

Poverty Profile March 2014

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Poverty Profile March 2014

Introduction

The last full Poverty Profile of Swansea, produced in 2008 (updated in 2009 and 2011), was structured around the themes of the UK's National Action Plan on Social Inclusion, two-year plans demanded of each EU member state, setting out their intentions to tackle social exclusion and poverty.

As ever, the intervening years have been full of change, resulting in new policies, strategies and structures which inform the shape of this report.

Nationally, the Welsh Assembly Government launched a Tackling Poverty Action Plan for 2012-2016 (cited throughout as TPAP), arranged in three sections:

- Section 1: Preventing poverty
- Section 2: Helping people out of poverty
- Section 3: Action to mitigate the impact of poverty

With a final section on *Joining up Across Government*.

Locally, the One Swansea Plan was produced for the first time in 2013, replacing a number of previous plans including those for Health, Social Care & Well Being, Children & Young People and Community Safety. Tackling poverty is at the heart of the Plan, which sets out how the Local Service Board intends to achieve six population outcomes:

- A. Children have a good start in life
- B. People learn successfully
- C. Young people and adults have good jobs
- D. People have a decent standard of living
- E. People are health, safe and independent
- F. People have good places to live and work

Organisationally, within the City & County of Swansea, since 2011 the Chief Executive has held a monthly Poverty Forum at which efforts to tackle poverty can be discussed and targeted under the five themes:

1. Income & debt
2. Employment
3. Health
4. Education
5. Family support

This Poverty Profile will look at key indicators under these five themes, comparing the situation now with that in recent history to indicate trends and set future direction. Many indicators also appear in the *One Swansea* Single Integrated Plan, or in the Strategic Needs Assessment which informs it.

Most indicators also include some comparison to Wales national averages. Data down to LSOA level is available for many indicators and could form a later, more detailed report to support the current Target Areas approach to service delivery.

Defining Poverty

Arguably, relative poverty is more of a moral question than a mathematical one, about standards of living in any particular society at a given point in time. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has sought for many decades to maintain an up-to-date overview of goods, services and experiences considered “necessities” of modern UK life, showing changes in cultural expectation over time. Refrigerators, TV sets, telephones and microwave ovens have all moved from the “luxury” to “essential” category. The most recent update of this research shows that for the first time, a family living in an urban setting outside of London is deemed to require a car as a necessity. (<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/MIS-2012>)

Household Car or Van Access	Swansea 2001 %	Swansea 2011 %	Wales 2001 %	Wales 2011 %
No car or van	28.5	25.8	26.0	22.9
1 car or van	45.6	43.3	45.5	43.0
2 cars or vans	21.1	23.7	22.9	25.8
3 cars or vans	3.7	5.3	4.3	6.1
4 or more cars or vans	1.1	1.8	1.2	2.2

(Census data: 2001 and 2011)

With childcare and transport still such frequently cited obstacles to employment and training, lack of access to a car can be a poverty trap. Over a quarter of Swansea households have no car or van, slightly more than the Welsh average.

Income Thresholds: The Poverty Line

In monetary terms, the EU defines “income poverty” or “low income” as **household income below 60% of the median national income, after housing costs**. The actual figure varies according to household type.

However, setting a proportion of the median income as a “poverty line” does not adequately reflect the real experience of deprivation, because there is no analysis of what such an income can buy in today’s economy; of whether a household earning the median – or any figure in relation to it – is able to afford a decent standard of living.

Income Thresholds: Minimum Income Standards

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has expanded its aforementioned research into the area of Minimum Income Standards, currently funding the Centre for Social Policy Research at Loughborough University to continue the programme aiming “to define an ‘adequate’ income...based on what members of the public think is enough money to live on, to maintain a socially acceptable quality of life” (www.jrf.org.uk/topic/mis) While the “poverty line” is 60% of the median, most household types actually require nearly **75% of median income** to have an acceptable standard of living in the UK.

Full-time work on Minimum Wage does not bring someone above the threshold for a generally accepted, basic standard of living.

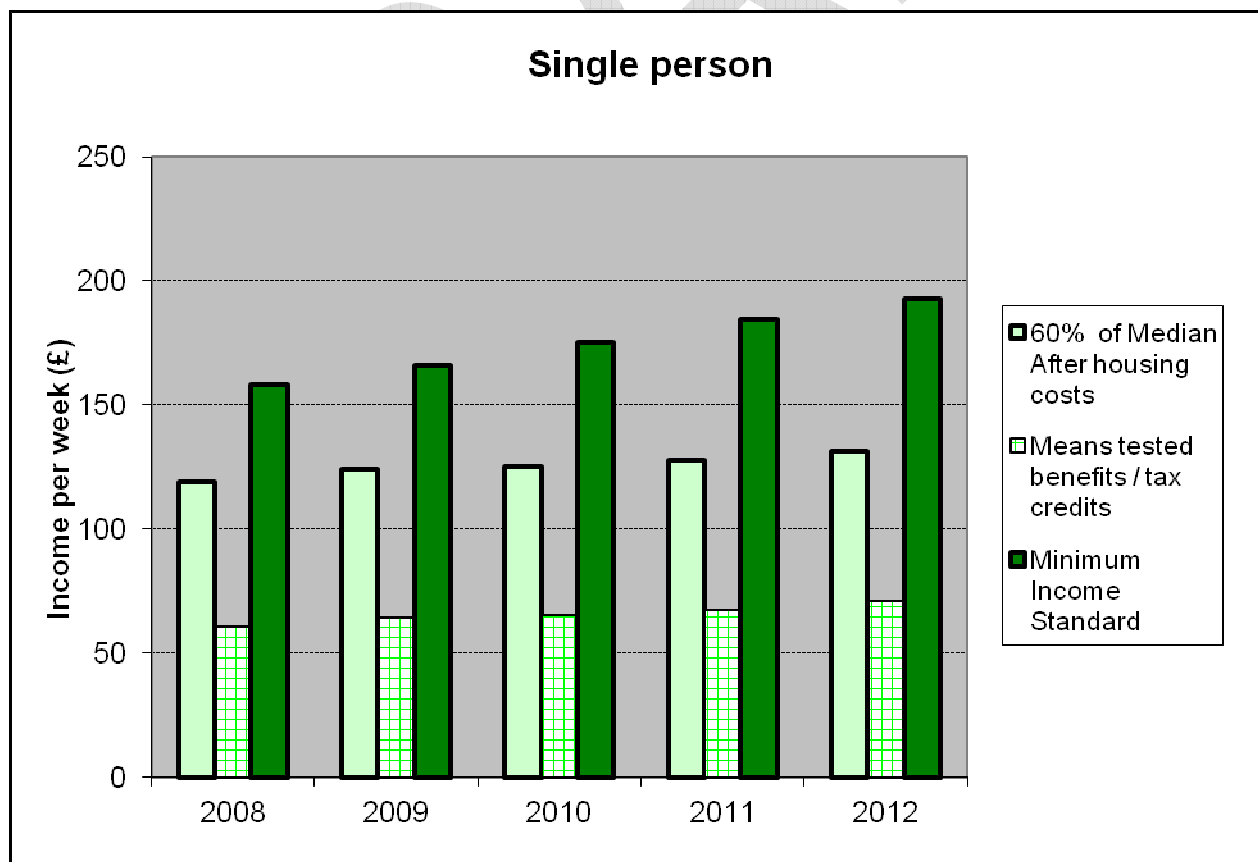
The proportion of people living in households below the Minimum Income Standard (MIS) increased by a fifth between 2008/9 and 2011/12. Most of the increase came in the final year of this period. (www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/household-income-standards-full_0.pdf)

