

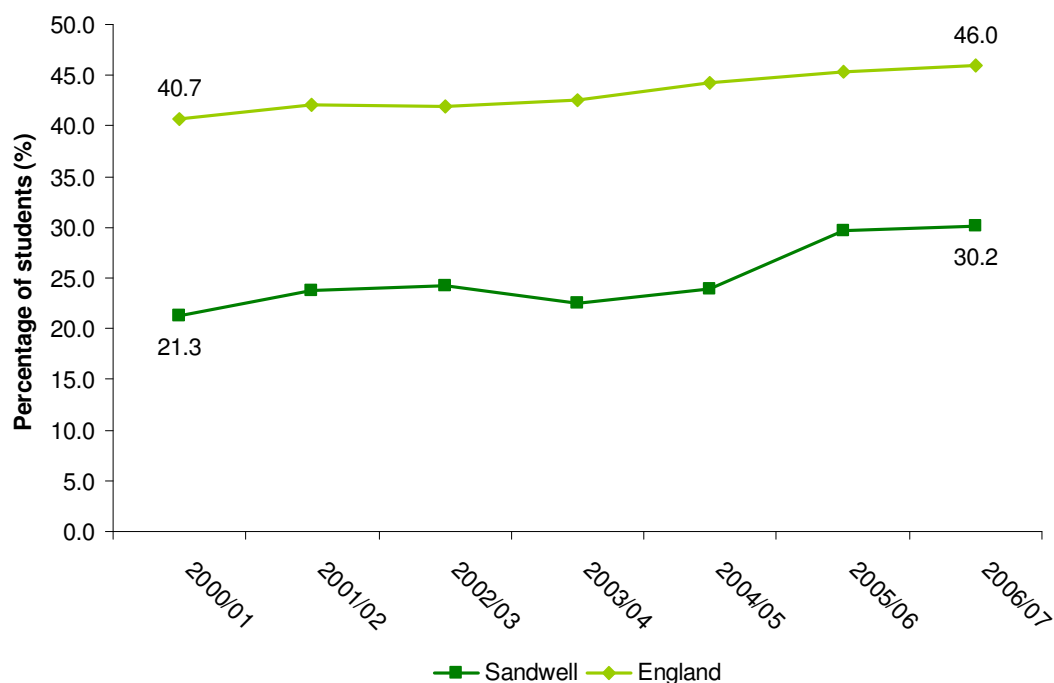
## 8 Successful young people

### 8.1 Education

#### 8.1.1 GCSEs

Health and education are closely connected: poor educational attainment affects health and vice versa. There has been a steady closing of the gap in educational attainment of Sandwell children over the last seven years. Almost 50% more students get five or more A\*-C GCSEs (Figure 8:1).

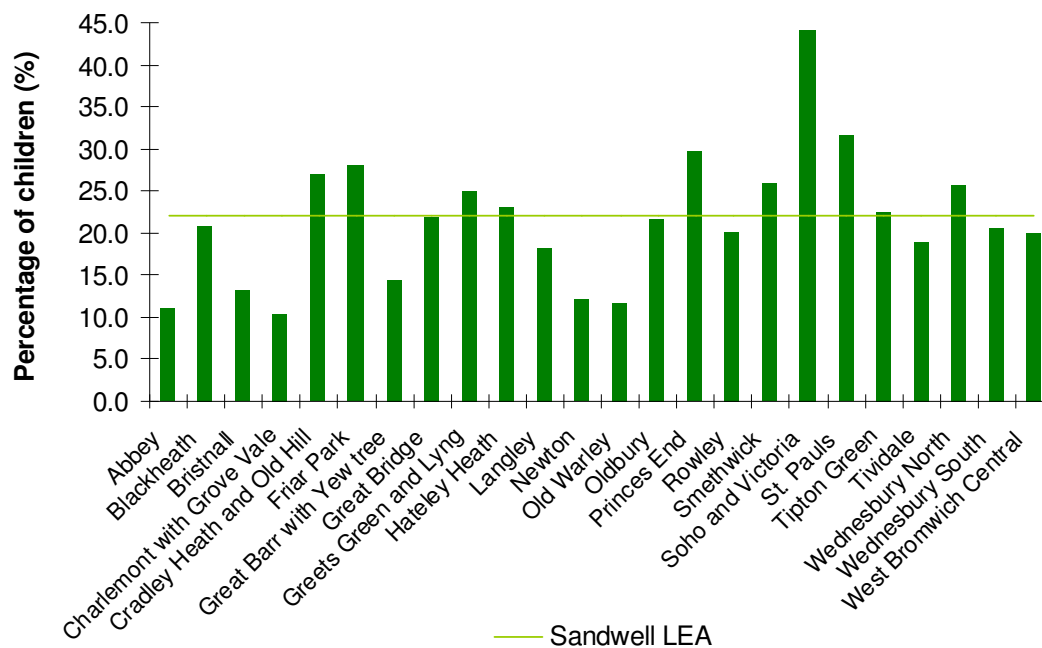
**Figure 8:1 Five or more A\*-C grades including English & mathematics GCSEs**



Source: DCSF / Sandwell MBC, Data Intelligence Unit

#### 8.1.2 Free school meals

Since the 2004/05 academic year, eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) has fallen in Sandwell by 6.4%. Bristnall has had the largest decrease at 29%; in 2004/05, the FSM eligibility was 18.5% compared to 13.1% in 2006/07. Soho and Victoria has consistently shown 44% eligibility amongst its resident pupils, this being the highest recorded figure in the borough, and is significantly higher than the borough average which has remained fairly static for the last three years (23.6/22.8/22.1). Why does this matter? In 2007 the achievement gap between Sandwell pupils receiving Free School Meals and their peers at Key Stage 2 was 22.4% and the Key Stage 4 gap was 16%.

