

Birmingham

Child Poverty Commission

*A fairer start for **all** our children and young people*

Evidence Gathering: Health and Wellbeing Board

22nd March 2016

Dr Dennis Wilkes: Commissioner, Specialist Public
Health lead for Children's Health & Wellbeing

Improving the life chances of all children in Birmingham is everyone's business

Estimates of child poverty for Birmingham show that 37% of children in Birmingham were living below the poverty line in 2013 after housing costs (AHC).

The Commission

The role of the Commission :

- Establish clear future targets for child poverty.
- Set out the child poverty challenge for Birmingham: update the needs assessment to understand the scale of the challenge.
- Produce a Birmingham Child Poverty Strategy/Framework for action, building on local and national practice and exploring new approaches.
- Establish a co-ordinated approach to reducing child poverty by bringing together fora that address child poverty.
- Identify and determine the impact of poverty on different groups, communities and geographical areas most at risk.
- Make policy recommendations on integrated approaches that mitigate the effects of child poverty.

The Commissioners

- Chair : Matthew Reed (CEO, Children's Society)
- Vice Chair : Sam Monaghan, Executive Director of Children's Services, Barnardo's
- Expert Commissioner: Prof Peter Alcock, Birmingham University
- Private Sector: Dr Jason Wouhra, Regional Chair of Institute of Directors
- Voluntary and Community Sector : Alison Moore, Third Sector Assembly
- Birmingham City Council: Cllr Shafique Shah (Labour), Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety
- Birmingham City Council: Councillor Robert Alden (Conservative)
- Birmingham City Council: Councillor Roger Harmer (Liberal Democrat)
- Public Health: Dr Dennis Wilkes Specialist Public Health lead for Children's Health & Wellbeing
- Children and young People: Peter Hay, Strategic Director of People

