

# Children First Summit

Friday 23 June 2023

**Delegate Information Pack**



**Walsall** Council

**Thank you for registering to attend the Children First Summit. Your knowledge, skill, and experience as a leader in Walsall is essential in shaping the world for future generations of children and young people and your contributions to the day will be invaluable in developing future strategy for the Children and Young People of Walsall.**

This information pack is developed as a guide to prepare and support you in getting the most out of the Summit. If you have any questions about the information in this pack prior to the Summit, please email [policyandstrategy@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:policyandstrategy@walsall.gov.uk)

## Why are we here?

The Children and Young People Strategic Alliance recognises that “**today’s children are upstream adults**” and is driven through a “**Children First**” vision to create a collaborative space critical to developing new ways of thinking and new ways of working driven by the voice of children, young people and their families.

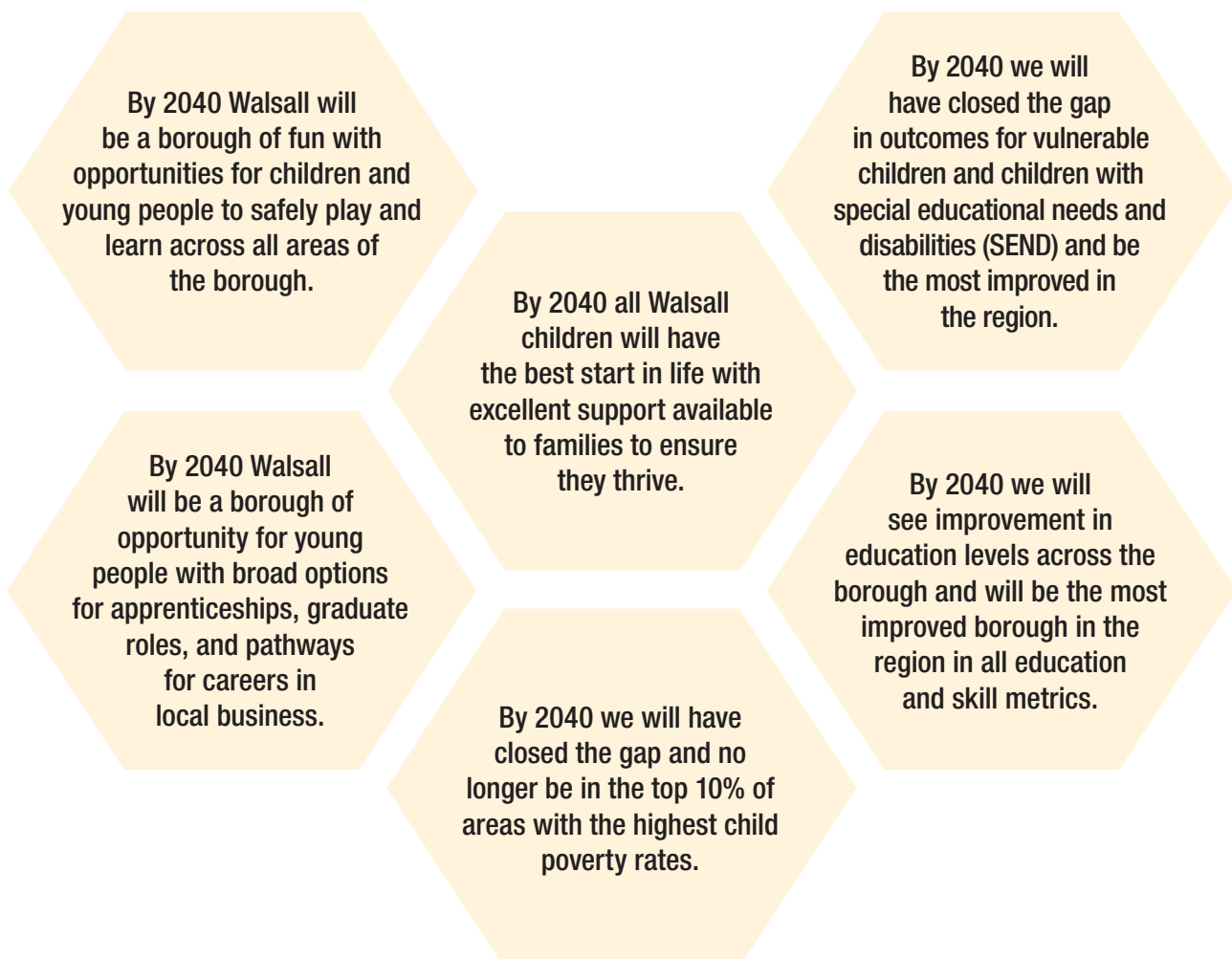
Partners, as part of the alliance, have signed up to working to one moral purpose:

