

Time	5.00 pm	Public Meeting?	YES	Type of meeting	Executive
Venue	Council Chamber - 4th Floor - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SH				

Membership

Chair	Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)
Vice-Chair	Cllr Stephen Simkins (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Chris Burden
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi

Quorum for this meeting is three voting members.

Information for the Public

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

Contact	Dereck Francis
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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declaration of interests**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 8)
[For approval]

DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET)

- 4 **Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026**
(Pages 9 - 22)
[To provide an update to the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-2024 to 2025-2026, and agree the next steps that will be taken in order to address the financial pressures faced by the Council over the medium term]
- 5 **Levelling Up Wolverhampton** (Pages 23 - 28)
[To provide an update on levelling up to deliver Our City: Our Plan]
- 6 **Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2021-2022** (Pages 29 - 50)
[To receive the Annual Report of the Principal Social Worker for 2021-2022 covering adults and children's social work services]
- 7 **Public Health Annual Report 2021-2022** (Pages 51 - 110)
[To receive the Public Health Annual Report for the period 2021-2022]

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the Cabinet Minutes - 6 July 2022
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Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Ian Brookfield (Chair)
Cllr Stephen Simkins (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Chris Burden
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi

Employees

Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Laura Phillips	Deputy Director of People and Change
Rachel King	Head of Vulnerable Children
Alison Shannon	Chief Accountant
Alison Hinds	Deputy Director of Children's Social Care
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Apologies for absence
No apologies for absence were received for the meeting. |
| 2 | Declaration of interests
No declarations of interests were made. |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting
Resolved:
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. |

4 **Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2022-2023**

Councillor Obaida Ahmed presented the report on an update on the outturn position for 2021-2022 and on the 2022-2023 financial performance of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programmes, including a revised forecast for 2022-2023 to 2026-2027, as at quarter one of 2022-2023. The report also set out revisions to the current approved capital programmes covering the period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 for recommendation to Full Council. Councillor Ahmed said that the report provided further details and updates on key projects such as, the Council had continued to use its capital programmes wisely to invest in the Council's priorities for the city in regeneration, school buildings, the road network, IT and in its housing estate. The capital programme also included significant investment programmes that aspire to create an environment where new and existing businesses can thrive, people can develop the skills they need to secure jobs and create neighbourhoods in which people are proud to live.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to approve:

1. The revised, medium term General Fund capital programme of £367.8 million, a net increase of £152,000 from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources.

That Cabinet approves:

1. The virements for the General Fund capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report to the report for;
 - i. existing projects totalling £4.2 million;
 - ii. new projects totalling £1.2 million.
2. The virements for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for;
 - i. existing projects totalling £14.6 million;
 - ii. new projects totalling £500,000.
3. Delegate authority to the Deputy Director of Assets to approve virements from the Provision for future programmes budget within the Corporate Asset Management capital programme to individual schemes in order that corporate priorities can be addressed in an agile and timely manner.

That Cabinet notes:

1. That there are two new projects which are subject to separate detailed project reports also on today's agenda to Cabinet (Resources) Panel meeting. The inclusion of these projects is for budget approval purpose and is on the assumption that the approval to progress with these projects is given. As the progression is dependent on this decision, if the projects are not approved, the capital programme would be reduced accordingly. The name of these projects are;
 - Children's Residential Homes;
 - Noose Lane to School Street Active Travel Route.

5 **Treasury Management - Annual Report 2021-2022 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2022-2023**

Councillor Obaida Ahmed presented the Treasury Management report for recommendation to Full Council for approval. The report set out the results of treasury management activities carried out in 2021-2022, together with performance against the Prudential Indicators previously approved by Council. Councillor Ahmed reported that key messages from the report were that as a council we had operated within our overall approved prudential and treasury management indicators during 2021-2022 and had built up a strong track record of managing the Council's finances well. In order to reduce interest payment costs the Council's strategy was to only undertake external borrowing when our cash flows required and the Council had not undertaken any new external borrowing since March 2019. External borrowing remained at £720.4 million which was well within the Council's limit.

Resolved:

That Council be asked to note:

1. The Council operated within the overall approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also within the requirements set out in the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement during 2021-2022.
2. That revenue underspends of £1.0 million for the General Fund and £738,000 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were generated from treasury management activities in 2021-2022.
3. That the General Fund and HRA treasury management activities for 2022-2023 are currently forecast to be within budget. This would continue to be monitored, and updates provided in future reports.

That Cabinet notes:

1. The financial information included in this report is based on the 'Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Monitoring 2022-2023' report also on the agenda for this meeting. The capital report is subject to two reports being separately approved by Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 6 July 2022. Therefore, if this approval is not obtained, a revised version of this report would be presented to Council on 20 July 2022.
2. The Council's external borrowing has remained unchanged from 2020-2021 as there were no repayments of loans due in 2021-2022 and no new loans were taken out during the financial year.
3. That CIPFA have recently consulted on temporary proposals to update the CIPFA code of practice on Local Authority Accounting for infrastructure assets. At the time of writing, the outcome of the consultation has not been published. However, in response to the issues being considered by CIPFA, the Council is currently reviewing its accounting policy and would be discussing the findings with the Council's external auditors. This may result in additional charges being made on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the General Fund for 2021-2022 onwards. Once this work has been concluded, an update would be reported to Cabinet.

6 **Select Committee Report: The Wolverhampton Pound: Procurement, Contract Management and Commissioning**

Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the Select Committee Report: The Wolverhampton Pound - Contract Management and Commissioning for recommendation to Full Council for approval of the Select Committee Action Plan. Councillor Brookfield reported that The Wolverhampton Pound was the Council's attempt, with its city partners, to keep and recirculate as much of the public authority wealth, both economic and social within the city and its communities. The more public authorities spend their own wealth within the city, that would continue to safeguard and create new jobs and make a substantial difference.

The Select Committee considered the following lines of inquiry:

- 'How do we engage with local businesses and the community and voluntary sector in relation to procurement, contract management and commissioning and how do we ensure inclusivity, equality and value for money in these approaches?'
- How do we engage with partners, local businesses and the community and voluntary sector to make the City a catalyst for change by ensuring that all contracts reflect our values in areas such as climate change, equality, diversity and inclusion, retaining and growing local wealth and having a real presence in the City?'

Cabinet paid tribute to the Chair (Councillor Susan Roberts MBE) and members of the Select Committee for their excellent work.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

1. Endorse the recommendations in The Wolverhampton Pound Select Committee Action Plan attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

7 **Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-23**

Councillor Beverley Momenabadi presented Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023 for recommendation to Full Council for approval. The plan set out the work of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) that was overseen by the partnership YOT Management Board. The primary focus of a YOT was to prevent and reduce the offending behaviour of young people aged up to 18. The YOT plan focussed on three overarching national indicators on which performance was measured; the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system, the number of young people who reoffend after their first offence and the number of young people who receive a custodial sentence as opposed to a community sentence.

Councillor Momenabadi highlighted key achievements in the previous year and priorities for the YOT in the forthcoming year as contained in the plan. She also reported that there had been a number of serious incidents in the city lately. The youth offending data was telling us that although the incident rate was low, the complexity of the incidents that are happening in the city are much higher. She went on to mention some of the interventions that the YOT was working on with different groups and in a multi-agency way, to make sure they respond to those incidents fast. Cabinet was also informed of work taking place, including with Police and Crime Commissioner's Office about some wider messaging to children and young people particularly around knife crime. **Page 6**

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to:

1. Approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

That Cabinet notes:

1. The specific achievement of the Youth Offending Team during 2021-2022 including a reduction in first time entrants, a reduction in re-offending rates and a reduction in the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence.

- 8 **Draft Black Country Plan - Additional Housing Sites in Walsall**
Councillor Stephen Simkins presented the Draft Black Country Plan - Additional Housing Sites in Walsall and Sustainability Appraisal Report for approval and formal public consultations during summer 2022. Following a review of consultation responses on the draft Black Country Plan undertaken during summer 2021 and completion of new evidence, three additional sites in Walsall were now considered potentially suitable for housing needs. These sites needed to be subject to formal public consultation before the Black Country Plan could move to the next stage of consultation.

Resolved:

1. That the Draft Black Country Plan – Additional Housing Sites in Walsall (Appendix 1) and Sustainability Appraisal Report (Appendix 2), be approved for consultation during summer 2022.
2. That authority be delegated to the Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration, to approve any necessary minor amendments to the Draft Black Country Plan – Additional Housing Sites in Walsall and Sustainability Appraisal Report prior to commencement of the consultation process.

- 9 **Helping our Children and Young People to be Healthier and Happier - what we learnt from HeadStart**
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi presented salient points from the report on how the learning from HeadStart, a wide ranging programme offering different ways to support mental and emotional wellbeing, would be embedded within the future offer for children, young people and their families in the city. In doing so she informed Cabinet that the report was a wrap up and celebration of the HeadStart project and that there would be some great follow up and work in the area of children's mental health and wellbeing to continue in the city. The programme had made a difference not just to children and young people's lives, but to their parents and carers. HeadStart had been a lifeline for many parents in the city who would not have accessed that kind of support were it not in their own community.

Resolved:

That the learning from HeadStart into future planning of wellbeing services for children and young people be endorsed.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 27 July 2022
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Report title	Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Resources and Digital City	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 550478
	Email	Claire.nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	14 June 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to approve:

1. The draft budget strategy and medium term financial strategy which underpin Our City, Our Plan, including changes to corporate resource assumptions, growth and inflation.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That significant progress has been made towards setting a balanced budget for 2023-2024 however there remains a high level of risk and uncertainty. Further options will continue to be explored to address the updated projected budget deficit of just under £1.0 million.
2. That a number of assumptions have been made with regards to the level of resources that will be available to the Council as detailed in section 8 of this report. It is important to note there continues to be a considerable amount of uncertainty with regards to future income streams for local authorities. Any reduction in Government' allocation of funding

to the Council would have a significant detrimental impact and further increase the budget deficit over the medium term.

3. That, due to external factors, budget assumptions remain subject to significant change, which could, therefore, result in alterations to the financial position facing the Council.
4. That the updated projected budget deficit assumes the achievement of recurrent budget reduction and income generation proposals totalling £12.2 million over the period of 2022-2023 to 2025-2026.
5. That a further update on the budget strategy will be presented to Cabinet in October 2022 and that there will be a period of formal budget consultation and scrutiny. This will also align to the annual refresh of Our City, Our Plan, setting out our key city priorities.
6. That it is forecast that by 2025-2026 the budget deficit will rise to £25.7 million and that work will continue to be undertaken to bring forward proposals to deliver a sustainable medium term financial strategy.
7. That the overall level of risk associated with the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 is assessed as Red.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with an update on the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-2024 to 2025-2026, along with an overview of the in-year budget monitoring position for 2022-2023.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council has built up a strong track record over many years of managing its finances well and despite austerity; consistently setting a balanced budget. Our approach to strategic financial management, aligning budgets to service priorities and improving services, and investing in transformation priorities, continues to put us in a strong financial position.
- 2.2 The Budget and MTFS 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 was presented to Full Council for approval on 2 March 2022. Despite the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council was able to set a balanced budget for 2022-2023 without the need to use of general reserves. However, it was projected that the Council would be faced with finding further estimated budget reductions totalling £12.6 million in 2023-2024, rising to £25.8 million over the medium term to 2025-2026 in order to address the budget deficit.
- 2.3 It is important to note that the updated projected budget deficit assumes the achievement of recurrent budget reduction and income generation proposals totalling £12.2 million over the period of 2022-2023 to 2025-2026.
- 2.4 Reserves play a vital role in the financial sustainability of the Council. The Council's General Fund Balance stands at £13.7 million. This level of reserve is approximately 5% of the 2022-2023 net budget which is in line with recommended best practice. In addition, the Council holds specific reserves which are set aside to fund future planned expenditure. Whilst the Council does not have a high level of reserves, the favourable outturn position for 2021-2022 (reported to Cabinet on 15 June 2022), has enabled the Council to protect the current level of reserves to some extent. It is vital the Council continues to hold these reserves to mitigate the risk of uncertainty of any potential future expenditure and to support the delivery of council priorities.
- 2.5 It should be noted due to external factors, specially surrounding Covid-19, and the high cost of living, including increasing inflation, budget assumptions remain subject to change. This could therefore result in alterations to the financial position faced by the Council.
- 2.6 This report provides an update on the progress towards the budget strategy for 2023-2024 and future years, whilst also dealing with the emerging pressures that are faced by the Council.

3.0 Our City, Our Plan

- 3.1 The Council's strategic approach to address the budget deficit is to align resources to Our City, Our Plan which was approved by Full Council on 2 March 2022.

3.2 The plan continues to identify an overarching ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer healthier lives' delivered through six overarching priorities:

- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

3.3 These priorities together with the associated key outcomes, objectives and activity form a framework to improve outcomes for local people and deliver our levelling up ambitions.

3.4 Supporting the six overarching priorities are three cross cutting principles

- Climate Conscious
- Driven by Digital
- Fair and Equal

4.0 2022-2023 Budget Update

4.1 On 2 March 2022, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2022-2023 of £267.2 million for General Fund services.

4.2 Overall, the General Fund projected outturn for 2022-2023 is currently forecast to be within budget. However, early indications are that there are some cost pressures, particularly linked to the increase in inflation across some services.

4.3 In addition, inflationary pressures are also being seen across some capital projects, with increases in the cost of materials. There is also a risk of supply chain delays, which will impact on completion dates, and could result in further cost pressures. These risks, along with increasing interest rates impact on the revenue Treasury Management Budget.

4.4 It is currently forecast that these forecast cost pressures can be accommodated from efficiencies from across the council, however this will be kept under review and updates provided to Councillors. The Performance and Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 report will be submitted to Cabinet in September which will provide more detail.

4.5 There continues to be significant uncertainty about the financial impact of inflation and interest rate increases over the medium term.

5.0 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026

5.1 The Budget and MTFs 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 was presented to Full Council on 2 March 2022. The Council was able to set a balanced budget for 2022-2023 without the use of General reserves. However, it was projected that the Council would be faced with

finding further estimated budget reductions totalling £12.6 million in 2023-2024, rising to £25.8 million over the medium term to 2025-2026 in order to address the budget deficit.

- 5.2 Whilst we continue to operate within an uncertain environment, work has been undertaken to map out a draft strategy that will enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2023-2024. This report seeks approval to a draft budget strategy which is made up of a series of proposals outlined in the following paragraphs.

One-Off funding and use of reserves

- 5.3 The 2022-2023 budget report approved by Full Council on 23 February 2022, approved the creation of a specific reserve totalling £1.8 million to mitigate against pressures in Adult Services and any potential variation in Collection Fund assumptions, particularly with regards to the allocation of the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund. It was recommended that should these risks not materialise then there would be an opportunity to call on this reserve to support the 2023-2024 budget strategy. The risk with regards to the Collection Fund has not materialised, so it is therefore proposed that £800,000 is released to support the 2023-2024 budget strategy. As detailed in section 7, there is still considerable uncertainty around Adult Social Care, therefore we will look to transfer the balance of £1.0 million into the reserve for Adult Social Care for Growth and Demand Pressures.
- 5.4 The favourable out-turn position for 2021-2022, enabled the Council to transfer underspends in the region of £2 million into the Future Years Budget Strategy Reserve to support the budget challenge over the medium term.
- 5.5 In addition, as part of the year end process, an in-depth review on grants has been undertaken to identify if any grants can be released to support the budget strategy. This review has identified grants totalling in the region of £1.6 million that can be released in 2023-2024 to support the budget strategy.

Corporate Resources

- 5.6 In March 2022, it was reported that a number of assumptions had been made regards to the level of resources that will be available to the Council. However, it was also noted that there continues to be considerable uncertainty with regards to future funding streams for local authorities.
- 5.7 Funding forecasts have been reviewed and a number of scenarios have been modelled reflecting different assumptions about inflationary uplifts on our top up grant, and the continuation of one-off grants such as New Homes Bonus, Lower Tier Fund and the Services Grant.
- 5.8 For the purposes of this budget strategy, it is considered prudent to use the mid case scenario as a working assumption, this could result in additional resources of £3.9 million in 2023-2024, reducing over the medium term to an additional £1 million being made available to the Council. However, it should be noted that the worst case scenario has a

forecast reduction in funding of £1 million in 2023-2024, when compared to the current MTFS.

- 5.9 The table below summaries the assumptions and forecast change to corporate resources.

Table 1: Forecast changes to Corporate Resources

Corporate Resources	Current MTFS	Worst Case	Mid Case
Top Up Grant	2%	2%	4% for 2023-2024, 2% thereafter
New Homes bonus	Not assumed beyond 2022-2023	Not assumed beyond 2022-2023	Continues but at 50% for 2023-2024 only
Services Grant	£1 million (NI levy)	No funding	Continues at 50% in 2023-2024, then phases out
Lower Tier Grant	Not assumed beyond 2022-2023	Not assumed beyond 2022-2023	Continues but at a reduced level

- 5.10 At the Local Government Association (LGA) conference in June, it was announced that local authorities will be given a two- year financial settlement, for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, and a consultation would be announced shortly. As the point that further information is known it will be incorporated into future reports to Councillors.
- 5.11 The Collection Fund outturn was reported to Cabinet on 15 June 2022. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Collection Fund, and whilst it was reported that the Council had seen an improvement on the collection rate and a reduction in the number of Local Council Tax Support claimants in 2021-2022 when compared to 2020-2021, these had still not returned back to pre-pandemic levels. The Collection Fund outturned more favourably than budgeted for in 2021-2022, reducing the deficit carried forward into future years. This has resulted in a one-off benefit of £4.0 million in 2023-2024.

Changes to Growth and Inflation

- 5.12 At the time of writing this report national negotiations are still ongoing in respect of the pay award for 2022-2023. In addition, it is projected that the National Living Wage (NLW) could increase from the hourly rate of £9.50 in 2022-2023 to £11.00 by 2024-2025. The approved 2022-2023 budget and MTFS includes an annual provision within the employee budgets for a 2% pay award. Any increase above the 2% for 2022-2023 would need to

be funded from either in-year efficiencies and / or reserves. Current forecasts suggest that the current growth of 2% is insufficient to accommodate the increase to NLW for 2023-2024 onwards. Therefore, forecast additional growth of £9.0 million has been built in over the medium term. However, it is important to note that growth may still not be sufficient and will depend on pay award agreed for 2022-2023 and future years, this will be kept under review and updates provided in future reports.

6.0 Five Year Financial Strategy

6.1 The Financial Strategy, approved by Council in March 2019, consists of five core principles:

- **Focusing on Core Business.** Focus will be given to those activities that deliver the outcomes local people need and which align to our Council Plan and Financial Strategy.
- **Promoting Independence and Wellbeing.** We will enable local people to live independently by unlocking capacity within communities to provide an effective and supportive environment.
- **Delivering Inclusive Economic Growth.** We will continue to drive investment in the City to create future economic and employment opportunities.
- **Balancing Risk.** We will ensure we base decisions on evidence, data and customer insight.
- **Commercialising our Approach.** We will boost social value in our City by maximising local procurement spend with people and businesses.

6.2 With these core principles in mind, the Council's Leadership Team has been carrying out extensive work in order to identify proposals to support the medium-term financial strategy. Work is ongoing across the following themes:

- Our assets
- Procurement and contracts – particularly focused on embedding the Wolverhampton Pound approach
- Income collection, debt management and recovery
- Business processes
- Digital and data
- Delivery models
- Income generation including fees and charges
- Human resources and occupational development

6.3 Current high level projections indicate that this work could lead to budget reduction, income generation and efficiency proposals totalling £5.2 million over the medium term. Work will continue over the coming months to develop these proposals and further detail will be provided to Cabinet in October.

6.4 Over a number of years, in-year efficiencies have been delivered across a number of services, without impacting of the delivery of Council priorities. The Budget report approved by Council in March 2022, approved the inclusion of a £4.5 million efficiency target over the medium term to 2025-2026, of which £2.5 million is in 2023-2024. Further work will continue over the coming months to undertaken to identify if this target can be accelerated into 2023-2024 or increased.

6.5 In addition, an in-depth review is being undertaken on existing budget reduction and income generation targets to ensure that the targets included in the MTFs remain deliverable over the medium term. An update will be provided to Cabinet in October.

7.0 Updated forecast financial position - Budget Strategy 2023-2024 and MTFs

7.1 The proposals in this report go a long way towards a balanced budget for 2023-2024 but do not address the underlying budget deficit over the medium term. It is estimated that the deficit over the medium term up to 2025-2026 could be in the region of £25.7 million. Therefore, alongside due diligence, work will also continue to identify measures which will provide a sustainable medium term strategy with proposals being brought to Cabinet as soon as possible.

7.2 The overall impact of the revisions to the draft budget 2023-2024 and MTFs, arising from the items detailed in the paragraphs above have been reflected in the table below:

Table 2 – Draft Budget Strategy 2023-2024 and MTFs

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	£000	£000	£000
Projected Budget Challenge – February 2022	12,630	17,316	25,826
Changes to grant assumptions – mid case	(3,914)	1,792	1,112
Use of reserves	(2,800)	2,800	-
Changes to Council Tax & Business Rates	(4,000)	4,000	-
One off use of grants	(1,600)	1,600	-
Pay award pressures	4,500	3,900	600
Matrix Work	(950)	(2,100)	(2,100)
Further in year efficiencies	(3,000)	-	-
Annual impact of proposals	(11,764)	11,992	(388)
Cumulative impact of proposals	(11,764)	228	(160)
Deficit after cumulative impact of proposals	866	17,544	25,666
Annual change in deficit	866	16,678	8,122

7.3 The Director of Finance believes that the proposals outlined in the paragraphs above will go a long way to enabling the Council to set a balanced budget for 2023-2024. It is proposed that due diligence is undertaken to test the assumptions outlined in this report and to assess what further actions may be required to set a balanced budget. A further update on the budget strategy will be presented to Cabinet in October.

8.0 Risk and Uncertainties

- 8.1 As detailed in section 5, there continues to be significant uncertainty around affordability of a pay award and impact of the National Living Wage for 2022-2023 and future years. Additional forecast growth has been built into the budget and MTFs, however this will be kept under review and updates will be provided to Councillors as and when more information becomes available.
- 8.2 At the time of writing this report, there continues to be considerable uncertainties with regards to future funding streams for local authorities. At the LGA conference in June 2022, it was announced that a fair funding exercise will be undertaken with consultation commencing shortly, and local authorities would receive a two-year settlement. A number of assumptions have been made to potential future funding as detailed in section 5, it is important to note that any reduction in Government's allocation of funding to the Council would have a significant detrimental impact and further increase the budget deficit forecast over the medium term.
- 8.3 Inflation in the UK is at the highest it has been for four decades, which means the country is facing an increase in the cost of living, with food, petrol and energy bills all increasing. It is not yet known what the full extent this will have on both the direct energy and fuel costs incurred by the Council and the impact this will have on our contracts, as well as our residents and businesses. The Council will continue to monitor the potential financial implications over the coming months, with updates provided to Cabinet.
- 8.4 UK interest rates have also risen over recent months. Changes to interest rates impact on the Council's treasury management activities, on both interest paid on future borrowing and interest received from investing surplus cash balances. The Treasury Management – Annual Report 2021-2022 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2022-2023 report to Cabinet on 6 July reported that due to the economic climate and the increase in interest rates the forecast outturn position for the treasury management activities was difficult to project at this early stage. The position will continue to be monitored and updates provided in future reports.
- 8.5 There is also considerable uncertainty around the cost of adult social care over the medium term due to the increase in demand for services, impact of a fee uplift, impact of the pandemic, impact of the increasing cost of living and the delivery of the Government's 'Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care' policy. Services are re-opening following the pandemic and demand in some areas is back at pre-pandemic levels – although the type of service required may be different. In addition, the introduction of the charging reform will increase the number of service users receiving some state support

for their care costs. Funding will be available to support these additional costs, however, there is still significant uncertainty over the financial impact of these changes and the level of funding available. As part of the implementation of charging reform the Council is required to conduct a fair cost of care exercise to review levels of payments to providers, and how the Council will move towards this over the medium term, where it is not paid already. This will be kept under review and updates provided in future reports.

- 8.6 Due to the uncertainties outlined, the overall risk associated with the budget for 2023-2024 and future years is assessed as Red. However, it is anticipated that the draft budget strategy proposed in this report will enable the Council to progress work to balance the budget for 2023-2024. The main risks are summarised in Appendix 1.

9.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 9.1 In determining the financial strategy, consideration has been made to the deliverability of budget reduction and income generation proposals, and budget pressures. If we were not to implement the strategy outlined in this report, alternative options would need to be identified in order for the Council to set a balanced budget for 2023-2024.

10.0 Reasons for decisions

- 10.1 In order to ensure a balanced budget for 2023-2024 it is important that work is progressed as soon as possible. The approval of the draft strategy will enable the Council to undertake due diligence, consultation and scrutiny in a timely manner to fully inform the budget decision process in accordance with statutory deadlines.

11.0 Financial implications

- 11.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report.
[AS/19072022/Q]

12.0 Legal implications

- 12.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. It is a legal requirement under s25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to set a balanced budget and monitor the financial position throughout the year.
[SZ/19072022/P]

13.0 Equalities implications

- 13.1 The method by which the MTF5 is developed is governed by the Our City, Our Plan priorities, which itself was guided by consultation and equality analysis. Development of budget reduction savings for Cabinet's consideration in October will include an initial equalities screening for each proposal and, where necessary, a full equalities analysis which will provide for an initial understanding of the equality impact on the draft proposals. All of this will enable Councillors to pay, 'due regard' to the equalities impact

of their budget decisions at that point in the budget development process. The resulting and final report to Cabinet and Council will contain a supporting equality analysis that will offer information across the whole range of proposals and in doing so will enable Councillors to discharge their duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

13.2 Fairness and equality is a key cross cutting theme within Our City, Our Plan.

14.0 All other implications

14.1 The Covid-19 implications are detailed in the body of the report.

15.0 Schedule of background papers

15.1 [2022-2023 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026](#), report to Cabinet on 23 February 2022 and Full Council on 2 March 2022

15.2 [Performance and Budget Outturn 2021-2022](#), report to Cabinet on 15 June 2022.

15.3 [Reserves, Provision and Balances 2021-2022](#), report to Cabinet on 15 June 2022.

