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# **Children in Low Income Families 2015**

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Produced by Wirral  
Council Public Health  
Intelligence Team

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# Children in Low Income Families 2015

By John Highton,  
 JSNA Lead,  
 Wirral Council Business and Public Health Intelligence Team,  
 Old Market House, Hamilton Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 5AL

☎ 0151 666 5151

✉ [johnhighton@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:johnhighton@wirral.gov.uk)

## Current Version: 2

Version History	Date	Author	Reviewer	Actions
	18/11/2015	John Highton	John Highton Julie Graham	Revisions as made

## Report Overview

<b>Abstract</b>	Headline data on children in low income families to support the Child & Family Poverty Strategy Group work in relation to the production of a local strategy and partnership delivery plan
<b>Intended or potential audience</b>	<b>Internal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child &amp; Family Poverty Strategy Group</li> </ul> <b>External (timing to be decided)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JSNA website in refreshed Child Poverty section</li> <li>• JSNA Bulletin</li> <li>• DMT (plus other departmental DMTs)</li> <li>• Wider Public Health team</li> <li>• Relevant LA Heads of Service</li> <li>• Community &amp; voluntary sector organisations, particularly those working in areas of child poverty</li> </ul>
<b>Links with other topic areas</b>	This topic links with all topics where targeting of services based on deprivation or inequalities is customary

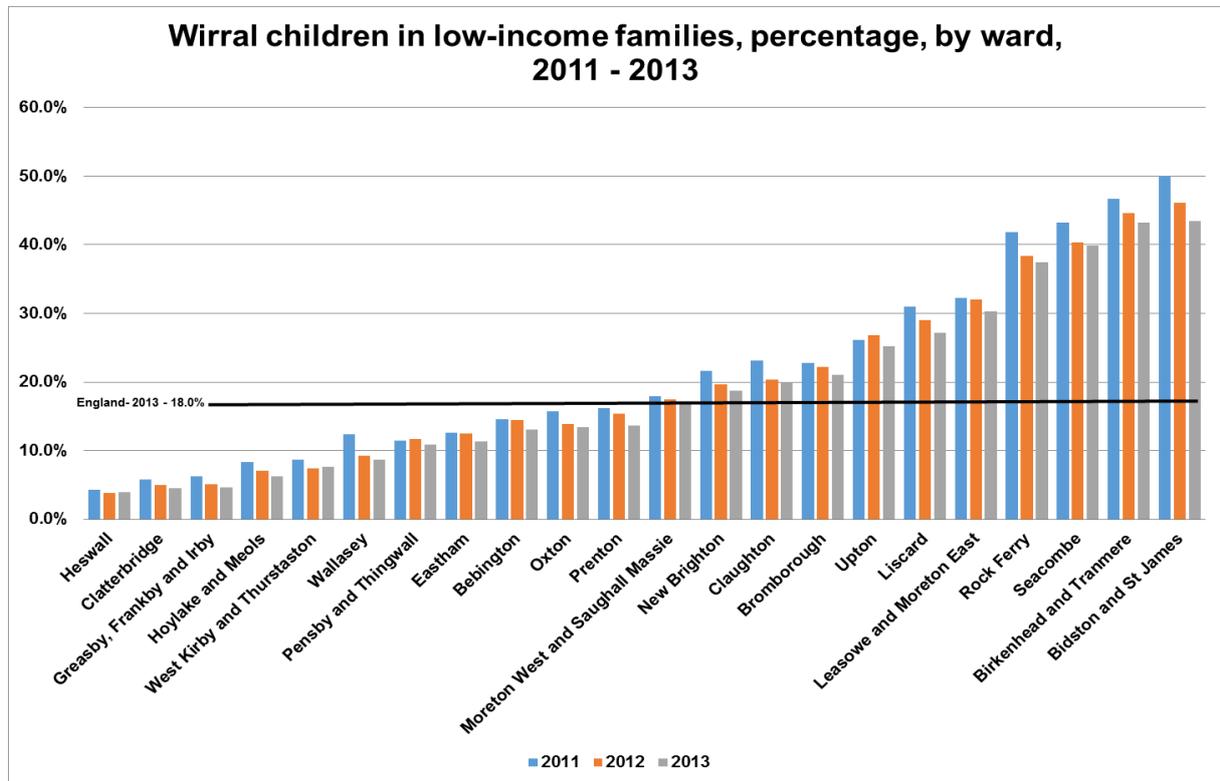
**Please note:** Wirral PHIT have found data discrepancies in the 2015 release of the children in low income families by HMRC. In that the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) data is incorrect by virtue of the fact the table list shows areas of Halton, Sefton and Wirral mixed into the dataset, as such the LSOA data has not been provided in this document until HMRC correct this problem.

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## 1. Wirral Wards

In Figure 1a below we see the three year trend data, by Ward (percentage), for children in low income families. Positively there is a reduction over this period for all wards to some degree. However nine wards remain above the England average.



Source: HMRC 2015

Table 1b below provides the three year change in percentages for each ward between 2011 and 2013. This again highlights the reduction with the percentage difference (end column). The highest percentage of children living in low income families are in Bidston and St. James, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Seacombe and Rock Ferry wards.

Ward	2011	2012	2013	Diff (2011 - 2013)
Bidston and St. James	50.0%	46.1%	43.5%	-6.5%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	46.7%	44.6%	43.2%	-3.5%
Seacombe	43.2%	40.4%	39.9%	-3.3%
Rock Ferry	41.9%	38.4%	37.5%	-4.4%
Leasowe and Moreton East	32.3%	32.0%	30.3%	-2.0%
Liscard	31.0%	29.0%	27.2%	-3.8%
Upton	26.1%	26.8%	25.2%	-0.9%
Bromborough	22.8%	22.2%	21.0%	-1.8%
Cloughton	23.1%	20.3%	20.0%	-3.1%
New Brighton	21.6%	19.7%	18.7%	-2.9%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	17.9%	17.5%	17.1%	-0.8%
Prenton	16.2%	15.4%	13.7%	-2.5%
Oxton	15.7%	13.9%	13.4%	-2.3%
Bebington	14.6%	14.5%	13.1%	-1.5%
Eastham	12.6%	12.5%	11.3%	-1.3%
Pensby and Thingwall	11.5%	11.7%	10.9%	-0.6%
Wallasey	12.4%	9.3%	8.7%	-3.7%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	8.7%	7.4%	7.6%	-1.1%
Hoylake and Meols	8.3%	7.1%	6.2%	-2.1%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	6.2%	5.1%	4.6%	-1.6%
Clatterbridge	5.8%	5.0%	4.5%	-1.3%
Heswall	4.3%	3.8%	3.9%	-0.4%

