

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."