

# Poverty in a pandemic

Peter Matejic, Head of Evidence

## Introducing me



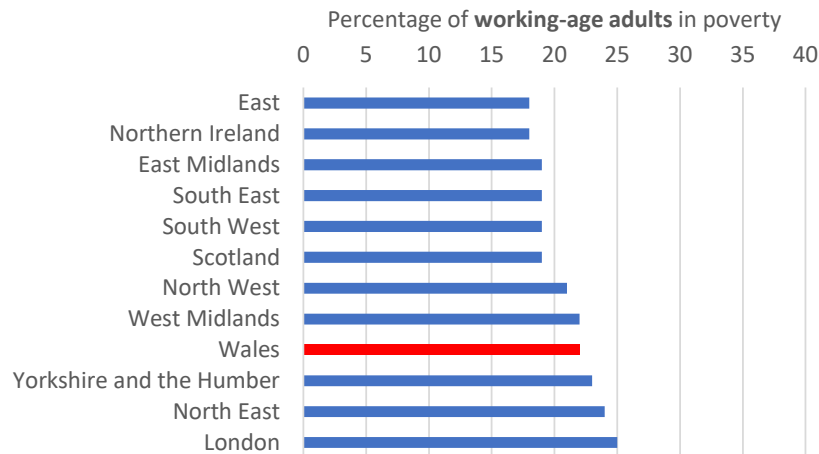
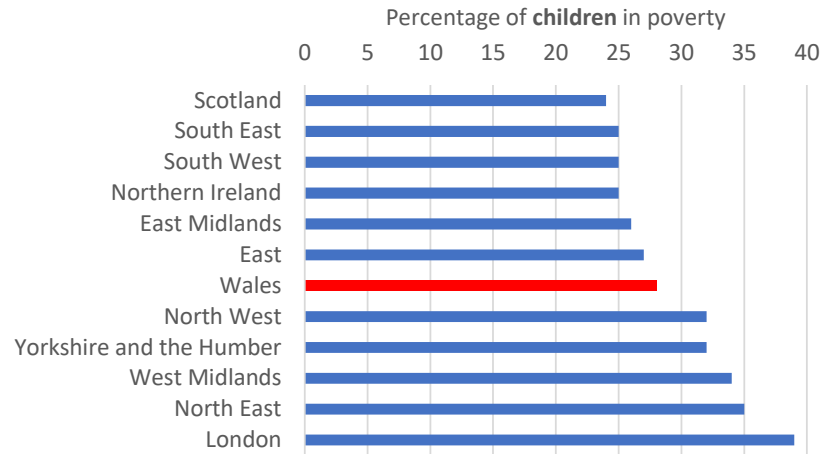
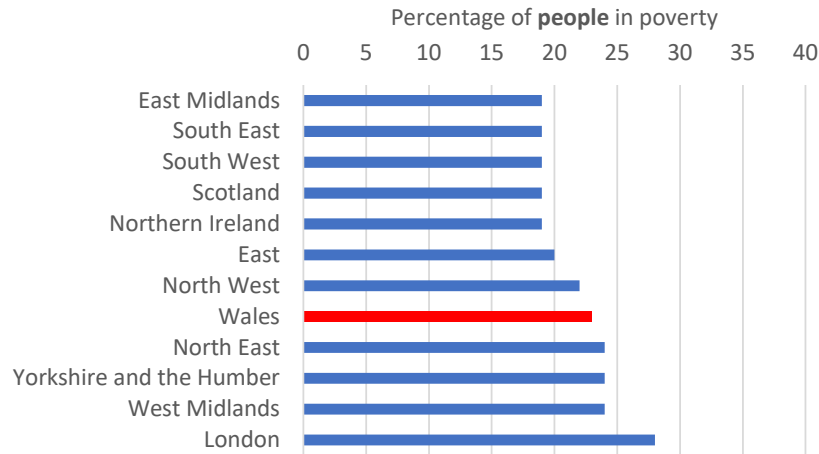
I joined JRF as Head of Evidence in July 2019. My team are the guardians of JRF evidence on poverty.

We provide the knowledge-base to underpin and assess JRF's outcome plans and real-world impact.

