

# CHAPTER 5—CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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## Included in this section

- Young people's participation in positive activities
- Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training
- First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17
- Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Obesity among primary school children in Year 6
- Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessments
- Under 18 conception rate
- Substance misuse

## Further reading

Every Child Matters Green paper 2003

Youth Matters, Green paper 2005

Care Matters, Green paper 2006

Children and Young Peoples Plan 2007-2010

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board's Business Plan 2007/08

Staffordshire Children's Trust Strategic Needs Analysis 2008

## Key Findings

- In Staffordshire in 2006/07 young offenders committed a total of 3,999 offences (47 per 1,000 10-17 population) or an average of 1.6 offences per offender.
- The prevalence of Obesity in South Staffordshire is just below the national average at both reception and year 6. However the prevalence of obesity is above the national average in North Staffordshire, particularly at reception age (National 9.6% - North Staffs 12.4%).
- In Staffordshire between 2006 and 2007 we saw an 11% increase in the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register on the grounds of neglect.
- Since 1998 the rate of Teenage Conceptions in Staffordshire has fallen by 6.9% but to meet Government targets the rate needs to fall another 46.3% by 2010.

### 5.1 Young peoples' participation in positive activities

It is hoped that participation in cultural activities raises the aspirations of children and young people, improving quality of life for all groups in the County. Participation in activities such as mock elections—electing school and college council members—will help young people to recognise the importance of engaging in decision making.

Young peoples' participation in mock general elections can be established using the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) Elections held each year. Ballot boxes were offered to all schools in Staffordshire. 12,800 votes were cast with a record number of 34 young people standing (February 2008). This demonstrates a fifty percent increase in participation since the last review. (The findings are discussed in Section 6.2—The most important issues for young people, page 44.)

Another positive activity for young people is voluntary and community engagement and Staffordshire already has a good track record of engaging and supporting young people into voluntary or giving service. The Russell Commission report into young people's volunteering laid out a commitment and framework to increase young people's voluntary service to over 3.5 million young people engaged in volunteering across the UK. Within Staffordshire, we are working to increase the current levels of volunteering or giving service by young people locally, but also to recognise these achievements through accredited awards such as MV/V (Millennium Volunteers Aged 16—25), Duke of Edinburgh Award or Youth Achievement Award. In Staffordshire, a total of 1,455 young people had received accredited awards for Voluntary/Giving Services as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

## 5.2 Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment and training

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) primarily work with young people aged 10-17 across 3 youth offending sub regions. In 2006/07, there were a total of 2,273 young offenders (first offenders and re-offenders) in Staffordshire County, a rate of 27 per 1,000 population aged 10-17 years.

In Staffordshire in 2006/07 young offenders committed a total of 3,999 offences (47 per 1,000 10-17 population) or an average of 1.6 offences per offender. The highest number of offences by young people per 1,000 population were recorded in the North Staffordshire area.

## 5.3 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17

Between 2004/05 and 2005/06 the number of young offenders in Staffordshire remained relatively stable with approximately 1,757 and 1,725 respectively. However, between 2003/04 and 2004/05 the number of young offenders in Staffordshire rose from 1,544 to 1,757.

In 2006/2007 Staffordshire Youth Offending Service worked with 1,153 young people who received a substantive outcome (final warnings, community sentences and custody), therefore indicating a reduction in the number of young offenders in Staffordshire. There is also a trend from Quarter 1 07/08 of a reduction in First Time Entrants (FTE).

## 5.4 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)

The purpose of the CAMHS programme is to ensure that emotional health and wellbeing services are commissioned, promoting the delivery of a comprehensive CAMHS and its markers of best practice, and the five outcomes in Every Child Matters.

The data presented below is based on the population figures for Staffordshire using estimated prevalence rates for selected mental health conditions and vulnerable groups (Office for National Statistics 1999). The Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are using these rates to establish their own need for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Almost 19,000 young people in Staffordshire are estimated to be suffering from a disorder.