***“To regularly consider how the lived experience of children and young people in Walsall can be improved.”***

The Alliance provides an opportunity to develop a good understanding of the needs of children and young people in Walsall and system wide change which needs to take place to enable improved outcomes. As well as using this information to enable partners’ own organisational change it enables them to influence change for children and young people in other strategic spaces.

After a comprehensive public consultation, Walsall has set itself an ambitious vision for where it wants to be by 2040. **The We are Walsall 2040 Strategy** seeks to make Walsall the most improved borough in the region, a vibrant place where people are proud to live and residents in all neighbourhoods have the same life chances. The key ambitions underpinning this strategy are that we want to be Healthy and Well, Thriving and Happy, Prosperous and Innovative, and Proud of Our Borough.

The We are Walsall 2040 Strategy seeks to make Walsall a child-friendly borough and sets out six key outcomes to make this a reality.



The children and young people of today will be the adults of 2040, as such it is essential that all those whose work impacts children and young people make a connected effort to create resilient children and thriving families so that they can achieve their potential become successful adults from 2040 and beyond.

The purpose of the Children First Summit is to start a collaborative approach in developing an effective Children and Young Persons Strategy 2040 for Walsall that will create a compassionate, healthy, economically strong, and successful place that has children and young people at its heart.

## Agenda

Time	Item
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival, Registration and Refreshments
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Welcome and Introductions from Ch. Supt. Dolby and Sally Rowe</b>
09:30 – 10:45	<b>Session One – Creating Our Scenarios</b>
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Session Two – Living in Our Created World</b>
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 15:00	<b>Session Three – Creating Our Strategic Plan</b>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Feedback, Commitments, and Next Steps</b>

# Scenario Planning

Scenario thinking has been a key feature of the leadership development programmes for senior leaders in children's services for a number of years and we have recently begun using this tool to work with wider groups of leaders within local authorities. Scenario thinking is a group activity which encourages knowledge exchange and development of mutual deeper understanding of central issues important to the future of the way in which we deliver services and specifically in our case, the develop our collective Children and Young People 2040 strategy.

We will be guided by experienced facilitators from the Staff College, the goal is to produce scenarios that are not only different from 'business as usual' and, therefore, thought-provoking, but highly relevant to our strategic thinking.

## What is Scenario Planning?

Scenarios provide alternative views of the future. They identify some significant events, main actors and their motivations, and they convey how the world functions. Building and using scenarios can help us explore what the future might look like and the likely changes of living in it.

**Scenario planning or scenario thinking** is a strategic planning tool used to make flexible long-term plans. It is a method for learning about the future by understanding the nature and impact of the most uncertain and important driving forces affecting our world.

Many of the regular methods for strategy development assume that the world in three to ten years' time will not significantly differ from that of today and that an organisation will have a large impact on its environment: they assume we can mould the future. Scenario planning however assumes that the future can differ greatly from what we know today.

The method is based on creating a series of 'different futures' generated from a combination of known factors with a goal to craft diverging worlds by extrapolating these heavily-influencing driving forces. The technique can also include anticipatory thinking elements that are difficult to formalise, such as subjective interpretations of facts, shifts in values, new regulations or inventions.

It is a group process, which encourages knowledge exchange and development of mutual deeper understanding of central issues important to the future of your organisation. Although the method is most widely used as a strategic management tool, it can also be used for enabling other types of group discussion about a common future.

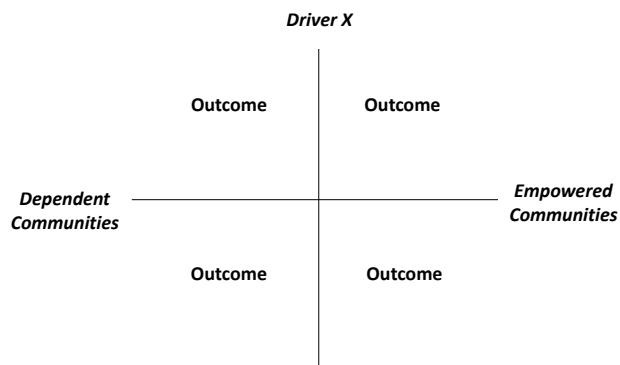
The thought processes involved in getting to the scenarios have the dual purpose of increasing knowledge of the environment in which you operate and widening the participant's perception of possible future events – encouraging them to 'think the unthinkable'. For each of these worlds, appropriate action plans can be considered. Asking the key question, 'what do we need to do (now) to be ready for all scenarios?', can then inform the formulation of strategies to cope with these differing pictures of the future (or at least to address the maximum number of possibilities).

