty but not absolute poverty

Living standards, Poverty and Inequality in the UK:2015

Nationally the absolute child poverty rate has also been broadly flat, however a report by the Institute for Fiscal studies⁸ (IFS) highlight there has been an increase in poverty among working households.

HBAI data shows an increase in rates of poverty among working families with children. The absolute⁹ child poverty rate in working families (after housing costs) rose from 19% in 2010-11 to 23% in 2013-14

The IFS report states that, although a number of cuts to benefits had been implemented by 2013-14, there was a significant real increase in the child element of child tax credit in April 2011. This can also be seen in local child poverty rates. The report concludes that the dominant explanation for the rise in absolute in work poverty seen since 2009-10 has been falling earnings.

HBAI data is a useful tool to see headline trends as there is a time delay with data releases of local information. There is also a question as to whether the children in low income measure will continue to be released due to changes in how benefit is administered. In addition it will continue to allow us to get an up to date picture of what we know about child poverty nationally, in the expected absence of a child poverty measure described below.

⁷ 13.4 million Children where child benefit is payable, 11.2 million are from working households (11.2 as a percentage of 13.4 = 84%) 13% of 11.2 are in poverty =1456000 as a % of 2.3 million (total number of children in poverty) =64%

⁸ Living standards, Poverty and Inequality in the UK:2015
<http://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/comms/R107.pdf>

⁹ Absolute poverty- income below 60% of the 2010/11adjusted for inflation

Looking to the Future – Government changes to the child poverty measure

This is against a backdrop of changes to the child poverty measure. The May 2015 Conservative manifesto included a commitment to “work to eliminate child poverty and introduce better measures to drive real change in children’s lives”, by recognising the root causes of poverty; entrenched worklessness, family breakdown, problem debt, and drug and alcohol dependency.

The Welfare Reform Bill removes income related targets and replaces them with new measures to improve the life chances of children. It also creates a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to lay before Parliament an annual report containing data on:

- children living in workless households in England
- children living in long-term workless households in England
- The educational attainment of children in England at the end of Key stage 4
- The educational attainment of disadvantaged children in England at the end of key stage 4

The duty to report on children in workless households and educational attainment, and the other amendments to the Child Poverty Act 2010 will come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning on the day that the Act is passed (expected before April 2016).

The Bill also amends the Child Poverty Act 2010 to become the life Chances Act and changes the name of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission to the Social Mobility Commission. The remit will be to promote social mobility in England, to advise the Government at its request on how to improve social mobility in England.

Limitations

If the Bill is passed as it stands, poverty within working families will not be monitored and significantly this removes the income indicator. The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) briefing on the Commons second reading of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill¹⁰ state that:

“Child poverty is multifaceted, but the lack of an adequate income remains its decisive characteristic and must remain central to any poverty measurement. Proposed new reporting requirements on worklessness, educational attainment, apprenticeships, troubled families and social mobility are welcome, but are not a measure of poverty”.

Removing the income measure coincides with reforms to benefits and housing and comes before any legal challenge to the Government in 2020 if it failed to meet the national income-related targets set out in the 2010 Child Poverty Act.

¹⁰ CPAG-Welfare Reform and Work Bill-Commons second reading- 21 July 2015
<http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/CPAG%20Briefing%20-%20Welfare%20Reform%20and%20Work%20Bill%20Commons%202nd%20Reading%2020-07-15.pdf>

Household income

It is generally agreed that work is the best route out of poverty. However where benefit income is the only or significant part of income for low income families, a reduction of benefit and therefore household income is likely to exacerbate the impacts associated with child poverty. The Welfare Reform Bill introduces the following changes that are expected to impact on families on a low income:

The changes include freezing the majority of working age benefits; tax credits and child benefit for 4 tax years from 2016-17. These are:

- Main rates of income support.
- Job seekers allowance.
- Employment and support allowance.
- Local Housing Allowance rates.
- The limited capability for work element of Universal credit.
- The individual element of Child Tax Credit payable to a child or qualifying young person who is not disabled or severely disabled.
- The basic, 30 hour, second adult and lone parent elements of working tax credit.
- Both elements of child benefit, (rate for eldest child and any other child).

The Resolution foundation¹¹, estimate that a further 200,000 children (predominantly from working households) will fall into poverty nationally in 2016, taking into account the tax and benefit measures announced at the Summer Budget, as well as the introduction of the national living wage.

