

Beyond the Crisis

Simeon Mitchell & Paul Morrison

The Joint Public Issues Team helps our Churches to work together for peace and justice through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues.

Poverty

A society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre



Politics

A politics characterised by listening, kindness and truthfulness



Refugees

A society that welcomes the stranger



SIX HOPES

Peace

A world which actively works for peace



Environment

A planet where the environment is renewed



Economy

A just economy that enables the flourishing of all life



Beyond the Crisis

1. Where are we now?
2. Where has this crisis come from?
3. What do the Churches have to offer into this situation?

The background features several large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of pink, blue, green, and orange. A large, solid white rectangle is centered on the page, serving as a backdrop for the text.

Where are we now?

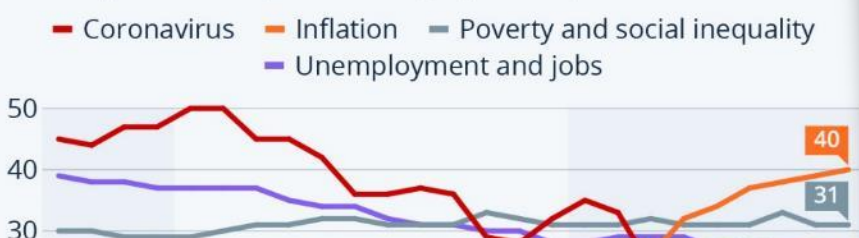
A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hand holding a wooden spoon and stirring a bowl of light-colored soup. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "When you're in debt" is overlaid in the center of the image.

When you're in debt



Inflation Becomes the Leading Global Concern in 2022

Share of respondents rating the following issues as top concerns per month (in percent)



The Cost of Living Crisis

A briefing from the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church



First published 24 May 2022, updated 7 June 2022

"Our frontline staff have told us that child poverty levels are at the worst they can remember."¹ Action for Children

The headline rate of inflation has reached 9% for the first time in 40 years. Increasing prices will have huge impacts across our society, but the sharpest and most immediate effects are being felt by the least well-off families.

This briefing aims to increase understanding of the cost of living crisis, its origins and its effects. It draws on evidence of current and potential impacts of these rapidly rising prices, as well as from interviews, focus groups and conversations that the Joint Public Issues Team and the Methodist 'Church at the Margins' programme have had with church and community leaders and people who are battling poverty day to day.

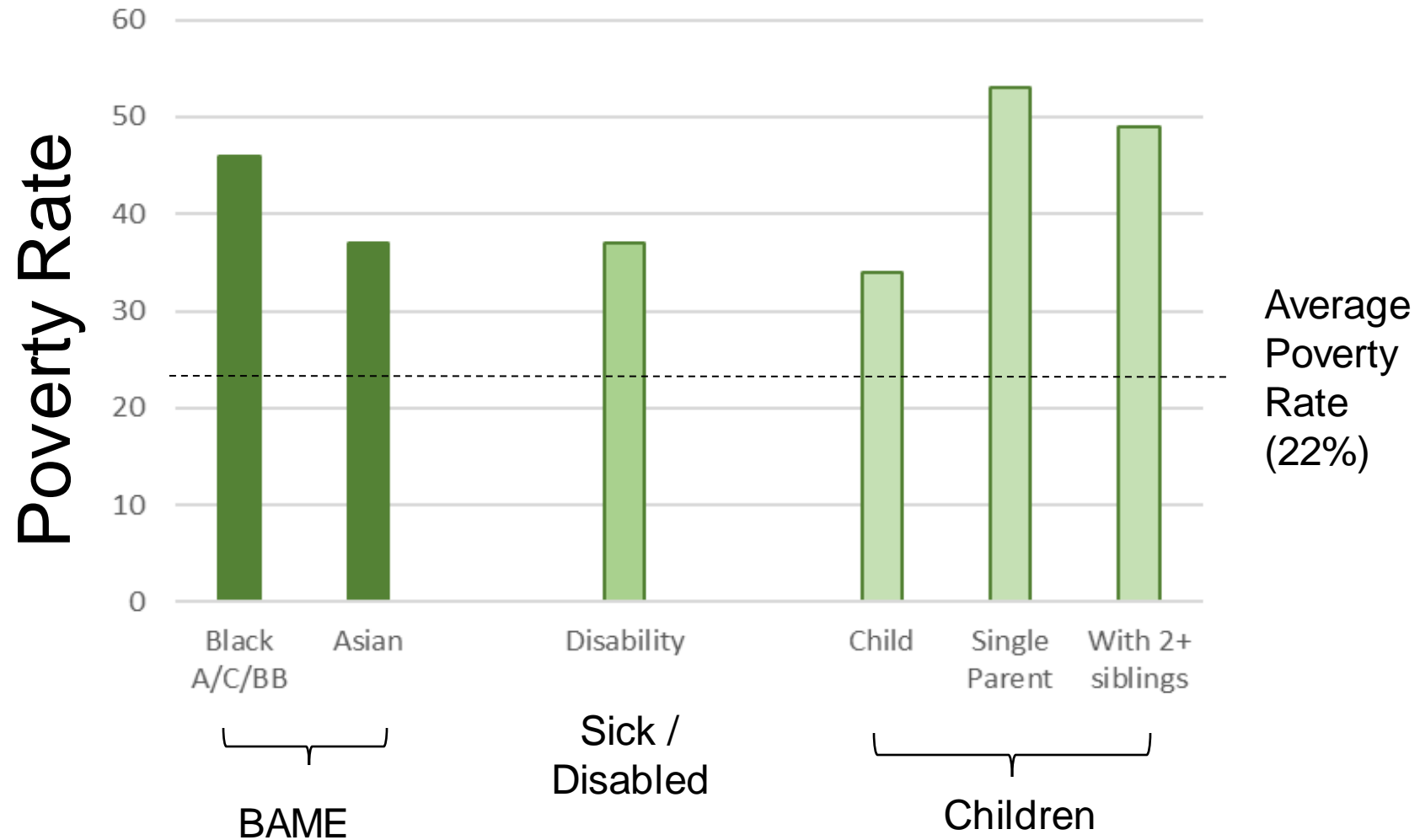
Cost of living crisis: extra 1 million UK children set to go hungry

