



# Fixing our cruel and unfair welfare system

**Austerity is NOT over, whatever they tell you. Hastings & Rye continues to suffer from the policies of the Conservatives and their Liberal Democrat allies.**

**Peter Chowney** is the Labour Party parliamentary candidate for Hastings & Rye. He is also the Leader of Hastings Borough Council.

Their early roll-out of Universal Credit in Hastings and their cruel benefit sanctions have led to extreme hardship and increased levels of homelessness.

Hastings has gone from the 20th most deprived local authority area in Britain to the 13th most deprived since 2015, according to the government's own figures.

More than a third of children in the borough are officially living in poverty, while life expectancy is shorter in deprived areas and rural isolation adds to

**“A third of children in the borough are living in poverty”**

the problems of the less fortunate in Rye and Camber.

People on minimum-wage jobs, often on zero hours contracts, find it increasingly hard to make ends meet, so need state support.

The use of foodbanks has increased massively, with an 80% rise in their use in Hastings within a few months of Universal Credit being rolled out.

Promoted by Eileen Masters on behalf of Peter Chowney both at Hastings & Rye Constituency Labour Party, 84 Bohemia Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6RN. Printed by Adams of Rye at 8 High Street, Rye, TN31 7JH.

**“Hastings is now the 13th most deprived council area in the UK”**



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**Peter  
CHOWNEY  
for MP**

# We'll help the hard-hit get back on their feet

To alleviate poverty and help people back to work, Labour's policies include:

- Scrapping Universal Credit, creating a new social security system that will genuinely lift people out of poverty and add £2 billion additional funding for benefits
- Ending the benefits cap and scrap the hated bedroom tax
- Ending punitive benefit sanctions
- Banning zero hours contracts and raise the minimum wage for all workers over 18 to £10 per hour
- Reforming and increasing benefits for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions
- Restoring benefits for housing costs for 18–21 year olds
- Protecting the state pension 'triple lock', winter fuel allowance and bus passes for those on a state pension

**“Zero hours contracts will be banned, and the benefits cap scrapped”**

Benefits should help people find fulfilling jobs, not punish them, and not force them to focus solely on how they're going to find the next meal for their children.

I firmly believe that treating people fairly when they fall on hard times will help them get back on their feet. Those who can no longer work, because they're too ill, or retired, need an income they can live on too.

These problems affect all parts of Hastings & Rye, not just the most deprived areas. As your MP, I would fight to ensure that everyone in the constituency could live with dignity and comfort, whatever their financial circumstances.

**Peter Chowney**

Labour Party parliamentary candidate for Hastings & Rye

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