



Health and Wellbeing Together Meeting

Thursday, 7 December 2023

Dear All,

HEALTH AND WELLBEING TOGETHER - THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2023

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Thursday, 7th December, 2023 meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Together, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

- 7 **Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023: The Power of Partnership (Pages 3 - 66)**
[To approve the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023.]

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

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Health and Wellbeing Together

7 December 2023

Report title	The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023: The Power of Partnership	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Adults and Wellbeing	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Public Health	
Accountable employee	Madeleine Freewood Email	Partnership and Governance Lead madeleine.freewood@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Public Health Senior Leadership Team	07 November 2023

Recommendation for decision:

Health and Wellbeing Together is recommended to:

1. Approve the publication of the Public Health Annual Report for 2023.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To present the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2023 for approval.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory requirement. It is the DPH's professional statement about the health and wellbeing of their local communities.

2.2 The annual report aims to inform professionals, Councillors, members of the public and other stakeholders about key activity being undertaken in partnership to realise our Public Health 2030 Vision that residents live longer, healthier and more active lives.

3.0 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023

3.1 Health is influenced by more than just individual biological factors; social, economic and physical environments all play a part. Addressing these inter-related factors can only be achieved in partnership.

3.2 The recent introduction of Integrated Care Systems brings together NHS organisations, local authorities and others to take collective responsibility for planning services, improving health and reducing inequalities across geographical areas. Building and sustaining positive partnerships relationships has therefore never been more important if we are to achieve our shared ambitions of longer, healthier and more active lives for local people.

3.3 This report highlights partnership work already taking place in our City and the positive impact it is having on the outcomes for residents.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 The final Public Health grant allocation for the financial year 2022 to 2023 was £21,753,407 and for 2023 to 2024 was £22,462,940.
[JM/23112023/B]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[TC/23112023/A]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 Equality is promoted through the Public Health Vision 2030 and throughout local Public Health programmes, functions and services. This is to ensure that they advance equality and tackle inequalities relating to health outcomes and wider social determinants of health among groups that share protected characteristics.

7.0 Health and wellbeing implications

- 7.1 A range of different factors shape health and wellbeing, for example, where people live, education, income, job role, lifestyles and connections with other people. The Annual Report sets out how Public Health in 2023 is working in partnership to address these wider determinants of health.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

- 8.1 Public Health Vision 2030
https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/The_vision_for_Public_Health_2030.pdf

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1: The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023: The Power of Partnership

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Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023

The Power of Partnership

wolverhampton.gov.uk

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL



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Foreword

We are pleased to present this year's Public Health Annual Report for Wolverhampton which celebrates the power of partnership and the positive impact this has for the health and wellbeing of our population.

Our vision for Wolverhampton is for residents to live longer, healthier and more active lives.¹

However, sustainable health and wellbeing improvements at a population level cannot be achieved by a single organisation working alone. Rather, a shared approach to partnership working increases the probability of improving Public Health outcomes and creating the environment to deliver on our ambitions.

For this reason, in Wolverhampton, we seize the opportunity to foster positive partnership relationships based on local circumstances, needs and joint objectives. This has been helped nationally through the recent introduction of Integrated Care Systems that bring together NHS organisations, local authorities, the voluntary and community sector and other stakeholders to



John Denley
Director of
Public Health



Councillor
Jasbir Jaspal
Cabinet Member for
Adults and Wellbeing.
Chair of Health and
Wellbeing Together.

improve outcomes in population health and health care; tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience and access; enhance productivity and value for money and help the NHS to support broader social and economic development.²

Building on our strong foundations of joint working fostered during the response to the pandemic, Public Health in Wolverhampton is well positioned to make the most of these new opportunities to address city challenge related to on-going Covid-19 recovery and the impact of the cost of living on our local residents.

This report highlights the partnership work already taking place in our city characterised by a commitment to a common purpose and drawing on the differing expertise of all participants.

We will continue to grow and strengthen our partnership approach with strategic leadership from Wolverhampton's Health and Wellbeing Together Board³ and supported by our local place-based partnership OneWolverhampton⁴ to enable sustainable improvements in outcomes for local people.

¹ www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/The_vision_for_Public_Health_2030.pdf

² www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/integrated-care-systems-explained

³ <http://wellbeingwolves.co.uk>

⁴ <https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/about-us/onewolverhampton.html>

City Profile



Our place “Out of Darkness Cometh Light”

- Founded by Lady Wulfruna in 985.
- A University city.
- Strong sense of community.
- A super-diverse, culturally rich city with over 80 languages spoken.
- Proud industrial heritage.
- A national centre for sustainable construction.
- A centre for advanced manufacturing and aerospace.
- One of the country’s best collections of British and American Pop Art.
- Home to the Wolves Molineux, Wolverhampton Racecourse, the Halls, Bilston Town Hall, fifteen libraries, WVActive and award-winning Green Flag parks and public open spaces.
- Pride 2023 attracted just over 5,000 visitors to the city, raising over six thousand pounds for charities.



Our community

- A growing population of over 260,000 people living across 20 wards.
- 45% of residents from an ethnic minority group.
- Fifth of the population classed as disabled.
- Younger population than the English average, however, with the 65+ age group expected to rise faster than younger cohorts.
- Deprivation score 24th highest in England – out of 317.
- A higher proportion of babies with a low birth weight than the English average.
- Unemployment claimant count second highest in the country.
- Higher number of children living in low-income households than the national average.



Health risk factors

- Smoking, alcohol mortality and drug hospital admission rates higher than England averages.
- Smoking in pregnancy rate higher than the national average.
- Lower than national and regional averages for uptake of children's vaccinations programmes.
- Inactive and obese adults and children higher than the England average.
- Lower than national and regional averages for uptake rates of the national screening programmes for breast, cervical and bowel cancer.
- Rates of falls and hip fractures in older people are high, as are households living in fuel poverty meaning people are exposed to the risk of cold housing in winter exacerbating long-term conditions.

Chronic disease

- High prevalence of long-term conditions, especially in relation to hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic heart disease, depression, and dementia.



Public Health Vision 2030 partnership achievements

- Top quartile for alcohol treatment completions, meaning when people access treatment, they are more likely to complete successfully and go on into employment.
- Infant mortality rate gap between the city and English average narrowing.
- Proportion of two and a half year checks assessing children's development taking place within the target period above regional and national averages.
- Reduction in number of rough sleepers in the city in the last year, reflecting a longer-term downward trend.
- Top performer for NHS health checks, lowering the risk, and enabling early detection of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type two diabetes and dementia.

The Power of Partnership

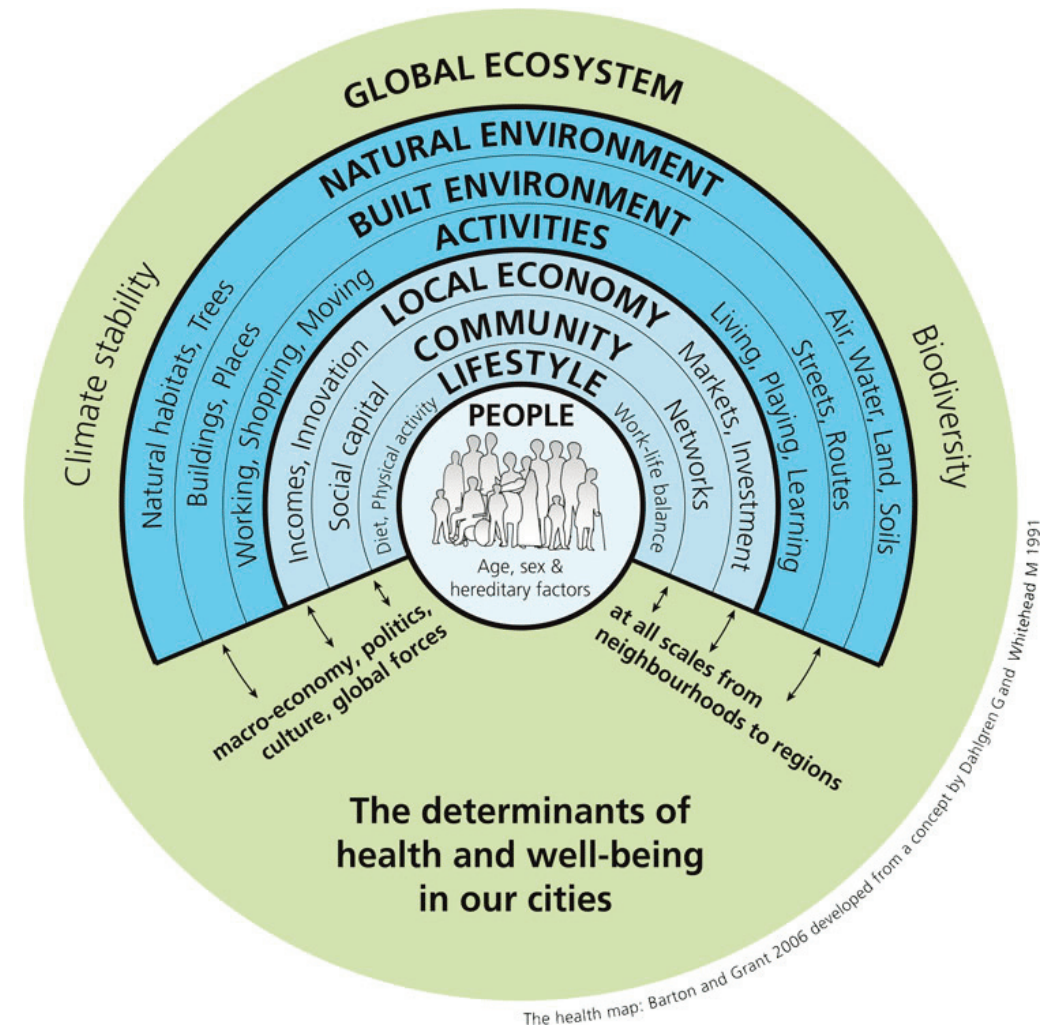
Our health is influenced by more than just individual biological factors. As represented in the diagram,⁶ social, economic and physical environments all play a part, and can constrain the choices we make and shape the lifestyle we lead.

Inequalities in the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age have an adverse effect on health and wellbeing, often shortening people’s lives and leading to avoidable years of poor health.

Effectively tackling differences in health outcomes starts with recognition of the impact of these different inter-related determinants. An NHS response cannot deal with these disparities alone. It requires local systems to work together in partnership, often with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

The Faculty of Public Health⁷ recognises ‘strategic leadership and collaborative working for health’ as one of the ten key areas of Public Health practice. Our Public Health 2030 Vision¹⁸ sets out our approach and ambitions. By building trusting relationships based on shared values we are working with a wide range of different groups, organisations, businesses and individuals in the city to achieve these ambitions through stepped improvements.

This year’s annual report celebrates some of these relationships and demonstrates how partners work together across the life course to tackle health inequalities and improve outcomes for local people.



⁶ The health map. A health map for the local human habitat. The Journal for the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, 126(6), 252e253. ISSN 1466-4240 developed from the model by Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991.46

⁷ www.fph.org.uk

⁸ www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/The_vision_for_Public_Health_2030.pdf

The City's Place-Based Partnership: OneWolverhampton



OneWolverhampton is a partnership of health, social care, voluntary and community organisations, of which Public Health is an integral member. Using a population health approach to physical and mental health and wellbeing, our ambition is to reduce the widening gaps in health inequalities across the city.

The partnership has six key areas of focus to enable deliver of better outcomes for local communities:

- Children and Young People
- Care Closer to Home
- Living Well
- Adult Mental Health
- Primary Care
- Urgent and Emergency care

OneWolverhampton Living Well Strategic Working Group Team

One of the six Strategic Working Groups is focused on living well. This hosts the preventative agenda for the city and is chaired by John Denley, the Director of Public Health. There is a strong membership from across the Partnership, including representation from Public Health, Primary Care, Acute and the Integrated Care Board.

We are committed to delivering against a number of key priorities, including healthy lifestyles and increasing awareness of cancer screening.



Lifestyles

In Wolverhampton, adult smoking prevalence is 15.1%. This is above both England and regional averages. Smoking is the most damaging cause to preventable ill health and premature mortality.

From a healthy weight perspective, obesity is associated with reduced life expectancy and is a risk factor for a range of chronic diseases. Wolverhampton has higher levels of adult obesity, overweight or obese individuals than England and West Midlands averages.

We agreed a collective and preventative approach at a joint workshop held in April to tackle these areas. Preventative approaches support people to shift to better health behaviours. This includes stopping smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, and encouraging uptake of cancer screening programmes and health checks.

Following the workshop, we are looking to commission a number of services which will support residents in making positive behavioural choices and tackling these complex issues in a partnership way.

Cancer Screening

Cancer is a leading cause of mortality in the UK and affects thousands of lives each year. Cancer screening programs play an important role in the strategy to detect and manage cancer at an earlier stage and therefore offering early detection, timely intervention, and improved survival rates.

There are three national cancer screening programmes delivered by the NHS in England: breast, cervical and bowel. The uptake of these screening programmes amongst the population of Wolverhampton has historically been below regional and national averages.

To address this, a dedicated workstream has been created. This has involved providing additional staff to GP surgeries to raise awareness and encourage attendance for screening appointments.

In addition, improved relationships have been fostered with the national screening teams to support improved uptake for the city's residents.

OneWolverhampton Health Inequalities Transformation Group

Health inequalities are avoidable, unfair and systemic differences in health between different groups of people (King's Fund, 2022)⁹. They are present across a range of dimensions and characteristics and can lead to poorer health outcomes and reduced life expectancy.

OneWolverhampton has formed a Health Inequalities Transformation Group which brings together key local partner organisations with the aim to develop a strategic, evidence-based approach to contribute towards narrowing the health inequalities gap between population groups and geographical areas in Wolverhampton.

This group has been instrumental in funding services that address known gaps. These gaps have been identified through the work of the Public Health team and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs).

Current projects

- **Oral health – Fluoride Varnish Programme**

This programme will deliver local, targeted community fluoride varnishing for children aged between 0 and 5. This offer will be delivered in Family Hubs and Early Years settings, strengthening partnership working and addresses a key opportunity highlighted by the Health and Wellbeing Together Board.

- **Children and Young People's Health Champions Programme**

A network of Health Champions is being expanded to support the co-production of children's services and support increased engagement between providers of services and young people. These Champions will also support the delivery of health messaging within school and community settings and support young people in achieving the best start to life.

- **A Healthier Hostel for Wolverhampton**

Funding is supporting the delivery of the Healthier Hostel project. The initial findings demonstrated that the programme supported admission avoidance and reduced length of hospital stays when people were admitted. This will support the continued delivery of primary-care led clinics to support a known vulnerable cohort.

⁹ www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/nhs-in-a-nutshell/health-inequalities

Starting Well: Supporting Expectant Moms

Smoking in pregnancy remains a key public health concern and is the single greatest modifiable risk factor for poor outcomes in pregnancy. The prevalence of smoking in Wolverhampton is high; for 2018-2019 17.9% of women were still smoking at the time of the birth of their baby. The Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) has set the aspirational target of 6% for 2024-25. We also see smoking rates concentrated among pregnant women from poorer backgrounds, with women from the poorest 10% of the population six times more likely to smoke than those from the most affluent 10%. The adverse effects of smoking relate not only to the mother, but to the unborn child where we see a doubling of the likelihood of stillbirth and tripling of the likelihood of sudden infant death.



Evidence is clear that:

- Stopping smoking in pregnancy will reduce the risk of perinatal and infant morbidity and mortality.
- Maternal smoking in pregnancy can have persistent effects on lung development, lung function and respiratory health later in life.
- Babies born to women who smoke in pregnancy are much more likely to smoke themselves when they become teenagers, with 8 out of 10 smokers reporting having a parent who smoked.
- Women who smoke during pregnancy also increase the risk of their babies becoming overweight in childhood.
- Women who continue to smoke in pregnancy tend to be heavily dependent on nicotine, therefore require intensive behavioral support and nicotine replacement treatments (NRT) to have the best chance of stopping smoking.
- Cessation of maternal smoking early in pregnancy is associated with reduced spontaneous preterm birth and still birth, as well as lower rates of Intrauterine Growth Retardation (IUGR).

Given the evidence, reducing smoking in pregnancy and giving every child the best start to life is an important target for Public Health. We have been working hard to provide as much support as possible to the Maternity Tobacco Dependency team based in Maternity at the Royal Wolverhampton NHST Trust. This has included work to offer support in terms of specialist advice to the team on effective use of NRT, action to improve access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) from primary care and continuing to explore possible avenues for future and additional funding for the provision.

In June 2023 we collectively committed to taking the service closer to our communities, moving outside traditional clinical settings. A natural fit was to explore the opportunities through well-established network of libraries and community settings.

After successful discussions the Stop Smoking in Pregnancy team, now renamed the Maternity Tobacco Dependency Team, moved into Wednesfield Library. The Library is easily accessed from the New Cross Hospital site for the staff and also provides a quiet office space for the team to do their work contacting women on their journey to becoming smoke free. At the same time Public Health have been developing the Healthy Pregnancy Service which works alongside the Maternity Tobacco Dependency Team. This service which also looks at maternal weight and maternal mental health will be working closing with the Tobacco Dependency Team thereby providing additional support to women from early pregnancy through to birth. The overlap between maternal smoking, mental wellbeing and weight is significant so teams that work to address these issues will prove invaluable in our aim to reduce smoking at this important life stage for women, partners and their child.

Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, Healthy Pregnancy Advisors

The aim of the service is to equip women with the tools they need to thrive physically, mentally, and socially throughout their pregnancy journeys. Healthy Pregnancy Advisors support a cohort of women who have been identified as having a raised BMI and/or smoke, providing them with evidence-based information and support to empower them to stop smoking and maintain a healthy weight. Supporting them to develop social support groups to tackle the isolation that can often be experienced in the early post birth months, they visit women in their homes where possible and spend time at family hubs and community centres. They work closely with the Maternity Stop Smoking Support Team and the Infant Feeding Team.

The 2022 MBBRACE¹⁰ report highlighted the significant impact on women's health of the increasing inequalities in the United Kingdom, in terms of deprivation and disadvantage. The report calls urgently for a continued focus on the broader physical and mental health of the mother, and a greater focus on understanding and addressing

the social determinants of health and highlights the increasing impact of deprivation and severe and multiple disadvantages on maternal outcomes. Women living in the most deprived areas are more than twice as likely to die as women living in the wealthiest areas.

The maternity tobacco dependency service offers a personalised care plan and support throughout pregnancy to women who smoke and/or have a raised carbon monoxide reading or have recently quit smoking. This is an opt out referral service that can be used by any health professionals who care for pregnant women. The team are able to provide support to partners and other family members living at the same address.

The team supports families throughout pregnancy and after the birth of their children to have a healthier lifestyle, by helping them to stop smoking and maintain a smoke free home.

¹⁰ www.england.nhs.uk/publication/saving-babies-lives-version-three

OUR STORY

Feedback from women who have used the service

“Stopping smoking has been one of my greatest achievements, when the midwife told me someone would contact me I couldn’t see how it would help me. But the smoking advisor was kind – she understood that it was going to be difficult; I have been smoke free for 20 weeks.”

“After my baby was born was the hardest time – I really thought I would start smoking again, but my advisor kept in touch she messaged me and has even come to see me and my baby, I still really crave a cigarette, but I haven’t had one”

How to refer to the service

- Via BadgerNet
- By email
whtr.maternitysmokingcessationteam@nhs.net
- By contacting the team by phone 01902 307999 ext 86307.
- Women can also self-refer

School Health Champions: Developing Young Leaders

Developing young people as leaders, educators, supporters and advocates has been shown to have a positive impact.

Drawing on this learning Public Health delivered a pilot Health Champions Programme from September 2022 – June 2023 in a primary and secondary school to measure the impact and outcomes for children and young people, schools and the interventions subsequently delivered. The approach to the pilot programme was co-produced with young people and schools to ensure the health champions programme met their needs whilst championing local health priorities.

A bespoke localised training programme was created and delivered to the students over four weeks. The findings from the evaluation showed 90% of children and young people who participated in the training stated their confidence and understanding of health priorities improved following the training and the majority wanted to continue in their role as a health champion after their training to initiate their first selected campaign.

Health Champions from Uplands Primary School delivered health interventions on healthy eating, anti-bullying, mental health – loneliness, gamification online, physical activity and transition to secondary school. The findings demonstrated an increase in fruit consumption at playtimes, an increase in children participating in physical activity for more than 30 minutes and over 4,000 people viewing a localised video created by the students on ways to combat loneliness as part of the national mental health awareness day campaign.

Heath Park Health Champions delivered interventions on bullying, anxiety, teenage pregnancy, alcohol awareness and body image. The findings from a survey carried out in school advised these issues were voted the highest priority. The interventions resulted in an increase in young people seeking information, advice, and support across the breadth of issues. The Health Champions have also been instrumental in the development and delivery of sexual health information and campaigns for Embrace (local Sexual Health Service), School Nurses and Public Health.

Following the success of this pilot we are committing to a further extension, and Uplands Primary School and Heath Park Secondary School will support us to roll out this initiative to additional schools.

Uplands Primary School

As a school we work with Public Health who provide support and training for our Health Champs programme in school. They upskill the students in their new roles and describes what it entails to be a Health Champion and training them on the skills required.

This has involved Public Health coming into to school on a termly basis to meet with the Health Champions to identify and coordinate health campaigns in school, including identifying and planning health campaigns linked to either national campaigns or school-based needs.

They have also provided resources and supported us to make links with schools across the city so that the campaign can be shared with others and signposting us to organisations so that campaigns are meaningful and purposeful.

In partnership we have delivered and coordinated four big health campaigns.



Young Health Champions – Uplands Junior School



Young Health Champions from Uplands Junior School meet Professor Chris Whitty & Director of Public Health, John Denley as part of the government visit to Wolverhampton

Heath Park Secondary School

Public Health has supported us to develop a whole school approach to campaigns including assemblies, a range of pupil-led activities, signposts to support services and letters to parents. They have helped us enhance the voice of the child and embed Health Champions programme alongside other school initiatives (Art of Brilliance, Health Week, PSHE).

The health champions programme has had a big impact on the wellbeing of our young people in school. It has raised awareness on health topics impacting young people today and broke down stigmas around thematic areas.

The campaigns have provided young people with localised support and resources available to them including pathways on how to access these.

When a campaign has been delivered, we do tend to see more young people coming forward to seek advice on concerns they may have.

MY STORY

Young Health Champion at Heath Park School

“Being a Health Champion has not only made me feel confident to talk about some issues that I am facing, but also help others who may be struggling. I have helped some of my peers with information on body image and helped someone who was struggling with anorexia. Being a Health Champion is really rewarding but important as sometimes we do not know where to go for support and get the right information”.



Mental Health and Wellbeing: Building Student Resilience

Over the academic year 2022-2023 the University of Wolverhampton partnered with Public Health to pilot an innovative Student Wellbeing Champion programme. A new Student Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator function was developed to recruit, train, and support students to become local Wellbeing Champions. The programme provided training and education to students on public health issues, enabling them to deliver health information campaigns to hundreds of people in both the university, and wider community, supporting others to make positive choices around health and wellbeing issues.

Student volunteers were provided with tailored training packages on health topics, empowering them to develop innovative strategies to promote student health and wellbeing using evidence-based frameworks in synergy with local public health priorities. Students collaborated with staff to launch the University's new mental health and wellbeing strategy and provided online mental health workshops to promote self-care and awareness of health promotion services available to staff and students.

In addition to this, a student placement scheme was developed by the City of Wolverhampton Council. Placement opportunities within the Public Health team were made available exclusively for Student Champions. Placements last around 12 weeks and focus on an agreed piece of work (focusing on Health Protection, Health promotion, or Health Care Public Health), designed to support the delivery of key public health priorities and enable students to further develop their academic skills in real world practice.

The placements involve a formal application and interview process designed to mimic that of an employed role giving the students real-life experience to further increase their chances of employability following graduation, as well as making an active contribution to the Council's ambitions to reduce health inequalities and improve population health and wellbeing outcomes.

To date there have been three students who have successfully completed placements, and there are plans to maintain the scheme.

One student champion who completed the placement programme has gone on to secure a permanent position in a Public Health role. During the placement with CWC, the student was able to meet with a range of health and social care practitioners across the city, attending stakeholder meetings, evidencing various academic public health and health promotion activities in line with 'UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) standards' which are required competencies for working in Public Health.

The University of Wolverhampton

The University of Wolverhampton is largely a commuter university meaning it serves a high number of local students who play a pivotal role in improving the health of their local communities.

Last academic year, the Student Wellbeing Champion programme was piloted as a sector first for Higher Education in the UK and proved to be highly successful.

During the academic year, health promoting campaigns and interventions supported by Student Wellbeing Champions have reached hundreds of people both within the University and more widely across the city. We recruited, supported, and worked with over 60 Student Champions. Each Student Wellbeing Champion had the opportunity to engage in enhanced training, some examples include safeguarding, community suicide and self-harm awareness and response, information governance, enhanced public health modules, and making every contact count.

The Champions have steered many of the one-off events that occurred, as well as regular support offers such as bereavement support, neuro diversity social group and walk and talk sessions.

Examples of some of the one-off events include:

- University Wellbeing Day
- Orange Wolves
- Periods @ WLV Launch
- Well @ Wolves
- University Mental Health Day
- Freshers + Student Belonging Survey
- City Lifestyle Survey Promotion
- Sexual Violence & Sexual Assault Week

MY STORY

“As a Wellbeing Champion, I had an opportunity to undertake a student placement and work alongside public health experts at the City of Wolverhampton Council. This placement provided hands-on experience in real-world public health activities, giving me insights into the daily operations and initiatives that impact the well-being of the city's residents. The mentorship and guidance I received from the Council's public health experts were invaluable, shaping my understanding of the importance of sound mental health and wellbeing at a community level.

Overall, my experience as a Student Wellbeing Champion at the University of Wolverhampton was truly a transformative and enriching journey. In addition to expanding my knowledge of the importance of mental health and wellbeing, it also highlighted the importance of early intervention and creating a nurturing, inclusive environment for all students. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with inspiring professionals and fellow students, and I am eager to continue working to improve the well-being of individuals and communities.”



Students & staff from Wolverhampton University – Student Wellbeing Co-ordinators programme

Financial Wellbeing: One Community

With the current cost of living crisis resulting in large increases in the cost of food, housing, energy and other essential services, the City of Wolverhampton Council has adopted a One Council approach and are responding through the delivery of the Financial Health and Wellbeing Strategy to ensure residents affected at all levels have access to the right support, advice and guidance, when they need it.

Developing a multi-agency approach, in close collaboration with committed partners and stakeholders we are setting a long-term vision to tackle poverty and improve financial wellbeing in the city with initiatives and ongoing plans to tackle early and emerging needs in addition to dealing with the really important work of responding to crisis.

By taking an outward looking attitude to help unlock the diverse range of skills and knowledge out there in local communities and building on the strengths that people already have to help themselves whilst actively working to break down any barriers and/or bridge the gaps that exist we aim to make lasting and sustainable change for residents.

Taking a restorative approach to working with people, supporting them to tackle issues early and helping them on their journey from reliance to resilience we focus on core areas where the biggest difference is needed such as, promoting financial responsibility; tackling food and fuel poverty; improving access to financial information and working with people to maximise income and opportunities.

The effects of financial hardship and being unable to meet basic needs can be profound and touches all aspects of life and whilst experiences can be very individual, people who experience this over a sustained period of time can suffer many adverse consequences with effects on mental health, poor physical health linked to insufficient nutrition, living in cold and damp homes, social isolation and an overall reduced life expectancy.

Knowing these issues are so complex and interconnected, we have come together with communities, partners and other agencies to ensure our approach tackles issues across the board with the aim to achieve a financially inclusive Wolverhampton - where residents have access to a comprehensive range of appropriate money advice services as well as the knowledge, skills and confidence to maximise their own financial wellbeing.

OUR STORY

Stratton Street Community Centre, Gail Reynolds

“Here at Stratton Street Community Centre, we provide a wide variety of services across all age groups to families and individuals who are resident in an area where the challenges associated with poverty are rife.

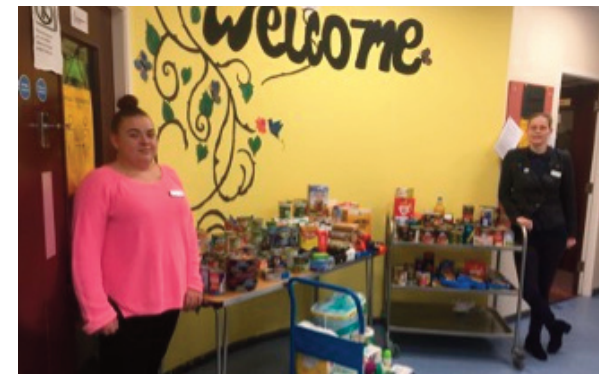
Our curriculum of activities include a foodbank, community shop, friendship groups, pre-school program, lunch clubs, cooking classes, youth and sports clubs, school holiday activity programs- seated exercise for seniors, social events – ‘cost of living’ household fund administration and access to a warm space to name just a few.

The challenges our programs try to address are basic activities of daily living such as eating, heating, social isolation, physical and mental health and wellbeing. In addition, this year in partnership with Public Health we hosted a meeting about sexual health, distributed and returned a survey about pre and post-natal services and distributed dental packs to all of our vulnerable families and children. I can only speak for the many residents from our local area that attend the centre. The challenges associated with poverty are often taken in their stride on a daily basis – but it is such a difficult journey.

