

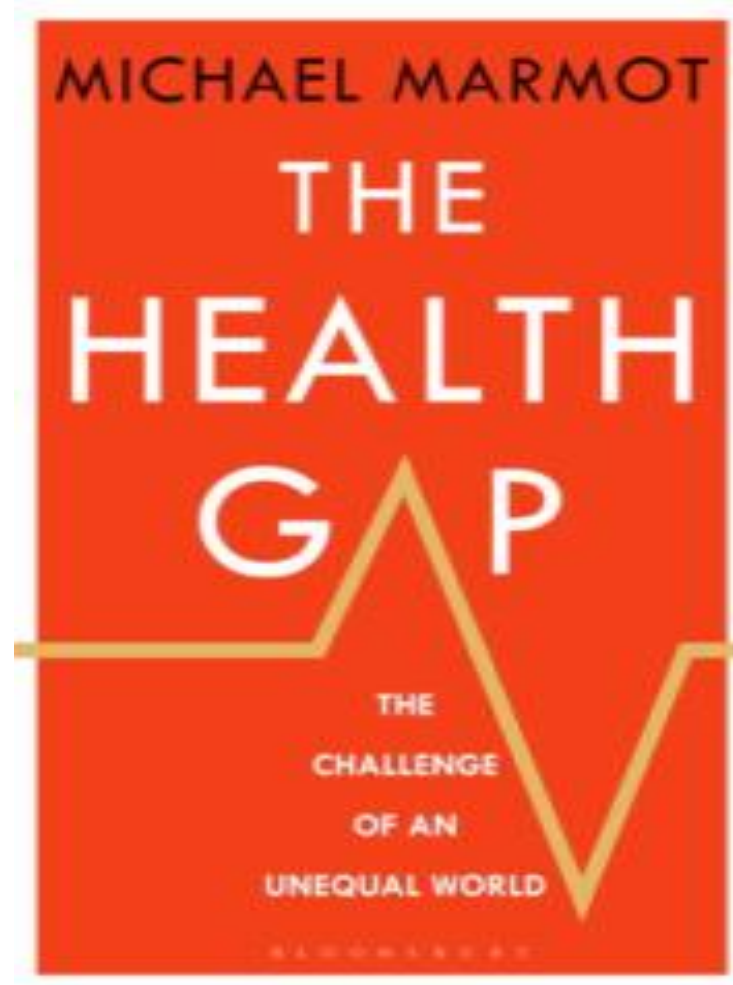
Social Justice and Health Equity

Professor Michael Marmot

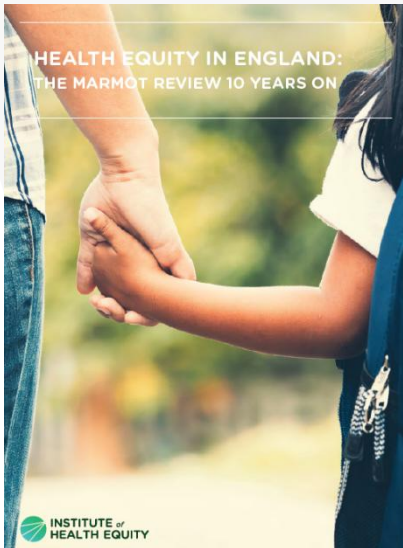
@MichaelMarmot

<http://www.instituteoftheequity.org/>

Why treat people and send them back to the conditions that made them sick?



Marmot Principles

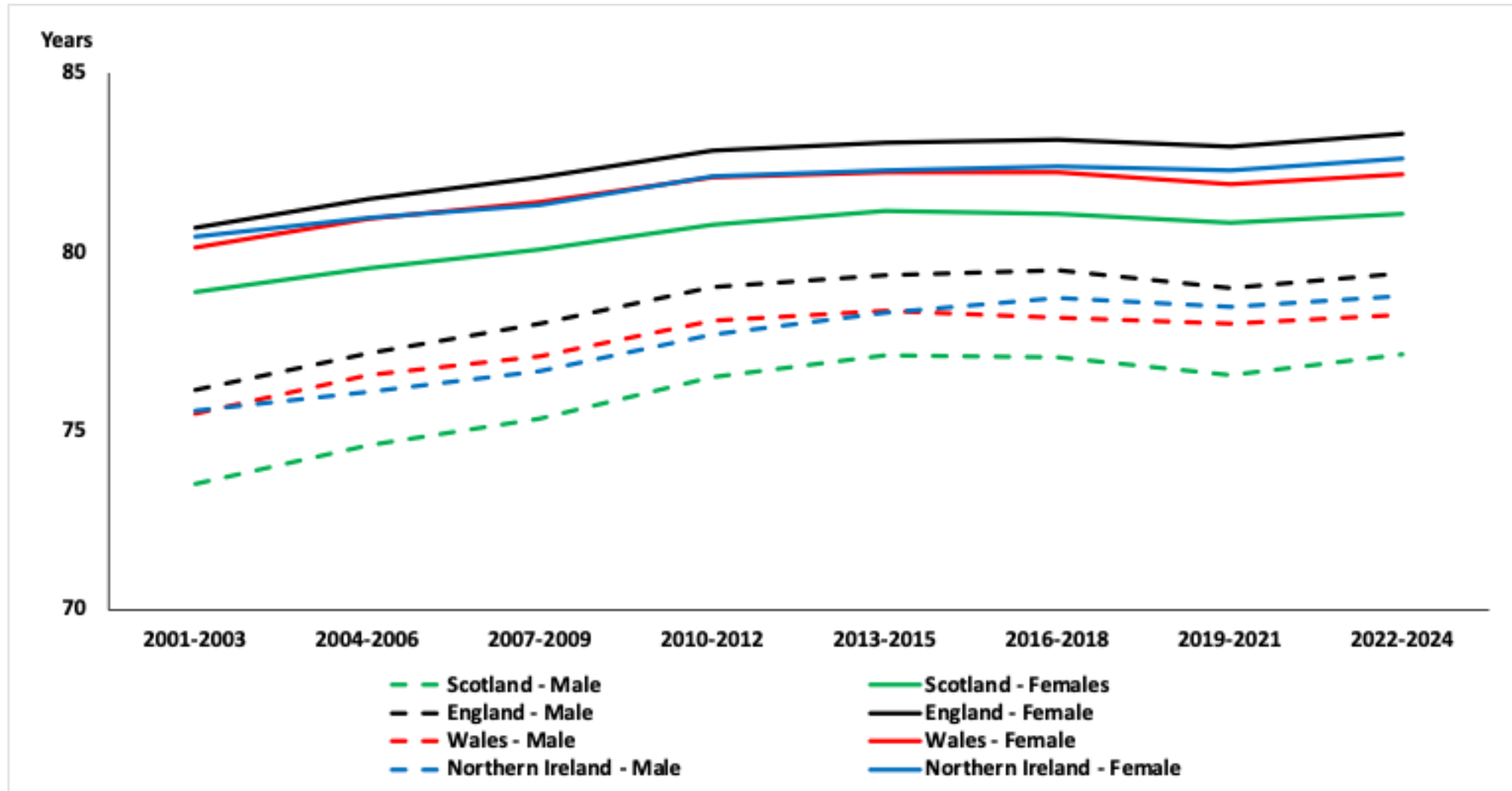


1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment and good work for all
4. Ensure healthy standard of living for all
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
7. Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes
8. Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

