

Northamptonshire Insights

Child Poverty

November 2019



Introduction

This report was produced by Northamptonshire Community Foundation using community mapping and reporting tool Local Insight. This tool has been developed by OCSI and makes use of open data to help councils, funding bodies, charities and community organisations make informed funding and policy decisions. It brings in up-to-date data drawn from the Census, the Department for Work and Pensions, deprivation indices and other sources. This report may also include reference to other sources and data.

Note that data will change regularly as information is updated on Local Insight. This report was correct at the date of publication.

Definition of Child Poverty

According to UNICEF 'children living in poverty are those who experience deprivation of the material, spiritual and emotional resources needed to stay alive, develop and thrive, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential, and participate as full and equal members of society.'

There are 4.1 million children currently living in poverty in the UK according to research by the Child Poverty Action Group. There are expected to be 5.2 million children living in poverty in the UK by 2022¹. 47% of children living in lone-parent families are in poverty. Lone parents face a higher risk of poverty due to the lack of an additional earner, low rates of maintenance payments, gender inequality in employment and pay, and childcare costs.²

The Impact of Child Poverty

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) highlight that poorer children have worse cognitive, socio-behavioural, physical and mental health. Many children in poverty can't afford to have their friends around, travel to see friends or meet friends to eat out. It may mean feelings of exclusion, embarrassment, anxiety, feeling worried about parents, being bullied and judged and left with fewer opportunities. It may mean 'just getting by' and living in poor housing, going hungry and missing out on items and activities which enhance education, learning, play and wellbeing.

Child Poverty in Northamptonshire – data box and bar chart analysis

This report looks at children in out of work households, children in poverty and children in lone parent households. Children in 'out of work' households, are defined as dependent children living in families where all adults are in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance or Pension Credit. This measure includes Universal Credit claimants. The children in poverty measure shows the proportion of children (aged 0-15) in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% median income. Out of work means-tested benefits include: Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance, incapacity benefits and Income Support.

The information boxes show the count of people in each of these three categories within Northamptonshire. The bar chart shows the percentage for Children in 'out of work' households and Children in poverty categories across Northamptonshire and England.

Each area is also detailed with an example **community solution** funded by Northamptonshire Community Foundation on behalf of a donor to tackle child poverty.

¹ Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2017–18 to 2021–22, The Institute for Fiscal Studies.

² Households Below Average Income, Statistics on the number and percentage of people living in low income households for financial years 1994/95 to 2017/18, Table 4.5db. Department for Work and Pensions, 2019.

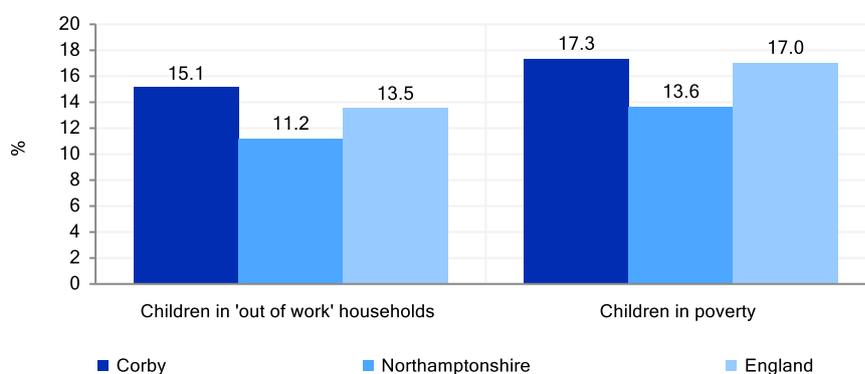
Corby

17% of children are living in poverty in Corby compared with 17% across England.

Children in 'out of work' households (2017)	Children in lone parent households (2012)	Children in poverty (2016)
2,325	5,150	2,565
15.1% (England average = 13.5%)	33.2% (England average = 27.2%)	17.3% (England average = 17.0%)
Source: Children in lone parent households - HM Revenue and Customs; Children in 'out of work' households, Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions		

Figure: Children living in poverty and worklessness

Source: Children in 'out of work' households - Department for Work and Pensions (2017); Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions (2016)



Corby: Community Solution: Pen Green Children's Centre

Project: SEND Summer Playscheme

The project provided an inclusive summer play scheme open to vulnerable families with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The scheme utilised Pen Green's specialist resources and skilled staff to give families a break from the task of caring for children with disabilities over the long school holidays. The children and families are often or unable to access parties, playgroups or mainstream activities alongside peers. School holidays increase pressures on families due to the cost of activities and care provision.

