



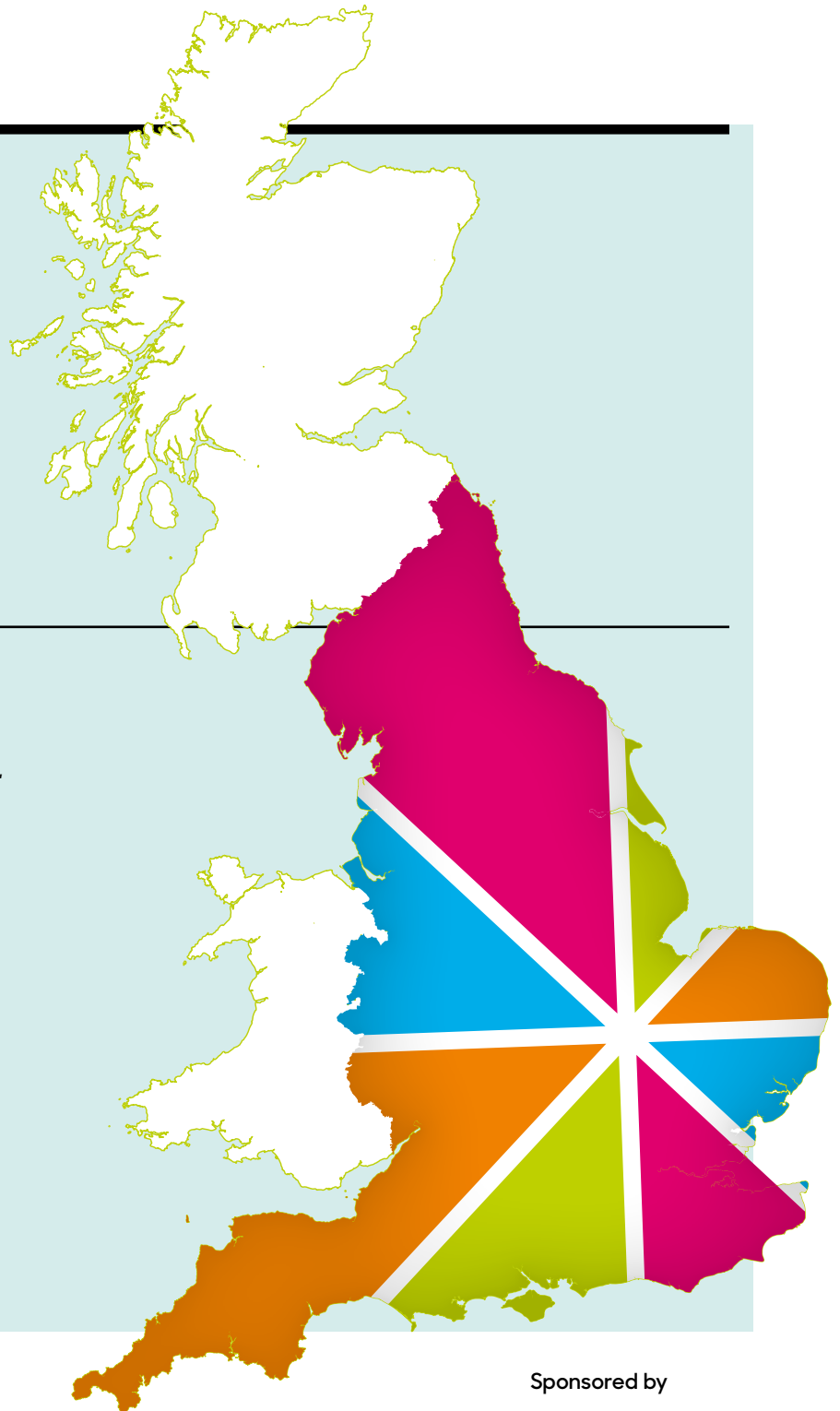
Family and Childcare Trust

Creating a family friendly UK

Where is the most family friendly area in England?

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*The annual report by The
Family and Childcare Trust on
family friendly trends in local
authority areas across England.*



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Introduction

There are 7.9 million families with dependent children in the UK. Most of them successfully raise their children, although some families struggle with parenting. Drawing on ideas about resilience, developed by those working with vulnerable families, families need certain protective factors to enable them to withstand stress and to thrive (Rutter, 1985; Lexmond, 2011). These are attributes or resources that help families withstand stress and achieve good outcomes. Although inter-related these factors can be grouped into a number of areas:

1. Personal and family attributes, such as parenting skills.
2. A decent income and opportunities for social mobility
3. Access to family friendly work
4. High quality public services, such as schools and healthcare
5. A family friendly infrastructure, particularly housing and transport.

We have attempted to measure these 'family friendly' factors in this local report card. It examines trends towards becoming family friendly in England and accompanies our National Report Card for 2015. We have analysed 27 different sets of statistics that relate to wellbeing, income and poverty, employment, public services, housing and infrastructure. The analysis of the family friendly indicators was then collated and used to rank each local authority area, according to how family friendly we judged it to be.

It is also important to stress that we are not just grading public services and local authorities. While the quality of schools, primary healthcare and other public service has a big impact on family wellbeing and outcomes, there are many other conditions that largely lie outside the control of local authorities and other public services. These include indicators that relate to income and employment. Generally deprived areas scored lower across a range of family friendly indicators, reflecting the challenges these areas face. But our analysis also highlighted a number of deprived areas that scored well on some indicators – for example, many deprived local authorities in London score well on education.

Our local and national report cards are published at an important time. All the mainstream political parties went into the 2015 general election with significant pledges for families and a new government is the opportunity to turn these proposals into action to help families. Since the election, the Government has announced many changes in policy that affect families, in particular, increasing the hours of free childcare and changes to tax credits.

It is also a year since the Government announced that all new laws or government policies will be subject to the 'Family Test' to make sure they support strong and stable families (Department for Work and Pensions, 2014). It is an important time to audit family policy. We hope that the local and national report cards are a useful tool for those who want to work to make this country more family friendly.

Our methodology

We wanted to find indicators that would enable us to measure which areas are doing best for families. These needed to be robust enough to be broken down to a local authority level. We searched for indicators in the four groups of protective factors (income, access to family friendly work, high quality public services and a family friendly infrastructure and living environment). Additionally, we decided to use some indicators that gave a broader indication of family wellbeing. These wellbeing indicators included local life satisfaction data, recorded crime, the prevalence of breastfeeding and fluency in English.

As we needed to analyse this data at a local authority level, the datasets we used needed to be large in order for our analysis to be robust. The statistics we used were either derived from the Census, large national surveys or from administrative datasets, for example, Department for Education's National Pupil Dataset. We also decided not to rank the City of London or the Isles of Scilly, as data for those small local authorities was either unavailable or unreliable.

We found it hard to find local data that relate to family friendly work. The Workplace Employment Relations Survey and the Work-Life Balance Study are both small UK surveys with sample sizes that are too small to enable a local authority area breakdown of results. Instead, we have used indicators from the Census, Labour Force Survey and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings as proxy measures of family friendly work, looking at pay differences between full and part-time

workers, hours of work, Saturday and Sunday work and commuting times. There is also a lack of local data on parks, public green space and the environment. As a consequence we only had one indicator on the environment – on air pollution.

Looking through the data, we also noticed that there is sometimes a long delay in making some surveys and administrative datasets accessible to researchers and the public. This makes it difficult to hold the Government to account on issues such as child poverty. We are also concerned to note that in some areas, important statistics are no longer being collected – for example, breastfeeding statistics.

The set of indicators that we used are given in Table One. For each family friendly indicator, we graded local authorities from 1 to 150, with 150 being awarded to the local authority area that had the best results. For example, Kensington and Chelsea achieved the best GCSE results for children eligible for free school meals and scored 150 in this area, whereas Rutland's results were lowest and this area scored 1. We then added up the scores for all 27 indicators to come up with an overall ranking.

As already noted, we are not grading local authorities and public services. Rather, we are looking at a geographic area and judging how family friendly it is. It is also an average for an area, and almost all local authorities include some deprived wards.