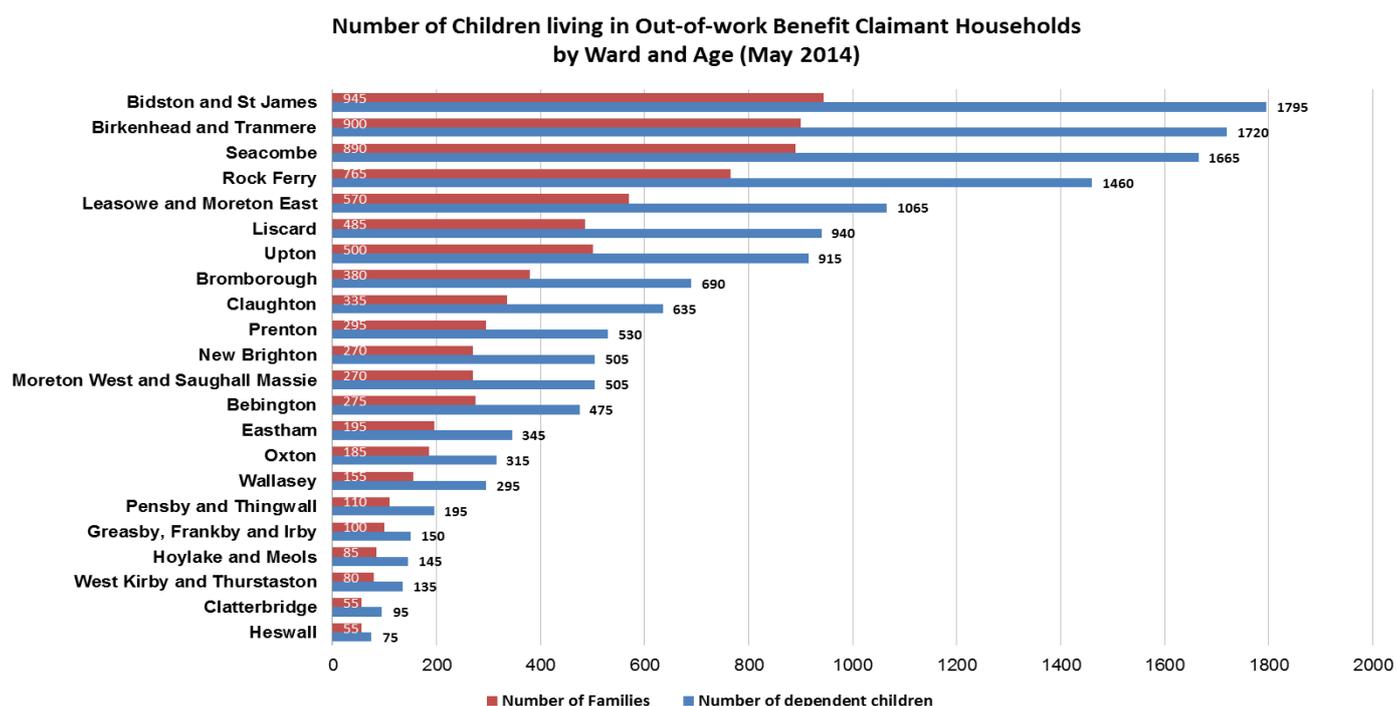
Source: HMRC 2015

Table 1c below describes the lowest wards (percentage) for children in low income families. In this case Heswall, Clatterbridge and Greasby, Frankby and Irby all have figures below 5%, or 1 in 20 children living in low income families in 2013. This compares to around 40%, or 8 in 20 children in Bidston and St. James, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Seacombe

Wirral children in low-income families, as a percentage, comparison by ward, 2011-2013				
Ward	2011	2012	2013	Diff (2011 - 2013)
Heswall	4.3%	3.8%	3.9%	-0.4%
Clatterbridge	5.8%	5.0%	4.5%	-1.3%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	6.2%	5.1%	4.6%	-1.6%
Hoylake and Meols	8.3%	7.1%	6.2%	-2.1%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	8.7%	7.4%	7.6%	-1.1%
Wallasey	12.4%	9.3%	8.7%	-3.7%
Pensby and Thingwall	11.5%	11.7%	10.9%	-0.6%
Eastham	12.6%	12.5%	11.3%	-1.3%
Bebington	14.6%	14.5%	13.1%	-1.5%
Oxton	15.7%	13.9%	13.4%	-2.3%
Prenton	16.2%	15.4%	13.7%	-2.5%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	17.9%	17.5%	17.1%	-0.8%
New Brighton	21.6%	19.7%	18.7%	-2.9%
Clughton	23.1%	20.3%	20.0%	-3.1%
Bromborough	22.8%	22.2%	21.0%	-1.8%
Upton	26.1%	26.8%	25.2%	-0.9%
Liscard	31.0%	29.0%	27.2%	-3.8%
Leasowe and Moreton East	32.3%	32.0%	30.3%	-2.0%
Rock Ferry	41.9%	38.4%	37.5%	-4.4%
Seacombe	43.2%	40.4%	39.9%	-3.3%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	46.7%	44.6%	43.2%	-3.5%
Bidston and St James	50.0%	46.1%	43.5%	-6.5%

Source: HMRC 2015

Figure 1d below describes the number of Wirral children, by ward, living in households claiming out of work benefits (DWP data). This highlights the vast number of dependent children and families living in Bidston and St. James, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Seacombe and Rock Ferry wards accessing these benefits. These 4 wards (of 22) account for 45% of the number of dependent children and families.

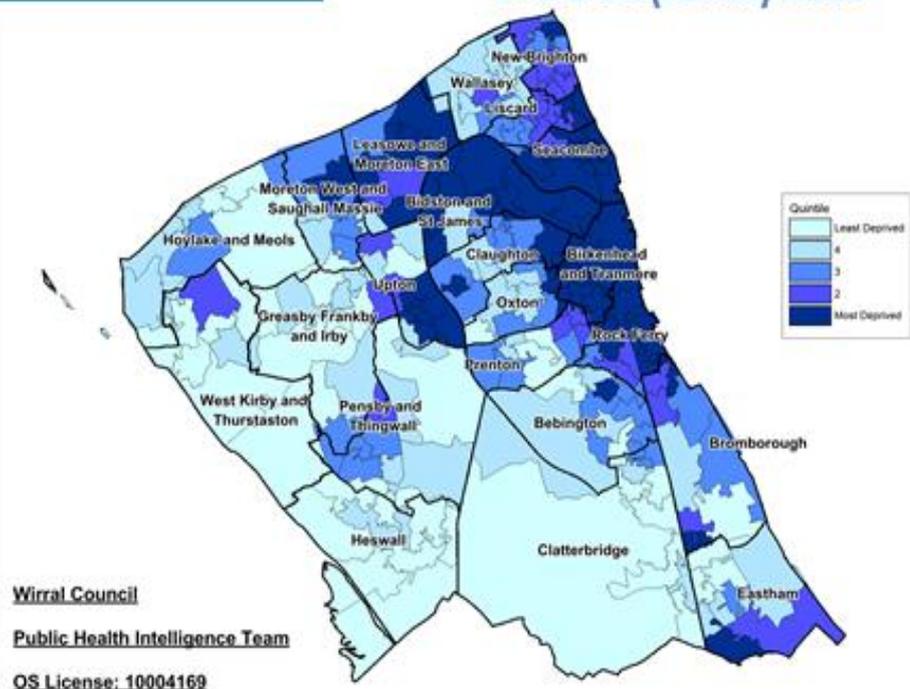


Source: DWP WPLS 100% data and HMRC Child Benefit administrative data [here](#)

