

**CHILD  
POVERTY  
ACTION  
GROUP**

# Child poverty in the wake of the pandemic

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# Pre-pandemic

- 50 benefit cuts since 2010
- £36 billion less per year on social security (OBR)
- Prices risen by 25% between 2010-2020
- But child benefit had only risen by 2 per cent

# Child poverty statistics

- 31 per cent of children living in poverty after housing costs
- 4.3 million children
- 75 per cent of children living in poverty in a working family
- Parts of country where poverty reaching over 50 per cent

# Interventions during pandemic

- Furlough
- £20 uplift
- Local welfare assistance schemes
- Changes to UC rules

# Long term UC problems for families

- Two child limit
- Benefit cap
- Five week wait
- Monthly assessment and payments
- Payment to one person
- Taper rate
- No second worker allowance

# Cost of the school day - cost of learning in lockdown survey

- 35 per cent low income families lacking learning essentials
- 90 per cent spent more on bills with families at home
- 75 per cent said cash payment worked better
- 1 million children living in poverty not eligible for FSM
- Children's biggest concern was how to get back into routine

# The perfect storm?

- End of furlough
- £20 cut
- Tax increases
- Uncertain labour market
- Higher prices

# Child poverty strategy

- Leadership
- Invest in social security
- Work and pay
- Childcare
- Education
- 
- Homes
- Universal services



# Resources

[www.cpag.org.uk](http://www.cpag.org.uk)