The graphs below show – regrettably only as recently as 2012 - the weekly household “poverty line” income (from the DWP’s Households Below Average Income data) and compare this to benefit entitlements (from CPAG manuals for each year), showing the shortfall between benefit income and the designated poverty line. The graphs also compare these amounts with the Minimum Income Standard (www.lboro.ac.uk/research/crsp/mis), showing that the poverty line – which benefits fall well short of – is in any case not enough to actually live on.

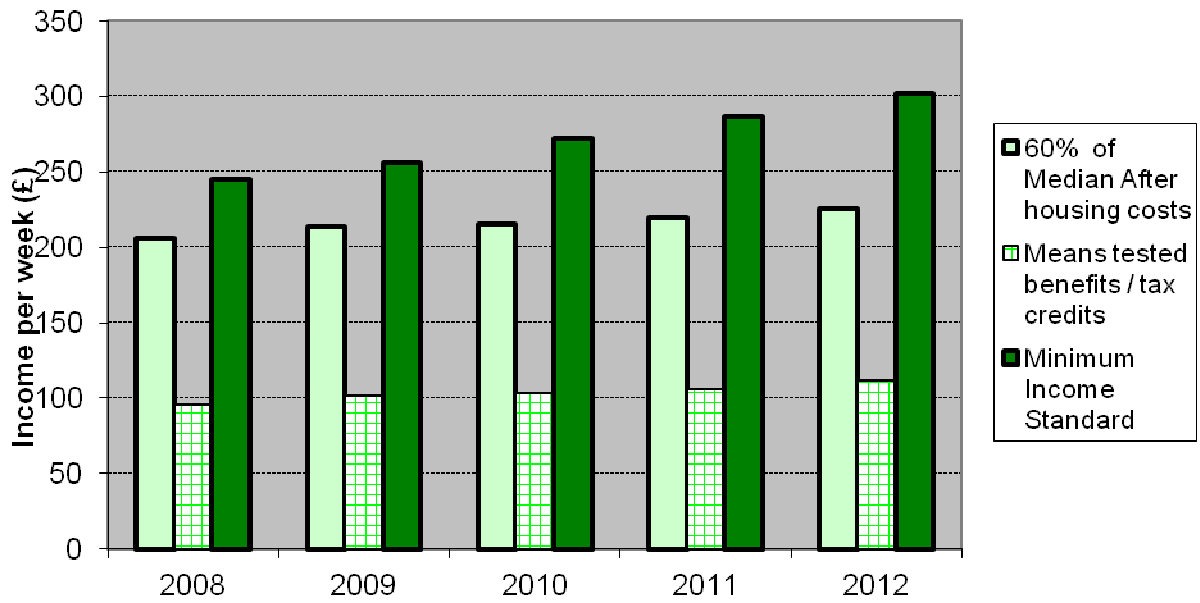
For example, in 2012:

- Benefits provided a single parent with two children with almost enough to meet the poverty line, but having half as much again would still not have given them an adequate minimum income.
- Benefits for a couple with two children provided nearly £60 per week less than the poverty line, and nearly £200 per week less than a minimum adequate income.
- A childless couple received less than half of a poverty-line income from benefits. Their income would have to be almost 3 times that of benefits to be adequate.

