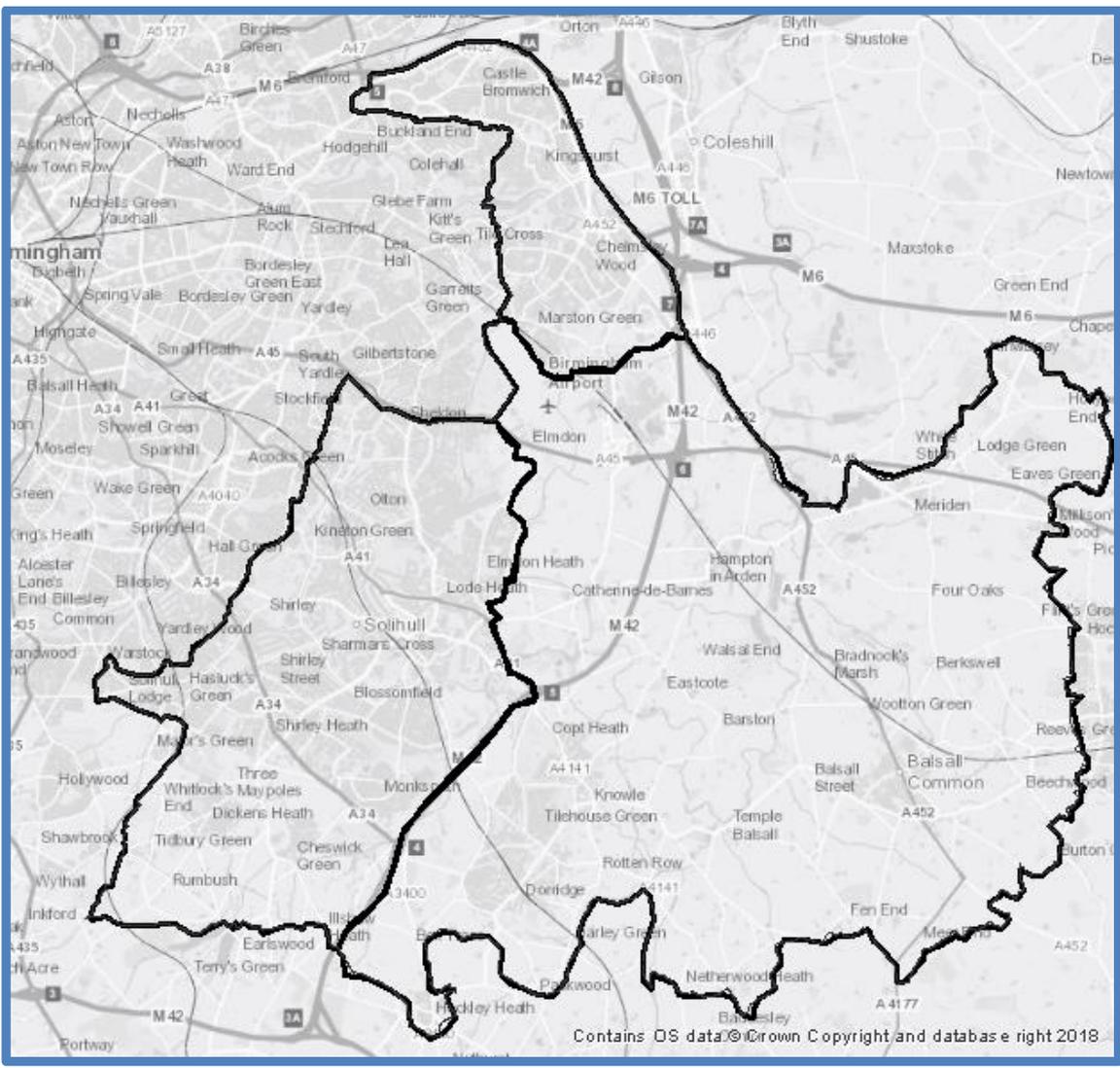


# Exploitation Prevalence in Solihull February 2021



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## Introduction

This note sets out some initial thoughts about estimating the prevalence of exploitation in Solihull.

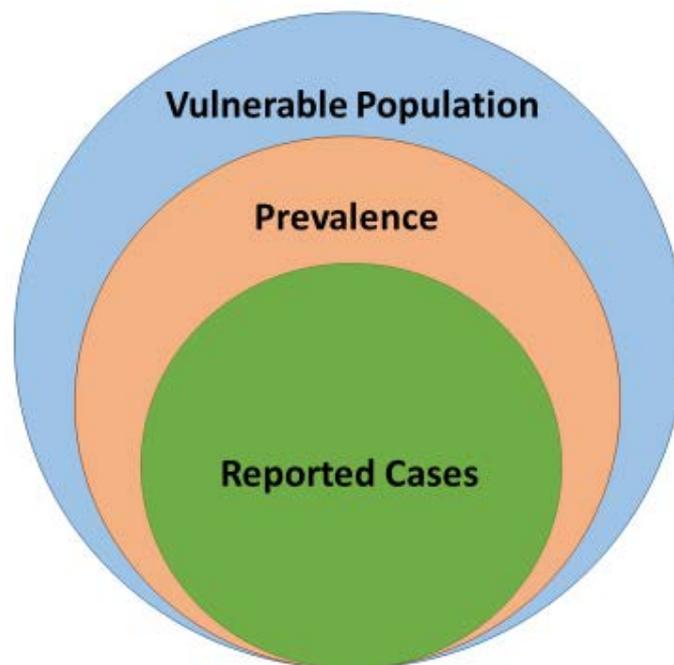
Assessing the extent of exploitation at national or local level is a significant challenge as it is hugely under-reported. As a result the available data is limited in scope and reliability. These data limitations suggest a broader framework is required, one that includes estimates of the prevalence as well as an assessment of the relative vulnerability of the Solihull population.

### Methodology for Understanding Exploitation

An assessment of the level of exploitation in Solihull needs to recognise that quantifying the issue is highly challenging. Among the issues that make quantifying exploitation prevalence difficult are:

- Exploitation is a hidden crime, often unreported to police or other services;
- The actual and potential victim pool consists of often marginalised population groups;
- Exploitation has a number of manifestations and is not clearly defined as a crime type.

In this respect there are three layers to understanding the extent of exploitation, which operate as a framework for understanding the issue and considering how widespread it is in Solihull.



- **Reported Cases:** The number of victims and crimes reported to police the Local Authority and other local service partners;
- **Prevalence:** The number of victims both reported and unreported;
- **Vulnerable Population:** The population that is at risk of being a victim.

In addition to these layers, consideration also needs to be made to the presence, or otherwise, of an offending pool and offending networks and the extent to which Solihull is vulnerable from a place

based perspective. This note does not address directly the former, although it will, in many respects, be determined by geographical vulnerabilities which act as enablers.

- Solihull has an international airport, Birmingham International, so we are a major port of entry within the United Kingdom which can act as a route into the UK for the purposes of people trafficking and modern slavery.
- Solihull sits within the corridor between the cities of Birmingham and Coventry, which means that it is significantly affected by cross border issues pertaining to organised crime (often drug-related) and opportunities for trafficking and exploitation.

### Defining Exploitation

An individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult and exploits them:

- Through violence or the threat of violence, and/or
- For financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or
- In exchange for something the victim needs or wants.

Exploitation comes in many forms:

- Modern slavery
- Human trafficking
- Sexual exploitation
- Criminal exploitation.

## Reported Exploitation

### Criminal and Sexual Exploitation in Solihull

Solihull children services monitor children and young people who are known to services both at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation (level 2) and those experiencing criminal or sexual exploitation (level 3) on a monthly basis.

Data from October 2020 shows that a total of 37 children and young people in Solihull were either at risk or experiencing exploitation. 84% (35 individuals) of the total were classified as at risk (level 2) and 16% (9 individuals) were experiencing exploitation (level 3).

Of the total 35% (13 individuals) were living in a care setting and 65% (24 individuals) were living at home.

<b>Criminal &amp; Sexual Exploitation in Solihull October 2020</b>			
	CYP in Care	CYP at Home	Total
Level 2	11	20	31
Level 3	2	4	6
Total (L 2 & L3)	13	24	37

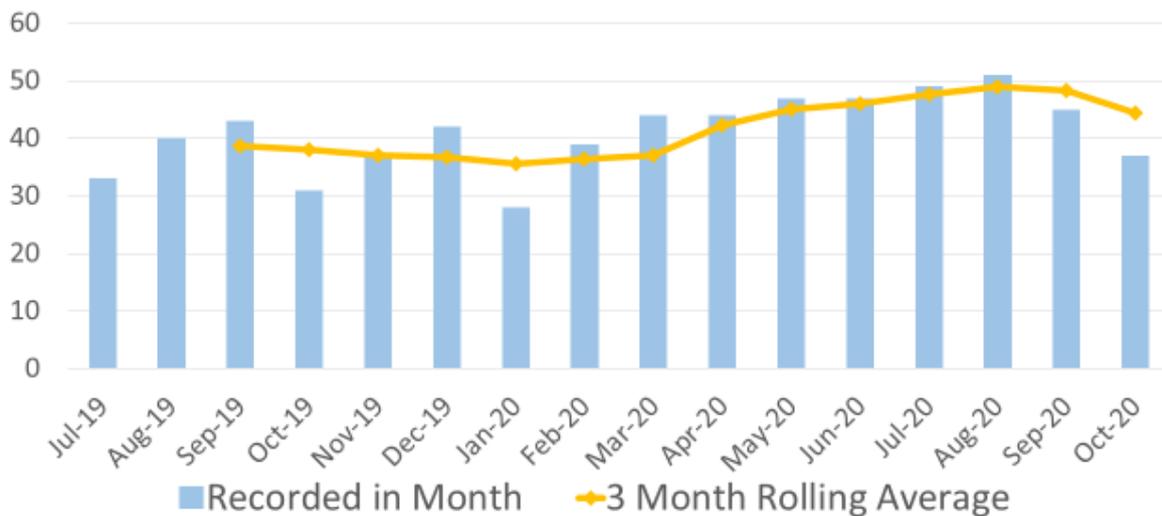
Since the summer of 2019 there has been a slight upward trend in the numbers of Solihull CYP classified as at risk or experiencing exploitation. The monthly recorded figures have fluctuated over

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this period (particularly in the autumn 2019/early winter 2020). However, a 3 month rolling average of these figures shows that the numbers began to rise in March 2020 through to August 2020.

