

Report highlights lack of progress in meeting child poverty targets in the UK

The UK Government's Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission (SMCPC) has published a report on the state of child poverty and social progress across the UK.

The report highlights the lack of progress in reaching targets for reducing child poverty levels by 50% by 2020, which were put in place in 2010.

The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission fears that the UK is becoming a divided country, with living standards falling and the link between hard work and reward broken by housing and welfare reforms. The report makes a number of recommendations including re-establishing the link between economic growth and incomes, and ensuring young people, in particular those from disadvantaged groups, are not left behind as the economy begins to grow again.

Rt Hon Alan Milburn, Chair of the Commission said:

“The circumstances are so different, the challenges are so great that the old ways of thinking and acting that have dominated public-policy making for decades will simply not pass muster. What worked in the past will not serve as an adequate guide for the future. A new agenda is needed.”

The report concludes that previous targets will now not be met, and makes further recommendations on supplementary goals for reducing child poverty.

Catriona Williams OBE, Chief Executive of Children in Wales, coordinator of the UK Alliance for Investing in Children, said ‘this thorough and objective report highlights the urgency of focussing on the young to ensure that they have better and not worse opportunities to reach their full potential than their parents. Society as a whole needs them to thrive.’

The SMCP Annual Report laid before the UK Parliament this morning draws attention to the fact that 3.5 million children are living in relative poverty in the UK.

The UK Alliance for Investing in Children will be holding a national UK Conference on child poverty: Investing in Children – Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage, on 16th December in Cardiff. For more information and to book onto this event, please visit [Children in Wales’ website](#).

The report, State of the Nation 2014 can be downloaded from the webpage of the Commission: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/state-of-the-nation-2014-report-published>

The Social Mobility and Child Poverty (SMCP) Commission is an advisory non-departmental public body. It monitors the progress of government and others in improving social mobility and reducing child poverty in the United Kingdom. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/social-mobility-and-child-poverty-commission>

This statement has been produced by the steering group of the Alliance for Investing in Children (UK).

The **Alliance for Investing in Children** (UK) is a project led by Children in Wales working in partnership with Children in Scotland, Children England and Children in Northern Ireland through a steering group of UK Eurochild National Network member organisations. The UK Alliance is part of a wider Joint Action led by the EU Alliance for Investing in Children coalition to aid the implementation of the European Commission Recommendation ‘[Investing in Children-Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage](#)’. This project is supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (2007-2013). This programme is implemented by the European Commission. It was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment, social affairs and equal opportunities area, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy goals in these fields. The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries. The information contained in this statement does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission and does not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children.