

Northumberland Poverty and Worklessness Assessment

2012 Update

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Executive Summary

The Northumberland Poverty and Worklessness Assessment – 2012 Update

This report updates the original Interim Poverty and Worklessness Assessment' which was published in August 2010 as part of the suite of documents that make up the Northumberland Local Economic Assessment (LEA).

The report provided a broad spectrum of evidence, relating to child poverty and related areas. The role of the document is to assist Northumberland County Council (NCC), Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP) and the Northumberland Families and Children's Trust to understand the poverty and worklessness agenda in order to inform future priorities and statutory requirements.

Related information

This report does not cover every aspect of the poverty and worklessness agenda in Northumberland and is a gradually evolving body of work as part of a wider suite of documents informing policy and action on this agenda.

For instance the statistics in this report will be impacted upon by the closure of Rio Tinto Alcan's aluminium smelter, the county's largest private sector employer. The link in the introduction of this report will take you to detailed reports on this subject.

Northumberland Child Poverty Action Group (NCPAG)

The data gathered for the Interim Poverty and Worklessness Assessment prompted a number of pieces of work and activity including workshops involving various agencies across Northumberland. This led to the Northumberland Child Poverty Action Group (NCPAG) being established which covers many organisations and sectors across Northumberland. The Terms of Reference of the NCPAG outline the main purpose of the group as being: *'The members of the Action Group will work together to better understand the range of activity that is going on within Northumberland, across sectors, that is/will/could have an impact on child poverty and to look at how that activity could be better co-ordinated to improve life chances for children and families in poverty'*.

Statistical Summary

This report provides a broad evidence base that indicates the levels of poverty, deprivation and disadvantage that exist within the County compared to the surrounding areas and country as a whole.

Key messages regarding poverty and worklessness in Northumberland

- 49% male, 51% female, 17% aged 0-15, 63% aged 16-64, 20% aged 65+
- Ranked 144th out of 326 Local Authorities, where 1 is the most deprived
- Local child poverty measure of 17.8%
- Employment Rate of 68.6%
- 12% of working age population is on out of work benefits
- Gross weekly resident earnings of £474, gross weekly workplace earnings of £425
- Less than 1% of council homes fall below the decent home standard
- 26.7% of households are fuel poor
- 77% of working age population have access to employment by public transport
- 70% of population aged 16 to 64 are qualified to NVQ level 2 and above
- 11.5% of 16 to 64 year olds have no qualifications
- 6.7% of 16 to 18 year olds are NEET
- Under 18 conception rate of 33.8 per 1,000 females aged 15-17
- Male life expectancy of 78.7 and female life expectancy of 82.2
- Low birth weight rate of 6.5%
- Breastfeeding prevalence rate at 6-8 weeks of 34.8%
- Obesity prevalence of 10% in Reception year and 18.6% in Year 6
- Rate of 32.3 notifiable offences recorded by police per 1,000 head of population.

Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. The overall average rank for Northumberland is 144. There are 326 Local Authorities in England, a rank of 1 is the most deprived and 326 is the least deprived. Blyth Valley and Wansbeck are the most deprived former districts within Northumberland, with Wansbeck being ranked amongst one of the most deprived districts in England. The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) shows the percentage of children in each Super Output Area (SOA) that live in families that are income deprived. In

Northumberland, 9 SOAs are ranked within the 10% most deprived in the country, 7 of these are within the former Wansbeck district.

Northumberland had the lowest proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits in the North East region in both 2009 (19%) and 2010 (18.9%). The latest local child poverty measure (defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their income is less than 60% of median income) for Northumberland is 17.8% (equal to approximately 9,381 dependent children under 16). The County-wide figure masks extreme variances at a more local level – ranging from 1% in the Ponteland South area to 57.6% in the Croft area of Blyth Valley.

Childcare

Provision for childcare is a key contribution to successful entry into the labour market and sustained employment opportunities. Within Northumberland the proportion of take-up by low-income working families ranges from less than 5% in parts of Tynedale, Castle Morpeth and Berwick-upon-Tweed to 40% in other parts of Tynedale. For 2009/10 Northumberland's overall take-up was less than the regional and national average (16%).

Employment

Northumberland has a higher employment rate than the North Eastern LEP and the region, but lower, on average than England. Most recently Northumberland had an employment rate of 68.6%, the lowest it has been in over 5 years. Proportionately the North East (16%) and LEP (15%) areas have higher out of work related benefit claimants than England (13%) as a whole. Northumberland overall tends to reflect the national trends for out of work related benefit claimants (around 13%) however lower level discrepancies exist, for example the former district of Wansbeck most recently had 18% of its' working age population claiming these benefits. In the last 5 years, Northumberland has showed a 57% increase in JSA claimant numbers (based on August 2011 and August 2006 figures), for England the increase was 64%, for the North East and the LEP this was 72%. The number of 16-24 year olds claiming DWP working age benefits was 26% higher in Northumberland in 2011 than 2006 (32% higher for England, 29% for the North East region and 30% for the LEP).

Earnings

Residents' weekly earnings (£474) in Northumberland are higher than local workplace weekly earnings (£425) in the County. The former Tynedale District has the largest difference of £198. Northumberland's resident's earnings are higher than the North East average (£451) but lower than England (£508). Northumberland's workplace earnings are

much lower than both the regional (£452) and national (£507) averages. Below County level the differences are much more striking. Berwick-upon-Tweed for example has average resident full-time gross weekly earnings of just £386 and workplace earnings of £381.

Housing

People making applications to the Northumberland Housing Options and Homelessness Service remained around 900 for 2009/11. During that period there was a 7% increase in the number of homelessness acceptances and around a 10% decrease in successful homeless preventions. The main causes in Northumberland for those accepted as statutorily homeless during this time were relationship breakdown due to domestic violence, loss of private rented accommodation and parent eviction. Local authority stock conditions are generally good in Northumberland and almost all properties now meet the decent homes standard.

Fuel Poverty

BRE's latest fuel poverty estimates place Northumberland highest in the region for proportion of households in fuel poverty (27%), substantially higher than the regional (24%) and national (18%) average and a marked increase on the previous years' figures (24%). Below County level, the proportion of households estimated to be fuel poor range from 55% in the Bamburgh area to 8% in Cramlington North.

Accessibility

Northumberland has the longest travel times to key services (15 minutes) and the lowest overall proportion of users able to access employment centres by public transport/walking (77%) compared with the rest of the North East area (12 minutes and 81%) and England as a whole (14 minutes and 82%).

Skills

Just over 70% of Northumberland's population aged 16-64 are qualified to NVQ level 2 and above, this is a higher proportion than the North Eastern LEP area average (66%), the North East region (66%) and England (67%). Northumberland has a slightly higher proportion of people aged 16 to 64 with no qualifications (12%) than England (11%) but lower than the North Eastern LEP and North East areas (13%). Northumberland's latest figure for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) of 6.7% is one of the lowest in the North East area (second only to North Tyneside at 6.2%) and has been classed as "the best comparative position for our young people yet achieved". The North East's latest NEET figure is 8.8%, England's is 6.1%.

Health

The under-18 conception rate is a national measure of child poverty and one of the three sexual health indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Northumberland's under-18 conception rate has consistently remained the lowest in the North East area for the last 10 years, most recently falling to 33.8 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17. Latest figures released show England's overall rate at 35.4. The North East has the highest rate in the Country (44.3) the lowest is the South East (28.3). The County figures mask large differences at more local level. The former district of Wansbeck has shown the highest rates, with an average over the last 10 years of 57.4.

Children born into low-income households are more likely to experience health problems from birth and accumulate health risks as they grow older. Life expectancy at birth for males in Northumberland (78.7) is close to the England average (78.6) and the longest in the North East (average 77.2). Life expectancy for females (82.2) is slightly less than the England average (82.6) but the longest in the North East (average 81.2). Life expectancy is 9.7 years lower for men and 6.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Northumberland than in the least deprived areas.

Managing on a low income has a negative impact on maternal health and health-related behaviours. Infant mortality is higher amongst children born into poverty, who are more likely to be born early and have low birth weight. Northumberland has one of the lowest low birth weight rates in the North East area at 6.5% of all live and still births. Both the regional (7.6%) and national (7.3%) averages are higher. A number of studies demonstrate that infants born into low-income households are less likely to be breastfed. Most recently the North East average rate of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks was 30.1% compared to a Northumberland rate of 34.8%. The England average was substantially higher at 46.9%.

Obesity affects people's health, their lives and the lives of their families, and it places a large financial burden on the NHS and the wider economy. The National Child Measurement Programme is an annual programme to measure the height and weight of all children in Reception and Year 6. In Reception year Northumberland has an overall obesity prevalence of 10%, which is slightly higher than the North East (9.9%) and England (9.4%) averages. In Year 6 Northumberland has a prevalence of 18.6% compared to a North East prevalence of 21.4% and an England average of 19%.

Crime

There are differing views in research over whether crime can be considered a product of childhood poverty, however there are higher victim and fear of crime rates among those living in disadvantaged areas. The most recent figures from the Home Office show that Northumberland has one of the lowest rate of offences per 1,000 head of population in the North East area (32.3), compared with 49.3 for the North East and 61 for England as a whole. Below County level, the former district of Wansbeck displays a higher rate of 50 notifiable offences per 1,000 head of population.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This report updates the original Interim Poverty and Worklessness Assessment' which was published in August 2010 as part of the suite of documents that make up the Northumberland Local Economic Assessment (LEA). The report provided a broad spectrum of evidence, relating to child poverty and related areas. The role of the document is to assist Northumberland County Council (NCC), Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP) and the Northumberland Families and Children's Trust to understand the poverty and worklessness agenda in order to inform future priorities and statutory requirements.

1.2 National Context

The Governments Child Poverty Strategy ['A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives'](#) was published in April 2011 and set out a number of principles:-

- A stronger focus on ensuring that families who are in work are supported to work themselves out of poverty, families who are unable to work are able to live with dignity and not entrenched in persistent poverty, and that those who can work but are not in work are provided with services that will address their particular needs and help them overcome barriers to work.
- A stronger focus on improving children's future life chances, by intervening early to improve the development and attainment of disadvantaged children and young people throughout their progression to adulthood.
- A stronger focus on place and delivering services as close to the family as possible, by empowering local partners and ensuring that local diversity can be recognised, and developing strong local accountability frameworks.

Defining Poverty

Poverty has traditionally been an issue that has proved difficult to define and there are varying interpretations in national literature. One of the most widely used definitions is from Child Poverty Action, the leading national charity working to end poverty among children,

young people and families in the UK. The Group (CPAG) uses the following definition to describe what we mean by poverty:

“Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged and approved, in the societies in which they belong.”

(Townsend, P. Poverty in the United Kingdom, Allen Lane, 1979)

1.3 Northumberland Child Poverty Action Group (NCPAG)

The data gathered for the Interim Poverty and Worklessness Assessment prompted a number of pieces of work and activity including workshops involving various agencies across Northumberland. This led to the Northumberland Child Poverty Action Group (NCPAG) being established which covers many organisations and sectors across Northumberland. Its Terms of Reference outlines its main purpose as *‘The members of the Action Group will work together to better understand the range of activity that is going on within Northumberland, across sectors, that is/will/could have an impact on child poverty and to look at how that activity could be better co-ordinated to improve life chances for children and families in poverty’.*

Previously, guidelines were provided for what Government felt should be included in a Child Poverty Needs Assessment, a statutory duty on Local Authorities. These guidelines were abolished with the publication of the Government’s child poverty strategy. Local Authorities are still however required to publish relevant information, in whatever format is most appropriate. In order to inform and facilitate evaluation of NCPAG activity it is important to update and understand the broad evidence base that indicates the levels of poverty, deprivation and disadvantage that exist within the County, the surrounding areas and country as a whole.

Related information

This report does not cover every aspect of the poverty and worklessness agenda in Northumberland and is a gradually evolving body of work as part of a wider suite of documents informing policy and action on this agenda. For instance the statistics in this report will be impacted upon by the closure of Rio Tinto Alcan’s aluminium smelter, the county’s largest private sector employer. The links in the overleaf will take you to detailed

reports on this subject and the wider suite of plans and research that sit alongside this report.

- Children and Young People's Plan - <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=eb93bccc-fa98-431a-8be0-a2aebbe85566&version=-1>
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - JSNA](#)
- Northumberland Local Economic Assessment reports including:
 - Northumberland Economic Assessment Statistical Update 2012
 - Economic Scenario's for Northumberland (including Broadband infrastructure scenarios)
 - Economic Scenario's for Northumberland – Low Carbon Scenarios Report
 - Alcan Economic Indicators Executive Summary and Report
 - Alcan Closure Economic Impacts Report

This link will take you to the reports: [Economic Research and Statistics](#)

- Other Infonet reports - [Research & statistics \(infonet\)](#)
- 'Know Northumberland' [Quarterly Statistical Bulletin](#)

1.4 Next Steps

A successful Child Poverty conference was hosted by NCC Children's Services in March 2012, which brought together a significant number of people involved in this area of work.

There was an agreement to progress with a 'Tackling Poverty Together' strategy and action plan. This document will be launched later in 2012.

2.0 Children in Northumberland

- In 2010 there were 52,773 people aged 0-15 living in Northumberland which accounts for 17% of the total population of the County. This is lower than the percentage living in the North East (17.6%) and England (18.7%).
- There are more males aged 0-15 than females – 27,125 (51%) as opposed to 25,608 (49%).
- Since 2004 the population aged 0-15 has decreased by 5.8% from 56,043.
- The population of people aged 0-15 is set to stagnate between 2010 and 2033 staying at around 53,000. This shows a different pattern to the total population over the same period which shows an increase of 8.5% and the change in children's population at a North East and England level which both display a growth of 4.9% and 12.5% respectively.
- At a local level (LSOA) the percentage of the total population aged 0-15 ranges from 31.4% in Newsham in Blyth to 5.6% in North Berwick.
- In general the higher percentages of people aged 0-15 tend to be in the more urban parts of the county such as Blyth, Cramlington and Bedlington.
- The lowest percentages appear to be in more rural parts – Wooler, Rothbury and Warkworth areas, but also some urban areas such as the South East of Cramlington.

3.0 The Index of Deprivation 2010

The English Indices of Deprivation (ID) 2010 replaces the Indices of Deprivation 2007 as the government's official measure of deprivation in England, it provides a relative ranking of areas across England according to their level of deprivation. There are 326 Local Authorities in England therefore the Local Authority with a rank of 1 is the most deprived and 326 is the least deprived for all Local Authority measures. The overall average rank for Northumberland is 144.