**Figure 8:2 Children eligible for Free School Meals, 2006/7**

Source: 2006/07 FSM data, Sandwell LEA, February 2008

### 8.1.3 Exclusions

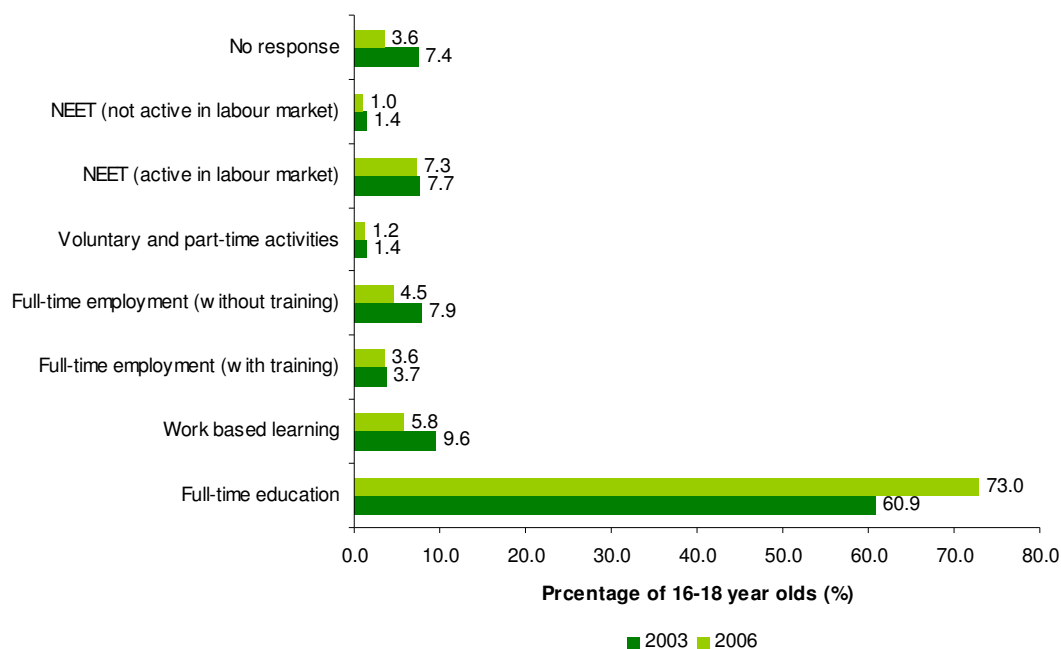
The rate of permanent exclusions from school in Sandwell is notably higher than the rates for the West Midlands and England and has increased between 2003/04 and 2005/06, whereas the rates have gone down for England as a whole over that time and have only marginally increased across the West Midlands

### 8.1.4 School Leavers

Contextual data is available showing the first destinations of school leavers in Sandwell. This data shows that (Figure 8:3):

- The trend for 16-year old school leavers to opt for further education in Sandwell is still evident and is in line with regional and national trends.
- In 2006 there was a particular increase in the proportion of young people continuing in full-time education in Sandwell, with 3.5% more school leavers in 2006 than in 2005 opting for this destination.
- There has been an overall drop in entry to labour market opportunities.

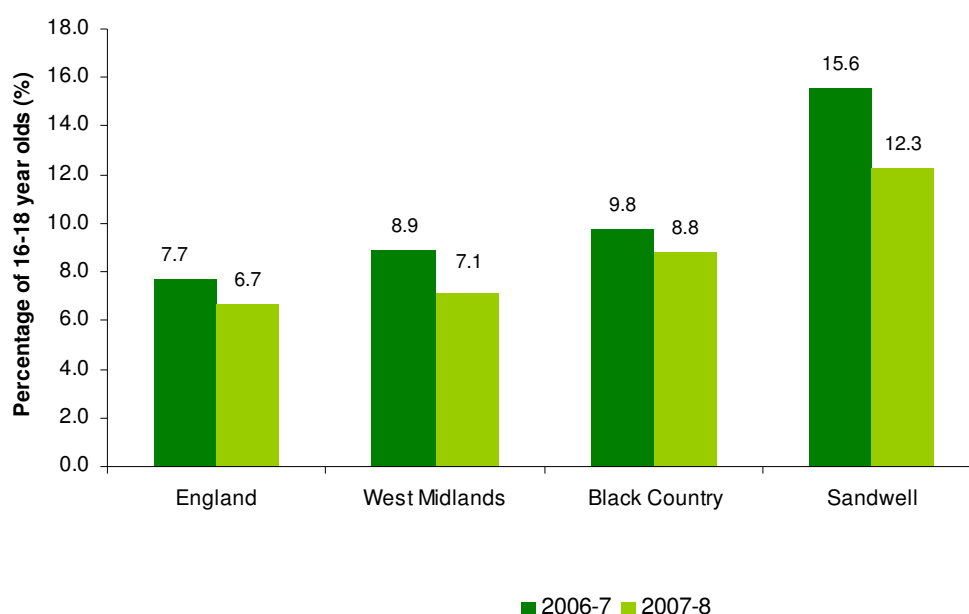
**Figure 8:3 Year 11 destination trends 2003-2006 (Sandwell)**



Source: Prospects Services Ltd (2008)

There are many different reasons for an individual to be not studying, either through formal education, employment or training (NEET) and people remain in this situation for different lengths of time, for instance they may be caring for a child, experience ill-health, be out of the country, seeking employment. The proportion of people classed as NEET nationally had remained at around 10 per cent for over the last decade. However in Sandwell between 2006/07 and 2007/08 there was a faster rate of decline in the NEET rate in Sandwell than regionally or nationally. However, Sandwell's rate still remains much higher than the regional and national level (Figure 8:4).

