

Access and Inclusion Services Scrutiny presentation 2022



Children Living in Walsall

Updated 10th April 2022

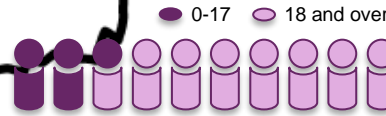
Population of 286,716

69,375 (24.2%) of whom are children aged 0-17

2020 mid-year population estimates

The number of children and young people aged 0-17 is projected to rise to 71,822 by 2030

24.2% of the population are children and young people



BME White

31.2% of Children are from BME backgrounds

2011 Census

0-4 5-9 10-14 15-17



28% of children are aged 0-4, 29% are aged 5-9, 28% are aged 10-14 and 15% are aged 15-17

2020 mid-year population estimates



39% of children live in poverty after housing costs

COSTS Campaign to end child poverty – May 2021

Deprivation levels are high

In the Indices of Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI), Walsall is the **19th most deprived Local Authority** in the country with 29% of neighbourhoods in the top 10% of most deprived neighbourhoods nationally which is the 15 highest.

Two of Walsall's three parliamentary constituencies are in the **top 50** constituencies with the highest levels of child poverty

Children and young people have more health challenges than their peers

4.2% of babies are born with a low birth weight

compared with 3.1% the West Midlands and 2.9% nationally (2020 data)

6.8 per 1,000 children die before their first birthday

compared with 5.6 in the West Midlands and 3.9 nationally (2018-2020 data)

2.5% of young girls get pregnant at 15,16 or 17

compared with 1.8% in the West Midlands and 1.6% nationally (2019 data)

7.9 per 10,000 would be admitted to hospital as an inpatient for mental health issues

compared with 8.6 in the West Midlands and 8.8 nationally (2020-21 data)

1.5 per 10,000 admitted to hospital for alcohol related issues

compared with 2.5 in the West Midlands and 2.9 nationally (2018-19 – 2020-21 data)

Schools and Education

There are 122 State-funded schools in Walsall. More children are attending good and outstanding schools, performance remains below that of regional and national comparators but is improving faster



- 8 Nursery Schools
- 85 Primary Schools
- 19 Secondary Schools
- 7 Special Schools
- 3 Pupil Referral Units
- 7 Independent Schools
- 23 Sixth Forms and 1 Further Education College

● Outstanding ● Good
● Requires Improvement
● Inadequate



83% of schools are rated as good or outstanding

compared with 86% nationally and 84% regionally.
In 2019 79% of Walsall schools were good or outstanding



80% of learners attended Good or Outstanding schools

compared with 86% nationally and 84% regionally.
In 2019 73% of Walsall children attended good or outstanding schools

Significantly more children receive free school meals and numbers are increasing

31.6% at Primary

compared with 26.5% for stat neighbours, 25.7% in the West Midlands and 21.6% nationally

27.5% at Secondary

compared with 23.5% for stat neighbours, 22.2% in the West Midlands and 18.9% nationally

A high proportion of children in Walsall schools have English as an additional language

24.9% at Primary

compared with 25.1% for stat neighbours, 22.4% in the West Midlands and 20.9% nationally

21.1% at Secondary

compared with 20.5% for stat neighbours, 19.5% in the West Midlands and 17.2% nationally

Exclusions are reducing, however, absence rates from school in Walsall are higher than comparators – particularly among secondary school age children.

The overall absence rate was 5.4%

compared with 4.8% among stat neighbours, 4.9% in the West Midlands and 4.6% nationally

14.9% of children were persistently absent

compared with 12.8% among stat neighbours, 13.2% in the West Midlands and 12.1% nationally

In 2019-20, the permanent exclusion rate from school was 0.08%

compared with 0.1% among stat neighbours, 0.08% in the West Midlands and 0.06% nationally

In 2019-20, the suspension rate from school was 2.98%

compared with 4.7% among stat neighbours, 3.6% in the West Midlands and 3.8% nationally

A high proportion of children are overweight

27.2% in Reception

compared with 25.3% for stat neighbours, 24.6% in the West Midlands and 23.0% nationally

44.5% at Year 6

compared with 39.0% for stat neighbours, 38.2% in the West Midlands and 35.2% nationally

