

CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

**CHILD POVERTY
JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS
ASSESSMENT
JULY 2013**

CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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1) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1) Purpose

The purpose of the Child Poverty Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is to identify the extent and needs of children and families who are experiencing poverty in Warrington in order to set out the priorities for the Children and Young People's Partnership. The JSNA will also support the review and refresh of the Child Poverty Strategy and produce a strong evidence base for commissioning.

1.2) Overview of children and young people in Warrington

In Warrington there are 48,667 children and young people aged 0 to 19 years, making up nearly a quarter of the total population. For every 100 children and young people living in Warrington:

- 9 are from a black or minority ethnic group.
- 7 have been eligible for free school meals in the past 6 years.
- 3 have an identified special educational need.
- 18 need extra help with learning.
- 1 is registered disabled.
- 9 are receiving intensive support.
- 14 are considered 'children in need.'
- 1 is a carer for a family member.
- 15 are living in poverty (under 16 years).
- 10 are living in a household claiming jobseekers allowance.
- 1 is living in family in receipt of Child Tax Credit & Working Tax Credit.

1.3) Statutory Framework

The Child Poverty Act 2010¹ places a statutory duty on the council and their partners to work together to develop and review a local child poverty needs assessment and strategy which sets out their plans to reduce the level of child poverty in the borough and mitigate against the affects of living in poverty..

In 2011 Warrington Partnership published a three-year Child Poverty Strategy which outlines a commitment for the Partnership to work together to:

- Tackle worklessness
- Tackle debt
- Strengthen families
- Tackle educational failure
- Tackle poor health

1.4) Key trends

Since 1999 the child poverty rate across the UK has reduced from 26 to 17 percent², according to the Department for Work and Pensions. Despite this success, the Institute for Fiscal Studies³ has predicted that, as a result of the government's deficit reduction plan, the proportion of children living below the poverty line is set to increase over the next seven years to 23 percent of all children by 2020.

Since the introduction of the Child Poverty Act in 2010, Warrington's efforts to reduce the child poverty levels across the borough have been ineffective and, since 2009, levels have increased from 10.6 to 15.3 percent.

¹ Child Poverty Act 2010, 2010, www.legislation.gov.uk

² Households below the average income, June 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

³ Child and working-age poverty in from 2010 to 2020, 2013, Institute for Fiscal Studies

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1.5) Key issues

The JSNA has highlighted the following key issues around the child poverty agenda:

- Tax and benefit reforms are set to increase child poverty levels across the UK over the next seven years, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies⁴.
- As child poverty levels increase, the Child Poverty Action Group⁵ predicts that so too will demand for statutory and community services, specifically information, advice and guidance, foodbanks, social housing and public transport.
- A national expectation that local partnerships will come together and establish 'child poverty commissions' and focus on early intervention as the most effective way to help children out of poverty, as recommended by the Frank Fields Independent Review⁶.
- In Warrington, weekly earnings have declined over the past three years for residents from an all time high in 2010 of £503.70 to £492.30 in 2012⁷.
- The attainment gap between all pupils and those eligible for free school meals at all Key Stages of learning is, on the whole, widening⁸.
- Breastfeeding initiation rates in Warrington continue to be significantly below the national average⁹.
- Healthy weight and obesity continue to be a key area of need for children in Warrington, with the proportion of overweight children significantly increasing between Reception and Year 6¹⁰.
- An increase in population has increased demand for properties across all sectors, particularly for socially rented accommodation. The number of applications has increased significantly over the past three years, from 7,651 in 2008/09 to 10,968 in 2010/11¹¹.

1.6) Recommendations for commissioning

The JSNA highlights four key priorities which need to be addressed by commissioners as follows:

- The Local Authority to work with schools to target the Pupil Premium to ensure that the gap in achievement is narrowed:
 - In the Early Year Foundation Stage
 - At Key Stage 1 in reading, writing, science and maths.
 - At Key Stage 2 for those pupils achieving at least Level 4.
 - At Key Stage 4 around the proportion of children achieving at least 5 A*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths.
- Increased support for new mothers to initiate breastfeeding to positively increase rates in line with the national average.

⁴ Child and working-age poverty in from 2010 to 2020, 2013, Institute for Fiscal Studies

⁵ Local authorities and child poverty: balancing threats and opportunities, July 2012, Child Poverty Action Group

⁶ The foundation years: preventing poor children becoming poorer adults, 2010, Frank Field

⁷ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2012, Office for National Statistics

⁸ National Curriculum Assessments by Free School Meal Eligibility, June 2013, Office for National Statistics

⁹ Breastfeeding initiation rates have been calculated for Children's Centre areas, as at October 2012, based on postcode level data provided by Warrington and Halton Hospital Foundation Trust (WHHFT)

¹⁰ National Childhood Measurement Programme, 2011/12, Bridgewater Trust

¹¹ Social Rented Housing: Demand and Supply, March 2012, Department for Communities and Local Government

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- Public Health to provide additional support for primary school aged children identified as overweight / obese to loose weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

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2) INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1) Background

The UK is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, but, despite this, more than a quarter¹² of all children live below the poverty line and research suggests that this has a devastating impact on their lives. The Marmot Review¹³ highlighted that children who grow up in poverty are much more likely to suffer poorer health, lower education achievement and a lower economic status than children born into wealthier families.

Definitions of child poverty

In the UK, children are considered to be living in poverty if they live in a home of:

1. Relative low income
2. Combined low income and material deprivation
3. Absolute low income
4. Persistent poverty

Relative low income defines income in relation to the average and measures whether the incomes of the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole. A child will be considered to be living in relative low income poverty if the family's income is below 60 percent¹⁴ of the contemporary median equivalised household income.

Combined low income and material deprivation is a wider measure of living standards. A child will be considered to be living in poverty if the family's income is below 70 percent of the contemporary median equivalised household income.

Absolute low income is defined as the lack of sufficient resources with which to meet basic needs. This measures whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms. A child will be considered to be living in poverty if the families' income is below 60 percent of the 1998/1999 baseline year median equivalised household income.

Persistent poverty is defined over time. A child will be considered to be living in poverty if the family's equivalised net income for the year is less than 60 percent of the median equivalised net household income for at least three out of the last four years.

2.2) Child Poverty Act

The Labour government's Child Poverty Act 2010¹⁵ was seen as a significant step towards reducing the proportion of children living in poverty in the UK.

The Act places a legal duty on central government, councils and services, including the police, NHS primary care trusts and youth offending agencies, to work together to support families to reduce poverty and mitigate against socio-economic disadvantage.

¹² Households Below the Average Income 2011/12, June 2013, Institute of Fiscal Studies,

¹³ Fairer Society, Healthy Lives: strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2010, 2010, www.marmotreview.org

¹⁴ In summary the **average income** is defined as the median equivalised net household income, where the median income divides the population of individuals, when ranked by income, into two equal sized groups. Equivalisation is a process that makes adjustments to incomes, so that the standard of living of households with different compositions can be compared.

¹⁵ Child Poverty Act, 2010, www.legislation.gov.uk

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Under Part One of the Act, the government is required to publish a national child poverty strategy which must be periodically reviewed and revised every three years. The strategy must outline the action being taken to address the following priorities:

- The promotion and facilitation of employment of parents or the development of the skills of parents.
- The provision of financial support for children and parents.
- The provision of information, advice and assistance to parents and the promotion of parenting skills.
- Physical and mental health, education, childcare and social services.
- Housing, the built or natural environment and promotion of social inclusion.

The Act stipulates that progress will be measured against the child poverty targets to reduce:

- Relative low income by less than 10 percent of the 1999 baseline figure by 2020.
- Combined low income and material deprivation by less than 5 percent of the 1999 baseline figure by 2020.
- Absolute low income by less than 5 percent of the 1999 baseline figure 2020.
- Persistent poverty. This target is to be set in regulations by 2015.

Part Two of the Child Poverty Act sets out the duties for local authorities to:

- Make arrangements to promote the duty for partners to cooperate and work together to reduce child poverty in a local area.
- Prepare and publish an assessment of the needs of children living in poverty in its area.
- Lead on the development a joint child poverty strategy in relation to the authority's area.
- Consult with children living in poverty and organisations working with or representing children when preparing or revising the strategy.

2.3) National Policy Context

A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families Lives¹⁶ sets out the Coalition's approach to tackling poverty for this Parliament and up to 2020. The strategy supports the government's broader policy¹⁷ to improve social mobility by having a stronger focus on:

- **Supporting families to achieve financial independence** and removing financial disincentives to work through welfare reforms, so that work is considered the best route out of poverty. Families who are unable to work have access to support so that they are not entrenched in persistent poverty.
- **Supporting family life and children's life chances** and reforming funding so that councils have greater flexibility around their priorities and spend in relation to early intervention. The Pupil Premium enables schools to target support to improve the development and attainment of disadvantaged children and young people throughout their transition to adulthood.
- **The role of place and transforming lives** and delivering services as close to the family as possible, by empowering local partners and ensuring that local diversity can be recognised, and developing strong local accountability frameworks.

Whilst the strategy meets the requirements set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010, the government has received considerable criticism for impairing its own social mobility

¹⁶ A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families, April 2011, Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education

¹⁷ Social Mobility Strategy – Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers, April 2011, HM Government

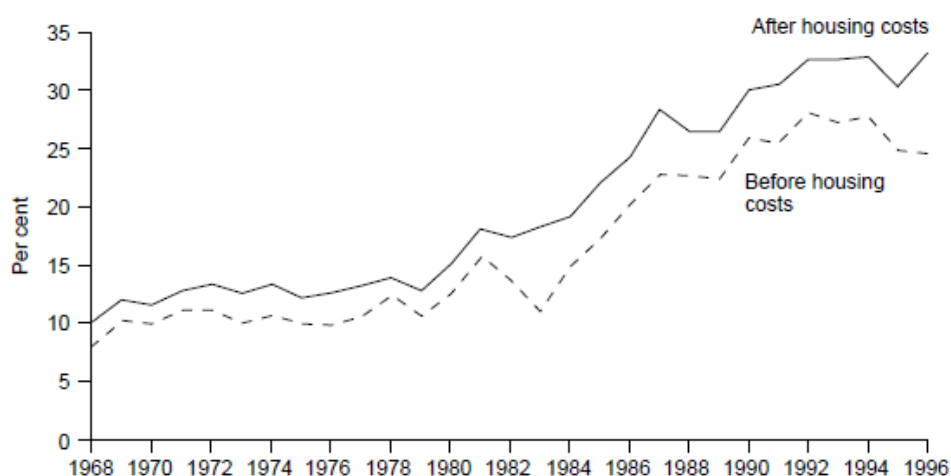
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strategy with its deficit reduction plans. Public expenditure cutbacks, including welfare and tax reforms, are expected to affect the poorest families with children the most. The Institute for Fiscal Studies¹⁸ estimates that between 2011/12 and 2015/16 incomes for families with children are set to fall by more than 6 percent, compared to a fall of 4 percent for all households. Non-working lone parents are expected to see a reduction of 12 percent of their income, which equates to around £2,000 over a period of five years.

2.4) National trends in child poverty

According to Family Expenditure Survey (FES) data¹⁹, child poverty has risen significantly in Britain in the last 30 years. In 1968 there were 1.4 million children, with around one in ten children living below the poverty line defined at half of the mean equivalised household income. By 1996 this had increased to one in three — or 4.3 million — considered to be living in poor households.

