



Council – 5 September 2024

Notice of Motion - Two Child-Benefit Cap

Notice of Motion from Councillors Peter Black, Sam Bennett, Chris Holley, Mary Jones and Mike Day

Council notes the recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition which has found that:

- 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
- In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
- There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £3.4 billion, however it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year.
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In Swansea, 4,866 children in 1,390 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments. That is 10% of all children in the authority area. At the same time 12,794 local children are living in poverty.

Council strongly believes that the two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped. Research from the University of York has shown its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged thousands of local families into poverty.

Council notes the Liberal Democrats have consistently opposed the two-child limit to benefit payments since it was introduced – calling for it to be axed in their 2017 and 2019 manifestos and reaffirming their commitment to scrapping it at their 2023 federal Autumn Conference.

Council notes with concern the recent interview with the new Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer in which she insisted that she would be keeping the two-child benefit cap in place and the vote on an amendment to the Queen's speech in which the government imposed a three-line whip to keep the cap.

Council resolves to:

- 1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister indicating the Council's strong belief that the two child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help 4,866 children living in Swansea.
- 2. Further instruct the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering Swansea area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments.