

Walsall JSNA

Chapter 2 – Healthy Start

Contents

2.1 Fertility Rate

2.2 Low Birth Weight

2.3 Mother's Age

2.4 Educational Attainment: Primary

2.5 Educational Attainment: Secondary

2.6 Vulnerable Children

Appendix

Key Points

Background

General Fertility Rate (GFR) is a measure of fertility rate in an area and denotes the number of live births per 1,000 women. It can be used as an indicator of future population growth or decline and can help with planning appropriate services by understanding the demographics of an area.

Definition

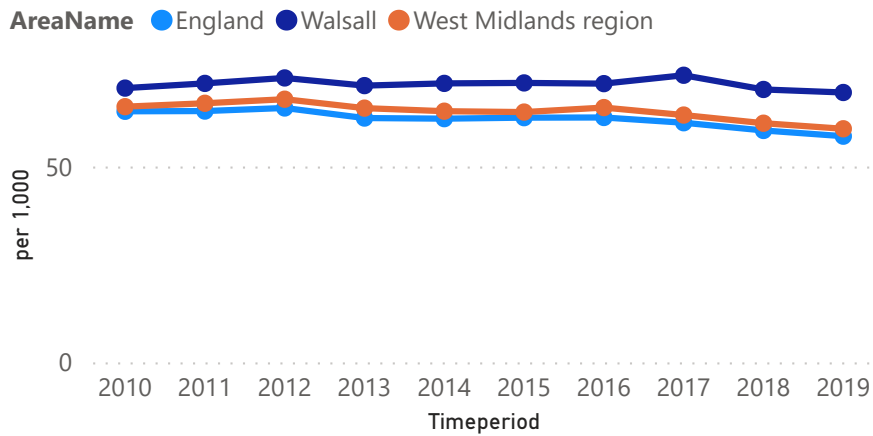
This is a measure of current fertility levels and denotes the number of live births as a rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years

Interpretation

The line chart shows that Walsall's GFR is consistently statistically significantly higher than England and the gap between the two is widening. Walsall's GFR has reduced since 2017, although at a slower rate than the West Midlands and England.

Locally, we see a considerable difference in range between the 20 Walsall wards and generally, wards to the West of the borough have a higher rate than the East.

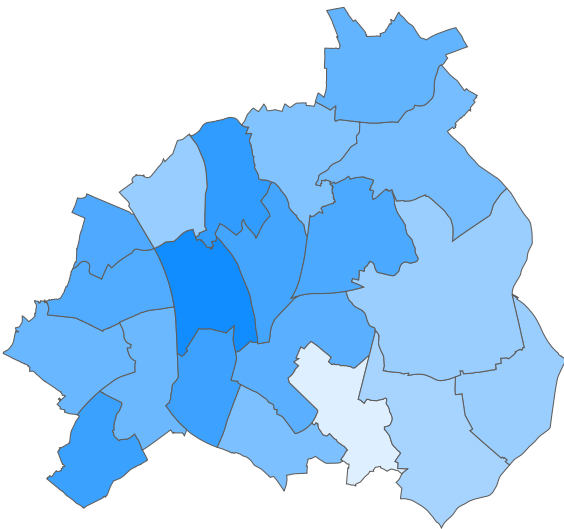
Comparing Walsall's General Fertility Rate with West Midlands and England



Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. [Date accessed: 01st Sep 2021] <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright [2021]

Time period	Count	Value	LowerCI95%	UpperCI95%
2010	3679	70.0	67.8	72.3
2011	3746	71.2	69.0	73.5
2012	3816	72.6	70.3	75.0
2013	3715	70.7	68.4	73.0
2014	3748	71.2	69.0	73.5
2015	3752	71.3	69.1	73.7
2016	3760	71.2	68.9	73.5
2017	3880	73.3	71.0	75.6
2018	3715	69.7	67.4	71.9
2019	3695	68.9	66.7	71.2

Walsall's General Fertility Rate by year and electoral ward



Birth year

2011 2012 2013 2014

2015 2016 2017 2018

2019

Locality

East North South West

Source: Office for National Statistics via NHS Digital

Ward name	Births	Popn	GFR per 1,000
Birchills Leamore	262	3304	79.3
Bloxwich East	173	2350	73.6
Darlaston South	249	3473	71.7
Pleck	253	3546	71.3
Blakenall	245	3493	70.1
Rushall-Shelfield	148	2155	68.7
Willenhall North	157	2305	68.1
Short Heath	125	1849	67.6
St. Matthews	246	3720	66.1
Brownhills	151	2345	64.4
Willenhall South	227	3591	63.2
Bentley and Darlaston North	185	2939	62.9
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	126	2069	60.9
Palfrey	229	3827	59.8
Pelsall	99	1680	58.9
Bloxwich West	137	2495	54.9
Streetly	109	1999	54.5
Aldridge Central and South	115	2115	54.4
Pheasey Park Farm	104	1995	52.1
Paddock	100	2379	42.0

Key Points

Background

Low birth weight increases the risk of childhood mortality and of developmental problems for the child and is associated with poorer health in later life. At a population level there are inequalities in low birth weight and a high proportion of low birth weight births could indicate lifestyle issues of the mothers and/or issues with the maternity services

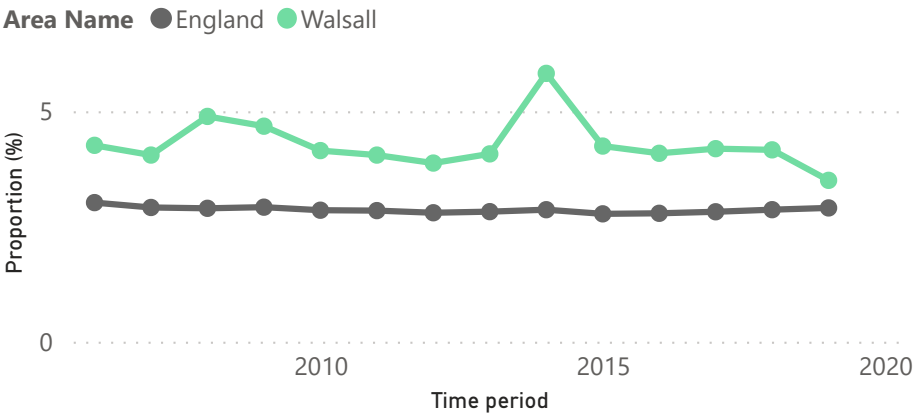
Definition

Live births with a recorded birth weight under 2500g and a gestational age of at least 37 complete weeks as a percentage of all live births (with recorded birth weight and a gestational age of at least 37 complete weeks)

Interpretation

Since 2006, Walsall's % of low birth weight babies has been consistently, statistically significantly higher than England. This margin however reduced considerably in 2019, when Walsall's proportion reduced to 3.5%, which is the lowest since 2006. The single sharp increase in Walsall's 2014 data seems to be an anomaly.

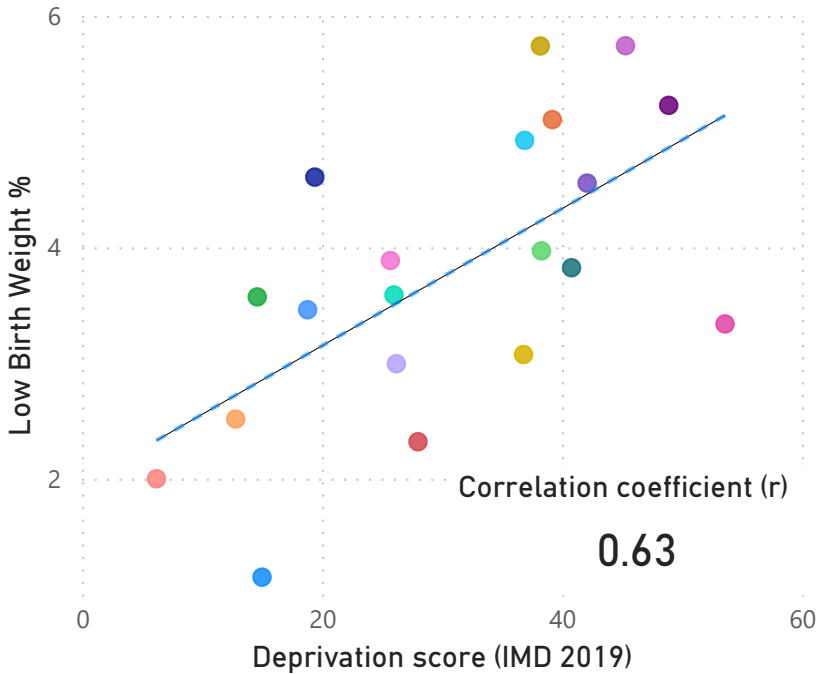
Comparing Walsall's Low Birth Weight % with England



Time period	Count(n)	Value(%)	LowerCI95%	UpperCI95%
2019	116	3.5	2.9	4.2
2018	138	4.2	3.5	4.9
2017	143	4.2	3.6	4.9
2016	137	4.1	3.5	4.8
2015	142	4.2	3.6	5.0
2014	194	5.8	5.1	6.7
2013	136	4.1	3.5	4.8
2012	134	3.9	3.3	4.6

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. [Date accessed: 01st Sep 2021] <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright [2021]

Low Birth Weight vs Deprivation by Ward



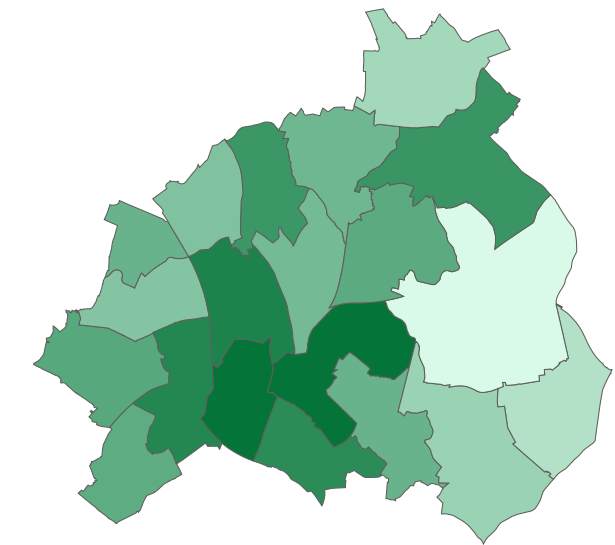
There is a moderate positive correlation between wards with low birth weight and deprivation.

X axis = Average IMD 2019 deprivation score per ward.

