

Corporate Research and Consultation Team Briefing Note: Children in low-income families in South Gloucestershire

February 2017

(All data: Children in low-income families local measure: 2011-2014 snapshots and Child Benefit statistics geographical analysis 2011-2014, HMRC)

Key findings

According to the latest official data (August 2014), within South Gloucestershire:

- 5,790 (11.9%) of children live in low-income families – considerably lower than the national average (20.1%)
- Most children living in low-income families are aged 0-4 years – where 2,175 (14% of all children in the age group) live in low-income families.
- 2.5 times as many children live in low-income lone parent families than in low-income couple families
- There are nine LSOAs where more than a quarter of children live in low-income families – these LSOAs tend to be within designated Priority Neighbourhoods
- The Pendennis Road area of Staple Hill (E01014977) is the LSOA with the highest proportion of children living in low-income families (29.8%).

Background

The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure shows the proportion of children living in families who are classed as low-income. A child is considered to be in a low-income family if they are living in a family that is either in receipt of out-of-work benefits, *or*, in receipt of tax credits and has a reported income less than 60 percent of national median income.

The measure is published on an annual basis by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and provides a snapshot of children in low-income families at 31st August on a particular year. Although it does not provide a definitive number of children in low-income families, it enables us to explore trends across the region and within local authorities.

Methodology

The measure is calculated by dividing the number of children in low-income families (those in receipt of out-of-work benefits, *or*, tax credits and has a reported income less than 60 per cent of national median income) by the total number of children in the area.

Tax credits include Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Out-of-work benefits include Income Support, Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance and Pension Credit. The data is administrative data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HMRC.

The total number of children used to calculate the measure is produced using Child Benefit data held by HMRC. This has typically covered around 96 per cent of all children in the UK and

has been the most comprehensive assessment of the number of children available at the local level. However, from January 2013, if a claimant of Child Benefit, or their partner, has an individual income of more than £50,000 per year, they are liable to repay some or all of their Child Benefit due to the introduction of the High Income Child Benefit charge. Claimants affected by the High Income Child Benefit charge have the option to opt-out of receiving Child Benefits.

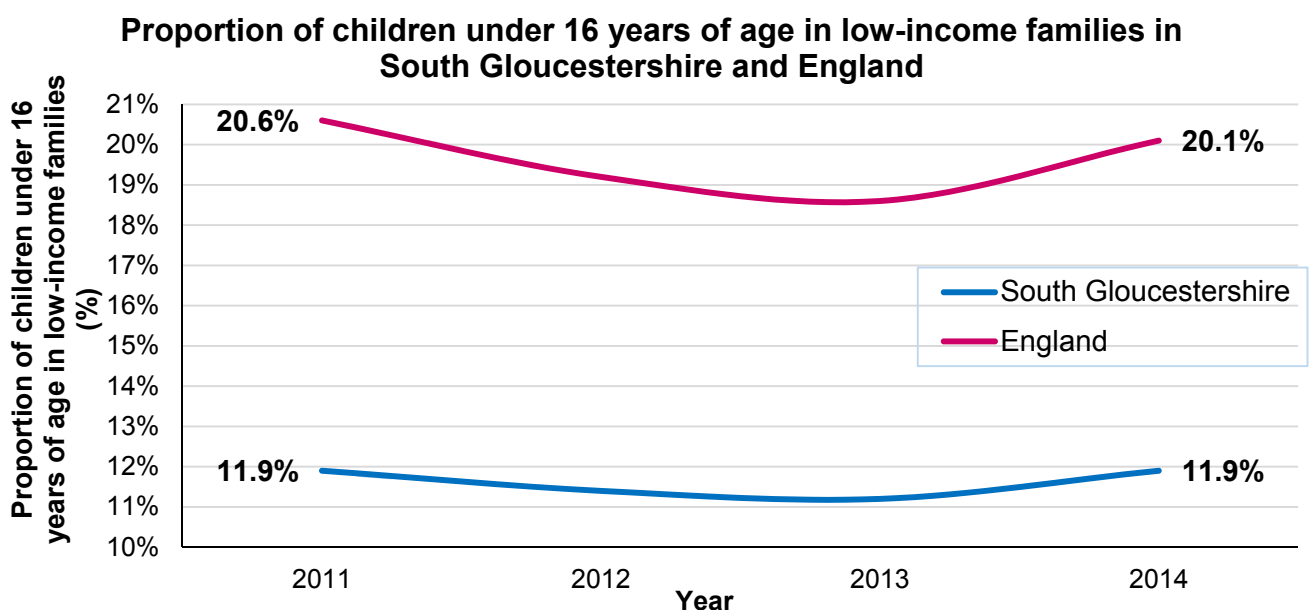
Therefore, the total number of children includes the children of families who claim Child Benefit and have opted out of receiving Child Benefit. However, the number of families who have chosen not to claim Child Benefit due to the introduction of the High Income Child Benefit charge is unknown, meaning that this measure, particularly data for the 0-4 age group, may not be as complete as it has been previously.

