

Poverty Awareness Programme

Budgeting for Poverty Webtour

The government says that the annual net income for a family of four living on the poverty line is £15,912.

But how far does £15,912 go in Northern Ireland today?

How do you budget? What do you leave out?

You make the hard choices.

Food

A family of household with two adults and two children spends on average £3,380 on food and non-alcoholic drinks each year.

£15,912

- 3,380

£12,532

Source: Expenditure and Food Survey 2004-05 (Table A 25) UK Statistic

Housing

In Northern Ireland, a family of four will spend on average £3,924 housing costs.

£ 12,532

- 3,924

£ 8,608

(Source: Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey 2004)

Utilities

To keep a family of four warm and secure, the average expense for utilities runs at £1,672 a year.

£ 8,608

- 1,672

£ 6,936

Source: www.oftec.co.uk/customers/northern_ireland_costs.htm
Average communications cost per annum - Average Expenditure and Food Survey 2004-05 (Table A 25) UK Statistic.
Average NI electricity costs per annum – 2004/5 estimating using NIE data from GCC 2006

T ransport

A family will spend £4,890 on average each year to own and maintain a used car, and fill it the petrol or diesel needed to go to work, school journeys, wherever.

£ 6,936

- 4,890

£ 2,046

Source: Expenditure and Food Survey 2004-05 (Table A25) UK Statistic - combined with NI insurance costs averaged from 5 independent quotes and Car Tax DVLNI

C lothing & Footwear

A family of four pays on average £1,966 a year for clothing and footwear.

£2,046

- 1,966

£ 80

Source: Expenditure and Food Survey 2004-05 (Table A 25) UK Statistic

H ousehold Goods & Services

A family with two adults and two children spend on average £2,075 on household goods and services each year.

£ 80

- 2,075

£-1,995

Expenditure and Food Survey 2004-05 (Table A 25) UK Statistic

A two adult, two child family on the poverty line cannot afford to spend at the average UK family rate for essentials such as housing, transport, food, clothing and utilities or they would now be **£-1,995** in debt.

So what would you cut back on?

Food? Heating? Children's clothes? Fixing household items?
Transport? Childcare costs?

What do you leave out?

Toiletries, School Trips, Holidays, Birthdays, House and Life
Insurance, Cleaning Supplies, Entertainment, Family days out, TV
License, School bus tickets, lunches.

What if....

You have four children?

You have two children under school age?

You can't get registered childcare?

Your washing machine breaks down?

You have a disabled child or have to look after an older relative?

You are substantially below the poverty line?

These are the decisions that people are forced to make everyday when living below or on the poverty line and the cost of living just keeps rising.