To have access to a warm welcoming environment where one can develop a sense of belonging is where we begin. The provision of practical resources or programs where like-minded people can meet often results in friendships and the development of peer groups that continue to support each other out in the community. Education around the importance of good nutrition and physical activity helps to promote good health. In addition, the opportunity just to talk to someone during times of great difficulty is invaluable and to signpost to professional counselling services if needs be. Access to opportunities that may be out of reach in normal circumstances such as day trips, visits and fun events that create smiles, laughter and good memories are also crucial to supporting the wellbeing of our community.”



Volunteers supporting their local community by getting involved in to help with garden and maintenance works



Volunteers supporting Stratton Street Community Centre Food Bank for city residents

Being Connected: Faith in our City

Community cohesion is a fundamental aspect of our work with faith communities. It refers to the willingness of individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures to coexist peacefully, respecting and understanding each other's differences. This is particularly important in a city as diverse as ours, where people of various faiths and beliefs live side by side.

Our work is rooted in a deep understanding of the integral role that faith plays in people's lives. Faith communities provide not only spiritual guidance but also social support, community engagement, and a sense of belonging. These elements are crucial for individual and community health and well-being.

We work closely with all faith communities in the city, acknowledging the diversity of beliefs and practices. Our approach is collaborative and respectful, ensuring that we understand and honour the unique perspectives and values of each community.

Our partnerships with faith communities are essential to addressing health and well-being and tackling inequalities in the city. We believe that faith communities have a significant role to play in promoting health and well-being, given their influence and reach within the community.

We collaborate with faith leaders who often have a deep understanding of the community's needs and challenges. They can provide valuable insights into the health issues affecting their community members and help us develop targeted interventions.

Our initiatives include health awareness campaigns and support groups, often held in places of worship or community centres. These initiatives aim to increase health literacy, promote healthy lifestyles, and provide support for individuals facing health challenges.

Through collaboration and mutual respect, and the strengths of our faith communities we can make a positive impact on the health of our city. Community cohesion plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of unity in diversity.



Eid Celebrations, Peace Park Wolverhampton July 2022

OUR STORY

Central Mosque, Iftikhar Ahmed

"We are the Central Mosque in Wolverhampton, with a diverse and cosmopolitan congregation to whom we provide all Islamic religious needs. In addition to this we provide support in terms of social, cultural, and wellbeing needs. In the last month we have run CPR and lifesaving courses.

There is a weekly informal drop-in service for general health concerns which are addressed by qualified medical staff on a voluntary basis. Note: This is not a surgery where medication is prescribed.

Throughout the year the Mosque highlights any wider health and well-being issues. The prime example being throughout the COVID crisis there was close co-ordination with the Council, medical professionals, and the community. We do provide bereavement services as the need arises. There is no measured impact analysis as these are voluntary initiatives, however, with people attending and asking for advice throughout the week and on Fridays it shows that there is both a need and appreciation of the work being done.

One of the highlights of this year has been the Eid celebrations that were held in West Park in conjunction with the Council. It was a bright day that was attended by over three thousand people. People of all faiths attended to either participate or to provide support. A variety of stalls were put up and refreshments provided. It was a very colourful and cosmopolitan event which showcased multiculturalism at its best."



City of Sanctuary: A Place of Welcome

As a City of Sanctuary, we have a proud history of welcoming people from across the Globe, offering a safe and welcoming place for those fleeing conflict, violence and persecution. We are grateful that so many Wolverhampton providers and organisations play their part to enable access to vital support and assistance to meet the complex and diverse needs of new, transient and migrant residents. Through our multiagency approach we promote the health, well-being, economic and social inclusion of new communities in our city, ensuring access to housing options and better opportunities to enable resettlement. By working together in collaboration and partnership, the city's residents, providers and organisations have enabled families from countries such as Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan and Sudan to rebuild their lives, becoming thriving equal citizens of Wolverhampton.



Councillor Jasbir Jaspal, Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing, visits RMC at the launch of New City Service

Ukraine

With the outbreak of war in Ukraine the Government announced the launch of the Home for Ukraine scheme. Public Health's Homelessness and Migration Team took the local lead to ensure all new arrivals from Ukraine in the city were safe and welcomed within the home of a local resident.

Over 500 households across Wolverhampton offered to open up their homes; to ensure the offer was genuine, safe and suitable a cross departmental process was put into place. This involved the Homelessness and Migration and Private Sector Housing teams visiting each host to ensure enhanced DBS checks were carried out via the Licencing team, safeguarding checks were conducted via Adults and Children Social Care and the Community Support Team were available to ensure access to welcome and initial support payments to the households. The school admissions team supported with pre-allocation of school placements and referrals were made to both 0-19 and Early help for additional assistance. The team coordinated primary care support, making contact with local GP practices and pre-booking health assessments in partnership with the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Once the households arrived The Refugee and Migrant Centre (RMC) provided wrap around support conducting personalised assessments and supporting further resettlement opportunities. The Ukraine Community Association has become a vital hub for support, guidance and welcome including Wolves@Work and Adult Education who delivered services from the centre every Friday.

Olha and her daughter, arrived via the Homes for Ukraine scheme to Wolverhampton:

MY STORY

We made our application for the Homes for Ukraine Visa, I had to make the decision to leave and come to a new country so my child can sleep at night without constant fear. It is not easy, but from the moment we had made our application the Homelessness and Migration Team from Wolverhampton Council were in touch. They were with me on my journey, what felt like 24.7 whilst we were waiting for the visa and then throughout our journey.

The Council were even our first guest, they came to greet and visit us in our new home. The language barrier and other rules of life could have become another test for my daughter and me, we had a lot of things that we needed to get in place, opening a bank account, enrolling in school... are just a few. Without the help of the Homelessness and Migration Team, I couldn't have coped. They helped and guided me in everything and moving to a new country with new requirements is not easy. I know that there are still many difficulties ahead, but when I see that my daughter is sleeping peacefully in her bed, in her room, I feel boundless gratitude. We have had the opportunity to live a full and happy life, for the opportunity to see a clear sky above your head, for hope and faith in the best. Thank you.

Newly Granted Refugee- Via Asylum

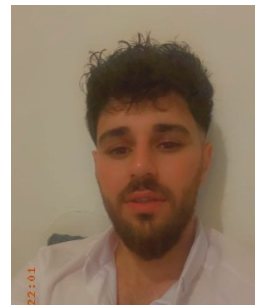
Public Health's Homelessness and Migration Team were successful in bidding for the Home Office Refugee Transition Outcome Project in collaboration with other local councils alongside the Big Issue charity. The model of delivery that has been implemented across the region has been one of partnership, collaboration and joint learning. Wolverhampton has been recognised for achieving some of the best outcomes. The team ensures all newly granted refugees are referred into the project. The RMC complete assessment based integration plans and employability assessments. Wolves@Work deliver a specialist service, working with the households and employers to give opportunities and the Homelessness and Migration team work to secure housing to prevent homelessness across the Private Rented sector.

Arman, an Asylum Seeker from Iraq, Kurdistan.

As soon as Arman was given leave to remain he was invited to the RMC to enable him to access opportunities and to support him to resettle in the city. The Homelessness and Migration Team supported him to secure accommodation with a local social housing provider. Further to this, he has been supported into part time employment by Wolves@work, and is attending ESOL through adult education to improve his English. The RMC supported the application for family reunion and in partnership were able to secure a 1 bed flat in the private rented sector for Arman to be able to live, work and welcome his wife.

MY STORY

"Thank you very much for helping me and I am very happy that you gave me a home and helped me" Arman Sharifi.



Arman Sharifi

Afghan Resettlement

In July 2021 the government required Local Authorities to help relocate Afghan Locally Employed Ex-Gratia Staff as part of a resettlement scheme. The current Leader at the time, Councillor Ian Brookfield, confirmed the support of Wolverhampton, offering to welcome, accommodate and resettle 80 Afghan nationals evacuating Afghanistan.

The Homelessness and Migration team facilitated a whole city approach by forming a strategic group to welcome and safeguard new arriving refugees. The funding from the scheme has also been utilised to provide wrap around support via charities and the community and voluntary sector, to secure long term sustainable and affordable homes through the private rented sector.

Ghulam, and his family of 7 were one of the first arriving Refugee from Afghanistan in July 2021.

MY STORY

“Life in Wolverhampton has been good to me, my family feels safe and secure since we arrived in July 2021. I have a place to live, I am grateful for the assistance but never wanted to rely on benefits and so I have made every effort to come off and support my family by myself. I have a HGV license, a taxi driver license and I have recently passed bus driving license and have been able to secure employment. I have a great job, opportunities and can provide for my family. We are very happy”



Ghulam
Mujtaba
Raufi

Safer Streets : Safeguarding our Residents

In the summer of 2022, Wolverhampton was successful in a partnership bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund and was awarded over £365,000 to undertake activity to promote safety in the city. The associated activity focused on Wolverhampton city centre and aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour and increase the safety of women and girls.

The project contained various workstreams led by a host of agencies, including West Midlands Police, the Violence Reduction Partnership, Wolverhampton Business Improvement District, P3 and the City of Wolverhampton Council.



Late Night Safe Haven pop up space in the City Centre

Key activity included:

- Additional provision of Wolverhampton Safe Haven ensured that everybody visiting the city had access to a safe space to seek support, first aid if required, phone charging point and assistance securing a licensed taxi home.
- BID night guardians conducted street patrols to support businesses operating in the night-time economy and be a visible point of contact to people in the city centre. They were able to offer support and advice and direct people to the Safe Haven where necessary.
- Training sessions were delivered to those working within the night-time economy including licensed venue staff, door staff, taxi marshals and taxi providers to upskill them to recognise and respond to vulnerability as well as respond to and report any incidents of violence and harassment against women and girls.

- When young people were identified as at risk of causing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the City Centre, partnership work took place to identify them, notify their schools and family and direct them to positive activities delivered by third sector partners.
- Additional police presence was funded in the city centre. Uniformed officers provided visibility and reassurance to the public, whilst plain clothed officers were deployed to identify and work with young people. In addition, officers were deployed on safety of women patrols every Friday and Saturday night.
- The project was overseen by a multi-agency project group to ensure that operational activity was aligned. A full evaluation is in development, however monitoring throughout the project indicates that the project has been extremely successful in promoting safety in the City. Funding has been secured to continue to deliver many elements of this project.



Late Night Safe Haven pop up space in the City Centre

West Midlands Police

The Safer Streets project has been invaluable in promoting the safety of residents in the city centre.

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, West Midlands Police were keen to work in partnership to ensure that the city centre was a welcoming place to live, work and visit and welcomed the Safer Streets funding to prevent anti-social behaviour, promote the safety of women and girls and increase feelings of safety.

Additional police patrols provided a visible presence within the City Centre to reassure the public and deter problematic behaviour, in addition plain clothed officers were also deployed to identify young people at risk of anti-social behaviour and work in partnership to offer them positive diversionary activity and additional support based on their needs. Where this was not possible, the police undertook enforcement action to manage behaviours.

As a result of the project from 1st August 2022 – 31st March 2023 1,169 hours of additional policing was deployed within the target area.

Officers were also deployed on Friday and Saturday nights to support the safety of women and girls in the nighttime economy. They proactively patrolled and directed people to the Safe Haven when they required additional support. They also identified people within the night time-economy behaving inappropriately towards women and (where this was not a criminal offence), followed up with home visits to address the behaviour and prevent escalation.

West Midlands Police worked closely with Public Health and wider partners to implement the activity and ensure that there was alignment between work streams offering both support and enforcement options where necessary. There is little doubt that the work undertaken has increased the ability of the partnership to prevent crime and safeguard residents.

Positive Choices:

Supporting People to Put Their Health First

In Wolverhampton, data shows residents are drinking at harmful levels. In 2021, 52 people died from a condition directly related to alcohol (alcohol-specific mortality). This equates to a rate of 21.5 per 100,000 population. This is significantly higher than the England and West Midlands rates. Additionally, based on estimated prevalence data for Wolverhampton, only 1 in 5 people who experience alcohol harm are engaged with alcohol treatment support services. For those who are engaged in treatment and support, their recovery outcomes are positive, nearly 45% exit treatment successfully. A matter of concern relates to the investigation of alcohol-specific mortality data (2018-2020) which shows a significant over representation of deaths in White males (69.4%) and Asian males (26.3%) compared to the local population (male and female) of 60.6% and 21.2% respectively (2021).

In order to tackle the unmet need in the population, we recognise the value of partnership working. The local Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership was developed in 2022 and forms a consortium of multi-agency partners working towards the mutual aim of reducing drug and alcohol harm across Wolverhampton.

Key priorities for the drug and alcohol partnership include:

- Improving the quality of screening activity in high-risk groups via frontline services, targeted support services, NHS Health Checks and general patient appointments in GP practices.
- Rolling out an extensive programme of Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) training for those working with communities most at risk.
- Improving access to high-quality treatment interventions including the development of specialist alcohol clinics in community settings and the expansion of the specialist alcohol team in secondary care.
- A supported employment programme which launched in May 2023 specifically for clients engaged in drug and alcohol treatment and builds on the excellent work that has been undertaken to facilitate clients into employment.
- Conducting a bespoke piece of work specifically exploring research insights in relation to high-risk communities including the South Asian population.

A recent example of multi-agency partnership working took place during July 2023 to mark Alcohol Awareness Week. Alcohol Awareness Week was a fantastic partnership event involving teams from Public Health, our Libraries, Events and WV Active working closely with colleagues from Recovery Near You, P3, SUIT, Enjoy Wolverhampton, West Midlands Police, the Violet Project, Wolves

Foundation and Hit the Dhol, who entertained the crowds at a special family event in Queen Square Saturday 8th July.

The theme of this year's campaign, organised by the charity Alcohol Change, was 'Alcohol and Cost', people were encouraged to consider the many implications associated with alcohol, like health problems, financial worries and family difficulties. Alcohol Awareness Week provided a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the support available. Recovery Near You (the specialist substance misuse treatment and recovery provider commissioned by Public Health), the City of Wolverhampton Council and key partner organisations held a series of events across the city, including the provision of free liver health checks and hepatitis C testing alongside general health and wellbeing advice. Over 400 people had a liver fibroscan at the Love Your Liver Bus during a 5-day period. Around 2,500 people were given advice and support to think differently about their alcohol use while nearly 500 people received an Extended Brief Intervention to find out more about the campaign and receive help to assess their own drinking risk levels using validated tools. We were able to engage with thousands of local people, providing them with information, help and support to help them or their family members to deal with any issues they may be experiencing with alcohol.