Changes to Housing Benefit

Unlike other reforms directly affecting child-related payments, withdrawal of the family premium in Housing Benefit (£17.45 when a claimant has one or more dependent child) will take effect from April 2016, a year earlier than the reductions for children within Child Tax Credit. Removal of the family premium will affect both new claims and new births from April 2016.

Housing Benefit backdating will be reduced so that new claims from working age claimants will be backdated for a maximum of four weeks¹². Currently, if you are working age, your Housing Benefit claim can be backdated for up to six months if you can show good cause for making a late claim and you would have qualified for the benefit sooner.

Changes to child tax credit

In addition to freezing tax credit as described above, the changes will also limit the amount of support provided by child tax credit for families who become responsible for

¹¹ Resolution Foundation- a poverty of information, Assessing the government's new child poverty focus and future trends

¹² There is no equivalent for pension age claimants. Their claims are automatically paid for 3 months before the date of claim, no good cause is needed.

a child born on or after 6 April 2017. This does not apply for disabled or severely disabled children who will receive a new disability element.

The changes will limit the child element of universal credit to a maximum of two children and remove the distinction between the first and subsequent children in the rate of the child element. The restriction will be on a rolling basis so that when the eldest child ceases to be entitled to CTC, if there is a third child born on or after 6 April 2017, that third child will become eligible for entitlement. This will roll on to subsequent children as older children cease to be entitled

These changes also remove the family element for all families only responsible for one child or qualifying young person who is born after 6 April 2017.

In addition from April 16, the government will reduce the level of earnings at which a household's tax credit (and universal credit) starts to be withdrawn for every extra point earned. In tax credits, this will be reduced from £6,420 to £3,850.

The government will also increase the rate at which a person's or household's tax credit award is reduced as they progress in work, by increasing the taper rate in tax credits from 41% to 48%.

Benefit cap

This will be lowered from £26,000 to £23,000 for couples and lone parents in London and £20,000 outside of London - a further 1100 families in Hackney may be impacted. The new legislation limits the total amount of benefits to which a family on out of work benefits can be entitled to in a year to £23k for couples and lone parents, and £15,410 for single claimants. This is likely to start from autumn 2016.

Lowering the cap outside of London will make it increasingly difficult to place families in affordable accommodation within a reasonable travelling distance of the borough, conversely, the slightly higher cap in London could attract those in areas bordering the capital.

The legislation removes the link between the level of the cap and average earnings and the requirement for the Secretary of State to review the cap each year.

Employment and Support Allowance

The work related activity component will be removed (also applies to work related activity component in Universal Credit), the intention is that those already in receipt of this component will continue to receive it. This will effect around 460 people a year in Hackney. This is expected to start in April 2017

Income Support for parents

Conditionality for responsible carers of children currently operates as follows:

- Responsible carers with a child under 1 are subject to no work related requirements
- Those with a child aged 1 or 2 are subject to work focused interview requirements.
- Those with a child aged 3 or 4 are subject to work preparation requirements

- Those with a child aged 5 and over are subject to all work related requirements- unless their circumstances mean they fall into one of the other groups- for example because of a health condition.

From April 2017 this will change to:

- Responsible carers with a child under 1 are subject to no work related requirements – **no change**
- Those with a child aged 1 will be subject to work focused interview requirements – **no change**
- Those with a child aged 2 will be subject to work preparation requirements.
- Those with a child aged 3 or 4 should be subject to all work related requirements
- No change for those with children aged 5 or over

In Hackney this could impact around 1610 households (based on half the number claiming IS with 0-4 year olds).

Support for mortgage interest

Current support for mortgage interest payments for benefit claimants will be replaced with the offer of a recoverable interest-bearing loan secured as a second charge on a claimant's property from April 2016

Changes for 18-21 year olds

The proposal is that housing support for 18-21 year olds will be removed from April 2017. This could impact up to 230 residents currently on Housing Benefit. Currently the focus is specifically on those not working, and as well as excluding HB, they will no longer receive Jobseekers allowance, instead receiving a "Youth Allowance" payable for a maximum of 6 months only. After 6 months, if the young person has failed to find a job or apprenticeship, they would be required to do community work.

Concern has been expressed over the knock on impact on overcrowding and homelessness.

