

# A 700,000 increase in the number of children and older people in poverty is totally unacceptable – Abrahams

**Debbie Abrahams MP,**  
**Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary,**  
commenting on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation state of the nation report,  
said:

"A 700,000 increase  
in the number of children and older people in poverty is totally  
unacceptable.

"The last seven  
years of flat-lining wages and austerity cuts, now combined with sharply  
rising  
costs of household essentials is a truly terrifying prospect for millions  
trying to make ends meet. The cuts to Universal Credit, which were not  
addressed in the recent Budget and mean that 'work does not always pay', will  
push even more children and working age adults into poverty.

"Even the  
Government's own social mobility commission has resigned over their failure  
to  
act.

"The Prime Minister should stand  
aside, and let Labour deliver a £10 an hour minimum wage, end zero hour  
contracts, transform our social security system and build the genuinely  
affordable homes Britain needs."