Chart 1: Proportion of children living in households with income below half the average income Source: *Institute of fiscal studies, 1999*



In 1999, the Labour government pledged to reduce this upward trend and set targets to halve the child poverty rate by 2010 and eradicate child poverty completely by 2020. The Department for Work and Pensions analysis²⁰ against the four measures of child poverty and targets set by the Child Poverty Act reveals the following trends:

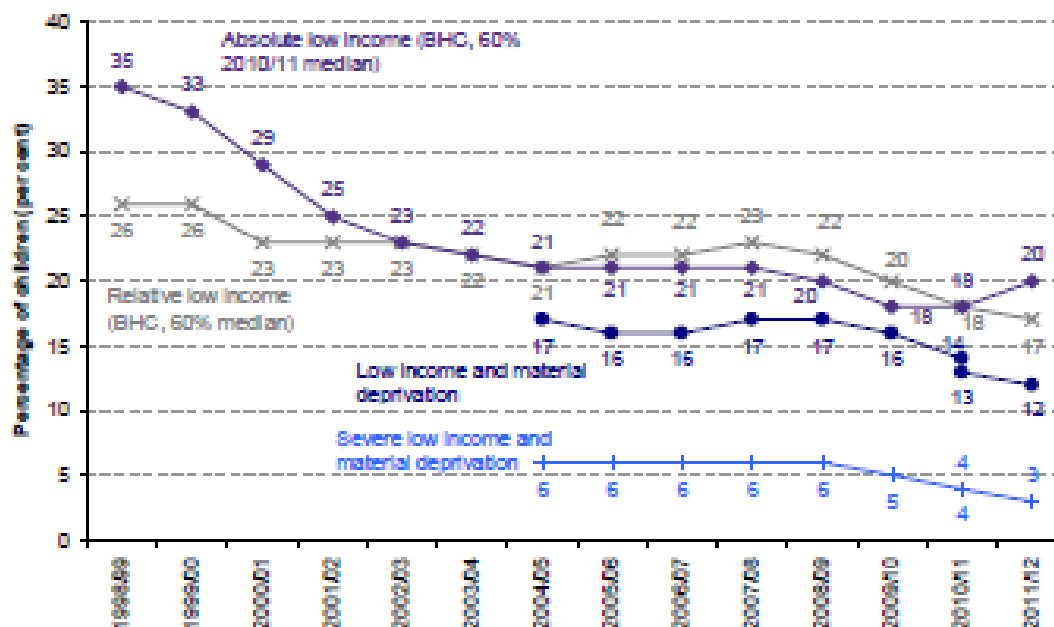
¹⁸ The Impact of Austerity Measures on Households with Children, January 2012, Institute for Fiscal Studies

¹⁹ Poor kids, 1999, Institute for Fiscal Studies

²⁰ Households below the average income, June 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

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Chart 2: Trends in poverty 1998/99 to 2011/12 Source: Department for Work and Pensions, 2013



- **Trends in relative low income**

In 1998/99 there were 3.4 million children, equating to 26 percent of all children, in the UK living in relative income poverty. The 2010 target was to reduce this number to 1.7 million by 2010/11.

Over the period between 1998/99 and 2010/11, the proportion of children living in relative low income poverty reduced from 26 to 18 percent. This is a reduction of 1.1 million and fell 600,000 short of the target. *Child Poverty in the UK: The Report on the 2010 Target* argues that this was because not enough parents moved into work. Additionally, work did not pay as well and the proportion of poor children who came from working households increased.²¹

The most recent data for 2011/12 indicates that the rate reduced to 17 percent.

- **Trends in absolute low income²²**

In 1998/99 there were 3.4 million, equating to 35 percent of all children, living in absolute low income poverty in the UK. The 2010 target was to reduce this number to 1.7 million by 2010/11.

The proportion of children in absolute low income, measured against the 1998/99 baseline of 35 percent, reduced to 18 percent. This is a reduction of 1.1 million and fell 600,000 short of the target.

However, in 2011/12, the proportion of children in absolute low income increased to 20 per cent. This was a two percentage point, or 300,000 children, increase between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

²¹ Child Poverty in the UK: The Report on the 2010 Target, June 2012, Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education

²² In order to measure absolute low income in line with the Child Poverty Act 2010 and to keep the absolute measure more in line with contemporary living standards. The Department for Work and Pensions measures absolute low incomes against the median in 2010/11 adjusted for inflation, instead of against the 1998/99 median income as in previous statistical releases.

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The Institute for Fiscal Studies argues that this recent increase was driven by a reduction in real terms income. The absolute low-income threshold was uprated by Retail Prices Index inflation and so the population falling into low income increased.

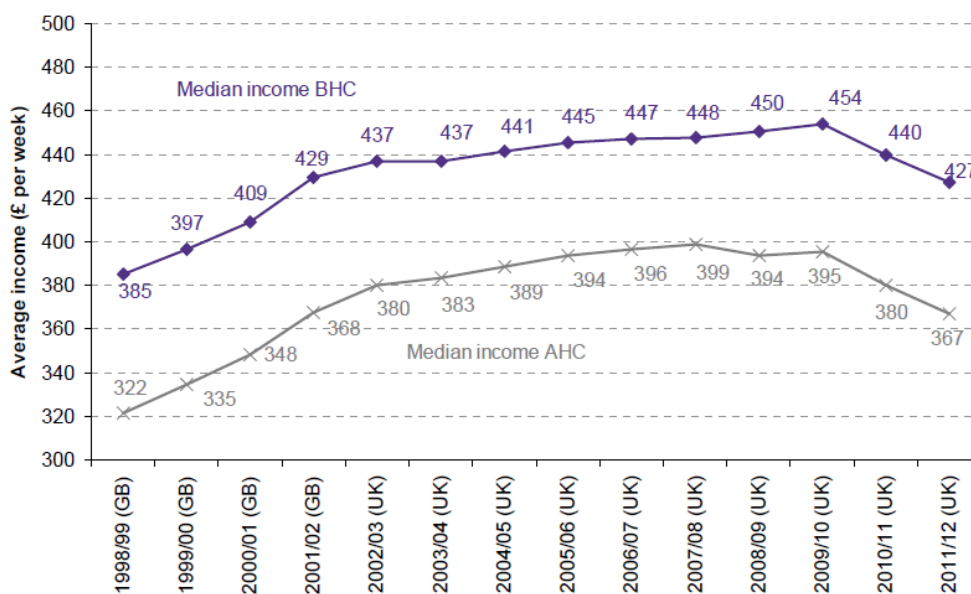
- **Trends in combined low income and material deprivation and severe poverty²³**

The proportion of children living in low income and material deprivation and severe poverty for 2011/12 has fallen to 12 and three percent respectively in 2011/12, representing a one percentage point fall for both measures compared to 2010/11. The Department for Work and Pensions states that this was driven by a decrease in the proportion of families experiencing material deprivation.

Much of the progress in reducing the child poverty rate has been attributed to the vast sums of funding allocated by the Labour government to provide additional financial assistance for families with children, with over £150 billion spent on tax credits alone between 2004 and 2010.

Despite this progress, campaigners have argued that the headline figure for relative low income poverty has remained stable due to falling incomes in the recession.

Chart 3: Average income in £ per week 1998/99 to 2011/12 Source: Department for Work and Pensions, 2013



The Department for Work and Pensions reports that the average income peaked in 2009/10 at £454 per week before housing costs. This has reduced significantly to £427 per week before housing costs in 2011/12.

In June 2013 the Child Poverty Action Group stated that “the truth is that for a growing number of families work isn’t working. The promise that work would be a route out of poverty has not been kept as wages stagnate and spending cuts have hurt low income working families.”²⁴

²³ Only two years of data exist using the new items. It is not possible to compare the trends prior to 2010/11 for both measures.

²⁴ Press Release, 13 June 2013, Child Poverty Action Group

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3) WHO IS AT RISK AND WHY?

3.1) Background

Families in poverty are not a homogenous group and some may experience poverty for a short period of time whilst others live in poverty over a much longer period. However, research indicates that for some children the risk of living in poverty is greater than for others. Barnados reports²⁵ that this includes children who:

- a) live in workless families
- b) live in single parent households
- c) are part of large families
- d) have one or more parent and/or child within the family who is disabled
- e) are from ethnic minority backgrounds

3.2) Children living in workless households

Children who live in workless families are at much greater risk of living in poverty than those children who live in families with at least one adult in work. According to the Department for Work and Pensions²⁶ in 2011/12, 40 percent of children in workless families were living in relative low income poverty, compared to 13 percent of children living in families with at least one adult in work. This is a gap of 27 percentage points.

Additionally, the National Centre for Social Research²⁷ reports that children who live in workless families are most likely to experience persistent poverty than families with at least one adult in work. Forty percent of workless couple families live in poverty in at least three of the four year period measured.

3.3) Children living in single parent households

Again, the Department for Work and Pensions most recent statistics²⁸ show that children in single parent households are of greater risk of experiencing combined low income and material deprivation than those in couple families. In 2011/12, 23 percent of children in single parent households were experiencing combined low income and material deprivation, compared to eight percent of children in couple families.

Again, the National Centre for Social Research²⁹ reports that children who live in workless families are most likely to experience persistent poverty. Forty three percent of workless single parent households live in poverty in at least three of the four year period measured.

3.4) Large families

According to the most recent statistics³⁰, children who live in large families, defined as those with three or more children, are more likely to live in low income households and households in combined low income and material deprivation.

Within large families, 36 percent of children are living in relative low income, compared to 24 percent of children from families with two children and 25 percent of children from one child families.

²⁵ It doesn't happen here: The reality of child poverty in the UK, 2007, Barnados

²⁶ Households below the average income, June 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

²⁷ Child poverty in Britain: Causes and consequences, 2010, National Centre For Social Research

²⁸ Households below the average income, June 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

²⁹ Child poverty in Britain: Causes and consequences, 2010, National Centre For Social Research

³⁰ Households below the average income, June 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

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3.5) Disabilities

According to the Department for Work and Pensions³¹, in the UK more than one million children living in poverty are affected by disability. Within families with one disabled child or one disabled adult, there is a 35 percent risk of living in relative low income.

Barnados reports³² that the cost of living is considerably more for a family with disabled children. It has been calculated that it costs on average, an additional £99.15 a week to bring up a disabled child and that benefits are not enough to cover these extra costs.

3.6) Ethnic minority backgrounds

Children living in families identified as an ethnic minority are more likely to be living in poverty compared to White households. For example, within Black or Black British households, 47 percent of children live in relative low income compared to 26 percent in White households. This rises to 58 percent in Pakistani and Bangladeshi households³³.

The Office for National Statistics³⁴ reports that worklessness is one of the key drivers for higher poverty rates for some ethnic minority groups. According to their most recent data, the UK overall employment rate is just over 71 percent for working age adults between 16 and 64 years. The employment rate for adults from White backgrounds is over 72 percent, compared to 47 and 51 percent for adults of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin.

³¹ Households below the average income, June 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

³² It doesn't happen here: The reality of child poverty in the UK, 2007, Barnados

³³ Households below the average income, June 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

³⁴ Labour market status by ethnic group, 15 May 2013, Office for National Statistics

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4) EVIDENCE OF WHAT WORKS AND WHY

4.1) Background

There is an extensive amount of research from charitable organisations, government departments, leading academics and research institutes on understanding the causes, consequences and costs of child poverty. However, the most notable findings for understanding what evidence based programmes work to reduce and mitigate against child poverty are highlighted below.

4.2) Frank Fields Independent Review

In June 2012, Frank Field was commissioned to undertake an independent review of poverty in the UK. The review found, in line with other leading research such as the Marmot Review³⁵, that children's life chances are predicated on their first five years of development.

“It is family background, parental education, good parenting and the opportunities for learning and development in those crucial years that together matter more to children than money, in determining whether their potential is realised in adult life.”³⁶

Leading from the review was a series of recommendations which propose to re-focus funding and resources on early intervention as being the most effective way to help children out of poverty. For local authorities, this included proposals to:

- Refocus early help in children's centres and provide targeted help to the most disadvantaged families.
- Maintain some universal services so that children's centres are inclusive and non-stigmatising, but target services towards those who can benefit from them most.
- Ensure that private, voluntary and independent providers are able to bid to run children's centres and services within them.
- Site a whole range of services at children's centres which include site birth registrations, benefit forms, parenting courses, access to midwives and health visitors, some pre-birth services and postnatal work.
- Support early years providers to narrow the gap in the early years foundation stage between the poorest children and their peers.
- Support schools to reduce the attainment gap across all key achievement indicators between the poorest children and their peers.
- Consider joining with surrounding authorities to establish Poverty and Life Chances Commissions to drive policy in their localities like the Liverpool City Region has pioneered.
- Understand where the children who are most deprived are and how their services impact upon them.