- » Free school meals rethink urged - to prevent many more children falling into food poverty
- » 1.6m currently eligible, but concern for further 1m whose parents are hit by rising food prices
- » Government reluctant to relax rules to offer school meals to all families on universal credit

What does poverty in the UK look like?




Poverty hits some groups disproportionately






<https://www.warmwelcome.uk>



YOU ARE WELCOME

Our mission is to support organisations to open their doors and provide a warm welcome for those struggling to heat their homes this winter.

[Find a space](#) [Register your Space](#)



2196 Spaces Open

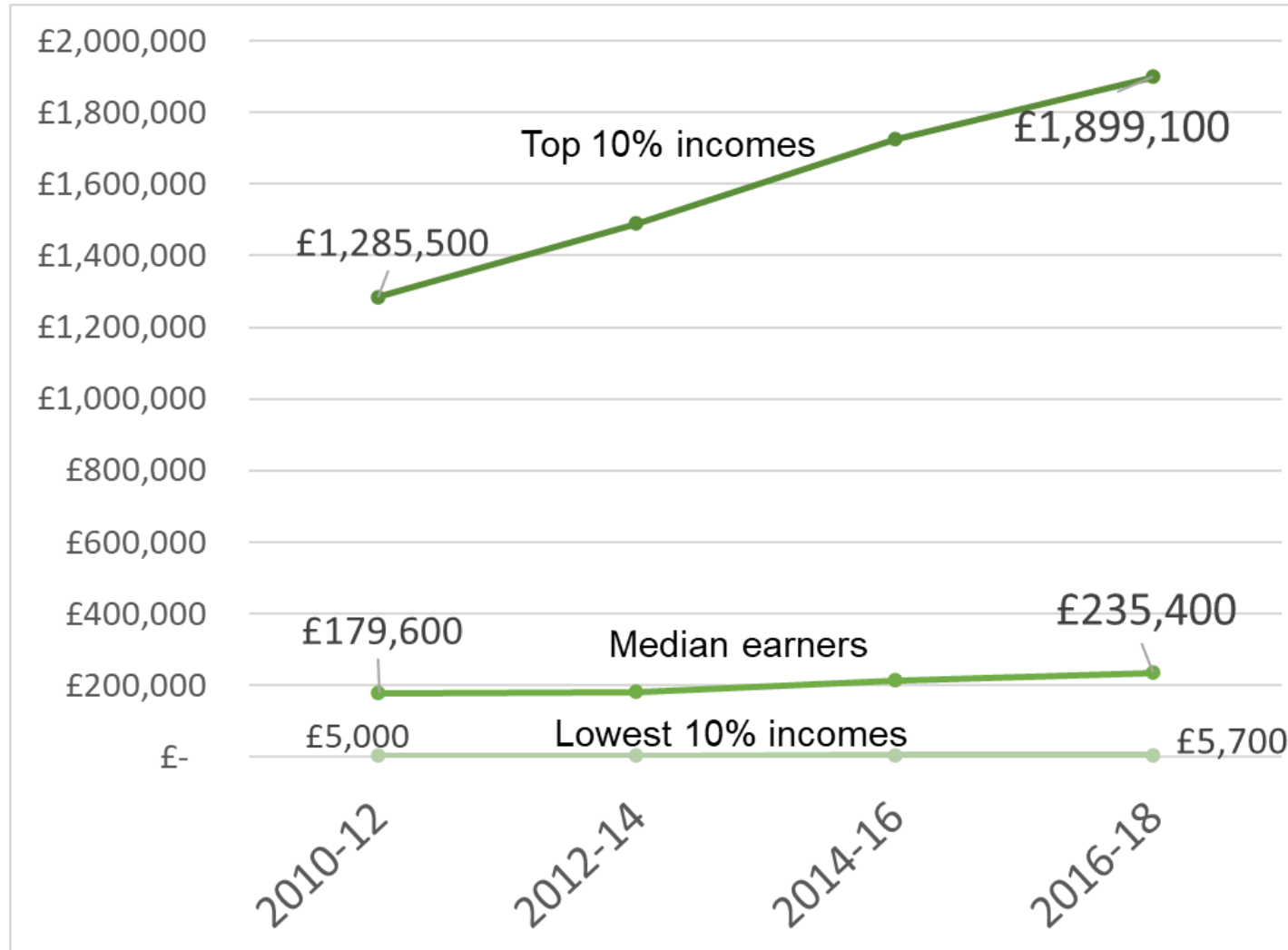
Questions for discussion

1. Does this picture resonate with what you are seeing and experiencing?
2. How has your Church been responding?
3. What are you hearing and learning through this?



