

Predictions of loneliness for older people

July 2015



In Cheshire West and Chester, the areas with highest levels of predicted loneliness are all urban areas and tend to be areas that are also deprived, though not always. General health is the main factor in predicting the likelihood of loneliness, so much so, that an older person is more likely to be lonely if they are in poor health and live with someone else than if they are in good health and live alone.

The Office for National Statistics (working with Age UK) has predicted the prevalence of loneliness amongst usual residents, living in households, aged 65 and over in England and Wales. The results are available for Local Authorities and smaller geographies including Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). They have not been produced for wards.

Background

The prediction values are based on analysis¹ by Age UK on the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) survey. ONS have applied these values to 2011 Census data. The published statistics are 'log odds' of prevalence of loneliness which form an index that can be used to compare and rank areas in terms of prevalence of loneliness. The prediction of loneliness is based on a number of factors. These are listed below in order of magnitude of effect. **'General health is bad or very bad'** is the factor that has **greatest impact on increasing the prevalence of loneliness**.

¹ Davidson, S, Rossall, P (2015). Evidence Review: Loneliness in Later Life, Age UK. Accessed online www.ageuk.org.uk

Factors that increase loneliness prevalence:

- General health is bad or very bad
- General health is fair
- Widowed or a surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership
- Marital status is divorced, a dissolved same-sex civil partnership or separated.

Factors that decrease loneliness prevalence:

- Household status is 'do not live alone'
- Aged 75 to 79.

Not living alone has the greatest effect on decreasing the prevalence of loneliness for an individual, however this decrease could be outweighed by the increases in prevalence due to either bad or fair general health or widowed marital status. In other words, a person in poor health who did not live alone would be more likely to be lonely than someone in good health who did live alone. Age UK research¹ indicates that an older person in poor health is ten times more likely to feel lonely than one in excellent health.

Cheshire West and Chester

Cheshire West and Chester ranks 191 out of 348 local authorities in England and Wales in terms of prevalence of loneliness (a rank of 1 represents the highest likelihood of loneliness and a rank of 348 the lowest likelihood). The following table shows the highest ranked local authorities and the rank of our neighbours.

Local Authority	Rank (out of 348 local authorities)	% rank
Tower Hamlets	1	0.3%
Hackney	2	0.6%
Manchester	3	0.9%
Halton	34	9.8%
Wrexham	98	28.2%
Wirral	99	28.4%
Warrington	158	45.4%
Flintshire	161	46.3%
Cheshire West and Chester	191	54.9%
Cheshire East	232	66.7%
Shropshire	255	73.7%

Hotspots

Although Cheshire West and Chester ranks around the middle of all local authorities in terms of prevalence of loneliness, there are a number of small neighbourhood areas (LSOAs) within Cheshire West and Chester which rank among the highest for loneliness nationally.

The following map and table show the areas where prediction of loneliness amongst older people is highest (and lowest).