**Figure 8:4 16-18 years olds who are not in education, employment or training, Sandwell and Peers 2006-7 and 2007-8<sup>6</sup>**



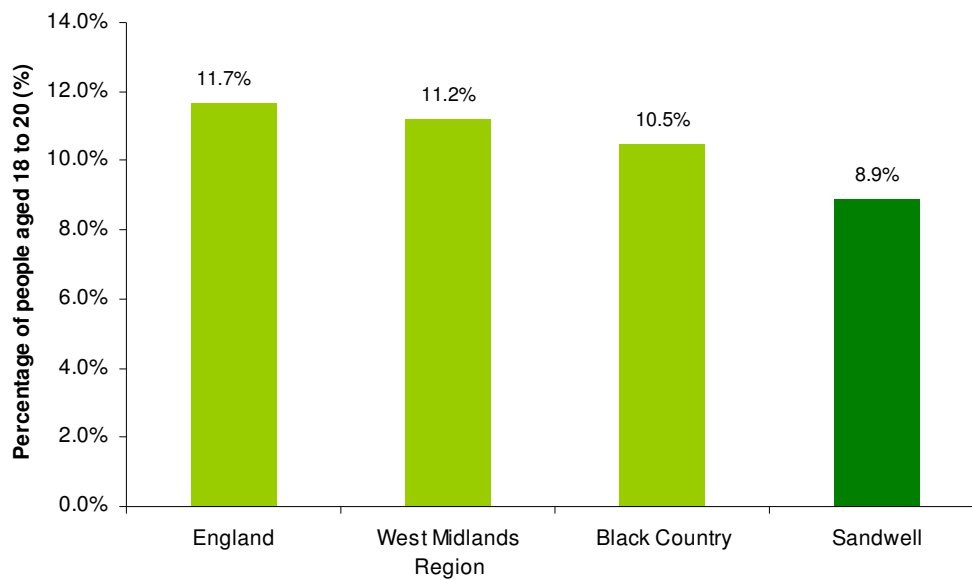
Source: Connexions Black Country (2008)

<sup>6</sup> Notes:

1. Rate given is calculated as Adjusted NEET / (Adjusted NEET plus Adjusted EET), as per the technical definition for NI 117
2. The adjustment is made for lapsed records.
3. The technical definition for the indicator uses November-January.

Sandwell has notably lower proportions of young people aged 18 to 20 years who enter higher education. Table 18 shows the rate in Sandwell (8.9%) was below that of the Black Country, the West Midlands and England in 2005/06.

**Figure 8:5 Students entering higher education, Sandwell and peers, 2005/6**



## 8.2 Children's services

Children looked after are a small population but one that tends to have higher levels of healthcare need and also attains lower health outcomes than other children.

[SEN data to be added]

**Table 8:1 Contacts, Referrals and Children in Care across Sandwell, 2007/08**

Ward	Contacts		Referrals		Children in care	
	Count	Rate per 1000	Count	Rate per 1000	Count	Rate per 1000
Abbey	164	138.6	59	49.9	4	3.4
Blackheath	430	303.2	122	86.0	19	13.4
Bristnall	484	303.4	149	93.4	22	13.8
Charlemont Grove Vale	165	136.3	54	44.6	22	18.2
Cradley Heath & Old Hill	440	293.2	99	66.0	30	20.0
Friar Park	487	310.6	160	102.0	20	12.8
Great Barr with Yew tree	198	135.5	74	50.7	11	7.5
Great Bridge	599	415.1	178	123.4	14	9.7
Greets Green & Lyng	475	296.1	149	92.9	34	21.2
Hateley Heath	482	289.9	116	69.8	22	13.2
Langley	380	250.1	121	79.6	14	9.2
Newton	225	166.8	72	53.4	10	7.4
Old Warley	267	202.0	57	43.1	9	6.8
Oldbury	455	306.8	120	80.9	24	16.2
Princes End	622	351.8	165	93.3	34	19.2
Rowley	454	288.4	125	79.4	12	7.6
Smethwick	695	341.5	141	69.3	30	14.7
Soho and Victoria	844	524.6	243	151.0	31	19.3
St. Pauls	587	300.3	135	69.1	35	17.9
Tipton Green	394	255.5	122	79.1	23	14.9
Tividale	508	326.2	107	68.7	18	11.6
Wednesbury North	333	216.3	93	60.4	6	3.9
Wednesbury South	389	283.4	91	66.3	16	11.7
West Brom Central	416	305.6	87	63.9	19	14.0
<b>Oldbury Town</b>	1,586	267.9	447	75.5	69	11.7
<b>Rowley Regis</b>	1,832	302.8	453	74.9	79	13.1
<b>Smethwick Town</b>	2,290	337.7	578	85.2	100	14.7
<b>Tipton</b>	1,615	339.8	465	97.8	71	14.9
<b>Wednesbury</b>	1,209	269.9	344	76.8	42	9.4
<b>West Bromwich</b>	1,961	226.7	552	63.8	118	13.6
<b>Sandwell</b>	<b>10493</b>	<b>286.4</b>	<b>2839</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>13.1</b>

