



Leith Neighbourhood Partnership

Poverty and Inequality Profile

June 2014

Business Intelligence Service

Poverty and inequality in Edinburgh: Neighbourhood Partnership profiles

Recent research shows that one in five households in Edinburgh live on incomes below the poverty threshold set by the UK Government. Despite the affluence and success of the city's economy, this is a level of poverty higher than the national average and higher than most other local authorities in Scotland.

Within the city, poverty levels vary considerably between neighbourhoods. In the poorest parts of Edinburgh over 27% of all households live in poverty compared to fewer than 17% of households in more affluent areas.

This profile provides a snapshot of data on poverty and income inequality in the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership area. It is one of 12 similar profiles for all Neighbourhood Partnerships intended to support the development of strategies and action plans to reduce poverty and inequality in our city.

The information presented here is built on analysis carried out for the Edinburgh Partnership Poverty and Inequality Theme Group. More information on the work of this group in the city can be found on the City of Edinburgh Council [website](#).

Each profile contains:

- A short note defining the key poverty indicators used in the report
- Information on the number of households living in poverty in each Neighbourhood
- Information on levels of benefits dependency and other measures of inequality
- Links to other resources and profiles providing information on inequality in each Neighbourhood.

Definitions and data sources

These profiles use the following broad definition of poverty:

“People are said to be living in poverty if their income and resources are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living considered acceptable in the society in which they live.”

The following four key indicators are used to measure the extent of poverty in each neighbourhood partnership area (NP):

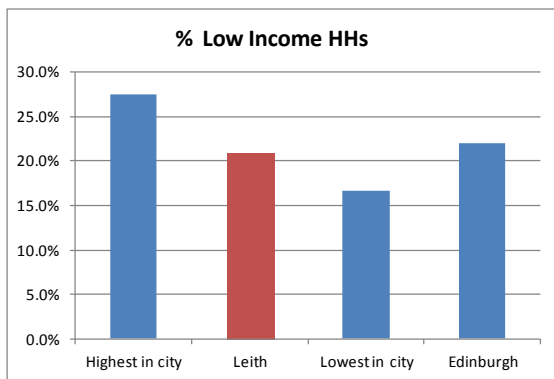
- **Low income Households:** The proportion of households who live on incomes below the poverty threshold (after housing costs). The UK Government defines this threshold as being a level of income below 60% of UK median. For a couple with two children, this threshold is currently estimated at £357 per week. For a single person household, the threshold can be as low as £128 per week.
- **Material Deprivation:** The proportion of households unable to afford a specific set of goods and services regarded as essentials for life in Britain today by a majority of the population.
- **Child Poverty:** The proportion of children (aged under 20) living in households whose income is below the UK Government poverty threshold.
- **Average Weekly Income:** This represents the gross weekly household income.

Data for all of these indicators has been drawn from a 2013 report on income and poverty for small areas across Scotland, commissioned by the [Improvement Service](#) and part funded by City of Edinburgh Council. Detailed information on the results of the research for Edinburgh is available on the Council [website](#).

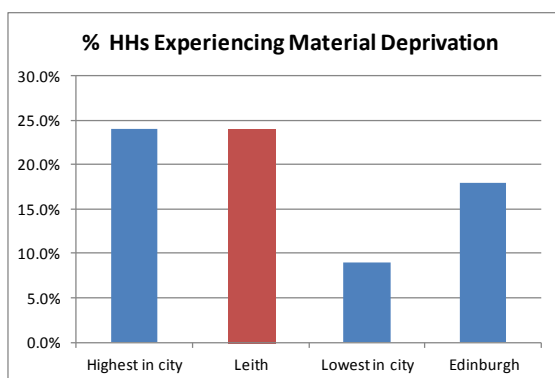
Data presented in the report for these measures relates to the year 2009 and represents a baseline snapshot of poverty in the city. These data represent the most up to date information available for the city on these important indicators.

