# **Bloxwich East**

Ward Profile

Produced by Walsall Business Insights January 2024



### Welcome to Bloxwich East











- History Bloxwich Town centre is mostly Victorian and Edwardian building with leafy greenspaces and parks. From the Georgian period through to the 1960's, Bloxwich had more public houses than any other area of Walsall.
- Landmarks Queen Victoria's Fountain, unveiled in 1891, was the first public fountain in Bloxwich. Glacial anvil stones were positioned in early 1900's as a monument to the 'bitties and tackies' of Bloxwich who constructed needles and awl blades for the leather industry.
- On 23 November 1981 Bloxwich was struck by an F1/T2 tornado as part of the National record-breaking tornado outbreak in the UK.
- Famous Residents Pat Collins Showman, fairground and cinema mogul, former Liberal MP (1922) and Mayor of Walsall (1938). Long associated with Bloxwich since his attendance at the Bloxwich Wake in 1882, he rapidly transformed the travelling fairs. After the council abolished the wakes, deeming them a "nightmare of drunkeness and lawlessness", Pat held the Collins Grand fete and Gala by way of preserving the Bloxwich Wakes enjoyed by local colliers. Pat died at his home, Lime Tree House, on what is now ASDA Car Park and was buried in Bloxwich Cemetery (1943). A memorial Clock was erected in King George V playing fields in 1955, and then re-erected in 1991, sited in Bloxwich promenade gardens overlooking the area where he attended his first wake.
- **Tom Major-Ball –** Music hall and circus performer was born in Bloxwich 1879 and is father to Sir John Major Former British Prime minister.





- Covers 3.8 sq km (381.7 ha)
- Makes up 3.7% of the total area of Walsall
- Has a population density of 3,469 people per Square Kilometer
   (This is *Higher* than borough average of 3,159)



### Councillors



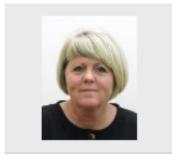




Gary Flint

11 May 2021





Corin Statham 2 May 2019





Mark Statham 03 May 2018





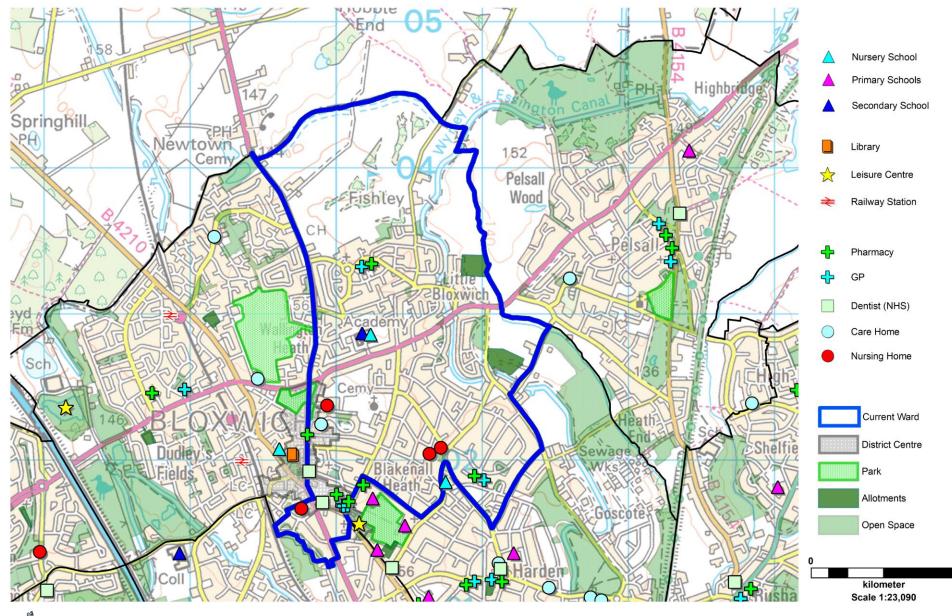


# Place

What are the attributes and assets of the local area, and how can we characterise it compared to the rest of Walsall?

### Assets





#### Bloxwich East Assets Map

Walsall Council

Illustrates Bloxwich East's geography and highlights key local assets.

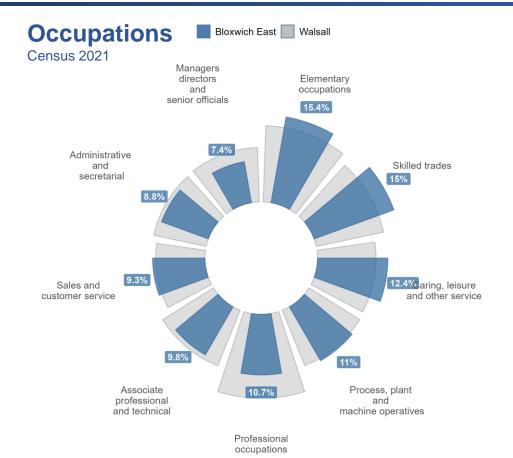






## **Economy and Workforce**





#### **Economic Status**

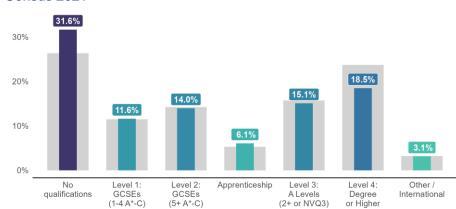


# **53.8%** Are Economically Active

2<sup>nd</sup> Lowest of the Walsall Wards. *Inactivity includes retirees, students, long-term sick/disabled, homemaking and other.* 

