Executive Summary

Background and Context

State of the Region 2023 is the third annual review of the performance of West Yorkshire against key socio-economic, transport and environmental themes. It provides a stocktake using indicators mapped against the West Yorkshire Plan's five Missions.

Due to the time lag affecting the official statistics available at West Yorkshire level, much of the picture we present continues to be coloured by the influence of the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath. Where possible, supplementary evidence is used to show how the situation has developed since the latest official figures were published.

Key messages

West Yorkshire 's economic output recovered strongly in 2021 (latest data available) as pandemic restrictions were lifted. Over the most recent 5-year period its economy has grown faster than the national average, both in overall terms but also per head of population.

Productivity fell in West Yorkshire and nationally between 2020 and 2021 due to one-off compositional effects linked to the re-opening of the economy. It is likely that these effects have now worked through but this still leaves West Yorkshire with a sizeable, long-term productivity deficit.

The main employment indicator used in State of the Region suggests that the overall level and rate of employment in West Yorkshire remains below its pre-pandemic level, reflecting the national position. However, more timely experimental statistics indicate that the count of employees in the region is well above the level recorded immediately before the health crisis.

The employment rates of key groups, including women, disabled people and people from ethnic minorities are all on a long-term upward trend, whilst the ethnicity employment rate gap is falling.

West Yorkshire's digital infrastructure is a key strength. Coverage of gigabit-capable fixed internet and mobile 4G services continues to improve and the region outperforms the national average on these indicators.

Average ratings of personal well-being improved in 2021-22 among West Yorkshire residents. This follows a fall in the rating during the pandemic. West Yorkshire's ratings are similar to the national average across all of the measures of well-being.

An estimated 30% of West Yorkshire households are in fuel poverty (defined as households living on a low income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost). This is well above the national average but a slight reduction on the peak of 33% seen in April 2023, reflecting a stabilisation of the energy market.

The latest available figures show that, as expected, West Yorkshire's greenhouse gas emissions increased year-on-year in 2021 as the economy re-opened following the pandemic. This was in line with the national trend. Based on more timely national figures we expect that the publication of data for 2022 will show a resumption of the pre-pandemic downward trajectory in emissions, but the rate of decline will need to be accelerated considerably to reach Net Zero by 2038.

Walking and bus services account for a larger share of trips undertaken by West Yorkshire residents than nationally and trips by private car a slightly smaller share. Public transport

usage remains below pre-pandemic levels but increased between 2022 and 2023. Satisfaction with West Yorkshire's public transport system fell in 2022.

The coronavirus continues to have an impact on key policing indicators in West Yorkshire. Most types of neighbourhood crime and the number of persons reported as missing remain below pre-pandemic levels, although there were increases in the latest annual figures in some instances. The number of knife crime offences in West Yorkshire decreased in 2022/23.

Indicators relating to the capacity and performance of West Yorkshire's policing show a positive picture. Police officer numbers maintained their upward trend whilst a high level of performance on 999 call handling has been sustained.

Mission 1: A prosperous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs

Raising the prosperity and real term living standards of all parts of West Yorkshire can only be achieved sustainably by increasing productivity. To do this we will create the conditions to boost the economy so we can see highly skilled, healthy people working in well-paid jobs growing the presence of high productivity businesses and sectors. We will support an environment where entrepreneurial activity is nurtured and can flourish, where it is easy for businesses to start-up, grow, innovate, trade, and invest.

West Yorkshire's economy recovered at a faster rate than the national average in output (gross value added) terms between 2020 and 2021. Its growth was also faster during the most recent five-year period of 2016 to 2021 and this strong performance was shared across most parts of the region. Output (GVA) per head of population also bounced back more strongly in West Yorkshire in 2021 although the region still faces a deficit with the national average in respect of this key measure.

The main employment indicator used in State of the Region suggests that the overall level and rate of employment in West Yorkshire remains below its pre-pandemic level, reflecting the national position. West Yorkshire's employment rate is also somewhat below the national average. However, more timely experimental statistics indicate that the count of employees in the region is above the level recorded immediately before the health crisis.

Progress needs to be made on the inclusivity of employment in West Yorkshire, with key groups, including women, people from ethnic minorities and disabled people still facing employment rate gaps. These groups have seen improvements in their employment rates in recent years and the figures suggest that the ethnicity employment rate gap has narrowed over time in West Yorkshire.

Productivity fell both in West Yorkshire and nationally in 2021 due to one-off effects as the economy re-opened and lower productivity sectors saw restrictions on their activity lifted. The weak relative position of West Yorkshire on productivity remains unchanged due to structural factors in the local economy, reflecting the wider position across much of the country outside the south and east of England.

The most prosperous areas of the country have a strong business base. West Yorkshire has fewer private sector businesses per head of population than the national average, but its business base has grown faster than the national average in recent years (2017-2022), driven by expansion in sectors including *Transport and storage* and *Business administration and support services*.

The region's underperformance on productivity can be traced to a number of underlying factors. The proportion of local businesses engaged in innovative activities has fallen slightly over time, whilst the value of exports forms a relatively small part of West Yorkshire's economy.

On a positive note, the value of West Yorkshire's exports of both goods and services recovered strongly between 2020 and 2021, growing faster than the national average, following a steep decline during the pandemic, although they both have yet to regain their respective 2019 levels.

A key objective of levelling-up is to reduce disparities in household income. Gross disposable household income in West Yorkshire is only 80% of the national average, partly reflecting the region's underperformance on productivity. Over the longer-term this gap has been widening but it narrowed slightly during the pandemic due to what are likely to be one-off factors related to property income and social benefits.

West Yorkshire is making some progress on low pay. The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage fell in four out of five local authorities between 2021 and 2022. However, the 2022 figures do not take full account of the recent surge in inflation and it is expected that there will an increase in the proportion of jobs falling below the threshold in the 2023 data when it is published.

The prevalence of child poverty is a key measure of progress towards an inclusive economy. There are almost 150,000 children living in low-income families in West Yorkshire, according to official statistics. Children in low-income households account for more than a quarter of children aged under 16 in West Yorkshire compared with one fifth across the UK. There is some evidence that the West Yorkshire proportion has seen a reduction compared with the previous year.

Turning to the quality of jobs available, most jobs in West Yorkshire offer satisfactory hours and the worker's desired contractual status. However, large majorities of West Yorkshire employees say that their job does not offer opportunities for career progression and does not offer good employee engagement.

Improving the skills of the workforce is central to driving productivity growth. Over the last two decades West Yorkshire's working age population has steadily become better qualified. It is difficult to discern whether this has continued on the basis of the latest data for 2022 due to a break in the timeseries to take account of the shift to the Regulated Qualification Framework. A substantial gap remains with the national average with regard to the proportion of people with higher qualifications (Level 4 and above). Performance against this indicator is highly variable at local authority level, with Wakefield lagging well below the West Yorkshire average. Meanwhile, 15% of West Yorkshire's working age population either lack any qualifications or are qualified below Level 2, above the national average of 12%.

Apprenticeships provide an important pathway into sustainable careers whilst enabling employers to address their core skill needs. They also promote social mobility. West Yorkshire has strong take-up of apprenticeships relative to its population base. Take-up increased in 2021/22 but still remains below its position prior to the pandemic in 2018/19.

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) face an increased likelihood of unemployment, low wages, or low-quality work later on in life. The proportion of young people who are NEET in West Yorkshire increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and is above the national average, with significant variations at local authority level.

Mission 2: A happy West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities

We want our region to be a happy place to live with truly affordable homes, putting the wellbeing of our people at the forefront of our agenda. We will ensure that where you live helps promote good health, active lives, and wellbeing, and that life expectancy aligns with the national average.

Average ratings of personal well-being improved in West Yorkshire during the year ending March 2022, following a decline in the previous year linked to the pandemic. West Yorkshire has similar average ratings to national figures across the four measures of well-being.

Healthy life expectancy (at birth) for both women and men in West Yorkshire is significantly lower than the England average. Inequality in overall life expectancy (the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas) in Leeds is significantly worse than the England average.

Just under two-thirds of adults in West Yorkshire are physically active in terms of activities such as walking, cycling, dance, fitness and sport; this is a similar proportion to the national average. This percentage has remained broadly stable since 2015/16.

Almost nine out of 10 West Yorkshire people engaged with the arts in 2022/23, while more than two-thirds visited a heritage site and more than a fifth watched a live sports event. The proportion of people visiting a museum / gallery saw a year-on-year increase.

Providing local people with access to nature is vital to health and quality of life. Currently, a fifth of West Yorkshire's population have easy access to local natural greenspace.

Housing supply improved somewhat as net additional dwellings increased from 5,983 in 2020/21 to 7,207 in 2021/22 but this is still lower than the pre-pandemic peak in housing supply seen in 2018/19.

Housing in West Yorkshire is relatively affordable in comparison with the national average; although affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew much more quickly than earnings, this trend was reversed in 2022. It should be noted that the affordability ratio takes no account of the quality of housing stock.

Rented housing costs in West Yorkshire are lower than nationally, except in Leeds. National data (time series data are not available at local level) indicates that rental prices are continuing to increase quickly.

Improving the energy efficiency of properties is an important lever for reducing emissions but is also crucial for helping households to manage their energy costs. West Yorkshire dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average (38% versus 47%). There are also wide variations against this measure at local authority level, with Bradford (30%) and Calderdale (32%) having the lowest ratings.

Energy efficiency of buildings has an important bearing on fuel poverty (defined as households living on a low income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost). The latest official statistics indicate that 17% of households in West Yorkshire were in fuel poverty in 2021. Estimates produced by the Combined Authority suggest that this increased to 33% by spring 2023 as energy prices surged from late-2021 onwards before falling to 30% in July 2023.

West Yorkshire continues to perform strongly in respect of its digital infrastructure, which is key to its future competitiveness as a region. 85% of properties in West Yorkshire have gigabit-capable internet coverage, 7 percentage points higher than the national average and 5 points higher than a year ago. This includes 63% of West Yorkshire properties that have full-fibre coverage. 4G mobile coverage is growing in West Yorkshire and exceeds the national average, with 90% of premises covered by all providers compared with 85% nationally.

Mission 3: A well-connected West Yorkshire - a strong transport system

We will develop a sustainable, accessible transport system with reliable and affordable buses, trains, and mass transit; a region with healthy people where active travel is the easiest choice for short journeys, car usage is reduced, and the first choice for travel is public transport.

West Yorkshire has an ambition to reduce reliance on private car journeys and substantially grow the number of trips made using sustainable transport. The latest available figures show that walking and the bus account for a larger share of trips undertaken by West Yorkshire residents than nationally and trips by private car a slightly smaller share. Public transport usage remains below pre-pandemic levels but increased between 2022 and 2023.

A key purpose of an effective transport system is to connect people from all communities to employment opportunities. Inequality of access to employment from the most deprived areas in West Yorkshire worsened in 2021/22. Bus access decreased while car access improved. This is reflective of a reduction in provision and frequency of bus services alongside reduced congestion for car trips in the region.

The transport system must play its part in creating clean, safe, healthy places for communities and businesses. Ensuring the safety of all users of our streets and highway network is essential to this as well as enabling people to feel confident to walk or cycle more. The number of killed or seriously injured casualties arising from traffic collisions was on a downward trend in West Yorkshire prior to the pandemic, before falling by more than a fifth between 2019 and 2020. However, the lifting of lockdown in 2021 was accompanied by a substantial increase in casualties.

Better planning and management of West Yorkshire's transport networks is essential and smart ticketing products like Metro's MCard contribute to this. 2022 has seen the number of trips made on MCard products increase substantially to above pre-pandemic levels. Changes to the ticketing offer in West Yorkshire through the Young Person's Fare Deal and Mayor's Fares have resulted in significant channel shift from operator tickets to MCard products., with a total of 18m trips recorded. The shift to digital channels for the purchase of MCard trips has accelerated, with 84% of travel tickets bought through the MCard mobile app rather than traditional outlets during 2022, up from 70% in 2021.

Satisfaction with transport infrastructure, is a key measure of performance and of public perceptions. Satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains somewhat low, at 5.8 (out of 10), the same score as in 2020/21 and in 2021/22. This is a composite indicator and satisfaction with individual elements that comprise has changed, most notably a small increase in satisfaction with cycle routes and facilities.

Satisfaction with public transport (bus and rail services) has a similar rating to satisfaction with highway infrastructure for the 2022/23 period but this represents a decline on the previous year for both services and the lowest rating for bus services since data was first collected in 2015/16.

Mission 4: A sustainable West Yorkshire - making lives greener

We will deliver a fair and just net zero economy where people have the skills and opportunity to access new jobs in the green sector. Where transport is sustainable and energy efficient homes ensure fuel poverty is eradicated. Where businesses and industry operate efficiently, reducing energy consumption and boosting regional productivity.

West Yorkshire has declared a climate emergency and is committed to becoming a net zero carbon economy by 2038 and to making significant progress against this challenge by 2030.

The latest data indicate that greenhouse gas end-user emissions in West Yorkshire stand at around 11.1 Mt CO₂ equivalent. This equates to 4.7 tonnes per capita, below the national average of 5.5 tonnes.

As expected, greenhouse gas emissions increased in West Yorkshire and nationally in 2021, as the economy re-opened following the pandemic. Emissions remain below their 2019 level and West Yorkshire data for 2022 are expected to show a net reduction when published in 2023 based on the national trend in emissions that can be observed in more timely data available at this level.

All broad sectors of the West Yorkshire economy, except Waste management, saw increases in emissions in West Yorkshire between 2020 and 2021. The biggest contributors to the overall net increase were the Industry sector, the Commercial sector and the Domestic sector. Transport sector emissions grew only modestly year-on-year, by 3% and remained 14% lower than in 2019.

Greenhouse gas emissions intensity measures the level of emissions per unit of gross value added (GVA) and can be used to examine the relationship between economic growth and emissions. The emissions intensity of the West Yorkshire economy, in terms of CO₂ equivalent emissions (kt) per £m of GVA, is slightly above the national average and above some of the comparator areas. The region's emissions intensity is nearly 50% lower than in 2005 and continued to fall in 2021, reflecting the fact that GVA grew more rapidly than emissions as the economy re-opened following the pandemic.

Flooding will become a more frequent occurrence and more severe as a result of climate change. Around 3% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to more than 6% in Calderdale. A significant proportion of neighbourhoods in Bradford and Calderdale are acutely vulnerable to the effects of flooding, lacking the resources needed to prepare, respond to and recover from flooding.

The development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure is central to reducing transport-related emissions. The number of publicly available electric vehicle charging points in West Yorkshire is growing rapidly, expanding by 41% in the last year alone and by 140% in the last three years. However, the ratio of charging devices to population is below the national average.

Mission 5: A safe West Yorkshire – a region where all can flourish

We will build a safe, just, and inclusive region that puts the safety of women and girls at its heart; ensuring all people feel safe, particularly in the night-time economy. We will work tirelessly to ensure that all people who live, work, and visit West Yorkshire are safe and feel safe so our communities can thrive.

The pandemic and its aftermath continue to have a significant impact on key policing indicators in West Yorkshire. Neighbourhood crime, knife crime and the number of persons reported as missing remained below pre-pandemic levels in 2022/23.

West Yorkshire achieves a higher rate of positive outcomes (charges/summons) in respect of rape offences when compared to other Metropolitan Forces and Forces nationally.

To understand feelings of safety, State of the Region presents indicators relating to perception of crime in the area. For personal crime – West Yorkshire has a positive perception rate, with only 1.1% of those responding to the Crime Survey of England and Wales feeling that personal crime was a risk. Although West Yorkshire has a very low rate for risk of personal crime, the household crime risk is higher (8.6%), but similar to other areas.

Police officer numbers continue on an upward trend. The most recent figures for March 2023 show an increase of 1,571 officers since March 2016, bringing the total in West Yorkshire to 6,072, a net increase of 35%. This also offsets the loss of officers seen between 2009 and 2016.

West Yorkshire Police's call handling performance (time taken to answer 999 calls to the police) has been consistently high since monitoring was introduced last year.

Table of contents

E	cecutive S	Summary	1
	Backgrou	nd and Context	1
	Mission	1: A prosperous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs	2
	Mission	2: A happy West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities	4
	Mission	3: A well-connected West Yorkshire - a strong transport system	5
	Mission	4: A sustainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener	6
	Mission	5: A safe West Yorkshire – a region where all can flourish	6
	Figures		10
	Tables.		14
Sı	ummary o	f performance against the indicators	15
E	quity, dive	ersity and inclusion: key points	38
	A prosper	ous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs	38
	A happy V	Vest Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities	40
	A well-cor	nected West Yorkshire - a strong transport system	41
	A sustaina	able West Yorkshire – making lives greener	41
	Supportin	g community safety and accountable, proactive policing	42
В	ackgroun	d and context	43
	Introduction	on	43
	The West	Yorkshire Plan Missions	44
	The indica	utors	45
	Structure	and content of the report	49
1	A pros	perous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs	50
	1.1 Ov	erview of the priority	51
	1.2 Pe	formance against the indicators	52
	1.2.1	Economic output (GVA)	52
	1.2.2	Economic output (GVA) per head	55
	1.2.3	Employment rate	57
	1.2.4	Employment inequality	61
	1.2.5	Productivity	64
	1.2.6	Private sector businesses	67
	1.2.7	Innovation	70
	1.2.8	International trade	72
	1.2.9	Gross disposable household income	75
	1.2.10	Jobs paying below the real living wage	78
	1.2.11	Employment in culture, heritage and sport sector	81
	1.2.12	Quality work	85

	1.2.13	People qualified at Level 4 and above	87
	1.2.14	People with no / low qualifications (qualified below level 2)	91
	1.2.15	Unemployment	96
	1.2.16	Child poverty	98
	1.2.17	Apprenticeships	102
	1.2.18	Basic digital skills	107
	1.2.19	NEETs	110
2	A happ	y West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities	113
	2.1 Ove	erview of the priority	114
	2.2 Per	rformance against the indicators	115
	2.2.1	Healthy life expectancy	115
	2.2.2	Access to greenspace	119
	2.2.3	Physical activity	124
	2.2.4	Well-being	127
	2.2.5	Participation in culture and heritage activities	130
	2.2.6	Housing supply	132
	2.2.7	Housing affordability	135
	2.2.8	Rented housing costs	139
	2.2.9	Building energy efficiency	141
	2.2.10	Fuel poverty	143
	2.2.11	Gigabit capable internet coverage	146
	2.2.12	Mobile coverage (4G and 5G)	151
3	A well-	connected West Yorkshire - a strong transport system	153
	3.1 Ove	erview of the priority	154
	3.2 Per	rformance against the indicators	155
	3.2.1	Access inequality ratio (employment)	155
	3.2.2	Mode share	159
	3.2.3	Killed or seriously injured casualties (KSI)	162
	3.2.4	MCard Ticket Transactions (bus)	164
	3.2.5	Satisfaction with highway infrastructure	166
	3.2.6	Satisfaction with public transport	169
	3.2.7	Punctuality and reliability of bus services	170
	3.2.8	Satisfaction with transport information sources	172
	3.2.9	Satisfaction with affordability of public transport	175
4	A susta	ainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener	176
	4.1 Ove	erview of the priority	176
	4.2 Per	rformance against the indicators	178

	4.2.1	Greenhouse gas emissions	178
	4.2.2	Greenhouse gas emissions by sector	182
	4.2.3	Emissions intensity ratio	185
	4.2.4	Premises at risk of flooding	188
	4.2.5	Electric buses	193
	4.2.6	Electric vehicle charging infrastructure	194
5	A safe	West Yorkshire – a region where all can flourish	201
	5.1 Ov	erview of the priority	201
	5.2 Pe	rformance against the indicators	202
	5.2.1	Serious violence	202
	5.2.2	Neighbourhood Crime	203
	5.2.3	Positive Outcomes for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences	205
	5.2.4	Time taken to answer 999 calls to the Police	207
	5.2.5	Police Officer numbers	209
	5.2.6	Offenders referred to drug treatment services from custody	210
	5.2.7	Numbers of missing persons	212
	5.2.8	Re-offending rate	214
	5.2.9	Feelings of safety across the community (including among women and 218	l girls)
6	Conclu	sions	220
Fi	gures		
Fic	ure 1: Ind	dex of GVA growth (current prices) – West Yorkshire and key comparato	r areas;
19	98=100		53
-		oss value added in current prices - average annual growth rate, 2016-21	
		oss value added (balanced) per head of population at current basic price oss value added (balanced) per head of population at current basic price	
We	est Yorksl	nire and comparator areas	56
_		omparison of employment rates (% of population aged 16-64 in employment is	
•		end in employment rate and number of people in employment (people a	•
		yrolled employees from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, West	
-	•	nployment, unemployment and economic inactivity, 2022nployment rate by group	
Fiç	ure 10: E	thnicity employment rate gap (percentage point gap between employme	ent rate
		working age from an ethnic minority versus employment rate of white pe	
		e) Disability employment rate gap (percentage point gap between employme	
_		people of working age versus employment rate of non-disabled people o	
	rkina ago		63

Figure 12: Unsmoothed output per hour worked, West Yorkshire and UK, 2004-2021	
Figure 13: Smoothed output per hour worked, West Yorkshire local authority areas, 2008,	
2016 and 2021	
Figure 14: Private sector business density (per 1,000 population) and growth in the business	
stock (% change)	
Figure 15: Business birth rates	
Figure 16: Private sector business base by sector 2022	
Figure 17: Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development composition per £	∂m
of GVA, ITL2 area (2019)	. 71
Figure 18: Ratio of value of goods exports per £m of GVA, 2021	. 73
Figure 19: Ratio of value of services exports per £m of GVA, 2021	. 74
Figure 20: Gross disposable household income per head (£) at current basic prices	. 76
Figure 21: Proportion of all employee jobs paying below the Living Wage Foundation's rea	al
living wage rate	. 79
Figure 22: Proportion of employee jobs paying below the Living Wage Foundation's real	
living wage rate by gender and status, 2022	. 80
Figure 23: Employment in cultural, sport and creative activities as a proportion of total	
employment, 2021	. 82
Figure 24: Employment by DCMS sector, West Yorkshire, 2021	. 83
Figure 25: Trend in employment in culture, sport and creative activities	
Figure 26: Job quality indicators by local authority, January to December 2021	
Figure 27: Proportion of working age population qualified at RQF Level 4 and above	
Figure 28: Trend in proportion of working age population qualified at Level 4+	
Figure 29: Proportion of working age population qualified at RQF Level 4+ by sex, 2022	
Figure 30: Proportion of working age population with no qualifications / qualified below Lev	
2]	
Figure 31: Trend in proportion of working age population with no qualifications / qualified	
below Level 2	. 92
Figure 32: Proportion of working age population with no qualifications / qualified below RC	
Level 2 by sex, 2022	. 93
Figure 33: Distribution of people who either have no formal qualifications or are qualified	
below Level 2	. 94
Figure 34: Unemployment rate - % of economically active population aged 16+	
Figure 35: Trend in level and rate of unemployment	
Figure 36: Number of children in Relative and Absolute low-income families by local	
authority, financial year ending 2022	98
Figure 37: Proportion of children aged under 16 in Relative and Absolute low-income	. 00
families	99
Figure 38: Trend in proportion of children aged under 16 in Relative and Absolute low-	. 55
income families	100
Figure 39: Ratio of apprenticeship starts to 100,000 population, 2021/22	
Figure 40: Trend in apprenticeship starts, West Yorkshire	
Figure 41: Trend in apprenticeship starts by age and level, West Yorkshire	
Figure 42: Proportion of apprenticeship starts for selected groups, 2021/22 academic year	
Figure 43: Essential Digital Skills – proportion of people who have each skill level	100 100
Figure 44: Number and proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment of	
training (NEET) or whose activity is not known (average of December 2022, January 2023	
and February 2023)	
Figure 45: Trend in proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or	110
training (NEET) or whose activity is not known	111
TIGHTHING TINE ELLOT WILLOOK GROUNTLY TO HOLD RILLOWILL	

Figure 46: Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth (2018-2020)	
Figure 47: Healthy life expectancy at birth (2018-2020), West Yorkshire Districts vs Eng	
Figure 48: Inequality in life expectancy at birth (2018-2020)	
Figure 49: Access to natural greenspace in West Yorkshire	
Figure 50: Access to natural greenspace in West Yorkshire	
Figure 51: Average Size of Private Outdoor Space	
Figure 52: Sport and physical activity levels (Adults aged 16+), 2021-22	
Figure 53: Trend in Sport and physical activity levels (Adults aged 16+), West Yorkshire	
Active PartnershipFigure 54: Trend in average (mean) personal well-being ratings, West Yorkshire	
Figure 55: Average (mean) personal well-being ratings, 2021/22	
Figure 56: Adults' engagement with the arts, heritage, museums / galleries and live spo	
2022/23	
Figure 57: Adults' engagement with the arts, heritage, museums / galleries and live spo	
the last 12 months, 2022/23	
Figure 58: Index of housing supply, West Yorkshire and key comparator areas, 2012/13	
100	
Figure 59: Net additional dwellings per 1,000 population	
Figure 60: Affordability of house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house prices 2020 and 2020	
to median gross annual earnings (residence-based), West Yorkshire local authorities	
Figure 61: Lower quartile house price affordability 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of lower	
quartile house price to lower quartile gross annual earnings (residence-based), West	
Yorkshire local authorities	137
Figure 62: Median house price in West Yorkshire and comparator areas, March 2008 -	
December 2022	
Figure 63: Lower quartile, median and upper quartile private sector two-bedroom month	ıly
rents in 2022/23, West Yorkshire local authorities	139
Figure 64: Share of all dwellings with Energy Performance Certificates Band 'C' or above	
local authority, as of March 2023	
Figure 65: Share of new dwellings with energy Performance Certificates Band 'C' or ab	
by local authority, as of March 2023	
Figure 66: Number and proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2021	
Figure 67: Indicative estimates of fuel poverty prevalence	
Figure 68: Properties with Superfast-capable Internet coverage	
Figure 69: West Yorkshire Gigabit-capable internet coverage	
Figure 70: Gigabit-capable internet coverage by Metropolitan Areas	
Figure 71: Residential and commercial properties with Full Fibre broadband coverage	
Figure 72: West Yorkshire Gigabit-capable Internet coverage by type	
Figure 73: West Yorkshire Gigabit-capable Internet coverage	
Figure 74: West Yorkshire Properties with Reliable 5G Coverage	
Figure 75: Access inequality (employment) – Proportion of jobs in major employment ce	
accessible within 30 min by bus in the morning peak, relative to jobs accessible by car.	
Figure 76: Morning peak access to major employment centres by the frequent bus netw	
from the 10% most deprived areas in West Yorkshire, vs car accessibility	
Figure 77. Share of trips by mode, West Yorkshire, 2019/21 (3-year folling average)	
average)	
Figure 79: KSI by West Yorkshire district and year, 2011-2021	
Figure 80: West Yorkshire KSI casualties by selected user type	
Figure 81: Bus Trips made using MCard Products	

Figure 82: Trend in bus usage	. 165
Figure 83: Percentage of MCard products purchased through digital channels	. 165
Figure 84: Satisfaction with highway infrastructure 2016/17 to 2022/23	. 166
Figure 85: Change in scores for components of the highway infrastructure satisfaction,	
2019/20 to 2022/23	. 167
Figure 86: Importance and satisfaction with the elements included in the indicator:	
satisfaction with highway infrastructure (Score 1-10)	. 168
Figure 87: Satisfaction with local bus and train services	. 169
Figure 88: Bus punctuality through time (% tracked journeys)	. 170
Figure 89: Bus reliability through time	. 170
Figure 90: Average awareness of transport information sources	. 172
Figure 91: Satisfaction with transport information, average satisfaction score (on 1-10 sc	
	. 173
Figure 92: Satisfaction with transport information sources in percentages	. 174
Figure 93: Satisfaction with affordability of public transport	. 175
Figure 94: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO2e), West Yorkshire	. 178
Figure 95: Net change in greenhouse gas emissions between 2020 and 2021	. 179
Figure 96: UK annual territorial greenhouse gas emissions by million tonnes carbon diox	ide
equivalent (MtCO2e)	
Figure 97: Per capita greenhouse gas emissions	. 181
Figure 98: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions by selected sectors (ktCO2e), West	
Yorkshire	. 182
Figure 99: Profile of greenhouse gas emissions by sector, 2021	. 183
Figure 100: Per capita emissions by selected sector, 2021	
Figure 101: Greenhouse gas emissions intensity, 2021	. 185
Figure 102: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions intensity	. 186
Figure 103: Proportion of residential properties in flood zones	. 189
Figure 104: West Yorkshire residential properties in flood zones	
Figure 105: Commercial properties in flood zones	
Figure 106: Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Index	. 191
Figure 107: Change in Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Following a 4° Increase in Me	
Global Temperature - % of population affected	
Figure 108: Change in Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Following a 4° Increase in Me	
Global Temperature and Deprived Areas	
Figure 109: Electric buses in West Yorkshire	
Figure 110: Total publicly available electric vehicle charging devices in West Yorkshire, 2	
to 2023	
Figure 111: Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices by local authority within V	
Yorkshire, 2022 and 2023	
Figure 112: Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices (per 100,000 population)	•
local authority within West Yorkshire, 2022 and 2023	. 197
Figure 113: Publicly available electric vehicle rapid charging devices or above in West	
Yorkshire, 2020 to 2023	. 198
Figure 114: Publicly available electric vehicle rapid charging devices or above in West	
Yorkshire, 2022 to 2023	
Figure 115: Publicly available electric vehicle rapid charging devices or above (per 100,0	
population) in West Yorkshire, 2022 to 2023	
Figure 116: Knife crime per 1,000 population	
Figure 117: Neighbourhood crime in West Yorkshire	
Figure 118: Total neighbourhood crime per 1,000 of population by force	
Figure 119: Positive outcomes for rape per 1,000 population	. 206

Figure 120: Percentage of 999 calls answered within target (10 seconds)	207
Figure 121: Count of full-time equivalent Police Officers by force	209
Figure 122: Missing persons	212
Figure 123: Missing incidents per 1,000 population	213
Figure 124: Proportion of drugs offenders who re-offend	215
Figure 125: First time entrants to the criminal justice system	216
Figure 126: Proportion of first-time offenders who are youths by police force area	217
Figure 127: Perceived risk of personal crime among people aged 16 and over	218
Figure 128: Perceived risk of household crime	219
Tables	
Tables	
Table 1: Overview of West Yorkshire Plan	44
Table 2: The headline indicators and their links to West Yorkshire Plan Missions	46
Table 3: Innovative activities among West Yorkshire businesses in last 3 years	70
Table 4: Access to natural greenspace in West Yorkshire	121
Table 5: Percentage of Residential Properties without Private Outdoor Space	
Table 6: Friends of the Earth Greenspace Deprivation – proportion of population resid	dent in
each neighbourhood category who are from an ethnic minority	
Table 7: Net additional dwellings by local authority	133
Table 8: Rural Broadband Availability by Speed	
Table 9: Broadband coverage by type	
Table 10: Mobile broadband coverage	
Table 11: Rape and serious sexual offences, West Yorkshire	
Table 12: Referrals to West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service	210

Summary of performance against the indicators

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment			
A prosperous West Yorkshire -	A prosperous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs				
Gross value added (balanced) at current basic prices – average annual growth rate (%), 2016-21 Source: ONS, Sub-regional GVA data	Bradford 2.5% Calderdale and Kirklees 3.3% Leeds 3.0% Wakefield 4.3% West Yorkshire 3.2% England 2.7%	West Yorkshire's economic output grew faster than the national average in the five-year period between 2016 and 2021 in current price terms. Three out of four West Yorkshire ITL3 regions also outperformed the England average during this period.			
Gross value added per head (balanced) at current basic prices (£) Source: ONS, Sub-regional GVA data	40,000 30,000 20,000 10,000 - 1998 —England —West Yorkshire	Output per head (a key measure of local prosperity) fell in 2020, reflecting the pandemic-related lockdown in the economy. However, between 2020 and 2021, the West Yorkshire economy bounced back stronger than the England average. West Yorkshire still faces a significant deficit against the national average with regard to its level of output per head.			

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Employment rate Employment rate for all aged 16-64 Source: ONS APS	78% 76% 74% 72% 70% 68% 66% 64% 2004 2022	West Yorkshire's employment rate fell during the pandemic, widening the gap with the national average. The latest figures from Annual Population Survey (APS) indicate there is still ground to recover on previous peak employment levels. Experimental monthly estimates from HMRC suggest that the count of payrolled employees has recovered more strongly than the APS figures suggest.
Employment inequality Employment rate for all aged 16-64, January to December 2022 Source: ONS APS	100% 80% 69% 65% 60% 40% 20% Female Male Ethnic White Disabled Not disabled Sex Ethnicity Disability	Some groups, including disabled people and people from ethnic minorities, have relatively low employment rates. There has been a general improvement in employment rates for these groups in West Yorkshire in recent years and a narrowing of the ethnicity employment rate gap.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Productivity Current price unsmoothed GVA per hour worked (£) Source: ONS, Sub-regional productivity data	39.26 40 30 20 10 2004 —West Yorkshire —England	Productivity fell in 2021 as the economy re-opened and lower productivity sectors saw restrictions on their activity lifted. The relative position of West Yorkshire on productivity has not improved in recent years.
Private sector businesses % net change in count of private sector businesses, 2016-22 Source: ONS, Business activity, size and location, 2022	12% 9% 8% 8% 4% 4% Leeds Nakeled Orkshile England Nest Torkshile England	West Yorkshire has a relatively low business density but its number of private sector businesses is growing faster than the national average rate. Over the last 5 years Leeds has seen the biggest net growth in business stock.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Innovation Proportion of West Yorkshire businesses engaged in innovation activities in previous 3 years Source: West Yorkshire Business Survey, 2023 (NB: data not collected in 2018 and 2021)	80% 71% 67% 69% 64% 64% 64% 60% 60% 60% 60% 60% 60% 64% 64% 64% 60% 60% 60% 60% 60% 60% 60% 60% 60% 60	The proportion of businesses engaging in innovation activity showed no change in 2023 compared with the previous year but was lower than in the years prior to that. Other evidence suggests a deficit of innovation activity in West Yorkshire compared to the national average.
International trade Goods and services exports per £m of GVA, West Yorkshire Source: ONS, International exports of services from subnational areas of the UK	150,000 100,000 50,000 2019 2020 2021 Goods Services	Exports of goods and services both recovered in 2021 following declines in 2020; however, both remain below their pre-pandemic (2019) level. The value of West Yorkshire's service exports continues to exceed that of goods. The ratio of export values to the overall value of the economy is lower in West Yorkshire than nationally for both goods and services.
Gross disposable household income Gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head (£) at current basic prices Source: Regional Accounts, Office for National Statistics	17,672 16,816 13,820 West Yorkshire England 21,962 England	The latest figures show that West Yorkshire's GDHI per head grew by 0.8% between 2019 and 2020, whereas the national average value fell slightly (-0.2%). Although this means that the gap with the national average has narrowed, West Yorkshire's GDHI per head is still only 80% of the England average.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Jobs paying below Real Living Wage Jobs paying below Real Living Wage by gender and status Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2022	50% 40% 30% 23% 20% 14% 10% 10% 7% 10% 7% 10% 7% 10% 0% WY England	The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage is six points above the national average. Women and part-time workers are more likely to be paid below the Real Living Wage.
Employment in cultural, sport and creative activities Trend in employment in cultural, sport and creative activities, West Yorkshire Source: Business Register and Employment Survey	200,000 180,000 160,000 140,000 120,000 100,000 80,000 60,000 40,000 20,000 - 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021	Employment in the sector grew by 4% or around 7,000 in West Yorkshire between 2020 and 2021 (latest data available). This is a similar rate of increase to the national average.
Quality work Proportion of residents who are employees in quality work Source: Job quality in the UK – analysis of job quality indicators: 2021, ONS, 2022	100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% Satisfactory Desired Not in low Opportunities Good for career employee progression involvement ■Bradford ■Calderdale ■Kirklees ■Leeds ■Wakefield ■England	Large majorities of employees consider that they work satisfactory hours and have the contract status that they desire. However, much smaller proportions of workers are not in low pay, have opportunities for career progression and believe that there is good employee involvement within their workplace.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
People qualified at Level 4 and above % of people aged 16-64 whose highest qualification is at RQF Level 4 or above, 2022 Source: ONS APS	50% 40% 36% 41% 34% 38% 27% 20% 10% 0% Prattord Calderdale kinkees Leeds Leeds Tokehire England Nest Tokehire England	The latest figures show a continuing deficit with the national average for West Yorkshire in respect of the proportion of people with higher level qualifications. At local authority level Leeds outperforms the England average.
People with no / low qualifications % of people aged 16-64 qualified below RQF Level 2 or with no qualifications Source: ONS APS	30% 20% 10% 12% 8% 9% 8% 10% 9% 6% 5% 6% 7% 0% 12% 8% 9% 8% 10% 9% 7% No qualifications ■RQF Level 1	Fifteen per cent of West Yorkshire's working age population either lack any qualifications or are qualified below Level 2, compared with a national average of 12%.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Unemployment rate for all aged 16+ Source: ONS APS and model-based estimates of unemployment	12% 10% 8% 6% 4% 2% 0% 2006 2006 2022	West Yorkshire's official unemployment rate is similar to the national average and the latest figures show that it is falling. However, more timely national figures show an upturn in unemployment in recent months that may be reflected at West Yorkshire level but not yet captured by statistics at local level.
Child poverty Proportion of children aged under 16 in Relative and Absolute low-income families	29% 26% 26% 26% 20% 20% 19% 117% 19% 15% 15% 15% 15% 15% 15% 15% 15% 15% 15	There are nearly 150,000 children in low-income families in West Yorkshire, based on the relative income measure. More than a quarter (26%) of children aged under 16 are in a low-income family (6 percentage points higher than the national average) rising to more
Source: DWP - Children in Low Income Families, local authority by age	Brodford Calderdale Kinders Leeds Nate field National Street Calderdale National Street Stre	than a third in Bradford. Nearly two- thirds (65%) of West Yorkshire children in low-income families have a family member who is in work.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Apprenticeships Ratio of apprenticeship starts to 100,000 population for 2021/22 academic year Source: Department for Education	1,400 1,200 1,200 1,000 800 600 400 200 Bradford Callerdale Kinkees Leeds Leeds Indicate Findland Nuest Tolkehire Findland Nuest Tolkehire Findland	West Yorkshire has more apprenticeships relative to its population size than the national average. Take-up is particularly high in Calderdale and Wakefield but lower in Bradford and Leeds where it is similar to the national average.
Basic digital skills Essential digital skills (EDS) – % of adults achieving each level Source: Essential Digital Skills survey, Lloyds Bank, 2022	90% 88% 76% 80% 77% 78%	Under the Essential Digital Skills Framework (revised in 2022) 24% of adults lack Foundation level skills: the ability to undertake the fundamental tasks to set up an individual for success online.
	Foundation Level EDS for Life EDS for Work ■ Yorkshire and the Humber ■ UK	

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
NEETs Number and proportion of 16- and 17- year-olds not in education, employment	5.1% 5.5% 6.0% 5.5% 5.5% 5.2% 5.2%	The proportion of young people who are NEET increased in the last year in West Yorkshire and remains somewhat above the national average.
or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known Source: Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local	5.1%	

■ West Yorkshire ■ England

2020/21

2021/22

2022/23

A happy West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities

2019/20

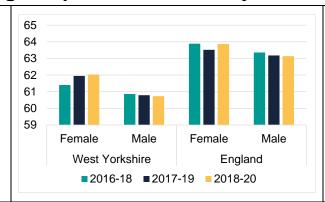
Healthy Life expectancy

Education

Healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth - estimates in years

authority, 2022/23, Department for

Source: Health state life expectancy, ONS



Healthy life expectancy in West Yorkshire is below the national average for both males and females. Healthy life expectancy for males fell during the 2018-20 period as a result of the pandemic.

