

## Appendix 1

# Thurrock Council

## Child Poverty Needs Analysis



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## 1 Summary of Findings

### Thurrock Child Poverty Needs Assessment: Summary of Findings

A fifth of Thurrock children are growing up in poverty, according to the official definition of child poverty.<sup>1</sup> The vast majority of the 7,335 children affected are under the age of 11 and more than half are under the age of 5. Overall, child poverty in Thurrock is slightly below the national rate but higher than average for the East of England.

The child poverty measure used by government does not take into consideration families with low incomes that are above the threshold of 60% median income before housing costs, but who may be in poverty after housing costs are taken into account. When these are added to the official child poverty figures the total of children in Thurrock living in poverty may be as high as 8220.<sup>2</sup>

Child poverty exists everywhere in Thurrock but is most concentrated in the deprived parts of the borough. Just 6 of 20 Thurrock wards account for more than half of all children living in poverty.

At LSOA level, the inequalities between different areas are even more extreme. In the worst neighbourhood - Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock, LSOA 0018D - 55% of children live in poverty, 25 times the proportion in the neighbourhood with the lowest child poverty rate, which is in Corringham & Fobbing.

#### 1.1 Causes and consequences

Poverty results from a complex interplay of influences, involving factors at the level of the family, local neighbourhood, the employment market and wider society. Within this context, factors which appear to be the causes of poverty can also appear as consequences and vice versa. Poor educational attainment is an example of a factor which both drives and is a consequence of the experience of poverty.

In Thurrock, the areas of the borough which have the highest rates of child poverty in most cases also have the lowest educational attainment; more people in poor health or with disabilities which prevent them from working; higher proportions of workless families; more families who lack bank accounts or home insurance; fewer car owners; and higher proportions of adults who have poor basic skills or who lack qualifications.

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<sup>1</sup> HMR&C National Indicator 116 (2008)

<sup>2</sup> HMR&C Child Tax Credits. Working tax Credits and Out of Work Families

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## 1.2 Risk factors

**Large families:** Almost half of children living in poverty in Thurrock are living in families with three or more children.

**Unemployment:** The vast majority of children living in poverty have parents who are not in work, higher than the East of England average.

**Lone parents:** Nearly three quarters of children in poverty in Thurrock live in lone parent families, a higher proportion than for England as a whole or the East of England. Most of those children are living in families which are also workless.

**In-work poverty:** Among poor children living with two parents, just over a third are in families where at least one parent is in work.

**Children with disabled parents:** Children with disabled parents are more at risk of child poverty, because their parents are less likely to be employed. Data about adult disability in Thurrock is limited, but in the areas with the highest rates of child poverty, the proportion of adults claiming disability benefits is also higher.

**Children with disabilities:** Children with disabilities are more likely to be exposed to child poverty because one or more of their parents are unable to work, or to work full-time. There are more than 800 children with statements of educational need attending Thurrock schools.

**Children in care:** Children and young people who are looked after are among the most disadvantaged groups in England and Wales. The proportion of children in Thurrock who are in care is decreasing, but still above average for the East of England.

**Teenage parents:** Teenage mothers are three times as likely to suffer poverty compared with older mothers. In Thurrock, teenage pregnancy rates were very high, but have fallen since 1998. In 2008, the rate was 41.4, the second lowest rate in the East of England and below the national average. The highest rates are in Ockendon and Chadwell St Marys.

**Black Minority Ethnic families:** Nationally, BME families are at greater risk of poverty. Limited data is available regarding Thurrock, as HMRC child poverty does not specify ethnicity, but residence data suggest that more ethnic minority families live in the more disadvantaged south of the borough.

## 1.3 Trends and drivers

Overall, child poverty rates for Thurrock declined very slightly between 2006 and 2008. However, in some wards there have been small increases.

At LSOA level, the picture is more complex, with positive and negative changes of up to 7%, but nearly half of Thurrock LSOAS experienced an increase in child

poverty in the period August 2006-2008. Some of the increase has taken place in more affluent neighbourhoods.

The most recent available HMRC N116 child poverty data is from 2008, which means that any impact on child poverty from the current recession is not yet evident.

The main drivers of child poverty in Thurrock are:

**Worklessness:** Lack of employment is a key factor in creating and perpetuating child poverty. This is particularly the case among families headed by a lone parent.

**Low Pay:** Thurrock had a lower wage economy relative to nearby London Boroughs and much of the East of England. In 2009, average weekly earnings in the borough were £470, below the averages both in the East of England (£479) and nationally. Female earnings are 67% of male earnings and between 2009 and 2010, the gap widened further.

**Low skills:** Only 50% of Thurrock's working age population is qualified to at least NVQ Level 2. In 2010, 17,000 people of working age in Thurrock had no qualifications, a rate of 16.9%. The national rate is 12.3%. In addition, the percentage of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 is significantly lower than the national average and the percentage of young people in Thurrock going to university is still only about half the national average.

**Low attainment:** There is a clear link between poverty and poor educational attainment which is reflected in Thurrock at every key stage of the education cycle. Although there is evidence of recent improvement, the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and the rest is very high.

**Impact of the economic downturn:** The unemployment rate rose from its lowest point of 3.4 per cent in December 2007 to 7.3 per cent in March 2009, and in January 2010 was, at 7.5 per cent, higher than the East of England. This is likely to impact on the numbers of children living in poverty in the borough.

## 1.4 Assessment of services

The Council has put in place a number of strategic programmes to address low educational attainment, such as the 14-19 Partnership Plan and the Thurrock Learning Partnership's Lifelong Learning Strategy. These have yielded recent improvements in achievement. The Council has invested in projects such as the Gateway Academy, the planned Creative and Cultural Skills and Logistics Sector Skills Academies and the Thurrock Learning Shop and Campus. It is a partner with Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation to drive economic growth and to bring new jobs, housing and investment to the borough.

At local level, multi-agency services are focused on the provision of both universal services and more specialist interventions for vulnerable families. However, to date limited data exists in relation to the take up of services by families affected by poverty or the outcomes of particular interventions. It is also not evident how far those delivering services are clear about their roles in addressing child poverty.

There is limited evidence of consultations or needs analysis undertaken with families most at risk of poverty concerning the types of help needed and this is an area to develop in the future.

There is some evidence that the cost of services e.g. childcare, or poor public transport acts as a barrier to poorer families accessing services.

## 2: Child Poverty Act 2010

Part 2 of the Act introduced new duties on responsible Local Authorities to:

- Cooperate to put in place arrangements to work to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area;
- Prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment to understand the drivers of child poverty in their local area and the characteristics of those living in poverty; and
- Prepare a joint child poverty strategy setting out measures that the local authority and each named partner propose to take to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area.

## 3: Needs Assessment

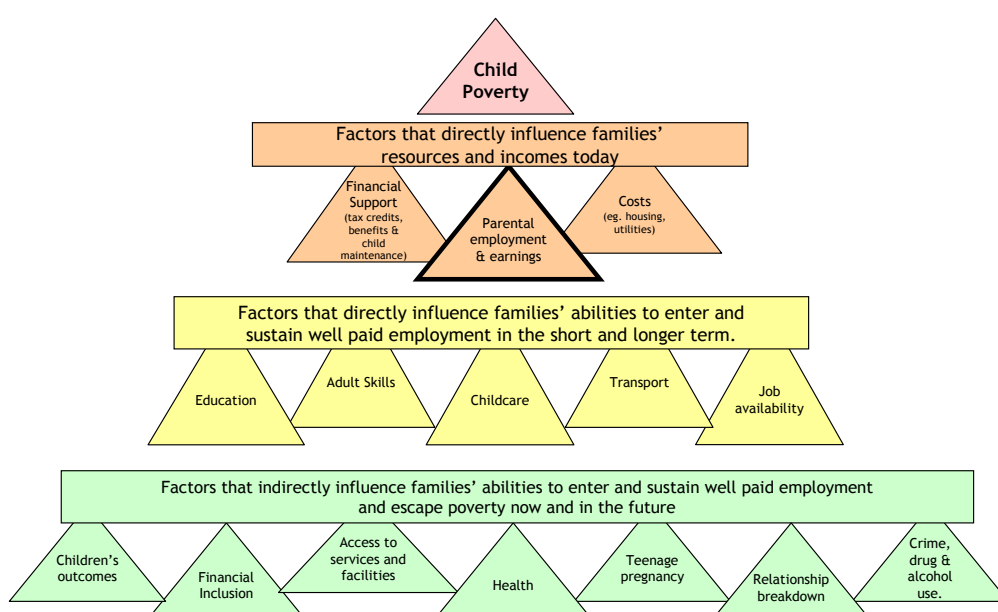
This needs assessment aims to:

- provide a deeper understanding of the characteristics of children and families living in poverty and the areas within Thurrock in which they live;
- establish the key drivers of child poverty in the area and the links with local service provision;
- assess relevant local service provision across the authority and its partners, its suitability, culture and available resources;
- make clear the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to tackling child poverty in the area; and
- provide a solid foundation for the development of the local child poverty strategy.

## 4: Methodology for assessment

The assessment utilises data from a basket of National Indicators (NIs) developed by the Child Poverty Unit which most closely reflect the drivers of child poverty. Much of this data is held on the government websites, the Office of National Statistics, DfE, DWP, HMR&C. Other data has been on regional websites, e.g. the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), in addition to a large number of other sources.

