

Child maintenance and fuel poverty in 'left behind' neighbourhoods (LBNs)

July 2022

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Introduction

Local Trust are seeking to understand how people living in 'left behind' neighbourhoods (LBNs) are impacted by two key policy issues affecting vulnerable groups in our society:

- 1) **Unpaid child maintenance:** Academic research has found that, for children of single parents, who are both in poverty and not receiving maintenance, child maintenance payments actually being received would lift them out of poverty in around 60% of all cases. However, over £361 million has gone unpaid on CMS and there is still £2.5 billion of Child Support Agency 'legacy debt' owed to parents, representing approximately 970,000 individual cases (source Gingerbread 2022¹).
- 2) **Rising fuel costs:** Fuel costs rose considerably in October 2021 following a 12% rise in the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) energy price cap, which limits the amount suppliers can charge customers on default energy tariffs². Energy price rises are likely to hit lower income households disproportionately, as they spend a higher proportion of their income on utility bills and are more likely to be in fuel poverty.

This report gathers evidence on these topics and compares the performance of LBNs against other similarly deprived areas and England as a whole, as well as identifying which individual LBNs are likely to be most impacted.

A note about geographies, data and terminology used in this report

The information in the report is presented for 'left behind' neighbourhoods as a whole - the aggregate average score for all 225 'left behind' neighbourhoods referred to as **LBNs** throughout this report. The figures for LBNs are benchmarked against the national average and the average across 'other deprived areas' – these are wards ranked in the most deprived 10% on the 2019 Indices of Deprivation, but which were not identified as 'left behind' i.e. they were not ranked in the 10% of wards with the highest levels of community need, as measured by the Community Needs Index. These are referred to as **Deprived non-LBNs** throughout this report.

The report also identifies individual LBNs which have the greatest identified need on key indicators of fuel poverty and measures from the Child Maintenance Service.

Each of the datasets included in the report are aggregated from standard statistical geographies (Output Areas, Lower-layer Super Output Areas, Middle Layer Super Output Areas and Wards) to individual LBNs, Deprived non-LBNs and national geographies. The Output Area to Ward 2017 look-up table³ is used to apportion and aggregate data to these geographies.

Appendix A details each of the underlying indicators explored in this report.

¹ <https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/policy-campaigns/child-maintenance/>

² Cited in ONS Energy prices and their effect on households
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/articles/energypricesandtheireffectonhouseholds/2022-02-01>

³ <https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/datasets/output-area-to-ward-to-local-authority-district-december-2017-lookup-in-england-and-wales>

Unpaid child maintenance

The Child Maintenance Service (CMS) was introduced in December 2012 as part of the Government's Child Maintenance Reforms. It replaced the Child Support Agency (CSA) and is for separated parents who cannot arrange child maintenance between themselves.

The section below explores the extent to which people in LBNs are interacting with the CMS, the levels of unpaid maintenance and how this has changed over time⁴.

Key findings

A higher proportion of households with dependent children in LBNs are headed by a lone parent - 38%, compared with 34% in other deprived areas and 25% across England as a whole. These families are more likely to come into contact with the Child Maintenance Service (CMS).

Data from the CMS shows that a relatively high proportion of children in LBNs live in households with a CMS arrangement (7.7%), compared with 6.9% in Deprived non-LBNs and 6.4% across England as a whole.

LBNs have seen a larger increase in families coming into contact with the CMS than has been observed across comparator areas - with a 2 percentage point increase between 2016 and 2021, compared with a 1.3 percentage point increase in England over the same period.

Eight of the 10 LBNs with the highest proportion of children subject to CMS arrangements are located in coastal Local Authorities.

Households in LBNs who are subject to CMS arrangements are more likely to be in nil compliance i.e. where the parent is not paying maintenance (10.3%) than across England as a whole (9.6%).

A higher proportion of households in LBNs are owed child maintenance payments; with 0.29% of all households subject to Nil Compliance (where CMS payments are owed but no child maintenance has been paid) and a further 0.55% of households have not received their full entitlement.

222 of the 225 LBNs (98.7%) have a higher proportion of households with unpaid or underpaid child maintenance arrangements than the national average. LBNs in Kingston-upon-Hull, Stoke on Trent and the West Midlands feature prominently among LBNs with the highest proportion of households with unpaid child maintenance.

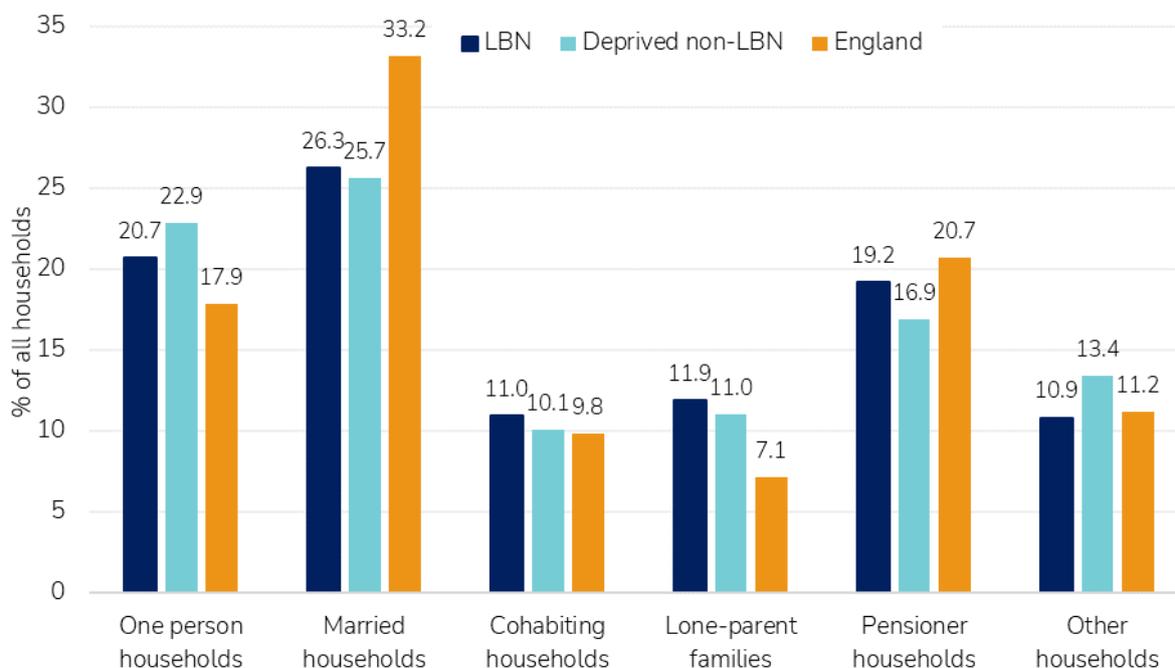
A higher proportion of children in households subject to CMS arrangements in LBNs receive no childcare from the paying absent parent – 82.4%, than across Deprived non-LBNs (81.6%) and England as a whole (81%). This suggests that as well as being more likely to have maintenance

⁴ The CMS data timeseries tracks back to 2016 and there is limited comparable data from the CSA so it is not possible to do a long term historical analysis.

owed from the CMS, children in LBNs are also less likely to receive childcare support from paying absent parents.

The chart below compares the composition of households in LBNs, Deprived non-LBNs and England as a whole.

