

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

*This report is one in a series profiling Poole produced by the Corporate Research Team. These reports have been designed to help inform service and policy planning, by summarising available research and statistical evidence. They provide a top level view of specific subject areas and also identify contacts, websites and publications for those people who would like more detailed information.*

## **Purpose of this Report**

This report outlines current information relating to **Children and Young People** in Poole. It considers demographics, health, safety, education, crime and deprivation, and raises the key issues facing the Borough and its partners as they strive to deliver improved public services that meet local need.

## **Key Points**

- **There are currently 31,400 0-19 year olds in Poole**
- **4% of 0-19 year olds are from a black or minority ethnic background**
- **14.7% of children live in households receiving housing benefit**
- **Poole has a low teenage conception rate**

## **Demographic Information**

There are currently around 31,400 0-19 year olds in Poole (ONS 2004 mid-year estimates).

Around 4% (1,300) of these come from a black or minority ethnic background. This includes white Irish and white other.

According to the 2001 Census relatively high numbers of 0-19 year olds reside in areas within Hamworthy, Merley and Bearwood, Alderney and Branksome, see **Figure 1**. There are fewer children and young people in Canford Cliffs where the majority of the population are aged over 65.

The population of 0-19 year olds in Poole is forecast to fall by 9% over the next 10 years to 2015. For England & Wales as a whole they forecast a fall of 4.6%.

## **Be Healthy**

In general children in Poole are healthy, and to ensure that this does not change, strategies are in place to maintain and improve health.

### **Physical Health**

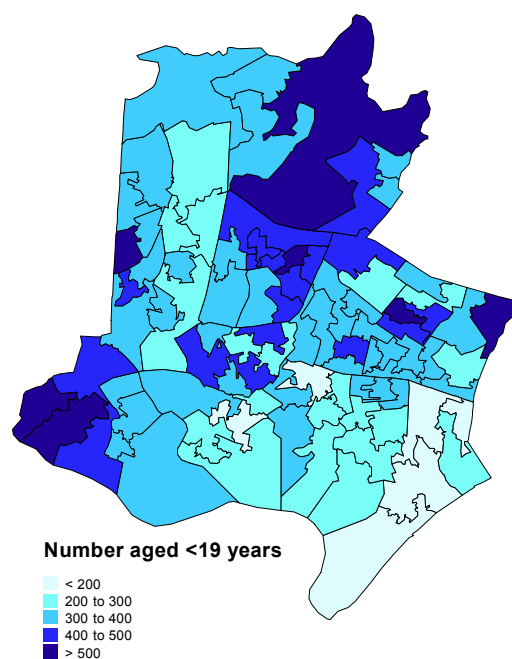
89% of children looked after in Poole are receiving both an annual health assessment and an annual dental check. This is above the national and benchmarking averages of 77% and 80% respectively.

0.7% of children in Poole suffer from Asthma, with a higher number of boys suffering from this respiratory condition.

Between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005, 7% of the babies born to mothers in Poole had a low birth weight.

The recent Multi-agency Review of Services for Disabled Children identified 480 0-19 year olds with a severe disability (including physical, sight, hearing, learning disabilities and complex medical conditions). A large proportion of these children live in Alderney, Newtown, and Hamworthy West.

Figure 1: Children aged 0-19, Poole 2001



Source : ONS Census 2001

## Mental and Emotional Health

The number of children in Poole that are referred to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is relatively low. However, there are two areas within Alderney and Newtown which have a high number of CAMHS referrals.

## Sexual Health

Table 2: Live Births by Age of Mother

	Live births to mothers aged < 20. Rate per 1,000 women (2003)
Poole	15.1
South West	22.7
England	26.8

In 2003 a total of 1,456 babies were born to mothers in Poole. 4% were born to mothers aged under 20 years. Poole has relatively low rates of teenage births compared to the South West and England (Table 2).

Source: ONS 2001

## Drugs and Alcohol

The majority of children that are affected by parents that misuse substances reside in areas of Poole Town and Alderney.

0.7% of 10 –18 year olds in Poole were referred to the Young Adults Drug and Alcohol Service (YADAS) in 2004/2005.