Child Poverty Measures

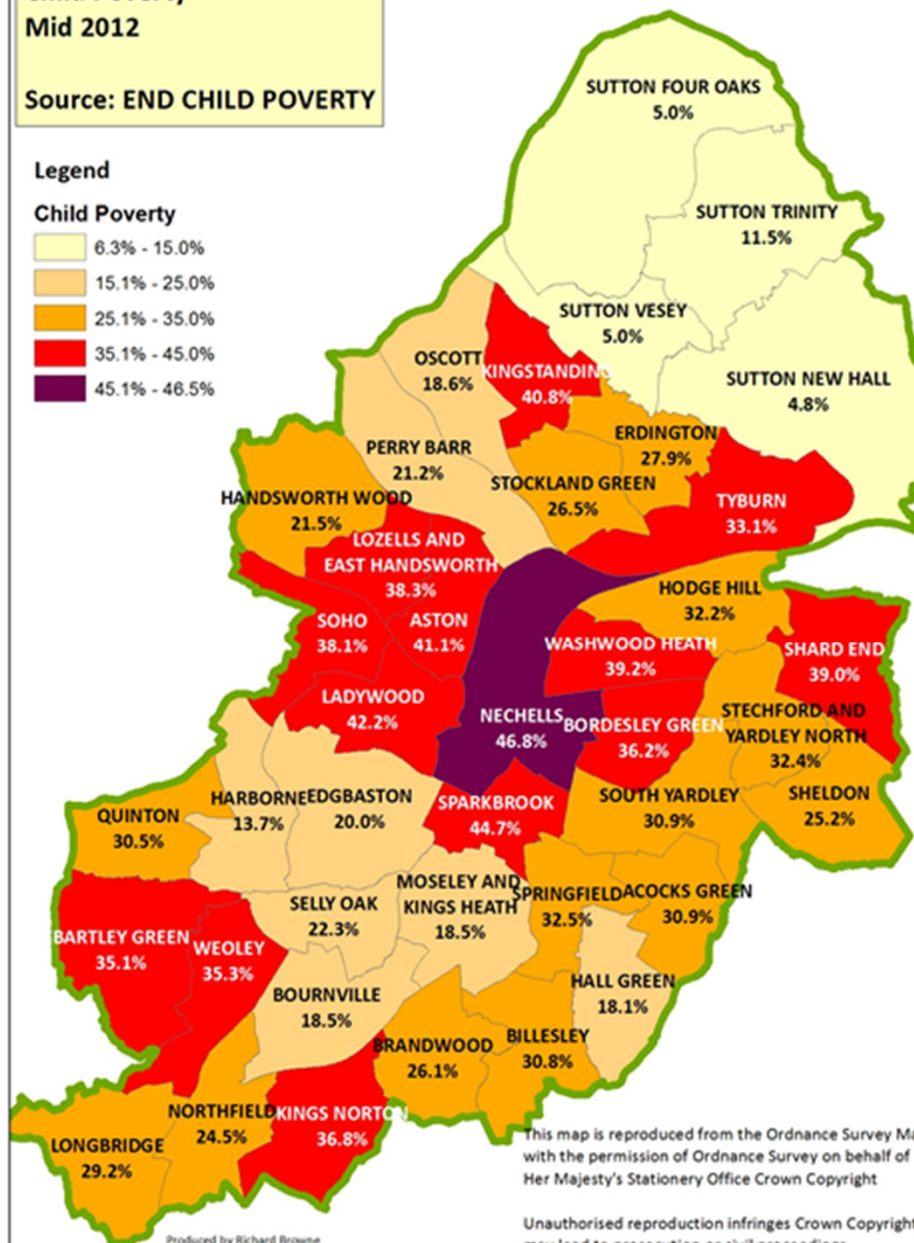
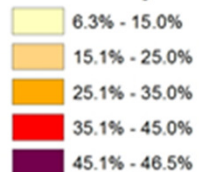
- The Child Poverty Act (2010) established a legal requirement for the UK government to reduce child poverty in four areas by 2020:
- **Relative low income** – income less than 60% of median household income before housing costs. (target less than 10%)
- **Combined low income and material deprivation** – children living in households below 70% of median income before housing costs for the financial year (target less than 5%)
- **Absolute low income** – the proportion of children living in households where income is less than 60% of median income before housing costs in 2010-11 adjusted for prices. (target less than 5%)
- **Persistent poverty** – the proportion of children living in relative low income for at least three of the last four years.

