

# Walsall JSNA

## Chapter 1 - Health & Wellbeing

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Key Points

Geographical Disparity

The east of the borough has an older population and slow growth (<1% in 9 years). Conversely the centre, south & west of the borough continues to see rapid population growth and a much younger population (e.g. Blakenall, median age 31 & 7.8% growth)

Services Pressure for under 16s & over 65s

Under 16s now account for 22.4% of the Walsall population, and over 65s, 17.6%. Walsall's dependency ratio has continued to rise with 0.65 dependants : 1 working age adult in 2019 (England 0.57). There are estimated to be 9000 additional over 60s by 2031.

Drivers of Growth

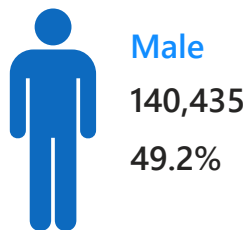
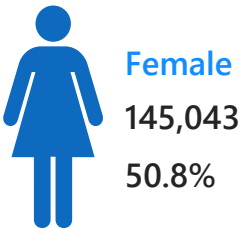
Since 2014 internal migration has been net positive: Walsall's population is growing largely from births and migration: Walsall is attracting more people from across the UK, accounting for 1200 pop p.a. (5yr average). Births have remained largely stable, with a slight reduction since 2017.

Net population growth is estimated 2280 p.a (5yr avg).

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Population

285,478



1. Under 5s

19,501

6.8%

2. 5-15s

42,540

14.9%

3. 16-64s

173,316

60.7%

4. Over 65s

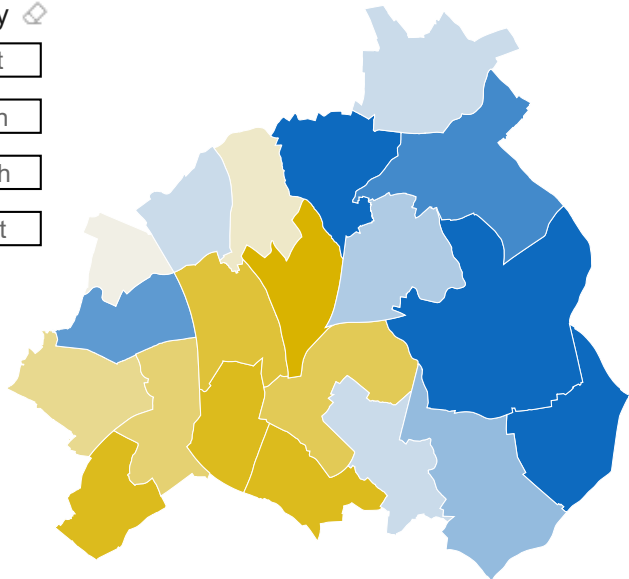
50,121

17.6%

Median Age by Ward

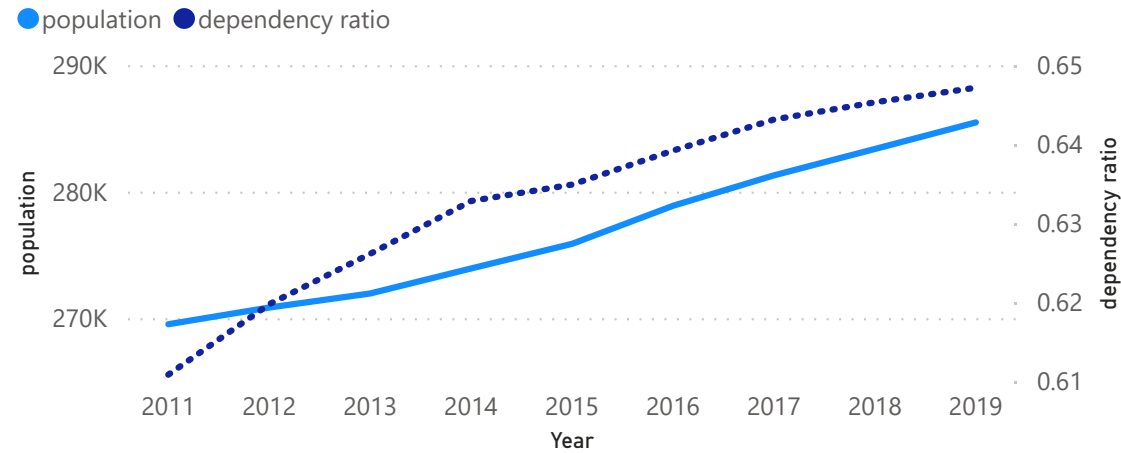
Locality

- East
- North
- South
- West



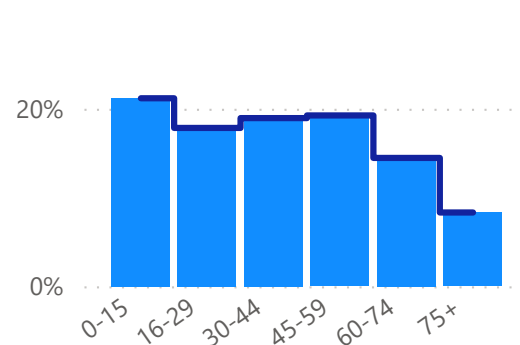
Ward Name	Median Age	Estimated Population	Change vs 2011
Aldridge Central and South	48	13,990	1.2%
Pelsall	48	11,447	-0.4%
Streetly	48	13,684	-0.5%
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	46	13,048	0.1%
Short Heath	45	11,452	-0.5%
Pheasey Park Farm	43	11,396	2.8%
Rushall-Shelfield	42	12,101	0.6%
Bloxwich West	41	13,965	3.5%
Brownhills	41	13,448	2.9%
Paddock	41	13,428	1.7%
Willenhall North	39	12,616	-0.1%
Bloxwich East	38	13,024	4.1%
Willenhall South	36	17,176	4.3%
Bentley and Darlaston North	35	14,292	2.0%
St. Matthews	34	17,274	5.2%
Birchills Leamore	33	16,038	4.0%
Darlaston South	32	16,642	6.5%
Palfrey	32	17,387	2.1%
Pleck	32	16,546	4.6%
Blakenall	31	16,524	7.8%
Total		285,478	2.7%

