

# Poverty JSNA: Spotlight review

Public Health Intelligence team

Slides prepared by Chris Lamb, Public Health Intelligence Analyst,  
Cheshire East Council in collaboration with  
The Cheshire East Poverty JSNA working group

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# Background and Methodology

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) are assessments of the current and future health and social care needs of the local community. – these are needs that could be met by the local authority, the NHS or the VCFSE.
- JSNA steering group approved “poverty” to be a priority deep dive review for 2022/23 JSNA work program.
- 6 month project
- Working group including representation from
  - Communities (co-content sponsor) (Cheshire East Council)
  - Research and consultation (Cheshire East Council)
  - Public Health (Cheshire East Council)
  - NHS
  - VCFSE
- Agreed scope for phase 1 (until spotlight review) and data sources available and proposed phase 2 scope.
- The working group supported in identification of key sources of national and local data, which have been triangulated by the Public Health Intelligence Team.
- Phase 2 to be agreed after discussion at spotlight review and review by the JSNA steering group.

# List scope for phase 1

- Initially proposed a list of readily available metrics across all areas of poverty.
- Change of approach to meet the needs of the spotlight review.
  - Phase 1: brief introduction in relation to poverty before focussing on issues relating to food poverty
    - National trends
    - Trends across Cheshire East

# Definitions of Poverty

## Poverty:

*“Living in poor quality housing, being exposed to poor quality environmental conditions, poor quality work and unemployment, not being able to afford nutritious food and sufficient heating for example all impact on health. Poverty is also stressful. Coping with day-to-day shortages, facing inconveniences and adversity and perceptions of loss of status all affect physical and mental health in negative ways.”* [1]

*“The state of being poor.”* [2]

*“When a person’s resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs (including social participation).”* [3]

## Food Poverty:

“There is no widely accepted definition of ‘food poverty’, but a household can broadly be defined as experiencing food poverty or ‘household food insecurity’ if *they cannot (or are uncertain about whether they can) acquire ‘an adequate quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways’*.” [4]

**Absolute Poverty:** An individual is in *absolute poverty if they are living in households with income below 60% of the 2010/11 median, uprated for inflation*. By using an income threshold that is fixed in time, this measure looks at how living standards of low-income households are changing over time. [5]

Sources: [1] Institute of Health Equity, (2022), Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On, available from: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>, Accessed: June 2022.

[2] Oxford Dictionary, available from: [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com). Accessed: June 2022.

[3] Joseph Rowntree Foundation, available from: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/definition-poverty>. Accessed: June 2022.

[4] House of Commons Library (30<sup>th</sup> April 2022), Food poverty: Households, food banks and free school meals, available from: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9209/>, Accessed June 2022.

[5] House of commons Library, Poverty in the UK: statistics, (13/04/2022), available from: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn07096/>, Accessed June 2022.

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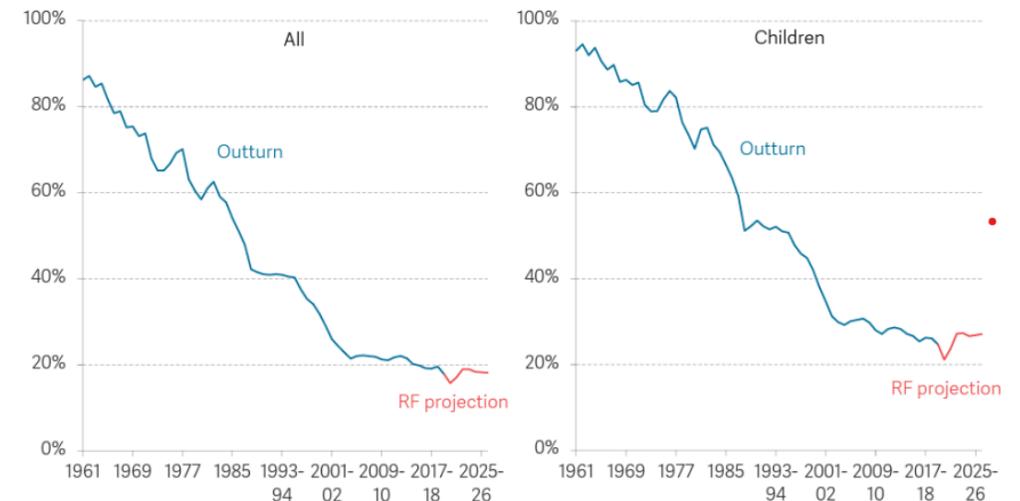
# Poverty across the UK

- Absolute Poverty **fell sharply for all people and children between 1961 and 2001**. After 2001, rates have declined more slowly.<sup>[1]</sup>
- The projection from the Resolution foundation is that absolute poverty in the UK **will rise by 1.3 million in 2022/23, including 500,000 children**. This is the largest rise for some time.<sup>[1]</sup>
- **Incomes are on course to be lower** at the next election (2024-25) than they were at the last (2019-20), with typical non-pensioner income projected to be 2 per cent lower.<sup>[1]</sup>

Sources: [1] Resolution Foundation, (24/03/2022), Inflation Nation putting spring statement into context, available from <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/inflation-nation/>, accessed: June 2022.  
[2] House of commons Library, Poverty in the UK: statistics, (13/04/2022), available from: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn07096/>, Accessed June 2022.

