

Perhaps of even more concern, however, is the number of families who are having to cut back on food for their children. More than one in twenty households with one child and one in ten households with two children are having to cut back on food for children. Given the significant body of evidence that demonstrates the impact of poor nutrition in childhood on a child's long-term health, educational attainment and wellbeing it is likely that the impact of the present economic crisis on children will be felt for years to come.

10.4 There is support for action

There is broad public support for taking action to support struggling households. This should provide Welsh Government with the confidence to accelerate some of its plans to support low income families over the coming years including the expansion of Free School Meals and Council Tax reform. Given the depth of the crisis facing many families this winter, we believe that there is an especially strong case to begin implementing the proposals to expand Free School Meals to all primary school children as soon as practically possible, starting by expanding existing eligibility criteria to ensure that those who are most in need benefit first.