Population Over Time



Population Age Profile

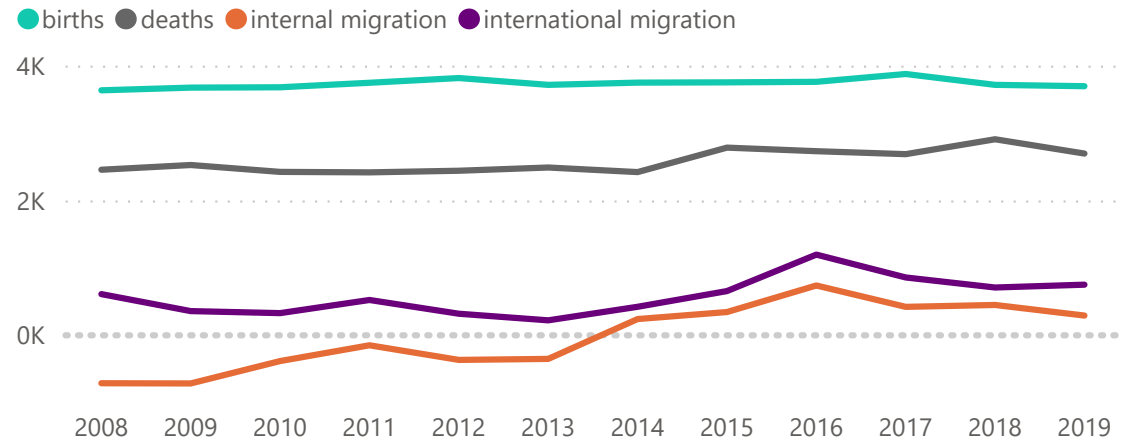
Pop % Borough %



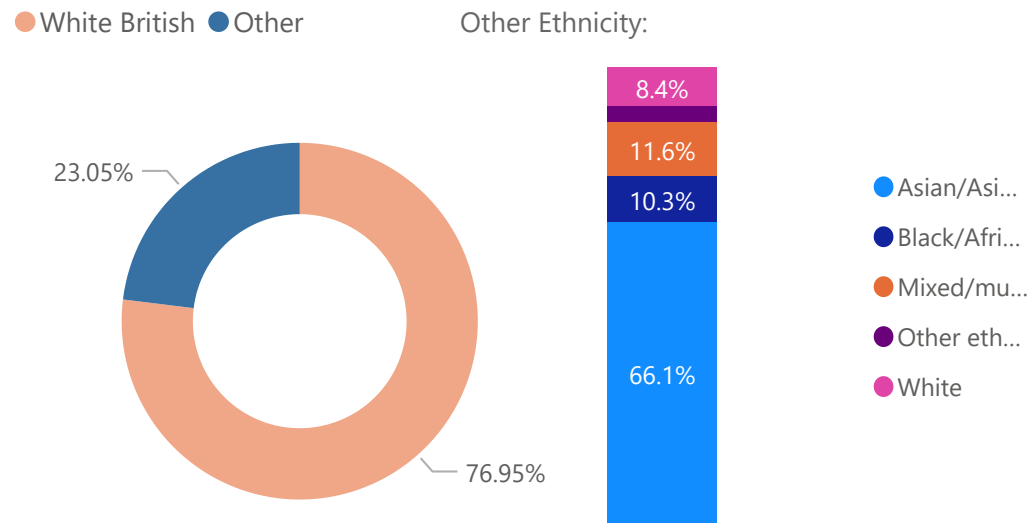
Projections (Borough Only)

Age	10 Year pop change (2031)	10 Year pop % (2031)
0-19	3021	3.9%
20-39	1485	2.0%
40-59	2975	4.1%
60-79	6610	12.8%
80+	2419	16.7%
Total	16509	5.7%