MY STORY

“After a 16-year battle with alcohol, following a stay at a rehab facility, I was signposted to Wolverhampton’s Service User Involvement Team (SUIT). I volunteered for 2 days a week at SUIT and within that wonderful team I gradually re-discovered my self-worth and self-esteem. By challenging my own anxieties within a supportive team and inspiring Manager, I was able to give something back to the local community and I was able to find the confidence and belief that I could make a difference to people who were in the same position as I had been in, only a few months previously. I applied for university for the first time in my life, I became a father for the first time. I took a part-time paid role at SUIT, which became a full-time role at SUIT and ultimately, I became and now continue to say with great pride that I am the Project Manager of SUIT. Working alongside 30 volunteers and 4 other paid members of staff, all of them with lived experience of drug and alcohol addiction related difficulties. We offer the most holistic wrap-around service we can to those who need us. Working alongside Recovery Near You and with the support of the local council and other community partners, we will together all continue to push to create change against stigma and improve the lives of those in need within Wolverhampton”

Recovery Near You (RNY)

RNY is a substance misuse service commissioned by Public Health, offering a wide range of holistic services for people of Wolverhampton who misuse any substance – alcohol, opiates, benzodiazepines, painkillers and so on. We work with people of all ages - from children to older adults – who are directly or indirectly affected by substance misuse. All our work is done in partnership with local agencies and local partners in primary care, specialist care, hospital, and various non-NHS statutory and the third sector agencies.

Our service's aim is to reduce the overall negative impact that drug and alcohol use has on our population and our communities. We do this by raising awareness of drug and alcohol problems, treating those who are in need and supporting those who are ready to lead a substance-free life in their onward journeys by re-integrating them into society to lead productive lives.

Our range of bio-psycho-social services include medical and nonmedical services (psychological – counselling, psychotherapy, etc and social services – support with employment and housing.) We also offer specialist psychiatric treatment for patients who are in need and provide treatments for those with physical health problems including dental health, sexual health, specific diseases such as Tuberculosis, and blood borne viruses such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

Alcohol misuse is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in Wolverhampton, and our city ranks very high in alcohol-related deaths. We offer outpatient-based and inpatient-based treatments

for people who need support with drugs and alcohol. Wherever possible, we treat people in their homes, with the support of their families.

Research shows that for every individual suffering, at least 8 people in their social network are also affected adversely. Hence, we offer a wide range of support and treatment services for others effected.

Drug overdose is the most common cause of death among heroin and stimulant drug users. To reduce the risk of overdose deaths, we have an extensive program of take-home Naloxone (antidote medication to reverse the effect of drug overdose deaths) to patients, families, and health/allied care professionals, via professional training and peer-to-peer distribution.

In addition to substances, we also help people who show addictive behaviours. The most common behavioural addiction in the UK is gambling. We offer medical and psychological treatments for gamblers and their families.

Furthermore, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is an increasingly common comorbidity amongst substance misusers. We are one of the few services in the country to offer ADHD screening for our patients, and then signpost them to appropriate help and support.

In our service, we also help healthcare professionals (nurses, doctors, social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, pharmacists, etc) who are misusing or have become dependent on prescribed opiates such as co-codamol, tramadol, dihydrocodeine).

Being Active: Moving to a Healthier You

Being active is an essential part of leading a healthy life and currently in Wolverhampton not enough residents are taking part in the recommended levels of physical activity. The Chief Medical Officer recommends that adults undertake 150 minutes of physical activity every week, which includes muscle strengthening activities on two days a week alongside the ambition to reduce the amount of time people are sedentary. The recommendations for children are at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day, with muscle and bone strengthening activities three to four times a week.

There is strong scientific evidence that leading an active life can reduce your risk of many diseases, such as: diabetes, cardiovascular disease, some cancers, depression, anxiety and dementia, as well as boosting your quality of life. There are both individual and social benefits to being active which helps us to have well connected and cohesive communities.

To help more Wulfrunians receive these benefits of living an active lifestyle, Wolverhampton's Health and Wellbeing Board, Health and Wellbeing Together, has established getting Wolverhampton moving more as one of their priority areas. This is a partnership approach where organisations from across the city have come together to work collaboratively to help change Wolverhampton into an active city.

Public, private and voluntary sector organisations are contributing to getting Wolverhampton moving more. We want to create equal and fair access to physical activity in Wolverhampton and support Wulfrunians to move more every day.



Walking Hockey and a Chat Group, Tim Lorimer

We are The Walking Hockey and Chat Group. We are working with Public Health and offering a physical and social group, primarily aimed at O65's. We play for an hour once a week and then have social interaction through a coffee and chat at Aldersley. The group is supported by Wolverhampton and Tettenhall Hockey Club and is one of their outreach projects.

We have a number of players who have mental and physical health issues and what is so good is to see the smiles of enjoyment on everyone's faces. Ability to play Hockey is not a consideration and we have a number of players who have never played. Someone will always volunteer to help with the arrangements i.e., putting the goals out or taking the drinks orders.

I always wanted to run this in conjunction with the City of Wolverhampton Council and was delighted when they agreed to not only promote it but also offer some financial support to get it started. Our first session was in May 2022 with three players, we now have on average 18-20 players most weeks and over 30 signed up. What is also encouraging is one of the players has played for the club, others have progressed to the Back to Hockey sessions. We have had matches against Bromsgrove.



Members of the Walking Hockey & Chat group meeting together as a group

Opportunity to participate in some physical activity which most will not have experienced before. We have a number of players who openly admit to having some form of mental illness and have found this session has really improved their lives. They really look forward to 11am on Wednesdays.

This must have a positive impact as they tell me this session has made a big difference to their lives. We have players from a number of different backgrounds all of whom integrate as one big happy group.

MY STORY

Walking Hockey Group members

"I had taken early retirement due to health issues, treatment for which had resulted in constant extreme fatigue. From a daily gym bunny, 10-minute planks and walking 50 miles per week, for many months I could barely manage to get to the end of the cul-de-sac. Work had brought not only an income but contact with people. My job was on a busy reception desk in a large secondary school and I missed not only the interaction with others but also being part of a team. Both physically and mentally I desperately needed a new challenge. By chance I saw a flyer for walking hockey on Tesco's notice board. So, I took the plunge and emailed Tim. Was I too old/unfit/no good at hockey? NO!!! I rocked up at Aldersley the following Wednesday and have not looked back.

Walking hockey has delivered so much of what I needed. I can't give physically as much to the game as I would like but the fact that it is walking hockey makes it much less daunting and doable. I hadn't played the sport for nearly 50 years, but it didn't matter. I was there and taking part. The friendship and camaraderie of the group (enhanced by a post-match coffee and chat) has been wonderful. There are no expectations, just a fantastic collective of lovely people of varying abilities who help, care, support and guide you to do as much as you can, as well as you can. It speaks volumes that we're having a Walking Hockey Christmas party. What a great bunch. I feel extremely blessed to be part of all this."

"I began a period of long-term sickness absence in early April 2023. This was due to mental health issues relating to a stress condition which stemmed from the workplace. Within the first week of

absence, I had a telephone consultation with a mental health nurse at my local GP surgery to discuss my case and a clear recommendation from the nurse was to ensure that I got out of the house and undertook regular exercise. I was also encouraged to continue to get plenty of social interaction, as this can be a problem for some people when absent from work and isolation can be a major trigger of mental health problems. A couple of weeks after my condition was diagnosed, Walking Hockey was recommended to me and although I had never even picked up a hockey stick before, I was encouraged to go along and try a free starter session. I recognised that it would potentially be beneficial on the two points that the mental health nurse had recommended – exercise and social interaction and so agreed to "give it a go". I have now been attending regularly for around four months and have found the weekly sessions to be hugely beneficial. The exercise always leaves me feeling invigorated and in a far better frame of mind at the end compared to prior to the session. Also, the other players are a great group of people, none of whom I knew before beginning the sessions and they were quick to make me welcome and are a pleasure to spend time with. Both of these factors have helped improve my mental wellbeing and helped me get to a position where I have been able to make important decisions about my issues in the workplace. I genuinely believe that the walking hockey sessions have played an important part in my recovery and recuperation and am extremely grateful to Tim and Barbara and the rest of the group for the support that they have unknowingly provided to me."

Keeping Well: A Place We Call Home

In Wolverhampton, there are nearly 70 residential care homes dedicated to providing essential care to some of the city's most vulnerable residents. These care homes include both residential and nursing facilities, with the latter specialising in more complex care needs. Currently, they collectively house approximately 1,800 individuals, all of whom rely on the dedicated care provided within these settings. Many of these residents contend with multiple comorbidities, placing them at a heightened risk of experiencing adverse health outcomes. Consequently, the well-being and safety of these individuals are a priority for all stakeholders in the health and social care sector. In pursuit of this shared goal, collaborative efforts from various partners within the system have been instrumental.

To safeguard the health of these residents, partnerships have been forged with partners such as the Royal Wolverhampton Trust, resulting in the implementation of a comprehensive infection prevention program across all care homes which initiative equips staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to shield residents from a range of infections, such as Covid, influenza, and other viral and bacterial diseases. Furthermore, the Rapid Intervention Team provide emergency support to care homes to ensure that care can be administered within the care home environment whenever possible, minimising the need for hospital admissions. Additionally, Primary Care now undertake virtual wards which ensures ongoing monitoring and early detection of any signs of deterioration in residents' health, allowing for timely intervention.

These services represent just a proportion of the support provided to care homes, forming part of a broader spectrum of provisions aimed at maintaining the safety and well-being of their residents.



Aspen Lodge Care Home, main entrance

OUR STORY

Aspen Lodge, Care Home

Aspen Lodge is one of many care homes here in the city of Wolverhampton, providing a range of care to older adults with complex care needs. Aspen Lodge can accommodate up to 25 residents and is available for long stays and also respite accommodation. Residents are supported with a wide range of care requirements including dementia, end of life and physical disabilities.

Keeping residents safe and well is the key priority for all staff at Aspen lodge and this is only possible through working in partnership with various services across the city which importantly includes Public Health. As we recover from the challenges care homes faced over recent years, our partnerships have strengthened and we are now in a stronger position to look after our residents. The learning from recent years has meant staff at Aspen Lodge are more aware and skilled in specialist areas such as infection prevention which is so important in keeping residents free of infectious diseases given their vulnerabilities of becoming more severely sick. Much of this learning has come through partnership working with Public Health who Commission the Infection Prevention Control (IPC) service based at RWT.

Working with the IPC team we have been able to enhance the way we work and look after our residents through regular training, mutually agreed audits and receiving support when required to effectively manage any infectious disease outbreaks.

Additionally, initiatives such as the Enhanced Health in Care Homes (EHCH) has meant primary care visit the home on a weekly basis ensuring care needs of our residents are identified and met in a timely way and therefore preventing deterioration. Many other projects and initiatives are on the horizon including strength and balance provision with our Public Health colleagues which will again build the resilience of our residents and support staff in the work they do.

The care home sector continues to face various challenges, which are not surprising given the complex nature of service provision being offered, however, the partnerships in Wolverhampton have notably grown over recent years making the challenges ahead a shared agenda across local authority and NHS partners.

Enabling and Embedding Partnership Working



City of Wolverhampton

**Health &
Wellbeing
Together**

This report provides a wide range of examples of partnership working taking place to build a healthier city.

With strategic leadership from our Health and Wellbeing Board, known locally as Health and Wellbeing Together, and supported by our local place-based partnership OneWolverhampton, it is our aim to further strengthen this partnership approach to accelerate improvements in Public Health outcomes and demonstrate that Public Health is everyone's business.

Looking forward

In the next twelve months we are committed to working in partnership to address key Public Health priorities, this includes working together to:

- Improve physical activity rates in the city across the life-course.
- Increase cancer screening uptake and improve uptake of children's immunisations.
- Deliver our lifestyle offer, including weight management and smoking cessation services.
- Grow our voluntary and community sector enabling local people to thrive in their communities.
- Further develop our Love Your Community approach to increase community connections and pride.

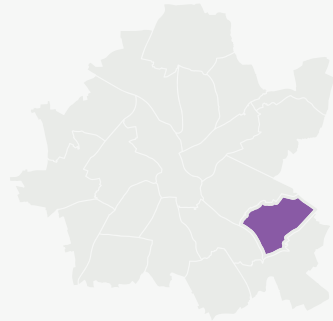
None of this can be achieved without the support of local people and organisations. City wards have many place leaders, voluntary and grass root organisations and other key individuals who play an invaluable role in improving the health and wellbeing of their local community.

The following ward maps capture key statistics and city assets. They represent a starting point. Help us to build on this and celebrate local partnerships and groups by contacting us via the Love Your Community email address: LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Your ward at a glance: Bilston North

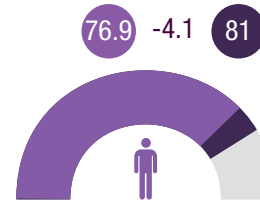


Learn more about your ward here:



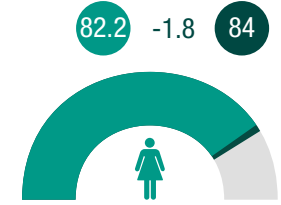
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



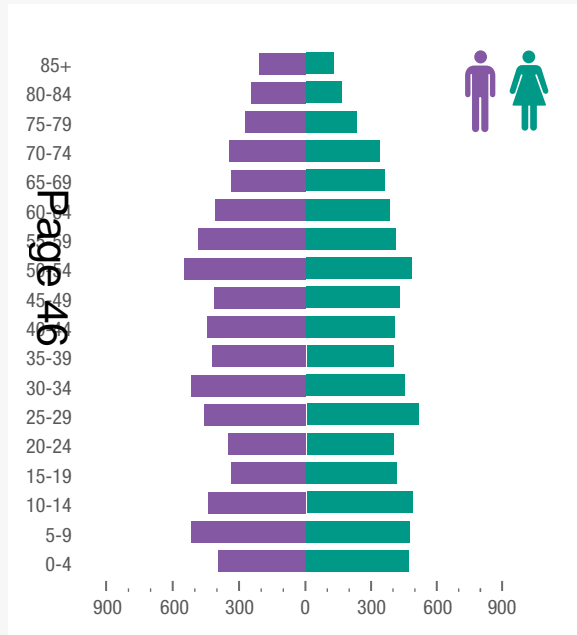
Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

- Bilston Library
- Food Banks and Community Associations
- GPs 4
- Bilston Community Centre
- Residential Care Homes 3
- Dentist 4
- Primary School 2
- Secondary School 1