More current estimates of households on very low incomes are provided by looking at the proportion of adults who receive DWP benefits. The last section of this profile provides an overview of benefits dependency and other measures of inequality in each neighbourhood. Data for this analysis has been drawn from the [NOMIS website](#) and provides information on Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits claimants up to May 2013. Detailed descriptions of the benefits included in the information pack produced to accompany these profiles.

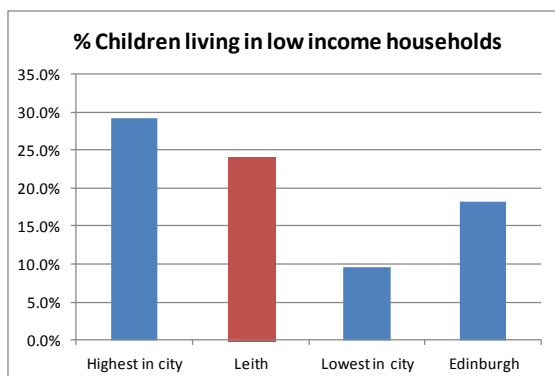
Headline poverty and inequality indicators



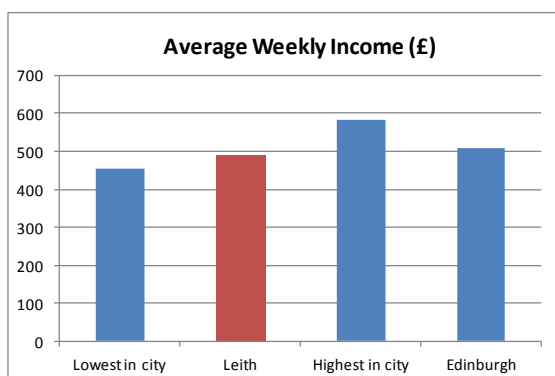
- An estimated 6,360 households in Leith live on incomes below the poverty threshold
- This represents 20.8% of all households in the NP, slightly below the city average rate of 22%
- The NP accounts for 13.9% of all the households in Edinburgh and 13.1% of all its low income households



- Some 7,340 households in Leith experience material deprivation. These are households who are unable to afford several items regarded by a majority of the population as essentials of life in Britain
- This represents 24.1% of all households in the NP. Leith accounts for 18.5% of all Edinburgh households in material deprivation.

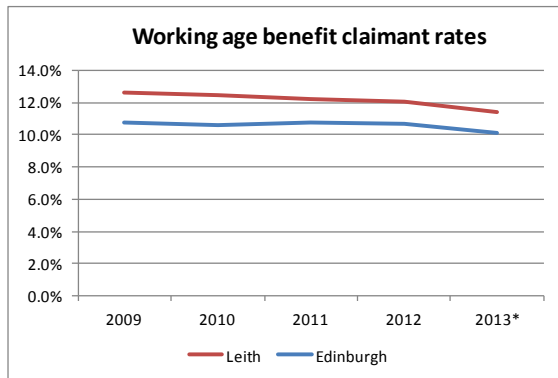


- In the Leith NP, 1,960 children live in households whose income is below the poverty threshold
- This represents 24% of the population in the age group compared to 18.2% in the city as a whole

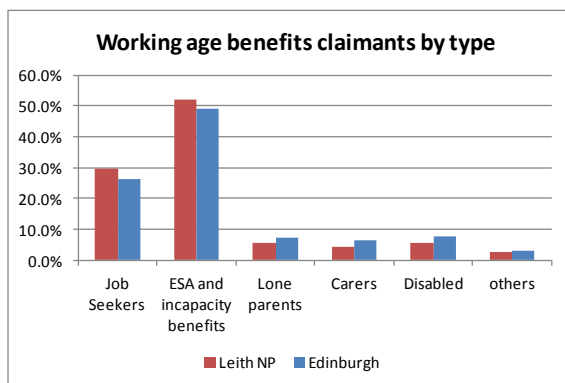


- Average weekly household income in the Leith NP was estimated at £487 in 2009. This was some 4.2% below the average across Edinburgh as a whole.