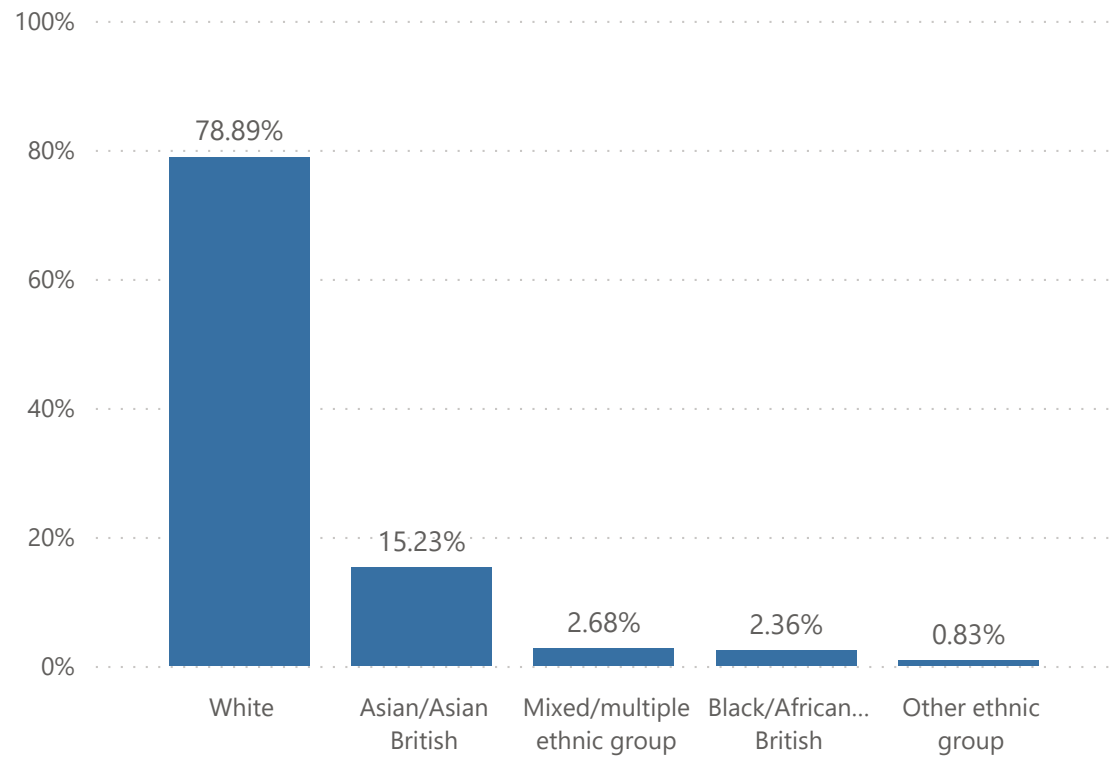
Population Change



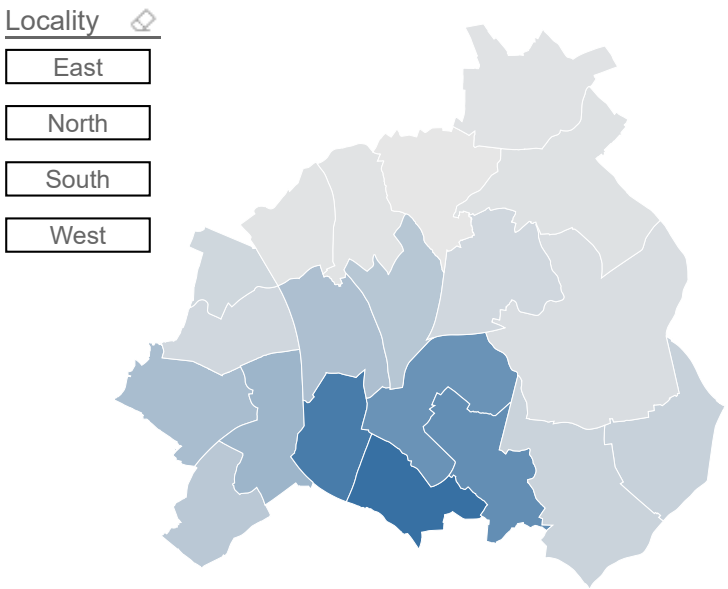
Walsall Ethnic Composition (Census 2011)



Population % by Ethnicity



Ethnicity by Ward



Ward Name	Other than White British
Palfrey	64.9%
Pleck	58.9%
Paddock	49.4%
St. Matthews	46.9%
Bentley and Darlaston North	29.3%
Willenhall South	25.0%
Birchills Leamore	23.8%
Blakenall	20.0%
Darlaston South	19.2%
Streetly	14.4%
Pheasey Park Farm	13.4%
Willenhall North	11.6%
Rushall-Shelfield	11.3%
Short Heath	11.3%
Aldridge Central and South	8.3%
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	6.4%
Brownhills	5.6%
Bloxwich East	5.5%
Bloxwich West	5.4%
Pelsall	3.7%

Key Points

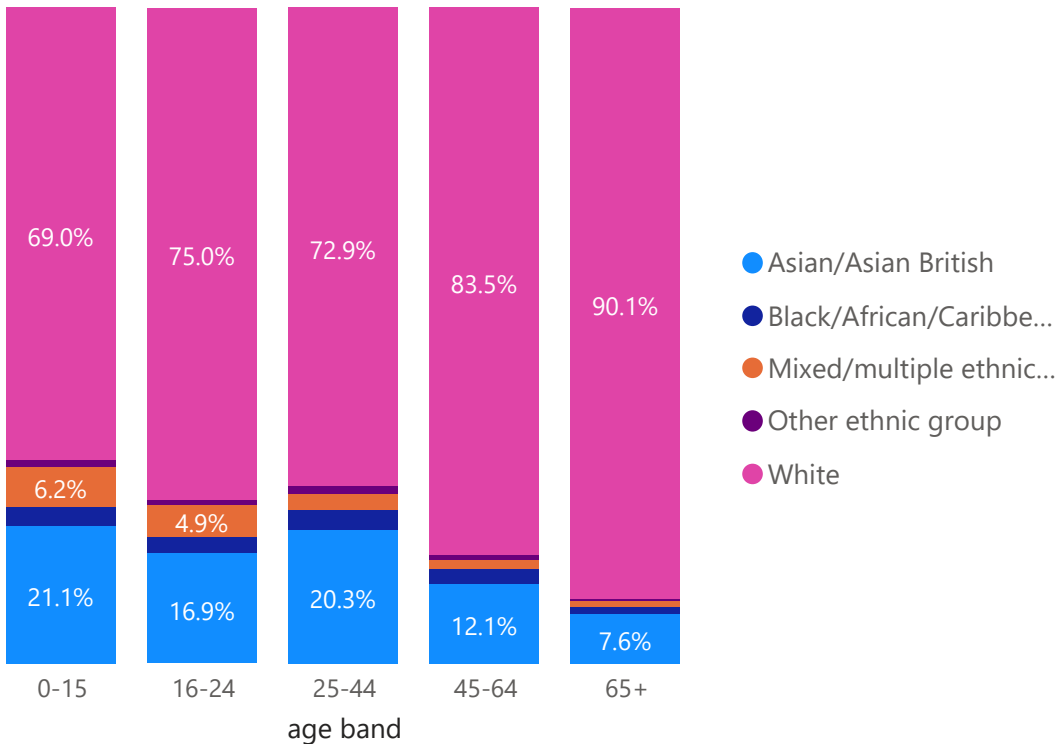
Geographic Diversity

Ethnic composition varies widely by geographic area. South Walsall features greatest ethnic diversity: 55.5% of residents are of an ethnicity other than White British (notably Palfrey 64.9% , Pleck 58.9%), with large Pakistani (17.6%), Indian (13.9%) & Bangladeshi (6.4%) communities. The West and North are predominantly White British, >80%, and the East 90%.