Council Tax reduction

In addition to national measures, the Local Council tax reduction scheme requires all working age residents to pay at least 15% of their Council Tax liability. In 2014/15 this meant 9227 were in arrears with their Council tax.

Housing

Poor housing, housing instability, homelessness and fuel poverty impact on many areas of a child's life and future prospects including on their health, educational outcomes and employment prospects. The multiple welfare reforms are having a compounding impact on household incomes of low-income families and their housing and despite good levels of local support many families are facing difficult decisions.

In Hackney's private rented housing¹³, lone parent households, couples with children and the white other, black African and Asian ethnicities are more likely to live in non-decent accommodation than the average household. The upward pressure on the

¹³ Private Sector Stock Condition Survey 2009

private rented sector rents, particularly as more sharers move into the borough, and the government's LHA caps, means that the private rented sector is becoming less and less affordable for low-income families. 45.6% of the new Housing Benefit claims made from April to September 2014 from customers entitled to 2, 3 or 4+ bedroom had a shortfall between rent charged and LHA amount, 30.6% were living in a property with fewer bedrooms than their need according to the size of their household.

When the LHA was initially reformed in 2011, the intention was to ensure that at least 30% of private sector lettings available in the local Broad Rental Market Area were affordable to households reliant on Housing Benefits. Since the link between the market rent and the LHA was broken, lettings affordable to benefit recipients has slipped below 4% for some properties; In April 2011, 3 in 10 two-bed properties were affordable, but in Sept 2015 it is around 3 in 100. This will be further compounded by the freeze of LHA rates.

Concerns about LHA in some areas being insufficient to cover private rents have led to some landlords refusing to house benefit recipients and in a few high profile cases in other parts of the country evicting tenants on benefits or disposing of their portfolio.

Hackney's Strategic Housing Market Assessment, through fieldwork interviews and media reporting found qualitative evidence to suggest how the market is reacting to welfare reform, this shows:

- Some private landlords are withdrawing from the HB PRS sector and have served notice on tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- Landlords are not anticipating reductions in rents
- Some private rent properties may be sold or revert to owner occupation
- Increases in homelessness applications or those seeking housing advice may occur as properties are withdrawn from the sector
- Options to move, for example, to smaller or cheaper homes are limited because of low supply
- Affordability may worsen as tenants commit more disposable income to rent
- Redistribution of tenants: there may be a move of HB households out of more expensive rental areas to other, cheaper areas. This can be between authorities within the comparator authorities as well as with others outside
- Arrears levels are rising

For more information, please refer to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014

Reforms to social housing

The Conservative Party manifesto contained a pledge to extend Right to Buy to Housing Association (Registered Providers) tenants. There was little practical detail in the manifesto on how this aspiration would be funded, however the manifesto stated that

“We will fund the replacement of properties sold under the extended Right to Buy by requiring local authorities to manage their housing assets more efficiently, with the most expensive properties sold off and replaced as they fall vacant”.

The extent to which properties may need to be sold is currently unknown and a number of possible scenarios are being explored until such a time as more detail is made available. It is possible that there could be a longer term impact on nominations due to reduced nominations from RPs and forced council sales reducing the sources of potential future lettings.

This could have an impact on the housing waiting times and result in a need for extended stays in temporary accommodation. It has been argued by some commentators that there could be potential for this to raise tensions around fairness amongst the community as some households could benefit from the opportunity to buy their property whilst others may need to wait for a longer period of time before being able to access a suitable home.

In addition a pay to stay policy where tenants earning £40,000 a year (£30,000 outside of London) will pay a market or near market rate charge will be introduced. The £40,000 is per household not per person. Registered providers are saying that the scheme is not workable. It will be very costly to identify people and has the potential to create a divide. This may also encourage more people to take up the right to buy. This could create a disincentive for parents in social housing to take up work, where a relatively low income could mean a significant rent increase

Overcrowding and future housing requirements

Despite the work on reducing overcrowding, social housing is the most overcrowded tenure. Families with dependent children, lone parents and BME residents are more likely to live in this tenure than average. The new government's announcement of extending the right to buy to tenants in the social rented sector has potential to limit the supply of social rental homes for families.

In Hackney households with children under 16, lone parent households and households with 4+ children are over-represented on the Housing Waiting List and therefore likely to be living in unsuitable or temporary accommodation. As we seek to move families affected by LHA restrictions into social rented housing this is leading to a squeeze on supply in what is already the most overcrowded sector - despite Hackney exceeding its targets for building affordable homes.

