



**Northern Ireland
Executive**

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DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE

THE EXECUTIVE'S CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY 2011-14
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

**A REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY AS REQUIRED BY
ARTICLE 12(7) OF THE CHILD POVERTY ACT 2010**

THE EXECUTIVE'S CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY 2011-14

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

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The latest official child poverty figures for 2012-13 for the targets in the Child Poverty Act 2010 are set out in this report. [Figures presented in this Report are correct as of 25 November 2014.](#) This data is taken from the Family Resources Survey Households Below Average Income Report (HBAI).

IMPROVING CHILDREN'S LIFE CHANCES – THE THIRD YEAR

The Child Poverty Act

The Child Poverty Act 2010, enacted on 25 March 2010, required us to publish and lay before the Assembly a Child Poverty Strategy by 25 March 2011. The Executive's first child poverty strategy, [Improving Children's Life Chances](#), was published on 24th March 2011.

The Child Poverty Act 2010 also requires that we publish and lay before the Assembly an annual report on the strategy. Annual Reports have been produced in [2012](#) and [2013](#).

In accordance with the Child Poverty Act, this annual report for 2013-14 sets out:

1. the measures taken by the Northern Ireland departments in accordance with the previous strategy; and
2. the effect of those measures in contributing to meeting the UK targets in the Child Poverty Act and ensuring, as far as possible, that children in Northern Ireland do not experience socio-economic disadvantage.

The Executive's Child Poverty Strategy 2011-14

The Executive's first child poverty strategy, [*Improving Children's Life Chances*](#), was published on 24th March 2011.

This strategy set out the key areas considered crucial to address the causes and consequences of child poverty. Two key strands of work emerged relevant to the causes and the consequences of child poverty:

- Reducing poorly paid, work and unemployment amongst adults with children; and
- Improving longer term prospects through child based interventions which are designed to tackle the cyclical nature of child poverty.

Focusing on the **priority policy areas** of education, childcare, health, family support, housing, neighbourhood, financial support and parental employment and skills; the strategy identified four strategic priorities to reduce child poverty.

These **strategic priorities** are to:

- Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty and disadvantage in childhood does not translate into poorer outcomes for children as they move into adult life;
- Support more parents to access reasonably paid work;
- Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive; and
- Target financial support to be responsive to family situations.

Thirty priority action areas were set out in the Strategy under these four strategic priorities.

Annual Report on Child Poverty (1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014)

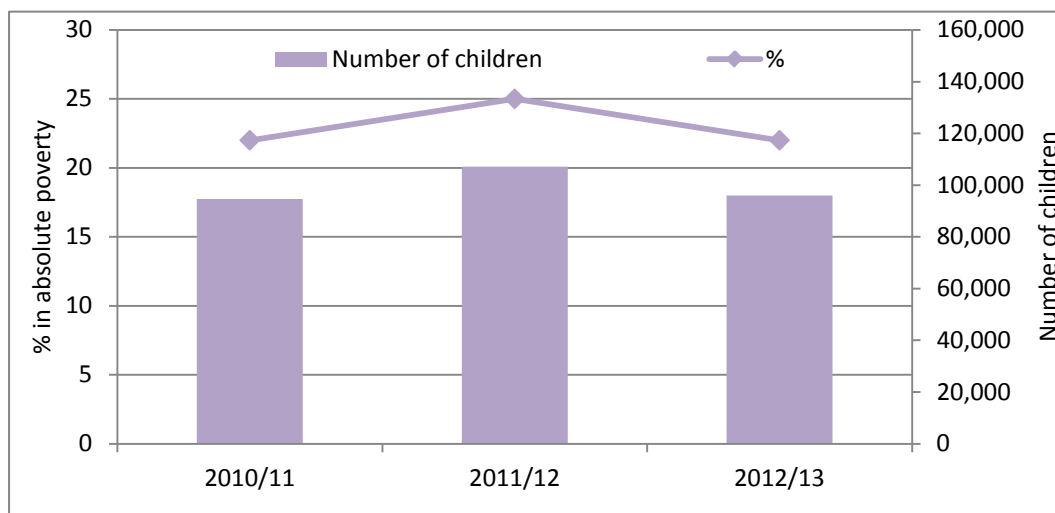
1. A full report on progress against the specific priority actions of the 2011 Child Poverty Strategy is set out in **Appendix 1**.
2. The latest official child poverty figures for 2012-13 for the targets in the Child Poverty Act 2010 are set out below. This data is taken from the Family Resources Survey Households Below Average Income Report (HBAI)¹.

Absolute Poverty - Before Housing Costs (BHC)

Children living in households with income less than 60% of the UK median for 2010-11 (adjusted year on year for inflation)

These figures have been rebased since the figures that were presented in the last annual report, which presented figures comparing to the UK median income at 1998-99. In 2012-13, there were approximately 96,000 (22%) children in absolute poverty before housing costs.

Figure 1: Percentage and number of children in absolute poverty (BHC), 2010/11 to 2012/13



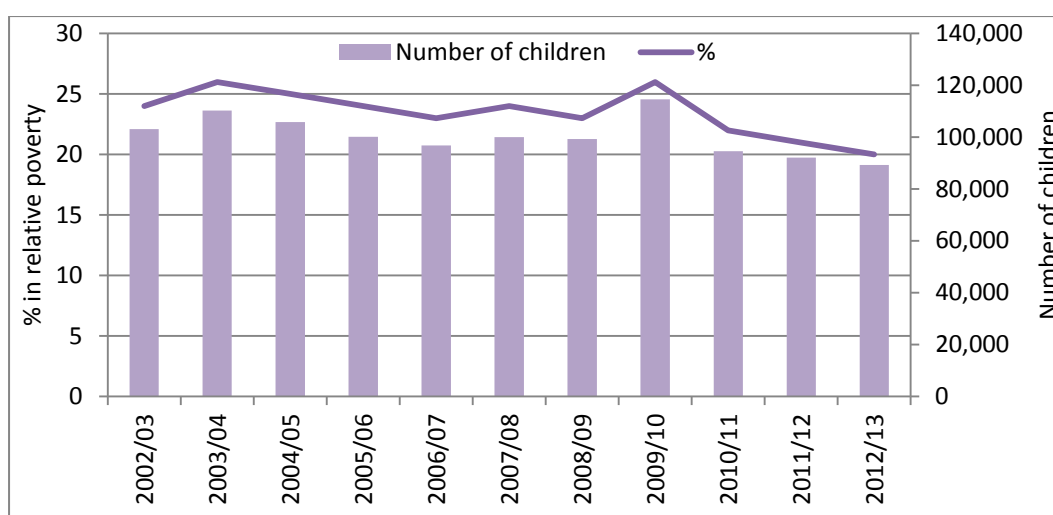
¹ In 2014 a grossing review was carried out to all HBAI and FRS datasets to incorporate the 2011 Census information that became available. As a result this has impacted the HBAI back series data and therefore some figures may not match what has been previously published

Relative Poverty - Before Housing Costs (BHC)

Children living in households with income less than 60% of the median UK income in that year

In 2012-13, in NI, 89,000 children were living in relative poverty, before housing costs (BHC) were taken into account. This equates to 20% of the child population. The graph indicates that relative child poverty rates (BHC) have been falling since 2009-10, indeed they are at the lowest point in the time series (the same is true for the after housing costs measure).

Figure 2: Percentage and number of children in relative poverty (BHC), 2002/03 to 2012/13



In 2012-13, the proportion of children living in relative poverty was lower in Northern Ireland when compared to the United Kingdom at each of the 50%, 60% and 70% thresholds of United Kingdom median income (after housing costs).

Combined Low Income and Material Deprivation

This measurement is used to combine the measurement of low income along with material deprivation in families. It measures income poverty and also asks if a range of indicators apply. For example, some of the indicators under this measure include the ability of a family to replace broken electrical goods if something breaks down unexpectedly, or the ability to make choices such as going on holiday away from home one week a year (not with relatives). If a family has a household income below 70% of the median income and a certain number of these indicators are met, then

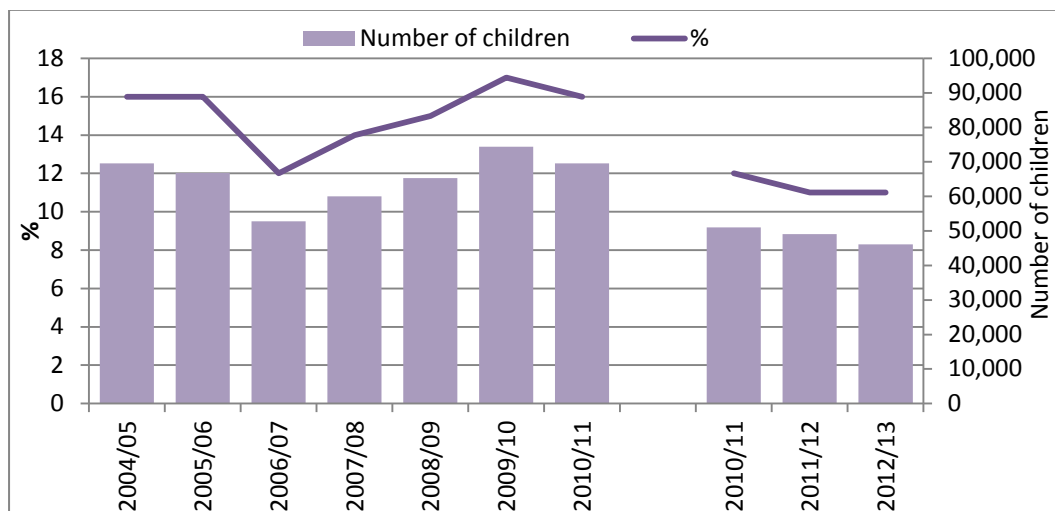
that family is considered in combined low income and material deprivation. This measure attempts to demonstrate the everyday impact of low income on families and is an indication of wider living standards.

Table 1: Percentage and number of children falling below thresholds of low income and material deprivation, 2004/05 to 2012/13

The Number of Children Falling Below Thresholds of Low Income and Material Deprivation		
Year	Number	Percentage
2004-05	69,600	16
2005-06	66,800	16
2006-07	52,800	12
2007-08	60,000	14
2008-09	65,300	15
2009-10	74,400	17
2010-11	69,600	16
<i>New suite of questions¹</i>		
2010-11	51,000	12
2011-12	49,100	11
2012-13	46,100	11

¹ New questions about four additional material deprivation items for children were introduced into the 2010-11 Family Resources Survey and from 2011-12 four questions from the original suite were removed. Old and new figures are not comparable.

Figure 3: Percentage and number of children falling below thresholds of low income and material deprivation, 2004/05 to 2012/13



Income Level in Northern Ireland

Child poverty targets are based on those households earning 60% of the UK median income – in 2012-13 this was a figure of £264 per week before housing costs and £224 per week after housing costs. In annual terms this would be households earning £13,766 per year before housing costs and £11,680 per year after housing costs².

Average (median) income in Northern Ireland in 2012-13 has increased in real terms from the previous year, which is the first time median income in Northern Ireland has grown since 2008-09. However, median income still remains comparatively low, with 2011-12 being the only year that recorded lower levels of income.

Earned income was the main source of household income across the income distribution except the bottom 20% of the income distribution, where State Support accounted for the largest proportion of gross income.

Figures 4 and 5 below show the income distribution in Northern Ireland before and after housing costs. It shows the number of individuals within each band of weekly household income. The bands of income are separated into tenths.

Example: For a couple with no children (equivalence scale reference point), an equivalised household income of £700 per week after housing costs would place them in the top 10% of the income distribution in Northern Ireland in 2012-13.

The income distribution for 2012-13 in Northern Ireland is not symmetrical, having a long tail at the upper end, with nearly three-quarters of individuals having an equivalised household income (see footnote) below the UK mean (£535pw BHC, £462pw AHC). There was a large concentration of individuals around the low income threshold (both BHC and AHC). These individuals are vulnerable to falling into poverty if there are even small changes to their income.

² Based on equivalised income - Equivalence scales conventionally take an adult couple without children as the reference point, with an equivalence value of one. The process then increases relatively the income of single person households (since their incomes are divided by a value of less than one) and reduces relatively the incomes of households with three or more persons, which have an equivalence value of greater than one. – source HBAI - http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/stats-publications/stats-family-resource/hbai-2011-12.htm. More information is set out in Appendix 2.

Figure 4: THE NI INCOME DISTRIBUTION 2012-13 - BEFORE HOUSING COSTS

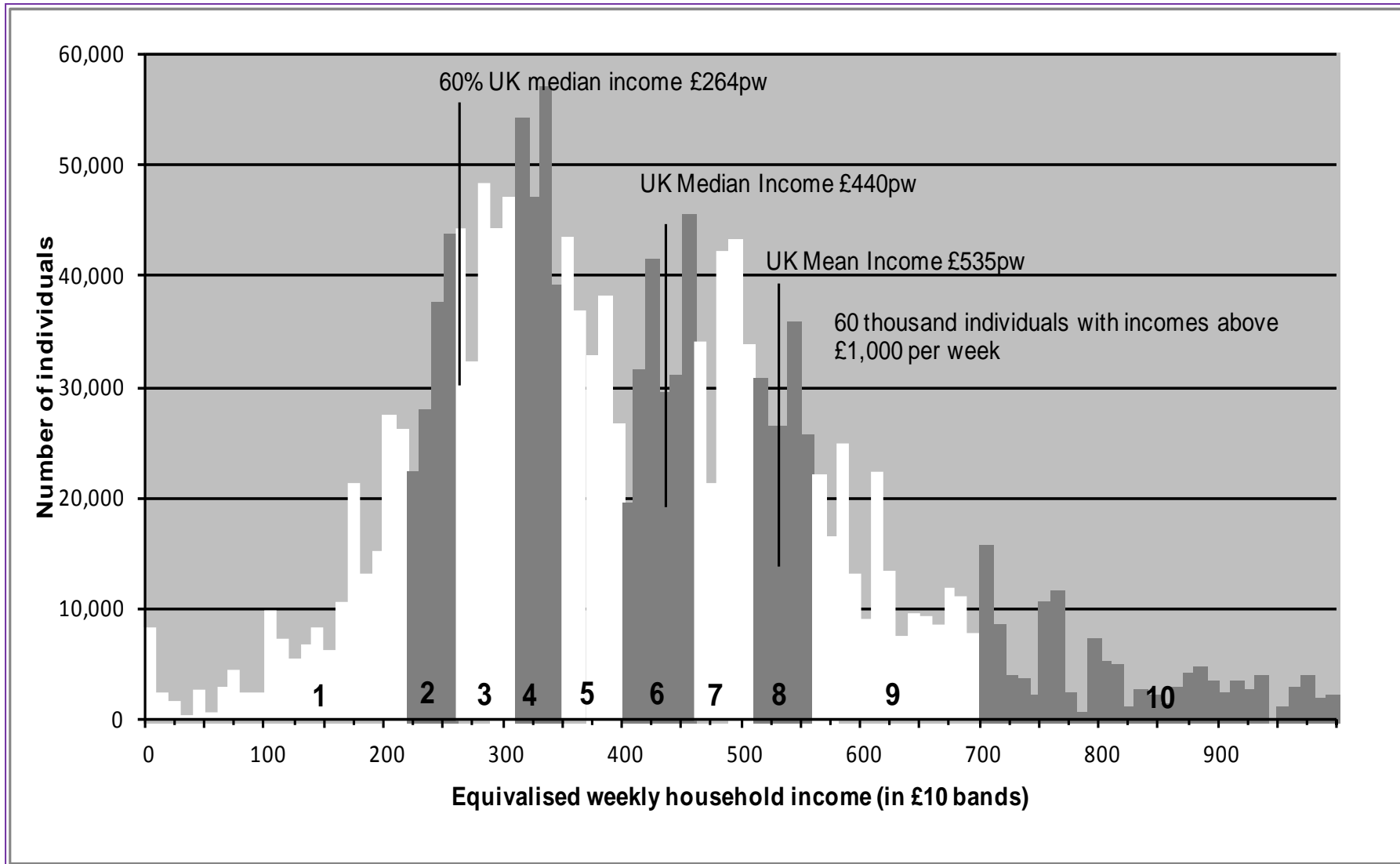
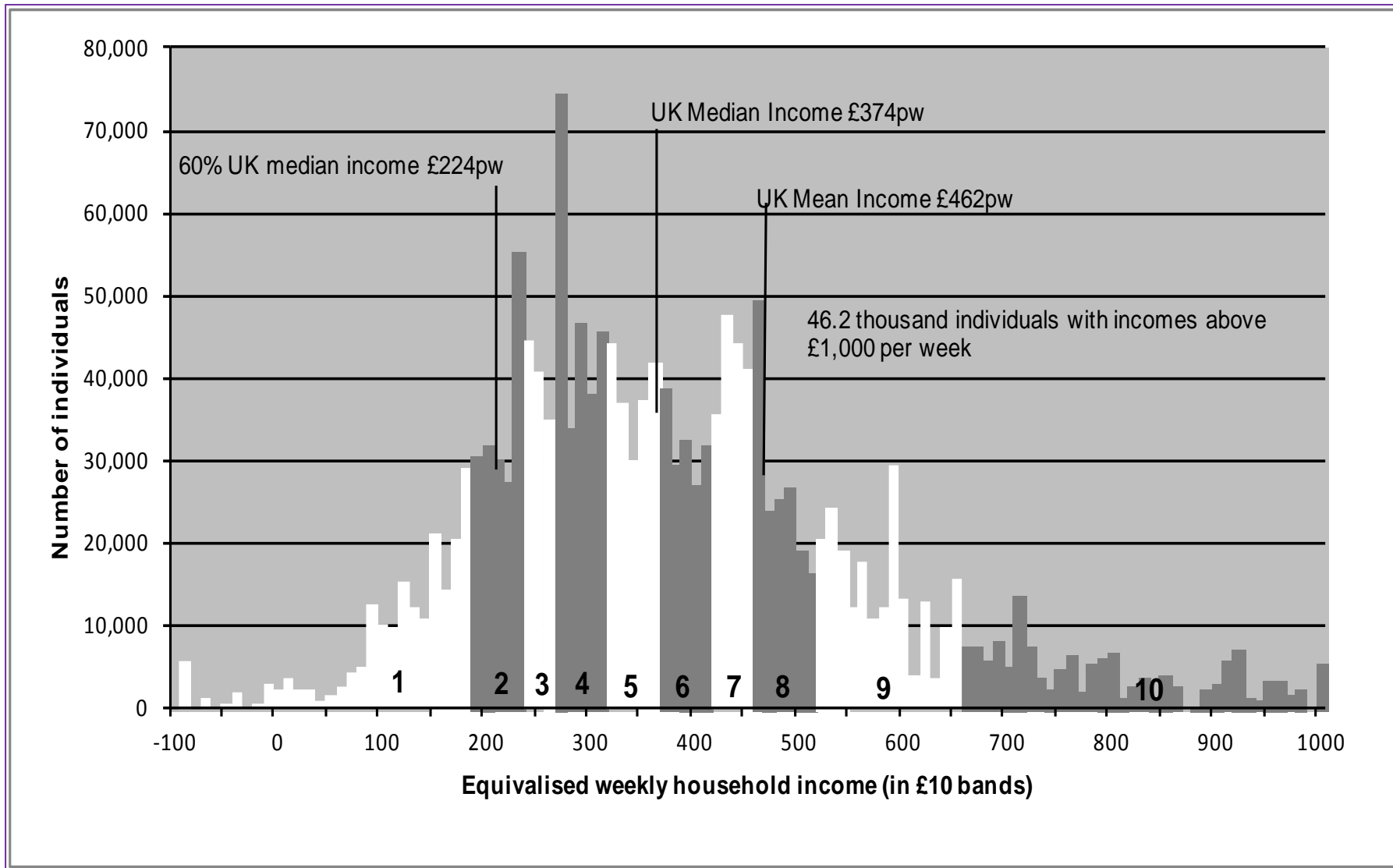


