



**Corporate Research and Consultation Team Briefing Note:
Children in low-income families in South Gloucestershire
May 2019**

(All data: Children in low-income families local measure: 2016 snapshots
and Child Benefit statistics geographical analysis 2016, HMRC)

Key findings

- According to the latest official data (August 2016), within South Gloucestershire: 5,040 (10.2%) of children under 16 live in low-income families – considerably lower than the national average (17%).
- The age group with the highest proportion of children living in low-income families is 0-4 years – where 1,795 (11.9% of all children in the age group) live in low-income families.
- 2.8 times as many children live in low-income lone parent families than in low-income couple families.
- There are 4 LSOAs where more than a quarter of children live in low-income families.
- The area south of Coronation Park (E01014941) is the LSOA with the highest proportion of children living in low-income families (29%).

Background

The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure shows the proportion of children living in families which are classed as low-income. A child is considered to be in a low-income family if they are living in a family that is either in receipt of out-of-work benefits, *or*, in receipt of tax credits and has a reported income less than 60 percent of national median income.

The measure is published on an annual basis by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and provides a snapshot of children in low-income families at 31st August on a particular year. Although it does not provide a definitive number of children in low-income families, it enables us to explore trends across the region and within local authorities.

Methodology

The measure is calculated by dividing the number of children in low-income families (those in receipt of out-of-work benefits, *or*; tax credits and has a reported income less than 60 per cent of national median income) by the total number of children in the area.

Tax credits include Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Out-of-work benefits include Income Support, Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance and Pension Credit. The data is administrative data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HMRC.

The total number of children used to calculate the measure is produced using Child Benefit data held by HMRC. This has typically covered around 96 per cent of all children in the UK and

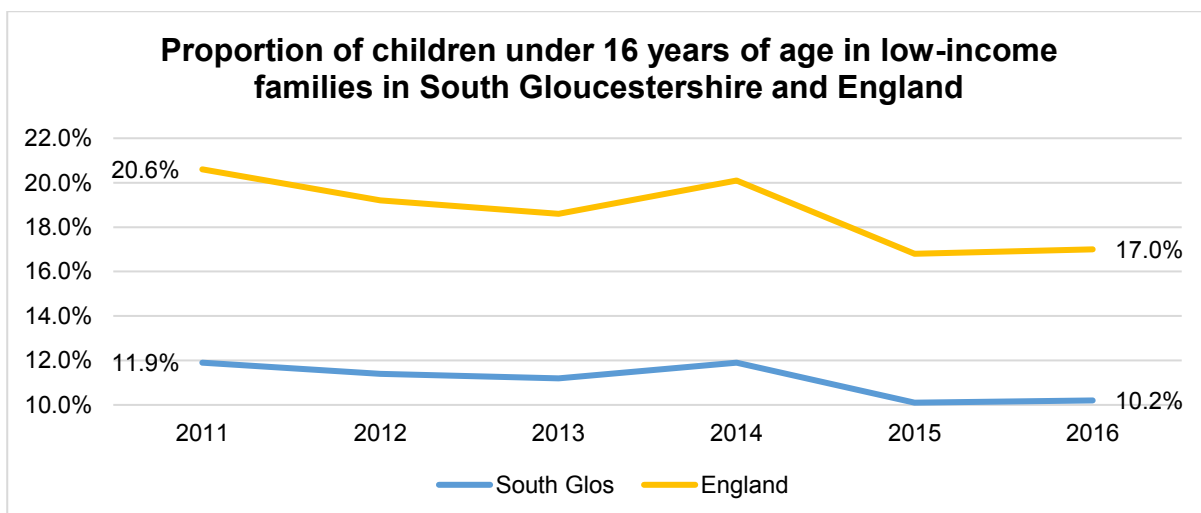
has been the most comprehensive assessment of the number of children available at the local level. However, from January 2013, if a claimant of Child Benefit, or their partner, has an individual income of more than £50,000 per year, they are liable to repay some or all of their Child Benefit due to the introduction of the High Income Child Benefit charge. Claimants affected by the High Income Child Benefit charge have the option to opt-out of receiving Child Benefits.

