

## **Child Poverty Needs Assessment**

### **Highlights**

#### **Child Poverty in Sunderland**

- Sunderland West (29%) and Sunderland East (28%) have the highest levels of Children in Poverty followed by Sunderland North (27%) (7.1)
- LSOAs in Millfield, Southwick, Pallion, Hendon, St Michael's, St Anne's, Silksworth, Copt Hill, Washington East and Hetton have the highest proportion of Children in Poverty which equates to 20% of those in poverty across Sunderland (7.2)
- Presenting the Child Poverty dataset at LSOA shows that the levels of Child Poverty, for those aged 19, across Sunderland, varies from 1.9% to 73.8%. (7.2)
- 64% of the Children living in Poverty are in a Lone Parent family (7.3)
- 75% of families have more than one child (7.3)

#### **Children in Low Income families**

- Using Information available from HRMC it can be shown that the number of Children in Sunderland living in low income families is increasing on a yearly basis by 3% (8.3)

#### **Education, Health and Family Support Services**

- The infant mortality rate is lower than the North East and England rate. However the proportion of mothers not smoking at time of delivery has not increased (75.9% 2007/08 compared to 76.7% in 2006/07) (10.6)
- The uptake rate for MMR immunisation 1st and 2nd dose at 5 years which drops to between 59.5% to 78% in five wards across Sunderland (Castletown, Pallion, Millfield, Hendon and Washington West) (10.8)
- The number of children in need, who will require some form of direct support and intervention to secure their well-being from targeted and specialist services, has risen to 2,251 (January 2009) compared to 2,017 in March 2008 (10.10)
- The diagram shows that the percentage of referrals made to Sunderland Young People's Drug and Alcohol is high in areas which also have high percentages of children living in poverty such as: Southwick, Marley Pots, Pallion, Pennywell and Hendon. (10.21)
- In October 2008, an Alcohol Survey was conducted with service users of YDAP and Young People's Services; 83% of the young people surveyed advised they drank (10.25)
- Regardless of age or gender, there is an increased risk of mental ill-health for the poor when compared with the non-poor (Payne 2000). (10.45)
- From the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire in 2008, 24% of 12-15 year olds had been offered cannabis (10.53)
- correlation between levels of deprivation in an area and the numbers of road fatalities, in particular the number of road traffic accidents (RTAs) involving children and young people (10.56)
- Attainment at Key Stage 2 has not improved in the last 3 years in those LSOAs with a high percentage of children living in poverty. (10.69)

- The performance of young people from low income backgrounds progressing into higher education is reducing (10.73)
- areas of high child poverty show that the persistent absentee rate has increased over a three year period, from 8.3% in 2007 to 8.6% in 2009, widening the gap between those pupils and the rest (10.77)
- Babies of teenage mothers have a 60% higher risk of dying in their first year and having a significantly increased risk of living in poverty, achieving less at school and being unemployed in later life (10.80)
- In 2009, 11 young women in care or leaving care became pregnant. A national study by Berrington A, Diamond I, Ingham R Stevenson J et al (2005) has shown that by the age of 20 a quarter of children who had been in care were young parents, and 40% were mothers (10.85)

## Housing

- By 2007 household income of £30,536 would be required to buy an average priced home in Sunderland (11.3)
- The Mortgage Rescue Scheme, operating since 2008. Of those residents whom are homeowners in Sunderland, 177 people have approached the City Council in mortgage difficulty during the last 12 months. In Sunderland, 35 cases are ongoing, 65 have been prevented from possibly becoming homeless of which 2 have completed the mortgage rescue process (11.4)
- Geographically, the number of homeless acceptances cases is higher in the Sunderland East, Sunderland North and Washington Area Regeneration Framework (ARF) areas (11.6)
- Lone parent households accounted for the majority of accepted homeless cases. They accounted for 52.3% of all cases in 2008/8 and 49.4% of all cases in 2009/10. The highest numbers of lone parent households are from the Hendon Ward within the Sunderland East ARF area (11.7)
- Homelessness caused by domestic violence has seen a reduction in the number of cases over the last five years but it now accounts for 25% of all homeless cases. Previously it only accounted for 15%. In 2009/10 lone parent households accounted for 71% of all domestic violence cases and single person households accounted for 27% of cases. (11.8)
- In 2009/10 a quarter of households that were accepted as unintentionally homeless spent a period of time in B&B accommodation. Nearly 50% of couples with dependent children households were placed in B&B, the highest proportion of all household types. This high rate can be explained by the relatively low number of cases that were classed as couple with dependent households; in 2009/10 there were only 23 cases (11.9)
- 2007 survey of Private sector housing stock 19,496 households were living in non decent homes. 9308 economic vulnerable households were living in non-decent dwellings, representing 47.7% of house holds in non decent dwellings (11.12)
- Single parent family 1,059 are living in non compliant homes (HHSRS standards) (11.12)
- Small family 4,111 – 21% are living in non compliant homes. (11.12)
- Homes for vulnerable people geographical locations. Town Centre, Deptford, Low Moorsley, Easington Lane, Hendon and East end. (11.3)