Impact

140 people accessed the support services available through the SEND Summer Playscheme. 1145 hours of activity were provided for the families taking part. Participants reported improved mental, emotional and physical wellbeing.

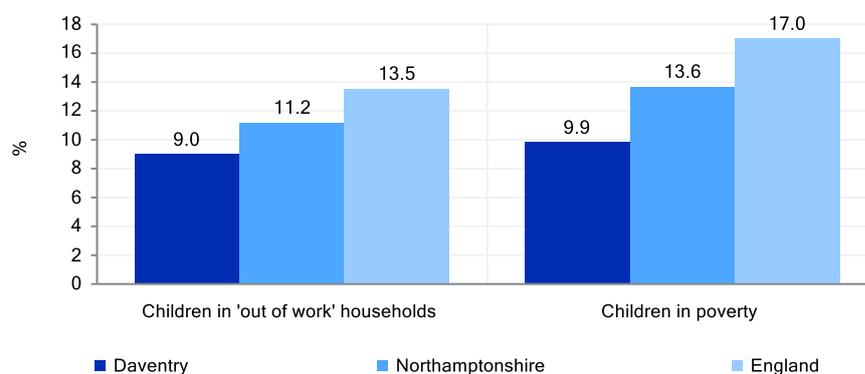
Daventry

10% of children are living in poverty in Daventry compared with 17% across England.

Children in 'out of work' households (2017)	Children in lone parent households (2012)	Children in poverty (2016)
1,365	3,570	1,370
9.0% (England average = 13.5%)	20.5% (England average = 27.2%)	9.9% (England average = 17.0%)
Source: Children in lone parent households - HM Revenue and Customs; Children in 'out of work' households, Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions		

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Daventry: Community Solution: Homestart Daventry and South Northamptonshire

Project: Volunteer Recruitment and Training

The project is recruiting and training family volunteers as a way of reducing isolation and building community networks. The project is helping over 60 isolated families with young children each year to connect with their community by offering home-visiting peer support and 'Stay and Play' groups. They will help these families to fulfil their potential by reducing isolation, improving health and wellbeing, and working with them to resolve whatever challenges they face.

Impact

Over the past three years (2015-18) the organisation has supported a total of 185 families including 425 children: 258 under-fives and 167 over five years old across Daventry district and South Northamptonshire. The volunteers supported 33 children who were considered disabled by their main carer. They also supported 29 children who were on a Child Protection Plan and 6 with Children in Need status.

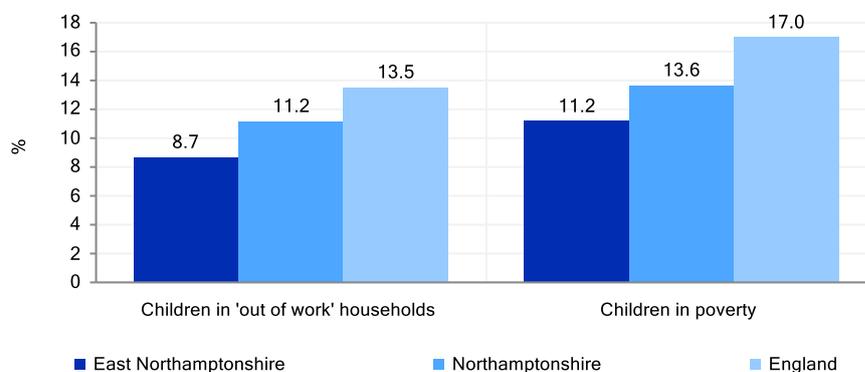
East Northamptonshire

11% of children are living in poverty in East Northamptonshire compared with 17% across England.

Children in 'out of work' households (2017)	Children in lone parent households (2012)	Children in poverty (2016)
1,530	4,020	1,795
8.7% (England average = 13.5%)	21.0% (England average = 27.2%)	11.2% (England average = 17.0%)
Source: Children in lone parent households - HM Revenue and Customs; Children in 'out of work' households, Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions		

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Source: Children in 'out of work' households - Department for Work and Pensions (2017); Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions (2016)



East Northamptonshire: Community Solution: Spire Homes Longhurst Group Project: Rolling Grants Fund

The Longhurst Group provide homes and much needed support for residents within East Northamptonshire. They hold an endowment fund with Northamptonshire Community Foundation and distribute a rolling grants programme to support tenants and families on a low income to benefit from free and affordable activities. Both the grants programme was designed and the residents panel was originally trained by Northamptonshire Community Foundation in order to confidently and fairly assess grant applications.

