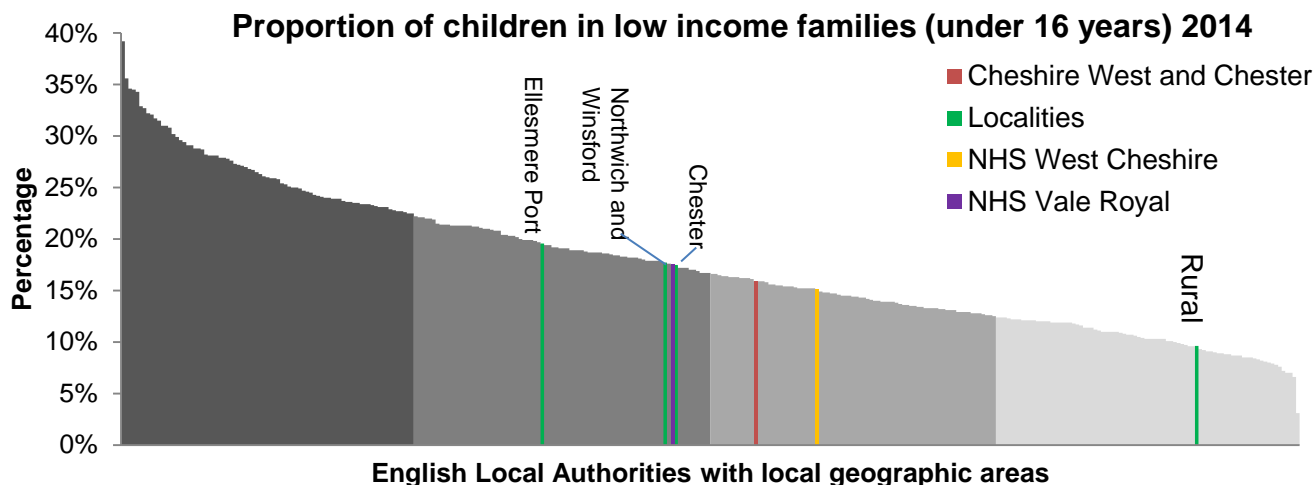


# Children living in poverty (under 16s)

HM Revenue and Customs publish the “Children in low income families local measure” as an annual snapshot. The measure has been used as a proxy for children living in poverty in the Public Health Outcomes Framework (indicator 1.01ii). The measure identifies children who live in families who are in receipt of specified means tested benefits and whose income is below the 60% median income.

Child poverty is an important issue for public health. The Marmot Review (2010) suggests there is evidence that childhood poverty leads to premature mortality and poor health outcomes for adults. Reducing the numbers of children who experience poverty should improve these adult health outcomes and increase healthy life expectancy. The consequences of childhood poverty include parents cutting back on food so their children don't go hungry. Affected children are without a warm coat or new shoes and can't go on holiday or have a quiet space to do their homework and are even without access to the resources to learn at home e.g. internet access. Over a third of children in the poorest households live in a home in bad repair and are three times more likely to suffer mental health problems. Also, there is a direct relationship between household income and school readiness and vocabulary at age five with only a third of the poorest children in England going on to achieve five good GCSEs (grades A\* to C).

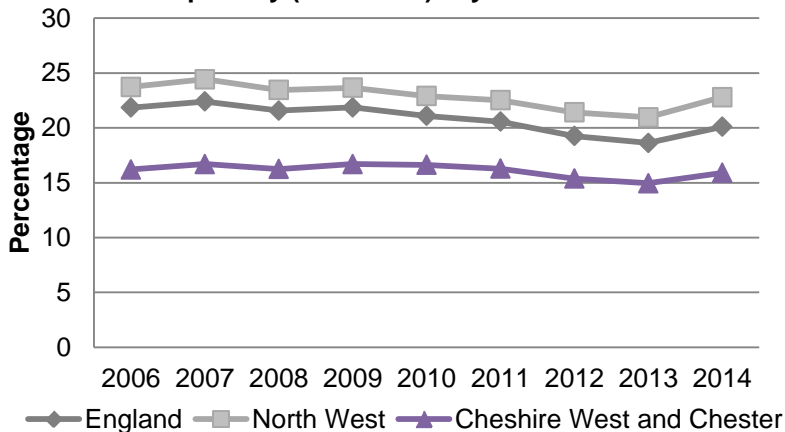
The rate of child poverty for children aged under 16 in Cheshire West and Chester in 2014 was 15.9%, which equates to approximately 9,230 children. The rate for all dependent children (including 16-19 year olds who live with parents, are unmarried, in full time non-advanced education or unwaged government training) was 15.5%, around 10,640 children. These rates are lower than the England average of 20.1% for under 16's and 19.9% for all dependent children.