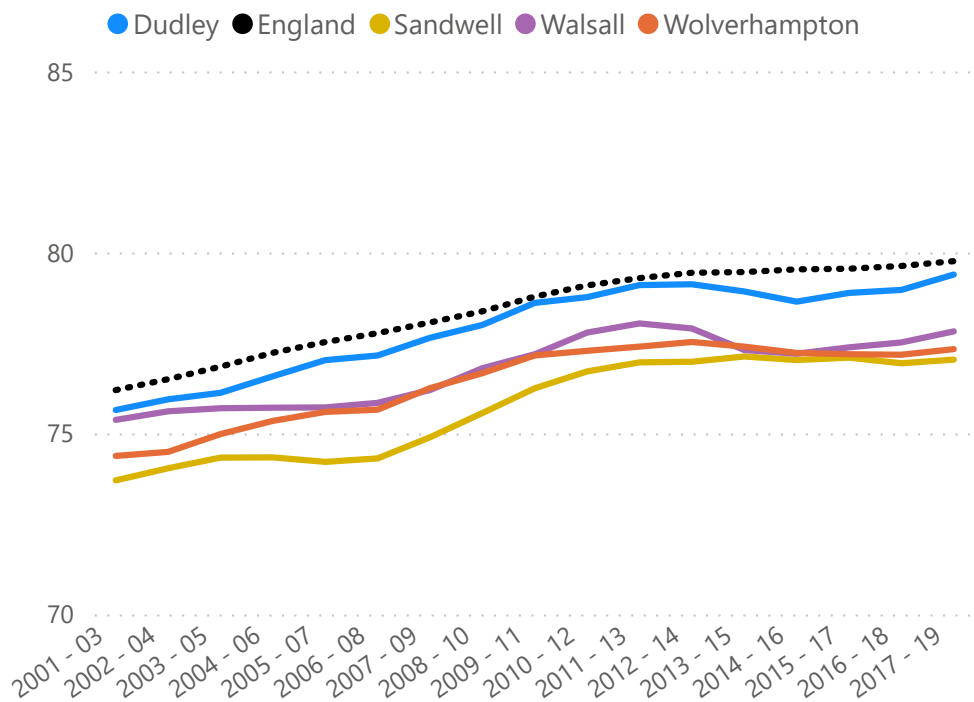
Diverse Youth

Ethnic diversity increases by age group, with 31% of under 15s from a non-white ethnicity. For 65+ year olds this is just 9.9%.

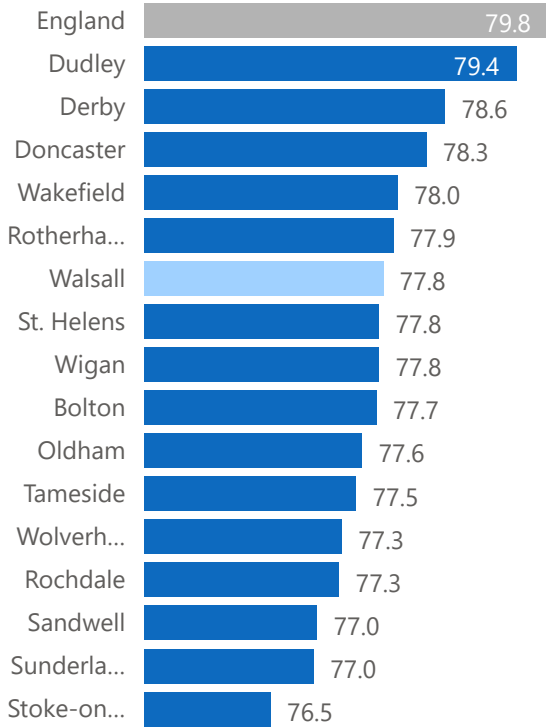
Ethnicity % by Age Group



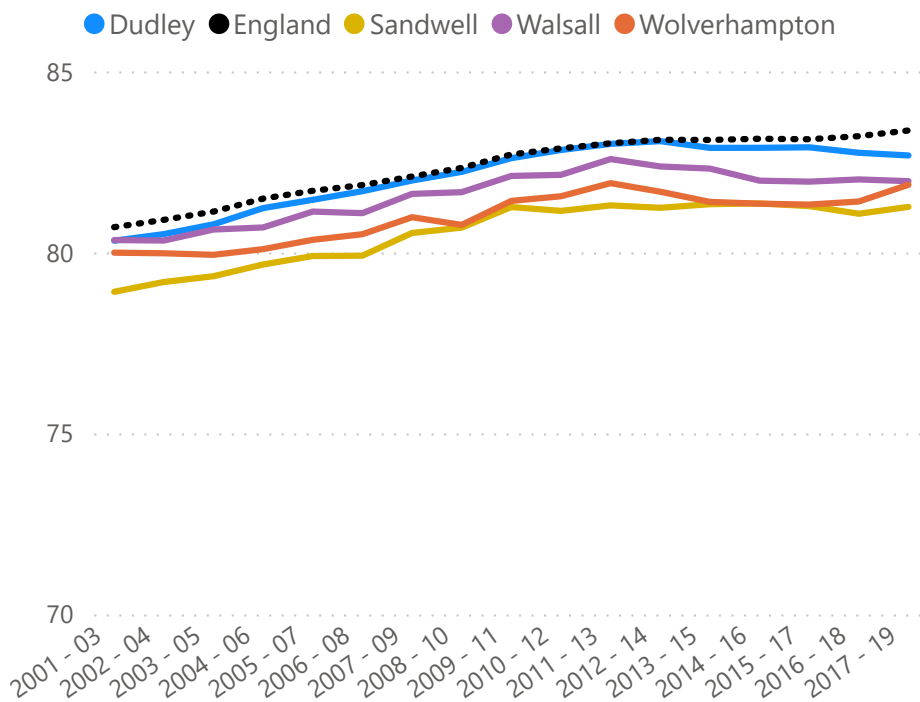
Male Life Expectancy (at birth)



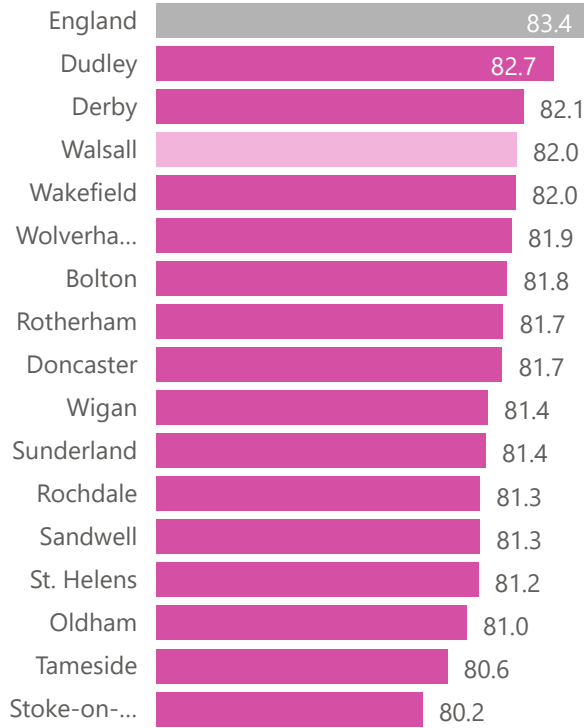
Statistical Neighbours Comparison



Female Life Expectancy (at birth)