Blyth Valley and Wansbeck are the most deprived former districts within Northumberland, with Wansbeck being ranked amongst one of the most deprived districts in England. There are 16 Super Output Areas (SOA's) within Northumberland that are ranked amongst the 10% most deprived SOA's in England, these are within the following South East Northumberland Wards:

Croft	Hirst
College	Seaton with Newbiggin West
Cramlington West	Newbiggin Central and East
Ashington Central	Cowpen
Kitty Brewster	Newsham
Bedlington Central	

8% (25,198) of the population of Northumberland (Mid 2009 estimates) live in areas in the 10% most deprived nationally, of those 21% (5,324) are between the ages of 0-15. 10% of all Northumberland's 0-15 year olds live in the 10% most deprived SOA's in England.

The following figures illustrate the findings of IMD 2010 for Northumberland and shows the concentrations of most deprivation in dark blue.

Figure 1 shows that Northumberland has a fairly even number of LSOAs in each decile of the IMD ranging from the most deprived to least deprived nationally, whereas the North East Region and the North Eastern LEP have higher proportions of LSOAs in the most deprived deciles of the IMD.

Below Northumberland level the distribution is rather different. The former Wansbeck District has a high proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived deciles of the IMD nationally, a higher proportion than Northumberland as a whole and the North East Region and the North Eastern LEP. The former Blyth Valley District also has a high proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived deciles of the IMD in comparison to Northumberland while the other four former districts have higher proportions of LSOAs in the least deprived deciles nationally, most notably Alnwick, Castle Morpeth and Tynedale.

Figure 2 shows that in terms of overall deprivation LSOAs falling into the most deprived deciles of the IMD in Northumberland are concentrated in the South East corner of the county. The more rural areas of Northumberland in the North and West of the county generally have lower levels of deprivation with the areas surrounding towns often being more deprived than the most rural areas of Northumberland.

Figure 1: IMD Proportion of LSOAs by Decile

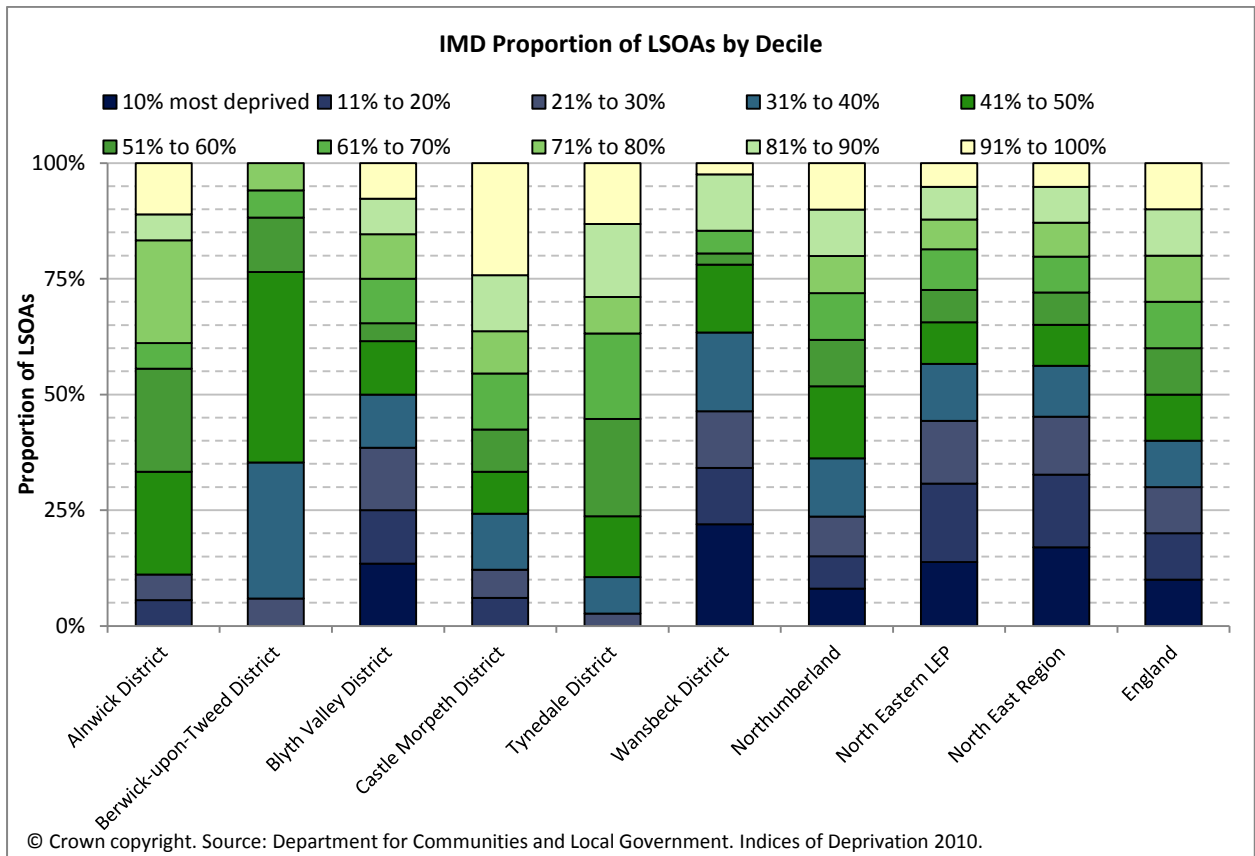
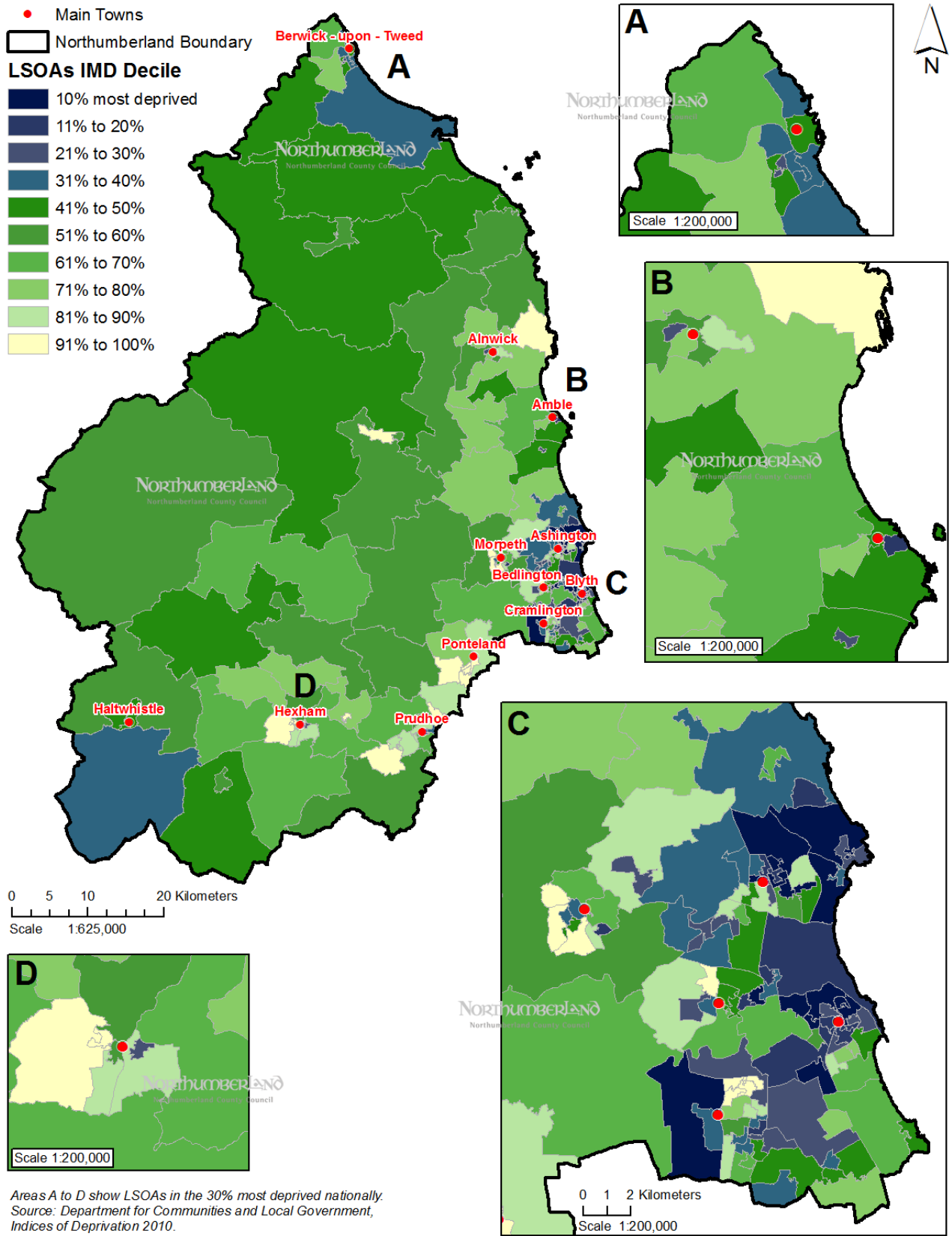


Figure 2: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010



The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a supplementary subset of the IMD, and shows the percentage of children in each SOA that live in families that are income deprived (i.e. in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Working Families' Tax Credit or Disabled Person's Tax Credit below a given threshold). An IDACI score of, for example 0.24 means that 24% of children aged less than 16 in that SOA are living in families that are income deprived. Nationally a rank of 1 is assigned to the most deprived SOA and a rank of 32,482 is assigned to the least deprived SOA, for presentation purposes.

In Northumberland, 9 SOA's are ranked within the 10% most deprived, 7 of these are within the Wansbeck District. Newbiggin Central and East is the most deprived ranked at 303 with a score of 0.67. As with the overall IMD 2010, figures at County level and above hide substantial differences in more local levels of deprivation.

Figure 3: Proportion of LSOAs by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index Decile

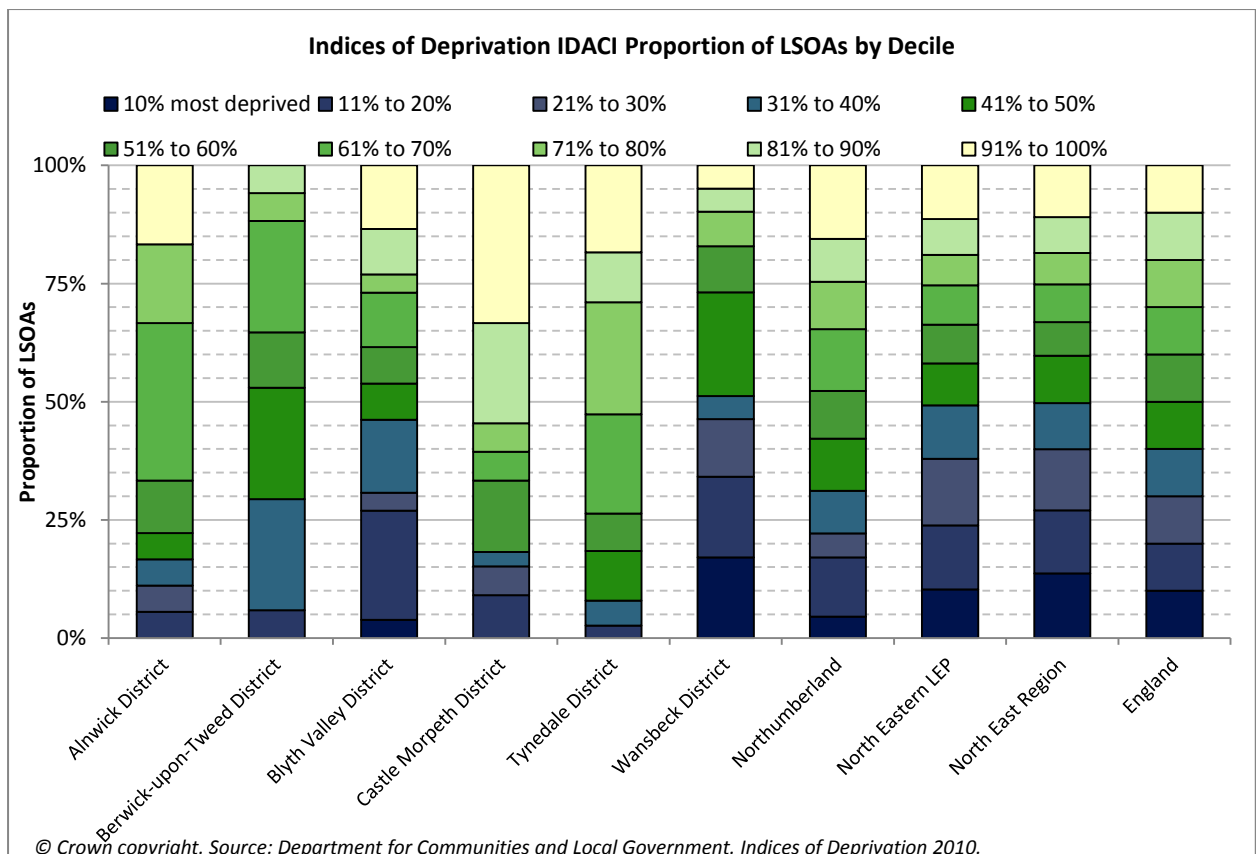
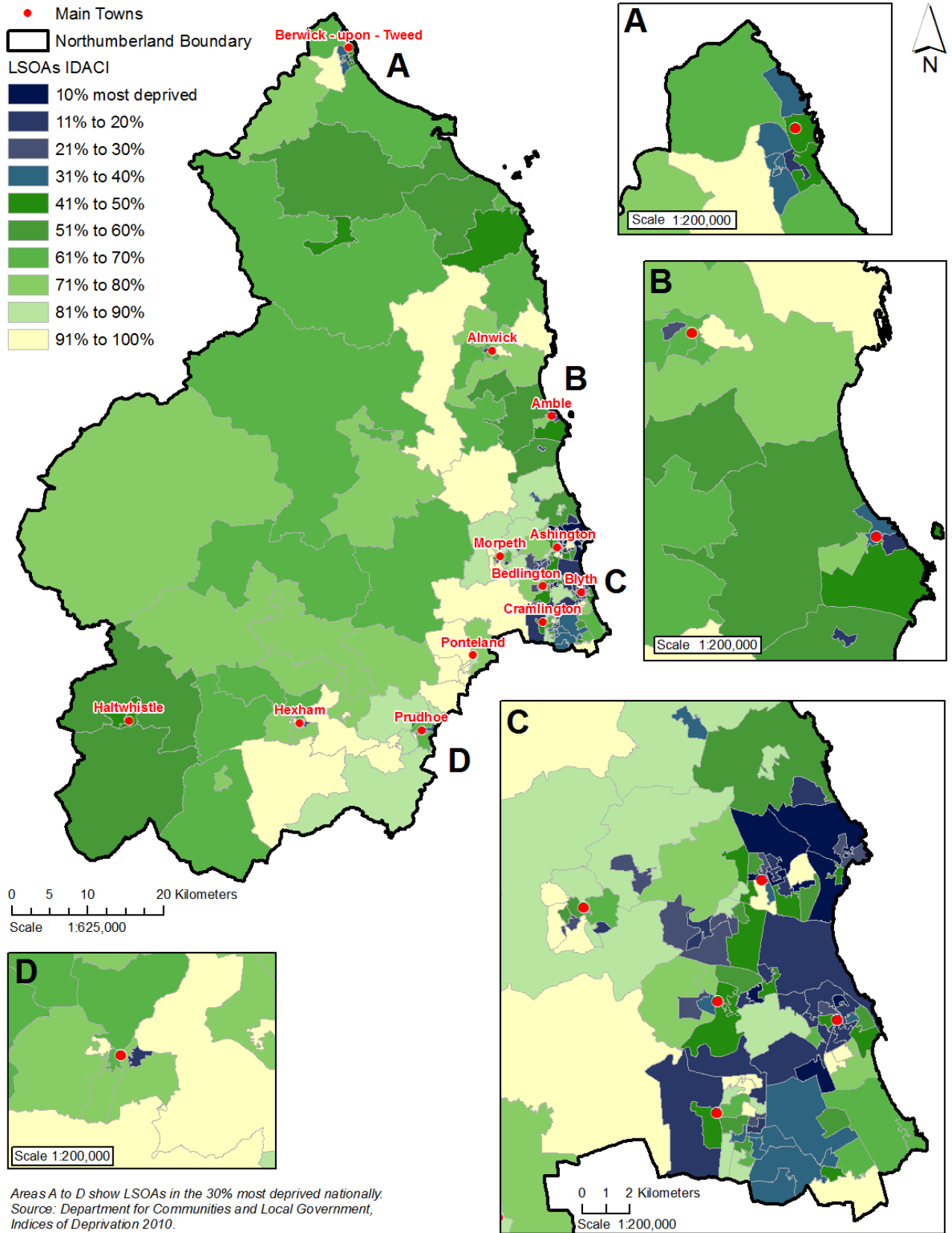