The table below show the housing mix of new homes needed to meet housing requirements

Figure 28 Overall Housing Tenure Mix for Hackney 2011-2035 (Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding)

Housing Type	Number of dwellings
Market housing	9,900
Intermediate affordable housing	2,500
Social rented housing	26,000
Total Housing Requirement	38,400
Market housing	25.8%
Intermediate affordable housing	6.5%
Social rented housing	67.7%

Figure 29 Overall Size Mix for Hackney 2011-2035 (Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding)

	Market	Intermediate	Social	TOTAL
1 Bedroom	500	1,400	7,900	9,800
2 Bedrooms	2,400	200	6,600	9,200
3 Bedrooms	4,800	400	8,600	13,800
4 Bedrooms	2,200	500	2,900	5,600
Total	9,900	2,500	26,000	38,400

London Borough of Hackney Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014

Given the levels of income and private sector housing costs in Hackney, it is to be expected that the requirements for social housing will be high. In addition, however, for the purpose of the SHMA, an assumption is made that HB supported privately rented homes perform the same role as social housing in meeting housing requirements

Parental employment

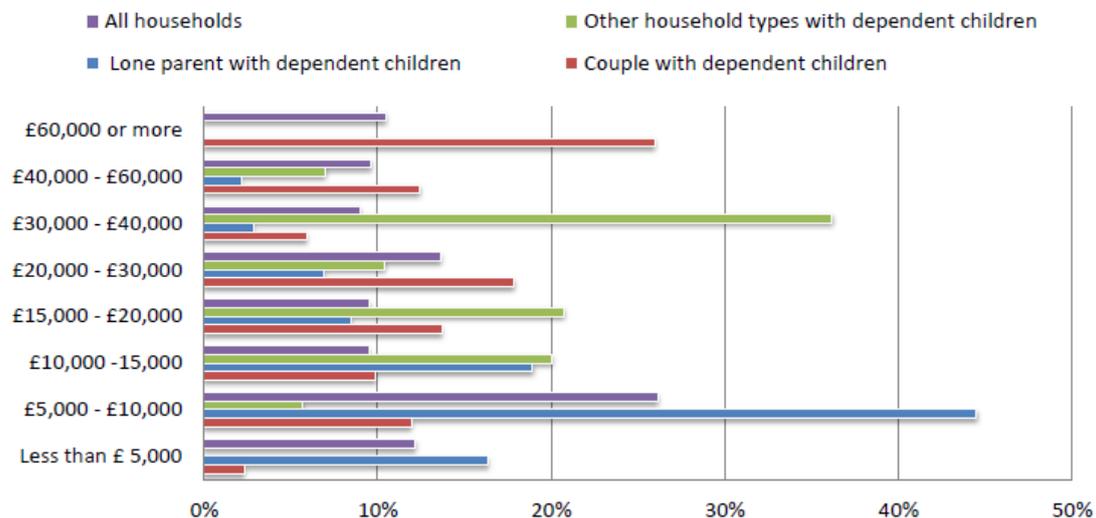
As stated above employment is the only sustainable route out of poverty and as benefits are reducing, remains the only realistic solution for most families.

Barriers to work

Families can face a number of barriers to employment and a key challenge is engaging parents who are least likely to be in employment into adult learning and employment. Lone parents in poverty are almost four times as likely to be out of work as parents in a couple. Just 52% of lone parents are in employment in Hackney; women fare worse, with 92% of female lone parents making up this figure. There is no specific service offer and female parents are not accessing Job Centre Plus (JCP). In Hackney, out of the total number of children in poverty in lone parent households, 88% are in workless households.

Hackney's Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 shows that lone parents are more likely to be on relatively lower incomes (c.83% below £20,000) and to be in housing association or local authority homes, although a proportion are in Private rent.

Income Bands by Household Type



London Borough of Hackney Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014

Despite the work done to increase and subsidise childcare it remains a barrier for lone parents (and other low income parents) in Hackney moving into employment, including the flexibility of the current offer, whether that is childcare, or the out-of-hours and holiday offer for school-age children. There is also a need to influence employers to offer flexible ways of working to fit available childcare.

National research shows that lone parents rely less on informal childcare and, with the absence of a partner to rely on, formal childcare is the only option available to them. If it is perceived as too costly or inflexible, then childcare becomes a barrier to employment.

