

Breaking the Cycle: Child Poverty Annual Performance Monitoring

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CFA Performance Management & Quality Assurance Service

SECTION 1: ANALYSIS OF HMRC CHILD POVERTY 2011 DATA PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2013

This analysis presents the HMRC child poverty data for Cambridgeshire wards and districts. The figures demonstrate the direction of travel between 2006 and 2011. It concentrates on the number of dependent children (under 20 years old) living in poverty over time.

Implications for Cambridgeshire’s Child Poverty Strategy:

- Over 15,800 children live in poverty in Cambridgeshire, 12.6% of all children;
- Fenland continues to have the highest level of child poverty in Cambridgeshire.

1.1 The Overall Picture

Based on 2011 figures, **15,845** children live in relative poverty in Cambridgeshire, **12.6%** of the total. This represents a decrease from 12.9% in 2010, and a decrease of 260 children in real terms.

Proportion of children living in low income households

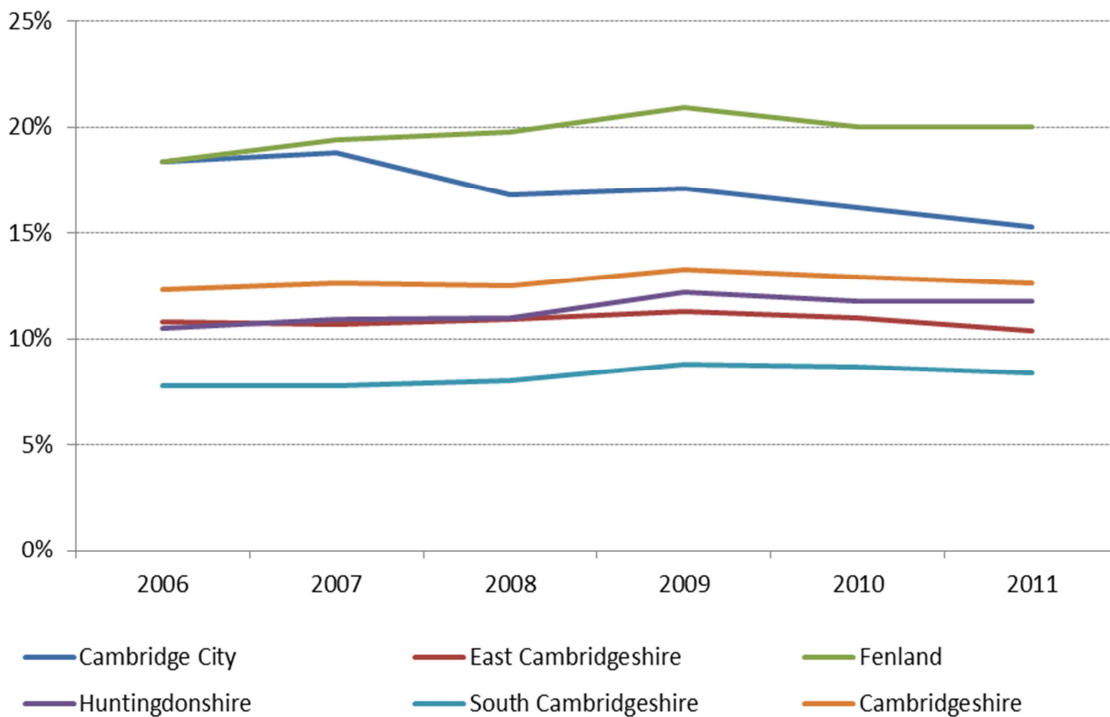


Table 1: District and County Summary 2006 - 2011

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change 2006-2011
Cambridge City	3,210 18.4%	3295 18.8%	2985 16.8%	3,110 17.1%	3,005 16.2%	2875 15.3%	-335 -3.1 % pts
East Cambridgeshire	1,725 10.8%	1735 10.7%	1780 10.9%	1,915 11.3%	1,885 11.0%	1830 10.4%	105 -0.4% pts
Fenland	3,475 18.4%	3725 19.4%	3840 19.8%	4,160 20.9%	4,050 20.0%	4065 20.0%	590 1.6% pts
Huntingdonshire	3,760 10.5%	3920 10.9%	3990 11.0%	4,450 12.2%	4,330 11.8%	4305 11.8%	545 1.3% pts
South Cambridgeshire	2,345 7.8%	2410 7.8%	2495 8.0%	2,825 8.8%	2,835 8.7%	2765 8.4%	420 0.6% pts
Cambridgeshire	14,515 12.3%	15080 12.6%	15090 12.5%	16,455 13.3%	16,105 12.9%	15845 12.6%	1,330 0.3% pts

Overall, the percentage of children living in relative poverty in Cambridgeshire has risen slightly over the five years from 2006–2011, with the most significant rises occurring in Fenland then Huntingdonshire. In Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire there has been a decrease in child poverty levels during this period. Relative poverty decreased in all Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire between 2010 and 2011, whilst remaining unchanged in Fenland and Huntingdonshire.

Table 2: Wards with levels of Child Poverty above the England average of 20.1% for 2011

Ward	District	% of children in poverty
Wisbech Waterlees	Fenland	31.8%
Huntingdon North	Huntingdonshire	30.2%
Wisbech Staithe	Fenland	29.4%
Abbey	Cambridge City	26.7%