16.0 Appendices

16.1 Appendix 1 – Risk Register

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General Fund Budget Risks to 2025-2026

Risk	Description	Level of Risk
Medium Term Forecasting	Risks that might materialise as a result of the impact of interest rates, energy costs, non-pay inflation and pay awards, uptake of pension auto enrolment, and National Living Wage.	Red
Service Demands	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for statutory services outstretching the available resources. This particularly applies to adults and childrens' social care.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for non-statutory services outstretching the available resources.	Amber
Identification of Budget Reductions	Risks that might materialise as a result of not identifying budget reductions due to limited opportunity to deliver efficiencies.	Amber
Budget Management	Risks that might materialise as a result of the robustness of financial planning and management, in addition to the consideration made with regards to the loss of key personnel or loss of ICTS facilities	Green
Transformation Programme	Risks that might materialise as a result of not delivering the reductions incorporated into the budget and not having sufficient sums available to fund the upfront and one-off costs associated with delivering budget reductions and downsizing the workforce.	Amber

Reduction in Income and Funding	Risks that might materialise as a result of the multi-year funding settlement and reforms to Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of income being below budgeted levels, claw back of grant, or increased levels of bad debts. The risk of successful appeals against business rates.	Amber
Third Parties	Risks that might materialise as a result of third parties and suppliers ceasing trading or withdrawing from the market.	Amber
Government Policy	Risks that might materialise due to structural uncertainties including the impact of exiting the European Union.	Amber
	Risk that the cost pressures from the implementation of the 'Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care' policy on Adult Social Care are greater than Government Grant funding.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of changes to Government policy including changes in VAT, taxation rules and economic measures.	Red
Covid-19	Risk that the financial implications of Covid 19 including the Council's recovery will exceed the grant allocations awarded by Government and place further financial pressures on the council financial position over the medium term.	Amber

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 27 July 2022
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Report title	Levelling Up Wolverhampton	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Charlotte Johns, Director of Strategy	
Originating service	Strategy and Policy	
Accountable employee	Laura Collings	Head of Policy and Strategy
	Tel	01902550414
	Email	Laura.collings@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	12 July 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended:

1. To endorse the approach to how the City of Wolverhampton Council is responding to the Levelling Up White Paper, working with key partners including the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to deliver our strategic framework for levelling up, Our City: Our Plan.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That the City of Wolverhampton has been proactively identified by Government as a place with strong local leadership and ambition, where investment can be maximised to catalyse economic transformation.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the city's approach to levelling up, following the UK Government proactively identifying Wolverhampton as a place that demonstrates strong local leadership and ambition, ripe to maximise catalytic economic transformation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Government published the Levelling Up White Paper on the 3 February 2022, specifically naming the City of Wolverhampton as a priority place for investment into transformational levelling up projects – endorsing the Council's ambitious plans to invest in and further regenerate the city.
- 2.2 Fundamentally, it provides the opportunity to establish an effective partnership between national and local government. We have a clear and ambitious vision for levelling up, as set out in Our City: Our Plan, and major investment opportunities to advance social and economic outcomes.
- 2.3 The City of Wolverhampton Council is ambitious, with strong regional influence and high performing core services. The city has a compelling regeneration vision and strong track record of delivery. The last 10 years have seen major successes, including investment from Jaguar Land Rover, the National Brownfield Institute and most recently the relocation of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to the city in the recently constructed i9 and commercial district.
- 2.4 But more is needed to level up – in terms of development as well as ensuring that regeneration benefits the whole city. Wolverhampton has the right local conditions to activate catalytic investment that enhances local economic activity in the short term and delivers transformational regeneration in the long term. The city is well placed to meet the levelling up challenge.

3.0 Levelling Up Wolverhampton

- 3.1 The city, like many post-industrial places faces long term social and economic challenges. We believe our industrial heritage is an asset to our economy, but it has left a legacy of brownfield sites that present redevelopment challenges. We also face ongoing and new challenges in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, becoming a net carbon neutral city by 2041 and upgrading our digital infrastructure.
- 3.2 A core challenge for the city is its output gap. Despite continual positive growth in gross value added (GVA) per head, Wolverhampton's output gap still remains and was £2.75bn for 2019. To reduce the output gap we will continue to raise skill levels, increase the employment rate with more local people in jobs, and promote the growth and innovation of the business base. In turn this can boost living standards and reduce deprivation, longer-term providing better social, health and environmental outcomes for residents.

3.3 Delivering sustainable improvements in local outcomes relies on getting our economy to work more effectively in ways that involve and empower local communities. Investor confidence and interest in the city continues to grow with £4.4bn of planned investment on site or in the pipeline in the city. It is critical to our levelling up approach that local people continue to benefit from new investment.

4.0 Our City: Our Plan

4.1 Our City: Our Plan is our strategic framework for levelling up, co-produced with over 4500 local people and stakeholders and approved at Full Council on 2 March 2022. We have one plan for our 'place', derived bottom up and collectively owned with clear interface with Levelling Up missions. The plan outlines an overarching ambition that Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives, and outlines six priorities.

- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

4.2 Three cross cutting principles support the delivery of the plan – climate conscious, driven by digital and being fair and equal.

4.3 The Council's commercially led Investment Prospectus sets out our spatial framework with comprehensive proposals for the city centre and beyond. High-quality and aspirational physical development is an important element to realise and deliver the priorities of Our City: Our Plan.

5.0 A new relationship

5.1 Levelling up provides an opportunity to reset relationships between national government and local place but this cannot be achieved without fundamental change. To deliver Our City: Our Plan we are seeking:

- Sustainable and sufficient funding for local government in the longer term. The funding requirement is not that which just enables us to bridge the budget gap and stand still, but that which enables levelling up.
- Reducing the fragmentation of funding. Short term funding and the pitching of local authorities against each other in grant funding rounds does not support strategic planning or effective delivery of outcomes.

- Bringing budgets together in place. Tackling fragmented funding to allocate funding to places not departmental silos. Placing emphasis on communities and place by introducing multi-department place-based budgets, explicitly built around the needs of diverse local communities.
- A renewed focus on prevention, backed by government investment. To address existing and future demand for services such as social care, homelessness support and community safety requires investment in lower cost approaches which help strengthen people, communities and local infrastructure.

6.0 Priority Actions

6.1 Developing the city's approach to levelling up will be iterative and shaped through continuous engagement with our communities and partners. A set of initial interventions have been identified as catalyst projects to accelerate levelling up in the city.

6.2 Immediate opportunities

- City Learning Quarter: Delivering a c.£60m state-of-the-art learning hub in the heart of the city co-locating adult education, library and college facilities, supporting more local people into good jobs and training and enabling further housing development.

6.3 Milestones for next 6 to 12 months

- Bilston Health and Regeneration Programme: Delivering town centre improvements and a health, care and wellbeing hub in the heart of one of our most deprived communities that nurtures the integration of NHS, Social Care, Wellbeing and Leisure services to create a campus that empowers local people to take ownership of their own health, to live longer, healthier and more active lives. A Levelling Up Fund Round 2 funding bid is being made for this initiative.
- Green Innovation Corridor – Phase 1: Building on the city's strengths as the National Centre for Sustainable Construction, phase 1 will also stimulate wider regeneration along the corridor by acting as a catalyst for additional private sector investment in the Science Park and unlocking brownfield sites for sustainable and affordable housing provision. A Levelling Up Fund Round 2 funding bid is being made for this initiative.

6.4 Milestones for the next 12 to 24 months

- City Centre Regeneration Programme: Delivering ambitious regeneration projects in our city by creating aspirational, mixed-use city centre community blending living, alongside employment and leisure space. The city centre regeneration programme includes initiatives which will fuel social and economic confidence, drive investment and boost economic growth.

6.5 Milestones for the next 5 years and beyond

- Delivering against one long term integrated investment plan of central, regional, local and private sector funding to deliver Our City: Our Plan.

6.6 To ensure that local people benefit from the growing investment in our city we will continue to tackle our systemic challenges in the city. Working collaboratively across Government departments to explore innovative policy solutions to some of the city's most pressing challenges.

- Education, skills and employment: Redesign the skills and employment system in the city to address longstanding challenges around youth employment and skills.
- Private rented sector housing: Drive up standards and quality of accommodation particularly in supported accommodation which houses some of the city's most vulnerable people.
- Health inequalities: Through our hyper local place-based approach tackle wider determinants of health which impact on the outcomes of local people.

7.0 Governance

7.1 We already have strong relationships with key partners, including the West Midlands Combined Authority, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Homes England. Working with Government will help us to accelerate and expand the opportunities to increase prosperity. It will be important to bring the right partners along on the journey, including bringing in the right private sector investors and developers will increase the capacity, skills and capital to deliver projects and schemes that will enable transformational regeneration in our place.

7.2 As part of the developing government arrangements, it is proposed that the Wolverhampton Towns Fund Board will be refocused to form a City Levelling Up Board.

8.0 Evaluation of alternative

8.1 Option 1: Do nothing.

8.2 Option 2 and the chosen option: Working with key partners including the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to deliver our strategic framework for levelling up, Our City: Our Plan.

9.0 Reasons for decision(s)

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the approach to levelling up in the city to ensure a robust strategic framework to realise our ambitions transformation plans and meet the needs and priorities of local people.

10.0 Financial implications

10.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Levelling Up projects and programmes that will have financial implications will be subject to individual reports as appropriate.

[MH/15072022/V]

11.0 Legal implications

- 11.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[SZ/14072022/P]

12.0 Equalities implications

- 12.1 Fair and Equal is one of the three cross cutting principles of Our City: Our Plan. All levelling up activity will be subject to individual equalities analysis.

13.0 All other implications

- 13.1 Levelling up has implications across the Council and city, including climate change, health, and wellbeing and digital.
- 13.2 Health and wellbeing is an important part of everyday life. It is integral to leading a happy and healthy lifestyle. As only 20% of a person's health outcomes are attributed to the ability to access good quality health care, the wider determinants of health, made up of the diverse range of social, economic, and environmental factors which impact on people's health, play a crucial role in the health and wellbeing of communities and local people. Through its focus on these wider determinants the delivery of levelling up will ensure that our communities are stronger, healthier, and thriving places to live.
- 13.3 We will continue to contribute to the delivery of the Council's climate change action plan to meet our commitment to be net carbon neutral as a Council by 2028.
- 13.4 Our levelling up approach is aligned to the Digital Wolves strategy setting out how as a city and as a council we can harness the benefits of digital and technology for local people.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

- 14.1 [Our City: Our Plan](#) – Full Council, 2 March 2022

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 27 July 2022
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Report title	Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2021-2022	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	Councillor Linda Leach Adults
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families Becky Wilkinson, Director of Adult Services	
Originating service	Children and Young People's Service / Adult Services	
Accountable employee	Jennifer Rogers Tel Email	Principal Social Worker 01902 555704 Jennifer.rogers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Directorate Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board Fulfilled Adult Lives Scrutiny Panel Strong Families, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	16 June 2022 28 June 2022 5 July 2022 13 July 2022

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Endorse the work of the Principal Social Worker (PSW) and the continued impact it has on social work practice across Children's and Adult's Services.
2. Approve the main priorities for the Principal Social Worker identified for 2022-2023.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The work carried out in respect of quality assurance activity, the commitment to supporting the continual professional development of social workers and the way in which the PSW has supported social work students and routes into social work which is ensuring the Council is able to meet demand and supply needs now and for the future.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a progress report on the work of the Principal Social Worker in promoting and improving the quality of social work practice and outline the key priorities for 2022-2023.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Designated Principal Social Workers (PSW) were first proposed by Professor Eileen Munro in her review of child protection in 2011, which identified the importance of better communication and understanding between social workers and senior management. Munro stated that Principal Social Workers should:
- A. Create a clear line of communication between frontline staff and senior management
 - B. Champion best practice
 - C. Encourage a “reflective approach” to social work
 - D. Help to reduce bureaucracy and the amount of time spent on process-driven activities
 - E. Support social workers to use their core skills and interventions which make a real difference to people
- 2.2 The role of PSW is a statutory requirement in adults and is referenced in the 2016 revised Care Act guidance. The guidance states that the PSW should be visible across the organisation, from elected members and senior management, through to frontline social workers, people with care and support needs and carers. Local authorities should make arrangements to have a qualified and registered social work professional practice lead in place to lead and oversee excellent social work practice and the development of excellent social workers. This also includes overseeing quality assurance and improvement of social work practice as well as advising on areas of complex or controversial practice and on social work-related legislation.
- 2.3 Social work is a unique profession and social workers are responsible for making potentially life changing decisions about individuals, often during very difficult and distressing circumstances. The role is extremely rewarding and the potential for making a positive difference for children, adults and families is immense. However, it is also emotionally demanding and can be subject to at times intense, often public, scrutiny and criticism. Austerity, increased demand, a culture of blame fuelled by the media and a national shortage of social workers, resulting in increased workloads and stress, are all having a significant impact on the profession and outcomes for children, young people and adults. Research suggests that social workers and students see the profession as the worst ranked in society, well behind the respect other professions receive such as for doctors, nurses and lawyers¹. The average working life of a frontline social worker is just

¹ Social Work England, A Report on the Social Work Profession, June 2020

over seven years, compared to 25 years for doctors and 15 for nurses². The Principal Social Worker role is critical to help raise the profile of the profession, creating a strong professional identity and challenging the blame narrative. PSWs call for change at a national, regional and local level, are key to transforming public perception, advocating for the wellbeing of social workers and attracting more into the profession. PSWs provide a strong collective voice on behalf of all social workers and strive to make a positive difference for the workforce and the people social workers support.

- 2.4 There has been a PSW with joint responsibility for Adults and Children's Services since March 2016. The decision to appoint one PSW across both service areas was informed by a commitment to promote a "think whole family approach", support better joined up working and inspire greater aspirations for children, families and adults with care and support needs.
- 2.5 The PSW role links to several of the Our Council Plan priority areas including strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential; fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it most. Strengths based approaches in social work also encourage a focus on community resources and building on the assets available locally to support families and people who need us, so there is also a role for the PSW in the healthy and inclusive communities priority.
- 2.6 The PSW reports directly to a Head of Service with a dotted line to the Deputy Director in Children's Services and the Director of Adults Services (DASS). The work of the PSW is overseen and prioritised by the People's Social Work Development Board. A degree of independence is required of the role in order to provide challenge within the organisation.
- 2.7 It is important that the role has a presence at, and is able to contribute to, national and regional PSW forums. These meetings are learning and development opportunities and also enables the Chief Social Workers for Adults and Children to share the direction of travel, answer questions and receive feedback from PSW's which can influence policy and guidance. These events also provide opportunity for the sharing of good practice.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The PSW in Wolverhampton has responsibility for policies and procedures, the recruitment and retention of social workers and quality of practice, which includes leading on implementing and further developing the quality assurance frameworks for Adult and Children's Services. The remit of the PSW's team also covers inspection activity. Although not directly leading on all projects involving social workers across the service, the PSW has a key role in promoting and supporting innovative projects which can

² Curtis et al, 2010, British Journal of Social Work

achieve excellent outcomes from a whole systems approach, such as the Social Workers in Schools project.

3.2 This year priorities have included building on and strengthening existing quality assurance activity, responding to the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining social workers, an ongoing focus on tackling inequality and supporting excellence in social work practice.

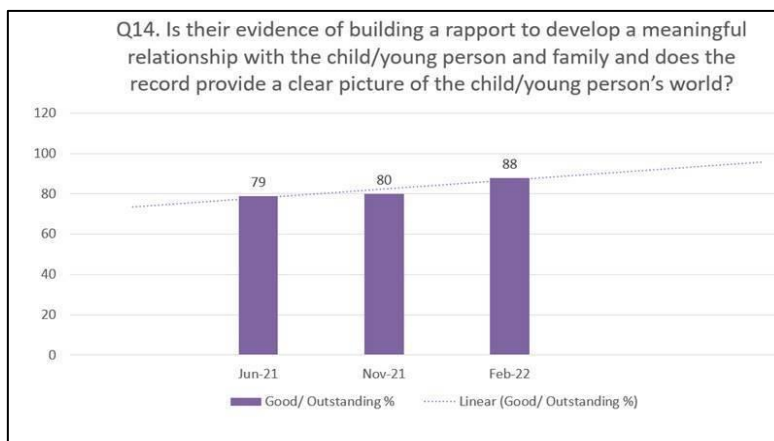
3.3 Highlights of the work undertaken by the PSW in the last 12 months since April 2021 is outlined below.

3.4 Quality of Practice – Children’s Service

3.5 Restorative Practice (RP) has been the overarching practice framework for the Children’s and Young People’s Service since November 2016. It is a strengths-based approach that is about building, maintaining and repairing relationships. It is a way of being that supports working “with” children and families and not doing “to” them, identifying strengths but also being able to effectively challenge where necessary.

3.6 In June 2020 a Senior Restorative Practice (SRP) Lead was appointed to support the PSW in further embedding RP across the service. This year the main priority has been to spread this approach wider and introduce it to external partners, including police, health, education and the voluntary sector to provide a consistent and joined up approach to improving outcomes for children and families. Agencies agreed to put forward champions to undertake train the trainer RP training which could then be offered out as multi-agency workshops. Fifteen champions have now been trained and the workshops will be rolled out during 2022-2023.

3.7 Over 90% of social workers in the annual Social Work Health Check said that Wolverhampton has a clear model of social work practice that promotes relationship working and a strengths-based approach to achieve the best outcomes for individuals and families, with comments including: “I am proud of the restorative approach. I feel that we are local leaders for other authorities”. The Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspection also agreed that Restorative Practice was well embedded and understood, acknowledging that despite the challenges of Covid, “leaders and managers across the service continued to encourage the strength- and relationship-based restorative social work model and, as a consequence, there has been a significant reduction in the number of children requiring statutory interventions”. The impact of this can also be seen in audits where relationship-based practice continues to be an area of strength and the number of files rated good or outstanding have been steadily improving over the year:



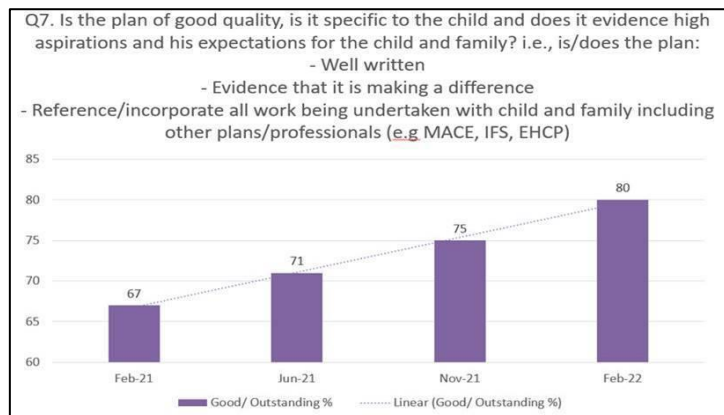
- 3.8 The Principal Social Worker has continued to be responsible for implementing the National Accreditation Process (NAAS), which involves assessing social workers against a set of standards set out in the Knowledge and Skills Statement for Practice Supervisors and Practice Leaders (now known as the post qualifying standards). This is part of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which gives the education secretary powers to set and assess practitioners against improvement standards.
- 3.9 By March 2020, 41 social workers had undertaken the NAAS in Wolverhampton, but progress then stalled because assessment centres were closed due to Covid. They reopened in August 2021 and targeted work has taken place to encourage social workers to consider the NAAS as part of their progression and professional development. This resulted in 22 practitioners being endorsed for the programme and by November 2021 a further two social workers had successfully been accredited. However, in January 2022 the Department for Education (DfE) advised that the delivery model would be changing, and the current model of the NAAS has now ceased. They expect the new delivery model to be in place by the end of this calendar year. Wolverhampton has to date maintained a 100% pass rate for the NAAS.
- 3.10 A key part of quality assurance in Children's Services continues to be practice weeks, which is a more restorative approach to undertaking traditional file audits. The Director of Children's Services along with all Heads of Service, the PSW, Service Managers and Team Managers spend time over a week having conversations on a one-to-one basis with practitioners looking at a child's file and reflecting on practice. The advantages include being able to see practice rather than just reading about it, being able to see and feel how teams are functioning and being able to offer social workers immediate feedback on their practice. Practice weeks have been well received with over 85% of social workers in this year's Health Check survey reporting practice weeks were a positive experience and some comments have included:
- A. "It was a really relaxed conversation, and I had the opportunity to highlight good areas of practice and felt comfortable in talking about areas of improvement also"
 - B. "It enables workers to get a different perspective and advice from a senior manager"

- 3.11 This year the PSW has revised the quality assurance framework for Children's Services to strengthen the well-established practice week approach by introducing moderation workshops to check the consistency of auditing against Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) descriptors. The PSW has also embedded a process for triangulating intelligence from across the wider system, such as complaints, data, child safeguarding practice reviews, feedback from children and families etc, to help better inform the service's understanding of social work practice and the impact it has for children and families. A practice newsletter has also been developed which is now sent out to the workforce to share findings and learning from audits and other quality assurance activity, as well as providing an update about what actions are needed to improve practice.
- 3.12 The PSW is the lead for the new Aiming for Excellence Plan, created this year, which is supporting excellent social work practice by focusing on six key areas where practice can tend to be inconsistent. Six full time equivalent Advanced Practitioners (APs) who are coached by the PSW, play a key role in leading on the areas for excellence and improving practice. The APs also provide practical support to newly qualified social workers, students and social work teams, carrying out dips and embedding a reflective and learning culture across the service.
- 3.13 A few of the key areas of strength, as identified through practice weeks during 2021-2022 include:
- A. Practitioners know the children and families they work with well.
 - B. Direct work through the establishment of relationships is linked to sustained changes.
 - C. Risk is identified, children are safe, and services are making a positive difference
 - D. Evidence of strengths-based approaches and collaborative working
- 3.14 There has been a steady improvement in the quality of social work practice and this year's audits are showing an increase in the number of files rated good or outstanding and a reduction in those rated requires improvement or inadequate:

Audit Period	Total rated Good or higher	Total rated Requires Improvement or lower
2019-2020	57%	43%
2020- 2021	72%	28%
2021-2022	81%	19%

- 3.15 There has also been improvement in specific areas of practice over the year, for example the number of high quality, meaningful care plans that evidence progress for children rated good or above has increased over the last 12 months. This is a key area on the

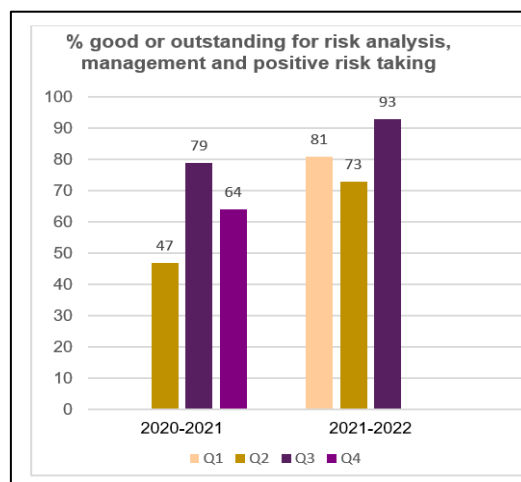
Aiming for Excellence Plan and actions that have supported this progress have included refresher workshops led by the APs and the sharing of good examples within teams and as part of reflective sessions.



- 3.16 This commitment to quality assurance and continual improvement and learning was recognised by Ofsted in their recent inspection (March 2022), commenting that “quality assurance arrangements are strong, with a comprehensive approach to learning from audits. There are a range of effective processes [and]... learning is shared.” As a result, they concluded that “senior leaders know themselves very well and endeavour to meet the needs of children and families through high-quality effective services. They have a comprehensive understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the service, which has led to a culture that is open to challenge and learning. This has led to a high level of consistent, strong social work practice.”
- 3.17 The PSW’s team has supported with three inspections this year. In September 2021 Ofsted carried out a Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection, quickly followed by an inspection of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) in October 2021. A Children’s Social Care inspection then took place in March 2022, the outcome of which was that City of Wolverhampton Council continues to be a “good” rated authority. It has also been recognised as “outstanding” for the impact that leaders have on social work practice with children and families and there has been improvement noted in the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection, with the service now being rated “good” in this area whereas previously it was felt to “require improvement”.
- 3.18 The PSW’s team will continue to support the service in preparing for future inspections, co-ordinating any improvement actions where appropriate, and also preparing for the future regulation of Adults Services by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) from April 2023/2024 onwards, which will be a key priority for the PSW and the team this year.
- 3.19 Quality of Practice – Adult Services**
- 3.20 The PSW has continued to lead on quality assurance activity in adults during 2021-2022 with audits evidencing that high quality social work practice and adherence to statutory duties has continued despite the ongoing challenges of Covid:

Audit Period	Total rated Good or higher	Total rated Requires Improvement or lower
2019-2020	83%	17%
2020- 2021	78%	22%
2021-2022	92%	8%

- 3.21 Local audit activity throughout 2021-2022 has also demonstrated consistently good practice over the year in many areas, such as in use of advocacy, strengths-based approaches, Making Safeguarding Personal, effective management oversight and involving the person in decision making. Good outcomes have been evidenced for people with care and support needs over the year, with an average of 90% of files rated good or above for demonstrating that social work intervention has made a positive difference to the person.
- 3.22 There has also been improvement in specific areas of practice by the end of the year. For instance, analysis and management of risk, including consideration around positive risk taking, was an area which had improved to some extent by the end of 2020-2021, but was not a consistent strength. Training was commissioned to support practitioners and consequently this year there has been an increase in the number of files rated good or outstanding and it is now considered a consistent area of strength:



- 3.23 A different approach to auditing will be trialled for 2022-2023, following consultation with practitioners and managers this year. Feedback suggests they would welcome a more restorative approach to quality assurance activity, which is more aligned to 3 Conversations©. As a result, the traditional bi-monthly file audits will be replaced with practice conversations which will take place during practice weeks. This will be the same approach as in Children’s Service where the auditor will meet on a one-to-one basis with the practitioner and have a conversation about a person they are working with. This will

also ensure leaders, including senior managers, such as heads of service, remain close to practice and visible to teams.

- 3.24 A full review and refresh of the quality assurance framework for adults will be one of the key priorities in 2022-2023. This is in readiness for the new duty that is being introduced through the Health and Care Bill whereby the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will conduct reviews of local authorities adult social care performance, specifically looking at its regulated functions under Part One of the 2014 Care Act.
- 3.25 Three Conversations©, the strengths-based approach introduced in 2018, remains well embedded in practice. This year the project was formally ended and quarterly “It’s Your Life” meetings established, chaired by senior managers across Adults Services and attended by the PSW, to ensure the approach remains at the centre of practice. Three Conversations© is a way of working which replaces the traditional “assessment for services” mindset with a meaningful conversation about what matters to them, making connections to people and places that will help them and better support their wellbeing. The approach is based on developing relationships, preventing delay and people having to retell their story. Audits evidence that strengths-based practice continues to be a strength, with an average of 89% of social work files rated good or outstanding in this area in 2021-2022. Over 75% of social workers in this year’s Health Check survey also agreed that Wolverhampton has a clear model of social work practice that promotes relationship working and a strengths-based approach to achieve the best outcomes for individuals and families.
- 3.26 The redesign of adult social care, which is now underway, will build on this and consider what more is needed to enable this approach to work even more effectively, particularly considering the impact of the new social care reforms, CQC regulation and the introduction of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). It will review demand, workflow, systems as well as workloads and skill mix across the service to explore how adult social care in the city could work more effectively and efficiently without losing the person at the centre.
- 3.27 Workforce**
- 3.28 There is evidence in the UK of a shortage of experienced social workers with social work featuring on the national occupation shortage list since 2014. Social work is challenged by high turnover and vacancy rates and a heavy reliance on agency staff. The Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted, 2016) state that “good” local authorities have a “workforce that is sufficient, stable, suitably qualified and competent to deliver high-quality services to children and their families”.
- 3.29 The PSW continues to lead on the development and delivery of a recruitment and retention plan with colleagues from human resources, organisational development and the communications team. To further support retention the PSW this year formally launched a continuous professional development pathway for social workers in Adults and Children’s services, which sets out the opportunities for learning and progression

that are available for social workers locally from newly qualified up to director level. As a result, more this year have requested to apply to become practice educators compared to last year and there have also been four children's social workers who will be undertaking the best interest assessor role, which will also support the future implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) within Children's Services.