Total population
14,015

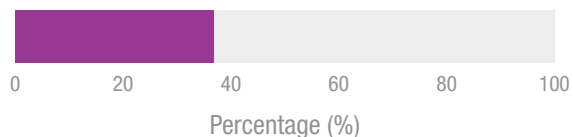


40%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



35.14%
Children living in poverty

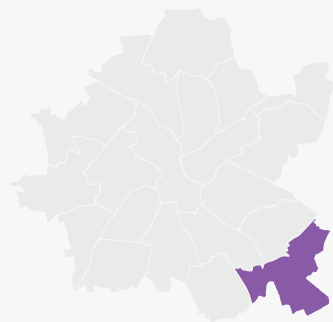
City Deprivation: **36.82%**



Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



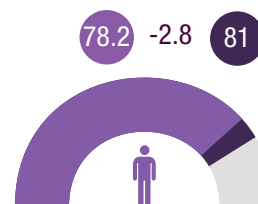
Your ward at a glance: Bilston South



Learn more about your ward here

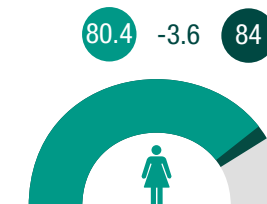
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)

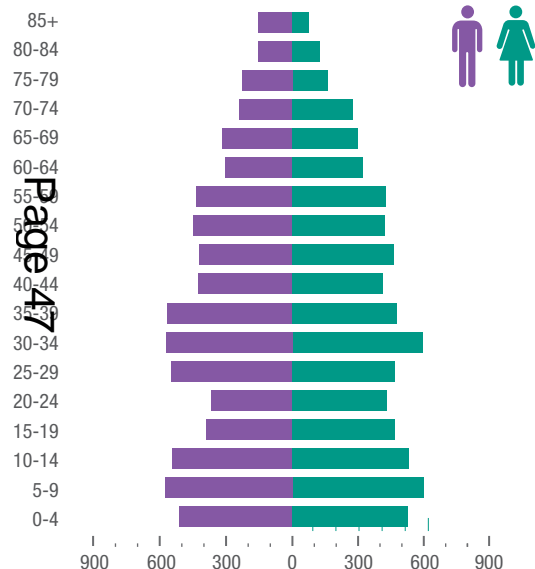


Total population

13,983



36%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



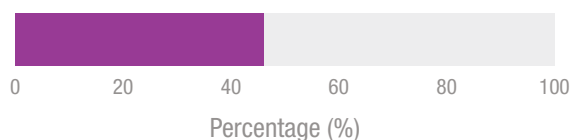
Page 47



36.80%

Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: 46.14%



LOCAL ASSETS

- Lunt Community Centre
- Bert Williams Leisure Centre
- Residential Care Homes 1
- GPs 4
- Rocket Pool Family Hub
- Primary Schools 5
- Secondary Schools 1



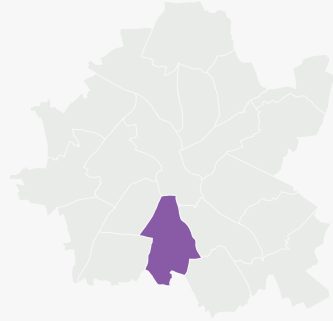
Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



Your ward at a glance: Blakenhall

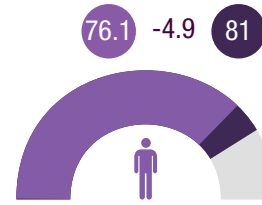


Learn more about your ward here:



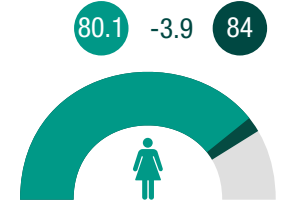
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



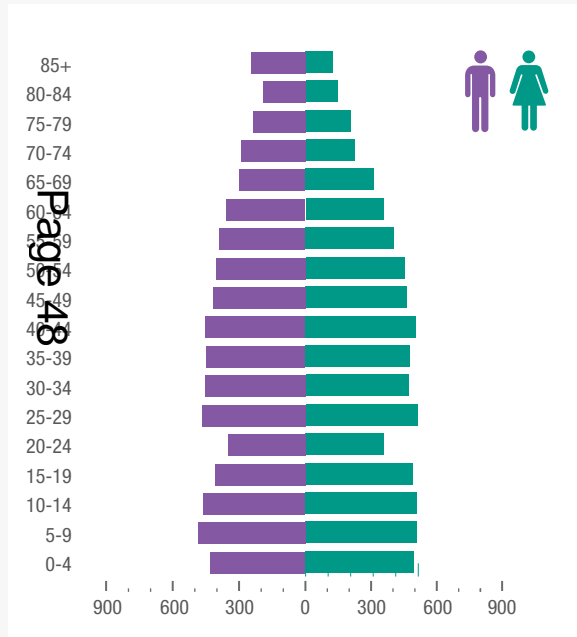
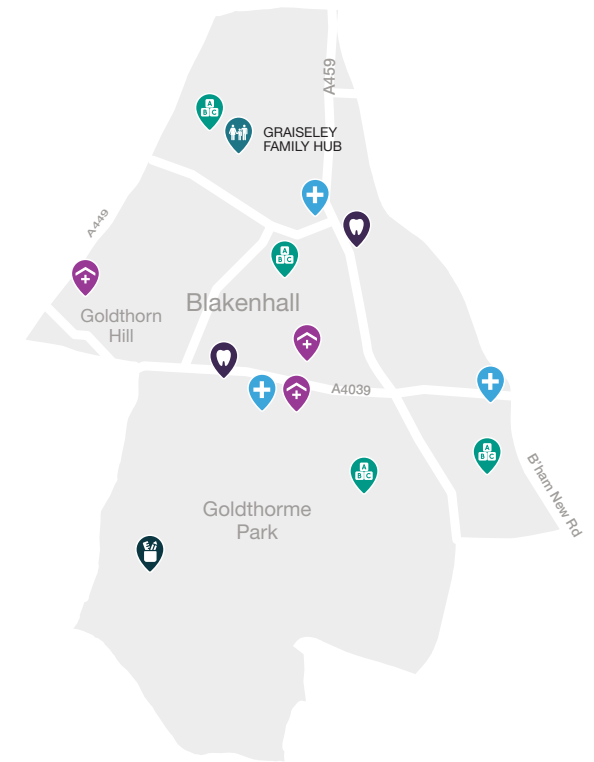
Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

GP	3
Residential Care Homes	3
Dentist	2
Graiseley Family Hub	
Bob Jones Community Hub	
Primary School	4
Secondary School	1

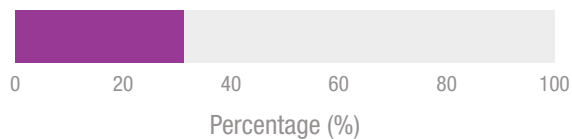


Total population
13,320



29.40%
Children living in poverty

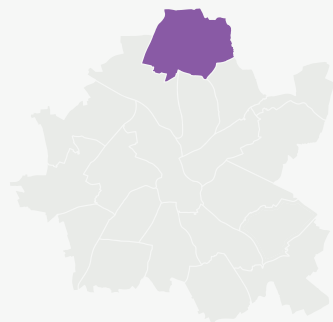
City Deprivation: **31.26%**



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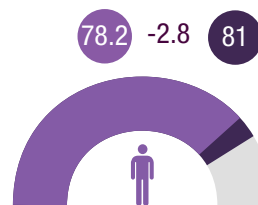
Your ward at a glance: Bushbury North



Learn more about your ward here

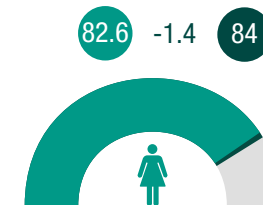
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Total population

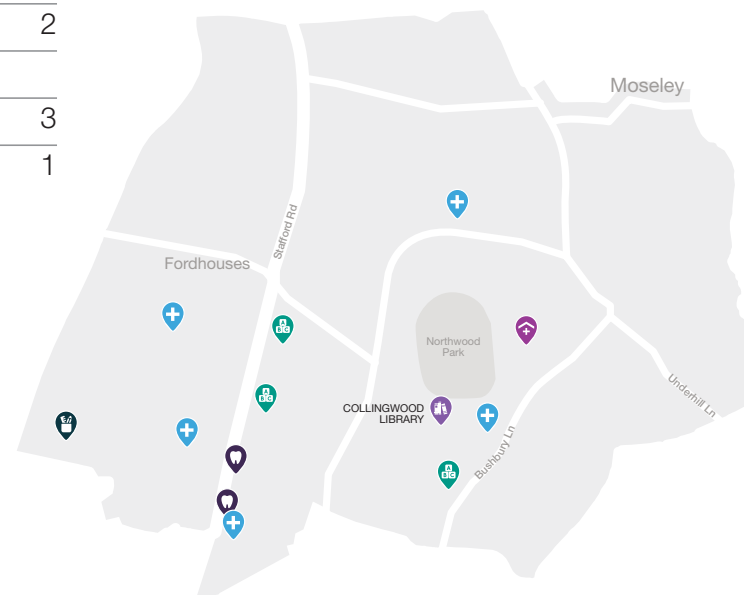
11,429



25%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)

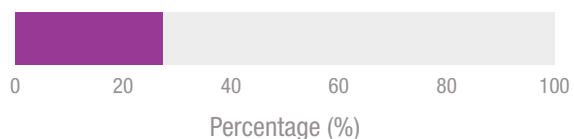
LOCAL ASSETS

+	GPs	5
+	Residential Care Homes	1
+	Dentist	2
+	Collingwood Library	
+	Primary School	3
+	Secondary School	1



29.64%
Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: 27.35%



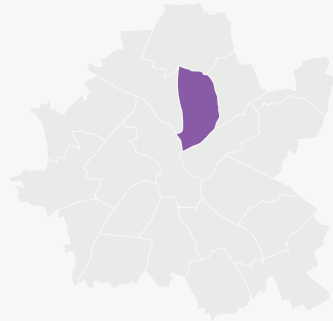
Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



Your ward at a glance: Bushbury South and Low Hill

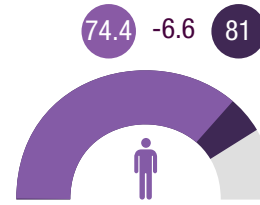


Learn more about your ward here:



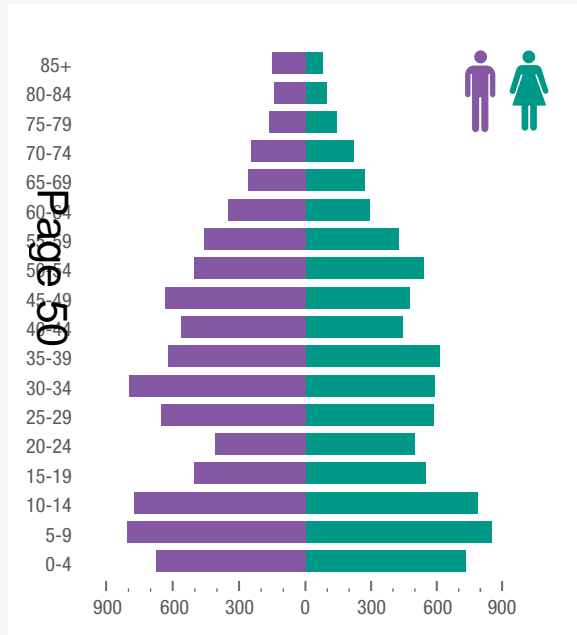
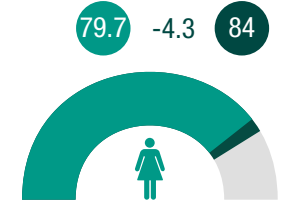
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



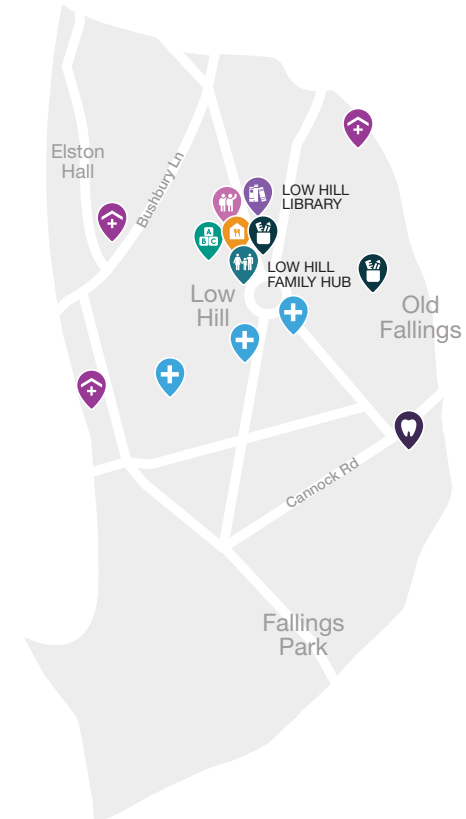
Total population
16,988



47%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)

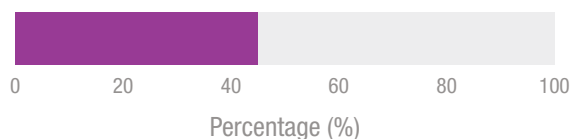
LOCAL ASSETS

- Food Banks and Commercial Associations
- GPs: 3
- Residential Care Homes: 3
- Dentist: 1
- Low Hill Family Hub
- Low Hill Library
- Low Hill Community Centre
- Primary School: 1
- Secondary School: 2



40.24%
Children living in poverty

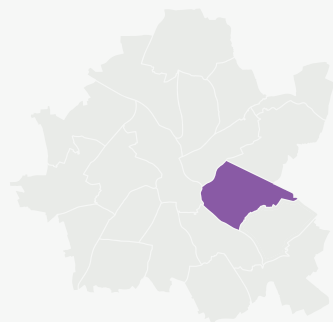
City Deprivation: 45.06%



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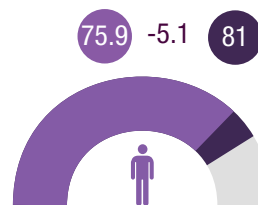
Your ward at a glance: East Park



Learn more about your ward here

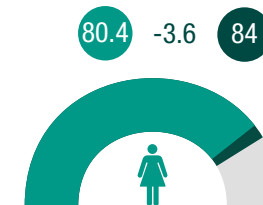
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



