CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

Appendix Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel

12th March 2024

Presenter:

Jenny Lewington Deputy Director of Housing

wolverhampton.gov.uk

Introduction

Aim: To identify what the housing service are doing to ensure their data has coverage of as many protected characteristics as possible. Holding equalities data enables the council to be able to provide a non-biased service to residents.

All the data supporting the summary slides is held in the appendices. There you can see data across all the DEPs for social housing for the following protected characteristics: Age, Sex, Ethnicity, Disability, Religion and Sexual Orientation. Sexual Orientation data coverage can be quite low, with many residents choosing not to disclose but we have included it where possible.

Data Sources:

All the data for social housing DEPs has come from the Northgate (NEC) system that Wolverhampton Homes use to record all of their tenant information.

For Private Sector Housing, the data comes from the IDOX system, and the ward data is derived from the 2021 Census.

Data gaps:

- For social housing, there is the option in the 'Sex' field on NEC to select 'Male', 'Female' or 'Transgender'. We are exploring the option of either adding a Gender Identity field alongside the Sex field or having more options available to choose from in the Sex field to give residents more choice over how they're identified.
- For Private Sector Housing, the ward data we have provided to show the demographic breakdowns cannot be extended to gender identify or sexual orientation. Although 2021 was the first year they asked these questions on the Census, the low numbers have meant that data needs to be withheld at lower geographies to protect people from being identified, the highest level of data we have for this information is MSOA and then City level, which we are happy to provide if required.
- At the moment the idox fields are limited, there is nowhere to record sexual orientation and there are only two gender options which are Male or Female, the only other option being unclassified. The demographic data recording on IDOX is very sparse but options can be explored here to make improvements.

Social housing waiting list vs rehousing list

Actions taken to date:

- Looking at the data to identify any disproportionality and checking the data to be able to explain the over or under representation
 of demographic groups.
- Considerable work to ensure the housing application process is accessible; support available online, over the phone and in person. The website is accessible, translated into various languages, read aloud technology etc.

Trends:

- The demographics data [Appendix 1] for residents on the waiting list and residents on the rehousing list at the moment is very positive because the comparisons show little to no disproportionality between the two cohorts.
- **Disability:** Only 5.5% of residents on the waiting list have a disability however, over 8% of the rehoused residents have a disability, so disabled applicants are likely to be prioritised. The only other disparity in this data is with the age groups.
- Age: There seems to be priority given to people over 45, all the subsequent age groups follow the same pattern of having a higher proportion on the rehousing list than the waiting list. This may be due to other factors such as those families being more likely to have dependent children or disabilities that make them a higher priority. There also seems to be quite a large disparity in the 25-34 age group, they tend to be more of those aged residents on the waiting list than being re-housed.

- Include an armed forces flag on NEC so we can identify the veteran population and support them with any housing needs
- Look at the age group 25-34 in more detail to understand why they're underrepresented in the rehousing list compared to the waiting list
- Reference care leavers, have queried this with WH to ensure this flag is on the system
- Customer contact and face-to-face housing advice continues to develop.
- The WH app goes live before Christmas

