

Section One

State of the District Key Points

Included in this section are the key points highlighted in the State of the District report for Wakefield from October 2019. Further details can be found on the Wakefield Council website:

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/about-the-council/access-to-information/stats-facts-maps>

State of the District Report October 2019

The State of the District report provides an up to date and comprehensive description of the Wakefield District. It draws statistics from a wide range of government departments and local organisations to show the extent to which society and life is changing, as well as some of the factors which may be driving these trends.

The State of the District is aimed at a wide audience: local policy makers in the public and private sectors, service providers, students, schools and the general public. The space given over to some subjects reflects the specific priorities for the Wakefield Together partnership and Wakefield Council. So this edition of the report provides an expanded range of data on children and young people, and information on climate change is beginning to be expanded.

The report also reflects findings from national research, especially for subjects where local statistics are hard to find or haven't been collected for some time. An example is what in life matters to people. The Office for National Statistics ran a national debate asking people, "What matters to you? What is well-being?" In order of importance, people said,

- health
- good connections with friends and family
- good connections with a spouse or partner
- job satisfaction and economic security
- present and future conditions of the environment

These were the themes that the majority of people also agreed should be reflected in a measure of national well-being, with the addition of education and training. The aim is that the State of the District report is updated and republished twice a year. A lot of the same content is also available on the Wakefield Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) web site and in many cases the statistics are updated on the website first, soon after they published, and sometimes as frequently as monthly.

The JSNA site's main menu has separate links for information on the population and adult's and children's health. Topics such as the economy, education, community safety, etc., are grouped in the 'District characteristics' section. www.wakefieldjsna.co.uk

Population

- The latest estimate (mid-2018) puts the District's population at 345,038 people. The increase from the previous year's estimate (4,250 more people) is the largest in at least the last 25 years. The main component of change is a continuing increase in net internal migration – more people moving to Wakefield from elsewhere in the UK than leaving, due to housing growth locally.
- There remains more international immigration than emigration, but the numbers of people from the EU Accession states registering for a National Insurance number has fallen.
- Population projections estimate that the working-age population will continue to grow, mainly driven by increases to State Pension Age (SPA) and immigration. The numbers of people aged between SPA to 79 is projected to decline slightly, but the number of people aged 80 and over is set to increase by 43% over the next ten years (2019 to 2029).

Poverty

- There continue to be gradual improvements in child poverty. In 2017 10,730 children were living in a household where at least one parent or guardian was claiming an out-of-work benefit. There are still large child poverty inequalities within the district and earnings have not increased greatly in real terms for many families, due to the effects of inflation relative to wage growth.
- A household is considered to be fuel poor if it has higher than typical energy costs and would be left with a disposable income below the poverty line if it spent the required money to meet those costs. In 2017, 13,830 households in Wakefield District were in this position.
- At Citizens Advice, the number of debt issues people have sought help with increased by 10% in 2018/19. Benefits is the next biggest issue people seek advice for (6,600 issues were recorded in 2018/19). Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) are the principal benefits people seek advice for.

Economy

- The value of the local economy is growing at a similar rate to the regional average. Productivity fell in the years leading up to 2008 compared to the regional average but wasn't affected greatly by the economic downturn. York has the highest productivity in the sub-region – 9% higher than Wakefield's.
- Employment rates have risen in line with national trends. The size of increases have been similar for men and women, and there has been growth in full-time employment and a reduction in part-time employment.
- The District's industry profile is still characterised by high levels of employment in logistics, and this sector continues to grow. There is also more employment in public administration than is typical in the Leeds City Region. Health remains the largest employer.
- 14% of people in employment within the District are working in elementary occupations, compared to 11% across the region as a whole. While this trend hasn't changed significantly over time, there have been increases in the proportions of men and women employed in the higher occupation groups – directors, managers, professionals and associate professionals, etc.

Education and Skills

- In 2018, 60% of Key Stage 2 pupils met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, compared to 64% across England as a whole. At Key Stage 4, the average Attainment 8 score per pupil was 43.5, slightly lower than the England average (46.6).
- Significant attainment gaps remain for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. In contrast, for example, at Key Stage 2 in 2018, 40% of disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected level in reading, writing and maths, compared to 64% of non-disadvantaged pupils. In the London boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets (two of the most deprived local authorities in England) over 65% of pupils eligible for FSM achieved the expected standard.
- According to admissions data the proportion of school leavers going to university is not far below the national average. Over all age groups, however, the trend in numbers registered in higher education has been fairly static for several years and there remains a marked and widening gap in participation by those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2016/17, only 14% of 15 year old pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) entered higher education (HE) by the age of 19. Across England as a whole it was 26%.

