

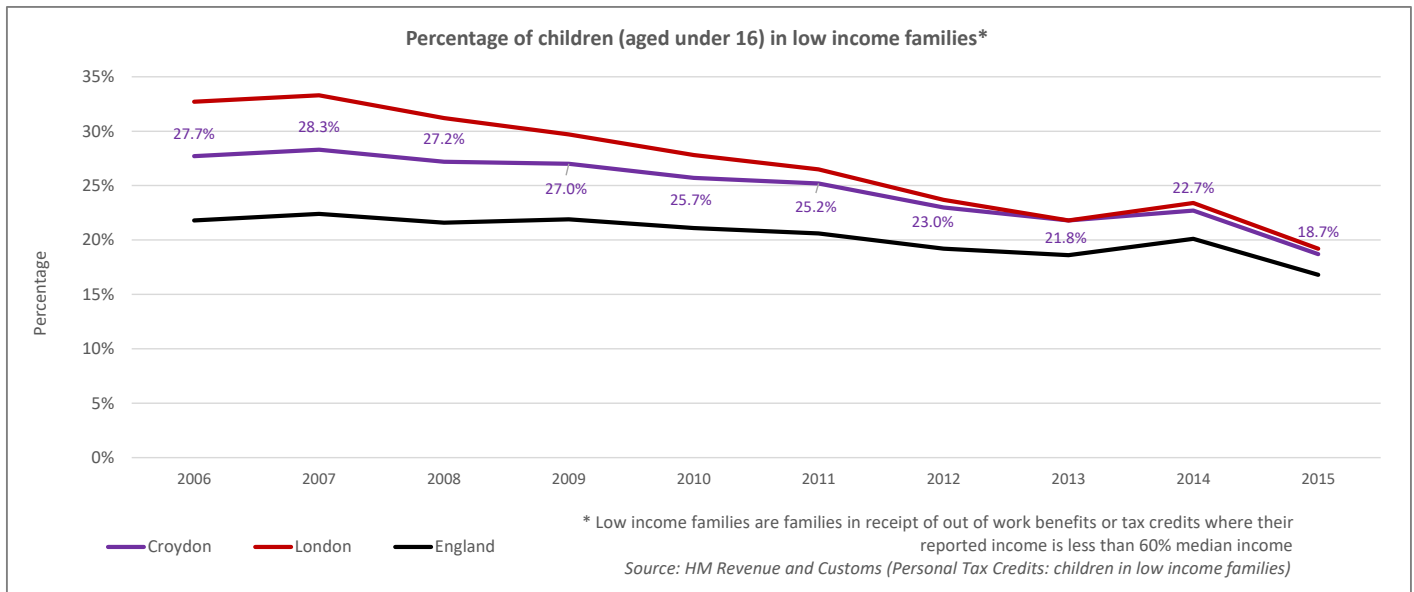
Child Poverty in Croydon

Child poverty is an important issue for public health. The Marmot Review (2010) suggests there is evidence that childhood poverty leads to premature mortality and poor health outcomes for adults. Reducing the numbers of children who experience poverty should improve these adult health outcomes and increase healthy life expectancy.

"A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives" sets out the Government's approach to tackling poverty for this Parliament and up to 2020. This strategy meets the requirements set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010, focuses on improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged children, and sits alongside the Government's broader strategy to improve social mobility.

In Croydon, as with regional and national trends, the proportion of children living in poverty peaked in 2007 and has been steadily decreasing since then, reaching the lowest point in 2015.

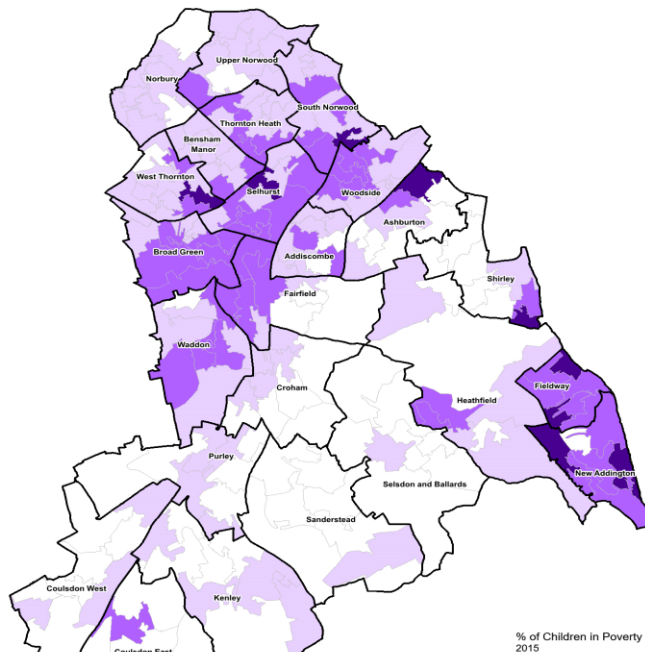
Since 2006, the proportion of children living in poverty in Croydon has decreased by nine percentage points (to 2015), this is a greater decrease than England as a whole (showing a decrease of five percentage points over the same time) but a smaller decrease than London (showing a decrease of 13.5 percentage points).



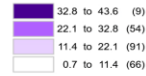
A large number of wards in Croydon have a small area where there is a high proportion of children living in poverty.

% of Children in Poverty 2015

Number of children living in families in receipt of CTC whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of IS or (Income-Based) JSA, divided by the total number of children in the area (determined by Child Benefit data)



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The proportion of primary and secondary school children eligible and receiving free school meals also indicates levels of child poverty in the borough.

The Croydon proportions do not show the same steady decrease of need since January 2013 as both the London and England averages do.

For primary school children, the proportion eligible for and claiming free school meals in Croydon increased in 2017. The proportion has been above the London average since January 2014.

For secondary school children, the proportion eligible for and claiming free school meals also increased in 2017. This proportion is now similar to the London average.