Comment Indicator **Headline chart** Almost a quarter of West Yorkshire's Access to greenspace 30% population have easy access to local 25% 23% natural greenspace. The proportion is Proportion of population with easy highest for Leeds and lowest for 20% access to local natural greenspace - live Kirklees. within 300m (As the crow flies) of an 15% area of accessible natural greenspace of 10% at least 2 hectares in size. 5% Source: Natural England, ONS Mid-Year Bradford Calderdale Kirklees Leeds Wakefield **Population Estimates** Nearly two-thirds (62%) of adults Levels of physical activity 62% 63% resident in West Yorkshire are classed as physically active, which is similar to Levels of physical activity (Main - 3 the national average. This proportion 28% 26% categories), adults aged 16+ has remained broadly unchanged over 10% 11% time since 2015/16, reflecting the wider Source: Active Lives Adult Survey, national position. Inactive: less than Fairly active: 30-Active: at least 2021/22, Sport England 30 minutes a 149 minutes per 150 minutes a week week week ■ West Yorkshire ■ England Personal well-being improved in West Well-being 10 7.28 7.16 Yorkshire in the year ending March 7.72 7.86 7.55 7.54 7.41 7.45 2022, following a decline during the Estimates of life satisfaction, feeling that previous year linked to the pandemic. 3.51 the things done in life are worthwhile. There was a positive movement across 3.1 3.16 happiness and anxiety - Average (mean) all four indicators of well-being. personal well-being ratings (out of 10), West Yorkshire Worthwhile Happiness Anxiety satisfaction Source: Office for National Statistics -**■**2019-20 **■**2020-21 **■**2021-22 **Annual Population Survey**

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Participation in culture, heritage and sport activities Proportion of adults aged 16 and over who engaged with culture, heritage and sport activities Source: DCMS Participation Survey 2022/23, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	100% 88% 89% 80% 60% 40% 20% Engaged with Visited a the arts in heritage site person West Yorkshire England Watched live sports in person England	A large majority (88%) of West Yorkshire adults engaged with the arts in the previous year, whilst a smaller majority visited a heritage site (68%); 28% visited a museum / gallery; and a fifth watched live sport. These proportions are in line with the national average. There was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of West Yorkshire adults who visited a museum or gallery during 2022/23.
Housing supply Net additional dwellings per 1,000 population Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	5.0 4.0 3.0 2.0 1.0	Net additional dwellings increased in 2021-22, following two years of decline. The latest figure remains below the 2018/19 peak position but is similar to that recorded for 2017/18.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Housing affordability Affordability of House Prices – ratio of median house price to median annual wage (residence-based) Source: Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2022, ONS, 2023	10 8 6 4 2 - polypolypolypolypolypolypolypolypolypoly	Housing in West Yorkshire is relatively affordable in comparison with the national average; although affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew much more quickly than earnings, this trend was reversed in 2022. (NB: this affordability measure takes no account of differences in housing quality).
Rented housing costs Median monthly rental prices for private sector two-bedroom properties, April 2022 to March 2023 Source: Private rental market summary statistics, ONS, 2023	1,000 800 600 550 550 550 550 600 675 600 200 0 8bottord Coadertale Linkees Leeds Natelield Nestite Etidand Nest Tokshire Etidand	Median private rents are below the national average in all local authorities except Leeds. More timely national data indicates that rental prices are continuing to increase quickly.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Building energy efficiency	44% 42%	West Yorkshire dwellings are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C
Share of all dwellings with Energy Performance Certificates Band 'C' or above as of March 2023	37% 38% 30% 32%	or above compared to the national average (38% versus 47%). However, almost all new dwellings (92%) are rated at C or above.
Source: Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, 2023, ONS	Bradford Calderdale Kirklees Leeds Wakefield WY England	
Fuel poverty	40% 31% 29% 29% 29% 29% 30%	The latest official statistics indicate that 17% of households in West Yorkshire
Proportion of households in fuel poverty Source: Sub-regional fuel poverty data, Department for Energy Security & Net Zero plus Combined Authority estimates	20% 10% 0% Brattord Casterdale Kirkses Leeds National Torkshire England west Torkshire England	were in fuel poverty in 2021. Estimates by the Combined Authority suggest that this increased to 30% by July 2023 as energy prices surged from late-2021 onwards.
	■ Published statistics for 2021 ■ Estimates for July 2023	

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Gigabit-capable internet coverage % of properties with gigabit-capable internet connectivity, July 2023 Source: ThinkBroadband	90% 83% 92% 81% 85% 78% 56% 56% Vyakikild Calderdale Kinkees Leads vyakikild Anest Tokshile Endand	85% of properties in West Yorkshire have gigabit-capable internet coverage, 7 percentage points higher than the national average and 5 points higher than a year ago. This includes 63% of West Yorkshire properties that have full-fibre coverage.
Mobile coverage	100% 95% 93%	4G mobile coverage is growing in West Yorkshire and exceeds the national
4G premises (indoor) coverage from all providers, % of premises covered, January 2023	95% 92% 93% 90% 90% 89% 89% 87% 85% 80% 75%	average, with 90% of premises covered by all providers compared with 85% nationally.
Source: Ofcom Connected Nations Spring Report 2023	the state contents (these, reads "Materials tributes, tributes, tributes,	

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
A well-connected West Yorkshire - a strong transport system		
Access inequality ratio Access inequality ratio (employment) ¹	100% 85% 85% 67% 62% 40%	Inequality of access to employment from the most deprived areas in West Yorkshire worsened in 2021/22. Bus access has decreased while car access has improved. This is reflective of
Source: Combined Authority analysis	20% 0% 2016171 2071118 2018119 2019120 2020127 2021122	reduction in provision and frequency of bus services alongside reduced congestion for car trips in the region.
West Yorkshire mode share Share of trips by mode, West Yorkshire and England, 2019/21 (3-year rolling average)	60% 54.4% 55.2% 50% 40% 39.0% 33.4% 30% 20%	Walking and the bus account for a larger share of trips undertaken by West Yorkshire residents than nationally and trips by private car a slightly smaller share. Public transport
National Travel Survey (bespoke West Yorkshire), DfT (2021)	2.6% 1.7% 2.0% 1.0% 10%	usage remains below pre-pandemic levels but increased between 2022 and 2023.

¹ This is the ratio of number of jobs accessible in 30 minutes using frequent bus network from most deprived areas in West Yorkshire, to the number of jobs accessible by car in 30 minutes from same areas, during the morning peak.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Reported road casualties Killed or seriously injured casualties (KSI) in West Yorkshire (unadjusted) Source: Reported Road Casualties Annual Report 2021, Department for Transport, 2022	1,400 1,200 1,000 800 600 400 200	There was sharp decline in KSI casualties in West Yorkshire in 2020 due primarily to a reduction in road traffic linked to the pandemic. The number of casualties increased substantially in 2021 as road traffic grew in the second half of the year following the end of that year's lockdown.
MCard ticket transactions Bus Trips made using MCard Products (millions) Source: WYCA NERO Reports	20 18 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2 0 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022	The number of trips made using MCard products increased in 2022, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. This partly reflects changes to the ticketing offer in West Yorkshire through the Young Person's Fare Deal and Mayor's Fares, which have resulted in significant channel shift from operator tickets to MCard products.
Satisfaction with highway infrastructure Public satisfaction with highway infrastructure in West Yorkshire (average score on scale of 1-10)	5.7 5.9 6.3 5.4 5.8 5.8 5.8	Overall satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains at the same level as 2020/21 and 2021/22. However, satisfaction with the provision of cycling routes and facilities has improved year-on-year.
Source: Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey	2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 2022/23	

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Satisfaction with public transport Public satisfaction with bus and rail services in the region (average score on scale of 1-10) Source: Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey	■ Satisfaction with local bus services ■ Satisfaction with local train services 6.76.8 6.76.9 7.06.9 6.76.6 6.05.9 7.07.0 6.26.6 5.95.9 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 2022/23	Satisfaction with public transport fell in 2022/23 and has fallen below 2019/20 levels for bus services.
Punctuality of bus services Average on time performance (punctuality) of buses to date - January to June period of each year ('On time' equates to between 1:00 minute early and 5:59 minutes late against the scheduled time) Source: West Yorkshire Bus Alliance	90% 81% 81% 82% 82% 79% 76% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	Bus punctuality in West Yorkshire fell between 2022 and 2023 and is somewhat lower than preceding years.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Satisfaction with transport information sources Public satisfaction with sources of transport information (% satisfied) ²	Train time information at rail stations Electronic time displays at bus stations and stops Timetable posters at bus stations Metro's website Bus / rail operators' own websites 71% 27% 32% 42% 42% 48%	Among information sources with the highest awareness, train time information at rail stations has the highest satisfaction rate among the West Yorkshire public, followed by electronic time displays at bus stations
Source: Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey	0% 50% 100%	and stops.
	■ Satisfied ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied	
Satisfaction with affordability of public transport	6.2 6.0 5.6 6.2 5.5 5.2	The average rating of satisfaction with public transport affordability among West Yorkshire residents increased in 2022/23 and is at its (joint) highest
Satisfaction with affordability of public transport		since the data was first collected in 2017/18.
Source: Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey	20,11,8 20,81,8 20,8120 20,012, 20,112, 20,212,3	

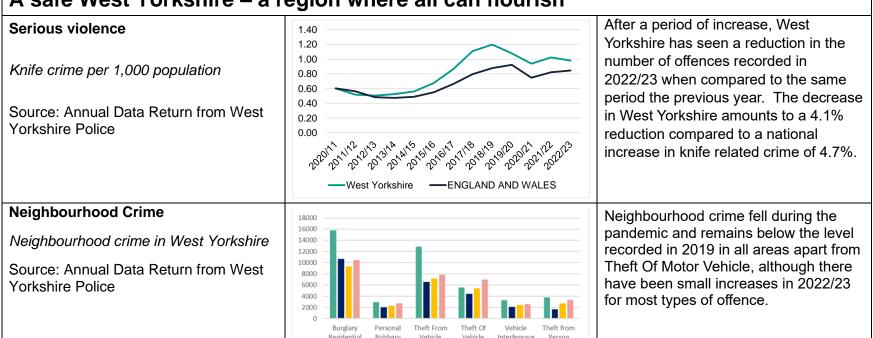
 $^{^{2}\,\}mbox{Chart}$ shows public satisfaction with selected information sources with greatest public awareness.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment		
A sustainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener				
Greenhouse gas emissions Per capita greenhouse gas emissions	12 10 8 6	Per capita emissions of greenhouse gases in West Yorkshire are below the national average and have been on a downward trend. There was a net		
(tonnes CO2 equivalent per head) Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023	4 4.7 2 0 2005 202 —West Yorkshire —England	increase in emissions in 2021 as restrictions were lifted following the pandemic but emissions are expected to fall again in 2022. Emissions reduction needs to be accelerated to achieve net zero by 2038.		
Greenhouse gas emissions by sector Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO ₂ equivalent) by selected sector for West Yorkshire	6,000 5,000 4,000 3,000 2,000 1,000	There was an increase in West Yorkshire emissions across all sectors except Waste management between 2020 and 2021. Transport emissions remain substantially below their prepandemic level of 2019.		
Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023	— Industry — Commercial — Public Sector — Domestic — Transport			

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Emissions intensity Emissions intensity ratio, 2021 - the level of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of gross value added (GVA) Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023; Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry: all ITL regions, ONS, 2023	0.40 0.30 0.20 0.10	The emissions intensity (ratio of emissions to economic output) is in steady decline in West Yorkshire but is higher than the national average. Emissions intensity continued to fall in 2021 despite an increase in overall emissions as the output of the economy expanded rapidly.
Premises at risk of flooding Proportion of residential properties in flood zones Source: Environment Agency, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates	5.9% 3.5% 3.7% 3.3% 3.4% 2.0% Exactor of Collectale Kittlee's Leed's Waterled Tokeshire Neet Tokeshire	Around 3% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to 6% in Calderdale. Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change.
Electric buses		Electric buses form a small but increasing part of the West Yorkshire bus fleet and play an important role in the development of a sustainable transport network. In Quarter 3 of 2022/23 electric buses accounted for 2% of the overall fleet.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices in West Yorkshire Source: Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics: July 2023, Department for Transport	1,200 1,000 200 1,000 1,000 200 1,000 200 200 200 200 200 200 200	Since the beginning of 2020, the number of publicly available charging devices in West Yorkshire has more than tripled, to a total of 981 in July 2023.

A safe West Yorkshire – a region where all can flourish



■ 2019/20 ■ 2020/21 ■ 2021/22 ■ 2022/23

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Time taken to answer 999 calls to the Police Percentage of 999 calls answered within target (10 seconds) Source: Police.uk	100 90 80 77 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80	West Yorkshire police have sustained a high level of performance on 999 call handling.
Police Officer numbers Count of full-time equivalent Police Officers Source: Home Office	10,000 8,000 6,000 4,000 2,000	Officer numbers in West Yorkshire continue on an upward trend. The most recent figures for March 2023 show an increase of 1,571 officers since March 2016, bringing the total in West Yorkshire to 6,072, an increase of 25.8% for that period.
Missing persons Count of missing persons in West Yorkshire Source: Quarterly Performance Report, West Yorkshire Police	Jun-19 Sep-19 Mar-20 Jun-20 Jun-20 Sep-19 Mar-21 Mar-21 Mar-22 Jun-22 Jun-22 Mar-22 Mar-23 Mar-22 Mar-23 Mar-23 Mar-23	The restrictions on movement linked to the pandemic led to a substantial reduction in the number of persons reported as missing and the latest figures remain well below pre-pandemic levels.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Re-offending rate Proportion of drug offenders who re- offend Source: Proven reoffending statistics: July to September 2021, Ministry of Justice	35% 30% 25% 20% 15% 10% 5% 0% Oct 2010 to Sep 2011 —West Yorkshire England and Wales	The proportion of drug offenders who re-offend in West Yorkshire has fallen in the two most recent years for which data are available. The current re-offending rate for this group is similar to the England and Wales average.
Feelings of safety across the community % of adults who feel that personal crime is a risk Source: Crime Survey of England and Wales	Mar-17 Sept-17 Sept-17 Dec-18 Mar-19 Jun-19 Sept-19 Sept-19 Sept-19 Dec-19 Mar-20 Jun 2020-2022 Sept-22 Dec-22 Mar-23	For personal crime – West Yorkshire has a positive perception rate, with only 1.1% of those surveyed feeling that personal crime was a risk, according to the latest data.

Equity, diversity and inclusion: key points

Many of the indicators presented in State of the Region have important implications for key population groups in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion. These are summarised below, drawing on the wider content of this present report together with the detailed analysis presented in <u>State of the Region</u>: <u>Equality, diversity and inclusion report</u>, 2022.

A prosperous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs

Employment

Females, some ethnic minority groups as well as disabled people face substantial employment rate gaps. However, the ethnic minority employment rate gap shows signs of narrowing over time.

The number of disabled people in employment is increasing, due to growth in the overall number of people who are disabled as well as a longer term reduction in the employment rate gap for this group.

Business leadership

There is a lack of diversity in business leadership, with females and people from ethnic minorities both under-represented.

A relatively high proportion of disabled people are self-employed but in some cases this is due to a lack of alternative employment opportunities. Disabled people often face challenges in sustaining their business.

Pay

Pay is a central measure of job quality. There are several issues from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective, including a large and persistent gender pay gap in West Yorkshire. National data shows an ethnicity pay gap faced by some ethnic groups and a widening pay gap for disabled people.

Culture, heritage and sport

Equality, diversity and inclusion is a key challenge with regard to the culture, sport and creative workforce. National data shows that females are under-represented and face an acute gender pay gap. People from ethnic minorities are strongly represented in the digital sector but poorly represented in sport. People from lower socio-economic backgrounds face problems of exclusion in terms of employment in the sector and accessing senior roles.

Household income

Significant income inequality exists between ethnic groups in the UK. National figures show that people in Pakistani and Bangladeshi households are the most likely out of all ethnic groups to live in low income households, whilst people in white British households are least likely to do so.

Wide gaps also exist in median household income between the disabled and non-disabled population.

Quality work

Severely insecure work is more prevalent among women, people from ethnic minorities, disabled workers and, most of all, younger people. Some groups face a double penalty in terms of job insecurity, including disabled young people and ethnic minority women.

Qualifications

Female qualification attainment outperforms that of males against all key measures, with evidence that the gap is widening.

Some ethnic groups outperform the White group in terms of working age qualification profile, although ethnic minority groups in West Yorkshire underperform relative to their national counterparts against some measures of qualification attainment.

Disabled people are much less likely to be highly qualified and much more likely to hold no qualifications.

Unemployment

Unemployment rates are uniformly higher for ethnic minority groups and are particularly high for young people. Rates for females are lower than for males but working age females are much more likely to be economically inactive.

Nearly a half of West Yorkshire's unemployed claimants live in deprived neighbourhoods.

Child poverty

National data shows that children in Pakistani and Bangladeshi households are the most likely to live in low income households, whilst children in white British and white 'other' households are the least likely to live in low income households

Apprenticeships

Females and people from ethnic minorities are fairly well represented on apprenticeships, although both these groups are under-represented in terms of apprenticeships for under-19s.

People from ethnic minorities, disabled people and particularly females are concentrated in certain apprenticeship subject areas, which can be a potential disadvantage in terms of career prospects.

Take-up of apprenticeships by people from deprived neighbourhoods is likely to be impacted by the shift towards higher apprenticeships and the reduction in intermediate apprenticeships.

Basic digital skills

People from a white ethnic group, females, people with no formal qualifications, people with a physical impairment and people aged 75 and above are most likely to lack all of the Essential Digital Skills for Life.

NEET

Young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and mental health issues are much more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment or training) in years 12 and 13.

Young people from ethnic minority groups are less likely than average to be NEET, except for people from a Mixed ethnic background.

A happy West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities

Healthy life expectancy

There is clear evidence of large inequalities in health and well-being in later life, which relate to dimensions of socio-economic position, ethnicity, gender and area.

Access to greenspace

Deprived neighbourhoods have equal access to private outdoor space but these spaces decrease in size the more deprived an area is.

People from ethnic minority communities are more likely to live in an area with poor access to greenspace.

Physical activity

The likelihood of being active varies markedly according to the personal characteristics of the individual, as reflected in national data that shows that men are more likely to be active than women; that some ethnic groups are more likely to be active than others, with people from a Mixed ethnic background most likely to active and people from the Asian group least likely; and activity is less common for adults with a disability or long-term health condition.

Wellbeing

Self-reported health, marital status and adults' employment status and highest level of education are the most important factors affecting life satisfaction.

Participation in culture and heritage activities

National evidence shows that people from the most deprived neighbourhoods are significantly less likely to engage with the arts and heritage sectors. There is also variation by demographic group. For example, people from the Chinese ethnic group are most likely to engage with the arts, whilst people from the Pakistani group are least likely to engage.

Housing

The pandemic has led to a reduction in new housing supply and has pushed up house prices and rents, although the house price outlook is now being impacted by the cost of living crisis and higher interest rates.

People from ethnic minority groups and disabled people are particularly exposed to this because of their relatively low incomes and the fact that they spend a high proportion of their incomes on housing costs.

Even before the pandemic people in poverty in West Yorkshire were cut off from housing by the lack of affordability of house prices and rents.

Fuel poverty

Ethnic minority groups, disabled people, single parent households and households in deprived neighbourhoods are all disproportionately exposed to fuel poverty due to low

incomes. In some cases, the scale of the fuel poverty gap is limited by the higher energy efficiency offered by social housing.

Gigabit capable internet coverage

While superfast and gigabit capable broadband coverage continues to increase, connectivity in rural areas continues to lag behind that of urban areas. This is especially pronounced in Calderdale where only 12% of properties in rural areas are connected to gigabit capable broadband.

Broadband coverage does not equate to take-up of broadband services by households. Ofcom estimate that a minority of premises that are able to get full fibre and / or full-fibre are actually taking it, and the cost of subscriptions play a part in this.

A well-connected West Yorkshire - a strong transport system

Access inequality

Females, people from some ethnic minority groups and disabled people face a greater exposure to access inequality due to a combination of reasons, including higher likelihood of living in a deprived area, lack of access to a car and greater reliance on the bus network.

Satisfaction with public transport and transport infrastructure

The level of public satisfaction with highway infrastructure and with public transport (local bus and rail) is very similar across different groups, including by sex, ethnicity and disability. People with a limiting health condition give a relatively high satisfaction rating to local bus services and a low rating to highway infrastructure. Females give a relatively high rating to rail services.

A sustainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener

Emissions and climate change

Some evidence suggests that poorer households in the UK are more vulnerable to climate change because temperature shocks are associated with deepening wealth inequality. This could be due to a range of factors, including the impact on health of poorer people due to increased air pollution and the effect on food supply chains³.

As well as being more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, deprived communities lack the social infrastructure to initiate and lead local climate action projects that bring a range of immediate community benefits as well as contributing to a post-carbon future. The same neighbourhoods are among the least resilient to rapid decarbonisation and structural change. They face the potential of negative economic impacts resulting from changes in the labour market and the consequences of adaptation to zero carbon in areas including energy, housing and transport.⁴

³ Sheng, X., Chisadza, C., Gupta, R. et al. <u>Climate shocks and wealth inequality in the UK: evidence from monthly data</u>

⁴ Local Trust (2021), <u>Levelling up through climate action A once in a lifetime opportunity to make sure no neighbourhood is 'left behind'</u>

Flooding

Increases in flood vulnerability associated with rising temperatures disproportionately affect the most deprived communities, with two thirds of the people living in the areas seeing the biggest rises in flood vulnerability living in the 20% most deprived areas of West Yorkshire.

Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing

Neighbourhood crime

There is a broad correlation between the prevalence of neighbourhood crime and levels of deprivation at police force level, suggesting that Neighbourhood crime is not just a police issue but a societal issue also.

Police officer numbers

West Yorkshire Police are among the best performing forces in relation to the attraction, recruitment and retention of female officers.

The proportion of officers from Black, Asian, Mixed and Other ethnic minorities is also rising and the most recent figures show that the joiner's rate is above the local population rate.

Re-offending rate

The proportion of first time entrants into the criminal justice system in West Yorkshire who are young people is falling.

Background and context

Introduction

Welcome to State of the Region 2023 – the third of our annual reviews of the performance of West Yorkshire against key socio-economic and environmental indicators.

The report provides a stocktake of where West Yorkshire currently stands, using a basket of headline indicators aligned with the five Missions of the West Yorkshire Plan.

It is designed to be a resource for all partners across West Yorkshire but will also be useful for stakeholders from outside the region, including national government. It highlights areas of strength and positive trends in the local economy but also flags key issues and challenges that are priorities for future action.

The report aims to provide a balanced and objective view of performance in the region and gives insight into the difference we are making though the combined action of all partners in West Yorkshire. It does not seek to provide a review of the impact or performance of the Combined Authority or any other single partner in West Yorkshire but the indicators do reflect priority areas within which the activities of partners are designed to move the dial on these indicators.

Nor does it make policy recommendations – the solutions to the problems faced by West Yorkshire are set out in the policies and strategies developed by partners in the region. Indeed, a report of this kind can only go so far in unpacking and explaining the wide range of complex issues facing the region. Nonetheless, this analysis should prove useful in prompting debate as partners seek to review their strategies in the light of the direction of travel in the economy.

The nature of the evidence relating to West Yorkshire means that there is a time lag in the picture available to us for some indicators, and this needs to be borne in mind when interpreting the analysis presented in this report. In some cases, this means that the latest data reflect the influence of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. For example, the latest data for local greenhouse emissions is for 2021, a year in which emissions saw a year-on-year increase as the pandemic-related restrictions were lifted. This kind of time lag also means that the latest data will not always provide a full picture of important recent developments. For example, the most recent available data relating to fuel poverty in West Yorkshire is for 2021, well before the current crisis in global energy prices became such a crucial issue.

Ultimately, we are seeking to understand the underlying trends in performance in the region and the opportunities and challenges for the medium to longer term. But some current issues are of such profound importance that they cannot be overlooked and require the use of evidence beyond local statistics to provide the necessary picture, particularly where those local statistics are dated. In this instance we

Our accompanying <u>interactive dashboard</u> also provides dynamic content to show movement against the indicators in the period between annual reports and also enables the user to drill down into the more detailed data underpinning the commentary provided in this report, including cuts of the data by local authority and by demographic group (where applicable / available).

The **Local Plans** of the five West Yorkshire local authorities have a key influence on the full range of indicators, facilitating inclusive growth, regeneration, housing delivery and helping

to address the climate emergency. Local Plans provide a vision for the future of each local area and a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities. They set out a spatial planning framework, seeking to manage growth in a sustainable way and to balance the overall scale, distribution and phasing of development⁵.

The West Yorkshire Plan Missions

This latest version of State of the Region reflects the content of the West Yorkshire Plan, formulated by the Combined Authority and its partners. The West Yorkshire Plan sets out an ambitious vision and five Missions for 2040 that will drive our work to transform lives and communities across the region. The Plan is clear that no single organisation can deliver these ambitions, it is only by the whole region working together that our vision will be realised.

The missions have been informed by our values and ambitions and they will focus all our work for the long-term, setting the framework for our strategies and investments for the future.

The indicators contained in this report are structured around the five West Yorkshire Plan Missions. The Missions are summarised below but are set out in full in the <u>Plan itself</u>.

Table 1: Overview of West Yorkshire Plan

Mission	By 2040 we will have:	
A prosperous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs	 Closed the productivity gap between West Yorkshire and the UK Living standards above the national average, with no child growing up in poverty Good quality work available for all A diverse and inclusive workforce, where everyone who wants to work can do so 	
2. A happy West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities	 Happy communities living in well-connected, active neighbourhoods with access to culture and greenspaces A truly affordable and high-quality housing offer, meeting the needs of people and communities Healthy life expectancy equalling the national average 	
3. A well-connected West Yorkshire – a strong transport system	 A sustainable, accessible transport system Reliable and affordable buses, trains, and mass transit A region with healthy people where active travel is the easiest choice for short journeys, car usage is reduced, and the first choice for travel is public transport 	
4.A sustainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener	 A net zero carbon economy by 2038 Growth in the green economy in West Yorkshire 	
5.A safe West Yorkshire – a region where all can flourish	 Neighbourhood crime below the average for comparable areas Lower rates of reoffending Raise confidence in the police and improve feelings of safety amongst women and girls in West Yorkshire 	

_

⁵ Further details are set out in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework

The indicators

The State of the Region indicators are high level, strategic indicators that reflect key dimensions of the performance in the West Yorkshire economy: the key areas where we would like to see change and improvement to support sustainable economic growth, improved living standards and greater inclusion.

This year's report includes additional indicators that are put forward in the West Yorkshire Plan. These were identified The mapping of indicators against the Missions is set out in Table 2.

It has not been possible to update all of the indicators contained in last year's report due to data availability issues.

- The indicator relating to Net contribution of West Yorkshire to HM Treasury drew on analysis from Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Espresso Area Comparison Tool. This has not been updated in the interim. We intend to retain this indicator and present refreshed analysis when data becomes available.
- The publication of data on Healthy Life Expectancy has been delayed this year by ONS to enable the inclusion of new population counts derived from the 2021 Census.

There are also several additional measures proposed in the West Yorkshire Plan for which data are not readily available currently but which we hope to cover in future iterations of State of the Region. These measures are:

- Housing quality
- Housing sustainability
- Bio-diversity.

Table 2: The headline indicators and their links to West Yorkshire Plan Missions

WY Plan Mission	Indicator title	New indicator for 2023	Not included in 2023 report due to data availability issues
Mission 1: A prosperous West Yorkshire	Productivity		
	Employment rate		
	Businesses engaging in innovation activity		
	Goods / services exports as % of GVA		
	% qualified at level 4 and above		
	Cultural sector contribution to employment		
	Economic output (GVA)		
	Economic output (GVA) per head		
	Private sector businesses		
	Business birth rate		
	Proportion of children in low-income families	Υ	
	% qualified below level 2		
	Unemployment rate		
	% of employees in quality work		
	Apprenticeship starts		
	Jobs paying below Real Living Wage		
	Gross disposable household income		
	Employment rate gap for population population groups		
	People without basic digital skills		
	NEETs		
	Net contribution of local area to exchequer		Υ

WY Plan Mission	Indicator title	New indicator for 2023	Not included in 2023 report due to data availability issues
	Gigabit capable fixed broadband coverage		
Mission 2: A happy West	Take-up of superfast (or above) broadband services		
Yorkshire	Mobile coverage (4G and 5G)		
	% of households in fuel poverty		
	Housing affordability		
	Rented housing costs		
	Housing sustainability	Υ	Υ
	Housing quality	Υ	Υ
	Healthy life expectancy (previously life expectancy)		Υ
	Net additional dwellings		
	Access to Greenspace		
	Activity levels / participation in sport	Υ	
	Wellbeing	Υ	
	Access to culture / participation in culture, heritage and sport	Υ	
	Building energy efficiency		
	Access inequality ratio (employment)		
Mission 3: A well-connected	West Yorkshire travel mode share		
West Yorkshire	Reported road casualties		
	Public satisfaction with bus and rail services in the region		
	MCard ticket transactions (bus)		
	Satisfaction with highway infrastructure		
	Punctuality and reliability of bus services (exploring potential to extend analysis to rail services for future reports)	Υ	
	Satisfaction with transport information sources	Υ	

WY Plan Mission	Indicator title	New indicator for 2023	Not included in 2023 report due to data availability issues
	Satisfaction with affordability of public transport	Υ	
	Premises at risk of flooding		
Mission 4: A sustainable West	GHG emissions (ktCO2)		
Yorkshire	GHG emissions (ktCO2) by broad sector of economy		
	Emissions intensity ratio		
	Biodiversity	Υ	Υ
	Electric buses	Υ	
	EV charging infrastructure	Υ	
	Knife Crime		
Mission 5: A safe West Yorkshire	Neighbourhood Crime		
	Time taken to answer 999 calls to the police		
	Positive Outcomes for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences		
	Police Officer Numbers		
	Missing Persons		
	Offenders referred to drug treatment services from custody		
	Re-offending rate	Υ	
	Feelings of safety across the community (incl. women and girls)	Y	

Structure and content of the report

The report is structured around the five Missions, with each of the indicators assigned to a priority, as per Table 2.

There is a short analysis and commentary for each indicator, examining why the indicator is important, how West Yorkshire is performing against it based on the latest available data and an assessment of trends / direction of travel. Additional evidence is drawn upon to provide added context and to explain the factors behind changes in performance.

To set the analysis in context, we have, where data allows, set out comparisons between West Yorkshire and the national (England) average. Comparisons are also made with selected Mayoral Combined Authority areas whose circumstances are most relevant to the experience of West Yorkshire, including South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and West Midlands Combined Authority (CA)¹.

¹ This is coterminous with the West Midlands Metropolitan County (ITL2 area) rather than the wider West Midlands region (ITL1).

49

1 A prosperous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs

Key points

In output (GVA) terms, West Yorkshire's economy recovered strongly from the pandemic between 2020 and 2021. The region's average annual growth rate exceeded the England average in the five-year period between 2016 and 2021.

Output (GVA per head) is below the national average in West Yorkshire but grew faster than the England average between 2020 and 2021 as well as over the five years between 2016 and 2021.

West Yorkshire's employment rate and level of employment both fell during the pandemic period. There has been a degree or recovery since then.

Productivity fell in West Yorkshire and nationally between 2020 and 2021 due to one-off factors, with low-productivity sectors increasing their output as pandemic-related restrictions on the economy were lifted.

West Yorkshire has a small business base relative to its population compared with the national average but has seen faster net growth in its numbers of businesses in the most recent five-year period (2017-2022).

The latest data show a decline in the proportion of West Yorkshire businesses undertaking innovation activity. This probably reflects the short-term impact of the pandemic but evidence of continuing low levels of R&D spend in Yorkshire and the Humber point to a structural deficit in this area for West Yorkshire.

Exports of goods and services both recovered in 2021 following declines in 2020, both growing at a faster rate than nationally. However, both remain below their pre-pandemic (2019) level. The ratio of export values to the overall size of the economy is lower in West Yorkshire than nationally for both goods and services.

The latest figures show that West Yorkshire's Gross disposable household income per head grew by 0.8% between 2019 and 2020 whereas the national average value fell slightly (-0.2%). Although this means that the gap with the national average has narrowed, West Yorkshire's GDHI per head is still only 80% of the England average.

The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage in West Yorkshire is above the national average at 18%. This figure may increase in future as the impact of inflation is more fully captured in the statistics.

Turning to the quality of work, large majorities of employees consider that they work satisfactory hours and have the contract status that they desire. However, much smaller proportions of workers are not in low pay, have opportunities for career progression and believe that there is good employee involvement within their workplace.

Employment in the culture, heritage and sport sector in West Yorkshire is a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy, accounting for 15% of all employment, with a stronger representation in Leeds. Employment grew by 7,000 or 4% between 2020 and 2021 in West Yorkshire.

The latest figures show a continuing deficit with the national average for West Yorkshire for the proportion of people with higher level qualifications. Although at local authority level Leeds outperforms the England average.

At the other end of the spectrum, 15% of West Yorkshire's working age population either lack any qualifications or are qualified below Level 2, compared with a national average of 12%.

West Yorkshire's official unemployment rate is similar to the national average and the latest figures show that it is falling. However, more timely national figures point to an increase in unemployment in recent months that may be reflected at West Yorkshire level.

There are almost 150,000 children living in low-income families in West Yorkshire according to official statistics. Estimates by End Child Poverty indicate that this figure is likely to be substantially higher when housing costs are accounted for.

Take-up of apprenticeships is relatively high in West Yorkshire. Although the number of apprenticeship starts is growing, the current figure is below the pre-pandemic level.

1.1 Overview of the priority

Outcomes

Underpinning this Mission, the West Yorkshire Plan sets out four outcomes to be achieved by 2040:

- Close the productivity gap between West Yorkshire and the UK.
- Raise living standards above the national average, with no child growing up in poverty.
- Ensure good quality work is available for all.
- Support the development of a diverse and inclusive workforce, where everyone who
 wants to work can.

Actions for change

The West Yorkshire Plan sets out a comprehensive programme of action that must be undertaken to realise these commitments:

- Boost the economy so we can see highly skilled, healthy people working in well-paid jobs
- Grow the presence of high productivity businesses and sectors
- Support an entrepreneurial environment where it is easy for businesses to start-up, grow, innovate, trade, and invest
- Support businesses to be resilient, embracing the opportunities of digital transformation
- Attract investment and jobs from overseas
- Ensure our employers recognise the value of a diverse workforce and invest in talent to develop the skills and progression we need
- Promote culture of lifelong learning and flexible opportunities to meet the needs of business
- Build integrated infrastructure, attracting investment to create jobs in well-connected places
- Build an open, inclusive, and thriving innovation ecosystem
- Address inequalities experienced by people, communities, and businesses whilst celebrating the breadth of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

1.2 Performance against the indicators

1.2.1 Economic output (GVA)

West Yorkshire's growth rate diverged from the national average at the time of the global financial crisis. Between 2016 and 2021 West Yorkshire's average growth rate was above the England figure, and West Yorkshire's economy experienced a strong recovery from the Pandemic.

Gross value added (GVA) is the most commonly used measure of economic output at the local level. It is a similar measure to GDP, but with the effects of taxes and subsidies included. GVA is a measure of the increase in value of the economy through the production of goods and services in a given area and time.

It is a critical indicator of the health and performance of a local economy. It gives a measure of the prosperity and living standards of an area but needs to be considered alongside demographics and employment to provide a full understanding of economic conditions. GVA growth can be driven by an expansion of the labour force, or by increases in productivity.

It is worth pointing out that local-level data becomes available after the national data. This means that year-to-year, national revisions can have an impact on local data, which will not get picked up until the local data is released the following year. The GVA data presented here is the most up-to-date local-level GVA data that is available.

In 2021, the latest year for which data are available, West Yorkshire had economic output (GVA, or gross value added) of £60.1bn. For context, Greater Manchester had economic output of £78.7bn and the West Midlands had an economic output of £70.1bn. Leeds did produce more than Manchester (£27.9bn compared with £26.5bn), however Birmingham produced more than both (£28.9bn).

West Yorkshire's GVA growth performance was on a par with the national average between the late-1990s and the financial crisis of 2008. Since then, the paths have diverged with West Yorkshire growing more slowly. Among the comparator areas, Greater Manchester has performed best and has actually grown quicker than the England average between 1998 and 2021.

The coronavirus pandemic had a substantial impact on the level of economic output recorded in 2020, although West Yorkshire's GVA performed more strongly than England between 2019 and 2021, increasing by 4% in West Yorkshire compared with 2% across England.

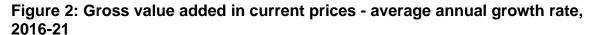
Figure 1: Index of GVA growth (current prices) – West Yorkshire and key comparator areas; 1998=100

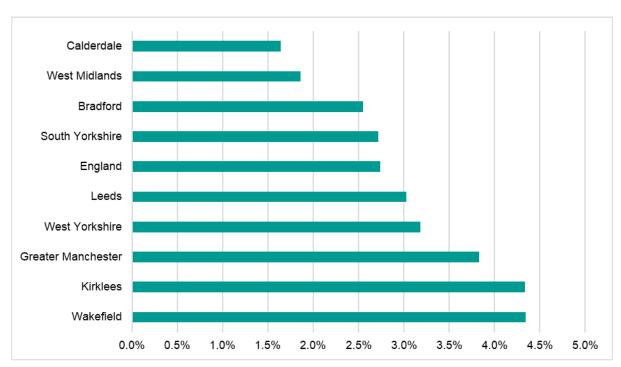


Source: Regional Gross Value Added, ONS, 2023

Annual growth between 2016 and 2021 in West Yorkshire outpaced the England average (3.2% compared with 2.7%). This is faster than South Yorkshire (2.7%) and the West Midlands (1.9%), but behind Greater Manchester (3.8%).

Locally, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield grew quicker than the national average (2.7%) between 2016 and 2021. Leeds' economy grew by 3% year-on-year, whilst Kirklees and Wakefield grew by 4.3% year-on-year on average. Bradford was close behind the national average as it grew by 2.5%, but Calderdale only grew by 1.6% year-on-year.





Source: Regional Gross Value Added, ONS, 2023

GVA estimates are also available from the Office for National Statistics in "real" terms, with the effect of inflation removed, as chained volume measures (CVM). These are presented in money terms using 2019 values. On this basis West Yorkshire still outperforms the England average for the period of 2016 to 2021 with an average annual growth rate of 0.8%, compared with the national average value of 0.5%.

1.2.2 Economic output (GVA) per head

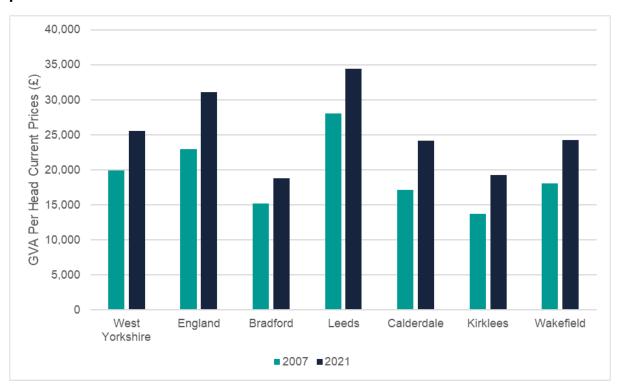
GVA per head fell in 2020 reflecting the pandemic-related lockdown in the economy. However, between 2020 and 2021, the West Yorkshire economy bounced back stronger than the England average and outgrew Greater Manchester.

Looking at GVA per head enables better comparison between areas of different sizes and also provides a measure of an area's prosperity, by quantifying economic output per resident. However, GVA per head is not a measure of productivity –particularly as the population data will include a substantial number of people not working in the area and will not account for factors such as commuting flows and demographics.

GVA per head in West Yorkshire stood at £25,590 in 2021, which is 82% of the average for England (£31,138). The gap has widened since 2007 when West Yorkshire's GVA per head was 87% of the England average. The West Midlands followed a similar trend as GVA per head went from 81% of the England average in 2007 to 78% by 2021. Greater Manchester had the opposite however as it went from 87% to 88% during the same period.

With a figure of £34,487, Leeds is the only area of West Yorkshire where output per head is higher than the England average. Other areas range from £18,832 in Bradford to £24,237 in Wakefield. For comparison, Manchester has GVA per head of £48,108, and Birmingham's output per head is £25,307.

Figure 3: Gross value added (balanced) per head of population at current basic prices

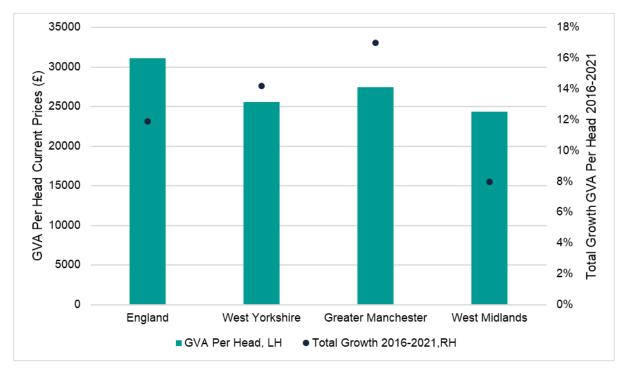


Source: Regional Gross Value Added, ONS, 2023

Between 2016 and 2021, GVA per head in current prices across England grew by 2.3% on average year-on-year. This is below the West Yorkshire level average annual growth rate of 2.7%. Greater Manchester had an average annual growth rate of 3.2% and the West Midlands had one of 1.5%.

Within West Yorkshire there were disparities, however. Calderdale had the slowest average annual growth of 1.9%, compared with Kirklees which grew by 4.4% on average. Wakefield had an average annual growth rate of 3.3%, Leeds 2%, and Bradford 2%.

Figure 4: Gross value added (balanced) per head of population at current basic prices – West Yorkshire and comparator areas



Source: Regional Gross Value Added, ONS, 2023

Despite having a stronger post-Pandemic recovery, West Yorkshire's GVA per head (£25,590) lags Greater Manchester's (£27,452) and England's (£31,138). Growth between 2016 and 2021 in West Yorkshire (14%) outpaced England (12%) but failed to keep up with Greater Manchester (17%). When compared with the West Midlands, West Yorkshire comes out ahead in overall level of GVA per head, and growth rate since 2016.

1.2.3 Employment rate

West Yorkshire's employment rate fell during the pandemic and may not yet have fully recovered.

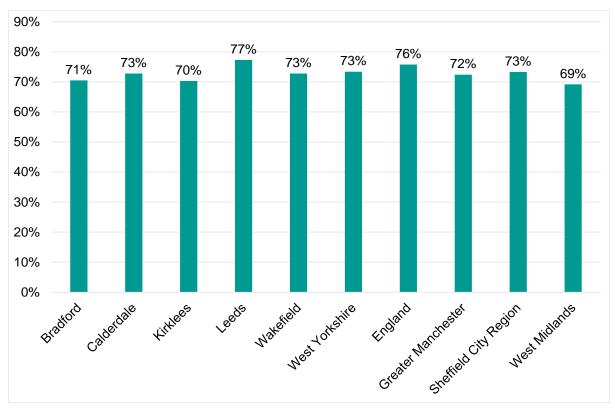
The employment rate is an important measure of the performance of the local economy because prosperity is dependent on two things: the number of people in employment and how productive those people are in their jobs. The focus here is on the first of those aspects.

It is difficult to measure the impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent recovery on employment in local economies using official data. This is because we are reliant on the Annual Population Survey, which draws on 12 months of survey data for its estimates, concealing significant changes that may be happening in the short-term.

There are 1,067,000 people in employment in West Yorkshire based on data for January to December 2022 period. The employment rate in West Yorkshire, expressed as a proportion of the population aged 16-64, is below the national average at 73% (versus 76%). An additional 35,000 people would be in employment in West Yorkshire if the employment rate could be raised to the national average.

The latest figures indicate that Bradford and Kirklees have lower employment rates than the West Yorkshire average, whilst Leeds' rate is higher than both the West Yorkshire average and also the national average. However, the margins of error in the data mean that these differences are not statistically significant.

Figure 5: Comparison of employment rates (% of population aged 16-64 in employment)



Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2022, Office for National Statistics

About the data

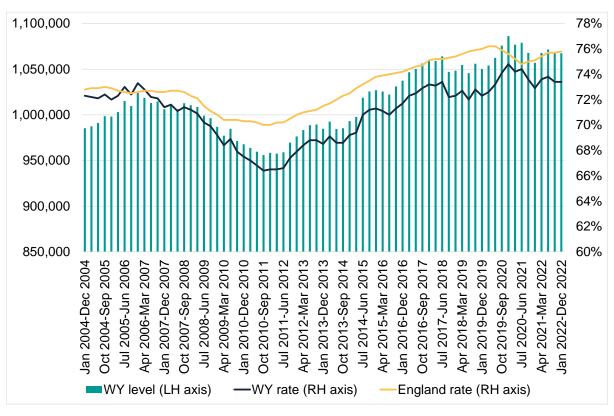
Employment rate estimates are taken from the Annual Population Survey. The Annual Population Survey is a continuous household survey covering the UK, designed to provide information on socio-economic variables at local levels. The data sets consist of 12 months of survey data and are broken down on a quarterly basis. Based on the survey, people must have done a minimum of one hour paid work in the reference week to be counted as employed.

