

# Children aged 0 - 15 in Northumberland

## A Statistical Profile

Northumberland Knowledge

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The population of Northumberland aged 0 – 15 is a significant indicator of current demand for children’s services and future demand for adult/older children’s services.

This document provides a statistical profile of children aged 0 to 15 who live in Northumberland. The data provided comes from published sources, mainly from the Office of National Statistics and the Department for Education.

# 1 Demographics

## 1.1 Age Structure and Gender

According to the 2011 Census, there are 53,900 children aged 15 and under, resident in Northumberland, which accounts for 17% of the total resident population. This percentage figure is slightly less than that for the North East (18%) and England (19%). There were 2,975 live births in Northumberland in 2011.

Of those children in Northumberland, 19,300 are aged 5 and under, 16,200 aged 6 to 10 and 18,300 aged 11 to 15. 52% of children are male and 48% female. [Appendix 1](#) shows the location of children aged 0 – 4 as a percentage of the total population by the geographical area in which they live. [Appendix 2](#) gives a view of those children aged 0 – 15. For both age groups, it can be seen that a large proportion of the younger population of Northumberland live in the South East, although there are pockets of younger residents throughout the county.

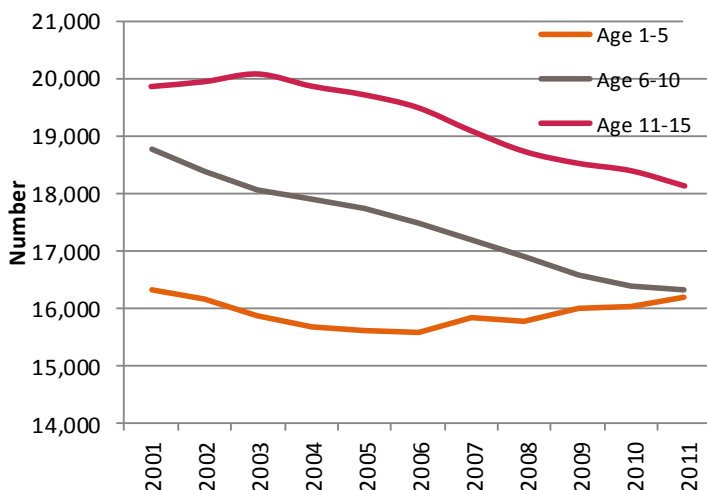
The life expectancy at birth for babies born in Northumberland today is 78.7 years for boys and 82.2 years for girls<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.2 Population trends

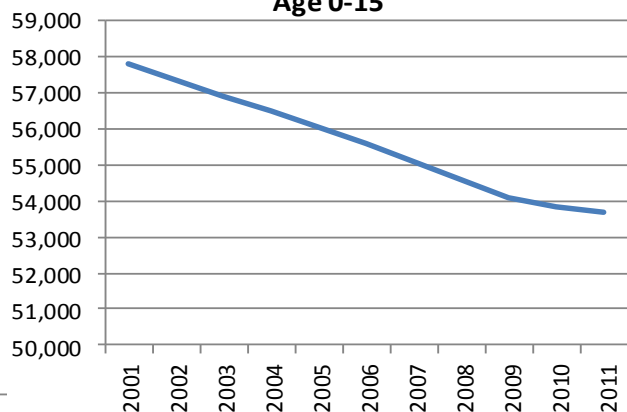
### 1.2.1 Past trends

The number of children in Northumberland has reduced since the 2001 Census where the figure was 57,900, showing a drop in numbers of nearly 7%, although this percentage change deviates depending on age group. Over the ten year period, the number of children aged 0 years has risen from 2867 to 3099 – an increase of 8.1%.

**Figure 2: Children by age group by year**



**Figure 1 Children Aged 0 – 15 in Northumberland**



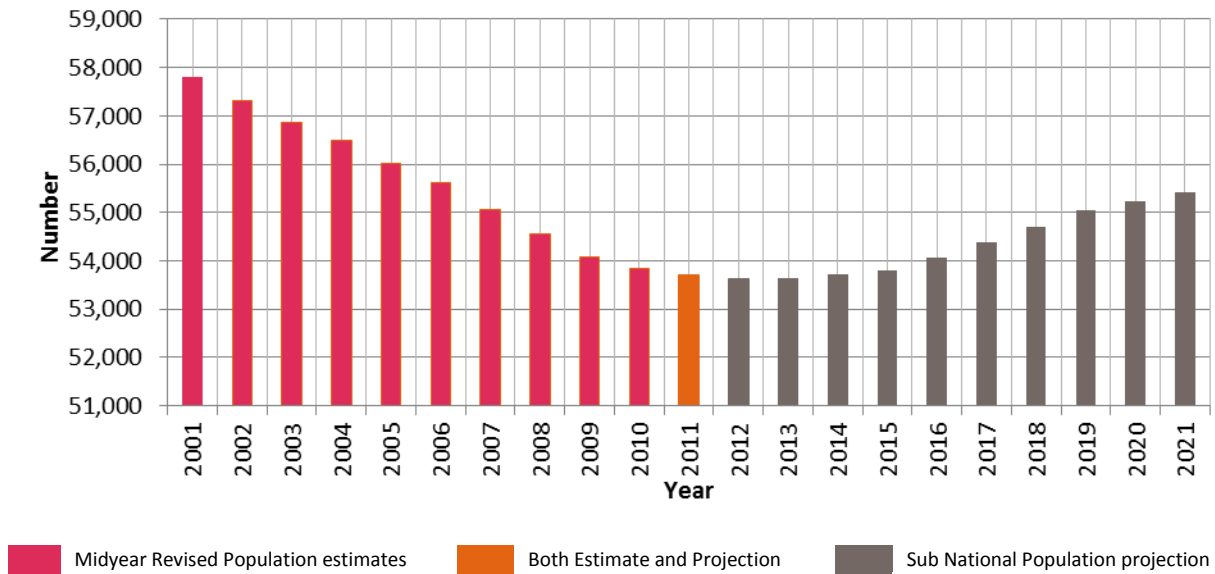
The percentage change of children aged 1 to 5 has stayed relatively stable, but those children aged 6 to 10 and 11 to 15 have shown large reductions. For those aged 6 to 10, there has been a 13% reduction and for those aged 11 to 15, there has been a 9% reduction.

### 1.2.2 Population projections

Looking forward, the projected figure to 2021 for 0 – 15 year olds, according to the 2011 Interim Sub-national population projections, is 55,400 which is a slight increase over the period of 3.2%. This percentage figure is a lot lower than that of the North East (7.9%) and England (12.6%) over the same period.

<sup>1</sup> ONS 2008-10

**Figure 3: Mid Year Estimates and Population Projections for residents aged 0 - 15**



### 1.3 Identity

Since ethnicity is a multi-faceted and changing phenomenon, various possible ways of measuring ethnic groups are available and have been used over time. These include country of birth, nationality, language spoken at home, skin colour, national/geographical origin and religion. It is generally accepted that ethnicity includes all these aspects, and others, in combination.

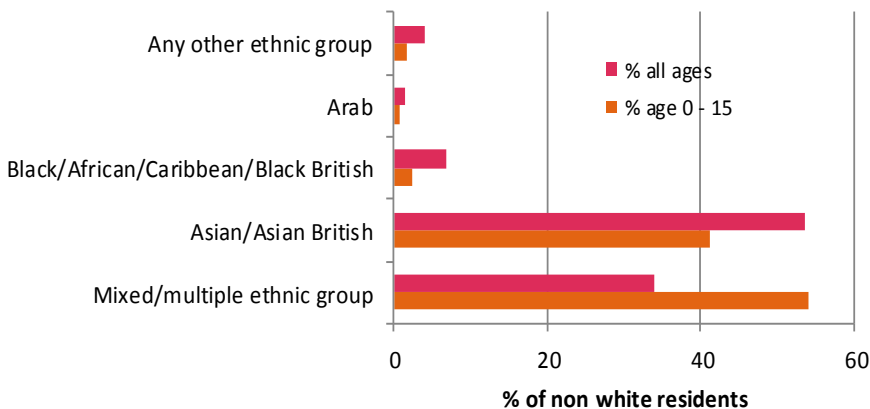
Another definition for these groups is BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) which is any minority group who have a shared race, nationality or language and culture.

