

Stockton Review of Child Poverty

Introduction

This briefing note has been prepared to support the review of child poverty being carried out by the Arts & Leisure Select Committee of Stockton Borough Council. It covers definitions of child poverty, income levels associated with poverty and local statistics relevant to Stockton.

Definitions of 'child poverty'

The Child Poverty Act (2010) contains four income and deprivation related measures of poverty. The most frequently used of these is the 'relative low income' measure where a household is defined as being in poverty if:

"its equivalised net income for the financial year is less than 60% of median equivalised net household income for the financial year"

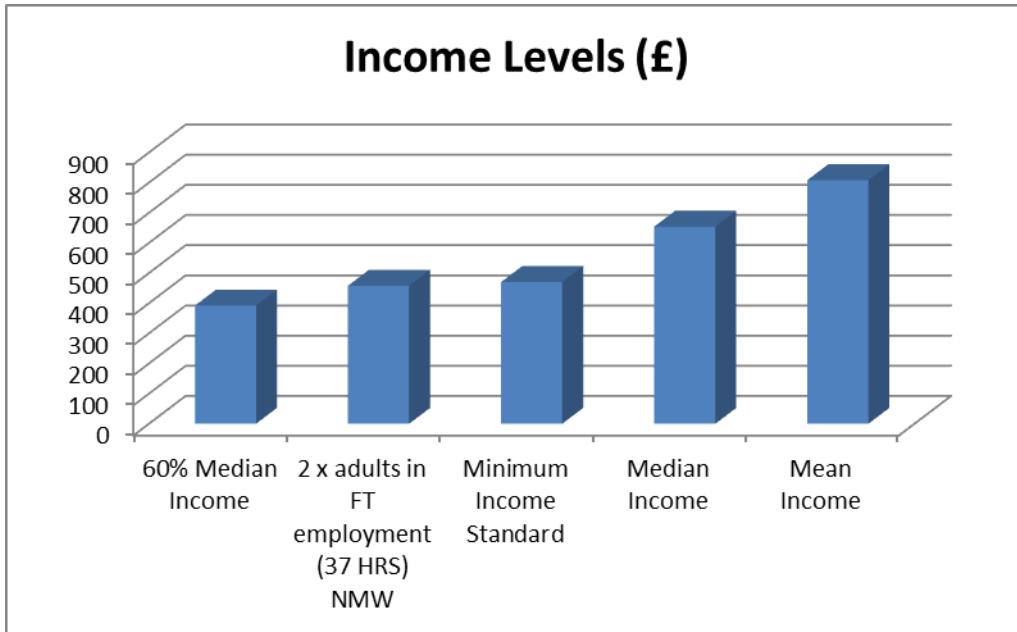
Peter Townsend provided an alternative definition which is:

"Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities, and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved, in the societies to which they belong. Their resources are so seriously below those commanded by the average individual or family that they are, in effect, excluded from ordinary patterns, customs and activities" (Townsend, 1979)

Income levels

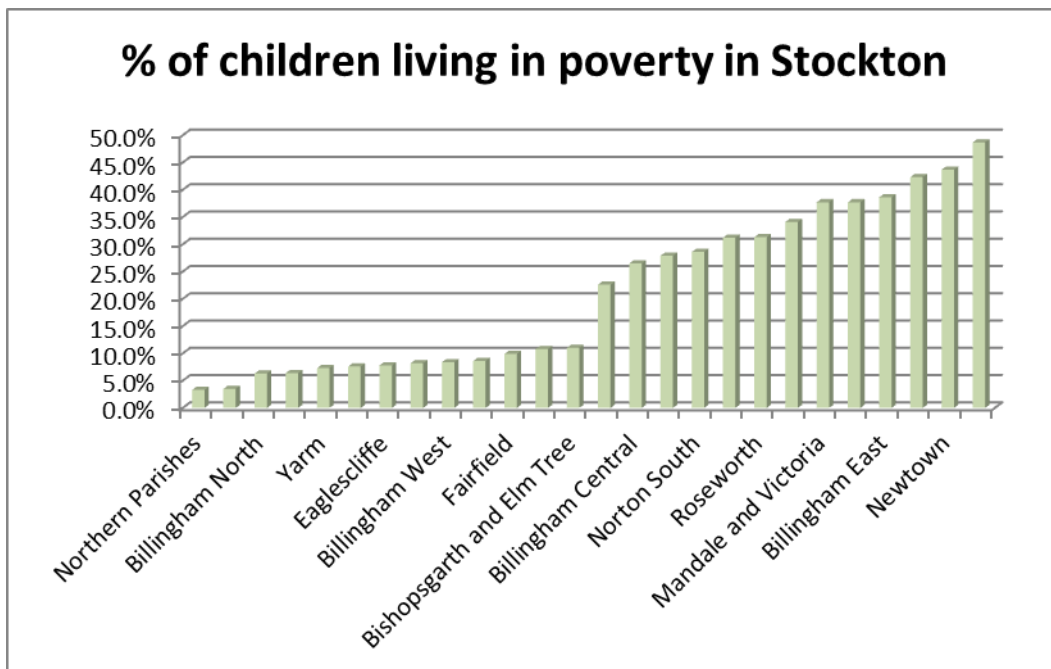
The table overleaf shows some income levels which are often discussed in relation to poverty. Two adults both working full time in jobs which pay the National Minimum Wage earn £458 per week. The median income for a household of two adults and two children is £654 per week and the mean income for a household of this size is £808. The 60% median income (the 'poverty line') is £392 per week and the Minimum Income Standard, as agreed by members of the public is £470 per week.



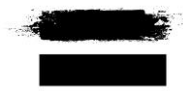


Stockton local child poverty statistics

There are approximately 130,000 children in the North East living in poverty which is around 23.9% of the total number of children. In Stockton, there are approximately 9400 children living in poverty which is about 21.9% of the total number of children. Local child poverty statistics are released each autumn and the latest statistics available are from a snapshot in August 2010. Figures for 2011 will be released later in 2013.



Stockton is unusual in some respects as it is made up of some areas with very low levels of child poverty (e.g. Northern Parishes, Ingleby Barwick West) and some areas with very high levels of child poverty (e.g. Hardwick, Newtown, Stockton Town Centre).



The full child poverty statistics for Stockton are in the table below.

Billingham Central	26.5%
Billingham East	38.6%
Billingham North	6.3%
Billingham South	27.9%
Billingham West	8.4%
Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree	11.0%
Eaglescliffe	7.8%
Fairfield	9.9%
Grangefield	10.8%
Hardwick	42.3%
Hartburn	6.4%
Ingleby Barwick East	7.6%
Ingleby Barwick West	3.5%
Mandale and Victoria	37.7%
Newtown	43.7%
Northern Parishes	3.3%
Norton North	34.1%
Norton South	28.6%
Norton West	8.2%
Parkfield and Oxbridge	31.2%
Roseworth	31.3%
Stainsby Hill	37.7%
Stockton Town Centre	48.7%
Village	22.6%
Western Parishes	8.6%
Yarm	7.3%

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