Table One: family friendly indicators

	Indicator	Data source
	Broad family wellbeing statistics	
1	Average (mean) life satisfaction rating	Annual Population Survey, personal wellbeing dataset, April 2013 to March 2014
2	All recorded crime in 12 months to June 2014, per head of population	Police force recorded crime statistics (Home Office administrative data)
3	Percentage of babies totally or partially breastfed at the 6–8 week development check	NHS England statistical release Breastfeeding initiation and prevalence at 6 to 8 weeks, 2014 data, or most recent, if absent
4	Percentage of children who are overweight or obese in Year 6 of primary education	13/14 data Public Health England, available from the National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network
5	Adult participation in sport in reference week of Active People Survey	Department for Culture, Media and Sports Active People Survey 2012
6	Percentage of the over-3 population who cannot speak English well or at all	Census 2011
7	Single parent households with dependent children, as a percentage of all households	Census 2011

Income and poverty		
8	Child poverty – the percentage of children living in households receiving out-of-work benefits or on work tax credits where the household income is less than 60 per cent of median income	Department for Work and Pensions Households below average income data, 2013
9	Gross median weekly pay, for all employee jobs by residency	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2014
10	Percentage of the 16-64 population who are unemployed or economically inactive	Labour Force Survey, year to March 2015
11	Difference between Living Wage and gross hourly pay for the lowest paid 20% of employees (by residency)	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2014
Family friendly work		
12	Difference between gross hourly pay for female full-time and female part-time workers	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2014
13	Percentage of local authority residents aged 16-74 in employment who worked more than 49 hours per week in the week before Census 2011	Census 2011
14	Percentage of the 16-64 population working Saturday and/or Sunday	Labour Force Survey 2104
15	Average journey to work times in minutes	Labour Force Survey, 2014, quarter four
High quality public services		
16	Percentage uptake of free early education among eligible two year olds	Department for Education Provision for children under five statistics, January 2015
17	The percentage of boys achieving at least the expected levels in all 17 early learning goals at 4-5 years	Department for Education Early Years Foundation Stage Profile attainment, 2013/14
18	Proportions of pupils eligible for free school meals who get 5 grade A*-C grades at GCSE (including English and maths)	Department for Education, GCSE attainment by pupil characteristics, 2013/14, National Pupil Dataset
19	Percentage of 16-64 population with Level 4 qualifications	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, year to March 2015
20	Conception rate per 1,000 females under 18	Conception statistics, England and Wales, 2012
21	Local authority revenue expenditure for cultural services per head	Department for Communities and Local Government revenue outturn workbooks, 2015/16. Includes district council expenditure
Family friendly infrastructure		
22	Number of children in households accepted as homeless and in temporary accommodation, per head of population	Department for Communities and Local Government, Statutory Homeless Statistics, January - March 2015
23	Percentage of families with dependent children who live in the private rental sector	Census 2011
24	Reported child casualties by local authority, England, 2009 – 2013, as a percentage of 0-18 population,	Department for Transport Reported road casualties annual report, 2013
25	Percentage of families with dependent children who have no access to a car or van	Census 2011
26	Under Five childcare places per 100 children	Department for Education Provision for children under five statistics, January 2015
27	Estimate of the percentage of deaths that had particulate air pollution as a contributory factor	Public Health England

Overall ranking

Bath and North East Somerset was the most family friendly local authority area in England. This local authority encompasses both rural and urban settlements. It scores above average for almost all family friendly indicators, although it is a little below average for those that relate to family friendly work. Child road casualties are higher than average in Bath and North East Somerset and there are also above average gaps in GCSE performance between children on free school meals and their peers. Other top scoring local authority areas are given in Table Two below and a breakdown of all local authorities is given in the appendix.

Table Two: Top scoring local authority areas

Local authority area	Score	Ranking
Bath and North East Somerset	2866	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	2813	2
Richmond	2767.5	3
Wokingham	2762	4
Dorset	2729.5	5
West Berkshire	2716.5	6
Hampshire	2704.5	7
Surrey	2703.5	8
Trafford	2686	9
Cheshire East	2681	10

Sandwell is the lowest scoring local authority. Once high in jobs involving coal and iron production, this part of the West Midlands has now lost much of its heavy industry. Unemployment is high and Sandwell's residents suffer poor health. Uptake of free early education for deprived two year olds is low, with just 41 per cent of eligible children receiving this provision. However, by GCSE age Sandwell schools have managed to narrow the achievement gap between children entitled to free school meals and their peers.

Table Three: Lowest scoring local authorities

Local authority area	Score	Ranking
Leicester City	1484.5	140
Enfield	1478	141
Croydon	1473	142
Luton	1470.5	143
Waltham Forest	1416	144
Nottingham City	1388	145
Brent	1354.5	146=
Walsall	1354.5	146=
Newham	1263.5	148
Barking and Dagenham	1236	149
Sandwell	1180	150

Many of the local authority areas that achieve a low score have high levels of poverty. Such income deprivation may be long-standing, or it can be a consequence of de-industrialisation and the loss of jobs over the last 40 years. Poverty places a great burden on families and communities, with overall levels of wellbeing tending to be lower in poor neighbourhoods. While the relationship between poverty and parenting skills is complex, poverty makes it much more difficult to be a good parent. Poor children are less likely to do well at school and progress to university. Nevertheless, there are deprived local authorities that have achieved higher scores in some areas, and high performing public services can make a difference to families' lives. Barking and Dagenham Council, for example, has narrowed the gap at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers. It has also managed to get high proportions of its income-deprived two year olds into free early education: 63 per cent of them benefit from this provision in Barking and Dagenham, compared with 40 per cent across London.

Conversely, there are some local authority areas where lower proportions of residents live in poverty, but nevertheless, score low on some of the family friendly indicators. Even Bath and North East Somerset, has a large gap at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers.

Individual indicators – family and community wellbeing

Life satisfaction

The Office for National Statistics collects data on wellbeing, through its Annual Population Survey. This data looks at four conditions: life satisfaction, worthwhile, happiness and anxiety. We used the life satisfaction data, with England being 7.49 in 2014. The highest scoring local authorities tended to be rural areas. Deprived urban local authorities tended to score lower on life satisfaction, although the association between average income and life satisfaction is more complex.

High scores

1. Rutland 7.83
2. North Yorkshire 7.76
- 3= Norfolk 7.73
- 3= Windsor and Maidenhead 7.73

Low scores

148. Wolverhampton 7.01
149. Lambeth
150. Barking and Dagenham 6.93.

Recorded crime per head of population

Being a victim of a crime is usually a distressing experience. Fear of crime also impacts on family wellbeing. We felt it was important to include this as an indicator of family and community wellbeing. Generally urban areas that received large numbers of tourists had the highest levels of recorded crime, mostly due to high theft levels. Outside this type of areas, Hull had the highest level of recorded crime – 10.37 crimes per 100 people – in the year to June 2014.

High scores

1. Northumberland 3.15 recorded crimes per 100 people
2. Rutland 3.17
3. Wokingham 3.19

Low scores

148. Kensington and Chelsea 11.57
149. Camden 11.87
150. Westminster 17.96.

Breastfeeding

While the use of formula milk is not indicative of bad parenting, there are many advantages of breastfeeding. It is free and protects a baby against infections and diseases. It also provides health benefits for mothers, including reducing the chances of breast cancer. For these reasons, the Government recommends requires that midwifery and health visiting services help mothers to do this. Breastfeeding could thus be seen as an indicator of how well our health service is doing for families. It is an indicator of family wellbeing, as mothers who are stressed or receive little support from their partner, family or friends often find it more difficult to breastfeed.

In England, all women who initiate breastfeeding in hospital are counter in statistics, then data is collected again at the 6–8 week development review undertaken by a health visitor. However, in some areas these statistics are not being collected. The most recent national data for England (2012–13) indicated that 47.2 per cent of babies were partially or exclusively breastfed the time of the 6–8 week review, although there are big differences between local authorities. Older mothers, the better educated, those from higher income groups and some ethnic minority groups are most likely to breastfeed.

High scores

1. Kensington and Chelsea 86.5 per cent of babies partially or exclusively breastfed at 6–8 weeks
2. Hackney 83.6 per cent
3. Southwark 80.6 per cent

Low scores

148. Halton 21.7 per cent
149. Hartlepool 19.7 per cent
150. Knowsley 19.4 per cent.

Childhood obesity

Growing levels of obesity are one of the greatest challenges facing the NHS, with excess weight a contributory factor in cardio-vascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some types of cancer. This condition often starts in childhood, with overweight children more likely to become overweight or obese adults. In most cases childhood obesity is caused by the poor diet, over-eating and a lack of exercise. It is a growing trend, in 2012–2014, some 31.8 per cent of reception class children in England were obese or overweight, compared with 23.8 per cent in 2008–2010. By the time children reach year six of primary school obesity rates have increased and tend to be highest in London.

High scores

1. Richmond 24.3 per cent of year 6 children overweight or obese
2. Brighton and Hove 26.6 per cent
3. Surrey 26.7 per cent

Low scores

148. Barking and Dagenham 42.2 per cent
149. Tower Hamlets 42.3 per cent
150. Southwark 43.8 per cent.

Adult participation in sport

Regular exercise improves physical and mental health, whereas physical inactivity predisposes us to obesity. Children with physically active parents are also more likely to participate in sport themselves. Some 35.2 per cent of the adult population played sport or engaged in active exercise for at least 30 minutes in the week before the last Active People Survey, but there are large differences in participation in sport and exercise between local authority areas.

