

Cambridgeshire's Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2014:

Child Poverty, Employment and the Economy

INTRODUCTION

We must continue with our mission to break the cycle of poor children going on to be poor adults. This process starts at the beginning of life and poor children are four times as likely to become poor adults as other children. We will only succeed in ending child poverty if we end this cycle. Raising educational attainment of poor children is the key way to do this.

HM Government Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2017

Our first Child Poverty Strategy, *Breaking the Cycle*, emphasised the need to recognise child poverty as an economic problem as well as social one. Understanding the interface between poverty and the economy is key to understanding the local dynamics of poverty and how to tackle it.

We know that a key determinant of poverty in Cambridgeshire is accessibility of the local labour market where higher than average skill levels are required to access the majority of the county's jobs. This means that those who do not gain high level skills can find themselves locked out of higher value employment opportunities and locked in to low paid work. The latest data tells us that this characteristic is becoming more entrenched, with strong evidence also of a "hollowing-out" of the labour market.

The strategy also identified Britain and Cambridgeshire as both having poor records compared to their peers for the attainment of children from poor backgrounds. Since then, a concerted effort has been made nationally and locally, and as part of the strategy action plan, to ensure that young people are better supported and informed to make the transition from education to work.

LABOUR MARKET DATA

In the time since the last strategy, the macro-economic context has changed significantly. **Since 2010, over 22,000 jobs have been added to the Cambridgeshire labour market and the number registered as unemployed and able to work has fallen by over 5,000.** These improvements are reflected in the local poverty data and demonstrate the importance of employment in addressing family and child poverty.

Annual Population Survey, ONS

SOC - Cambridgeshire	2010		2013	
	Number	%	Number	%
Level 1: Managers, directors, senior officials	31,300	10.3	29,800	9.2
Level 2: Professional occupations	79,700	26.1	90,800	27.9
Level 3: Associate prof & tech occupations	41,100	13.5	53,400	16.4
Level 4: Administrative and secretarial occupations	32,100	10.5	27,900	8.6
Level 5: Skilled trades occupations	35,600	11.7	27,100	8.3
Level 6: Caring, leisure and other service occupations	24,900	8.2	24,200	7.4
Level 7: Sales and customer service occupations	19,000	6.2	17,300	5.3
Level 8: Process, plant and machine operatives	18,000	5.9	16,700	5.1
Level 9: Elementary occupations	22,200	7.3	37,300	11.5

We can also see some significant developing trends in the local labour market. At the time of the last strategy, we identified how **high skill occupations dominated the local jobs market**, with 50% of occupations rated in the top 3 classifications. These represent directors, managers and professional and technical staff, where degree level skills and above are needed. In the latest data, this figure has reached **53.5% vs a national average of 40%**. This trend is even more pronounced in the **Cambridge labour market, where the same figure has risen from 59% to 70%**. This means that those without at least a degree, needing to work in Cambridge are effectively only able to access 30% of the jobs in that local labour market.

At the same time, we can see **a dramatic rise in the number of elementary, level 9 occupations where no qualifications are needed**, which have gone from 7.3% of Cambridgeshire’s workforce in 2010, to 11.5% in 2013, representing a rise of over 15,000 jobs. This is compelling evidence of the so called **“hollowing out” of the labour market**, with jobs growth at the top and bottom coming at the expense of middle level jobs. In Huntingdonshire for example, the proportion of level 6 occupations – leisure, care and service professions – has fallen from 12.2% in 2010 to 6.7% in 2013. The increase in the lowest level occupations, due to low wages, raises the potential for “in-work poverty” and for young people in particular to find themselves in low skill, low paid employment.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The ONS Annual Population Survey provides survey based unemployment and employment data up to the end of 2013. Unemployment data counts those not working who are able to and is not the same as the JSA claimant count. Table 1 summarises this for those employed and unemployed by district between 2010 and 2013. This shows **a relatively modest fall in numbers unemployed in the county vs a substantial increase (17,400) in the numbers who are employed**. Every district has seen increases in employment. For unemployment, there are **more people unemployed in Cambridge and Fenland since 2010** while the remaining districts have seen falls. **Huntingdonshire shows the most substantial decrease** as well as the largest increase in numbers who are employed.

Table 1: Unemployed and Employed/Self-employed persons 2010 - 2013

Districts/County	2010	2013	Difference	2010	2013	Difference
	<i>Unemployment</i>			<i>Employed-Self Employed</i>		
Cambridge	3,700	3,900	200	65700	71,700	6,000
East Cambridgeshire	2,400	2,000	-400	41200	42,300	1,100
Fenland	3,200	3,400	200	38600	41,000	2,400
Huntingdonshire	5,000	4,300	-700	78500	85,600	7,100
South Cambridgeshire	3,100	3,000	-100	70200	71000	800
Cambridgeshire	17,400	16,600	-800	294,200	311,600	17,400

Table 2 shows the numbers of out of work benefit claimants who do and do not have dependent children. Out of work claimants are persons claiming job seeker’s allowance, employment and support allowance, lone parent and income support.

