

The Child Poverty Toolkit

Developed by Centre for Economic
and Social Inclusion and Child
Poverty Action Group

Background to Inclusion and Child Poverty Action Group

CPAG

- provides information about low income families
- Monitors official poverty statistics
- Promotes action for relief of poverty among children

Inclusion

- a not-for-profit research organisation dedicated to tackling disadvantage and promoting social justice

The Government ambition for Ending Child Poverty in the UK

- To reduce child poverty by one quarter by 2004-05
- By half by 2010
- And eradicate it by 2020

“Our historic aim, that ours is the first generation to end child poverty forever...it’s a 20 year mission, but I believe it can be done.”

Tony Blair
March 1999

What 'eradication' means in the UK

- Fewer than 10% experiencing relative low income (less than 60% of median income)
- Fewer than 5% experiencing material deprivation and relative low income (less than 70% of median income)
- The absolute low income target – adjusted base amount
- The persistent poverty target – over 3 years

Progress so far

- 1998/99 3.4 million children in poverty
- 600,000 children were lifted out of poverty between 1998 and 2006 –
- 250,000 short of 2004/5 target
- 2006/7, 2.9 million children living in poverty
- Target - 1.7 million by 2010/11

Where UK stands compared to Europe

Table 8

Britain's place in Europe

	1999	2003	2006		1999	2003	2006
Belgium	12	16	15	Hungary	-	17	25
Bulgaria	-	18	15	Malta	-	-	19
Czech Republic	-	-	17	Netherlands	14	18	14
Denmark	7	9	10	Austria	14	16	15
Germany	13	-	12	Poland	-	-	26
Estonia	-	20	20	Portugal	26	-	20
Ireland	21	20	21	Romania	-	22	23
Greece	17	21	22	Slovenia	-	9	12
Spain	25	19	24	Slovakia	-	-	17
France	17	15	13	Finland	7	10	9
Italy	22	-	24	Sweden	7	-	14
Cyprus	-	11	11	United Kingdom	29	22	24
Latvia	-	-	25				
Lithuania	-	-	24	EU (25 countries)	19	19	19
Luxembourg	19	15	19	EU (15 countries)	19	19	18

Source: Eurostat¹⁴

Government action

- Reducing worklessness
- Reducing in-work poverty – tax credits
- Responsibility given to local government
- Child Poverty Bill

Creating the toolkit

- Indicators chosen through process of consultation – key stakeholders
- Steering group – representatives from Government, advocacy groups
- Consultation workshops – choose basket of indicators, based around worklessness, housing, education, health
- Chosen on basis of availability of robust reliable data to measure them
- Created measure both in work and out of work poverty as main indicator
- Include s practical tools such as pre-formatted presentations with data of local area, informative policy briefs and guides.
- Provide a range of good practice examples from throughout England.

Creating the toolkit

- Steering group with key stakeholders
- Consultation workshops
- Development of local indicators
- Cost - £45,775
- Funding from various stakeholders
- 6 months

Guidance

- Guidance available on the toolkit:
- Essential strategy elements
- How to use data and get discussion going
- Highlights importance of monitoring progress
- Create a mission statement
- Encourage to re-evaluate at regular intervals

Policy Briefs

- Created to help advocates communicate the importance of tackling child poverty
- Key statistics highlights how issues are linked
- Includes briefings on worklessness, health, education and housing

Advocacy work

- Comparing child poverty in UK to rest of Europe
- Influencing the Child Poverty Bill
- Parents in low wage jobs
- Quids for Kids – benefit take up
- Worklessness and Child poverty
- Children in low income families indicator

Summary

- Created a toolkit which starts local areas thinking about key indicators for child poverty in their area
- Easy to use data and background information to clearly communicate the child poverty message