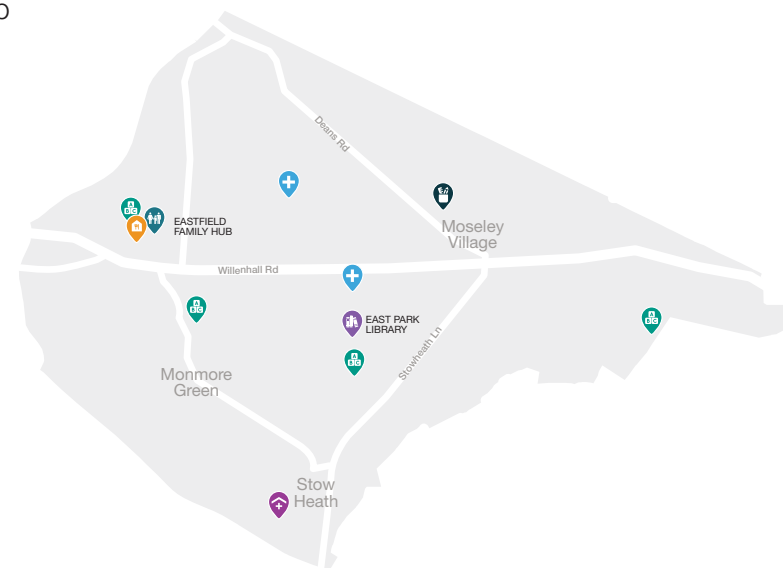
Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

- Food Banks and Community Associations
- GPs: 2
- Residential Care Home: 1
- Eastfield Family Hub
- East Park Library
- Eastfield Community Centre
- Primary School: 4
- Secondary School: 1

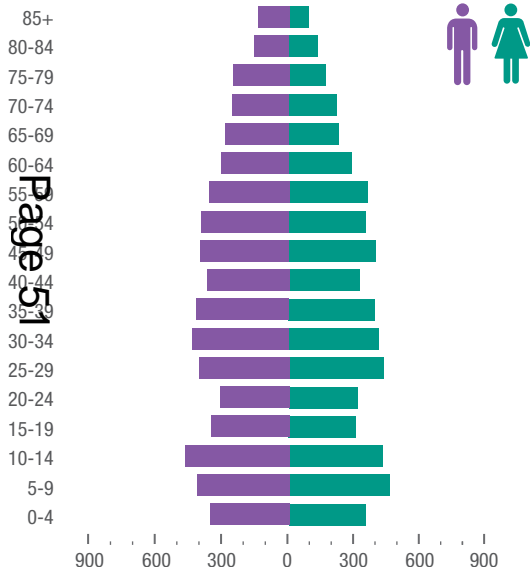


Total population

11,326

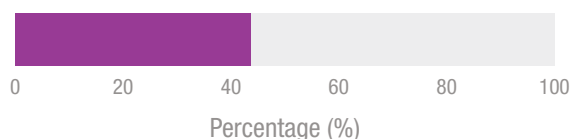


42% of the population are Ethnic Minority (City average: 45%)



38.20% Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: 43.71%



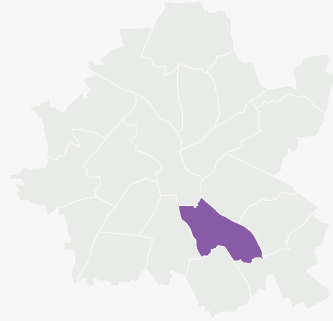
Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



Your ward at a glance: Ettingshall North

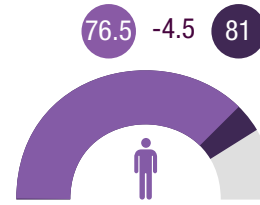


Learn more about your ward here:



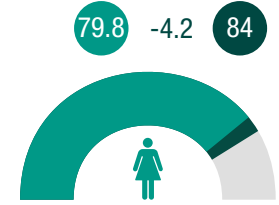
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



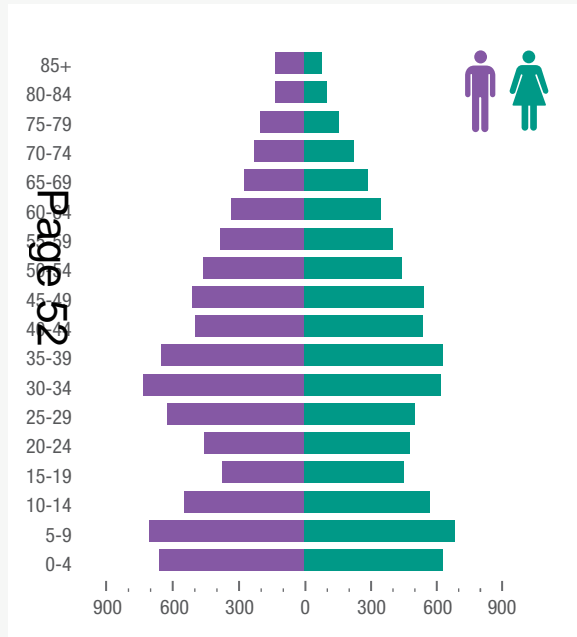
Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

- Food Banks and Community Associations
- GPs
- Residential Care Homes
- Dentist
- All Saints Community Centre
- Primary School
- Secondary School



Total population
15,406

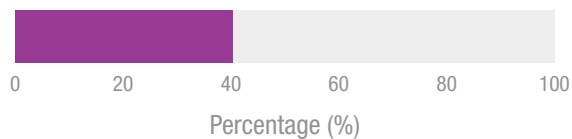


67%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



39.46%
Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: **40.39%**



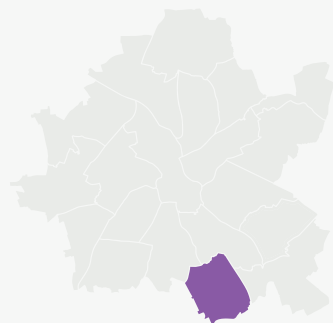
Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



Your ward at a glance: Ettingshall South and Spring Vale

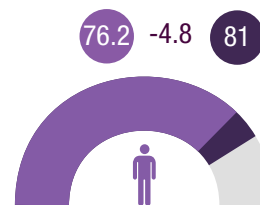


Learn more about
your ward here



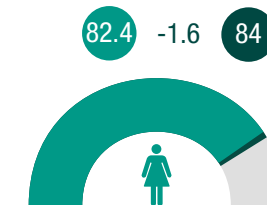
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)

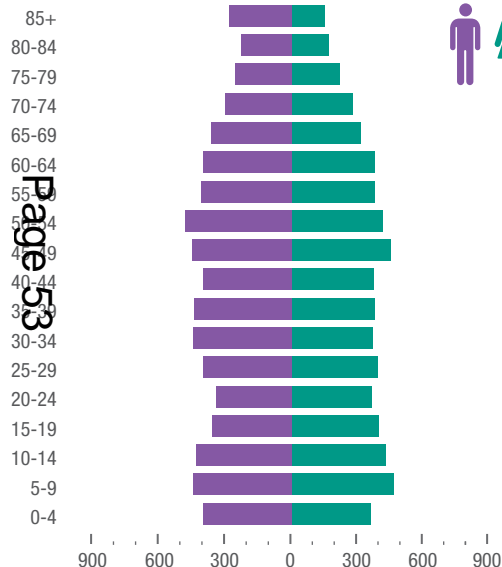


Total population

15,406



38%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



LOCAL ASSETS

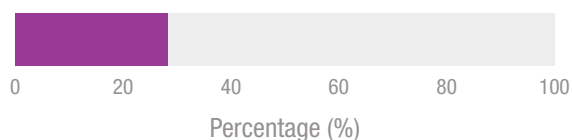
- GPs: 1
- Residential Care Homes: 3
- Dentist: 1
- Springvale Library: 1
- Primary School: 4



30.12%

Children living in poverty

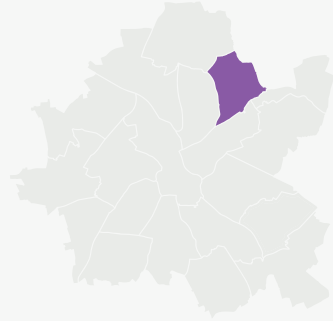
City Deprivation: 28.25%



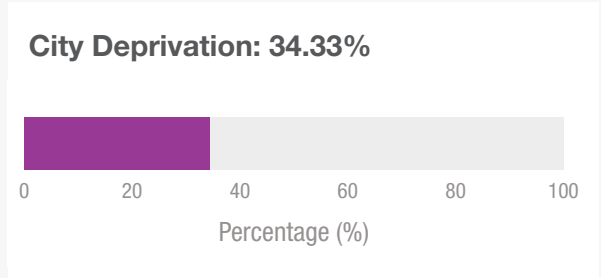
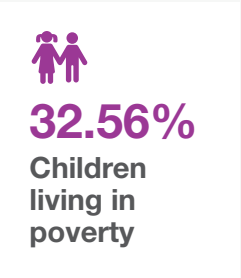
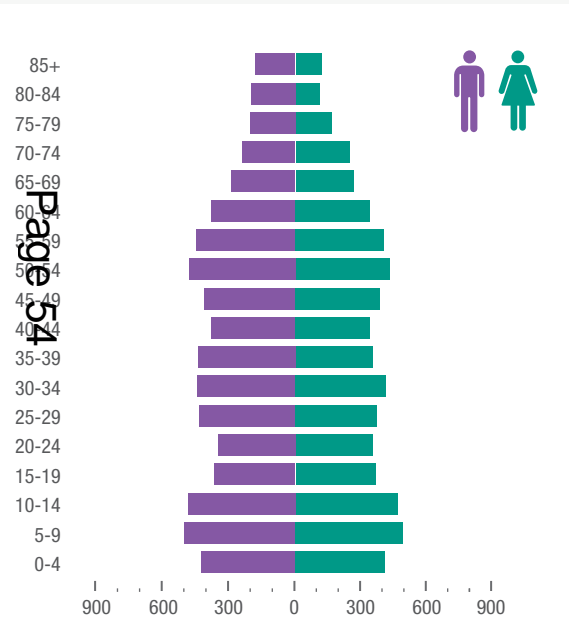
Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



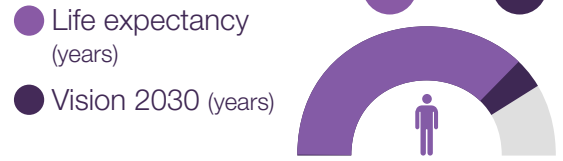
Your ward at a glance: Fallings Park



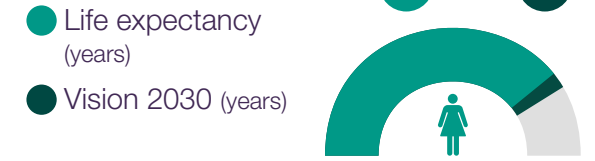
Learn more about your ward here:



Male



Female



LOCAL ASSETS

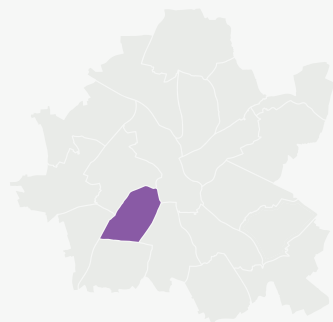
GP+	5
Residential Care Homes	2
Dentist	2
Long Knowle Library & Community Centre	
Food Banks and Community Associations	
Primary Schools	6
Secondary Schools	1



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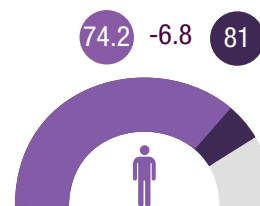
Your ward at a glance: Graiseley



Learn more about your ward here

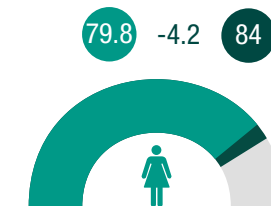
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Total population

13,434



62%

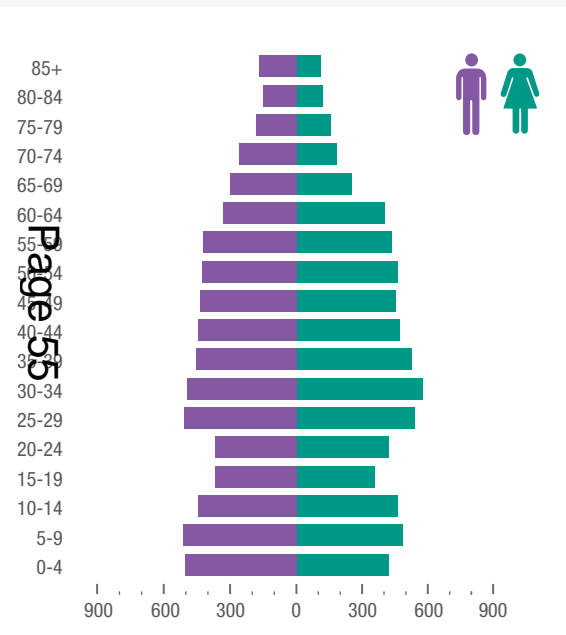
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)

LOCAL ASSETS

- 3 GPs
- 1 Residential Care Homes
- 2 Dentist
- Bingley Family Hub
- Food Banks and Commercial Associations
- St Chads Community Centre
Bradmore Community Centre
- 3 Primary Schools



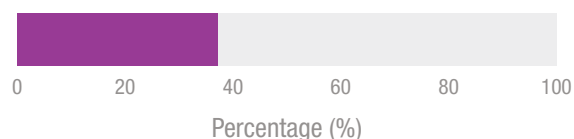
Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



36.98%

Children living in poverty

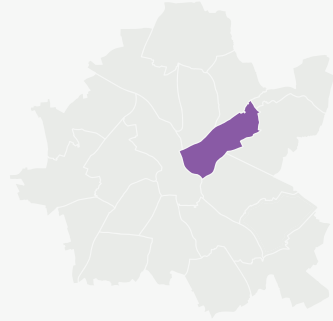
City Deprivation: **37.21%**



Your ward at a glance: Heath Town

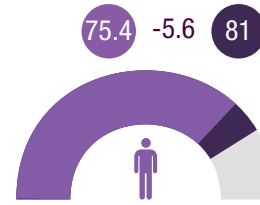


Learn more about your ward here:



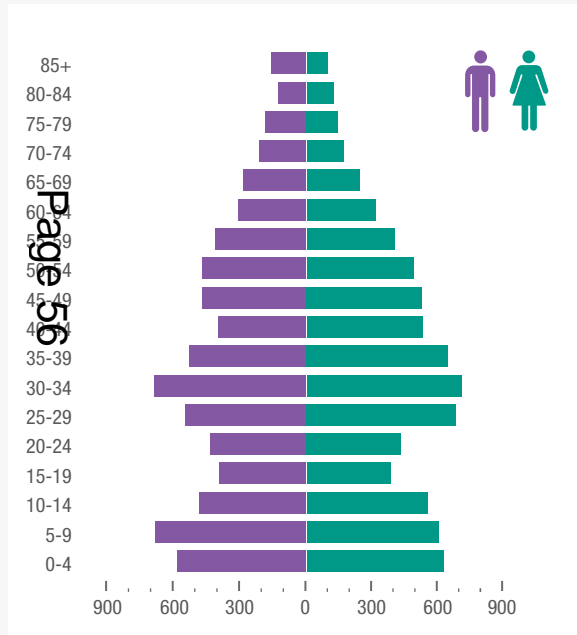
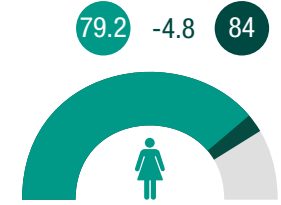
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Total population
14,756