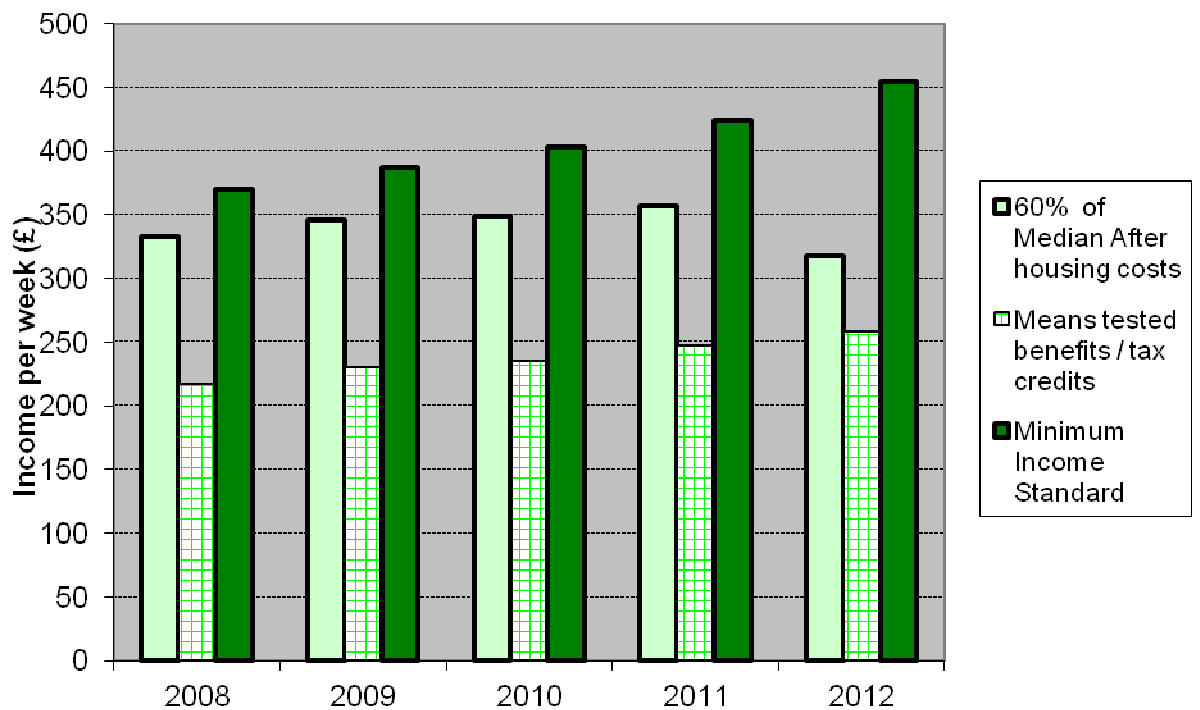
Tables showing actual income figures are included as Appendix 1.

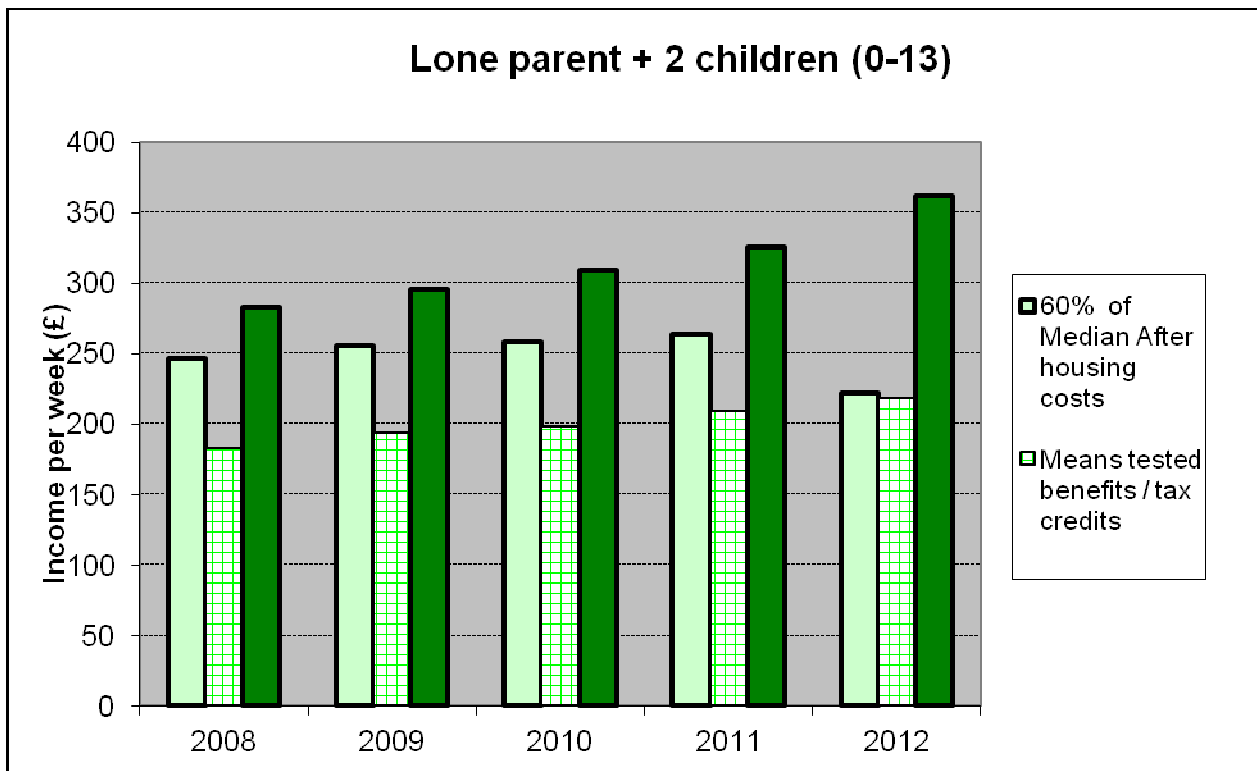


Couple, no children



Couple + 2 children (0-13)





Severe Child Poverty

There is no officially recognised measure of severe child poverty. Efforts to tackle UK child poverty over the past decade have been criticised for only benefiting those *closest* to the poverty line, who needed the least help to be lifted above it, while those entrenched in deeper poverty have remained so. Save The Children's proposed definition of severe poverty applies to children in:

"A household with an income below 50% of the median (after housing costs), and where both adults and children lack at least one basic necessity, and either adults or children or both groups lack at least two basic necessities".