Fig. 1 Child Poverty Pyramid



The Child Poverty Unit has identified 20 indicators within the NIS which make up the child poverty basket. These include

NI116: Proportion of children in poverty.	NI156: Number of households living in temporary accommodation.
NI151: Overall employment rate.	NI187: % people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy rating.
NI166: Median income of employees in the area.	NI163: Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to L2 or higher.
NI181: Time taken to process HB/CTB	NI82: Inequality gap in the achievement of

new claims and change events.	a level 2 qualification by the age of 19
NI158: % non-decent council homes	NI92: Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFS and the rest
NI105: SEN/non-SEN gap achieving % A*-C GCSEs including English and maths.	NI101: LAC achieving 5A*-C GCSEs or equivalent at KS4 including English and Maths
NI106: young people from low income backgrounds progressing to HE.	NI102: Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers at Key Stage 2 and 4.
NI108: KS4 attainment for BME groups.	NI117: 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET
NI118: Take up of formal childcare amongst low income families.	NI176: Working age people with access to employment by public transport.

## 5: Local strategies

The assessment also draws on a range of needs analyses and strategies which have a bearing on child poverty, including:

- Communities Together Strategy 2010
- Housing Strategy 2010-15
- Homelessness Strategy 2010 -2015
- JSNA 2007 in 2011
- Local Area Agreement 2010
- Better Choices; Better Chances 14-19 Education Plan 2008 - 2013
- Sustainable Community Strategy 2020
- Thurrock Area Assessment 2009
- Organisational Assessment 2009
- Children and Young Peoples Plan 2010 - 13
- Thurrock Child Health Profile 2008
- Connecting Women in the Labour Market in Thurrock 2006 (Centre for Social Inclusion)
- Working Below Potential: Women and Part-time Work in Thurrock 2006 (Centre for Social Inclusion)
- Health Inequalities needs assessment (draft) 2011

## 6: Growing up in Thurrock

Thurrock is a unitary authority situated 25 miles to the east of London on the River Thames. It covers an area of 64 square miles, over half of which is Green Belt. It has a diverse economy, including a number of industrial sites and is home to the Lakeside Shopping Centre, one of the largest retail developments in Europe. The Borough is a priority area within the Thames Gateway area, a development corridor which is expected to create 26,500 new jobs, provide

18,500 new homes and establish the Gateway as an eco-region, leading the way in low carbon and sustainable regeneration.

Thurrock has a young and expanding population of 157,000 people (2009)<sup>3</sup> which is projected to grow to 199,200 by 2033. A fifth of the population is under 15 years of age, compared with 18% for England as a whole. Over the next 25 years, however, Thurrock will experience an ageing of its population with a predicted 71% increase in people over 65 years.<sup>4</sup>

There are 31,000 children the age of 15 living in Thurrock, representing 19.7% of the total population.<sup>5</sup> Of these 11,300 children are under the age of five. The highest concentrations of children are found in the south of the Borough, but particularly in wards such as Tilbury Riverside, Tilbury St Chad, West Thurrock and South Stifford, Grays Thurrock and Chafford and North Stifford. The single highest concentration is in Grays Riverside, where 29% of the population is under the age of 15.

The borough is made up of both indigenous local families, and a more recent and ethnically diverse population, resulting from inward migration from London and other parts of the country. Approximately 10% of the population is Black Minority Ethnic (BME) and in 2009, 25% of primary school children and 20% of secondary school children were from BME groups.<sup>6</sup> The largest minority group among school age children is Black African.

Thurrock is in the second quartile of local authorities in terms of deprivation and has enjoyed increasing affluence over the past five years. This overall picture, however, masks some very significant pockets of deprivation. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each Lower Level Super Output Area (LSOA) in England, allowing small neighbourhoods to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation.

Of 95 Lower Super Output Areas in Thurrock, 5 are in the 10% most deprived in England, while 11 are in the 20% most deprived. The most deprived wards in Thurrock include Tilbury St Chads, Grays Riverside, Belhus, Chadwell St Mary, Ockendon and West Thurrock and South Stifford. Across the Borough, 15% of primary school children and 14% of secondary pupils receive free schools meals (FSM) similar to national averages of 16% and 13% respectively.

Fig 2 IMD 2007 Child deprivation rankings by ward

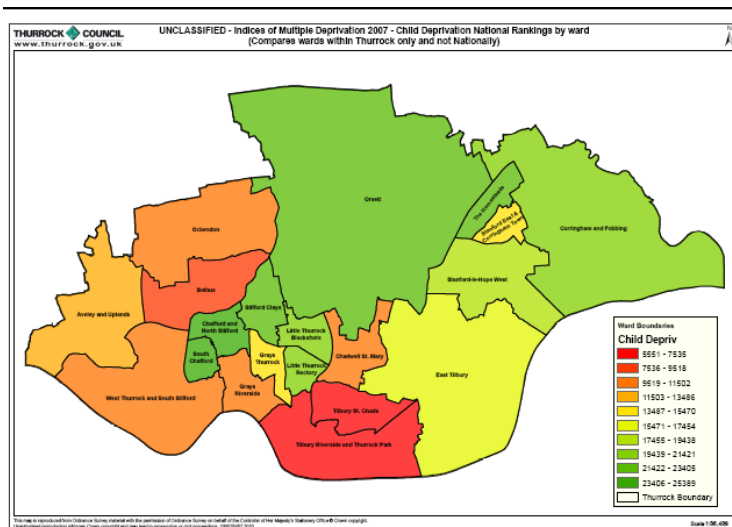
<sup>3</sup> ONS 2010 Mid-2009 Population Estimates

<sup>4</sup> Thurrock Housing Strategy 2010-2015

<sup>5</sup> ONS 2010 Mid-2009 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Broad Age Group and Sex

<sup>6</sup> Better choices: better choices 14-19 Education Plan 2008 -13





Thurrock has 15 children's centres, 43 primary schools, 10 secondary schools of which two are academies, two special schools, a pupil support service, a Sixth Form College and a further education college. GCSE results have improved significantly since 2006 and the 2010 results in five or more grades A\*-C, including English and Maths, were amongst the top three most improved authorities in the country. In the same year, children's results at Key Stage 1 improved but attainment at Key Stage 2 was too low and is a priority for improvement.

The trend is of improving health but substantial health inequalities exist in communities with high unemployment and poor educational attainment. The proportion of low birth weight babies in Thurrock is higher than the national average. Rates of obesity in 5 and 10 year olds are high. The reduction in teenage pregnancy remains a priority. <sup>7</sup>

## 7: The extent and distribution of child poverty-Thurrock

### 7.1: Key facts

The latest data provided by HMR&C provides a snapshot of child poverty within the borough at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008. <sup>8</sup>

- In 2008, Thurrock had 7,335 or 19.8% of children living in poverty. Between 2006 and 2008, child poverty in the borough decreased by 0.3%.
- Child poverty in Thurrock is slightly below the England average (20.9%) but above average for the East of England (16.1%).

<sup>7</sup> Children and Young people's Plan 2010-2013

<sup>8</sup> HMR&C N1116 (2008)

- The majority, 7115 of children living in poverty were under the age of sixteen and 6100 (83%) were under the age of eleven. The largest single group affected by poverty are children aged 0-4, representing 53% of all Thurrock children in poverty. This is higher, by 3 percentage points, than the national average proportion of this age group living in poverty.
- Almost half, (43%) of children living in poverty in Thurrock were living in families with three or more children, similar to the East of England average and slightly less than the English average (46%).
- The majority (80%) of children living in poverty had parents who were not in work and were claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) or Income Support (IS). This is slightly higher than the English average (76%) and higher than the East of England average (74%).
- Nearly three quarters (73%) of children living in poverty in Thurrock lived in lone parent families, a higher proportion than for England as a whole (68%) or the East of England (70%). Most of those children (85%) who lived with a lone parent were living in families which were also workless, the same as the English average but higher than East of England (82%).
- Among children living with couple families, 65% were living with parents claiming JSA/IS, with 35% living with parents in receipt of Child Tax Credits < 60% of median income.

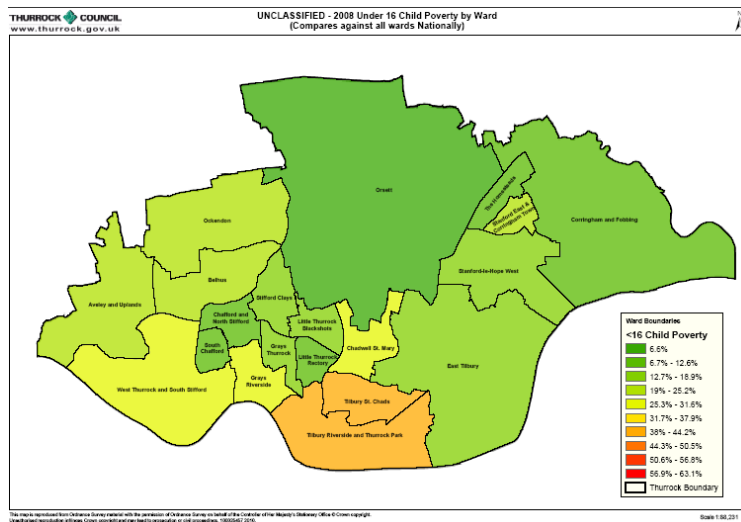
## 7.2: Distribution of child poverty in the borough

Child poverty exists everywhere in Thurrock but is most concentrated in the deprived parts of the borough.