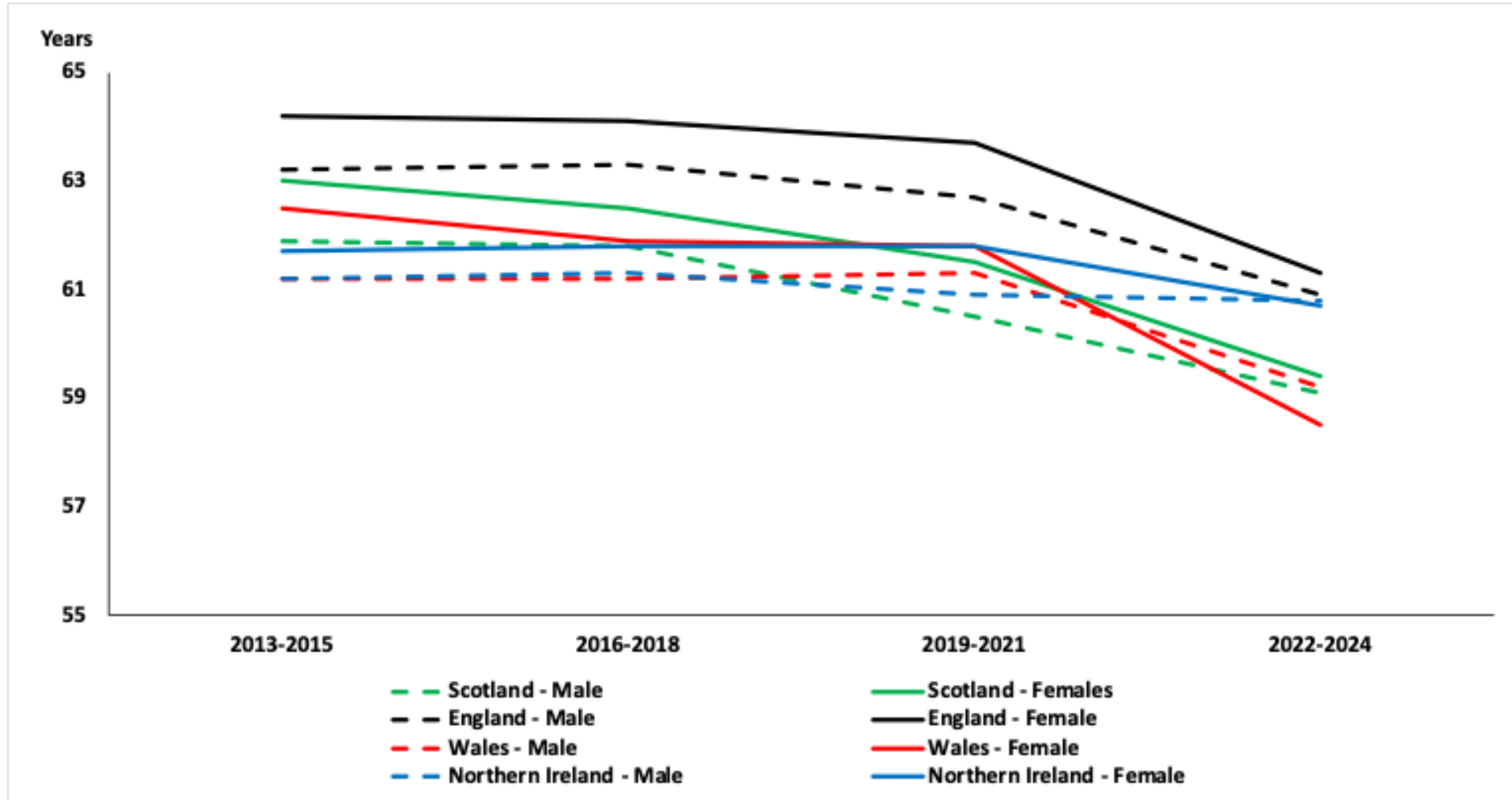


National context

Life Expectancy, by Sex, UK Nations, 2001-2003 to 2022-2024

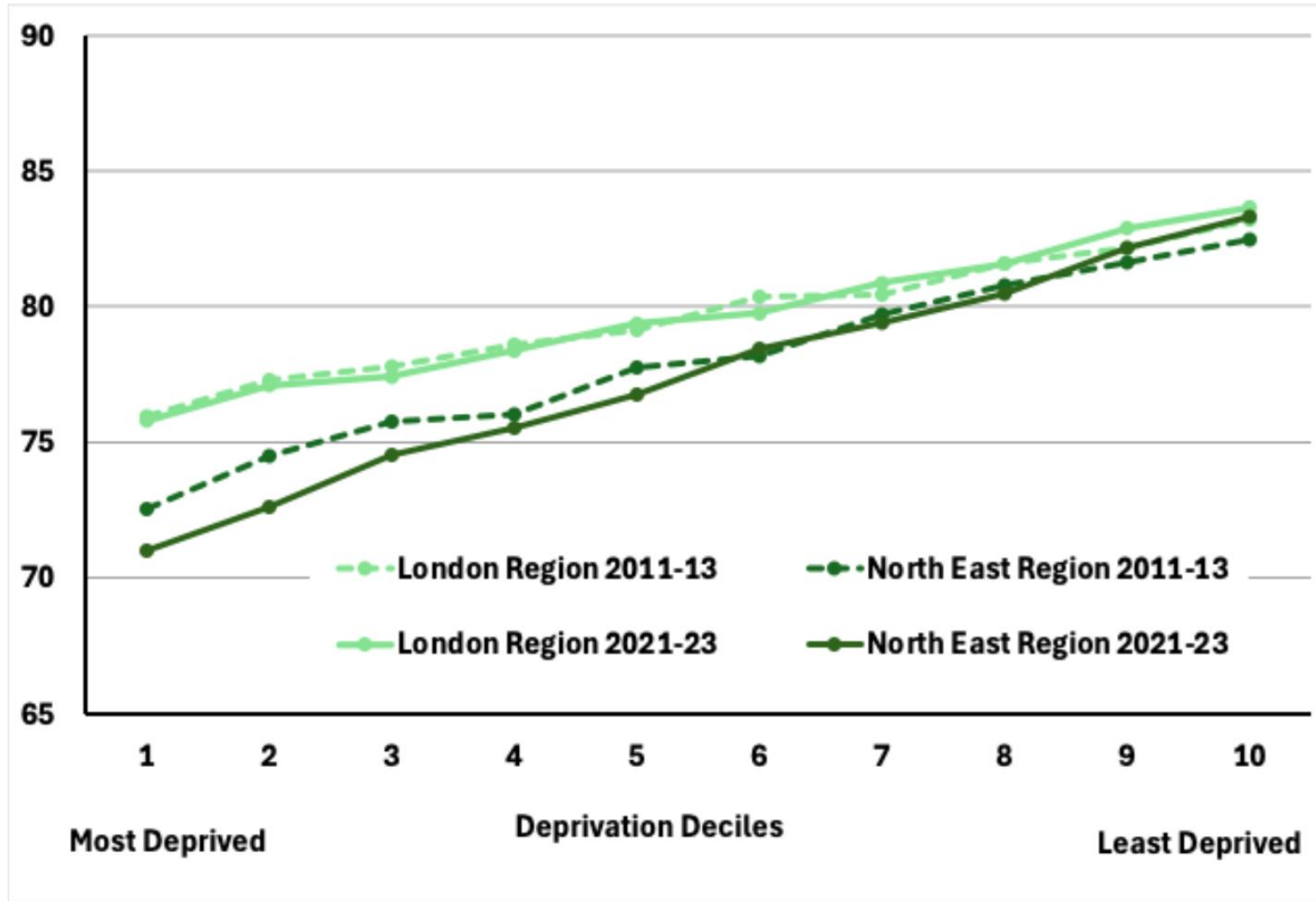


Healthy life expectancy by sex, UK Nations, 2002-2004 – 2022-2024



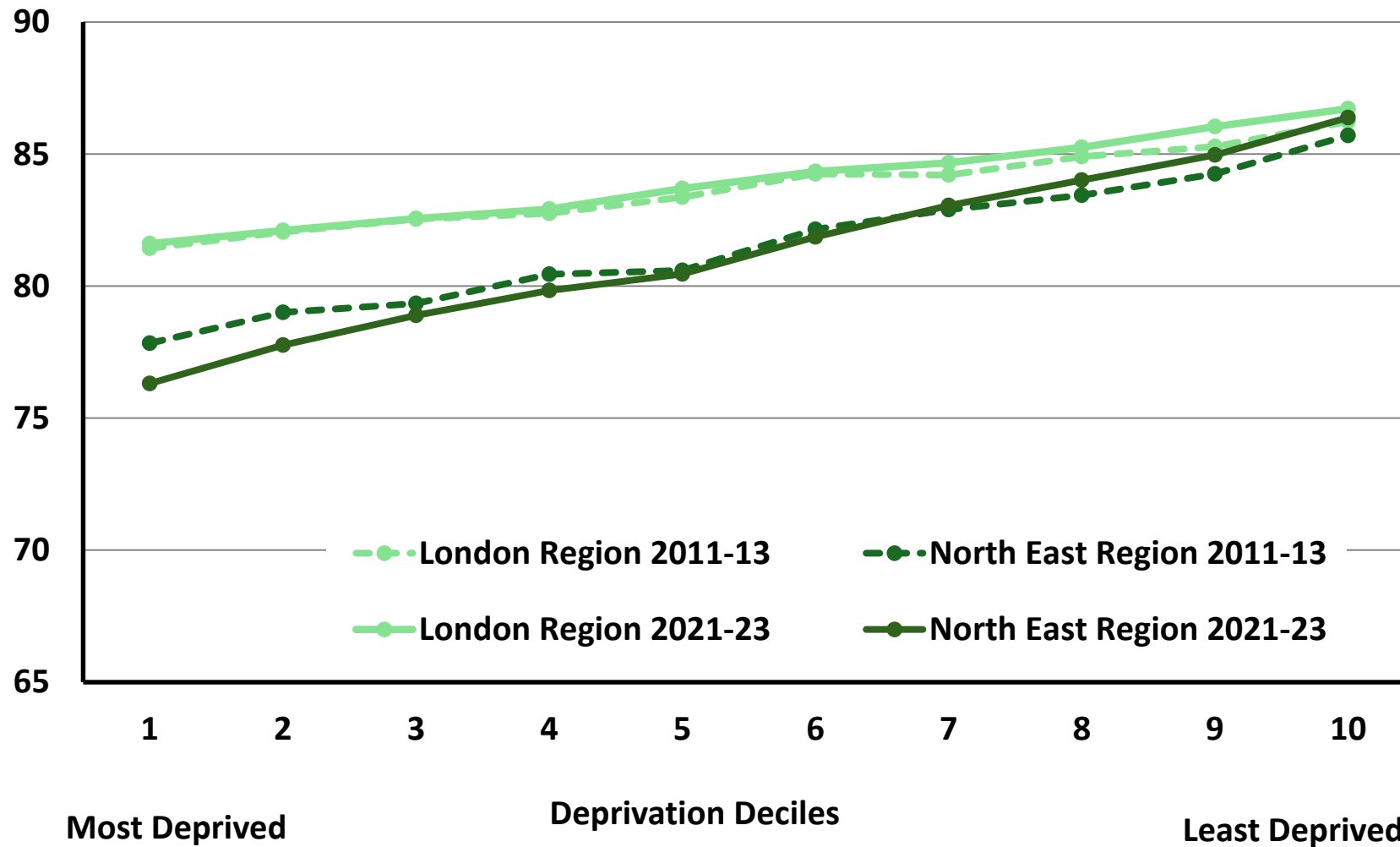
Life expectancy at birth by sex and deprivation deciles in London and the North East regions

