



Child Benefit statistics

August 2012 to August 2016

Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

www.lancashire.gov.uk

Paul Ayre, principal research and intelligence officer

28 April 2017

For further information on the work of the Business Intelligence, please contact us at:

Business Intelligence
Lancashire County Council
2nd floor Christ Church Precinct
County Hall
Fishergate Hill
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 8XJ

E: BusinessIntelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk

W: www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight

Contents

1.	OVERVIEW	1
2.	KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LANCASHIRE-14 AREA	1
2.1	Families receiving Child Benefit (and children in those families), August 2016	1
2.2	Families opted out from receiving Child Benefit, August 2016 ...	2
2.3	Change in the number of families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016	2
2.4	Change in the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016	3
3.	BACKGROUND INFORMATION	3
3.1	Child Benefit statistics	3
3.2	Opting out of claiming Child Benefit.....	4
4.	DESCRIPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHIES USED IN THIS REPORT. ..	4
5.	ANALYSIS OF THE LANCASHIRE-14 FIGURES	4
5.1	Number of families receiving Child Benefit (and opted out families), August 2016	4
5.2	Number of children in families receiving Child Benefit (and children in opted out families)	6
5.3	Change in the number of families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016	7
5.4	Change in the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016	8

1. Overview

[Child Benefit](#) was introduced in 1977 to replace Family Allowance. It is a payment to people bringing up children and young persons and is designed to help with the extra cost this entails. The allowance is worth £20.30 for the first child and £13.40 for siblings.

The [High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge](#) was introduced on the 7th January 2013 and this has generally seen the number of families receiving Child Benefit reduce within the UK and most local authorities since this time, although there have been some exceptions to this trend.

The [Child Benefit data](#) in this article covers the years from August 2012, just prior to the introduction of the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge, to August 2016. The figures from August 2013 therefore reflect the impact of the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge. However, please note that some families with children born after January 2013, may have decided not to register for Child Benefit if they subsequently have to opt out.

2. Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

2.1 Families receiving Child Benefit (and children in those families), August 2016

In August 2016, 176,210 families in the Lancashire-14 area received Child Benefit for 309,890 eligible children.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Blackburn with Darwen (20,970) had the greatest number of families in receipt of Child Benefit with 40,145 dependent children. Blackpool (17,785) had the second largest number of claimant families with 30,310 children. Although Preston (17,390) had the third highest number of families receiving Child Benefit in the Lancashire-14 area, it had the second largest number of children (31,100) in those families. Ribble Valley (5,750) had the lowest number of families in receipt of Child Benefit in the area with 9,580 children.

Families with one or two children in receipt of Child Benefit represented the vast majority of the total in the United Kingdom (84.3%). The percentages were similar in the Lancashire-14 area (83.2%) and the Lancashire-12 area (84.1%). Those families with three or more children in receipt of Child Benefit therefore accounted for 15.7% of the UK total, 16.8% of the Lancashire-14 figure and 15.9% of the Lancashire-12 sum.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Ribble Valley (87.7%), Chorley (87.4%), South Ribble (87.1%) and Fylde (86.9%) had the highest percentage of families in receipt of Child Benefit with one or two children. In comparison, Hyndburn (80.8%), Pendle (77.8%) and Blackburn with Darwen (76.3%) had low percentages.

2.2 Families opted out from receiving Child Benefit, August 2016

The introduction of the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge in January 2013 meant that by August 2016, the 503,585 families in the UK that had opted out of receiving Child Benefit equated to 6.4% of the total number of registered families (those in receipt of Child Benefit and those opted out). For the Lancashire-14 area the opted out percentage was 3.3% (6,025 families). In the Lancashire-12 area, the opted out percentage was 3.8% (5,500 families).

Chorley (775), West Lancashire (700) and Lancaster (590) had the highest number of opted out families within the Lancashire-14 area, whilst Blackpool (160), Burnley (145) and Hyndburn (140) had the lowest number.

The number of opted out families as a percentage of the total number of registered families (those in receipt of Child Benefit and those opted out) was the greatest in Ribble Valley (8.8%, 555 families). Fylde had the second largest percentage (6.5%, 505 families). The remaining 12 authorities in the Lancashire-14 area had percentages below the UK figure (6.4%). The five local authorities of Pendle (1.8%), Blackburn with Darwen (1.7%), Hyndburn (1.3%), Burnley (1.2%) and Blackpool (0.9%) had the lowest percentages of opted out families, all below two percent.