**Where has this
crisis come from?**

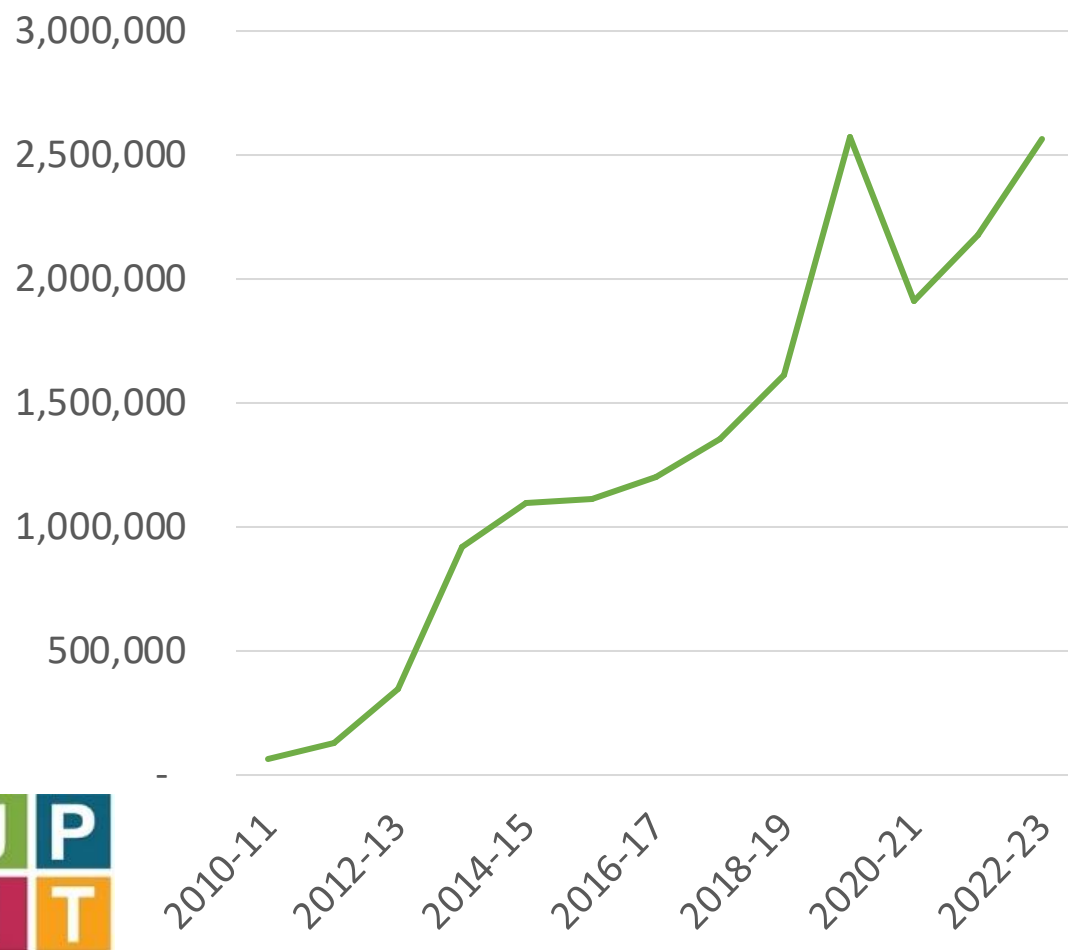
Household wealth increased



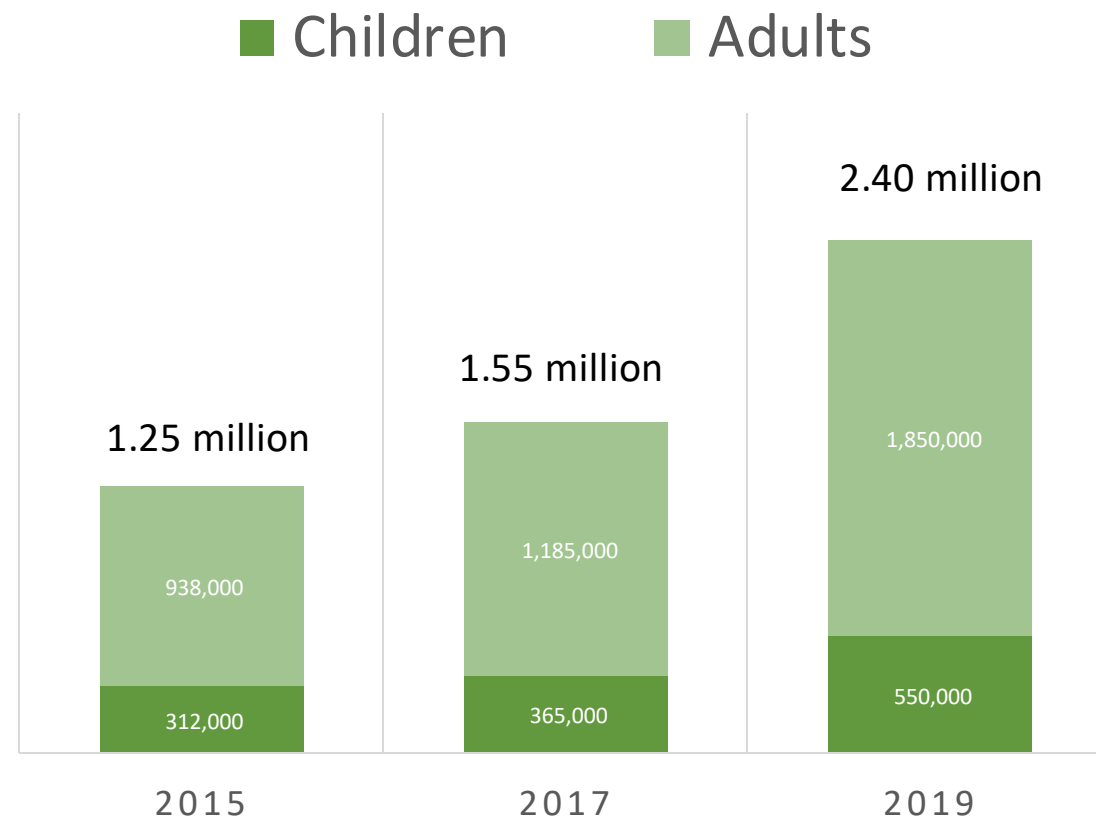