Men



Life expectancy at birth by sex and deprivation deciles in London and the North East regions

Women



The UK's healthy life expectancy ranked 20th out of 21 peer countries in 2021 down from 14th a decade before

Ranking of healthy life expectancy at birth for both sexes in the UK vs 20 high-income peer countries, 2011–21

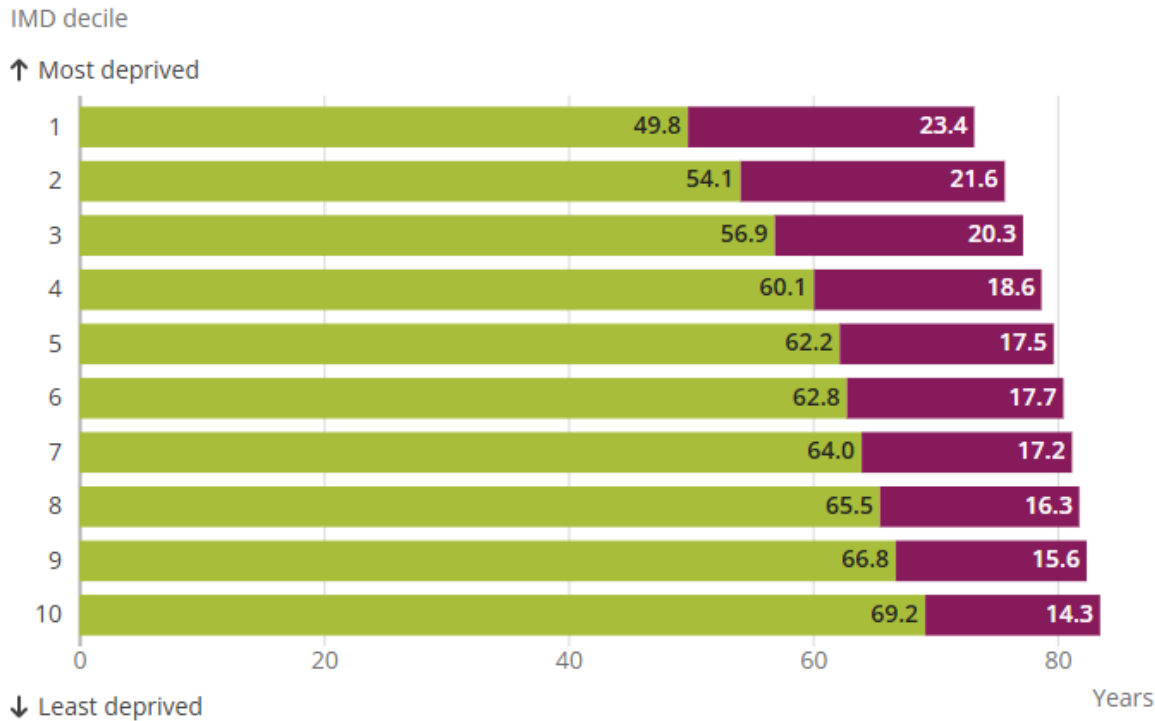


In 2022 to 2024, in the most deprived areas of England, males and females were expected to spend only 49.8 and 48.2 years, respectively, in “good” health

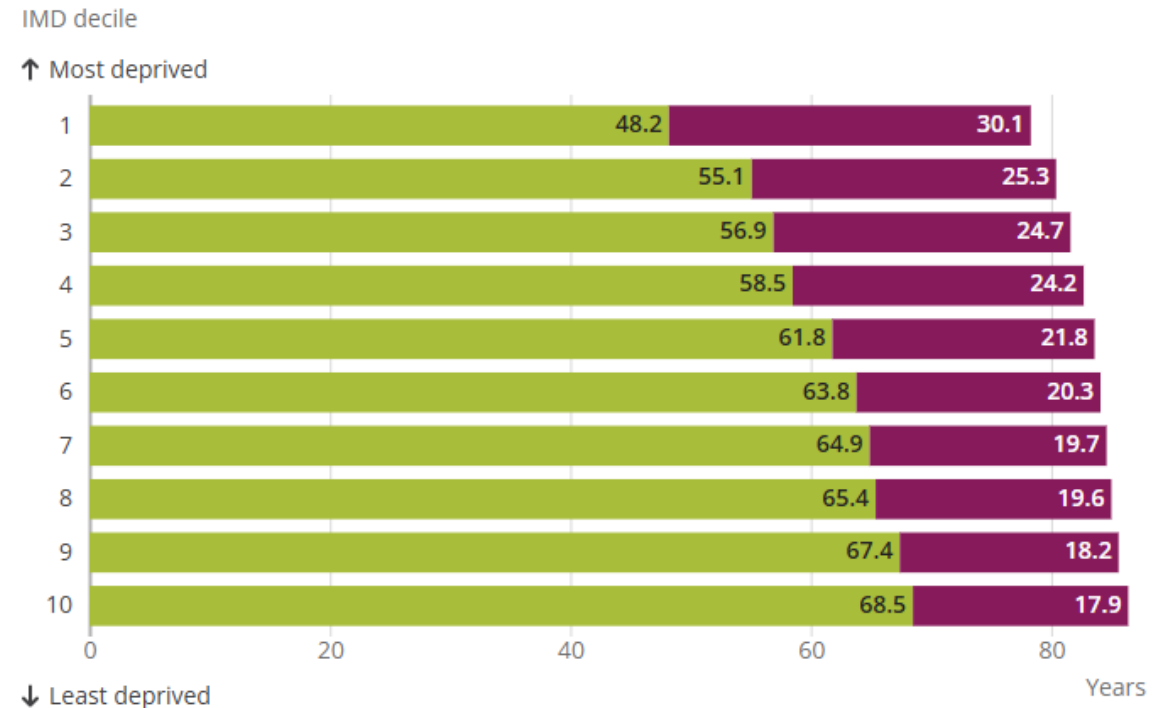
Years expected to be spent in states of "good" health and "poorer" health by sex and deprivation decile, England, 2022 to 2024

