

Poverty

Headlines

Poverty (living in a household where the income is below 60 per cent of median income) and deprivation are complex issues with no single cause but rather a multitude of contributory factors. The impacts of living in poverty are varied and far reaching. Without opportunities for social mobility, poverty can pass from one generation to another.

Children - More than 20,840 (1 in 5) children live in poverty in Kirklees. Almost two thirds of these children live in lone parent households.¹

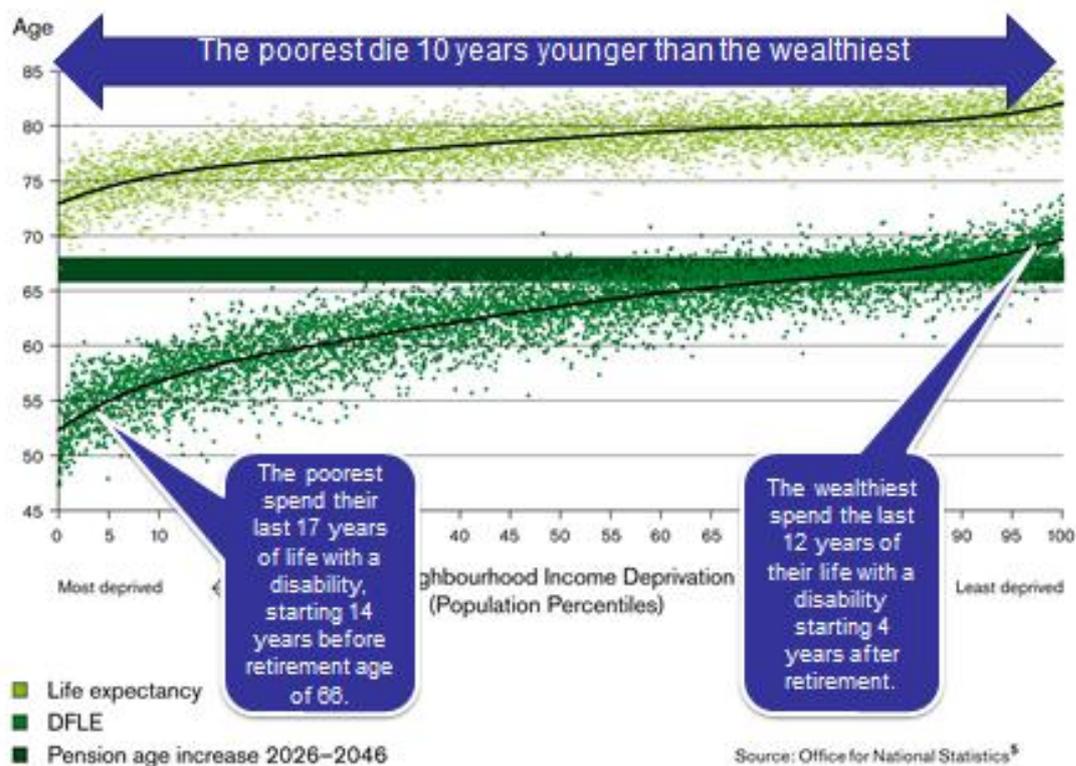
Adults - More than 41,000 (1 in 6) of the working age population in Kirklees claim one or more of the benefits linked to poverty.¹

Pensioners - More than 22,650 (1 in 3) older people in Kirklees live in a household claiming one or more of the benefits linked to poverty.¹

The most widely adopted measure of deprivation in England is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).² The IMD combines a number of indicators into a single deprivation score for each small area (known as lower super output areas). Dewsbury, Batley, Huddersfield North and South had the highest proportion of people living in areas ranked as the worst deprived 20%. In Spen, the proportion of people living in areas ranked as the worst deprived 20% doubled from 2004 to 2010.

Why is this issue important?

Deprivation is more than a measure of not having enough money. It also refers to a general lack of resources, opportunities and access to services. Deprivation is directly linked to life expectancy and the length of disability free life. Nationally, the gap in life expectancy between people living in the lowest and highest income neighbourhoods is six years, and the gap in disability free life expectancy is 13 years³. In Kirklees, [Dewsbury](#) residents can expect to live 3.6 to 4.9 years fewer than [Holme Valley](#) residents.



What significant factors are affecting this issue?

Even before a life begins, there are things parents are doing that may influence how likely the unborn baby will be in poverty later in life. How a baby's brain and its early skills develop is determined by its mother's age, whether it is breastfed and whether it is being born into a safe and stable home with both of its parents. The early factors in a child's life such as positive and healthy parenting can help to create a strong foundation for the future. Effective parenting can mitigate the effects of poverty by building resilience and positive self esteem from an early age (see Parenting section for further detail).

As people grow up, they are able to make more choices for themselves. These could be whether they start [smoking](#), drinking [alcohol](#) and using illegal [drugs](#). These choices can be motivated by low self esteem, poor emotional wellbeing and parental and peer health behaviours. The further people slip into these risky behaviours, the greater influence it can have on their health and other factors such as the ability to obtain and hold down employment.

Some people and groups are more likely to be in poverty. These include: former looked after children, single parents, long-term workless, those in poor health, and those who have a disability, are in unmanageable debt, have low levels of educational attainment, and those who are or have been in contact with the criminal justice system.

Which groups are most affected by this issue?