Y axis = % low births per electoral ward

Low Birth Weight % by electoral ward (2017-19)

This map and table show the Low Birth Weight % for each electoral ward in Walsall for the combined 3 year period 2017-19 (calendar years)



Locality

East

North

South

West

Ward name	Low birth weight %
Pleck	5.7
St. Matthews	5.7
Birchills Leamore	5.2
Bentley and Darlaston North	5.1
Palfrey	4.9
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	4.6
Bloxwich East	4.6
Willenhall South	4.0
Rushall-Shelfield	3.9
Darlaston South	3.8
Willenhall North	3.6
Paddock	3.6
Pelsall	3.5
Blakenall	3.3
Bloxwich West	3.1
Short Heath	3.0
Pheasey Park Farm	2.5
Brownhills	2.3
Streety	2.0
Aldridge Central and South	1.1

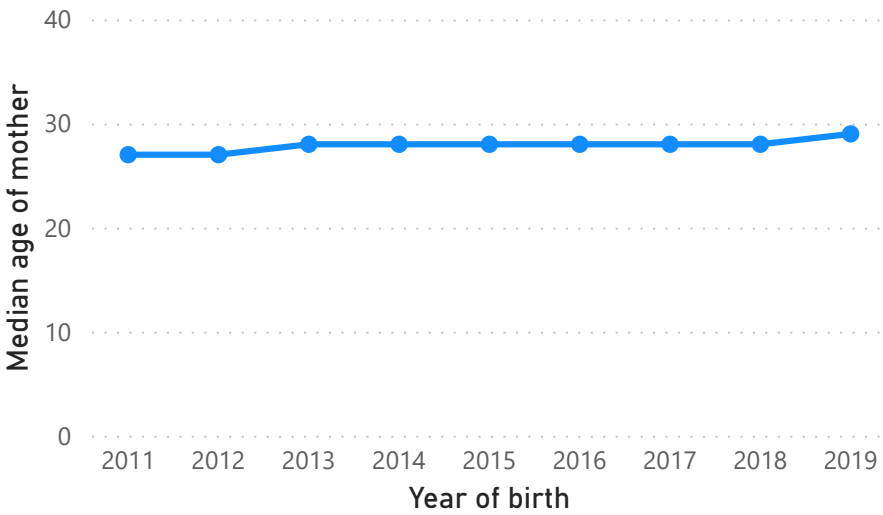
Source: Office for National Statistics via NHS Digital

Key Points

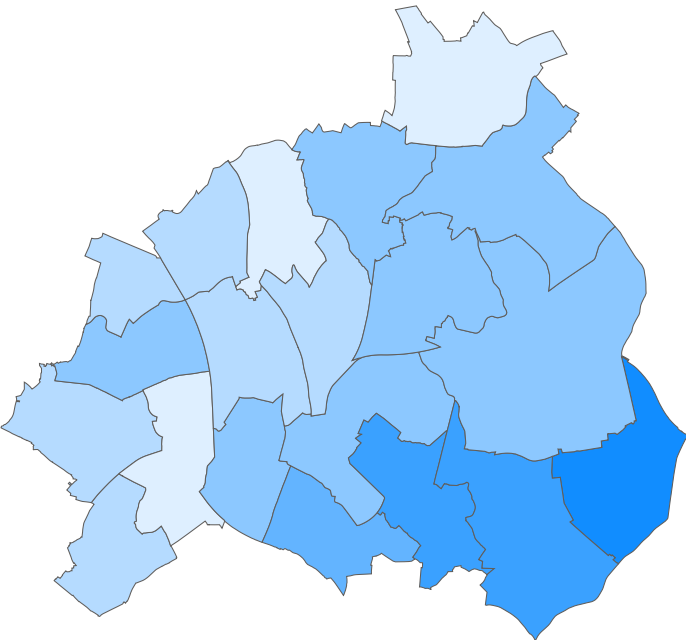
Definition
The median age of mothers at childbirth for a calendar year. This includes all live births.

Interpretation
In the period between 2011 and 2019, the median age of mothers has increased gradually from 27 to 29 years of age. When viewing the geographic variation in the borough during 2019, by ward, there is a range of 5 years between wards with the lowest median age of 27 years and the highest with 32. A similar range is observed when also analysing previous years.

Trend of Walsall mother's median age at childbirth



Mother's median age at childbirth by year and electoral ward



Birth year

2011201220132014

2015201620172018

2019

Locality

EastNorthSouthWest

Source: Office for National Statistics via NHS Digital

Ward name	Mothers median age
Streetly	32
Paddock	31
Pheasey Park Farm	31
Palfrey	30
Aldridge Central and South	29
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	29
Pelsall	29
Pleck	29
Rushall-Shelfield	29
Short Heath	29
St. Matthews	29
Birchills Leamore	28
Blakenall	28
Bloxwich West	28
Darlaston South	28
Willenhall North	28
Willenhall South	28
Bentley and Darlaston North	27
Bloxwich East	27
Brownhills	27

Key Points

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, statutory tests and assessments for pupils were cancelled in 2020 and 2021. The data shown reflects the latest figures available for reporting.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The EYFSP is an assessment of children's development and learning at the end of the reception year. Children are defined as having reached a good level of development at the end of the EYFS if they have achieved at least the expected level in prime and specific areas of learning.

Year One Phonics

Pupils take the Phonics Screening Check at the end of year one, when most children have reached six years of age. The check is designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.

Key Stage One

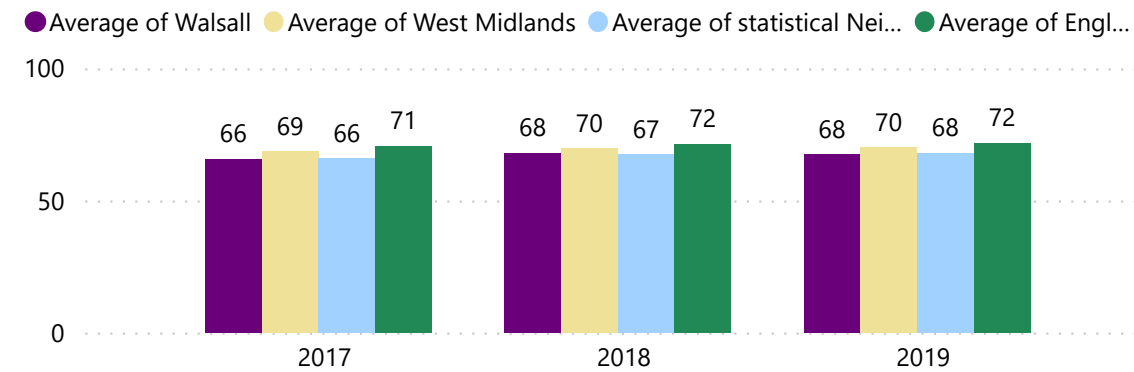
Teacher Assessment judgements in reading, writing, and maths are reported at the end of KS1 when most children reach the age of seven.

Key Stage Two

Pupils take national curriculum assessments in year 6 at the end of KS2, when most will reach the age of 11 at the end of the school year. Pupils take tests (commonly referred to as SATs) in reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling and receive a teacher assessment (TA) in reading, writing, maths and science.

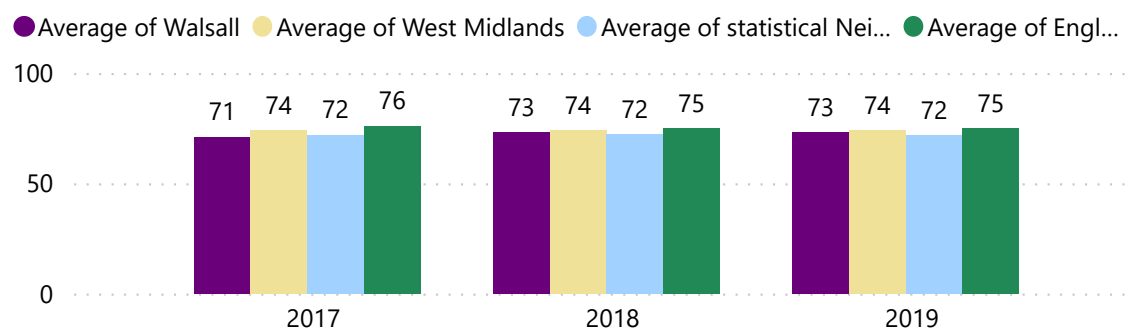
The main headline measure at KS2 looks at the percentage of pupils who reach the expected standard in Reading and in Maths and in writing teacher assessment.

% Achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception

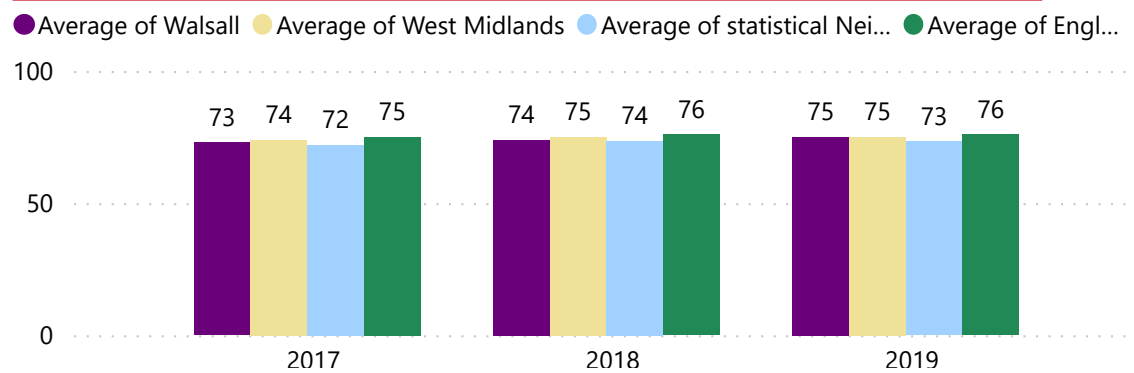


The overall GLD for Walsall in 2019 was 67.5%, an improvement from 65.7% in 2017. Although below local comparators, the gap between Walsall and England has narrowed from 5% in 2017 to 4.3% in 2019