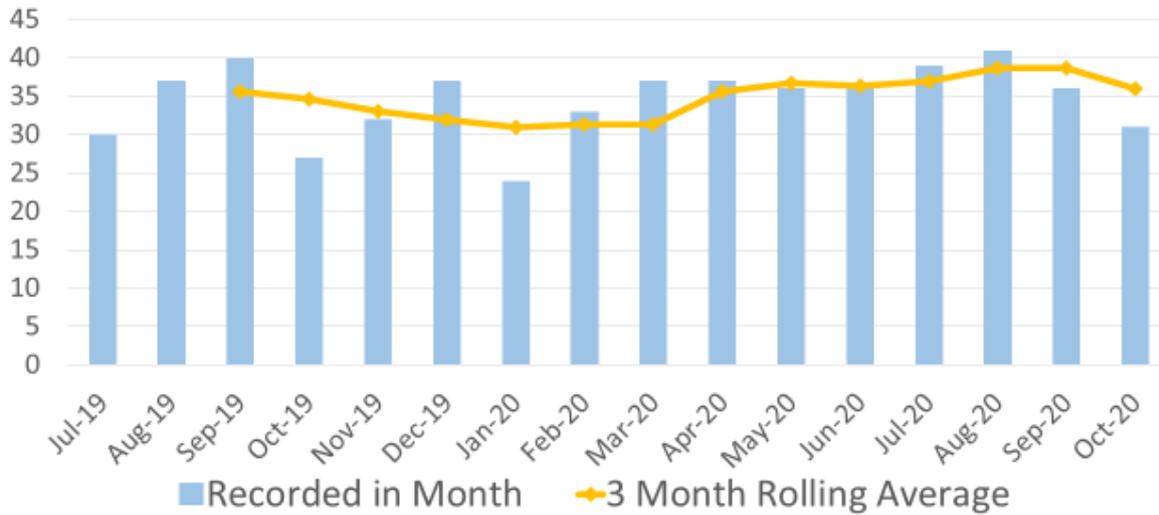
	Monthly Total	Rolling 3 Month Average
Jul-19	33	
Aug-19	40	
Sep-19	43	39
Oct-19	31	38
Nov-19	37	37
Dec-19	42	37
Jan-20	28	36
Feb-20	39	36
Mar-20	44	37
Apr-20	44	42
May-20	47	45
Jun-20	47	46
Jul-20	49	48
Aug-20	51	49
Sep-20	45	48
Oct-20	37	44

### Children and Young People at Risk of or Experiencing Criminal and Sexual Exploitation in Solihull (Level 2 and Level 3 Total)

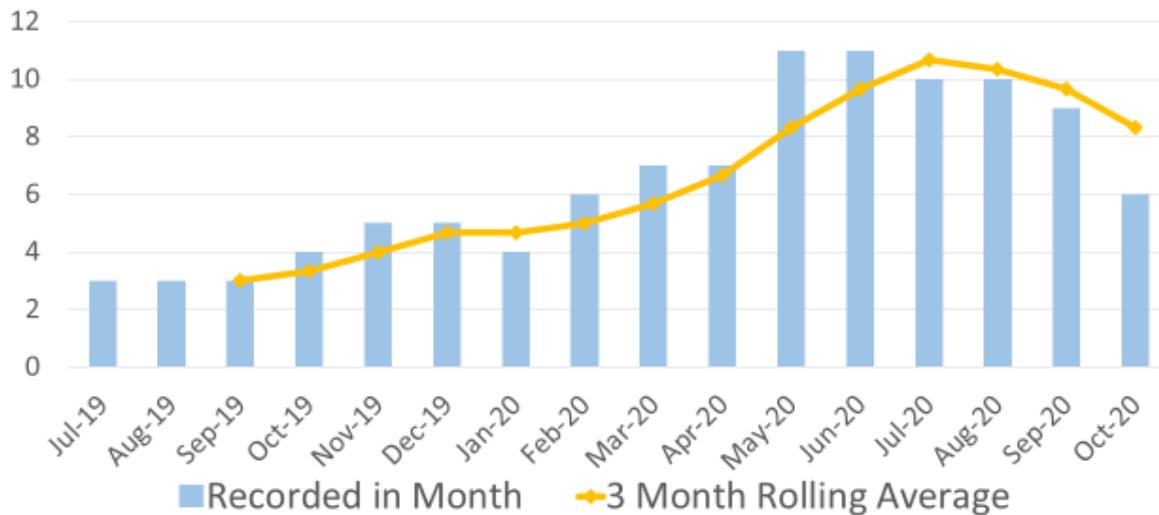


This upward trend in the spring and summer of 2020 was particularly evident among those children and young people experiencing criminal and sexual exploitation (Level 3).

### Children and Young People at Risk of Criminal and Sexual Exploitation in Solihull (Level 2)



### Children and Young People Experiencing Criminal and Sexual Exploitation in Solihull (Level 3)



Over the last 12 months, criminal exploitation has accounted for 63% of recorded monthly exploitation cases in Solihull and sexual exploitation 37%. In this context October 2020 stands out as unusual in that the proportion of criminal exploitation cases was relatively low at 54%.

Criminal & Sexual Exploitation in Solihull by Exploitation Type					
	Cases			% Total Cases	
	Criminal Exploitation (CCE)	Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Total	CCE	CSE
Nov-19	24	14	38	63%	37%
Dec-19	26	16	42	62%	38%

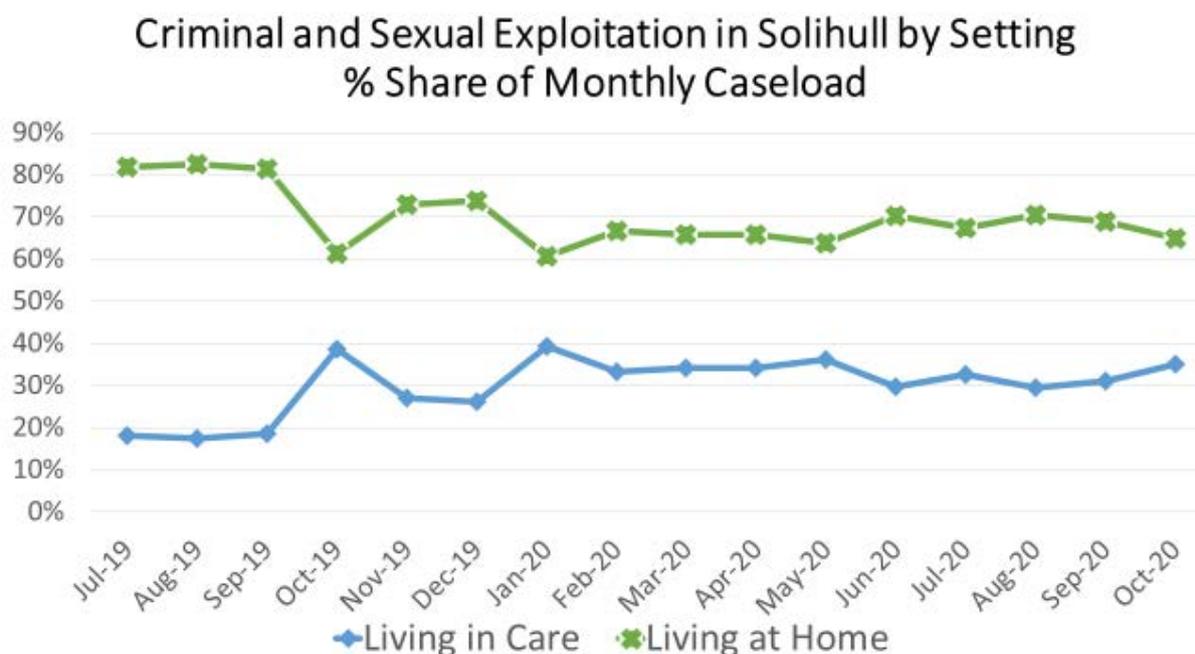
Exploitation in Solihull

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Jan-20	25	16	41	61%	39%
Feb-20	29	14	43	67%	33%
Mar-20	29	15	44	66%	34%
Apr-20	29	14	43	67%	33%
May-20	30	17	47	64%	36%
Jun-20	30	17	47	64%	36%
Jul-20	30	19	49	61%	39%
Aug-20	31	20	51	61%	39%
Sep-20	28	17	45	62%	38%
Oct-20	20	17	37	54%	46%
12 Month Avg	28	16	44	63%	37%

Since July 2019 individuals living in a care setting have accounted for 30% of the monthly case load of Solihull criminal and sexual exploitation cases and those living at home for 70%. This share fluctuated in 2019, but has been relatively stable in 2020.

<b>Criminal &amp; Sexual Exploitation in Solihull by Setting</b>					
	Cases			% Total Cases	
	Living in Care	Living at Home	Total	In Care	At Home
Jul-19	6	27	33	18%	82%
Aug-19	7	33	40	18%	83%
Sep-19	8	35	43	19%	81%
Oct-19	12	19	31	39%	61%
Nov-19	10	27	37	27%	73%
Dec-19	11	31	42	26%	74%
Jan-20	11	17	28	39%	61%
Feb-20	13	26	39	33%	67%
Mar-20	15	29	44	34%	66%
Apr-20	15	29	44	34%	66%
May-20	17	30	47	36%	64%
Jun-20	14	33	47	30%	70%
Jul-20	16	33	49	33%	67%
Aug-20	15	36	51	29%	71%
Sep-20	14	31	45	31%	69%
Oct-20	13	24	37	35%	65%
Monthly Avg	12	29	41	30%	70%



Increases in the number of children at risk or experiencing exploitation in the spring of 2020 coincides with the closure of schools and other measures to limit the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. These measures significantly added to the risks facing vulnerable children and young people through reduced visibility, reductions in the normal functioning of care services; and the increased strain on families<sup>1</sup>.

Children in care and care leavers face specific challenges, including<sup>2</sup>:

- An increase in placement breakdowns leading to more vulnerable young people living in emergency and unregulated accommodation unsuitable for their needs;
- Increasing difficulties keeping in contact with family and friends, often due to lack of functional technology. Such contact can help to reduce the numbers that go missing from care or who are unhappy with their placement;
- An increase in out of area placements due to a reduction in availability of foster placements as a result of pandemic due to issues such as existing foster carers not able to take placements due to shielding and health concerns;
- The increasingly precarious financial situation of care leavers reliant on benefits in a time of rising unemployment.

The recorded Solihull data emphasises the central role and educational settings and the stability of child services placements in mitigating the risks of exploitation.