FIGURE 15: Absolute poverty is likely rising, and no progress is expected over this parliament as a whole

Proportion of people/children living in absolute poverty, after housing costs: GB/UK



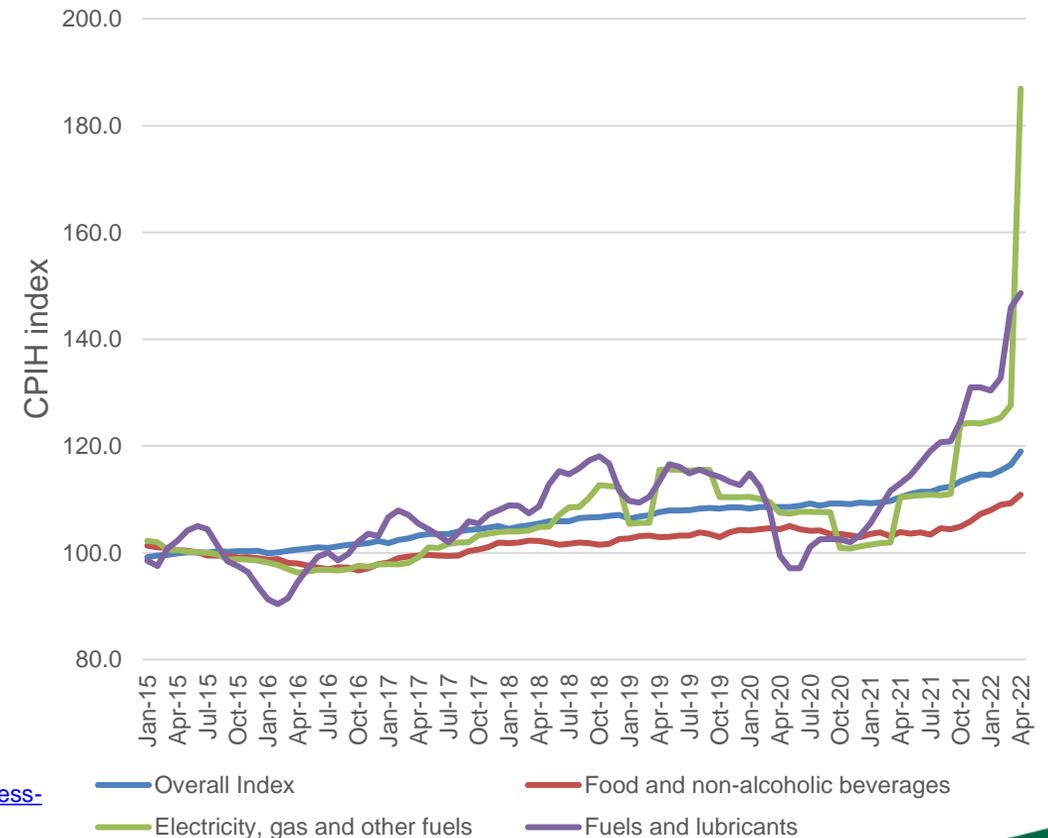
NOTES: Data source changes in 1994-95. GB prior to 2001-02. See A Corlett & L Try, The Living Standards Outlook 2022, March 2022, Resolution Foundation for details of our projection methodology.  
SOURCE: IFS, Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK; RF analysis of DWP, Households Below Average Income; and RF projection including use of the IPPR Tax Benefit Model, ONS data, and OBR forecasts.

Source: Resolution Foundation [Inflation Nation, Putting Spring Statement 2022 in context](#), 24 March 2022, Figure 15

# Inflation in the UK

- The **Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) rose by 7.8%** in the 12 months to April 2022, up from 6.2% in March.<sup>[1]</sup>
- The Bank of England has warned that this is **set to rise to 10% by Autumn 2022** and the Monetary Policy Committee expects **unemployment to rise from 3.6% to around 5% in 2024**.<sup>[2]</sup>
- Since the start of the pandemic, the unemployed claimant count has decreased but long-term unemployment has increased – **in Feb 2020 1,235 (38%) of the unemployed claimant count were out of work for more than 1 year, by March 2022 this had increased to 3,330 (71%) of claimants**.<sup>[3]</sup>
- The largest upward contributions to the annual CPIH inflation rate in April 2022 came from **housing and household services** (2.76 percentage points, principally from electricity, gas and other fuels, and owner occupiers' housing costs) and **transport** (1.47 percentage points, principally from motor fuels and second-hand cars).<sup>[1]</sup>
- **Food prices are starting to rise too** since the beginning of the year (see chart).<sup>[4]</sup>

UK CIPH inflation, Overall Index and Selected Items<sup>[4]</sup>



Sources: [1] Consumer price inflation, UK: April 2022, (18/05/2022), available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/april2022>, accessed: June 2022.  
[2] BBC news website, Warning of economic downturn as interest rates rise, (05/05/22), <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-61319867>, accessed June 2022.  
[3] DWP, DWP benefits statistics: February 2022, (25/02/2022), available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-benefits-statistics-february-2022/dwp-benefits-statistics-february-2022>, accessed: June 2022  
[4] ONS, Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), (18/05/2022), available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/cpih01/editions/time-series/versions/22>, accessed June 2022.