*Reference: <http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/infokits/scenario-planning/>*

## How does it work ?

Attendees will be divided into groups and tasked with considering a future scenario that has the potential to become a reality which could impact on the lives of the children and young people of Walsall.

Groups will be aided by a facilitator to discuss the driving forces behind these scenarios, critical uncertainties, and the implications of these scenarios and what they mean for Walsall. These discussions will focus on known STEEPLE factors and how they will change the landscape of Walsall.



<b>S</b> ocial	<b>T</b> echnological	<b>E</b> conomic	<b>E</b> nvironmental
<b>P</b> olitical	<b>L</b> egislative	<b>E</b> thical	

The discussions will then feed into a scatter diagram (see example). Ordinarily, all axes on a diagram will be informed by the discussions, however, because of time limitations we have already predetermined for the Childrens Summit that this will be empowered communities vs. dependent communities. The rationale for choosing this AXE was that this was a strong theme that has come out of the consultation and is already embedded in the overall Walsall 2040 strategy. The other Axe will be decided based upon the discussion us groups around the STEEPLE factors.

Throughout the exercise, groups will identify **cues**, **clusters**, and **drivers** for the future, all of which will contribute to the outcomes on the diagram.

### Cues

Current or recent Instances or occurrences which might serve as possible pointers to future conditions. For example, a widening gap in educational attainment may signify increasing marginalisation.

### Clusters

Groups of related cues that may act together to cause change in the environment.

### Drivers

More fundamental trends that together change society. After the scenario planning session, the group will reconvene to discuss each scenario, how we can move towards our desired scenario, how we safeguard against the scenario that we wish to avoid, and what the key markers of success/ concern are.

# Factoids – that will help our thinking throughout the day

Over the next few pages we have outlined some facts around what we know of children and young people who are growing up in Walsall. This is designed to aid our thinking in developing our scenarios throughout the day. You may want to think what facts your organisation holds about growing up in Walsall now and in the future that you may want to contribute as part of the discussions on the day.

