



BELFAST

Profiling Health,
Wellbeing & Prosperity



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

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Preface

This summary of the *City Health Profile*, 'BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity', for the city of Belfast, builds on the previous city health profile, *Divided by Health*, published in 2008. *Divided by Health* was used as a guide for the initial selection of indicators in this profile, based on availability of the data, although several indicators in that publication have been discontinued or changed.

This publication, however, provides data and analysis from an expanded range of sources according to the '6P' framework of the World Health Organization (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network Phase VII (2019-2025). Although a large amount of the comprehensive range of data provided are publicly available, the added value of the City Profile is the presentation in an accessible, concise, and integrated format. Belfast was successfully designated to the WHO Phase VII Network in 2021 and, whilst developing a city health profile is a requirement of being a designated member of the WHO Network, the profile is a valuable resource for agencies and citizens in the city.

The main goal of the WHO-led global movement "Healthy Cities" is to make health a priority issue within the social, economic, and political agendas of cities. The overall goal is to engage local governments in processes of political commitment, institutional change, capacity building, partnership planning and innovation to build a strong movement for public health at the local level.

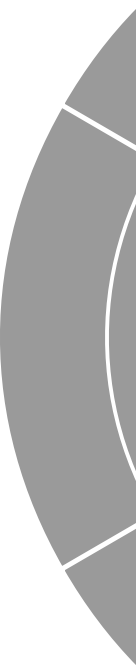
Belfast was one of the first cities designated to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network in 1988. Over this 35-year period, Belfast Healthy Cities, representing the city within the European Network, has worked to put health high on the political and social agendas and to emphasise equity, community engagement, and intersectoral collaboration and action to address the broad determinants of health. Working in collaboration across public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations has been key to the city's success.

The City Health Profile provides conclusive evidence on the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Belfast and various population groups, together with data on the broad determinants of health and Northern Ireland comparisons, it reinforces the evidence on people who are at highest risk of poor health and wellbeing outcomes and of experiencing health inequalities. The many indicators, and the interlinkage of these indicators, will be an invaluable asset for stakeholders for the targeting of policies, programmes, and services to improve the health and wellbeing of all Belfast's citizens and in addressing existing inequalities and mitigating against the potential of introducing new inequalities at individual, community, and city levels.

The profile is welcome and timely with the refreshed action plans within the Belfast Agenda community plan and the emerging Integrated Care System structure within Health & Social Care. I am delighted to present this document and I would encourage the use of the data in strategic discussions and priority setting across all sectors to continue to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Belfast and to reduce inequalities.

Dr Karen Casson

Interim Chair
Belfast Healthy Cities



Foreword

The information provided in this summary profile relates to the interconnected themes, influencing the health and wellbeing of populations, of the World Health Organization's Phase VII (2019-2025) 6P framework: People; Place; Participation; Prosperity; Peace and Planet. Full chapters on each of the six Ps are also available.

Each chapter in this summary document has two sections, a Highlights section, drawing attention to important facts and analysis from within the full chapter and a Matrix, which provides the reader with an overview of key indicators from the full chapter. Where possible, trends over time are assessed, with an evaluation on whether those trends are favourable or unfavourable. The health inequalities potential for population groups is outlined, where feasible; this information provides the basis for targeted action to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities across the many determinants affecting the lives of people in the city. The positive changes that have been achieved are highlighted; for many indicators outcomes are improving, including some outcomes for people living in the most deprived areas but lower life expectancies and higher rates of early and avoidable deaths remain in these areas.

The summary profile and profile chapters provide information from a variety of sources and are the product of an extensive and substantial programme of work for Belfast Healthy Cities. We would like to thank the many agencies, government departments and individuals who supported the production of the profile documents. Particular thanks go to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency who provided original sources of data for many of the indicators; the Northern Ireland Housing Executive who provided information on housing; to David Stewart, Maria Herron, Caroline Wilson and Benedict McAteer who brought together information in the early stages of the programme and to Brendan Scott for his support with design. Finally, sincere thanks to Karen Casson for her expert advice and guidance in scrutinising and appraising the data and to Erica Ison for her extensive work sourcing and analysing the data and for her invaluable interpretation of these data in this summary document and the full chapters.

Joan Devlin

Chief Executive
Belfast Healthy Cities

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Data used in the Profile

In compiling this profile of Belfast, the city, and its people, we have drawn on many data sources from a variety of organisations. Most of the data have been published and are publicly available; for a few indicators, we have made direct requests for specific data from government departments or public sector organisations.

TIMEFRAME FOR THE PROFILE, AND THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19

Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Belfast Healthy City Profile Advisory Group decided to compile a suite of indicators that showed the situation in Belfast prior to the pandemic. Therefore, most of the data presented are for the financial year 2019/20, or a data-sampling point at March/April 2020.

Some of the data presented are earlier than this financial year or date and, where this is the case, the indicators represent the latest data that were published of which we were aware and/or to which we had access, and that recorded the situation before any changes arising from the pandemic and its consequences.

Presenting a Profile up to the point of the COVID-19 pandemic gives service providers a baseline against which:

- 1. the pandemic's impacts can be assessed**
- 2. recovery from the pandemic can be assessed**

For some indicators, the effects of the pandemic will not be immediately noticeable in the data, however, for other indicators, the effects are beginning to be reflected in the data, such as applications for social housing. Therefore, the detailed Profile contains a short chapter featuring a small group of indicators from which the evidence of the pandemic's impacts is emerging.

AVAILABILITY OF DATA

For as many indicators as possible, we aimed to present data specific to Belfast. Where this has not been possible, we have presented data for Northern Ireland as an indication of what the situation could be like in Belfast.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS/JURISDICTIONS

For most of the indicators, we have used the geographical area or jurisdiction as the Belfast Local Government District (LGD).

For other indicators, where the data are not available at LGD level, other jurisdictions have been used, for example, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT; e.g., in the People Chapter).

For some indicators, we have had to report on the situation for a larger geographical area that includes Belfast, such as the Lagan Local Management Area (LMA) or the North East River Basin (e.g., water quality status in the Planet Chapter). For other indicators, we have had to report on indicators that represent a sampling point within Belfast (e.g., Belfast Centre for PM2.5 levels in the Planet Chapter).

COMPARISONS WITH BELFAST

Where it has been possible to present data for Belfast, we have tried to enable a comparison with Northern Ireland and, in the first instance, with other LGDs. This has not always been possible depending not only on the availability of data but also on the jurisdiction for which certain data are collected.

Apart from HSCTs, other comparator data are available according to less common categories, such as the dwelling location known as the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area against other types of dwelling location (in the Place Chapter).

TYPE OF DATA

In general, we have chosen to present routinely collected data, i.e., data that are collected and analysed according to a regular cycle and at specific time-intervals, usually annual, e.g., 2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20, but this is not always the case especially if the number of events being recorded is small, in which case data may be collected over a longer timeframe than a year, e.g., 2017/18-2019/20.

Where data are not available on a routine basis, we have used non-routine data, i.e., data that are collected only once, or possibly on more than one occasion but not within a regular cycle of collection and analysis.

SNAPSHOTS OR TIME TRENDS

Non-routine data represent a 'snapshot' in time, whereas with routinely collected data it is possible to assess trends over time and whether those trends are favourable or unfavourable for the population.

Wherever possible, we have provided a time trend; however, owing to a variety of factors, it has not been possible to use the same baseline for every indicator to draw a comparison over time. Some of the factors affecting the timeframe over which a trend can be developed include:

- **availability of data**
- **changes in methods of data collection (e.g., changing from calendar year to financial year)**
- **changes in data analysis (e.g., method of calculating an indicator)**
- **changes in jurisdictional boundaries (e.g., reconfiguration of LGDs in 2014)**

DATA SOURCES

We have used a range of data sources; the main sources are shown in Table 1. In general, each chapter includes data from at least five data sources, and at least two surveys.

TREATMENT OF DATA BY DIFFERENT SOURCE ORGANISATIONS

Different organisations have different protocols around the presentation of data, and in particular:

- **the number of decimal points to which they report (varying from none to two)**
- **the method of rounding up and down when decimal points are reported**
- **the threshold at which data are suppressed due to small numbers and the risk of identification of individuals (usual threshold is 5 but 10 has been used in some instances)**

We have endeavoured to follow the protocols of the individual organisations when presenting their data in the Profile.

There are cases, however, where data collected by one organisation have been re-analysed and presented by another organisation. The two organisations may use different protocols for rounding and, therefore, discrepancies occur between the two sets of data. As before, we have endeavoured to follow the protocols of the organisation responsible for the initial collection and analysis of the data.

REPORTING OF SURVEY DATA

We have used data from many of the surveys conducted in Northern Ireland as a source of information for this Profile, such as the Health Survey for Northern Ireland. While every effort is made to ensure the sample of the population surveyed is representative of the whole population, survey results can be affected by what is known as sampling error, and readers need to be aware of this possibility when interpreting the results and making comparisons across time or geographical areas.

Some of the survey data in Northern Ireland are reported as estimated percentages with upper and lower limits; in such cases, we have provided only the estimated percentage in the Profile, and not the lower and upper limits.

IDENTIFYING INEQUALITIES WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR INEQUITY

Wherever possible, we have endeavoured to present indicators for which the data can be analysed to provide evidence of health and other inequalities that can lead to or have led to inequities.

In most cases, where data have been available that help to highlight inequalities, it is at the level of Belfast assembly areas. For the education indicators, we have been able to identify inequalities at the level of district electoral area (DEA). For a few indicators, the inequalities have been highlighted in relation to area deprivation or sex.

Where it has not been possible to identify inequalities in Belfast using the publicly available data, we have presented information for certain indicators that reveal inequalities and the potential for inequities in Northern Ireland, which may provide some indication of what is happening in Belfast.

TABLE 1A: MAIN DATA SOURCES

MAIN DATA SOURCES	PEOPLE	PLACE	PARTICIPATION	PROSPERITY	PEACE	PLANET
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)						
Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)						
Office for National Statistics (ONS)						
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs						
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (UK)						
Department for Communities						
Department of Economy						
Department of Education						
Department of Finance						
Department of Health						
Department for Infrastructure						
Department of Justice						
Department of Transport						
Climate Change Northern Ireland						
Forestry Commission						
Health and Social Care Northern Ireland						
Health and Social Care Business Services Organisation						
Met Office						
Northern Ireland Environment Agency						
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)						
NIHE-Ulster University (UU)						
Police Service Northern Ireland						
ARK – Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) and UU						



TABLE 1A: MAIN DATA SOURCES (continued)

MAIN DATA SOURCES	PEOPLE	PLACE	PARTICIPATION	PROSPERITY	PEACE	PLANET
Arts Council Northern Ireland						
Belfast City Council						
Belfast Interface Project						
Climate Northern Ireland						
Libraries Northern Ireland						
Ulster University INCORE						



TABLE 1B: MAJOR SURVEYS USED IN THE BELFAST CITY PROFILE

MAJOR SURVEYS	PEOPLE	PLACE	PARTICIPATION	PROSPERITY	PEACE	PLANET
Annual Population Survey (APS)						
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)						
Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)						
Census 2011						
Continuous Household Survey (CHS)						
Family Resources Survey (FRS)						
Health Survey Northern Ireland						
House Condition Survey (HCS)						
Labour Force Survey (LFS)						
Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey (LTS)						
Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (SCS)						
Public Opinion of Forestry						
Travel Survey						
Understanding Society Study						





BELFAST

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THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

PEOPLE

Demography

DEMOGRAPHY: IMPORTANCE

Demography is important as a way of investigating the size, structure, and movements of populations over space and time. Demographic information is useful for Government, and the public, private and the voluntary and community sectors, not only when analysing population trends and outcomes in relation to a range of factors, but also when designing, planning, and implementing services and the associated infrastructure.

DEMOGRAPHY: THE HEADLINE MESSAGES

Belfast has a younger population than that for Northern Ireland overall, with a higher percentage of people of younger working-age (16-39 years), a lower percentage of people aged 40 years and over, a lower median age, and a lower old age dependency ratio.

Despite contributing the largest number and percentage of live births to Northern Ireland's population, between mid-2010 and mid-2020, Belfast's percentage increase in population was lower than that for Northern Ireland. In addition, fertility rates were relatively low. Belfast had a lower general fertility rate and a lower total period fertility rate, which going forward will affect not only Belfast's potential for population growth but also, in the absence of migration, Belfast's capacity for population replacement.

Belfast has experienced a slight population decrease overall in relation to internal and external migration flows, even though 4 out of every 10 international migrants who come to Northern Ireland come to Belfast. Furthermore, the projected percentage population growth for Belfast is lower than that for Northern Ireland and is the second lowest among LGDs, with the number of children decreasing and the number of people aged 65 years and over increasing.

Belfast has a higher level of ethnic diversity than that in Northern Ireland.

DEMOGRAPHY: THE DETAILS

Total population: In mid-2020, the total population in Belfast was 342,560. Almost 2 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland were living in Belfast.

Between mid-2010 and mid-2020, the population in Belfast increased by almost 3%, whereas the total population in Northern Ireland increased by 5%. When compared with other LGDs, the population increase in Belfast was the second lowest.

Age distribution

In mid-2020 in Belfast:

- 2 out of every 10 people were aged 0-15 years
- Between 3 and 4 people out of every 10 people were aged 16-39 years
- 3 in every 10 people were aged 40-64 years
- Between 1 and 2 in every 10 people were aged 65 years and over

These changes in population age structure indicate that Belfast's population is ageing, however, when compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast has a younger population, particularly in the percentage of people in the 16-39 years age group.

Between mid-2001 and mid-2020, in Belfast, the age distribution of the population changed:

- There was an increase in the percentage of the population aged 40-64 years
- There was a decrease in the percentage of the population aged 0-15 years
- There were slight decreases in the percentages of the population in the 16-39 years age group and the 65 years and over age group

Median age

In mid-2020, in Belfast, the median age was lower than that in Northern Ireland and was the lowest among all LGDs.

Between mid-2001 and mid-2020, the median age increased in Belfast, which indicates that the population is ageing; however, the increase in median age in Belfast was lower than that in Northern Ireland, and much lower than that in all other LGDs, indicating that the population in Belfast is not ageing at as fast a rate as that in Northern Ireland or that in the other LGDs.

Old age dependency ratio

The old age dependency ratio (OADR) is the ratio of the number of people of pensionable age and over per 1,000 people aged 16 years to State Pension age. It is traditionally used to measure the potential impact of an ageing population.

In mid-2019, Belfast had a lower old age dependency ratio than that for Northern Ireland, and the lowest ratio of all LGDs, which reflects the greater percentage of working-age people in Belfast.

By mid-2029, it is estimated that the old age dependency ratio for Belfast will increase only slightly, when compared with the projected increases for Northern Ireland and the majority of other LGDs, which are anticipated to increase between 2 and 4 times higher than the increase anticipated for Belfast.

Number of live births

In 2020, almost 2 out of every 10 live births in Northern Ireland were in Belfast, higher than that for all other LGDs.

Between 2010 and 2020, the number of live births decreased not only in Belfast, but also in all other LGDs, and in Northern Ireland, however, the percentage decrease in Belfast was greater than that for nine other LGDs and was greater than that for Northern Ireland.

General fertility rate

In 2020, in Belfast, the general fertility rate in women of childbearing age was lower than that for Northern Ireland and it was the second lowest among LGDs.

Between 2010 and 2020, the decrease in the general fertility rate was greater in Belfast when compared with that in Northern Ireland, and it was greatest among all other LGDs.

Total period fertility rate

In 2018-2020, for every woman of childbearing age in Belfast, there were between 1 and 2 children compared with almost 2 children for every woman of childbearing age in Northern Ireland.

In 2018-2020, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the lowest total period fertility rate, and between 2010-2012 and 2018-2020 Belfast had one of the largest decreases in this rate.

In 2018-2020, the total period fertility rate in Belfast was lower by 0.53 children per woman of childbearing age than the estimated population replacement threshold of 2.1 children per woman of childbearing age.

Internal and external migration flows

Belfast has experienced relatively high levels of migration, not only to and from other parts of Northern Ireland, but also to and from other parts of the UK, and to and from other countries.

Overall, in mid-2019/mid-2020, there was a much greater loss of people to the population of Belfast than there was in mid-2009/mid-2010.

In mid-2019/mid-2020, when compared with six other LGDs which experienced a population decrease from net migration, Belfast had the largest percentage decrease in population; the other four LGDs had a percentage increase in population from net migration.

Ethnic groups

From the 2011 Census, in Belfast, more than 9 out of every 10 people identified themselves as White, whereas less than 1 in every 10 people identified themselves as from an Asian, Black, Mixed or Other ethnic group.

Belfast had higher percentages of people from Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnic groups when compared with Northern Ireland, but lower percentages when compared with England & Wales.

Long-term international migration inflows

In 2020, 4 out of every 10 international migrants to Northern Ireland came to Belfast, compared with around 1 out of every 10 who came to each of the other LGDs.

Between 2010 and 2020, the percentage share of international migrants to Northern Ireland who went to Belfast increased from 3 out of every 10 to 4 out of every 10. Belfast was the only LGD to see such a marked increase, with the majority of LGDs seeing a slight decrease.

Population projections

In Belfast, between mid-2018 and mid-2028, it is projected that:

- **The population will increase by 4,400 people**
- **The number of children will decrease by 3,000**
- **The number of people aged 65 years and over will increase by 8,700**

Thus, the population in Belfast is likely to age.

The projected percentage population increase for Belfast is lower than that for Northern Ireland and is one of the lowest percentage increases among LGDs.

Although the population in Belfast is ageing, the projected percentage increase for people aged 65 years and over is lower than that for all the other LGDs.

SPOTLIGHT ON DEMOGRAPHY FOR BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

In Table 1, there is an overview of the demography of Belfast's assembly areas.

- Belfast East has a relatively small ageing population, with the highest median age and the highest percentage of people aged over 65 years
- Belfast North has a larger population, with a higher percentage of people aged 0-15 years and people aged over 65 years
- Belfast South has the largest population, which is relatively young, with the lowest median age and a higher percentage of people aged 16-39 years; it also has the highest level of ethnic diversity
- Belfast West has the smallest population, which is relatively young, with a lower median age and a higher percentage of people aged 0-15 years; it also has the lowest level of ethnic diversity

TABLE 1:
OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHY IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Total population	Smaller	Larger	Largest	Smallest
Age distribution	Higher percentage of people aged: • over 65 years	Higher percentage of people aged: • 0-15 years • over 65 years	Higher percentage of people aged: • 16-39 years	Higher percentage of people aged: • 0-15 years
Median age	Highest		Lowest	Lower, but the greatest increase from 2001 to 2020
Ethnic diversity			Highest level	Lowest level

Population health

LIFE EXPECTANCY: IMPORTANCE

Life expectancy is an important measure when assessing population health, revealing the average age of death in a population. Life expectancy captures not only the numbers of deaths but also the age at which they occur, which allows an interpretation of whether deaths in a population may be untimely in that they occur in people who are younger than 75 years of age.

Life expectancy is one of the three indicators – together with the education index and gross domestic product – that comprises the Human Development Index of the United Nations Human Development Programme.

LIFE EXPECTANCY: THE HEADLINE MESSAGES

When compared with Northern Ireland, life expectancy was lower for men and women in Belfast both at birth and at age 65 years. Furthermore, when compared with men and women in other LGDs, life expectancy at birth was worst for men and women in Belfast, and life expectancy at 65 years was worst for men in Belfast and second worst for women in Belfast. Thus, men and women in Belfast can expect a shorter lifespan than men and women in Northern Ireland and men and women in most of the other LGDs.

For life expectancy at birth and at 65 years, although men in Belfast do worse overall than women in Belfast, the trend for men is improving whereas for women there was a decrease in life expectancy at birth. Moreover, for women in Belfast's most-deprived areas, there was a decrease in life expectancy at birth and at 65 years. These are unfavourable trends. In Northern Ireland, life expectancy at birth and life expectancy at 65 years are increasing for men and women.

The population groups in Belfast more likely to have lower life expectancies at birth and at 65 years are:

- **Men when compared with women**
- **People in the most-deprived areas when compared with people in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland**

In Belfast, a shorter life expectancy at birth for men and women has been attributed to higher rates of death from cancer, circulatory disease, respiratory disease, and digestive disorders. For men, shorter life expectancy can also be attributed to other unspecified causes, and for women it can also be attributed to nervous system conditions.

Between 2013-2015 and 2017-2019, in Belfast's most-deprived areas, life expectancy at birth decreased slightly in both men and women, thereby widening the gap between men and women in Belfast and men and women in Belfast's most-deprived areas. There is a more complicated picture for life expectancy at 65 years, where the gap is widening for women in Belfast's most-deprived areas when compared with women in Belfast, but not for men in Belfast's most-deprived areas when compared with men in Belfast.

SPOTLIGHT ON LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH FOR BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

Among Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast East had the second highest life expectancy at birth for both men and women, but both were lower than those for men and women in Northern Ireland
- Belfast North had a lower life expectancy at birth for both men and women
- Belfast South had the highest life expectancy at birth for both men and women
- Belfast West had the lowest life expectancy at birth for men and women

AVOIDABLE AND EARLY DEATHS: IMPORTANCE

Information on avoidable deaths is important because avoidable deaths are those deaths that could have been:

- Prevented through public health and primary prevention interventions
- Avoided with timely and effective healthcare interventions

Information on avoidable and early deaths helps to explain life expectancy not only at birth but also at 65 years.

Decreasing the rate of avoidable deaths is important not only for the health and wellbeing of a population but also for its prosperity.

AVOIDABLE AND EARLY DEATHS: THE HEADLINE MESSAGES

When compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast had a higher standardised death rate for:

- **Avoidable deaths**
- **Circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years**
- **Cancer in people aged under 75 years**

Although Belfast has had consistently higher rates of avoidable and early deaths than Northern Ireland, the percentage decreases in Belfast are greater than those for Northern Ireland and the gap has been narrowing for these three indicators.

When compared with other LGDs, the rates for avoidable deaths, and for early deaths from circulatory disease and from cancer were highest in Belfast.

The population groups in Belfast more likely to experience an avoidable death, or an early death from circulatory disease or cancer, are:

- **Men when compared with women**
- **People in the most-deprived areas when compared with people in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland – rates for avoidable deaths and early deaths from circulatory disease or cancer in Belfast's most-deprived areas are about two times higher than those for Northern Ireland**

Although the rates for avoidable and early deaths in Belfast's most-deprived areas were consistently higher than those for Belfast and Northern Ireland, the percentage decreases in these deaths have been greater in Belfast's most-deprived areas with a narrowing of the gaps. There has been a particularly marked decrease in early deaths from cancer in Belfast's most-deprived areas. The gap has also been narrowing between Belfast and Northern Ireland for these three indicators.

SPOTLIGHT ON AVOIDABLE AND EARLY DEATHS FOR BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

In Table 2, there is an overview of avoidable and early deaths in Belfast's assembly areas.

- Belfast East had a higher rate of early death from circulatory disease in women
- Belfast North had higher rates of avoidable death and of early death from cancer for both men and women, and a higher rate of early death from circulatory disease for men
- Belfast South had the lowest rates of avoidable and early deaths for both men and women
- Belfast West had the highest rates of avoidable and early deaths for both men and women

TABLE 2:
OVERVIEW OF AVOIDABLE AND EARLY DEATHS IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Standardised rate for avoidable deaths		Higher for men and women	Lowest for men and women	Highest for men and women
Standardised rate for deaths from circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years	Higher for women	Higher for men	Lowest for men and women	Highest for men and women
Standardised rate for deaths from cancer in people aged under 75 years		Higher for men and women	Lowest for men and women	Highest for men and women

RISK FACTORS: CIGARETTE SMOKING, AND THE USE OF ALCOHOL

Both cigarette smoking and alcohol use are risk factors that can contribute to poor health outcomes, including those causes, such as cancer, to which an early death (under the age of 75 years) can be attributed.

