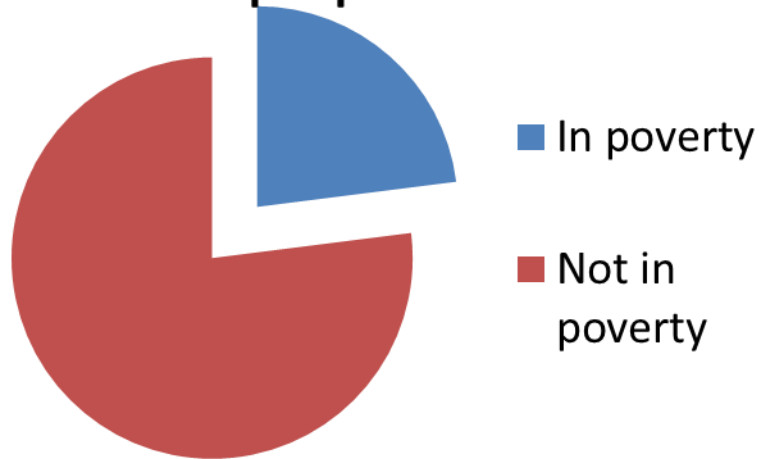


Tackling Poverty and Housing

James Burgess - Tackling Poverty Division, Welsh
Government

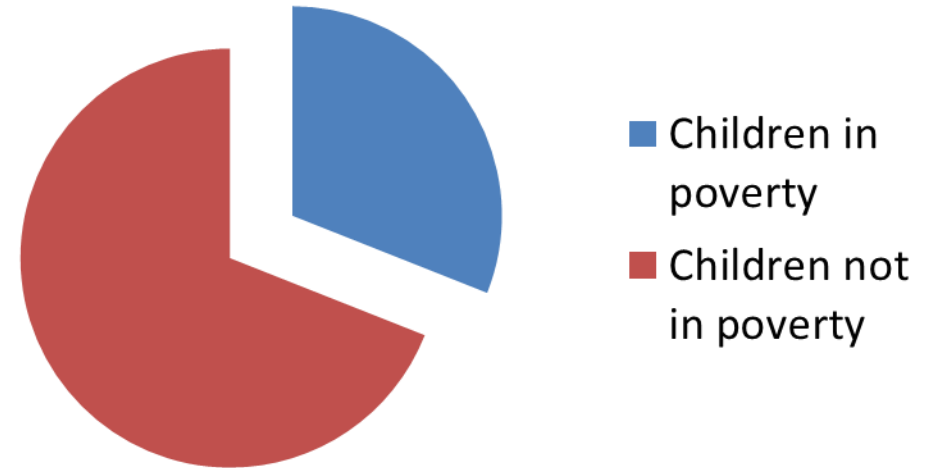
Challenges: Poverty

All people



Over 700,000 people

Children



Over 222,000 children

Poverty is higher in Wales than the rest of the UK

Challenges

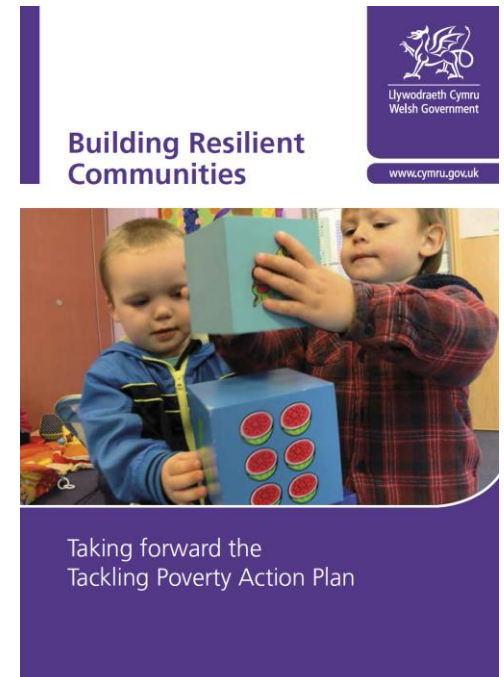
- 43 per cent of social housing tenants are living in poverty
- 38 per cent of private tenants are in poverty
 - Children living in poor housing are twice as likely to suffer poor health and twice as likely to leave school with no GCSEs
 - Welfare reform implications
 - Reducing budgets





“Reducing poverty, especially persistent poverty amongst some of our poorest people and communities, and reducing the likelihood that people will become poor.”
Programme for Government

“The Welsh Government is committed to improving the lives of people living in poverty and narrowing the economic, educational and health gaps between our most deprived and affluent areas.”
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Policy Focus in Wales



Tackling Poverty Progress

Six priorities

Good progress:

- **Early Years** - Doubling Flying Start ahead of time
- **Educational attainment** – Target achieved for 7 year olds
- **NEETs** - Number of 16 to 18 NEETs reducing
- **Housing and regeneration** - Additional affordable homes and empty homes back into use on track
- **Workless Households** - Lift Programme

Faster pace needed:

- **Educational attainment** – Faster increase in % of free school meals children achieving Level 2 at Key Stage 4 needed
- **Health inequalities** – No change in healthy life expectancy gap

Regional events

- Identification of shared priorities and opportunities for greater joint working
- Importance of early identification and of the first point of contact
- Appropriate referrals - training for staff across a range of organisations
- The reach of RSLs – greater than many organisations, particularly in rural areas
- Links to Welsh Government funded programmes important (geographical and Wales-wide)
- Importance of Community Benefits
- Informed the Child Poverty Strategy

Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales

- Reaffirms ambition to eradicate child poverty by 2020
- Focus on early intervention and prevention
- Restates commitment to deliver the 3 strategic objectives of the 2011 Strategy:
 - reducing worklessness
 - increasing skills
 - reducing inequalities in health, education and economic outcomes
- Two new objectives – economy, increase household income
- Tackling Poverty Action Plan remains key delivery mechanism for achieving the objectives

Child Poverty Strategy – new priorities



RSLs and the Poverty Agenda

- Are there opportunities to collectively do more?
- What role can Welsh Government play in facilitating linkages with other partners / programmes?
- How do we ensure appropriate early intervention and referral processes?

Diolch yn fawr / Thank you