



THE TRUTH ABOUT CHILD POVERTY

'No child should be born without a chance. It is a national scandal that 1.6 million children are growing up in severe poverty'.

- Sally Copley, Head of UK Policy, Save the Children

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Poverty** removes choice and hinders people from fully participating within society. It can exclude from people from the most basic of necessities such as decent housing, access to good health and education. Inevitably poverty affects children, disabling them from also participating and depriving them of choices that might otherwise improve their life chances and increase their ability to reach their full potential.
- Poverty not only impacts on how much money someone has, it impacts on the individual's personal power and the way they feel about themselves. Personal power comes with a sense of being able to control the choices you make in life, not that life dictates your path because of circumstance.
- **Child poverty is potentially being made worse due to the current economic climate** where we are seeing rising costs in basic necessities such as food and fuel. This situation further exacerbates the struggles for families living in poverty.
- Below Average Income (HBAI) figures for 2009/10 reveal that **13.5 million families** in the UK (22% are income poor. In England **over 11.5 million** of the population is living below the poverty line.¹
- The biggest gap in attaining 5 or more GCSE's A*-C between children who receive free school meals (FSM) and non FSM are those from **white British and Irish Backgrounds** compared to other ethnic backgrounds. Figures reveal 24% of white British boys on FSM achieve 5 or more A*-C grades compared to 65% non FSM. Whilst for Irish backgrounds FSM children achieve 28% compared to 70% non FSM.²

CHILD POVERTY EXISTS IN KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA!

- It is not immediately obvious to all that poverty exists in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. After all it is one of the richest local authority areas in the country and boasts the highest property prices in the UK. However, amongst this wealth and prosperity sits deep pockets of poverty and deprivation. One of the greatest concerns is the impact this has on some of the borough's children.
- Around **one quarter (23%)** of children living in Kensington and Chelsea are considered to be living in income deprived households. In the north of the borough close to half of all children live in income deprived households.³

¹ www.cpag.org.uk/povertyfacts

² Department for Education (2010) GCSE and Equivalent Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England, cited; A New Approach to Child Poverty; RBKC 2011

³ www.rbkc.gov.uk/voluntaryandpartnerships/jsna/2011datafactsheets - sourced June 2011

- In January 2011 there were **3453 JSA** claimants (2.9%) in the borough, lower than the average rate compared to 4% in London and 3.7% in Great Britain. However Kensington and Chelsea have a higher proportion of long-term JSA claimants than London and England. In **Golborne ward** in the north of the borough it is **twice the national average**.⁴
- Poor oral health is recognised both locally and nationally as being associated with social deprivation. This finding is linked to reasons such as high sugary food and drink, untreated decay, mental illness and brushing teeth less often.⁵ RBKC data 2007/8 reveals that within the borough school children have consistently higher than average number of decayed, missing or filled teeth compared to the London and England average. The level of decay is similar to Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham and Brent.⁶

Percentage of children 0-15 living in income deprived households in Kensington and Chelsea.

WARD	%	Number of income deprived Children
Campden	3.3	44
Queens Gate	3.2	48
Courtfield	5.5	65
Royal Hospital	6.5	78
Redcliffe	9.9	121
Stanley	9.9	129
Pembridge	10.2	96
Abingdon	10.4	178
Brompton	10.7	130
Hans Town	14.4	205
Holland Park	17.2	368
Norland	23.5	354
Earls Court	24.8	290
Cremorne	30%	459
Colville	37.6	464
St Charles	42.9	859
Notting Barns	47	876
Golborne	48.8	1055

*Cited; www.rbkc.gov.uk/voluntaryandpartnerships/jsna/2011datafactsheets

⁴ RBKC; March 2011; JSNA Predicting the Borough's Health and Well-being

⁵ www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics -sourced June 2011

⁶ www.rbkc.gov.uk/voluntaryandpartnerships/jsna/2011datafactsheets/lifestyleandbehaviour