Household composition in LBNs and comparator areas

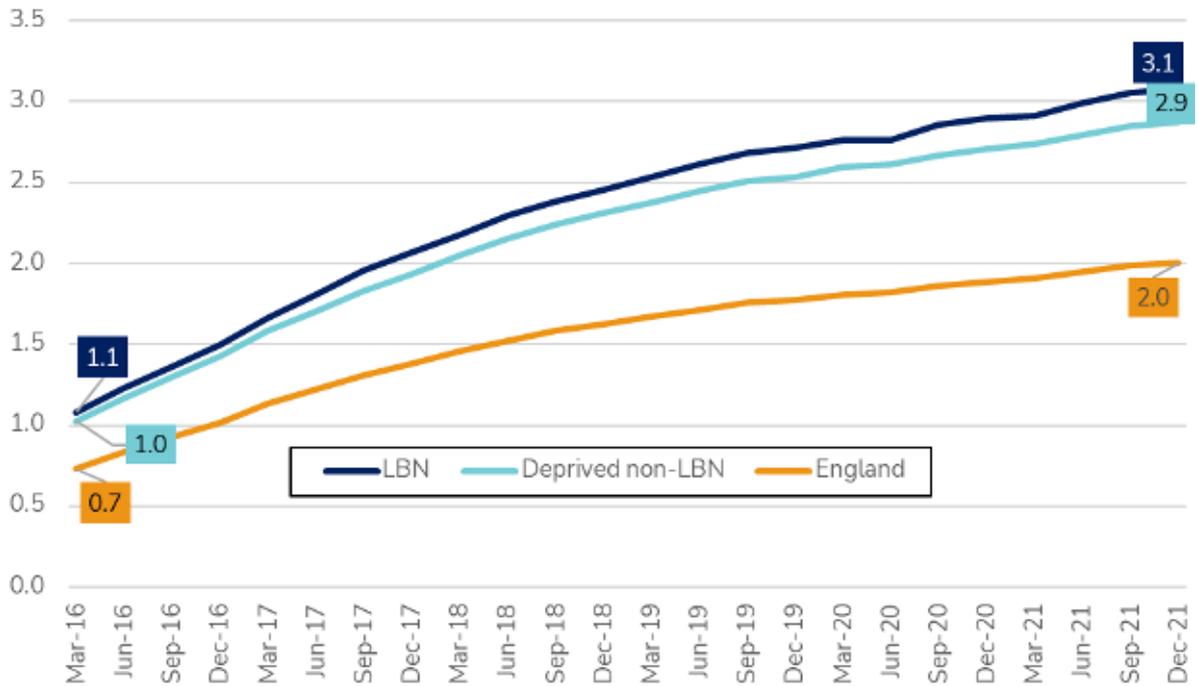


Source: Census 2011

11.9% of all households in LBNs are characterised as lone parent households with dependent children, this is above the average in Deprived non-LBNs (11%) and considerably above the average across England as a whole (7.1%). When just considering households with dependent children, more than one-third of such households (38%) in LBNs are headed by a lone parent (compared with 34% in other deprived areas and 25% across England as a whole). Therefore, families in LBNs are more likely to be subject to Child Maintenance Service (CMS) arrangements than across other similarly deprived areas.

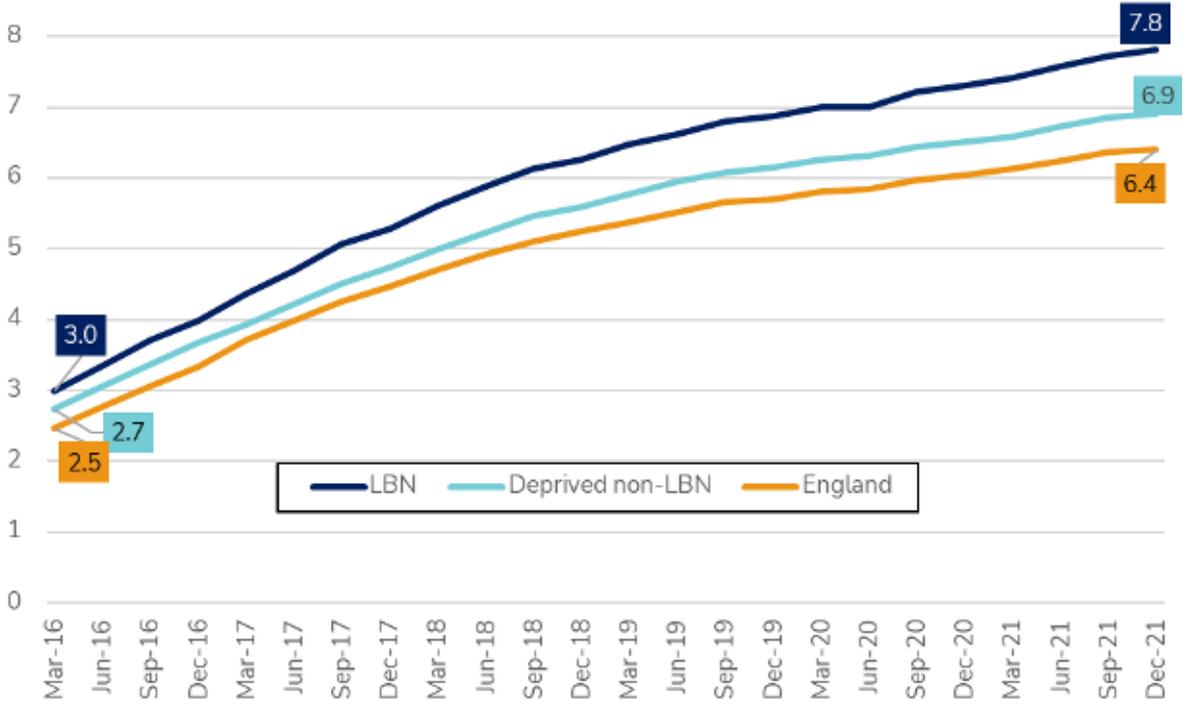
The charts below show the change in the proportion of households and children subject to a Child Maintenance Service (CMS) arrangement between 2016 and 2021 in LBNs and comparator areas.

Households with a CMS Paying Parent (as a proportion of all households)



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 2016-2021

Children in families with a CMS arrangement (as a proportion of all dependent children)



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 2016-2021

Households in LBNs have been consistently more likely to be subject to CMS arrangements over the last five years – as of December 2021 3.1% of households and 7.8% of dependent children are subject to CMS arrangements. This is above the average in Deprived non-LBNs (where 2.9% of households and 6.9% of children have a CMS arrangement) and above the average in England as a whole (2% and 6.4% respectively).

The number of families subject to CMS arrangements has increased steadily over the last five years, with LBNs seeing a larger increase than across the benchmark areas. The proportion of households subject to CMS arrangements in LBNs increased by 2 percentage points between 2016 and 2021, compared with a 1.3 percentage point increase in England over the same period.

193 of the 225 LBNs (85.7%) have a higher proportion of children in families with a CMS arrangement than the national average.

The table below shows the 10 LBNs with the highest proportion of children in families with a CMS arrangement.

