

**Poverty in London:**

- 28 per cent of people in London live in poverty, compared with 22 per cent nationally<sup>6</sup>
- 38 per cent of children in London live in poverty, compared with 31 per cent nationally<sup>7</sup>
- Parents in London face significantly higher housing and childcare costs than most families in other parts of the UK<sup>8</sup>
- Four in 10 Londoners do not meet what is deemed to be an acceptable standard of living<sup>9</sup>
- Those in the bottom half of London’s wealth distribution hold just 6.8 per cent of the capital’s total wealth, compared with those in the top 10 per cent, who hold 42.5 per cent<sup>10</sup>

London is also home to groups who are at increased risk of poverty.

**Black and minority ethnic groups.** Across the UK, people from Black and minority ethnic groups are more likely to live in poverty: 46 per cent of children from Black and minority ethnic groups are living in poverty, compared with 31 per cent of all children.<sup>11</sup> Forty-one per cent of Londoners are from Black and minority ethnic groups. Thirty-nine per cent of Black and minority ethnic Londoners live in poverty, compared with 21 per cent of white groups.<sup>12</sup>

**Migrant populations, including EU nationals and migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds.** One in three Londoners (36 per cent) were born outside the UK (in the rest of England, 11 per cent of people were born outside the UK).<sup>13</sup> Not all new Londoners need financial support, but barriers to securing legal status, the changes that our departure from the EU has brought, and the government’s continued emphasis on restricting migration, previously referred to as the ‘hostile environment’ policy, can make many migrants feel vulnerable. Migrants who are subject to immigration control and have ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ (NRPF) status have no entitlement to the vast majority of welfare benefits, making them especially vulnerable to financial hardship and destitution.<sup>14</sup>

**Young people.** Compared with the rest of the UK, London’s population is young. The median age in London is 35, compared with 40 in the UK overall.<sup>15</sup> Unemployment rates in London are highest among 16-24-year-olds: 17.6 per cent of this group were

**Note on language**

In this report we have avoided using ‘BME’ or ‘BAME’ in order to reflect panellists’ views that these acronyms can be problematic for some. We have referred to ‘Black and minority ethnic groups’, recognising that this term can be helpful for capturing a collective experience and including all groups. We have also identified specific ethnicities where appropriate to draw out any differences in experiences and needs between groups.

<sup>6</sup> See note 3

<sup>7</sup> *Households Below Average Income, Statistics on the number and percentage of people living in low income households for financial years 1994/95 to 2019/20*, Table 4\_5db, Department for Work and Pensions, 2021

<sup>8</sup> D Hirsch, *The Cost of a Child in London*, CPAG, 2021

<sup>9</sup> See note 3

<sup>10</sup> See note 3

<sup>11</sup> See note 7

<sup>12</sup> *London’s Poverty Profile: 2021*, Trust for London, 2020

<sup>13</sup> See note 3

<sup>14</sup> Individuals with NRPF status can, however, be eligible for assistance from their local authorities: London Councils reports that in 2016/17, London boroughs spent £53.7 million on supporting NRPF households with essential education and social care services (*No Recourse to Public Funds*, London Councils)

<sup>15</sup> *The age distribution of the population*, Trust for London