Source: GLA (2020): analysis of ONS WAS Waves 1-4

Foodbank use and destitution increase

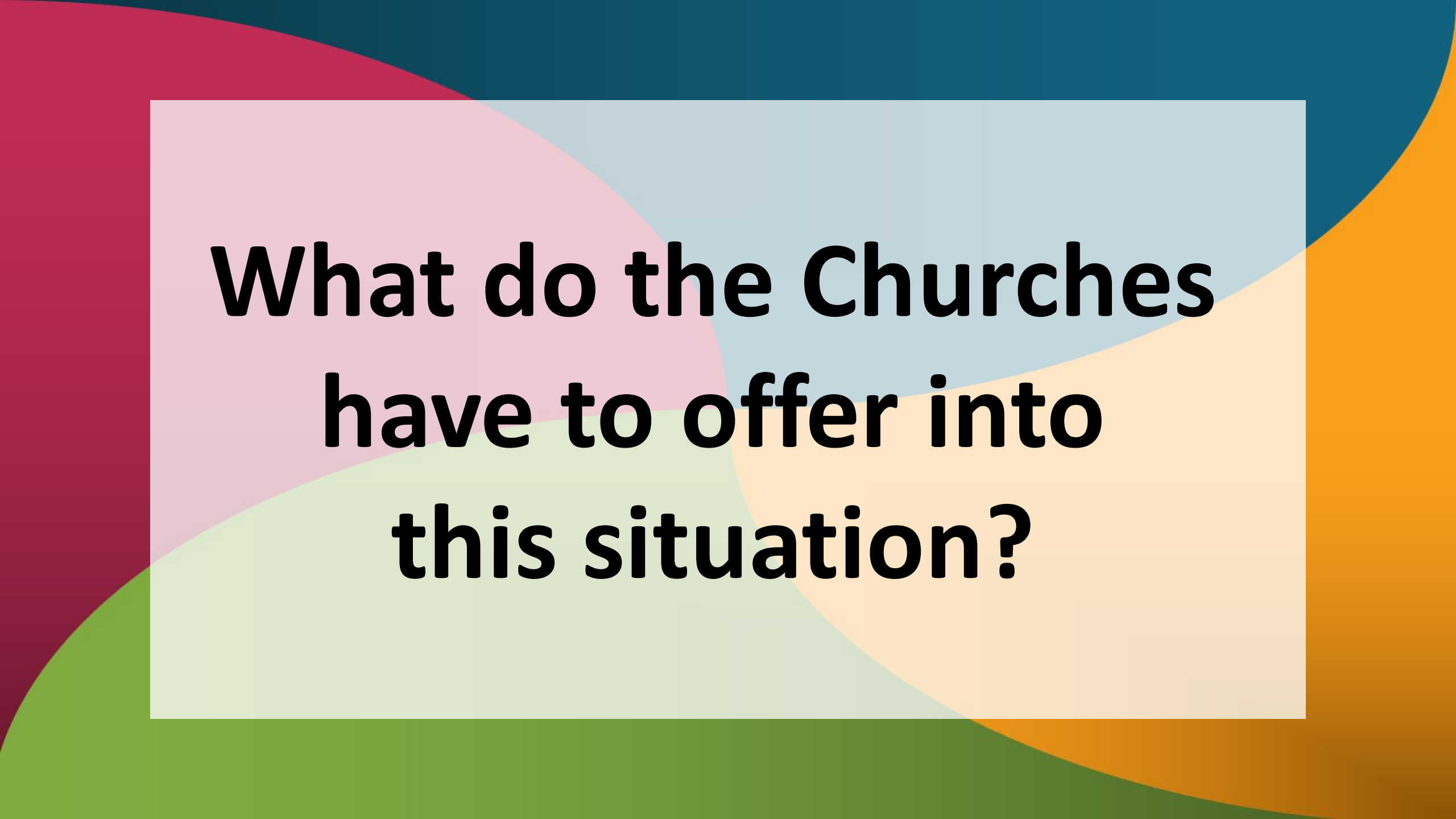
NUMBERS OF FOOD PARCELS GIVEN OUT BY FOODBANKS INCREASES