## Recovery from COVID-19 in Education

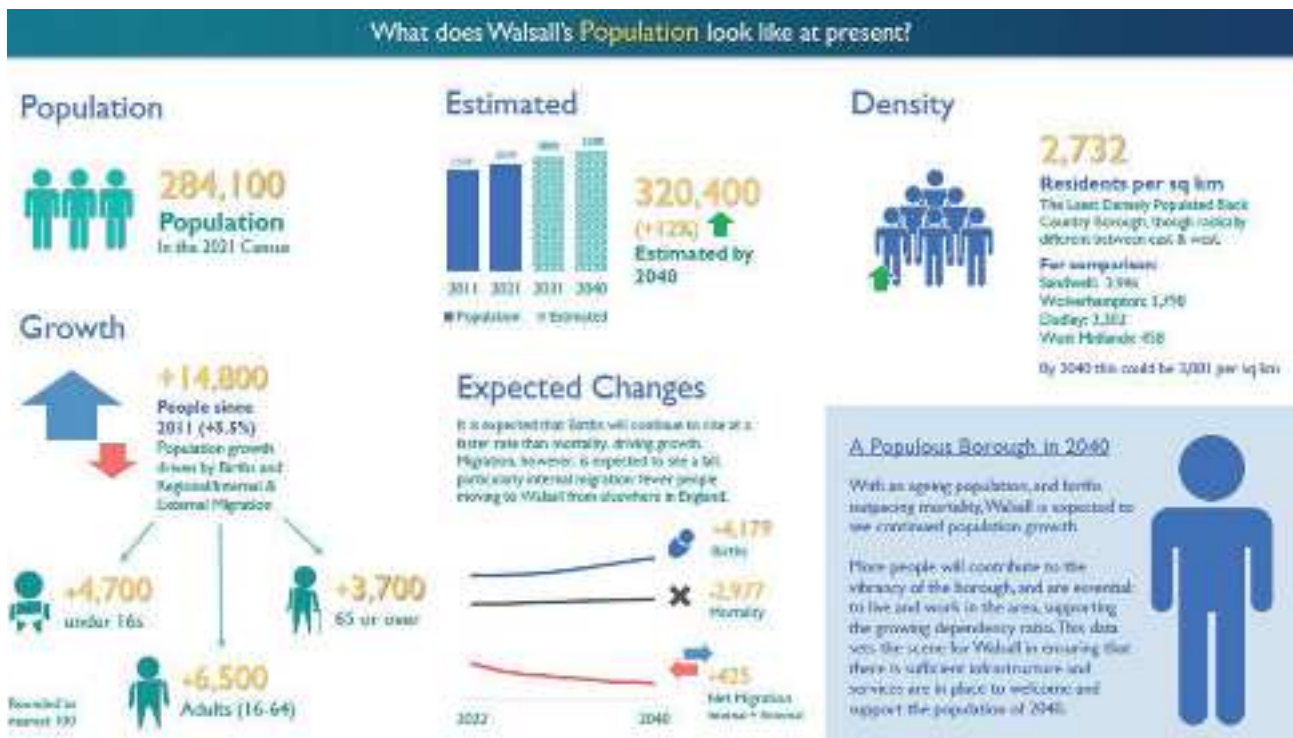
### Statistics

- Disadvantaged pupils have, on average, lower attainment than other pupils, and results from the Key Stage 1, 2 and 4 tests taken in 2022 showed that this disadvantage gap had grown. The Department for Education had been successfully closing the disadvantage gap before the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the subsequent widening of the gap had been one of the worst and most dispiriting effects of the pandemic. The Department for Education hopes to see the disadvantage gap narrowing again from summer 2023.
- The disadvantage gap index (a measure of the difference in attainment) at the end of primary school was 3.23 in 2022, compared with 2.90 in 2018, reversing the progress that had been made to narrow the gap since 2012.
- The Department for Education expects it may take 10 years to return the disadvantage gap to the level it was before the pandemic.
- Nationally, rates of pupil absence from school are, however, higher than they were before the COVID-19 pandemic. In the autumn and spring terms of 2021/22, the average absence rate for all pupils was 7.4%, compared with 4.5% for the same terms before the pandemic in 2018/19. For disadvantaged pupils, the rate was 10.4% in 2021/22, compared with 7.2% in 2018/19.

### Recommendations made by House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts for Educational Recovery post-COVID:

- The Department should publish a plan setting out how, building on good practice, it will reduce the disadvantage gap as quickly as possible, and the expected trajectory.
- The Department should develop a better understanding of why disadvantaged pupils have higher rates of absence than others and, in addition to its ongoing work on attendance, take targeted action to reduce absence rates among disadvantaged pupils.
- The Department needs to do more to understand why some schools are not taking part in the National Tutoring Programme and take more effective action to increase participation, informed by evaluation of the first two years of the scheme.
- The Department should monitor how much tutoring is being provided, in 2022/23 and 2023/24 when it is providing a subsidy, and in subsequent years, and intervene if tutoring levels drop significantly.
- The Department should set out measures of progress for the 2030 attainment targets (starting with the measures for primary pupils which it should publish by the 2023 summer parliamentary recess) and report progress against the measures to Parliament each year.

# 2022 vs. 2040 – Projections for Walsall





If there were 100 Children in Walsall in 2040

Health



Education



Child Poverty



**50** Could achieve 5+ GCSEs

The poorest trend shows little sign of improving and catching up with the league average (5th and rising)



**97** 16-17s in Education, Training or Employment

Continually below England's SEN NCT, but several programs of levels continue to rise.

A Walsall Child in 2040

Even if trends continue, the average Walsall child could face poorer health, less education, ability and underactivity, with potential consequences moving into adulthood. Child educational development throughout childhood could stagnate, meaning reduced life expectancy. A child in 2040 needs to know not only how to work but how to live well, and if nothing changes, Walsall children may remain at a disadvantage.