- 3.30 A first-year manager programme has been created and trialled, with positive feedback. The PSW has also worked collaboratively with the University of Wolverhampton this year to offer an alternative progression opportunity for those social workers more interested in research and academic learning and two social workers have now been sponsored to undertake their PhD on a part time basis. Feedback on the PhD opportunity from across the social work workforce has boosted morale and demonstrated the Council's commitment to social worker's development:
- A. "This is exciting news, and it shows how Wolverhampton Council is invested in the development of its social work staff"
 - B. "I am looking forward to reading the research findings and recommendations. Thanks to our Wolverhampton City Council for investing in its workforce"
 - C. "Thank you to City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) for creating this development opportunity, very forward thinking"
- 3.31 Around 25% of vacancies in Children's Services are currently secondments caused by maternity leave and additional roles or projects such as the Social Workers in School (SWIS) project. Secondments are opportunities for progression and are therefore an important element of the local retention strategy. However there has been increasing difficulty over the last 12 months to recruit good quality agency social workers to backfill these posts because of a highly competitive recruiting environment where social workers can take their pick of vacancies/local authorities and hourly rates. A stable workforce provides individuals and families with consistent workers who have manageable workloads, all of which support good outcomes. This is why the council have taken steps this year to recruit to a new permanent team of nine peripatetic social workers who can quickly fill vacancies for a six-to-twelve-month period. Other actions being taken to support the recruitment of social workers in Children's Services include offering interviews within a week of an application being received, which should ensure more timely appointments into post and reduce the amount of time vacancies are left unfilled.
- 3.32 Actions that have been taken this year to support recruitment and retention have had a positive impact, which was recognised by Ofsted in their recent inspection in March 2022 where they reported that the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) has "a mostly stable permanent workforce, along with manageable caseloads, [which] enables positive relationships to be built with children and families." The turnover rate of children's social workers (as of March 2022) was 13.8%, which is lower than the national average (15.4%).

- 3.33 In Adult's Services the turnover rate of social workers was 14.5% in March 2022, slightly lower than the 15% reported nationally, but over the last 6 months only four frontline social workers of a total of approximately 80 frontline adult social workers have left Adult Services.
- 3.34 The annual Social Work Health Check survey asks social workers for their views on working conditions and this year there is a strong sense of pride with on average 80% saying they would recommend CWC as an employer to family and friends. Some comments included:
- A. "I am happy in my role and feel grateful to be employed by CWC"
 - B. "I think Wolverhampton is a great local authority to work for- I am particularly inspired by its celebration of diversity...it makes me proud to work here"
 - C. "Wolverhampton have been a very supportive council and I have an approachable management team which makes all the difference and makes me want to continue to work for CWC."
 - D. "This is a listening organisation...I am keen to stay here for some time"
 - E. "There is a real commitment to learning and development."
- 3.35 Positively the majority of social workers plan to continue working for the council for at least the next 12 months. More manageable workloads would influence a small number who are unsure about staying. The adults redesign and the new peripatetic team, as well as other actions that are being taken to fill vacancies more quickly, will be key in ensuring workloads are manageable and further support the retention of social workers.
- 3.36 Recruiting experienced social workers across Adults and Children's services is an ongoing challenge and is a continued priority for 2022-2023. One way this will be taken forward is by a rebranding campaign to attract the candidates that are needed and modernise our approach to help the City of Wolverhampton Council stand out in a highly competitive arena.
- 3.37 However a key function of the PSW role is also to support the training of new social workers. There are many routes into social work, and it is important that that CWC takes a mixed economy approach to supporting the training of social workers in order to not only meet its own sufficiency needs but also contribute to the needs of the region. Programmes and initiatives that contribute to this include the West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership (WMSWTP), Step up to Social Work, the Frontline Programme and social work degree apprenticeships.
- 3.38 The WMSWTP is in its fourth year of delivery and is the largest in the country consisting of 27 partners. Social work teaching partnerships are a government funded initiative designed to enhance partnership arrangements between higher education institutions and employers; attract more able students; embed the knowledge and skills (post qualifying standards) into academic curricula and continuing professional development

(CPD) for existing workers; and overall raise the quality of social work practice. This year CWC have benefitted from participating in the WMSWTP in a number of ways, for instance by being able to access over 20 training/CPD sessions including court skills, analysis in assessment and also mentoring programmes. Almost 90 social workers in Wolverhampton have attended training offered by the WMSWTP this year. CWC are also part of a pilot involving virtual reality headsets as a way for children's social workers to experience issues such as bullying and neglect from a child or unborn baby's perspective.

- 3.39 More students this year have been offered statutory placements with Wolverhampton Council across adults and children's services (33 compared to 26 in 2020-2021). This is largely due to the creation of a Practice Educator Hub which is a collaboration between the University of Wolverhampton and CWC, whereby a university employed Practice Educator (PE) offers support to enable more students to be placed within the council. Given the significant challenges universities and social work teams have still been facing this year due to Covid, this shows the local commitment and drive for supporting the next generation of social workers. The PSW has also led interview skills workshops with final year students this year and encouraged applications to Wolverhampton as part of the final year student recruitment strategy. As a result, more of CWC's final year students have been interviewed and were appointable for newly qualified jobs in Wolverhampton this year (seven compared to just three last year).
- 3.40 Step up to Social Work and Frontline Programmes are post graduate fast track social work programmes for people interested in the profession who have a 2.2 Honours Degree or above. Step up to Social Work is co-ordinated regionally and is delivered in partnership with the University of Birmingham as a 14-month condensed course. CWC is now supporting its second cohort of Step-Up students. The first cohort qualified in June 2021 and are now all employed as newly qualified social workers in Children's Services. The second cohort have now commenced their training with the University of Birmingham and will be on placement from May 2022.
- 3.41 Frontline is a fast-track training scheme for social workers in child protection, which aims to attract outstanding graduates who may not previously have considered a career in social work. Participants complete most of their theoretical training whilst in social work placements, this allows them to transfer their learning into practice immediately. Since starting in 2017, 24 participants have been through the programme or are currently on it. There are three frontline participants on the programme at present and two who are due to finish their assessed and supported year in employment (ASYE) between October – December 2022. A fifth cohort has been agreed for next year.
- 3.42 The new level six degree apprenticeship in social work was agreed in December 2018. It provides an exciting opportunity for existing social care employees to undertake a social work degree whilst remaining in full time employment. CWC currently have twelve apprentices across Adults and Children's services and have recruited a further three to

start the course from September 2022. One of the current social work apprentices has spoken about the opportunity the apprenticeship has given her to change careers and how she is looking forward to becoming a social worker: [Social Work apprenticeships - Emma's story](#)

- 3.43 Ofsted in the March 2022 inspection recognised the commitment to recruitment and retention in Wolverhampton and praised the “grow your own” approach which is evidenced by an “effective assessed and supported year in employment programme and...apprenticeship model”. Ofsted noted that “as a result, the majority of children benefit from stable and strong relationships with their social workers, who have manageable caseloads that enable them to strive to complete quality work with children to improve children’s circumstances and experiences.”
- 3.44 One of the key tasks of PSWs is to carry out an annual social work health check survey and ensure the Local Government Association (LGA) Standards for Employers of social workers are being upheld. The local social work health check was carried out between September and November 2021 and identified a number of key themes:
- A. Social work is a notoriously demanding profession, and, by its very nature, the role carries a certain level of stress however the number of those always or often feeling stress due to work has reduced this year
 - B. There has been an increase in the quality of supervision with around 90% or above this year reporting high satisfaction rates
 - C. Although frequency of supervision in children’s has reduced this year over 96% feel well supported by their managers when they need it most even suggesting informal supervision is taking place
 - D. Effective and appropriate communication between management and staff with notable year on year improvement - averaging 90%
 - E. Most know where to go in the council to support their wellbeing and said CWC makes them feel empowered to make time for self-care
 - F. There is now desire for a better balance between home and office working
- 3.45 Action plans have been developed for both Children’s and Adult Services to address any issues identified.
- 3.46 Professional Standards and Practice Development**
- 3.47 All social workers are now required by the social work regulator Social Work England (SWE) to record evidence of continuing professional development (CPD) each year in order to renew their registration to continue to practice as a social worker. One of the key roles of the PSW alongside the organisational development team is to support all social workers to meet the re-registration requirement. Social workers have had opportunities to access training throughout the year to evidence their CPD and also have access to

Research in Practice / Research in Practice for Adults which provides resources and articles to inform their social work practice. All social workers across Adults and Children's services successfully re-registered this year and the PSW has already arranged a session with SWE's regional lead to brief social workers in Wolverhampton about the changes to the CPD requirement for 2022-2023. A briefing took place in March 2022 with around 120 social workers attending.

- 3.48 The PSW has taken on a new role this year, becoming the single point of contact between SWE and CWC for any local fitness to practice referrals. The role is critical in supporting SWE progress their investigations in a timely way, ensuring that the public is protected and reducing the impact on the wellbeing and productivity of all involved.
- 3.49 The PSW leads on social work development plans for adult and children's social workers and ensures that training opportunities are offered in line with service priorities as well as keeping practitioners up to date with changes in legislation and / or supporting with the challenges and complexities being faced in practice. Some examples of training offered in 2021-2022 includes: The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Cultural Competence, Supporting People who Hoard, Making Safeguarding Enquiries (S42 Care Act), Working with Parents with Mental Health Difficulties, Gangs training, Child Protection (Section 47) Enquiries, Professional Curiosity, Trauma Informed Practice, Child on Parent Violence, Mental Capacity Act / Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS), and Reflective Supervision.
- 3.50 The PSW arranges three separate children's and adult's social work briefings a year that provide critical space for social workers to voice their views with senior leaders as well as ensuring important information is shared. The sessions also have a learning and development focus often chosen by social workers themselves. These have proved to be highly successful with social workers reporting that they are able to apply their learning to practice. This year's briefings have featured sessions on learning from local Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Child Learning Reviews; Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) updates; direct work training with children and young people; supporting people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; exploring exploitation screening tools; updates on the exploitation hub and stories of difference presented by individual social workers.
- 3.51 The annual joint adults and children's social work conference took place virtually in October 2021 with the theme of "Celebrating Diversity; Challenging Inequality". It featured a keynote speech by Ify Nwokoro, a disability awareness spokesperson and blogger who was involved in a car accident in 2010 that left him paralysed from the shoulders down. Ify talked to social workers about his experience of social work, his disability and also the discrimination he has faced. The second keynote speaker was Elly Chapple, founder of "Can Do Ella" and #flipthenarrative. Elly spoke about what she has learnt from her daughter Ella, who has special education needs (SEN), particularly encouraging people to change their thinking about disability and to celebrate diversity. Social workers also shared stories from their practice and a number of workshops were delivered by external speakers on topics covering anti-racist social work; women and

victim blaming; supporting people from the trans community and anti-poverty practice. The day concluded with a session on “the trauma and impact of inequality and intersectionality”.

3.52 Feedback about the conference was overwhelmingly positive. Some comments included:

- A. “Today was incredible - probably the best social work event I have ever been to. I feel so lucky to work for Wolverhampton”
- B. “A fantastic conference. The speakers were absolutely fantastic, so inspiring and thought provoking. It had me thinking all evening. Certainly, the best conference I have ever attended, since working for Adult Social Care”
- C. One of the best social work conferences we have had in Wolverhampton”
- D. “I am so proud to be working for a local authority that promotes a social work culture that does not shy away from real issues”

3.53 This year’s Social Work Health Check surveys showed that the majority of social workers across Children’s and Adult’s Services feel satisfied with the learning opportunities available to them and believe CWC is a learning organisation with a positive learning culture.

3.54 Raising the profile of social work and connecting with practice

3.55 This year the PSW and her team have continued to celebrate good practice in monthly newsletters and raised the profile of the profession by recognising key events such as World Social Work Day, which took place in March 2022. The PSW collaborated with the University of Wolverhampton and a joint event was held for local social workers and social work students to come together to celebrate and reflect. Over 250 attended and comments included how this year’s local World Social Work Day event had been “inspiring” and “uplifting.”

3.56 The PSW has promoted the British Association of Social Work’s (BASW) national Amazing Social Work Awards this year, encouraging nominations across Adults and Children’s Services in Wolverhampton. Six social workers from CWC have been recognised and awarded the title of “Amazing Social Worker” for 2022 and been featured on BASW’s social media as well as on CWC’s City People.

3.57 The PSW has also continued to maintain a connection to social workers and frontline practice. For instance, the PSW has held drop-in sessions for social workers as part of World Social Work Day events, been part of reflective discussions in teams following the deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson and has also started to lead quarterly reflective sessions with newly qualified social workers. In this year’s social work Health Check the majority of social workers across Adults and Children’s Services said they have access to advice and support from senior social work leaders, including the PSW, with less than 10% saying this isn’t the case.

3.58 The PSW has also ensured that social workers in Wolverhampton were able to contribute to the national Independent Review of Children's Social Care by setting up a bespoke local engagement session with the review team in August 2021. Over 70 social workers attended and contributed to the session. The Review was set up by the Government in March 2021 and is investigating what needs to change across the children's social care system to improve the lives of children and families. It is being called a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform systems and services.

3.59 Challenging inequality

3.60 Equalities has continued to be a priority this year with the PSW taking an active role in the Rainbow Staff Equality forum as lead ally. The PSW is supporting the forum by leading on some research which will support the rainbow retirement workstream and also support social work practice when considering the needs of adults who identify as LGBT+. The PSW has also been supporting the APs in Children's Services to launch workshops for social workers to support them to have good conversations about sexuality and identity when working with young people. These actions will be reported on further in the 2022-2023 PSW report.

3.61 As well as the joint conference which championed the theme of equality and diversity, the PSW has also supported the regional PSW network to progress its ant-racist practice workstream and has delivered a masterclass on anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice for children's social workers across the region in March 2022.

3.62 The cultural competence workshops which were created by the previous Children's PSW and APs in 2020-2021, have been developed further this year as a result of feedback from cultural competence champions. A workshop has since been created which is aimed specifically at managers with the intention of supporting good conversations about equality and diversity for instance as part of team meetings and supervisions. The PSW has also supported the commissioning of training called "conversations to support people's uniqueness" to enable practitioners to feel more confident when asking about protected characteristics and recording equalities data. This will in turn help Children's and Adult's services better understand whether groups are over/ underrepresented and be able to take appropriate action to address gaps or inequality as part of their service equality plans.

3.63 As a result of the approach that has been taken to equality and diversity by the PSW, the Children's and Adult's leadership teams and their service areas, as well as the council as a whole, the vast majority of social workers in this year's Health Check survey said that CWC is actively committed to tackling inequality and discrimination.

4.0 Key priorities for the PSW's work plan 2022-2023

4.1 In 2022-2023 the PSW will continue to ensure that social work development plans incorporate a good development offer for social workers that enables them to continue to develop their practice. It is imperative that social workers are highly skilled as it is known

that good social work intervention can reduce the risk of children needing to be received into care and can enable adults with care and support needs to remain, or become, as independent as possible. It also ensures that council resources are being used appropriately and effectively and supports retention.

- 4.2 The PSW will continue to provide leadership, mentoring and coaching to the six (FTE) Advanced Social Work Practitioners in Children's Services. The focus of this work will be to support the ongoing improvement of frontline social work practice with a specific focus on the Aiming for Excellence Plan.
- 4.3 The PSW will continue to play a key role in the ongoing embedding of Restorative Practice (RP) across Children's Services and continue to develop the work on restorative language that has been started in 2021-2022.
- 4.4 The PSW will ensure that anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice continues to be prioritised and built into social work education and training as well as supporting research to develop social work knowledge and best practice when considering equality and diversity. The PSW, as lead ally, alongside actions already mentioned within this report, will promote the leadership equality pledges, support EDI strategy (including being visible and active in forums and EDI events), and actively challenge where needed.
- 4.5 A key priority for the PSW for 2022-2023 in conjunction with the Mental Capacity Act lead officer, SEND lead and other Heads of Services within the Council will be to ensure the social work workforce is prepared for the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). This will replace the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) scheme. The introduction of this was delayed due to Covid.
- 4.6 The PSW will continue to take lead responsibility, along with human resources and organisational development, for the implementation of the recruitment and retention plan to support a mixed economy of routes into social work and strengthen current recruitment activity, ensuring the council is able to meet demand and supply needs now and for the future. The plan will also build on existing strategies and explore new ways to retain social workers to ensure social workers see the council as a place where they can develop their practice and career and feel valued, trusted and proud.
- 4.7 The PSW will continue to lead on the annual social work Health Check and support a range of engagement activities between the Directors for Adults and Children's Services and social workers.
- 4.8 The PSW and her team will further develop the quality assurance frameworks and associated quality assurance activity for Adults and Children's Services and take on the responsibility for this for SEND from 2022-2023. This will incorporate any actions from inspections / peer and practice reviews. There will be continued preparation for future inspections and also support for Adults Services in readiness for the CQC regulatory framework from 2023-2024.

- 4.9 As well as taking a key role in preparing for CQC regulation, the PSW will also support Adult Services in the implementation of the new social care charging reforms, with CWC being one of five councils across England trailblazing the new system this year.
- 4.10 There is a need for the PSW to continue to play a key role in the ongoing redesign of Adult's Social Care in 2022-2023, offering independent challenge and also advice about regional/national best practice specifically in relation to social work, and also working with the director of Adult's Services and heads of service to promote a culture of co-production and personalisation. This will include the PSW collaborating with Think Local Act Personal (TLAP), a national partnership committed to transforming health and care through personalisation, community-based support and the voice of people with lived experience.
- 4.11 This year the PSW has developed strong relationships with the University of Wolverhampton, resulting in a pilot PE hub, PhD sponsorship opportunities and a collaborative World Social Work Day event, all of which has had a positive impact on social work in Wolverhampton. A key priority for 2022-2023 will therefore be to further strengthen and build on this relationship, with a particular focus on exploring more research opportunities and closer links between academia and practice. This is also a priority for the Chief Social Worker, regional PSW network as well as the West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership.
- 4.12 It is important that the PSW continues to maintain a presence in national PSW forums. These meetings are learning and development opportunities and provides opportunity for the Chief Social Workers for Adults and Children to share the direction of travel, answer questions and receive feedback from PSW's. These events also provide opportunity for the sharing of good practice.
- 4.13 The PSW also attends PSW regional network meetings on a bi-monthly basis for Adults and Children's and contributes to work plans and workstream activity. This allows regional work to take place as directed by the regional West Midlands Association of Directors of Children's Services and the Association of Directors of Adults Services. The PSW will also continue to be part of regional practice reviews in adults to support the peer challenge process and prepare CWC for future CQC regulation process.
- 4.14 The PSW will continue to be the local lead for the regional West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership and the single point of contact for SWE.

5.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 5.1 This report highlights the impact on the service, city and residents that the PSW role can bring including ensuring quality of good social work practice and improved outcomes for people. There is evidence that this role has a positive impact on the profession and the people being supported across Adult and Children's Services.

5.2 There is an option of not having a PSW, but it needs to be noted that the PSW role in adults is set out in statutory guidance. Without a PSW there could be a decline in quality of practice which would affect the lives of those children, young people and adults who seek social care support.

6.0 Reasons for decision

6.1 The role of the PSW contributes to a number of key priorities across Children's and Adults Services including Restorative Practice and Three Conversations© which are approaches and models that enable social workers to build professional relationships with people who need services that help and promote a strength-based approach to their practice. These approaches enable the workforce to strengthen families where children are at risk, promote the independence of older people and people with disabilities as well safeguarding people in vulnerable situations.

6.2 The PSW provides dedicated resource to the recruitment and retention strategy which in turn helps the Council reduce the spend on agency staffing. The role is also responsible for raising the profile of social work in the city which also contributes to making the City of Wolverhampton a social work employer of choice.

6.3 The role provides the professional knowledge required to drive local and regional workforce development plans that will contribute to high quality, excellent practice.

7.0 Financial implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this report. Any costs arising from the actions in the workplan, and priorities set by the PSW will be met from existing budgets.

[MK/26052022/J] [JG/26052022/J]

8.0 Legal implications

8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report.

[SB/22052022/U]

9.0 Equalities implications

9.1 Social workers provide support to the whole community covering all the protected characteristics. This annual report highlights the actions being taken to ensure that social workers are supported to consider and tackle inequalities for all groups. The PSW will continue to ensure that issues relating to inequality for all groups of people with protected characteristics is incorporated into social work development plans.

9.2 From a gender perspective there are more female social workers across the children's and adults social work workforce (over 80%). In terms of ethnicity there is generally a slight over representation of social workers from a dual heritage, asian and black background compared to the local population. No other diversity information has been

provided to the service to date, but this is being explored with the Equalities Team and all the information will be incorporated and considered as part of the wider service's equality action plans. The Council's approach to fair recruitment is followed robustly for the recruitment of all posts within the Adults and Children and Young People's Directorate. This includes anonymous application forms, progression of people with disabilities to interview and diverse recruitment panels.

10.0 All other implications

10.1 There are no human resources implications. However, it is noted that close collaborative working has taken place over the last year on the implementation of the recruitment and retention strategy and action plan. This includes back-office support and attendance at social worker interviews and as part of recruitment campaigns.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 There are no background papers for this report.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 27 July 2022
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Report title	Public Health Annual Report 2021-2022	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Health and Wellbeing	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
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 to be/has been considered by	Public Health Senior Leadership Team	18 May 2022
	Joint Children's, Education and Adults Leadership Team	16 June 2022
	Strategic Executive Board	5 July 2022
	Health and Wellbeing Together Board	13 July 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the publication of the Director of Public Health Annual Report for the period 2021 - 2022.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To present the Annual Report from the Director of Public Health for the period 2021 – 2022 for Cabinet approval.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Production of an annual Public Health Report is a statutory requirement. It is the Director of Public Health's professional statement about the health and wellbeing of the city.
- 2.2 The Annual Report for 2021-2022 aims to inform professionals and members of the public about the current public health challenge faced by our residents, our immediate priorities and sets the strategic direction for creating a healthier city together in the wake of the pandemic. It also provides an update about the activities undertaken to safeguard the health and wellbeing of residents in relation to Covid-19 since the last report was published in July 2021.

3.0 Report contents

- 3.1 The focus for the Annual Report for 2021-2022 is 'creating a healthier city together' linked to the Our City Our Plan ambition for Wulfrunians to live, longer, healthier lives. It recognises that Covid-19 is likely to have had a negative impact on a wide range of health indicators and in many cases further widened inequality.
- 3.2 In addition to providing a summary of the partnership activity that took place to safeguard city residents in relation to Covid-19, the report provides a thematic summary of current and planned activity in relation to best start in life and growing well, access to primary care, targeted support via a health checks pilot, public mental health and wellbeing, physical inactivity and the wider determinants of health including housing and community cohesion. It concludes by highlighting the opportunity to build on the strengthened partnership working that has developed in response to the pandemic. The final section of the report includes a set of ward profiles including a series of health-related indicators. These have been designed to complement the ward data dashboards being developed by the Insight and Performance team.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 As this is a statutory requirement, there are no alternative options available.

5.0 Reasons for decisions

- 5.1 The Director of Public Health Annual Report is a statutory requirement.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 Funding for Public Health is provided to the Council by the Department of Health and Social Care in the form of a ring-fenced grant.
- 6.2 The final Public Health grant allocation for the financial year 2021 - 2022 was £21.2million.

- 6.3 In addition, local authorities have received a number of grants in relation to Covid-19. These have to be spent in line with conditions.
[DA/29062022/M]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[SB/29062022/K]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Different groups within the population have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Addressing these inequalities is a key priority and we will use this information to inform our recovery.

9.0 All other implications

- 9.1 The report acknowledges the lasting physical, mental, social and economic impacts of the past year upon our population. It highlights the city's response to the coronavirus pandemic and how partners from across the city have worked together to keep our residents safe and highlights the areas of focus going forward to support delivery of the Council Plan.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Our City Our Plan

11.0 Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Public Health Annual Report 2021-2022

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Public Health Annual Report 2021-22

Creating a healthier city together

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Front cover: Yo! February 2022 half term activities

Left: East Park, Park Run

Foreword

We are pleased to present our Director of Public Health Report for 2021/22.

This report outlines the achievements that have taken place over the last 12 months to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our residents and acknowledges how Covid-19 has worsened pre-existing inequalities.

It sets out our approach to creating a healthier city together in the wake of the pandemic, recognising the negative impacts of Covid-19 have fallen disproportionately on more deprived, disadvantaged and excluded groups and individuals¹, leaving a toll on the mental and physical health and wellbeing of local people – now further compounded by the financial hardship many of our residents are experiencing².

The year 2022 marks ten years of Public Health in Local Government, a move which reaffirmed the key role councils can play in addressing the wider determinants of health. This is more pertinent than ever in the light of changes being introduced by the Health and Social Care Bill 2022, and in the face of the ongoing pressures on our health and social care system as a result of the pandemic.

In Wolverhampton, the health and wellbeing of Wulfrunians is located at the heart of our Corporate Plan, truly underscoring our recognition of the positive contribution we can make.



John Denley
Director of
Public Health



Councillor
Jasbir Jaspal
Cabinet Member for
Public Health and Wellbeing

We understand that to realise our ambition that ‘Wulfrunians live longer, healthier lives’ goes beyond focusing on individual behaviours and requires a continued emphasis on addressing systematic, avoidable differences in outcomes, particularly by ethnicity and deprivation.

Achieving this will require an even greater focus on partnership working rooted in place, informed by the lived experience of local people and building on the strong foundations of joint working fostered during the response to the pandemic. By working together to create a healthier city we can shape an environment that enables all our residents to have an equal chance of having the best start in life and the opportunities to reach their full potential afforded by a quality education, employment and housing in safe, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods.

At the same time this will necessarily need to be accompanied by a continued partnership response to ensure all residents can appropriately access high quality health and care services in a changing health and social care landscape.

This report sets out our Public Health contribution to meeting this collective challenge.

¹<http://wellbeingwolves.co.uk/document/Wolverhampton%20Health%20Inequalities%20Strategy%202021-2023.pdf>

²<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/community/cost-of-living-help>

Introduction

The City of Wolverhampton Council published 'Our City: Our Plan' in March 2022. It sets out how the Council will continue to work alongside its local, regional, and national partners to improve outcomes for local people.

At the centre of the Plan is our collective ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives'. This is supported by six overarching priorities that are underpinned by a real understanding of our city and a robust evidence base.

Our City: Our Plan is our strategic framework for Levelling Up³, built on the recognition of the intrinsic links between health, education, jobs and skills and the wider economy. With a strong focus on the wider determinants of health it also provides a delivery mechanism to support the Levelling Up mission to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy between local areas.