#### 1.3.1 Ethnicity – ONS 2011 Census

An ethnic group is often defined as any minority group who have a shared race, nationality or language and culture, and is derived from a person’s perception of their background. It is not necessarily based on country of birth or nationality.

97% of children in Northumberland aged between 0 and 15 are classed as White. Of the others (approximately 1400), 54% (n=759) of these come from a ‘Mixed/Multiple Ethnic’ group, and 41% (n=579) are ‘Asian/Asian British’. The remaining 66 fall into the Black/African/Caribbean/Black British and Any other Ethnic group,

**Figure 4: Ethnicity of Non-white residents in Northumberland**



Looking at the percentage of residents classed as Non-White, it can be seen that there is a larger percentage of children aged 0-15 in the Mixed/multiple ethnic group (54%) than residents (all ages) where the percentage figure is 34%.

Over 50% of those residents classed as ‘White and black African’, and ‘White and Asian’ are aged 15 and under.

### 1.3.2 Ethnicity – School Census

School census information is analysed yearly to identify those pupils whose heritage is Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and who are learning English as an additional language (EAL) <sup>2</sup>. The most recent census took place in January 2013

At this time, the total number of pupils in Northumberland schools was 46,674. Black and Minority Ethnic pupils currently comprise 4.81% of the total school population, which is an actual figure of 2,246 – a slight rise compared to 4.5% (n=1851) in 2012.

Of those BME children, the largest significant ethnic group are ‘Any Other White’ (n=719) which comprises 32% of the BME population. This figure includes migrants from Europe, and Gypsy and Traveller children who are not Travellers of Irish descent.

Gypsy Roma Traveller (n=50) and Traveller children of Irish descent (n=28) make up 3.47% of the BME pupil population, and 0.17% of the total pupil population of Northumberland.

**Table 1: BME School Population**

BME School population	
Any other White	32%
Gypsy Roma or Irish Traveller	3.47%
Asian	10.0%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic	9.4%
White and Asian	7.5%
Indian	7.3%
Ethnicity not known	0.7%

87.5% of schools in the county have at least one pupil whose ethnicity is ‘Other than White British’, and 11 % (n=20) of schools have an entirely White British pupil population.

The educational achievement of the black and minority ethnic groups in Northumberland in 2012 was similar to the national average for **all** pupils, and is therefore not consistent with the national trend of under-achievement for certain ethnic groups. The exception to this is the achievement of Gypsy and Traveller children.

### 1.3.3 English as an additional language (EAL)

**Table 2: Main community languages spoken in Northumberland schools in 2013**

	Number of pupils	% of the EAL population
Polish	123	16%
Panjabi	78	10%
Chinese/Bengali	67	9%
Urdu	45	6%
Tagalog	29	4%
Malayalan	20	3%
German	16	2%
Dutch	15	2%
Spanish/Arabic	14	1.8%
Russian/Latvian	12	1.6%

There are currently 58 heritage languages spoken by children in Northumberland schools, compared to 61 in the previous year. Polish, Panjabi, Bengali and Chinese speaking children comprise the largest groups of EAL pupils. Children who speak English as an additional language comprise 1.6% of the pupil population. 35% of Northumberland’s schools have no EAL which is lower than 2012 where the figure was 40%.

### 1.3.4 Country of birth

Of the 53,900 children in the county, 98.4% were born in the UK. For the 836 born outside the UK, 3% were born in Ireland, 46% in Europe (other than UK), 7% in Africa, 22% in the Middle East and Asia, 14% in the Americas and the Caribbean, and 6% in Antarctica and Oceania (including Australasia).

Source: ONS 2011 Census DC2103EW - Country of birth by sex by age

### 1.3.5 National Identity

97.2% of children aged 0-15 class themselves as having an English and/or British identity, which is slightly higher than the adult population of Northumberland where the percentage figure is 95%.

Source: ONS 2011 Census DC2102EW - National identity by sex by age

<sup>2</sup> The linguistic and ethnic diversity of the school population in Northumberland based on school census data, January 2013 (Northumberland County Council)

### 1.3.7 Passports held

Of the 53,900 children aged 0 to 15 in Northumberland, 68% (n=36,500) hold a UK passport, and 31% have no passport. Only 0.6% holds a passport from another European country.

Source: ONS 2011 Census DC2108EW - Passports held by sex by age

### 1.3.8 Religion

Table 3: Religion in Northumberland

	All Ages		Age 0-15	
	No.	%	No.	%
All residents	316,028	100	53,866	100
Christian	216,673	68.56	31,166	58
Buddhist	578	0.18	45	0
Hindu	335	0.11	58	0
Jewish	169	0.05	20	0
Muslim	1,018	0.32	275	1
Sikh	494	0.16	98	0
Other religion	980	0.31	65	0
No religion	75,620	23.93	18,196	34
Religion not stated	20,161	6.38	3,943	7

Source: ONS 2011 Census DC2107EW - Religion by sex by age

Over 68% of Northumberland residents class themselves as Christian, with a further 24% classing themselves as having No Religion and 6% who do not state their religion. Looking at residents aged 0 – 15, it can be seen that 58% are Christian, 34% have No Religion and 7% religion Not Stated. It should be noted that information from the Census is completed by adults in the household so this data will probably reflect their preferences, rather than those of their children.

## 2 Families and households

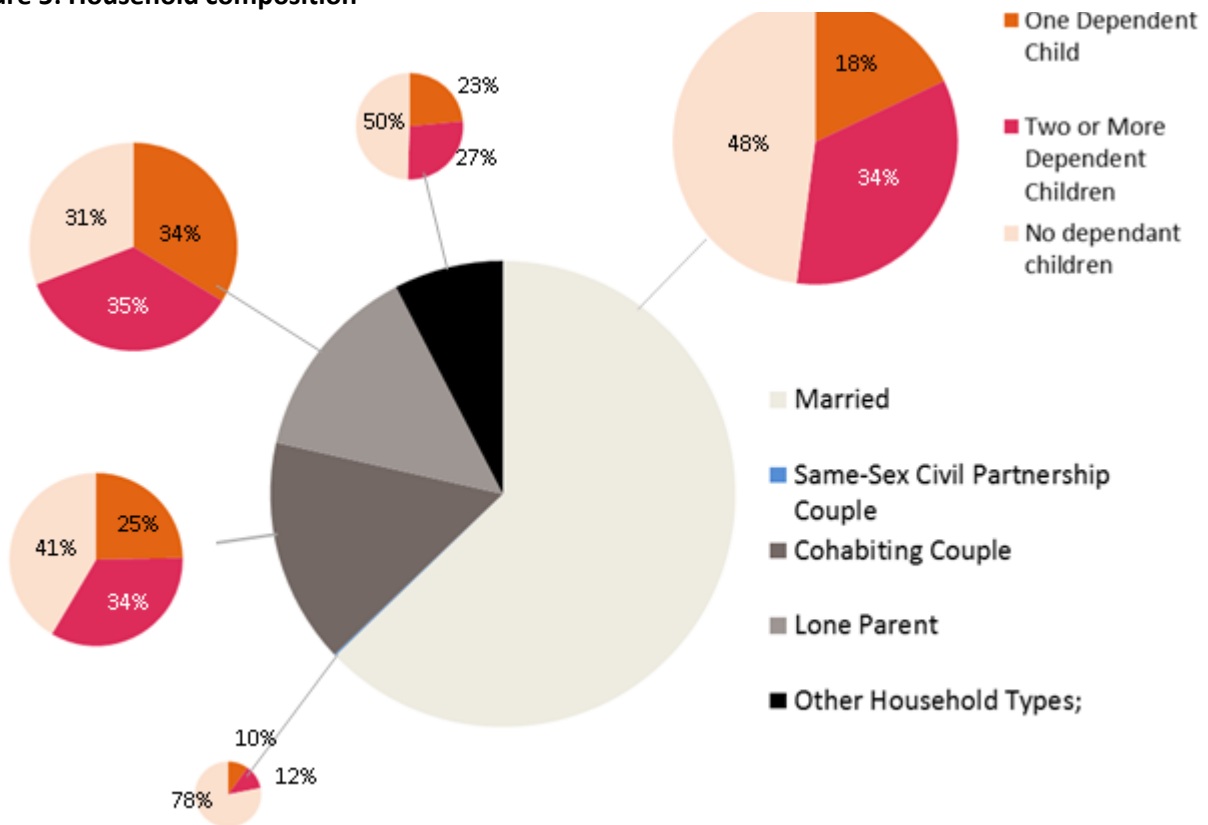
### 2.1 Family size

Overall, in England the average number of dependent children in all families in 2012 was 1.7. This figure rose to 1.8 for married couples or those in civil partnerships, and dropped to 1.6 for lone parents and co-habiting couples.

