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Labour has failed to tackle child poverty

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has said the Labour Government's failure to tackle child poverty is just one of a very long list of pledges it has failed to fulfil over the last 12 years.

"Child poverty is one of this country's greatest tragedies but instead of halving the number of children falling into the poverty cycle by 2010 as Labour promised to do when coming to power, the figures are continuing to rise," Cllr Hopkins said.

There are currently four million children – around 30 per cent of the total in Britain – now living in child poverty.

Campaign group End Poverty – supported by UNICEF - has estimated that the Government will fall short of its pledge to halve child poverty by 2010 by 700,000 children.

"Labour's decision to publish legislation with a new target on child poverty to be met 11 years from now is a shameful admission of defeat," Cllr Hopkins continued.

"As ever with this Government, it's about moving goalposts, passing responsibilities and grabbing headlines – not about improving the quality of people's lives.

"Ministers need to do more to tackle the underlying causes of child poverty including poor schools, rising crime, increased drug abuse and spiralling personal debt.

"But this is becoming increasingly difficult because Labour has failed on schools, failed on tackling criminal activity and, of course, failed on the economy.

"The Government has not kept its word to the people of this country and I have no doubt it will live to regret it when it is finally forced to call a General Election."

ENDS