Figure 4: Map of ID 2010 IDACI



4.0 Child Poverty

There are currently **two** local child poverty measures which estimate the number and proportion of children in low income poverty in each local authority.

1. The **local child poverty proxy measure** (formerly NI 116 *proxy* measure) is defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits and covers children aged 0-15 years.

The following table shows snapshots at May 2009 and 2010.

Figure 5: Local child poverty proxy measure 2009 and 2010

	Children living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits as at May 2009		Children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits as at May 2010	
	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
ENGLAND	2,028,170	22.3%	2,025,360	22.1%
NORTH EAST	117,940	26.2%	117,050	26.2%
County Durham	22,360	25.3%	21,980	24.9%
Darlington	4,390	22.7%	4,320	22.3%
Gateshead	8,680	25.8%	8,500	25.3%
Hartlepool	5,530	30.6%	5,630	31.3%
Middlesbrough	9,440	34.3%	9,580	34.6%
Newcastle upon Tyne	13,630	29.9%	13,400	29.1%
North Tyneside	7,420	21.3%	7,320	20.9%
Northumberland	10,070	19.0%	9,960	18.9%
Redcar and Cleveland	6,820	27.2%	6,730	27.2%
South Tyneside	7,650	28.9%	7,600	28.8%
Stockton-on-Tees	8,350	22.4%	8,490	22.8%
Sunderland	13,600	27.5%	13,540	27.7%

Northumberland had the lowest proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits in the North East region in both snapshots – 2009 and 2010, however in numerical terms, Northumberland had the fourth largest number of children in this *proxy* measure. Note the fall in number and proportion throughout most of the North East between 2009 and 2010.

2. The revised **local child poverty measure** (formerly NI 116) is defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of median income. Data is published annually and the latest data is for 2009. The following table shows how Northumberland compares regionally and nationally:

Figure 6: Local child poverty measure

Proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of median income	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)
ENGLAND	21.6	20.9	21.3
NORTH EAST	24.3	24.0	24.5
County Durham	21.9	21.8	22.8
Darlington	21.7	21.2	21.2
Gateshead	24.8	24.3	24.6
Hartlepool	29.5	28.9	29.2
Middlesbrough	33.3	33.5	33.6
Newcastle upon Tyne	32.3	32.1	30.5
North Tyneside	19.9	19.8	20.4
Northumberland	17.1	17.0	17.8
Redcar and Cleveland	25.5	25.1	25.6
South Tyneside	27.9	27.6	27.7
Stockton-on-Tees	21.4	21.3	22.3
Sunderland	25.4	25.0	25.9

Taken in a regional context, Northumberland has consistently showed the lowest proportion of children living in poverty since 2007 (17.1% - equal to approximately 9,012 dependent children under 16, 17% - equal to approximately 8,959 dependent children under 16, 17.8% - equal to approximately 9,381 dependent children under 16, based on 2010 mid-year population estimates). This County-wide figure however, masks extreme variances at a more local level – ranging from 1% in the Ponteland South area to 57.6% in the Croft area of Blyth Valley. At the latest available mid-year population estimates, this equates to 237 children under 20 in the Croft area alone. The table below provides details of contrasting levels of child poverty in Northumberland.

Figure 7: Child poverty at Northumberland ward level

	Worst wards		Equivalent 0-19 population		Best wards		Equivalent 0-19 population
2008	Croft	61%	253		Hexham West	1%	5
	College/Seaton with Newbiggin West	49%	172		Ponteland South with Heddon	1%	3
	Newsham	47%	275		Stocksfield and Broomhaugh	1%	4
	Hirst	47%	240		Ponteland North	2%	5
	Ashington Central/College/Hirst	45%	219		Ponteland East	2%	6
2009	Croft	58%	237		Ponteland South with Heddon	1%	6
	College/Seaton with Newbiggin West	54%	190		Morpeth North	2%	4
	Newsham	51%	296		Lesbury	2%	4
	Cramlington West	50%	240		Stocksfield and Broomhaugh	2%	5
	Hirst	47%	227		Chevington with Longhorsley	2%	6

Across the North East there was a 0.5% increase in this child poverty measure between 2008 and 2009. In Northumberland the largest increase was in the Seghill area of Blyth Valley which increased from 21.7% to 29.7%. The largest decrease was in the Elizabeth area of Berwick upon Tweed which decreased by 5.6% to 12%.

5.0 Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families

The proportion of take up of formal childcare by lower income families is typically measured by looking at the proportion of families that actually take up the childcare element of the working tax credit, in comparison with those that could do so. Provision for childcare is a key contribution to successful entry into the labour market and sustained employment opportunities.

The following table shows the most recently available rates of take-up locally, regionally and nationally over the most recent two years and shows that Northumberland's take up was less than the regional and national average (16% as opposed to 17%) and has decreased.

Figure 8: Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families

	2008/09 (%)	2009/10 (%)
ENGLAND	18	17
NORTH EAST	17	17
County Durham	17	16
Darlington	20	20
Gateshead	16	15
Hartlepool	19	17
Middlesbrough	17	16
Newcastle upon Tyne	15	15
North Tyneside	19	19
Northumberland	17	16
Redcar and Cleveland	19	17
South Tyneside	16	16
Stockton-on-Tees	19	18
Sunderland	15	16

Below County level the proportion of take up in Northumberland ranges from less than 5% in parts of Tynedale, Castle Morpeth and Berwick-upon-Tweed to 40% in parts of Tynedale.

The following table shows these rates in more detail:

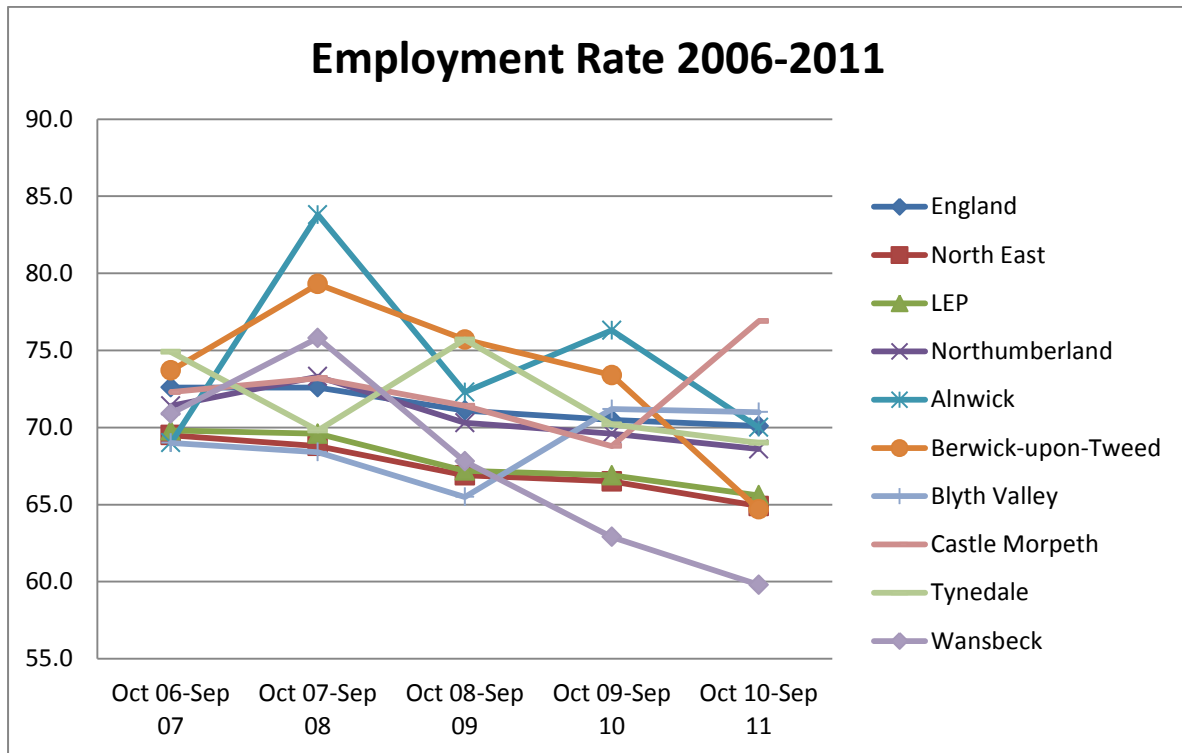
Figure 9: Northumberland take up of formal childcare by low-income working families

	Ward	Former District
2008/09		
Highest take-up (38%)	Stocksfield with Mickley	Tynedale
Lowest take-up (<5%)	Haltwhistle	Tynedale
	Ponteland West	Castle Morpeth
2009/10		
Highest take-up (40%)	Stocksfield with Mickley	Tynedale
Lowest take-up (<5%)	West Tynedale	Tynedale
	Ponteland West	Castle Morpeth
	Ponteland South	Castle Morpeth
	Morpeth North	Castle Morpeth
	Morpeth Kirkehill	Castle Morpeth
	Elizabeth	Berwick-upon-Tweed

6.0 Overall Employment Rate

This is the proportion of the working age population (16-59 for females and 16-64 for males) who are in employment according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition. The following chart shows the overall employment rate for Northumberland compared to that of the North East LEP, the region and England. Northumberland has a higher employment rate than the North Eastern LEP and the region, but lower, on average, than England. Most recently Northumberland had an employment rate of 68.6% the lowest it has been in over 5 years. The chart also displays data at former district level – it is here where substantial differences across the county are revealed. Back in 2008, Alnwick recorded the highest proportion in employment in the county at 83.8%, however this was exceptional. Most recently, Castle Morpeth has had the highest average employment rate of 76.9%. Blyth Valley was consistently the lowest rate until late 2009 - early 2010, when Wansbeck fell to record low rates of 62.9% followed by 59.8% in 2011.

Figure 10: Employment Rate 2006-2011



© Crown Copyright. Source: Nomis (APS).

Data on employment rate below former Northumberland district level is available for wards; however the most recent statistics published were for 2001.

6.1 Working age people and benefits

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) provide a quarterly snapshot of benefit claimants at particular points in time, broken down into small areas, the source of which is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). The percentage of the working age population who are claiming out of work benefits in combination with the aforementioned employment rate helps measure progress on reducing worklessness. Out of work benefits include the main out-of-work client group categories (unemployed people on Jobseekers Allowance, Lone Parents on Income Support, Incapacity Benefits customers, and others on income-related benefits). The carer, disabled and bereaved client groups who are not subject to activation policies in the same way as other groups are shown to provide a more comprehensive picture.

The following table shows a count of people in Northumberland, the North East LEP, the region and England who were claiming DWP working-age benefits in August 2011 and back in August 2006.