Source: Children's Performance Team, Business Support Unit

Wards with highest rates

## **8.3 Youth Crime**

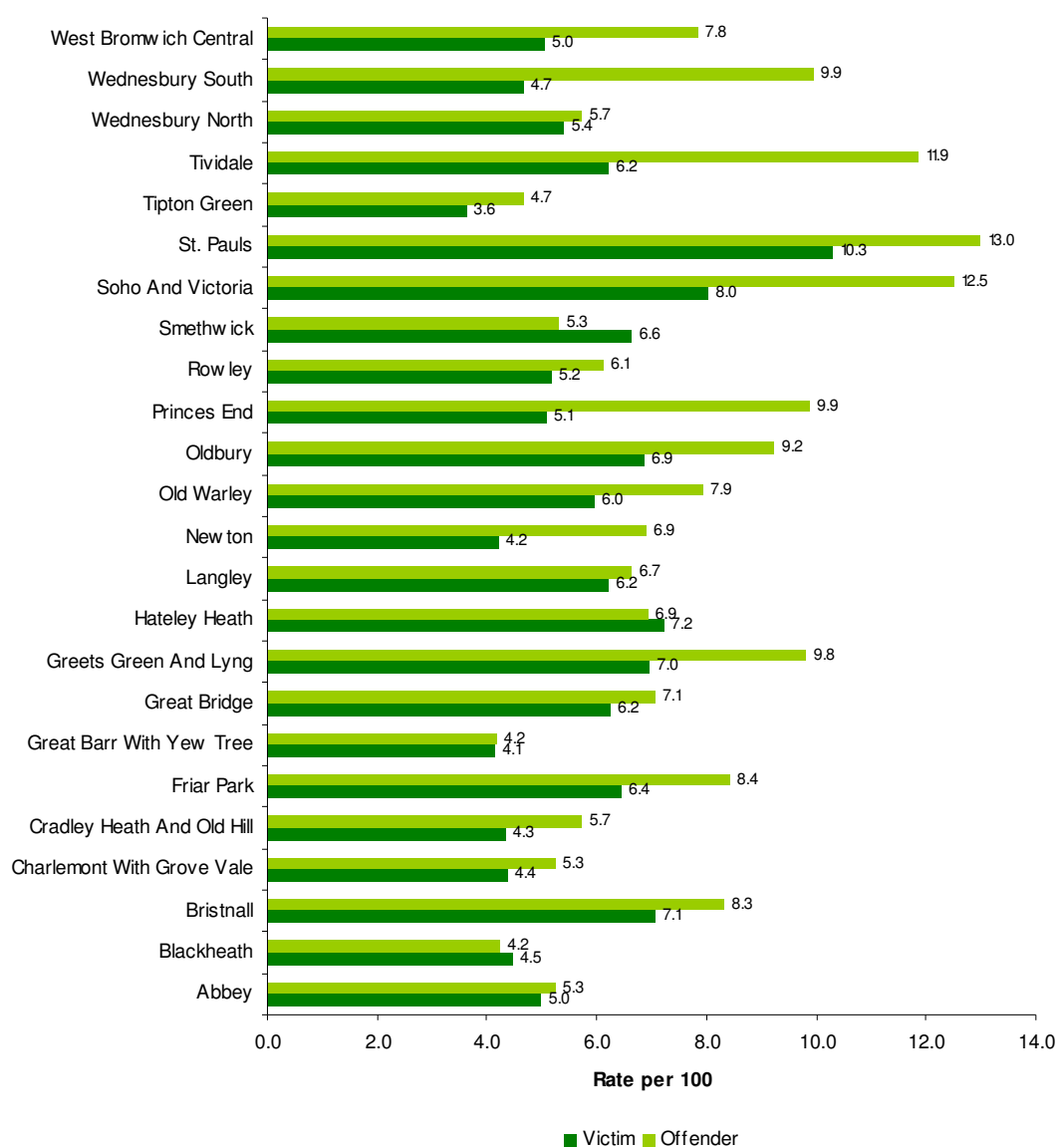
### **8.3.1 First Time Entrants**

- The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system in Sandwell has increased since 2005/6. In that year, there were 608 first time entrants (FTEs) in Sandwell. In 2006/7, the numbers increased by 16% to 708 FTEs.
- The age of FTEs has increased over the past 3 years. During 2005/6 and 2006/7, the largest numbers of FTEs were 14-16 year olds. During the first 3 quarters of 2007/8, the largest numbers were 15-17 year olds.
- There has been a significant and steady increase in young women as FTEs in the past 3 years. In 2005/6 26% of FTEs were female, in 2006/7 49% and in the year-to-date 2007/8 66%.
- There has been a decrease in the percentage of white FTEs. In 2005/6 72% were white, in 2006/7 69% and year to date 2007/8 65%. Black and Asian FTEs have increased slightly over the three years and those whose ethnicity is Unknown has increased by 5%.

### 8.3.2 Victims and Offenders under 18 years

Figure 8:6 shows there is variation in the proportion of under 18 year olds who are victims and offenders within Sandwell. The highest rate of victims of crime who were under 18 years were found in the wards of St. Pauls, Soho and Victoria, and Hateley Heath. The wards of St. Paul's, Soho and Victoria, Tividale and Princes End had the highest numbers of offenders aged under 18 years.

**Figure 8:6 Victim and offender rates for those aged under 18 by ward, rate per 100, 2007**



Source: 2007 Victim & Offender data, COSMOS, West Midlands Police, February 2008

Most of the crime is violence against the person (59.6%) and Robbery (20.4%)(Table 8:2).

**Table 8:2 Crimes committed by those aged under 18, Sandwell 2007**

Crime	Crimes	%
Arson	2	0.1
Burglary dwelling	14	0.8
Burglary other	3	0.2
Criminal Damage	21	1.2
Other crime	193	11.2
Other vehicle crime	1	0.1
Robbery	352	20.4
Sexual Offence	20	1.2
Theft from motor vehicle	13	0.8
Theft from Person	49	2.8
Theft of motor vehicle	29	1.7
Violence against Person	1,029	59.6
	1,726	100.0

Source: COSMOS, West Midlands Police, February 2008

### 8.3.3 Anti Social Behaviour

Almost 12% of residents say they have been affected by antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months. Threatening or intimidating behaviour is the most commonly reported problem (Sandwell MBC Anti Social Behaviour Survey, Sept 2007).