DESTITUTION LEVELS RISING QUICKLY BEFORE THE PANDEMIC



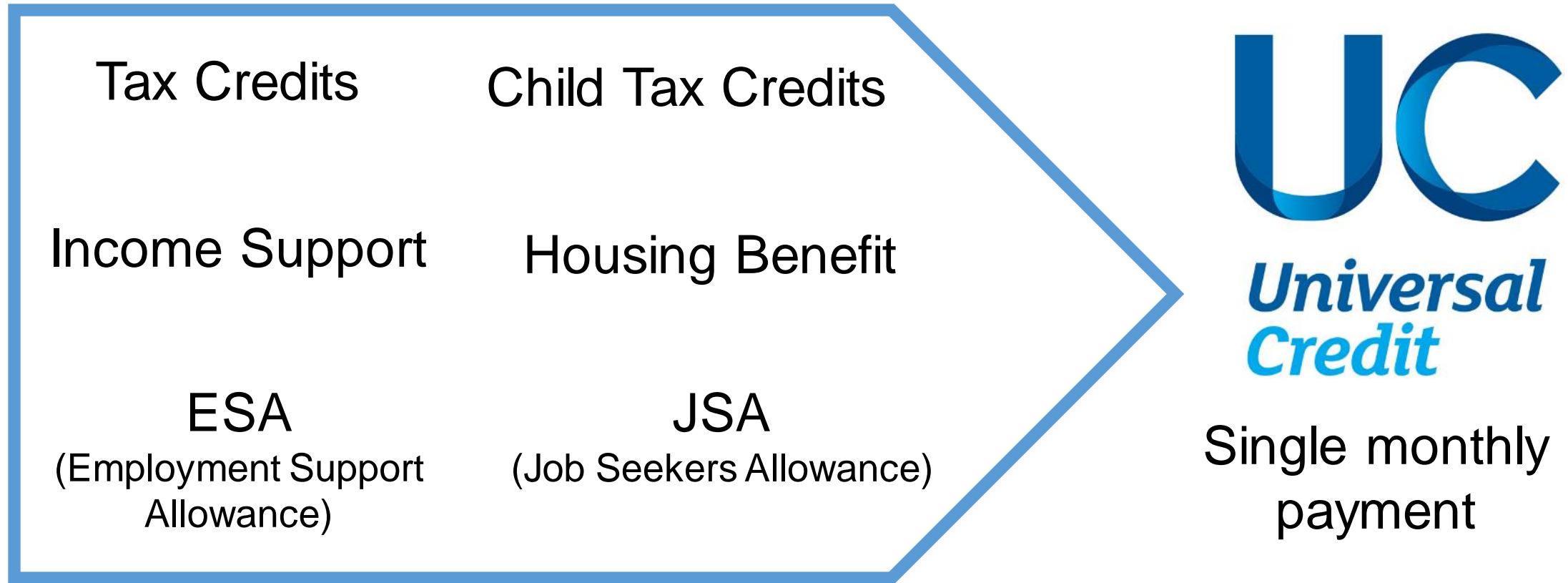
Source: Trussell Trust and JRF Destitution the UK (2021)