- 48% of married couples in Northumberland have no children or no dependent children, with 18% having one dependent child and 34% having two or more dependent children.
- 41% of cohabiting couples have no children or no dependent children, with 25% having one dependent child and 34% having 2 or more dependent children.
- 69% of parents have children who are dependent with 31% having no dependent children



**Figure 5: Household composition**



## 2.2 Households with dependent children

There are 138,534 households in Northumberland. Households can be categorised by looking at the age of the household reference person<sup>3</sup>, which provides the life stage of a household. Where the age of the HRP is under 35, there are 50% of households with dependent children, compared to 47% in the North East and only 41% in England. For households where the age of the HRP is between 35 and 54, again there are 50% which contain dependent children in Northumberland, compared to a lower figure of 48% for the North East but similar to the England figure of 51%.

Where the age of the HRP is between 55 and 64, only 6% of households in Northumberland have dependent children (North East 7%, England 9%). Only 1% of households where the HRP is aged 65 and over contains dependent children, which is a similar figure to both the North East and England.

Source: ONS 2011 Census Household Lifestage (QS111EW)

## 2.3 Tenure of households with dependent children

26.4% of households in Northumberland contain dependent children. This equates to 36,578 households and includes the following household compositions:

- Married or civil partnership couple with dependent children
- Cohabiting couples with dependent children
- Lone parents with dependent children,
- Other household types with dependent children

Looking at the tenure of these households with children, it can be seen that 62.2% are owned (either outright or with mortgage/loan), 20.2% live in social rented property, 16.2% live in private rented property, and 1.1% are living rent free. Of those 7,390 households that are socially rented, 66% of these are rented from local authorities.

Source : DC4101EW - Tenure by household composition

<sup>3</sup> HRP provides an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to characteristics of the chosen reference person

## 2.4 Lone parent households

There are 8580 households in Northumberland which house lone parents aged 16 to 74, and where there are dependent children.

Nearly 90% of lone parents are female, and 10% male. Only 7.5% of lone parent households have a male lone parent who is working (part time and full time), compared to a figure of 57.7% for female lone parents. The England percentage figure for all lone parents not in employment (40.5%) is much higher than the Northumberland figure of 35.8%.

**Table 4: Lone parent households with dependent children**

	Northumberland		North East	England
	No.	%	%	%
<b>All Lone Parent Households with Dependent Children Where the Lone Parent is Aged 16 to 74</b>	<b>8580</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Lone Parent in Part-Time Employment; Total	3114	36.3	33.7	33.4
Lone Parent in Full-Time Employment; Total	2392	27.9	24.6	26.1
Lone Parent Not in Employment; Total	3074	35.8	41.8	40.5
<b>Male Lone Parent; Total</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Male Lone Parent; In Part-Time Employment	109	1.3	1.2	1.4
Male Lone Parent; In Full-Time Employment	448	5.2	4.5	5.1
Male Lone Parent; Not In Employment	326	3.8	3.6	3.2
<b>Female Lone Parent; Total</b>	<b>7697</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>90.6</b>	<b>90.3</b>
Female Lone Parent; In Part-Time Employment	3005	35.0	32.5	32.0
Female Lone Parent; In Full-Time Employment	1944	22.7	20.0	20.9
Female Lone Parent; Not In Employment	2748	32.0	38.1	37.4

Source: ONS 2011 Census Table KS107EW

## 2.5 Dependent children (0-18 years)

There are 96,200 families in households in Northumberland, and the total number of dependent children is 62,100 according to the 2011 Census. It should be noted that ONS class 'dependent children' as those between 0 and 18 years of age. 17,700 families have one child with 13,800 having two children and 4,900 having three or more children.

For those families with only one child, 5,400 children are aged 0-4 with 4,200 aged 5 to 11 and 8,000 aged 12 to 18

For families with two children, 4,800 have the youngest child aged 0 to 4, with 5,800 having the youngest child aged 5 to 11 and 3,200 have a youngest child who is aged between 12 and 18

For those families with three children, 2,500 have their youngest child who is aged 0-4, 2,000 where the youngest child is 5 to 11 and 400 families have the youngest child who is between the ages of 12 and 18.

There are 5,850 households in Northumberland, where there is one person in the household with a long term health problem and with dependent children.

4,743 households (3.4%) contain dependent children and also no adults who are in employment.

Source: ONS 2011 Census Families with Dependent Children (QS118EW)

## 3 Education

### 3.1 Early education

Table 5: Part time equivalent number of free early education places filled by 3 and 4 year olds

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<a href="#">Northumberland</a>	5,965	5,985	6,045	6,230	6,250	5,810	6,259	6,491
<a href="#">North East</a>	51,250	50,890	51,830	53,195	54,305	56,130	56,810	58,180
<a href="#">England</a>	1,027,970	1,029,705	1,054,800	1,098,090	1,128,790	1,177,235	1,182,380	1,229,535

[http://www.education.gov.uk/inyourarea/results/nat\\_921\\_leas\\_2.shtml](http://www.education.gov.uk/inyourarea/results/nat_921_leas_2.shtml)

The number of free early education places filled by 3 and 4 year olds in Northumberland has risen by 16.4% over the last 7 years.

### 3.2 School absenteeism

Table 6: Overall Absence for all pupils in all schools

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<b>Northumberland</b>	6.2	6.1	6.0
<b>North East</b>	6.4	6.2	6.1
<b>England</b>	6.3	6.0	5.7

Source: Department for Education, through Neighbourhood Statistics, Office for National Statistics

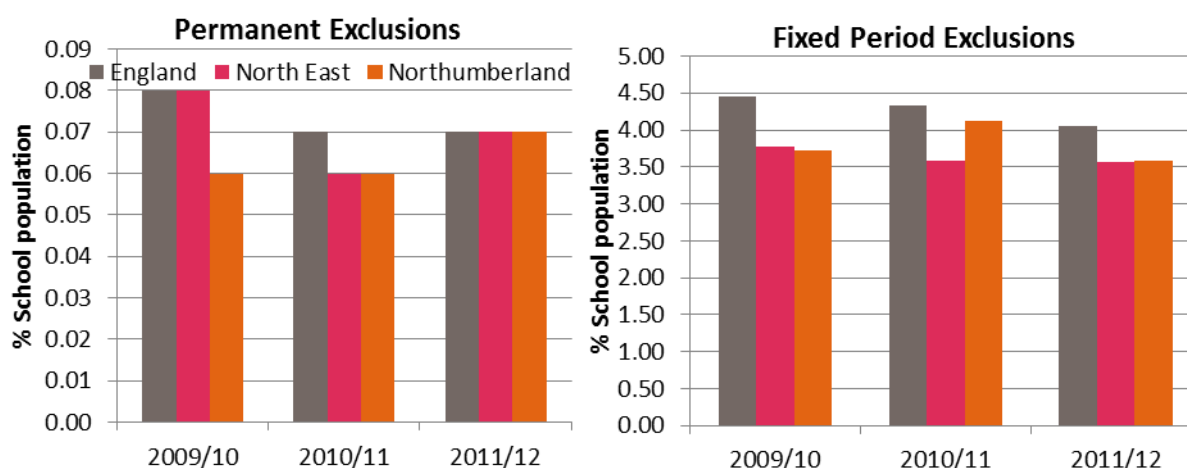
In Northumberland, the overall absence rate for all pupils in 2010/11 was 6.0% - slightly less than the percentage figure of 6.1% for the North East, and more than the England figure of 5.7%.