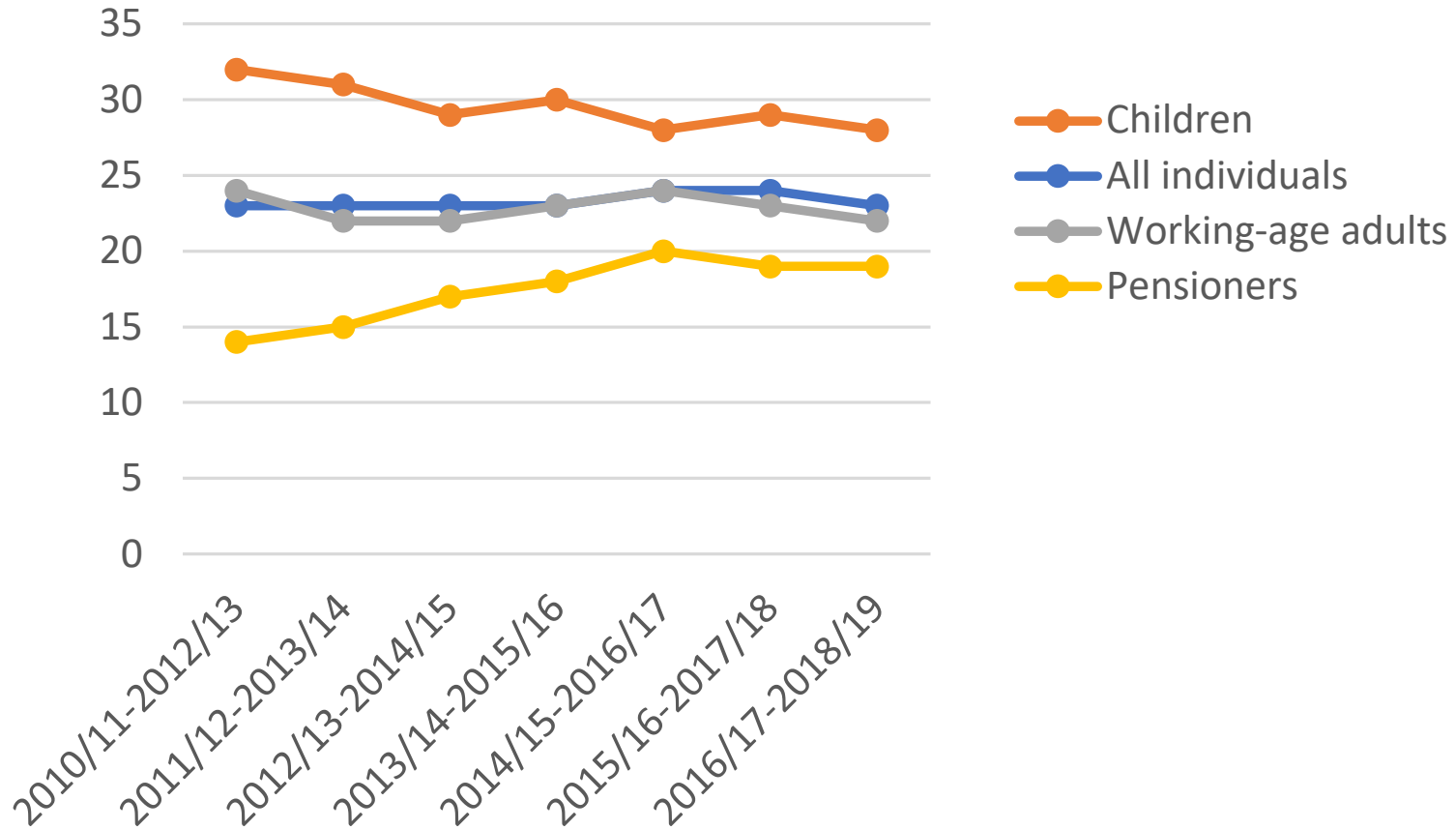
## What I want to cover

- 1: **Where we were** on poverty before coronavirus?
- 2: **What we know so far** – a very confused (but definitely negative) picture
- 3: **What we don't know** – what is the trajectory of the recession
- 4: How are we planning to monitor the changing situation and **how you can help**