**Figure 5.1—Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Population Analysis**

	Newcastle- under-Lyme	Stafford	East Staffs	South Staffs	Cannock Chase	Lichfield	Staffs Moorlands	Tamworth	Total
No. of Looked After Children with CAMHS needs	73	85	69	39	83	36	38	75	496
Autism Spectrum Disorder <sup>2</sup>	80	78	80	71	71	65	61	61	567
ASD identified as Primary Need <sup>3</sup>	18	79	42	78	60	31	32	27	367
Emotional Disorder <sup>4</sup>	1,256	1,200	1,160	1,092	1,035	965	931	899	8537
Conduct Disorder <sup>5</sup>	1,549	1,479	1,430	1,346	1,275	1,189	1,148	1,107	10,523
Hyperkinetic Disorder <sup>6</sup>	409	391	378	355	337	314	303	293	2,780
Any Disorder <sup>7</sup>	2,776	2,651	2,563	2,412	2,286	2,131	2,057	1,985	18,861

<sup>2</sup> 0 to 9 total population. Based on national rate of 0.6%

<sup>3</sup> 0 to 9 population

<sup>4</sup> Under 19 population. Based on national rate of 4.3%

<sup>5</sup> Under 19 population. Based on national rate of 5.3%

<sup>6</sup> Under 19 population. Based on national rate of 1.4%

<sup>7</sup> Under 19 population. Based on national rate of 9.5%

Source: PLASC (Jan 2006) including Special Schools, Census 2001 & ONS 1999

## **5.5 Obesity among primary school children in Year 6**

Obesity has been recognised as one of the major public health issues of our time in England. In response to this the Government developed a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to 'halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children aged under 11 by 2010'. North and South Staffordshire PCTs complete the measurements in line with the PSA guidance.

Height and weight data is collected in schools and converted into a Body Mass Index (BMI) score, which if high enough can be allocated into either the overweight or obese category. This proportion is then measured as a percentage of the total school population for the selected years.

The prevalence of obesity in South Staffordshire is just below the national average at both reception and year 6. However the prevalence of obesity is above the national average in North Staffordshire, particularly at reception age (National 9.6% - North Staffs 12.4%).

North Staffs PCT does not currently have data for overweight children at Reception and Year 6; therefore it is not possible at this point to make a comparison. South Staffordshire children at both reception and year 6 are also just below the national average for being overweight.

## **5.6 Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessments**

The percentage of referrals going on to initial assessment is closely linked to the issue of thresholds for referral and appropriateness of interventions at an early stage. The implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) over the next three years should lead to more targeted referral to agencies such as social care. More appropriate referrals should lead to a direct correlation with the numbers going on to initial assessment.

Neglect is a key priority for Central and Local Government as it is recognised that the effects of neglect are life-long. Staffordshire has seen a year-on-year increase in the numbers of children being placed on the Child Protection Register on the grounds of neglect which indicates that the County needs to tackle the causes of neglect and impact on the long-term outcomes.

In Staffordshire between 2006 and 2007 we saw an 11% increase in the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register on the grounds of neglect. The trend for 2007/8 is already showing a continuation of this with 41% of the children on the Child Protection Register in the first 6 months of the year being registered for neglect.

## **5.7 Under 18 conception rate**

The Government set the target to 'decrease by 50% the number of under 18 conceptions' from the baseline in 1998 by 2010. The national rate per thousand under 18 year old young women, in 1998 was 46.6. The rate in Staffordshire was below this at 43.2 conceptions per thousand females aged 15 to 18; however this average does not truly reflect the picture in the county. Certain districts were above this level, most notably Tamworth, Cannock Chase, Newcastle-under-Lyme and East Staffordshire, whilst other areas were below the county average, for example South Staffordshire.

There has been considerable work in the county over the past 10 years to address this issue, with varying success. Staffordshire County has reduced conceptions, with a percentage change of -6.0% (England -8.7%), between 98/00 and 04/06.

