STATE OF THE DISTRICT REPORT
Winter 2012 update
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Welcome to the sixth edition of Wakefield’s *State of the District* report.

This report provides a summary of the current social, economic, health and wellbeing trends across the district of Wakefield. With other local information, the report is designed to support and inform the Wakefield Together Partnership in local decision-making and setting of priorities.

Included within the report are important facts and figures about the conditions and circumstances affecting people’s lives in the district in 2012. This includes information on how the demographics of Wakefield are changing and the extent to which people are healthy, safe, financially secure and satisfied with their local environment, especially during a period of economic downturn and major reductions in public spending.

It also includes information about the inequalities that exist within the district and conditions within the twelve Priority neighbourhoods, where intelligence has shown that specific focus is required in order to address poor outcomes and improve access to services in a targeted way.

Nationally, the financial crisis, recession and subsequent faltering recovery have had a significant impact on the financial position of households. Recent Government announcements and economic and public spending forecasts suggests the current economic conditions will continue until at least 2017, and possibly beyond, with all public sector services being subject to continuing significantly reducing resources.

Housing market conditions and changes to the benefits system are also set to have a significant impact on people. Locally, we are continuing to monitor the labour market and economic statistics and analyse future trends and needs. We are also paying close attention to statistical trends for signs that the quality of outcomes for local people are being maintained or improved, as the Government’s spending plans continue to require public sector organisations to consider changes to the way that local services are delivered.

In spite of the downturn, the last couple of years have seen the opening of important new developments within the district’s commercial, retail and cultural sectors. In housing too, there have developments in building new, sustainable homes that are likely to attract significant interest nationally. Along with other projects across the district, the impact of these developments will show through in the intelligence and analysis that is produced locally and nationally and help demonstrate the value of our long-term strategies and planning.

The information in this edition has been compiled by the Wakefield Together partner organisations. The next revision of the State of the District report is planned for summer 2013. For more information or to make suggestions for future reports, please contact:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Significant changes since the last State of the District report

There have been several major data updates since the State of the District was published in Summer 2012. These include initial outputs from the 2011 Census, along with datasets on child poverty, worklessness and citizen perceptions.

• The first findings from the 2011 Census were published in Autumn 2012 and revealed the extent to which the district is changing:

  ❖ On census day 2011, the population in Wakefield was 325,837 – over 10,000 more than at the time of the previous census (2001). The Census to Census increase in population was 3.4%, lower than the 7.1% increase nationally.

  ❖ Over 55,100, or one in every six, people in Wakefield (17%) is 65 or over – a rise of 6,500 since 2001. Two of the seven areas of the district – North West and Rural – accounted for over half of this increase. There are 2,200 people in the district are aged 90 or over, around 700 more than in 2001.

  ❖ During the last ten years, 10,816 people born outside the UK arrived to live in Wakefield, and the overall size of the district’s ethnic minority population grew from 3.3% to 7.2% of all people. Nationally, 20.2% of people are from ethnic minorities.

  ❖ There has been a large increase in the proportion of households that rent privately, with the rate in Wakefield up from 6% in 2001 to 11% in 2011. This equates to 8,386 more private rented households. The scale of the increase across England is similar.

• Child poverty statistics for 2011 were published in Summer 2012. Within the district, almost 13,500 children under 16 (22.5% of this age group) live in households claiming out of work benefits. Although this is around 200 fewer children than in 2010, it remains higher than the national rate of 20.2%.

• The District’s Jobseekers Allowance claimant rate (4.6%) remains significantly higher than the national rate (3.8%). Figures for January 2013 show 9,722 people out of work and claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in Wakefield. This represents an increase of 0.9% (around 82 more claimants) compared to January 2012.

• Recent survey data suggests that citizens are increasingly satisfied with the area as a place to live. Overall, 79% of citizens were satisfied in September 2012 – up from 77% in March 2012. However, there are disparities across the seven areas of the district: from 88% in Wakefield North West to 69% in the South East.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background
At the time of writing, although we are officially out of recession, the reality for the Wakefield district is that we continue to face challenging times. The global economy and the scale of Government cuts to public sector funding, along with increasing needs and expectations of communities, are contributing to the toughest times for service delivery in over a decade.

The compendium of local and national intelligence that forms much of the remainder of this report points to a district that has made tremendous strides in recent years in making Wakefield safer, stronger, healthier and more prosperous. But, despite these successes, long term challenges remain and new ones are emerging, particularly linked to the on-going impact of the economic downturn. And Wakefield is more at risk to the effects of the downturn than many other local authority areas. The 2012 Experian Poverty survey identified Wakefield as 38th most likely (out of 326 English districts) to contain residents who may fall into poverty in the short to medium term and 44th most likely to contain households at risk of financial exclusion. Furthermore, the Wakefield District is not one homogenous place and significant inequalities exist between the most deprived and least deprived communities, resulting in significant pockets of vulnerable individuals and households.

It is this vulnerability, whether at district, area, community or individual household level, that threads the pages of this report. The Council and partners will need to continue considering how to best support communities and/or individual households that are economically vulnerable in the face of rising household debt levels; rising prices; a local (low wage) economy and the pending welfare reforms.

Our population is growing at the extremes
Our population is growing (although more slowly than nationally) – and is predicted to continue to grow – with most of the growth attributable to the very young and the old.

- On Census day 2011, the population in Wakefield was 325,837 – over 10,000 more than at the time of the previous census (2001).
- The Census to Census increase was 3.4%, lower than the 7.1% increase nationally.
- Over 55,100 or one in every six people in Wakefield (17%) is 65 or over – a rise of 6,500 since 2001. Two of the seven areas of the district – Wakefield North West and Wakefield Rural – accounted for over half of this increase.
- There are 2,200 people in the district are aged 90 or over, around 700 more than in 2001.
- The greatest rate of increase was in the 60 – 64 age group – up 34% between 2001 and 2011. Again, Wakefield North West and Wakefield Rural accounted for almost half the overall increase.
- Long term projections are for a 30% growth in the older population in the next 25 years. This growth will occur disproportionately across the district.
- In 2001, there were 18,097 children under 5; the figure has now increased to 19,500. One of the seven areas, Castleford, accounted for a third of this increase.
- Forecasts are for year on year increases in the number of under 5s in the next 10 years. Latest indications are that, due to increased prevalence economic migrants, the under 5 cohort is and will be more ethnically mixed – a consideration for public agencies. Further detail will be available in spring 2013 following release of the next tranche of Census data.

The very young and the old are, on average, more dependent on public services and funding including social care, health and benefits. Government spending reductions in these areas are likely to disproportionately affect these groups increasing the need for public agencies to pay greater attention to prioritisation and planning activity.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our district is more ethnically diverse

Based on the Census, the number of people of some nationalities increased substantially between 2001 and 2011:

- residents born in Poland increased from 173 to 4,288
- residents born in Pakistan increased from 1,442 to 2,011
- residents born in Zimbabwe increased from 41 to 627
- residents from the Middle East increased from 300 to 710

There are now almost 3,000 households in the district where no-one has English as a main language, and there are now over 100 different languages spoken among the children learning in the district's schools.

There are worse than average levels of deprivation

- Although relative deprivation improved slightly between 2007 and 2010, the district is still the 67th most deprived district in England (out of 326 districts).
- Around 40,500 people (12.5% of the population) in our district are living in neighbourhoods rated amongst the most deprived 10% in England.

Almost all the most deprived neighbourhoods in the district have been relatively disadvantaged for a number of years; these communities are especially vulnerable to the economic downturn and are likely to benefit unequally from a future economic recovery. Government spending reductions in these areas are likely to affect these communities and neighbourhoods hardest. Figures produced by Newcastle City Council show that, on average, local authorities faced a cut of £61 a year for each person in the total funding they received from government throughout the coalition's first comprehensive spending review, ending March 2014. For Wakefield the figure is significantly larger, at £79 per head, making Wakefield 73rd worst placed out of 326.

Child poverty is relatively high with significant disparities across the district

- Within the district, almost 13,500 children under 16 (22.5% of this age group) live in households claiming out of work benefits – significantly higher than the national rate of 20.2%.
- In some neighbourhoods in the district the child poverty rate (defined by household income) is over 50%.

Research shows that high levels of child poverty are likely to have continuing negative effects (e.g. on health, diet, education) as the present generation grows up. Conversely, any measures that successfully address child poverty, especially by giving more households access to jobs – for example through the Work Programme - are likely to have wide-ranging effects in the years ahead.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A low wage, low skills economy

- The employment rate across the district is just below the national average (67.9% compared with 70.3% nationally).
- Average wages are 4.6% and 19% lower for men and women respectively than across the country as a whole.
- Around 29,000 (31%) of working age residents of Wakefield have no qualifications, compared to 23% across England as a whole.
- Adult skills, already comparatively low, are falling further behind national rates – particularly in terms of higher qualifications where Wakefield’s NVQ4+ measure of skills is now at 14 percentage-points below the national average; in 2004 it was half that.

