Cllr Carl Cashman

Leader of the Opposition and the Liberal Democrat Group

Steve Rotheram,
Mayor of the Liverpool City Region,

Via Email

22nd July 2024

Dear Steve,

There are 36,840 children in Liverpool living in poverty - 105,845 across the whole of the Liverpool City Region.

I know that you will also find these figures deeply upsetting - as politicians we should all work together to end child poverty, and now is the time to take a first step forward.

With a change in government, there can be a change in policy - we can end the Conservative's two-child benefit cap. A cruel and unfair policy that sees families penalised and children stuck in a poverty trap unable to escape.

Scrapping the cap would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight and drastically reduce the level of poverty experienced by a further 850,000 children.

Across the City Region, 13% of children are affected by the cap - in Liverpool it's 15%. Lifting the cap would make a huge difference to 7,820 households in Liverpool alone, 22,520 households across the whole of the city region.

That's why I took the decision to table a motion at the next meeting of Liverpool City Council calling on the Government to scrap the two-child benefit cap. I truly hope that your colleagues in the Labour Party will support this motion, for the sake of the children in our city.

I am always blown away by the hard work and dedication of volunteers across Liverpool who give their time and money to run food banks and other community hubs that support people living in poverty. Having spoken to so many of them, they tell me what a huge difference the extra up to £3,235 per child each year would mean to them.

Steve, I hope you will join myself, Liberal Democrat MPs, Liverpool Riverside's Kim Johnson MP and other politicians in pressuring the Labour Government to scrapping the cap immediately. This is a necessary step in healing the damage caused by the Conservative Government.

Your Sincerely,

Carl Cashman

Leader of the Opposition and Liverpool Liberal Democrats