#### **Qualifications**



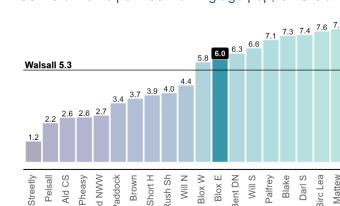


Grey bars = Walsall

 Almost 1 in 3 (31.6%) Bloxwich East adults have no formal qualifications: higher than the Walsall borough (26.3%, approx. 1 in 4), and fewer have a degree or higher. The proportion of those with GCSEs, apprenticeships or A Levels closely matches the borough picture.

#### **Claimant Count**

JSA Claimants per 100 working age pop, ONS Oct 2023



- Bloxwich East's Claimant Count (Jobseekers Allowance) is 6 per 100 working age adults.
- This is approximately average when compared to the wider borough (5.3 per 100 working age adults).

- Bloxwich East's occupational profile features higher employment in Elementary Occupations (manual, unskilled labour 15.4% of the workforce) and skilled trades (15%). Where Bloxwich East differs greatly from the Borough picture is with fewer professional occupations: only 10.7% of the workforce (Walsall, 14.9%).
- This indicates the labour force of Bloxwich East is distributed more towards manual and trade occupations, with relatively fewer professionals than elsewhere in Walsall.

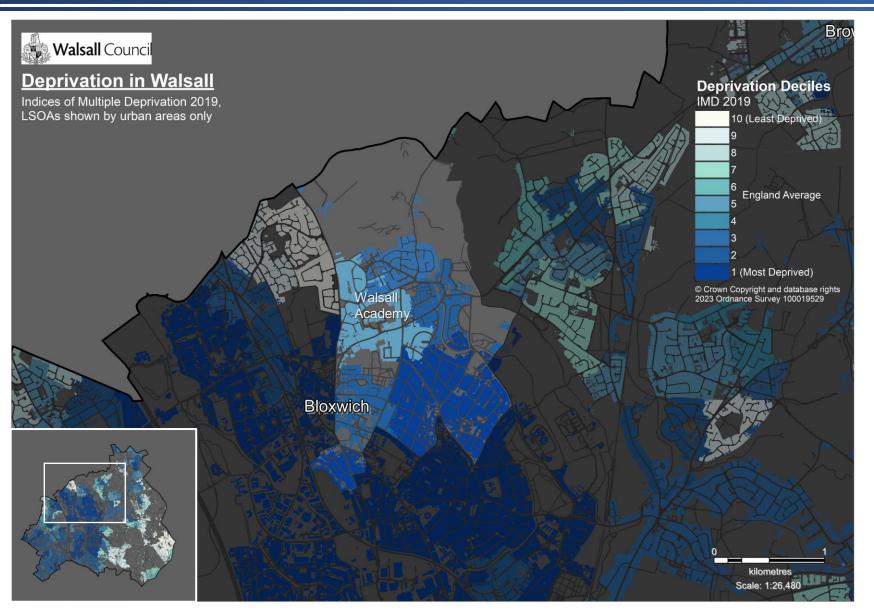


Source: Census 2021

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### Deprivation





The majority of Bloxwich East's population reside in deprived areas: falling within the 20% most deprived areas in England.

It faces particular deprivation challenges with:

- Adult Skills (decile 2)
- Education, Skills and Training (decile 2)
- Children and Young People (decile 3)
- **Employment** (decile 3)
- **Health** (decile 3)

However, Bloxwich East ranks positively for **proximity to services**, falling within the 6th Decile of England areas.

England (2 in 10)



7 in 10

Borough (5 In 10)

Residents Living in **High Deprivation**Amongst the bottom 20% of areas nationwide.

Note: Deprivation is a relative measure, not absolute. High deprivation suggests an area has not kept pace with progress relative to other areas in England.



## Housing & Households



5,400 Households 1

Increased since 2011, Ward makes up 4.8% of all Walsall Households



**569** (10.6%) Households are Lone Parents of Dependent children



**21.2%** School Children & Full- time Students (aged 5yrs & over) Approximately 1:5

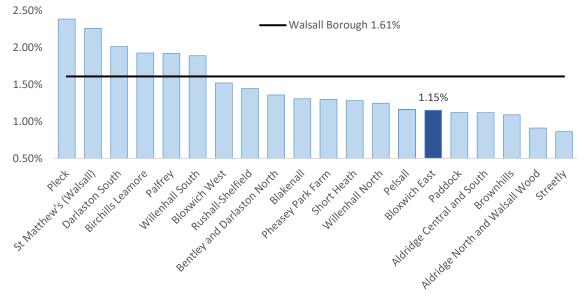


**51% Homeowners** 

35.8% homes are Socially Rented (Borough 23.7%)