% Achieving the expected standard or above in reading at Key Stage One

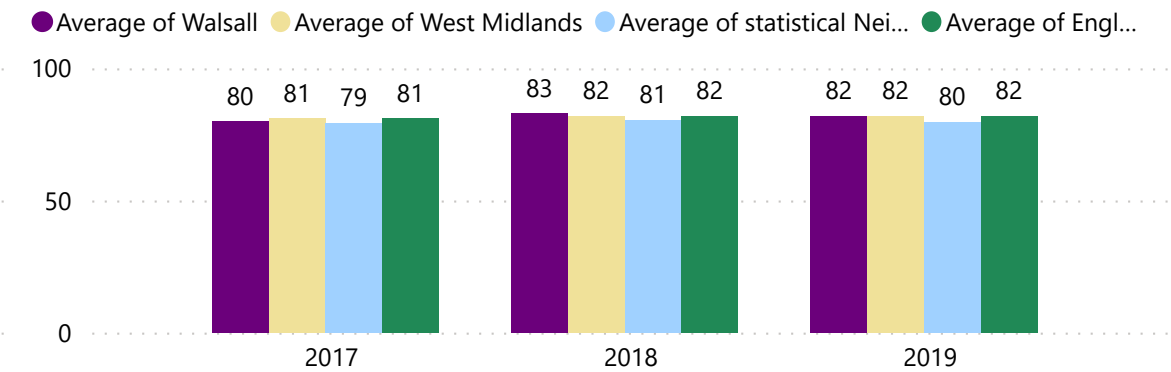


% Achieving the expected standard or above in maths at Key Stage One



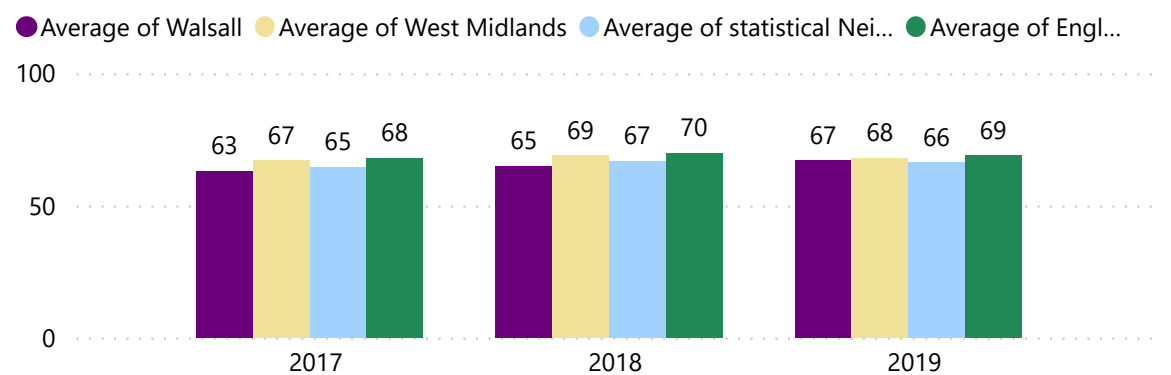
Improvements can be seen across all core subjects for Walsall. The gap between Walsall and the England average has narrowed over the past 3 years with the strongest performance shown in maths.

% Achieving the required standard in Year One Phonics

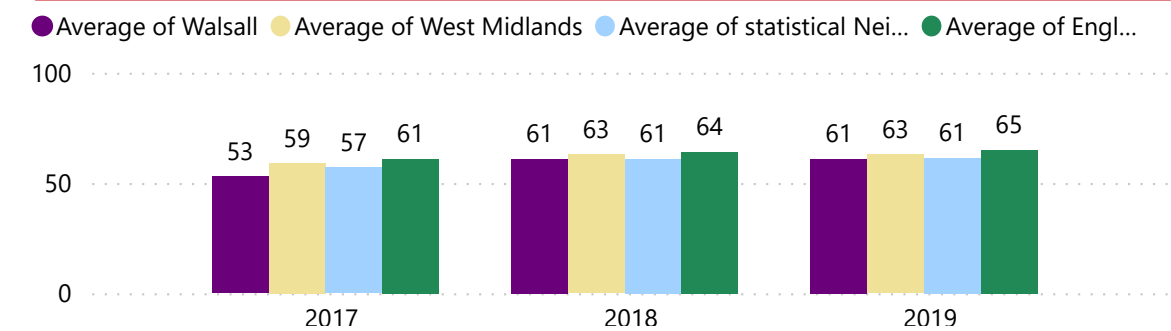


The percentage of pupils in Walsall working at the expected level has increased by 3% from 80% in 2017 to 82% in 2019. This outcome equals the England average and is above the performance of statistical neighbours.

% Achieving the expected standard or above in writing at Key Stage One



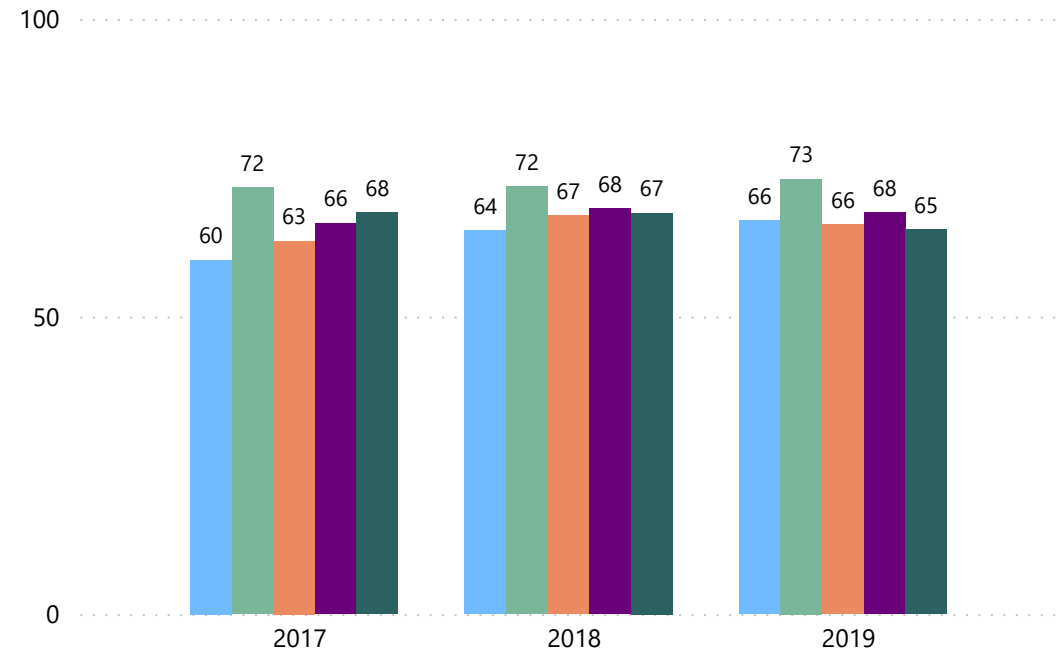
% Achieving the expected standard or above in Reading, writing and maths at Key Stage Two



Outcomes for Walsall have significantly improved since 2017 from 53% of pupils achieving at least the expected standard in RWM to 61% of pupils in 2019. The gap between Walsall and England has halved over the past 3 years to 4%. Walsall remain slightly below our local comparators.

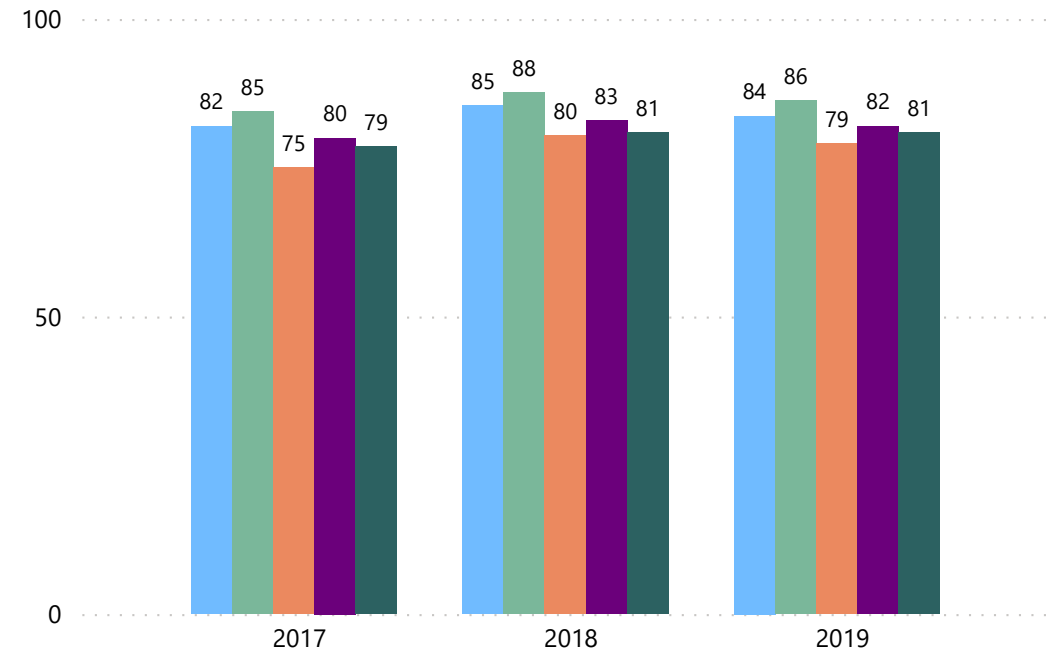
% Achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception

Central and South Loc... East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



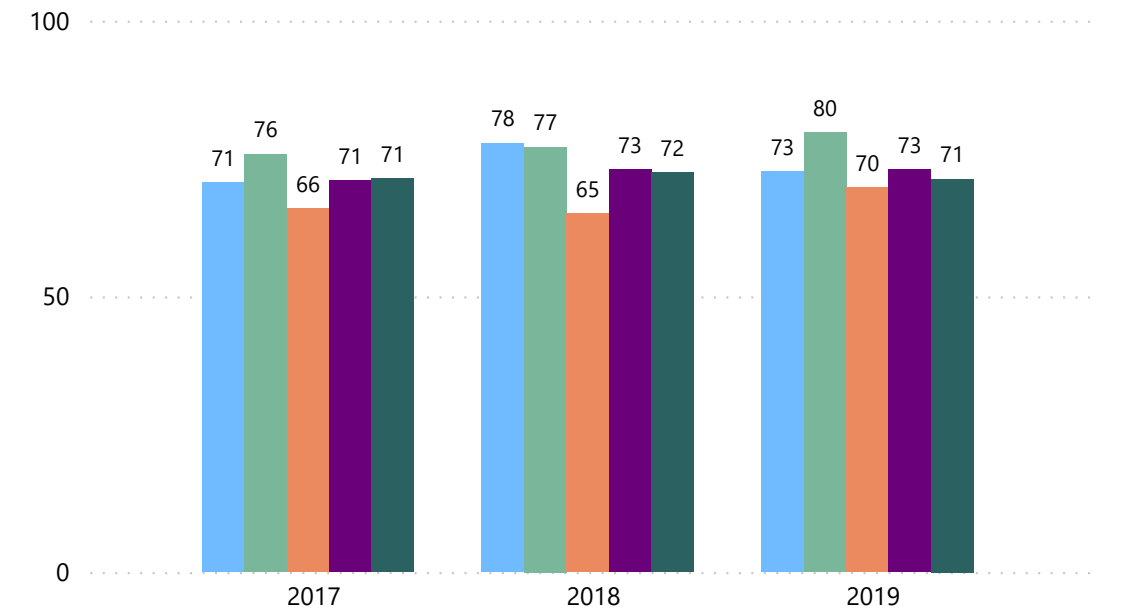
% Achieving the required standard in Year One Phonics

