



Poverty Research Pack

Contents

Cheshire West and Chester Poverty Research Pack	6
Introduction	6
Key messages	6
HBAI (households below average income).....	14
Depth and duration	15
Deprivation.....	16
National context	16
Social mobility.....	19
Social Mobility Commission reports - State of the nation 2017	19
The long shadow of deprivation	20
Poverty rates for children, working-age adults and pensioners.....	21
End child poverty estimates of child poverty (after housing costs)	22
DWP Children in low-income families: local area statistics (before housing costs).....	23
Money	25
Household Income	25
Average household income in Cheshire West and Chester.....	26
Essential outgoings.....	28
The poverty premium	28
Debt	28
Housing.....	30
Tenure	30
Council tax support	34
Housing conditions.....	34
Fuel poverty	35
Houses in Multiple Occupation.....	35
Homelessness	36
Food	37
Food security	37
Foodbanks	38
Consumer Price Index.....	38

Health	39
Life expectancy	39
Living with long term illness	42
Pathways to health inequalities	44
Accessing services	46
Early years.....	48
Mental Health.....	51
Covid	54
Education.....	58
Educational Inequality and Poverty	58
Early years.....	58
Secondary School attainment	59
Young people not in education, employment, or training	62
Further and higher education	64
Covid	65
Work	67
Unemployment	67
Employment	69
Skills.....	70
Wages.....	72
Covid.....	74
Transport	76
Digital Exclusion.....	78
Digital Exclusion Risk Index	79
Crime	81
Youth involvement in serious gang activity.....	82
Local Data.....	83
Appendix 1: Data Tables.....	84
Table 1: Percentage of households renting property in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2011).....	84
Table 2: Estimated tenure of households in Cheshire West and Chester 2012-2020 ...	86
Table 3: Average weekly rent for local authority social and affordable housing	87
Table 4: Average weekly rent for private provider social and affordable housing.....	88
Table 5: Food security for those in poverty by key ages groups and household types in the UK (2019/20).....	88
Table 6: Life expectancy in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (male) (2018-2020)..	89

Table 7: Life expectancy in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (female) (2018-2020)	91
Table 8: Breakdown of the life expectancy gap between the most deprived quintile and the least deprived quintile in Cheshire West and Chester, by broad causes of death (2018)	93
Table 10: Health Measure by deprivation decile – England	96
Table 11: Excess weight prevalence in reception children in Cheshire West and Chester by children’s centre footprint (2017/18)	98
Table 12: Excess weight prevalence in year six children in Cheshire West and Chester by children’s centre footprint (2017/18)	99
Table 13: Percentage of reception children achieve a good level of development in Cheshire West and Chester by Children’s centre footprint (2017/18)	100
Table 14: Early diagnosis of cancer in England by deprivation deciles (2019)	101
Table 15: Suicide rate in England by deprivation decile (2015-2017)	102
Table 16: Emergency hospital admissions for self-harm in England by deprivation decile (2020/21)	102
Table 17: Hospital stays for self-harm, standardised admission ratio in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2015/16 – 2019/20)	103
Table 18: Covid Mortality rates in England by deprivation decile	106
Table 19: Covid-19 vaccination first dose uptake rate in Cheshire West and Chester by IMD quintile (Selective data)	107
Table 20: The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals in CW&C and England	107
Table 21: Comparison of percentage SEND pupils and non-SEND pupils by IMD neighbourhood	108
Table 22: The percentage of young people not in education, employment, or training	108
Table 23: The percentage of young people not in education, employment, or training by ward in 2021	109
Table 24: The percentage of people with NVQ level 4 and above	111
Table 25: Claimant count by ward as of December 2021	111
Table 26: Rate of claimant count change between May 2020 to December 2021	113
Table 27: UK employment by full-time and part-time workers	115
Table 28: The average weekly wage in CW&C, GB, and NW by place of residence and by place of work from 2019 to 2021	117
Table 29: Rate of furlough uptake in CW&C and the UK average between 31 July 2020 and September 2021	118
Table 31: Percentage of households without a car or van in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2011)	119
References	122
Households below average income (HBAI)	122

Depth and Duration.....	122
Deprivation.....	122
Social Mobility.....	122
Money.....	122
Poverty rates for children, working-age adults and pensioners.....	123
Housing.....	123
Food.....	124
Health.....	124
Education.....	125
Work.....	125
Digital.....	126
Transport.....	126

Cheshire West and Chester Poverty Research Pack

Introduction

Many of our residents enjoy a good quality of life. Compared to other parts of the country, deprivation is low, incomes are higher, and health is generally good. However, some of our residents encounter significant disadvantage and experience poorer health outcomes, living conditions, educational attainment, and economic prospects.

In October 2020, Cheshire West and Chester Council declared a Poverty Emergency. This was in recognition of how the poorest communities had been hit hardest by the pandemic and how inequalities were impacting on people's lives. Since then, the Council has been developing a new approach to addressing poverty and has prepared a strategy, called 'A Fairer Future'.

This research pack draws together a range of national and local data to describe poverty and deprivation. It has been compiled to support the development of the Fairer Future strategy and to underpin the creation of a comprehensive action plan to tackle poverty and its root causes.

Whilst this research pack represents a snapshot in time, insight and analysis will continue and be developed and shared on both our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment web pages and new web pages for 'A Fairer Future', which will be developed in Summer 2022.

Key messages

The data shows, both locally and nationally, that those in poverty are more likely to experience lower living standards, food insecurity, less secure housing, poorer physical and mental health, lower educational attainment, lower earnings and higher crime.

Describing poverty

- There is no single, universally accepted definition of poverty in the UK.
- There are pockets of deprivation across Cheshire West and Chester, with over 24,000 of our residents living in small neighbourhoods (LSOAs) that rank in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- The 'poverty line' is considered to be an income of £328 per week, £17,056 a year (using 'households below average income before housing costs' in 2019/20, Department of Work and Pensions).
- The average household income in Cheshire West and Chester is estimated to be £28,500 in 2021, however, 15% of households in the Borough are

estimated to have an income of less than £15,000. (Equivalised Paycheck 2021. © 1996-2014 CACI Limited).

- According to the Social Metrics Commission, 'Deep poverty' has worsened in the UK over the last two decades, and 7% of all people in the UK, live in families that are more than 50% below the poverty line.
- Those in poverty often pay a more for the same essential goods and services as they are not able to access the same 'deals'. Bristol University estimates that on average, in 2019, low-income households incurred £478 of extra costs through 'poverty premiums'.
- The pandemic has had a significantly and disproportionate impact on those in low income with higher borrowing and a higher burden of debt. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that 33% of low-income households are now in arrears with household bills, which is triple the 11% estimate in a similar study prior to the pandemic.
- Work undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions (2014) found that the key factor for child poverty is parental worklessness and low earnings. The other main factors include low parental qualifications, parental ill health, family instability and family size.
- Data from the Department of Work and Pensions shows that 7,267 children aged 0-15 lived-in low-income families in Cheshire West and Chester, 12% of our children.

Social mobility

- Social mobility is about ensuring everyone has a fair chance to reach their full potential and that opportunities for a good quality of life are open to all. Cheshire West and Chester ranks 248 out of 324 local authorities in terms of overall social mobility, within the worst 25% of local authorities (Social Mobility Commission).
- For youth social mobility, the Borough ranks 303 out of 324 local authorities, is identified as a 'cold spot' for youth social mobility by the Social Mobility Commission.

Housing, homelessness and fuel poverty

- The Joseph Rowntree Foundation report that those on low income spend proportionately more of their income on housing costs. People living in rented accommodation (social or private rent) are more likely to be in relative low income after housing costs are accounted for, than people who own their own home.
- Affordability of housing, relationship breakdown and poverty can all lead to homelessness and rough sleeping. Department for Levelling Up, Housing &

Communities (DLUHC) statistics show that between July to September 2021, 398 households in Cheshire West and Chester were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty.

- In Cheshire West and Chester, 12% (17,869) of households are 'fuel poor' (based on sub-regional fuel poverty statistics). The Office for National Statistics reports that growing energy prices will disproportionately impact on those with lower incomes, as they spend a higher proportion of their income on utility bills.

Food security

- The Food Foundation states that 3.6% (1 million) adults reported that they or someone in their household have had to go a whole day without eating in the past month because they couldn't afford or access food (January 2022). They also found the poorest fifth of UK households would need to spend 40% of their disposable income on food to meet Eatwell Guide costs. This compares to just 7% for the richest fifth.
- The Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that 43% of households in receipt of Universal Credit are food insecure and lone parent families with children in poverty are the household type most likely to suffer food insecurity.
- In 2020/21, some 22,427 food parcels distributed to Cheshire West and Chester residents, 8,814 of these were to children. This was an increase of 36% from the 16,494 distributed in 2019/20.

Health

- Health inequalities persist and life expectancy (the average number of years someone can expect to live) is lower in our more deprived areas compared to less deprived areas. In Cheshire West and Chester, the inequality gap is 9.8 years for men and 7.8 years for women. (PHE fingertips Inequality in life expectancy at birth 2018-2020).
- Research by the Kind Fund shows that more than 50 per cent of people with a long-term condition see their health as a barrier to the type or amount of work that they can do, rising to more than 80 per cent when someone has three or more conditions. On average, people in the most deprived fifth of the population develop multiple long-term conditions 10 years earlier than those in the least deprived fifth.
- A 2016 study by the Office of National Statistics looking at good health highlighted, that 50 per cent of people in the most deprived areas reported poor health by age 55-59, over two decades earlier than those in the least deprived areas.

- Public Health England's 2020–25 strategy identifies smoking, poor diet, physical inactivity and high alcohol consumption as the four principal behavioural risks to people's health in England today. These risks are concentrated in the most disadvantaged groups. For example, smoking prevalence in the most deprived fifth of the population is 28 per cent, compared to 10 per cent in the least deprived fifth.
- Evidence suggests that some people's circumstances make it harder for them to move away from unhealthy behaviours, particularly if they are worse off in terms of a range of wider socio-economic factors such as debt, housing or poverty (Kings Fund – Pathways to health inequalities)
- Research by the Kings Fund highlighted that people living in the most deprived areas in England were 1.8 times more likely to experience a wait of over one year for hospital care compared with people from the most affluent.
- The World Health Organisation in 2014 reported a strong socio-economic gradient in mental health, with people of lower socioeconomic status having a higher likelihood of developing and experiencing mental health problems.
- Employment status is linked to mental health outcomes, with those who are unemployed or economically inactive having higher rates of common mental health problems than those who are employed. (Mental health and wellbeing in England: Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2014.)
- Suicide rates are two to three times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the most affluent, and rates of hospitalised self-harm are also twice as high. ('Dying from Inequality', March 2017).
- In terms of COVID-19, people living in more socio-economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods and minority ethnic groups have higher rates of almost all the known underlying clinical risk factors that increase the severity and mortality of COVID-19.
- Office for National Statistics data shows that people who live in the most deprived areas of England and Wales are around twice as likely to die after contracting COVID-19. Local data also shows that the most deprived areas of the borough have seen the highest rates of infection.
- There is also a difference in terms of COVID-19 vaccine uptake in CW&C, with more deprived areas less likely to have received the vaccine. As of 28th February 2022, the difference in uptake was 15 percentage points between the least and most deprived areas (IMD quintile).

Early years

- Low birth weight is an indicator of poor population health. At children's centre level, the lowest percentage of low birth weights in 2018-20 was in Chester Victoria (5.5%) while the highest, in Blacon, was nearly double (11.7%).
- Obesity rates are highest for children from the most deprived areas, and this is getting worse. Children aged 5 and from the poorest income groups are twice as likely to be obese compared to their most well-off counterparts and by age 11 they are three times as likely. (Childhood obesity: a plan for action - GOV.UK).
- In Cheshire West and Chester 72% of pupils achieved a good level of development at the end of their reception year. This is equal to the England average. Of those pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals 53% achieved a good level of development, compared to an England average of 57%. (School Census).

Education

- Children living in poverty are more likely to have lower levels of educational outcomes (ONS child poverty and education outcomes February 2020).
- Young adults who suffer financial hardship as children have significantly greater than average chances of earning lower wages, being unemployed, spending time in prison (men) or becoming a lone parent (women). (ONS child poverty and education outcomes by ethnicity Feb 2020).
- A report by the Child Poverty Action Group noted that children who have lived in persistent poverty during their first seven years have a cognitive development score on average 20% below those of children who have never experienced poverty.
- By the time young people take their GCSEs, the gap between rich and poor is large. A report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that 21% of the poorest fifth gained five good GCSEs (grades A*-C, including English and Maths), compared to 75% of most affluent fifth (JRF - Poorer Children's Educational Attainment).
- In Cheshire West and Chester 2021, disadvantaged pupils (those in receipt of free school meals, looked after or adopted from care) on average score 18

points lower at 'attainment 8' than non-disadvantaged pupils. The average attainment 8 score for Cheshire West and Chester is 52, for disadvantaged pupils 38 and non-disadvantaged 56. (Attainment 8 is used to calculate the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications including Mathematics and English).

- In 2020, 3.7% of young people in the Borough were not in education, employment, or training. This is an increase of 1% since 2019. This is higher in our more deprived wards and was over 10% in four of our deprived wards.
- A study by the Office for National Statistics shows that children on Free School Meals have lower earnings as a young adult, than those not on receiving Free School Meals. At age 25 years, 23% of Free School Meal recipients who attended school in England had earnings above the annualised full-time equivalent of the Living Wage in comparison with 44% of those that did not.
- The pandemic is likely to have increased existing educational inequalities. The Covid-19 pandemic has widened the attainment gap between most and least disadvantaged pupils in the UK. This is due to a range of factors including the digital divide, home learning environments and potentially deepening poverty over the pandemic. (JRF UK Poverty 2022).
- Those with higher qualifications are less at risk of being trapped in poverty. Just over 1 in 10 working-age adults with an undergraduate degree or above are living in poverty compared with more than 4 in 10 working-age adults with no qualifications. (JRF UK Poverty 2022).

Work and wages

- Unemployment is concentrated in our more deprived wards. Four of our most deprived wards have unemployment rates of over 7%, compared to an average unemployment rate of 3.3% for Cheshire West and Chester (December 2021, claimant count). Economic recovery from the pandemic, in terms of people finding employment, is also slower in our more deprived wards.
- The definition of a living wage by the Living Wage Foundation for 2020 was £9.30 per hour. In 2020 15.2% of the jobs within the borough were below the living wage, this compares to 21.3% for the North West and 20.2% nationally. Whilst this information is not available at ward level, it is available at parliamentary constituency, Ellesmere Port and Neston has the highest percentage of jobs below the living wage at 21.7% around 1 in 5 jobs, with

Eddisbury at 19.5%, followed by Weaver Vale 16.8% and finally City of Chester 11.4% (ONS – Annual Survey of earnings and hours ASHE).

Transport

- The JRF report UK Poverty 2020/21 identified transport as being a significant barrier that kept people trapped in poverty. Lower-income workers are more likely to use the bus or walk to work and people on a low wage are more likely to work atypical hours, when there is a more likely to be a lack of appropriate public transport.
- At the time of the 2011 Census, 19% (26,297) households in Cheshire West and Chester had no car or van compared to 26% in England. In CW&C, half of households in very small neighbourhoods (Output Areas) with average household income below £17,000, did not have a car or van at the time of the 2011 Census. This constrains their access to employment. (2011 Census data and Paycheck income data).

Digital exclusion

- In a digital age, those not engaging effectively with the digital world are at risk of being left behind. ONS research found that older people, disabled people, those from lower income households and people living alone are least likely to use the internet.
- The Digital Exclusion Risk Index looks at the likelihood that residents in a neighbourhood will be digitally excluded. The Index suggests around 8% (28,000) of Cheshire West and Chester residents are living in neighbourhoods defined as having a higher risk of digital exclusion. This includes a mix of urban and rural neighbourhoods in CW&C. (Index developed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority)

Crime

- A wide range of studies show that those in poverty are more likely to be a victim or perpetrator of crime.
- Those in poverty are more likely to be attacked, be burgled, robbed, suffer violent crime and experience domestic violence. Those who need a car or bicycle to get to work are more likely to see their means of transport stolen and damaged. (CIVITAS study).

- The cost of insurance premiums is higher in more deprived areas.
- The fear of crime is higher in more deprived areas. Results from the Our Place survey undertaken in spring 2021, showed that 89% of residents in CW&C feel very or fairly safe during the day. After dark, this dropped to 63% of residents said they feel safe, however, there are significant differences across the Borough, with 49% saying they feel safe in Ellesmere Port (more deprived area), compared to 76% of rural residents.

Main Findings

HBAI (households below average income)

There is no single, universally accepted definition of poverty. The Joseph Rowntree Commission 'UK Poverty 2022' report states:

“Being in poverty is when your resources are well below what is enough to meet your minimum needs, including taking part in society.”

There are a range of ways of measuring poverty. The most commonly used are:

Households below average income (HBAI) (DWP):

- Relative poverty after housing costs (AHC) - people living in households with a household income below 60% of the median (middle) household income (adjusted for family size and composition)
- Absolute poverty after housing costs (AHC) - people living in households with an income below 60% of the median (inflation adjusted) household income in 2010/11.

The Social Metrics Commission's core measure of poverty:

- Low material resources and inescapable costs including housing costs. This measure looks beyond income as an indicator of poverty.

Income can be measured before or after housing costs are deducted, and poverty calculated based on these different definitions of income, however as housing costs can contribute to poverty, it is more common to use the after-housing costs (AHC) measure. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) UK Poverty 2022 report uses the relative HBAI (AHC) measure of poverty.

14.5 million people, 22% of individuals in the UK, were in relative poverty in 2020 (after housing costs). The poverty level has remained steady over the past few years.

The HBAI estimates are not published at local authority level. This is because the estimates are based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS) that has a sample size which is not large enough to produce robust estimates for local authorities.

Depth and duration

Poverty duration is a measure of how long a person spends in poverty. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) publish Income Dynamics statistics, which focus on persistent poverty (low income for three of the last four years). Key findings include:

Between 2015/2016 and 2018/2019, in the UK:

- 13% of all individuals were in persistent low income (poverty) after housing costs (AHC).
- 19% of children were in persistent low income (AHC).
- 11 % of working-age adults were in persistent low income (AHC).
- 11% of pensioners were in persistent low income (AHC).
- 51% of children who lived in non-working families were in persistent low income (AHC).
- Renters have higher rates of persistent low income than non-renters.

The Social Metrics Commission report 'Measuring Poverty 2020' states that:

- 7% of all people in the UK, live in families that are more than 50% below the poverty line. (The Commission's definition of deep poverty)
- This compares to 5% in 2000/01, deep poverty is an issue that has worsened over the last two decades.
- Just over half (55%) of those in deep poverty are also in persistent poverty; meaning that they have also been in poverty for at least two of the last three years.

There are no official statistics on poverty depth or duration at local authority level.

Deprivation

National context

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas, Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across England, based on seven domains of deprivation.

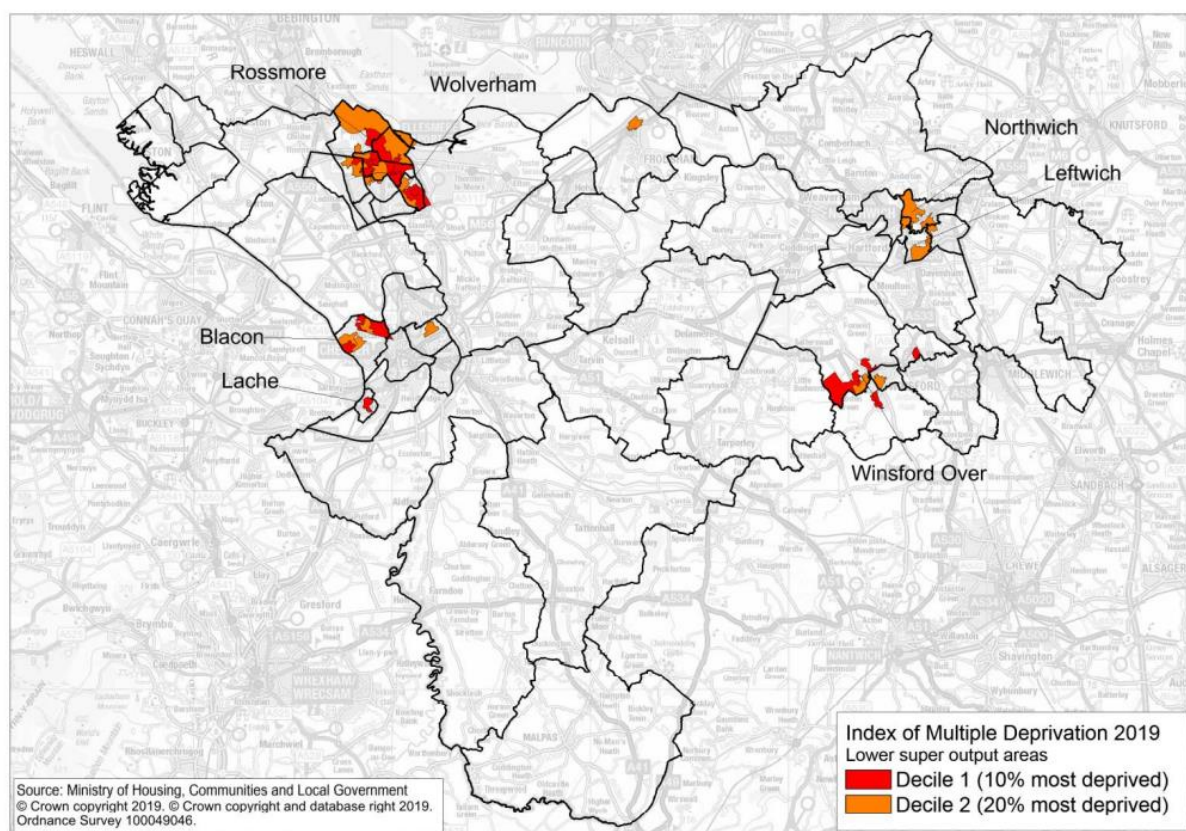
- Overall, 88% of neighbourhoods (LSOAs) in England that are in the most deprived decile according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD2019) were also the most deprived according to the IMD2015.
- Deprivation is dispersed across England. The majority of local authorities contain at least one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

Cheshire West and Chester has a less deprived population profile compared to England, however there are some areas of the borough experiencing relatively high deprivation. The borough ranks 183 out of 317 local authority districts in England in terms of deprivation (where 1 is the most deprived and 317 the least deprived)

There are pockets of deprivation across the borough, with over 24,000 residents living in 16 small neighbourhood areas (LSOAs) that rank in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England (decile 1). Two of these 16 neighbourhoods rank in the 2% most deprived areas in England. These neighbourhoods are in Lache and Winsford.

The highest levels of deprivation are found in the urban areas of Cheshire West and Chester, primarily within the City of Chester, and the towns of Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford.

Map 1: Map of LSOAs in Cheshire West and Chester in the top 10% and 20% most deprived



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

In Cheshire West and Chester more neighbourhoods and residents are affected by health deprivation and disability than any other type of deprivation. There are almost 80,000 people living in LSOAs which rank within the top 20% deprived in terms of health. In these areas, quality of life may be impaired through poor physical and mental health, and there is increased risk of premature death.

In Cheshire West and Chester, 10.8% of the population was income-deprived in 2019. The Office for National Statistics visualisation 'Exploring local income deprivation' is a useful tool for analysing local income deprivation.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families:

- In 2020, over 11% (6,600) of children aged 0-15 in Cheshire West and Chester lived in the top 10% deprived areas in England in terms of income deprivation affecting children.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) measures the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation:

- In 2020, 2% (1,600) of people aged 60+ in Cheshire West and Chester lived in the top 10% deprived areas in England in terms of income deprivation affecting older people.

Further information on the Index of Multiple Deprivation is available on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment website.

2011 Census data for the LSOAs in Cheshire West and Chester that rank in the top 20% deprived in England, shows a greater proportion of single person, lone parent and non-working households and a greater prevalence of poor health than across the borough as a whole:

- 41% of households in the most deprived areas had no adults in employment (compared to 34% across the whole of Cheshire West and Chester)
- 34% of households had at least one person in the household with a long-term health problem or disability (26% in CW&C)
- Almost half the households in the most deprived areas were single person or lone parent households. 35% were single person households (30% in CW&C), 13% were lone parent families with dependent children, (6% in CW&C)
- Almost one in ten people (9%) living in the most deprived areas at the time of the 2011 Census were in bad or very bad health (6% in CW&C), with almost a quarter (24%) with a long-term health problem or disability (19% in CW&C)
- 9% of residents aged 16 to 74, living in the most deprived areas were economically inactive due to being sick or disabled and 3% were long term unemployed (4% and 1% respectively in CW&C)

The 2021 Census results due to be published in 2022 will provide a very useful update to these statistics.

Social mobility

Social mobility is about ensuring everyone has a fair chance to reach their full potential and that opportunities for a good quality of life are open to all.

Social Mobility Commission reports - State of the nation 2017

The Social Mobility Commission's 'State of the nation 2017' report assesses the progress that Great Britain has made towards improving social mobility. The social mobility index is at the heart of the report and ranks all English local authorities in terms of their social mobility prospects for someone from a disadvantaged background. The report identifies hotspots (top 20% of local authorities with the best social mobility) and coldspots (worst 20% for social mobility), using a range of 16 indicators for four life stages from early years through to working lives.

It finds that there is a stark social mobility geographical divide within the nation. London dominates the index in terms of hotspots (best areas for social mobility). Generally, the northern regions have fairly low performance across the indicators.

Overall, Cheshire West and Chester ranks 248 out of 324 local authorities in terms of overall social mobility, so within the worst 25% of local authorities for social mobility. The Cheshire West and Chester rank varies across the four different life stages. The worst rank, (303) is for youth social mobility where the borough is amongst the worst 10% of local authorities and identified as a coldspot for youth social mobility in the report.

The borough also scores below average for the early years and schools indicators. The best rank is for adulthood, where the borough is within the top third of local authorities.

Out of the total individual 16 indicators, the lowest ranks are for all five indicators that combine to make the overall youth life stage rank:

- Percentage of young people eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) that are not in education, employment or training (positive destination) after completing KS4 (rank = 273)
- Average points score per entry for young people eligible for FSM at age 15 taking A-level or equivalent qualifications (rank = 271)
- Percentage of young people eligible for FSM at age 15 achieving 2 or more A-levels or equivalent qualifications by the age of 19 (rank = 270)
- Percentage of young people eligible for FSM at age 15 entering higher education by the age of 19 (rank = 238)
- Percentage of young people eligible for FSM at age 15 entering higher education at a selective university (most selective third by UCAS tariff scores) by the age of 19 (rank = 230).

The long shadow of deprivation

The Social Mobility Commission's report 'The long shadow of deprivation – Differences in opportunities across England' uses a newly linked dataset to track the journey of all state-educated sons in England who were born between 1986 and 1988. The report follows them through school and into work and links education data with earnings data. The report finds where you grow up matters – the adult earnings of sons from disadvantaged families, and the difference in pay between sons from the most and the least disadvantaged families, vary a lot between local authorities in England. Across local authorities, education gaps between sons from poor and wealthy families explain, on average, around 80% of the gap in adult earnings between them.

Key findings from the Social Mobility Commission's report 'The long shadow of deprivation – Differences in opportunities across England' for Cheshire West and Chester:

The average earnings for the most deprived sons (at median age 28) was £13,900. This ranks in the worst 40% of local authorities. The best 20% of areas saw incomes of between £16,700 and £24,600.

Cheshire West and Chester was in the best 40% (quintile 2) of local authorities for:

- Pay gap (at age 28 between the most and least deprived sons at age 16)
- Pay gap conditional on education (pay gap at age 28 between the most and least deprived sons at age 16, with the same educational achievement)
- Education gap (education gaps between the most and least deprived sons at age 16)

In 2014, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published research into children in poverty growing up to be poor adults. Key findings were:

- Children in poverty for longer periods suffer the worst outcomes and are at greatest risk of becoming poor adults.
- The key factor for child poverty is parental worklessness and low earnings. The other main factors include low parental qualifications, parental ill health, family instability and family size.
- There are a range of factors that increase the risk of a poor child growing up to be a poor adult. The most influential factor that increases the risk of a poor child becoming a poor adult is child educational attainment. Other main factors (all of which act to some extent through educational attainment) are low parental qualifications, parental ill health, child ill health, the home environment, children's non-cognitive skills and childhood poverty itself.

Poverty rates for children, working-age adults and pensioners

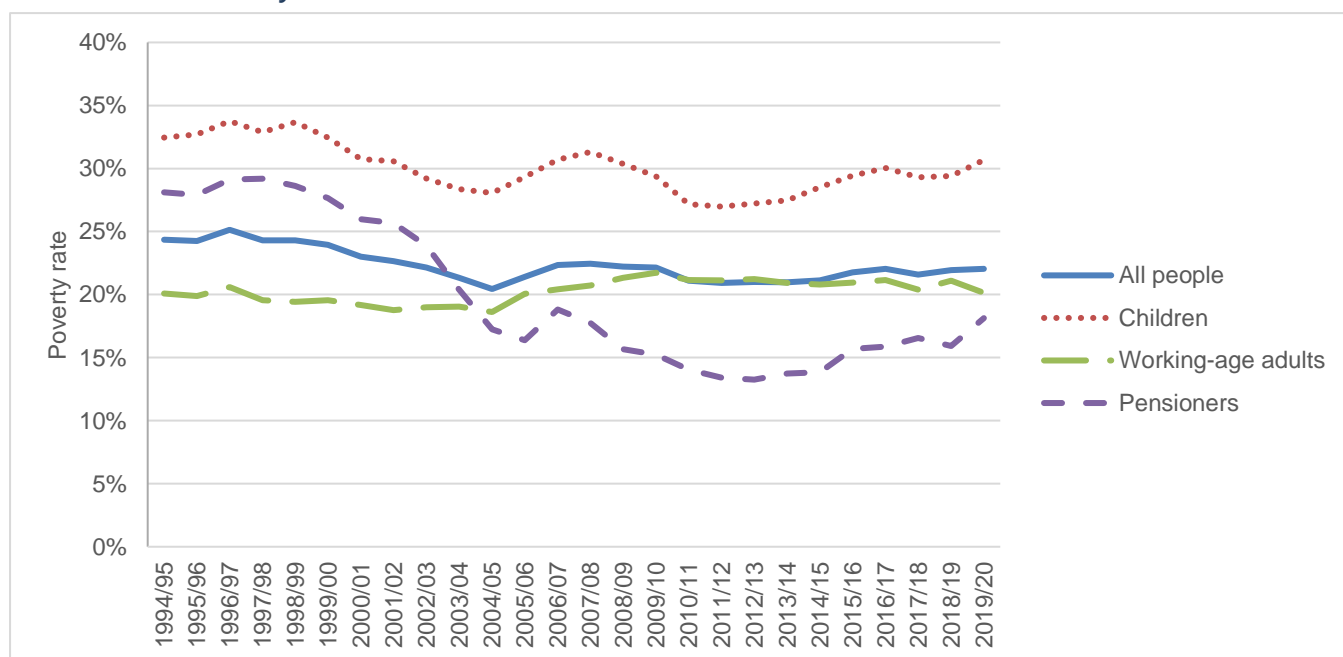
The JRF UK Poverty 2022 report finds poverty rates are highest for children, with almost a third (31%) of children in the UK living in poverty in 2019/20 (HBAI, relative low income (AHC)). Nationally child poverty rates have been increasing since 2013/14.

Working-age adults make up around 60% of the UK population. 20% of working-age adults are living in poverty in 2019/20 (HBAI, relative low income (AHC)). This rate has remained fairly constant over the last ten years. Working-age adults and children in working families are much less likely to be in relative low income than those in families where no-one is in work. However, around two-thirds (68%) of working age adults in poverty live in a household where at least one adult is in work.

18% of pensioners are living in poverty in the UK. This rate has been generally increasing since 2013/14. 26% of single pensioners are living in poverty compared to 13% of pensioners living in a couple.

The current (HBAI) poverty data covers the pre-pandemic year of 2019/20. During the pandemic there will have been large and possibly temporary shifts in this data. It will take time for this data to feed through into published HBAI data and reports. JRF UK Poverty 2022 report points out that caution will be need interpreting the next few official poverty statistics.

