

Executive Summary

Bradford Metropolitan District has a total area of 36,642 hectares and is the fourth largest District in England (in terms of population) after Birmingham, Leeds and Sheffield. Two-thirds of the District is rural and there are more than 5,800 listed buildings and 61 conservation areas.

Population

The latest population estimate (2005) is 485,000. The ethnic minority population in the District accounts for 18% of the total population (86% of this total is of Asian origin). Although the age structure of the UK is getting older, this is not the case in Bradford. A higher proportion of the population is made up of younger age groups than the national population. This youthful population is responsible for a high number of births in the District and most of the population growth the District is experiencing.

Of the children and young people in the District - 27% of pupils at secondary schools are eligible for free school meals (National figure is 15%). 19% of dependent children live in overcrowded accommodation (National Figure is 12%), over one-quarter of children live in homes without central heating, and nearly one child in four lives in a one-parent family.

The number of children in care was similar at 31 December 2006 (820) to the number in December 2005 (821).

Children and young people

Although the number of deaths of babies and children aged less than one year is relatively small, in the years 2001 – 2003 combined Bradford babies were 1.7 times more times more likely to die than in their first year than babies in England and Wales as a whole. This gives an infant mortality rate of 9.0 infant deaths per live births in Bradford District compared with 5.4 per 1,000 live births in England and Wales. (2001 – 2003 figures are used, as uncertainty exists about the infant mortality figures for 2004)

The teenage pregnancy rate for Bradford has fallen by 11% since 1998. In 2005 Bradford had a higher rate than the national and West Yorkshire average.

In Bradford 12% of five year boys and 10% of five years are obese, this rises to 20% for 11 year boys and 19% for 11 year girls (the 'expected' rate for both age groups should be 5%). A survey carried out by Airedale PCT revealed that 50% of 11 – 12 year olds and 59% of 14-15 year olds eat two or less portions of fruit and vegetables daily; and that 18% of 11-12 year olds and 29% of 14 – 15 year olds do not eat breakfast regularly.

Culture, tourism and sport

Despite a national trend of decline in library visits, in 2005/6 the number of young people aged 16 years or younger who are active users at any static library in the district increased by 60%, the number of new borrowers increased by 28%, and the number of PC/Internet users in public libraries increased by 49%.

The tourism and cultural industries in Bradford generate more than £500m per year. Tourism accounts for 12,000 jobs in the District. The National Media Museum is one of the most visited attractions in the region.

An “Active People Survey” carried out for Sport England in 2005/6 found that Bradford is in the middle 50% of the Yorkshire region for people regularly participating in any moderate intensity sport and is in the top 25% of the Yorkshire region with regard to volunteering

In 2005/6, 71% of school pupils achieved the National Curriculum Key Stage 2 in swimming, and there was an increase of 8% of people over 50 attended targeted sessions at Council-run sports centres and swimming pools.

Economy

Bradford District has the regions third largest economy, but only 9% of all employment. Using the Index of Deprivation 2004, Bradford is ranked fifth most employment deprived local authority in England. Employment rates in Bradford have started to increase, although levels are still below regional and national rates - 15,000 businesses in the District employ nearly 200,000 people

The unemployment rate in Bradford fell rapidly in previous years. However, more recent figures show that unemployment is again on the increase. According the April 2005-March 2006 Annual Population Survey, there were 12,000 people unemployed in Bradford, accounting for 5.7% of the working age population. This increase reflects regional and national trends

In 2006 Bradford’s average household income was estimated at £29,300. This is 2.9% below the West Yorkshire average, 1% below the Yorkshire and Humberside regional average and 9.3% below the UK average income.

Education

School children take tests at the end of each key stage of their school careers from Key Stage One (for seven years olds) to Key Stage Five (eighteen year olds taking GCE A Levels, advanced GNVQs or AVCEs). Since 2001, the gap between Bradford’s results and the national results has narrowed at all key stages except in mathematics at Key Stage One. This means that, with the one exception, the rates of improvement have been faster in Bradford than nationally.

The most marked improvement in 2005/6 has been in five or more passes at A*-C for GCSE, where the gap has narrowed by 6.1%. The gaps in mathematics and science have been narrowed by over 4% at Key Stages 2 and 3. Least impact has been made on closing the gap in all subjects at Key Stage 1 and in English at Key Stages 2 and 3.

Bradford has the highest percentage in West Yorkshire of young people not working or participating in any further learning or training. In January 2007, 9.7% of 16 – 18 year olds were classified as NEET.

Bradford has the second lowest achievement levels for adults at NVQ 2 (equivalent to 5+ GCSEs at grade A*-C) and NVQ 4 (Degree or higher) in West Yorkshire. Only Wakefield has lower achievement levels.