**Figure 5.2— Under 18 Conception rate by district**

	1998-00		2001-03		2004-06		% change in rate 98/00- 04/06
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
<b>England</b>	<b>119,036</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>117,364</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>118,400</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>-8.7%</b>
<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>-6.0%</b>
Cannock Chase	289	55.2	277	50.9	268	46.5	-15.7%
East Staffordshire	267	46.7	262	42	244	36.8	-21.1%
Lichfield	163	33	170	32.9	192	35.5	7.4%
Newcastle	295	43.3	276	42.2	265	37.6	-13.3%
South Staffs	175	31.4	169	27.3	200	31.4	-0.2%
Stafford	201	31	219	33.4	252	38.1	23.0%
Staffordshire Moorlands	169	33.4	141	27.3	149	27.8	-16.7%
Tamworth	221	48.7	253	51.8	245	50.1	3.0%

Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit

Rates in Tamworth, Stafford and Lichfield have all increased. Rates in East Staffordshire remain high. Newcastle has made impressive progress and succeeded in reducing its rates to below that of the county average. Cannock Chase district, whilst demonstrating some improvement has the highest rate in the county and South Staffordshire district rates have increased, although still remain below the county and national averages. Examination of the data demonstrates that more targeted work needs to be developed in certain districts, with lessons learnt from those areas which have shown improvement.

The teenage conception rate is also available by ward and can help highlight hotspot areas that require major interventions to reduce the numbers and rate. Of the ten wards in Staffordshire with the highest rate of teenage conceptions, three are in Cannock Chase, two each in Lichfield and Newcastle-under-Lyme and one each in East Staffordshire, South Staffordshire and Tamworth.

**Figure 5.3— Under 18 Conception rate by ward 2003-05**

Ward Name	Local Authority	Number of conceptions	Conception rate	95% CI Lower Limit	95% CI Upper Limit
Cannock North	Cannock Chase	35	78.0	54.3	108.4
Hednesford North	Cannock Chase	30	75.2	50.7	107.3
Knutton and Silverdale	Newcastle-under-Lyme	16	73.7	42.1	119.7
Curborough	Lichfield	21	70.9	43.9	108.4
Glascote	Tamworth	42	70.5	50.8	95.3
Featherstone and Sharesill	South Staffordshire	23	69.9	44.3	104.9
Western Springs	Cannock Chase	26	69.9	45.7	102.4
Boney Hay	Lichfield	12	68.2	35.2	119.1
Shobnall	East Staffordshire	27	68.0	44.8	99.0
Cross Heath	Newcastle-under-Lyme	28	68.0	45.2	98.2

Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit

## 5.8 Substance Misuse

There are specific problems of substance misuse in the county that are linked with issues within rural areas (i.e. due to lack of local opportunities and isolation). This is something that local services, such as the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Young Peoples services, have been charged with addressing.

Local data indicates that by comparing year on year figures we are now seeing much higher numbers of young people gaining access to DAAT services, especially those with the most complex needs at Tier 3, the difference being over 30% more young people accessing this level of treatment year-to-date for 2007-08 compared to the same period in 2006-07.

There is a worrying trend of higher than (county) average prevalence of heroin use in East Staffordshire and Tamworth districts as compared to the rest of the county, as a direct result of the drug being available from Birmingham suppliers at no more than half the price charged by dealers elsewhere in the county (Source: Staffordshire Police).

Patterns of whole family involvement with the drug and the 'normalisation' effect this has on youngsters compound this problem further. Whilst this is a problem specific to these districts, thankfully opiate and crack use amongst the young people presenting to treatment services in Staffordshire is still comparatively uncommon, the most common presenting substances by far amongst those presenting to our young peoples service being cannabis and alcohol, though again wide variations exist between districts.

It is clear that approaches need to be further developed to tackle this pattern in young people, and materials and educational interventions need to focus on examining attitudes to these substances and appropriate harm reduction strategies in particular, as distinct from the more adult focus on opiates and crack cocaine use.