Chart 1: UK Poverty Rates



Source: Households below average income, 2019/20, DWP

The HBAI estimates are not available at local authority level however, there are two other sources of data which provide insight to child poverty levels at a local level:

- End Child Poverty estimates child poverty (after housing costs) (at a local authority and parliamentary consistency level)
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) – Children in low-income families: local area statistics (before housing costs) (at local authority, parliamentary constituency and ward level)

The methodology used for each of the estimates is different. One measure is ‘after housing costs’ and the other is ‘before housing costs’ and so the data cannot be directly compared, however both sources help build an evidenced picture of child poverty in an area.

End child poverty estimates of child poverty (after housing costs)

Research published by End Child Poverty (and carried out by Loughborough University) estimates the proportion of children who are in poverty (relative low income, AHC) by local authority in 2019/20. This data gives insight into the baseline child poverty rates in the borough before the impact of Covid.

A quarter (24.7%) of children in Cheshire West and Chester were in poverty in 2019/20 after housing costs. This is lower than the national rate (31%). As the tables below show, the increase in the percentage of children in poverty in the Borough has generally been slower in recent years than in the North West and the UK.

Table 1: Number of Children in Poverty (after housing costs) 2015-2020

Local Authority	Number of children in poverty					
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Cheshire West & Chester	14,209	13,749	15,178	15,997	14,696	15,234
North West	387,454	405,751	428,065	445,068	436,071	433,389
UK	3,373,176	3,491,657	3,635,473	3,700,659	3,735,078	3,782,097

Source: End Child Poverty Report 2020

Table 2: Percentage of Children in Poverty (after housing costs) 2015-2020

Local Authority	Percentage of children in poverty					
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Cheshire West and Chester	24.4%	23.5%	25.6%	26.5%	24.0%	24.7%
North West	29%	30%	31%	32%	31%	31%
UK	29%	29%	30%	30%	30%	31%

Source: End Child Poverty Report 2020

There is variation in the levels of child poverty at the parliamentary constituency level across the borough. The highest child poverty rate is in the Ellesmere Port and Neston constituency, with 27.5% of children living in poverty in 2019/20. This constituency has also seen the highest increase in the rate of child poverty from 2014/15 to 2019/20.

DWP Children in low-income families: local area statistics (before housing costs)

The DWP statistics complement and are a companion release to the Household Below Average Income (HBAI) statistics which provide national but not local estimates. They provide a useful insight into where child poverty rates are highest as this data is available at ward level and it also includes some insight into types of families with children living in poverty. However, because the data is a before housing costs measure, it is not necessarily a fair reflection of the poverty rates (as housing costs are an important factor in levels of poverty). Like the HBAI release, these local level statistics are available as relative and absolute measures. A reminder of these two measures can be found on page 21.

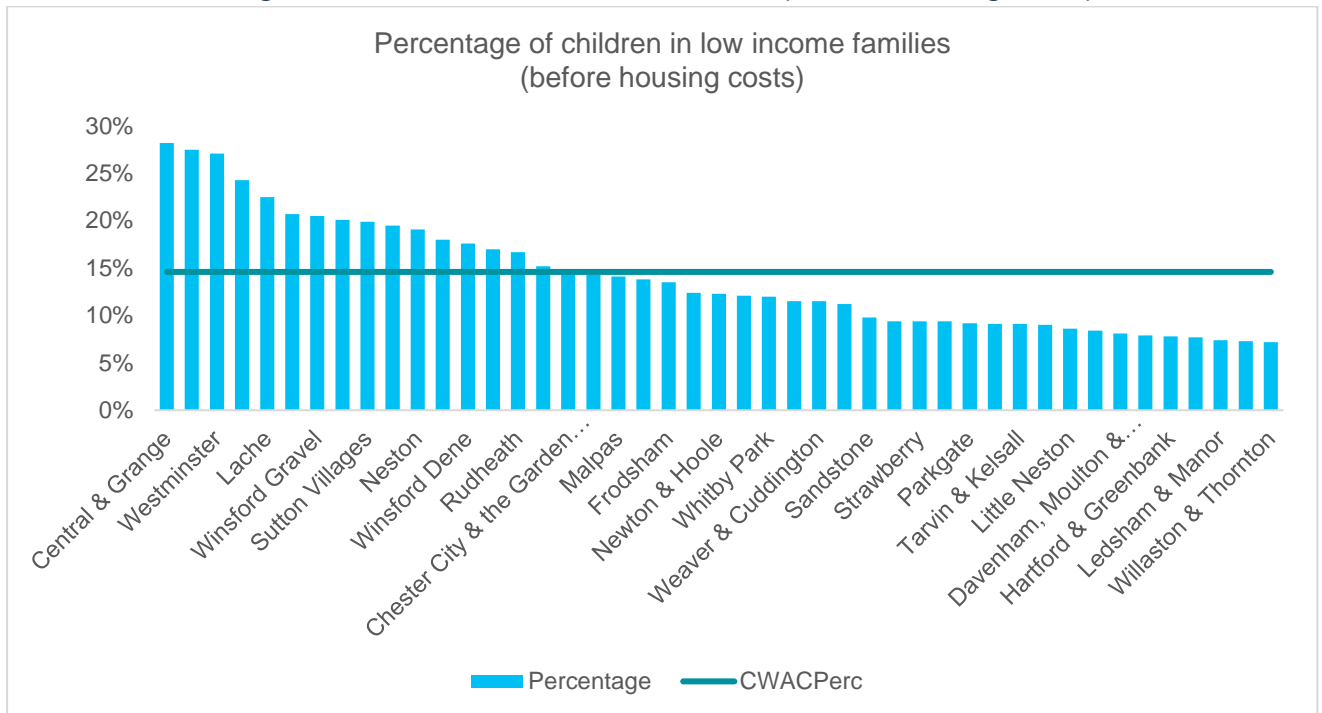
Number and percentage of children (aged 0-15) living in Relative low-income families:

In 2019/20, 14.6% (9,003) of children were living in a low-income family (relative low income, before housing costs) in Cheshire West and Chester (19.1% in UK). Of these:

- 47% were living in a lone parent family
- 68% were living in a working family
- 32% were living in a non-working family.

As the chart below shows, in 2019/20, in eight wards in Cheshire West and Chester at least 1 in 5 children were living in low-income households (relative low income, before housing costs). Poverty levels after housing costs would be expected to be higher than this. The three wards with the highest rates are all in Ellesmere Port; Central & Grange (28%), Wolverham (28%) and Westminster (27%).

Chart 2: Percentage of children in low-income families (before housing costs)



Source: DWP Children living in low-income families May 2020

Number and percentage of children (aged 0-15) living in Absolute low-income families:

- In 2019/20, 11.8% (7,267) of children were living in a low-income family (before housing costs) in Cheshire West and Chester (15.5% in UK).

There are no official statistics on poverty rates of working age people or older people at local authority level. However, other areas in this report such as the work and deprivation sections help provide data and insight for these age groups.

Money

The Covid-19 Marmot review: Build back fairer states:

“An adequate income is essential for achieving the living standards and control of one’s life that are needed for good health and wellbeing... living in poverty is stressful, impacting mental health and making it much more difficult to initiate and maintain healthy behaviours”

Household Income

One of the most common ways to measure poverty is to use the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) (after housing costs measure) published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The HBAI also includes a before housing costs measure which can be used as a low-income indicator. The median household income before housing costs in HBAI 2019/20 is £547 per week. 60% of the median household income is £328 per week (£17,056 per annum).

The HBAI data shows overall UK poverty rates are higher for children than working age adults or pensioners.

Official statistics show that in 2020, 7,267 children aged 0-15 lived-in low-income families in Cheshire West and Chester, 12% of children in the Borough.

The JRF publish an annual report on the Minimum Income Standard (MIS). This is a benchmark of income adequacy based on what the public think people need for a minimum socially acceptable living standard in the UK.

Table 3: The minimum income standard (MIS) required for a decent standard of living (by household type)

Household type	Minimum Income needed (2021)
Lone pensioner	£12,800
Pensioner couple	£22,900
Single adult	£20,400
Couple adult (no children)	£27,300
Couple adult (1 child aged 2-4, 1 child at primary school)	£34,200
Lone parent (1 child aged 2-4, 1 child at primary school)	£27,500

Note: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source: *Minimum Income Calculator*

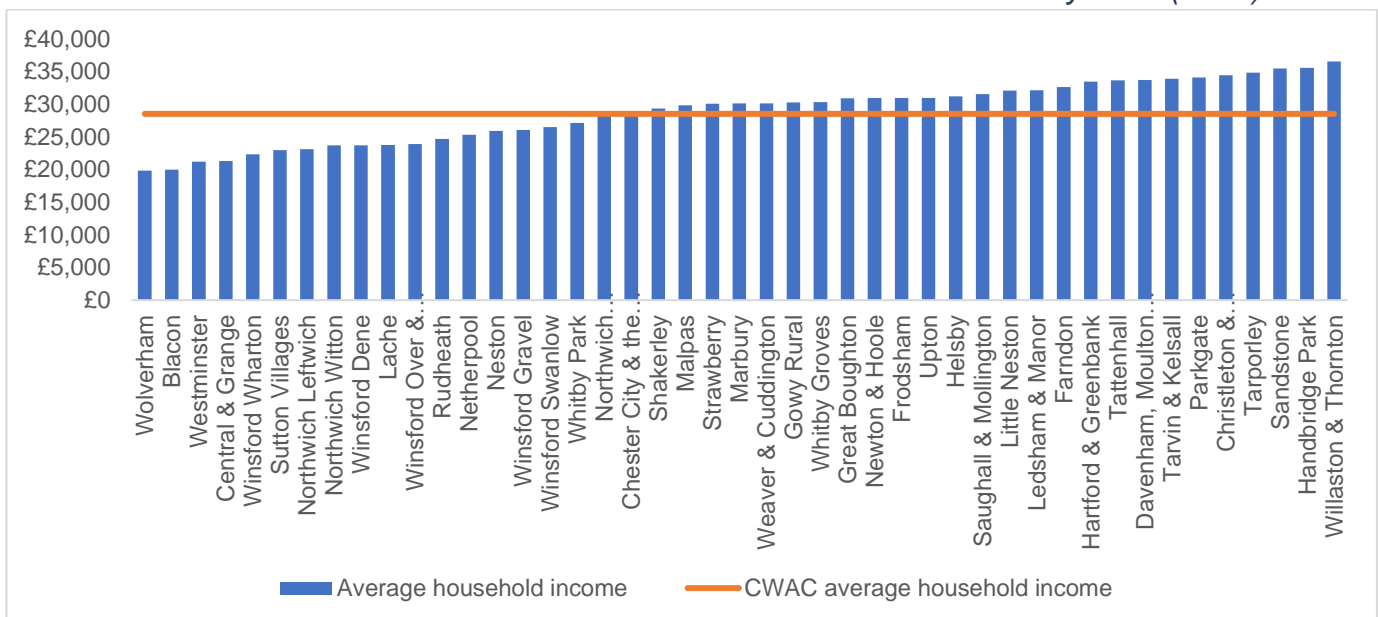
The JRF reports that a single person needs to earn £20,400 a year to reach a minimum acceptable standard of living in 2021, but the National Living Wage (NLW) is not high enough to allow them to reach this standard, as it pays around £17,400 for someone working full-time. Further key points include:

- In 2019/20, more than a quarter (27.7%) of all individuals in the UK were living in households with incomes below MIS.
- A quarter (25.7%) of children are living in households with very low incomes (below 75% of MIS).
- Around two in five (43.3%) lone parents working full-time are below MIS.
- More than a quarter (27.1%) of single pensioners are below MIS. This has increased from 15.8% in 2008/9.

Average household income in Cheshire West and Chester

The average household income in Cheshire West and Chester in 2021 is £28,500, the same as England. Average household income ranges from £19,800 in Wolverham ward to £36,600 in Willaston & Thornton ward.

Chart 3: Median Household income in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2021)



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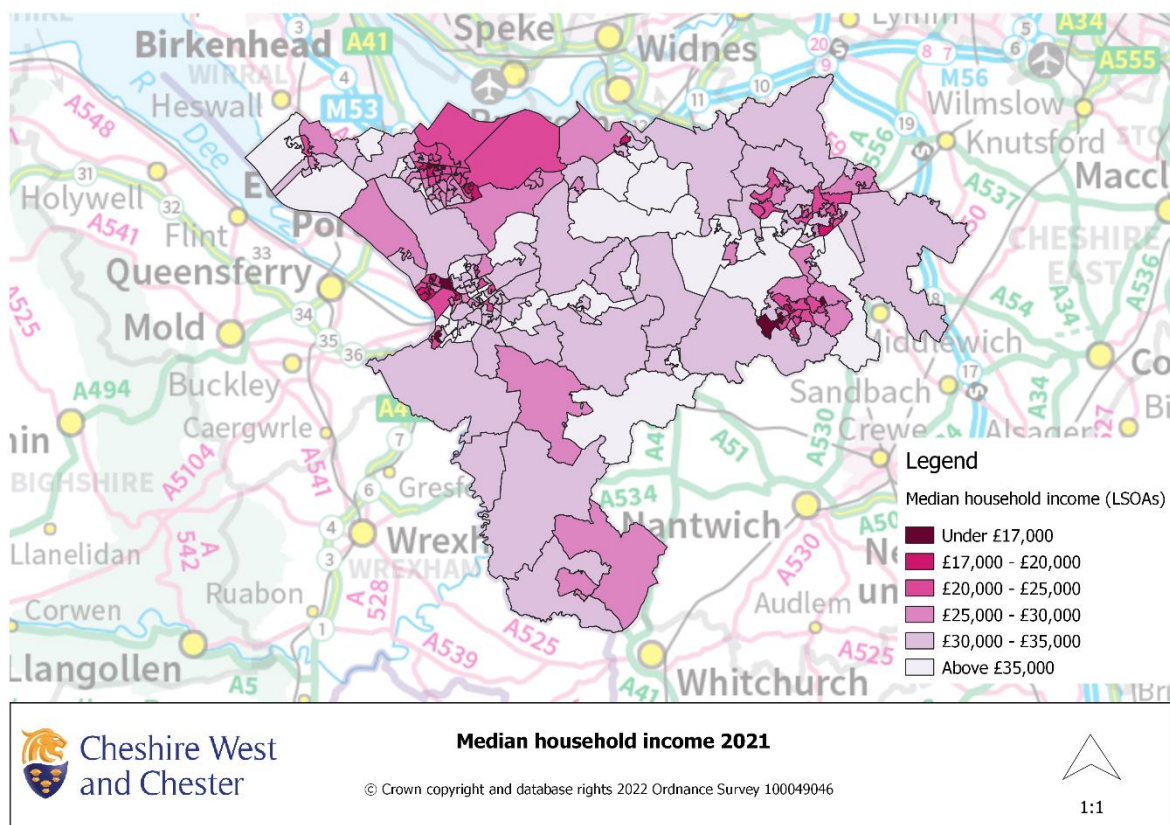
Key findings from analysis of the Paycheck income data shows:

- 15% of households in Cheshire West and Chester have an income of less than £15,000 (15% in England)

- More than a quarter (28%) have an income of less than £20,000 (28% in England)
- More than half (52%) of the households in the neighbourhoods in the most deprived areas (top 20% deprived LSOAs in England, IMD 2019) have an income of less than £20,000.

The following map highlights the neighbourhoods (LSOAs) with the lowest average household income in Cheshire West and Chester. In the main these are found in some urban areas of Chester, Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford. Five LSOAs have an average (median) household income below £17,000. (HBAI before housing costs measure which can be used as a low-income (poverty BHC) indicator is £17,100 per annum). These LSOAs are wholly or partly within the following wards: Blacon, Lache, Chester City & the Garden Quarter, Sutton Villages, Central and Grange, Winsford Wharton and Winsford Over and Verdin.

Map 2: Average household income in neighbourhoods (LSOAs) across Cheshire West and Chester



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Further analysis of the data at an even more granular geographical level (Output Areas with an average population of 300) has identified further small geographical hotspots of low income. 16 out of the 45 wards in Cheshire West and Chester

contain at least one small geographical hotspot where average household income is below £17,000.

Wards with these small geographical hotspots are Blacon, Central & Grange, Chester City & the Garden Quarter, Frodsham, Great Boughton, Lache, Malpas, Marbury, Newton & Hoole, Northwich Leftwich, Sutton Villages, Westminster, Winsford Over & Verdin, Winsford Swanlow, Winsford Wharton and Wolverham.

Essential outgoings

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates in the financial year ending in 2020, the poorest 10% of households in Great Britain spent more than half (54%) of their average weekly expenditure (£298.90) on essentials such as housing (including electricity and gas), food and transport. In comparison, those in the richest 10%, spent 42% of their average weekly spend (£1,073.20) on the same essentials. Spending on gas and electricity is higher as a proportion of disposable income for those in the poorest 10% of households (7%) compared to those in the richest 10% of households (2%). ONS states that an increase in energy prices disproportionately impacts low-income households.

The Cheshire West and Chester Joint Strategic Needs Assessment includes a report on disposable household income across wards and neighbourhoods in Cheshire West and Chester. This report shows households in the four wards with the lowest incomes on average spend a higher proportion of their income on gas, electricity, oil and food than households in other wards.

The poverty premium

The Social Market Foundation (SMF) defines the poverty premium as *“the extra cost that households on low incomes incur when purchasing the same essential goods and services as households on higher incomes”*. Research suggests such premiums exist in a wide range of areas, including energy, insurance, and groceries. The SMF sets out how a ‘Headline annual poverty premium’ metric could be established and measured.

Bristol university estimates that on average, in 2019 low-income households incur £478 of extra costs through poverty premiums. The key contributors to these additional costs are area-based premiums for insurance (car and property), not switching to the best fuel tariffs and higher cost credit.

Debt

The Office for National Statistics reports 4% of households in Great Britain in April 2016 to March 2018 were identified as having problem debt; households in problem debt were more likely to rent their home (66% renting compared with 34% for all

households) and have an unemployed household head (6% compared with 1% overall).

Citizen's Advice research found that the pandemic and the restrictions put in place to control it, have had a dramatic impact on household finances. Many people have been made redundant, furloughed, become too ill to work or have taken time off to care for a loved one. Nearly 1 in 3 households have lost income due to COVID, meaning people are struggling to pay bills and are falling into debt.

The Resolution Foundation report 'Pandemic Pressures' found that the pandemic has made it more expensive to live on a low income. More than half of adults in families from the lowest income quintile have borrowed more to cover everyday costs since the pandemic began, while those that entered the crisis with low savings have been the most likely to have run those down during 2020.

'Dragged down by debt', a report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation study on debt revealed:

- 33% of low-income households are now in arrears with household bills which is triple the 11% estimated by a similar study prior to the pandemic.
- Four in ten working-age low-income households fell behind on bills during pandemic.
- 38% of low-income households have taken on new borrowing or increased their existing borrowing during the pandemic.

The JRF UK Poverty 2022 report found people in the poorest fifth of households are more likely to say that they are finding their existing debt a burden, with around half of people in the poorest fifth of households describing their debt in this way compared with just under one in three overall.

Housing

Households below average income can be measured before or after housing costs have been deducted (BHC or AHC). Poverty levels are generally higher after housing costs as households at the lower end of the income distribution tend to spend a larger share of their income on housing than higher-income households.

Table 4 - Relative low income (UK) 2019/20 before and after housing costs

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
Children	23%	31%
Working-age adults	16%	20%
Pensioners	19%	18%
Poverty – all individuals	18%	22%

Source: Households Below Average Income, 2019/20, Department for Work and Pensions

Tenure

People living in social rented or private rented accommodation are more likely to be in relative low income after housing costs (AHC) than people who own their home. 46% of people in the social rented housing and 33% of people in private rented housing were in poverty in 2019/20 (relative low income (AHC)). 56% of children living in social rented housing and 47% of children living in private rented housing were in poverty.

The JRF UK Poverty 2022 report finds housing costs are a key driver of poverty for many people who rent, with almost half of private renters and a third of social renters pulled into poverty by housing costs.

The number of people in poverty is roughly evenly split across social, private rented and owner-occupied (partly reflecting the total number of people in each tenure of housing, with owner occupiers making up the largest proportion of tenure overall).

Table 5 - Relative low income AHC (UK) 2019/20 by tenure

Tenure	Poverty rate (all people)	Poverty rate (children)
Social rented	46%	56%
Private rented	33%	47%
Own outright	15%	19%
Buying with a mortgage	11%	14%

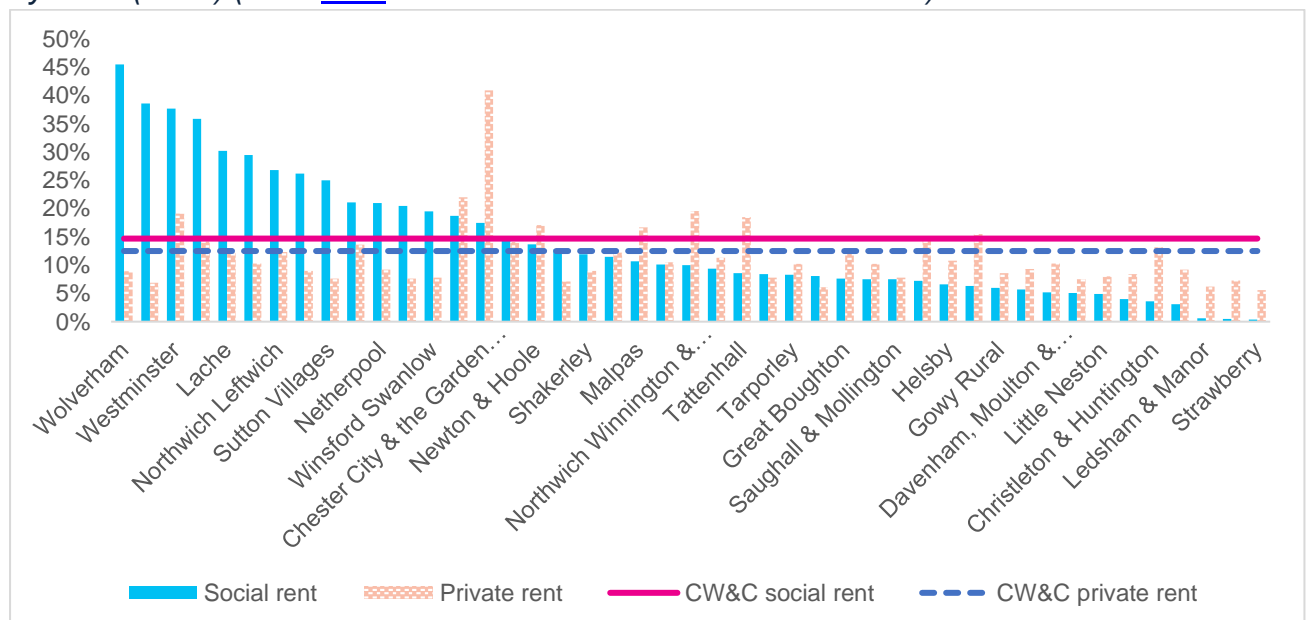
Source: Households Below Average Income, 2019/20, Department for Work and Pensions

The JRF UK Poverty 2022 report also highlights:

- The high cost of housing for private renters remains a key driver of poverty as the number of households in this tenure has grown. On average low income renting households pay higher housing costs and spend a higher proportion of income on housing costs.
- Over the last 10 years poverty rates have remained relatively constant for social and private renters but trended slightly upwards for those in accommodation owned outright, reflecting the increasing rate of pensioner poverty rather than this tenure type becoming less affordable.
- The prospect of rising interest rates (inflation is forecasted to rise above 3% from late 2021 until April 2023 by the Office for Budget Responsibility - OBR) directly feeding into mortgage costs and rents.

At the time of the 2011 Census, 70.8% of households in Cheshire West and Chester owned the accommodation they were living in (either outright, with a mortgage or shared ownership), 14.7% socially rented and 12.5% privately rented. The ownership rate was higher than the England rate (63.3%) and renting rates in Cheshire West and Chester were lower than in England (where 17.7% rented social housing and 16.8% rented private housing). However, as the chart below shows, tenure varied across the wards in Cheshire West and Chester.

Chart 4: Percentage of households renting property in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2011) (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)

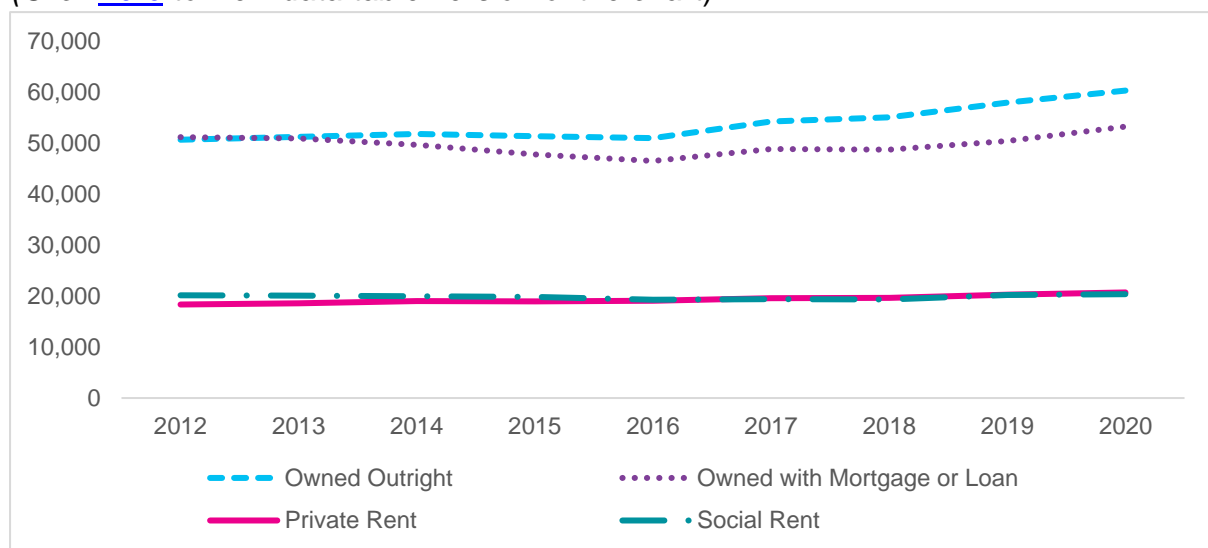


Source: Census 2011, Office for National Statistics

Households in Cheshire West and Chester that live in the most deprived areas (LSOAs in the top 20% deprived in England, IMD 2019) were more likely to socially rent their accommodation (44.6%) and less likely to privately rent (10.6%) than all households in Cheshire West and Chester (2011 Census).

The most recent estimates from the Office for National Statistics show that since the 2011 Census, the most common and fastest growing tenure in Cheshire West and Chester is 'owned outright'. The same trend is true for England. It is estimated that in 2020, 15.0% of households were in social rented housing and 15.4% in private rented housing in Cheshire West and Chester.

Chart 5: Estimated tenure of households in Cheshire West and Chester 2012-2020
(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: Subnational estimates of dwellings and households by tenure, England:2020, Office for National Statistics

In 2021, there were 7,434 households on the Cheshire West and Chester housing waiting list (as of 31 March 2021), this compares to 7,603 as at March 2020. Rent for social housing has been fairly constant in recent years across Cheshire West and Chester. In 2020-21 the average local authority weekly (social and affordable) rent in Cheshire West and Chester was £78.83, compared to £88.27 in England. The average weekly rent for private registered providers in 2021 was £93.29 (compared to £96.60 in England). Private providers rent is higher than local authority rent in Cheshire West and Chester and in England.

Chart 6: Average weekly rent for local authority social and affordable housing
 (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)

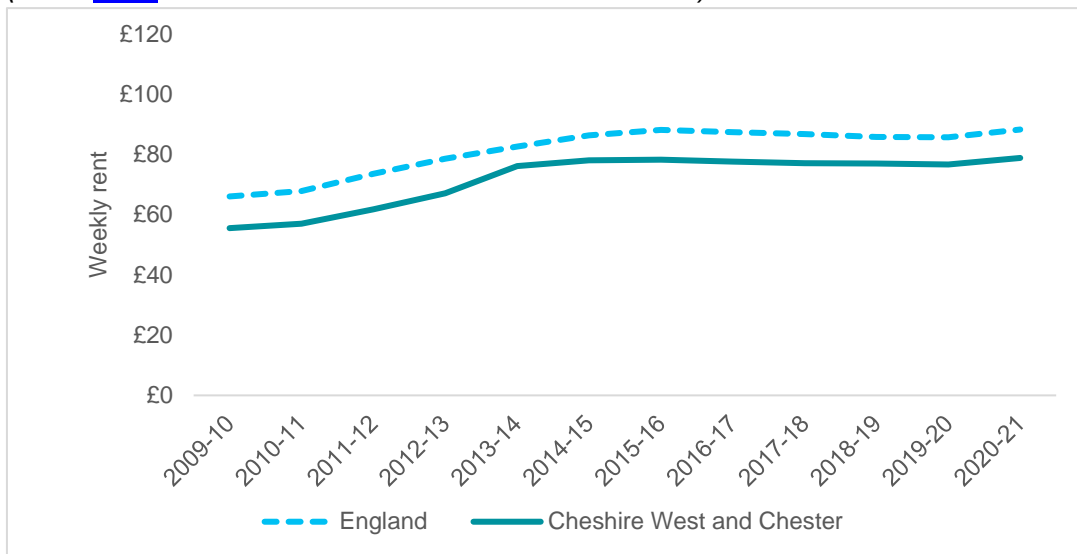
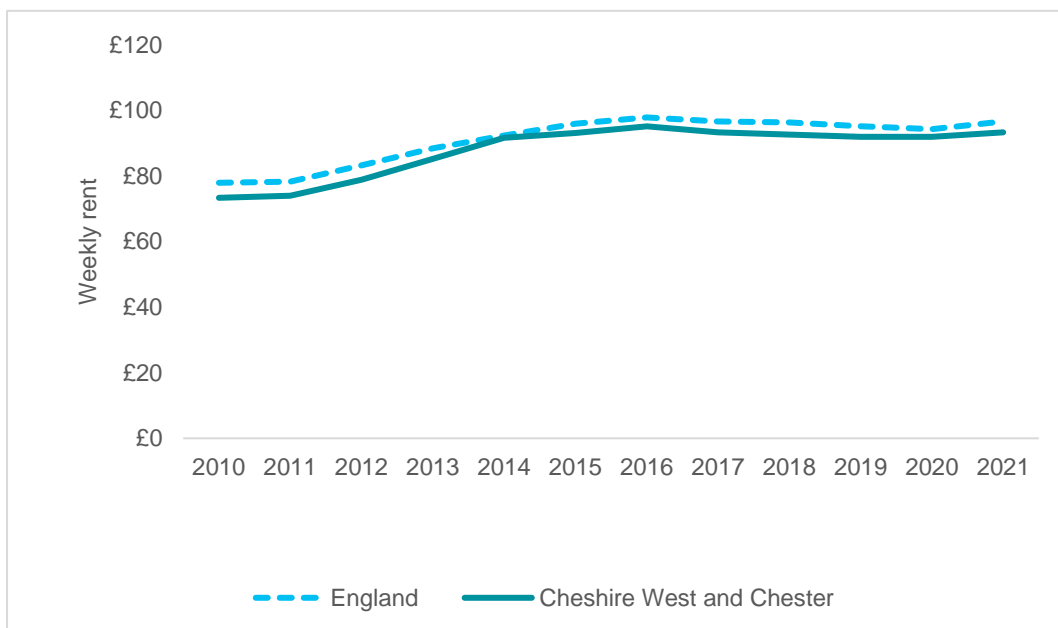


Chart 7: Average weekly rent for private provider social and affordable housing
 (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies (table 702 & 704), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Private rents are increasing. This data is not available over the same time period as social housing rents. The available data shows in the year October 2020 to September 2021 average private rental market statistics for a room were £419 per month (around £97.70 per week) in Cheshire West and Chester compared to £438 (around £101.10 per week) in England. These had increased from £396 in Cheshire West and Chester and £417 in England two years previously (October 2018 to September 2019).