Environment

From 1991 – 2001 car ownership in Bradford District rose by 28% (national figure was 23%) The proportion of households with no car fell from 41% in 1991 to 33% in 2001. Between 1979–1993 all day traffic grew by 45%, but levelled off between 1993-2005 (1.3% growth), but from 1991 – 2001 Bradford District commuters travelled an average 21% greater distances to work.

Road casualties in 2005 fell significantly to 2,616. A total of 248 people were killed, 379 pedestrians were injured and 32 children were killed or seriously injured (the lowest figures recorded since 1974). Final figures for 2006 show a slight increase in the total number of injuries.

Bradford recycles 18% and composts 9% of its household waste (Government target is to recover value from 45% of municipal waste stream by 2010 – at least 30% from recycling and composting). A user satisfaction survey carried out in 2006 found that 62% of respondents were satisfied that the Council kept land clear of litter.

In a “Speak Out!” survey carried out in 2006, 64% of respondents described the quality of the environment in their neighbourhood as good or very good.

River quality is poor or bad (when tested for chemicals) in urban areas like the centre of Bradford and becks to the south of the District. The River Aire has better water quality until it meets the Bradford Beck at Shipley, the River Wharfe tends to have good water quality. A second air quality assessment carried out in 2005 found that three areas had exceeded the annual objective for nitrogen dioxide.

Health

Bradford has the highest standardised mortality ratios for both men and women in West Yorkshire – this indicates an above average risk of death. Life expectancy (at birth) in Bradford is lower for both men (75.4) and women (79.6) than the rest of West Yorkshire, and is lower than the national average – men (76.87) and women (80.1). Life expectancy varies across the most and deprived fifths of the District by nine years for men and five years for women.

Bradford had the highest mortality rate 2003-2005 (for people under 75) for coronary heart disease in West Yorkshire; and the second highest mortality rate 2003 – 2005 (for people under 75) for cancer in West Yorkshire. Bradford’s rate was higher than the national average for both.

Housing

71% of all housing in the District is owner-occupied. Nearly 39% of houses were built before 1919 (60% in the inner city) The average household size in the district has fallen from 2.63 in 1991 to 2.55 in 2001. 8% of households are overcrowded – the highest level regionally. Homelessness is lower in the District than nationally.

The average cost of buying a home in Bradford in 2006 (£135,890) was lower than the national average (£202,978). Terraced properties remain the largest property

type bought within the district, although there has been a noticeable increase in the purchase and sales of flats. This is reflective of the many new flats being built across the whole district and particularly in the city centre. In 2005/6, 87% of new homes in the District were built on previously developed land – similar to local and national trends.

Older People

In some areas of the UK, older people outnumber young people. This has not happened in Bradford due to the birth rate. One-fifth (88,500 people) in Bradford District are aged 60+ and the number of people in the 85+ age range has doubled between 1971 and 2004. 63% of the District's pensioners are women, although men's life expectancy rate is increasing faster than women's. ONS population projections indicate that by 2028 the population aged 65+ will have increased by nearly 40% and form 16% of the total population.

90% of old people in Bradford live in mainstream housing, 5% live in sheltered housing and 5% live in care homes. In September 2005, 18% of the District's population were identified as being 'in fuel poverty'.

In 2005/6, 11.2 householders per 1,000 people aged 65+ received intensive home care; and 88.5 per 1,000 people aged 65+ were helped to live at home. This is lower than the national rates of 13.9 and 88.1 respectively.

Safer and stronger communities

In 2005/6 58,897 crimes were recorded in Bradford – a 0.2% decrease from the previous year, the Yorkshire and Humber region experienced a 1% increase; and England and Wales experienced a 1% decrease over the same period. The most commonly recorded crimes in the district are criminal damage and violent crime which reflect national trends. There was a significant increase in theft from a vehicle in 2005/6, this is due to a spate of thefts of number plates in the District – work is currently on going to combat this.

The number of first time youth offenders in the District shows a rising trend, increasing from 1,269 in 2004 to 1,480 in 2005. This increase is heavily influenced by improvements in local crime detection rates and the impact of the Government's recorded crime initiative "Narrowing the Justice Gap".

Crime rates in the District vary substantially between different areas. In general the south and east of the District experience higher levels of crime than the north and the west. The area with the highest level of crime in 2005/06 was Bradford City Centre.

In 2005/6 police recorded 325 arrests and disposals for dealing Class A drugs (202 in 2004/5). A profile of heroin users shows that 70% male, 9 out of 10 are white, and 4 out of 5 are aged 20 – 34. On average 50% of offenders arrested for acquisitive crime tested positive for heroin or cocaine use.

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