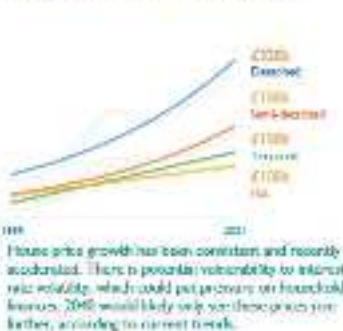


Cost of Living Repercussions

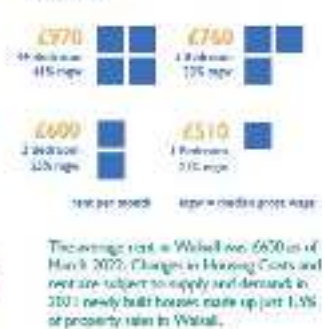
Fuel Poverty



House Price Growth



Rent



Economic Strain on Low Income Households

While housing costs and care are not a problem unique to Walsall, as a relatively low income area, there is less flexibility in disposable incomes. Additionally fuel poverty is substantially higher in Walsall than nationally and expected to increase. Poverty, inflation is outpacing wage growth and multiple indicators point to the same scenario: increased pressure on lower income households, and subsequently increased demands on local authority safety net budgets. 2040 could see this as a more expected and relied upon duty, with consequential funding implications.



Affordability Ratio



## First 1001 Days of a Child's Life in Walsall



The Infant Mortality Rate in Walsall is the highest in the country, with **7** in every **1000** live births dying before their 1st birthday.



The uptake of routine childhood vaccinations in Walsall is **decreasing** in trend, and is below the national ambition.



Blakenall and Darlaston South have the **highest number** of families with children aged 2 and under that are claiming Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit. These wards also have the highest number of these families that are in Council Tax Arrears.



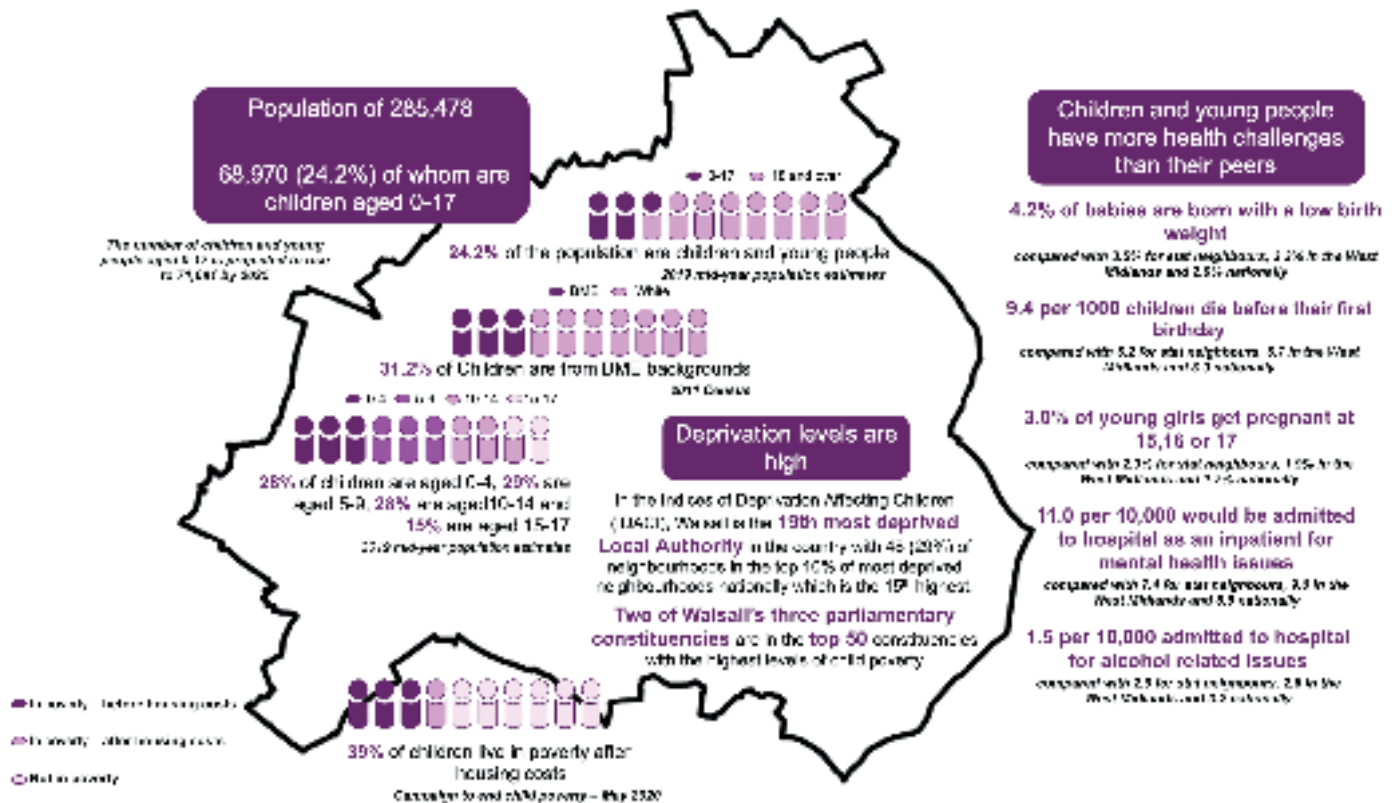
The percentage of 2-2.5 year olds reaching the expected level of development at the Healthy Child Programme review is **decreasing** in trend and is significantly lower than the national rate.