There is a need to tackle the multiple barriers to work faced by parents, especially those least likely to be in employment, by linking early intervention, family support, employment and skills advice and training and access to quality childcare together.

Education, aspiration and life chances

Education is a key protective factor against poverty in later life due to its impacts on attainment, employment and health. National evidence shows that the chances of starting school ready to learn are less from children from socio- economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation¹⁴ shows that by age 3 there is a significant gap in cognitive test scores between children in the poorest fifth of the population compared with those from more affluent backgrounds. This attainment gap grows during primary school years, so that the highest achievers from low-income households are overtaken by lower-achieving children from more affluent backgrounds by age 7.

A recent report by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission (SMCPC) 'Downward mobility, opportunity hoarding and the 'glass floor' affirms this research.

This shows the existence of a 'glass floor' that protects less able, better-off children from falling down the social ladder as they become adults. The research demonstrates that children from more advantaged social backgrounds who are assessed at age 5 as having low cognitive ability are significantly (35%) more likely to become high earners than their high ability peers from lower income households.

Higher attaining children from less advantaged family backgrounds are less able to, or at least less successful at converting this early high potential into later labour market success.

It is now widely accepted that high quality early years services and high quality teaching and learning in schools can enable all children to achieve well.

In response to this, in Hackney, there has been a strategy of prioritising early years that will have an impact on sustaining the improved attainment for all, including at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE for those who are underachieving.

Early years

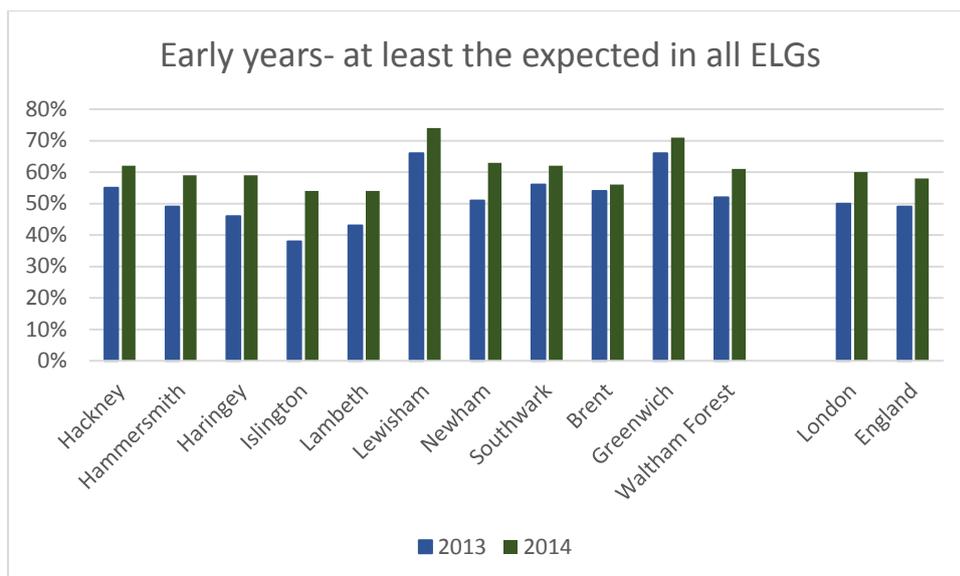
The Ofsted Early Years Report 2015 shows that early education nationally has never been stronger with 85 per cent of early years settings now judged good or outstanding. The report finds that rising standards are evenly spread across all types of early years settings. As of 31 March 2015:

- 84 per cent of childminders were good or outstanding
- 87 per cent of private, voluntary and independent nurseries were good or outstanding

Overall, 72 per cent of all early years settings were good while 13 per cent were outstanding

In addition, the quality of early year's provision in 86 per cent of primary schools inspected during the last two terms was good or outstanding. In Hackney, across all children in early years, the number to achieve at least the expected in all ELGs increased from 55% in 2013 to 62% in 2014. This is in line with London, at 60% and England at 58%.

¹⁴ Goodman and Gregg, 2010



School census 2014

The Ofsted report finds that although socio-economically disadvantaged children’s development is continuing to rise in line with their classmates nationally, the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers has not narrowed¹⁵

Free school meals

The number of school pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM pupils) is an alternative indicator of the level of economic deprivation experienced by children and young people.