Consumer prices are rising at twice the rate that earnings are increasing and the cost of domestic fuel, petrol, and food are set to increase further in the coming months. These pressures will affect everyone, but particularly the household budgets of those on low incomes. Our Poverty & Prosperity Commission recognised that ‘in work poverty’ is a significant issue for the district.

There are no quick fixes to the low wage, low skill problem and a higher education (HE) establishment in the district could help improve skills levels; the Wakefield District Jobs & Growth Plan places greater emphasis on raising productivity and skill levels – readying the district to respond to the economic recovery.

Previous business growth is slowing down

- Prior to the downturn, business growth in Wakefield was strong with significant increases year on year until 2007.
- Peaking in 2009, the number of businesses in the district fell by almost 3% between 2009 and 2011.
- Commercial property occupancy rates improved slightly between April and December 2012 (up from 86% to 87%);
- Almost a quarter (24%) of all jobs in the district remain in the public sector; higher than the national average (21%).

Whilst actions taken to physically and economically regenerate the district in recent years have significantly strengthened resistance to the downturn and readiness for economic revival, reliance on public sector employment makes Wakefield more susceptible to reductions in public sector spending. Action in our Jobs & Growth Plan is targeting six key business sectors as a focus for growth, inward investment and marketing – ‘business & professional services’, ‘digital, creative & cultural industries’, ‘environmental technologies’, ‘manufacturing, food & drink’ and ‘logistics’ – reflecting a strategic need to grow these areas. Doing so may create a demand to match the intended increase in supply of more highly skilled employees. A new employer survey is to be undertaken in early Spring to develop a clearer understanding of how best to support business.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Increasing homelessness and reliance on social housing

- Wakefield has a high reliance on social housing: Almost a quarter (24%) of households live in social housing; nationally, it is less than a fifth (18%).
- Over 98% of Wakefield District Housing (WDH – the major social landlord in the district) meets or exceeds the Government's decent homes standard – up from 73% in 2005; 19% of private homes would not meet this standard.
- Research suggests around 90% of newly-formed households could not afford to rent or buy in the open market.
- There is a continued increase in the number of people being accepted as homeless and in priority need - from 131 in 2010/11 to 171 in 2011/12 - and 162 between April and December 2012.

Pending changes to welfare benefits are predicted to add significant pressure in terms of housing affordability – e.g. From April 2013, around 350 under 35s will have their housing benefit restricted to the cost of renting a room in a shared house.

The number of affordable homes being built in the district continues to slow, with 110 homes built between April and December 2012 compared to 379 in 2011/12.

People live longer overall, but there are disparities in life expectancy across the district

- There have been gradual improvements in life expectancy in recent years; male children born today can now expect to live to 77 whilst females can expect to live to 81.
- The gender split reflects the national picture, although both figures are around 1.5 years below the respective average life expectancy across the country as a whole.
- The increase in life expectancy isn’t equal across the district. Males born today in the most deprived parts of the district can expect to live almost 10 years less than their more affluent areas such as in Wakefield North West; the gap for females is 8 years.

The likely causes of early deaths – smoking, poor diet, low exercise, excessive drinking – are preventable – presenting key challenges for public health resources in the most deprived areas.

- The NHS estimates that currently around one in six adults in our district are subject to some degree of low or depressive feelings at any time - this equates to around 40,000 people. This is not significantly worse than other areas.
- The Alzheimer's Research Trust predicts that by 2018, 7.3% of all over 65's in Wakefield will have some form of dementia - around 4,800 people.
- Recent information suggests that 80% of people in care homes suffer from some form of dementia.

Poor mental health and wellbeing can have an impact of every area of life. Evidence suggests that the picture of mental health is disproportionately worse in the most deprived areas.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Poor health remains a significant factor in worklessness

- The District’s JSA claimant rate (4.6%) remains significantly higher than the national rate (3.8%).
- Overall worklessness, i.e. working age people claiming key out of work benefits, stands at 15% - again higher than the national rate (12%).
- Disparities in worklessness across the district are significant, with the highest rates in the most deprived areas: latest ward level data shows a range of 14.8 percentage points between lowest and highest - from 7.5% claiming in Wakefield Rural to 22.3% in Wakefield East.
- Ill health is a major cause of worklessness in the district with 9% (18,320) of working age residents claiming Incapacity Benefit, Severe disablement Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (IB/SDA/ESA) compared to 7% nationally.
- The impending welfare benefit reforms will mean that around 4,400 residents will lose their entitlement to benefit entirely.

Evidence suggests that work is good for health and wellbeing. However, it is unclear whether inequalities around employment opportunities, lack of skills, lack of aspiration or poor health are the cause or the effect. The Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Wakefield 2013-16 sets out an aspiration to improve employment opportunities for people with long term conditions.

Children are our future

Ensuring the health of children is central to efforts to improve the overall health of the district and reduce health inequalities.

- Wakefield suffers from comparatively high rates of smoking in pregnancy – presenting increased risks to the health of the baby.
- Whilst the proportion of low birth weight babies is around the national average – although this with variations across the district – Wakefield has comparatively low breastfeeding rates.

Safeguarding children is perhaps the most critical contributor to reducing vulnerabilities in the district.

- According to 2012 figures, Wakefield does not stand out in terms of the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (50.3 per 10,000 population under 18) or in terms of rates of looked after children (63 per 10,000 population under 18). However, in line with national trends, the rates are increasing.
- As at December 2012, there were 2,133 children in our district subject to a Child In Need plan (up 10% over the previous 12 months) and 456 children in local authority care (up from 440 in December 2011).
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reducing crime

- Despite an upturn in 2011/12 where overall crime increased by 1% (against a national decrease of 5%), the long term trend is downward.
- The ‘blip’ in 2011/12 was caused by a spike in acquisitive crime and latest data for the first six months of 2012/13 suggest a return to downward trends.
- Evidence suggests that incidents of anti-social behaviour are also reducing across the district.
- There are variations in the risk of becoming a victim of crime depending on location, e.g. during 2011/12 those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods were twice as vulnerable to arson, violent crime and criminal damage compared to elsewhere in the district.
- In terms of the seven neighbourhood policing areas, the overall crime rate for April to September 2012 shows a range of 35 crimes per 1,000 population between lowest and highest crime areas – from 55 crimes per 1,000 population in Wakefield Central (next highest was Castleford with 50) to 20 crimes per 1,000 population in Wakefield North West.
- Data for 2011/12 data suggests a 5% reduction in reported incidents of domestic violence. However, there were still around 4,250 cases in the year. Data for the first three quarters of 2012/13 suggests the numbers may be rising. The devastating effect of domestic violence on women is well documented.

A better environment for all

- Recent years have seen significant improvements in the amount of waste produced by each household – which fell by a further 3% (equating to 19kg less waste per household) in 2011/12.
- The district is also recycling more – although the significant rate of improvements made in the last five years has now slowed dramatically. As at December 2012, Wakefield recycles around 40% of household waste.
- Generally speaking, citizens feel that streets are getting cleaner.
- Estimated carbon dioxide emissions in the district continue to fall (11.4% reduction between 2005 and 2010).
- Annual domestic energy consumption is continuing to fall – especially in terms of gas.

However, like much else in the district there are large variations, e.g. there is a substantial relationship between low energy consumption and high deprivation. Even accounting for lower consumption in more deprived parts of the district, latest ward level data shows a range of 7 percentage points between lowest and highest proportions of households living in fuel poverty - from 15.2% of households in Stanley and Outwood East to 22.2% in Castleford Central and Glasshoughton.

People are happier

Recent survey data suggests that citizens are increasingly satisfied with the area as a place to live. Overall, 79% of citizens were satisfied in September 2012 – up from 77% in March 2012. However, there are disparities across the seven areas of the district: from 88% in Wakefield North West to 69% in the South East.

Continuing austerity will ensure the challenge gets harder

The chancellor has signalled that we can expect austerity until 2017. Whilst significant strides have and are being made in improving quality of life in the district, the fact remains that the district has significant pockets of vulnerable communities, households and individuals, people who place a heavy reliance on public services. Effectively addressing the needs and demands of those communities going forward will be a huge challenge for the Wakefield Together Partners.
STATE OF THE DISTRICT
WINTER 2012
Wakefield District covers some 350 square kilometres and forms one of five districts which make up West Yorkshire. The main centres of population are Wakefield city; the five towns of the north east (Pontefract, Castleford, Knottingley, Normanton and Featherstone); Ossett and Horbury in the west and Hensworth, South Elmsall and South Kirkby in the south-east. There are also scattered villages in the open countryside. Overall, 70% of the district is designated as Green Belt.