At ward level, child poverty is highest in Tilbury Riverside, (36.6%) Tilbury St Chad's (36.5%), West Thurrock and South Stifford (29.1%), Grays Riverside, (27.1%) and Chadwell St Mary (26.6%). It is lowest in Orsett (6.4%), South Chafford (8.2%) and Corringham & Fobbing (8.3%).

Child poverty is highly concentrated within a few areas of the borough. Just 6 of 20 Thurrock wards account for more than half (55%) of children in poverty.

Fig 3 Child poverty by ward



At LSOA level, the inequalities between different areas are even more extreme. In Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock, LSOA 0018D, 55% of children live in poverty, *25 times* the proportion in the LSOA with the lowest child poverty rate, which is in Corringham & Fobbing.

Twelve of Thurrock's 95 LSOAs have 30% or more children living poverty. There are six LSOAs with 40% or more children in poverty and two with more than 50% of children in poverty.

The LSOAs or neighbourhoods with the highest rates of child poverty are, without exception, among the most deprived in the borough. Two Thurrock LSOAs are within the worst 15 neighbourhoods for child poverty in the East of England.

## 7.2: Free school meals

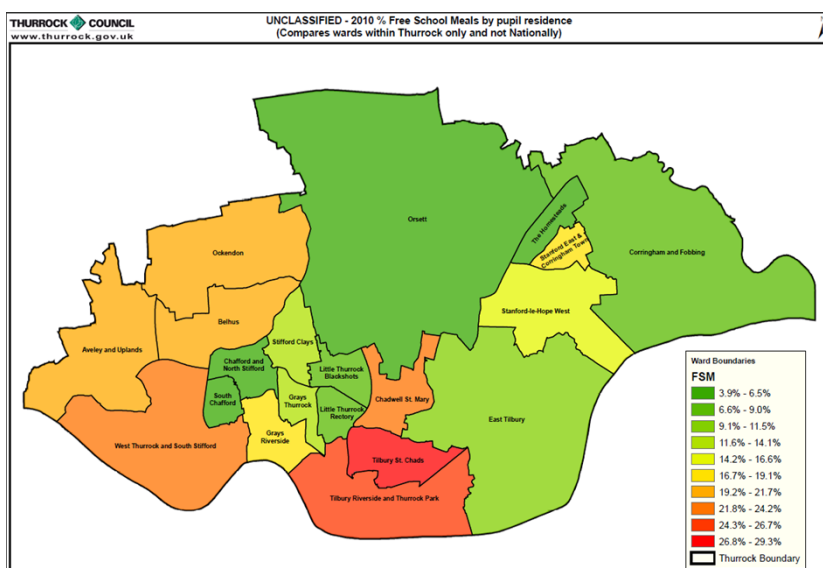
Eligibility and take-up of Free School Meals (FSM) provide a further measure of children likely to be living in poverty. In Thurrock, 3,485 pupils enrolled in schools were receiving Free School Meals.<sup>9</sup> A fifth of those pupils lived in Tilbury Riverside or Tilbury St Chads, 17% in the Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAS) which make up Ockendon and Belhus Wards and 11% In the MSOA which includes West Thurrock and South Stifford.

Nearly half of all pupils receiving Free School Meals live in five Wards.<sup>10</sup>

Fig 4 Free school meals by pupil residence

<sup>9</sup> DFE 2010 SFR09-2010lat

<sup>10</sup> ONS 2009



### 7.3: Low income

The child poverty measure used by government does not take into consideration families with low incomes that are above the threshold of 60% median income, before housing costs. However, given the costs of housing in the Thames area, there may be many low income families who experience at least some of the impacts of child poverty.

In Thurrock, across Tilbury Riverside and Tilbury St Chads, nearly 40% of households are estimated to be below 60% median income after housing costs. In MSOA 015, which is mainly West Thurrock and South Stifford, 29% of households are estimated to fall within this measure and in MSOA 007, which is mainly Belhus Ward, the same significant percentage falls within this category.<sup>11</sup>

### 7.4: Recent trends

Child poverty rates for Thurrock declined very slightly (0.3%) between 2006 and 2008. Among the three wards with the highest child poverty rates, the fall was larger, ranging from just more than 1% to slightly over 3%. However, in all but one ward where child poverty is below the Thurrock average, there have been small increases, ranging from 0.3% to 2.1%.

At LSOA level, the picture is more complex, with positive and negative changes of up to 7%. The largest increase was in LSOA 005D in Homesteads Ward where child poverty increased from 10% to 15%. In Thurrock 018D in Tilbury Riverside, the numbers of children living poverty rose by 4.6% to 55.1% of children within the area.

<sup>11</sup> ONS 2010 Households in Poverty: Model Based Estimates at MSOA Level, 2007/2008

Forty five of 95 Thurrock LSOAs experienced an increase in child poverty in the period August 2006-2008. Among those LSOAs where child poverty decreased, the largest reduction was in 018C, in Tilbury Riverside, by 6.5%.

In the period 2007-2009, the percentage of pupils eligible for Free School Meals in Thurrock rose from 13.7% to 15%, possibly suggesting an increase in financial hardship.

Overall, the picture is conflicted. In some of the most deprived neighbourhoods child poverty has decreased significantly, but this is offset by increases in other neighbourhoods, particularly in more affluent parts of Thurrock. The most recent available HMRC N116 child poverty data is from 2008, which means that any impact on child poverty from the recession is not yet captured.

## 8: Assessing child and family deprivation

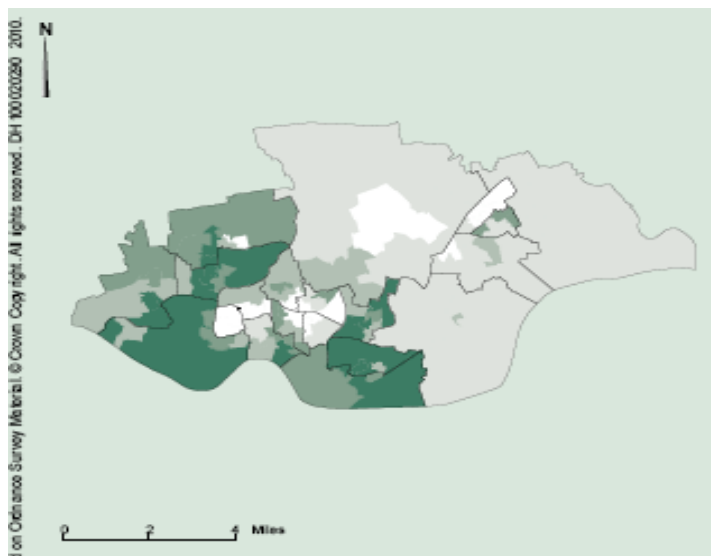
### 8.1: Health

Poverty in childhood exerts its effect throughout the life course and can be transmitted from one generation to another. Intergenerational transmission occurs through maternal health and health-related behaviour before and during pregnancy. During pregnancy low-income women are more likely to gain less weight and to smoke. Poor infants are more likely to be born early or to be of low birth weight and are at increased risk of infant mortality. Specific chronic illnesses, such as iron deficiency, anaemia and asthma, are associated with lower socio-economic class and ethnic minority status. Acute illnesses are more likely to affect poor children and they have a higher risk of hospital admission. The prevalence of specific conditions, such as ADHD is higher in poor children and children from lower income groups are more likely to experience emotional and behavioural problems.<sup>12</sup>

Overall, the health of people living in Thurrock is broadly similar to England as a whole, but there are persistent inequalities of experience between more deprived and less deprived areas. The following figure maps these by LSOA. The darkest areas are the most deprived.

<sup>12</sup> End Child Poverty(2008) Health Consequence of Poverty for Children

Fig 5 Health deprivation



Male life expectancy in the most deprived parts of the borough is 7 years less than in the least deprived areas. For women, the gap in life expectancy is 4 years.

Ten of Thurrock's 95 LSOAs are in the worst quartile of the health domain of the IMD deprivation.<sup>13</sup> The most deprived wards are:

- Belhus
- Chadwell St Mary
- Ockendon
- Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park
- Tilbury St. Chads

Inequalities affecting children include low rates of breastfeeding and high levels of child obesity.

The 2011 Health inequalities Needs Assessment shows that the percentage of women who are breastfeeding after delivery ranges from 54% to 82% and falls to 13-38% by 6-8 weeks. The MSOA's which have the worst overall rankings for breastfeeding are in following wards:

- Belhus and Ockendon;
- East Tilbury;
- Tilbury St Chads and Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park; and
- Little Thurrock and Blackshots.