The West Yorkshire rate has been consistently lower than the England average over the last 15 years and there was a widening of the gap following the 2008 global financial crisis. The local rate, along with the national average, has followed an upward trend since 2012, reflecting the progress of the recovery from the crisis. Between 2012 and 2020 the level of employment increased by 11% in West Yorkshire, similar to the rate of growth seen nationally, whilst the employment rate improved from 68% to 75%.

However, this incorporates a decline in the level and rate of employment during the pandemic, which has partially offset progress. According to the latest figures West Yorkshire's employment level is 15,000 off its peak, whilst its rate is 1 percentage point lower than its peak position. The employment gap with the national average (the gap between the two employment rates) has widened slightly from 1 to 2 percentage points.

The nature of the data available at local level does not provide a fully up to date picture of the local situation following the pandemic. More timely data for the national situation show that England's employment rate, although it has undergone a recovery, has not yet returned to its pre-pandemic level and this may also be the case for West Yorkshire.

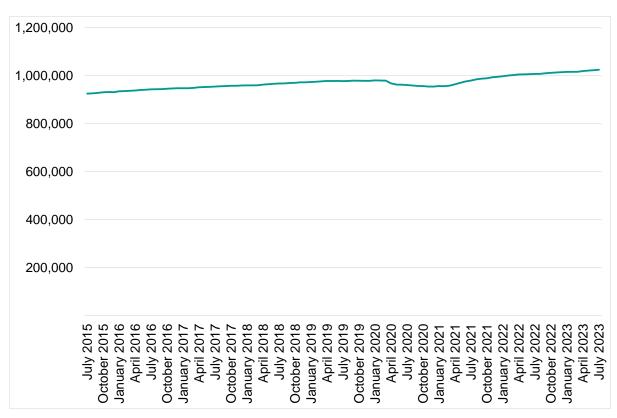
Figure 6: Trend in employment rate and number of people in employment (people aged 16-64)



Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2022, Office for National Statistics

A supplementary source to the Annual Population Survey analysis used above is Experimental monthly estimates of payrolled employees from HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) data. This data is not directly comparable with the Annual Population Survey / Labour Force Survey but provides a timely insight into the number of employees in West Yorkshire.

Figure 7: Payrolled employees from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, West Yorkshire



Source: Pay As You Earn Real Time Information from HM Revenue and Customs

RTI data show a steady increase in the count of employees in West Yorkshire from early 2021 onwards. By July 2021 the count had returned to pre-pandemic levels recorded in February 2020 and by July 2023 the employee count in West Yorkshire was 45,000 or 5% higher than immediately before the pandemic. At national level the employee count recovered more slowly, returning to its February 2020 level in September 2021 and was around 4% higher than at the former point in time by July 2023.

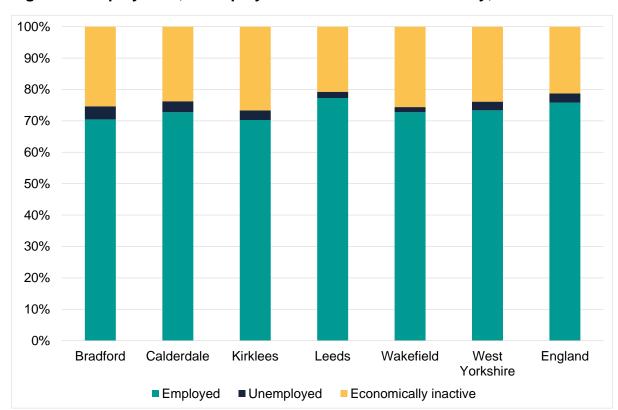


Figure 8: Employment, unemployment and economic inactivity, 2022

Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2022

As the figure, above, shows the main contributor to West Yorkshire's relatively low employment rate and that of some of its local authorities is the scale of economic inactivity among the working age population. Around 347,000 people aged 16-64 are inactive in West Yorkshire, equivalent to 24% of the population in this age group. This is 3 points higher than the national average of 21%.

The number of economically inactive people in West Yorkshire increased by 35,000 or 11% between 2020 and 2022, reflecting the impact of the pandemic. A key driver was the 20% increase in the number of people inactive due to long-term sickness.

Overall, West Yorkshire faces challenges around strengthening the demand-side of the local economy to increase the volume of available job opportunities and addressing potential barriers to participation in the labour market. We consider this in more detail, below, when we examine employment rates for different population groups.

1.2.4 Employment inequality

Some groups have relatively low employment rates, although there are signs that the employment rate gap is narrowing for people from ethnic minorities, although the gap is much wider in West Yorkshire than nationally.

West Yorkshire's overall level of employment and employment rate have both grown steadily in recent years. However, from an inclusion perspective it is important to understand the extent to which members of different groups participate in employment.

There is a range of groups in the labour market with relatively low employment rates. Women, people from some ethnic minority groups, disabled people and older people are less likely to be in employment than the wider population. The picture in West Yorkshire broadly reflects the national pattern.

Only 54% of disabled people and 59% of people from ethnic minorities are in a job in West Yorkshire, according to the latest data. This compares with an overall rate of 73% for the working age population.

The largest employment rate gaps are for disabled people (26 percentage points lower than for people who are not disabled) and people from an ethnic minority (11-point gap with people who classify themselves as white). However, females face a gap of 9 points with males and older people aged 50-64 a gap of 13 points with people aged 25-49.

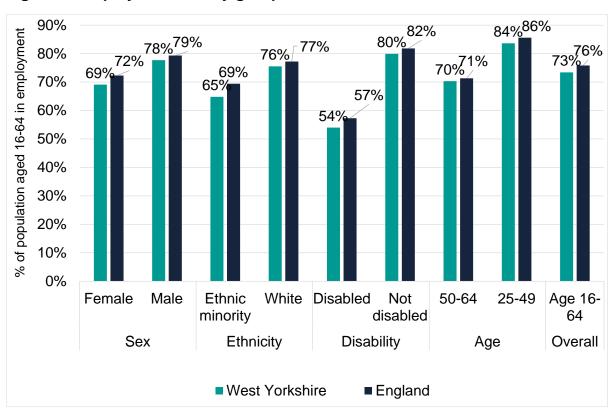


Figure 9: Employment rate by group

Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2022, Office for National Statistics

The latest data show that West Yorkshire performs similarly or slightly below the national average on employment rates for all of the groups under consideration.

Employment rates vary by different ethnic groups. National data show that the lowest rate is for the combined Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic group, at around 10 points lower than the

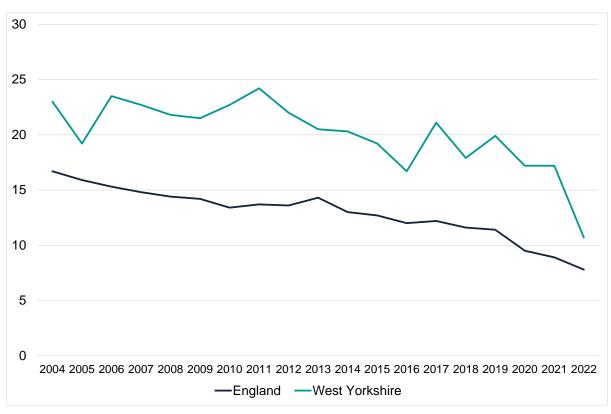
overall rate for people from ethnic minorities (58% versus 68%). This helps to explain the low ethnic minority employment rate in West Yorkshire since this group accounts for more than 40% of the ethnic minority population of West Yorkshire, compared with around a fifth nationally.

All of the groups under consideration here have seen an increase in their employment rates in West Yorkshire in recent years.

- For the disabled group, the employment rate has grown from 45% in 2014 to 54% in 2022.
- For people from all ethnic minority groups combined the employment rate has increased from 49% in 2012 to 65% in 2022.
- For females the employment rate has grown from 63% in 2011 to 69% in 2022.
- For the 50-64 age group the employment rate has improved from 62% in 2011 to 70% in 2022.

There has been a narrowing over time of the employment rate gap between people from the White group and people from all ethnic minority groups combined¹. In West Yorkshire, this gap fell from 24 points in 2011 to 11 points in 2022.

Figure 10: Ethnicity employment rate gap (percentage point gap between employment rate of people of working age from an ethnic minority versus employment rate of white people of working age)

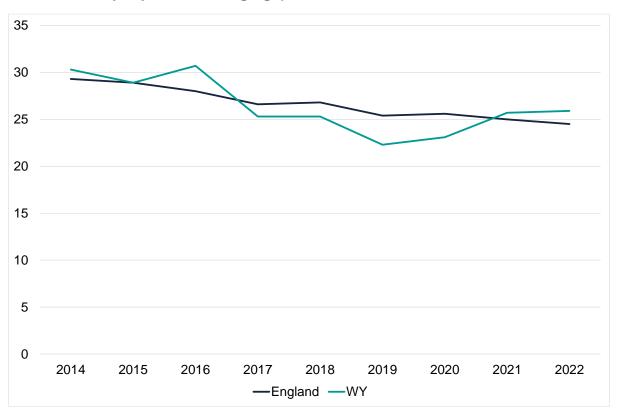


Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

West Yorkshire's ethnicity employment rate gap has remained wider than nationally throughout the period for which data is available. There appears to have been a narrowing of the gap in 2021/22, although it should be noted that the figures are volatile and the confidence intervals around estimates are wide.

¹ Gov.uk Ethnicity facts and figures (2021)

Figure 11: Disability employment rate gap (percentage point gap between employment rate of disabled people of working age versus employment rate of non-disabled people of working age)



Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

At national level, the number of disabled people in employment has increased over recent years. This is due to growth in the size of the disabled population and increases in the overall employment rate, as well as a narrowing of the employment rate gap for this group¹. A similar improvement has been seen in West Yorkshire with the level of employment among disabled people increasing from 130,000 to 195,000 between 2014 and 2022. As noted above the disabled employment rate increased from 45% in 2014 to a peak of 57% in 2020, before falling slightly to 54% in both 2021 and 2022.

Over the same period West Yorkshire's disability employment rate gap² reduced from 30 percentage points to 23 percentage points between 2014 and 2020 before widening to 26 points during 2021 and remaining at that level in 2022.

¹ Department for Work and Pensions, <u>The Employment of Disabled People: Data to 2022</u> (2023)

² The disability employment rate gap is the difference between the employment rates of disabled and non-disabled people.

1.2.5 Productivity

Increased productivity is the main engine of local economic growth and improved living standards. During 2020 productivity increased both for West Yorkshire and at national level due to temporary compositional factors as lower productivity sectors were worse affected by the pandemic than high productivity sectors but this effect was reversed as restrictions were lifted in 2021. Nonetheless, the key message is that underlying structural factors mean that West Yorkshire's productivity deficit persists.

Productivity refers to how efficient firms are at turning inputs, such as labour and capital, into outputs, such as goods and services. There is a direct link between productivity and living standards – higher productivity increases firms' ability to raise wages. Increased productivity also has positive impacts at the aggregate level of the economy. With greater productivity comes greater gross domestic product (GDP), which in turn brings higher tax revenues and lower government budget deficits.

Whilst UK productivity growth has remained below trend since the 2008 financial crisis, local productivity has remained markedly below national average levels. In 2007, the gross value added per hour worked in West Yorkshire was 91% of the UK's output per hour worked. By 2021, West Yorkshire's output per hour worked was 86% of the UK average, demonstrating a widening, rather than a narrowing, of the productivity gap. This relationship between West Yorkshire and national productivity has remained fairly constant over the past decade.

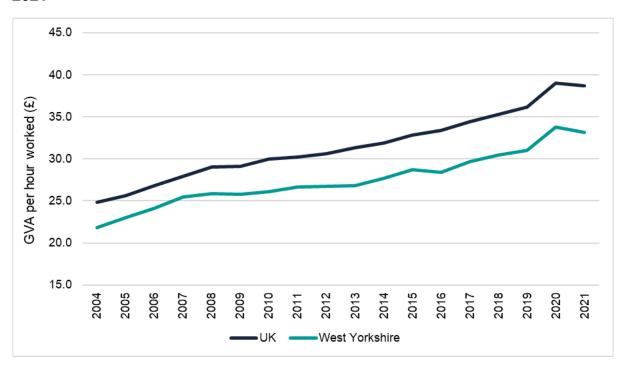
When compared to Greater Manchester, the story is similar. In 2007, GVA per hour worked in Greater Manchester was 92% of the UK's output per hour worked, but this fell to 88% by 2021. However, the West Midlands performed better and closed the gap with the UK. In the West Midlands, GVA per hour worked went from 84% of the UK in 2007 to 90% in 2021. West Yorkshire's output per hour worked in 2021 was £33.14, behind Greater Manchester (£33.99), and the West Midlands (£34.63).

To set these comparisons into context, none of the Mayoral Combined Authorities in the north of England and only two ITL 2 sub-regions (both in Cheshire) have productivity levels above the UK average¹.

.

¹ Office for National Statistics, Subregional productivity in the UK: June 2023 (2023)

Figure 12: Unsmoothed output per hour worked, West Yorkshire and UK, 2004-2021



Source: Sub-regional productivity, ONS, 2023

The number of hours worked across West Yorkshire and the UK declined by the same amount in 2020 due to the Pandemic. However, hours worked in West Yorkshire increased by 10% between 2020 and 2021, compared with 8% nationally. Despite this, GVA per hour worked decreased in 2021. This is likely due to recovery in lower productivity sectors such as hospitality, which have seen hours rebound following the Pandemic, but productivity gains have lagged.

45.0

40.0

(3)

35.0

25.0

15.0

0.0

Bradford Calderdale Kirklees Leeds Wakefield UK

Figure 13: Smoothed output per hour worked, West Yorkshire local authority areas, 2008, 2016 and 2021

Source: Sub-regional productivity, ONS, 2023

At the local authority level, Leeds has the highest output per hour worked in West Yorkshire (£34.50). However, this is £3.80 per hour below the UK level. Calderdale's GVA per hour worked in 2021 was £33.60, followed by Wakefield's £33.20, Kirklees' £31.20, and Bradford £30.60. Between 2016 and 2021, GVA per hour worked had an average annual growth rate of 2.7% nationally. Kirklees (4.6%), Wakefield (4.3%), and Calderdale (3.2%) all outpaced the national average. Leeds had the slowest average annual growth (1.6%), whilst Bradford had an average annual growth rate of 2.4%.

About the data

Local productivity data is produced by ONS, by combining the GVA data outlined above along with data on hours worked from the Annual Population and Labour Force Surveys to produce standard measures of productivity. The focus here is on labour productivity; other factors such as capital, machinery and services also contribute to productivity, but are more complex to measure at the local level.

1.2.6 Private sector businesses

West Yorkshire has fewer private sector businesses per head of population than the national average but has experienced quicker growth in overall business stock between 2017 and 2022. West Yorkshire also has a higher rate of high growth businesses, compared to England, Greater Manchester, and the West Midlands.

The size of the private sector business base is a key measure of the health of a regional economy.

In 2022 West Yorkshire was home to 95,030 private sector businesses¹, giving the area the third largest business base among MCAs, behind Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. Nearly all (99.6%) of local private sector businesses are small and medium sized with fewer than 250 staff. This is in line with the national average and the make-up of comparator areas.

There were 40.4 private sector businesses per 1,000 population in West Yorkshire in March 2022, below the national average of 49.1. West Yorkshire's private sector business density is greater than the West Midlands (37.8), but behind Greater Manchester's (43.8). Within West Yorkshire their rate ranges from 35 in Bradford and Wakefield to 46.1 in Calderdale. Leeds has 45.1 businesses per 1,000 people, and Kirklees has 40.3.

60 7.0% 6.0% 50 5.0% 40 4.0% 30 3.0% 20 2.0% 10 1.0% 0.0% West Totalite West Middards ■ Business Density, LH ◆ Business Stock Growth (2017-2022), RH

Figure 14: Private sector business density (per 1,000 population) and growth in the business stock (% change)

Source: UK Business: activity, size and location, ONS, 2023

West Yorkshire slightly outperformed the national average with business stock growth of 4.4% between 2017 and 2022, compared with 3% nationwide. This is also greater than the 3.5% of business stock growth that the West Midlands experienced, but lower than the 5.7% that Greater Manchester had.

Within West Yorkshire, there were quite sharp differences in business stock growth between 2017 and 2022, but all five districts experienced increases. Leeds had the largest growth (5.4%), followed by Bradford (4.8%), Kirklees and Wakefield (3.6%), and Calderdale (2.6%).

¹ In this analysis businesses are equated with local units. A local unit is an individual site (for example a factory or shop) associated with an enterprise. It can also be referred to as a workplace.

Nationwide, there are around 3.4 high growth businesses¹, per 1,000 firms in the 2018-2021 period. Across West Yorkshire, there were 3.8 high growth businesses, per 1,000 firms. This is higher than the ratio in Greater Manchester (3.7), and the West Midlands (3.1). Within the West Yorkshire differences, the ratio of high growth businesses per 1,000 firms ranges from 2.6 in Calderdale, to 4.4 in Leeds and Wakefield. In Bradford the ratio is 3.4, and in Kirklees it is 3.1.

Due to the way high-growth businesses are defined (see footnote), the Covid-19 Pandemic placed downward pressure on the ratio, when compared with previous State of the Region reports.

In 2021, there were 11,055 business births within West Yorkshire, compared to 17,510 in Greater Manchester, and 16,550 in the West Midlands. The district makeup of these business births is as follows: 37% in Leeds, 21% in Bradford, 18% in Kirklees, 13% in Wakefield, and 10% in Calderdale.

When controlling for resident population, West Yorkshire unfortunately falls short of the national average for business births per 1,000 residents. This is an important metric as it highlights opportunities and the supply of entrepreneurial capital within a region. Nationally, there were 5.7 business births per 1,000 residents, ahead of the 4.7 ratio in West Yorkshire. This indicates that the business density gap between England and West Yorkshire is likely to increase going forward. Both Greater Manchester (6.1), and the West Midlands (5.7) had a greater ratio of business births per 1,000 residents than West Yorkshire.

Within West Yorkshire, Wakefield had the lowest ratio (3.99), meanwhile Calderdale had the highest (5.5). Leeds was second with 5.1 business births per 1,000 residents, followed by Kirklees (4.7), and Bradford (4.3).

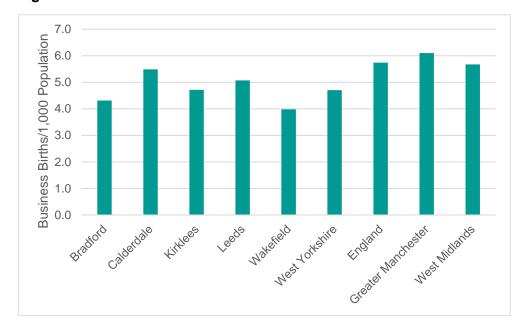


Figure 15: Business birth rates

Source: Business demography, ONS, 2023

West Yorkshire is similar to the UK in terms of its sectoral makeup but does have some notable points of difference. The share of businesses is higher locally in transport and

¹ High growth businesses are defined as those that have experienced growth of at least 20% per year for the previous three years in employment numbers, starting with at least 10 employees.

storage (6.2% of businesses locally compared to 4.9% nationally), production (7.2% vs 5.2%), whilst it is also higher in wholesale and retail (15.8% vs 13.8%).

This picture varies by local authority, however. For instance, production is lowest in Leeds as a percentage of business stock (5%), compared with 9% in Calderdale and Kirklees, 8% in Wakefield and 7% in Bradford. On the other hand, Leeds is strongest for Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services. Likewise, Finance & Insurance, and Property is strongest in Leeds.

Between 2017 and 2022, West Yorkshire has seen particularly strong growth in the Transport & Storage Sector (+25% businesses, compared to 22% nationally). Leeds has seen a 45% increase in businesses within this sector, followed by 33% growth in Calderdale. Compared to nationally, West Yorkshire also had strong growth in Business Administration & Support Services (8% growth, compared to 1% nationally).

16% % of total business stock 14% 12% 10% 8% 6% 4% 2% 0% Retail Professional, scientific & Health Agriculture, forestry & fishing Production Construction Motor trades Wholesale Accommodation & food nformation & communication Finance & insurance Property Business administration & Public administration & Education Arts, entertainment, recreation Transport & Storage (inc. support services defence & other services services technical postal) ■ West Yorkshire ■ England

Figure 16: Private sector business base by sector 2022

Source: UK Business: activity, size and location, ONS, 2023

1.2.7 Innovation

Sixty-four per cent of businesses in the region are engaged in innovation-related activities according to the West Yorkshire Business Survey 2023. This figure is unchanged on 2022 but slightly down on the years before that. The most common forms of innovation are introducing new technologies and improving new or improved services. National statistics indicate that spending on research and development is lower in West Yorkshire compared to the UK.

Innovation consists of the development and application of ideas and technologies that improve goods and services or make their production more efficient. Innovation can lead to higher productivity: new ideas and technologies are developed and applied, generating greater output with the same input. As more goods and services are produced, wages and business profitability are stimulated. Measures to promote innovation include increasing spending on research and development (R&D) and investing in education and training, as well as supporting new business start-ups.

The latest West Yorkshire Business Survey, carried out during summer 2023, suggests that 64% of businesses in West Yorkshire had undertaken some form of innovative activity over the last three years. This is the same proportion as in 2022 but down from 69% in 2020, and 71% in 2017.

Medium and large sized businesses with 50 or more employees were much more likely to have engaged in innovative activities, with the proportion rising to 91% among this group. Businesses in the manufacturing and transport/storage sectors were also more likely to be involved, with proportions of 75% and 78% respectively.

Table 3: Innovative activities among West Yorkshire businesses in last 3 years

Activity	% of businesses that have innovated in this area
Introduce new or significantly improved goods	15%
Introduce new or significantly improved services	39%
Introduce new or significantly improved processes for producing or supplying goods or	
services	30%
Introduce new technologies	43%
Participate in knowledge transfer	23%
Invest in research & development	22%
Any activity	64%
All activities	3%

Source: West Yorkshire Business Survey 2023

Across local authorities, the difference in those that had undertaken any innovation-related activity was not statistically significant, except for Wakefield, where the figure was significantly lower at 56%. There were also statistically significant differences for individual activities. Businesses in Leeds were more likely to have introduced new technologies (48%), while businesses in Wakefield were less likely to have done and also less likely to have introduced new processes.

Statistics relating to R&D Tax Credit claims provide a further insight into the level of innovative activity by firms. In total, West Yorkshire businesses made 3,465 R&D Tax Credit claims in the fiscal year 2021/22, worth £195m and relating to £945m of qualifying expenditure on R&D. This represents a net increase of 9% in the number of claims compared with the previous year, a 30% increase in their value and a 24% increase in

expenditure. By comparison, UK claims increased by 5%, their value increased by 11% and qualifying expenditure grew by 8%.

Despite this strong growth performance the value of R&D Tax Credit claims is relatively small in West Yorkshire, at £176 per worker compared with the UK average of £252. Total qualifying expenditure is worth £851 per worker in West Yorkshire compared with £1,473 UK average.

25,000

20,000

15,000

10,000

West Yorkshire Greater Manchester

Business Government Other (incl.higher education)

Figure 17: Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development composition per £m of GVA, ITL2 area (2019)

Source: ONS, UK gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) by sector of performance and region, 2015 to 2020. ONS, GVA at ITL2, current price estimates: 1998 to 2020.

The latest available Office for National Statistics data on Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD), for 2019, shows West Yorkshire has low R&D intensity relative to the UK average. Investment per £m of GVA is slightly above the figure for Greater Manchester but well below that of South Yorkshire and the West Midlands. The intensity of R&D expenditure by the business sector is higher in West Yorkshire than in both Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire.

About the data

Local data on businesses' engagement in innovation is not readily available on a consistent basis from published statistics. The West Yorkshire Business Survey provides local data on this subject, asking respondents whether they have undertaken innovation activities in the past three years.

1.2.8 International trade

Exports of goods and services both recovered in 2021 following declines in 2020, both growing at a faster rate than nationally. However, both remain below their prepandemic (2019) level. The ratio of export values to the overall size of the economy is lower in West Yorkshire than nationally for both goods and services.

International trade, and particularly exporting, is an important measure as there is evidence to suggest that businesses who trade internationally tend to perform better than other businesses. Internationally trading businesses often experience higher growth and are often more productive than their domestically focused counterparts. This is due to the former operating in markets where greater competition is present, as well as the fact that they are more likely to be exposed to ideas and innovations which helps to drive their own performance.

About the data

Subnational data on international trade is published by the Office for National Statistics, following methodologies to disaggregate national and regional trade data. For goods, this draws on data on trade from HMRC. Trade in services estimates are sourced mainly from survey data, but also a variety of administrative sources.

The UK leaving the EU and the subsequent transition period, along with the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, supply chain disruption and global recession, have caused high levels of volatility in trade performance in the past two years, including the period covered by the latest available statistics for West Yorkshire.

Goods exports

Goods exports bounced back much stronger in West Yorkshire between 2020 and 2021, compared with the national average. Goods exports from West Yorkshire were worth £4.98bn in 2020, but reached £6.18bn in 2021, an increase of 24%. In comparison, exports from England increased by 10% between 2020 and 2021. Greater Manchester and the West Midlands both experienced a 4% increase in goods exports, but the overall value of goods exported from these areas are greater than West Yorkshire (£6.81bn and £13bn respectively).

At the local authority level, not every district experienced an increase in goods exports from 2020 to 2021. Wakefield experienced a 2% decline year-on-year, meanwhile Leeds experienced a 44% increase. Calderdale and Kirklees an increase of 26%, and Bradford 21%. Calderdale and Kirklees are responsible for 33% of goods exports from West Yorkshire, 30% are exported from Leeds, 20% from Bradford, and 16% from Wakefield.

At a national level, the level of goods exports per £1m of GVA was £137,799. This is higher than the West Yorkshire level of £102,699. Greater Manchester had a lower ratio than West Yorkshire (£83,333), but the West Midlands had a significantly greater ratio (£183,735).

Calderdale and Kirklees are the only districts which have a higher ratio than the national rate (£154,566). Meanwhile, Leeds was considerably beneath the national average with £67,166 exports per £1m of GVA.

This clearly reflects the economic specialisms within West Yorkshire. Whilst all areas have degrees of strength in manufacturing and services, services are a greater contributor to the economy in Leeds and this is reflected in export activity.

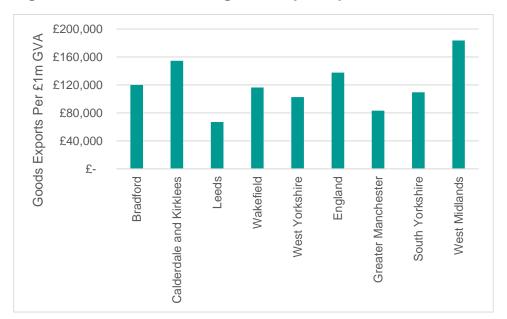


Figure 18: Ratio of value of goods exports per £m of GVA, 2021

Source: Subnational Trade in Goods, ONS, 2023

Services

In 2020, the value of service sector exports from West Yorkshire totalled £5.77bn, however that increased to £6.56bn in 2021, an increase of 13%. This is greater than the increase at a national level where service exports increased by 9%. However, it lags Greater Manchester (19% increase) and the West Midlands (17% increase).

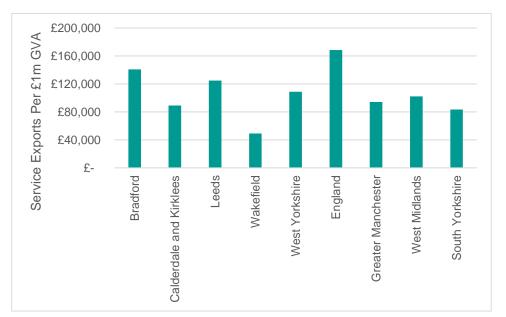
Service exports increased across all five districts between 2020 and 2021, albeit at different rates. Wakefield exports increased by 41% (albeit from the lowest base). Leeds experienced growth of 17%, Calderdale and Kirklees grew by 10%, and Bradford grew by 3%.

In 2020, Leeds accounted for 52% of West Yorkshire's service exports, Bradford 24%, Calderdale and Kirklees 19%, and Wakefield 5%. This has changed slightly to 53% from Leeds, 22% from Bradford, 18% from Calderdale and Kirklees, and 6% from Wakefield.

Nationally, the ratio of value of services exports per £m of GVA was £168,507. Across West Yorkshire, this ratio was £108,951, ahead of Greater Manchester (£94,153) and the West Midlands (£102,282).

Within West Yorkshire there were sharp differences, once again reflecting the sector composition of the different districts. Bradford had the greatest ratio of service exports per £1m of GVA at £140,971, followed by Leeds (£124,978), Calderdale and Kirklees (£89,147), and Wakefield (£49,213).

Figure 19: Ratio of value of services exports per £m of GVA, 2021



Source: Subnational Trade in Services, ONS, 2023

1.2.9 Gross disposable household income

GDHI per head in West Yorkshire is well below the national average. Although this gap has been widening over time it narrowed slightly between 2018 and 2020.

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that individuals in the household sector have available for spending or saving after they have paid direct and indirect taxes and received any direct benefits. It is a key measure of living standards and material welfare.

We have already seen that West Yorkshire and its constituent local authorities all have levels of productivity below the national average. Analysis¹ shows that for some local areas there can be a divergence between the level of productivity and the level of incomes that people receive. Some areas have high incomes relative to their contribution to the economy in the form of productivity, whilst others are highly productive, but incomes are relatively low. In the case of the former this can reflect the effect of commuting from high income homes to work in lower income areas, with North Yorkshire being a prime example. It can also reflect higher levels of non-wage incomes that can lead to higher household incomes relative to productivity in those areas.

In the case of West Yorkshire and its local authorities both output and income are low.

The level of GDHI per head in West Yorkshire was £17,672 in 2020, based on the latest figures available. This is 80% of the England average.

Focusing on the West Yorkshire local authorities, the current level of GDHI per head ranges from £15,709 in Bradford, only 72% of the national average, to £18,634 in Leeds, 87% of the England average. Bradford has the tenth lowest GDHI per head of any district / unitary authority in England.

The GDHI per head figure for West Yorkshire is the fourth lowest of the 33 ITL2² regions in England and is slightly lower than Greater Manchester. It is somewhat higher than that of both Sheffield and the West Midlands, ranked second last and last among ITL2 regions on this measure. The highest performing areas in respect of this indicator are concentrated exclusively in London and the South East and East of England.

¹ Office for National Statistics, What are the regional differences in income and productivity? (2021)

² International Territorial Level 2 – in England these areas comprise counties or groups of counties.

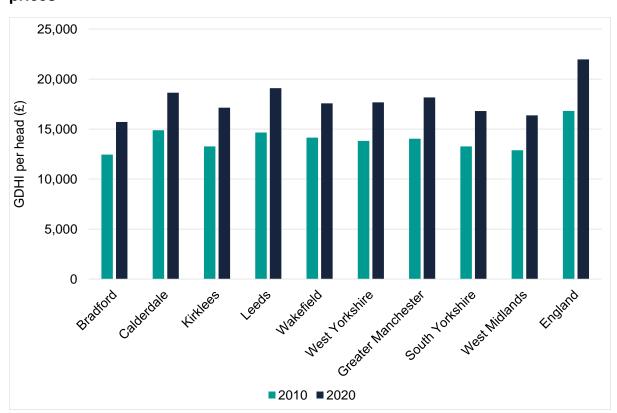


Figure 20: Gross disposable household income per head (£) at current basic prices

Source: Regional Accounts, Office for National Statistics

A key challenge for West Yorkshire is to tackle the widening gap with the national average. Whereas GDHI per head grew by 28% in West Yorkshire between 2010 and 2020 it grew by 31% across England¹. The figure grew by only 24% in Wakefield over this period although growth in Leeds was nearer the national average at 30%.

The most recent data available shows that between 2019 and 2020 GDHI per head grew by 0.8% in West Yorkshire but fell by 0.2% across England. This means that the gap with the national average narrowed during this period.

This is at least partly due to the impact of the pandemic, which affected local areas in different ways, depending on the composition of household income in each area. For example, parts of London saw substantial falls in property income received. Meanwhile, West Yorkshire has a relatively low reliance on property income received and was therefore less affected by this development. In addition, social benefits received form a bigger component of gross disposable income in West Yorkshire than nationally and grew at a faster rate locally between 2019 and 2020.

The available data for West Yorkshire pre-dates the current cost of living crisis and is presented on a current price basis. This means that the figures do not take account of the negative impact on households' purchasing power of the rising costs of energy, food and other essentials.

Significant income inequality exists between ethnic groups in the UK. National figures show that between April 2008 and March 2022, people in Pakistani and Bangladeshi households were consistently the most likely out of all ethnic groups to live in low income households,

¹ All figures are on a current price basis and are not therefore adjusted for inflation.

both before and after housing cost, whilst people in white British households were consistently the least likely to live in low income households, before and after housing costs¹.

Wide gaps also exist between the disabled and non-disabled population. National figures show that the gap in median household income between adults with a disability and without was 30% in 2020-21 when income from disability benefits is included. The gap rises to 44% when income from this source is excluded².

About the data

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving, hence 'disposable income'. This is the money left after expenditure associated with income e.g., taxes and social contributions, property ownership and provision for future pension income. GDHI is comprised of the sum of two balances, the balances of primary and secondary incomes. The balance of primary incomes is mainly employment income, self-employment income, rental income and income from deposits and investments, less interest paid. The balance of secondary incomes is mainly income from benefits, pensions and insurance claims less income tax, council tax, pension contributions and insurance premia.

Total GDHI estimates in millions of pounds (£ million) are divided by the resident population of a region to give GDHI per head in pounds (£). Per head data take account of the entire resident population of regions, sub-regions and local areas including both the working population and the economically inactive.

-

¹ GOV.UK (2023): Ethnicity facts and figures: people in low income households

² Resolution Foundation (2023), <u>Costly differences: Living standards for working-age people with</u> disabilities

1.2.10 Jobs paying below the real living wage

Around 202,000 jobs in West Yorkshire, or 18% of the total, pay below the Real Living Wage. The percentage increases to 32% for part-time workers. These proportions may increase in future figures as the impact of inflation is more fully captured by the statistics.

The Living Wage Foundation's Real Living Wage is independently calculated based on what people need to get by and to meet everyday needs. The value of the Real Living Wage (outside London) was £9.90 in early 2022 at the time that these data were collected. Ensuring that jobs pay a decent wage and support an appropriate standard of living is central to the inclusive growth agenda.

The issue of low pay is a particular concern because the majority of low-paid workers remain permanently stuck in low pay or cycling in and out of higher pay.

Around 202,000 employee jobs in West Yorkshire pay below the real living wage of £9.90 per hour, based on official statistics for April 2022. This equates to 19% of all such jobs in the region, well above the national average of 13%.

In 2022 all parts of West Yorkshire saw a fall in the proportion of jobs that pay below the Real Living Wage – with the exception of Leeds which saw an increase of 7 percentage points on the previous year¹. This meant a slight increase from 18% to 19% in the overall proportion of West Yorkshire jobs falling into this category.

-

¹ The size of this change may be due to data issues. In 2021 Leeds experienced a smaller sample size due to non-response, causing variability at this level, reflected in coefficient of variation in 2021 of 5.7% compared to 3.5% in 2022, indicating that the 2021 estimate is less accurate.

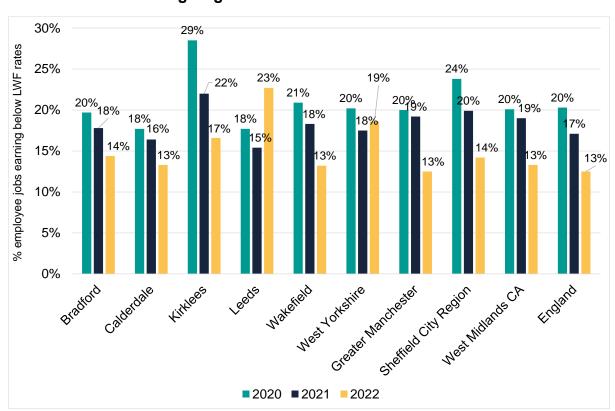


Figure 21: Proportion of all employee jobs paying below the Living Wage Foundation's real living wage rate

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS, 2022

In contrast, the national average figure fell from 17% to 13% between 2021 and 2022, a trend that was broadly reflected across the Combined Authority comparator areas.

The latest pay figures, which date to April 2022, do not fully capture the impact of the cost of living crisis, which was intensified by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The value of the Real Living Wage was raised to £10.90 in autumn 2022 in recognition of the impact of inflation and a higher proportion of jobs are expected to fall below this increased threshold when the next set of figures are published in late-2023.

The analysis presented here is based on the Real Living Wage value of £9.90 that was applicable in April 2022, the point in time to which the pay figures relate. It does not fully capture the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, which was intensified by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The value of the Real Living Wage was raised to £10.90 in autumn 2022 in recognition of the impact of inflation and a higher proportion of jobs are expected to fall below this increased threshold when the next set of figures are published in late-2023.

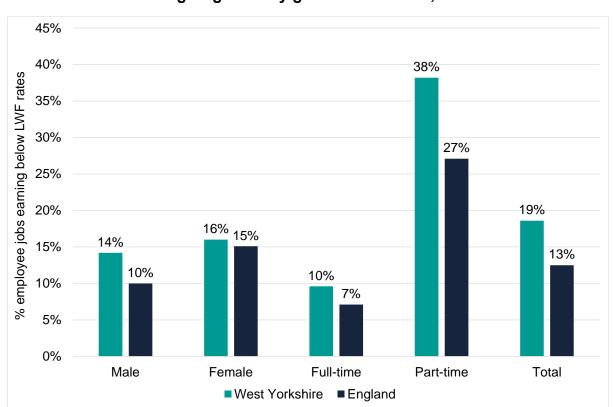


Figure 22: Proportion of employee jobs paying below the Living Wage Foundation's real living wage rate by gender and status, 2022

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS, 2022

Part-time jobs are more than three times as likely as full-time jobs to pay an hourly rate that is below the real living wage threshold. A larger proportion of jobs held by women than men also fall below the threshold, partly because women are more likely to work part-time; although male part-time jobs, which are relatively few in number, are most likely of all categories to pay below the real living wage (at 41% of male part-time jobs in West Yorkshire).

There are substantial gaps with the national average for some workforce segments in terms of the proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage. In particular, the deficits are larger for male workers and for part-time jobs, although there are still differences for female workers and full-time jobs, albeit smaller.

Other indicators show West Yorkshire lagging behind on pay, reflecting its productivity deficit. According to the Annual Population Survey, median gross weekly pay for full-time jobs in the region is £587, 91% of the national average of £646. This is a deficit in absolute terms of £59 per week.

About the data

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earning (ASHE) is based on a 1% sample of employee jobs taken from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) records. Information on earnings and hours is obtained from employers and ASHE does not cover the self-employed.

1.2.11 Employment in culture, heritage and sport sector

Employment in the culture, heritage and sport sector in West Yorkshire is a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy, accounting for 15% of all employment, with a stronger representation in Leeds. Employment grew by 7,000 or 4% between 2020 and 2021 in West Yorkshire.

The culture, heritage and sport sectors are not traditional industries in the context of the National Accounts and published statistics. However, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has developed standard definitions¹ of the sectors for which it has responsibility, which are used as the basis for the following analysis. These sectors are:

- Creative Industries
- Cultural Sector
- Digital Sector
- Gambling
- Sport

(2021)

- Telecoms
- Tourism.

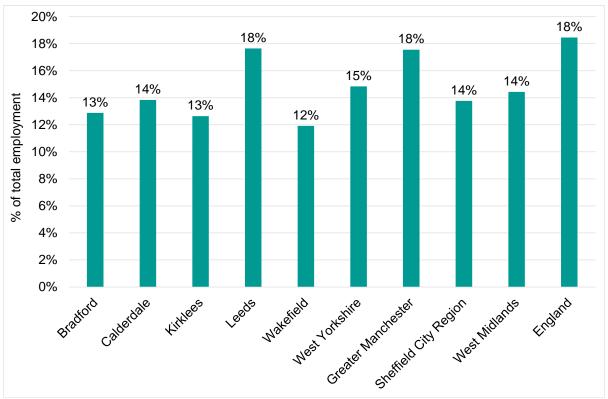
The tourism sector includes hospitality activities, elements of transport and travel agency activities. The sport sector includes operation of sports facilities and sports clubs.

Around 15% of employment in West Yorkshire is in the culture, heritage and sport sector based on this definition, equivalent to 165,000 jobs. The prevalence of employment in these activities varies by local authority within West Yorkshire; it is highest in Leeds, at 18% of total employment, and ranges between 12% and 14% in the remaining local authorities.

81

¹ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports, DCMS Sector Economic Estimates Methodology





Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Register and Employment Survey

Cultural employment in West Yorkshire is three percentage points below the national average as a share of total employment (15% versus 18%). It is also lower than in Greater Manchester but slightly higher than in the comparator areas of Sheffield City Region and West Midlands CA.

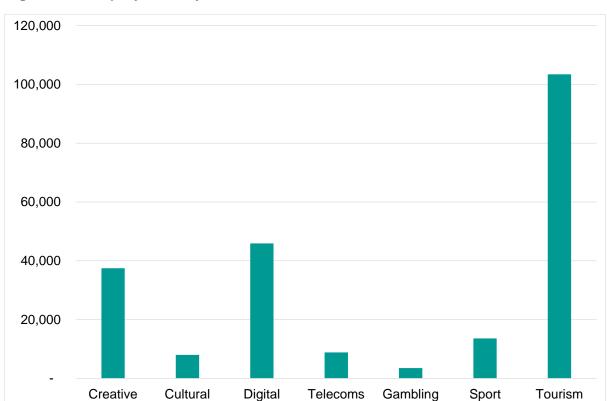


Figure 24: Employment by DCMS sector¹, West Yorkshire, 2021

Source: Office for National Statistics - Business Register and Employment Survey

The sector with the biggest employment within this category is tourism, followed by digital and creative.

_

¹ It should be noted that there is a degree of overlap between the DCMS sectors, reflecting the development of individual sector definitions in isolation as new sectors have fallen within the department's remit. Therefore, figures for these individual sectors do not sum to the total figure for employment in the DCMS sectors cited above.

