

Poverty JSNA

A Review of Poverty Across Cheshire East

Led by Cheshire East Council, the NHS
and our volunteer communities



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What is a 'Poverty JSNA'?

It is a **review of a topic area** which helps us understand an issue in more detail – in this case, the issue is poverty.

We can see where the gaps in support services are and **make better decisions to meet the needs of our residents.**

What does it tell us?

1 Who is currently experiencing poverty in Cheshire East



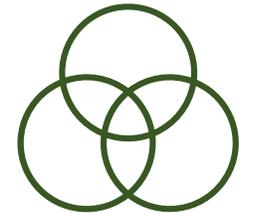
2 Who might be more likely to experience poverty in the future



3 What support services there are for those who need it
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4 What support services are needed but not yet provided



5 Which communities and organisations may be able to work together to fill the gaps

Did you know there are different types of poverty?



Food poverty
struggling to secure
an adequate and
nutritious diet

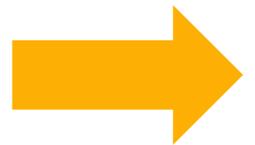
Fuel poverty
struggling to afford to
heat your home

Transport poverty
struggling to secure
transport due to
affordability, access
or mobility

Poverty can affect many aspects of life, including:

- Debt
- Employment
- Housing
- Safeguarding
- Economic Development
- Crime
- Physical Health
- Psychological Wellbeing

Read on to hear more
about what we found in
our review of poverty in
Cheshire East



Poverty in Cheshire East



Across Cheshire East, we are seeing an increase in the number of people needing support for poverty-related issues. Many food banks have seen an **increase in demand**.



However, food banks are receiving **fewer food donations**.



People in households with disabilities, single parents, and single adults without children are **more likely to experience poverty**.



The **condition of housing** as well as access to affordable privately rented accommodation are challenges. There are currently **thousands of applications for social housing**.



Where someone lives can mean they are more likely to experience poverty, however it can affect people from typically well-off areas





Our residents with lived experience who use food banks tell us that experiencing poverty is extremely stressful and isolating.

It can be a challenge to seek support due to a sense of stigma.

“A number of people have had bailiffs at their door... People are in dire need.”

In our urban areas



Residents who are struggling with poverty in our urban areas are more likely to be struggling with debt as well as buying food and heating their houses. Health and wellbeing also tends to be lower in these areas, something which is often affected by poverty.

In our rural areas



Residents who are struggling with poverty in rural areas tend to have particular challenges of: fuel poverty, and limited access to affordable housing. Support services can be hard to reach as they are often based in towns.

What support is currently available?

From central government, examples of support includes:

£400 energy grant for Autumn 2022

5p cut to fuel duty

Higher national insurance bandings so people earn more before they have to contribute to NI

Council tax rebates for those in tax band A to D

Additional financial support for those receiving means-tested benefits, pensioners and those receiving financial disability support

Warm Homes Discount for vulnerable homes

Local support includes:

Cheshire East Live Well website

Warm PlaCEs scheme

Free SIM cards and mobile data from libraries

Social supermarkets providing food support for those in debt

Community support groups

Citizens Advice Bureau

Holiday Activity Fund

Winter Fuel Payments

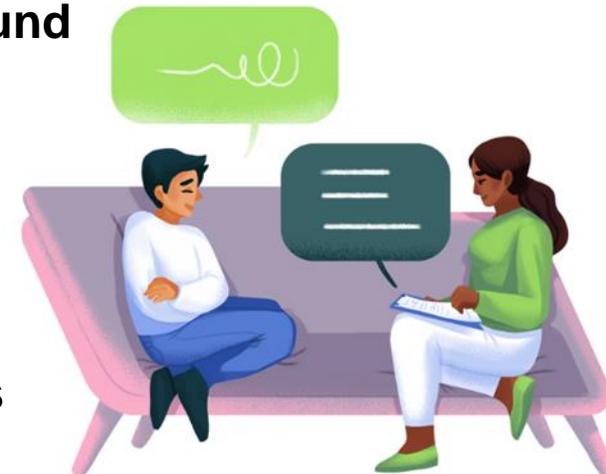
Food banks

Food Aid Network

Cost of Living crisis team

Debt support

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Where are the current and potential gaps in support?



There are fewer support options for those who do not have means of transport



Not everyone can access support if it is provided online only



Not everyone who is experiencing poverty is aware of the support services available



Stigma can stop people accessing the support they need



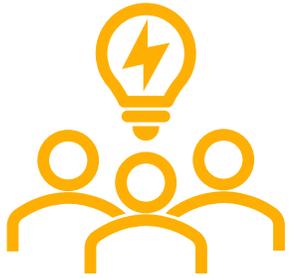
Voluntary, community and faith organisations are faced with challenges of increased demand whilst also balancing their increasing costs



There tends to be less face-to-face support in rural areas as many services are based in towns

Read on for an outline of what we plan to do to tackle the issue of poverty

We, as a network of NHS organisations, the Local Authority and Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisations, plan to:



- **Find ways to tackle the challenges in providing enough suitable housing**
- **Focus on urban and rural areas** as residents in both areas are experiencing poverty
- **Choose ways to measure poverty so we can monitor how it is changing** over time, and whether the support provided is helping
- **Reduce the stigma** surrounding poverty
- **Keep listening to the lived experiences of residents** and involve them in developing ways to tackle poverty in Cheshire East



The aim of this review is to provide an overview of poverty in Cheshire East and to help us understand what we need to do next to support those experiencing poverty.

We know we need to help our residents to connect with our support so that, in spite of a very challenging times, they do not feel alone and see a hopeful future ahead

If you know of anyone struggling in your community, let them know that support is available and to contact Cheshire East Council, their local Citizens Advice Bureau or visit www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell for more information



Additional Resources

Here are some links to help you or someone you know

Community and flexible transport Services - Alternative means of travel for older and disabled people so that they may access their nearest village or town for essential services -

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/flexible_transport_services/cheshire-east-flexible-transport-service.aspx

Poverty Charities Directory Including Charities for the Homeless | Charity Choice - 12 week free membership at Crewe Lifestyle Centre for Gym and Swimming - St Barnabas Pilot Programme -

www.charitychoice.co.uk/charities/social-welfare/poverty

For emergency support, please contact the Emergency Duty Team via 0300 123 5022. For other emergency support you can apply for our Emergency Assistance scheme -

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/benefits_housing_council_tax/emergency-assistance.aspx

If you think that you are eligible for free school meals but have not applied, go to www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/fsm and complete the form or phone 0300 123 5012. If you are entitled to FSM, you will start to receive these vouchers.

To apply for help with Housing costs you can apply for [Discretionary Housing Payments](#).

For additional emergency support with food, please ask for a referral to your local food banks - <https://livewellservices.cheshireeast.gov.uk/Search?keywords=food%20bank&location=&distance=>

A list of support available nationally and locally for residents of Cheshire East is available to **support you with the increased cost of living** -

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/education-employment-and-money/money-matters/cost-of-living.aspx>

Children and young people in receipt of benefit-related free school meals can access a range of **free activity clubs during the winter, Easter and summer school holidays**. Please visit the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) - Live Well Cheshire East directory page for further information -

<https://livewellservices.cheshireeast.gov.uk/Services/6640>