The need to tackle this 'healthy life expectancy challenge' in Wolverhampton was previously articulated in our pre-pandemic 'Public Health Vision for 2030'⁴. Covid-19 has acted to both intensify this challenge and shine a light on the urgency required to address health inequalities. In recognition of this, the Wolverhampton Health and Wellbeing Board, known locally as Health and Wellbeing Together, published a Health Inequalities Strategy at the end of 2021 which outlined a set of guiding principles and an agreed approach to tackling health inequalities. These principles provide the foundations on which we seek to create a healthier city.



We understand that to deliver on this ambition requires a stepped approach and investment in early intervention and prevention supported by a continued willingness to be innovative and embrace new ways of working. The Health and Care Bill has afforded new opportunities to support and embed integration through the creation of Integrated Care Systems. To maximise the benefits of integration at system level requires strong local leadership that can clearly articulate the needs, strengths and assets available at place level.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>

⁴ https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/The_vision_for_Public_Health_2030.pdf

The aim of this report therefore is two-fold. Firstly, to mark the achievements that have taken place in the city over the last 12 months to continue to safeguard the health and wellbeing of city residents. Secondly, to outline our response to the impact of Covid-19 going forward with a focus on tackling health inequalities, which in many cases the pandemic, now coupled with the pressures associated with a rise in the cost of living, has exacerbated.

Our specific objectives for this report are to:

- Assess the current public health challenge faced by our residents
- Define our immediate priorities
- Set the strategic direction for creating a healthier city together in the wake of the pandemic



Yo! February 2022 half term activities

This Annual Report should be read in conjunction with the City of Wolverhampton's Our City, Our Plan.⁵

⁵ <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-04/Our%20City%20Our%20Plan%20FINAL%20Cabinet%2023%20Feb.pdf>

On-going impact and legacy of Covid-19

Our Public Health Annual Report for 2020-21 captured how Covid-19 affected Wolverhampton and detailed our joint partnership response to the immediate impact of the pandemic and associated lockdowns.

Since its publication, Wolverhampton experienced a rise in Covid-19 cases associated with the Omicron variant during the winter of 2021-22. Spring 2022 then saw a period of transition driven by national policy landscape predicated on increasingly learning to live safely with Coronavirus.

From summer 2021 to spring 2022, Public Health therefore worked with a wide range of partners to continue to safeguard city residents throughout a time of rapid change. This included:

Contribution to the NHS-led vaccination programme

- Supporting delivery of the vaccination booster programme across all city Care Homes.
- Supporting delivery of two phases of the school-age vaccination programme in autumn 2021 and spring 2022 across all secondary phase educational settings providing first, second and booster vaccines to consenting 12–15-year-olds, 16–17-year-olds and educational staff.
- Implementing the Community Vaccine Fund targeting voluntary and community sector groups in low uptake areas to develop initiatives and projects to support residents in their communities to access the vaccine.

- Delivering pop-up clinics to respond to the Government's Booster campaign, offering vaccines in local community centres, sports venues and in shopping centres.
- Continuing to work with communities to understand the complexity behind low uptake in certain parts of the city and among certain community groups.

Surveillance and outbreak management

- Responding to incidents and outbreaks in educational settings, providing rapid risk assessments and offering tailored infection prevention and control guidance with the aim of slowing transmission whilst prioritising face to face education.
- Supporting the University of Wolverhampton in monitoring and responding to Covid-19 case and outbreak management and maintaining Covid-19 secure student accommodation.
- Managing outbreaks in care settings, alongside other winter infections including flu and norovirus via our dedicated Covid-19 Infection Prevention and Control team; holding weekly meetings with the UK Health Security Agency and other key partners to manage the outbreak response.
- Responding to incidents and outbreaks in workplace settings and holding Incident Management Team meetings (IMTs) with UK Health and Security Agency to manage and support with risk assessments and business advice, alongside our dedicated Environmental Health Business Support Team.

- Continuing to support Environment Health Business Support Team to deliver sector specific support to businesses across the city as Covid-19 Regulations were eased and people learn to work with 'Living with Covid-19' in the workplace. During the 2021-22 period, over 1900 business premises were visited, with over 800 applications for the Covid-19 Compliance Grant fund.
- Distributing 15,000 home test kits to individual residents and key partners, including West Midlands Fire Service, Domiciliary Care, Passenger Transport Services and Waste Services during December and January when the Omicron variant was at a peak to ensure frontline and key services were able to continue to deliver.

Education, advice and support

- Supporting care homes to understand and implement changes in Government guidance as a result of the gradual abolition of Covid-19 regulations, including changes to visitor restrictions, testing regimen, mandatory vaccine requirements and isolation periods.
- Facilitating a 'stay safe over festive break' and follow-up 'safe return to campus' campaign for University of Wolverhampton students, during which we conducted a student wellbeing survey on campus to identify student concerns around wellbeing and safety, distributed face coverings, lateral flow tests and provided an on-site vaccination clinic for both staff and students.

- Providing food parcels for those who were self-isolating or experiencing financial difficulties, supported by the Welfare Rights team.
- Referring residents who were alone, worried or in need of additional non-financial support to the social prescribing team.
- Continuing to identify and support under-represented groups to register with a GP through Community Champion engagement and support.

Much of the guidance that enabled the above activity has recently been subject to change. Over the course of the pandemic, our collective commitment to preparedness, outlining how we will work together to prevent, contain and manage outbreaks of Covid-19 has been driven by the Wolverhampton Outbreak Control Plan. This continues to be the case and the Public Health Annual Report 2021-2022 should be read in conjunction with our Outbreak Control Plan. It outlines how we will continue to help as many people as possible return to normal life, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and supports our economy to recover. It also provides detail of our approach going forward, one where our outbreak management response is proportionate to the threat level at any given time and can be scaled up as required, for example in response to a new variant of concern or increasing hospitalisations.

In our Public Health Vision 2030 document, published pre-pandemic, we outlined a commitment to improve both life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for the people living in our city. We remain committed to this ambition. Wolverhampton residents continue to have lower life and healthy life expectancy than national comparisons. This challenge is illustrated in the table below.

Indicator	Period	Wolverhampton	Region	England	
Healthy life expectancy at birth (Male)	2018-20	60.0yrs	61.9yrs	63.1yrs	●
Healthy life expectancy at birth (Female)	2018-20	59.3yrs	62.6yrs	63.9yrs	●
Life expectancy at birth (Male, 3 year range)	2018-20	76.6yrs	78.5yrs	79.4yrs	●
Life expectancy at birth (Female, 3 year range)	2018-20	81.3yrs	82.5yrs	83.1yrs	●
Life expectancy at birth (Male, 1 year range)	2020	75.4yrs	77.6yrs	78.7yrs	●
Life expectancy at birth (Female, 1 year range)	2020	80.0yrs	81.8yrs	82.6yrs	●
Disability-free life expectancy at birth (Male)	2018-20	60.8yrs	61.6yrs	62.4yrs	●
Disability-free life expectancy at birth (Female)	2018-20	57.8yrs	59.9yrs	60.9yrs	●

National average : Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) and cancer remain the biggest killers overall, with the biggest causes of premature mortality being CVD, infant mortality and alcohol specific causes.

For example, alcohol related mortality in Wolverhampton was the second highest in the West Midlands in 2020, with a rate of 57.6 per 100,000. This figure is significantly higher than England and West Midlands figures. Similarly, drug-misuse deaths in Wolverhampton are also higher than national and regional rates and have significantly risen from 3.5 in 2017-19 to 5.9 per 100,000 in 2018-20.

In addition, under-75 coronary heart disease mortality in Wolverhampton was the second highest in the Midlands NHS Region in 2017-19, with a rate of 64.2 per 100,000. This figure is significantly higher than England figure of 37.5 per 100,000.

Alongside the personal choices that we make, the conditions in which people are born, live and work all contribute to the above, with deprivation a key factor. The causes of poor quality of life also vary by age and ethnicity, these include poor mental health, long term conditions, the impact of falls and sensory impairment, musculoskeletal conditions and pain.

Furthermore, it is likely that Covid-19 will have had a negative impact on all these indicators, compounded by the influence the pandemic wrought on healthcare systems, including the pause in routine screening, changed priorities in terms of medical and surgical procedures, altered patterns of access, as well as public fear.

Our collective response to Covid-19 demonstrated that the health and wider system can come together to address shared priorities both innovatively and at pace. Our challenge going forward is to harness this learning to address the wider health challenges in the city.

Meeting the challenge

Good health and wellbeing is comprised of a range of factors, these include our genetics, access and quality of health service provision, lifestyle choices and socio-economic factors. With the exception of our genetics, Covid-19 has impacted on all of these inter-related components.

Creating a resilient and healthy city will necessarily involve an on-going, flexible and sustained partnership commitment. To meet this challenge will require a whole city focus that spans the life-course and is informed by the lived experience of city residents. This includes ensuring the city provides the right environment for children to have the best start to life where they can be supported to recover from the negative impacts and disruption of the pandemic, alongside targeted interventions to meet the needs of people at critical periods throughout their lifetime and a continued emphasis on working with partners and communities to understand and then address the legacy of Covid-19.

As we strive to meet this challenge, this chapter of the Annual Report outlines the focus of our immediate priorities, which will set the strategic direction for Public Health in the coming year.



Councillor Jasbir Jaspal and John Denley preparing for the Drop-in Health Check at Newhampton Arts Centre

Best start in life and growing well

Why is this important to us?

Giving children the best start in life is a fundamental part of improving health and reducing health inequalities. Individual behaviour plays an important role in determining how healthy or unhealthy people are. Inequalities in children's development originate in multiple disadvantages, which compound to affect children's long-term outcomes and undermine the development of human potential so that children from disadvantaged families can quickly fall behind.



Playing out in Whitmore Reans

What do we know

Similar to adults, life in lockdown has had significant implications for babies and children. Whilst health services for families worked hard to continue to provide support for pregnant women, babies, children and families it cannot be ignored that some issues could not be dealt with in the usual way.

The limited opportunities for children of all ages to play and socialise with children and adults outside of their close family is expected to have implications for speech and language development, play and social skills and behaviour when preparing to start school. There is concern that what would have been considered minor delay in development may have been missed in some children potentially creating the need for greater support and possibly additional service pressures.

The implications of the emotional cost of giving birth alone may not have shown its impact as yet, but as with other adults who have struggled with restrictions we may see the mental health effect in years to come leading to an increase in demand for specialist services.

Prior to Covid-19, childhood obesity was already a national and local concern. National levels of childhood obesity have increased substantially between 2019-20 and 2020-21 among both reception and year six age children, accelerating a trend which has continued for at least the previous 15 years.

The 2019-20 National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data for Wolverhampton shows 28.6% of children in reception are obese or overweight, however by year six this rises to 42%. There is significant variation, in levels of childhood obesity across the different wards in the city which is closely associated with levels of deprivation (see ward profiles at the back of this document). Despite this variation by year six, 19 of the 20 city wards have prevalence levels higher than England highlighting the scale of the obesity challenge locally.

Although the NCMP was undertaken in 2020-21, only a representative sample of 10% of the population was conducted locally so no Wolverhampton data is available. However nationally, unprecedented increases were seen in the prevalence of obesity of 4.7% in Reception boys, 4.4% in Reception girls, 5.6% in Year six boys and 3.3% in Year six girls. More data is needed to know whether this is a long-term increase in prevalence following the pandemic.

The inequalities in childhood obesity have also widened. Nationally the largest increases in the prevalence of obesity have occurred in the most deprived areas of England and disparities in obesity prevalence between ethnic groups have also increased with the ethnic groups that previously had the highest obesity prevalence, in the main, experiencing the largest increases.

Our response

Public Health has access to a huge breadth of local and national health and wellbeing data that highlights the needs of children and young people and their families in our local communities. Some data comes directly from young people themselves through surveys such as the local Health Related Behaviour Survey (HRBS) and some from national data sources such as NCMP.

For many professionals accessing and interpreting this data in a meaningful way can be challenging and therefore the School Data Profiles were produced to depict some of this key data in an easy-to-read way to key stakeholders.

Since 2018 School Data Profiles have been produced and disseminated locally every year to all the city's educational settings. The profiles are intended to be used by the School Nursing service, local authority personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) advisors and by Wolverhampton schools, particularly senior leadership teams and PSHE co-ordinators, to shape and deliver provision for children and young people according to local needs.

School responses and projects as a result of the Data Profiles also provide evidence for Ofsted inspections, particularly in relation to how the school is using a data led approach to promoting the personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils.



Warstones Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The information on the School Data Profile captures a range of Public Health indicators that are a priority for Wolverhampton – covering the broad topics of healthy lifestyles; relationships and sexual health; substances; emotional health and wellbeing. Based on this data, the Profile also identifies the three top priorities for the school's local area and suggests a range of resources available to the school.

We are committed to providing access to these data profiles for our partners yearly to ensure they have access to the most recent data and intelligence, relevant to children and young people, to ensure services and interventions meets their needs.

We will look to expand the provision of these data profiles into the early years/pre-school phase to support the work around the first 1001 days and children having the best start in life.

What we are going to do next

The building blocks of life start before conception and once conceived the child undergoes physical and mental development at an incredible rate during those early days and months. The experience of pregnancy is important in ensuring that a healthy child is delivered to a healthy woman. How children are nurtured and cared for after birth and up to the age of two has a major impact on how they grow and develop thereafter. Hence the focus on the importance of the first 1001 days of life being highlighted by government and is the purpose of recent announcements of the creation and ongoing development of Family Hubs. Wolverhampton has been identified as one of 75 areas that will receive funding to support this development.

Public Health has acted in advance of this development to identify key areas for investment that will address fundamental aspects to ensure healthy pregnancy, improve parent and child relationships and discover more ways of tackling childhood obesity and supporting parents to protect their children from harmful disease during their early years.

Healthy Pregnancy plans include working directly with Maternity Services to further enhance their work with women and their families around key lifestyle behaviours of smoking and being overweight. Both of these lifestyles create risks for women, children and their families. These patterns of behaviour are easily learned but difficult to change without concerted and continued help especially for those women and families who are under stress such as those on low income, in poor housing and with other needs, for example language and understanding.

Public Health will provide investment to ensure that women who are most vulnerable can receive ongoing support and information to enable them to be smokefree and maintain a healthy weight throughout pregnancy and beyond.

Public Health will also support work to improve uptake of childhood immunisation. Uptake of childhood immunisation in Wolverhampton has always been below the target level of 95%. Whilst there are areas of good uptake across the city, there are areas where uptake is as low as 55%. These create concern especially as the diseases which immunisation protects from are serious and infection could result in life changing outcomes. Of particular concern at the moment is measles where outbreaks have been reported in Europe and falling herd immunity is a worry. Public Health will be working with partners to better understand the factors that prevent parents from getting their child immunised. Other areas of work will be to examine the process for inviting parents for their child's appointment and to check the accuracy and timeliness of record keeping so that we can be confident that our figures are up to date. We will also explore whether additional capacity is needed to extend the immunisation offer to key communities or localities and making immunising children as easy as possible.

A major area of development is to introduce the Five to Thrive philosophy to the work of practitioners in early years, social care, education and young people's support. This model describes a sequence of relational activities (Respond, Engage, Relax, Play, Talk) that build healthy brains in young children and maintain healthy brain function throughout life.



Yo! Easter Activity

Spotlight on Oral Health

Tooth decay starts early in life and in around half of children who experience decay it starts before age three. However, most oral diseases can be prevented or managed by 'healthy behaviours' such as enjoying a healthy balanced diet and cleaning teeth and gums effectively.

Poor dental health impacts children's health and wellbeing and is an important aspect of a child's overall health status and of their school readiness. Additionally, children who have high levels of disease in primary teeth have an increased risk of disease in their permanent teeth leading to long term maintenance throughout life.

In Wolverhampton one in four children aged five show visible signs of tooth decay with significant variation in levels of tooth decay between the most and least deprived areas of the city.

According to research by the General Dentist Council access to dental services has been severely impacted due to Covid-19, affecting the ability of patients to access dental services and those without a dentist to register with one. During the pandemic those from ethnic minority backgrounds were less likely to visit a dentist, which is of concern given Wolverhampton's culturally diverse population.

Oral health education targeting the prevention of early childhood decay on low-income families is deemed to be an effective intervention. Therefore, Public Health in partnership with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT), are aiming to provide oral health

interventions for children and families under the age of five, targeting areas of the city with significant levels of tooth decay.

Interventions provided locally include delivering educational workshops to parents and children within Early Year settings. This is supported by providing key information to Early Years professionals, School Nurses and Health Visitors, enabling them to provide dental packs and guidance to all 12 month and three-year-old children in the city through Health Visitors and Early Years Settings.

A multi-agency approach to National Smile month was a successful focal point for the project taking place between 16th May - 16th June 2022 providing an opportunity to champion the benefits of good oral health and promote the value of a healthy smile.

A comprehensive behaviour change evaluation is being carried out to demonstrate the impact of the interventions, guide the implementation of future projects and secure funding for future projects.



Health Checks

Why is this important to us?

The NHS Health Check is a health check-up for adults in England aged 40 to 74. It's the national screening programme for cardiovascular disease (CVD), designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type two diabetes and dementia. As we get older, we have a higher risk of developing one of these conditions. An NHS Health Check helps find ways to lower this risk. Restarting the NHS Health Checks programme is fundamentally important to us in addressing a significant public health risk, by detecting the problem early, improving access to primary care, preventing health conditions from getting worse, and supporting our residents with reducing their risk of CVD.

What do we know

CVD is responsible for one in four premature deaths in the UK and continues to be the cause of the largest gap in healthy life expectancy. The most effective way to manage CVD is early screening, detection and treatment: including management of preventable risk factors such as poor diet, physical inactivity, smoking, stress and harmful alcohol consumption. Wolverhampton has higher than average adult obesity rates, physical inactivity rates and more current smokers than both the regional and national averages, contributing to CVD being the leading cause of years of life lost in the city.

There are underlying health inequalities seen with CVD, with those in the most deprived 10% of the population being almost twice as likely to die as a result of CVD than those in the least deprived 10%

of the population. Wolverhampton is ranked 24th most deprived local authority in England and therefore a large proportion of the city's population are at increased risk of premature mortality from CVD.

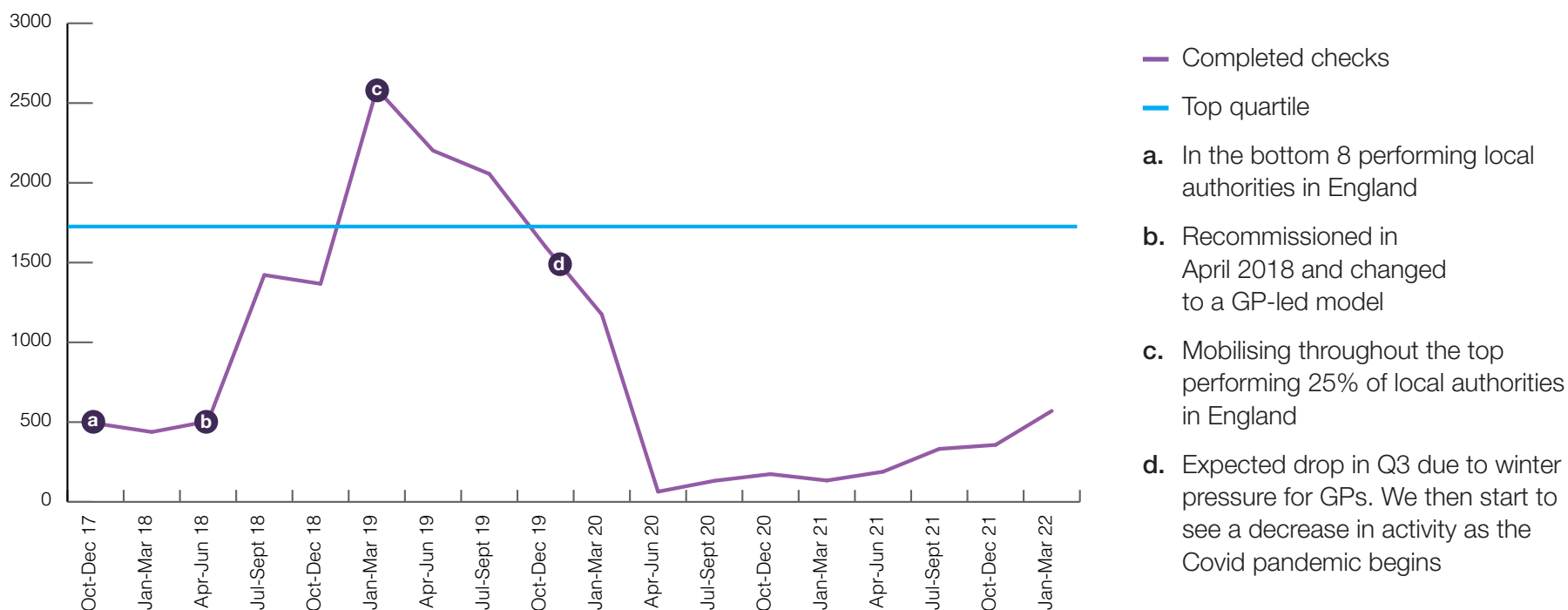
NHS Health Checks offer an invaluable opportunity to detect risk of CVD at an earlier stage and put into place support to help people live longer, healthier lives. Whilst this has always been the case, it is now more important than ever due to the impact of the pandemic. Reprioritisation of NHS services and changes to public behaviour in accessing health care during this time, means that it is likely there is an increase in undiagnosed CVD and related conditions, and a worsening of existing conditions in the local population.

In Wolverhampton, the City of Wolverhampton Council fund the NHS Health Check programme via a primary care led model, meaning the eligible population are invited for their health check every five years by their GP.

The graph overleaf details the trend in health check activity over recent years and outlines a 97% decrease in activity due to Covid-19 from the previous year.

In quarter one 2020-21, when the first Covid-19 lockdown occurred, the proportion of the entire eligible population who have had an NHS Health Check fell from 1.7% to 0.1% in Wolverhampton. Similar drops in activity were seen nationally due to the reprioritisation of services offered by GPs in response to the Covid-19 emergency, as well as changes in public behaviour and government restrictions to control the spread of the virus.

NHS Health Checks activity October 2017 – March 2022



Although GPs have restarted the NHS health check programme, Wolverhampton, along with many other Local Authorities in England, is yet to return to pre-pandemic levels of activity. The slowdown in uptake rate is also likely to disproportionately impact people living in the more deprived areas of the city in the long run. The unique circumstances caused by the pandemic must now be tackled to restart the programme locally and ensure that prevention is at the heart of recovery in tackling existing health inequalities. This certainly provides a fresh challenge, but a similar challenge to one which we have met before.

In 2017-2018, Wolverhampton was one of the lowest performing authorities in England. By 2019, after a change to a GP led model and through improved partnership working with local GPs and other health partners, the city moved to the top 25% of performing authorities in England. Learning from these previous experiences, we can once again improve access, reduce inequality and increase completion rates of NHS health checks to benefit of the health of Wulfrunians.

Our response

We will prioritise recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic by aiming to increase NHS Health Check activity to pre-pandemic levels and ensure that activity is representative of the population it is serving, by undertaking regular equity audits of programme delivery.

To achieve this, we will recommission the service with a new improved model to increase efficiency, including improved intelligence and data, establish a community offer of NHS Health Checks and a risk stratification approach to invitation, appropriately meeting the needs of the population.

We will work collaboratively with primary care to reenergise the programme with an increased return of face-to-face activities in practices and offering refresher training to healthcare professionals across the city to support them in restarting.

We will promote the offer of free NHS Health Checks widely within our communities so that eligible people can access services and get support earlier. Working with communities to coproduce solutions for outreach models to meet the need of the population, targeting areas of low uptake and high prevalence.

What we are going to do next

In collaboration with primary care and Black Country & West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (BCWBCCG), we will set up community health promotion events in areas of highest need, engaging with and coproducing the offer with residents to provide lasting provision/engagement. This is part of our ambition to increase coverage and access across the city, particularly those from areas of low uptake. Aiming to pro-actively tackle health inequalities by improving detection and treatment of CVD in the most deprived areas within Wolverhampton.

To support this, we will monitor activity by key demographics to ensure that the offer is representative of the population and use shared care data insights to gain a greater understanding of the impact the local NHS Health Check programme has on population health.

Our aim is to increase detection and management of CVD risk and in doing so contribute to improving life expectancy and closing the gap between the least and most deprived wards in the city.

Spotlight on St. Peter's ward community health check event

In June 2022, we undertook a pilot of a community health check event employing a place-based approach to CVD prevention. Applying the learning from our response to Covid-19 where vaccination rollout was informed by community engagement, coproduction opportunities and taking services into local venues. We identified St. Peter's ward as an area of need which would benefit from a targeted outreach offer. The goal being to promote CVD screening, identify any unmet need and gain a better understanding of access barriers to primary care in the local community.

We worked in partnership with local GPs, community champions, and the Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (BCWBCCG) to facilitate the event. We identified community champions from around the area to support the event and undertake health checks, inform their peers of risky behaviours and promote sustained healthy behaviour change in the local community. In partnership with BCWB CCG, the community champions were trained and signed off as competent to take blood pressure, height, weight, BMI and waist measurements. Local GPs provided staff and equipment to complete health checks on the day and we ensured that data captured was fed back into GP clinical systems so that patients were followed up as required.

Promotion of the event was informed by place based approach reaching out to local residents through conversations in school playgrounds, household leaflet drops, speaking to local business owners, organisations, faith groups and Pharmacies.

On the day over 100 people from the local community attended the event. The event was well received with positive comments captured about the importance of the health check and the fact people could access these services in their local community. The majority of people had not visited their GP practice recently, and over half of those who received an NHS Health Check were identified as being at risk and referred back to their GP for follow up. In the future we will take the learning from this event to establish a community outreach model for CVD checks, hoping to pick up undiagnosed conditions and link people into treatment and prevention pathways provided by the local NHS.

Come along for your...
FREE HEALTH CHECK
Wednesday 8th June 2022
 Newhampton Arts Centre,
 Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN

Drop-in between 3pm - 8pm
 Open to anyone 18+ and living in the St Peter's area.
 30 minutes for a confidential health check and advice
 Plus, free entry into a raffle to win various prizes.

NHS
 Black Country and
 West Birmingham
 Clinical Commissioning Group

**CITY OF
 WOLVERHAMPTON
 COUNCIL**

Free Health check event at
 Newhampton Arts Centre

Public mental health and wellbeing

Why is this important to us?

Although mental health and wellbeing can mean different things to us all, common themes include feeling good, functioning well, and having the skills, capacity and resources to navigate positively the difficulties we can all face in life. Evidence suggests that activities such as physical activity, being connected with other people, learning new skills, giving to others, and taking time out to understand ourselves, can all help to improve our mental wellbeing. Helping people know how to access the right support at the right time for them is also crucial in keeping people well, preventing mental illness and supporting recovery.

What do we know?