In October 2020 eight Solihull children and young people recorded as either at risk of or experiencing exploitation were recorded as missing. This represents 22% of all exploited children and young people in the borough, including 15% of those subject to criminal exploitation (3 individuals) and 29% of those subject to sexual exploitation (5 individuals). This data has only been recorded since February 2020 and has fluctuated over time, although around 10% to 20% of children and young people subject to exploitation also have a missing element recorded.

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<b>Children &amp; Young People Subject to Exploitation with a Missing Element</b>						
	Cases			% of all CYP Subject to Exploitation		
	Criminal	Sexual	Total	Criminal	Sexual	Total
Feb-20	6	5	11	21%	36%	26%
Mar-20	5	4	9	17%	27%	20%
Apr-20	4	1	5	14%	7%	12%
May-20	5	2	7	17%	12%	15%
Jun-20	4	4	8	13%	24%	17%
Jul-20	5	1	6	17%	5%	12%
Aug-20	4	3	7	13%	15%	14%
Sep-20	1	1	2	4%	6%	4%
Oct-20	3	5	8	15%	29%	22%

The same analysis shows that between 30% and 40% of children and young people subject to exploitation also have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).

<b>Children &amp; Young People Subject to Exploitation with an EHCP</b>						
	Cases			% of all CYP Subject to Exploitation		
	Criminal	Sexual	Total	Criminal	Sexual	Total
Feb-20	7	10	17	50%	34%	40%
Mar-20	10	10	20	67%	34%	45%
Apr-20	8	10	18	57%	34%	42%
May-20	8	13	21	47%	43%	45%
Jun-20	9	14	23	53%	47%	49%
Jul-20	9	8	17	47%	27%	35%
Aug-20	9	13	22	45%	42%	43%
Sep-20	7	8	15	41%	29%	33%
Oct-20	8	8	16	47%	40%	43%

Between 30% and 40% of children and young people subject to exploitation also have been missing from education, although in October 2020 this rose to as high as 51%.

<b>Children &amp; Young People Subject to Exploitation Missing Education</b>						
	Cases			% of all CYP Subject to Exploitation		
	Criminal	Sexual	Total	Criminal	Sexual	Total
Feb-20	7	10	17	50%	34%	40%
Mar-20	7	10	17	47%	34%	39%
Apr-20	6	9	15	43%	31%	35%
May-20	5	12	17	29%	40%	36%
Jun-20	6	14	20	35%	47%	43%
Jul-20	8	8	16	42%	27%	33%
Aug-20	9	10	19	45%	32%	37%
Sep-20	7	8	15	41%	29%	33%
Oct-20	9	10	19	53%	50%	51%

The proportion of children and young people subject to exploitation who have been excluded from school has fluctuated over time, but has tended to be in the 50% to 70% range.

<b>Children &amp; Young People Subject to Exploitation with an Exclusion</b>						
	Cases			% of all CYP Subject to Exploitation		
	Criminal	Sexual	Total	Criminal	Sexual	Total
Feb-20	8	23	31	57%	79%	72%
Mar-20	7	23	30	47%	79%	68%
Apr-20	7	23	30	50%	79%	70%
May-20	7	23	30	41%	77%	64%
Jun-20	8	16	24	47%	53%	51%
Jul-20	9	16	25	47%	53%	51%
Aug-20	11	16	27	55%	52%	53%
Sep-20	6	14	20	35%	50%	44%
Oct-20	8	17	25	47%	85%	68%

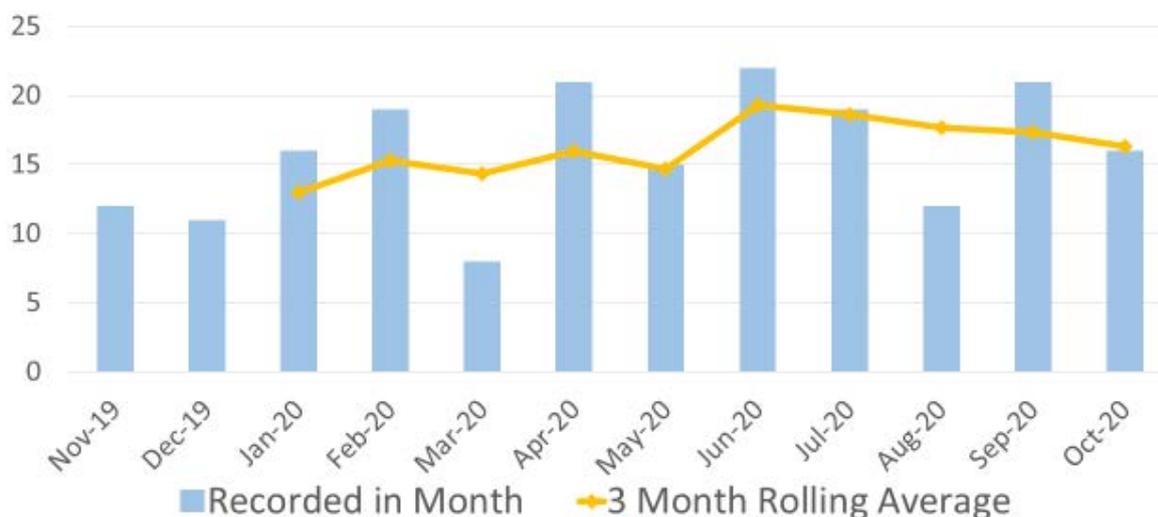
### Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation Meetings

Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) meetings address recorded cases of both sexual and criminal exploitation. In October there were 16 cases at the Solihull Mace meeting, 56% (9 cases) involving criminal exploitation and 44% (7 cases) involving sexual exploitation. This balance between criminal and sexual exploitation reviewed by Mace has been largely consistent in the 12 months since November 2019 (12 month average 57% criminal, 43% sexual).

<b>Solihull MACE Meetings</b>					
	Cases			% All Cases	
	Criminal Exploitation (CCE)	Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Total	CCE	CSE
Nov-19	5	7	12	42%	58%
Dec-19	6	5	11	55%	45%
Jan-20	8	8	16	50%	50%
Feb-20	13	6	19	68%	32%
Mar-20	7	1	8	88%	13%
Apr-20	13	8	21	62%	38%
May-20	9	6	15	60%	40%
Jun-20	13	9	22	59%	41%
Jul-20	9	10	19	47%	53%
Aug-20	6	6	12	50%	50%
Sep-20	11	10	21	52%	48%
Oct-20	9	7	16	56%	44%
12 Month Avg	9	7	16	57%	43%

The 12 month trend shows that the number of MACE cases in any given month has fluctuated, although on a rolling 3 month basis there seems to have been a slightly elevated number in the early summer of 2020. The extent to which service disruptions in March 2020 related to the onset of the Covid-19 lockdown (there were just 8 cases reviewed by MACE in this month)

## Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) Meetings in Solihull



### Police Recorded Data

West Midlands Police record exploitation cases through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery<sup>3</sup>.

West Midlands Police recorded 29 cases of exploitation in Solihull from January through to September 2020 through the NRM. Extrapolating this over 12 months would imply that there would be around 39 Solihull cases per year (3.2 per month).

62% (18 individuals) of victims were children and 38% (11 individuals) were adults. 83% (24 individuals) of victims were male and 17% (5 individuals) were female.

In 2020 there was a slight rise in the three months April to June, coinciding with the first Covid-19 lockdown. Although a fall in the following three months, suggests that if lockdown was a factor, it was short-lived.

Police Recorded Exploitation in Solihull in 2020		
Quarter	Months	Number
Q1	Jan-Mar	9
Q2	Apr-Jun	13
Q3	July-Sep	7

The table and chart below show the number of cases on a monthly basis, including a peak in May 2020.

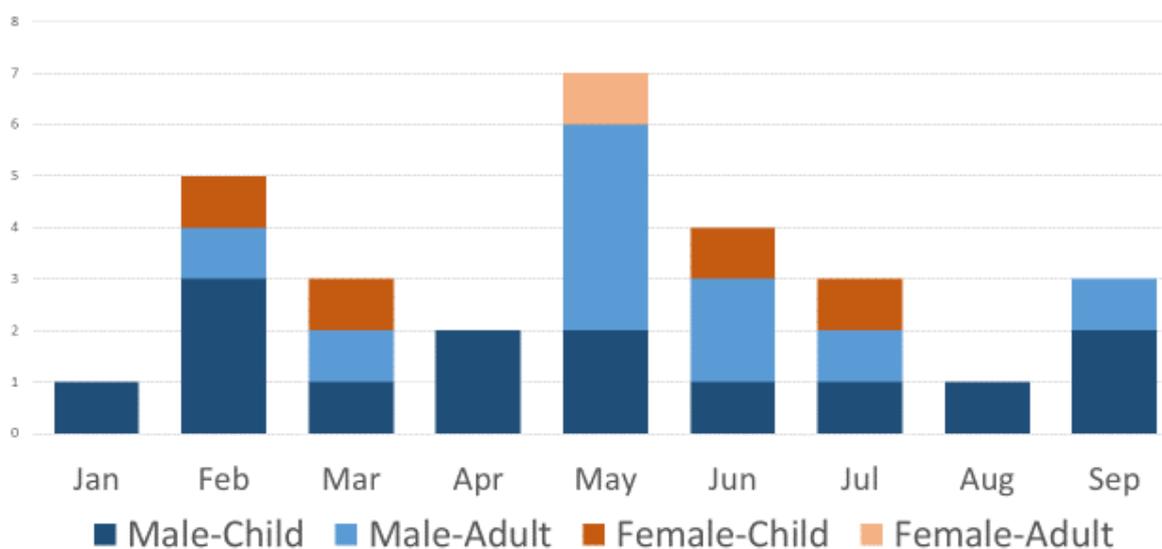
Police Recorded Exploitation in Solihull in 2020					
	Female		Male		Month Total
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	
January	0	0	0	1	1
February	0	1	1	3	5

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March	0	1	1	1	3
April	0	0	0	2	2
May	1	0	4	2	7
June	0	1	2	1	4
July	0	1	1	1	3
August	0	0	0	1	1
September	0	0	1	2	3
2020 Year to Date	1	4	10	14	29

### Police Recorded Exploitation in Solihull 2020



50% of the cases recorded in the first nine months of 2020 have been criminal exploitation (14), 14% have been sexual exploitation (4) and 11% have been labour (3).