2.3 Change in the number of families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016

The High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge was introduced in January 2013 and in the UK the number of families receiving Child Benefit has fallen by 6.6% (524,100 families) between August 2012 and August 2016.

For the Lancashire-14 area, the number of families receiving Child Benefit has decreased by 4.5% (8,325 families), a lower percentage than the UK average. In the Lancashire-12 area the percentage reduction of 5.1% (7,405 families) was again below the UK percentage.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Pendle is the only authority to see an increase in the number of families receiving Child Benefit between August 2012 and August 2016, rising by 2.1% (250 families).

All 13 of the remaining Lancashire-14 areas recorded decreases in the number of families receiving Child Benefit over the period. The reductions in West Lancashire (1,295 families) and Lancaster (1,025 families) were the largest in the area. In comparison, Blackburn with Darwen (190 families) and Burnley (60 families) saw the lowest reductions.

Ribble Valley (14.0%, 935 families), Fylde (11.7%, 971 families) and West Lancashire (9.4%, 1,295 families) were the only authorities in the Lancashire-14 area to see percentage reductions that were greater than the UK average (6.6%) between August 2012 and August 2016.

2.4 Change in the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016

In the UK, the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit has fallen by 6.5% (894,465 children) between August 2012 and August 2016.

The number of children in families receiving Child Benefit in the Lancashire-14 area has fallen by 3.7% (12,000 children) over the period, a lower percentage than the UK average. In the Lancashire-12 area the percentage reduction of 4.4% (10,995 children) was again below the UK percentage.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Pendle and Burnley were the only two authorities to see increases to the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit between August 2012 and August 2016. In Pendle, the number rose by 910 children (4.2%). In Burnley, the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit increased by 215 children (1.0%), despite the number of families receiving Child Benefit falling by 60 (0.5%) over the same period.

The remaining 10 authorities in the Lancashire-14 area recorded decreases in the number children in families receiving Child Benefit over the period. West Lancashire (2,460 children, 10.4%), Ribble Valley (1,850 children, 16.2%) and Fylde (1,460 children, 10.7%) saw the largest numeric and percentage reductions in the Lancashire-14 area between August 2012 and August 2016. These were also the only authorities in the area to record percentage reductions that were greater than the UK average (6.5%). In contrast, Preston (325 children, 1.0%) and Blackburn with Darwen (120 children, 0.3%) saw the lowest decreases in the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit over the period.

3. Background information

3.1 Child Benefit statistics

Child Benefit statistics are released by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and published on the [Gov.UK](http://www.gov.uk) website. They are derived from an extract from the Child Benefit computer system. The data refer to the number of families claiming Child Benefit and the number of eligible children within those families. Further information, such as the number of children for whom Child Benefit is received by their single year of age, is available in the original datasets that can be downloaded from the Gov.UK website. Please note that the published figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, therefore some of the totals in the tables in this report may not sum exactly.

At the local authority level, Child Benefit figures are available for August each year. These are published in the following February or March of the reference year.

The HMRC also publishes reports to accompany the data. The latest HMRC report is the Child Benefit Statistics – Geographical analysis at Country, Region, Local Authority and Parliamentary Constituency levels for August 2016 data, published on the 24 March 2017.

3.2 Opting out of claiming Child Benefit

The High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge was introduced on the 7th January 2013 and this has generally seen the number of families receiving Child Benefit reduce within the UK and most local authorities since this time, although there have been some exceptions to this trend.

Recipients of Child Benefit that are liable for the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge will have to repay some or all of their Child Benefit back if they or their partner has an individual income of more than £50,000 per year. For every additional £100 of earned income over the £50,000 threshold, the tax charge due increases by 1%. Any recipient whose income (or partner's income) is over £60,000 will be liable to repay their entire Child Benefit. Alternatively, claimants affected by the charge can opt-out of receiving child benefit.

Please note that some families with children born after January 2013 may have decided not to register for Child Benefit if they subsequently have to opt out.

4. Description of the geographies used in this report.

The Lancashire-12 area is comprised of the 12 local authorities that fall within the Lancashire County Council administrative boundary. The Lancashire-14 area incorporates the two additional unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool and has the same geographic footprint as the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area.

The 12 local authorities within the LCC boundary are Burnley Borough Council, Chorley Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council, Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Rossendale Borough Council, South Ribble Borough Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council.

5. Analysis of the Lancashire-14 figures

5.1 Number of families receiving Child Benefit (and opted out families), August 2016

In August 2016, there were 7.396 million families receiving Child Benefit in the United Kingdom, 856,100 in the North West, 176,210 in the Lancashire-14 area and 137,455 in the Lancashire-12 area. Within the Lancashire-14 area, the number of families

receiving Child Benefit ranged from 20,970 in Blackburn with Darwen to 5,750 in Ribble Valley.