The percentage of people who reported smoking was higher in Belfast HSCT than it was in Northern Ireland; Belfast HSCT also had the highest percentage of smokers when compared with all other HSCTs.

Although the jurisdiction is different from that for the percentage of smokers, the percentage of women who reported smoking during pregnancy in Belfast LGD was higher than that for Northern Ireland and was the highest among LGDs. Furthermore, the percentage of women from Belfast's most-deprived areas who reported smoking during pregnancy was relatively high and was more than double that for Northern Ireland and almost double that for Belfast LGD.

The percentage of people who reported drinking alcohol in Belfast HSCT was higher than that for Northern Ireland and it was the highest when compared with other HSCTs. In addition, the percentage of people who reported drinking alcohol above the recommended weekly limit was higher in Belfast HSCT than it was in Northern Ireland, and again Belfast was the highest among HSCTs.

STANDARDISED ADMISSION RATES FOR ALCOHOL- AND DRUG-RELATED CAUSES: IMPORTANCE

Admission rates for alcohol- and drug-related causes can be used to assess the impact of alcohol and drugs on the health and wellbeing of a population.

STANDARDISED ADMISSION RATES FOR ALCOHOL- AND DRUG-RELATED CAUSES: THE HEADLINE MESSAGES

The standardised admission rate (SAR) for alcohol-related causes was higher in Belfast than in Northern Ireland. Moreover, Belfast's admission rate for alcohol-related causes was the highest among LGDs.

The population groups in Belfast more likely to be admitted to hospital for alcohol-related causes are:

- **Men when compared with women – the rate in men is almost three times higher than that for women**
- **People in Belfast's most-deprived areas when compared with people in Belfast and Northern Ireland – the rate in Belfast's most-deprived areas is twice that for Northern Ireland**

This high rate of alcohol-related admissions in Belfast's most-deprived areas may be related to the higher percentage of people in Belfast's most-deprived areas who drink more than the recommended weekly limit of alcohol and, therefore, they are at higher risk of harm to their health and wellbeing.

There is a decreasing trend in the standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes in both Belfast and Belfast's most-deprived areas, which is favourable, although the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast.

The standardised admission rate (SAR) for drug-related causes was higher in Belfast than in Northern Ireland, and although Belfast's admission rate for drug-related causes was the third highest among LGDs, Belfast also experienced one of the largest percentage decreases when compared with other LGDs, and a larger percentage decrease than that in Northern Ireland.

The population group in Belfast more likely to be admitted to hospital for drug-related causes is people in the most-deprived areas – the standardised admission rate was almost double that for Belfast and more than double that for Northern Ireland. There is a decreasing trend in the standardised admission rate for drug-related causes in both Belfast and Belfast's most-deprived areas, which is favourable, and although the decrease in Belfast's most-deprived areas was marked, the percentage decrease was slightly greater for Belfast.

SPOTLIGHT ON STANDARDISED ADMISSION RATE FOR ALCOHOL-RELATED CAUSES IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

In 2016/17-2018/19, there was marked variation in standardised admission rates due to alcohol-related causes across Belfast's assembly areas (see Table 3).

- **The highest rates for both men and women were in Belfast North and Belfast West**
- **The lowest rates for both men and women were in Belfast South and Belfast East**
- **Belfast North, Belfast West, and Belfast East had higher admission rates for both men and women than men and women in Northern Ireland**
- **Belfast South had a lower rate for men than that in Northern Ireland, whereas the rate for women was higher**
- **For all assembly areas, the rates in men were higher than those for women by more than twofold at least**

TABLE 3:**VARIATION IN THE STANDARDISED ADMISSION RATE DUE TO ALCOHOL-RELATED CAUSES IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS**

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes	Lower rates for men and women	Highest rate for men; higher rate for women	Lowest rates for men and women	Higher rate for men; highest rate for women
	Rate in men more than twice that in women	Rate in men more than three times that of women	Rate in men more than twice that of women	Rate in men more than twice that of women

COVERAGE AND UPTAKE OF SCREENING SERVICES FOR CANCER: IMPORTANCE

Screening for various cancers helps to prevent cancer and can save lives. The relatively low uptake of cancer screening services seen in Belfast HSCT could be related to the early deaths from cancer and lower life expectancies at birth and at age 65 years seen in Belfast.

COVERAGE AND UPTAKE OF SCREENING SERVICES FOR CANCER: THE HEADLINE MESSAGES

For the indicators of cervical screening coverage, uptake of breast screening, and uptake of bowel cancer screening, Belfast HSCT had lower percentage coverage and uptake than Northern Ireland and the lowest percentage coverage and uptake of the five HSCTs.

- For cervical screening coverage, Belfast HSCT was below the Northern Ireland Department of Health acceptable target of equal to or more than 80%, as were all other HSCTs and Northern Ireland
- For uptake of breast screening, Belfast HSCT met the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme acceptable standard of equal to or more than 70%, but was below the achievable standard of 80%, as were all other HSCTs and Northern Ireland
- For uptake of bowel cancer screening, Belfast HSCT did not meet the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme target of 55%, as was the case for Northern Ireland and for three of the other HSCTs

TRENDS OVER TIME

For most of the indicators presented in the People Chapter, the trends over time for Belfast are favourable, that is, the outcomes for people in Belfast are improving.

For most of the indicators where it has been possible to investigate the outcomes in Belfast's most-deprived areas, there is a similar pattern of favourable trends, that is, of improvement, although the degree of improvement is not as great as that for Belfast for some of the indicators (see 'Deprivation' below).

It is important, however, that these positive trends in Belfast and Belfast's most-deprived areas are maintained, strengthened, and if possible accelerated.

There is, however, a more complex picture for trends in life expectancy.

- **For life expectancy at birth, it is decreasing in men and women in Belfast's most-deprived areas and in women in Belfast (unfavourable trends), whereas it is increasing in men in Belfast**
- **For life expectancy at 65 years, it is increasing for men in Belfast's most-deprived areas, and in men and women in Belfast (favourable trends), but decreasing for women in Belfast's most-deprived areas**

Thus, the only group of women in whom there was a favourable trend in life expectancy was for life expectancy at 65 years in women in Belfast. Conversely, the only group of men in whom there was an unfavourable trend in life expectancy was for life expectancy at birth in men in Belfast's most-deprived areas.

For Belfast, there has been an improvement in indicators showing the status of the population with respect to the risk factors of smoking, smoking during pregnancy, drinking alcohol, and drinking alcohol above the recommended weekly limits.

For both Belfast and Belfast's most-deprived areas, there are:

- **Decreasing trends in mortality, showing an improvement in the rates of avoidable death, early deaths from circulatory diseases and from cancer, and deaths from intentional self-harm**
- **A decreasing trend in emergency admissions to hospital**
- **An increasing trend for breastfeeding on discharge from hospital, which is favourable especially for neonatal and child health**

In Belfast's most-deprived areas, there is a small group of indicators for which the trends are favourable (for these indicators, they are decreasing), but the percentage decreases are not as great as those for Belfast:

- **Smoking during pregnancy**
- **Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes**
- **Standardised admission rate for drug-related causes**
- **Standardised admission rate for self-harm**

The indicators for which outcomes are worsening in both Belfast and Belfast's most-deprived areas, and the trends are unfavourable are:

- **Children who are overweight or obese in Primary 1**
- **Children who are overweight or obese in Year 8**
- **Prescription rate for mood and anxiety**

The percentage of adults who are overweight or obese is one indicator for which Belfast had a better outcome previously than that for Northern Ireland, but the trend for Belfast has been worsening to a greater extent than that in Northern Ireland, and, therefore, Belfast is approaching the higher Northern Ireland value.

Of the six indicators for which there are unfavourable trends for the Belfast population, three relate to obesity and overweight in children and adults.

There are two indicators where Belfast HSCT is worsening, as is Northern Ireland: cervical screening coverage, and uptake of bowel cancer screening.

Action on the issues highlighted by these indicators, for which there are unfavourable trends for Belfast and/or Belfast's most-deprived areas, needs to be maintained, and strengthened.

BELFAST'S OUTCOMES IN RELATION TO VARIOUS COMPARATORS

For most of the indicators featured in the People Chapter, the data for Belfast have been compared with those for Northern Ireland and those for other LGDs. For some indicators, the comparators have been Northern Ireland and other HSCTs.

The indicators for which Belfast is doing worse than Northern Ireland and is the worst among all LGDs are shown in Box 1. These indicators cover life expectancy, avoidable and early deaths, deaths from intentional self-harm, the admission rate for alcohol-related causes, the prescription rate for mood and anxiety, and the risk factor of smoking during pregnancy.

BOX 1:

Indicators for which Belfast is doing worse than Northern Ireland and has the worst outcome among LGDs

- Life expectancy at birth for men and women
- Life expectancy at 65 years for men
- Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths
- Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years
- Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years
- Smoking during pregnancy
- Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes
- Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety
- Crude death rate for intentional self-harm
- Mean score for people thinking whether the things that they do are worthwhile



The indicators for which Belfast is doing worse than Northern Ireland and has one of the worst outcomes among LGDs are shown in Box 2. These indicators cover neonatal and child health, admission rates for drug-related causes and for self-harm, and the level of anxiety.

BOX 2:

Indicators for which Belfast is doing worse than Northern Ireland and has one of the worst outcomes among LGDs (in the top 4)

- Life expectancy at 65 years for women
- Breastfeeding on discharge from hospital
- Children treated for a filling, a crown or extraction
- Primary 1 children who are overweight or obese
- Year 8 children who are overweight or obese
- Standardised admission rate for drug-related causes
- Mean score for level of anxiety
- Standardised admission rate for self-harm



The indicators for which Belfast is doing worse than Northern Ireland and is the worst among HSCTs are shown in Box 3. These indicators cover the risk factors of smoking and alcohol consumption, and the use of various preventive services for cancer.

BOX 3:

Indicators for which Belfast is doing worse than Northern Ireland and has the worst outcome among HSCTs

- Smoking status: current cigarette smoking
- Alcohol status: drinking alcohol
- Alcohol status: drinking alcohol above the recommended weekly limit
- Cervical screening coverage
- Breast screening uptake
- Uptake of bowel cancer screening



AREAS OF DEPRIVATION

There are a range of indicators for which people in the most-deprived areas of Belfast had poorer outcomes, covering life expectancy, avoidable and early deaths, deaths from intentional self-harm, standardised admission rates for alcohol-related and for drug-related causes, self-harm, and emergency admissions, and the prescription rate for mood and anxiety (see Box 4).

For people in the most-deprived areas of Belfast, their life expectancy was shorter at both birth and at age 65 years, they died of causes that could have been prevented or treated, they died earlier of circulatory disease and of cancer, they had more admissions to hospital relating to alcohol, drugs, self-harm, and emergencies, and they received more prescriptions for mental health issues of mood and anxiety.

BOX 4:

Indicators for which people in the most-deprived areas in Belfast have poorer outcomes

- Life expectancy at birth
- Life expectancy at 65 years
- Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths
- Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people under 75 years
- Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years
- Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes
- Standardised admission rate for drug-related causes
- Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety
- Standardised admission rate for self-harm
- Crude death rate for intentional self-harm
- Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions



Interventions to address the differences in outcomes for people in Belfast's most-deprived areas and Belfast and Northern Ireland need to be maintained and strengthened. See also the sections on "Men's health" (page 34), "Women's health" (page 36) and "Child health" (page 36).

GEOGRAPHY: BY ASSEMBLY AREA

For indicators where it has been possible to investigate outcomes by Belfast's assembly areas, it is noticeable that there are two assembly areas that tend to have poorer outcomes: Belfast West and Belfast North (see Table 4).

The indicators for which Belfast West and Belfast North had poorer outcomes cover life expectancy at birth, avoidable and early deaths, standardised admission rates for alcohol-related causes, self-harm, and emergency admissions, and the prescription rate for mood and anxiety.

People in Belfast West and Belfast North had a shorter life expectancy at birth, died of causes that could have been prevented or treated, died earlier of cancer, had more admissions to hospital relating to alcohol, self-harm, and emergencies, and they received more prescriptions for mental health issues of mood and anxiety.

People in Belfast West also died earlier of circulatory diseases.

Of note, is the particularly high standardised admission rate for self-harm in men and women in Belfast North.

Although people in Belfast East did not have poorer outcomes for most of the indicators, there were poorer outcomes for women in relation to emergency admissions to hospital (see Table 4).

TABLE 4:
INDICATORS FOR WHICH BELFAST WEST, BELFAST NORTH, AND BELFAST EAST HAVE POORER OUTCOMES (*shading indicates worse outcomes*)

INDICATOR	Belfast West	Belfast North	Belfast East	Belfast South
Life expectancy at birth				
Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths				
Standardised death rate for circulatory diseases in people aged under 75 years				
Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years				
Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes				
Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety				
Standardised admission rate for self-harm				
Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions			Women	

MEN'S HEALTH

For the indicators where it has been possible to investigate differences in outcomes between men and women in Belfast, it is noticeable that men had poorer outcomes than women for the indicators covering life expectancy, avoidable and early deaths, and standardised admission rates for alcohol-related causes, self-harm, and emergency admissions (see Box 5).

For men in Belfast, their life expectancy was shorter at both birth and at age 65 years, they died of causes that could have been prevented or treated, they died earlier of circulatory disease and of cancer, and they had more admissions to hospital relating to alcohol, self-harm, and emergency admissions.

It is possible that men are not accessing health and care services until their health status, condition or disease has deteriorated to a level that is serious and/or irreversible.

BOX 5:

Indicators revealing poorer health outcomes for men in Belfast

- Life expectancy at birth
- Life expectancy at 65 years
- Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths
- Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years
- Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years
- Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes
- Standardised admission rate for self-harm
- Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions



SPOTLIGHT ON INDICATORS WHERE THERE ARE INEQUALITIES AMONG OUTCOMES FOR MEN IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

For all the indicators shown in Table 5, men in Belfast West and Belfast North had poorer outcomes than men in Belfast South and Belfast East, and men in Northern Ireland.

Men in Belfast West and Belfast North also had poorer outcomes than women in all of Belfast's assembly areas and women in Northern Ireland for all these indicators except for the standardised admission rate for self-harm where the highest rate was in men in Belfast North, followed by women in Belfast North, and then men in Belfast West.

TABLE 5:
INDICATORS FOR WHICH THERE ARE INEQUALITIES AMONG OUTCOMES FOR MEN IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS (*shading indicates worse outcomes*)

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Life expectancy at birth	Higher	Lower	Highest	Lowest
Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Standardised admission rate for self-harm	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher

It is noticeable that the seven indicators for which men in Belfast West and Belfast North had poorer outcomes than men in Belfast South, Belfast East and Northern Ireland and women in all assembly areas and Northern Ireland, are also indicators for which people in the most-deprived areas of Belfast had poorer outcomes. It is possible that, for these indicators, poorer outcomes in men are driving much of the poorer outcomes for people in Belfast's most-deprived areas.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

By contrast, for the indicators where it has been possible to investigate differences in outcomes between men and women in Belfast, there appears to be only one indicator for which women in Belfast had much poorer outcomes than men, and that is the standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety.

In addition, apart from men in Belfast North, women in Belfast North had a higher standardised admission rate for self-harm when compared with not only men and women in other assembly areas, but also men and women in Northern Ireland.

When compared with women in Belfast South and Belfast East and women in Northern Ireland, however, women in Belfast West and Belfast North had much higher standardised admission rates for alcohol-related causes, although these rates are not as high as any of the rates for men in Belfast's assembly areas and men in Northern Ireland.

For indicators focused on women's health and wellbeing, there are two for which women in Belfast's most-deprived areas had much poorer outcomes than women in Belfast. These indicators are breastfeeding on discharge from hospital and smoking during pregnancy. Poor outcomes for these indicators can have negative impacts on neonatal and child health.

CHILD HEALTH

Dental health in children registered with a dentist in Belfast was worse when compared with dental health in children registered with a dentist in Northern Ireland. Children in Belfast had a higher rate of fillings, crowns, or extractions. Among LGDs, Belfast had the fourth highest rate of fillings, crowns, or extractions. Poor oral health in children can indicate other health problems such as poor nutrition and obesity. It is important to note that this indicator does not include children who are not registered with a dentist and are likely to have poorer dental health and unmet need.

When compared with Northern Ireland, the percentages of children in Belfast in Primary 1 and Year 8 who were overweight or obese were only slightly higher, although when compared with other LGDs Belfast had the fourth highest percentage for Primary 1 children and the second highest percentage for Year 8 children who were overweight or obese. In addition, while the percentages in Northern Ireland are decreasing, they are increasing in Belfast and Belfast's most-deprived areas, especially in Year 8 children in Belfast's most-deprived areas.

In Belfast, a higher percentage of girls in Primary 1 were obese or overweight when compared with boys, but this difference became relatively small by Year 8.

In Year 8, the children more likely to be overweight or obese were from Belfast's most-deprived areas.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

For indicators related to mental health and wellbeing, Belfast's outcomes were poorer than those for Northern Ireland, and relatively poor when compared with other LGDs. When compared with Northern Ireland:

- The mean score for people thinking that the things they do in life are worthwhile was lower in Belfast, and when compared with other LGDs, Belfast's score was lowest
- The mean score for people's level of anxiety was higher in Belfast and second highest when compared with other LGDs
- The standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety was higher in Belfast and the highest among LGDs (together with Derry City & Strabane LGD)
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm was higher in Belfast, and it was the third highest among LGDs
- The crude death rate for intentional self-harm was higher in Belfast, and it was the highest rate among LGDs

When compared with mental health and wellbeing in Belfast, people in Belfast's most-deprived areas were more likely to be prescribed drugs for mood and anxiety, to be admitted to hospital for self-harm, and to die from intentional self-harm.

SPOTLIGHT ON SOME INDICATORS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

In Table 6, there is an overview of indicators of mental health and wellbeing for men and women in Belfast's assembly areas.

- Belfast East had lower standardised rates for the prescription of mood and anxiety and admission for self-harm
- Belfast North had the highest standardised admission rates for self-harm, and higher rates of prescriptions for mood and anxiety
- Belfast South had the lowest rates of prescription for mood and anxiety and of standardised admission rates for self-harm
- Belfast West had the highest rates of prescription for mood and anxiety and higher standardised admission rates for self-harm

TABLE 6:
OVERVIEW OF INDICATORS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR
MEN AND WOMEN IN BELFAST’S ASSEMBLY AREAS

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety	Lower for men and women	Higher for men and women	Lowest for men and women	Highest for men and women
Standardised admission rate for self-harm	Lower for men and women	Highest for men and women	Lowest for men and women	Higher for men and women

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Information in this Highlights Summary is based on data up until end March 2020, which coincides with the first lockdown in the UK in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information presented here provides a baseline against which recovery can be monitored. Information on the impact of the pandemic on selected indicators is a separate chapter in the detailed Profile.

Summary Matrix for People Indicators

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Age distribution of the population (MYE 2020)	0-15 years: slightly lower 16-39 years: higher 40-64 years: lower 65 years & over: lower				Higher percentage of people 65 years and over: Highest Belfast East Belfast North			
Median age (MYE 2020)	Lower	Lowest		Increasing: an unfavourable trend	Belfast East			<< >> with Northern Ireland increasing to a greater extent

FERTILITY OF THE POPULATION

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Number of live births (MYE 2020)		Highest percentage contribution to Northern Ireland's live births		Decreasing: an unfavourable trend				<< >> with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
General fertility rate (MYE 2020)	Lower	2nd Lowest		Decreasing: an unfavourable trend				<< >> with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Total period fertility rate (2018-2020)	Lower	Lowest		Decreasing: an unfavourable trend				<< >> with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

MIGRATION

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Internal and external migration flows (mid-2019/ mid-2020)		Largest percentage decrease in population						
Long-term international migration inflows (MYE 2020)		Highest		Increasing percentage share of international migrants going to Belfast				

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Population projections (mid-2018 to mid-2028)	Lower percentage increase	2nd lowest percentage increase		Projected to increase by a relatively small percentage				

ETHNIC GROUPS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Ethnic groups (2011 Census)	Higher level of diversity				Highest level of diversity: Belfast South Lowest level of diversity: Belfast West			

LIFE-EXPECTANCY

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Life expectancy at birth (2017-2019)	Lower for men and women	Lowest for men and women		Increasing in men in Belfast: a favourable trend Decreasing in women in Belfast, and in men and women in Belfast's most-deprived areas: unfavourable trends	Belfast West Belfast North	People in most-deprived areas Men	Men: << >> with Belfast increasing and Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing Women: << >> with Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing to a greater extent	Men: << >> with Northern Ireland increasing to a greater extent Women: << >> with Northern Ireland increasing and Belfast decreasing
Life expectancy at 65 years (2017-2019)	Lower for men and women	Lowest for men 2nd lowest for women		Increasing in men and women in Belfast, and in men in Belfast's most-deprived areas: favourable trends Decreasing in women in Belfast's most-deprived areas: an unfavourable trend		People in most-deprived areas Men	Men: Staying the same for the difference between life expectancies >> << in terms of a slightly greater percentage increase for Belfast's most-deprived areas Women: << >> with Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing and Belfast increasing	Men: >> << with Belfast increasing to a greater extent Women: Staying the same for the difference between life expectancies >> << in terms of slightly greater percentage increase for Belfast

OLD AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Old age dependency ratio (mid-2019)	Lower	Lowest		Projected to increase: an unfavourable trend				Projected to widen, with Northern Ireland increasing to a greater extent

DEATH RATES: AVOIDABLE DEATHS AND EARLY DEATHS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Standardised death rate – avoidable deaths (2015-2019)	Higher	Highest		Decreasing: a favourable trend	Belfast West Belfast North	People in most-deprived areas Men	>> << with Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing to a greater extent	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Standardised death rate for circulatory disease: people under 75 years (2015-2019)	Higher	Highest		Decreasing: a favourable trend	Belfast West	People in most-deprived areas Men	>> << with Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing to a greater extent	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Standardised death rate for cancer: people under 75 years (2015-2019)	Higher	Highest		Decreasing: a favourable trend	Belfast West Belfast North	People in most-deprived areas Men	>> << with Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing to a slightly greater extent	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Breastfeeding on discharge from hospital (2019)	Lower	2nd lowest		Increasing: a favourable trend		Women in most-deprived areas	>> << with Belfast's most-deprived areas increasing to a greater extent	<< >> with a slightly lower percentage increase in Belfast
Smoking during pregnancy (2019)	Higher	Highest		Decreasing: a favourable trend		Women in most-deprived areas	<< >> with Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing to a lesser extent	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

CHILD HEALTH

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Children treated for a filling, crown, or extraction (2019/20)	Higher	4th highest						
Children who are overweight or obese: Primary 1 (2017/18-2019/20)	Higher	Equal 4th highest		Increasing: an unfavourable trend		Children in the most-deprived areas Girls	<< >> with Belfast's most-deprived areas increasing to a greater extent	<< >> with Northern Ireland decreasing and Belfast increasing
Children who are overweight or obese: Year 8 (2017/18-2019/20)	Higher	Equal 2nd highest		Increasing: an unfavourable trend		Children in the most-deprived areas	<< >> with Belfast's most-deprived areas increasing to a greater extent	<< >> with Northern Ireland decreasing and Belfast increasing

ADULT HEALTH: RISK FACTORS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Adults who are overweight or obese (2019/20)	Lower		Equal lowest	Increasing: an unfavourable trend				>> << with Belfast increasing to a greater extent and becoming closer to Northern Ireland
Smoking status: current cigarette smoking (2019/20)	Higher		Highest	Decreasing: a favourable trend				>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Smoking status: current use of e-cigarettes (2019/20)	Higher		Highest	Increasing				Staying the same in terms of the difference between rates >> << with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland
Alcohol status: Drinking alcohol (2019/20)	Higher		Highest	Decreasing: a favourable trend				>> << with Belfast decreasing and Northern Ireland staying the same
Alcohol status: Drinking alcohol above recommended weekly limits (2019/20)	Higher		Highest	Decreasing: a favourable trend				>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

ADMISSION RATES: ALCOHOL- AND DRUG-RELATED CAUSES, AND EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Standardised admission rate: alcohol-related causes (2017/18-2019/20)	Higher	Highest		Decreasing: a favourable trend	Belfast North Belfast West	People in most-deprived areas Men	>> << in terms of the difference in rates << >> in terms of a lower percentage decrease in Belfast's most-deprived areas	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Standardised admission rate: drug-related causes (2017/18-2019/20)	Higher	3rd highest		Decreasing: a favourable trend		People in most-deprived areas	>> << in terms of the difference in rates << >> slightly in terms of a slightly lower percentage decrease in Belfast's most-deprived areas	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Standardised admission rate: emergency admissions (2019/20)	Lower	Median value		Decreasing: a favourable trend	Belfast North Belfast West Women in Belfast East	People in most-deprived areas Men	>> << with Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing to a greater extent	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent and overtaking Northern Ireland

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Mean score for people thinking whether the things that they do are worthwhile (2019/20)	Lower	Lowest		Historical data – increasing: a favourable trend				
Mean score for level of anxiety (2019/20)	Higher	2nd highest		Historical data – decreasing: a favourable trend				
Standardised prescription rate: mood and anxiety (2017-2019)	Higher	Equal highest		Increasing: an unfavourable trend	Belfast West Belfast North	People in most-deprived areas Women	<< >> with Belfast's most-deprived areas increasing to a greater extent	<< >> with Belfast increasing to a slightly greater extent

SELF-HARM

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Standardised admission rate: self-harm (2015/16-2019/20)	Higher	3rd highest		Decreasing: a favourable trend	Belfast North Belfast West	People in most-deprived areas Men in some areas	>> << in terms of difference between rates << >> in terms of a lower percentage decrease in Belfast's most-deprived areas	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Crude death rate: intentional self-harm (2015-2019)	Higher	Highest		Decreasing: a favourable trend		People in most-deprived areas	>> << with Belfast's most-deprived areas decreasing to a greater extent	>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

UPTAKE OF SCREENING PROGRAMMES

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN:	
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs		By assembly area	By population group	Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas	Belfast and Northern Ireland
Cervical screening coverage (2019/20)	Lower		Lowest	Decreasing: an unfavourable trend				<< >> with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Uptake of breast screening (2017/18-2019/20)	Lower		Lowest	Increasing: a favourable trend				>> << with Belfast increasing to a greater extent
Uptake of bowel cancer screening (2019/20)	Lower		Lowest	Decreasing: an unfavourable trend				<< >> with Belfast increasing to a greater extent



BELFAST

Profiling Health,
Wellbeing & Prosperity



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

PLACE

Transport and travel

MAIN MODES OF TRANSPORT

The main modes of transport for people in Belfast was by active travel (cycling and walking) and public transport. This level of 'healthy' transport was higher than that for Northern Ireland and the highest among LGDs, whereas journeys by car were lower than those in Northern Ireland and the lowest among LGDs.

