

# FULL COUNCIL

## MOTION ON NOTICE

**Date of Council Meeting:-** 13 February 2024

**Title of Motion:-** Reducing Child Poverty in Dorset

**Proposer:-** Cllr N Ireland

**Seconder:-** Cllr S Jones

**Supported by:-** Cllrs M Rennie, L Fry, D Gray, P Kimber, B Ezzard, S Williams, C Sutton, K Wheller, D Morgan, D Tooke, P Barrow, D Bolwell, A Canning, M Roe, R Holloway, G Taylor, S Jones, R Legg, R Crabb, B Bawden

### **Motion Narrative and Action Required**

Council notes that:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- Analysis by the Child Poverty Action Group shows that 900,000 children living in poverty in England do not currently qualify for free school meals because the Conservative Government introduced an arbitrary £7,400 household income threshold in 2018.
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns mental health problems and cost-of-living pressures on families are among the complex reasons for increased absenteeism.
- Scrapping the two-child limit is the most cost-effective way to reduce child poverty. It would lift 250,000 children out of poverty and mean 850,000 children are in less deep poverty.

Council resolves to:

- Call on the UK Government to scrap the two-child benefit cap.
- Ask the Council's Chief Executive to write to Members of Parliament representing Dorset Council, expressing the Council's support for the scrapping of the two-child benefit cap.