● Years in "good" health ● Years in "poorer" health

Males



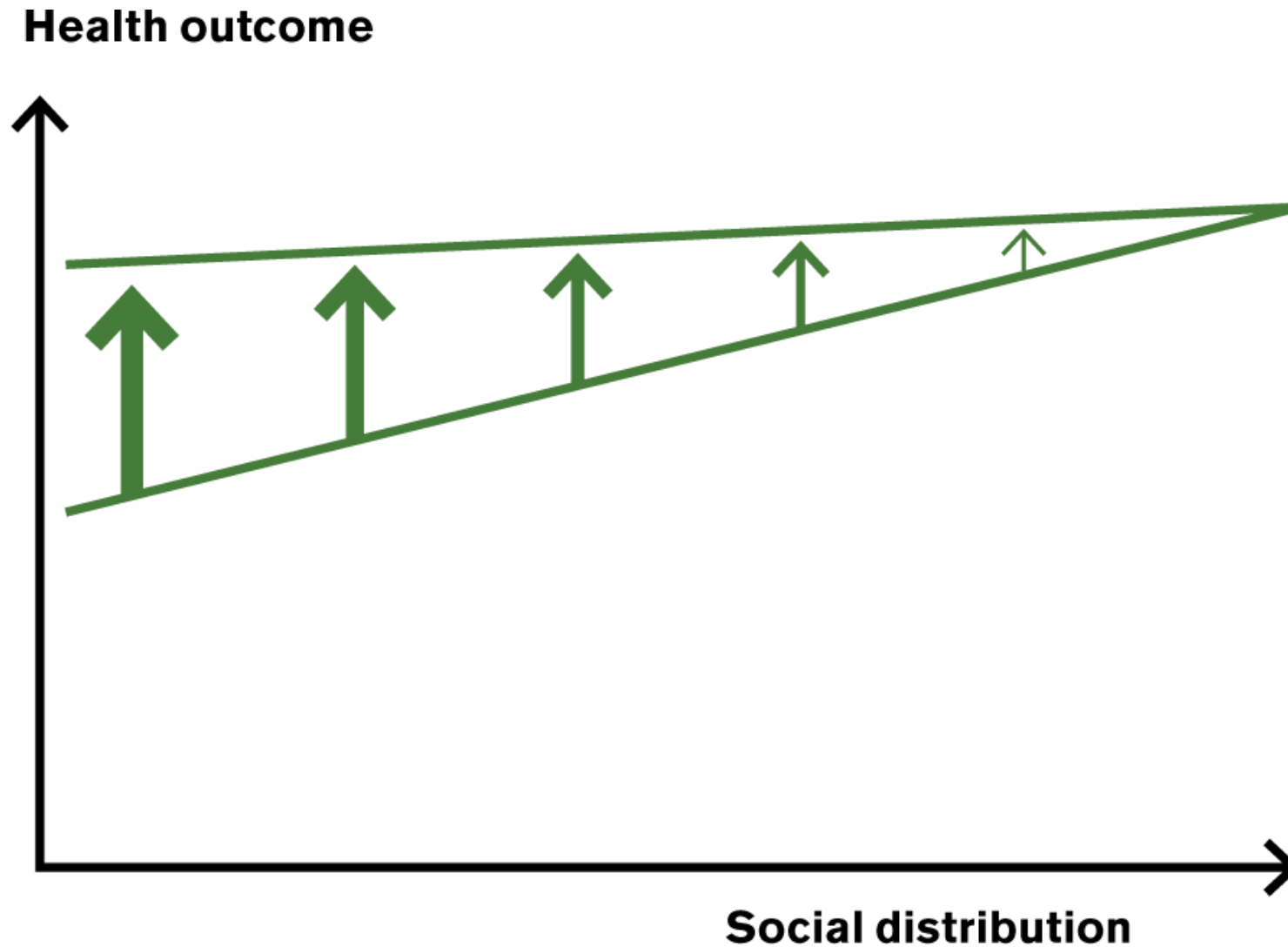
Females



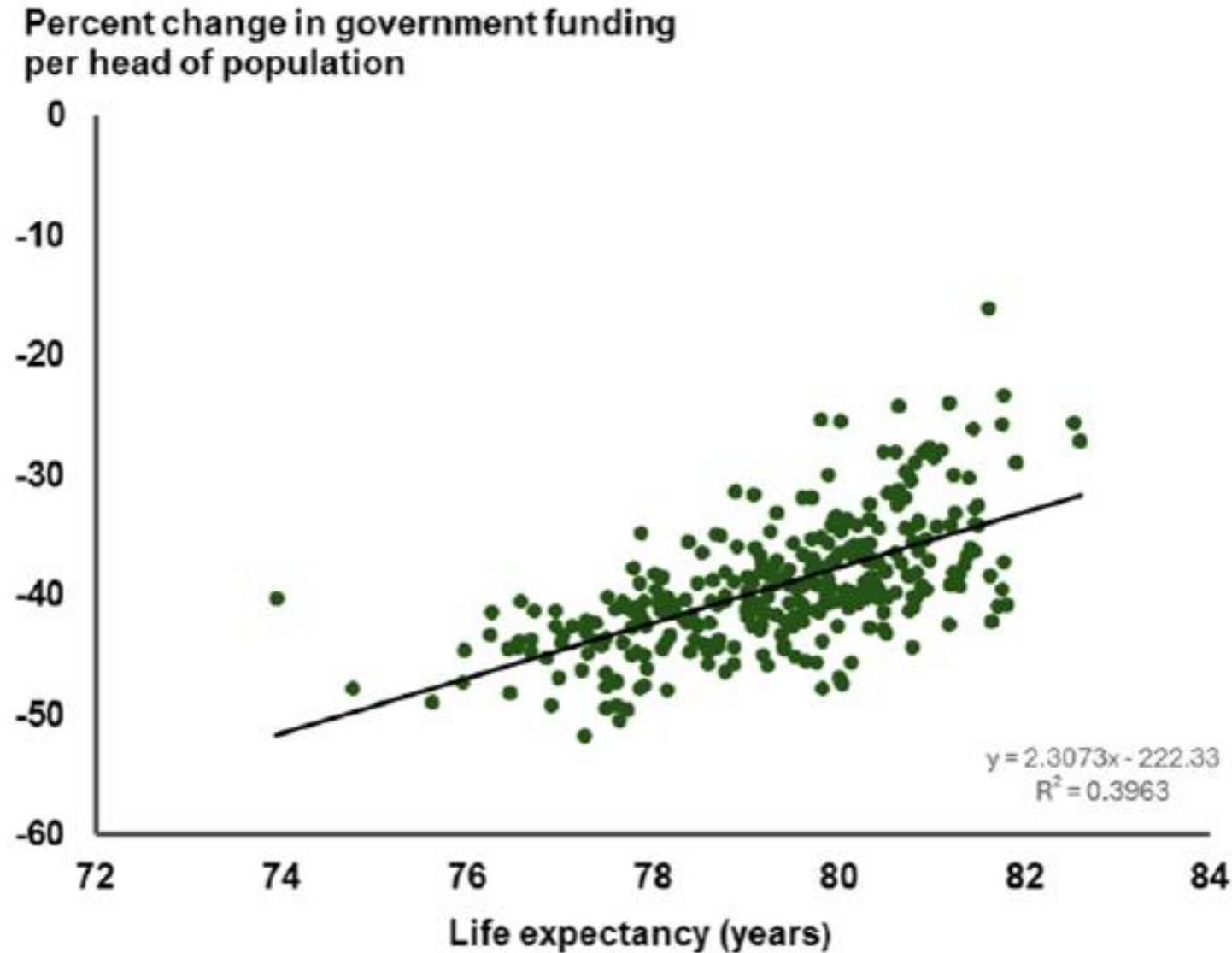
Proportionate Universalism

The background features a light blue gradient on the right side. On the left, there are several overlapping white and light green geometric shapes, including a large circle and several diagonal bands that create a sense of depth and movement.