Statistical Neighbours Comparison



Key Points

Male Life Expectancy

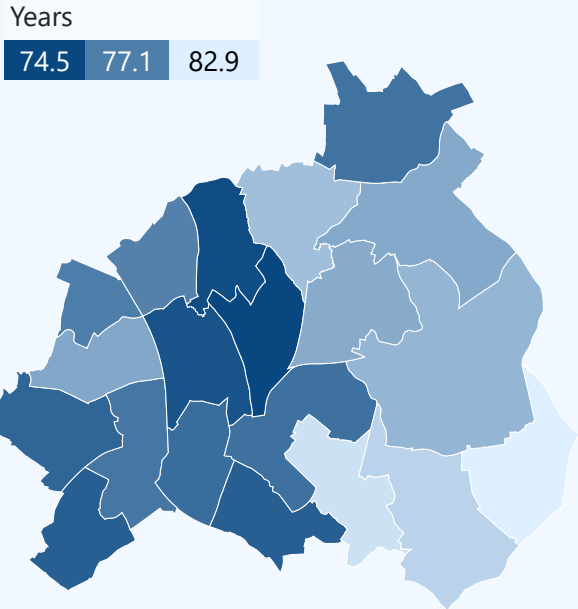
Estimated life expectancy for Males is 77.8 years, compared to 79.8 for England as a whole. Contrasted to Women within Walsall, Males are expected to live 4.2 fewer years on average.

Recent Recovery

Male life expectancy dropped since a peak in 2013-11 (78 years) but has shown signs of gradual recovery in recent years. The gap between England and Walsall however has grown since 2001, from 0.8 yrs to 2 fewer years for a Male in Walsall as of 2017-19.

Geographic Inequality

Male life expectancy differs widely across the borough, ranging 8.4 years with the lowest in Blakenall (74.5 years) and highest in Streetly (82.9 years): respectively, the most and least deprived areas within Walsall.



Key Points

Female Life Expectancy

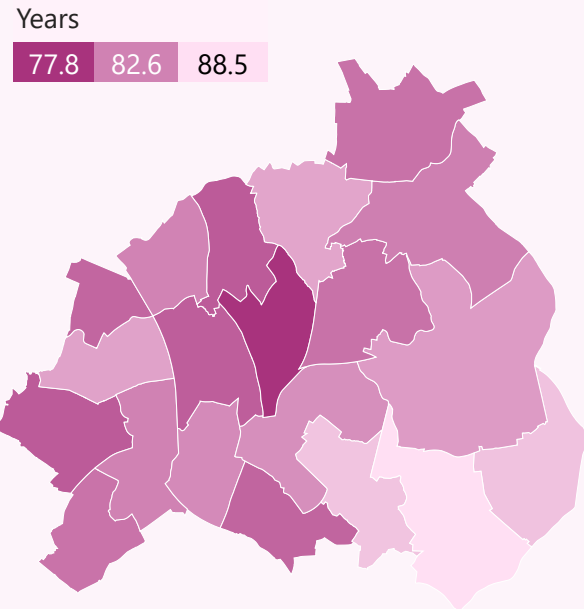
Estimated life expectancy for Females is 82 years, compared to 83.4 for England as a whole. Walsall is the third highest of its 15 statistical neighbours - areas that are socioeconomically similar to Walsall.

Recent Stability

Similarly to Male life expectancy, there has been a drop since a peak in 2011-13 (82.6 years). However, unlike Males, Walsall Female life expectancy has remained stable at 82 years since 2014. The gap between England and Walsall is now at its largest: 0.4 years in 2001, as of 2017-19 Walsall Females are expected to live 1.4 fewer years.

Geographic Inequality

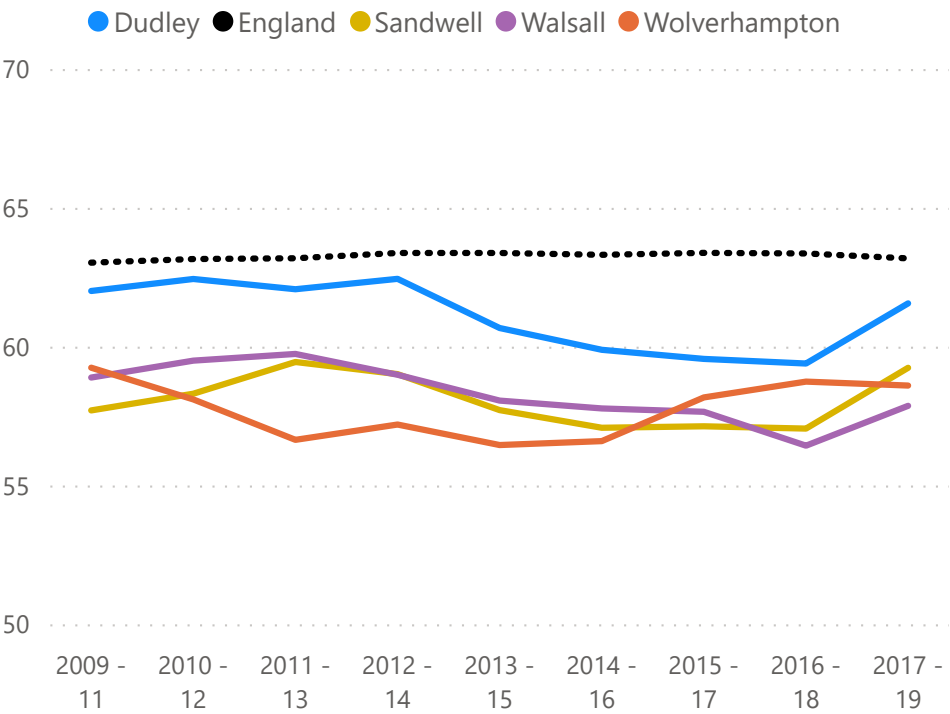
Female life expectancy differs widely across the borough, ranging 10.7 years with the highest in Pheasey (88.5 years) and lowest in Blakenall (77.8 years). Blakenall is 2.5 years lower than the next lowest ward.