Housing and Infrastructure

- In 2018/19 there were 322 affordable new homes built through planning, and 1,826 private homes. The net number of additional homes as a proportion of all stock was the second highest in the Leeds City Region in 2018/19.
- Although there has been growth in the number of properties for affordable rent, the affordability of properties to buy is not improving. For someone on median earnings in 2002 the median house price was 3.4-times their annual earnings; in 2018 it was 5.8-times their annual earnings.
- As in other parts of the country, Wakefield District has seen an increase in the number of households being supported by the local authority in temporary accommodation. The numbers rose markedly when the Homelessness Reduction Action 2017 came into force. At the end of September 2019 there were 198 households in temporary accommodation.

Health and Well-being

- Males and females in Wakefield District have lower levels of life expectancy at birth compared to elsewhere, and the number of years females are estimated to remain healthy has fallen.
- A number of aspects of young people's health and well-being continue to improve, such as teenage conceptions and alcohol-specific admissions to hospital. Numbers of under-18 conceptions more than halved in the eight years to 2017. In the 2017/18, there were 710 hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0-14 years). The trend over time is downward, but the admission rate remains higher than the regional and England averages.
- The prevalence of smoking among adults is falling – down to 19% in 2018 – but is still higher than the England average (14%). The incidence of lung cancer in the adult population also remains significantly higher than the national average.

Social Protection

- The state pension accounts for around 40% of all expenditure on social protection across Wakefield District. £312,000 of local welfare provision was awarded in 2018/19, up around 4% compared to the previous year, and nearly £1million in discretionary housing payments were made.
- Between the NHS and the local authority there has been a significant improvement in reducing delays in transfers of care as people with care needs move between hospital and homes. At the same time, Carers Allowance statistics suggest the number of people providing unpaid care is increasing.
- At the end of March 2018 the CPP (child protection plan) rate per 10,000 children was 22% higher than the England average. Since then, however, the CPP caseload has more than doubled, to 598 children at the end of September 2019.
- At the end of September 2019, 586 children were in care. The numbers have increased over the past three years, to a similar degree as seen regionally.

Community Safety

- In 2018 the number of ‘violence against the person without injury’ offences recorded rose 41% compared to the previous year. Much of the increase was due to increases in common assault, harassment, and malicious communications offences.
- There were 635 race hate incidents recorded by the police in 2018. This represents a 28% increase compared to the previous year. Other types of hate incidents combined (faith, disability, sexual orientation, transgender) rose by 56%.
- The hot summer in 2018 led to unusually dry conditions. This provided opportunities for arson and contributed to 586 deliberate secondary (outdoor) fires being started, a 64% increase compared to 2017 (May to September).

Environment and Climate Change

- Wakefield District households recycled 47.8% of their household waste in 2017/18 (Defra), maintaining the level of performance seen last year. The recent improvements mean that in 2017/18 only 13% of waste collected by the Council went to landfill, while 39% of the waste was incinerated at the Ferrybridge Multifuel plant to generate electricity.
- Despite increases in the population and industry, estimated CO2 emissions in Wakefield District have fallen 29% since 2005. In 2017, industry accounted for 35% of CO2 emissions, with the remainder accounted for by road transport (39%) and domestic uses (27%). Local reductions haven’t quite kept pace with the national trend, principally because emissions from industrial and commercial activities have been slower to fall.

Culture and Sport

- In the three-year period 2016-18, VisitBritain estimates show increases in the number of day visits to the district and the number of short (3+ hours) leisure visits. However, estimates of the number of overnight trips have fallen. The Yorkshire Sculpture Park was the District’s most-visited attraction in 2017/18, with 481,000 visits.
- In 2017/18 61% of adults achieved at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week. This was lower than the England average (66%). The number of people participating in Parkrun continued to increase in 2018/19, to 53,000 runs. This included 8,000 runs at junior events, designed for children aged between 4 and 14.