

Introduction

This factsheet highlights statistics and information on vulnerable children on the Isle of Wight. These are groups at increased risk of social exclusion and health inequalities compared with the rest of the population.

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children, such as those living in poverty or in care, are at higher risk of poor health and other outcomes such as poor educational attainment and poverty in adult life. These factors influence the health and well-being of this age group.

Children at Risk

Child Well-Being Index

According to the Child Well-Being Index there are 14 LSOAs in the 20% lowest well-being score average nationally (with two in the lowest 10%) where a child is likely to find themselves considered a child in need.

The areas in the 20% lowest well-being score average:

- Brading & St Helens B
- Carisbrooke West B
- Mount Joy B
- Pan A
- Pan B
- Ryde South West A
- Sandown South B
- Shanklin Central B
- Shanklin South B
- St Johns West A
- Ventnor East A
- Ventnor West B

The areas in the 10% lowest well-being score average:

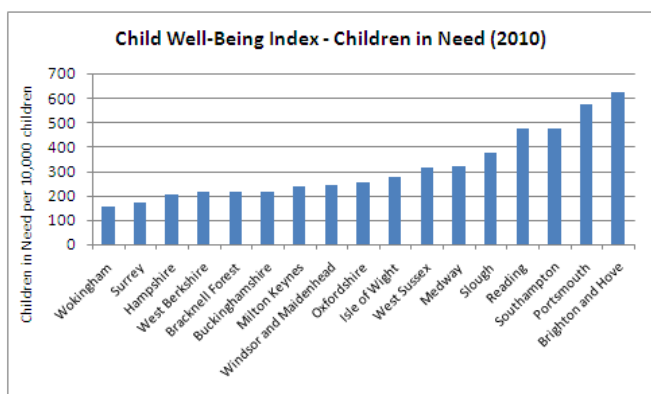
- St Johns East A
- Osborne

Source: [Local Index of Child Well-Being 2009](#)

Children in Need

The principal need identified for 'Children in Need' at initial assessment is 'abuse or neglect', which according to the Department for Education accounts for 41% of cases nationally.

As at the 31 March 2010 there were 723 Children in Need on the Isle of Wight, which is equivalent to a rate of 273.6 per 10,000 children. This rate is a good indicator when compared with other local authorities. On the Island the rate is about middle of the range against other areas in the South East:



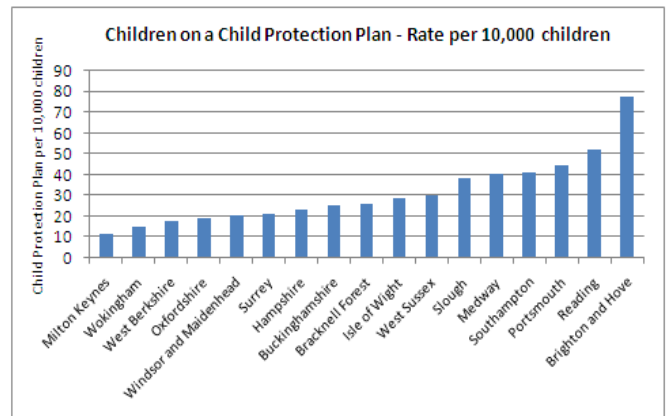
Source: [Department for Education – Characteristics of Children in Need in England](#)

Child Protection Plan

In 2009-10 there were 287 children subject to Section 47 enquiries which had started during the year, of which 80 individuals went on to become subject to a child protection plan.

As at 31 March 2010 the rate of children who were subject of a child protection plan on the Island was 29.1 per 10,000 children (under 18s). As a comparison, the rate for England was 35.5 per 10,000 children.

The following graph shows how the rate on the Island compares with the rest of the South East region:



Source: [Department for Education – Referrals, assessments and children and young people who are the subject of a child protection plan, England 2009-10](#)

Adoption

Adoption scorecards have been developed to identify delays in the adoption system. The scorecard shows how swiftly children in need of adoption are placed for adoption in each local authority. The data is based on a three year rolling average (2008-09 to 2010-11). The scorecard shows:

- The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (in days) on the Isle of Wight is 563. In comparison, the Island statistical neighbours average was 582 days, and the average for England as a whole was 625 days.
- The average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family (in days) on the Island was 154. In comparison this was 165 days for the Island's statistical neighbours, and 171 for England as a whole.
- The percentage of children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family on the Island is 57%. In comparison, the Island's statistical neighbour percentage was 64% and for England was 58%.