### 8.3.4 Domestic Violence

There were over 8,000 referrals to Sandwell Organisation Against Domestic Abuse Partnership between Dec 2005 and January 2008. Of these clients, 8,532 had children, 2,523 of whom had witnessed abuse. (Sandwell Organisation Against Domestic Violence, 2008)

## 8.4 Childhood obesity

Sandwell has the lowest levels of coverage for the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) compared to England and its peers. Only 68% of reception and 72% of year 6 had a valid measurement last year (Table 8:3).

**Table 8:3 School children who are overweight or obese, 2007/8**

	Reception			Year 6		
	Overweight	Obese	% measured	Overweight	Obese	% measured
England	13	9.9	83	14.2	17.5	78
Dudley	13.9	11.4	97	15.1	23.4	89
Walsall	12.3	10.3	92	14.7	19.4	87
Wolverhampton	12.5	10.8	79	14.7	25.4	91
Coventry	14.6	11.3	83	13.7	19.4	89
Stoke on Trent	14.6	10.9	74	14.1	20.4	73
<b>Sandwell</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>72</b>

Source: National Child Measurement Programme, 2008

**Table 8:4 Year 6 School Children by obesity grouping and ethnicity, 2007/8**

Ethnic category	Underweight	Desirable	Overweight	Obese	Overweight + obese
White	5.2	60.4	13.7	20.6	34.3
Black	3.2	57.1	15.9	23.8	39.7
Indian	11.2	58.1	11.8	18.9	30.7
Bangladeshi	8.3	55.0	16.7	20.0	36.7
Pakistani	6.4	62.4	6.9	24.3	31.2
Other Asian	4.7	53.1	17.2	25.0	42.2
Mixed	3.1	53.1	20.4	23.5	43.9
Other	8.7	60.9	17.4	13.0	30.4
Refused	6.3	56.3	25.0	12.5	37.5
Not stated	4.3	70.0	12.4	13.3	25.7

Source: National Child Measurement Programme and Sandwell PCT, 2008

Year 6 children were the only ones to have their postcodes recorded. However there was not complete collection of this data item, with 467 (14%) not having a postcode and thus making it impossible to allocate a ward or town. This data shows that the greatest levels of Overweight and obese children are in Wednesbury North (47.4%) and Old Warley (45.6%) (Table 8:5).

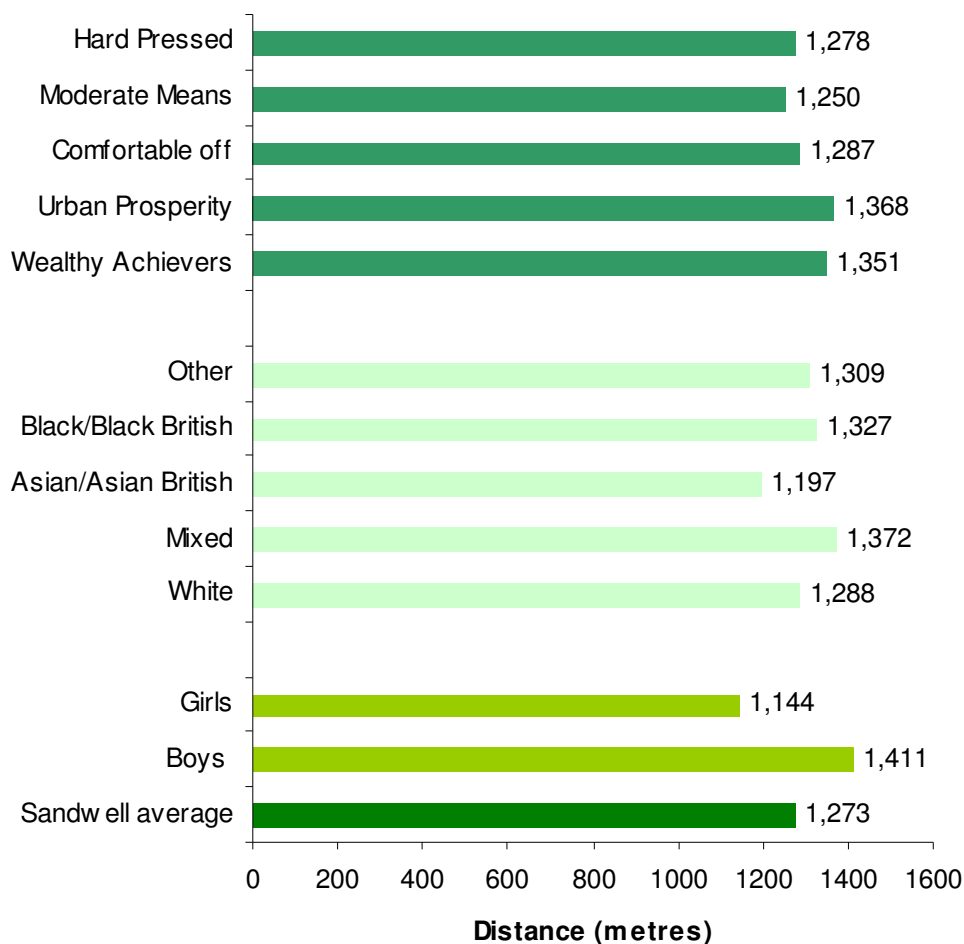
**Table 8:5 Year 6 school children who are overweight or obese, 2007/8, by ward**

