

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:

Barnardos Disability & Inclusion Support Service

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)

West View Project, Hartlepool

YMCA Barnard Castle

Young Carers Group, Northumberland

Tynedale Youth Link

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