# Poverty by household

- The DWP's Family Resources Survey is a sample of over 10,000 households taken between April 2020 and March 2021 They found that..

Gross weekly income of less than £200 per week

- **6% of all households.**
- **24% of households with one or more unemployed adults under state pension age.**
- **Between 10-18% (depending on age and sex) of single adults in households without children.**

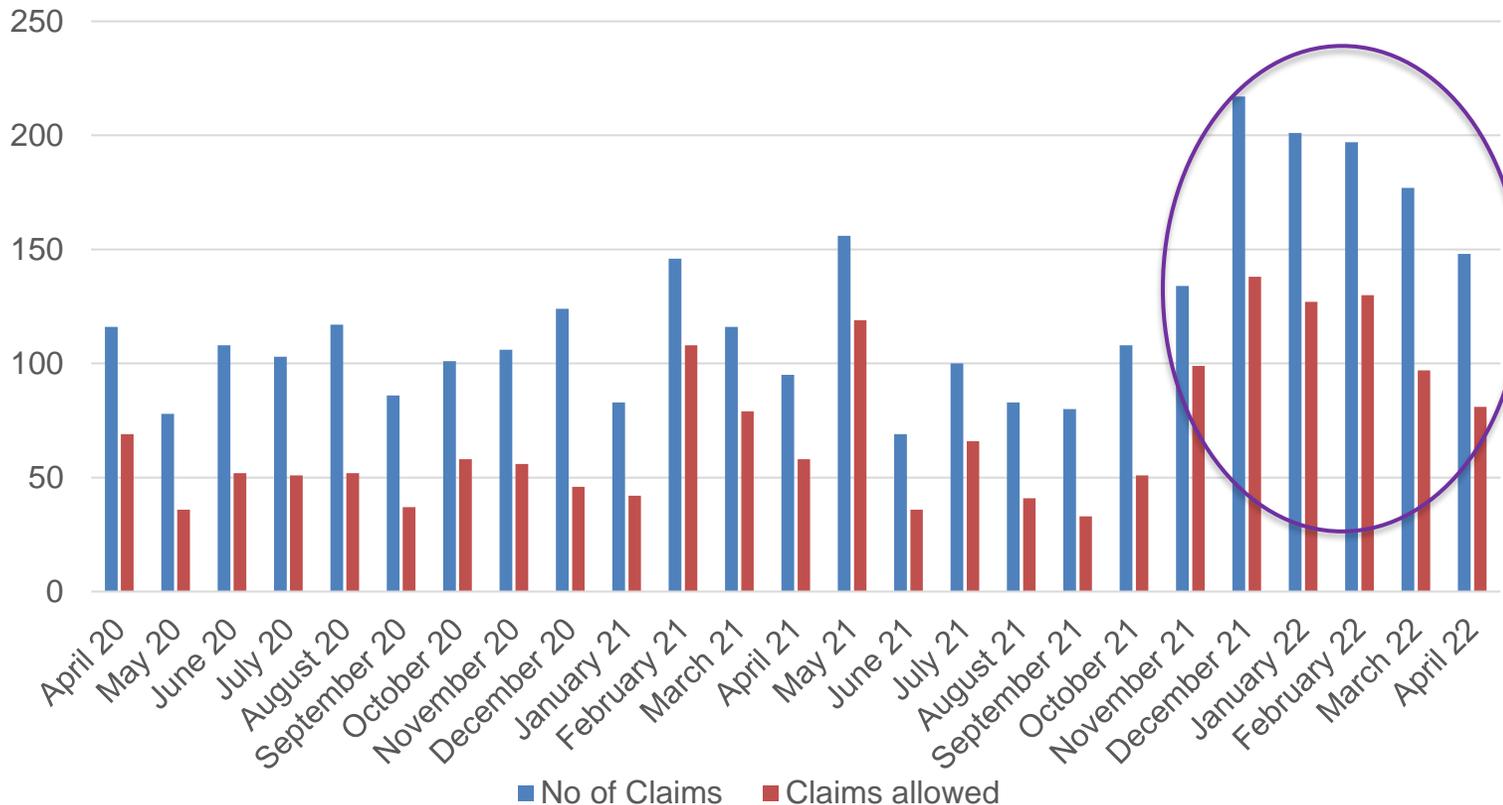
Gross weekly income between £200-£399 per week

- **19% of all households.**
- **39% of households with a single adult and one child.**
- **Between 31-53% (depending on age and sex) of single adults in households without children.**

Source: Department of Work and Pensions (31/03/2022), Family Resources Survey: financial year 2020 to 2021, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2020-to-2021/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2020-to-2021>, accessed: June 2022.

# Poverty in Cheshire East: Applications for Emergency Assistance in Cheshire East

Applications for Emergency Assistance in Cheshire East



- The Cheshire East Emergency Assistance scheme is a safety net for people in crisis.
- Residents of Cheshire East on benefits or a low wage **get help with rent deposits, essential furniture, some white goods, and emergency food.**
- The number of **claims increased 32%** in the 12 months ending April 21 compared to the previous 12 months (from 1263 to 1670). The number of **allowed claims grew by 50%** (from 675 to 1018).
- There has been a large rise in applications and claims since December 2021 (see purple ellipse).
- This rise in applications coincides with the rise in inflation (see previous slide).

