Area Profile

Wrexham Social Services

Introduction

This area profile has been developed to support Wrexham County Borough Council’s Director of Social Services’ Annual Report which sets out Wrexham social services’ performance. The information about Wrexham in this report supports the director’s report by putting that performance into context relating to the way that Wrexham’s social services operate.

Three broad areas of information are set out:

- Firstly, the general demographics of the area, including details about population and health;
- Secondly, the service demands placed on Wrexham social services from the needs of vulnerable groups, including children and young people, and older people; and
- Lastly, the level of resources that Wrexham invests in its social services delivery.

Where appropriate the profile makes comparisons between Wrexham’s operating context and both the all Wales picture and that of comparable local authorities. The comparable authorities are chosen based on similar characteristics for specific demographic and deprivation indicators. For more information on the comparable authorities methodology please see appendix one. The authorities that have been used for comparison purposes are Gwynedd, Flintshire, Pembrokeshire, Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan.

This information has been developed solely to put Wrexham social services’ performance into a wider context and does not judge their performance.
What does the County Borough look like?

This section sets out some general information about Wrexham.

Population

According to the 2008 mid-year estimates, Wrexham had a population close to 133,000. This compares with an average population across all Welsh LAs of 136,000 and a comparable authorities’ average of 129,500. Figure 1 shows how the populations were proportionately split across different age bands. Since 2001, like most Welsh authorities, Wrexham had seen a steady increase in the total population.

Figure 1: Population split by proportion across age bands, 2008.

![Population split by proportion across age bands, 2008.](image)

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

In 2001 99% of Wrexham’s population were from a white background, the same proportion as the comparable authorities. Across Wales the percentage of the population from a white background was 98%. In 2008 the percentage of Wrexham’s population from a non-white background increased to 2.5%. This compares to 2% for the comparable authorities and 3% for Wales.

Table 1: Percentage of population in each ethnic group, 2001.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Chinese or other</th>
<th>Black or Black British</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wrexham</td>
<td>98.91</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>97.88</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparable</td>
<td>98.73</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Figure 1 and Table 1 show that the population profiles of Wrexham and the comparable authorities are broadly similar.

**Deprivation**

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) takes information produced for local areas across different factors, for example unemployment and benefit claimant rates, which affect the lives of individuals and communities. WIMD brings this information together to paint a picture of relative deprivation across Wales. Wrexham has six of its local areas in the most 10% deprived in Wales.

Figure 2 shows Wrexham’s deprivation profile from WIMD 2008. The darker the colour the more the area is deprived. 12 of Wrexham’s local areas, (parts of Caia Park, Queen’s Way and Plas Madoc), are amongst the top 20% deprived areas in Wales. Queen’s Way 1 is one of Wales’ five most deprived areas. In general, taking into consideration wider factors, Wrexham has an average overall level of deprivation. When compared with the Welsh average Wrexham experiences more varied levels of deprivation. Therefore although some areas are amongst the most deprived in Wales, other areas experience a lot less deprivation than the Welsh average. Benefit claimants amongst people of working age are around the same proportion as those in the comparable local authorities.

**Figure 2: Relative picture of deprivation across Wrexham (WIMD 2008).**
The level of recorded crime contributes to Wrexham’s overall deprivation profile. Figure 3 shows the level of recorded crime across different categories.

**Figure 3: Rate of recorded crime per 1,000 population, 2008-09.**

![Graph showing rate of recorded crime per 1,000 population, 2008-09.](image)

Source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime England and Wales

**Health related issues**

25% of people in Wrexham reported that they had a long term limiting illness, the same as the proportion for 2007. This compares to 27% across Wales. The number of people of pensionable age reporting a long term limiting illness in Wrexham was 12,071, compared to an average of 13,497 across all Welsh authorities. In addition, Wrexham had less people under 65 who claimed severe disability allowance than the average across all Welsh authorities.

Figure 4 shows the rate of teenage conceptions in Wrexham. According to the latest data (2007) the rate of teenage conceptions in Wrexham has decreased considerably since the previous year. In 2007 there were 44 teenage conceptions per 1,000 female population aged 0-17, compared to 59 in 2006. Wrexham’s rate is now similar to that of Wales and the comparable authorities, both of which have remained stable since 2001.
Figure 4: Rate of teenage conceptions per 1,000 female population aged 15-17, 2007

Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS)

Housing

In 2008-09 more households rented from social housing landlords in Wrexham than across Wales and the comparable authorities. Figure 5 shows that the majority of household tenures in Wrexham were either owner-occupied or privately rented.

Figure 5: Dwelling stock estimates by tenure, 2008-09.