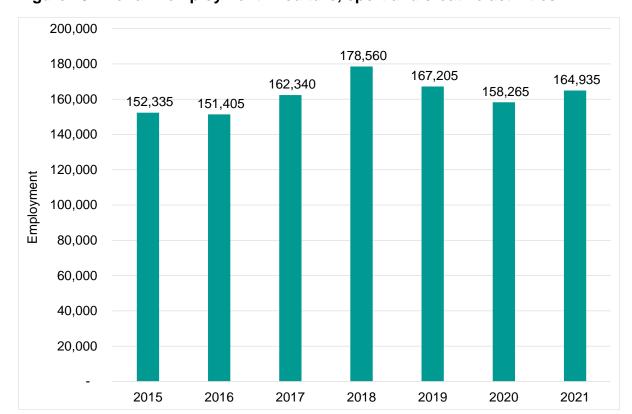


Figure 25: Trend in employment in culture, sport and creative activities

Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Register and Employment Survey

Employment in culture, heritage and sport was on an upward trend in West Yorkshire in the period to 2018 but declined in both 2019 and 2020, before partially recovering in 2021 to a level 8% lower than its 2018 peak. Employment in the sector grew by 7,000 or 4% between 2020 and 2021 and by 8% between 2015 and 2021, the same pattern as the national average.

About the data

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is the official source of employee and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry. The survey collects employment information from businesses across the whole of the UK economy for each site that they operate. BRES includes self-employed workers (within the employment estimates) as long as they are registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) or Pay as You Earn (PAYE) schemes.

1.2.12 Quality work

Relatively small proportions of workers indicate that they work unsatisfactory hours or work unpaid overtime or have a contract that does not meet their requirements. Much bigger proportions of workers say that their workplace lacks opportunities for career progression and does not offer good employee engagement.

The West Yorkshire Plan commits to ensuring that good quality work is available for all by 2040. This is supported by the Fair Work Charter, a joint venture between the Mayor, key stakeholders and businesses to develop a clear and ambitious standard for fair work in West Yorkshire. The Charter seeks to promote genuine levelling-up across West Yorkshire - encouraging good pay, fair and flexible working conditions, and promoting diversity and social mobility within the workforce.

The <u>latest figures</u> published by the Office for National Statistics represent an extension of the exploratory job quality indicator analysis published in 2019, which focused on hours, earnings and contract information.

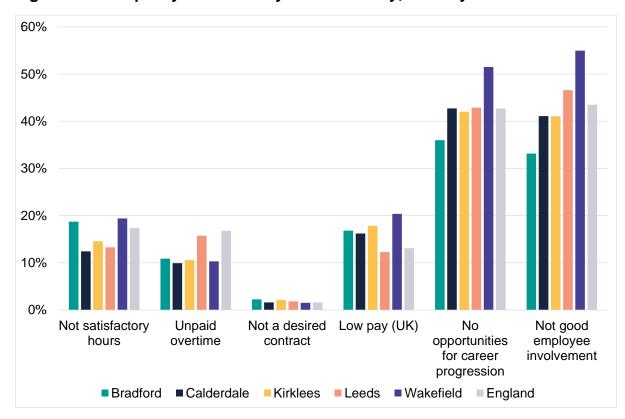


Figure 26: Job quality indicators by local authority, January to December 2021

Source: Jobs quality indicators in the UK - hours, pay, contracts, opportunities, and involvement: 2021, Office for National Statistics

The analysis shows that relatively small proportions of workers report working unsatisfactory hours, working unpaid overtime, having a contract that does not meet their requirements or working for low pay. The relevant proportions for all of these variables are at or below 20% for all West Yorkshire local authorities.

However, the proportions who report a lack of opportunities for career progression are much higher, ranging from 36% in Bradford to 51% in Wakefield. Similarly, the proportions who indicate that employee involvement is not good at their workplace are relatively high, from 33% in Bradford to 55% in Wakefield.

There are some instances where figures for West Yorkshire local authorities diverge from the national average and also differ between each other, but in the main these differences are not statistically significant. The figures suggest that workers in Bradford and Wakefield are more likely to report that they do not have satisfactory hours than in the other local authorities, and that workers in Leeds are more likely to report working unpaid overtime than in the other local authorities. However, the prevalence of low pay is significantly higher than nationally in Wakefield and the proportion of workers who say that employee involvement is not good at their workplace is also significantly higher in Wakefield than nationally.

More reliable data at national level provides an indication of differences between different demographic groups with regard to the various aspects of quality work. The key points include:

- Female employees and employees aged over 55 are more likely to work satisfactory hours.
- Unpaid overtime working has a higher prevalence among those working in highly paid occupations, and employees aged 35 to 54 years.
- Workers who are disabled, younger, or have lower levels of educational attainment are more likely to be in low pay.
- Men aged 25 to 44 years, employees with an undergraduate degree and those working in the finance and insurance industry are most likely to report good career progression opportunities.
- Employees with higher-level qualifications are more likely to feel involved in decision making in their workplace than those with no qualification. Disabled employees are less likely to report good employee involvement, compared with employees who are not disabled.

About the data

This section is based on an analysis of job quality conducted by ONS using the Annual Population Survey. This analysis looks at employee jobs on a resident basis that provide:

- Satisfactory hours: employees working 48 or fewer hours a week and not wishing to work more hours in their current role or look for an additional job or a replacement job that offers more hours
- A desired contract type: employees either in a permanent contract or who did not accept a non-permanent contract because they could not find a permanent one
- A position not in low pay: employees who are earning above two-thirds of the hourly median pay at UK level
- Career progression: Employee "agrees" or "strongly agrees" with the statement: "My job offers good opportunities for career progression"
- Employee involvement: Employee answers "good" or "very good" in response to question: "How poor or good would you say managers at your workplace are at involving employees and their representatives in decision making?"

1.2.13 People qualified at Level 4 and above

The proportion of working age people in West Yorkshire with higher level qualifications has steadily increased over the last two decades, though there is a break in the series between 2021 and 2022 due to comparability issues. The latest figures show a continuing deficit with the national average for West Yorkshire.

One of the key challenges facing West Yorkshire is a deficit in its skills base relative to other parts of the UK. This is closely associated with its underperformance on productivity and innovation. For example, according to one study, higher skill levels among London's workforce explain about two-thirds of the productivity gap between the capital and the rest of the country¹.

The availability of people with higher level qualifications at Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Level 4 and above is a key area of under-performance for the region. With 38% of its population qualified to this level, West Yorkshire is 7 points below the national average of 45%. In absolute terms this equates to 93,000 fewer people qualified at Level 4 and above in the region than would be the case if West Yorkshire matched the national average.

West Yorkshire's performance against this measure is similar to the comparator areas of South Yorkshire and the West Midlands Combined Authority but significantly below that of Greater Manchester.

50% 47% 45% of working age population aged 16-64 45% 43% 41% 38% 38% 40% 38% 36% 34% 35% 30% 27% 25% 20% 15% 10% 5% 0% Nakefield Vest Torkshife Manchester Torkshife Mest Midands

Figure 27: Proportion of working age population qualified at RQF Level 4 and above

Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2022, Office for National Statistics

The proportion of the working age population qualified to degree level (level 6) and above in West Yorkshire is lower than the national average at 33% and 37% respectively. Around 6%

_

¹ Industrial Strategy Council, UK Skills Mismatch in 2030 (2020)

hold a higher education qualification below degree level, similar to the England average of 7%.

The proportion of people qualified at Level 4 and above in West Yorkshire followed an upward trend over the last decade. For the latest qualification profile estimates National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) estimates have been replaced with estimates on a Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) basis, which means that there is a break in the time series and the current estimates cannot be compared directly with earlier ones. The current RQF estimate for West Yorkshire are similar to the most recent NVQ estimate (for 2021) at 38%, whereas the current England average estimate, at 45%, is two points higher than the 2021 NVQ estimate.

50% 45% 45% 38% 40% % of working age population 35% 30% 25% 20% 15% 10% 5% 0% -West Yorkshire NVQ Level 4+ ◆ West Yorkshire RQF Level 4+ England NVQ Level 4+ ■ England RQF Level 4+

Figure 28: Trend in proportion of working age population qualified at Level 4+

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

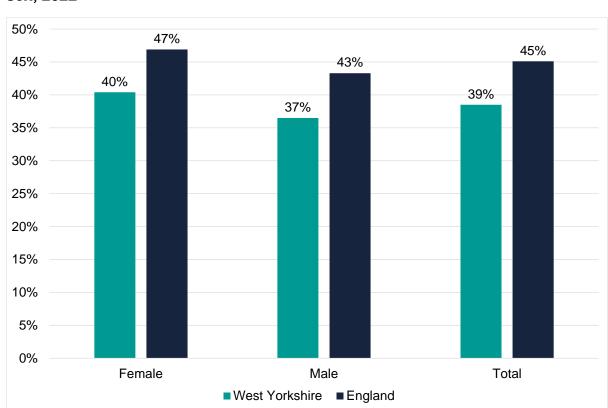


Figure 29: Proportion of working age population qualified at RQF Level 4+ by sex, 2022

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

Working age females in West Yorkshire are more likely than males to be qualified at Level 4 and above, with a qualification rate that is 3 percentage points higher. However, West Yorkshire females and males are both less likely to be qualified at this level than the respective national averages.

Reliable figures are not available from the Annual Population Survey for qualification profile by ethnic group at West Yorkshire level. However, figures are available from Census 2021, although they are not directly comparable with the Annual Population Survey data due to methodological differences. In broad terms these figures show that some ethnic minority groups have high qualification rates that are well above the overall average for West Yorkshire; this includes the Chinese, Indian and African groups. Whereas the proportion qualified at Level 4 among the White British group is similar to the overall average, some groups are below average, including the Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups. The Census data also show that West Yorkshire consistently underperforms the national average in terms of Level 4 attainment for each ethnic group.

About the data

Level 4 and above includes all higher education qualifications, from Level 4 qualifications such as a higher national certificate (HNC), through to Level 8, which includes doctorate-level qualifications. Honours degrees are at Level 6¹. Qualifications serve as a proxy for the level of skills and knowledge held by individuals. The qualifications held by individuals are measured using the Annual Population Survey, a continuous household survey covering the UK designed to provide information on socio-economic variables at local levels. From January 2022 the questions on qualifications in the survey were updated to be based on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), replacing the previous questions based on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The changes may result in the identification of a different highest qualification for an individual than if the old questions had been asked. They have led to a noticeable difference in the proportion of respondents with a highest qualification at levels 2 and 3, in particular.

_

¹ See *What Qualifications Levels Mean* for a full breakdown <u>What qualification levels mean: England</u>, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

1.2.14 People with no / low qualifications (qualified below level 2)

Fifteen per cent of people in West Yorkshire have no qualifications or are qualified to a low level compared with the England average of 12%. There has been an improving trend against this measure in recent years but a break in the time series makes it difficult to compare the latest estimates with those from previous years.

A lack of skills and qualifications is a major barrier to getting a job and progressing within employment. Attainment at level 2 is often regarded as the threshold for basic employability. And a lack of basic qualifications can be a barrier to meeting the entry requirements for an apprenticeship, a technical course or for many jobs.

Fifteen per cent of the working age population of West Yorkshire has either no or low qualifications. In absolute terms, this equates to 132,000 adults (9% of the total) with no formal qualifications and 81,000 people (6%) whose highest qualification is below level 2.

25% of working age population (aged 16-64) 20% 15% 9% 6% 10% 2% 20 5% 0% 9% 8% % 0% heat to Ashire Sheffeld City Region West Millands ■ No qualifications ■ RQF Level 1

Figure 30: Proportion of working age population with no qualifications / qualified below Level 2

Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2022, Office for National Statistics

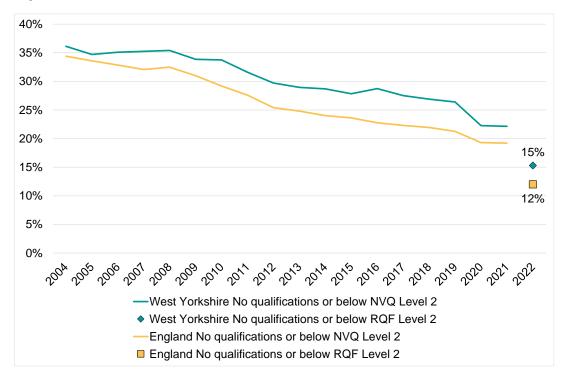
The proportion of people with no / low qualifications rises to nearly one fifth of the population of both- Bradford and of Wakefield. The equivalent proportion nationally is only 12%. Both Sheffield City Region and Greater Manchester have slightly lower proportions of people with no / low qualifications to West Yorkshire, although West Midlands CA's is higher at 17%.

The overall trend over the last two decades has been one of steady reduction in the proportion of people with no or low qualifications, both nationally and at West Yorkshire level.

For the latest qualification profile estimates National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) estimates have been replaced with estimates on a Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) basis, which means that there is a break in the time series and the current estimates

cannot be compared directly with earlier ones. The current RQF estimate for West Yorkshire and England are very different to the most recent NVQ estimate (for 2021). This is presumably largely because of differences in measurement under the new RQF approach.

Figure 31: Trend in proportion of working age population with no qualifications / qualified below Level 2



Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

Reflecting the position relating to higher level qualifications, females are less likely to fall into the category of people with no qualifications or qualifications below Level 2. There is a difference of 3 percentage points between males and females against this measure in West Yorkshire. However, West Yorkshire females perform less well than the national average for females.

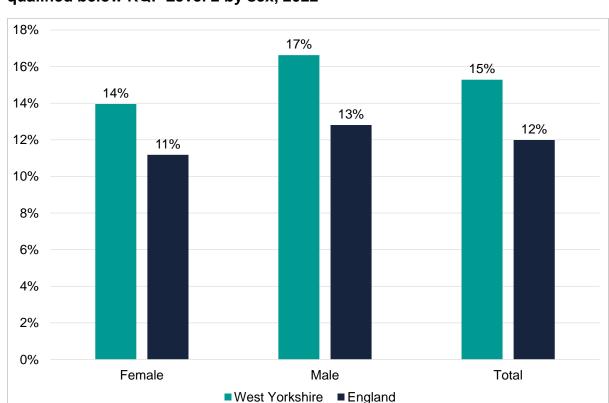


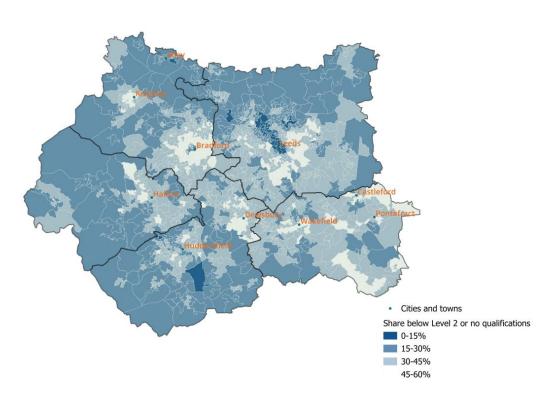
Figure 32: Proportion of working age population with no qualifications / qualified below RQF Level 2 by sex, 2022

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

Reliable figures are not available from the Annual Population Survey for qualification profile by ethnic group at West Yorkshire level. However, figures are available from Census 2021, although they are not directly comparable with the Annual Population Survey data due to methodological differences. In broad terms these figures show that the White British group has a proportion of people with no qualifications or qualifications below Level 2 that is slightly lower than the overall West Yorkshire average, whilst the Indian group is well below. The Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups have high proportions of working age people with no / low qualifications, together with the Gypsy / Irish traveller and Roma groups. The Census data also show that West Yorkshire consistently underperforms the national average in terms of the proportion of the population with no / low qualifications within each ethnic group.

As the following map shows, people who lack qualifications or have a low level of qualification are highly concentrated in spatial terms. For example, there are concentrations focused on the deprived neighbourhoods around Bradford city centre and to the south and east of Leeds city centre, as well as in outlying areas such as Keighley and to the south and east of Wakefield district.

Figure 33: Distribution of people who either have no formal qualifications or are qualified below Level 2



Source: Census 2021

Although West Yorkshire's continuing deficit against this measure is partly due to the qualification profile of adults already in the labour force, data¹ relating to the qualifications of young people at age 19 suggests that new entrants also contribute to the poor performance. Young people in West Yorkshire are less likely to have achieved a level 2 qualification by the age of 19 than their national counterparts. The proportion is 77%, 5 points lower than the England average of 82%. Two local authorities (Calderdale and Kirklees) are close to the national average but in Bradford only 72% achieve level 2 by the age of 19, 9 points behind the national average.

About the data

Level 2 qualifications are equivalent to GCSEs at grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 or grades A*, A, B, C.². The qualifications held by individuals are measured using the Annual Population Survey, a continuous household survey covering the UK designed to provide information on socio-economic variables at local levels. From January 2022 the questions on qualifications in the survey were updated to be based on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), replacing the previous questions based on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The changes may result in the identification of a different highest qualification for an individual than if the old questions had been asked. They have led to a noticeable difference in the proportion of respondents with a highest qualification at levels 2 and 3, in particular.

¹ Department for Education, <u>Level 2 and 3 attainment by young people</u> (2022)

² See *What Qualifications Levels Mean* for a full breakdown <u>What qualification levels mean: England</u>, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

1.2.15 Unemployment

West Yorkshire's unemployment rate has fallen in the last year and is well below prepandemic levels.

Connecting people to jobs is one of the most important ways of promoting inclusive growth. When people are unemployed their ability to contribute to growth and share in its benefits is curtailed.

Under the definition used here unemployed people are out of work and are actively seeking and available for employment. In West Yorkshire, 40,000 people were unemployed according to data for the January to December 2022 period; this represents 3.6% of the economically active population of working age in the area. West Yorkshire's unemployment rate is in line with the national average.

West Yorkshire's unemployment rate is lower than that of all three comparator MCAs and is substantially lower than the West Midlands figure.

7.0% 6.2% % of economically population aged 16+ 6.0% 5.0% 5.0% 4.7% 4.0% 3.6% 3.6% 3.0% 2.0% 1.0% 0.0% West Yorkshire Greater Sheffield City West Midlands **England** Manchester Region

Figure 34: Unemployment rate - % of economically active population aged 16+

Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2022, Office for National Statistics

The level of unemployment in West Yorkshire fell by more than half between 2011 and 2018, before increasing to a modest extent during the pandemic period of 2020 and 2021. Since then, it fallen back: the level of unemployment in January to December 2022 was 29% lower than for 2021 and 20% lower than for 2019 (pre-pandemic).

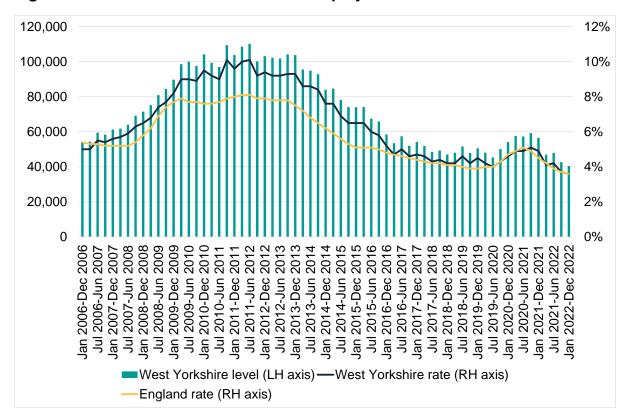


Figure 35: Trend in level and rate of unemployment

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

National evidence shows that participation in the labour force has fallen by around 1m as a result of the pandemic, and this has particularly affected older people and people with health issues¹. Although local level data are not timely enough to capture this trend it seems certain that economic activity has fallen significantly within West Yorkshire.

About the data

The unemployment data used here is taken from the Annual Population. The Annual Population Survey is a continuous household survey covering the UK, designed to provide information on socio-economic variables at local levels. The data sets consist of 12 months of survey data and are broken down on a quarterly basis. At local authority level official unemployment figures are based on model-based estimates. The model-based estimate improves on the APS estimate by borrowing strength from the claimant count.

The survey uses the international definition of unemployment specified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This ILO definition defines unemployed people as being:

- without a job, have been actively seeking work in the past four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks
- out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

_

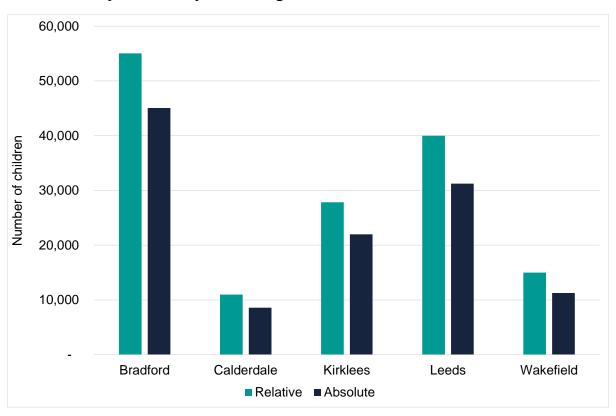
¹ Institute for Employment Studies, Labour Market Statistics, July 2022 (2022)

1.2.16 **Child poverty**

There are almost 150,000 children living in low-income families in West Yorkshire according to official statistics. Estimates by End Child Poverty indicate that this figure is likely to be substantially higher when housing costs are accounted for.

The main measure of child poverty used here is based on Official Statistics relating to the number and proportion of children living in low-income families, Before Housing Costs (BHC). This dataset includes two indicators focusing on relative and absolute low income¹.

Figure 36: Number of children in Relative and Absolute low-income families by local authority, financial year ending 2022



Note: Children defined as dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time nonadvanced education or in unwaged government training

Source: DWP Stat-Xplore, Children in Low Income Families, local authority by age

In total, there are 149,000 children in low-income households in West Yorkshire based on the Relative measure and 118,000 based on the Absolute measure. Bradford accounts for more than a third of the total under both Relative and Absolute measures (38% and 37% respectively), whilst Leeds contributes more than a quarter (26%/27%).

Using the Relative income measure the majority (65%) of children in low-income households are part of a household within which at least one person works. Thirty-eight percent of children in low-income households are part of a lone parent family with the remaining 62% in a family centred on a couple.

¹ Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income. Absolute low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the 2010/11 median income adjusted for inflation. In both cases gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions.

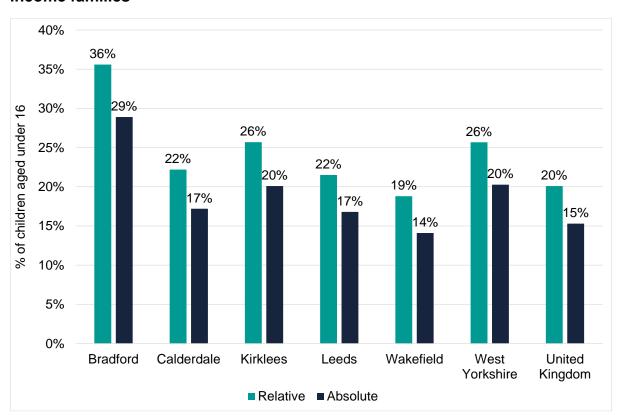


Figure 37: Proportion of children aged under 16¹ in Relative and Absolute low-income families

Source: DWP - Children in Low Income Families, local authority by age

The proportion of children in low-income households is higher than the UK average, in West Yorkshire, accounting for more than a quarter of children aged under 16 compared with one fifth across the UK, based on the Relative measure. There is a similar gap for the Absolute measure, with West Yorkshire's proportion of 20% being five points higher than the UK average of 15%.

At local authority level Bradford has by far the highest proportion of children aged under 16 who are in low-income families. At 36% for the Relative measure and 29% for the Absolute measure Bradford exceeds the West Yorkshire average by 10 points and 9 points respectively and the UK average by around 16 points and 14 points respectively.

The proportions for Kirklees are similar to the West Yorkshire average with the three remaining local authorities below the West Yorkshire average. Wakefield is also below the UK average in terms of both Relative and Absolute measures.

99

¹ Proportions / rates are only available for children aged under 16 due to a lack of population denominators for the 16–19-year-old group.

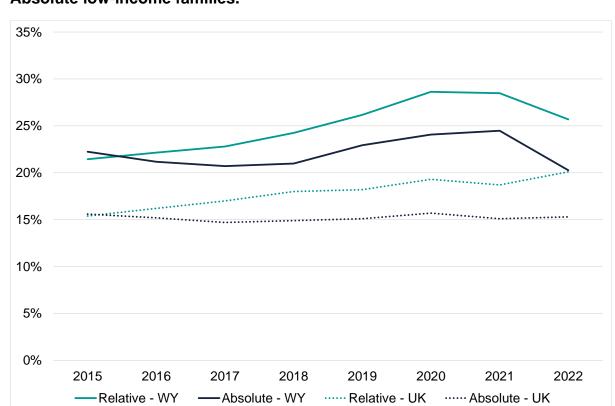


Figure 38: Trend in proportion of children aged under 16 in Relative and Absolute low-income families.

Source: DWP - Children in Low Income Families, local authority by age

The available figures indicate that the proportion of children in low-income families in West Yorkshire fell for both the Relative and Absolute measures between the financial year ending March 2021 and the year ending March 2022, although guidance accompanying the published statistics suggests treating the figures for 2020/21 and 2021/22 with caution due to the impact of Covid-19 on the data collection process.

Estimates produced by the End Child Poverty Coalition indicate that the number and proportion of children aged under 16 in low-income families is much higher than the published statistics suggest. When housing costs are factored in, the number increases by 53% from 121,000 to 185,000 in West Yorkshire using the Relative measure of low income. The proportion increases from 26% to 33%¹.

With regard to equality and diversity, national data shows that children in Pakistani and Bangladeshi households are the most likely to live in low income households, whilst children in white British and white 'other' households are the least likely to live in low income households².

About the data

This analysis is based on the DWP/HMRC statistics "Children in low income families: local area statistics" (March 2023), which relate to the number of children living in Relative and Absolute low income families Before Housing Costs (BHC) by local area across the United Kingdom. Figures for FYE 2022 are based on a 2-year average: FYE20 and FYE22. Due to sampling issues during 2021/22 related to the Covid-19 pandemic additional caution may be required in interpreting these statistics.

_

¹ End Child Poverty, Child poverty in your area, 2023

² GOV.UK (2023): Ethnicity facts and figures: people in low income households

The End Child Poverty estimates use the DWP/HMRC local indicators combined with information about housing costs at the local level to estimate poverty rates after housing costs (AHC).

1.2.17 Apprenticeships

Take-up of apprenticeships in West Yorkshire is strong relative to the national average. The number of apprenticeship starts increased in 2021/22 but remain at a level below that seen immediately before the pandemic. Apprenticeships need to be made more inclusive.

Apprenticeships are paid jobs that incorporate on-the-job and off-the-job training leading to nationally recognised qualifications. As an employee, apprentices earn as they learn and gain practical skills in the workplace.

Apprenticeships are crucial to inclusive growth because they can serve as a ladder for social mobility. They can support employability and enable individuals to gain skills in a non-academic context. They can also upskill and reskill workers, giving a second chance to those already in employment. People from less privileged backgrounds who complete an apprenticeship get a bigger boost in their earnings than other learners. This is particularly true at intermediate level – the first step on the apprenticeship journey¹.

Apprenticeships are also important to boosting productivity, by enabling employers to grow their own skills to meet business priorities and to put innovative ideas into practice.

The take-up of apprenticeships in West Yorkshire is relatively strong. With 15,849 apprenticeship starts during the 2021/22 academic year, there were 1,067 apprenticeship starts per 100,000 people, somewhat above the national average of 981.

In some local authority areas, including Calderdale and Wakefield, the figure is higher; but it is slightly lower in Leeds, reflecting its local industry structure. West Yorkshire's ratio of apprentices to employment is broadly in line with the comparator MCAs and somewhat higher than Sheffield City Region and West Midlands.

About the data

Apprenticeship start figures reflect the number of apprenticeships that began during a given time period, in this case academic year. In a small number of cases individuals may start more than one apprenticeship during an academic year. The apprenticeship data in this analysis is based on data return from apprenticeship training, collected via the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The ILR is an administrative data collection system designed primarily for operational use in order to fund training providers for learners in FE and on apprenticeship programmes.

¹ Social Mobility Commission Apprenticeships and social mobility: Fulfilling potential (2020)

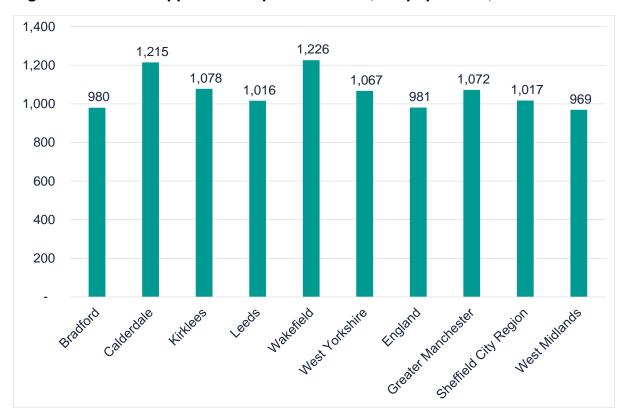


Figure 39: Ratio of apprenticeship starts to 100,000 population, 2021/22

The entry rate into apprenticeships for young people is higher in West Yorkshire than nationally after both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5¹.

The number of apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire remains below its pre-pandemic level, although the position improved in 2021/22. Compared with 2018/19 (pre-pandemic), total starts were 16% lower in 2020/21 in the region and 11% lower nationally.

¹ West Yorkshire Combined Authority, <u>Labour Market Report</u> (2022)



Figure 40: Trend in apprenticeship starts, West Yorkshire

The current level of starts is also considerably lower than prior to the apprenticeship reforms which largely came into effect in 2017/18 and are around one-third lower than their overall peak in 2015/16. This broadly reflects the trend in starts at national level.

There has been a particularly pronounced fall in intermediate apprenticeships since the pandemic, which are 39% lower when compared with 2018/19.

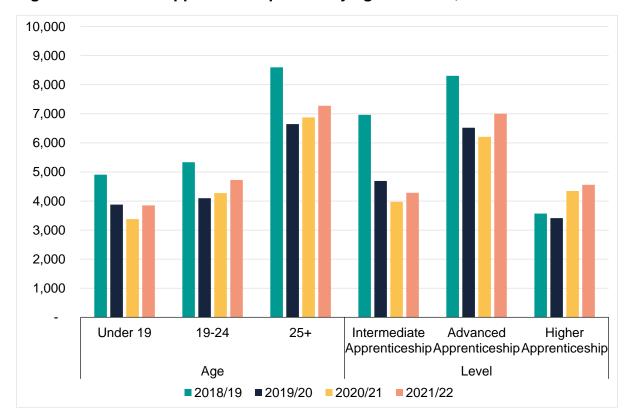


Figure 41: Trend in apprenticeship starts by age and level, West Yorkshire

Higher apprenticeships have grown in West Yorkshire and across the country and form an increasingly important route into higher skilled employment in occupations like accountancy and nursing. Twenty-nine per cent of apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire are for higher apprentices, similar to the national average of 30% and broadly in line with the comparator MCAs. However, West Yorkshire is well below Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (37%) and Greater London (40%).

In view of its importance as a mechanism for social mobility and inclusion, it is crucial that apprenticeships are as diverse as possible. In West Yorkshire the proportion of starts accounted for by people from an ethnic minority is above the national average, as is the proportion of female starts. However, people who consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem account for a smaller proportion of starts than nationally.

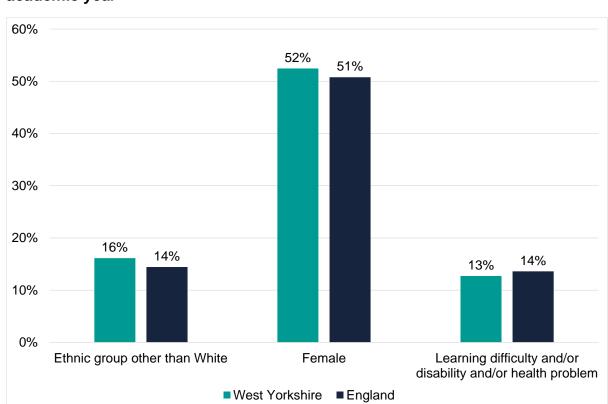


Figure 42: Proportion of apprenticeship starts for selected groups, 2021/22 academic year

However, there are a number of key issues to consider in this regard¹:

- Female participation in apprenticeships is strongly concentrated in certain subjects such as health and care and is under-represented in some areas that offer strong pay and career prospects, like engineering, construction and digital.
- Take-up of apprenticeships among people from ethnic minority backgrounds is still relatively low, particularly among younger age groups.
- Take-up of apprenticeships by young people has fallen sharply in recent years (down by 22% since 2018/19). Coupled with this, opportunities at intermediate level have also seen a significant reduction.
- Disadvantaged pupils eligible for free school meals are less likely to take up an apprenticeship than other pupils.

A high proportion of learners who complete their apprenticeships enter a positive destination. The latest figures from Department for Education's Further education: outcome-based success measures dataset presents statistics on the employment, earnings and learning outcomes of learners who achieved apprenticeships in 2019/20 and tracks their outcomes in the following academic year (2020/21). The sustained positive destination rate for apprentices in West Yorkshire was 92% (this rate includes all learners that had a sustained employment, learning [or both] destination in the following year), with 90% entering a sustained employment destination. This mirrors the national average position.

¹ ibid

1.2.18 Basic digital skills

Ninety per cent of adults have essential digital skills for life whilst around threequarter have the full range of essential digital skills for work.

Along with access to digital infrastructure, inspiring people about the benefits of the internet and ensuring organisations are creating accessible services, digital skills are vital to tech adoption.

Digital technologies enable people to connect with family and friends and to organise their life better. People who are engaged digitally tend to feel more part of the community and are better able to manage their physical and mental well-being¹. People who are not digitally engaged face genuine disadvantages. For example, they are more likely to be paying higher households bills for essentials such as utilities.

Digital exclusion is most widespread among older people, who are also susceptible to isolation within the community. It also disproportionately affects people with an impairment, people on low incomes and benefit claimants.

In a workplace context, digital skills are increasingly necessary in applying for a job and with the majority of jobs now requiring digital skills, are vital to people's wider job prospects.

The Essential Digital Skills Framework

Following a review led by Lloyds Bank and the Department for Education, the tasks, language, hierarchy and how EDS for an individual is measured for different parts of the framework have all been simplified. This means that comparison to 2019, 2020 and 2021 data are not viable.

Under the revised framework there are 26 Life tasks and 20 Work tasks, split across five skill areas: Communicating, Handling Information and Content, Transacting, Problem Solving and Being Safe and Legal Online. An individual needs to perform at least one task within each of the five Life and Work skill areas, without assistance, to achieve Life or Work EDS. To achieve the Foundation Level the individual needs to independently perform eight tasks.

In 2022, the pre-requisites have been removed. Previously, an individual had to have the Foundation Level to be eligible for EDS for Life, and had to have Life EDS to be eligible for Work EDS. Now, someone can start their digital journey in any of the framework areas and will be counted within the measure.

Read full details of the Essential Digital Skills framework.

¹ Lloyds Bank, Essential Digital Skills UK (2022)

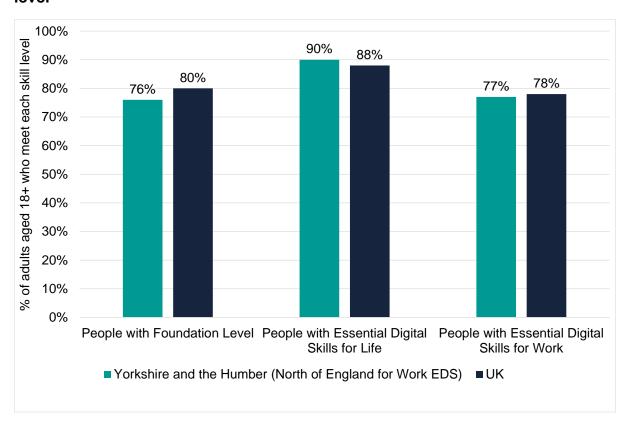


Figure 43: Essential Digital Skills – proportion of people who have each skill level

Source: Essential Digital Skills Survey, Lloyds Bank, 2022

Foundation digital skills relate to the ability to perform the basic tasks that enable an individual to get online by themselves. This includes tasks like connecting a device to a Wi-Fi network, finding and opening applications on a device and opening an Internet browser to find and use websites. Although 76% of adults can perform this range of tasks this still leaves almost a quarter who are unable to do so.

People are counted as having essential digital skills for life if they can do at least one digital task in each of five skills categories without assistance, including communicating (e.g. set up an email or social media account), transacting (e.g. make online payments), problem solving (e.g. use internet to find information to solve problems), handling information and content (e.g. use cloud to access information from different devices) and being safe and legal online (e.g. avoid suspicious links in emails etc). Nine out of 10 adults have essential digital skills for life, although not all of this group have attained the Foundation level (no longer a prerequisite under the revised framework).

Essential Digital Skills for Work are the tasks/skills required to be digitally proficient in the workplace. An individual must be able to do at least one task within each of the five Work skills to have Work EDS. Again, the skill areas relate to communicating, transacting, problem solving, handling information and content and being safe and legal online.

Nearly a quarter (23%) of the workforce lack essential digital skills for work in Yorkshire and the Humber, similar to the UK average of 22%.

There is evidence to show that employees' lack of digital skills impacts on business performance. West Yorkshire employers flag basic digital skills as one of the key areas in which their staff lack the proficiency that is needed to meet business objectives¹.

National level figures highlight the groups that are most strongly represented among people who cannot do any of the 26 Life Tasks and are therefore most susceptible to digital exclusion. These groups include people from a white ethnic group, females, people with no formal qualifications, people with a physical impairment and people aged 75 and above.

About the data

Lloyds Bank in partnership with Ipsos MORI conduct an annual study tracking year-on-year changes in digital skills and assessing the range of online tasks that people in the UK are able to perform. This is based on a survey of 4,100 people, nationally representative of 18+ in the UK which is used to measure the UK's level of essential digital skills and track its progress.

_

¹ West Yorkshire Combined Authority, <u>Labour Market Report 2021</u>, p133

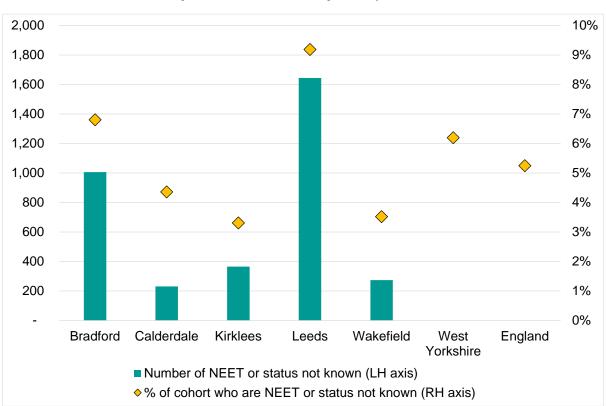
1.2.19 **NEETs**

The number and proportion of young people aged 16 and 17 who are NEET increased in West Yorkshire in 2022/23 and is higher than the national average.

Young people who become NEET (not in education, employment or training) face an increased likelihood of unemployment, low wages, or low-quality work later on in life. Being NEET can also have an impact on involvement in crime, as well as a detrimental effect on physical and mental health, particularly when time spent NEET is at a younger age or lasts for longer¹. Local authorities have a duty to track young people's activity to identify those not participating in education, employment and training and support them to do so.

Based on the latest published figures, there was an average of 3,500 young people aged 16 and 17 who were NEET or whose status was not known in West Yorkshire during the months of December 2022 to February 2023. This equates to 6.2% of all 16- and 17-year-olds known to their respective local authorities, which is above the England average of 5.2%.

Figure 44: Number and proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known (average of December 2022, January 2023 and February 2023)



Source: Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority, 2022/23 academic year, Department for Education

The prevalence of NEETs varies across West Yorkshire local authorities, with some below the national average and some well above. Between 3% to 4% of 16- and 17-year-olds in each of Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield are NEET or not known, with the proportion increasing to around 7% in Bradford. The proportion is highest in Leeds at 9%.

110

¹ Public Health England, <u>Local action on health inequalities: Reducing the number of young people</u> not in employment, education or training (NEET) (2014)

The number and proportion of young people NEET and not known in West Yorkshire increased for the second successive year in 2022/23. The number increased by 420 or 14%, whilst the proportion of the cohort increased by 0.6 percentage points, from 5.5% to 6.2% (figures appear inconsistent due to rounding). Four out of five local authorities saw an increase in their number of NEETs in 2022/23, although the growth in Kirklees was marginal in absolute terms. Wakefield was the only local authority where the count of NEETs fell.

Nationally, the increase in the number of young people NEET and not known in 2022/23 was similar to West Yorkshire at 14%.

12% 10% 9.2% % of 16/17 year olds 8% 6.8% 6.2% 6% 5.2% 4.4% 4% 3.5% 2% 0% Bradford Calderdale Wakefield England Kirklees Leeds West Yorkshire

Figure 45: Trend in proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known

Source: Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority, 2022/23 academic year, Department for Education

Although there was an increase at national level in the proportion of the cohort who were NEET or not known in 2022/23 compared with the previous year, the overall trend is downwards over the period for which data are available. This is also the case for Wakefield and Kirklees; but the trend is less clear cut for other parts of West Yorkshire. For Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees the prevalence of NEETs was higher in 2022/23 than at the beginning of the period in 2016/17.

■2016/17 ■2017/18 ■2018/19 ■2019/20 ■2020/21 ■2021/22 ■2022/23

Young people from an ethnic minority group are, in general, less likely to become NEET in West Yorkshire. Around 5% of young people from an ethnic minority were NEET or not known as of December 2020, compared with 6% of white young people. Asian / Asian British and Black / Black British groups both had rates below the overall average, although the proportion of young people with a mixed or multiple ethnic background who were NEET or not known was above average at 8%.

9% of young people with special education needs and disability (SEND)¹ and 9% of young people in receipt of SEN support² were NEET or not known as of December 2020 compared with 6% of the overall cohort.

About the data

Local authorities have a duty to track young people's activity to identify those not participating and support them to do so. Statutory guidance that underpins this duty directs local authorities to collect information to identify young people who are not participating, or who are at risk of not doing so, and to target their resources on those who need them most. Information about a young person's activity is recorded on each authority's client database with data collated centrally by the Department for Education.

¹ A child or young person has special educational needs and disabilities if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support.

² Support given in school or college, such as speech therapy.

2 A happy West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities

Key points

Average ratings of personal well-being improved in West Yorkshire during the year ending March 2022, following a decline in the previous year linked to the pandemic. West Yorkshire has similar average ratings to national figures across the four measures of well-being.

