



# Poverty and deprivation

## At a glance:

- Bradford is ranked the 5<sup>th</sup> most income deprived local authority in England
- There are wide variations across the district with 27% of the District's population living in areas classed in the 10% most deprived areas in England and 6% of the population living in areas classed in the 10% least deprived areas in England.
- 28% of households find it difficult or very difficult to cope on their incomes
- 13% of households in the District are in fuel poverty
- 29% of children in the district live below the poverty line

## Population

The latest population estimate (for June 2015)<sup>1</sup> shows that there are 531,200 people and 205,190 households living in Bradford District. A large part of Bradford's population is dominated by the younger age groups. More than 125,000 (24%) are aged less than 16; 329,700 (62%) of the population are aged 16-64 and 76,000 (14%) are aged 65+.

City ward has the largest population (24,260 people), this is probably due to the large numbers of students at the University and College in this ward. Wharfedale has the smallest population (11,850).

The results of the 2011 Census found that 83% of the population were born in the UK, 8% were born in Pakistan, 1% were born in India, 1% were born in Bangladesh, 2% were born in the EU Accession Countries, 1% were born in other European countries and 4% were born elsewhere.

67% of the District's population is of white ethnic origin, 20% are Pakistani, 3% are Indian, 2% are Bangladeshi, 2% are of Mixed heritage, 2% are Black and 4% have other ethnic origins.

85% of the population over the age of 3 speak English as their main language, 4% speak Punjabi, 3% speak Urdu, 1% speak Bengali, 1% speak Gujarati, 1% speak Polish and 5% speak other languages.

8% of families with dependent children are headed by a lone parent, whereas 30% of families with dependent children are headed by a couple. 33% of households comprise a single person, 16% comprise a lone couple and 12% are formed of other types of household.

<sup>1</sup> Annual mid-year population estimates 2015, ONS

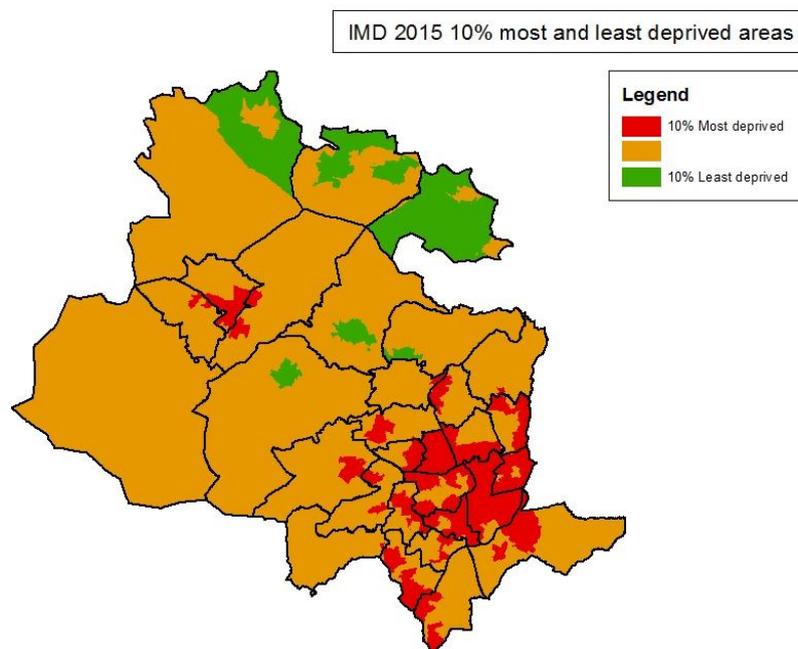
## Income deprivation

The latest Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 ranks Bradford as the 5<sup>th</sup> most income deprived district<sup>2</sup> in England. Birmingham is the most income deprived local authority in England.