Levelling-up the social gradient in health

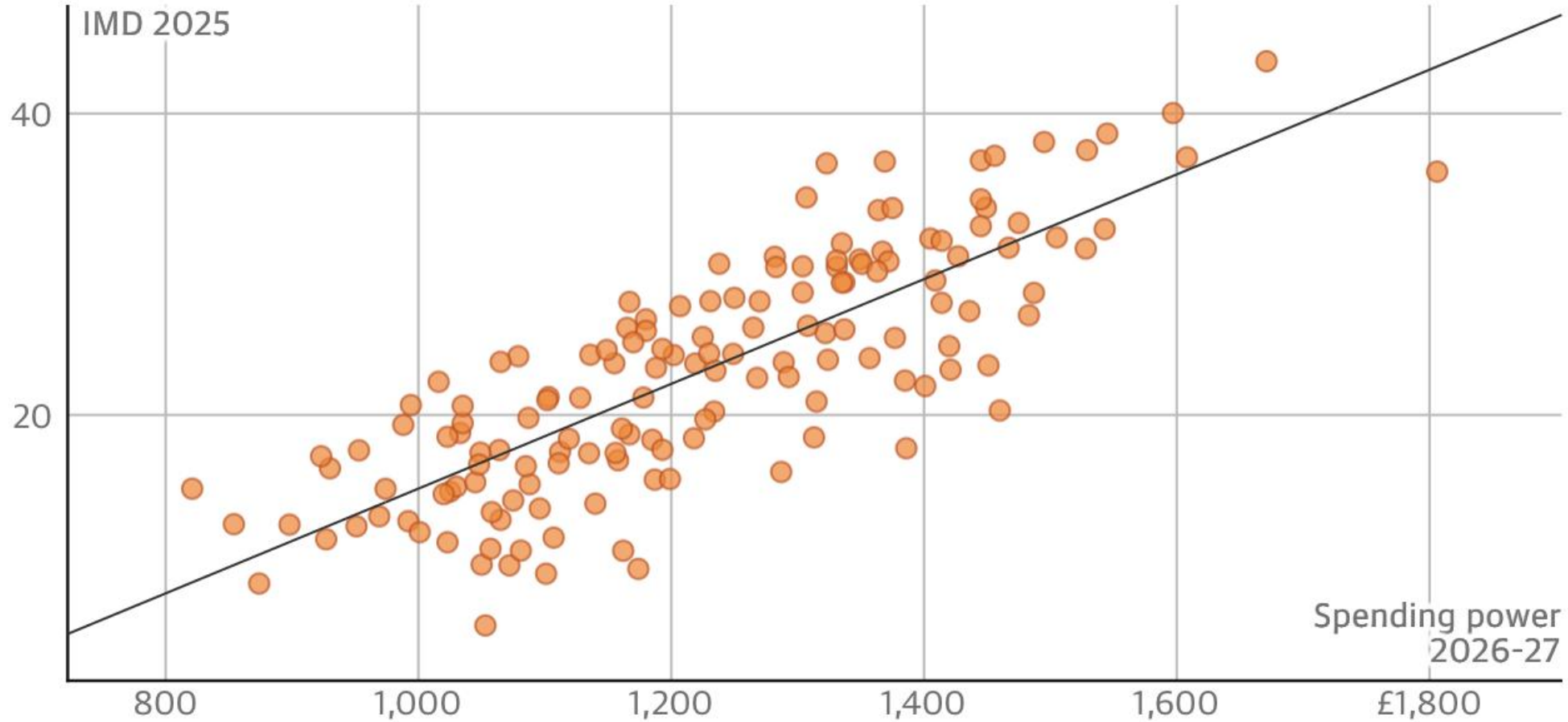


Change in government funding per head of population by 2019/20 by male life expectancy in 2010-12, local authorities in England



New local authority funding is closely tied to deprivation levels

Core spending power per capita versus index of multiple deprivation (IMD) score, by upper tier local authority. Higher score = more deprived



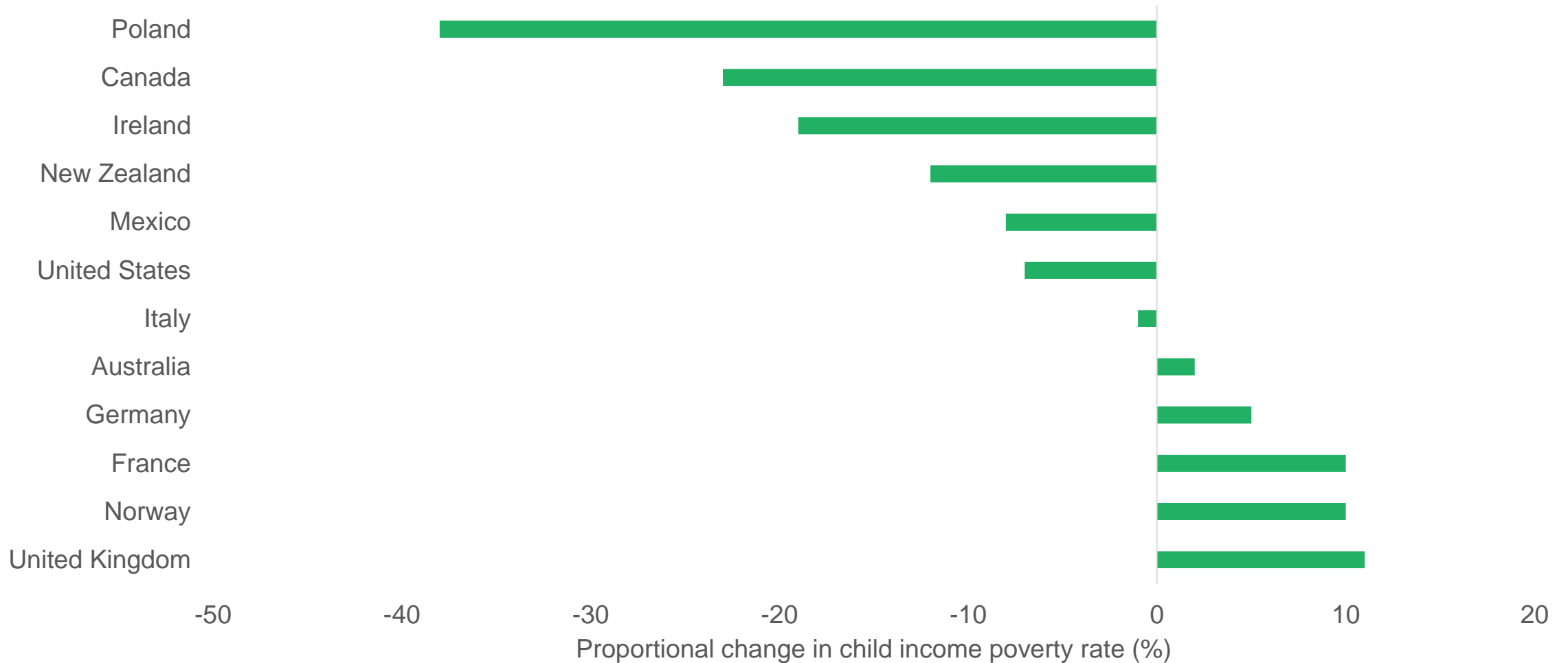
Guardian graphic. Source: MHCLG. Notes: 2025 IMD score, upper tier local authorities refers to county councils and unitary authorities





