



HM Government

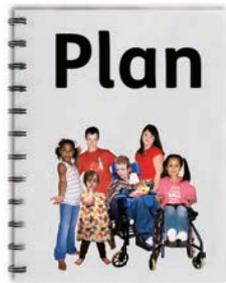


Our children Our future

How the UK Government is helping children to have a good life



About this easy read



This is the easy read of a longer plan by the UK Government. It is called **Our Children Our Future**.



It tells you about some of the main things in the longer plan.



This easy read is still quite long. You do not have to read it all at once. You might want to take a break, or just read the pages you want to.



You could ask someone to help you read it, if you need to.

What is in this booklet



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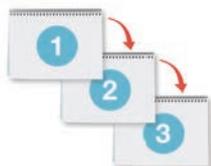
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What we mean by children in poverty



Too many children in the United Kingdom are **living in poverty**.



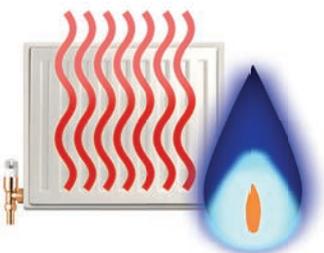
Living in poverty means when people do not have enough money to pay for things like:



- Food and clothes.



- A place to live.



- Electricity or gas to heat their home.



When we say **children** in this report, we mean people who are **0 to 18** years old.



When we say **parents**, we mean parents, carers or other family members who look after the child.

About poverty



Children who live in poverty may not always have enough food or warm clothes.



They have more chance of having problems with their health.



Things like problems with their teeth. Or being overweight.



It is harder for them to do well at school.



This means they have less chance of getting jobs that pay more money when they grow up.



Children who live in poverty have more chance of becoming homeless later in their lives.



Almost 3 out of 4 children who live in poverty have parents who have jobs. But they still don't have enough money to live.



None of this is ok. We do not want children in the UK to grow up in poverty.



What we want to happen

The UK Government wants to change the lives of children living in poverty in the UK.



We want all babies and children to:

- Have what they need to be safe, happy and healthy.



- Grow up in a safe and warm home.



- Have enough food to eat.



- Do well at school.



- Get good jobs when they grow up.

What we want to do and what it means for children and families



A **household** means all the people living in one home.



Some **households** have a lot less money to live off than most families. We will help these households.



By 2029 more than half a million children will be in households that aren't poor anymore.



Around 7 million children will be living in households with more money than they have now.

The extra money will come from things like:



- Help with **childcare** so that parents can go to work.

Childcare is when someone looks after a child when their parents are working or busy.



- Help with paying electricity bills.

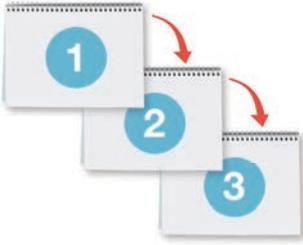


- Extra support from **benefits**. **Benefits** means money from the Government for people who need help to pay for things.

This might be because they are unwell, have a disability, or do not have a job.

What we will do

We will help people in 3 ways.



We will help families to have more money.



We will make things cheaper or easier for families to buy. Things like gas and electricity and milk for your baby to drink.



We will help families to get support near to where they live.



Some parts of this plan affect families all across the UK.



Other parts only affect families in England.



Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own governments.



They make their own plans to support children living in poverty.



The next few pages tell you about the things we are doing.

Helping families to have more money

Universal Credit

UC Universal Credit



We are giving people more support from **Universal Credit**.

Universal Credit is a benefit that is given to people who:



- Cannot work. This might be because of a disability or health problem.



- Are looking for work.



- Do work, but do not earn very much.

Money for all the children in a family

UC Universal Credit



Families who get Universal Credit can get some extra money for their children.



The money helps to pay for things that children need. Things like food and clothes.



At the moment, most families only get this extra money for their first 2 children.



From April 2026, all families who get Universal Credit will get extra money for all of their children.

Paying back money

UC Universal Credit



Sometimes people can get paid some of their Universal Credit early.



But they need to pay this money back. The money is taken out of their benefits.



People usually pay back a little bit every month.



Since April 2025, people have had to pay back less money each month.

Job centres



Job centres are places where people can go to get help to find a job.



We are making job centres better.



They will be able to help more people learn new skills and find jobs.

National Living Wage



This is the smallest amount of money that people should be paid, for each hour they work.



National Living Wage is going up to £12.71 for each hour of work.