English Local Authorities with local geographic areas

For the first time in several years levels of child poverty have increased, both locally and nationally. The proportion of under 16s living in low income families in Cheshire West and Chester increased by one percentage point between 2013 and 2014 (14.9% to 15.9%).

Cheshire West and Chester, proportion of children in poverty (under 16s) 9 year trend



Locally there is variation in levels of under 16 child poverty. Both local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have lower rates than England but Vale Royal CCG has a higher rate of child poverty (18%) compared to West Cheshire CCG (15%). Locality rates range from 20% in Ellesmere Port to 10% in Rural locality.

Though Cheshire West and Chester experiences relatively low child poverty compared to England, at a very local level some small areas (lower super output areas) record rates in excess of 40%.



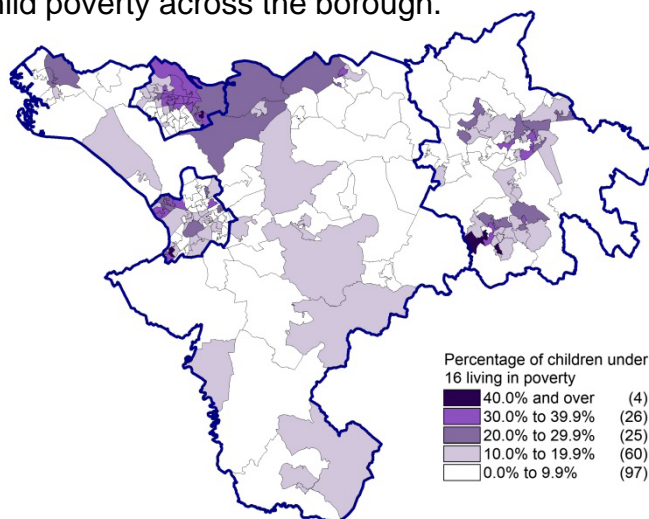
# Children living in poverty (under 16s) cont.

## Top ten small areas experiencing high levels of child poverty (under 16's) in Cheshire West and Chester

Area			Percentage of under 16s living in poverty
England			20.1%
Cheshire West and Chester			15.9%
Locality	Ward	LSOA	
Chester	Lache	Lache ParkL1	41.8%
	Lache	Lache ParkL4	39.1%
Ellesmere Port	Ellesmere Port Town	Wolverham and Stanlow L2	40.5%
	Grange	Westminster & Central L3	37.9%
	Rossmore	Westminster and Central L4	37.7%
	St. Paul's	Rivacre Brook L2	37.4%
Northwich and Winsford	Winsford Over and Verdin	West Winsford L2	52.4%
	Winsford Over and Verdin	West Winsford L3	39.0%
	Winsford Swanlow and Dene	South Winsford L3	44.0%
	Winsford Wharton	East Winsford L3	38.2%

In total there were four small areas (LSOAs) which recorded child poverty rates in excess of 40%, one of which exceeded 50%. The LSOA with over half of children living in poverty is located in Winsford Over and Verdin ward in Northwich and Winsford locality. The remaining areas with rates in excess of 40% are located in Ellesmere Port Town ward in Ellesmere Port locality, Lache ward in Chester locality and Winsford Swanlow and Dene ward in Northwich and Winsford locality.

The table shows the top ten small areas experiencing high levels of child poverty (under 16's) across Cheshire West and Chester and identifies which ward they are located in. The accompanying map shows patterns of child poverty across the borough.



Percentage of children aged under 16 living in poverty by LSOA with locality boundaries 2014 snapshot - Children in low income families

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Cheshire West and Chester

### Evidence of what works

- Extended services based in school have a positive impact on pupil attainment and on family stability.
- The acquisition of cognitive and non-cognitive skills in children is strongly associated with educational achievement and a range of other outcomes including better employment, income and physical and mental health.
- Play forms a vital part of a happy childhood and is important for children's ongoing and future wellbeing, developing children's life, social and cognitive skills.
- Adult learning impacts positively on health behaviours and outcomes which leads to increases in social capital, confidence and self-efficacy. Opportunities for work based learning including apprenticeships increase options for adult learning.
- Since the mother's education is a good predictor of a child's educational abilities at ages three and five, increasing the mother's education should see a corresponding increase in their young children's cognitive abilities.

### Recommended actions

- The Marmot review recommends that:
- Intervention should begin in the early years and continue throughout childhood, extending the role of schools in supporting families and communities and taking a "whole child" approach to education. This aims to improve educational outcomes and reduce the social gradient.
  - Social and emotional development, physical and mental health and wellbeing can be addressed using a school based workforce which works across home-school boundaries as part of the extended services in and around schools.
  - Access to lifelong learning such as work-based learning (including apprenticeships) should be increased, as should accessibility to support and advice for young people (16-25) relating to life-skills, training and employment opportunities.

Cheshire West and Chester Joint Strategic Needs Assessment



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