Central and South Lo... East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



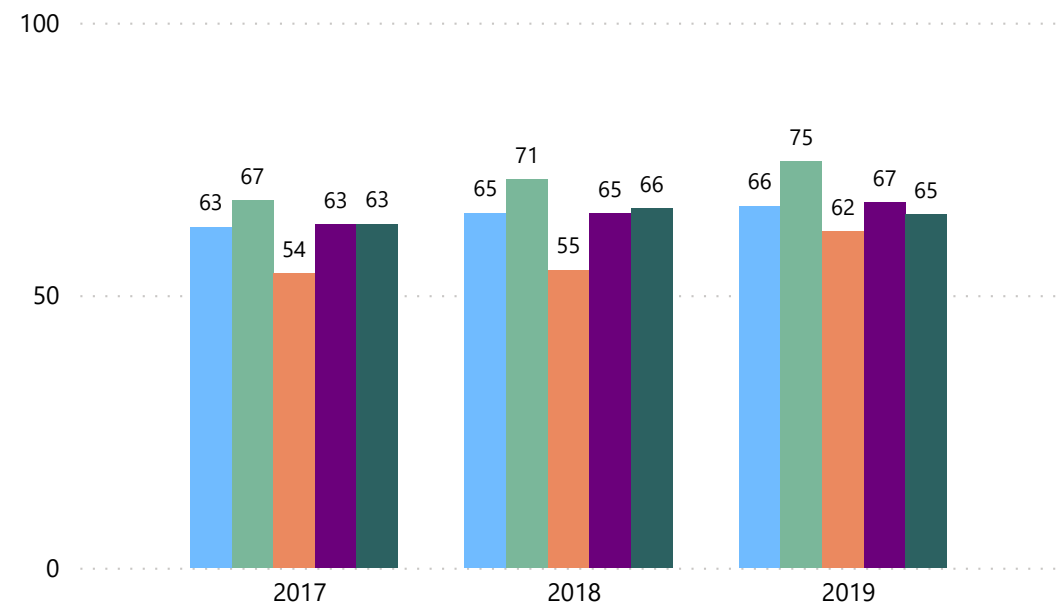
% Achieving the expected standard or above in reading at Key Stage One

Central and South Local... East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



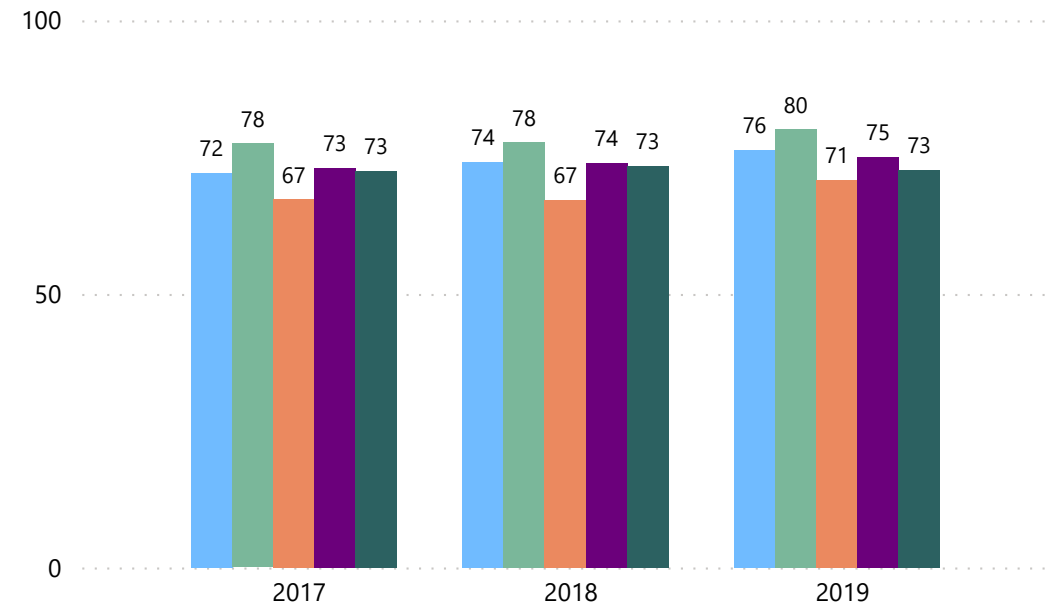
% Achieving the expected standard or above in writing at Key Stage One

Central and South Loc... East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



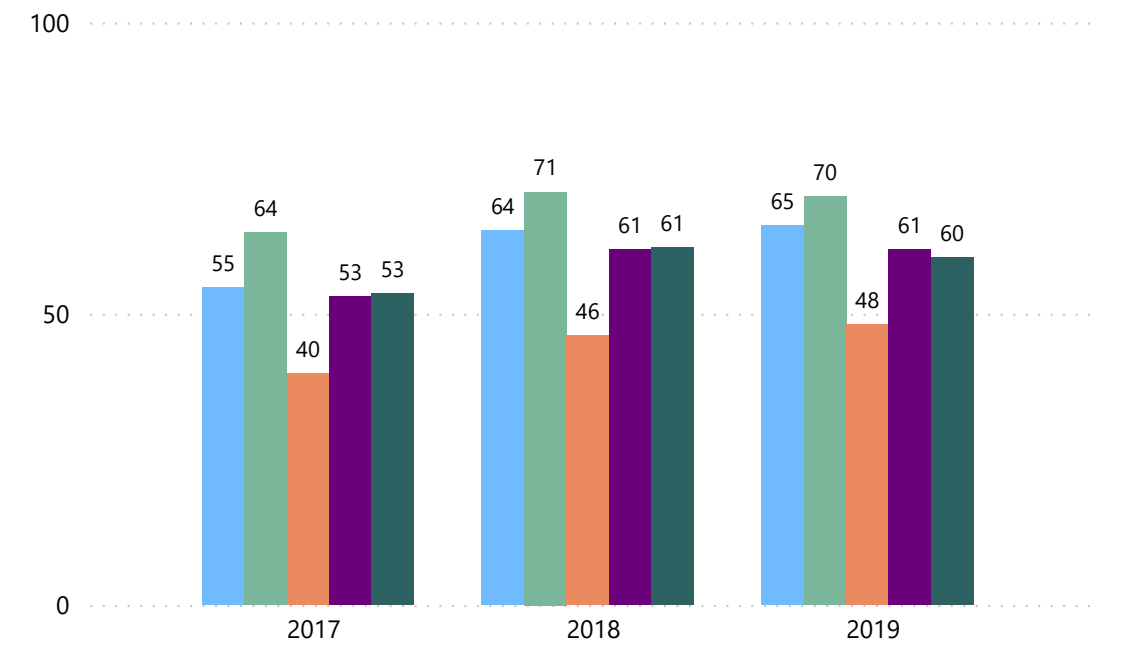
% Achieving the expected standard or above in maths at Key Stage One

Central and South Lo... East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



% Achieving the expected standard or above in Reading, writing and maths at Key Stage Two

Central and South Local... East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



Key Points

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, statutory tests and assessments for pupils were cancelled in 2020 and 2021. The data shown reflects the latest figures available for reporting.

GCSE (Key Stage Four)

At the end of KS4 (Year 11) pupils sit examinations in a range of GCSE and other vocational qualifications. A range of accountability measures are in place, which include the following:

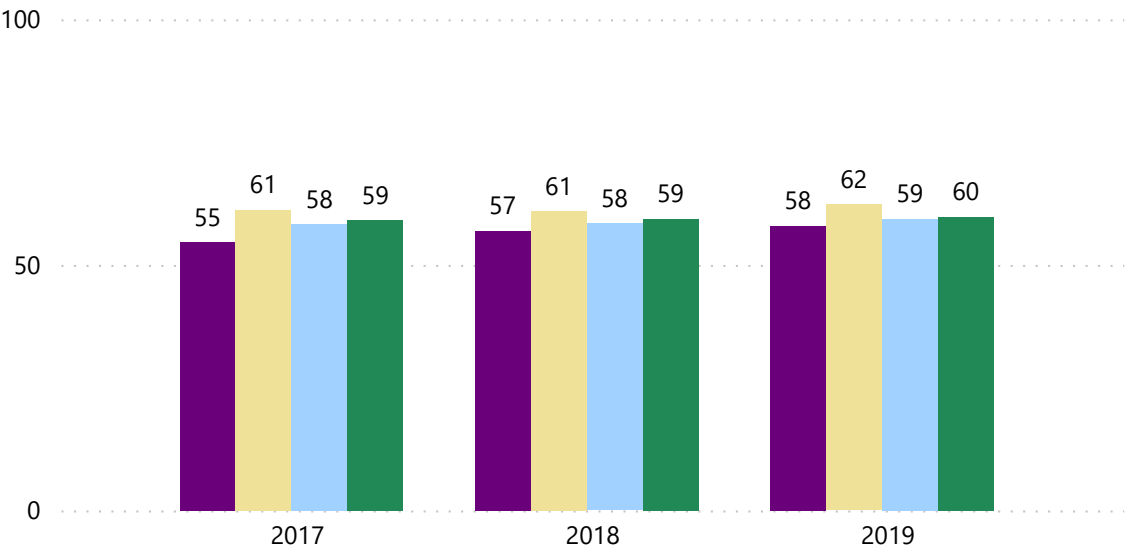
Progress 8, which examines the progress made by pupils from the end of their primary school. A score of zero means pupils on average do about as well at Key Stage 4 as other pupils across England who got similar results at the end of Key Stage 2. A score above zero means pupils made more progress on average and a score below zero means pupils made less progress on average.

Attainment of pupils who achieve a standard (grade 4 or above) or a good pass (grade 5 or above) in both English and maths.

Attainment 8, which measures the average attainment of pupils in their best eight qualifications.