- Bloxwich East household population of full-time students and school children, aged over 5yrs, is 21.2%, close to the Walsall figure of 22.1% and very similar to Paddock(21.5%).
- More Single-family households consisting of a lone parent with dependent children making up 10.6% of households, similar to Pleck and higher than Walsall (8.9%). The number of lone parent households in Bloxwich East is double that of Pelsall (279).
- Lower number of homeowners 51% owned. Of those, 55% are owned outright, without a mortgage or shared ownership. 13% of households rent privately or live rent free. 1 in 3 homes in Bloxwich East are socially rented, compared 1 in 6 in Short Heath. At 35.8%, this ranks 4<sup>th</sup> highest in Walsall (23.7%) and twice as many in number as in Willenhall North.
- The number of households living with **no** central heating across the borough has
  positively decreased by about half since 2011.Bloxwich east has 6<sup>th</sup> least number of
  households living with no central heating at 1.15%. This is significantly better compared
  to 2.39% in Pleck and the Walsall Borough figure of 1.61%.

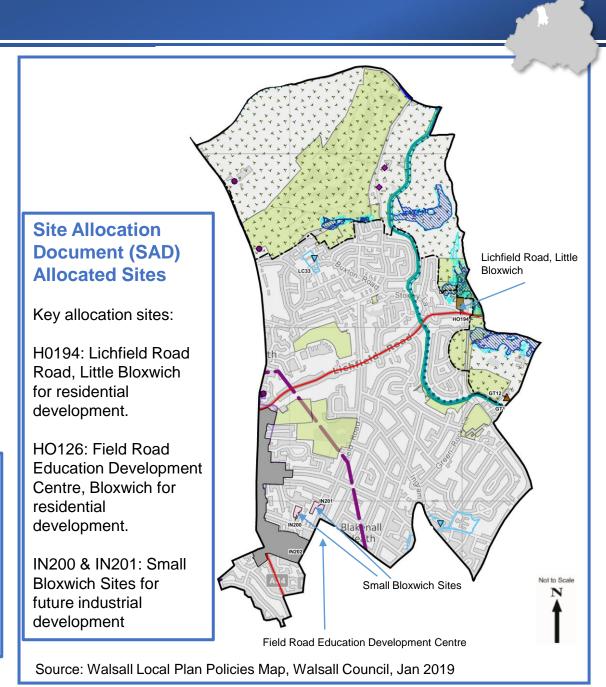
#### % Households in Ward with no Central heating





## Development / Regeneration

- Bloxwich East Ward the area is predominantly residential, with areas of Green Belt to the north and Bloxwich town centre to the west of the ward with a focus on retail and town centre related uses.
- Bloxwich District Centre with national retailers/ occupiers including Asda, Home Bargains, JD Wetherspoon and multiple independent retailers and other town centre related businesses.
- Community Facilities include Stan Ball Centre, Green Rivers and Blakenall Village Centre.
- The local community plays an active role in Bloxwich, and the Council has a good relationship with groups having delivered several programmes and initiatives in the area including public realm/environmental enhancements to improve the viability and vibrancy of the centre.
- Residential developments, including Care UK intensive support accommodation, Bromford supported living units, and WHG affordable schemes at Grovenor House, Barracks Lane and Well Place.
- A34 North Red Route and Bloxwich Bus Showcase.
- Bloxwich Town Deal to deliver significant investment over the coming years and benefits to Bloxwich East Ward.
- Town Deal projects include the Construction Skills Through Regeneration, Bloxwich Active Travel & Connectivity project, which includes canal towpath improvements between Walsall and Bloxwich and the Incubation Space & Digital Access.
- Council works to provide continued support to businesses/landowners regarding their development requirements and growth aspirations.





# People

What are the characteristics of the local population, and how do they compare to the wider Walsall Borough?

