

Poverty

17th September 2020

Child Rights and Poverty

- ▶ All children and young people are entitled to the full complement of rights under the UNCRC, including the right to health, education, play, and an adequate standard of living
- ▶ The 4 general principles help to interpret the UNCRC, and these are:
 1. Non-discrimination (article 2)
 2. Best interest of the child (article 3)
 3. Right to life survival and development (article 6)
 4. Right to be heard (article 12)

Poverty & Rights

- ▶ Article 24 protects children's right to the highest attainable standard of health, including access to nutritious food and pre and post-natal care
- ▶ Article 26 of the UNCRC says that children and young people's human right to social security should be fully realised.
- ▶ Article 27 protects the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
- ▶ The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.
- ▶ States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

Coping financially

- ▶ **1 in 7** households were materially deprived
- ▶ **1 in 5** households had difficulty coping financially
- ▶ **23%** of households with children have gone without new clothing for their child over the last year
- ▶ **1 in 10** households were in severe material deprivation
- ▶ **44%** of single parent families had difficulty coping financially
- ▶ **10%** of households have gone without fresh fruit or veg over the last year and **48%** said it's difficult to find affordable fruit and vegetables in Jersey

Impact of Covid-19

- ▶ More than a third (36%) of households reported that their finances had got worse due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- ▶ Half (50%) of households living in non-qualified rental accommodation and a third (32%) of owner-occupiers reported that their household finances had got worse
- ▶ More than a quarter (27%) of households expected their financial situation to get worse over the next 12 months

Key Issues

- ▶ £5,000 of food/electricity vouchers have been given out this year by one charity alone to support families. These are usually given at £20 at any one time, and are used to support families over a weekend or until they can access a food bank
- ▶ Over 6000 households receive income support, and 3,500 pupils Jersey Pupil Premium
- ▶ Access to financial support often dependent upon residency status of parents

Key Issues

- ▶ Housing presents significant challenges for families:
 - ▶ Lack of affordable housing
 - ▶ Lack of non-qualified housing
 - ▶ Insecure tenancies and concern or fear of reprisal if complain to landlord
 - ▶ Housing frequently listed with 'no children' clause
- ▶ 2013 - more than half of lower income households in 'housing stress'
- ▶ 2011 census – 5% total dwellings overcrowded; of which 10% of them had children living there:
 - ▶ 30% Portuguese/Madeiran
 - ▶ 89% Polish

Discussion Questions

- ▶ Do these issues mirror what you're hearing?
- ▶ Are there other issues that you are aware of?
- ▶ Have you noticed any emerging patterns recently?
- ▶ Do you have any data or reports you could signpost us to?