

Should we worry about child poverty in Northern Ireland?

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Yes, we should! Because:

- It devastates experiences of childhood
- Steals years of healthy life in later years
- Shapes lives as adults – jobs, control, social inclusion

Child poverty in NI is largely persistent

YP growing up in persistent poverty is more likely to:

- go without regular physical exercise;
- be suspended or expelled from school;
- be in trouble with the police;
- live in bad housing;
- have poorer health;
- lack a number of material deprivation items;
- face multiple (three or more) negative outcomes (28% compared to 18% for temporarily poor children).

Source: Barnes et al (2009)

And – in N. Ireland, a society emerging from conflict, there are additional risks:

Having emotional & mental health problems including PTSD

Looking to paramilitaries to provide a role in society

Qualifications of School leavers by FSM entitlement

Source: NIAO, 2006

Attainment	% entitled to Free School Meals	% not entitled to Free School Meals
5 A*-C GCSEs or higher (including A levels)	35.6	70.3
No formal Qualifications	8.4	2.1

Labour Force Survey estimates of 16-24 year olds in N.I, who are not in employment, full-time education, or Government-supported training schemes, 2006 – 2008

Year	Number	% of all 16-24 year olds
July-September 2006	40,000	17%
July-September 2007	38,000	16%
July-September 2008	45,000	19%

Why leave school early?

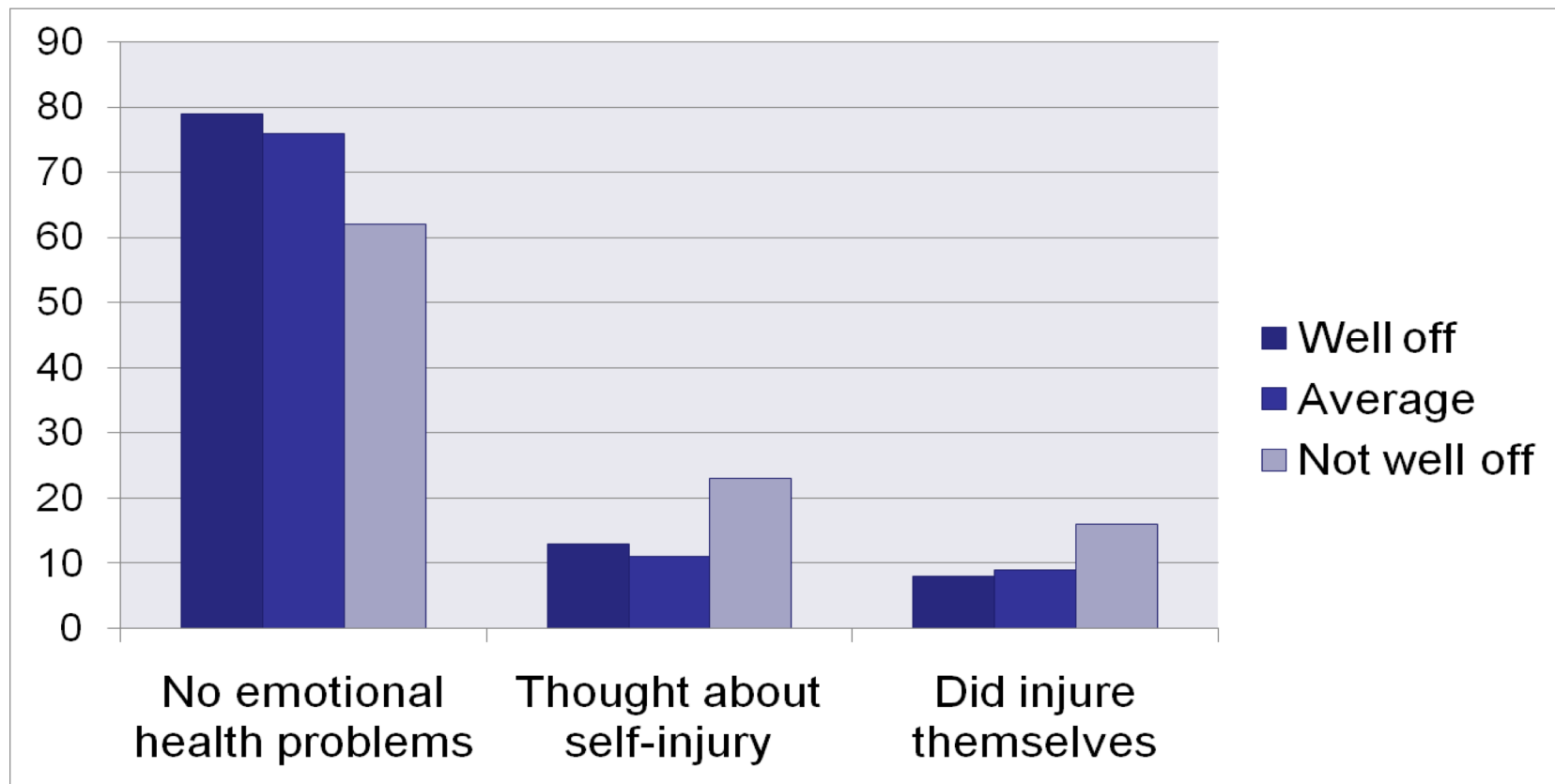
Lack of money to support continued education