Council tax support

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation includes Council Tax costs as one of the costs that can contribute to poverty. For the period July 2021 to September 2021, there were 21,279 council tax support claimants in Cheshire West and Chester (8,409 were pensioners and 12,870 were working age claimants).

Housing conditions

The JRF UK Poverty 2022 report states that households in poverty in England are only slightly more likely to live in poor quality or 'non-decent' homes than those not in poverty:

- Private renters are most likely to be living in non-decent homes (24%) (the rate of non-decency is the same regardless of the poverty rate)
- 17% of owner-occupied households are in non-decent accommodation, increasing to 20% of those in poverty
- 12% of social rented households are in non-decent housing (with the same rate for those in poverty and not in poverty).

In 2020/21, 400 households on the Cheshire West and Chester housing waiting list were occupying insanitary or overcrowded housing or otherwise living in unsatisfactory housing conditions.

Nationally, renting households in poverty are more likely to experience overcrowding (8% compared to 6% of those not in poverty) (JRF UK Poverty 2022 report)

At the time of the 2011 Census, around 2.3% (3,226) of households in Cheshire West and Chester lived in overcrowded conditions (2011 Census bedroom occupancy rating of -1 or less) compared to 4.6% of households in England. Households in Cheshire West and Chester that live in the most deprived areas (LSOAs in the top 20% deprived in England, IMD 2019) were more likely to be overcrowded 4.5%, double the overcrowding rate of all households in Cheshire West and Chester.

Nationally, households living in poverty are slightly more likely to have energy efficient homes (38% have a standard assessment procedure (SAP) energy efficiency rating (EER) of A-C compared to 34% of those not in poverty). (JRF UK Poverty 2022 report)

Fuel poverty

Fuel poverty statistics are based on the new fuel poverty metric, Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) set out in the Sustainable Warmth strategy published in February 2021. The new measure, Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE), finds a household to be fuel poor if it:

- Has a residual income below the poverty line (after accounting for required fuel costs), and
- Lives in a home that has an energy efficiency rating below Band C

In 2019, an estimated 13.4% of households were in fuel poverty in England under the LILEE metric, down from 15.0% in 2018 (3.52 million).

The average fuel poverty gap for England in 2019 (the reduction in fuel costs needed for a household to not be in fuel poverty) was estimated at £216, down by 4.0% since 2018 (£225).

The main reason for the reduction in fuel poor households in 2019 was an increase in energy efficiency with 47.8% of low-income homes achieving an energy efficiency rating of band C or higher, up from 41.4% in 2018.

Within Cheshire West and Chester 12% (17,869) of households are fuel poor. (Sub regional fuel poverty England 2021 (2019 data))

In ten neighbourhoods (out of the 212 LSOAs in CW&C) more than one in five households are fuel poor. Most of these neighbourhoods are in the top 20% deprived areas (2019 IMD). Four out of the ten areas are partly or wholly in Central & Grange ward.

The Office for National Statistics reports that as the cost of living rises for households across Great Britain, growing energy prices will disproportionately impact on those on lower incomes as they spend a higher proportion of their income on utility bills and are more likely to be in fuel poverty.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

The Covid-19 Marmot review: Build back fairer highlighted the links between those living in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) (where parts of the property are occupied by five or more separate households), overcrowding, damp living conditions and those struggling on low incomes. The report identifies a higher risk for those living within such conditions from losing their life to COVID and from suffering the effects of Long COVID, thereby further impacting on individuals' ability to succeed at school or recover financially through well-paid work.

There are an estimated 1,130 houses of multiple occupation in Cheshire West and Chester (Table F (condition of dwelling stock), Local authority housing statistics data returns for 2020 to 2021, DLUHC).

Homelessness

Crisis, the national charity for homeless people states: *“A shortage of homes and high rents both cause homelessness. These issues also make it difficult for people to move on from homelessness into a stable home.”*

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions commissioned Alma Economics to undertake a feasibility study on the causes of homelessness and rough sleeping. Their report found that a combination of structural and individual factors can lead to homelessness, important causes include affordability of housing, relationship breakdown and poverty.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) official statistics release on statutory homelessness shows between April to June 2021, 66,040 households in England were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty, up 1.0% from April to June 2020.

The DLUHC’s official statistics show between July to September 2021, 398 households in Cheshire West and Chester were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty.

Food

The National Food Strategy: Part One highlights the linkages between food and health;

“Eating well in childhood is the very foundation stone of equality of opportunity. It is essential for both physical and mental growth. A poorly nourished child will struggle to concentrate at school. An obese child is extremely likely to become an obese adult, with the lifetime of health problems that entails. It is a peculiarity of the modern food system that the poorest sectors of society are more likely to suffer from both hunger and obesity.”

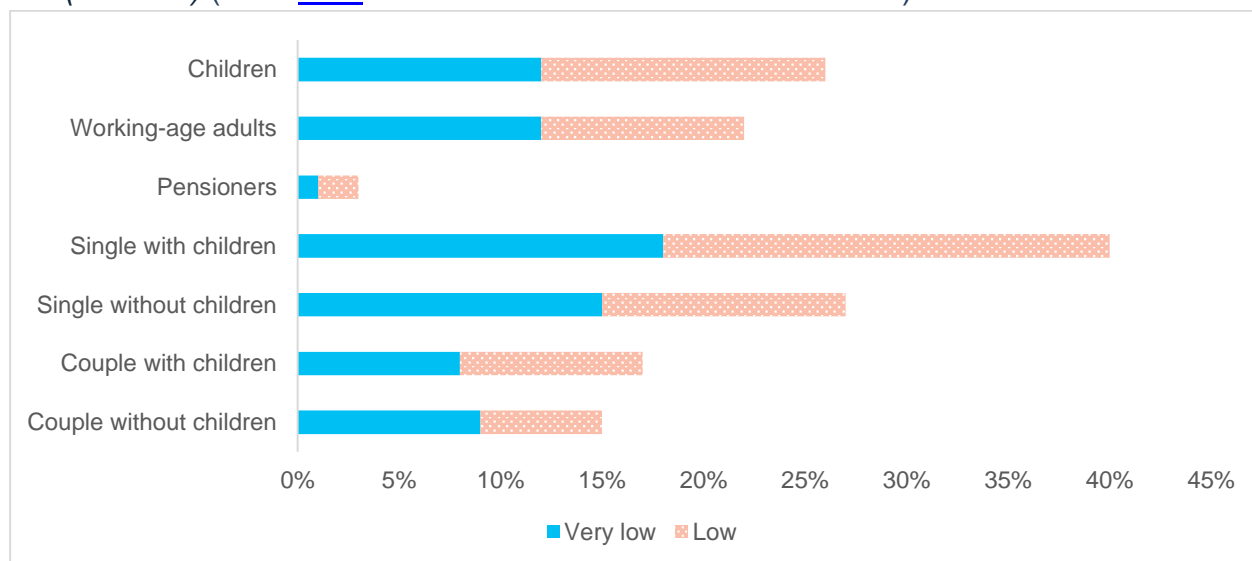
The Food Foundation states that 3.6% (1 million) adults reported that they or someone in their household have had to go a whole day without eating in the past month (January 2022) because they couldn’t afford or access food. They also found the poorest fifth of UK households would need to spend 40% of their disposable income on food to meet Eatwell Guide costs. This compares to just 7% for the richest fifth.

Food security

Food security is about being able to afford enough food and being able to afford food that is nutritious – and meets dietary needs for an active and healthy life. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation reports that one in five (20%) people living in poverty are food insecure compared to 4% of individuals not living in poverty, this highlights the strong relationship between food insecurity and poverty.

43% of households in receipt of Universal Credit are food insecure. Children in poverty are the most likely to be suffering from food insecurity, with around 26% of children in poverty in the UK living in a household with low or very low food security, compared to 22% of working-age adults and 3% of pensioners in 2019/20. Lone parent families with children in poverty are the household type most likely to suffer food insecurity (40%).

Chart 8: Food security for those in poverty by key ages groups and household types in the UK (2019/20) (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: The Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Feeding Britain reports that according to the University of Sheffield's research into local food insecurity of adults (Jan 2021), in Cheshire West and Chester it is estimated around:

- 3% of adults suffered from hunger (skipped food for a whole day or more in the previous month or indicated they were hungry but had not eaten because they could not afford or get access to food).
- 7% struggled to access food.
- 9% worried about not having enough food.

Foodbanks

Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, foodbanks in the Trussell Trust's UK wide network distributed 2.5 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis, a 33% increase on the previous year. 980,000 of these went to children. Nationally, the number of emergency food parcels distributed has more than doubled compared to five years ago.

In 2020/21, there were 22,427 food parcels distributed to Cheshire West and Chester residents (8,814 of these were to children). This was an increase of 36% from the 16,494 distributed in 2019/20.

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 5.4% in the 12 months to December 2021. Price rises for food were one of the contributors to this increase. The Office for National Statistics is undertaking work to transform their price statistics to enable production of an index to measure how inflation and cost of living increases are affecting different types of households. This work reflects the level of interest in cost of living and inflation for example the concerns raised by food poverty activist Jack Monroe highlighting the rising price costs of essential food items for low-income households and how official inflation measures underestimate the impact of price increases for the poorest and most vulnerable.

The Resolution Foundation report 'Pandemic Pressures' found the cost of certain items (most obviously food) has risen for many during the pandemic: promotions have been reduced and cheaper items are harder to obtain. Many families have been forced to use more proximate but expensive stores to avoid public transport or to get groceries delivered, while charity shops have been harder to access.

Health

Life expectancy

Life expectancy follows the social gradient – the more deprived the area the shorter the life expectancy. This gradient has become steeper; inequalities in life expectancy have increased. Among women in the most deprived 10 percent of areas, life expectancy fell between 2010-12 and 2016-18. (Marmot - Fair society, healthy lives: Strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2010.)

The Marmot review: 10 years on report highlights that:

- people can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health
- improvements to life expectancy have stalled, and declined for the poorest 10% of women
- the health gap has grown between wealthy and deprived areas

Place matters – living in a deprived area of the North East is worse for your health than living in a similarly deprived area in London, to the extent that life expectancy is nearly five years less.

Good health is vital for prosperity, allowing people to play an active role at work and in their communities. Improvements in life expectancy stalled in the decade before the pandemic and there are wide inequalities in health within and between local areas in the UK. (The Health Foundation 2021)

Locally a similar picture can be seen. Health inequalities have persisted with significantly lower life expectancy in our more deprived areas. The inequality gap for men has decreased and remains wider than for women (9.8 years v 7.8 years). The inequality gap has decreased for women. (PHE fingertips Inequality in life expectancy at birth 2018-2020)

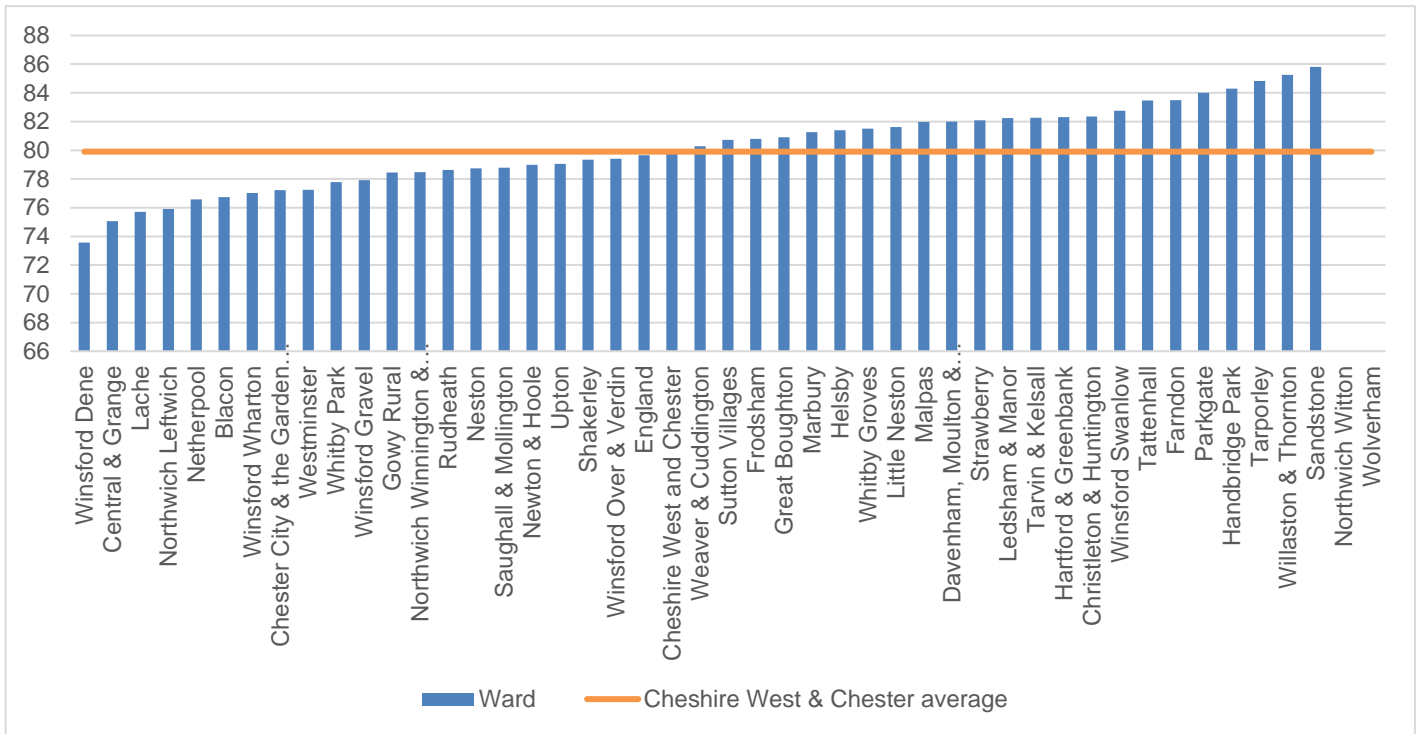
For the 3-year period 2018-2020 the life expectancy estimates at birth for Cheshire West and Chester were slightly higher than the England average for both men and women; Male 79.7 years (England 79.4), Female 83.4 years (England 83.1 years) (PHE fingertips life expectancy at birth 2018-2020)

When you look at the life expectancy at ward level you can see many areas with significantly lower life expectancy for both male and female, with these concentrated in the most deprived areas.

For male life expectancy 20 of the 45 wards have rates below the borough average, with Winsford Dene, Central & Grange, Lache, Northwich Leftwich, Netherpool & Blacon significantly lower than the borough average.

Chart 9: Life expectancy in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (male) (2018-2020)

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)

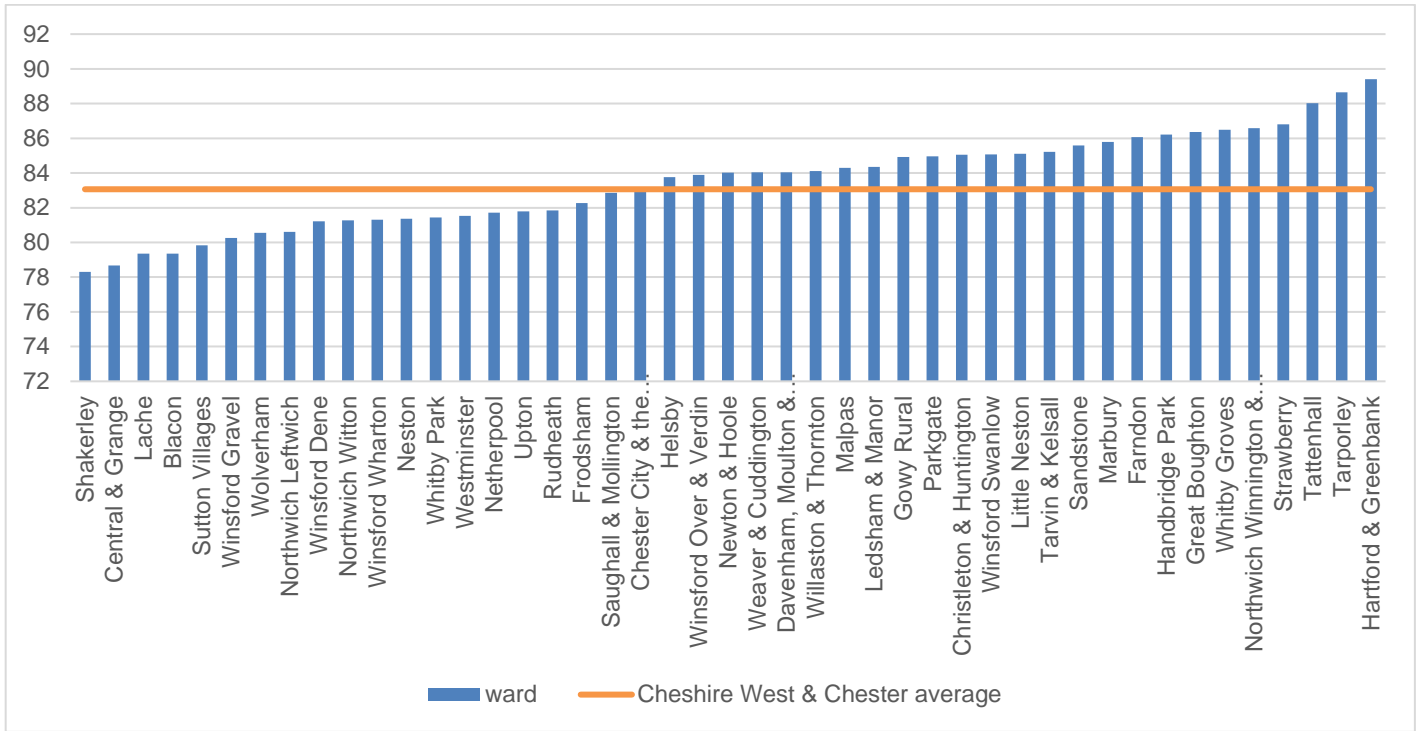


Source: PHE fingertips: Life expectancy at birth male

Note that there is insufficient data for the wards of Northwich Witton and Wolverham

For female life expectancy 18 of the 45 wards have rates below the borough average, with Shakerley, Central and Grange, Lache, Blacon, Sutton Village and Winsford Gravel significantly lower than the borough average.

Chart 10: Life expectancy in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (female) (2018-2020)
 (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)

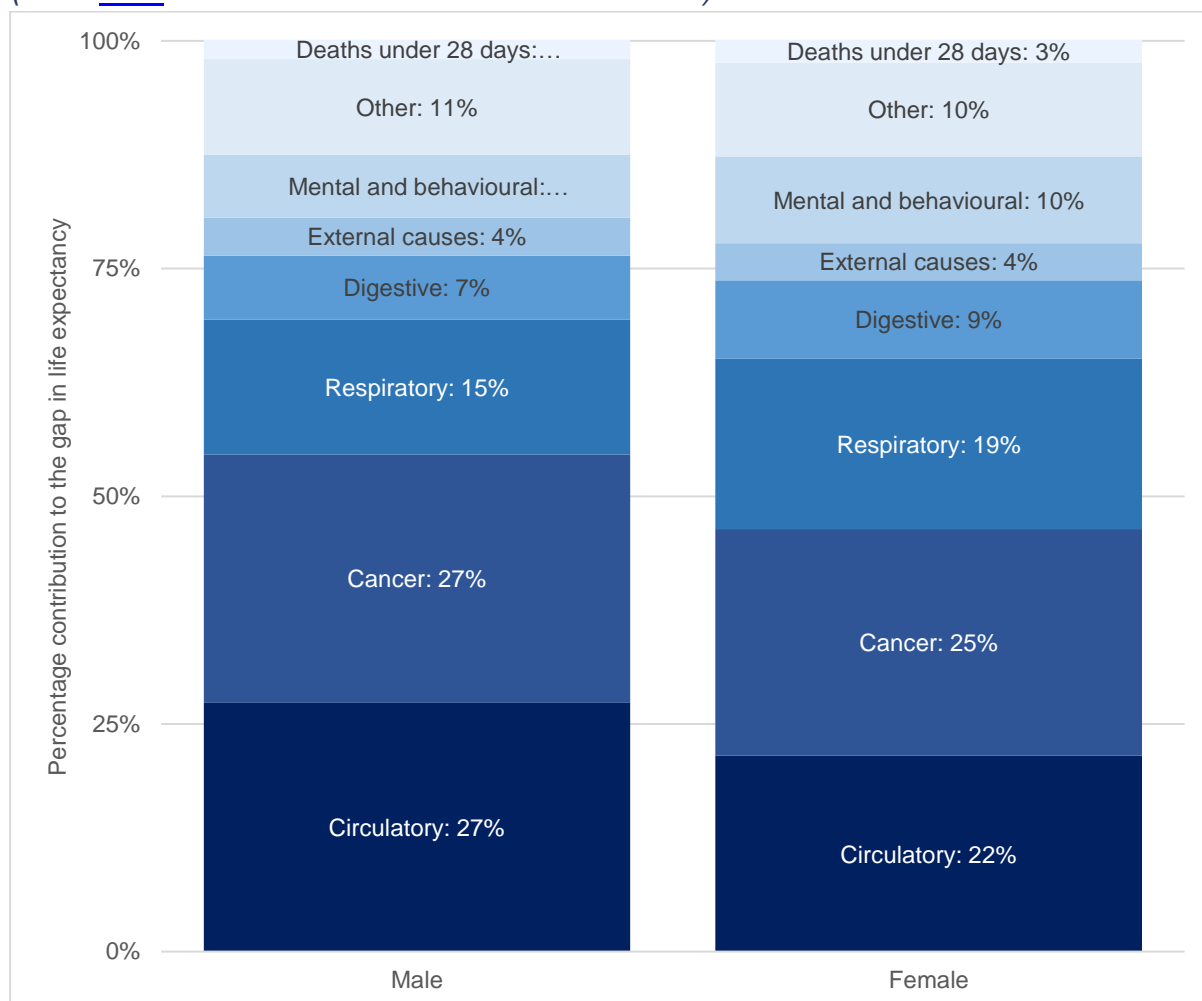


Source: PHE fingertips: Life expectancy at birth female

The inequality gap often widens due to mortality rates falling more slowly in deprived areas compared to less deprived areas. However, rates have increased for a number of diseases in our more deprived areas to widen the inequality gap. These include lung cancer, liver disease and, in recent years, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and coronary heart disease (CHD) for women. (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) -Life expectancy and mortality rates 2018)

Chart 11 shows that cancer and heart disease are the key diseases that contribute to inequalities for both men and women in Cheshire West and Chester. CHD deaths make the biggest difference for men and lung cancer for women.

Chart 11: Breakdown of the life expectancy gap between the most deprived quintile and the least deprived quintile in Cheshire West and Chester, by broad causes of death (2018)
 (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: PHE segment tool <https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/segment-tool/>

Living with long term illness

Long-term conditions are one of the major causes of poor quality of life in England. More than 50 per cent of people with a long-term condition see their health as a barrier to the type or amount of work that they can do, rising to more than 80 per cent when someone has three or more conditions. This means that, on top of the direct impact on health status, long-term conditions also have an indirect impact on wellbeing, given the importance of being in good-quality work for an individual's physical and mental health. (The Kings Fund – Inequalities in long-term health conditions)

People in lower socio-economic groups are more likely to have long-term health conditions, and these conditions tend to be more severe than those experienced by people in higher socio-economic groups. Deprivation also increases the likelihood of having more than one

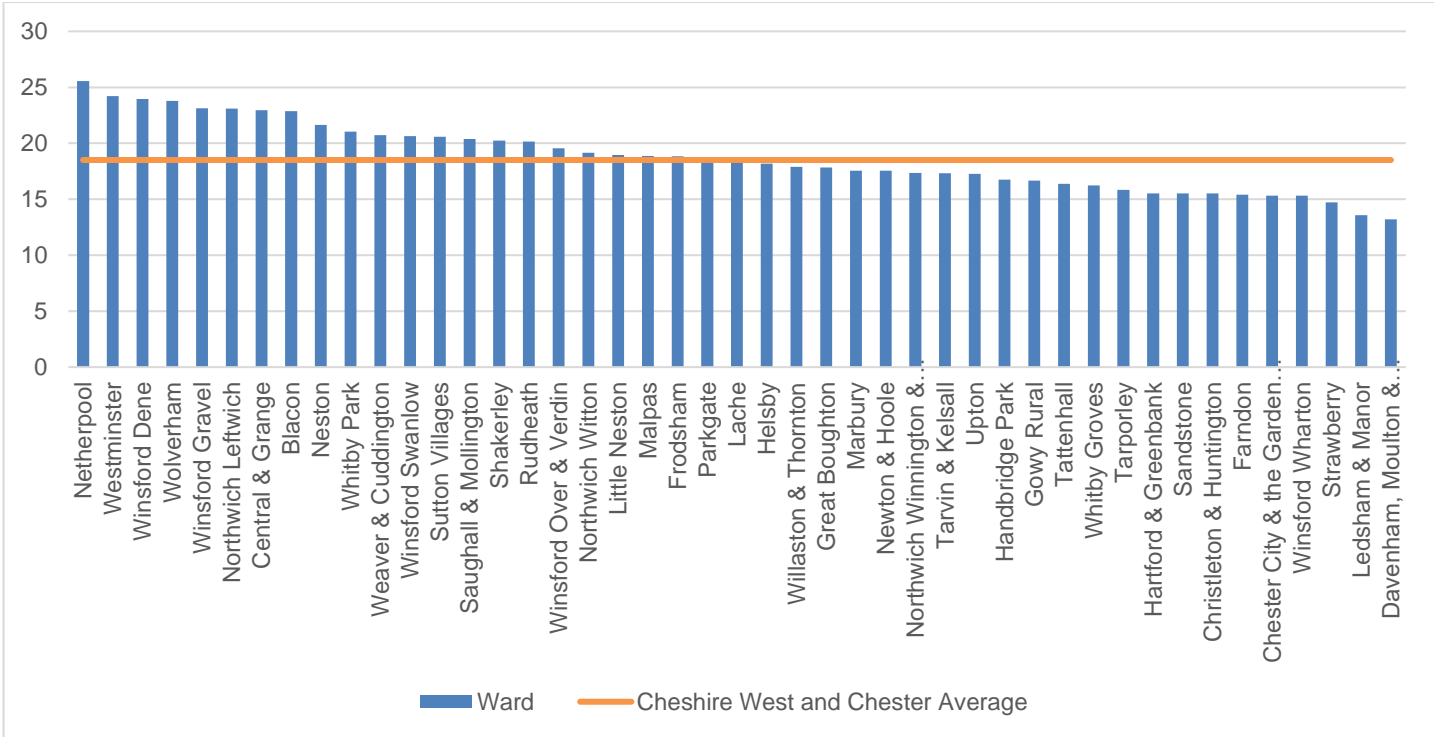
long-term condition at the same time, and on average people in the most deprived fifth of the population develop multiple long-term conditions 10 years earlier than those in the least deprived fifth. (The Kings Fund – Inequalities in long-term health conditions)

The gradient in healthy life expectancy is steeper than that of life expectancy. It means that people in more deprived areas spend more of their shorter lives in ill-health than those in less deprived areas. (Marmot - Fair society, healthy lives: Strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2010).

A 2016 study by the Office of National Statistics looking at good health by IMD deciles highlighted, that 50 per cent of people in the most deprived areas reported poor health by age 55-59, over two decades earlier than those in the least deprived areas. At 60-64, 81% of people living in the least deprived areas report good health, compared with just 45% in the most deprived. For those living in the least deprived areas, this occurs 20–25 years later, at age 75–79 for women and 80–84 for men (The Health Foundation – (Proportion of population reporting good health by age and deprivation)

At ward level the percentage of people who report having a limiting long-term illness, is concentrated in some of most deprived areas. 20 of the 45 wards have rates above the borough average, including Netherpool, Westminster, Winsford Dene, Winsford Gravel, Northwich Leftwich, Central & Grange and Blacon.

Chart 12: Percentage of people who report having a limiting long-term illness in Cheshire West and Chester by Ward (2011) (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



PHE fingertips: Percentage of people who report having a limiting long-term illness

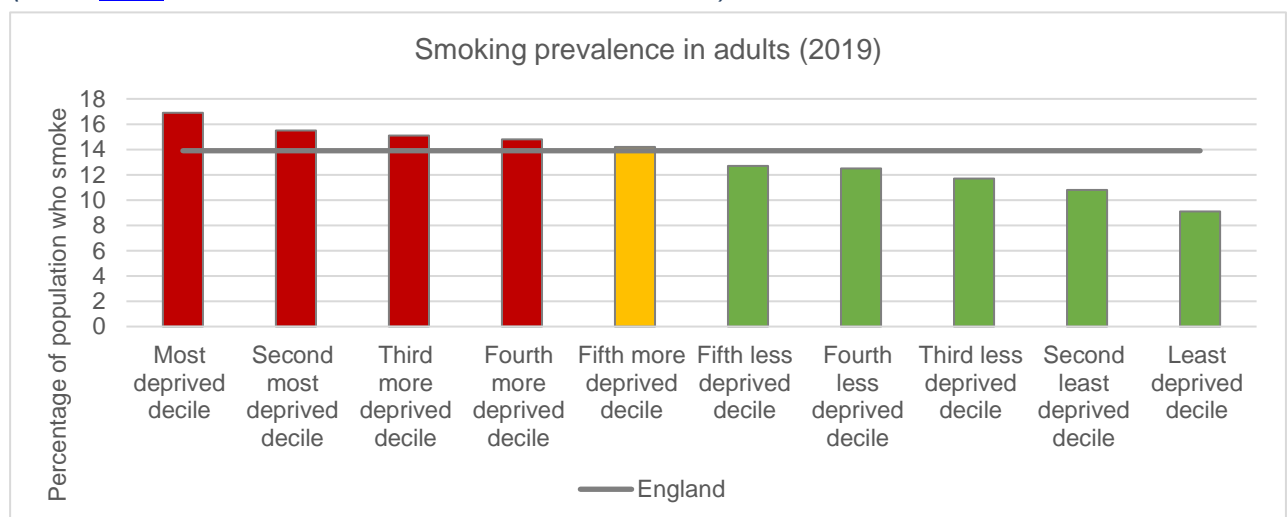
Pathways to health inequalities

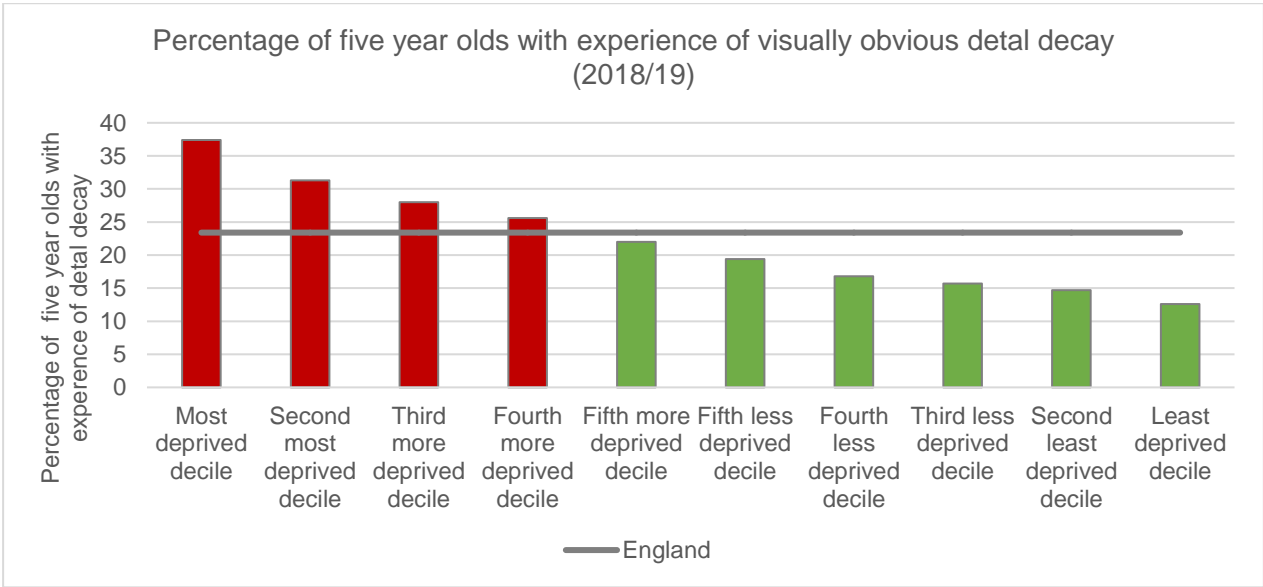
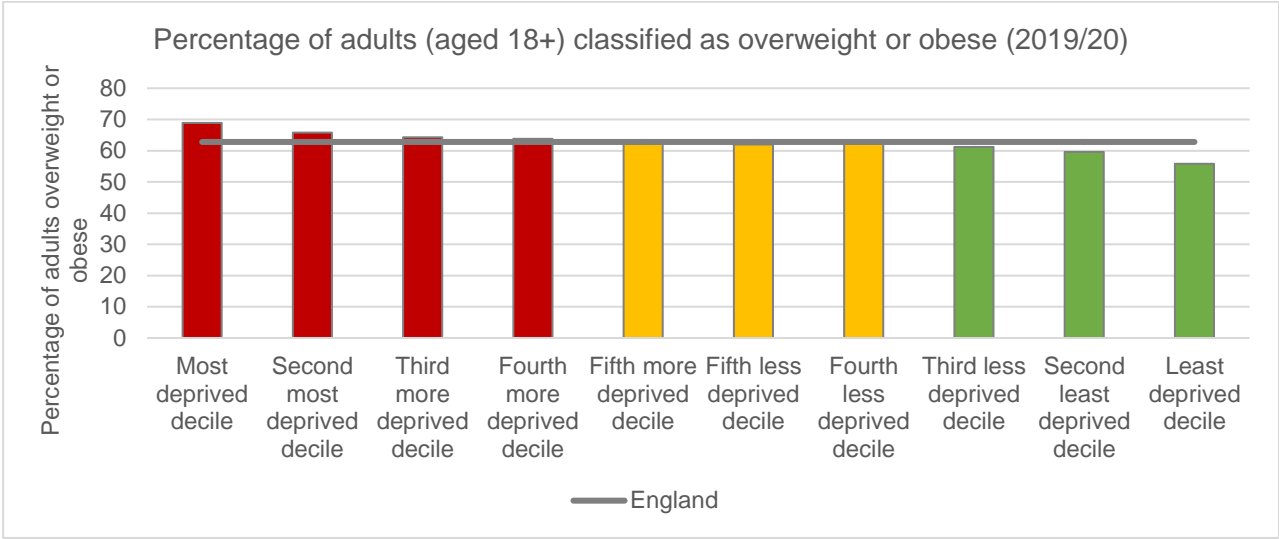
There are systematic differences across various measures of health for different population groups in England. Public Health England's 2020–25 strategy identifies smoking, poor diet, physical inactivity, and high alcohol consumption as the four principal behavioural risks to people's health in England today. Behavioural risks to health are more common in some parts of the population than in others. The distribution is patterned by measures of deprivation, income, gender and ethnicity, and risks are concentrated in the most disadvantaged groups. For example, smoking prevalence in the most deprived fifth of the population is 28 per cent, compared to 10 per cent in the least deprived fifth.