Figure 11: DWP Working-Age Benefit Claimants

August	England		North East		NELEP		Northumberland	
	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006
Total Claimants	4,860,180	4,419,040	319,100	305,560	231,190	223,190	29,070	28,840
Male	2,457,910	2,167,670	168,970	158,420	122,980	116,620	15,430	15,220
Female	2,402,280	2,251,340	150,130	147,150	108,200	106,580	13,640	13,630
Aged 16-24 ¹	812,300	616,530	55,990	43,370	39,330	30,350	4,970	3,930
Out of Work Benefits ²	4,051,980	3,741,500	269,480	263,390	195,030	192,600	23,690	24,320
Job Seekers	1,266,790	772,540	85,470	49,650	59,210	34,460	7,320	4,660
ESA and Incapacity	2,113,730	2,160,770	142,620	167,710	106,600	125,680	12,970	15,850
Lone Parents	516,590	677,080	30,470	37,990	21,220	26,540	2,370	3,000
Carers	394,590	309,850	26,760	21,530	19,270	15,310	2,720	2,140
Others on IR ³ Benefits	154,860	131,120	10,930	8,040	7,990	5,920	1,030	800
Disabled	347,530	267,850	19,260	14,880	14,250	11,050	2,190	1,610
Bereaved	66,090	99,830	3,610	5,760	2,630	4,230	480	780

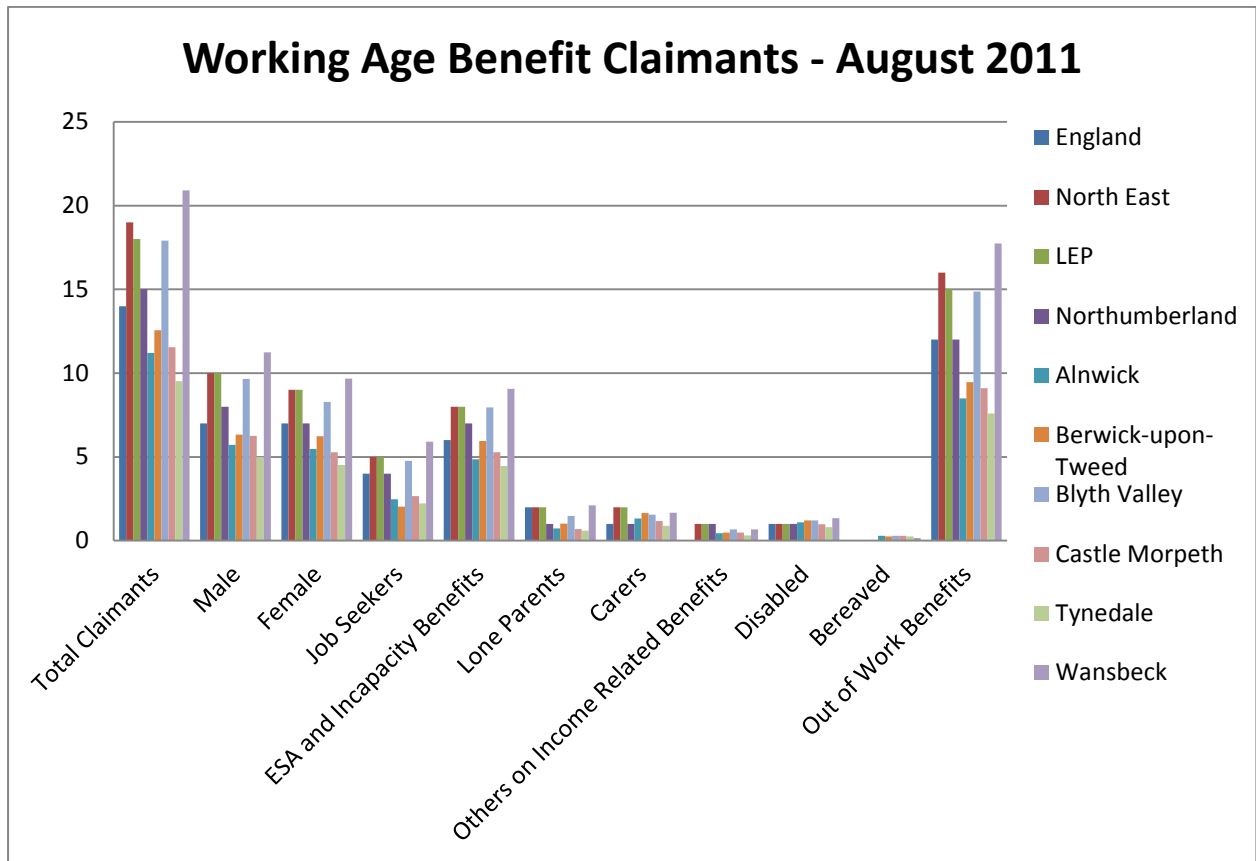
© Crown Copyright. Source: ONS via Nomis (WPLS).

¹Figures may not add up due to rounding. ²Main Out of Work Benefits client group categories are: Unemployed people on Job Seekers Allowance, Lone Parents on Income Support, Incapacity Benefit customers and Others on Income-related benefits. The Carer, Disabled and Bereaved client groups are excluded. ³Income Related

The dataset provides counts of benefit claimants categorised by their statistical group (their main reason for interacting with the benefit system), gender and age. ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) and Incapacity Benefits have the highest levels of claimants, and numbers were higher in 2006 than 2011. There tends to be more males claiming than females, although this was not the case nationally in 2006. Figures of particular note are the substantial increases in JSA claimants and young people (aged 16-24). Northumberland showed a 57% increase in JSA claimant numbers in August 2011, based on August 2006 figures (for England as a whole the increase was 64%, for the North East and the LEP this was 72%). The number of 16-24 year olds claiming DWP working age benefits in Northumberland was 26% higher in 2011 than 2006 (32% higher for England, 29% for the North East region and 30% for the LEP).

Claimants may be claiming more than one benefit and are therefore categorised according to a benefit hierarchy, further details of which can be found on the Nomis website (www.nomisweb.co.uk). The following chart shows the percentage of the working age population (based on 2010 mid year estimates) claiming benefits in the former districts, County, LEP, region and Country (England only) in August 2011.

Figure 12: Percentage of Working Age Population claiming benefits

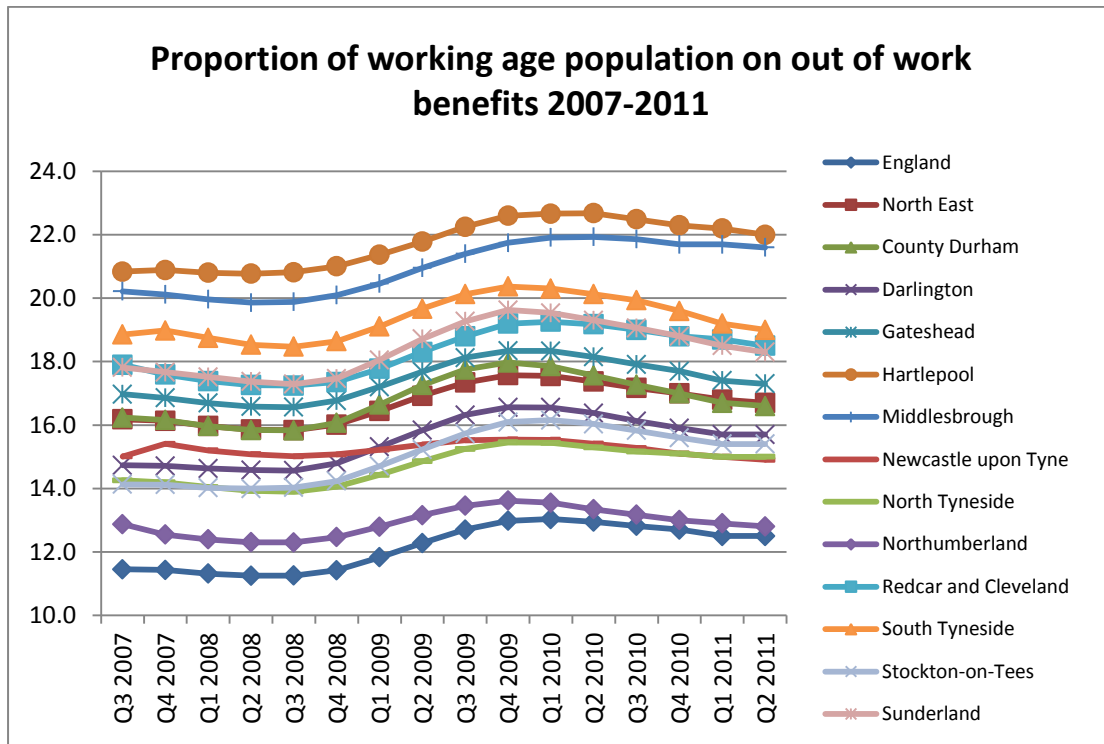


© Crown Copyright. Source: ONS via Nomis (WPLS).

Proportionately, the North East (16%) and LEP (15%) areas have higher out of work related benefit claimants than England as a whole, below County level the former district of Wansbeck (18%) displays the highest proportion of working age population claiming out of work benefits. In this context Northumberland tends to reflect the national trends rather than more local circumstances.

The following chart shows the proportion of working age population who were claiming out of work benefits in Northumberland compared to that of the North East region and England. The data was published by DWP as part of the Local Area Agreement cycle and was formerly known as National Indicator 152. Northumberland consistently displayed the lowest proportion of claimants in the region however this is slightly higher than the national average. Hartlepool has the highest proportion claiming out of work benefits. The most recent figures show Northumberland at 12.8%, Hartlepool at 22%, North East at 16.7% and England at 12.5%. All North East areas have fallen steadily throughout 2010/11.

Figure 13: Proportion of Working Age Population claiming out of work benefits 2007-2011



© Crown Copyright. Source: DWP, former NI 152.

Below Northumberland level there is a greater variation in claimants ranging from 43.5% (equating to 380 people) in the Croft area of Blyth to 3.2% (equating to 25 people) in the Stocksfield with Mickley area. These figures are based on a snapshot at November 2010 and are a reduction on previous years.

6.2 Earnings

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) takes place in April each year to obtain information on levels and distribution of earnings of employees. ASHE is based on a sample of employee jobs taken from HM Revenue & Customs PAYE records for employees who are living or working in an area, who are on adult rates and whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Figure 14 shows that resident's earnings in Northumberland and across all of the former districts are higher than local workplace earnings in the county. The former Tynedale District (£198) has the largest difference between residents and workplace pay, the other former districts with the largest difference between residents and local workplace earnings are Alnwick (£148) and Castle Morpeth (£86) suggesting people living in these areas are more likely to commute outside of the county. People living in Northumberland earn on average £49 per week more than those working in the county while there is only a very small

difference between the average earnings for residents and workplaces in the North East Region and England.

The average earnings figures provided in figures 14 to 16 are based on a sample of the population and are colour coded depending on their confidence level/accuracy:

Precise

Reasonably precise

Acceptable, but use with caution

Figure 14: Average (Median) Resident and Workplace Full-Time Gross Weekly Earnings (£ per week)

Area	2011		
	Resident	Workplace	Difference
Alnwick District	505	358	148
Berwick-upon-Tweed District	386	381	5
Blyth Valley District	446	432	14
Castle Morpeth District	557	471	86
Tynedale District	582	385	198
Wansbeck District	439	431	8
Northumberland	474	425	49
North East	451	452	-1
England	508	507	0

© Crown Copyright. Source: ONS via Nomis (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings).

When looking at residence based pay in Northumberland average earnings are higher in Northumberland (£474) than the North East (£451) but lower than England (£508). Resident earning levels in the former districts of Berwick-upon-Tweed (£386), Blyth Valley (£446) and Wansbeck (£439) are lower than the Northumberland average meaning there is an even greater disparity with earning levels across England. Figure 15 shows that since 2007 Northumberland earnings increased each year until 2011 when the earnings levels were lower than in 2010, while at a North East and England level earnings have increased every year between 2007 and 2011.

Figure 15: Average (Median) Resident Full-Time Gross Weekly Earnings (£ per week)

Area	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Alnwick District	429	452	519	471	505
Berwick-upon-Tweed District	350	334	381	411	386
Blyth Valley District	353	387	414	437	446
Castle Morpeth District	496	550	608	616	557
Tynedale District	500	576	602	626	582
Wansbeck District	424	415	424	441	439
Northumberland	417	433	468	481	474
North East	401	422	439	443	451
England	464	485	496	506	508

© Crown Copyright. Source: ONS via Nomis (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings).

Work place earnings in Northumberland (£425) are lower than in both the North East (£452) and England (£507). Work place earning levels in the former districts of Alnwick (£358), Berwick-upon-Tweed (£381), and Tynedale (£385) are lower than the Northumberland average meaning there is an even greater disparity with earning levels across the North East Region and England. Figure 16 shows that since 2007 work place earnings in the North East and England have increased each year until 2011 however the change for England was very small between 2010 and 2011. Workplace earnings at a Northumberland level have followed a similar pattern from 2007 although between 2010 and 2011 the average earnings decreased by a negligible amount.

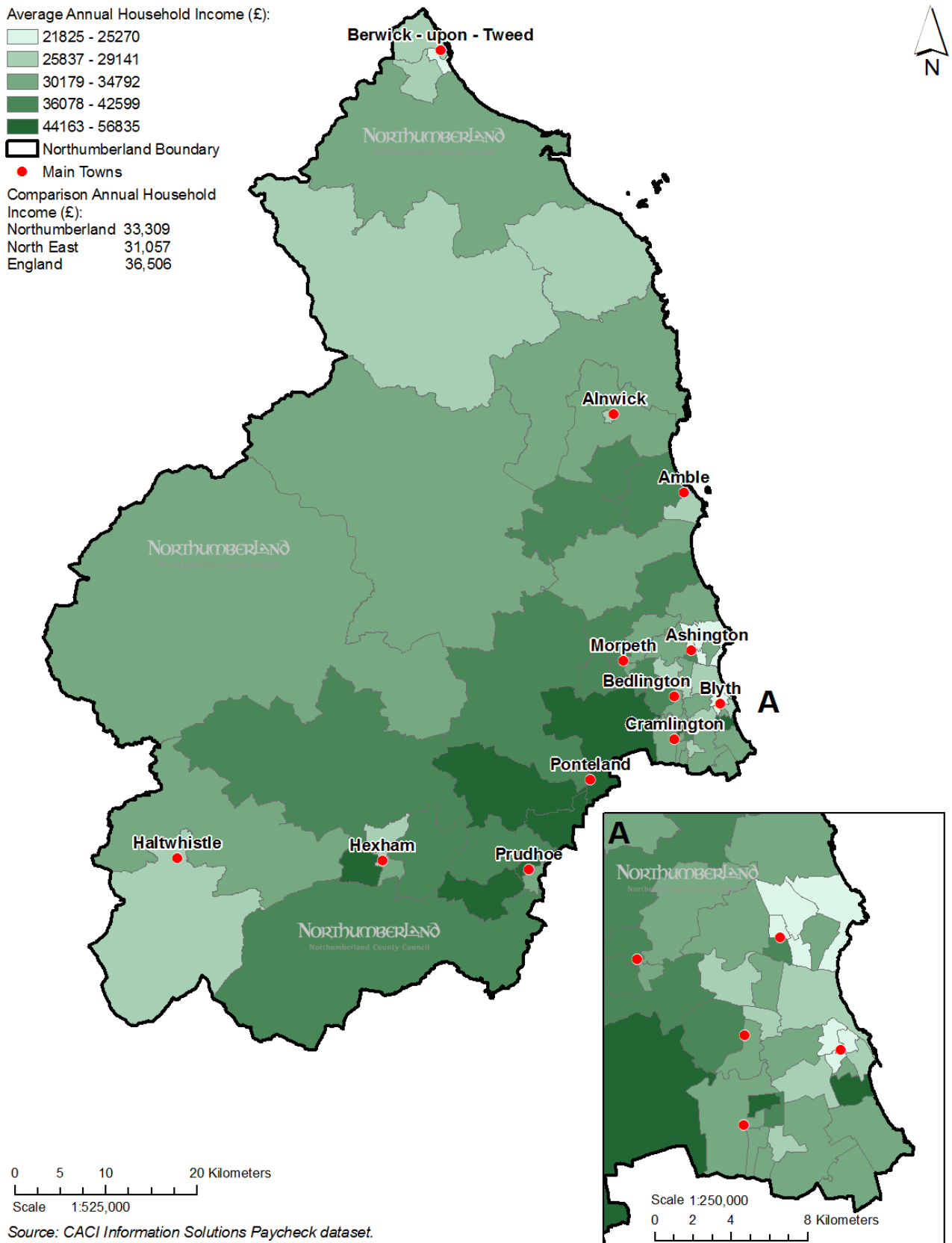
Figure 16: Average (Median) Workplace Full-Time Gross Weekly Earnings (£ per week)

Area	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Alnwick District	403	378	358	376	358
Berwick-upon-Tweed District	335	340	358	378	381
Blyth Valley District	357	377	399	406	432
Castle Morpeth District	438	485	466	473	471
Tynedale District	389	407	444	426	385
Wansbeck District	395	410	426	421	431
Northumberland	387	401	422	426	425
North East	404	421	436	443	452
England	464	484	495	505	507

© Crown Copyright. Source: ONS via Nomis (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings).