**Population Size**

Our population is growing (although more slowly than nationally) — and is predicted to continue to grow — with most of the growth attributable to the very young and the old. On census day 2011, the population in Wakefield was 325,837 — over 10,000 more than at the time of the previous census (2001). The Census to Census increase in population was 3.4%, lower than the 7.1% increase nationally.

In 2001, there were 18,097 children under 5; the figure has now increased to 19,500. One of the seven areas, Castleford, accounted for a third of this increase. Over 55,100, or one in every six, people in Wakefield (17%) is 65 or over — a rise of 6,500 since 2001. Two of the seven areas of the district — North West and Rural — accounted for over half of this increase. The greatest rate of increase was in the 60 – 64 age group — up 34% between 2001 and 2011. Again, North West and Rural accounted for almost half the overall increase. There are 2,200 people in the district are aged 90 or over, around 700 more than in 2001.

As is typical nationally, the Wakefield age profile (Figure 1) shows the effect of baby-boom years of the 1950s and 1960s and greater numbers of women in older age than men. Overall numbers are projected to keep on increasing, albeit more slowly than elsewhere in the region, with improved life expectancy resulting in a greater proportion of the population being made up of older people.

![Figure 1 A changing age profile.](image)

When compared with many other metropolitan districts, Wakefield's age profile has smaller than average proportions of people in the 18-24 age band (8%) — reflecting the absence of any sizeable university presence within the district. In contrast, in Leeds — a large university city - 13% of people are aged 18-24.

Wakefield has a relatively small but growing ethnic minority population. In the 2001 Census, 96.7% of people identified themselves as White British; at the 2011 Census this had fallen to 92.8%. Conversely, the size of the district’s ethnic population has grown from 3.3% to 7.2% \(^1\). This is
shown in Figure 2. The two largest ethnic minority groups are: ‘Asian’/‘Asian British’ – up from 1.4% in 2001 to 2.7% in 2011; and ‘White Other’ – up from 0.7% to 2.3%. In all, 10,816 people currently in Wakefield arrived from outside the UK between 2001 and 2011.

Compared to ten years ago there are significantly more people living in Wakefield who were born in Eastern Europe and Africa, and the number of people born in South Asia has also continued to grow (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of birth (people)</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>4,288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>2,011</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Changes in country of birth.

There are just over 100 different languages spoken among the district’s school children. The size of the asylum seeker population has also fallen markedly in recent years, to just 48 people in September 2012, down from 565 people at the beginning of 2003 (2).

The expansion of the European Union in 2004 produced an increase in economic migrants coming to Wakefield. The 2011 Census identifies 2.4% of the Wakefield population as being born in the European Union States (EU) – equating to around 7,800 residents. This is a significant increase on the 2001 figure (0.8%). Three quarters of those born in EU states are from A8 or A2 countries – those joining the EU in 2004 and 2007 – equating to around 5,900 residents.

The majority of these have come from Poland (up from 173 in 2001 to 4,288 in 2011), with smaller numbers from Slovakia and Latvia and the other new EU countries. The migrants have tended to be young, single people planning to stay for a relatively short time and the majority have found low-skilled, low-paid employment in warehouses and distribution centres. Numbers of migrants registering for the first time for a National Insurance (NI) number (3) peaked in 2007/08 and then tailed off for a couple of years (Figure 3). The most significant drivers of migration are the strength of the UK economy and labour market opportunities relative to source countries; the size of the existing migrant population for that nationality in the UK; and migration policy in the UK and overseas (4). The drop in economic migrants from Asia, the Middle East and Africa in 20011/12 is likely to reflect the national cap on non-EU labour immigration in that year.
Immigration of people from new EU states has contributed to the increase in the district’s fertility rate. Between 2008 and 2011 there were over 700 live births in Wakefield to mothers from the new EU states and in 2011 13.0% of all births were to mothers born outside of the UK (5) compared to 6.9% in 2004.

Figure 3 Adult overseas nationals registering for NI in the Wakefield district.

Population Change

Over the next 10 years (mid-2011 to 2021) the population is now forecast to grow by 7.4%, to 350,459 people (6). Longer term projections still show that the older population is forecast to increase by around 30% over the next 25 years when mortality among the last of the baby-boom population will slow the increases down. This growth will occur disproportionately across the district.

Forecasts are for year on year increases in the number of under 5s in the next 10 years. Latest indications are that, due to increased prevalence economic migrants, the under 5 cohort is and will be more ethnically mixed – a consideration for public agencies. Further detail will be available in spring 2013 following release of the next tranche of Census data. The working age population will also increase as a result of changes to State Pension Age (SPA), particularly as women start to see their state retirement age move from 60 to 65 years.

Household Structure

The average size of a household is now 2.3 persons, down from 2.8 thirty years ago. This has been driven, in part, by more single person households – now 30% of all households compared to 22% in 1981. There has also been an increase in the proportion of households with dependent children that have a lone parent – up from just 5% in 1981, to 26% in 2011.

Religion

The 2011 Census indicated a change in the religious profile of the district since 2001. According to the 2011 Census, the majority of the district’s population (around 66% or 216,000 people) class themselves as Christian. This figure fell from 78% in 2001, which is in line with the national trend. There has also been a corresponding increase in the number of people who describe themselves as having no religion. In 2011, around 24% (over 79,000 people) described themselves as having no religion - more than double the amount compared to ten years earlier. In addition, in 2011
around 6% did not state their religion. There was also an increase in the number of Muslims, up from 1.1% (3,600 people) in 2001 to 2% (6,500 people) in 2011. All other religious groups combined continue to make up less than 1% of the district’s population.

**Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010**

As is the case across the country, there are parts of the Wakefield district where more people tend to be poorer, or less healthy, or more likely to be out of work. The English Indices of Deprivation are the most detailed and frequently used measure of deprivation. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is calculated for every neighbourhood in England every three years, and it combines many variables on subjects such as income, employment, education, crime and housing.

The IMD 2010 shows that conditions have improved for some of the district’s most deprived areas relative to deprivation elsewhere in England. At the district level Wakefield is now the 67th most deprived district in England (out of 326 districts). The IMD 2010 also shows that 40,459 people in the district are living in neighbourhoods amongst the top-10% most deprived in England. This is 12.5% of the district’s population, down from 14.6% of the population in 2007. The geography of multiple deprivation is shown in Figure 4.

Of the district’s 12 Priority Neighbourhoods (defined using the IMD 2007) the IMD 2010 showed significant improvements in the Moorthorpe, Westfield & Broad Lane, South Elmsall Priority Neighbourhood.

There was little change in the amount of deprivation in the other Priority Neighbourhoods. According to the IMD 2010, the top-10% most deprived neighbourhoods in the district now includes the Peacock estate, Wakefield, and the Woodhouse estate, Normanton.

![Figure 4 Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.](image)
**Child Poverty**

Growing up in poverty may impact upon overall experience of childhood and can have long-lasting negative effects on a person’s health, their academic achievement and their future life-chances. Across the district as a whole there are almost 13,500 children aged under-16 (22.5% of this age group) living in households where at least one parent or guardian is claim out-of-work benefits (7). Although this is around 200 fewer children than in 2010, it remains higher than the national rate of 20.2%. Furthermore, there are wide variations within the district. Table 2 shows the extent of these inequalities at ward level. At the individual neighbourhood level there are some parts of the district where the rate is over 50%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Children aged 0-15 living in an out-of-work benefit household (2011)</th>
<th>percent of all children in age group</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airedale and Ferry Fryston</td>
<td>1,285</td>
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<td>Hemsworth</td>
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<td>Wakefield West</td>
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<td>27.1</td>
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<td>Wakefield North</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontefract North</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normanton</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altofts and Whitwood</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakefield South</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castleford Central and Glasshoughton</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crofton, Ryhill and Walton</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ackworth, North Elmsall and Upton</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ossett</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horbury and South Ossett</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrenthorpe and Outwood West</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakefield Rural</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley and Outwood East</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wakefield District</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,450</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>England</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,968,350</strong></td>
<td><strong>20.2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Children in Out-of-work Benefit Households.