- Accommodation based on Units available sees the Hendon area with the highest availability units 131, St Michaels and Hetton have 12 units each (11.16)
- Floating unit availability 58% of stock is located in Hendon. (11.16)
- Accommodation based services see Drug & Alcohol and offenders staying the longest in a service receiving assistance , Single homeless or those fleeing domestic violence stay the shortest amount of time. (11.19)

### **Barriers to employment, Education and training**

- 2.2% of Lone Parents in Sunderland are not working and not in full-time education or training compared to 1.9% nationally (12.1)
- In 2009, the percentage of 16-18 years not in education, employment or training in Sunderland is 9.5% compared to 6.4% nationally (12.5)
- The diagram indicates that areas with higher percentage of 16-18 years not in education, employment or training are similar to those with a higher percentage of Children Living in Poverty (12.6)
- The table represents effects of the recession on number of job vacancies advertised (12.12)

### **Financial Inclusion**

- In 2009, 58% of the population in Sunderland aged 18 years and above had a personal income less than £15,000 (13.6)
- The SOA with greatest level of child poverty for all children (73.8%) is within Hendon. Of the population in this LSOA, 82% have a personal income less than £15k (13.7)
- A LSOA that forms part of Washington Central has the greatest proportion of BBA Holders with returned items (34%) yet only 47% of population in this area are in receipt of personal income less than £15K that have a BBA. (Returned Items include 'bounced' Direct Debits or Standing Orders) (13.8)
- In November 2009, the total number of people claiming out of work benefits in Sunderland was 34,270 (19.5%) compared with only 9,870 (5.6%) claiming Jobseekers Allowance (13.16)
- 10,398 households, 12.3%, are in fuel poverty as at 2007. Geographically, highest rates of fuel poverty are associated with the Thorney Close / Plains Farm / Springwell, Ford / Pallion and Hendon / East-End areas (13.21)

## **Questions, Issues and Gaps**

### **Education, Health and Family Support Services**

- Infant mortality, is there a link to poverty or trends across the city?
- Comparative analysis of key health inequality issues highlighted within the Marmot Review
- Further analysis of referrals and admissions of children and young people into the healthcare system including all tiers of mental health care.
- Analysis of young people who care for parents and analysis of parents with a disability
- Correlation analysis between child poverty and school attendance, free school meals eligibility and take up, SEN pupils and if there is a trend to where those who attend the PRU live
- Analysis of speech and language in children and young people

### **Housing**

- Analysis of late or none payments of rent
- Further analysis of non decent homes in Sunderland in the social and private sectors
- Continued evaluation of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme
- Analysis of homelessness families being placed into deprived areas
- Analysis of domestic violence in families
- Analysis of length of stay of families being housed in B&B accommodation
- Analysis of families who access Housing Benefit

### **Barriers to Employment, Education and training**

- Analysis of where lone parents who are not in work, education or training live
- Further analysis on how the recession has affected Sunderland, employment across the city, levels of income and access to jobs for parents and carers

### **Financial Inclusion**

- Analysis of fuel poverty in families in Sunderland.
- To enable an understanding of the effects of future benefit reductions an analysis is required of household income before and after benefits for those families in work poverty, to include families sitting above the 60% threshold for children living in poverty
- Analysis of families who have accessed loans from a non bank source

### **General**

- Analysis of poverty on the following vulnerable groups:
- Black, Ethnic Minority families
- Traveller and transition families
- Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs
- Children, Young People and families with a disability