High scores

1. Rutland 31.5 per cent of the adult population played sport or engaged in active exercise for at least 30 minutes in the week before the Active People Survey
2. Richmond 29.8 per cent
3. Leeds 27.6 per cent

Low scores

148. Enfield 15.7 per cent per cent of the adult population played sport or engaged in active exercise for at least 30 minutes in the week before the Active People Survey
149. Sandwell 15.6 per cent.
150. Barking and Dagenham 14.4 per cent

Proficiency in English

As a result of international migration, England is a more diverse country. Fluency in English promotes migrants' integration, enabling migrants to find work and interact with those from outside their family or linguistic group. While the majority of new migrants and longer-settled minority ethnic groups speak and read English well or fluently, there some groups who struggle to communicate, including disproportionate numbers of mothers, refugees and EU migrants. Census 2011 data suggests that 1.7 per cent of the population aged over three do not speak English well or at all.

As might be expected, a lack of fluency in English is correlated with levels of migration, so it is not surprising that Newham – at 8.7 per cent – has the highest proportion of the population with limited fluency in English. But there are other local authorities where recent international migration has been lower, but nevertheless high proportions of the population lack fluency in English.

High scores

- 1= Redcar and Cleveland 0.13 per cent of the population aged over 3 do not speak English well or at all
- 1= Rutland 0.13 per cent
3. Knowsley 0.17 per cent

Low scores

- 148= Brent 7.97 per cent of the population aged over 3 do not speak English well or at all
- 148= Tower Hamlets 7.97 per cent
150. Newham 8.72 per cent.

Single parents with dependent children as a percentage of all households

Bringing up children is easier and less stressful where both parents are actively involved, and for this reason family stability is desirable. Auditing new laws and policies against their impact on family stability and relationship breakdown are component of the Government's new Family Test.

The majority (64 per cent) of single parents now work in the UK, but the children of single parents are more likely to live in poverty than those living with two parents. An acrimonious breakdown of parents' relationship can also have a negative impact on children's wellbeing. The proportion of single parent households has remained constant for nearly 20 years, comprising about 7 per cent of all households in Census 2011. However, there are differences in the proportions of households headed by single parents between different areas.

High scores

1. Wokingham 4.44 per cent of households are single parent households with dependent children
2. Surrey 4.66 per cent
3. Dorset 4.73 per cent

Low scores

148. Enfield 11.78 per cent of households are single parent households with dependent children
149. Knowsley 11.95
150. Barking and Dagenham 14.36 per cent.

Individual indicators – income and poverty

Although loving and warm relationships are found in families from all social classes, poverty can put pressure on families by increasing parental stress and through the restrictions that a low income places on purchasing power and social activities. Research shows that it is harder to be a good parent on a low income, so earnings and action to alleviate poverty and inequality are important interventions to make the UK more family friendly (Lexmond et al, 2011). Poverty is also strongly associated with poor educational and health outcomes. Financial pressures can also contribute to the breakdown of relationships. Families have experienced close to a decade of stagnating living standards as wages have stalled while their expenditure on key items such as housing and childcare has increased. Tax and benefit changes implemented since 2010 have also reduced the income of most families with children¹.

The overall proportion of children living in families whose income falls below the relative poverty line (60 per cent of median income) has remained stable at 17 per cent², mostly due to a fall in workless households. But the proportion of families with working parents in poverty has increase significantly. For example, in 2013/14, 35 per cent of children in families where one parent works full-time were living in poverty compared to 27 per cent in 2009/10 (Belfield et al, 2015).

The Government has extended free school meals to all 5-7 year olds in England and will give parents greater help with their childcare costs from 2016 through increases in childcare help through Universal Credit, the new Tax Free Childcare scheme and increasing the hours of free early education. Despite these interventions, the future outlook for living standards for families is poor. This is because housing costs continue to increase and the Government proposes to significantly reduce financial support for parents both in and out of work.

We have chosen four measures of income and poverty as indicators of family friendly.

These are child poverty, unemployment and economic inactivity in the working age population, gross median weekly wages and average wages in the lowest paid 20 per cent of the population.

Child poverty

This measure sets of the percentage of children living in households receiving out-of-work benefits or on work tax credits where the household income is less than 60 per cent of median income. It is a measure of relative poverty, in that it is a standard that defines how an individual is doing relative to the rest of society. Across the UK, 15.9 per cent of children were living in poverty in 2013, the date of the most recent statistics.

Although this indicator is given official recognition in the Child Poverty Act 2010, the current Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015 is repealing this measure of poverty.

High scores

1. Wokingham 6.4 per cent
2. Rutland 7.3 per cent
3. Windsor and Maidenhead 8.5 per cent

Low scores

148. Manchester 33.6 per cent
149. Islington 34.5 per cent
150. Tower Hamlets 39.0 per cent.

Median pay

Gross median weekly wages are another relative poverty measure. It is the mid-point on the salary range, with 50 per cent of jobs paying less and 50 per cent paying more. In areas where a high proportion of jobs are low paid, gross median weekly pay is lower. Generally this figure is highest in London and the South East, although living costs are also higher in these two regions. Outside these areas, the local authority area with the highest gross median weekly wages was Cambridgeshire, at £458.90 per week in 2014, compared with an England-wide average of £421.60.

High scores

1. Wandsworth £660.90
2. Westminster £655.70
3. Richmond £655

Low scores

148. Hull £334.20
149. Middlesbrough £331.60
150. Blackpool £304.40

1 Department for Work and Pensions Households below average income: 1994/1995 to 2013/2014 tables.

2 Ibid

Unemployment and economic inactivity

An unemployed person is defined as someone without a job who is looking for work, while the economically inactive are those who are not looking for a job – usually because they are studying, sick, disabled or have caring responsibilities. We took unemployment and economic inactivity in the 16-64 (working age) population as another one of our indicators, as workless families are much more likely to live in poverty. In the year to March 2015, 27.4 per cent of the working age population was unemployed or economically inactive in England (5.4 per cent unemployed and 22 per cent economically inactive).

High scores

1. West Berkshire 17.4 per cent
2. North Somerset 19.7 per cent
3. South Gloucestershire 19.9 per cent

Low scores

148. Birmingham 41.6 per cent
149. Middlesbrough 43.1 per cent
150. Liverpool 43.5 per cent.

Gross hourly pay for those in the lowest income quintile

A number of community organisations – supported by research – argue that the current National Minimum Wage is not enough to cover the basic cost of living. In contrast, the UK-wide Living Wage is based on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Minimum Income Standard. This looks at what households need in order to have a minimum acceptable standard of living. It is an hourly rate that is updated annually. The current UK Living Wage is £7.85 an hour, and £9.15 in London.

Many jobs are paid below the Living Wage. We looked at gross hourly pay for the bottom 20 per cent (quintile) of employees, and calculated the difference between this and the UK or London Living Wage. Local authority areas in London and the South East generally did best, with the average pay for the bottom quintile more than the London Living Wage. But the lowest three scoring local authority areas are also in London, showing that low pay is also prevalent in the capital, where the cost of living is highest.

High scores

1. Kensington and Chelsea £1.48
2. Wandsworth £1.27
3. Richmond £1.48

Low scores

148. Barking and Dagenham -£1.38
149. Brent -£1.43
150. Newham - £1.84.

Individual indicators – access to family friendly work

Almost all research about parental employment highlights the importance of flexible work opportunities in helping parents balance family life and work. Children may also benefit, as emerging evidence suggests flexible work arrangements have a positive impact on children's learning, as working parents can spend more time with their children.

Since 2002 parents have also had the right to ask for flexible work – a right which has now been extended to all workers. Despite this development, a minority of employees have access to flexible work opportunities which are usually taken to include part-time working, flexi-time, term-time working, job shares, temporary reduced hours, annualised hours, compressed hours and opportunities to regularly work from home. Data from the 2011 Workplace Employment Relations Survey showed that only a third (34 per cent) of workplaces allowed flexi-time working, where staff could vary their time at work outside core hours. Part-time work was the most frequent flexible work option, with 56 per cent of workplaces offering this in 2011. But in many organisations part-time jobs are often of a lower status than full-time employment and are less likely to lead to promotion.

There are also some groups of workers who have less access to flexible work practices. These include those who work in male-dominated workplaces or who have the fewest skills and qualifications, therefore the least bargaining power.

But family friendly work is about more than flexible work opportunities, and there are many other work practices that impact the quality of family life. There is a culture of long hours with workers in the UK working longer than their peers in most EU countries and commuting time can also eat into family time. As already noted, low pay can have many impacts on the quality of family life by increasing parental stress and forcing families to go without essential items (Davis et al, 2014; Lexmond et al, 2011). Parents on low incomes may also take on overtime work or a second job in order to increase their wages, which in turn further impacts on the quality of family life.

As already noted, there is a limited amount of local data that relates to family friendly work. We have used indicators from the Census, Labour Force Survey and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings as proxy measures of family friendly work, looking at pay differences between full and part-time workers, hours of work, Saturday and Sunday work and commuting times.

Difference in pay levels between female full-time and female part-time work

Part-time employment is a strategy that parents – disproportionately mothers – adopt to keep down their childcare costs and help balance work with family life. But in many organisations part-time jobs are often of a lower status than full-time employment and are less likely to lead to promotion (Grant et al, 2005). As a consequence, part-time jobs also tend to be less well paid when compared pro rata with full-time employment. In research by the Timewise Foundation (2013) just 3 per cent of part-time jobs advertised in March 2012 paid a salary of more than £20,000 per year full-time equivalent.

