Walsall JSNA
Chapter 5 - Place

Contents

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Key Points

Air Pollution in Walsall

The east of Walsall is less urban, more sparsely populated and has more open space and farmland. Conversely the West, South and Centre of Walsall is predominantly urban and geographically susceptible to poor air quality: it is bisceted by the M6 motorway, with two junctions, and traffic volume is much greater.

Modelled air quality, by the UK Air Information Resource, identifies clusters of poor air quality within the South and West, with Pleck & Palfrey ranking poorly.

Particulate Matter

Particulate matter is a group of pollutants that are defined by their size rather than chemical composition. Association between PM2.5, particulate matter that is 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter, and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) hospital admissions has been noted within Walsall (and within wider research). There are multiple potential sources, however combustion, i.e. traffic/vehicles, are a major contributor.
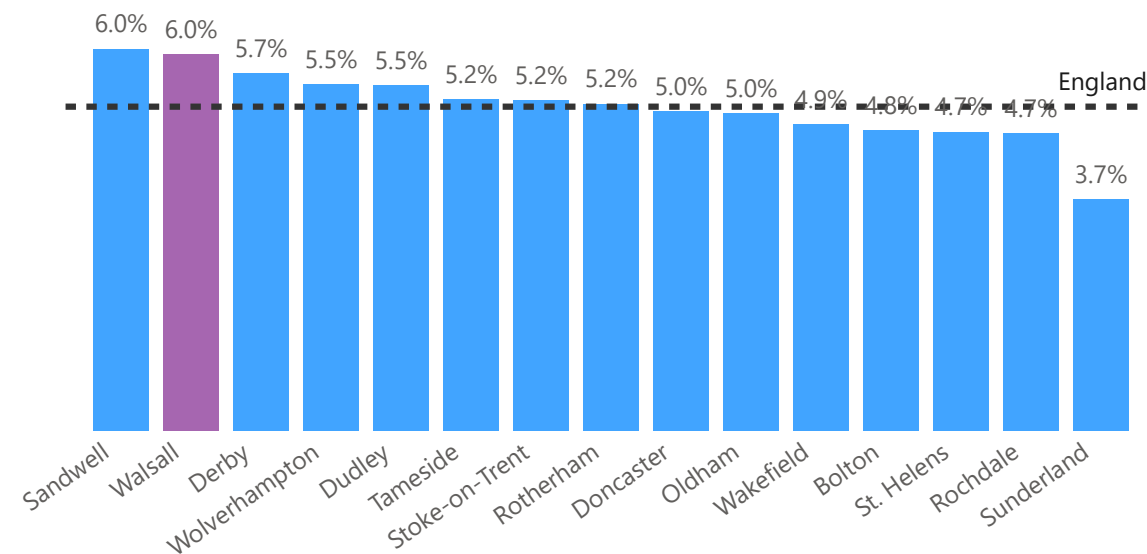
Air Quality Mortality

As a wider determinant of health, it has proven difficult to directly link individual deaths to air quality (most often as a contributable factor). However modelled estimates rank Walsall as very high compared to its statistical neighbours: potentially 6% of deaths of those aged 30+ as a result of particulate matter pollution. This is higher than the national average of 5.13% and 2nd highest within the Black Country.

Air Pollution: Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)

- Walsall
- The Black Country
- England
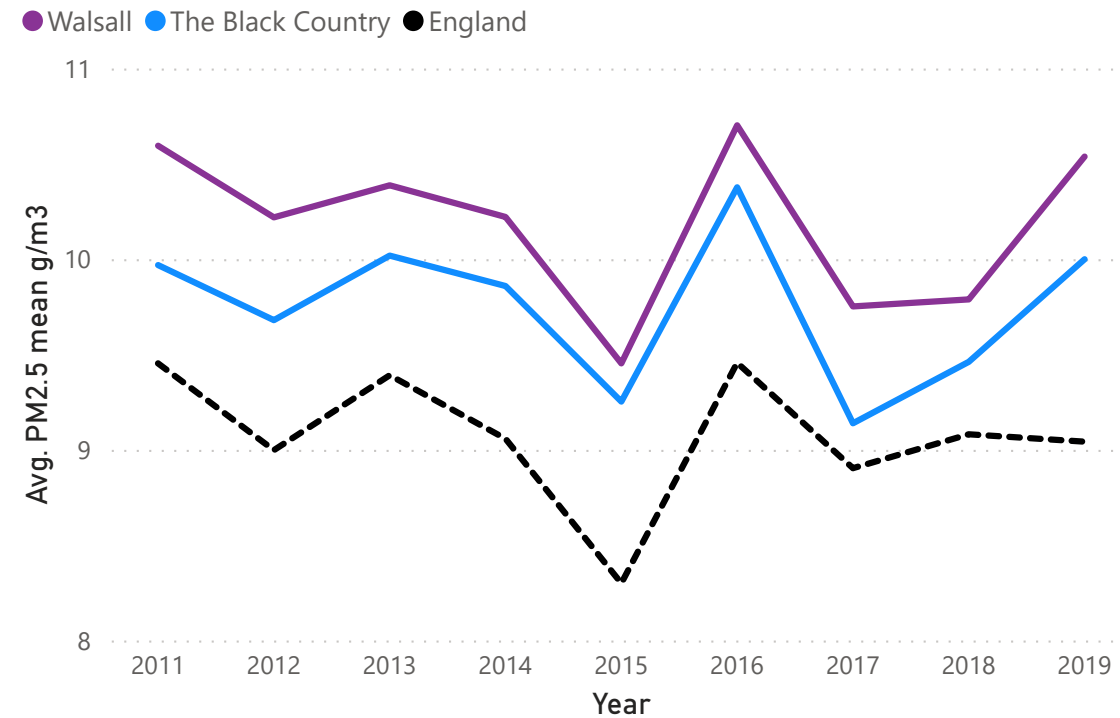
Estimate of % Mortality Attributable to Particulate Air Quality (aged 30+)

Compared to Statistical Neighbours

| Sandwell	Walsall	Derby	Wolverhampton	Dudley	Tameside	Stoke-on-Trent	Rotherham	Doncaster	Oldham	Wakefield	Bolton	St. Helens	Rochdale	Sunderland
6.0%	6.0%	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%	5.0%	5.0%	4.9%	4.8%	4.7%	4.7%	3.7%

England

Modelled Air Pollution by Ward & LSOA

The following maps display modelled Air Quality 2016 from the Indices of Deprivation 2019, produced by the UK air Information Resource.
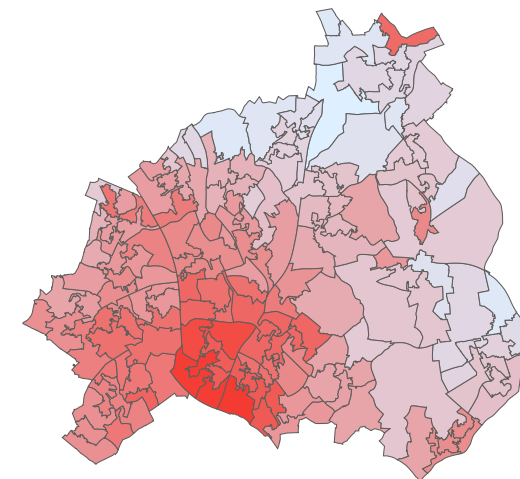
Air Pollution defined as the level of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, benzene & particulates (such as PM25 & PM10)

Higher score indicates **worse air quality.**

Wards
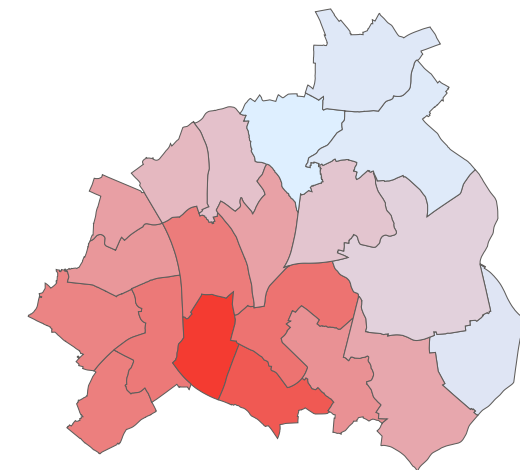
LSOAs

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Walsall Council

Key Points

Road Safety for Children
Under 16 year olds Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on Walsall roads has experienced a rise as of 2017-19, at 26 per 100,000 population (+12 incidents on 2016-18): higher than both the England and Black Country averages (+45% and +28%, respectively). This places Walsall as the worst Local Authority within the West Midlands region, when adjusted by population.