4.3) Graham Allen Review

In 2011, Graham Allen led a review of early intervention. The initial report³⁷ underlined that many of the costly social problems resulting from poverty can be reduced or mitigated against by providing children and parents with access to the right type of evidence based programmes for 0 to 18 years.

³⁵ Fair society, healthy lives, 2010, Michael Marmot

³⁶ The foundation years: preventing poor children becoming poorer adults, 2010, Frank Field

³⁷ Early intervention: the next steps, January 2011, Graham Allen

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“There are no “magic bullets” in this report just a tough, practical guide to changing our spending culture from late intervention to early intervention...”³⁸

His review recommended ‘19 Top Programmes’ which covered the different facets of social and emotional development across the whole family agenda.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curiosity Corner (as part of Success for All)• Early Literacy and Learning• Functional Family Therapy• Incredible Years• Let’s Begin with the Letter People• Life Skills Training• Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence• Multisystemic Therapy• Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurse Family Partnership• Parent Child Home Programme• PATHS• Project TND• Reading Recovery• Ready, Set, Leap!• Safe Dates• Safer Choices• STARS for Families• Success for All
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4.4) Other evidence

In March 2010, the Labour government set out proposals³⁹ to end child poverty which included promoting employment as the best route out of poverty for families. As part of this, barriers were identified which the government needed to address to lift families out of poverty as follows:

- Low pay amongst specific social groups including women, ethnic minorities and disabled groups.
- High costs and the quality of childcare.
- Lack of flexible working arrangements for those adults in work with children.
- Financial support for those adults who are unable to work to meet the cost of living.

As the Child Poverty Action Group⁴⁰ notes, poverty is primarily driven by the government’s fiscal policies and local authorities are:

“...stuck between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand, they are committed to reducing and mitigating the effects of child poverty, while on the other they will experience the impact of welfare reforms that are predicted to increase child poverty between now and 2020, with fewer resources than ever.”

4.5) Evidence of what works in Warrington

Early help is delivered to families through the local offer of services across Warrington’s 12 children’s centres. The centres work closely with other organisations such as health services, JobCentre Plus, Citizens Advice Bureau and adult learning so that families attending the centre have access to the advice and support they need in one place. Services vary from centre to centre, but all families have access to:

- Play and learning facilities for children
- Books for families to borrow
- Access to childcare and crèche facilities
- Health services for young children and their families, including breastfeeding support

³⁸ Press release, 4 July 2011, Cabinet Office

³⁹ Ending child poverty: mapping the route to 2020, March 2010, DCSF, DWP and HM Treasury

⁴⁰ Local authorities and child poverty: balancing threats and opportunities, July 2012, Child Poverty Action Group

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- Family support services
- Support to return to work or education.

According to Warrington's JSNA on Early Help and Targeted Services for Children and Families Chapter⁴¹, early intervention services appear to be successful. Over the past 12 months, the numbers of families registering and accessing children's centre provision have increased across the borough.

Services are also focused on those families assessed as being most in need via the Family Support Model which provides all practitioners with a framework to coordinate support to vulnerable families. It has been highlighted locally, regionally and nationally as an area of good practice and will form the framework for continued developments as Warrington progresses the Troubled / Complex Families programme.

Additionally, trained practitioners from a range of organisations across Warrington are able to deliver evidence based parenting programmes, such as the Webster Stratton Incredible Years, Triple P and Strengthening Families, some of which are endorsed by Graham Allen's '19 Top Programmes'.

Work on the Pupil Premium programme has also commenced through the 'Family of Schools' approach in Warrington and is targeted to under achieving pupils that are eligible for free school meals. This includes addressing barriers to learning for the pupil, such as absence from school, parental involvement and additional learning needs.

⁴¹ Warrington JSNA Early Help and Targeted Services for Children and Families Chapter, October 2012, Doric online

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5) THE LEVEL OF NEED IN THE POPULATION

5.1) Warrington demographics

Over the past 30 years the population has continued to rise rapidly in Warrington. Current population forecasts suggest the population will grow by 3 percent by 2026.

The age and gender profile of the borough is similar to that of the UK as a whole and, in line with national trends, the proportion of older people is forecast to increase significantly. By 2026, 43 percent of the population in the borough will be over 50.

According to the Office for National Statistics⁴² the latest population in Warrington:

- is estimated at 203,700
- has increased by 900, around 0.5 percent since the previous year
- is split 49.6 percent male to 50.4 percent female
- has 39,000 children aged 0 to 15 years
- has 130,700 people aged 16 to 64 years
- has 34,000 people aged 65 years and over
- has a population density of 1,095 persons per square kilometre
- is ranked 205th for growth in England and Wales, mid-04 to mid-09, out of 376 local authorities
- is ranked 5th for growth in the North West, mid-04 to mid-09, out of 43 local authorities

The employment rate⁴³ is higher than the national average of 70 percent at 76 percent and this suggests that Warrington is a relatively affluent borough. However, the unemployment benefit claimant rate⁴⁴ at 3.7 percent is similar to that of the national average at 3.9 percent.

The key negative defining feature of Warrington is the marked difference in prosperity and quality of life within the borough. The stark contrasts between the inner wards and the suburbs and villages on the outskirts of the town are striking.

According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation⁴⁵ there are 20 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) ranked within the 20 percent most deprived nationally and these are mostly concentrated around the town centre. Of these areas, 11 rank within the 10 percent most deprived nationally, with two areas, one within Bewsey and one within Orford, amongst the 3 percent most deprived.

In contrast, 40 areas are ranked amongst the 20 percent most affluent nationally. These affluent areas make up most of South Warrington and, together with areas in Westbrook, Sankey, Croft and Rixton, represent around one third of Warrington's population.

⁴² Mid year estimates, 2012, Office for National Statistics

⁴³ Regional labour market statistics, 2012, Office for National Statistics

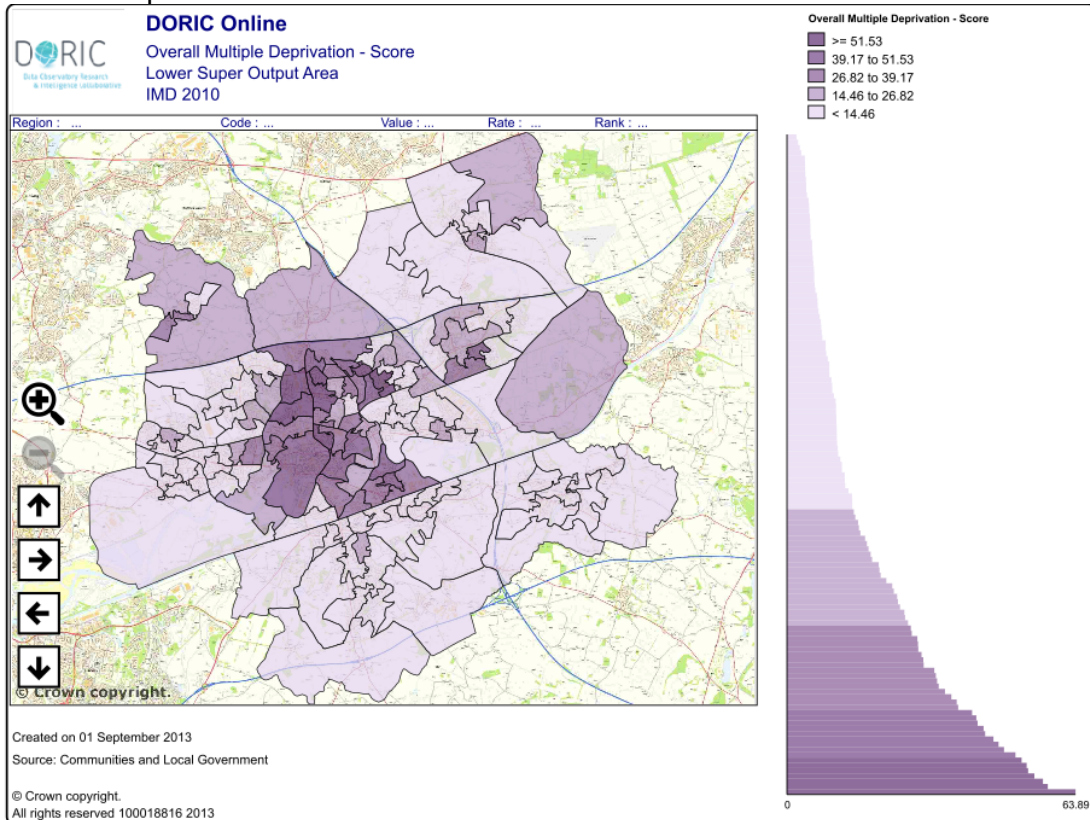
⁴⁴ Regional labour market statistics: benefit claimant count, 2012, Office for National Statistics

⁴⁵ Index of multiple deprivation local authority summary, 2010, Department for Communities and Local Government

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Chart 4: Indices of deprivation 2010

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government 2010



5.2) Child poverty indicator

The local child poverty proxy measure estimates the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of median income. The out of work benefits are Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance, Pension Credit and Employment Support Allowance.

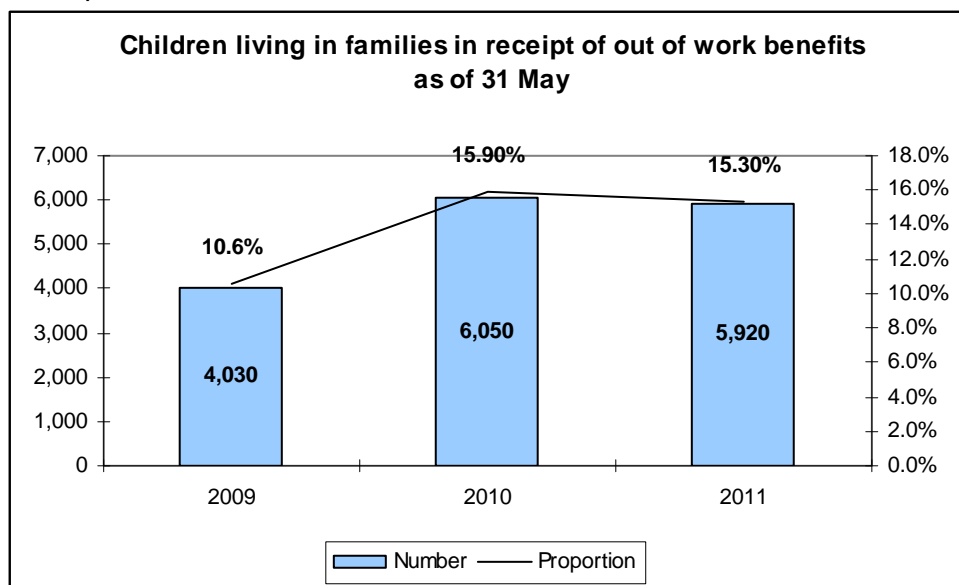
The most recent published data⁴⁶ suggests that Warrington has relatively low numbers of children in poverty compared to other local authorities. As of May 2011, there were 5,920 children aged 0 to 15 years living in child poverty, accounting for 15.3 percent of all the children in the area.

Chart 5: Local child poverty proxy measure

⁴⁶ Child poverty proxy measure, June 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

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Source: Department for Work and Pensions, June 2013



Over a period of three years, the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits has increased overall from 10.6 percent in 2009 to 15.3 percent in 2011 – this is in line with the national trend. However, the numbers and proportion have slightly decreased from 15.9 percent, 6,050 children in 2010 to 15.3 percent, 5,920 children in 2011.

Whilst the child poverty level in Warrington ranks in the 25 percent of local authorities in England with the lowest percentage of children in poverty, local analysis of child poverty figures for Warrington as a whole conceals the large differences within the borough between different areas. The analysis of ward level reveals significant pockets of need within Warrington.

