

1.4 Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy is an estimate of how many years are lived in good health over the lifespan. It is commonly used to try and assess whether ageing populations – including Walsall’s – will be vibrant and independent, or suffer from greater chronic ill-health and poor quality of life. Extending a person’s life alone is insufficient: if the quality of that life is not healthy, it will have a detrimental impact on service needs such as the planning of health and social services, long term care and pensions.

Figure 1: Life expectancy (LE) and healthy life expectancy (HLE) comparison, 2012-2014

	Male		Female	
	Life Expectancy	Healthy Life Expectancy	Life Expectancy	Healthy Life Expectancy
Walsall	78	59.9	82.5	59.1
West Midlands	78.9	62.4	82.9	62.5
England	79.5	63.4	83.2	64

Source: ONS

The most recent data available in relation to healthy life expectancy shown in Figure 1 above illustrates that Walsall has a lower healthy life expectancy age compared to regional and national comparators. Female healthy life expectancy is 0.8 years lower than males.

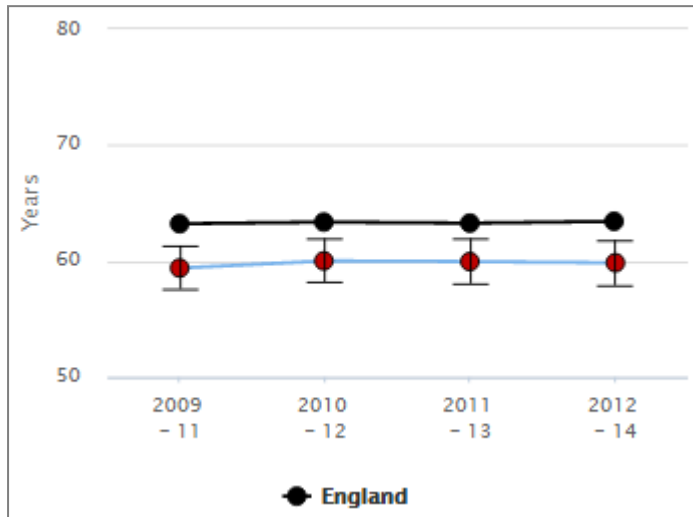
Overall life expectancy is gradually increasing for both males and females and that the gap with comparator areas has shown positive signs of narrowing. However, the focus needs to be on prolonging a healthy life expectancy and understanding and planning for the implications that will have on service need and provision.

Male healthy life expectancy - trend

Figure 2 below from the Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) shows Walsall’s male healthy life expectancy compared with England, as a trend. Between the last 2 periods (2011-13 to 2012-14), Walsall’s value has reduce slightly from 60 to 59.9 years. Walsall is still, however statistically significantly lower than the England value.

(In the following charts, Walsall is shown as the blue line. Also please note that the vertical axis starts at 50 years)

Figure 2: Male healthy life expectancy

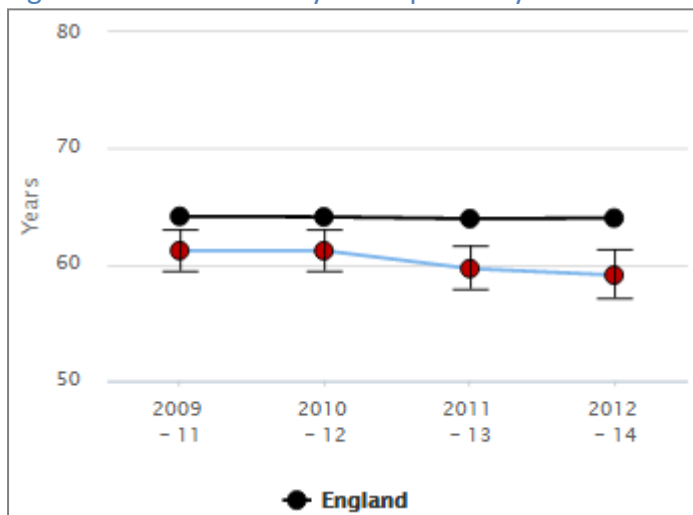


Source: Public Health Outcome Framework – indicator 0.1i
<http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

Female healthy life expectancy – trend

The chart below from the Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) shows Walsall's female healthy life expectancy compared with England, as a trend. Since 2010, Walsall's value has reduced by 2.1 years and is statistically significantly lower than the England value. The gap between Walsall and England is therefore increasing.

Figure 3: Female healthy life expectancy



Source: Public Health Outcome Framework – indicator 0.1i
<http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

Last Updated: 17th May 2016