Source: Benefits Section, Cheshire East Council, (09/05/2022).

# Focus on food poverty

- List of sources reviewed

National	Local
<p>Family Resources survey (DWP).</p> <p>National data from Trussell Trust (end of year briefing, end of year statistics, state of hunger report, end of year stories.</p> <p>House of commons Poverty in the UK report</p> <p>Inflation Nation, Resolution Foundation, Institute for Fiscal Studies, Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2021.</p>	<p>Data from Nantwich Foodbank, Data from Trussell Trust.</p> <p>LSOA data for Income, Income affecting Children and Income affecting Older People, IMD and employment, Applications for emergency assistance in Cheshire East council.</p> <p>CESAP Food Bank analysis 2021.</p>

# Food insecurity in the UK by personal circumstances

- According to the department of Work and Pension's Family Resources Survey, in the North-West, food insecurity was found in
  - **8% of all households.** This is slightly higher than the England average of 7%.
  - **19 % households with children where there was only one adult.**
  - **17% of households with one or more disabled adults under state pension age.**
  - **21% households with one or more unemployed adults under state pension age.**
  - The **age of the head of household affects food insecurity.** 14% of all households with the head of household aged 16 – 24 are not food secure.
- The **level of educational attainment is negatively correlated with food insecurity** – households with the head of household with a lower attainment were more likely to be food insecure.
- **Ethnicity also plays a role.** 21% of Black households, 17% of Pakistani and 12% of Bangladeshi households were food insecure.
- Households receiving any income related benefit had levels of **24% insecurity.**

# Stories from people using food banks in the Trussell Trust End of Year report

“I do [skip meals]. The kids don’t, but I do. [...] I can go three days without eating. [...] When I first started doing it, it was like, oh my God, I feel ill. Now, I’m used to it.”

“We will have to prioritise food so will be cold in our own home and I am eating less and less to ensure my daughter has what she needs as she is only 6. I already walk to work and back everyday [be]cause I cannot afford transport.”

“The cost of living has gone up and your social security payments haven’t gone up to cover it. It costs a lot to be disabled. It costs more. I’ve had to use food banks. [...] I have to rely on buses and trains and have to pay increased fares. Not having enough money for travel causes me to be isolated and excluded.”

Source: Trussell Trust, End of Year Stats 2021/22 Stories Report, (April 2022), available from:  
<https://www.Trusselltrust.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/EOY-Stats-2022-Data-Briefing.pdf>,  
accessed June 2022

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# Trends in food bank use

Both the Trussell Trust and the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) reported **large increases in emergency food aid distribution in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20**.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Trussell Trust, is the largest food bank organisation in the UK and has highlighted through discussion of recent food bank use

- For the first time outside of the Covid-19 pandemic year (2020/21) food banks in the Trussell Trust network have distributed over 2.1 million food parcels in 2021/22.<sup>[2]</sup>
- This represents an **81% increase from the same period five years ago** and a 14% increase from 2019-20.<sup>[2]</sup>
- Food banks in the Trussell Trust network, overall, have experienced an **acceleration of need since October 2021**.<sup>[2]</sup>
- Reported that **food banks are running out of tools to prevent people from needing long term support**.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **“Food bank statistics should not be used as a proxy for poverty measurements**. The comprehensiveness and accuracy of food bank data, and the number of food aid outlets in existence, will affect food bank figures regardless of any changes or stability in poverty levels.”<sup>[1]</sup> However, “Use of a food bank is an indicator of severe financial difficulty.”<sup>[3]</sup>

Sources: [1] House of Commons Library, Food Banks in the UK (14.07/2021), available from: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8585/>, accessed: June 2022.

[2] Trussell Trust, Trussell Trust data briefing on end-of-year statistics relating to use of food banks: April 2021 – March 2022, available from: <https://www.Trusselltrust.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/EOY-Stats-2022-Data-Briefing.pdf>, accessed: June 2022.

[3] Institute for Fiscal Studies, Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2021, (08/07/2021), available from: <https://ifs.org.uk/publications/15512>, accessed June 2022.

