

Appendix Two: Black Country Integrated Care System Population Summary

Population

- The Black Country area is a vibrant, multi-cultural region with diverse communities. Nationally 14% of the population are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. Sandwell (40%), Walsall (28%) and Wolverhampton (39%) are above the national average while Dudley (14%) is the same as the national average.
- The Black Country is the second most deprived ICS in the country. Nationally, 20% of the population lives in the most deprived quintile. Locally, each of our areas are above the national average: Dudley (28%), Sandwell (60%), Walsall (52%) and Wolverhampton (52%).

Life Expectancy and Health Challenges

- The gap in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy (HLE) between the Black Country and England, is driven by wider determinants of health, our health behaviours and lifestyles, the places and communities we live in and with; and our health services.
- Life expectancy is 77 years for males and 82 years for females, similar to national life expectancy of 79 years for males and 83 years for females.
- People with mental health problems and learning disabilities have shorter life expectancies (18 years for males, 15 years for females) which is driven by their physical health.
- Healthy life expectancy is 59 years for males and 60 years for females, which is lower than the national healthy life expectancy of 63 years for males and 64 years for females.
- Wider determinants are the most important driver of health. They include income, employment, education, skills and training, housing, access to services, the environment and crime.
- Both child (43% vs 35%) and adult (72% vs 63%) obesity rates are higher than national, whilst physical activity levels (56% vs 66%) are significantly lower.
- The Black Country has some of the highest infant mortality rates in the country, whilst smoking rates in pregnancy remain high and breast-feeding rates are low.
- Inequalities between the Black Country and England and Healthy Life Expectancy is lower for both females and males. However, we also have many inequalities and COVID-19 has exacerbated these inequalities.
- The Black Country has higher recorded prevalence of hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic heart disease, cancers, respiratory illnesses, depression and dementia.