## Demography





13,200

Population Census 2021



**52%** Female **48%** Male



**22%** Aged 0-15 Approximately 2 in 9 people (2,900)



**59%** Aged 16-64 Approximately 3 in 5 people (7,900)



**19%** Aged 65+ Approximately 1 in 5 people (2,500)



**38 Years**Median Age (Walsall 39)

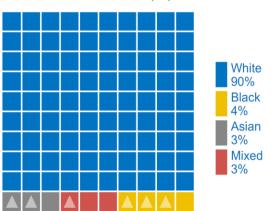


+ **8.9%** Population since 2011

+ 1084 people. Walsall increased by 5.5%

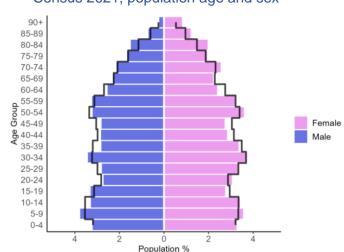
#### **Ethnicity**

Census 2021, resident population



#### **Population Pyramid**

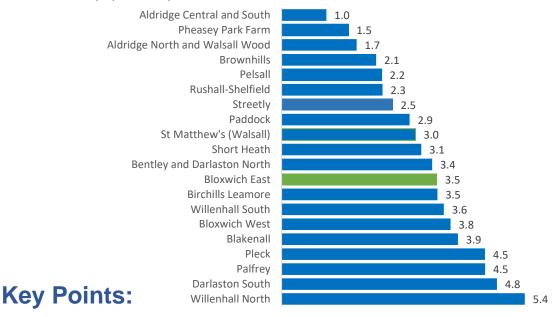
Census 2021, population age and sex



Black Line = Walsall %

#### **Population Density**

Census 2021, population per km<sup>2</sup>



- Bloxwich East has one of the younger populations of Walsall's wards, with around 2 in 9 people under 16yrs, and a median age of 38 years old, close to the Borough average (39 years). A contrast to the oldest ward Aldridge Central & South at 48 years
- In terms of Population Density, Bloxwich East is the 9<sup>th</sup> most populated ward, increasing by 9% in the last decade. This is 3,469 people per sq. km. For context: Walsall's density is 2,733, and Aldridge North & Walsall Wood, has roughly half as many people per sq. km (1,676).
- Ethnically, the ward is predominantly White British (90%) with smaller populations of Asian (3%), Black (4%), Mixed (3%) These populations have all increased since 2011, with the Black group quadrupling in percentage.

  Walsall Council



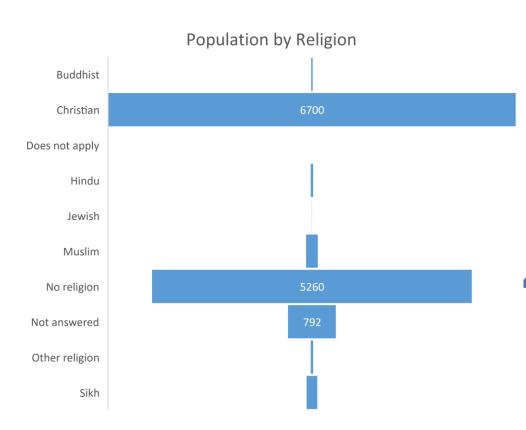
▲ = increase since 2011

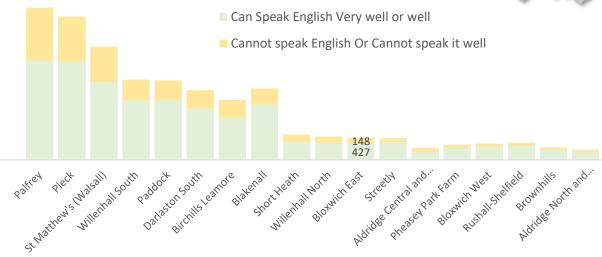
## Language and Religion





96% of Households where All Adults use English as their main language





- 95.5% of households have all or at least one adult where English is the main language, compared to 81.1% in Palfrey and Pleck. Where English is not the main spoken language, 26% of these residents cannot speak English or cannot speak it well.
- Bloxwich East has a lower number of Households where no residents speak English as main language (145) 2.7% compared to 14.2% Pleck (788) & St. Matthew's 11.1% (806).

#### Household residents are Not identified as Religious (Borough 35%)

- Bloxwich East ward has approximately half (50.7%) residents of Christian religion. This is higher the Walsall borough percentage of 45%. It also has a higher proportion of residents with no identified religion.
- 39.8% of Bloxwich East residents reported in 2021 Census as having No Religion, much higher compared to Palfrey ward with just 11.1%.

Data Source:

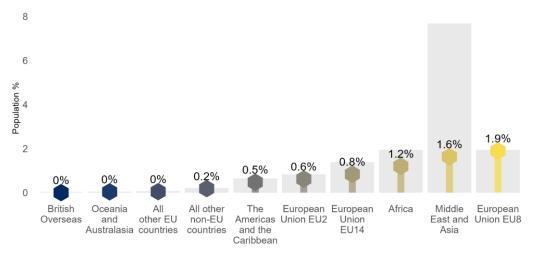


### Non-UK Country of Birth



#### Aldridge C&S versus Borough Comparison

Country of Origin by % Resident Population, Census 2021



- Key Points:
- With 93.1% of residents being UK born, Bloxwich East has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest proportion of UK born residents of the 20 Walsall wards.
- When contrasted with the borough's 14.7% of the population being born outside of the UK, Bloxwich East's is approximately half at 6.9%.
- Whilst few, comprising 1.9% of the population, EU8 born residents are the largest non-UK countries of origin (2004 EU enlargement nations such as Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovenia and Slovakia). It is suggestive of newly emergent communities. This differs from the wider borough, where the largest non-UK area of birth is most often the Middle East and Asia: in Bloxwich East it is 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 1.6%, contrasted to approximately 8% of the population across Walsall.
- EU8 aside, Bloxwich East has a smaller proportion of non-UK born residents from each area of birth, relative to the wider borough.