Figure 5: THE NI INCOME DISTRIBUTION 2012-13 – AFTER HOUSING COSTS



Characteristics of Child Poverty, 2012-13

BHC = Before Housing Costs

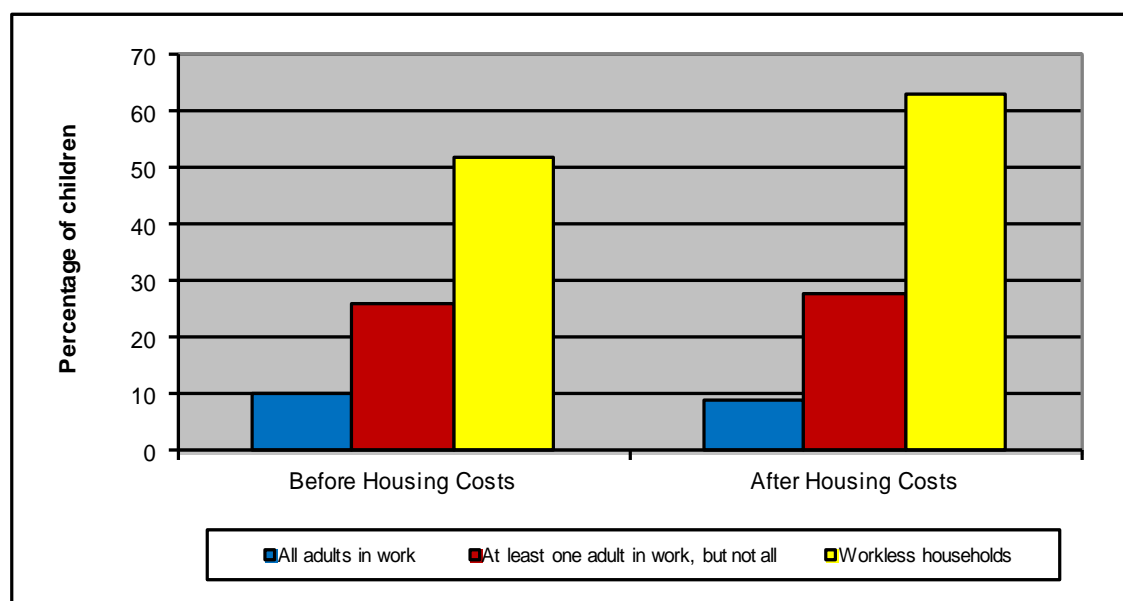
AHC = After Housing Costs

See Appendix 2 for more information on how low income is measured

In 2012-13, children living in lone-parent families were more likely to be in relative poverty when compared with children living in families with two adults, both BHC and AHC. Thirty-two per cent of children in lone parent families were in relative poverty (BHC), while the percentage of children in low income households for couples with children was 17% (BHC). Forty-four per cent of children in low income households for lone parent families were in relative poverty (AHC), while 16% (AHC) of children living in a family with two adults were in relative poverty.

Children living in families where the parent(s) were unemployed were much more likely to be in low income compared to families with at least one adult in work in 2012-13, both BHC and AHC. Those living in out of work households were twice as likely to be in low income as those children living in households where at least one adult was in work, and more than five times as likely to be in low income as those children living in households where all adults were in work (BHC). Similar patterns were evident AHC. This demonstrates how critical employment is to a household and its income levels.

Figure 6: Percentage of children in low income groups by economic status of the household, 2012-13



In 2012-13, approximately 121,000 children in Northern Ireland lived in families where someone was disabled (either an adult or child). A considerably higher proportion of children living in such families were in relative low income (27%) compared with children living in families where no-one was disabled (18%), (both BHC). On the AHC measure a similar pattern can be observed.

Higher proportions of children in households where the head of the household was Catholic were in low income, both BHC and AHC, than those households headed by a Protestant. In 2012-13, 25% BHC and 28% AHC of children in Catholic headed households were in low income. For Protestant headed households the proportion in low income was 17% (both BHC and AHC).

In 2012-13, BHC, 22% of children living in families where the mother was aged under 30 lived in low income, compared to 23% for mothers aged 30 to 39 and 17% for mothers aged 40 to 49. Greater differences were evident AHC; almost one third of children living in families where the age of the mother was under 30 were living in relative poverty, compared to 17% where the age of the mother was 40-49.

In total, 42% of children, which equates to 185,000 children, lived in a family which had a youngest child under the age of 5 in 2012-13. Approximately one fifth of these children were considered to be in relative poverty (19% BHC and 21% AHC). Children living in families where the youngest child was 5 or older were more likely to be in relative poverty, with the most at risk being families with a child between 5 and 10 on the AHC measure, at 27%.

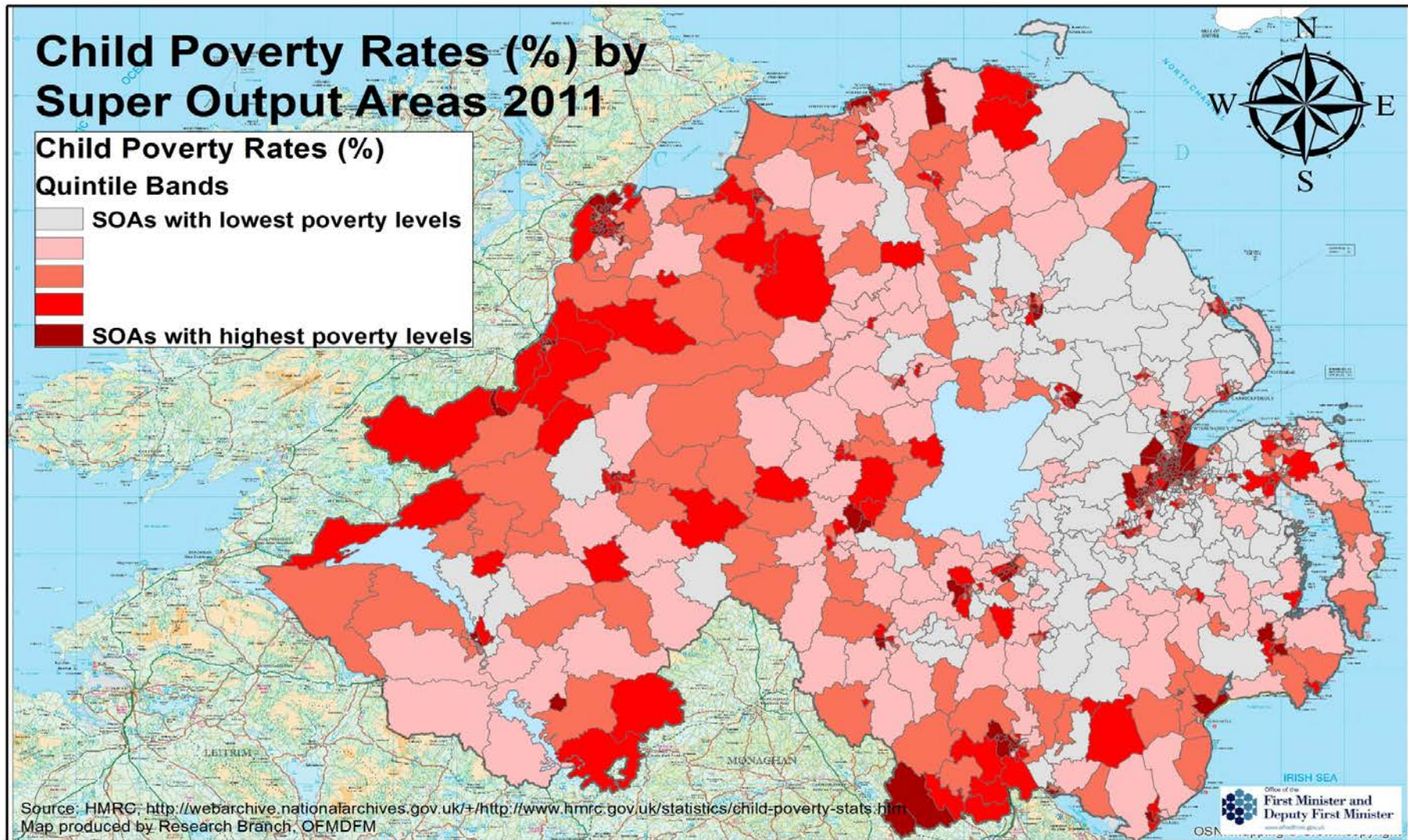
BHC the tenure type with the highest proportion of children living in low income households in 2012-13 was NIHE-Housing Association (31%). However, AHC the tenure type with the highest proportion of children in low income households were those that were privately rented (42%).

Poverty by Area

For the three year period 2010-11 to 2012-13, the Local Government District (LGD) with the highest proportion of children in relative low income households, both BHC and AHC, was Fermanagh (30% and 36%, respectively). Thirteen of Northern Ireland's LGDs had lower proportions of children in relative low income households than the UK average (AHC) over the combined three year period.

Table 2: Percentage of children living in low income households by LGD, three year average (2010-11 to 2012-2013)

Local Government District	Percentage of children living in low income households – Three year average (2010-11 to 2012-13)	
	Before Housing Costs (%)	After Housing Costs (%)
NI	21	24
UK	18	28
Fermanagh	30	36
Omagh & Strabane	29	29
Coleraine	27	33
Newry & Mourne	27	30
Down	26	30
Ards	25	25
Armagh	25	28
Ballymoney	25	30
North Down	24	26
Cookstown & Magherafelt	24	24
Derry	23	29
Lisburn	22	24
Craigavon	21	29
Ballymena	19	20
Belfast	19	22
Limavady	19	24
Carrickfergus	17	28
Dungannon	17	17
Newtownabbey	15	19
Larne & Moyle	14	16
Banbridge	12	16
Antrim	10	16
Castlereagh	6	9



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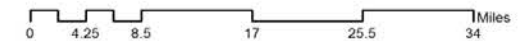


Figure 7: Child Poverty Rates (%) by Super Output Areas (SOAs) 2011

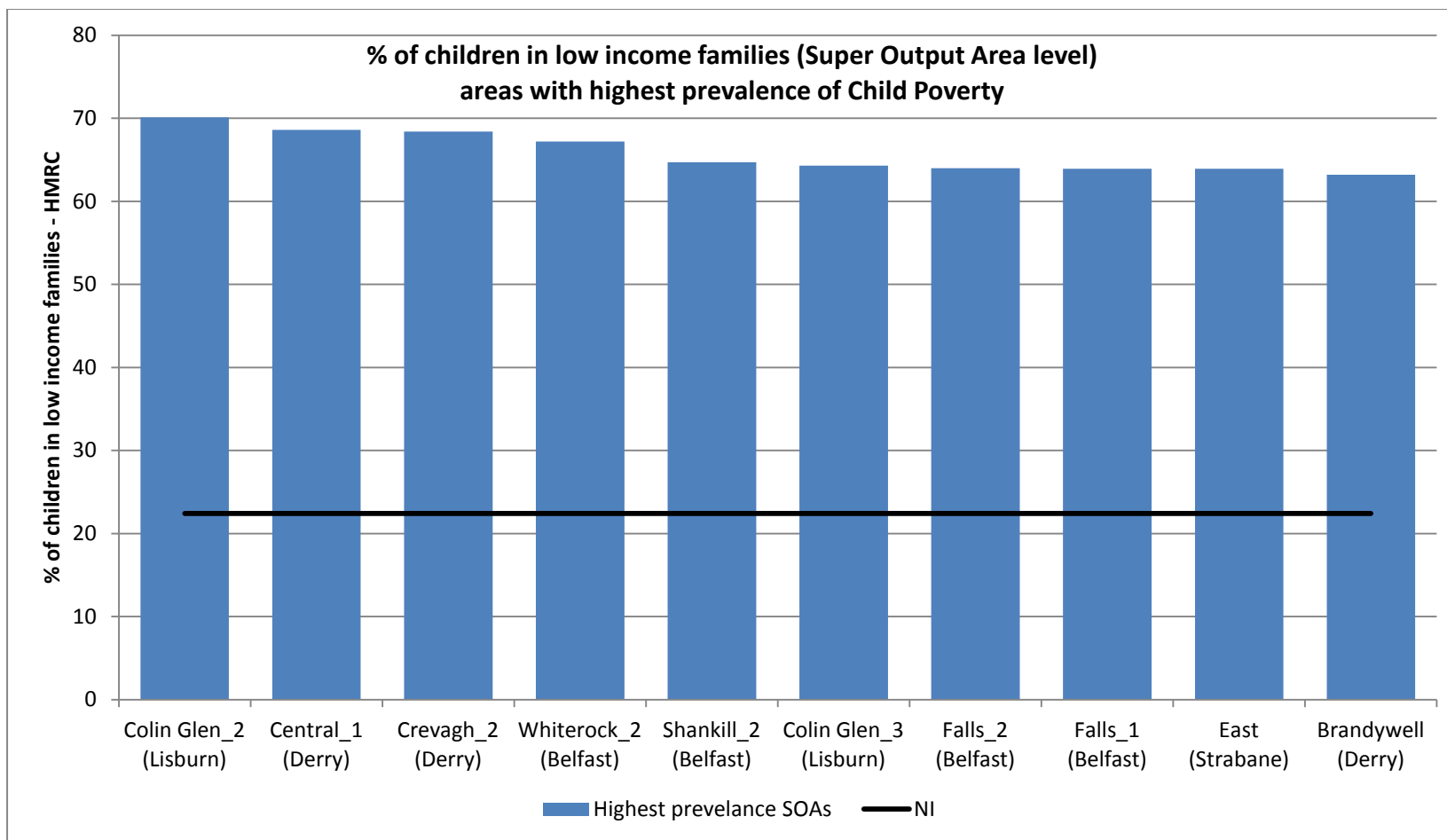


Figure 8: Highlights Super Output Areas (SOAs) with Highest Prevalence of Child Poverty