"Basic necessities" include:

- Shoes
- Being able to decorate the home
- Household contents insurance
- Repairing electrical goods
- Celebrating children's birthdays
- Having children's friends round for tea
- Swimming lessons
- School trips

50% median income after housing costs would currently be (2012 amounts):

- £220 pw Single parent with two child aged 5 and 14
- £297 pw Couple with two children aged 5 and 14

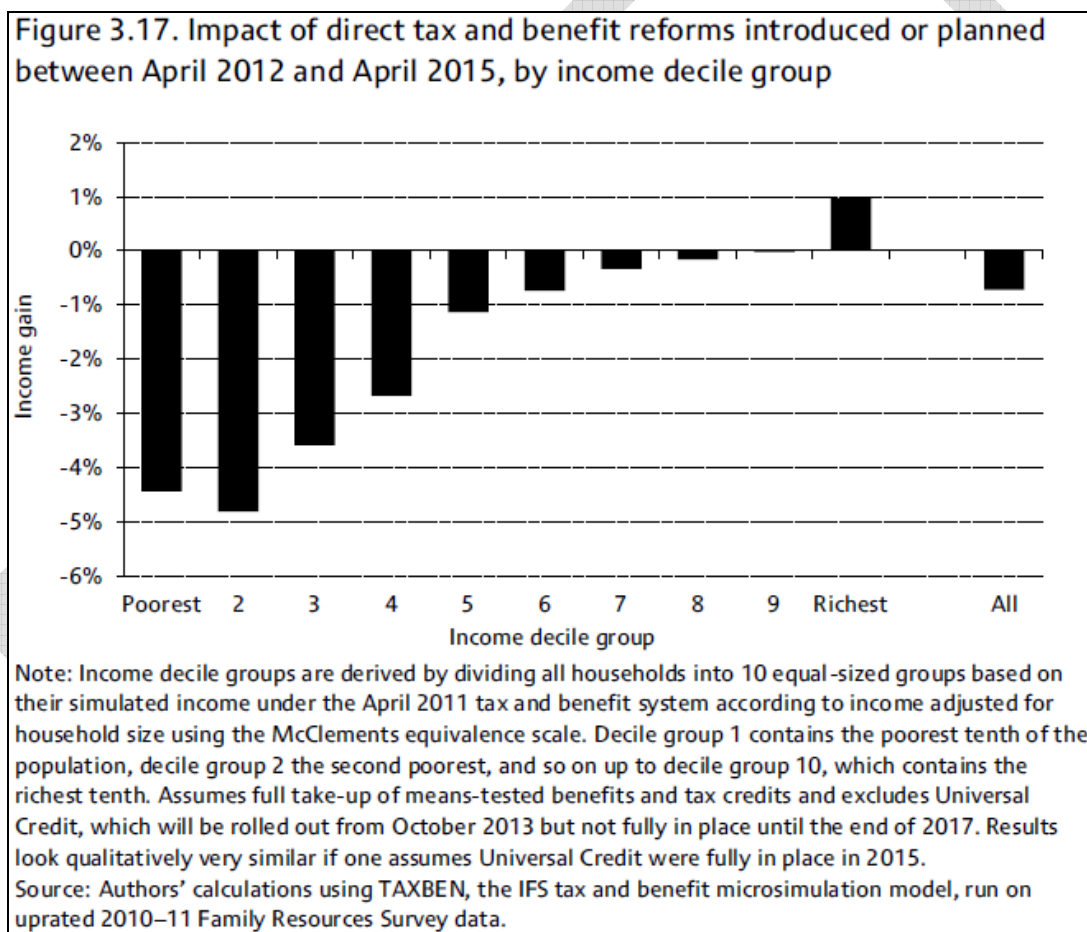
When last measured by Save the Children in 2011: 14% of children in Wales were in Severe Poverty; more than any of the other UK regions (13% in England; 9% in Scotland)

and Northern Ireland). Within Wales, Blaenau Gwent had the highest rate of severe child poverty (20%) but Swansea, Torfaen, Caerphilly, and Newport all had at least one in six children in severe poverty.

680,000 of the 1.6 million UK children in severe poverty lived in households where at least one adult worked.

Current UK Context: Increasing Inequality

The Institute of Fiscal Studies, in its Report R81: Living Standards, Poverty and Inequality in the UK, 2013 (<http://www.ifs.org.uk/comms/r81.pdf>), discusses the effect of discretionary changes to tax and benefits, pointing out that, “Only a small proportion of these cuts to social security have so far been seen in the HBAI data. By 2017-18, the government plans to have cut spending on welfare by £12 billion in today’s terms. Of those £21 billion of cuts, only £2 billion were in place in 2011-12” (p.49). The following chart, figure 3.17 from that report, clearly demonstrates the, “inequality-increasing” impact of these policies.



Income & Debt

Low income and debt makes family life more difficult and it becomes harder to manage stressful events. (TPAP 2012 – 2016, p.4) Advice which helps people deal with debt, or get on-line, should be a basis for enabling them to manage their finances sustainably and use new skills to increase their engagement in work and society. (TPAP p.3)

INDICATOR: The % of people receiving income related benefits (i.e. on low income)

	Income-related benefits (% of population) 2008	Income-related benefits (% of population) 2011	Income-related benefits (% of population) 2012
Swansea	16.1	17.8	18.2
Wales	17.3	18.6	18.6

(NOMIS)

This table shows an increase in the proportion of households receiving income-related benefits, that is, benefits to supplement a low income and bring it up towards the poverty line. This does not tell us whether people are better or worse off. It may be that more people are claiming the benefits they were entitled to, but didn't get, in 2008.

In 2010, CAB and other charities estimated that £16 billion in means-tested benefits and tax credits go unclaimed in the UK each year.

INDICATOR: The % of children (0-18) in households on income related benefits

	2008	2011
Swansea	21.4	25.2
Wales	23.3	26.8

(NOMIS)

Again, this table shows an increase but this does not tell us whether the increase is positive (more benefits being received) or negative (in that income has reduced further therefore more benefits are needed).