% Achieving a grade 4 or above in GCSE English and maths

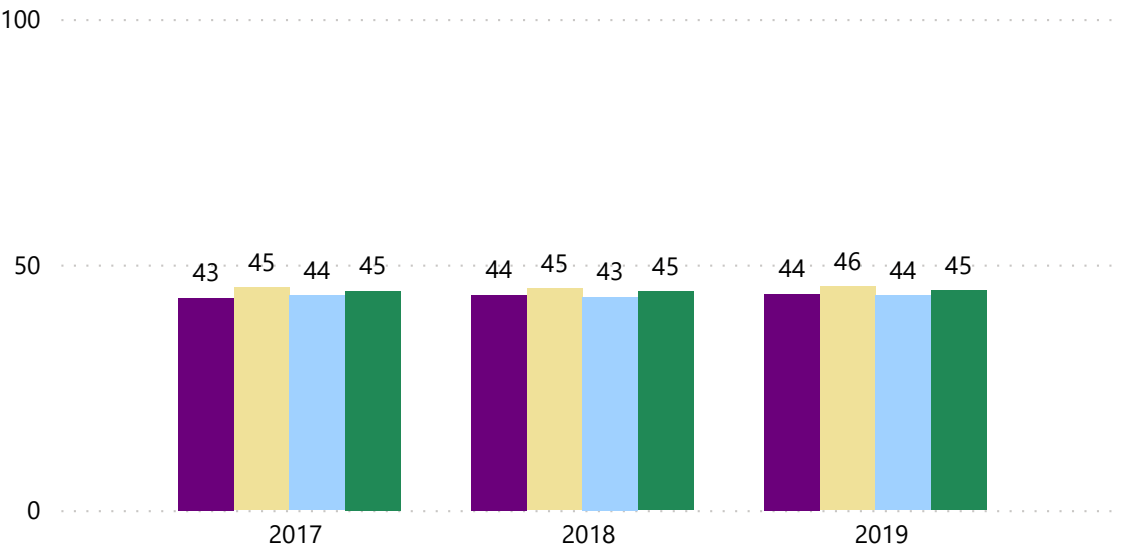
● Walsall ● West Midlands ● Statistical Neighbours ● England



The percentage of pupils in Walsall who have achieved at least a grade 4 or above in English and maths GCSE has steadily increased year on year to 58% in 2019. Walsall remain below the attainment of local comparators and the England average but the gap to national is closing.

Average Attainment 8 Score

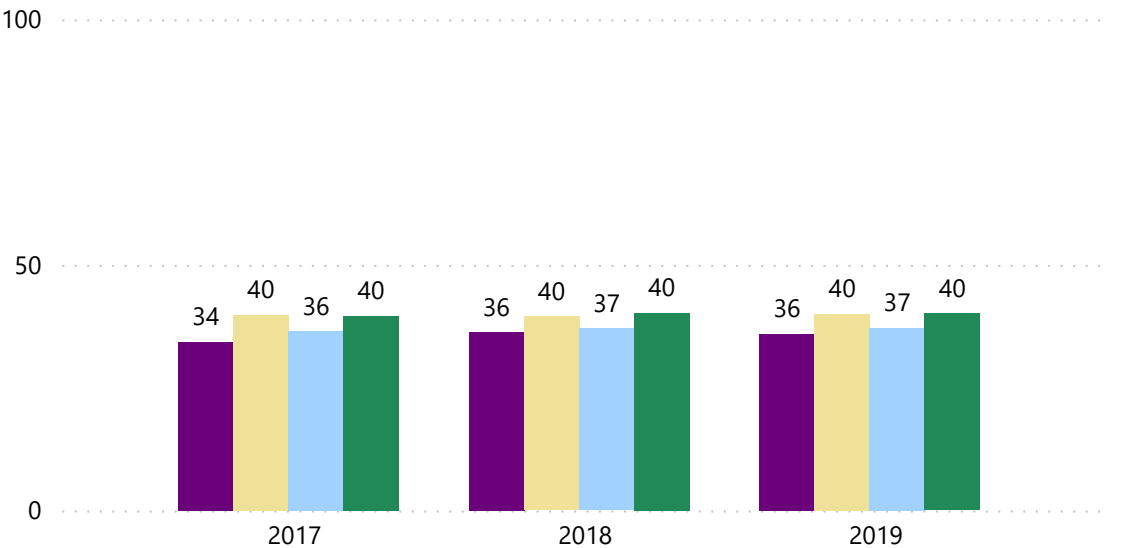
● Walsall ● West Midlands ● Statistical Neighbours ● England



The average attainment 8 score has steadily improved in Walsall and is better than our statistical neighbours. Over the past three years, the average Attainment 8 score in Walsall has increased from 43.2 to 44.0.

% Achieving a grade 5 or above in GCSE English and maths

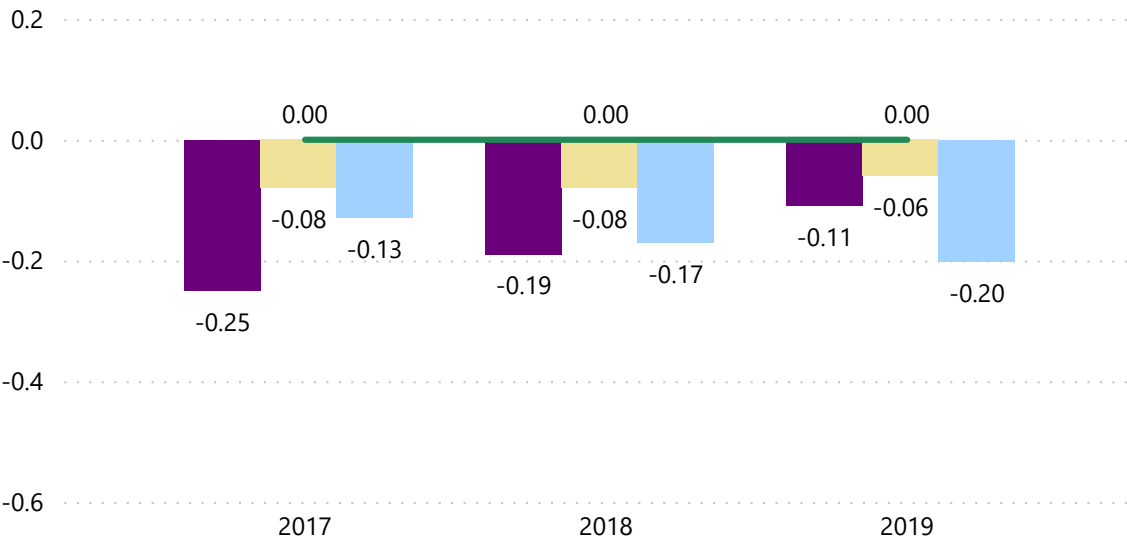
● Walsall ● West Midlands ● Statistical Neighbours ● England



There is a slight decline in the percentage of pupils in Walsall who have achieved a grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSE in 2019 when compared to 2018, with a 0.4% drop, from 36.3% in 2018 to 35.9% in 2019. Results are below local and national comparisons.

Average Progress 8 score

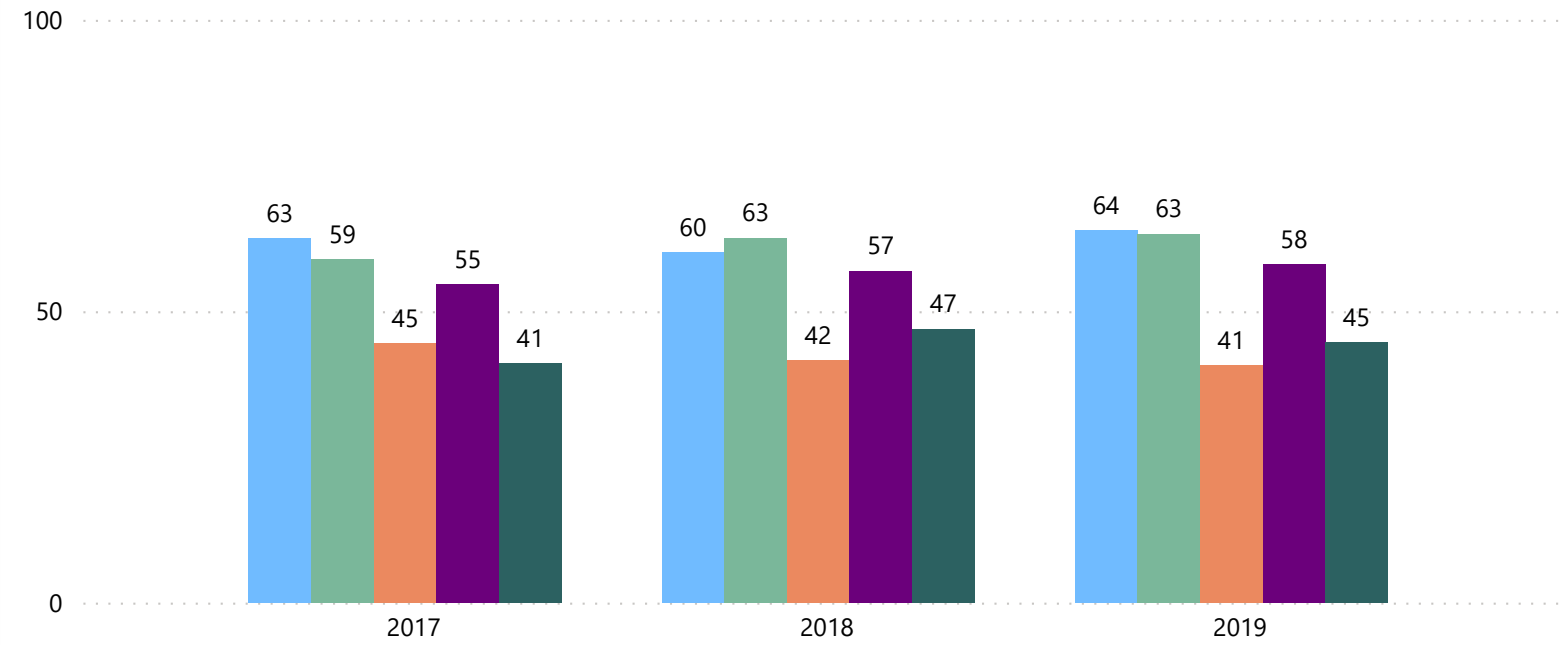
● Walsall ● West Midlands ● Statistical Neighbours ● England



The average progress score for Walsall has improved from -0.25 in 2017 to -0.11 in 2019. This upward trend shows Walsall is edging closer to the national score of zero. Walsall's progress 8 score is now better than statistical neighbours for the first time.