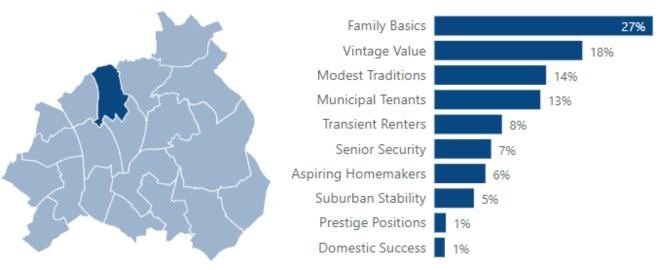


## Social Segmentation

#### Social Segment Composition of Walsall Wards (% Households)

Resilienc

Financial Resilience



#### **Key Points:**

- Social Segmentation is a means of categorising residential populations by shared socio-economic traits and similar behaviours.
- Bloxwich East features a wide range of segments, with the largest three being Family Basics, Vintage Value and Modest Traditions.
- Family Basics accounts for over a quarter of households: low earning families with limited education, multiple children, poorer quality housing, and little disposable income. It is a segment highly vulnerable to economic shock/crises i.e. fuel/energy, high inflation.
- As the 2nd largest segment, Vintage Value (18% of households) are pensioners with very low disposable incomes who are more likely to experience fuel poverty and more likely to live alone.

#### **Family Basics**



Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet

Families with lots of children

Council/HA tenants

Low discretionary income

Low affluence

Internet via smartphone

Games consoles

25,500

Household Income



36 - 45

Age Band



Terraced

Property Type

#### Vintage Value



Elderly people with limited pension income, mostly living alone

Retired singles

Council/HA tenants

No qualifications

Low discretionary income

Low-tech households

Fuel and water poverty

8,000

Household Income



66+ Age Band

**Bungalow** 

Property Type

#### **Modest Traditions**



Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles

Homeowners

No children

Established in community

Low discretionary income

Watch TV

Solar panels



24,300

Household Income



56-65

Age Band



Terraced Property Type



Risk

Low

Resilience

High Risk Family Basics

Impact of Change

Modest Traditions

Municipal Tenants

Vintage Value

### Education

Walsall Academy



Primary

Secondary

There are 4 Primary schools, 1 Nursery and 1 Secondary school in the ward:

Millfields Nursery

Little Bloxwich CE Primary

Lower Farm Primary

Rivers Primary Academy

St Peters Catholic Primary

% Good or Outstanding

ABC

learning.



**Key Points:** 

Attainment data by ward is matched based on children resident in the ward who attended <u>any</u> Walsall school within the local authority. Any children who attended an out of borough school are excluded from the analysis.

Pupils take national curriculum assessments in year 6 at the end of KS2, when most will reach the age of 11. Pupils take tests commonly referred to as SATs.

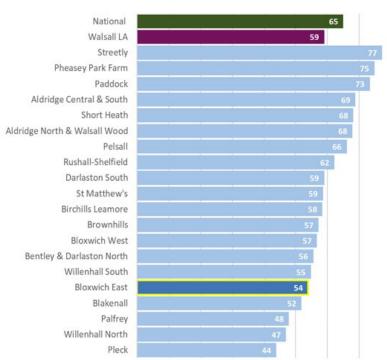
A lower proportion of children in the **Bloxwich East** ward achieved the expected standard compared to the Walsall and national figures across all subjects.

At the end of KS4 (Year 11) pupils sit examinations in a range of GCSE and other vocational qualifications.

The percentage of pupils in Walsall who have achieved at least a grade 4 or above in English and maths GCSE is slightly below national at 63%. 43% of <u>students</u> resident in the **Bloxwich East** ward achieved a standard pass which is below the LA average.

A significant number of students who live in the ward did not achieve a good pass in English and maths GCSE. 23% of students achieved a good pass which is 21% below the Walsall LA figure and 24% lower than the National average.

% Children who reached a good level of development in 2022



Children are defined as having reached a good level of development at the end of their Reception year if they have achieved at least the expected level in prime and specific areas of

The overall GLD for Walsall in 2022 was 59%. In comparison, 54% of children who reside in the **Bloxwich East** ward achieved this threshold. This is 5% below the LA average and 11% below the national average. **Bloxwich East** ward is ranked 5th lowest compared to other wards in Walsall.

Achieving GCSE English and maths in 2022

% Standard pass Grade
4-9

63

64

43

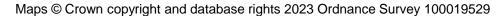
Bloxwich East

Walsall LA

National

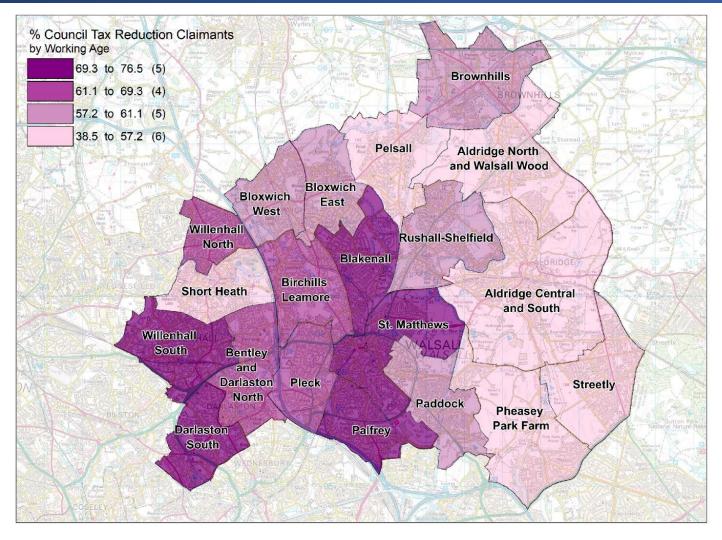
Attainment data for 2022 matched to January school census pupil address/postcode information. Includes only those whose address is located within a ward and who achieved assessments in a Walsall LA school