INDICATOR: The % of children living in workless households

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Swansea	24.2	26.2	22.5	24.4	19.9
Wales	17.2	20.0	18.8	18.6	17.7

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work/Workless-Households/WorklessHouseholds-by-Area-Variable-HouseholdStatus>

Figures in Swansea have improved and come more into line with the Wales average. However, without any analysis of whether work means families are **actually any better off**.

In-Work Poverty

The focus on adult economic inactivity / worklessness as a cause of child poverty is fairly meaningless while the problem of low pay is overlooked, and is considered by commentators to be a major failing in child poverty strategies. In 2008, *nearly* half the UK's children in income-poor household lived with at least one adult in paid work. By 2010 this was *more than* half of the UK's children in income-poor households living with at least one adult in paid work. By 2012, there were more adults *and* children in income-poor households in Wales where one or more parents are in paid work, than those who are workless. (<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-wales-2013>)

Data on Working Tax Credit claims could be a useful indicator of in-work poverty. Unfortunately, at this time the only publicly available data we can find from HMRC combines Working Tax Credit claims with Child Tax Credit claims, and also with equivalent child-support amounts included in benefits for unemployed parents. This creates an accurate report of the amount of support going from the public purse to parents on low incomes for various reasons, but entirely obscures the particular element of in-work poverty we would like to examine.

Part-Employment

In Swansea, nearly a quarter (24.7%) of children currently live in households with “mixed” employment, where some people aged 16-64 are working and others are not. Part-employment is a problem: the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-wales-2013) points out that part-timers earn less per hour (£7.60 average) than full-timers (£11.55 average), and that increases in both hours and pay rates are needed to tackle poverty. (<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-wales-2013>)

INDICATOR: The individual insolvency rate per 10,000 adult population

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Swansea	25.0	31.8	32.1	27.6	24.3
Wales	23.5	31.4	32.6	28.7	26.5

These figures represent the total of Bankruptcy Orders, Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) and Debt Relief Orders (DROs), expressed as a rate per 10,000 adults (aged 18 & over). Rates are available for local authorities and regions within England & Wales. The figures are published by the Insolvency Service, an agency of the government Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Monitoring actual levels of active debt is difficult. The term “insolvent” applies to borrowers who are unable to repay their debts, not to those who do manage to meet repayments, however much they may struggle to do so.. In some respects, insolvency rates are something of a red herring, since many people declared insolvent no longer have unmanageable debt hanging over them, therefore there isn’t a way of quantifying those still in debt.

The increase between 2008 and 2009 is due to the introduction of Debt Relief Orders (DROs), a solution for people, “who do not own their own home, have little surplus income and assets and less than £15,000 of debt” ([The Insolvency Service](#)). Since then, an increase in DROs has seen a corresponding drop in bankruptcies.

Employment

Growth and sustainable jobs are at the heart of the Programme for Government and jobs and the economy are the Welsh Government's overriding priorities. TPAP p.13

INDICATOR: The % of working age adults with no qualifications

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Swansea	15.0	16.0	14.5	12.4	10.7
Wales	15.3	14.8	13.3	12.3	11.4
UK	13.7	12.6	11.6	10.9	9.9

(APS Annual Data)

Qualifications are visible evidence of the cycle of poverty, with children from low-income families, where parents are less likely to have qualifications, being in turn less likely to get any themselves, and thus more likely to remain in unskilled employment. Employers have been found to be more likely to invest in increasing the qualifications of employees who already have some to begin with, thus they can be an important springboard to better financial well being. The trend demonstrated in the above table is generally positive and suggests there would be merit in closer examining the factors that are making a difference.

INDICATOR: Youth Unemployment: The rate of people aged 18-24 claiming JSA

18-24 year old JSA Claimant Count as a % of all 18-24 year olds

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Swansea	4.7	7.7	5.8	7.1	5.9
Wales	6.2	9.6	8.1	9.2	8.5
UK	5.2	8.4	7.2	8.2	7.5

(NOMIS)

The Claimant Count does not give annual totals but a monthly snapshot. These figures are calculated in-house using Claimant Counts from **September** of each year, which is hopefully less influenced by seasonal work than other months, as a proportion of the 18-24 year old population, based on ONS mid-year population estimates.

As ever, the usual caveat about under-claiming applies. Young people newly of working age may be particularly daunted by the claiming system, optimistic about finding a suitable employment or training position soon, and still supported by parents able to do so. Such NEETs would be unknown as such, and absent from the Claimant Count.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's October 2012 Report, [The challenges for disadvantaged young people seeking work](#) lists the compound problems of low pay, high competition, reliance on public transport and digital exclusion as particular barriers.

INDICATOR: The % of 16 & 17 and 18-24 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Data on these two age ranges is from two different sources, therefore this section has been split to cover the full range of the indicator.

The % of 16 and 17 year olds NEET

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Swansea	5.8	6.4	4.2	3.1	3.2
Wales	7.1	7.1	5.4	4.4	4.2

This data is from Careers Wales, who also record the number of “unknowns”: young people whose destinations are not certain and are therefore considered likely to be NEET. Unknowns in Swansea have decreased from 1.1% in 2008 to 0% in 2010, 11 and 12. Unknowns in Wales have decreased from 1.6% in 2008 to 0.7% in 2012.

As explained above, the employment rate itself is unhelpful as an indicator of economic well being, due to the problem of low pay. There is no way of knowing whether a drop in NEETs is a good thing, financially speaking. Students on a pre-planned Gap Year, with a deferred University place awaiting their return, do not appear in NEET figures. Young people taking some time to weigh up their options, supported by parents with a comfortable income, still would count as NEET, despite obviously faring financially better than those heading straight into zero-hour contracts on minimum wage.

18 – 24 year olds claiming out-of-work benefits, as a % of all 18-24 year olds

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Swansea	11.9	14.8	12.9	13.3	12.0
Wales	14.0	17.7	15.9	16.8	15.8
GB	11.6	15.0	13.6	14.3	13.5

These percentages are calculated in-house using NOMIS data on numbers of relevant benefit claimants as a proportion of 18-24 year old population, based on ONS mid-year population estimates. The total, “claiming out-of-work benefits” includes “all those benefit recipients who cannot be in full-time employment as part of their condition of entitlement” (NOMIS); the usual caution due to under-claiming is required – anyone entitled but not claiming will not be captured here.