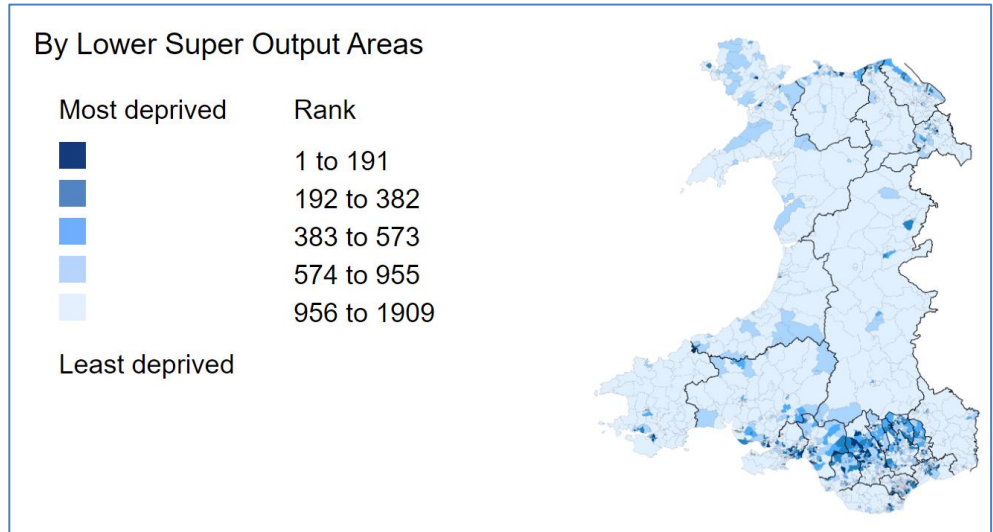
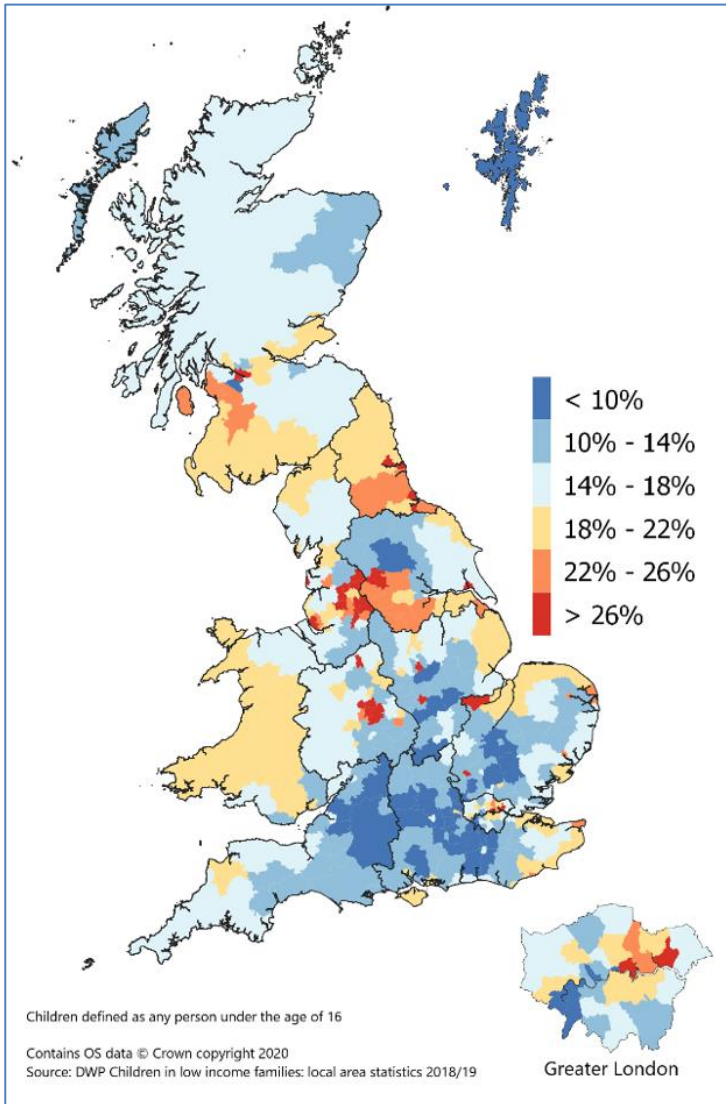
# Wales is in the half of countries and regions with higher poverty rates