The percentage of children in Reception Year who are obese (11.5%) is significantly higher than the English average (9%). The prevalence in Year 6, (20.3%), is also higher than the English average (18.5%).<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> IMD 2007

## 8.2: Educational Achievement

Poor educational attainment is both a driver of child poverty and a manifestation of its effects. Deprivation in childhood has a very significant impact on the life course including lower earnings and poorer qualifications in adulthood.<sup>15</sup> Poverty is strongly associated with poorer performance, on average, at every Key Stage.<sup>16 17</sup>

The impact of deprivation on cognitive and educational measures is apparent from a very early age. Analysis of the 1970 British Cohort and Millennium Cohort studies show divergences in development associated with socio-economic status from as early as 22 months. At age three, children from lower income households have lower vocabulary scores and at age five, children have lower standardised scores on cognitive ability tests.<sup>18 19 20</sup> Up to 10% of children have a long-term, persistent communication disability, and approximately 50% in socially disadvantaged areas have significant language delay on entry to school.<sup>21</sup>

In Thurrock, educational outcomes are improving, but attainment is, overall, low compared with the East of England and England as a whole.<sup>22</sup> At the Foundation Stage, 45% of children achieve a good stage of development, compared with 50% of children in the region and 52% nationally.

At Key Stage 2, 66% of Thurrock children achieve Level4+ in Maths and English, compared with 71.4% in the East of England and 72% across England. Thurrock has the lowest results in the East of England.

Fig 6 Percentage of children achieving expected level at KS2

<sup>14</sup> National Child Measurement Programme 2009 DH

<sup>15</sup> Gregg, P. and Machin, S., (1999) The Relationship Between Childhood Experiences, Subsequent Educational Attainment and Adult Labour Market Performance

<sup>16</sup> Blanden, J. and Gregg, P. (2004) Family income and educational attainment: a review of approaches and evidence for Britain. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 20 (2). pp. 245-263

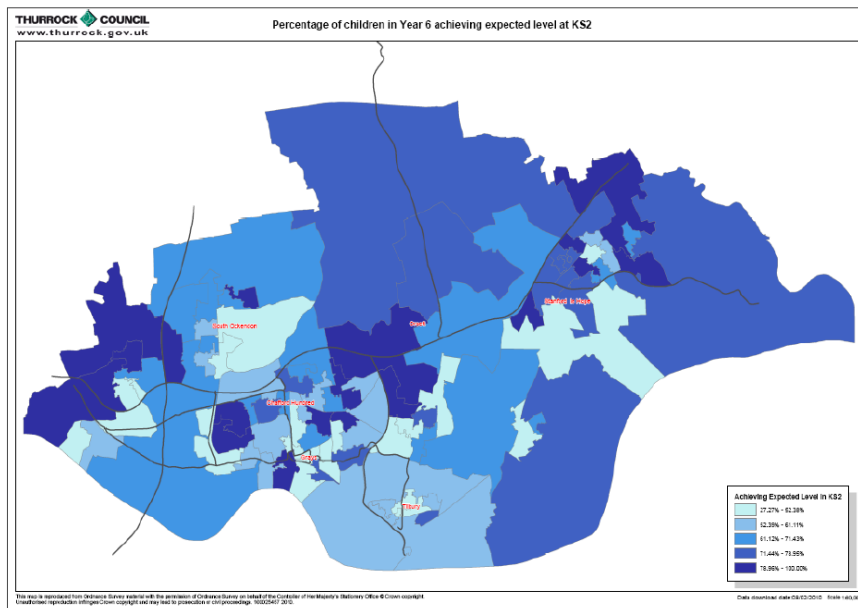
<sup>17</sup> DCSF (2009) Deprivation and Education The evidence on pupils in England, Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4

<sup>18</sup> Feinstein, L. (2003) Inequality in the Early Cognitive Development of British Children in the 1970 Cohort, *Economica* 70, pp. 73-97

<sup>19</sup> George, A., Hansen, K., and Schoon, I. (2007). Child Development In K. Hansen & H. Joshi (Eds.), *Millennium Cohort Study. Second Survey. A User's Guide to Initial Findings*. London: Institute of Education, Centre for Longitudinal Studies.

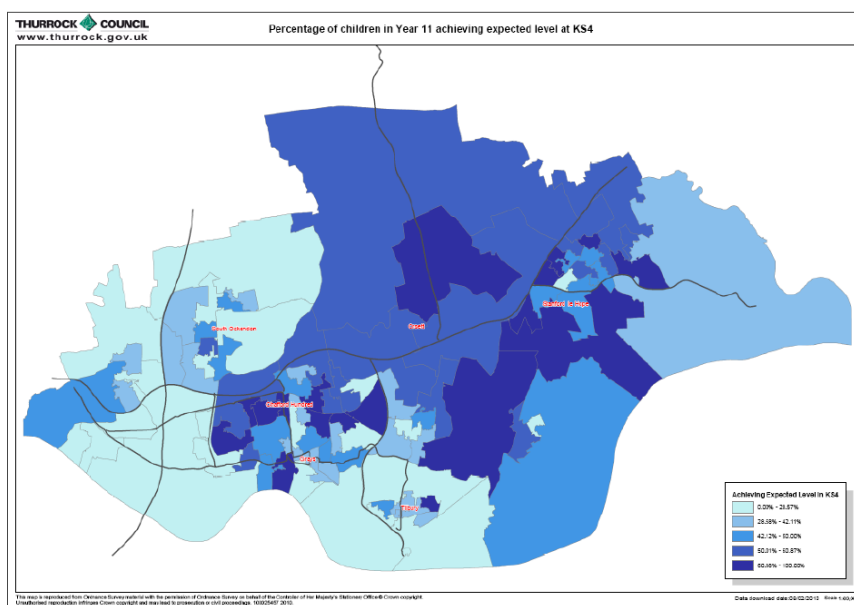
<sup>20</sup> Jones, E. & Schoon, I. (2008) Child behaviour and cognitive development. In K. Hansen & H. Joshi (Eds.), *Millennium Cohort Study Third Survey. A User's Guide to Initial Findings*. London: Institute of Education, Centre for Longitudinal Studies

<sup>21</sup> CAN (2006) *The Cost to the Nation of Children's Poor Communication*



At Key Stage 4, 46.6% of pupils achieve 5 GCSEs A\*-C including English and Mathematics, compared with 51.9% in the region and 50.9% nationally.

Fig 7 Percentage of children in year 11 achieving expected level in KS4



The percentage of young people not in education or Training (NEET) is, at 6.6%, only slightly higher than the national and average rate, but the percentage of



young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 is only 40.7%, significantly lower than the national average of 51.4%. (N117) Within this overall picture, there are considerable inequalities of experience arising from poverty and deprivation, with children and young people from affluent areas doing better than those from deprived areas of the borough.

The gap at Key Stage 2 between FSM pupils and non FSM pupils is in the worst quartile (27%). (N102)

Achievement gaps at the Early Years Foundation Stage are given by NI92; defined as the gap between the median Early Years Foundation Stage Profile score of all children locally and the mean score of the lowest achieving 20% of children locally, as a percentage of the median score of all children locally. The gap (36.5%) In Thurrock is higher than the national average (33.9%) and the highest in Eastern England.

At LSOA level, children in the worst performing areas achieve significantly below average. And there is a strong relationship between child poverty and poor educational attainment – as shown in the following results for LSOAs with the highest concentrations of child poverty. Although there are some unexpected variations, the overall picture is of under-achievement.

Fig 8 Poverty and educational achievement

LSOA	Ward	% children in poverty	% good level of development at Foundation Stage	KS2 L4 in English & Maths (%)	5 A*-C GCSEs (English & Maths (%))
Thurrock 006A	Belhus	30.7%	38%	41%	32.1%
Thurrock 007F	Ockendon	36.4%	43%	57%	45.2%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	37.3%	33%	47%	9.7%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	34.3%	32%	50%	54.5%
Thurrock 015A	Aveley and Uplands	32.4%	50%	X	x
Thurrock 015C	W Thurrock and S Stifford	34.2%	44%	71%	32.1%
Thurrock 015E	W Thurrock and S Stifford	40.6%	38%	53%	36.4%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	51.1%	55%	53%	23.5%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock	42.3%	67%	52%	15.8%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock	55%	35%	63%	48.0%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	45.8%	42%	54%	19.4%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	44.9%	54%	27%	36.0%
<b>Thurrock</b>		<b>19.8%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>47.8%</b>

### 8.3: Housing

Thurrock has a high proportion of terraced housing and lower levels of detached housing. Reflecting this, house prices in the borough are below average for both the East of England and England as a whole. The average house price in 2010 was £145,171, compared with £165,314 for England and Wales and £175,731 for the East of England.

Fig 9 Average house prices

Average Price (£)	Monthly Change (%)		Annual Change (%)
England & Wales	165,314	- 0.2	8.2
East of England	175,731	- 0.6	9.0
Essex	191,162	0.0	9.1
Thurrock	145,171	0.7	6.0

The tenure of the housing stock is as follows:

Fig 10 Tenure

Local Authority	RSL	Private	Total
10,322	1519	52,014	63,855
16.2%	2.4%	81.4%	100%

While house prices have fallen since 2008, property is increasingly out of reach for the majority of local people. It has been calculated that to buy a house in Thurrock, a person would require 5.3 times their annual income. There is a significant demand for social housing in the borough, with 2,597 households on the waiting list at March 2010.<sup>23</sup>

In April 2005, 3.3% or just over 2000 dwellings in Thurrock were considered unfit. (NI 158) This was above the Essex average of 2.1% but below the England average of 4.4%. Of unfit dwellings in Thurrock, about 95% were owner occupied or privately rented dwellings, with the remainder being local authority owned.