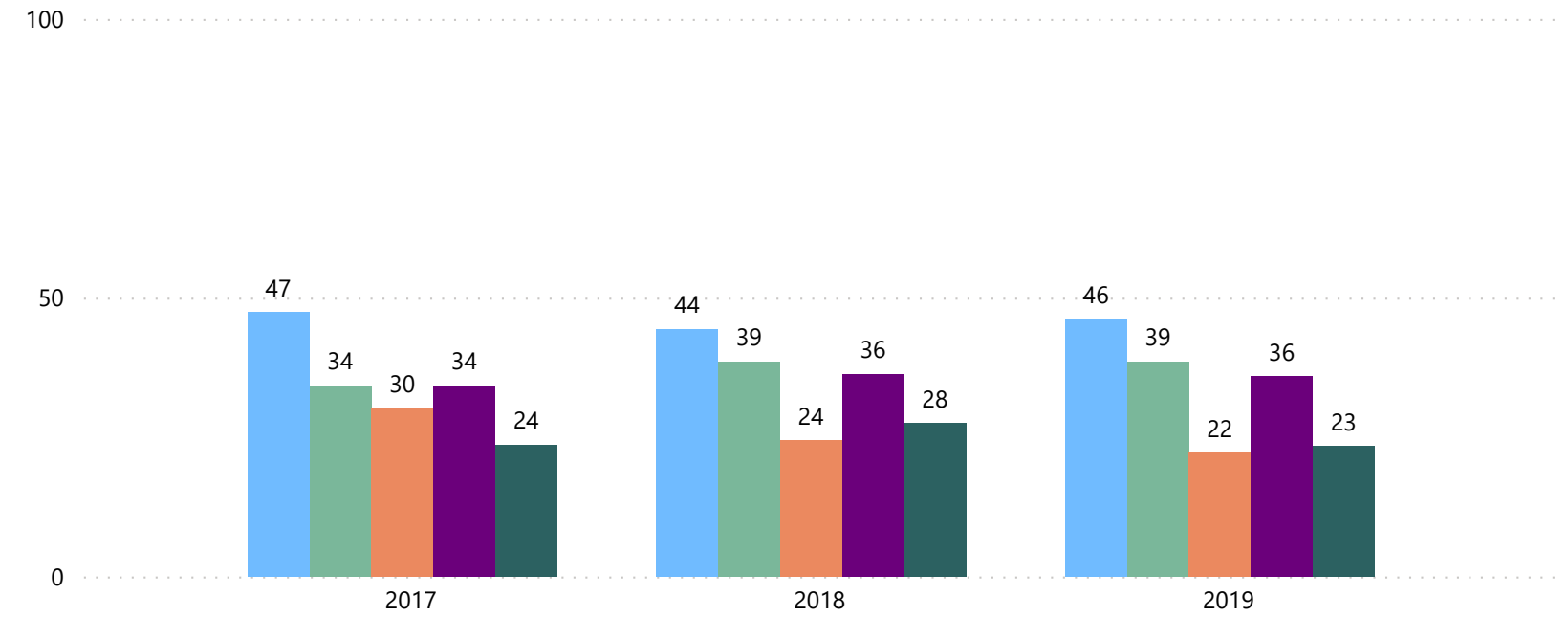
% Achieving a grade 4 or above in GCSE English and maths

Central and South Locality East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



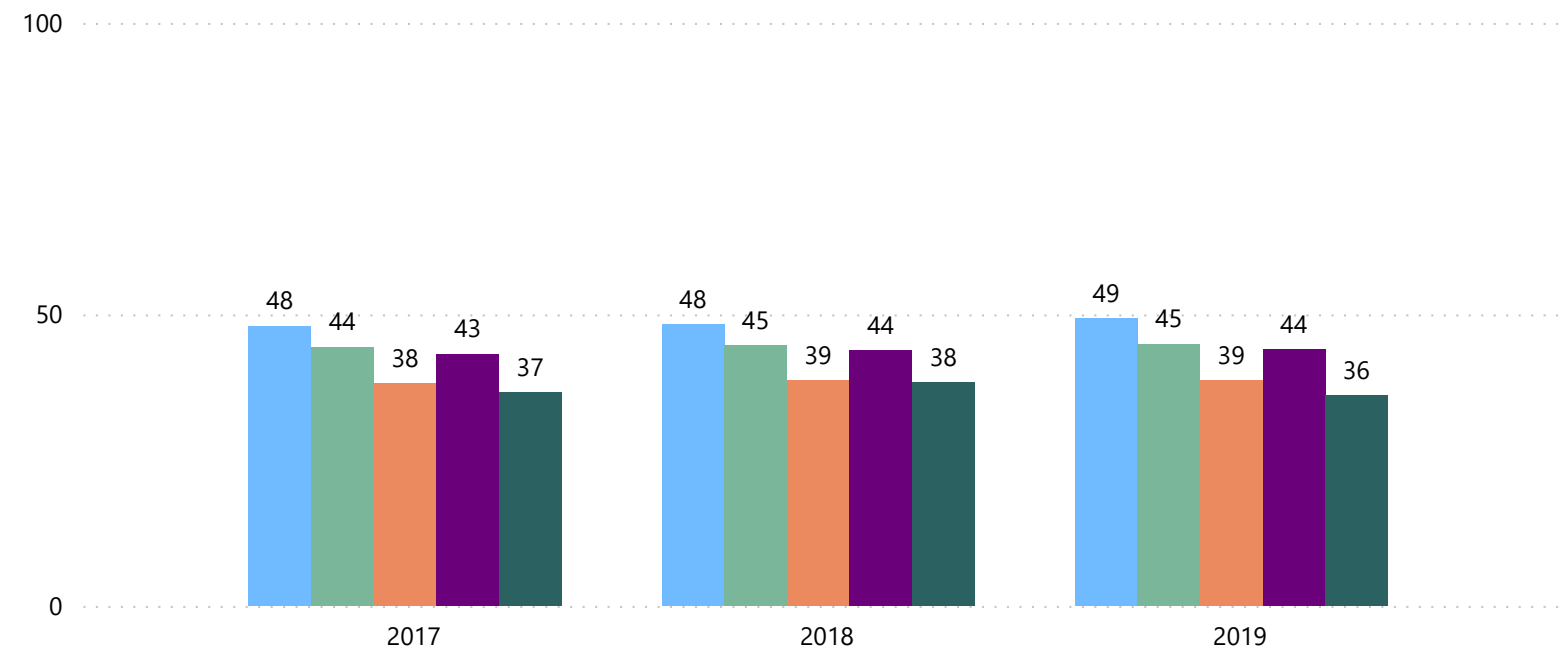
% Achieving a grade 5 or above in GCSE English and maths

Central and South Locality East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



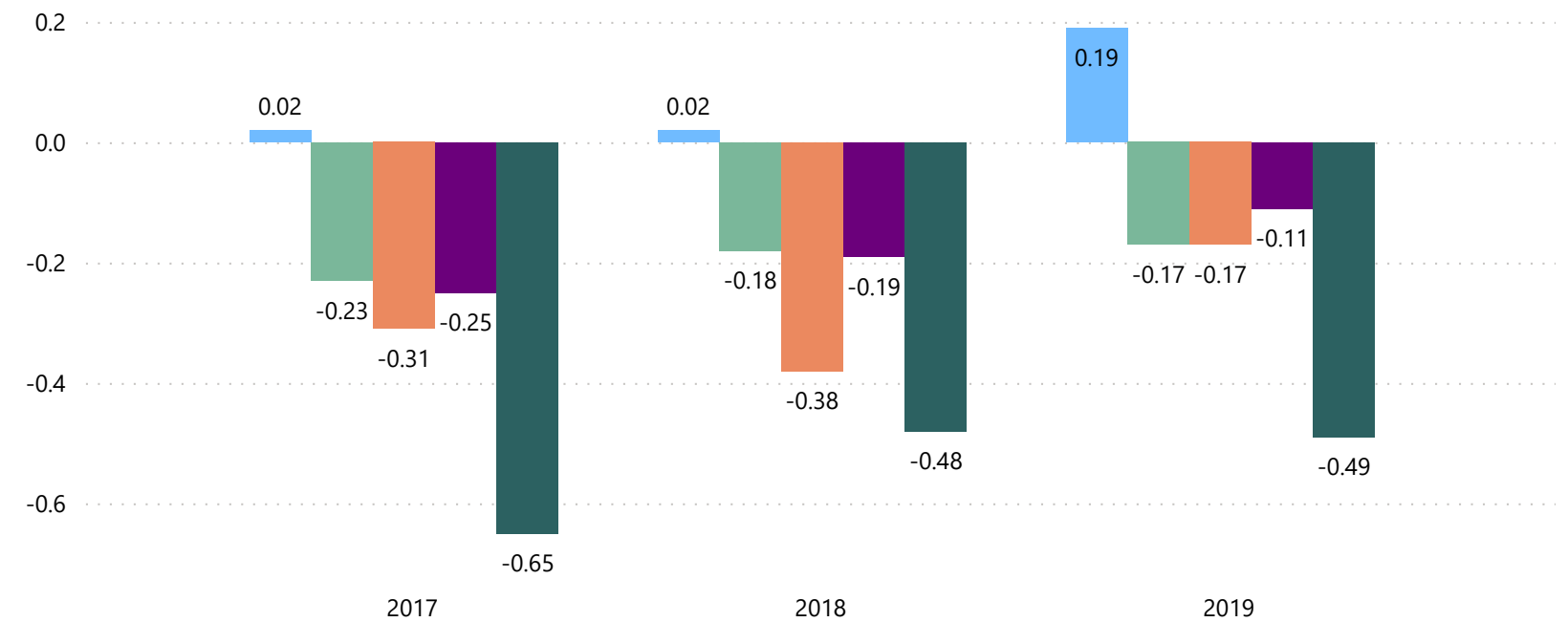
Average Attainment 8 Score

Central and South Locality East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



Average Progress 8 score

Central and South Locality East Locality North Locality Walsall West Locality



Key Points

Rate per 10,000 of referrals to social services

The rates of referrals per 10,000 children are decreasing year on year for Walsall and a downward trajectory is evident from 2018. In 2021, referrals have dropped a further 146.60 and are now lower than national and local comparators for the first time. This is the lowest rate of referrals reported for Walsall.

% Referrals to children's social care with no further action

After a slight increase from 2019 to 2020, Walsall shows a slight decrease in the % of referrals with no further action from 7.00% in 2020 to 6.50% in 2021. This is higher than the regional and the England average where percentages are declining year-on-year.