Wisbech Medworth	Fenland	26.2%
King's Hedges	Cambridge City	25.8%
Elm and Christchurch	Fenland	24.8%
East Chesterton	Cambridge City	23.9%
Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary	Fenland	23.9%
Wisbech Clarkson	Fenland	23.5%
Kingsmoor	Fenland	23.4%
Wisbech Peckover	Fenland	23.3%
Lattersey	Fenland	22.7%
Roman Bank	Fenland	22.1%
March East	Fenland	20.3%
Wisbech Hill	Fenland	20.2%

In 2011, 16 wards had a higher percentage of children in poverty than the national average, the same number as in 2010. In that time, the national average itself fell slightly from 20.6% to 20.3%.

The actual numbers of children living in poverty within wards differs according to the population of the wards. In real terms, the wards with the highest numbers of children living in poverty are shown in the table below:

Table 3: Wards with the highest number (not proportion) of children in poverty

Ward	2011 total no. of children in poverty
Huntingdon North	610
Abbey	540
Waterlees	485
King's Hedges	460
East Chesterton	430
Bourn	405
Yaxley and Farcet	390
St Neots Eynesbury	325
Arbury	310
Cottenham	295
March North	295
Histon and Impington	290
March East	290
Huntingdon East	280
Gransden and The Offords	280
Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary	260
Ramsey	255
Roman Bank	255
Elm and Christchurch	250
Cherry Hinton	245
Hill	225
March West	220
Ely North	215

1.2 Changes in child poverty rates at ward level

At ward level, between 2006 and 2011 there have been variable changes in the percentage of children living in poverty, from +9.0% pts to -5.4% pts.

Table 4: Wards with highest increase in % of children in poverty

Ward	2006 - 2011 change in no. of children in poverty	2006 - 2011 % point change in % children in poverty
Gransden and The Offords	195	9.0
Delph	40	8.9
Lattersey	45	8.6
Cottenham	170	8.3
Little Paxton	45	6.9
Manea	30	5.6
Orwell and Barrington	25	5.4
Linton	55	5.1
Comberton	25	4.6
Slade Lode	35	4.5
Benwick, Coates and Eastrea	40	4.5

Many of the larger increases were in commuter villages close to large centres of population, such as Lattersey and Cottenham. Some large percentage increases are due to the relatively small number of children living in poverty in these wards, but the increase in the number of children living in poverty in the wards between 2006 and 2011 is always significant.

Many of the larger urban wards saw a decline in the percentage of child poverty over the period 2006-2011. Abbey and East Chesterton wards in Cambridge saw one of the largest reductions, a 5.2% drop from 31.8% to 26.7%.