Earnings at a more local level in Northumberland are not available from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings but household income figures for the 67 County Wards in Northumberland are available from CACI Information Solutions Paycheck dataset shown in Figure 17. The household income figures are for all households based in the area and because of this are not comparable with the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings figures.

Figure 17: Average (Mean) Northumberland Household Income by



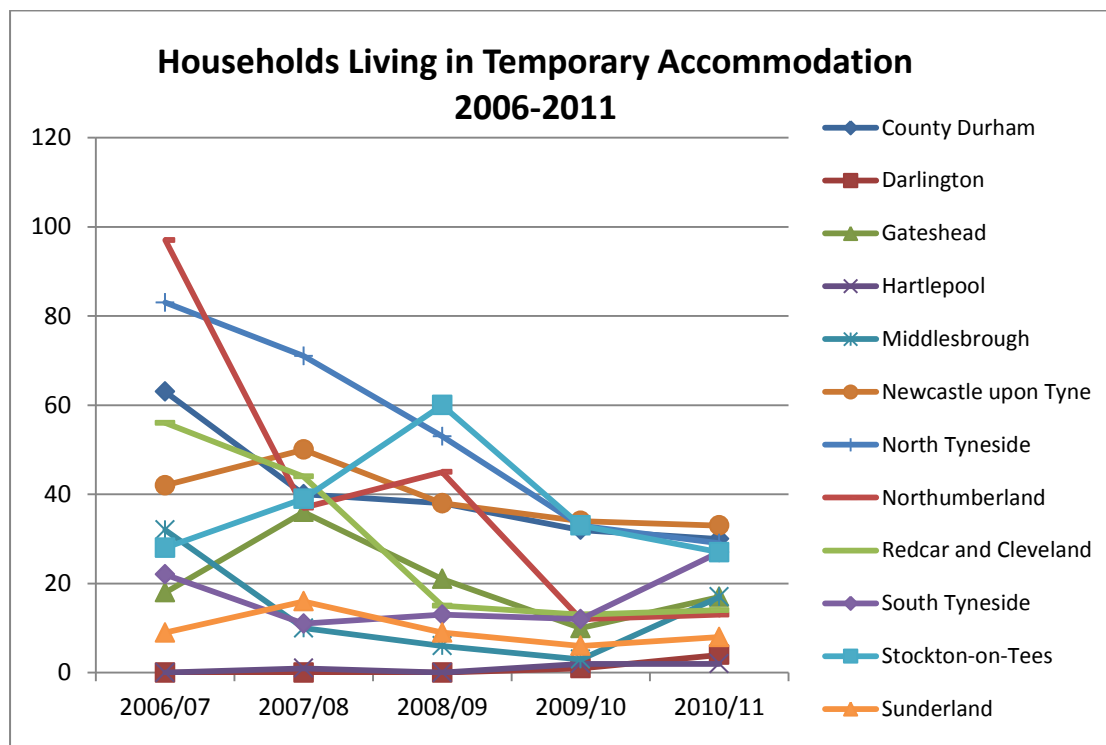
Source: CACI Information Solutions Paycheck dataset.

7.0 Homelessness and temporary accommodation

Homeless children living in temporary accommodation are some of the most deprived children in this country, missing out on schooling, on play, and opportunities to develop and grow in a healthy living environment (Shelter, June 2004). The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation can be seen as a measure of the capacity of local authorities to meet the needs of those homeless households whom they have a duty to accommodate. In the first quarter of 2011, there were around 60,000 homeless households in temporary accommodation in England. London has three-quarters of all households in temporary accommodation, recorded levels in Northumberland have fallen in the past 5 years which reflects the impact of a shift in legislation, local authority duty and large scale voluntary transfer (LSVT).

The chart below shows a snapshot of the levels for the North East region over the past 5 years.

Figure 18: Households in Temporary Accommodation 2004-2011



The people represented in DCLG’s statistics on temporary accommodation usage are either awaiting the outcome of a homeless application under section 188 of the 1996 Act, or are waiting for an offer of suitable permanent accommodation.

Northumberland’s Homelessness Strategy (2011-12) states that the total number of people making applications to the Northumberland Housing Options and Homelessness Service has

remained around 900 for the past two years. During this period there has been a 7% increase in the number of homeless acceptances and around a 10% decrease in successful homeless preventions. The number of rough sleepers and repeat homelessness continue to be recorded as zero.

The following table shows the main causes in Northumberland for those accepted as statutorily homeless. It shows that over a two year period relationship breakdown due to domestic violence remains the highest cause of homelessness followed by loss of private rented accommodation and parent eviction. Northumberland has also seen a significant rise in the number of households becoming homeless due to financial reasons.

Figure 19: Reasons for Homelessness in Northumberland 2009-11

Reason	2009/10	2010/11	% change
Violent relationship breakdown involving partner	32	48	+50%
Loss of rented or tied accommodation: termination of assured shorthold tenancy	14	27	+93%
Parents no longer willing to accommodate	21	23	+10%
Mortgage arrears (repossession or loss of home)	9	17	+89%

7.1 Proportion of non-decent Council Homes

Local authority stock conditions are good in Northumberland. Almost all properties now meet decent homes standard. At 1st April 2011 less than 1% of dwellings fell below the decent home standard (a fall from the 2008 figure of 4%) compared to a North East average of 17% and an England average of 13% (2011 BPSA).

The following table shows Northumberland in a regional and national context.

Northumberland's proportion of non-decent council homes is one of the lowest, regionally.

Figure 20: Non-decent Council Homes 2009-2011

	2009	2010			2011		
	Non-decent 1/04/09	Total dwellings owned 01/04/2010	Non-decent 01/04/10	2010 Proportion (%)	Total dwellings owned 01/04/2011	Non-decent 01/04/11	2011 Proportion (%)
ENGLAND	396,898	1,780,297	291,637	16%	1,720,699	217,078	13%
NORTH EAST	42,135	127,869	27,514	22%	116,193	20,296	17%
County Durham	10,090	18,910	8,224	43%	18,782	7,418	39%
Darlington	69	5,459	9	0%	5,476	17	0%
Gateshead	2,918	21,353	1,502	7%	20,984	256	1%
Hartlepool	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
Middlesbrough	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
Newcastle upon Tyne	15,095	29,393	8,965	31%	28,764	5,802	20%
North Tyneside	3,787	15,619	2,418	15%	15,522	961	6%
Northumberland	78	8,510	80	1%	8,502	83	1%
Redcar and Cleveland	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
South Tyneside	9,147	18,202	5,597	31%	18,163	5,759	32%
Stockton-on-Tees	951	10,423	719	7%	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
Sunderland	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT

LSVT – Large Scale Voluntary Transfer

Source: BPSA, CLG 2011

Figures below Northumberland level are unavailable.

7.2 Fuel Poverty

The North East as a region has specific significant challenges which increase the impact of fuel poverty:

- It is the coldest region in England
- It is the most economically deprived
- Much of its housing stock is poor in terms of thermal efficiency

(NEA October 2009)

BRE's latest fuel poverty estimates place Northumberland highest in the region for proportion of households in fuel poverty (2009 Sub-regional fuel poverty levels, BRE, DECC), substantially higher than the regional and national average and a marked increase on the previous years figures. The table below provides the latest local regional and national figures:

Figure 21: Fuel poverty 2008-2009

	2008			2009		
	Estimated number of households	Estimated number of households in fuel poverty	% of households fuel poor	Number of households	Number of households in fuel poverty	% of households fuel poor
ENGLAND	21,407,233	3,334,615	15.6%	21,535,414	3,963,923	18.4%
NORTH EAST	1,115,195	236,239	21.2%	1,127,904	271,519	24.1%
County Durham	220,608	49,101	22.3%	223,603	55,827	25.0%
Darlington	45,994	9,038	19.7%	46,552	10,844	23.3%
Gateshead	88,405	18,588	21.0%	89,074	22,018	24.7%
Hartlepool	39,377	8,286	21.0%	39,999	9,443	23.6%
Middlesbrough	56,290	12,402	22.0%	56,978	14,199	24.9%
Newcastle upon Tyne	113,382	23,933	21.1%	114,918	26,930	23.4%
North Tyneside	89,290	16,412	18.4%	90,098	19,972	22.2%
Northumberland	137,793	32,934	23.9%	139,363	37,240	26.7%
Redcar and Cleveland	59,239	12,416	21.0%	59,989	14,767	24.6%
South Tyneside	68,002	14,366	21.1%	68,585	16,332	23.8%
Stockton-on-Tees	77,977	14,325	18.4%	79,138	16,463	20.8%
Sunderland	118,838	24,438	20.6%	119,607	27,484	23.0%

Below Northumberland level, the proportion of households estimated to be fuel poor using the latest available BRE data range from 55% in the Bamburgh area (equivalent to 394 households) to 8% in Cramlington North (equivalent to 164 households). The following table shows the areas with the highest and lowest proportion of fuel poor households together with the estimated number of 0-19 year olds.

Figure 22: Fuel poverty at Northumberland ward level

	Worst wards	% of households fuel poor	0-19 population	Total number of households in area	Best wards	% of households fuel poor	0-19 population	Total number of households in area
2008	Haltwhistle	50.7%	200	502	Cramlington North	6.0%	1,540	2,055
	Wooler	47.1%	263	825	South Blyth	7.2%	512	787
	South Tynedale	45.6%	249	556	Bothal	7.5%	239	512
	Bamburgh	45.3%	182	717	Cramlington Eastfield	7.8%	373	590
	Norham & Islandshires/Wooler	45.2%	312	902	Plessey/South Blyth	9.3%	345	775
2009	Bamburgh	55.0%	182	717	Cramlington North	8.0%	1,540	2,055
	Haltwhistle	54.2%	200	502	Bothal	9.0%	239	512
	Wooler	53.0%	263	825	Cramlington Eastfield	10.5%	373	590
	Norham & Islandshires	50.7%	227	629	South Blyth	10.5%	512	787
	Norham & Islandshires/Wooler	49.4%	312	902	Bedlington West	10.7%	569	647

8.0 Accessibility

Department for Transport accessibility statistics provide a local-level measure of the availability of transport to key services (covering food stores, education, health care, town centres and employment centres) for the populations who use them. (NIs 175 and 176 are no longer reported on and data has been revised between 2007 to 2009 to ensure consistency with 2010 data).

Nationally, the latest statistics for 2010, published in June 2011 show the average minimum travel time to key services (excluding town centres) was 14 minutes by public transport/walking, nine minutes by cycling and six minutes by car. Service users in urban areas could access key services by public transport/walking, on average, in 12 minutes compared with 21 minutes in rural areas. The proportion of users able to access given key services by public transport/walking in a 'reasonable' time was highest for employment centres (82%), and lowest for hospitals (31%). Overall levels of access to key services by public transport / walking within a 'reasonable' time was highest in London and lowest in the East of England.

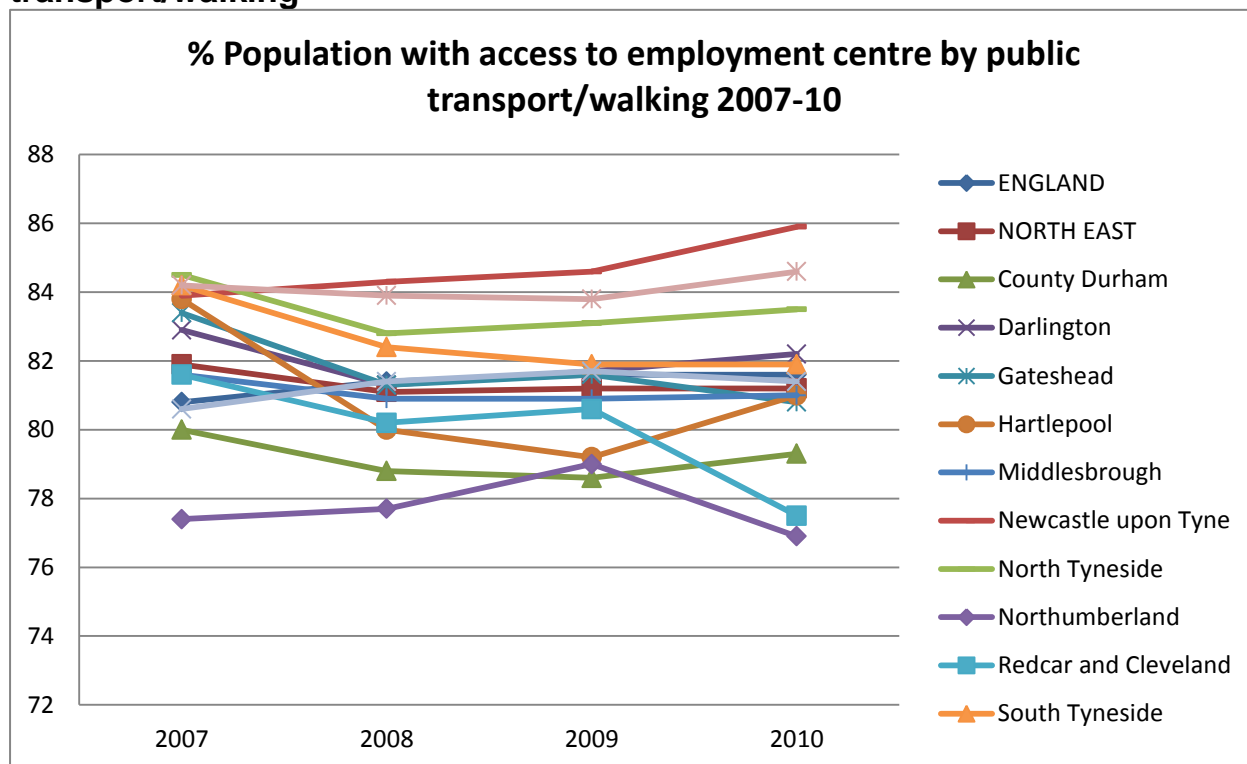
The following table displays the average minimum travel time in minutes to reach the nearest key services by public transport/walking at sub-regional, regional and national levels. Northumberland consistently has the longest travel times over the four year period, 2007-2010.