A Housing Needs survey in 2005 found that:

- 25.6% could afford a weekly rent of no more than £50 and 20.4% no more than £60;
- 52.6% could not afford a mortgage of more than £500 per month;
- 28.2% have household incomes below £10,000 per annum, 19.6% earn between £10,000 and £20,000 and a further 13.3% between £20,001 and £25,000, 90.7% in total earning below £35,000;

<sup>23</sup> All data from Thurrock's Housing Strategy

- 75% have inadequate income to be able to buy and 61% cannot afford to rent privately even the smallest one and two bedroom flats and terraced houses.<sup>24</sup>

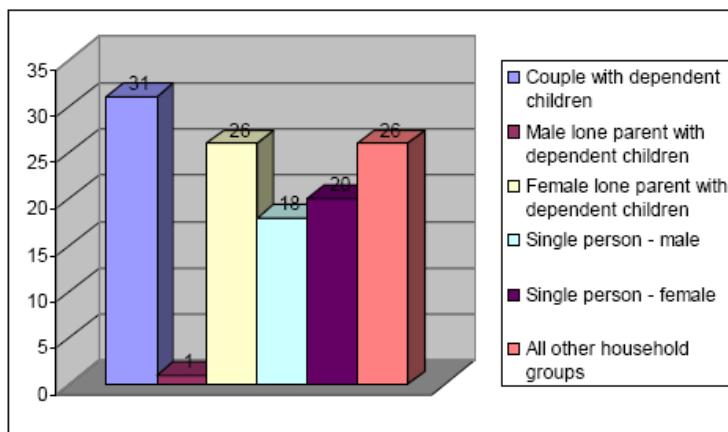
A recent Strategic Housing Market Assessment estimates that Thurrock has a net annual housing need of 524 additional affordable properties to meet current demand. There is, therefore, a large imbalance between supply and demand for affordable housing.

The Council's housing stock is in good condition with 7% of its stock being classed as non-decent as at 2007/8. The Council achieved the Decent Homes standard for its public sector stock in March 2010. A key ambition is to continue maintaining this standard (or its successor). There was also a reduction in the number of vulnerable residents in non-decent homes in the private sector; 3.5% of private sector housing is classified as unfit.<sup>25</sup>

In 2008/9 there were 121 accepted applications for homelessness in Thurrock and there has been 68% reduction in the number of homeless applications taken since 2003/4. The current rate is below the average for the East of England and the national rate.

The predominant family types among those accepted as homeless have dependent children.<sup>26</sup> In 2007, 89 families with children were in temporary accommodation. (NI156).<sup>27</sup>

Fig 11 Homelessness acceptances



In March 2010, there were 11,250 housing benefit recipients in Thurrock. <sup>28</sup> Nationally, 70% of housing benefit recipients live in the social rented sector and

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/housing/pdf/housing\\_needs\\_2004\\_summary.pdf](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/housing/pdf/housing_needs_2004_summary.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Source: Sub region stock condition survey 2007

<sup>26</sup> Thurrock Homelessness Review 2010

<sup>27</sup> Homeless Review 2010

<sup>28</sup> DWP Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) 2010

27% have dependent children. This suggests there may be more than 300 families with children in Thurrock receiving housing benefit.

## 8.4: Financial Exclusion

Financial exclusion is generally defined as the inability of individuals to access mainstream financial products and services, such as bank accounts, credit cards or home insurance. Financial capability is defined in relation to the knowledge and skills required to understand our financial circumstances and the motivation to take action.

Financial exclusion and indebtedness is concentrated in urban areas, and is in inverse relationship to household income. Across the Eastern Region, 13% of people of working age have been refused credit, 4% have no current account, 28% have no savings account, 47% have no credit card and 29% have no home insurance. Thurrock is one of six urban areas in the region found to have the highest concentration of financial exclusion. The LSOAs with the highest levels of financial exclusion are in the following wards.

- Stanford East & Corringham Town
- Belhus
- Ockendon
- Aveley & Uplands
- Chadwell St Marys
- Grays Riverside
- Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park
- Tilbury St Chads

Financial exclusion is positively correlated with other measures of deprivation. Financially excluded people are more likely to be in receipt of welfare benefits and to live in rented accommodation.

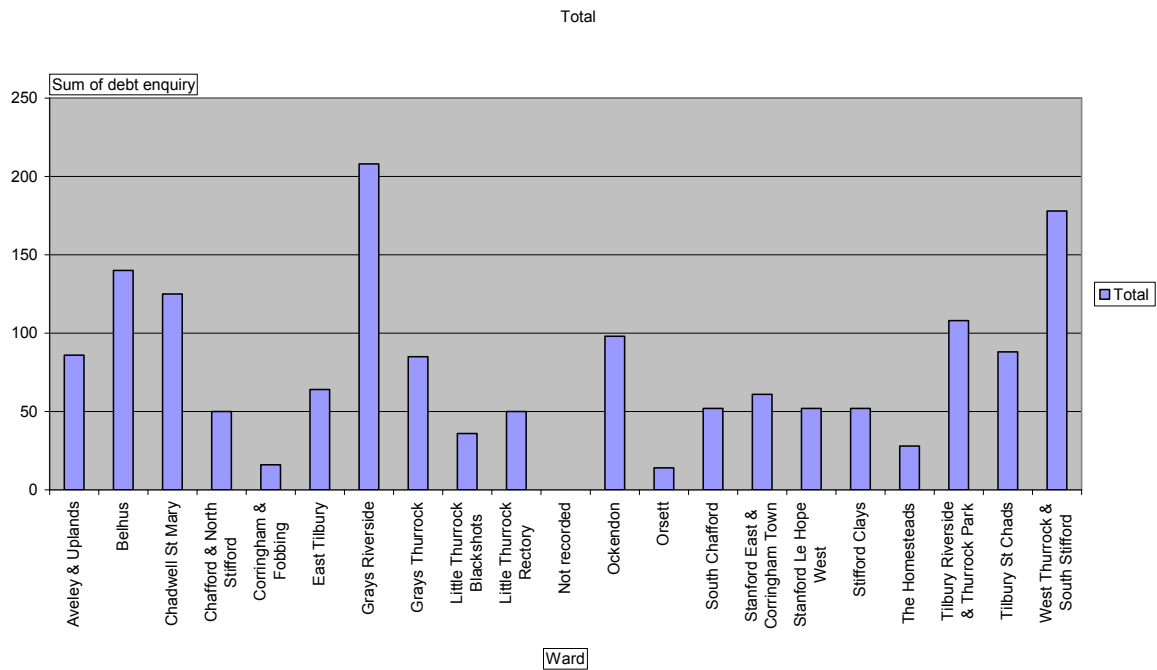
Financially excluded households are more likely to contain a higher than average number of children and young people. They are also more likely to be lone parent households.<sup>29</sup>

The Citizen's Advice Bureau has reported that 42% of people contacting the Thurrock CAB have problems with debt. The figure below shows rates of inquiry by ward.<sup>30</sup>

Fig 12 Debt enquiries by ward

<sup>29</sup> Financial Inclusion in the East of England EEDA 2008

<sup>30</sup> Thurrock Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Report 2009/10



In Thurrock, 8 of the highest 11 LSOAs for child poverty also have high levels of financial exclusion.

Fig13 Financial exclusion by LSOA

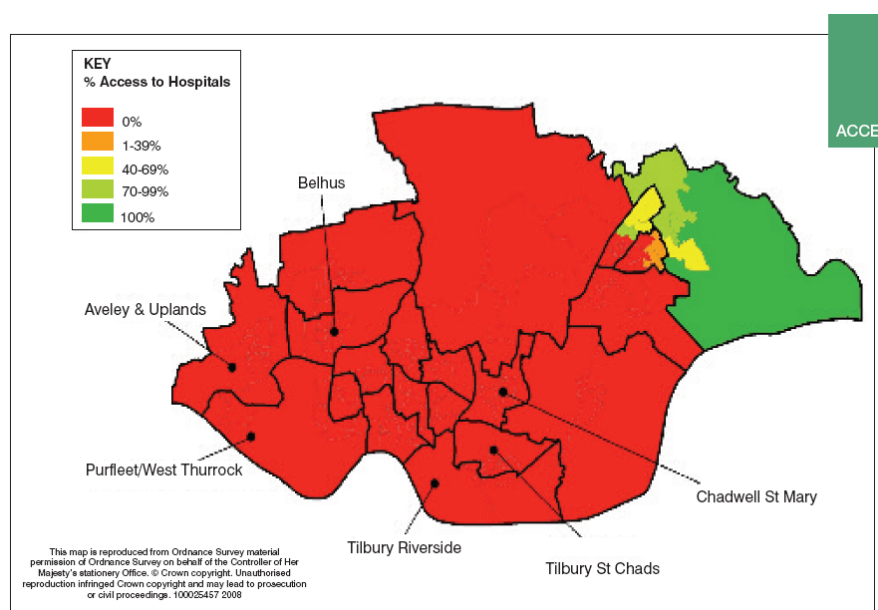
LSOA name	Ward	% children in poverty	% no savings account	% no current account	% refused credit	% no home contents insurance	% no credit card
Thurrock 007F	Ockendon	36.4	43.7	8.9	22.4	59.1	61.8
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	37.3	42.9	9.3	21.8	57.9	62.6
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	34.3	46.4	9.7	24.2	57.8	63.5
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	51.1	55.5	12.6	29.6	82.9	65.3
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	42.3	46.2	11.1	22.5	56.2	68.2
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	55.0	53.0	15.6	27.3	74.4	65.6
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	45.8	45.7	10.2	19.0	56.8	65.5
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	44.9	51.1	11.7	23.7	63.6	68.8

## 8.5: Transport

Transport links to the M25 and to London are good. Access local services like the GP surgery and post office, is fairly good across the Borough, with 99.35% of households able to access a GP surgery in 15 minutes by walking, cycling or public transport, compared to 84% nationally.<sup>31</sup>

However, there is evidence of gaps in access by public transport to further education and hospital facilities which in some cases may be having a negative impact upon deprivation. Only 2.94% of non-car owning households in Thurrock are able to access the hospital within 30 minutes. This is almost ten times lower than the national average of 28.54%. The time taken to access the hospital by public transport may for some present a significant barrier to either seeking healthcare or attending health appointments. The cost of public transport is high.