## 5.9 Education, skills and training deprivation

There is a domain in the Indices of Deprivation 2007 which focuses on education, skills and training. This domain captures the extent of deprivation in terms of education, skills and training in a local area. There is evidence of a link between education deprivation and multiple deprivation. Education and skills play a key role in the development of an individual from an early age into working age and can have an effect on employment opportunities.

Of the seven domains included in the Indices of Deprivation, this one ('education, skills and training') is the biggest issue for Staffordshire. There are more Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Staffordshire which fall in the 20% most deprived in England for this domain than for any other domain (or type) of deprivation. In Staffordshire 86 LSOAs fall in the most deprived 20% in England for this domain, compared to 67 LSOAs in the next most deprived domain ('barriers to housing and services').

Staffordshire has 37 LSOAs (55,622 people; 22,010 households) falling into the 10% most deprived nationally and a further 49 LSOAs (75,256 people; 30,563 households) falling into the 10%-20% most deprived nationally in terms of Education, Skills and Training Deprivation. Of the seven domains included in the Indices of Deprivation (outline in Chapter 2) it is this domain—Education, Skills and Training—which is the biggest problem for Staffordshire with higher levels of deprivation than for any of the other domains.

The top ten most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Staffordshire County for the Education, Skills and Training deprivation domain can be seen in Table 5.4 (next page).

**Table 5.4—Top ten most deprived LSOAs in Staffordshire for education, skills and training deprivation**

District	Ward	LSOA	Population <sup>1</sup>	Households <sup>1</sup>
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Cross Heath	E01029554	1,428	715
Cannock Chase	Etching Hill and The Heath	E01029372	1,441	520
East Staffordshire	Stapenhill	E01029450	1,540	610
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Knutton and Silverdale	E01029566	1,140	489
Tamworth	Glascote	E01029840	1,383	481
Cannock Chase	Cannock North	E01029358	1,459	519
Tamworth	Belgrave	E01029828	1,417	481
East Staffordshire	Stapenhill	E01029453	1,485	665
Tamworth	Glascote	E01029845	1,105	475
Tamworth	Glascote	E01029843	1,511	529

Source: The English Indices of Deprivation 2007, Communities and Local Government  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/indicesdeprivation07>

## 5.10 16 to 18 year olds Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

It has been identified that 16 to 18 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) are much more likely to be otherwise disadvantaged particularly with regards to later unemployment, low income, teenage motherhood, depression and poor physical health<sup>8</sup>.

The distribution of NEETs is not even across the County and it has been identified that around a third of all NEETs are resident in just 20 of Staffordshire 174 electoral wards. Table 5.5 (right) list the top 20 wards with the highest percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET.

Staffordshire met the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) overall winter target for NEET (07/08) however, these 'NEET hotspot' areas have consistently had high numbers of young people in the NEET cohort. Many of the targeted wards are areas with high levels of adult worklessness and the intergenerational nature of disengagement is particularly challenging. (Also, see section '3.3 The labour market and worklessness', page 17.)

<sup>8</sup><http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ete/neet/>

<sup>9</sup> Note - Ward level figures are collected on a residency basis, while district data is based on a residence and institution level. Hence, district level data can include students who are resident outside Staffordshire, but study in a Staffordshire institution.

**Table 5.5—Top 20 wards in Staffordshire with the highest percentage of 16 to 18 year old Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)<sup>9</sup>**