These figures varied depending on the type of school, with a higher percentage of absences occurring in maintained secondary schools (6.5%) than maintained primary schools (5.2%). The unauthorised absence rate for Northumberland in 2011/12 was 0.6%, lower than the England figure of 1%.

Source: ONS Neighbourhood Statistics

### 3.3 Exclusions

Figure 6: Permanent and fixed period exclusions in Northumberland



Data regarding permanent and fixed period exclusions from schools is based on School Census returns for the academic year. Information is included for state-funded primary (maintained primary and academies), state-funded secondary (maintained secondary, city technology colleges and academies), and state-funded special (maintained special and academies) and non-maintained special schools (excluding general hospital schools).

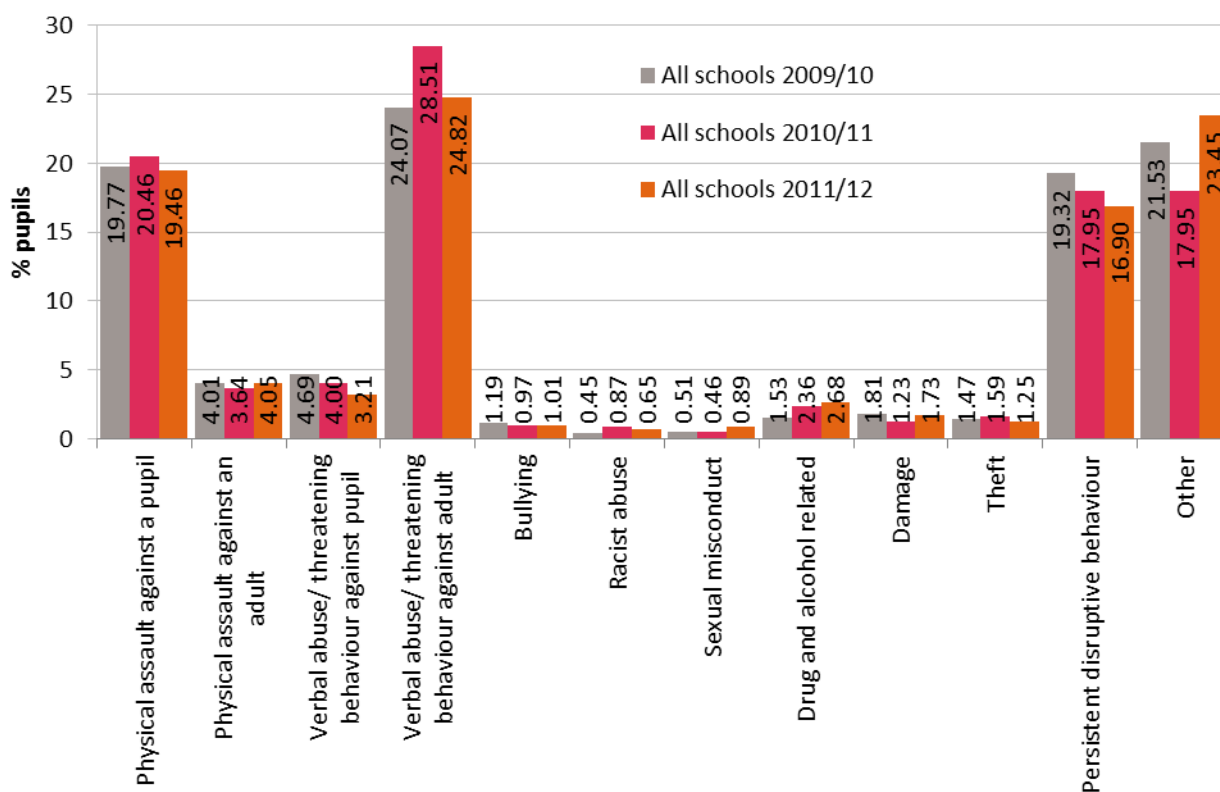
Looking at percentage figures for the last three years, it can be seen that the rate of permanent exclusions in Northumberland is the same or lower than that of the North East and England. For fixed

period exclusions, percentage figures for Northumberland are lower than England for all three time periods.

The causes of exclusions range from verbal abuse and physical abuse to drug taking and theft, and these have remained relatively constant, with over 50% related to physical abuse and verbal abuse over the three year period. In Northumberland, the number of pupils excluded for fixed periods had dropped slightly over the three year period from 1,770 to 1,680.

Because of the small numbers of pupils permanently excluded in Northumberland, figures are not published for individual causes due to confidentiality.

**Figure 7: Reasons for fixed period exclusions from 2009 - 2012**



### 3.4 Attainment

**Table 7: GCSEs achieved (5 A\*-Cs including English and Maths)**

	2010/11		2011/12	
	No	%	No	%
Northumberland	2096	57.4	2047	58.2
England	-	58.3	-	59.4

Source: chimat

In 2012, 67.7% of Northumberland children achieved a good level of development (within the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile) which was much higher than the 63.4% figure for the whole of England.<sup>4</sup>

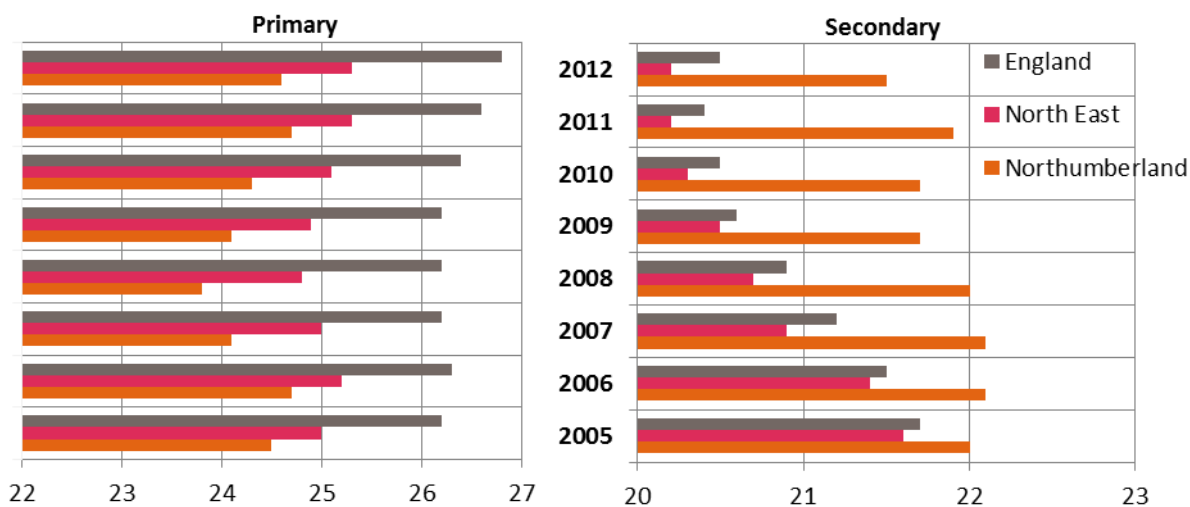
Looking at results for pupils who have achieved 5 GCSEs at A\* to C grade (including English and Maths) for the past two school years, the trend for both Northumberland and the whole of the country seems to be increasing, with 58.2% of Northumberland pupils and 59.4% of pupils in England overall, achieving these results.

### 3.5 Class size

<sup>4</sup> Northumberland Child Health Profile [www.chimat.org.uk](http://www.chimat.org.uk)

The average primary class size in Northumberland in 2012 was 24.6 pupils which was similar to the figures for the previous 7 years. Over the same time period, primary class sizes in England were constantly higher than Northumberland at more than 26 pupils.