**What do the Churches
have to offer into
this situation?**

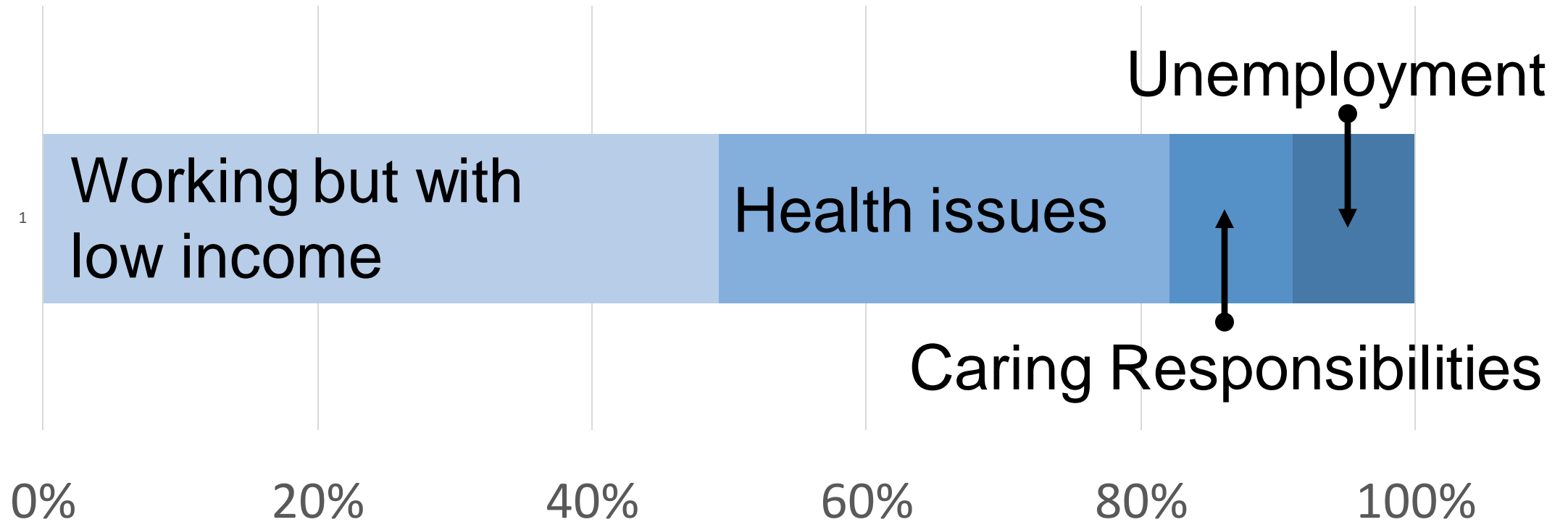
Using Universal Credit as a worked example

