



Inquiry launch: Child Poverty and Health – the Impact of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015-2016

About the All Party Parliamentary Group on Health in All Policies

[The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Health in All Policies](#) was set up to explore consideration of the effects of all national public policy on the health of the populations of the UK – particularly on health inequalities between different population groups. It aims to provide a discussion forum for parliamentarians and to act as a source of well-evidenced and independent information on key social, health and public health issues.

Scope of the Inquiry

The impact of poverty on children's physical and mental health and wellbeing is well documented. Poverty can not only limit a child's future life chances, impacting on their educational attainment and future employment prospects, but can also reduce their healthy life expectancy.^{1,2}

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Health in all Policies is currently conducting an Inquiry into child poverty and health and wellbeing (including inequalities), focused in particular on the impact of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015-2016 [currently being debated in Parliament](#).

In addition to making provisions related to the duty of the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on progress on achieving full employment, apprenticeship targets and the Troubled Families programme, it proposes changes to reporting of child poverty and repeals almost all of the *Child Poverty Act 2010*. It makes provision for changes to welfare benefits, tax credits and social housing levels. The rationale behind these changes is to help realise the £12 billion welfare savings identified by the Government.

Steering questions:

Q: In your view, what is the relationship between child poverty and child health, including inequalities?

Q: If carried through, what will be the impact of the welfare reforms on:

- Levels of child poverty in England (and inequalities)
- Children's health and wellbeing (including mental health and wellbeing)
- The future life-chances of children

The APPG would welcome evidence submissions which consider, in particular, the following elements of the reforms including:

- **Measurement and reporting of child poverty:** the Bill will repeal most of the *Child Poverty Act 2010* and replace the existing child poverty (including income) targets with new measures. It will also repeal the Government's duty to meet the 2020/21 targets for a reduction in child poverty;
- **The benefits cap:** The cap placed on benefits is to be lowered to £23k for families in London (from £26k) and to £20k for families living outside of London. Benefits and tax credits (including child tax credits) will be held at the 2015-16 level for four years;

¹ The Marmot Review, *Strategic Review of Health inequalities in England Post 2010*, February 2010, <http://bit.ly/1hs5CeE>

² UCL Institute of Health Equity, *The Impact of the Economic Downturn and Policy Changes on Health Inequalities in London*, June 2012, <http://bit.ly/1P31bYu>

- **The child benefit cap:** For new claimants from April 2017, the amount of child tax credit families will be entitled to receive will be limited to the first two children;
- **Impact on vulnerable groups:** For example lone parents or children with disabilities;
- **Social housing.** Social housing rents are to be reduced by 1% each year to 2020.

We would also welcome views on what, if any, mitigation the introduction of the new National Living Wage will offer.

Submit written evidence to the Inquiry

The Inquiry welcomes written submissions from relevant interested individuals and organisations. If you are an individual, please provide details of your professional experience. We would also welcome details of relevant research or information from your organisation that you would be willing to share with the Inquiry.

Please provide:

Name:

Job title:

The organisation you represent (if appropriate):

Email address:

Contact telephone number:

Word length limit:

1,500

Submission to:

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Date for submissions:

Wednesday 20 January 2016

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