Social housing waiting list vs rehousing list

Indicator	Group	Waiting List %	Waiting List value	Rehousing %	Rehousing value	Disparity
	16-17	0.2%	12	0.5%	6	0.3%
	18-24	18.7%	1,212	17.9%	219	-0.8%
	25-34	37.5%	2,433	29.6%	362	-7.9%
Age Group	35-44	23.6%	1,528	23.6%	288	0.0%
Age Group	45-54	10.8%	697	15.1%	185	4.4%
	55-64	5.8%	376	9.6%	117	3.8%
	65-74	2.3%	151	2.7%	33	0.4%
	75-99	1.1%	69	1.0%	12	-0.1%
Sex	Female	61.8%	4,003	60.5%	740	-1.3%
Sex .	Male	38.1%	2,470	39.4%	482	1.3%
	Transgender	0.1%	7	0.1%	1	0.0%
Disability	Yes	5.5%	356	7.7%	94	2.2%
Disability	No	94.2%	6,107	91.8%	1,123	-2.4%
	White British	45.3%	2,933	45.4%	555	0.1%
	White Other	12.7%	826	10.6%	130	-2.1%
Ethnic Group	Black, Black British, Caribbean	8.2%	528	7.5%	92	-0.6%
	Mixed: White and Black Carribean	6.7%	437	5.5%	67	-1.3%
	Black, Black British: African	6.1%	398	7.3%	89	1.1%
	Asian, Asian British: Indian	3.2%	209	2.6%	31	-0.7%
	No Religion	32.6%	2,112	28.7%	351	-3.9%
	Christian	22.9%	1,484	21.3%	261	-1.6%
	Church of England	7.3%	476	6.4%	78	-1.0%
Religion	Muslim	7.7%	501	9.2%	112	1.4%
	Catholic	5.0%	322	4.3%	52	-0.7%
	Sikh	1.8%	115	0.8%	10	-1.0%
	Hindu	0.9%	61	0.6%	7	-0.4%
	Undisclosed/Unknown or applican prefers not to say	19.1%	1,239	26.9%	329	7.8%
	Heterosexial	77.5%	5,025	70.7%	864	-6.9%
Sexual Orientation	Bisexial	2.3%	147	1.6%	19	-0.7%
	Lesbian	0.8%	49	0.57%	7	-0.2%
	Gay Male	0.3%	21	0.33%	4	0.0%
	Unknown/Blank	99.5%	1,961	98.9%	1,209	-0.6%
Marital Chatra	Single	0.4%	7	0.8%	10	0.5%
Marital Status	Married	0.2%	3	0.3%	3	0.1%
	Separated			0.1%	1	0.1%

Rent arrears vs all active tenancies

Actions taken to date:

- Further exploration of this data set, particularly the accessibility of support to households in arrears.
- Money advice service and support fund available.
- Combining datasets with LIFT tool for extra information about households to target

Trends:

When analysing this data, we found that the main disparities were in the age and ethnic group comparisons.

- **Age:** We can see that ages 25-54 are overrepresented in the rent arrears group meaning a disproportionate number of them are struggling financially. This is likely because they have more expenses than younger or older tenants such as childcare, they may also have variable/unstable income.
- **Ethnic Group:** Ethnic minorities are slightly overrepresented in the rent arrears cohort, this may because they struggle to access the housing service or council with queries due to things like cultural/language barriers or lack of understanding of processes. They may not know who to contact if they are suffering financial hardship. [Appendix 2]

- Embed KPI and performance timeframes based on the reds/ambers
- Potential to look at evictions data now that social housing evictions have been rising, understand the demographic breakdown
 of those people and see if there are any trends, we spot that require intervention
- Breakdown age by ethnicity to look at disparity in more detail, particularly in black ethnic groups as we know the numbers are high for that group.