# Trends in food bank use (2)

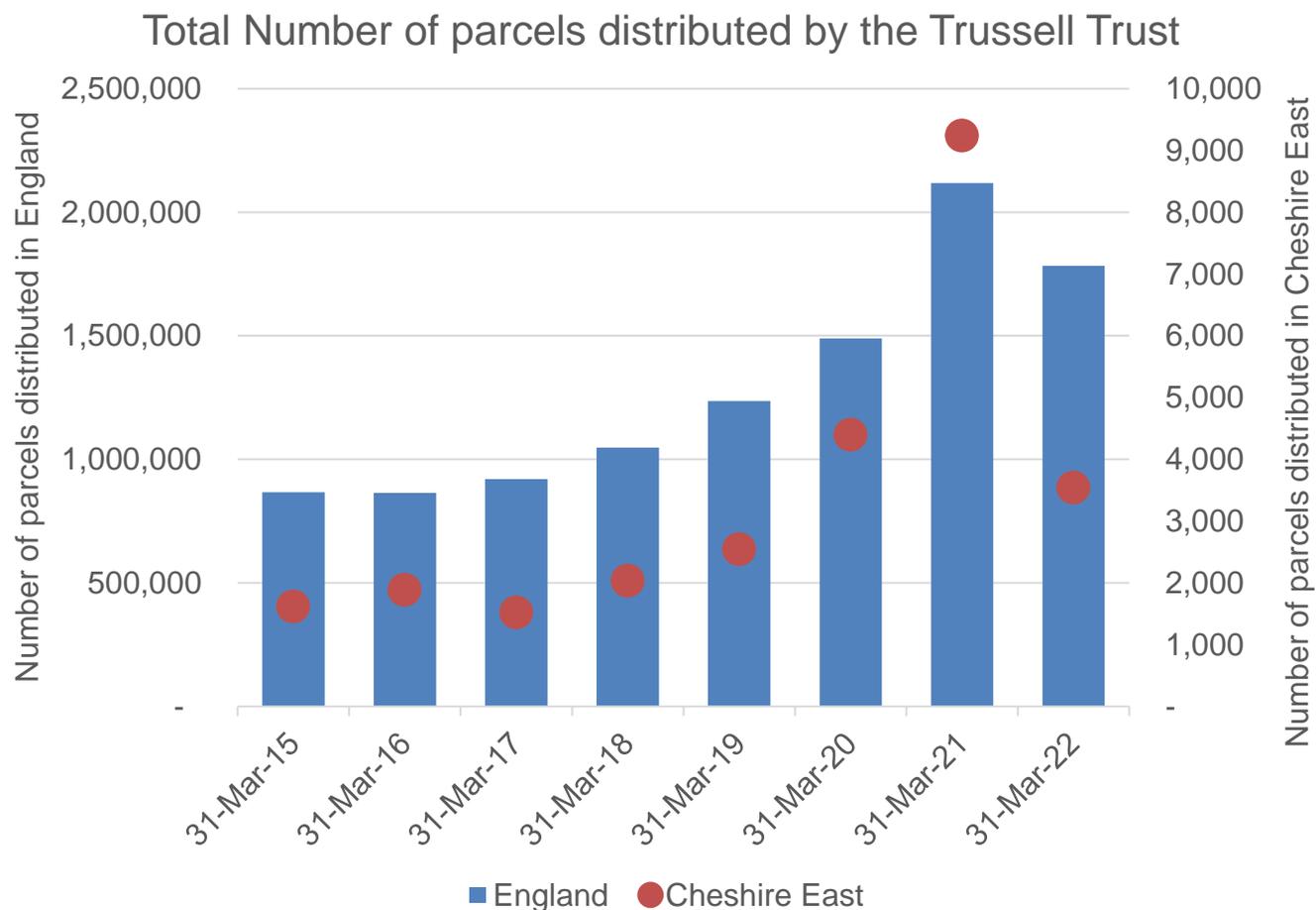
Notably, of those people who have been referred to a Trussell Trust food bank:

- Over **two-thirds had experienced a problem with the benefits system** in the year before they needed emergency food. In 43% of cases benefit problems were one of the main reasons for referral.<sup>[1]</sup>
- **94% were ‘facing real destitution’**, unable to buy essentials to stay warm, dry, clean and fed. 23% were homeless.<sup>[1]</sup>
- **£50 was the average weekly income after housing costs**, while 20% reported no income at all in the month before.<sup>[1]</sup>
- **Over three quarters were in arrears, most commonly rent arrears, and 40% were repaying debts.**
- In the year prior to using a food bank 7 in 10 respondents reported at least one **‘challenging life experience’ such as eviction or divorce**, while a large minority also reported having experienced an ‘adverse work-related experience’ such as losing a job or a reduction in work hours.<sup>[1]</sup>
- **22% were single parents** and nearly half were single person households.<sup>[1]</sup>
- **89% were born in the UK**, slightly above the 86% of the population as a whole.<sup>[2]</sup>

Sources: [1] House of Commons Library, Food Banks in the UK (14.07/2021), available from: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8585/>, accessed: June 2022.

[2] Trussell Trust, State of Hunger, A study of poverty and food insecurity in the UK, Trussell Trust, Nov 2019, available from <https://www.stateofhunger.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/State-of-Hunger-Report-November2019-Digital.pdf>, accessed June 2022

# Food parcels distributed by Trussell Trust in Cheshire East and England



- The Trussell Trust is the UK's largest network of food banks, accounting for over half of all food banks.<sup>[1]</sup>
- The number of food parcels given out by the Trust in **England** (blue columns) has **increased year on year up to the twelve months ending 31/03/21**.<sup>[2]</sup>
- In the year ending 31/03/22, more parcels were distributed than in any year apart from the previous twelve months.<sup>[2]</sup>
- The number of parcels distributed in **Cheshire East** (red dots) also **shows an increase up to the twelve months ending 31/01/21**.<sup>[2]</sup>
- In the year ending 31/03/22, there was a decrease in parcels distributed. It should be noted also that the number of distribution centres in Cheshire East decreased from 4 to 3 in this year.<sup>[2]</sup>
- In Cheshire East there are currently 25 organisations offering food banks, food parcels or food groceries. Only two are run by the Trussell Trust.<sup>[3]</sup>

Sources: [1] House of Commons Library, Food Banks in the UK (14.07/2021), available from: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8585/>, accessed: June 2022.