Therefore, the total number of children includes the children of families who claim Child Benefit and have opted out of receiving Child Benefit. However, the number of families who have chosen not to claim Child Benefit due to the introduction of the High Income Child Benefit charge is unknown, meaning that this measure, particularly data for the 0-4 age group, may not be as complete as it has been previously.

Proportion of children in low-income families in South Gloucestershire

In August 2016, the latest data available, it is estimated that in South Gloucestershire, 5,040 children under 16 years of age live in low-income families (10.2% of all children under the age of 16).

The proportion of children under 16 years of age living in low-income families has decreased slightly since 2011 from 11.9% to 10.2%, despite a slight fluctuation in 2014. While both South Gloucestershire and England experienced similar trends, the proportion of children in low-income families in South Gloucestershire remains considerably below the national average (currently 17%).

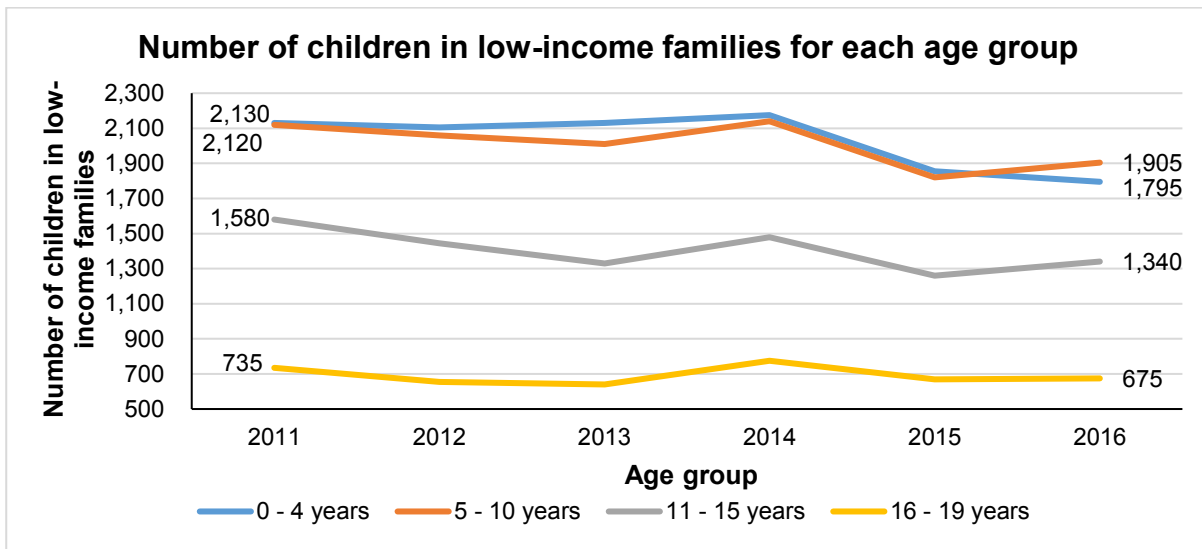


Please note: This measure is also produced as a proportion of all children (aged 0-19 years), however due to reasons discussed in this report we have not included this measure in this note.

Children in low-income families by age – number of children

The graph below shows the numbers of children who were in low-income families for each age group. Since 2011, the numbers of children in low-income families has remained fairly consistent for each age group but most age groups saw a very slight increase in numbers between 2015 and 2016 (this excludes the 5-10 age group which decreased in the last year from 1,855 to 1,795).

