

Child of the North APPG: Child Poverty and Cost of Living Report Session 14 December 2022

Attendees:

In-person

Emma Lewell-Buck MP (Chair), Mary Robinson MP (Co-Chair), Kim Johnson MP, Liz Twist MP, Ian Byrne MP, Rebecca Natton (Emma Lewell-Buck's Office), Francis Bell (Emma Lewell-Buck's Office), Rebecca (Office of Bishop of Durham).

Via Teams

Mary Foy MP, Kate Pickett (University of York), David Taylor-Robinson (University of Liverpool), Amy Barnes (University of York), Hannah Davies (NHSA), Alexis Darby (NHSA), Chris McHugh (Stephenson-Mohl Group).

Apologies:

Simon Fell MP (Officer), Catherine McKinnell MP, (Officer), Bishop of Durham (Officer), Marion Fellows MP, Emma Hardy MP, Trudy Harrison MP, Sir George Howarth MP, Dan Carden MP, Mary Glindon MP.

- ELB opened the meeting and gave an overview of the inaugural meeting and evidence session held in October. Focus on discussing the report from the evidence session. Emma said the report is excellent and detailed for having been produced so quickly.

Child Poverty and Cost of Living Report

AB (lead author of the report) acknowledged everyone who contributed to the report.

MR commented that a lot of the info in the report is from the North East, there are particular problems there want to highlight but could we take a wider look across the North, taking in the North West.

ELB said the evidence session had a lot of people giving evidence from the North East. Suggested adding the recommendation of auto enrolment of health start scheme for those eligible to the report.

KP A lot of the statistics in the report are from across the North and are broken down across the North East. The statistics are balanced, the qualitative is from the North East as they contributed to the evidence hearing and the North East does stand out. We can pay attention to this in the revision.

DTR The initial report was about the North / South contrast and this report is focused on the evidence session which was influenced by the North East – but we made the summary of statistics that cover the North – we can tweak things so it's clear these issues are Northern wide.

IB All the soundbites are from the North East and it would be good to reflect the levels of poverty right across the board.

LT There are regional variations and especially around levelling up and poverty, there are pockets of poverty.

MR It is important to level up the North as a whole, to tackle the North/South divide, rather than just specific regions in the North.

AB We can clearly say that the material is representative of many communities across the North.

MF We know child poverty is highest in the North East – the region can be left off the North so it's important it's included.

HD We can draw in those connections across the North.

ELB We are happy with the report recommendations we just want a few revisions.

KP We will go through the report and include statistics for all three regions and add more lived experience to make sure it is balanced.

ELB So we can publish end of January and follow with a launch event in Parliament.

Review Forward Plan of Meetings

- Future meetings should be representative of the whole North, especially regarding experts. Need to ensure we're including cross-party MPs as guests.
- The child poverty report what right to focus a lot on how bad the situation is. Officers were quite keen on future reports to focus more on solid recommendations and solutions to tackle the problem, in order for the Government to really listen.

Next steps

- Next APPG meeting to focus on Children in Care – date TBC.
- Revisions to be made to the forward plan of meetings and shared with members.
- Team to revise the draft report and share with members along with the date for the launch of the report in Parliament.

ENDS