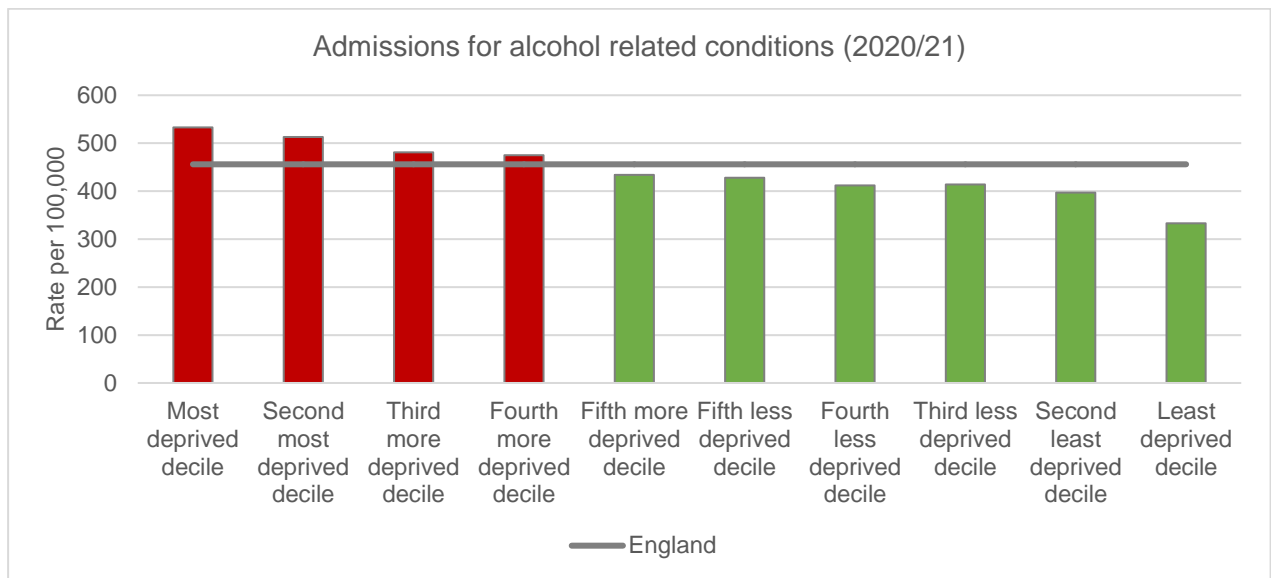
Chart 13 below shows a range of health indicators by deprivation decile including smoking, Alcohol admissions, adult weight, and dental decay. What can be clearly seen is that there is a clear gradient in prevalence by deprivation and that those in the most deprived areas are more likely to have health issues than those in the least deprived.

Chart 13: Health Measure by deprivation decile – England

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the charts)







■ *Worse than England*
 ■ *Statistically similar to England*
 ■ *Better than England*
 Source: PHE fingertips

Risky health behaviours tend to cluster together in certain population groups, with individuals in disadvantaged groups more likely to engage in more than one risky behaviour. The prevalence of multiple risky behaviours varies significantly by deprivation. In 2017, the proportion of adults with three or more behavioural risk factors was 27 per cent in the most deprived fifth, compared with 14 per cent in the least deprived fifth. (The Kings Fund - Pathways to health inequalities)

Health-related behaviours are shaped by cultural, social and material circumstances. For example, recent estimates suggest that households in the bottom fifth of income distribution may need to spend 42 per cent of their income, after housing costs, on food to follow Public Health England’s recommended diet. (The Kings Fund - Pathways to health inequalities)

Furthermore, evidence suggests that some people’s circumstances make it harder for them to move away from unhealthy behaviours, particularly if they are worse off in terms of a range of wider socio-economic factors such as debt, housing or poverty. This is compounded by differences in the environments in which people live, for example with deprived areas much more likely to have fast food outlets than less deprived areas.

Accessing services

New analysis has found that people living in the most deprived areas of England experience a worse quality of NHS care and poorer health outcomes than people living in the least deprived areas. These include spending longer in A&E and having a worse experience of making a GP appointment.

The research, undertaken by Quality Watch, a joint Nuffield Trust and Health Foundation programme, has looked at 23 measures of healthcare quality to see how these are affected by deprivation. In every single indicator looked at, care is worse for people experiencing the greatest deprivation.

Using NHS and the Index of Multiple Deprivation data, the researchers found that for 11 out of the 23 measures, the inequality gap was widening.

The study compared indicators measuring the quality of NHS care for the 10% of people living in the most deprived areas and the 10% of people living in the least deprived areas of England to see how the results differ.

The study produced an inequality score that is comparable across different performance measures and over time. A positive score means that the most deprived areas are doing worse, and the closer to 1 the score is, the greater the inequality between the least and most deprived.

The Quality Watch report noted that people who live in the most deprived areas have worse access to, experience of and outcomes in their care.

More detail on the individual indicators can be found here

https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/public/files/2020-01/quality_inequality/v2/#aAndEWaitingTimes

In 2019 research undertaken by the Kings Fund and Healthwatch England highlighted that people living in the most deprived areas in England were 1.8 times more likely to experience a wait of over one year for hospital care compared with people from the most affluent. Seven per cent of patients on waiting lists in the most deprived areas of the country have been waiting a year or more for treatment compared with 4% of those in the least deprived.

With a record 5.6 million people across England currently waiting for hospital treatment, the analysis also shows that waiting lists are growing more quickly in more-deprived areas. From April 2020 to July 2021 (latest available data), waiting lists have, on average, grown by 55 per cent in the most-deprived parts of England compared to 36 per cent in the least-deprived areas.

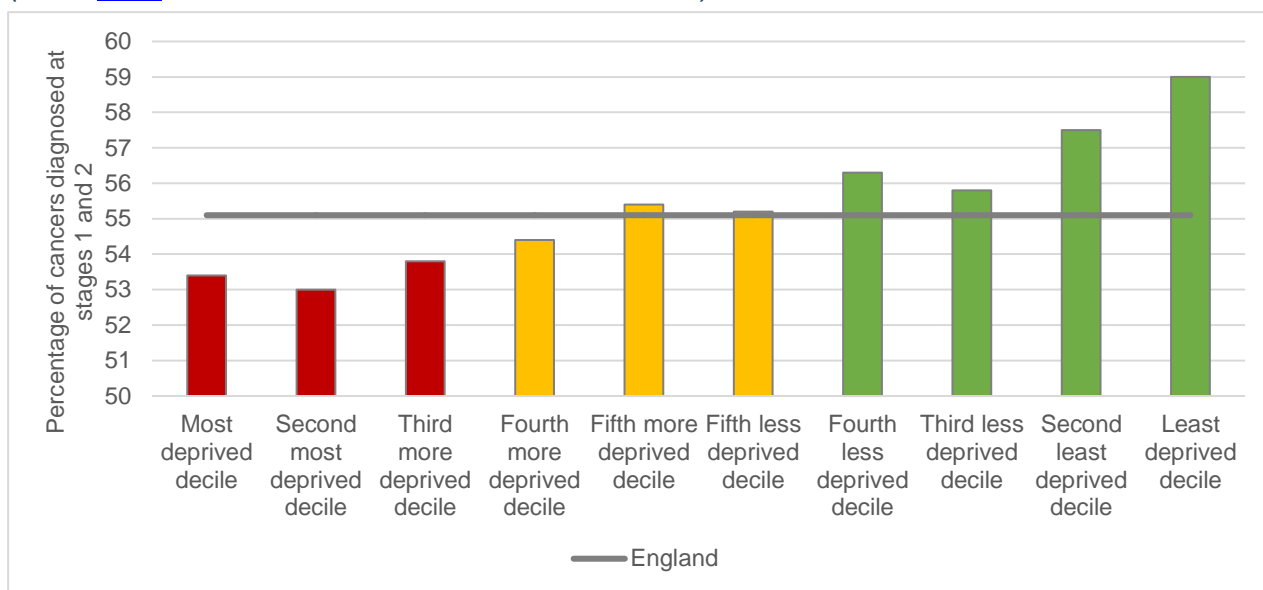
The MacMillan Trust, also found that people living with cancer in the most socio-economically deprived areas:

- are 20% more likely to have their cancer diagnosed at a late stage
- receive only half the number of referrals to early-stage clinical trials
- face almost 25% more emergency admissions in the last year of life compared to people in the least deprived areas.

National data on the early diagnosis of cancer also shows an inverse gradient when looking at early diagnosis by IMD decile. The table below highlights that 53.4% of those living in the most deprived areas receive an early diagnosis compared to 59% for the less deprived.

Chart 14: Early diagnosis of cancer in England by deprivation deciles (2019)

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



■ Worse than England
 ■ Statistically similar to England
 ■ Better than England

Source: PHE fingertips

Early years

Low birth weight is an indicator of poor population health, and there is an individual risk of infant mortality and poor health into adulthood. Low birth weight babies are those who weigh below 2500g at birth.

For the pooled three years of 2018-20 Cheshire West and Chester experienced low birth rate of 7.9 per cent of live births, higher than the 2020 single year figure for England which was 6.8%. (ONS – Live Births)

At children's centre level the lowest percentage of low birth weights in 2018-20 was seen in Chester Victoria (5.5%) while the highest, in Blacon, was nearly double (11.7%).

Today nearly a third of children aged 2 to 15 are overweight or obese and younger generations are becoming obese at earlier ages and staying obese for longer. Reducing obesity levels will save lives as obesity doubles the risk of dying prematurely. (Childhood obesity: a plan for action - GOV.UK)

The burden is falling hardest on those children from low-income backgrounds. Obesity rates are highest for children from the most deprived areas, and this is getting worse. Children aged 5 and from the poorest income groups are twice as likely to be obese compared to their most well-off counterparts and by age 11 they are three times as likely. (Childhood obesity: a plan for action - GOV.UK)

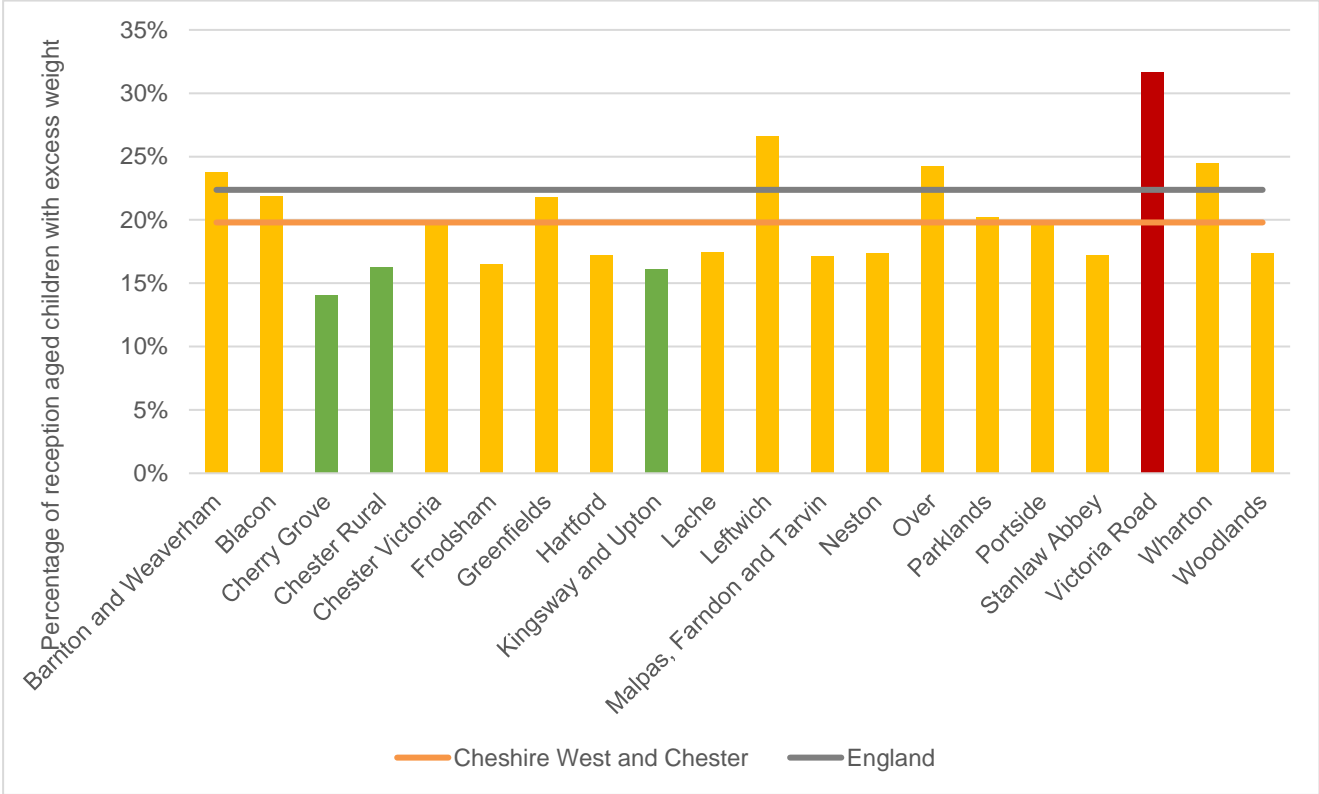
In 2017/18 levels of excess weight in reception children in Cheshire West and Chester were significantly lower than the England average. The Victoria Road Children Centre footprint was the only area with a significantly higher rate of excess weight in reception children compared to the England average.

Looking at the levels of excess weight in reception children over time (using three-year pooled data) the largest reduction is seen in Lache. Only three footprints record increases, these were Blacon, Victoria Road and Barnton and Weaverham.

In the same period 2017/18 the children's centre footprint of Portside had significantly higher rates of excess weight in year six children compared to the England average.

Chart 15: Excess weight prevalence in reception children in Cheshire West and Chester by children's centre footprint (2017/18)

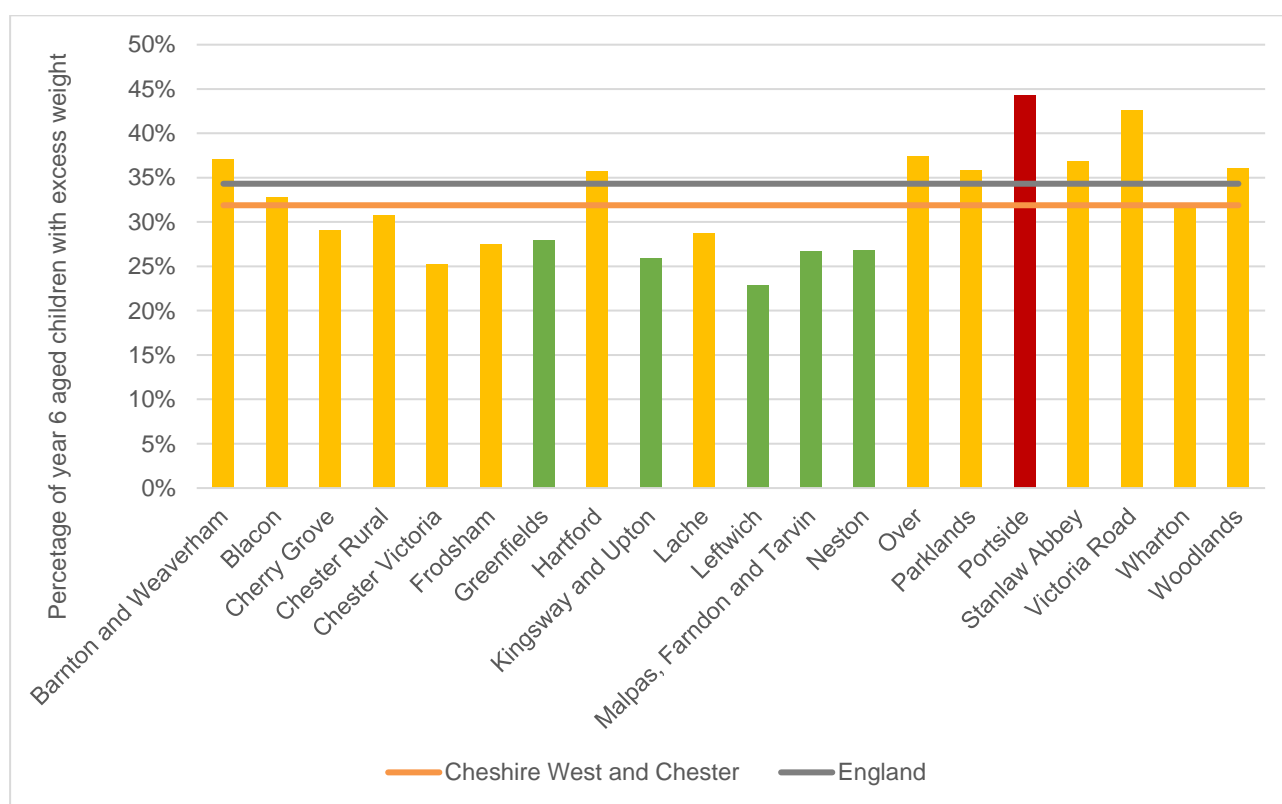
(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



■ Worse than England
 ■ Statistically similar to England
 ■ Better than England
 Source: National Child Measurement Program

Chart 16: Excess weight prevalence in year six children in Cheshire West and Chester by children's centre footprint (2017/18)

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



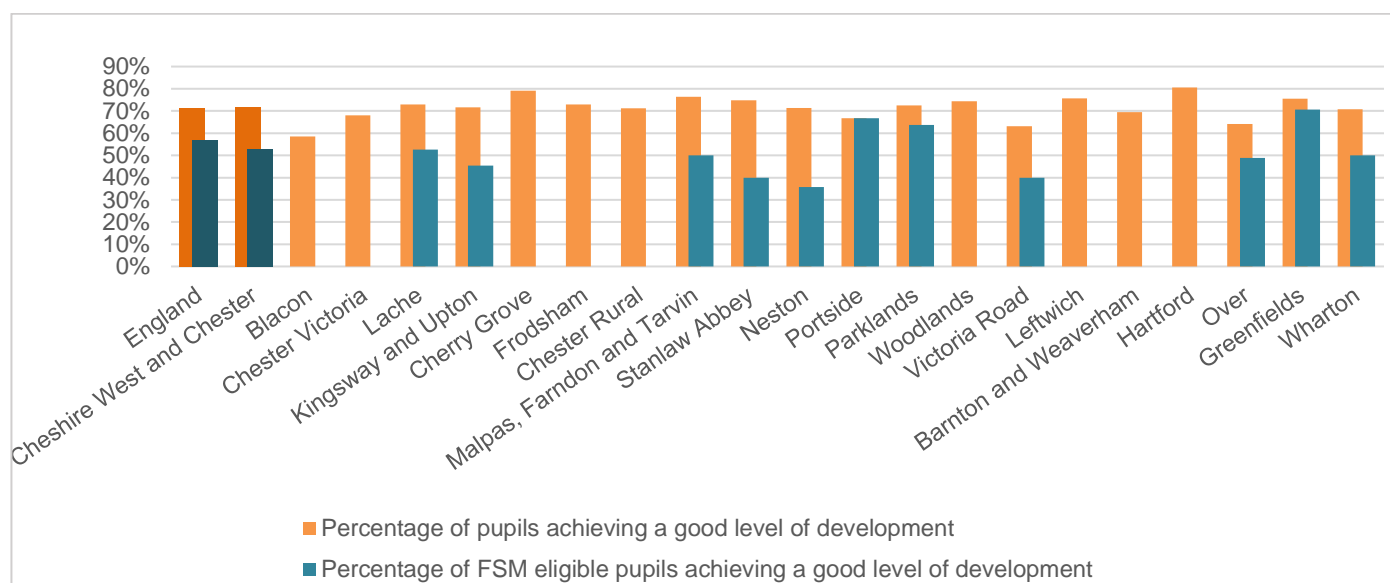
■ Worse than England
 ■ Statistically similar to England
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Source: National Child Measurement Program

A revised Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) was introduced in 2013 and requires practitioners to make a best fit assessment of whether children's levels of development are "emerging", "expected" or "exceeding" 17 early learning goals (ELGs). Children are deemed to have reached a good level of development in the revised profile if they achieve at least the expected level for all ELGs in the prime areas as well as mathematics and literacy. These areas contain 12 of the 17 ELGs.

Chart 17: Percentage of reception children achieve a good level of development in Cheshire West and Chester by Children's centre footprint (2017/18)

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: School Census

In Cheshire West and Chester 72% of pupils achieved a good level of development at the end of their reception year. This is equal to the England average. Of those pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) 53% achieved a good level of development, compared to an England average of 57%.

At children's centre level the percentage of children achieving a good level of development ranged from 81% in the Hartford footprint, to 58% in the Blacon footprint.

Mental Health

The World Health Organisation in 2014 reported that a growing body of evidence, mainly from high-income countries, had shown that there is a strong socio-economic gradient in mental health, with people of lower socioeconomic status having a higher likelihood of developing and experiencing mental health problems. (WHO, & Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. (2014). Social determinants of mental health.)

Children and adults living in households in the lowest 20% income bracket in Great Britain are two to three times more likely to develop mental health problems than those in the highest. (Marmot - Fair society, healthy lives: Strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2010.)

In 2004, evidence from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Survey found that the prevalence of severe mental health problems was around three times higher among children in the bottom quintile of family income than among those in the top quintile. (Mental Health of Children and Young People in Great Britain: 2004. ONS.)

Analysis of data from the Millennium Cohort Study in 2012 found children in the lowest income quintile to be 4.5 times more likely to experience severe mental health problems than those in the highest, suggesting that the income gradient in young people's mental health has worsened considerably over the past decade.

Employment status is linked to mental health outcomes, with those who are unemployed or economically inactive having higher rates of common mental health problems than those who are employed. (Mental health and wellbeing in England: Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2014.)

Employment is generally beneficial for mental health. However, the mental health benefits of employment depend on the quality of work; work that is low paid, insecure or poses health risks can be damaging to mental health. (Marmot - Fair society, healthy lives: Strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2010.)

It is important to note that low income does not necessarily lead to higher rates of mental health problems, but that social factors associated with lower income and socioeconomic status, such as debt, can adversely affect mental health.

Results from the APMS (2014) found that employment status is linked to mental health outcomes, with those who are unemployed or economically inactive having higher rates of common mental health problems than those who are employed.

Poverty and Suicide

The report, titled 'Dying from Inequality' was launched in March 2017 and included key findings on the link between suicide and deprivation. The report found that suicide rates are two to three times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the most affluent, and rates of hospitalised self-harm are also twice as high.

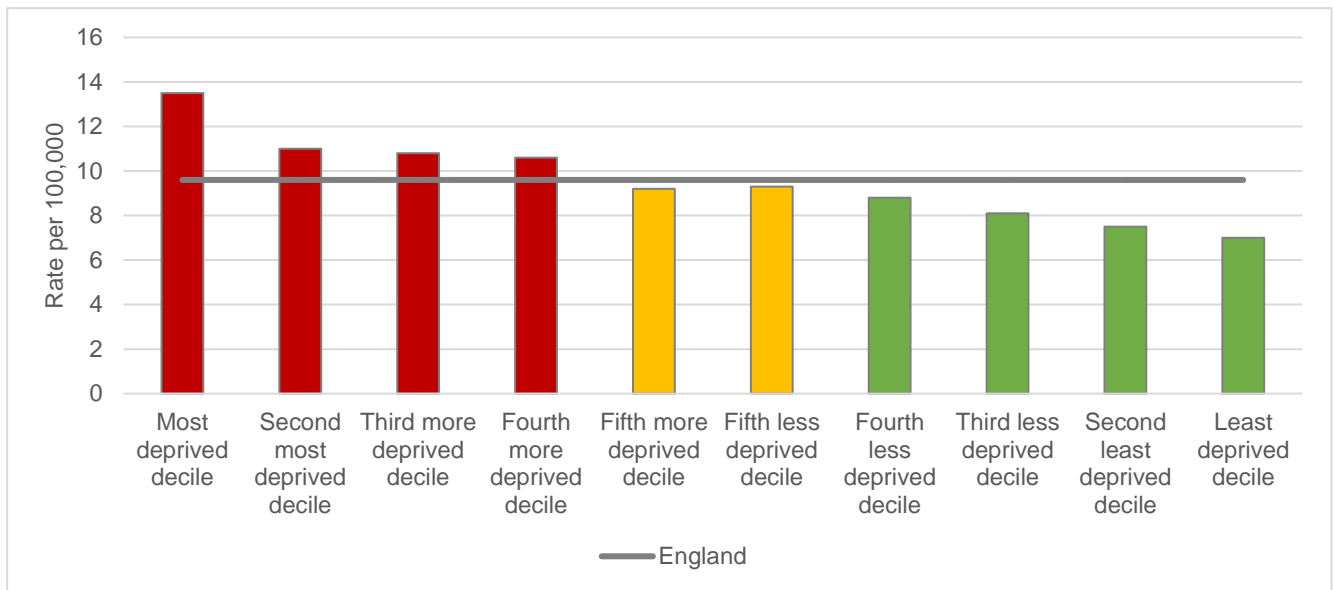
The report also noted a number of factors likely to increase the risk of suicidal behaviour in areas of socioeconomic deprivation including:

- experiencing multiple negative life events, such as poor health, unemployment, poor living conditions
- feeling powerless, stigmatised, disrespected social disconnectedness, such as social isolation,
- poor social support, other features of social exclusion, such as poverty, and poor educational attainment

National data from Public Health England also shows the relationship between self-harm and Suicide and poverty. Table 16 & 17 below show a clear gradient when you look at both suicide rates and self-harm admissions by deprivation decile.

Chart 18: Suicide rate in England by deprivation decile (2015-2017)

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)

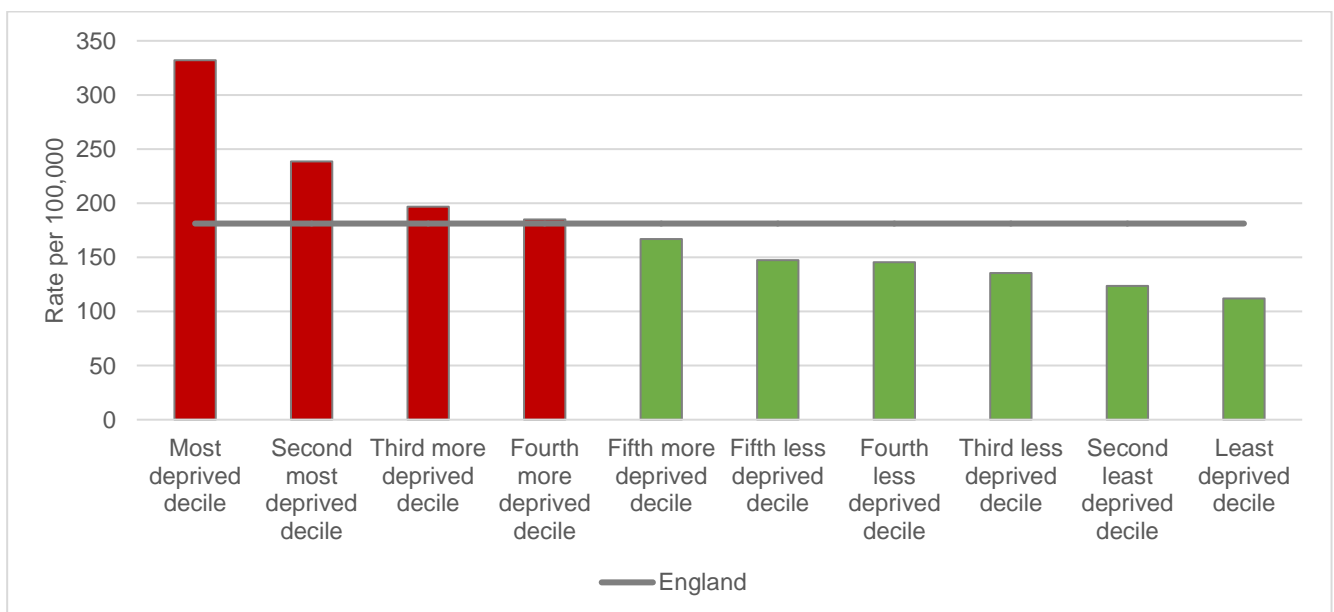


■ Worse than England
 ■ Statistically similar to England
 ■ Better than England

Source: PHE fingertips

Chart 19: Emergency hospital admissions for self-harm in England by deprivation decile (2020/21)

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



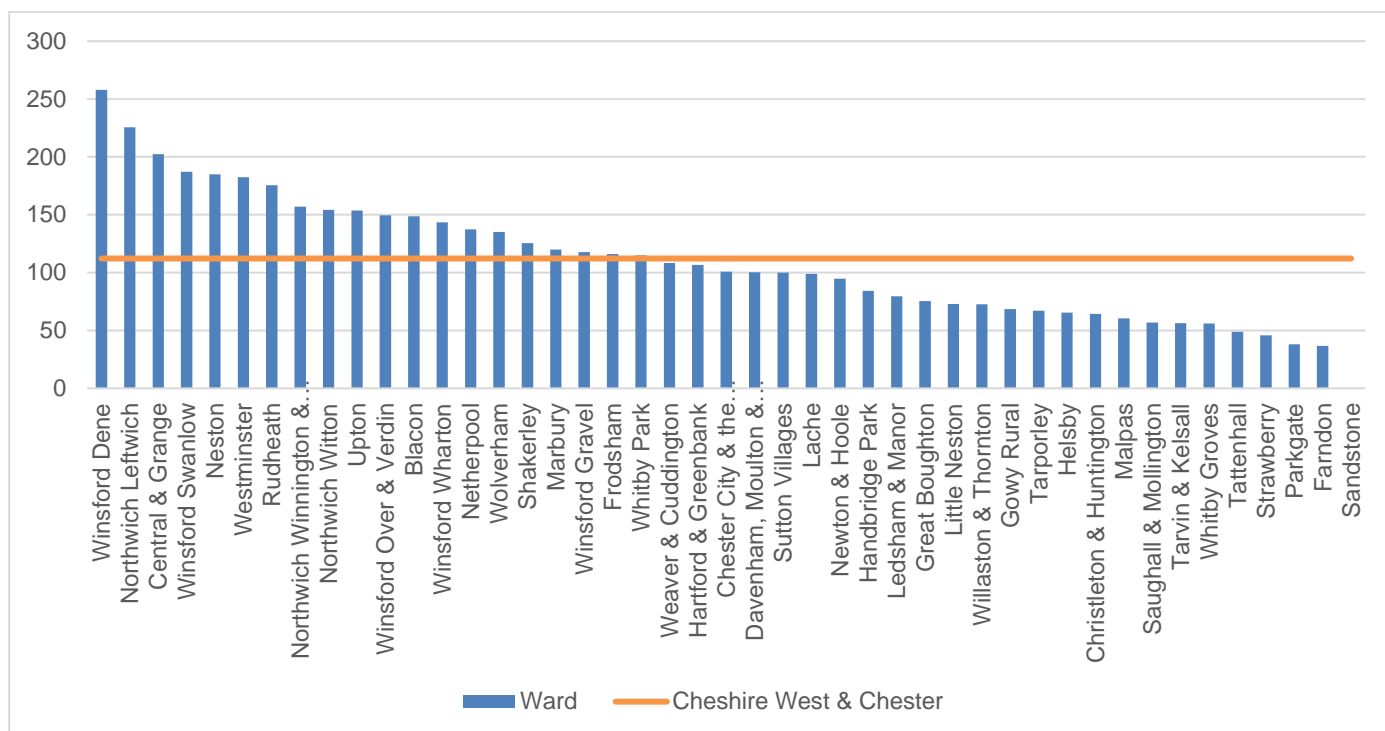
■ Worse than England
 ■ Statistically similar to England
 ■ Better than England

Source: PHE fingertips

Self-harm admissions at a ward level you can see many areas with significantly high admission rates and with these concentrated in some of the most deprived areas.