Table 1: Number of families receiving Child Benefit (with split by number of children), and opted-out families, August 2016

Area	Number of families receiving Child Benefit	One child	Two children	Three children	Four children	Five or more children	Families that have opted out
Burnley	11,720	5,560	4,015	1,455	490	200	145
Chorley	12,790	6,360	4,815	1,220	285	105	775
Fylde	7,320	3,705	2,655	720	180	55	505
Hyndburn	10,725	5,035	3,635	1,305	500	250	140
Lancaster	14,770	7,030	5,435	1,705	435	165	590
Pendle	11,945	5,345	3,950	1,675	695	285	215
Preston	17,390	8,080	6,150	2,245	685	230	555
Ribble Valley	5,750	2,780	2,265	580	95	30	555
Rossendale	8,500	4,025	3,135	1,010	250	75	355
South Ribble	12,975	6,390	4,910	1,285	305	80	540
West Lancashire	12,425	6,015	4,680	1,315	310	105	700
Wyre	11,140	5,515	4,115	1,160	265	80	425
Lancashire-12	137,455	65,840	49,765	15,680	4,500	1,670	5,500
Blackburn with Darwen	20,970	9,115	6,895	3,295	1,155	505	365
Blackpool	17,785	9,240	5,815	1,880	600	250	160
Lancashire-14	176,210	84,195	62,475	20,855	6,255	2,425	6,025
North West	856,100	411,735	304,880	98,685	29,125	11,680	36,580
Great Britain	7,139,250	3,418,785	2,605,030	804,745	225,345	85,340	495,890
United Kingdom	7,396,355	3,532,955	2,698,780	840,995	235,310	88,315	503,585

Source: HM Revenue and Customs/Gov.UK

Families with one or two children in receipt of Child Benefit represented the vast majority of the total in the United Kingdom (84.3%). The percentages were similar in the Lancashire-14 area (83.2%) and the Lancashire-12 area (84.1%). Those families with three or more children in receipt of Child Benefit therefore accounted for 15.7% of the UK total, 16.8% of the Lancashire-14 figure and 15.9% of the Lancashire-12 sum.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Ribble Valley (87.7%), Chorley (87.4%), South Ribble (87.1%) and Fylde (86.9%) had the highest percentage of families in receipt of Child Benefit with one or two children. In comparison, Hyndburn (80.8%), Pendle (77.8%) and Blackburn with Darwen (76.3%) had low percentages.

The introduction of the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge in January 2013 meant that by August 2016, the 503,585 families in the UK that had opted out of receiving Child Benefit equated to 6.4% of the total number of registered families (those in receipt of Child Benefit and those opted out). For the North West, the percentage was 4.1%, whilst for the Lancashire-14 area the opted out percentage was 3.3%

(6,025 families). In the Lancashire-12 area, the opted out percentage was 3.8% (5,500 families).

Chorley (775), West Lancashire (700) and Lancaster (590) had the highest number of opted out families within the Lancashire-14 area, whilst Blackpool (160), Burnley (145) and Hyndburn (140) had the lowest.

The number of opted out families as a percentage of the total number of registered families (those in receipt of Child Benefit and those opted out) was the greatest in Ribble Valley (8.8%, 555 families). Fylde had the second largest percentage (6.5%, 505 families). The remaining 12 authorities in the Lancashire-14 area had percentages below the UK figure (6.4%). The five local authorities of Pendle (1.8%), Blackburn with Darwen (1.7%), Hyndburn (1.3%), Burnley (1.2%) and Blackpool (0.9%) had the lowest percentages, all below two percent.

Please note that tables 1 and 2 take no account of any families with children born after January 2013 that may have decided not to register for Child Benefit if they subsequently have to opt out.

5.2 Number of children in families receiving Child Benefit (and children in opted out families)

Table 2 presents the number of children in families in receipt of Child Benefit by four broad age groups.

In the UK, there were 12,877,170 children in families receiving Child Benefit in August 2016. In the Lancashire-14 area, the total was 309,890 children and in the Lancashire-12 area the figure was 239,435 children. Blackburn with Darwen had just over 40,000, whilst Preston and Blackpool had numbers in excess of 30,000. In contrast, fewer than 10,000 children were recorded in Ribble Valley.

