

## **Motion - Giving Lewes District's children the best start in life**

Submitted by Councillor MacCleary

### **Pre-amble**

The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.

Analysis by the Child Poverty Action Group shows that 900,000 children living in poverty in England do not currently qualify for free school meals because the Conservative Government introduced an arbitrary £7,400 household income threshold in 2018.

According to Child Poverty Action Group research 25% of children in Lewes District are living in poverty with over 1,600 children impacted by the two-child cap.

A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns mental health problems and cost-of-living pressures on families are among the complex reasons for increased absenteeism.

Scrapping the two-child limit is the most cost-effective way to reduce child poverty. It would lift 250,000 children out of poverty and mean 850,000 children are in less deep poverty.

The work undertaken by Lewes District Council since 2019 to support some of the most financially vulnerable residents of our District – for example via the “Safety Net” fund and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

That the Council is proud to be taking these steps but it also needs central government to step in and support families on the breadline across our District.

### **Motion**

Therefore, the Council resolves:

To ask the Leader to write to the UK Government calling on the Government to scrap the two-child benefit cap and requesting that the Members of Parliament representing Lewes District support this call.