Chart 20: Hospital stays for self-harm, standardised admission ratio in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2015/16 – 2019/20)

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: PHE fingertips – Local Health

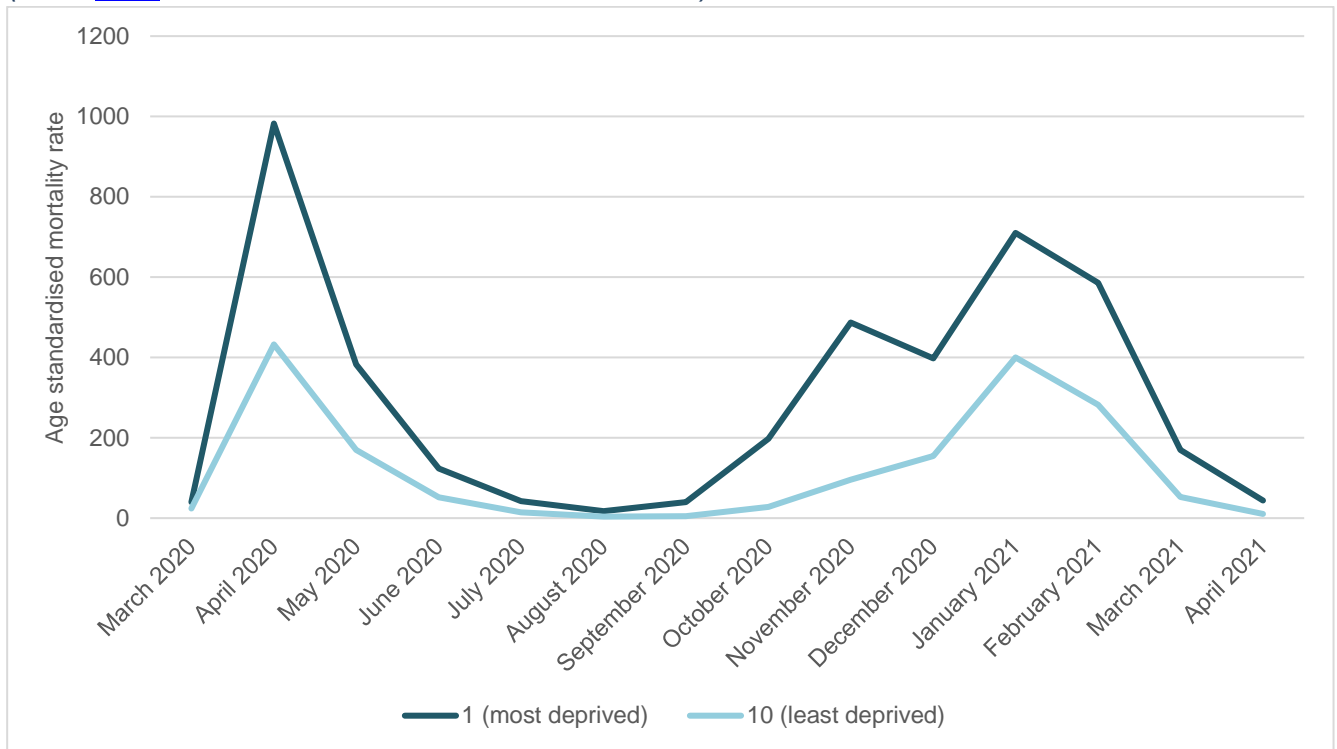
Note, insufficient data to report for Sandstone Ward

Covid

People living in more socio-economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods and minority ethnic groups have higher rates of almost all the known underlying clinical risk factors that increase the severity and mortality of COVID-19, including hypertension, diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease, liver disease, renal disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity and smoking. (The COVID-19 pandemic and health inequalities, Bambra C, Riordan R, Ford J, et al. J Epidemiol Community Health)

Office for National Statistics data shows that people who live in the most deprived areas of England and Wales are around twice as likely to die after contracting COVID-19. The data released in August 2020, when cases and mortality rates were relatively low reveal that in England, the age-standardised mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19 in the most deprived areas in July 2020 was 3.1 deaths per 100,000 population; as seen in previous months, this was more than double the mortality rate in the least deprived areas (1.4 deaths per 100,000 population) (ONS - Deaths involving Covid-19 1 March – 31 July 2020)

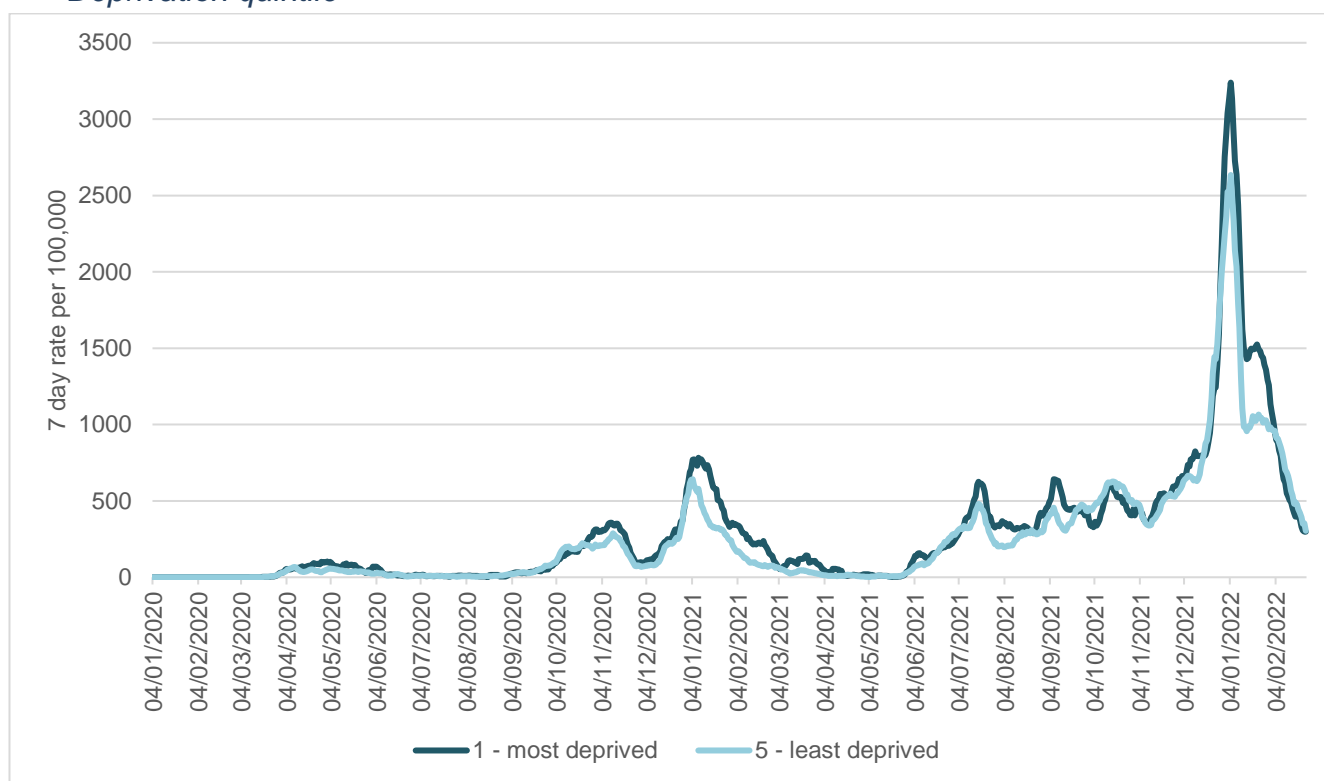
Chart 21: Covid Mortality rates in England by deprivation decile
 (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: ONS – Deaths due to COVID-19

Local data also shows that the most deprived areas of the borough have seen the highest rates of infection. The table below shows the level of covid infections by deprivation decile, with the most deprived decile consistently higher than others throughout the pandemic.

Chart 22: Covid infection rates over time in Cheshire West and Chester by Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile



Date	1 - most deprived (Rate per 100,000)	5 - least deprived (Rate per 100,000)	Difference	Comment
03/05/2020	101	57	44	Peak in the early stages of the pandemic, before most testing was available
11/11/2020	342	287	55	Highest rates in 2020
04/01/2021	769	642	127	Highest rates in 2021
17/07/2021	626	481	145	Peak of summer rise in cases
04/01/2022	3239	2634	605	Highest rates of the pandemic

Source: UK Health Security Agency, COVID-19 Situational Awareness Tracker

Over the course of the pandemic (up to the 24th February 2022) the least deprived areas in Cheshire West and Chester experienced lower rates than the most deprived areas for just under 500 days, over double number of days then the least deprived areas exceeded the rate of the most. The peaks in the difference are also far greater for when quintile one were experiencing higher rates.

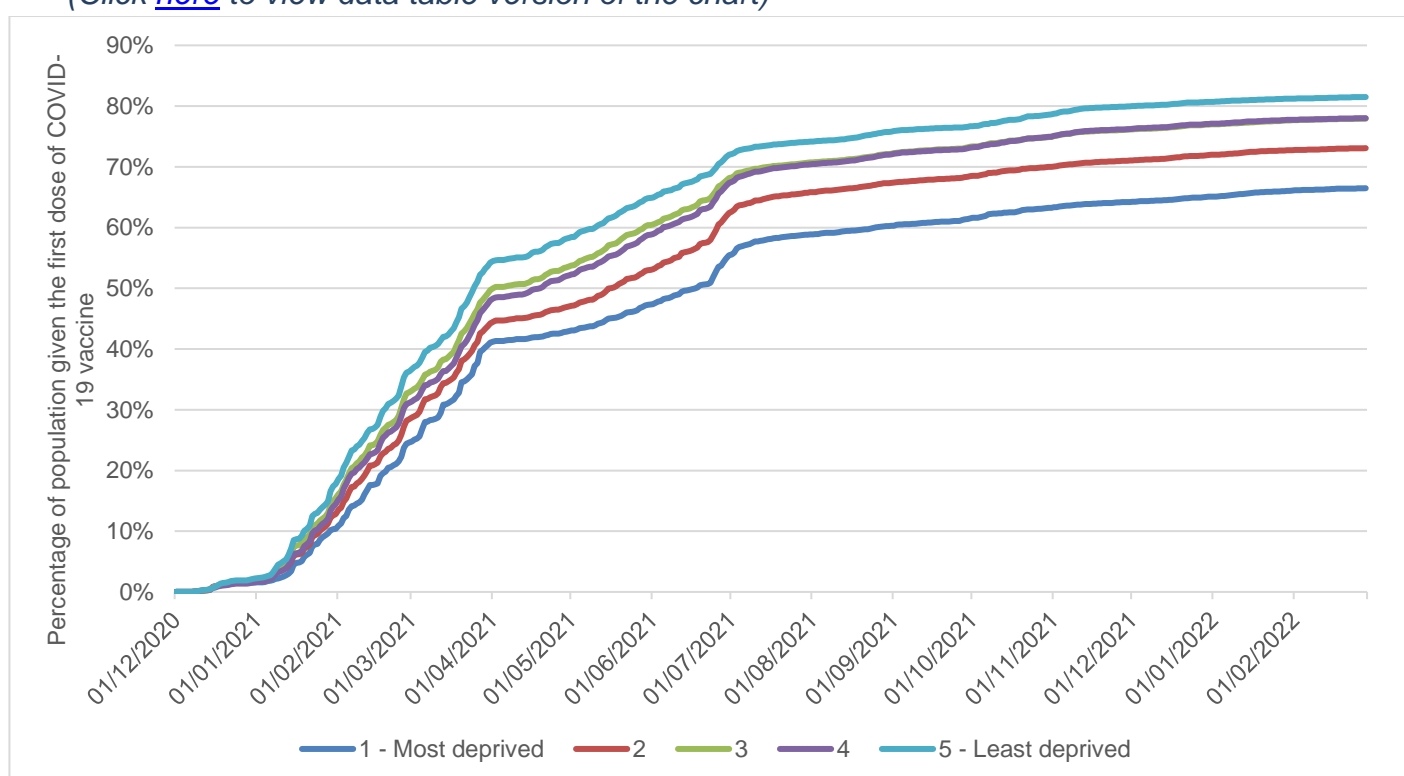
The Marmot report notes that *“The effects of long-COVID are likely to be greater for people in more deprived neighbourhoods because they are more likely to have pre-existing health problems and, if they are able to work, are more likely to do so outside the home and in*

manual jobs". In some cases, they must continue working despite having long-COVID symptoms.

This difference between deprivation levels is also reflected in the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination. With more deprived areas less likely to have received the vaccine, as of 28th February 2022 the difference in uptake was 15 percentage points. Although this has been as high as 18 percentage points in June 2021.

Chart 23: Covid-19 vaccination first dose uptake rate in Cheshire West and Chester by IMD quintile

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: UK Health Security Agency, COVID-19 Situational Awareness Tracker

In addition to the health impact of Covid, a recent House of Commons briefing paper published in March 2021 noted that income loss due to the pandemic had rapidly exacerbated insecurity and vulnerabilities. (UK Poverty statistics) It highlights the following:

- the inability to build and draw on financial safety nets - low-paid work, zero hours contracts, mixed self-employment/salaried work, and/or work in unpredictable sectors left people financially exposed under COVID-19
- working without full time, reliable salaries - including key workers such as teaching assistants, social care professionals, and family support workers.
- working in sectors that could not 'move remote' when COVID-19 hit for example, manual labour and personal services

Education

Educational Inequality and Poverty

Clear and persistent socioeconomic inequalities in educational attainment remain present from 2010. As with inequalities in the early years, inequalities experienced during school years have lifelong impacts – in terms of income, quality of work, and a range of other social and economic outcomes including physical and mental health. (Marmot – Health inequality in England 2020).

Children living in poverty are more likely to have lower levels of educational outcomes. The relationship between deprivation and education is crucial for understanding the significant impact deprivation has on later outcomes in adulthood. (ONS child poverty and education outcomes February 2020).

There is a clear pathway from childhood poverty to reduced employment opportunities, with earnings estimated to be reduced by between 15% and 28%, and the probability of being in employment at age 34 years reduced by between 4% and 7%. (ONS child poverty and education outcomes by ethnicity February 2020).

Young adults who suffer financial hardship as children have significantly greater than average chances of earning lower wages, being unemployed, spending time in prison (men) or becoming a lone parent (women). (ONS child poverty and education outcomes by ethnicity Feb 2020).

Factors associated with inequality and attainment gaps include economic disadvantage, ethnicity, gender, and whether a child has been in care or has special educational needs and disability. (Education Endowment Foundation (2018) - Closing the Attainment Gap).

Food insecurity is linked to cognitive ability making it harder, for example, for children to concentrate at school – leading to poorer educational attainment. (JRF, UK Poverty 2022).

The Office of National Statistics has acknowledged that there is currently a need for research to better understand the barriers and gateways to social mobility to inform public policy targeted at disadvantaged children and young people.

Early years

A report by the Child Poverty Action Group noted that children who have lived in persistent poverty during their first seven years have a cognitive development score on average 20% below those of children who have never experienced poverty.

The Poorer Children's Educational Attainment report by the JRF noted that the analysis of the Millennium Cohort Study showed big differences in cognitive development between children from rich and poor backgrounds at the age of three, and this gap widened by age

five. There were similarly large gaps in young children's social and emotional well-being at these ages. (JRF report Poorer Children's Educational Attainment).

The report also noted that the differences in the home learning environment, particularly at the age of three, have an important role to play in explaining why children from poorer backgrounds have lower test scores than children from better-off families. (JRF report Poorer Children's Educational Attainment).

During 2019-20, Cheshire West and Chester had 7,023 children aged two to four accessing an early education place. (Special Educational Needs and Disability Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, CW&C).

Two-year olds with a parent in receipt of income related support are entitled to free early education; in Cheshire West and Chester this is around 40% of the population with two-year olds. In 2019 an average of 900 two-year olds eligible for funding accessed early education, which is 92% of those eligible. This is an increase from 2018 when 89% of two-year olds eligible accessed early education and compares to an England average in 2019 of 68 percent. (Special Educational Needs and Disability Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, CW&C).

Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children suggested that the gap in attainment between children from the poorest and richest backgrounds, already large at age five, grew particularly fast during the primary school years. By age 11, only around three-quarters of children from the poorest fifth of families reached the expected level at Key Stage 2, compared with 97% of children from the richest fifth. (JRF - Poorer Children's Educational Attainment).

Secondary School attainment

Socioeconomic inequalities in educational attainment have persisted since 2010 entrenching trajectories of inequality which begin in the early years. Young people living in more deprived areas continue to have significantly lower levels of attainment during secondary school, measured by GCSE results and attainment 8 scores, which measures pupils' performance in eight GCSE-level qualifications. (Marmot – Health inequality in England 2020)

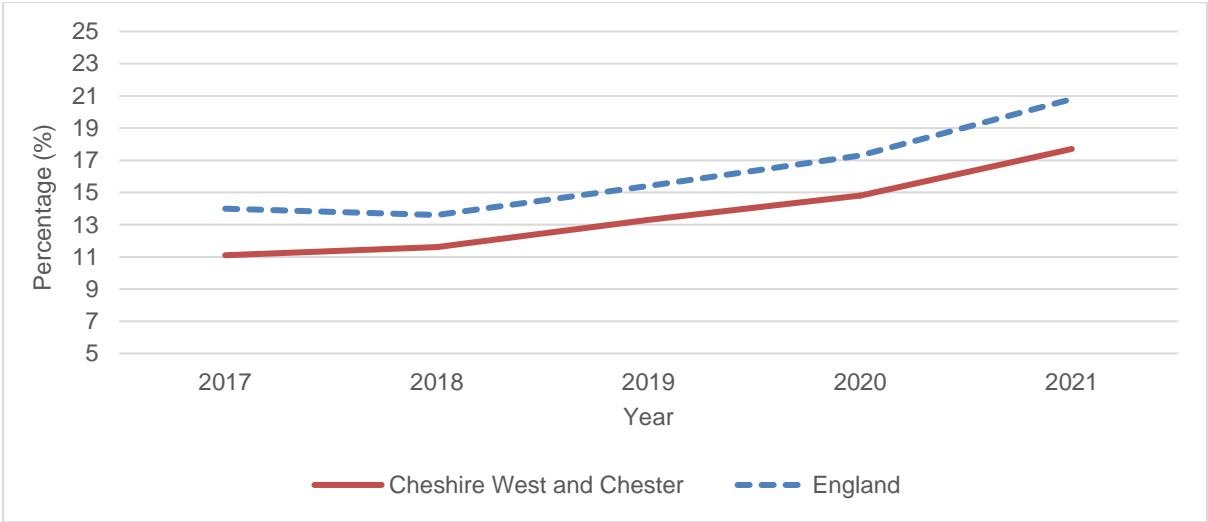
Analysis of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England found that by the time young people take their GCSEs, the gap between rich and poor is very large. The report noted: "only 21 per cent of the poorest fifth (measured by parental socio-economic position (SEP)) managed to gain five good GCSEs (grades A*-C, including English and Maths), compared with 75 per cent of the top quintile...." (JRF - Poorer Children's Educational Attainment).

The Office for National Statistics measures the relationship between poverty and education by looking at the educational outcomes of children who were eligible for free school meals. Eligibility for free school meals is related to receipt of income support benefits, such as Universal Credit. Free school meals-eligible children are more likely to be in low-income families than children who are not eligible.

There has been a marked increase in persistent poverty among disadvantaged pupils in recent years. Among disadvantaged pupils, the share of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals for their entire time at school has increased from 18.8% (or 26,000 pupils) in 2017, to 25.3% (34,100 pupils) by 2020 – a rise of over 8,000 pupils in three years. Rising persistent poverty within disadvantaged pupils is associated with stalling progress in closing the headline disadvantage gap since 2017. (Covid-19 and Disadvantage gaps in England 2020 - Education Policy Institute).

The chart below shows that the number of pupils eligible for free school meals in Cheshire West and Chester has been rising since 2017 in line with the national trend from 11.1% (5,553 pupils) in 2017 to 17.7% (7,327) by 2021, an increase of almost seven percentage points (1,792 pupils).

Chart 24: The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals
 (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)

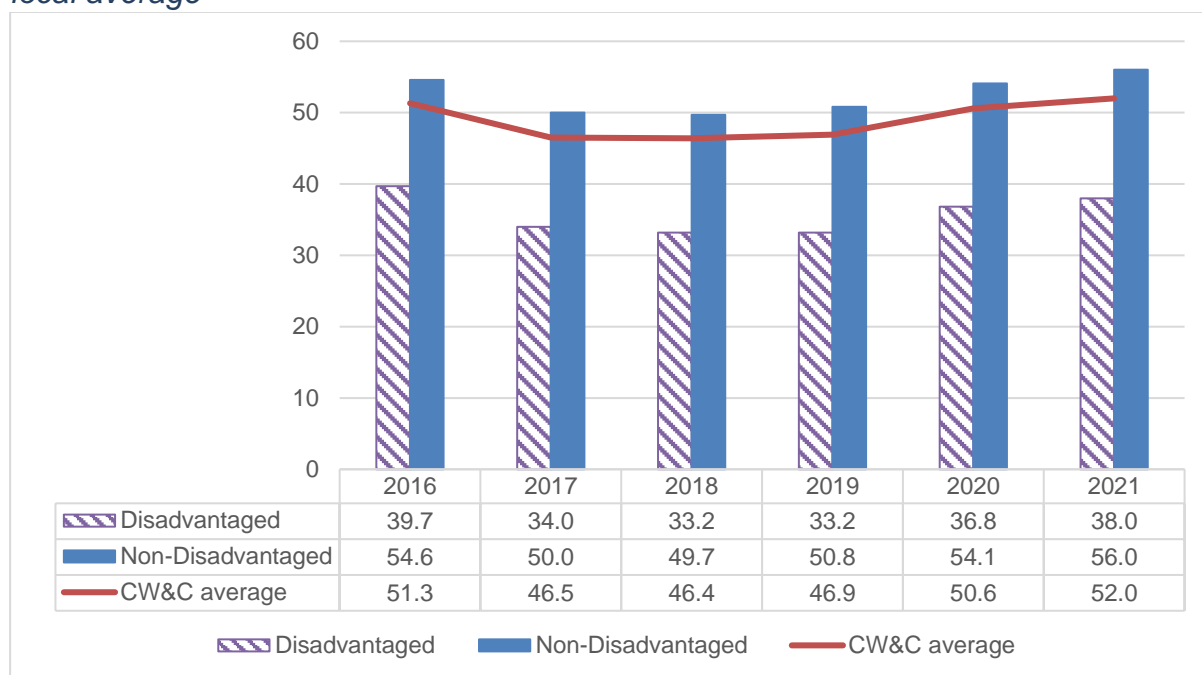


Source: Department for Education, statistics: school and pupil numbers

GCSE results are graded on a scale of 1 to 9 with attainments 8 and 9 being the highest. To determine how well pupils have scored in their GCSEs, attainment 8 is used to calculate the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications including Mathematics and English. It gives a broad picture across all subjects and all students.

In Cheshire West and Chester, disadvantaged pupils (those in receipt of free school meals, looked after or adopted from care) on average score 18 points lower at attainment 8 than non-disadvantaged pupils. The average attainment 8 score for Cheshire West and Chester is 52, for disadvantaged pupils 38 and non-disadvantaged 56 in 2021.

Chart 25: Attainment 8 for disadvantaged pupils compared to non-disadvantaged pupils and local average

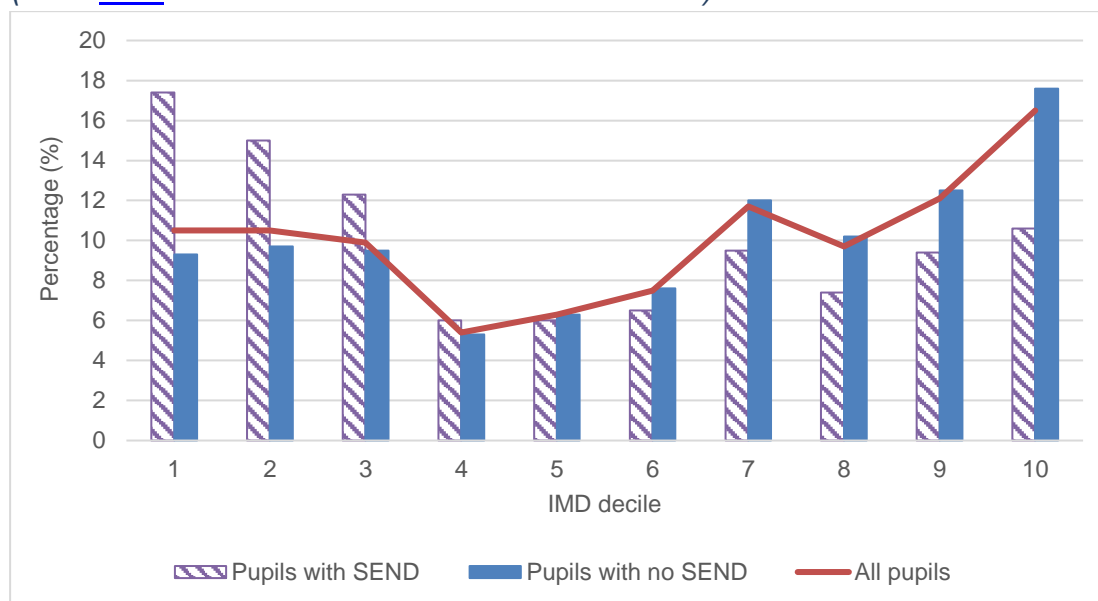


Source: Department of Education, statistics: GCSEs (Key Stage 4)

Young people with a Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) are more likely to be in receipt of free school meals. A greater proportion of pupils with SEND live in areas ranked within the most deprived neighbourhoods in England compared to those with no identified SEND. (JSNA – SEND).

Almost a third of pupils with SEND (32.4%) live in Cheshire West and Chester neighbourhoods ranked within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England (IMD Q1), this is 3,520 pupils. In comparison 18.9% of pupils with no identified SEND live in the most deprived neighbourhoods. Half of pupils with SEND live in IMD areas Q1 and Q2 (40% most deprived areas in England) compared to a third of pupils with no identified SEND.

Chart 26: The percentage SEND pupils and non-SEND pupils by IMD neighbourhood
(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: School Census Jan 2020, Cheshire West, and Chester Council. Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2019.

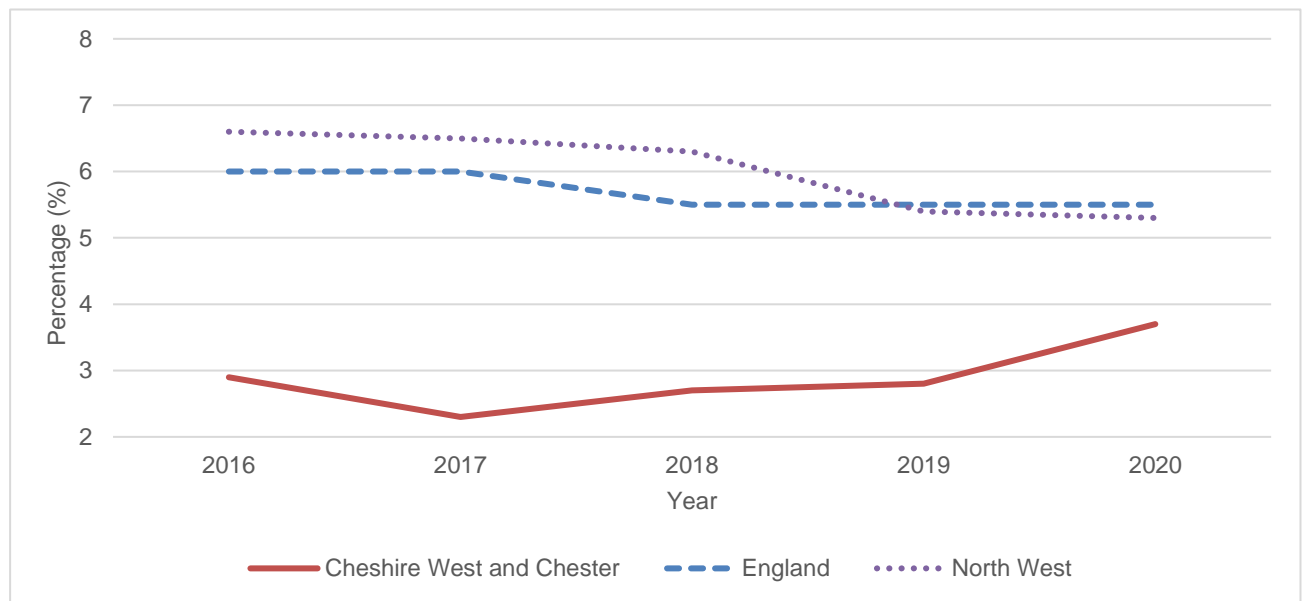
Young people not in education, employment, or training

In England, young people are expected to do one of the following until they are 18:

- Stay in full-time education
- Start an apprenticeship (practical training in a job with study) or traineeship (course with work experience perhaps before apprenticeship)
- Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering while in part-time education or training.

In 2020, 3.7% of young people in the borough were not in education, employment, or training. This is an increase of 1% since 2019.