Comparing these rates with those above for Youth Unemployment demonstrates that roughly half the NEET figure for this age range consists of people claiming JSA who are unemployed and actively seeking work. The other half are unemployed for other reasons, such as ill health, disability or caring responsibilities.

INDICATOR: Economic inactivity rate (working age)

Rate of economically inactive people as a % of the working age population, excluding students

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Swansea	25	24.8	25.6	25	23.6	22.6
Wales	23.5	24.2	23.8	23.2	22.2	21

(Annual Population Survey / Local Labour Force Survey)

Figures cited are as at **31 December** each year. It is interesting to compare this with the following table, and notice how many people are economically active through reasons other than unemployment per se (caring responsibilities, ill health, disability).

As above with youth unemployment, it is interesting to compare the total economic inactivity rate with the JSA claimant count (albeit taken at the end of **September** in each year) demonstrating that those available for and actively seeking work make up a surprisingly small proportion of those economically inactive.

JSA Claimant Count as a % of the working age population

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Swansea	2.3	3.9	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.1
Wales	2.4	4.1	3.6	4.0	4.1	3.5

(NOMIS)

Health

Fairer Outcomes for All is the Welsh Government's strategic action plan for reducing inequities in health. In response to this, all Local Health Boards are required to identify, and take action to address, inequities within their areas. By 2020, we aim to improve healthy life expectancy for everyone and to close the gaps in health inequities between social groups from the most to the least deprived. TPAP p.7

INDICATOR: The % of the population with a long-term limiting illness

	2001	2011
Swansea	24.1	23.4
Wales	22.7	22.7

(Census)

The Wales figure is reportedly the same at each 10 year interval, while in Swansea the figure has dropped slightly, yet remains above the national average.

Also, in terms of the impact on services and resources, population increases mean that while *proportions* have remained static or decreased, *numbers* of people experiencing long-term, limiting illness have risen both nationally (from 650,068 to 695,855) and locally (from 53,044 to 55,718).

The 2011 Census asks about "long-term health problem or disability" and divides into those with:

Day-to-day activities limited a lot: Swansea – 12.6%; Wales – 11.9%

Day-to-day activities limited a little: Swansea – 10.8%; Wales – 10.8%

Thus, the greater proportion of long-term limiting illness in Swansea, as compared with Wales as a whole, is illness which has a significant, not small, impact on daily life.

INDICATOR: Under 16 conception rate

Numbers and rates* of conceptions at aged under 16 and under 18

	Under 16 number	Under 16 rate	Under 18 number	Under 18 rate
2008	23	5.9	158	38.8
2009	29	7.5	161	39.3
2010	28	7.2	147	36.9
2011	12	3.1	115	29.2
2012	14	3.6	104	26.7

(ONS)

*Rates are per 1,000 female residents aged 13-15 (Under 16) or 13-18 (Under 18).

Conception figures are estimated by combining birth registrations and notifications of legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages or illegal abortions.

INDICATOR: The % of children living in Flying Start areas reaching health, social and cognitive development milestones when entering formal education (Schedule of Growing Skills)

In a country needing to improve educational achievement as well as health, “readiness for school” is a concern. The Wales Tackling Poverty Action Plan aims, by 2016, to increase the proportion of 3 year olds receiving Flying Start services that have achieved or exceeded their developmental milestones by 5 percentage points.

Welsh government statistics (<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2013/130910-flying-start-summary-statistics-2012-13-revised-en.pdf>) show results for all local authority areas.

For age 2, Swansea’s results in the first column rank badly in comparison with other Welsh Local Authorities, coming third from the bottom, ahead of Neath Port Talbot (73%), Ceredigion and Rhondda Cynon Taff (each 74%), while at the top, Powys and Caerphilly achieve 90%.

For age 3, Swansea ranks rather better in comparison with other Welsh Local Authorities, coming behind 9 other authorities with 88 – 98% in their first column.

The tables show the percentage of children in Flying Start areas reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones at ages 2 and 3 2012-13.

AGE 2	Reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Reaching or exceeding milestones	Within one age band below developmental norm
Swansea	77	52	25
Wales	82	55	27

AGE 3	Reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Reaching or exceeding milestones	Within one age band below developmental norm
Swansea	86	64	22
Wales	83	55	28

There is limited comparable historical data. Swansea figures for part of the previous year, May/June 2011 to March 2012, for **Reaching or exceeding milestones** are:

Age 2: 47.78%
Age 3: 53.57%

If these part-year figures are considered comparable to the 2012-13 full-year figures, then some improvement (to 52% and 64% respectively, as in the above tables) is suggested.

Data is not captured in any electronic form, or centrally collated, for non-Flying Start areas. Therefore it is not possible to consider any gaps in achievement between poorer and better off areas, and whether these are closing.

INDICATOR: Readiness for school

An interim measure has been developed locally using data taken from the Child Development and Assessment Profile (CDAP) which has been used by many Swansea schools as an on-entry assessment tool. CDAP was a Welsh Government initiative, but this has been abandoned now, with schools able to decide on how to make on-entry assessments until a new national system (EYDAF) is introduced in September 2015.

CDAP assessments have been collected from schools where the system has been used. This data has been analysed alongside the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 in order to ascertain differences between geographical areas. The table below shows CDAP data for a sample of 1270 children assessed in the 2011/12 academic year. Figures shown are the average “steps” achieved (on a scale from 1 to 7).

