

Children and Young People in Gloucestershire

Overview - October 2017

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This overview draws together key points relating to Children & Young People from the full *Understanding Gloucestershire – Joint Strategic Needs Analysis* document available from <https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

Getting the right start in life for children in Gloucestershire should mean that they have the best chance of a healthy and happy adulthood with an active and rewarding old age. In order to achieve this, the needs of mothers, families and the wider community need to be considered as well as those of the child themselves.

Maternity

Smoking in pregnancy has detrimental effects on both the health of the mother and the growth and development of the baby. Smoking at time of delivery is generally in decline in Gloucestershire, and is currently inline with the national and regional rates.

Low birth weight increases the risk of childhood mortality and of developmental problems for the child. It is also associated with poorer health in later life. Low birth weight births in Gloucestershire have generally been at a fairly consistent rate since data recording began in 2005, and have been in line with the regional and county benchmarks, the latest figure is below the regional and national average.

Breast milk provides the ideal nutrition for infants in the first stages of life. There is evidence that babies who are breast fed experience lower levels of gastro-intestinal and respiratory infection. Observational studies have shown that breastfeeding is associated with lower levels of child obesity. Breastfeeding rates across Gloucestershire are fairly static. Initiation rates are below the regional benchmark, but above the national benchmark. Statistics indicate Gloucestershire mothers are more likely to continue breastfeeding until at least 6-8 weeks than their regional and national counterparts.

Most teenage pregnancies are unplanned and around half end in an abortion. While for some young women having a child when young can represent a positive turning point in their lives, research evidence, particularly from longitudinal studies, shows that teenage pregnancy is associated with poorer outcomes for both young parents and their children. Under 18 conception rates have more than halved in Gloucestershire since the 1998 recording baseline. They are currently inline with the regional and below national benchmarks.

Chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection. It causes avoidable sexual and reproductive ill-health, including symptomatic acute infections and complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy and tubal-factor infertility. Chlamydia detection rates in Gloucestershire are currently below the regional and national benchmarks.

More Information

Public Health Outcomes Framework <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

Tackling Teenage Pregnancy, 2013 http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=9f5ef790-eee2-422d-851c-6eb5c3562990&groupId=10180.

Maintaining healthy weight

The Health Survey for England (HSE) found that among boys and girls aged 2 to 15, the proportion of children who were classified as obese increased from 11.7 per cent in 1995 to 16.0 per cent in 2010, peaking at 18.9 per cent in 2004. There is concern about the rise of childhood obesity and the implications of such obesity persisting into adulthood. Over the past 8 school years, excess weight levels (including overweight and obese) for Gloucestershire reception children have fluctuated slightly, but have remained slightly less than 25%. This is generally slightly above the national average. For the same time period overweight levels for Gloucestershire year 6 children have risen slowly from 30% to around 32%. This has been consistently below the England average for this age group. Gloucestershire's Online Pupil Survey found that 67% of pupils in the county had at least 4 hours of physical activity (including play) each week and the proportion has remained at a similar level since the survey began 6 years ago. 76% of pupils in secondary schools took part in physical activity for at least 4 hours a week, compared to 64% of primary pupils.

More Information

Gloucestershire Online Pupil Survey Summary <https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>
Public Health England Obesity website <https://www.noo.org.uk/>

Education

Apart from the early years stage Gloucestershire consistently out-performs both the south west region and the country as a whole in educational outcomes.

A new Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) was introduced in 2012. In 2016 67% of children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD), which was an improvement on 2015, but Gloucestershire remains below the regional and national averages of 70% and 69% respectively. The Year 1 phonics tests results show that following a trend of improvement over recent years Gloucestershire has now fallen below the regional and national average.

KS1 achievement is measured at L2 or above in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Maths and Science. Standards have improved for all subjects and are inline with the regional and national average.

Following a change in the curriculum in 2014, pupils at the end of Year 6 in 2016 took new KS2 assessments. The government set a floor standard of 65% of pupils meeting the expected standard at the end of KS2. Overall 2017 KS2 results in Gloucestershire were in line with both regional and national averages (61%). In terms of pupils making the expected level in individual subjects, attainment in Gloucestershire was broadly above or inline with the regional and national averages. The highest outcome was in Maths at 75% which was 2% higher than the South West and inline with national averages and the lowest at 73% for Writing.

KS4 - Gloucestershire achievement for 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths has fluctuated in recent years and improved on the previous year to 62% in 2016. The county did, however, remain above the regional and national averages of 58% and 54% respectively. From 2017 KS4 assessments have changed to be more exam focussed and will be awarded grades 9-1 rather than A-G in a phased programme. Therefore results from 2017 will not be directly comparable with previous years.

KS5 – In 2016 changes in methodology resulted in measures of performance being reported by the average point score per exam entry only, this now includes those in the 'A-Level cohort' who re-sit below level 3 exams in English and Maths. Gloucestershire has outperformed both the South West and England in 2016 with an average point score per entry of 32.18. This was 1.46 points and 0.39 points higher than

the South West and England respectively. This indicates that students in Gloucestershire are gaining better grades than the national average.