## 2. Wirral

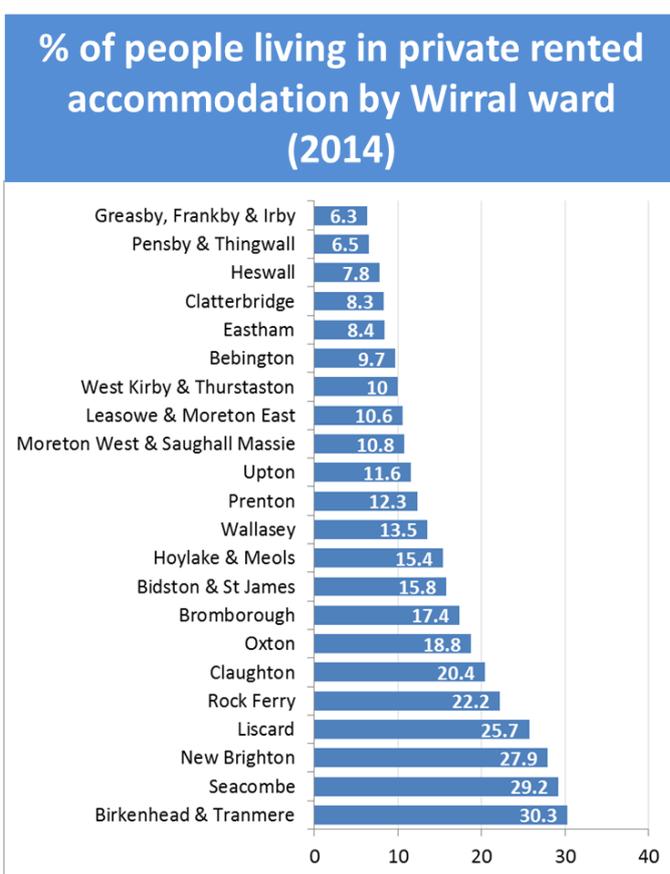
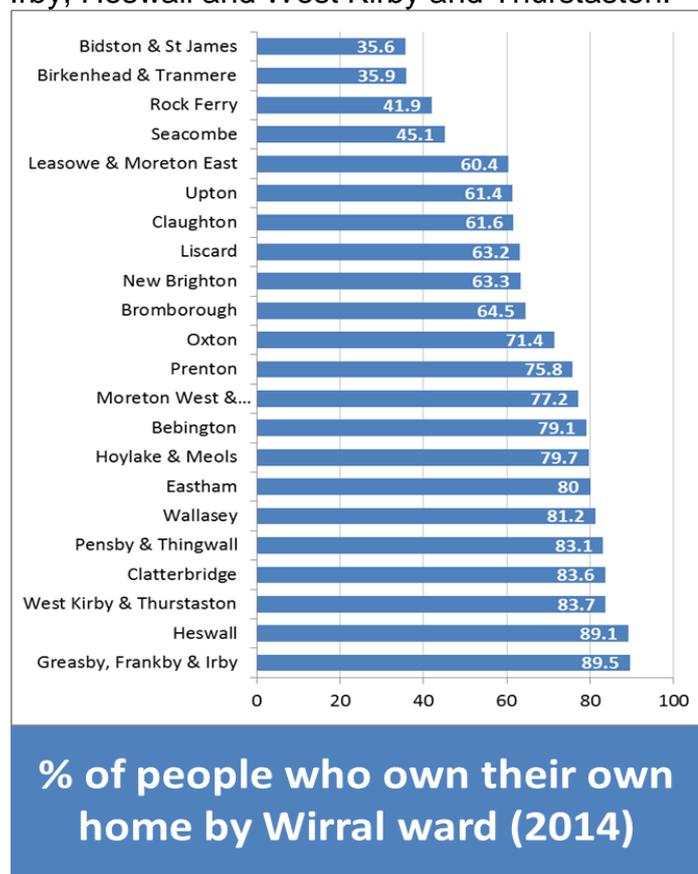
### Deprivation

### Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI) 2015



Possibly the best, and most recent indicator to illustrate child poverty for Wirral, is the Income Deprivation Affecting Children (2015) profile. As we can see from figure 2a opposite it highlights the areas in darker shades where the highest numbers of children are facing income deprivation. This continues to highlight Bidston and St. James, Birkenhead and Tranmere and Rock Ferry as having the highest concentration but the map does also show other areas of need

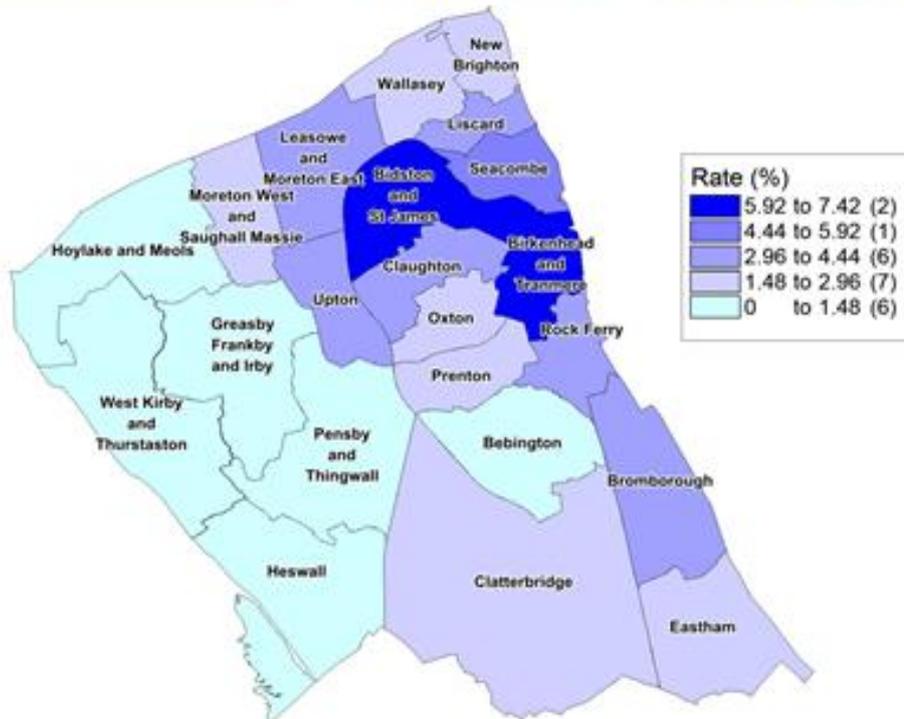
The illustrations below have been taken from the original slide presentation to the Child & Family Poverty Strategy Group in October 2015. They describe a number of aspects that combined will be affecting the levels of child and family poverty across Wirral. Home ownership (below in 2b) is compared in private and social rented sectors. We see lowest levels of home ownership in Bidston and St. James, Birkenhead and Tranmere and Rock Ferry with the highest in Greasby, Frankby Irby, Heswall and West Kirby and Thurstaston.



In 2c below we have the figures related to 16 to 19 year olds not in education, employment or training. Although generally it is thought the [NEET figures are reducing](#) they still remain higher in particular parts of Wirral and with particular cohorts. The map highlights Bidston and St. James and Birkenhead and Tranmere as having the highest levels of NEET currently.