In early 2012 The Guardian newspaper conducted its own research using the Mosaic consumer segmentation data from Experian (8). When ranked against other English local authorities many of the positions for Wakefield were similar to those shown by the IMD (see Figure 4), but the Experian analysis goes further and estimates that an additional 20% of households across the district could be ‘on the edge of poverty’. Wakefield was identified as 38th most likely (out of 326 English districts) to contain residents who may fall into poverty in the short to medium term and 44th most likely to contain households at risk of financial exclusion.
In addition, recent work by Demos into different ‘types’ of poverty has identified three groups which predominate in Wakefield:

- ‘Insecure singles’ – This group is characterised by poor physical and mental health; low skilled; insecure employment; rent rather than own their home; live in deprived areas; struggle to afford heating bills.
- ‘Pressured parents’ – Characterised as often couples with four or five children; low income; materially deprived; behind in paying bills; accumulating debt; struggling to keep homes warm; high cost of living due to large household; most likely to have health problems or child with health problems.
- ‘Managing mothers’ – Typically older single mothers; good work history but many are unemployed; ensure children don’t go without but lack of work or inability to make work pay is a significant source of stress.

Understanding this analysis will be important for agencies to respond to and address the causes and impacts of poverty. These communities are - on average - more dependent on public services and funding including, social care, health and benefits. Figures produced by Newcastle City Council show that, on average, local authorities faced a cut of £61 a year for each person in the total funding they received from government throughout the coalition’s first comprehensive spending review, ending March 2014. For Wakefield the figure is significantly larger, at £79 per head, making Wakefield 73rd worst placed out of 326.
EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Wakefield Together pledge to strive to create job opportunities, raise skill levels and help local people into employment

Employment

The latest census data show 64% of working-age women are now economically active, up from 46% 30 years ago (1981). This rate and trend is very similar to that seen across England as a whole. However, 44% of all female employees work part-time, and this level has remained fairly constant since 1981. (The definition of what it means to be economically has changed over the last 30 years.)

The proportion of men who are economically active has risen from 71% in 2001 to 73% in 2011, with a similar increase seen across England as a whole (up to 75%). The proportion of male employees working part-time has doubled in the last ten years and now stands at 10%. Thirty years ago only 1% of male employees worked part-time. Similar increases have occurred nationally; indeed across England the 2011 rate is higher, at 12%.

In 2011 there were 134,800 people employed at workplaces within the district and of these over 69% were working full-time, which is very similar to the national average. A further 3,800 people were working in the district as sole traders/proprietors, partners and directors. Despite challenging economic conditions employment growth occurred in some sectors, including warehousing and support services; business support activities; food manufacturing; and civil engineering.

The latest estimate of the employment rate of residents aged 16-64 is 67.9% (September 2012), which is close to the regional (68.6%) and national (70.5%) rates. The district employment rate for people aged 65+ has not yet changed by an amount that we can say is significant but nationally and regionally there have been measurable increases in recent years in the employment rate of people in older age groups.

Benefits

Over the year to October 2012, the number of people out of work and claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in Wakefield increased by just 0.9% to 9,722 people, with 225 fewer male claimants and an increase of 307 female claimants. This may partially be due to changes to the benefits system for single parents which came into effect May 2012, moving single parents from Income Support to JSA. The district’s JSA claimant rate (4.6%) is slightly lower than the regional rate (4.9%), but remains higher than the national rate (3.8%).

Youth unemployment remains a significant local issue with 11% of 18 to 24 year olds (3,000 people) claiming JSA compared with 7.0% nationally. Over the year, youth unemployment has fallen by 8.5% (-280), but this rate is slow compared with the reduction of 14% for GB as a whole.

Long term unemployment is below the regional and national averages but the proportion of JSA claimants...
becoming unemployed for over twelve months has grown significantly. Over the year, the number of long term claimants has risen by 50% (815) compared with 36% for GB as a whole.

The overall worklessness rate is significantly higher when other working age benefits such as Incapacity Benefit and Income Support are also taken into account. Latest available figures (May 2012) show that 15% of working age residents are claiming key out of work benefits of one sort or another in Wakefield, compared to 13% and 12% for the region and Great Britain respectively. The trend shows that claiming levels have still to recover back to pre-downturn levels (Figure 5) and marked differences remain within the district (Figure 6). The highest worklessness rates are in the most deprived areas: latest ward level data shows a range of 14.2 percentage points between lowest and highest - from 7.5% claiming in Wakefield Rural to 22.3% in Wakefield East.

Ill health is a major cause of worklessness in the district with 9% (18,320) of working age residents claiming Incapacity Benefit/Sever Disablement Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (IB/ESA) compared to 7% in the region and nationally. The impending welfare benefit reforms will mean that many residents will lose their entitlement to Incapacity Benefit entirely or will transfer to Jobseekers Allowance. A study by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research estimates that the reform of incapacity benefits will lead to 7,700 fewer people being eligible in Wakefield, of whom more than 4,400 will be denied benefit entirely. Combined with the new requirement on many incapacity claimants to engage in ‘work-related activity’, around 6,600 Wakefield people formerly claiming these benefits will need to enter work.

Figure 6 Wide variations across the district in working age benefit claiming, February 2012.

**Economy and Business**
The size of the employment base ranks Wakefield as the 26th largest local authority in England (out of 326) in terms of jobs. Latest available figures show the number of active businesses in the Wakefield district peaked at 8,900 in 2009 but fell by 195 (3%) between 2009 and 2011. Prior to the downturn, business growth in Wakefield had been strong with significant increases year on year up to 2007. Between 2004 and 2009, the number of active enterprises in Wakefield increased by 737 representing a growth rate of 9%, above both regional (6.3%) and national (8.3%) rates.

The commercial property occupancy rates as measured by business rates has shown a slight increase overall (up from 86% to 87% between April and December 2012).

Compared to ten years ago, 4,775 more Wakefield residents are now employed in higher occupations (managers, directors and senior officials; and professional occupations). And of all people in these occupations, 46% are now women, up substantially from 37% in 2001. Of all women working, 21% are now employed in the top-two highest occupation groups (up from 16% in 2001), and of all men working, 22% are employed in the top-two highest occupation groups (very similar to 2001, 23%). Average wages are 4.6% and 19% lower for men and women respectively than across the country as a whole.

Health is the largest employment sector in the district, as it is nationally. By contrast, the proportion of people working in transport and storage is higher than the national rate and the proportion of people working in professional, scientific and technical jobs is lower (Table 3). Although there has been a decline in the number of manufacturing jobs, at 11%, the proportion employed in Wakefield remains higher than the national average. Around 24% of jobs are located in the public sector compared to 21% nationally in 2011 (provisional figures).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Total employment (incl. sole proprietors)</th>
<th>% of total Wakefield</th>
<th>GB employment profile (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>18,700</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>15,500</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport &amp; storage (incl postal)</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business administration &amp; support</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration &amp; defence</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation &amp; food services</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific &amp; technical</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, recreation &amp; other</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor trades</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining, quarrying &amp; utilities</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information &amp; communication</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial &amp; insurance</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry &amp; fishing</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 Employment profile by industry type. Source: BRES 2011.
The median annual gross earnings of full-time workers employed at workplaces in the district in 2011 were £27,353 for men and £19,508 for women and were 4.6% and 19% lower than the national median for men and women respectively. The median weekly gross pay of part-time workers in the district in 2010 was around one-third that of full-time workers.

Education and Skills
At the 2011 Census, adults in Wakefield still had lower levels of academic qualifications than across England:

- the proportion of people with no qualifications is now down to 31% - around 29,000 people (compared to 23% across England); and
- 18% of people have a first degree-level qualification (compared to 27% across England).

The qualification levels of the district’s population are highest among the younger age groups and lowest among the older age groups. This pattern is common nationally but at the time of the 2001 census all age groups in the district had lower qualification profiles than the national average. There have been significant improvements in attainment levels of young people in recent years (Figure 7), although inequalities persist across the district.

Provisional statistics for 2012 show 58.8% of pupils taking GCSEs achieved five or more passes at grades A*-C including GCSE English and maths, compared to 58.6% across England as a whole. Girls in the district did better at their GCSEs than boys, 64% to 54%, much as they tend to at earlier key stages. The gender gap across England as a whole was the same.

Pupils are expected to make at least three national curriculum levels of progress between the end of primary school and the end of secondary school at age 16, in both English and maths. Over the last four years, Wakefield’s pupils have made progress in English at about the national rate, although performance in 2012 dropped both locally and nationally. Progress in maths is lagging behind the England rate, but the latest results show that this gap is narrowing (Figure 8).
Currently all Wakefield’s secondary schools are above the national KS4 (year 11) target \(^{(16)}\) but 23% of primary schools are below the KS2 (year 6) target, compared to 10% of schools nationally \(^{(17)}\).