% Re referrals to children's social care within 12 months

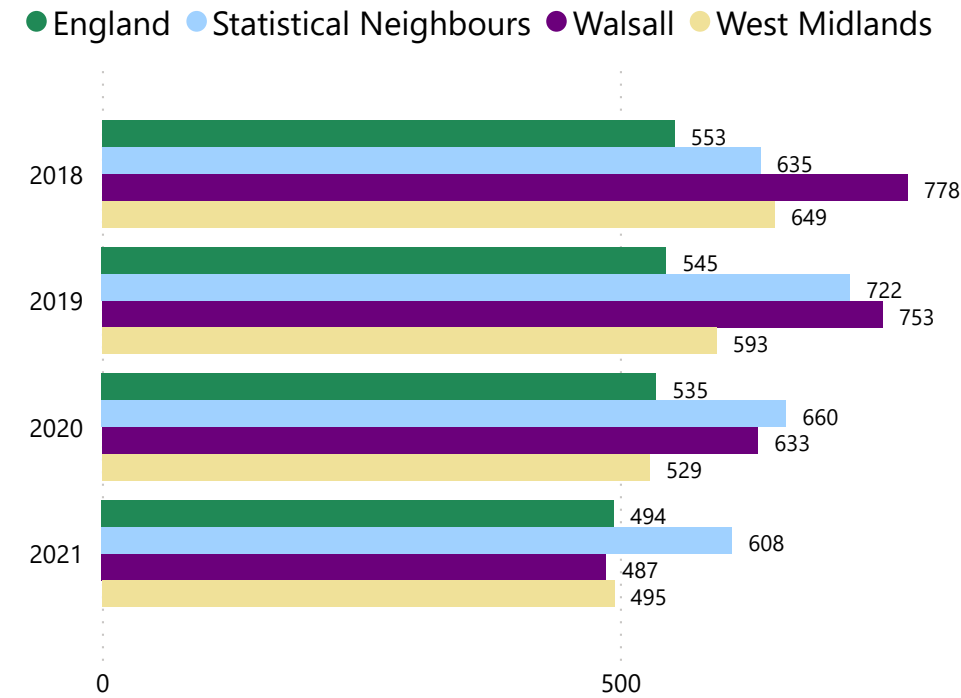
A re-referral occurs where a child has been referred within 12 months of a previous referral. Whilst the England average remains static at 22.7%, Walsall shows a slight increase from 26.30% in 2020 to 26.90% in 2021. Walsall continues to be higher than all comparators and has been for the past 4 years. The gap between Walsall and National has widened from 3.7% in 2020 to a gap of 4.2% in 2021.

Children in need rate per 10,000

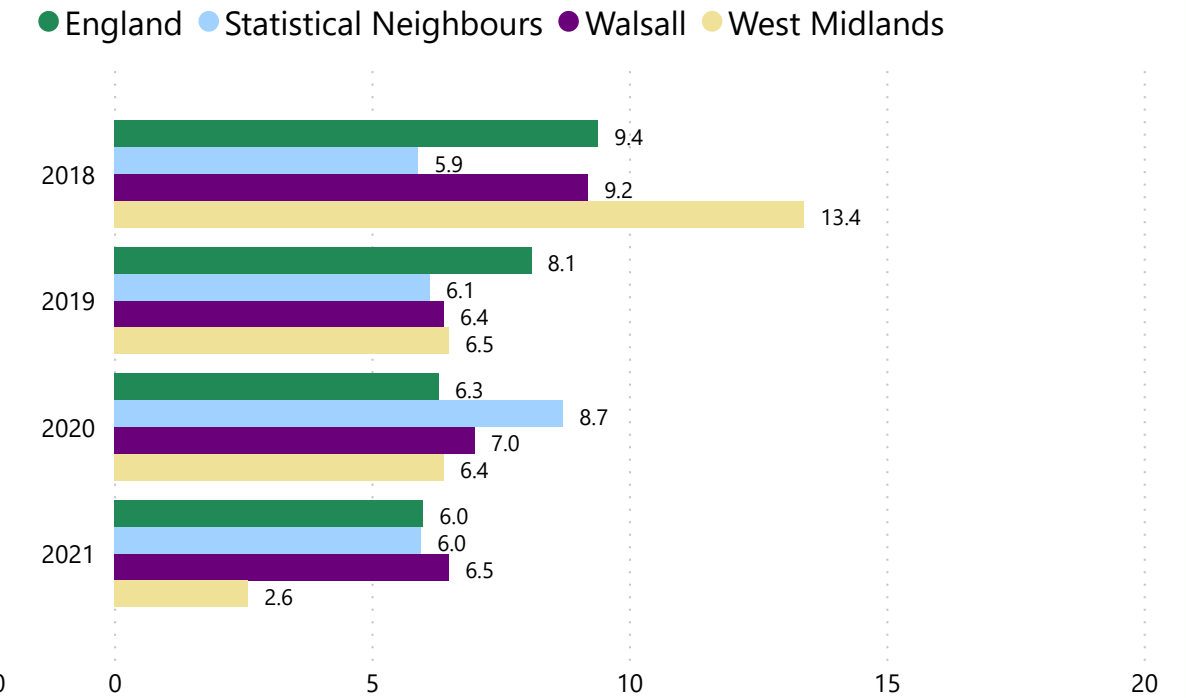
A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health or development will be significantly impaired without the provision of children's social care services, or the child is disabled.

Walsall's rate of children in need per 10,000 children aged under 18 years has significantly declined since 2019. The rate decreased by 134.90 and has declined in 2021 by a further 28.00. Walsall has been below the national average and local comparators for the past 2 years.

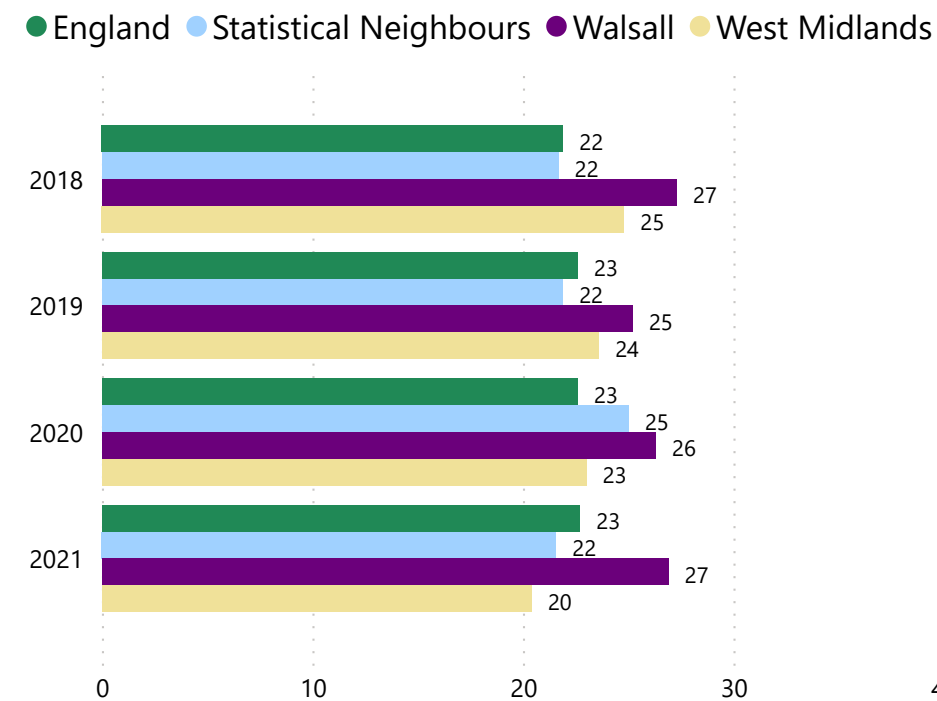
Rate per 10,000 of referrals to social services



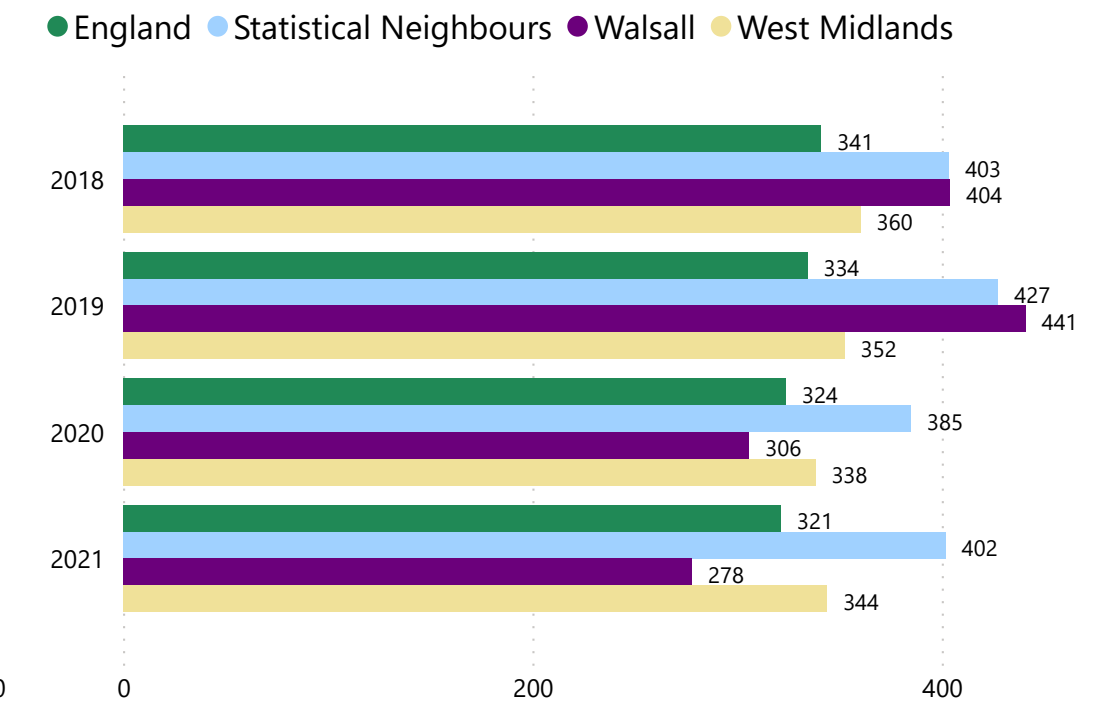
% Referrals to children's social care with no further action



% Re-referrals to children's social care within 12 months



Children in need rate per 10,000



Key Points

Rate per 10,000 of children with a Child protection plan

A child becomes the subject of a child protection plan if they are assessed as being at risk of harm, at an initial child protection conference.