In August 2016, there were 838,400 children in families that had opted out of Child Benefit in the UK. In the Lancashire-14 area the number of children in families that had opted out of Child Benefit numbered 9,835, whilst in the Lancashire-12 area the total was 8,985 children. Within the Lancashire-14 area, Chorley (1,235 children) and West Lancashire (1,160 children) had the largest number of children in families that had opted out of Child Benefit, whilst Blackpool (260 children), Burnley (245 children) and Hyndburn (225 children) had lowest numbers.

Table 2: Number of children in families receiving Child Benefit by age group, and numbers of children in opted-out families, August 2016

Area	Total children in families receiving Child Benefit	Under 5	5-10	11-15	16 and over	Number of children in opted-out families
Burnley	21,010	5,825	7,185	5,230	2,770	245
Chorley	21,380	5,835	7,255	5,415	2,870	1,235
Fylde	12,220	3,030	4,010	3,315	1,865	825
Hyndburn	19,590	5,340	6,555	5,045	2,650	225
Lancaster	25,655	6,970	8,555	6,455	3,680	965
Pendle	22,555	6,255	7,775	5,585	2,940	360
Preston	31,100	8,830	10,655	7,635	3,980	910
Ribble Valley	9,580	2,140	3,100	2,720	1,620	935
Rossendale	14,730	3,935	5,025	3,725	2,050	575
South Ribble	21,735	5,835	7,330	5,575	3,000	870
West Lancashire	21,135	5,105	7,030	5,690	3,310	1,160
Wyre	18,740	4,670	6,175	5,040	2,860	685
Lancashire-12	239,435	63,765	80,655	61,425	33,590	8,985
Blackburn with Darwen	40,145	10,665	13,390	10,445	5,645	590
Blackpool	30,310	8,295	9,875	7,795	4,350	260
Lancashire-14	309,890	82,725	103,920	79,665	43,585	9,835
North West	1,497,955	405,675	504,395	378,385	209,500	60,320
Great Britain	12,410,910	3,351,145	4,200,545	3,148,330	1,710,895	824,215
United Kingdom	12,877,170	3,475,365	4,354,460	3,263,900	1,783,445	838,400

Source: HM Revenue and Customs/Gov.UK

5.3 Change in the number of families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016

The High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge was introduced on 7 January 2013 and in the UK the number of families receiving Child Benefit has fallen by 6.6% (524,100 families) between August 2012 and August 2016.

For the Lancashire-14 area, the number of families receiving Child Benefit has decreased by 4.5% (8,325 families), a lower percentage than the UK average. In the Lancashire-12 area the percentage reduction of 5.1% (7,405 families) was again below the UK percentage.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Pendle is the only authority to see an increase in the number of families receiving Child Benefit between August 2012 and August 2016, rising by 2.1% (250 families).

All 13 of the remaining Lancashire-14 areas have recorded decreases in the number of families receiving Child Benefit over the period. The decreases in West Lancashire (1,295 families) and Lancaster (1,025 families) were the largest in the area. In

comparison, Blackburn with Darwen (190 families, 0.9%) and Burnley (60 families, 0.5%) saw the lowest reductions.

Ribble Valley (14.0%, 935 families), Fylde (11.7%, 971 families) and West Lancashire (9.4%, 1,295 families) were the only authorities in the Lancashire-14 areas to see percentage reductions that were greater than the UK average (6.6%) between August 2012 and August 2016.

Table 3: Change in the number of families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016

Area	Number of families receiving Child Benefit, Aug 2012	Number of families receiving Child Benefit, Aug 2013	Number of families receiving Child Benefit, Aug 2014	Number of families receiving Child Benefit, Aug 2015	Number of families receiving Child Benefit, Aug 2016	Change in number of families receiving Child Benefit, Aug 2012 to Aug 2016	% change in number of families receiving Child Benefit, Aug 2012 to Aug 2016
Burnley	11,780	11,740	11,745	11,705	11,720	-60	-0.5%
Chorley	13,365	12,930	12,870	12,825	12,790	-575	-4.3%
Fylde	8,290	7,695	7,560	7,450	7,320	-970	-11.7%
Hyndburn	11,165	10,990	10,895	10,780	10,725	-440	-3.9%
Lancaster	15,795	15,225	15,140	14,940	14,770	-1,025	-6.5%
Pendle	11,695	11,685	11,660	11,750	11,945	250	2.1%
Preston	17,700	17,320	17,295	17,310	17,390	-310	-1.8%
Ribble Valley	6,685	6,150	5,980	5,860	5,750	-935	-14.0%
Rossendale	9,045	8,715	8,640	8,545	8,500	-545	-6.0%
South Ribble	13,740	13,280	13,175	13,145	12,975	-765	-5.6%
West Lancashire	13,720	13,020	12,830	12,645	12,425	-1,295	-9.4%
Wyre	11,885	11,410	11,250	11,220	11,140	-745	-6.3%
Lancashire-12	144,860	140,165	139,050	138,180	137,455	-7,405	-5.1%
Blackburn with Darwen	21,160	21,005	20,965	20,950	20,970	-190	-0.9%
Blackpool	18,515	18,260	18,070	17,865	17,785	-730	-3.9%
Lancashire-14	184,535	179,430	178,085	176,995	176,210	-8,325	-4.5%
North West	895,845	868,775	862,015	857,415	856,100	-39,745	-4.4%
Great Britain	7,641,575	7,279,100	7,195,865	7,153,935	7,139,250	-502,325	-6.6%
United Kingdom	7,920,495	7,550,265	7,461,675	7,416,800	7,396,355	-524,140	-6.6%