Data Source: Department of Education, NCER Nexus and Spring School Census 2022

### Council Tax Reduction (CTR) household claimants – working age

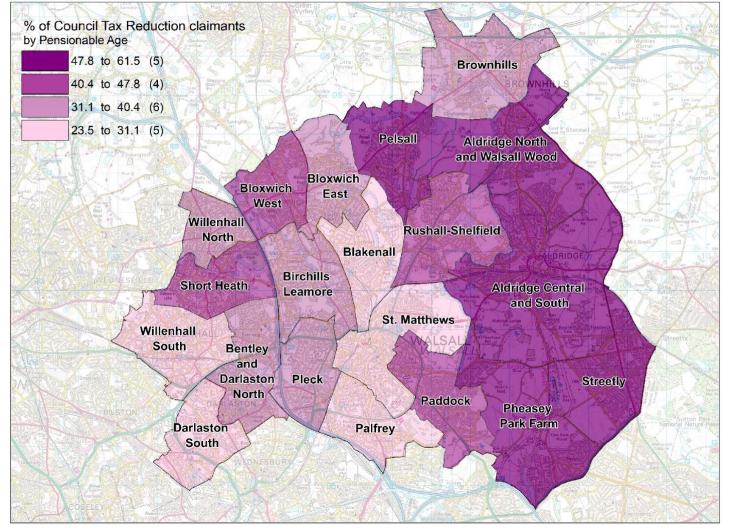


61.1% of households in Bloxwich East claim CTR by working age (10th highest of Walsall's wards) and is slightly less than the Borough average of 64.1%.

Ward	Total Number of Households in Receipt of Council Tax Reduction	% that are of Pensionable Age	% that are of Working Age	
Aldridge Central and South	924	49.68	50.32	
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	949	47.84	52.16	
Bentley and Darlaston North	1,773	33.62	66.38	
Birchills Leamore	2,323	31.12	68.88	
Blakenall	1,995	29.77	70.23	
Bloxwich East	1,788	38.93	61.07	
Bloxwich West	1,690	40.41	59.59	
Brownhills	1,352	40.38	59.62	
Darlaston South	2,165	29.84	70.16	
Paddock	556	41.01	58.99	
Palfrey	1,771	30.66	69.34	
Pelsall	824	52.55	47.45	
Pheasey Park Farm	444	55.18	44.82	
Pleck	1,829	32.59	67.41	
Rushall-Shelfield	1,138	41.74	58.26	
Short Heath	1,009	42.81	57.19	
St. Matthews	2,035	23.54	76.46	
Streetly	309	61.49	38.51	
Willenhall North	1,078	36.83	63.17	
Willenhall South	1,835	30.08	69.92	
WALSALL	27,787	35.87	64.13	



### Council Tax Reduction (CTR) household claimants – pensionable age



38.9% of households in Pelsall claim CTR by pensionable age (ranking 11th out of Walsall's wards) and is slightly higher than the Borough average of 35.9%.

Ward	Total Number of Households in Receipt of Council Tax Reduction	% that are of Pensionable Age	% that are of Working Age	
Aldridge Central and South	924	49.68	50.32	
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	949	47.84	52.16	
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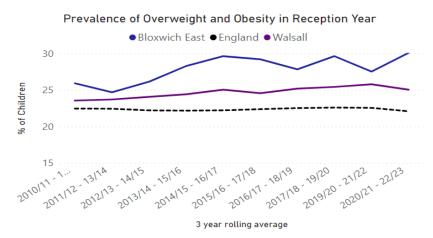


# Health & Social Care

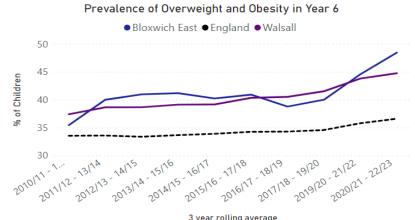
What are the health and social care needs of the Ward?

## Child Healthy Weight

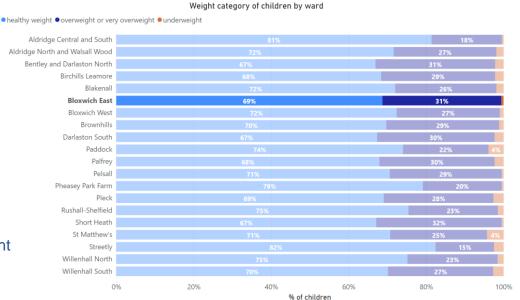




The prevalence of Reception-aged children who are overweight or obese in Bloxwich East has shown an increasing trend in recent years, and is significantly higher than both the Walsall average and the national rate.



The prevalence of Year 6 children who are overweight or obese in St. Matthew's has increased sharply in recent years and is also significantly higher than both the Walsall average and the national rate.



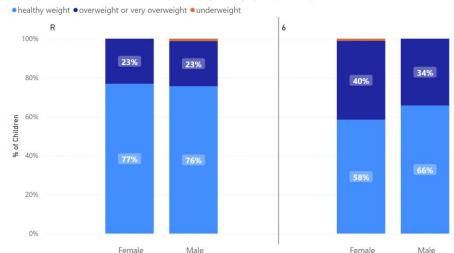


In Bloxwich East around

7 in 10

children are a healthy weight.