All wards have some level of children in poverty, including the more affluent outer wards, which ranges from three to seven percent of children in poverty. The overall pattern for Warrington is illustrated in the table below, with a concentration of areas of higher levels of poverty in the inner wards.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children in poverty in 2008 - Warrington wards as of May 2011

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (published June 2013)

Ward	Age 0-4 (numbers)	% 0-4	Age 0-15 (numbers)	% 0-15
Appleton	40	9.9	115	6.1
Bewsey and Whitecross	345	30.9	805	30.5
Birchwood	140	21.9	400	20.9
Burtonwood and Winwick	45	13.6	125	11.3
Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft	70	13.5	190	9.8
Fairfield and Howley	280	29.2	615	26.4
Grappenhall and Thelwall	25	5.0	90	4.8
Great Sankey North	25	7.9	85	7.1
Great Sankey South	85	13.0	255	12.1

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Ward	Age 0-4 (numbers)	% 0-4	Age 0-15 (numbers)	% 0-15
Hatton, Stretton and Walton	20	10.5	40	6.1
Latchford East	155	28.5	415	25.8
Latchford West	65	18.2	165	17.4
Lymm	40	5.1	140	5.4
Orford	225	30.1	600	26.8
Penketh and Cuerdley	35	9.3	100	7.1
Poplars and Hulme	290	34.4	760	32.1
Poulton North	195	31.0	500	26.0
Poulton South	25	8.0	60	5.6
Rixton and Woolston	45	11.3	150	9.9
Stockton Heath	20	4.8	45	3.6
Westbrook	20	5.8	55	4.4
Whittle Hall	60	6.6	195	6.7
Warrington	2,250	18.3	5,920	15.3

In terms of the children in poverty indicator, there are eight wards with a percentage greater than the Warrington average. In line with the Indices of Deprivation 2010, the most deprived wards are Poplars and Hulme, Bewsey and Whitecross, Orford, Fairfield and Howley, Poulton North and Latchford East. An additional tier of wards which also have areas of child poverty need are Birchwood and Latchford West.

5.3) Employment and adult skills

The employment and skills levels of working age adults is vital to understanding the make up of poverty in an area. The Child Poverty Unit⁴⁷ cites this as being one of the four key 'building blocks' in identifying at risk groups, so that work can be targeted to mitigating the effects of child poverty.

5.3.1) Employment

As reported in Section 5.1, the employment rate⁴⁸ of working age adults in Warrington is higher than the national average at 76.4 percent and this suggests that Warrington is a relatively affluent borough.

Over time, the employment rate has been erratic, however, it has consistently remained above both the regional and national averages.

Table 2: Employment rate

Source: Office for National Statistics (published 2013)

Date	Warrington	Warrington (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Apr 04-Mar 05	94,300	75.4	70.6	72.7
Apr 05-Mar 06	95,400	75.8	70.6	72.5
Apr 06-Mar 07	98,500	77.7	70.5	72.5
Apr 07-Mar 08	96,400	74.8	70.2	72.6
Apr 08-Mar 09	98,700	76.1	69.0	72.0

⁴⁷ Ending child poverty: making it happen, 2010, Child Poverty Unit

⁴⁸ Regional labour market statistics April 2012 to March 2013, August 2013, Office for National Statistics

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Date	Warrington	Warrington (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Apr 09-Mar 10	94,900	73.2	67.7	70.3
Apr 10-Mar 11	98,800	76.3	68.6	70.2
Apr 11-Mar 12	97,600	75.3	68.2	70.2
Apr 12-Mar 13	98,600	76.4	69.2	70.9

5.3.2) Employment opportunities

The ratio of jobs per resident of working age adults 16 to 64 years⁴⁹ continues to be more favourable in Warrington. Jobs density has remained stable at 0.97 per resident since the previous statistical release, compared to than the North West ratio of 0.74 and national ratio of 0.77, which have both declined.

5.3.3) Skill levels

The Annual Population Survey⁵⁰ shows that Warrington residents are more favourably qualified compared to the regional averages. Warrington has a higher percentage of its working age population across all NVQ qualification levels.

Table 3: NVQ Qualification Level Jan – Dec 2012

Source: Office for National Statistics (published 2013)

Qualification	Warrington (numbers)	Warrington (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 and above	43,900	34.3	30.3	34.4
NVQ3 and above	70,700	55.3	52.0	55.1
NVQ2 and above	93,500	73.1	69.9	71.8
NVQ1 and above	110,000	86.0	83.1	84.0
Other qualifications	7,400	5.8	5.8	6.3
No qualifications	10,600	8.3	11.1	9.7

5.3.4) Employment type

The Annual Population Survey⁵¹ reports that the majority of Warrington residents' occupation is broadly in line with the national trends. However, in comparison to the regional data, Warrington has more residents in managerial and professional occupations (Soc 2010 major group 1-3) and less in manual labour occupations (Soc 2010 major group 8-9).

Table 4: Employment by occupation Apr 2012 – Mar 2013

Source: Office for National Statistics (published 2013)

Employment by occupation	Warrington (numbers)	Warrington (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2010 major group 1-3	45,800	46.6	40.3	44.0
1 Managers, directors and senior officials	10,600	10.7	9.8	10.1
2 Professional occupations	21,700	22.0	17.9	19.4
3 Associate professional and technical	13,500	13.7	12.4	14.1
Soc 2010 major group 4-5	19,900	20.2	21.9	21.5
4 Administrative and secretarial	10,600	10.7	11.6	10.9

⁴⁹ Regional labour market statistics April 2012 to March 2013, August 2013, Office for National Statistics

⁵⁰ Annual Population Survey, Jan 2012-December 2012, Office for National Statistics

⁵¹ Annual Population Survey, Jan 2012-December 2012, Office for National Statistics

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Employment by occupation	Warrington (numbers)	Warrington (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
5 Skilled trades occupations	9,300	9.4	10.1	10.5
Soc 2010 major group 6-7	15,500	15.7	19.1	17.2
6 Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7,600	7.7	9.9	9.0
7 Sales and customer service occupations	7,900	8.0	9.1	8.1
Soc 2010 major group 8-9	17,200	17.5	18.7	17.3
8 Process plant and machine operatives	4,600	4.7	7.0	6.3
9 Elementary occupations	12,500	12.7	11.6	10.9

5.3.5) Earnings

Residents in Warrington are relatively well paid compared to regional averages for both male and female full-time workers. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings⁵² reveals that male residents' gross weekly full-time pay in 2012 was on average £530.10, compared to £509.60 across the North West. However, male residents earned slightly less than the national average of £548.80.

In line with the national trend, female full-time workers continue to earn significantly less than their male counterparts in Warrington. However, the female residents' average gross weekly full-time pay in 2012 of £455.80 was higher than both the North West average of £419.50 and the national average of £449.60.

Overall, Warrington residents' weekly earnings have declined over the past three years from an all time high in 2010 of £503.70 to £492.30 in 2012.

Table 6: Gross Weekly Full-Time Pay 2012

Source: Office for National Statistics (published 2012)

Year	Warrington (£)	North West (£)	Great Britain (£)
2002	383.9	370.2	392.7
2003	411.1	383.2	406.2
2004	416.7	395.0	421.3
2005	438.5	409.5	432.8
2006	453.0	419.6	445.9
2007	440.1	433.7	460.0
2008	481.6	451.3	480.0
2009	494.9	460.0	490.5
2010	503.7	471.0	501.7
2011	498.4	458.7	500.2
2012	492.3	472.5	508.0

5.3.6) Access to employment

Warrington's Local Economic Assessment⁵³ reports that the focus of transport in Warrington is primarily based on use of the car and as such may disadvantage those who do not or cannot drive. Warrington's position on the M56/M62/M6 intersections allows motorway access to all parts of the UK and also provides a very large

⁵² Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2012, Office for National Statistics

⁵³ Warrington local economic assessment, 2011, Warrington Borough Council

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commuter catchment area. With only 30% of employment in the town centre, employment in Warrington is relatively dispersed in comparison to other locations.

5.3.7) Access to childcare

Formal childcare brings well-documented benefits to children's learning, social and emotional development. Low income families who can access formal childcare and experience this can begin to break the cycle and benefit from their children's development. This can help to close the gap in attainment between children from low-income families and their more affluent peers.

From 2013, the Free Early Year Entitlement (FEYE) in Warrington will be extended to 20 percent of our most vulnerable 2 year olds, which includes children in need, referrals from professionals for specific needs and for families who meet the benefit criteria.

The criteria for providers delivering 2 year old places are settings with a 'good' or 'better' Ofsted inspection rating and have a dedicated key worker who supports the 2 year old and their family. At present there are 43 settings who are part of the programme. Childminders have to be part of an accredited network and at present there are 9 childminders that are registered to deliver the FEYE.

In 2013, it was highlighted⁵⁴ that more places were required to meet demand in the electoral wards of Birchwood, Fairfield and Howley, Orford and Poplars and Hulme.

5.4) Financial support

Financial support is the second of the four key 'building blocks' identified by the Child Poverty Unit. It includes the take-up of benefits for workless households, financial inclusion and debt.

5.4.1) Unemployment

In the period April 2011 to March 2012, unemployment in Warrington continued to be significantly below the national average rate of 8.1 percent. The most recent statistics⁵⁵ report that the unemployment rate in Warrington was 7.1 percent for working age adults 16 to 64 years.

Over time, the local unemployment rate has also reduced slightly over the past two years from 7.1 percent to 6.8 percent.

Table 7: Unemployment rate

Source: Office for National Statistics (published 2013)

Date	Warrington	Warrington (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Apr 04-Mar 05	3,400	3.5	4.8	4.8
Apr 05-Mar 06	3,500	3.6	5.1	5.1
Apr 06-Mar 07	3,900	3.8	5.5	5.4
Apr 07-Mar 08	4,000	3.9	5.8	5.2
Apr 08-Mar 09	6,000	5.7	6.9	6.2
Apr 09-Mar 10	7,400	7.2	8.8	7.9
Apr 10-Mar 11	6,000	5.7	7.8	7.6
Apr 11-Mar 12	7,400	7.1	8.9	8.1
Apr 12-Mar 13	7,100	6.8	8.3	7.8

⁵⁴ Childcare sufficiency assessment, Annual report, 2013, Warrington Borough Council

⁵⁵ Labour market statistics, June 2013, Office for National Statistics

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5.4.2) Benefit claimants

Across Warrington, the claimant count rate for Job Seekers Allowance continues to be below the national average of 3.7 percent at 3.3 percent⁵⁶. However, ward level data reveals there are seven wards in which the rate is significantly higher than the national average.

Table 8: Job Seekers Allowance by Ward as of May 2011

Source: Nomis (published February 2013)

Ward	%
Appleton	1.4
Bewsey and Whitecross	7.3
Birchwood	3.6
Burtonwood and Winwick	2.7
Culcheth	1.5
Fairfield and Howley	6.3
Grappenhall and Thelwall	1.2
Great Sankey North	1.2
Great Sankey South	2.6
Hatton	1.1
Latchford East	6.8
Latchford West	4.7
Lymm	1.6
Orford	5.8
Penketh and Cuerdley	2
Poplars and Hulme	7.1
Poulton North	4.4
Poulton South	1.8
Rixton and Woolston	1.5
Stockton Heath	1.2
Westbrook	1.4
Whittle Hall	2.1
Warrington	3.3
England	3.7

Over time, claimant counts have been erratic in Warrington, having increased from 3.0 percent in 2010, to 3.5 percent in 2011 and then down to 3.3 percent in 2012.

The Annual Population Survey⁵⁷ shows that the majority of Warrington JSA claimants have been claiming for less than six months. Of the 4,800 people aged 16 to 64 years, 2,690 have been claiming for up to six months, whilst 910 have been claiming for six to twelve months. Only 1,200 have claimed over a period of 12 months, which is below the North West and national averages.

Table 9: Benefit Claimant Count Over Time as of February 2013

Source: Office for National Statistics (published February 2013)

Aged 16 to 64	Warrington (level)	Warrington (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Total	4,800	3.7	3.9	3.4

⁵⁶ Claimant Count, February 2013, Nomis. The Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work. The percentage figures show the number of JSA claimants as a proportion of resident population aged 16-64.

⁵⁷ Annual Population Survey, Jan 2012-December 2012, Office for National Statistics

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Aged 16 to 64	Warrington (level)	Warrington (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Up to 6 months	2,690	2.0	2.0	1.7
Over 6 and up to 12 months	910	0.7	0.8	0.7
Over 12 months	1,200	0.9	1.1	1.0

5.4.3) Free school meals

Free School Meals provide a useful proxy measure for identifying deprivation in individual families. This is also more current than the national benefits data on providing financial support directly to families in need. However, there is some evidence that not all families take up their entitlement because of a stigma attached to children receiving a free school meal.