*Fig14 Access to hospitals*



## 9: Risk Factors

### 9.1: Worklessness

Lack of family employment is a major factor in creating high levels of child poverty. In Thurrock, in 2008, there were 5,800 children living in 3820 families with children had no adult working.<sup>32</sup> Data is available at LSOA level and this demonstrates a correlation between worklessness and child poverty.

<sup>31</sup> Thurrock Transport Strategy 2008 -21

<sup>32</sup> HMR&C Child and Tax Credit statistics 2008

Fig15 Families not in work

LSOA name	Ward	% children in poverty	% families not in work
Thurrock 007F	Ockendon	36.4%	41%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	37.3%	40%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	34.3%	38%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	51.1%	44%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	42.3%	40%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	55.0%	55%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	45.8%	40%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	44.9%	43%
Thurrock LA		19.8%	23%

## 9.2: Lone Parents

Children living with lone parents are at much greater risk of poverty. As noted, nearly three quarters (73%) of children living in poverty in Thurrock in 2008, lived in lone parent families. Of 6265 lone parents in Thurrock receiving tax credits 2,975 (47%) are not in work. In key LSOAs, the proportion is higher.

Fig15 Lone parents not in work

LSOA name	Ward	% children in poverty	% of lone parents not in work
Thurrock 007F	Ockendon	36.4%	35%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	37.3%	59%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	34.3%	46%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	51.1%	66%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	42.3%	59%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	55.0%	74%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	45.8%	57%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	44.9%	63%
Thurrock LA		19.8%	47%

The proportions of children living in poverty across key Thurrock LSOAS is as follows

Fig15 % children in poverty living in lone parent families

LSOA name	Ward	% children in poverty	% living in lone parent families
Thurrock 007F	Ockendon	36.4%	66%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	37.3%	76%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	34.3%	82%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	51.1%	75%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	42.3%	77%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	55.0%	74%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	45.8%	67%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	44.9%	62%
Thurrock LA		19.8%	47%

### 9.3: Low income



As noted, low income families are those working households which are receiving both CTC and Working Tax Credit (WTC). Some will be above 60% of median income before housing costs, but are considered to be low income and in need of additional support.

In Thurrock, at 2008, 4400 working families fell into this category. This represented an increase of 17% from 2006.

## 9.4: Large families

Of the children in Thurrock living in poverty at August 2009, 3240 (44%) lived in families with 3 or more children. Nationally, large families are a risk group for child poverty. The following shows that, at the level of key LSOAS, the relationship between family size and child poverty is variable.

Fig16 % children in poverty living in large families

LSOA name	Ward	% children in poverty	% in families with 3 or more children
Thurrock 007F	Ockendon	36.4%	30%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	37.3%	57%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	34.3%	19%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	51.1%	36%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	42.3%	51%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	55.0%	48%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	45.8%	65%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	44.9%	60%
Thurrock LA		19.8%	44%

## 9.5: Children with disabled parents

Children with disabled parents are more at risk of child poverty, because their parents are less likely to be employed. Data about adult disability is limited but, in 2004, 23,016 people in Thurrock were characterised as having a limiting long-term illness.

Among 14,430 benefit claimants in Thurrock in May 2010, 2850 were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or ESA or Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA).<sup>33</sup>

Fig17 % DLA claimants

LSOA name	Ward	% children in poverty	% DLA claimants
Thurrock 007F	Ockendon	36.4%	7.5%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	37.3%	5.3%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	34.3%	6.3%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	51.1%	6.4%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	42.3%	6.3%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	55.0%	6.8%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	45.8%	9.7%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	44.9%	8.2%
Thurrock LA		19.8%	4.3%

## 9.6: Children with disabilities

Children with disabilities are more likely to be exposed to child poverty because one or more of their parents are unable to work, or to work full-time, because they have to care for their children.

According to DfE statistics, in 2009, 830 pupils with Special Educational Needs attended Thurrock schools, representing 3.8% of the school population. This proportion has grown since 2003, when the comparable percentage was 2.6%. It is also higher than the national average of 2.7% and 2.8% for the East of England.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Nomis 2011

<sup>34</sup> DCSF: Special Educational Needs in England: January 2009

Fig17 Type of need

Type of Need	Primary	Secondary	Special Schools
<b>Specific Learning Difficulty</b>	8.4%	21.7%	2.1%
<b>Moderate Learning Difficulty</b>	33.4%	37.4%	33.2%
<b>Severe Learning Difficulty</b>	1.1%	2%	9.6%
<b>Profound &amp; Multiple Learning Difficulty</b>	x	x	8.2%
<b>Behaviour, Emotional &amp; Social Difficulties</b>	20.4%	22.7%	3.4%
<b>Speech, Language and Communications Needs</b>	19.1%	3.9%	9.6%
<b>Hearing Impairment</b>	2.3%	2.3%	0
<b>Visual Impairment</b>	1.3%	1.4%	x
<b>Multi- Sensory Impairment</b>	0	0	x
<b>Physical Disability</b>	4.1%	2.3%	5.8%
<b>Autistic Spectrum Disorder</b>	4.1%	2.7%	27.1%
<b>Other Difficulty/Disability</b>	5.4%	3.5%	x
<b>Unclassified</b>	0	0	0

**NB** School census data needed to determine local distribution of children with disabilities

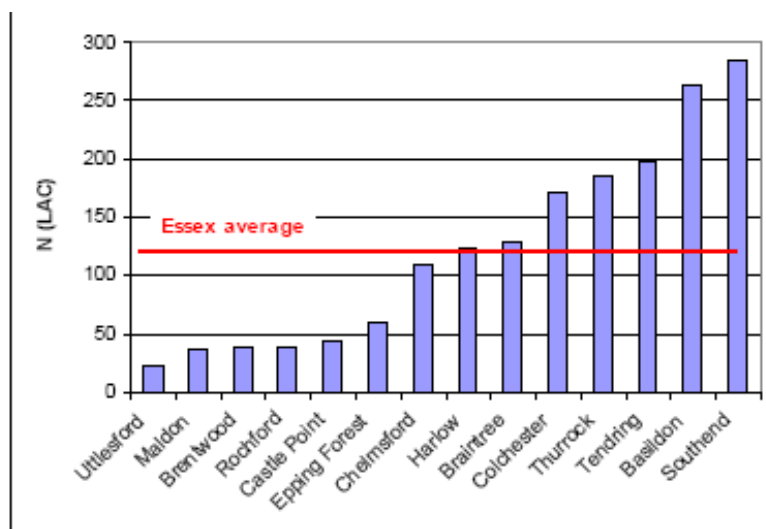
In Thurrock, in 2009, 920 children under the age of 16 were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance

## 9.7: Looked After Children

Children and young people who are looked after are among the most disadvantaged groups in England and Wales. They have profoundly increased health needs in comparison with children and young people from comparable socio-economic backgrounds. These greater needs, however, often remain unmet. As a result, many children and young people who are looked after experience significant health inequalities and on leaving care experience very poor health, educational and social outcomes.

The following chart illustrates how rates and trends in looked after children vary across the top-tier authorities in Essex. The rate of looked after children in Thurrock has decreased since 2003 and now is below the England average but still above the East of England and Essex County Council rates.