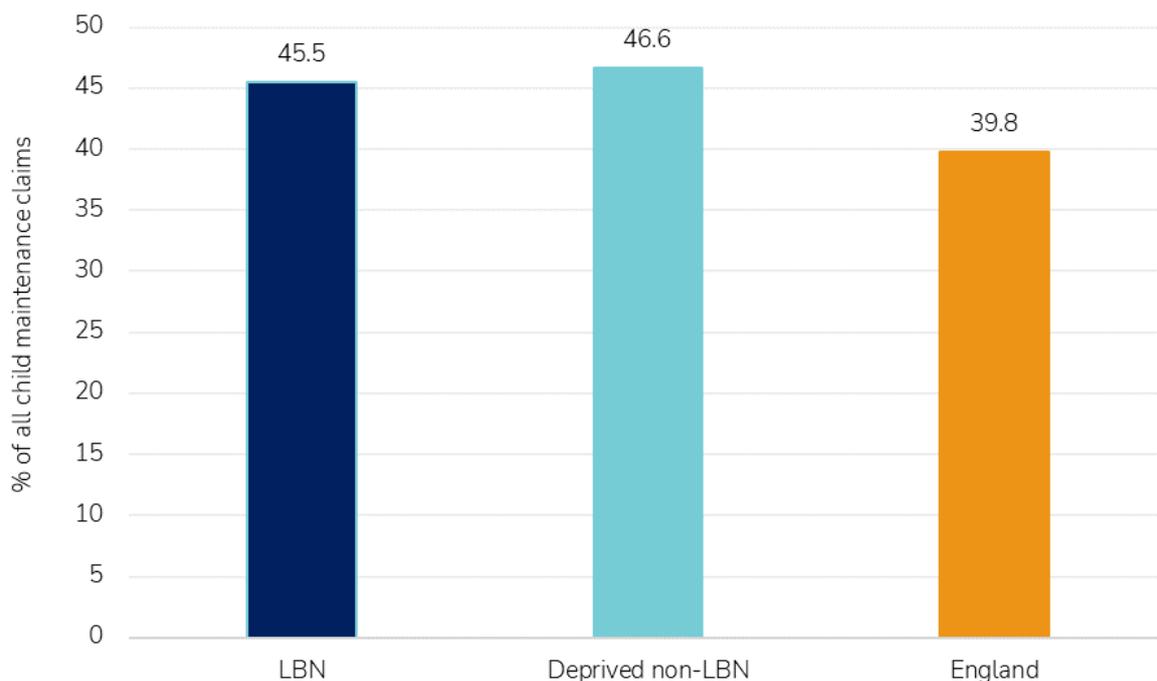
LBN	Local Authority	% of children in families with a CMS arrangement
Barrow Island	Barrow-in-Furness	18.9
Sheppey East	Swale	18.5
Pier	Tendring	17.8
Folkestone Central	Shepway	15.2
Norton South	Stockton-on-Tees	14.9
Boscombe West	Bournemouth	13.8
Easington	County Durham	13.0
Newgate	Mansfield	12.7
Golf Green	Tendring	12.5
Simonside and Rekendyke	South Tyneside	12.2

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) December 2021

These 10 areas are relatively geographically spread with 6 of the 9 Government Office Regions containing at least one LBN ranked among the top 10. However, eight of the 10 areas are located in coastal Local Authorities. Barrow Island in Barrow-in-Furness has the highest proportion of children in families with a CMS arrangement, with just under 19% of all dependent children living in households subject to a CMS arrangement.

The chart below shows the proportion of CMS claims arranged with the Collect & Pay service in LBNs and comparator areas. Claims are moved to the Collect & Pay service if the original payment arrangements break down and Child Maintenance Service involvement is needed in order to manage the payments between the parents. It can therefore be used as a proxy measure of the extent to which families have difficulty accessing the payments they are entitled to.

CMS: Percentage of payments managed by the Collect & Pay service



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 2021

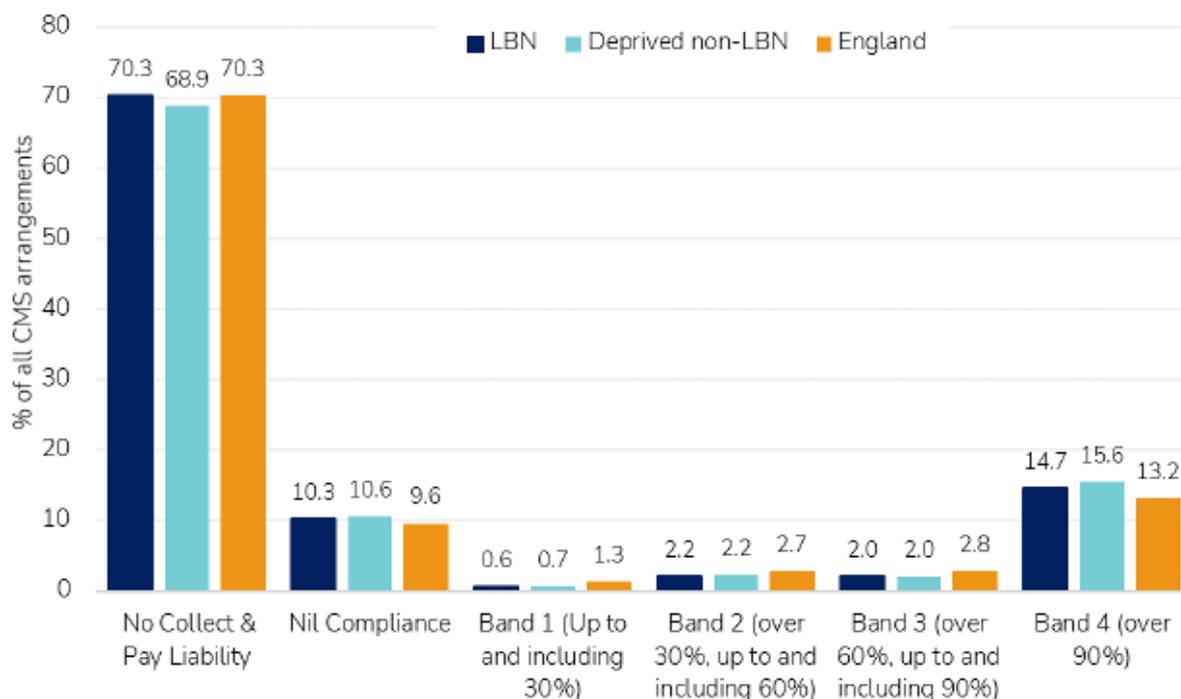
Just under half of all families subject to CMS arrangements in LBNs have their claims managed by the Collect & Pay service (45.5%). This is higher than across England as a whole (39.8%) suggesting that the payment arrangements are more likely to be acrimonious in LBNs, with associated difficulties in accessing maintenance income.

The extent to which maintenance is owed is explored in the chart below, which shows the extent of claimant liability i.e. the amount of child maintenance a paying parent has paid via the Collect & Pay service, expressed as a percentage of the amount that the CMS calculated as being due for the quarter. The breakdowns are expressed as a proportion of all CMS payment arrangements where a liability record has been recorded.

The breakdowns are as follows:

- No Collect & Pay Liability: No CMS payment owed to the family
- Nil Compliance: CMS Payments are not being received and child maintenance is unpaid.
- Band 1 (Up to and including 30%): Only up to 30% of the due payment has been received.
- Band 2 (over 30%, up to and including 60%): Between 30% and 60% of the due payment has been received.
- Band 3 (over 60%, up to and including 90%). Between 60% and 90% of the due payment has been received.
- Band 4 (over 90%). Over 90% of the due payment has been received.