Pupils from black and minority ethnic groups, pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), and pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are classed as vulnerable groups and may have variations in educational achievement.

Generally the Asian ethnic pupils have achieved some of the highest attainment levels across the key stages compared to the other groups and nationally.

The attainment level for pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals was also below the national average at all stages in 2016 with the largest gaps occurring at the Early Years Good Level of Development and KS1 Phonics decoding.

The large gap between those pupils with no SEN and those with SEN is reflected across all levels of attainment especially in the Early Years and at KS4 stages. SEN attainment in Gloucestershire has also been consistently lower than that of SEN pupils nationally.

More Information

Department for Education <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

Promoting the welfare of children and Safeguarding

Local authorities have overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. They have a number of statutory functions including specific duties in relation to children in need and children suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, regardless of where they are found.

The council has acted quickly in response to Ofsted's feedback following its inspection earlier this year when the service was rated as 'Inadequate'. The senior management structure within children's services has a new interim director, a new quality assurance framework has been put in place and the council has formed an improvement board. The council is required by Ofsted to develop an Improvement Plan. Once adopted, it will give the council a clear strategy to raise standards of children's services.

Although Gloucestershire generally benefits from a high standard of living, this is not evenly distributed across the county, and pockets of deprivation do exist particularly in the main urban areas and in some of the market towns. Children's Social Care teams often work most in these pockets of deprivation. In Gloucestershire, the rate of CYP recorded as being CiN has increased since the previous reported year to 273.6, however rates of CiN are low when compared to the England (337.7), and regional (321.5) figures. The rate of CYP who were the subject of a CPP at 31st March is slightly higher than the England and regional rates. The Gloucestershire rate of CYP looked after at 31st March 2017 (48) is lower than the England (62), and regional (53) rates, with Gloucestershire ranking 10th out of 16 local authorities in the region. Improving outcomes for children and reducing the number of children in care by 2018 will be a significant challenge given the growing 0-19 population.

More Information

GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-children-in-need>

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

NSPCC <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Children's mental health

There was estimated to be 7,138 children aged 5-16 with any type of mental health disorder in the county in 2015, 8.7% of the population. This compares with 8.9% for the South West and 9.2% for England as a whole. In general rates of mental health prevalence and mental health-related hospital admissions are lower for children in Gloucestershire than the South West region.

For the measure 'Young people aged 10-24 admitted to hospital for self-harm' Gloucestershire (580.8 per 100,000) is significantly worse than England (430.5) though better than the South West (597.8). The number of patients admitted starts to rise from age 13 peaking at 17 and 19 years with a slight decrease at 18 years. Seven out of ten (70%) were female, which was slightly lower than in previous years. In the 2016 Online Pupil Survey, years 8 and 10 pupils were asked about self-harm. 4.7% responded that they had self-harmed weekly or daily.

More Information

Public Health England, Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Profiling Tool, <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/cypmh>

The results of the Gloucestershire Online Pupil Survey 2016 were evaluated and they give a positive picture of the experience of young people in the county. More than 30,000 young people from schools, sixth forms and Further Education Colleges took part in the survey and told us what they think about a range of issues - from healthy eating, physical activity and living well to their experiences at school and how safe they feel.

More Information

The Online Pupil Survey 2016 Summary Report can be found here: <https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

Key messages

- Gloucestershire trends and comparisons with SW and England for smoking in pregnancy, breast feeding, teenage pregnancies are generally positive.
- There is more uncertainty about the direction of travel and relative performance in Gloucestershire for childhood obesity.
- Apart from at the early years stage and KS1 (phonics decoding) Gloucestershire consistently outperforms both the south west region and the country as a whole in educational outcomes.
- Educational outcomes are generally in line with or better than SW and England though the significant attainment gaps for some groups such as Special Educational Needs, Free School Meals and some Black and Minority Ethnic groups continue to be a focus for attention.
- Rising numbers of children in the county are leading to increased demand for school places (particularly in secondary) and other services.
- Outcomes for most children in Gloucestershire are good and getting better. The GCP Children's Partnership Plan has contributed to significant improvements as evidenced by the views of children and young people, for example, through the online pupil survey.
- The council is acting in response to Ofsted's feedback following its inspection earlier this year where it was rated 'Inadequate'. The senior management structure within children's services has changed and a new quality assurance framework has been put in place. The council is bringing in a partner to help deliver the improvement programme and has formed an improvement board. The council and board's focus will now be on making improvements as quickly as possible in order to keep children in Gloucestershire safe.
- The number of children being adopted has been static over the last year after decreasing in 2016. There were 30 adoptions in 2017 compared to 50 in 2015.
- For the measure 'Young people aged 10-24 admitted to hospital for self-harm' Gloucestershire (580.8 per 100,000) is significantly worse than England though better than the South West. Hospital admissions for self-harm in children have increased in recent years, with admissions for young women being much higher than admissions for young men.