Source: [Department for Education – Adoption scorecards](#)

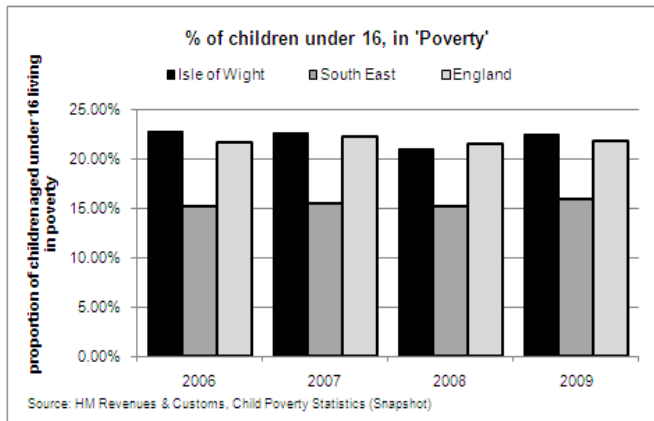
Child Poverty

Children are defined by HMRC as living in poverty if they live in families that are in receipt of out of work benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of median income (the national child poverty threshold). Child poverty therefore directly reflects adults' income and employment.

Source: [HM Revenue & Customs – Child Poverty Statistics](#)

In 2008 there were 5,380 children (aged 0 to 18) living in poverty on the Isle of Wight (20.2%). In comparison the average for England was 20.9%. 68% of these children living in poverty on the Isle of Wight live in lone parent households.

By 2009 the number of children in poverty had increased to 5,755 (21.5% of age group) on the Island. In comparison, the average for England and Wales was 21.4%. 64% of these children living in poverty on the Isle of Wight live in lone parent households.



Source: [HMRC Personal Tax Credits: Related Statistics – Child Poverty Statistics 'snapshot as at 31st August 2008 & 2009'](#)

By comparison, as at May 2010 there were 4,670 Island children under 15 living in benefit dependent households (20.5% of age group). This shows an increase from 4,590 (20.0% of age group) children in 2009. The LSOAs with the highest number of under 15s living in benefit dependent households in 2010 were:

- Mount Joy B
- Newport North B
- Osborne
- Ryde South East B
- Sandown South B
- St Johns West A
- Ventnor West B

Source: [Department for Work and Pensions – Number of Children living in all out-of-work benefit claimant households by local authority and age at May 2009 & 2010](#)

Indices of Income Deprivation Affecting Children

According to the IMD 2010, five of the Islands 89 LSOAs are amongst the 20% most deprived in England for income deprivation affecting children aged 0 to 15. These LSOAs were:

- Osborne
- Pan B
- Sandown South B
- St Johns West A
- Ventnor West B

Source: [The English Indices of Deprivation 2010](#)

The IMD 2010 domain of Education, Skills and Training Deprivation, which measures children and young people, as well as adult skills, indicates that 13 LSOAs on the Isle of Wight were among the 20% most deprived areas in England.

These LSOAs were:

- Carisbrooke West B
- Cowes Medina B
- Freshwater Norton B
- Lake North B
- Mount Joy B
- Newport North B
- Osborne
- Pan A
- Pan B
- St John's East A
- St John's West A
- Sandown South B
- Ventnor West B

On the Island, there is a close association between low birth weight and deprivation, with babies born to families resident in the more deprived areas more likely to be low birth weight. The following table shows the number of low birth weight (below 2,500 grams) infants born in each quintile of deprivation of the Island:

IW Deprivation Quintile (IMD 2010)	Number of low birthweight births	Low birthweight % rate
1 = most deprived	136	8.3%
2	123	7.7%
3	95	7.8%
4	59	6.3%
5 = least deprived	56	6.2%
Isle of Wight total	469	7.4%

Source: [Isle of Wight Public Health Information Analyst \(Low Birth weight\) / ONS – Annual Birth Extracts](#)

Mental Health

Mental health and wellbeing among children and young people can set the pattern for their mental health throughout their lifetime, with half of those with lifetime mental health problems first experiencing symptoms by the age of 14.

Source: [HM Government – No health without mental health](#)

Nationally it is known that, at any one time, 1 in 10 young people aged 5 to 16 are experiencing a mental health problem causing distress or impacting on their day to day life.