There are wide variations around the district with 27% of the district's population classed as in the 10% most deprived areas in England, and 6% of the population living in areas classed as in the 10% least deprived areas. The most income deprived areas are shown in red on the following map and are located in and around central Bradford and Keighley and the least deprived areas are shown in green and are located in the Wharfe and Aire valleys and villages to the north and west of central Bradford.

Leeds which is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> most income deprived district in England. All the other local authority areas in West Yorkshire are ranked higher than Bradford – Kirklees is 16<sup>th</sup>, Wakefield is 33<sup>rd</sup> and Calderdale is 77<sup>th</sup>.

*It is important to note that this data does not apply to every person living in these areas. Many non-deprived people live in deprived areas, and many deprived people live in non-deprived areas.*



## Employment

329,700 people (62% of the District's population) are aged between 16-64 years<sup>3</sup>. 65% of this total is in employment – this is lower than the regional rate (72%) and national rate (74%)<sup>4</sup>. Bradford is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> most employment deprived local authority in England<sup>5</sup> – this is the same position as in both 2007 and 2010. Birmingham is the most employment deprived local authority in England.

Leeds is the most employment deprived local authority in West Yorkshire and is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> most employment deprived district in England. All the other local authority areas in West Yorkshire are ranked higher than Bradford – Kirklees is 11<sup>th</sup>, Wakefield is 17<sup>th</sup> and Calderdale is 73<sup>rd</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> This includes families that are out of work and families that are in work but have low earnings and satisfy means tests).

<sup>3</sup> Annual Mid-year Population Estimate 2015, ONS

<sup>4</sup> Annual Population Survey 2015-16, Nomis

<sup>5</sup> Indices of Deprivation 2015, ONS

## Earnings and Income

Bradford has a low-wage, low-skills economy and the working age population of the District is projected to increase by 1,200 people per year over the next ten years. This is driving a real need for high paid jobs growth. However, median weekly earnings<sup>6</sup> in Bradford remain relatively low with median weekly gross pay of £474. This figure compares unfavourably with the equivalents for Yorkshire and the Humber (£498) and England (£545).

## Skills and qualifications

Research shows that compared to those with adequate skills, adults with poor basic skills are up to five times more likely to be unemployed or out of the labour market. Only 26.8% of people living in Bradford have achieved a NVQ level 4 qualification<sup>7</sup> (degree level and above or equivalent), this is lower than the Yorkshire and Humber region (30.6%) and the national figure of 37.1%. There are also lower proportions of people with NVQ1, NVQ2 and NVQ3 level qualifications. The level of people with no qualifications in Bradford is also higher than regional and national averages.

% aged 16-64 with this qualification	Bradford District	Yorkshire & Humber	England
NVQ 4	26.8	30.6	36.8
NVQ 3	43.8	51.3	55.6
NVQ 2	62.7	70.1	73.4
NVQ 1	75.0	83.1	85.0
Other qualifications	10.0	7.2	6.6
No qualifications	15.0	9.8	8.4

*Source: ONS Annual Population Survey 2015*

45.6% of pupils attain five A\*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths compared to 53.8% across Yorkshire and the Humber and 52.8% for England as a whole<sup>8</sup>

## Claimants

### Out of work benefits

11.4% of the District's population claim an out of work benefit<sup>9</sup> - this is higher than both the regional rate (10%) and the national rate (8.7%)

39,300 working families in Bradford District receive either Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit, or a combination of both<sup>10</sup>

### Unemployment and NEETs

In December 2016 (the most recent data available)<sup>11</sup> the claimant rate for people aged 16-64 in Bradford District was 2.7%. This is an increase of 0.8% in the number of claimants when compared with the same month in the previous year. The rate is higher than the City Region (1.9%), regional (2.1%) and national rates (1.8%). The long-term claimant rate is 0.7% and this is also higher than the City Region (0.4%), regional (0.5%) and national rates (0.4%).