Extent of CMS liability (as a proportion of all CMS arrangement

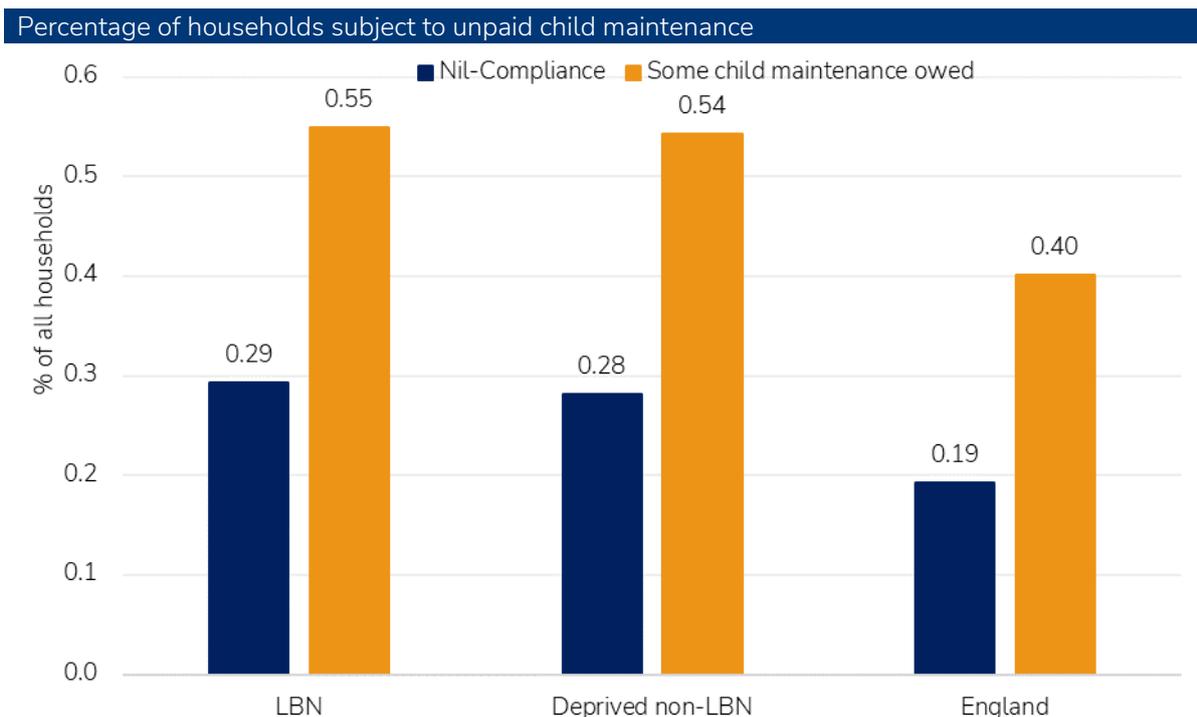


Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 2021

Households in LBNs who are subject to CMS arrangements are more likely to be in *Nil Compliance* i.e. not receiving any maintenance (10.3%) than across England as a whole (9.6%). However, the majority of households subject to CMS arrangements have no payment due (no collect and pay liability) in LBNs, Deprived non-LBNs and England alike.

The chart below looks at the proportion of all households in LBNs and benchmark areas which are subject to unpaid child maintenance.

A higher proportion of households in LBNs are owed child maintenance payments; with 0.29% of all households subject to *Nil Compliance* (where CMS payments are owed but no child maintenance has been paid) and a further 0.55% of households have not received their full entitlement. This compares with 0.28% of households in *Nil Compliance* and a further 0.54% with underpayments in Deprived non-LBNs, and 0.19% and 0.40% respectively across England as a whole.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 2021

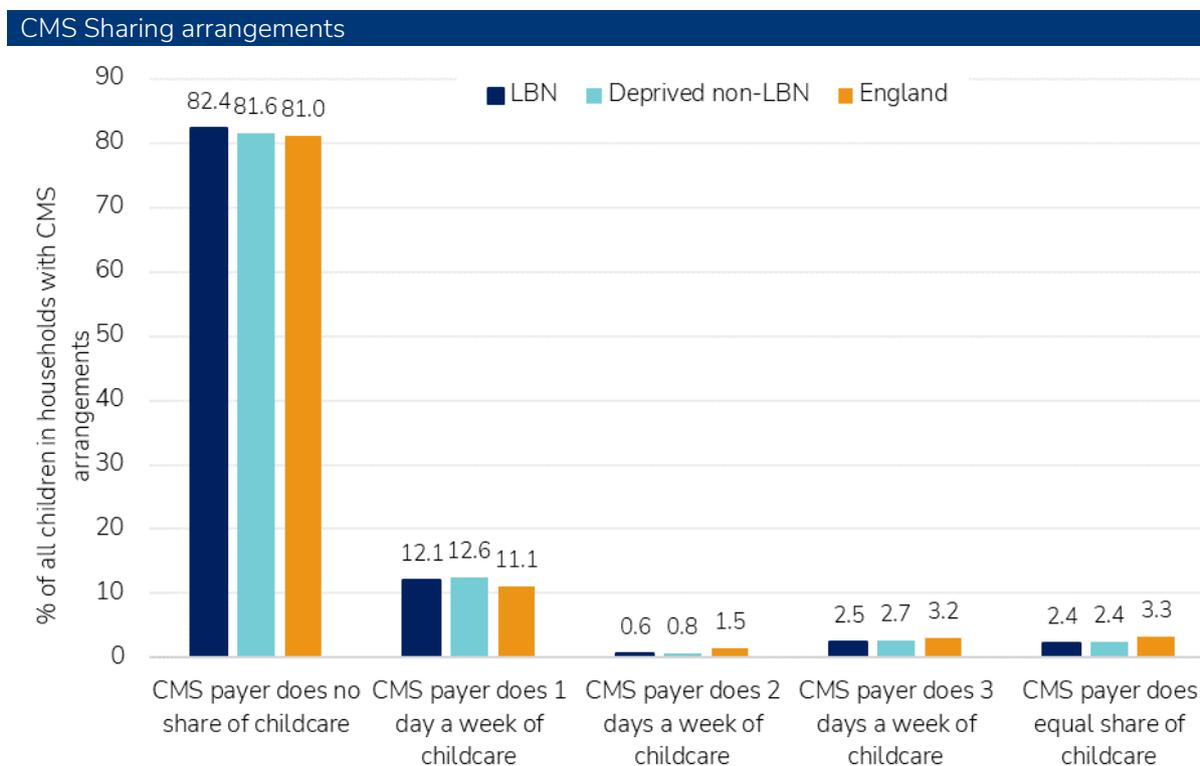
222 of the 225 LBNs (98.7%) have a higher proportion of households with unpaid or underpaid child maintenance arrangements than the national average. The table below shows the 10 LBNs with the highest proportion of households with unpaid or underpaid child maintenance arrangements.

LBN	Local Authority	% of households with unpaid or underpaid child maintenance arrangements
Oak Tree	Mansfield	3.0
Grangetown	Redcar and Cleveland	2.7
Clarkson	Fenland	2.7
Marfleet	Kingston upon Hull, City of	2.6
Bloomfield	Blackpool	2.6
St Andrew's	Kingston upon Hull, City of	2.4
Bransholme West	Kingston upon Hull, City of	2.3
Sheppey East	Swale	2.2
Waterlees Village	Fenland	2.2
Norton South	Halton	2.2

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) December 2021

Oak Tree in Mansfield has the highest proportion of households owed child maintenance payments, with 3% of all households having had child maintenance payments unpaid or underpaid. Three of the 10 LBNs with the highest levels of unpaid or underpaid child maintenance are found in Kingston upon Hull and two in Fenland.

The chart below shows the proportion of children subject to CMS arrangements broken down by sharing arrangements (the number of days per week each child stays overnight with the paying parent).