Car and bicycle ownership

Reflecting the lower percentage of journeys by car, car ownership was also lower than that in Northern Ireland and the lowest among LGDs. Bicycle ownership, however, was also lower than that in Northern Ireland, and fourth lowest among LGDs, which might reflect the higher levels of deprivation in Belfast.

Use of public transport

The people of Belfast use public transport frequently when compared with Northern Ireland and other LGDs:

- Frequency of use of public transport every day, and at least once a week, were higher than that for Northern Ireland and the highest among LGDs
- Frequency of use of public transport once every 2-3 weeks was also higher than Northern Ireland and second equal highest among LGDs

In contrast, higher percentages of people in Northern Ireland and in other LGDs used public transport much less frequently (such as once every 6 months, once every year, or less frequently) or never when compared with Belfast.

The types of public transport services used also differed between Belfast, other LGDs, and Northern Ireland.

- The public transport services used by a higher percentage of people in Belfast than in Northern Ireland were Metro and Glider – among LGDs, Belfast had the highest percentages of users for these two services
- The public transport services used by a higher percentage of people in Northern Ireland than in Belfast were Ulsterbus and Northern Ireland Railways – among LGDs, Belfast had the lowest percentages of users for these two services

Walking

A higher percentage of people in Belfast than Northern Ireland were satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local area, and the percentage for Belfast was highest among LGDs. This level of satisfaction probably contributes to the higher percentage of people in Belfast when compared with Northern Ireland who were likely to walk when making a short journey (up to 2 miles/3 km); again, among LGDs, the percentage of people likely to walk for short journeys was highest in Belfast.

ROAD TRAFFIC CASUALTIES

When compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast had a lower percentage of people killed and seriously injured, but a higher percentage of people slightly injured. When compared with other LGDs, however, Belfast had the highest percentages of people seriously injured and of people slightly injured, whereas Belfast had the median value of people killed.

TRENDS OVER TIME

Compared with Northern Ireland and other LGDs, transport in Belfast is 'healthier'. This is also reflected in favourable trends and improving outcomes for several indicators:

- Car journeys are decreasing
- Journeys by walking, cycling and public transport (combined) are increasing
- Bicycle ownership and access within households are increasing
- The percentage of people likely to walk for a short journey is increasing
- The percentage of people killed, and the percentage of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions is decreasing

There are a few indicators where the trends are unfavourable and outcomes in Belfast are worsening:

- The percentage of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions
- The percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local area

Levels of car ownership have remained the same.

CLOSING THE GAP?

When looking at the main modes of travel, the percentage journeys by car and the percentage journeys by walking, cycling and public transport, the gap is widening between Belfast and Northern Ireland with Belfast having better outcomes for both indicators over time.

For car ownership, the gap is widening between Belfast and Northern Ireland, with Belfast remaining at the same level, whereas Northern Ireland's level of car ownership increased. For bicycle ownership, the gap is narrowing between Belfast and Northern Ireland with Belfast's level increasing a greater extent, and for access to a bicycle within a household the gap is narrowing when assessed by a greater percentage increase for Belfast.

The difference over time between Belfast and Northern Ireland for the percentage of people who are satisfied with current provision for walking and walkers in their local area is narrowing, because, although Belfast had a higher value, it is decreasing to a greater extent than that for Northern Ireland. There is a similar effect for the percentage of people who are likely to walk for a short journey.

For the people killed in road traffic collisions, there is a slightly greater percentage decrease in Belfast than in Northern Ireland, and a slight narrowing of the gap, although the numbers are small. There is a greater percentage decrease in the percentage of people slightly injured, and a narrowing of the gap for that indicator; however, there is a greater percentage increase in the percentage of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions, and the gap has widened between Belfast and Northern Ireland with worse outcomes for Belfast.

Housing

BELFAST'S HOUSING STOCK

In 2019, Belfast LGD's housing stock comprised 19.8% of the total housing stock in Northern Ireland.

Dwelling types

When compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had a different mix of dwelling types, with a higher percentage of apartments, and semi-detached and terraced houses, and a lower percentage of detached houses. When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the highest percentage share of apartments and terraced housing in its mix of dwelling types, the fourth-highest percentage share of semi-detached houses, and the lowest percentage share of detached houses.

Dwelling tenure

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had a lower percentage of dwellings that were owner-occupied, a higher percentage of dwellings in the social rented sector, and a similar percentage of dwellings in the private rented sector. When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the lowest percentage of owner-occupier dwellings, the highest percentage of dwellings in the social rented sector and the median value for the percentage of dwellings in the private rented sector. The social rented sector plays an important role in housing provision in Belfast, as it does in Derry City & Strabane, which reflects the higher levels of deprivation in these two LGDs.

Dwelling age

In 2016, in the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA)¹, when compared with Northern Ireland, there was a higher percentage of older dwellings from the time-periods pre-1919, 1919-1944, and 1945-1964. In contrast, there were lower percentages of dwellings built during the time periods 1965-1980 and after 1980 in Belfast BMUA when compared with Northern Ireland. When compared with other dwelling locations in Northern Ireland, BMUA also had the second highest or highest percentages of dwellings built during the time periods pre-1919, 1919-1944, and 1945-1964.

¹ The Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area is one of the categories of "Dwelling Location" used in the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey of 2016. The other categories are Derry Urban Area/Large town, Small/medium town, Intermediate settlement/village, and Small village/hamlet/open country.

HOUSING CONDITIONS IN BELFAST

In 2016, two of the indicators relating to housing conditions in Belfast MUA were worse than those in Northern Ireland. Belfast had higher percentages of dwellings:

- **With any disrepair**
- **Not meeting the Decent Homes Standard**

When compared with other Dwelling Locations, Belfast MUA also had the second highest percentages of dwellings with any disrepair and not meeting the Decent Homes Standard.

For other indicators of housing condition, however, when compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast MUA had lower percentages of dwellings:

- **Deemed unfit**
- **With Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS) Category 1 hazard/s (a hazard assessed as a serious and immediate risk to a person's health and safety; a large group of hazards are assessed within this system) – housing built before 1944 is more likely to have Category 1 hazards than housing built after 1944**

For dwellings deemed unfit, Belfast MUA had the median value among Dwelling Locations; for dwellings with Category 1 hazards, Belfast MUA had the lowest percentage among Dwelling Locations.

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, there was a lower percentage of dwellings in Belfast LGD deemed to be overcrowded when assessed against the bedroom standard.

HOUSING: DOMESTIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In 2016, Belfast MUA had better domestic energy efficiency outcomes than Northern Ireland and the best domestic energy efficiency outcomes when compared with other Dwelling Locations in terms of:

- The percentage of dwellings in Energy Efficiency rating (EER) Band A-C (the most energy-efficient dwellings)
- The mean Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2012) rating of dwellings (the SAP is a method used to assess and compare the energy and environmental performance of dwellings)

Belfast's good performance against these two indicators probably contributes to the relatively low levels of fuel poverty seen in Belfast when compared with Northern Ireland and other LGDs,

CHARACTERISTICS OF BELFAST'S HOUSEHOLDS

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, households in Belfast LGD had:

- Similar percentages of people aged 0-75 years, and people aged 75 years and over
- A higher percentage of 1-person households
- Lower percentages of 4-person and 5-plus-person households
- Similar percentages of 2- and 3-person households
- A lower average household size
- Higher percentages of 1-adult households and 1-adult households with children
- Lower percentages of 2-adult households without children, other households without children, and other households with children

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had:

- The highest percentage share of 1-adult households and the second highest percentage share of 1-adult households with children
- The lowest percentage share of other households with children, the second-lowest percentage share of other households without children, and the fourth-lowest percentage share of 2-adult households without children

Belfast also had the lowest average household size among LGDs.

HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS: 2016 TO 2030

Taking 2016 as the baseline, by 2030, it is estimated that the total number of households will increase in Belfast LGD.

When compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD's household characteristics have been estimated to change as follows:

- The percentage of household population aged 0-75 years will be higher whereas that aged 75 years and over will be lower
- The percentage of 1-person households will be higher
- The percentage of 2-person, 4-person and 5-plus-person households will be lower
- The percentage of 3-person households will be similar
- The percentage of 1-adult households and 1-adult households with children will be higher
- The percentage of 2-adult households without children, other adult households without children and other adult households with children will be lower
- The average household size will be lower

HOUSING SUPPLY: NEW DWELLINGS

In 2019/20, the percentage of completed new dwellings for Belfast LGD was 8.82% of Northern Ireland's total of completed new dwellings, and the fifth lowest among LGDs.

In 2019/20, for dwellings completed in the private/speculative sector, Belfast comprised 7.01% of Northern Ireland's total, and the number completed in Belfast was fourth lowest when compared with other LGDs. The total number of dwellings completed in the private/speculative sector in Northern Ireland was 6,603, and the total number completed in Belfast was 469.

In 2019/20, for dwellings completed in the social housing sector, Belfast comprised 24.79% of Northern Ireland's total, and the number completed in Belfast was second highest when compared with other LGDs. The total number of dwellings completed in the social housing sector, however, was much lower than that in the private/speculative sector at 710, and the total number completed in Belfast was 176.

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, for every 10 dwellings completed in the private/speculative sector, there was 1 completed in the social housing sector.

HOUSING DEMAND

Taking 2016 as a baseline, the Housing Growth Indicators for 2030 show an estimated 7,400 new dwellings will be required for Belfast LGD, representing 8.73% of Northern Ireland's total of 84,800. The new dwelling requirement for Belfast LGD is estimated to be the fifth highest among LGDs.

PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

In 2016, the proportion of housing stock in the private rented sector in Belfast LGD was greater than that in Northern Ireland.

In 2019, the number of rental transactions in the private rented sector of Belfast LGD comprised 40.88% of Northern Ireland's total, and when compared with rental transactions in other LGDs Belfast had by far the highest number and the highest percentage share. In addition, Belfast LGD had a higher average rent per month than that in Northern Ireland, and it was the highest among LGDs.

In 2019, the estimated number of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in Belfast LGD was 4,360.

Spotlight on the private rented sector in Belfast's housing sub-markets²

In 2019:

- The highest percentages of rental transactions occurred in the South Belfast and East Belfast housing sub-markets, whereas the lowest percentages were in the Belfast City Centre, West Belfast, and North Belfast housing sub-markets
- The highest average monthly rents were in the South Belfast and Belfast City Centre housing sub-markets, whereas the lowest were in the North Belfast, and West Belfast housing sub-markets
- The highest concentration of HMOs was in the Holylands in South Belfast

HOUSEHOLDS IN RECEIPT OF HOUSING-RELATED BENEFITS

In 2019, the number of households in Belfast receiving Housing Benefit or Universal Credit (UC) with a housing element was the highest among LGDs and comprised slightly more than one-quarter of all households in Northern Ireland receiving a housing-related benefit.

In 2019, households receiving Housing Benefit in Belfast comprised 27.49% of the total households in Northern Ireland who were receiving Housing Benefit.

- Of households who were tenants of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and were receiving Housing Benefit, Belfast households comprised 28.15% of Northern Ireland's total
- Of households who were tenants of a Housing Association and were receiving Housing Benefit, Belfast households comprised 40.77% of Northern Ireland's total
- Of households who were tenants in the private rented sector and were receiving Housing Benefit, Belfast households comprised 19.37% of Northern Ireland's total

² In the context of real estate, a market is typically a city, and a sub-market is a smaller area within a city such as a neighbourhood or suburb. A sub-market is a defined area geographically next to but not overlapping with other sub-markets.

Within Belfast, 39,275 households were receiving Housing Benefit. Of these households:

- 42.66% were tenants of NIHE
- 30.94% were tenants of a Housing Association
- 26.41% were tenants in the private rented sector

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had:

- The third highest percentage share of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- The highest percentage share of Housing Association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- The second lowest percentage share of tenants in the private rented sector receiving Housing Benefit

HOMELESSNESS AND SOCIAL HOUSING NEED

Homelessness and social housing need are at high levels in Belfast. In 2019/20:

- Belfast's homelessness presentations comprised 31.37% of Northern Ireland's total
- Acceptances of homelessness in Belfast comprised 29.36% of Northern Ireland's total
- Belfast households placed in temporary accommodation comprised 36.76% of Northern Ireland's total

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the highest numbers and the highest percentages of homelessness presentations and acceptances of homelessness.

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD:

- The waiting list for social housing (applications in a financial year) comprised 27.92% of Northern Ireland's total applications
- Among households applying for social housing, the households in housing stress comprised 29.35% of Northern Ireland's total in housing stress
- The total allocations (including transfers) to social housing comprised 28.25% of Northern Ireland's total allocations

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the greatest percentage share of Northern Ireland's

- Applications for social housing
- Households in housing stress
- Total allocations (including transfers) to social housing

TRENDS OVER TIME

For the housing indicators where it has been possible to explore a time trend, there are a group for which the trend is in a favourable direction and outcomes are improving:

- The total number of new dwelling completions is increasing, and within that the number and percentage share of new dwelling completions in the private/speculative housing sector
- Homelessness presentations are decreasing, and homelessness acceptances are increasing
- The number of applications for social housing is decreasing
- In terms of energy efficiency, the percentage of dwellings with an EER Band A-C rating is increasing, and the mean SAP 2012 rating is increasing

There are, however, another group of indicators, all of which relate to the supply and need for social housing and help with rent, where the trend is in an unfavourable direction and outcomes are worsening:

- The number and percentage share of households receiving a housing-related benefit

- The number and percentage share of social housing sector completions is decreasing
- The number of households on the social housing waiting list is increasing, while the number of allocations is decreasing
- The number and percentage share of households applying for social housing which are in household stress is increasing
- The number and percentage share of acceptances of households applying for social housing is decreasing

In addition, while the number of rental transactions in the private rented sector is decreasing, the average monthly rent is increasing.

CLOSING THE GAP?

The gap between the total housing stock in Belfast and that in Northern Ireland is widening, with Northern Ireland having a greater percentage increase.

Moreover, in terms of the supply of new dwellings, the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland is widening for:

- Total completions
- Completions in the social rented sector

It is narrowing, however, for completions in the private/speculative sector.

There are several indicators relating to the capacity to pay rent, homelessness, and social housing need where the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland is widening with poorer outcomes for Belfast:

- Number and percentage share of households receiving a housing-related benefit
- Presentations for homelessness
- Acceptances of homelessness
- Homeless households placed in temporary accommodation
- Total allocations to social housing (including transfers) for households on the social housing waiting list

One indicator of social housing need where the gap is widening, but with a slightly lower percentage increase for Belfast, such that Belfast has slightly better outcomes than Northern Ireland, is the number of households on the social housing waiting list, although the increasing trend for both is unfavourable overall.

In the private rented sector, there is a widening in the average monthly rent between Belfast and Northern Ireland, with private tenants in Belfast experiencing not only higher average rents but greater percentage increases in average rent.

The gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland for rental transactions has remained the same with very similar percentage decreases in both Belfast and Northern Ireland.

In terms of domestic energy efficiency, there is a widening in the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland but, in this case, Belfast had higher values, a greater percentage increase, and better outcomes than Northern Ireland for:

- **The percentage of dwellings with an EER rating of Band A-C (the most energy efficient)**
- **The mean SAP rating**

HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS TO 2030

By 2030, it is estimated that, in Belfast LGD, there will be an increase in:

- **The total number of households**
- **The number of 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-person households**
- **The number of 1-adult households, 2-adult households without children, and other households without children**
- **Household population numbers in the 0-75 years age-group, and in the 75 years and over age-group**

By 2030, it is estimated that in Belfast LGD, however, there will be a decrease in:

- **1-adult households with children and other households with children**
- **5-plus-person households**
- **Average household size**

To accommodate these estimated changes in Belfast households, it is projected that Belfast LGD's new dwelling requirement will be 7,400 by 2030.

When compared with Northern Ireland, by 2030, Belfast LGD is projected to have a lower percentage increase in:

- **The total number of households**
- **1-adult households, 2-adult households without children, and other households without children**
- **The 0-75 years household population, and the 75 years and over household population**

When compared with Northern Ireland, by 2030, Belfast LGD is projected to have a greater percentage decrease in:

- **1-adult households with children and other households with children**
- **5-plus-person households**

Finally, when compared with Northern Ireland, by 2030, Belfast is projected to have a lower percentage decrease in average household size.

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Information in this Highlights Summary is based on data up until end March 2020, which coincides with the first lockdown in the UK in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information presented here provides a baseline against which recovery can be monitored. Information on the impact of the pandemic on selected indicators is a separate chapter in the detailed Profile.

Summary Matrix for Place Indicators

TRANSPORT: JOURNEYS BY MODE

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Journeys per person per year by main mode (2017-2019)	Journeys by car: Lower Journeys by walking, cycling and public transport (combined): Higher	Journeys by car: Lowest Journeys by walking, cycling and public transport (combined): Highest	Journeys by car: Decreasing, a favourable trend Journeys by walking, cycling and public transport (combined): Increasing, a favourable trend	Journeys by car: <<>> with Belfast decreasing from a lower value and Northern Ireland increasing Journeys by walking, cycling and public transport (combined): <<>> with Belfast increasing from a higher value and Northern Ireland staying the same
Car ownership access (2019/20)	Lower	Lowest	Staying the same	<<>> with Belfast staying the same and Northern Ireland increasing
Bicycle ownership access (2019/20)	Bicycle ownership: Lower Bicycle access in same household: Lower Bicycle access through different household: Same No use: Higher	Bicycle ownership: 4th lowest Bicycle access in same household: 4th lowest Bicycle access through different household: Median value No use: Equal fourth highest	Bicycle ownership: Increasing, a favourable trend Bicycle access in same household: Increasing, a favourable trend Bicycle access through different household: Decreasing No use: Decreasing, a favourable trend	Bicycle ownership: >><< with Belfast increasing to a greater extent Bicycle access in same household: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying the same in terms of the difference between rates >><< in terms of a greater percentage increase in Belfast Bicycle access through different household: Staying the same No use: >><< with Belfast decreasing and Northern Ireland staying the same

TRANSPORT: JOURNEYS BY MODE (continued)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Frequency of travel on public transport services (2019/20)	<p>Every day: Higher</p> <p>At least once a week: Higher</p> <p>At least once every 2-3 weeks: Higher</p> <p>At least once a month: Higher</p> <p>Once every 2-3 months: Higher</p> <p>Once every 6 months: Lower</p> <p>Once a year: Lower</p> <p>Less frequently: Lower</p> <p>Never: Lower</p>	<p>Every day: Highest</p> <p>At least once a week: Highest</p> <p>At least once every 2-3 weeks: 2nd equal highest</p> <p>At least once a month: 4th highest</p> <p>Once every 2-3 months: Median value</p> <p>Once every 6 months: Lowest</p> <p>Once a year: Equal lowest</p> <p>Less frequently: Equal 3rd lowest</p> <p>Never: 2nd lowest</p>		
Type of public transport services used (2019/20)	<p>Ulsterbus: Lower</p> <p>Northern Ireland Railways: Lower</p> <p>Metro: Higher</p> <p>Glider: Higher</p> <p>Other: Higher</p>	<p>Ulsterbus: Lowest</p> <p>Northern Ireland Railways: Lowest</p> <p>Metro: Highest</p> <p>Glider: Highest</p> <p>Other: Equal highest</p>		

TRANSPORT: JOURNEYS BY MODE (continued)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Likelihood of walking when making a short journey (up to 2 miles/3 km) (2019/20)	Higher	Equal highest	Increasing, a favourable trend	Staying the same in terms of the difference between rates >> << in terms of Belfast having a higher value but Northern Ireland having a slightly greater percentage increase
Satisfaction with current provision for walking and walkers in the local area (2019/20)	Higher	Equal highest	Satisfied: Decreasing, an unfavourable trend Dissatisfied: Increasing, an unfavourable trend	Satisfied: >> << with Belfast having a higher value but decreasing to a greater extent than Northern Ireland Dissatisfied: >> << with Belfast having a lower value but increasing to a greater extent

ROAD TRAFFIC CASUALTIES

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Road traffic casualties (2019)	Killed: Lower percentage share Seriously injured: Lower percentage share Slightly injured: Higher percentage share	Killed (number): 5th equal highest (median value) Seriously injured (number): Highest Slightly injured (number): Highest	Killed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing number Decreasing percentage share of total casualties Favourable trends Seriously injured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing number Increasing percentage share of total casualties Unfavourable trends Slightly injured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing number Decreasing percentage share of total casualties 	Killed: >> << with a greater percentage decrease in Belfast (although the numbers are low) Seriously injured: << >> with a greater percentage increase in Belfast Slightly injured: >> << with a greater percentage decrease in Belfast