<sup>6</sup> Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2016, Nomis

<sup>7</sup> Annual Population Survey 2015-16, Nomis

<sup>8</sup> Department for Education

<sup>9</sup> This includes JSA, Income Support, ESA, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Carer's Allowance, May 2016, Nomis

<sup>10</sup> Child and Working Tax Credits 2014-15, DWP

<sup>11</sup> Jobcentre Plus data, NOMIS

From March 2014 onwards, the number of young people not in education or training (NEETs)<sup>12</sup> has been low and consistently below that for the same month in the previous year. The June 2016 figure was 670 – 165 below the figure for June 2015. The adjusted NEET rate for June 2016 was low at 3.6%; 1.3 percentage points below the figure for June 2015. Comparable data is available on a national basis for May when the Bradford rate was 0.7 percentage points lower than the rate for England and 1.5 percentage points below Bradford’s statistical neighbours.

The four wards in Bradford with the highest NEET rates are Tong, Eccleshill, Wyke and Keighley East.

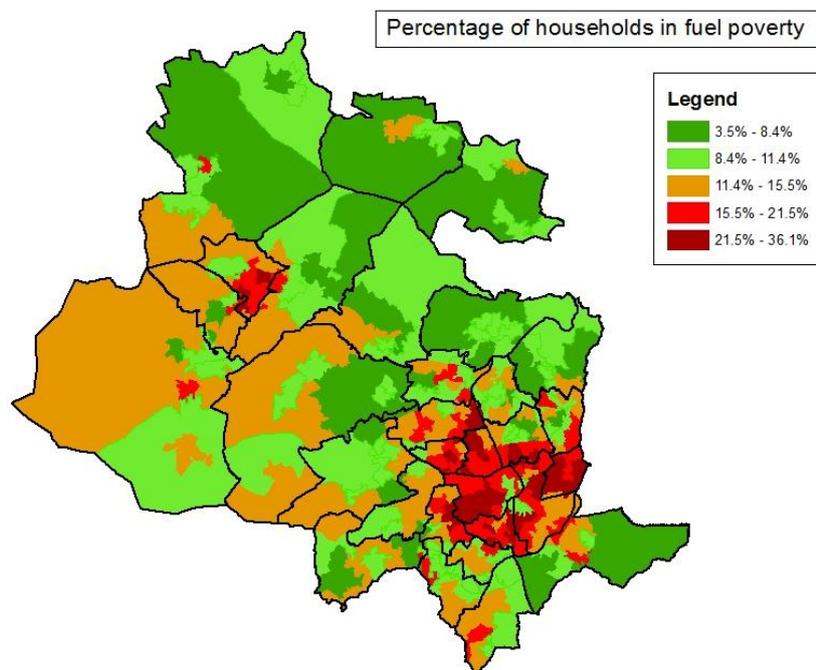
## Deprivation

### Problems coping on household income

In 2014 (latest available data)<sup>13</sup> 28% of Bradford households were finding it difficult or very difficult to cope on their income compared with 27% in England. Tong ward had the highest proportion of households which found it difficult or very difficult to cope (64%), followed by Royds (51%). Wharfedale had the lowest proportion (4%) followed by Ilkley (8%). 26% of households in the District are more likely to be coping comfortably on their household incomes, a number of urban wards (Bradford Moor, City, Little Horton and Manningham) have no households which are likely to be coping comfortably.

### Fuel poverty

The latest official fuel poverty statistics<sup>14</sup> (2014) show that there were 26,621 households (13.2%) in Bradford District considered to be in fuel poverty according to the ‘Low Income, High Cost’ methodology<sup>15</sup>. This is higher than the rates for Yorkshire and the Humber region (11.8%) and England (10.6%).