We took the difference in median gross hourly pay between female full-time and female part-time employment as an indicator of family friendly employment. In 2014, the median gross hourly pay for a full-time female worker was £12.37 in England, but for a part-time female worker it was £8.46 – a difference of £3.91 per hour. At a local authority area level, where part-time jobs enjoy greater parity, this figure will be lower, although this may be due to a general prevalence of low-paid jobs. Generally, the areas with the biggest gaps are those where there are many better paid jobs filled by women alongside many low paid jobs.

High scores

1. Newham –£0.29 pay difference between full-time and part-time work
2. North East Lincolnshire £0.26
3. Barking and Dagenham £0.58

Low scores

148. Wandsworth £7.52
149. Windsor and Maidenhead £7.59
150. Kensington and Chelsea £8.26.

Working 49 or more hours per week

Although there are some exceptions for some groups such as the self-employed, regulations are meant to prevent employees from spending more than 48 hours per week at work. Despite this, there is still a culture of long working hours in the UK, which can have a negative impact on family life and the time that children spend with their parents. Census 2011 data indicated that 13.3 per cent of employed 16-74 year olds worked 49 or more hours per week (10.2 per cent males and 3.1 per cent females). Generally, those living in prosperous parts of London worked the longest hours. The areas where fewest workers worked 49 or more hours per week were largely deprived areas, suggesting a trade-off between a higher income and family friendly work.

High scores

1. Knowsley 8.1 per cent of 16-74 workforce
2. Leicester 8.2 per cent
3. Blackburn and Darwen 8.4 per cent

Low scores

148. Hammersmith and Fulham 23.3 per cent of 16-74 workforce
149. Westminster 31.2 per cent
150. Kensington and Chelsea 35.1 per cent.

Working Saturday and Sunday

Although weekend work is essential in some sectors of the economy – health and social care, for example – working outside normal office hours has the potential to impact on family life. Parents may also find it difficult to find formal childcare if they need it. Nationally, Labour Force Survey data suggests that nearly 3 million people are required as part of their usual working pattern to work Saturday, about 10 per cent of the workforce. Over 2 million people work on Sunday. The prevalence of Saturday and Sunday work is usually determined by the local labour market and the range of jobs available.

High scores

1. Coventry 3.07 per cent of the working-age (16-64) population usually work Saturday and/or Sunday
2. Sandwell 3.18 per cent
3. Walsall 3.77 per cent

Low scores

148. North Somerset 20.88 per cent of the working-age (16-64) population usually work Saturday and/or Sunday
149. Portsmouth 21.52 per cent
150. Nottingham 23.73 per cent.

Average journey to work times in minutes

Long journeys to work can eat into the time that parents spend with their children. Parents who spend long hours commuting to work may also need childcare early in the morning or in the early evening. The average home to work journey time in England was 29 minutes in England in 2014. Generally, those living in London and the South East spent a longer time travelling to work.

High scores

- 1= North Lincolnshire 18 minutes home to work journey time
- 1= Torbay 18 minutes
- 2= Hartlepool 19 minutes
- 2= Middlesbrough 19 minutes

Low scores

- 147= Redbridge 46 minutes home to work journey time
- 147= Wandsworth 46 minutes
149. Bexley 48 minutes
150. Bromley 49 minutes.

Individual indicators – high quality public services

High quality public services make a major difference to family life. We had included seven indicators that related to the quality of public services.

Uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds

In September 2014 the 40 per cent most income deprived two year olds became entitled to part-time free early education in England, amounting to 570 hours per year and most usually delivered by schools, pre-schools and day nurseries. This provision is meant to narrow the development gap between the most disadvantaged children and their peers. But take-up of free early education among deprived two year olds has been low in some areas, sometimes because there are not enough places, but also because parents do not want this help. By January 2015, just 58 per cent of children were receiving this provision, with figures particularly low in London. This means that 113,000 of the most disadvantaged two year olds are missing out on early education.

High scores

1. Richmond 85 per cent of eligible children
- 2= Trafford 83 per cent
- 2= Warrington 83 per cent

Low scores

148. Wandsworth 33 per cent of eligible children
149. Newham 31 per cent
150. Tower Hamlets 26 per cent.

Difference in development between boys and girls at five years

Through early education and schooling there are gaps in children's outcomes between different groups of children. The development gap between deprived children and their peers is marked and there are also differences in outcomes between different ethnic groups. There are also differences in outcomes between boys and girls, with the latter doing better in all stages of schooling. In the Early Years Foundation Stage profile assessment, 67 per cent of girls, but just 50 per cent of boys, achieved the expected level of development in all 17 early learning goals (ELGs), a 17 percentage point difference. However, some nurseries have managed to narrow these development gaps

and have made sure that that boys do well in early education.

High scores

1. Lewisham 70 per cent of boys achieving expected level of development in all ELGs
2. Bexley 65 per cent
3. Greenwich 64 per cent

Low scores

148. Nottingham 34 per cent of boys achieving expected level of development in all ELGs
149. Halton 31 per cent
150. Leicester 28 per cent.

GCSE results for children on free school meals

Children's test and examination results have continued to improve, but in all parts of the UK there are still very large gaps between the most disadvantaged children and their peers. In England, for example, just 41.8 per cent of students entitled to free school meal obtained 5A*-C grades (including English and maths) at GCSE in 2014, compared with 69.8 per cent of all other children. This achievement gap is large in many prosperous areas and tends to be lower in London.

High scores

1. Kensington and Chelsea 71.1 of children eligible for free school meals obtained 5A*-C grades (including English and maths) at GCSE
2. Westminster 70.8 per cent
3. Tower Hamlets 27.2 per cent

Low scores

148. Bracknell Forest 27.2 per cent of children eligible for free school meals obtained 5A*-C grades (including English and maths) at GCSE
149. Barnsley 26.1 per cent
150. Rutland 24 per cent.

Adult qualifications

The numbers of young people remaining in education has continued to rise and the numbers starting full-time university courses was at its highest ever level in 2015. As a consequence, the proportion of the adult population with higher level qualifications – Level 4

and above – has continued to rise. In England, some 35.7 per cent of working population are qualified at this level and above, but there are areas where too many adults lack qualifications and skills.

High scores

1. Wandsworth 69.7 per cent of working age population qualified at Level 4 and above
2. Hammersmith and Fulham 67 per cent
3. Richmond 66.8 per cent

Low scores

148. Hull 21.1 per cent of working age population qualified at Level 4 and above
149. North East Lincolnshire 20.9 per cent
150. Wakefield 20.7 per cent.

Under 18 conceptions

Overall, the UK is a country with deep-seated health inequalities that span a range of family health indicators, including breastfeeding uptake, healthy behaviours, hospital admissions and mortality. These inequalities do not only affect the very poorest. Rather there is a close link between where a family is on the socio-economic ladder and the health of its members – the higher the rank, the better the health. These inequalities remain one of the biggest challenges facing the NHS.

Noting this, there are many family healthcare indicators that we could have used and we have already looked at the prevalence of breastfeeding and childhood obesity. Conceptions and births to the under 18s is another important health indicator. Children born to teenage parents are more likely to have a low birthweight, live in poverty and do badly at school. Teenage mothers are more likely to be unemployed and experience relationship breakdown. Yet reducing conceptions among teenagers has been a major policy success, particularly in London.

High scores

1. Westminster 9.8 conceptions per 1,000 females under 18
2. Barnet 10.2
3. Wokingham 10.6

Low scores

148. Blackpool 41.7 conceptions per 1,000 females under 18
149. North East Lincolnshire 43.3
150. Stoke-on-Trent 43.7.

Local authority expenditure on cultural and leisure provision

Local authorities support much cultural, leisure and sport provision in the UK – services which have the potential to improve the quality of life in the communities where we live. Councils provide some of these services themselves, by running libraries, adult education services, sports centres and parks. Local government also commissions and provides grant funding to culture and leisure services. Local authority revenue expenditure on cultural and related services amount to an average of £7,544,000 in 2015/16. This is 3 per cent less than the previous financial year, but there are large differences in expenditure per head between local authorities.

High scores

1. Knowsley £137.39 per head of population
2. Lambeth £137.38
3. Northamptonshire £135.12

Low scores

148. Bexley £25.35 per head of population
149. Barnsley £24.07
150. North Tyneside £6.47

Individual indicators – a family friendly infrastructure and living environment

Families need a supportive infrastructure and living environment in order to thrive, which includes decent and secure housing, transport, childcare and a clean living environment.

Homeless families with dependent children housed in temporary accommodation

Stable, decent housing is vital to families, but shortages of social housing and house price rises – 4.2 per cent in the 12 months to August 2015 – have put this out of the reach of many families.