[2] Trussell Trust, End of Year stats 2021/22, (April 2022), available from <https://www.Trusselltrust.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/End-of-Year-stats-2021-22-FOR-PUBLIC-USE.xlsx>, accessed June 2022.

[3] Cheshire East Social Action Partnership, Foodbanks in CE May 22, (22/05/2022)

# Reflections from food bank users

In 2021, Cheshire East Social Action Partnership conducted a survey to find the primary reasons for using the food bank. These were

- **low income**
- **delays in benefit claims (usually Universal Credit)**
- **mental health issues**

“A common feeling among participants was that **there is still significant stigma and shame attached to people asking for help**, particularly when it comes to food and people being able to feed their families.”

“Participants related **how greater understanding of geography and logistics is needed** for some referring organisations **as rural poverty and access to affordable transport can be an issue**.”

“A common understanding among participants was that **food poverty is not a stand-alone factor in people’s lives – it is ‘poverty’ of many levels**. Their experience was that people who approach the food bank have multiple complex needs which can cascade and lead to destitution. They reported that while some have lost jobs, face delays in accessing Universal Credit; others come from a growing number of people in work with very low incomes, **with an unexpected bill or financial commitment leaving them without enough money to buy sufficient food, or making a choice between eating and heating their homes**.”

Source: Food Bank Questionnaire and Deep Dive Interviews, Cheshire East Social Action Partnership, July 2021.

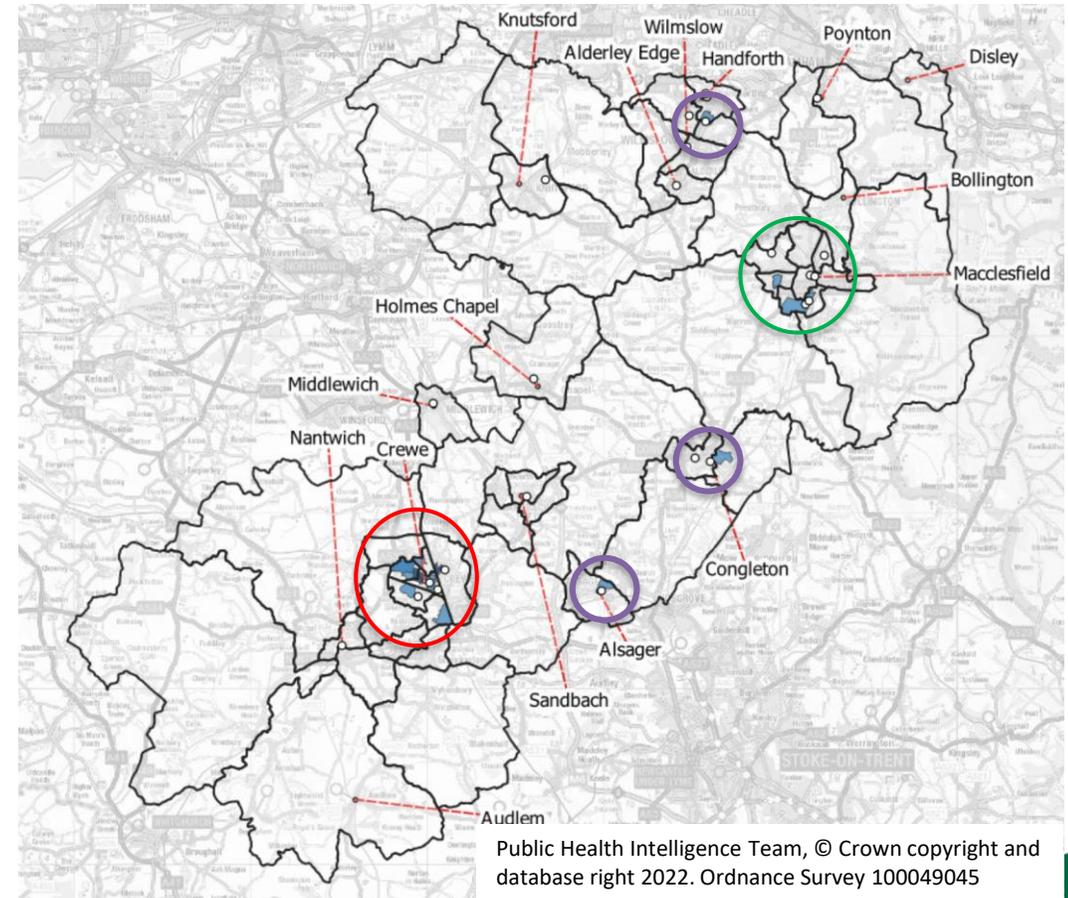
# Distribution of food banks across Cheshire East compared to distribution of residents with low income