Table 5: Wards with highest decrease in % of children in poverty

Ward	2006 - 2011 change in no. of children in poverty	2006 - 2011 % point change in % children in poverty
Waterlees	-10	-5.4
Abbey	-40	-5.2
East Chesterton	-75	-5.2
Romsey	-40	-5.1
Sutton	-30	-4.7
Birch	-20	-4.2
Market	-5	-4.1
Petersfield	-25	-3.8
Newnham	-20	-3.6
St Ives West	-20	-3.1
Coleridge	-30	-3.0
Arbury	-20	-3.0

1.3 Numerical changes

Because of the demographic variations across Cambridgeshire, it is worth comparing the approximate numbers of children estimated to be in poverty at ward level, as well as the percentage.

Table 6: Wards with highest increase in number of children in poverty

Wards	2006 - 2011 change in no. of children in poverty	2006 - 2011 % point change in % children in poverty
Bourn	225	2.7
Gransden and The Offords	195	9.0
Cottenham	170	8.3
Yaxley and Farcet	125	4.1
Histon and Impington	105	3.2
March North	75	2.4
Willingham and Over	70	4.0
Huntingdon North	70	-0.5
Soham North	60	2.0
Linton	55	5.1
Waterbeach	55	4.3
Littleport East	55	4.3
The Shelfords and Stapleford	55	3.7
Ramsey	55	3.7

Five wards show increases of over 100 in the period 2006-2011; Bourn (up 225 to 405), Cottenham (more than doubling from 125 to 295), Histon and Impington (up 105 to 290), Yaxley and Farcet (up 125 to 390) and Gransden and the Offords (up 195 to 280). Four out of five of these wards have had relatively large amounts of house-building over the past six years, the exception being Cottenham.

The data shows 80 wards where numbers of children in poverty increased between 2006 and 2011 (by an average of 35), 8 where they remained static, and 35 where there was reduction of between 5 and 75 (an average of 18). The reductions in East Chesterton (75 children) is the largest in numerical terms, with Abbey and Romsey each reducing by 40, and Coleridge, Eaton Socon and Sutton by 20 each.

Of the **top 16 wards** (those above the national average for children living in poverty), only four (Abbey, East Chesterton, Wisbech Waterlees and Wisbech Hill) showed a significant decrease over the period. Eight wards (Wisbech Staithe, Roman bank, Elm & Christchurch, Wisbech Clarkson, March East, Huntingdon North, Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary, Kings Hedges) had a change of less than 1 percentage point, leaving four showing increases of between 2.4 and 8.6 percentage points (Kingsmoor, Wisbech Peckover, Wisbech Medworth and Lattersey).

Table 7: Wards with highest decrease in number of children in poverty

Wards	2006 - 2011 change in no. of children in poverty	2006 - 2011 % point change in % children in poverty
East Chesterton	-75	-5.2
Abbey	-40	-5.2
Romsey	-40	-5.1
Sutton	-30	-4.7
Coleridge	-30	-3.0
St Neots Eaton Socon	-30	-1.4
Petersfield	-25	-3.8
The Hemingfords	-25	-2.2
Cherry Hinton	-25	-1.8
Birch	-20	-4.2
Newnham	-20	-3.6
St Ives West	-20	-3.1
Arbury	-20	-3.0
Queen Edith's	-20	-1.8
St Neots Priory Park	-20	-1.5
St Neots Eynesbury	-20	-0.7
St Ives South	-15	-2.2
Stretham	-15	-1.9
Buckden	-15	-1.4
Bassingbourn	-15	-1.1
Haddenham	-15	-1.0
Waterlees	-10	-5.4
Dullingham Villages	-10	-2.6
The Swaffhams	-10	-2.6
Downham Villages	-10	-1.3
Melbourn	-10	-0.5

1.4 Distribution of child poverty

The distribution of child poverty in Cambridgeshire is characterised by pockets of poverty in mainly affluent areas. The table below splits the proportion of children living in poverty in Cambridgeshire into five tiers.

The 2010 data showed that 76% of children in poverty in Cambridgeshire actually live in our more affluent areas. By 2011, this figure had increased slightly to nearly 79%.