6 benefits into 1

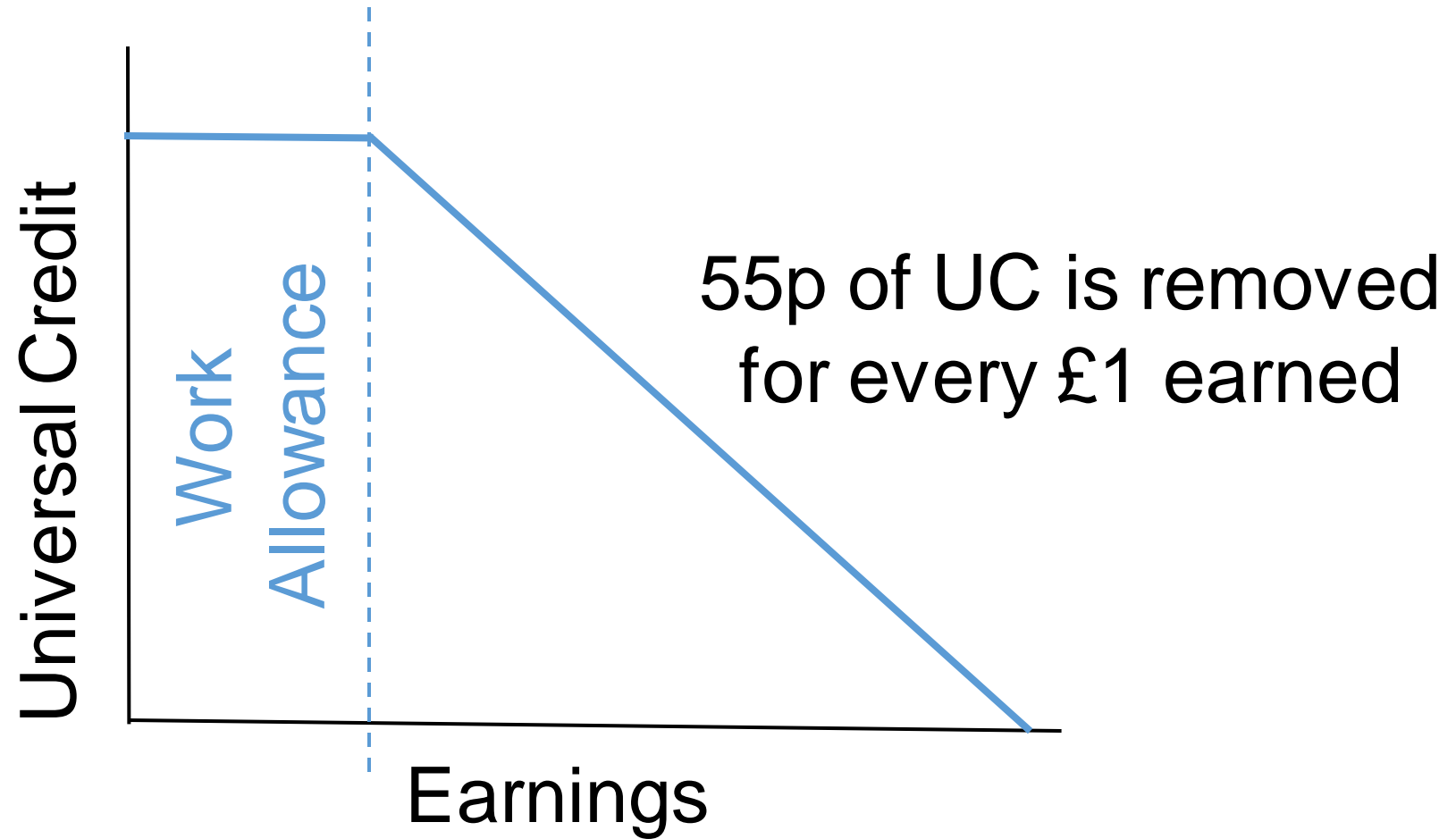


Contributory benefits & PIP/DLA are not in UC

Who will get Universal Credit?



Universal Credit “single taper”



FOOD BANK USE - % INCREASE OVER 12 MONTHS

52%

Full Universal Credit
rollout areas

13%

Non-Universal Credit
rollout areas

sky news

SOURCE: TRUSSELL TRUST

Food insecurity and Universal Credit

53.8%

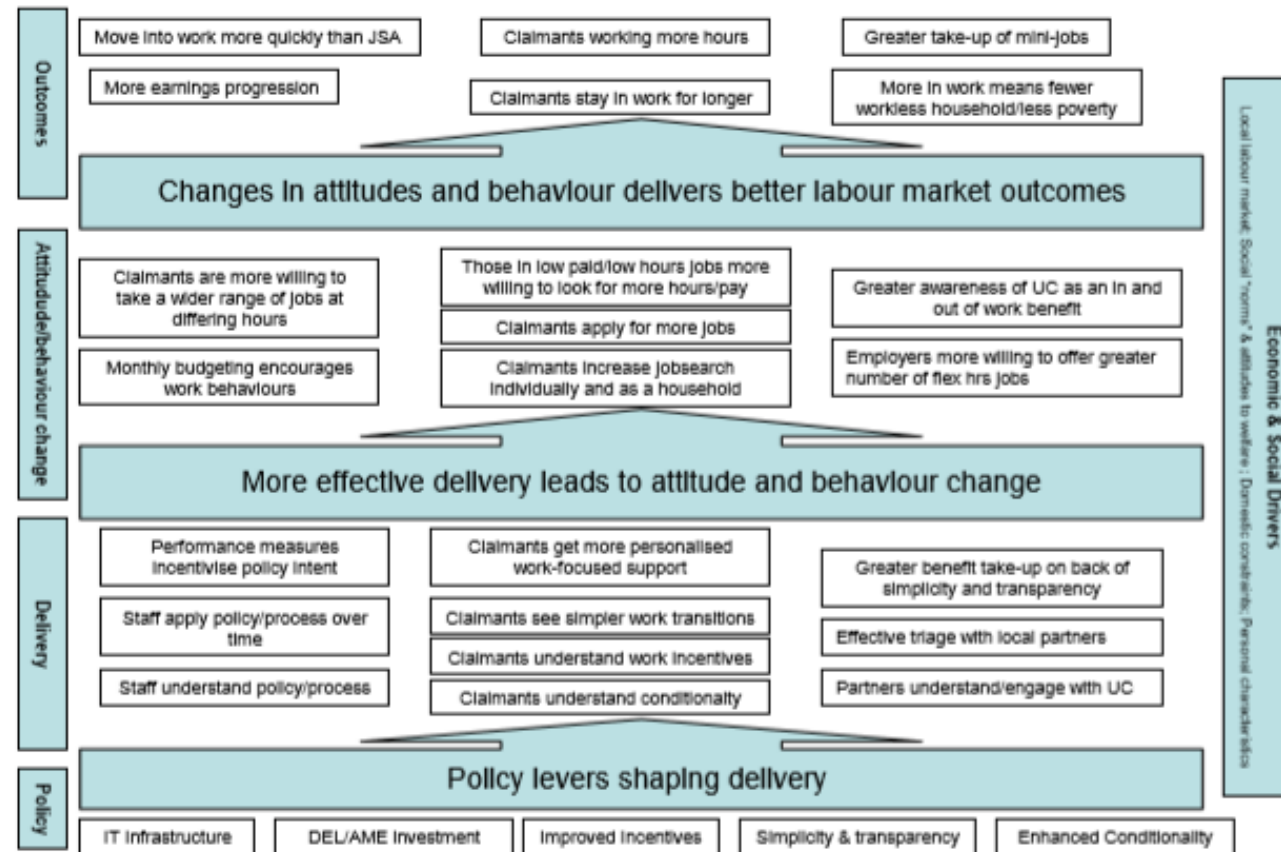
of adults in receipt of Universal
Credit skipped meals because they
cannot afford them
(monthly rate)