Decile	Sample	PSE	S&L	R&W	SO&N	LT&R	Phys	Average
1	251	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.8	2.5	1.9
2	179	1.9	1.9	1.5	2.0	1.9	2.5	2.0
3	72	2.5	2.1	1.7	2.2	2.2	2.8	2.3
4	57	2.5	2.1	1.7	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.2
5	151	2.5	2.5	1.8	2.6	2.5	3.1	2.5
6	58	2.0	2.0	1.4	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.0
7	66	2.8	2.5	1.9	2.7	2.5	3.2	2.6
8	49	2.6	2.6	1.8	2.7	2.5	3.0	2.5
9	171	2.9	3.5	2.3	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.0
10	216	3.0	3.3	2.3	3.3	3.0	3.6	3.1
All	1270	2.5	2.5	1.8	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.4

Note - Decile 1 is the most deprived 10% of all areas, decile 10 is the least deprived 10% of all areas

Pupils are given an overall step for each area - the higher the step, the more they can achieve (max 7 steps).

PSE	Personal, social and emotional
S&L	Speaking and listening
R&W	Reading and writing
SO&N	Sort, order and number
LT&R	Approach to learning, thinking and reasoning
Phys	Physical development

The deciles shown relate to 10% bands based on the Lower Level Super Output areas (LSOA), such that decile 1 contains the 10% most deprived of all areas and decile 10 contains the 10% least deprived of all areas. Flying Start areas are mainly taken from LSOAs in deciles 1 and 2. It can be seen that there is a quite reasonable correlation between the level of deprivation and the average steps achieved by children – in decile 1 the average is 1.9 whilst the average is 3.1 in decile 10. This pattern is evident in each of the 6 areas of development.

No comparative data is available to compare Swansea to other areas. There is no trend data available as yet for this measure, as the next analysis will take place in Autumn 2014 using data for the previous academic year.

There are strong links between levels of deprivation and educational attainment, with the Welsh Government focussing on reducing the impact of poverty. On many educational indicators, there are gaps of 20% or more between attainment levels of children in receipt of free school meals and those not claiming free meals (FSM is used as a proxy indicator for deprivation). Children from more deprived areas also (on average) attend school less frequently, are more likely to have additional learning needs and are more likely to be

given fixed term exclusions. The national and local aim is to close the gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils. Flying Start is targeted at children from more deprived backgrounds and will thus help improve readiness for school. However, this will take time to work through the system before benefits are seen at later key stages.

INDICATOR: Dental caries at age 5 and 12

Child dental decay is closely correlated to social deprivation and although inequalities have reduced since 2007-08 across the ABM University Health Board, the mean number of dfmt (decayed, filled or missing teeth) in 2011/12 is 2.5 times higher in the 20% most deprived areas than the 20% least deprived areas.

Analysis by deprivation quintile from the 2011-12 dental survey is not available at a Swansea level, but data from the 2007-08 survey shows a clear social gradient. (2013 Oral Health Profile, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board).

The 2011-12 child dental health survey showed some improvement in the dental health of 5 year old children in Swansea from 2007-08, with average dfmt for school year 1 decreasing from 2.2 in 2007-08 to 1.6 in 2011-12.

(<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/dentl/research/themes/appliedclinicalresearch/epidemiology/oralhealth/>)

INDICATOR: The % of live singleton births weighing less than 2.5kg

There is a strong association between low birth weight and deprivation. Low birth weight is an indicator of infant morbidity and mortality and can lead to chronic diseases in adulthood.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Swansea	4.9	6.1	5.8	5.5	6.3
Wales	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.4

(NCCHD (NWIS))

INDICATOR: Premature mortality from all causes

Death rates (Age-standardised) below age 75 years per 100,000 of population

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Swansea - Females	247.62	231.97	221.11	241.82
Wales - Females	253.89	239.89	236.33	231.21
Swansea - Males	372.71	459.2	379.93	404.67
Wales - Males	390.4	382.95	367.96	363.23

(ONS)

In line with the rest of the UK, there has been a downward trend in premature mortality (aged under 75 years) from all causes in Swansea. However, the rates of premature mortality in Swansea have remained above the Welsh average.

Data at a smaller level would help to clarify the inequalities within Swansea.

INDICATOR: Life expectancy at birth

Life expectancy at birth, with Swansea's ranking out of 346 UK local authorities

	2008-10	Rank		2009-11	Rank		2010-12	Rank
Swansea Females	82.1	232		82.4	241		82.2	262
Swansea Males	77.2	283		77.1	312		77.6	300

(ONS)

Swansea's ranking is consistently fairly low in the table comparing UK local authority areas. Again, data at a smaller level would help to show inequalities within Swansea.

DRAFT

Education

Education has a fundamental role in helping to lift people out of poverty and in protecting those at risk of poverty and disadvantage. There is a strong link between poor educational attainment, low skills and poor health and wellbeing. (TPAP p4)

INDICATOR: Key Stage 2/3/4 results

Tables of results, showing trends and providing commentary, have been supplied by City & County of Swansea Education Department and are included as Appendix 2.

INDICATOR: Primary and secondary school absence rate

“In conclusion... a great deal of effort is being put into finding solutions to a problem which affects relatively small numbers of pupils a great deal”

Absence from school: a study of its causes and effects in 7 LEAs, 2003

There are some accepted correlations between absenteeism and poor outcomes, summarised in an April 2012 government press release:

- Of pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school, 35% achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and maths. Of pupils who miss only 5% of school, 73% achieve this.
- Children with low attendance in the early years are more likely to come from the poorest backgrounds – who are likely to start school already behind their peers, particularly in their acquisition of language and their social development.
- Persistent absenteeism becomes more problematic as children move up through the school system. Mid-teens are difficult to force to go to school, and at this point educational outcomes can suffer badly.
- In view of the above, positive action is needed from the outset, before it is “too late” to solve an attendance problem.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/primary-school-absence-government-adviser-calls-for-crackdown>)

However, research Report RR424 for the Department for Education and Skills in 2003 (<http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/8655/1/RR424.pdf>) concludes with the boxed quote above, noting throughout that concern is about *truants* rather than pupils absent for other reasons, closing with: “the case for early intervention is very strong”.