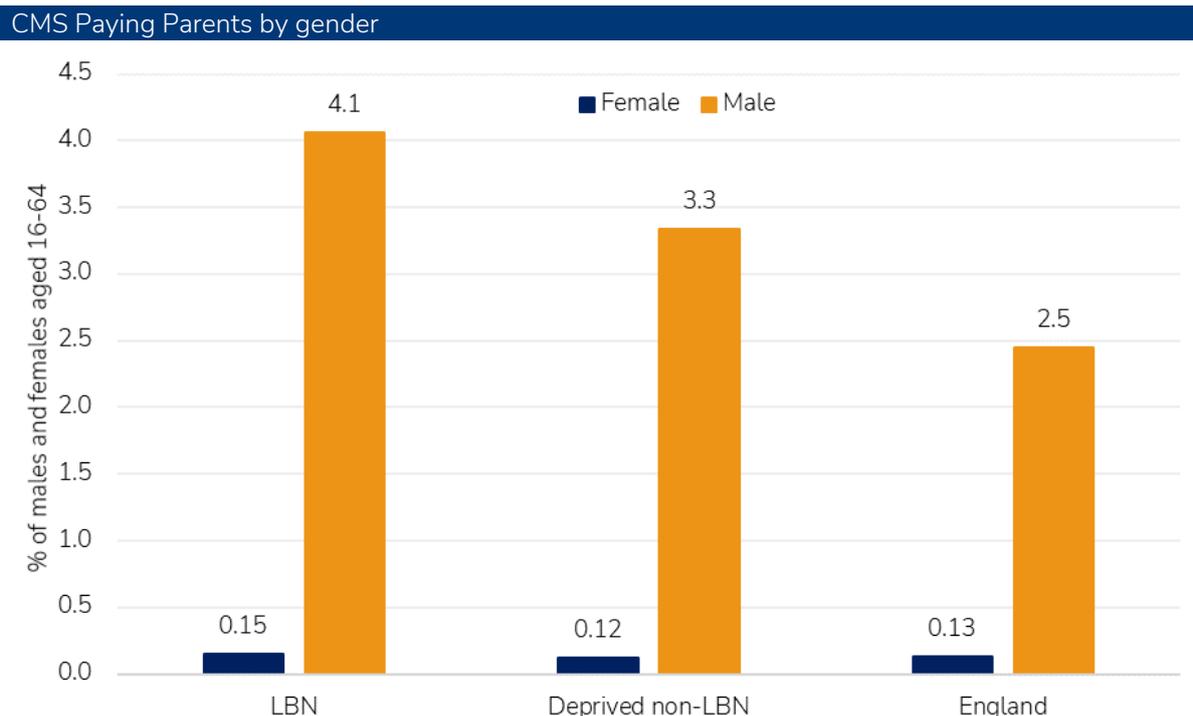


Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 2021

The majority of CMS paying parents provide no childcare support. A higher proportion of children in households subject to CMS arrangements in LBNs receive no childcare from the paying (absent parent) – 82.4%, than across Deprived non-LBNs (81.6%) and England as a whole (81%). This suggests that as well as being more likely to have maintenance owed from the CMS, children in LBNs are also less likely to receive childcare support from absent paying parents.

The chart below shows the proportion of male and female parents subject to CMS arrangements.

Males make up the vast majority of paying parents in all areas of England. However, a slightly higher proportion of CMS paying parents are male in LBNs and other deprived areas (both 96.4%) than the average across England as a whole (95%). More than 4% of working age males are subject to payment arrangements under the CMS in LBNs, notably above the average across Deprived non-LBNs (3.3%) and England (2.55). A similar proportion of females are CMS paying parents in LBNs, Deprived non-LBNs and England alike.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 2021

Rising fuel costs

Increasing energy costs are a key component of the rising costs of living – with the latest *Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs* (CPIH) rising by 6.2% in the 12 months to March 2022, up from 5.5% in February⁵. More than three quarters (79%) of those reporting a rising cost of living in the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) in January 2022 cited higher gas and electricity bills as a cause⁶. This is likely to have a greater impact on deprived communities (including LBNs) where average household incomes are lower.

This section explores key metrics relating to home energy costs:

- Households in Fuel Poverty:
- Estimated domestic electricity consumption per household in megawatt hours (Mwh).
- Estimated domestic gas consumption per household in megawatt hours (Mwh).
- Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) for domestic buildings
- Pre-paid electricity meters.

However, it is important to note that the majority of these indicators have only been published up to 2020 and as such do not take into account the large increases in energy costs that have occurred since October 2021 following a 12% rise in the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) energy price

⁵ ONS Home Economy Inflation and price indices Consumer price inflation, UK
Consumer price inflation, UK: March 2022
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/march2022>

⁶ Office for National Statistics (Feb 2022) Energy prices and their effect on households
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/articles/energypricesandtheireffectonhouseholds/2022-02-01>

cap, which limits the amount suppliers can charge customers on default energy tariffs. In this section we also look at the changes in standard charges, which are rising unequally across the different regions, with knock on effects in terms of the geographic variation in rising energy costs⁷. Our analysis has identified the concentration of LBNs in each of the regions to determine whether LBNs are likely to be disproportionately impacted by these changes.

Key findings

People living in LBNs have seen a sharper rise in fuel poverty than across other deprived areas and England as a whole - between 2011 and 2020 the proportion of households in fuel poverty in LBNs rose by 8.8 percentage points, compared with rises of 6.6 percentage points in other deprived areas and 2.3 percentage points across England as a whole.

As of 2020, just under one-in-five households (19.6%) in LBNs lived in fuel poverty, broadly in line with the average in other deprived areas (19.8%) and above the average across England as a whole.

In total, 213 of the 225 LBNs (94.5%) have higher levels of fuel poverty than the national average.

High levels of fuel poverty in LBNs are primarily a reflection of low income levels in these areas, rather than issues related to home energy efficiency and access to affordable forms of heating. Domestic energy consumption is lower in LBNs than across benchmark areas. LBNs also have lower levels of households without central heating, households not connected to the gas network and homes with low energy efficiency.

However, a subset of LBNs, largely in coastal and industrial areas, perform less well on these measures. Three areas of Tendring feature among the top five areas with the lowest average home energy efficiency - Golf Green (covering part of Jaywick sands) has the lowest average energy efficient rating while more than one-in-five homes in St Osyth and Point Clear have a low energy efficiency rating. Much of the accommodation in these areas were originally built as holiday chalets that have been converted into permanent residential accommodation.

There is some evidence that LBNs are likely to be more greatly impacted by some of the changes to energy costs.

LBNs have higher levels of pre-paid electricity meters per 1,000 households (207) than the average across England as a whole (110) but lower than the average across other deprived areas (220). It is more difficult to access the full range of tariffs for pre-paid meters so costs can be higher; moreover the impacts and disruption are greater if a household is unable to top up their meter.

LBNs are also disproportionately affected by the rising energy caps. The majority of LBNs are found in areas with a relatively high default tariff cap, with 142 of the 225 LBNs (63.1%) in areas

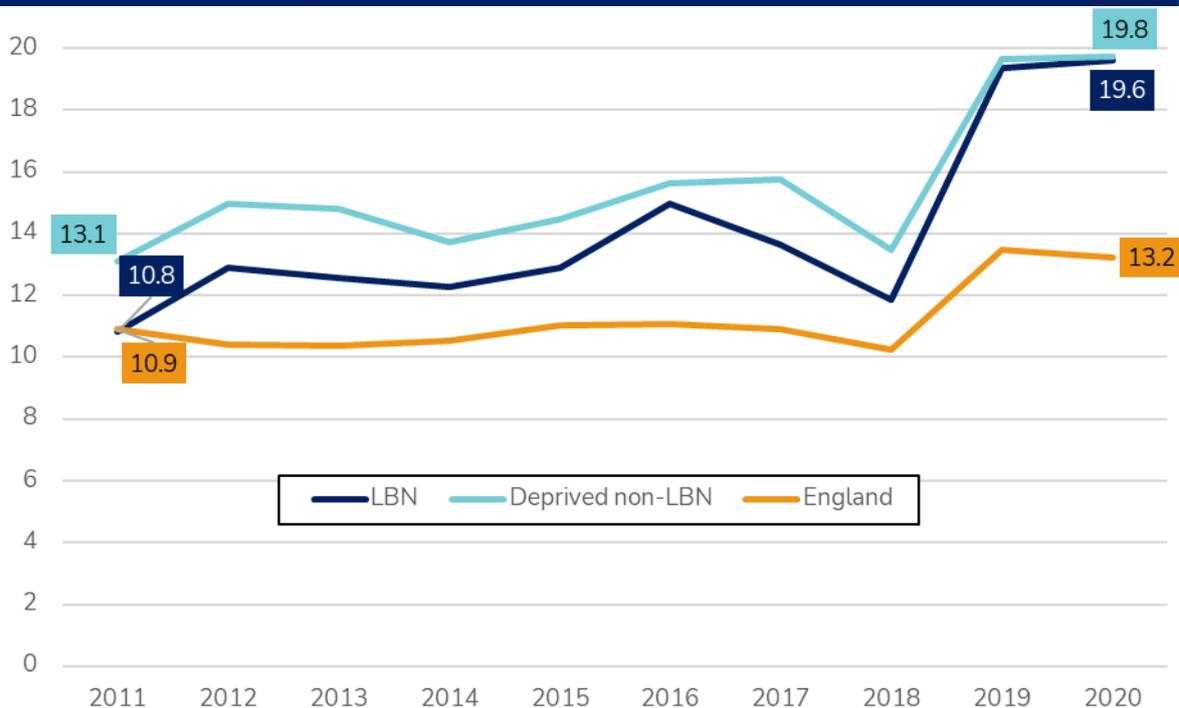
⁷ Source: Ofgem 2022 <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/default-tariff-cap-level-1-april-2022-30-september-2022>

with a default tariff cap which is above the national average. By contrast, there are no LBNs in the London energy region (where the default tariff cap is lowest).