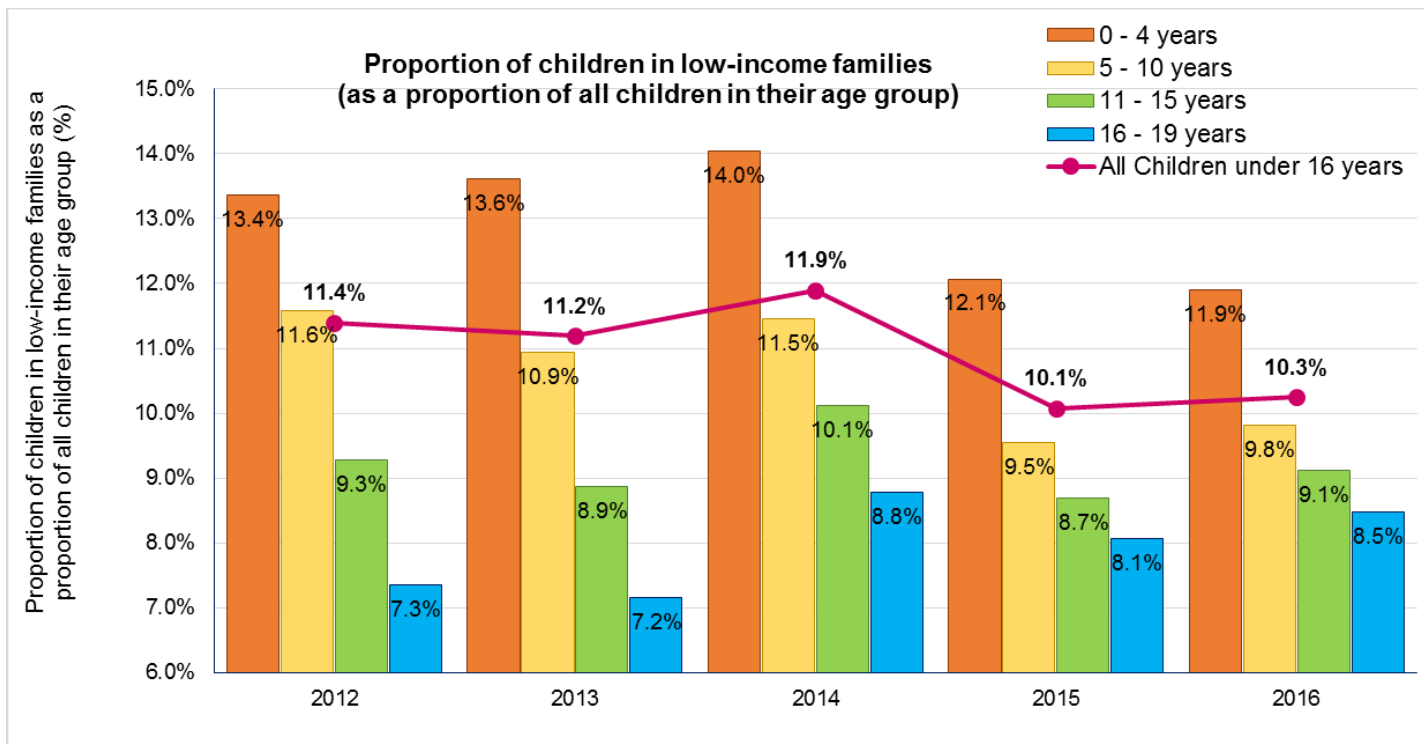
The age group with the highest number of children living in low-income families is the 5-10 age group (1,905). This is the first year since 2011 that the 0-4 age group is not the group with the highest number of children in low-income families.



Please note: These figures have been rounded.

Children in low-income families by age – proportion of age group

Using child benefit data the proportion of children in low-income families for each age group can be calculated. The graph below shows how the proportion of children living in low-income families decreases as the age of the child increases. These trends have been consistent over the past five years.



In 2016, the age group with the highest proportion of children living in low-income families is again 0 to 4 years, with 11.9% of all children in this age group living in a low-income family. The 16 to 19 years age group had the lowest proportion of children in low-income families for 2016, with 8.5% of the age group being classed as living in a low-income family. Overall the number of children in low income families has increased slightly in the last reporting year across all age groups.