## Stay Safe

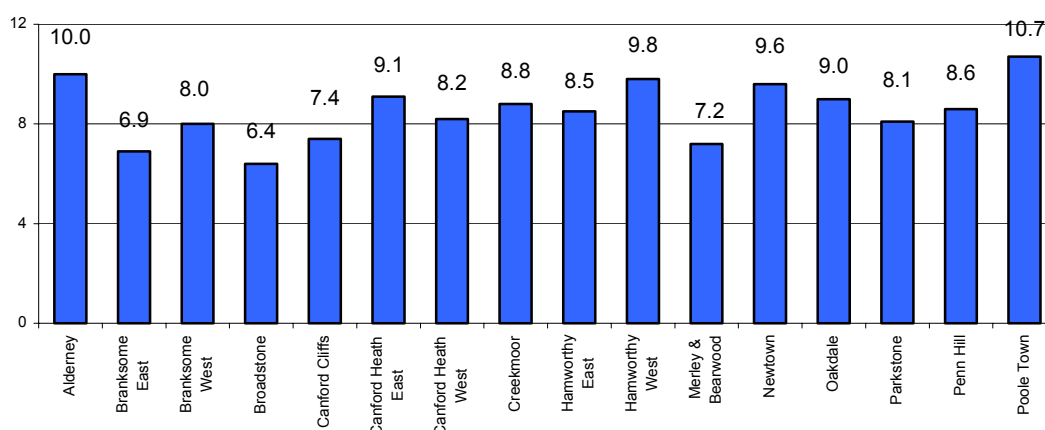
### Safe from Maltreatment, Neglect, Violence and Sexual Exploitation

26 out of every 10,000 children in Poole are on the Child Protection Register (CPR). This is slightly above national and benchmarking averages (24 and 25 per 10,000). Most of the children on the CPR live at home, and Poole has ensured that a qualified social worker has been allocated to each child and young person on the CPR.

### Safe from Injuries

Figure 3 illustrates the percentage of children and young people by ward admitted to hospital for accidental and non-accidental injuries between 2004 to 2005.

Figure 3: Percentage of 0-19 year olds admitted to Hospital for Accidental and Non-Accidental Injuries (2004-2005)



Source: Poole Primary Care Trust

### Safe from Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Overall crime in Poole fell by around 7% between 2002/3 and 2003/4. However, according to Poole Police Victims of Crime Data for 2004/05, high numbers of children and young people in Alderney, Poole Town and Hamworthy East have been victims of crime. The most common crimes were common assault, theft of a pedal cycle and Actual Bodily Harm (ABH).

## Have Security, Stability and Are Cared For

Poole has a strong fostering service with 85% of all children looked after in family placements. 95% of all foster placements are with in-house carers or within a 20-mile radius of Poole.

## Enjoy and Achieve

### SATs

Over the last five years, SATs results have improved in Poole. The rate of those achieving at least level 4 at Key Stage 2, has risen from 65% to 74% for Mathematics and from 71% to 80% for English. This means Poole has reached the national rate in Mathematics and now exceeds the national rate in English.

### GCSEs

In the academic year 2003/4, the percentage of Poole's pupils taking GCSE examinations who achieved 5 or more grades A\* to C was 62.2%. This compares very favourably to the national rate of 53.7%.

### School Absences

The percentage of half days missed due to absence (all types of absences) has declined over the past 3 years as detailed in **Table 4**. The national average has followed the improving Poole trend, but Poole has performed consistently better than the national average.

Table 4 : School Absences 2001 - 2004

	Absences from Primary Schools			Absences from Secondary Schools		
	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4
Poole	5.81	5.52	5.43	8.25	7.82	7.44
England	5.85	5.81	5.49	8.72	8.28	8.06