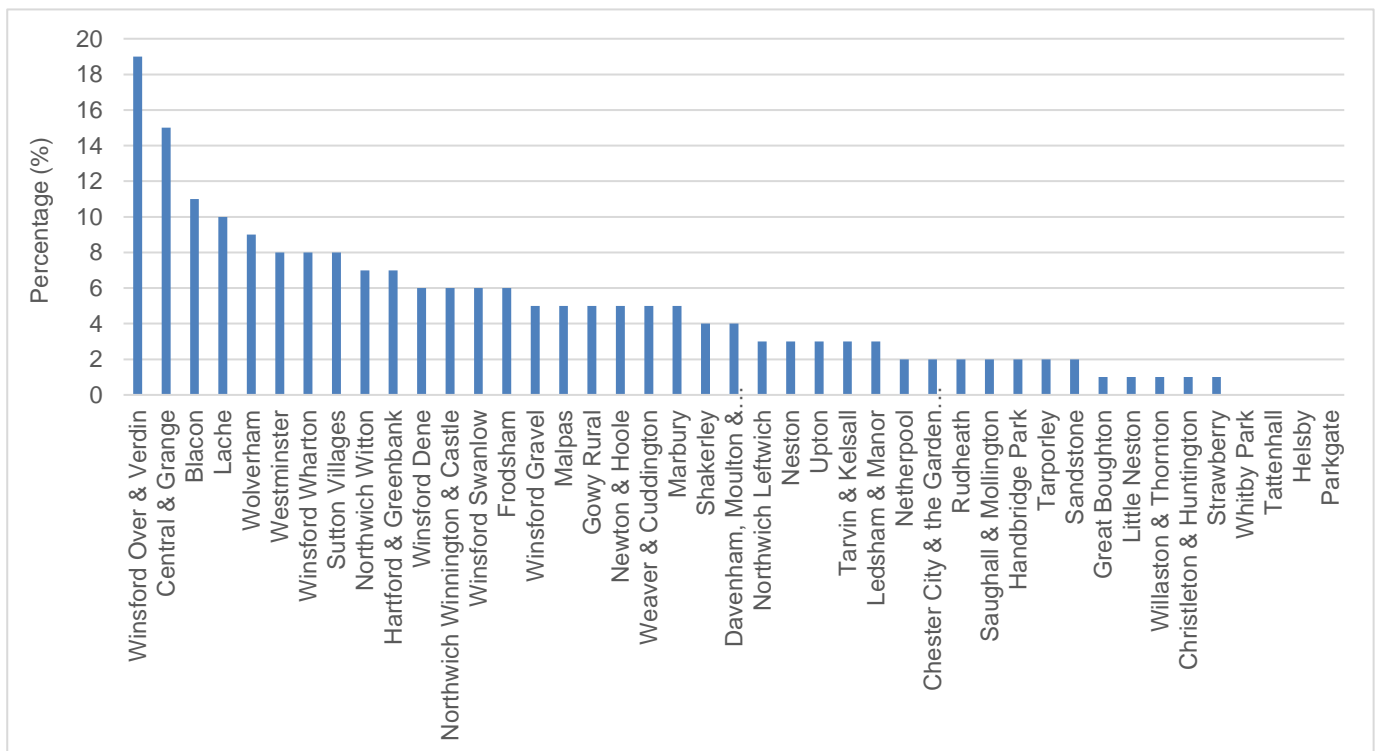
Chart 27: The percentage of young people not in education, employment, or training
(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: Department of Education

When you look at the number of young people not in education, employment, or training at ward level you can see many areas with higher numbers are concentrated in some of the most deprived areas, this includes Winsford Over and Dene, Central & Grange, Blacon, and Lache.

Chart 28: The percentage of young people not in education, employment, or training by ward in 2021
(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: Department of Education

Further and higher education

It is known that people with higher qualifications are less at risk of being trapped in poverty. Just over 1 in 10 working-age adults with an undergraduate degree or above are living in poverty compared with more than 4 in 10 working-age adults with no qualifications. (JRF: UK Poverty 2022 - The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK).

In 2019, the gross weekly pay for working adults aged 16 to 64 with no qualifications (or who did not know what their qualifications were) was £327 a week. This increases to £462 a week for someone with a qualification below degree level; for someone with a higher degree it is £731 a week (JRF: UK Poverty 2022 - The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK).

Nationally, the measured 16 to 19 disadvantage grade gap widened in 2020, with students from a disadvantaged background on average 3.1 grades behind their non-disadvantaged peers over their best three qualifications, compared to 2.9 grades in 2019.

The measured gap for students identified as persistently disadvantaged has been consistently wider than the gap for all disadvantaged students, and the widening in 2020 was more pronounced. The 16 to 19 persistent disadvantage gap over students' best three qualifications stood at 4 grades in 2020 compared to 3.7 in 2019.

Disadvantaged students on average entered fewer qualifications during the 16 to 19 phase across all years examined. A greater proportion of the level 3 qualifications held by disadvantaged students are non-academic (applied general and other non-academic level 3), rather than A levels. The opposite is true for non-disadvantaged students, though the proportion of entries accounted for by non-academic qualifications has been increasing in recent years for all students. (Covid-19 and Disadvantage gaps in England 2020 - Education Policy Institute).

Higher qualification levels and skills are associated with higher earnings and better employment prospects, reducing the risk of poverty for more highly qualified individuals and their children. Parental educational achievement is among the most important factors influencing children's educational outcomes. Attainment gaps between the most and least advantaged children are found from early years through to graduate outcomes across the UK (JRF: UK Poverty 2022 - The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK).

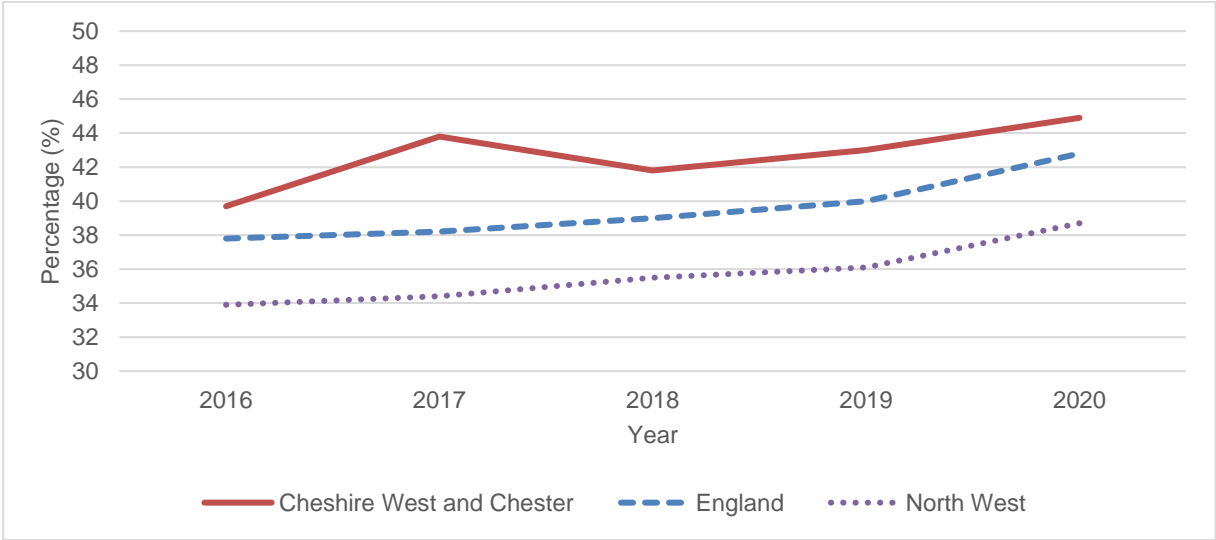
At age 25 years, 23.0% of free school meal recipients who attended school in England had recorded earnings above the annualised full-time equivalent of the Living Wage in comparison with 43.5% of those that did not. (Education, social mobility and outcomes for students receiving free school meals in England - Office for National Statistics).

The 18.2% of females who received free school meals had recorded earnings above the Living Wage compared with 27.8% of males who received free school meals; for non-recipients, the proportion was 39.3% and 47.5% respectively. (Education, social mobility and outcomes for students receiving free school meals in England - Office for National Statistics).

In the UK, just under half of entries into first undergraduate degrees have parents who are in professional or managerial occupations (49%). Around 1 in 5 entrants to higher education from the UK have a parent working in a routine or semi-routine occupation. Less than 1% of young people starting a degree in 2019/20 have a parent who is long-term unemployed or never worked (this could be due to a range of reasons including disability and caring responsibilities). (JRF: UK Poverty 2022 - The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK).

Chart 29 below shows qualification levels in Cheshire West and Chester, by NVQ level 4 and above (degree level). It shows that the number of people qualified at this level has increased from 39.7% in 2016 to 44.9% in 2020 and this is higher than both regional and national rates.

Chart 29: The percentage of people with NVQ level 4 and above
(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: State of the Borough

In 2020, 9,705 16 to 19-year-olds in Cheshire West and Chester who started in further education, down from 11,788 in 2018. (Cheshire West and Chester, State of the Borough).

Data from the 2021 census will give us a better understanding of the qualification levels at a smaller geographical area such as ward when it is released later this year.

Covid

The pandemic is likely to have increased existing educational inequalities. The Covid-19 pandemic has widened the attainment gap between most and least disadvantaged pupils in the UK. This is due to a range of factors including the digital divide, home learning environments and potentially deepening poverty over the pandemic. (JRF UK Poverty 2022).

Throughout the academic year 2020/21, pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds (primarily those eligible for free school meals (FSM) at some point in the last six years) experienced greater learning losses than their more affluent peers because of the pandemic.

By the end of the first half of the autumn term, pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds had lost, on average, approximately 1.9 months in reading amongst both primary and secondary aged pupils, and around 4.5 months in mathematics for primary aged pupils.

In comparison to their peers this means that early in the 2020/21 academic year disadvantaged pupils had experienced similar learning losses to non-disadvantaged pupils in primary reading; lost about half a month more learning than non-disadvantaged pupils in secondary reading; and lost around a month more learning in primary mathematics. (Understanding Progress in the 2020/21 Academic Year - summer term and summary of all previous findings October 2021).

During the first lockdown children from higher income households were more likely to have online classes provided by their schools, spend much more time on home learning, and have access to resources such as their own study space at home. (Inequalities in education, skills, and incomes in the UK: The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic).

Children whose parents were out of work were much less likely to have additional resources such as computers, apps, and tutors. (Inequalities in education, skills, and incomes in the UK: The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic).

In addition to impacts on learning, pandemic restrictions have adversely affected children's and adolescent's mental and physical health, due to social isolation, reduced social support, strained family relationships, academic stress, and reduced access to services. The pandemic has also exacerbated the risks of poor nutrition, experiencing maltreatment, and being exposed to violence at home. (Inequalities in education, and attainment gaps- UK Parliament Post).

School closures and ongoing educational disruption may widen the disadvantage gap, undoing any progress made during the past decade. Experts note the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to increase educational inequalities and attainment gaps for multiple reasons. This includes the digital divide, differences in parental engagement in education, disparities in home circumstances (such as availability of quiet study space) and wide variation in the quantity and quality of remote schooling and home learning support between pupils and schools. (Inequalities in education, and attainment gaps – POST).

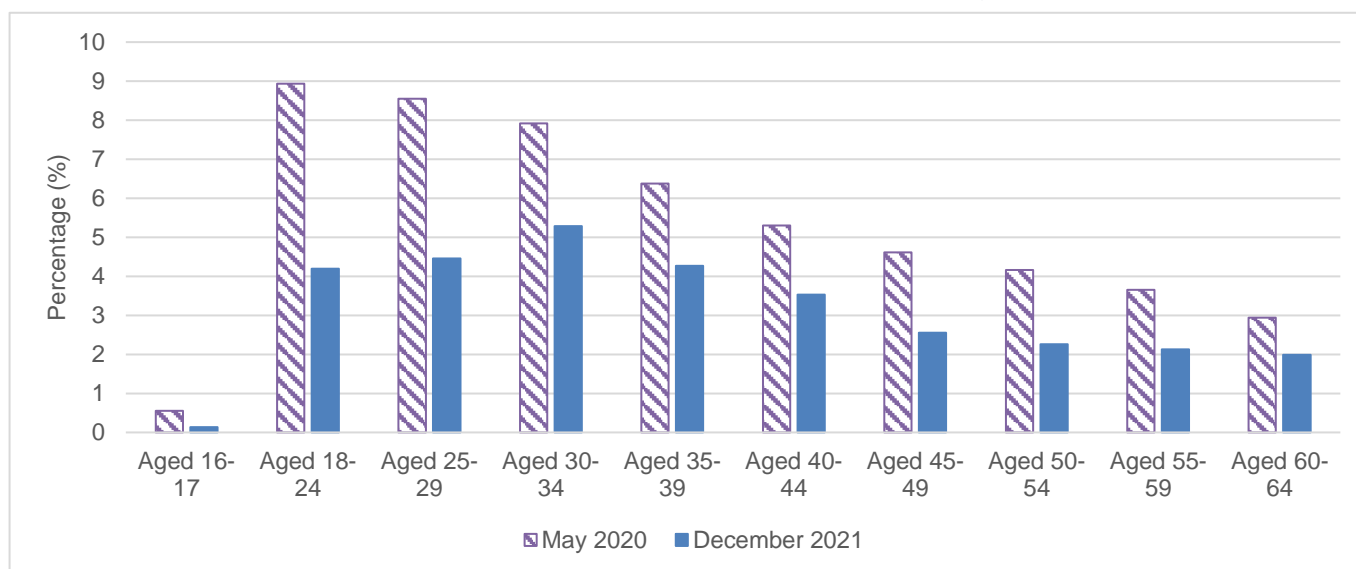
Work

Unemployment

The current unemployment rate for the borough is 3.5%, compared to 4.7% for the North West and 4.9% nationally. (Model-based unemployment, ONS Oct 20 – Sept 21). This is a slight increase from the previous year's rate of 3.4% for CW&C, 4.1% for the North West and 4.3% nationally which reflects the impact of the pandemic.

A more detailed picture can be seen in the claimant count which has dropped from 5.6% in May 2020, the highest level it reached in the pandemic, to 3.3% in December 2021. The largest number of claimants in May 2020 was concentrated in the 18 to 24 year olds which stood at 8.94%, by December 2021 this had reduced to 4.19%. In December 2021 the largest number of claimants was concentrated in the 30 to 34 year olds which stood at 5.29%. (Dec 21 Claimant Count ONS)

Chart 30: Claimant count in Cheshire West and Chester by age



(Office of National Statistics – claimant count Dec 21)

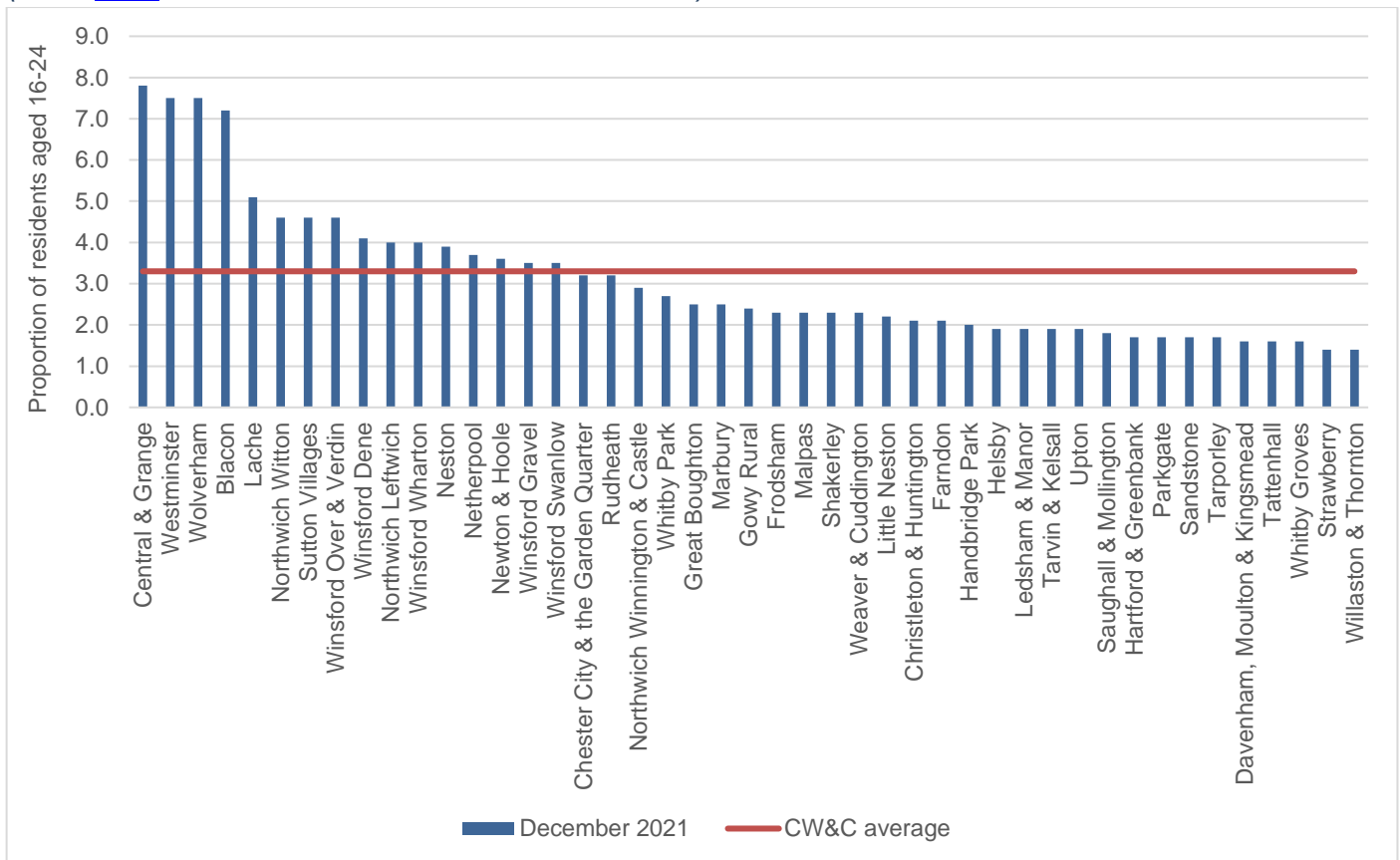
Table 6 Claimant count in Cheshire West and Chester by age

Age Group	May 2020	December 2021
Aged 16-17	0.55%	0.14%
Aged 18-24	8.94%	4.19%
Aged 25-29	8.55%	4.45%
Aged 30-34	7.92%	5.29%
Aged 35-39	6.37%	4.26%
Aged 40-44	5.30%	3.53%

Aged 45-49	4.61%	2.56%
Aged 50-54	4.16%	2.26%
Aged 55-59	3.65%	2.13%
Aged 60-64	2.94%	1.99%

When you look at the claimant count at ward level you can see many areas with significantly higher claimant counts, with these concentrated in the most deprived areas. Out of the 45 wards, 16 have rates above the borough average with Central & Grange, Westminster, Wolverham, and Blacon all with claimant counts above seven.

Chart 31: December 2021 Claimant count by ward
(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)

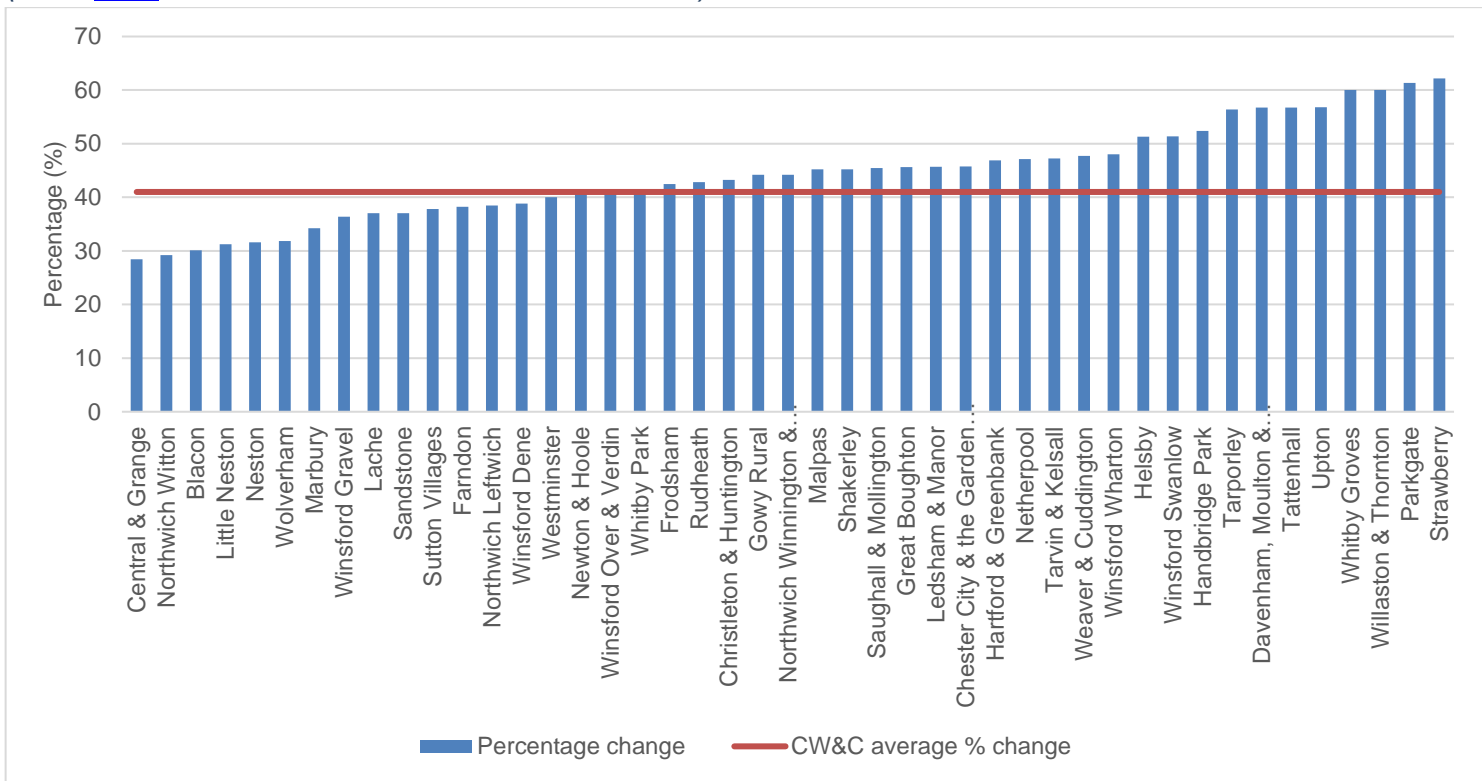


(Office of National Statistics – claimant count Dec 21)

The chart below shows the rate at which the claimant count has dropped by ward from May 2020 to December 2021, compared to the average change of the borough. What can be seen is that in a number of wards including Central & Grange, Northwich Witton, Blacon, Little Neston and Wolverham, the rate of people moving into employment is slower than the borough as a whole.

Chart 32: Claimant Count rate of change from May 2020 to December 2021

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



(Office of National Statistics – claimant count Dec 21)

There is no local data on unemployment levels by sector or role. However, nationally the services sector as a whole has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels, some of its industries have been more severely affected than others. This is particularly true for transport; travel agencies and tour operators; accommodation; and creative, arts and entertainment activities. Traditionally these roles have been lower paid. (Coronavirus and the impact on output in the UK economy: ONS February 2021)

Employment

In CW&C 79.9% of residents are in employment, 67.5% of jobs within the borough are full-time and 32.5% of local people are working part-time. (Nomis: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey: Employee jobs 2020)

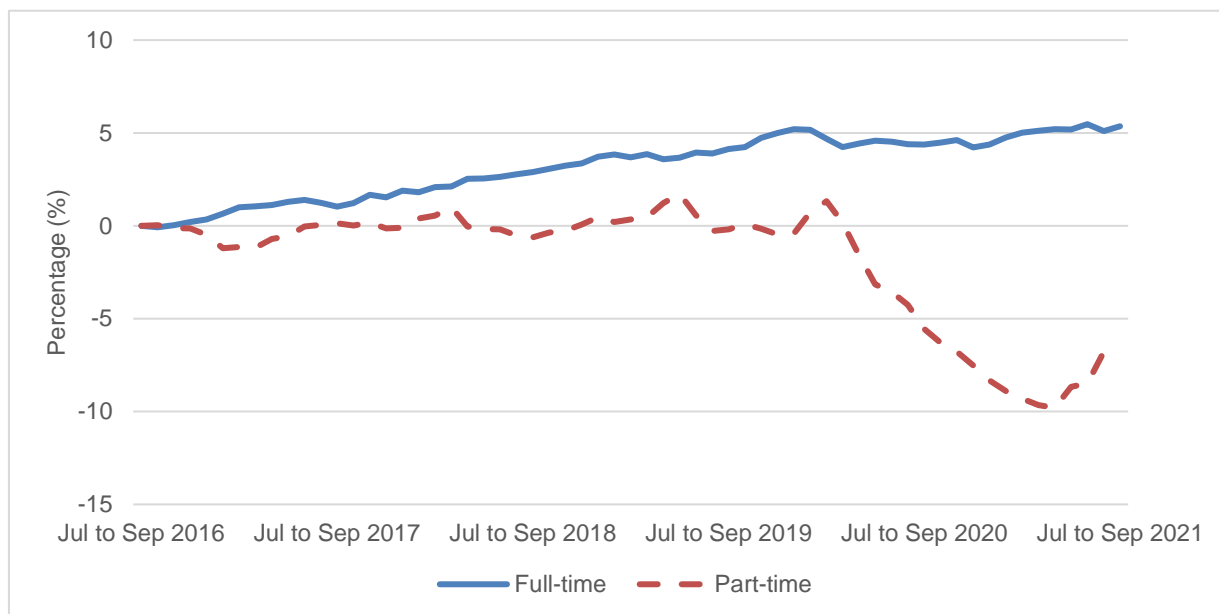
Between October 2020 to September 2021 the number of those in employment that are self-employed stood at 9.8% (Nomis: ONS annual population survey)

There are over 28,000 (16.7%) residents working in the care, leisure, services, sales and customer service sectors, which are traditionally lower paid occupations (Nomis: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey: Employee jobs 2020)

Nationally the number of part-time workers decreased strongly during the pandemic, but has been increasing since April to June 2021, driving the increase in employment during the latest three-month period. (ONS - Employment in the UK: January 2022)

Chart 33: UK employment by full-time and part-time workers from July 2016 to September 2021

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



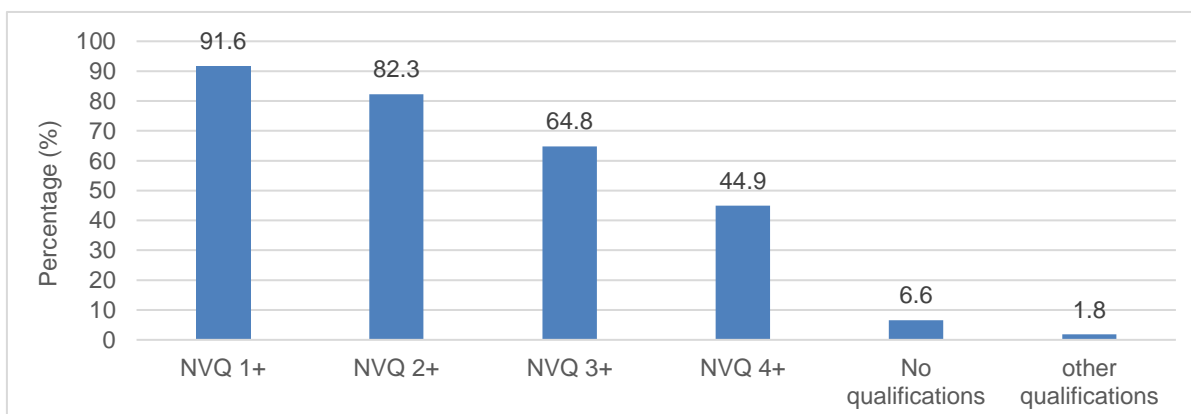
Source ONS Labour Force Survey

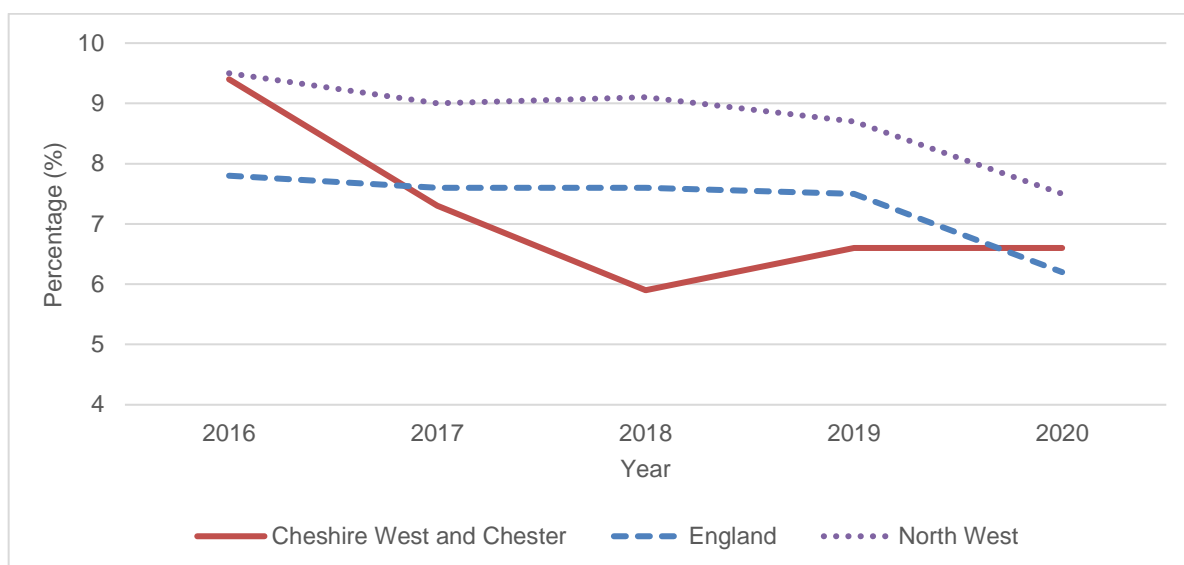
Skills

Those with higher qualifications are less at risk of being trapped in poverty. Just over 1 in 10 working-age adults with an undergraduate degree or above are living in poverty compared with more than 4 in 10 working-age adults with no qualifications. (JRF UK Poverty 2022)

Within Cheshire West and Chester 6.6% of residents have no qualifications, compared to 6.2% nationally and 7.5% regionally.

Chart 34: Qualification levels and percentage of residents with no qualifications in Cheshire West and Chester (2020)





Source: State of the Borough

Table 7: Qualification levels held by residents in CW&C (2020)

Qualification level	Percentage
NVQ 1+	91.6%
NVQ 2+	82.3%
NVQ 3+	64.8%
NVQ 4+	44.9%
No qualifications	6.6%
Other qualifications	1.8%

Table 8: Proportion of residents who had no qualifications between 2016 and 2020 in CW&C, England, and the North West region.

Year	Cheshire West and Chester	England	North West
2016	9.40%	7.80%	9.50%
2017	7.30%	7.60%	9.00%
2018	5.90%	7.60%	9.10%
2019	6.60%	7.50%	8.70%
2020	6.60%	6.20%	7.50%

Nationally the number of apprenticeships started to fall after the introduction of a new funding system in May 2017. It fell again in 2019 and 2020 after a slight increase in 2018 due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic and lockdown period had a disproportionate negative impact on apprenticeship starts for those aged under 19 and those starting an intermediate level apprenticeship. Between August 2019 and July 2020 (the 2019/20 academic year), there were 322,500 apprenticeship starts in England, 70,900 less than in 2018/19. (Department for Education Apprenticeships and traineeships data, House of Commons Library Briefing Paper, March 2021)

Locally the number of apprenticeships has been dropping since 2016/17 Cheshire West and Chester saw a 12% drop in apprenticeships in 2019/20 compared to 2018/9. Table 6 below shows the apprenticeship figures for Cheshire West and Chester from 2015/16 to 20/21 Q2.