Children

There are children living in poverty in every community in Kirklees at ward level, the percentage ranges from 1 in 14 (7%) in [Kirkburton](#) to 1 in 3 (35%) in Newsome and [Dewsbury](#) West. The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, covering children 0-15 living in income deprived households, showed that:

- Dewsbury, [Huddersfield](#) North and South, and [Batley](#) had the highest proportions of children living in income deprived households.
- North Kirklees had a greater proportion of children who were income deprived than South Kirklees.

Older People

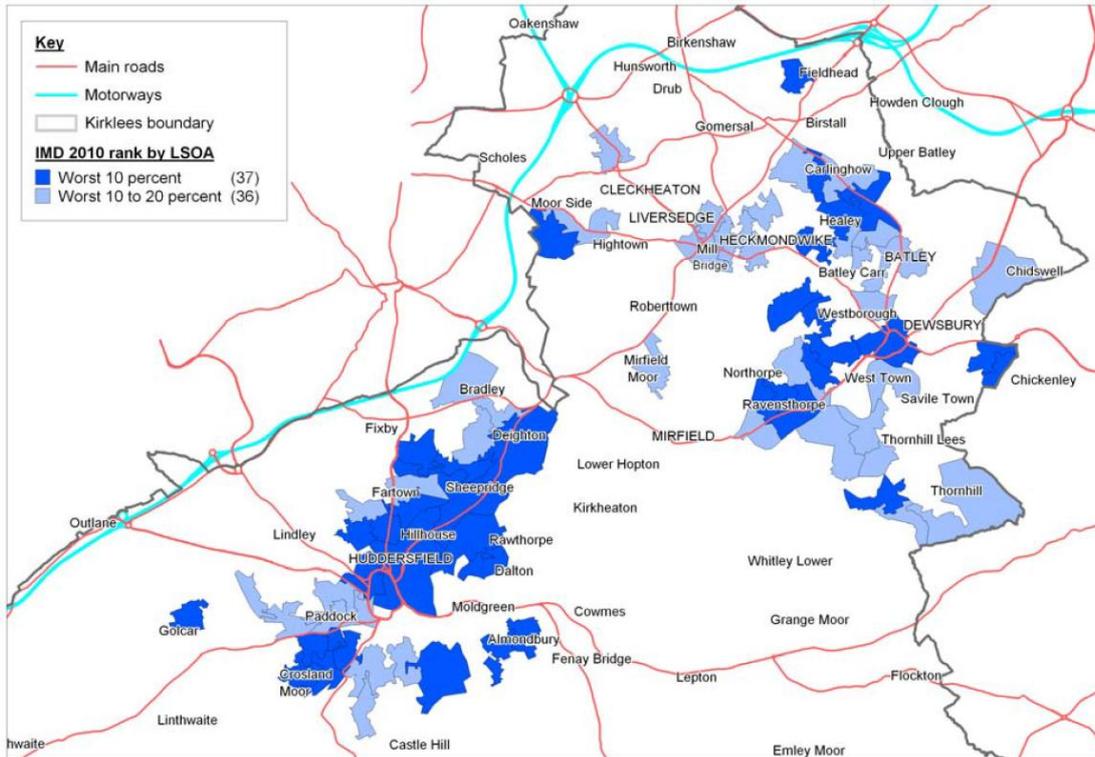
The Income Deprivation Affecting [Older People](#) Index covers the proportion of adults aged 60 or over receiving income support or income based job seekers' allowance or pension credit. It showed that:

- Dewsbury and Batley had the highest proportion of older people who were income deprived.
- North Kirklees had a greater proportion of older people than South Kirklees who were income deprived.

Where is this causing greatest concern?

- Dewsbury had the highest proportion of all people living in areas ranked as the worst deprived 20%. This has been the case since 2004.
- In [Spen](#), the proportion of all people living in areas ranked as the worst deprived 20% doubled from 2004 to 2010.

The Index of Deprivation 2010 map below shows which Kirklees Lower Super Output Areas fell into the worst 20% of LSOAs nationally. There were concentrations around Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury, together with other outlying areas such as Botham Hall in Golcar, Fieldhead in Birstall, Fernside in Almondbury, London Park in Mirfield, parts of Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, and Windybank in Liversedge.



How has the situation changed?⁴

Six areas moved into the worst 10% of LSOAs nationally between 2007 and 2010:

- Almondbury - Fernside, and High Croft.
- Bradley / Colne Bridge - Leeds Road, Huntingdon Avenue, Elder Road area.
- Chickenley - Princess Estate.
- Dewsbury Moor - Moorside Estate, Dewsbury Gate Road area.
- Dewsbury - Westborough, Schools Estate, Stockhill Street, Healds Road area.
- Thornhill – Overthorpe.

Three other LSOAs moved out of the worst 10% decile to the worst 10 to 20% decile.

These were: Primrose Hill/Newsome, Paddock / Springwood and Thornhill Edge Estate.

What could commissioners and service planners consider?

- Deprivation should be tackled across the life course.
- Factors that drive people into poverty need to be addressed at their source.
- Income deprivation is a day-to-day reality for many people across Kirklees. Action should focus on those who are most affected, i.e. children, adults who are ill or disabled and older people, recognising that work is the best route out of poverty but is not an option for everyone.
- Local action should also seek to reduce the relative levels of deprivation across Kirklees, not just enable the worst off or those living in the worst areas to improve. Provide, tailor, and target interventions to those in greatest need.

References

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