Source: Food Foundation. Months to Sept 2022
<https://foodfoundation.org.uk/initiatives/food-insecurity-tracking>

Universal Credit “Theory of Change”

Theory of change underpinning improved labour market outcomes



Changes in attitudes and behaviours leads to better
labour market outcomes



Effective delivery leads to attitude & behaviour change



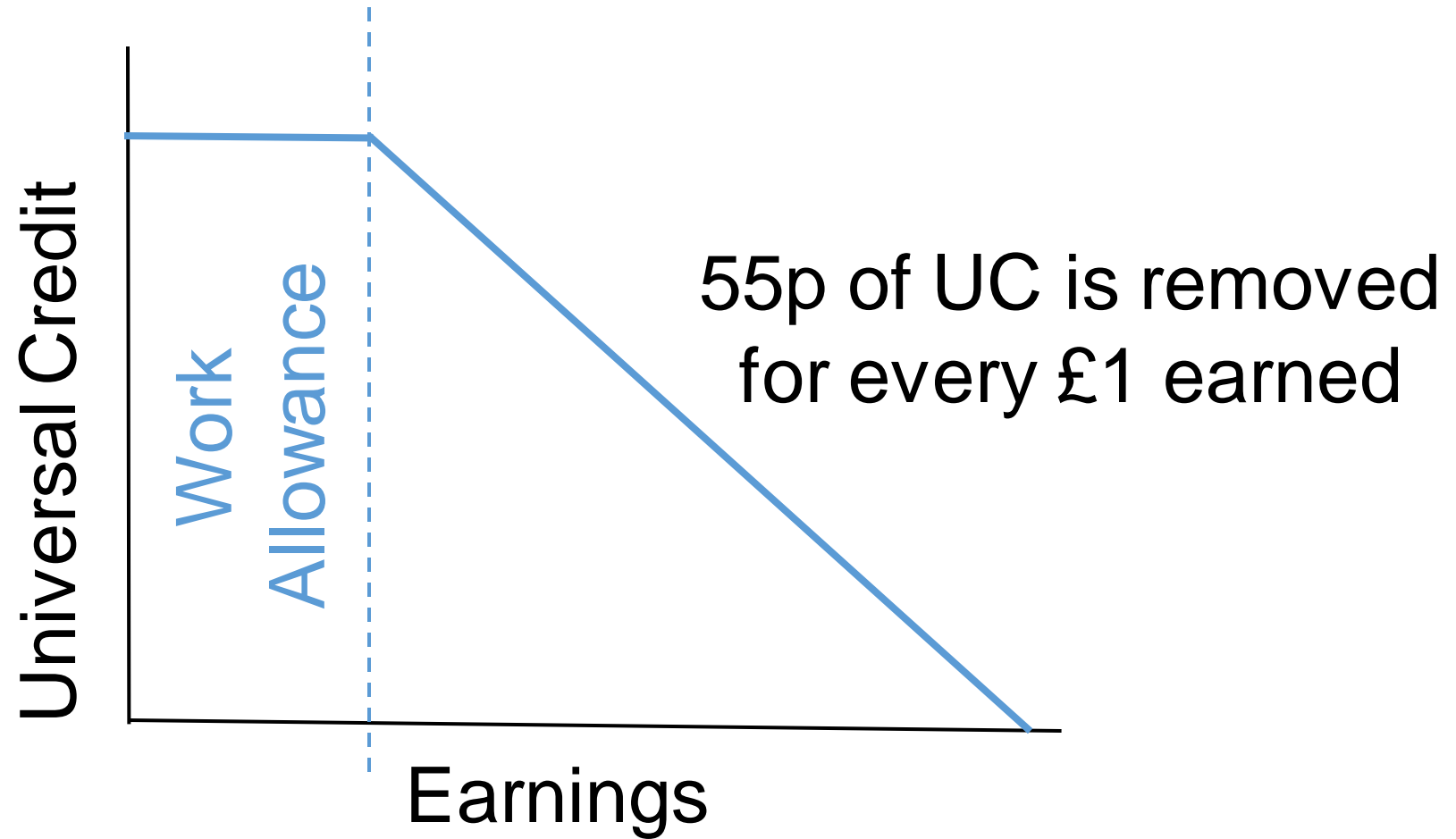
Policy levers shapes delivery



GUARANTEE OUR ESSENTIALS



Universal Credit “single taper”



www.jpit.uk