In Reception aged children in this ward, the proportion of children that are a healthy weight is similar in boys and girls.

However, by Year 6, the proportion of children that are overweight or obese is higher in girls than boys.

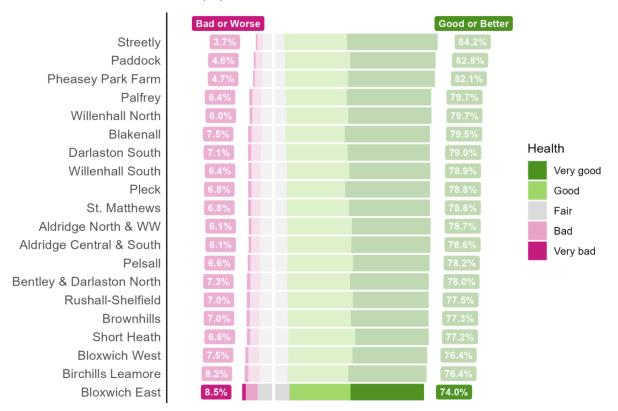


### General Health



#### What is the General Health of Bloxwich East?

Census 2021, % of resident population



- Bloxwich East residents report their general level of health as *poorest in borough*,
  with 8.5% being rated Bad or Worse, ranking last of all Walsall's wards. Only 74% rate
  their general health Good or Better, this is lower than the England average of 82.1%.
- Approximately 1 in 12 residents in Bloxwich East reported living in poor health or worse compared to approximately 1 in 27 in Streetly ward.

#### **Walsall** Council

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#### **Disability**

Census 2021, resident population



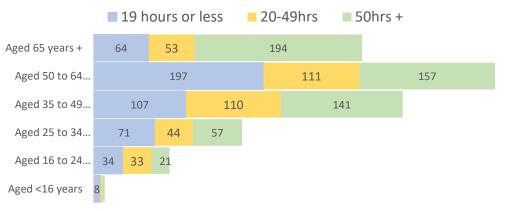
23.7% Reported as Disabled

Where day-to-day activities are limited (approximately 1 in 4 residents).

- This is above the Walsall figure (19.1%) and ranks highest out of Walsall's 20 wards.
- 5.4% have a long term physical or mental Health condition but daily activities are not limited, this is similar to that of Walsall overall (5.5%)

#### **Unpaid Care**

Census 2021, resident population (aged 5yrs +)



- 6th Highest number of unpaid carers in Walsall, 1,407 compared to Pheasey with fewest (1,044) and Aldridge Central & South with most (1,471)
- 11.4% of residents provide weekly unpaid care. Almost two thirds of carers aged over 65yrs themselves are providing more than 50hrs care per week

### **Adult Social Care**



#### Key facts and figures about Ward residents receiving support in 2022-23

673

New requests for support, received from

414 individua

11 people aged 18-24, 96 aged 25-64 and 307 aged 65+

211

People received an assessment

4 people aged 18-24, 58 aged 25-64 and 149 aged 65+

75 assessments resulted in a long term service

28

Carers were assessed and supported during the year

13

0 people aged 18-24, 12 aged 25-64 and 16 aged 65+

332

People received a long term service such as domiciliary care, etc



16 people aged 18-24, 88 aged 25-64 and 228 aged 65+

370

Safeguarding concerns were received, relating to

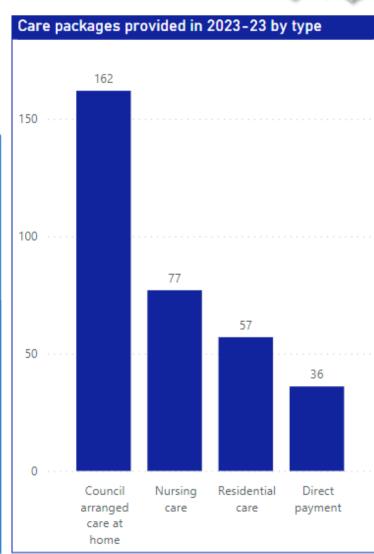
200 individuals

8 people aged 18-24, 60 aged 25-64 and 132 aged 65+

16.49%

Of safeguarding concerns received progressed to a formal investigation





## Adult Social Care Adult User Survey 2022-23

#### Responses from Ward residents

212 74 34.91% People surveyed Responses Response rate 54 Responses People residing in their own home were 8 received People residing in nursing care from 12 People residing in residential care