**Figure 8: Average class size of one teacher classes in maintained primary and secondary schools**



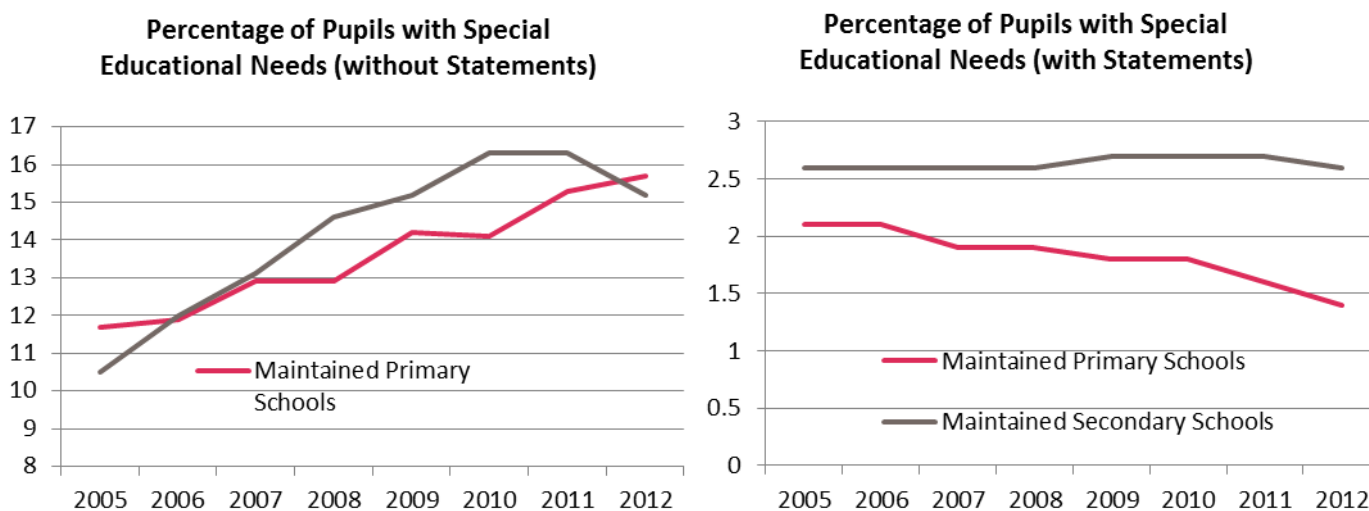
Source: ONS Neighbourhood Statistics

Conversely, class sizes in secondary schools were higher in Northumberland compared to both England and the North East over the same period. In 2012 the class size averaged 21.5 compared to 20.5 in England pupils

### 3.6 Special education needs – school census

The Department for Education produce annual information on pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)<sup>5</sup>. Children with special educational needs (SENs) all have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it more difficult for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age. These children may need extra or different help from that given to other children of the same age.

**Figure 9: Percentage of pupils with Special Educational Needs**



The percentage of pupils in Northumberland’s Maintained Primary Schools with SENs had risen from 11.7% in 2005 to 15.7% in 2012. Percentage figures for Maintained Secondary Schools rose from 10.5%

<sup>5</sup> www.education.gov.uk

to 15.2% over the same period. Looking at children who have been issued with a Statement<sup>6</sup> of SEN, percentage figures were much lower over the same period for both school types. There were 2.1% of children in 2005 in Maintained primary schools that had been issued with a statement, and this figure dropped to 1.4%. For those children in maintained Secondary Schools the figure of 2.6% had not changed over the 7 year period.

By looking at percentage figures for pupils who are educated in Maintained Special Schools it can be seen that Northumberland and England have similar percentage figures in 2012, but both are lower than the North East figure of 1.6%. The percentage of pupils educated in Maintained Special Schools had risen slightly over the 7 year period from 0.9% in 2005 to 1.1% in 2012.

**Table 8: Percentage of pupils educated in maintained Special Schools**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Northumberland	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1
North East	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6
England	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2

## 4 Health and Well-Being

The health and well-being of children in Northumberland is mixed compared with the England average.

### 4.1 General health

According to the 2011 Census, 97.4% of all children aged between 0 and 15 are classed as in good health, with 2% classed as in Fair Health and the remainder (0.6%) classed as having Bad or Very Bad Health. These percentage figures are in line with comparable figures for the North East and England.

*Source: ONS 2011 Census DC3302EW*

### 4.2 Fertility Rates

The birth rate (per 1,000 pop) in Northumberland, for 2010 was 9.4, which was lower than the figure for both the North East (11.8) and England (13.2). The rate of births in Northumberland has dropped from 10.0 (per 1000 pop) since 2008, although figures for the North East and England have stayed constant.

*Source: ONS Crude birth rate based on birth registrations in the UK by area of usual residence of mother.*

### 4.3 Still births

The perinatal<sup>7</sup> mortality rate in Northumberland for 2011 was 4.7 per 1,000 births which was a lot lower than the rate of 6.7 for 2010. Rates for both 2010 and 2011 were lower in Northumberland than both the North East (2010–6.7, 2011-7.7) and England (2010-7.4, 2011-7.6)

### 4.4 Infant mortality

**Table 9: Rate of infant deaths**

	North /Ind	North East	England Average
2007/09	4.7	4.2	4.7
2008/10	3.5	4.0	4.6
2009/11	4.0	3.7	4.4

<sup>6</sup> A Statement is a document which sets out a child's [SEN](#) and any additional help that the child should receive. Some children are issued with a Statement when all the educational provision required to meet a child's needs cannot reasonably be met by the resources within a child's school

<sup>7</sup> Perinatal mortality – still births and deaths under 1 week

The rate of infant deaths (under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births) for Northumberland in 2009/11 was 4.0 which were slightly lower than the England figure of 4.4, but higher than the North East figure of 3.7. For the period 2007-09, the figure for Northumberland was slightly higher at 4.7 per 1,000 live births. *Source: NHS Profiles*

#### 4.5 Low birth weights

Table 10: % of live births with low birth weight

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Northumberland	7.9	7.0	6.3	6.1
North East	7.6	7.1	7.3	7.2
England	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.0

*Source: Neighbourhood Statistics ONS*

In Northumberland, the proportion of live births with low birth weight<sup>8</sup> in 2011 was 6.1%, which was lower than the proportion in England with a figure of 7.9%.

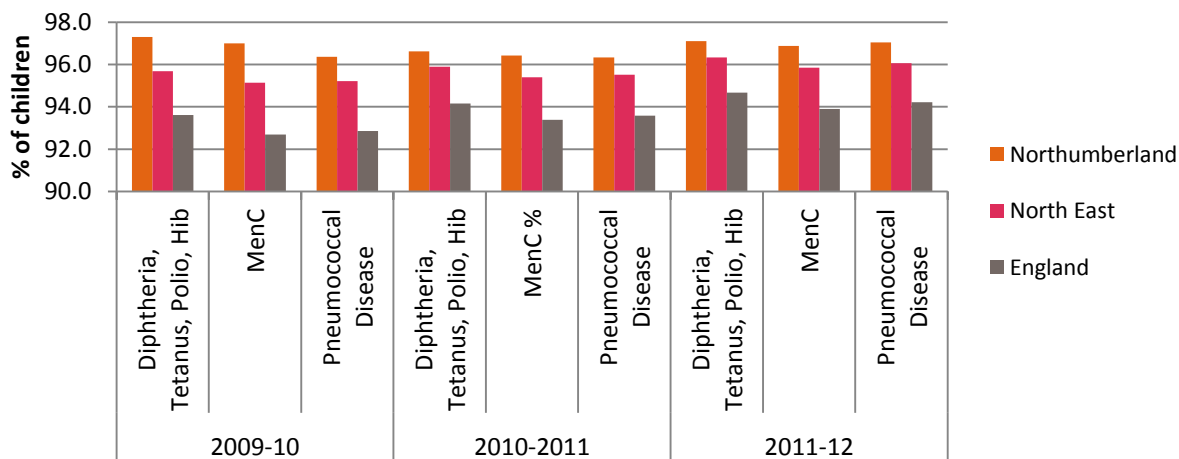
The proportion of live births with low birth weight has dropped in the county over the past 4 years, from 7.9% in 2008 to 6.1% in 2011.