Things to consider:

When interpreting this data the following considerations should be made:

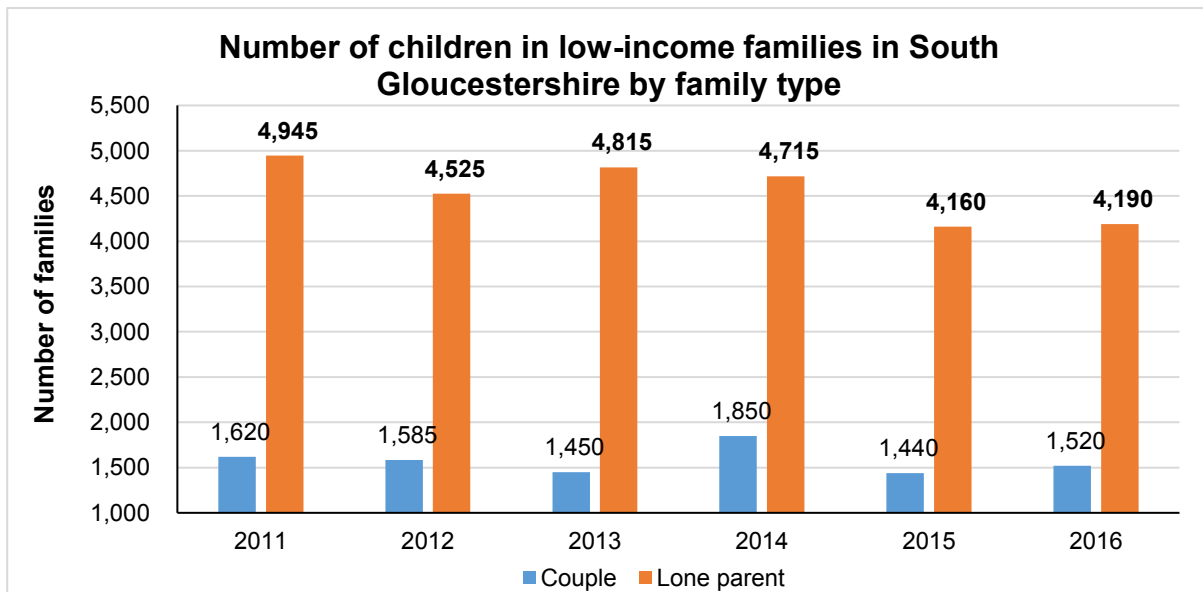
Data for the 0 - 4 years group - Due to the introduction of the High Income Child Benefit charge in 2013, the estimated total number of children (used to calculate these percentages) may not be as complete as it has in previous years. Subsequently, this measure may suggest that there is a higher proportion of children in low-income families.

Data for the 16 – 19 years group - The HMRC estimated total number of children aged 16 – 19 years (7,965) (used to calculate this percentage) is significantly different from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2015 mid-year population estimate for this age group (13,251). It is suspected that this is due to two reasons:

1. The eligibility criteria for child benefits. If a child is not in approved education or training after 31 August, or after their 16th birthday, their parent is no longer eligible to receive a child benefit and are therefore not included in the HMRC estimates, and:
2. The much higher ONS population estimate is also likely to be influenced by the number of students moving into the area to study and live.¹

Children in low-income families by type of family – number of children

There are 2.8 times as many children living in low-income lone parent families than low-income couple families. The graph below shows that over the past four years, the number of children who live in low-income lone parent families has remained considerably higher than the number of children who live in a low-income couple families.



