



# POVERTY

in

# East Lothian

**JULY 2021**



**East Lothian**  
Council

There are various definitions of poverty that can be used. And there is a large amount of data that can be used to measure poverty.

These are just some of the latest statistics that give a sense of the scale poverty in East Lothian.



In 2020, 78.3% of people in East Lothian aged 16-64 were in employment, higher than the 75.9% for Scotland.



East Lothian has a smaller percentage of Full-time employees, and a greater percentage of Part-time workers when compared to Scotland.



In February 2020 (pre-COVID lockdown), 5,842 people in East Lothian claimed Universal Credit. By July 2020, 9,777 people were claiming Universal Credit - a rise of 67%.



But by June 2021 the Universal Credit claimant count had fallen slightly to 9,408 – a rise of 61% since Feb 2020.



The number of East Lothian residents on furlough as a result of COVID reached 8,200 in July 2020. By May 2021, 3,400 East Lothian residents remained on furlough.



DWP records show that in 2019/20, 3,184 East Lothian children aged 0-15 – 16.2% – were living in Relative Poverty (defined as living in a family whose income, including contributions from earnings, state support and pensions is below 60 per cent of Before Housing Costs).



Data from End Child Poverty (released in October 2020) showed that in 2019/20, 4,608 East Lothian children aged 0-15 – 24.5% – were living in Relative Poverty After Housing Costs are taken into account.



The number of school children registered for Free School Meals increased by 21% between 2020 and 2021 – from 1,151 (10.6% of the school roll) to 1,390 (12.3% of the school roll).



East Lothian Council received a total of 3,945 Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grant applications during 2019/20, up 13% from the previous year.



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