**Best start**

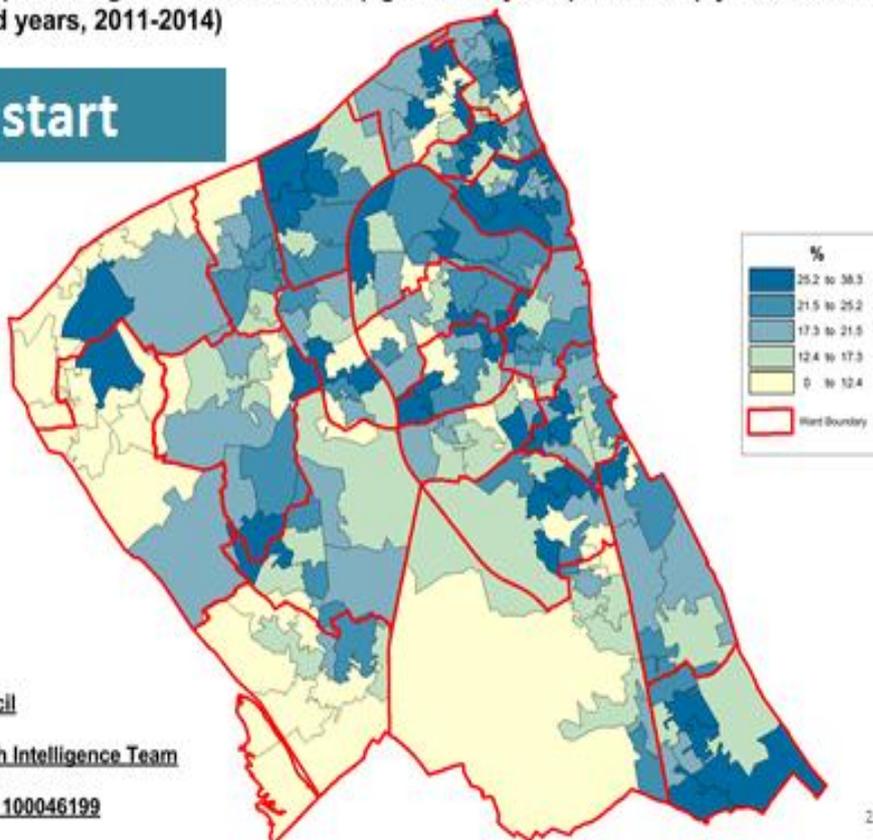
**Not in education, employment or training (NEET) at age 16-19, 2015**



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Average percentage of obese children (aged 10-11 years) in Wirral (by LSOA and ward) (3 pooled years, 2011-2014)

**Best start**



Wirral Council

Public Health Intelligence Team

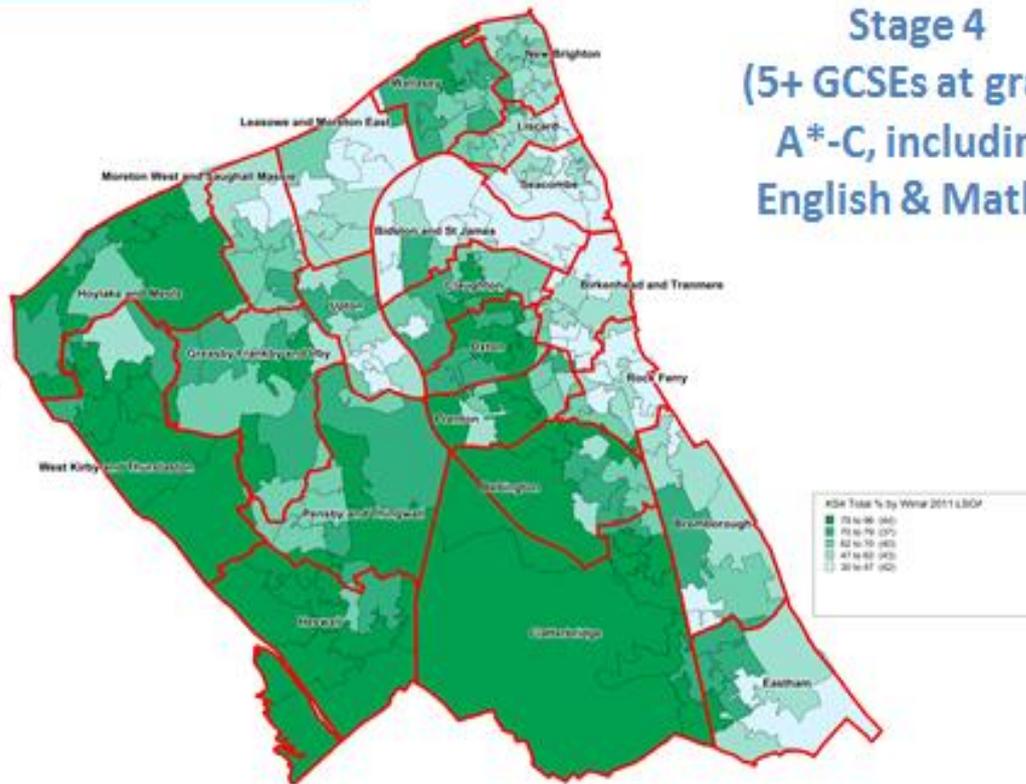
OS License: 100046199

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Childhood obesity is being recorded through the National Child Measurement Programme across England. Through the recording of height and weight the levels of underweight, overweight and obese children can be ascertained in reception and Year 6. Map 2d opposite highlights Wirral figures in year, pooled over 3 years. (2011-2014) Although there are more areas of Wirral where children are having weight issues we again see higher levels in those areas identified for other reasons on the east of the borough.

# Best start

Attainment at Key Stage 4  
(5+ GCSEs at grade A\*-C, including English & Maths)

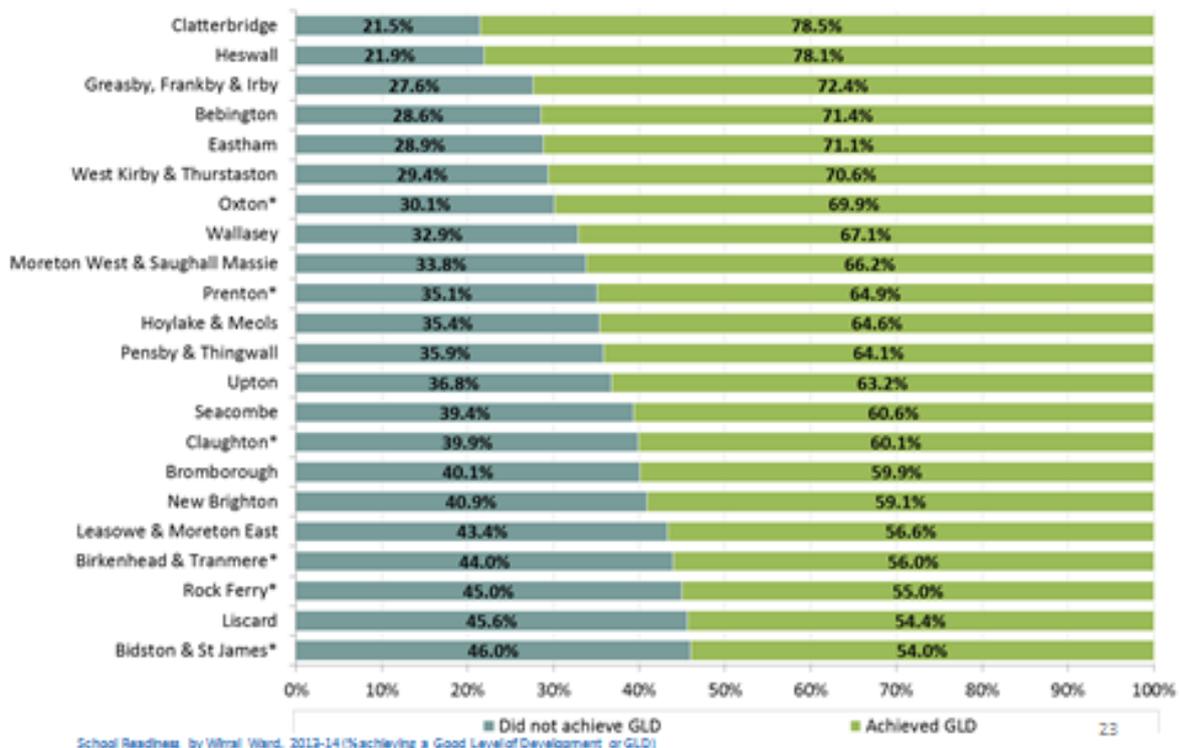


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In both Map 2e above and table 2f below we see stark differences across the borough for performance at examination and preparedness for school. In both cases Wards to the east of the borough fair less well.

