

Bath and North East Somerset Health & Wellbeing Board

Inequalities in Bath and North East Somerset

Briefing Pack

Introduction:

Health inequalities are the avoidable differences in people's health across social groups and between different population groups.

This briefing pack provides background information to support the understanding of these inequalities in Bath and North East Somerset. The themes identified in the 'Marmot Review' are supplemented with local and national examples of inequalities in practice.

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Pregnancy and Early Years

The physical, intellectual and emotional development of a person starts in pregnancy and very early childhood. What happens to a child in very early childhood has lifelong effects on many aspects of their health and wellbeing. Later interventions are less effective where good early foundations are lacking.

A **boy** born in the **least deprived** area can expect to **live longer** than one born in the **most deprived** area ... ⁱ

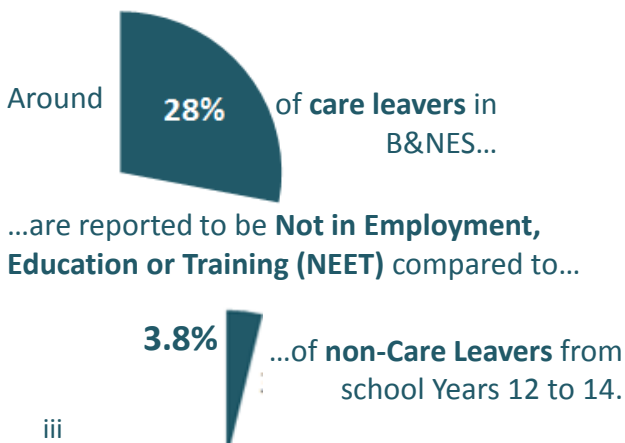


In 2015, B&NES families experiencing domestic abuse, mental ill-health or substance misuse were

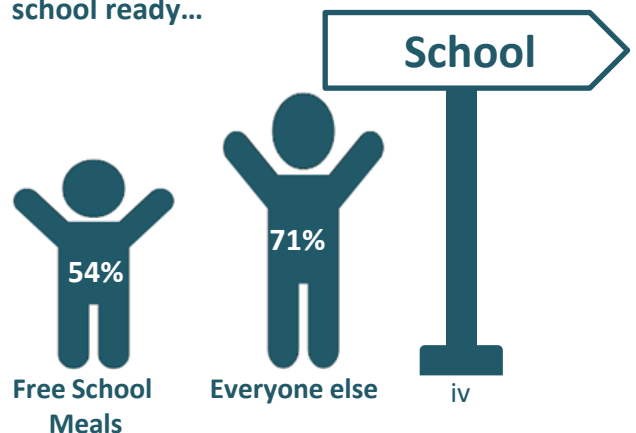
6x more likely to live in our most deprived communities than in our least deprived communities ⁱⁱ

Education and Life Long Learning

Inequalities in educational outcomes have an impact on physical and mental health, as well as income, employment and quality of life. Early years education is crucial, however, reducing the inequalities involves supporting work based training (apprenticeships and supporting those in changing careers) and increasing availability of life-long non-vocational training for all ages.



Fewer children from **low income** homes are **school ready**...



Fair Employment and a Healthy Standard of Living For All

Being in employment is good for mental and physical wellbeing. However, jobs need to be sustainable and offer a minimum level of quality (including a living wage, decent working conditions, offer development opportunities and enable a work life balance).

As a society becomes richer, the levels of income considered adequate also rise. A minimum level of income is needed to achieve adequate nutrition, physical activity, housing and social interactions. These life factors all contribute to inequalities in health and opportunity.

The average B&NES weekly full-time workplace wage is **£39 less** than the UK average ^v

B&NES	£491
UK	£529

.. and local house prices are nearly 9 times the average wage. ^{vi}



1 in 5 (19%) children and young people...