<sup>12</sup> Connexions Bradford

<sup>13</sup> Mosaic 2014 data, Experian

<sup>14</sup> Sub-regional Fuel Poverty, England 2014, Department of Energy & Climate Change

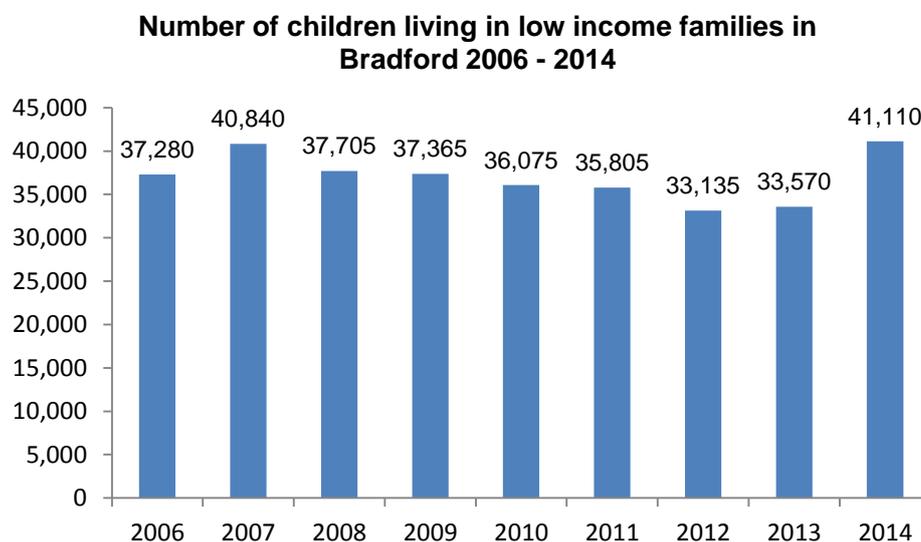
<sup>15</sup> The ‘Low Income, High Cost’ measures was implemented by the Government to remove the influence of fluctuating fuel prices in the calculation. To be counted as fuel poor a household has to have above national average required fuel costs AND were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

Bradford has a high level of fuel poverty, ranked 31<sup>st</sup> most fuel poor of local authority districts in England. This is probably due to a combination of energy inefficient Victorian housing stock in conjunction with low household incomes. The map above shows that the central Bradford and Keighley and the surrounding urban areas are most likely to be in fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty is associated with a range of additional adverse health outcomes and in extreme cases can lead to excess winter deaths. In 2014/15 (latest available data)<sup>16</sup> there were 340 excess winter deaths in Bradford. This is similar to the winter of 2012/13 when there were 338 deaths (the winter of 2013/14 was exceptionally mild and there were only 130 excess deaths). Over 80% of excess winter deaths occur among the over-65s.

### Child poverty

The most recent national child poverty data for 2014<sup>17</sup> (published September 2016) reported a child poverty rate of 28.6% for Bradford District, compared to 20.1% for England – with 41,000 children and young people aged 0 – 19, living in households with less than 60% of average (median) income. In 2014, the District's child poverty rate was second highest in the Yorkshire and Humber region – Hull had the highest rate.



The total number of children living in low income families in Bradford in 2014 is higher than in previous years and this is probably due to an increase in the threshold of the figure used to define 60% of median income from £218 in 2013 to £253 in 2014<sup>18</sup>

Child poverty is concentrated in the inner-city and urban areas of the District. In 2014, approximately half of all children living in poverty in the District have been found to live in 8 of the District's 30 wards: Little Horton, Bradford Moor, Bowling and Barkerend, Manningham, Toller, Tong, Great Horton and City wards.

Living in persistent poverty is defined as living in poverty for 3 out of the previous 4 years. Although the figures for children living in persistent poverty are not available for local areas, it is likely that many children in these wards have been living in persistent poverty.

Living in a couple-headed household is generally regarded as a protective factor against poverty, as two adults can be in work rather than just one. Nationally 36% of children in poverty live in households headed by a couple. In Bradford this figure is much higher at 51%.

