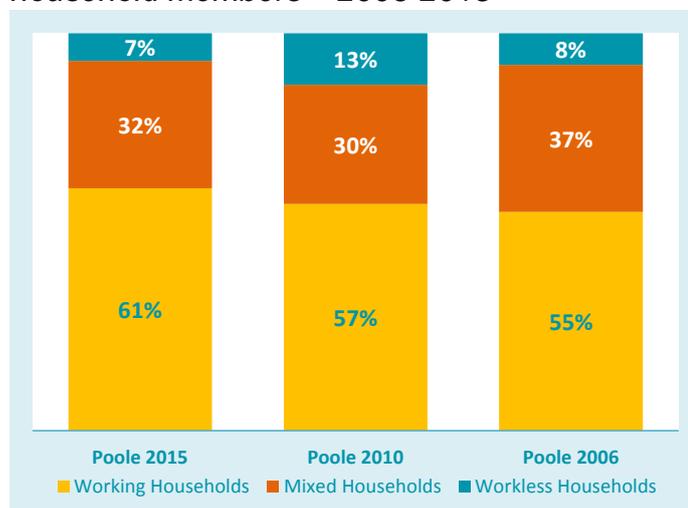


Child Poverty and Deprivation in Poole - January 2017 Update

Key Facts

- National DWP data show 15% (4,485 children) of dependent children in Poole lived in low income families as at 31 August 2014 - lower than the national (19%) and regional (16%) average. This also compares to 19% in Bournemouth and 13% in Dorset¹ (DWP 2016).
- Child Poverty Action's latest figures² on child poverty for October-December 2015 show 14% of children in Poole are living in poverty (before housing costs), but this increases to 22% after housing costs are taken into consideration.
- House prices in Poole are high relative to local incomes; the ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile full-time earnings is nearly ten to one, compared to seven to one for England (DCLG 2015).
- ONS data on the Children in workless households (for Jan-Dec 2015) show Poole has a relatively low proportion of children living in workless households (7%), compared to the national (12%) and regional (9%) averages. This compares to 10% in Bournemouth and 6% in Dorset. The rate for Poole has decreased from 13% in 2010, see chart below.

Proportion of children in Poole, by combined economic activity status of household members – 2006-2015



Source: ONS sub-national labour market statistics

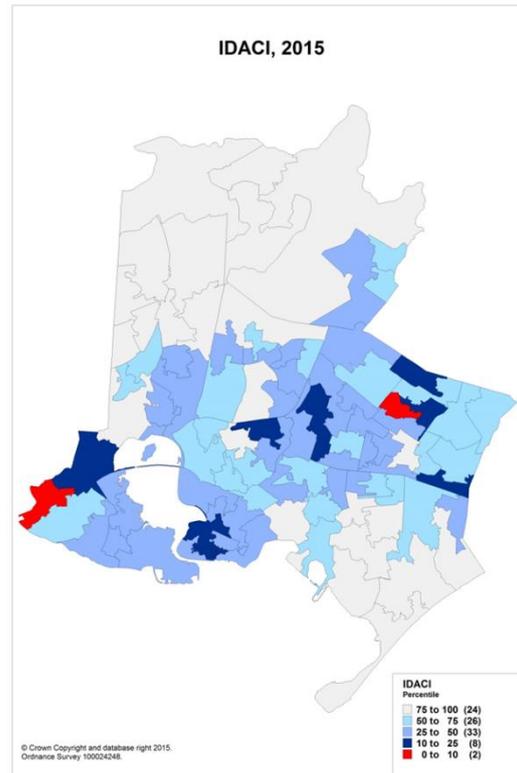
- There are wide variations in the child poverty across different wards and LSOAs in Poole.

¹ The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure shows the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of UK median income (DWP).

² Based on research carried out by the Centre for Research and Social Policy at Loughborough University.

The proportion of children living in poverty ranges between 46% and 2% at LSOA level (IMD 2015).

Two LSOAs are in the worst decile nationally: in Bourne Valley and Turlin Moore (South). A further 7 LSOAs are in the worst 10-25% (see Map).



- Child Poverty Action’s figures at ward level for October-December 2015 (see table below) show Hamworthy West, Poole Town and Alderney have the highest levels of child poverty in Poole, both before and after housing costs.

Proportion of children living in poverty before and after housing costs, for wards in Poole - October-December 2015

	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs	Rank
Alderney	18%	30%	3
Branksome East	17%	26%	5
Branksome West	14%	22%	9
Broadstone	5%	8%	15
Canford Cliffs	8%	13%	14
Canford Heath East	15%	23%	7
Canford Heath West	13%	21%	10
Creekmoor	10%	17%	12
Hamworthy East	18%	29%	4
Hamworthy West	23%	36%	1
Merley and Bearwood	5%	8%	16
Newtown	16%	26%	6
Oakdale	14%	23%	8
Parkstone	12%	19%	11
Penn Hill	9%	15%	13
Poole Town	19%	30%	2
Poole	14%	22%	

Source: Child Poverty Action December 2016

- The Institute of Fiscal Studies Projections for 2016 suggest ‘Relative Child Poverty’³ could increase by 8%, from 18% in 2015/16 to 26% in 2020/21, however this is still lower than levels seen in 1997/98. The projected increases over the next few years simply reverse the large falls seen between 2000-2010. This rise is likely to be driven by planned tax and benefit changes, and is likely to affect large families and lone parents disproportionately.

Child poverty statistics – definitions and data sources

There are various ways of defining poverty and no single definition is universally accepted. The headline measures are based on household income, although since 2010 Ministers have criticised these as failing to capture the reality of poverty.

There are four dimensions of poverty captured under the 2010 Child Poverty Act:

- **Relative low income poverty** - below 60% median household income.
- **Absolute low income poverty** - below 60% of median household income held constant at 2010/11 level.
- **Persistent low income poverty** – below 60% of median household income for three years or longer.
- **Material deprivation** – combined with relative low income below 70% median household income and suffering from inability to afford essential spending needs.

The 60% income threshold Before Housing Costs (BHC) in 2014/15 was £473 p/w.

A number of ‘life chances’ indicators are also defined in the Welfare Reform & Work Act 2016: children in workless households and educational attainment at age 16.

At local authority level data on these are only available for relative low income poverty and the life chances indicators.

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015 include a supplementary ‘Index of Income Deprivation Affecting Children’ which provides a measure of the proportion of children living in poverty at LSOA level and ranks LSOAs for the whole of England. However, this largely uses data for 2012.

The Child Poverty Action Group has published data for Oct-Dec 2015 on the proportion of children living in poverty, before and after housing costs down to ward level. This is based on research carried out by the Centre for Research and Social Policy at Loughborough University.

Produced by Corporate Research, Borough of Poole, January 2017
For further information about this report contact research@poole.gov.uk

³ Relative low income poverty - below 60% median household income