Child Poverty Mid 2012

Source: END CHILD POVERTY

Legend

Child Poverty



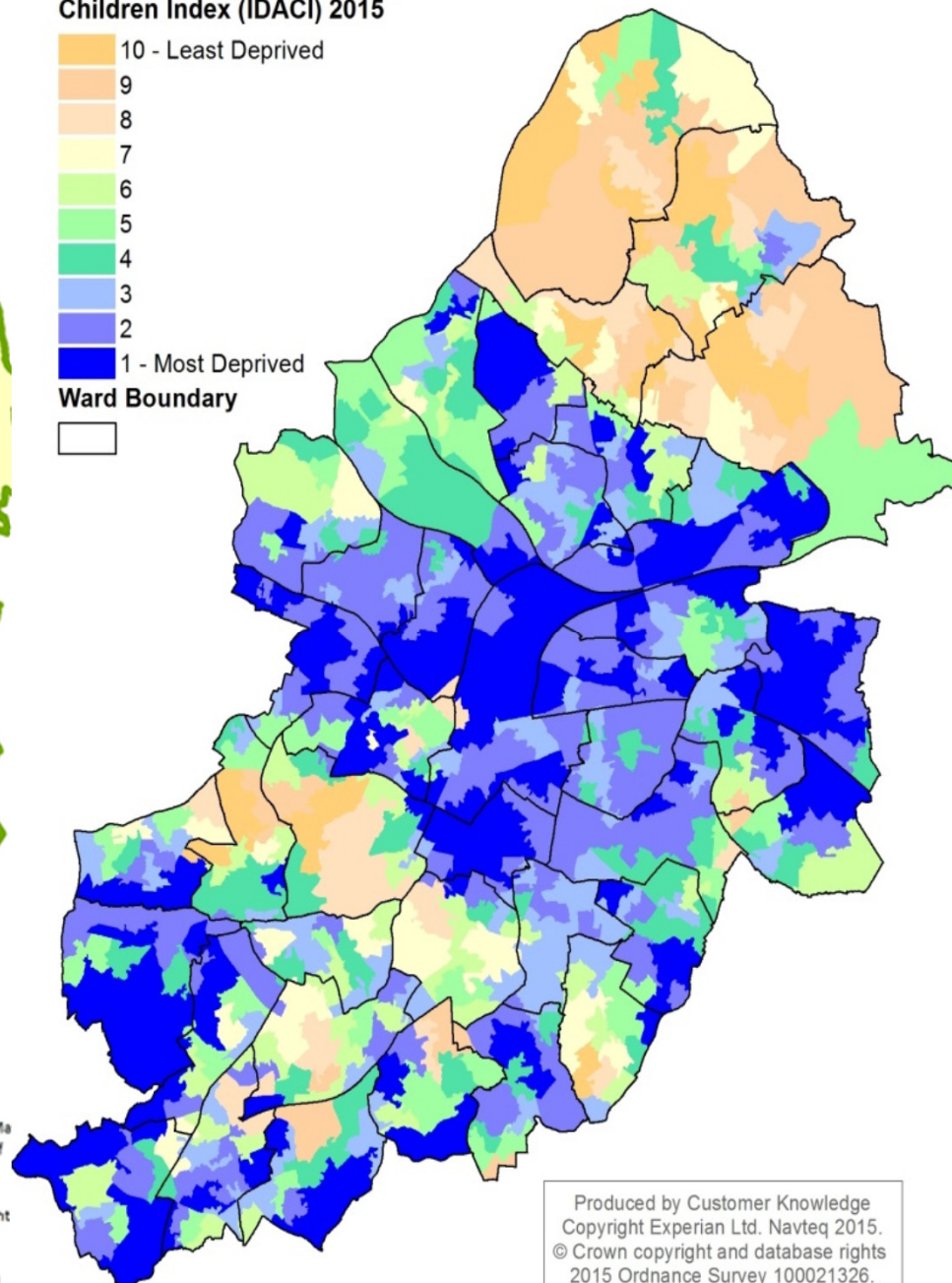
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Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2015



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Listening and acting on the voices of young people

- Establish a Young People's Board
- The Board will capture the diverse experiences of young people from different ethnic, gender and socio economic backgrounds from across the city
- help shape policy and practice that affects young people.

Evidence Gathered so far

- Focus groups with young people from Lozells, Aston and Longbridge district.
- Focus groups with Parents from Balsall Heath Children's centre and Summerfield Children's Centre.
- Interactive discussions with pupils from Future First Independent School (alternative education provider) based in Hockley.
- Meetings with voluntary and community organisations working with children and families e.g. Supporting People Domestic violence Forum, KIKIT, Aspire and Succeed, Gateway Family Services.
- meetings with voluntary and faith based organisations supporting vulnerable children and families hosted by Safe Families for Children.
- funding event with Voluntary and community organisations working with children and families from Ladywood hosted by Big Lottery and Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion Service.
- Business leaders meeting hosted by Aston University.

Themes that address the drivers of poverty

- Local Economy and Unemployment
- Health
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Transport
- In work poverty: child care
- Housing

Further evidence on:

- Childhood obesity
- Mental health
- Housing and health
- Integrated approach to addressing health inequalities

What are the Health & Wellbeing Board members response to and experience of the drivers and impact of child poverty in Birmingham that we might capture as evidence?

Can the Board identify any further opportunities (other parts of their organisations or stakeholders) who might contribute further evidence?