Figure 23: Average minimum travel time to reach key services by public transport/walking

Minutes	2007	2008	2009	2010
ENGLAND	13	13	13	14
NORTH EAST	12	12	12	12
County Durham	15	15	13	13
Darlington	13	12	11	12
Gateshead	12	12	10	10
Hartlepool	13	12	11	11
Middlesbrough	12	12	11	11
Newcastle upon Tyne	11	11	10	10
North Tyneside	12	12	11	11
Northumberland	16	16	14	15
Redcar and Cleveland	13	14	12	12
South Tyneside	12	12	11	11
Stockton-on-Tees	16	16	13	14
Sunderland	13	13	11	12

Northumberland also has the lowest overall proportion of users able to access employment centres by public transport/walking compared with the rest of the North East and England as a whole. In 2010, 76.9% of Northumberland's working age population had access compared with 81.2% for the North East and 81.6% for England. The following chart displays this in more detail over time.

Figure 24: Accessibility to employment centres by public transport/walking



Large disparities exist in access when Northumberland is considered at a more local level, from 28% in an area of Wooler to 90% in Seaton Valley (2010 figures). Of the three service areas, the North has the lowest levels of accessibility:

Figure 25: % of working age population in Northumberland with access to employment centres by public transport/walking 2007-10

%	2007	2008	2009	2010
North	74	74	75	70
South East	81	81	82	82
West	75	74	77	74

9.0 Attainment

In Northumberland 70.2% of people aged 16 to 64 are qualified to NVQ level 2 and above (e.g. equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grades A-C or above), this is a higher proportion of people than in the North Eastern LEP area (66.1%), the North East Region (66.1%) and England (67.0%). In Northumberland 29.0% of the population aged 16 to 64 are qualified to NVQ level 4 or above (e.g. equivalent to HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications) which is higher than the North Eastern LEP area (25.7%) and the North East region (25.5%) but lower than England 31.1%. Northumberland has a higher proportion of people aged 16 to 64 with no qualifications (11.5%) than England (11.1%) but lower than the North Eastern LEP area (12.7%) and the North East region (13.0%).

Figure 26: Qualifications (Jan-Dec 2010)

	Northumberland		North Eastern LEP		North East Region		England	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
NVQ4 and above	55,900	29.0	322,400	25.7	427,600	25.5	10,440,600	31.1
NVQ3 and above	96,500	50.0	602,700	48.0	802,500	47.9	16,997,700	50.7
NVQ2 and above	135,400	70.2	829,200	66.1	1,107,800	66.1	22,475,900	67.0
NVQ1 and above	162,000	84.0	1,009,300	80.5	1,344,500	80.3	26,924,800	80.3
Other Qualifications	8,700	4.5	85,300	6.8	112,200	6.7	2,897,400	8.6
No Qualifications	22,200	11.5	159,900	12.7	218,500	13.0	3,722,800	11.1

© Crown copyright. Source: ONS via Nomis Annual Population Survey. Numbers and rates are for resident population aged 16 to 64.

Figure 27 shows that Northumberland has a lower proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4) gaining five or more GCSEs which include English and Maths (2009/10) than England but a slightly higher proportion than the North East Region.

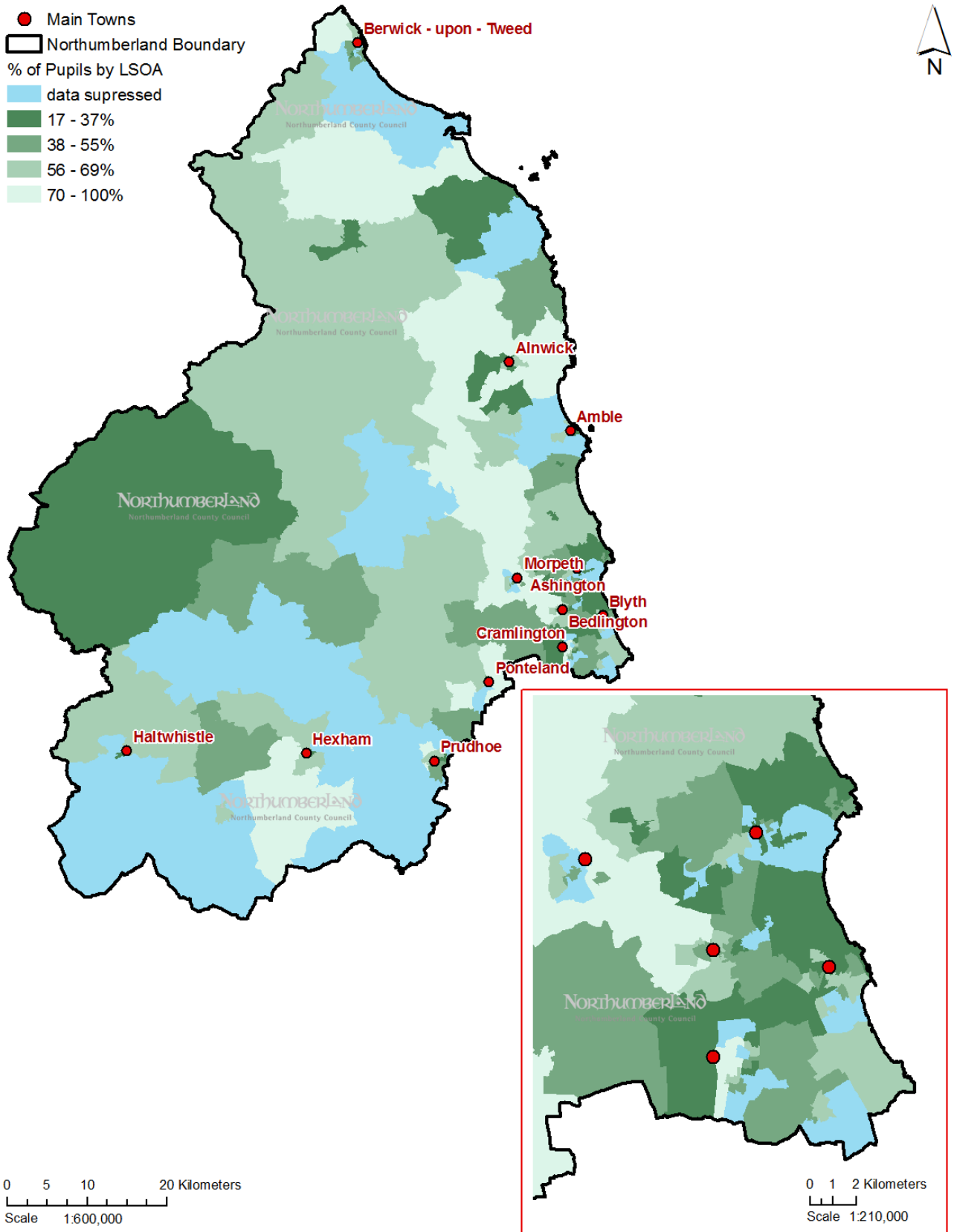
Figure 27: Pupils Gaining Five or more A* to C GCSE Grades including English and Maths 2009/10

	All Pupils at the End of KS4	% of All Pupils at the End of KS4 Achieving 5+ A* to C Including English and Maths
Northumberland	3,460	53.5
North East	29,487	52.9
England	577,810	55.1

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Figure 28 maps the location of the same statistics at LSOA level. The light blue areas on the map show areas where rates could not be calculated because figures were not published in order to protect the identity of pupils. The darker green colours show areas where a lower proportion of pupils gained five or more GCSEs including English and Maths and the lighter green areas show areas where a higher proportion of students gained five or more GCSEs including English and Maths. 57 out of the 199 LSOAs in Northumberland do not have a rate because the data has been suppressed. Of the 142 LSOAs that data is available for almost half (70 or 49.3%) are below the Northumberland average, a slightly smaller number (67 or 47.2%) are below the North East average.

Figure 28: % pupils gaining five or more GCSEs incl. English & Maths (2009/10)



Source: DfE Research and Statistics Gateway. Data referenced by location of pupil residence.

9.1 Young People aged 16-18 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

For most young people, being NEET is a temporary outcome as they move between different education and training options – surveys estimate that only one per cent of young people are NEET at ages 16, 17 and 18. The characteristics of young people who are not participating are diverse, although there are some groups that are at greater risk of becoming NEET. This includes, for example, those with few or no qualifications and those with a health problem, disability or low aspirations (source:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a0064101/16-to-18-year-olds-not-in-education-employment-or-training-neet>).

The following table displays the latest available Department for Education adjusted NEET figures for England, the region and the North East local authorities.

Figure 29: 2011 NEET Figures by Local Authority Area

2011 data (average at end of Nov 11, Dec 11 and Jan 12)	16-18 year olds known to the local authority	16-18 year olds NEET		% whose activity is not known
		Estimated number	%	
ENGLAND	1,772,857	108,490	6.1%	9.3%
NORTH EAST	94,850	8,350	8.8%	9.5%
County Durham	18,382	1,380	7.5%	20.6%
Darlington	3,784	420	11.2%	3.9%
Gateshead	6,625	600	9.0%	10.0%
Hartlepool	3,841	280	7.4%	3.6%
Middlesbrough	5,640	670	11.8%	8.3%
Newcastle	9,226	1,090	11.8%	10.6%
North Tyneside	7,004	430	6.2%	4.8%
Northumberland	11,343	760	6.7%	3.1%
Redcar & Cleveland	5,396	560	10.4%	13.0%
South Tyneside	5,678	430	7.5%	10.1%
Stockton on Tees	7,325	750	10.3%	4.7%
Sunderland	10,603	960	9.1%	5.3%

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The number and proportion of young people NEET in each area has been adjusted using an established formula which assumes that a significant proportion of those who are 'not known' will be found to have been NEET when contact is re-established. The adjustment is intended to give a more robust reflection of the NEET situation in each local area, although may be less accurate in areas where 'not knowns' are particularly high. If the proportion of

16-18 year olds whose current activity is not known is more than 50% above the England average it is possible that the number and proportion NEET will be inaccurate.

2011 data cannot be compared with that published in previous years because significant changes have been made to the information collected in preparation for the Government's commitment to raise the participation age. 2011 figures:

i) relate to young people resident in the local area. Data for previous years related to the area in which the young person was attending school or college.

ii) relate to the young person's academic age; i.e. their age on 1 September 2011. Data for previous years was based on calendar age. This is in line with other statistical collections and has the effect of increasing the number and percentage NEET.

Northumberland's NEET of 6.7% ranks in second place in the North East area and has been classed as "the best comparative position for our young people yet achieved" (Connexions Northumberland Adapted Quarterly Report Period November 2011-January 2012).

Northumberland has also achieved the lowest "unknown" status of 3.1% demonstrating a good level of information about the status of engagement of all young people.

Below Northumberland level, hotspot areas exist where NEET status has increased, these are concentrated in Ashington and Bedlington.

10.0 Under 18 Conception Rate

Ministerial message from Sarah Teather, Minister of State for Children and Families and Paul Burstow, Minister of State for Care Services (DfE 12th March 2012):

"This Government remains committed to reducing rates of teenage pregnancy still further and improving outcomes for young parents and their children. This is central to our aim to reduce inter-generational poverty and inequalities. That's why the under-18 conception rate is a national measure of child poverty and one of the three sexual health indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework."

(Source:<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/healthandwellbeing/teenagepregnancy/a00205017/teenage-pregnancy-ministerial-message>)

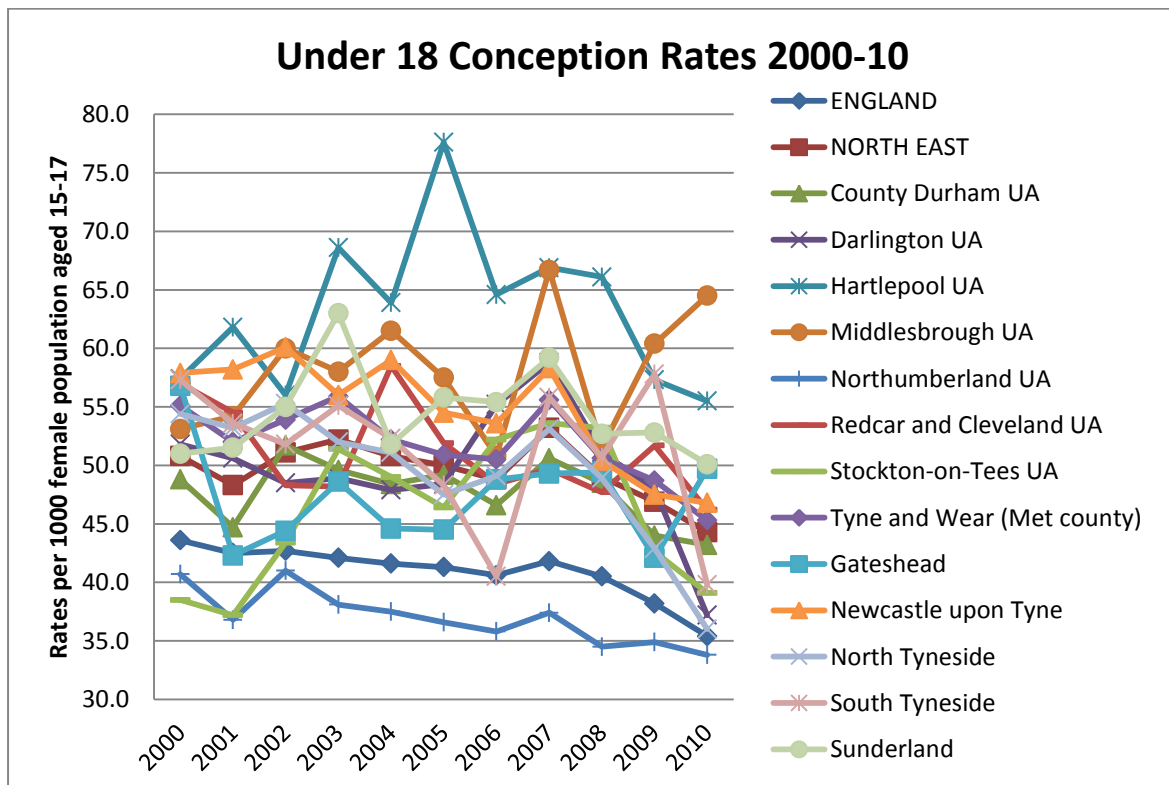
In 2010, the under-18 conception rate for England was 35.4 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17. This represents a decline of 7.3% since 2009 (38.2 conceptions per 1,000) and continues the overall downward trend since 1998. The under-18 conception rate has fallen by 24% since 1998, down from 46.6 conceptions per 1,000.