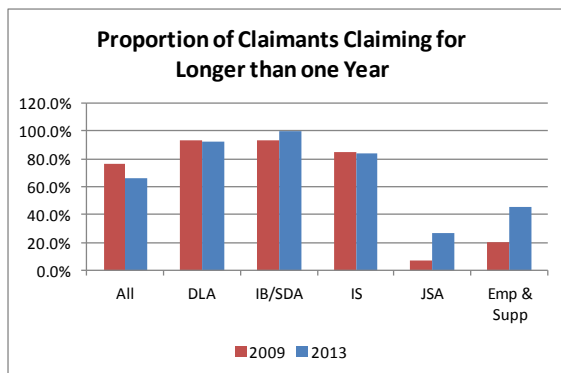
Benefits dependency and other measures of inequality



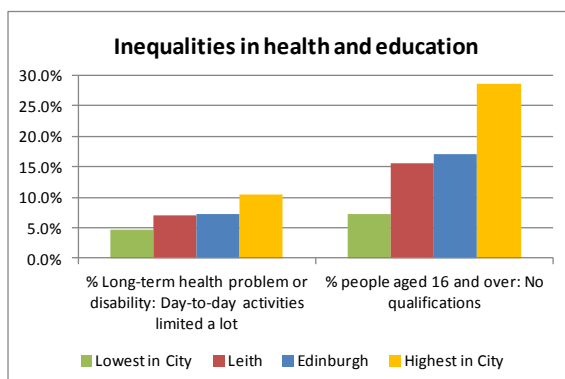
- These figures represent the percentage of working age people who are claiming a range of key DWP benefits
- At May 2013, 5,300 people were claiming these benefits in the Leith NP (11.4% of the working age population) compared to 34,175 (10.1%) in the city as a whole
- A detailed definition for all the benefits included here is included in the information pack which accompanies these profiles.



- At May 2013, Job Seekers and ESA/ Incapacity Benefits claimants accounted for 81.9% of all claimants in Leith. This is higher than the city average of 75.3% for these benefits.
- By contrast, Leith records a lower than average proportion of lone parent, carer and disabled benefits claimants.



- Long term benefits dependency is a useful measure of persistent low income and social exclusion
- The proportion of Leith claimants claiming for over one year was estimated at 66.5% in 2013. This is slightly below the city average of 69%
- Long term job seekers increased from 7.4% to 26.4% of all claimants over the period 2009-2013.



- The NP recorded a rate of 6.9% of people with limiting long-term health problems or disability in 2011. It also recorded the third lowest rate among all NPs of people with no educational qualifications (15.6%)
- The [City of Edinburgh Council](#) website provides a comprehensive insight into a range of Census data

Other resources

Poverty and inequality data tables

Detailed tables showing data for all neighbourhoods across all indicators used in this profile are available from the Neighbourhood Partnerships website,

Related resources

In addition to this profile, a number of other resources are available providing detailed information on inequality in Edinburgh's neighbourhoods.

- [Census 2011 – Edinburgh analysis](#): detailed analysis of the 2011 Census from an Edinburgh perspective, including profiles for each Neighbourhood Partnership, are available on the [City of Edinburgh Council](#) website.
- [Census 2011 – Data explorer](#): an online tool is also available to help users make their own analysis of Census findings. The tool can be accessed from the [Scotland's Census](#) website.
- [Labour market profiles](#) – profiles of the latest local area data on unemployment, jobs and benefits claimants is available from the [NOMIS](#) website.
- [Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics](#) – A large online repository of local area data across a wide variety of topics is provided by the [Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics](#) website.
- [Edinburgh by Numbers](#) – a statistical overview of Edinburgh is published each year by [City of Edinburgh Council](#).
- [Edinburgh Economy Watch](#) – a statistical bulletin tracking Edinburgh's performance across a number of key economic indicators is published each month by [City of Edinburgh Council](#).
- [Scottish Public Health Observatory](#) – a project led by ISD Scotland and NHS Health Scotland to provide online health statistics is available from the [Scottish Public Health Observatory](#) website.

Neighbourhood Map



Contacts

We would be pleased to hear your comments and feedback on this profile. Please contact us at:

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