By applying this 1 in 10 measure to the Island's population, around 1,800 young people aged 5 to 16 could be experiencing such mental health problems. The proportion of these children is likely to be higher (worse) among those living in workless households, whose parents are in less affluent and have fewer educational qualifications.

Source: [ONS – Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain](#)

Autism

Autistic Spectrum Disorder, or Autism, is defined as a lifelong condition that affects an individual's social communication and interaction and how they make sense of the world around them.

It is estimated that the prevalence Autistic Spectrum Disorder is around 1% of the UK population (for both adults and children), with the rate among men (1.8%) being higher than women (0.2%).

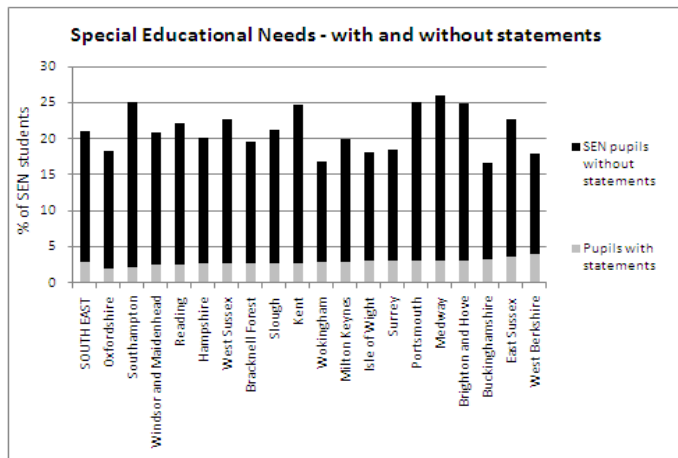
By applying these national prevalence models to the Island population, it is estimated that there might be around 1,400 Island residents of all ages have a condition on the Autistic Spectrum, of whom approximately 300 are aged 0 to 19.

Source: [NHS Information Centre for health and social care](#) / Office for National Statistics

Special Educational Needs

In 2011 the Isle of Wight had a total of 3,425 pupils with Special Educational Needs, 18.1% of all pupils. Of this, 594 (3.1%) had a statement of Special Educational Need, with 2,829 (15%) having no statement.

The Island had the fourth lowest total number of SEN pupils in the South East region, with Buckinghamshire the low at 16.6% and Medway the high at 25.8%. In England 20.6% of pupils had Special Educational Needs, 2.8% with a statement and 17.8% without a statement.



Source: [DfE: Special Educational Needs in England \(January 2011\)](#)

Sight Impaired

Gaining accurate statistics on the number of children with a visual impairment is difficult. However, Morris and Smith (2008) estimate that there are around 25,000 blind or partially sighted children in Britain (a ratio of around 1 in 500 children).

If this ratio is applied to the Isle of Wight it would suggest there may be around 50 children who are blind or partially sighted.

Source: [Action for Blind People – Facts and figures about issues around sight loss](#)

Hearing impaired

Gaining accurate statistics on the number of children with a hearing impairment is difficult. However, it has been estimated that there are between 23,000 and 25,000 children aged under 16 who are permanently deaf or hard of hearing. Of this number, around 16,000 were children born deaf or became deaf in the first few years of life ('prelingually' deaf, or deaf before language was developed), a ratio of around 13 in 10,000 children. If this ratio is applied to the Isle of Wight it would suggest there may be around 30 to 40 children who are 'prelingually' deaf.

Source: [Deafsign – Statistics on Deafness](#)

Learning Disabilities

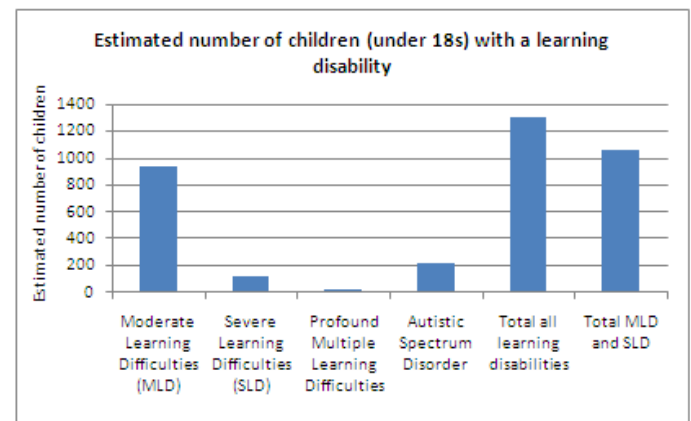
The first national 'Valuing People' strategy defined learning disability as including the presence of:

- A significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with;
- A reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning); which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development.