Note: figures include children aged 16-19

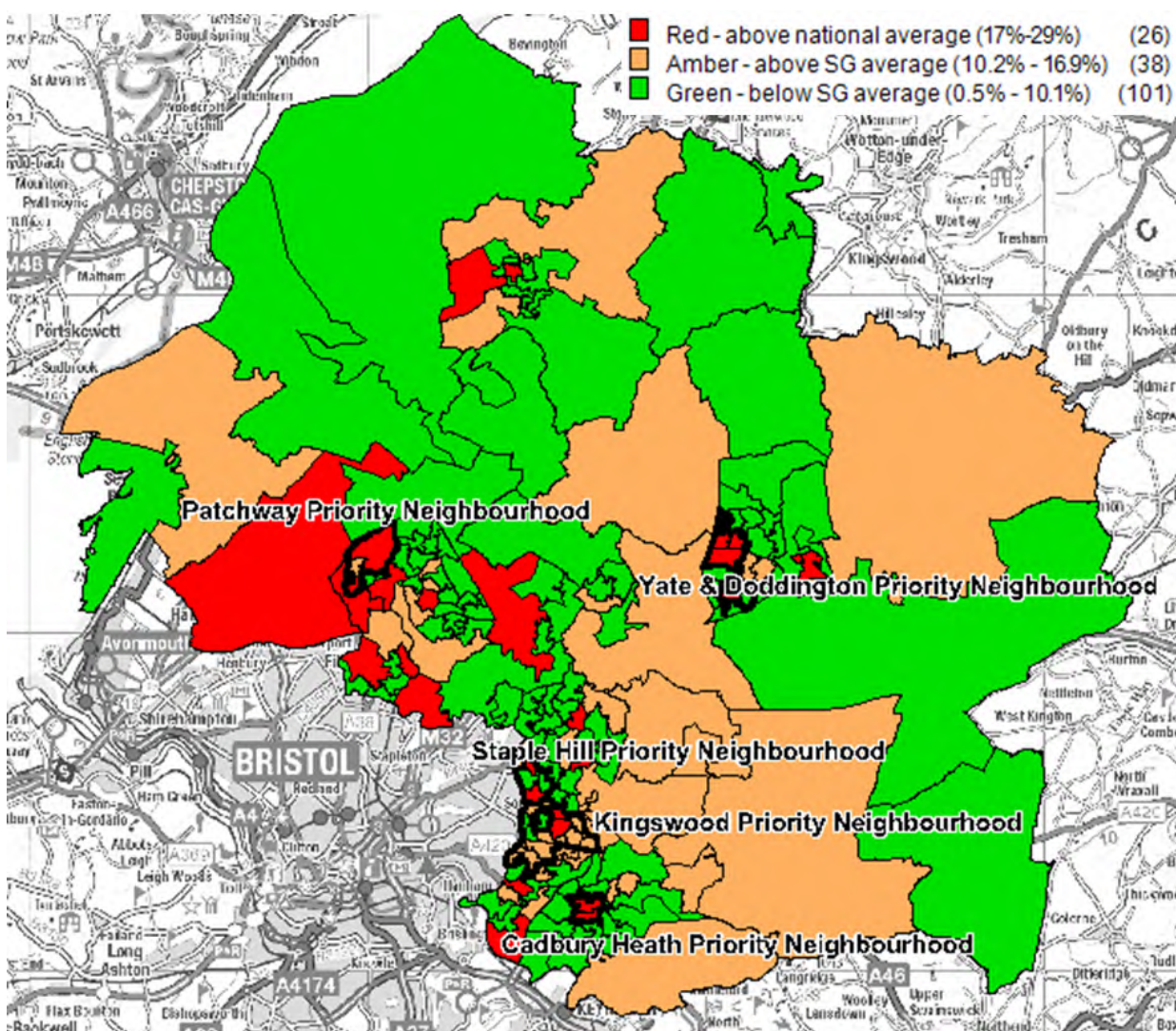
¹ For example, the 2011 Census illustrates that there were approximately 1,800 students living in halls of residence at the UWE Frenchay Campus.