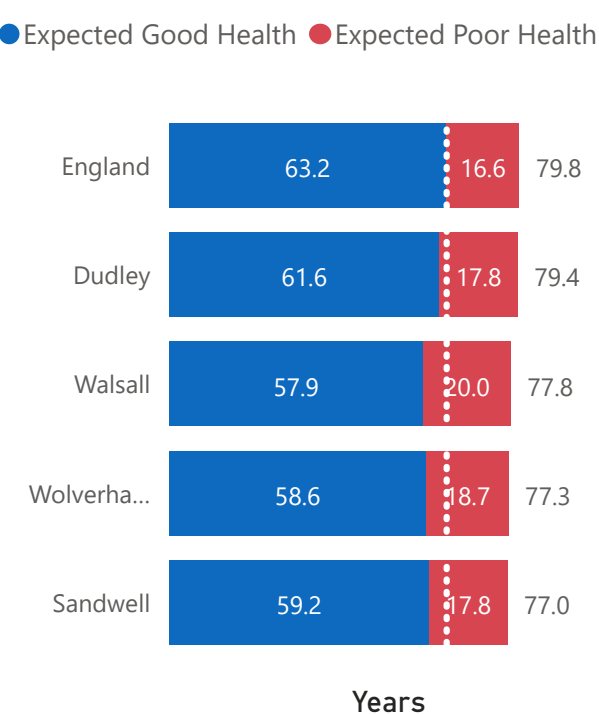


Healthy life expectancy is an estimate of how many years a person can expect to live in good health. It is commonly used to try and assess whether ageing populations – including Walsall’s – will be vibrant and independent, or suffer from greater chronic ill-health and poor quality of life.

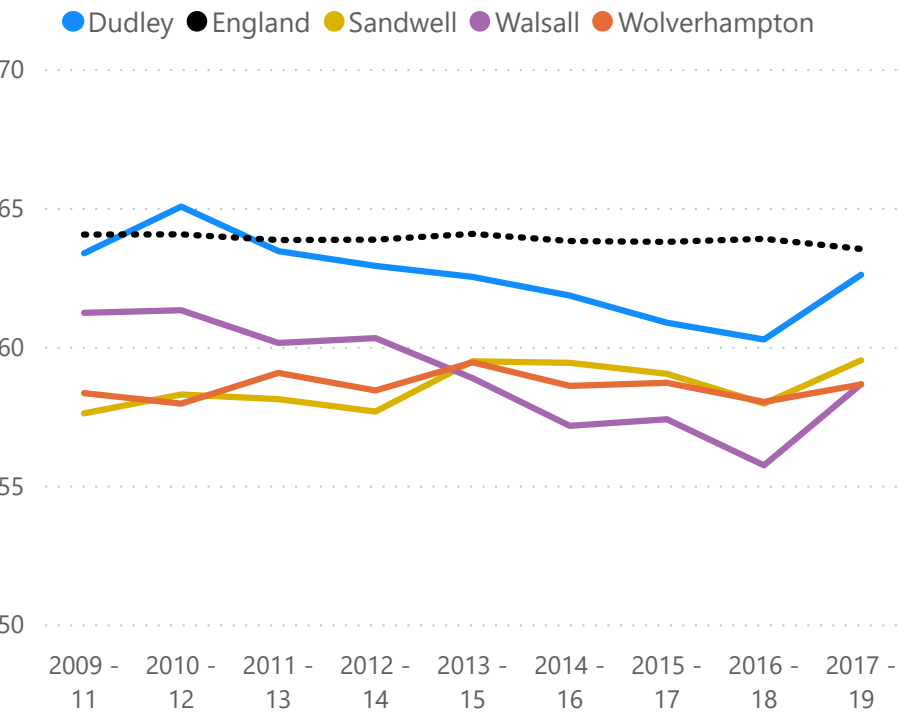
### Male Healthy Life Expectancy (at birth)



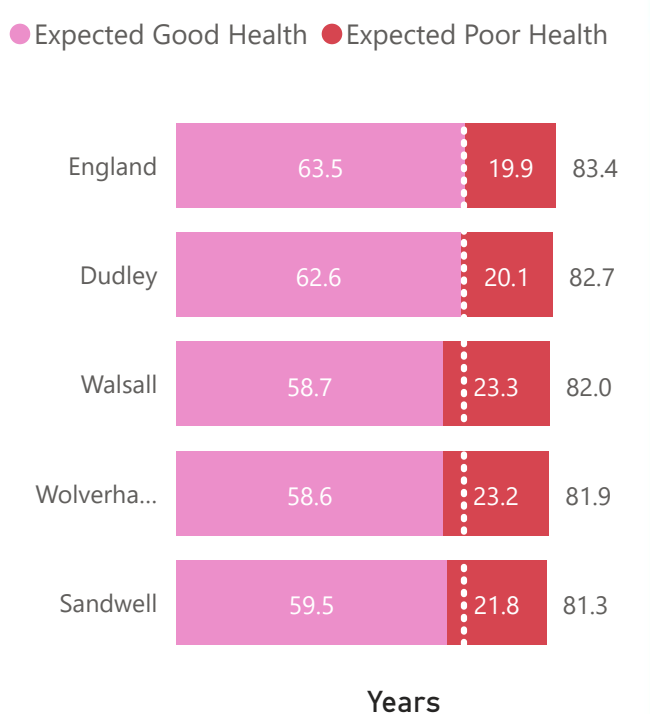
### Years in Poor Health Comparison



### Female Healthy Life Expectancy (at birth)



### Years in Poor Health Comparison



### Key points

#### Male Healthy Life Expectancy

Healthy life expectancy for Males has recently risen to 57.9 years but still 1.8 years lower than a peak in 2011-13. It means that, on average, a Male in Walsall can expect to live 20 years, or 25.7% of their lives, in poor health.

