Just About Managing...

Creating brighter futures for families in Jersey.
Welcome

Wendy Hurford, Brighter Futures President
Senator Ian Gorst

Chief Minister
Client Voices

Brighter Futures Drama Team
Professor Esther Dermott

Head of School for Policy Studies
Child poverty, parenting practices and economising in the UK

Professor Esther Dermott
School for Policy Studies
esther.dermott@bristol.ac.uk
@estherdermott

Just about managing conference:
The effect of poverty and disadvantage on families
Brighter Futures, Jersey, 8th February 2018
Outline

• Poverty in the UK: Evidence from the Poverty and Social Exclusion study
  – Extent of poverty among parents and children
• Political and popular discourse on poverty
  – Assumptions about role of parents and parenting
• Evidence for associations between:
  – family poverty and child abuse and neglect
  – poor parents and ‘poor’ parenting

Acknowledgement of work of PSE team, especially Jonathan Bradshaw (York), Gill Main (Leeds), and Marco Pomati (Cardiff)
• UK’s largest ever research project on poverty, social exclusion and living standards
• Aim: to measure the change in the nature and extent of poverty and social exclusion over the past ten years
• Publications available at https://policypress.co.uk/poverty-and-social-exclusion-in-the-uk and www.poverty.ac.uk
Measuring Poverty

• **Consensual method** – living in poverty if you lack resources to achieve a publicly agreed minimum standard

  *poverty is a dynamic, not a static concept...Our general theory, then, should be that individuals and families whose resources over time fall seriously short of the resources commanded by the average individual or family in the community in which they live . . . are in poverty.”* Townsend (1962, p 219)

• Not just lack of income, also *deprivation*

• Not defined by ‘experts’ or in the abstract, by *general public*
Poverty rate in the UK

Poor – deprived and low income
Rising – deprived but not low income
Vulnerable – not deprived but low income
Non Poor – neither deprived nor with low income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poor</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rising</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vulnerable</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not Poor</strong></td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Child Necessities – High Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Proportion viewing item/activity as a necessity (2012)</th>
<th>Proportion viewing item/activity as a necessity (1999)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A warm winter coat</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh fruit or vegetables at least once a day</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three meals a day</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New, properly fitting, shoes</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A garden or outdoor space nearby where they can play safely</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books at home suitable for their ages</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent at least once a day</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A suitable place to study or do homework</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor games suitable for their ages</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child Poverty

• 4% of children (0.5 million) do not have three meals a day, fresh fruit and vegetables once a day, and or meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every day because their families cannot afford them

• 9% of children (1 million) go without necessary clothing (warm winter coat, new properly fitting shoes, some new clothes, four pairs of trousers) because of a lack of money

• 27% of children in the UK live in households with low incomes and are materially deprived
Child Poverty

Higher deprivation if:

• Unemployment
• Living with lone parent
• Living in large family
• Being Black or Asian
• Living in England

But...majority had:

• Someone in employment
• Were couple families
• Had 1 or 2 children
• Are White
Child Poverty – Employment status

• Child poverty rates *highest* in households containing no adults in paid work (47%); *lowest* in households in which all adults worked full time (13%)

But

• 60% of poor children lived in households containing at least one adult in paid work
• 12% of poor children lived in households with all adults in full time employment

Look to low pay and precarious employment to address child poverty
Child Poverty – Parental Behaviour

• 16% of children lived in households where children are not poor but adults are poor
• i.e. adults living with children are more likely to be going without than the children they live with

Parents protect children from poverty
% parents who are cutting back
Contrasting narratives

One in three on breadline as the rich get richer
2.5 million children forced to live in damp homes

14% of Brits living below breadline
2014

33% below breadline
Parents’ Role

• Family structure (1980s)
• Parenting practices (1990s)
• Parents not money (2000s+)
  – “It is family background, parental education, good parenting and the opportunities for learning and development...that together matter more to children than money” (Frank Field 2010:p5)
  – “We’ve got to start talking about parenting and taking action to get it right” (David Cameron 2016)