HOUSING STOCK

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Total housing stock (2019)	Belfast comprised 19.80% of Northern Ireland's total	Highest number Highest percentage share	Increasing	<< >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland
Dwelling tenure (2016)	Owner-occupier: Lower Private-rented sector: Same Social-rented sector: Higher	Owner-occupier: Lowest Private-rented sector: 5th equal highest – median value Social-rented sector: Highest		
Dwelling type (April 2020)	Apartment: Higher Detached: Lower Semi-detached: Higher Terrace: Higher	Apartment: Highest percentage of Northern Ireland's total Highest percentage share within an LGD Detached: Lowest percentage of Northern Ireland's total Lowest percentage share within an LGD Semi-detached: Highest percentage of Northern Ireland's total 4th highest percentage share within an LGD Terrace: Highest percentage of Northern Ireland's total Highest percentage share within an LGD	Apartment: Increasing number Detached: Increasing number Semi-detached: Increasing number Terrace: Increasing number Total number of dwellings: Increasing	Apartment: << >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland Detached: << >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland Semi-detached: << >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland Terrace: << >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland Total dwellings: << >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland

HOUSING STOCK (continued)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Dwelling age (2016)	Dwelling location¹ (not LGD): Pre-1919: Higher 1919-1944: Higher 1945-1964: Higher 1965-1980: Lower Post-1980: Lower	Dwelling location (not LGD): Pre-1919: 2nd highest 1919-1944: 2nd highest 1945-1964: Highest 1965-1980: Lowest Post-1980: Lowest		

¹ Dwelling Location categories: Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area, Derry Urban Area/Large town, Small/medium town, Intermediate settlement/village, and Small village/hamlet/open country.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LDG	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LDG AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LDG and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Dwellings with any disrepair (2016)	Higher	2nd highest		
Dwellings not meeting the Decent Homes Standard (2016)	Higher	2nd highest		
Dwellings deemed unfit (2016)	Lower	Median value		
Dwellings with Category 1 hazards (2016)	Lower	Lowest		

HOUSING: DOMESTIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LDG	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LDG AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LDG and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Dwellings in energy efficiency rating (EER) Band A-C (2016)	Higher	Highest	Increasing, a favourable trend	<< >> with Belfast starting with a higher value and increasing to a greater extent than Northern Ireland
Mean Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2012) rating (2016)	Higher	Highest	Increasing, a favourable trend	<< >> with Belfast starting with a higher value and increasing to a greater extent than Northern Ireland

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Household population (2016)	0-75 years: Similar 75+ years: Similar			
Household size (2016)	1-person households: Higher percentage share 2-person households: Similar percentage share 3-person households: Similar percentage share 4-person households: Lower percentage share 5+-person households: Lower percentage share			
Average household size (2016)	Lower	Lowest		
Household type (2016)	1-adult households: Higher percentage share 2-adult households without children: Lower percentage share Other households without children: Lower percentage share 1-adult households with children: Higher percentage share Other households with children: Lower percentage share	1-adult households: Highest percentage share 2-adult households without children: 4th lowest percentage share Other households without children: 2nd lowest percentage share 1-adult households with children: 2nd highest percentage share Other households with children: Lowest percentage share		

HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS (2016 TO 2030)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LDG	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LDG AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Household population (2016 to 2030)	<p>0-75 years: Higher</p> <p>75 years and over: Lower</p>		<p>0-75 years: Projected to increase</p> <p>75 years and over: Projected to increase</p>	<p>0-75 years: << >> with a slightly greater projected percentage increase for Northern Ireland, but a higher projected percentage share for Belfast</p> <p>75 years and over: << >> in Belfast's favour, with a greater projected percentage increase and a higher projected percentage share for Northern Ireland</p>
Household size (2016 to 2030)	<p>1-person households: Higher percentage share</p> <p>2-person households: Lower percentage share</p> <p>3-person households: Slightly higher percentage share</p> <p>4-person households: Lower percentage share</p> <p>5+-person households: Lower percentage share</p>		<p>1-person, 2-person, 3-person, and 4-person households: Numbers projected to increase, while the percentage shares within Belfast are projected to be similar</p> <p>5+-person households: Number projected to decrease, while the percentage share within Belfast is projected to be similar</p> <p>Total Belfast households: Number projected to increase</p>	<p>1-person, and 2-person households: << >> with greater projected percentage increases for Northern Ireland</p> <p>3-person, and 4-person households: << >> with slightly greater projected percentage increases for Belfast</p> <p>5+-person households: << >> with a slightly lower projected percentage decrease for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Total households: << >> with a greater projected percentage increase for Northern Ireland</p>

HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS (2016 TO 2030) (continued)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LDG	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LDG AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Average household size (2016 to 2030)	Lower	2nd lowest	Projected to decrease slightly	>> << in terms of the projected difference between the averages, and a greater projected percentage decrease for Northern Ireland
Household type (2016 to 2030)	<p>1-adult households: Higher percentage share</p> <p>2-adult households without children: Lower percentage share</p> <p>Other households without children: Lower percentage share</p> <p>1-adult households with children: Higher percentage share</p> <p>Other households with children: Lower percentage share</p>		<p>1-adult households, 2-adult households without children, and Other households without children: Numbers projected to increase, while the percentage shares within Belfast are projected to be similar</p> <p>1-adult households with children, and Other households with children: Numbers projected to decrease, while the percentage shares within Belfast are projected to be similar</p> <p>Total Belfast households: Number projected to increase</p>	<p>1-adult households, 2-adult households without children, and Other households without children: << >> with greater projected percentage increases for Northern Ireland</p> <p>1-adult households with children, and Other households with children: >> << with greater projected percentage decreases for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Total households: << >> with a greater projected percentage increase for Northern Ireland</p>

SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR NEW DWELLINGS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		Belfast LGD and Belfast's most-deprived areas
Housing supply: new dwellings completed (2019/20)	<p>Total completions: Belfast comprised 8.82% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Private/speculative completions: Belfast comprised 7.10% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Social housing sector completions: Belfast comprised 24.79% of Northern Ireland's total</p>	<p>Total completions (number): 5th lowest</p> <p>Private/speculative completions (number): 4th lowest</p> <p>Social housing sector completions (number): 2nd highest</p>	<p>Total completions: Increasing number</p> <p>Private/speculative completions: Increasing number Increasing percentage share</p> <p>Social housing sector completions: Decreasing number Decreasing percentage share</p>	<p>Total completions: << >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Private/speculative completions: >> << with a greater percentage increase for Belfast</p> <p>Social housing sector completions: << >> with a greater percentage decrease for Belfast</p>
Housing Growth Indicators (2016 to 2030): new dwelling requirement (all tenures)	Belfast's estimated new dwelling requirement is 8.73% of Northern Ireland's total	5th highest number 5th highest percentage share	Projected to increase	

PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST: HOUSING SUB-MARKETS	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs			
Housing stock (2016)	Higher				
Number of rental transactions (2019)	Belfast's rental transactions comprised 40.88% of Northern Ireland's total	Highest number Highest percentage share	Decreasing	Highest: South Belfast East Belfast Lowest: Belfast City Centre West Belfast North Belfast	Staying the same, with the percentage decrease similar for Belfast and Northern Ireland
Average rent per month (2019)	Higher	Highest	Increasing, an unfavourable trend	Highest: South Belfast Belfast City Centre Lowest: North Belfast West Belfast	<< >> with Belfast starting at a higher value and undergoing a greater percentage increase

HOUSEHOLDS IN RECEIPT OF A HOUSING-RELATED BENEFIT

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST: HOUSING SUB-MARKETS	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs			
Households in receipt of a housing-related benefit: Housing Benefit, and Universal Credit with a Housing Element (2019)	Belfast comprised 26.71% of Northern Ireland's total (of postcodes that could be allocated to LGDs)	Highest number Highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total	Increasing number Increasing percentage share of Northern Ireland's total Unfavourable trends		<< >> with a greater percentage increase for Belfast
Households in receipt of Housing benefit by type of tenancy (2019)	<p>Total number tenants: Belfast comprised 27.49% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>NIHE tenants: Belfast comprised 28.15% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Housing association tenants: Belfast comprised 40.77% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Private rented sector tenants: Belfast comprised 19.37% of Northern Ireland's total</p>	<p>Total number tenants: Highest number</p> <p>NIHE tenants: Highest number Third highest percentage share within an LGD</p> <p>Housing association tenants: Highest number Highest percentage share within an LGD</p> <p>Private rented sector tenants: Highest number 2nd lowest percentage share within an LGD</p>			

HOMELESSNESS AND SOCIAL HOUSING NEED

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LDG WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Presentations for homelessness by household to NIHE (2019/20)	<p>Presentations: Belfast comprised 31.37% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Acceptances: Belfast comprised 29.37% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Lower</p> <p>Households placed in temporary accommodation: Belfast comprised 36.76% of Northern Ireland's total</p>	<p>Presentations: Highest number Highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Acceptances: Highest number Highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>2nd lowest percentage</p>	<p>Presentations: Decreasing number, a favourable trend</p> <p>Acceptances: Increasing number, a favourable trend</p> <p>Households placed in temporary accommodation: Increasing number</p>	<p>Presentations: << >> with a greater percentage decrease for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Acceptances: << >> with a slightly greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Households placed in temporary accommodation: << >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland</p>
Applications for social housing/ waiting list for social housing (at 31 March 2020)	<p>Applications/waiting list: Belfast comprised 27.92% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Households in housing stress: Belfast comprised 29.35% of Northern Ireland's total Higher percentage share of applicants in housing stress</p> <p>Total allocations: Belfast comprised 28.25% of Northern Ireland's total</p>	<p>Applications/waiting list: Highest number Highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Households in housing stress: Highest number Highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>4th highest percentage</p> <p>Total allocations: Highest number Highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total</p>	<p>Applications/waiting list: Decreasing number, a favourable trend</p> <p>Households in housing stress: Increasing number Increasing percentage share of applications Unfavourable trends</p> <p>Total allocations: Decreasing number Decreasing percentage share of applications Unfavourable trends</p>	<p>Applications/waiting list: << >> in Belfast's favour, with a greater percentage decrease for Belfast</p> <p>Households in housing stress: << >> in Belfast's favour, with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Total allocations: << >> with a greater percentage decrease for Belfast</p>



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PARTICIPATION

Life Satisfaction and Loneliness in Belfast

In 2019/20, people in Belfast had a lower level of life satisfaction than people in Northern Ireland and when compared with people in other LGDs life satisfaction in Belfast was the lowest. The level of life satisfaction in Belfast, however, has been increasing, and the gap between levels in Belfast and levels in Northern Ireland has been narrowing with a greater percentage increase for Belfast.

In 2019/20, job satisfaction for people in Belfast was lower than that for people in Northern Ireland. The population groups in Northern Ireland who had lower levels of job satisfaction were:

- **People in jobs with relatively low skill requirements compared with people in jobs with relatively high skill requirements**
- **Men compared with women**

In 2019/20, the percentage of people who felt “more often lonely” was higher in Belfast than in Northern Ireland, and it was highest in Belfast when compared with other LGDs. In contrast to life satisfaction in Belfast, the percentage of people who felt “more often lonely” has been increasing, and the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland has been widening.

Caring responsibilities in Belfast HSCT

In 2018/19, the percentage of people with caring responsibilities in Belfast HSCT was lower than that in Northern Ireland, and it was the lowest when compared with the four other HSCTs. Over time, the percentage of people with caring responsibilities in Belfast HSCT has stayed the same, whereas it has increased in Northern Ireland; as such, the gap between Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland has widened with Northern Ireland having a higher percentage of people with caring responsibilities.

In Northern Ireland, in 2019/20:

- More women than men had caring responsibilities, which affected more women aged 35-64 years than women aged 25-34 years and women aged 65 years and over
- More people in the most-deprived areas had caring responsibilities than people in the least-deprived areas
- More people aged over 45-64 years than people aged under 45 years and people aged 65 years and over had caring responsibilities

In 2019, in Northern Ireland:

- One-quarter of people caring for a family member or friend described their physical health as 'bad' or 'very bad'
- One-quarter of people caring for a family member or friend described their mental health as 'bad' or 'very bad'
- More than four-fifths of carers had not been able to do as much physical exercise as they would like to do
- Three-quarters of carers reported having ever felt lonely or isolated because of their caring role
- More than three-fifths focused on the needs of the person they were caring for and not on their own needs
- More than one-quarter had given up work as a result of caring responsibilities, and one-fifth had reduced their working hours
- Two-fifths of carers said they were struggling to make ends meet

Furthermore, people in Northern Ireland providing care for a family or friend had an anxiety score that was double that of the general population.

At November 2019, in Belfast, 5.7% of the eligible population (people aged 16 years and over, based on 2018 mid-year population estimates) were claimants for the Carer's Allowance. This was the second highest percentage among LGDs and represented one-fifth of Northern Ireland's total number of claimants. Between November 2018 and November 2019, the percentage of the eligible population in Belfast who were claimants for the Carer's Allowance remained the same, although there was a slight percentage decrease in claimants. In Northern Ireland, however, there was a slight percentage increase in claimants for the same time-period, and the gap, therefore, widened slightly.

SPOTLIGHT ON CLAIMANTS FOR THE CARER'S ALLOWANCE IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

At November 2019, among Belfast's assembly areas:

- **Belfast West had both the highest number of claimants for and the highest number of recipients of Carer's Allowance, followed by Belfast North**
- **Belfast South had the lowest number of both claimants and recipients, reflecting a relatively younger population**
- **Belfast East also had a relatively lower number of both claimants and recipients; however, as the population of Belfast East is older, these data may reflect a lower level of awareness of the Carer's Allowance and/or a healthier older population**

Volunteering in Belfast HSCT

In 2017, the percentage of people in Belfast HSCT who had volunteered in the past year was lower than that in Northern Ireland, and the lowest among HSCTs. In 2013, the percentages of people volunteering in Belfast and Northern Ireland had been the same, but by 2017 a gap had developed and the percentage of people volunteering in Belfast had decreased to a greater extent.

In 2019/20, people in Northern Ireland who were volunteering identified the main benefits as:

- It “makes me feel better about myself”
- It “helps me make a positive contribution to society”
- “I had fun”
- “I made new friends”

In 2019/20, the groups in Northern Ireland for which there were lower percentages of people volunteering and, therefore, who were less likely to experience the benefits particularly for mental health and wellbeing:

- People in routine and manual occupations when compared with people in managerial or professional occupations
- People in the most-deprived areas when compared with people in the least-deprived areas
- People who were widowed, separated, or divorced when compared with people who were married or single
- People from the Catholic community and people self-identified as from an ‘Other/None’ religious background when compared with people from the Protestant community
- People in urban areas when compared with people in rural areas
- People aged 25-34 years compared with people aged 45-54 years

- **People who were economically inactive when compared with people who were economically active**
- **People with a disability when compared with people without a disability**

The differences in volunteering among population groups could reflect the amount of time or resources people have due to their prevailing life circumstances, which may reduce their capacity and not necessarily their willingness to volunteer.

Participation in sport in Belfast

Participation in sport is categorised according to frequency of participation. In 2013/14-2015/16, in Belfast, the percentages of people participating in the previous year and participating normally at least on one day a week were lower than those in Northern Ireland and were among the lowest when compared with other LGDs. For the same time-period, the percentage of people participating in sport in the last four weeks, however, was the same for Belfast as that for Northern Ireland and was the third-equal highest level among LGDs.

During the same time-period, membership of sports clubs was lower in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland and was fourth-equal lowest among LGDs.

In 2019/20, people in Northern Ireland identified the main benefits of participating in sport as:

- **Keeping fit**
- **Improved physical health**
- **Improved mental health**

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the groups for which there were lower percentages of people participating in sport, and, therefore, who were less likely to experience improved physical and mental health as a result, were:

- **People aged 45 years and older compared with people younger than 45 years**
- **People with a disability compared with people without a disability**
- **People in the most-deprived areas when compared with people in the least-deprived areas**
- **Women compared with men**

These differences in participating in sport among various population groups could reflect the amount of time or resources people have due to their prevailing life circumstances, which may reduce their capacity and not necessarily their willingness to participate.

Engagement in the Arts in Belfast

Of the three indicators exploring engagement in the Arts, there is an overall indicator for engagement, encompassing the other two indicators which reflect levels of:

- **Participation in the Arts**
- **Attendance at Arts events**

For overall engagement in the Arts, in 2013/14-2015/16, the percentage of people engaging was lower in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland. When compared with other LGDs, the level of engagement for Belfast represented the median value.

For both participation in the Arts, and attendance at Arts events, the percentage of people engaging in Belfast was lower than in Northern Ireland. When compared with other LGDs, the percentage of people participating in the Arts in Belfast was fourth-equal lowest, whereas the percentage attending Arts events was fourth-equal highest.

There is evidence that for adults participating in arts activities it can help to alleviate anxiety, depression, and stress both in and out of work.

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the groups for which there were lower percentages of people engaging in the Arts (see Table 1), and, therefore, who were less likely to experience the mental health benefits, were:

- **People in the most-deprived areas when compared with people in the least-deprived areas**
- **People aged 65 years and older compared with people younger than 65 years**
- **People with a disability compared with people without a disability**
- **People who are widowed compared with people who are married/ co-habiting or single**
- **Men compared with women**

TABLE 1:
POPULATION GROUPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND WITH LOWER LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT IN THE ARTS (*shading indicates lower engagement levels*)

POPULATION GROUPS WITH LOWER LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT IN THE ARTS	Type of Arts engagement		
	Engaging in the Arts overall	Participating in an Arts activity	Attending Arts events
People in the most-deprived areas			
People aged 65 years and over			
People with disability			
People who are widowed			
Men			
People with dependants			
People without dependants			
Catholic community			

These differences in engagement in the Arts among various population groups could reflect the amount of time or resources people have due to their prevailing life circumstances, and/or their level of access, which may reduce their capacity and not necessarily their willingness to engage.



VISITING MUSEUMS OR SCIENCE CENTRES

In 2013/14-2015/16, the percentage of people who visited a museum or science centre was higher in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland and was third-equal highest when compared with other LGDs.

In the published literature, there is evidence of the benefits of visiting a museum, which include:

- **Reduced social isolation**
- **Reduced anxiety levels**
- **The chance to develop new skills**
- **Enjoyment, hope, and optimism**
- **Self-esteem, and a greater sense of self and community**

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the groups for which there were lower percentages of people visiting museums or science centres, and, therefore, who were less likely to experience the mental health and wellbeing benefits, were:

- **People in the most-deprived areas when compared with people in the least-deprived areas**
- **People aged 65 years and older compared with people younger than 65 years**
- **People with a disability compared with people without a disability**
- **People who are widowed compared with people who are married/co-habiting or single**

All these groups also had lower levels of engagement in the Arts during the same time-period.

Differences in the percentages of people visiting a museum or science centre among population groups could reflect the amount of time, resources, and/or access people have due to their prevailing life circumstances, which may reduce their capacity and not necessarily their willingness to visit a museum or science centre.

USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN BELFAST

In 2013/14-2015/16, the percentage of people who used public library services was higher in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland, and among LGDs the percentage of users in Belfast was the highest.

There is evidence that library usage is positively associated with:

- **Higher life satisfaction, higher levels of happiness, and a higher sense of purpose in life**
- **Self-reported good general health**

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the groups for which there were lower percentages of people using public library services, and, therefore, who were less likely to benefit from any associated higher levels of mental wellbeing and general health, were:

- **People aged 55-64 years compared with people younger than 55 years and people older than 64 years**
- **Men when compared with women**
- **People without dependants compared with people with dependants**

Men also had lower levels of participation in the Arts and attendance at Arts events during the same time-period.

Differences in the levels of usage of public library services among population groups could reflect the amount of time, and/or access, people have due to their prevailing life circumstances, which may reduce their capacity and not necessarily their willingness to use library services.

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Information in this Highlights Summary is based on data up until end March 2020, which coincides with the first lockdown in the UK in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information presented here provides a baseline against which recovery can be monitored. Information on the impact of the pandemic on selected indicators is a separate chapter in the detailed Profile.

Summary Matrix for Participation Indicators

FEELINGS OF SATISFACTION AND LONELINESS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		NORTHERN IRELAND POPULATION GROUPS AT RISK OF INEQUALITIES, 2019/20	TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs			
Life satisfaction (2019/20)	Lower	Lowest		Increasing, a favourable trend	<< >> with a greater percentage increase for Belfast
Job satisfaction (2019/20)	Lower		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in jobs with relatively low skill requirements • Men • People aged 18-39 years 		
Feelings of loneliness (2019/20)	Higher	Highest		Increasing, an unfavourable trend	<< >> with a percentage increase for Belfast and a slight percentage decrease for Northern Ireland

CARING RESPONSIBILITIES

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		NORTHERN IRELAND POPULATION GROUPS AT RISK OF INEQUALITIES, 2019/20	TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs			
Percentage of people with caring responsibilities (2018/19)	Lower	Belfast HSCT: Lowest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women, particularly in the 35-64-year age-group • People in the most-deprived areas • People aged 45-64 years 	Staying the same	<< >> with an increase in Northern Ireland while Belfast stayed the same
Claimants of Carer's Allowance (at November 2019)	Belfast comprises 20.80% of Northern Ireland's total	2nd highest	Belfast's assembly areas: Belfast West Belfast North	Staying the same in terms of the percentage of the eligible population A slight decrease in numbers	<< >> with a slight percentage decrease for Belfast and a slight percentage increase for Northern Ireland

PARTICIPATION AS A VOLUNTEER

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		NORTHERN IRELAND POPULATION GROUPS AT RISK OF INEQUALITIES, 2019/20	TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs			
Volunteering in the past year (2017)	Lower	Belfast HSCT: Lowest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in routine and manual occupations • People in the most-deprived areas • People who were widowed, separated, or divorced • People from the Catholic community • People self-identified as from an 'Other'/None religious background • People in urban areas • People aged 25-34 years • People who were economically inactive • People with a disability 	Decreasing, an unfavourable trend	<<>> a gap developed (from the same value), with Belfast having a greater percentage decrease than Northern Ireland

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		NORTHERN IRELAND POPULATION GROUPS AT RISK OF INEQUALITIES, 2019/20	TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs			
Participation in sport in the previous year (2013/14-2015/16)	Lower	5th lowest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People 45 years and older • People with a disability • People in the most-deprived areas • Women 		
Participation in sport in the last 4 weeks (2013/14-2015/16)	Same	3rd equal highest			
Participation in sport at least 1 day a week (2013/14-2015/16)	Lower	5th equal lowest			
Membership of a sports club (2013/14-2015/16)	Lower	4th equal lowest			

ENGAGEMENT IN THE ARTS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		NORTHERN IRELAND POPULATION GROUPS AT RISK OF INEQUALITIES, 2019/20	TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs			
Engagement in the Arts (2013/14-2015/16)	Lower	Median value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in the most-deprived areas • People 65 years and older • People with a disability • People who are widowed • Men 		
Participation in the Arts (2013/14-2015/16)	Lower	4th lowest			
Attendance at an Arts event (2013/14-2015/16)	Lower	4th highest			

VISITS TO MUSEUMS AND SCIENCE CENTRES, AND LIBRARY USAGE

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST LGD WITH:		NORTHERN IRELAND POPULATION GROUPS AT RISK OF INEQUALITIES, 2019/20	TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST LGD	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs			
Visited a museum or science centre (2013/14-2015/16)	Higher	3rd equal highest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in the most-deprived areas • People 65 years and older • People with a disability • People who are widowed 		
Use of public library services (2013/14-2015/16)	Higher	Highest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People aged 55-64 years • Men • People without dependants 		



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PROSPERITY

Belfast's Labour Market

In 2019, the labour market in Belfast, when compared with that in Northern Ireland, was characterised by a higher percentage of:

- **Jobs in the public sector compared with jobs in the private sector**
- **Full-time employee jobs compared with part-time employee jobs**

In Belfast, there were a higher proportion of men than women in full-time jobs, and a higher proportion of women than men in part-time jobs.

BELFAST'S WORKING-AGE POPULATION

The main industries in terms of the percentages of Belfast's working-age population (16-64 years) who are employed were:

- **Public administration, education, and health**
- **Banking and finance**
- **Distribution, hotels, and restaurants**

When compared with Northern Ireland, there was a higher percentage of Belfast's working-age population employed in Banking and finance, Transport and communication, and Public administration, education, and health.