**Give every child
the best start in life**

Change in child income poverty rates, 2012-2014 to 2019-2021

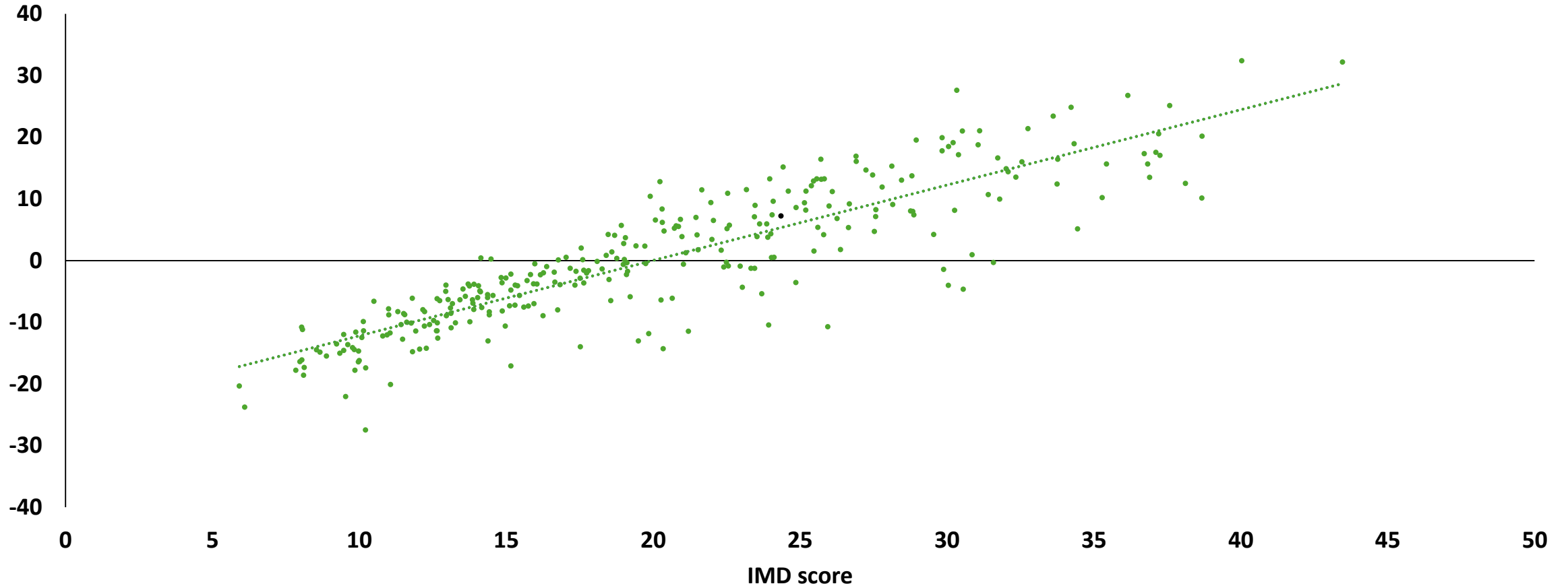


Source: UNICEF Innocenti

Risk of NEET score and deprivation (IMD 2025), English local authorities, 2024

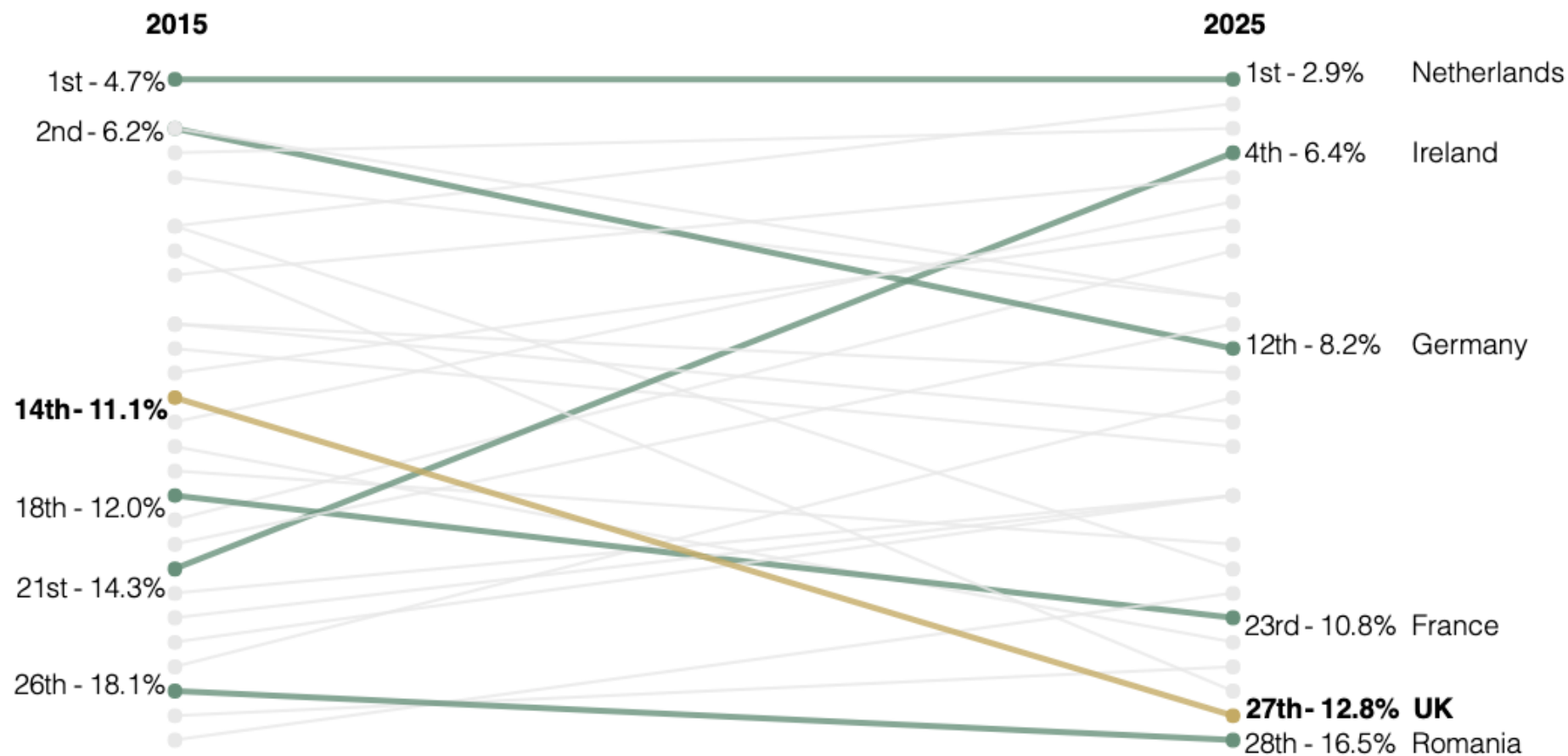
Risk of NEET score

$$y = 1.2216x - 24.401$$
$$R^2 = 0.7703$$



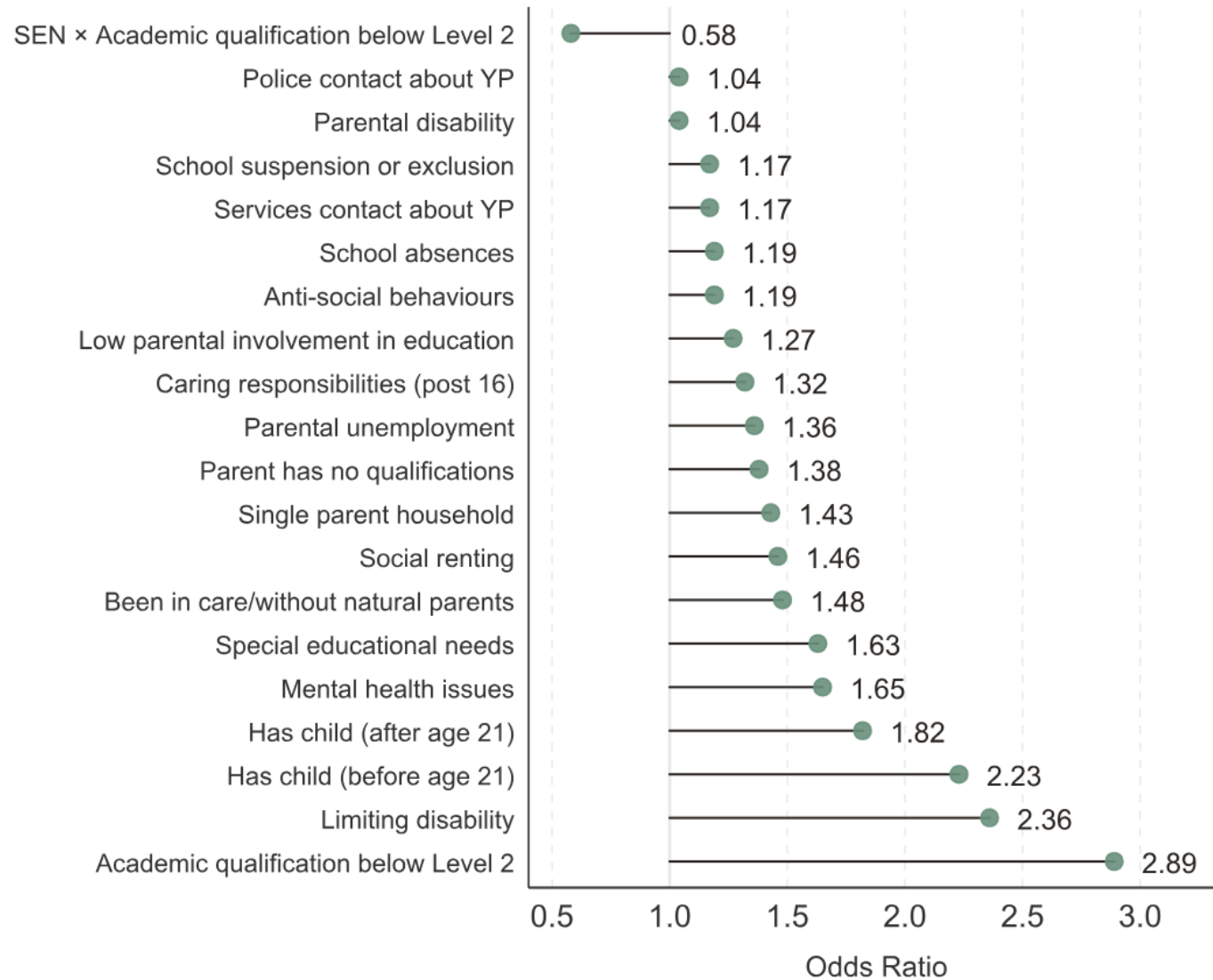
Source: Youth Futures Foundation


Figure 2: UK NEET rate performance for 16–24-year-olds relative to the European Union, 15–24-year-olds, 2015 – 2025



European Commission, Eurostat, Labour Force Survey - Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET), UK Labour Force Survey.