Covid-19 has affected all our lives over the last two years. The virus itself, and required measures to contain its spread, have triggered feelings of worry, distress, or loneliness for many of us. People who were experiencing disadvantage prior to the Covid-19 pandemic were subject to further challenges because of Covid-19, and this is likely to have had a negative impact on the mental health of these population groups. Those who had the highest risk of mental ill-health before Covid-19, including those living with pre-existing conditions, may have been adversely affected. Despite minor changes, long term trends for aspects of personal wellbeing for

adults aged 16 years and over in the city such as how happy we are, how worthwhile we feel life is, and our overall satisfaction with our lives continue to score poorly, with reported levels of anxiety increasing.

For children and young people, mental health problems often develop early in childhood, half before the age of 14 and three quarters before the age of 24.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, rates of child and adolescent mental health difficulties in England were of growing concern and evidence suggests that some children and young people's mental health and wellbeing has been substantially impacted during the pandemic. Research shows that in England 1.5 million children and young people under 18 will need new or additional mental health support and the rates of mental disorder in children and young people have increased between 2017-2021 from one in nine children in 2017 to one in six in 2021.

Groups who have been most significantly impacted by the pandemic include girls (who reported consistently lower wellbeing than boys at secondary age) young people, those with Special educational needs and disability (SEND), those of an ethnic minority and those eligible for Free School Meals.

Our response

Learning more from local people and communities

In efforts to hear local views we completed a city-wide survey of adults 16+ providing insight into what mental health means to people in our city, aspects of the pandemic people found most challenging, their impacts, along with the many coping strategies and resources people used to stay well. Alongside this, an evidence review has been completed to identify some of the groups likely to have been disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

These groups have been engaged in a series of co-creation activities to provide understanding of communities' unique experiences over the last two years including both risk and protective factors for mental health and wellbeing and the many ways people came together to support each other. Importantly these workstreams will help us understand more of what keeps people well, providing a focus for future system wide approaches to support communities to flourish.

Acting now for better mental health in our city

A series of initiatives to rapidly address the wider impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental health and wellbeing in our city have been mobilised with a range of partners. These better mental health activities have included:

- Structured six-week programmes of skills development and training to support people back into employment with a focus on young people (16-25), people with physical and mental health conditions, and women facing a range of complex life circumstances including domestic abuse and substance misuse.
- Over 400 1-1 counselling sessions have been provided to people in our city in need of additional support to help navigate difficult circumstances they are currently experiencing.
- Community champions from across the city have been provided with Mental Health First Aid training to help them support local people's health and wellbeing needs using evidence-based approaches. This includes the many ways in which people can look after their own mental health and wellbeing as well as how to seek more structured support at an earlier stage if required, helping to reduce the stigma of mental ill health.
- A programme of suicide prevention awareness training has been delivered to GPs and primary care teams, people who provide personal services such as barbers, hairdressers, and nail technicians and people working in a range of roles and settings across the city including voluntary sector and community groups. The training has provided people with the skills and knowledge to have more open conversations with others in distress, listen empathetically and guide to further help and support.
- A local awareness campaign spearheaded by the Wolverhampton Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Forum will aim to raise awareness of suicide and the role communities can play in supporting each other.

Spotlight on Head4Health Physical Activity and Wellbeing Programme

Wolves Foundation has worked in partnership with City of Wolverhampton Council to deliver a pilot of mental wellbeing support initiatives to over 200 local people facing a range of complex life challenges impacting on their mental health and wellbeing.

The Head4Health programme is available to all adults (18+), runs over eight weeks and offers a gentle introduction to being more physically active including walking, golf, boxercise and much more, offering opportunities for people to talk with others about what is going on in their lives, hear from organisations that can provide guidance and support, as well as providing access to more structured support such as free 1-1 counselling services if required.

The Foundation has worked with partners across the city to reach a wide variety of groups including female asylum seekers and refugees and parents and carers of young people with additional support and learning needs.

A short self help guide with tips and activities that can aid mental health and wellbeing has been developed during the programme in conjunction with the Mental Health Foundation.



Above: Head 4 Health – Match of the Day Filming

Left: Walk and Talk in West Park

Spotlight on Mental Health Awareness week: Lift someone out of loneliness campaign

This year's Mental Health Awareness campaign (9th-15th May) focused on the topic of loneliness. The campaign encouraged people to talk about their experiences of loneliness and highlighted how we can support ourselves and others when feeling lonely.

During the week, our local 'lift someone out of loneliness campaign' included a vibrant and engaging pop-up exhibition in the Mander Centre where local organisations with a remit for supporting mental health and wellbeing were in attendance.

Our partners from Black County Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, City of Wolverhampton Council services for carers and community support, and voluntary sector providers met with residents to share experiences and offer advice and support.

Wellbeing engagement activities were also delivered across our libraries and tea and toast sessions were organised to encourage people to connect. A social media campaign encouraging people to talk about their experiences of loneliness, using the hashtag #Ivebeenthere, as a way of reaching others who may be experiencing loneliness put a spotlight on how we can all feel lonely and things that can help.



Mander Centre Community Inclusion event

Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

As we move forward, given the potential long-term nature of impacts, it is important to prioritise mental health support for school-aged children and young people. This will require significant focus of resources and activity through a holistic city-wide approach that builds capacity within and between sectors to promote mental health and provide both early help in school and community settings alongside targeted support. The implementation of the i-Thrive framework locally will be key to achieving this. This way of working replaces a tier-based system with a whole system approach based on the identified needs of children, young people and their families; and advocates the effective use of data to inform delivery and meet needs.

A joint emotional health and wellbeing needs assessment is due to be conducted across the city to provide further detailed analysis and understanding of the local situation to ensure effective commissioning, coordination and alignment of local services.

What we are going to do next

Findings from better mental health projects, recent engagement activities and the city-wide mental health and wellbeing survey will shape our understanding of the resources people have told us they need to stay mentally healthy.

This learning will provide a baseline for further work with strategic partners to assess the emerging mental health needs of priority population groups as well as how and where more structured mental health support services are made available, and any changes required to continue to make sure people get the right support at the right time.

This will help us work with partners from across the city to develop a new Public Mental Health strategy for Wolverhampton outlining our collective vision for mental health and wellbeing and actions we will all take together to make sure local people can feel good and function well in our communities.

Going forward we will continue to work in partnership with University of Wolverhampton to support delivery of commitments outlined in the new Student Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy which recognises the connection between physical, social and mental wellbeing, and is underpinned by a desire for students to feel empowered individually and collectively, to achieve their full potential.

Physical inactivity

Why is this important to us?

Physical inactivity is responsible for one in six UK deaths, this is equal to smoking. It is estimated to cost the UK £7.4 billion annually (including £0.9 billion to the NHS alone).⁶ Physical inactivity in Wolverhampton remains consistently higher than the regional and national averages with current levels of inactivity in adults at 28%, below the 25th percentile⁷, and for children, 28.7% are less active⁸.

The detrimental impact of physical inactivity touch on many aspects of current activity in Public Health, as can be seen from the other priorities featured in this report.

What do we know?

Being inactive increases the likelihood of depression, some cancers, diabetes, and dementia, conversely by getting people who are inactive to increase their physical activity levels, 1 in 10 cases of stroke and heart disease and up to 40% of long-term health conditions could be prevented. It is important to recognise that even small differences in people's physical activity levels can make a difference and so we are focused on getting everyone to do at least 30 minutes of physical activity per week.

Even at the height of the pandemic, during the strictest lockdown conditions, residents were permitted to leave the house once a day for physical activity. Research carried out by Active Black Country found that the people most likely to increase their activity levels during lockdown were those who were previously inactive. The circumstances led to many people starting to consider their personal health more seriously.

Sport England have however cited that the Covid-19 pandemic has had detrimental effect on to people's levels of physical activity, with some groups being affected disproportionately including women, young people, people living with disabilities, people living with long term health conditions and people from Black and Asian backgrounds.

We know that the experience of lockdown was not uniform and there is increasing evidence that limited access to greenspace and the ability to play outside the home affected both physical and mental wellbeing.

⁶ Physical activity: applying All Our Health

⁷ Public Health Outcomes Framework 20/21

⁸ Active Lives: Children and Young People Activity Data 18/19

Our response

To help our residents have longer, healthier lives, our aim is to get every resident taking part in at least 30 minutes of physical activity a week to start to tackle health inequalities caused by inactivity.

Through increasing physical activity within the city, we can:

- Reduce in the risk of development a range of non-communicable diseases, through including physical activity as part of the care pathway, support better management of long-term health conditions such as diabetes, improve outcome in surgery/treatments and, support good health both before and after surgery and after chronic illness.
- Improve community capacity and cohesion by creating a range of voluntary opportunities and pathways into employment.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the city through enhanced active travel.
- Be a source of early help and provide wider support circles to enhance resilience through life disturbances.
- Offer opportunities to reduce anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities.

- Enhance community safety, through the promotion of Crimestoppers to encourage residents to report concerns or issues of anti-social behaviour anonymously to enhance safe access to local green spaces and encourage more families and residents to take part in outdoor activity in their locality.
- Improve the number of years people are living in good health and independently thus reducing need for statutory services intervention and risk of accidents such as falls through reduced levels of frailty.



Hugh Porter – ‘80 for 80’ – 80 laps of Aldersley Stadium track aged 80



Kabaddi Launch at Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Our Health and Wellbeing Together Board, known locally as Health and Wellbeing Together, has identified tackling health inequalities as a system priority and committed to work together to build on the foundations in place in Wolverhampton and take a coordinated approach to physical activity. Working with the board we have identified stakeholders from the Local Authority, community sector, health and wellbeing, education, and other interested parties to tackle inactivity and, in turn, impact on long term health inequalities in the area. A subgroup of the board has been established that will have responsibility for defining priorities and programmes to tackle inactivity.

What we are going to do next

As a city, we are committed to ensuring there are opportunities for all residents to be active for them to experience the health and wellbeing benefits that being active offers. We will develop and launch our new 'Healthier, Happier Active City' plan which will outline capital development priorities alongside how we will tackle the physical inactivity challenge in the city.

The plan will aim to help create an inclusive physical activity offer to get children, young people and families moving, support older people to remain independent and active and support the improvement of the SEND leisure offer. It will also recognise the need to maximise our investment in our green spaces and council leisure and community facilities to increase usage and ensure our residents have access to first class facilities.

Ultimately, we will create more opportunities to enable people to be active in a local, safe, and accessible way. One example of this is supporting the launch of the Government's pilot Better Health: Rewards programme which utilises digital technology and a rewards programme to change behaviours around physical activity and healthy eating.

Spotlight on WV Gets Active (WVGA)

City of Wolverhampton Council, in partnership with Active Black Country, The Behaviouralist and Local Government Association delivered a physical activity intervention with a goal to increase activity levels to at least 30 minutes a week for low socio-economic and inactive residents. An app based six-week behaviour change intervention was delivered with individuals linking their own fitness trackers. The app offered localised routes and nudges reminding residents to be active and increase step counts. WVGA increased step counts from 5000 to 7000 steps and residents were more positive throughout the programme. WVGA findings will feed within the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities' Better Health:Rewards programme which Wolverhampton is hosting. This pilot aims to increase physical activity and improve healthy eating through using an app whilst receiving rewards.

Spotlight on tackling physical inactivity in Wolverhampton

Through Health and Wellbeing Together the city is embarking on a system wide approach to reducing levels of physical inactivity. Through the Health and Wellbeing board a system redesign model is being undertaken which has four key stages, discover, define, develop, and deliver. The discovery phase (winter 2021-spring 2022) has taken a deep dive into physical inactivity to really understand where we are now, so that we can truly define the priority areas. An innovative new group has been formed, the Physical Inactivity Steering Group, to drive the work forward and further move through the system redesign and ultimately reduce levels of physical inactivity in the city.



All at the start for the Park Run at East Park

Healthy, inclusive communities

Why is this important to us?

Wolverhampton is a proudly super-diverse, culturally rich city – home to individuals, groups and communities of many different backgrounds, birth places and beliefs.

There is much to celebrate yet there is still a long way to go to tackle the impact deprivation and inequalities have on a significant proportion of our population. Where people are born, live, go to school or work, should not determine life chances or health outcomes yet, exacerbated by the pandemic, poverty and inequalities are continuing to hold many people back.

To create a healthy, inclusive city, there is a continued need to be systematic and co-ordinated in our place-based approach, working with local people, groups and communities to tackle these challenges, so that everyone feels welcome, safe, supported and settled. This will be further supported by our contribution to the Wolverhampton 'Our Rainbow City'⁹ commitments which reinforce the importance of equal access to services, free of any judgment or discrimination.

What do we know?

People's experience of the pandemic and the associated national lockdowns was not consistent. Experiences differed depending on ethnicity, age, type of job or accommodation, health status and / or vulnerability to exploitation or harm.

Housing conditions, for example, such as overcrowding and high density were associated with greater spread of Covid-19. Access to

private open space, such as a garden or terrace and security of tenure also had a substantial impact on pandemic experience and individual wellbeing¹⁰.

With an increasing population and a decreasing social housing stock, the Private Rented Sector is becoming more important in providing affordable housing for residents. It is expected this sector will experience significant growth over the next few years; in Wolverhampton, it is estimated the Private Rented Sector will grow to account for more than 25% of the local housing stock. Access to a secure home, that is good quality and suitable is central to the health and wellbeing of our residents as we come out of the pandemic, and this means working in partnership with all the different Landlord types in the city.

Restrictions introduced to curb the spread of Covid-19 were particularly challenging for people vulnerable to exploitation or harm; including victims of domestic abuse, especially those living with their perpetrators. Nationally recorded domestic abuse related crimes increased by 6% in 2021/22 compared to the year before; equating to 18% of all offences recorded by the Police. Locally, these offences equated to 22% of the total recorded crime; an increase of 33.3% during the same period. Due to the often-hidden nature of domestic abuse, there continues to be a concerted effort to encourage reporting of these incidents and so an increase can be viewed to some extent positive. In addition to this, the Home Office have changed the way in which police record crimes, meaning that multiple domestic abuse keywords can be added to one callout,

⁹ <https://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s199558/Appendix%201%20-%20Rainbow%20City%20Commitment%20Document.pdf>

¹⁰ [Place-Alliance-Homes-and-Covid-Report_2020.pdf](https://placealliance.org.uk/Place-Alliance-Homes-and-Covid-Report_2020.pdf) (placealliance.org.uk)

this has resulted in increased recording of domestic abuse crimes. However, we know that despite increased reporting and recording of domestic abuse crimes it is still underreported and victims are still at significant risk of harm and so we must double down our efforts to improve the safety of our residents.

Hate crime can spread fear within and between communities. Hate crime is centrally monitored across five themes: race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability, and transgender identity. In 2021/22, hate crime increased by 9% on the previous year. This increase has been in part due to improved crime recording, a greater willingness of people who have witnessed hate crime to report it, a better identification of what constitutes hate crime, and an actual increase in the crime itself. This is important not just because of the crimes themselves, but because by spreading fear, these crimes stop people fully participating in community life.

Feeling safe and able to participate in community life is key. Wolverhampton is a City of Sanctuary. It is a place of welcome and support for people fleeing persecution or humanitarian crisis, and who settle in the city for a short time or permanently. In 2021/22, Wolverhampton welcomed over 2000 people seeking asylum or refuge. With ongoing conflicts across the world leading to displacement and migration of people, it is expected that the number of people seeking sanctuary will only increase further.

Our response

Given the importance of housing as a wider determinant of health, private housing is an integral part of the city commitment to 'Better

Homes for All'. This means supporting a vibrant and fit for purpose Private Rented Sector as part of our city housing offer; ensuring this is a viable tenure of choice rather than last resort. To achieve this, we have needed to be able to distinguish between reputable Landlords offering suitable accommodation and tenancies, and those who are exploiting vulnerable people.

The Rent with Confidence scheme has and continues to be a vital part of this overall objective. It is a multi-faceted response focusing on accreditation for registered Private Sector Landlords, improving conditions in the sector, and improving working relationships between the Council and Private Sector Landlords in the city. It also includes supporting better professional relationships between private Landlords and tenants.

Despite victims of domestic abuse being exempt from the legal restrictions imposed by national lockdowns, they faced increased challenges during this period. They also experienced less opportunity to report abuse and increased social isolation as their usual means of support were reduced. In response specialist support provision was maintained as a priority and locally commissioned, and non-commissioned organisations experienced increased demand over this period. Public Health and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership worked closely with the Haven Wolverhampton and other key partners to ensure victims of domestic abuse and their children could continue to access vital support and safety measures, both within refuge and out in the community.

In spring 2021, Wolverhampton became part of the national

Department of Health and Social Care pilot introducing home testing to underrepresented groups. This meant bringing testing within refuge provision, ensuring that women and children were protected against Covid-19 whilst maintaining the security of refuge. This successful pilot was welcomed by staff and residents and was the first of its kind in the country.

In August 2021 Wolverhampton LGBT+ was awarded a grant jointly with Wolverhampton CCG to deliver counselling sessions to the local LGBTQ community. The offer included one to one counselling, group interventions and group activities to promote cohesion and reduce isolation. The service is run by more than 20 trained counsellors and they are able to deliver a seven day turnaround from referral to counselling starting.

Established during the pandemic, the Faith Leaders forum became a critical partnership between Public Health and different faith communities in the city. As well as sharing key intelligence, ideas, and challenges, this has and continues to be a key connecting forum for and with communities. Working with communities to ensure they feel confident to be who they are without fear of judgement or abuse, is one example of how we have been working to create a culture where discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated and is challenged.

Alongside our commitment to City of Sanctuary, we have led the partnership response to welcoming and supporting people newly arriving in the city through schemes such as the Afghan Relocation and Resettlement Programme, and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme. We have also, along with key city partners such as Black

Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group, Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre, and Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, supported people who are seeking asylum and temporarily accommodated in the city by the Home Office.

What are we going to do next?

We will further develop and implement our Rent with Confidence scheme to focus on those landlords that are most in need, and at the same time recognise and reward those who are providing much needed quality housing in Wolverhampton. This will include educating Landlords, offering free access to accredited and certified training. We will also develop a bespoke Landlord database to support compliance, with a view to preventing retaliatory evictions, reducing homelessness, creating sustainable tenancies; ultimately improving health outcomes and quality of life for residents.

We will adopt a preventative approach to dealing with rough sleeping via supporting people to remain and sustain accommodation via addressing not just housing issues but also general vulnerabilities. We will be utilising funding received from Central Government to provide a new multi-agency rough sleeper service, a new supported accommodation project and the continuation of the Housing First Programme.

Tackling domestic abuse continues to be a strategic priority for the city; recognised within the Council Plan 2022 to protect vulnerable people in communities at risk of exploitation or harm, and underpinned by the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

We will build on our strong links with statutory, specialist and community organisations to work together to safeguard victims and their families and ensure that perpetrators are effectively managed.

This work will be consolidated by a refreshed Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Strategy (including violence against women and girls), overseen by the newly established Interpersonal Violence Board. To inform the strategy, our ongoing response to domestic abuse, and the commencement of the recommissioning of domestic abuse services later this year, we are committed to extensive engagement with partners, victims and survivors of abuse and specialist providers. This is to ensure that there is city-wide coordination in our response and that the voices of victims, survivors and families are at the heart of all decision making.

In addition to this, we will respond robustly to the statutory duties introduced by Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their children receive the support that they need within safe accommodation.

Working in partnership with West Midlands Police, Wolverhampton Hate Crime Leads, and the Hate Crime Partnership we will continue to improve the level of service and support for all victims of hate crime, including increasing awareness and knowledge of support services and pathways as well as highlighting the importance of reporting further offences. In addition, together we will increase understanding and awareness of the impact of hate crime on individuals and communities, increase the opportunities for prevention and early intervention of hate crime behaviour with potential offenders, seek to reduce the number of hate crime

offences and increase the number of positive restorative justice outcomes.

To contribute to this, we will also be working closely with local partners and organisations to undertake a 'Rainbow City' Joint Strategic Needs Assessment focused on local LGBT+ communities, to better understand current and future need, along with the effectiveness of current service provision in meeting their needs. We will also be incorporating a review of the evidence that looks at the factors that can support members of the LGBT+ community to maintain their health and wellbeing. This will support the city to achieve its Rainbow City ambitions.

We will strengthen our commitment to being a City of Sanctuary by working with key strategic partners to introduce a Community Integration and Cohesion Strategy. In addition, we will continue to work to support people newly arriving in the city, alongside our more established communities, to ensure all residents have fair and equitable access to services, support, opportunities, and a safe and secure place to live.

In recognition of the challenges facing residents and communities and the impact on the wider determinants of health, exacerbated particularly in certain areas in the city, we are continuing to co-produce, implement and embed our place-based approach to tackle these challenges through a shared system and community-owned approach.

Spotlight on community cohesion in action

In the winter of 2021 to 2022, 12 community tree planting events took place at sites across the city, predominantly in areas of the city with limited access to open space and lower tree cover. These events involved a range of individuals, faith groups, community organisations and schools. At one event, through the City of Sanctuary, asylum seekers from Cote D'Ivoire and El Salvador attended, giving them an opportunity to take part in a positive activity, mix with other people and access nature.

Some of these trees were funded by the Woodland Trust and others by Severn Trent Water, who sponsored five 'Tiny Forests', in the council's parks and open spaces (as well as five more in schools and nurseries).



Children from Moseley Park Academy, Bilston, planting a Tiny Forest in the snow.



Volunteers from the Sant Zora Singh Charitable Trust and Sri Sathya Sai Organisation at Stowheath Lane

In addition to taking part in the planting, 'Tiny Forests' provide further opportunities for schools and the community to take part in managing and 'citizen science' monitoring of the Forests, measuring the contribution they make to tackling climate change and promoting biodiversity. Tree planting also contributes more widely to health and wellbeing through encouraging physical activity and enhancing mental health.

These events were part of a broader activity in which the city has planted around 30,000 trees in the winter of 2021 to 2022, our biggest tree planting programme since the Millennium Forest over 20 years ago.



Looking ahead

The pandemic strengthened partnership working, providing new and innovative ways for health and social care partners, education settings, including the University of Wolverhampton, the voluntary sector, faith groups, grass roots organisations and communities to work together. Going forward we are in a unique position to build on these strong foundations.

One aspect that supported this joint working included specific legislation put in place by Government to allow the health system to tackle the Coronavirus pandemic by enabling the sharing of data and information to best meet the health needs of our residents.

Health and wellbeing data and information sharing between partners supports a thorough understanding of the families and communities we serve, allowing us to recognise where alternative or more intensive approaches are necessary and evaluate their success.

As Covid-19 legislation expires, and at the same time new arrangements come into force as a result of the Health and Care Bill, we will continue to need to find innovative solutions to ensure opportunities for integration are not lost, particularly as we seek to prioritise tackling health inequalities. In doing so, we will continue to apply behavioural science and draw from psychological evidence to help our residents make positive changes and lead healthier lives.

In Wolverhampton the Health and Care Bill is leading to the formation of a Black Country Integrated Care System, this will cover the four Black Country Local Authority areas. Partnership working and a shared vision will be key to ensuring its success, especially given the number of stakeholders involved. The role of local Health

and Wellbeing Boards will be central in representing the views and perspective of the city and local people. Our own board is well placed to rise to this challenge, building on the greater partnership working forged during the pandemic and underpinned by its joint commitment to addressing health inequalities in the city.

Multi-layered, multi-agency partnership working will be equally crucial in driving local priorities to reduce drug and alcohol harm. Following significant additional investment, implementation of the ambitions contained within the government's new national drug strategy 'From Harm to Hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives' will be overseen by a new drug and alcohol strategic partnership.

Similarly, the opportunities afforded by Wolverhampton being designated an adult social care reform trailblazer allow us to work with our colleagues and the Department for Health and Social Care to provide early learning, monitor progress and inform decision points during the national roll-out.

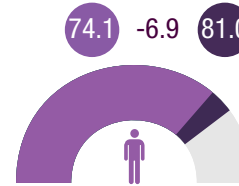
The 2021-2022 Annual Report demonstrates that while Covid-19 has not gone away and we are ready to respond to any resurgence of the virus, the negative impact of the pandemic has had far reaching and unequal consequences. Creating a healthier city requires both an immediate response to address issues related to access, pent up need and mental wellbeing, alongside longer term cultural change that learns the lessons of what approaches worked well in response to the pandemic and seeks to challenge systematic, avoidable differences in health outcomes for our residents.