- **LSOAs are small geographic areas of approximately 1500 people** produced by the ONS to enable reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales.<sup>[1]</sup>
- The **darkest areas show LSOAs with the lowest income in the decile**, lighter areas show LSOAs in the second lowest decile for income.
- Cheshire East is a relatively wealthy area but there are **7 LSOAs in Crewe in the lowest two deciles** (see red ellipse).
- **Macclesfield has 3 LSOAs** in low income (see green circle).
- **Alsager, Congleton and Handforth all have one LSOA** in the second decile for income (purple circles).
- The LSOAs with the lowest income deciles are well served by foodbanks.
- There are also food banks in less deprived areas of Cheshire East such as Holmes Chapel or Alderley Edge. This suggests that **food poverty in Cheshire East is not restricted to the lowest two deciles of income.**

Sources: [1] UK govt, (2018), Methods, data and definitions, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-profile-for-england-2018/methods-data-and-definitions>, accessed June 2022

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, English indices of deprivation 2019, available from: accessed: June 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>, accessed June 2022.

Cheshire East Social Action Partnership, Foodbanks CE May 2022.xlsx, 23/05/2022



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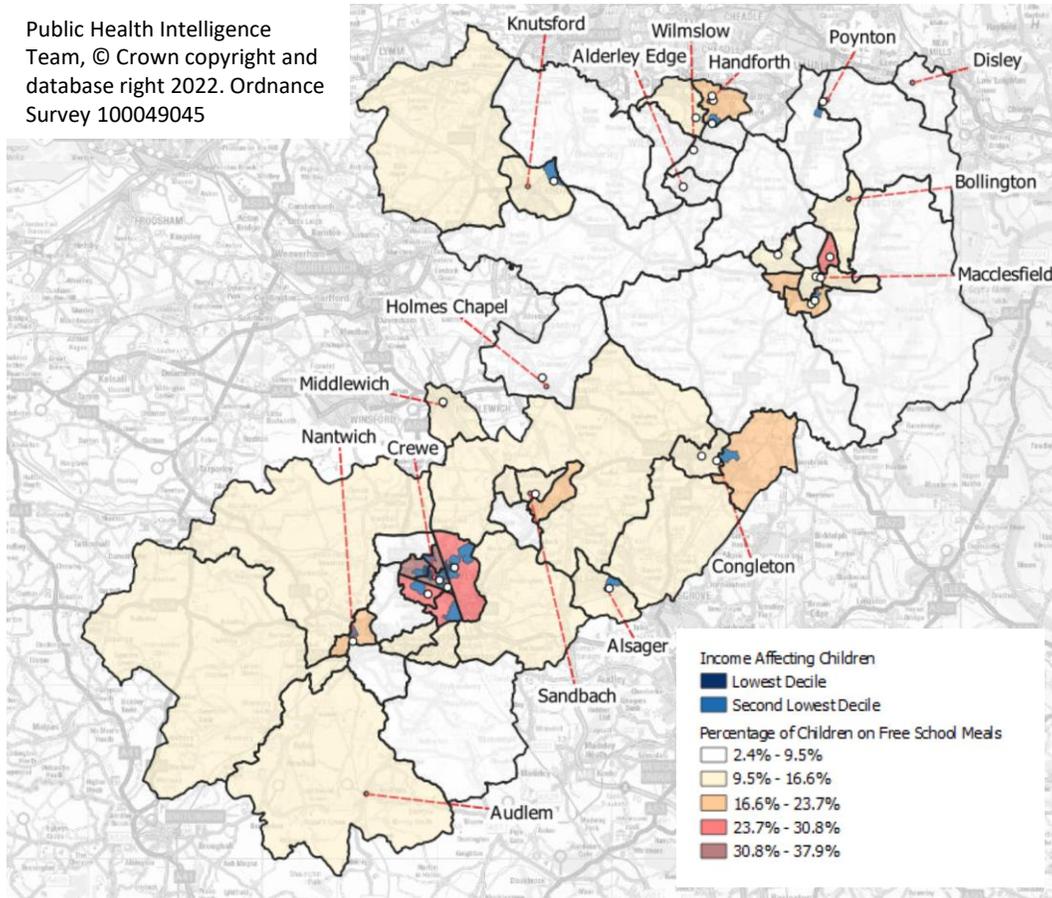
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# Distribution of food banks across Cheshire East compared to distribution of children in families with low income and children receiving free school meals

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- Crewe had a large number of children in families with low income.
- There are also LSOAs\* in the lowest two deciles for income affecting children in **Nantwich, Alsager, Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield and Poynton.**
- The council wards\* with the highest percentage of children receiving free school meals are around **Crewe and Macclesfield.**
- **Foodbanks in Cheshire East are well situated to serve families of children on free school meals.**
- **Less deprived wards such as those of Holmes Chapel and Alderley Edge** have a low percentage of children on free school meals. Nonetheless, both wards have a food bank suggesting some need is being met by the foodbank.