Rent arrears vs all active tenancies

Indicator	Group	Rent Arrears %	Rent Arrears value	Total Active Tenants %	Total Active Tenants value	Disparity
	16-24	3.9%	305	2.0%	488	-1.9%
	25-34	20.9%	1,648	13.2%	3,245	-7.7%
	35-44	28.9%	2,282	21.5%	5,292	-7.4%
Age Group	45-54	21.8%	1,723	19.7%	4,842	-2.1%
	55-64	17.7%	1,396	19.1%	4,695	1.4%
	65-74	4.8%	377	13.2%	3,240	8.4%
	75-99	2.1%	164	11.3%	2,779	9.2%
Sex	Female	67.1%	5,295	61.6%	15,153	-5.4%
Sex	Male	33.0%	2,602	38.3%	9,426	5.4%
	Transgender	N/A	N/A	0.0%	4	N/A
Disability	Yes	6.0%	477	12.4%	3,052	6.4%
Disability	No	87.6%	6,915	81.3%	19,987	-6.3%
	White British	59.2%	4,671	65.8%	16,183	6.7%
	White Other	4.9%	390	5.6%	1,373	0.7%
Ethnic Group	Black, Black British, Caribbean	8.1%	638	5.8%	1,436	-2.2%
Ethnic Group	Mixed: White and Black Carribean	6.3%	500	3.7%	913	-2.6%
	Black, Black British: African	6.8%	539	5.0%	1,221	-1.9%
	Asian, Asian British: Indian	2.6%	201	2.4%	590	-0.2%
	No Religion	23.6%	1,863	19.3%	4,751	-4.3%
	Christian	22.2%	1,754	22.8%	5,613	0.6%
	Church of England	6.5%	510	9.1%	2,246	2.7%
Religion	Muslim	4.3%	338	4.4%	1,074	0.1%
	Catholic	3.1%	246	3.6%	896	0.5%
	Sikh	0.9%	70	0.8%	197	-0.1%
	Hindu	0.4%	29	0.5%	115	0.1%
	Undisclosed/Unknown or applican prefers not to say	37%	2,939	38.8%	9,534	1.7%
	Heterosexial	61.2%	4,830	59.8%	14,691	-1.4%
Sexual Orientation	Bisexial	0.9%	71	0.8%	206	-0.1%
	Lesbian	0.5%	37	0.4%	93	-0.1%
	Gay Male	0.3%	20	0.2%	59	0.0%
	Unknown	84.0%	6,631	84.9%	20,877	0.9%
	Single	9.0%	709	6.3%	1,548	-2.7%
	Married	3.9%	311	5.5%	1,353	1.6%
Monitol Obstern	Cohabiting	1.6%	124	1.7%	421	0.1%
Marital Status	Separated	0.9%	72	0.7%	160	-0.2%
	Widowed	0.2%	19	0.5%	118	0.3%
	Divorced	0.3%	21	0.4%	87	0.1%
	Civil Partnership	0.1%	10	0.1%	19	0.0%

Damp and mould enquiries vs total active tenancies

In February 2023, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP, set out the actions the government is taking in response to the coroner's report into the death of Awaab Ishak with particular focus on damp and mould. The Regulator of Social Housing has taken a proactive approach to gathering data on damp, mould and condensation in social and private sector housing stock.

Actions taken to date:

- The response to assessing, identifying and addressing damp and mould is extensive and proactive. IT systems are being used to
 identify the prevenance of DMC in certain stock types, enabling targeted support. The response to DMC has been reviewed,
 including systems for reporting repairs.
- Response times have been reviewed and performance against repairs timescales are on target.
- WH have appointed Healthy Homes advisors to ensure a comprehensive service to address DMC and support the households.

Trends:

- Age: We can see that ages 55+ are underrepresented in the damp and mould group meaning they may either have more
 experience dealing with damp and mould or they are struggling to access the service to book an inspection. The younger
 population may require more education on prevention techniques to reduce the risk of damp and mould problems.
- Sex: Female tenants are overrepresented in the damp and mould cohort, this could be for a number of reasons, they may be more likely to report it if they are more concerned with the state of their households. There are also more single parent households with women who may be worried about the health of their children and therefore again will be more likely to report it.
- Ethnic Group: Ethnic minorities are slightly overrepresented in the damp and mould cohort, this may because they are not use to
 the weather conditions and are struggling to perform prevention actions. They may also not understand the correspondence or
 instructions if English isn't their first language. They may also be less likely to feel confident accessing the service if there are
 cultural and language barriers. [Appendix 3]

Damp and mould enquiries vs total active tenancies

- Further work to be undertaken to consider the accessibility of these services.
- Use the reds and ambers in the data table to understand why certain ethnic groups and age groups are overrepresented in the damp and mould cohort. On the back of this, if accessibility to the service seems to be the problem, put interventions in place to counteract this.