# There are differing trends by different population groups

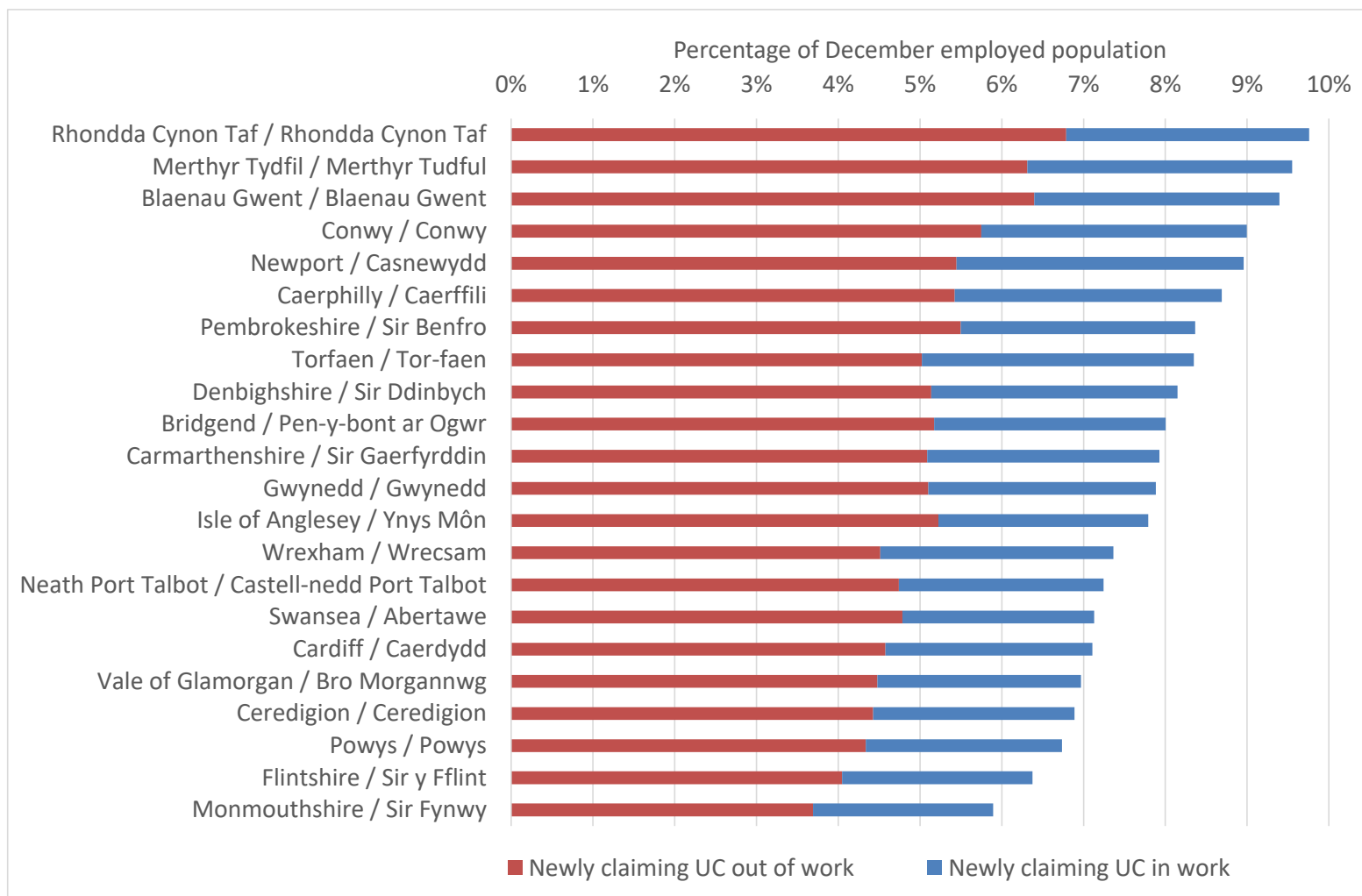


# ...but little variation by Local Authority

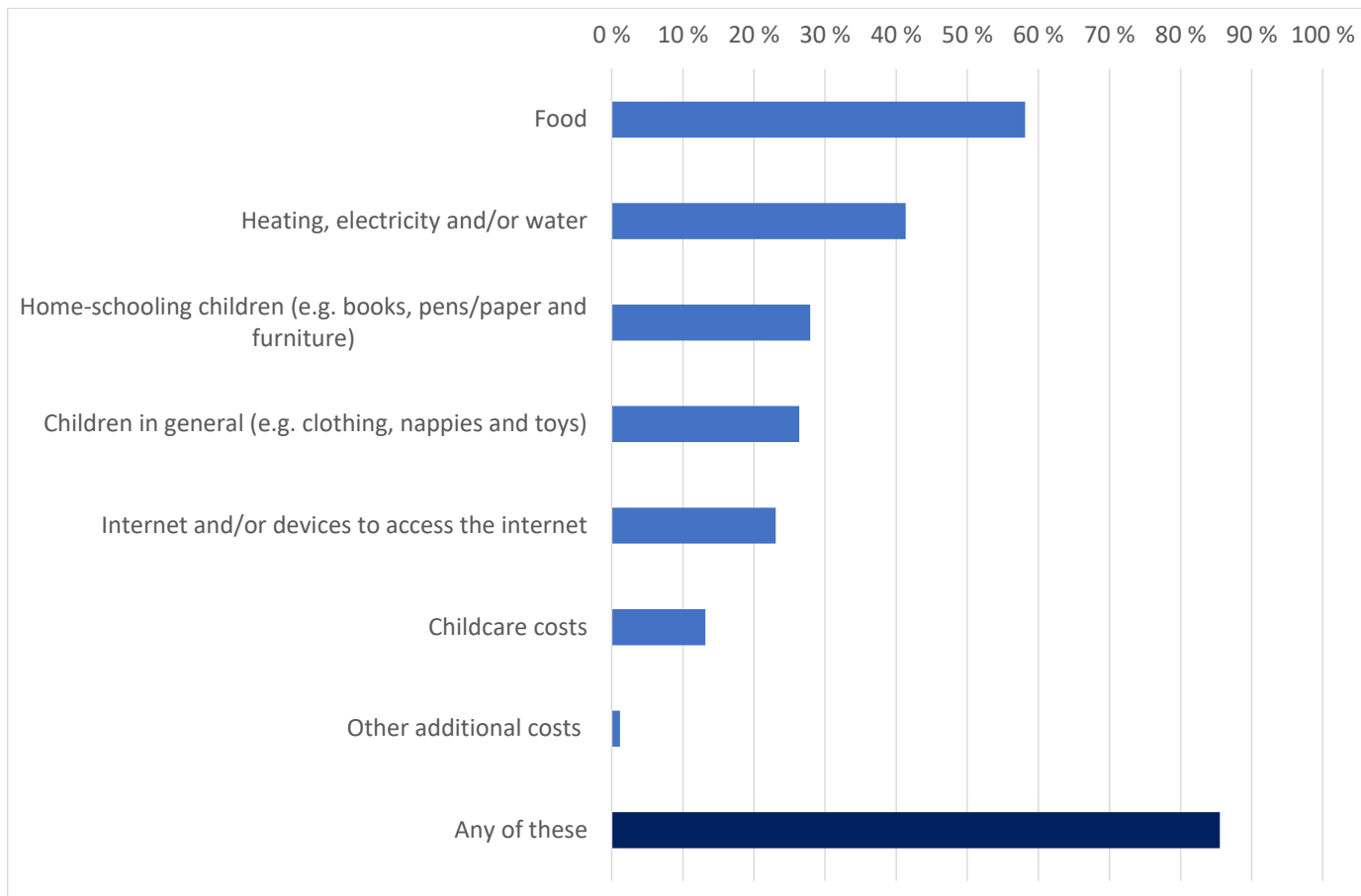


...although there is likely to be bigger variations within Local Authorities, as shown by the Income Domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