Healthy life expectancy (at birth) for both women and men in West Yorkshire is significantly lower than the England average. Inequality in overall life expectancy (the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas) in Leeds is significantly worse than the England average.

Just under two-thirds of adults in West Yorkshire are physically active in terms of activities such as walking, cycling, dance, fitness and sport; this is a similar proportion to the national average. This percentage has remained broadly stable since 2015/16.

Almost nine out of 10 West Yorkshire people engaged with the arts in 2022/23, while more than two-thirds visited a heritage site and more than a fifth watched a live sports event. The proportion of people visiting a museum / gallery saw a year-on-year increase.

Providing local people with access to nature is vital to health and quality of life. Currently, a fifth of West Yorkshire's population have easy access to local natural greenspace.

Housing supply improved somewhat as net additional dwellings increased from 5,983 in 2020/21 to 7,207 in 2021/22 but this is still lower than the pre-pandemic peak in housing supply seen in 2018/19.

Housing in West Yorkshire is relatively affordable in comparison with the national average; although affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew much more quickly than earnings, this trend was reversed in 2022. It should be noted that the affordability ratio takes no account of the quality of housing stock.

Rented housing costs in West Yorkshire are lower than nationally, except in Leeds. National data (time series data are not available at local level) indicates that rental prices are continuing to increase quickly.

West Yorkshire dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average (38% versus 47%). There are also wide variations against this measure at local authority level, with Bradford (30%) and Calderdale (32%) having the lowest proportion of dwellings rated C and above.

The latest official statistics indicate that 17% of households in West Yorkshire were in fuel poverty in 2021. Estimates produced by the Combined Authority suggest that this increased to 33% by spring 2023 as energy prices surged from late-2021 onwards before falling to 30% in July 2023.

West Yorkshire continues to perform strongly in respect of its digital infrastructure, which is key to its future competitiveness as a region. 85% of properties in West Yorkshire have gigabit-capable internet coverage, 7 percentage points higher than the national average and 5 points higher than a year ago. This includes 63% of West Yorkshire properties that have full-fibre coverage.

4G mobile coverage is growing in West Yorkshire and exceeds the national average, with 91% of premises covered by all providers compared with 85% nationally.

2.1 Overview of the priority

Outcomes

Underpinning this Mission, the West Yorkshire Plan sets out three outcomes to be achieved by 2040:

- Happy communities living in well-connected, active neighbourhoods with access to culture and greenspaces.
- A truly affordable and high-quality housing offer, meeting the needs of people and communities.
- Healthy life expectancy equalling the national average.

Actions for Change

The West Yorkshire Plan sets out range of actions that must be undertaken to realise these outcomes:

- Promote good health, active lives, and wellbeing through a place-based approach.
- Use West Yorkshire's status as a major player in global health innovation and health assets to support the health and wellbeing of everyone.
- Ensure that people can live in affordable and sustainable homes, making the most of clean technologies of the future.
- Put culture and heritage at the heart of our economy, where creative businesses are encouraged to start-up and grow.

2.2 Performance against the indicators

2.2.1 Healthy life expectancy¹

Healthy life expectancy (at birth) for both women and men in West Yorkshire is significantly lower than the England average. Inequality in overall life expectancy (the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas) in Leeds is significantly worse than the England average.

Healthy Life expectancy is a measure of the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health (rather than with a disability or in poor health), based on contemporary mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health. For a particular area and time period, it is an estimate of the average number of years a new-born baby would live in good health if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates and prevalence of good health for that area and time period throughout his or her life. Overall life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are important measures of mortality and morbidity, and inequality in life expectancy is a key high-level health inequalities outcome, which is core to the aims of the Department of Health. There is also a significant divergence in life expectancy by socio economic group², making it an important indicator of inclusion.

Both female and male healthy life expectancy at birth in West Yorkshire is statistically significantly lower than the England average and has been since this indicator has been routinely published. The latest figure for healthy life expectancy (2018/2020, a 3-year average) for a girl and boy born in West Yorkshire was 62.0 and 60.7 years respectively, lower than the England average of 63.9 and 63.1 years respectively.

At local authority level within West Yorkshire, there is some variation in healthy life expectancy. For women, healthy life expectancy is significantly lower than the England average in Wakefield (56.7 years) and Kirklees (61.2 years), whist for men this is true all West Yorkshire districts apart from Kirklees.

² Longevity Science Panel, <u>Life Expectancy: Past and Future Variations by Socio-economic Group in England and Wales</u> (2018)

¹ This section of the report has not been updated because the publication of updated data has been delayed to allow for population counts from Census 2021 to be incorporated into the dataset.

Figure 46: Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth (2018-2020)

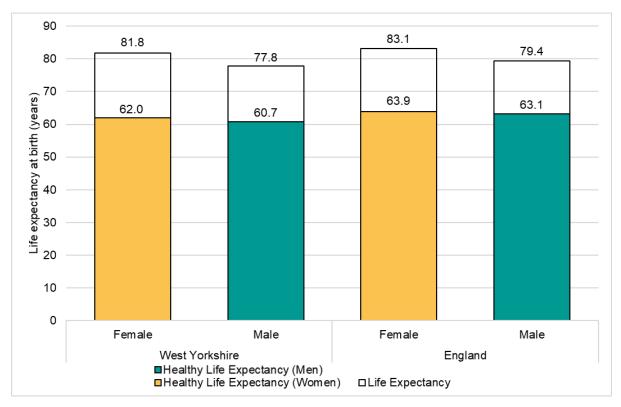
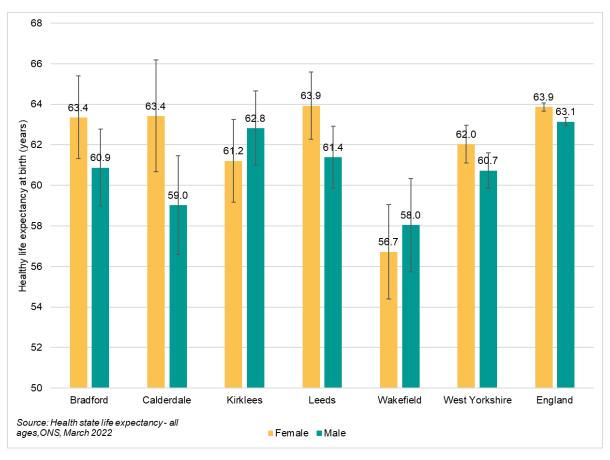


Figure 47: Healthy life expectancy at birth (2018-2020), West Yorkshire Districts vs England



Inequality in life expectancy, or the slope index of inequality (SII) is a measure of the social gradient in life expectancy, i.e., how much life expectancy varies with deprivation. It takes account of health inequalities across the whole range of deprivation within each area and summarises this in a single number, the SII. The greater the value of the SII, the greater the average difference in life expectancy between the least deprived and most deprived neighbourhoods within a given area.

The latest SII data (2018-2020) shows that within West Yorkshire, Leeds is the only area that has a statistically significantly larger (steeper) SII of life expectancy for both women and men compared to the England average. This means that the disparity between life expectancy in the most and least deprived neighbourhoods is more severe than the England average. In practical terms, it means that on average a boy or girl born in an area of Leeds that falls within the most deprived (worst 10%) neighbourhoods in England will live 11.4 or 9.7 years (girls and boys respectively) fewer than a boy or girl born in area of Leeds that falls within the least deprived (best 10%) neighbourhoods.

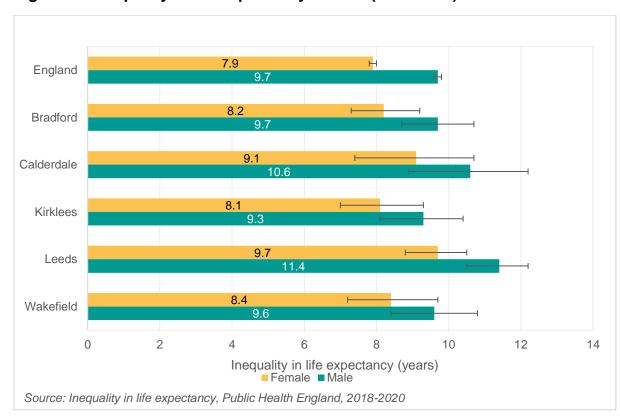


Figure 48: Inequality in life expectancy at birth (2018-2020)

There are large inequalities in health and well-being in later life, which relate to dimensions of socio-economic position, ethnicity, gender and area. In terms of wealth, the trajectory of frailty for an individual in the richest tertile at age 80+ years is comparable to that for a 70–74 year old in the poorest tertile. Similarly, in the age group 61–70, 34% of White English people report fair or bad health, compared with 63–69% of Indian, Pakistani and Caribbean people and 86% of Bangladeshi people. Women have a higher life expectancy than men but most of this higher life expectancy is a consequence of higher life expectancy spent with some disability¹.

¹ Government Office for Science (2015), <u>Addressing inequalities in healthy life expectancy</u>

About the data

Healthy life expectancy is a measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on contemporary mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health. The prevalence of good health is derived from responses to a survey question on general health within the Annual Population Survey. For a particular area and time period, it is an estimate of the average number of years a new-born baby would live in good general health if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates and prevalence of good health for that area and time period throughout his or her life. Figures are calculated from deaths from all causes, mid-year population estimates, and self-reported general health status, based on data aggregated over a 3-year period. Figures reflect the prevalence of good health and mortality among those living in an area in each time period, rather than what will be experienced throughout life among those born in the area. The figures are not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area could actually expect to live in good general health, both because the health prevalence and mortality rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

2.2.2 Access to greenspace

Nearly a quarter of West Yorkshire's population have easy access to local natural greenspace.

Access to local greenspace has been shown to have health benefits including a reduce risk of Type 2 Diabities and obesity¹, while socially prescribed time in greenspace has been shown to have further wellbeing outcomes including an increased sense of self-determination, a feeling of connection with nature and an improved social cohesion². These health and happiness benefits save the NHS more than £100 million each year in GP visits and prescriptions³.

The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy aims to ensure that everybody in West Yorkshire is within easy reach of an outstanding and well used network of green and blue infrastructure that reduces flood risks and supports health, the economy, the environment and a superb quality of life by providing local people with access to nature. There are a range of priorities for action, including planting and managing more trees and woodlands, building green and blue infrastructure into physical development and housing and integrating green and blue infrastructure within the transport routes that link our towns, cities and rural areas.

Natural England has developed an Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (<u>ANGSt</u>)⁴, which has been used as a basis for our indicators. The headline indicator we have selected for access to greenspace is:

Proportion of the population who have access to local greenspace; that is, they live within 300m (As the crow flies) of an area of accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size in which a sense of naturalness prevails over the sense of human made environment.

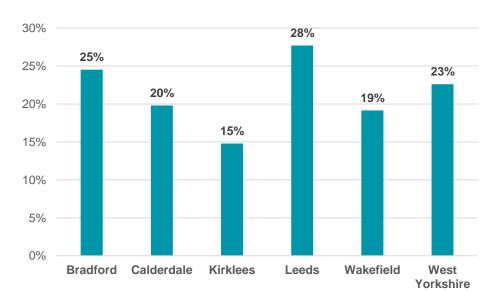


Figure 49: Access to natural greenspace in West Yorkshire

_

¹ De la Fuente, F, Saldías, MA, Cubillos, C, Mery, G., Cavajal, D., Bown, M. Bertoglia, MP. (2021) 'Green Space Exposure Association with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, Physical Activity, and Obesity: A Systematic Review' IntJ Envion Res Public Health, 18(1): 97, 10.3390/ijerph18010097

² Evaluation of the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Green Social Prescribing Funding Programme, West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership (2023)

³ Access to Green Space in England; Are You Missing Out? Friends of The Earth, 2023

⁴ "Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance", Natural England, March 2010

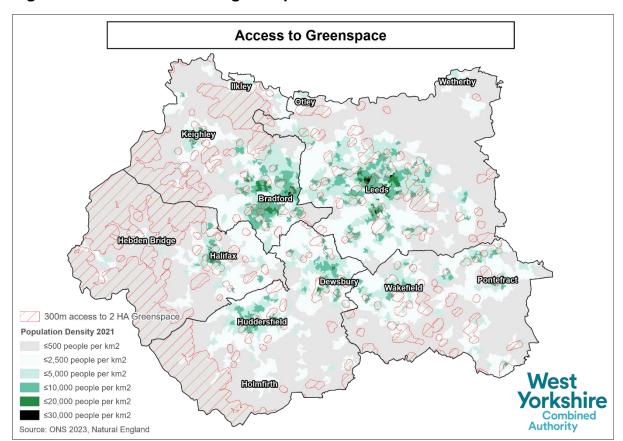


Figure 50: Access to natural greenspace in West Yorkshire

Currently, around **23%** of West Yorkshire residents have local natural greenspace within easy access; 5-to-10-minute walking distance depending on walking speed.

Within the region, there is some variation between local authorities, with Kirklees having the lowest proportion at 15% and Leeds having the highest at 28%.

A series of sub-indicators have been developed based on the ANGSt thresholds, to show the proportion of the population that have access to larger areas of accessible natural greenspace.

Table 4: Access to natural greenspace in West Yorkshire

Greenspace Type	Wider Neighbourhood; Parks and Public Gardens	District; Country Parks and Accessible Woodland	Sub- Regional; Access Land and Largest Nature Reserves		
Distance	2km	5km	10km		
Size	20 ha	100ha	500ha		
Bradford	63%	56%	92%		
Calderdale	82%	93%	90%		
Kirklees	38%	52%	45%		
Leeds	Leeds 75%		76%		
Wakefield	66%	67%	7%		
West Yorkshire	65%	64%	65%		

Wider neighbourhood - proportion of the population who are within 2km of an accessible 20-hectare site, such as parks and public gardens.

Almost two thirds (65%) of West Yorkshire's population have access to a 20-hectare greenspace within 2km of their house. There is wide variation at local authority level, however, with the proportion ranging from 38% in Kirklees to 82% in Calderdale and 75% in Leeds. Bradford and Wakefield are both close to the West Yorkshire average with figures of 63% and 66% respectively.

District - proportion of the population who are within 5 km of a 100-hectare site e.g., country parks, access land, accessible woodland.

This indicator gives a proxy for a 20-minute cycle journey. Sixty-four per cent of West Yorkshire's population fall within the catchment of this kind of site, based on these criteria, ranging from 52% in Kirklees to 93% in Calderdale.

Sub regional - proportion of the population who are within 10km of a 500-hectare site e.g., access land, accessible woodland, and the largest nature reserves

This indicator provides a proxy for a 40-minute cycle journey. The proportion of residents who have this level of access is very similar to the previous two indicators at 65%. Around nine out of 10 residents in Bradford and Calderdale are within 10km of a 50-hectare site. At the other extreme only 7% of Wakefield residents fall within the catchment area for this type of site.

About the data

The analysis uses Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard thresholds for distance and size but also filters on "naturalness" score, only including sites with a score of 1 or 2, such as parks and gardens, woodland, country parks and national parks. Playing fields, tennis courts, allotments and golf courses are excluded. Natural England's methodology measured distance from LSOA population weighted centroids through the OS Highways road and footpath network to polygons defined as greenspace in OS MasterMap. The proportion of residents with access to greenspace is based on ONS 2021 census data.

While there is equal access to private outdoor space more deprived areas have smaller spaces

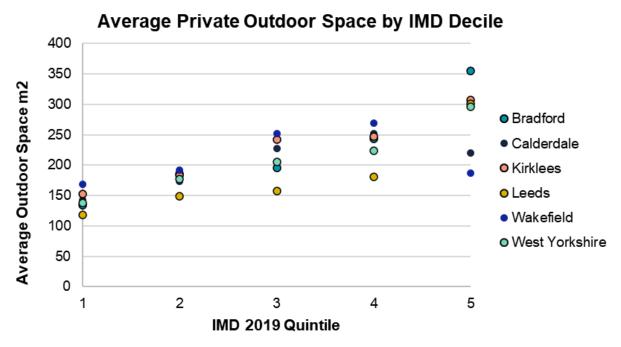
Across West Yorkshire, the proportion of households without private outdoor space is fairly consistent across deprivation quintiles, ranging from 10% to 14% of households being dependent on public outdoor green space.

Table 5: Percentage of Residential Properties without Private Outdoor Space

	IMD 2019 Quintile							
District	1 – Most Deprived	2	3	4	5 – Least Deprived			
Bradford	13%	10%	16%	12%	11%			
Calderdale	15%	17%	16%	13%	8%			
Kirklees	11%	14%	11%	10%	9%			
Leeds	15%	14%	17%	17%	11%			
Wakefield	11%	9%	6%	8%	11%			
West Yorkshire	13%	12%	14%	13%	10%			

However, while there is equal access to private outdoor space these spaces decrease in size the more deprived an area is. This is most pronounced in Bradford where houses in the 20% least deprived areas have gardens 164% larger than those living in the 20% most deprived areas.

Figure 51: Average Size of Private Outdoor Space



Source: ONS, Ordnance Survey 2020

People from ethnic minority communities are more likely to live in an area with poor access to greenspace.

Research undertaken by Friends of The Earth has shown that in England people from ethnic minority communities are twice as likely to live in an area with greenspace deprivation¹.

In their methodology, neighbourhoods rated A are most likely to receive the health and nature benefits from access to greenspace, including parks and gardens, while those rated E are the most devoid of greenspace and residents miss out on the associated benefits.

Friends of The Earth report that 40% of people from BAME backgrounds live in the most greenspace deprived areas, which is also true in West Yorkshire. This figure is most pronounced in Bradford and Calderdale where people from BAME backgrounds make up 57% and 60% of the population in the most greenspace-deprived areas respectively.

Table 6: Friends of the Earth Greenspace Deprivation – proportion of population resident in each neighbourhood category who are from an ethnic minority

	Friends of The Earth Greenspace Deprivation						
District	A -Most Likely to Benefit from	В	В С		E - Least Likely to Benefit from		
	Access to Greenspace				Access to Greenspace		
Bradford	8%	28%	18%	47%	57%		
Calderdale	3%	9%	3%	6%	60%		
Kirklees	5%	20%	13%	48%	40%		
Leeds	6%	12%	10%	22%	27%		
Wakefield	3%	4%	5%	3%	23%		
West Yorkshire	5%	12%	11%	32%	42%		

Source: Friends of the Earth

¹ Access to greenspace in England, Are you missing out?

2.2.3 Physical activity

Just under two-thirds of adults in West Yorkshire are physically active, a similar proportion to the national average. This percentage has remained broadly flat since 2015/16.

The West Yorkshire Plan commits to putting the wellbeing of West Yorkshire's people at the forefront of our agenda, ensuring that where you live helps promote good health, active lives, and wellbeing.

Sport England's Active Lives Survey provides a comprehensive view of how people are getting active, with results available down to local authority level.

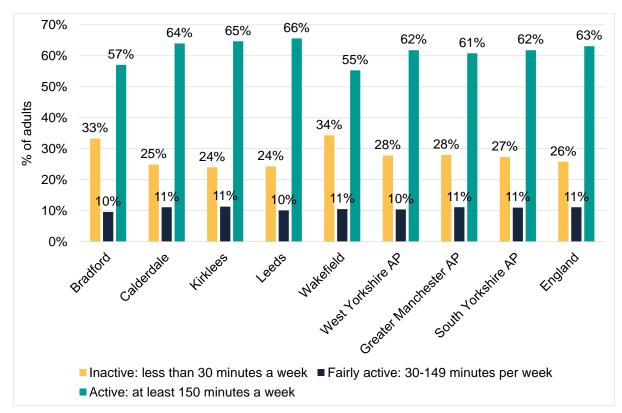


Figure 52: Sport and physical activity levels (Adults aged 16+), 2021-22

Source: Sport England Active Lives Adult Survey

_

The latest available figures, for 2021/22, show that 62% of adults in the West Yorkshire Active Partnership¹ area can be classed as active (at least 150 minutes of activity per week) with a further 10% classed as fairly active (30-149 minutes). The remaining 28% of adults are inactive, with less than 30 minutes of physical activity per week. This profile of activity is very similar to the national average and also to the picture for the comparator areas.

¹ West Yorkshire Active Partnership is part of a network of 43 Active Partnerships who are locally led, non-profit, strategic organisations cover the whole of England, bringing together people and organisations to increase physical activity levels.

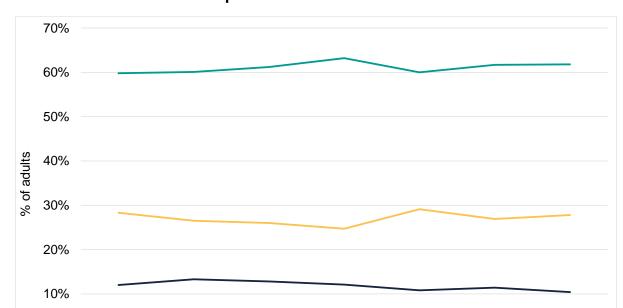


Figure 53: Trend in Sport and physical activity levels (Adults aged 16+), West Yorkshire Active Partnership

Source: Sport England Active Lives Adult Survey

-Active: at least 150 minutes a week

Looking at the period from 2015/16 to 2021/22 the profile of activity among adults has remained stable, with no statistically significant changes over this period or between 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Nov 15-16 Nov 16-17 Nov 17-18 Nov 18-19 Nov 19-20 Nov 20-21 Nov 21-22

-Inactive: less than 30 minutes a week —Fairly active: 30-149 minutes per week

The likelihood of being active varies markedly according to the personal characteristics of the individual, as shown by the following national data:

- Men (66%) are more likely to be active than women (61%) and those who describe themselves in another way (59%)
- Gay men (77%), lesbian women (73%) and bisexual adults (70%) are all more likely to be active than heterosexual adults (64%)
- People from a Mixed ethnic background (71%) are most likely to be active, compared with White British (64%) and Asian (excl Chinese) (55%)
- Activity is less common for adults with a disability or long-term health condition (47%) than those without (68%)
- Activity levels generally decrease with age, with the sharpest decrease coming at age 75+ (to 41% from 70% at age 16-34).

About the data

0%

Sport England Active Lives Adult Survey is a survey of members of the public aged 16 or over. It is a "push to web" survey with the option to complete online or via a paper questionnaire. There were 4,460 responses to the survey from West Yorkshire residents 2021/22 iteration of the survey.

The activities covered by the survey include walking, cycling, dance, fitness and sporting activities, but exclude gardening. Activity is counted in moderate intensity equivalent

minutes whereby each 'moderate' minute counts as one minute and each 'vigorous' minute counts as two moderate minutes.

Depending on the number of minutes of moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) physical activity, people are described as being:

- Inactive Doing less than 30 minutes a week
- Fairly Active Doing 30-149 minutes a week
- Active Doing at least 150 minutes a week.

Moderate activity is defined as an activity where you raise your breathing rate.

2.2.4 Well-being

Average ratings of personal well-being improved in West Yorkshire during the year ending March 2022, following a decline in the previous year linked to the pandemic. West Yorkshire has similar average ratings to the national average across the four measures of well-being.

The following analysis of well-being is based on survey data published by the Office for National Statistics, which uses four measures of well-being (described below).

Description of well-being measures

- Life satisfaction: Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
- Worthwhile: Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
- Happiness: Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
- Anxiety: Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

The data for the anxiety measure needs to be interpreted differently to the other three well-being measures. For example, high happiness scores relate to a positive well-being, while high anxiety scores relate to a poor well-being.

The latest available data shows a year-on-year improvement for West Yorkshire across all four measures for the year ending March 2022. This follows a decline in the year ending 2021 associated with the impact of the pandemic¹.

¹ Date is available for 2019-20 to 2021-22 only for West Yorkshire but is available for the period 2011-12 to 2021-22 for local authorities.

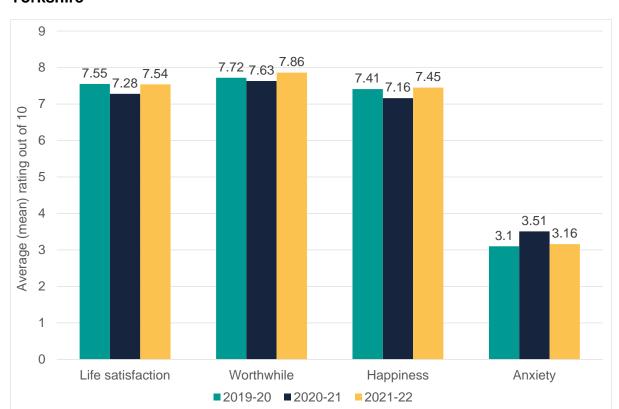


Figure 54: Trend in average (mean) personal well-being ratings, West Yorkshire

Source: Office for National Statistics - Annual Population Survey

Substantial proportions of West Yorkshire residents give a very good score (9 or 10 out of 10) for their personal well-being. In 2021/22 25% of respondents gave a very good rating for their Life Satisfaction, 33% gave a very good rating against the Worthwhile measure, 32% a very good rating for their Happiness and 34% a very good rating for Anxiety.

The differences between areas with regard to average ratings of personal well-being are generally small. West Yorkshire's ratings are very similar to the national average across all four measures.

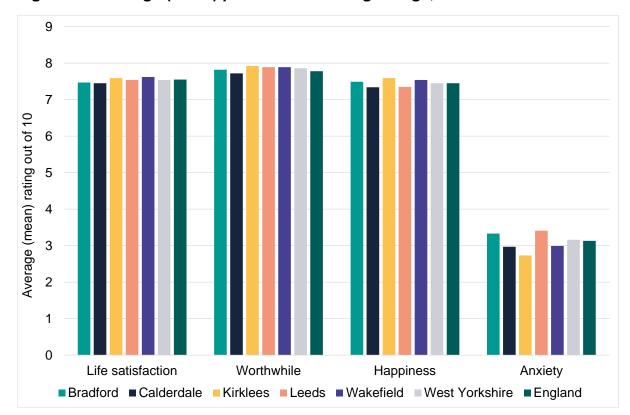


Figure 55: Average (mean) personal well-being ratings, 2021/22

Source: Office for National Statistics – Annual Population Survey

About the data

The data in this release come from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The Annual Population Survey (APS) provides a representative sample of those living in private residential households in the UK. Since 2011, the APS has asked personal well-being questions to adults aged 16 years and over in the UK to better understand how they feel about their lives.

National data shows that the proportion of adults reporting poor personal well-being (low life satisfaction, worthwhile, happiness and high anxiety) was highest among adults self-reporting "very bad health", reporting a disability and with no qualifications. The proportion of women (26.6%) reporting high levels of anxiety was significantly higher than for men.

Regression analysis of the most important factors affecting life satisfaction shows that:

- Self-reported health had a larger contribution on reported life satisfaction than any other characteristic or circumstance.
- Marital status also showed to be a large contributor to adults' ratings of their life satisfaction. People who are married or in a civil partnership are most likely to report higher life satisfaction than those of any other marital status.
- Adults' employment status and highest level of education had a moderate contribution towards their life satisfaction ratings. Compared with employees, those who were economically inactive because of temporary sickness were more likely to report lower life satisfaction ratings.

2.2.5 Participation in culture and heritage activities

Almost nine out of 10 West Yorkshire people engaged with the arts in 2022/23, while more than two-thirds visited a heritage site and more than a fifth watched a live sports event. The proportion of people visiting a museum / gallery saw a year-on-year increase.

In the West Yorkshire Plan access to culture, heritage and sport is identified as a key ingredient for happy communities. This reflects the focus of the <u>Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework</u>, a key theme of which is to ensure everyone in West Yorkshire can enjoy culture, heritage and sport. A key measure of success is the number of people who engage with these activities.

The latest figures from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Participation Survey show that engagement with the arts is at a high level, with almost nine out of 10 West Yorkshire adults engaging with the arts in the previous 12 months. Around two-thirds of adults visited a heritage site in the previous year, whilst more than a quarter visited a museum or gallery. One fifth of West Yorkshire adults watched live sports in the previous six months.

The proportions for West Yorkshire are in line with the national average in each case, except for the figure for visits to museums and galleries which is lower to a statistically significant degree.

100% 86% 87% 89% 88%86% 90% 80% 64% 68% 67% 70% 61% 61% 60% 50% 40% 28% 33% 23% 30% 28% 22% 30% 24% 22% 22% 20% 10% 0% Engaged with the arts in Visited a heritage site in Visited a museum or Watched live sports in person in the last 12 person at least once in the gallery in person at least person in the last 6 months last 12 months months ■ West Yorkshire
■ Greater Manchester
■ South Yorkshire
■ West Midlands England

Figure 56: Adults' engagement with the arts, heritage, museums / galleries and live sports, 2022/23

Source: Statistical Release for Participation Survey, October 2021 - March 2023, Department for Culture Media and Sport

Data are available from the Participation Survey to enable us to examine changes in levels of engagement between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

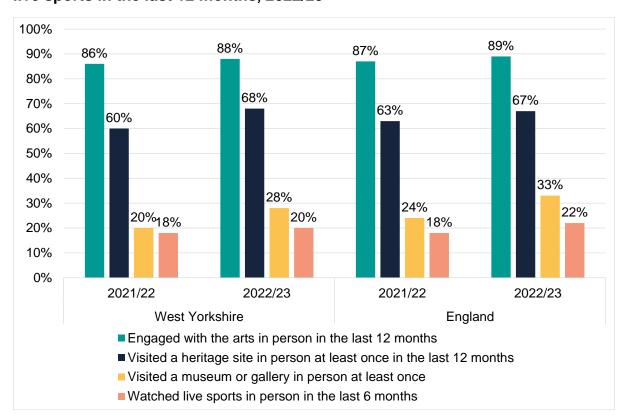


Figure 57: Adults' engagement with the arts, heritage, museums / galleries and live sports in the last 12 months, 2022/23

Source: Statistical Release for Participation Survey, October 2021 - March 2023, Department for Culture Media and Sport

At national level there were statistically significant increases in engagement across all of the indicators. The biggest improvement was for visits to a museum or gallery. At West Yorkshire level the data also shows increases for all indicators but these are not statistically significant due to the relative lack of precision of the estimates at this level. The single exception is visits to a museum or gallery which does show a statistically significant increase on the previous year for West Yorkshire.

There are issues around inclusion in respect of participation in culture, heritage and sport. National evidence from DCMS' participation survey shows that people from the most deprived neighbourhoods are significantly less likely to engage with the arts and heritage sectors than people from the least deprived areas. The likelihood of engaging with the arts and heritage sectors also varies for different demographic groups. For example, people from the Chinese ethnic group are most likely to engage with the arts, while people from the Pakistani group are least likely to engage.

About the data

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's <u>Participation Survey</u> is a continuous push to web survey of adults aged 16 and over in England, with paper surveys available for those not digitally engaged. The survey aims to provide statistically representative national estimates of adult engagement with the DCMS sectors. It provides data at a county level to meet user needs, including providing evidence for the levelling up agenda. There were 960 West Yorkshire respondents to the 2022/23 survey, which provides the basis for the results set out here.

2.2.6 Housing supply

A substantial number of net additional dwellings are being delivered each year in West Yorkshire, adding to the region's housing stock. There was a sharp decline in the number of net additional dwellings in 2020/21 due to the Pandemic (7,579 in 2019/20 compared to 5,983 in 2020/21). However, this drop has largely reversed as 7,207 net additional dwellings were delivered in West Yorkshire during 2021/22.

The Combined Authority is committed to supporting well-connected neighbourhoods with good quality homes, in places where people want to live. This involves improving the supply of homes through the West Yorkshire Strategic Housing Pipeline.

'Net additional dwellings' is the primary and most comprehensive measure of housing supply.

In 2021/22, a total of 7,207 net additional dwellings were delivered across West Yorkshire. Apart from 2020/21, the net additional dwellings in 2021/22 were the lowest since 2015/16 when 6,765 net additional dwellings were delivered across the region. Greater Manchester delivered 11,354, and the West Midlands delivered 8,503 in the most recent year.

Across West Yorkshire, the net additional dwellings for the most recent year are 4.9% beneath the level in 2019/20. This is a slightly larger drop when compared to the data at a national level. At the England level, net additional dwellings in 2021/22 were down 4.1%, compared to 2019/20. The West Midlands suffered a 9% dip in net additional dwellings when compared with 2019/20, and in Greater Manchester, net additional dwellings were 17% lower.

About the data

Net additional dwelling statistics track changes in the size of the dwelling stock due to new builds, flat conversion, change of use and demolition. The figures used here are taken from the <u>Live Tables on Housing Supply</u>, produced by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The population estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics annual population estimates.

Over the previous 10 years net housing completions reached a low of 3,889 in 2012/13 following the crash of 2008. Subsequently, net housing completions increased year on year, up to 9,261 in 2018/19. This number has not been surpassed since.

In 2007/08, 10,144 net additional dwellings were delivered across West Yorkshire. In the most recent data, Leeds is the only district which had a higher rate of building when compared with 2007/08 (+168). Kirklees had experienced the biggest drop (-1,977), followed by Calderdale (-868).

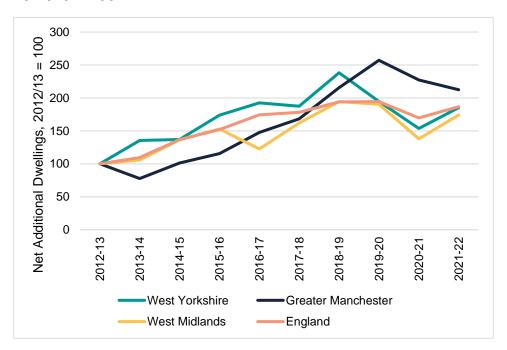
When compared to 2019/20 data, Kirklees (-38%) and Wakefield (-15%) have had fewer net additional dwellings in the most recent data, whereas Bradford (+31%), and Calderdale (+28%), have all built more. Leeds experienced a minor drop of 3%, compared with the 2019/20 data.

Table 7: Net additional dwellings by local authority

	2012- 13	2013- 14	2014- 15	2015- 16	2016- 17	2017- 18	2018- 19	2019- 20	2020- 21	2021- 22
Bradford	721	874	1,134	907	1,488	1,621	1,614	1,010	522	1,325
Calderdale	495	327	564	329	376	294	556	347	263	443
Kirklees	581	1,036	521	1,134	983	1,330	1,550	1,131	1,021	704
Leeds	1,558	2,229	1,979	2,474	2,824	2,283	3,427	3,333	2,950	3,238
Wakefield	534	806	1,132	1,921	1,816	1,759	2,114	1,758	1,227	1,497
West Yorkshire	3,889	5,272	5,330	6,765	7,487	7,287	9,261	7,579	5,983	7,207

Source: Live tables on housing supply: net additional dwellings, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Figure 58: Index of housing supply, West Yorkshire and key comparator areas, 2012/13 = 100



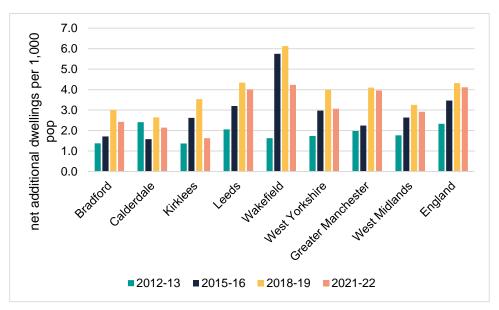
Source: Live tables on housing supply: net additional dwellings, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The ratio of net additional dwellings per 1,000 population provides an insight into the relative performance of areas in terms of housing supply.

Within West Yorkshire, Wakefield and Leeds have recorded the highest level of net additional dwellings per 1,000 residents in recent years. Wakefield (4.23) outperformed the national average in 2021/22 (4.12), with Leeds slightly behind (4.0). Bradford had 2.42 net additional dwellings per 1,000 people, followed by Calderdale (2.14), and Kirklees (1.62).

West Yorkshire delivered 3.07 net additional dwellings per 1,000 population in 2021/22, ahead of its rate in 2012-13 and 2015-16, but beneath the level of building in 2018-19 (3.99). England provided 4.12 net additional dwellings per 1,000 population in the most recent year, whilst Greater Manchester provided 3.96, and the West Midlands delivered 2.92.

Figure 59: Net additional dwellings per 1,000 population



Source: Live tables on housing supply: net additional dwellings, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

2.2.7 Housing affordability

Housing in West Yorkshire is relatively affordable in comparison with the national average, based on a simple price / wage affordability ratio. Housing affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew much more quickly than earnings, however, this subsequently reversed in 2022. It should be noted that the affordability ratio takes no account of the quality and condition of local housing stock and disguises issues of affordability faced by particular groups, such as households in poverty.

Housing is an important contributor to both economic activity and quality of life. For the former, a sufficient supply of appropriate, affordable housing is essential for enabling people to access employment opportunities and other services they require. The cost and quality of housing can also directly affect quality of life –for most people it is the single biggest expense, particularly for those on lower incomes. Poor quality housing can also affect health and wellbeing.

It should be noted that some of the most affordable housing can also be of the poorest quality, such as pre-1919 terraces in some urban areas, including in West Yorkshire. However, the necessary data are not available to allow us to produce quality-adjusted analysis of the affordability of local housing.

About the data

House price data in the UK is robust with the ONS collating and presenting data on sales, volumes and prices broken down to Lower Super Output Area level. Because of this we can give a detailed picture of the real estate market in the local area.

Housing affordability is taken as a ratio between median house price and the median gross annual earnings of the same area. This measure does not provide a complete picture on how accessible the housing market is to individuals, and the Combined Authority has undertaken more detailed analysis to explore these issues¹. But the measure used here does give an indication of how easily people in the local area could afford to buy there. Data for housing affordability is broken down to local authority level while house price data is broken down to LSOA level.

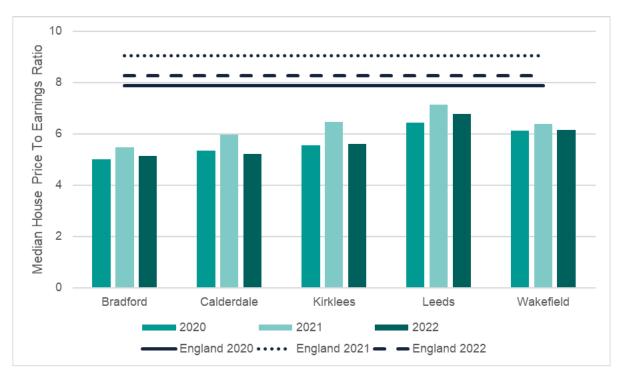
The latest data² shows that the median house price in West Yorkshire was £187,000 in the year ending December 2022, well below the England median house price of £286,000.

The house price affordability ratio in England has risen consistently since 2013 when it was 6.76 times median wages, and now costing 8.28 times median wages in 2022. The affordability ratio in England peaked in 2021 with the average house costing 9.06 times median wages in 2021. Similar happened in all five West Yorkshire districts with the largest peak being in 2021, before declining in 2022.

² Office for National Statistics, <u>House price statistics for small areas in England and Wales: year ending December 2022</u> (2023)

¹ Sheffield Hallam University Centre for Regional Economic & Social Research, Leeds City Region Housing Affordability and Need Study, 2020

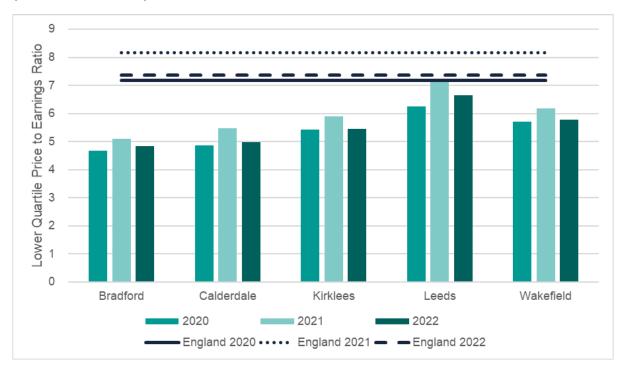
Figure 60: Affordability of house prices 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of median house price to median gross annual earnings (residence-based), West Yorkshire local authorities



Source: House price to residence-based earnings ratio 2023, ONS

In contrast, housing in West Yorkshire has remained affordable relative to the national average. Whilst affordability ratios have worsened since 2013 across West Yorkshire districts, the scale is much lower than at the national level, apart from in Leeds. Nationally, the affordability ratio worsened by 22% between 2013 and 2022. In Leeds it worsened by 23%, followed by Wakefield (18%), Kirklees (13%), Calderdale (10%), and in Bradford it worsened by just 1%. In Manchester, the affordability ratio worsened by 56% and in Birmingham it worsened by 31% between 2013 and 2022.

Figure 61: Lower quartile house price affordability 2020, 2021 and 2022 – ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile gross annual earnings (residence-based), West Yorkshire local authorities



Source: House price to residence-based earnings ratio 2023, ONS

The ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile annual wages follows a similar pattern to average housing affordability. Lower quartile house prices were 6.57 times lower quartile annual wages in 2013, and are now at 7.36 in 2022, representing a worsening in housing affordability for those on lower earnings.

The affordability ratio for these properties worsened by 12% nationally between 2013 and 2022, however. Within West Yorkshire Leeds and Wakefield have had a greater decline in affordability. The ratio in Leeds was 23% worse in 2022 than 2013, and in Wakefield it was 18%. Kirklees was only just behind the national average with an 11% worsening of affordability, meanwhile Calderdale (7%) and Bradford (1%) had considerably slower drops in affordability.

170 = 100 160 150 House Price Index March 2008 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 2018 Year ending Jun 2013 Year ending Jun 2010 Year ending Sep 2012 2017 Year ending Jun 2019 Year ending Mar 2008 Year ending Dec 2008 Year ending Sep 2009 Year ending Mar 2014 Year ending Jun 2022 Year ending Dec 2011 Year ending Mar 2020 ear ending Dec 2020 'ear ending Sep 202' Year ending Dec 201 Year ending Mar 201 /ear ending Dec 201 /ear ending Sep 201 Year ending Jun 201 Year ending Sep ending Mar Year England West Yorkshire Greater Manchester West Midlands

Figure 62: Median house price in West Yorkshire and comparator areas, March 2008 – December 2022

Source: House price statistics for small areas in England and Wales, ONS, 2023

A long-term analysis of median house prices across West Yorkshire shows that, following the financial crisis of 2008, it took longer for house prices to recover compared to the England average. Even as the recovery has taken hold, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands experienced much sharper growth, taking their overall growth in the period to broadly in-line with the national average. By the end of 2022, the median house price in West Yorkshire was £187,000, compared with £286,000 in England, £215,000 in Greater Manchester and £218,000 in the West Midlands.