2005 YLT – respondents whose families were not well-off were four times less likely to go back to school after GCSE than those whose family was well-off....while 5 times as many young people (51%) from not-well-off families said the availability of the Educational Maintenance Allowance influenced their decision to stay on in school than those from well-off families (10%)

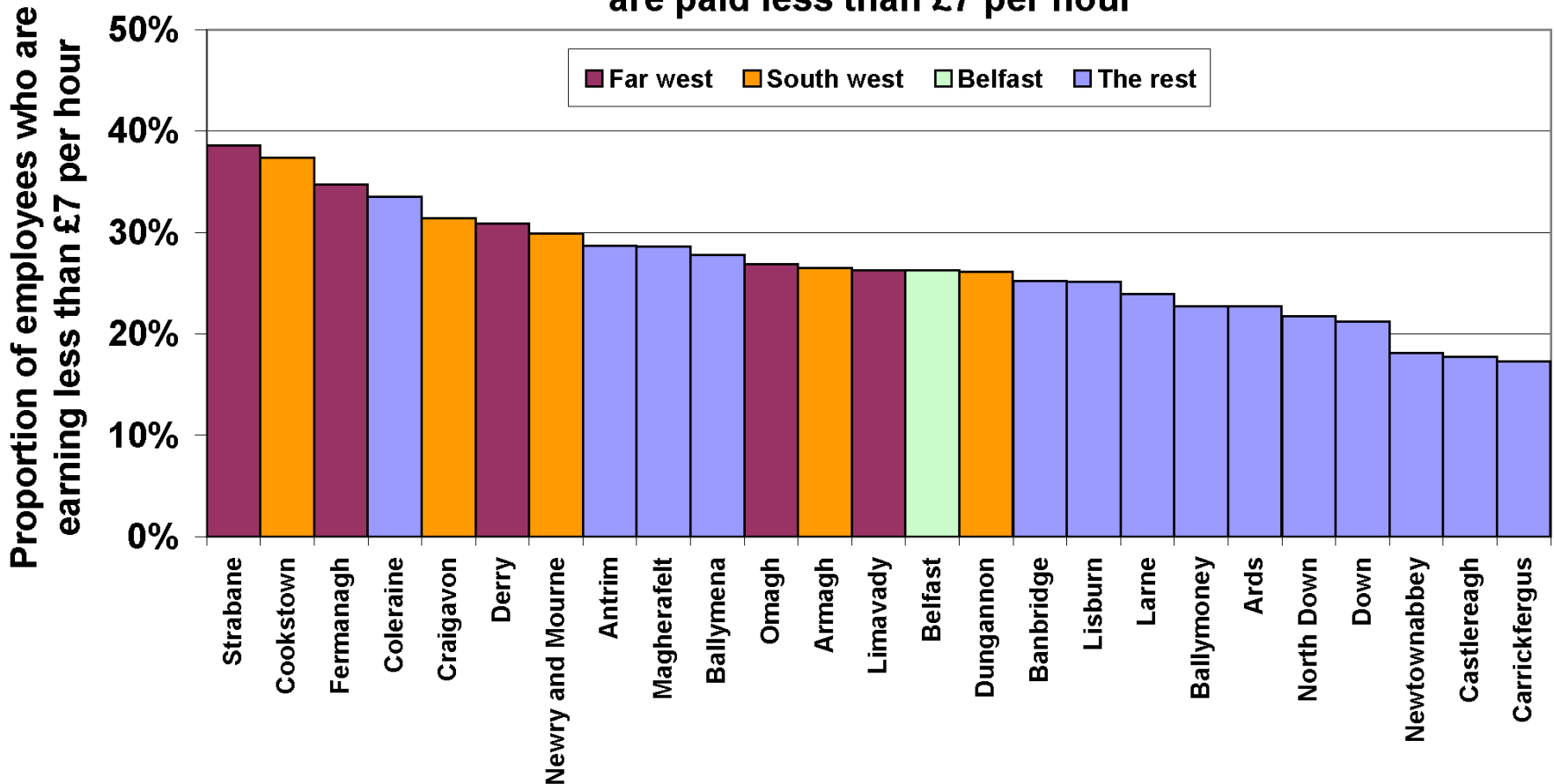
Why leave school early? 2

- Lack of respect from teachers
- Emotional and mental health problems
- Will make no difference (no 'decent' jobs anyway)