Fig18 Looked after children



Source: SSDA903 return / Swift

In Thurrock, 43% of Looked after Children achieve KS2 Level 4 in English, below the East of England (46%) and National (47%) average. (NI199). Only 13% reach KS2 Level 4 in Mathematics, compared with 45% in the East of England and 46% nationally. (NI100). However 13% receive 5 GCSEs A\*-C including Maths and English, compared with 10% in the region and 9.9% nationally. (NI101)

In Thurrock, 52% of Care leavers are in employment, education and training, compared with regional and national rates of 63%. This puts Thurrock in the lowest quartile for this indicator (NI148)

## 9.8: Teenage Parents

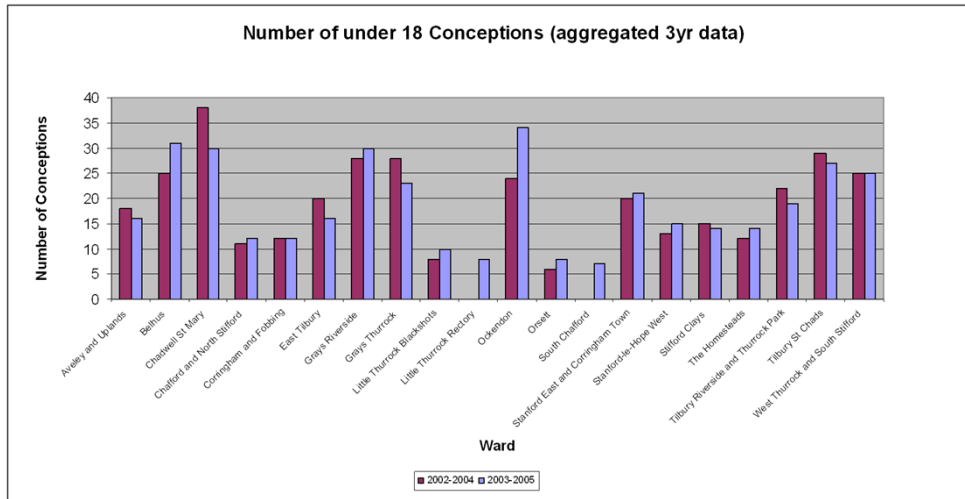
Teenage mothers are three times as likely to suffer poverty compared with older mothers.<sup>35</sup> Nationally, The under-18 conception rate for 2009 (38.3 conceptions per thousand women aged 15–17) is estimated to be the lowest rate since the early 1980s. This represents a fall of 5.9 per cent compared with 40.7 conceptions per thousand women aged 15–17 in 2008

In Thurrock, teenage pregnancy rates were very high, but have fallen by 25% since 1998. In 2008, the rate was 41.4, the second lowest rate in the East of England and below the national average (49%). Thurrock's teenage pregnancy strategy concentrates on taking services directly to where young people are and ensures that vulnerable young people receive a quality outreach service.

<sup>35</sup> Katz, I., La Placa, V. & Hunter, S. (2007). Barriers to inclusion and successful engagement of parents in mainstream services: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

The highest rates are in Ockendon and Chadwell St Marys. The distribution by ward is as follows:

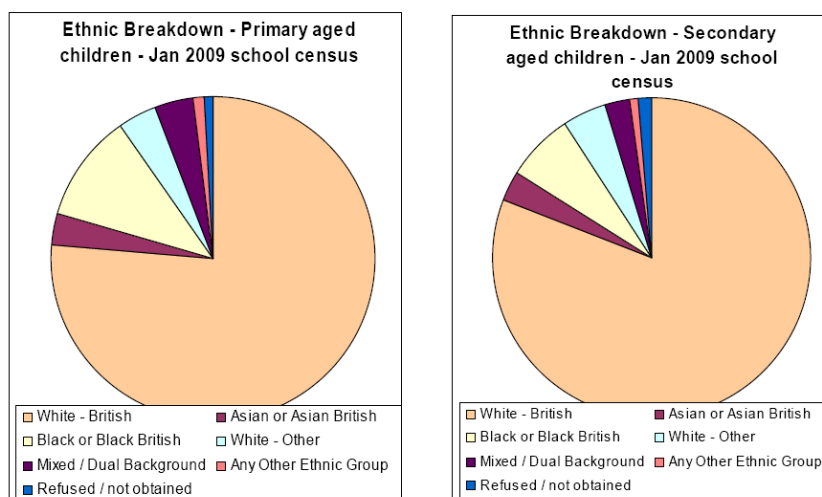
Fig19 Teenage conceptions



## 9.9: BME Groups

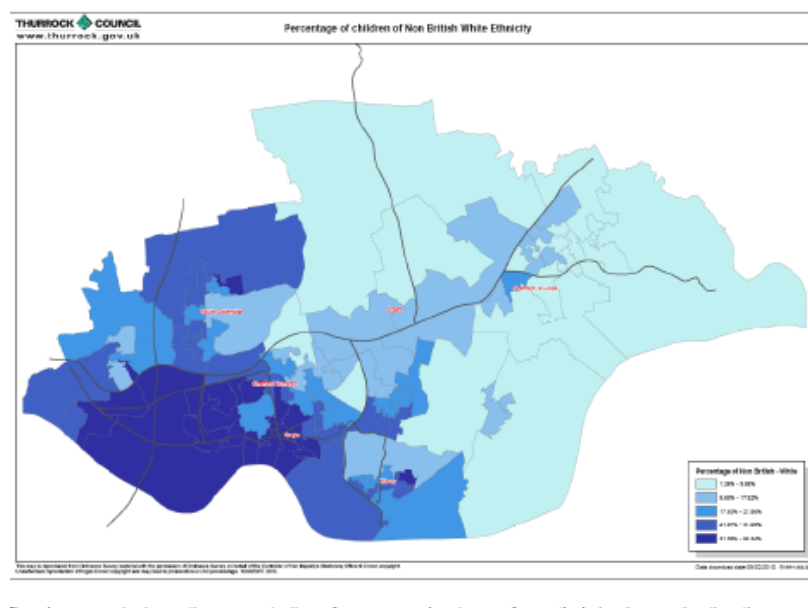
Since 2001, the borough has become increasingly diverse. The school population, in particular, has seen an increase in the size and number of BME groups. Nearly 25% of Primary aged children and 20% of secondary aged children are now from BME groups.

Fig20 Ethnic Breakdown



However, the school population is not an exact match for young people who are resident in the borough. The following map shows the concentration of young people who are non British White who are resident in the borough. Generally the nearer to London, the higher the proportion is of BME families.

Fig 21 Ethnic Breakdown



At all Key stages, most BME groups do better than non-BME groups, with white working class boys doing less well than other groups, reflecting the national picture.

Nationally, BME families are at greater risk of poverty. Limited data is available regarding Thurrock, as HMRC child poverty does not specify ethnicity.

BME communities are more likely to be employed with a higher qualification or in education than their counterparts within the rest of Thurrock's population.

In terms of employment rates by ethnic group, there is little difference between the white and non-white rates of employment. The proportion of the white working age population in employment has remained fairly stable since 2004 – seeing only a small change from 77% in 2004 to its current level of 75%.

In contrast, the non-white working age population in employment has experienced a decline from 82% in 2004 to a current level of 76%.<sup>36</sup>

## 9.10: Traveller families

<sup>36</sup> Source: Annual Population Survey; NOMIS

Thurrock has three registered travellers' sites, catering for a total of 179 caravans. Travellers have between 2 and 5 times more health problems than the settled community; are more likely to suffer from anxiety and breathing conditions such as asthma. Statistically, travellers are more at risk of still births and infant mortality and are less likely to access health and other services.

## 10: Child Poverty Drivers

Over the last 20 years, the East of England region has had relatively high economic growth rates and one of the highest employment rates of the UK regions. The region has also experienced low unemployment rates over recent years. Thurrock is an identified area for growth in the Thames Gateway, is well served by strategic communications and is delivering an economic-led regeneration programme which will see the creation of an additional 26,000 jobs.

However, economic participation levels in Thurrock are amongst the lowest in the East of England, employment earnings are below average, skills attainment is low, public transport is in some respects poor and of high cost and the borough is home to some of the most financially excluded neighbourhoods in the region<sup>37</sup>

The main drivers of child poverty in Thurrock are:

**Worklessness:** Lack of employment is a key factor in creating and perpetuating child poverty. This is particularly the case among families headed by a lone parent.

**Low Pay:** Thurrock has a low wage economy relative to nearby London Boroughs and much of the East of England. In 2009, average weekly earnings in the borough were £470, below the averages both in the East of England (£479) and nationally. Female earnings are 67% of male earnings and between 2009 and 2010, the gap widened further.

**Low skills:** Only 50% of Thurrock's working age population is qualified to at least NVQ Level 2. In 2010, 17,000 people of working age in Thurrock had no qualifications, a rate of 16.9%. The national rate is 12.3%. In addition, the percentage of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 is significantly lower than the national average and the percentage of young people in Thurrock going to university is still only about half the national average.

**Low attainment:** there is a clear link between poverty and poor educational attainment which is reflected in Thurrock at every key stage of the education cycle. Although there is evidence of recent improvement, the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and the rest is high.

<sup>37</sup> EEDA (2008) Economic Participation in the Region

**Impact of the economic downturn:** The unemployment rate rose from its lowest point of 3.4 per cent in December 2007 to 7.3 per cent in March 2009, and in January 2010 was, at 7.5 per cent, higher than the East of England. This is likely to impact on the numbers of children living in poverty in the borough.

## 10.1 Economic participation

The economic activity rate measures the number in work or looking for work as a proportion of the working age population. In 2007, the East of England had an economic activity rate of 81%. This ranked it 3rd among England's regions and above the England rate of 79%. Within the region, Thurrock was among the lowest performers with economic activity rates below 80%.