Parents do not have to pay for school lunches if they receive any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income no greater than £16,040.
- Working Tax Credit (WTC) during the 4 week period immediately after their employment finishes or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week.

School census data reveals that in Warrington the proportion of children eligible for free school meals has increased over the past two years from 11.1 to 11.7 percent.

The table below illustrates that the majority of these pupils are resident in the inner wards with more than double the Warrington average in Poplars and Hulme, Bewsey and Whitecross, Latchford East and Orford wards. Other wards with higher than average levels also include Fairfield and Howley, Poulton North, Birchwood and Latchford West.

Table 10: Free school meals eligibility

Source: School census 2011 and 2012

Ward	% Free School Meal Eligibility		
	2011	2012	Difference Over Time
Appleton	3.9	3.6	↓
Bewsey and Whitecross	23.9	24.0	↑
Birchwood	16.6	15.0	↓
Burtonwood and Winwick	8.2	8.9	↑
Culcheth	7.1	6.6	↓
Fairfield and Howley	19.1	19.4	↑
Grappenhall and Thelwall	2.9	3.3	↑
Great Sankey North	4.2	6.1	↑
Great Sankey South	8.0	10.7	↑

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Ward	% Free School Meal Eligibility		
	2011	2012	Difference Over Time
Hatton	1.8	1.3	↓
Latchford East	20.9	23.8	↑
Latchford West	12.8	16.4	↑
Lymm	4.3	3.4	↓
Orford	21.0	23.4	↑
Penketh and Cuerdley	4.4	4.4	↔
Poplars and Hulme	24.6	24.0	↓
Poulton North	20.0	21.1	↑
Poulton South	3.8	4.1	↑
Rixton and Woolston	5.3	6.1	↑
Stockton Heath	1.9	2.2	↑
Westbrook	3.1	4.7	↑
Whittle Hall	3.8	4.3	↑

The arrows illustrate the difference over time in eligibility of free school meals by wards

5.5) Education, health and family

The Child Poverty Unit⁵⁸ reports that understanding the needs in childhood and the barriers for some disadvantaged children and young people around achieving positive health, education and future employment outcomes is key to tackling the affects of poverty.

5.5.1) Education

Education has long been considered the equaliser between rich and poor and one of the essential components for improving social mobility. The barriers to achieving a good level achievement at school include pupil absence, school exclusion and participation in further education, as well as the socio-economic disadvantage faced by children living in poverty.

a) Pupil absence: Attendance at school is central to achieving a good level attainment, therefore it is essential to minimise the level of persistent absenteeism.

In Warrington, the secondary school persistent absence rate has consistently ranked below the England average and that of our statistical neighbours year on year. Warrington has reduced the secondary school persistence absence rate from 8.2 percent in 2007/08 to 7.3 percent in 2011/12. The persistent absence rate in our primary schools across Warrington has also fallen from 3.9% in to 2.7% 2011/12⁵⁹.

b) Attainment: Gaps in attainment are measured for those pupils eligible for free school meals and those who are not. The Department for Education (DfE)⁶⁰ ascertains that attainment levels across the Foundation Stage Profile to Key Stage 4 are affected by factors such as household income and material deprivation.

⁵⁸ Ending child poverty: making it happen, 2010, Child Poverty Unit

⁵⁹ Pupil Absence in Schools, 2013, Office for National Statistics

⁶⁰ Characteristics of pupil attainment, 2010, Department for Education

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A level of good achievement at the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (FSP)⁶¹ is a key indicator of success in later life. Over the past three years, Warrington's performance has varied and between 2011 and 2012 has declined from 63.1 percent to 62 percent within Warrington. In 2012, this fell below the national average of 64%⁶².

In terms of ward data, the percentage gap in achievement between the lowest 20 percent of achieving children in the ward (mean score) and the score of the median child in the same ward⁶³, expressed as a percentage of the same median score, reveals that in nine of the 22 electoral wards there has been a downward trend in narrowing the gap in the past two years.

Table 11: Ward % gap in EYFS

Warrington Source: KEYPAS 01/08/2012.

Ward Year and DOT	% Gap		
	2011	2012	DOT
Appleton	21.3	28.3	↑
Bewsey and Whitecross	24.6	34.3	↑
Birchwood	-	30.0	↔
Burtonwood and Winwick	27.5	31.2	↑
Culcheth	-	27.8	↔
Fairfield and Howley	35.2	34.1	↓
Grappenhall and Thelwall	21.7	16.3	↓
Great Sankey North	24.7	28.1	↑
Great Sankey South	23	30.1	↑
Hatton	27.9	19.1	↓
Latchford East	22.8	21.3	↓
Latchford West	14.2	32.1	↑
Lymm	20.4	15.4	↓
Orford	28	33.2	↑
Penketh and Cuerdley	29.3	22.2	↓
Poplars and Hulme	33.7	34.1	↑
Poulton North	29	26.8	↓
Poulton South	20.8	34.4	↑
Rixton and Woolston	27.7	21.0	↓
Stockton Heath	29.2	14.6	↓
Westbrook	38.7	38.8	↑
Whittle Hall	27.9	18.5	↑

At Key Stage 1, achievement is measured between all pupils and those eligible for

⁶¹ Defined as children achieving 78 points or more across the scales and at least 6 in each of the scales associated with the Personal, Social and Emotional and Communication, Language and Literacy areas of learning.

⁶² England Source: EYFS Profile full child collection. Warrington Source: KEYPAS 01/08/2012.

⁶³ The size of the gap indicates the consistency of performance across the area, for example, a ward could have a small gap because performance is poor across the whole ward.

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free school meals in reading, writing, maths and science. The most recent data from the Office of National Statistics⁶⁴ (see table below) illustrates that:

- In reading, the gap between all pupils and those eligible for free school meals has reduced in Warrington by two percentage points, in line with the national trend. The gap however, remains significantly above the national average.
- In writing, the gap has widened in Warrington by three percentage points, whilst nationally it has reduced by one point.
- In maths, the gap has remained the same in Warrington, as has the national gap.
- In science, the gap has significantly widened in Warrington from 11 to 36 points. Nationally, the gap has remained the same.

Table 12: National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 1 by Free School Meal Eligibility

Source: Office for National Statistics

Level 2+ reading				
	2010/11		2011/12	
	England	Warrington	England	Warrington
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals	72%	71%	73%	72%
All other pupils	85%	89%	85%	88%
Attainment gap	13 points	18 points	12 points	16 points
Level 2+ writing				
	2010/11		2011/12	
	England	Warrington	England	Warrington
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals	66%	66%	81%	62%
All other pupils	81%	84%	67%	83%
Attainment gap	15 points	18 points	14 points	21 points
Level 2+ maths				
	2010/11		2011/12	
	England	Warrington	England	Warrington
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals	80%	80%	81%	79%
All other pupils	89%	92%	90%	91%
Attainment gap	9 point	12 points	9 points	12 points
Level 2+ science				
	2010/11		2011/12	
	England	Warrington	England	Warrington
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals	79%	81%	79%	55%
All other pupils	89%	92%	89%	91%
Attainment gap	10 points	11 points	10 points	36 points

A good level of achievement at Key Stage 2 (KS2) is measured in reading, writing and maths. Over the past two years, the gap in the proportion between all pupils and those eligible for free school meals achieving at least Level 4 has reduced by 6 points.

⁶⁴ National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 1 by Free School Meal Eligibility, June 2013, Office for National Statistics

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Table 13: National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 by Free School Meal Eligibility

Source: Office for National Statistics

	2010/11		2011/12	
	England	Warrington	England	Warrington
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals	49%	49%	59%	61%
All other pupils	67%	72%	74%	78%
Attainment gap	18 points	23 points	15 points	17 points

The overall attainment for young people in Warrington at Key Stage 4 (KS4) achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* - C, including English and maths, between August 2011 and September 2012 was 63.6 percent. This exceeds the national average of 58.5 percent⁶⁵. However, over the past two periods measured this has declined.

The gap in attainment at KS4 between those children who receive free school meals and those who do not has also widened over the past two years. The gap is also consistently higher than the national average. This is exacerbated by the fact that levels of attainment are generally high across the town.

Table 14: GCSE Results for Young People by Free School Meal Eligibility

Source: Office for National Statistics

	2011		2012	
	England	Warrington	England	Warrington
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals	34.6%	30.5%	36.3%	25.2%
All other pupils	58.2%	64.8%	58.8%	63.6%
Attainment gap	23.6 points	34.3 points	22.5 points	38.4 points

c) Not in education, employment or training

According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, basic skills and formal qualifications are important for entry and progression in employment⁶⁶. Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) post-16 have been linked to later criminal activity, early parenthood, long-term unemployment and substance misuse. Educational disadvantage is likely to be transmitted to the next generation, with the children of low skilled parents vulnerable to low educational attainment.

The JSNA for NEET⁶⁷ reports that, in December 2012, there were 366 16 to 18 year olds reported as being NEET in Warrington. Of these, 325 were actively seeking employment and 41 are listed as not available (23 were reported as being pregnant or a teenage parent and 16 were suffering from poor health).

Fifty seven percent of young people that are NEET live within the six most deprived wards in Warrington. Out of the 208 young people NEET who live in a deprived ward, 82 percent are also a member of a vulnerable group.

⁶⁵ GCSE and Equivalent Results for Young People by Free School Meal Eligibility, June 2013, Office for National Statistics

⁶⁶ The costs of child poverty for individuals and society, 2008, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

⁶⁷ JSNA NEET, 2013, Doric online

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The attainment levels of those from more deprived households are lower than those from more affluent households. Overall, level 2 and level 3 attainment in Warrington at 19 years is above the national average with both level 2 and level 3 having seen a year on year increase for the last six years. However, attainment of young people on free school meals is decreasing, therefore resulting in a larger gap between disadvantaged young people and those that are more advantaged.

Warrington is below the national average in terms of actual attainment of disadvantaged young people at level 2 and level 3 at age 19. GCSE results in 2012 indicate a continued increase in the gap, with 34.1 percent of those on free school meals achieving 5 A* to Cs, compared to the national average of 38.5 percent in 2012⁶⁸.

5.5.2) Health

A childhood in poverty can have profound affect on the child's health, which may last into adulthood. This section looks at health factors associated with children in poverty, including parents' health issues which may affect children and the potential for employment.

a) Smoking in Pregnancy: Smoking in pregnancy can affect life expectancy and the quality of life of both mother and child, perpetuating a cycle of ill health within families.

Smoking at the time of birth has decreased in Warrington over the past three years from 12.9 percent in 2009 to 12 percent in 2012, and is significantly below the national average of 13.2 percent⁶⁹. As illustrated in the table below, there are six wards above the national average.

Table 15: Wards with the highest levels of smoking in pregnancy

Source: Bridgewater Trust

Ward	2012
Appleton	3.8%
Bewsey and Whitecross	16.8%
Birchwood	13.1%
Burtonwood and Winwick	8.7%
Culcheth	12.7%
Fairfield and Howley	16.1%
Grappenhall and Thelwall	4.4%
Great Sankey North	0.0%
Great Sankey South	10.1%
Hatton	3.7%
Latchford East	16.5%
Latchford West	6.8%
Lymm	2.0%
Orford	25.4%
Penketh and Cuerdley	6.0%
Poplars and Hulme	23.0%

⁶⁸ Department for Education

⁶⁹ Smoking at time of delivery is supplied by Bridgewater Trust and has been calculated for Children's Centre areas as at Feb 2012. Please note 2010/11 is based on 11 months data (April to February).

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Ward	2012
Poulton North	21.2%
Poulton South	2.0%
Rixton and Woolston	4.0%
Stockton Heath	1.6%
Westbrook	5.3%
Whittle Hall	2.1%
Warrington	12.0%
England	13.2%

b) Breastfeeding: As highlighted in the 2011 needs assessment of child poverty, breastfeeding initiation rates in Warrington have historically lagged behind the national figures. The most recent data⁷⁰ indicates that this continues to be the case. However, initiation rates have increased over the past three years from 59.1 percent in 2010 to 62.1 percent in 2012.