60%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)

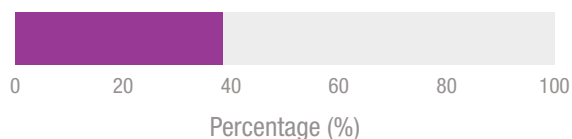
LOCAL ASSETS

- Food Banks and Community Associations
- GPs
- Childrens Village Family Hub
- Primary Schools
- Secondary Schools



34.75%
Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: **38.57%**



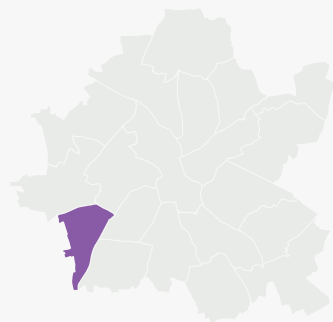
Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



Your ward at a glance: Merry Hill

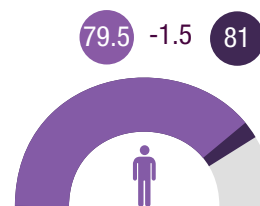


Learn more about your ward here



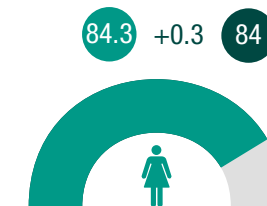
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



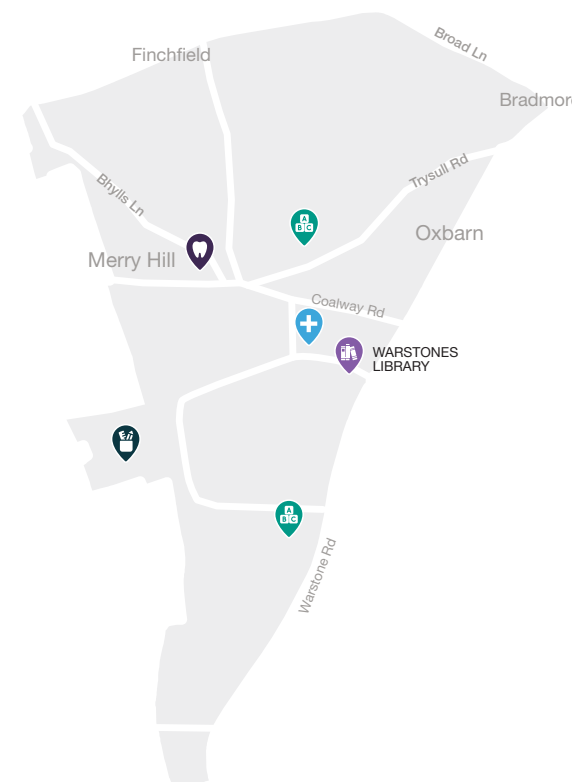
Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

- GPs: 1
- Dentist: 1
- Warstones Library: 1
- Primary Schools: 2
- Secondary Schools: 1

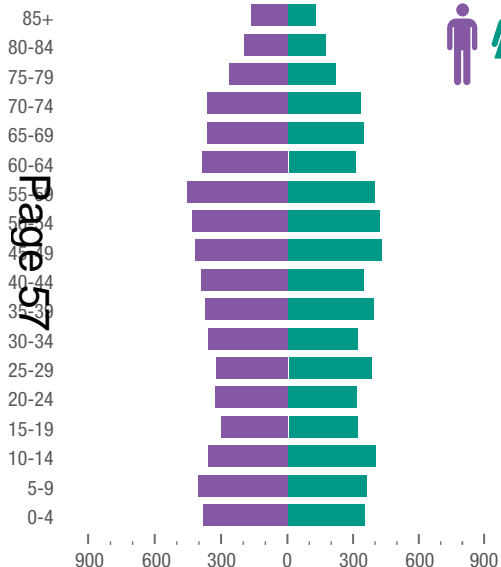


Total population

11,924

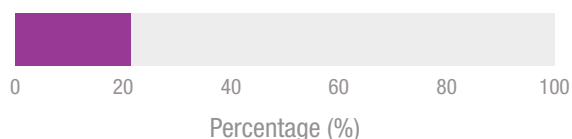


31%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



21.75%
Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: 21.42%



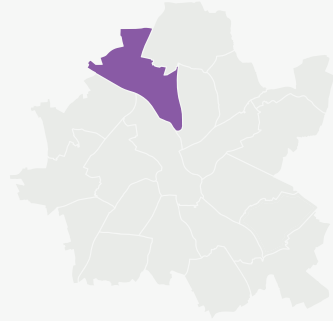
Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



Your ward at a glance: Oxley

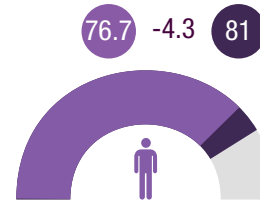


Learn more about your ward here:



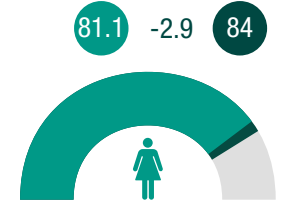
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



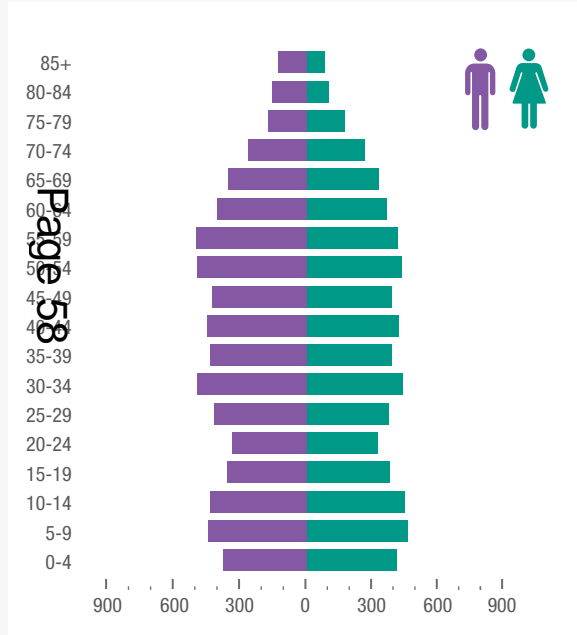
Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

- GPs: 2
- Dove Family Hub
- Pendeford Community Hub
Pendeford Library
- Primary Schools: 4
- Secondary Schools: 1



Total population
12,494

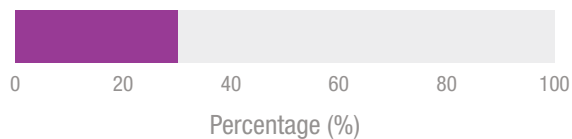


31%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



32.03%
Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: **30.19%**



Help us build a picture of local assets, partnerships and groups where you live. Email us at LoveYourCommunity@wolverhampton.gov.uk to tell us about what you're involved in at your local place.



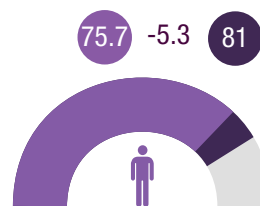
Your ward at a glance: Park



Learn more about your ward here

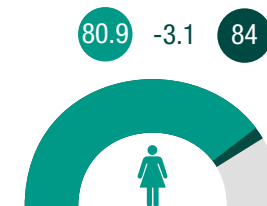
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

GP	3
Residential Care Homes	7
Dentist	3
Primary School	4
Secondary School	3

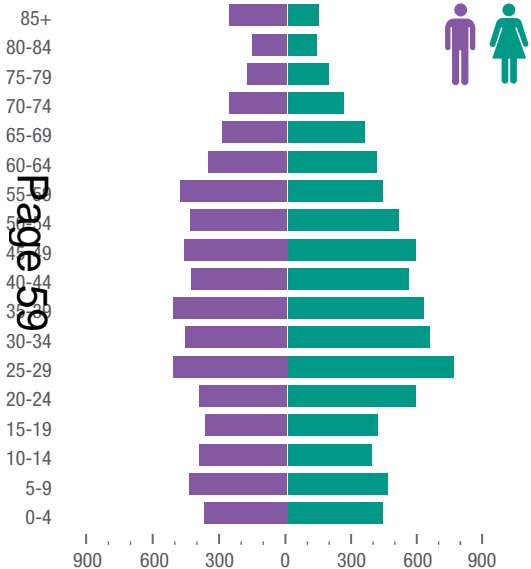


Total population

14,519



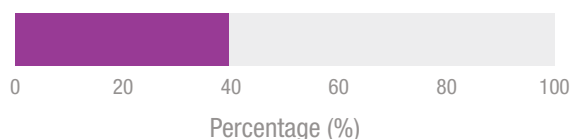
60% of the population are Ethnic Minority (City average: 45%)



32.48%

Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: 30.19%



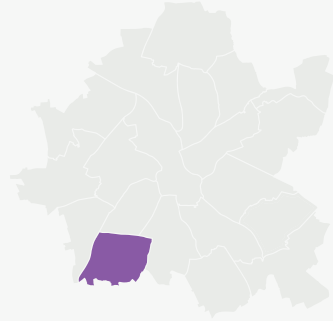
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Your ward at a glance: Penn

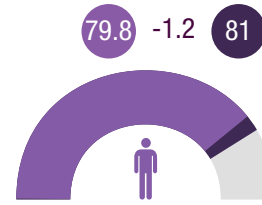


Learn more about your ward here:



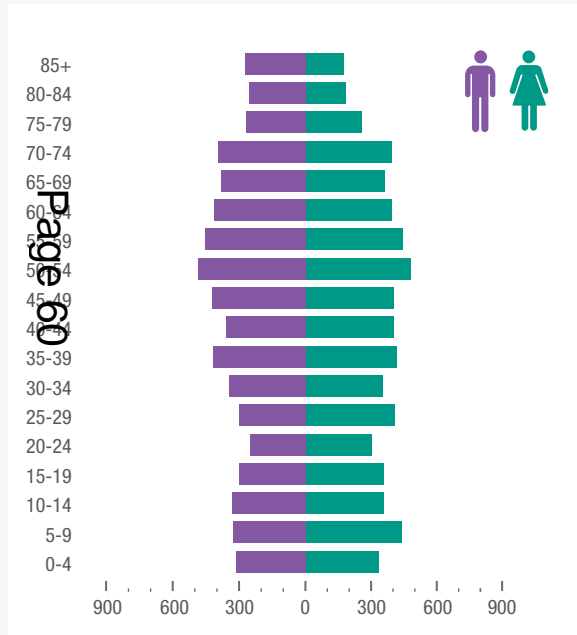
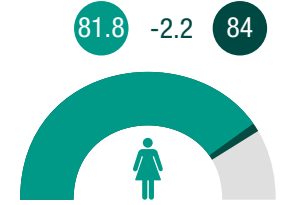
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



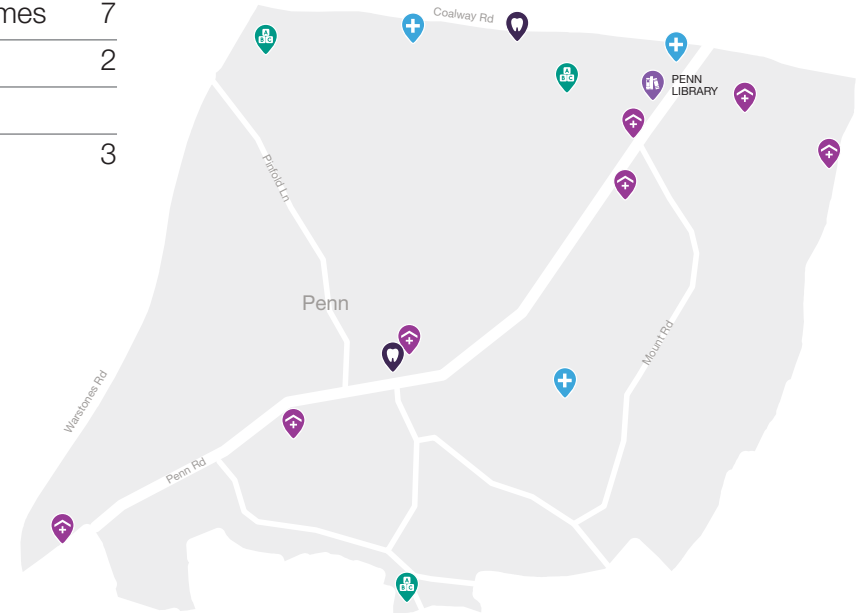
Total population
12,263



43%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)

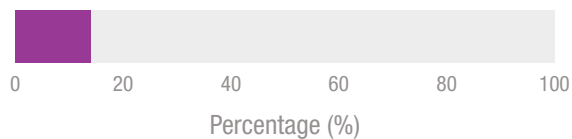
LOCAL ASSETS

- GPs: 3
- Residential Care Homes: 7
- Dentist: 2
- Penn Library: 1
- Primary Schools: 3



16.28%
Children living in poverty

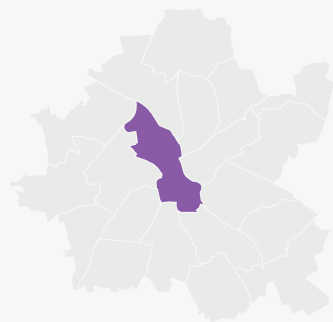
City Deprivation: 14.07%



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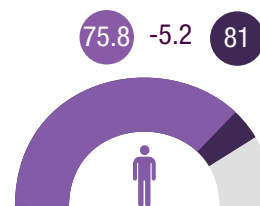
Your ward at a glance: St. Peter's



Learn more about your ward here

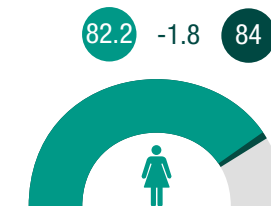
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

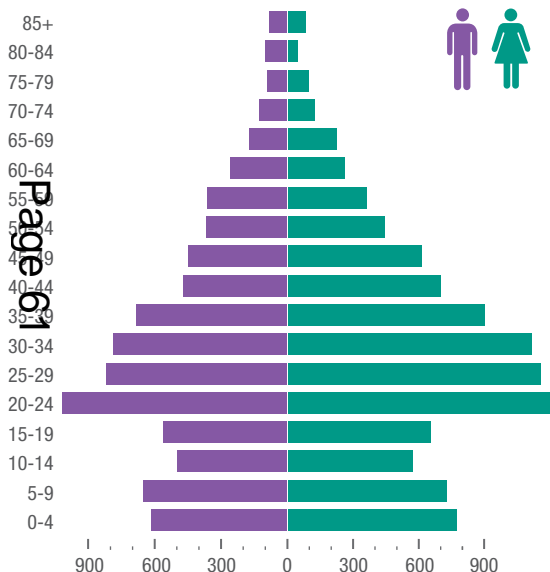
- 3 GPs
- 1 Dentist
- Food Banks and Community Associations
- Whitmore Reans Library
- Dunstall Community Centre
- 1 Primary School