#### 4.6 Breast feeding

The following figures are based on women who gave birth in 2011/12 where breast feeding status was recorded. The percentage of mothers initiating breast feeding in Northumberland during this period was 63.6%, (58.9% in 2009/10) compared to a North East figure of 58.9%, (55.9% in 2009/10). Both of these were lower than the England figure of 73.6% (73.6% in 2009/10). *Source: Department of Health, NHS*  
Over the same period, the percentage of mothers who were breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks was 36.5% compared to an England figure of 47.2% (*Source: chimat*)

#### 4.7 Immunisation

Figure 10: Percentage of children immunised from 2009-10 to 2011-12



Most immunisation statistics relate to routine childhood vaccinations which are offered to all children at specified ages. For most vaccinations, the number of persons vaccinated as a proportion of the eligible population (coverage) is reported. Figures for all routine childhood vaccinations in 2011-12 showed an increase at national level.

In 2011-12, it was reported that 94.7% of children in England reaching their first birthday had completed primary immunisation courses against **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio and Haemophilus influenzae type b (DTaP/IPV/Hib)**. This compared with 94.2% in 2010-11. The percentage figure for Northumberland over the same period was 97.1%<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Low Birth weight is defined as birth weight below 2,500 grams

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=9990&q=title%3a%22NHS+Immunisation+Statistics+-+England%22&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1#top>

National coverage of the **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)** in 2011-12, was 92.4% which was lower than the Northumberland figure of 97%.

93.4% of children (n=2976) in Northumberland were immunised against measles, mumps and rubella in 2011/12 which was a higher percentage figure than the England figure of 91.2%<sup>10</sup>

#### 4.8 Participation in sport

In 2008/09, 55.5% of children (age 5-18 years) participated in at least 3 hours per week of high quality PE and sport at school in Northumberland, which was higher than the figure of 49.6% for England.

Source: Annual Survey of School Sport Partnerships, 2008/09 via APHO health profiles

#### 4.9 Child obesity

**Table 11: Prevalence of obese children as a percentage of all children by school year**

%	Reception Year			Year 6		
	09/10	10/11	11/12	09/10	10/11	11/12
Northumberland	10.7	10.0	9.5	18.3	18.6	19.2
England	9.8	9.4	9.5	18.7	19.0	19.2

In Northumberland, the prevalence of obese children in reception year for 2011/12 was 9.5%, which was a reduction over a three year period from

Source: Northumberland Child Health Profile 2013, 2012, 2011

10.7%. Comparative figures for England also showed a slight decrease over the same period.

For children in Year 6, percentage figures for both Northumberland and England were higher than those in reception years. For both geographical areas, rates have increased and in 2011/12 percentage figures for both Northumberland and England were 19.2%.

#### 4.10 A and E attendances

The crude rate of children aged 0 – 4 years with accident and emergency attendances in 2010/11 was 511 (per 100,000 children), higher than the England figure of 484.

Looking at the crude rate for children (aged 0-17) who are admitted to hospital due to self-harming, figures in Northumberland have risen from 119.8 in 2010/11 to 146.3 in 2011/12 (per 100,000 children). Rates for England show a drop over the same period with figures of 124.8 in 2010/11 and 115.5 in 2011/12.

#### 4.11 Disability (Long term health problems aged 0-15)

**Table 12: Long term health problem or disability**

Long-term health problem or disability	Northumberland %	North East %	England %
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	1.6	1.8	1.5
Day-to-day activities limited a little	2.4	2.4	2.2
Day-to-day activities not limited	96.0	95.7	96.3

Source: ONS 2011 Census DC3302EW

The 2011 Census categorised residents by age and whether they considered themselves to have a long term health problem or disability. 4% of Northumberland children aged 0 to 15 felt that their

day-to-day activities were limited in some way (a lot or a little), which was slightly higher than the percentage figure for the North East (4.2%) but lower than the figure for England (3.7%). It should be noted that these figures are based on information provided by the parent/guardian and not by the children themselves

#### 4.12 Drugs, alcohol and smoking

Tellus was a major online survey, carried out in 2009, which asked children aged between 10-15 in England how they viewed their lives.

<sup>10</sup> Northumberland Child Health Profile [www.chimat.org.uk](http://www.chimat.org.uk)



Figures available from this survey show that there is a higher prevalence of children who drink alcohol in Northumberland (17%) compared to the 15% figure for England. These were pupils who said they had had an alcoholic drink, in the last four weeks and said they have been drunk three or more times. Percentage figures for pupils taking illegal drugs show that Northumberland has a slightly lower percentage than England (3.0% compared to 4.0%). Both geographical areas have 4.0% of pupils who said they smoked cigarettes regularly, once a week or more.

**Table 13: Pupils who say they take drugs, drink or smoke**

	Northumberland	England
% Pupils who say they have taken illegal drugs	3.0	4.0
% Pupils who say they smoke	4.0	4.0
% Pupils who say they drink	17.0	15.0

Source: Tellus4 survey, National Foundation for Educational Research Figures shown are percentage of those pupils who completed the survey

## 5 Social and Environmental

### 5.1 Looked after children

'Looked after children' (LAC) refers to children in public care, who are placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, there were 280 'Looked After' children in Northumberland aged 0 to 18. Of these, 81% (225) were aged 0 – 15.

The rate (per 10,000 children) for 'Looked After' children in Northumberland has dropped over the last 8 years from 55 in 2005 to 46 in 2012 (children aged under 18).

**Table 14: Looked After Children at 31 March 2012 by age**

	numbers						percentages				
	Age at 31 March 2012						Age at 31 March 2012				
	All	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 and over	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 and over
<b>Northumberland</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>
North East	4,110	300	840	840	1,470	660	7	20	20	36	16
England	67,050	4,190	12,430	12,700	24,150	13,580	6	19	19	36	20

### 5.2 Children in Poverty

The Children in Poverty indicator measures the percentage of children under 16 living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% median income (2010).

In Northumberland in 2010 the proportion of children in poverty was 18.4% which was less than the England rate of 21.1%. Figures for the previous year were very similar with the rate for Northumberland being 18.8%, and England 21.9%.<sup>11</sup>

There was a rate of 1.2 per 1,000 households for statutory homeless households with dependent children or pregnant women, which equated to 159 Northumberland households in 2011/12.

<sup>11</sup> Northumberland Child Health Profile [www.chimat.org.uk](http://www.chimat.org.uk)

### 5.3 Percentage of pupils receiving free school meals

**Table 15: Percentage of pupils receiving free school meals**

	2011	2012
Northumberland	13.6	13.7
North East	20.3	20.5
England	16.8	16.9

Source: Department for Education

In Northumberland in 2012, the proportion of children receiving free school meals was 13.7%, which was less than both the North East region figure of 20.5%, and the figure of 16.9% for England.

### 5.4 Households receiving Child Benefit

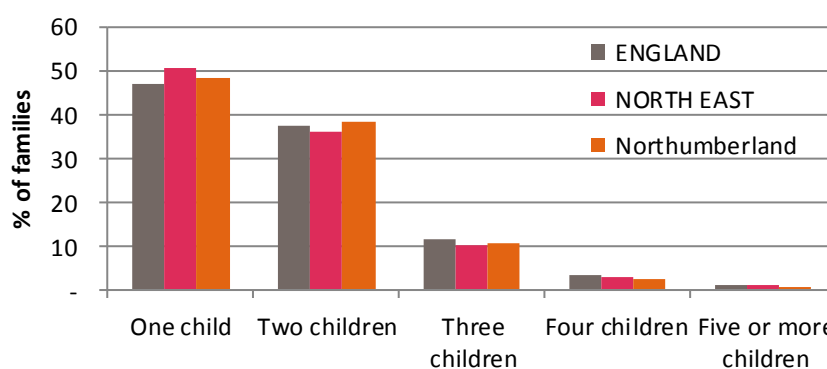
As at August 2012, there were 36,975 families receiving Child Benefit in Northumberland, which comprised of 62,600 children. Of these children, 25.6% were aged under 5, 32% were aged 5 to 10, 28% were aged 11 to 15 and the remaining 15% were aged 16 and over.

