



# Quality of Life

IN WARWICKSHIRE

20

13

14

Mar Apr May Jun Jul



## Birth rate and Dependency ratios rising...

During the last ten years, there has been an increase of nearly 20% in the annual number of births in Warwickshire with 6,273 births in 2011. The proportion of births that take place outside of marriage has risen sharply too over that time, increasing by 10 percentage points to account for nearly half of all births in Warwickshire in 2011. The growth in the youngest age groups is likely to impact in the short term on local demand for child care, primary school places and other support services for this age group and their families.

The increase in the elderly population has been well documented. At the same time, the working age population has not been increasing at the same rate. The outcome of this is an increasing dependency ratio; a shrinking share of the population is economically active and supporting the remaining population. In 2011, there were 1.75 people of working age for every dependent in the county (those aged under 16 or over 64). By 2021, this figure is expected to fall to 1.48. This change brings significant implications, in particular for the local economy, education, health and social care.



## Implications of an ageing population including the increasing prevalence and under-diagnosis of dementia...

Across Warwickshire, the highest rates of projected population growth are in the groups aged 65 years and over. In particular, those aged 85 years and over are projected to increase by more than 40% between 2011 and 2021. While this is something that should be celebrated and recognised as it represents the success of increasing life expectancy and longer lives for individuals, this demographic change presents challenges and underpins the increasing demands and cost pressures on our services (particularly health and social care) in the future.

One of the biggest challenges we face as the population ages is dealing with the increasing prevalence of dementia. The risk of dementia increases with age and the condition usually occurs in people over the age of 65. As Warwickshire's ageing population grows, so will the prevalence of this condition. Dementia is increasingly becoming one of the most important causes of disability in older people and is used to describe the symptoms that occur when the brain is affected by specific conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and many other rarer conditions.

In 2011/12, there were 3,169 patients in Warwickshire formally diagnosed with dementia, representing under half of those estimated to be living with dementia. Although diagnosing dementia is often difficult, it is estimated that there are approximately 3,800 people amongst the wider population who have dementia but have not yet been clinically diagnosed. The situation is likely to worsen as the population grows and ages, the total number of people estimated to have dementia in the county will increase by nearly 30% to just over 9,000 people in 2020. The aim is that by 2015, two thirds of people with dementia should have a diagnosis with appropriate post-diagnosis support.





## Overall unemployment falling yet long term unemployment and long term youth unemployment continues to rise...



The UK economy is showing some signs of recovery in 2013, with a number of forecasts and surveys upping their growth estimates this year and early indications of growth across the manufacturing and construction sectors. Despite this optimism, some commentators advise caution and the economy remains under the spotlight both nationally and locally as growth continues to be below pre-recession levels and many residents continue to face negative earnings growth once inflation is taken into account.



Cautious optimism is apparent when considering unemployment across the county, as the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance in Warwickshire has been steadily falling for the past three years and at a much faster rate than the regional and national reductions. However, despite this overall fall, the number of people unemployed for over twelve months (the long term unemployed) more than doubled between 2008 and 2013. The long term unemployed now account for one in four of all those claiming unemployment benefit. Unsurprisingly this varies at a district level, 28% of unemployed people in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough have been claiming JSA for over twelve months while in Stratford-on-Avon District the proportion of long term unemployed claimants is 14%. Generally speaking, those who have been out of work for longer periods of time will find it increasingly difficult to get a job and will find it harder to compete with other jobseekers.



This remains an issue when considering youth unemployment. Although overall levels of youth unemployment across the county remains higher than before the economic downturn, levels have almost halved since the peak in 2009 and have continued to fall across the county over the past year. However, the proportion of people aged 18-24 who have been claiming Jobseekers Allowance for over twelve months has risen over the same period, from 3% in 2011 to 17% in 2013. Long term unemployment is a particular concern with this age group, as many young people will be seeking their first job in the labour market. The longer it takes to make that first step into the workforce, the more difficult it becomes.