How we treat homeless families is a key indicator of a family friendly nation. Compared with the 1990s there are now fewer homeless households in temporary accommodation while waiting for a permanent social tenancy. However, the number of homeless families living in bed and breakfast accommodation – one specific type of temporary accommodation – has increased by more than 300 per cent in the last five years. Families living in temporary accommodation usually have to move home frequently, making it difficult to settle in and make friends. Some families in temporary accommodation live in cramped conditions and have to share kitchens and bathrooms with strangers.

At the end of March 2015 there were 52,986 households in temporary accommodation in England, the majority of whom had dependent children. When the overall numbers of households with dependent children are taken into account, London local authorities have the largest proportion of homeless families with dependent children in temporary accommodation.

High scores

Barnsley, Cumbria, Darlington, Milton Keynes, Redcar and Cleveland, Rutland and Sefton have no homeless families with dependent children in temporary accommodation.

Low scores

- 148. Kensington and Chelsea 8.7 per cent of all families with dependent children are homeless families living in temporary accommodation, although not all of them will be living within the local authority boundaries
- 149. Haringey 8.9 per cent
- 150. Westminster 10.1 per cent.

Families with dependent children living in the private rental sector

Over the last ten years there have been major changes in patterns of housing tenure in the UK, with many more families living in privately rented accommodation, with proportionately fewer owner occupiers and social tenants. In 2014 more than 1 in 5 families with dependent children were private renters, compared with 1 in 10 in 2007. Too much privately rented housing is of poor quality and regulation of this type of accommodation is weak. In England 33 per cent of private rented homes do not meet government's Decent Homes Standard compared with 20 per cent of owner-occupied homes and 15 per cent of social housing (Shelter, 2013). Six months is the de facto length of a tenancy agreement for private renters and as a consequence many families in this type of accommodation are forced to move home frequently. This can disrupt children's education and social lives, as well as parents' support networks. A wide range of organisations are now lobbying for a longer 'family' tenancy for those in the private rental sector, as well as the regulation of letting agents' fees.

Individual scores are influenced by a range of factors, such as the amount of social housing available as well as house prices.

High scores

- 1. South Tyneside 12.2 per cent of families with dependents living in the private rental sector
- 2. Islington 12.5 per cent
- 3. North Tyneside 13.1 per cent

Low scores

- 148. Westminster 34.9 per cent of families with dependent living in the private rental sector
- 149. Blackpool 35.9 per cent
- 150. Newham 36.6 per cent.

Child road casualties per head of population under 18, 2009–2013

In 2013 some 2,029 children under 16 were killed or seriously injured on roads in England, Scotland and Wales, of whom the majority were pedestrians. We believe that safe roads are part of a family friendly infrastructure. While there has been a year-on-year decline in road casualties in recent years, there are differences between social groups in the rates of child casualties, with children from the lowest socio-economic classes three times more likely to be killed as a pedestrian. This factor accounts for some but not all of the differences in child road casualties between different areas. Some suburban areas also have high rates of child road casualties.

High scores

1. Richmond 0.385 child road casualties per 100 children, 2009–2013
2. Bracknell Forest 0.394
3. Harrow 0.397

Low scores

148. North East Lincolnshire 1.278 child road per 100 children, 2009–2013
149. Blackburn and Darwen, 1.315
150. Blackpool 1.431.

Families with dependent children without access to a car/van

Families who have limited access to public transport and cannot afford a car are disadvantaged. It can be more difficult to find and keep work, shopping options are reduced and family lives are also more stressful and pressured. Transport poverty may prevent children from taking up free early education or attending after-school enrichment activities.

Generally, families living in London were least likely to have access to a car. This may not matter in parts of the capital where public transport is good, although a car often makes life less stressful for parents. Outside London, families in Liverpool and Nottingham were least likely to have access to a car – with 43 per cent of families with dependent children in Liverpool and 37.6 per cent in Nottingham having no access to a car.

High scores

1. Wokingham 4.4 per cent of families with dependent children having no access to a car or van
2. Surrey 6.6 per cent
3. Windsor and Maidenhead 6.9 per cent

Low scores

148. Hackney 53.8 per cent of families with dependent children having no access to a car or van
149. Westminster 54 per cent
150. Islington 55.9 per cent.

Under-fives childcare places per 100 children

Childcare provision is an essential part of the social infrastructure enabling parents to work and employers to keep essential staff. However, there is a lack of childcare in some areas, both for under-fives and children at school. We used local authority, Department for Education and Ofsted early years' places data. Generally, areas that have a high level of maternal employment have proportionately more childcare places. This is because childcare operates as a quasi-market and greater demand from working parents leads to greater supply. London local authorities tend to score lower, as the maternal employment rate is lower in the capital than in most other parts of the UK.

High scores

1. Rutland 59 early years childcare places per 100 children under five
2. Wokingham 57 places
3. Trafford 56 places

Low scores

- 148= Barking and Dagenham 26 early years childcare places per 100 children under five
- 148= Slough 26 places
150. Islington 24 places.

Pollution – Particulate emissions

We also included an indicator to reflect families need for a clean environment, which also supports good health. Pollution has many different components which include litter, gaseous pollution, water and soil contaminants, radiation and particulate matter in the air.

Although pollution levels are measured in specific locations, regionally or nationally, there is little data on pollution at a local authority level. However, in 2014 Public Health England undertook analysis on particulate air pollution, which is associated with an increased risk of asthma and other respiratory and cardio-vascular disease. This shows levels of human-produced pollution and the proportion of deaths by local authority where particulate air pollution is a contributory factor. In England some 5.6 per cent of all deaths had human-made particulate air pollution as a contributory factor. Generally, urban local authorities score badly, due to high densities of road traffic. These figures show that we have underestimated the effects of pollution on family health.

High scores

1. Cumbria 3.6 per cent of all deaths had human-made particulate air pollution as a contributory factor
2. Cornwall 3.8 per cent
3. Devon 3.9 per cent

Low scores

148. Tower Hamlets 8.1 per cent of all deaths had human-made particulate air pollution as a contributory factor
- 149= Kensington and Chelsea 8.3 per cent
- 149= Westminster 8.3 per cent.

Conclusions

Our local report card highlights the diversity of family life in different parts of England. In some areas, children and their parents are thriving. In other areas, our data shows that some families are struggling to survive.

Generally, deprived areas scored lower across a range of family friendly indicators, reflecting the challenges these areas face. But our analysis also highlighted places that scored well on some indicators – for example, the local authorities that score well on nursery provision and education. This shows that high quality public services can make a difference to the lives of families.

There are local authority areas that are not experiencing high levels of deprivation, but do badly on some family friendly indicators. There may be big gaps in the educational outcomes between poor children and their peers, for example.

The local report card also highlights the unique nature of London. It is the richest region in the UK and one of the wealthiest cities in the world, but many London local authorities score badly when it comes to family friendly indicators. London may be a city of opportunities, but too many of its families are not thriving.

We want parents to use the data in the local report card to hold the Government to account, at a national and local level. This can only take place if statistics are collected and rapidly made public. We are concerned that some public services are not collecting essential statistics and that there is often long delays in publishing surveys and administrative data.

We also want to influence the views of local authorities. The Government now subjects all new laws or policies to the 'Family Test' to make sure they support strong and stable families. The Family Test applies at a national level to central government departments. But we would also like local authorities to adopt their own family tests to make sure that local policy changes boost family resilience.

Parents are children's primary carers and public policy needs to support them in this role. They need a fair share of resources and decent housing, as well as high quality public services. Parents need employment that enables them to balance work with caring obligation. Family life is precious and deserves protecting. We hope that our 2015 report cards are useful tools for those who want to work to make this country more family friendly.

Local authority rankings

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
EASTERN			
Bedford	47	2263.5	This local authority does well in many family friendly indicators, although it needs to increase the proportions of deprived two year olds receiving free early education – at 52 per cent, this is lower than comparable local authorities.
Cambridgeshire	12	2641.5	This generally prosperous local authority does well on almost all family friendly indicators, although it needs to try to narrow the gap in GCSE performance between children on free school meals and their peers.
Central Bedfordshire	37	2414	This local authority does fairly well on almost all family friendly indicators, although there is a large gap in GCSE performance between children on free school meals and their peers.
Essex	55	2229.5	This local authority does well in many family friendly indicators, although work-life balance is a problem for some families who work long hours or have long commutes.
Hertfordshire	25	2517	This prosperous local authority does well on almost all health indicators, particularly those that relate to breastfeeding, exercise, childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy.
Luton	143	1470.5	This local authority gets low scores for many family friendly indicators, in particular, childhood obesity, exercise and child development gaps between boys and girls. There are also a large number of homeless families in Luton.
Norfolk	80	1960.5	Life satisfaction scores are among the highest in England and this local authority does fairly well on many family friendly indicators, although many jobs are low paid in Norfolk. There is also a large gap in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers.
Peterborough	114	1688.5	This local authority gets low scores for many family friendly indicators. Average wages are low and there is a lack of family friendly work. This local authority also has a large proportion of people who lack fluency in English.
Southend	103	1781	This low authority gets below average scores in many of the family friendly indicators. A large proportion of families with children live in the private rental sector. There is also a big gap in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Suffolk	54	2231.5	While this local authority does fairly well on some family friendly indicators, there is also a large gap in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers.
Thurrock	126=	1588.5	This local authority scores below average on many family friendly indicators, in particular exercise, obesity and teenage pregnancy.