# Best start

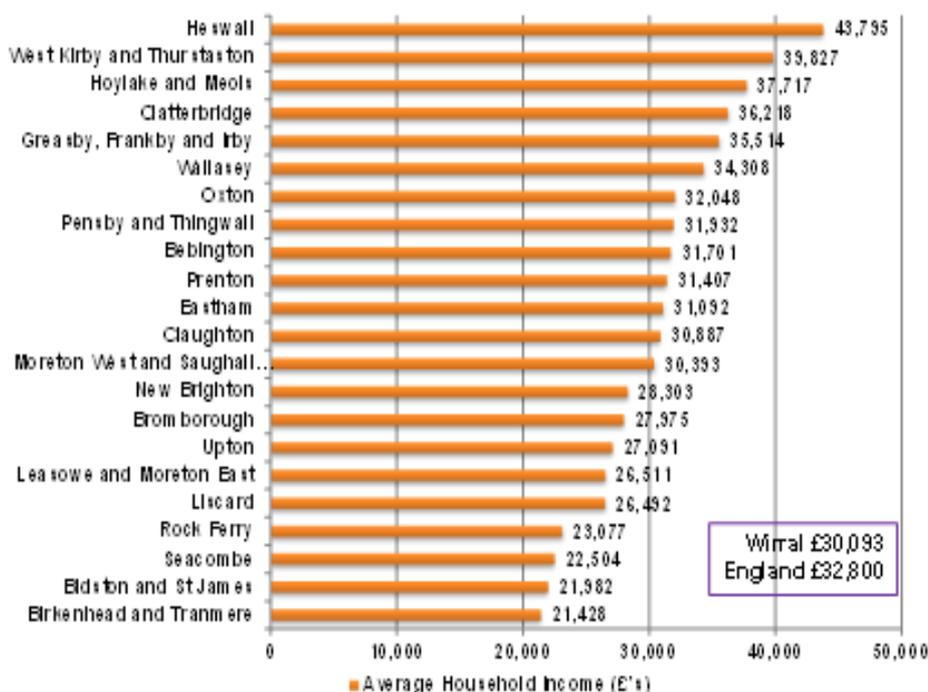
School Readiness (achieved a 'Good level of development')



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# Living

## Household Income (£s) 2014



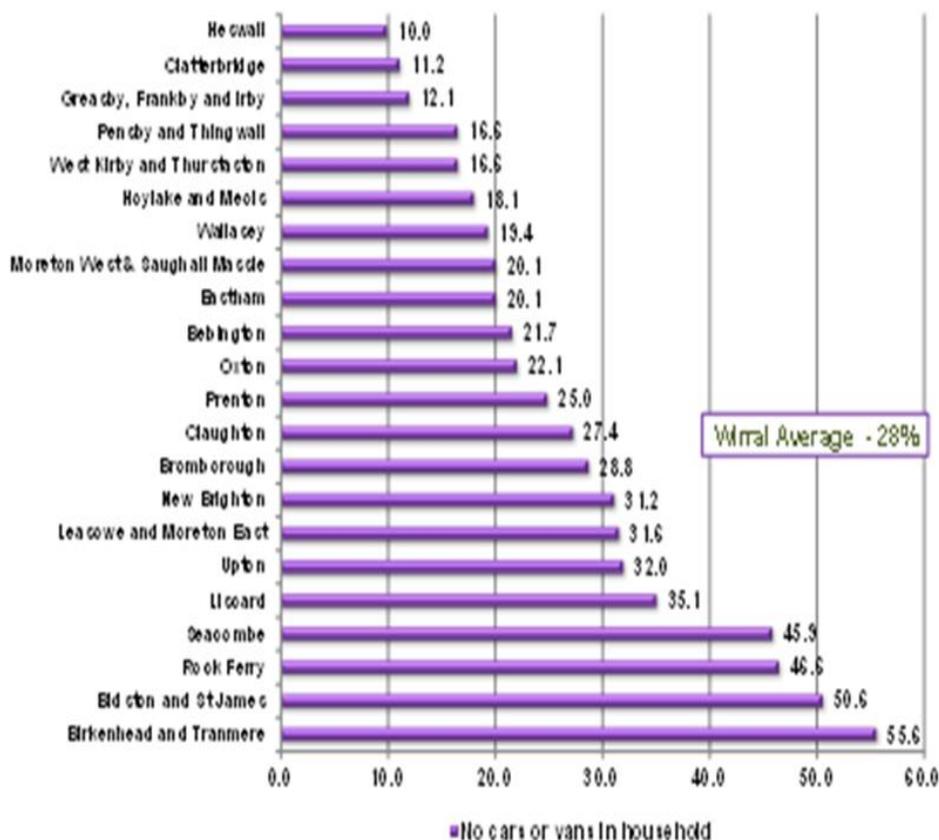
Source: Mosaic Public Sector, 2014

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Figure 2g opposite provides insight into the average household income residents receive, noted at Ward level for 2014. Here there is a large difference between Heswall as the highest average income and Birkenhead and Tranmere as the lowest by almost double the average household income. This has ramifications for adults and children in the home. Although supplemented in some cases by Universal Credit or other benefit a number of families will be experiencing 'in-work poverty'.

# Living

## No access to own transport (%)



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Access to own transport is considered a key consideration of relative poverty. Figure 2h opposite again highlights the issues facing residents in Bidston and St. James, Birkenhead and Tranmere and Rock Ferry and Seacombe wards with them having far lower rates of access to their own transport so affecting a number of aspects including employment opportunities, access to leisure facilities, healthcare and other support. Although based on 2011 Census it is not thought these figures have changed significantly

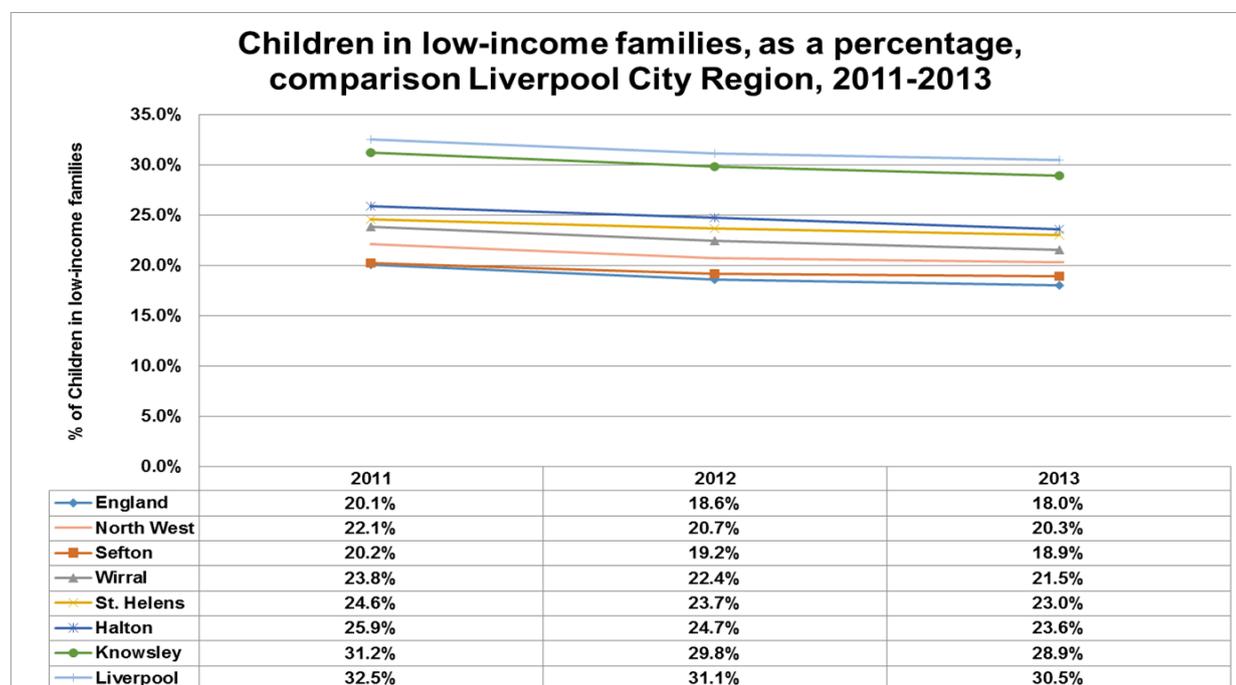
### 3. Comparison across Liverpool City Region