Subjective Tiers of LSOAs by level of Child Poverty

Tier One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Significantly higher levels of child poverty</i> • Two LSOAs; • 39.5% to 39.7% of children here living in low income households; • 450 children in poverty here; • 210 in Huntingdonshire; • 240 in Fenland.
Tier Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High levels of child poverty</i> • Twelve LSOAs; • 30.5% - 38.5% of children here living in low income households; • 1,495 children in poverty here; • 600 in Cambridge; • 590 in Fenland; • 140 in Huntingdonshire; • 165 in South Cambridgeshire.
Tier Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noticeable levels of child poverty</i> • Twelve LSOAs • 26.0% to 29.0% of children here living in low income households; • 1,450 children in poverty here; • 465 in Cambridge • 220 in Fenland; • 575 in Huntingdonshire; • 210 in South Cambridgeshire.
Tier Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Variable levels of child poverty</i> • One hundred and twelve LSOAs • 12.7% to 25.8% of children here living in low income households; • 7,275 children in poverty here; • 1,320 in Cambridge; • 945 in East Cambridgeshire • 2,720 in Fenland; • 1,780 in Huntingdonshire; • 510 in South Cambridgeshire;
Tier Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low levels of child poverty</i> • All other LSOAs (227) • 0% to 12.6% of children here living in low income households (Cambridgeshire average is 12.6%); • 5,195 children in poverty here; • 520 in Cambridge; • 880 in East Cambridgeshire; • 310 in Fenland; • 1,610 in Huntingdonshire; • 1,875 in South Cambridgeshire.

SECTION 2: CHILD POVERTY UNIT BASKET OF INDICATORS

2.1 Child Poverty Set of Indicators: National Comparison

The Child Poverty Unit proposed a “basket” of indicators which, either separately or together, impact upon the levels of child poverty. Using these indicators in comparison with other local authorities in England we can identify those issues which are of particular concern to Cambridgeshire.

Figure 1: Child Poverty Set of Indicators: comparative data

Indicator	Cambs	Eng Avg	Eng Worst	England Range	Eng Best	SN Avg
1 % Children living in poverty (2011)	12.6	20.6	46.1		2.9	13.2
2 Overall Employment Rate (%) (Sept 2013)	76.1	71.4	57.2		87.8	
3 Median earnings of employees in the area - Gross Weekly Pay (£) (2013 provisional)	466.6	421.6	294.6		719.4	
4 Average time taken (in number of days) to process new hb/ctb claims (Q4 2012/13)	21.0	24.0	66.0		6.0	
5 The proportion of FSM pupils in year 11 who go on to achieve a level 2 qualification at 19 (2013)	69.0	65.0	51.0		92.0	65
6 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving a good level of development at EYFSP (2013)	22.0	19.0	34.0		2.0	
7 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2, percentage points (pp) (2013)	30.0	19.0	44.0		5.0	23.4
8 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving the expected level at KS4, percentage points (pp)	33.0	27.0	42.5		4.2	33.1
9 Gap in progression to higher education FSM/non-FSM, percentage points (pp) (2011)	27.0	18.0	31.0		-3.0	
10 Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET (2012)	5.1	6.1	11.8		0.0	5.3
11 Conception rate per 1000 women aged 15-17 years (2012)	16.8	27.7	52.0		14.2	21.3
12 Rates of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction per 100,000 10-17 year old population (2012)	502.4	537.0	1426.6		150.7	464.4
13 The percentage of live births under 2.5 kg (%) (2012)	6.6	7.0	9.8		3.3	
14 The proportion of children in workless households (%) (2012)	11.1	14.8	32.4		2.4	
15 The prevalence of underweight children in reception year, based on where the child lives (2013)	0.7	0.9	2.7		0.2	
16 Percentage of children who are overweight or obese in Reception year (2013)	20.2	22.2	32.2		15.4	21.17
17 The prevalence of underweight children in Year 6, based on where the child lives (2013)	1.1	1.3	3.4		0.4	
18 Percentage of children who are overweight or obese in Year 6 (2013)	29.0	33.3	44.2		24.3	29.61
19 Percentage of Persistent Absentees (2013)	4.6	4.6	7.6		2.2	4.6
20 Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families (2010)	15.7	16.6	6.9		25.1	16.4
21 Children in need rate per 10,000 under 18 (2013)	203.6	332.2	785.3		154.4	250.24
22 Rate of Children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 under 18 (2013)	15.6	37.9	116.2		6.3	30.55
23 Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 under 18 (2013)	36.0	60.0	166.0		0.0	41.3