Please note: the axes for some graphs in this report do not start at zero so the differences over time can be seen more clearly.

Proportion of children in low-income families in South Gloucestershire

In South Gloucestershire in 2014, it is estimated that 5,790 (11.9%) children under 16 years of age live in low-income families. This is considerably lower than the proportion for England (20.1%).

The proportion of children under 16 years of age living in low-income families has remained broadly consistent since 2011. While both South Gloucestershire and England experienced similar trends, the proportion of children in low-income families in South Gloucestershire remains considerably below the national figure.

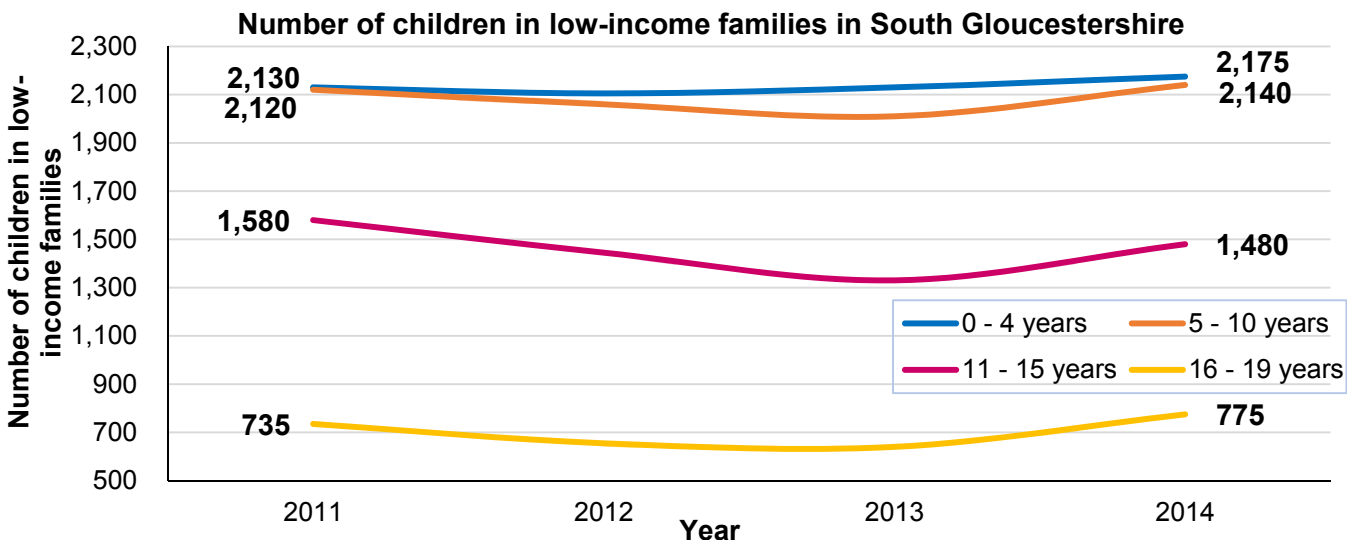


Please note: This measure is also produced as a proportion of all children (aged 0-19 years), however due to reasons discussed in this report we have not included this measure in this note.

Children in low-income families by age – number of children

The graph below shows the numbers of children who were in low-income families for each age group. Since 2011, the numbers of children in low-income families has remained fairly consistent for each age group.