# The (on-going) effect of the coronavirus outbreak: is a mixture of pain now...



## 86% of those surveyed faced extra costs, with almost 6 in 10 reporting extra food costs

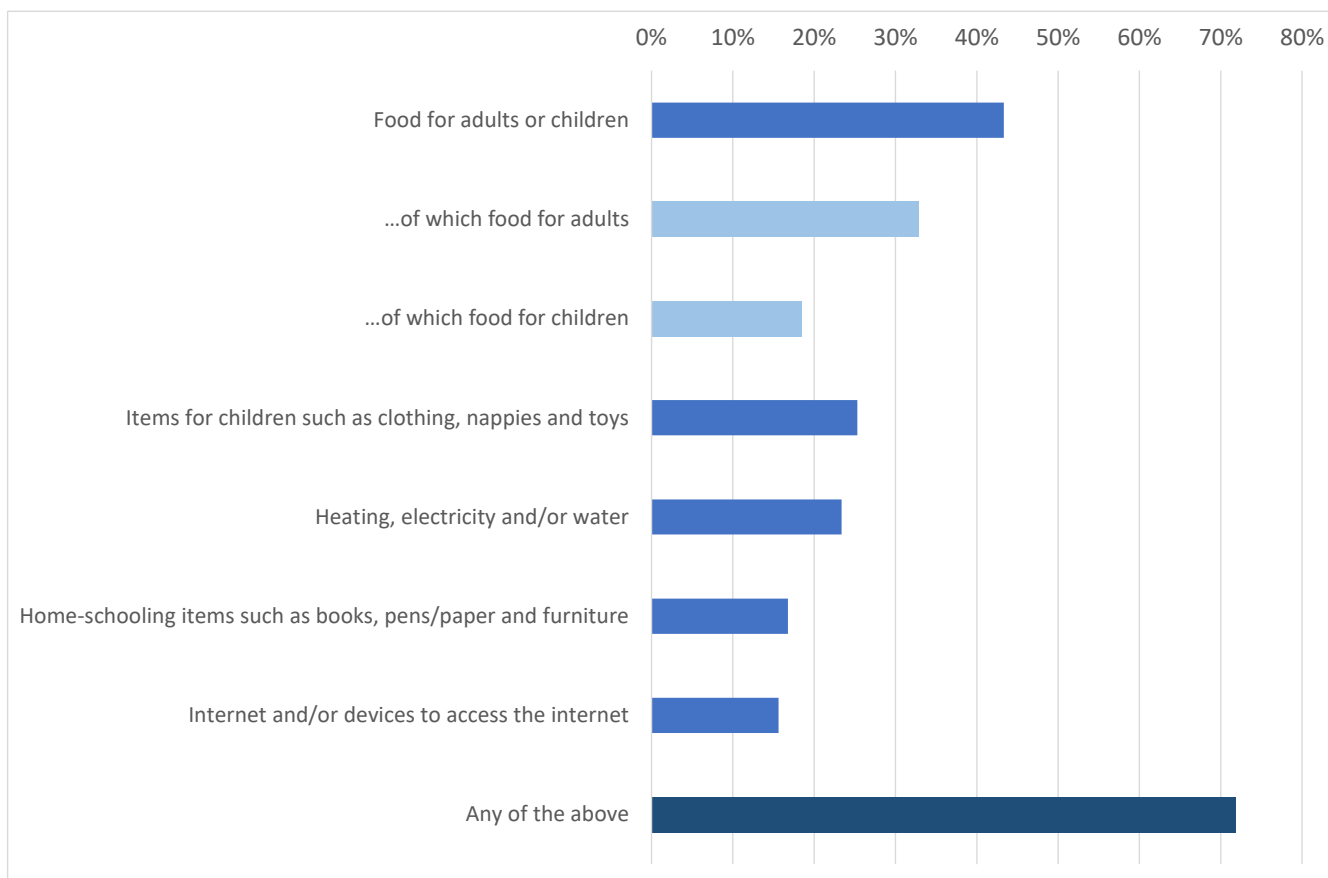


Looking at those lacking one of the named six categories:

- Two thirds have extra costs in at least two categories
- A third have extra costs in at least three categories