#### Lowest within the Black Country

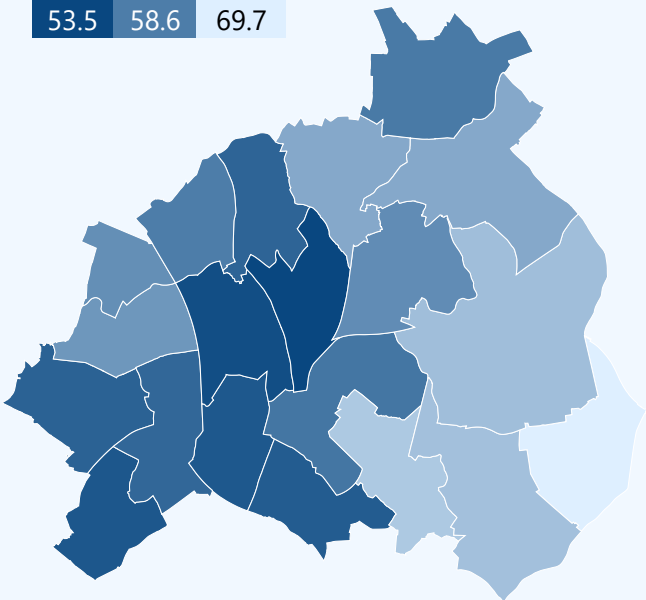
Walsall Males have the lowest healthy life expectancy of the Black Country Boroughs, and Walsall Males can expect to live 5.3 fewer years in good health compared to England.

#### Geographic Inequality

Male healthy life expectancy differs widely across the borough, ranging 16.2 years with the lowest in Blakenall (53.5 years) and highest in Streetly (69.7 years): respectively, the most and least deprived areas within Walsall, and highly indicative of entrenched health inequalities.

Years

53.5 58.6 69.7



### Key Points

#### Female Healthy Life Expectancy

Healthy life expectancy for Females in Walsall is 58.7 years, compared to 63.5 for England as a whole. It means that woman can expect to live 23.3 years in poor health: 28.4% of their lives, on average.

#### Lowest within the Black Country

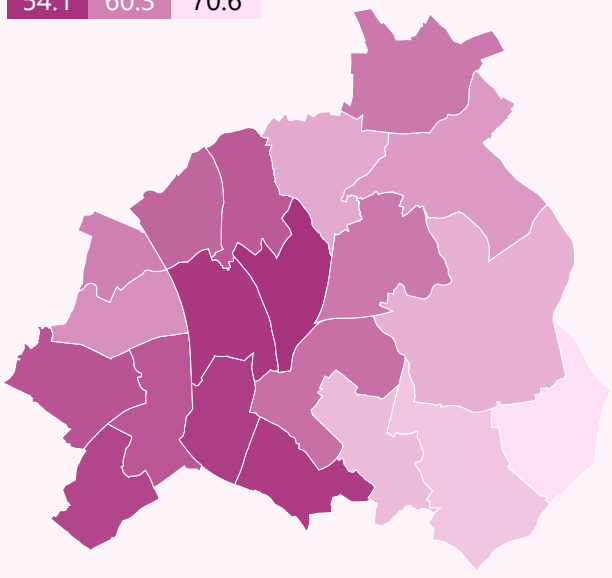
Walsall Females have the joint lowest healthy life expectancy of the Black Country Boroughs, and can expect to live 5.8 fewer years in good health compared to England.

#### Geographic Inequality

Female healthy life expectancy differs widely across the borough, ranging 16.5 years with the lowest in Blakenall (54.1 years) and highest in Streetly (70.6 years): respectively, the most and least deprived areas within Walsall, and highly indicative of entrenched health inequalities.

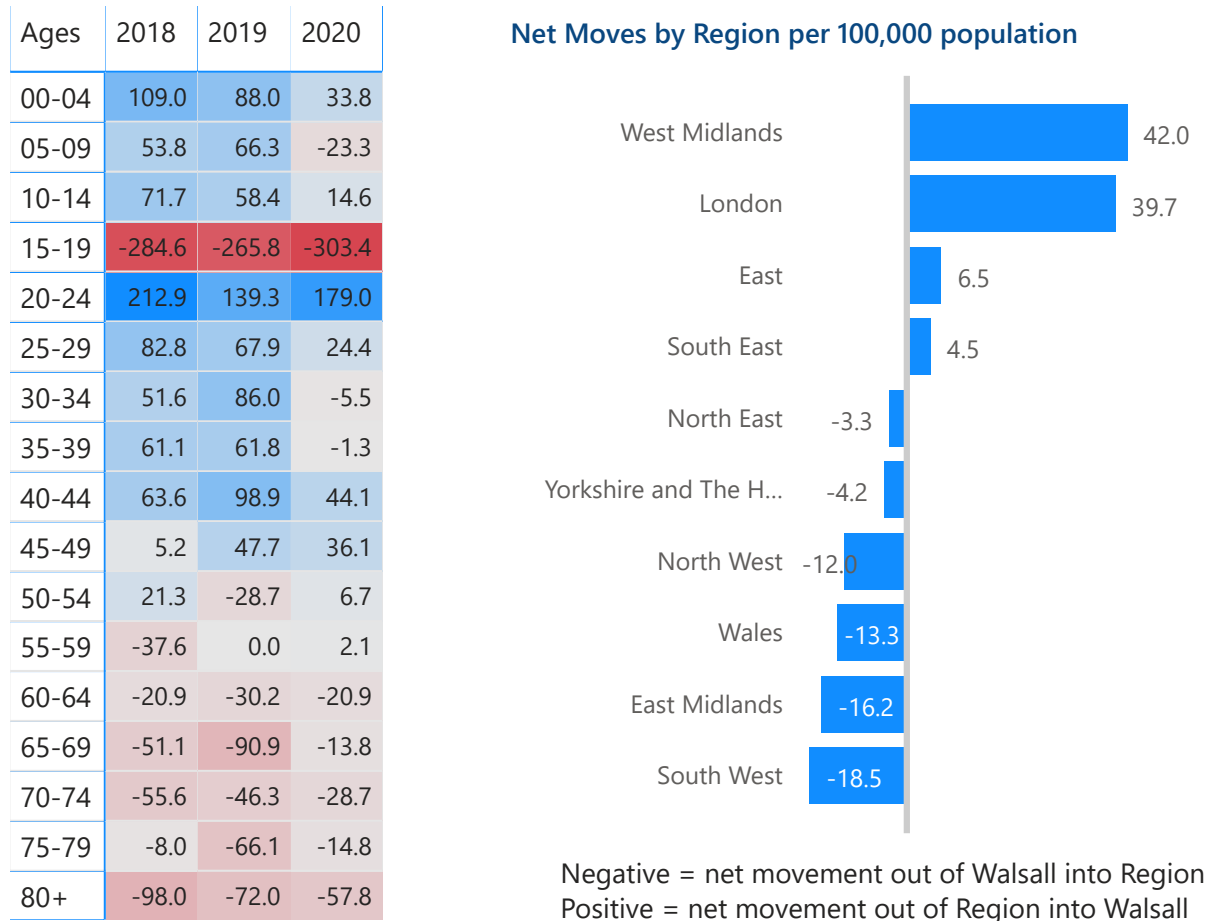
Years

54.1 60.3 70.6





Internal Migration Estimates By Age, Year & Region (per 100,000 population)



