



Reference: FOI3599

Request:

As a local resident in North Tyneside I would like to request the following information from the council:

I would like a breakdown of the child poverty levels for (a) North Tyneside as a whole and (b) for each ward of the council within the TYNEMOUTH parliamentary constituency area. I am requesting the facts and figures alongside any other detail the council holds on child poverty in our area.

In addition to this I wish to know the figures relating to the number of people accessing support services and any benefits/welfare from the council broken down by ward if possible within the TYNEMOUTH parliamentary constituency area. I am specifically interested in the change in numbers / households / families who have applied and then been granted support/welfare in conjunction to figures prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in comparison to the up-to-date figures today. This will give me a greater understanding of the changes in households requiring assistance from the council. I am particularly interested in the figures for Preston and Tynemouth wards of the council but I would welcome figures for all wards.

I would also like it detailed exactly what financial support and assistance the council is providing to struggling families and the ways in which people can get advice and apply for help.

In essence I am wondering how many people and in which wards have sought welfare assistance or some other kind of support from North Tyneside council and I aim to understand which wards have the highest and lowest numbers of applicants and successful recipients.

Response:

Please see attached spreadsheet. Unfortunately we don't have all the information requested broken down to ward level; Housing Benefit, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Universal Credit are all administered by the Department for Works and Pensions. Local Authority level data has been provided in those instances.

Just to detail the information provided in the spreadsheet;-

Children living in poverty tab - this is measured two ways by HMRC and DWP.

- Number and percentage of children (aged under 16) living in Relative low-income families - Relative low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more of

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Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income.

- Number and percentage of children (aged under 16) living in Absolute low-income families - Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income.

Housing Benefit Claimants tab - this is the overall number of Housing Benefit Claimants by Local Authority as of November 2020.

CJRS - Furlough tab - furloughed employments by county, region, local authority and gender.

Universal Credit tab - people on universal credit each month nationally, regionally and by local authority.

Covid-19 Support tab - number of residents in North Tyneside who have claimed the Council Tax Support and Hardship Fund by ward and also Covid-19 Test and Trace Support payments administered by ward. Both funds are administered by North Tyneside Council.

Welfare Support applications tab - number of applications and successful claims to the Welfare Support Team at North Tyneside Council. The support provided is mainly food parcels and/or utility vouchers. Eligibility is based on dependent children in the family or significant health needs, although there is discretion to support those who don't meet the criteria, but are in extreme hardship and/or vulnerable, which may include support while benefit claims are processed.

In addition, the council publishes data at a ward level in our ward profiles on the council's website: - <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1266/overview-borough>

In relation to support for residents there are up to date details on the Coronavirus (Covid-19) on the council's website page here, including details on the Council Tax Support and Hardship Fund and Test and Trace Support Payment:-
<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/page/26134/coronavirus-covid-19>