We implement the corporate vision through WR4C

Walsall Right for Children Vision

Our principles

- Listening and responding to the voices of children
- Restorative Practice... doing with, not for or to
- Focus on making a difference

What we will do

- We will help & support families to be their best
- We believe the best place for children is in a family home, or where this is not possible, an alternative stable and nurturing home
- We take action when children and young people need to be protected.
- We will work with our most vulnerable children and their families

Our priorities

- Locality working
- Quality of practice and support
- Improve achievement and close the gaps
- Develop a strong and stable workforce
- Review our commissioning approach

How we will do it

- Get the basics right for our children; a common sense whole system approach
- Strong leadership informed by 'what works'
- Mirror the lives and challenges of real families
- Implement evidence informed change
- Prioritise the stability of children in all aspects of their life
- Develop a culture of being proud of what we achieve

How will we know we have made a difference?

What children will tell us:

- I am protected from harm and exploitation
- Professionals know me and my family well
- I am not unnecessarily criminalised
- I am listened to and actively involved in decisions about me
- My family and I do not live in poverty, we are not hungry
- We have a home that is affordable, warm and safe
- I am supported to grow and develop and be resilient
- Education builds my confidence and prepares me for independency and adulthood

What impact we will experience from a service point of view:

- More children in full time education and less exclusions
- Reduction in reactive demand through our 'front door'
- Fewer children on a child protection plan
- Fewer children coming back for support following children's services ending support
- Reduction of children into our care
- Placement stability for our children who need to be looked after
- Reduction of children getting involved with crime
- Fewer complaints, more compliments
- Reduction in service costs
- Stable permanent workforce who feel proud working for Walsall

Our obsessions

- We develop quality connections, conversations and relationships
- We know our children and families well
- We are all champions for Walsall children



Right
Children

In the
right
place

At the
right
time

For
the right
amount of
time

Councils have statutory duties and responsibilities

These duties include ensuring sufficiency of good quality school places, home to school transport, and being satisfied children are receiving a suitable education.

The 2013 government guidance in relation to the statutory responsibilities of the DCS and Lead Member for Children's services summarises some key points as follows:

- To ensure access to high quality education provision for all disabled children and those with SEN including provision of AP and provision outside mainstream
- To ensure fair access to school
- To deliver suitable home to school transport arrangements
- To provide high quality Early Years provision

The Children Act 2004 includes the statutory responsibility for the Local Authority to ensure all Children and Young People (CYP) receive appropriate quality education. This requires the LA to receive sufficient assurance information and have sufficient authority within the education system to be able to deliver on this responsibility

It is the direct responsibility of a school to provide a quality education for children on role and to maximise their attendance. The LA has responsibility for those excluded, those Electively Home Educated (EHE), those who are missing from education and new arrivals into an area who require a school place.

Access and Inclusion Structure and Services



Structure and Services

Director Access and Inclusion Sharon Kelly

Head of Service Access Rob Thomas

- School admissions and appeals
- Attendance and access support teams
- Elective Home education
- Home to School Transport
- Children missing education
- School organisation and place planning
- Childcare sufficiency

Head of Service Inclusion Judith Nash

- EHCP assessment team
- Educational Psychologists
- Specialist Inclusion team including HI/VI and Early years SEN specialists
- Early years team
- Governor Services
- Schools and Post 16 Quality Assurance
- Alternative Provision (AP)

Head of Virtual School Lorraine Thompson

- Vulnerable Learners Hub
- Primary support team
- Secondary support team
- SEND caseworker
- Educational Psychologist
- Speech and Language specialist
- Business support team
- Inclusion team
- Career advisors

Key Issues

- ❖ Schools White Paper
- ❖ Education Investment and Priority Areas
- ❖ Reduction of School Improvement Grant but continuation of responsibilities
- ❖ SEND and AP Green Paper
- ❖ School Attendance bill and Children Not In School Bill
- ❖ Extended duties of Virtual School
- ❖ Pupil place planning – Secondary demand and Primary surplus, Special school provision
- ❖ Post Covid Impact on schools and council- needs/workforce