Your ward at a glance: Bilston East



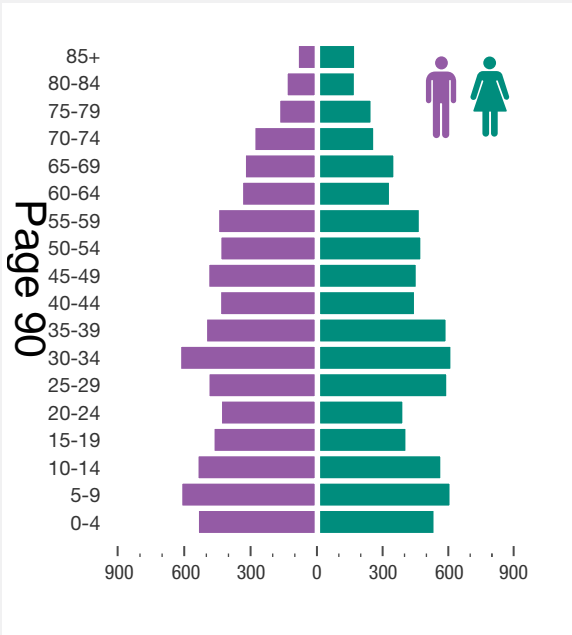
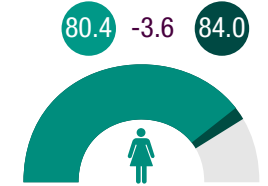
Male

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



Female

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

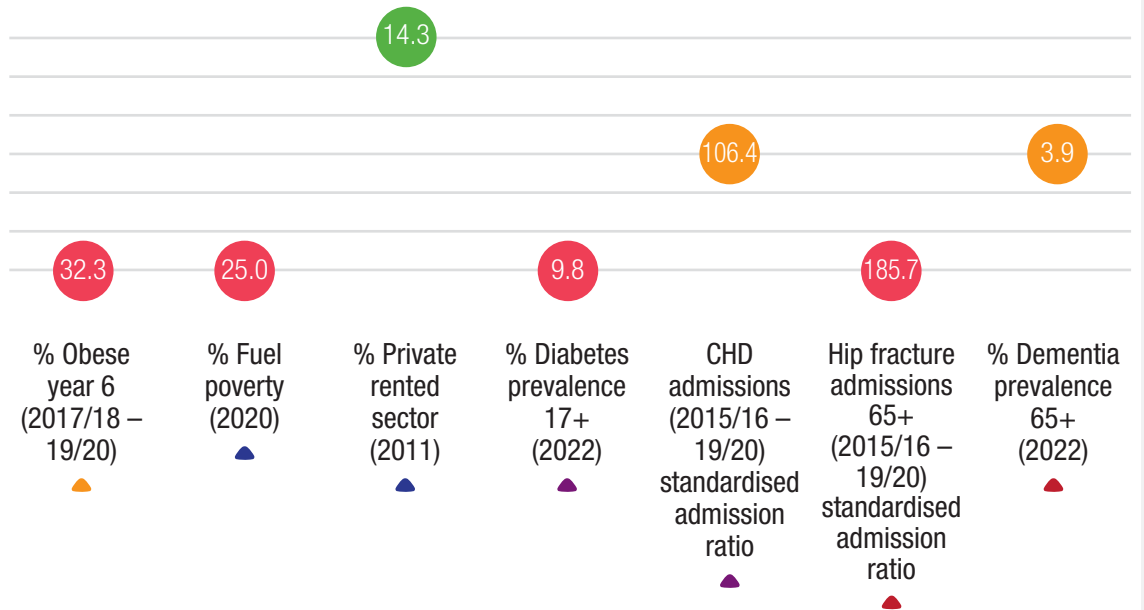


Total population
14,933

20.5%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

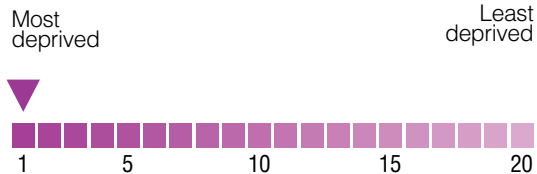
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



33.6%
Children living in poverty

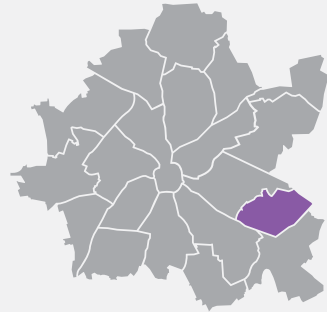
City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

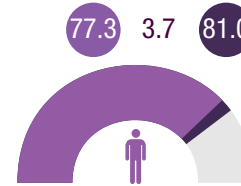
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Bilston North



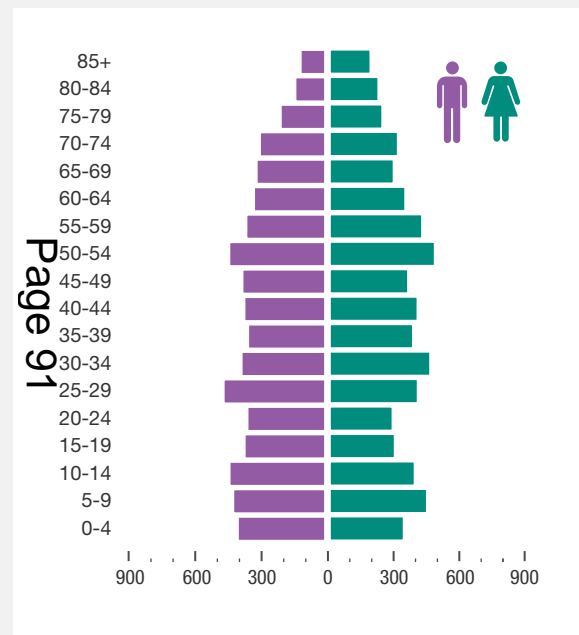
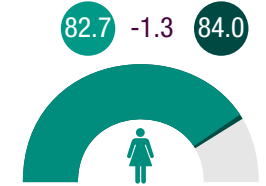
Male

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



Female

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



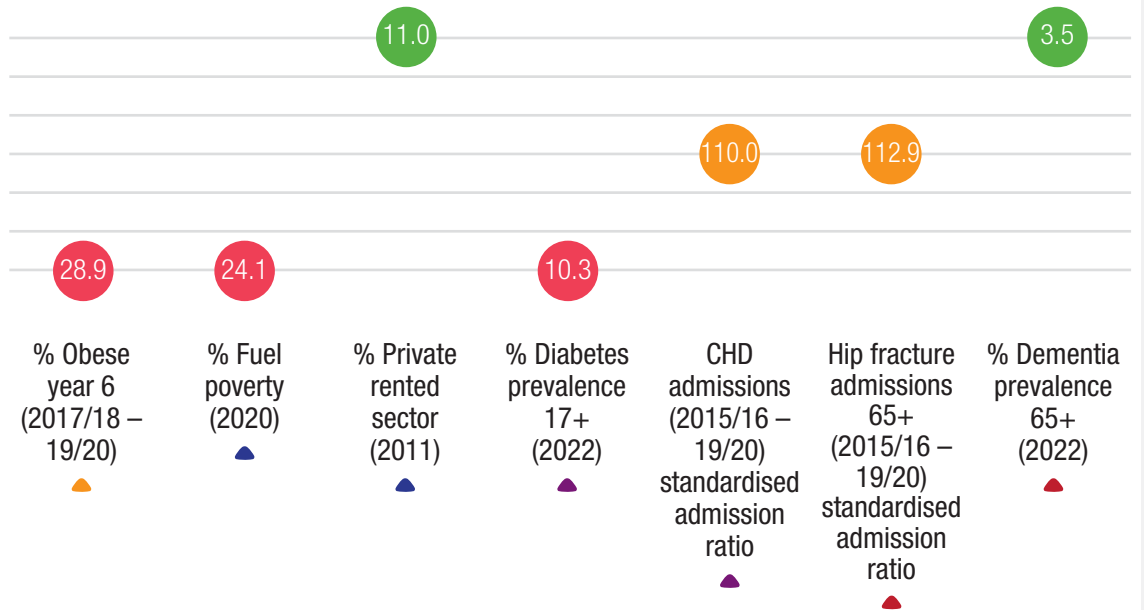
Total population
12,469



26.8%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

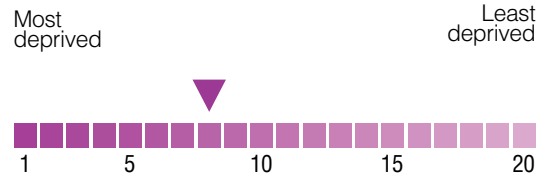
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



29.7%
Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

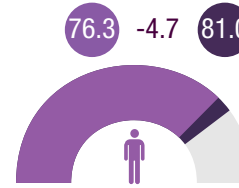
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Blakenhall



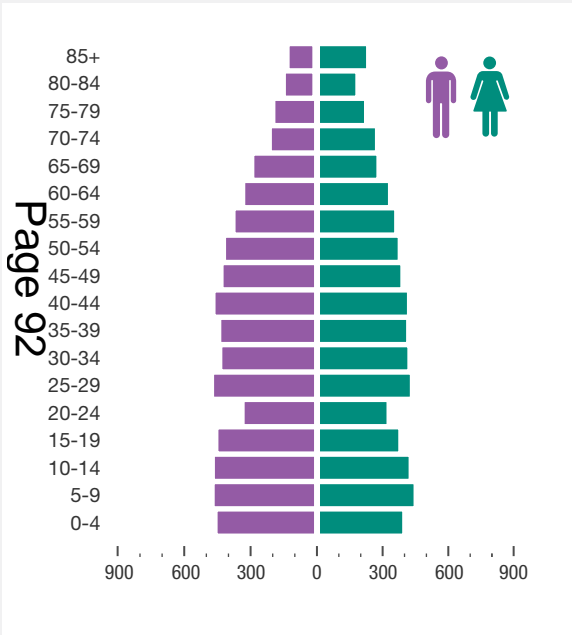
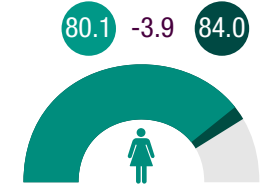
Male

● Life expectancy (years)
● Vision 2030 (years)



Female

● Life expectancy (years)
● Vision 2030 (years)



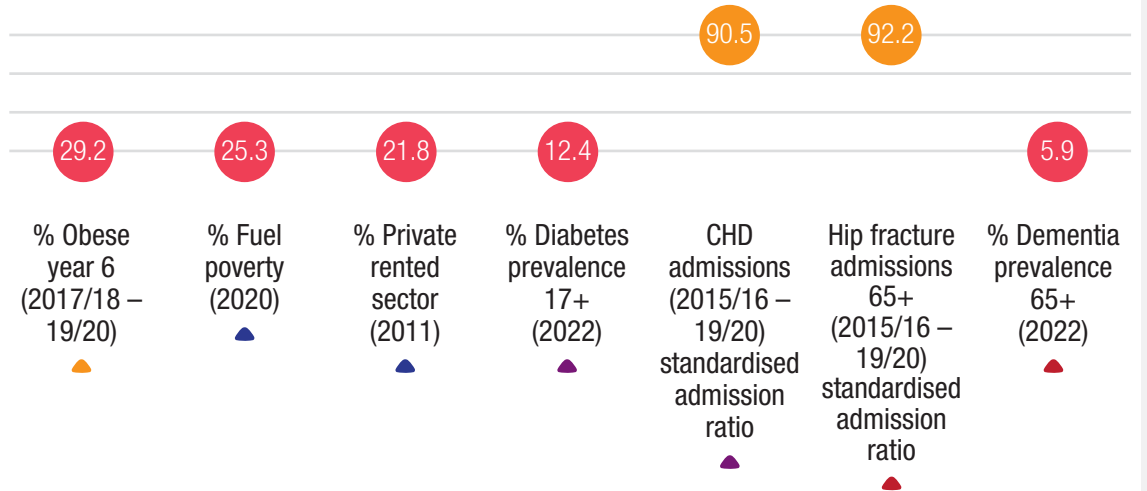
Total population
13,320



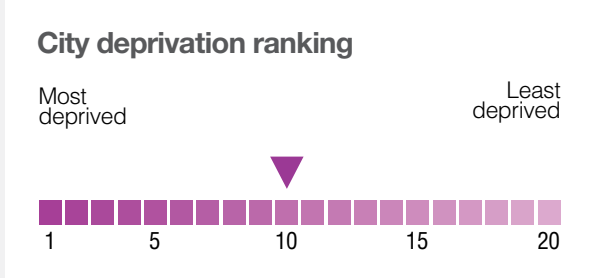
73.7%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



28.0%
Children living in poverty



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

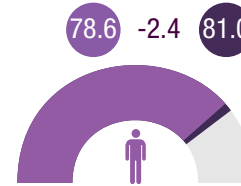
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Bushbury North



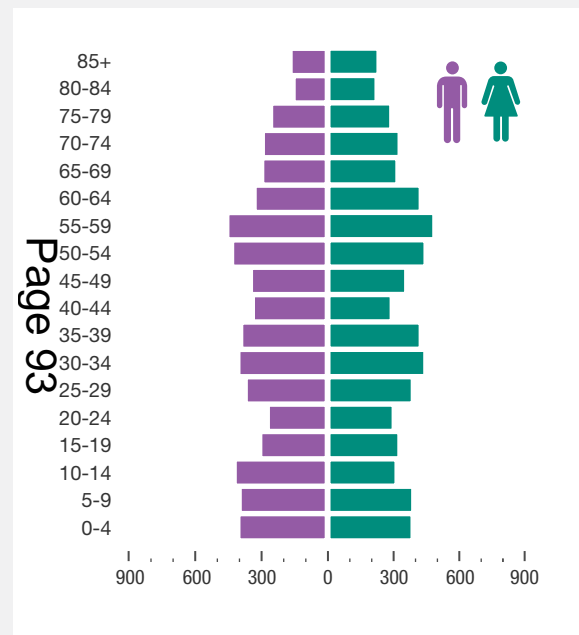
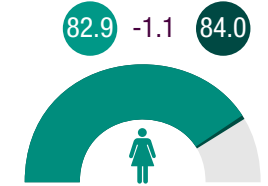
Male

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



Female

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



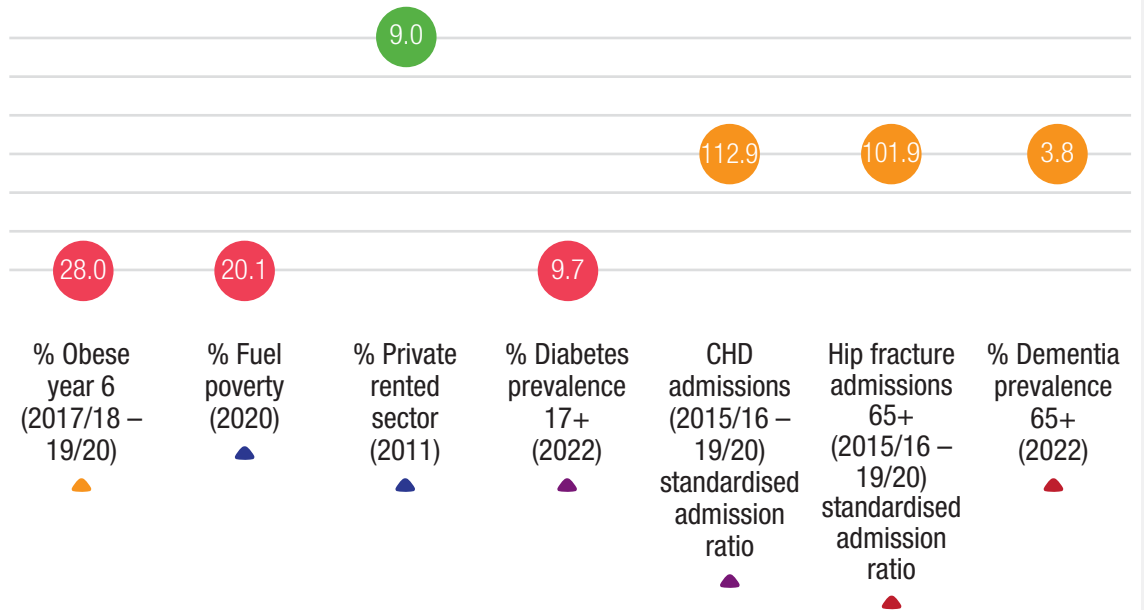
Total population
12,130



12.8%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

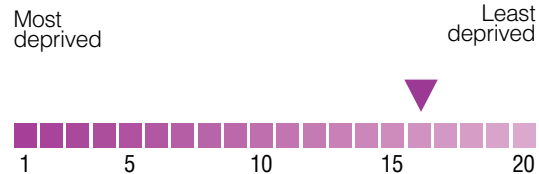
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



26.3%
Children living in poverty

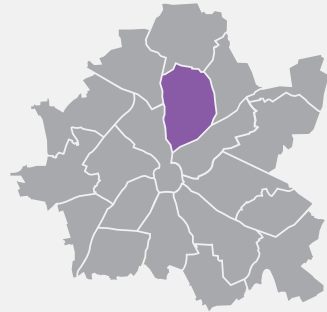
City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

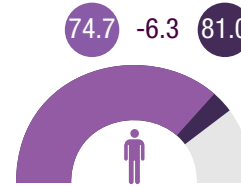
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Bushbury South and Low Hill



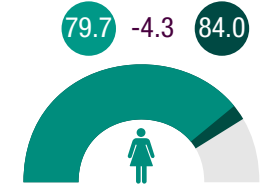
Male

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



Female

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



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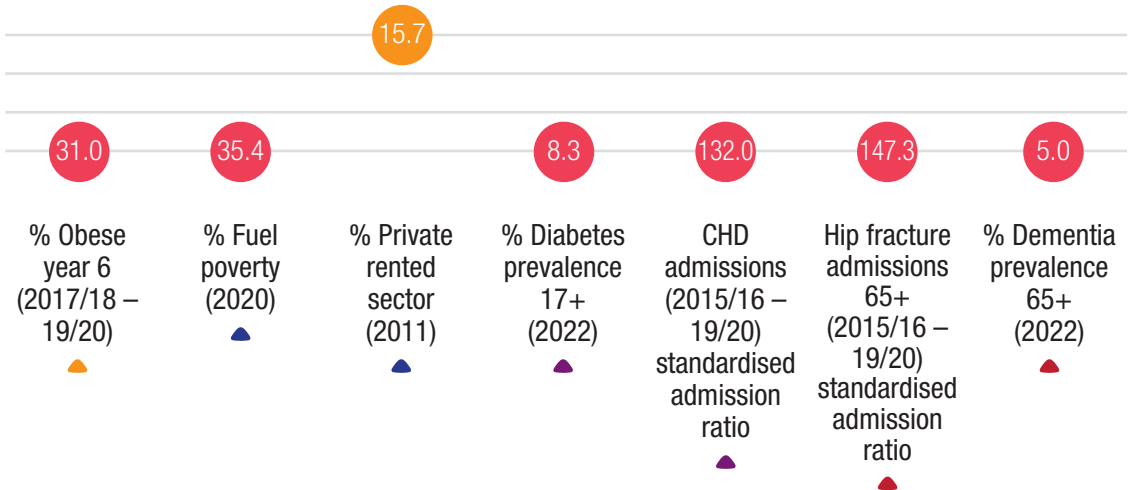
Total population
16,938



31.6%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

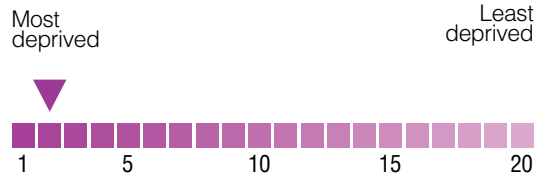
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



34.9%
Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

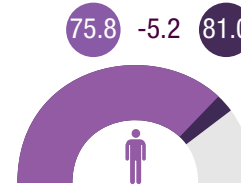
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: East Park



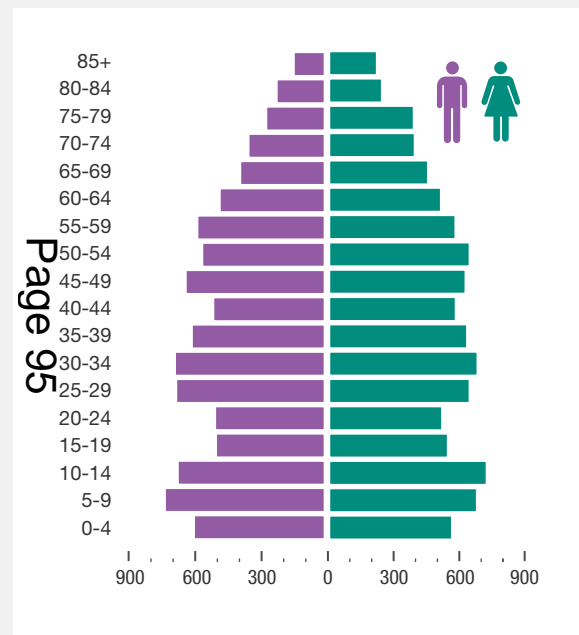
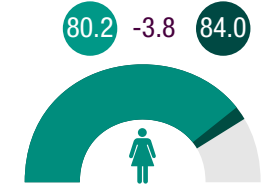
Male

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



Female

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



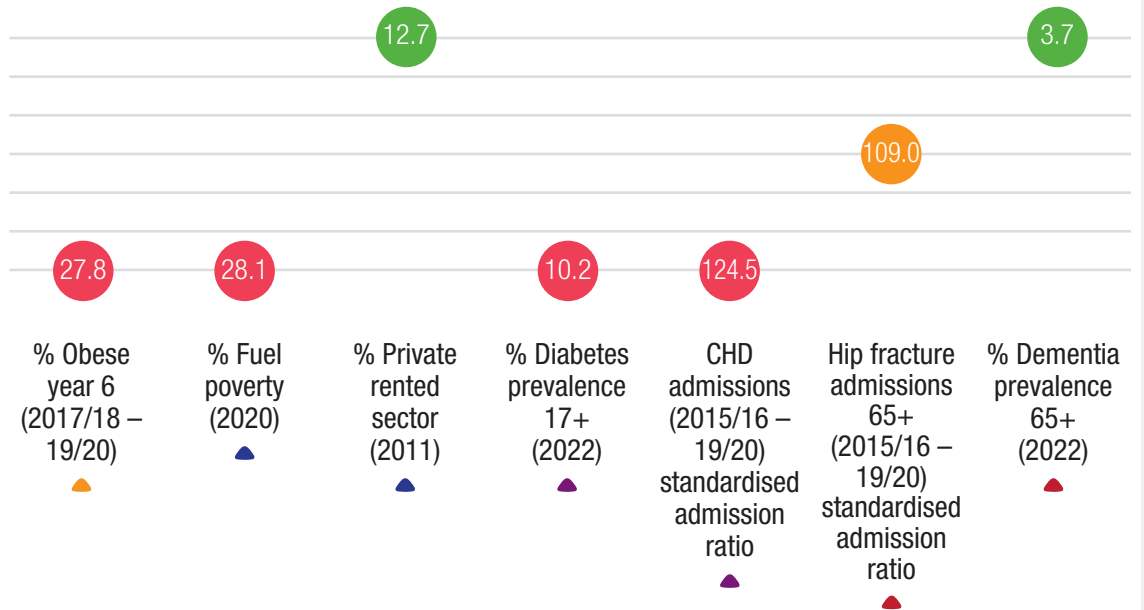
Total population
13,217



27.4%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

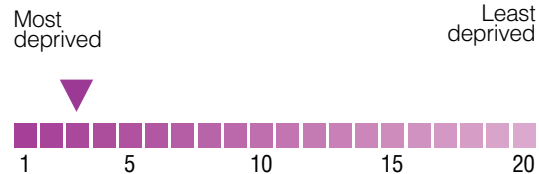
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



34.9%
Children living in poverty

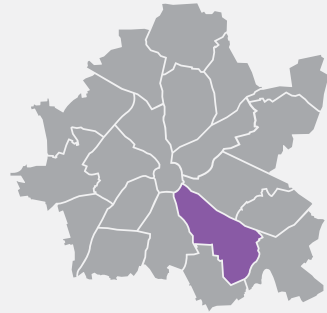
City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

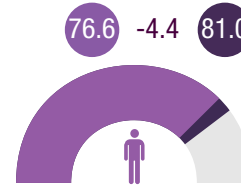
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Ettingshall



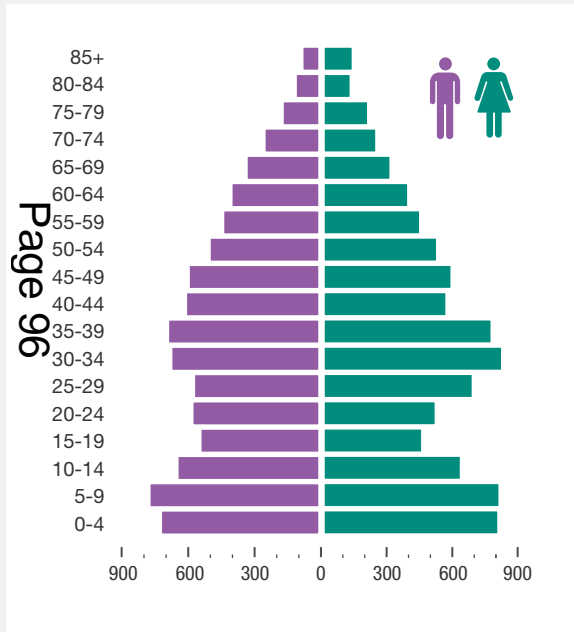
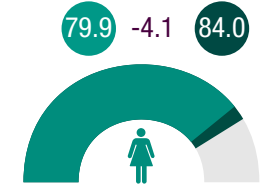
Male

Life expectancy (years)
Vision 2030 (years)



Female

Life expectancy (years)
Vision 2030 (years)

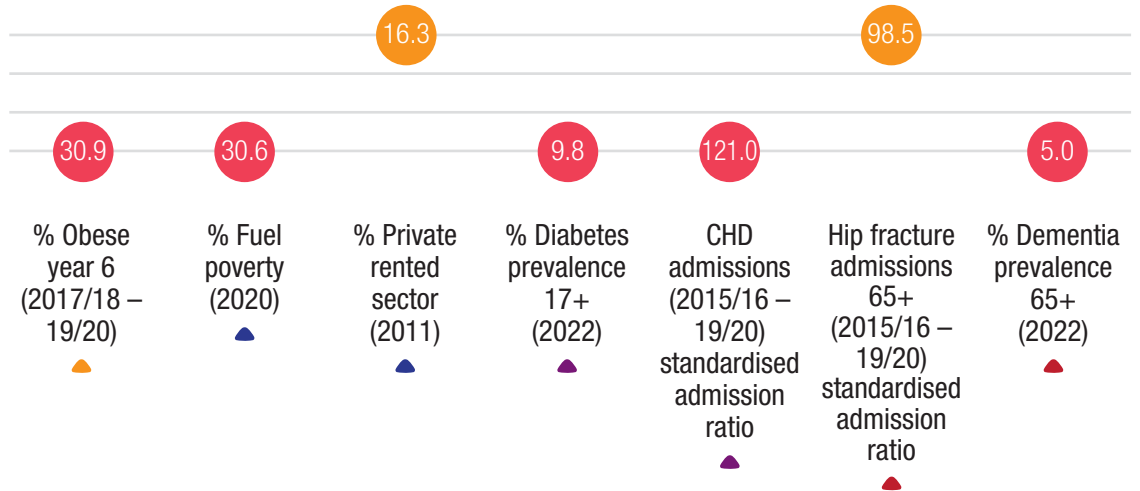


Total population
16,774

53.5%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

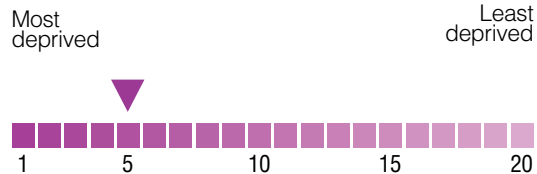
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



32.8%
Children living in poverty

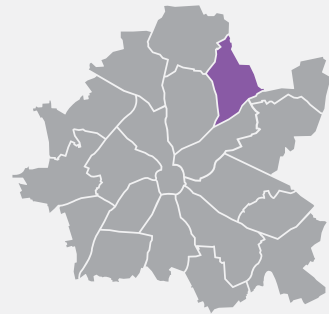
City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

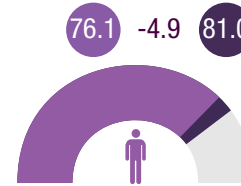
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Fallings Park



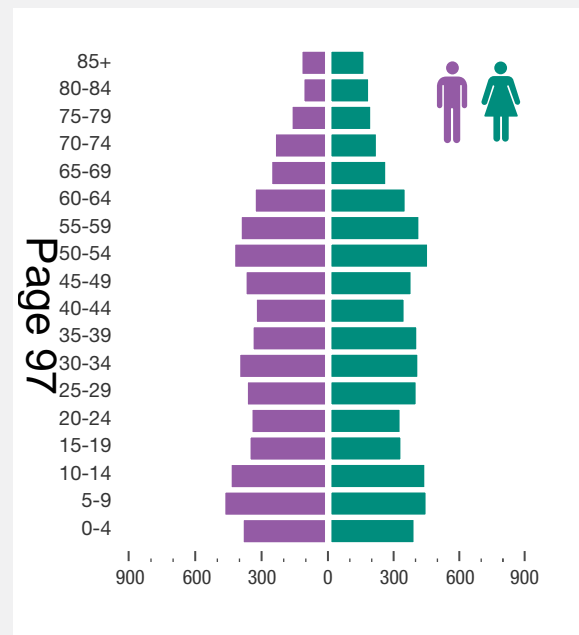
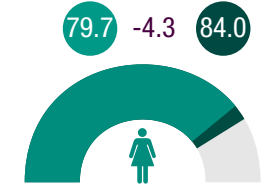
Male