Damp and mould enquiries vs total active tenancies Appendix 11

Indicator	Group	D&M %	D&M value	Total Active Tenants %	Total Active Tenants value	Disparity
	16-24	2.8%	94	2.0%	488	-0.8%
	25-34	17.9%	610	13.2%	3,245	-4.7%
	35-44	25.6%	874	21.5%	5,292	-4.1%
Age Group	45-54	21.5%	733	19.7%	4,842	-1.8%
	55-64	16.5%	562	19.1%	4,695	2.7%
	65-74	9.7%	332	13.2%	3,240	3.5%
	75-99	6.2%	211	11.3%	2,779	5.1%
Sex	Female	65.0%	2,220	61.6%	15,153	-3.4%
Sex	Male	35.0%	1,194	38.3%	9,426	3.4%
	Transgender	0.1%	2	0.0%	4	0.0%
Disability	Yes	8.4%	288	12.4%	3,052	4.0%
Disability	No	85.0%	2,904	81.3%	19,987	-3.7%
	White British	56.5%	1,930	65.8%	16,183	9.3%
	White Other	6.2%	211	5.6%	1,373	-0.6%
Ethania Carren	Black, Black British, Caribbean	7.5%	256	5.8%	1,436	-1.7%
Ethnic Group	Mixed: White and Black Carribean	4.7%	161	3.7%	913	-1.0%
	Black, Black British: African	6.7%	230	5.0%	1,221	-1.8%
	Asian, Asian British: Indian	3.2%	110	2.4%	590	-0.8%
	No Religion	21.9%	749	19.3%	4,751	-2.6%
	Christian	23.4%	799	22.8%	5,613	-0.6%
	Church of England	8.9%	303	9.1%	2,246	0.3%
Religion	Muslim	7.0%	238	4.4%	1,074	-2.6%
	Catholic	3.3%	112	3.6%	896	0.4%
	Sikh	1.2%	42	0.8%	197	-0.4%
	Hindu	0.8%	26	0.5%	115	-0.3%
	Undisclosed/Unknown or applican prefers not to say	34.4%	1,175	38.8%	9,534	4.4%
	Heterosexial	63.8%	2,178	59.8%	14,691	-4.0%
Sexual Orientation	Bisexial	1.1%	39	0.8%	206	-0.3%
	Lesbian	0.44%	15	0.4%	93	-0.1%
	Gay Male	0.26%	9	0.2%	59	0.0%
	Unknown	84.0%	2,869	84.9%	20,877	0.9%
	Single	7.0%	239	6.3%	1,548	-0.7%
	Married	5.4%	185	5.5%	1,353	0.1%
Marital Status	Cohabiting	2.1%	73	1.7%	421	-0.4%
Marital Status	Separated	0.7%	23	0.7%	160	0.0%
	Widowed	0.4%	13	0.5%	118	0.1%
	Divorced	0.3%	10	0.4%	87	0.1%
	Civil Partnership	0.1%	4	0.1%	19	0.0%

Homelessness acceptance vs City 16+ Population

Indicator	Group	Homlessness acceptance %	Homlessness acceptance value	16+ City Population %	16+ City Population value	Disparity
	16-24	23.7%	368	13.4%	27,911	-10.4%
	25-34	32.5%	503	17.3%	35,957	-15.2%
	35-44	22.4%	347	17.1%	35,735	-5.3%
Age Group	45-54	13.7%	213	16.8%	35,078	3.1%
	55-64	5.6%	87	14.6%	30,481	9.0%
	65-74	1.8%	28	10.9%	22,607	9.0%
	75-99	0.3%	4	9.9%	20,676	9.7%
Sex	Female	58.3%	903	51.5%	107,332	-6.8%
Sex	Male	41.6%	644	48.5%	101,113	7.0%
	Transgender	0.1%	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability	Yes	0.6%	9	21.5%	44,865	20.9%
Disability	No	98.4%	1,525	78.5%	163,580	-19.9%
	White British	39.9%	618	57.7%	120,219	17.8%
	White Other	9.4%	146	5.2%	10,786	-4.3%
5" : 6	Black, Black British, Caribbean	8.3%	129	4.1%	8,442	-4.3%
Ethnic Group	Mixed: White and Black Carribean	6.1%	94	2.2%	4,668	-3.8%
	Black, Black British: African	8.6%	133	3.7%	7,778	-4.9%
	Asian, Asian British: Indian	4.4%	68	16.1%	33,540	11.7%
	No Religion	25.4%	394	25.9%	54,053	0.5%
	Christian (including Catholic, Church of England and other Christian denominations)	28.3%	438	46.8%	97,455	18.5%
Religion	Muslim	8.3%	129	4.5%	9,415	-3.8%
	Sikh	1.4%	21	11.9%	24,785	10.5%
	Hindu	0.8%	12	3.8%	7,936	3.0%
	Undisclosed/Unknown or applican prefers not to say	30.6%	474	8.3%	17,363	-22.3%
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexial	66.2%	1,026	89.2%	185,921	23.0%
	Bisexial	2.3%	36	1.0%	2,161	-1.3%
	Gay or Lesbian	0.91%	14	1.1%	2,262	0.2%
	Unknown	63.0%	977	N/A	N/A	-63.0%
	Single	30.0%	465	39.8%	83,054	9.8%
Marital Status	Married	4.5%	69	42.7%	88,978	38.2%
	Separated	1.8%	28	2.4%	5,027	0.6%
	Widowed	0.1%	2	6.7%	13,905	6.5%
	Divorced	0.6%	9	8.4%	17,481	7.8%

