



## Preventing Further Poverty in the UK: Supporting and Improving the Lives of 'Just About Managing' Families

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

**Wednesday 12th July 2017**

**10:15am – 4:30pm**

**Central London**

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.



# Preventing Further Poverty in the UK: Supporting and Improving the Lives of 'Just About Managing Families'

## Overview

According to a report published by the Resolution Foundation in September 2016 there are approximately six million 'just about managing' families or JAMs as they have become known, across Britain. Accounting for a third of the working population, these families have at least one member in work, but are usually employed in lower paying jobs and are five times less likely to be employed. Moreover, the study estimated that home ownership has fallen from 59% to 26% during the last two decades. With rising inflation and living costs combined with a pay squeeze and cuts in welfare support, 'just about managing' families are increasingly facing the eminent risk of falling into poverty.

Ordinary working families have been the focus of the Government's efforts to support lower income families. In her first statement as Prime Minister, Theresa May, attempted to give reassurances to the struggling working households by emphasising that they represent a priority for this Government. Although the 2017 budget introduced a number of measures, including a doubling of free child care for working parents and increases in the national living wage and personal tax allowance, it failed to provide "breathing space" for struggling families.

At the same time, the recent cuts and changes in the welfare system pose new threats to struggling households. While the income of these families is principally generated from work, they often rely on welfare support and as such account for two thirds of all working families with children in receipt of tax credits. The child tax credit that came into force in April 2017 and is limited to the first two children in any family is expected to affect 515,000 families by 2020. Amid these developments, think-tanks and charities are increasingly warning against the deteriorating living standards of ordinary working families and are already calling for provisions to ease their burdens in the 2018 Budget.

This timely symposium will provide practitioners across local authorities, social services, welfare and the housing sector with an invaluable opportunity to come together and share best practice on ways to support families living on the edge and consider what can be done to gain long-term financial security.



*If you're from an ordinary working-class family, life is much harder than many people in Westminster realise [...] You have a job but you don't always have job security. You have your own home, but you worry about paying a mortgage. You can just about manage but you worry about the cost of living and getting your kids into a good school. If you're one of those families, if you're just managing, I want to address you directly."*

Prime Minister Theresa May,

13th July 2016

## Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit [www.HotelMap.com/M5NUZ/](http://www.HotelMap.com/M5NUZ/)



## Why Attend?

- ✓ Define, examine and understand the rising prevalence of Just About Managing families and the socioeconomics reasons behind it
- ✓ Assess the impact of the latest tax and benefit changes on ordinary working households
- ✓ Consider recommendations and possible solutions that could provide "breathing space" for low-paid families
- ✓ Identify ways to enable low-paid employees to access training and development opportunities for career progression
- ✓ Explore ways local authorities can work with other agencies to support families on the financial edge
- ✓ Discuss the need for provision of affordable and flexible childcare for low paid families
- ✓ Share best practice and learn from others on effective locally-led community initiatives designed to prevent poverty

## Who Should Attend?

- Local Authorities
- Central Government
- Local Government Associations
- Universal Credit Governance and Steering Working Groups
- Welfare Advisers and Officers
- Welfare Policy Leads
- Voluntary, Community and other Third Sector Organisations
- Benefits Advisers
- Benefits and Financial Support Representatives
- Benefit Fraud/Investigation Managers
- Benefit Administration Teams
- Employment Support Teams
- Heads of Revenues and Benefits
- Child Poverty Strategy Teams
- Children and Young People's Services Managers/ Officers
- Children's Centres Representatives
- Housing/Social Housing Staff and Landlords
- Housing Benefit Teams
- All Housing Sector Professionals
- Policy Managers
- Income Managers
- Neighbourhood Services Staff
- Directors of Funding and Finance
- Social Inclusion Officers
- Social Services Representatives
- Heads of Organisational Change
- Heads of Equality and Diversity
- Adults and Children's Services Leads
- Welfare Groups
- Career Development Organisations
- Recruitment and Employment Professionals
- Jobcentre Plus Representatives
- Business Enterprise and Support Representatives
- Learning and Skills Councils Representatives

# Preventing Further Poverty in the UK: Supporting and Improving the Lives of 'Just About Managing Families'

## Programme

- 09:30** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 
- 10:15** Chair's Welcome and Introduction
- 
- 10:30** **Morning Panel:**  
**Assessing the National Outlook: Understanding the Position of 'Just about Managing Families', Reviewing National Policies and Examining the Impact of Welfare Reforms**
- Defining 'Just About Managing Families': examining the rising prevalence of this social group
  - Understanding how recent social and economic conditions have led to a drop in living standards for ordinary working households
  - Assessing the impact of the latest tax and benefit changes on ordinary working households
  - Considering possible solutions that could provide "breathing space" and other recommendations for the 2018 Budget
  - Evaluating the impact of Universal Credit on employment and household budgets
  - Exploring the impact of Brexit on job opportunities for ordinary working families
- 
- 11:15** Morning Refreshments
- 
- 11:30** **Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One**
- 
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 
- 13:30** **Afternoon Panel:**  
**Preventing Further Poverty in the UK: Supporting Families Living on the Financial Edge**
- Consider ways local authorities can work in partnership with other agencies to develop plans to support families just about managing
  - Identifying ways to enable low-paid employees to access training and development opportunities for career progression
  - Examine the role of Government, local authorities and partners in building more affordable housing – consider ways to link rental prices with local earnings
  - Prioritising those most in need: the role of social services in identifying and supporting single parent families, BME families and families with disabilities members
  - Discussing the need for affordable and flexible childcare services for families on the edge
  - Share best practice on effective locally-led community initiatives designed to prevent poverty
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- 14:15** Afternoon Refreshments
- 
- 14:30** **Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two**
- 
- 15:30** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 
- 15:40** Networking Reception
- 
- 16:30** Close

*\* Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice \**

## Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact us on **020 3137 8630** or email **info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk**

## Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday 12th July 2017  
**Time:** 10:15am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** Central London

## Forthcoming Events

Reaching Sustainability in Housing Supply: Increasing the Availability of Homes Nationwide  
**16th May 2017**

Raising Standards in Care Homes: Taking the Next Steps to Ensure Better Standards in Care Homes and Safeguard Adults from Abuse and Neglect  
**17th May 2017**



A New Vision for the Future of Public Libraries: Progress, Strategy, Innovation and Collaboration  
**18th May 2017**

Engaging with the National Cyber Security Strategy: Working in Partnership to Reduce Risk in the Digital Age  
**23rd May 2017**

Improving Young People's Mental Health: Promoting a Coordinated Approach to Eating Disorders  
**24th May 2017**

Embedding a Partnership Approach to Suicide Prevention: Early Intervention and Sustained Postvention  
**25th May 2017**

Improving the Lives of People with Learning Disabilities: Minimising the Gaps in Health, Employment and Education Inequalities  
**6th June 2017**

Revitalising the British High Street: Modernising Town Centres Through Innovation and Creative Investment  
**7th June 2017**

Widening Participation in Higher Education: Boosting Social Mobility, Fairer Access and Choice  
**8th June 2017**

Reforming the NHS Complaints System: Embedding a Learning Culture and Increasing Public Confidence and Patient Involvement  
**13th June 2017**

From National Strategies to Community Collaboration: Promoting a Holistic Approach to Tackling Organised Crime  
**14th June 2017**