People's learning disabilities will range from mild to severe, and the degree of severity will determine their need for support and services. While people with severe disabilities are more likely to be known to and in receipt of health and social care services, people with moderate or mild disabilities might still need support and adjustment to services to enable access to them.

Obtaining accurate statistics on the number of children with a learning difficulty is difficult. However, estimates suggest that around 4% of children have a moderate or severe learning disability; rising to around 5% if profound multiple learning difficulties and autistic spectrum disorder are also included.

The following graph shows the estimated number of children with a learning disability on the Island if these estimates are applied to the Isle of Wight under 18 population:



Source: [Centre for Disability Research – Estimating Future Need for Adult Social Care Services for People with Learning Disabilities in England \(2008\)](#)

Physical Disabilities

There are an estimated 0.7 million disabled children (under 16) in the UK, this equates to around 5% of the total child population. If these estimates were applied to the Island child population it would suggest there might be around 1,140 children with a physical disability.

Source: [Department for Work and Pensions \(DWP\) – Family resources survey](#)

Carers

The 2008 National Carers Strategy described a carer as someone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems.

There is a clear relationship between caring and poor health, with those providing high levels of care twice as likely to have poor health (compared to those without caring responsibilities).

Source: [HM Government – The National Carers' Strategy 2008: Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities](#)

Young Carers

A young carer is a young person (up to the age of 18) whose life is affected by caring, where the person being cared for has a disability or long term illness. The person being cared for may be a parent, sibling, other family member or friend, and is not necessarily live in the same house as the young carer.

Young carers face a number of difficulties, such as problems at school with attendance, attainment and bullying. Young carers are also at an increased risk of some mental health issues, such as stress and anxiety for the person they are caring for, and an increased risk of becoming isolated from their peers.

Source: [Carers Trust – Supporting Young carers: A resource for schools](#)

The 2001 Census identified that there were almost 400 young carers on the Island (and 175,000 across the UK). However, a [2010 BBC survey](#) suggested these figures could be much higher, as much as four times the number identified by the 2001 Census.

Teenage Parents

Teenage conceptions are of concern because the babies and their mothers are more likely to experience poor health and other negative outcomes.

Since 2005 there have been on average 89 conceptions each year to women aged under 18 on the Island. The Island's under 18 conception rate fell in 2009 (to 30.4 conceptions per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17), but increased in 2010 to 34.2. The rate on the Island is now similar to that of England (35.4), but worse than for the South East.

National evidence shows that most teenage conceptions were unplanned, and this is particularly likely to be true of conceptions resulting in terminations. On the Island in 2010 the number of under 18 conceptions leading to terminations increased from 41.3% (2009) to 53%, and the Isle of Wight rate is now higher than England's (50.3%).

Source: Isle of Wight Public Health Information Analyst – Office of National Statistics

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Alcohol

It is known that while most young people will try alcohol before the age of 16, there are serious risks for teenagers who drink to excess, for example in their engagement in other risky behaviours such as the use of other drugs and unsafe sex.

According to a recent survey, 44% of young people aged 10 to 16 on the Isle of Wight had ever had an alcoholic drink, for England the rate was 42%. The same survey also showed 17% of Island young people aged 10 to 16 had been drunk in the last 4 weeks, compared to 15% for England.

Source: Isle of Wight Public Health Information Analyst / Ofsted 'Tell Us 4 Survey'

The Isle of Wight has had a very high comparative rate of alcohol specific admissions among young people. This is in part due to St Mary's hospital being more likely (lower threshold) to admit young people, compared with mainland hospitals.

However, in recent years the number of alcohol-specific hospital admissions, and the rate per 100,000 of population, has fallen, shown in the following table:

Isle of Wight: Persons	Baseline		Target Period		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number of Admissions	48	51	44	41	32
Rate per 100,000 Population	176.7	189.2	162.4	150.2	117.2

Source: [Isle of Wight Public Health Information Analyst \(Alcohol Misuse - Young People\) / North West Public Health Observatory](#)

Further information

For a list of sources to further information and advice on the issues covered in this factsheet please [click here](#).