Homelessness housed vs Total Advice Cases

Indicator	Group	Homlessness rehoused %	Homlessness rehoused value	Total Advice Cases %	Total Advice Cases value	Disparity
	16-24	26.0%	127	23.4%	394	-2.6%
	25-34	28.9%	141	32.4%	545	3.5%
	35-44	21.3%	104	22.7%	382	1.4%
Age Group	45-54	12.9%	63	14.0%	235	1.0%
	55-64	7.8%	38	5.6%	94	-2.2%
	65-74	3.1%	15	1.8%	30	-1.3%
	75-99	N/A	N/A	0.2%	4	0.2%
Sex	Female	65.4%	319	57.0%	960	-8.4%
Sex	Male	34.4%	168	42.8%	721	8.4%
	Transgender	0.2%	1	0.1%	2	-0.1%
Disability	Yes	0.6%	3	0.7%	11	0.0%
Disability	No	98.2%	479	98.2%	1,654	0.1%
	White British	41.4%	202	39.8%	670	-1.6%
	White Other	9.8%	48	9.5%	160	-0.3%
Ethnic Group	Black, Black British, Caribbean	9.6%	47	8.2%	138	-1.4%
Etriffic Group	Mixed: White and Black Carribean	6.4%	31	6.2%	105	-0.1%
	Black, Black British: African	8.0%	39	8.7%	146	0.7%
	Asian, Asian British: Indian	3.5%	17	4.2%	71	0.7%
Religion	No Religion	27.5%	134	25.1%	422	-2.4%
	Christian (including Catholic, Church of England and other Christian denominations)	29.9%	146	28.3%	477	-1.6%
	Muslim	4.9%	24	8.0%	135	3.1%
	Sikh	2.3%	11	1.4%	23	-0.9%
	Hindu	0.6%	3	0.8%	13	0.2%
	Undisclosed/Unknown or applican prefers not to say	28.7%	140	30.4%	512	1.7%
	Heterosexial	68.0%	332	66.5%	1,119	-1.6%
Sexual Orientation	Bisexial	2.5%	12	2.3%	39	-0.1%
	Lesbian	0.61%	3	0.6%	10	0.0%
	Gay Male	0.20%	1	0.2%	4	0.0%
	Unknown	68.4%	334	63.8%	1,074	-4.7%
	Single	24.8%	121	29.2%	491	4.4%
Marital Status	Married	4.3%	21	4.6%	77	0.3%
Marital Status	Separated	1.6%	8	1.8%	30	0.1%
	Widowed	0.2%	1	0.1%	2	-0.1%
	Divorced	0.6%	3	0.6%	10	0.0%

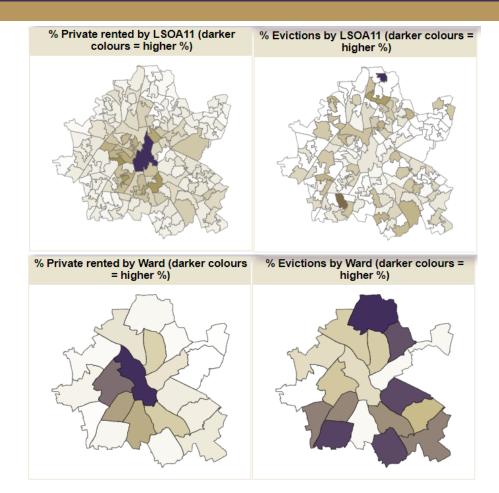
Actions taken to date:

- Private Sector Housing have undertaken research in the past to confirm that there are areas of the City that have extremely high
 proportions of private rented properties and poor housing standards, but a lack of engagement with the Private Sector Housing
 Service.
- Leaflet drops in the most common written languages in those areas which gave access to language specific web pages and webforms. There were no responses.
- Clinics held in local community centre, only a very small number of local residents spoke to the officers, very little improvement in engagement.
- Officers went door to door, speaking to local residents, a small number of housing complaints were received but engagement remained disproportionately low.