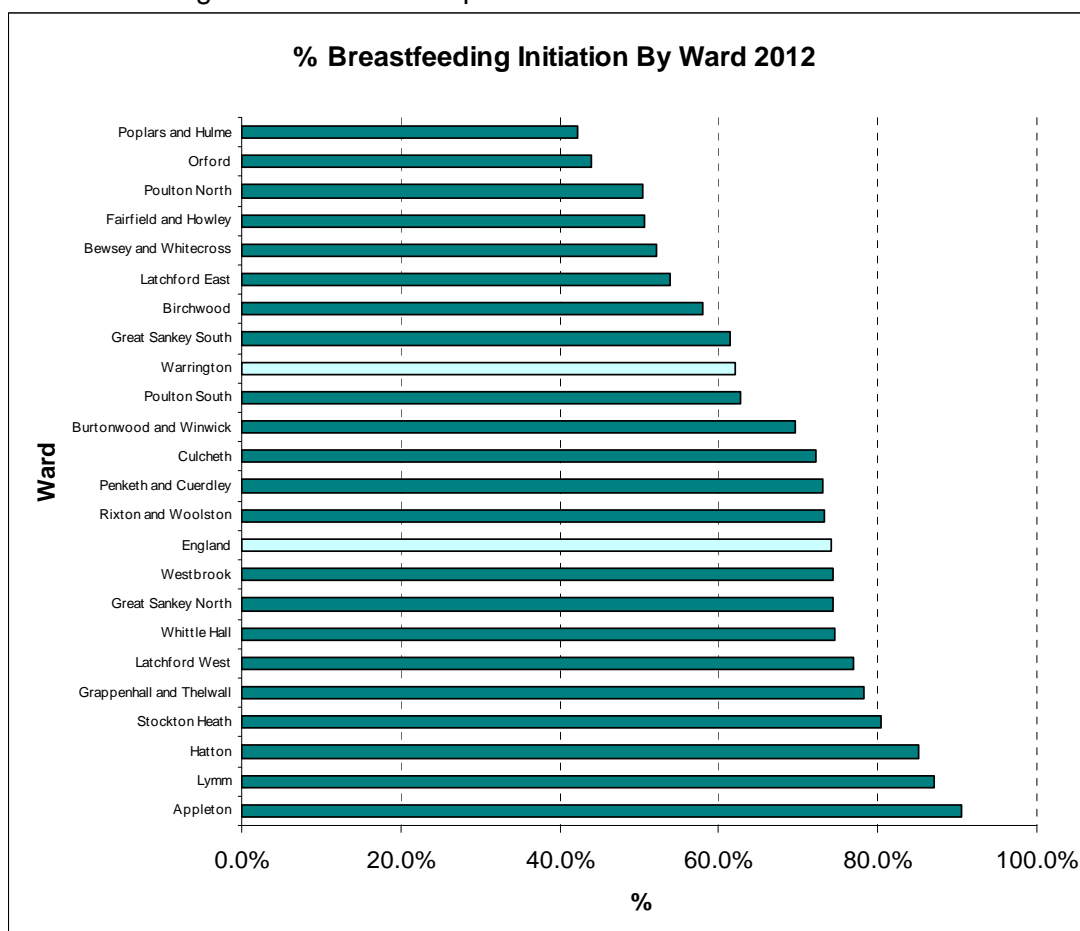
The chart below illustrates the percentage of mothers initiating breastfeeding by ward. There is a clear pattern of higher levels of breastfeeding initiation in the outer, more affluent wards with percentages either in line with or above the England average.

⁷⁰ Breastfeeding initiation rates have been calculated for Children's Centre areas, as at October 2012, based on postcode level data provided by Warrington and Halton Hospital Foundation Trust (WHHFT)

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Chart 6: Breastfeeding initiation by ward

Source: Warrington and Halton Hospital Trust



c) Childhood obesity: As weight increases it can be a trigger for health problems, such as diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders, respiratory complaints, cancers, eyesight problems, cardiovascular disorders, sleep apnoea, strokes and infertility. There are also psychological risks, such as depression, low self-esteem, social exclusion and stigmatisation. These factors may very well affect a person's ability to work and research suggests that the working-age obese may be 15 - 20% less likely to be in employment than the non-obese, other things being equal⁷¹.

As part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), NHS Warrington weighs and measures all children in Reception Year and Year 6 and report on the percentage of children classified as obese.

The table below provides the prevalence of underweight, overweight and obese children in Warrington across a three year period⁷².

⁷¹ Obesity as a workplace issue, 2013, Health and Safety Executive

⁷² The percentage of underweight, overweight and obese children in reception year has been provided by Children's Centre area as at February 2013, based on the National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP) data collection. Most recent data provided is academic year 2011/12. Data excludes children who are Warrington residents but attend school outside Warrington and children attending special schools. Children are allocated to a Children's Centre based on their home postcode.

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Table 16: Prevalence of underweight, overweight and obese children in Warrington

Source: National Childhood Measurement Programme

Year	Underweight		Overweight		Obese	
	Reception	Year 6	Reception	Year 6	Reception	Year 6
2010	0.6	-	13.5	-	8.5	-
2011	0.5	0.5	13.3	78.5	7.7	17.5
2012	0.7	1.0	13.4	63.1	9.0	20.8

What is striking is that whilst the proportion of underweight children remains stable from Reception to Year 6 across all three years, the proportion of overweight children between Reception and Year 6 increases significantly from 13 to 78 percent in 2011 and 13 to 63 percent in 2012.

In terms of healthy weight at ward level, the table illustrates that, at Reception, half of all wards have experienced a decline in healthy weight over the past two years and 68 percent at Year 6.

Table 17: Prevalence of healthy weight by ward

Source: National Childhood Measurement Programme

Ward	Reception			Year 6		
	2011	2012	DOT	2011	2012	DOT
Appleton	76%	79%	↑	68.3%	65.1%	↓
Bewsey and Whitecross	78%	71%	↓	56.8%	49.2%	↓
Birchwood	73%	73%	↔	68.4%	62.0%	↓
Burtonwood and Winwick	75%	84%	↑	58.7%	61.9%	↑
Culcheth	84%	77%	↓	70.4%	63.4%	↓
Fairfield and Howley	77%	62%	↓	71.3%	65.0%	↓
Grappenhall and Thelwall	80%	82%	↑	70.1%	61.0%	↓
Great Sankey North	79%	76%	↓	65.2%	62.0%	↓
Great Sankey South	82%	76%	↓	62.3%	57.5%	↓
Hatton	88%	87%	↓	59.6%	64.7%	↑
Latchford East	72%	82%	↑	61.8%	67.5%	↑
Latchford West	70%	78%	↑	56.4%	68.5%	↑
Lymm	81%	79%	↓	71.1%	74.5%	↑
Orford	82%	76%	↓	62.5%	58.9%	↓
Penketh and Cuardley	81%	74%	↓	68.8%	56.8%	↓
Poplars and Hulme	70%	74%	↑	64.5%	56.3%	↓
Poulton North	83%	75%	↓	58.8%	57.7%	↓
Poulton South	83%	79%	↓	76.6%	68.4%	↓
Rixton and Woolston	76%	83%	↑	62.1%	67.5%	↑
Stockton Heath	78%	83%	↑	76.3%	77.6%	↓
Westbrook	84%	84%	↔	61.2%	63.2%	↑
Whittle Hall	77%	83%	↑	77.1%	61.3%	↓

d) Teenage conceptions: The JSNA for Sexual Health reports that, statistically, teenage mothers are shown to have significantly poorer outcomes in terms of social

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and mental health during the three years after the birth of their child than older mothers or teenage non-mothers. Teenage mothers and their babies can experience higher rates of infant mortality, a greater risk of social exclusion and a greater risk of living in poverty. Similarly, outcomes for their children are poorer.

According to the JSNA in 2011, the under 18 conception rate for Warrington was 32 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17 Years. Whilst the reduction rate has been considerable since the 1998 baseline figure, the rate is above the national average. Furthermore, it is identified that the rate of teenage conceptions varies significantly at electoral ward level and mirrors the pattern of socio-economic disadvantage. More information can be found in the JSNA for Sexual Health.

5.5.3) Family make-up

As previously highlighted, the type of family can increase the risk to children of living in poverty.

a) Disability: As part of the local child poverty proxy indicator, information is provided on the number of children living in Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance Claimant households, which is used by the Department of Work and Pensions as an indicator of children living in poverty.

According to those statistics⁷³, as of May 2011, there were 800 households in which children lived affected by poverty. This equates to approximately 21 percent of the overall number of children living in families claiming out of work benefits.

b) Ethnicity: At this time, information on a local level is not available on the number of ethnic minority children living in poverty in Warrington. Further needs analysis work is required on this theme.

c) Single parent households: The 2011 Census⁷⁴ recorded that of all the households in Warrington, 7.8 percent were lone parent households. Of these 34.1 percent were in part time employment, 34.7 percent were in full time employment and 31.2 percent were unemployed.

Again, more information is needed on work status and benefit claims on lone parent families to fully understand the level of need in the population.

5.8) Housing and Neighbourhoods

This building block focuses on housing, crime and communities. Localism and the 'big society' approach are central to the government's agenda and services are being encouraged to establish a clearer picture of their role and what the impact of their regional and area based activities are on decreasing child poverty.

a) Housing

Overcrowding, poor housing and homelessness have many negative effects on children's mental and physical health, educational achievements and behaviour. Understanding the need and addressing these issues improves children's outcomes.

Barnardo's report that "there is a shortage of affordable housing due to high rents in the private sector and a lack of investment in maintaining a good standard of social housing. Children who live in bad housing are more likely to suffer from poor health, and to suffer from disability or long term illness. Additionally, they are also more likely

⁷³ Children in households in out of work benefits, 2013, Department for Work and Pensions

⁷⁴ 2011 Census, Doric online

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to dislike the area that they live in and to have run away from home. Children living in poor housing often have poor educational attainment. They are more likely to have been excluded from school and to leave school with no GCSEs⁷⁵.”

As reported in Warrington’s Housing Needs Assessment, there have been significant changes to the local housing market, which can be summarised as follows⁷⁶:

- An increase in population has increased demand for properties across all sectors, particularly for socially rented accommodation. The number of applications has increased significantly over the past three years from 7,651 from 2008/09 to 10,968 in 2010/11⁷⁷.
- An overall reduction in homelessness presentations from 586 in 2007/08 to 238 in 2010/11⁷⁸.
- A substantial reduction in the use of temporary accommodation by the council from 67 in 2007/08 to 13 in 2010/11⁷⁹.
- A significant reduction in the use of bed and breakfast accommodation to 0 in 2010/11⁸⁰.

b) Crime

As of 31 March 2013, the crime rate in Warrington was 59.73 per 1,000 residents⁸¹. Over time, Warrington’s crime rate has been consistently higher than the average for the Cheshire force area. Although, in the last two periods measured there has been a significant drop in Warrington, from 16.38 in December 2012 to 12.96 in March 2013.

Table 18: Crime per 1,000 residents

Source: Office for National Statistics

Period	Warrington	Cheshire	Similar Group Average
Mar 2010	15.91	14.81	16.36
Jun 2010	16.02	15.93	17.66
Sep 2010	16.90	15.72	17.33
Dec 2010	15.77	14.34	15.77
Mar 2011	15.84	13.94	15.93
Jun 2011	14.78	14.20	16.32
Sep 2011	14.55	14.55	16.18
Dec 2011	15.31	14.52	15.51
Mar 2012	14.84	13.07	15.08
Jun 2012	14.28	12.62	14.52
Sep 2012	16.10	14.57	14.71
Dec 2012	16.38	14.36	14.61
Mar 2013	12.96	12.68	13.62

According to the JSNA on Youth Offending⁸², there were 49 young offenders in Warrington under the supervision of the Youth Offending Team. Of these:

- 34 were living with parents
- Four were living in care homes
- Four were in custody – 3 expected to be homeless upon release/1 returning to parents

⁷⁵ What is child poverty, 2008, Barnardos

⁷⁶ Warrington homeless strategy, 2008/13, Warrington Borough Council

⁷⁷ Social Rented Housing: Demand and Supply, March 2012, Department for Communities and Local Government

⁷⁸ Social Rented Housing: Demand and Supply, March 2012, Department for Communities and Local Government

⁷⁹ Social Rented Housing: Demand and Supply, March 2012, Department for Communities and Local Government

⁸⁰ Social Rented Housing: Demand and Supply, March 2012, Department for Communities and Local Government

⁸¹ Crime per 1,00 residents, 2013, Office for National Statistics

⁸² Warrington JSNA Youth Offending Chapter, Doric online

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- Three were living in a local hostel – 1 awaiting his own tenancy and the others given 28 days' notice
- Two were 'sofa surfing' (staying with various friends and relations)
- One was living in temporary accommodation with a family member
- One was in a foster placement.