Geographical Road Safety
The 2019 Indices of Deprivation highlight areas within the borough where injuries to cyclists & pedestrians from road accidents is most likely (2015-17). Areas in the south and west are notably worse, unsuprisingly due to traffic volume: these areas contain two junctions for the M6 and the Black Country Route and high traffic throughflow.

However there are clusters of accidents in residential areas within Short Heath, in particular (scoring .91 out of 1), Pleck and Bloxwich. These feature amongst the worst 10% of areas nationally for road injuries.

Educating Future Generations
The A*STARS programme is a series of walking, cycling, road safety initiatives, training and support given to schools to help them to develop and promote safer, healthier lifestyles.
When surveyed in 2019-20, 62% of school Journeys for 5-10 year olds predominantely involved walking, contrasted to 49% for England as a whole. 64.3% of Walsall 5-10yr olds are commuting via sustainable, active means.

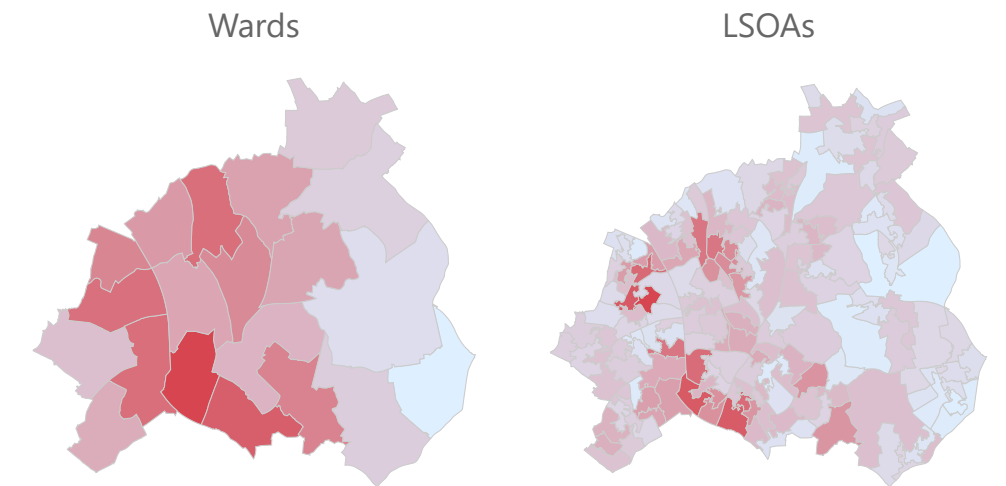## Under 16s Killed or Seriously Injured in Road Accidents

● Walsall ● England ● The Black Country
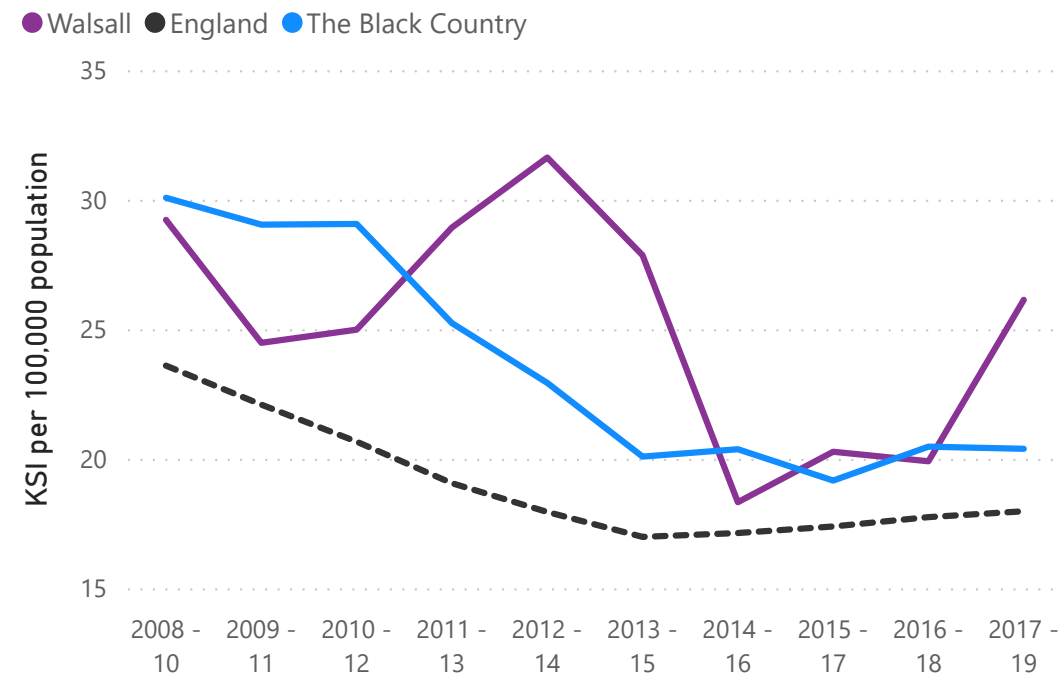
A*Stars: 5-10yr Olds Mode of Transportation to School (2019)

● Walsall ● England
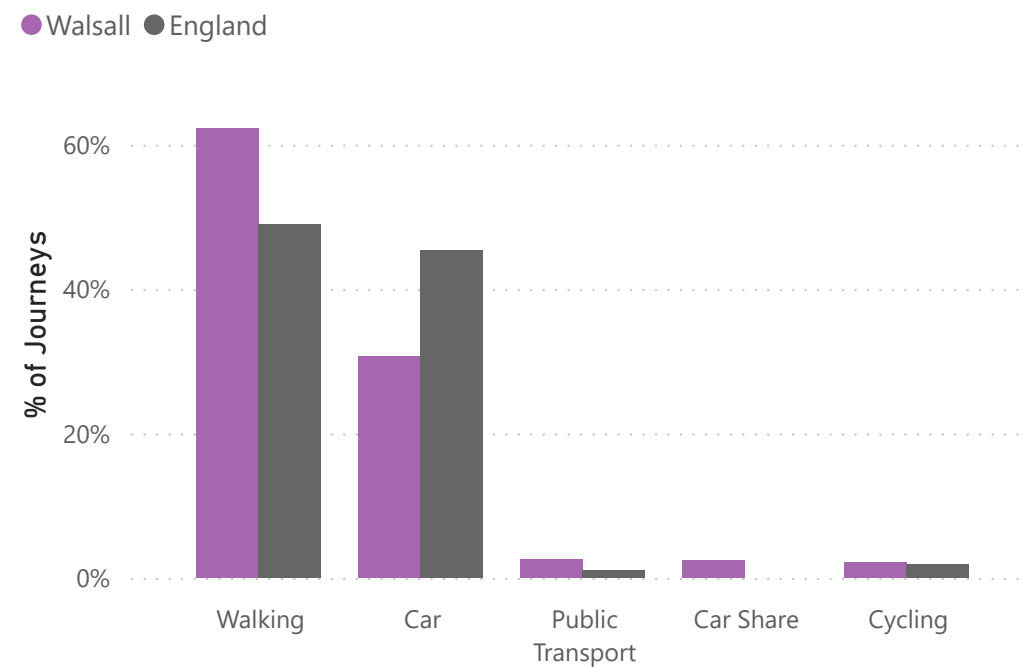
Pedestrians/Cyclists Killed or Seriously Injured in Road Accidents
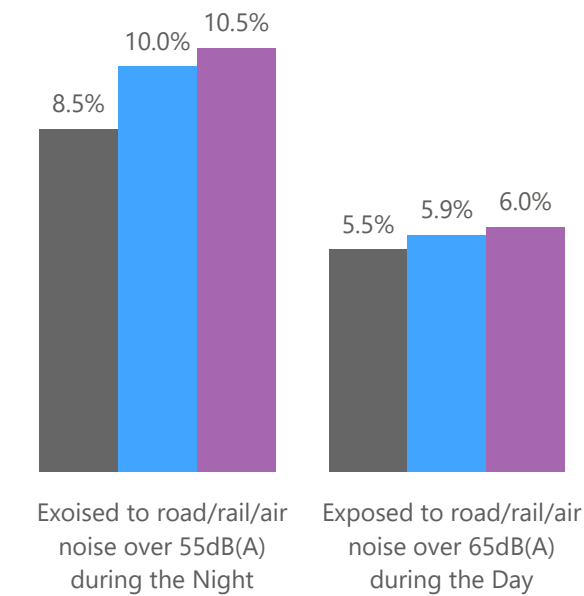
2015-17 from Indices of Deprivation 2019: higher score indicates worse deprivation