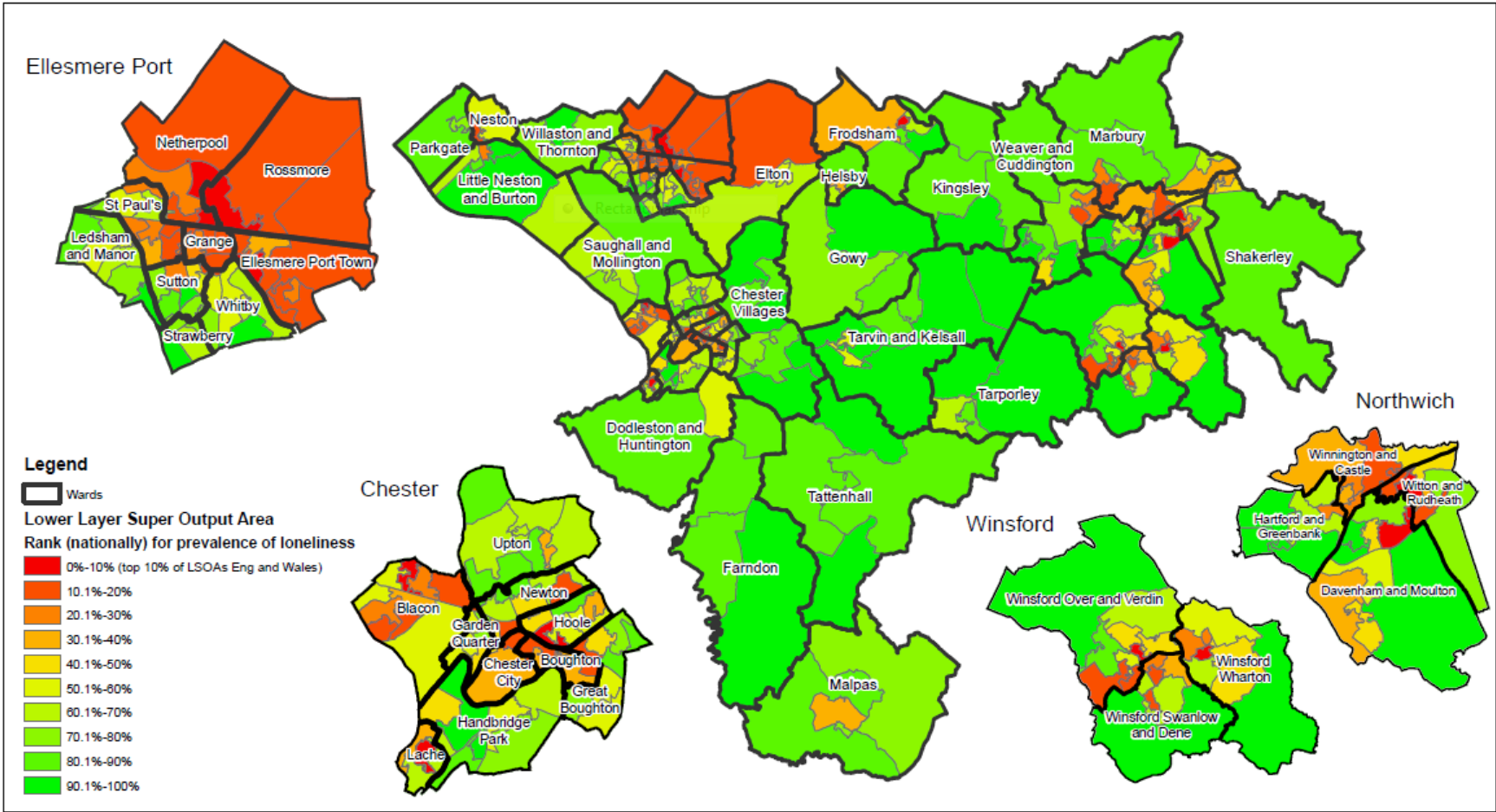
There are ten LSOAs out of the 212 in Cheshire West and Chester which come in the top 10% of all LSOAs in England and Wales for highest predicted levels of loneliness. These are areas within the following wards;

- Blacon, Lache and Hoole in Chester
- Ellesmere Port Town, Netherpool and Rossmore in Ellesmere Port
- Witton and Rudheath, Davenham and Moulton, Winsford Over and Verdin and Winsford Wharton in Northwich and Winsford
- One LSOA in Frodsham also ranks in the top 10% nationally.

As can be seen on the map the LSOAs with highest levels of predicted loneliness are mainly in urban areas. Six of the ten LSOAs are also among the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England². The top 4 LSOAs in terms of loneliness are in the top 10% of deprived LSOAs for overall deprivation and for health deprivation.

However, there are also LSOAs which do not rank as highly in terms of deprivation, most notably the one in Hoole, but also the LSOAs in Frodsham, Davenham and Moulton and Winsford Wharton.

² ID 2010, Communities and Local Government.



Cheshire West and Chester prediction of loneliness (aged 65+) hotspots (within top 10% of LSOAs in England and Wales)



Source: Office for National Statistics and Age UK prediction of loneliness in people aged 65+ for LSOAs