The industries which have relatively low percentages of Belfast's working-age population in employment were:

- **Energy and water**
- **Other services (covering Other community, social and personal services activities, private households with employed persons, and extra-territorial organisations and bodies)**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Construction**
- **Transport and communication**

When compared with Northern Ireland, there was a lower percentage of Belfast's working-age population employed in Manufacturing, and in Construction.

The main occupations of Belfast's working-age population in employment ($\geq 10\%$) are:

- **Professional**
- **Associate professional and technical**
- **Administrative and secretarial**
- **Sales and customer service**
- **Elementary (covering Elementary agricultural, construction, process plant, goods storage, administration, interpersonal services, cleaning, security, and sales occupations)**

When compared with Northern Ireland, there was a higher percentage of the working-age population employed in each of these main types of occupation in Belfast; by contrast, Belfast had a lower percentage of the working-age population employed in/as:

- **Managers, directors, and senior officials**
- **Skilled trades**
- **Caring, leisure and other services**
- **Process, plant, and machine operatives**

When compared with the working-age population of Northern Ireland, in Belfast, there was:

- **A lower percentage with a degree-level or below degree-level qualification**
- **A higher percentage with no qualification**

There was also a higher level of underemployment in Belfast than in Northern Ireland, including the percentage of people in part-time employment who want to work more hours.

In addition, the economic activity rate in Belfast was lower than that in Northern Ireland, as was the employment rate. As a result, Belfast had a higher economic inactivity rate (including students), and a higher annual average claimant count rate overall when compared with Northern Ireland, although the annual average

claimant count rate for people aged 18-24 years and for people who are long-term unemployed were lower in Belfast than in Northern Ireland.

Even though the main source of weekly household income for people in Belfast was from wages, salaries, and self-employment, the proportion of household income from this source was lower than that for Northern Ireland; in Belfast, one-fifth of household income was from benefits and tax credits. The gross disposable household income per head of population and the gross weekly pay (full-time median wage) by place of residence were lower in Belfast than in Northern Ireland.

AREAS OF DEPRIVATION, AND POVERTY

Reflecting the relatively high economic inactivity rate, annual average claimant count rate, relatively low employment rate, and lower levels of income, Belfast has:

- **The highest percentage of Northern Ireland's 100 most-deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs)**
- **The highest percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland's 10% most-deprived areas**
- **The second highest percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland's 20% most-deprived areas**

Furthermore, of the 212 SOAs in Belfast's assembly areas, 48 (22.64%) are in Northern Ireland's 10% most-deprived areas, and the most-deprived parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland is Belfast West.

When compared with Northern Ireland, the level of deprivation in Belfast may be related to, or associated with:

- **Higher levels of relative income poverty before housing costs not only for all individuals but also for children**
- **A higher level of food insecurity**

Fuel poverty, however, was lower in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland, which might reflect the main sources of fuel available (and, therefore, its costs) through Belfast's urban energy infrastructure when compared with the main sources of fuel available through the rural energy infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

Focus on the employment rate

An example of the effect of deprivation can be seen when examining trends in the employment rate across the quintiles of deprivation in Belfast, revealing a more complex, finer-grained picture.

- For people in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), the rate was lower than that for people in Belfast, but it is increasing to a greater extent than that for Belfast, and the gap between the two is narrowing
- For people in the second most-deprived areas (Quintile 2), the rate was higher than that for people in Belfast, but it is decreasing while that for Belfast has increased to overtake the rate for Quintile 2
- For people in the mid-range of deprived areas (Quintile 3), the rate was higher than that in Belfast and is increasing to a greater extent, and the gap between the two is widening in favour of Quintile 3
- For people in the second least-deprived areas (Quintile 4), the rate was higher than that in Belfast, but it is decreasing while Belfast is increasing, and the gap between the two is narrowing with Belfast approaching the Quintile 4 value
- For people in the least-deprived areas (Quintile 5), the rate was higher than that in Belfast and is increasing to a greater extent, and the gap between the two is widening in favour of Quintile 5

CLOSING THE LABOUR MARKET GAPS?

In terms of the differences over time between Belfast and Northern Ireland, Belfast's outcomes are becoming more favourable (that is, the gap has been narrowing between the two) with respect to:

- Economic activity rate
- Employment rate
- Economic inactivity rate
- Annual average claimant count rates, including for people aged 18-24 years, and people who are long-term unemployed
- Relative income poverty for all individuals before housing costs
- Relative income poverty after housing costs for children
- Food poverty/insecurity

Fuel poverty is another indicator where Belfast is doing favourably over time, and although the gap is widening, it is widening because levels in Belfast have been lower than those in Northern Ireland and are decreasing to a greater extent.

There are indicators, however, for which the differences over time between Belfast and Northern Ireland mean that Belfast's outcomes are less favourable:

- Underemployment in terms of people in part-time employment who would like to work more hours
- Gross disposable household income per head of population
- Gross weekly pay (full-time median wage) by place of residence
- Proportion of total weekly household income from wages, salaries, and self-employment
- Relative income poverty before housing costs for children
- Percentage of the working-age population with no qualification

BELFAST'S LABOUR MARKET: COMPARISON WITH OTHER LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, in Belfast, the percentage of jobs:

- In the public sector was fourth highest, and fifth lowest in the private sector
- That are full-time was second highest, and part-time was second lowest

The level of underemployment, however, was third highest, and Belfast had the third highest percentage of people in part-time employment who want to work more hours.

When compared with other LGDs, the percentage of the working-age population in Belfast employed in:

- Banking and finance was highest
- Transport and communication was second highest
- Distribution, hotels, and restaurants was fourth highest
- Public administration, education, and health was fifth highest

By contrast, the percentage of the working-age population in Belfast employed in:

- **Energy and water industry was equal lowest**
- **Manufacturing, and in Construction, was second lowest**
- **Other services was third lowest**

When compared with other LGDs, the percentage of the working-age population in Belfast employed in:

- **Professional occupations was second highest**
- **Associate professional and technical occupations was third highest**
- **Administrative and secretarial occupations was fourth highest**
- **Sales and customer service was fourth highest**
- **Elementary occupations was highest**

By contrast, the percentage of the working-age population in Belfast employed:

- **As Managers, directors, and senior officials was forth-equal lowest**
- **In Skilled trades, and in process, plant, and machine operatives, was lowest**
- **In Caring, leisure, and other services was fourth lowest**

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the second lowest economic activity and employment rates, and as a result the second highest economic inactivity rate, and the third highest annual average claimant count rate overall, with the third equal highest annual average claimant count rate for people who are long-term unemployed. The annual average claimant count rate for people aged 18-24 years, however, was second lowest among LGDs.

The gross disposable household income per head of population in Belfast was the fifth lowest among LGDs, and the gross weekly pay (full-time median wage) by place of residence was only the fifth highest. Relative income poverty before housing costs for all individuals was fifth equal highest, and relative income poverty after housing costs for children was highest among LGDs. The level of fuel poverty, however, was third lowest, possibly reflecting the difference in fuel type and associated costs between urban and rural areas in Northern Ireland.

Among LGDs, the proportion of total weekly income in Belfast:

- From wages, salaries and self-employment was third lowest
- From benefits and tax credits was fourth highest
- From non-state pensions was equal-fifth highest
- From other sources was equal highest

POVERTY IN BELFAST HSCT: COMPARISON WITH OTHER HSCTS

When compared with other HSCTs, Belfast HSCT had:

- The second highest level of relative income poverty before housing costs for children
- The highest level of food insecurity

TRENDS OVER TIME

Overall, in Belfast's labour market, there are two important trends:

- 1 An increasing percentage of private sector jobs and a decreasing percentage of public sector jobs
- 2 An increasing percentage of full-time jobs and a decreasing percentage of part-time jobs

In terms of the main labour market indicators, although Belfast may not compare as well with Northern Ireland as a whole or with other LGDs, it is noticeable that for many of these indicators there is a favourable trend whereby Belfast is improving, as follows:

- Economic activity rate
- Employment rate
- Economic inactivity rate
- Annual average claimant count rate
- Annual average claimant count rate for people aged 18-24 years

- Annual average claimant count rate for people who are long-term unemployed
- Gross disposable household income per head
- Gross weekly wage (full-time median pay) by place of residence
- Relative income poverty before housing costs for all individuals
- Relative income poverty after housing costs for children
- Fuel poverty
- Food insecurity
- Percentage of the working-age population with no qualification

There are a few indicators, however, where the trend is either unfavourable or an unfavourable situation remained the same:

- Sources of total weekly income in terms of the proportion of weekly household income from wages, salaries and self-employment which is decreasing and the proportion from benefits and tax credits which is remaining the same
- Relative income poverty before housing costs for children

There is also an increasing trend in Belfast of people who are part-time employed wanting more hours of employment; as there are a higher percentage of women in part-time jobs in Belfast when compared with men, it is possible that women might be more affected by underemployment than men.

In terms of the occupations of Belfast's working age population, there is a trend of increasing employee numbers in:

- Professional occupations
- Associate professional and technical occupations
- Administrative and secretarial occupations
- Sales and customer service occupations
- Elementary occupations

There is a decreasing trend, however, for the percentage of the working-age population employed as/in:

- **Managers, directors, and senior officials**
- **Skilled trades**
- **Caring, leisure and other services**
- **Process, plant, and machine operatives**

In terms of the industries in Belfast, there is a decreasing percentage of the working-age population employed in:

- **Manufacturing**
- **Banking and finance**
- **Public administration, education, and health**
- **Distribution, hotels, and restaurants**

The only industry for which there was reliable data that shows an increasing trend is Other services.

SPOTLIGHT ON LABOUR MARKETS IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

In Table 1, there is an overview of labour market and related indicators for Belfast's assembly areas which shows that the working-age population in Belfast West and Belfast North were at greatest risk of health inequalities and inequities due to:

- **Lower economic activity and employment rates than Belfast East, Belfast South, and Northern Ireland: Belfast West also had lower rates of economic activity and employment than Belfast**
- **Higher economic inactivity rates than Belfast East, Belfast South, and Northern Ireland**
- **Lower gross weekly pay (full-time median wage) by place of residence than Belfast East, Belfast South, Belfast, and Northern Ireland**
- **Higher relative income poverty before housing costs for children than Belfast East, and Belfast South**

- A higher annual average claimant count rate overall and for people aged 18-24 years than Belfast East, Belfast South, Belfast, and Northern Ireland
- Relatively lower levels of working-age people with qualifications (degree-level and below degree-level) and relative higher levels of working-age people without qualifications when compared with Belfast East and Belfast South

It is also important to note that, in Belfast East, there was:

- A higher annual average claimant count rate for people aged 18-24 years when compared with Belfast South, Belfast, and Northern Ireland
- A higher annual average claimant count rate for people who are long-term unemployed when compared with Belfast South

TABLE 1:
OVERVIEW OF LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED INDICATORS IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Economic activity rate	Highest	Lower	Higher	Lowest
Employment rate	Highest	Lower	Higher	Lowest
Economic inactivity rate	Lowest	Higher	Lower	Highest
Annual average claimant count rate	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Annual average claimant count rate: people aged 18-24 years	Higher	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Annual average claimant count rate: long-term unemployed	Higher	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Gross weekly pay (full-time median wage) by place of residence	Higher	Lowest	Highest	Lower
Relative income poverty after housing costs: children	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Qualifications of the working-age population	Degree-level: Higher Below degree level: Lower No qualification: Lower	Degree level: Lowest Below degree level: Lowest No qualification: Highest	Degree-level: Highest Below degree level: Lowest No qualification: Lowest	Degree level: Lower Below degree level: Lower No qualification: Higher

Private/public sector jobs

Belfast West had the lowest percentage of jobs in the private sector and the highest percentage of jobs in the public sector, whereas Belfast South had the highest percentage of jobs in the private sector, and as a corollary the lowest percentage of jobs in the public sector.

Full-time/part-time jobs

Belfast West had the lowest percentages of full-time and part-time jobs, whereas Belfast South had the highest percentage of both full-time and part-time jobs.

OCCUPATIONS

In Table 2, there is an overview of the main types of occupation of the working-age population in Belfast's assembly areas.

- **Belfast East had higher percentages employed in the Professional, Associate professional and technical, and Administrative and secretarial occupations**
- **Belfast North had the highest percentages employed in Sales and customer service, Skilled trades, Caring, leisure, and other services, Process, plant and machine operatives, and Elementary occupations**
- **Belfast South had the highest percentages employed in Professional, and Associate professional and technical occupations**
- **Belfast West had the highest percentage employed as Managers, directors, and senior officials, and in Administrative and secretarial occupations**

TABLE 2:
MAIN TYPES OF OCCUPATION OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

OCCUPATION OF WORKING-AGE POPULATION	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Managers, directors & senior officials	Higher	Lowest	Higher	Highest
Professional	Higher	Lowest	Highest	Lower
Associate professional & technical	Higher	Lower	Highest	Lowest
Administrative & secretarial	Higher	Lower	Lowest	Highest
Sales & customer service	Lowest	Highest	Lower	Higher
Skilled trades	Mid-range	Highest	Lowest	Mid-range
Caring, leisure & other services	Higher	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Process plant & machine operatives	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Elementary	Lowest	Highest	Higher	Higher

Industries

Among Belfast's assembly areas:

Belfast East had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in:

- **Public administration, education, and health**
- **Manufacturing**

Belfast North had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in:

- **Transport and communication**
- **Other services**
- **Construction**

Belfast South had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in:

- **Banking and finance**
- **Public administration, education, and health**

Belfast West had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in:

- **Distribution, hotels, and restaurants**
- **Energy and water**

Education, Qualifications, and School Leavers' Destinations in Belfast

Belfast's school population is characterised by a relatively high number of newcomer pupils, and a greater level of ethnic diversity than elsewhere in Northern Ireland. Belfast has one-fifth of all Northern Ireland's newcomer pupils, reflecting the situation where Belfast is the main destination for people migrating to Northern Ireland, and the level of ethnic diversity observed in Belfast's population when compared with that of other LGDs.

When compared with Northern Ireland, in Belfast, there was a higher level of:

- **Special educational needs (SEN) both at Stage 1-4 and Stage 5**
- **Free school meal entitlement (FSME) for pupils at primary school, which reflects the level of deprivation in Belfast**
- **Pupil suspensions**

These higher levels of need and deprivation may be reflected in the lower percentage of Belfast school leavers and Belfast FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths.

When compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of school leavers in Belfast:

- **Entering Higher and Further education was lower**
- **Entering Employment or Training, or who are Unemployed or whose destination is unknown was higher**

CLOSING THE EDUCATION GAP?

In terms of the differences over time between Belfast and Northern Ireland, Belfast's outcomes are more favourable (that is, the gap has been narrowing) with respect to the percentage of pupils:

- With SEN Stage 1-4
- With SEN Stage 5
- With FSME achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths
- Entering Higher education

There are indicators, however, for which the differences over time between Belfast and Northern Ireland mean that Belfast's outcomes are less favourable:

- Percentage of primary pupils with FSME
- Percentage of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths
- Percentage of school leavers who are unemployed or whose destination is unknown

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SCHOOL LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS IN BELFAST: COMPARISON WITH OTHER LGDs

Educational and other needs

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had:

- The second highest percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 1-4
- The third highest percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 5
- The highest percentage share of pupil suspensions
- The highest percentage of primary school pupils with free school meal entitlement (FSME)

Qualifications

When compared with other LGDs, although Belfast had the lowest percentage of school leavers obtaining at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths, it had only the fifth lowest percentage of FSME school leavers achieving the same level of qualification, which is relatively close to the median value, indicating that higher levels of deprivation do not necessarily lead to lower levels of educational attainment.

School leavers' destinations

When compared with pupils in other LGDs, in Belfast there was:

- A relatively low percentage entering Higher education (3rd lowest) and Further education (lowest)
- A relatively high percentage entering Employment (highest), entering Training (2nd highest), or who were Unemployed or whose destination was unknown (highest)

TRENDS OVER TIME

Although Belfast may not compare as well with Northern Ireland as a whole or with other LGDs for the main education-related indicators, it is noticeable that for most of the indicators there is a favourable trend whereby Belfast is improving, including:

- Number of pupil suspensions
- Percentage share of Northern Ireland's pupil suspensions
- Percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 1-4
- Percentage of pupils at primary school with FSME
- Percentage of school leavers obtaining at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths
- Percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths
- Percentage of school leavers entering higher education

There are two indicators, however, where the trend is either unfavourable or an unfavourable situation has remained the same:

- **Percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 5 (remained the same)**
- **Percentage of school leavers who were unemployed or whose destination was unknown (increasing)**

These indicators reveal that pupils with the highest level of special educational needs and school leavers who become unemployed are at particular risk of inequalities and potential inequities.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

Demography and deprivation

Belfast South had the highest number of newcomer pupils and the greatest level of ethnic diversity, whereas Belfast West has the lowest in both cases.

Belfast West had the highest percentage of primary pupils with FSME.

Educational and other needs

Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest percentages of pupils with SEN at Stage 1-4 and Stage 5. These two assembly areas also had the highest percentages of primary pupils with FSME.

School leavers' qualifications and destinations

Belfast West and Belfast North had the lowest percentages of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths, whereas Belfast North and Belfast East had the lowest percentages of pupils with FSME achieving this level of qualification.

Belfast North and Belfast West also had the lowest percentages of school leavers entering Higher education, and the highest percentages of school leavers who were Unemployed or whose destination was unknown.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION IN BELFAST'S DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS

Of the six District Electoral Areas (DEAs) in Belfast which had poorer outcomes for education-related indicators (see Table 3), there are three DEAs where all or all but one of the education-related indicators reveal inequalities with the potential for inequity for pupils and school leavers:

- 1 Court DEA
- 2 Oldpark DEA
- 3 Titanic DEA

All three of these DEAs are characterised by a higher percentage of pupils with special educational needs (Stage 1-4 and Stage 5), primary school pupils with free school meal entitlement (FSME), and pupil suspensions, although Titanic DEA had a higher percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 only and not of pupils with SEN Stage 5.

Black Mountain DEA also had a higher percentage of pupils with special educational needs (Stage 1-4 and Stage 5), of primary school pupils with FSME, and of pupil suspensions.

Both Collin DEA and Lisnasharragh DEA had a higher percentage of pupils with special educational needs Stage 5; Collin DEA also had a higher percentage of primary pupils with FSME.

School leavers' qualifications and destinations

Court DEA had the lowest percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths, whereas Oldpark DEA had the lowest percentage of FSME school leavers achieving the same level of qualification.

Titanic DEA had the lowest percentage of pupils entering Higher education, whereas Court DEA had the highest percentage of pupils who were Unemployed or whose destination was unknown.

TABLE 3:
BELFAST DEAs WITH POORER OUTCOMES FOR ONE OR MORE EDUCATION-RELATED INDICATORS

INDICATOR	Black Mountain	Collin	Court	Lisnasharragh	Oldpark	Titanic
Pupil suspensions	Higher		Highest		Higher	Higher
Pupils with SEN Stage 1-4	Higher		Higher		Highest	Higher
Pupils with SEN Stage 5	Higher	Higher	Highest	Higher	Higher	
FSME: primary pupils	Higher	Higher	Highest		Higher	Higher
School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths			Lowest		Lower	Lower
FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths					Lowest	Lower
School leavers' destinations	Unemployed or unknown: Higher		Higher education: Lower Unemployed or unknown: Highest		Higher education: Lower	Higher education: Lowest Unemployed or unknown: Higher

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Information in this Highlights Summary is based on data up until end March 2020, which coincides with the first lockdown in the UK in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information presented here provides a baseline against which recovery can be monitored. Information on the impact of the pandemic on selected indicators is a separate chapter in the detailed Profile.

Summary Matrix for Prosperity Indicators

LABOUR MARKET

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Employee jobs by public and private sector (2019)	Higher percentage share of public sector jobs Lower percentage share of private sector jobs	Percentage share of jobs in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sector: 4th highest Private sector: 5th lowest 	Decreasing percentage of public sector jobs Increasing percentage of private sector jobs	Highest percentage share of jobs in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sector: Belfast West Private sector: Belfast South Lowest percentage share of jobs in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sector: Belfast South Private sector: Belfast West 		>> << with Belfast's percentage share of public sector jobs decreasing to a greater extent than Northern Ireland's and approaching the Northern Ireland value
Full-time and part-time employee jobs (2019)	Higher percentage of full-time employee jobs Lower percentage of part-time employee jobs	2nd highest percentage of full-time employee jobs 2nd lowest percentage of part-time jobs	Increasing percentage share of full-time jobs	Highest percentage share of both full-time and of part-time jobs: Belfast South Lowest percentage share of both full-time and of part-time jobs: Belfast West	Higher percentage of men in full-time employee jobs Higher percentage of women in part-time employee jobs	>> << with Northern Ireland's percentage share of full-time jobs increasing to a greater extent than Belfast's and approaching the Belfast value
Underemployment (2019)	Higher	3rd highest percentage				
People in part-time employment who want to work more hours (2019)	Higher	3rd highest percentage	Increasing			<< >> with Northern Ireland decreasing and Belfast increasing

LABOUR MARKET (continued)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Employment by industry (2019)	<p>Higher percentage share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banking & Finance Transport & Communication Public Administration, Education & Health <p>Lower percentage share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing Construction <p>For these industries, the difference between Belfast and Northern Ireland was <1 percentage point, higher or lower:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy & Water Distribution, Hotels & Restaurants Other Services 	<p>Percentage in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banking & Finance: highest Transport & Communication: 2nd highest Distribution, Hotels & Restaurants: 4th highest Public Administration, Education & Health: 5th highest Other Services: 3rd equal lowest Manufacturing: 2nd lowest Construction: 2nd lowest Energy & Water: equal lowest 	<p>Decreasing trend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing Distribution, Hotels & Restaurants Banking & Finance Public Administration, Education & Health <p>Increasing trend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Services <p>No reliable 2017 estimate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy & Water Construction Transport & Communication 	<p>Belfast East Highest percentage share for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing Public Administration, Education & Health <p>Belfast North Highest percentage share for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction Transport & Communication Other Services <p>Belfast South Highest percentage share for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banking & Finance Public Administration, Education & Health <p>Belfast West Highest percentage share for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy & Water Distribution, Hotels & Restaurants 		<p>>> << with Belfast's percentage share decreasing to a greater extent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing Distribution, Hotels & Restaurants Banking & Finance <p>>> << with Belfast's percentage share decreasing and Northern Ireland's increasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Administration, Education & Health <p><< >> with Belfast's percentage share increasing, and Northern Ireland's decreasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Services <p><i>No reliable 2017 estimate for Belfast:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy & Water Construction Transport & Communication

LABOUR MARKET (continued)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Occupation of the working-age population (2019)	<p>Occupations with higher percentage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Associate Professional & Technical Administrative & Secretarial Sales & Customer Service Elementary <p>Occupations with lower percentage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers, Directors & Senior Officials Skilled Trades Caring, Leisure & Other Services Process, Plant & Machine Operatives 	<p>Percentage in occupations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers, Directors & Senior Officials: 4th equal lowest Professional: 2nd highest Associate Professional & Technical: 3rd highest Administrative & Secretarial: 4th highest Skilled Trades: lowest Process, Plant & Machine Operatives: lowest Caring, Leisure and Other Services: 4th lowest Sales & Customer Service: 4th highest Elementary: highest 	<p>Increasing percentage share of occupations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Associate Professional & Technical Administrative & Secretarial Sales & Customer Service Elementary <p>Decreasing percentage share of occupations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers, Directors & Senior Officials Skilled Trades Caring, Leisure & Other Services Process, Plant & Machine Operatives 	<p>Highest percentage in occupations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers, Directors & Senior Officials: Belfast West Professional: Belfast South Associate Professional & Technical: Belfast East Skilled Trades: Belfast North Elementary: Belfast North & Belfast West Sales & Customer Services: Belfast North Process, Plant & Machine Operatives: Belfast North & Belfast West Administrative & Secretarial: Belfast West Caring, Leisure % Other Services: Belfast North 		<p><< >></p> <p>with Belfast's percentage share decreasing and Northern Ireland's increasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers, Directors & Senior Officials <p><< >></p> <p>with Belfast's percentage share increasing to a greater extent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Administrative & Secretarial Sales & Customer Services <p><< >></p> <p>with Belfast's percentage share increasing and Northern Ireland's decreasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Professional & Technical Elementary <p><< >></p> <p>with Belfast's percentage share decreasing to a greater extent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skilled Trades Caring, Leisure & Other Services Process, Plant & Machine Operatives