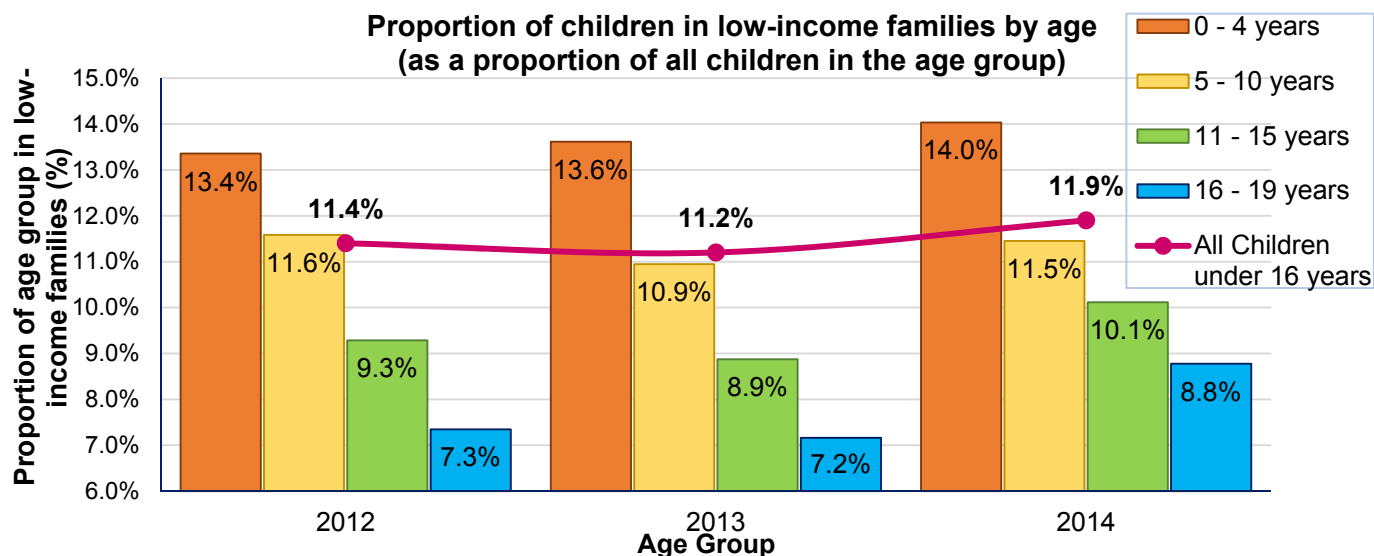
The age group with the highest number of children living in low-income families is the 0-4 years group (2,175), closely followed by the 5-10 years group (2,140).



Please note: These figures have been rounded.

Children in low-income families by age – proportion of age group

Using child benefit data we calculated the proportion of children in low-income families for each age group. The graph below shows how the proportion of children living in low-income families decreases as the age of the child increases. These trends have been consistent over the past three years.



In 2014, the age group with the highest proportion of children living in low-income families is 0 to 4 years, with 14.0% of all children in this age group living in a low-income family. This is followed by 11.5% of children aged between 5 and 10 years; and 10.1% of those aged between 11 and 15 years. The 16 to 19 years age group had the lowest proportion of children in low-income families, with only 8.8% of the age group being classed as living in a low-income family.

Things to consider:

When interpreting this data the following considerations should be made:

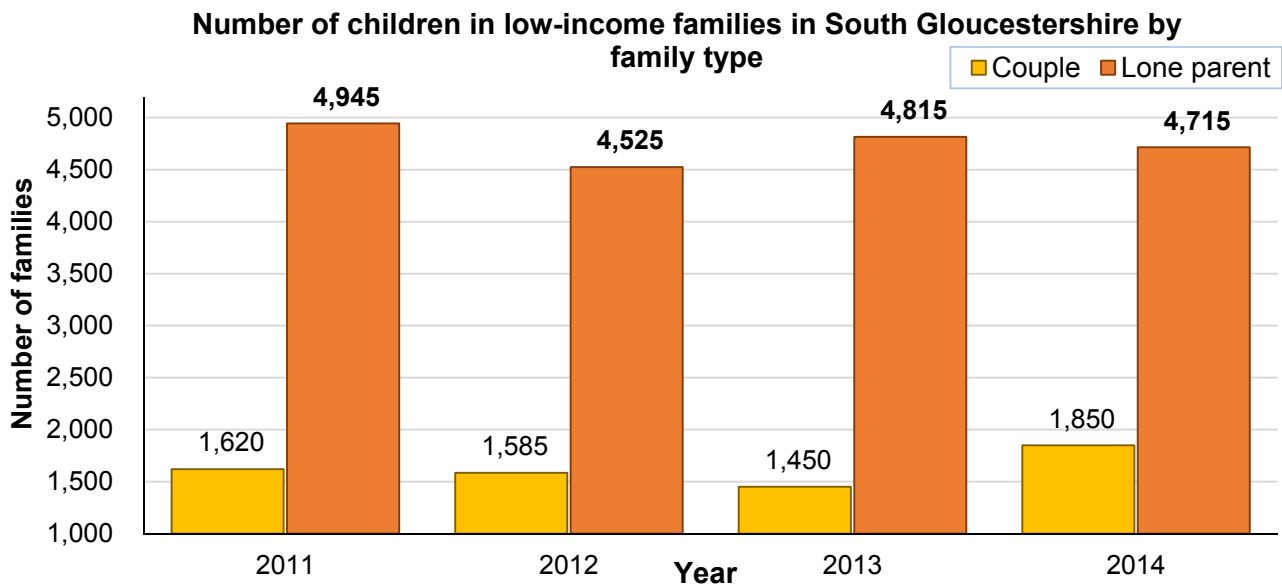
Data for the 0 - 4 years group - Due to the introduction of the High Income Child Benefit charge in 2013, the estimated total number of children (used to calculate these percentages) may not be as complete as it has in previous years. Subsequently, this measure may suggest that there is a higher proportion of children in low-income families.

