

Motion about Child Poverty in East Hertfordshire

This Council notes that there has been a sharp rise in the number of children living in poverty in this country since the year 2015. There are now 4.3 million children growing up in poverty, and many of them are living in households where at least one parent is working. This Council notes a report from Dr Barnardo's Charity which shows that 1 in every 11 children living in Hertfordshire is now living in poverty, and in East Hertfordshire it is 1 in 20 children.

Figures from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in March 2023 for East Hertfordshire showed that 1,958 children under the age of 16 were living in poverty.

This Council further notes that the Child Poverty Action Group has several suggestions for reducing Child Poverty. One is to provide adequate social security, and to raise the level of Universal Credit for parents under the age of 25. (They currently receive less than those who are over the age of 25.) Another is to remove the Two Child limit, as Child Poverty is higher in larger families.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Prime Minister and ask that they take urgent steps to a) remove the Two Child limit on payment of all social security benefits, b) to reinstate the uplift of £20 in Universal Credit and c) to pay this uplift to parents under the age of 25 as well as those over the age of 25.

Motion Proposed by Cllr. Simon Marlow and Seconded by Cllr. Sarah Copley.