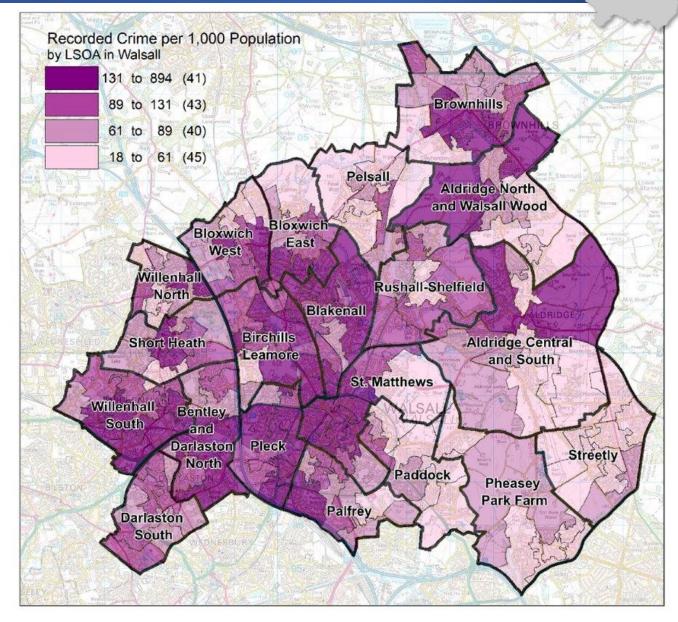
# Crime

What do we know about local crime levels and how do they compare to the wider Borough?

### Recorded Crime

Ward	Count	Popn	Rate p	per 1,000 Popn
Aldridge Central and South	1203	14695	81.8	
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	1226	13167		93.11
Bentley and Darlaston North	1887	13994		134.84
Birchills Leamore	2655	16523		160.69
Blakenall	2375	16003		148.41
Bloxwich East	1584	13655		116.00
Bloxwich West	1487	13680		108.70
Brownhills	1607	13437		119.60
Darlaston South	1693	17596		96.22
Paddock	765	13206		57.93
Palfrey	1604	16692		96.09
Pelsall	695	11350		61.23
Pheasey Park Farm	594	11428		51.98
Pleck	2596	16534		157.01
Rushall-Shelfield	1125	12434		90.48
Short Heath	1227	11662		105.21
St. Matthews	4655	15564		299.09
Streetly	582	12578		46.27
Willenhall North	1147	12717		90.19
Willenhall South	2939	17242		170.46
Walsall Borough	33646	284157		118.41

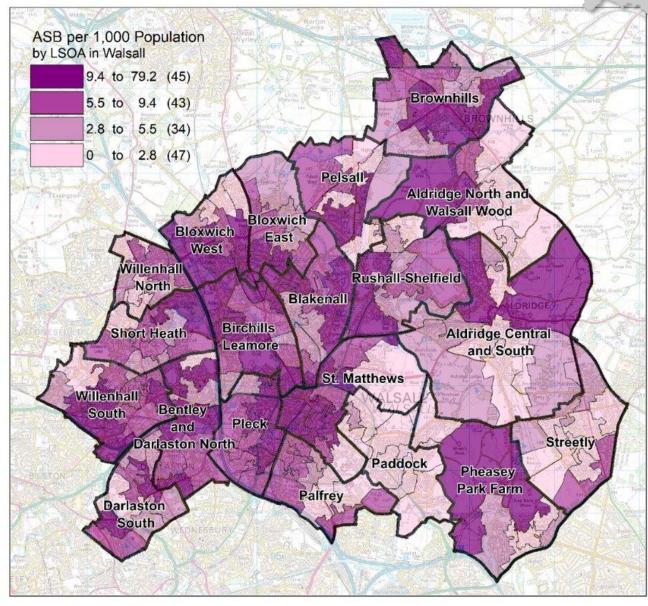
Bloxwich East ward ranks 11th for recorded crime, with a rate of 116.0 (slightly lower than the borough of 118.4), but with slight variations evident at a LSOA level.



### **Anti-social Behaviour**

Ward	Count	Popn	Rate per	1,000 Popn
Aldridge Central and South	58	14695		3.95
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	74	13167		5.62
Bentley and Darlaston North	135	13994		9.65
Birchills Leamore	287	16523		17.37
Blakenall	195	16003		12.19
Bloxwich East	119	13655		8.71
Bloxwich West	183	13680		13.38
Brownhills	131	13437		9.75
Darlaston South	104	17596		5.91
Paddock	21	13206		1.59
Palfrey	76	16692		4.55
Pelsall	64	11350		5.64
Pheasey Park Farm	43	11428		3.76
Pleck	126	16534		7.62
Rushall-Shelfield	85	12434		6.84
Short Heath	73	11662		6.26
St. Matthews	328	15564		21.07
Streetly	32	12578		2.54
Willenhall North	60	12717		4.72
Willenhall South	143	17242		8.29
Walsall Borough	2337	284157		8.22

Bloxwich East ward ranks as 7th highest out of 20 wards for recorded anti-social behaviour. Its rate of 8.7 is below the borough average of 8.2 but with variations at a LSOA level.



### **Useful Links**

- Walsall Insight Trends & data covering the Walsall Borough <a href="https://www.walsallintelligence.org.uk">https://www.walsallintelligence.org.uk</a>
- Walsall Council Homepage | Walsall Council
- Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) <a href="https://www.theeiu.org">https://www.theeiu.org</a>
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) -
  - Census 2021 Ward data, England and Wales
     <a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/warddataenglandandwalescensus2021">https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/warddataenglandandwalescensus2021</a>
  - Census 2021 Walsall Population Summary
     <a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E08000030">https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E08000030</a>
- NOMIS Official Census and Labour Market Statistics <a href="https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/">https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/</a>



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