Police Recorded Exploitation in Solihull Jan-Sep 2020		
Type of Exploitation	Number	% Total
Criminal	14	50%
Not MS	4	14%
Sexual	4	14%
Labour	3	11%
Multiple	1	4%
Other	1	4%
Unknown	1	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	

## Prevalence of Exploitation

There is an absence of an estimated prevalence rate for exploitation in the UK. The NRM measures recorded incidences nationally, which can be measured against Solihull data to show whether Solihull recorded rates are in-line with the UK as a whole. However, as exploitation is a hidden crime, it is difficult to judge whether recorded incidence are just the “tip of the ice berg” and whether there are significant incidences of exploitation in Solihull that are unrecorded.

Data from the NRM estimates that that there were 10,627 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK in 2019.

Assuming Solihull has the same rate as the UK as a whole, the NRM data implies that there were potentially 35 victims of modern day slavery in Solihull in 2019 (15 children aged 17 and under, 19 adults aged 18 and over). This would equate to 2.9 per month, broadly in-line with the actual numbers recorded by West Midlands police of 3.2 per month over the period January to September 2020.

<b>Estimated Numbers of Modern Day Slavery Victims in 2019</b>				
	UK	UK ('Not Recorded' proportionally distributed)	UK Rate per 10,000 population	Numbers in Solihull using UK rate
Child (17 or under)	4,550	4,642	3.29	16
Adult (18 or over)	5,866	5,985	1.14	19
Not Recorded	211			
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,627</b>	<b>10,627</b>		<b>35</b>

*Source: Home Office National Referral Mechanism*

Simplifying data from the NRM<sup>i</sup> from 2018 through to Q3 2019<sup>ii</sup> it is possible to approximate the Solihull victims of modern day slavery into three categories of exploitation: domestic, labour and sexual as in the table below.

<b>Estimated Victims of Modern Day Slavery by Type of Exploitation in 2019</b>			
	Exploitation Type	UK %	Solihull
Children Aged 17 and Under	Domestic	3%	1
	Labour	76%	12
	Sexual	20%	3
Adults Aged 18 and over	Domestic	10%	2
	Labour	58%	11
	Sexual	32%	6
All Ages	Domestic		2
	Labour		23
	Sexual		9

*Source: Home Office National Referral Mechanism*

<sup>i</sup> There are a very small number of victims of organ harvesting in the UK these have been excluded from data. Those with an victims where category of exploitation is unknown assigned proportionally to three main categories

<sup>ii</sup> The categorisation changed in Q4 2019 and is no longer consistent with earlier periods. The new categorisation is more sophisticated but provides an insufficient sample

Applying NRM gender data for the UK in 2019 results in the following gender split for Solihull<sup>iii</sup>.

	<b>Estimated Victims of Modern Day Slavery by Gender 2019</b>		
	Gender	UK %	Solihull
Children Aged 17 and Under	Female	24%	4
	Male	76%	12
Adults Aged 18 and Over	Female	38%	7
	Male	62%	12
All Ages	Female		11
	Male		24

*Source: Home Office National Referral Mechanism*

National NRM data suggests that the figures recorded by Solihull January to September 2020 are in-line with overall numbers in the UK, with the higher rates among males and the preponderance of labour exploitation. However, the Solihull data shows a higher preponderance among children and lower numbers of adults than the UK as a whole.

## Vulnerable Population

There are a range of risk factors that make individuals more vulnerable to exploitation than others. These risk factors are particularly acute for children and young people and include:

- Exposure to poverty;
- Exposure to crime and gang culture;
- Limited engagement in education and the employment market;
- Limited engagement with services;
- A disrupted home life and inadequate housing, including experience of care and homelessness;
- Experience of addiction or mental ill health.

The extent to which these risk factors are present in the Solihull population and the degree to which the borough profile differs from England as a whole provides a broad picture, it is not necessarily a framework for assessing individual risk.

The evidence suggests that the presence of a number of risk factors are lower in Solihull than across the country as a whole, suggesting lower levels of population vulnerability:

- Exposure to income deprivation and poverty;
- Lower rates of crime, specifically violence, drug related offences and the presence of gangs;
- Better than average school attendance (especially persistent absenteeism) and engagement with the labour market (low NEET rate), although 16-24 unemployment rate appears to be above average;
- Signs that substance misuse is less prevalent than across the country as a whole.

<sup>iii</sup> A very small number of transgender victims were identified in the UK. These have been excluded from data.

There needs to be a recognition that many of these positive indicators are for the borough as a whole, hiding significant inequalities within Solihull. For instance, poverty levels and poor labour market outcomes are far higher in North Solihull.

In addition to these inequalities, areas of concern for the Solihull population would include:

- The population of vulnerable children and young adults known to care services paints a more nuanced picture. The proportion of Children in Need is below average, outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers are generally good. However, the size of the LAC population is above average, with a relatively large numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (USAC);
- Access to housing is a significant challenge for many in Solihull, with young people under 35 particularly at risk.

### **Poverty**

The Index of Multiple Deprivation's measure of Income Deprivation allows Solihull to be ranked against other Local Authority areas in terms of relative income deprivation and at the same time, identifies the most income deprived local neighbourhoods in the borough. It captures this through benefit dependency data, including children and adults receiving income support, jobseekers allowance, employment & support allowance, child and working tax credits families as well as pension credits recipients<sup>4</sup>.

Overall income deprivation is relatively low in Solihull. The borough is the 31<sup>st</sup> least income deprived area out of 151 upper tier Local Authorities in England (2<sup>nd</sup> best quintile). However, the borough has a relatively high concentration of LSOA neighbourhoods in the most 10% deprived in England (ranked 104 out of 151, 4<sup>th</sup> quintile).

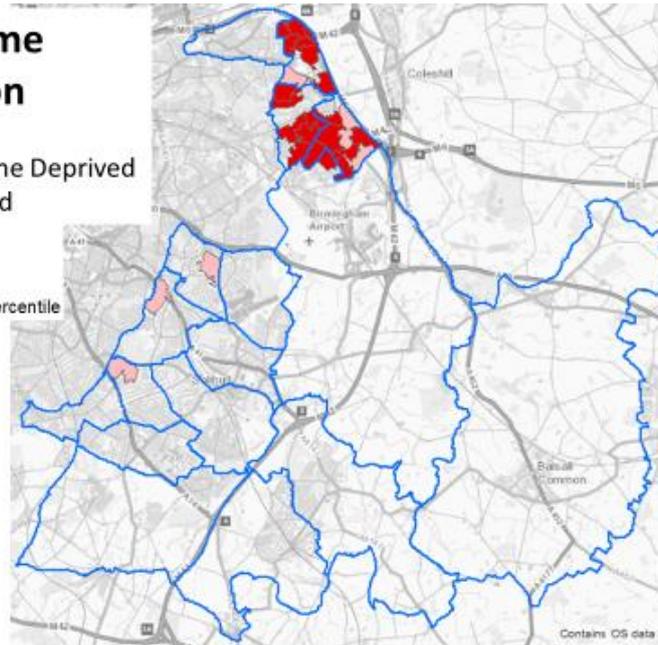
In total, 18% of the borough's population live in the most income deprived 20% of LSOA neighbourhoods in England (37,447 individuals), including 13% living in the most income deprived 10% of neighbourhoods (27,544 individuals).

Income deprivation in Solihull is almost entirely concentrated in North Solihull. In this locality 18 of 39 LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived income deprived neighbourhoods in England. 46% of the North Solihull population live in the 10% most income deprived LSOAs (27,544 individuals).

### 2019 Income Deprivation

Most 20% Income Deprived LSOAs in England

Percentile Rank  
Bottom 10%  
10th to 20th percentile



Source: MHCLG

Contains OS data ©

This pattern for income deprivation affecting children is similar.

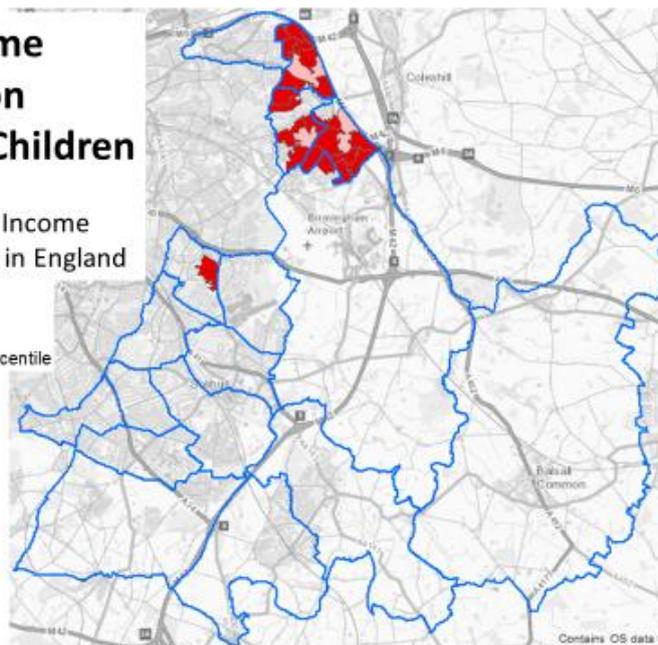
In total, 21% of the borough's child population live in the most deprived 20% of LSOA neighbourhoods in England (8,859 individuals), including 18% in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods (7,662 individuals).

Child income deprivation in Solihull is almost entirely concentrated in North Solihull. In this locality 19 of 39 LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived income deprived neighbourhoods in England. 52% of the North Solihull child population live in the 10% most income deprived LSOAs in England (6,634 individuals).

### 2019 Income Deprivation Affecting Children

Most 20% Child Income Deprived LSOAs in England

Percentile Rank  
Bottom 10%  
10th to 20th percentile

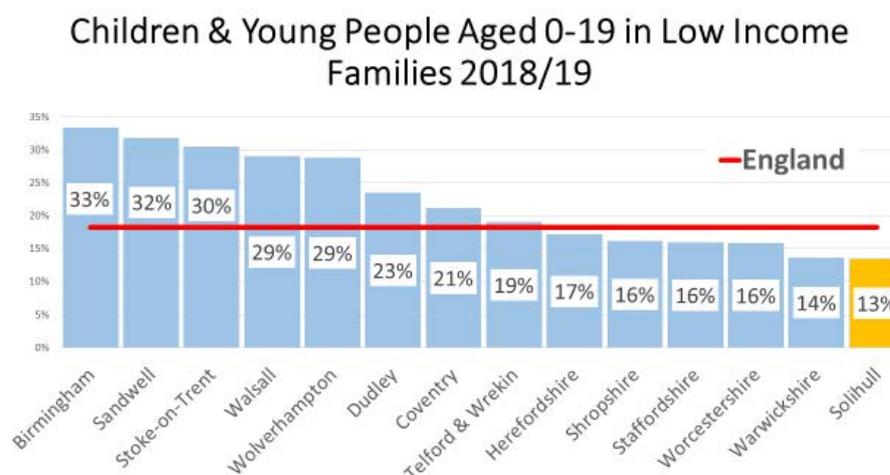


Source: MHCLG

Contains OS data ©

The HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure is a measure of relative poverty and aims to capture the proportion of children falling below the national poverty line. This is defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits or those in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of UK median income (i.e. the poverty line).

