Population Summary

An estimated 94,100 children and young people aged under 25 live in Cheshire West and Chester. They account for 28.3% of the total population. In comparison, under 25s make up 30.4% of the overall England population.

Of the four localities in Cheshire West and Chester, Northwich and Winsford has the highest number of under 25s (n=29,100) followed by Chester (n=24,800). Ellesmere Port locality has the smallest number of children and young people aged under 25 (n=17,800). As a percentage of the total population, Chester locality has the highest proportion of younger people with (30.5%) of residents aged under 25. This is influenced largely by the student population in the Garden Quarter and surrounding areas of the University of Chester. In Rural locality just 25% or 1 in 4 of the population are aged under 25.

The number of children aged 0-14 was 54,300 in 2012, and is forecast to increase by 8% to 58,700 by 2022. The bulk of this increase is forecast to be in children aged 5 to 11. At locality level Northwich and Winsford locality is forecast to see the greatest increase (1,700 children or an increase of 9% between 2012 and 2022). All localities are forecast to see an increase in the 0-14 population.

Locally we have found that there is a distinct difference in health experience between residents living in areas considered to be amongst the most deprived in England and the rest of the Cheshire West and Chester population. Life expectancy for babies born in our more deprived areas is significantly lower than the rest of the population. Around one in three (35%) of our children and young people live in our more deprived areas (IMD 2015 national quintiles 1 and 2). This is higher than for the overall population, of which 30% live in our more deprived areas.

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Analysis of the 2011 Census shows that 94% of our children and young people were classified as White British. This was higher than the England average of 75%. The remaining 6%, or 5,700 out of the borough’s 93,800 children and young people, who are not ‘White British’ were from other minority ethnic backgrounds. Minority ethnic backgrounds include Asian, Black, mixed race and White Other (which can include Irish, Gypsy or Irish traveller).

The 2011 Census also showed there were 9,000 lone parent households in Cheshire West and Chester with dependent children aged 0-18. This was 23% of all households with dependent children, and was lower than the national average of 24%. The highest rate was in Ellesmere Port locality (28%) and the lowest in Rural locality (17%). At ward level the rates ranged from 44% in Grange (Ellesmere Port) to 10% in Kingsley (Rural).

Compared to England as a whole, Cheshire West and Chester has a lower proportion of children and young people living in more deprived areas. Analysis of children’s centre populations however shows considerable local variation. Portside children’s centre footprint covers areas where 100% of under 25s live in areas considered to be amongst the 40% most deprived in England, with the next highest proportion seen in Blacon children’s centre footprint (92% of under 25s). In contrast, the majority (84%) of children and young people living in the area covered by Frodsham children’s centre footprint live in areas considered amongst the 20% least deprived in England.

Further data are available in our locality dashboard and children’s centre dashboards.