Impact

The panel enables residents to have a voice and helps improve the quality of life for other residents in terms of safety and wellbeing especially vulnerable and low income families.

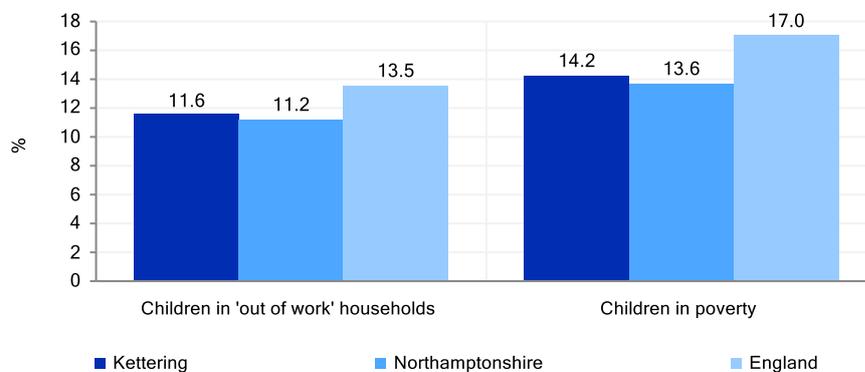
Kettering

14% of children are living in poverty in Kettering compared with 17% across England.

Children in 'out of work' households (2017)	Children in lone parent households (2012)	Children in poverty (2016)
2,370	5,435	2,840
11.6% (England average = 13.5%)	24.5% (England average = 27.2%)	14.2% (England average = 17.0%)
Source: Children in lone parent households - HM Revenue and Customs; Children in 'out of work' households, Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions		

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Source: Children in 'out of work' households - Department for Work and Pensions (2017); Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions (2016)



Kettering: Community Solution: KCU Ltd

Project: Food with Dignity

The organisation provides a discreet food parcel service through its referral partners which include Kettering Borough Council; Credit Union; HomeStart; Children's Centre; Salvation Army; Accommodation Concern; Corby and Kettering Citizen's Advice Service; Kettering Hospital; the Police; and other churches. This includes 'out of work and in work families living in poverty.

Impact

Monitoring data (vouchers) show that during the period of one year, 1,495 adults and 1,082 children were fed through 3 day food parcels.

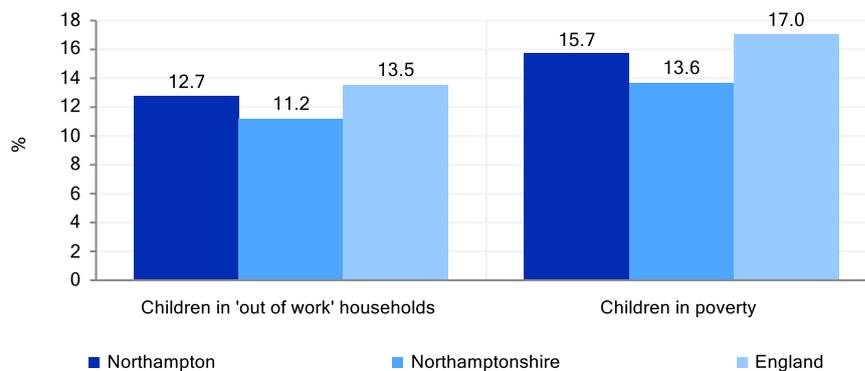
Northampton

16% of children are living in poverty in Northampton compared with 17% across England.

Children in 'out of work' households (2017)	Children in lone parent households (2012)	Children in poverty (2016)
6,155	15,335	7,480
12.7% (England average = 13.5%)	30.1% (England average = 27.2%)	15.7% (England average = 17.0%)
Source: Children in lone parent households - HM Revenue and Customs; Children in 'out of work' households, Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions		

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Northampton: Community Solution: Baby Basics Northampton

Project: New Mum 'Starter Packs'

Baby Basics, Northampton aim to provide women with basic essentials for the first 3 months of a baby's life contributing to a safer start to life. while supporting mothers' mental health and wellbeing, which further positively impacts the child. They provide essentials and equipment to mothers who are unable to provide them for themselves. This includes those in refuges, from displaced people groups or seeking asylum, those who are vulnerable and under safeguarding concerns and those in the criminal justice system. The team lovingly collect, sort and package a Moses Basket starter pack as a free, attractive gift including clothing and toiletries for both mother and baby.