Ward Name	Underweight	Desirable	Overweight	Obese	Overweight + obese
Abbey	3.8	64.1	14.1	17.9	32.0
Blackheath	5.8	68.6	9.3	16.3	25.6
Bristnall	6.7	61.7	15.8	15.8	31.6
Charlemont with Grove Vale	4.0	65.3	18.7	12.0	30.7
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	3.0	70.1	7.5	19.4	26.9
Friar Park	8.3	57.1	8.3	26.2	34.5
Great Barr with Yew Tree	3.6	62.7	13.6	20.0	33.6
Great Bridge	3.8	62.9	10.5	22.9	33.4
Greets Green and Lyng	6.2	53.6	15.5	24.7	40.2
Hateley Heath	5.8	64.4	9.6	20.2	29.8
Langley	4.8	59.0	17.1	19.0	36.1
Newton	4.8	62.9	16.1	16.1	32.2
Old Warley	1.3	53.2	20.3	25.3	45.6
Oldbury	7.9	62.7	10.3	19.0	29.3
Princes End	6.3	50.0	16.7	27.1	43.8
Rowley	5.2	59.5	15.5	19.8	35.3
Smethwick	8.3	59.4	11.5	20.8	32.3
Soho and Victoria	7.9	57.9	12.1	22.1	34.2
St Pauls	8.2	57.7	15.5	18.6	34.1
Tipton Green	7.4	57.4	5.3	29.8	35.1
Tividale	2.8	68.8	15.6	12.8	28.4
Wednesbury North	8.6	44.0	18.1	29.3	47.4
Wednesbury South	9.1	62.5	6.8	21.6	28.4
West Bromwich Central	7.1	56.5	14.1	22.4	36.5
Not stated	5.1	61.9	15.2	17.8	33.0

Source: National Child Measurement Programme and Sandwell PCT, 2008

Sandwell has for the last two years undertaken a unique physical testing programme of school children called the Triple S. This provides a wider range of measurements other than BMI and with better demographic information. The Endurance Run which is a good general measure of physical activity abilities and this shows that boys run further than girls, Asian children the shortest, and there is an advantage for the better off groups (Wealthy achievers and Urban prosperity) (Figure 8:7)

**Figure 8:7 Endurance run distance across demographic groups, 2006**

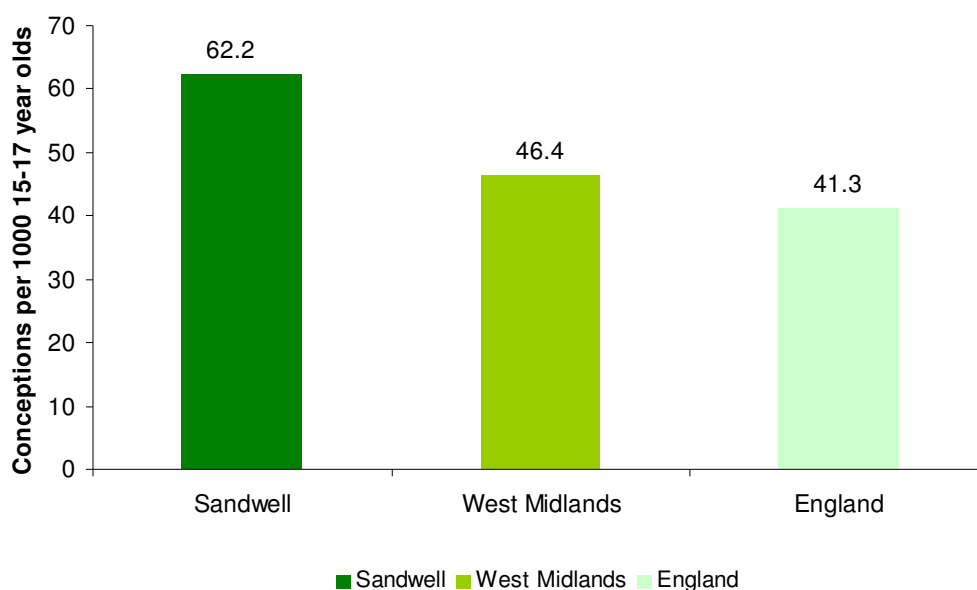


Source: Triple S team and Sandwell MBC, 2007

## 8.5 Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy remains high in Sandwell, having not come down significantly in the last 10 years. The rate in Sandwell is 62.2 per 15-17 year old women, compared to 41.3 per 1,000 across rest of England (Figure 8:8). The wards with the highest rates, in 2003-5 the most recent period for which data was available are Princes End (108.5 per 1,000) and Tividale (92.0)(Table 8:6).

**Figure 8:8 Teenage conceptions, 2006**



Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit

**Table 8:6 Teenage conceptions by ward 2003 to 2005**

Ward	Conceptions per 1,000
Abbey	39.0
Blackheath	55.4
Bristnall	45.2
Charlemont and Grove	45.2
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	61.9
Friar Park	65.1
Great Barr with Yew Tree	35.9
Great Bridge	70.6
Greets Green and Lyng	40.3
Hately Heath	55.2
Langley	88.5
Newton	38.8
Old Warley	30.4
Oldbury	48.1
Princes End	108.5
Rowley	47.3
Smethwick	59.6
Soho and Victoria	62.0
St Pauls	40.4
Tipton Green	52.6
Tividale	92.0
Wednesbury North	58.1
Wednesbury South	45.1
West Bromwich Central	36.6

Source: Sandwell PCT –Public Health

Wards with highest rates

## 8.6 What are we doing to address the challenges we face

### 8.6.1 LAA Targets

NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) <b>(core indicator)</b>
NI 106	Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17
Local Stretch	% 15 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs (inc. English & Maths) (existing stretch indicator)
Local Stretch	% of Foundation Stage pupils attaining sc 6 or above in communication language & literacy (existing stretch indicator)

Local Stretch	% of people in Sandwell with learning difficulties and disabilities (aged 16-19)
Local Stretch	Number of care leavers aged 19 NEET (existing stretch indicator)
Local Stretch	% of young offenders in Sandwell aged 10-17 engaged in EET at end of their community based order (existing stretch indicator)