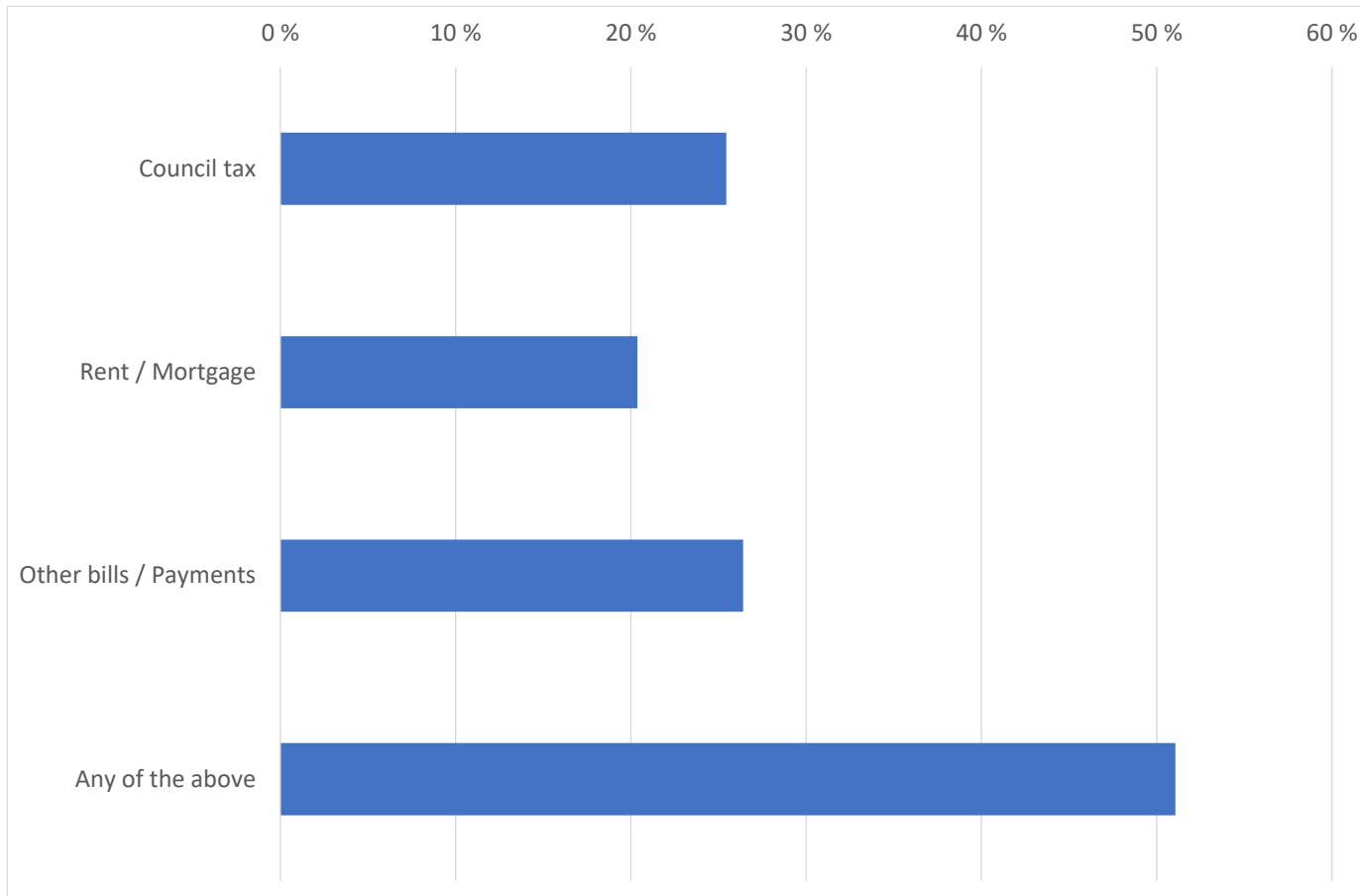
# Around 7 in 10 families have cut back on food, children's items, utilities, school items or internet access



Looking at those lacking one of these categories:

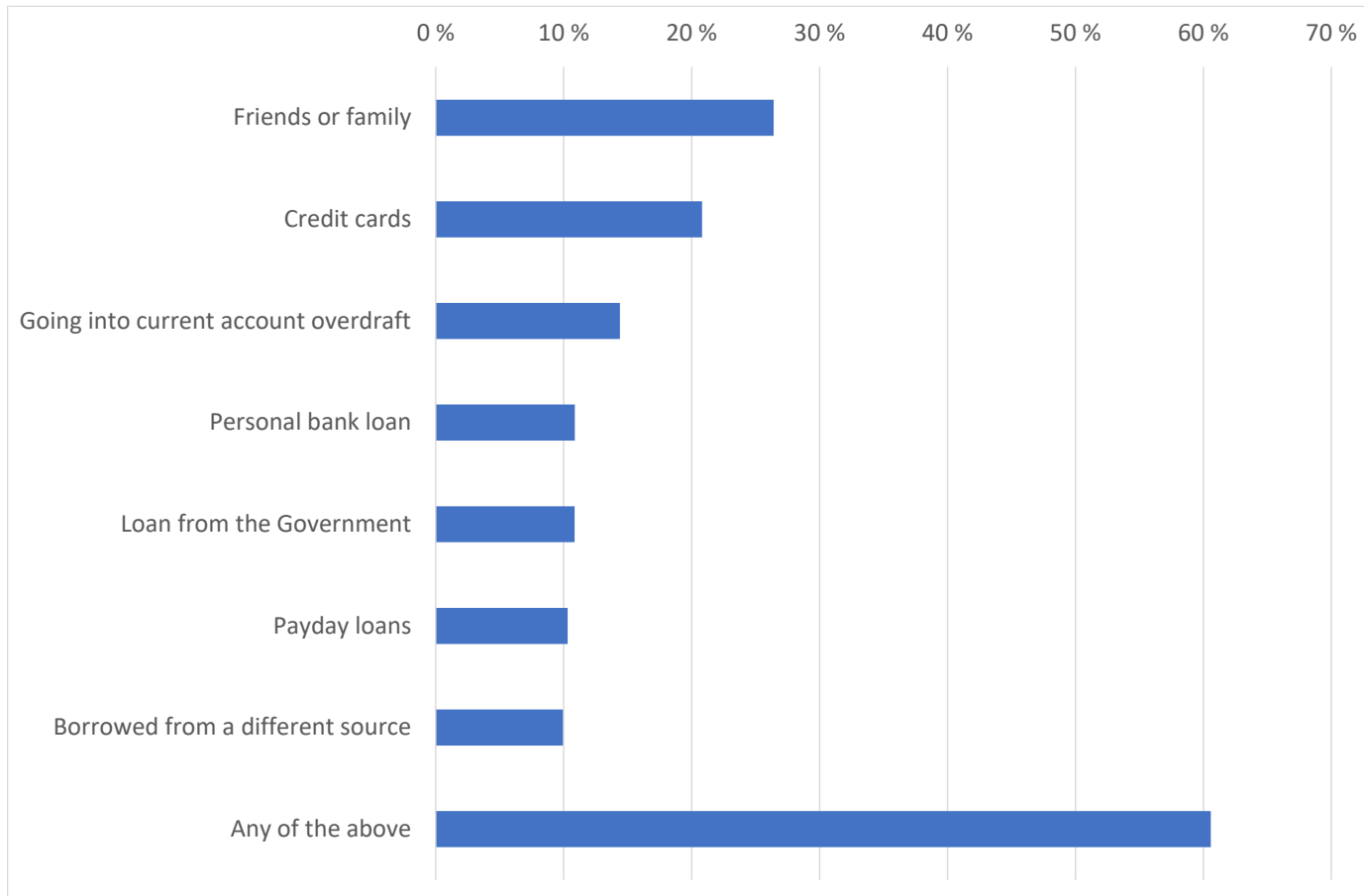
- Around half have cut back in at least two categories
- Over 1 in 5 have cut back in at least three categories