Figure 3: Relationship between risk factors and the likelihood of becoming NEET

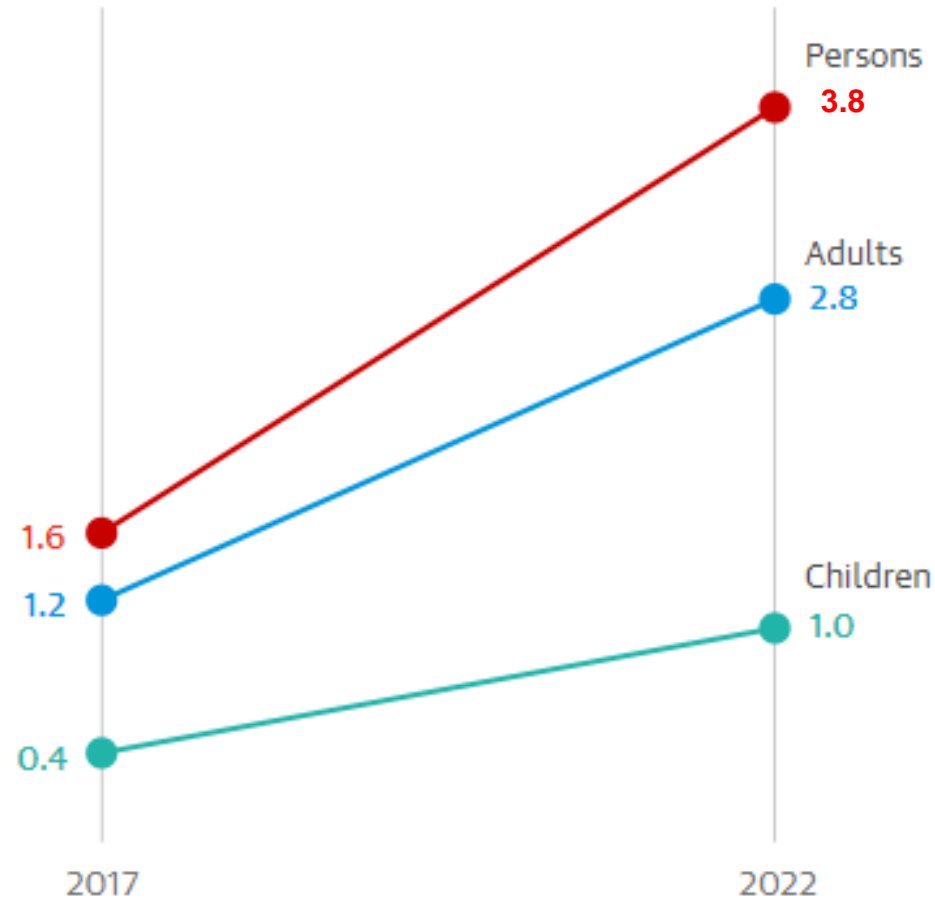




**Ensure a healthy
standard of living**

The number of people experiencing destitution in the UK increased by 148% from 2017 to 2022

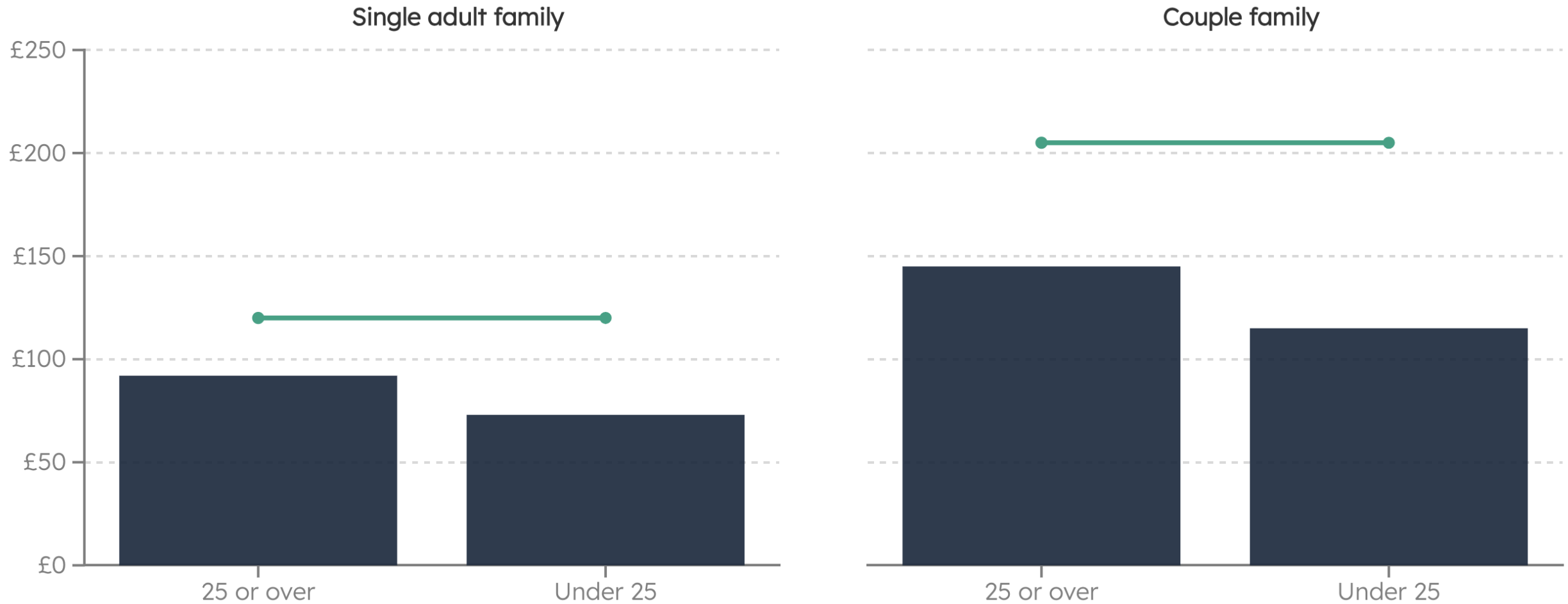
People living in destitution in the UK, millions



Guardian graphic. Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Note: people are considered destitute if they have not been able to meet their barest physical needs to stay warm, dry, clean and fed

Chart 1: Universal Credit's standard allowance compared to our indicative Essentials Guarantee level (£ per week in 2025/26)

■ Cost of basic essentials ■ Universal Credit standard allowance





Local action

COVENTRY – A MARMOT CITY
An evaluation of a city-wide approach to reducing health inequalities



INSTITUTE of HEALTH EQUITY

**ALL TOGETHER FAIRER:
HEALTH EQUITY AND THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE**

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**REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN LUTON:
A MARMOT TOWN**

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**FAIRER, HEALTHIER LEEDS:
REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

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**BUILD BACK FAIRER IN GREATER MANCHESTER:
HEALTH EQUITY AND DIGNIFIED LIVES**

**A HOPEFUL FUTURE:
EQUITY AND THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN LANCASHIRE AND CUMBRIA**

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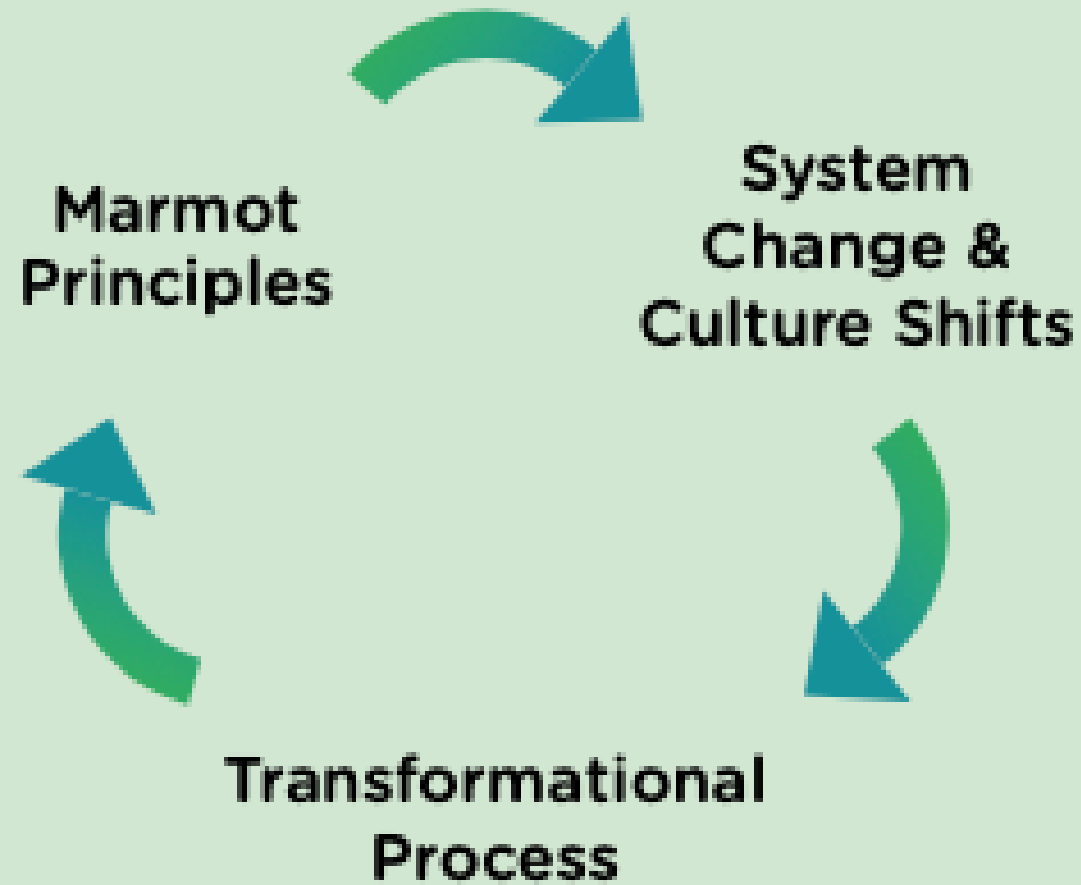
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**A FAIRER AND HEALTHIER WALTHAM FOREST:
EQUITY AND THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS IN WALTHAM FOREST**