The number of children aged 2 and under who are subject to Child Protection Plans and Early Help has **decreased** significantly since 2019.

# Population, Deprivation, and Health of Children, Young People and Families in Walsall

## Children Living in Walsall



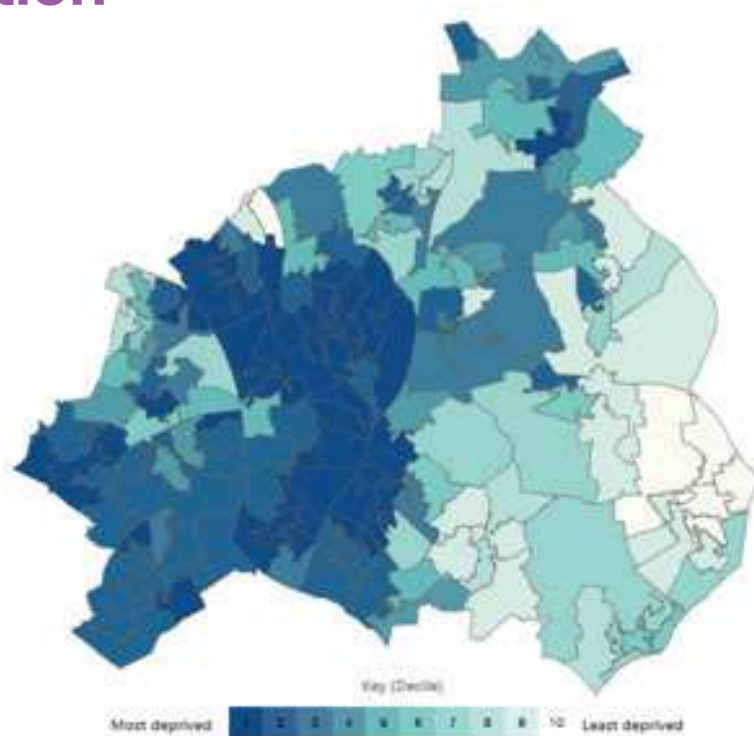
Source: Walsall Locality Statistical Analysis

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# Deprivation



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Source: *Walsall Locality Statistical Analysis*

## Deprivation in Walsall is significant and increasing

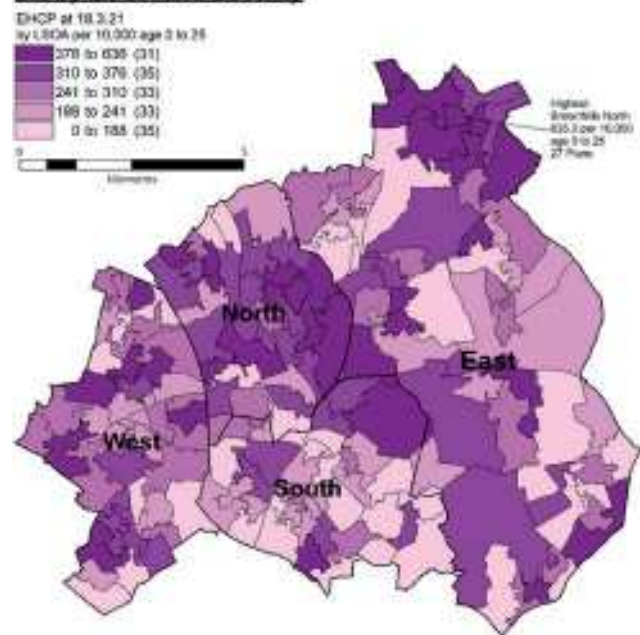
- There are extremes of deprivation, with central and western areas typically much more deprived than eastern areas, although pockets of deprivation exist even in the more affluent parts of the borough.
- 44 out of 167 neighborhoods (LSOAs) are now amongst the most deprived 10% in England compared to 34 in 2015.
- The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation now ranks Walsall as the 25th most deprived English local authority (out of 317), placing Walsall within the most deprived 10% of districts in the country (33rd in 2015, 30th in 2010 and 45th in 2007).
- Walsall fares particularly badly in terms of income (16th, education, skills & training deprivation (11th) and employment 38th and many of the issues that challenge the borough match the geography of deprivation.
- The high and increasing levels of child poverty puts additional demands on services. Walsall ranks 17th for income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI 2019) with the Borough's relative deprivation increasing over time (27th in 2015).
- 1 in 3 (29.9%) aged under 16 years are living in low-income families, higher than the national average of 20.1% (HMRC, 2016).