There has been a small increase in the number of children known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in both secondary and primary school in Hackney. There has been a reduction in the percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in London, England and all of Hackney’s statistical neighbours.

This decline is occurring in a large number of areas across the country.

The Department for Education produced a report in 2013 ‘Pupils not claiming free school meals¹⁶. This report uses tax credit and benefits data from HMRC for December 2012 along with statistics from the Department for Education’s School Census for January 2013 to look at under registration rates. Under registration is the number of pupils who do not claim FSM, even though they live in a household that claims at least one of the qualifying benefits, as a proportion of those who are entitled.

Under- registration has fallen across England from 14% in 2012 to 11% in 2013. This is due to a decrease in the number of pupils entitled to free school meals between 2012 and 13 as estimated by HMRC, while the School Census shows a slight increase in numbers claiming.

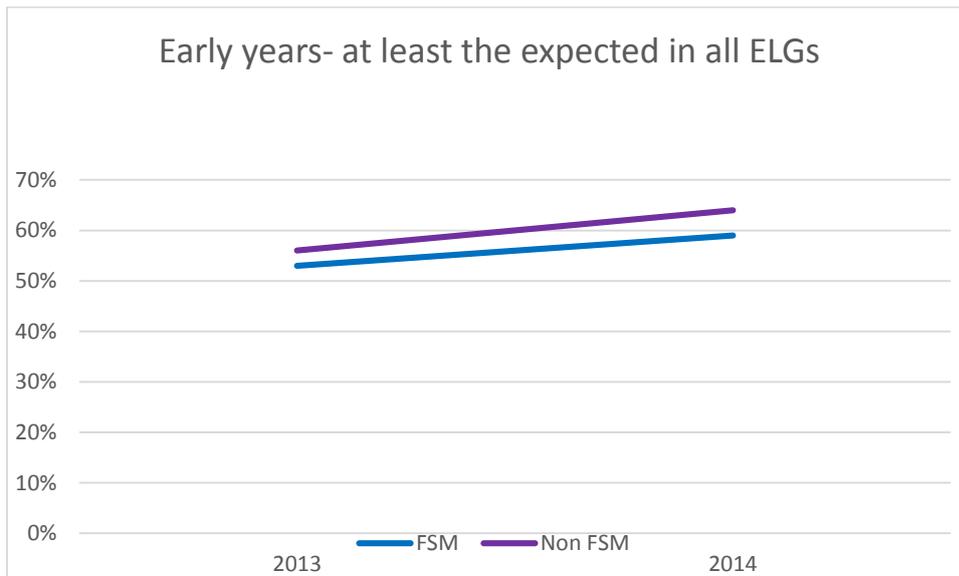
¹⁵ Difference in attainment between children eligible for free school meals and those not eligible

¹⁶ Pupils not claiming Free School Meals 2013 – Research report, Department of Education https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266339/DFE-RR319.pdf

In Hackney in 2013 the under-registration rate was 15% compared to 11% in London and England.

Attainment gap at early years

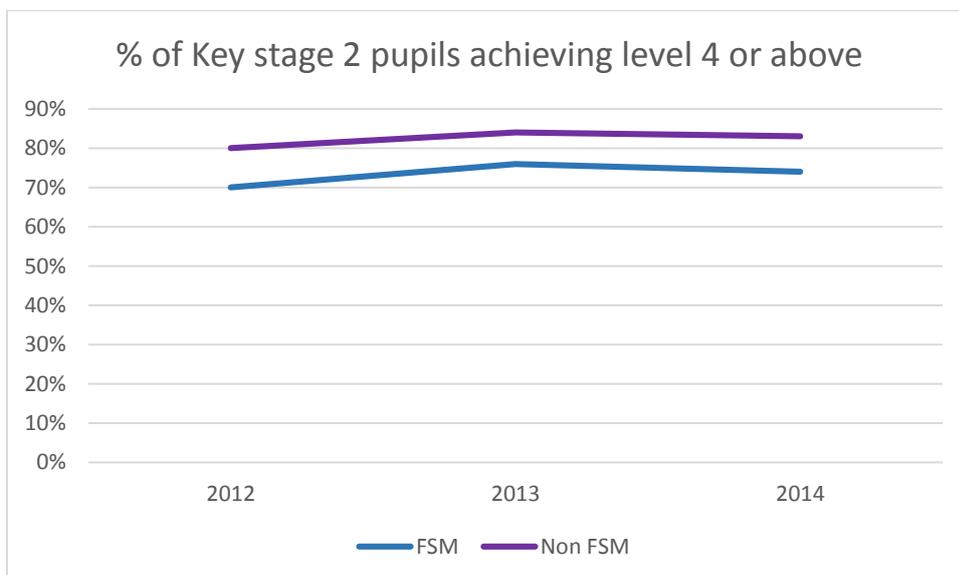
In 2013, the attainment gap between FSM and non-FSM children at the early years reaching at least the expected in all ELGs was 3% points. This increased to 5% in 2014, although the percentage of children who are entitled to free school meals reaching this level also increased from 53% to 59%. This shows that although both groups have improved, the gap still needs to be addressed.



