

Child Poverty: Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure

February 2018 (reporting 31st August 2015 data)

Aim

To present the latest picture of Child Poverty in Cumbria by providing analysis of the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure produced by HM Revenues & Customs.

Background

The Marmot Review (2010) reported that childhood poverty leads to premature mortality and poor health outcomes for adults. The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure shows the proportion of children living in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of Income Support or Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance. This measure provides a broad proxy for relative low-income child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010, and enables analysis at a local level. Statistics are published at various levels of geography providing an annual snapshot as at 31 August from 2006 onwards.

Administrative data sources on benefits and tax credits from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are used in the calculation of the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure. This analysis is based on snapshot data as at 31st August 2015, which was released in February 2018. For further details on the definition and methodology used please go here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/personal-tax-credits-children-in-low-income-families-local-measure-2015-snapshot-as-at-31-august-2015>

Levels of Child Poverty in Cumbria

As at 31st August 2015, there were 10,240 children aged 0-15 years living in low income families in Cumbria (12.9%), and 11,800 children aged 0-19 years living in low income families within the county (12.7%). These proportions were below the national averages of 16.8% and 16.6% respectively.

Figure 1: Number and proportion of children living in poverty: Cumbria, Districts and England:

	Under 16 (0 – 15 years)		All Children (0 – 19 years)	
	Number	%	Number	%
England	1,678,030	16.8%	1,929,285	16.6%
Cumbria	10,240	12.9%	11,800	12.7%
Allerdale	2,205	14.2%	2,530	13.9%
Barrow-in-Furness	2,165	18.1%	2,510	18.0%
Carlisle	2,550	13.7%	2,880	13.4%
Copeland	1,710	15.1%	1,980	15.0%
Eden	645	8.2%	745	8.0%
South Lakeland	965	6.7%	1,155	6.8%

Source: HMRC, 2015

Levels of child poverty in all of Cumbria's districts were below the national average in 2015, with the exception of Barrow-in-Furness; in Barrow 18.1% of children aged 0-15 years and 18% of children aged 0-19 years were living in low income families.

The Cumbrian wards with the greatest proportions of 0-19 year olds living in low income families in 2015 were: Central ward in Barrow-in-Furness (41.8%); Sandwith ward in Copeland (38.4%); and Moss Bay ward in Allerdale (30.7%). Of Cumbria's 166 electoral wards, a total of 26 wards had proportions of 0-19 year olds living in low income families that were greater than the national average. These wards are listed below in Figure 2.

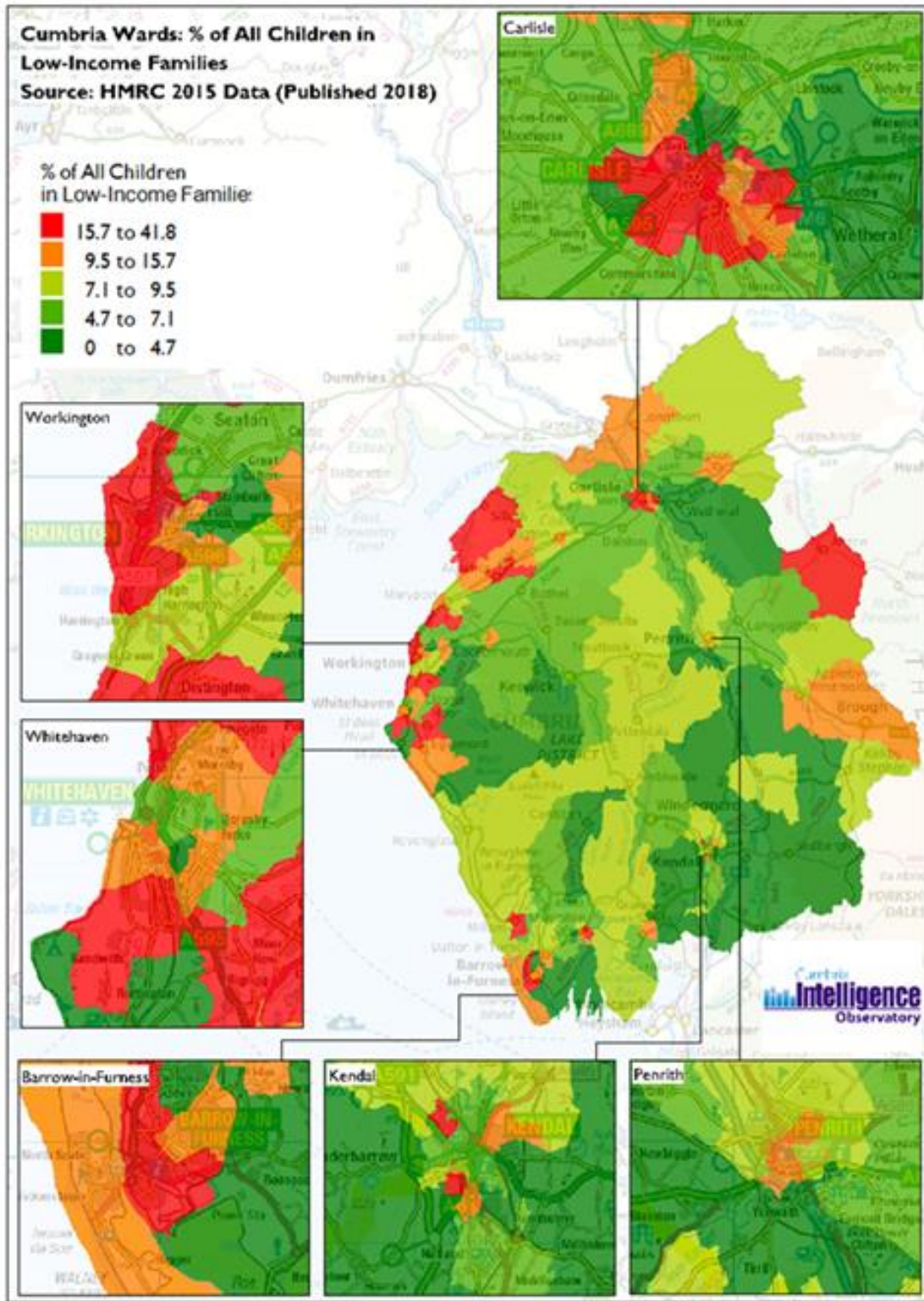
Table 2: Cumbrian wards: % of 0-19 year olds living in low income families greater than England average:

Ward	District	% of 0-19 year olds in low-income families
Central	Barrow-in-Furness	41.8%
Sandwith	Copeland	38.4%
Moss Bay	Allerdale	30.7%
Ewanrigg	Allerdale	29.3%
Risedale	Barrow-in-Furness	28.6%
Hindpool	Barrow-in-Furness	28.1%
Upperby	Carlisle	26.0%
Mirehouse	Copeland	24.5%
Barrow Island	Barrow-in-Furness	24.3%
Moorclose	Allerdale	24.1%
Ormsgill	Barrow-in-Furness	23.3%
Botcherby	Carlisle	22.4%
Castle	Carlisle	22.1%
St Michael's	Allerdale	21.9%
Ellenborough	Allerdale	20.0%
Egremont North	Copeland	19.8%
Belle Vue	Carlisle	19.6%
Holborn Hill	Copeland	18.9%
Distington	Copeland	18.5%
Currock	Carlisle	18.0%
Flimby	Allerdale	17.9%
Cleator Moor South	Copeland	17.2%
Cleator Moor North	Copeland	17.1%
Kendal Kirkland	South Lakeland	16.8%
Morton	Carlisle	16.7%
Kendal Underley	South Lakeland	16.7%

Source: HMRC, 2015

Areas with high levels of child poverty were predominantly urban; with 18 of the above 26 wards classified as urban wards (69.2%). Figure 3 plots the proportion of 0-19 year olds living in low income families in 2015 across the county's 166 electoral wards.

Figure 3:



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Annual Change

The proportion of all children living in low income families in Cumbria decreased from 15% in 2014 to 12.7% in 2015 (a fall of 2.3 percentage points). This decline followed the national trend (-3.3% percentage points between 2014 and 2015). Furthermore, the proportion of children living in low income families decreased across all of Cumbria's districts during the above timeframe. Although levels of children living in low income families have fallen, there is no hard evidence to suggest that fewer children are living in poverty; the declines may partly be explained by the reduction in the low-income threshold (calculated as 60 per cent of the median income) which decreased from £253 in 2014 to £233 in 2015 (in nominal terms). The threshold produced in 2014 was unusually high due to an increase in the number of high earners near the low income threshold.

Figure 4: Change in the proportion of children living in low income families: 2014 vs. 2015:

	Under 16 (0 – 15 years)			All Children (0 – 19 years)		
	2014	2015	% Points Change	2014	2015	% Points Change
England	20.1%	16.8%	-3.3%	19.9%	16.6%	-3.3%
Cumbria	15.4%	12.9%	-2.5%	15.0%	12.7%	-2.3%
Allerdale	17.2%	14.2%	-3.0%	16.7%	13.9%	-2.8%
Barrow	21.4%	18.1%	-3.3%	21.0%	18.0%	-3.0%
Carlisle	16.2%	13.7%	-2.5%	15.8%	13.4%	-2.4%
Copeland	18.5%	15.1%	-3.4%	18.3%	15.0%	-3.3%
Eden	10.0%	8.2%	-1.8%	9.8%	8.0%	-1.8%
South Lakeland	8.8%	6.7%	-2.1%	8.6%	6.8%	-1.8%

Source: HMRC, 2015

Further Information

Current Cumbria Observatory Briefings, Summaries & Resources:

- <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/children/children-families-further-information/>
- <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/deprivation/deprivation-further-information/>

The above include:

- Key Children & Young People Statistics: Profile: Cumbria & Districts
- Key Children & Young People Statistics: 1 in 100 Children: Cumbria: Infographic
- Key Children & Young People Statistics: 1 in 100 Children: Cumbria & Districts: Tables
- Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2014
- Children & Families Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2015
- Briefing: Fuel Poverty: Cumbria
- Briefing: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD): Cumbria
- Briefing: ACORN Socio-Economic Profiles: Cumbria

Personal Tax Credits: Children in low income families local measure 2015:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/personal-tax-credits-children-in-low-income-families-local-measure-2015-snapshot-as-at-31-august-2015>

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