# Special Educational Need EHCP

Locality	EHCP	Pop 0-25	Rate per 1,000 0-25 pop
North	734	22,234	33.0
East	687	23,608	29.1
South & Central	528	22,121	23.9
West	677	23,887	28.3
OOB	38		n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>81,848</b>	<b>29.0</b>

	Autism	SLD	EMH	Other	Other
North	181 (24.5%)	305 (41.7%)	134 (18.1%)	211 (28.6%)	244 (33.1%)
East	127 (18.5%)	306 (43.2%)	100 (13.9%)	123 (17.0%)	143 (19.8%)
South & Central	66 (12.5%)	101 (19.1%)	50 (9.4%)	80 (15.1%)	104 (19.6%)
West	51 (7.5%)	111 (16.4%)	71 (10.3%)	117 (17.0%)	165 (23.9%)
OOB	12 (16.3%)	19 (25.3%)	10 (13.2%)	11 (14.6%)	16 (21.1%)

**EHCP (Maintained by SEND Team) at 18.3.21, age 0 to 25, by LSOA and Locality**



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Source: *Walsall Locality Statistical Analysis*

- The North has the highest number of children on an EHC plan at 734 or 33 per 1,000 of the 0-25 population. The East has the second highest number at 687 or 29.1 per 1,000.
- Autism is the highest primary need for children and young people with an EHC plan across all areas.
- SEMH is more prevalent in the North than any other area and is the second highest primary need. The second highest primary need in all other areas is speech, language or communication difficulties.
- **To consider:** The relatively high levels of SEMH in the North may be linked to the higher levels of need and deprivation.
- The high proportion of SEND in East locality is out of kilter with other indicators and needs. Receiving appropriate diagnosis for SEND can depend on parents' ability to advocate, understand and navigate an often-complex system, something which is more likely of highly educated parents, in more affluent areas which likely explains the higher levels of diagnosed SEND in the East.
- The low numbers in the South, which has a higher proportion of families from Asian backgrounds is in line with the recent SEND analysis which was undertaken which showed that children from Asian backgrounds were significantly under-represented.

# Criminality and Violence among Children and Young People in Walsall

## First time entrants into the criminal justice system (0-17 years)

Walsall has a higher rate of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system (0-17 years), with a rate of 194.6 per 1,000 compared with a national rate of 146.9 per 1,000 and a West midlands rate of 134.8 per 1,000, although the rates are not statistically different.



Source: Your indicator lists - OHID (phe.org.uk)

## Number (%) of offenders in Youth Justice Service, Walsall, 10–17-year-olds, 2020-2022

Ethnicity	10–17-year-old population		Offences 10–17-year-olds		Offenders 10–17-year-olds	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	20,253	72	284	58	81	55
Asian or Asian British	5,473	19	24	5	10	7
Black or Black British	723	3	79	16	17	12
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group or Mixed*	1,819	6	103	21	39	26