Households in fuel poverty

The chart below compares the proportion of households in fuel poverty between 2011 and 2020 in LBNs and comparator areas. The definition of fuel poverty is based on the *Low Income High Costs framework*, where a household is in fuel poverty if a) their required fuel costs are above average (the national median level), and b) were they to spend that amount they would be left with an income below the official poverty line.

Households in Fuel Poverty



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

People living in LBNs have seen a sharper rise in fuel poverty than across other deprived areas and England as a whole. In 2011 a lower proportion of households in LBNs were experiencing fuel poverty than the national average. However, between 2011 and 2020 the proportion of households in fuel poverty in LBNs rose by 8.8 percentage points, compared with rises of 6.6 percentage points in other deprived areas and 2.3 percentage points across England as a whole. As of 2020, just under one-in-five households (19.6%) in LBNs lived in fuel poverty, broadly in line with the average in other deprived areas (19.8%) and above the average across England as a whole. This is likely to have risen considerably since 2020, with ONS figures from February 2022 showing 12-month inflation rates for gas and electricity are at their highest level since early 2009, with gas at 28.1% and electricity at 18.8%⁸.

⁸ Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) Energy prices and their effect on households <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/articles/energypricesandtheireffectonhouseholds/2022-02-01>

In total, 213 of the 225 LBNs (94.5%) have higher levels of fuel poverty than the national average.

The table below shows the 10 LBNs with the highest levels of households in fuel poverty.

LBN	Local Authority	Households in fuel poverty
Orchard Park and Greenwood	Kingston upon Hull, City of	31.2
Kingstanding	Birmingham	30.0
Meir South	Stoke-on-Trent	30.0
Southcoates East	Kingston upon Hull, City of	29.7
Meir North	Stoke-on-Trent	29.5
Bloomfield	Blackpool	28.5
Abbey Hulton and Townsend	Stoke-on-Trent	28.3
East Park	Wolverhampton	28.2
Darlaston South	Walsall	27.7
Bransholme East	Kingston upon Hull, City of	27.7

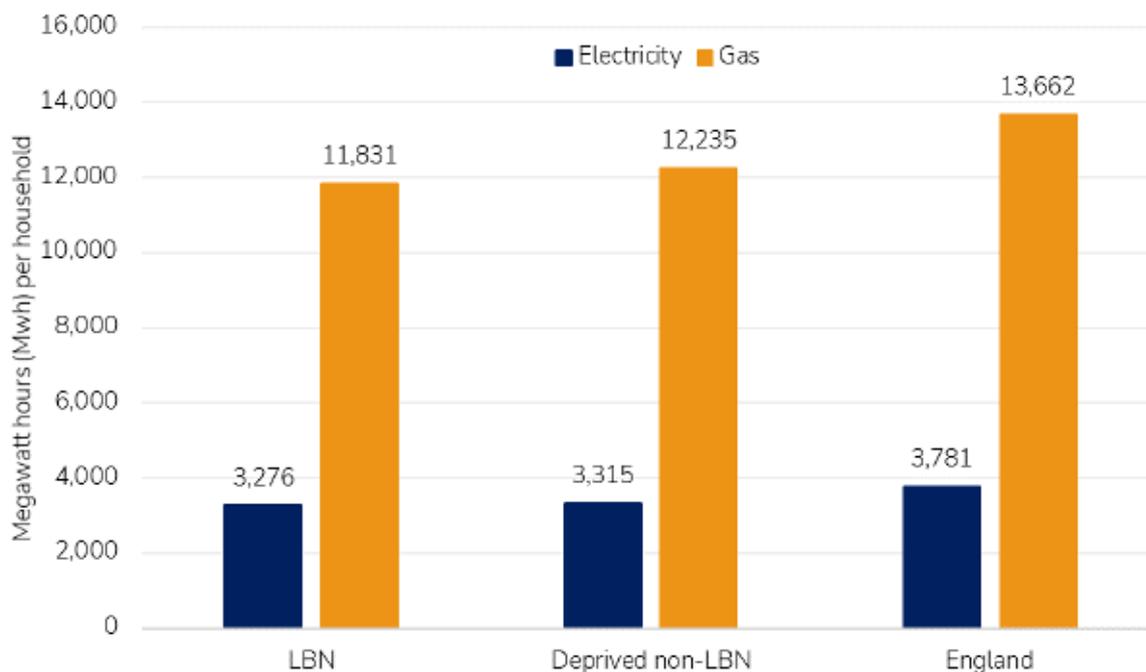
Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2019

Orchard Park and Greenwood in Hull has the highest levels of fuel poverty with 31% of all households experiencing fuel poverty. A further two areas in Hull (Southcoates East and Bransholme East) rank among the top 10. Six areas in the West Midlands (including three in Stoke) also feature among the top 10 areas on this measure.

Energy consumption and energy efficiency

The chart below shows the total levels of domestic gas and electricity consumption per household in megawatt hours (Mwh). Areas with high energy consumption are likely to be more greatly impacted by rising energy costs.

Domestic energy consumption in megawatt hours (Mwh)



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2020

Domestic energy consumption is lower in LBNs than across benchmark areas, with levels of electricity consumption at 3,276 megawatt hours per household, compared with 3,315 in Deprived non-LBNs and 3,781 in England; while gas consumption is at 11,831 per head in LBNs, compared with 12,235 in Deprived non-LBNs and 13,662 across England. This is likely to be linked to a number of factors including the size of the accommodation and average household size. However, it is also likely to reflect lower incomes, with higher fuel poverty (observed above) leading to greater pressures to cut down on electricity consumption to reduce energy costs. Another factor influencing consumption and knock-on costs is the degree of thermal comfort in the home.

This is explored in the table below which compares the performance of LBNs and other deprived areas on a range of measures concerned with the availability of conventional sources of heating and the energy efficiency of homes.

A household is described as 'without central heating' if it had no central heating⁹ in any of the rooms. Households not connected to the gas network refers to households without mains gas. Average, low and high energy efficiency ratings are derived from Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) for domestic buildings.

	LBN	Deprived non-LBN	England
Households lacking central heating (%)	2.7	3.9	2.7
Households not connected to the gas network (%)	6.6	10.3	12.4
Current average energy efficiency of domestic buildings (average score)	65.7	64.2	64.1

⁹ Gas, oil or solid fuel central heating, night storage heaters, warm air heating and underfloor heating

Domestic buildings with band A-C (high) energy efficiency rating (%)	49.0	46.3	47.2
Domestic buildings with band F-G (low) energy efficiency rating (%)	2.2	3.2	3.3
Source: Households lacking central heating - Census 2011, Households not connected to the gas network - Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) 2020, Energy efficiency of domestic dwellings – Department for Communities and Local Government (DLUHC) 2017 to 2021			

On each of these selected measures, LBNs perform better than across other deprived areas and England as a whole. This is likely to be linked to the lower levels of older and private rented accommodation in LBNs.

However, it is important to emphasise that there is some variation across LBNs and that a subset of LBNs, largely in coastal and industrial areas, perform less well on these measures. The table below shows the 10 areas with the lowest levels of home energy efficiency (as measured by EPC ratings).

In total 47 of the 225 LBNs (20.8%) perform below the national average on this measure. All of the worst performing areas are either coastal areas, industrial areas or both.