### **Statutory Educational Attainment**

NI 72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2
NI 74	Achievement at level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and
NI 83	Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3 DCSF DSO
NI 87	Secondary school persistent absence rate DCSF DSO
NI 92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 PSA 11
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 PSA 11
NI 95	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 PSA 11
NI 96	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 PSA 11
NI 97	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 PSA 11
NI 98	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 PSA 11
NI 99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2 PSA 11
NI 100	Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2 PSA 11
NI 101	Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4

### **8.6.2 Key strategies and reports**

## **Sandwell Children and Young People's Plan 2007 - 2010**

Strategies, Priorities or Key recommendations:

### 1. Staying Safe

#### **Children and Young People are provided with a safe environment (JAR2.2) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will continue to ensure children and young people feel safer from bullying and racist incidents in our schools
- Work closely with partners, children and young people to establish an anti-bullying strategy and ensure all providers are offered training to support this.
- We will support the delivery of improved services to address domestic violence
- Continue to raise awareness to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who experience Domestic Abuse.
- We will develop a strategy to reduce accident injury and deaths
- Establish a Child Death Review Panel and ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to reduce re-occurrence and lessons learned are disseminated..

#### **The incidence of child abuse and neglect is minimised (JAR 2.3) Our Commitment: - We will:**

- We will improve training to staff who support children on the CPR
- We will improve coordination of support to children in need
- Ensure that capacity and systems are provided to prevent incidences of neglect

#### **Looked after children live in safe environments and are protected from abuse and exploitation (JAR 2.7) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will improve the speed of placements for those children who need to be adopted
- Deliver a fully integrated service to support looked after children
- We will implement the procedure to support children in private foster care
- Raise awareness of private fostering and ensure assessments and services are available to meet these children's needs.

**Children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities live in safe environments and are protected from abuse and exploitation (JAR 2.8) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will provide increased support to disabled children, monitor and respond to the communication from children and young people
- Implement the confidential reporting mechanism for the disabled children and young people of Sandwell

**2. Being Healthy**

**Parents and carers receive support to keep their children healthy (JAR 1.1) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will continue to work towards improving the health of new born children, including increasing the number of babies being breastfed, and supporting parents before and after birth, through the delivery of the Healthy Start to Life Action Plan inline with the maternity NSF and maternity matters.
- Increase the number of babies being breastfed, decrease the number of parents smoking in pregnancy, provide more support to parents before and after birth and deliver through integrated antenatal care in Children's Centres.

**Healthy lifestyles are promoted for children and young people (JAR 1.2) Our Commitment: - We will:**

- We will continue to reduce the teenage pregnancy rate across Sandwell.
- Continue to review and deliver the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.
- We will promote positive methods of travel to school for all our children.
- Continue to support schools in the delivery of their School Travel Plans.
- We will ensure that vulnerable children and young people, in particular LAC and young people known to YOT are supported to remain healthy.
- Extend the services to support the health needs of LAC in the context of integrated service delivery.
- Continue to develop services to ensure the health needs of young people known to the YOT, including improving assessment and evaluating use of services.
- We will promote healthy lifestyles, including addressing the issue of obesity within childhood.
- Further develop last years priority of promotion of healthy lifestyles, including reducing the incidence of obesity within childhood,

continuing to increase levels of children and young people's physical activity, play and delivery of healthy school meals.

- Review sources and access to information to inform healthy choices and lifestyles.
- We will roll out our healthy schools programme across all our schools.
- Support Schools and PRES in achieving Healthy Schools Status to meet LAA target of 57% by Dec 2007 and 93% by 2010.
- We will continue to deliver plans and services to educate and support young people in choosing not to use drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
- Continue to deliver the Young People's substance misuse plan to ensure comprehensive services are in place.

**Action is taken to promote children and young people's mental health (JAR 1.4) Our Commitment: - We will -**

- We will complete a service review of CAMHS and put in place an implementation plan to address findings
- Continue to improve and deliver comprehensive CAMHS to all children and young people, in particular, access to specialist services and mainstream outreach, to reflect the results of the review of CAMHS Tier 2 and 3 services.

**The health needs of children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are addressed (JAR 1.6) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will develop a strategy to improve services to children with autistic spectrum disorder
- Build upon the comprehensive review of services for children and young people with complex health needs by implementing the integrated strategy to improve services especially respite, social

3. Enjoying and Achieving

**Early Years provision promotes children's development and well-being and help them meet early learning goals (JAR 3.2) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will continue to raise standards in early years building on our Time 2 Talk programme.
- Increase the % of Pupils attaining Scale 6 or higher in each element of the foundation Communication, Language and Literacy outcome. (LAA target

**Action is taken to ensure that education provision 5-16 is of good quality (JAR 3.3) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will target areas of deprivation to ensure we improve exam outcomes for children in these areas
- Continue to improve educational attainment at all Key Stages (LAA target)
- Address the under achievement of some children and young people from particular groups, including those from Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities
- Support children to achieve at least a functional level of literacy (reading and spelling) age equivalent to 10 chronological years by the time they transfer to secondary school and an equivalent reading age of 12 by start of KS4.

**Children and young people are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and achieve highly (JAR 3.4) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will reduce the number of absences for our pupils in schools
- Target the attendance of particular groups and schools
- We will support our 16+ young people to take up increased education and/or work-based learning:
- Improve the oracy skills for young people aged 16.