In 2018/19 there were 6,921 children and young people aged 0-19 years (5,629 aged 0-15) in Solihull living in low income families, representing 13.5% of all children and young people aged 0-19 in the borough. This is below the England (18.2%) and West Midlands (23.3%) averages, and the lowest in the region<sup>5</sup>.



53% of Solihull children and young people aged 0-19 who live in poverty are living in North Solihull, where the rate is 23.2%, compared to 10.0% in West Solihull and 6.9% in East Solihull.

<b>Children and Young People Aged 0-19 Living in Poverty</b>		
	Number Aged 0-19	Rate (% all CYP aged 0-19)
England	2,414,092	18.2%
West Midlands	334,922	23.3%
Solihull	6,921	13.5%
North Solihull	3,636	23.2%
West Solihull	2,631	10.0%
East Solihull	647	6.9%
<i>Source: HMRC</i>		

## Crime

Data from the England and Wales crime survey shows that in 2018 Solihull had a lower crime rate than England (73.3 per 1,000 residents compared to 86.4). Solihull rates were below average for drug offences (1.1 per 1,000 vs 2.4), sexual offences (1.8 per 1,000 vs 2.7) and violence with injury (6.7 per 1,000 vs 9.1)<sup>6</sup>.

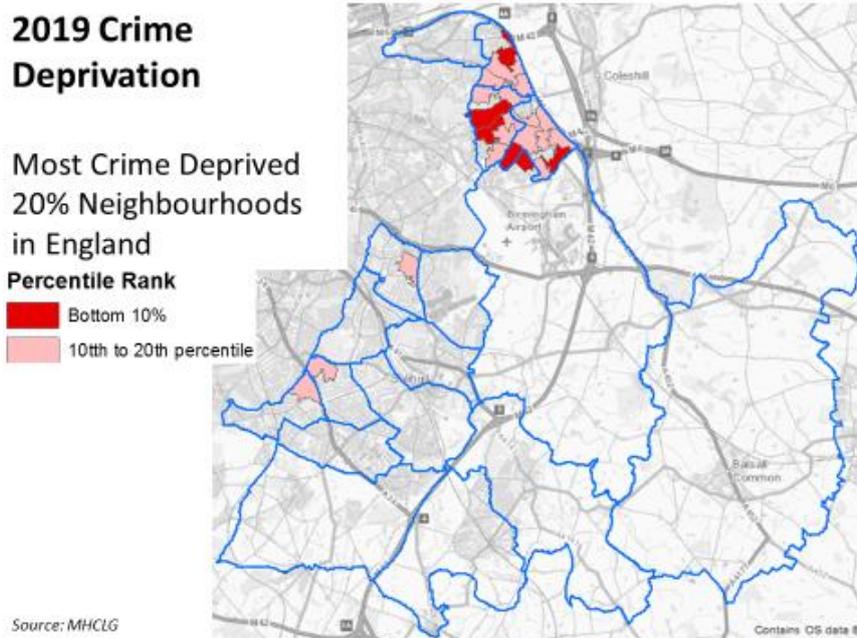
At 127.1 per 100,000 in 2018 Solihull has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest rate of first time offending in the country out of 146 upper tier Local Authorities, 40% lower than the England average. Similarly just 21% of offenders in Solihull re-offend, compared to the England average of 29%<sup>7</sup>.

In 2018 the proportion of Solihull 10-17 year olds entering the youth justice system either by conviction or caution was 50% below the England average (120.3 compared to 238.5 per 100,000) and the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 146 upper tier Local Authorities in England<sup>8</sup>.

Overall crime deprivation is relatively low in Solihull. The borough is the 48<sup>th</sup> least deprived area out of 151 upper tier Local Authorities in England from a crime perspective (2<sup>nd</sup> best quintile)<sup>9</sup>.

In total, 15% of the borough's population live in the most crime deprived 20% of LSOA neighbourhoods in England (32,828 individuals), including 4% living in the most crime deprived 10% of neighbourhoods (8,899 individuals).

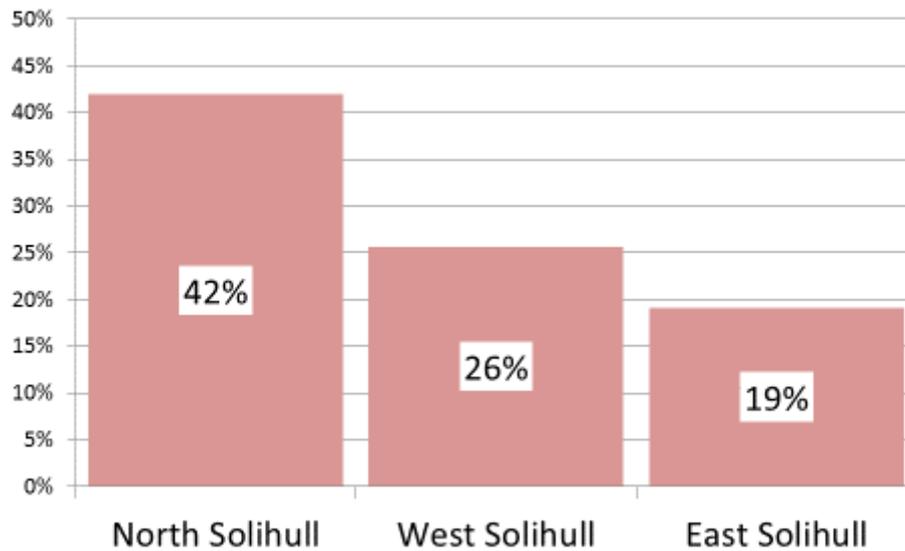
Crime deprivation in Solihull is almost entirely concentrated in North Solihull. In this locality six of 39 LSOAs are in the 10% most crime deprived income deprived neighbourhoods in England. 15% of the North Solihull population live in the 10% most income deprived LSOAs (8,899 individuals).



The 2020 Solihull Place Survey shows that Solihull is a largely cohesive borough, and one which the majority of residents think is a safe place to live. However, there are a number of aspects of crime and Antisocial behaviour (ASB) that warrant further consideration<sup>10</sup>.

In the 2020 Solihull Place Survey 29% of respondents said that the level of crime in their local area definitely needed improving, rising to 42% in North Solihull. Out of 12 aspects of local neighbourhood life the level of crime was rated by respondents as the most important aspect that most needs in their local area.

### Level of Crime Definitely Needs Improving in Local Area



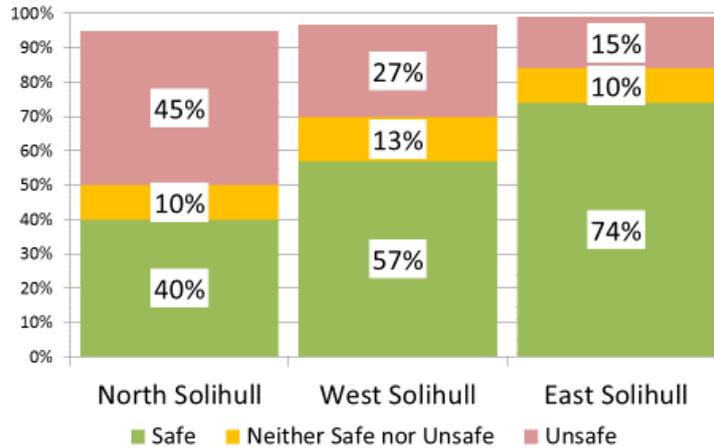
Source: Solihull Place Survey 2020

According to the Place Survey, 56% of Solihull residents feel safe in their local area after dark, although this number is lower in North Solihull (40%).

Feel Safe in Local Area After Dark				
	Solihull	North Solihull	West Solihull	East Solihull
Very safe	22%	14%	24%	27%
Fairly safe	34%	26%	33%	46%
Neither safe nor unsafe	12%	10%	13%	10%
Fairly unsafe	17%	22%	18%	6%
Very Unsafe	13%	23%	9%	9%
Don't know	4%	5%	4%	1%
<b>Safe</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Unsafe</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>15%</b>

Source: SMBC Place Survey 2020

### Feel Safe in Local Area After Dark



Respondents to the Place Survey were asked which of nine types of ASB were a problem in their local area. 29% of respondents said that people using or dealing drugs were a local problem. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> most commonly cited issue behind rubbish & litter and vehicle nuisance. The problem of people using or dealing drugs ranges from 42% in North Solihull to 23% in East Solihull.

### Problem with People Using or Dealing Drugs in Local Area



20% of respondents said that gangs hanging around the streets were a local problem. This ranges from 31% in North Solihull to 12% in East Solihull.

**Problem with Gangs Hanging Around the Streets in Local Area**



Source: Solihull Place Survey 2020

**Education and Employment**

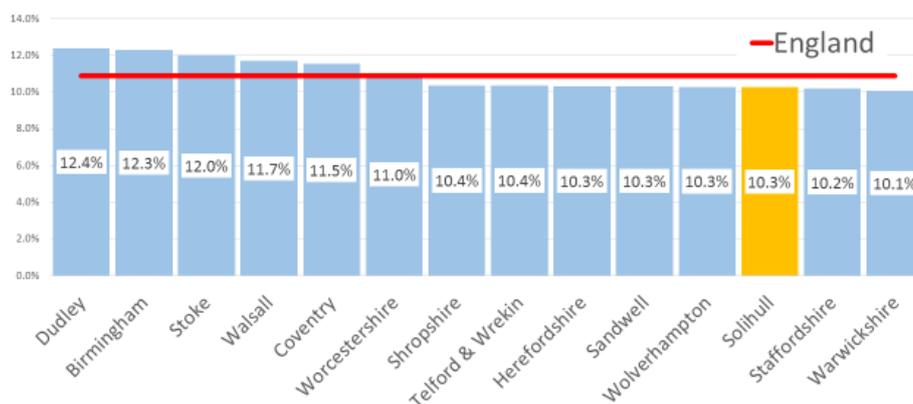
In 2018/19 the pupil absence rate across all state funded schools in Solihull was 4.7% in-line with the England average. The unauthorised absence rate was 1.1% slightly below the England average (1.4%). As the table below shows the rate in Solihull, especially for unauthorised absences is below the England average for all types of school<sup>11</sup>.