Impact:

The group have given out 365 baskets across the year and 365 new mums and babies have been supported and accessed support services.

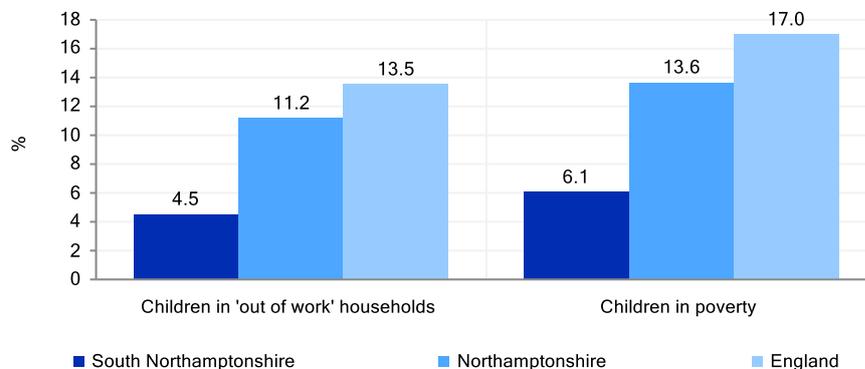
South Northamptonshire

6% of children are living in poverty in South Northamptonshire compared with 17% across England.

Children in 'out of work' households (2017)	Children in lone parent households (2012)	Children in poverty (2016)
790	3,010	945
4.5% (England average = 13.5%)	15.7% (England average = 27.2%)	6.1% (England average = 17.0%)
Source: Children in lone parent households - HM Revenue and Customs; Children in 'out of work' households, Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions		

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South Northamptonshire: Community Solution: Homestart Daventry and South Northamptonshire

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Impact

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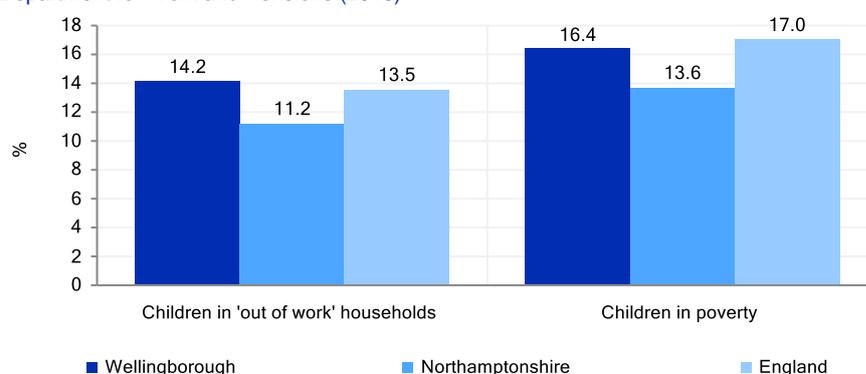
Wellingborough

16% of children are living in poverty in Wellingborough compared with 17% across England.

Children in 'out of work' households (2017)	Children in lone parent households (2012)	Children in poverty (2016)
2,310	5,235	2,610
14.2% (England average = 13.5%)	29.1% (England average = 27.2%)	16.4% (England average = 17.0%)
Source: Children in lone parent households - HM Revenue and Customs; Children in 'out of work' households, Children in poverty - Department for Work and Pensions		

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Wellingborough: Community Solution: Homestart Wellingborough and District

Project: WISH Project (Well-being, Isolation, Self esteem, Health)

Fragile families were supported through Home-Start trained volunteers. By running a weekly term-time group from a family room on Park Road the project will be located at the heart of the town enabling easy access for all families. Each session will be for 2 hours. Each week an activity was provided for the children to take part in with their parents support as well as a weekly subject for the parents to involve themselves in, build social networks and friendships.

Impact

42 lone parent families were supported and all accessed free community activities. 9 families were supported with housing issues, welfare benefits and schools. 12 families reported significantly improved emotional, mental and physical wellbeing.

Conclusion and recommendation

Overall in Northamptonshire child poverty levels are lower than the national average. However significantly Corby, Northampton and Wellingborough are close or equal to the national average. Priority should be given to projects directly tackling child poverty in the identified three areas.