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT RATES

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Economic activity rate (2019)	Lower	2nd lowest	Increasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North 		>> << with Belfast increasing to a greater extent
Employment rate (2019)	Lower	2nd lowest	Increasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North 	Most-deprived areas (Q1) 2nd most-deprived areas (Q2)	>> << with Belfast increasing to a greater extent
Economic inactivity rate (2019)	Higher	2nd highest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North 		>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

CLAIMANT COUNT RATES

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Annual average claimant count rate (2019)	Higher	3rd highest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North 		>> << with Belfast decreasing and Northern Ireland increasing
Annual average claimant count rate: people aged 18-24 years (2019)	Lower	2nd lowest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North Belfast East 		>> << with Belfast decreasing to overtake Northern Ireland, which stayed the same
Annual average claimant count rate: long-term unemployed (2017)	Lower	3rd equal highest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North Belfast East 		>> << with Belfast decreasing and Northern Ireland increasing

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Gross disposable household income per head of population (2019)	Lower	5th lowest	Increasing, a favourable trend			<< >> with Northern Ireland increasing to a greater extent to overtake Belfast
Gross weekly pay (full-time median wage) by place of residence (2019)	Lower	5th highest	Increasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast North Belfast West 	Women	<< >> with Northern Ireland increasing to a greater extent to overtake Belfast
Sources of total weekly household income (2017/18-2019/20)	Income from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages, salaries & self-employment: lower Benefits & tax credits: higher Non-state pensions: same Other sources: higher 	Income from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages, salaries & self-employment: 3rd lowest Benefits & tax credits: 4th highest Non-state pensions: 5th equal highest Other sources: equal highest 	Income from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages, salaries & self-employment: decreasing, an unfavourable trend Benefits & tax credits: staying the same Non-state pensions: increasing Other sources: staying the same 			Income from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages, salaries & self-employment: << >> with Belfast decreasing and Northern Ireland increasing Benefits & tax credits: >> << with Belfast staying the same and Northern Ireland increasing Non-state pensions: >> << with Belfast increasing to a greater extent Other sources: staying the same, with Belfast and Northern Ireland staying the same

RELATIVE INCOME POVERTY

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Relative low income or relative income poverty before housing costs: all individuals (2017/18-2019/20)	Higher	5th equal highest	Decreasing, a favourable trend			>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Relative low income or relative income poverty before housing costs: children (2017/18-2019/20)	Higher	HSCT: 2nd highest	Increasing, an unfavourable trend			<< >> with Belfast increasing and Northern Ireland decreasing
Relative low income or relative income poverty after housing costs: children (2018/19)	Lower	Highest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast West • Belfast North 		>> << with Belfast decreasing to overtake Northern Ireland which stayed the same

FUEL POVERTY, AND FOOD INSECURITY

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Fuel poverty (2016)	Lower	3rd lowest	Decreasing, a favourable trend			<< >> with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent and Northern Ireland continuing to do worse
Food insecurity (2017/18)	Higher	HSCT: Highest	Decreasing, a favourable trend			>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

AREAS OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017)	Of 890 super output areas (SOAs) in Northern Ireland, 89 are in the most-deprived 10% (or decile); 48 of these 10% most-deprived SOAs are in Belfast, thus, 54% of Northern Ireland's 10% most-deprived are in Belfast	Highest percentage of Northern Ireland's 100 most-deprived SOAs 2nd highest percentage of SOAs in the most-deprived 20% (or quintile)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast West • Belfast North 		

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Qualifications of the working-age population (2019)	<p>Degree level: Lower</p> <p>Below degree level: Lower</p> <p>No qualification: Higher</p>	<p>Degree level: 5th highest</p> <p>Below degree level: 2nd lowest</p> <p>No qualification: 2nd highest</p>	<p>Degree level: Increasing</p> <p>Below degree level: Decreasing</p> <p>No qualification: Decreasing, a favourable trend</p>	<p>Degree level (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast North • Belfast West <p>Below degree level (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast North • Belfast West <p>No qualification (highest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast North • Belfast West 		<p>Degree level: << >> with greater improvement in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Below degree level: >> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent</p> <p>No qualification: << >> with Northern Ireland decreasing to a greater extent</p>

EDUCATION: PUPILS WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF NEED

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
Pupil suspensions (2017/18)	Higher	Highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing number Decreasing percentage share of Northern Ireland's total 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Titanic Black Mountain Oldpark 	
Pupils with special educational needs (SEN): SEN Stage 1-4 and SEN Stage 5 (2019/20)		SEN Stage 1-4: 2nd highest SEN Stage 5: 3rd highest	SEN Stage 1-4: decreasing, a favourable trend SEN Stage 5: staying the same, an unfavourable trend	SEN Stage 1-4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast North Belfast West SEN Stage 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North 	SEN Stage 1-4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oldpark Black Mountain Court Titanic SEN Stage 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Black Mountain Collin Oldpark Lisnasharragh 	SEN Stage 1-4: >> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent SEN Stage 5: >> << with Belfast staying the same and Northern Ireland increasing
Newcomer pupils (2019/20)		Highest number (17,390) Highest percentage (21.39%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing number Very similar proportion of Northern Ireland's total 	Highest number: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast South Lowest number: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West 		
Ethnicity of pupils (2019/20)	Higher diversity			Highest diversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast South Lowest diversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West 		
Free school meal entitlement: primary pupils (2019/20)	Higher	Highest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Oldpark Black Mountain Titanic Collin 	<< >> with Northern Ireland decreasing to a greater extent

SCHOOL LEAVERS' QUALIFICATIONS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
School leavers obtaining at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths (2019/20)	Lower	Lowest	Increasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast West Belfast North 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Oldpark Titanic 	<< >> with Northern Ireland increasing to a greater extent
Free school meal entitlement school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths (2019/20)	Lower	5th lowest	Increasing, a favourable trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast North Belfast East 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oldpark Titanic 	>> << with Belfast increasing to a greater extent

SCHOOL LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN BELFAST:		CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		By assembly area	By population group	
School leavers' destinations (2019/20)	<p>Higher education: Lower</p> <p>Further education: Lower</p> <p>Employment: Higher</p> <p>Training: Higher</p> <p>Unemployed or unknown: Higher</p>	<p>Higher education: 3rd lowest</p> <p>Further education: Lowest</p> <p>Employment: Highest</p> <p>Training: 2nd highest</p> <p>Unemployed or unknown: Highest</p>	<p>Higher education: Increasing</p> <p>Further education: Decreasing</p> <p>Employment: Decreasing</p> <p>Training: Decreasing</p> <p>Unemployed or unknown: Increasing, an unfavourable trend</p>	<p>Higher education (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast North • Belfast West <p>Further education (lowest percentage):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast West <p>Employment (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast North • Belfast West <p>Training (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast North • Belfast West <p>Unemployed or unknown (highest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast North • Belfast West 	<p>Higher education (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titanic • Court • Oldpark <p>Further education (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Mountain • Collin • Titanic <p>Employment (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court • Oldpark • Titanic <p>Training (lowest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collin • Botanic • Black Mountain • Court <p>Unemployed or unknown (highest percentages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court • Titanic • Black Mountain 	<p>Higher education: >> << with Belfast increasing to a slightly greater extent</p> <p>Further education: << >> with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent</p> <p>Employment: >> << with Belfast decreasing and Northern Ireland increasing</p> <p>Training: >> << with Belfast decreasing to a slightly greater extent and approaching the Northern Ireland value</p> <p>Unemployed or unknown: << >> with Belfast increasing to a greater extent</p>



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PEACE

Crime-related indicators

OVERALL LEVELS OF CRIME: INTRODUCTION

Two main indicators are used to assess overall levels of crime:

- **Experience of crime**
- **Police-recorded crime**

Experience of crime is an indicator based on household surveys and is an estimate of offences that people have experienced, which may not have been reported to the police or if an offence was reported the police may not have recorded it as a crime. Experience of crime estimates do not include businesses/organisations, and some population groups, nor do they have the same coverage of offences as police-recorded crime.

Police-recorded crime occurs when an offence has been reported to the police, and the police decide to record it as a crime. The recording of offences as crimes may vary across police services in terms of the process and quality of reporting, which can lead to an under-reporting of crime in general, for specific offences or in particular geographical areas.

OVERALL LEVELS OF CRIME: BELFAST CITY POLICING DISTRICT

For both the experience of crime and police-recorded crime, Belfast City Policing District (PD), an area-equivalent jurisdiction to Belfast LGD, had higher rates than Northern Ireland, and the highest rates when compared with the 10 other PDs in Northern Ireland.

SPOTLIGHT ON BELFAST'S LOCAL POLICING AREAS FOR OVERALL LEVELS OF CRIME

For three out of the four local policing areas in Belfast City PD relatively higher levels of the experience of crime were reported:

- Belfast West
- Belfast South
- Belfast North

When considering specific police-recorded crimes:

- Belfast North and Belfast West had higher rates of violence, criminal damage & arson, deliberate fires, and antisocial behaviour incidents
- Belfast North also has higher rates of burglary
- Belfast South had higher rates of burglary and theft

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND HATE CRIME

When looking at the rates for incidents and recorded crimes, Belfast City PD had higher rates than Northern Ireland for:

- Incidents and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation
- Incidents and recorded crimes motivated by racism, sectarianism, and homophobia

When compared with other PDs, Belfast City PD had either the highest, equal highest or second highest rates for:

- Incidents and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation
- Incidents and recorded crimes motivated by racism, sectarianism, and homophobia

In Belfast City PD the rates of incidents and of crimes with a racist motivation were slightly higher than the rates of incidents and crimes with a sectarian motivation. The situation is slightly different for the outcome rates for crimes with a domestic abuse or racist, sectarian or homophobic motivation. When compared with Northern

Ireland, the outcome rates in Belfast City PD for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation and the three hate crimes were all lower; however, when compared with other PDs, the outcome rates in Belfast City PD although low were not the lowest:

- Outcome rates for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation were fifth lowest
- Outcome rates for crimes with a racist motivation, and crimes with a homophobic motivation, were third lowest
- Outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation were fourth lowest

SPOTLIGHT ON BELFAST'S LOCAL POLICING AREAS FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE AND HATE CRIMES

It is important to note that the data relating to incidents and recorded crimes for domestic abuse and hate crime motivated by racism, sectarianism and homophobia in Belfast's local policing areas are reported as numbers, not as rates, which means that any comparison needs to be interpreted with caution.

The outcomes of domestic abuse crimes and of hate crimes, however, are reported as rates, which enables comparison.

Among the four local policing areas, in general, Belfast North and Belfast West had higher numbers of incidents and recorded crimes across these four types of offence (see Table 1).

- In Belfast North, the higher numbers were for incidents of domestic abuse, racism, sectarianism, and homophobia, and for recorded crimes of domestic abuse, sectarianism, and homophobia
- In Belfast West, the higher numbers were for incidents of domestic abuse, and homophobia, and for recorded crimes for domestic abuse, sectarianism, and homophobia

Among the four local policing areas:

- In Belfast South, there was a higher number of incidents of racism, and a higher number of recorded crimes of racism, and sectarianism
- In Belfast East, there was a higher number of recorded crimes of sectarianism

By contrast, Belfast East and Belfast South were the local policing areas that in general had lower outcome rates across the four types of offence:

- In Belfast East, lower outcome rates were for domestic abuse, racism, and sectarianism
- In Belfast South, lower outcome rates were for domestic abuse, sectarianism, and homophobia

Thus, although the numbers of incidents and crimes were higher in Belfast North and Belfast West, the outcomes rates were lower in Belfast East and Belfast South.

TABLE 1:
OVERVIEW OF POORER OUTCOMES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE AND HATE CRIME IN BELFAST'S LOCAL POLICING AREAS

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Domestic abuse: number of incidents		Higher		Higher
Domestic abuse: number of recorded crimes		Higher		Higher
Domestic abuse: outcome rate	Lower		Lower	
Racism: number of incidents		Higher	Higher	
Racism: number of recorded crimes			Higher	Higher
Racism: outcome rate	Lower			
Sectarianism: number of incidents		Higher		
Sectarianism: number of recorded crimes	Higher	Higher	Higher	
Sectarianism: outcome rates	Lower		Lower	
Homophobia: number of incidents				Higher
Homophobia: number of recorded crimes		Higher		Higher
Homophobia: outcome rate			Lower	

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME, AND ITS IMPACTS ON QUALITY OF LIFE

Worry about crime and personal safety was higher in Belfast City PD than in Northern Ireland, and when compared with other PDs, it was equal highest together with three other PDs.

The indicator for perceptions of the fear of crime on quality of life is recorded according to three categories: a minimal effect, a moderate effect, and a great effect. When compared with Northern Ireland:

- **A lower percentage of people in Belfast City PD said their fear of crime had a minimal effect on their quality of life**
- **Higher percentages of people in Belfast City PD said their fear of crime had a moderate or a great effect on their quality of life**

Perceptions of the level of antisocial behaviour were also higher in Belfast City PD than in Northern Ireland, and when compared with other PDs Belfast City PD had the second highest percentage of people who perceived a high level of antisocial behaviour.

CONFIDENCE IN POLICING

Confidence in policing was lower in Belfast City PD than in Northern Ireland in terms of:

- **Overall confidence in policing and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland**
- **Confidence in local policing**

For both indicators, Belfast City PD ranked second lowest when compared with other PDs.

CHILD PROTECTION

In terms of child protection, when compared with other HSCTs, Belfast HSCT had:

- **The second lowest percentage share of total referrals to Child Protection Services in Northern Ireland**
- **The lowest rate of children under the age of 18 years on the Child Protection Register**

Belfast HSCT also had a lower rate of children on the Child Protection Register than Northern Ireland.

TRENDS OVER TIME: CRIME-RELATED INDICATORS

Reflecting the high levels of the experience of crime and police-recorded crime in Belfast City PD, for all but one of the crime-related indicators, Belfast had poorer outcomes than those in Northern Ireland. Despite these high levels, there are a relatively large group of indicators where the trend for Belfast City PD over time is favourable:

- Experience of crime
- Police-recorded crime
- Rates of incidents and recorded crimes with a racist motivation
- Rates of incidents and recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation
- Worry about crime and personal safety
- Perceptions of the effect of fear of crime on quality of life
- Perceptions of a high level of anti-social behaviour

It is positive that overall people's experience of crime, and people's perceptions of crime and its impact on their lives are improving. The situation with the trend in police-recorded crime is slightly more complex depending on how the difference between Belfast City PD and Northern Ireland is assessed: the gap is widening in terms of a greater percentage decrease for Northern Ireland but remains the same when looking at the difference between rates.

The indicators, however, for which the trend is unfavourable, and outcomes are worsening, in Belfast City PD are:

- Rates of domestic abuse incidents and recorded crimes
- Rates of incidents and recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation
- Outcome rate for domestic abuse crimes
- Outcome rates for crimes with a racist, sectarian, and homophobic motivation
- Confidence in local policing

Although the outcome rates for crimes with a domestic abuse, racist, sectarian, and homophobic motivation are all decreasing, the outcome rates for crimes with a domestic abuse and a homophobic motivation are decreasing within a context of increasing rates of incidents and recorded crimes. The rate of recorded crime with a homophobic motivation, however, was lower than the rates for the other hate crimes and crimes with a domestic abuse motivation. Decreasing outcome rates for domestic abuse and hate crimes could be one factor influencing the level of confidence in local policing in Belfast City PD. The situation remained the same in Belfast City PD, however, for overall confidence in policing and policing accountability arrangements.

CRIME-RELATED INDICATORS: CLOSING THE GAP?

Despite the favourable trends for some of the crime-related indicators in Belfast City PD, the differences over time between Belfast City PD and Northern Ireland has meant that the gap has widened, and Northern Ireland has better outcomes than Belfast for the following:

- Experience of crime
- Rates of domestic abuse incidents and of recorded crimes
- Outcome rate for domestic abuse crimes
- Rates of incidents and recorded crimes with a racist motivation
- Outcome rate for crimes with a racist motivation
- Outcome rate for crimes with a sectarian motivation
- Rates of incidents and recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation
- Outcome rate for crimes with a homophobic motivation
- Overall confidence in policing and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland
- Confidence in local policing

There are, however, a group of indicators for which the differences over time have resulted in better outcomes for Belfast when compared with those for Northern Ireland:

- Rates of incidents and recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation
- Worry about crime and personal safety
- Perception of fear of crime on quality of life
- Perception of a high level of anti-social behaviour

Peace lines, walls, and barriers, and attitudes towards them

In a 2017 audit of peace lines, walls, and barriers in four urban areas in Northern Ireland (Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Lurgan, and Portadown), taking as a baseline the 1994 ceasefires, it was found that:

- **The number of peace lines, walls, and barriers has been increasing in Belfast**
- **Belfast has the highest number, and highest percentage share, of Northern Ireland's peace lines, walls, and barriers**

Of the five areas audited in Belfast (Central, North, South, East and West; not equivalent to the assembly areas), the highest numbers and highest percentage shares of peace lines, walls, and barriers are in:

- **North Belfast**
- **West Belfast**

In a 2019 Ipsos MORI Northern Ireland survey, prepared for the Department of Justice, of households close to peace walls in three areas of Belfast (West, North, and East), and in Portadown, and Derry/Londonderry attitudes to peace lines, walls and barriers were explored.

- **A higher percentage of households close to peace walls in North Belfast and East Belfast wanted them to come down "now" or "at some time in the future" when compared with households in West Belfast; however, the percentage in West Belfast was the median value and was slightly higher than that in Derry/Londonderry and 12 percentage points higher than that in Portadown**
- **A higher percentage of households in West Belfast and East Belfast wanted "things left the way they are now" when compared with households in North Belfast; however, the percentage in North Belfast was the lowest when compared with the other four survey locations in East Belfast, West Belfast, Portadown, and Derry/Londonderry**

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Information in this Highlights Summary is based on data up until end March 2020, which coincides with the first lockdown in the UK in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information presented here provides a baseline against which recovery can be monitored. Information on the impact of the pandemic on selected indicators is a separate chapter in the detailed Profile.

Summary Matrix for Peace Indicators

EXPERIENCE OF, AND POLICE-RECORDED, CRIME

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	EXPERIENCING INEQUALITIES IN BELFAST: LOCAL PDS OR OTHER 'AREAS'	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs			
Experience of crime (2019/20)	Higher	Highest		Decreasing overall, a favourable trend	Belfast West Belfast South Belfast North	<< >> with Northern Ireland decreasing to a greater extent
Police recorded crime (2019/20)	Higher	Highest		Decreasing overall, a favourable trend	Highest rates violence, criminal damage & arson, deliberate fires, and antisocial behaviour incidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast North • Belfast West Highest rates burglary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast South • Belfast North Highest rate theft: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast South 	>> << in terms of the difference between rates Staying the same in terms of the percentage decrease

DOMESTIC ABUSE

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	EXPERIENCING INEQUALITIES IN BELFAST: LOCAL PDS OR OTHER 'AREAS'	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs			
Crime with a domestic abuse motivation (2019/20)	Incidents (rate): Higher Recorded crime (rate): Higher Outcome rate: Lower	Incidents (rate): Highest Recorded crime (rate): Highest Outcome rate: 5th lowest		Incidents (rate): Increasing, an unfavourable trend Recorded crime (rate): Increasing, an unfavourable trend Outcome rate: Decreasing, an unfavourable trend	Incidents (number): Belfast North Belfast West Recorded crime (number): Belfast North Belfast West Outcome rate: Belfast East Belfast South	Incidents (rate): <<>> with Belfast increasing to a greater extent Recorded crime (rate): <<>> with Belfast increasing to a greater extent Outcome rate: <<>> with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent and overtaking the Northern Ireland value

HATE CRIME

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	EXPERIENCING INEQUALITIES IN BELFAST: LOCAL PDS OR OTHER 'AREAS'	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs			
Hate crime motivated by racism (2019/20)	Incidents (rate): Higher Recorded crime (rate): Higher Outcome rate: Lower	Incidents (rate): Highest Recorded crime (rate): Highest Outcome rate: 3rd lowest		Incidents (rate): Decreasing, a favourable trend Recorded crime (rate): Decreasing, a favourable trend Outcome rate: Decreasing, an unfavourable trend	Incidents (number): Belfast South Belfast North Recorded crime (number): Belfast West Belfast South Outcome rate: Belfast East	Incidents (rate): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying the same in terms of the difference between rates • << >> in terms of a greater percentage decrease for Northern Ireland Recorded crime (rate): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >> << in terms of the difference between rates • << >> in terms of a greater percentage decrease for Northern Ireland Outcome rate: >> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Hate crime motivated by sectarianism (2019/20)	Incidents (rate): Higher Recorded crime (rate): Higher Outcome rate: Lower	Incidents (rate): 2nd highest Recorded crime (rate): 2nd highest Outcome rate: 4th lowest		Incidents (rate): Decreasing, a favourable trend Recorded crime (rate): Decreasing, a favourable trend Outcome rate: Decreasing, an unfavourable trend	Incidents (number): Belfast North Recorded crime (number): Belfast East Belfast South Belfast North Outcome rate: Belfast South Belfast East	Incidents (rate): >> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent Recorded crime (rate): >> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent Outcome rate: >> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

HATE CRIME (continued)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	EXPERIENCING INEQUALITIES IN BELFAST: LOCAL PDS OR OTHER 'AREAS'	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs			
Hate crime motivated by homophobia (2019/20)	Incidents (rate): Higher Recorded crimes (rate): Higher Outcome rate: Lower	Incidents (rate): Highest Recorded crime (rate): Equal highest with Derry City & Strabane Outcome rate: 3rd lowest		Incidents (rate): Increasing, an unfavourable trend Recorded crime (rate): Increasing, an unfavourable trend Outcome rate: Decreasing, an unfavourable trend	Incidents (number): Belfast West Recorded crime (number) Belfast West Belfast North Crimes (%) Belfast East Belfast North Outcome rate: Belfast South	Incidents (rate): <<>> with Belfast increasing and Northern Ireland staying the same Recorded crime (rate): <<>> with Belfast increasing and Northern Ireland staying the same Outcome rate: <<>> with Belfast decreasing and Northern Ireland increasing

WORRY ABOUT CRIME, AND PERCEPTIONS OF ITS IMPACT

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	EXPERIENCING INEQUALITIES IN BELFAST: LOCAL PDS OR OTHER 'AREAS'	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs			
Worry about crime and personal safety (2019/20)	Higher	Equal highest with 3 other policing districts		Decreasing, a favourable trend		>> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent
Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life (2019/20)	Minimal effect: Lower Moderate effect: Higher Great effect: Higher	Minimal effect: 2nd lowest Moderate effect: 2nd highest Great effect: Highest		Minimal effect: Increasing, a favourable trend Moderate effect: Decreasing, a favourable trend Great effect: Decreasing a favourable trend		Minimal effect: >> << with Belfast increasing to a greater extent Moderate effect: >> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent Great effect: >> << with Belfast decreasing and Northern Ireland staying the same
Perceptions of antisocial behaviour (ASB) (2019/20)	High level of ASB: Higher	High level of ASB: 2nd highest		High level of ASB: Decreasing, a favourable trend		High level of ASB: >> << with Belfast decreasing to a greater extent

CONFIDENCE IN POLICING

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	EXPERIENCING INEQUALITIES IN BELFAST: LOCAL PDS OR OTHER 'AREAS'	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs			
Overall confidence in policing and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland (2018/19)	Lower	2nd lowest		Staying the same, an unfavourable outcome		<<>> with Northern Ireland increasing and Belfast staying the same
Confidence in local policing (2018/19)	Lower	2nd lowest		Decreasing, an unfavourable trend		<<>> with Northern Ireland staying the same and Belfast decreasing

CHILD PROTECTION

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	EXPERIENCING INEQUALITIES IN BELFAST: LOCAL PDS OR OTHER 'AREAS'	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs			
Referrals to Child Protection Services (2019/20)			2nd lowest percentage share of total			
Child Protection Register (year ending March 2020)	Lower		Lowest	Decreasing		<<>> with Belfast having a lower value than Northern Ireland and decreasing while Northern Ireland is increasing

INTERFACE PEACE LINES, WALLS, AND BARRIERS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:			TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	EXPERIENCING INEQUALITIES IN BELFAST: LOCAL PDS OR OTHER 'AREAS'	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs	Other HSCTs			
Interface Peace Lines, Walls, and Barriers (2017)		Highest number and highest percentage share of total compared with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derry/Londonderry • Portadown • Lurgan 		Increasing number of interfaces, an unfavourable trend (baseline 1994 ceasefires)	Highest numbers Highest percentages 'North' Belfast 'West' Belfast	
Attitudes to Peace Lines (2019)	Peace wall to come down: Higher in 'North' Belfast & 'East' Belfast Lower in 'West' Belfast	Peace wall to come down: Higher in 'North' Belfast & 'East' Belfast when compared with Derry/Londonderry & Portadown Higher in 'West' Belfast when compared with Derry/Londonderry only			Peace wall to stay: Highest in: 'West' Belfast 'East' Belfast	



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PLANET

Carbon emissions

In 2019, Belfast LGD comprised 10.38% of Northern Ireland's total carbon emissions (ktCO₂), and when compared with total carbon emissions for other LGDs Belfast had the fourth highest level. When considering carbon emissions (ktCO₂) that fall within the scope of the local authority (that is, excluding major industrial sites, railways, motorways, and land use), however, Belfast LGD comprised 12.73% of Northern Ireland's total, and had the highest carbon emissions among LGDs.