Our data visualisation at the start of the 'Workforce' section considers whether there is a relationship between youth unemployment and households where no one has ever worked. The evidence suggests that this is dependent on where you live in the county. Communities in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough are much more likely to be at risk of inter-generational unemployment than Stratford-on-Avon District.



## Who's caring for the carers?

For the first time this year, we've included an indicator on carers and caring in Quality of Life. Unpaid carers contribute significantly to the overall supply of care and as the population ages, an increasing number of people are likely to require more care in future. As a result, recognising the impact of providing care on individuals' quality of life and general well-being is becoming increasingly important. The 2011 Census allows us to consider both how the provision of unpaid care has changed over the last decade and the impact of caring on carer's health and well-being.



In 2011, one in ten people in the county provided some form of unpaid care to a relative or friend. The number of carers has increased over the last 10 years, with 59,240 people across the county providing between one and 50 hours of care each week in 2011. Carers are caring for longer with one in five carers now providing care for 50 or more hours per week. This proportion increases with age, a third of carers who are over 65 now care for 50 or more hours per week.



There is a clear relationship between the number of hours of unpaid care provided each week and the impact this has on the carer's health. An increasing proportion of carers describe their health as 'not good' as more hours of care are undertaken. Of those caring for 50 or more hours each week, 43% described their health as 'not good' compared with 17% of those who do not provide unpaid care. This is even more pronounced when we consider young carers. Young carers (aged 0-24 years) are twice as likely to report their health as 'not good' compared to their peers who provide no care. Higher levels of unpaid care have a greater adverse effect on the health of young people as young carers who care for 50 or more hours per week are five times more likely to report their health as 'not good'. There is a need to reach out to groups most at risk of their health and well-being deteriorating, recognising the potential impact caring may have on social and economic opportunities as well as educational outcomes for young carers.





## Shift in home ownership over last ten years. Housing affordability remains an issue across the county...



Over the past decade, there have been notable shifts in the pattern of home ownership across Warwickshire. More than one in three homes in the county are now owned outright, while perhaps this may be expected as the population ages and mortgage terms come to a natural end, Warwickshire's rate of growth in homes owned outright is twice the national rate over the past decade. The proportion of homes across the county owned with a mortgage fell between 2001 and 2011 from 43% of homes to 36% in 2011.



The most sizable shift has been in the private rented sector. The number of homes rented from a private landlord has doubled over the last ten years across the county, from 14,809 homes to 29,628 homes in 2011. There is considerable variation both at a district level and within districts. One in five homes in Warwick District are now rented from a private landlord. The Census data shows that private renting is more common in particular types of households, for example one in four single person households where the occupant is under 65 are privately rented and a quarter of lone parent households are also privately rented. The variation at district level is shown in the housing data visualisation; Warwick District has the areas with both the highest and lowest proportion of privately rented homes in Warwickshire. Over 57% of homes in Leamington Town Centre 1 LSOA are privately rented while in Thickthorn & Castle End LSOA in Kenilworth, 2% of homes were privately rented at the time of the 2011 Census.



The economic climate with a combination of higher house prices, tighter lending requirements and declining wage growth go part way in explaining the higher demand on the private rental sector over the past ten years. However, a recent report from the Resolution Foundation highlights that a third of Britain is now effectively 'off limits' to low income working families because private rents are becoming unaffordable. This includes Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts in the south of the county. Housing affordability remains an area of concern not only in the privately rental sector but also in terms of home ownership, as the proportion of homes across the county owned with a mortgage fell over the last decade. On the one hand, high house prices might be seen in a positive light as it often reflects desirable places to live. However, housing affordability is likely to remain an issue with continued economic uncertainty, the impact of welfare reforms, access to finance and relatively low levels of housing completions which are all likely to affect housing need across the county.



## Positive improvements in educational attainment, an increase in apprenticeships and the number of young people that are NEET has halved...



Warwickshire has reported good levels of progress in several areas affecting young people over the past year. As a county we have performed above the national average for GCSE attainment for several years. In 2012, this attainment gap was at its widest when compared to national levels with 63% of Warwickshire pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C including English and Maths, over 4 percentage points above the equivalent national figure. This is further reflected in the improvement in Warwickshire's ranking when compared to other local authorities, moving from 45th place in 2010 to 24th out of 151 local authorities in 2012. North Warwickshire Borough saw the largest improvement across the county, increasing its proportion of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs A\*-C by 8 percentage points in 2012 to 57% of pupils.