³Data relate to 2011 and the associated Local Government District (LGD) boundaries. These LGD boundaries are due to change on 1st April 2015 and as a result of this change the Colin Glen electoral ward will move out of Lisburn LGD into Belfast LGD. Those electoral wards in Derry and Strabane will become part of the new combined Derry & Strabane LGD.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>DE worked closely with the Education and Library Boards and provided additional resources to help ‘ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available for every family that wants it’ (PfG Commitment 43) for the 2012-13 applications process. Pre-school providers are required by law to prioritise the admission of children from socially disadvantaged circumstances.</p>	<p>At the conclusion of the 2012-13 admissions process, over 23,000 (99.8%) of children obtained a funded pre-school place in 2013-14 (whose parents engaged with the process to the end). Early years provision in the forms of Sure Start and the Pre-school Education Programme support personal, social and emotional development, promote positive learning dispositions and enhance language, cognitive and physical development in young children.</p>
<p>DE invests in the Sure Start Programme, enabling support to over 43,000 children under 4 and their families within at least the top 20% most disadvantaged areas. Expansion of the Sure Start programme to the top 25% most disadvantaged wards is underway. DE has made provision for a Sure Start Developmental Programme for 2-3 year olds in all Sure Start projects to enhance social and emotional development, build on</p>	<p>Sure Start supports children and parents from the most disadvantaged areas to ensure children can flourish at home and when they get to school. 4 additional Sure Start projects operating or in progress for operation within the current budget period (total of 39 Sure Start projects). In addition 12 existing projects have expanded their boundaries to incorporate additional wards.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>communication and language skills and encourage imagination through play.</p>	
<p>In October 2013, the Minister for Education published the Priorities for Youth Policy (PfY). PfY ensures that non-formal education plays an important part in helping all young people to achieve their full potential. Implementation of Priorities for Youth began in January 2014 with full implementation planned for 2016. This will involve collaboration with statutory and voluntary youth sector providers. In 2013-14 DE Provided £33 million resource and £6.4 million capital to support youth work. Funding provided non-formal learning opportunities that promoted personal and social development and helped young people overcome barriers to learning.</p>	<p>The most recent figures estimate that over 182,000 young people participate in registered youth provision, undertaking a variety of personal and social development activities. There are 108 statutory youth facilities and 11 outdoor education centres managed and controlled by ELBs with over 1,700 voluntary groups supported by the Education and Library Boards or the Youth Council for NI.</p>
<p>£12m additional funding made available via the Extended Schools (ES) programme to support schools serving areas of greatest social disadvantage.</p>	<p>Extended Schools resources allocated in 2013-14 have enabled over 470 eligible schools to provide for additional learning opportunities and a wide range of interventions and support activities-services outside of the normal school day which focus on improved educational outcomes.</p>
<p>Free School Meals-Uniform Grants: Funding of £38.4m to provide free school meals and £4.2m for school uniform grants provided to reduce financial barriers facing children from low income families to participate and remain in education and obtain formal qualifications. In September 2013 the Education</p>	<p>Approximately 82,000 children-young people are entitled to free school meals with slightly lower numbers in receipt of the school uniform grant.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>Minister also extended the provision of free school meals to eligible pupils attending independent schools from the 2013-14 school year.</p>	
<p>DE has been working with DSD to develop and implement 20 new Nurture Units under the Delivering Social Change (DSC) Signature Project, with further funding provided to 10 schools with established Nurture Units, to sustain provision to June 2015, at which point the Project is due to end. Research and evaluation of nurture will be undertaken to help establish a policy position by this time.</p>	<p>The 20 Signature project schools and 10 established units operated throughout the 2013-14 academic year. In this time the Signature Project Units have supported 135 children with 11 of the children already successfully reintegrated into their mainstream class. The remaining children will re-integrate before Christmas 2014 and each school is currently selecting its next intake of children. The schools and ELBs have advised that most of the children have shown positive improvements in their social, emotional and behavioural development. The Education and Training Inspectorate have also visited many of the Units and reported that they are operating effectively, with high levels of staff and senior management commitment to their success.</p>
<p>DE works closely with DSD in relation to educational interventions under the Neighbourhood Renewal programme. The aim is to address educational underachievement in the most deprived neighbourhoods. (It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will cease from April 2016, when budgets and powers will be extended to the new Councils under the Reform of Local Government.) DSD's role will</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Renewal: Co-ordination of the assessment of applications completed. (It should be noted, however, that it is currently planned that budgets and powers for regeneration and community development will transfer to the 11 new Councils from April 2016 under Local Government Reform.)</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
primarily focus on supporting urban regeneration and community development as Councils will be responsible for much of the delivery.	
Continued implementation of DE's school improvement policy, which includes a particular focus on tackling the barriers to learning that many young people face. PfG (2011-2015) commitments 21 and 42 set challenging targets to increase the proportion of young people achieving at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C or equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths by the time they leave school. DE continued to fund a number of specific projects aimed at improving educational achievement.	<p>The proportion of school leavers achieving 5+ GCSEs (including equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics continues to increase and is now 62.2% (2012-13).</p> <p>In 2013-14, funding of £360k has been allocated to both the BELB and WELB to support the Achieving Belfast and Achieving Derry-Bright Futures programmes respectively; funding of £20k has been provided to support Maths Week; funding of £2million has been provided for a new community education initiatives programme; £1million to provide professional development for teachers of English and Mathematics across Key Stages 2 and 3 and; £750k to deliver projects in the Greater West Belfast area to address educational underachievement.</p>
OFMDFM has made funding of £13.56m available over three financial years 2013-14 to 2015-16 to employ an additional 150 recently graduated teachers in post-primary schools and 80 recently graduated teachers in primary schools . DE is providing an additional £2.03m to expand the programme and provide funding for an additional 36 teaching posts . The aim of the	125 Primary Schools and 142 Post Primary schools are benefiting from this programme. Schools are already beginning to see a positive impact from this initiative including: increased pupil confidence, progress-improvement already evident within the target group, an increase in scores of sample questions and attainment of grade C in Maths in January 2014 examination.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
programme is to improve outcomes in literacy and numeracy provide additional teaching support in schools targeting those pupils at risk of underachieving at Key Stage 2 and GCSE in both English and mathematics	
Capital investment programme is ongoing and results, in terms of enhanced learning facilities, will be realised over this and future years. Work is ongoing to progress 40 new school building projects announced in 2012-13, representing a potential investment of £353m in the schools' estate.	There are 4 work projects where construction work is currently progressing on site, requiring £7m of capital funding in the current financial year. Also, £77m has been committed to date to address Minor Works in-year.
DEL Delivered the Training for Success programme (including Programme-Led Apprenticeships) which provided a guaranteed training place for all unemployed 16-17 year old school leavers (with extended eligibility for those with a disability or an in-care background).	Circa 7000 young people were participating on the programme at 31 st January 2014
DE and DEL jointly changed the means tested Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 16-19 year olds in full time education at school or FE College from the start of academic year 2013-14.	Better targeted Education Maintenance Allowance support at low income households to encourage these students to stay on in post compulsory education. Around 22,000 students (provisional figure) received an EMA in the 2013-14 academic year.
DEL's Further Education (FE) policy has continued to be developed to ensure that, through the curriculum offer, FE colleges achieve an appropriate balance between provision that strengthens economic and workforce development, enhances	The College Development Planning process has been carried out in April 2013. DEL sets the Colleges high level targets and monitors performance and achievement rates to ensure quality delivery.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
social cohesion and advances the individual's skills and learning.	
Essential Skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT are delivered free to all learners and 39% of enrolments come from the most deprived wards in NI	Enrolments for Essential Skills classes are available for the academic year 1 st August 2013 - 31 st July 2014. There were 43,786 enrolments in Essential Skills of which 34,410 (79%) were aged 16-25.
DEL increased the Additional Support Fund (ASF) by £500k in 2013-14 and an additional £500k in 2014-15. This increased the fund to £4.5m. The fund enables colleges to provide additional technical and personal support to students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (SLDD). The fund also helps meet the cost of providing tailored discrete programmes for SLDD for whom mainstream FE provision is not appropriate due to the nature-degree of their learning difficulty-disability.	3461 students were supported through the Additional Support Fund in 2012-13 academic year (latest data available). The impact of the increase in funding is being monitored through the number of students supported and the level of support provided under ASF in the 2013-14 academic year. ASF funding will increase to £4.5 million in the 2014-15 academic year.
Supported the Care to Learn (NI) scheme which provides financial support towards registered childcare provision for FE students who are parents and aged 16 -19. Scheme is open to full and part-time FE & HE students enrolled in FE provision.	84 students were supported through the Care to Learn scheme in 2012-13 at a cost of £409k (most current data).
The tender process for The Learner Access and Engagement NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Pilot programme was completed. This provides opportunities for non-statutory organisations to provide learner support, to those aged 16–18 years, through a contractual arrangement with a	Overall target of 450 completers per annum, a maximum total NEETs funding of £153k per year will be made available to support the programme.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
Further Education (FE) College. Successful tenders were awarded in May 2013, with enrolments commencing in September 2013 with a target of 250 enrolments for the period up until the end of March 2014.	
<p>Progressed the delivery of the key actions in <i>Access to Success</i> - the regional strategy for widening participation in higher education to help people from disadvantaged backgrounds who are most able but least likely to participate, to apply to and benefit from higher education. The main areas of progress were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch in March 2014 of Reach Higher, a regional campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of Higher Education among disadvantaged groups. • Work on the introduction of the REACH programme. Under this programme DEL will make funding available on a competitive basis to support HE providers to develop new and innovative attainment raising initiatives in schools, colleges and communities. • The introduction of a new Widening Access & Participation Plan (WAPP) reporting process. 	<p>Media - marketing activities have so far included TV and radio advertising as well as outdoor and on-line advertising. A media plan is currently being developed for the 2014-15 year.</p> <p>Both Queen's University and the University of Ulster have submitted proposals - funding bids for projects aimed at raising aspiration and attainment. At the same time the Department secured agreement from QUB and UU to continue their respective existing outreach programmes, Discovering Queen's and Step-Up, and fund them in-house from their additional student fee income. In this first year of the process institutions demonstrated their clear commitment to supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds into and through HE, reported on their performance in widening participation overall and specifically the achievement of targets in academic year 2012-13, and detailed their plans for WP activities and expenditure in the academic year 2015-16. DEL has now given formal approval for almost all of the institutional WAPPs.</p>
DEL's Careers Service provided an all-age impartial careers information, advice and guidance service to clients throughout	During the period 1 Sept 13 - 11 July 14 22,125, (93%) of year 12 pupils, received a careers guidance interview. During the

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
NI. Target: to provide at least 85% of year 12 pupils with a tailored careers service on a one to one basis before they decide on their career pathway.	academic year September 2012 - August 2013, the Careers Service attended 1055 transition plan meetings.
DEL's Careers Service was actively involved in the transition planning process of young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need. Careers advisers contributed to the young person's transition plan by providing impartial Careers Information Advice and Guidance on the range of educational, training and employment opportunities available.	During the period 1 Sept 2013 – 31 July 2014, the Careers Service attended 1039 transition plan meetings.
In 2013/14 DCAL funded the National Deaf Children's Society Family Sign Language Course (FSL) project which provided an early intervention course to families of deaf children to help develop communication skills and improve vocabulary of deaf children by teaching young deaf children the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, playing make-believe games as well as the tools for practical communication about food, sleeping and nappy changing. Two FSL training days were provided to professionals working with deaf children from different backgrounds in different Board and Trust areas. The training was promoted to teachers of the deaf, speech and language teachers, audiologists and early years professionals working in nurseries or playgroups. The training was designed to be delivered to participants with varying levels of experience	<p>Participating families reported increased confidence in communicating with their Deaf child/children through using signs that are relevant to the everyday interactions and tackling the social exclusion that can be experienced by both the deaf child and their parents and siblings within the family unit.</p> <p>The participating professionals from health, education and early years reported being prepared and confident to communicate in the preferred communication or native language of the attending deaf child or young person which is extremely influential in opening the doors to access for support and services, and in redressing the balance of linguistic inequality that the Deaf community have struggled with in the past.</p> <p>The project successfully delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 BSL Training Programme to 15 deaf adults and

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 1. Provide all children and young people with opportunities to reach their educational attainment regardless of background and address barriers to pupils achieving their full potential.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>and different levels of exposure to deaf issues and to British Sign Language.</p> <p>In 2013/14 DCAL funded the Educating Deaf Youth to Sign! project by the Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association which was aimed at providing British Sign Language qualifications to deaf children and young people and children of deaf adults to enable them to communicate in sign language.</p>	<p>Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1 BSL Training Programme to 10 deaf children and young people aged 13 to 17 years of age. • Entry Level Sign Language Training Programme to 10 deaf children and young people aged 13 to 17 years of age. • A fun Sign Language Training Programme to 10 deaf children aged 4 to 11 years old.
<p>DCAL allocated £12.6m to the 2013 City of Culture cultural programme. A number of projects within the overall cultural programme had a significant impact on the education of children and young people and demonstrated that culture has a central role to play in transforming people’s lives for the better. For example, the Music Promise project was one of the highlights of the 2013 year. It was a music and social inclusion programme which delivered a range of music learning and participation activities and events throughout the year. It focused a number of major programmes on four key audiences – the very young; the unengaged (including vulnerable and ‘at risk’ young people); the exceptionally talented and children with special educational needs and disability.</p>	<p>The Musical Pathways to Learning strand of the Music Promise provided weekly music lessons to every child aged 3-8 in the Derry City Council area. The scheme delivered to 7,829 young children – 1,547 nursery/pre-school pupils; 93 children with special educational needs and 6,189 primary school pupils.</p> <p>The SYNC strand of the project targeted 11-18 year olds who were disengaged from learning. SYNC delivered 36 weeks of musical, creative and performance development sessions to 510 young people. 240 received certificates in performance and creative song-writing and participants from the programme performed at City of Culture events and numerous other community gigs.</p> <p>The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strand of the project saw 300 pupils involved in a theatre production. 100 of these pupils had moderate and severe learning disabilities. The final show was performed to an audience of 1,000.</p>

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 2. Support disadvantaged families to promote the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of their children so that they flourish at home and when they get to school.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>The first test site for the Family Nurse Partnership Programme was successfully introduced by the Public Health Agency (PHA) within the Western Health and Social Care Trust from 2010. Family Nurses Partnership is a voluntary preventive programme for teenage mothers, offering intensive and structured home visiting delivered by specially trained ‘family nurses’ from early pregnancy until the child is two. During 2013-14 the Public Health Agency established two further sites for the programme. These are within the Belfast and Southern Trusts. Within the additional two sites, family nurses have now been employed and teenage mothers are currently being recruited to the programme.</p>	<p>The Partnership provides support and help to teenage mothers, aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of our most disadvantaged families and children, and to prevent social exclusion.</p> <p>Each site has the capacity to recruit up to 100 teenage mothers.</p> <p>1,200 families will benefit from this Parenting Support Signature Programme.</p>
<p>The PfG (2011-2015) Commitment 43 seeks to ‘ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available for every family that wants it’. DE worked closely with the ELBs and provided additional resources to help meet this commitment for the 2012-13 applications process. Pre-school providers are</p>	<p>At the conclusion of the 2012-13 admissions process 99.8% of children obtained a funded pre-school place in 2013-14 (whose parents engaged with the process to the end).</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 2. Support disadvantaged families to promote the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of their children so that they flourish at home and when they get to school.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
required by law to prioritise the admission of children from socially disadvantaged circumstances.	
Expansion of the Sure Start programme (from the top 20% most disadvantaged wards and Super Output Areas) to the top 25% most disadvantaged wards underway.	4 additional Sure Start projects operating or in progress for operation within the current budget period (total of 39 Sure Start projects in Northern Ireland). In addition 12 existing projects have expanded their boundaries to incorporate additional wards.
£12m additional funding made available via the Extended Schools (ES) programme to support schools serving areas of greatest social disadvantage.	Extended Schools resources allocated in 2013-14 have enabled over 470 eligible schools to provide for additional learning opportunities and a wide range of interventions and support activities-services outside of the normal school day which focus of improved educational outcomes.
DE is continuing to resource Full Service provision in 2 communities suffering high levels of socio-economic deprivation in North and West Belfast. £376k has been made available in respect of each programme in 2013-14.	Full Service programmes are contributing to a more co-ordinated and consistent approach to the delivery of services to support the needs of pupils, parents, and communities in parts of North and West Belfast.
Targeting Social Need: Common Funding Formula - £60.6m of funding distributed within the delegated budgets for schools to help support them in addressing social deprivation and educational under attainment.	Targeting Social Need: Additional funding provided to support the additional needs of pupils from low income families including those schools characterised by a high percentage of such pupils.
Funding of £37.7m to provide free school meals and £4.2m for school uniform grants provided to reduce financial barriers facing children from low income families to participate and	Approximately 82,000 children-young people entitled to free school meals with slightly lower numbers in receipt of the school uniform grant .

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 2. Support disadvantaged families to promote the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of their children so that they flourish at home and when they get to school.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>remain in education and obtain formal qualifications. In September 2013, the Education Minister also extended the provision of free school meals to eligible pupils attending independent schools from the 2013-14 school year.</p>	
<p>Investment in Schools Estate/Enhanced Learning Environment: The Education gross capital budget for 2013-14 is £113.4m after a successful bid for an additional £5m funding in-year. Over the past year work has been ongoing to progress 40 new school building projects announced in 2012-2013, representing a potential investment of £353m in the schools' estate. There are 4 work projects where construction work is currently progressing on site, requiring £7m of capital funding in the current financial year. In addition to these more high profile projects, a further £77m has been invested for Capital Minor Works in 2013-14.</p>	<p>Investment in Schools Estate-Enhanced Learning Environment: Capital investment programme is ongoing and results, in terms of enhanced learning facilities will be realised over this and future years.</p>
<p>Following a call under the new Schools Enhancement Programme, aimed at refurbishments and enhancements to the school estate, 51 proposals, valued at some £106m, are being advanced to economic appraisal stage. Lisanelly Shared Education Campus in Omagh is a Programme for Government commitment. The Outline Business Case for the project was approved in September 2013.</p>	<p>Work is ongoing to progress 40 new school building projects announced in 2012-2013, representing a potential investment of £353m in the schools' estate. There are 4 work projects where construction work is currently progressing on site, requiring £7m of capital funding in the current financial year. Also, £77m has been committed to date to address Minor Works in-year.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 2. Support disadvantaged families to promote the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of their children so that they flourish at home and when they get to school.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>The continuation of the “Education Works” advertising campaign launched in September 2012. The campaign aims to inform and engage all parents, in particular those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, to become more involved in their child’s education.</p>	<p>Years 1 and 2 of the campaign (2012-13 and 2013-14) focused on children in Early Years, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 at primary school, with Year 2 seeing a widening of the target audience to those with an influence on parents and-or children of this age group, for example, grandparents, the wider family circle, peer groups and those with influence in local communities. The campaign aims to inform and engage all parents, in particular those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, to become more involved in their child’s education.</p> <p>Year 2 of the Campaign commenced in October 2013 and ran until February 2014. It continues the focus of Year 1 on children in Early Years, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 at primary school, with a widening of the target audience to those with an influence on parents and-or children of this age group, for example, grandparents, the wider family circle, peer groups and those with influence in local communities. The Campaign comprises a multi-media format with advertisements on television, radio, in the local press, at outdoor sites and online.</p>
<p>In August 2013, the Department of Justice (DOJ) published an educational resource pack on human trafficking for teachers of year 10 and Key Stage 4. The aim of the resource pack is to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking, but also to</p>	<p>From its launch in August 2013 until 1 September 2014, the resource pack has been viewed over 700 times on the C2k website. A number of secondary level schools have incorporated the resource into their lessons.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 2. Support disadvantaged families to promote the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of their children so that they flourish at home and when they get to school.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

help young people to make healthy, safe choices, and to motivate them to become active citizens in the fight against trafficking. It is available to all schools through C2k's managed ICT service.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 3. Target young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) to support them to re-engage

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

Continued implementation of the Executive endorsed 'Pathways to Success' Strategy for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The strategy seeks to effectively join up actions being taken across the Executive and was developed to ensure a cross-departmental and cross agency approach to help those young people who face barriers to participation in education, employment and training. A number of new initiatives within the context of wider existing and developing programmes of intervention have been introduced – as noted below.