# Around half of those surveyed are behind with the council tax, their rent / mortgage or other bills

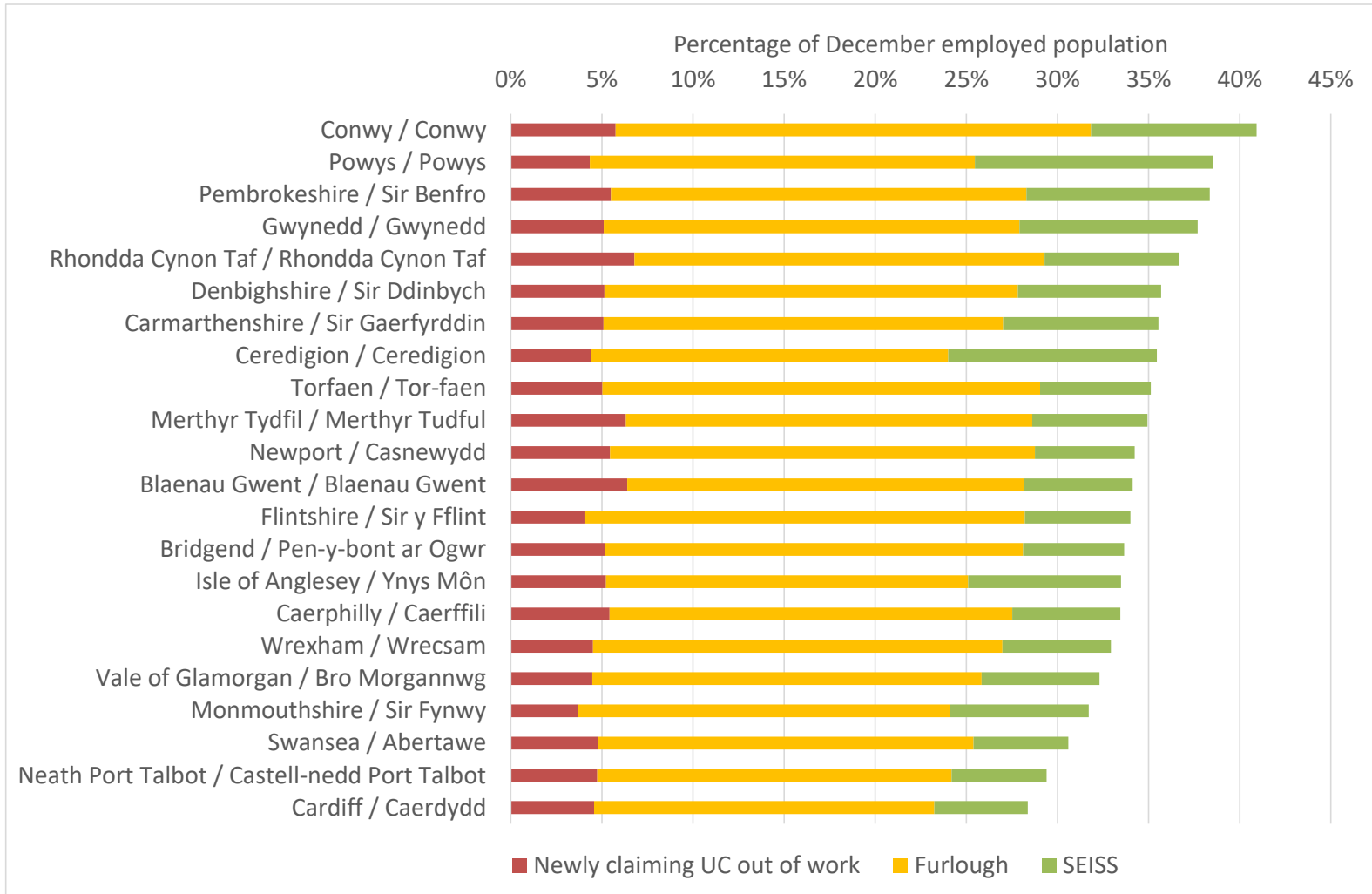


Around 1 in 6 of those surveyed are behind on more than one of these categories

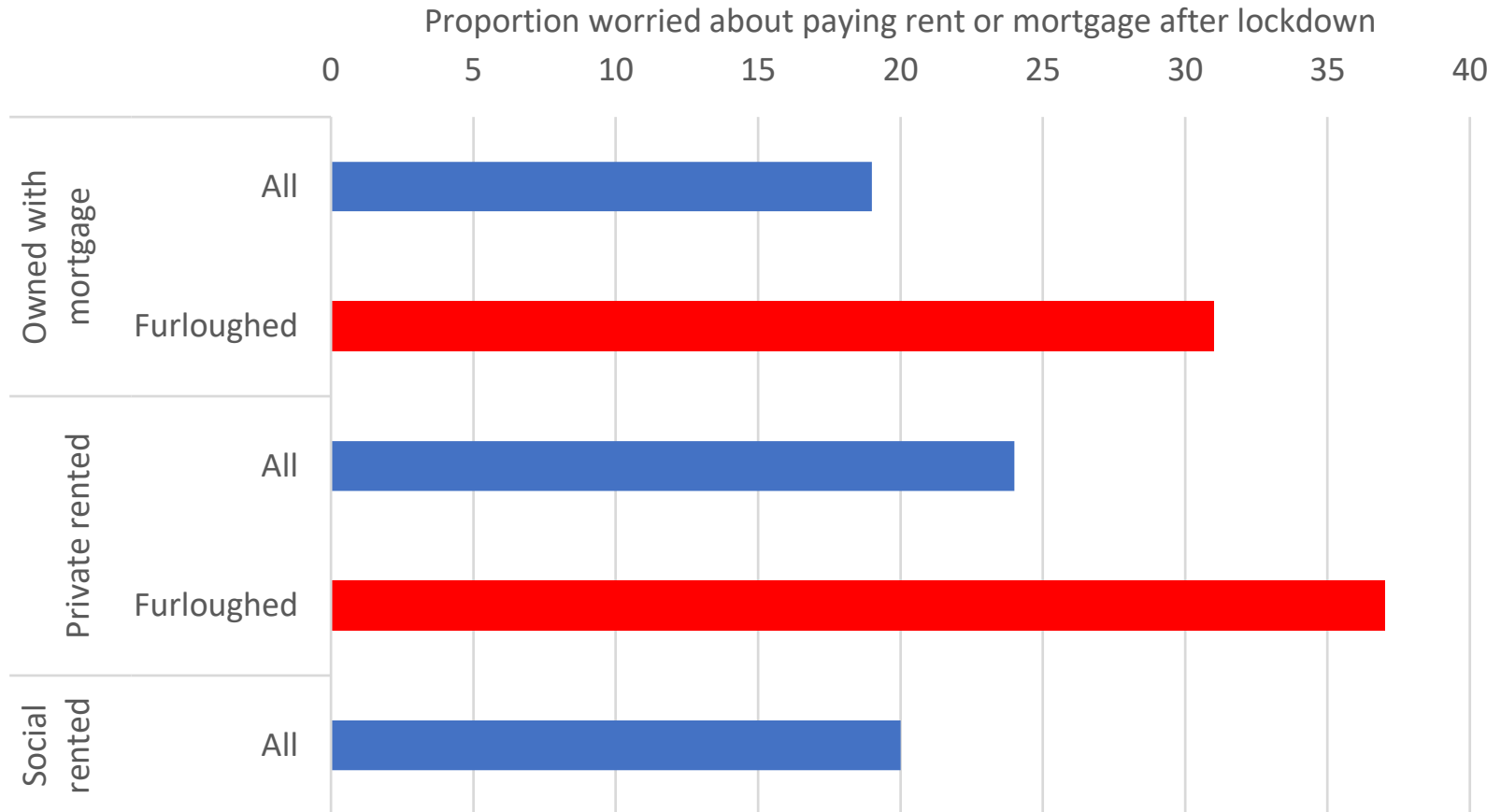
# Around 6 in 10 have borrowed money from one of the sources listed below



# ...with potentially much more pain to come



# ...with worries about housing costs across all tenures, especially for those furloughed



## So what do we think needs to happen?

Three things:

- **Now:** Increase the child element of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credits by £20 a week to help with extra costs for families with children
- **Later in the year:** Withdraw the coronavirus support schemes with extreme caution, seeking to minimise the impact on those who currently depend on the schemes
- **Ongoing:** Continue to 'level up' the economy to create opportunities for everyone across the county, which will still be our greatest national challenge, and more important than ever.

## How can you help?

Later this year, we will be publishing (with help from the Bevan Foundation) 'Poverty in Wales', our State of the Nation report

- What analysis would you like to see?
- What data sources should we be looking at?
- Any emerging trends from your work?