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



Female

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



Total population

12,043

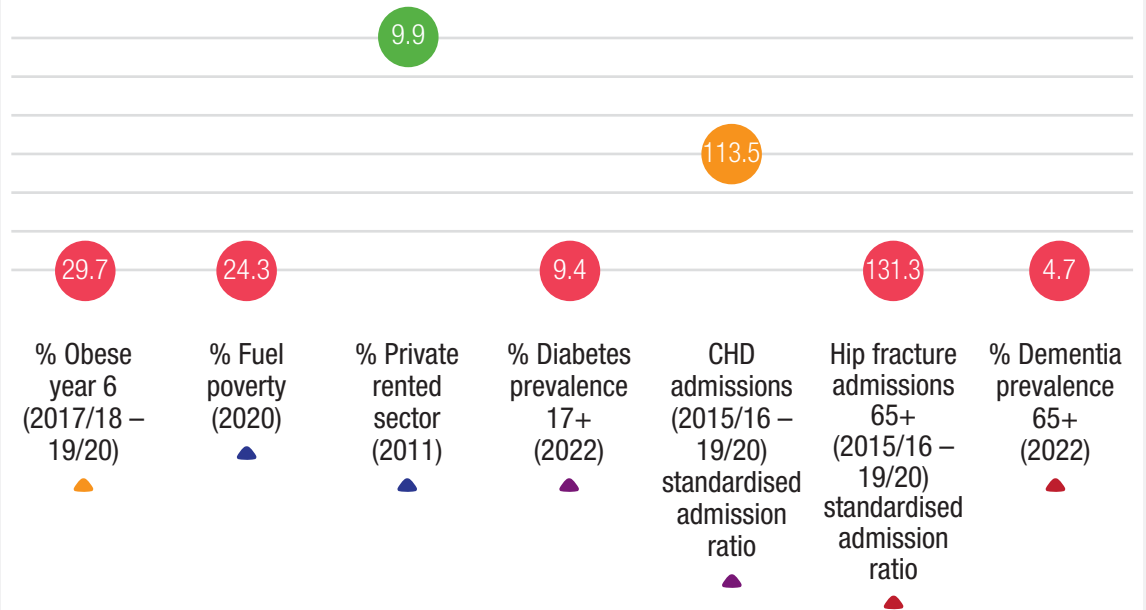


17.4%

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

What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



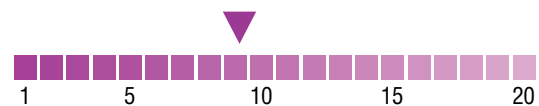
27.6%

Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking

Most deprived

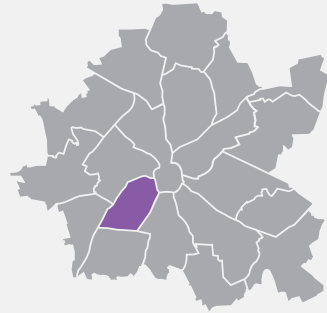
Least deprived



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

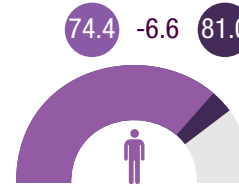
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Graiseley



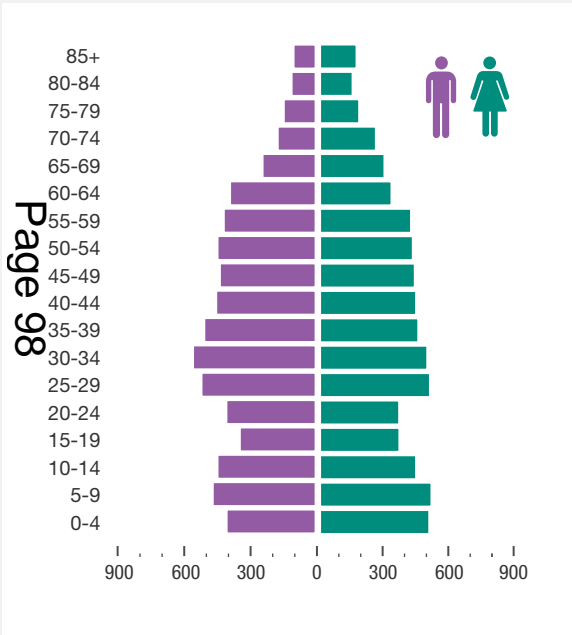
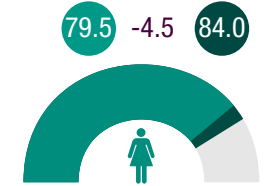
Male

● Life expectancy (years)
● Vision 2030 (years)



Female

● Life expectancy (years)
● Vision 2030 (years)



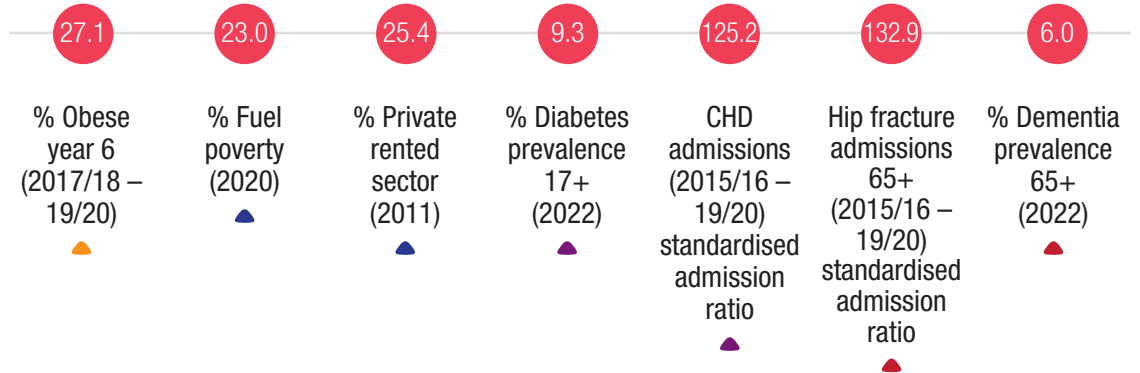
Total population
13,434



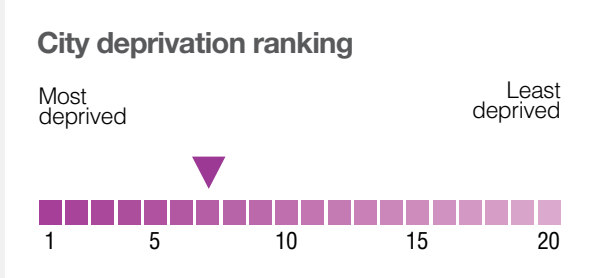
48.8%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



33.6%
Children living in poverty



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

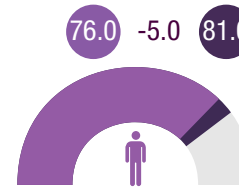
- ▲ Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- ▲ Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- ▲ Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- ▲ More local people into good jobs and training
- ▲ Healthy, inclusive communities
- ▲ Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Heath Town



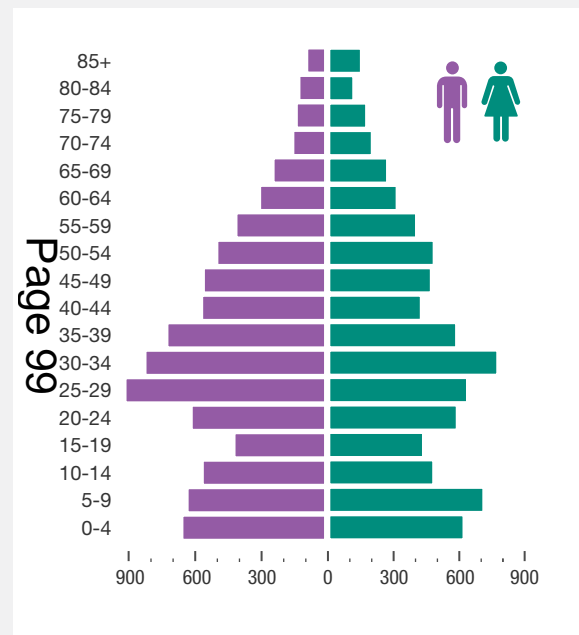
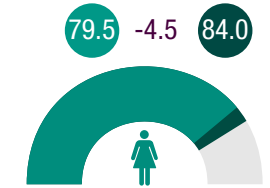
Male

Life expectancy (years)
Vision 2030 (years)



Female

Life expectancy (years)
Vision 2030 (years)



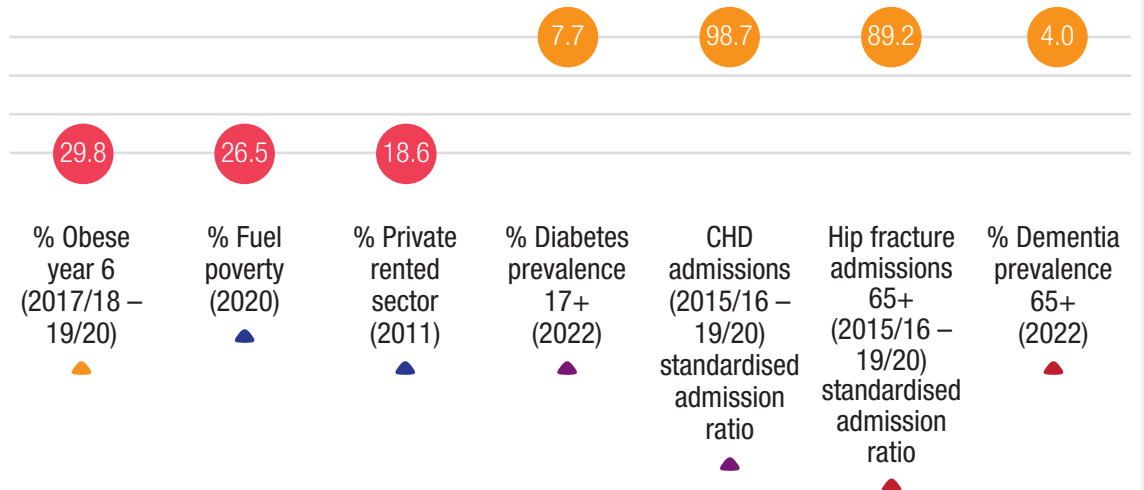
Total population
16,260



44.5%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

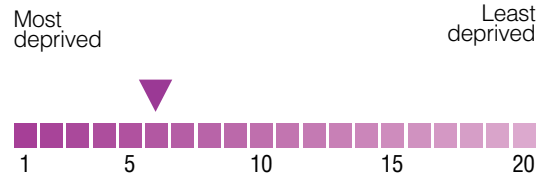
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



30.6%
Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

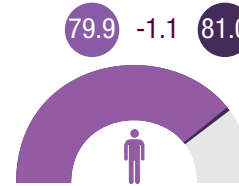
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Merry Hill



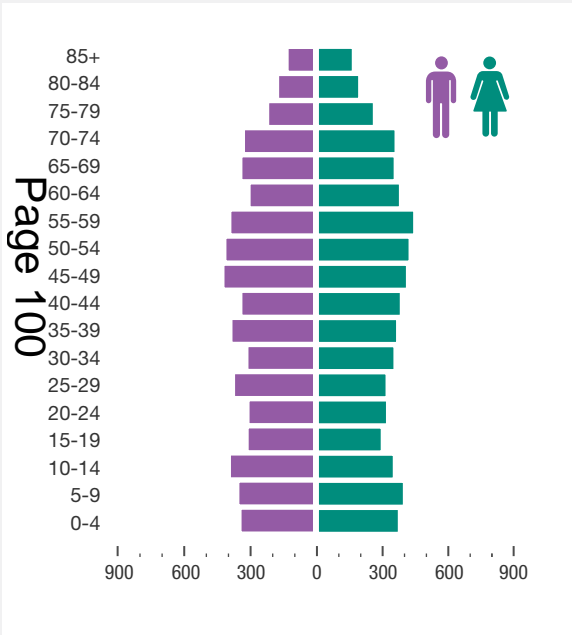
Male

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



Female

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



Total population

11,924

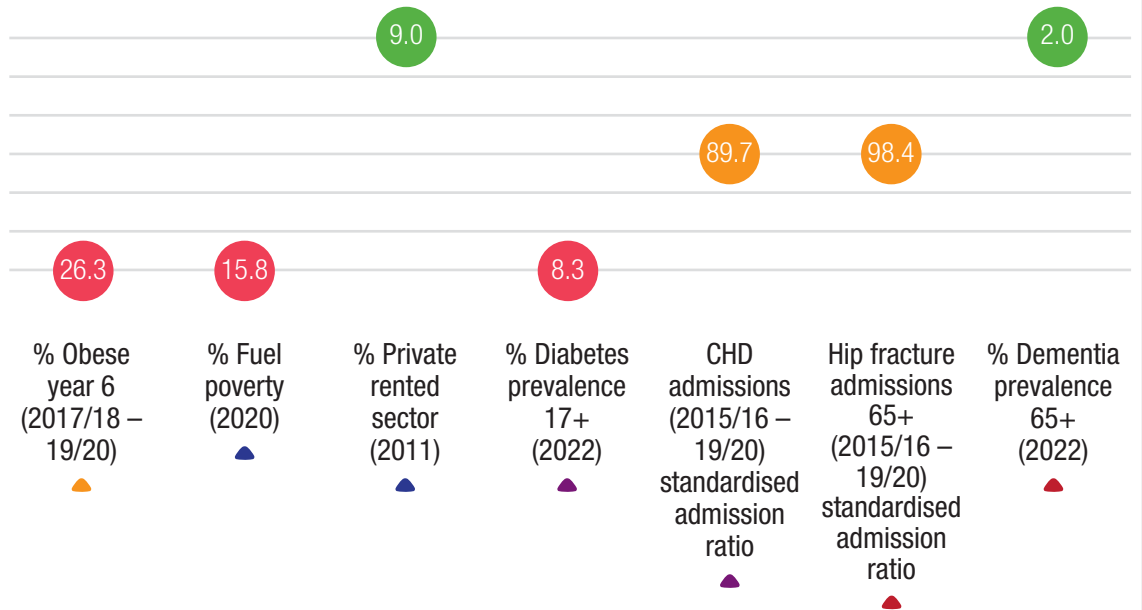


19.4%

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

What is life like in your ward?

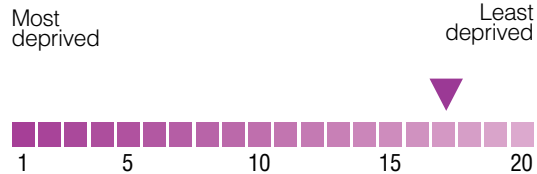
Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



20.0%

Children living in poverty

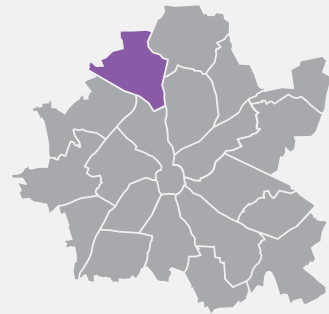
City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

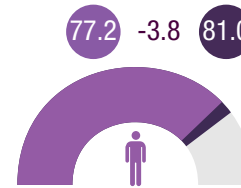
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Oxley



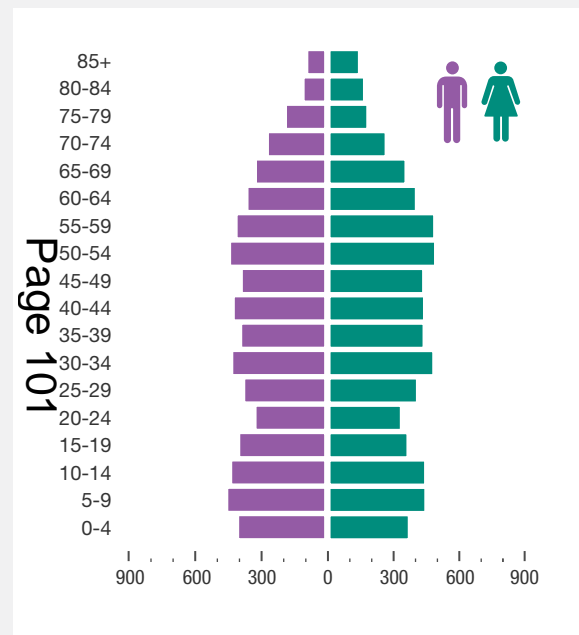
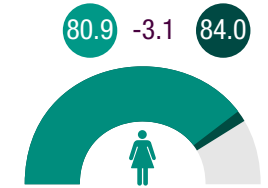
Male

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



Female

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



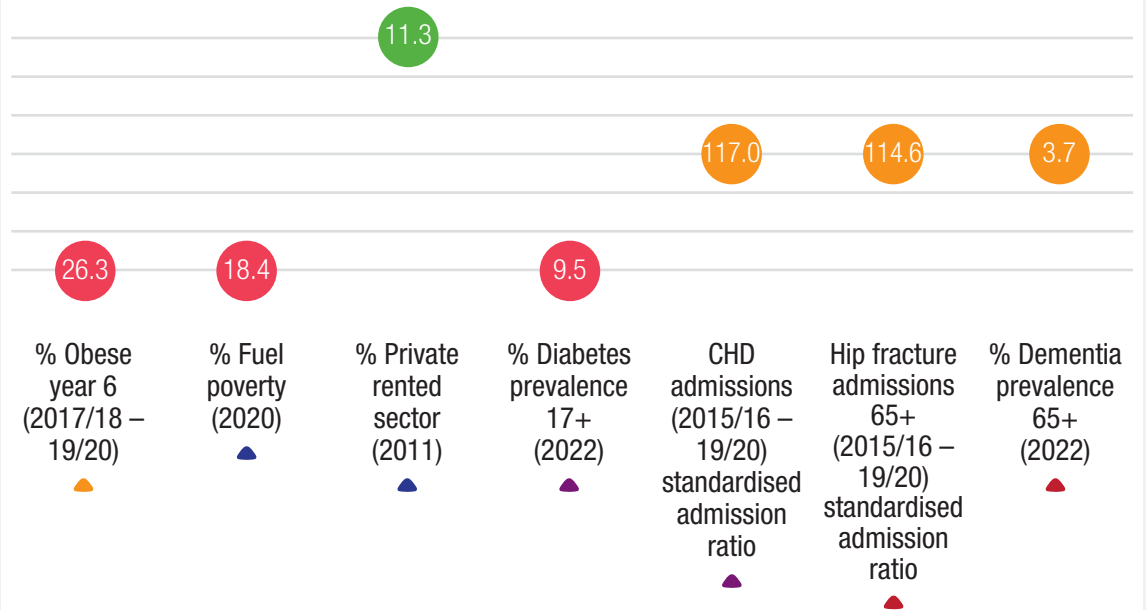
Total population
12,863



24.5%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

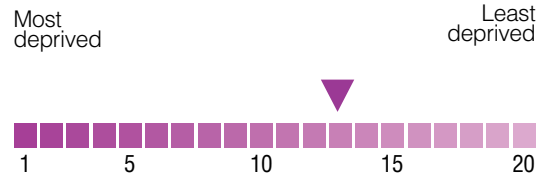
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



28.8%
Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

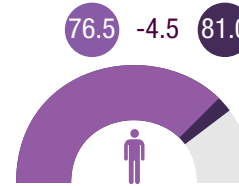
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Park



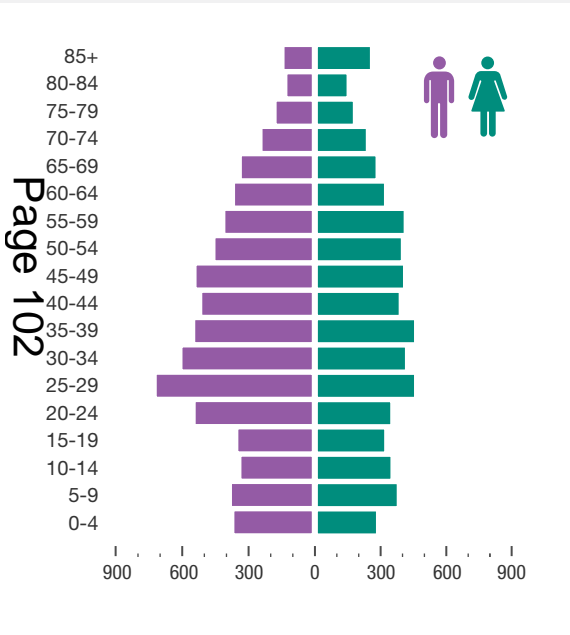
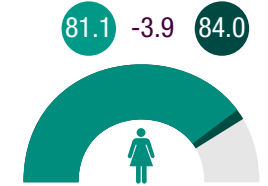
Male

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



Female

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

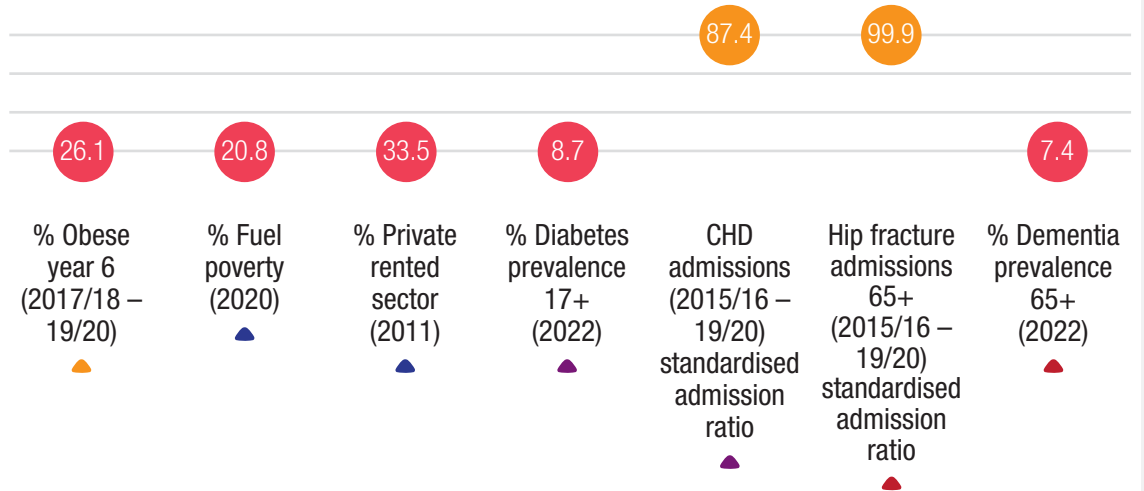


Total population
13,076

42.7%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

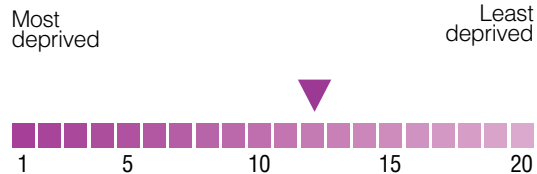
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



26.4%
Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

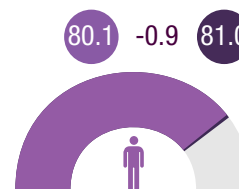
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Penn



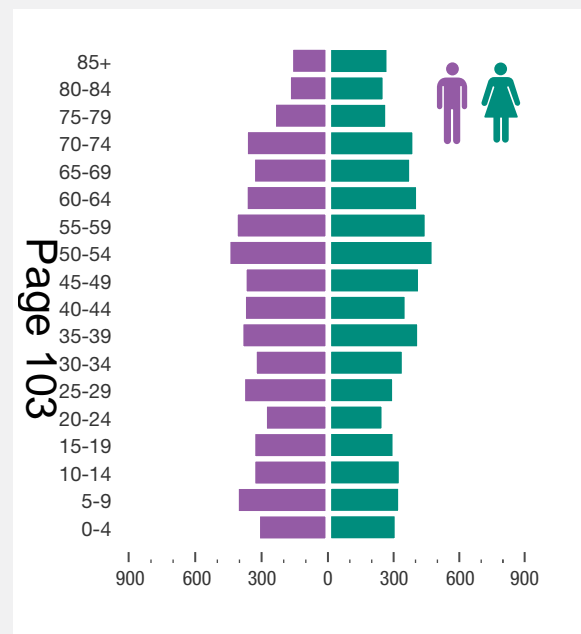
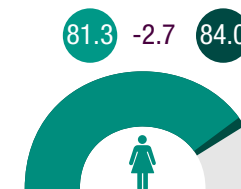
Male

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



Female

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



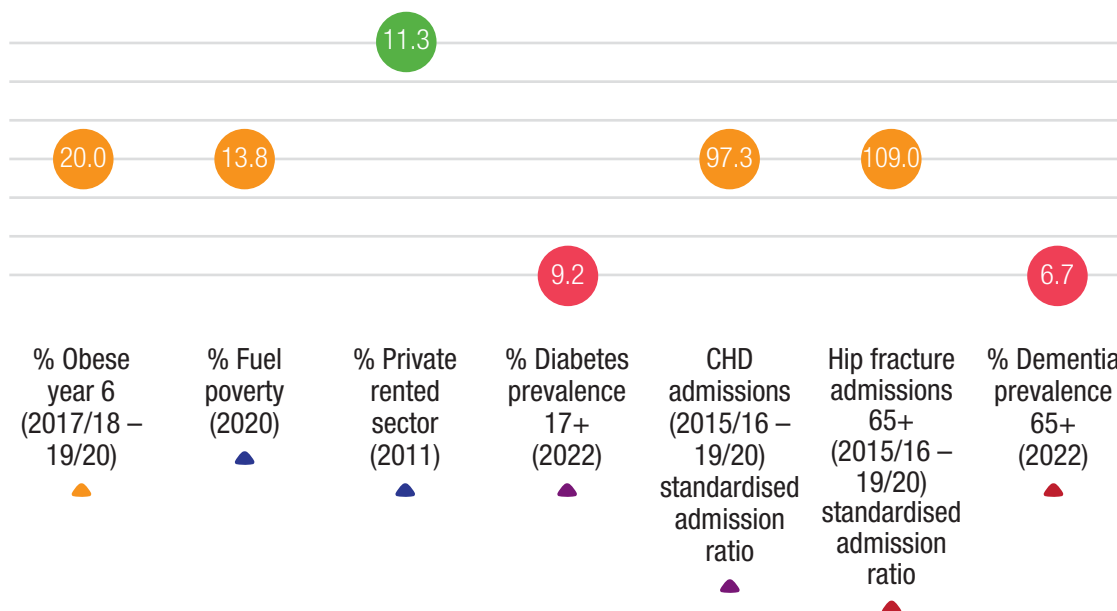
Total population
12,263



33.0%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

What is life like in your ward?