<sup>16</sup> Excess Winter Mortality in England and Wales, ONS

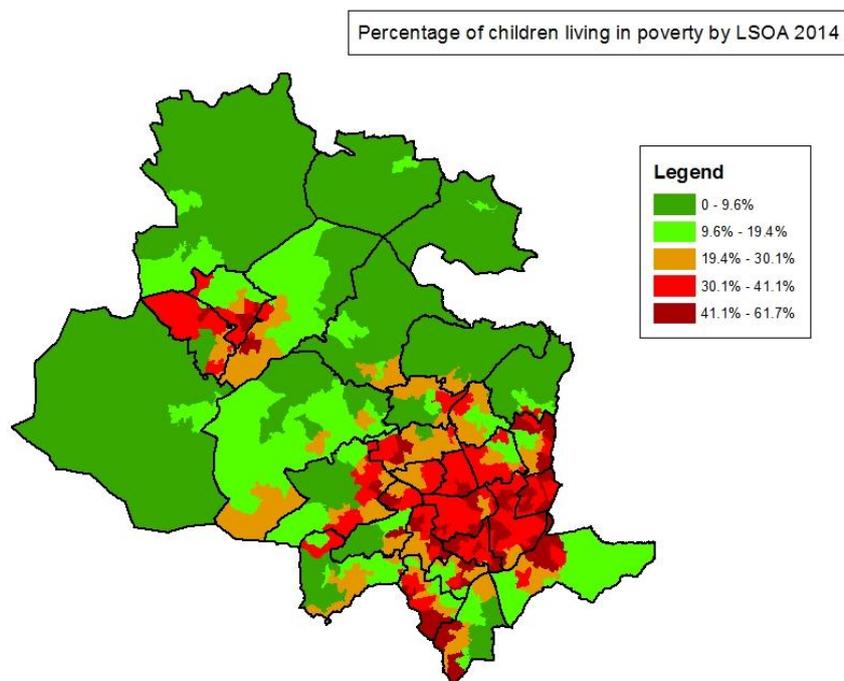
<sup>17</sup> Households below average income, ONS

<sup>18</sup> HM Revenue and Customs 2014 Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure 2014, HMRC

Low wages and high levels of economic inactivity in Bradford may be the reason why living in couple-headed household tends not to have the same effect in Bradford.

Bradford also has a higher percentage of children living in poverty in families with four or more children than nationally (30% compared with 21% nationally) and a lower percentage are in single child families (17% compared with 23% nationally). Whilst having more children does not necessarily cause poverty, there is an association between the two factors.

The District follows the national pattern in relation to age; with a very even spread of poverty across all children's age groups.



## Health

Poverty is an important issue for public health, with evidence suggesting that childhood poverty in particular leads to premature mortality and poor health outcomes for adults. There are many health factors which can be affected by poverty, some of which are listed below:

### Life expectancy male and female

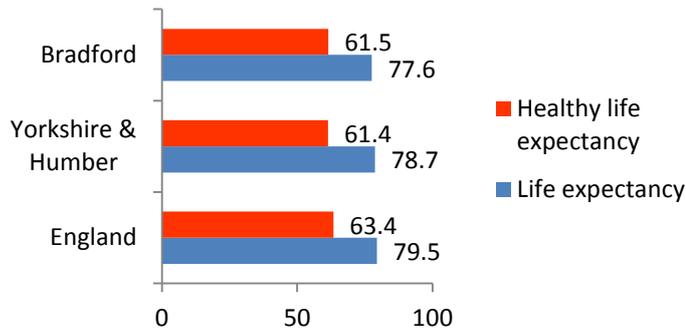
Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a person would expect to live from birth based on current mortality rates and is an important measure of illness and death. Although life expectancy at birth for males has been rising in Bradford<sup>19</sup>, life expectancy at birth is still lower than the average for England. Males born in Bradford can expect to live on average for 77.6 years and females born in Bradford can expect to live an average of 81.4 years. The regional and national rates are higher for both men and women. Males born in Yorkshire and Humber can expect to live to 78.7 and females can expect to live to 82.4. Males born in England can expect to live to 79.5 and females can expect to live to 83.2 years.

Men in Bradford have a lower healthy life expectancy than nationally, but slightly higher than the regional rate.