As the second bullet point above notes, school absenteeism can be part of the patchwork of complications and challenges facing a child growing up in a low income household. It remains debatable whether policy focus should be on school attendance per se across the board, or on working supportively with particular families to overcome problems which may include school attendance – or more specifically, which may underpin or lead to truancy.

Primary Schools: % of half day sessions missed

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Swansea	7.6	7.7	7.1	6.7	7.0
Wales	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.2	6.3
<i>Swansea rank / 22</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>20</i>

(City & County of Swansea Education Department)

Secondary Schools: % of half day sessions missed

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Swansea	9.3	9.4	9.0	8.0	7.7
Wales	9.0	8.9	8.6	7.8	7.4
<i>Swansea rank / 22</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>

(City & County of Swansea Education Department)

INDICATOR: The % of learners eligible for free school meals who achieve level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and Maths at KS4

This indicator hopes to focus on learners eligible, due to low income, for free school meals. In reality it is not those *eligible* for free school meals whose results are captured here, but only those *claiming* them. Swansea's Education Department reports that there appears to be a significant under-claiming problem (in which stigma, preference and health concerns may all play a part), with nearly 40% of pupils coming from areas in the most deprived 30% of Wales (according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation) but only 20% claiming. A new claim system begins this September, aiming to increase claims.

If a family's income is just above the threshold for Free School Meal eligibility, the cost of meals needs to be met out of that income, leaving the family with less in remainder than an equivalent family who does qualify for free school meals.

Nevertheless, these statistics are helpful in demonstrating the correlation between free school meals and educational attainment, particularly when compared with the attainment of those who are not receiving them.

% of pupils achieving level 2 threshold (including English or Welsh, and Maths) at Key Stage 4: All pupils; FSM claimants; Non-FSM claimants.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
% of all pupils who achieved	52.00%	50.30%	53.30%	53.80%	55.30%	55.90%
% of those on FSM who achieved	23.60%	22.70%	22.20%	23.70%	29.30%	27.70%
% of those NOT on FSM who achieved	57.10%	55.30%	58.20%	60.70%	61.30%	62.60%

(City & County of Swansea Education Department)

As ever with low income, the problem is not merely low income. Swansea's Education Department report that more than twice as many FSM pupils than Non-FSM pupils in Swansea have Special Educational Needs.

Family Support

If we are to make a difference in the longer term outcomes for children and families in poverty, we must offer support earlier and sustain that support until families become resilient and self-sufficient...Families in poverty require different levels of support. Families with complex problems, for example substance misuse, need more intensive and acute services. (TPAP p.4)

INDICATOR: The % of homeless households which include dependent children

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Swansea: Dependent children as a % of (eligible) homeless households	21.2%	19.6%	25.1%	18.4%

These figures were calculated from Housing Options data, showing the percentage of total households deemed to be eligible and homeless, which include dependent children.

Current efforts in homelessness prevention are concentrated on trying to mitigate the impacts of the Bedroom Tax and the Benefit Cap, amidst the challenge of a lack of smaller housing for under-occupying households to move into.

INDICATOR: The rate of looked after children per 10,000 of population under 18

Looked After Children are exemplar of the poverty cycle. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimated in a 2008 report (<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/2303-poverty-services-costs.pdf>) that over 2/3 of spending on children's "Personal Social Services", including looked after children, was attributable to poverty.

	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2112/13
Swansea	85.35	93.88	119.48	123.71	118.85	118.96
Wales	72.43	73.45	80.64	84.55	90.66	91.46

(City & County of Swansea Social Services)

These figures are a snapshot from each financial year end: 31 March. Swansea's rate remains well above the Wales rate.

INDICATOR: Number of domestic abuse referrals involving children

Domestic abuse can cause numerous problems for children which could impact on their well-being and future success, from disharmony in the home undermining self esteem and confidence, to major disruption to schooling, relocation involving the loss of friendship groups, other support networks, etc.

These figures are from a relatively new service allowing referrals to be made to a support worker (via form PPD1) if any incident of domestic abuse is reported to police, and children are involved. Referrals are totalled monthly.

Year	Month	No. of PPD1
2012	11	306
2012	12	254
2013	1	409
2013	2	233
2013	3	263
2013	4	330
2013	5	297
2013	6	279
2013	7	366
2013	8	347
2013	9	307
2013	10	291
2013	11	309
2013	12	309
2014	1	337
2014	2	301
2014	3	235

(City & County of Swansea Early Intervention & Prevention Service)

Increasing referrals are not necessarily indicative of an increasing problem. They may be indicative of increasing confidence and trust in the system. The numbers above are for total, not unique, referrals. A referral is made following each reported *incident*. It is possible that the same children appear numerous times in these figures.

APPENDIX 1

Tables comparing Poverty Line (60% of median income after housing costs), Benefit levels and Minimum Income Standards.

Couple, no children

	60% of Median After housing costs	Means tested benefits / tax credits	Minimum Income Standard
2008	206	95	245
2009	214	101	256
2010	215	103	273
2011	220	106	287
2012	226	111	302

Single person

	60% of Median After housing costs	Means tested benefits / tax credits	Minimum Income Standard
2008	119	61	158
2009	124	64	166
2010	125	65	175
2011	128	68	185
2012	132	71	193

Couple & two children under 14

	60% of Median After housing costs	Means tested benefits / tax credits	Minimum Income Standard
2008	333	217	370
2009	346	230	387
2010	349	235	403
2011	357	248	425
2012	318	259	455

Lone parent & two children under 14

	60% of Median After housing costs	Means tested benefits / tax credits	Minimum Income Standard
2008	247	182	283
2009	256	194	295
2010	258	198	309
2011	264	210	326
2012	222	218	362

APPENDIX 2

Key Education Data by LSOA – please see tables on the following pages.