In Table 3a below we see that Wirral has had the largest percentage reduction in numbers of children in low income families across 2011 – 2013 in the Liverpool City Region, a 10.3% drop since 2011 or a reduction of 1,720 in numbers.

Children in low-income families, Liverpool City Region Local Authorities, 2011 - 2013					
Area	2011	2012	2013	Difference (No.) (2011 - 2013)	Difference (%) (2011 - 2013)
Wirral	16,665	15,630	14,945	1,720	-10.3%
Halton	7,570	7,190	6,895	675	-8.9%
Knowsley	11,145	10,600	10,205	940	-8.4%
Sefton	11,350	10,710	10,460	890	-7.8%
St. Helens	9,420	9,035	8,770	650	-6.9%
Liverpool	30,405	29,040	28,600	1,805	-5.9%
North West	341,855	320,870	315,205	26,650	-7.8%
England	2,319,450	2,156,285	2,097,005	222,445	-9.6%

Source: HMRC 2015 (and previous years)

In figure 3b below we see the percentage change in children in low income families across Liverpool City Region, over the last 3 years (recorded). It highlights the downward trend, though other than Sefton, all other Local Authorities have higher rates of children in low income families above both North West and England average.

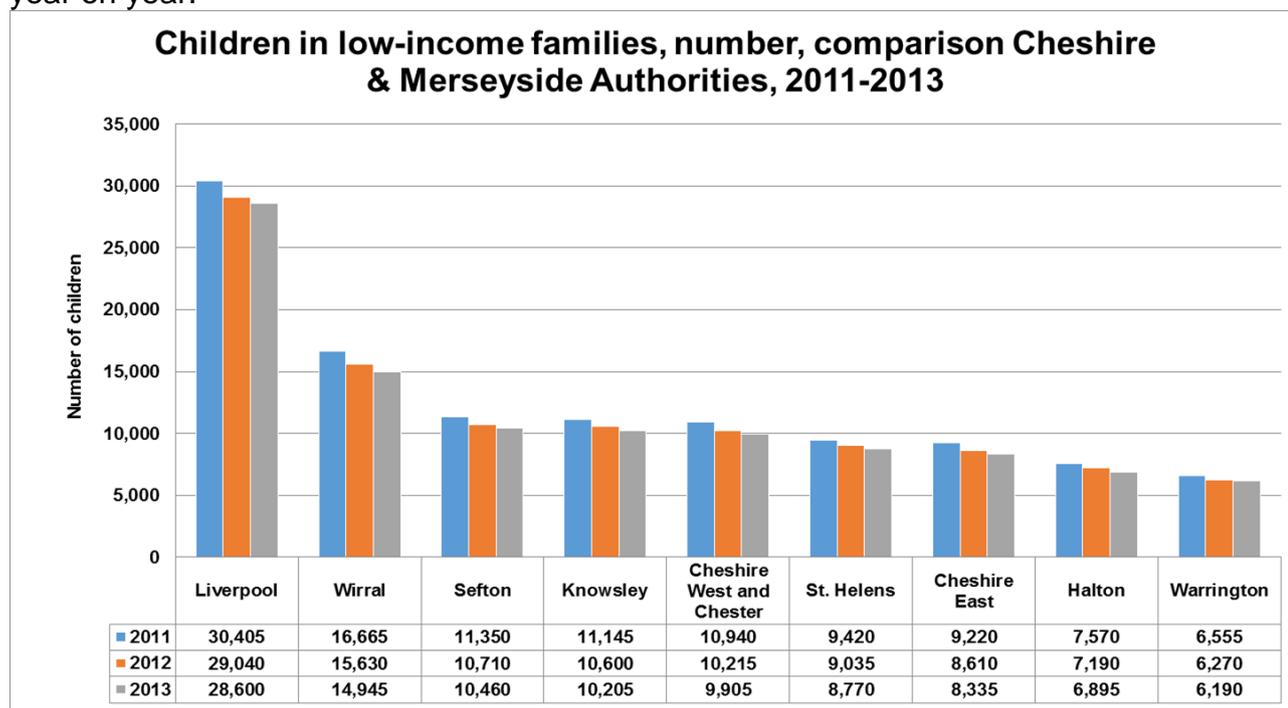


Source: HMRC 2015 (and previous years)

This ongoing reduction in terms of the overall percentage of children in low income families is a positive situation but does highlight that Wirral still has over 1 in 5 children living in poverty.