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
EAST MIDLANDS			
Derby City	99	1810.5	This local authority scores a little below average on family friendly indicators. It needs to ensure that all children do well in early education and school, including boys and those who get free school meals.
Derbyshire	42	2364	While this local authority scores above average for many family friendly indicators, Derbyshire does less well in education. There are above average gaps on outcomes between boys and girls and between children on free school meals and their peers.
Leicester City	140	1484.5	This local authority scores below average for many family friendly indicators. Unemployment and child poverty are high. Leicester has the largest gap between boys and girls at the end of nursery education.
Leicestershire	17	2563.5	This local authority scores above average for almost all family friendly indicators,
Lincolnshire	67	2107.5	This local authority does fairly well in many family friendly indicators, although pay levels are below average and high proportions of adults lack high level qualifications.
Northamptonshire	83	1923	Northamptonshire gets above average scores in many areas, although its educational indicators are below average. The local authority needs to increase the uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds.
Nottingham City	145	1388	Low wages and unemployment contribute to the low score in this local authority. Teenage pregnancy rates are high and there are large gaps in educational outcomes between boys and girls.
Nottinghamshire	50	2253	Nottinghamshire is below average on most family friendly indicators. High proportions of adults lack high level qualifications.
Rutland	27	2502	Rutland is a largely prosperous local authority, which scores well above average on most family friendly indicators. Life satisfaction scores are the highest in England. However, high proportions of adults work outside normal office hours. Rutland also has England's largest gap in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
LONDON			
Barking and Dagenham	149	1236	Low scores for lifestyle factors such as wellbeing, childhood obesity, exercise and teenage pregnancy. Unemployment and pay levels are among the worst in London. However, a high performing council has managed to improve children's outcomes and Barking and Dagenham Council has done particularly well to narrow the gap at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers.
Barnet	95	1832.5	A prosperous local authority, although there are pockets of poverty in the south of the borough. The quality of family life may be adversely affected by public spending cuts, with Barnet having one of the lowest level of expenditure on cultural services of any local authority in Britain. Uptake of free early education for deprived 2 year olds is also very low in Barnet, 20 percentage points below the national average.
Bexley	112	1708.5	An outer-London local authority where parents spend long hours commuting to work. Health indicators such as wellbeing, exercise and childhood obesity are poor in this local authority.
Brent	146=	1354.5	This local authority's family friendly indicators are mixed. Its schools have done well to narrow achievement gaps at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers. However, there are large numbers of homeless families in the local authority, as well as families living in insecure and poor quality private rental accommodation. Brent also has high levels of childhood obesity.
Bromley	32	2441.5	This local prosperous authority does well in most family friendly indicators, although many adults spend long hours commuting to work. Child road casualties are high in this local authority.
Camden	85	1916	Child poverty levels are high in this diverse local authority, where wealthy and poor families are often living in close proximity. Despite high levels of deprivation, its public services have achieved good outcomes in relation to reducing teenage pregnancy and narrowing the achievement gaps at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers. The local authority needs to make sure that more deprived two year olds receive free early education; only 41 per cent of eligible children were receiving this help in 2015.
Croydon	142	1473	Croydon gets a surprisingly low family friendly score, given that many parts of the local authority are comparatively prosperous. The local authority needs to make sure that more deprived two year olds receive free early education; only 38 per cent of eligible children were receiving this help in 2015.
Ealing	123	1638	This local authority gets low scores for many family friendly indicators, in particular housing, with large numbers of homeless families and families living in insecure and poor quality private rental accommodation.
Enfield	141	1478	This outer-London local authority should be doing better. It scores above average in most educational indicators, but many of its health indicators are poor. Childhood obesity levels are particularly high in Enfield.
Greenwich	133	1535	This outer London local authority should be doing better. It scores above average in most educational indicators, and has been successful in narrowing the gaps between boys and girls and between children on free school meals and their peers. However, childhood obesity levels are high in Greenwich and participation in sport is low.

Hackney	126=	1588.5	This diverse local authority is an area of contrasts. Its nurseries and schools have been very successful in reducing the educational gaps between boys and girls and between those eligible for free school meals and their peers. The adult population has a high proportion of people with high level qualifications. However, Hackney scores very badly on many other family friendly indicators such as life satisfaction, recorded crime, child poverty and childhood obesity.
Hammersmith and Fulham	68	2106.5	This local authority scores better than many London local authorities. However, uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds is low. Hammersmith and Fulham also has large proportions of homeless families living in temporary accommodation.
Haringey	132	1539.5	Despite high levels of child poverty, Haringey schools have done well to reduce the gaps in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers. In most other family friendly indicators, Haringey scores below average. There are also large proportions of homeless families living temporary accommodation.
Harrow	105	1772.5	This prosperous outer-London local authority should be scoring higher, given a highly qualified adult population and schools that have been successful in closing the gap in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. There are large proportions of families living in the private rental sector because house prices are high and there is a shortage of social housing. Child road casualties are also high.
Havering	87	1900.5	Havering is a local authority of educational contrasts. Its nurseries and schools have been successful in narrowing the achievement gaps between boys and girls and between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. However, many in its adult population lack higher level qualifications.
Hillingdon	108	1732	Hillingdon scores average scores in many family friendly indicators. However, uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds is low and there is a large development gap at five years between boys and girls.
Hounslow	138	1492	This outer-London local authority should be scoring better. In particular, family friendly indicators that relate to young children are low in Hounslow. The number of childcare places is low compared to the number of children, and childhood obesity levels are high.
Islington	73	2041	Child poverty levels are high in this diverse local authority, where wealthy and poor families are often living in close proximity.
Kensington and Chelsea	56	2225.5	This economically diverse local authority is an area of contrasts. It scores very well in many areas, particularly those that relate to schools and adult qualifications. However, homelessness is a major social problem in this local authority, which has one of the highest proportions of homeless families in temporary accommodation in the UK.
Kingston	38	2412	This local authority scores well above average for most family friendly indicators. However, work-life balance is an issue for some households, with long commuter journeys and work outside normal office hours.
Lambeth	106	1747.5	This diverse local authority is an area of contrasts. Its schools have been very successful in reducing the educational gaps between those eligible for free school meals and their peers. The adult population has a high proportion of people with high level qualifications. However, Lambeth scores very badly on many other family friendly indicators such as life satisfaction, recorded crime, child poverty, lone parenthood and childhood obesity.
Lewisham	125	1603	This economically diverse local authority has been successful in closing some of the achievement gaps between boys and girls, and between those eligible for free school meals and their peers. However, Lewisham scores below average on family friendly indicators that relate to housing, childhood obesity and exercise.

Merton	78	1972.5	This local authority scores above average on many family friendly indicators, although work-life balance is difficult, with many adults having long commuter journeys. This local authority needs to consider transport issues that relate to families. Child road casualties and particulate emissions (mostly from transport) are high in Merton.
Newham	148	1263.5	Homelessness, unemployment and low pay are major social problems in this deprived local authority. Newham's poverty results in its low scores in a wide range of family friendly indicators. However, the nurseries, schools and colleges in this local authority have been very successful in narrowing the educational achievement gaps between boys and girls and between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Redbridge	104	1779	While Redbridge scores above average in many family friendly indicators, high proportions of families are living in temporary accommodation or in the private rental sector.
Richmond	3	2767.5	Richmond scores well above average for most family friendly indicators, although some adults struggle to balance work and home. Child road casualties are high in Richmond.
Southwark	90	1873	This economically diverse local authority is an area of contrasts. Southwark has done well to reduce some of the achievement gaps between boys and girls and between children on free school meals and their peers. However, recorded crime, childhood obesity and child poverty are high.
Sutton	63	2156	Sutton scores above average for most family friendly indicators, although many adults have long commutes to work. Child road casualties are also high.
Tower Hamlets	134	1528.5	Tower Hamlets has been very successful in reducing the achievement gap between children eligible free school meals and their peers. However, this local authority area has a low score on many other family friendly indicators which include childhood obesity, uptake of free early education for deprived two year olds, homelessness and air pollution. Tower Hamlets has the highest rate of child poverty in the UK.
Waltham Forest	144	1416	Waltham Forest gets a surprisingly low family friendly score, given that it is an outer London suburb that does well at schooling and adult qualification indicators. However, this local authority has high proportions of homeless families and families living in the private rental sector. Child road casualties are also high.
Wandsworth	58	2203	Work-life balance indicators are lower than average in this generally prosperous local authority area. While Wandsworth's schools have managed to narrow the achievement gap between children on free school meals and their peers, the uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds is among the lowest in England.
Westminster	82	1933.5	This local authority is an area of extreme economic and social contrasts. Child poverty levels are high, while median wages are among the highest in Britain. Westminster has the highest proportions of homeless families of any local authority in England, but its nurseries and schools have been very successful in reducing the achievement gaps between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. Teenage pregnancy rates are very low.