- The central black line is the all England average for that indicator.
- The dark grey 'interquartile range' includes 50% of all the results, ie 50% of all local authorities scores for each indicator.
- The light grey 'range' shows the full spread of 100% of the scores, ie all local authorities for each indicator.
- The blue dot shows the Cambridgeshire score for each indicator. The further to the right, the better the performance, the further to the left, the worse the performance is.
- The light blue diamond shows the average for the Cambridgeshire Statistical Neighbour authorities where available

Analysis of these indicators shows Cambridgeshire performing better than the all England average on 13 measures, worse on 4 measures and about the same as the all England average on 6 measures.

Figure 1 shows that on these figures, Cambridgeshire performed noticeably worse than the all England average on 4 indicators, all to do with the attainment gap between those children growing up in poverty and those who are not:

- Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2, percentage points (pp)
- Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2, percentage points (pp)
- Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving the expected level at KS4, percentage points (pp)
- Gap in progression to higher education FSM/non-FSM, percentage points (pp)

On some indicators, Cambridgeshire performed noticeably better than the all England average, such as:

- Conception rate per 1000 women aged 15-17 years
- The proportion of children in workless households (%)
- The prevalence of obese children in year 6, based on where the child lives
- Rates of child poverty

This is a similar picture to our comparative performance last year.

2.2 Child Poverty Set of Indicators: Trend

The figures in Table 8 show that Cambridgeshire performance improved in:

- % children living in Poverty
- The overall employment rate.
- Median earnings of employees - Gross Weekly Pay
- Average time taken to process new housing and council tax benefit claims
- The proportion of FSM pupils in year 11 who go on to achieve a level 2 qualification at 19.
- The achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers at GCSE
- The gap in progression to higher education between those receiving FSM and those not receiving FSM.
- The proportion of 16 to 18 year old NEETS
- The Conception rate among women aged 15 to 17 years.
- Rates of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction
- Percentage of children who are overweight or obese in Reception Year
- Percentage of children who are overweight or obese in Year 6
- Percentage of persistent absentees

Cambridgeshire's performance worsened in:

- The achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers at KS2
- The percentage of live births under 2.5kg.
- The proportion of children in workless households
- The prevalence of underweight children in Reception Year
- The prevalence of underweight children in Year 6

The amount of movement was small for most of these, but nevertheless was in the wrong direction.

Table 8: Child Poverty Indicators: Trend

Key:

↑ = Performance has improved

↓ = Performance has worsened

→ = Performance has remained the same

	Indicator	Previous period		Latest data		Trend
		Date	Cambs	Date	Cambs	
1	% Children living in poverty	2010	12.9%	2011	12.6%	↑
2	Overall Employment Rate (%)	Sept 2012	73.1%	Sept 2013	76.1%	↑
3	Median earnings of employees in the area - Gross Weekly Pay (£)	2012	£447.4	2013	£466.6	↑
4	Average time taken (in number of days) to process new housing benefit and council tax benefit claims	Q3 2012/13	19	Q4 2012/13	18	↑
5	The proportion of FSM pupils in year 11 who go on to achieve a level 2 qualification at 19	2012	66%	2013	69%	↑
6	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving a good level of development at EYFSP (ppts)	The 2013 EYFSP is new , therefore there is no trend data available.		2013	22 ppts	-
7	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2, percentage points (ppts)	2012	27 ppts	2013	30 ppts	↓
8	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving the expected level at KS4, percentage points (ppts)	2012	35.9 ppts	2013	33 ppts	↑
9	Gap in progression to higher education FSM/non-FSM, percentage points (pp)	2010	29 ppts	2011	27 ppts	↑
10	Proportion of 16-19 year olds NEET	2012	5.1%	2013 (prov)	4.3%	↑
11	Conception rate per 1000 women aged 15-17 years	2011	21.7	2012	16.8	↑
12	Rates of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction per 100,000 10-17 year old population	2011/12	669	2012/13	564	↑
13	The percentage of live births under 2.5 kg (%)	2011	6.4%	2012	6.6%	↓
14	The proportion of children in workless households (%)	2011	7.7%	2012	11.1%	↓
15	The prevalence of underweight children in reception year, based on where the child lives	2012	0.5%	2013	0.7%	↓
16	Percentage of children who are overweight or obese in Reception year	2012	22.4%	2013	20.2%	↑
17	The prevalence of underweight children in Year 6, based on where the child lives	2012	0.9%	2013	1.1%	↓
18	Percentage of children who are overweight or obese in Year 6	2012	30.7%	2012	29.0%	↑