Data for the 16 – 19 years group - The HMRC estimated total number of children aged 16 – 19 years (8,830) (used to calculate this percentage) is significantly different from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2014 mid-year population estimate for this age group (13,900). It is suspected that this is due to two reasons:

1. The eligibility criteria for child benefits. If a child is not in approved education or training after 31 August, or after their 16th birthday, their parent is no longer eligible to receive a child benefit and are therefore not included in the HMRC estimates, and:
2. The much higher ONS population estimate is also likely to be influenced by the number of students moving into the area to study and live.¹

Children in low-income families by type of family – number of children

There are 2.5 times as many children living in low-income lone parent families than low-income couple families. The graph below shows that over the past four years, the number of children who live in low-income lone parent families has remained considerably higher than the number of children who live in a low-income couple families.



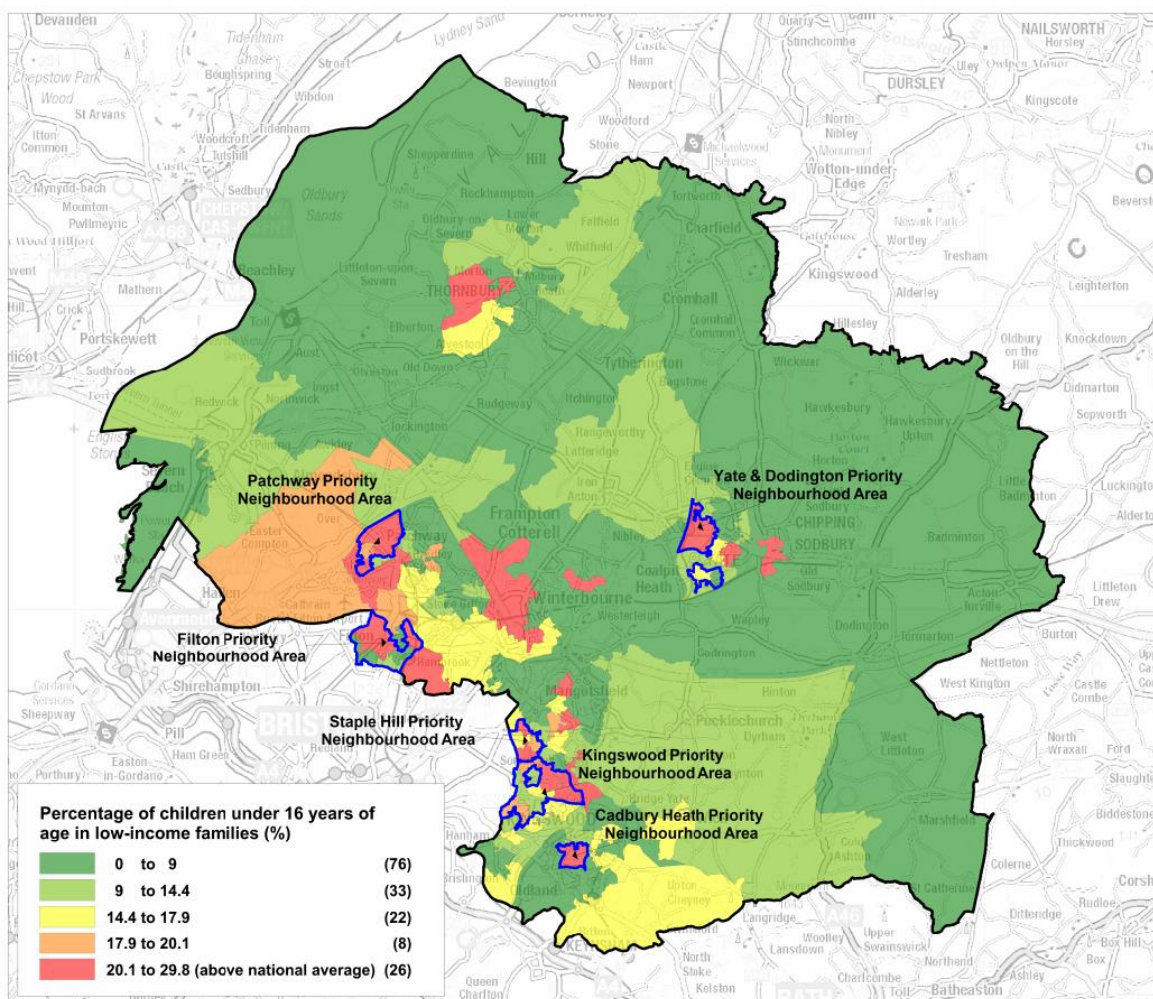
¹ For example, the 2011 Census illustrates that there were approximately 1,800 students living in halls of residence at the UWE Frenchay Campus.