Wards   LSOAs

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Population % Affected by Noise Pollution from Transport (2016)

● England ● The Black Country ● Walsall

Exoised to road/rail/air noise over 55dB(A) during the Night

Exposed to road/rail/air noise over 65dB(A) during the Day

Average Monthly Visitors (2018 - 2020)

Willenhall, Reedswood & Palfrey Park Only

☐ Palfrey
☐ Reedswood
☐ Willenhall

Monthly visitor values: January 20K, February 24K, March 26K, April 30K, May 40K, June 41K, July 47K, August 38K, September 33K, October 27K, November 24K, December 22K

Average Hourly Visitors by Month (2018 - 2020)

Season ● Autumn ● Spring ● Summer ● Winter

Walsall Greenspace & % of Households with Gardens (MSOA areas)

Locality ✐

East
North
South
West

Households % with gardens: 62% 91% 98%   Greenspace: ▇

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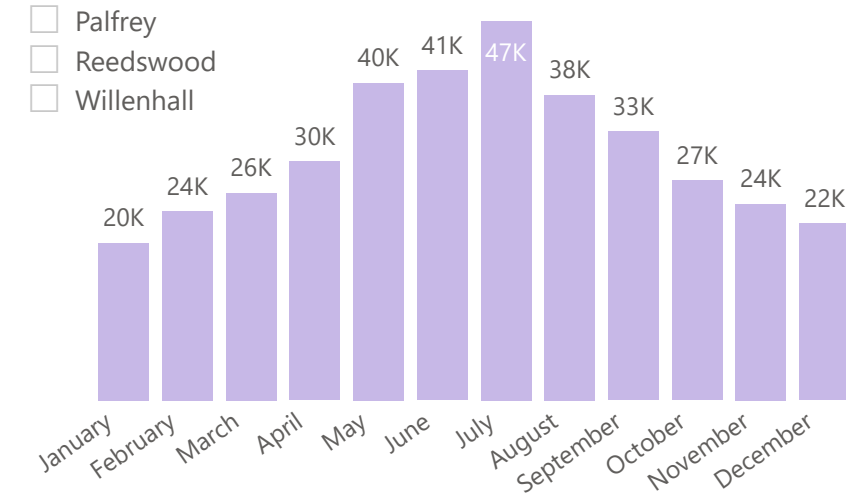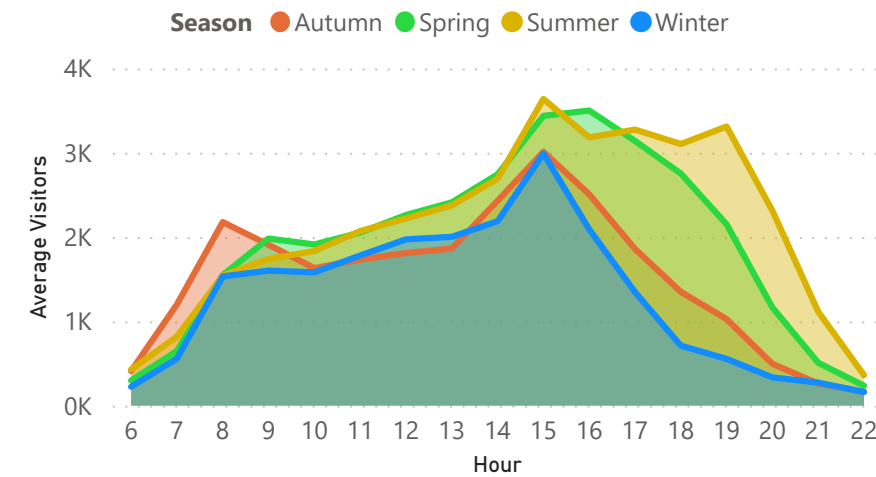
Temperature and Park Attendance

Standard Deviation of Visitors and Temperature

● Visitors ● Temperature

Mean ·········

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Correlation Coefficient

r 0.94 (out of 1.0)

Visitors / Temperature

Access to Gardens/Private Greenspace

Inequality of greenspace access
As a borough, Walsall is similar to the national & black country averages for private garden size (193 sq m). However there are areas with little greenspace, such as Central Walsall: 38% of housing lacks private gardens and are reliant upon community greenspace, and to a lesser extent Walsall's other urban centres (Bloxwich, Willenhall and Aldridge) and the West of the borough.

Why do people need access to greenspace?
COVID-19 lockdowns provided contemporary illustration of the importance of community greenspace: visitor numbers rose up to 70% year-on-year at the Arboretum (nearest the Town Centre) during lockdowns, supporting the mental health and physical activity requirements of residents. Smaller parks saw rises ranging between 22% - 45% (November 2020).

Median Private Greenspace size (m2) by West Midlands Local Authority

England ·········

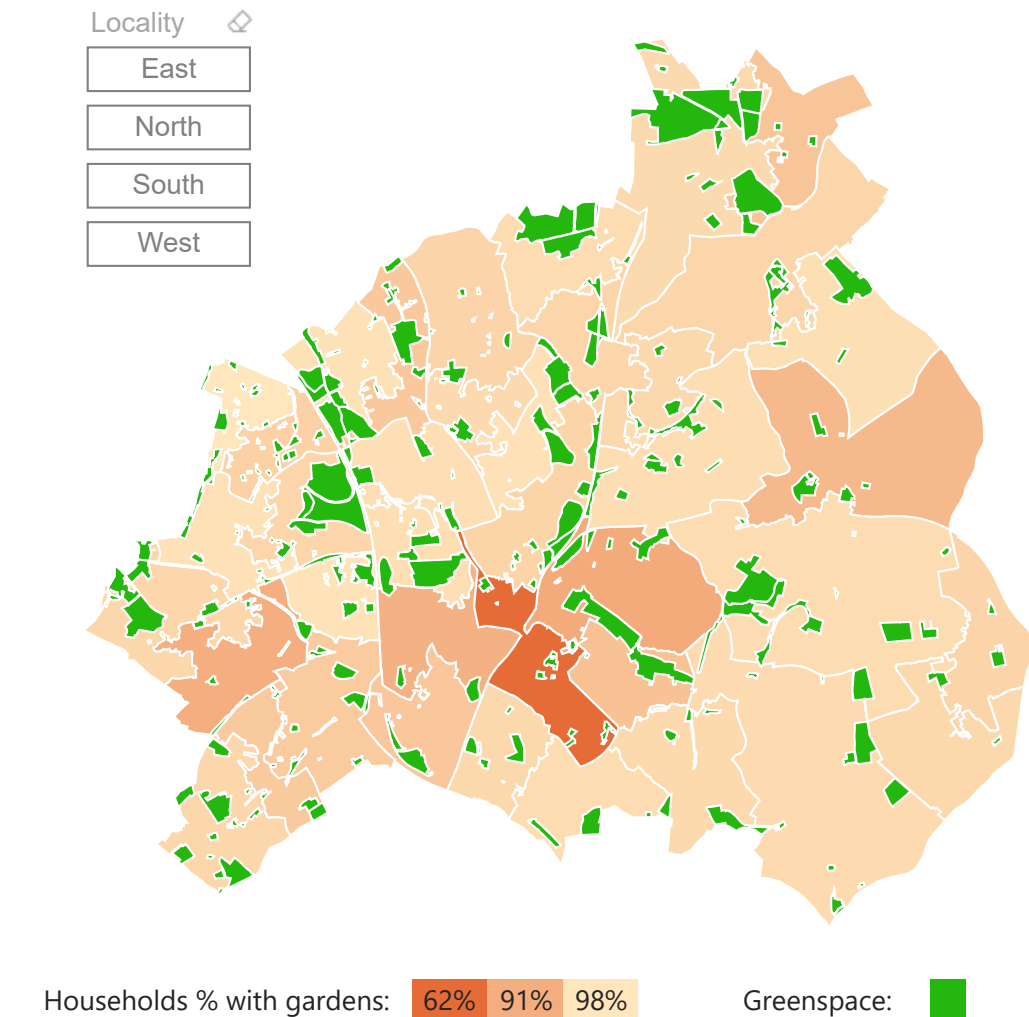Soli 244, Wolv 200, Dudl 200, Wals 193, Birm 171, Sand 167

Key Points

People Counters
4 of Walsall's parks contain People Counters: devices at each entrance that log the number of visitors entering and exiting parks, allowing insight into when parks are being utilised and by how many people.
Additionally there are many other publically accessible greenspaces (see map)..