48% of those families receiving child benefit comprised of one child, 38% had two children, 10% had three children, and the remaining 3% had four or more children. These percentage figures were comparable to those for the North East and England.

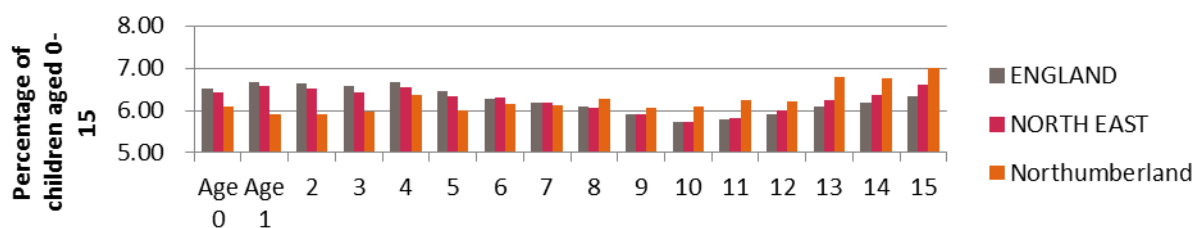
Looking at the number of children aged 0-15 by their

single year of age for whom Child Benefit was received, it can be seen that there is a lower percentage of Northumberland children of younger ages who receive benefit compared to the North East and England, whereas there is a larger percentage of Northumberland children of older ages, than both England and the North East.

**Figure 11: Number of children in households which receive child benefit**



**Figure 12: Percentage of children by single year of age, who receive Child Benefit**



Source: National Statistics Child Benefits Aug 12 HMRC

### 5.5 Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to Higher Education

**Table 16: % of young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education**

	2008/09	2009/10
Northumberland	7	11
England	17	18

Source: DBIS

In Northumberland, the proportion of young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education in 2009/10 was 11.0% compared to the England average of 18.0%. (There is no regional data available for 2009/10).

## 5.6 The Child Well-being Index (CWI)

The Local Index of Child Well-being was issued by the department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) in January 2009. The index is generally representative of how well children are doing in a number of different domains of their life.

It is based on the approach, structure and methodology that were used in the construction of the ID 2007, but is an index of child well-being rather than an index of deprivation, mainly because it contains variables that are not strictly related to deprivation<sup>12</sup>. The Index attempts to reflect the living conditions, health and education of young people. Information from the CWI was published at Local Authority level where counties were ranked depending on their results within the seven domains

- Material well-being,
- Health,
- Education,
- Crime,
- Housing,
- Environment, and
- Children in need.

149 counties were ranked according to these domains with the highest average score being 1 and the lowest 149. Results show that health of Northumberland children was ranked a lot worse than other local authorities but housing scored well.

Data was also produced using Lower Super Output Area level (LSOAs) and these results for Northumberland have been mapped and are shown in [Appendix 3](#). This shows the Lower Level Super Output Areas identified as having high and low levels of child well-being in Northumberland. The South East around Ashington, Bedlington and Blyth contain LSOAs which fall into the worst 20% nationally. In contrast, areas with low scoring LSOAs around Ponteland, Alnwick, Berwick, Morpeth and Hexham, fall within the best 20% nationally, and these are much more widely dispersed.

**Table 17: The Child Well-being Index**

Domain	Ranking
Material well-being	54
Health	115
Education	74
Crime	15
Housing	8
Environment	80
Children in need	69
CWI Average Rank	49



<sup>12</sup> There are no comprehensive national sources of data on other domains of well-being that could have been included – subjective well-being, relations with family and friends, civic participation, behaviour and risks for children (except for data on accidents). Such data can only be derived from surveys, which are not large enough to generate results reliable at local authority level1 and below. There are also no national, comprehensive data on child abuse and neglect, or other groups of children in special circumstances (travellers’ children, asylum seekers’ and refugees’ children and children of new migrants). The small numbers of these children make it difficult to undertake statistically robust analysis at small area level.