The proportion of conceptions leading to abortions for under-18s was 50.3%, up slightly from 2009 (49.1%). Both maternity and abortion rates for under-18s are declining. However, the rate of under-18 conceptions leading to births continues to fall at a faster rate than overall conceptions. In 2010, the rate of under-18 conceptions leading to births was 17.6 per 1,000. This is 10% lower than in 2009 (19.5 per 1,000) and 35% lower than in 1998 (26.9 per 1,000).

The under-18 conception rate decreased in all regions 2009-10. The North East continues to have the highest under-18 conception rate at 44.3 per 1,000 in 2010 whilst the South East has the lowest rate at 28.3 conceptions per 1,000. (Source ONS and DfE 2012)

The following chart displays conception rates per 1,000 women aged 15-17 across the North East region and for England as a whole. Northumberland is consistently the lowest, with the latest rate at 33.8. Middlesbrough has the highest rate most recently of 64.5, however Hartlepool, on average has the highest rates over the ten year period, with an average rate of 63.2.

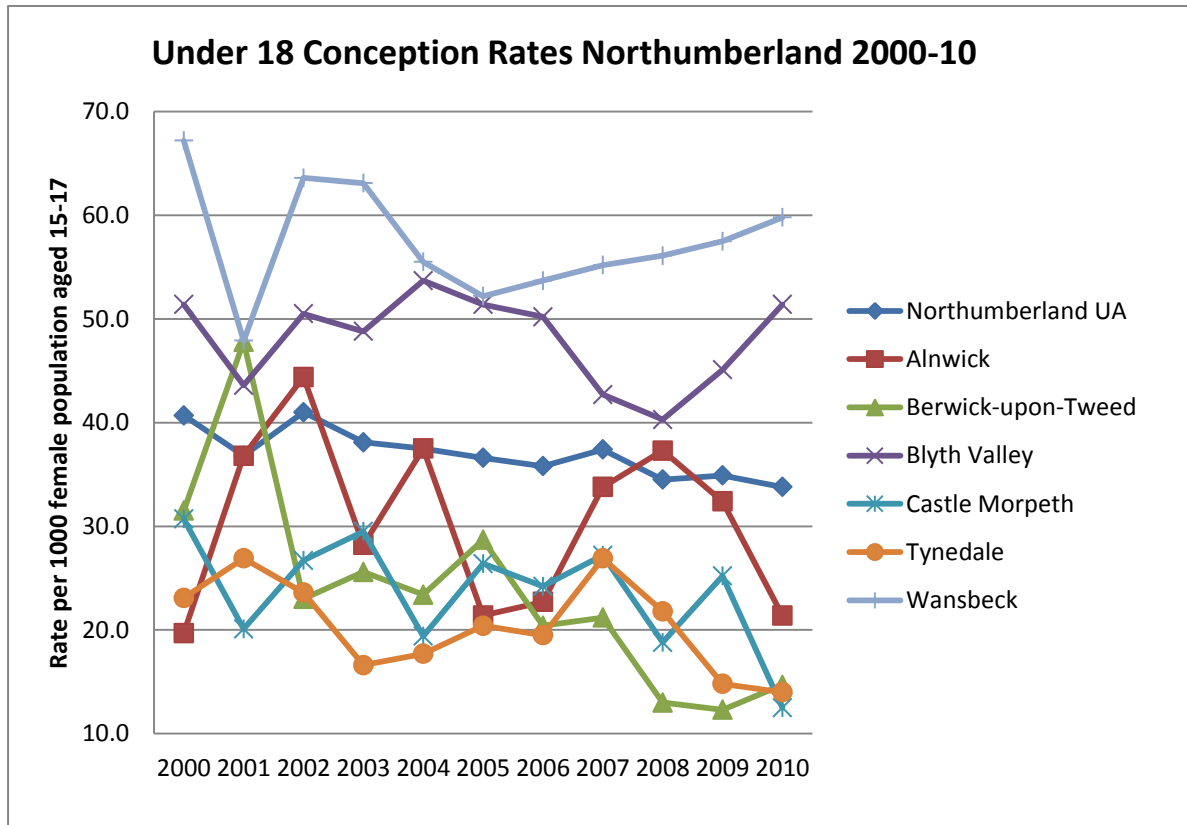
Figure 30: Under 18 Conception Rates 2000-10



Source: ONS 2012

If rates are considered below County level, large discrepancies exist across Northumberland. The chart below displays the trends over the last ten years within the County.

Figure 31: Under 18 Conception Rates in Northumberland 2000-10



Source: ONS 2012

The former district of Wansbeck has consistently shown the highest under 18 conception rates, most recently at 59.8 with an average over the last ten years of 57.4. In 2010, Castle Morpeth had the lowest rate of 12.5, however the former district of Tynedale has displayed the lowest rates, on average over the last ten years (20.5).

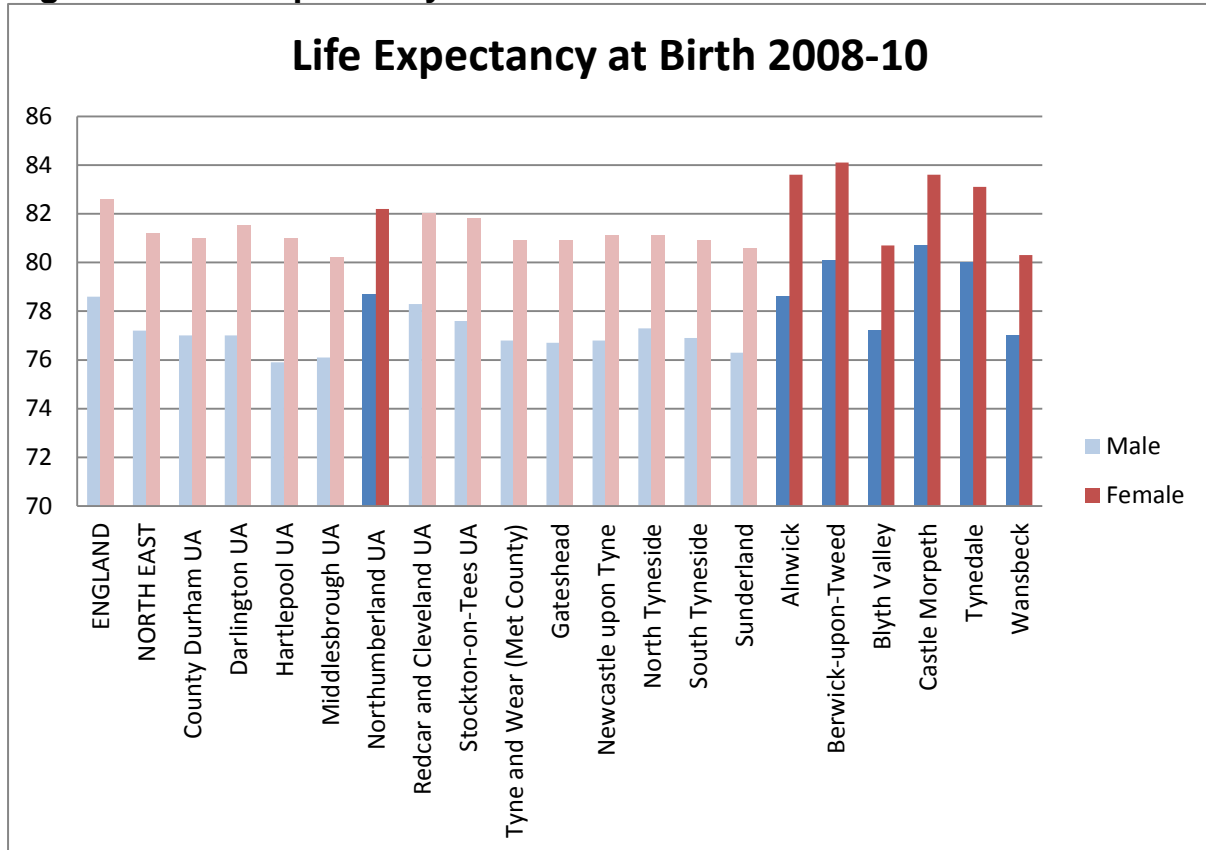
10.1 Life Expectancy at Birth

Children born into low-income households are more likely to experience health problems from birth and accumulate health risks as they grow older. People in lower socioeconomic groups are also less likely to access healthcare. The relationship between poverty and ill-health is bidirectional: poverty contributes to ill-health and ill-health contributes to poverty. (Griggs and Walker, JRF 2008)

Geographic analysis of life expectancy illustrates differences in health and mortality experienced by populations in different parts of the country. Although life expectancy in most areas continues to improve, there is a widening gap between the areas with the highest and lowest life expectancies. Over the 2004–06 to 2008–10 period the gaps increased from 12.5 to 13.5 years for males and from 10.1 to 11.8 years for females, showing that inequalities persist. Individual circumstances such as socio-economic status, genetic and biological factors, and health behaviour (for example, alcohol consumption and smoking) all have an impact on health and subsequent mortality. Area characteristics such as environmental conditions, the proportion of people living with deprivation, and the availability of local services and resources can also affect health outcomes. (Source: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2004–06 to 2008–10, ONS Statistical Bulletin, 19 October 2011)

More recently, life expectancy for males in Northumberland (2008-10 average 78.7), has been close to the England average (78.6), but life expectancy at birth for females is less than the England average (Northumberland 82.2, England 82.6). Life expectancy is 9.7 years lower for men and 6.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Northumberland than in the least deprived areas (based on the Slope Index of Inequality published on 5th January 2011 – APHO 2011). The chart below illustrates average regional and local variations (figures are not available below former district level).

Figure 32: Life expectancy at birth 2008-10



Source: ONS 2012

Northumberland has the longest life expectancy at birth in the North East, at 78.7 for males and 82.2 for females. Hartlepool has the shortest life expectancy for males at 75.9 and Middlesbrough has the shortest for females at 80.2. More locally the former districts display greater variances which tend to reflect the levels of deprivation already referred to. Castle Morpeth has the longest male life expectancy (80.7) and Berwick upon Tweed has the longest female life expectancy (84.1) from birth. The former district of Wansbeck has the shortest male (77.0) and female (80.3) averages.

10.2 Low Birth Weight

The rates of death and illness associated with low birth weight reflect both its immediate and its long-term health risks to the infant. It is closely correlated with poor health in the first four weeks of life, and with death before the age of two years; there are also associations with premature death from coronary artery disease. Low birth weight is also associated with delayed physical and intellectual development in early childhood, and in adolescence. Managing on a low income has a negative impact on maternal health and health-related behaviours. Infant mortality is higher amongst children born into poverty, who are more likely to be born early and have low birth weight. (Griggs and Walker, JRF 2008)

The following table provides the latest data available at Local Authority level, compared with the region and England as a whole.

Figure 33: Low birthweight births 2010

2010	Denominator: number of all stated live and still births	Number of low birthweight live and still births (<2,500 grams)	Percentage (<2,500 grams)
England	683,735	50,035	7.3
North East	30,780	2,345	7.6
Gateshead	2,411	188	7.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,577	303	8.5
North Tyneside	2,404	182	7.6
South Tyneside	1,745	113	6.5
Sunderland	3,211	258	8.0
Hartlepool	1,113	94	8.4
Middlesbrough	2,142	217	10.1
Redcar and Cleveland	1,587	114	7.2
Stockton-on-Tees	2,471	174	7.0
Darlington	1,343	86	6.4
County Durham	5,792	422	7.3
Northumberland	2,984	194	6.5

Source: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care, January 2012

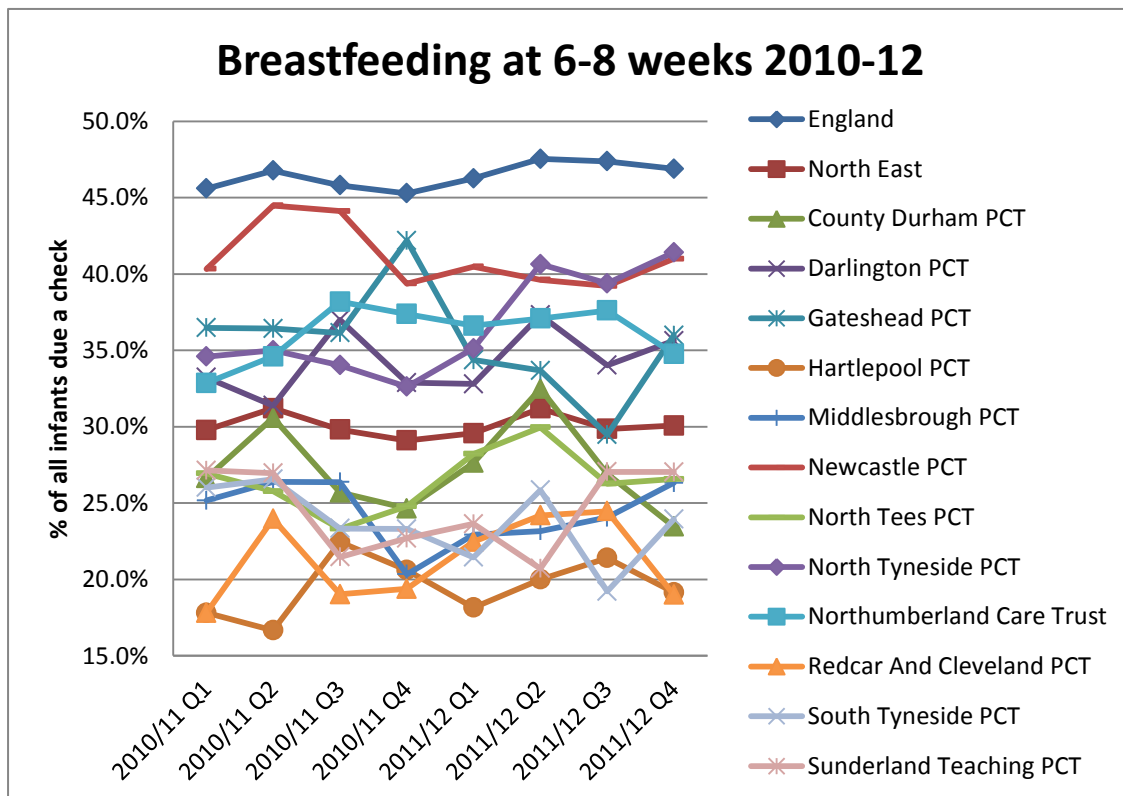
The rate for Northumberland (6.5) is much lower than both the regional (7.6) and national average (7.3), however, Darlington has the lowest proportion regionally (6.4).