In terms of total carbon emissions (ktCO₂) from the domestic housing sector, Belfast comprised 18.48% of Northern Ireland's total and had the highest carbon emissions from that sector among LGDs. Moreover, the percentage share of Belfast's total carbon emissions due to the domestic housing sector increased between 2009 and 2019.

By contrast, total carbon emissions (ktCO₂) from the transport sector in Belfast LGD comprised only 8.28% of Northern Ireland's total, and Belfast had the fifth lowest carbon emissions from that sector among LGDs, which may in part be due to higher use of public transport and active travel modes in Belfast. When considering carbon emissions (ktCO₂) that fall within the scope of influence of the local authority, carbon emissions from the transport sector in Belfast LGD comprised only 7.37% of Northern Ireland's total, and as for total emissions from that sector Belfast had the fifth lowest carbon emissions among LGDs. Despite increasing slightly between 2009 and 2019, the percentage share of Belfast's total carbon emissions due to the transport sector in 2019 was lower than that for Northern Ireland and was the lowest among LGDs.

The 2019 data for total carbon emissions (t) per head of population and for carbon emissions (t) per head of population within the scope of influence of a local authority reveal a similar picture. For both indicators, the levels for people in Belfast LGD were lower than those for people in Northern Ireland and were the lowest among LGDs. In 2018, in a comparison of the UK's four capital cities, Belfast Primary Urban Area (Belfast LGD and Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD) had the highest carbon emissions per capita.

Between 2009 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the trends for all the main indicators relating to carbon emissions were decreasing (see Box 1). Although these decreasing trends in carbon emissions are to be welcomed, the Belfast Climate Commission recognised the need for radical action to reduce carbon emissions to a level that would enable Belfast to reach net zero by 2030.

BOX 1:**Carbon emissions indicators for which there is a decreasing trend in Belfast**

- **Total carbon emissions**
- **Total carbon emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority**
- **Total carbon emissions in the domestic housing sector within the scope of influence of the local authority**
- **Total carbon emissions in the transport sector**
- **Carbon emissions in the transport sector within the scope of influence of the local authority**
- **Total carbon emissions per capita**
- **Carbon emissions per capita within the scope of influence of the local authority**
- **Total carbon emissions: Scope 1 and Scope 2**

For all but one of the main indicators relating to carbon emissions, analysis of the gap between Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland shows a greater improvement for Belfast in terms of the decreasing trends in carbon emissions, covering:

- **Total carbon emissions**
- **Total carbon emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority**
- **Total carbon emissions in the transport sector**
- **Carbon emissions in the transport sector within the scope of influence of the local authority**
- **Total carbon emissions per capita**
- **Carbon emissions per capita within the scope of influence of the local authority**

The carbon indicator for which Belfast is doing worse than Northern Ireland and where the gap is widening in terms of a decrease in carbon emissions is:

- **Total carbon emissions in the domestic housing sector within the scope of influence of the local authority**

CARBON EMISSION PROJECTIONS FOR BELFAST

In the Belfast Climate Commission document, A Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap for Belfast, Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions are projected to decrease from 2020 to 2060.

- **Scope 1 emissions represent locally consumed fuel (e.g., petrol, diesel, or gas) used directly within an area**
- **Scope 2 emissions represent electricity used within an area even if it is generated elsewhere, which can be more directly controlled and monitored**

Although Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions are predicted to decrease, the Belfast Climate Commission emphasise that radical action is needed to cut emissions, otherwise Belfast is likely to exceed its carbon budget for net-zero emissions by 2030.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

For the UK climate projections in 2018 (UKCP18), five emissions scenarios were used from two models:

- 1 The medium-emissions scenario, known as A1B, from the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2000¹**
- 2 The low-, medium-, and high-emissions scenarios developed by the Met Office (Hadley Centre) and based on radiative forcing²**

-
1. The medium-emissions scenario in the SRES assumes rapid economic growth, a global population that reaches 9 billion by 2050 and then gradually declines, the quick spread of new and effective technologies, a convergent world (income and way of life converge between regions, and there are extensive social and cultural interactions worldwide), and a balanced emphasis on all energy sources. This scenario reflects globalisation, a homogenous world, and greater economic focus.
 2. The low-emissions scenario is known as representative concentration pathway (RCP) 2.6, a scenario that stabilises radiative forcing at 2.6 W/m² in 2100 without ever exceeding that value; the medium-emissions scenarios are RCP4.5, a scenario that stabilises radiative forcing at 4.5 W/m² in 2100 without ever exceeding that value, and RCP6.0, which stabilises radiative forcing at 6.0 W/m² in 2100 without ever exceeding that value; the high-emissions scenario is RCP8.5, a scenario that stabilises radiative forcing at 8.5 W/m² in 2100 without ever exceeding that value.

Projections from the SRES A1B scenario

Under the SRES A1B model, it is projected that by 2080-2099, Northern Ireland will have:

- A median winter temperature of 2.2°C warmer, ranging from 0.4°C warmer to 4.4°C warmer
- A median winter rainfall of 12% wetter, ranging from 9% drier to 36% wetter
- A median summer temperature of 3°C warmer, ranging from 0.9°C warmer to 5.3°C warmer
- A median summer rainfall of 19% drier, ranging from 42% drier to 4% wetter

When compared with Scotland, Wales, and England, the projected median value for Northern Ireland in 2080-2099:

- For winter temperature was equal lowest with Scotland (percentage warmer)
- For winter rainfall was lowest (percentage wetter)
- For summer temperature was second lowest (percentage warmer)
- For summer rainfall was second lowest (percentage drier)

Projections from the RCP4.5 scenario

Under the RCP4.5 model, it is projected that by 2080-2099, Northern Ireland will have:

- A median winter temperature of 1.9°C warmer, ranging from 0.3°C warmer to 3.6°C warmer
- A median winter rainfall of 10% wetter, ranging from 8% drier to 29% wetter
- A median summer temperature of 2.7°C warmer, ranging from 0.6°C warmer to 5.0°C warmer
- A median summer rainfall of 16% drier, ranging from 36% drier to 4% wetter

When compared with Scotland, Wales, and England, the projected median value for Northern Ireland in 2080-2099:

- For winter temperature was equal lowest with Scotland (percentage warmer)
- For winter rainfall was lowest (percentage wetter)
- For summer temperature was second lowest (percentage warmer)
- For summer rainfall was lowest (percentage drier)

The projections using the scenarios from these two models are similar, although median values and ranges tend to be lower overall with the RCP4.5 scenario. In addition, when compared with Scotland, Wales and England, Northern Ireland's position is similar under both scenarios, apart from a slight difference for summer rainfall, for which Northern Ireland has the lowest value for percentage drier in the RCP4.5 scenario, but the second lowest in the SRES A1B scenario.

Summer temperatures, and winter rainfall

For the UK climate projections in 2009 (UKCP09), the medium-emissions scenario, A1B¹, was used to estimate the daily summer maximum temperature, and the 5-day winter rainfall accumulation in Belfast by 2041-2060. Both summer temperatures and rainfall accumulation were predicted to increase. When compared with other capital cities in the UK, using the same emissions scenario, Belfast was projected to have the second lowest daily summer maximum temperature, but the second highest 5-day winter rainfall accumulation.

Sea-level rise

The climate hazards that have been predicted to have the greatest impact on Belfast are sea-level rise and flood risk.

In the UKCP18, sea-level rise was calculated for each capital city in the UK for every decade between 2020 and 2100 for three emissions scenarios – low, medium, and high².

Under the medium-emissions scenario (RCP4.5), the estimated sea-level rise in Belfast was projected to be:

- > 0.06-0.13 metres in 2030
- > 0.08-0.25 metres in 2050
- > 0.13-0.4 metres in 2070
- > 0.16-0.56 metres in 2090
- > 0.18-0.64 metres in 2100

When considering sea-level rise in Belfast for the low- and high-emissions scenarios, by 2100, it was projected to be:

- > **0.11-0.52 metres under the low-emissions scenario (RCP2.6)**
- > **0.33-0.94 metres under the high-emissions scenario (RCP8.5)**

When compared with the other capital cities in the UK – London, Cardiff, and Edinburgh – projected sea-level rise in Belfast was the second lowest for the three scenarios that were modelled for every decade up to 2100. The reason Belfast maintains the same position relative to the other capital cities is because in general the magnitude of sea-level rise is greater at more southern latitudes, and Belfast is the second northernmost capital city in the UK.

Flood risk

In 2018, Belfast was designated as the largest of 12 areas of potential significant flood risk (APSFs) in Northern Ireland, covering 105 square kilometres.

- **By 2065, it is projected that more than 3,400 Belfast properties (2,640 residential and 770 commercial) will be at risk of flooding**
- **By 2115, it is projected that more than 7,900 Belfast properties (6,050 residential and 1,860 commercial) will be at risk of flooding**

The Department for Infrastructure calculated that in 2018 Belfast was the most economically affected of all APSFs representing 28% of the total aggregated annual average damages (AAADs) for Northern Ireland at £16.18 million.

ENERGY GENERATION IN BELFAST

The number of sites in Belfast where electricity is generated from renewable sources is very small, and in 2019 comprised only:

- **0.07% of Northern Ireland's total number of sites**
- **0.76% of Northern Ireland's capacity for renewable electricity (MV)**
- **0.98% of Northern Ireland's generation of renewable electricity (MWh)**

Despite the small number of sites for renewable electricity generation in Belfast, between 2016 and 2019, the number increased, as did the capacity for and generation of electricity from renewable sources, which are all favourable trends.

In addition, the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland has been narrowing in terms of the percentage increases in the number of sites, in electricity capacity and in electricity generation; however, as the raw data (in numbers) for Belfast are small, the percentage increases appear to be large.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

At April 2020, Belfast LGD had 15.41% of Northern Ireland's publicly available electric vehicle charging devices, but 26.32% of Northern Ireland's complement of rapid charging devices. When compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast had a lower rate of total charging devices but a higher rate of rapid charging devices. When compared with other LGDs, although Belfast had the highest number of total charging devices it had the third lowest rate. In contrast, Belfast had both the highest number and highest rate of rapid charging devices among LGDs.

In the Continuous Household Survey 2019/20, when asked about the likelihood of purchasing an electric vehicle as their next car, the percentage of respondents in Belfast LGD more likely to do so was higher when compared with that in Northern Ireland, and Belfast had the third highest percentage of respondents among LGDs.

Household waste in Belfast

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had a lower level of household waste per capita, and it had the equal second lowest level when compared with other LGDs.

There was a similar picture for the percentage of household waste sent for preparing for re-use, dry recycling, and composting: Belfast LGD had a lower percentage than that for Northern Ireland and was equal second lowest among LGDs.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, there has been a slight increase in the amount of household waste generated per capita, which is an unfavourable trend, but the percentage of household waste sent for preparing for re-use, dry recycling, and composting rather than sent to landfill has been increasing, which is favourable. The gap between Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland has worsened for household waste generated, and its management.

- **For household waste per capita, although Belfast had a lower value, there was an increase in the amount for Belfast whereas the amount for Northern Ireland remained the same**
- **For the percentage of household waste sent for preparing for re-use, dry recycling, and composting, Belfast had a lower value and a lower percentage increase and the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland widened**

Surface water quality

NORTH EAST RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

There are three main river basin districts in Northern Ireland:

- 1 North West
- 2 Neagh Bann
- 3 North East

A river basin district includes not only the river basin but also its associated coastal waters. Belfast sits within the North East river basin district, and the Lagan is one of its three principal river systems.

The classification of water bodies, such as rivers, is based on how much their condition or status differs from the near-natural state. There are five classes of status: 'high', 'good', 'moderate', 'poor', and 'bad'. Water bodies considered to be in a near-natural state are classified as 'high' status, while water bodies where quality has been severely damaged, for instance, through pollution, are classified as 'bad' status.

In 2018, in the North East river basin district:

- 0.0% of rivers were classified as 'high' status
- Almost one-fifth (19.1%) were classified as 'good' status
- The majority, almost two-thirds (65.2%), were classified as 'moderate' status
- 12.4% were classified as 'poor' status
- 2.2% were classified as 'bad' status

The percentage of rivers in the North East river basin district for which no data on overall status were available was higher than that for Northern Ireland and the UK, and was highest when compared with the two other river basin districts in Northern Ireland.

In 2018, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentages of rivers in the North East river basin district classified as:

- **'High' status and 'good' status were lower**
- **'Moderate' status, 'poor' status, and 'bad' status were higher**

In 2018, when compared with the two other river basin districts in Northern Ireland, the percentage/s of rivers in the North East river basin district classified as:

- **'High' status and 'good' status were equal lowest and lowest, respectively**
- **'Moderate' status and 'poor' status were highest**
- **'Bad' status represented the median value**

In 2018, when compared with the UK, the percentages of rivers in the North East river basin district classified as:

- **'High' status, 'good' status, 'poor' status, and 'bad' status were lower**
- **'Moderate' status was higher**

Between 2015 and 2018, in the North East river basin district, there was:

- **No change in the percentages of rivers classified as 'high' status, and classified as 'bad' status**
- **A slight decrease in the percentage classified as 'good' status**
- **An increase in the percentage classified as 'moderate' status**
- **A decrease in the percentage classified as 'poor' status**

In addition, there was an increase in the percentage of rivers for which there were no assessments of overall status.

Comparing trends in the classification of overall status of rivers in Northern Ireland with those in the North East river basin district, the gap between the two for the percentage of rivers designated as:

- **'High' status narrowed, because the overall status for the North East river basin district remained the same at 0.0% (and could not decrease further) whereas 'high' overall status for Northern Ireland decreased, with unfavourable trends for both**

- 'Good' status widened, due to a decrease in 'good' overall status in the North East river basin district, with better outcomes for Northern Ireland
- 'Moderate' status widened, due to a greater percentage increase in 'moderate' overall status in the North East river basin district, which represents mixed outcomes for the North East river basin district because the increase in 'moderate' status reflects an improvement in some rivers (in the 'poor' class) but a degradation in others (in the 'good' class)
- 'Poor' status narrowed, due to a greater percentage decrease in 'poor' overall status in the North East river basin district, with better outcomes for the North East river basin district
- 'Bad' status remained the same

Comparing trends in the classification of overall status of rivers in the UK with those in the North East river basin district, the gap between the two for the percentage of rivers designated as:

- 'High' status widened, because the overall status for the North East river basin district remained the same at 0.0%, whereas that for the UK increased, with better outcomes for the UK
- 'Good' status widened, due to a decrease in 'good' overall status in the North East river basin district, whereas in the UK it remained the same, with poorer outcomes for the North East river basin district
- 'Moderate' status widened, due to a percentage increase in 'moderate' overall status in the North East river basin district, whereas the UK remained the same, with poorer outcomes for the UK
- 'Poor' status widened, due to a percentage decrease in 'poor' overall status in the North East river basin district, whereas in the UK it stayed the same, with poorer outcomes for the UK
- 'Bad' status widened, due to an increase in the UK whereas the North East river basin district remained the same and the UK overtook the North East river basin district with poorer outcomes

LAGAN LOCAL MANAGEMENT AREA

Local Management Areas (LMAs) were established to manage and improve water quality at a local level through local involvement in the development of action plans.

In 2015, there were 18 sampling sites in the Lagan LMA, 13 of which were on natural water bodies and 5 of which were on water bodies classified as heavily modified, such as the 'impounded' stretch of the River Lagan in Belfast from Stranmillis Weir to Lagan Weir.

Of the 13 sampling sites on natural water bodies in the Lagan LMA:

- The overall status of 11 sites was 'moderate' – River Lagan (Bull's Brook), Ravernet River (Sprucefield), River Lagan (Larch Hill), Ravernet River (Mount Pleasant), Ravernet Tributary, River Lagan (Dromara), Eel Burn (Lagan), Edenordinary Stream, Brookmount Stream, Collin Glen River, and River Lagan (Lisburn),
- The overall status of 2 sites was 'poor' – Hillsborough Park Lake Stream, and Minnowburn

For the 5 sampling sites on heavily modified water bodies, the classification is different, and ecological potential is measured. In 2015:

- 2 of the sites were classified as having 'poor' ecological potential – Connswater, and the Lagan Estuary
- 3 of the sites were classified as having 'moderate' ecological potential – Derriaghy River, Blackstaff (Belfast) River, and River Lagan (Stranmillis)

Dissolved oxygen is one of the key variables when assessing water quality because it is important to many forms of aquatic life from plants to microbes, and from invertebrates to fish. In 2015, for the 18 sampling sites in the Lagan LMA:

- 14 had 'high' dissolved oxygen
- 2 had 'good' dissolved oxygen
- 2 had 'moderate' dissolved oxygen

Air quality in Belfast

There are four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Belfast LGD, which were established in 2004. All four were established by reason of NO₂ emissions. The AQMAs in Belfast comprise 21.05% of Northern Ireland's total of 19. Together with Derry City & Strabane LGD, Belfast has the highest number of AQMAs when compared with other LGDs. Between 2004 and 2019, the number of AQMAs in Belfast remained the same, although one was amended in 2016 to include PM_{2.5} as well as NO₂.

As part of the Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) in the UK, there are two sites in Belfast monitoring NO₂ (Belfast Centre, and Stockman's Lane) and one monitoring PM_{2.5} (Belfast Centre). In 2019, the annual mean emissions of NO₂ at Stockman's Lane was above the limit value.

Between 2009 and 2019, at the two AURN sites for NO₂ in Belfast, both the annual mean and annual maximum emissions decreased, favourable trends that show an improvement in air quality. Between 2014 and 2019, at the single AURN site for PM_{2.5}, the annual mean and annual maximum emissions also decreased, another favourable trend signalling an improvement in air quality.

Noise complaints in Belfast

In 2018/19, the number of noise complaints in Belfast comprised 55.63% of Northern Ireland's total complaints, and 95.51% of Northern Ireland's notices served for noise complaints. When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the highest number of noise complaints, the highest number of notices served for noise complaints and the highest rate of notices served for noise complaints. In 2017/18, Belfast was also found to have a higher rate of noise complaints than Northern Ireland and the highest rate among LGDs.

Between 2015/16 and 2018/19, both the number and rate of noise complaints increased in Belfast, as did the number of notices served for noise complaints, all of which are unfavourable trends; however, the rate of notices served has been decreasing.

With respect to the number of complaints about noise, the percentage increase for Northern Ireland was greater than that for Belfast, and Belfast had a lower value, so although the gap widened the outcomes for Northern Ireland were worse than those in Belfast. By contrast, Belfast had a higher rate of noise complaints, and a greater percentage increase so the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland widened with worse outcomes for Belfast.

With respect to notices served for noise complaints, there was a greater percentage increase for the number of notices served in Belfast, with worse outcomes for Belfast than for Northern Ireland. By contrast, Belfast had a higher rate but a lower percentage decrease in notices served with the possibility of relatively poorer outcomes for Belfast when compared with Northern Ireland.

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Information in this Highlights Summary is based on data up until end March 2020, which coincides with the first lockdown in the UK in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information presented here provides a baseline against which recovery can be monitored. Information on the impact of the pandemic on selected indicators is a separate chapter in the detailed Profile.

