Dear Mr Alston,

I recently read an article that encouraged people to reach out to you to offer advice and guidance on where in the UK to visit to measure instances of poverty.

As a former business connector for the Prince of Wales’ UK charity, BiTC, I spent over a year in Plymouth tackling deprivation by building partnerships between private, public and the not for profit sector. I also happen to be from the area and know it well, though have lived in London for the past decade +.

Plymouth ranks within the top 20% of most deprived communities in the UK with the ward of Devonport being a particularly troubling example of extreme poverty in the Uk. It is a microcosm of poverty in Britain in that it provides a blueprint for what many other larger cities are also experiencing - low levels of government investment and limited private sector industry & enterprise against the backdrop of an ever-shrinking state apparatus - the main employer in many cities, but particularly Plymouth.

Plymouth has been in decline since the post war period and in the last 5 years this decline has accelerated markedly against all indicators of property definition and measurement.

I encourage you to visit Plymouth for yourself and explore it as a case study f some of the wider problems at play within the United Kingdom.

Regards

Joanna Bunker