Source: Welsh Assembly Government
**Demands and supply in Wrexham’s social care**

This section considers some indicators of demand for social care services and also the authority’s investment in resources. As well as giving a general picture, this section considers each service user group individually.

**The overall picture**

Wrexham had a lower rate of social care clients across all age categories than both the comparable authorities and Wales. Figure 6 shows the authority’s client age profile. Notably, Wrexham had a higher proportion of clients aged 65+ than both Wales and the comparable authorities.

**Figure 6: Social care clients split by proportion across age bands, 2008**

![Social care clients split by proportion across age bands, 2008](chart)

Wrexham prioritised 16% more spending on social care provision than the level set out by the Welsh Assembly Government. This compares to just 9% in 2007-08. The comparable authorities spent, on average, 14% more.

In 2008-09, Wrexham continued to increase the total number of social work staff it employed, with a considerable increase in the number of social workers for adults employed. For the same period the number of social service staff employed across Wales also increased. Figures 7 and 8 show the rates of social workers for adults and children. Notably, the rate of social workers for adults per 100 adult service users aged 18-64 had increased since 2007-08, whereas the rate of social workers for children per 100 child service users aged 0-17 had decreased.
Figure 7: Rate of senior social work practitioners, senior practitioners and social workers for adults per 100 adult service users aged 18-64 at 31 March.

Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Figure 8: Rate of senior social work practitioners, senior practitioners and social workers for children per 100 service users aged 0-17 at 31 March.

Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales
Children

According to the 2008 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, 10% of Wrexham’s children lived in areas that are amongst the top 10% most deprived in Wales. This compares to 12% of children across Wales and 5% of children across the comparable authorities. It also had a higher percentage of children living in overcrowded housing and social rented housing in 2008-09 than both Wales and the comparable authorities. However, the rate of child social care users was, at 24.5 per 1,000 population aged 0-17, considerably lower than both Wales’ rate of 39.2 and the comparable authorities’ rate of 35.2.

Between 2002-03 and 2008-09, the rate of child social care clients per 1,000 population aged 0-17 increased by 54%. This compares with a 22% increase across Wales and a 2% increase across the comparable authorities. Figure 9 shows the trend over this period.

Figure 9: Rate of social care clients aged 0-17 per 1,000 population

![Rate of social care clients aged 0-17 per 1,000 population](image)

Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Children and young people who are in the care of the local authority (looked after children) are a key part of this client group. Figure 10 shows the number of children looked after at 31 March across the eight years to 2008-09. The number of children looked after by Wrexham had remained fairly stable since 2001-02, with a slight increase in the figures for 2008-09. Likewise, the Welsh LA average saw a slight increase in 2008-09, whereas the comparable authorities’ average decreased again in 2008-09. The number of looked after children in Wrexham remained considerably lower than both the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities’ average.
Figure 10: Number of children looked after at 31 March.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of LAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Child protection registers (CPRs) are maintained by every local authority in order to improve child protection procedures for children and young people. Figure 11 shows the trend in numbers on the child protection registers across the period 2001-02 to 2008-09. It is clear from the graph that 2008-09 saw a sharp increase in the number of children and young people on the CPR in Wrexham; from 75 in 2007-08 to 125 in 2008-09. Both the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities’ average also saw an increase, although only slight in comparison. In 2008-09, for the first time since 2001-02, Wrexham’s figure was higher than both the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities’ average.

Figure 11: Number of children on the Child Protection Register at 31 March.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales
In the period 2001-02 to 2008-09 Wrexham increased its spending on children and young people’s services by 78% and 2008-09 saw a fairly sharp increase in this area compared to previous years. In the same period the average expenditure of the comparable authorities had continued to increase at a steadier rate. Figure 12 shows the trend of expenditure for both Wrexham and its comparable authorities since 2001-02.

**Figure 12: Net expenditure on children’s and family services.**

![Net Expenditure Graph](image)

Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Figure 13 shows Wrexham’s gross expenditure pattern on children and family services. It shows that the proportion invested in services provided by the authority has decreased since 2001-02, although 2008-09 saw a considerable increase following the dramatic decrease in 2007-08.

**Figure 13: Wrexham’s gross expenditure on children’s and family services proportionately split between its own and other provision.**

![Gross Expenditure Graph](image)

Source: Welsh Assembly Government
Adults 18-64
In 2008-09 Wrexham had a rate of 11.5 adult service users aged between 18 and 64 receiving services per 1,000 population aged 18-64, a similar rate to 2007-08. This rate continued to be below the comparable authorities’ rate of 16 and Wales’ rate of 14.9. Figure 14 shows the trend over the period 2002-03 to 2008-09.