The data shows a **substantial overall fall in the county in claimant numbers of 3,150** over the period in question. The reduction is less substantial for claimants with dependent children, although as a proportion the figures for claimants with and without dependent children are comparable at an **11% reduction for all claimants and a 10% reduction for claimants with children.**

Table 2: Out of Work Benefit Claimants With and Without Dependent Children

District/County <i>OoW = Out of work</i>	2010		2013		Difference	
	OoW Claimants	With Children	OoW Claimants	With Children	Claimants	With Children
Cambridge	6,010	1,290	5,410	1,190	-600.00	-100.00
East Cambridgeshire	3,420	830	3,070	750	-350.00	-80.00
Fenland	7,180	1,850	6,580	1,770	-600.00	-80.00
Huntingdonshire	7,700	1,920	6,690	1,720	-1010.00	-200.00
South Cambridgeshire	4,820	1,110	4,220	940	-600.00	-170.00
Cambridgeshire	29,120	7,000	25,970	6,360	-3150.00	-640.00

Similarly to Table 2, Table 3 shows Employment and Support Allowance claimants with and without children over the 2010 – 2013 time period.

Table 3: Employment and Support Allowance With and Without Dependent Children

District/County	2010		2013		Difference	
	ESA Claimants	With Children	ESA Claimants	With Children	Claimants	With Children
Cambridge	3,430	310	3,410	350	-20	40
East Cambridgeshire	1,860	200	1,840	210	-20	10
Fenland	4,050	530	4,110	620	60	90
Huntingdonshire	4,210	500	4,150	580	-60	80
South Cambridgeshire	2,790	270	2,790	300	0	30
Cambridgeshire	16,340	1,800	16,290	2,050	-50	250

This data shows a very small reduction (<1%) in total ESA claimants over the period but a **noticeable increase in the number of ESA claimants with dependent children (14%)**, with every district showing an increase.

Table 4: JSA Claimant Durations 2010 - 2013

District/County	2010			2013			Difference		
	0-6mths	2-5 yrs	5+ yrs	0-6 mths	2-5 yrs	5+ yrs	0-6 mths	2-5 yrs	5+ yrs
Cambridge	1,400	980	2,410	1,170	900	2,300	-230	-80	-110
East Cambridgeshire	920	540	1,220	770	480	1,180	-150	-60	-40
Fenland	1,700	1,280	2,730	1,500	1,110	2,640	-200	-170	-90
Huntingdonshire	2,050	1,260	2,720	1,600	1,140	2,590	-450	-120	-130
South Cambridgeshire	1,240	760	1,950	920	680	1,870	-320	-80	-80
Cambridgeshire TOTALS	7,310	4,830	11,030	5,960	4,320	10,590	-1,350	-510	-440
		23,170			20,870		-	2,300	

Table 4 shows JSA claimants by duration of claim. Claims across all durations have shown a significant decrease in the number of JSA claimants across the durations between 2010 and 2013. However, proportionately, by far **the most substantial reduction has been in the numbers who have claimed for less than 6 months (18%)** while long term claimants of over 5 years have reduced by just 4%. Claimants claiming for between 2 and 5 years have reduced by 10%

2011 CENSUS AND WARD LEVEL DATA

At the ward level **three areas Waterlees (23.8%), Clarkson (20.9%), both in Wisbech, and Huntingdon North (20.6%) had over 20% of households with dependent children where no adults were in employment.** Table 5 provides an overview of the top 10 wards.

Table 5: Ten wards with the highest percentage of adults not in employment in households with dependent children

Ward code	District	Ward Name	All households with dependent children	No adults in employment in household with dependent children	% No adults in employment in household with dependent children
E05002759	Fenland	Waterlees	768	183	23.8
E05002738	Fenland	Clarkson	296	62	20.9
E05002772	Huntingdonshire	Huntingdon North	993	205	20.6
E05002702	Cambridge City	Abbey	1,156	214	18.5
E05002750	Fenland	Medworth	242	44	18.2
E05002752	Fenland	Peckover	280	50	17.9
E05002708	Cambridge City	King's Hedges	1,045	175	16.7
E05002757	Fenland	Staithe	305	51	16.7
E05002743	Fenland	Kingsmoor	228	38	16.7
E05002742	Fenland	Hill	634	101	15.9

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

SOCIAL RENTED HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

In Cambridgeshire 12,300 households with dependent children was had a social rented tenure accounting for 17% of all households with dependent children. The percentage was **highest in Cambridge City (29.2%)**. The percentages for four other districts were lower by 15.1 - 13.2 points compared to Cambridge City. The breakdown of the figures by districts is showed in Table 6.