Whilst Calderdale and Leeds experienced relatively quicker recoveries in house prices, albeit below the national average, it took until March 2016 for all five authorities of West Yorkshire to return to pre-crisis price levels, by which time the median house price in England was 20% higher than in March 2008.

Between December 2017 and December 2022, the median house price nationally increased by 21.7%. Bradford was the only district which had slower median price appreciation (21.2%) in West Yorkshire. Leeds had the fastest growth (32.4%), followed by Kirklees (24.8%), Wakefield (23.3%), and Calderdale (22.2%).

The more recent data shows the spike in median house prices during the pandemic, as individuals increased savings, meaning that a greater pool of potential house buyers were competing for a limited supply of housing. Another component was that, during the lockdowns, people placed a higher value on gardens or extra space within the house. Coupled with the topical issue of unsafe cladding on apartment buildings, this further increased the demand for housing from people living in apartments.

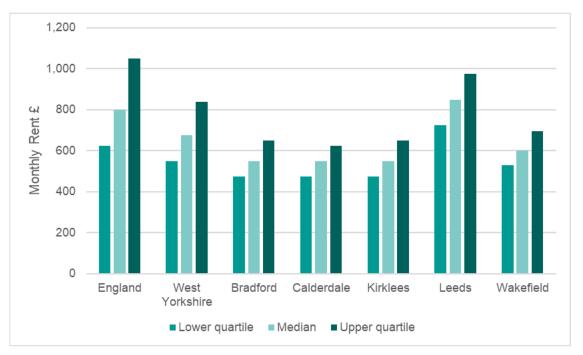
The expectation for house prices throughout 2023 is for prices to decline, primarily due to interest rate increases feeding into more expensive mortgage payments. This data will not be available via the ONS until 2024, however, regional, and national data suggests the housing market has softened throughout the first half of 2023.

2.2.8 Rented housing costs

The median private monthly rent for two-bedroom properties in West Yorkshire is 84% of the national figure. Lower quartile and median rents are below the national average in all five local authorities except Leeds. More timely national data indicates that rental prices are continuing to increase quickly.

The cost of private housing rental prices is a key indicator of how the cost of living is changing with potential implications for households living in poverty.

Figure 63: Lower quartile, median and upper quartile private sector twobedroom monthly rents in 2022/23, West Yorkshire local authorities



Source: Private rental market summary statistics in England, 2023, ONS

Median private sector rents for two-bedroom properties were higher in Leeds than in England for 2022/23, at £850 in Leeds compared with £800 nationally. For context, last year, Leeds was £6 per month more expensive than England. Leeds also has higher rents in the lower quartile, compared to England. The lower quartile rent in Leeds is £725 per month, compared to £625 per month nationwide. At the upper quartile, Leeds falls behind however, as upper quartile rents in Leeds are £975 per month, compared to £1,050 nationally.

At the West Yorkshire level, median rents are £675 per month, 84% of the national picture (£800 per month). This is beneath the level in Greater Manchester (£750 per month, 94% of the national average), and the West Midlands (£750 per month, 94% of the national average).

There is a large range across the five West Yorkshire districts. Whilst the median rent in Leeds is £850 per month, in Bradford, Calderdale, and Kirklees it is £550 a month. Wakefield is higher at £600 per month.

ONS do not a publish a time series for the Private Rental Market Statistics upon which the above analysis is based. However, data from the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices¹, shows that private rental prices paid by tenants in the UK increased by 5.1% in the 12 months

_

¹ Office for National Statistics, <u>Index of Private Housing Rental Prices UK: June 2023</u>, (2023)

to June 2023, representing the largest annual growth rate since this series began in January 2016.

About the data

The data presented is the median monthly rent for two-bedroom properties between April 2022 and March 2023. Two-bedroom properties are used as a benchmark in order to take account of the differing composition of housing stock across areas. The data is published by the Office for National Statistics and is calculated using data from the Valuation Office Agency and Office for National Statistics. The data also comes with the lower and upper quartile of rents which can give good insight into the range of different rents available in a local authority. This data looks at properties rated from private landlords, as opposed to local authority and housing association rents.

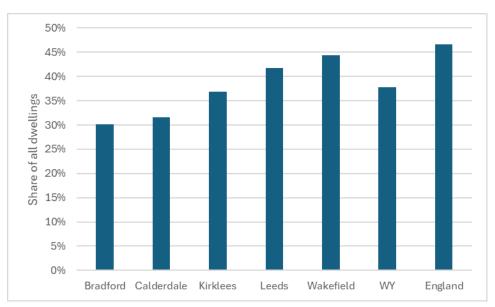
2.2.9 Building energy efficiency

West Yorkshire dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average (38% versus 47%). There are also wide variations against this measure at local authority level.

Buildings are responsible for almost 40% of the UK's energy consumption and carbon emissions. Improving the energy efficiency of properties is an important lever for reducing emissions but also for helping households to manage their living costs.

Energy Performance Certificates are needed any time a property is sold, built or rented. They contain information about a property's energy use and typical energy cost as well as recommendations on how to reduce energy and save money. Normally they have a rating between A (Most efficient) to G (Least efficient).

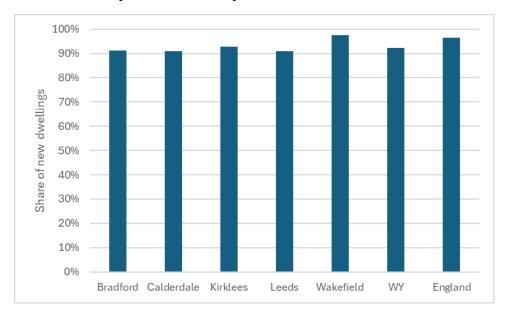
Figure 64: Share of all dwellings with Energy Performance Certificates Band 'C' or above by local authority, as of March 2023



Source: Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, 2023, ONS. WY figure estimated using local authority figures and the household composition (Census 2021).

A key headline measure is the proportion of dwellings with a rating of C or above. In West Yorkshire 38% of all dwellings with an EPC fall into this category, somewhat lower than the national average of 47%. Kirklees (37%), Leeds (42%), and Wakefield (44%) have the highest proportions of dwellings that meet this threshold, but the figures are much lower for Bradford (30%) and Calderdale (32%).

Figure 65: Share of new dwellings with energy Performance Certificates Band 'C' or above by local authority, as of March 2023



Source: Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, 2023, ONS. WY figure estimated using local authority figures and household composition (Census 2021).

For domestic properties registered as new dwellings in West Yorkshire, 92% have an energy efficiency rating of C or above, compared to 96% nationally. Wakefield has the highest proportion of new dwellings with C+ ratings (98%). Meanwhile, around 90% of new dwellings have EPC C or above in Bradford, Calderdale and Leeds.

About the data

These statistics are based on information from Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) lodged on the Energy Performance for Buildings Certificates Register for England and Wales. The purpose of an EPC is to show prospective tenants or buyers the energy efficiency of the property. The requirement for EPCs was introduced in phases and fully implemented for domestic properties by autumn 2008. EPCs are valid for 10 years.

2.2.10 Fuel poverty

According to the latest official statistics for 2021 168,000 households in West Yorkshire were in fuel poverty, 17% of the total. Estimates for July 2023 suggest that the proportion of households in fuel poverty has since risen to 30%.

Fuel poverty is the problem faced by households living on a low income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost. As well as providing a measure of deprivation, in terms of low incomes relative to an essential element of living costs, the prevalence of fuel poverty points to an issue that can be alleviated through investment in energy efficiency measures. These measures are an important contributor to reducing emissions and tackling the climate emergency.

A household's fuel poverty status depends on the interaction of three key drivers:

- Energy efficiency as households become more energy efficient, they have lower required energy costs (see section on building energy efficiency)
- Energy prices
- Incomes.

Dwelling characteristics also influence the likelihood of a household being in fuel poverty. For example, age, size and main fuel type used have an influence. Household characteristics also play a part and, for example, ethnic minority households and households with an unemployed head are more likely to be in fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty has become a much more pressing issue since late-2021. A key determinant of the extent of fuel poverty is the level of fuel prices and these have increased in an unprecedented manner since the economy re-opened following the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The most recent official statistics available are for 2021 – these do not capture the current situation in terms of fuel prices. However, they do show that West Yorkshire already faced a significant fuel poverty challenge prior to recent developments in energy markets.

Around 168,000 households in West Yorkshire were in fuel poverty in 2021, equivalent to 17% of total households in the region. The prevalence of fuel poverty in West Yorkshire was higher than the national average of 13% and also higher than in Greater Manchester (15%) but slightly lower than in Sheffield City Region (18%) and West Midlands CA (19%).

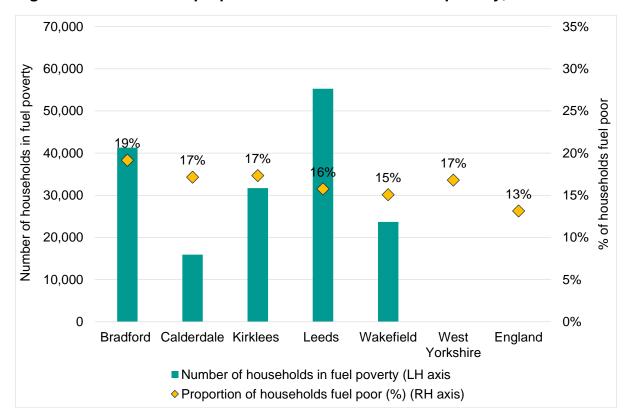


Figure 66: Number and proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2021

Source: Sub-regional fuel poverty data, Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Bradford had the highest prevalence of fuel poverty in West Yorkshire based on official statistics, with 19% of its households classed as fuel poor. Across the remaining local authorities in the region, the proportion ranges from 15% in Wakefield to 17% in Calderdale and Kirklees.

In order to take account of the impact of the unprecedented increases in energy prices seen in the period since late-2021 and the resultant government response, the Combined Authority has produced its own indicative estimates of fuel poverty.

The current estimates reflect the influence of the current Ofgem energy price cap on average household energy bills. The switch from the Energy Price Guarantee (which implied a £2,500 annual bill equivalent for typical levels of consumption) to the price cap of £2,074 for July to September 2023 has had an alleviating effect on fuel poverty. This development reflects further falls in wholesale energy prices, as the market stabilises and energy suppliers return to a healthier financial position after four years of loss making.

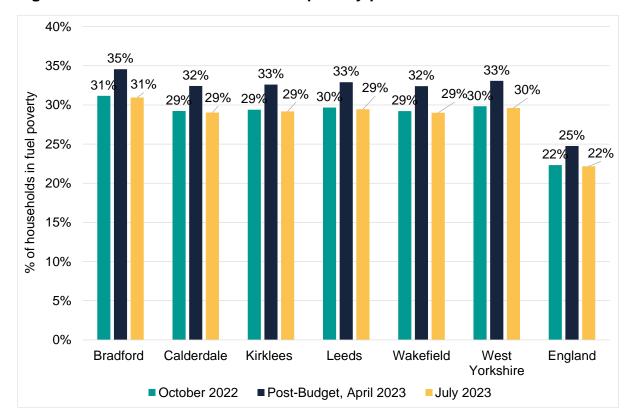


Figure 67: Indicative estimates of fuel poverty prevalence

Source: Combined Authority estimates

The current prevalence of fuel poverty in West Yorkshire is estimated to be almost double that recorded in the most recent official statistics for 2021, at 30%. This is around 8 percentage points higher than the national average. The prevalence of fuel poverty is down slightly on its peak level following the April 2023 budget.

About the data

As announced in the government's fuel poverty strategy 2021, fuel poverty in England is now measured using the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator.

Under the LILEE indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

- -They are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below
- -When they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

Fuel poverty is measured based on required energy bills rather than actual spending. This ensures that those households who have low energy bills simply because they actively limit their use of energy at home, for example, by not heating their home, are not overlooked.

2.2.11 Gigabit capable internet coverage

West Yorkshire has overtaken the national average in terms of gigabit-capable internet coverage and outperforms the national average with regard to full-fibre coverage.

Delivering fast and reliable broadband is vital to the economic performance of West Yorkshire and supports the Combined Authority's strategic objective of delivering inclusive growth by removing barriers to education, training and employment opportunities.

Digital connectivity has the potential to improve the accessibility of training and employment opportunities by improving access to digital resources and remote learning for students and enabling people who spend a large amount of time at home to adopt more flexible working practices or start up a business at home. Improved digital connectivity also increases the range of occupations which can be carried out at home. As well as professional roles, this could include lower skilled occupations such as call centre operators, which may be suited to people who have spent a long time outside the labour market.

Broadband Technologies

Superfast broadband (SFBB), defined as download speeds above 30 Mbps, has traditionally provided enough bandwidth for home Internet use, such as streaming and working from home. However, increases in content streaming and working from home, and especially teleconferencing, have created a need for ever increasing bandwidth speeds.

A65 **Properties with Superfast-capable Broadband Connections** Barnoldswick Kelghley Trawden Leeds Bradford Hebden Bridge Hallfax **Pontefract** Dewsbur Wakefield Huddersfield SFBB Availability (% Premises) 0% - No Availability ≤25% ≤50% Holmflith ≤80 ≤99% Goldthorn 100% Penistone and database rights 2023 Source: Ofcom 2023, Contains OS Data © Crown copyrigh

Figure 68: Properties with Superfast-capable Internet coverage

Full Fibre Internet provides download speeds up to 900 Mbps, thirty times faster than SFBB. Whereas SFBB uses fibre optic cable to link to local cabinets and then copper cabling to link to properties, Full Fibre runs fibre optic cables directly to properties.

In addition to Full Fibre broadband similar connection speeds can also be provided through other technologies, such as Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification (DOCSIS), a provision of high bandwidth data transfer though existing cable television infrastructure, and through 5G.

The Government is aiming for 85% of the population to have gigabit-capable broadband by 2025, and for at least 99% by 2030. Building Digital UK, part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS), is supporting the government's Project Gigabit plan, a national £5 Billion investment programme supporting the rolling out gigabit capable connections (1 Gbps or 1,000Mbps), through a combination of high-speed broadband and 5G technology, to areas passed over by commercial providers. West Yorkshire has bid for £60.9 million to roll out gigabit-capable connectivity to 29,000 properties in rural areas with delivery starting in late 2023.

Gigabit broadband is being rolled out across England rapidly –from 10% of households in 2019 to almost 77% in 2023. In 2020 the Combined Authority secured £9.11M from Building Digital UK to deploy SFBB and Full Fibre to 1,7000 businesses and 5,000 homes in rural areas over the next two years.

At the start of 2019, the proportion of residential and commercial properties connected to gigabit-capable home Internet in West Yorkshire was less than half the coverage in England. However, as a result of the Superfast West Yorkshire and York roll out programme, West Yorkshire connections have increased to 85%, while coverage in England has only increased to 77%.

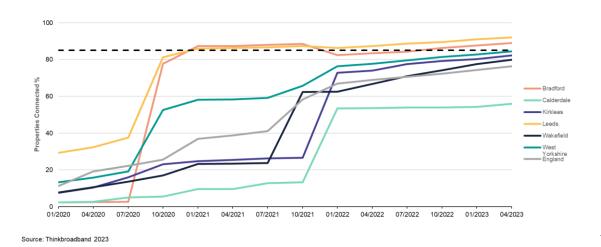


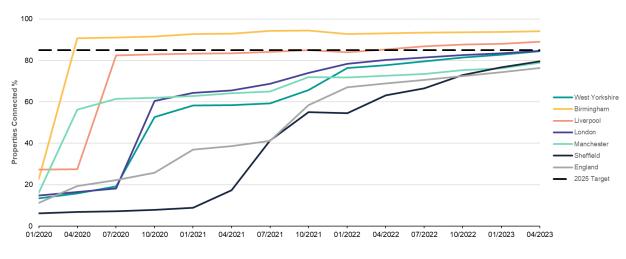
Figure 69: West Yorkshire Gigabit-capable internet coverage

Bradford and Leeds have the highest proportion of properties connected to full fibre, with 89% and 92% of properties connected respectively, exceeding the connection levels of

¹ Postcode level internet connectivity data is provided by Ofcom, the government approved communications regulatory body, who produce two postcode level connectivity datasets a year. District and regional connectivity data is provided by ThinkBroadband, a private organisation who publish connectivity data at larger geographies quarterly.

comparator metropolitan areas including Sheffield (81%), Manchester (80%) and equalling London region (89%).

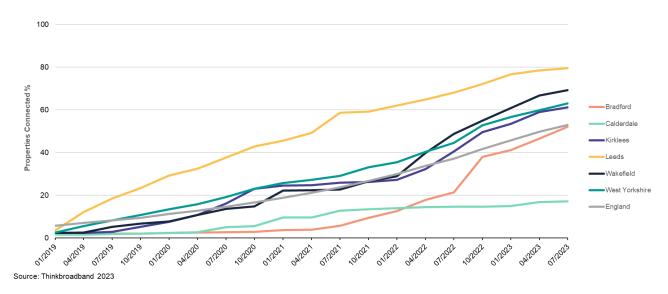
Figure 70: Gigabit-capable internet coverage by Metropolitan Areas



Source: Thinkbroadband 2023

At the start of 2019, the proportion of residential and commercial properties connected to Full Fibre in West Yorkshire was less than half the coverage level in England. However, because of the commercial and private sector investment by the end of 2019 local coverage had exceeded the levels for England and since then has outperformed the national average.

Figure 71: Residential and commercial properties with Full Fibre broadband coverage



Leeds has the highest proportion of properties connected to Full Fibre with 79% of properties connected, exceeding the connection levels of comparator metropolitan areas including Sheffield (69%), Manchester (54%) and Birmingham (55%) and the London region (60%).

Despite this, connectivity remains low in Calderdale (17%), a district with large rural areas and challenging geography, where installing infrastructure is prohibitively expensive.

Figure 72: West Yorkshire Gigabit-capable Internet coverage by type

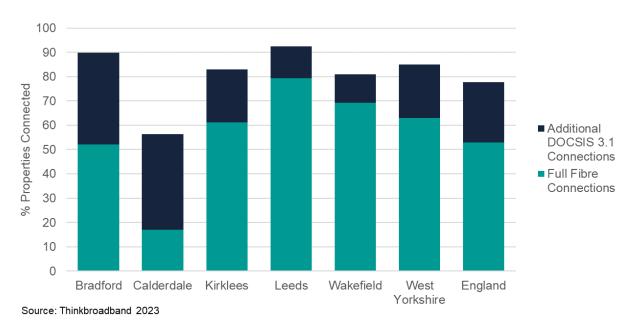
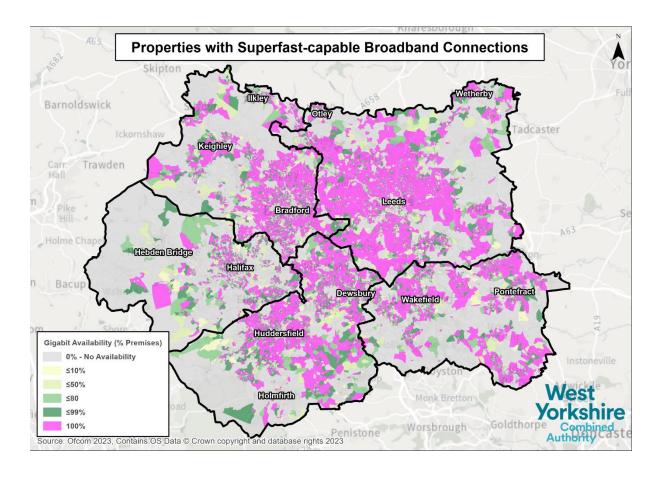


Figure 73: West Yorkshire Gigabit-capable Internet coverage



While the percentage of properties connected to superfast or gigabit capable broadband continues to increase, connectivity in rural areas continues to lag behind that of urban areas.

This is especially pronounced in Calderdale where only 12% of properties in rural areas are connected to gigabit capable broadband.

Table 8: Rural Broadband Availability by Speed

	Rural Areas		Urban Areas	
District	% Properties Connected to Superfast Broadband	% Properties Connected to Gigabit capable Broadband	% Properties Connected to Superfast Broadband	% Properties Connected to Gigabit capable Broadband
Bradford	87	44	96	81
Calderdale	85	12	95	50
Kirklees	90	46	96	78
Leeds	87	49	96	89
Wakefield	93	51	96	75
West Yorkshire	88	40	96	79

While the proportion of properties connected to full fibre in West Yorkshire exceeds the coverage level for England, it falls behind that of other metropolitan areas such as Birmingham and Liverpool.

Table 9: Broadband coverage by type

	Superfast Access >=30 Mbps	Gigabit DOCSIS 3.1 or FTTP	Full Fibre
Birmingham	98	95	54
Liverpool	98	89	61
London	98	89	59
Manchester	97	80	54
West Yorkshire	98	85	63
England	98	78	53

Source: ThinkBroadband 2023

It should be emphasised that broadband coverage does not equate to take-up of broadband services by households. Ofcom estimate that 73% of consumers that have access to superfast broadband have upgraded to a superfast service and that around 25% of premises that are able to get full fibre are actually taking it, although this proportion is growing. Take-up of gigabit-capable networks is higher at around 38%. The affordability of broadband services has an impact on customer choice – particularly in the context of cost of living pressures. Ofcom highlight an increasing number of households reporting affordability issues¹.

¹ Ofcom (2022), Connected Nations 2022: UK report

2.2.12 Mobile coverage (4G and 5G)

4G coverage in West Yorkshire is above the national average but usage is relatively low

Current 4G networks provide download speeds up to 10 Mbps, with maximum speeds up to 40 Mbps, matching SFBB speeds. Mobile data is an increasingly important part of our daily lives, from people checking news, emails and social media while out and about to utilities companies using it to provide gigabit-capable internet in isolated and hard to reach communities where traditional broadband solutions are not viable.

Emerging 5G technologies will provide average download speeds of 150-200 Mbps and peak speeds of over 1 gigabyte per second. A robust 5G mobile Internet network will play a transformative role in the future development of the region. As well as supporting local business and services development and providing internet coverage for large sites such as warehouses and hospitals, 5G will enable gigabit-capable Internet connections. The technology will also connect rural or isolated dwellings and provide the bandwidth necessary for autonomous vehicles and other mobility as a service transport solutions.

West Yorkshire has historically had better 4G coverage than the rest of the country, with 79% of properties in the region having indoor 4G coverage from all network providers since June 2017, a time at which only 68% of properties in England had this level of coverage.

West Yorkshire's 4G coverage outperforms the national average by 6 percentage points, based on the measure presented in the table below. Ninety per cent of premises are covered compared with the England average of 85%. Leeds has the highest coverage with a figure of 93% and Wakefield the lowest, at 87%, but this is two points above the national average.

Table 10: Mobile broadband coverage

Area	4G Premises (Indoor) Coverage from All Providers September 2023		
Bradford	92%		
Calderdale	89%		
Kirklees	89%		
Leeds	93%		
Wakefield	87%		
West Yorkshire Average	90%		
England	85%		

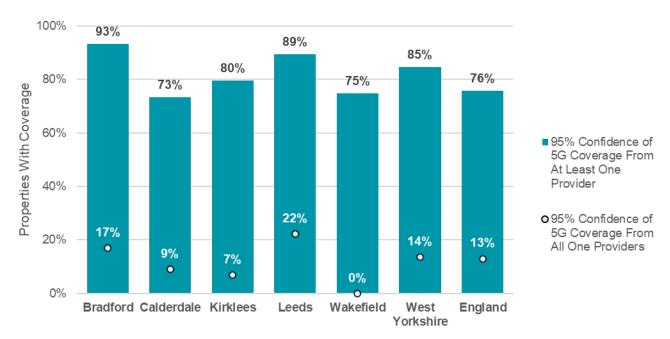
Source: Ofcom Connected Nations Spring Report 2023

While the volume of mobile data downloaded continues to increase as coverage expands and banking, ticketing and email apps become a part of daily life, download volumes in West Yorkshire are below the level for England.

5G Connectivity

5G transmitters are providing coverage in all five West Yorkshire district centres, as well as in Dewsbury, Mirfield, Morley and Pontefract. 85% of premises across West Yorkshire have reliable 5G coverage from at least one provider, exceeding the England average by nine points. The number of properties in West Yorkshire with reliable 5G coverage from all operators drops to 14%, only 1 point higher than the England average.

Figure 74: West Yorkshire Properties with Reliable 5G Coverage



Source: Ofcom Connected Nations Spring Report 2023

3 A well-connected West Yorkshire - a strong transport system

Key points

The latest available figures show that walking and the bus account for a larger share of trips undertaken by West Yorkshire residents than nationally and trips by private car a slightly smaller share. Public transport usage remains below pre-pandemic levels but increased between 2022 and 2023.

West Yorkshire's access inequality ratio worsened substantially during 2020/21, as the number of jobs accessible by the bus network from deprived neighbourhoods fell relative to those accessible by private car due to the impact of the pandemic on bus services. The ratio was largely unchanged in 2021/22; however, a more positive trend underlying this is that access to employment centres via the bus network improved year-on-year but was matched by an improvement in car accessibility.

The number of killed or seriously injured casualties arising from traffic collisions was on a downward trend in West Yorkshire prior to the pandemic, before falling by more than a fifth between 2019 and 2020. However, the lifting of lockdown in 2021 was accompanied by an annual increase in casualties.

2022 has seen the number of trips made on MCard products increase substantially to above pre-pandemic levels. Changes to the ticketing offer in West Yorkshire through the Young Person's Fare Deal and Mayor's Fares have resulted in significant channel shift from operator tickets to MCard products., with a total of 18m trips recorded. The shift to digital channels for the purchase of MCard trips has accelerated, with 84% of travel tickets bought through the MCard mobile app rather than traditional outlets during 2022, up from 70% in 2021.

At 76%, the percentage of on-time buses in West Yorkshire for January to June 2023 is within three points of last year's average for the same period but still below pre-pandemic levels.

Bus reliability is the number of service journeys which actually operate compared to those scheduled. The bus industry reliability target is for 99.5% of registered bus service mileage to be operated; this is around five points higher than the figure achieved in West Yorkshire during the benchmark period of March 2023 (94.99%).

Satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains somewhat low, at 5.8 (out of 10), the same score as in 2020/21 and in 2021/22. This is a composite indicator and satisfaction with individual elements that comprise has changed, most notably a small increase in satisfaction with cycle routes and facilities.

Satisfaction with public transport (bus and rail services) has a similar rating to satisfaction with highway infrastructure for the 2022/23 period but this represents a decline on the previous year for both services and the lowest rating for bus services since data was first collected in 2015/16.

3.1 Overview of the priority

Outcomes

Underpinning this Mission, the West Yorkshire Plan sets out three outcomes to be achieved by 2040:

- Develop a sustainable, accessible transport system.
- Enable reliable and affordable buses, trains, and mass transit.
- Build a region with healthy people where active travel is the easiest choice for short journeys, car usage is reduced, and the first choice for travel is public transport.

Actions for change

The West Yorkshire Plan sets out range of actions that must be undertaken to realise these outcomes:

- Develop an integrated, affordable, sustainable, reliable and resilient transport system
 that connects all parts of our region so everyone can access the places they need to live
 fulfilled lives, boosting productivity, increasing innovation, and creating jobs
- Work collaboratively to ensure West Yorkshire has robust connections across the UK and the world.
- Tackle the climate emergency through the fair and inclusive decarbonisation of our transport network.
- Ensure everyone can enjoy walking and cycling to support a good health, and a cleaner, greener environment.
- Make our transport system easier to use and understand, so quick, joined-up journeys become second nature to us all with a London-style transport network.
- Bring forward a new mass transit system for West Yorkshire by 2040.
- Connect communities with an integrated cycling, walking, bus and rail plan.

3.2 Performance against the indicators

3.2.1 Access inequality ratio (employment)

Inequality of access to employment from the most deprived areas in West Yorkshire worsened in 2021/22. Bus access has decreased while car access has improved. This is reflective of reduction in provision and frequency of bus services alongside reduced congestion for car trips in the region.

People travel to access employment; however, their capacity to access some employment opportunities may vary greatly, depending on a number of factors, such as their physical ability, the range of transport modes available to them, the speed and frequency of these modes, the connectivity of the network or the affordability of the options available to name just a few.

Car drivers are the least mobility-constrained and have higher levels of access to opportunity; individuals from low-income households, on the other hand, are more constrained by affordability issues and are less likely to own a car.

In 2021, 38% of households in the lowest income quintile did not have access to a car, compared with 22% across all income levels¹. Those in the lowest income quintile also made 53% more bus trips than the average across all income levels, lower than the previous year, indicating a slight decrease in bus patronage and an improved mode share. Improving public transport options for those with no access to a car, is therefore a way to tackle inequality, by making it easier for everyone to access services and activities, including employment.

To capture transport aspects of access inequality, we have defined an 'access inequality ratio'. This is defined as the ratio (expressed as a percentage), of the number of jobs² accessible in 30 minutes using the frequent bus network³ to the number of jobs accessible by car in 30 minutes, from areas within the 10% most deprived in West Yorkshire⁴, during the morning peak⁵. The rationale is that all else remaining equal, by improving accessibility by public transport (whether this is by improving its frequency, connectivity or speed), the number of opportunities available to those with no access to a car is also improved, thereby reducing access inequality.

Following a large decline in 2020/21 from 2019/20, the access in equality ratio (for 2021/22) was 62%, a five percentage point decline from the previous year. This reflects the fact that bus service patronage in 2020/21 was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, which continued into 2021/22.

-

¹ Source: Travel by household income quintile and main mode / stage mode: England, from 2002, National Travel Survey, DfT, 2021

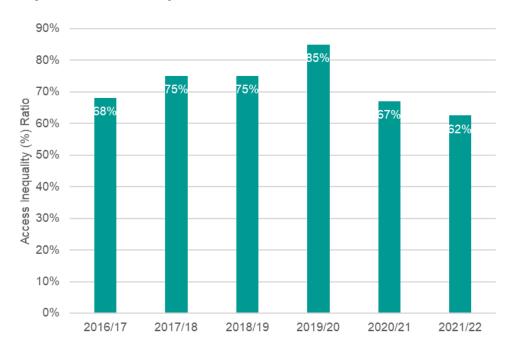
² The Business Register and Employment survey provides jobs information. Approximately 2 million businesses can be found in Great Britain and approximately 80,000 businesses in Great Britain are sampled annually. The survey covers all businesses in Great Britain registered for VAT and/or PAYE.

³ The frequent bus network is defined as routes with a frequency of four buses per hour or better.

⁴ Source: The English Indices of Deprivation, 2019, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

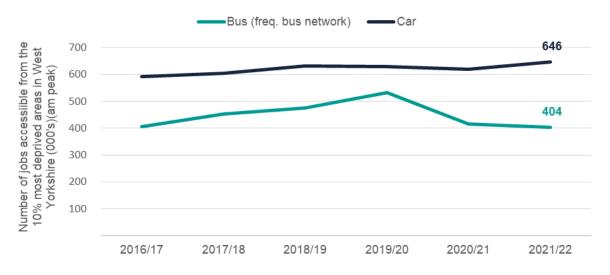
⁵ Morning peak starts at 07:30 am to 09:30 am

Figure 75: Access inequality (employment) – Proportion of jobs in major employment centres accessible within 30 min by bus in the morning peak, relative to jobs accessible by car



In 2021/22 there were 3% fewer employment centres accessible by bus from deprived communities than in the period 2020/21 and 4% more employment centres accessible by car in the same year. The decrease in bus access and increase in car access means the inequality ratio has fallen below the previous year 2020/21.

Figure 76: Morning peak access to major employment centres by the frequent bus network, from the 10% most deprived areas in West Yorkshire, vs car accessibility



As stated in section 1.2.1 of this report, West Yorkshire experienced a strong economic recovery from the pandemic. Notably, the economy recovered at a rate faster than the national average in output (gross value added) terms between 2020/21 and 2021/22. Economic growth has been accompanied by car usage growth nationally according DfT

statistics¹ on vehicle mileage, with car mileage growing by 9% between 2020/21 and 2021/22. In 2021/22, local traffic data² showed notably reduced morning peak congestion compared to pre-pandemic conditions. The combination of increased economic activity and private vehicle use, along with reduced morning congestion, added upwards pressure to the car accessibility indicators in the most recent year.

Bus service provision and frequency in 2021/22 were impacted by reduced demand during the pandemic recovery and driver shortages³. This is reflected in the reduction in the number of jobs that could be accessed by bus in West Yorkshire.

This indicator captures only some of the *physical* components of access to employment; there are other factors that impact the range of employment opportunities that are available to low-income groups; amongst them, the affordability of public transport itself, or the nature of employment. This results in a 'skill mismatch' for those with lower qualifications; this is because higher-skilled jobs are typically based in city centres or main transport corridors in cities, well served by public transport, whereas low-skilled jobs are increasingly dispersed outside city centres and are often difficult to reach by residents in low-income areas⁴. This is exacerbated by the fact that a number of low-skilled jobs in occupations such as distribution, warehousing, hospitality, retail and cleaning often require unconventional working hours, at times where public transport is infrequent or just not available.

The access inequality ratio was originally developed to monitor an earlier iteration of the West Yorkshire Transport Plan and has since been adapted for other uses, including the State of the Region report. During the annual update process for this report, methodological factors have been identified which could be enhanced to better meet the needs of this document. The methodology is therefore likely to be updated in future reports. Details of any changes will be explained in the next report if the time series is affected.

About the data

Data for this indicator is calculated using accessibility software. This software allows the calculation of travel time and distance between origin and destination points for different modes of transport, based on the origin and destination location relative to the road network, link speeds and public transport timetables. As with any model, a number of assumptions are made:

- Origin points: these are the centroids (population weighted) of the areas falling within the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in West Yorkshire i.e., travel time from the whole area is assumed to be the same as from its centroid.
- Employment centres are defined as those areas with 1,500 employees or more, as per the Business Register and Employment Survey for the corresponding year. As before, travel time to all jobs in an area is assumed to be the same as that to its centroid.
- The departure time for bus trips is 07:30 am, which we compare with journey times for car.
- Census data that is used in the calculation is taken from the Office for National Statistics; the latest being 2021. The population for West Yorkshire by output area is downloaded in CSV format and in shapefiles for compatibility with the Basemap TRACC tool. The data is filtered to identify output areas which fall within the most deprived areas for this calculation.

¹ Source: TRA8905: Motor vehicle traffic (vehicle kilometres) by local authority, DfT, 2023.

² Source: Leeds City Council's regular Coronavirus Traffic Updates throughout 2021 and 2022.

³ See, for example Printed minutes 05th-Nov-2021 11.00 Transport Committee.pdf (moderngov.co.uk) section 32

⁴ See, for example Crisp, R. et Al, 2018, <u>Tackling transport-related barriers in low income</u> neighbourhoods, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

- The road network data is downloaded from Basemap Highways Analyst which is a tool used to download digital road networks with link speeds by analysing GPS data from vehicles. This considers congestion levels at various times in the day and various days of the week. This makes the calculation more robust.
- The catchment areas are defined based on the minimum travel time from the set of locations taken as origin. This means it will not be possible to reach the selected destination in the maximum travel time (in this case 30 minutes) from all the origins; or in other words, contours reflect the destination that is fastest to access.
- Bus travel time is based on published timetables. Public transport data is downloaded in a compatible format for TRACC from Basemap DataCutter. DataCutter provides data from all public transport modes in the United Kingdom from the National Public Transport Data Repository (NPTDR), which is updated every three months.
- Bus accessibility is calculated using the core bus network. This means that only bus stops with a combined service frequency of 4 buses per hour or more are considered in the analysis. The maximum distance from an origin to the first stop is 600 m. The maximum interchange distance is 400m. Walk speed is 4.8 km/h.

3.2.2 Mode share

Most trips are made by car in West Yorkshire, although its share had started to decline before the pandemic, in parallel with a substantial increase in walking. Bus usage is lower than pre-pandemic levels, but more bus trips per head are made in West Yorkshire than nationally¹.

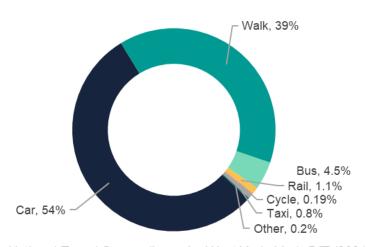
Mode share is an indicator of not only people's travel habits, but of how the way we travel adapts to economic, technological, and social changes. Travel demand is relevant not only for the design of infrastructure and transport policies, but for other important policy areas, such as inclusive growth —as it reflects access to opportunity for all groups, including those with no access to a car— and tackling the climate emergency —as we must ensure necessary mobility does not impact negatively on the environment and the health of our residents.

In the 3-year period ending 2021 (the last time this indicator was available for West Yorkshire):

- 54% of trips by West Yorkshire residents were made by private car (either as a driver or a passenger), one percentage point lower than the England average for the same period. The private car was also the predominant mode of travel in terms of distance, accounting for 84% of the distance travelled by West Yorkshire residents, higher than the England average (79%).
- Walking accounted for 39% of all trips made by West Yorkshire residents, being the mode with the highest share growth in recent years (13 percentage points since 2019); the share of walking is higher than the England average (33%).
- 4.5% of trips by West Yorkshire residents were made by bus, a higher proportion than the England average (2.6%). However, the bus share has continued to decline in recent years, resulting in a loss of approximately 2 percentage points per decade. The bus accounted for 3.9% of the distance travelled by West Yorkshire residents, compared to 2.7% in England.
- Rail accounted for 1.1% of the trips made by West Yorkshire residents, and 5% of the distance (compared to 1.7% and 7.7%, respectively, for England).
- Cycle trips represented 0.2% of all trips by West Yorkshire residents, while 2% of trips in England were made by cycles in the same time period.

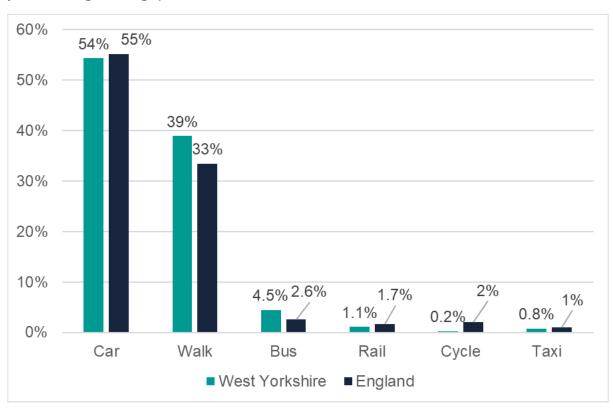
¹ Based on 2021 data (See *About the data* box)

Figure 77: Share of trips by mode, West Yorkshire, 2019/21 (3-year rolling average)



Source: National Travel Survey (bespoke West Yorkshire), DfT (2021)

Figure 78: Share of trips by mode, West Yorkshire and England, 2019/21 (3-year rolling average)



Source: National Travel Survey (bespoke West Yorkshire), DfT (2021)

Indicators from the Residents Perceptions of Transport Survey suggest that while general travel activity has been increasing year-on-year, public transport usage is still below prepandemic levels. Analysis of modal usage in recent years shows that:

• Although the proportion of West Yorkshire residents using a bus at least once a week is lower than two years before the COVID-19 pandemic, 33% of residents catch a bus at least once a week. This is an increase from 18% in 2022.

• The proportion of West Yorkshire residents using the train at least weekly has increased from 7% to 11% in the latest year, close to the 2018/19 proportion of 12%.

About the data

Mode share data is taken from the National Travel Survey. This survey is designed to be representative of England's population and therefore, it has limitations when analysing lower-level geographies e.g., 3 years of data combined are necessary to obtain a robust sample size for West Yorkshire, therefore the use of a 3-year rolling average for this indicator.

3.2.3 Killed or seriously injured casualties (KSI)

Absolute counts of KSI casualties in West Yorkshire showed a declining trend in the period up to 2019 before falling further during the pandemic. However, KSI casualties rose by 37% between 2020 and 2021, an increase largely attributable to the higher road traffic as a result of lifting of some restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Wakefield has seen the lowest increase at 22% between 2020 and 2021.

A key focus of our transport investment is to create clean, safe, healthy places for communities and businesses. Ensuring the safety of all users of our streets and highway network and reducing the risk of being killed or seriously injured on our roads is essential to meet these objectives, and for people to feel confident to walk and cycle more. There is also an important inclusion dimension, since people who live in more deprived areas are at greater risk than those living in affluent areas. Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads is therefore crucial to our priorities of delivering a strong transport system, enabling inclusion and boosting productivity.

There were 1,201 KSI casualties in West Yorkshire in 2021, an increase of 37% from 2020. This shows a rising trend line as seen in corresponding figures for England (14% increase) during this period, largely attributable to the rise in road traffic seen during 2021 as a result of some of the travel restrictions being lifted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comparing the previous year, not all districts have seen the same increase in their KSI casualty statistics; Kirklees has the highest increase at 46% and Wakefield has the lowest increase at 50%, however, these are both much higher than the national average increase at 22%.

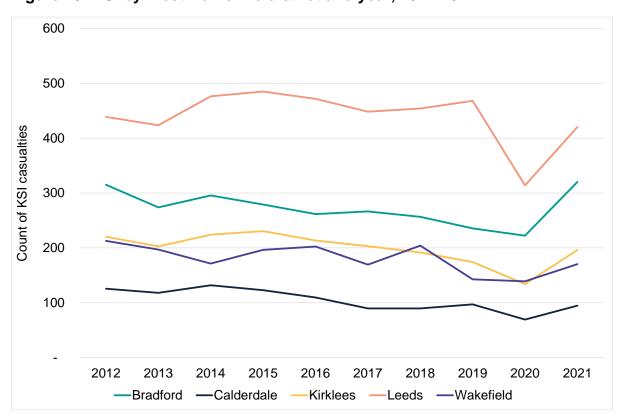


Figure 79: KSI by West Yorkshire district and year, 2011-2021

Source: Reported road casualties by severity and local authority, DfT 2022

The increase in KSI casualties between 2020 and 2021 varied by user type. It was largest for car occupants (+63%), followed by motorcyclists (+40%) and then pedestrians (+34%). There was a fall in casualties (-33%) for pedal cyclists. The rise in pedestrian KSI casualties is notable, considering reported increase in motorised traffic as travel restrictions were less strict and not imposed in some parts of 2021. Pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists continue to be the most vulnerable group, accounting for 50% of total KSI casualties in 2021, compared to 45% for car occupants.

In 2021 there was also a 50% increase in other vehicle occupants KSI casualties, which may be linked to the growth in the number of vehicles classified in this group (e.g., scooters).