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
NORTH EAST			
Darlington	59	2199	This local authority gets an average score for most family friendly indicators, although wages and adult qualification levels are below average.
Durham	69	2100	Unemployment is above average in this local authority and wages are low. High levels of poverty contribute to low scores in some health indicators such as low prevalence of breastfeeding and above average rates of teenage pregnancy.
Gateshead	76	1990.5	Gateshead gets below average scores in almost all family friendly indicators, although it scores above average in housing. There are low proportions of homeless families and those living in the private rental sector.
Hartlepool	107	1736	Unemployment is high in this local authority and pay is low. High rates of poverty have contributed to low scores in other family friendly indicators – the prevalence of breastfeeding is the second lowest in England. Nevertheless, the overall position of Hartlepool is higher than expected, as its schools and nurseries have narrowed some of the achievement gaps between different groups of children and there is a high uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds.
Middlesbrough	139	1491	Unemployment is above average in this local authority and wages are low. High levels of poverty contribute to low scores in many family areas. Recorded crime and single parenthood are high, whereas breastfeeding rates are very low. Nevertheless, the local authority supports cultural and sporting activity and has ensured a high uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds.
Newcastle	77	1983	Unemployment is above average in this local authority and wages are low. However, Newcastle scores better than might be expected in many family friendly indicators, particularly those that relate to housing and education.
North Tyneside	52	2246.5	Although average wages are low in this local authority, North Tyneside scores above average in almost all family friendly indicators. Levels of recorded crime are particularly low.
Northumberland	48=	2262.5	Northumberland scores above average for almost all family friendly indicators and levels of recorded crime are the lowest in England. However, there is a big gap in achievement at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers.
Redcar and Cleveland	110	1725.5	Unemployment is above the national average in Redcar and Cleveland, although levels of poverty are lower than in some neighbouring local authorities. Despite this, Redcar and Cleveland has a lower score than its neighbours for many educational indicators. Adult qualification levels are low and there is a big achievement gap between boys and girls and between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Stockton-on-Tees	96	1827	Although the proportions of families living in poverty is lower in Stockton-on-Tees than in some of its neighbouring local authorities, this area scores lower than might be expected. In particular there are large gaps in educational achievement between boys and girls and between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
South Tyneside	94	1833.5	This local authority scores below average for many family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to housing. The prevalence of breastfeeding is particularly low.
Sunderland	122	1640.5	Unemployment is high in Sunderland and wages are below average. There is also a large gap in achievement at GCSE between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. Sunderland scores higher for housing indicators.

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
NORTH WEST			
Blackburn and Darwen	92	1851	This local authority's family friendly indicators are mixed. Unemployment is high and many jobs are low paid, and proportionally few adults have higher level qualifications compared with many other parts of Britain. However, this local authority has the highest spend per head on cultural services.
Blackpool	124	1607.5	This deprived local authority gets low scores for many of its family friendly indicators. High proportions of the population are employed in low paid jobs. Crime levels and teenage pregnancy are also high in Blackpool.
Bolton	120	1643.5	Unemployment is above average in this local authority. Low proportions of the adult population possess high level qualifications and median wages are low.
Bury	46	2293.5	Bury scores above average for almost all family friendly indicators, although the prevalence of breastfeeding is low.
Cheshire East	10	2681	Cheshire East scores well above average for almost all family friendly indicators, although there are large gaps in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers. The local authority's spending on cultural and sporting activities is also lower than expected.
Cheshire West and Chester	15	2580	Cheshire West and Chester scores well above average for almost all family friendly indicators, in particular, those that relate to early education and childcare.
Cumbria	22	2541	Cumbria scores higher than expected for most family friendly indicators and life satisfaction is high in this area. However, there are large achievement gaps in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. Given that this is a largely rural local authority, high proportions of families with dependent children have no access to a car.
Halton	74	2027	Although Halton's overall family friendly score is average, there are high proportions of single parents in the area and the prevalence of breastfeeding is low. There is also a large gap in achievement between boys and girls in this area.
Knowsley	111	1714.5	Unemployment is above average and median wages are lower in Knowsley. The proportions of adults with higher level qualifications is also low. There is also a big gap in achievement in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. In contrast, there are few homeless families in Knowsley and low proportions of families living in the private rental sector.
Lancashire	51	2250	Lancashire scores above average for many family friendly indicators. Child road casualties are low in the local authority.
Liverpool	117	1653	The proportions of adults who are unemployed or economically inactive is the highest of any local authority in England. Child poverty is also high. Nevertheless, Liverpool's overall score for family friendly indicators is higher than expected. Its schools have been reasonably successful in narrowing some of the achievement gaps between children eligible for free school meals and their peers and rates of homelessness are low in the city.
Manchester	130	1544.5	Unemployment is high in Manchester and rates of child poverty are the highest outside London. These factors explain Manchester's low score for many family friendly indicators, including life satisfaction, recorded crime and single parenthood. However, Manchester's schools have had some success in closing the gap in GCSE achievement between children on free school meals and their peers.
Oldham	136	1520	The proportions of adults who are unemployed or economically inactive in Oldham is much higher than average and median wages are low. Low proportions of adults possess high level qualifications and these factors account for Oldham's low overall score for family friendly indicators.

Rochdale	121	1642	This local authority area scores a little below average for most family friendly indicators, although it is by no means the lowest scoring local authority in most indicators. Its schools have had some success in narrowing the GCSE achievement gap between children on free school meals and their peers. However, life satisfaction scores are particularly low in Rochdale.
Salford	131	1544	This local authority scores below average for almost all family friendly indicators, although child road casualties are lower than expected for an outer city local authority.
Sefton	64	2130	Sefton gets average or above average scores for most family friendly indicators, although the prevalence of breastfeeding is lower than expected. The proportions of homeless families in temporary accommodation is among the lowest in England.
St Helens	91	1862	This local authority area scores below average for many family friendly indicators, although it does better on education and housing. Teenage pregnancy rates are well above average in this local authority.
Stockport	30	2446	This local authority scores well above average for most family friendly indicators, although the prevalence of weekend working is high and adults have long commuter journeys. This generally prosperous local authority has a low expenditure on cultural services.
Tameside	116	1673	This local authority scores below average for many family friendly indicators, although it does better on housing and homeless. Work-life balance is a problem for many adults who face long commuter journeys or have to work over the weekend.
Trafford	9	2686	Trafford has the highest score in the North West for family friendly indicators. It does particularly well in indicators that relate to nursery provision, early years' achievement and schooling. However, child road casualties are high and work-life balance is a problem for many adults who face long commuter journeys or have to work over the weekend.
Warrington	28	2470.5	Warrington scores above average for most family friendly indicators although there is a big achievement gap in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. Work-life balance is a problem for many adults who face long commuter journeys or have to work over the weekend.
Wigan	75	2014.5	Wigan's scores are average for many family friendly indicators although it does badly for those that relate to adult qualifications and school achievement, with big gaps in outcomes between boys and girls and between children entitled to free school meals and their peers.
Wirral	71	2069.5	Wirral is an economically diverse local authority area that achieves average scores for most family friendly indicators, although life satisfaction scores are much lower than average.

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
SOUTH EAST			
Bracknell Forest	14	2615.5	This prosperous local authority does well on almost all family friendly indicators, although there is a very large gap in GCSE performance between children on free school meals and their peers.
Brighton and Hove	24	2520.5	This local authority scores well above average for most family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to housing and length of adults' journey to work. Brighton and Hove has one of the lowest rates of childhood obesity in England.
Buckinghamshire	11	2654.5	This local authority scores well above average for almost all family friendly indicators. However, many adults have long commuter journeys or work long hours. Child road casualties are also above average.
East Sussex	43	2327	East Sussex scores above average for most family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to work-life balance.
Hampshire	7	2704.5	Hampshire scores well above average for most family friendly indicators apart from those that relate to work-life balance. The employment rate in this area is among the highest in England. However, the local authority needs to narrow the achievement gap at GCSE between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Isle of Wight	97	1821.5	A reliance on tourism for jobs means that median wages are much lower than average on the Isle of Wight and many adults are required to work on Saturday or Sunday. The proportions of adults with higher level qualifications is also lower than average in this local authority area. Despite this, levels of life satisfaction are high.
Kent	79	1967	Kent's scores are about average for most family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to work-life balance. Many adults have long journeys to work. There is also a big gap in GCSE results children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Medway	98	1812	Although median wages are higher than average, this area scores well below average on indicators that relate to health and adult qualifications.
Milton Keynes	60	2185.5	This local authority area gets average scores in most family friendly indicators. It should be praised for keeping the numbers of homeless families in temporary accommodation very low.
Oxfordshire	13	2617	Oxfordshire scores well above average for almost all family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to work-life balance. The achievement gap at GCSE is also higher than might be expected for this local authority.
Portsmouth	81	1954.5	Portsmouth scores about average for most family friendly indicators, although high proportions of adults are required to work outside normal office hours.
Reading	65	2121.5	There are high proportions of homeless families in temporary accommodation, as well as many families with children living in the private rental sector. Levels of recorded crime are also above average in this prosperous local authority.
Slough	115	1687.5	Life satisfaction scores are low in Slough. There is also a low uptake of free early education for deprived two year olds and low adult participation in sport. However, Slough's schools have managed to narrow the gap in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers.
Southampton	113	1708	Southampton scores a little below average for many family friendly indicators. Rates of teenage pregnancy are high.
Surrey	8	2703.5	Surrey scores very high for almost all family friendly indicators apart from those that relate to work-life balance. Childhood obesity levels are among the lowest in England and adult participation in sport is high.