Children in low-income families by LSOA

Child benefit data is also available at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA*) level. Of the 165 LSOAs in South Gloucestershire, 26 (15.8%) have a proportion of children under 16 years of age living in low-income families above the national average (17%). Over half (14) of the 26 LSOAs over the national average are within South Gloucestershire's designated Priority Neighbourhoods.

In August 2016, the areas with the highest rates of children in low income families were South of Coronation Park (E01014941) in Cadbury Heath with 29%; Upper Soundwell area (E01014976) in Staple Hill with 28.6%; Flaxpits Lane area (E01015000) in Winterbourne with 27.9%; and New Cheltenham Road Lees Hill area (E01014958) in Kingswood with 25%.

The full list of LSOAs with a proportion of children living in low-income families above the national average is provided overleaf.



*Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) are small areas designed to be of a similar population size with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 LSOAs in England and 165 in South Gloucestershire (2004 boundary map).

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LSOAs with highest proportions of children under 16 years of age in low-income families (26 LSOAs above national average)

LSOA Code	Landmark	Wards	Priority Neighbourhood	No. of children U16 in low-income families	% of children U16 in low-income families	2015 % of children U16 in low-income families
E01014941	South of Coronation park area	Parkwall	Cadbury Heath	105	29.0%	27.9%
E01014976	Upper Soundwell area	Staple Hill	Staple Hill	100	28.6%	23.4%
E01015000	Flaxpits Lane and surrounding rural area	Winterbourne		85	27.9%	25.1%
E01014926	New Cheltenham Road area	Kings Chase	Kingswood	90	25.0%	23.8%
E01014948	Coniston North area	Patchway	Patchway	90	23.7%	20.5%
E01015020	Milton Road / Birch Road area	Yate North	Yate & Dodington	100	23.6%	20.0%
E01014952	Calicroft Road / A38 / Amberley road area	Patchway (62%) / Bradley Stoke Central and Stoke Lodge (38%)		125	23.4%	22.9%
E01014977	Pendennis Road area	Staple Hill	Staple Hill	60	23.3%	24.2%
E01014906	Filton Roundabout area	Filton	Filton	70	22.9%	20.1%
E01014861	Easter Compton / Cribbs Causeway area	Almondsbury (77%) / Patchway (23%)		75	22.8%	21.4%
E01014983	Little Stoke Primary School area	Stoke Gifford		70	22.3%	17.3%
E01033331	MoD / Walscourt Farm / UWE west area	Frenchay and Stoke Park		105	22.2%	24.8%
E01014958	New Cheltenham - Lees Hill area	Rodway (68%) / Kings Chase (32%)	Kingswood	65	22.1%	24.9%
E01015011	Moorland Road / Wellstead Avenue area	Yate Central	Yate & Dodington	70	21.7%	19.9%
E01014904	Conygre Grove / Bude Road area	Filton	Filton	50	21.1%	24.2%
E01014968	Beaufort Road area	Emersons Green (78%) / Rodway (22%)		70	21.0%	22.8%
E01014921	Hanham Green / Hanham Hall Hospital area	Hanham		55	20.0%	17.8%
E01014942	Long Handstones Road area	Parkwall (78%) / Oldland Common (22%)	Cadbury Heath	55	19.0%	17.8%
E01014949	Sycamore Drive area	Patchway		110	19.0%	17.8%
E01014986	North Road /Eastland Avenue /Gloucester Road	Thornbury North		45	18.6%	16.2%
E01015019	West of Cranleigh Court Road area	Yate North	Yate & Dodington	65	18.4%	19.8%
E01014886	Woodmans Close / Kingrove Crescent area	Chipping Sodbury		55	17.8%	13.2%
E01014892	Culverhill and Rodford Schools area	Dodington	Yate & Dodington	75	17.5%	14.7%
E01014960	St James Street / Elmleigh Road area	Rodway		60	17.5%	13.7%
E01014915	Lower Hanham Road area	Hanham		55	17.4%	12.2%
E01014951	Coniston Rodway Road area	Patchway	Patchway	50	17.4%	18.3%