National Statistics-Early years foundation stage profile assessment by pupil characteristics 2014

At key stage 2

In 2013 the percentage of pupils in Hackney achieving level 4 or above was 81% compared with 75% for England overall. This has remained steady in 2014 at 80% overall with a 9% gap between FSM and other pupils.



GCSE

We cannot look accurately at GCSE performance over time as there were two reforms that had an impact on the 2013/14 GCSE and equivalent results, which should be taken in to consideration when looking at the latest results alongside previous years.

Education Reforms

1. Professor Alison Wolf's Review of Vocation Education recommendations which,

- restrict the qualifications counted -
- Prevent any qualification from counting as larger than one GCSE- For example where a BTEC may have previously counted as four GCSEs it will now be reduced to the equivalence of a single GCSE in its contribution to performance measures
- Cap the number of non-GCSEs included in performance measures at two per pupil

2. An early entry policy to only count a pupil's first attempt at a qualification

In the past, school performance measures have been calculated using the best result achieved in a subject, regardless of the number of times they may have been entered for it

These changes only apply to figures shown for 2013/14.

At GCSE the percentage of pupils achieving 5A*-Cs including English and Maths was 60%, compared with 62% in London and 57% nationally. Hackney's attainment gap between those eligible for FSM and other students is 12.4%pts at GCSE which is less than London, 19.1% pts, and England, 27%pts.

Although the percentage gap looks to have reduced from 18.6% to 12.4% this is due to a reduction in the percentage of pupils not eligible for FSM rather than an increase for FSM pupils.

% of pupils achieving 5+ A* to C grades including English and Maths			
	Not eligible for FSM (%)	Eligible for FSM (%)	Gap in attainment (%pts)
Lambeth	61	49	12
Southwark	66.2	52.4	13.8
Newham	60.5	47	13.5
Islington	64.1	54.6	9.5
Hackney	63	50.6	12.4
Lewisham	55.5	37.1	18.4
Waltham Forest	60.9	41.5	19.4
Haringey	64.6	47.2	17.4
Greenwich	64.3	42.7	21.6

Brent	63.6	45.5	18.1
Hammersmith	72.2	46.1	26.1
London	65.6	46.5	19.1
England	60.7	33.7	27

National statistics - GCSE and equivalent attainment by pupil characteristics

Crime and youth reoffending

Evidence shows an association between child poverty and behaviour. It is during the early years when poverty creates the greatest risk of becoming involved in violence and crime later on.

The number of youth offences committed continues to fall. There was a 43% reduction in Hackney first-time entrants to the youth justice system between 2012 and 2015. The number of young people re-offending in Hackney reduced from 157 at the end of March 2013 to 54 at the same point in 2015, representing a 66% reduction.

Work to engage young offenders in education, training and employment (ETE) has continued. The percentage of Hackney young offenders engaging in ETE increased from 70% in 2014 to 72% in 2015.