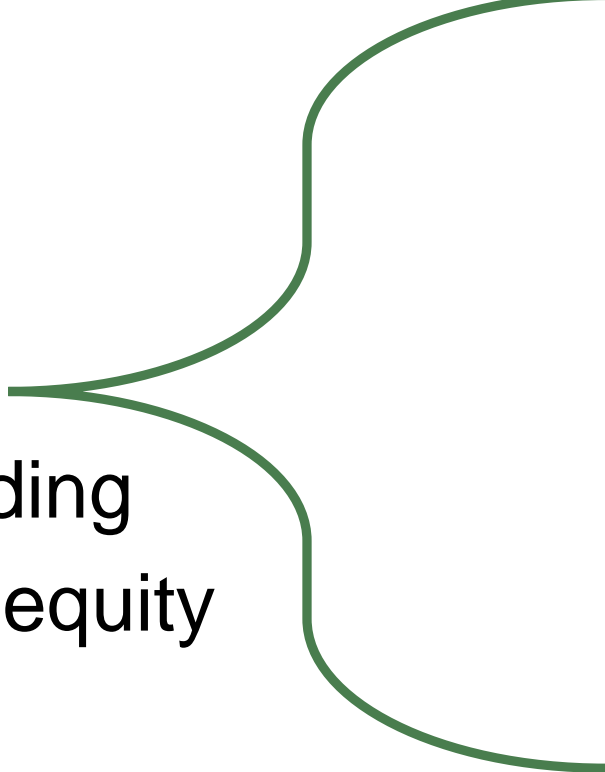
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**BUILDING A FAIRER GWENT:
IMPROVING HEALTH EQUITY AND THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS**

Marmot approach - Impacts on places



System Change and Culture Shifts and the health equity system

- Governance
 - Leadership
 - Advocacy
 - Partnerships on SDH
 - Training/capacity building
 - Prioritisation - health equity in all policies
 - Community involvement
- 
- Local government
 - Public services
 - Voluntary, Community Social Enterprise Sector
 - Healthcare
 - Education
 - Private sector
 - Community

Partnerships



Children and Young People's Health Equity Collaborative

A collage of four images: top-left shows two men in blue work clothes working with a large blue wheel; top-right shows a person in a high-visibility vest working on a structure; bottom-left shows a woman with a bicycle; bottom-right shows a woman in a green jacket working with equipment. Logos for 'INSTITUTE of HEALTH EQUITY' and 'Legal & General' are at the top.

**THE BUSINESS OF HEALTH EQUITY:
THE MARMOT REVIEW FOR
INDUSTRY**

A photograph of a woman with red hair, wearing a blue shirt, looking thoughtful with her hand on her forehead.

TAVISTOCK RELATIONSHIPS
Improving Lives for Generations

Working well:
Delivering better health outcomes for hidden workers

Community and Voluntary Sector

Business – economic sector

Healthcare and other public services

Places – international, national and local

Public Health,
Education,
Libraries & Adult
Learning,
Procurement,
Economy and Jobs



Coventry Marmot Steering Group Partnership working



Coventry Job Shop: Helping people into employment

COVENTRY: A MARMOT CITY

Some key achievements

COVENTRY JOB SHOP

Operating since 2012, served 40,000 residents
Youth unemployment reduced from 27% to 12.3%
(above national average to below)
Average weekly earnings increased from £45 less than
national average to £17 less
There are 16.5% more residents in work since 2014



AMBITION COVENTRY



Employment support programme
engaged with 1,700 young
people at risk of not being in
employment, education or
training





Champs
Public Health
Collaborative



All Together Fairer

The Marmot Programme for Cheshire and Merseyside

Working together to improve health and wellbeing in Cheshire and Merseyside

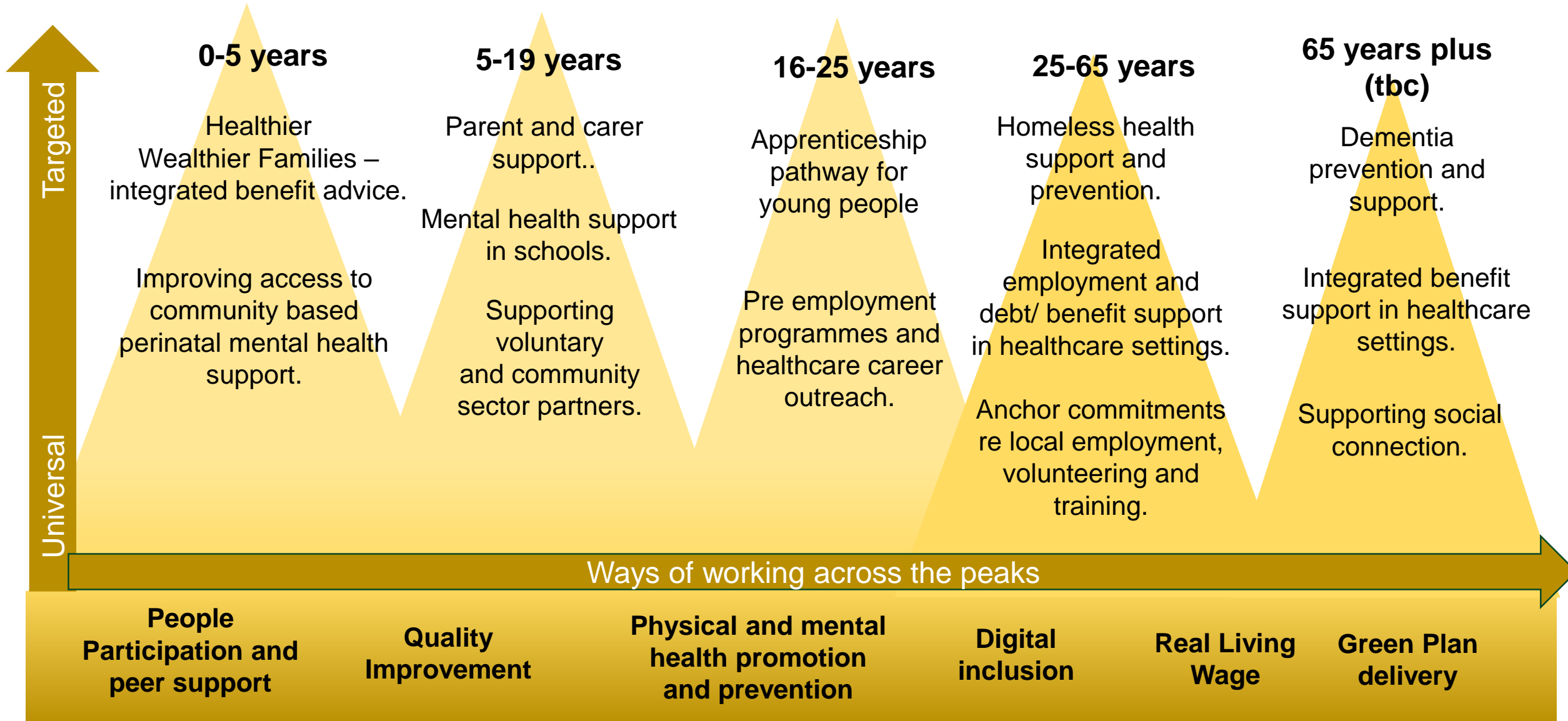
October 2023

Key partners: Health care

- The East London Foundation Trust
- Three Integrated Care Systems
- Workforce
- The NHS and accountability for health inequalities



ELFT's Marmot Mountain's across the life course– September 2025 (Draft)



Integral to all the above is good working relationships with community and place-based partners.

3 Integrated Care Systems and Barnardo's

Birmingham and Solihull ICS – social value procurement

Cheshire and Merseyside ICS – early years communication skills

South Yorkshire ICS – Safe spaces for 10-13 year olds

Social prescribing – addressing people’s needs in a holistic way

GPs and other health care professionals can refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services, supported by a link worker or connector



The Health Equity Network

Aims:

Collaboration and knowledge sharing on health equity and the social determinants of health

Drive national and global action through partnerships, conferences, webinars, and thematic working groups

Build a social movement for health equity, fostering dialogue across public, private, and voluntary sectors

Over 7000 members (October 2025)



To be truly radical is
to make hope
possible rather than
despair convincing

Raymond Williams
Welsh novelist & critic, 1921-88