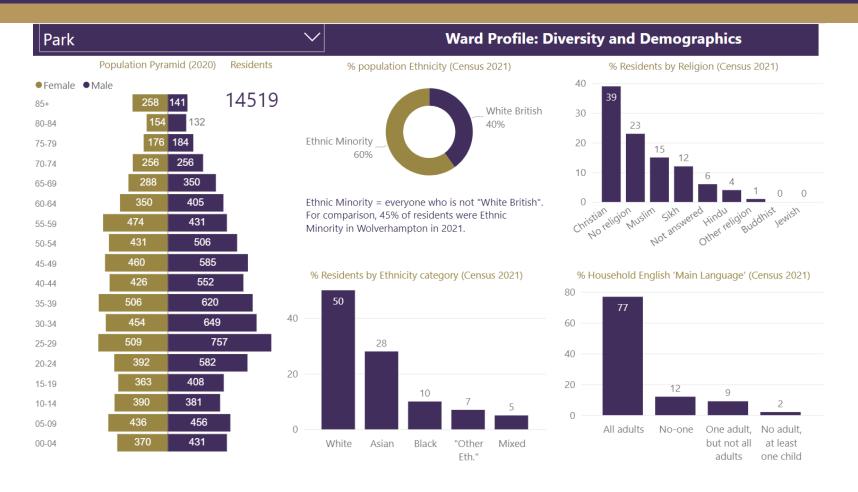
Trends:

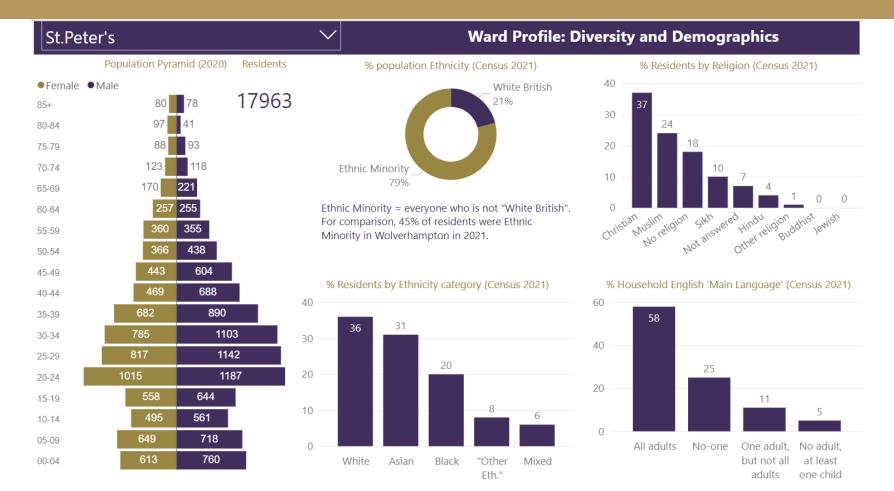
- The top 3 Wards with higher number of service requests are Park, St. Peter's and Graiseley. Those are also the top 3 wards with the highest number of private sector evictions. In general, the city centre has higher proportion of private sector housing stock compared to the rest of the city. There are several things that these wards have in common:
- Bigger proportion of ethnic minority residents & those who don't speak English as a first language
- Higher proportion of young families
- · Higher proportion of residents with a disability
- Service requests and evictions have also been mapped by postcode with the MOSAIC profiles. For both the top 3 mosaic groups are **Transient Renters** (single people renting low- cost homes for the short term, **Family Basics** (families with limited resources who budget to makes end meet) and **Urban Cohesion** (residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity). The mosaic data helps us look further into the residents' characteristics outside of just their demographics. [Appendix 4]