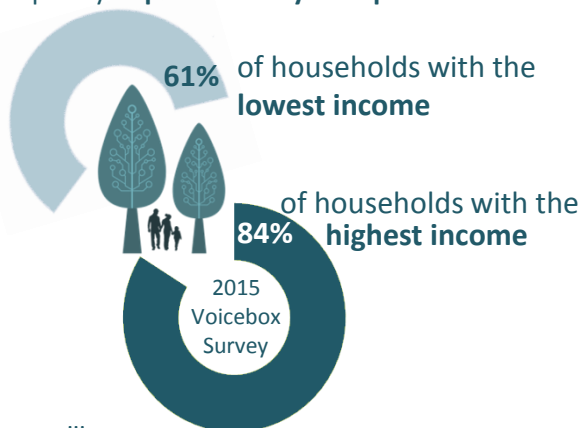


...are estimated to live in **poverty** (after housing costs) ^{vii}

Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities

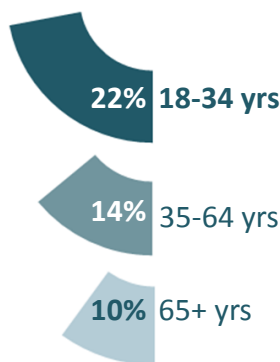
Communities are important for physical and mental health and well-being. The physical and social characteristics of communities – which include the green space and playparks provided, air quality and the social groups to reduce isolation in the elderly, and the degree to which they enable and promote healthy behaviours, all make contributions to social inequalities in health.

Fewer *lower income* households in B&NES said there were plenty of **places locally to experience nature...**



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Younger people in B&NES are most likely to feel they had **no one outside their family they could depend on ...**



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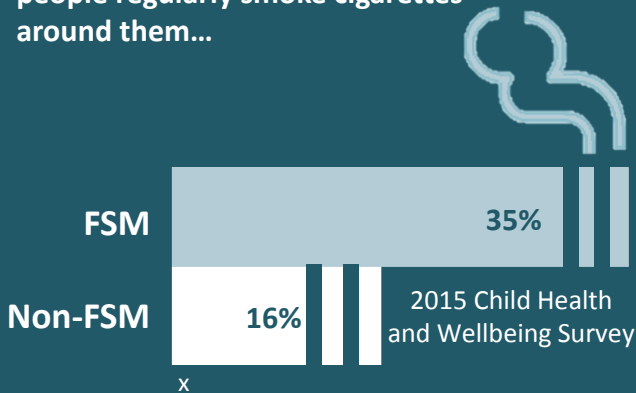
2014 Voicebox Survey

Ill Health Prevention

Many of the health behaviours including smoking, obesity and lack of physical activity, that have been shown to increase the risk of developing chronic diseases, such as heart attacks and diabetes, follow the social gradient – that is that people in the more deprived groups have the highest levels.

Partnership between primary care, local authorities and the 3rd sector to deliver effective targeted and universal preventative interventions can bring important benefits to health.

A much higher proportion of Year 8 and 10 Free School Meal pupils said that **people regularly smoke cigarettes around them...**



Obesity rates among 10/11 year olds in deprived areas are almost **2X** that compared to the **least deprived...**



Inequity in Access to Health Services

There are inequalities between different groups of people in accessing healthcare, in health outcomes, and in experiences of healthcare. There is a gap in life expectancy between people living in the richest and poorest parts of the country that has been shown to be influenced by healthcare interventions. The healthcare system also has an important part to play in influencing the social conditions of people's lives, and so could have a big impact on reducing health inequalities.

In a national study, people with **mental health problems...**



Evidence shows that there is **inequity in uptake of bowel screening** in the UK...



...uptake tends to be **lower** among **ethnic minorities, low-socioeconomic groups, men** and people with **learning disabilities.** ^{xiii}

Glossary

Care Leaver is a person aged 25 or under, who has been looked after by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14; and who was looked after by the local authority at school-leaving age or after that date.

Child Health and Wellbeing Survey is a bi-annual survey of Bath and North East Somerset pupils covering a range of topics, for example, healthy eating, smoking, etc.

Deprivation is calculated by the Government using a range of different indicators ranging from employment and income, to health crime and access to services for small areas in England.

Free School Meal (FSM) pupils have parents/guardians/carers who are in receipt of certain benefits.

'Marmot Review' is Professor Sir Michael Marmot's independent review into the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England.

National Curriculum Years 12 to 14 includes ages 16/17 to 18/19.

NEET is a young person aged between 16 and 24 not in education, employment or training.

Obese is a categorisation of a child who has a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater or equal to the 95th centile.

Poverty refers to children living in households with below 60 per cent of median income, after housing costs.

'School Ready' refers to those in Reception Year who achieve a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP).

Voicebox Survey is a large scale residents survey carried out by the council on an annual basis that aims to capture resident's views on their local area and council services.

References

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- iv – Department for Education (2015) Early years foundation stage profile results: 2014 to 2015 [Table 6] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-foundation-stage-profile-results-2014-to-2015>
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- vi – Department of Communities and Local Government (2016) Ratio of median house price to median earnings <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/ratio-of-median-house-price-to-median-earnings/resource/3a73de15-73df-487c-9144-111f09f5912f>
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- viii – Bath and North East Somerset Council (2016) In house analysis of 2015 Voicebox Survey results
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