Source: HM Revenue and Customs/Gov.UK

5.4 Change in the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016

Table 4 shows that in the UK the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit has fallen by 6.5% (894,465 children) between August 2012 and August 2016.

The number of children in families receiving Child Benefit in the Lancashire-14 area has fallen by 3.7% (12,000 children) between August 2012 and August 2016, a lower

percentage than the UK average. In the Lancashire-12 area the percentage reduction of 4.4% (10,995 children) was again below the UK percentage.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Pendle and Burnley were the only two authorities to see increases to the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit between August 2012 and August 2016. In Pendle, the number rose by 910 children (4.2%). In Burnley, the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit increased by 215 children (1.0%), despite the number of families receiving Child Benefit falling by 60 (0.5%) over the same period.

Table 4: Change in the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit, August 2012 to August 2016

Area	Total children in claimant families, Aug 2012	Total children in claimant families, Aug 2013	Total children in claimant families, Aug 2014	Total children in claimant families, Aug 2015	Total children in claimant families, Aug 2016	Change in number of children in claimant families, Aug 2012 to Aug 2016	% change in number of children in claimant families, Aug 2012 to Aug 2016
Burnley	20,795	20,765	20,795	20,845	21,010	215	1.0%
Chorley	22,450	21,680	21,540	21,500	21,380	-1,070	-4.8%
Fylde	13,680	12,755	12,485	12,355	12,220	-1,460	-10.7%
Hyndburn	20,060	19,865	19,730	19,625	19,590	-470	-2.3%
Lancaster	27,105	26,260	26,155	25,870	25,655	-1,450	-5.3%
Pendle	21,645	21,670	21,760	22,085	22,555	910	4.2%
Preston	31,425	30,865	30,820	30,915	31,100	-325	-1.0%
Ribble Valley	11,430	10,385	10,045	9,795	9,580	-1,850	-16.2%
Rossendale	15,505	14,940	14,855	14,785	14,730	-775	-5.0%
South Ribble	22,785	22,000	21,865	21,910	21,735	-1,050	-4.6%
West Lancashire	23,595	22,280	21,855	21,580	21,135	-2,460	-10.4%
Wyre	19,950	19,175	18,935	18,855	18,740	-1,210	-6.1%
Lancashire-12	250,430	242,650	240,840	240,120	239,435	-10,995	-4.4%
Blackburn with Darwen	40,265	40,100	39,960	40,035	40,145	-120	-0.3%
Blackpool	31,195	30,860	30,690	30,480	30,310	-885	-2.8%
Lancashire-14	321,890	313,610	311,490	310,635	309,890	-12,000	-3.7%
North West	1,550,880	1,505,780	1,497,345	1,494,870	1,497,955	-52,925	-3.4%
Great Britain	13,267,355	12,618,675	12,482,260	12,420,785	12,410,910	-856,445	-6.5%
United Kingdom	13,771,635	13,107,460	12,962,175	12,895,530	12,877,170	-894,465	-6.5%

Source: HM Revenue and Customs/Gov.UK

The remaining 10 authorities in the Lancashire-14 area recorded decreases in the number children in families receiving Child Benefit since August 2012. West Lancashire (2,460 children, 10.4%), Ribble Valley (1,850 children, 16.2%) and Fylde (1,460 children, 10.7%) saw the largest numeric and percentage reductions in the Lancashire-14 area between August 2012 and August 2016. These were also the only authorities in the area to record percentage reductions that were greater than the UK average (6.5%). In contrast, Preston (325 children, 1.0%) and Blackburn with

Darwen (120 children, 0.3%) saw the lowest decreases in the number of children in families receiving Child Benefit over the period.