Higher levels of crime can be associated with more deprived areas. Offenders may also come from and reside in areas with greater levels of poverty. At this time, ward level data is unavailable and further needs analysis is required around crime, youth offending and children.

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6) CURRENT SERVICES IN RELATION TO NEED

6.1) Background

Work around the child poverty agenda in Warrington has been driven by the borough's Child Poverty Strategy 2011 to 2014, which has historically been overseen by the Warrington Partnership on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children and Young People's Partnership.

The Strategy sets out the priorities for action for the Warrington Partnership around:

- Tackling worklessness
- Tackling debt / financial support
- Strengthening families
- Tackling educational failure
- Tackling poor health

At this time, there are no integrated budget arrangements to fund the work around the child poverty agenda, as recommended by the Frank Fields Review⁸³. Instead, local organisations come together to plan and target services via the governance arrangements set out in the Child Poverty Strategy. Each partner funds their own services to reduce and mitigate against the affects of child poverty.

6.2) Tackling worklessness

There are a range of services in place to promote parental employment and improve participation in education, employment and training.

6.2.1) Careers Service for Young People

Careers for Young People is an accredited service which provides information, advice and guidance to young people up to the age of 19 years to participate in education, employment and training. The service targets those young people not currently engaging with education or training, and works with schools and colleges to provide help to young people identified as needing additional support to enable them to continue to participate post-16.

The Careers Service is run from the Careers Centre in Warrington town centre and they deliver a range of initiatives, such as the annual Jobs Fair for Young People, access to training and apprenticeship opportunities, CV writing workshops and financial advice.

6.2.2) Apprenticeships

The Council and its partners have a long history of supporting training initiatives in the community, particularly for young people leaving education, and recognise that a well trained and qualified local workforce is the backbone to the town's prospects and to the continued success of local industry and business.

The Council and its partners have pledged that, through its involvement in apprenticeships, it will provide training opportunities and support to young people up to the age of 25 years. Over the past 12 months, apprenticeships have been offered in office administration, finance and accountancy, parks, gardens and streets, catering, mechanics, information technology and building and construction.

As an apprentice for the Council, young people are paid the national minimum wage rather than the apprenticeship rate, according to their age. They also have access to the Total Reward Package, offering a wide range of employee benefits including

⁸³ The foundation years: preventing poor children becoming poorer adults, 2010, Frank Field

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discounts and cashback incentives with more than 3,000 retailers, as well as access to a salary sacrifice scheme for childcare vouchers, IT equipment, concessionary travel and bikes through the cycle to work scheme.

6.2.3) Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning provides quality adult learning opportunities to close the gap between the advantaged and the disadvantaged residents in Warrington. The service is aimed at adults over the age of 19 years. There are a variety of learning opportunities, including basic numeracy and literacy across a range of community based sites.

6.2.4) Brighter Futures

The Brighter Futures team supports young people and adults aged 14 years and upwards to access college, volunteering, mentoring and employment opportunities. The team are based in Little Stars Children Centre and work closely across all Warrington's children's centres and family support services to identify those families most in need of one to one help to build confidence and develop the skills needed to access long term employment.

6.2.5) Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus supports young people and adults to find full time, part time, temporary or permanent work. The main office is based in Warrington Town centre and advertises a wide range of job vacancies. Jobcentre plus also offers access to schemes and resources to support people to find work, retraining programmes, advice and guidance about self-employment, support to complete application forms and prepare for an interview and additional financial schemes.

6.2.6) Learning Champion

The Learning Champion offers support to parents accessing local children's centres in the Warrington area. The Champion offers support, advice and guidance to those parents wishing to get back into learning, whether this is at the local college or by attending courses on offer within the children's centres or any other local community venue. The Champion can also offer support to those who would like to get into volunteering for a local organisation and has excellent links with the local volunteer centre and with children's centres to offer quality placements.

For parents wishing to secure employment, the Learning Champion can offer support to access other services, such as CV writing. They will also attend the Job Centre with parents, as their advocate, to help support those actively seeking employment. The Learning Champion works across all children's centres in Warrington and can meet parents at their local children's centre, at home or at any other local community venue.

6.2.7) Volunteering Team

The Volunteering Team looks to provide both adults and young people with volunteering opportunities across the Prevention, Family Support and Youth Division. The team can offer placements to volunteers looking to work with children and young people or to those looking to gain office and administration experience.

The team is responsible for recruitment, screening, placement and training of volunteers. Volunteers will be offered an induction and various training opportunities such as, safeguarding, health and safety and other role specific training. Volunteers may also be given the option to complete an accredited course.

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The Volunteering Team also has a youth volunteering section which provides intensive support to disengaged young people, looking to re-engage in education and/or employment. This takes place through a structured programme looking at developing personal and social skills, completing an NVQ Level 2 and employability. This is done through group training sessions, one-to-one mentoring and volunteer placements.

6.2.8) DWP – ESF Support for Complex Families

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has recently awarded £10 million of European Social Funding (ESF) to Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Warrington for support for adults in workless households to access employment. The project delivered in Warrington by 'Work Solution' and 'Cheshire Probation Trust' will provide tailored support to adults identified by Warrington Borough Council family support services as complex families that require support to return to employment. Support will be through combinations of welfare support, training, employment skills and practical help to apply to and maintain employment. The service will be co-located with Warrington Borough Council staff and will run from 2012-2015.

6.2.9) Free Early Years Entitlement

Free nursery places (known as the free early years entitlement) is a national programme for all three and four year old children from the first day of the new term following their third birthday. Each child is entitled to receive up to 15 hours free early years education per week at a private nursery, pre-school, maintained nursery school/class or accredited childminder in Warrington. The provider must be registered with Warrington Borough Council.

6.2.10) 2 Year Old Funded Nursery Placements

The Government are funding a limited number of childcare places for 2 year olds across the country. Warrington has a number of funded places available for 2 year olds whose development would benefit from them attending one of the approved nursery providers across Warrington. The programme expands on the free nursery education places offered to every 3 and 4 year old (Flexible Early Years Entitlement). An Outreach Worker will be able to offer support to parents/carers in accessing the placement, or identifying any other sources of support for the family. The hours of funding will be increasing from April 2012, to 15 hours per week, within term time only. Eligible 2 year olds should have their own development needs and be living in a family who is receiving at least one of the following benefits: income support, income-based job seekers allowance, childcare tax credit (high rate) or extra working tax credits.

As many families claim these benefits, Warrington has set other criteria to decide which families should be prioritised for a place. This may include one or more of the following:

- Children or parents with additional needs
- Workless household
- Lone parent household
- Teenage parents
- Families who have been/are experiencing domestic abuse

Any professional working with a family can make a nomination for a child who they consider would benefit from attending one of the approved participating nurseries. Places are limited and a nomination does not guarantee an offer of a placement. Placements are offered to children who have the greatest need.

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6.3) Tackling debt and financial support

There are a range of services in place which offer financial support and help families to tackle debt.

6.3.1) Citizen Advice Bureau

Warrington Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) provides advice services to people in need around legal, financial and other key issues. CAB offer free, independent, impartial and confidential advice to people on their rights and responsibilities. The service also offers advice on debt management. The service's main office is located in Warrington's Town centre, but CAB is also commissioned to deliver advice services via the 12 children's centers in Warrington.

6.3.2) Revenue and Benefits Team

The Benefits Team provides support to Warrington residents around Council Tax, Housing Benefit, Welfare Reforms, Universal Credit and the Local Support Scheme.

6.3.3) Local Support Scheme

The Local Support Scheme has replaced the government abolished Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants as of April 2013. The replacement scheme has significantly less funding than has previously been available, but provides support to enable residents in Warrington to live independently or to help in the event of an unforeseeable crisis or emergency. The scheme is intended to meet one off needs rather than ongoing expenses for those who meet the eligibility criteria. It can help by providing food, essential home appliances, heating appliances, essential furniture, clothing for expectant mothers and babies and utility cards to help pay for bills at the Post Office.

6.3.4) Free School Meals

Free school meals are provided to school pupils in full time education and under the age of 19 if their parents receive:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (but who are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income is less than £16,190 from 1 April 2010)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance

6.3.5) Warrington Foodbank

Warrington Foodbank provides free food to people identified as being in crisis by front line workers, including the Police, doctors, health visitors, social workers and CAB. The client will be issued with a voucher which is redeemable for three days worth of food. The Foodbank is dependent upon donations of non-perishable food from schools, churches, businesses and individuals. 'Supermarket Collections' are one of the main ways that food is donated. These are food drives held at supermarkets where volunteers give shoppers a 'foodbank shopping list' and ask them to buy an extra item or two for local people in crisis.

6.3.6) Safebuy Scheme

The Safebuy Scheme operates across all the children's centres in Warrington and provides practical support and advice to parents and carers to help reduce the number of child accidents in the home and keep children safe. The scheme offers affordable safety equipment for expectant families and those caring for children under five. The equipment is new, of high quality and is sold on a non-profit basis, to provide good products at a good price. Products include extending stair gate,

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pressure mounted stair gate, fire guards, drawer and cupboard catches and socket covers. From the 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 more than 212 families bought equipment through the Safesbuy Scheme.

6.4) Strengthening families

6.4.1) Families Information Service

The Families Information Service (FIS) aims to develop and implement a strategy to ensure access to a full range of information, advice and assistance for parents/carers, young people and professionals. The service is primarily aimed at 0 to 19 years, but is extended to 25 years if the young person is disabled. Delivery is legislative, led by the Childcare Act 2006, specifically Section 12, which relates to the dissemination of accurate and robust relevant information. FIS is integral to supporting frontline services in the delivery of meeting targets relating to child poverty and the promotion of uptake of formal childcare.

6.4.2) Sure Start Children Centres

Sure Start children's centres support families with young children from pregnancy up to age five. They are a one stop shop working closely with other organisations, such as Job Centre Plus, Citizens Advice Bureau and Life Long Learning so that families living close by get all the support they need in one place.

The role of all children's centre staff is far reaching, providing universal services to families with a child under 5 years or outreach support services to families who have been identified as needing additional support. Where the need arises, Family Support Workers from within Children's Centres can offer practical support to families at home, giving advice on how to access services and manage behaviours, etc. Family Support Workers often act as the Lead Professional, advocating on behalf of families to coordinate support services as part of the Family Support Model.

6.4.3) Family Support Service and Parenting Service

The Family Support Service provides a range of family support services to vulnerable families. A wide range of activities can be offered to families through a number of early interventions and across a spectrum of low level support to intensive support where families are facing complex and multiple needs. These interventions include support with behaviours/routines, parental substance misuse, attachment issues, domestic violence, poor housing conditions or parental mental health issues.

The team works in line with the Warrington's Family Support Model and 'think family' approaches to provide support for the whole family with the consent and commitment from the family prior to intervention. Support is delivered through the family support and parenting service and can include outreach support, which may be face to face or telephone contact, co-ordination of other services and meeting support. Support can be offered within the home setting or other relevant establishments such as schools, Children's Centres and youth based services.

Support is based on the individual needs identified within the family using assessment tools and will be a combination of practical support and co-ordination of services to include both children's and adult's services where necessary. Evidenced based interventions, such as parenting programmes, may form an element of the support plan.

