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Real action needed to tackle local pensioner poverty

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has demanded the Government does more to tackle pensioner poverty in Yorkshire after new figures revealed 18,000 more pensioners here are living in poverty compared to this time last year.

Official statistics show that 216,000 pensioners in the region are now living below the breadline – almost one in four of all Yorkshire residents of pensionable age and a rise of 2% since 2007.

New figures have also revealed the Government is set to fall far short of fulfilling its 1999 pledge to halve child poverty by 2010. In Yorkshire, 25% of children – about 275,000 in all – are currently being brought up in poverty with the situation remaining static in each of the last three years.

Cllr Hopkins said he believed it was time the Government stopped making excuses and started taking specific action to address poverty amongst the old and young.

He commented:

“These figures prove that this Labour Government is failing dramatically to help the most vulnerable individuals in the community.

“Children need a good start in life if they are to fulfil their potential – a quarter of them are not getting it.

“A similar proportion of our older residents, most of whom have worked hard for the duration of their lives, are being neglected and exposed in their latter years.

“These realities are a terrible indictment of a Government that has promised so much and delivered so little for those in greatest need.

“In my view, tackling real action to address these failings should be the priority for Gordon Brown in the remainder of the time he has left as Prime Minister.”

ENDS