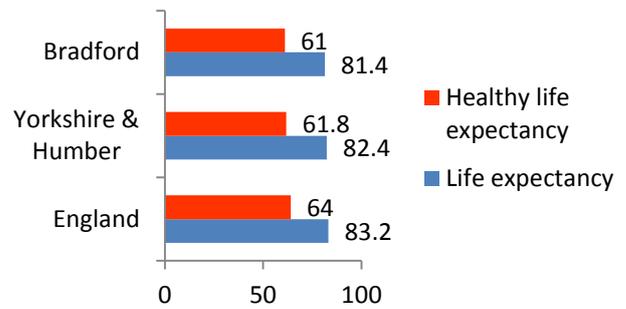
Women in Bradford have a lower healthy life expectancy than both regionally and nationally.

<sup>19</sup> Health state life expectancies, ONS

### Male healthy life expectancy at birth



### Female healthy life expectancy at birth

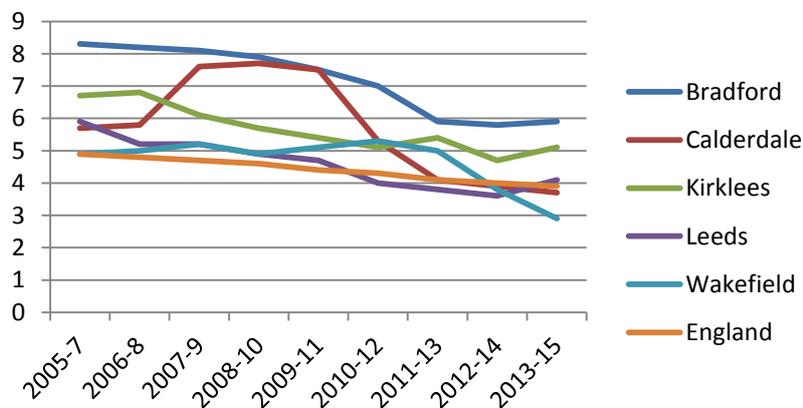


### Infant mortality

Infant mortality is an indicator of the general health of the entire population and it reflects the relationship between causes of infant mortality and the wider determinants of population health such as economic, social and environmental conditions. Although infant mortality rates are falling in Bradford, they are still above the average for England and higher than the rates for the rest of West Yorkshire. The most recent rate<sup>20</sup> (2013-15) for Bradford is 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, whereas the national rate is 3.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Bradford's rate has fallen from 8.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2005-7, but as the following chart shows Bradford's rate has consistently been the highest in West Yorkshire and higher than the England average.

### Infant mortality rate 2005-7 to 2013-15



### Obesity

Obesity is one of the biggest challenges to the health of our residents today. It is a particular issue in the Bradford area with income, ethnicity and social deprivation known to have an impact on an individual's weight.

Overall, for women, obesity prevalence increases with greater levels of deprivation, regardless of the measure used. For men, only occupation-based and qualification based measures show differences in obesity rates by levels of deprivation.

<sup>20</sup> Infant mortality, ONS

Highest level of educational attainment can be used as an indicator of socio-economic status. For both men and women obesity prevalence decreases with increasing levels of educational attainment.

Research has shown that there is a strong link between poverty and childhood obesity; at 5 years of age, poor children were nearly twice as likely to be obese, compared with their peers from better socio-economic backgrounds. Research has also shown that children who are overweight or obese are far more likely to suffer from serious illnesses like Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer later in life

36% of the District's 10 to 11 year olds are overweight compared to 33% of 10 to 11 year olds regionally and nationally<sup>21</sup>

At a district wide level based on Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) data registrations with GPs by condition: 56,891 adults were registered as obese with their GP in 2014-15<sup>22</sup>. This is equivalent to 12% of the District population aged 17+ and higher than the national rate of 9%.