	<b>Pupil Absence Rate 2018/19</b>							
	All State Schools		Primary		Secondary		Special	
	Overall	Unauthorised	Overall	Unauthorised	Overall	Unauthorised	Overall	Unauthorised
Solihull	4.7%	1.1%	3.9%	1.0%	5.5%	1.2%	7.6%	1.9%
England	4.7%	1.4%	4.0%	1.1%	5.5%	1.8%	10.1%	2.3%

Source: Department for Education

In 2018/19 a total of 3,422 Solihull pupils across all settings were classified as persistent absentees, equating to 10.3% of all pupils. This is slightly below the England average (10.9%) and towards the lower end of the spectrum for the West Midlands<sup>12</sup>.

**Proportion of Pupils Classified as Persistent Absentees 2018/19**



The persistent absentee rate in Solihull average is below the England average in all settings.

<b>Pupils Classified as Persistent Absentees 2018/19</b>			
School Setting	Number in Solihull	Persistent Absentee Rate	
		Solihull	England
Primary	1,232	7.4%	8.2%
Secondary	2,080	12.9%	13.7%
Special	110	20.0%	28.8%
All Schools	3,422	10.3%	10.9%

*Source: Department for Education*

A total of 55 pupils attending a state funded Solihull school were permanently excluded in 2018/19<sup>13</sup>. At 0.14% of the school population this is proportionally slightly higher than the England (0.1%) or West Midlands (0.12%) averages. Out of 326 Local Authority areas in England, Solihull has the 78<sup>th</sup> highest rate (2<sup>nd</sup> bottom quintile). Solihull is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quintile for primary school exclusions and the 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom quintile for secondary schools.

	<b>Permanent Exclusions 2018/19</b>			
	Solihull Count	Rate		
		Solihull	England	West Midlands
Primary	4	0.02	0.02	0.04
Secondary	51	0.29	0.20	0.24
Special	0	0	0.06	0.09
All Schools	55	0.14	0.10	0.12

*Source: Department for Education*

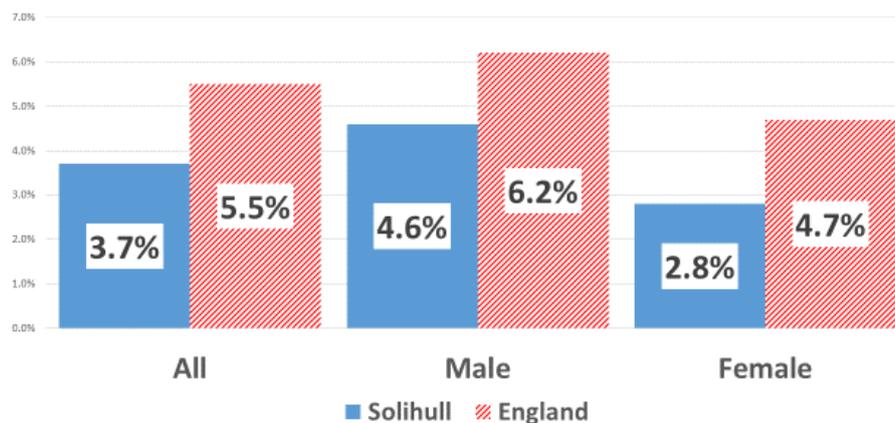
A total of 1,761 pupils attending a state funded Solihull school received a fixed period exclusion in 2018/19. At 4.46% of the school population this is proportionally slightly lower than the England (5.36%) or West Midlands (5.01%) averages. Out of 326 Local Authority areas in England, Solihull has the 166<sup>th</sup> highest rate (3<sup>rd</sup> quintile). Solihull is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quintile for both primary and secondary school fixed term exclusions.

	<b>Fixed Period Exclusions 2018/19</b>			
	Solihull Count	Rate		
		Solihull	England	West Midlands
Primary	274	1.29	1.41	1.45
Secondary	1,449	8.22	10.75	9.86
Special	38	5.89	11.32	7.72
All Schools	1,761	4.46	5.36	5.01

*Source: Department for Education*

In March 2020 180 16 and 17 year olds in Solihull were either not in education, employment or training (NEET) or their activity was unknown. This equates to a NEET rate of 3.7%, lower than both the England (5.5%) and West Midlands (5.7%) averages<sup>14</sup>. Like England as a whole the NEET rate in Solihull is higher for males (5.8%) than females (4.4%).

## 16-17 Year Olds NEET March 2020



At the end of 2019 the 16-64 year old unemployment rate in Solihull was 3.9%, broadly in-line with the UK average. The rate varies considerably by age group, with the rate among 16-24 year olds considerably higher than nationally. Although, this is, in part, an artificial reflection of the very small population cohort of that age in Solihull (impact of young people moving outside the area for Higher Education study)<sup>15</sup>.

	Unemployment Rates – December 2019		
	Solihull	UK	West Midlands
Aged 16-24	18.6%	11.3%	13.0%
Aged 25-49	1.4%	2.9%	3.9%
Aged 50+	2.8%	2.6%	2.9%
Aged 16-64	3.9%	4.0%	4.9%

Source: ONS/Nomis Annual Population Survey

Claimant count data shows the extent to which unemployment is concentrated in North Solihull. In August 2020 40% of 16-24 year olds out of work and claiming either JSA or Universal Credit lived in just three North Solihull wards. As a proportion of the 16-24 year old population the rate in North Solihull was 15.6% compared to 6.5% in the rest of the borough<sup>16</sup>.

Similarly, 38% of all working age people out of work and claiming either JSA or Universal Credit lived in just three North Solihull wards. As a proportion of the 16-64 year old population the rate in North Solihull was 12.3% compared to 4.5% in the rest of the borough.

	Solihull Claimant Count – August 2020					
	16-24 Year Olds			16-64 Year Olds		
	Number	% Solihull	Rate	Number	% Solihull	Rate
North Solihull	675	40%	15.6%	2,910	38%	12.3%
Rest Of Borough	1,030	60%	6.5%	4,695	62%	4.5%
Solihull	1,705		8.4%	7,605		5.9%

Source: ONS/Nomis

## Children & Young People in Care

There were a total of 2,672 Children in Need in Solihull during the course of 2018/19 equating to 569.2 per 10,000 children compared to the England average of 592.9 per 10,000<sup>17</sup>.

A snapshot of just the 1,456 Solihull children classified as CiN at the end of March 2019, shows that the primary need of 34% of them was family in acute distress, 28% had a primary need of abuse or neglect and 12% parental disability or illness.

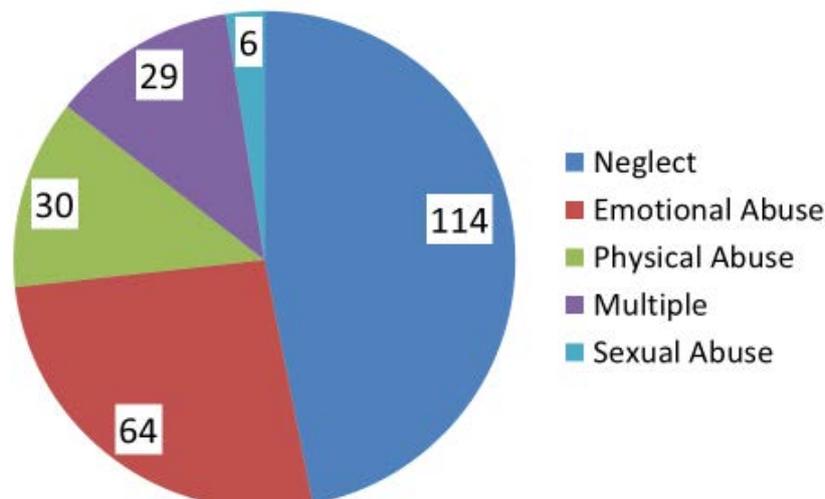
Primary Need of Children in Need – March 2019					
Primary Reason	CiN in Solihull	% Total		Rate per 10,000	
		Solihull	England	Solihull	England
Abuse or neglect	402	28%	54%	84.5	179.9
Child's disability or illness	81	6%	8%	17.0	27.9
Parent's disability or illness	178	12%	2%	37.4	8.2
Family in acute stress	490	34%	8%	103.1	28.1
Family dysfunction	42	3%	15%	8.8	48.9
Socially unacceptable behaviour	98	7%	2%	20.6	6.8
Absent parenting	154	11%	4%	32.4	12.6
Other/Unknown/Not stated	11	1%	6%	2.3	18.5
Total	1,456			306.2	330.9
<i>Source: Department for Education</i>					

Compared to England as a whole, Solihull had a lower rate per 10,000 than England in terms of the number of children classified as CiN because of abuse or neglect, child's illness or disability or family dysfunction. However, the Solihull rate for parent's illness or disability, family in acute distress, socially unacceptable behaviour and absent parenting was higher.

There were a total of 448 children subject to a child protection plan in Solihull during the course of 2018/19 equating to 95.4 per 10,000 children compared to the England average of 100.5 per 10,000. 54% of the Solihull total were new child protection cases during the year<sup>18</sup>.

47% of new child protection cases in Solihull during 2018/19 were due to neglect (114 children), 26% because of emotional abuse (64 children), 12% because of physical abuse (30 children) and 12% due to multiple categories (29 children).

## Reason for Child Protection in Solihull 2018/19



Source: Department for Education

At the end of March 2019 there were 424 Solihull children aged 0-17 years looked after by the Local Authority. This equates to a Looked After Children (LAC) rate of 90 per 10,000 population compared to the England average of 65 per 10,000. This ranks Solihull equal 38<sup>th</sup> highest out of 152 Local Authorities in England and the 7<sup>th</sup> highest out of 14 in the West Midlands<sup>19</sup>.

There were 62 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) at the end of March 2019, 15% of the LAC total compared to the England average of 6%. The USAC rate per 10,000 children was 13.0 per 10,000 in more than three times the England average (4.2 per 10,000)<sup>20</sup>.

The mental health and emotional well-being of LAC aged 5-16 years is assessed by a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The SDQ shows that 35% of LAC in Solihull in 2018/19 had a low SDQ score and were considered to be affected by poor emotional wellbeing compared to the England average of 39%. Out of 144 upper tier LA's in England, Solihull has the 44<sup>th</sup> lowest proportion of LAC affected by poor emotional wellbeing (2<sup>nd</sup> top quintile)<sup>21</sup>.