10.3 Prevalence of Breastfeeding

The Department of Health’s Public Health Outcomes Framework published in January 2012 includes the breastfeeding indicator ‘Breastfeeding initiation and prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth’ as one of the indicators for health improvement. The objective of this is to help people to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities. In 2008 Joseph Rowntree Foundation published a literature review (Griggs and Walker 2008) which highlighted that “Breastfeeding has long been linked to improved immunity, digestive health and (more recently) better neurological development. However, a number of studies demonstrate that infants born into low-income households are less likely to be breastfed (Mayhew and Bradshaw, 2005; Nelson, 2000; Prince *et al.*, 2006)”.

The chart below shows trends in prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 to 8 weeks as a proportion of all infants due a check at this time.

Figure 34: Trends in prevalence of breastfeeding 2010-12



Source: Department of Health Statistical Release, 24/05/12

Northumberland PCT remains above the North East average. Most recently the North East rate was 30.1% compared to a Northumberland rate of 34.8%, however Northumberland's levels have fallen over recent months. North Tyneside (41.4%) is the closest to the English average of 46.9% in quarter four of 2011/12, followed by Newcastle at 41%. Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool have mostly shared the lowest rates over the two year period, most recently around 19%.

10.4 Obesity amongst primary school age children

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is an annual programme to measure the height and weight of all children in Reception and Year 6. The information is used to help the NHS and local authorities plan and provide better health services for children. 'Obesity' is a clinical term used to describe excess body fat associated with increased risks to health. Being obese can increase the risk of diseases such as type 2 diabetes, cancer and heart disease. Not only does obesity affect people's health, their lives and the lives of their families, but it places a large financial burden on the NHS and the wider economy (source: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/04/obesityfacts/>). The latest NCMP report for the school year 2010/11, published in December 2011 highlighted that for England as a whole, "a strong positive relationship existed between deprivation and obesity prevalence for children in each age group. The obesity prevalence among Reception year children attending schools in areas in the least deprived decile was 6.9% compared with 12.1% among those living in areas in the most deprived decile. Similarly, obesity prevalence among Year 6 children living in areas in the least deprived decile was 13.8% compared with 23.7% among those living in areas in the most deprived decile." (The Health and Social Care Information Centre). The following table displays the latest statistics available for England, the North East and more locally, derived from the postcode of the child's residence.

Figure 35: National Child Measurement Programme, prevalence estimates for 2010/11 school year based on child's place of residence

	Underweight		Overweight		Obese		Number of children measured		Participation rate	
	Reception	Yr 6	Recep.	Yr 6	Recep.	Yr 6				
Area	Prevalence (%)						Recep.	Yr 6	Rec ep.	Yr 6
ENGLAND	1.0	1.3	13.2	14.4	9.4	19.0	540,228	494,334	93.4	91.8
NORTH EAST	0.6	1.0	13.7	14.2	9.9	21.4	27,510	25,185	97.9	96.7
County Durham UA	0.5	1.1	13.5	14.3	9.5	21.6	5,245	4,971	99.2	99.1
Darlington UA	x	1.4	12.8	13.7	9.8	16.8	1,194	1,034	98.8	96.2
Hartlepool UA	0.6	0.9	13.5	12.6	10.0	25.9	1,085	1,039	97.8	99.0
Middlesbrough UA	0.8	1.3	13.0	16.5	9.2	21.4	1,773	1,570	98.1	95.5
Northumberland UA	0.5	1.0	13.8	14.7	10.0	18.6	3,094	2,957	96.7	94.0
<i>Former districts of:</i>										
Alnwick	2.0	2.2	9.9	12.2	5.3	16.7	303	270	92.3	95.4
Berwick-upon-Tweed	x	x	14.9	16.5	14.0	19.0	215	231	94.8	99.2
Blyth Valley	x	1.2	17.1	16.5	10.9	20.5	918	838	96.4	94.8
Castle Morpeth	1.3	x	11.8	15.7	9.8	14.0	451	465	98.0	86.7
Tynedale	x	1.1	15.1	13.3	9.3	15.3	548	535	97.2	94.5
Wansbeck	x	x	11.1	13.4	10.3	22.8	659	618	98.5	96.2
Redcar and Cleveland UA	0.9	1.4	14.3	12.7	9.6	19.2	1,466	1,369	96.0	93.6
Stockton-on-Tees UA	0.8	0.7	13.2	13.7	9.8	20.4	2,295	1,957	99.0	98.8
Tyne and Wear (Met)	0.6	1.0	14.1	14.1	10.2	22.6	11,358	10,288	97.7	96.5
Gateshead	0.5	0.9	14.5	14.4	9.2	23.1	1,899	1,781	97.5	97.7
Newcastle upon Tyne	0.8	1.0	15.3	13.5	10.6	24.5	2,770	2,504	97.5	95.0
North Tyneside	0.4	0.6	14.6	14.3	10.5	20.3	2,267	1,871	98.0	96.6
South Tyneside	0.9	1.5	11.3	13.5	10.3	22.3	1,473	1,434	97.3	98.0
Sunderland	0.4	1.0	13.7	14.5	10.1	22.1	2,949	2,698	97.9	96.1

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Source: The Health and Social Care Information Centre, Lifestyle Statistics/Department of Health Obesity Team NCMP Dataset.

x – Underweight prevalence estimates based on small numbers (1-5 individuals) have been suppressed.

In Reception year, Newcastle has the largest proportion of obese children at a rate of 10.6%, Gateshead and Middlesbrough have the smallest at 9.2%. Northumberland has an overall prevalence of 10% which is higher than the North East (9.9%) and England average (9.4%). Year 6 children display rather different figures. Hartlepool has the highest proportion of obese children at 25.9%, Darlington (16.8%) and Northumberland (18.6%) have the lowest. The North East average for Year 6 children is 21.4% and the England average is 19%. Below County level, the latest data shows the former district of Berwick-upon-Tweed has the highest proportion of obese children at Reception age (14%) and Wansbeck has the highest proportion of obese children at year 6 (22.8%).

11.0 Crime

There remains disagreement over whether crime can be considered a product of childhood poverty. The social impacts of crime are substantial and far-reaching. They include considerable financial, emotional and time costs to victims. (Griggs and Walker, JRF 2008)

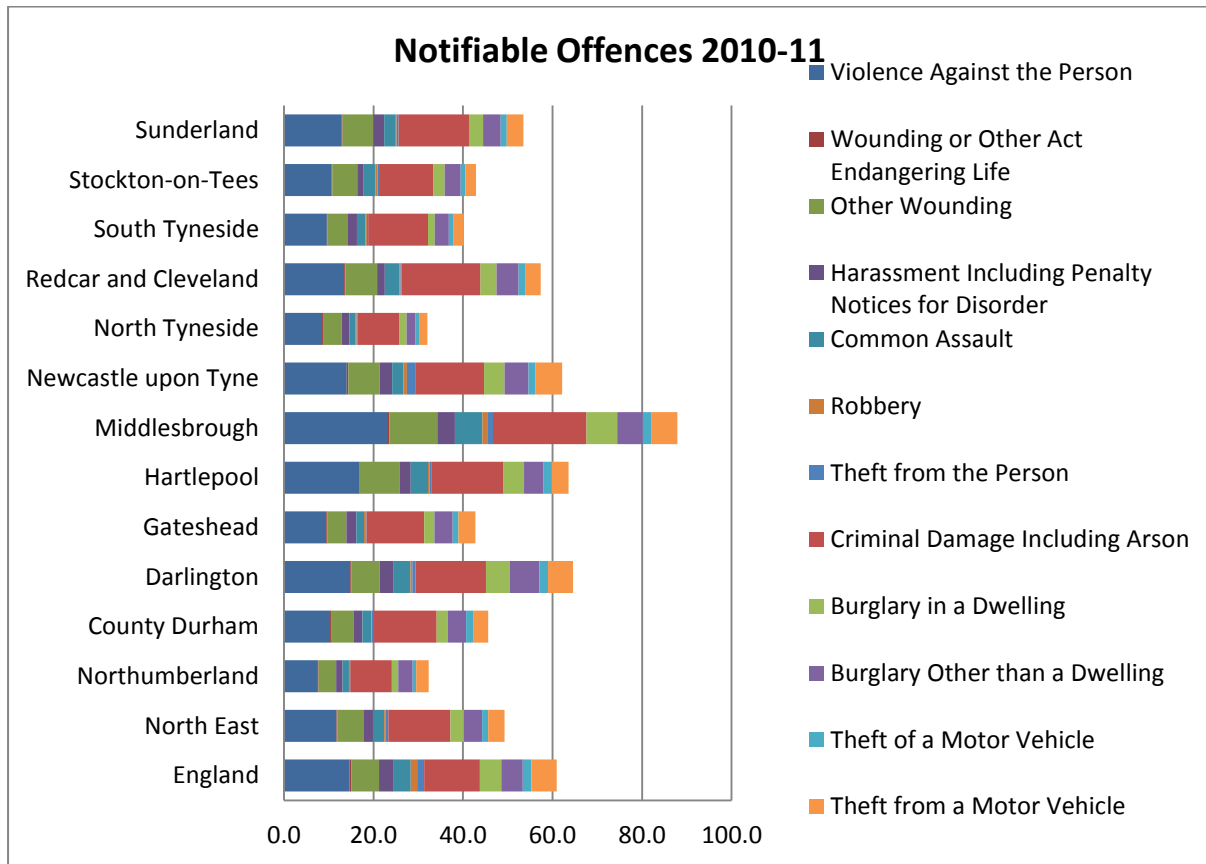
Poverty can lead to an increased risk of being a perpetrator of crime and antisocial behaviour. However, it is not a direct link; other factors associated with being a perpetrator, such as parental depression and family conflict, can mediate the effects. (HM Treasury, 2008)

Whilst the ‘causality’ debate is ongoing, it is important to recognise that most children raised in poverty do not become involved in crime (HM Treasury, 2008). However, there are certainly higher victim and fear of crime rates among those living in disadvantaged areas. The perpetrators of crime have also been shown to be more likely to be the victims of crime (HM Treasury, 2004 and 2008). (Sources: HM Treasury (2004) *Child Poverty Review*. London: The Stationery Office, HM Treasury (2008) *Ending Child Poverty: Everybody’s Business*. London: Crown. Available at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/F/bud08_childpoverty_1310.pdf)

The charts below summarise the most recent (April 2010–March 2011) notifiable offences recorded by the police for England, the North East and more locally at a rate per 1,000 head of population (using 2010 Mid Year Population Estimates).

Overall, Middlesbrough had the highest rate of offences at 87.9 per 1,000 head of population, Northumberland and North Tyneside were the lowest with rates of 32.3 and 32.0 respectively. The rate per 1,000 head of population for England as a whole was 61.0 and for the North East area it was 49.3.

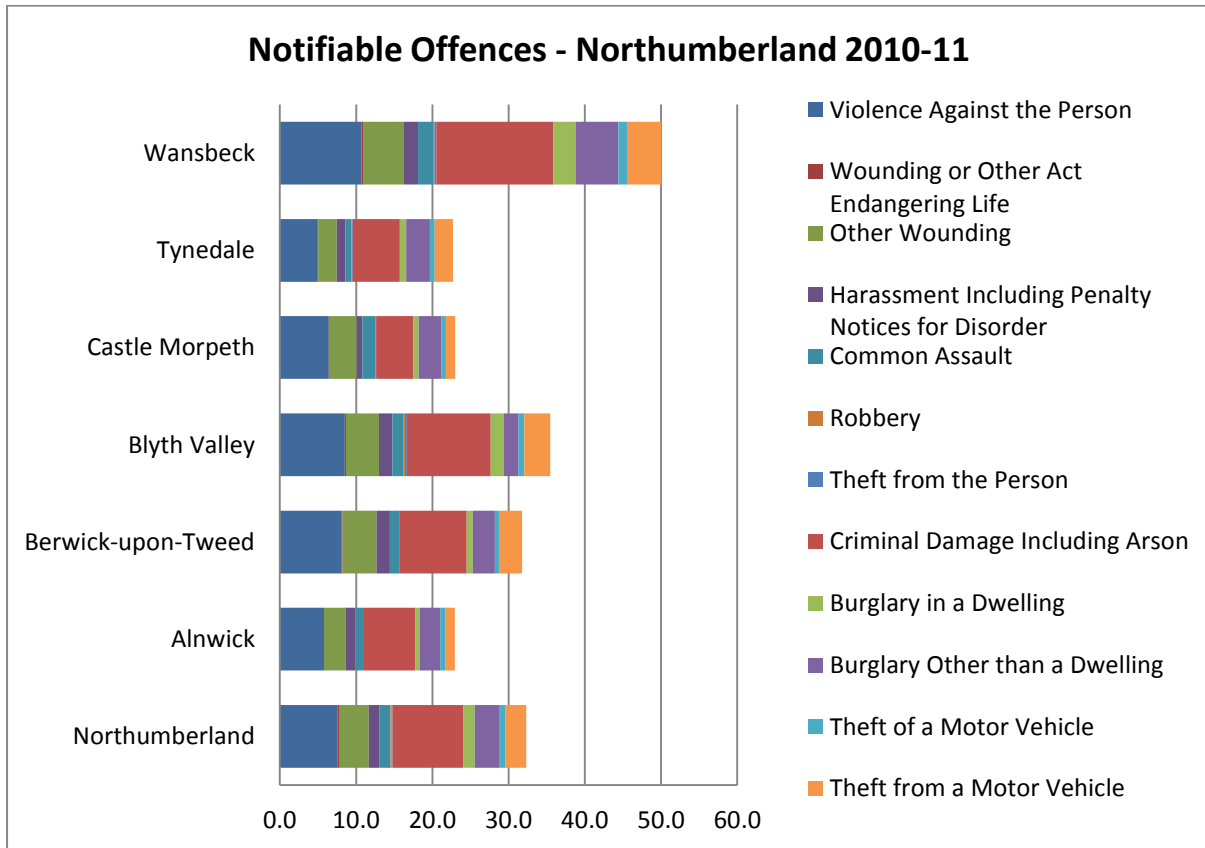
Figure 36: Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police 2010-11



Source: Home Office 2011

In terms of type of offence, Criminal Damage Including Arson had the most impact across the North East, with rates ranging from 9.3 in Northumberland and North Tyneside to 20.9 in Middlesbrough. Violence Against the Person was the most prolific offence for England overall (14.7), and also for Middlesbrough (23.0) and Hartlepool (16.8). In Northumberland 7.6 Violence Against the Person offences were recorded per 1,000 head of population in 2010/11. The following chart provides an indication of crime below County level.

Figure 37: Notifiable Offences in Northumberland 2010-11



Source: Home Office 2011

The former district of Wansbeck displays the highest rate of 50 notifiable offences per 1,000 head of population. Tynedale has the lowest at 22.7.



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