

# Comprehensive spending review 2007

## What it needs to deliver on child poverty

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Francis McGlone with Paul Dornan

CPAG policy briefing: December 2006

CPAG promotes action for the relief, directly or indirectly, of poverty among children and families with children. We work to ensure that those on low incomes get their full entitlements to welfare benefits. In our campaigning and information work we seek to improve benefits and policies for low-income families in order to eradicate the injustice of poverty. If you are not already supporting us, please consider making a donation, or ask for details of our membership schemes and publications.

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# Executive summary

In July 2005, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced that the Government intended to launch a comprehensive spending review reporting in 2007. The 2007 spending review will cover government departmental expenditure allocations for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. The spending review, therefore, covers the spending period to 2010 and is key to the Government's target of halving child poverty by 2010 and eliminating it by 2020. To ensure that the Government meets its child poverty aims, CPAG recommends that the 2007 comprehensive spending review should do the following.

- ◆ Provide most for those children at greatest risk of poverty.
- ◆ Work towards better jobs, not just more jobs.
- ◆ Ensure the safety net protects families against poverty.
- ◆ Maximise the contribution of child benefit within family support.
- ◆ Introduce free at the point of delivery good-quality childcare.
- ◆ Make the reduction of child poverty central to the new child support policies.
- ◆ Make education truly free at the point of delivery.
- ◆ Provide benefit entitlement to all UK residents equally, irrespective of immigration status.
- ◆ Reduce the disproportionate burden of taxation on poorer families.
- ◆ Improve the quality of delivery and gear it to the needs of the poorest families.