When do people visit Parks?
Parks are a valuable public resource and used consistently throughout the year: relatively similar numbers of visitors by season between 7am - 2pm, with 3pm as the daily peak hour. However, park attendance is very strongly correlated with temperature: warmer weather results in more visitors and cooler weather, fewer. In spring and summer visitors are present further into the evening, with up to 56% of daily visits occuring between 3pm - 8pm in summer (140% increase over Winter). The extent of this varies by individual park.
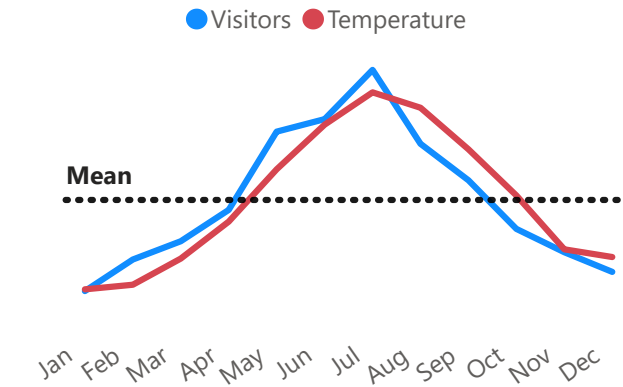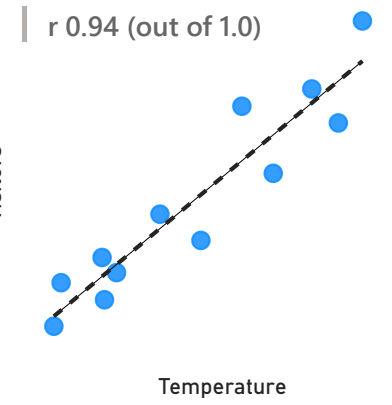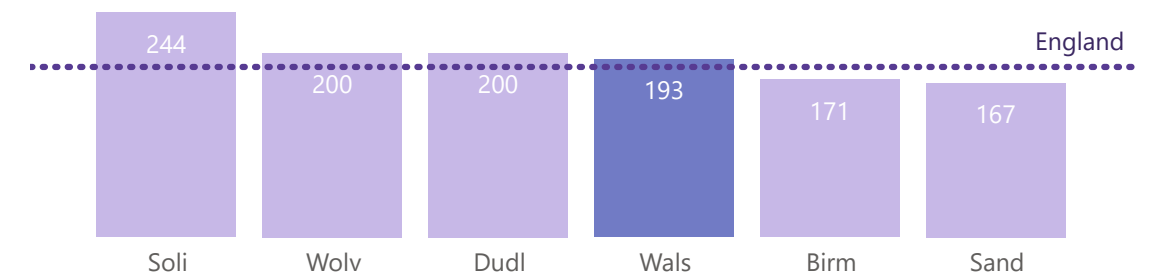
Allotment Locations in Walsall by Ward
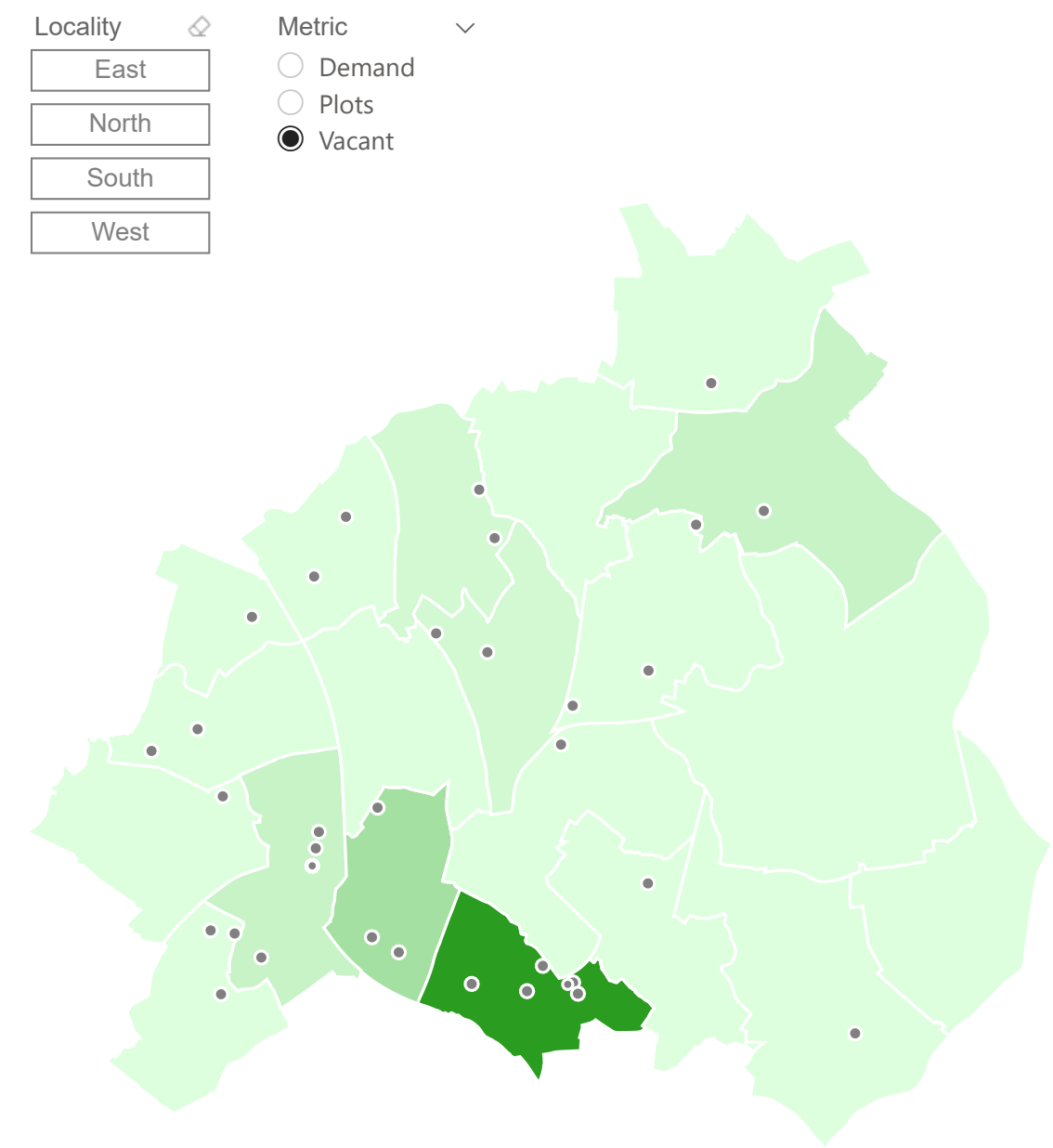
Locality

| East |
| North |
| South |
| West |

Metric
- ○ Demand
- ○ Plots
- ● Vacant

98.0%
Capacity in use

17.9%
Demand as % of Capacity

Ward	Sites	Plots	Waiting	Demand ▼
Short Heath	2	27	35	129.6%
St. Matthews	1	40	30	75.0%
Pheasey Park Farm	1	58	22	37.9%
Paddock	1	83	25	30.1%
Bentley and Darlaston North	4	121	30	24.8%
Darlaston South	3	62	15	24.2%
Willenhall North	1	17	3	17.6%
Rushall-Shelfield	3	165	26	15.8%
Willenhall South	1	21	3	14.3%
Bloxwich West	2	47	6	12.8%
Palfrey	5	240	25	10.4%
Bloxwich East	2	181	12	6.6%
Pleck	3	211	9	4.3%
Blakenall	2	38	1	2.6%
Aldridge Central and South	0	0	0	0.0%
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	1	15	0	0.0%
Birchills Leamore	0	0	0	0.0%
Brownhills	1	28	0	0.0%
Pelsall	0	0	0	0.0%
Streetly	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	33	1354	242	17.9%

Please note: demand in areas without allotments is unknown, as there is no method of gauging demand presently: to be fulfilled by an upcoming survey.