Ward	Jan-08	Dec-07	Nov-07
<b>Newcastle-under-Lyme</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
Cross Heath	12.0%	11.1%	14.5%
Knutton and Silverdale	13.5%	14.4%	16.2%
Holditch	14.8%	20.0%	19.2%
Chesterton	7.3%	9.8%	10.5%
Kidsgrove	10.2%	9.4%	9.1%
<b>Cannock Chase</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>
Cannock South	11.4%	15.4%	12.8%
Cannock East	9.3%	11.2%	10.7%
Cannock North	9.9%	12.5%	13.7%
Brereton and Ravenhill	8.3%	10.1%	9.1%
<b>Tamworth</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
Belgrave	10.2%	8.7%	10.2%
Glascote	8.2%	9.1%	9.9%
Amington	6.4%	7.3%	7.7%
Spital	10.4%	12.1%	10.5%
<b>East Staffordshire</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
Stapenhill	8.7%	10.1%	11.2%
Shobnall	8.0%	9.0%	10.0%
Eton Park	10.8%	11.9%	12.5%
Burton	22.1%	19.2%	18.3%
<b>Stafford</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
Penkside	12.8%	12.6%	13.5%
Highfields and Western Downs	9.7%	10.0%	10.9%
<b>Staffordshire Moorlands</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
Biddulph East	9.3%	9.7%	9.6%
<b>Lichfield</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>
<b>South Staffordshire</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>Staffordshire County</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

Source: Connexions Staffordshire.

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## Implications for service delivery

- The Youth Offending Service has a multi agency approach to re-engaging young people in learning and links with all partners.
  - In partnership with Staffordshire Police, the Youth Offending Service have developed a countywide Community Resolution Project, which is having a positive impact in reducing the number of children entering the youth justice system.
  - The Youth Offending Service Prevention Team are working with children and young people identified at risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.
  - Innovative CAMHS projects/services linking with the school community are making services more accessible. The 'Raising Awareness of Mental Health' training programme also aims to improve early identification, build local workforce capacity, and improve pathways to support. 15% of the population (0-19) require first level mental health support at tier 1, in Staffordshire this represents 26,000 young people.
  - A methodology has been agreed as part of the Local Area Agreement to allow us to measure how effective our strategies are in reducing obesity. A multi-agency multi-faceted approach is needed to deliver an effective strategy.
  - By ensuring a joined up approach to planning and delivery the children and young people of Staffordshire will enjoy many more opportunities to get involved in positive activity, for example there will be numerous opportunities to volunteer and develop new skills through the 2012 Olympics.
  - All District plans have NEET reduction activities identified and from September 2007 all schools will have individual NEET targets agreed with Connexions in the annual partnership agreement. Members of the Staffordshire 14-19 Strategic Partnership have undertaken a provision audit across Staffordshire to identify NEET prevention and engagement opportunities.
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## Government Priorities

The Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) highlighted the following priorities for the region (related National Indicator reference numbers are shown in brackets):

- Reduction in the prevalence of obesity in children and young people (NI 55, NI 56, NI 57)
  - Reducing Levels of Teenage pregnancy (NI 112)
  - Reducing the causes and consequences of neglect (NI 50, NI 59, NI 60, NI 68, NI 116, NI 118, NI 149, NI 150)
  - Raise aspirations and attainment at KS4 and post- 16 (NI 78, NI 79, NI 80, NI 81, NI 84, NI 85, NI 90, NI 97, NI 98, NI 101, NI 102, NI 114, NI 115)
  - Increased consultation and engagement with CYP (NI 3, NI 4)
  - Reduce the number of young people involved in or affected by crime (NI 19, NI 21, NI 22, NI 25, NI 27, NI 43, NI 44)
  - Ensure decent housing needs for young people are addressed (NI 116, NI 141, NI 147, NI 154, NI 155, NI 158, NI 159, NI 160, NI 180)
  - Improve transitional arrangements for young people with physical and learning disabilities (including increasing the percentage EET after compulsory school leaving age) (NI 132, NI 133, NI 135, NI 136, NI 141, NI 142, NI 145, NI 146)
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## **Indicators in the Staffordshire LAA relevant to this area**

- NI 45: Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training
  - NI 51: Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
  - NI 56: Obesity among primary school children in year 6
  - NI 68: Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessments
  - NI 80: Achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19
  - NI 110: Young people's participation in positive activities
  - NI 111: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17
  - NI112: Under 18 conception rate
  - NI 117: 16 to 18 year olds Not in Education, Employment and Training
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