



COUNCIL MEETING

25 January 2024

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Beadle will move the following motion:

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.

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 Child Poverty Action Group calculates that 1380 Gateshead families including 5330 children are affected by the cap.

Council resolves to:

Call on the UK Government to scrap the two-child benefit cap. We ask the Council's Chief Executive to write to Liz Twist MP, Kate Osborne MP and Ian Mearns MP expressing the Council's support for the scrapping of the two-child benefit cap and encouraging them to raise this matter in Parliament.

Proposed by: Councillor R Beadle

Seconded by: Councillor D Duggan

Supported by: Councillor I Patterson
Councillor A Wintcher
Councillor D Welsh