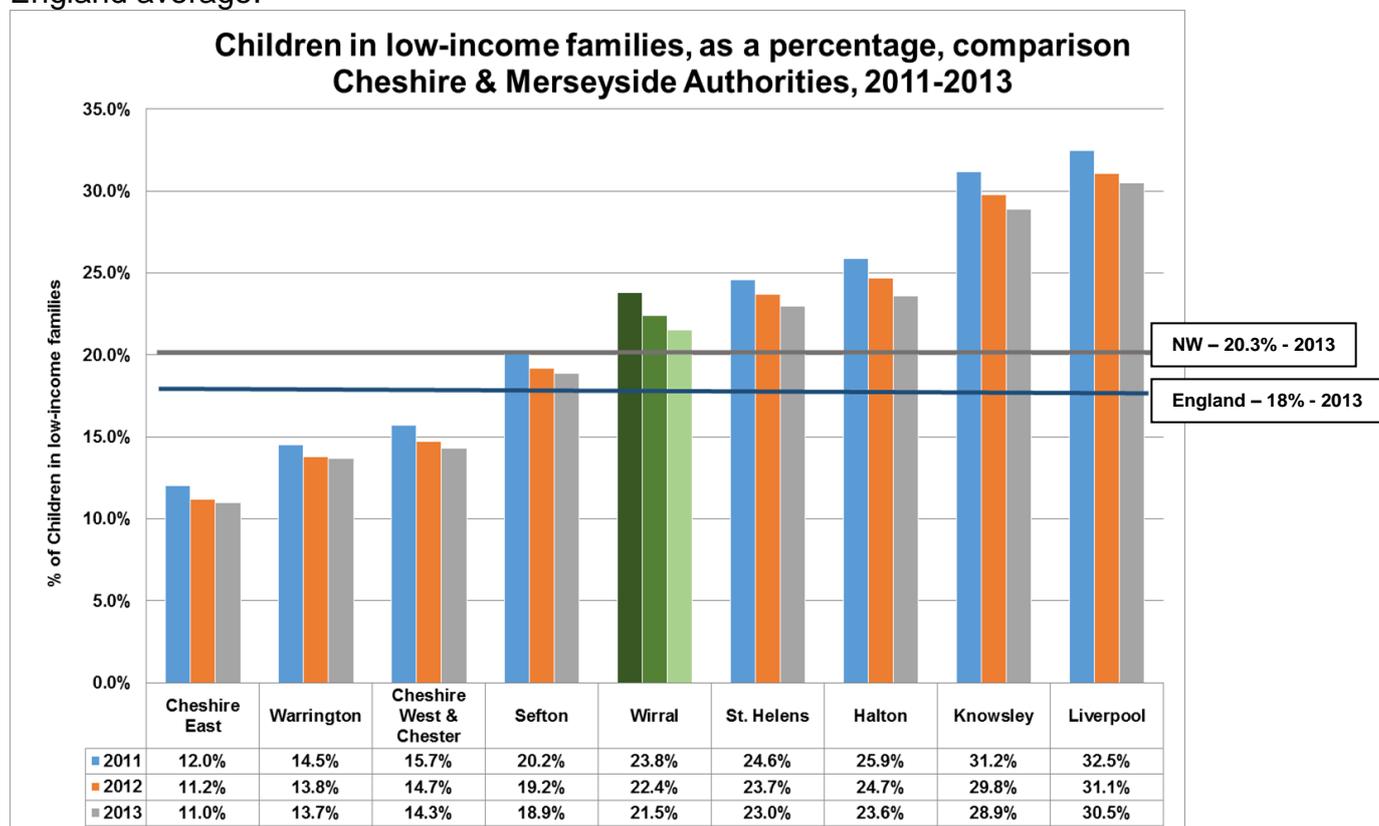
#### 4. Cheshire and Merseyside area

In figure 4a below is the overview for the Cheshire and Merseyside Local Authority areas which highlights Wirral's relative high numbers of children in low income families compared to the other areas other than Liverpool. For all areas there continues to be an overall reduction in the numbers, year on year.



Source: HMRC 2015 (and previous years)

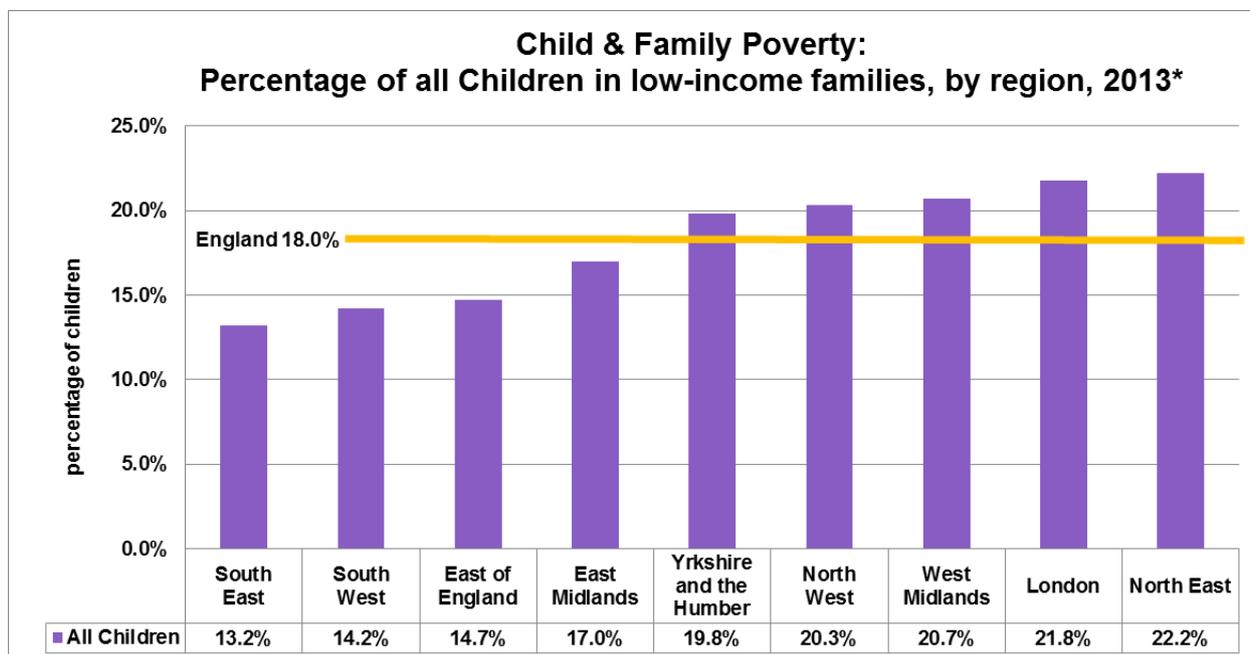
In figure 4b we see Wirral's last 3 years percentage of children in low income families compared to other Cheshire and Merseyside local authority areas and England and North West region. As already illustrated this is a positive reducing percentage but remains above North West and England average.



Source: HMRC 2015 (and previous years)

## 5. North West Region

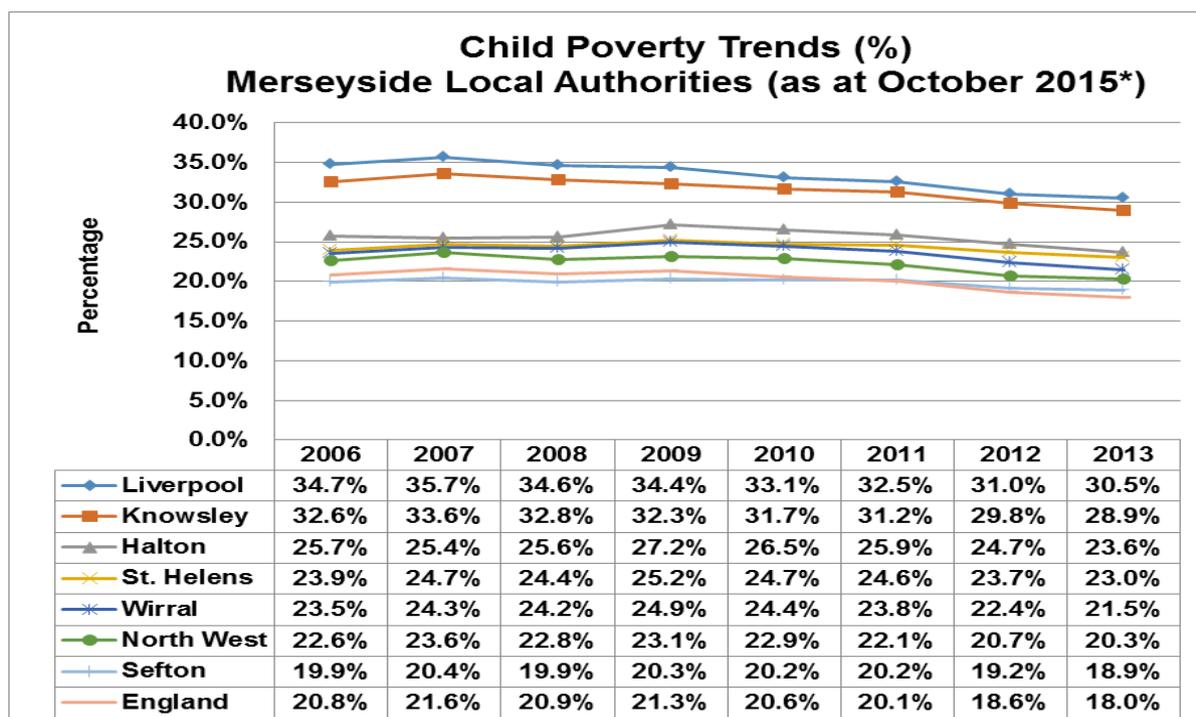
As we can see from figure 5a below, at 20.3% the North West region is already above the national average of 18.0% alongside four other regions of Yorkshire and Humber, West Midlands, London and the North East. Wirral average is still above all but London and North East in comparison. With some wards, as previously noted, being double this rate.