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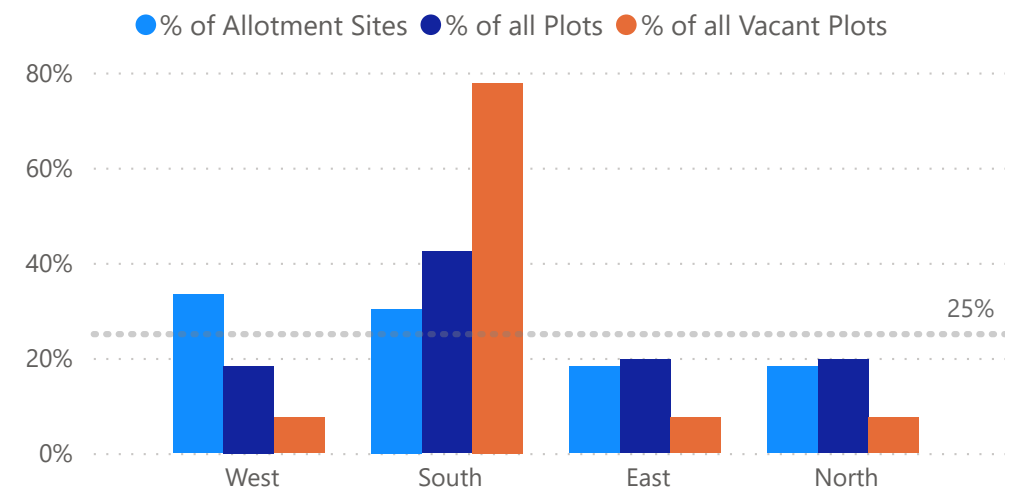
Allotment Provision by Locality

- ● % of Allotment Sites
- ● % of all Plots
- ● % of all Vacant Plots

(Bar chart showing West, South, East, North localities with 25% reference line)
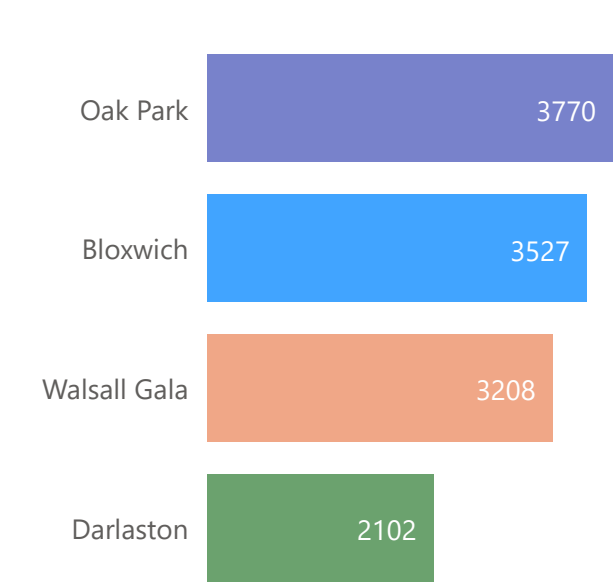
Key Points

Current Provision
Walsall currently has 1,354 allotment plots, with 98% of them in use by residents. Demand for sites is high with 254 people on waiting lists as of February 2021: 18% greater than capacity i.e. to meet demand, capacity would need to be raised to approx. 1,600, not accounting for future demand from population increases.
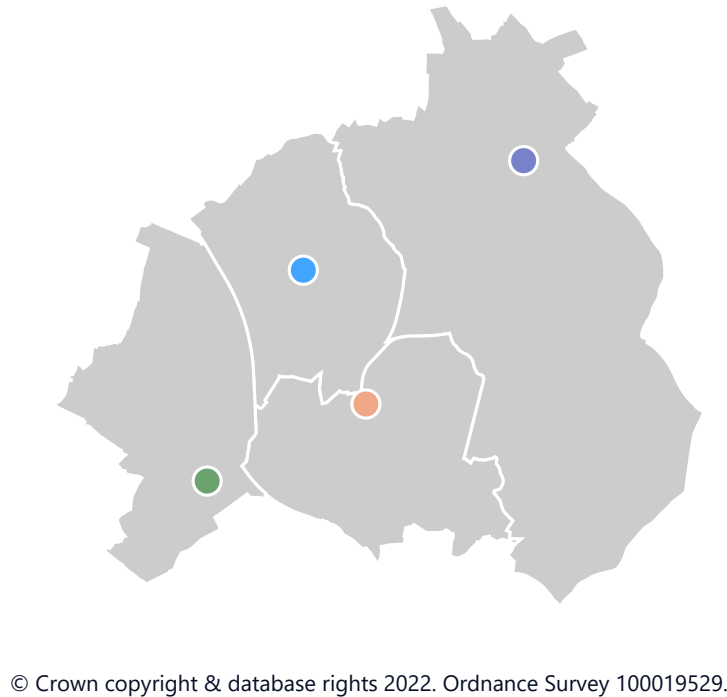
Uneven Distribution
Whilst reasonable coverage of sites, with 16 of 20 Walsall wards containing allotments, there is a concentration within the South accounting for 42% (574) of plots and 30% (10) of sites. Of all vacant plots, 78% (21) are within the South, highlighting the uneven distribution. Demand is greatest for plots on sites within the West of Walsall, particularly Short Heath: demand 30% over capacity. The North and East have 20% each of the borough's plots. This is currently under review, as to whether to redistribute provision from the South to other localities.

Allotment Survey
Walsall is undertaking an allotment survey to gauge interest across the borough. It is timely and neccessary to understand if attitudes and demand for allotments and gardening has changed following the COVID-19 pandemic. The results are due in Autumn 2021.
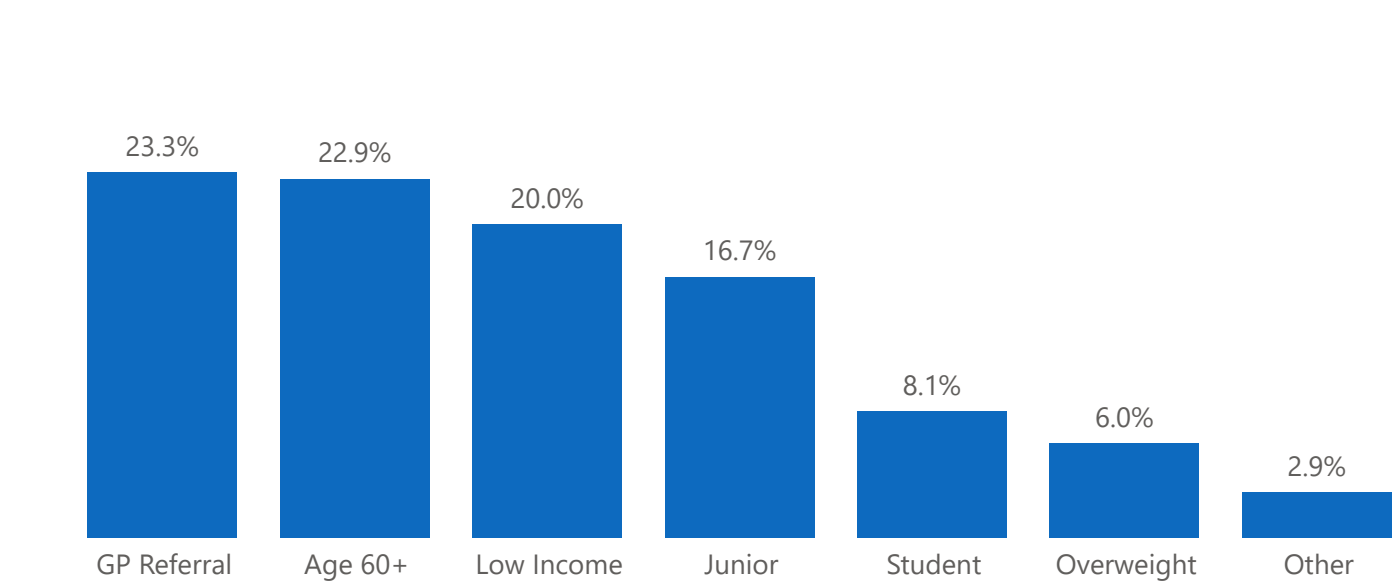
Leisure Centre Moveit member count

Leisure Centre	Member Count
Oak Park	3770
Bloxwich	3527
Walsall Gala	3208
Darlaston	2102

Leisure Centre Locations by Locality

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Key Points - Moveit

Discounted Membership

Moveit is a discounted leisure centre membership scheme for those least able to pay and/or at most benefit from physical activity. Reasons include those referred by GP/with medical conditions, on low income, over 60s and full-time students.