LBN	Local Authority	Average energy efficiency of domestic buildings	Domestic buildings with band F-G (low) energy efficiency rating (%)
Golf Green	Tendring	55.8	7.8
North Ormesby	Middlesbrough	57.3	7.4
St Osyth and Point Clear	Tendring	57.3	20.8
Clover Hill	Pendle	57.3	6.5
Pier	Tendring	59.2	4.9
Bitterne	Southampton	59.2	18.3
Stacksteads	Rosendale	59.3	8.6
Bloomfield	Blackpool	59.4	6.0
Barrow Island	Barrow-in-Furness	59.6	5.4
Hodge Hill	Birmingham	60.1	4.0
Source: Ministry of Housing Communities 2009 to 2016			

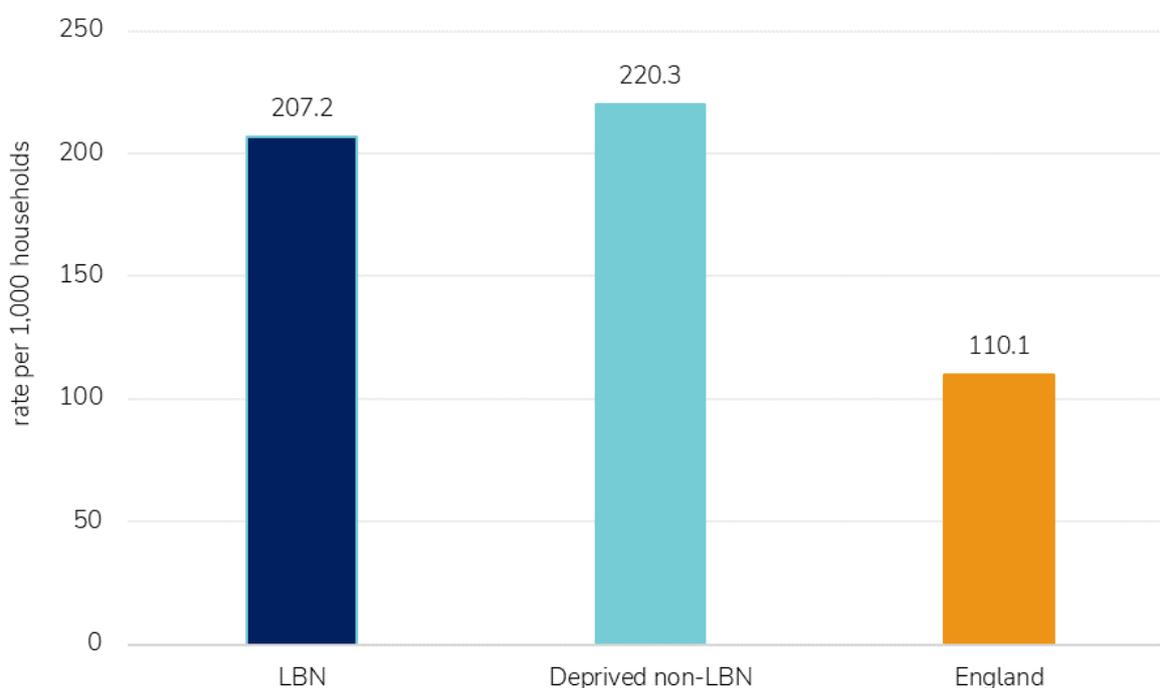
Three areas of Tendring feature among the top five areas with the lowest average home energy efficiency, with the lowest levels recorded in Golf Green (covering part of Jaywick sands). This area is characterised by a large proportion of converted holiday chalets which were never originally built to be permanent residential accommodation. St Osyth and Point Clear has the highest proportion of homes with very low energy efficiency ratings (F-G) – with more than one-in-five properties in this area (20.8%) having a low energy efficiency rating. This area is also characterised by a high proportion of holiday accommodation.

Interestingly there is no strong correlation between EPC ratings and energy consumption or fuel poverty, suggesting that income levels may be a bigger driver of both consumption and fuel poverty in LBNs.

Another potential driver of fuel poverty and cost of living challenges is the reliance on pre-paid energy meters to supply electricity. There are a number of issues associated with pre-paid energy meters, including accessing credit (as you are required to physically access places to top up); fewer available tariffs leading to potentially higher costs; daily standing charges even when no electricity is used leading to a potential backlog in costs, and risks of periodic power outs when credit runs out¹⁰.

The chart below compares the number of pre-paid electricity meters per 1,000 households in LBNs and comparator areas.

Pre-paid electricity meters, rate per 1,000 households



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2017

LBNs have higher levels of pre-paid electricity meters per 1,000 households (207) than the average across England as a whole (110) but lower than the average across other deprived areas (220).

In total, 224 of the 225 LBNs (99.6%) have higher levels of pre-paid electricity meters (per 1,000 households) than the national average.

The table below shows the 10 LBNs with the highest levels of pre-paid electricity meters per 1,000 households.

¹⁰ See Citizens Advice for detailed exploration of these challenges <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/your-energy-meter/decide-if-a-prepayment-meter-is-right-for-you/>

LBN	Local Authority	Pre-paid electricity meters per head
Cliftonville West	Thanet	364.1
Nelson	Great Yarmouth	362.6
Fieldway	Croydon	359.1
Clarkson	Fenland	349.4
St Andrew's	Kingston upon Hull, City of	348.2
Gamesley	High Peak	338.1
Waterlees Village	Fenland	332.9
Stockbridge	Knowsley	330.7
Hartcliffe and Withywood	Bristol, City of	329.9
Northwood	Knowsley	328.0

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2019

Cliftonville West in Thanet has the highest proportion of pre-paid meters, with more than one-third of properties using pre-paid meters. This area is characterised by a relatively high proportion of private rented properties and an older housing stock than the average across LBNs.

Default tariff cap by region

One of the key drivers of rising energy costs are the increase in default tariff caps for electricity. These caps are not applied equally across each region. The table below presents the default tariff caps at zero level of consumption for electricity based on a Single-Rate Metering Arrangement – for each region, alongside the number of LBNs in the region.

Region	Standard Credit	PrePayMeter	Other Payment Method	LBNs
Southern Western	£200.86	£196.49	£179.46	1
Northern	£190.93	£187.12	£170.03	56
Yorkshire	£189.51	£185.78	£168.69	28
Midlands	£188.05	£184.40	£167.30	31
N Wales and Mersey	£186.04	£182.50	£165.40	26
GB Average	£177.83	£174.75	£157.60	
East Midlands	£175.67	£172.71	£155.56	17
Southern	£170.70	£168.02	£150.85	7
North West	£166.49	£164.04	£146.84	28
South East	£164.36	£162.03	£144.82	12
Eastern	£150.64	£149.08	£131.81	19
London	£129.47	£129.09	£111.73	0

Source: OfGem April 2022 - September 2022

LBNs are disproportionately affected by high energy caps. The majority of LBNs are found in areas with a relatively high default tariff cap, with 142 of the 225 LBNs (63.1%) in areas with a default tariff

cap which is above the national average. By contrast, there are no LBNs in the London energy region (where the default tariff cap is lowest).