Of the 539 Solihull children and young people who were looked after at some point during 2018/19, 6.5% had a missing incident (35 individuals), compared to the England average of 11.1%<sup>22</sup>.

At the end of March 2019 there were 2017 207 care leavers in Solihull aged 17 to 21 years old. Of the 190 with a known status, 64% were in some form of education, employment or training (EET) and 36% were NEET. This is slightly better than the split across England as a whole (60% EET, 40% NEET)<sup>23</sup>.

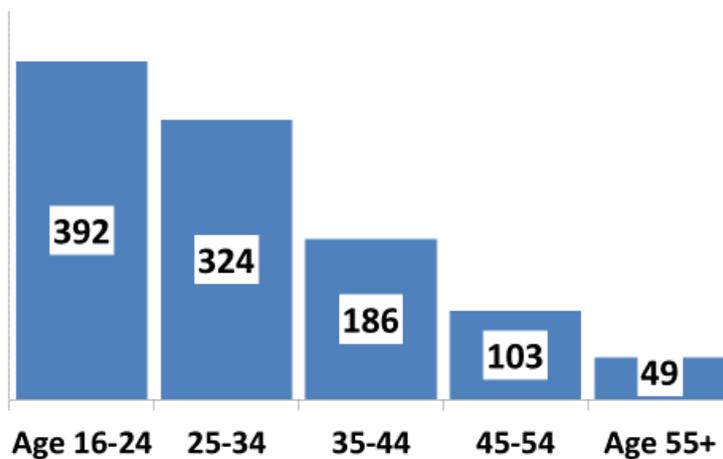
89% of care leavers aged 17-21 were classified as being in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2019 (185 individuals), compared to the England average of 86%. The remaining 32 care leavers in Solihull are either in unsuitable accommodation or their accommodation status is unknown (for reference 6% of care leavers across England are unsuitable accommodation)<sup>24</sup>.

**Homelessness**

In 2019/20 252 Solihull households were owed a homelessness duty. This equates to 11.37 per 1,000 households, just below the England average (12.27)<sup>25</sup>. The demographics of Solihull homelessness and the reasons for homelessness are similar to England as a whole. This reflects many of the underlying national cause of homelessness including the cost and availability of rented housing and the welfare and benefit system<sup>26</sup>.

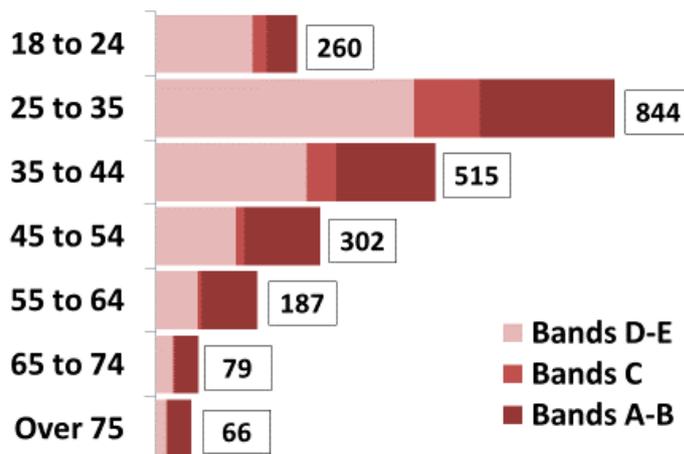
Data from 2018/19 shows that 68% of Solihull homeless households were under the age of 35, including 37% under 25.

**Solihull Households Owed a Prevention or Relief Duty by Age 2018/19**



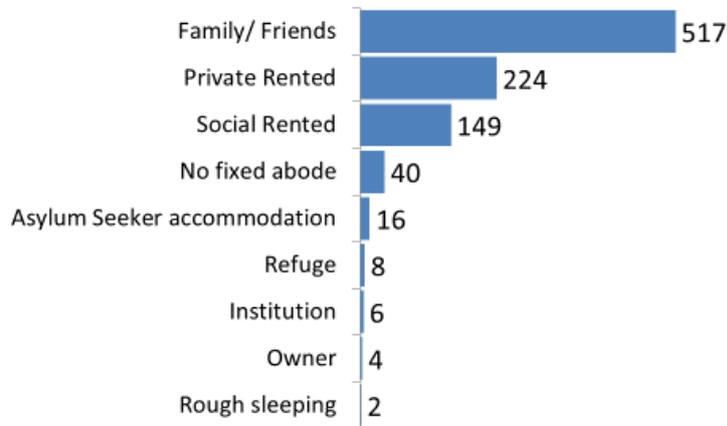
This reflects the challenges faced by this age group accessing housing. For instance, 49% of households in the housing register are under 35 years of age.

**Households on the Solihull Housing Register by Age**



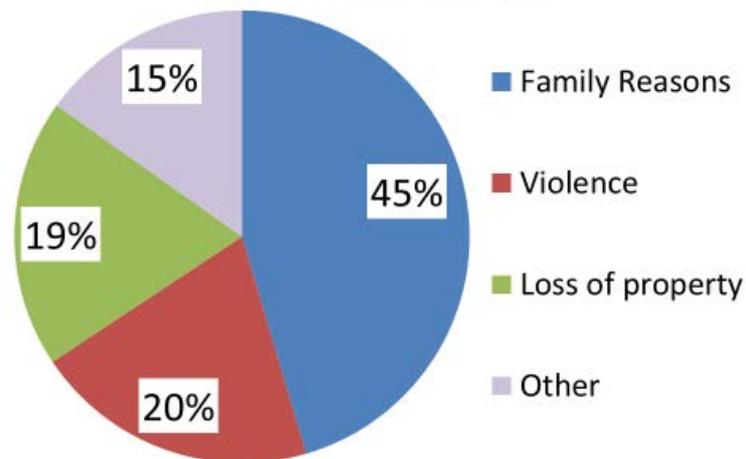
In 2019/20 54% of homeless Solihull households had been living with friends or family prior to approach services.

**Previous Accommodation of Solihull Homeless Households 2019/20**



45% of homeless Solihull households in 2019/20 lost their previous accommodation because of family reasons (non-violent breakdown with partner or friends & family no longer able to house them).

**Reason for Loss of Home for Solihull Households Owed a Duty 2019/20**



**Addiction and Mental Ill Health**

Data from 2014/15 shows that 1.09% of the over 18 population in Solihull were classified as dependent drinkers, compared to 1.39% for England and 1.46% for the West Midlands. The percentage classified as binge drinkers is also lower in Solihull (12.8%), than for England (16.5%) or the West Midlands (15.8%)<sup>27</sup>.

In 2018/19 the Solihull rate of hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions was 16% lower than the England average. The differential is slightly wider among females (19%) than among males (14%)<sup>28</sup>.

Alcohol Specific Hospital Admissions 2018/19		
Rate per 100,000 Population		Difference
Solihull	England	

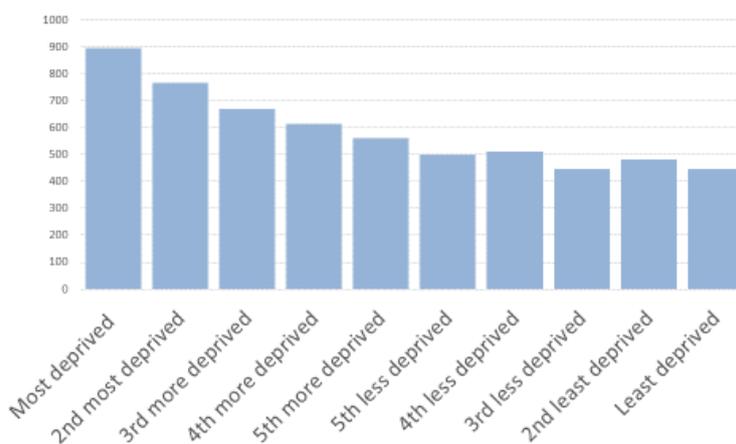
## Exploitation in Solihull

February 12, 2021

Male	749.39	869.25	-14%
Female	322.28	397.26	-19%
Persons	526.63	626.32	-16%
<i>Source: Public Health England</i>			

The data is not available for Solihull, but national figures show that hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions rise considerably with deprivation.

### Alcohol Specific Hospital Admissions in England by Deprivation Decile 2018/19

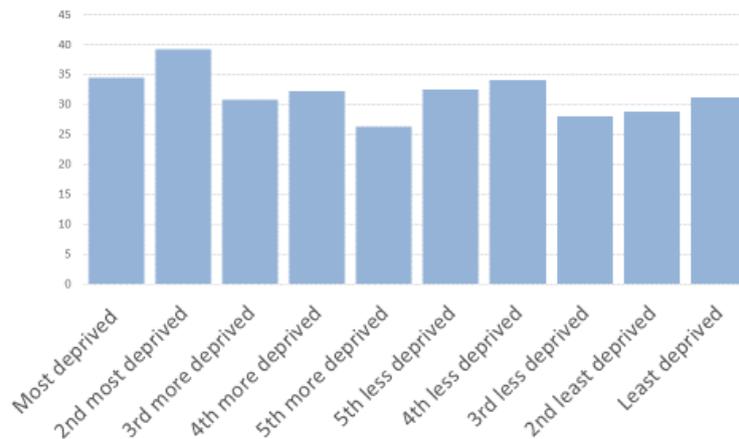


The Solihull rate of alcohol specific hospital admissions among those under 18 is 9% below the England average. The rate in Solihull is much lower among females (-41%), but is higher than England for males (+7%)<sup>29</sup>.

<b>Alcohol Specific Hospital Admissions Among Under 18 Population 2016/17 to 2018/19</b>			
Rate per 100,000 Population			
	Solihull	England	Difference
Male	27.69	25.9	7%
Female	22.22	37.49	-41%
Persons	28.63	31.55	-9%
<i>Source: Public Health England</i>			

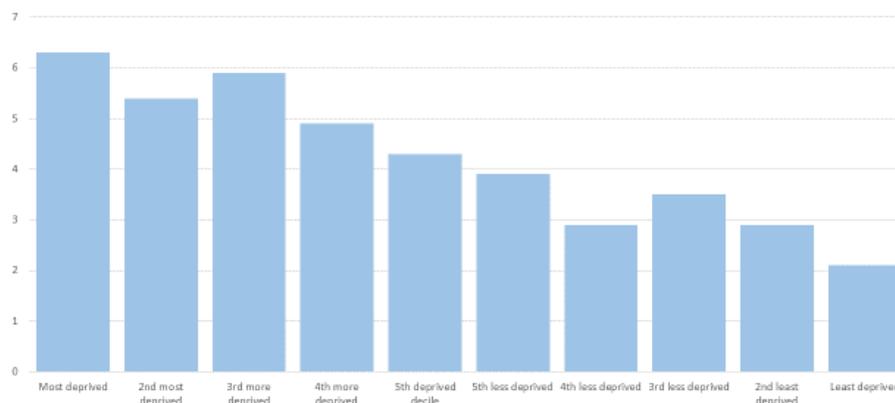
Unlike the all age rate, alcohol admissions among those under 18 in England does not appear to be correlated to deprivation.