In last year's report we acknowledged the successful reduction of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). This year, figures have halved with 4% of young people reported to be NEET in the county (660 young people). This represents a reduction from 7% in 2006. All districts have seen a further reduction in the last twelve months except Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough which has seen the NEET rate remain constant at 4.6% in 2012. It is also encouraging to see figures from the Department of Education showing that 92% of 16 to 17 year olds in Warwickshire are in either full-time education and training, apprenticeships, employment with training or in an 'other' category. Warwickshire outperforms the region in this respect, with 88% of 16-17 year olds in a similar situation.



One area directly affecting these increases are the number of apprenticeship starts across Warwickshire. At a regional and national level, apprenticeships starts have been falling in 2012/13, however, locally there has been a 9% increase over the past twelve months in Warwickshire. At quarter three in 2012/13, there are currently 7,508 people completing an apprenticeship (including starts and those currently in learning) and it is expected that these numbers will continue to rise and exceed the previous year's participation level. Despite the economic climate over the past year, there have been considerable improvements across a range of indicators relating to young people in Warwickshire.



## Challenges ahead...

Despite the economic climate, many of the indicators in this year's report have shown relative improvements from last year. Crime has fallen, educational attainment has risen, overall unemployment has reduced, fuel and child poverty levels have declined and road casualty numbers have fallen.

However, the impact of welfare reforms have yet to be fully felt by Warwickshire's residents as many of the reforms have yet to be implemented. The Welfare Reform Act signifies the biggest change to the welfare system for over 60 years. The early research suggests Warwickshire faces £128.3 million in benefit changes, amounting to 1.4% of the county's disposable income, or approximately seven months of growth. There is considerable variation across the county, with the impact of the welfare reforms in terms of financial loss per working adult expected to be over one and a half times higher in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough (£498 per working age adult per year) than in Warwick District (£295 per working age adult per year).

The findings from the research by Sheffield Hallam University on the likely future impact of these reforms highlight that any changes to welfare are likely to affect those areas where more people are claiming benefits and as a result 'a key effect of the welfare reforms will be to widen the gaps in prosperity between the best and the worst local economies across Britain.'

The counter argument to this is that it is these communities which have become most reliant on benefits that can profit most from reforms designed to ensure people are always better off in work than on welfare. The Department for Work and Pensions said that 'around nine out of ten working households will be better off by an average of almost £300 a year as a result of changes to the tax and welfare system from April 2013. Raising the personal allowance to £10,000 will have lifted 2.7 million people out of income tax since 2010.'