6.4.4) St. Joseph's Family Centre

St Joseph's Family Centre offers a wide range of services which reflect the many relationship difficulties experienced by adults and children. The aim of the

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organisation is to promote the wellbeing of each individual, as well as the family unit, through a holistic approach. This encompasses the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the person, thus enabling each member of the family to attain personal fulfilment in a caring environment. Services include adult and children's one-to-one counselling, coping strategies for children to improve behaviours and deal with emotional distress caused by bereavement or loss, adult and junior anger management, adult bereavement groups, parenting programmes (Time Out for Parents, Time Out from ADHD, Time Out from ASD) and complementary therapies. Material help for families is also offered, including emergency food. Family contact is also offered by the centre, enabling children to meet their non-resident parent in a safe and neutral environment.

6.4.5) Children's Society

The Children's Society in Warrington provides community based family support services. The programme is located in one of the most deprived wards in the borough (Orford) and focuses its activity in the 19 'Super Output Areas' within Warrington that rank within the 10 percent most deprived nationally in terms of health deprivation and disability. The programme currently delivers Early Years education for children 3 to 5 years, supporting their emotional, behavioural and educational development. The Children's Society plans to offer places to 2 year olds from January 2012. Services include 'Bright Beginnings' for children and families, 'Positive Parenting' parenting support programmes and group work for disabled children and those with speech and language needs, via the 'Communicate Together' project.

6.4.6) Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP)

The aim of YOT is to reduce re-offending by children and young people and the aim of YISP is to reduce the number of first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System. Interventions include one-to-one and group work which focuses on specific areas, including anger management, general offending and substance misuse.

6.4.7) Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

The aim of the CDRP is to identify and enable partnership working opportunities to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. Support is offered to partner agencies to enable referrals to appropriate services, offer crime prevention advice, aid with early identification of perpetrators and facilitate information sharing to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. The CDRP is a universal service that supports people by providing advice to victims of burglary or domestic abuse, but also by making referrals for vulnerable young people and being part of the crime prevention infrastructure in Warrington.

6.4.8) Stepping Stone Project (Opening Doors)

Stepping Stone provides accommodation and support services for young people aged 16 years or over who are leaving care or at risk of homelessness. Supported Lodging provides accommodation for 16-24 year olds for up to 2 years within a private household. The Grange Avenue Project provides self-contained accommodation and 24 hour support within a group setting for 6 young people aged 16-24 years who have complex needs and who have had difficulty accessing or maintaining suitable accommodation elsewhere. Stepping Stone also chairs MANAP (multi-agency needs assessment panel) for clients at risk of homelessness, including young people. All of the services offered by Stepping Stone contribute to the reduction of anti-social behaviour, the reduction of entries into the criminal justice system and aim to promote health, economic and social wellbeing through quality, secure accommodation and training, learning and employment opportunities.

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6.4.9) Vulnerable Tenant Support Service (VTSS)

VTSS aims to promote and support independent living for vulnerable tenants and young people at risk (teenage parents and care leavers). Resettlement from supported accommodation is also offered. Cases dealt with are complex and include mental health issues, learning difficulties and alcohol and substance misuse. These services are delivered through outreach work, including home visits and one-to-one support.

6.5) Tackling educational failure

6.5.1) 14-19 Partnership and Vulnerable Pupils Division

The service is responsible for providing information, advice and guidance to young people aged 14-19 who are at risk of the poorest outcomes. This will include children in care, children with a child protection order, young people from families on low income, young people at risk of not participating in education or training post-16, travellers, electively home educated, young carers, young offenders, teenage parents and excluded pupils etc.

The service is also responsible for ensuring that the local authority is aware of what activity young people aged 16-19 are participating in and what they achieve. Therefore, the team works closely in partnership with Warrington schools and colleges to assist them in their duty to provide information, advice and guidance to pupils. Through their work with schools and colleges, the team also reviews the current offer to young people aged 16-19 to ensure that there is appropriate education and training provision available. In addition, support is provided in partnership with schools and colleges to ensure young people leave with the appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to enable them to progress to employment or higher education.

The Virtual School for Vulnerable Pupils will track the progress of vulnerable young people through their education from age 3-19 and support schools with interventions to improve their attainment. This includes ensuring young people excluded from mainstream school continue to receive appropriate education

6.5.2) Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding given to schools so that they can support their disadvantaged pupils and close the attainment gap between them and their peers. The pupil premium has risen to £1.875 billion in 2013-14, with schools attracting £900 per disadvantaged child. The funding sits outside the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Eligibility is based on whether:

- pupils have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM')
- pupils have been in care continuously for more than six months
- pupils are the child of service personnel

Headteachers and school leaders are able to use the pupil premium how they see fit. They are held accountable through the performance tables, which show the performance of disadvantaged pupils compared with their peers, and Ofsted inspection framework, under which inspectors focus on the attainment of pupil groups, particularly those who attract the pupil premium.

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6.5.3) Attendance Service

The Attendance Service supports the council's statutory requirement to ensure that every child in Warrington receives a suitable education and also to bring legal action against parents in order to enforce attendance at school (Education Act 1996). This service also has specific legal duties in relation to fast track prosecutions, penalty notices, education supervision orders and parenting orders. The broader attendance work is the responsibility of schools, however, schools are invited to buy this service from the Council at full cost or meet their statutory duties via other means.

6.6) Tackling poor health

6.6.1) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

CAMHS is a specialist service providing therapeutic interventions to children, young people and their families. Interventions provided are timely, appropriate and high quality specialist services to meet complex, persistent and severe emotional and psychological problems. Services are delivered by a multi-disciplinary and skilled team who provide assessments, consultations, diagnoses and treatments to children and young people. Family Therapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Drama Therapy and Filial Therapy are also offered.

6.6.2) NHS Warrington Bridgewater Trust

Warrington Community Bridgewater Trust provides health services to the population of Warrington. The Public Health Nursing Team (Registered Health Visitors and School Health Advisors) provides services to children, young people and families within the borough. Universal, targeted and specialist services are offered by the Bridgewater Trust to children and families Warrington-wide. The age range covered is 0-19 years. Specialist services include speech and language therapy, Child Development Centre services, nursing for children with learning disabilities and nursing for children with long-term conditions. They also offer home visits to assess physical and emotional health needs of the whole family, one to one support on child development including behavioural issues, assessment and coordination of care plans, packages of care for identified health needs and targeted intervention for children and families in need. Specialist intervention on child protection and safeguarding issues is also offered by the Specialist Health Visitor Safeguarding Children Team.

6.6.3) NHS Warrington Child Development Centre (CDC)

The CDC provides multi-disciplinary assessments and management of pre-school children, with criteria focusing around developmental concerns. Interventions and services include speech and language therapy, a feeding clinic, audiology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, medical assessment, specialist nursing, vision services and educational liaison. Each of these areas is coordinated by a specialist professional and individual programmes are provided.

6.6.4) Families First Health Visiting Service

Families First is part of the NHS Warrington Bridgewater Trust and is a project aimed at providing an intensive health visiting service to targeted families. The families targeted fulfill a set criteria related to vulnerability where intensive health visiting can improve health outcomes. Families must live in one of Warrington's 20% most deprived wards and be expecting a baby or have a child under 4 weeks old. Families First Health Visitors focus on supporting those with complex or multiple problems.

CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

6.6.5) NHS Warrington and Halton Hospitals Foundation Trust

The hospital provides specialist nursing services for respiratory, neo-natal, diabetes and epilepsy conditions for babies, children and young people up to the age of 18 years, where there is then a transitional and planned handover to adult services. Services provided include rapid access to hospital services, telephone contact, and education to family, friends and those in a caring role in the home, nursery, schools and colleges.

In addition, the hospital has an A&E service and ensures that acute hospital staff are trained in identifying concerns, referring to social work teams or family support services as appropriate.

The hospital also offers midwifery services where staff are involved with families throughout pregnancy, child birth and post-natally up to a period of 28 days. Midwives also support women and families through foetal and neo-natal loss. Where appropriate, services are offered from GP surgeries, Children's Centres, Hospital clinics and in the home.

A specialist midwife supports teenage parents up to their 19th birthday, giving intensive support through the Family Support Model to those who may have complex issues or additional needs. Another specialist midwife also supports pregnant substance users, offering maternity services focused on the welfare of the woman and her baby, working in partnership with a multidisciplinary team to offer treatment and support. Longer term outcomes are followed up by a Health Visitor to check developmental progress.

CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

7) PROJECTED SERVICE USE AND OUTCOMES IN 3 TO 5 YEARS AND 5 TO 10 YEARS

7.1) National Context

The Institute for Fiscal Studies⁸⁴ report that, in the context of falling incomes in the UK, relative income poverty and absolute poverty are predicted to rise. They estimate that there are currently 2.7 million children living in poverty in the UK using the relative indicator and three million using the absolute measure. The report predicts that the percentage of children experiencing poverty in 2020 will be 23.5 percent and 27.2 percent in relative and absolute terms respectively. The tax and benefit reforms introduced since April 2010 are cited for the increases in child poverty projected over the next few years.

The Child Poverty Action Group⁸⁵ has argued that the wide reaching programme of reforms will in turn result in an increase in demand for local services, specifically:

- Advice, information and guidance services
- Food banks
- Public transport
- Financial support
- Social housing
- Children's centre support
- Early intervention

7.2) In Warrington

Our needs analysis assessment in Section 5 illustrates that child poverty rates have reduced fractionally in the past 12 months. However, Warrington's employment figures continue to rise in the borough and if this trend is maintained then Warrington may not see a sharp increase in child poverty levels as predicted nationally.

Of greater concern for Warrington is the continued decline in earnings for residents in the borough over the past three years, as this may plunge more working families into relative poverty both in the next 3 to 5 years and 5 to 10 years.

Attainment levels for pupils eligible for free school meals are currently well below all pupil levels and, therefore, this is an indication that these pupils need additional support targeted over the next 3 to 5 years through the pupil premium to narrow the gap in achievement on a consistent basis.

⁸⁴ Child and working-age poverty from 2010 to 2020, 2013, Institute for Fiscal Studies

⁸⁵ Local authorities and child poverty: balancing threats and opportunities, July 2012, Child Poverty Action Group

CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

8) TARGET POPULATION / SERVICES USER VIEWS

8.1) Consultation

At this time, consultation with those families and children living in poverty has not taken place and this will be integral to the development of the next Child Poverty Strategy.

CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

9) UNMET NEEDS AND SERVICE GAPS

9.1) Unmet needs

[Section 5 - The Level of Need in the Population](#) identifies the following needs:

- More targeted support for pupils eligible for free school meals across all key stages of learning in order to narrow the attainment gap between those pupils and their peers.
- Support for children and young people to lead healthier lifestyles to enable them to maintain a healthier weight and to prevent the proportion of overweight children increasing between Reception and Year 6.
- An increase in demand for accommodation, particularly socially rented properties.

9.2) Service gaps

[Section 6 - Current Services in Relation to Need](#) identifies the following service gaps in relation to need:

- Weight management support for children, young people and families to lead healthier lifestyles.
- Access to healthy food for families living in poverty.
- Socially rented accommodation.

CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

10) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMISSIONING

10.1) Recommendations

Based on the [Section 5 - The Level of Need in the Population](#) there are four key priorities which need to be addressed by commissioners as follows:

- The Local Authority to support schools to target the use of the Pupil Premium to ensure that the gap in achievement is narrowed:
 - In the Early Year Foundation Stage
 - At Key Stage 1 in reading, writing, science and maths
 - At Key Stage 2 for those pupils achieving at least Level 4
 - At Key Stage 4 around the proportion of children achieving at least 5 A*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths
- Increased support for new mothers to initiate breastfeeding to positively increase rates in line with the national average.
- Public Health to consider additional support / effectiveness of support for primary school aged children identified as overweight / obese to loose weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

11) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORK

11.1) Introduction

[Section 5 - The Level of Need in the Population](#) sets out three recommendations for further needs assessment work around:

- Ethnicity
- Lone parents
- Crime

11.2) Ethnicity

At this time, information on the ethnicity of children living in poverty in Warrington is not known.

11.3) Lone parents

Further information is needed on work status and benefit claims for lone parent families to ascertain the number of children living in poverty in single and couple parent households.

11.3) Crime

Ward level data on which areas offenders come from / reside in is also required to understand whether there is a link between poverty and offender behaviour.