**Figure 14: Rate of adult service users aged 18-64 receiving community and residential services per 1,000 population aged 18-64.**

Of the 942 adult service users in Wrexham in 2008-09 93% were supported in the community, the same proportion as in 2007-08. Similarly, the proportions across Wales and the comparable authorities remained steady at 94% and 95% respectively.

Between 2001-02 and 2008-09, Wrexham, like other Welsh authorities, increased its spending in adult social services. In fact, in 2008-09, the level of expenditure had more than doubled since 2001-02. Overall, Wrexham’s expenditure was far higher than the average expenditure across the comparable authorities and the gap between the two figures was increasing. In the same period, the proportion spent on its own provision steadily decreased. The same trend was evident for Wales and the comparable authorities. Figure 15 shows Wrexham’s investment in provision.
Figure 15: Wrexham’s gross expenditure on adults aged 18-64 proportionately split between its own and other provision.

Source: Welsh Assembly Government
Older people (65 and over)

Older people aged 65+ made up the largest proportion of Wrexham’s social care clients. In 2008-09 64% of all Wrexham’s social care clients were aged 65+. This compares to 61% across both Wales and the comparable authorities.

Since 2005-06 the rate of social care clients aged 65+ in Wrexham had been increasing, although the numbers had yet to match the baseline amount in 2001-02. During the same period the comparable authorities’ rate also increased, whereas the Wales’ rate decreased. Wrexham’s client rate in this area remained below that of both Wales and the comparable authorities. Figure 16 shows the trend in the rate of adult service users aged 65+ since 2001-02.

**Figure 16: Rate of adult service users aged 65 and over receiving community and residential based services per 1,000 population (aged 65 and over).**

![Graph showing the rate of adult service users aged 65 and over receiving community and residential based services per 1,000 population (aged 65 and over).](image)

Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Of the 2,914 social care clients aged 65+, Wrexham helped 81% to continue living independently at home, an increase on the 78% in 2007-08. This equates to 11% of the entire population aged 65+ in 2008-09. The percentage of clients aged 65+ helped to live at home across the comparable authorities was 83%.

As with the rate of adult clients aged 65+, the total number of service users in this age group receiving community based services had been increasing since 2005-06, although it had yet to match the baseline level of 2001-02. Likewise both the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities average have increased since 2005-06, although the Wales LA average has increased at a slower rate. Wrexham’s client numbers remain below the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities’ average. Figure 17 shows the numbers of older people that Wrexham supports in a community setting and includes assistive technology.
Figure 17: Number of social care clients aged 65 and over receiving community based services during the year.

![Graph showing number of people]

Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

With the exception of the 2007-08 figure, Wrexham’s spending on social care clients in this category had increased steadily since 2001-02. Both the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities’ average had also continued to increase. Overall, spending on social care clients aged 65+ in Wrexham remained less than the comparable authorities’ average expenditure.

Since 2001-02 the proportion of spending on its own provision has decreased steadily, although 2008-09 saw a slight increase. Conversely, the proportion invested in own provision by both the comparable authorities and Wales has remained fairly stable during this time. In 2008-09 Wrexham spent 37% of its expenditure on its own provision. This compares to 45% in Wales and 46% in the comparable authorities. Figure 18 shows the pattern in Wrexham’s expenditure.

Figure 18: Wrexham’s gross expenditure on adults aged 65 and over proportionately split between its own and other provision.

![Graph showing gross expenditure]

Source: Welsh Assembly Government
Adults aged 18-64 who are physically and sensory disabled

The number of clients with physical or sensory disabilities receiving community and residential services in Wrexham fluctuated considerably during the period 2001-02 to 2008-09. Figure 19 shows the numbers in 2008-09 were once again on the increase, but remained less than those experienced in 2001-02. In 2008-09 Wrexham had 514 social care clients with physical or sensory disabilities. This compares to an average of 628 across all Welsh authorities and an average of 620 across the comparable authorities.

**Figure 19: Number of adults aged 18-64 with physical and sensory disabilities receiving community or residential based services during the year.**

Since 2001, Wrexham has more than doubled expenditure on clients in this area, with 2008-09 once again seeing an increase following the reduction in 2007-08. In 2008-09 the overall level of spending in this area is on a level with the comparable authorities’ average expenditure.

Over the same period the proportion of expenditure on its own provision has fluctuated, although it had been increasing since 2006-07. In 2008-09 Wrexham spent 52% of their total expenditure in this area on its own provision. This compares to 43% in 2006-07 and 63% in 2001-02. Conversely both Wales and the comparable authorities saw a decrease in the proportion spent on their own provision in 2008-09. The proportion of expenditure on its own provision in Wrexham remained higher than the proportions across Wales and the comparable authorities at 44% and 37% respectively. Figure 20 sets out the growth in Wrexham’s expenditure in this area and the pattern of that expenditure.
Figure 20: Wrexham’s gross expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with physical and sensory disabilities proportionately split between its own and other provision.