The distribution of membership reasons by leisure centres, which are geographically dispersed across the borough, mirrors the demographic composition seen in Chapter 1 of this JSNA: Oak Park to the east, an elderly population, has a greater proportion of 60+ memberships. Bloxwich, amongst the most deprived areas of the borough, similarly features highly for low income memberships. Darlaston (west) has fewer moveit members but almost a third are a result of GP referrals: as a predominantly swimming/pool centre.

It's not scientific/correct to use this solely as a basis for understanding the health of populations in these areas, but it could be suggestive of prevelance of those reasons for membership amongst populations local to those centres, and the needs of those accessing them.
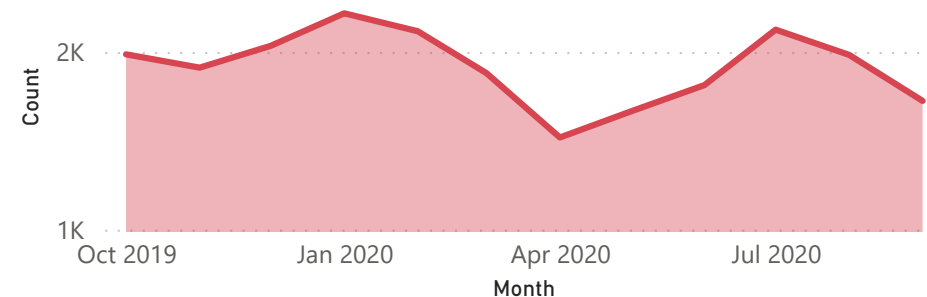
The data presented here is from 2018 and due to be updated. Please visit Walsall Council's Moveit webpage for details on the current Moveit membership programme.

Moveit Membership by Membership Eligibility %

Category	Percentage
GP Referral	23.3%
Age 60+	22.9%
Low Income	20.0%
Junior	16.7%
Student	8.1%
Overweight	6.0%
Other	2.9%

Total Recorded Crime in Walsall by Ward

% of Recorded Crime

offense class	% ▼
Violence Against The Person	47.55%
Theft & Handling Stolen Goods	24.52%
Criminal Damage	8.92%
Burglary	7.77%
Other Offences	3.07%
Not Classified	2.50%
Drug Offences	1.94%
Sexual Offences	1.89%
Robbery	1.82%
Fraud And Forgery	0.01%
Total	**100.00%**

Offenses Committed by Month (Walsall Borough level)

Localities

East	North	South	West
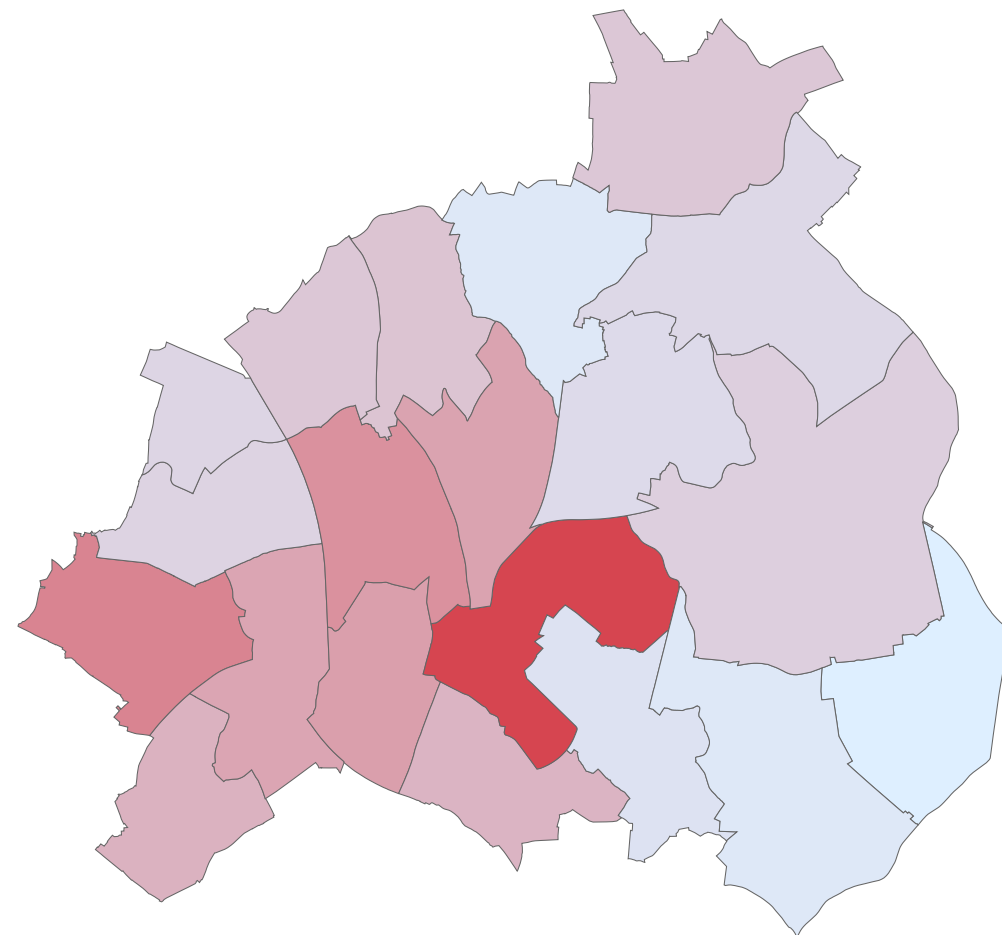
*Small numbers have been omitted