This means people will get more money for their work.



Employment Rights Bill

This is a new law that will help people to get their **rights** and keep their jobs.



Your **rights** are things you are allowed to do and how you should be treated.

Things like:



- The right to be treated fairly at work.



- The right to have breaks and take time off work.



- The right to get support at work if you have a disability.

Childcare



We will pay for more childcare.
This will help families.



It will help more parents to go to
work.

Breakfast clubs



Schools are opening more breakfast
clubs.



This is when schools open early.
Children can come to play and get
something to eat.



This helps parents to start work earlier
in the mornings.

Child Maintenance Service



The **Child Maintenance Service** makes sure that both parents support a child if they do not live together.

This might be if:



- Two parents split up.



- One parent leaves home and goes to live somewhere else.



Both parents must still help to pay for things their child needs.



The Child Maintenance Service can make sure this is done in a fair way.



We will use the Child Maintenance Service to help more children.

Helping families to spend less money

Social and Affordable Homes Programme



We are spending almost 40 billion pounds on new homes that people can afford.



This will help more families to move out of **temporary housing** and afford a good place to live.



Temporary housing is somewhere for people to stay for a short time.

This might be a flat, shared house or a hotel.



The person stays there until they can move into their own home. Or a home they can stay in for longer.

Free School Meals



Every child in England who lives in a household that gets Universal Credit will get free school meals.



This will be for children and young people aged 3 to 18 years old.

This is:



- Children who go to nursery at school.



- Children who are at school.



- Young people age 16 to 18 who stay in school or learn at college.

Holiday Activity and Food Programme



We are spending 600 million pounds to help families in the school holidays.

This money will help with things like:



- Running clubs and groups for children. Things like sports clubs or arts and crafts groups.



- Giving children healthy food and snacks.



It is for all children who get free school meals.



School uniform

We have made a new rule for schools.



Parents will not have to buy more than 3 **branded** pieces of school uniform.

A **branded** uniform might be things like:



- A sweatshirt with a school logo on it.



- A sports t-shirt in school colours.



Buying less branded uniform will help to save parents money.



Warm Homes Discount

This is extra money from the Government to help pay for heating.



It means over 2 and a half million households will pay less for their electricity bills.

Helping families to get support in their local area

Money to help people have pride in where they live.



This is money for local **communities**. **Community** can mean the people who live in a village, a small town, or an area of a city.



There is 5 billion pounds to help people to make their communities better.



The money is for the areas in Great Britain that need it most.

Money for local councils in England



We have looked at the money that English councils get.



We will support councils to help more families who do not have enough money.

Best Start Family Hubs



Every area in England will have a **Best Start Family Hub**.

This is a place in the local community. Families can go here for advice and support.



500 thousand children will get support from the hubs.

Early Years Pupil Premium



Pupil Premium is extra money for places that look after young children. Things like pre-schools, nurseries and other childcare services.



The money is to help look after children before they start school.



At the moment, these places get an extra 388 pounds per child.



The amount of money they get is going up.



They will get an extra 570 pounds for every child who is living in poverty.

Help for families having a hard time



Councils will get 1 billion pounds. This is to help families who are having a hard time and need extra help.

Better Futures Fund



We are spending 500 million pounds to help children who need help the most.



The money will help to give these children a better chance to do well in life.

Nurseries in schools



There will be lots of new places for young children in nurseries.



The nurseries will be part of schools in England.



This will help more families to get help with childcare so they can go to work.

Giving families help before problems get too big



We will make **children's social care** better.

Here are some things that **children's social care** services do:

- Look after children who can't live at home with their parents.





- Support families who are having a very hard time.



- Protect children who are not safe.



We will spend just less than 2 and a half billion pounds on this work.



It will help 400 thousand families.

The Child Poverty Taskforce



The **Child Poverty Taskforce** is part of the Government.

The Taskforce's job was to:

- Learn about child poverty in the UK

and

- Write this plan.



To do this work, the Taskforce listened to lots of people:

- Children and families.



- Local councils.





- Charities.



- People who work in health services.



- Faith groups.

What happens next



We will look at all the things we are doing to help children and families.



We will find out if their lives are getting better.



We will learn from what we find out.



We will use what we learn to make more decisions about how to help people in the future.



We will work with the UK's other governments:

- The Scottish Government.



- The Welsh Government.



- The Northern Ireland Executive.



We will work together to make sure that children's lives are getting better in the whole of the UK.