Source: HMRC 2015 (and previous years)

## 6. Trends

Table 6a below highlights the changing percentage of children in low income families as measured by HMRC. Over the 8 years noted there has been an overall reduction across Merseyside, and for Wirral, though Wirral still remains higher than both North West and England. Wirral continues to have more than 1 in 5 children (up to age of 20) living in poverty.



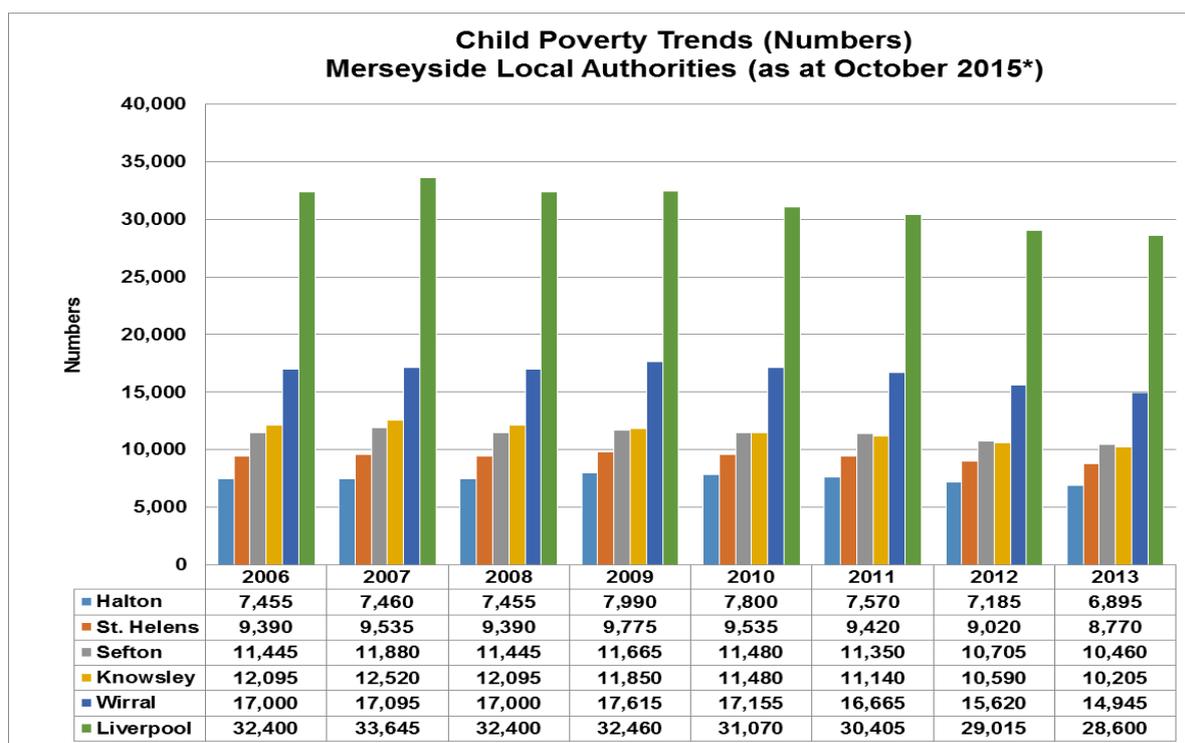
Source: HMRC 2015 (and previous years)

In table 6b below we see the eight year numbers of children living in low income families for each Liverpool City Region authority which does illustrate the continuing reduction across the area. Wirral has the second highest percentage and numeric reduction of all local authorities in that area but we remain with almost 15,000 children living in families on low income.

Year	Halton	St. Helens	Sefton	Knowsley	Wirral	Liverpool	Merseyside
2006	7,455	9,390	11,445	12,095	17,000	32,400	89,785
2007	7,460	9,535	11,880	12,520	17,095	33,645	92,135
2008	7,455	9,390	11,445	12,095	17,000	32,400	89,785
2009	7,990	9,775	11,665	11,850	17,615	32,460	91,355
2010	7,800	9,535	11,480	11,480	17,155	31,070	88,520
2011	7,570	9,420	11,350	11,140	16,665	30,405	86,550
2012	7,185	9,020	10,705	10,590	15,620	29,015	82,135
2013	6,895	8,770	10,460	10,205	14,945	28,600	79,875
% change (2006 to 2013)	-8.10%	-7.10%	-9.40%	-18.50%	-13.80%	-13.30%	-12.40%

Source: HMRC 2015

For Wirral this highlights a latest published number of children in low income families as being 14,945 which is a reduction of 675 from the previous year total of 15,590 and from a high in 2009 of 17,615. Figure 6c below reiterates content in both 6a and 6b.



Source: HMRC 2015 (and previous years)

## 7. Poverty: Key Factors

### How? Evidence

### Poverty: Key factors

Table 1: Relative influence of factors on length of child poverty spell

Factor	Certainty	Strength	Coverage
Long-term Worklessness & Low Earnings	High	High	High
Parental Qualifications	High	High	High
Family Instability	High	Medium	Medium
Family Size	High	Medium	Medium
Parental Ill Health and Disability	Medium	Medium	Medium
Drug & Alcohol Dependency	High	High	Low
Child Ill Health	Medium	Low	Low
Housing	Low	Low	Medium
Debt	Low	Low	Medium
Neighbourhood	Low	Low	Medium
Educational Attainment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Cognitive Development	N/A	N/A	N/A
Home Learning Environment	N/A	N/A	N/A

[HM Government \(2014\) An evidence review of the drivers of child poverty for families in poverty now and for poor children growing up to be poor adults. Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.](#)

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Source: see below

Notes: see below

### How? Evidence

### Poor children growing up to be poor adults

Table 2: Relative influence of factors on future poverty

Factor	Certainty	Strength	Coverage
Educational Attainment	High	High	High
Parental Qualifications	High	Medium	High
Childhood Poverty	Medium	Medium	High
Home Learning Environment	Medium	Medium	High
Non-Cognitive Development	Medium	Medium	High
Parental Ill Health and Disability	Medium	Medium	Medium
Child Ill Health	High	Medium	Low
Long-term Worklessness & Low Earnings	Medium	Low	High
Family Size	Medium	Low	Medium
Neighbourhood	Medium	Low	Medium
Family Instability	Medium	Low	Medium
Drug & Alcohol Dependency	Low	High	Low
Housing	Low	Low	Medium
Debt	Low	Low	Medium

[HM Government \(2014\) An evidence review of the drivers of child poverty for families in poverty now and for poor children growing up to be poor adults. Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.](#)

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Source: [HM Government \(2014\) An evidence review of the drivers of child poverty for families in poverty now and for poor children growing up to be poor adults. Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.](#)

Notes:

**Certainty** – DOES IT HAVE AN EFFECT? Does the analysis identify a significant relationship between the factor and the risk of staying in poverty as a child or becoming a poor adult? Is there a causal relationship and a clear consensus in the literature?

**Strength** – HOW BIG IS THE EFFECT? How strongly is the factor related to poverty and how direct is the influence?

**Coverage** – HOW MANY ARE AFFECTED? A certain and strongly influential factor may only affect a very small number of children and so not be as useful in developing our overall understanding of child poverty.