Alcohol Specific Hospital Admissions Among Under 18 Population in England by Deprivation Decile 2016/17 to 2018/19



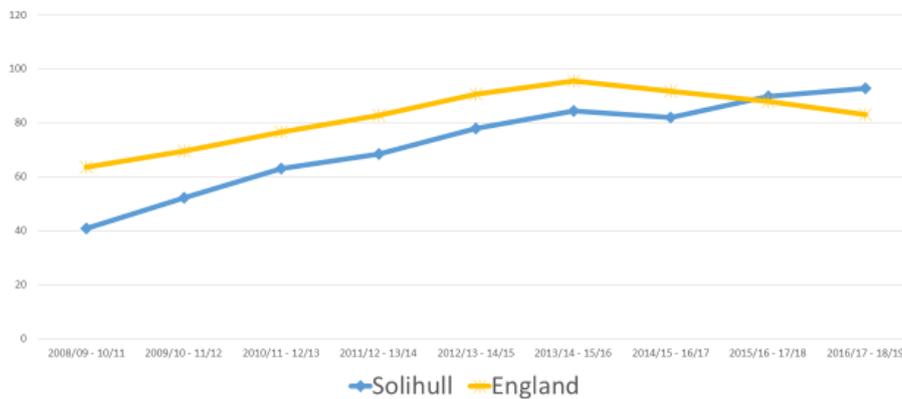
In Solihull during the 2016 to 2018 period the number of deaths from drugs misuse was 4.8 per 100,000 population, broadly in-line with the England average of 4.5 per 100,000. Nationally, deaths by drugs misuse are higher in more than in less deprived areas<sup>30</sup>.

Deaths by Drug Misuse per 100,000 in England by Deprivation Decile 2016 to 2018



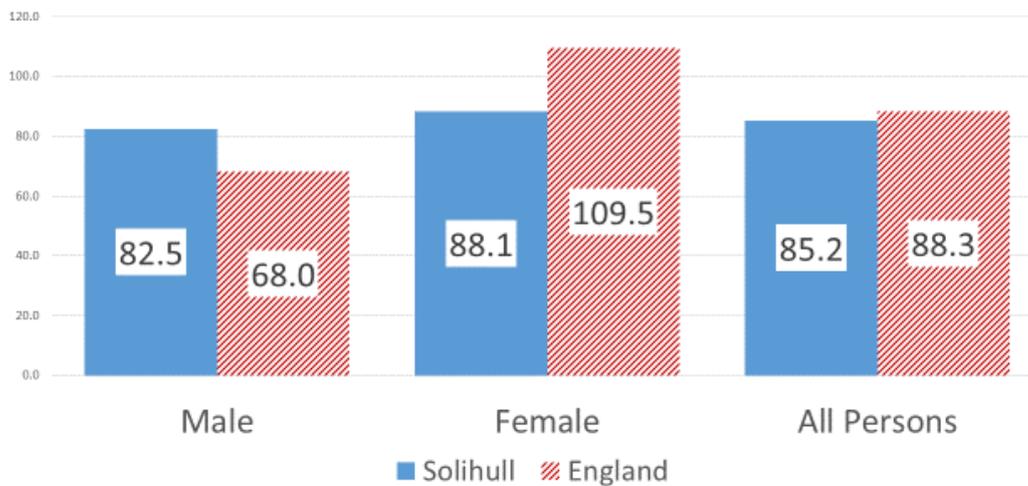
The use of recreational drugs by young people is a risk to mental health including potential increases in suicide, depression and disruptive behaviour disorders. In the three year period 2016/17 to 2018/19 the rate of admissions to hospital due to substance misuse by 15-24 year olds in Solihull was above the England average (92.9 compared to 83.1 per 100,000). The Solihull rate trended upwards between 2009/10 and 2018/19<sup>31</sup>.

### Hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15-24 years) per 100,000 Population



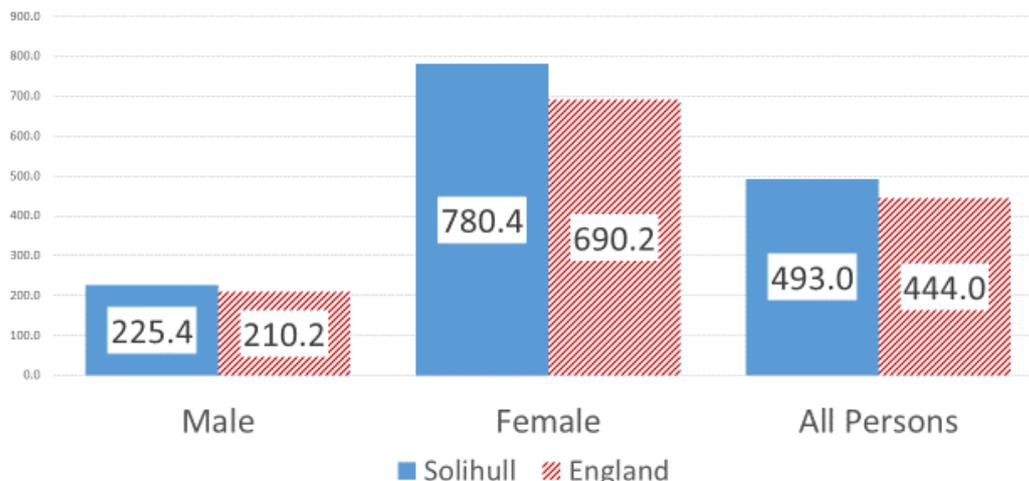
The Solihull rate of hospital admissions for Mental Health Conditions in children and young people in 2018/19 was below the England average (85.2 compared to 88.3 per 100,000). In Solihull, as with England as a whole, the rate among females was higher than males.<sup>32</sup>.

### Hospital Admissions for Mental Health Conditions per 100,000 Aged 0-17 2018/19



The Solihull rate of hospital admissions for Self harm in children and young people in 2018/19 was above the England average (493 compared to 444 per 100,000). In Solihull, as with England as a whole, the rate among females was higher than males.<sup>33</sup>.

### Hospital Admissions for Self Harm per 100,000 Aged 10-24 2018/19



Mental ill health is a significant factor in a range of unfavourable outcomes that contributing to population vulnerability to exploitation particularly in relation to engagement with the labour market and access to settled housing.

For instance, 299 Solihull households assessed as being homeless in 2019/20 had an identified history of mental illness. This equates to 27% of all Solihull homeless households in 2019/20 and was the most frequently identified need among this group<sup>34</sup>.

In February 2020, 52% of Solihull claimants of Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) claimed due to mental and behavioural disorders (2,406 individuals)<sup>35</sup>. As the table below shows, mental ill health is proportionally a more common reason for claiming ESA among young people.

<b>Solihull Employment &amp; Support Allowance (ESA) Claims February 2020</b>			
Age	All ESA Claims	ESA Mental Health & Behavioural Disorders Claims	% Mental Health Claims
18-24	202	145	72%
25-34	659	443	67%
35-44	753	491	65%
45-49	533	292	55%
50-54	724	350	48%
55-59	827	363	44%
60-64	803	288	36%
65 and over	117	43	37%
All ESA claims	4,618	2,415	52%

*Source: Department for Work & Pensions*

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Children's Commissioner for England: [Teenagers Falling Through the Gaps](#)
- <sup>2</sup> The Children's Society: [Children in Care and Care Leavers Covid-19 Recovery Plan \(2020\)](#)
- <sup>3</sup> Home Office: [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#)
- <sup>4</sup> Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government: [English indices of deprivation 2019](#)
- <sup>5</sup> HMRC: [Children in Low Income Families](#)
- <sup>6</sup> ONS: [Recorded Crime data at Community Safety Partnership & Local Authority Level](#)
- <sup>7</sup> Public Health England: [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#)
- <sup>8</sup> Public Health England: [Child Health Profiles](#)
- <sup>9</sup> Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government: [English indices of deprivation 2019](#)
- <sup>10</sup> SMBC: [Solihull Place Survey 2018](#)
- <sup>11</sup> Department for Education: [Pupil Absence in Schools in England 2018 to 2019](#)
- <sup>12</sup> Department for Education: [Pupil Absence in Schools in England 2018 to 2019](#)
- <sup>13</sup> Department for Education: [Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions in England 2018/19](#)
- <sup>14</sup> Department for Education: [NEET and Participation - Local Authority Figures 2018](#)
- <sup>15</sup> ONS/Nomis: [Annual Population Survey](#)
- <sup>16</sup> ONS/Nomis: [Claimant Count](#)
- <sup>17</sup> Department for Education: [Characteristics of Children in Need 2018/19](#)
- <sup>18</sup> Department for Education: [Characteristics of Children in Need 2018/19](#)
- <sup>19</sup> Department for Education: [Children Looked After in England Including Adoption 2018/19](#)
- <sup>20</sup> Department for Education: [Children Looked After in England Including Adoption 2018/19](#)
- <sup>21</sup> Public Health England: [Child Health Profiles](#)
- <sup>22</sup> Department for Education: [Children Looked After Missing from their Placement 2018/19](#)
- <sup>23</sup> Department for Education: [Children Looked After in England Including Adoption 2018/19](#)
- <sup>24</sup> Department for Education: [Children Looked After in England Including Adoption 2018/19](#)
- <sup>25</sup> HMRC: [Live Tables on Homelessness](#)
- <sup>26</sup> SMBC: [Solihull Homelessness Needs Assessment 2019](#)
- <sup>27</sup> Public Health England: [Local Alcohol Profiles](#)
- <sup>28</sup> Public Health England: [Local Alcohol Profiles](#)
- <sup>29</sup> Public Health England: [Local Alcohol Profiles](#)
- <sup>30</sup> Public Health England: [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#)
- <sup>31</sup> Public Health England: [Child Health Profiles](#)
- <sup>32</sup> Public Health England: [Child Health Profiles](#)
- <sup>33</sup> Public Health England: [Child Health Profiles](#)
- <sup>34</sup> HMRC: [Live Tables on Homelessness](#)
- <sup>35</sup> Department of Work & Pensions: [Stat Xplore](#)