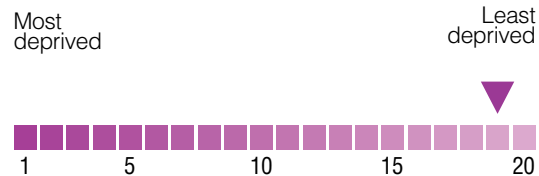
Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



15.2%

Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

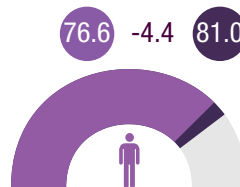
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Spring Vale



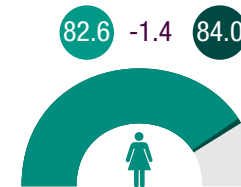
Male

Life expectancy (years)
Vision 2030 (years)

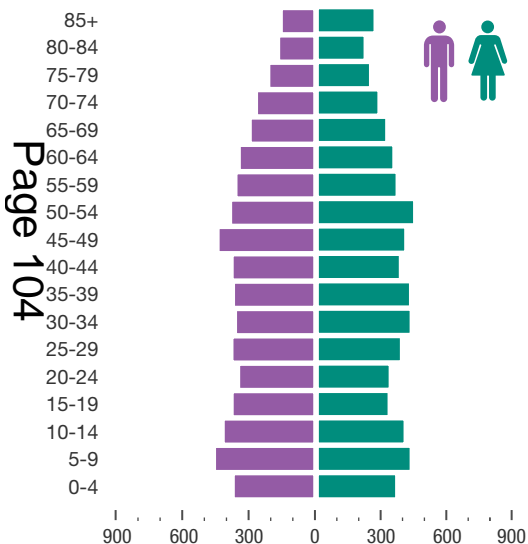


Female

Life expectancy (years)
Vision 2030 (years)



Page 104



Total population

12,328

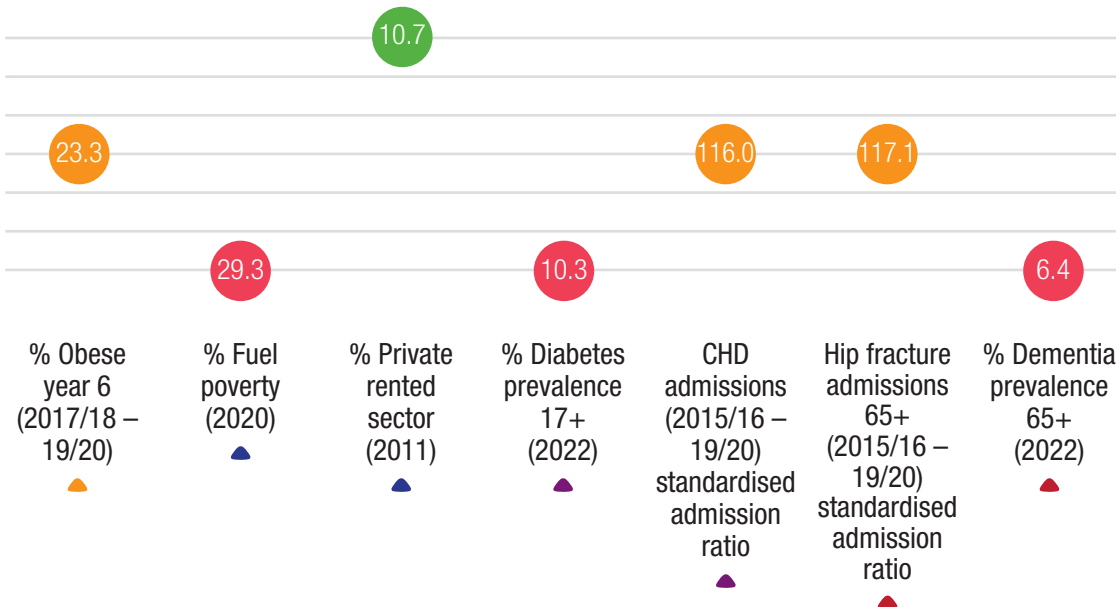


25.4%

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

What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



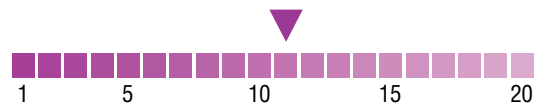
27.7%

Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking

Most deprived

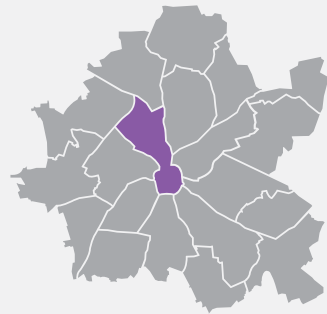
Least deprived



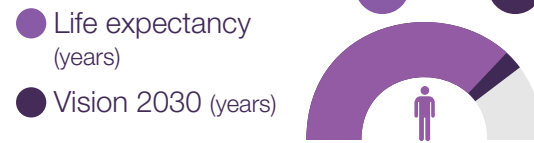
Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it
- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

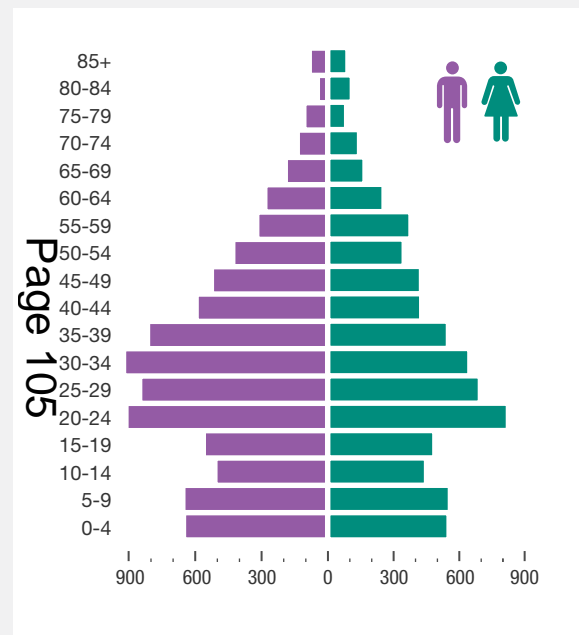
Your ward at a glance: St Peter's



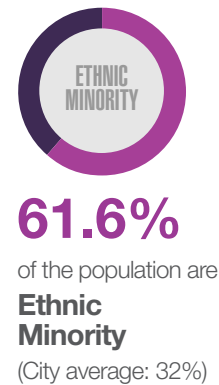
Male



Female

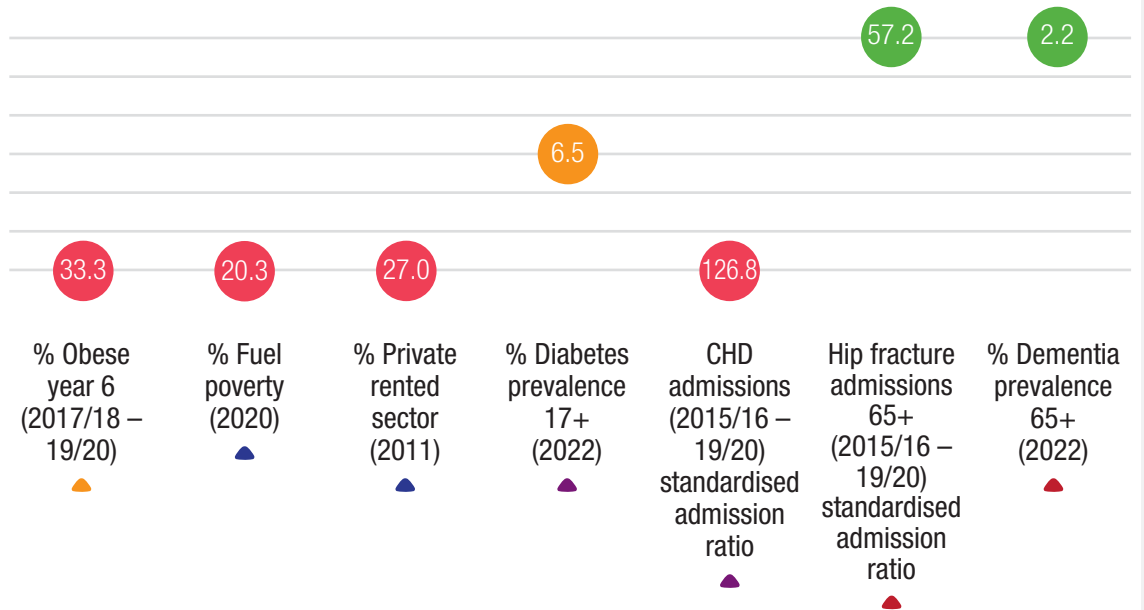


Total population
15,510



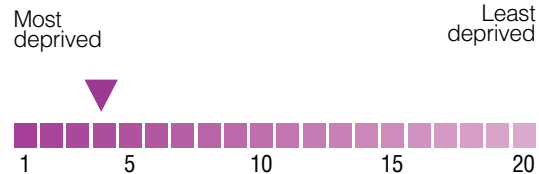
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



42.4%
Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

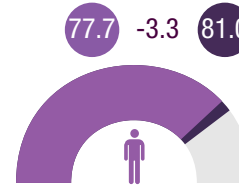
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
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- Healthy, inclusive communities
- Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
- More local people into good jobs and training
- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Your ward at a glance: Tettenhall Regis



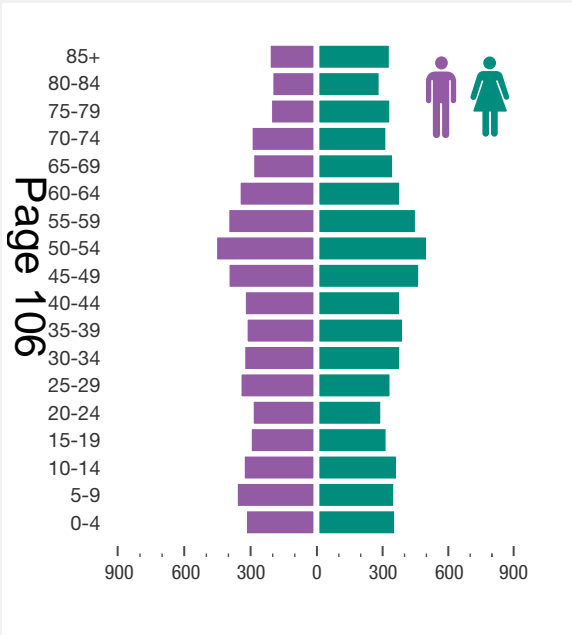
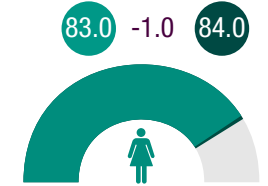
Male

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



Female

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

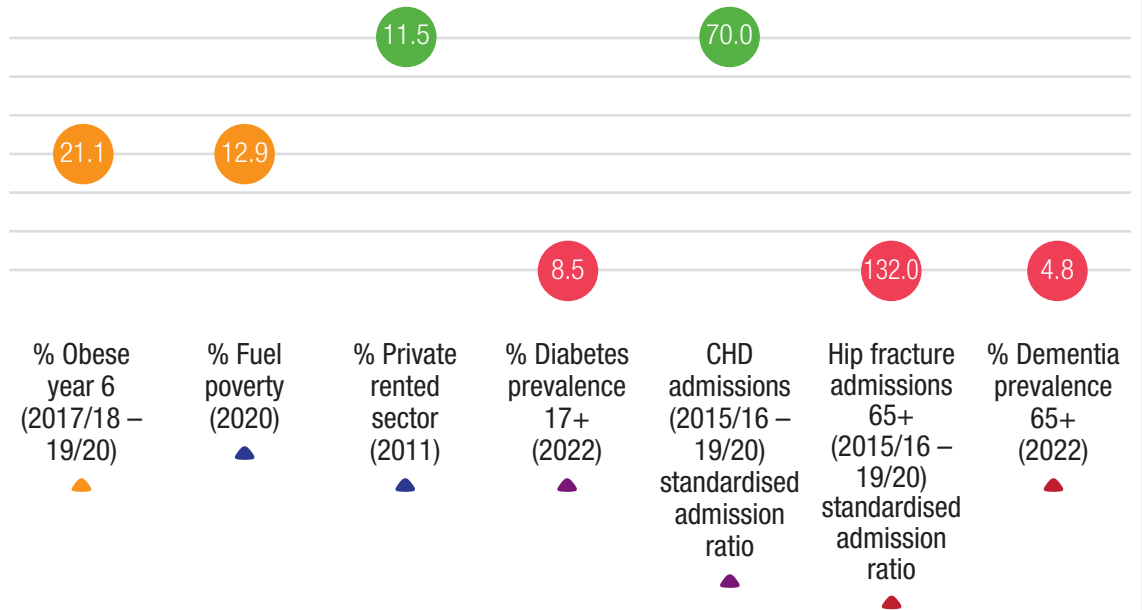


Total population
11,853

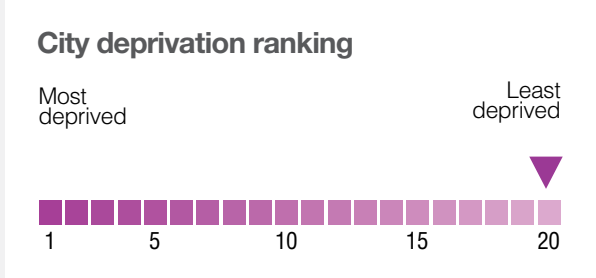
22.2%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



15.3%
Children living in poverty



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

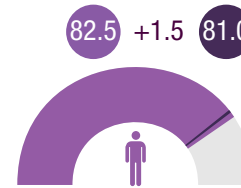
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
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Your ward at a glance: Tettenhall Wightwick



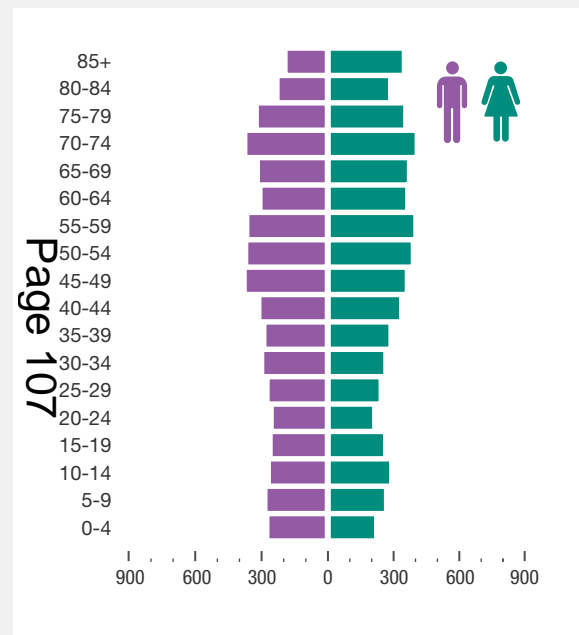
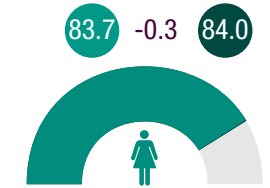
Male

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



Female

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



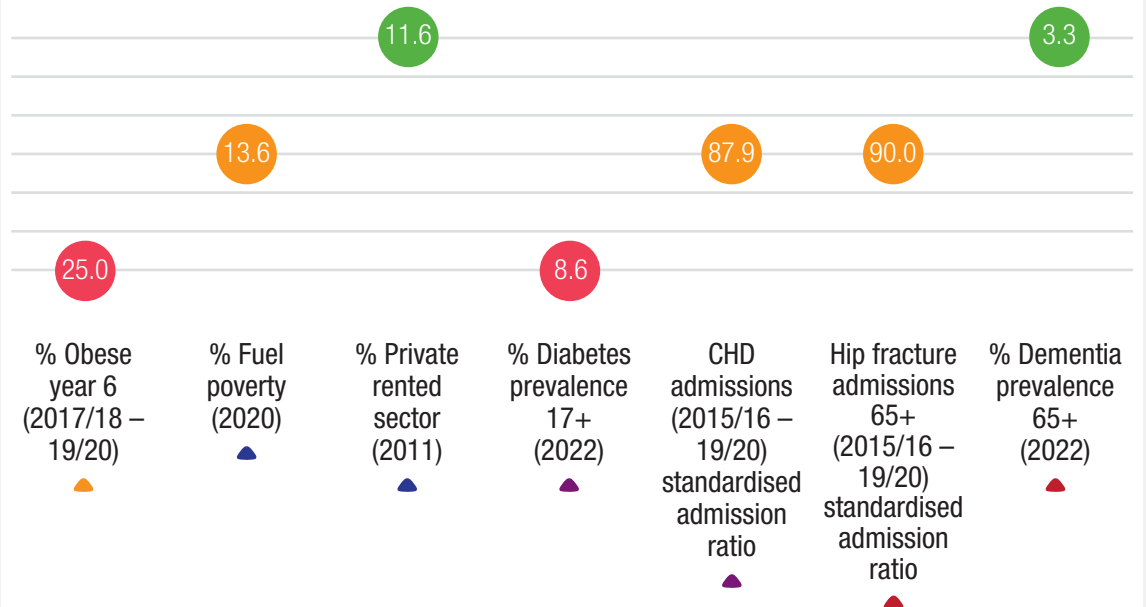
Total population
10,820



17.6%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

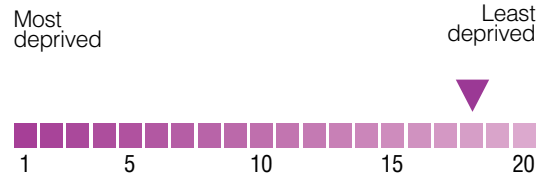
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



15.5%
Children living in poverty

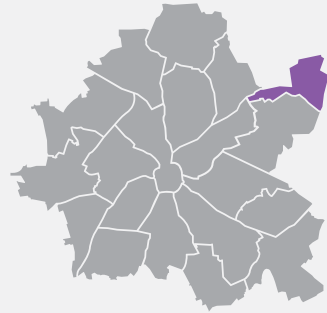
City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

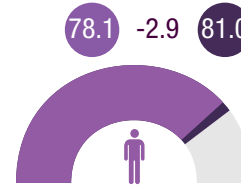
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
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Your ward at a glance: Wednesfield North



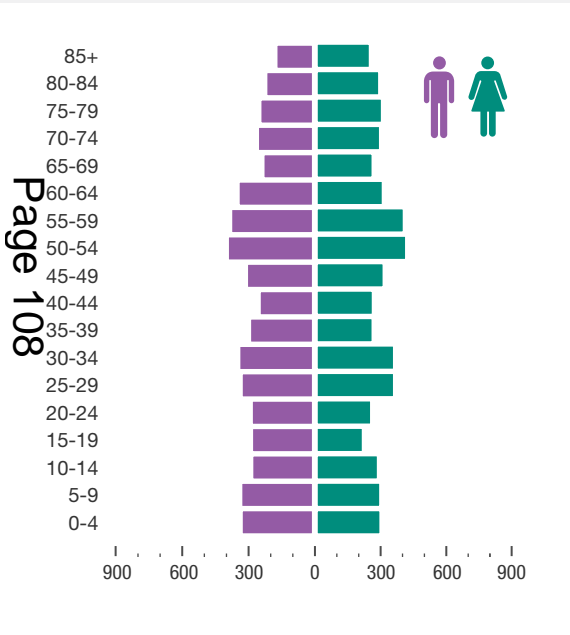
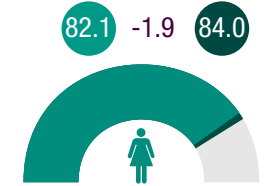
Male

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



Female

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



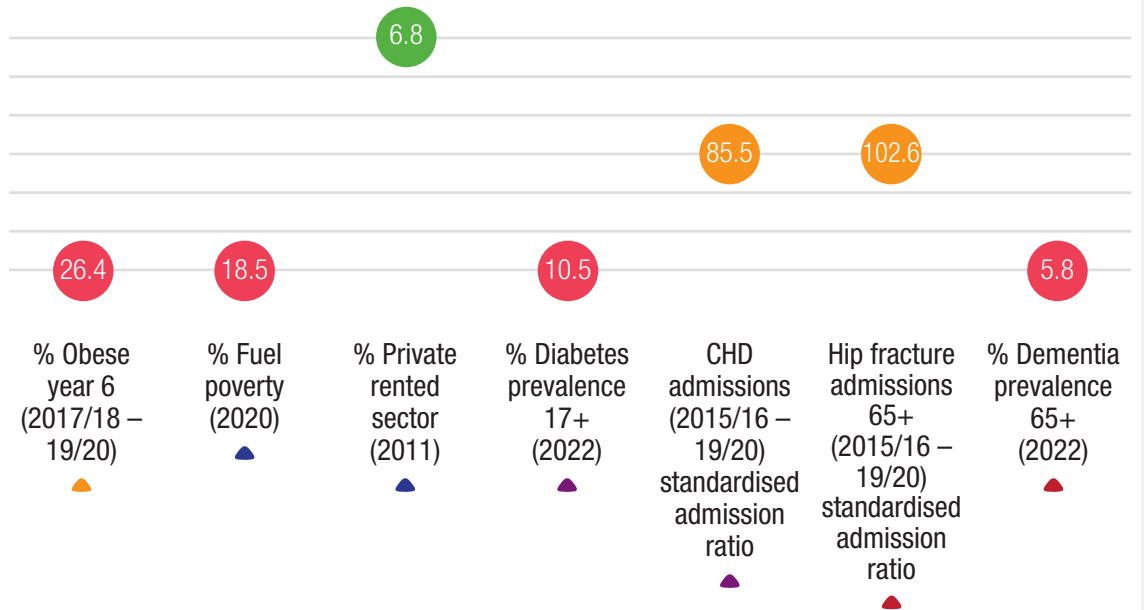
Total population
10,749



8.0%
of the population are
Ethnic Minority
(City average: 32%)

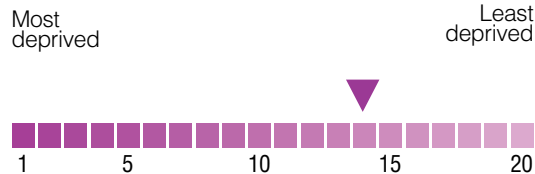
What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



24.2%
Children living in poverty

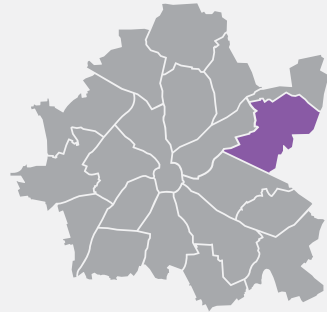
City deprivation ranking



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

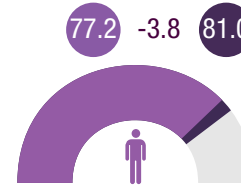
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Your ward at a glance: Wednesfield South



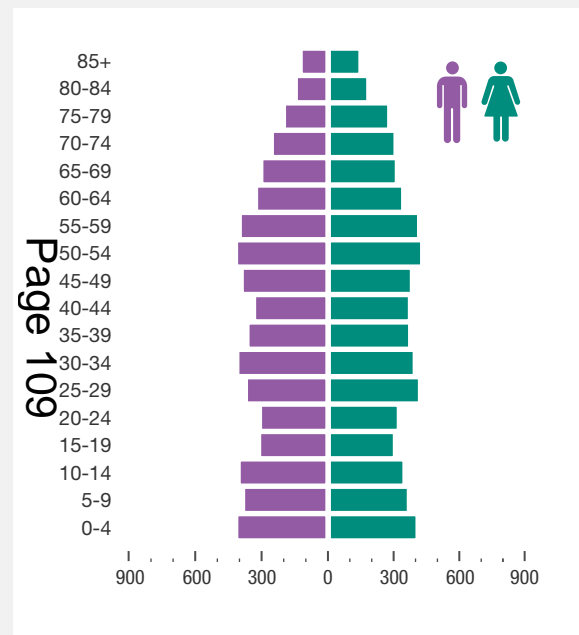
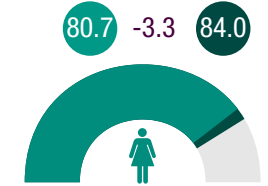
Male

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



Female

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



Total population

11,683

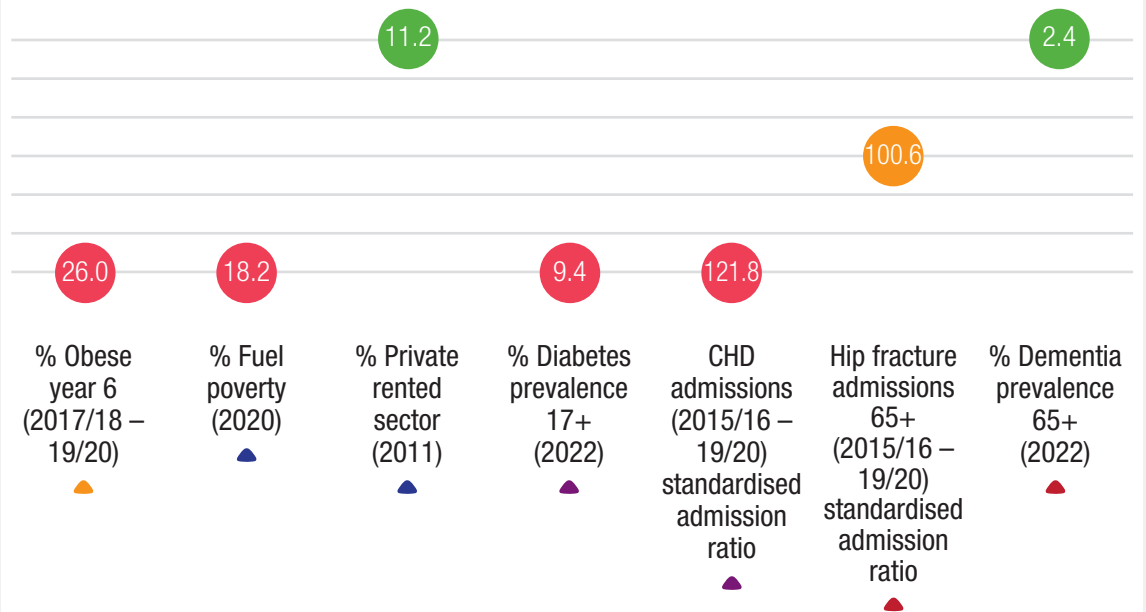


20.7%

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

What is life like in your ward?

Compared to national average: ● Worse ● Similar ● Better



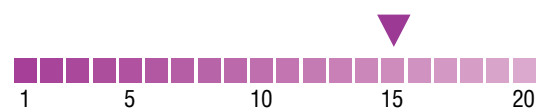
27.0%

Children living in poverty

City deprivation ranking

Most deprived

Least deprived



Our City: Our Plan – Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives

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- Thriving economy in all parts of the city

This report is dedicated to the memory of

Ros Jervis

Director of Public Health at the City of Wolverhampton Council

from April 2014 to July 2017,

who sadly passed away in June 2022.

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audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155

wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 551155

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Wolverhampton WV1 1SH