Table 6: Social Rented Households with Dependent Children

District	All households with dependent children by district	Social rented households with dependent children by district	% Social rented households with dependent children by district
Cambridge City	11,242	3,282	29.2
East Cambridgeshire	10,412	1,662	16.0
Fenland	11,062	1,583	14.3
Huntingdonshire	20,925	3,146	15.0
South Cambridgeshire	18,685	2,627	14.1
Cambridgeshire County	72,326	12,300	17.0

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

At the ward level (Table 7) **East Chesterton had the highest percentage of social rented tenure with dependent children (52.2%), followed by King's Hedges (50%)**. In Abbey and Huntingdon North wards the percentage was over 40%.

Table 7: Ten top wards with the highest percentage of Social Rented Tenure with Dependent Children

New code	District	Ward name	All households with dependent children	Social rented households with dependent children	% Social rented households with dependent children
E05002707	Cambridge City	East Chesterton	1007	526	52.2
E05002708	Cambridge City	King's Hedges	1045	522	50.0
E05002702	Cambridge City	Abbey	1156	560	48.4
E05002772	Huntingdonshire	Huntingdon North	993	440	44.3
E05002703	Cambridge City	Arbury	920	359	39.0
E05002729	East Cambs	Littleport West	489	166	33.9
E05002759	Fenland	Waterlees	768	245	31.9
E05002705	Cambridge City	Cherry Hinton	1094	308	28.2
E05008582	Huntingdonshire	St Neots Priory Park	1070	290	27.1
E05002781	Huntingdonshire	St Neots Eaton Socon	683	182	26.6

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

LONE PARENTS NOT IN EMPLOYMENT WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

In 2011 a **third of lone parent families with dependent children in Cambridgeshire were not in employment**. The percentages were higher in Cambridge City (41%) and Fenland (40%), followed by East Cambridgeshire (31%) and Huntingdonshire (31%).

Table 8: Lone Parents Households not in Employment with Dependent Children where the lone parent is aged 16 to 74 by district

District	All lone parent households with dependent children	Lone parents not in employment with dependent children	% Lone parents not in employment with dependent children
Cambridge City	1,970	798	41
East Cambridgeshire	1,454	458	31
Fenland	2,579	1,024	40
Huntingdonshire	3,673	1,153	31
South Cambridgeshire	2,528	625	25
County Total	12,204	4,058	33

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

In six wards the percentage of lone parents not in employment with dependent children was 50%, **with Elm and Christchurch in Fenland ranked first (57.4%)**. Four of the six wards with the percentage was equal or over 50% were in Fenland. Table presents a district breakdown.

Table 9: Ten ranked wards with the highest percentage of lone parent households with dependent children where the lone parent is aged 16 to 74

New Code	District	Ward Name	All lone parent households	Lone parents not in employment with dependent children	% Lone parents not in employment with dependent children
E05002741	Fenland	Elm and Christchurch	108	62	57.4
E05002772	Huntingdonshire	Huntingdon North	265	143	54.0
E05002751	Fenland	Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary	110	59	53.6
E05002738	Fenland	Clarkson	82	43	52.4
E05002702	Cambridge City	Abbey	280	144	51.4
E05002752	Fenland	Peckover	60	30	50.0
E05002759	Fenland	Waterlees	211	103	48.8
E05002704	Cambridge City	Castle	35	17	48.6
E05002750	Fenland	Medworth	68	32	47.1
E05002707	Cambridge City	East Chesterton	221	102	46.2

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

ONE PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD WITH A LONG-TERM HEALTH PROBLEM OR DISABILITY WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

The Census 2011 indicates that **9,788 households with dependent children (13.5%) in Cambridgeshire had one person with long term health problem or disability**. At the District level the percentage was highest in Fenland (17%) followed by Huntingdonshire (13.7%) and Cambridge City (13.3%). Table 10 presents a breakdown on a district level.

Table 10: Ten wards with the highest percentage of One Person in Household with a Long-Term Health Problem or Disability with Dependent Children

New code	District	Ward name	All households with dependent children	One person in household with a long-term health problem or disability with dependent children	% One person in household with a long-term health problem or disability with dependent children
E05002757	Fenland	Staithe	305	65	21.3
E05002753	Fenland	Roman Bank	613	122	19.9
E05002751	Fenland	Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary	542	105	19.4
E05002740	Fenland	Doddington	247	47	19.0
E05002759	Fenland	Waterlees	768	145	18.9
E05002748	Fenland	March North	908	165	18.2
E05002741	Fenland	Elm and Christchurch	530	96	18.1
E05002756	Fenland	Slade Lode	359	65	18.1
E05002707	Cambridge City	East Chesterton	1,007	181	18.0
E05002737	Fenland	Birch	308	55	17.9

Source: 2011 Census, ONS