Total population
17,963

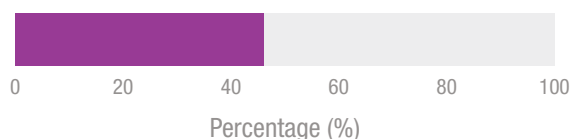


79%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



42.21%
Children living in poverty

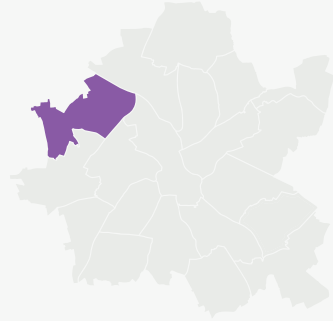
City Deprivation: **39.61%**



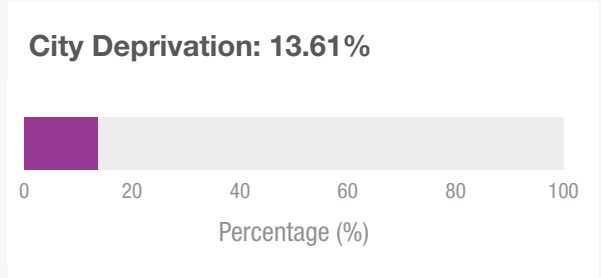
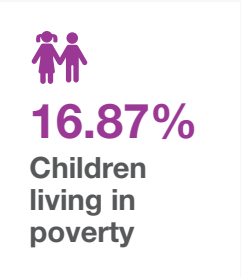
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Your ward at a glance: Tettenhall Regis

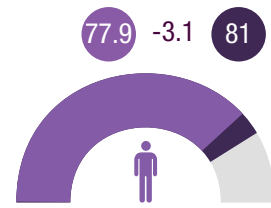


Learn more about your ward here:



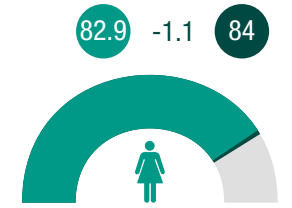
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



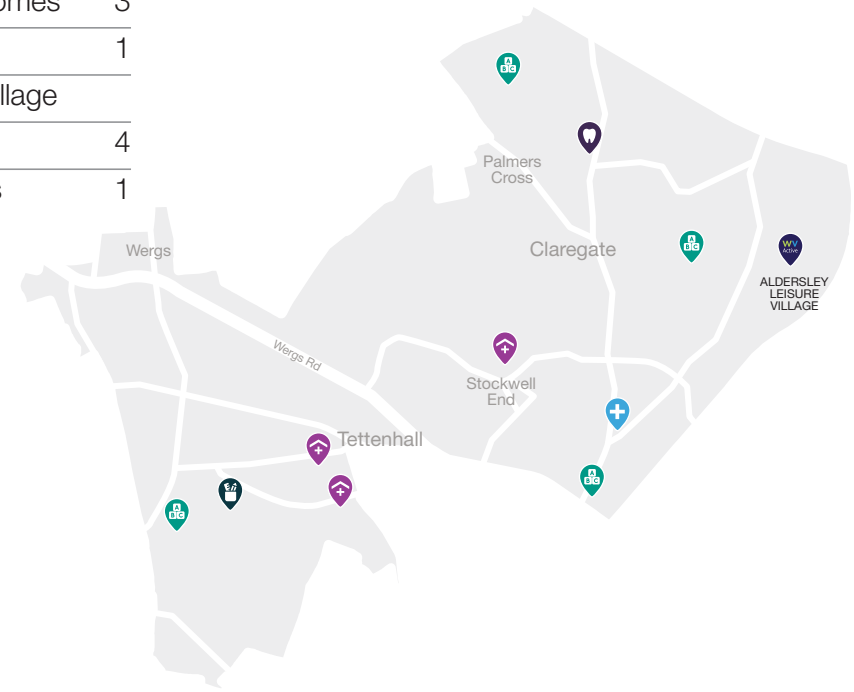
Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

GP	1
Residential Care Homes	3
Dentist	1
Aldersley Leisure Village	1
Primary Schools	4
Secondary Schools	1



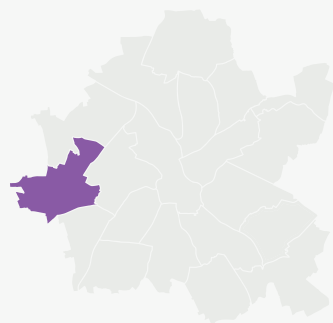
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Your ward at a glance: Tettenhall Wightwick

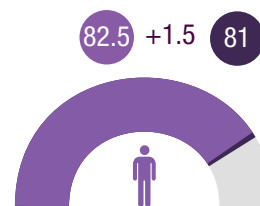


Learn more about your ward here



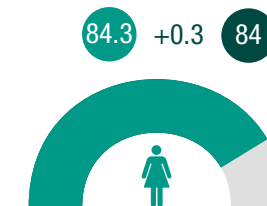
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)

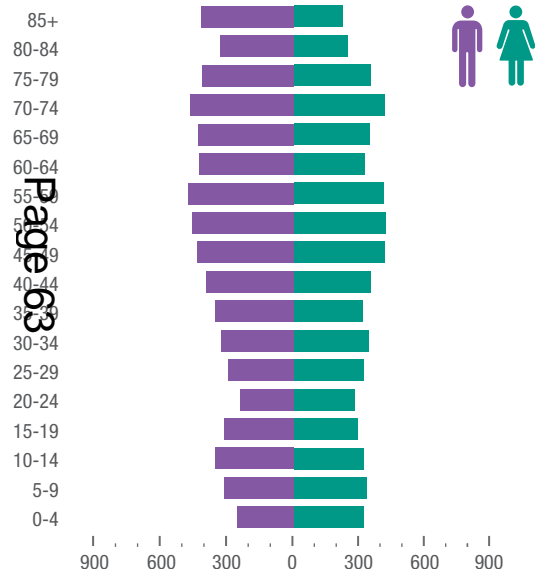


Total population

12,379



28%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



LOCAL ASSETS

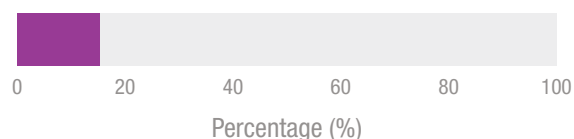
- GPs: 2
- Residential Care Homes: 3
- Dentist: 1
- Tettenhall and Finchfield Library
- Tettenhall Community Centre
- Primary School: 1
- Secondary School: 1



15.29%

Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: 15.38%



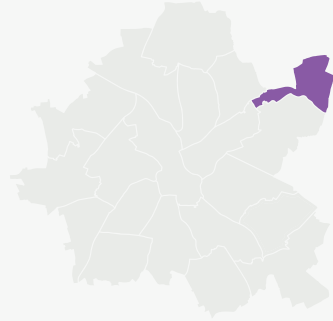
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Your ward at a glance: Wednesfield North

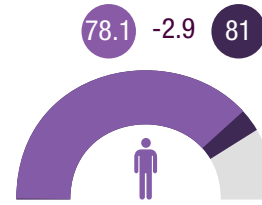


Learn more about your ward here:



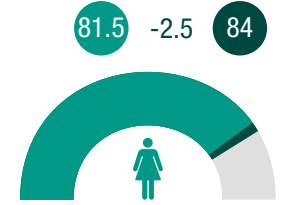
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



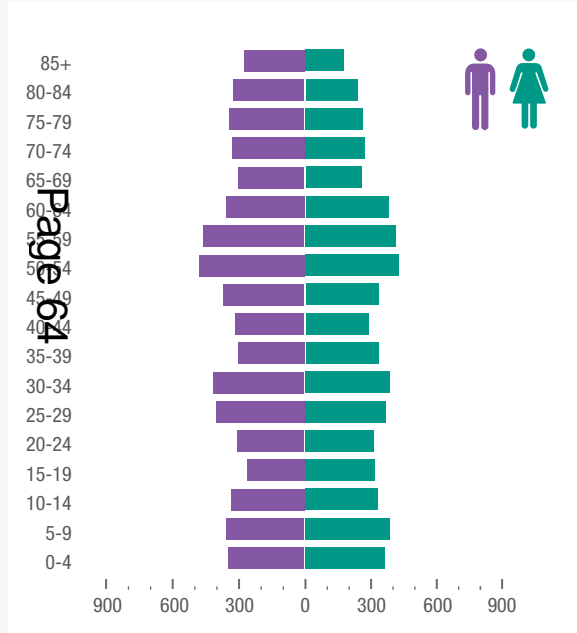
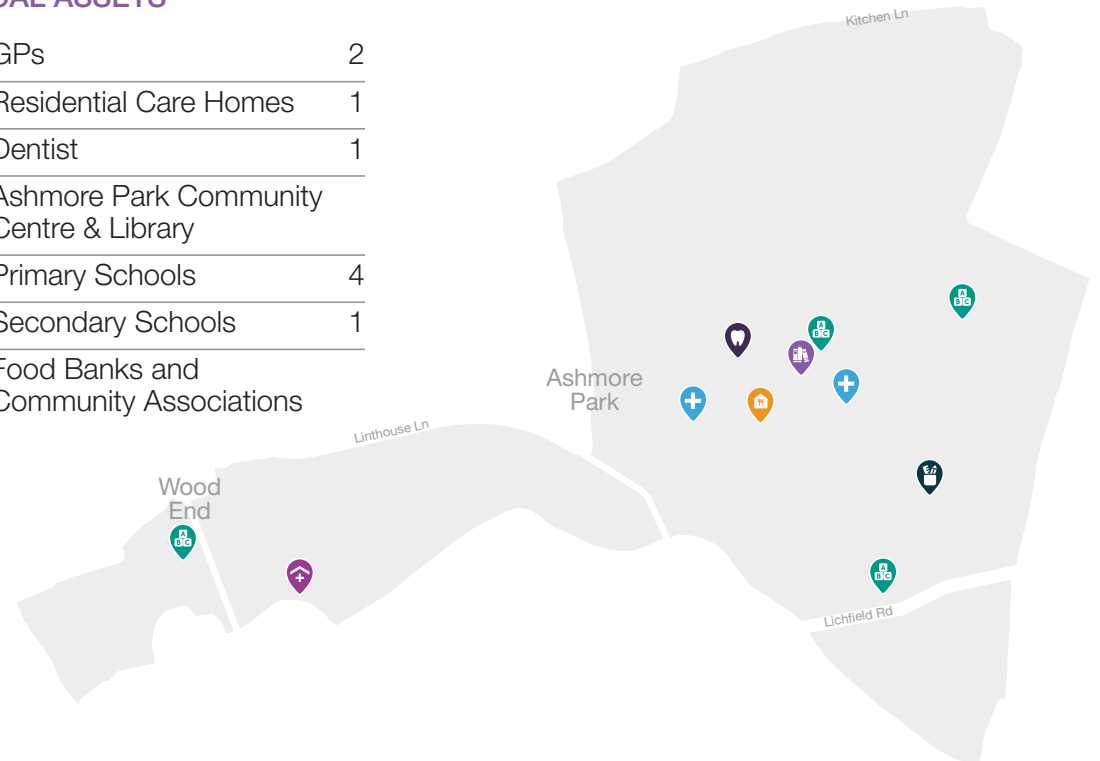
Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

- GPs: 2
- Residential Care Homes: 1
- Dentist: 1
- Ashmore Park Community Centre & Library: 1
- Primary Schools: 4
- Secondary Schools: 1
- Food Banks and Community Associations: 1



Total population
11,956

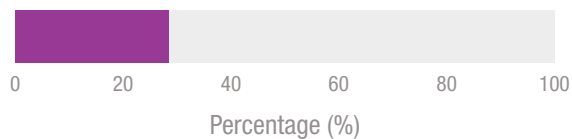


15%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



26.04%
Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: **28.38%**



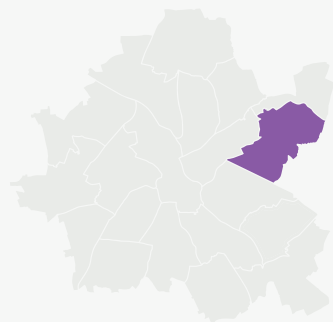
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Your ward at a glance: Wednesfield South

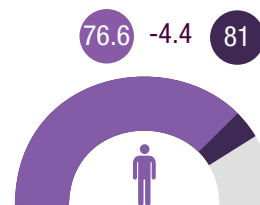


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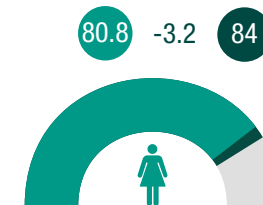
Male

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



Female

- Life expectancy (years)
- Vision 2030 (years)



LOCAL ASSETS

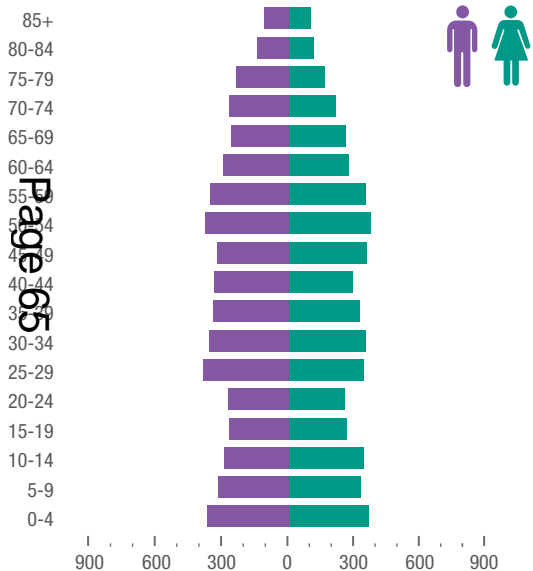
- GP 1
- Residential Care Homes 2
- Dentist 3
- Wednesfield Community Centre
- Wednesfield Library
- Primary Schools 4
- Secondary Schools 1



Total population
10,242

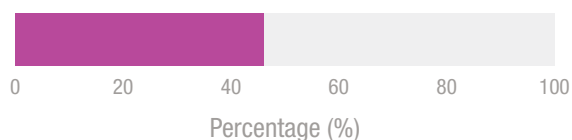


32%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 45%)



27.78%
Children living in poverty

City Deprivation: **28.41%**



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