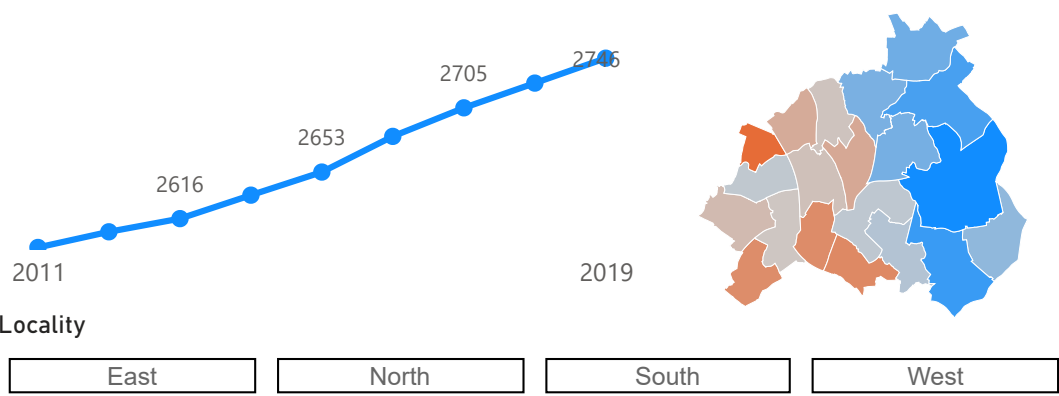
Key Points

**Where, and at what time of life, people move in/out of Walsall**  
The charts above highlight the key ages at which movement in to or out of Walsall occurs, showing the net per 100,000 pop. Clicking an age/year will filter for more detail.

The peak age is late teens, experiencing mass movement linked to university and work (particularly into East Midlands). 20-24s and young families see an influx of inward migration: returning from study or due to employment or affordable housing (mostly from other West Midlands areas). As people age, beyond their 50s there is a slight net flow out of Walsall.

**The muting effect of COVID-19**  
COVID-19 saw a dampening effect on population change and internal migration: roughly halving the rate of growth (0.83% per year to 0.43% in 2020).

Population Density Estimates (people per square km)



Population Density by Age and Ward (people per square km)

Ward Name	0-15	16-29	30-44	45-59	60-74	75+	Total
Willenhall North	1079	934	950	1054	899	473	5388
Palfrey	1288	925	1044	764	461	250	4731
Pleck	1281	883	1042	735	476	232	4649
Darlaston South	1231	865	963	810	493	276	4637
Blakenall	1162	717	851	654	426	201	4012
Bloxwich West	783	648	674	865	624	360	3954
Willenhall South	809	649	791	718	429	213	3609
Birchills Leamore	859	691	730	628	389	184	3481
Bloxwich East	761	567	591	657	478	359	3412
Bentley and Darlaston North	836	600	674	596	439	206	3351
Short Heath	540	467	517	617	586	336	3064
St. Matthews	619	690	678	522	349	186	3044
Paddock	570	458	547	564	463	302	2905
Streetly	417	334	397	548	446	364	2505
Pelsall	366	310	345	498	427	303	2248
Rushall-Shelfield	416	353	384	476	353	215	2198
Brownhills	426	335	377	478	316	179	2112
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	293	242	269	373	307	179	1662
Pheasey Park Farm	267	237	269	320	213	183	1488
Aldridge Central and South	168	142	156	216	186	149	1018

Orange = above, Grey = similar and Blue = under W.Mids 479 per sq km (2018).

Key Points

**Dense East/South, Sparse West**  
Walsall averages 2,746 people per sq km: whilst in excess of the England average of 671, as an urban Local Authority this is to be expected - and to place Walsall within context, it is far less densely populated than Birmingham and London (4,259 & 5,727 people per sq km repesectively).

However, population density is linked to inequality and the east and south of the borough (Willenhall, Palfrey, Pleck & Darlaston in particular) has a large population concentrated within a relatively small area. For example, Willenhall North's 5,388 per sq km.

**Clustered Children**  
0-15 year olds are densely clustered in the west and south of Walsall with Palfrey, Pleck, Darlaston South, Blakenall and Willenhall North containing over 1,000 children per square km.

This continues to highlight the geographic disparity across Walsall. For instance, Palfrey, at 1,288 children per square km, is over 7x more densely populated with children than Aldridge Central & South (168 per sq km).

**What inequalities can density entail?**  
It can mean increased demand and competition for services, such as school placements, reduced access to greenspaces and public facilities, greater exposure to crime and risk from socially transmitted pathogens (such as COVID-19).

These areas shall be explored in greater detail in subsequent chapters of this JSNA.

Data Sources

Population

Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population estimates:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>

Office for National Statistics Population Estimates:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections>

Ethnicity

Census 2011 - NOMIS:  
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011>

Life Expectancy

Public Health England - Fingertips Public Health Profiles:  
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/life%20expectancy>

Healthy Life Expectancy

Public Health England - Fingertips Public Health Profiles:  
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/life%20expectancy>

Internal Migration

Office for National Statistics Internal Migration Matrices of Moves by Local Authority and Region:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk/datasets/matricesofinternalmigrationmovesbetweenlocalauthoritiesandregionsincludingthecountriesofwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

Population Density

Office for National Statistics - Standard Area Measurements 2018 (combined with ONS population estimates):  
<https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/datasets/d6cc711f662940c59f1c7284448b52f6/about>

Contact

If you have any queries please feel free to contact us via email:  
[Insight@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Insight@walsall.gov.uk)

Maps

Several maps appear throughout this document, to which the following applies:

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