Table 9: Apprenticeships in Cheshire West and Chester and England

Local Authority	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 Q2
Cheshire West and Chester	3,120	3,350	2,440	2,200	1,930	1,030
England Total	509,400	494,900	375,800	393,380	268,700	161,900

Source: DfE Apprenticeships and traineeships data

Wages

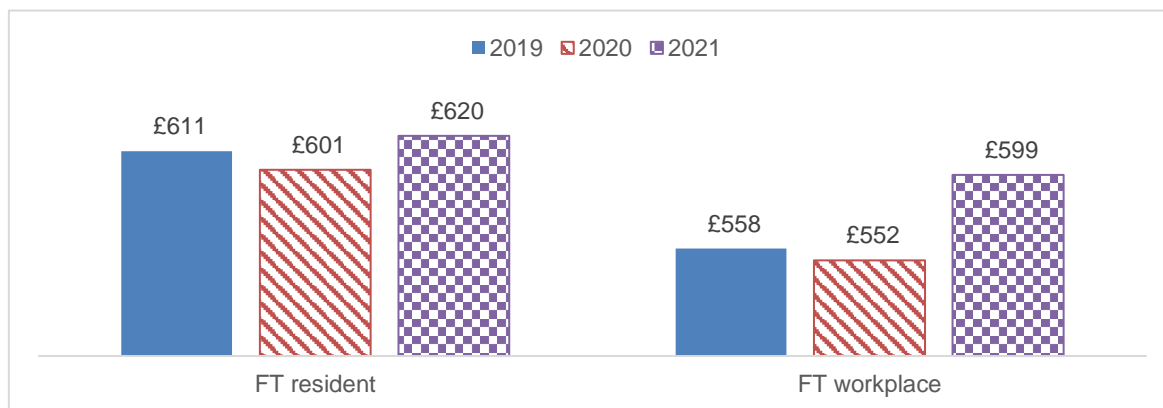
The definition of a living wage by the Living Wage Foundation for 2020 was £9.30 per hour. In 2020 15.2% of the jobs within the borough were below the living wage, this compares to 21.3% for the North West and 20.2% nationally. Whilst this information is not available at ward level, it is available at parliamentary constituency, Ellesmere Port and Neston has the highest percentage of jobs below the living wage at 21.7% around 1 in 5 jobs, with Eddisbury at 19.5%, followed by Weaver Vale 16.8% and finally City of Chester 11.4% (ONS – Annual Survey of earnings and hours ASHE).

The average weekly wage of a Cheshire West and Chester resident before tax (gross) has been increasing since 2016 and as of 2021 for a full-time job is £619.07, this is higher than the regional £578.00 and national average wage of £613.10. However, average wages for local employees are lower in 2021 £598.50, compared to the national average of £612.80 indicating that those residents working locally earn less than those who commute elsewhere.

The average wage for a resident working part time in 2021 was £217.20.

Chart 35: Comparing the average weekly wage in CW&C for earnings by place of residence and by place of work (2021)

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)

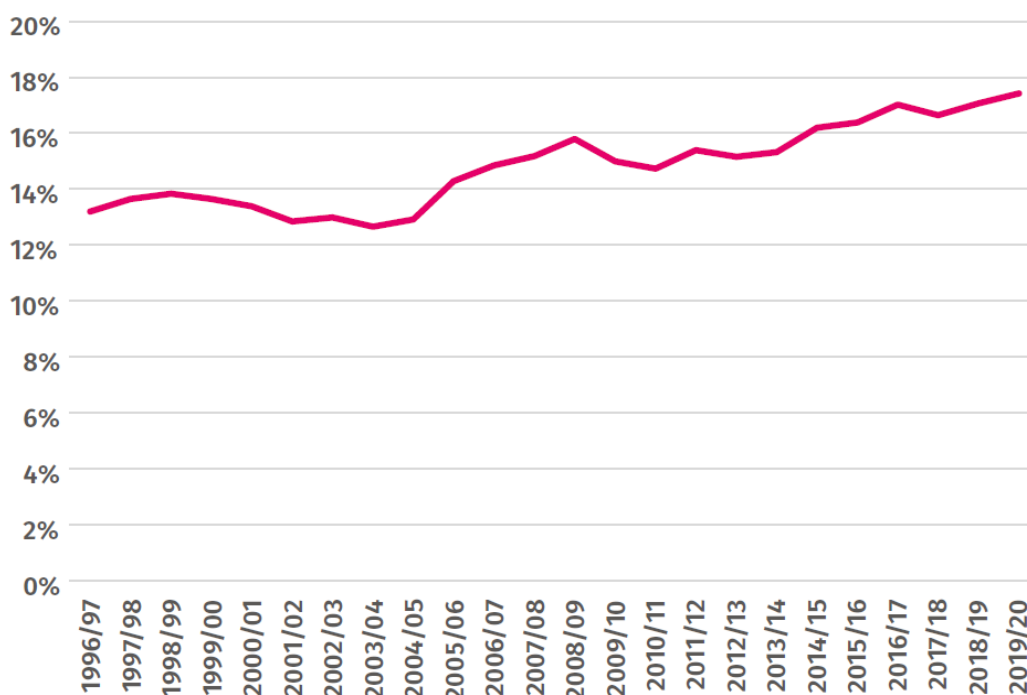


Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings – resident and workplace analysis

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) - No longer 'managing': The rise of working poverty and fixing Britain's broken social settlement May 2021, highlighted that working households being in poverty had steadily increased over the last 25 years, growing from 13% in 1996-97 to 17% in 2019-20. (DWP Family resource survey)

The report also found households were affected by the rise in working poverty differently. Single working parent households saw the most dramatic increase, with the proportion in working poverty rising from 20 percent in 2010 to 40 percent last year.

Chart 36: Working housing in poverty after housing costs 1996 to 2020



Source: Institute for Public Policy Research 2021

Covid

To date, the pandemic has had more of an impact on the labour market status of particular age groups. Young workers and workers aged 65 and over have been most likely to have left employment and have seen the biggest increase in unemployment. For young people aged 16 to 24 employment has fallen by 5% and for older workers aged 65 and over by 5 percent. Employment levels for those aged 25 to 64 have also fallen, but by only 1 percent (Coronavirus Impact on the labour Market – House of Commons Briefing – Dec 21).

The social mobility commission highlighted that the furlough schemes had kept many people in jobs. It went on to note that *“those from lower socio-economic backgrounds where more likely to work in working class jobs, which have seen some of the most significant declines in paid work in the pandemic”* (Published in Jan 2022 the Social Mobility Commissions report, State of the nation 2021).

In Cheshire West, 18% of the workforce was furloughed in July 2020, similar to national and regional rates. This dropped by 14 percentage point 4% by September 2021.

Chart 37: Rate of furlough take up in CW&C and the UK from July 2020 to September 2021 (Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



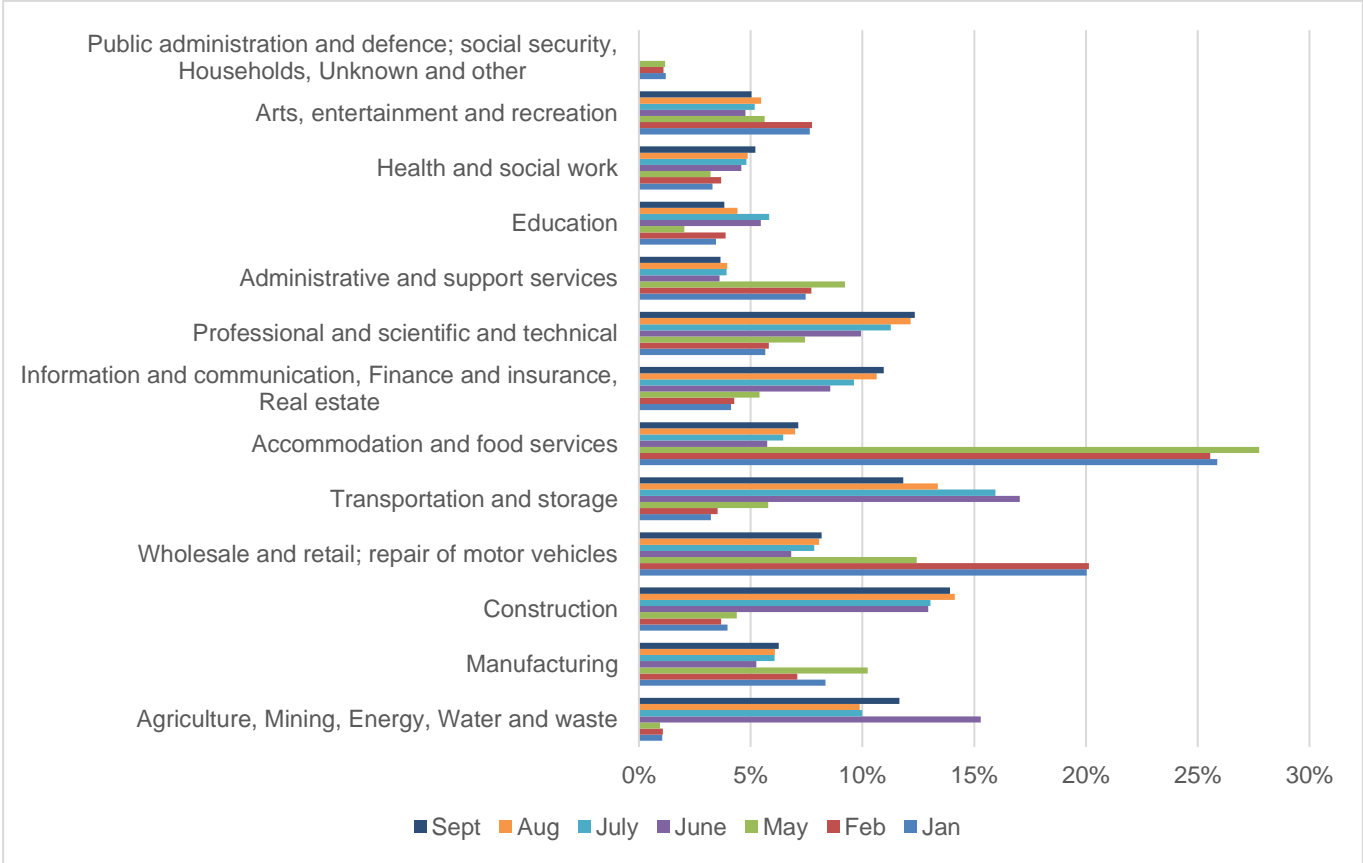
Source: HMRC CJRS and PAYE Real Time Information

National data shows that the arts, entertainment, recreation sector, accommodation and food services sectors had the highest take-up rate of all the sectors, with 15% of employees eligible for furlough on 31 July 2021.

The impact of the pandemic has varied for different sectors of the economy and their workforces. This can be seen in the chart below which shows the percentage of workforce furloughed in Cheshire West and Chester for each sector over 2021. Accommodation and food services within the borough were hit the hardest during the pandemic, in January 2021, 26% of all furlough staff were working in that sector, with wholesale and retail, repair of motor vehicles at 20 percent. This was then followed by both arts, entertainment and recreation and manufacturing each making up 8% of all furlough workers. All of these sectors saw reductions as covid restrictions eased and parts of the economy reopened. However, it's worthwhile noting that the agriculture, construction and transportation and storage sectors all had increases in furloughed staff in June suggesting the recovery in these sectors may have been slower than some others.

Chart 38: Rate of furlough uptake by job sector in CW&C across 2021

(Click [here](#) to view data table version of the chart)



Source: HMRC CJRS and PAYE Real Time Information

Transport

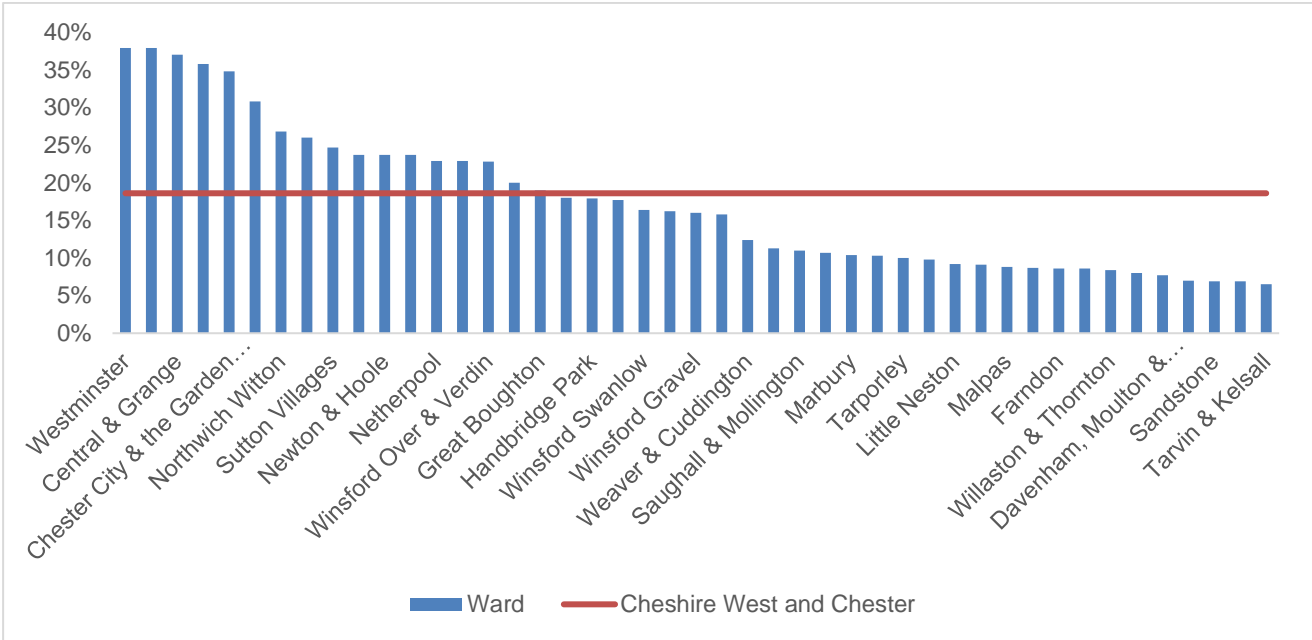
In the report *Locked Out: Transport Poverty in England*, Sustrans estimated that 1.5 million people are at high risk of experiencing transport poverty across England. The report states these individuals are at risk of exclusion from jobs, healthcare, social connections and of being disadvantaged when it comes to shopping or accessing cultural activities. The report noted one in four households in England are without a car (more than five million homes in total) and many more find public transport unaffordable, inaccessible, and inappropriate to their needs.

The JRF report *UK Poverty 2020/21* identified transport as being a significant barrier that kept people trapped in poverty. The report states that poor public transport can be a significant barrier to accessing jobs for workers in deprived neighbourhoods. Lower-income workers are more likely to use the bus or walk to work and people on a low wage are more likely to work atypical hours, when there is a more likely to be a lack of appropriate public transport.

At the time of the 2011 Census, 18.6% (26,297) households in Cheshire West and Chester had no car or van compared to 25.8% in England. Households living in neighbourhoods in Cheshire West and Chester that ranked in the top 20% deprived in England (IMD 2019) were more likely to not have a car or van, 38.7% (8,387).

Chart 39: Percentage of households without a car or van in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2011)

(Click here to view data table version of the chart)



Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

As the table below shows, at the time of the 2011 Census, driving a car or van was the most common method of travelling to work for residents in employment in Cheshire West and Chester. Residents who lived in the most deprived areas (top 20%, IMD 2019), were more likely to use public transport, be a passenger in a car or van or use other forms of transport to get to work than those who lived in Cheshire West and Chester overall.

Table 10: Method of travel to work (2011 Census)

Method of travel	People in work in top 20% deprived LSOAs	Cheshire West and Chester
Driving a car or van	58.3%	68.4%
On foot	14.4%	10.0%
Work mainly at or from home	2.1%	5.9%
Passenger in a car or van	9.1%	5.6%
Other	4.3%	4.0%
Bus, minibus, or coach	7.8%	3.5%
Bicycle	4.1%	2.7%
Train	1.5%	2.0%

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

Analysis at ward level highlights some key differences in method of travel to work across the borough. At the time of the 2011 Census:

- Travel by bus, minibus or coach was highest in Blacon Ward (15.3%), almost four times the borough rate
- Travel by foot was highest in Chester City & the Garden Quarter (31.7%), three times the borough rate
- 10% of people in work in Wolverham Ward got a lift in a car or van to get to work.

2011 Census data analysed alongside Paycheck income data shows half (50.2%) of households in very small neighbourhoods (Output Areas) with average household income below £17,000 did not have a car or van at the time of the 2011 Census. Half (49.2%) of people in work in these areas travelled to work by car, 19.2% walked and 11.2% travelled by bus.

Research published by Sheffield Hallam University, Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research includes evidence that those who are out of work are particularly reliant on bus services, jobseekers are more than twice as likely to use buses as anyone else and poor services can constrain the ability to find and sustain work.

Low car ownership rates are closely related to a lack of sufficient income to meet both the relatively high entry (vehicle purchase, excise duty and insurance) and running costs (fuel, servicing, and any loan repayments) of a vehicle which excludes people from the most flexible mode of transport available, and hence constrains their access to employment zones.

Digital Exclusion

The Good Things Foundation define digital exclusion as not having the access, skills and confidence to use the internet and benefit fully from digital technology in everyday life.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) states:

“In an increasingly digital age, those who are not engaging effectively with the digital world are at risk of being left behind. Technological change means that digital skills are increasingly important for connecting with others, accessing information and services and meeting the changing demands of the workplace and economy. This is leading to a digital divide between those who have access to information and communications technology and those who do not, giving rise to inequalities in access to opportunities, knowledge, services and goods.”
(Exploring the digital divide, ONS)

ONS research finds older people, disabled people, those from lower income households and people living alone are least likely to use the internet.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) have identified five areas in which individuals who acquire basic digital skills are able to benefit:

1. Earnings benefits: these relate to increased earnings of between 3% and 10% through acquiring digital skills.
2. Employability benefits: this reflects the improved chances of finding work for someone who is unemployed and an increased likelihood that someone who is inactive will look for work.
3. Retail transaction benefits: shopping online has been found to be cheaper on average than shopping in-store.
4. Communication benefits: basic digital skills can enable people to connect and communicate with family, friends and the community more frequently.
5. Time savings: these relate to the time saved by accessing government services and banking online rather than in person.

According to the Ofcom Adult's Media Use & Attitudes report 2020, 13% of UK adults do not use the internet, unchanged since 2014, and three quarters of them say that nothing would encourage them to go online in the next 12 months. Non-users tended to be older and from lower socio-economic groups. The report included findings that:

- 51% of people aged 75+ do not use the internet.
- More than a quarter (27%) of adults in the lowest socio-economic groups do not use the internet. Of those in this category who do use the internet less than half (46%) bank online (compared to 73% of all internet users) and they are also less likely to complete most public or civic processes online (47% compared to 59% of all internet users).

However, the following year's report, Ofcom Adult's Media Use & Attitudes report 2021, found indications that during the first year of the pandemic (March 2020 to March 2021) there had been a step change in internet use and digital skills. The report found:

- A minority of households did not have access to the internet in March 2021 - this could be particularly disempowering in the current climate.
- 6% of households did not have access to the internet at home as of March 2021 and a further 1% of adults aged 18+ had access to the internet at home but did not use it. (The findings are indicative as methodology changes limit comparability with previous years' results).

The report states:

“During a year in which face-to-face interactions and facilities have been restricted, those who remain offline may have felt more acutely the disadvantages of being offline, such as social isolation and being less able to complete certain activities. In particular, the groups more likely not to have internet access at home – and therefore, to be more at risk of digital exclusion – were those aged 65+ (18%), those in DE (lowest socio-economic) households (11%) and those who were most financially vulnerable (10%).” (Adult's Media Use and Attitudes report 2020/21, Ofcom)

The report found the pandemic had created a need for people to find new ways to access services or support networks that were no longer available face-to-face. In particular, new internet users had adopted services such as online shopping, banking and video-calling apps for the first time.

The Lloyds Bank Consumer Digital Index 2021 supports the ONS and Ofcom findings and finds the following groups are digitally excluded:

- 13% of adults in the lowest socio-economic group.
- 20% of people aged 65+ and 34% of people aged 75+.
- A quarter (24%) of those with no formal qualifications.
- 1 in ten of those with an impairment.
- 13% of people not in work.

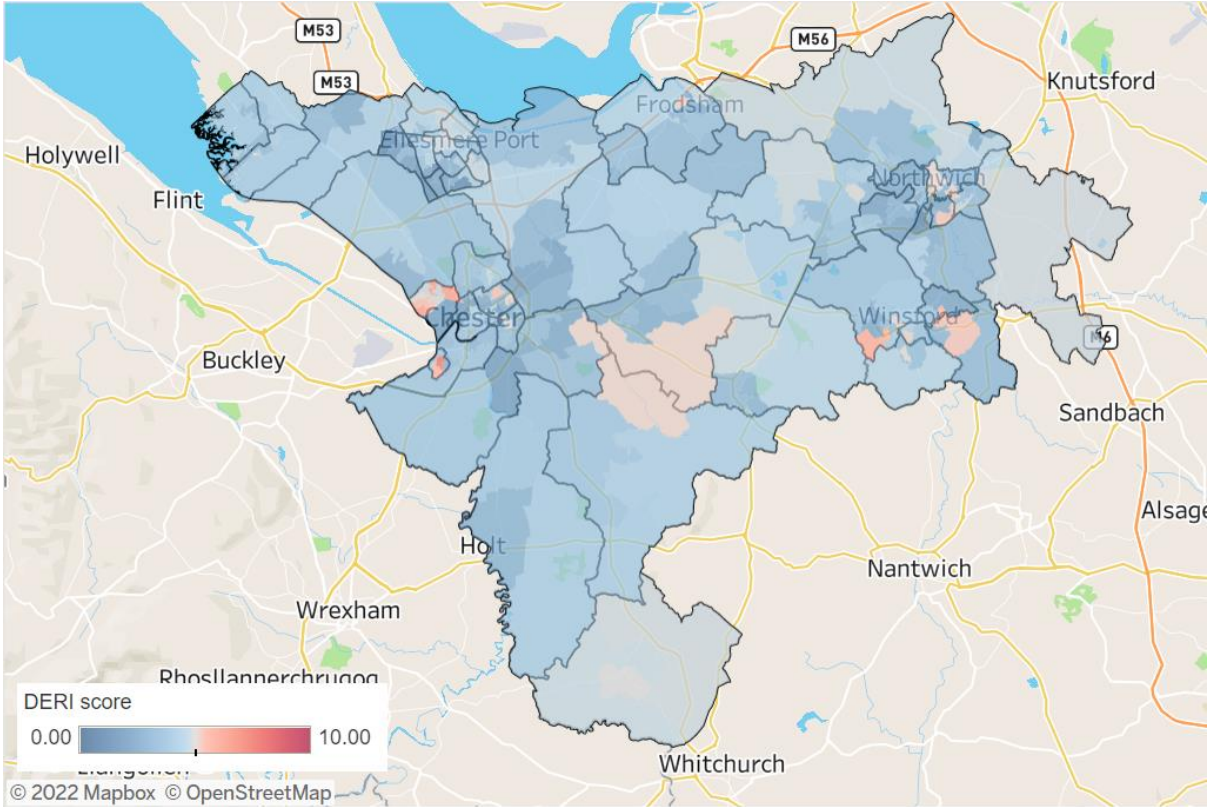
In 2018, the Lloyds Consumer Digital Index found 12% of those aged between 11 and 18 years reported having no internet access at home from a computer or tablet, 68% of these children reported that they would find it difficult to complete schoolwork without it, suggesting educational implications for those without internet access.

Digital Exclusion Risk Index

The Digital Exclusion Risk Index developed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority looks at the likelihood that residents in a neighbourhood will be digitally excluded by taking into account a range of factors that are associated with digital exclusion including age, deprivation and broadband (these factors are equally weighted). The Index suggests around 8% (28,000) of Cheshire West and Chester residents are living in neighbourhoods defined as

having a higher risk of digital exclusion. The neighbourhoods (Lower Super Output Areas) at highest risk are shown in red on the map below and include neighbourhoods in some urban areas of Chester, Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford (and surrounding area). There are also neighbourhoods at risk of digital exclusion in Frodsham and in the rural area between Tarvin, Tarporley and Tattenhall.

Map 3: Map of the Digital Exclusion Risk Index for neighbourhoods (LSOAs) in Cheshire West and Chester (2021)



Source: Digital Exclusion Risk Index (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) Workbook: Digital Exclusion Risk Index v1.5 (gmtableau.nhs.uk) Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.
Note: The map shows DERI score for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Ward boundaries are also shown on the map. The DERI score ranges from 0 (lowest risk) to 10 (highest risk).

Crime

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on the Consequences of poverty in the UK: Highlighted that those in poverty were more likely to be victim or perpetrator of crime.

Some studies and writers particularly emphasise the greater likelihood of being a victim of crime rather than offending and that this is the most significant aspect of the impact of poverty on crime. Poorer individuals are also more likely to be frequent victims of crime (Carlen, 1988; Smith and Jarjoura, 1988), and international evidence shows that those living in poor neighbourhoods are much more likely to be the victim of a crime.

Women's increased likelihood that they live in poverty during the 1980 and 1990s in the UK also led to targeting them for social security fraud and welfare fraud (McClements, 1990; Kilroy & Pate, 2010). Growing female poverty has led some women into prostitution, where economic survival is the most commonly cited reason, not least because of cuts in state benefits and unequal pay (O'Neill, 1997; Phoenix, 1999; Scambler and Scambler, 1997; Matthews, 2008; Glendenning and Miller, 1992; Sanders, 2005).

The CIVITAS study – Poverty and Crime published in 2018 used extensive survey and crime data and showed that the poor are by far the most likely to be affected by crime. One of the worst aspects of being poor in modern Britain is the far greater likelihood of living near criminals and being their victim – and the fear this produces.

While all law-abiding people would benefit from lower crime, it is those on lower incomes and those who live in deprived areas who would benefit most. Compared to households on incomes above £50,000, those on incomes below £10,000 are:

- Considerably more likely to be attacked by someone they know and far more likely to be attacked by a stranger;
- Twice as likely to suffer violence with injury;
- Twice as likely to be burgled;
- Three times as likely to be robbed and mugged;
- Three times as likely to suffer rape or attempted rape;
- Six times as likely to be a victim of domestic violence.

Fear of crime also plagues the lives of the poor in a way that is unrecognisable to the affluent. The poor are more than twice as likely to fear burglary and rape – and three times as likely to fear attacks, robbery and car crime. This fear is justified, as there are three and a half times as many criminals living in the 20% most deprived areas as in the 20% least deprived areas.

In addition to the fear and reality of much higher crime, the poor also suffer:

- Significant barriers to social mobility: those who need a car or bicycle to get to work are more likely to see their means of transport stolen and damaged. The greatest disparity between poor and rich in what crime they fear is in the fear of the poor of their car being stolen. This is four times as high among the poor as it is among the most affluent;

- Greater insurance premiums: costs that they are least equipped to afford;
- The cost of replacing goods: despite their low incomes;
- Higher shop prices: an inevitable result of the cost of lost stock, the higher costs of hiring people to work in high crime areas, the additional security costs, the higher insurance premiums paid by shops and the costs of using shop floor space differently;
- Social breakdown as people withdraw from their communities and fear to go outside.
- Those on the lowest incomes experience 62% more personal crime – and 73% more violent crime. Notably, the most damaging crimes are especially concentrated on the poor:
- Burglary and attempted burglaries were both more than twice as common. The only significant exception to this pattern was in vehicle crime. A car being beyond the means of many households with incomes below £10,000, the poor are substantially less likely to suffer from this offence.

A very similar pattern can be seen when looking at areas of greatest economic deprivation, rather than at the victim's income.

Domestic violence, arson and other criminal damage, household theft, burglary and attempted burglary, bicycle theft, wounding, robbery and violence with injury are all between twice and three times as common per head in deprived areas. Even falling victim to motor vehicle crime or bicycle theft is more common in deprived areas, despite the cost of ownership making them rarer in the first place.

Those on household incomes below £10,000 are between two and a half and three times as likely to live in fear of burglary, rape, robbery and attacks compared to households with incomes above £50,000. Fears of a racial attack and vehicle crime are greater still. High levels of concern are also much greater. Those on low incomes are about three times as likely to report a 'high level of worry' about burglary, about car crime and about violent crime. They are also around three times as likely to perceive high levels of anti-social behaviour in their local area.

Youth involvement in serious gang activity

The Commission on Race and Ethnic disparities published an independent report on Crime and Policing in April 2021. The report looked at a number of areas including s understanding youth involvement in serious gang activity

While narratives on gang involvement predominantly focus on young men and boys, the Commission acknowledges that gang-involvement also impacts women and girls. In a report providing analysis of Children in Need census data for the year ending March 2018, the Children's Commissioner found that 34% of gang-associated children and young people were female. That report states: "we have been told that younger children, particularly girls, are being recruited by gangs because their profile makes them less likely to be noticed by the authorities".

We also know that while some young people get drawn into county lines gangs and other forms of violence, most even from the same circumstances do not. So what is it that makes some young people more vulnerable than others? And how can they be supported to escape harm and criminality?

Poverty does not entirely explain why this type of violent crime has hit certain communities so disproportionately. Young Black males are disproportionately overrepresented on the Metropolitan Police's 'gang's matrix'¹ though there is a wide variety of gang types and they are not always engaged in violent crime. Many come from poorer backgrounds and areas which are more likely to be policed, for example, 69% of stop and searches in London between July and September 2020 took place in neighbourhoods that were more deprived than average

The Home Office's Serious Violence Strategy (2018) identified possible risk factors for involvement in serious gang activity, including childhood abuse and neglect, past criminality, parental criminality, drug taking, truancy from school, living in high crime areas and having delinquent peers.

Evidence also shows that factors of girls' involvement in gangs include "family breakdown, domestic violence in the home, a lack of positive role models and low self-esteem"

The Commission has heard views that some gang crime is based on drug turf war conflict or money but at least as much appears to be revenge attacks based on fairly trivial incidents. A Children's Commissioner report on improving safeguarding responses to gang violence and criminal exploitation highlights a case where a child was "stabbed in revenge for failure to repay a 'debt' arising from an arrest".

Local Data

- Within Cheshire West and Chester's 20% most deprived areas, 23 neighbourhoods and 35,166 residents are affected by crime deprivation (domain)
- The number of recorded crimes within Cheshire West and Chester in the year ending March 2021 drop by eleven-point seven percentage points compare to the previous year.
- Results from the Our Place survey undertaken in spring 2021, showed that 89% of residents within Cheshire West and Chester feel very or fairly safe during the day. After dark, 63% of residents said they felt safe, however, there were significant differences across the Borough, with 49% saying they felt safe in Ellesmere Port (more deprived area), compared to 76% of rural residents.

Appendix 1: Data Tables

Table 1: Percentage of households renting property in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2011)

Ward	Social rent	Private rent
Wolverham	46%	9%
Blacon	39%	7%
Westminster	38%	19%
Central & Grange	36%	14%
Lache	30%	12%
Neston	30%	10%
Northwich Leftwich	27%	12%
Winsford Over & Verdin	26%	9%
Sutton Villages	25%	8%
Winsford Wharton	21%	14%
Netherpool	21%	9%
Rudheath	21%	8%
Winsford Swanlow	20%	8%
Northwich Witton	19%	22%
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	18%	41%
Winsford Dene	14%	14%
Newton & Hoole	14%	17%
Weaver & Cuddington	13%	7%
Shakerley	12%	9%
Upton	12%	12%
Malpas	11%	17%
Frodsham	10%	11%
Northwich Winnington & Castle	10%	20%

Winsford Gravel	9%	11%
Tattenhall	9%	19%
Marbury	8%	8%
Tarporley	8%	10%
Whitby Park	8%	6%
Great Boughton	8%	12%
Hartford & Greenbank	8%	10%
Saughall & Mollington	8%	8%
Farndon	7%	15%
Helsby	7%	11%
Handbridge Park	6%	16%
Gowy Rural	6%	9%
Tarvin & Kelsall	6%	9%
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	5%	10%
Sandstone	5%	8%
Little Neston	5%	8%
Willaston & Thornton	4%	8%
Christleton & Huntington	4%	13%
Parkgate	3%	9%
Ledsham & Manor	1%	6%
Whitby Groves	1%	7%
Strawberry	0%	6%
Cheshire West and Chester	15%	13%

Note : Table is ordered by proportion of households that social rent property.