Summary Matrix for Planet Indicators

CARBON EMISSIONS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Total carbon emissions (2019): ktCO ₂	Belfast comprised 10.38% of Northern Ireland's total	4th highest	Decreasing Decreasing percentage share of Northern Ireland's total Favourable trends	<< >> with a greater percentage decrease for Belfast
Total carbon emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority (2019): ktCO ₂	Belfast comprised 12.73% of Northern Ireland's total	Highest	Decreasing amount Decreasing percentage share of Northern Ireland's total Favourable trends	<< >> with a greater percentage decrease for Belfast
Carbon emissions in the domestic housing sector within the scope of influence of local authorities (2019): ktCO ₂	Belfast comprised 18.48% of Northern Ireland's total	Highest	Decreasing amount, a favourable trend Increasing percentage share of Northern Ireland's total, an unfavourable trend	<< >> with a greater percentage decrease for Northern Ireland
Carbon emissions in the domestic housing sector within the scope of influence of local authorities (2019): percentage share	Higher	2nd highest	Increasing, an unfavourable trend	<< >> with Belfast having a higher value and a greater percentage increase
Total carbon emissions in the transport sector (2019): ktCO ₂	Belfast comprised 8.28% of Northern Ireland's total	5th lowest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	>> << with a slightly greater percentage decrease for Belfast
Carbon emissions in the transport sector within the scope of influence of local authorities (2019): ktCO ₂	Belfast comprised 7.37% of Northern Ireland's total	5th lowest	Decreasing amount Slight decrease in percentage share of Northern Ireland's total Favourable trends	>> << with a greater percentage decrease for Belfast

CARBON EMISSIONS (continued)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Carbon emissions in the transport sector within the scope of influence of local authorities (2019): percentage share	Lower	Lowest	Increasing, an unfavourable trend	<< >> in terms of the difference between percentage shares with Belfast doing proportionately better than Northern Ireland >> << with Belfast having a lower value but Northern Ireland having a smaller percentage increase
Total carbon emissions per capita (2019): tonnes	Lower	2nd lowest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	<< >> with Belfast having a lower value and a greater percentage decrease
Carbon emissions per capita within the scope of influence of local authorities (2019): tonnes	Lower	2nd lowest	Decreasing, a favourable trend	<< >> with Belfast having a lower value and a greater percentage decrease
Carbon emissions per capita (2018)		UK capital cities: Highest for Belfast Primary Urban Area (Belfast LGD and Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD combined)		
Total carbon emissions: Scope 1 and Scope 2 (2020)			Decreasing, a favourable trend	
Projected total carbon emissions: Scope 1 and Scope 2 (2020 to 2060)			Projected to decrease, a favourable trend	

UK CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS 2009 (UKCP09) AND 2018 (UKCP18)

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Projected daily summer maximum temperature (°C) (1961-1990 observed baseline to 2041-2060; UKCP09)		2nd lowest for medium-emissions scenario A1B (IPCC)	Projected to increase, an unfavourable trend	
Projected 5-day winter rainfall accumulation (mm) (1961-1990 observed baseline to 2041-2060; UKCP09)		2nd highest for medium-emissions scenario A1B (IPCC)	Projected to increase, an unfavourable trend	
Projected sea-level rise (1980-2000 average baseline to each decade from 2020 to 2100; UKCP18)		2nd lowest for low-, medium-, and high-emissions scenarios (RCP2.6, RCP4.5, and RCP8.5, respectively)	Projected to increase (for low-, medium-, and high-emissions scenarios), an unfavourable trend	
Projected flood risk (2065, 2115; UKCP18)			Projected to increase Number of residential and commercial properties at risk of flooding projected to increase Unfavourable trends	

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Renewable electricity generation (2018)	<p>Number of sites: Belfast comprised 0.07% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Capacity (MV): Belfast comprised 0.76% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Generation (MWh): Belfast comprised 0.98% of Northern Ireland's total</p>	<p>Number of sites: Lowest</p> <p>Capacity (MV): Lowest</p> <p>Generation (MWh): 2nd lowest</p>	<p>Number of sites: Increasing, a favourable trend</p> <p>Capacity (MV): Increasing, a favourable trend</p> <p>Generation (MWh): Increasing, a favourable trend</p>	<p>Number of sites: >> << with a greater percentage increase for Belfast (although Belfast's numbers are very small)</p> <p>Capacity (MV): >> << with a greater percentage increase for Belfast (although Belfast's numbers are very small)</p> <p>Generation (MWh): >> << with a greater percentage increase for Belfast (although Belfast's numbers are very small)</p>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices (April 2020)	<p>Total devices (number): Belfast comprised 15.41% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Total rapid devices (number): Belfast comprised 26.32% of Northern Ireland's total</p> <p>Total devices (rate): Lower</p> <p>Total rapid devices (rate): Higher</p>	<p>Total devices (number): Highest</p> <p>Total rapid devices (number): Highest</p> <p>Total devices (rate): 3rd lowest</p> <p>Total rapid devices (rate): Highest</p>		
Likelihood of purchasing an electric vehicle (2019/20)	Higher	3rd highest		

HOUSEHOLD WASTE

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Household waste (kg) per capita (2019/20)	Lower	Equal second lowest	Increasing slightly, an unfavourable trend	>> << with Belfast having a lower value but a slight percentage increase while Northern Ireland stayed the same
Household waste (%) sent for preparing for re-use, dry recycling, and composting (2019/20)	Lower	Second lowest	Increasing, a favourable trend	<< >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland

RIVER WATER QUALITY

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF NORTH EAST RIVER BASIN DISTRICT WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other river basin districts in Northern Ireland		
North East river basin district: overall water quality status (2018)	High: Lower Good: Lower Moderate: Higher Poor: Higher Bad: Higher	High: Equal lowest Good: Lowest Moderate: Highest Poor: Highest Bad: Median value	High: Staying the same, an unfavourable trend Good: Slight decrease, an unfavourable trend Moderate: Increasing, a favourable trend Poor: Decreasing, a favourable trend Bad: Staying the same, an unfavourable trend	High: >> << with Northern Ireland decreasing and the North East river basin district staying the same at 0.0% Good: << >> with a slight decrease in the North East river basin district and Northern Ireland staying the same Moderate: << >> with the North East river basin district increasing to a greater extent Poor: >> << with the North East river basin district decreasing to a greater extent Bad: Staying the same

AIR QUALITY

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Air quality management areas (2019)	Belfast comprised 21.05% of Northern Ireland's total	Equal highest number	Number staying the same	
Air quality NO ₂ (2019): Belfast Centre			Annual mean: Decreasing, a favourable trend Annual minimum: Increasing, an unfavourable trend Annual maximum: Decreasing, a favourable trend	
Air quality NO ₂ (2019): Belfast Stockman's Lane			Annual mean: Decreasing, a favourable trend Annual minimum: Staying the same Annual maximum: Decreasing, a favourable trend	
Air quality PM _{2.5} (2019): Belfast Centre			Annual mean: Decreasing, a favourable trend Annual minimum: Staying the same Annual maximum: Decreasing, a favourable trend	

NOISE COMPLAINTS

INDICATOR	COMPARISON OF BELFAST WITH:		TREND FOR INDICATOR IN BELFAST	CHANGE IN GAP OVER TIME BETWEEN BELFAST LGD AND NORTHERN IRELAND
	Northern Ireland	Other LGDs		
Noise complaints: number (2018/19)	Belfast comprised 55.63% of Northern Ireland's total	Highest	Increasing, an unfavourable trend	<< >> with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland
Noise complaints: notices served (2018/19)	Number: Belfast comprised 95.51% of Northern Ireland's total Rate: Higher	Number: Highest Rate: Highest	Number: Increasing, an unfavourable trend Rate: Decreasing	Number: << >> with a greater percentage increase for Belfast Rate: << >> with Belfast having a higher value and a lower percentage decrease
Noise complaints: rate (2017/18)	Higher	Highest	Increasing, an unfavourable trend	<< >> with Belfast having a higher value and a slightly greater percentage increase

Glossary

AGGREGATED ANNUAL AVERAGE DAMAGES (AAADS)

Average annual flood damage can be calculated individually for each flood plain property, but a less time-consuming approach is to estimate average annual damage using a set of typical values for buildings in specific locations.

Arnell NW (1986) Average Annual Damage by Flood Frequency Zone. [Average Annual Damage by Flood Frequency Zone | Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management | Vol 112, No 1 \(ascelibrary.org\)](#) (Last accessed 16 March 2022)

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA (AQMA)

“Since December 1997 each local authority in the UK has been carrying out a review and assessment of air quality in their area. This involves measuring air pollution and trying to predict how it will change in the next few years. The aim of the review is to make sure that the national air quality objectives will be achieved throughout the UK by the relevant deadlines. These objectives have been put in place to protect people's health and the environment.

If a local authority finds any places where the objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area there. This area could be just one or two streets, or it could be much bigger.”

UK Air, Air Information Resource, Air Quality Management Areas [Air Quality Management Areas \(AQMAs\) - Defra, UK](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

AREA OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT FLOOD RISK (APSR)

“... areas assessed to be at the greatest flood risk ... are designated as 'Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk' (APSR)”

Department for Infrastructure, Managing risk of flooding [Managing the risk of flooding | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

ASSEMBLY AREAS

“Northern Ireland is divided into 18 Assembly Areas – the latest set were created in 2008 but came into effect following the NI Assembly Elections on 5th May 2011. They were re-aligned to the current Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries which were in effect from the 2008 Westminster Parliamentary Elections. NI Assembly Areas are the areas used to elect MLAs to the NI Assembly.”

NISRA Geography Fact Sheet [NISRA Geography Fact Sheet \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography-fact-sheet)
(Last accessed 15 March 2022)

AUTOMATIC URBAN AND RURAL NETWORK (AURN)

“The AURN is the UK's largest automatic monitoring network and is the main network used for compliance reporting against the Ambient Air Quality Directives. It includes automatic air quality monitoring stations measuring oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO) and particles (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}). These sites provide high resolution hourly information which is communicated rapidly to the public, using a wide range of electronic, media and web platforms.”

UK Air, Air Information Resource Automatic Urban and Rural Network [Automatic Urban and Rural Network \(AURN\) - Defra, UK](https://www.ukair.org.uk/automatic-urban-and-rural-network-aurn) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) EMISSIONS (TCO₂)

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are the main contributor to greenhouse gas emissions (see below). The main source of carbon dioxide emissions is the burning of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide emissions are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂).

Adapted from: GOV.UK Climate Change, [Emissions \(data.gov.uk\)](https://data.gov.uk) (Last accessed 16 March 2022), and Eurostat, [Glossary: Carbon dioxide emissions - Statistics Explained \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat) (Last accessed 16 March 2022)

CARER'S ALLOWANCE

People who are aged 16 years or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone who is ill or has a disability may be eligible for Carer's Allowance.

Adapted from: NI Direct Carer's Allowance [Carer's Allowance | nidirect](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

CATEGORY 1 HAZARDS

“The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) ... is a risk based system that identifies defects in dwellings and evaluates the potential effect of any defects or deficiencies on the health and safety of occupants, visitors, neighbours or passers-by. The System generates a score which represents the seriousness of any hazard. Any hazards that have a score of over 1,000 are described as ‘Category 1’ and are deemed to fail the statutory minimum standard.”

Northern Ireland Housing Executive, House Condition Survey 2016 [House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 \(nihe.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

CHILD PROTECTION

“Child protection refers specifically to the activity that is undertaken to protect individual children or young people who are suffering, or are likely to suffer significant harm.

A child in need of protection is a child who is at risk of, or likely to suffer, significant harm which can be attributed to a person or persons or organisation, either by an act of commission or omission.”

Northern Ireland Education Authority, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.pdf \(eani.org.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

CLAIMANT COUNT

“The new experimental Claimant Count includes Jobseeker’s Allowance Claimants and those Universal Credit claimants who were claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed.”

NISRA, Claimant Count Tables [Claimant Count Tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

DEPRIVATION

“Measures that describe the spatial distribution of deprivation or disadvantage have been developed and used by Government and others in Northern Ireland since the 1970s. They have played a pivotal role in both informing the targeting of resources to the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and monitoring the spatial impact of policy interventions.

The updated Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM2017) replace the NIMDM 2010 as the official measure of deprivation in Northern Ireland.”

NISRA, Deprivation [Deprivation | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS (DEAs)

“DEAs are amalgams of 5, 6, or 7 wards, and are used for the election of councillors in Proportional Representation elections. Their boundaries are determined by the District Electoral Areas Commissioner, and reviewed every 8-10 years. Northern Ireland is divided into 80 DEAs.”

NISRA Geography Fact Sheet [NISRA Geography Fact Sheet \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

“People aged 16 and over who are either in employment or unemployed.”
ONS, A guide to labour market statistics [A guide to labour market statistics - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

ECONOMIC INACTIVITY

“People who are neither in employment nor unemployed. Specifically, this includes people not in employment who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next 2 weeks. For example, those who were looking after a home or who are students are considered economically inactive.”

NISRA Economic Inactivity in Northern Ireland 2019 [Economic Inactivity in NI: An Overview \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

EMPLOYMENT RATE

“Employment measures the number of people in paid work or who had a job that they were temporarily away from (for example, because they were on holiday or off sick). This differs from the number of jobs because some people have more than one job. The employment rate is the proportion of people aged between 16 and 64 years who are in employment.”

ONS, Labour Market Overview [Labour market overview, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATING (EER)

The energy efficiency rating shows the energy efficiency of a dwelling. It ranges from band A (very efficient) to band G (very inefficient). The average energy efficiency rating of homes in the UK is band D.

Adapted from: Energy Saving Trust, Energy ratings: everything you need to know [Energy ratings: everything you need to know - Energy Saving Trust](#) (Last accessed 16 March 2022)

FOOD INSECURITY

See Food poverty

FOOD POVERTY

“Food poverty is the inability of individuals and households to secure an adequate and nutritious diet. It can affect those living on low incomes, with limited access to transport and poor cooking skills.”

Food Standards Agency (FSA) [Food poverty | Food Standards Agency](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS (TCO₂E)

“Greenhouse gas emissions are measured in ... tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent CO₂e – a measure covering the seven main greenhouse gases which weights each gas based on its potential to cause global warming. As carbon dioxide (CO₂) accounts for the majority of GHG emissions (80% on average over the years 2016 to 2020), changes in CO₂ tend to be reflected in changes in GHG emissions overall.”

GOV.UK Climate Change, Emissions [Emissions \(data.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 16 March 2022)

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

“A measure of the size of an economy. GDP per capita is often used as an indicator of the standard of living in an economy. The GDP of a country is defined as the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time. It is equivalent to the sum of value added at every stage of production of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time. The most common approach to GDP measurement is the expenditure method: $GDP = \text{consumption} + \text{investment} + \text{government spending} + (\text{exports} - \text{imports})$.”

Department of Finance, Economic appraisal glossary and abbreviations [Economic appraisal glossary and abbreviations | Department of Finance \(finance-ni.gov.uk\)](#)
(Last accessed 15 March 2022)

GROSS DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME (GDHI)

“Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) is the amount of money individuals have for spending or saving. This is money left after expenditure such as taxes associated with income and social contributions, property ownership and future provision for pension income. ”

NISRA, Gross Disposable Household Income [Gross Disposable Household Income | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#)
(Last accessed 15 March 2022)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUSTS (HSCTs)

“5 Health and Social Care Trusts provide integrated health and social care services across Northern Ireland: Belfast HSC Trust, South Eastern HSC Trust, Western HSC Trust, Southern HSC Trust and Northern HSC Trust.”

NISRA Geography Fact Sheet [NISRA Geography Fact Sheet](#)
(Last accessed 15 March 2022)

HEAVILY MODIFIED WATER BODY

“A body of surface water which as a result of physical alterations by human activity is substantially changed in character ...”

European Environment Agency, Glossary, heavily modified water body [heavily modified water body — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)
(Last accessed 19 March 2022)

HOMOPHOBIA

Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics.

Police Service Northern Ireland, Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland [Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland Update to 30th September 2021 \(psni.police.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

“A House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) is defined in Section 1 of the HMO Act (NI) 2016 as a building or part of a building (for example, a flat) that is:

- living accommodation
- occupied by three or more persons as their only or main residence
- those living in it form more than two households, and
- rents are payable or additional considerations by at least one of the people living in the accommodation.”

Belfast City Council, Guide to Northern Ireland Houses in Multiple Occupation [Guide Northern Ireland Houses in Multiple Occupation \(belfastcity.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

HOUSING MARKET

A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. Young G, O’Sullivan T, Gibb K. Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas, Newhaven Research and University of Glasgow [Northern Ireland housing Market Areas \(nihe.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 17 March 2022)

HOUSING SUB-MARKET

The concept of housing submarkets was developed in the 1950s and 1960s in the USA. There are several definitions of a housing sub-market, and different approaches to identifying them. Traditionally housing sub-markets have been defined on the basis of house prices and commuting patterns, however, the supply of and demand for housing can also affect the boundaries and stability of housing sub-market areas.

IMPOUNDING WATER

“An impoundment is a structure within inland waters that can permanently or temporarily change the water level or flow. This includes:

- dams
- weirs
- fish passes
- hydropower turbines
- sluices
- penstocks
- culverts
- lock gates
- retaining walls
- flumes
- reservoir embankments
- temporary diversions during construction work”

GOV.UK Guidance, Water management: abstract or impound water

[Water management: abstract or impound water - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-management-abstract-or-impound-water)

(Last accessed 19 March 2022)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS (LGDs)

“In 2008, the Northern Ireland Assembly approved the reform of Local Government. The change moved Local Government from the old 26 Districts (LGD1992) to 11 new Districts (LGD2014), as well as making changes to the powers of Local Government. The geographical changes were initiated through the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. The 11 new Districts became operational in April 2015.”

NISRA, Geography Fact Sheet [NISRA Geography Fact Sheet \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography-fact-sheet)

(Last accessed 15 March 2022)

MEDIAN

The median is the middle value in a set of datapoints arranged by order, either from highest to lowest or lowest to highest.

MEGAVOLT (MV)

Voltage is a measure of the difference in electrical energy between two parts of a circuit. The bigger the difference in energy, the bigger the voltage. A megavolt (MV) is one million volts.

MEGAWATT-HOUR (MWh)

A watt-hour is a measure of electrical energy consumed. A megawatt hour is one million watts of electricity used for one hour.

NEWCOMER PUPILS

"The term 'newcomer' is used to refer a pupil who does not have satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum and does not have a language in common with the teacher."

Department of Education, Newcomers [Newcomers | Department of Education \(education-ni.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

NITROGEN DIOXIDE - NO₂

"Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a gas that is mainly produced during the combustion of fossil fuels, along with nitric oxide (NO). NO₂ can also be formed when NO reacts with certain gases in the atmosphere. These reactions take place very quickly and are reversible, so the two gases are referred to together as nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

Short-term exposure to concentrations of NO₂ can cause inflammation of the airways and increase susceptibility to respiratory infections and to allergens. NO₂ can exacerbate the symptoms of those already suffering from lung or heart conditions.

... Nitrogen oxides are also precursors for the formation of ozone. Ozone is a gas which is also damaging to human health and can trigger inflammation of the respiratory tract, eyes, nose and throat as well as asthma attacks."

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Concentrations of nitrogen dioxide [Concentrations of nitrogen dioxide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

OLD AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO (OADR)

"To measure the potential impact of an ageing population, traditionally, the Old Age Dependency Ratio (OADR) is used. This is a simple ratio of the number of people of pensionable age and over per 1,000 people aged 16 years to State Pension age (SPA)."

ONS, Living longer and old-age dependency – what does the future hold? [Living longer and old-age dependency – what does the future hold? - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 19 March 2022)

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM)

“Atmospheric PM consists of a wide range of materials arising from a variety of sources. These may be solid or liquid particles that range in size and have complex chemical compositions. PM in the UK is measured using a range of metrics. The most frequently used is PM10: ... as a good approximation, PM10 describes the mass of particles in the atmosphere with a diameter less than 10 µm. This is also the fraction of particles that is most likely to be deposited in the lung. The less commonly measured ... PM2.5 is defined similarly, but applies to particles with a diameter less than 2.5 µm.”

DEFRA, Particulate Matter in the United Kingdom [Particulate Matter in the United Kingdom \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

PER CAPITA

Per capita means an average value relating or applied to each person.

POLICING DISTRICT (PD)

“There are 11 policing districts within Northern Ireland, coterminous with council boundaries. The districts come under four policing areas – Belfast, Derry City and Strabane, North and South.”

PSNI, All Districts [All PSNI Districts \(psni.police.uk\)](https://www.psnipolice.uk) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

POLICE RECORDED CRIME

“Recorded crime data are based on an aggregated count of each crime within the notifiable offence list Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely related offences, such as assault without injury. Crime recording is governed by the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR); ...”
PSNI, User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland [crime-user-guide.pdf \(psni.police.uk\)](https://www.psnipolice.uk) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

QUINTILE

“any of five equal groups into which a population can be divided according to the distribution of values of a particular variable.”

[quintile definition - Search \(bing.com\)](https://www.bing.com)

RADIATIVE FORCING

“Radiative forcing is what happens when the amount of energy that enters the Earth’s atmosphere is different from the amount of energy that leaves it. Energy travels in the form of radiation: solar radiation entering the atmosphere from the sun, and infrared radiation exiting as heat. If more radiation is entering Earth than leaving ... then the atmosphere will warm up. This is called radiative forcing because the difference in energy can force changes in the Earth’s climate.”

MIT Climate Portal, Radiative Forcing [Radiative Forcing | MIT Climate Portal \(climate.mit.edu\)](https://climate.mit.edu) (Last accessed 18 March 2022)

RELATIVE INCOME POVERTY

“People are considered to be living in relative income poverty if the income of their household is less than 60% of the UK median household income.”

Department for Communities, Poverty Policy [Poverty Policy | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

RELATIVE LOW INCOME

Relative low income is assessed in comparison to the median income of the current year.

Adapted from: GOV.UK, Low Income: how is it measured in Households Below Average Income? [hbai-low-income-how-is-it-measured-infographic.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

REPRESENTATIVE CONCENTRATION PATHWAY (RCP)

“To model and predict future climate it is necessary to make assumptions about the economic, social and physical changes to our environment that will influence climate change. Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) are a method for capturing those assumptions within a set of scenarios. The conditions of each scenario are used in the process of modelling possible future climate evolution. RCPs specify concentrations of greenhouse gases that will result in total radiative forcing increasing by a target amount by 2100, relative to pre-industrial levels.

... RCP2.6 ... represents a pathway where greenhouse gas emissions are strongly reduced, resulting in a best estimate global average temperature rise of 1.6°C by 2100 compared to the preindustrial period. RCP8.5 is a pathway where greenhouse gas emissions continue to grow unmitigated, leading to a best estimate global average temperature rise of 4.3°C by 2100.”

Met Office, UKCP18 Guidance: Representative Concentration Pathways [ukcp18-guidance---representative-concentration-pathways.pdf \(metoffice.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 18 March 2022)

RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

“River Basin Districts are the main areas for co-ordinating management of the water environment. They comprise river basins and their associated coastal waters.”

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies for England [Water Framework Directive \(WFD\) water bodies for England - Catchment Management Modelling Platform \(ceh.ac.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 17 March 2022)

SECTARIANISM

“The term ‘sectarian’, whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican. However sectarianism can also relate to other religious denominations, for example, Sunni and Shi’ite in Islam.”

Police Service Northern Ireland, Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland [Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland Update to 30th September 2021 \(psni.police.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

“In the 1996 Education Order, a child is described as having special educational needs (SEN) if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than other children which calls for special educational provision to be made for them, that is additional to or otherwise different from that which children of a similar age receive in an ordinary school.

A child also has SEN if they have a disability that calls for special educational provision to be made for them.”

Northern Ireland Education Authority, [SEN General Information SEN General Information | Education Authority Northern Ireland \(eani.org.uk\)](#)
(Last accessed 15 March 2022)

SPECIAL REPORT ON EMISSIONS SCENARIOS (SRES)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) developed and used in its Third and its Fourth Assessment Reports four ‘families’ of emissions scenarios to model climate change projections: A1, A2, B1, and B2. The A1 family has subsets, including the medium-emissions scenario A1B.

STANDARDISED RATE

To assess population health, it is important to be able to compare death and other rates across two or more geographical areas; however, a comparison of crude rates can be misleading because populations might be different in terms of one or more characteristics. Therefore, it is necessary to ‘standardise’ for the characteristic(s) that could be responsible for any differences between the two populations. The two most common variables for which standardisation is undertaken are age and sex, and when accounted for the rates are referred to as ‘standardised’.

STANDARD ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE (SAP)

The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is the Government’s standard method of rating the energy efficiency of a dwelling. ... The SAP takes into account a range of factors that contribute to energy efficiency such as materials used for construction, the efficiency and control of heating systems and fuel used for space and water heating. The SAP rating itself is on a logarithmic scale and provides a comparative measure of the energy efficiency of dwellings. The lower the score, the lower the energy efficiency and the higher the score (up to a maximum of 100), the higher the efficiency.”

Northern Ireland Housing Executive, House Condition Survey 2016 [House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 \(nihe.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

SUPER OUTPUT AREA (SOA)

“Super Output Areas (SOAs) were a new geography in 2001, which were developed by NISRA to improve the reporting of small area statistics. Northern Ireland is divided into 890 Super Output Areas since 2001. SOAs areas are the main geography for the Deprivation Measures and were constructed at the smallest practicable spatial scale with similar sized populations.”

NISRA, Geography Fact Sheet [NISRA Geography Fact Sheet \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography-fact-sheet)
(Last accessed 15 March 2022)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

“Unemployment measures people without a job who have been actively seeking work within the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks. The unemployment rate is not the proportion of the total population who are unemployed. It is the proportion of the economically active population (those in work plus those seeking and available to work) who are unemployed.”

ONS, Labour Market Overview [Labour market overview, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/labour-market-overview) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)

WORKING-AGE POPULATION

“Working age is taken as ages 16 to 64 for both males and females.”

NISRA Economic Inactivity in Northern Ireland 2019 [Economic Inactivity in NI: An Overview \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/economic-inactivity-in-ni) (Last accessed 15 March 2022)



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