At all the Key Stages attainment is lower for pupils eligible or not eligible for free school meals, and the gap widens as children get older. When Wakefield’s pupils took their GCSEs in 2011, only 32% of those eligible for a free school meal achieved 5+ A*-C passes including English and maths, compared to 61% of those pupils not eligible, a gap of 29% points. The gap is wider than last year but the trend over the past five years is downwards. The equivalent gap at KS2 (% L4+ English and maths) was 22% points, and the trend is also downward. Results continue to improve for both groups of pupils, but the gaps persist. There is a similar persistent attainment gap across England as a whole.

At the end of Year 11, the majority of pupils opt to continue in full-time education or training \(^{(18)}\) and this proportion has continued to grow (Figure 9). The gap with the England rate continues to narrow. The RPA (Raising the Participation Age) process means that children now in Y10 will be expected to stay in education or training until they are 17 and younger children (Y9 or less) until they are 18.

Numbers of local people accepting places at higher education institutions has also increased in recent years (Figure 10). In 2010/11 there were around 7,510 people domiciled from the Wakefield district engaged in higher education across the UK \(^{(19)}\). The total includes more women than men – the ratio is around 8:5. The latest data show that 1,285 people are currently engaged in postgraduate studies, up 21% from 2007/08.

The proportion of the working age population with higher qualifications is very low by national standards. Only 19% of all residents (39,600 people) are qualified to NVQ4+, low by both regional (28%) and national (33%) standards \(^{(10)}\). The overall Wakefield skills rate has improved over recent years, but the latest available data shows the gap between Wakefield and Great Britain has widened, with Wakefield’s NVQ4+ measure of skills now at 14 percentage points below the national average compared with 7 percentage points in 2004. It is expected that districts with higher level skills in their workforces will be able to pull out of the recession more quickly than others \(^{(20)}\).
HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Wakefield Together pledge to strive to meet the housing needs of the district.

Housing Stock

In 2012 there were 147,480 domestic properties across the district (21). The proportion of people that own their own home, either outright or with a mortgage, is around the England average (22) but renting from social landlords is a more common than nationally, with private renting less common (Table 4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proportion of all households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owned outright or with a mortgage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakefield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 Housing tenure, 2011.

The proportion of households that own their own home (64%) has changed little over the last 10 years. The latest census, however, shows a large increase in the proportion of households that rent privately, with the rate in Wakefield up from 7% in 2001 to 11% in 2011. This equates to an additional 6,900 households that rent privately across the district. The scale of the increase is similar across England as a whole.

There is a broad spectrum of house types and house sizes across the district but Council Tax records show the majority of properties (71%) are in the lower-value bands A and B, compared to 64% and 44% for the region and England respectively.

New Homes

Although the economic downturn has affected new house completions there have been an increasing number of properties built by Registered Providers in the last few years (23) (Figure 11, 2011/12 data are provisional). It is predicted, however, that this trend will slow down. 110 affordable homes were built between April and December 2012 compared to 379 in the year 2011/12.

Based on the income profiles of emerging households, it is estimated that 91% of newly-forming households (1,114 per year) in Wakefield cannot afford to rent or buy on the open market (24).

Figure 11 New homes completed.
Housing Market
The last couple of years have seen a marked slowdown in the owner-occupier housing market, with annual sales volumes less than half what they were 3 or 4 years ago. The slowdown, however, has been felt less in wards such as Altofts and Whitwood, Stanley and Outwood East, and Wakefield Rural; and felt most in wards such as Wakefield North and Normanton.

In 2010, the average house price $^{(25)}$ in the district was £142,190 and the median $^{(26)}$ price was £125,000. In affordability terms, in 2011, the median house price was 4.6-times the median earnings of people working full-time, down from 5.1-times the previous year, meaning housing became slightly more affordable $^{(27)}$. The ratio was just 2.9 in 1997. For people on lower incomes, in 2011 the ratio of bottom quartile house prices to bottom quartile annual earnings $^{(28)}$ was 4.7-times, down from 5.1-times in 2010 and down from 6.2 four years ago. This reduction in the ratio of house prices to incomes has not however meant that more people are able to afford to buy a home, as changes in the mortgage lending policies of banks and building societies to require large deposits and lend at lower multiples of people’s incomes have meant that fewer mortgages have been granted. In particular the number of first time buyers getting mortgages is at an historic low.

Repossessions of properties owned with a mortgage peaked in 2008 and have since fallen back $^{(29)}$. The trend in Wakefield has been the same as that seen nationally (Figure 12). There are some indications that repossession levels are rising again.

Housing Quality
In 2005 around 73% of social rented properties met the Government’s Decent Homes Standard but today over 98% of Wakefield and District Housing (WDH) properties now meet or exceed this standard $^{(30)}$. At the end of 2011 the WDH Tenant Satisfaction Survey showed that 89% of tenants were satisfied with the overall condition of their home $^{(31)}$. In the private housing sector the poorest property condition is found in the private rented sector and in homes built before 1919. In the last survey 2.5% of homes were assessed as unfit, and 19% of homes would not meet the Government’s decency standard $^{(32)}$. There are concentrations of these types of homes in particular wards in the district, including Featherstone, Castleford Central and Glasshoughton, Wakefield North, Hemsworth and Airedale and Ferry Fryston.
Homelessness

Last year there was a marked increase in the numbers of people being accepted as homeless and in priority need, from 131 in 2010/11 to 171 in 2011/12 – and 162 between April and December 2012. Despite this increase, the latest figure still remains low compared with the regional and England rates (33). In common with national patterns (34) a disproportionate number of Wakefield’s homeless people are from ethnic minority groups.

Changes to Government policy on housing and benefits – such as the introduction of the ‘bedroom tax’ where housing benefit for social housing tenants of working age deemed to be under occupying their home is reduced – may create further homelessness pressures. It is estimated that around 350 people in the district are likely to see their housing benefit restricted to less than the rent for the private rented home they currently live in because people under 35 will only be able to receive housing benefit on the basis of the cost of renting a room in a shared house.

National analysis shows that over the last 10 years an increasing number of young people have been living with their parents. Figures published in the press suggest that 23% of people aged 20-34 in Wakefield are living this way (35) – the same as the national average.

Transport

Wakefield has good transport links to the wider region and UK, being served by the M1 and M62 motorways and an extensive network of rail and bus services. The Transport Plan target is for 96% of district residents to be able to reach one of the three main centres (Wakefield, Castleford and Pontefract) by public transport within 45 minutes.

The car population is growing. The proportion of Wakefield households that have a car or van (73%) has now caught up with the England rate (74%), and on average there are now 1.5 cars per car-owning household. More people use their cars to travel to work in Wakefield than in the region as a whole and nationally, and journeys tend to be longer. This is likely to reflect the dispersed nature of settlements in the district. Nevertheless, the 2001 census showed that 41% of people travelled less than 5km to work each day.

Rush-hour survey data show that car travel in Wakefield is the dominant mode of transport for commuting and this has increased slightly to 70.7% in 2010. Conversely, public transport as the preferred mode of travel has dropped slightly (36) (Table 5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>70.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle/Motorcycle</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 Most people commute by car.
A 'FreeCityBus' service operates in Wakefield and passenger numbers have grown steadily since its introduction. The bus connects key locations such as bus and rail stations and shopping centres. Passenger numbers in 2009/10 were over 500,000, up from around 380,000 in 2007/08. Around 4.1 million passengers pass through Wakefield Bus Station annually along with around 6.1 million passengers passing through other bus stations in the district (Pontefract, Castleford, Hemsworth and South Elmsall).

The 2001 census showed that 26,700 people aged 16-74 were living in neighbouring local authority districts but travelling into the district to work, while 33,000 residents of Wakefield commuted the other way.
Life Expectancy

Over recent years there have been gradual improvements to the life expectancy in the Wakefield district. Based on latest calculations (2008-10), male children born today can expect to live to the age of 77, compared to around 78.5 years of age across England as a whole. As is the pattern nationally, women are expected to live longer than men, to about the age of 81. This compares to a national life expectancy amongst women of 82.5 (Figure 13).

Despite the progress overall, there are significant differences that exist within the district. Males born today in the most deprived parts of the district (top 10%) can expect to live 9.9 years less than their more affluent counterparts, such as Wakefield North West. For females the gap is 7.9 years. There is also evidence to suggest that this gap is widening.

Census 2011 identified that the proportion of people that have a long-term limiting illness remains at 22% - higher than the England rate which also remains unchanged at 18%.

Wakefield loses a disproportionately large amount of its life-years in the most deprived communities to chronic heart disease (CHD), lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and – particularly in men – chronic liver disease. Although it is not known for certain what led to these early deaths, the likely causes – smoking, poor diet, low exercise, excessive drinking – are known, and are all preventable.