DEL also secured a substantial budget of more than £25million over the 2012 to 2015 period.

The Community Family Support Programme (CFSP) aims to support families with a high level of need to develop their capacity to reach their full potential by addressing the health, social, economic, educational, employment and training issues that impact on their daily lives.

The upscale of the Community Family Support Programme commenced in November 2013 in 5 contract areas that mirrors the Health & Social Care Trust areas in NI.
240 families are presently participating in cycle 1 of the 26 week programme. 177 participants are young people aged 16 to 24 years
(Performance to date at 31.12.2013)

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 3. Target young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) to support them to re-engage	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
	795 NEETs have been engaged with 201 entering education, employment or training opportunities.
The Local Employment Intermediary Service (LEMIS) aims to provide information, mentoring advice and guidance to young people to support them progress to positive designations in education, employment and training.	In 2013-14 LEMIS supported 1,028 young people aged 16-24 not engaged in education, employment or training and moved 327 into positive destinations: 130 entered employment, 180 entered training and 17 into education. A budget of £2.105m was made available, with young people representing 37% of the LEMIS case loads. The target for 2014-15 is to support 795 young people; in the period April-June, 341 have been supported with 122 moving into positive destinations.
Community Based Access Programme delivered under Learner Access Engagement Pilot Programme (LAEP)	See contribution above in Priority Action Area 1 regarding the Learner Access Engagement Programme.
	The training allowance is designed to ensure there are effective incentives for eligible young people in the NEET category. The Pathways for Young People Educational Maintenance Allowance, for young people participating in projects funded by the European Social Fund, has been running for 15 months, is demand driven and to date some £101,000 including administration fee has been paid out. In total 397 participants have registered for the scheme. A total of £22,583, including administration fee, has been paid to 118 participants on CIF projects.
NEET Advisory Group: An audit was undertaken of all existing provision for young people in the NEET (Not in Education,	The NEET Advisory Group helps join up actions across departments and thus support the implementation of the

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 3. Target young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) to support them to re-engage	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>Employment or Training) category allowing identification of progression routes to meet their needs. This will also facilitate a continuum of provision to be identified to enable young people to avail of services in a timely manner, particularly for those at risk of disengagement.</p>	<p>'Pathways to Success' Strategy and its accompanying action plan.</p> <p>The NEET Advisory Group brings together key decision makers from Government, voluntary-community, education, health, social care and business sectors, as well as local government. An interactive web based database is being developed to understand the profile of current NEET programmes and capture all their attributes such as age range capacity, geographical spread and access information. The database will host the information in such a way as to be live and accurate to be of use to service users and professionals needing to connect with NEET programmes.</p> <p>The Mapping Tool Hub to enable the audit of existing provision for young people in the NEET category was produced in 2013-14 and is currently being updated by providers.</p>
<p>DEL's careers advisers continued to keep in regular contact with all young people aged 16 and 17 who do not have a positive destination when they leave school or who drop out of provision early. The aim was to help them to secure and sustain suitable employment, education or training provision</p> <p>As part of the Youth Employment scheme, the Careers Service offered a personalised skills assessment to young people 18-24</p>	<p>Between 1st April 2013 and 24 Jan 2014 the Careers Services have delivered 700 one to one careers guidance interviews to young people who are NEET.</p> <p>Between 1st April 2013 and 24 Jan 2014 the Employment Service made 1319 referrals (including YES referrals) to the Careers Service for a careers guidance interview.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 3. Target young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) to support them to re-engage	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
years usually within the first three months of their benefit claim. The aim was to help maximise the benefits of the work experience placements or skills development opportunities offered as part of the scheme.	
Community Based Access Programme delivered under Learner Access Engagement Pilot Programme (LAEP)	The CBAP programme was terminated as there was very minimal take up. However the Learner Access and Engagement mainstream programme was extended to include this group.
The Youth Service provides a number of programmes for young people in the NEET category, including the IFI-funded 'Youth Works' programme (Sept 2011 – Nov 2013).	A number of programmes run throughout the youth service. 288 young people participated in the Youth Works programme, 70% of which gained 1 or more essential qualifications.
The Collaboration and Innovation Fund: Pathways for Young People training allowance for young people taking part in programmes supported by the European Social Fund, Collaboration and Innovation Fund projects or who avail of the Local Employment Intermediary Service (LEMIS). The Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) supports 24 projects across the community, voluntary and educational sector and aims to enable 6,000 unemployed young people to re-engage with and progress into education, employment or training by March 2015.	At end March 2014 the Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) had recorded a total of 2,602 new starts and moved 606 of the young people leaving the programme into positive outcomes of education, employment or training.
DE continues to progress policies and programmes aimed at raising standards and ensuring young people leave school with	DE continued to take forward policies and programmes to raise standards and tackle the barriers to learning pupils may face.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 3. Target young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) to support them to re-engage

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

the skills and qualifications they require for further learning, work and life.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

These included programmes focusing specifically on improving outcomes in the core skills of literacy and numeracy and targeting those at risk of underachieving.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 4. Create training and employment opportunities for young people

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>DEL Introduced the Youth Employment Scheme in July 2012 for 18 – 24 year old unemployed young people.</p>	<p>The Scheme will offer up to 12,600 short work experience, training and subsidised employment opportunities by March 2015 at a cost of £31million. Scheme implementation was reviewed and revisions made to the Scheme to encourage and increase client participation. From the launch of the scheme until 31st March 2014 a total of 7878 opportunities were secured including 1640 employment opportunities. 3702 young people have participated on the programme.</p>
<p>Work Connect as an employment programme is designed for those IB-ESA clients with a diverse range of health conditions and - or disabilities who may require specific tailored interventions to help them move towards or achieve their employment goal. Work Connect offers a suite of pre - employment support (for up to 26 weeks) and further in work support for 26 weeks.</p>	<p>56 people aged between 16 and 24 have started the Work Connect Programme between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014. This represents approximately 15% of all programme starts.</p>
<p>DEL has maintained the delivery of the Steps to Work (StW) programme to 18 to 24 year olds. The aim of the programme is to assist people who are unemployed or economically inactive</p>	<p>Delivery of the Steps to Work programme maintained for this year. StW is available to all those aged 18 or over who are unemployed or economically inactive (lone parents aged 16 or</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 4. Create training and employment opportunities for young people

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

find and sustain employment.

over). In the most recent financial year a total of 30,865 participants started Steps to Work, of which 38% (11,765) were aged 18-24.

DEL has developed a temporary employment strand which is delivered under the Steps to Work programme. This initiative, known as First Start, offers job opportunities for up to 26 weeks, in the private, public or third sector for 18 to 24 year olds. Whilst these job opportunities initially will be temporary, it is anticipated that in many cases they may lead to permanent employment. First Start is available to those aged 18-24 years old who have been unemployed at least 6 months and who are in receipt of Jobseeker’s Allowance.

First Start was introduced on 7 November 2012. 1125 job opportunities delivered at 31 March 2014. On track to deliver 1,700 by 31 March 2015. First Start provided 365 waged opportunities in 2012-13 with a further 760 waged opportunities in 2013-2014.

Also, please see contributions above under Priority Action Areas 1 and 3, particularly with regards to Training for Success and NEETs Strategy interventions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

5. Support the delivery of an accessible, flexible and quality childcare sector, so that it is effective in reducing barriers to employment, particularly those experienced by disadvantaged groups, and support the child’s development and well-being

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

The first phase of the Bright Start Childcare Strategy was launched in September 2013. This included 15 Key First Actions to address the main **childcare** priorities identified during consultation and research. These Actions are being taken forward via a **Grant Scheme** that was launched on 27 March 2014.

The most ambitious of the Actions (Actions 1,2 and 5) aim to **create or sustain up to 7,000 childcare places** aimed at children aged 4-14. The Grant Scheme will run for three and half years and will **assist childcare providers serving disadvantaged and rural communities, and those who wish to use the school estate as a base for school age childcare services**. Other Key First Actions will assist the development of **rural childminding services, develop the childcare workforce and assist the development of childcare services for children with a disability**.

Through the Women’s Childcare Fund, DSD supports those parents on the margins of employment to participate in training and education through the provision of free childcare places.

Approximately **80,640 free two-hour childcare places** provided annually through Women’s Childcare Fund to support parents in low income families to gain education, training and job-ready skills to avail of paid employment.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

6. Improve health outcomes and target those groups who are particularly at risk or vulnerable, in order to tackle health inequalities of children and young people.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>Breastfeeding promotes health, prevents disease and contributes to reducing health inequalities. The purpose of the Breastfeeding Strategy published in June 2013 is to improve the health and well-being of mothers and babies through breastfeeding. A multi-agency steering group led by the Public Health Agency is taking forward implementation of the Strategy's actions.</p>	<p>Publication of Breastfeeding – A Great Start: A Strategy for Northern Ireland 2013-2023.</p>
<p>The first test site for the Family Nurse Partnership Programme was successfully introduced by the Public Health Agency (PHA) within the Western Health and Social Care Trust from 2010. During 2013-14, the PHA established two further sites for the programme. These are within the Belfast and Southern Trusts. Within the additional two sites, family nurses have now been employed and teenage mothers are currently being recruited to the programme. Each site has the capacity to recruit up to 100 teenage mothers.</p>	<p>Test sites for the Family Nurse Partnership programme established in three Trusts will facilitate access up to 300 families.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

6. Improve health outcomes and target those groups who are particularly at risk or vulnerable, in order to tackle health inequalities of children and young people.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

The revised (post consultation) strategic framework for public health, due to issue for Executive approval shortly, will adopt a lifecourse and social determinants approach, reinforcing the need for action at every stage of development from **early years** to later life.

The Strategic Framework will aim to strengthen collaboration in a whole system approach and advocate for action to improve universal services as well as more targeted services for those in greater need.

Funding of £38.4m to provide **nutritionally balanced free school meals** (with an additional allocation of £4.1m for nutritional standards) to reduce financial barriers facing children from low income families to participate and remain in education and obtain formal qualifications. In September 2013 the Education Minister also **extended the provision of free school meals** to eligible pupils attending independent schools from the 2013-14 school year.

Meals provided in schools must comply with the “**Nutritional Standards for School Lunches**” which ensures children receive **healthy, nutritious meals** which ultimately contribute to enhanced health outcomes.
Approximately **82,000 children/young people from lower income families** are entitled to nutritious free school meals.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

7. Strengthen and improve prevention and early intervention for all children and their families, particularly in the first three years of life to maximise future outcomes in health and wellbeing.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

Northern Ireland Child Health Promotion Programme
 'Healthy Child, Healthy Future: A Framework for the Universal Child Health Promotion Programme in Northern Ireland' was issued in 2010. The framework is central to **securing improvements in child health** for all children aged 0-19 years, across a range of issues and includes access to a universal programme of preventative care and additional services for those with specific needs and risks. The programme aims to **identify and respond to families in need at the earliest opportunity** and is set within the context of increasing evidence which indicates that early intervention and prevention is essential to preventing long term, behavioural, emotional and conduct disorders, which in turn can lead to poor lifestyle patterns, increased consumption of alcohol, drug misuse, and criminal behaviours.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

A range of activities are offered to all children and families by Maternity services, GPS, Health Visitors and School Nurses, e.g. childhood immunisations, neonatal blood spot screening, family health assessment, growth monitoring, infant feeding and family nutrition, routine inquiry, etc.

Work has commenced on the next **suicide prevention-mental**

The next suicide-mental health promotion strategy will include a

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

7. Strengthen and improve prevention and early intervention for all children and their families, particularly in the first three years of life to maximise future outcomes in health and wellbeing.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
health promotion strategy.	section on early intervention in the early years.
The revised strategic framework for public health, due to issue for Executive approval shortly, will adopt a lifecourse and social determinants approach, reinforcing the need for action at every stage of development from early years to later life.	In line with international evidence which links early childhood development to outcomes in later life “Giving every child the best start” - including parenting and family support will be retained as a priority area for collaboration with the aim of enhancing support through incremental development of targeted and universal programmes.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

8. Help support those families that are experiencing food poverty so that they can acquire the food and nutrition required for good health.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>DHSSPS is a member of the All Island Food Poverty Network which is jointly chaired by Safefood and the FSA. Actions to support families include Healthy Start, Cook It programme, Community Allotments, MARA, Nutrition workshops and various initiatives in local areas.</p>	<p>This group is currently working to establish a food poverty baseline for the island of Ireland.</p>
<p>DHSSPS continues to provide the statutory 'Healthy Start' Scheme which aims to improve the health of low-income and vulnerable families. Vouchers can be exchanged for cow's milk, infant formula milk, fresh or plain frozen fruit and vegetables. Beneficiaries are also entitled to vitamin supplements.</p>	<p>Healthy Start currently supports around 145,000 households.</p>
<p>Funding of £38.4m to provide nutritionally balanced free school meals (with an additional allocation of £4.1m for nutritional standards) to reduce financial barriers facing children from low income families to participate and remain in education and obtain formal qualifications In September 2013 the Education</p>	<p>Meals provided in schools must comply with the "Nutritional Standards for School Lunches" which ensures children receive healthy, nutritious meals which ultimately contribute to enhanced health outcomes. Approximately 82,000 children-young people from lower income families are entitled to nutritious free school meals.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

8. Help support those families that are experiencing food poverty so that they can acquire the food and nutrition required for good health.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

Minister also extended the provision of free school meals to eligible pupils attending independent schools from the 2013-14 school year.

The revised strategic framework for public health, due to issue for Executive approval shortly will reinforce the need for collaborative action to tackle the wider determinants of health including food poverty.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

9. Provide family support and intervention services to children in vulnerable families.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

Significant progress has been made to date on the suite of parenting support programmes being delivered through the Public Health Agency (PHA). The suite of programmes has been developed from the PHA's ongoing engagement with stakeholders through the Child Development Project Board and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. Effectiveness of each of the five programmes has been demonstrated, either locally, nationally or internationally.

1,200 families will benefit from this Signature Programme.

1. Incredible Years (IY) aims to reduce behaviour problems and to promote problem solving skills, social competence and emotional regulation. A regional support and development programme has been agreed and a schedule of networking, training and product development is being implemented with organisations currently delivering these programmes.

Incredible Years provides a series of parenting programmes for children aged 0-12 years at risk of conduct disorder. It has been shown to reduce antisocial behaviour, school drop-out, violence, drug abuse and delinquency. It also reduces parental stress and increases effective parenting.