500

200

100

Car Occupant

Motor Cyclist

Pedal Cyclist

Pedestrian

2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021

Figure 80: West Yorkshire KSI casualties by selected user type

Source: Reported KSI casualties by local authority and road user type, DfT 2022

About the data

Casualty data for West Yorkshire and partner districts have been taken from the Reported Road Casualties Great Britain, annual report: 2021, which provides the number of personal injury road traffic collisions in Great Britain that were reported by the police using the STATS19 reporting system. It also includes the number of people killed or injured in these collisions and which road user group they were in.

3.2.4 MCard Ticket Transactions (bus)

West Yorkshire's uptake of multi-operator tickets has been on an upward trend in recent years and there has also been an increase in the proportion of tickets bought through digital channels.

MCard is the multi-operator, multi-mode travel smartcard for West Yorkshire. The number of trips made using MCard products is an important measure of the take-up of smart ticketing technology which is part of efforts to plan and manage the transport network more effectively to transform the affordability, ease, and experience of passengers.

2022 has seen the number of trips made on MCard products increase substantially to above pre-pandemic levels, with more than 18m trips recorded. Changes to the ticketing offer in West Yorkshire through the Young Person's Fare Deal and Mayor's Fares have resulted in significant channel shift from operator tickets to MCard products. This channel shift does not represent any patronage increase.

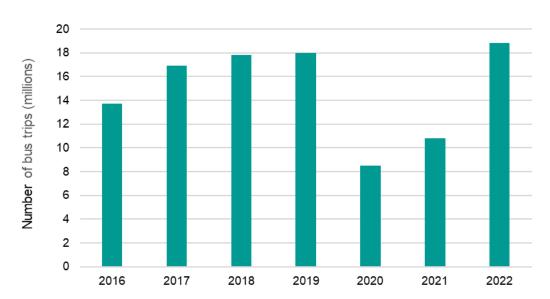


Figure 81: Bus Trips made using MCard Products

Source: WYCA NERO Reports and MCard Mobile App

About the data

The data includes all bus trips made using MCard products (West Yorkshire Ticketing Company Limited Prepaid tickets) recorded in the data management and reporting system, NERO, and in the MCard Mobile App.

Department of Transport Annual Bus Statistics show the total number of trips made on buses was falling steadily within West Yorkshire and other metropolitan areas before the impact of Covid-19 which caused a large reduction in bus journeys. There has been some recovery, but usage is still well below pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 82: Trend in bus usage

0

2015/16

■ Greater Manchester ITA

Source: Department of Transport Annual Bus Statistics

2016/17

West Yorkshire has launched two mobile apps since 2017, leading to an increase in the proportion of MCard products bought this way to 84% in 2022. Up to the end of July, 89% of products have been purchased via mobile apps in 2023.

2018/19

2019/20

■West Yorkshire ITA

2020/21

West Midlands ITA

2017/18

South Yorkshire ITA

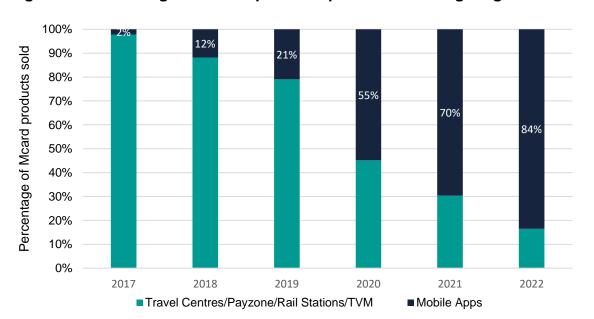


Figure 83: Percentage of MCard products purchased through digital channels

Source: WYCA Dream Reports

3.2.5 Satisfaction with highway infrastructure

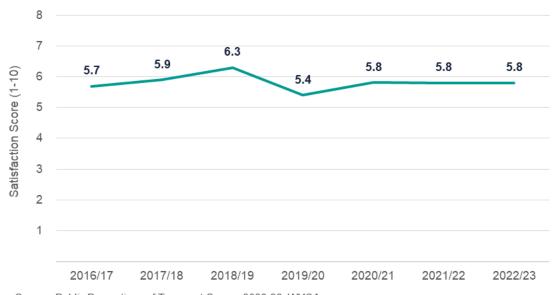
Self-reported satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains at 5.8 (out of 10), the same score as in 2020/21 and 2021/22. Satisfaction with road drainage, cycle routes and facilities has improved; however, satisfaction with street lighting and speed of repair of streetlights has worsened. Satisfaction with pavements and footpaths and the speed of repair of them is constant.

Highway infrastructure is an essential public asset. It allows access to services and opportunities and the movement of goods. Well maintained streets and roads are safer and more comfortable for walkers, riders and passengers. They are also part of the visual landscape and contribute to create a sense of place.

In order to achieve our ambition to make best use of our infrastructure, we must ensure our assets are fit for purpose and managed in a safe, sustainable and cost-effective way, so that they are resilient into the future. One of the indicators used to measure progress towards this objective is public satisfaction, reflecting the impact that highway assets have on people's daily activities.

Historically, satisfaction with highway infrastructure has been low. In 2022/23, it was 5.8 (out of 10), the same as the two previous years.

Figure 84: Satisfaction with highway infrastructure 2016/17 to 2022/23



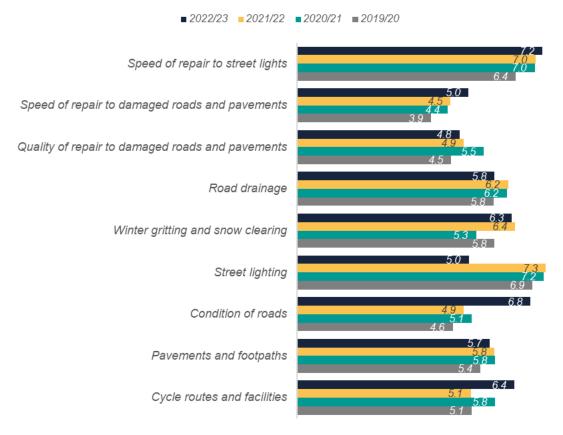
Source: Public Perceptions of Transport Survey 2022-23, WYCA.

Despite the composite indicator having the same value as in 2020/21 and 2021/22, satisfaction with individual elements has changed. Notably an increase in the satisfaction with cycle routes and facilities (+0.3 points) can be attributed to the improved cycle facilities and the expansion of cycle routes in West Yorkshire through active travel schemes. There was also an uptake in cycling during the Covid-19 pandemic that has been maintained as we have come out of the pandemic.

Aspects relating to road and pavement maintenance typically have the lowest satisfaction and received a lower rating in 2022/23: except speed of repair which shows a slight increase satisfaction level (+0.1% points) Expectations in relation to these aspects is high, as shown

by the high importance attributed to them by residents (see Figure 85). High standards of asset maintenance continue to be essential for the safety and efficiency of our networks, and more needs to be done to ensure that residents also perceive it.

Figure 85: Change in scores for components of the highway infrastructure satisfaction, 2019/20 to 2022/23



Source: West Yorkshire Residents Perceptions of Transport Survey, WYCA (2023)

About the data

Satisfaction with different elements of asset maintenance is collected through the Public' Perceptions of Transport Survey, a survey of perceptions of transport infrastructure, information and services conducted annually by the Combined Authority. The final score for satisfaction with highway infrastructure is obtained by weighting the individual scores for the different elements of highway maintenance, based on their relative importance to respondents.

Figure 86: Importance and satisfaction with the elements included in the indicator: satisfaction with highway infrastructure (Score 1-10)



Source: Public Perceptions of Transport Survey 2022-23, WYCA

3.2.6 Satisfaction with public transport

Satisfaction with public transport fell in 2022/23.

Developing a world-class, integrated transport system is a vital requirement of the competitive, inclusive economy that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and its partners are working to create. Measuring satisfaction with public transport is a key indicator of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040 and is recorded through a large scale, long-running survey series.

The latest results of this survey (from 2022-23) reveal that satisfaction scores (out of 10) for bus and rail services in West Yorkshire were 5.9 in each case.

The maximum satisfaction to date was seen in 2020/21, and 2022/23 has shown an even larger drop from this high compared to 2021/22. With all COVID-19 pandemic restrictions lifted in 2022, public transport usage is close to an assumed new normal range which is lower than those observed in previous years. Local bus and train services has reached an all-time low in 2022/23 for the 7 years observed.

Satisfaction with local bus services Satisfaction with local train services 8 Satisfaction Score (1-10) 7 7.0 7.0 6.9 6.7 6.7 6 6.2 6.0 5.9 5.9 5.9 5 4 3 2 1 2020/21 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2021/22 2022/23

Figure 87: Satisfaction with local bus and train services

Source: Public Perceptions of Transport Survey 2022-23, WYCA

About the data

Satisfaction with local bus and rail services is obtained from the West Yorkshire Public Perceptions of Transport Survey. This is a survey conducted annually by the Combined Authority, aimed at measuring public perceptions of aspects of transport infrastructure and passenger transport provision in West Yorkshire. The last wave of the survey, corresponding to the period 2022/23, was undertaken between the months of January and February 2023, and is based on a sample of 1,200 respondents.

3.2.7 Punctuality and reliability of bus services

The percentage of on-time buses is within three points of last year's average for the same period but still below pre-pandemic levels.

The reliability of buses in West Yorkshire has some effect on the level of patronage. Most residents who rely on buses for commuting journeys count on buses to arrive and depart on time to plan their journeys. It is important to continue to improve the quality of bus services with punctuality being one of the key factors that would give people confidence in bus services. This improvement will see a boost in economic activity in the region.

Average on time performance (punctuality) of buses to date in 2023 (January to June) stands at 76%, lower than during pre-pandemic years for the same time period.

100% 90% Av 82% Av 81% 80% 70% 50% 40% COVID-19 Lockdowns 30% 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 On Time →On Time →Late

Figure 88: Bus punctuality through time (% tracked journeys)

Bus reliability is the number of service journeys which actually operate compared to those scheduled. The bus industry reliability target is for 99.5% of registered bus service mileage to be operated.

Figure 89: Bus reliability through time

March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023
98.47%	98.10	99.02%	94.62%	94.99%

About the data

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Real Time Information system defines 'On time' as 1:00 minute early and 5:59 minutes late against the scheduled time, and anything outside of that time window is defined as early or late. The West Yorkshire Bus Alliance collates figures on this from the three major bus companies in the region (First, Arriva and Transdev) and reports them quarterly at an aggregated level across the major operators and all times of the week.

3.2.8 Satisfaction with transport information sources

Train time information at rail stations has the highest satisfaction rate among the West Yorkshire public, followed by travel centres and electronic time displays at bus stations and stops.

Transport information sources enhance the travel experience. This could be in the form of timetable leaflets or real time information displays at bus and rail stations. Awareness of such sources of information is of utmost importance. Awareness and satisfaction of transport information sources indicates the most preferred and the most accessible source of information in West Yorkshire.

85% of respondents of the West Yorkshire Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey are aware of electronic time displays at bus stations and stops while only 15% of the respondents are aware of the Metro Messenger service.

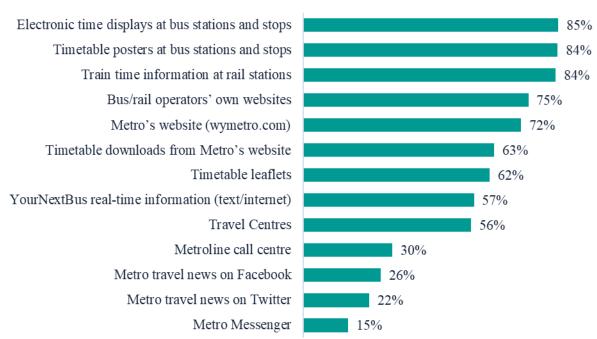


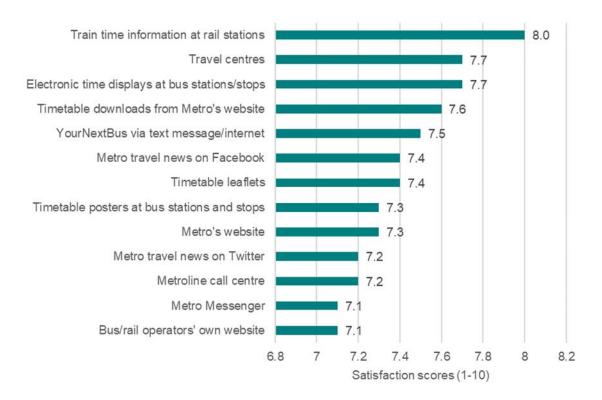
Figure 90: Average awareness of transport information sources

Source: West Yorkshire Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey

Social media sources, that is Twitter and Facebook, have a higher average awareness among 16-34 years old respondents (37% and 38%, respectively). 65+ years old respondents have a lower awareness towards these social media sources.

Among the information sources, train time information at rail stations has a higher satisfaction rate among the respondents, followed by travel centres and electronic time displays at bus stations and stops.

Figure 91: Satisfaction with transport information, average satisfaction score (on 1-10 scale)



Source: West Yorkshire Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey

Average satisfaction levels for train time information at rail stations, travel centres and electronic time displays at bus stations/ bus stops in 2022/23 among those aged 16-34 were significantly lower than for respondents aged 65 and over.

Train time information at rail stations Electronic time displays at bus stations/stops Travel Centres Timetable downloads from Metro's website YourNextBus: text/smartphone 37% Metro travel news on Facebook Timetable leaflets 34% 57% Bus: Timetable posters 53% 42% Metro's website 52% 42% Metro travel news: Twitter Metroline call centre Metro Messenger 46% Bus/rail operators' own websites

Figure 92: Satisfaction with transport information sources in percentages

Source: West Yorkshire Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey

Satisfied

Satisfaction levels for train time information at rail stations were lower among residents of Calderdale and Kirklees, and highest among Bradford residents. Satisfaction with travel centres was lower among Wakefield and Bradford residents. Satisfaction levels among Leeds residents was significantly lower for electronic time displays at bus station/ bus stops compared to residents of Bradford and Kirklees.

■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied

Dissatisfaction is low across the board, not exceeding 10% for any source.

About the data

Satisfaction with transport information sources is obtained from the West Yorkshire Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey. This is a survey conducted annually by the Combined Authority aimed at measuring public perceptions of aspects of transport infrastructure and passenger transport provision in West Yorkshire. The last wave of the survey, corresponding to the period 2022/23, was undertaken between the months of February and March 2023, and is based on a sample of 1808 respondents.

3.2.9 Satisfaction with affordability of public transport

Satisfaction with the affordability of public transport increased in 2022/23, rising to pre-pandemic levels.

Satisfaction with the affordability of public transport in West Yorkshire is higher when compared to affordability of motoring. In 2022/23, the satisfaction score (out of 10) for affordability of public transport in West Yorkshire was 6.2.

10 9 8 Satisfaction score (1-10) 6.2 6.2 6.0 5.6 5.5 6 5.2 5 4 3 2 1 0 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 2022/23

Figure 93: Satisfaction with affordability of public transport

Source: West Yorkshire Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey

As the affordability of motoring has fallen from 5.6 in 2021/22 to 5.3 in 2022/23, while satisfaction with affordability of public transport has increased from 5.6 in 2021/22 to 6.2 in 2022/23. Affordability of public transport has increased to pre-pandemic levels (6.2 in 2018/19). This improvement in satisfaction may be attributed to Mayor's Fares initiative which limits a single bus fare to £2 and daily fares to £4.50.

About the data

Satisfaction with affordability of public transport is obtained from the West Yorkshire Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey. This is a survey conducted annually by the Combined Authority aimed at measuring public perceptions of aspects of transport infrastructure and passenger transport provision in West Yorkshire. The last wave of the survey, corresponding to the period 2022/23, was undertaken between the months of February and March 2023, and is based on a sample of 1808 respondents.

4 A sustainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener

Key points

West Yorkshire has declared a climate emergency and is committed to becoming a net zero carbon economy by 2038 and to making significant progress against this challenge by 2030.

The latest data indicate that greenhouse gas end-user emissions in West Yorkshire stand at around 11.1 Mt CO₂ equivalent. This equates to 4.7 tonnes per capita, below the national average of 5.5 tonnes.

As expected, greenhouse gas emissions increased in West Yorkshire and nationally in 2021, as the economy re-opened following the pandemic. Emissions remain below their 2019 level and West Yorkshire data for 2022 are expected to show a net reduction when published in 2023 based on the national trend in emissions that can be observed in more timely data available at this level.

All broad sectors of the West Yorkshire economy, except Waste management, saw increases in emissions in West Yorkshire between 2020 and 2021. The biggest contributors to the overall net increase were the Industry sector, the Commercial sector and the Domestic sector. Transport sector emissions grew only modestly year-on-year, by 3% and remained 14% lower than in 2019.

The emissions intensity of the West Yorkshire economy, in terms of CO_2 equivalent emissions (kt) per £m of GVA, is slightly above the national average and above some of the comparator areas. The region's emissions intensity is nearly 50% lower than in 2005. It continued to fall in 2021, reflecting the fact that GVA grew more rapidly than emissions as the economy re-opened following the pandemic.

Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change. Around 3% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to more than 6% in Calderdale. A significant proportion of neighbourhoods in Bradford and Calderdale are acutely vulnerable to the effects of flooding.

The development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure is central to reducing transportrelated emissions. The number of publicly available electric vehicle charging points in West Yorkshire is growing rapidly, expanding by 41% in the last year alone and by 140% in the last three years. However, the ratio of charging devices to population is below the national average.

4.1 Overview of the priority

Outcomes

Underpinning this Mission, the West Yorkshire Plan sets out two broad outcomes to be achieved by 2040:

- A net zero carbon economy by 2038.
- Growth in the green economy in West Yorkshire.

Actions for change

The West Yorkshire Plan sets out range of actions that must be undertaken to realise these outcomes:

- Support businesses and industry to operate efficiently, reducing energy consumption and boosting regional productivity.
- Enable businesses to capitalise on the opportunities of a carbon-free economy.
- Deliver a fair and just net zero economy where people have the skills and opportunity to access new jobs in the green sector.
- Deliver energy efficient homes to ensure that fuel poverty is abolished.
- Celebrate, protect, and invest in our natural environment, supporting biodiversity, enhancing our greenspaces, parks, rivers, canals and moorland.

4.2 Performance against the indicators

4.2.1 Greenhouse¹ gas emissions

As expected, greenhouse gas emissions increased in West Yorkshire and nationally in 2021, as the economy re-opened following the pandemic. Emissions remain below their 2019 level and West Yorkshire data for 2022 are expected to show a net reduction when published in 2023.

In June 2019 a climate emergency was declared for West Yorkshire. The Combined Authority and its partners are placing increased emphasis on a commitment to clean growth and the stated ambition is for the region to become a net zero carbon economy by 2038.

The central indicator of progress is the region's level of greenhouse gas (including carbon dioxide) emissions. As of 2021, the latest year for which data are available, West Yorkshire emitted 11,117 kt CO₂ equivalent. This equates to 4.7 tonnes per capita, somewhat below the national average of 5.5 tonnes.

Total greenhouse gas emissions in West Yorkshire increased by 6% in 2021 compared with the previous year. This follows an 11% decline in emissions in 2020 linked to the pandemic. However, 2021 emissions remained 5% below their pre-pandemic 2019 level. UK data indicate that the increase in emissions in 2021 was largely due to the COVID-19 restrictions easing and more heating use due to colder weather.

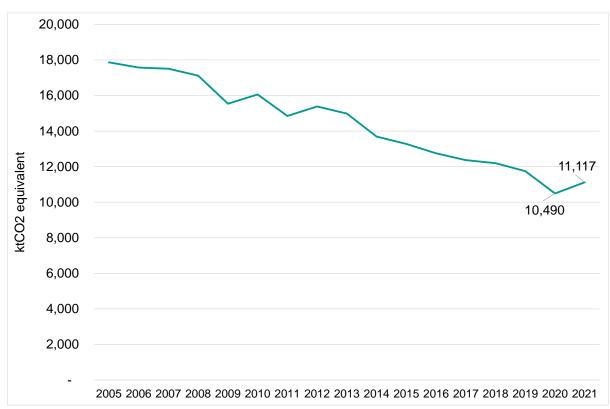


Figure 94: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO2e), West Yorkshire

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

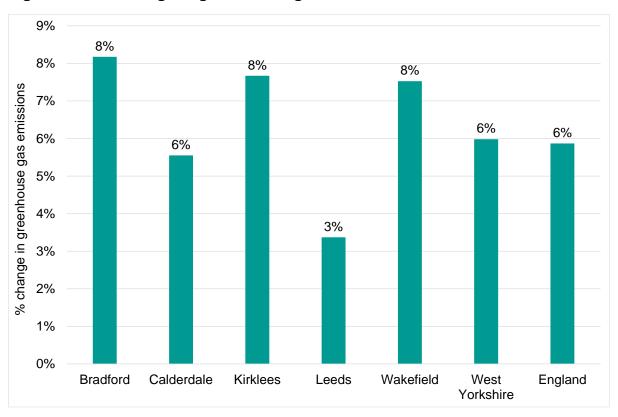
-

¹ The analysis presented here is based on data relating to emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O), but not fluorinated gases.

The national pattern of change was similar to West Yorkshire, with a 10% fall in emissions between 2019 and 2020 and growth of 6% between 2020 and 2021.

At local authority level, emissions grew by 8% in Bradford, Kirklees and Wakefield between 2020 and 2021 and by 6% in Calderdale. In Leeds the increase was much smaller at 3%.

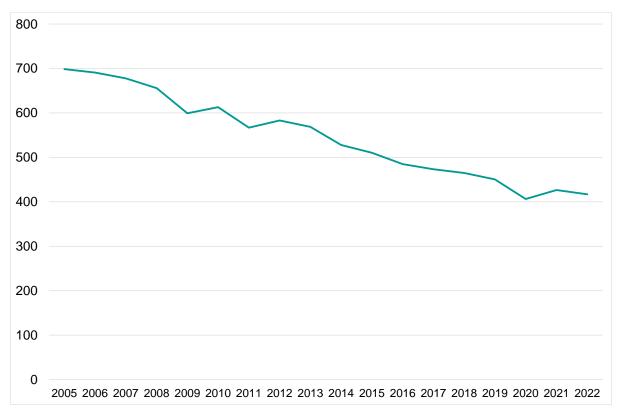
Figure 95: Net change in greenhouse gas emissions between 2020 and 2021



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Greenhouse gas emissions are in long-term decline, having fallen by 38% in West Yorkshire between 2005 and 2021, similar to decrease of 39% seen nationally.





Source: Provisional UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2022 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Provisional figures show that in 2022, total UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions were 2.2% lower than 2021. Although the basis for these UK figures is not fully compatible with regional / local estimates used elsewhere in this report, they strongly suggest that West Yorkshire emissions will also be shown to have declined when 2022 figures are published.

The main driver of the decrease in UK greenhouse emissions is a change in the fuel mix for electricity generation, with a decrease in the use of coal and gas and more use of renewables. In West Yorkshire, electricity generation through renewables increased by 95% between 2014 and 2020¹.

The Baseline Scenario set out in the West Yorkshire Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways study, which reflects the likely outcome with current policies, projects a reduction of only 32% in emissions between 2020 and 2038, due to a lack of strong incentives for consumers and businesses to switch to low carbon heat, transport and other practices².

By local authority, Leeds has the highest level of emissions, reflecting the size of its economy. In per capita terms the figures range from 3.9 tonnes in Bradford to 5.7 tonnes in Wakefield. Leeds and Calderdale are both close to 5 tonnes per capita, whereas in Kirklees emissions stand at 4.5 tonnes per capita.

¹¹ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, <u>Regional Renewable Statistics</u> (2021)

² West Yorkshire Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways, 2020

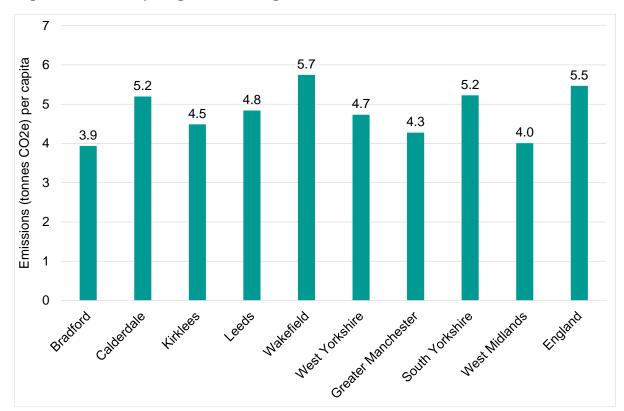


Figure 97: Per capita greenhouse gas emissions

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Per capita emissions in West Yorkshire as a whole, are lower than in South Yorkshire, but higher than in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands CA area.

About the data

The source of the data is the UK National Statistics publication 'UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics' from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (published annually). This provides the latest estimates of territorial greenhouse gas (CO₂ equivalent) emissions for local authority areas for 2005-2021. The statistics show estimated emissions allocated on an "end-user" basis where emissions are distributed according to the point of energy consumption (or point of emission if not energy related). Except for the energy industry, emissions from the production of goods are assigned to where the production takes place. Therefore, emissions from the production of goods which are exported will be included, and emissions from the production of goods which are imported are excluded.

4.2.2 Greenhouse gas emissions by sector

There was an increase in West Yorkshire emissions across all sectors except Waste management between 2020 and 2021. Transport emissions remain substantially below their pre-pandemic level.

Emissions from all main sectors of end users have fallen over the period from 2005 to 2021 in West Yorkshire. The rates of decline for this period for industry (-36%), commercial (-74%), public sector (-35%) and domestic (-39%) all far exceeded the rate for transport (-18%), in spite of the steep fall in emissions linked to the pandemic. As a result, transport is now the largest sector by emissions in West Yorkshire, accounting for 32% of the total. This is because the bulk of the reduction between 2005 and 2019 was driven by the significant decarbonisation of electricity generation, which has comparatively little impact on transport, as this largely remains fossil fuel powered.

6,000

5,000

4,000

2,000

1,000

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

Industry —Commercial —Public Sector —Domestic —Transport

Figure 98: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions by selected sectors (ktCO2e), West Yorkshire

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

All broad sectors, except Waste management, saw increases in emissions in West Yorkshire between 2020 and 2021. The biggest contributors to the overall net increase were the Industry sector (+201 ktCO2e; +10%), the Commercial sector (+138 ktCO2e; +29%) and the Domestic sector (+115 ktCO2e; +4%). Transport sector emissions grew by 108 ktCO2e (+3%).

As noted above overall emissions were lower in 2021 than pre-pandemic in 2019, which was principally due to Transport emissions being 14% or 604 ktCO2e lower at this point. Conversely, Commercial and Public sector were both higher than in 2019 by 7% and 5% respectively.

In West Yorkshire, 19% of CO_2e emissions were attributed to the industrial sector in 2021, 6% to the Commercial sector, 5% to the public sector, 32% to transport and 30% to the domestic sector. Compared with the national average, emissions in West Yorkshire are weighted towards the domestic sector and transport, with agriculture accounting for a notably smaller proportion.

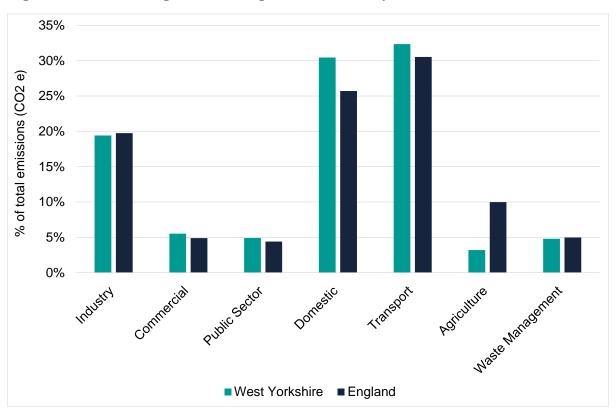


Figure 99: Profile of greenhouse gas emissions by sector, 2021

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Per capita domestic emissions are at a similar level across the West Yorkshire local authorities. This is also the case for industry and commercial, except for Wakefield, where emissions from industry are much higher, reflecting emissions from industrial gas and industrial electricity. Per capita transport emissions vary widely and are highest in Wakefield and Leeds, followed by Calderdale. They are lower in Kirklees and lowest in Bradford.

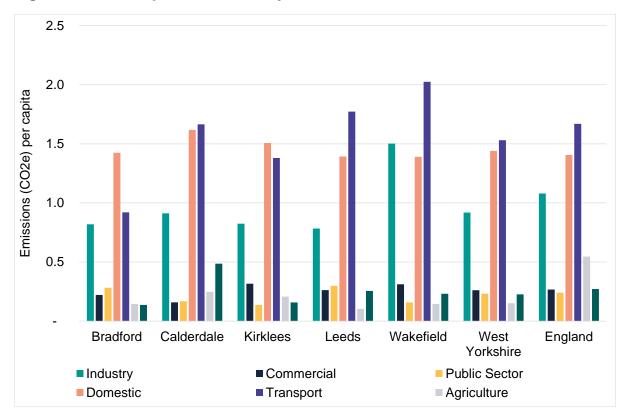


Figure 100: Per capita emissions by selected sector, 2021

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Road transport is the main contributor to overall transport emissions. Although vehicle efficiency improved during this period, this was probably offset by changes in demand and road mileage.

4.2.3 Emissions intensity ratio

The greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the West Yorkshire economy, in terms of CO₂ equivalent emissions (kt) per £m of GVA, is slightly above the national average and above some of the comparator areas. The region's emissions intensity continues to fall with a bigger decrease in 2020 than that seen nationally.

Greenhouse gas emissions intensity measures the level of emissions per unit of gross value added (GVA) and can be used to examine the relationship between economic growth and emissions. It is an important measure because a reduction in emissions intensity may indicate a shift towards a greener and more sustainable economy. This could be through industries becoming more efficient in their processes and emitting less per unit of GVA. At the same time, it may also reflect changes to the structure of the economy, for example, a change from manufacturing to services, which produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

There are wide local variations in emissions intensity, mainly because of the economy and geography of different local areas.

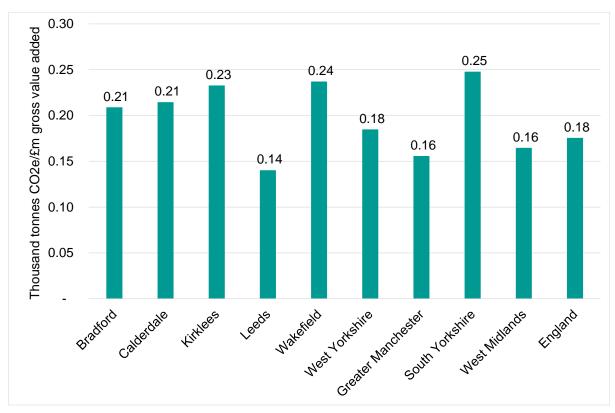


Figure 101: Greenhouse gas emissions intensity, 2021

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2021, Office for National Statistics.

Note: Gross value added in current prices.

In 2021, greenhouse gas emissions intensity for West Yorkshire was around 0.185 thousand tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per £ million of GVA. This is slightly above the national average of 0.176 and higher than the comparator areas, except South Yorkshire. The latter has a particularly high intensity possibly because of the concentration of energy-intensive industries such as steel in the area.

Wakefield and Kirklees have the most emissions-intensive economies in West Yorkshire, followed by Bradford and Calderdale. Leeds has substantially lower emissions intensity than the other local authorities, although its emissions are highest in absolute terms, accounting for more than a third of the West Yorkshire total.

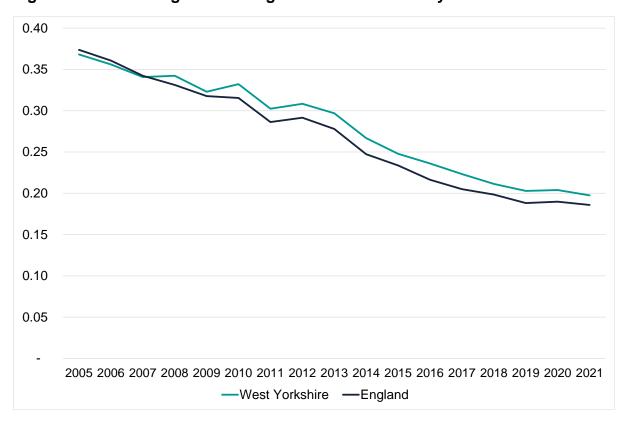


Figure 102: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions intensity¹

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2021, Office for National Statistics.

Note: Gross value added in chain volume measures.

Greenhouse gas emissions data are available for the 2005 to 2021 period. They show that emissions intensity fell by 46% in West Yorkshire over this period compared with 50% at national level. The region's emissions intensity was similar to the national average in 2005 but a small gap has opened up since then.

Although the overall volume of emissions increased both nationally and in West Yorkshire between 2020 and 2021 (see above), emissions intensity fell by 3% in West Yorkshire, reflecting the fact that GVA grew more rapidly than emissions as the economy re-opened following the pandemic.

In the absence of detailed figures for industry sector emissions at local level, it is difficult to assess the relative contributions of changing industry structure and increased efficiency to the reduced emissions intensity in West Yorkshire. As noted above, UK data shows a downward trend in emissions intensity in the energy supply sector, due to the switch from

¹ The data presented in this figure do not exactly correspond to those contained in Figure 101 since the GVA data used are chained volume measures in 2019 money, in order to adjust for inflation; whereas the analysis contained in Figure 101 is based on GVA in current price values for 2020.

fossil fuels to renewables but there have also been reductions in intensity in the manufacturing and transport sectors¹.

About the data

Emissions intensity is calculated by dividing the level of greenhouse gas emissions in thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by gross value added (GVA) in £m. GVA is the difference between output and intermediate consumption, that is, the difference between the value of goods and services produced (output) and the cost of raw materials and other inputs which are used up in production (intermediate consumption). The GVA data used in the denominator are in current prices for Figure 101 and in chained volume measures, in constant prices, with 2019 as the base year², for Figure 102.

_

¹ Office for National Statistics , <u>Greenhouse gas emissions intensity</u>, <u>UK: 2021 provisional estimates</u> (2022)

² Office for National Statistics, <u>Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry: all ITL regions</u> (2021)

-+

4.2.4 Premises at risk of flooding

Around 3% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to 6% in Calderdale. Many neighbourhoods in Bradford and Calderdale are acutely vulnerable to the effects of flooding. Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence due to climate change.

Rivers, reservoirs and canals are defining features of West Yorkshire's landscape, enhancing our living environment with places for exercise and leisure and providing habitat for fish, birds and mammals. A consequence of this however is that some residents live in areas prone to flooding, either Defra Flood Zone 3, areas with properties facing a risk of flooding once every hundred years or Flood Zone 2, where properties face a risk of flooding once every 1,000 years. The frequency of flooding in these areas will increase as a result of climate change.

Recent events, such as the Boxing Day Floods of 2015 highlighted the risk that flooding presents to residential and commercial properties in West Yorkshire, with this event alone flooding 3,260 homes and 1,686 businesses, and the economic cost of £227 million and £36.8m worth of damage to local infrastructure¹. In addition to this economic impact the increase in mental health and behavioural problems in children after experiencing flooding is well documented², and the associated psychological stresses has been linked to depression and anxiety in adults³, especially those with existing mental health issues⁴.

The ongoing flood risk reinforces the economic, social and environmental arguments for securing capital investment to allow our communities to be more resilient and avoid both the human suffering and economic cost that comes with these events.

The Combined Authority is currently working with partners to update its ambitious pipeline of 30 additional flood alleviation schemes for the next six-year funding period from 2021/22. The plan requires £120 million of government investment and will safeguard approximately 3,400 homes, 2,500 businesses and 4,600 existing jobs, equating to c.£246 million in Gross Value Added per annum.

Around 14,000 West Yorkshire residential properties are located in Flood Zone 3 areas and at risk of flooding once every hundred years, with an additional 24,000 located in Flood Zone 2, which is at risk of flooding once every 100 to 1,000 years. Together this accounts for 3.4% of West Yorkshire residential properties.

² 'Children, Young People and Flooding: Recovery and Resilience'. Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK.

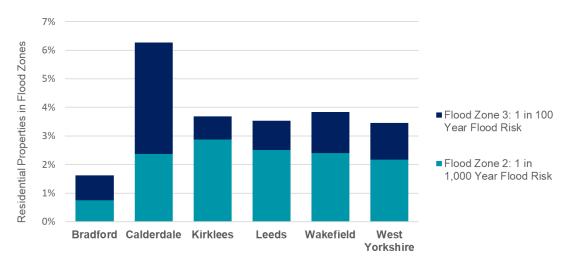
¹ West Yorkshire Combined Authority, <u>Leeds City Region Flood Review Report</u> (2016)

³ Pendlebury, M. and Bates, G. (2015) Reducing adverse health impacts from flooding and flood risk: A review of the literature and development of questions for further research. National Flood Forum.

⁴ Sims, R., Medd, W., Mort, M., Watson, N., Walker, G. and Twigger-Ross, C., (2008) Perspectives on

resilience from households in Hull–response to Defra consultation on policy options for promoting property-level flood protection and resilience. Lancaster University.

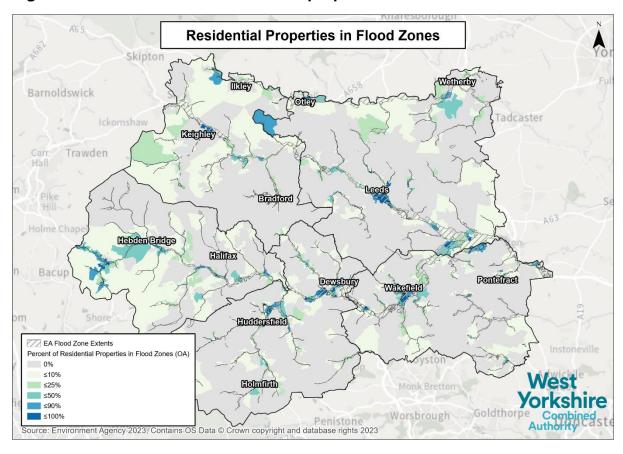
Figure 103: Proportion of residential properties in flood zones



Source: Ordnance Survey 2023, Environment Agency 2023

Calderdale has the highest proportion of residential properties within flood zones at 6% of the total.

Figure 104: West Yorkshire residential properties in flood zones



There are also longer-term effects on businesses and districts that will impact on them financially and economically. These include rising insurance costs, a negative impact on long-term investment decisions and the possibility of relocating as part of a risk mitigation strategy.

Around 15,000 commercial properties fall within flood zones in West Yorkshire. Calderdale has the highest proportion of commercial properties at risk of flooding, with 11% at risk of flooding once every hundred years and an additional 10% at risk of flooding once every thousand years.

Figure 105: Commercial properties in flood zones

District	Commercial Properties in Flood Zone 3: 1 in 100 Annual Risk of Flooding	Commercial Properties in Flood Zone 2: 1 in 1,000 Annual Risk of Flooding	Total Flood Zone Commercial Properties
Bradford	5.2%	3.9%	9.1%
Calderdale	11.3%	10.2%	21.6%
Kirklees	5.6%	9.9%	15.5%
Leeds	3.2%	8.4%	11.5%
Wakefield	6.3%	9.1%	15.4%
West Yorkshire	5.6%	7.9%	13.5%

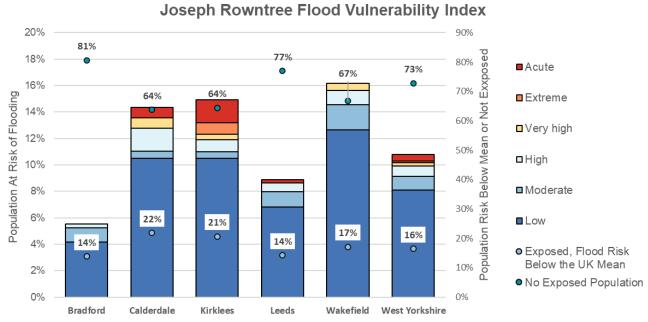
Source: Defra, Royal Mail

Community Flood Vulnerability Index

The Joseph Rowntree Flood Vulnerability Index measures how socially vulnerable residents of a neighbourhood are should flooding occur, quantifying their ability to prepare, respond and recover to flooding. Vulnerability is calculated according to proximity to flood zones, their physical wellbeing and their ability to access and understand pre and post flooding support.

The proportion of socially vulnerable neighbourhoods at extreme or acute risk of flooding in West Yorkshire is below that in England but matches that of other LEPs. This analysis does however highlight how vulnerability varies across West Yorkshire, with significant proportions of neighbourhoods in Bradford and Calderdale acutely vulnerable and 40% of all Calderdale neighbourhoods at an extremely high risk.

Figure 106: Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Index



Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2017, ONS 2021

The Joseph Rowntree Flood Vulnerability Index also models how an increasing global temperature will increase communities' flood vulnerability. A four degree increase in mean global temperature, an increase that may be reached by 2060 according to Met Office analysis, would increase the flood risk of surface water flooding for 26% of West Yorkshire's population by one band (for example from low to moderate, or high to very high in the table above), with an additional 6% seeing their risk increase by two bands.

These increases will disproportionately affect the most deprived communities, with two thirds of the people living in the areas seeing the biggest rises in flood vulnerability living in the 20% most deprived areas of West Yorkshire.

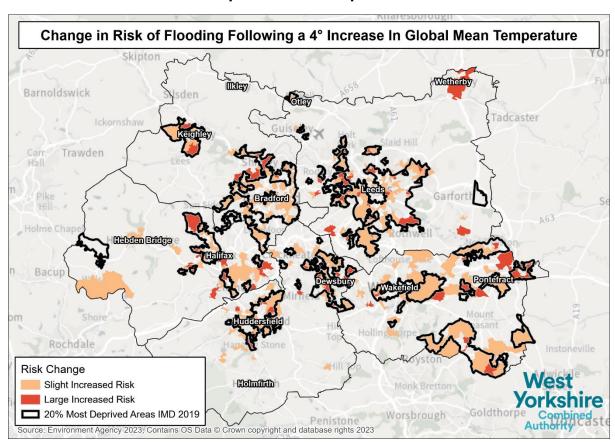
Figure 107: Change in Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Following a 4° Increase in Mean Global Temperature - % of population affected

		IMD Quintile 2019						
District	Change in Flood Vulnerability	1 - Most Deprived 20%	2	3	4	5 - Least Deprived 20%		
	No Increased Risk	24%	13%	11%	10%	8%		
Bradford	Slight Increased Risk	23%	5%	-	-	1		
	Large Increased Risk	2%	2%	•	-	ı		
	No Increased Risk	16%	6%	19%	20%	7%		
Calderdale	Slight Increased Risk	10%	10%	3%	-	ı		
	Large Increased Risk	4%	4%	1%	•	ı		
	No Increased Risk	13%	8%	15%	20%	10%		
Kirklees	Slight Increased Risk	14%	12%	2%	-	-		
	Large Increased Risk	4%	2%	-	-	-		

		IMD Quintile 2019						
District	Change in Flood Vulnerability	1 - Most Deprived 20%	2	3	4	5 - Least Deprived 20%		
	No Increased Risk	11%	8%	18%	19%	15%		
Leeds	Slight Increased Risk	18%	3%	ı	ı	ı		
	Large Increased Risk	5%	1%	ı	ı	ı		
	No Increased Risk	11%	9%	14%	17%	9%		
Wakefield	Slight Increased Risk	19%	12%	1%	ı	ı		
	Large Increased Risk	5%	4%	ı	ı	ı		
West Yorkshire	No Increased Risk	15%	9%	15%	17%	11%		
	Slight Increased Risk	18%	7%	1%	•	-		
TOTASTITE	Large Increased Risk	4%	2%	-	-	-		

These most at risk communities include Windhill and Eccleshill in Bradford, Mixenden in Calderdale, Rawthorpe and Dewsbury Moor in Kirklees, Holbeck, Halton Moor and Gipton in Leeds, and Lupset, South Kirkby and Ferry Fryston in Wakefield.