Mortality

Data for 2008-10 show that given the age profile of Wakefield and the national annual mortality rate, for every 100 deaths that would be expected, 112 deaths actually occurred across the district (Standardised Mortality Ratio, or SMR). The Wakefield SMR is also slightly higher than the region’s SMR (106) and our ONS cluster (109).

Cancer incidence and mortality for Wakefield is higher than Yorkshire & Humber, other manufacturing towns, and England. This differs between the tumour sites, with lung cancer having a much higher incidence and mortality. All-age lung cancer mortality rates continue to improve slowly, but are well above the national rate and unless smoking rates are reduced then deaths from lung cancer will continue to place a burden on the local health economy and impact upon both life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. Similarly, mortality rates for COPD are higher than the national average.

Mortality rates from cardio vascular disease (CVD) are significantly higher than the national rate, but have decreased by 48.1% since 1995-97. There is a definite correlation between deprivation and CVD mortality and this problem is much higher in the twelve Priority Neighbourhoods. The absolute gap in CVD mortality between the most-deprived and least-deprived local areas has decreased by...
20.1% between 2001 and 2009 (for persons under 75 years) \textsuperscript{(42)}. The number of people dying from heart attacks (all age CHD mortality) has slightly reduced from the 2006-08 level of 100.5 per 100,000 to 94.5 per 100,000 in 2008-10 \textsuperscript{(43)}. The number of people dying prematurely from heart attacks and strokes (under-75s CVD mortality) has slightly reduced from the 2006-08 level of 90.6 per 100,000 to 85.5 per 100,000 in 2008-10 \textsuperscript{(44)}.

The infant mortality rate for the 3-year period 2008-2010 was 4.9 deaths per 1,000 live births \textsuperscript{(45)}. This was slightly better than the regional rate (5.4) but slightly above the England rate (4.6).

### Inequalities

Inequalities in life expectancy reflect variations and inequalities across a wide range of health determinants and lifestyles, many of which correlate with the levels of deprivation found within Wakefield. The degree of inequality can be measured by the Relative Slope Index (RSI) – a higher RSI value representing greater inequalities. Inequalities are greatest for diseases such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) but much less for conditions such as stroke (Table 6), but the inequalities for associated lifestyle factors such as smoking and alcohol are higher still.

### Prevalence in GP-registered population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>20% least deprived areas in Wakefield</th>
<th>20% most deprived areas in Wakefield</th>
<th>England</th>
<th>Relative Slope Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>90.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol admissions - males</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>81.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>52.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary heart disease</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 Inequalities for selected diseases and determinants.

### Lifestyle Choices

Local health data shows that less than one third of all adults aged over 20 in Wakefield District have a normal Body Mass Index (BMI). Problems with being overweight or obese are more common among people in middle age and there is a strong correlation between obesity and deprivation \textsuperscript{(38)}.

National survey results show that smoking prevalence has been in gradual decline over the last 15 years although the reductions have slowed in the last few years. Survey data for 2011/12 showed that smoking levels by adults in Wakefield (23%) were worse than the England average (20.0%) \textsuperscript{(46)}. Locally, there are marked differences in adult smoking rates across the district, ranging from 29% of adults surveyed in Wakefield East ward and 28% in Knottingley ward, to just 12% in Wakefield Rural and Wrenthorpe and Outwood West wards.

In 2010/11, 4,014 of 75,056 (5.3%) hospital admissions in the district were attributable to smoking costing NHS Wakefield approximately £7.2m or £19 per head of population. The latest reports show that 615 adults died in 2010 from diseases that can be caused by smoking.
Excessive and unsafe use of alcohol is also a problem within the district. Approximately 14.5% of the adult population across the district are estimated to be drinking at hazardous or harmful levels and men are more than twice as likely women to drink excessively (38). These local figures are likely to under-estimate consumption, but they also show that unemployed people are significantly more likely to be drinking at higher levels than people who work. At the same time, however, there are also above average amounts hazardous or harmful drinking in the more affluent Ossett and Wakefield Rural wards.

Estimates of the proportion (%) of adults who consume at least twice the daily recommended amount of alcohol in a single drinking session (that is, 8 or more units for men and 6 or more units for women), suggest that Wakefield is significantly worse (26.1% of adults) than the national average. Under-18s admissions to hospital due to alcohol specific conditions (2008/09-2010/11) – 87.0 admissions per 100,000 under 18’s – are significantly higher than the national rate of 55.8, although this does not include attendance at A&E (47).

Children and Young People

Data show that smoking during pregnancy is a significant problem in Wakefield, with 24% of women from the district smoking at the time of delivery compared to regional and national figures of 17% and 14% respectively (48).

The proportion of babies with a low birth weight (below 2.5kg) is not significantly different from the England average but low birth weight is much more common among mothers from the most deprived parts of the district. Across the district a whole in 2011, however, only 61% of mothers in Wakefield were initiating breastfeeding at birth, compared to 74% of mothers across England as a whole (49).

The latest figures (2010/11) on childhood weight (50) show that levels of obesity are now close to the England average (Figure 14). 77% of pupils in their reception year are a healthy weight and 67% of pupils in Year 6. The reception year measurements are very slightly below the England rate (76%) but the Year 6 figure is about the average; neither set of results are significantly different from the previous year.

The teenage conception rate for women aged under-18 in Wakefield has shown some improvements in recent single years but the general trend (2004-2006 compared to 2007-2009) has been fairly static locally, regionally and nationally. The Wakefield rate for the last 3-year period was 51.7 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17, compared to a rate of 40.2 for England and Wales as a whole (48).

The proportion of pupils walking to school has increased in recent years (Figure 15), and lifts to school by car have decreased. Cycling is not common, with just 0.8% of pupils using this type of transport (51).
There is no marked trend in the numbers of children killed or seriously injured on the district’s roads in recent years (Figure 16). Of the 24 children killed or seriously injured in 2011, 16 were pedestrians and 5 were riding bicycles \(^{(52)}\), and the district rate of children killed or seriously injured was higher than the regional average.

According to 2012 figures, Wakefield does not stand out in terms of the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (50.3 per 10,000 population under 18) or in terms of rates of looked after children (63 per 10,000 population under 18). However, in line with national trends, the rates are increasing.

As at December 2012, there were 2,133 children in our district subject to a Child In Need plan (up 10% over the previous 12 months) and 456 children in local authority care (up from 440 in December 2011).

**Mental Health**

In September 2009, there were 817 children known to the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) clinic (1.73% of the school population) and 1,615 children were known to have ‘Behavioural, Emotional and Social Discord’ (BESD) needs. Whilst the number of children with statements relating to ADHD has remained static since 2006, there has been an almost doubling of children with statements as a result of BESD over the same period \(^{(53)}\).

Wakefield’s Year 6 children and young people stated in the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire that SATS/Tests, crime and family problems were the problems that worried them the most, with females generally being more worried than males about these issues. In Year 10, the problems that worried males and females the most were exams and tests and the way they look, with females being almost twice as worried as males in these areas. The top six issues were consistent between males and females. Three out of the six issues were relationship based \(^{(53)}\).

The NHS estimates that currently around one in six adults in our district are subject to some degree of low or depressive feelings at any time - this equates to around 40,000 people. This is not significantly worse than other areas. More specifically, common mental disorders (CMDs) are mental conditions that cause marked emotional distress and interfere with daily function, but do not usually affect insight or cognition. They comprise different types of depression and anxiety, and include obsessive compulsive disorder. National research shows that 19.7% of women and 12.5% of men meet the criteria for at least one CMD. It is estimated that there are currently 32,900 people in Wakefield who have such a disorder.

The Alzheimer’s Research Trust predicts that by 2018, 7.3% of all over 65’s in Wakefield will have some form of dementia - around 4,800 people. Recent information suggests that 80% of people in care homes suffer from some form of dementia. In addition, it is likely that there will be an increase in the younger age group possibly associated with long term heavy drinking and drug use. Applying the Alzheimer’s Society prevalence rates \(^{(54)}\) there will currently (mid-2011) be around 3,400 people in total with dementia living in the district - and this number is likely to rise to 6,700 by 2035, as the population ages. Local data from the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) recorded that dementia prevalence in the district was close to the national median.