2. Triple P is aimed at parents of children aged 2-12 with mild to serious concerns about the child's behaviour. Commissioning and development of services was the focus of a successful

Due to limitations on media campaigns and awaiting research results from Longford Triple P a decision to proceed with Triple P commissioning has been put back to 2014-15.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

9. Provide family support and intervention services to children in vulnerable families.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

<p>stakeholder workshop held on 16 October 2013.</p>	
<p>3. Infant Mental Health Training - access provided to 270 early years and HSC professionals to one of 3 new training programmes, and a regional Infant Mental Health Plan established.</p>	<p>Infant Mental Health Training will develop the capacity of those in contact with vulnerable families and babies to identify and act upon early signs of mental health illness in infancy, for example, will support the likelihood of improved health and wellbeing, prevention of mental illness and enhancement of later life outcomes of those at risk.</p>
<p>4. Strengthening Families Programme is designed to reduce risk factors for children in families with a history of parental drug and alcohol abuse. Delivering Social Change funding will expand and continue programmes in 3 Trust localities and has facilitated new local service development for 2 years in Belfast and Southern localities from December 2013.</p>	<p>The core aim of the Strengthening Families programme is to improve the family environment by helping parents to develop discipline techniques and to understand the importance of rewards and positive attitudes in their children.</p>
<p>5. Parenting UR Teen is an 8 week programme aimed at improving the parent-adolescent relationship. A 2 Year contract is in place for Programmes being delivered within 2013-15 in Carrick, Dungannon, East Belfast, Belfast City Centre, Lisburn and Omagh. Within 2014-15 Parenting Ur Teen Programmes will also be delivered in Newry, West Belfast, Enniskillen, Magherafelt, Belfast City Centre and Downpatrick.</p>	<p>Successful outcomes of the Parenting UR Teen Programme include: an improvement in parenting style and parental mental health; improved teenage behaviour in the home and improved family functioning.</p>
<p>6. Supporting the existing 16 Family Support Hubs and over the next two years take forward the establishment of 10 new Family Support Hubs (£3 million). A Family Support Hub is a multi-</p>	<p>8 of the 10 new Hubs were fully established by end June 2014, with the remaining two due to be established by end of the summer 2014. It is anticipated that some 6,000 families will</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

9. Provide family support and intervention services to children in vulnerable families.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

agency network of organisations that either provide early intervention services or work with families who need early intervention services.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

benefit from these Hubs.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>In 2013-14 DE provided £33 million resource and £6.4 million capital to support youth work. Youth provision is open to all young people.</p>	<p>The most recent figures estimate that over 182,000 young people participate in registered youth provision, undertaking a variety of personal and social development activities and programmes.</p>
<p>£12m additional funding made available via the Extended Schools programme to support schools serving areas of greatest social disadvantage.</p>	<p>ES resources allocated in 2013-14 have enabled over 470 eligible schools to provide for additional learning opportunities and a wide range of interventions and support activities-services outside of the normal school day which focus on improved educational outcomes.</p>
<p>All libraries in areas of social need deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Rhythm and Rhyme sessions for pre-school children (at least 1 session per month) to help develop early learning skills. • A quality assured class visits programme for primary age children to support literacy and information literacy and develop the library habit. • Events and activities, specifically aimed at encouraging 	<p>Libraries NI has delivered Rhythm and Rhyme sessions in 89 libraries (93%) to 109,000 participants including over 55,000 children.</p> <p>Quality assured class visits were delivered in 90 libraries (94%).</p> <p>Libraries NI has delivered reading groups in 68 libraries (71%) and Storytime in 63 libraries (66%) as part of its programme to</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>children’s enjoyment of reading as a pre-requisite for the development of literacy skills.</p> <p>Across the library network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of libraries deliver regular Rhythm and Rhyme sessions for pre-school children (at least 1 session per month) • 70% of libraries deliver a quality assured class visits programme • 60% of libraries deliver events and activities, specifically aimed at encouraging children’s enjoyment of reading. <p>Libraries are also working to increase overall participation levels in libraries and implement a programme of activities to support the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) agenda.</p>	<p>encourage children’s enjoyment of reading. Libraries NI has delivered 12 events involving 7 authors to approx 1,000 children.</p> <p>There was an 11.62% increase in overall participation in Tier 1 Libraries).</p> <p>There has been a 1.14% increase in the overall participation in Tier 3 libraries.</p> <p>Libraries NI delivered 12 STEM activities aimed at primary and post primary age children to promote the links between Science and reading. Libraries NI’s long term aim is that the programmes and activities within these areas will lead to a take up in Active members.</p>
<p>National Museums NI Schools programme aims to provide support for under performing schools and parents and children requiring educational-social support. The programme develops links with parents and schools that most need support and provide free programmes for schools, subsidised transport for schools and parent support programme for schools.</p> <p>A number of opportunities are being undertaken including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a pilot programme with Achieving Derry/Bright Horizons for 	<p>National Museums NI has delivered the Schools programme to 19,444 participants from Extended Schools.</p> <p>National Museums NI has also delivered 33 Parent Support Programmes.</p> <p>National Museums NI Summer school programme provides a</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

- parents and children at the Ulster American Folk Park;
- outreach project, lectures and re-enactments for post primary students based on the Decade of Centenaries with under-achieving schools, at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum; and
- Saturdays at the Ulster American Folk Park - outreach to under-achieving schools by museums staff, followed by free structured visits to the Museum on Saturdays for children and parents.

Delivery of Arts Council Annual Funding Programme which supports arts-led cultural development projects for children in a range of creative, cultural and expressive activities, involving children and young people up to the age of 25 years - both in and outside of formal education settings such as community groups. However, it is not confined to these settings and can take place at almost any location, and involve any kind of art form or creative activity.

Arts Council's 5 year strategic plan 'Ambition for the Arts' (2013-2017) aims to place the arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life and recognises that this can only be achieved through working with a broad range of partners across all sectors, public, private and voluntary. ACNI provides support through the Annual Funding Programme and Project Lottery

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

structured series of visits to National Museums NI sites during July and August for 2,000 children from 53 deprived areas.

NMNI Summer School Programme had a target to attract 30 group visits with 1,200 school visitors from Areas of Multiple Deprivation.

During July/August 2013, 35 groups (amounting to 1,647 visitors) had visited the Ulster American Folk Park.

In the 2013/2014 period, the Arts Council funded 94 organisations through Annual Support Funding. The majority of these offer targeted programmes for children and young people. All organisations applying to this funding stream were required to provide access and inclusion targets for 14/15 which will be monitored and evaluated in 15/16. Examples of projects which provide opportunity for children-low income families in the 13/14 period include:

- Belfast Community Circus outreach programme;
- WheelWorks – Art Cart Digital Arts Outreach Programme;
- Beat Initiative – Carnival Arts training to increase confidence, nurture skills and create avenues to employment;
- 'In Your Space' (Derry/Londonderry) - dedicated circus

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

Funding to arts organisations in developing access to and participation in the arts. In the context of its wider strategic plan, the Arts Council has set out a Youth Arts Strategy. It places emphasis on the **entitlement of Children and Young People to engage in a diverse range of arts-led cultural opportunities in safe and enabling environments**. In the broadest possible sense, youth arts includes participative arts and work created for young people as audiences. It also refers to a range of creative, cultural or expressive activities, involving children and young people up to the age of 25 years - both in and outside of formal education settings such as community groups. However, it is not confined to these settings and can take place at almost any location, and involve any kind of art form or creative activity.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

- skill workshops delivered to people from section 75 communities;
- Kids in Control – Physical Theatre community outreach programme;
- New Lodge Arts - Arts Academy delivers workshops to children and young people in north Belfast, including Summer Arts Academy;
- Play Resource Warehouse – a provider of art resources and free materials, the organisation launched a new pilot project “Kids in Transition” to **use arts as a tool to help the transition from pre-primary to post primary education**;
- The MAC, The Crescent Arts Centre, The Millennium Forum, The Nerve Centre, The Black Box venues all have dedicated Education and Outreach programmes that target and engage children, young people from disadvantaged communities.
- The Grand Opera House Youth Musical project offers bursaries to young people in socially disadvantaged areas to provide participatory opportunities in the theatre.

(Also applies to Priority Action Areas 11, 14 & 16)

The Arts Council’s Young People and Wellbeing Arts Programme will focus on empowering, building resilience and

Progress made to date - Proposed Young People & Wellbeing Arts Programme (2014- 2017)

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

providing support that promotes positive mental health and emotional well-being for young people through arts activities. It is aimed at our most disadvantaged and hard to reach young people and will target areas of higher prevalence rates and vulnerable population groups including those at higher risk of suicide or self-harm and young people living in the top 20% most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

In 2011, the Arts Council embarked on the research, development and production of a strategy for Youth Arts for the period 2013 to 2017. A recommendation within the Youth Arts Strategy is the development of a programme aimed at our most disadvantaged and hard to reach young people, with a priority on a mental health awareness project targeting young people at risk.

In 2013-2014, the Arts Council developed programme aims and objectives through consultation with the Public Health Agency and aligned to the refreshed Protect Life Strategy, Bamford Action Plan for 2012 - 2015 and Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy (pending).

The Young People and Wellbeing Arts Programme will focus on empowering, building resilience and providing support that promotes positive mental health and emotional well-being for young people through the arts. The Strategic Themes for the programme will include: (1) Improving and maintaining health and wellbeing for young people; (2) Raising awareness of mental and emotional wellbeing issues facing young people; (3) Providing a voice for young people; and (4) Address stigma and

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
	challenge prejudice and discrimination associated with mental health and health seeking behaviour.
<p>The development of a programme with the Public Health Agency is ongoing. The Arts Council is currently seeking match funding.</p> <p>Projects will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where appropriate, target areas of higher prevalence rates and vulnerable population groups including those at higher risk of suicide or self-harm. • Target areas of higher prevalence rates in regards to risk factors including unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, isolation, family relationships, sexual orientation; • Target young people living in the top 20% most disadvantaged neighbourhoods; • Target young people living in both rural and urban areas. 	<p>Actions to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Council meeting with PHA’s Heads of Health and Social Well-being Improvement and PHA staff regarding Young People & Wellbeing Arts Programme. ACNI meeting with Implementation Groups (ACNI will work with the five Protect Life Local Implementation Groups in the development of arts-led programmes of activities targeting young people and fitting with the key priorities of the Action Plans) • Business Plan for Young People & Wellbeing Programme devised.
<p>In 2013/14 DCAL funded the National Deaf Children’s Society Family Sign Language Course (FSL) project which provided an early intervention course to families of deaf children to help develop communication skills and improve vocabulary of deaf children by teaching young deaf children the signs and phrases needed for nursery rhymes, stories, playing make-believe games as well as the tools for practical communication about</p>	<p>Participating families reported increased confidence in communicating with their Deaf child/children through using signs that are relevant to the everyday interactions and tackling the social exclusion that can be experienced by both the deaf child and their parents and siblings within the family unit.</p> <p>The participating professionals from health, education and early years reported being prepared and confident to communicate in</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>food, sleeping and nappy changing. Two FSL training days were provided to professionals working with deaf children from different backgrounds in different board and trust areas. The training was promoted to teachers of the deaf, speech and language teachers, audiologists and early years professionals working in nurseries or playgroups. The training was designed to be delivered to participants with varying levels of experience and different levels of exposure to deaf issues and to British Sign Language.</p>	<p>the preferred communication or native language of the attending deaf child or young person which is extremely influential in opening the doors to access for support and services, and in redressing the balance of linguistic inequality that the Deaf community have struggled with in the past.</p> <p>24-28 families and 25-30 Deaf professionals attended courses by 31 March 2014.</p>
<p>In 2013/14 DCAL funded the Educating Deaf Youth to Sign! project by the Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association which was aimed at providing British Sign Language qualifications to deaf children and young people and children of deaf adults to enable them to communicate in sign language.</p>	<p>The project successfully delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 BSL Training Programme to 15 deaf adults and Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs). • Level 1 BSL Training Programme to 10 deaf children and young people aged 13 to 17 years of age. • Entry Level Sign Language Training Programme to 10 deaf children and young people aged 13 to 17 years of age. • A fun Sign Language Training Programme to 10 deaf children aged 4 to 11 years old.
<p>Delivery of Sport NI's Active Communities Programme</p>	<p>109,129 people participated in Active Communities in 2013/14. 30,968 (28.4%) of those participants came from the 30% most disadvantaged communities in NI (based on Sport NI MDM Index).</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:	
10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
Delivery of training and capacity building programmes at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre.	A total of 3,114 young people participated in sport and physical recreation at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre, many of which are from social deprived communities. A total of 418 leaders were trained at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre during 2013/14. Many of these leaders used their new skills to introduce young people from socially deprived backgrounds to outdoor adventure sports.
In June 2013, SportNI launched a pilot small grants programme aimed at increasing participation in afterschool sport and physical recreation, with a particular emphasis on schools in or serving areas of greatest need. In December 2013, SportNI confirmed investment totalling £350,000 in 149 beneficiary schools. 65% of beneficiary schools were from the 50% most deprived areas (based on Dept of Education statistics).	149 schools were funded under the Sport NI Active Schools Programme in 2013/14. 44 of these schools were in the top 22% of most disadvantaged schools (based on Department of Education statistics). When this is extended to the 50% of most disadvantaged schools, the number of beneficiaries schools increases to 96.
NI Screen After School Film Clubs ran in 269 Extended Service Schools. It is free to access this service.	269 After School Film Clubs with 6,677 members. Clubs have organised 2953 film screenings with audience of 37,858 children. 8,145 film reviews by children were uploaded to club websites. Clubs watch a minimum 15 films each year and upload 20 reviews to club website.
Creative Learning Centre Programmes train young people in the use of creative digital technologies. It is free to access this service.	Creative Learning Centres have worked with over 6,920 young people in school and in community and youth settings delivering 271 training sessions. 123 training sessions for 57

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

10. Improve school readiness and Increase participation in formal and non-formal education, youth services and sports through accessible and affordable culture, arts and leisure services.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

youth and hard to reach groups were provided in community settings.

DCAL has funded the Stadium STEM initiative at W5 to raise awareness of the Science, technology Engineering and Math careers and learning opportunities relevant to the Regional Stadium Programme. It will include links with Sporting Heroes or professionals associated with the Stadium STEM project.

Stadium STEM over January-March 2014 delivered:

- a Primary Outreach programme to 30 Schools and 5731 Pupils;
- An Urban TSN Primary Programme to 25 Schools and 946 participants;
- A Post Primary Programme 'Design It; Build It, Use It! Stadium STEM involving 14 schools and 486 participants.
- A Junior Lego League 'SPORT' – PILOT with 5 Primary Schools; and

A Nursery / Foundation / KS1 'Sport' based workshop for this age group which was trialled with 4 schools.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes for children as they move into adult life

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Early Years, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Family Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

11. Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to key services for children and young people.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

The revised (post consultation) strategic framework for public health adopts a lifecourse and social determinants approach to improving health and tackling health inequalities.

The revised strategic framework for public health will strengthen collaboration with other departments and sectors to address the challenges of disadvantage and inequality.

The Careers Service has formal partnership agreements in place with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that clients receive timely and appropriate careers interventions. The Service has also established working relationships and local referral procedures with the relevant statutory, voluntary and community sector bodies with a shared interest in supporting clients vulnerable to social exclusion.

The Careers Service has formal partnership agreements in place with 98% of post-primary schools. Formal partnership agreements are also in place with the Health and Social Care Trusts and Youth Justice Agency. Better joined up working arrangements will maximise the number of young people able to access careers support.

DE has made provision for a Sure Start Developmental Programme for 2-3 Year Olds in all Sure Start projects.

39 Sure Start projects provide services to over 43,000 children aged under 4 and their families. The Sure Start Developmental Programme for 2-3 Year Olds, reaches over 1700 children in their penultimate pre-school year who are likely to benefit most from this support.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

11. Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to key services for children and young people.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

In 2013-14 DE provided £33 million resource and £6.4 million capital to support youth work. Youth provision is open to all young people.

The most recent figures estimate that over 182,000 young people participate in registered youth provision, undertaking a variety of personal and social development activities and programmes.

The Youth Arts Strategy sets out a programme aimed at our most disadvantaged and hard to reach young people, with a priority on a mental health and wellbeing project targeting young people at risk.

Delivery of Annual Funding Programme which supports arts-led cultural development projects for children.

DCAL has developed a programme which is aimed at promoting equality, tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion through Sport. Funding is being distributed equally between Ulster Council GAA, IFA and Ulster Branch IRFU over a three year period and up until 31st March 2015 to deliver a wide range of programmes and projects which will positively impact on a number of measures, including this priority action.

£1,551,885 of funding was delivered in 2012-13, a planned delivery of £1,159,000 in 2013-14 and £1,789,115 in 2014-15 giving a total of £4.5m. Some examples of the outputs delivered by the three sports since 1st April 2013 include:

- Delivery of the IFA's Schools Enterprise Programme in 2013-14 which used football to educate pupils on Enterprise-business with a total of 1189 year 10-11 students participating.
- UCGAA recruited 11 long-term unemployed people to deliver an 8 week programme which involved gaining qualifications and coaching opportunities within schools and clubs; 3 participants are now in full time employment with Ulster GAA.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:	
11. Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to key services for children and young people.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
	Delivery of the UBIRFU Fitness Outreach Hub Creation Programme which involves the UBIRFU Fitness Development Coaches working with local schools, rugby clubs and community based groups. To date 88 fitness programmes have been delivered to the various groups with 3402 participants taking part in the programme since 1 st April 2013.
<p>In June 2013, SportNI launched a pilot small grants programme aimed at increasing participation in afterschool sport and physical recreation, with a particular emphasis on schools in or serving areas of greatest need.</p> <p>Delivery of SportNI's Active Schools small grants investment programme aimed at increasing participation in after school sport and physical recreation with a particular emphasis on schools in or serving areas of greatest need.</p>	149 schools were funded under the Sport NI Active Schools Programme in 2013/14. 44 of these schools were in the top 22% of most disadvantaged schools (based on Department of Education statistics). When this is extended to the 50% of most disadvantaged schools, the number of beneficiaries schools increases to 96. Anticipated outputs over 2013-14 will include training and support to 50 staff in 10 Sure Start projects in the Southern Area by March 2014. Also recruit families and children from migrant backgrounds into the programme with 1,000 children benefiting from the programme by March 2014 (April 2013 - 31 December 2013).
During 2013-14, DCAL supported Early Years to roll out outreach materials and learning packages across the early years sector and in particular target this material at	Early Years, the organisation for young children was funded by DCAL to roll out the Sesame Tree material to 10 Sure Start projects in the Southern area during the period 2013/14. This involved training 50 staff across 10 Sure Start projects on the

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:	
11. Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to key services for children and young people.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
disadvantaged communities and groups who may not have had access to the material to date. The material supports the development of anti sectarian and anti racist attitudes and behaviours in children, teachers and parents.	Sesame Programme; recruiting 1,000 families and 1,000 children from migrant backgrounds in to the programme; providing Early Years support to ensure programme implementation, fidelity and evaluation and developing a publicity and dissemination strategy to support further uptake in a further 10 Sure Start projects in 2014/15. The 10 Sure Starts provided services to a total of 10,631 children between 0 and 4 years old and their families. Children and parents had access to the programme implementation and online resources.
During the past year the Department of Justice commissioned research from QUB on the legal needs of children and young people.	This research has now been finalised and the Minister published a final report on 2 July 2014 which he shared with his Executive colleagues.
Youth Justice Agency and the Department for Employment and Learning's Careers Service have signed a partnership agreement. The Partnership Agreement sets out the Careers Information, Advice and Guidance referral framework and is intended to ensure that young people in Northern Ireland, with an 'at risk and referred to the Youth Justice Agency' background receive appropriate and timely assistance with their career planning and are actively supported to access and sustain	From 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014, 58 young people were referred to the Career Service. The Youth Justice Agency continues to signpost young people to a range of training and employment providers.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:	
11. Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to key services for children and young people.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>appropriate career paths.</p> <p>Youth Justice Agency are committed to signposting young people to training and employment agencies. As part of our core functions, we support young people to remain in education and training. We will make appropriate referrals for the purposes of child protection.</p>	
<p>DOJ has provided funding to the voluntary and community sector.</p>	<p>DOJ's funding has provided schemes such as Include Youth's Give & Take scheme, and NIACRO's C2C employability programme aimed at increasing children's employability, training and skills, and by association their ability for future earnings.</p>
<p>The DRD Travelwise NI Schools Initiative promotes and supports sustainable transport options like walking and cycling for the school journey.</p>	<p>Raised awareness of the impact of the 'school run' by car and actively promote and encourage more children to travel sustainably to school.</p>
<p>Walk to School Week was from 20 May – 24 May 2013.</p>	<p>Over 150 schools registered for Walk to School Week with over 33,000 pupils participating.</p>
<p>Walk to School Month was October 2013.</p>	<p>83 schools registered for Walk to School Month with over 18,000 pupils participating.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

11. Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to key services for children and young people.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

DRD and the Public Health Agency are co-funding an **Active School Travel Initiative** and will deliver a programme of cycling and walking skills to 180 schools over three years. The programme will also work with parents and teachers to support schools to develop a culture of active travel.