2008 YLT findings on mental and emotional health and self-harm

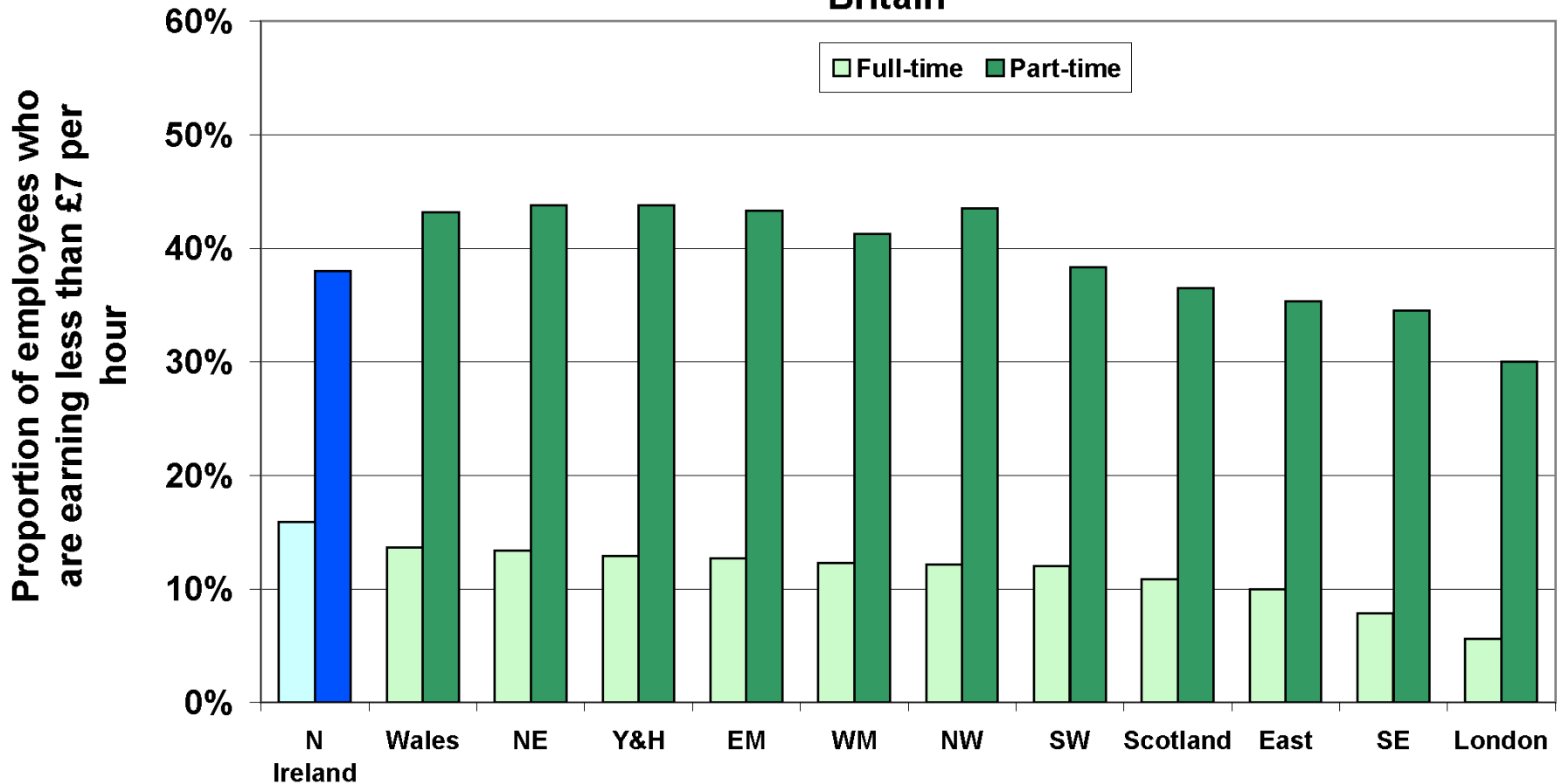


Strabane and Cookstown have the highest proportion of workers who are paid less than £7 per hour



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, DETI; the data is the average for 2007 to 2009; updated Dec 2009

The proportion of full-time employees earning less than £7 per hour is higher in Northern Ireland than in any of the regions of Great Britain



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2009, ONS; updated Dec 2009

**High levels of persistent
child poverty means
some young people do
not feel “included” even
in deprived areas**

- “Ripple effect” of the conflict impacts most on young people living in the areas most affected by it – which are also the most disadvantaged areas
- Poor relationships between young people and police – normal in areas of urban disadvantage, but dangerous in society emerging from conflict

Young people not helped by:

- **Lack of social reconstruction**
- **Failure of society to confront sectarianism**