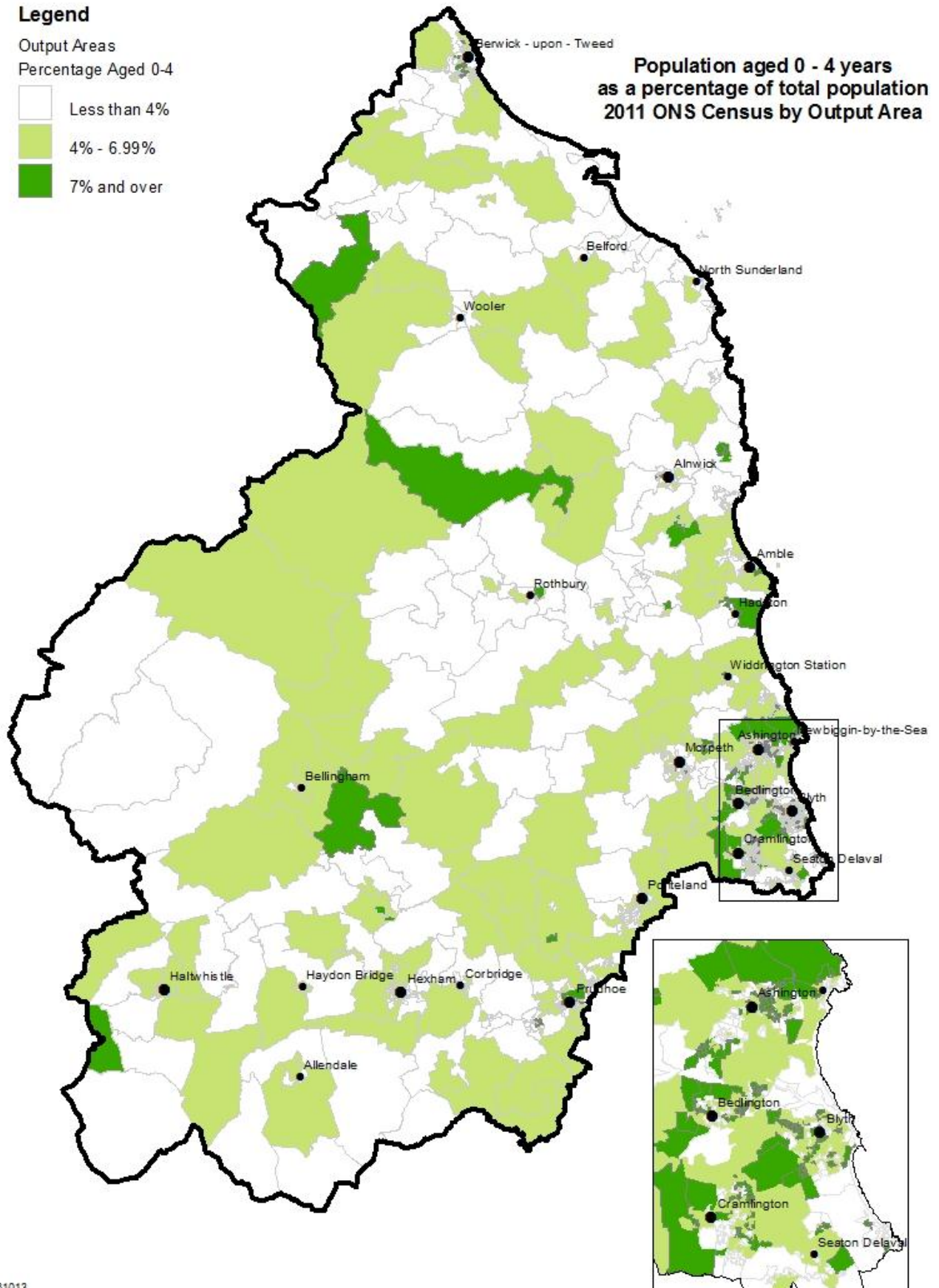
# Appendix 1

## Legend

Output Areas  
Percentage Aged 0-4



**Population aged 0 - 4 years  
as a percentage of total population  
2011 ONS Census by Output Area**



161013

Published October 2013. Scale: 1:450,000




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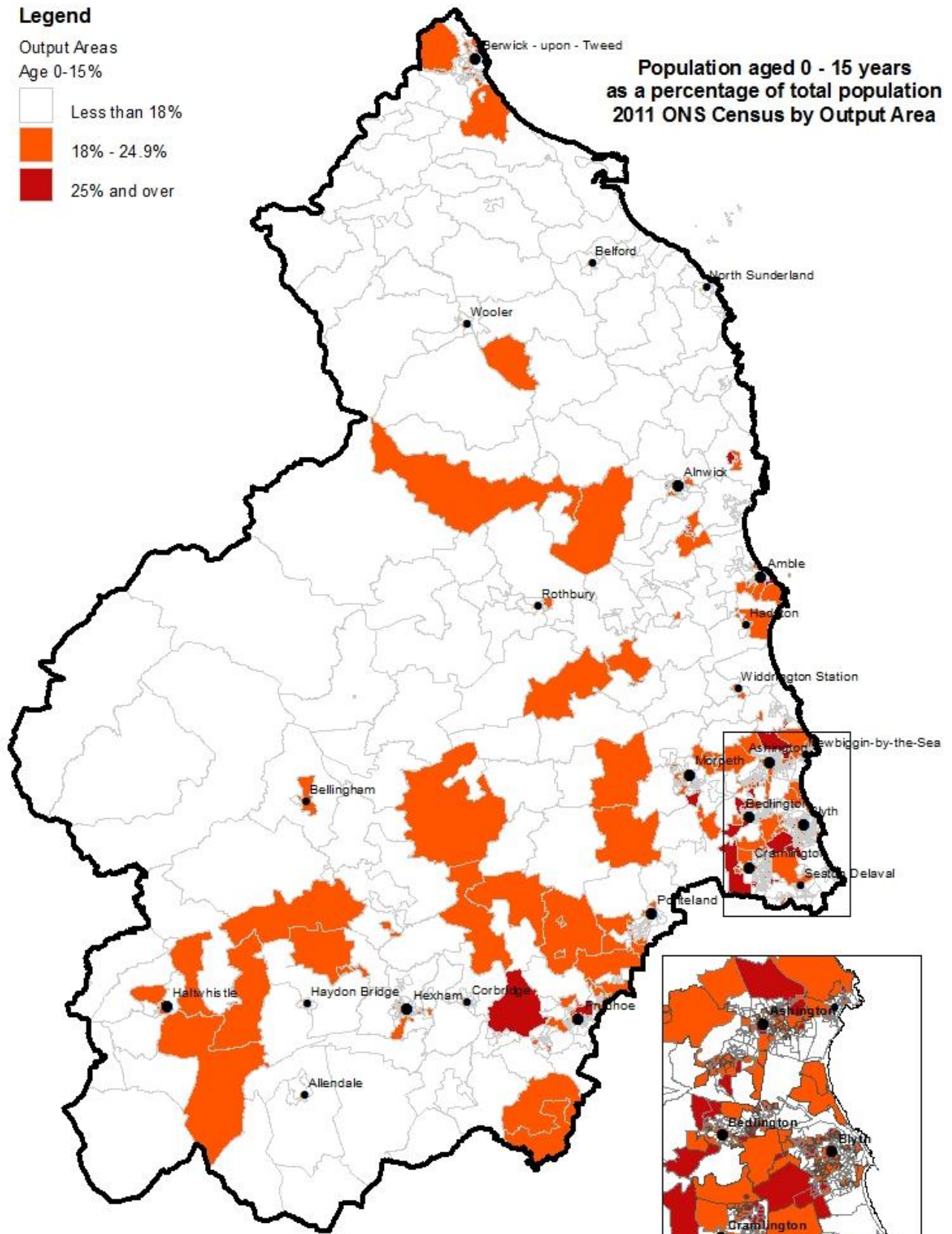


## Appendix 2

### Legend

Output Areas	
Age 0-15%	
	Less than 18%
	18% - 24.9%
	25% and over

Population aged 0 - 15 years  
as a percentage of total population  
2011 ONS Census by Output Area



181013

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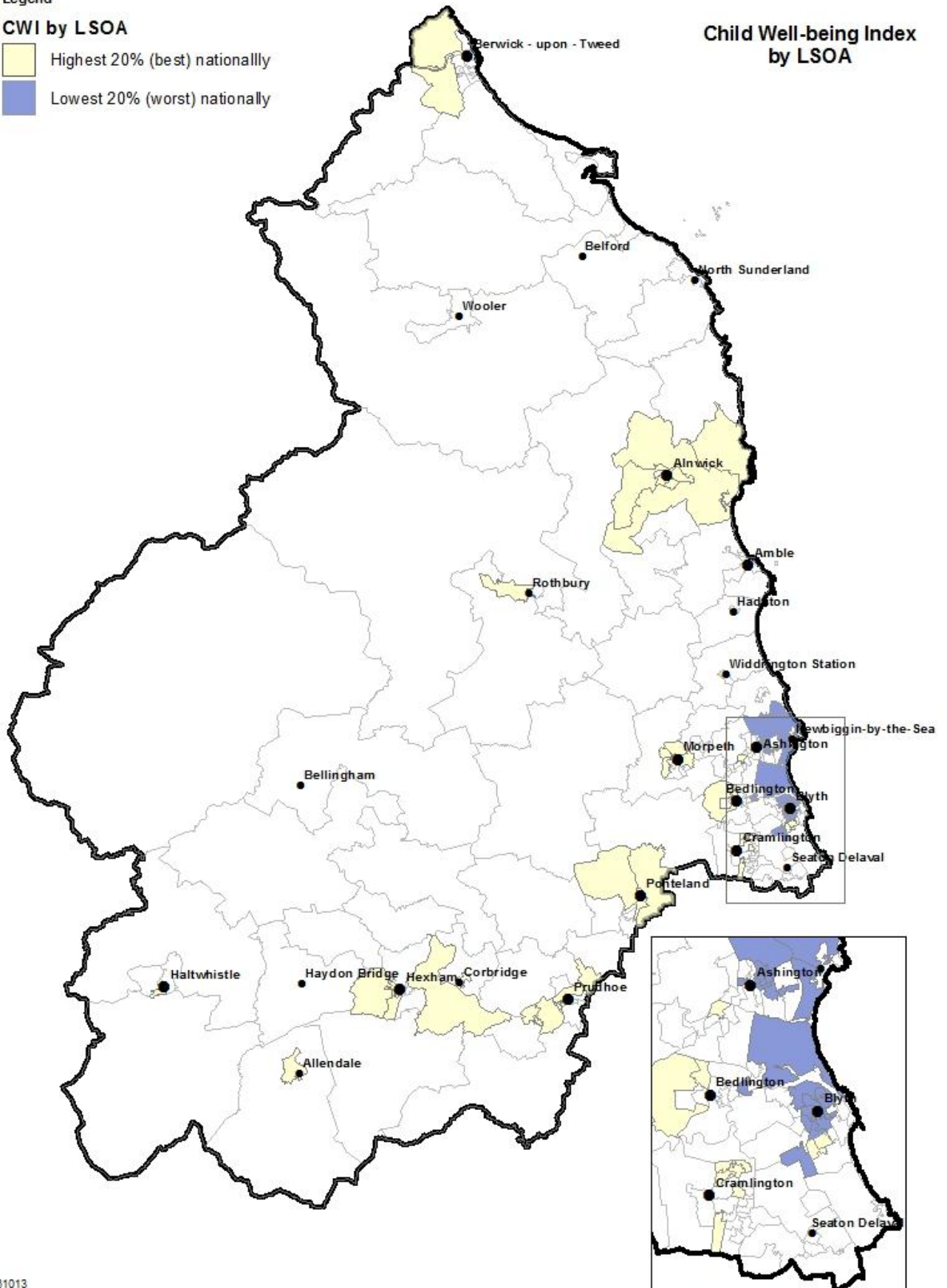
### Appendix 3

Legend

**CWI by LSOA**

- Highest 20% (best) nationally
- Lowest 20% (worst) nationally

**Child Well-being Index by LSOA**



161013

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