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-families-are-the-key-to-ending-poverty
Measuring Parenting

• “We all know what good parenting looks like” (David Cameron 2010)
• Parenting includes:
  Parenting style
  Quality of parent-child relationship
  Direct parent-child activities
  General caring activities
Parenting Practices

Education:  Reading
  Homework
  Attend school parents’ evenings
Leisure:  Television
  Sports
  Games
Food:  Family meals

Every Day  Most Days  Some Days  Never
Parent Profiles

Parents with young children (28%)
Parents with older children (11%)
Average parent (37%)
Highly educated (24%)
Conclusions/Interventions/Policy

• Poverty is deeply embedded and increasing problem
• Widespread advocacy for early intervention
• Focus is on parenting skills and rapid decision-making but little attempt to confront socio-economic difficulties; e.g. resources for early years support services have decreased
• Evidence that parents seek to alleviate impact of poverty on children no evidence for group of parents who fail to participate in high profile parent-child activities -> Rethink assumptions about existence of group of ‘poor parents’ doing ‘poor parenting’
• Lack of ‘joined-up’ thinking and action about poverty; resources are required
Child poverty, parenting practices and economising in the UK

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Coffee Break
Deborah McMillan

Jersey Children’s Commissioner
Poverty in Jersey

Deborah McMillan, Children’s Commissioner for Jersey
Low income in Jersey

1 in 4 households

29% of children

56% of one parent families

Source: Jersey Household Income Distribution 2014/2015
Coping financially

1 in 7 households were materially deprived

1 in 5 households had difficulty coping financially

23% of households with children have gone without new clothing for their child over the last year

1 in 10 households were in severe material deprivation

44% of single parent families had difficulty coping financially

10% of households have gone without fresh fruit or veg over the last year and 48% said it’s difficult to find affordable fruit and vegetables in Jersey

Source: Jersey Opinions & Lifestyle Survey Report 2017
Income Support and Jersey Pupil Premium

**Income Support:** over 6000 households

**Jersey Pupil Premium:** 22% of pupils – that means 2,165 pupils
Housing costs in Jersey

2013 - more than half of lower income households in ‘housing stress’
Access to medical and dental care

26% of households said the cost of dental appointments for children stopped them going at least sometimes

19% of households said the cost of GP child appointments stopped them going at least sometimes
Poverty denies children their rights

UNCRC foundation principles underpin all other children's rights.

• Non-discrimination
• The best interests of the child
• The right to survival and development
• The views of the child
Impact on our children

Poverty can have a devastating affect on a child’s life, with children feeling hungry and cold, and less able to join in activities that their peers do.

“By age 16, children from better off families are more than twice as likely to achieve five good GCSEs, as those from disadvantaged homes.” JRF

Poverty is associated with lower academic attainment, poorer health outcomes and employment prospects.
The lack of a whole system approach lends itself to a duplication of effort and for some children, young people and their families – no provision at all
The Solution?

Don’t try to put our children’s problems into neat boxes.

Be ACE Informed (Adverse Childhood Experiences).

Take Public Health approach to tackling poverty.
The Office of the Children’s Commissioner

ChildComJersey

d.mcmillan@gov.je

@ChildcomJersey

440502
Panel Discussion

Professor Esther Dermott, Bristol University, Head of School for Policy Studies
Deborah McMillan, Jersey Children’s Commissioner
Ruth Brunton, CEO Brighter Futures
Patricia Tumelty, Co-Ordinator of Services for Families, Parenting Support Services

Ask a question via slido.com event code #3051
Fiona Brennan
Manager, Brighter Futures
Client Voices

Brighter Futures Drama Team
Deputy Kristina Moore

Jersey Home Affairs
Thank you for joining us today.

Creating brighter futures for families in Jersey.