Source: BoP Pupil & Parent Support

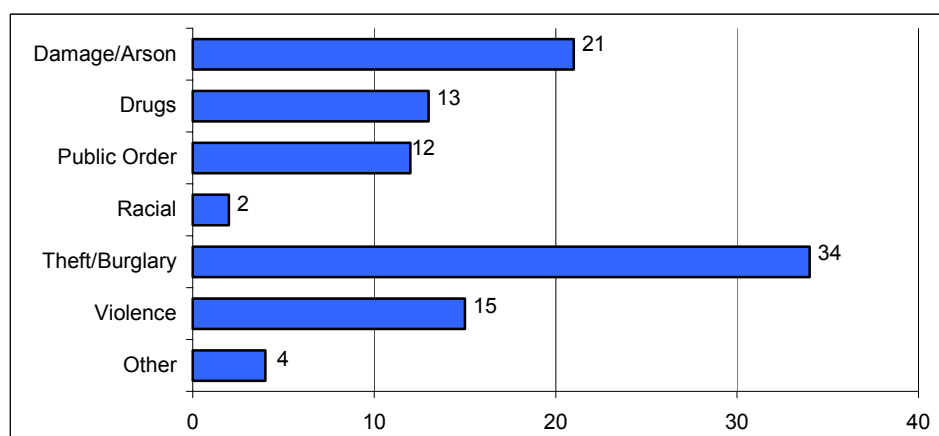
## Positive Contribution

### Young Offenders

In 2001 2.7% of young people aged 10-17 years were cautioned or convicted. For 2003 this figure had fallen to 2.1%. This compares favourably to the national and benchmarking averages of 3.3%. Dorset has the second lowest youth offending rate out of the 39 English police authorities.

**Figure 5** shows the most common offences committed by young offenders in Poole (2004/5).

Figure 5: Types of Offences Committed by Young Offenders, Poole 2004/05



Source: Young Offenders Team

## School Exclusions

The number of children permanently excluded expressed as a percentage of the school population is below average in Poole (2.38% compared to 2.63%). However, the number of fixed term exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population is above average (5.07% compared to 4.49%) (Source: DfES for 2003/04 school year).

## Economic Wellbeing

### Low Income Households

14.7% of children in Poole live in households receiving housing/council tax benefits. This includes households receiving income support, job seekers allowance and pension credit. Just over 55% of these children live in lone parent households.

### After leaving school

In Poole there is a lower rate (5.5%) of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) than the national average. This figure of 5.5% includes individuals who live outside the boundaries of the Borough but are registered with the Poole Connexions Team as their nearest centre. Some of these young people are from the borough but accommodated outside it. The percentage of individuals that reside in Poole only and fall into the NEET category is 3.4%.

89% of Poole's year 11 leavers entered education, training or employment with training in 2004.

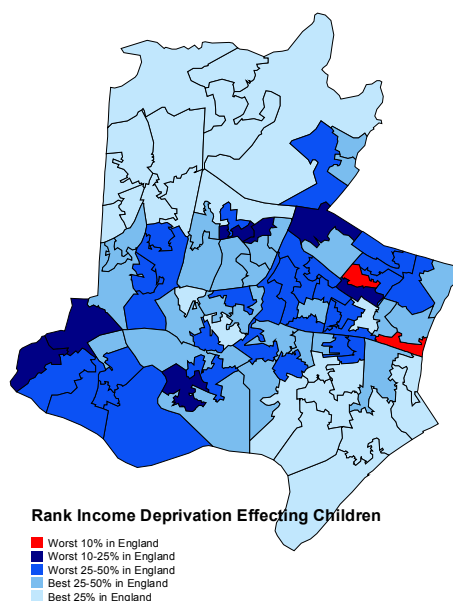
## Deprivation in Poole

For the Children and Young Peoples Needs Assessment carried out for Poole in 2005, a deprivation score was calculated for each ward based on a number of key variables. **Table 6** gives these scores by ward ranked from 1-16 (1 is the most deprived and 16 is the least deprived).

Table 6: Young People Deprivation Score

Rank	Ward	Composite Score
1	Alderney	80
2	Hamworthy West	78
3	Hamworthy East	77
4	Poole Town	74
5	Newtown	55
6	Creekmoor	51
7	Canford Heath East	48
8	Branksome West	44
9	Oakdale	39
10	Branksome East	35
11	Canford Heath West	34
12	Parkstone	26
13	Penn Hill	21
14	Canford Cliffs	15
15	Merley & Bearwood	9
16	Broadstone	7

Figure 7: Income Deprivation Affecting Children Domain, Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004



Source: ODPM Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004

**Figure 7** shows that Income Deprivation affecting children is predominantly concentrated in parts of Alderney and Branksome East. Two areas within these wards fall under the worst 10% of Super Output Areas in England & Wales. However, over a quarter of the Super Output Areas in Poole fall within the best 25% of SOAs that are the least deprived areas nationally.

For further information on this subject contact **Corporate Research** on **01202 633357** or visit our website under Statistics for Poole at [www.boroughofpoole.com](http://www.boroughofpoole.com). Other useful websites include: [www.neighbourhoodstats.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodstats.gov.uk), [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk) and [e-base4info.org.uk](http://e-base4info.org.uk).

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