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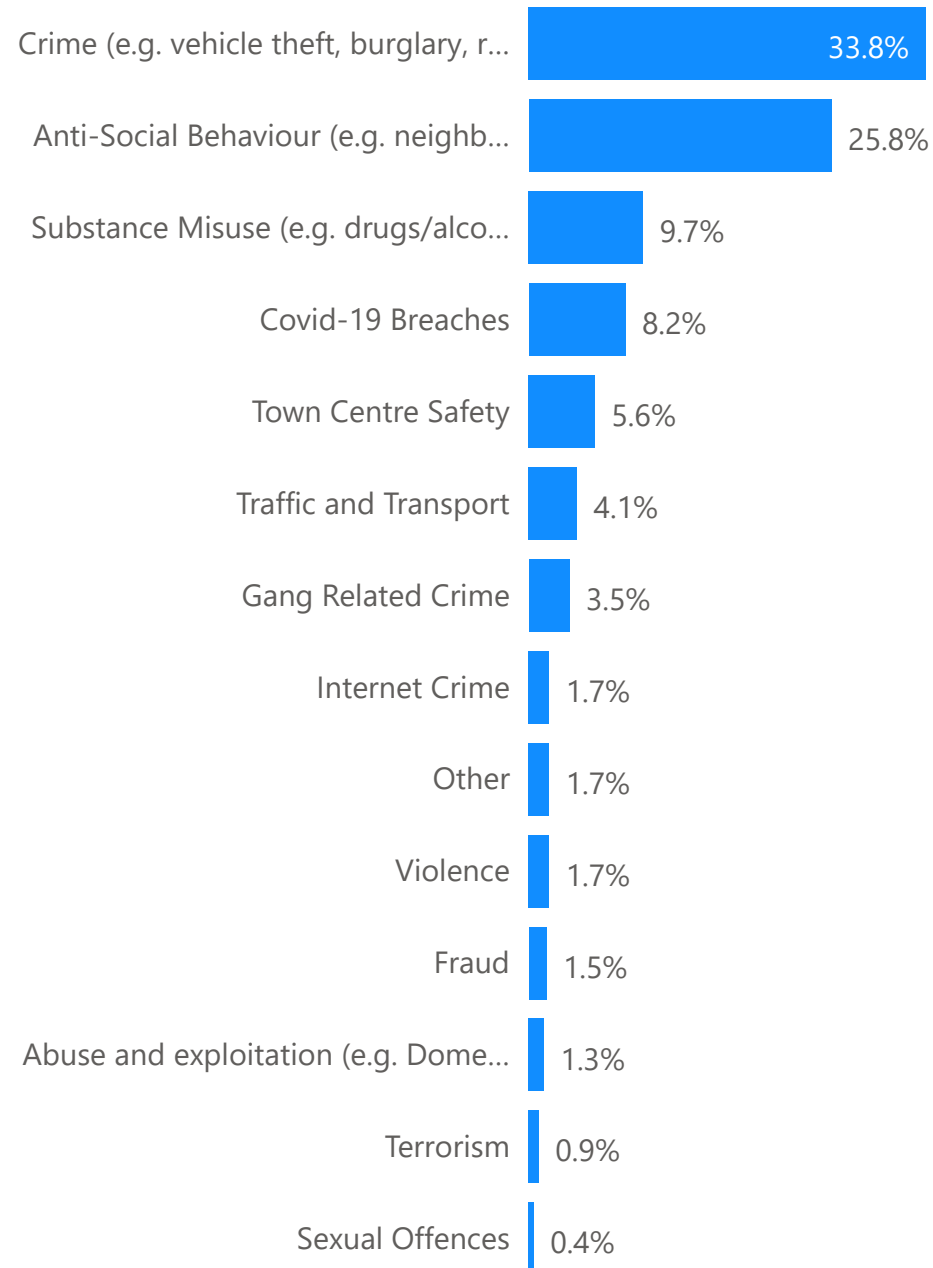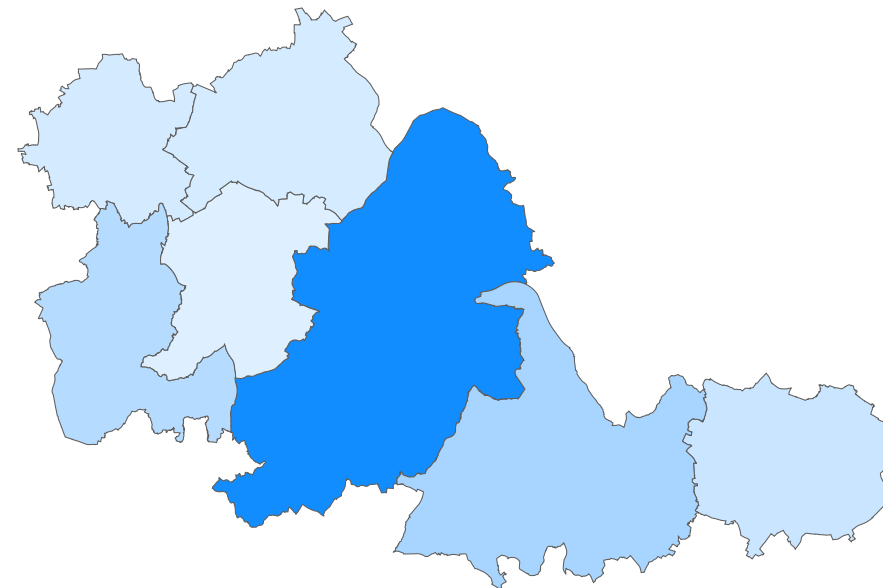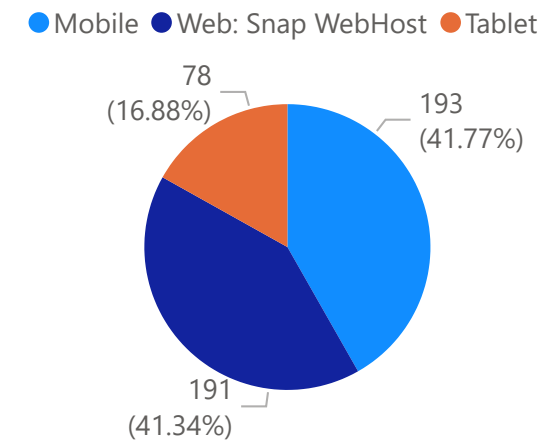
Key Points

Total Recorded Crime

Covid-19 and the ongoing pandemic have unavoidably impacted crime and aspects of community safety. Offences such as Domestic Abuse and Violence have increased significantly, whereas acquisitive crime such as Burglary and Theft offences have decreased. Consequently, this year's performance is not comparable to that of previous years.

1) **Common Assault** has replaced Assault Occasion Actual Bodily Harm as the top recorded offence.

2) **Assault Occasion ABH** has remained in the top 3 offences for the past 3 years.

3) **Theft from Shop or Stall** has dropped out of the top 3 for the first time in 4 years.

4) 27 offences made up the 2019/20's top 80% TRC. Of these, 14 offences decreased compared to last year, many can be attributed to Covid-19 and subsequent lockdowns / restrictions. For example:
- Theft from Shop or Stall decreased by 38%
- Criminal Damage decrease of 90%
- Burglary Residential decreased by 30%
- Robbery of Personal Property reduced by 29%

5) **Domestic Abuse** remains a main offence type, accounting for 19.4% of offences and an increase of 26% compared to the previous year.

6) The Home Office 24 crime categories show the highest increase in **Stalking and Harassment** offences (49%), followed by Public Order offences which increased by 39%

Overall Total Recorded Crime (TRC) highlights an increase in fear of violence; **Violence with and Violence without Injury** were the highest Home Office types recorded, each accounting 14% and 13% respectively.

WM Police Survey - November 2020

What were Walsall respondents' most important issues?

Issue	%
Crime (e.g. vehicle theft, burglary, r...	33.8%
Anti-Social Behaviour (e.g. neighb...	25.8%
Substance Misuse (e.g. drugs/alco...	9.7%
Covid-19 Breaches	8.2%
Town Centre Safety	5.6%
Traffic and Transport	4.1%
Gang Related Crime	3.5%
Internet Crime	1.7%
Other	1.7%
Violence	1.7%
Fraud	1.5%
Abuse and exploitation (e.g. Dome...	1.3%
Terrorism	0.9%
Sexual Offences	0.4%

Response Rates by Area

CSP Area	Responses	%
Birmingham	2242	39.0%
Solihull	879	15.3%
Dudley	751	13.1%
Coventry	570	9.9%
Wolverhampton	466	8.1%
Walsall	462	8.0%
Sandwell	378	6.6%
Total	**5748**	**100.0%**

Walsall Responses by Device Type

● Mobile ● Web: Snap WebHost ● Tablet

78 (16.88%)
193 (41.77%)
191 (41.34%)

Response Rates by Area

Key Points

Police Survey

In October 2020, a survey was sent out to the public, via WMNOW (a free messaging system that delivers information from police and partners) across the West Midlands regions from WMP and all CSP partners. Response rates across the region incresaed by 56% compared to last year, with Walsall accounting for 8% (462).

Similar to last year, crime and ASB were highlighted as the two main areas of concern, both for Walsall and the region.

A category of Covid-19 breaches was also added this year in light of the pandemic, however, similar to other regions, this was of a lesser concern to people living in Walsall.

Key Findings

1) White females aged over 65 were the largest cohort to respond to the survey (this is therefore not a true representation of the borough population, regard the results with caution).