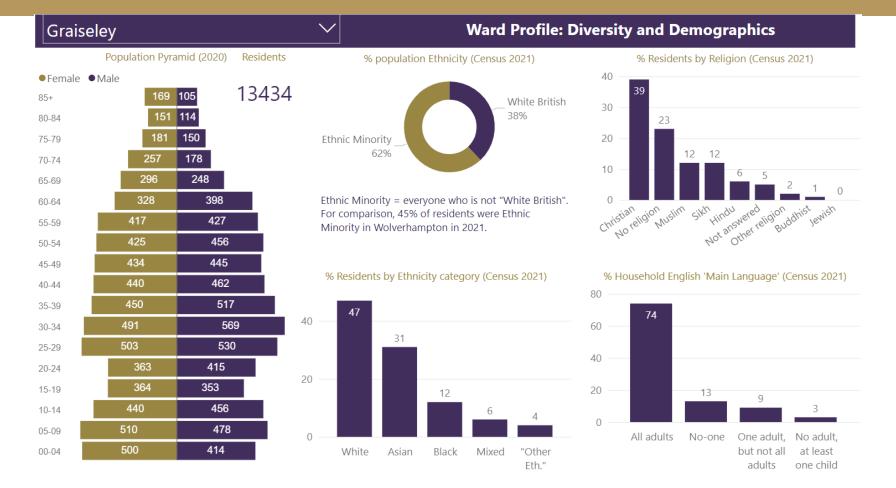
- Private Sector Housing is developing a matrix working project to improve engagement via other council services that are already through the door.
- Private Sector Housing are exploring two alternative ways to inspect rented properties in such areas without prior complaint from the tenants.



Ward Name	Total SR	Evictions	% Evictions	
⊕ Park	293	32		10.9%
⊞ St Peters	284	27		9.59
⊞ Graiseley	178	24		13.59
⊞ Ettingshall North	106	14		13.29
⊞ Bushbury South & Low Hill	123	13		10.69
⊞ Blakenhall	158	12		7.69
Bilston North	94	11		11.79
⊞ East Park	71	11		15.59
⊞ Bilston South	66	9		13.69
⊞ Bushbury North	55	9		16.49
⊞ Ettingshall South & Spring Vale	58	9		15.59
⊕ Oxley	76	8		10.59
⊕ Penn	51	8		15.79
⊞ Fallings Park	46	7		15.29
⊕ Heath Town	92	7		7.69
⊕ Merry Hill	51	7		13.79
⊞ Tettenhall Regis	42	4		9.59
⊕ Tettenhall Wightwick	28	2		7.19
Wednesfield North	26	2		7.79
±	14	1		7.19
Wednesfield South	39			
Total	1951	217		11.19







Additional datasets that we're looking into

Social Housing

Homelessness EDI data, look at the demographic breakdown of homeless acceptance, temporary placement and rehoused
homeless residents to see if there is any disproportionality between the homeless population and the rest of the city (understand
whether certain demographic characteristics predispose people to becoming homeless). Also, to ensure that once a homeless
resident comes through the housing register, they are treated equally regardless of their characteristics, and no bias is present in
the process of relocating them.

Private Sector Housing

We are exploring the damp and mould data for the private rented sector, similar to how we have done for social housing. At the
moment we are deciding on the correct methodology to use and ensuring the high level of data quality on the system IDOX to
enable us to report on this accurately.

Gender Identity Data

- For social housing, there is the option in the 'Sex' field on NEC to select 'Male', 'Female' or 'Transgender'. We are exploring the
 option of either adding a Gender Identity field alongside the Sex field or having more options available to choose from in the Sex
 field to give residents more choice over how they're identified.
- For Private Sector Housing, the ward data we have provided to show the demographic breakdowns cannot be extended to gender
 identify or sexual orientation. Although 2021 was the first year they asked these questions on the Census, the low numbers have
 meant that data needs to be withheld at lower geographies to protect people from being identified, the highest level of data we
 have for this information is MSOA and then City level, which we are happy to provide if required.

Deputy Director of Housing, City of Wolverhampton Council

Jenny Lewington