In 2010-2012, 26% of pupils aged 4-11 and 16% of pupils aged 12-18 walked to school. Cycling figures for both age groups is less than 1%. Target for 2015 is 36% for primary school pupils and 22% of post-primary pupils to walk or cycle to school.

The Pilots and Community Planning Working Group, which was part of the implementation structures for local government reform, was created in order to develop and refine practical working arrangements for the integration of community planning with existing council functions across the 11 new council clusters. The Working Group presented 3 key deliverables to the Department on 17 September 2013: a Community Planning Foundation Programme, a menu of pilots and a proposed capacity building framework for community planning. The Working Group has since agreed to be wound up and will be replaced with a Department-led Implementation Monitoring Group.

The **Community Planning Foundation Programme** will help councils put in place key building blocks to prepare for community planning.

A programme of tailored capacity building for local government is being taking forward by the Department.

The following also contribute to this Priority Action Area (detail found in other sections):

- Funded Pre-School Education;
- Sure Start (extended to top 25% most disadvantaged wards);
- Delivering Social Change Literacy and Numeracy Signature Programme (see Priority Action Area 1);
- delivery of the key actions in *Access to Success*- the regional strategy for widening participation in higher education (See

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

11. Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to key services for children and young people.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

- Action 1);
- Delivering Social Change Nurture Units Signature Programme (see Action 1);
 - Delivering Social Change Parenting Support Signature Programme (See Action 9)
 - Delivering Social Change Family Support Hubs Signature Programme (See Action 3);
 - Extended Schools (See Actions 1 & 2);
 - Full Service programmes (see Actions 1 & 2);
 - Delivering Social Change Community Family Support Signature Programme (see Action 3);
 - Continued implementation of DE's school improvement policy, which includes a particular focus on tackling the barriers to learning that many young people face (see Action 1);
 - Art Council's 'Ambition for the Arts' which places the arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life and recognises that this can only be achieved through working with a broad range of partners across all sectors, public, private and voluntary. (See Action 10);
 - Funding of projects that improve access to public services for the Deaf community and British-Irish sign language users;
 - Funding of projects that provide personal and social development programmes to redress the educational academic under achievement for Deaf people in order to reach their full potential and gain better employment prospects;
 - Delivery of Sport NI's Active Communities Programme (28.4% of all participants in Sport NI's Active Communities Programme were from the 30% most disadvantaged communities in NI (based on Sport NI MDM Index));
 - Sport NI physical literacy programmes: Active Schools and Activ8;
 - Delivery of training and capacity building programmes at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre (see Action 10);
 - Libraries NI provision (see Action 10);
 - NI Screen Free After School Film Clubs running in 269 Extended Service Schools; and
- Free Creative Learning Centre Programmes training young people in the use of creative digital technologies.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: Support more parents to access reasonably paid work

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Parental Employment and Skills

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

12. Support parents in low-income families to gain education, training and job-ready skills to avail of paid employment.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>The first phase of the Bright Start Childcare Strategy was launched in September 2013. This included 15 Key First Actions to address the main childcare priorities identified during consultation and research. These Actions are being taken forward via a Grant Scheme that was launched on 27 March 2014.</p>	<p>The most ambitious of the Actions (Actions 1,2 and 5) aim to create or sustain up to 7,000 childcare places aimed at children aged 4-14. The Grant Scheme will run for three and half years and will assist childcare providers serving disadvantaged and rural communities, and those who wish to use the school estate as a base for school age childcare services. Other Key First Actions will assist the development of rural childminding services, develop the childcare workforce and assist the development of childcare services for children with a disability.</p>
<p>Access to Success identifies adult returners as a target group and DEL has made funding available to support Higher Education providers to develop aspiration and attainment raising initiatives targeted at these individuals in the community.</p>	<p>Both programmes through activities and services targeted at parents seek to provide increased opportunities to develop skills and enhance career prospects. Adult returners are one of the groups specifically targeted in both the regional campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of Higher Education among disadvantaged groups and the DEL campaign to promote Foundation Degrees as a qualification which can improve skills and thereby employment prospects.</p>
<p>Through the Women's Childcare Fund, DSD supports those</p>	<p>Approximately 80,640 free two – hour childcare places provided</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

12. Support parents in low-income families to gain education, training and job-ready skills to avail of paid employment.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>parents on the margins of employment to participate in training and education through the provision of free childcare places.</p>	<p>annually through Women’s Childcare Fund to support parents in low income families to gain education, training and job-ready skills to avail of paid employment.</p>
<p>Jobclubs are delivered across our network of Job centres and jobs and Benefits offices where Employment Service Advisors provide guidance and support with CV building, job search and interview preparation.</p>	<p>Provision of local employment opportunities.</p>
<p>Through Neighbourhood Renewal, DSD, where a priority need is identified within Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans and where resources are available, consider funding. (It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will cease from April 2016, when budgets and powers will be extended to the new 11 Councils under the Reform of Local Government.) DSD’s role will primarily focus on supporting urban regeneration and community development as councils will be responsible for much of the delivery.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Renewal - Programmes on the ground address the social and economic problems faced by deprived neighbourhoods, including high levels of worklessness, low levels of skills and lack of educational attainments. One of the aims of the renewal strategy is to help close the gap between Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and non Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. This is measured on an annual basis by a number of key outcome indicators relating to education, health, crime and worklessness. The 2012 and 2013 Outcomes Indicator Reports are available online.</p>
<p>The following also contribute to this Priority Action Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Employment Scheme (see Action 4); • introduction of the new specialist employment programme to address health and disability related barriers to work; (see Action 4): 	

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

12. Support parents in low-income families to gain education, training and job-ready skills to avail of paid employment.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

- Delivery of the Steps to Work Programme(see Action 4);
- The First Start initiative. (see Action 4); and
- Extended Schools and Full Service programmes (see Actions 1 and 2 above).

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: Support more parents to access reasonably paid work

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Parental Employment and Skills

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

13. Grow the local economy, to improve employment opportunities and the value of the employment, and promote enterprise, entrepreneurship, and the social economy.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
Policy Framework on Community Asset Transfer Finalised and submitted to the Executive for Approval	Executive Departments continue to deliver against the commitments set out within the NI Economic Strategy.
Two social economy growth pilots launched in Lisburn and Omagh.	Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014, 23,783 jobs have been promoted . Latest figures indicate that DETI-Invest NI has now exceeded our commitment to promote 25,000 jobs over the PfG period (with an estimated 25,543 promoted at end May 2014).
DETI-DSD mapping of the Social Economy Sector report launched August 2013.	Joint Action Plan developed and recommendations being taken forward jointly with DETI.
Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014, Invest NI supported some £402m of investment by businesses in R&D (28% of these from SMEs).	In 2013-14 specifically; Invest NI supported £239m of investment .
Employer Engagement Strategy. Insight completed in October 2013 to understand employer knowledge and awareness of Universal Credit and its potential impacts/benefits to their businesses.	The report produced on the research and its findings in December 2013 has informed the development of the Strategy. The Strategy will be implemented once the Welfare Reform Bill receives Royal Assent.
All departments continue to make progress on delivering their	Across the economy, the number of people claiming

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:	
13. Grow the local economy, to improve employment opportunities and the value of the employment, and promote enterprise, entrepreneurship, and the social economy.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>Programme for Government and NI Economic Strategy commitments which will support economic growth and contribute to efforts to eradicate child poverty going forward by increasing employment opportunities and prosperity for all.</p>	<p>unemployment benefits has fallen for the 18th consecutive month, falling by 10,400 claimants between January 2013 and June 2014.</p> <p>The local unemployment rate for the period March to May 2014 is 6.7%, marginally above the UK rate of 6.5% but below the European Union (10.4%) and Republic of Ireland (11.9%) rates for April 2014.</p> <p>Long term unemployment, estimated at 48.5% of the unemployed, is down 9.6 percentage points over the year.</p>
<p>DETI has continued to fund Social Enterprise NI (SENI) as the representative body of the social economy sector and extended funding for a second year commencing 1 October 2013. This is the second year of funding for SENI designed to promote, develop and sustain the social economy sector.</p>	<p>Social Enterprise NI now has 123 registered members.</p>
<p>DSD is in the lead on this Delivering Social Change (DSC) Signature Programme with support from DETI-Invest NI. Service delivery agents have been appointed.</p>	<p>Delivery Agents have been appointed and contracts awarded to take forward activities in Social Economy Hubs in 11 locations across Northern Ireland with at least one in each of the 9 designated Social Investment Fund Zones.</p>

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

14. Promote affordable, accessible play and leisure provision for all children and young people

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>OFMDFM convened the Play and Leisure Forum to support delivery of the Play and Leisure Implementation Plan. Proposals to invest resources to further delivery through a Signature Programme were announced. Consultation with stakeholders and partners to inform design underway with details of how it will be initiated to be announced later in 2014.</p>	<p>Three meetings of NI Play and Leisure Forum took place to share good practice, and to inform and coordinate future delivery of the Implementation Plan.</p>
<p><i>See Arts programmes detailed against action 11.</i></p>	<p>Specific targeted funding programmes, such as the Intercultural Arts, have served to create accessible provision in a way that also helps foster the expression of cultural pluralism, build dialogue and promote mutual understanding.</p>
<p>NI Screen - Digital Film Archive Outreach Presentations. (Target 40 per year).</p>	<p>Free access to culture and history. 58 NI Screen Digital Film Archive (DFA) outreach presentations delivered. DFA sites have made 202 presentations including young people and families. Partner organisations have provided 166 presentations with 7 DFA presentations in rural and hard to reach areas.</p>
<p>NI Screen After School Film Clubs.</p>	<p>269 After School Film Clubs with 6677 members. Clubs have</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS: 14. Promote affordable, accessible play and leisure provision for all children and young people	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
	organised 2,953 film screenings with audiences of 37,858 children. 8,145 film reviews by children uploaded to club website.
Cinemagic Screen Festival for Young People Foyle Film Festival Education Programme	Cinemagic provided 110 screenings for 7,500 young people and 100 education events for 6,000 young people.
Provision of concessionary angling licences and Public Angling Estate permits for Children & Young People up to 19 with no annual price increase in 2013. Children under the age of 12 do not require a licence.	In 2013, a total of 2,531 DCAL juvenile licences and 2,569 juvenile permits were sold by the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure.
The project implementation of Armagh Planetarium's "Dome" outreach programme has now been finalised and the programme is underway. It has two strands: (1) Off-site delivery to schools and community facilities in areas experiencing disadvantage; and (2) Free visits to planetarium from special needs schools.	The 'dome' outreach programme is delivered <u>free of charge</u> to schools and community groups – saving them £350 per full day. In March 2014 the programme was delivered from St Mary's University College, Belfast (located in an area ranked 56th by the Multiple Deprivation Measure) and Skainos Centre, Belfast (located in an area ranked 23rd by the Multiple Deprivation Measure) and was available to schools free of charge. Over 1,400 children attended. These events allow Planetarium staff to reach children from deprived areas who cannot come to Armagh. In this way we are actively promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:	
14. Promote affordable, accessible play and leisure provision for all children and young people	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
	Free Visits for Special Schools - throughout 2013/14 there were 11 visits from a total of 188 children in Special Schools and 1 visit from a Summer Scheme for 30 children with special needs. These visits were free of charge and allow the children to experience what the Planetarium has to offer.
Research is taking place on the targeting of specific schools from the Extended Schools list for the National Museums Parents Programme.	National Museums NI Young parents programme provides structured activities for young parents and children in the museum environment to improve longer term prospects through child based interventions which are designed to tackle the cyclical nature of poverty including increased participation in non-formal education and accessible and affordable culture arts and leisure activities.
Delivery of Sport NI's Active Communities Programme. The programme is delivered through 11 consortia of district councils and specifically targets: females, people with disabilities, older people and people living in areas of high social need.	109,129 people participated in Active Communities in 2013/14. 30,968 (28.4%) of those participants came from the 30% most disadvantaged communities in NI (based on Sport NI MDM Index.)
Delivery of Sport NI's Active Schools Programme aimed at increasing participation in afterschool sport and physical recreation, with a particular emphasis on schools in or serving areas of greatest need.	44 schools in the top 22% of most disadvantaged schools (based on DE statistics) benefited from funding provided under the Active Schools small grants funding programme. This was from a total of 149 schools benefiting from funding. When this is extended to 50% most disadvantaged schools, 96 schools

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

14. Promote affordable, accessible play and leisure provision for all children and young people

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
	benefited from funding.
<p>Delivery of the Sport NI Activ8 Programme - a participation initiative to promote increased awareness of and opportunities for increased participation in sport and physical activity.</p>	<p>439 schools engaged in the Activ8 Programme through the various Activ8 initiatives listed below and have registered with www.activ8ni.net; 75 of those schools are from areas of greatest need. As part of the ongoing development of the Activ8 website to include gamification, SportNI worked in partnership with the Food Standards Agency during Q4 to deliver the Activ8 60x60 – Eatwell online challenge. The Challenge encourages children, teachers and parents to be active for at least 60mins over 60 days – helping to establish a more active lifestyle through personal choice.</p> <p>To launch the challenge a New Year’s Resolution Competition was held in partnership with Food Standards Agency NI, inviting schools to let us know what they would be doing in 2014 to make sure everyone in their school eats a healthy diet and are active for 60 minutes every day. 343 pupils, teachers, family and friends from 15 schools took part in the online 60x60 challenge.</p> <p>SNI developed an engagement campaign through Activ8 which served to introduce children to adventure activities by way of a mobile high wire adventure ropes course, as well as a mixture</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

14. Promote affordable, accessible play and leisure provision for all children and young people

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

of Olympic and Paralympic sports which young participants would not normally experience such as fencing, archery and boccia. Over 35,000 young participants experienced physical literacy programmes through Activ8 Adventure.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

15. Provide different learning environments through youth services which complement formal learning and are focused on personal and social development of children & young people.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

In 2013-14 DE Provided £33 million resource and £6.4 million capital to support youth work. Funding provided non-formal learning opportunities that promoted personal and social development and helped young people overcome barriers to learning. Youth provision is open to all young people.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

Over 182,000 young people participate in registered youth provision undertaking a varied range of social and development programmes.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

16. To improve opportunities for low income families to participate in arts, cultural, sporting and leisure activities

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
Arts Council NI provides support through the Annual Funding Programme and Project Lottery Funding to arts organisations in developing access to and participation in the arts.	<i>See Arts activities detailed against Actions 10, 11 and 14.</i>
Creative Learning Centre Programmes train young people in the use of creative digital technologies , providing access to learning and skills. The programme was expanded into areas of poverty and social exclusion. It is free to access this service.	Creative Learning Centres have worked with over 6920 young people in school and in community and youth settings delivering 271 training sessions. 123 training sessions for 57 youth and hard to reach groups were provided in community settings. After School Film Clubs run in 269 Extended Service Schools providing free access to culture, learning and skills. 58 NI Screen Digital Film Archive (DFA) outreach presentations delivered. DFA sites have made 202 presentations including young people and families. Partner organisations have provided 166 presentations with 7 DFA presentations in rural and hard to reach areas .
Provision of concessionary angling licences and Public Angling	There were 2,531 DCAL juvenile angling licences issued for

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

16. To improve opportunities for low income families to participate in arts, cultural, sporting and leisure activities

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>Estate permits for Children & Young People up to 19 with no annual price increase in 2013. Children under the age of 12 do not require a licence.</p>	<p>2013 angling season and 2,569 juvenile Public Angling Estate permits issued for the 2013 angling season.</p>
<p>The project implementation of Armagh Planetarium’s “Dome” outreach programme has now been finalised and the programme is underway. It has two strands:</p> <p>(1) Off-site delivery to schools and community facilities in areas experiencing disadvantage; and</p> <p>(2) Free visits to planetarium from special needs schools.</p>	<p>The ‘dome’ outreach programme is delivered free of charge to schools and community groups – saving them £350 per full day.</p> <p>In March 2014 the programme was delivered from St Mary’s University College, Belfast (located in an area ranked 56th by the Multiple Deprivation Measure) and Skainos Centre, Belfast (located in an area ranked 23rd by the Multiple Deprivation Measure) and was available to schools free of charge.</p> <p>Free Visits for Special Schools - Throughout 2013/14 there were 11 visits from a total of 188 children in Special Schools and 1 visit from a Summer Scheme for 30 children with special needs. These visits were free of charge and allow the children to experience what the Planetarium has to offer.</p>
<p>Research is taking place on the targeting of specific schools from the Extended Schools list for the National Museums Parents Programme.</p>	<p>National Museums NI Young parents programme provides structured activities for young parents and children in the museum environment to improve longer term prospects through child based interventions which are designed to tackle the cyclical nature of poverty including increased participation in non-formal education and accessible and affordable culture arts</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

16. To improve opportunities for low income families to participate in arts, cultural, sporting and leisure activities

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme established in 2012 for families on low incomes to attend intense Irish Language Courses in Donegal Gaeltacht – open to young people aged 12-18 and adults. The 2014 Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme was launched with a closing date of April 2014.

and leisure activities.