Prevalence of the more severe mental health conditions is on average lower than the England average but is higher within the city centre and our priority neighbourhoods (HEA, 2010). Suicide rates are not expected to rise based on demographic change.
Crime

The district’s crime rate fell significantly between 2005/06 and 2009/10, but since then the trend has been fairly static (Figure 17). In 2011/12 recorded crime as a whole rose by 1% compared to the previous year, whereas across England and Wales as a whole crime fell by 5%\(^{(55)}\). Among the changes in Wakefield during 2011/12 were,

- violence fell 12% (575 fewer crimes)
- other burglary fell 7% (159 fewer phones)
- criminal damage fell 7% (308 fewer crimes)
- vehicle crime rose 4% (124 more crimes)
- domestic burglary rose 7% (121 more crimes)
- other theft rose 16% (1,039 more offences)

The latest data are showing that crime has fallen back significantly since a peak in summer 2011. In the six months to the end of September 2012 a total of 11,450 crimes had been recorded, a reduction of 16% compared to the same period in 2011.

Crimes involving domestic violence also fell by 15% in 2011/12 and the overall number of domestic abuse incidents (4,256 in 2011/12) fell by 5%. Nevertheless, current domestic violence rates are still higher than they were three years ago.

Estimates suggest there has been a 24% reduction in alcohol-related crime over the past year (747 fewer crimes), following a 7% reduction the year before. The reasons could be many and varied and need further analysis.

There are variations in the risk of becoming a victim of crime depending on where in the district people live. During 2011/12 the rates of arson, violent crime and criminal damage were both twice as high in the Priority Neighbourhoods compared to elsewhere in the district (Figure 18).
The number of young people entering the criminal justice system has fallen dramatically over the last 4 years. In 2007/08 there were 1,950 young people per 100,000 population aged 10-17 classed as first time entrants (FTE’s). In 2010/11 this rate had fallen to just 446 FTE’s per 100,000 population aged 10-17, a drop of over 75% and much better than the national rate (876 FTE’s per 100,000 population aged 10-17)\(^{(56)}\).

This reduction in first-time offending juveniles entering the criminal justice system also shows through in broader trends in offending\(^{(57)}\) (Figure 19). The number of adult offenders has not changed greatly over recent years, but the number of juvenile offenders reduced significantly in 2010. The proportion of Wakefield offenders who offend again tends to be around 30-35% of juvenile offenders and around 25% of adult offenders. A similar pattern is seen nationally (Figure 20). Juvenile re-offending rose sharply in 2010 and probably reflects the shrinking of the cohort to a group of the most challenging young offenders.
Anti Social Behaviour

In Wakefield, the Police logged around 16,000 calls regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) during 2011/12. Wakefield Council and WDH also receive calls regarding ASB, but in smaller numbers.

The West Yorkshire Police Authority Public Perception Survey shows peoples’ perceptions are that the amount of ASB has decreased. Over the last few years there have been markedly fewer people saying that there are problems with young people hanging around and being disruptive or a nuisance; drunken and rowdy behaviour; and vandalism (Table 7). Local people are also more likely to agree that the police and Council and tackling the crime and ASB issues that matter, up from 34% in 2008/09 to 42% in 2011/12.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of people who agree these issues are a very/fairly big problem in their area</th>
<th>2007/08</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young people hanging around and being disruptive or a nuisance</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug use and dealing</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism and graffiti</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunken and rowdy behaviour</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbish and litter</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7 Perceptions of ASB have improved.

Fires

In 2011/12, deliberately started fires accounted for around 65% of all fires attended by the district's appliances, and around 1,100 (or 82%) of these deliberate fires were classed as secondary, ASB fires.

Although the scale of the problem is significant the numbers of deliberate secondary fires fell by 9% in 2011/12. The longer-term downward trend in Wakefield has tended to mirror that seen across West Yorkshire and England and Wales as a whole\(^{58}\), so the gap has only narrowed slightly (Figure 21).

In 2011/12 there were three fatalities due to fire, and 26 casualties. The previous year the numbers had been 2 and 77 respectively. When accidental fires break out in the home the cause in around 55% of cases is cooking related.

![Figure 21 Deliberate secondary fire rates have been falling.](image-url)
Community Cohesion

Measuring community cohesion is difficult and so use has to be made of proxy, or indirect measures. One such measure, a survey question asking whether people from different backgrounds get along together, has shown improvements in recent years (Figure 22).

The number of crimes recorded as having being aggravated by race or religion numbered 171 in 2011/12, a significant 31% drop compared to the previous year. The number incidents of homophobia brought to the attention of the police is around 35 incidents per year over the last five years, although under-reporting is an issue, as it is with racial incidents.

Substance Misuse

It is estimated there are around 2,800 problematic drug users living in the district. During the twelve months to June 2012 the National Treatment Agency’s records show that 1,688 problematic drug users had engaged in effective drug treatment (59).

Around 85% of people in treatment are primarily opiate users and 37% of people entering treatment were doing so for the first time (60). National research has shown that individuals who successfully completed a drug treatment programme after at least six months reduced their criminal convictions by 48% (61).
Waste and Recycling

Recent year on year improvements in household waste management have now levelled off (Figure 23). As at December 2012, Wakefield recycles around 40% of household waste. However, the amount of residual waste per household did continue to fall in 2011/12, down 3% on the previous year (equating to 19kg less waste per household). Residual waste is that which can’t be recycled in some way and which in Wakefield would usually go to landfill sites. The amount of the district’s waste going to landfill should begin to fall again once the new recycling facility at South Kirkby has begun operation.

Overall, citizen satisfaction with street cleanliness is improving. The percentage of citizens who feel rubbish or litter lying around in their area is a problem has reduced from 45.9% to 41.8% between December 2011 and December 2012.

Energy Consumption and CO₂

Industry accounted for around 43% of CO₂ emissions in the district in 2010, with the remainder accounted for approximately equally by road transport and domestic uses.

Wakefield is not typical in some respects because emissions from vehicles using the district’s motorways push the figures higher. When this and certain industry types are discounted, however, the emissions rates in Wakefield are very similar to the national average. Estimated CO₂ emissions in Wakefield have fallen 11.4% between 2005 and 2010 (63).

Annual domestic energy consumption is continuing to fall (Figure 24), especially of gas (64). Within the district, however, there are large
variations in gas usage. There is a substantial relationship between low consumption and high deprivation. Even accounting for lower consumption in more deprived parts of the district, latest ward level data shows a range of 7 percentage points between lowest and highest proportions of households living in fuel poverty - from 15.2% of households in Stanley and Outwood East to 22.2% in Castleford Central and Glasshoughton.

The energy efficiency of homes is gradually improving across the district and this is measured using Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) ratings. The average rating for private housing in England is 47 (higher ratings reflect higher efficiency). In Wakefield the average for private housing is 58 and average for WDH properties is 63.

For the builders of new homes the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) offers a 6-star rating to officially recognise sustainable approaches to design and construction. By the end of June 2012 a total of 1,205 CSH certificates had been issued across Wakefield, which accounted for more than a quarter (27%) of all the certificates issued in the West Yorkshire region.

For existing housing stock there is more that could be done to improve energy efficiency. The Private Sector Stock Condition Survey 2008 showed that 58% of private households were in need of top-up loft insulation and only 35% of private households with cavity walls had them insulated. There were also 3,603 private households with a SAP rating below 35, a level which can indicate cold hazards likely to affect the occupier’s health and safety. Of the 9% of private properties estimated to be below the Decent Homes Standard 14% were privately rented, 26% were flats and 17% were dwellings constructed before 1919. As a result of these patterns the non-compliance also varies spatially (Table 8).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Non-compliance with Decent Home Standard energy performance standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airedale and Ferry Fryston</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Featherstone</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakefield North</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ossett</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8 Wards with high-levels of private housing not meeting

The latest data on the extent of fuel poverty (2010), show that 18.4% of households in the district have to spend over 10% of their income on fuel to heat their home properly. Across England as a whole the rate is lower, at 16.4%.

**Greenspace and Wildlife**

The district enjoys several sites of national distinctiveness, such as Pontefract racecourse and Hemsworth Water Park. There are seven country parks in total, several of which sit on the reclaimed sites of former collieries.

The wider countryside is accessed by a 560-kilometre network of public Rights of Way and permissive paths, along with the 20-kilometre section of the Trans-Pennine Trail that passes through Wakefield for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

The district has nine sites designated as being Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Sites (RIGS). These designations recognise and protect important earth science and landscape features for future generations to enjoy. Wakefield district also has 16 Local Nature Reserves, the highest number of any West Yorkshire local authority. These reserves are declared
not only for their value to wildlife but also their value for education, scientific research and the potential for local community involvement. Some of these reserves are also home to the district’s Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):

**Denby Grange Colliery Ponds** - Supports the largest known breeding colony of great crested newt in West Yorkshire. The site also contains substantial populations of smooth newt, palmate newt, common frog and common toad, making it the best amphibian site in West Yorkshire.