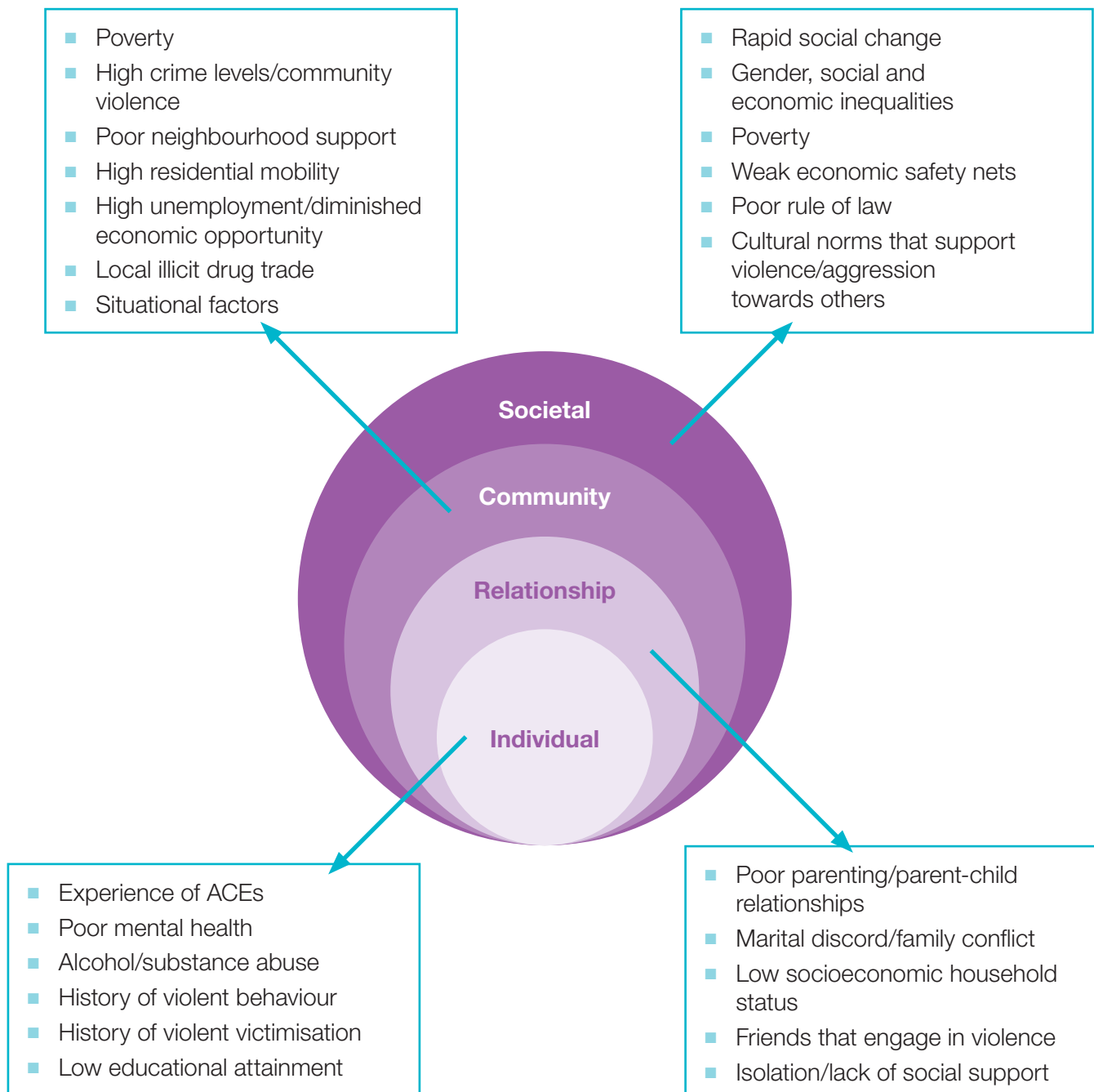
\* Chinese or Other Ethnic Group and Mixed have been combined due to very low numbers

Source: Walsall Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment.

Violent offences were the greatest percentage of overall offences for all ethnic population groups, ranging from 57% in White to 77% in Mixed and Chinese or Other Ethnic population groups. Drug offences were the second largest of offences for Asian or Asian British (30%), Black or Black British (19%) and Mixed groups (14%). However, for the White population group, the second largest offence was Acquisitive Crime, being 35% for this population group, followed by Drug Offences (5%). There is clear disproportionality with Black and Asian Minority Ethnic population groups compared with White whereas there is disproportionality of White for acquisitive crime.

## Direct and Indirect outcomes of Youth Violence

Beyond the immediate causes and outcomes of Youth Violence there lies both direct and indirect outcomes of engaging in Youth Violence which are identified in this diagram.



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