Source: Census 2011, Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Estimated tenure of households in Cheshire West and Chester 2012-2020

Year	Owned Outright	Owned with Mortgage or Loan	Private Rent	Social Rent
2012	50,705	51,195	18,359	20,147
2013	51,298	50,931	18,622	20,097
2014	51,859	49,717	19,051	19,971
2015	51,379	47,832	18,972	19,839
2016	51,048	46,539	19,075	19,295
2017	54,268	48,892	19,609	19,403
2018	55,123	48,744	19,674	19,325
2019	58,010	50,476	20,306	20,252
2020	60,349	53,283	20,726	20,387

Source: Subnational estimates of dwellings and households by tenure, England:2020, Office for National Statistics

Table 3: Average weekly rent for local authority social and affordable housing

Year	Cheshire West and Chester	England
2009-10	£55.53	£66.05
2010-11	£57.03	£67.83
2011-12	£61.73	£73.58
2012-13	£67.06	£78.61
2013-14	£76.16	£82.64
2014-15	£78.06	£86.29
2015-16	£78.26	£88.16
2016-17	£77.67	£87.37
2017-18	£77.09	£86.71
2018-19	£76.96	£85.85
2019-20	£76.62	£85.68
2020-21	£78.83	£88.27

Source: Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies (table 702), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Table 4: Average weekly rent for private provider social and affordable housing

Year	Cheshire West and Chester	England
2010	£73.33	£77.91
2011	£74.00	£78.28
2012	£78.86	£83.20
2013	£85.20	£88.40
2014	£91.67	£92.30
2015	£93.08	£95.88
2016	£95.12	£97.84
2017	£93.33	£96.61
2018	£92.59	£96.33
2019	£91.96	£95.12
2020	£91.89	£94.25
2021	£93.29	£96.60

Source: Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies (table 704), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Table 5: Food security for those in poverty by key ages groups and household types in the UK (2019/20)

Household food security status	Very low	Low
Children	12%	14%
Working-age adults	12%	10%
Pensioners	1%	2%
Single with children	18%	22%
Single without children	15%	12%
Couple with children	8%	9%
Couple without children	9%	6%

Source: The Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Table 6: Life expectancy in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (male) (2018-2020)

Area	Life expectancy at birth (years)
England	79.66
Cheshire West and Chester	79.9
Blacon	76.74
Central & Grange	75.07
Cheshire West and Chester	79.9
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	77.23
Christleton & Huntington	82.35
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	81.99
England	79.66
Farndon	83.5
Frodsham	80.78
Gowy Rural	78.46
Great Boughton	80.91
Handbridge Park	84.29
Hartford & Greenbank	82.31
Helsby	81.4
Lache	75.71
Ledsham & Manor	82.23
Little Neston	81.62
Malpas	81.97
Marbury	81.26
Neston	78.74
Netherpool	76.57
Newton & Hoole	78.99
Northwich Leftwich	75.92

Northwich Winnington & Castle	78.47
Northwich Witton	-
Parkgate	84.01
Rudheath	78.63
Sandstone	85.82
Saughall & Mollington	78.78
Shakerley	79.34
Strawberry	82.1
Sutton Villages	80.72
Tarporley	84.82
Tarvin & Kelsall	82.26
Tattenhall	83.46
Upton	79.05
Weaver & Cuddington	80.27
Westminster	77.25
Whitby Groves	81.52
Whitby Park	77.78
Willaston & Thornton	85.24
Winsford Dene	73.56
Winsford Gravel	77.91
Winsford Over & Verdin	79.4
Winsford Swanlow	82.76
Winsford Wharton	77.02
Wolverham	-

Source: PHE fingertips: Life expectancy at birth male

Table 7: Life expectancy in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (female) (2018-2020)

Ward	Life expectancy at birth (years)
England	83.25
Cheshire West and Chester	83.06
Blacon	79.35
Central & Grange	78.67
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	82.92
Christleton & Huntington	85.05
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	84.05
Farndon	86.07
Frodsham	82.27
Gowy Rural	84.92
Great Boughton	86.37
Handbridge Park	86.20
Hartford & Greenbank	89.40
Helsby	83.76
Lache	79.35
Ledsham & Manor	84.36
Little Neston	85.12
Malpas	84.30
Marbury	85.79
Neston	81.37
Netherpool	81.71
Newton & Hoole	84.02
Northwich Leftwich	80.61
Northwich Winnington & Castle	86.58
Northwich Witton	81.28

Parkgate	84.97
Rudheath	81.84
Sandstone	85.58
Saughall & Mollington	82.86
Shakerley	78.31
Strawberry	86.81
Sutton Villages	79.83
Tarporley	88.65
Tarvin & Kelsall	85.22
Tattenhall	88.02
Upton	81.80
Weaver & Cuddington	84.05
Westminster	81.54
Whitby Groves	86.50
Whitby Park	81.43
Willaston & Thornton	84.11
Winsford Dene	81.22
Winsford Gravel	80.26
Winsford Over & Verdin	83.90
Winsford Swanlow	85.07
Winsford Wharton	81.30
Wolverham	80.56

Source: PHE fingertips: Life expectancy at birth female

Table 8: Breakdown of the life expectancy gap between the most deprived quintile and the least deprived quintile in Cheshire West and Chester, by broad causes of death (2018)

Cause of death	Sex	Percentage contribution to gap (%)
Circulatory	Male	27%
Cancer	Male	27%
Respiratory	Male	15%
Digestive	Male	7%
External causes	Male	4%
Mental and behavioural	Male	7%
Other	Male	11%
Deaths under 28 days	Male	2%
Circulatory	Female	22%
Cancer	Female	25%
Respiratory	Female	19%
Digestive	Female	9%
External causes	Female	4%
Mental and behavioural	Female	10%
Other	Female	10%
Deaths under 28 days	Female	3%

Source: PHE segment tool <https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/segment-tool/>

Table 9: Percentage of people who report having a limiting long-term illness in Cheshire West and Chester by Ward (2011)

Area	Percentage of people who reported having a limiting long-term illness or disability (%)
Cheshire West and Chester	18.51
Blacon	22.87
Central & Grange	22.94
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	15.33
Christleton & Huntington	15.51
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	13.20
Farndon	15.41
Frodsham	18.83
Gowy Rural	16.66
Great Boughton	17.84
Handbridge Park	16.75
Hartford & Greenbank	15.53
Helsby	18.18
Lache	18.33
Ledsham & Manor	13.59
Little Neston	18.95
Malpas	18.87
Marbury	17.56
Neston	21.64
Netherpool	25.56
Newton & Hoole	17.55
Northwich Leftwich	23.09

Northwich Winnington & Castle	17.34
Northwich Witton	19.16
Parkgate	18.69
Rudheath	20.16
Sandstone	15.52
Saughall & Mollington	20.39
Shakerley	20.24
Strawberry	14.72
Sutton Villages	20.59
Tarporley	15.83
Tarvin & Kelsall	17.32
Tattenhall	16.37
Upton	17.27
Weaver & Cuddington	20.74
Westminster	24.21
Whitby Groves	16.22
Whitby Park	21.04
Willaston & Thornton	17.90
Winsford Dene	23.95
Winsford Gravel	23.12
Winsford Over & Verdin	19.56
Winsford Swanlow	20.65
Winsford Wharton	15.32
Wolverham	23.79

PHE fingertips: Percentage of people who report having a limiting long-term illness

Table 10: Health Measure by deprivation decile – England

Area	Smoking prevalence in adults (18+) (%)	Compared to England
England	13.9	-
Most deprived decile	16.9	Worse
Second most deprived decile	15.5	Worse
Third more deprived decile	15.1	Worse
Fourth more deprived decile	14.8	Worse
Fifth more deprived decile	14.2	Similar
Fifth less deprived decile	12.7	Better
Fourth less deprived decile	12.5	Better
Third less deprived decile	11.7	Better
Second least deprived decile	10.8	Better
Least deprived decile	9.1	Better

Selection: Smoking Prevalence in adults (18+) – current smokers (APS), 2019, District & UA deprivation deciles in England (IMD2019, 4/19 geog.)

Area	Percentage of adults (aged 18+) classified as overweight or obese (%)	Compared to England
England	62.8	-
Most deprived decile	68.9	Worse
Second most deprived decile	65.8	Worse
Third more deprived decile	64.3	Worse
Fourth more deprived decile	63.8	Worse
Fifth more deprived decile	62.2	Similar
Fifth less deprived decile	62.0	Similar
Fourth less deprived decile	62.4	Similar
Third less deprived decile	61.2	Better

Second least deprived decile	59.6	Better
Least deprived decile	55.8	Better

Selection: Percentage of adults (aged 18+) classified as overweight or obese, 2019/20, LSOA11 deprivation deciles in England (IMD2015)

Area	Percentage of 5 year olds with experience of visually obvious dental decay %)	Compared to England
England	23.4	-
Most deprived decile	37.4	Worse
Second most deprived decile	31.3	Worse
Third more deprived decile	28.0	Worse
Fourth more deprived decile	25.6	Worse
Fifth more deprived decile	22.0	Better
Fifth less deprived decile	19.4	Better
Fourth less deprived decile	16.8	Better
Third less deprived decile	15.7	Better
Second least deprived decile	14.7	Better
Least deprived decile	12.6	Better

Selection: Percentage of 5 year olds with experience of visually obvious dental decay, 2018/19, LSOA11 deprivation deciles in England (IMD2019)

Area	Admissions for alcohol related conditions (rate per 100,000)	Compared to England
England	456	-
Most deprived decile	533	Worse
Second most deprived decile	513	Worse
Third more deprived decile	481	Worse
Fourth more deprived decile	475	Worse

Fifth more deprived decile	434	Better
Fifth less deprived decile	428	Better
Fourth less deprived decile	412	Better
Third less deprived decile	414	Better
Second least deprived decile	397	Better
Least deprived decile	333	Better

Selection: Admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions (Narrow): New method. This indicator uses a new set of attributable fractions, and so differ from that originally published. (Persons), 2020/21, District & UA deprivation deciles in England (IMD2019, 4/21 geography)

Source: PHE fingertips

Table 11: Excess weight prevalence in reception children in Cheshire West and Chester by children's centre footprint (2017/18)

Area	Excess weight prevalence (%)	Compared to England
England	22%	-
Cheshire West and Chester	20%	Better
Barnton and Weaverham	24%	Similar
Blacon	22%	Similar
Cherry Grove	14%	Better
Chester Rural	16%	Better
Chester Victoria	20%	Similar
Frodsham	16%	Similar
Greenfields	22%	Similar
Hartford	17%	Similar
Kingsway and Upton	16%	Better
Lache	17%	Similar
Leftwich	27%	Similar
Malpas, Farndon and Tarvin	17%	Similar
Neston	17%	Similar

Over	24%	Similar
Parklands	20%	Similar
Portside	20%	Similar
Stanlaw Abbey	17%	Similar
Victoria Road	32%	Worse
Wharton	24%	Similar
Woodlands	17%	Similar

Source: National Child Measurement Program

Table 12: Excess weight prevalence in year six children in Cheshire West and Chester by children's centre footprint (2017/18)

Area	Excess weight prevalence (%)	Compared to England
England	34%	-
Cheshire West and Chester	32%	Better
Barnton and Weaverham	37%	Similar
Blacon	33%	Similar
Cherry Grove	29%	Similar
Chester Rural	31%	Similar
Chester Victoria	25%	Similar
Frodsham	28%	Similar
Greenfields	28%	Better
Hartford	36%	Similar
Kingsway and Upton	26%	Better
Lache	29%	Similar
Leftwich	23%	Better
Malpas, Farndon and Tarvin	27%	Better
Neston	27%	Better

Over	37%	Similar
Parklands	36%	Similar
Portside	44%	Worse
Stanlaw Abbey	37%	Similar
Victoria Road	43%	Similar
Wharton	32%	Similar
Woodlands	36%	Similar

Source: National Child Measurement Program

Table 13: Percentage of reception children achieve a good level of development in Cheshire West and Chester by Children's centre footprint (2017/18)

Area	Percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development (%)	Percentage of FSM eligible pupils achieving a good level of development (%)
England	72%	57%
Cheshire West and Chester	72%	53%
Blacon	58%	-
Chester Victoria	68%	-
Lache	73%	53%
Kingsway and Upton	72%	45%
Cherry Grove	79%	-
Frodsham	73%	-
Chester Rural	71%	-
Malpas, Farndon and Tarvin	76%	50%
Stanlaw Abbey	75%	40%
Neston	71%	36%
Portside	67%	67%

Parklands	72%	64%
Woodlands	74%	-
Victoria Road	63%	40%
Leftwich	76%	-
Barnton and Weaverham	69%	-
Hartford	81%	-
Over	64%	49%
Greenfields	76%	71%
Wharton	71%	50%

Source: School Census

Table 14: Early diagnosis of cancer in England by deprivation deciles (2019)

Area	Percentage of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2 (%)	Compared to England
England	55.1	-
Most deprived decile	53.4	Worse
Second most deprived decile	53.0	Worse
Third more deprived decile	53.8	Worse
Fourth more deprived decile	54.4	Similar
Fifth more deprived decile	55.4	Similar
Fifth less deprived decile	55.2	Similar
Fourth less deprived decile	56.3	Better
Third less deprived decile	55.8	Better
Second least deprived decile	57.5	Better
Least deprived decile	59.0	Better

Selection: Percentage of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2, 2019, District & UA deprivation deciles in England (IMD2019, 4/21 geography)

Source: PHE fingertips

Table 15: Suicide rate in England by deprivation decile (2015-2017)

Area	Suicide Rate (per 100,000)	Compared to England
England	9.6	-
Most deprived decile	13.5	Worse
Second most deprived decile	11.0	Worse
Third more deprived decile	10.8	Worse
Fourth more deprived decile	10.6	Worse
Fifth more deprived decile	9.2	Similar
Fifth less deprived decile	9.3	Similar
Fourth less deprived decile	8.8	Better
Third less deprived decile	8.1	Better
Second least deprived decile	7.5	Better
Least deprived decile	7.0	Better

Selection: Suicide Rate, 2015-17, LSOA11 deprivation deciles in England (IMD2015)

Source: PHE fingertips

Table 16: Emergency hospital admissions for self-harm in England by deprivation decile (2020/21)

Area	Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm	Compared to England
England	181.2	-
Most deprived decile	332.1	Worse
Second most deprived decile	238.6	Worse
Third more deprived decile	196.8	Worse
Fourth more deprived decile	185.0	Worse
Fifth more deprived decile	166.9	Better
Fifth less deprived decile	147.4	Better
Fourth less deprived decile	145.5	Better
Third less deprived decile	135.5	Better

Second least deprived decile	123.6	Better
Least deprived decile	112.0	Better

Selection: Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm, 2020/21, LSOA11 deprivation deciles in England (IMD2019)

Source: PHE fingertips

Table 17: Hospital stays for self-harm, standardised admission ratio in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2015/16 – 2019/20)

Area	Hospital stays for self harm, standardised admission ratio	Compared to England
England	100	-
Cheshire West and Chester	112	Worse
Blacon	149	Worse
Central & Grange	202	Worse
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	101	Similar
Chistleton & Huntington	64	Better
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	100	Similar
Farndon	37	Better
Frodsham	116	Similar
Gowy Rural	68	Better
Great Boughton	75	Better
Handbridge Park	84	Similar
Hartford & Greenbank	107	Similar
Helsby	65	Better
Lache	99	Similar
Ledsham & Manor	80	Similar
Little Neston	73	Similar
Malpas	61	Better
Marbury	120	Similar
Neston	185	Worse

Netherpool	137	Worse
Newton & Hoole	95	Similar
Northwich Leftwich	226	Worse
Northwich Winnington & Castle	157	Worse
Northwich Witton	154	Worse
Parkgate	38	Better
Rudheath	175	Worse
Sandstone	-	Not compared
Saughall & Mollington	57	Better
Shakerley	126	Similar
Strawberry	46	Better
Sutton Villages	100	Similar
Tarporley	67	Similar
Tarvin & Kelsall	56	Better
Tattenhall	49	Better
Upton	154	Worse
Weaver & Cuddington	108	Similar
Westminster	182	Worse
Whitby Groves	56	Better
Whitby Park	115	Similar
Willaston & Thornton	73	Similar
Winsford Dene	258	Worse
Winsford Gravel	118	Similar
Winsford Over & Verdin	150	Worse
Winsford Swanlow	187	Worse
Winsford Wharton	143	Worse

Wolverham	135	Worse
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Source: PHE fingertips – Local Health

Table 18: Covid Mortality rates in England by deprivation decile

Date	1 (most deprived)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (least deprived)
March 2020	40.2	50.7	55.1	38.5	36.9	28	29.1	29.4	22.7	23.8
April 2020	982.4	967.6	867.1	668.9	602.7	549.2	517.1	515.6	488.8	432.5
May 2020	382.9	359.1	325.3	252.5	239.3	214.6	226.1	207	204.3	169.5
June 2020	123.6	105.3	90.4	85.5	72.3	71.7	72.8	68.5	59.8	51.7
July 2020	42	31.7	27.8	21.2	22.1	20.7	19.7	16	14.2	14.5
August 2020	17.4	15.3	14.1	7.2	6.4	6.1	4.4	6.9	3.9	3.8
September 2020	40.2	21.4	20.1	13.2	15.8	12.6	6.3	5.7	7.4	4.7
October 2020	197.6	116.4	93.5	69.4	52.4	49.1	42.2	43.2	35.1	28
November 2020	486.8	330	262.9	208.8	171.2	150.7	149.3	140.2	126.4	95.3
December 2020	397.9	362.3	314.4	265.2	231.9	190	206.8	190.3	185.8	154.7
January 2021	710.4	797.5	704.4	638.4	565	545.3	472.8	455.5	443.3	400.1
February 2021	585.4	568.5	509.5	461.9	395.7	369.4	348.7	319.1	304.5	282
March 2021	170	135.1	114.8	100.5	85.3	77.4	73.8	76.9	65.6	52.9
April 2021	44.1	30	32.9	22.6	19.4	18.7	13.4	16.4	14.6	10.8

Source: ONS – Deaths due to COVID-19

Table 19: Covid-19 vaccination first dose uptake rate in Cheshire West and Chester by IMD quintile (Selective data)

Row Labels	1 - Most deprived	2	3	4	5 - Least deprived
01/12/2020	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
01/01/2021	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
01/02/2021	11%	14%	16%	15%	19%
01/03/2021	25%	29%	33%	31%	37%
01/04/2021	41%	44%	50%	48%	54%
01/05/2021	43%	47%	54%	52%	58%
01/06/2021	47%	53%	60%	59%	65%
01/07/2021	56%	63%	68%	68%	72%
01/08/2021	59%	66%	71%	70%	74%
01/09/2021	60%	67%	72%	72%	76%
01/10/2021	62%	69%	73%	73%	77%
01/11/2021	63%	70%	75%	75%	79%
01/12/2021	64%	71%	76%	76%	80%
01/01/2022	65%	72%	77%	77%	81%
01/02/2022	66%	73%	78%	78%	81%

Source: UK Health Security Agency, COVID-19 Situational Awareness Tracker

Table 20: The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals in CW&C and England

Year	Cheshire West and Chester	England
2017	11.1%	14.0%
2018	11.6%	13.6%
2019	13.3%	15.4%
2020	14.8%	17.3%
2021	17.7%	20.8%

Source: Department for Education, statistics: school and pupil numbers

Table 21: Comparison of percentage SEND pupils and non-SEND pupils by IMD neighbourhood

IMD decile	Pupils with SEND	Pupils with no SEND	All pupils
1	17.4%	9.3%	10.5%
2	15.0%	9.7%	10.5%
3	12.3%	9.5%	9.9%
4	6.0%	5.3%	5.4%
5	6.0%	6.3%	6.3%
6	6.5%	7.6%	7.5%
7	9.5%	12.0%	11.7%
8	7.4%	10.2%	9.7%
9	9.4%	12.5%	12.1%
10	10.6%	17.6%	16.5%

Note: Q1 is the most deprived quintile and is the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. Q5 is the most affluent quintile and is the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in England. The data only includes pupils residing within Cheshire West and Chester and attending Cheshire West and Chester schools.

Source: School Census Jan 2020, Cheshire West and Chester Council. Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2019.

Table 22: The percentage of young people not in education, employment, or training

Year	Cheshire West and Chester	England	North West
2016	2.9%	6%	6.6%
2017	2.3%	6%	6.5%
2018	2.7%	5.5%	6.3%
2019	2.8%	5.5%	5.4%
2020	3.7%	5.5%	5.3%

Source: Department of Education

Table 23: The percentage of young people not in education, employment, or training by ward in 2021

Ward	Percentage NEET
Winsford Over & Verdin	19%
Central & Grange	15%
Blacon	11%
Lache	10%
Wolverham	9%
Westminster	8%
Winsford Wharton	8%
Sutton Villages	8%
Northwich Witton	7%
Hartford & Greenbank	7%
Winsford Dene	6%
Northwich Winnington & Castle	6%
Winsford Swanlow	6%
Frodsham	6%
Winsford Gravel	5%
Malpas	5%
Gowy Rural	5%
Newton & Hoole	5%
Weaver & Cuddington	5%
Marbury	5%
Shakerley	4%
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	4%
Northwich Leftwich	3%
Neston	3%

Upton	3%
Tarvin & Kelsall	3%
Ledsham & Manor	3%
Netherpool	2%
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	2%
Rudheath	2%
Saughall & Mollington	2%
Handbridge Park	2%
Tarporley	2%
Sandstone	2%
Great Boughton	1%
Little Neston	1%
Willaston & Thornton	1%
Christleton & Huntington	1%
Strawberry	1%
Whitby Park	0%
Tattenhall	0%
Helsby	0%
Parkgate	0%

Source: Department of Education

Table 24: The percentage of people with NVQ level 4 and above

Year	Cheshire West and Chester	England	North West
2016	39.7%	37.8%	33.9%
2017	43.8%	38.2%	34.4%
2018	41.8%	39.0%	35.5%
2019	43.0%	40.0%	36.1%
2020	44.9%	42.8%	38.7%

Source: State of the Borough

Table 25: Claimant count by ward as of December 2021

2020 electoral wards	December 2021	CW&C Average
Central & Grange	7.8	3.3
Westminster	7.5	3.3
Wolverham	7.5	3.3
Blacon	7.2	3.3
Lache	5.1	3.3
Northwich Witton	4.6	3.3
Sutton Villages	4.6	3.3
Winsford Over & Verdin	4.6	3.3
Winsford Dene	4.1	3.3
Northwich Leftwich	4.0	3.3
Winsford Wharton	4.0	3.3
Neston	3.9	3.3
Netherpool	3.7	3.3
Newton & Hoole	3.6	3.3
Winsford Gravel	3.5	3.3
Winsford Swanlow	3.5	3.3

Chester City & the Garden Quarter	3.2	3.3
Rudheath	3.2	3.3
Northwich Winnington & Castle	2.9	3.3
Whitby Park	2.7	3.3
Great Boughton	2.5	3.3
Marbury	2.5	3.3
Gowy Rural	2.4	3.3
Frodsham	2.3	3.3
Malpas	2.3	3.3
Shakerley	2.3	3.3
Weaver & Cuddington	2.3	3.3
Little Neston	2.2	3.3
Christleton & Huntington	2.1	3.3
Farndon	2.1	3.3
Handbridge Park	2.0	3.3
Helsby	1.9	3.3
Ledsham & Manor	1.9	3.3
Tarvin & Kelsall	1.9	3.3
Upton	1.9	3.3
Saughall & Mollington	1.8	3.3
Hartford & Greenbank	1.7	3.3
Parkgate	1.7	3.3
Sandstone	1.7	3.3
Tarporley	1.7	3.3
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	1.6	3.3
Tattenhall	1.6	3.3
Whitby Groves	1.6	3.3

Strawberry	1.4	3.3
Willaston & Thornton	1.4	3.3

Source: Claimant Count, ONS

Table 26: Rate of claimant count change between May 2020 to December 2021

Area	Percentage change	CW&C average % change
Central & Grange	28%	41%
Northwich Witton	29%	41%
Blacon	30%	41%
Little Neston	31%	41%
Neston	32%	41%
Wolverham	32%	41%
Marbury	34%	41%
Winsford Gravel	36%	41%
Lache	37%	41%
Sandstone	37%	41%
Sutton Villages	38%	41%
Farndon	38%	41%
Northwich Leftwich	38%	41%
Winsford Dene	39%	41%
Westminster	40%	41%
Newton & Hoole	41%	41%
Winsford Over & Verdin	41%	41%
Whitby Park	41%	41%
Frodsham	43%	41%
Rudheath	43%	41%
Chistleton & Huntington	43%	41%
Gowy Rural	44%	41%

Northwich Winnington & Castle	44%	41%
Malpas	45%	41%
Shakerley	45%	41%
Saughall & Mollington	45%	41%
Great Boughton	46%	41%
Ledsham & Manor	46%	41%
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	46%	41%
Hartford & Greenbank	47%	41%
Netherpool	47%	41%
Tarvin & Kelsall	47%	41%
Weaver & Cuddington	48%	41%
Winsford Wharton	48%	41%
Helsby	51%	41%
Winsford Swanlow	51%	41%
Handbridge Park	52%	41%
Tarporley	56%	41%
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	57%	41%
Tattenhall	57%	41%
Upton	57%	41%
Whitby Groves	60%	41%
Willaston & Thornton	60%	41%
Parkgate	61%	41%
Strawberry	62%	41%

Source: Claimant Count, ONS

Table 27: UK employment by full-time and part-time workers

Period	Full-time	Part-time
Jul to Sep 2016	0	0
Aug to Oct 2016	-0.079	0.025
Sep to Nov 2016	0.035	-0.129
Oct to Dec 2016	0.201	-0.14
Nov to Jan 2017	0.336	-0.48
Dec to Feb 2017	0.66	-1.215
Jan to Mar 2017	1	-1.133
Feb to Apr 2017	1.056	-1.173
Mar to May 2017	1.119	-0.704
Apr to Jun 2017	1.297	-0.547
May to Jul 2017	1.4	-0.033
Jun to Aug 2017	1.245	0.047
Jul to Sep 2017	1.038	0.132
Aug to Oct 2017	1.213	0.023
Sep to Nov 2017	1.665	0.178
Oct to Dec 2017	1.527	-0.14
Nov to Jan 2018	1.893	-0.11
Dec to Feb 2018	1.805	0.392
Jan to Mar 2018	2.086	0.556
Feb to Apr 2018	2.124	0.99
Mar to May 2018	2.525	-0.032
Apr to Jun 2018	2.544	-0.181
May to Jul 2018	2.64	-0.195
Jun to Aug 2018	2.77	-0.515
Jul to Sep 2018	2.897	-0.625

Aug to Oct 2018	3.063	-0.358
Sep to Nov 2018	3.244	-0.262
Oct to Dec 2018	3.361	0.062
Nov to Jan 2019	3.716	0.458
Dec to Feb 2019	3.838	0.212
Jan to Mar 2019	3.685	0.343
Feb to Apr 2019	3.853	0.465
Mar to May 2019	3.588	1.219
Apr to Jun 2019	3.672	1.718
May to Jul 2019	3.949	0.565
Jun to Aug 2019	3.899	-0.284
Jul to Sep 2019	4.127	-0.197
Aug to Oct 2019	4.232	0.081
Sep to Nov 2019	4.745	-0.15
Oct to Dec 2019	5	-0.462
Nov to Jan 2020	5.202	-0.408
Dec to Feb 2020	5.165	0.72
Jan to Mar 2020	4.681	1.323
Feb to Apr 2020	4.231	0.167
Mar to May 2020	4.429	-1.568
Apr to Jun 2020	4.575	-3.151
May to Jul 2020	4.523	-3.547
Jun to Aug 2020	4.385	-4.267
Jul to Sep 2020	4.367	-5.557
Aug to Oct 2020	4.476	-6.292
Sep to Nov 2020	4.613	-6.767
Oct to Dec 2020	4.219	-7.513

Nov to Jan 2021	4.367	-8.325
Dec to Feb 2021	4.754	-8.887
Jan to Mar 2021	5.017	-9.304
Feb to Apr 2021	5.117	-9.654
Mar to May 2021	5.199	-9.803
Apr to Jun 2021	5.192	-8.668
May to Jul 2021	5.472	-8.484
Jun to Aug 2021	5.103	-6.793
Jul to Sep 2021	5.359	-6.233

Source: ONS

Table 28: The average weekly wage in CW&C, GB, and NW by place of residence and by place of work from 2019 to 2021

Location	Resident and workplace type	2019	2020	2021
CW&C	Full time resident	£611	£601	£620
CW&C	Part time resident	£185	£219	£217
CW&C	Full time workplace	558	£552	£599
CW&C	PT workplace	£180	£217	£228
GB	Full time resident	£588	£587	£613
GB	Part time resident	£197	£203	£216
GB	Full time workplace	£587	£587	£613
GB	Part time workplace	£197	£203	£ 216
NW	Full time resident	£556	£558	£578
NW	Part time resident	£197	£200	£211
NW	Full time workplace	£551	£558	£576
NW	Part time workplace	£197	£201	£211

Source: Annual Survey of Household Earnings, ONS

Table 29: Rate of furlough uptake in CW&C and the UK average between 31 July 2020 and September 2021

Period	North West	Cheshire West and Chester	United Kingdom
31 July 2020	17%	18%	18%
30 August 2020	12%	12%	13%
30 September 2020	9%	9%	10%
31 October 2020	8%	8%	8%
31 Nov 20	12%	13%	13%
30 December 2020	12%	12%	13%
31 January 2021	15%	16%	16%
28 February 2021	14%	16%	15%
31 May 2021	8%	8%	9%
30 June 2021	6%	7%	6%
31 July 2021	5%	5%	5%
31 August 2021	4%	4%	5%
30 September 2021	4%	4%	4%

Source: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, HM Revenue & Customs, Jan 2022

Table 30: Rate of furlough uptake by job sector in CW&C across 2021

Date 2021	January	February	May	June	July	August	September
Agriculture, Mining, Energy, Water and waste	1%	1%	1%	15%	10%	10%	12%
Manufacturing	8%	7%	10%	5%	6%	6%	6%
Construction	4%	4%	4%	13%	13%	14%	14%
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles	20%	20%	12%	7%	8%	8%	8%
Transportation and storage	3%	4%	6%	17%	16%	13%	12%
Accommodation and food services	26%	26%	28%	6%	6%	7%	7%

Source: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, HM Revenue & Customs, Jan 2022

Table 31: Percentage of households without a car or van in Cheshire West and Chester by ward (2011)

Ward	Percentage of households without a car or van
Westminster	37.9%
Wolverham	37.9%
Central & Grange	37.0%
Blacon	35.8%
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	34.8%
Lache	30.8%
Northwich Witton	26.8%
Northwich Leftwich	26.0%
Sutton Villages	24.7%
Neston	23.7%
Newton & Hoole	23.7%

Winsford Dene	23.7%
Netherpool	22.9%
Winsford Wharton	22.9%
Winsford Over & Verdin	22.8%
Rudheath	20.0%
Great Boughton	19.0%
Upton	18.0%
Handbridge Park	17.9%
Northwich Winnington & Castle	17.7%
Winsford Swanlow	16.4%
Whitby Park	16.2%
Winsford Gravel	16.0%
Frodsham	15.8%
Weaver & Cuddington	12.4%
Helsby	11.3%
Saughall & Mollington	11.0%
Hartford & Greenbank	10.7%
Marbury	10.4%
Christleton & Huntington	10.3%
Tarporley	10.0%
Parkgate	9.8%
Little Neston	9.2%
Shakerley	9.1%
Malpas	8.8%
Gowy Rural	8.7%
Farndon	8.6%
Whitby Groves	8.6%

Willaston & Thornton	8.4%
Tattenhall	8.0%
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	7.7%
Ledsham & Manor	7.0%
Sandstone	6.9%
Strawberry	6.9%
Tarvin & Kelsall	6.5%
Cheshire West & Chester	18.6%

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics.

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