2) The three main concerns for Walsall respondents were:

   i. **Crime** (vehicle theft, burglary and robbery) (33.8%)

   ii. **Anti-social behaviour** (25.8%)

   iii. **Substance misuse** (9.7%)

Recorded Fire Incidents in Walsall by Ward

Fire incidents by Ward
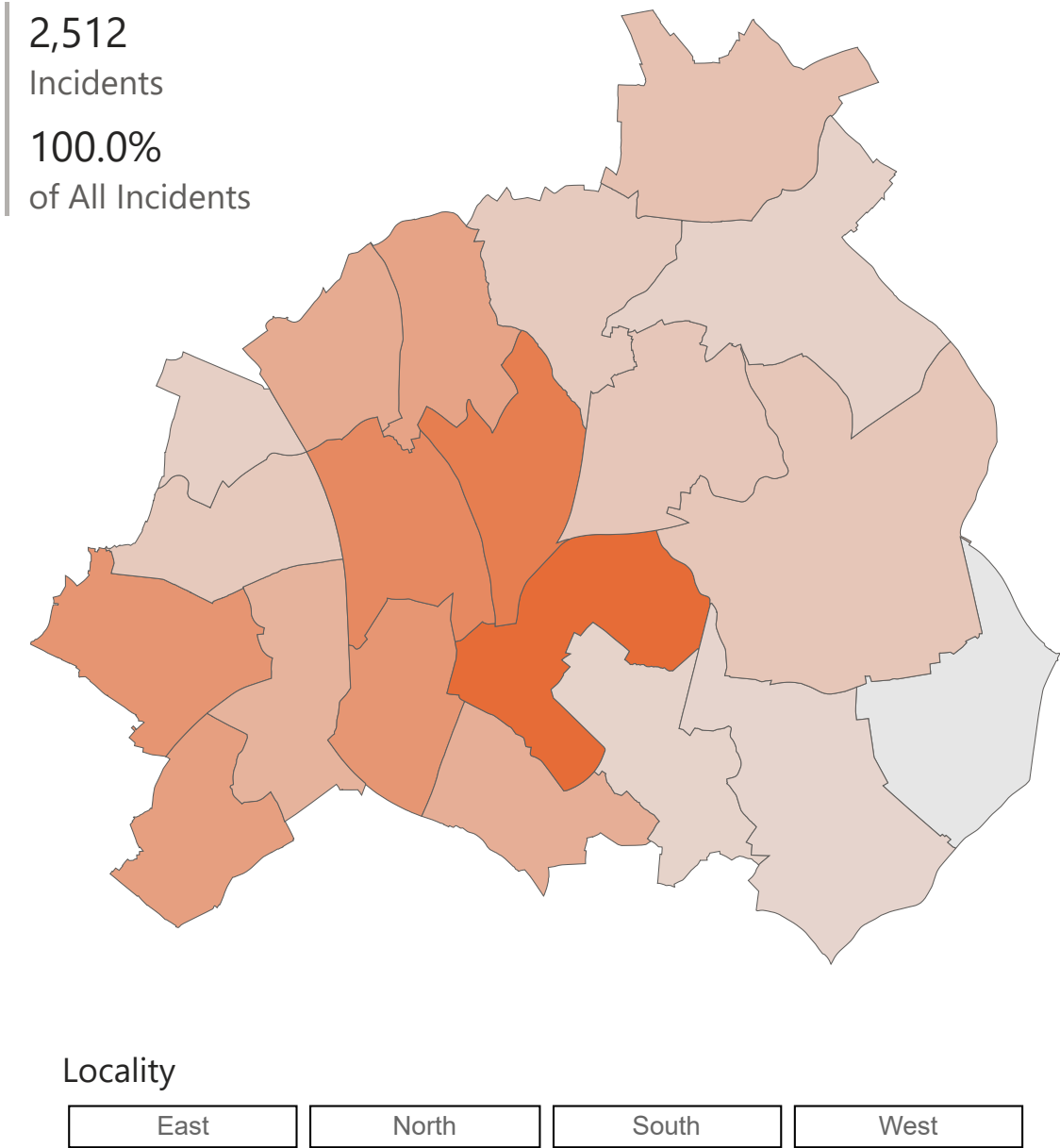
2,512
Incidents

100.0%
of All Incidents

Locality

| East | North | South | West |

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Proportion of fire inidents by location type

Property Type	incidents	%
Dwelling	367	15.2%
Purpose built flat(s) / maisonette(s)	257	10.7%
Outdoors	218	9.0%
Loose refuse / rubbish	166	6.9%
Car	159	6.6%
Multiple road vehicles	143	5.9%
Bonfire	141	5.8%
Semi-detached house	106	4.4%
Rubbish bin / small refuse container outside	81	3.4%
Non-residential building	79	3.3%
Terraced house	55	2.3%
Parkland	53	2.2%
Vehicle	51	2.1%
Purpose built sheltered flat(s) / maisonette(s)	48	2.0%
Other rubbish item (e.g. dumped / discarded sofa or mattress)	43	1.8%
Household wheelie bin	39	1.6%
Derelict building (secondary fire location)	31	1.3%
Detached house	28	1.2%
Bungalow	26	1.1%

Property Types with fewer than 3 incidents in a year omitted from table.

Key Points

Recorded Fire incidents
To understand the varied demand across the borough, data from WM Fire Service (Arson and False Alarm Malicious Intent Incidents) are included.

This data covers 12 months (Oct. 2019 to Sept. 20), where there were 2,531 recorded fire incidents.

Arson
There were a total of 346 arson incidents for the year 2019/2020, a reduction of 10% (40 incidents) compared to the previous year.

Blakenall continues to present the majority of demand, with 20% arson related calls, of which 51% related to arson rubbish.

Almost half of all Arson incidents across the borough relate to Arson rubbish.

September experienced the highest number of arson incidents (46) followed by April and May (39 in each).

2019-20 Incidents by Month (Walsall Borough level)
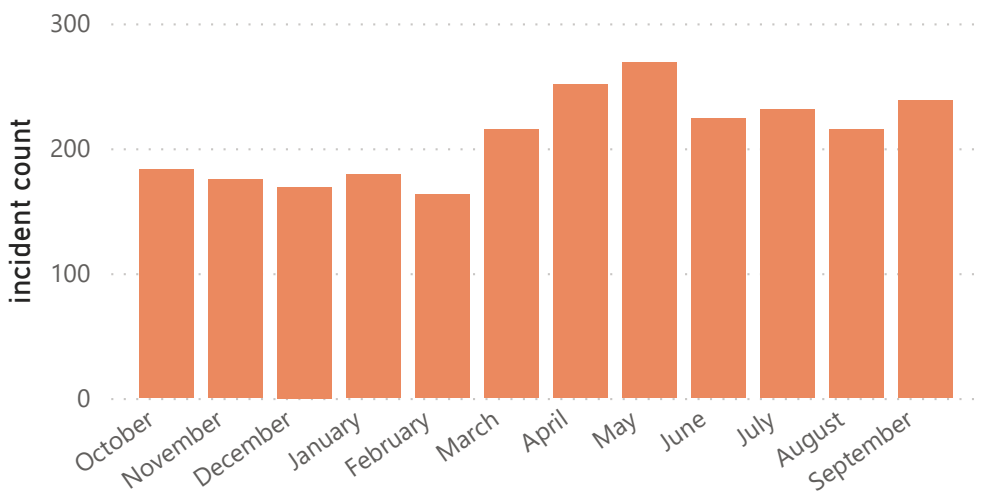
Data Sources

Air Quality
Particulate Matter attributable to Mortality & PM2.5 by Local Authority
PHE Fingertips - https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/air%20quality

Modelled Air Pollution by LSOA/MSOA - UK Air Information Resource, through the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019
Sourced from Local Insight: https://local.communityinsight.org/

Safe & Sustainable Travel
Under 16s Killed/Seriously Injured (KSI) on Roads - PHE Fingertips
https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/ksi

Pedestrains/Cyclists KSI by LSOA/MSOA - Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019
Sourced from Local Insight: https://local.communityinsight.org/

Noise Pollution
PHE Fingertips - https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/noise

A*Stars - Walsall Council, A*Stars Team

Parks
People Counters - Walsall Council, Clean & Green

Temperature - https://archive.ceda.ac.uk/

Allotments
Walsall Council, Clean & Green

Leisure Centres
Walsall Council, Walsall Leisure

Recorded Crime
https://www.police.uk/

Police Survey
https://www.police.uk/

Fire Incidents
West Midlands Fire Service - https://www.wmfs.net/

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:

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