Key Issues - Continued

- ❖ Improving the numbers of good and outstanding Schools
- ❖ Gap in educational outcomes - Raising the aspirations of the whole community
- ❖ Fragmentation of the educational landscape and changing role of Local Authorities in terms of the relationship with schools- Local Authority Academisation Powers
- ❖ Pressures in the SEND sector and increasing needs of the most complex children and young people – ensuring inclusion for all
- ❖ Impact of funding changes, including proposed National Funding Formula and demand on High Needs Funding against backdrop of increased pressures on school budgets
- ❖ Joining up the skills agenda and employment pathways

Strategic risk implications

- a) Currently the local authority retains the statutory accountability for outcomes for children and young people but in a backdrop of diminishing resources and authority (beyond influence) to deliver against such accountabilities
- b) Public perception remains that local authorities still “run” schools
- c) As schools further academise or federate the risk is that the local authority is left with a small number of vulnerable and of concern schools but without the resources to effectively support them
- d) For some academy settings strategic oversight will not be local

How we are responding to these changes

- Walsall Right 4 Children
- Walsall Families of Schools
- Walsall Specialist Provision Review
- Specialist Inclusion Services Review
- School Improvement Board
- Walsall Learning Alliance
- Childrens Strategic Partnership
- Building on the partnership built during COVID



Multi Academy Trusts & Single Academy Trusts

Academy Trusts



Sponsor	Academies	Phase	Ofsted Grade
Academy Transformation Trust (ATT)	Jubilee Academy	Primary	Good (January 2021)
	North Walsall Academy	Primary	Good (November 2018)
	Pool Hayes Academy	Secondary	RI (February 2022)
	Caldmore Primary Academy	Primary	Good (November 2019)
	Phoenix	Special	Good (September 2019)
Central Co-operative Learning Trust	Blackwood	Primary	Converted January 2022
	Brownhills West	Primary	Converted February 2022
Church of England Central Education Trust (CECET)	Blue Coat C of E Academy	Secondary	Good (February 2019)
E-ACT Academy Trust	Reedwood Academy	Primary	Good (November 2021)
	West Walsall Academy	Secondary	Good (November 2017)
	Willenhall Academy	Secondary	
Elliot Foundation	Croft Academy	Primary	RI (July 2021)

MATs & SATS

Sponsor	Academies	Phase	Ofsted Grade
	Woods Bank	Primary	Good (January 2017)
Grace Foundation	Grace Academy	Secondary	Good (May 2017)
Joseph Leckie	Joseph Leckie Academy	Single Academy Trust	Good (November 2021)
Matrix Academy Trust	Bloxwich Academy	Primary & Secondary	Good (November 2021)
	Barr Beacon	Secondary	Outstanding (January 2014)
Mercers Trust	Walsall Academy	Secondary	Good (December 2019)
Mercian	Aldridge School	Secondary	Good (March 2017)
	Queen Mary's Grammar		-
	Queen Mary's High		Outstanding (November 2021)
	Walsall Studio School		Good (October 2019)
	The Ladder School		-
	Shire Oak		RI (July 2019)

MATs & SATS

Sponsor	Academies	Phase	Ofsted Grade
Ormiston Trust	Ormiston Sheffield Community Brownhills School	Secondary	RI (June 2019) -
Park Hall Infant Academy	Park Hall Infant Academy	Single Academy Trust	-
Park Hall Junior Academy	Park Hall Junior Academy	Single Academy Trust	Good (February 2017)
Ryders Hayes Academy Trust	Ryders Hayes Academy	Single Academy Trust	Good (February 2020)
Shine Academies	Lodge Farm Busill Jones	Primary Primary	Good (November 2019) -
St Chad's Multi Academy Trust	All Saints National Academy Birchills C of E Academy	Primary Primary	RI (January 2022) Good (March 2017)
St John Bosco Catholic MAC	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary	Primary	-
The Streetly Academy	The Streetly Academy	Single Academy Trust	RI (May 2020)
University of Wolverhampton Academy Trust	Edgar Stammers Academy	Primary	RI (May 2019)
Victoria Academies Trust	Fibbersley Park	Primary	RI (October 2019)



MATs & SATS

Sponsor	Academies	Phase	Ofsted Grade
Windsor Academy Trust	Goldsmith Academy	Primary	RI (June 2020)
	Rivers Academy	Primary	Good (January 2020)
Woodlands Academy of Learning	Woodlands Academy of Learning	Single Academy Trust	Good (September 2017)

Any Questions