There were 37 Bursaries in 2012 and 100 offered in 2013. There are 100 places available for 2014. Post Project Evaluation (PPE) confirmed that the Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme represented Value for Money and should continue.

The following also contribute to this Priority Action Area:

DCAL is piloting a range of culture, arts and leisure activities in the Colin and Greater Shankill areas of Belfast.

Delivery of Sport NI's Activ8 programmes (See Action 14)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

17. Ensure that parents can access information and services, including the Regional Family Support Database in their local areas to support them in carrying out their parental responsibilities.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

Under the DHSSPS family and parenting strategy – Families Matter a regional information website 'FamilySupportNI.gov.uk' has been developed which provides up-to-date, relevant and accessible information on organisations and services which help and support families. The website has been further developed to increase its functionality through the creation of an enhanced, childcare specific search, the development of an application interface enabling others to access childcare information held within the website for use it on their own websites and the development a smartphone App.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

The Family Support website has increased the availability of information on family support and child care services for parents and service planners.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

18. Make public transport more accessible and affordable to all children including those with a disability in both urban and rural areas

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
Provision of half fare travel on public transport for children until their 16 th birthday.	Concessionary travel for children makes public transport more accessible and affordable to children and is a means of financial support for children and parents.
From 1 April 2013 the Door-2-Door transport scheme ended and an interim service, the Disability Action Transport Scheme (DATS), is to be provided by Disability Action until such time as the DRD determines how best to meet the transport needs of disabled people across Northern Ireland. Members of the Door-2-Door scheme automatically transferred to the DATS scheme.	Provides transport options for children with disabilities and for children and parents living in rural areas who do not have access to transport. Makes transport more accessible and affordable to children with disabilities and children living in rural areas. At 31 December 2013 the scheme had 179 members under the age of 18.
A First Year Monitoring Report on the <i>Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) Action Plan 2012-2015</i> was published in August 2013. A refreshed version of the <i>Travel Safe Guide</i> , which provides improved information to people with learning disabilities including young people, is being developed.	The ATS Action Plan includes a range of actions to improve access to transport for people with disabilities including children.
Children who are from a socially disadvantaged background are at a higher risk of obesity. Travelwise NI Schools Initiative helps	Promotes and supports sustainable transport options like walking and cycling for the school journey in order to help

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

18. Make public transport more accessible and affordable to all children including those with a disability in both urban and rural areas

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

to tackle child obesity by promoting and supporting sustainable transport options like walking and cycling for the school journey.
See Action 11 for more information.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

tackle child obesity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

19. Continue to take action to address fuel poverty in vulnerable households.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

DSD continues to operate the Warm Homes Scheme which provides a range of heating and-or insulation measures to low income families. The scheme will end on 31 March 2015.

In Autumn 2014 we will launch the Affordable Warmth Scheme which will replace the Warm Homes Scheme. The Affordable Warmth Scheme will use a partnership approach to target and tackle areas of fuel poverty and provide an extended range of energy efficiency measures to low income families.

In September 2012, we launched the Boiler Replacement Scheme which provides grant funding to lower income households to allow them to replace old inefficient boilers.

In 2013-14, 9,185 households were assisted with Warm Homes measures.

At 31 March 2014, 12,522 lower income households have replaced old inefficient boilers through grant funding.

The NI House Conditions Survey (HCS)⁴ provides figures on fuel poverty. Trends in the percentage of households in fuel poverty are shown below.

⁴ House Conditions Survey: http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index-corporate-housing_research-house_condition_survey.htm

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

19. Continue to take action to address fuel poverty in vulnerable households.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

2001 - 27%

2004 – 23%

2006 – 34%

2009 – 44%

2011 – 42%

The main reasons for the increase in Fuel Poverty between 2006 and 2009 were the generally rising fuel prices. The 2011 House Conditions Survey shows some progress in reducing the proportion in fuel poverty (to 42%) despite rising fuel prices. This is largely as a result of significant investment, particularly in the social sector, in new energy efficiency measures such as heating conversions, insulation and double glazing by the Housing Executive in its own stock and also by the Warm Homes Scheme in private homes.

During 2013-14 there were 5,997 heating starts.
14,000 Boiler Replacements to date.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

20. Ensure children and young people are living in homes which achieve the Decent Homes Standard.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

We are working hard to bring all homes up to standard. To do this we are:

- providing effective programmes of improvement and maintenance;
- reducing the levels of unfit housing and improving housing conditions in the private sector through grant aid;
- promoting good standards of housing design and practice;
- improving energy efficiency, promoting energy conservation and helping to alleviate fuel poverty.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

See Fuel Poverty reductions in Action 19. This is largely as a result of significant investment, particularly in the social sector, in new energy efficiency measures such as heating conversions, insulation and double glazing by the Housing Executive in its own stock.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

21. Increase social housing and employment opportunities through regeneration.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

Six areas where the Building Successful Communities programmes will be tested were announced in late 2013. Work has begun to establish a Regeneration Forum in each pilot area.

It is intended that additional social and affordable housing will be developed in Building Successful Communities pilot areas. Actual number of houses cannot be confirmed until action plans are developed for each area. This is likely to be in late 2014-15.

'Derry 2020' project is a collaborative city wide project which provides community based education and training programmes to participants with no or basic qualifications to prepare them for employment. It is run on a partnership basis across the four Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in Londonderry.

The Derry 2020 programme has achieved and in some cases exceeded NR outcome targets agreed up to 31 March 2014. Derry 2020 have confirmed variations in some planned outcome figures agreed with DEL. The main reason being the majority of participants who registered for the programme were ready for Level 2 entry and not Level 1, as originally planned for. This led to one target being exceeded while the other fell short of expectation. In respect of the Level 3 qualification target, additional outcomes will be reported in 2014-15 as some courses are currently ongoing.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

21. Increase social housing and employment opportunities through regeneration.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

The project targets include:

- Providing 2,250 unemployed participants with support-guidance-training; Met in full.
- Providing qualifications to at least level 1 to 90% of participants; Under-achieved - 2.78% of participants.
- Providing qualifications to at least level 2 to 60% of participants; Exceeded.
- Providing qualifications to at least level 3 to 30% of participants; Under-achieved - 13.09% of participants
- 20% of participants moving into employment-further education; Exceeded.

Derry 2020 have confirmed, following discussion with DEL, the 2014-15 outcome targets have been revised as follows:

- Up to 10% will achieve qualifications to at least level 1
- Up to 70% will achieve qualifications at level 2
- Up to 10% will achieve qualifications at level 3 and above
- 30% will move into employment-further education-volunteering.

Social Clauses for the unemployed were introduced by DSD into all new social housing and urban regeneration contracts from 1 January 2011.

The aim of this initiative is to provide training opportunities in terms of work placements for an unemployed person through the Department for Employment and Learning’s (DEL) programmes, approved schemes or equivalent. Since January

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:	
21. Increase social housing and employment opportunities through regeneration.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
	<p>2011, a total of 185 placements have been taken up. Of these, 14 offers of fulltime employment have been made. DEL and Contractors are working together to try and address this by trying to match the placement to the individual to reduce the dropout rate for individuals involved in these placements.</p> <p>From April 2013, Social Clauses have been introduced for Apprenticeships and Students. Detail on the uptake of this scheme will not be known until the end of the year.</p>
<p>DCAL's Stadium Programme includes social clauses within the contracts to build the three stadia which will maximise employment opportunities, apprenticeships and placement opportunities within the projects.</p>	<p>Contractors were appointed for the Windsor Park (IFA) and Casement Park (UCGAA) Stadium projects in December 2013. Specific clauses were included within each contract which will maximise the sustainable economic, social, equality and environmental outcomes of the Stadia Programme.</p> <p>Ulster Rugby has exceeded the requirement for 4 apprenticeship opportunities. A total of 12 apprentices have been employed on the Ravenhill site.</p>

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

22. Support statutory and voluntary agencies, including local councils, to provide services and programmes which meet the needs of local communities, particularly disadvantaged communities.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

DSD provided approximately £14.6m through its various funding programmes for both infrastructural support and frontline delivery to provide services to meet the needs of disadvantaged communities.

This funding includes infrastructural support of the sector, frontline services including voluntary advice, capacity building and delivery of the volunteering strategy.

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, DSD will where a priority need is identified within Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans and where resources are available, consider funding. The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme aims to bring together the work of all Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life. Neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure. Following extensive consultation, this resulted in a total of 36 areas, and a population of approximately 280,000 (one person in 6 in NI), being targeted for intervention.

Projects at local level continued to address the social and economic problems faced by deprived neighbourhoods, including high levels of worklessness, low levels of skills, lack of educational attainments and health matters. One of the aims of the Renewal Strategy is to help close the gap between Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and non Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. This is measured on an annual basis by a number of key outcome indicators relating to education, health, crime and worklessness. The [2013 Outcomes Indicator Reports](#) are available online.

(It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Neighbourhood Renewal Outcome Indicators Reports provide

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

22. Support statutory and voluntary agencies, including local councils, to provide services and programmes which meet the needs of local communities, particularly disadvantaged communities.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

will cease from April 2016, when budgets and powers will be extended to the new 11 Councils under the Reform of Local Government). DSD's role will primarily focus on supporting urban regeneration and community development as councils will be responsible for much of the delivery).

information which is used to monitor the conditions in the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The reports are produced on an annual basis, providing an opportunity to compare statistical information at a regional and local level. They provide information on expenditure, projects and progress against agreed output measures and allow for an annual stocktake of progress and spend within each area and identify any successes or failures against agreed output measures.

Funding and support to TidyNI who operate Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland

Number of Eco-Schools has increased to >92% (at 9 Jan) with intention of achieving 100% uptake by June 14.

The Pilots and Community Planning Working Group, which was part of the implementation structures for local government reform, was created in order to develop and refine practical working arrangements for **the integration of community planning** with existing council functions across the 11 new council clusters. The Working Group presented 3 key deliverables to the Department on 17 September 2013: a Community Planning Foundation Programme, a menu of pilots and a proposed capacity building framework for community planning. The Working Group has since agreed to be wound up and will be replaced with a Department-led Implementation Monitoring Group.

The Community Planning Foundation Programme was issued to the local government sector on 17 October 2013. A programme of tailored capacity building for local government is being taking forward. A **Community Planning Engagement event** took place on 3 December 2013. The audience primarily consisted of local government officers and staff, and staff transferring from central to local government. Community Places will be providing **tailored capacity building support** to the new council clusters until 1 April 2015.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

23. Continue to address the underlying causes of disadvantage and improve the physical environment of the most deprived neighbourhoods

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

DSD published the Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework in July 2013 and have developed an Action plan to support it. Policy Objective 1 of the Framework is 'to Tackle Area-based Deprivation' which demonstrates the continuing priority attached to this area.

The plan identifies the considerable number and range of actions that DSD is currently progressing which will help deliver the Framework's objectives and supporting actions. The initial timeframe for the activities in the plan is up to the end of March 2015 when the budgets and powers for regeneration and community development will be extended to the new 11 councils. The plan will be reviewed at that point as DSD's role will primarily focus on supporting urban regeneration and community development as councils will be responsible for much of the delivery.

DSD, through its Voluntary and Community Unit, plays an important role on behalf of the NI Executive Departments, in supporting the work of the voluntary and community sector, which makes an important and valued contribution to all aspects of community life, to include **delivering a range of child focused services which support children to thrive.**

In 2013-14, DSD has invested **funding in the region of £14.6m to support the work of the Voluntary and Community Sector.**

DOE Planning Policy Division published draft Supplementary

Publication of final design guide taking account of public

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

23. Continue to address the underlying causes of disadvantage and improve the physical environment of the most deprived neighbourhoods

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

Planning Guidance (SPG) entitled 'Living Places – An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for Northern Ireland', for public consultation, in August 2013. The main purpose of this manual is to promote a positive sense of place encompassing **local involvement, distinctiveness, visual quality and potential to encourage social and economic activities** which are fundamental to a richer and more fulfilling environment. This includes addressing challenges that can stand in the way of successful place making often prevalent in deprived neighbourhoods. The ethos of the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance is reflected in the emerging draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) which was published for consultation on 4 February 2014.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

consultation responses and further stakeholder engagement
Roll out training on the implementation of the guide.
When published in final form, the Supplementary Planning Guidance will provide a strategic planning framework for councils in shaping their local areas through the discharge of their new planning functions.

The following also contribute to this Priority Action Area:

Delivering Social Change Social Enterprise Incubation Hubs Signature Programme (see Priority Action 13).

Delivering Social Change Literacy and Numeracy Signature Programme.(see Priority Action 1)

Delivering Social Change Nurture Units Signature Programme. (see Priority Action 1)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Education, Childcare, Health, Family Support, Housing, Neighbourhoods

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

24. Reduce the risks to children which have been identified as increased due to living in deprived neighbourhoods, including for example road safety.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>DSD continues to support programmes on the ground that seek to address the range of social and economic problems faced by deprived neighbourhoods, including worklessness, low levels of skills and lack of educational attainment. Priority needs are identified within Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans.</p> <p>(It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will cease from April 2016, when budgets and powers will be extended to the new 11 Councils under the Reform of Local Government.) DSD's role will primarily focus on supporting urban regeneration and community development as councils will be responsible for much of the delivery.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Renewal Outcome Indicators Report provides information on outcome indicators which are used to monitor the conditions in the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The report is produced on an annual basis, providing an opportunity to compare statistical information at a regional and local level. Neighbourhood Renewal Annual Reports provide information on expenditure, projects and progress against agreed output measures. This report allows for an annual stocktake of progress and spend within each area and identifies any successes or failures against agreed output measures.</p>
<p>Following consideration by road safety partners of the recommendations of the research into Child Road Safety and Poverty in NI, four new Action Points were included in the Road Safety Strategy to 2020 in 2012 (AM 204 to AM 207)</p>	<p>In 2012, the rate of child pedestrians who have been killed or seriously injured (KSIs) per 100,000 child population as a result of road traffic collisions which occur in the 10% most deprived areas of NI rose by 16% (40 KSIs per 100,000 children) compared with the 2004-2008 baseline (35 KSIs per 100,000 children). This is now four times the rate experienced in the</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

24. Reduce the risks to children which have been identified as increased due to living in deprived neighbourhoods, including for example road safety.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

DOE's Road Safety Education Office Service (RSEOS) promotes road safety to all school children by **providing resources to teachers to teach and embed the road safety message.**

least deprived areas (10 KSIs per 100,000 children), and is therefore something that road safety activity continues to focus on.
 These measures are monitored and reported on within the context of the Road Safety Strategy. The annual report for 2012 can be viewed at www.doeni.gov.uk-roadsafety-index-road_safety_strategy.htm

The Road Safety Education Office Service oversees the **Practical Child Pedestrian Safety Training Scheme** which promotes good road safety behaviour in school children in identified targeted areas of Social Need. The schools are selected from the Free School Meal register from each ELB starting with the highest percentage of free school meals. Each Road Safety Education office selects 15 schools in their ELB area.
 Children participating in the scheme, which is a mixture of classroom theory and **practical roadside training**, are taught by their teacher using a lesson plan provided by the Road Safety Education Office Service. The training starts with children in year 3 and continues until year 5.

It is anticipated that **following this training children will be able to identify safer places to cross the road, identify risks and other dangers on the road.**

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

24. Reduce the risks to children which have been identified as increased due to living in deprived neighbourhoods, including for example road safety.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

The Theatre in Education Scheme provides **theatrical performances with a road safety message to selected primary and post primary schools in targeted areas of social need**. Schools identified to receive the scheme are selected from the Free School Meals register in each ELB area.

The Theatre in Education Scheme has been funded and managed by RSEOS for many years and has proven to be an effective and popular way to get **road safety messages to children and young people** aged between 4-18.

Fund the **installation of illuminated signs and flashing lights to Translink buses used for school transport**. The target is to fit 1,216 vehicles with school bus signage and lighting equipment (metro and Ulsterbus) by 1 September 2014.