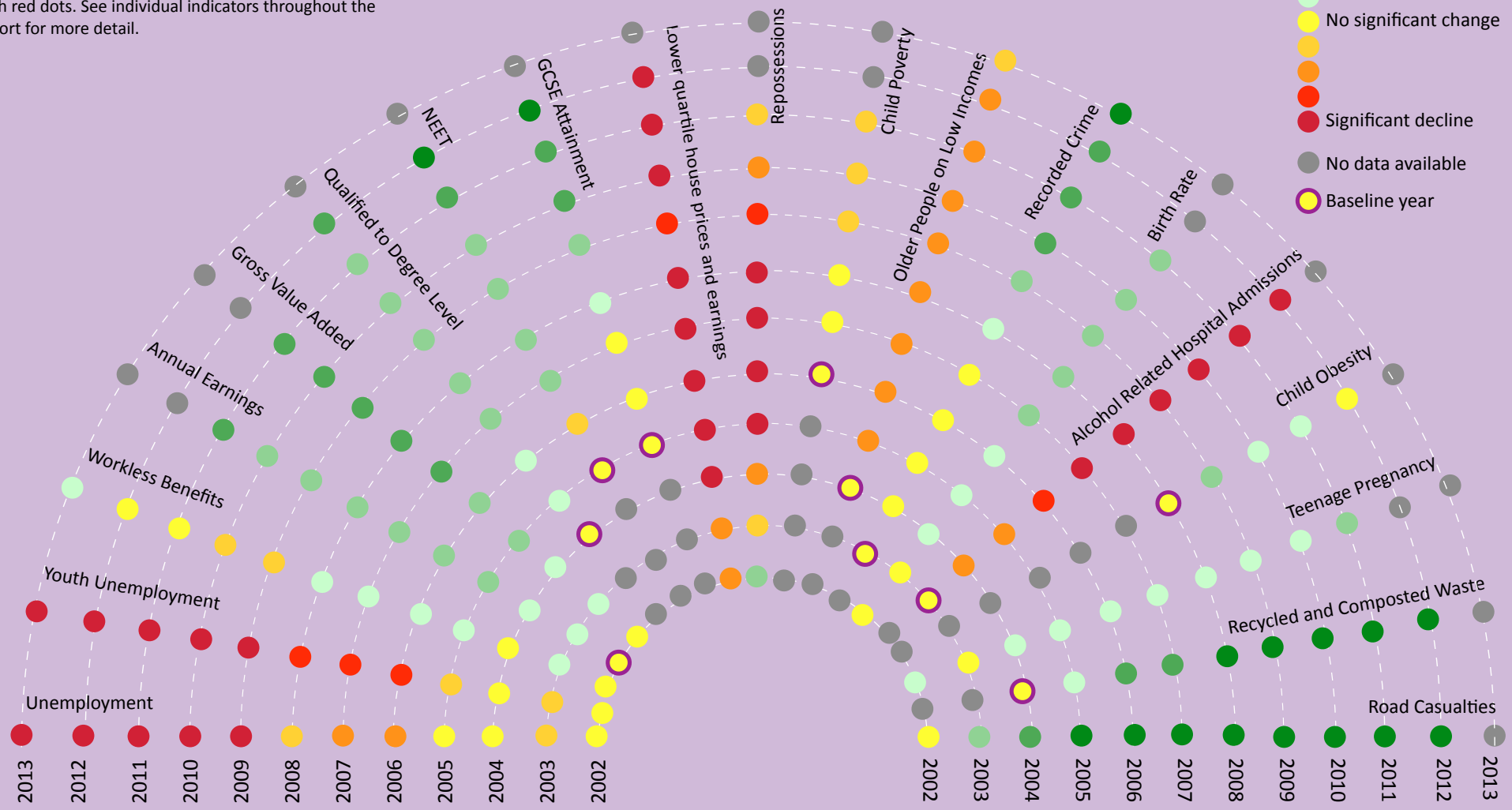
It will be increasingly important to monitor a broad range of indicators (including well-being, poverty, crime and benefit claimants) to assess the impact of welfare reforms as the changes begin to be implemented across the county.



# Headline Trends

The indicators presented have been indexed based on their performance in 2001; where this data was not available, data from the earliest year was used, indicated by a purple outline. Strong performance compared with 2001 is denoted with green dots, whilst weaker performance is indicated with red dots. See individual indicators throughout the report for more detail.

- Significant improvement
- Significant improvement
- Significant improvement
- No significant change
- No significant change
- No significant change
- Significant decline
- Significant decline
- No data available
- Baseline year



# District Trends

Summary of key indicators, comparing each district with the Warwickshire average

11



	North Warwickshire Borough	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough	Rugby Borough	Stratford-on-Avon District	Warwick District	
Unemployment						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Significantly better</li> <li></li> <li> No significant difference</li> <li></li> <li> Significantly worse</li> </ul>
Youth Unemployment						
Workless Benefits						
Earnings						
GCSE Attainment						
Qualified to Degree Level (NVQ Level 4+)						
Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)						
Housing Affordability						
Housing Repossessions						
Child Poverty						
Fuel Poverty						
Older People on Low Incomes						
Recorded Crime						
Anti-Social Behaviour						
Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions						
Child Obesity (Year 6)						
Teenage Pregnancy						
Smoking						

See specific sections throughout report for details on definitions and dates

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