1:284,803

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Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)	LSOA name	Ward(s) LSOA is in	Rank (out of 34,752 LSOAs in England and Wales)	% rank (top 30% in England and Wales)
E01018311	North Blacon L3	Blacon	721	2.1%
E01018521	Wolverham and Stanlow L1	Ellesmere Port Town	935	2.7%
E01018563	Westminster and Central L4	Netherpool, Rossmore	1,294	3.7%
E01018351	Lache Park L1	Lache	1,873	5.4%
E01018343	Chester Station L3	Hoole	2,050	5.9%
E01018716	Leftwich, Rudheath and Witton L3	Witton and Rudheath	2,591	7.5%
E01018745	Winsford Central L2	Winsford Over and Verdin	2,592	7.5%
E01018701	Leftwich, Rudheath and Witton L2	Davenham and Moulton	2,913	8.4%
E01018685	Frodsham L1	Frodsham	2,916	8.4%
E01018734	East Winsford L2	Winsford Wharton	3,028	8.7%
E01018740	South Winsford L3	Winsford Swanlow and Dene	3,575	10.3%
E01018317	South Blacon L5	Blacon	3,671	10.6%
E01018729	Weaverham L4	Weaver and Cuddington	3,704	10.7%
E01018720	Leftwich, Rudheath and Witton L6	Witton and Rudheath	3,980	11.5%
E01018327	Chester Station L2	Boughton, Chester City, Newton	4,050	11.7%
E01018524	Rivacre Brook L2	St Paul's, Grange	4,629	13.3%
E01018310	North Blacon L2	Blacon, Garden Quarter	4,661	13.4%
E01018738	West Winsford L2	Winsford Over and Verdin	4,759	13.7%
E01018364	Upton and Westlea L1	Newton	4,839	13.9%
E01018538	Whitby West L2	Sutton, Whitby, Grange	5,035	14.5%
E01018553	Wolverham and Stanlow L5	Ellesmere Port Town	5,044	14.5%
E01018730	West Winsford L1	Winsford Swanlow and Dene	5,493	15.8%
E01018546	North Rivacre L1	Netherpool	5,508	15.8%
E01018382	Boughton Hall and Hoole Park L4	Boughton, Great Boughton	5,534	15.9%
E01018534	Neston and Parkgate L1	Neston	5,648	16.3%
E01032930	Chester Station L1A	Boughton, Chester City	5,693	16.4%
E01018316	South Blacon L4	Blacon	5,702	16.4%
E01018564	Westminster and Central L5	Rossmore	5,885	16.9%
E01018519	Westminster and Central L1	Ellesmere Port Town	5,891	17.0%

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E01018739	West Winsford L3	Winsford Over and Verdin	5,944	17.1%
E01018552	Wolverham and Stanlow L4	Elton, Ellesmere Port Town	6,256	18.0%
E01018551	Wolverham and Stanlow L3	Ellesmere Port Town	6,257	18.0%
E01018717	Leftwich, Rudheath and Witton L4	Winnington and Castle, Witton and Rudheath	6,390	18.4%
E01018523	Rivacre Brook L1	Grange, Sutton, St Pauls	6,513	18.7%
E01018714	Winnington and North Witton L2	Winnington and Castle	6,573	18.9%
E01018674	Barnton L4	Marbury	6,657	19.2%
E01018525	Westminster and Central L3	Grange	6,822	19.6%
E01018672	Barnton L2	Marbury	7,101	20.4%
E01018748	East Winsford L3	Winsford Wharton	7,111	20.5%
E01018543	Rivacre Brook L5	St Paul's	7,116	20.5%
E01018557	Great Sutton L2	Sutton	7,182	20.7%
E01018522	Whitby West L1	St Paul's, Grange	7,295	21.0%
E01018550	Wolverham and Stanlow L2	Ellesmere Port Town	7,343	21.1%
E01018312	North Blacon L4	Blacon	7,779	22.4%
E01018542	Rivacre Brook L4	St Paul's	7,848	22.6%
E01018314	South Blacon L2	Blacon	8,198	23.6%
E01018726	Weaverham L1	Weaver and Cuddington	8,285	23.8%
E01018728	Weaverham L3	Weaver and Cuddington	8,465	24.4%
E01018710	Castle L2	Winnington and Castle, Hartford and Green	8,627	24.8%
E01018747	Winsford Central L4	Winsford Wharton	8,874	25.5%
E01018548	North Rivacre L3	Netherpool, St Paul's	9,060	26.1%
E01018532	Little Neston and Riverside L1	Neston, Little Neston and Burton	9,461	27.2%
E01018712	Castle L4	Hartford and Greenbank, Winnington and Castle	9,797	28.2%
E01018732	Winsford Central L1	Winsford Swanlow and Dene	10,045	28.9%

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