Average weekly earnings for all full time workplace based employees in Thurrock are below the regional and national averages, equivalent to a gross weekly income of £470.10. Between 2000 and 2010, earnings in Thurrock increased by 20%, in comparison with growth of 36% and 38% in East England and England respectively.<sup>38</sup>

## 10.2 Employment earnings

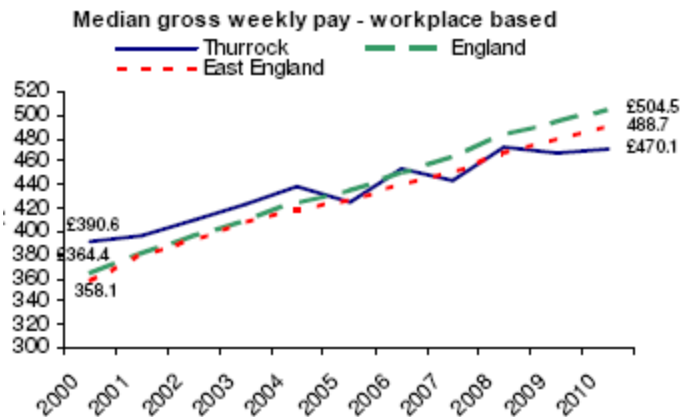
Average weekly earnings for all full time workplace based employees in Thurrock are below the regional and national averages, equivalent to a gross weekly income of £470.10. Between 2000 and 2010, earnings in Thurrock increased by 20%, in comparison with growth of 36% and 38% in East England and England respectively.<sup>39</sup>

Fig 22 Weekly pay

<sup>38</sup> Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings; ONS (NI 166 definition)

<sup>39</sup> Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings; ONS (NI 166 definition)



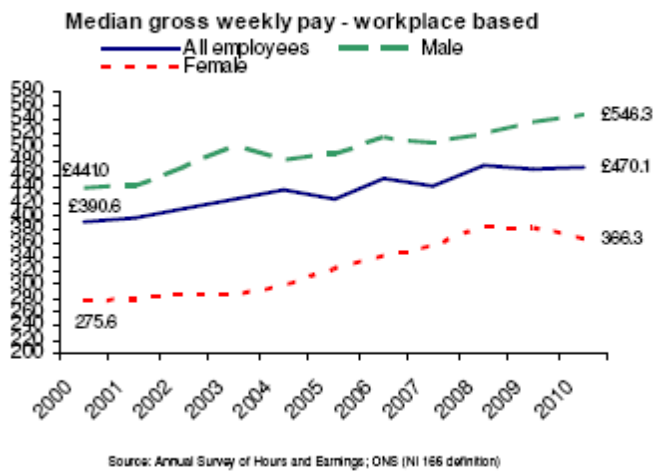


Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings;ONS (NI 166 definition)

In the context of high numbers of lone parent families, headed by women, the gender difference in earnings is relevant. The inequality gap between male and female full-time earnings currently stands at £180 a week. Female earnings are 67% of male earnings and between 2009 and 2010, the gap widened further, with female earnings declining by 4.7% and male earnings increasing by 2%.

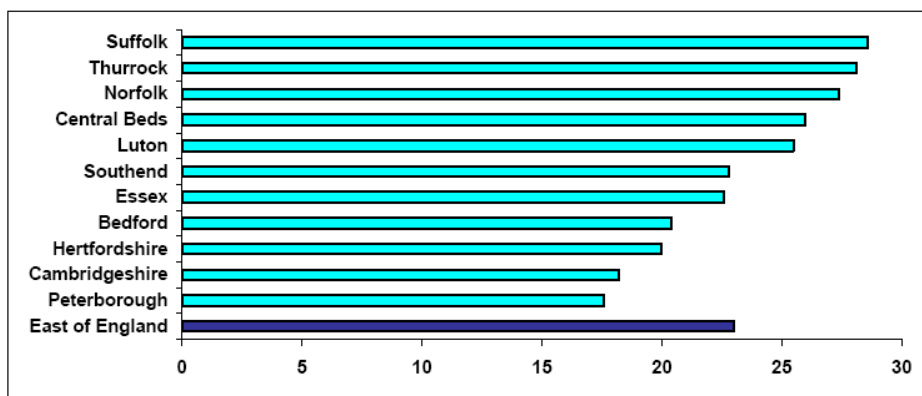
The labour market in Thurrock reflects many of the patterns between males and females which are evident nationally. Men are traditionally concentrated in full-time work, whereas large numbers of women work part-time.

Fig 23 Weekly pay by gender



Within the East of England, Thurrock has the second highest proportion of low-paid jobs.

Fig 24 low pay



Source: IPPR (2007) *Working Out of Poverty* project

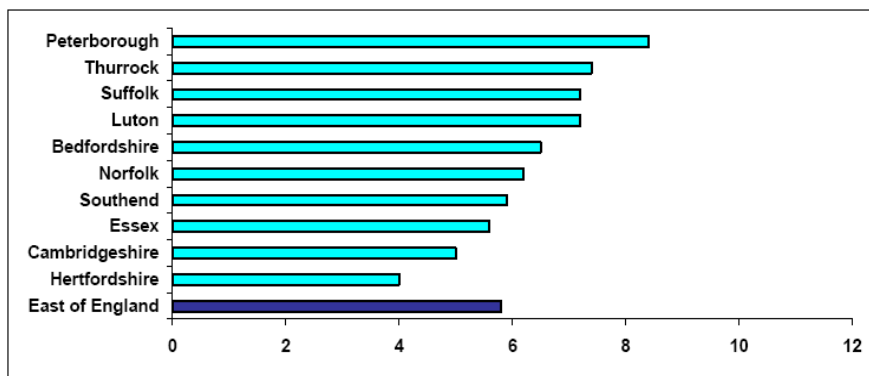
Note: Low-paid defined as 60% of full-time median hourly pay excluding overtime

### 10.3 Working Age Benefits Claimants

Thurrock has the fifth highest percentage of people claiming out of work benefits. At June 2010, the total number of people claiming out of work benefits was 14,340, of whom 2,200 were lone parents and 7370 were women. Among 4010 jobseekers, 570 had been claiming for more than 12 months.

Within the region, Thurrock has the second highest proportion of young people not in education or training.

Fig 25 NEET



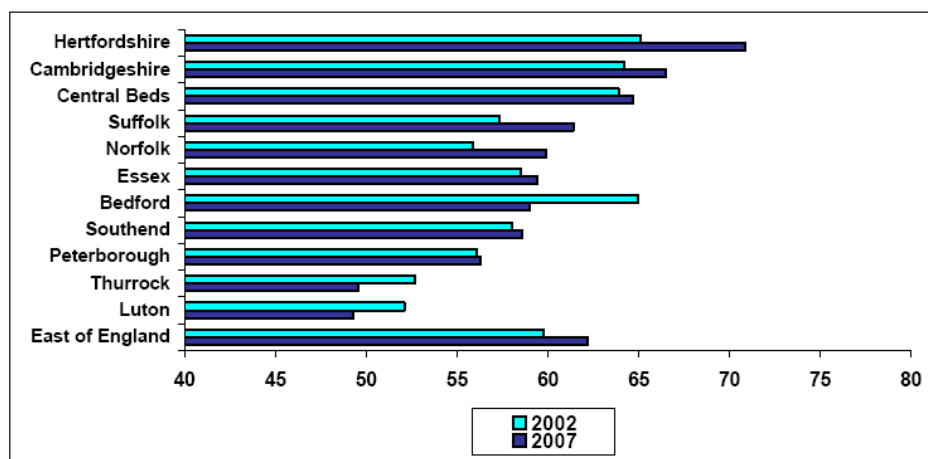
Source: Connexions

Note: Data below Bedfordshire level is not available

### 10.4 Skills

Only 50% of Thurrock's working age population is qualified to at least NVQ Level 2. This is the lowest rate of the East of England local authority areas and district authorities – with the exceptions of Tendring in Essex and Luton.

Fig 26 Qualifications



Source: Annual Population Survey; Labour Force Survey

In 2010, 17,000 people of working age in Thurrock had no qualifications, a rate of 16.9%. The national rate is 12.3%

## 11: Assessment of local service provision

The Council has put in place a number of strategic programmes to address poor educational attainment, such as the 14-19 Partnership Plan and the Thurrock Learning Partnership's Lifelong Learning Strategy. These have yielded recent improvements in achievement. The Council has invested in projects such as the Gateway Academy, the planned Creative and Cultural Skills and Logistics Sector Skills Academies and the Thurrock Learning Shop and Campus. It is a partner with Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation to drive economic growth and to bring new jobs, housing and investment to the borough.

At local level, multi-agency services are focused on the provision of both universal services and more specialist interventions for vulnerable families. However, limited data exists in relation to the take up of services by families affected by poverty or the outcomes of particular interventions. It is also not evident how far those delivering services are clear about their roles in addressing child poverty.

There is limited evidence of consultations or needs analysis undertaken with families most at risk of poverty concerning the types of help needed.

## 12: Conclusions

Children who grow up in poverty are often at risk of social exclusion. There are clear links between poverty and lower educational attainment, poorer health outcomes, poor housing and intergenerational disadvantage. In Thurrock, there is evidence of an attainment gap between children living in areas of the Borough with higher levels of poverty and their peers elsewhere, this gap is evident in children as young as five years old and continues throughout education.

This needs assessment is designed to inform the development of the Child Poverty Strategy in Thurrock. It aims to provide an overview of the key factors that lead to poverty locally and provide an analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data that is held locally and nationally. The information gathered as a part of the needs assessment will shape the key priorities for the local strategy.

The eradication of child poverty can only be achieved if key partners work together to address the factors that determine parent / family circumstances. There is a key opportunity to develop whole family partnership approaches to the delivery of services and ensure these are focussed on the most need and on securing improvements to outcomes for children, young people and their families. The delivery of the strategy should be seen as a key part of the work across agencies and services by developing new approaches to working and a better understanding of the underlying difficulties families face.