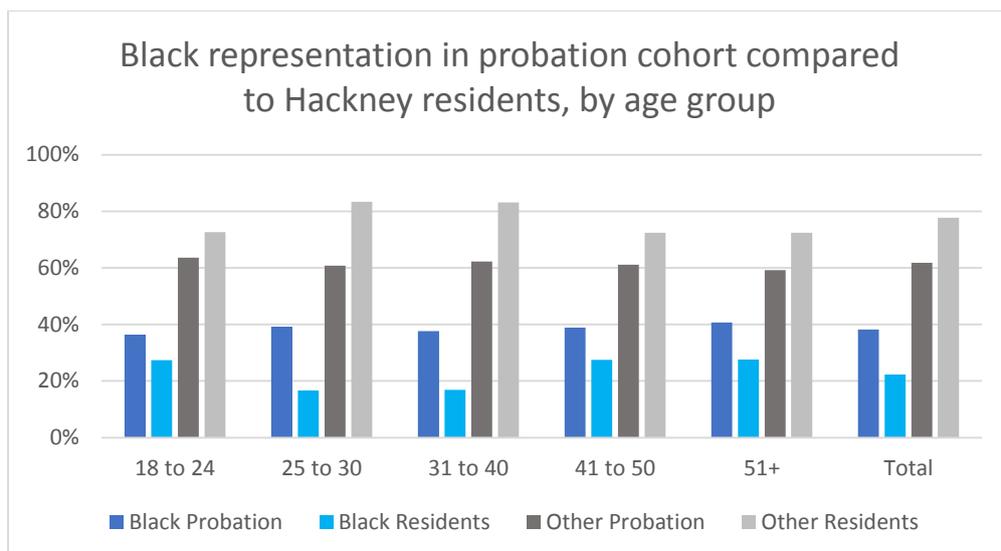
Despite the progress reducing youth crime in the borough, there is a group of young people who are involved in and are victims of crime. Violent crime often gang-related remains an issue. There are a number of active gangs in Hackney and approximately 1,500 individuals engaged in gang activities.

Children and young people identify safety when out and about in Hackney as a key issue, although the 2014 Young Hackney youth survey found that 54% of young people felt safe living in Hackney compared with 49% in 2013 – a 5% improvement. Nevertheless perceptions about safety remains an important issue amongst young people in the borough.

Our analysis for the 2014 needs assessment showed that black and minority ethnic groups, (along-side other groups) are disproportionately at risk of poverty. Groups more likely to become offenders include young people from black and minority ethnic communities. Analysis for the young black men project¹⁷ identified a disproportionate number of young black men in Hackney in the youth justice system

The graph below shows that black men are also over represented in the probation service.

¹⁷ The Young Black men Task Group has been set up in order to address issues that affect young black men and improve opportunities and outcomes.



Ethnic breakdown of Hackney probation cohort – Community Rehabilitation Company. Data received spring 2015

The same analysis also identified Hackney gang membership and gang-related violence as being associated predominately with young black men and Turkish/Kurdish groups.

Health

Different health challenges are prevalent during the different stages of development of children and young people. In response the Health and Wellbeing Board has a strategic priority to improve the health of children and young people, in particular tackling childhood obesity and working with pregnant mothers and children under five years old.

Joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA)

The City and Hackney Health and Wellbeing profile (joint strategic needs assessment) provides a 'big picture' of local needs, ranging from the social and environmental conditions which shape health and wellbeing through specific illnesses and conditions that local people suffer from. The profile is used to improve the way the Council and the NHS commission and deliver services for local people.

Data is constantly updated and more detailed and up to date information on children and young people's health can be found in the JSNA. <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/jsna.htm>

In addition a mental health needs assessments for the residents of Hackney and City of London was carried out between November 2013 and December 14 which can be found at <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/Mental-health-needs-assessment.pdf>

Appendix 1

Difference between HBAI and the Children in Low-Income Families Local measure

HBAI data is only available at national level and differs from the Children in Low-Income Families Local measure where the majority of the data in the needs assessment is taken from.

HBAI data provides the definitive national measure of relative child poverty; the proportion of children in households where income is less than 60 per cent of median household income.

The Children in Low income measure creates a proxy for the national measure in order to enable local analysis. This is based on administrative tax credits and benefit data sources and includes children who are living in families either in receipt of out of work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with reported income less than 60 per cent of median income.

The two measures are not precisely equivalent for the following reasons

- The relative low income measure in HBAI is based on data from the Family Resources Survey, whereas the Children in Low Income measure uses administrative data from DWP and HMRC
- The Low income measure captures a number of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits where their income is above the 60 per cent low-income threshold. The HBAI measure would not include these children
- The Low Income measure does not include children in low-income families that do not claim tax credit or working tax credit. The HBAI measure includes these children. However this is thought to be of negligible impact
- Income is measured slightly differently across the two measures.
- The Children in Low-Income Families Local measure is based on families, whereas HBAI is based on households