There is a year-on-year decline in the rate of child protection plans in Walsall, dropping by a further 5.50 from 34.80 in 2020 to 29.30 in 2021. This is a considerably lower rate when compared to statistical neighbours and the England average and is the lowest rate for Walsall seen since 2013.

Rate of CPPs starting during the year per 10,000 children

The rate of child protection plans starting during the year has declined from a rate of 102.20 in 2018 where rates of CPP peaked in Walsall, to 47.30 in 2021, a drop of 54.90. The current rate in Walsall is now lower than local comparators and the national rate. The gap to the national rate continues to narrow from a 8.70 gap in 2020 to a gap of 5.50 in 2021.

Children looked after rate per 10,000 aged under 18

Walsall 's rate of children in care per 10,000 remains unchanged in 2021 at 97. In 2020 the rate shows a big increase of 7 from 2019. In comparison the England rate remains much lower at 67, West Midlands has increased by 3 to 85 and statistical neighbours have a slight increase of 2.20 to 103.90, a higher rate than Walsall.

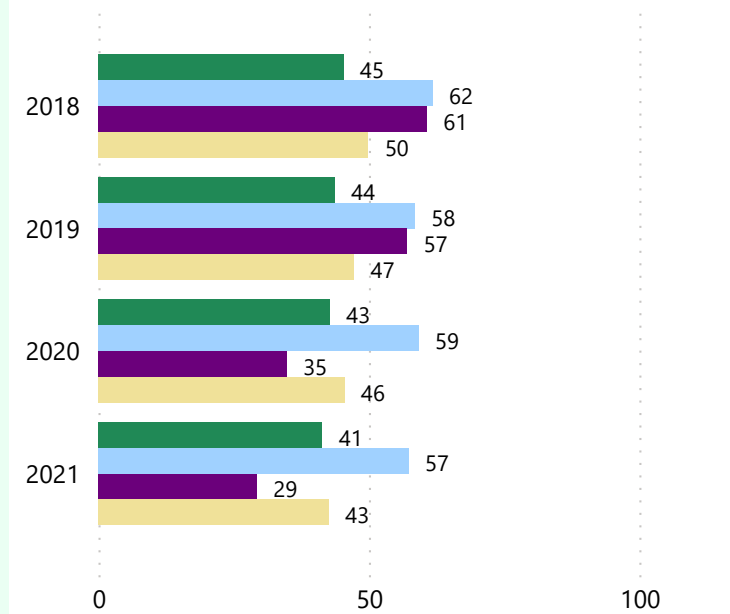
Long term placement stability %

This is based on children in care living in the same placement for at least 2 years or are placed for adoption and their adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement last for at least 2 years.

The percentage of children in care in Walsall having long-term placement stability has increased by 1 percentage point from 66% in 2020 to 67% in 2021. Despite this upward trend from 2019, Walsall remain below local comparators and the England average. The gap to national has widened from 2% in 2020 to 3% in 2021.

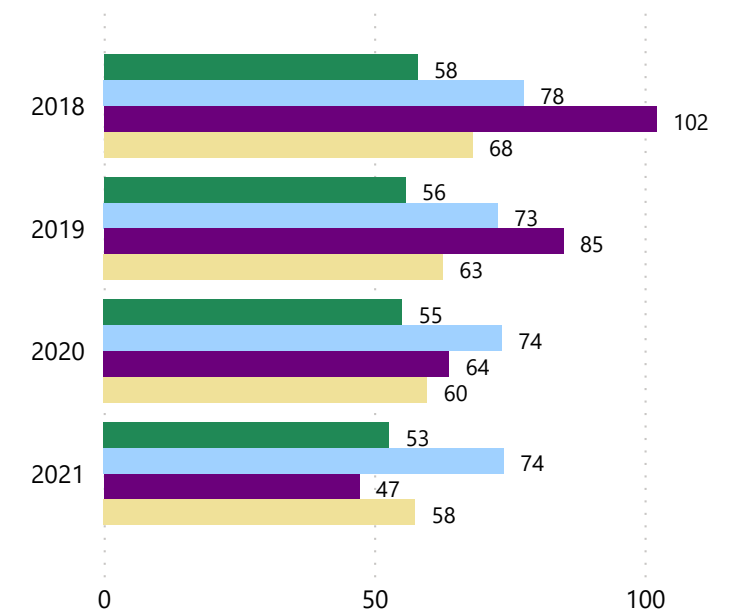
Rate per 10,000 of children with a Child protection plan

● England ● Statistical Nei... ● Walsall ● West Midl...



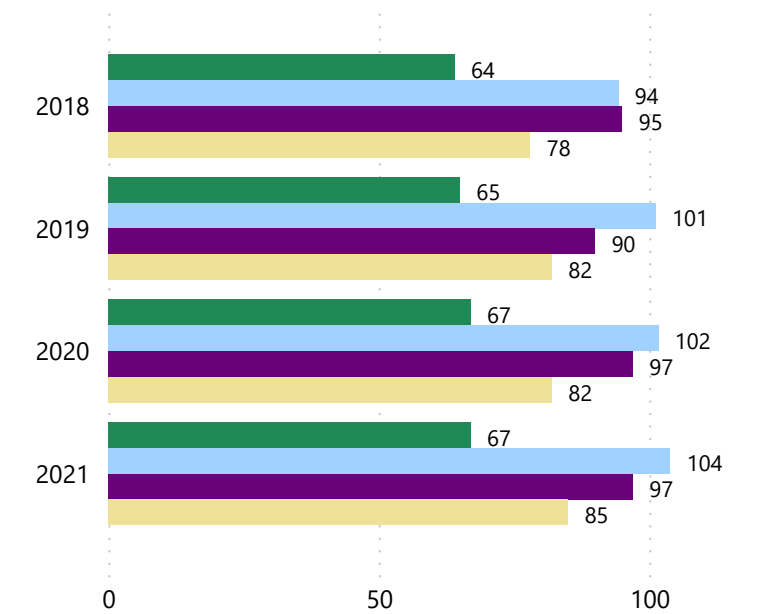
Rate of CPPs starting during the year per 10,000 children

● England ● Statistical Nei... ● Walsall ● West Midl...



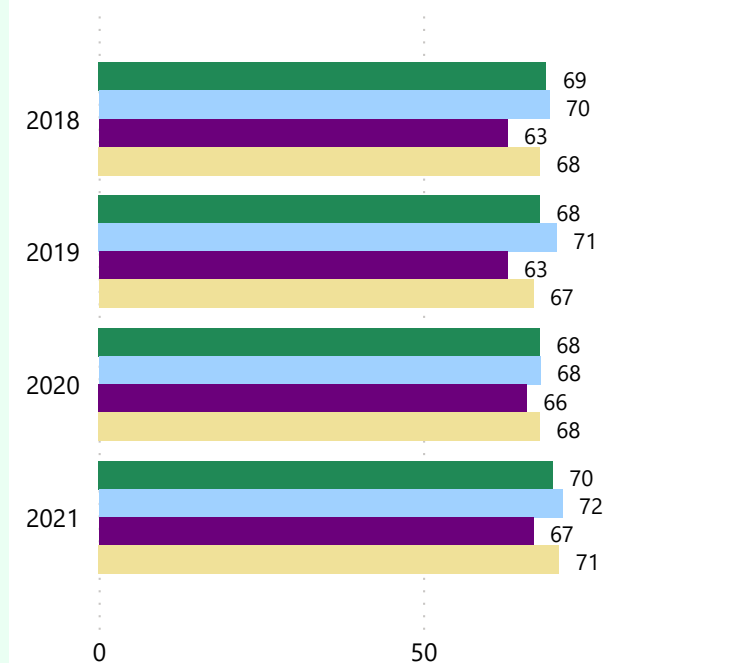
Children looked after rate per 10,000 aged under 18

● England ● Statistical Nei... ● Walsall ● West Midl...



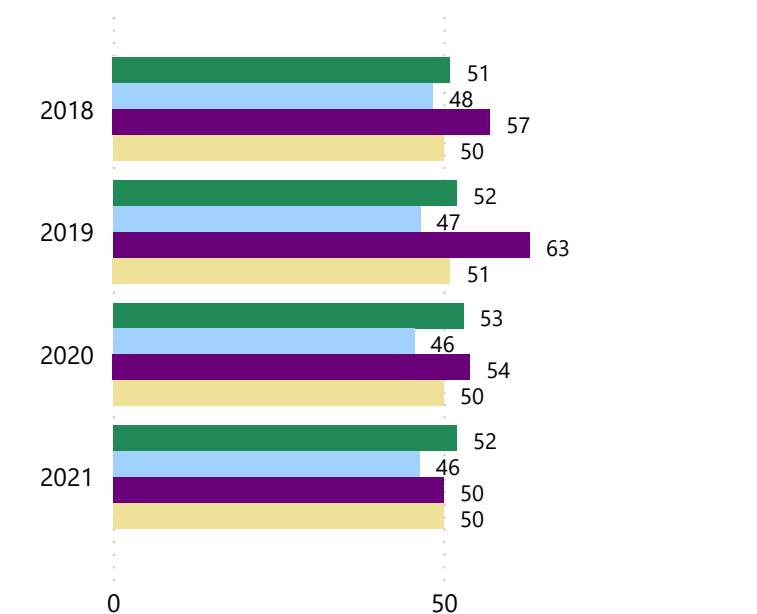
Long term placement stability %

● England ● Statistical Nei... ● Walsall ● West Midl...



% Care Leavers in education, training or employment

● England ● Statistical Nei... ● Walsall ● West Midla...



Key Points

% Care Leavers in education, training or employment

The percentage of Walsall care leavers who are EET shows a significant decline of 13 percentage points from 63% in 2019 to 50% in 2021. Walsall have decreased by 9% from 2019 to 2020 and a further decline of 4% can be seen from 2020 to 2021. Walsall is equal to the regional average but is now below the national average of 52%, having been above it for the previous 3 years. Statistical neighbours remain below the national and Walsall average despite a slight increase from 45.6% in 2020 to 46.4% in 2021.

Data Sources

General Fertility Rate, Birth Weight & Mothers age

UKHSA - Fingertips Public Health Profiles

Fingertips - <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk>

Office for National Statistics -

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/conceptionandfertilityrates/datalist?size=50>

Primary & Secondary Educational Attainment & Vulnerable Children

Department for Education, via Gov.uk - Local Authority Interactive Tool

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

Contact

If you have any queries please feel free to contact us via email:

Insight@walsall.gov.uk

Maps

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

Maps reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright & database rights 2021. Ordnance Survey 100019529. Unauthorised reproduction infringes copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.



Walsall Council