Appendix: Indicator details

Indicator	Description	Source and Date
CMS Paying Parents	<p>The Child Maintenance Service was introduced in December 2012 as part of the Government's Child Maintenance Reforms. It replaced the Child Support Agency (CSA) and is for separated parents who cannot arrange child maintenance between themselves. The dataset provides information on the number of paying parents (as a proportion of all working age adults)</p> <p>The Child Maintenance Service is separated into two service types: Direct Pay is where the Child Maintenance Service calculates the amount of maintenance to be paid, and parents arrange the payments between themselves. The Collect & Pay service is where the Child Maintenance Service collects and manages the payments between the parents.</p> <p>Most parents start on the Direct Pay service. If their arrangement breaks down, the Child Maintenance Service can step in and move the arrangement to the Collect & Pay service. The Child Maintenance Service has a range of enforcement actions it can use if the Paying Parent refuses to pay their child maintenance.</p> <p>This dataset provides a range of information for each Paying Parent using the Child Maintenance Service, including personal characteristics, geographical location, and the amounts of maintenance that they were due to pay through each service. For parents using the Collect & Pay service, the dataset also contains information on how much maintenance was successfully collected.</p>	Department for Work and Pensions (2016-2021)
CMS children in families subject to an open child maintenance arrangement	This dataset includes all children under the age of 20 who are associated with an open child maintenance arrangement. Some children aged 16 or above, may not always be considered qualifying children for the purposes of calculating the Paying Parent's liability. Rates are presented as a proportion of all	Department for Work and Pensions (2016-2021)
CMS Gender of Paying Parents	The gender breakdown of CMS claimants (as a proportion of all males or females of working age)	Department for Work and Pensions (2016-2021)
CMS Direct Pay	<p>The Child Maintenance Service is separated into two service types: Direct Pay is where the Child Maintenance Service calculates the amount of maintenance to be paid, and parents arrange the payments between themselves. The Collect & Pay service is where the Child Maintenance Service collects and manages the payments between the parents.</p> <p>Most parents start on the Direct Pay service. If their arrangement breaks down, the Child Maintenance Service can step in and move the arrangement to the Collect & Pay service.</p> <p>Figures are presented as a proportion of all working age adults</p>	Department for Work and Pensions (2016-2021)
CMS Collect & Pay	The Child Maintenance Service is separated into two service types: Direct Pay is where the Child Maintenance Service calculates the amount of maintenance to be paid, and parents arrange the payments between themselves. The Collect & Pay service is where the Child Maintenance Service collects and manages the payments between the parents.	Department for Work and Pensions (2016-2021)

	<p>Most parents start on the Direct Pay service. If their arrangement breaks down, the Child Maintenance Service can step in and move the arrangement to the Collect & Pay service.</p> <p>Figures are presented as a proportion of all working age adults</p>	
CMS No maintenance due	The number of claimants for which no maintenance is due or outstanding as a percentage of all claimants	Department for Work and Pensions (2016-2021)
CMS Compliance (Collect & Pay)	<p>The amount of child maintenance a Paying Parent paid via the Collect & Pay service, expressed as a percentage of the amount that the CMS calculated as being due for the quarter.</p> <p>This is applicable to all Paying Parents with ongoing maintenance due via the Collect & Pay service. The breakdowns are as follows</p> <p>No Collect & Pay Liability</p> <p>Nil Compliance</p> <p>Band 1 (Up to and including 30%)</p> <p>Band 2 (over 30%, up to and including 60%)</p> <p>Band 3 (over 60%, up to and including 90%)</p> <p>Band 4 (over 90%)</p>	Department for Work and Pensions (2016-2021)
CMS children by Shared Care Status	<p>Shared care refers to when a Paying Parent's child stays overnight with them. In these cases, the Child Maintenance Service makes a deduction to the weekly child maintenance amount based on the average number of 'shared care' nights a week.</p> <p>Shared care status is applicable to: all children covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Shared Care arrangement • One night a week with Paying Parent • Two nights a week with Paying Parent • Three nights a week with Paying Parent • Equal number of nights with Paying and Receiving Parent 	Department for Work and Pensions (2016-2021)
Households in Fuel Poverty	<p>Shows an estimate of the number of households in Fuel Poverty. The definition of fuel poverty is based on the Low Income High Costs framework, where a household is in fuel poverty if a) their required fuel costs are above average (the national median level), and b) were they to spend that amount they would be left with an income below the official poverty line. The indicator is estimated using regional data from the English Housing Survey and modelling down to local areas based on characteristics of the local area.</p> <p>Rate calculated as = (Households living in fuel poverty)/(Total households)*100</p>	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2011 to 2020
Estimated domestic gas consumption per household in megawatt hours (Mwh).	<p>Estimated domestic gas consumption per household in megawatt hours (Mwh). A domestic gas user is defined as a user with an annual consumption of less than 73,200 kWh, which is the gas industry cut-off point for domestic users. It is recognised that this level of consumption will include some non-domestic users. Rate calculated as = (Estimated total</p>	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 2020

	domestic gas consumption in megawatt hours (Mwh))/(Count of gas meters in the local area)	
Estimated domestic electricity consumption per household in megawatt hours (Mwh).	Estimated domestic electricity consumption per household in megawatt hours (Mwh). Rate calculated as = (Estimated total domestic electricity consumption in megawatt hours (Mwh))/(Count of electricity meters in the local area)	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 2020
Households not connected to the gas network	Shows the proportion of households without mains gas. These estimates are based on the difference between the number of households and the number of domestic gas meters as published in the sub-national gas consumption data. Rate calculated as = (Households not connected to the gas network)/(Total households (census 2011))*100	Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) 2020
Houses lacking central heating	Shows households living in accommodation that is lacking in central heating. A household's is described as 'without central heating' if it had no central heating in any of the rooms (whether used or not). Central heating includes gas, oil or solid fuel central heating, night storage heaters, warm air heating and underfloor heating. Rate calculated as = (Does not have central heating (census KS403))/(All households (census KS403))*100	Census 2011
Current average energy efficiency of domestic buildings	Shows the average energy efficiency as derived from Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) for domestic buildings. Data has been calculated by averaging (mean) the median energy efficiencies of Output Areas. Only homes that have been built, bought, sold or retrofitted since 2008 have an EPC, which represents about 50 to 60 per cent of homes within a local authority area. Additionally, data has not been published where the holder of the energy certificate has opted-out of disclosure, energy certificates are excluded on grounds of national security or energy certificates are marked as cancelled or not for issue.	Department for Communities and Local Government (DLUHC) 2017 to 2021
Percentage of domestic buildings with band A-C (high) energy efficiency rating	The percentage of domestic buildings with band A-C energy efficiency rating as derived from Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) for domestic buildings between January 2016 and September 2020. Band A-C rated buildings have energy efficiency scores between 69-100. Only homes that have been built, bought, sold or retrofitted since 2008 have an EPC, which represents about 50 to 60 per cent of homes within a local authority area. Additionally, data has not been published where the holder of the energy certificate has 'opted-out' of disclosure, energy certificates are excluded on grounds of national security or energy certificates are marked as 'cancelled' or 'not for issue'. Rate calculated as = (Number of domestic buildings with band A-C)/(Total number of EPC assessed domestic buildings)*100.	Department for Communities and Local Government (DLUHC) 2017 to 2021
Percentage of domestic buildings with band F-G (low) energy efficiency rating	The percentage of domestic buildings with band F-G energy efficiency rating as derived from Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) for domestic buildings between January 2016 and September 2020. Band F-G rated buildings have energy efficiency scores between 1-38. Only homes that have been built, bought, sold or retrofitted since 2008 have an EPC, which represents about 50 to 60 per cent of homes within a local authority area. Additionally, data has not been published where the holder of the energy certificate has 'opted-out' of disclosure, energy certificates are excluded on grounds of national security or energy certificates are marked as 'cancelled' or 'not for issue'. Rate calculated as = (Number of domestic buildings with band F-G)/(Total number of EPC assessed domestic buildings)*100.	Department for Communities and Local Government (DLUHC) 2017 to 2021

<p>Prepayment electricity meters per head</p>	<p>The number of prepayment electricity meters per household population. Note, these are experimental statistics. One of the issues when producing these statistics was the fact that smart meters can be updated to change from prepayment mode to standard mode and vice versa - the data source being used can't detect these changes. This is likely to be a greater issue now that we have more smart meters.</p>	<p>Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 2017</p>
<p>Default tariff cap</p>	<p>Level of the default tariff cap for the chosen 28AD Charge Restriction Period, broken down by fuel and Benchmark Metering Arrangement, Benchmark Annual Consumption Level, Payment Method and Charge Restriction Region. All units are pounds per customer, excluding VAT except where specified.</p>	<p>OfGem April 2022 - September 2022</p>