**To provide young people with good social and personal development opportunities through the provision of quality recreational and learning provision and through volunteering (JAR 3.6) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will encourage take-up of more cultural activities by our Children and Young People.
- Increase the opportunities and range of cultural, arts media, dance and theatre facilities.
- We will deliver and implement a new Children's Play Strategy
- Increase the amount, quality and accessibility of outdoor play and sports provision.
- We will promote sporting activity within all our schools
- Increase the percentage of 5-16 year olds who are participating in physical activity in and after school. (LAA target)

**Children and young people who are looked after are helped to enjoy and achieve (JAR 3.7) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will promote improved attainment for our Looked After Children
- Continue to raise the attainment of LAC
- We will improve access and take-up of leisure and cultural services by Looked After Children

- Ensure that operationally the LAC and LACE teams work more closely together in the future.

#### 4. Making a Positive contribution

##### **Children and young people are supported in developing socially and emotionally (JAR 4.1) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will promote increase positive activities for all our young people
- Develop Integrated Youth Support for all Young People in Sandwell
- Increase the proportion of those young people participating in the Youth Service activities who obtain a recorded or an accredited outcome.
- We will review our detached and open access youth provision  
Maintain
- Improve the quality of Youth Work practice to meet the needs of Young People.
- the level of the youth population reached by the Youth Service in line with the national (REYS) benchmark.

##### **Children and young people are encouraged to participate in decision-making and in supporting the community (JAR 4.3) Our commitment: - We will: -**

- We will take forward a reward scheme to recognise the contribution of children and young people
- Promote Volunteering for Young People and take forward a reward scheme to recognise the contribution of children and young people to the community
- We will continue to build on the success of the Youth Cabinet and Parliament consultation processes
- Review existing consultation mechanisms for Children and Young People with learning difficulties and disabilities, to ensure they are coordinated and improved, as part of an overall strategy.
- We will continue to support our Children's Commissioner in advocating on behalf of all our children and young people
- Evidence the involvement of Children and Young People in decision-making through implementing the Participation Strategy that ensures the effective participation by them in the development and review
- We will introduce the 'Hear By Rights' standard across partner agencies commitment to the Children's Commissioner role, implementing the recommendations resulting from the evaluation report.

- Deliver the “Participation Strategy” which will include the introduction of the “Hear by Rights” standard across partner agencies.

**Action is taken to prevent offending and to reduce re-offending by children and young people (JAR 4.5) Our commitment: - We will: -**

- We will ensure there is a strategic agreement in place to ensure the reduction of reoffending through interagency collaboration.
- Promote Positive Activities, which will include youth work and activities designed to reduce anti-social behaviour and promote active citizenship

**Children and young people who are looked after are helped to make a positive contribution (JAR 4.6) Our commitment: - We will: -**

- We will ensure that our Looked After Children have a say in the way they are looked after
- Continue to develop our processes and structures for engaging

5. Achieving Economic Well Being

**Action is taken by partners to support families in maximising their economic well-being (JAR 5.1) Our commitment: - We will: -**

- We will ensure that there is sufficient affordable childcare available
- Roll out children’s centres to all areas by April 2010
- We will tackle child and family poverty
- Work with other partners to target help to those communities where household income is at its poorest.

**Young people 11-19 are helped to prepare for working life (JAR 5.2) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will ensure that all our young people are enabled to engage in suitable education, employment or training
- Improve the education, employment and training opportunities through co-ordinated consortium level plans for post 16 provision for September 2008, based on learner and employer needs, to increase the proportion of 17 year olds engaged from 74% to 80% by 2010.
- Ensure the investment in both Sandwell College and through ‘Building Schools for the Future’ contributes to improved outcomes.
- We will ensure that young people who have been in trouble with the law are enabled to engage in suitable education, employment or training

- Increase the proportion of young offenders who are in education, employment and training from 65% in 2006/07 to 73% by 2010 (LAA target)

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**Action is taken to ensure that young people have decent housing (JAR 5.5) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will deliver a housing strategy to assist in delivering the ECM Outcomes
- Increase the proportion of vulnerable people living in decent Sandwell Private Sector accommodation to 100% by 2010.
- Increase the proportion of vulnerable ensure young people leaving care have suitable accommodation available to them the private sector including the partnership work with the PCT on developing repairs on prescription for asthmatic young people.
- We will ensure young people leaving care have suitable accommodation available to them
- Mainstream the housing single referral panel for homeless young people from 85% in 2006/07 to 92% by 2010.

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**Children and young people who are looked after are helped to achieve economic well-being (JAR 5.6) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will ensure that young people who have been looked after are enabled to engage in suitable education, employment or training
- Continue our work in improving outcomes and provision for looked after children
- Increase the percentage of care leavers in education training or employment from 24 in 2006/07 to 31 by 2010 (LAA target)

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**Children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are helped to achieve economic well-being (JAR 5.7) Our Commitment: - We will: -**

- We will ensure that young people with learning difficulties and disabilities are enabled to engage in suitable education, employment or training
- Further strengthen the multi-agency transition team for young people with learning difficulties and/or disability.
- Increase percentage of LDD young people 16-19 who are in education, training or employment from 80.1% to 87% by 2010 (LAA target)

## **8.7 What do we need to know?**

1. Better ways of collecting data on families

2. Methodologies that identify the inter-relationship between families, education, lifestyle and crime and other outcomes

## **8.8 Recommendations**

Many of the lifestyle decisions that come to plague adult health are made whilst a child. It is therefore important that we strive to give children the best start in life. Opportunities for a substantial number of children remain stilted and a marker of this teenage pregnancy remains high despite real improvements in educational attainment in the last few years. Therefore it is recommended that:

1. PSIB to ensure data protocols are in place for the linkage of data across organisations
2. PSIB to commission research into the risk factors that predict outcomes such as entry into crime, teenage conception and poor education attainment to inform targeted interventions.
3. A single programme is developed for delivering improvements in childhood lifestyles, focusing on physical activity, diet and education.