Figure 108: Change in Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Following a 4° Increase in Mean Global Temperature and Deprived Areas



4.2.5 Electric buses

Electric buses form a small but increasing part of the West Yorkshire bus fleet and play an important role in the development of a sustainable transport network.

A shift to electric buses has the potential to make a substantial contribution to reducing West Yorkshire's greenhouse gas emissions, particularly when more polluting diesel vehicles are replaced.

Figure 109: Electric buses in West Yorkshire

Q4 2019/20	Q4 2020/21	Q4 2021/22	Q4 2022/23
0%	1%	2%	2%

The table above lists the proportion of electric buses in the combined West Yorkshire bus fleet of the three main operators in the region, First, Arriva and Transdev. This currently stands at 2% which are battery powered electric buses. Data is reported via the West Yorkshire Bus Alliance on a quarterly basis.

4.2.6 Electric vehicle charging infrastructure

The number of publicly available electric vehicle charging points in West Yorkshire is growing rapidly, expanding by 41% in the last year and by 140% in the last three years. Although, the ratio of charging devices to population is below the national average in West Yorkshire it outperforms the England average in terms of rapid charging devices per head of population.

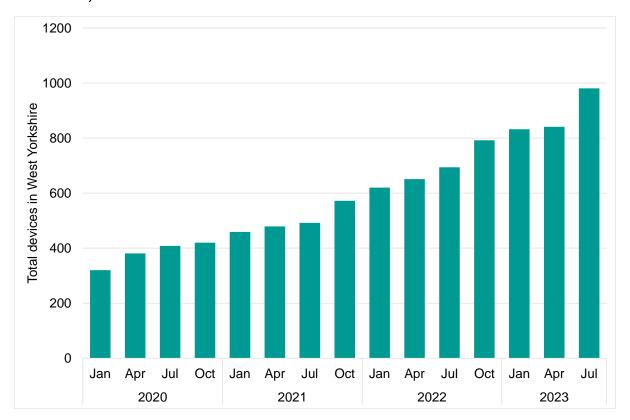
Transport is the highest emitting sector in West Yorkshire accounting for 32% of all greenhouse gases emitted. These emissions are dominated by road transport which accounts for 97% of transport-related emissions. Urban areas in West Yorkshire have been identified as having some of the highest levels of air pollution in the UK outside of London. There are currently 36 Air Quality Management Areas in West Yorkshire and Bradford's Class C+ Clean Air Zone (CAZ) went live in September 2022.

The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan sets a commitment to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle chargepoints across the region with a focus on ensuring equity. Government figures predict that over 10,000 may be needed by 2030 to meet demand. The government has committed to ending sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030, and for all new cars and vans to be fully zero emission at tailpipe by 2035.

As of 1 July 2023, there were 37,717 publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging devices installed in England. This is 37% higher than the number of devices installed in July 2022, which was 27,502.

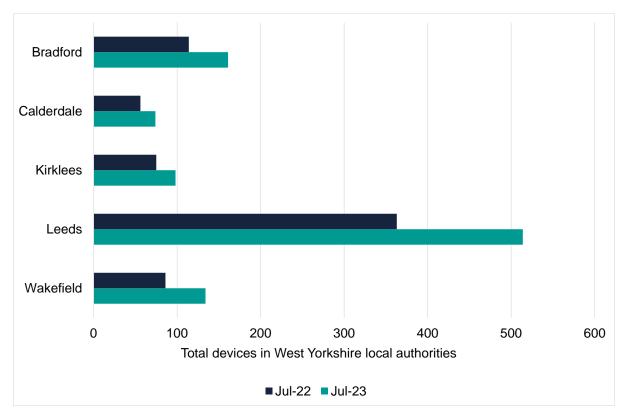
Total charging devices represent publicly available charging devices at all speeds. Slow charging devices are devices with connectors rated between 3kW to 6kW. Fast charging devices have the fastest connector rated between 7kW to 22kW. Rapid charging devices are those whose fastest connector is rated between 25kW and 100kW, and ultra-rapid charging devices are those devices with the fastest connector rated above 100kW.

Figure 110: Total publicly available electric vehicle charging devices in West Yorkshire, 2020 to 2023



Of the 37,717 EV charging devices in England, a total of 981 devices were installed in West Yorkshire as of 1 July 2023 - a 41% increase from July 2022 and a 140% increase from July 2020.

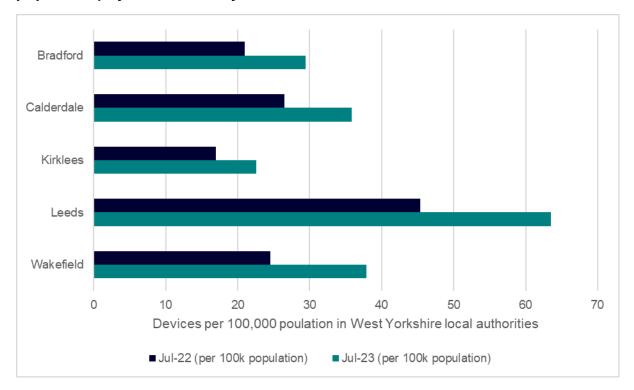
Figure 111: Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices by local authority within West Yorkshire, 2022 and 2023



Of the 981 EV charging devices in West Yorkshire, 52% of the EV charging devices, that is, 514 devices are in Leeds district. There are 161 EV charging devices in Bradford, 134 in Wakefield, 98 in Kirklees, and 74 in Calderdale.

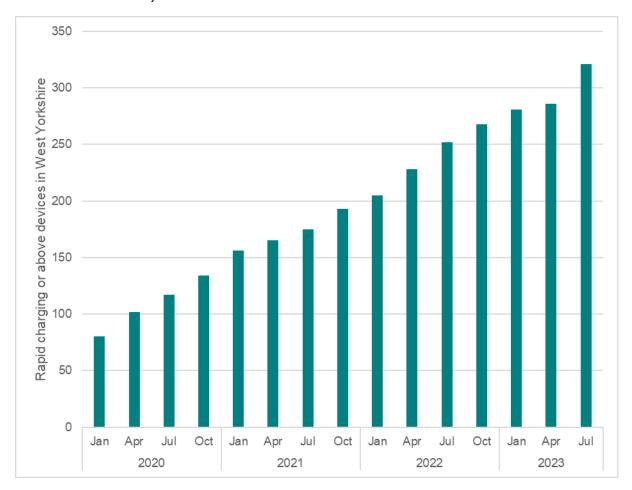
Leeds saw the biggest increase in devices between July 2022 and July 2023 in absolute terms, with a net increase of 151. All local authorities experienced a substantial percentage increase during this period, ranging from 31% in Kirklees to 42% in Leeds, to 56% in Wakefield.

Figure 112: Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices (per 100,000 population) by local authority within West Yorkshire, 2022 and 2023



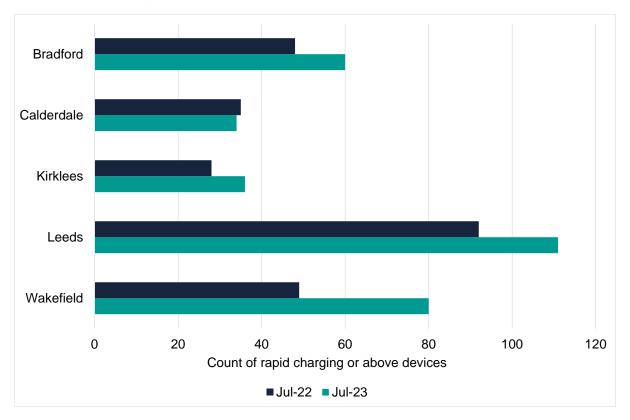
Leeds district has the highest number of EV charging devices per 100,000 population in 2023, that is, 63 devices per 100,000 people. The overall average ratio for West Yorkshire is 42, much lower than the England average of 67. Wakefield district saw the highest increase (when compared to other districts) of approximately 55% from 2022 to 2023 in the number of charging devices per 100,000 population.

Figure 113: Publicly available electric vehicle rapid charging devices or above in West Yorkshire, 2020 to 2023



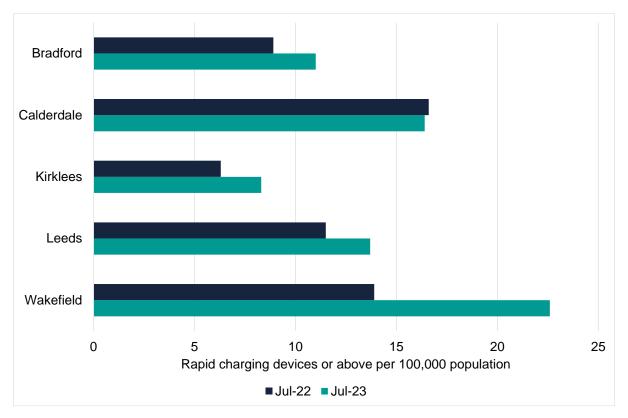
Of the 6,974 rapid and ultra-rapid charging devices in England in 2023, 321 devices are in West Yorkshire. The figure has quadrupled in West Yorkshire since January 2020, albeit from a low base, growing by 27% between July 2022 and July 2023 alone.

Figure 114: Publicly available electric vehicle rapid charging devices or above in West Yorkshire, 2022 to 2023



Of the 321 devices, Leeds has about 35% of the rapid and ultra-rapid charging devices in West Yorkshire. Wakefield saw the fastest growth in rapid charging device deployment in the year to July 2023 of 63% but local authorities saw an annual increase except Calderdale.

Figure 115: Publicly available electric vehicle rapid charging devices or above (per 100,000 population) in West Yorkshire, 2022 to 2023



Wakefield has the highest number (22.6) of rapid and ultra-rapid devices per 100,000 population in 2023, while Kirklees district has the lowest number, that is, 8.3. West Yorkshire has 13.7 rapid charging devices or above which is higher than the ratio for England as a whole (12.3). West Yorkshire also outperforms all comparator areas, including Greater Manchester (9.2), South Yorkshire (10.8) and West Midlands (12.9).

5 A safe West Yorkshire – a region where all can flourish

Key points

Knife crime increased in 2021/22 compared with the previous year but remains below prepandemic levels in West Yorkshire

Neighbourhood crime fell during the pandemic and remains below the level recorded in 2019.

West Yorkshire achieves high numbers of charge/summons for a range of offences when compared to other Metropolitan Forces and Forces nationally.

West Yorkshire police have performed consistently well over time on emergency call handling.

Officer numbers in West Yorkshire have increased by 26% between 2016 and 2022.

There was a 14% increase in referrals to the West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion service in 2021/22

The restrictions on movement linked to the pandemic led to a substantial reduction in the number of persons reported as missing and the latest figures remain well below prepandemic levels.

5.1 Overview of the priority

Outcomes

Underpinning this Mission, the West Yorkshire Plan sets out three outcomes to be achieved by 2040:

- Neighbourhood crime below the average for comparable areas.
- Lower rates of reoffending.
- Increased confidence in the police and improved feelings of safety amongst women and girls in West Yorkshire.

Actions for change

The West Yorkshire Plan sets out a range of actions that must be undertaken to realise these outcomes:

- Ensure all people feel safe, particularly in the night-time economy.
- Tackle place-based crime through Neighbourhood Policing and partnership working in localities.
- Raise confidence in the police and increase victims' readiness to report crime.
- Intervene early to protect the most vulnerable whilst lowering crime rates across the region.
- Support those with complex needs, understanding the challenges in our urban and rural areas to support all victims of crime.

5.2 Performance against the indicators

5.2.1 Serious violence

The number of knife offences fell in West Yorkshire in 2022/23.

This indicator focuses specifically on knife crime as a measure of serious violence. The data matches with the Office for National Statistics' release of Knife Crime data and includes a range of offences which link to serious violence including assault with injury and robbery.

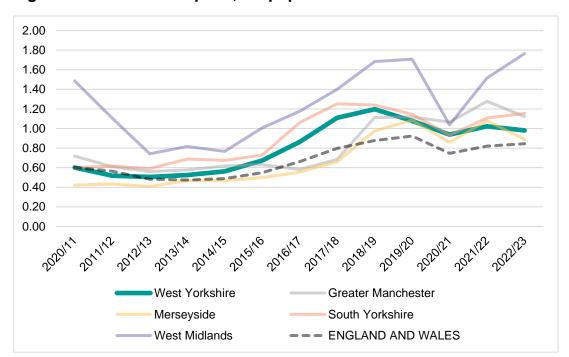


Figure 116: Knife crime per 1,000 population

Source: Annual Data Return from West Yorkshire Police

Knife crime increased between 2014 and 2019 across many areas of England and Wales, and this prompted the creation of Violence Reduction Units in 18 forces (of which West Yorkshire was one). Knife Crime did then drop during the pandemic, although it is still not back to 2019 levels.

One thing to note is that currently 40 forces supply data based on a new methodology (the National Data Quality Improvement Service methodology) for identifying whether an offence included a knife or sharp instrument or not. On implementation of this methodology all forces saw an increase in the number of offences that fell into this category. All of the areas highlighted in the graph have implemented this methodology, so the data is comparable, but until all forces use the methodology, the comparison with the England and Wales average is not equivalent.

After a period of increase, West Yorkshire has seen a decrease in the number of offences recorded in 2022/23 when compared to the same period of the previous year. The decrease in West Yorkshire amounts to a 4.1% reduction compared to a national increase in knife related crime of 4.7%.

5.2.2 Neighbourhood Crime

Neighbourhood crime fell during the pandemic and remains below the level recorded in 2019 in all areas apart from Theft of Motor Vehicle.

Neighbourhood crime was a termed coined by the National Policing Measures to highlight those offences which blight neighbourhoods across the country. It covers Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle Crime and Theft from Person. In order to track progress, the government set a baseline of 2019/20.

This measure of Neighbourhood Crime is covered in the indicators for the Police and Crime plan and is scrutinised on a quarterly basis.

For West Yorkshire, these crime types saw a drop in the pandemic, and have not yet risen back to 2019 levels, all apart from Theft of Motor Vehicle. This one crime type is now above that seen in 2019/20. It is believed that the cost of new car parts has in part led to this increase, as well as the availability of ways around keyless fobs that can be purchased on the internet.

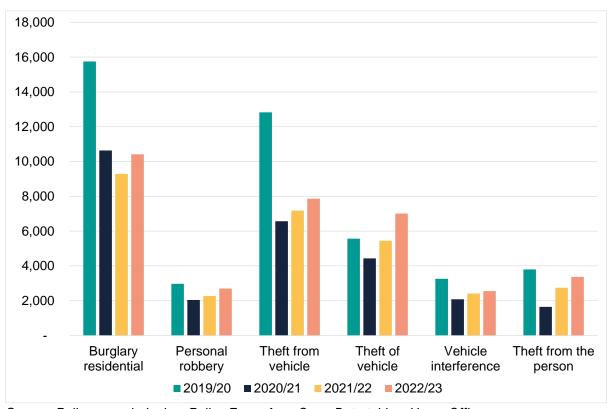


Figure 117: Neighbourhood crime in West Yorkshire

Source: Police recorded crime Police Force Area Open Data tables, Home Office

The next data looks at the comparison with Most Similar Areas. As part of the understanding of crime, West Yorkshire is compared to areas with the most similar characteristics. (This grouping includes Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, South Yorkshire, and West Midlands). Some of these areas are part of the Mayoral comparison – so we have split the graph up to show the different groupings. As can be seen, those that are part of the mayoral comparison are all above

West Yorkshire and those that are only in the Police groupings are all below West Yorkshire.

3,000 2,500 West Midlands eater Manchester 2,000 outh Yorkshire West Yorkshire 1,500 Nottinghamshire Northumbria 1,000 Lancashire South Wales 500 Feb-20 Greater Manchester = Lancashire Northumbria Nottinghamshire South Wales South Yorkshire West Midlands West Yorkshire

Figure 118: Total neighbourhood crime per 1,000 of population by force

Source: Crime data release, Office for National Statistics

The graph shows that the current level of Neighbourhood crime in West Yorkshire puts it below that seen in all the comparable mayoral areas, but above the other areas in the police most similar group.

Interestingly, the mayoral areas are those areas with higher levels of deprivation; furthermore, those above West Yorkshire are the areas with an average deprivation rate which is higher than West Yorkshire, and those below have a lower rate. This is not a perfect correlation as South Yorkshire has the highest average deprivation rate but not the highest rate for Neighbourhood crime.

Deprivation rates are not completely accurate at this geographic level as this is designed for comparison in very small localities – but the above does seem to show some correlation which indicates that dealing with Neighbourhood crime is not just a police issue but a societal issue also.

5.2.3 Positive Outcomes for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

West Yorkshire achieves high numbers of charges/summons for a range of offences when compared to other Metropolitan Forces and Forces nationally

Positive outcomes are seen as a way of monitoring progress in this area. A positive outcome is counted when the police procure a charge/summons or out of court disposal for the suspect in the case. For more information on outcomes please see Crime outcomes in England and Wales: Technical Annex - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

These measures speak to the Safety of Women and Girls which is at the heart of the Police and Crime Plan. As part of the national Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences are highlighted as offence types which disproportionately affect women and girls.

The below table looks at the outcome rates and crime rates as reported to the Police and Crime Panel on a quarterly basis.

Table 11: Rape and serious sexual offences, West Yorkshire

	Recorded rape offences	Serious sexual offences
Recorded crime Apr 2022 to March 2023	3,625	8,110
Recorded crime Apr 2021 to March 2022	3,668	7,788
Difference	-43	322
% change	-1.2%	4.1%
Current outcome rate (1-8)	7.7%	8.2%
Outcome rate (1-8) - Apr 2021 to March 2022	8.1%	7.8%
Change from previous year	-0.4%	0.4%
Vol. change (1-8) 2022/23 from 2021/22	-16	62

Source: Performance Monitoring Report - West Yorkshire Police and Crime panel 2022/23 Q4

The table shows that although the positive outcome rate (outcomes 1-8 compared to recorded crime) has fallen slightly (-0.4%) this reflects a fall in the number of crimes. This is the first fall in the number of recorded rapes since February 2021.

The opposite is true for Serious Sexual Offences. Overall numbers have risen by 4.1% and the corresponding rates for positive outcomes has also risen by 0.4% with over 62 more offenders brought to justice.

The charts below report the actual number of Charge/Summons achieved by each Force nationally and in the context of the local population. West Yorkshire is shown on the below table and compared to the Most Similar Group of forces (MSG).

Source https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092650/prc-outcomes-open-data-mar2022-tables-210722-v2.ods

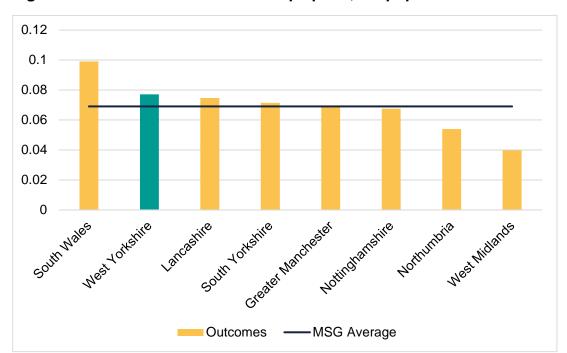


Figure 119: Positive outcomes for rape per 1,000 population

Source: Police recorded crime and outcomes data tables, Home Office

From this chart we can see that the number of positive outcomes for rape in a year can fluctuate with West Yorkshire having the highest number last year and now that is South Wales. This continues to be a priority with historic rape offences (i.e., those that were committed over a year before they were reported) continuing at around 30%. These offences are particularly time consuming to investigate, but also yield a number of positive outcomes when arrests are made.

The force is currently putting in place the recommendations from Operation Soteria, which is a national Home Office funded piece of research into the investigation of Rape. For more information please see https://www.npcc.police.uk/our-work/violence-against-women-and-girls/operation-soteria/

5.2.4 Time taken to answer 999 calls to the Police

West Yorkshire Police continue to perform consistently well on call handling.

In October 2021 the government sent out its strategic approach in the 'Beating Crime' plan. One of the measures from this plan was to develop league tables for answering calls and ensuring that the public know how responsive their local force is when they call them for help.

In May 2022 the first datasets for 999 calls were published on Police.uk. This new national dataset gives the opportunity to compare the current performance of West Yorkshire Police to other force areas.

To this put into context, in the latest 12 months online contacts account for 18% of all contacts into the Force whilst 101 contacts now account for just 45% whilst 999s have increased to 33%. In comparison for 2016/17 just 5% of contacts were made online whilst 101 calls accounted for over 60% of all contacts.

For the 999 data set, the main target is to answer the calls in under 10 seconds – the data is only available from November 2021 – but is supplied monthly and the most recent is up to June 22.

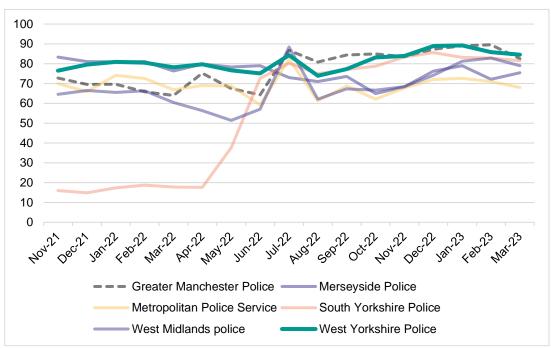


Figure 120: Percentage of 999 calls answered within target (10 seconds)

Source: Home Office

The above statistics also contains answer times including transfer times from BT, which can be 4-6 seconds and can vary across Forces. This makes the 10 second answer time hard to hit with some of the time already used up before the call lands in force.

Some areas have been able to work with BT to understand and rectify where it appears the force are not hitting the target, but this is due to circumstances out of their control – the difference for South Yorkshire in the chart is a clear example of this.

There are other factors which can also impact on this target. Forces are in a buddy system with other areas so calls are directly transferred over to adjoining areas if there is a sudden influx due to a large incident. These calls will then show as a miss for the new force.

For West Yorkshire the call handling has been consistent over the period monitored and it is a subject of immense pride that West Yorkshire Police have not dropped one 999 call in 5 years.

5.2.5 Police Officer numbers

Officer numbers in West Yorkshire are on an upward trend.

The increase in officer numbers is a pledge of the Mayor and also part of the government's election promise to recruit 20,000 officers across the country.

Data is released on the Gov.uk website with a count of officers both headcount and full-time equivalents (FTE).

10,000
9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000

Greater Manchester Merseyside South Yorkshire

West Midlands West Yorkshire

Figure 121: Count of full-time equivalent Police Officers by force

Source: Home Office

The reduction in the number of Police Officers due to austerity is clearly seen in the above chart and between March 2009 and March 2016 West Yorkshire lost 1,353 FTE officers.

The most recent figures for March 2023 show an increase of 1,571 officers since March 2016, bringing the total in West Yorkshire to 6,072, a net increase of 25.8%.

The latest workforce statistics indicate that 39.1% of Police Officers and 58.1% of Police Staff are female whilst analysis of employees ages identifies that the workforce is much younger than it has been historically, and this is particularly true of Police Officers.

5.2.6 Offenders referred to drug treatment services from custody

There were 5,000 referrals of adults and 2,000 referrals of young people into the West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service in 2022/23

One of the priorities from the Police and Crime plan is 'Responding to Multiple and Complex Needs'. Substance Misuse is widely agreed to be part of the toxic trio in Safeguarding (along with mental health and Domestic Abuse), so this measure looks at ensuring that those users who come to the attention of the Police are referred to relevant agencies to help.

The NHS has commissioned the Liaison and Diversion Service (L&D) which looks to identify people who have mental health, learning disability, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system as suspects, defendants or offenders.

The service can then support people through the early stages of criminal system pathway, refer them for appropriate health or social care or enable them to be diverted away from the criminal justice system into a more appropriate setting, if required.

L&D services aim to improve overall health outcomes for people and to support people in the reduction of re-offending. It also aims to identify vulnerabilities in people earlier on which reduces the likelihood that people will reach a crisis-point and helps to ensure the right support can be put in place from the start.

The following are the statistics from the West Yorkshire L&D service. These are updated quarterly and are shared as part of the Police and crime plan performance monitoring report.

Table 12: Referrals to West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service

	West					
Adults	Yorks	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
Referrals into L&D service 2022-						
23	5037	1095	609	695	1383	1255
Formal pathway referrals made by						
L&D into support services	1846	389	237	197	473	550
Other pathway contacts (e.g.,						
already in service, liaison with						
support services, no formal						
referral)	1924	219	263	229	906	307

	West					
Young People	Yorks	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
Referrals into L&D service 2022 -						
23	2031	354	533	250	587	306
Formal pathway referrals made by L&D into support services	495	13	156	33	122	171
Other pathway contacts (e.g., already in service, liaison with support services, no formal						
referral)	1214	32	221	112	476	373

Source: West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service

The above represents a small decrease in referrals into the L&D service in comparison to the previous year. This was due to some personnel vacancies during the year but these have now been sorted and the numbers rising again.

5.2.7 Numbers of missing persons

The restrictions on movement linked to the pandemic led to a substantial reduction in the number of persons reported as missing and the latest figures remain well below pre-pandemic levels

Numbers of missing persons are collated by West Yorkshire Police and shared with the Policing and Crime office on a quarterly basis in their Quarterly Performance Report. The data is then shared with the Police and Crime panel. The data is split down between adults and children by quarter to give an indication of the trends.

The below looks at missing persons across West Yorkshire as a whole and is split between Adults and Children. Omitted from these statistics are those individuals whose age is not recorded.

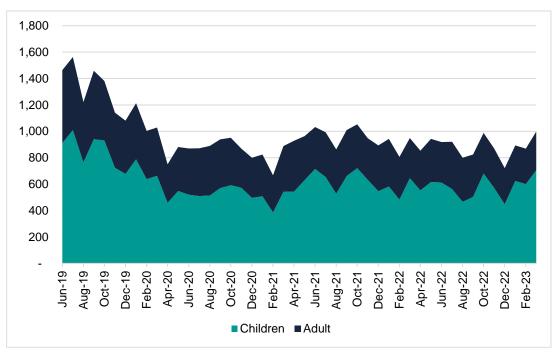


Figure 122: Missing persons

Source: Quarterly Performance Report, West Yorkshire Police

Nationally, the numbers of missing persons are collated by the UK Missing Persons Bureau. The below is a comparison (by 1,000 population) for missing person incidents since 2015/16.

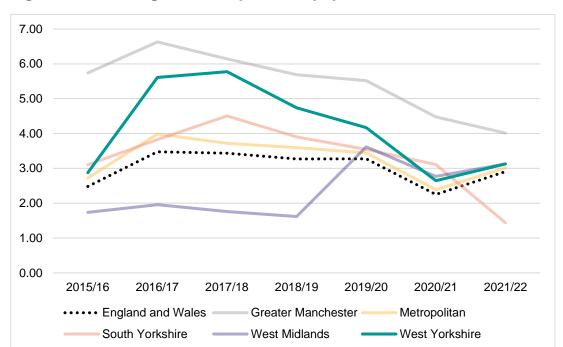


Figure 123: Missing incidents per 1,000 population

Source: UK Missing Persons Bureau

The most recent report on the UK Missing Persons Bureau website is up to 2021/22. Almost all forces saw a significant decrease in the number of individuals reported as missing during the pandemic period as restrictions on movement were introduced. In 2020/21 there were 17.8% fewer missing related calls in England and Wales compared with forces supplying data the previous year. But this was reversed in 2021/22 with a 29.1% increase.

5.2.8 Re-offending rate

The proportion of drug offenders who re-offend in West Yorkshire has fallen in the two most recent years for which data are available. The current re-offending rate for this group is similar to the England and Wales average.

Under the Responding to Multiple and Complex Needs Priority in the Police and Crime plan there were two measures which were prioritised in this area.

a. Drug related reoffending rate

This data is from the Gov.uk website for proven reoffending statistics and is currently up to September 2021.

How is proven reoffending measured?

An offender is included in this publication cohort if they were released from custody, received a noncustodial conviction at court, or received a reprimand or warning in the periods up to September 2021.

A proven reoffence is defined as any offence committed in a one-year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction, caution, reprimand, or warning in the one-year follow-up or within a further six-month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court.

Of note: This publication covers the first post-pandemic cohort to not overlap with any Covid-related lockdowns or other operational restrictions. However, this cohort is still affected by the continued recovery of the courts system. Particularly, continued delays in the processing of cases mean that increased numbers of reoffence convictions may fall outside of six-month waiting period and therefore not be counted in these statistics.

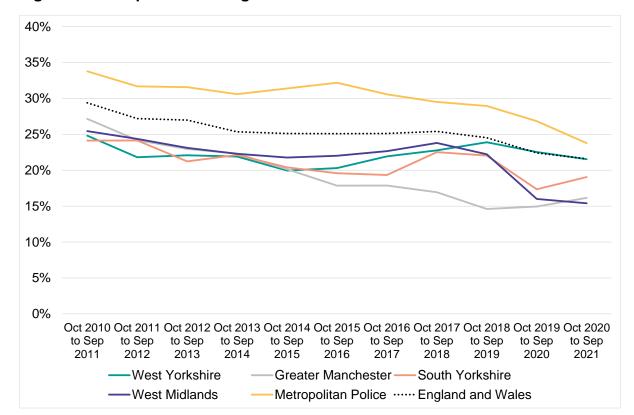


Figure 124: Proportion of drugs offenders who re-offend

Source: Proven Re-offending Statistics, Ministry of Justice

Currently West Yorkshire is seeing a similar proportion of Drugs offenders who reoffend as England and Wales as a whole. This is less than the Metropolitan Police force but higher than other comparable mayoral areas.

As noted, this may be influenced by the current position in the courts but is something that is tracked on a quarterly basis by the Police and Crime panel.

b. Number of young people with first time entry into CJS

Definition: The Criminal Justice Statistics Bulletin defines a first-time entrant (FTE) to the criminal justice system is an offender residing in England and Wales at the time of the offence, who has been recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) by an English or Welsh police force as having received their first conviction, caution or youth caution. Offences resulting in a Penalty Notice for Disorder are not counted as first offences.

In West Yorkshire the numbers have been falling for Juvenile entrants to the CJ system, and adults are now on a decline after a jump up as a result of the cases held back by the lack of court processes in the pandemic.

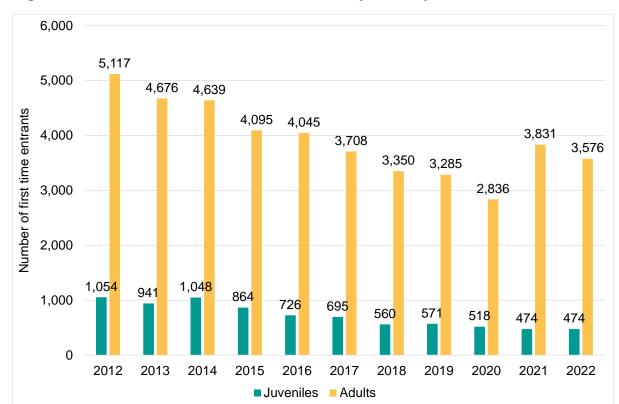
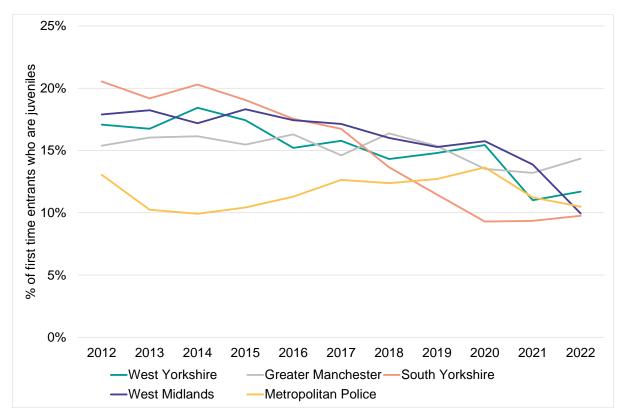


Figure 125: First time entrants to the criminal justice system

Source: First time entrants (FTE) into the Criminal Justice System and Offender Histories, Ministry of Justice

The following looks at the proportion of first-time entrants who are youths and compares with other areas. West Yorkshire has seen a similar pattern to other areas apart from the Metropolitan Police who saw a lower number of juvenile offenders between 2012 and 2018 in comparison to all other areas.

Figure 126: Proportion of first-time offenders who are youths by police force area



Source: First time entrants (FTE) into the Criminal Justice System and Offender Histories, Ministry of Justice

5.2.9 Feelings of safety across the community (including among women and girls)

As one of the main priorities in the Police and Crime plan and one of the main pledges from the Mayor in her manifesto, the safety of Women and Girls has been a priority across all areas.

In previous measures we have looked at the types of offences that disproportionately affect Women and Girls, but for this we are not looking at crime types, but feelings of safety.

The Crime Survey of England and Wales looks at these feelings of safety.

After a break due to the pandemic – the Crime Survey of England and Wales has resumed. The below data is the rolling 12-month collection of data with the first set dated September 2022. This continues with the previous categorisations so the below data looks at pre pandemic then the three quarters of available data since September 2022. Please note that the break during the pandemic is reflected in a short break in the data.

To understand feelings of safety, the CSEW looks at perception of crime in an area. For this we look at perceptions of personal crime and also feeling of safety in the home looking at household crime.

For personal crime – West Yorkshire has a positive perception rate, with only 1.1% of those surveyed feeling that personal crime was a risk.

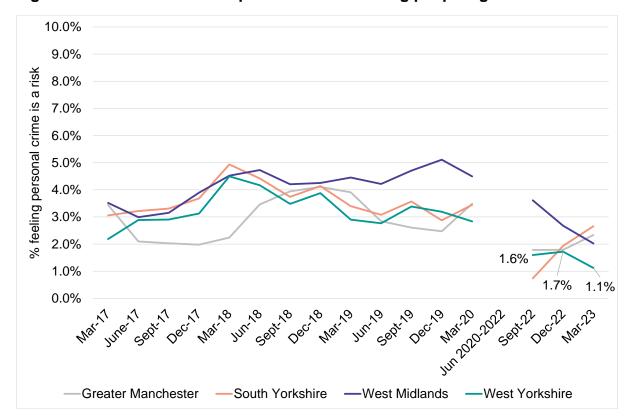


Figure 127: Perceived risk of personal crime among people aged 16 and over

Source: Crime Survey of England and Wales

Although West Yorkshire has a very low rate for risk of personal crime, the household crime risk is slightly higher, but similar to other areas.

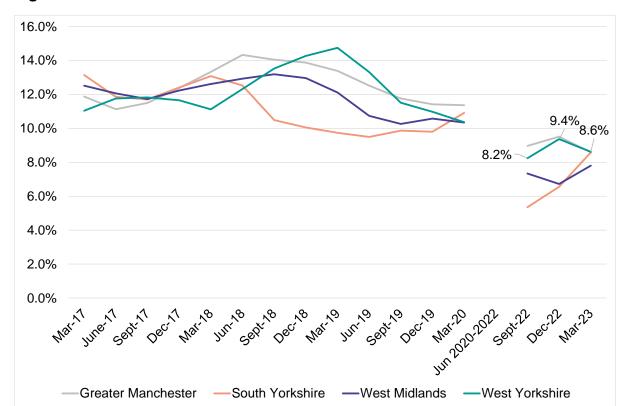


Figure 128: Perceived risk of household crime

Source: Crime Survey of England and Wales

The CSEW does not have the coverage to break down these perceptions by gender for the various forces, so in West Yorkshire we have other ways to look at these feelings of safety. Currently we have the 'Your Views' survey which asks similar questions to the CSEW, the Bus Safety Tool, which asks bus passengers about their feelings of safety. For more about this, please see https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/a-mayoral-combined-authority/mayoral-pledges/the-safety-of-women-and-girls/

6 Conclusions

This section considers the extent to which broad progress has been made against the five Missions of the West Yorkshire Plan, based on the relevant indicators.

A prosperous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs

The region will need to overcome major structural challenges to realise the West Yorkshire Plan's vision for a prosperous and inclusive economy. There have been recent improvements against some indicators but these need to be sustained if West Yorkshire is to make the required step change in its socio-economic performance.

West Yorkshire faces a substantial gap with the national average on living standards, in terms of disposable household income per head. Although the gap appears to have narrowed during the pandemic this is likely to be due to one-off factors rather than a sustained improvement.

Reflecting the challenge on living standards, the proportion of children living in low-income households is relatively high in parts of West Yorkshire, although there is some evidence of improvement against this measure in the latest data.

The living standards deficit is largely due to underperformance on productivity growth, particularly since the global financial crisis. There is no sign of this being corrected based on the recent data.

West Yorkshire's exporting performance has rebounded following the pandemic but export trade contributes a relatively small share of the region's economy. Similarly, West Yorkshire's skills base, although on an improving trend still lags the national average.

More productive firms tend to pay higher wages and this is reflected in the 19% of jobs that pay below the Real Living Wage in West Yorkshire. This proportion may increase as the full impact of inflation is reflected in the level of the Real Living Wage threshold.

Prior to the pandemic West Yorkshire was performing well in terms of employment: its level of employment was rising and it was narrowing the gap with the national average on its employment rate. The gap seems to have widened since the pandemic although real-time employee count data suggests that the number of people in work in West Yorkshire has been growing strongly since early 2021.

High proportions of workers enjoy good quality work in terms of contractual terms and working hours (if not pay) but jobs are much less likely to offer opportunities for career progression and employee involvement (broadly reflecting the national position).

West Yorkshire's workforce is becoming more diverse as employment rates for disabled people, people from ethnic minority groups and for women continue to increase but significant employment rate gaps persist for these groups, although the ethnicity employment rate gap is narrowing.

A happy West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities

West Yorkshire's relatively low healthy life expectancy and the inequality of life expectancy in parts of the region both reflect the socio-economic challenges that the area faces.

However, the region matches the national average against measures of perceived well-being and has seen an improvement in this regard following the pandemic.

Moreover, levels of participation in culture, heritage and sport and in physical activity are broadly on a par with the England average.

West Yorkshire's annual housing supply improved in 2021/22 following the pandemic, although it remains below peak levels. The affordability of housing across much of the region is a competitive advantage, although the simple house price / wage ratio that is used takes no account of the quality of West Yorkshire's housing stock. Rental costs in West Yorkshire are also below the national average but are rising, presenting a major challenge to economic inclusion.

Digital Infrastructure underpins the business, cultural and social infrastructures of West Yorkshire, supporting economic growth and productivity. The region continues to make good progress in this field reflected in increasing gigabit broadband and 4G mobile coverage. West Yorkshire outperforms the national average against both indicators by a significant margin.

One of the key manifestations of the current cost of living crisis with a major negative impact on well-being is the high prevalence of fuel poverty, a situation where households are living on a low income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost. The proportion of households in fuel poverty has almost doubled since the start of the cost-of-living crisis and is well above the national average. Together with low household incomes fuel poverty is partly due to poor energy efficiency of homes and this is an area in which West Yorkshire also underperforms.

A well-connected West Yorkshire - a strong transport system

The pandemic had a profound impact on the UK's transport system and the effects are still being felt in West Yorkshire. Our selected indicators show that public transport still has ground to make up in terms of levels of usage and in addressing access inequality. Overall satisfaction with public transport is down, although satisfaction with public transport affordability improved in 2023.

Bus reliability (proportion of service journeys which actually operate) stands at 95% whilst bus punctuality is also below pre-pandemic levels.

The increased use of MCard in the last year, including the purchase of tickets via digital channels, can be seen as representing progress towards a more joined-up transport system for West Yorkshire.

A sustainable West Yorkshire - making lives greener

Although West Yorkshire saw an increase in greenhouse gas emissions between 2020 and 2021, following a sharp decrease in the previous year, the evidence suggests that the prepandemic downward trajectory in emissions will re-assert itself when data for 2022 are published. The key message is that the rate of emissions reduction needs to be accelerated substantially if net zero is to be achieved by 2038.

In spite of a net increase in West Yorkshire's transport emissions in 2021 they remain well below their 2019 level. There is an opportunity to promote a sustained fall in a source of emissions which has not previously been susceptible to reduction due to the carbon-intensive nature of road transport. Progress is being made on putting in place the supporting infrastructure in the form of a rapidly expanding network of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points, albeit this is taking place from a low base.

A safe West Yorkshire – a region where all can flourish

The latest figures show the key policing indicators are affected by societal factors with Neighbourhood crime, knife crime and the number of persons reported as missing remaining below pre-pandemic levels. The challenge will be to make sustained progress in the medium to longer term.

Although currently showing as positive, recent trends show an unprecedented increase in 999 calls and there is an increasing complexity of crime and demand. The nature of crime is changing with increases in online crime and criminal use of technology poses challenges for digital investigative capacity and capability. This will also challenge this key indicator.

Demands around safeguarding are increasing with historic complex crimes draining police resources and the investigative capacity and capability stretched in line with the gap in detective capacity seen nationwide. This could hinder progress in increasing positive outcomes.

This is all framed by the national challenges to legitimacy in policing and runs alongside financial challenges with the requirement to make significant savings against the backdrop of increasing costs.

To keep track on these and more of the Police and Crime Plan measures, see the <u>Performance Monitoring Reports</u> (previously called Delivery Quarterly), for detailed reports on other policing and crime topics please see the <u>Community Outcomes Meeting Reports</u>.