## Housing

There is a large body of evidence which has highlighted relationships between housing and poverty related implication, which include:

- The number of people in the private rented sector has doubled in the last ten years. In 2001 there were 21,600 households renting from private landlords or living rent free (12% of the total tenure in the district), by 2011 this had increased to 36,100 households (18% of the total tenure in the district).<sup>23</sup>
- A large number of people in poverty own their own home – 25% of owner-occupied households in Bradford District are classed as low income<sup>24</sup>
- Private renters are most likely to be in fuel poverty, have least money left over once they have paid their housing costs and live in the worst housing conditions – 45% of households renting privately are classed as low income<sup>25</sup>.
- Poor housing conditions affect some aspects of child development and elements of adult health.

As such it is important to understand the makeup and condition of housing stock to explore potential linkages to poverty related issues. The key housing related issues for Bradford are outlined below:

There are a total of 199,296 households in the District<sup>26</sup>. The majority of households are owner-occupiers (65%), this is higher than both the regional rate (63%) and national rate (64%). 15% of the District's households rent their home from a social landlord which is lower than the national rate (18%). 18% of the District's households rent their home from a private landlord and the remainder live rent-free or with family and friends.

The average house price<sup>27</sup> in Bradford is £130,302 which is lower than the regional average of £152,418 and the national average of £234,278.

An analysis of class 1 hazards<sup>28</sup> and low income high costs fuel poverty by housing stock type shows that properties in the private rented sector are more likely to be adversely affected than

<sup>21</sup> Public Health Outcomes Framework

<sup>22</sup> Quality Outcomes Framework, NHS

<sup>23</sup> 2001 and 2011 Census, ONS

<sup>24</sup> Bradford Integrated Housing Stock Modelling Database 2015

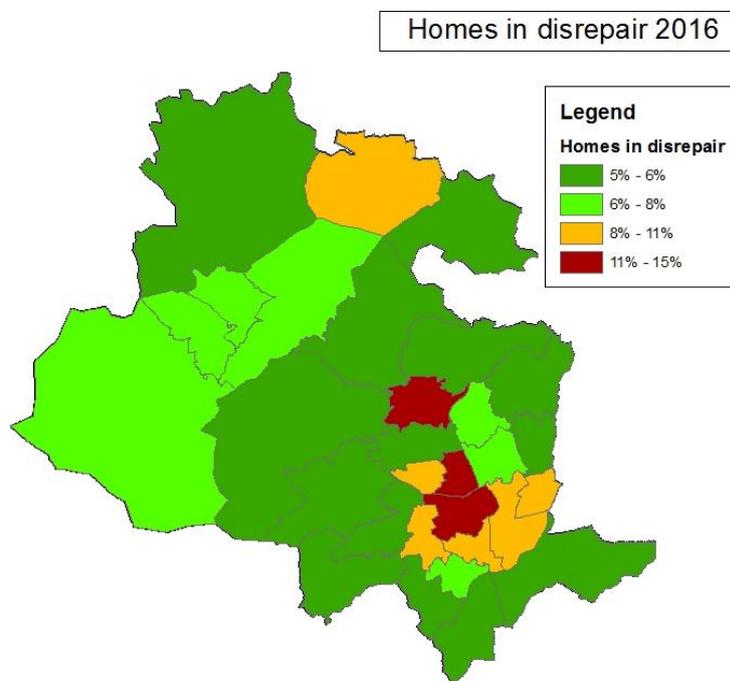
<sup>25</sup> Bradford Integrated Housing Stock Modelling Database 2015

<sup>26</sup> 2011 Census, ONS

<sup>27</sup> UK House Price Index November 2016, Land Registry

the owner occupier or social rented sectors. Recent government initiatives to improve the condition of the social rented sector has led to improvements and this is probably why the figures for this sector are lower.

The **Decent Homes Standard** is a programme aimed primarily at improving the social rented housing sector. Using 'disrepair' as a proxy for non-decent homes reveals that a total of 16,307 properties (8%) District-wide are non-decent<sup>29</sup>. Of this total, 58% of these properties are owner-occupied, 29% are privately rented and 13% are in the social-rented sector.