**Seckar Wood, Newmillerdam** - Mixture of dry heath, wet heath and woodland. Rare mosses and sedges can be found growing in the wet heath and wildlife includes hare, stoats, weasels as well small mammals like bank voles, field voles and wood mice. This is also a habitat for palmate newts

**South Elmsall Quarry** - Geological site of dolomite limestone from 255 million years ago. The rock is rich in fossil shells and there is fossilised evidence of patch reefs.

**Wentbridge Ings** - Magnesium limestone grassland with a wide range of flora and fauna and some particularly important plant species.
CULTURE AND SPORT

Culture and sport play an increasingly important role in transforming Wakefield in terms of economic regeneration and also bring about positive change in the ambition, self-confidence and the health of the district. Together, culture and sport directly employ upwards of 2,100 people, and many other jobs flourish within the supporting industries and services.

Cultural Attractions

The district has nationally important cultural heritage sites at Pontefract Castle, Nostell Priory and the National Coal Mining Museum, and well-established facilities like the Theatre Royal Wakefield. The Yorkshire Sculpture Park has emerged as internationally important, known for its innovative exhibitions and displays of sculpture, while the Xscape leisure complex near Castleford has quickly become a very popular paying attraction. Furthermore, in 2011 the internationally important Hepworth Wakefield was opened.

Visit England produce annual visitor number statistics for major attractions in England. The Hepworth Wakefield set itself a target of 150,000 visitors in its first year of opening, but this was exceeded by a large margin. In 2011 there were large increases in visitor numbers at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Bretton Country Park, but there was a reduction in visitor numbers at the National Coal Mining Museum (Table 9).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attraction</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
<th>Change on previous year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hepworth Gallery</td>
<td>In their first year</td>
<td>over 500,000</td>
<td>+40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire Sculpture Park</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>344,000</td>
<td>+40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bretton Country Park</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>338,000</td>
<td>+38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nostell Priory</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>+7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Coal Mining Museum</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>101,000</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9 Visitor numbers to local cultural attractions.

Professional Sport

The district is home to two professional Rugby League teams, the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats and Castleford Tigers, both of whom attract an average attendance of around 8,000 people. The district is also home to Featherstone Rovers, a semi-professional rugby team who attract an average attendance of around 2,000.

There are no professional football teams in the district but Ossett has two semi-professional clubs, Ossett Albion and Ossett Town. Pontefract Racecourse is the longest continuous circuit in Europe at 2 miles and 125yds. It stages flat racing between April and October and attracts spectators from around the country.
Popular Team Sports

Popular team sports are represented by many clubs, both for adults and juniors (Table 10). The most popular sport, football, has over 400 football teams playing regularly, across 127 senior pitches and 58 junior and mini pitches. The distribution of facilities throughout the district is generally good and the numbers of players involved in football is similar to the national average (69).

| Sport         | Seniors | | | Juniors | | | Mini |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|               | Males   | Female |         | Male    | Female |         |
| Football      | 168     | 3       |         | 153     | 18      | 71      |
| Rugby League  | 28      | 3       |         | 35      | 4       | 61      |
| Rugby Union   | 20      | 0       |         | 6       | 0       | 3       |
| Cricket       | 66      | 1       |         | 47      | 0       | -       |
| Hockey        | 13      | 10      |         | 7       | 10      | -       |

Table 10 Number of local teams participating in major team sports.

Key measures of participation in sport and exercise are produced from the results of the Active People Survey (70) conducted by Sport England. In 2011, 27% of Wakefield people were a member of a sports club, a slightly higher figure than the national rate (24%). The 2011 participation rate also represented 7 percentage-point increase on the 2006 level. However, the proportion of people receiving tuition or taking part in organized competition is a little below the national average.

Levels of physical activity were also captured by Wakefield’s Health and Lifestyle Survey in 2009. This showed variation by age and gender in the frequency of vigorous activity undertaken by local people. Vigorous activity is that which causes people to sweat or get out of breath or raise their heart rate substantially, for example by power walking, jogging or cycling up hill. Young men undertake substantially more exercise of this sort than their female counterparts, probably due to team sport participation, but that gender gap closes quite quickly as people get older. When asked, over half of residents responded to the survey by saying they would like to increase their level of physical activity.

Selected Other Facilities

Sun Lane Leisure is a new multi-million pound city centre swimming pool that opened in October 2012. This has a 25m pool with movable floor, a learner pool, a 100 station fitness suite, a multi-use activity studio.

Located near the Thornes Park athletics track, a skate park has been created for use by skateboarders, BMX’ers and in-line skaters. It is a bespoke structure which was created using the latest spray concrete technology and is one of the largest of its kind in the UK. It also contains a number of features which are unique to the site. The skate park has already been earmarked as a venue for skate and BMX tours, demonstration events and competitions.

Skiing and snowboarding can be enjoyed at Xscape, Castleford. The 170m long main slope is covered with over 1,700 tonnes of fresh snow, and has 2 lifts.

There are 60 bowling greens across the district, with active clubs at most. Of the 47 crown green bowling clubs, most are part of a wider sporting association. Many well-maintained greens can be found in the district’s larger public parks.
Mass Participation Events

In recent years, the largest mass participation events have been the women-only 5/10km Race for Life runs held in Wakefield and at Pontefract Race Course. In 2011, 3,900 women took part in the Pontefract runs and 3,150 women took part in the Wakefield event.

The Wakefield 10km road race (running) takes place each Spring, and this attracted 1,130 participants in 2012. The Sandal Castle 10km all-terrain run takes place towards the end of the summer, but participation is lower and has fallen, with the 2011 race attracting 361 participants.

As well as providing part of the setting for the Sandal 10km, Pugney's Country Park is an important local resource for informal recreation and physical activity, with an estimated 600,000 visitors each year. The 100 acre lake provides a venue for some high profile events, such as the triathlon National Age Group Championships, with over 800 participants. The lake has also been used for open water swimming and hosted the Yorkshire Swimming Festival in 2011, with 376 people entering.
THE SEVEN AREAS

The district of District is not an equal, homogenous place. A wide variety of social, economic and cultural conditions combine to create a patchwork of distinctive communities and neighbourhoods. Some groups and places are rich, some are poor, and some are different for other reasons. These differences may prompt agencies to deliver services in particular ways and the priorities for local people in one area may be different to those of people living in another area.

In acknowledgment of these differences, the Wakefield Together Partnership has supported a new approach to the development of place-based management and the strengthening of local communities. Integral to this are themes of active citizenship; giving communities a voice that has influence; and ensuring that community assets are maximised.

The area working model that has been developed has seven area planning groups and seven Area Forums. The seven area boundaries match those of the police’s seven Neighbourhood Policing Teams, which in turn have been based on the district’s ward geography.

Having accurate and timely intelligence is a key requirement for area working to be effective. Often our understanding of conditions is based solely on measurements for the district as a whole, but even at the seven area level there can be marked differences. For example,

- Citizen satisfaction with the local area as a place to live – the headline indicator of quality of life adopted as part of the area working performance framework – shows a range of 18 percentage points between highest and lowest satisfaction across the seven areas. Overall, 79% of citizens were satisfied in December 2012 – up from 77% in March 2012. However, there are disparities across the seven areas of the district: from 90% in Wakefield North West to 71% in Castleford and 72% in the South East.

- Overall crime rate – in terms of total crimes per 1,000 population, April to September 2012 figures for the seven areas show a range of 35 crimes per 1,000 population between lowest and highest crime areas – from 55 crimes per 1,000 population in Wakefield Central (next highest was Castleford with 50.1) to 20 crimes per 1,000 population in Wakefield North West.

- Deaths from cardiovascular disease – the rate (DSR) of mortality from all cardiovascular diseases over the period 2009-11 varied across the seven areas – a lowest to highest range of 40.2 per 100,000 people aged under 75 - from 61.0 per 100,000 in Wakefield North West to 111.2 per 100,000 in Wakefield Central.

The State of the District report already provides some evidence of variation and inequalities across the district as a whole, but the amount of area and neighbourhood-level analysis is limited. In response, the Council’s Performance and Intelligence Team, collaborating with partners, has developed a set of more detailed reports that now focus on each of the seven areas in turn.

Like the State of the District report, the seven State of the Area reports will be refreshed and reviewed twice a year. The aim is to build the capacity of the Area Forums and Area Planning groups and enable them to better understand local conditions and priorities and the changes that occur over time. The format of the seven State of the Area reports will look familiar, but much more attention is given to highlighting differences within the area and making comparisons between the seven areas and the district as a whole.

The latest refresh of the State of the Area reports will be published through the Wakefield Together website in Winter 2012.
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