Source: Welsh Assembly Government
Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities

2008-09 saw a slight decrease in the number of people with learning disabilities receiving community and residential based services in Wrexham. Conversely both the Welsh authorities and the comparable authorities showed a slight increase in average client numbers. In 2008-09 Wrexham’s client numbers in this area remained below both the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities’ average and the gap between the figures was increasing. Figure 21 shows the trend in the numbers receiving services in this client group.

Figure 21: Number of adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities receiving community and residential based services during the year.

![Graph showing trend in numbers receiving services](image)

Despite only a relatively slight rise in client numbers since 2001-02, Wrexham’s spending in this area continued to increase. In fact spending in 2008-09 is four times higher than in 2001-02. Over the same period both the Welsh LA average spend and comparable authorities’ average spend also increased, although at a slower rate. In 2008-09 Wrexham’s expenditure in this area remained well above both the Welsh LA average expenditure and the comparable authorities’ average expenditure.

In 2008-09 Wrexham spent 49% of its total expenditure in this area on its own provision. This compares to 50% in 2007-08 and 82% in 2001-02. Likewise both Wales and the comparable authorities continued to decrease the proportion spent on own provision. Figure 22 shows the level and pattern of spending in Wrexham.
Figure 22: Wrexham’s gross expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities proportionately split between its own and other provision.

Source: Welsh Assembly Government
Adults aged 18-64 with mental health problems

The number of people with mental health problems receiving community and residential based services in Wrexham had been steadily decreasing since 2002-03, with 2008-09 seeing a further decrease. For the first time client numbers in this area were below the baseline level of 2001-02. For the same period both the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities’ average remained relatively stable. Figure 23 shows the trend in the numbers receiving services in this client group.

**Figure 23: Number of adults aged 18-64 with mental health difficulties receiving community and residential based services during the year.**

Comparing with other service areas this is a relatively small area of spend. Spending on adult clients with mental health problems has increased in Wrexham since 2001-02 although the figures have seen some variation. 2008-09 saw an increase in total expenditure. Both the Welsh LA average spend and the comparable authorities’ average spend also continued to increase during this time, although 2008-09 saw a slight increase in the Welsh LA average spend. The total expenditure in Wrexham remained higher than both the comparable authorities’ average spend and the Welsh LA spend.

Wrexham’s proportion of spending on its own provision has seen some fluctuation since 2001, although overall the proportion has decreased. 2008-09 saw a further decrease in the figures with 49% being spent on its own provision compared to 55% in 2007-08. Similarly the comparable authorities’ average spend also decreased in 2008-09, whereas the Welsh LA average spend increased slightly. For 2008-09 Wrexham’s level of spending on its own provision remained higher than both the Wales’ proportion of 43% and the comparable authorities’ proportion of 45%. Figure 24 shows these trends as well as the split in Wrexham’s expenditure between its own and other provision.
Figure 24: Wrexham’s gross expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with mental health difficulties proportionately split between its own and other provision.

Source: Welsh Assembly Government
Appendix 1

Arriving at our comparable authority list

To arrive at our list of comparable authorities we have used a comparable authorities’ model. This is a piece of statistical software that is freely available on the Local Government Data Unit’s website. It lets authorities choose either socio-demographic and/or service specific data (indicators), in order to arrive at a set of nearest statistical neighbours.

This method gives a score (distance), to all pairs of authorities according to the similarity between them:

- We call this the ‘distance’ calculated, because the method for calculating the difference in a variable is the same as calculating a geographical distance.
- The ‘distances’ are then combined to give an overall score.
- The smaller the score, the more comparable the authorities are.
- Increasing the number of indicators decreases the probability of getting a ‘close’ match.

We chose the following variables in order to arrive at the nearest neighbours:

- Population;
- Population density;
- Dependent children in families receiving income support;
- Population aged under 18 in wards with weighted density greater than 1.5 times the Welsh average;
- Dependent children in overcrowded housing;
- Dependent children in social rented housing;
- Population aged under 18;
- Population aged 18 to 64;
- Adults aged 18 to 64 in non-white ethnic groups;
- Severe disablement allowance and disability living allowance claimants aged under 65;
- Households where head is aged 18 to 64 with no carer;
- Income support and job seekers allowance claimants aged under 65;
- Pensioners with a limiting long-term illness;
- Income support recipients aged 60 and over/65 and over (from 2005-06);
- Pensioners living alone in households; and
- Population aged 85 and over.

For further information please see our website.