## Welfare Reform

The Government's Welfare Reform programme was the biggest change to the welfare system in 60 years. Key areas of the reform included:

- Reduction in the level of housing benefit for private tenants
- Size restrictions on social housing
- The benefit cap
- Localisation of Council Tax support and Discretionary Social Fund
- Changes to disability and other welfare benefits
- The introduction of Universal Credit

In August 2016 (the most recent data available) 694 households were affected by the benefit cap, each seeing an average loss of £46 to their benefits<sup>30</sup>. 2,537 households were facing a reduction in their Housing Benefit because they were deemed to have too many bedrooms for their size of household, an average weekly loss per household of £16. An independent evaluation published by the Government in December 2015 noted that many tenants were "in severe poverty and unable to pay the shortfall"<sup>31</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> Some properties may have more than one hazard, e.g. excess cold and danger of trips and falls

<sup>29</sup> Bradford Integrated Housing Stock Modelling Database report 2016

<sup>30</sup> Stat-Xplore, DWP, August 2016

<sup>31</sup> Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy evaluation: final report, DWP, Ipsos MORI and the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research, December 2015

Universal Credit was introduced for new claimants who are single in Bradford in November 2015. The most recent data available for December 2016 shows that there are 3,570 claimants, 2,056 of whom are not in work<sup>32</sup>.

As part of the reform agenda, the Government introduced stricter sanctions to individuals claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and work-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Since 2012, benefit payments can be suspended for a minimum of four weeks and for up to three years when a claimant fails to take sufficient steps to search for work, to prepare themselves for the labour market or when they turn down an offer of employment or leave a job voluntarily.

The number of sanctions in Bradford peaked in August 2013 with more than 1,150 individuals receiving sanctions, but has fallen sharply since this date and in June 2016 (the most recent data available) 239 individuals claiming JSA received a sanction. The most recent data for sanctions imposed on individuals claiming ESA is May 2016 when 10 individuals received a sanction.

<b>JSA claimants in Bradford District receiving a sanction between August 2013 and June 2016</b>				
	August 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016
Total number of JSA claimants	19,023	14,955	10,513	7,355
Total number of JSA claimants receiving a sanction	1,152	838	481	239
%	6.1%	5.6%	4.6%	3.2%
<i>Source: Nomis and Stat-Xplore</i>				

<b>ESA claimants in Bradford District receiving a sanction between August 2013 and June 2016</b>				
	August 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016
Total number of ESA claimants	17,280	20,090	22,160	23,410
Total number of ESA claimants receiving a sanction	12	26	10	10
%	0.07%	0.13%	0.05%	0.04%
<i>Source: DWP Tabulation Tool and Stat-Xplore</i>				

**The Government's other welfare reform proposals have included:**

- Four year working age benefits freeze
- Housing benefit freeze
- Benefit cap to £23,000 in London and £20,000 elsewhere
- Universal credit reforms
- From April 2017, housing benefit for 18-21-year-olds will be abolished unless the claimant has a child or is deemed vulnerable).
- From April 2017, reducing benefit payments to new ESA claimants classed as unfit to work now, but possibly able to work in the future.

<sup>32</sup> Universal credit claimants, DWP, December 2016

## Data sources and further information

The next bulletin in this series will be released Spring 2018  
Links and sources identified as footnotes throughout the report

City of Bradford MDC

[www.bradford.gov.uk](http://www.bradford.gov.uk)

Contact: Catriona Colborn

Email: [catriona.colborn@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.colborn@bradford.gov.uk) Telephone: 01274 434691

**Office of the Chief Executive,**

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council,

3rd Floor, Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford, BD1 1NN

[ubd.bradford.gov.uk](http://ubd.bradford.gov.uk)

Unless marked otherwise, you are free to use the content of this bulletin in your own work as long as you quote the source.

The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print. Please call 01274 434691