Child Poverty

Definitely not a thing of the past

The UK has one of the worst records for child poverty in the industrialised world

24% of children and young people living in the North East live in poverty

That’s 132,000 children and young people

Children North East set out to capture the lived experiences of children and young people by distributing 1348 disposable cameras across the North East region.

517 children and young people took part aged from 3–19 years old and the images were discussed with them during focus group sessions.

This is what they told us
Housing

*It looks really bad … No one wants to live here.*

*All the rubbish – that makes it a disgusting house – very dirty.*

*Some of the houses are dirty inside as well.*

*When people come in my house I want them to have a good impression.*

*Nice gardens make a house look nice.*

*Some streets are dangerous.*

*Houses are not good.*

*I was homeless – homeless for three years and it wasn’t nice.*

Environment

*Can’t play in the park because it’s covered in rubbish. Then you play in the streets and adults get annoyed.*

*Get drunk people off the park.*

*Loads of people around here are horrible – graffiti, fight and talk about bad stuff.*

*Loads of bags everywhere make it look dead scruffy. It makes me embarrassed.*

*Make this world more child friendly. Tidy up your stuff – make it nice.*

*In town it’s clean because people are there spending money.*
I don’t really go out very much because of the local bullies. I just usually play in my house.

Places to go / Opportunities

That’s our place – the stairs. Bullies can’t see us.

There’s no skate park, no equipment. I like the football field. We go there to sit.

We make camps and things near the old pit which is great. But the other people come and set fires or trash them, which gets really annoying.

We need more places for teenagers. I was in the park with my cousin and this old woman told us to get off the swings because we were too old for them.

Family & Friends

Friends are like our family.

Family and friends are a big part of your life. At the moment I’m a bit sad because my friend’s left. She left yesterday and she only found out yesterday because social services had a meeting.

Shops

There’s only like three shops and most of them are like Chinese and pizza places.

It’s more expensive to buy strawberries than it is a whole pizza.

People on the poverty line have to put up with poor food standards. …
There’s no bigger supermarkets. We need to go out to bigger shops.

The hairdressers is good. It’s good to have things like that here because a lot of people don’t drive and would not be able to get to them.

There’s nothing there.

Teenagers fight. People in the pubs fight. They leave them open all day.

Transport

I get the bus everywhere but I don’t like it.

All your money is spent on bus fare. It may not seem much but over time it costs a fortune.

Entertainment

Trainers and clothes are important.

Having a big telly is a status symbol.

Money

Money – it’s a big problem. If you don’t have money you can’t do anything.

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Smoking for me is like lunch because I’ve smoked ten years.
It’s normal now to start smoking when you’re eight.

Loads of people around here are horrible – graffiti, fight and talk about bad stuff.

They ask people to go into the shop to get their alcohol.

Five houses that no one goes in. Two really bad families that do everything wrong. They cause trouble and no one wants to live there.

1 in 6 poor children have considered suicide

Thank you to all the children and young people who took part from:
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Barnardos, The Point
Blyth CSV
Blyth Youth Link
Bratz, Durham
Belmont Youth Project, Durham
City Equals, Sunderland
Connexions, Darlington
Child Poverty Think Tank, Newcastle
Chilton Group, Durham
Cheesy Waffles, Durham
CSV ESOL Foundation Learning Class, Newcastle
Dormanstown Sure Start Children’s Centre, Redcar & Cleveland
Families Plus, Newcastle
Gateshead Supporting Children
Hartlepool Integrated Youth Support Service
Hill Court After School Club, Newcastle
Hendon Young People’s Project
Laurel Avenue, Durham
Live Theatre, Young People’s Group
Ludworth Youth Project
Mid Durham Project
Middlesbrough Children & Young People’s Trust
Newcastle Play Service
Newcastle Youth Council
Number 66, Durham
Participation & Engagement Team, North Tyneside Council
Pelton Youth Project
Rainton Youth Project
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Regional Youth Work Unit
Sedgefield Youth Link
Southwick Primary School
Springboard East Durham
Stockton Youth Offending Service
Sunderland Children’s Services
The Linx Project, Middlesbrough
The Phab Club, South Tyneside
Upper Teasdale Agricultural Support Services (UTASS)
UK Youth Parliament (North East)
VoiCes Northumberland
West End Youth Enquiry Service (WEYES)
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