West Berkshire	6	2716.5	West Berkshire scores very high for almost all family friendly indicators apart from those that relate to work-life balance. Additionally, there is a low uptake of free early education for deprived two year olds and a bigger than average achievement gap in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
West Sussex	29	2455.5	West Sussex scores well above average for almost all family friendly indicators apart from those that relate to work-life balance. However, there is a larger than average achievement gap in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Windsor and Maidenhead	2	2813	This local authority does well in almost all family friendly indicators and life satisfaction scores are among the highest in England. However, work-life balance is a problem for many adults who face long commuter journeys or have to work over the weekend.
Wokingham	4	2762	Wokingham scores well above average for most family friendly indicators and has the lowest levels of single parenthood and of child poverty in the UK. However, many adults work long hours or have long commuter journeys. Uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds is lower than average.

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
SOUTH WEST			
Bath and North East Somerset	1	2866	The most family friendly area in England, this local authority does well on most indicators. It needs to improve on the gap in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers.
Bournemouth	36	2415.5	This local authority does well in most family friendly indicators, in particular uptake of free early education, child development and health indicators such as child obesity and teenage pregnancy.
Bristol	84	1921.5	Bristol scores below average for most family friendly indicators, and life satisfaction levels are particularly low. Median wages are above average, as there are many well paid and skilled jobs in the area.
Cornwall	57	2203.5	Median wages are well below average in Cornwall. However, Cornwall scores above average for many family friendly indicators and life satisfaction is particularly high.
Devon	20	2550.5	Devon scores well above average on most family friendly indicators, particularly those that relate to wellbeing, nurseries and schooling. However, its housing scores are below average.
Dorset	5	2729.5	Dorset scores well above average for most family friendly indicators apart from those that relate to work-life balance.
Gloucestershire	16	2565	Gloucestershire scores above average for many family friendly indicators, although child road casualties are high.
North Somerset	26	2502.5	North Somerset has one of the highest rates of employment in England. It scores particularly high on its educational indicators. However, many adults work outside normal office hours.
Plymouth	77	2063.5	Plymouth gets an average score for most family friendly indicators, although median wages are below average and many adults have to work outside normal office hours.
Poole	39	2394.5	Poole scores well above average for most family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to housing.
Somerset	41	2364.5	Somerset scores above average for most family friendly indicators, although there is a larger than average achievement gap in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers.
South Gloucestershire	21	2545	South Gloucestershire has one of the highest rates of employment in England and scores well above average on many family friendly indicators. However, there is a larger than average gap in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers.
Swindon	70	2077	Swindon's family friendly scores are average or a little above average for most family friendly indicators. However, there is a larger than average gap in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers.
Torbay	89	1878	Life satisfaction is low in this deprived seaside town, and median wages are below average. But in many other respects Torbay scores better than expected.
Wiltshire	33	2438.5	Wiltshire scores well above average for many family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to work-life balance. There are also larger than average gaps in GCSE achievement between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
WEST MIDLANDS			
Birmingham	135	1528.5	This economically and ethnically diverse local authority gets low scores for many family friendly indicators. Child poverty levels and unemployment are high in many parts of Birmingham.
Coventry	93	1835	Coventry scores low on indicators that relate to work-life balance, with many adults spending long hours at work, or having to work during weekends. Commuter times are longer than average.
Dudley	100	1806.5	Although Dudley does well in some family friendly indicators, its scores for early years' provision, schooling and adult qualifications are well below average.
Herefordshire	66	2110	Median wages are well below average in Herefordshire, and many adults work long hours or during weekends. However, this rural area scores above average for many family friendly indicators and life satisfaction is particularly high.
Sandwell	150	1180	Sandwell is the lowest scoring local authority for family friendly indicators and its scores for most aspects of family friendly are much lower than average, apart from those that relate to work-life balance and housing.
Shropshire	35	2429.5	Shropshire scores above average for most family friendly indicators, although high proportions of adults work long hours or over the weekend.
Solihull	40	2380	For a prosperous area where median wages are high, Solihull's score for many indicators is lower than expected. The local authority's spending in culture and sport is low.
Staffordshire	31	2445	Staffordshire scores above average for many family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to health. Breastfeeding rates are lower than average and teenage pregnancy are higher.
Stoke-on-Trent	118	1650.5	Stoke-on-Trent scores well below average for many family friendly indicators, although it does much better in terms of work-life balance and housing. This area has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in England.
Telford and Wrekin	109	1731.5	While Telford and Wrekin has average scores in many areas, median wages are below average and high proportions of adults lack higher level qualification. A lack of well-paid and skilled jobs may contribute to high levels of teenage pregnancy. There is also a big gap in GCSE achievement between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Walsall	146=	1354.5	This local authority area scores particularly badly in education and health. Childhood obesity is high and adult participation in sport is low. However, life satisfaction is much higher than expected in Walsall.
Warwickshire	19	2561.5	Warwickshire has the highest family friendly score in the West Midlands. It scores well above average in most areas, although many adults work long hours or during weekends.
Wolverhampton	137	1511	Unemployment is high and wages are low in Wolverhampton. Many adults also lack higher level qualifications. However, this local authority scores above average for its housing indicators.
Worcestershire	45	2299.5	Worcestershire has above average scores for most family friendly indicators.

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Comment
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE			
Barnsley	101	1800	A local authority that has lost manufacturing jobs in recent years. Despite these economic challenges, Barnsley has managed to be fairly family friendly. It needs to do better on education, as the number of adults with higher level qualifications is very low. There is also a large gap in GCSE results between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Bradford	102	1782.5	This deprived local authority does better than expected on its family friendly indicators. It has done well to get a high uptake – 71 per cent – of free early education among deprived two year olds.
Calderdale	44	2310	Calderdale scores above average for almost all family friendly indicators, apart from weekend working, prevalence of breastfeeding and teenage pregnancy.
Doncaster	119	1644	Median wages are well below average, as are the proportions of adults with higher level qualifications. Doncaster needs to do better on its educational indicators.
East Riding	18	2562	East Riding scores well above average for most family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to work-life balance.
Hull	128	1584.5	Unemployment and economic inactivity are high in Hull, and the local authority has one of the highest rates of child poverty outside London. Hull also does badly on indicators that relate to educational attainment and adult qualifications.
Kirklees	61	2185	This local authority area has average scores for most family friendly indicators, although unemployment and median wages are below average. However, Kirklees scores higher on indicators that relate to housing.
Leeds	48=	2262.5	Leeds scores above average for most family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to nurseries and schools. There are above average gaps in educational achievement between boys and girls and between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
North East Lincolnshire	129	1572	There is a lack of high paid, high skilled work in this area. Median wages are well below average and many adults lack higher level qualifications. The local authority has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in England, which may be linked to a lack of work opportunities.
North Lincolnshire	53	2236	North Lincolnshire gets average or above average scores for most family friendly indicators, apart from those that relate to schooling and adult qualifications. However, its early years' provision is doing better and has narrowed some of the gaps between boys and girls.
North Yorkshire	23	2525.5	This local authority scores well above average for most family friendly indicators apart from those that relate to work-life balance. Median wages are also below average, but despite this North Yorkshire is life satisfaction scores are among the highest in England.
Rotherham	88	1880.5	Although Rotherham does well in early years' provision, adult qualification levels are low. Unemployment is also high and median wages are below average.
Sheffield	62	2174.5	Sheffield has a high score for a large urban area that has lost much of its traditional industry. The local authority spends above average amounts on cultural and sporting activities.
Wakefield	86	1906	Median wages are lower than average in Wakefield and the area has the lowest proportion of adults with higher level qualifications in England. Despite this, life satisfaction scores are above average and Wakefield has low proportions of homeless families.
York	34	2437	This local authority area scores above average for most family friendly indicators, although high proportions of adults are required to work during the weekend.

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About the Family and Childcare Trust

The Family and Childcare Trust works to make the UK a better place for families. Our vision is of a society where government, business and communities do all they can to support every family to thrive. Through our research, campaigning and practical support we are creating a more family friendly UK.

The Family and Childcare Trust's annual childcare costs survey is the definitive report on childcare costs and sufficiency in the UK and its data are used by the Department for Education and OECD.



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