754 vehicles (62.8%) have now been fitted with illuminated signs and flashing lights. This has **improved accessibility and safety of public transport services for children**.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Target financial support to be responsive to family situations

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Parental employment and skills, Financial Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

25. Maximise access to and uptake of grants, benefits and services, including social security benefits.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>DSD has provided approximately £2.8m to support a range of advice services in communities. The services are accessible to all, free at the point of need and particularly targeting those living in the most disadvantaged areas.</p>	<p>Regional and frontline advice services have been provided during the period. In particular local front line advice organisations have provided advice on a range of issues, in particular benefit issues, and have responded to in excess of 550,000 enquiries.</p>
<p>DSD launched Maximising Incomes & Outcomes - A 3 Year Plan for Improving the Uptake of Benefits in July 2013. This sets out the Department's plans and targets to ensure that every individual household is receiving all social security benefits to which they and their families are entitled and aims to secure at least £30m in additional benefits for a minimum of 10,000 people by 2016.</p>	<p>Three projects funded under the Innovation Fund for Improving Benefit Uptake focussed on families. The Low Income Families, Young People and In-Work projects conducted over 1,500 benefit entitlement checks and helped secure £963K in additional benefits (gross annualised amount).</p>
	<p>Year 1 of the Maximising Incomes and Outcomes plan, direct targeting, resulted in 25,157 existing clients (against a target of 25,000) being offered a full benefit entitlement check. The "Make the Call" regional advertising and promotion campaign</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

25. Maximise access to and uptake of grants, benefits and services, including social security benefits.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

ran from week commencing 14th October 2013 until the end of March 2014. Year 1 Of the Maximising Incomes and Outcomes (2013-14) achieved the following results:

- £14.2 million was generated in additional income from all benefit uptake activities during 2013/14.
- 4,226 people benefited from additional benefits and arrears.
- People were better off from the uptake campaign by an average of £62 per week.
- In terms of value for money, for each £1 invested in improving uptake a return of £11 in annual benefit and arrears was generated for people.

Year 2 of the Maximising Incomes and Outcomes plan has been developed and includes direct targeting a minimum of 25,000 people with the offer of a full benefit entitlement check, The Innovation Fund for improving benefit uptake and the “Make the Call” campaign. The plan will continue to prioritise and invest resources in programmes and activities aimed at

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

25. Maximise access to and uptake of grants, benefits and services, including social security benefits.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

encouraging the uptake of benefits, services and supports.

Analytical Services Unit in DSD are developing a Household Income Administrative Database which links individual benefit scans and tax credit data with HMRC earnings and savings data. Once complete, the database will provide an accurate estimate of household income. The structure of the database should allow for estimation of means tested benefit uptake rates and for future modelling to project additional take up of benefits as the result of the introduction of Universal Credit. As the database is being constructed at a household level the number of dependants can be analysed which may be useful in tackling child poverty. The equality groupings available for analysis will match those already available on the current benefit scans.

The database is in its early stages of development. HMRC data relating to earnings from employment was incorporated in January 2014. The database is subsequently undergoing rigorous testing to ensure the information has been integrated successfully.

Disability Living Allowance is a [tax-free social security benefit for people aged under 65 with an illness or disability who need help with getting around, or help with personal care, or help with both](#)

The latest published figures (February 2014) confirm the number of people under the age of 16 entitled to Disability Living Allowance was 17,200. Of these 4,070 are entitled to the care

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

25. Maximise access to and uptake of grants, benefits and services, including social security benefits.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

of these. Disability Living Allowance consists of two separate components. The mobility component is payable at higher - lower rate and the care component can be payable at three different rates; high, middle and low. People can receive either the mobility component or care component or a combination of both.

In 2011 a revised Disability Living Allowance claim form for people under the age of 16 was introduced following review and input from a number of voluntary groups. The claim form has assisted in the efficient gathering of evidence for child cases.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

component only, 70 are entitled to the mobility component only, with 13,050 entitled to both care and mobility components. *Please note these figures have been rounded to the nearest ten, totals may not sum due to rounding.*

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Target financial support to be responsive to family situations

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Parental employment and skills, Financial Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

26. Increase the level of financial competency in Northern Ireland.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

A Consultation exercise on a draft Financial Capability Strategy for Northern Ireland Consumers took place between 1 May – 31 July 2013. A young person’s version of the draft Strategy was also produced. This went to schools in NI.

The Financial Capability Strategy has been updated to reflect the outcome of the consultation, and a series of action plans have been developed. The combined Financial Capability Strategy and Action Plans was cleared by the ETI Committee on 20 February 2014 and is currently with the Executive for final clearance.

The DETI Minister launched a [new Money Management Information and Advice Resource](#) on the Executive’s NI Direct website on 13 January 2014

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

A set of NICS-wide Financial Capability Action Plans were developed in accordance with PfG 48 in support of the draft Strategy.

www.nidirect.gov.uk-managing-money is now live. This provides a central source of information, advice and signposting on money management issues. To continue to highlight awareness of financial capability, it is intended to undertake a leaflet drop to every household in NI will take place in autumn 2014.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

26. Increase the level of financial competency in Northern Ireland.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

The roll-out of a programme of money management seminars to NICS staff commenced in February 2014. To date 21 seminars have been held within 5 Departments.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Target financial support to be responsive to family situations

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Parental employment and skills, Financial Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

27. Ensure that, as far as possible, children living in low income families are not materially deprived i.e. they have the things they need such as warm home and adequate goods and services as outlined in page 21 and further defined in The Act.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>DHSSPS provided £1.57m to support the Family Fund, providing essential grant support to low-income families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people.</p>	<p>With this funding, the Family Fund helped 2,870 families in 2013-14. The Fund helps with essential items such as washing machines, fridges and clothing and also provides grants for sensory toys, computers, hospital visiting costs and much needed family breaks. These grants help break down many of the barriers families face, improving their quality of life and easing the additional daily pressures that come with raising a disabled or seriously ill child.</p>
<p>DSD continued to operate the Warm Homes Scheme, which provides a range of heating and-or insulation to low income families. See further detail in Action 19. In September 2012 we launched the Boiler Replacement Scheme, this provides grant funding to lower income households to allow them to replace old, inefficient boilers. See further detail in Action 19.</p>	<p>The Warm Homes Scheme makes homes warmer, healthier and more energy efficient, reducing home heating costs for families and reducing fuel poverty.</p>
<p>Funding of £38.4m to provide free school meals and £4.2 for</p>	<p>Free School Meals provision (with nutritional standards) helps</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

27. Ensure that, as far as possible, children living in low income families are not materially deprived i.e. they have the things they need such as warm home and adequate goods and services as outlined in page 21 and further defined in The Act.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

school uniform grants. See further detail in Action 2.

reduce costs for families, provide children with healthy meals (reducing food poverty) and helping them to do better at school. School Uniform Grants reduce costs for low-income families.

Free structured visits to the Ulster American Folk Park on Saturdays for children and parents from underachieving schools and summer schools during July and August (*See Action 10*)

Free museum visits allow children from low-income families access to the Arts and stimulates children culturally and academically.

DCAL will be running a series of Roadshows beginning in March 2014 which aim to raise awareness of the value and potential of culture, arts and leisure initiatives in helping to address economic and social disadvantage. Child poverty will be one of the issues touched upon

The Roadshows will provide greater awareness amongst voluntary organisations of how the 'DCAL family' can contribute to tackling child poverty.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Target financial support to be responsive to family situations

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Parental employment and skills, Financial Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

28. Provide support to families with specific needs eg families with disabled children, lone parents etc.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>The Housing Executive provides Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's).</p> <p>Disability Facilities Grants include works to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate access in and around the dwelling to enable the person with disabilities to fully utilise facilities such as bath/shower; Make the dwelling safe for the disabled person or others residing with them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2013/14, the Housing Executive approved 1,177 Disabled Facilities Grants at a total value of £10,829k.
<p>DSD, Social Security Agency, DE and the Strategic Leadership Forum for Special Needs Schools have worked together to plan a programme of work aimed at improving awareness and access to benefits advice for special needs young people, their families and educationalists</p>	<p>Work is ongoing with DE and the Strategic Leadership Forum for Special Schools to agree a programme of awareness sessions.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:	
28. Provide support to families with specific needs eg families with disabled children, lone parents etc.	
ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>An up-scaled Delivering Social Change NEET Signature programme was rolled out from October 2013 onwards. The programme provides support to young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in developing skills and linking them to the employment market through structured programmes and projects. Families complete short accredited training courses and work placements and were provided with one to one employment advice including CV writing and interview techniques. The families also engaged in debt management, stress management, healthy eating and cooking programmes and confidence, motivational and life coaching classes.</p>	<p>720 families will be targeted in the upscaled programme. Some of the outcomes of the pilot programme (which began in January 2013 targeted at 44 post primary schools families with children) included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members moving into employment; • Young people returning to school to complete their GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications); • Family members participating in structured training programmes; • Improved school attendance; and • Improved school performance.
<p>The Family Nurse Partnership is a voluntary home visiting programme for first time young mums, aged 19 or under (and dads). A specially trained family nurse visits the young mum regularly, from early in pregnancy until the child is two. (See more detail about the roll out of the programme in Action 2).</p>	<p>The Family Nurse Partnership programme helps enable young mums to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a healthy pregnancy • Improve their child's health and development • Plan their own futures and achieve their aspirations <p>The Family Nurse Partnership programme is underpinned by an internationally recognised robust evidence base, which shows it can improve health, social and educational outcomes in the</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

28. Provide support to families with specific needs eg families with disabled children, lone parents etc.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

short, medium and long term, while also providing cost benefits.

The following also contribute to this Priority Action Area:

- *Disability Living Allowance (see Priority Action 25);*
- *the Family Fund (see Priority Action 28);*
- *the Mortgage Debt Advice Service, which helped 240 single parent households between 1 April and 31 March 2014 with specialist housing and debt advice, (see Priority Action 29).*

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Target financial support to be responsive to family situations

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Parental employment and skills, Financial Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

29. Prevent people/families in NI from becoming homeless as a consequence of housing related debt.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

DSD has continued to fund the [Mortgage Debt Advice Service](#) which provides specialist housing and debt advice to households who are having difficulty paying their mortgage.

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

Up to 31 March 2014, the Service has helped 1628 client households, 240 of which were single parent households, 535 were couples with children and 197 were separated households. The number of dependent children living in these households totalled 1705. Furthermore, of the client households assisted by the Service to March 2014, [359 were directly prevented from being made homeless.](#)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Target financial support to be responsive to family situations

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS: Parental employment and skills, Financial Support

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

30. Implement redesigned child support arrangements.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14	OUTPUTS-RESULTS
<p>Using a Pathfinder approach, the new statutory Child Maintenance Scheme 2012 has been fully implemented. All new applications received by the NI Child Maintenance Service are being accepted onto the 2012 Scheme.</p>	<p>New child maintenance applications are being administered on the new statutory child maintenance scheme and IT system. The new Scheme is designed to ensure better outcomes for children.</p>
<p>Delivery of the Child Maintenance Choices service transferred to NI Direct in July 2013, and parents who wish to make an application to the 2012 Scheme now have an initial telephone conversation with Choices.</p>	<p>The Choices service provides parents with information and support on the child maintenance options available to them and signpost them to additional support services in areas such as legal advice, mediation, parenting and finance. This information and support helps parents through the process of separation and supports separating parents to co-operate in the future care of their children.</p>
<p>The Flat Rate Maintenance increased from £5.00 per week to £7.00 per week, from 25 November 2013 for children on the 2012 Scheme. Flat Rate Maintenance is the amount of child maintenance that a paying parent is liable to pay if they have a weekly income of £100 or less, or they are in receipt of certain prescribed benefits. The flat rate of child maintenance has been</p>	<p>The 'Flat Rate' payment for those on low incomes emphasises the principle that all parents should support their children where they have the means to do so, and that even the small amounts involved can make a difference to children's lives.</p>

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

30. Implement redesigned child support arrangements.

ACTION TAKEN IN 2013-14

OUTPUTS-RESULTS

the same since 2003 and the increase reflects the increased cost in bringing up a child since then.

A lone parent mailshot has been issued from August 2013 onwards to around 21,000 parents to **raise awareness of the Benefit Disregard in respect of child maintenance payments.**

Single parents in receipt of benefit have been made aware of the Benefit Disregard (i.e. their **benefits won't be reduced if they receive maintenance payments**). This will help them consider and put in place those child maintenance arrangements that best suit them.




LOW INCOME- HOW IT IS MEASURED IN HOUSEHOLDS BELOW AVERAGE INCOME REPORTS

Source: UK Department of Work and Pensions

LOW INCOME

How is it measured in Households Below Average Income?

1. The Family Resources Survey is carried out with a sample of approximately 20,000 households around the UK

QUESTIONS

Questions on household characteristics, earnings, benefits and housing costs are asked in an interview.

SAMPLE

A selection of the overall population. 20,000 households give results we can be confident reflect the whole population without surveying everyone in the UK.

KEY DEFINITIONS:

HOUSEHOLD

One person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room, sitting room, or dining area. A household will consist of one or more benefit units/families.

VS

FAMILY or BENEFIT UNIT

A single adult or a couple living as married and any dependent children.

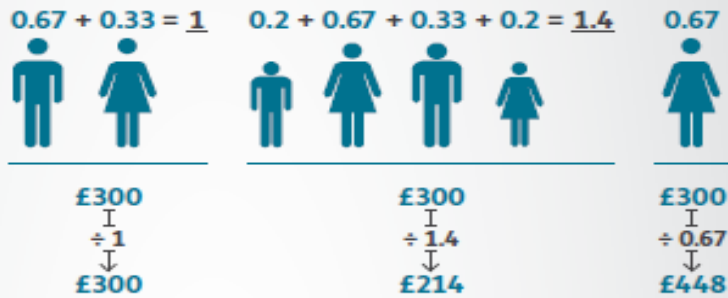
2. Income data undergoes **equivalisation**

Equivalisation allows comparisons to be made of individuals of different ages from different sized households.

Each household member is given a standard **weighting** which is **summed together**

Weekly net income **before** equivalisation

Weekly net income **after** equivalisation



A couple with no children is the reference point.

Income has decreased as a couple with children need a higher income to enjoy the same living standard.

Income has increased as a single person needs a lower income to enjoy the same living standard.

	Score value
First adult	0.67
Other adult	0.33
Children 14 yrs and over	0.33
Children under 14 yrs	0.2

3. Housing costs can be considered



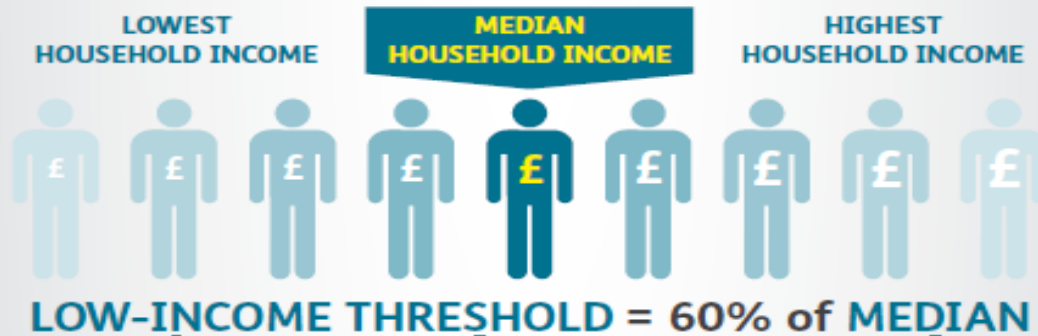
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

This includes benefits and earnings, and after tax deductions.

BEFORE HOUSING COSTS (BHC)
Housing costs (e.g. rent and mortgage interest payments) have not been deducted.

AFTER HOUSING COSTS (AHC)
Housing costs (e.g. rent and mortgage interest payments) have been deducted.

4. The **median household income** is used to find the number of people in **low-income households**



RELATIVE VS ABSOLUTE LOW INCOME

Relative low income: comparison to median of the current year.

Absolute low income: comparison to median of the 2010/11 year which allows comparisons over time as well as being a baseline for measuring progress against the Child Poverty Act 2010.

THRESHOLD

A threshold for low income is used for **comparing** sections of the income distribution **over time**.

WHY NOT THE MEAN AVERAGE?

Mean: sum of all incomes, divided by the number of people whose incomes were included.

The **median income** is the amount which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount.

In unequal distributions, the mean is likely to be influenced by high values, so it does not reflect the experience of most individuals. The median is not affected by a few very high values.

5. Inequality measures are produced

INEQUALITY: It is important to measure inequality as it shows how income is distributed across the population of the UK



If every household had an equal share of the total income the Gini coefficient would be 0.

The Gini coefficient measures inequality: the distribution of household income across the population of the UK.

THE HIGHER THE NUMBER, THE GREATER THE INEQUALITY.



A higher Gini coefficient indicates greater inequality (the maximum Gini coefficient is 100).

6. Confidence intervals show the uncertainty around the estimates

As a **sample** of the population is used, **estimates** of household income are produced. As a result, there is **uncertainty** around these figures.

The results from the **20,000** households around the UK are scaled up to represent UK results



A **confidence interval** indicates the extent to which an estimate may differ from the true value.



BIG CONFIDENCE INTERVAL = less precise estimate

SMALL CONFIDENCE INTERVAL = **more precise estimate**



More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/households-below-average-income-hbai-2>

For enquiries please contact the HBAI team at: team.hbai@dwp.gsi.gov.uk



Northern Ireland Executive

www.northernireland.gov.uk

DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE

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