	Indicator	Previous period		Latest data		Trend
		Date	Cambs	Date	Cambs	
19	Percentage of Persistent Absentees	2012	5.25%	2013	4.6%	↑
20	Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families	2010	15.7%	2010	15.7%	↓
21	Children in need rate per 10,000 under 18	2012	220.4	2013	203.6	
22	Rate of Children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 under 18	2012	19.3	2013	15.6	
23	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 under 18	2012	36.0	2013	36.0	

SECTION 3: IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILD POVERTY IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Whilst the numbers of children in poverty in Cambridgeshire decreased slightly between 2010 – 11, analysis of the child poverty indicators shows that numbers of children living in workless households rose significantly between 2011-12. There are concerns that the impact of reforms to the welfare benefit system may be increasing the stressors upon workless families. Future child poverty work will need to understand, anticipate and plan to mitigate this impact, including continued partnership working to get parents back into work.

The measures where Cambridgeshire performs poorly are all related to the educational attainment of children in receipt of free school meals. Our children in poverty continue to achieve less well here than most other places in the country. Whilst this has elicited a strong strategic response in the County Council, there is scope to explore how Partners can contribute to raising the attainment of children in poverty in Cambridgeshire.

Over the years 2009-2011, child poverty decreased in all districts. Levels of poverty had been steadily increasing between 2006-09 in all districts save Cambridge City, in particular in Fenland. There have now been some significant decreases in the numbers of children in poverty in the more deprived wards in Cambridge City, which may be due in part to the rising cost of housing pushing those reliant on housing benefit to move further afield. Child poverty has particularly risen in commuter villages, adding to the suggestion that people may be moving out of larger centres of population due to factors such as increased housing costs. There are implications to this trend which may need to be considered in the future, for example:

- Transport, including potential higher costs for transport to school and available transport links for parents looking for work
- Lack of access to community resources, including support services, as well as less obvious resources such as shops providing a range of affordable food and products
- Increased isolation and vulnerability due to a lack of friends and family networks.

Many areas where child poverty has increased have been areas with significant new housing development. It is important to ensure that support services and resources are targeted to these areas and to plan for support provision as well building community resilience in future new housing developments as they begin.

Four of the 16 wards where there is above the national average percentage of children living in poverty have seen a decrease in the numbers of children - four showed some increase and eight remained the same. Data appears to show that levels of child poverty are reasonably stable in

Cambridgeshire, indicating that the county is relatively resilient to the recession, at least up to end of 2011. If the time and resource is available, an intensive focus on these areas where poverty has decreased may yield useful information, including what has worked well in the four areas where poverty has decreased and whether those conditions can be replicated in other areas.

There has been a slight rise in the percentage of children in poverty living in relatively affluent areas. This is a feature of child poverty in Cambridgeshire and the rise is quite small, but it may be worthwhile to explore further the nature of poverty in these areas so that we can combat both the causes and effects, for example, are these children in families where a parent has recently lost their job and so are only temporarily in poverty? Are there fixed pockets of more permanent deprivation where resources could be focused?