Children in low-income families by LSOA

Child benefit data is also available at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA*) level. Of the 162 LSOAs in South Gloucestershire, 26 (17%) have a proportion of children under 16 years of age living in low-income families above the national average (20.1%). Over half (15) of the 26 LSOAs over the national average are within South Gloucestershire's designated Priority Neighbourhoods.

In August 2014, the areas with the highest rates were Pendennis Road area (E01014977) in Staple Hill with 29.8%; New Cheltenham Road area (E01014926) in Kingswood and Flaxpits Lane area (E01015000) in Winterbourne, both with 29.6%; and New Cheltenham Road Lees Hill area (E01014958) also in Kingswood with 29.4%.

The full list of LSOAs with a proportion of children living in low-income families above the national average is provided overleaf.



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**Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) are small areas designed to be of a similar population size with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 LSOAs in England and 165 in South Gloucestershire (2004 boundary definition).*

For further information contact the Corporate Research and Consultation Team:

Tel: 01454 863990 / 01454 868408

Email: research@southglos.gov.uk

LSOAs with highest proportions of children under 16 years of age in low-income families (26 LSOAs above national average)

Rank	LSOA	Landmark	Ward	Priority Neighbourhood	Number of children under 16 years of age in low-income families (rounded)	Percentage of children under 16 years of age in low-income families (%)
1	E01014977	Pendennis Road area	Staple Hill	Staple Hill	65	29.8%
2	E01014926	New Cheltenham Road area	Kings Chase	Kingswood	100	29.6%
3	E01015000	Flaxpits Lane and surrounding rural area	Winterbourne		90	29.6%
4	E01014958	New Cheltenham - Lees Hill area	Rodway (68%) / Kings Chase (32%)	Kingswood	80	29.4%
5	E01014941	South of Coronation park area	Parkwall	Cadbury Heath	95	28.8%
6	E01014976	Upper Soundwell area	Staple Hill	Staple Hill	95	28.4%
7	E01014952	Calicroft Road / A38 / Amberley road area	Patchway (62%) / Bradley Stoke Central and Stoke Lodge (38%)		110	28.2%
8	E01014948	Coniston North area	Patchway	Patchway	100	27.9%
9	E01014904	Conygre Grove / Bude Road area	Filton	Filton	65	25.9%
10	E01033331	MoD / Walscourt Farm / UWE west area	Frenchay and Stoke Park		105	24.9%
11	E01014949	Sycamore Drive area	Patchway		100	24.1%
12	E01014906	Filton Roundabout area	Filton	Filton	65	23.8%
13	E01014968	Beaufort Road area	Emersons Green (78%) / Rodway (22%)		75	23.5%
14	E01014951	Coniston Rodway Road area	Patchway	Patchway	60	22.9%
15	E01015020	Milton Road / Birch Road area	Yate North	Yate & Dodington	95	22.9%
16	E01014925	Area around Kingsfield School	Kings Chase (74%) / Siston (19%) / Rodway (7%)	Kingswood	60	22.3%
17	E01014986	North Road /Gloucester Road	Thornbury North		55	22.1%
18	E01014942	Long Handstones Road area	Parkwall (78%) / Oldland Common (22%)	Cadbury Heath	65	21.8%
19	E01014960	St James Street / Elmleigh Road area	Rodway		65	21.8%
20	E01015019	West of Cranleigh Court Road area	Yate North	Yate & Dodington	80	21.8%
21	E01014928	Grace Drive / Walnut Crescent area	Kings Chase	Kingswood	60	21.4%
22	E01033339	Siston Park / Shaw Close	Siston		75	21.4%
23	E01014914	St Saviours Rise / Ridings Road area	Frampton Cotterell		100	21.1%
24	E01015011	Moorland Road / Wellstead Avenue area	Yate Central	Yate & Dodington	60	20.5%
25	E01014886	Woodmans Close / Kingrove Crescent area	Chipping Sodbury		60	20.4%
26	E01015012	Scott Way area	Yate Central (87%) / Dodington (13%)		65	20.2%