\* Income deprivation affecting children is measured at an LSOA level, data for Free School Meals is available at a council ward level.  
Sources: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, English indices of deprivation 2019, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>, accessed June 2022.  
Free School Meals by Ward, Business change, Cheshire East Council April 2022

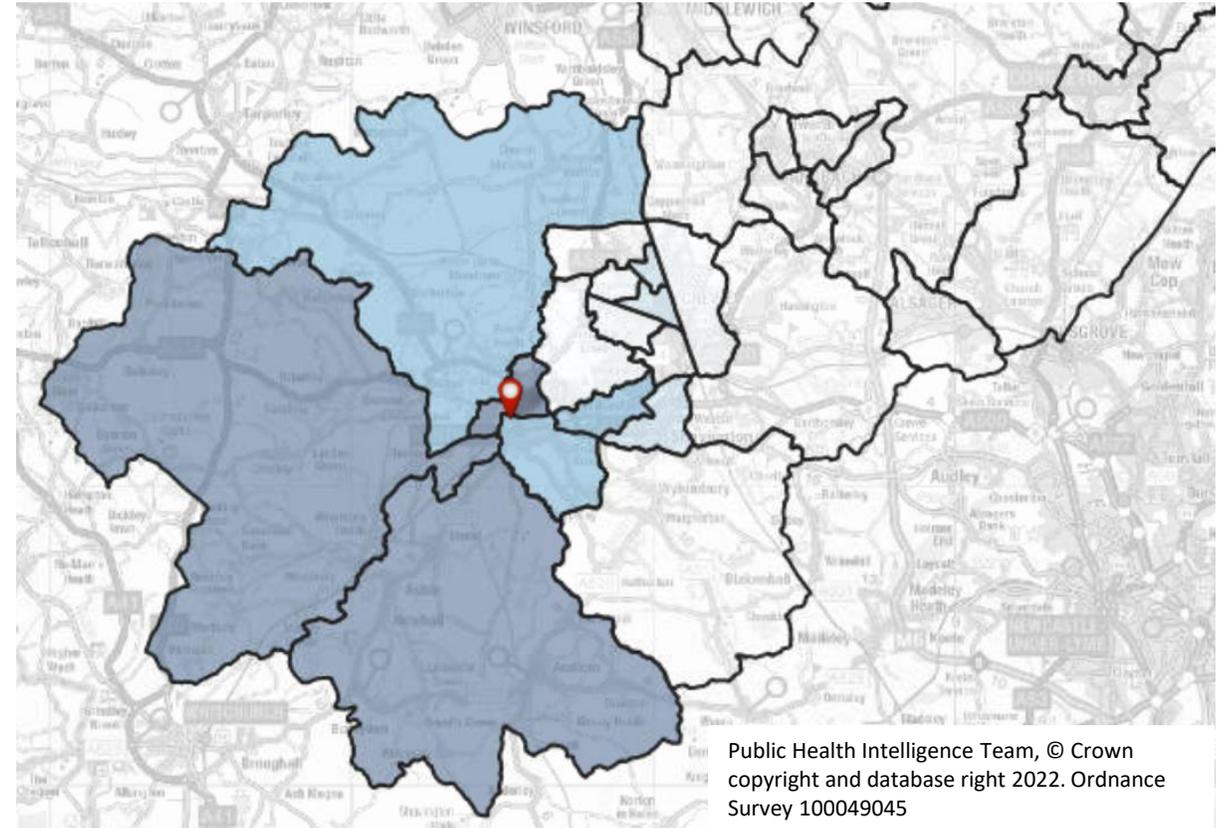
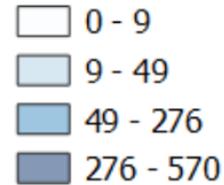
# Poverty in Cheshire East: Spotlight on Nantwich Foodbank

The Nantwich Trussell Trust Foodbank served most of its food parcels to people in the

**Nantwich North and West, Nantwich South and Stapely, Wrenbury, Bunbury and Audlem wards.**

Wrenbury has an IMD score of 18, Bunbury 15.7 and Audlem 13.1. The score for England is 21.7 and for the North West 28.1. This shows that demand for foodbanks is also in areas that are not very Also, some of these areas are a long way from the foodbank which might make it difficult for people to access.

Number of People Served (2021/22)



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Source: Nantwich Foodbank Reports 2020/21 and 2021/22, Nantwich Foodbank, Trussell Trust, 2022.

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# Key messages

- Nationally and locally there is concern about increasing levels of poverty in recent months which is projected to continue and worsen.
- Although not a proxy for all food insecurity, there is evidence to demonstrate a general increase in food bank usage in Cheshire East, which matches the national picture.
- There is food bank provision across Cheshire East to support areas of deprivation and also less deprived localities.
- The cost of living crisis will drive more people to experience poverty who will not necessarily live in the most deprived areas of Cheshire East.
- Further work is required to develop greater understanding of poverty through the next phase of the deep dive review.

# Recommendations

1. Building on understanding of food insecurity
  - a) More comprehensive picture of food bank use across Cheshire East
  - b) Understanding of holiday hunger
  - c) Understanding need in both areas considered “more” and “less” deprived
  - d) Learning from lived experience
2. Broader consideration of other poverty related issues
  - a) Fuel Poverty, Transport Poverty, Debt, Poverty and Safeguarding, Poverty and Crime, Employment and Training Opportunities, Economic Development, Housing and, Health
  - b) Learning from lived experience

# Proposed next steps

Approval of scope by Poverty working group and JSNA steering group.

Completion of analysis by end of September 2022 for onward approval.

Publication after formal approval through the Health and Wellbeing Board.