



CULTURAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
FOR WALSALL CULTURAL COMPACT
View from the Hill Consulting Limited

November

24

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Culture means many things to many people. We are defining culture in its broadest sense so that it encompasses:

- Heritage - architecture, green spaces, civic buildings, canals, museums and industrial history
- A sense of shared identity – traditions, language, shared experience, value systems, beliefs, lifestyles and shared pride.
- Cultural practice - festivals, music, entertainment, creative activities, art, literature, sport, events and food and drink.

Walsall's culture is dynamic, ever-changing and distinctive. It is constantly evolving reflecting its demographics and population. This strategy recognises that culture can transform places and lives and in so doing so, support improved health and well-being.

This new, cultural strategy has been developed collaboratively with the independent Walsall Cultural Compact. Its aim is to enhance Walsall's potential, with a dynamic ethos and approach proportionate to Walsall's unique and innovative sector. This unifying framework embraces Walsall's culture, diversity, innovation and creativity – recommending how the breadth of our sector can collaborate cross sector to achieve long term change and build on Walsall's new momentum.

Our strategy recognises how growth in the creative sectors can unleash the potential of Walsall's assets and provide new opportunities to capitalise on the talent of our people. It will build on the current cultural activity; from the internationally recognised New Art Gallery Walsall to local and grass roots community organisations delivering cultural activity and innovative initiatives such as Walsall Housing Group's Artist in Residence and the Guildhall Creative Industries Project. The latter epitomises local partnership working and is funded by the Cultural Development Fund

The strategy reflects and aligns with the distinctive nature of Walsall as a Place – its communities, culture, green spaces and broad industrial heritage. Together the strategy and action plan will provide a clear focus for the Compact. It will support growth and profile of the sector as well as providing synergies to broader areas of collaborative partnership working in the public, health, community, education and private sectors.

Our vision for the Walsall Cultural Compact is:

Pride in our people and place – ambitious about our collective future.

By adopting this vision, the Compact will develop an action plan to achieve the following outcomes:

- 1) Culture is maximised which in turn will capitalise on Walsall's new momentum
- 2) The wider place/partnership is aligned, supporting reduction in inequalities in health, wellbeing, economic and environmental indices
- 3) Profile and importance of culture is raised and aligned to wider Heritage Strategy
- 4) Opportunities for diverse community engagement are expanded and enhanced
- 5) Growth of cultural and creative infrastructure, enabling a wider economy and ecosystem

The strategy will be underpinned by three foundational principles. These principles will be the golden thread running through all priorities and areas of activity. The principles are:

- Inclusivity – using an intersectional lens.
- Health and well-being
- Mutual partnership working

These principles will ensure that we take everyone with us, that creativity can be part of your health and wellbeing or contribute to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and that by working collaboratively, the compact can maximise its beneficial impact.

Overlaying these principles will be three strategic priorities. These will form a strategic framework for associated actions over the short, medium and longer term.

- Priority 1: **Amplify the cultural and creative ecosystem.**
- Priority 2: **Develop audiences** for Walsall to encourage greater diversity and attract new audiences.
- Priority 3: Increase **social participation** for health, social well-being and benefit across the borough

Ownership, oversight, monitoring and governance of the strategy will be by the Compact. The Compact's role will be one of:

- Convenor – bringing people together, fostering connections and brokering activity
- Catalyst – facilitating collaborations and partnerships to unlock new opportunities and support development of the creative and culture ecosystem.
- Compliance – providing governance and oversight of projects and the strategy
- Communication – Sharing progress, successes, and opportunities with stakeholders, communities, and funders to build momentum and engagement.

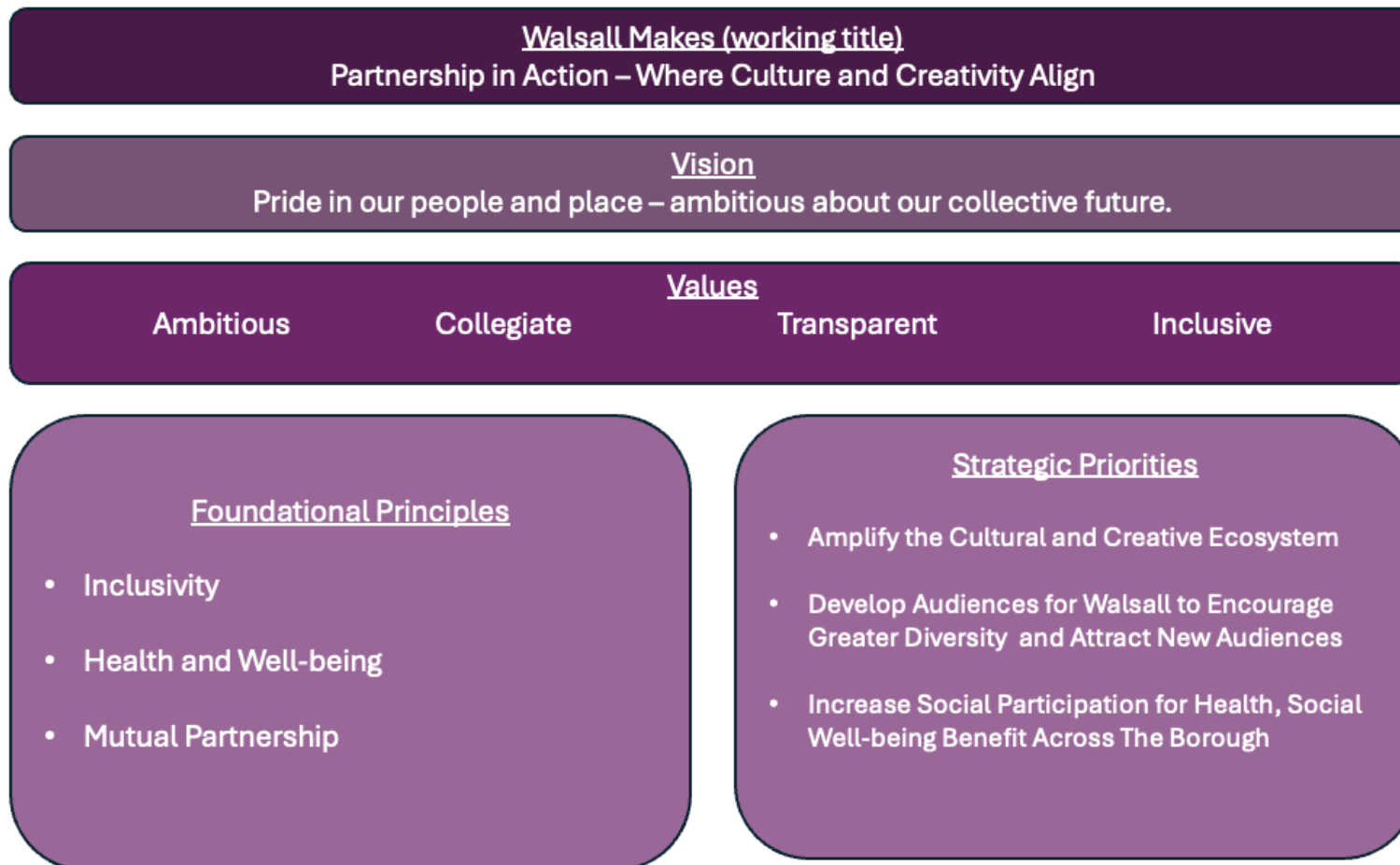
To maintain momentum, over the next six months, the make-up and structure of the Compact Board should evolve and develop to better reflect the diversity and breadth of the borough. It should draw participants from local businesses, the creative and cultural sectors, education, the NHS, community and voluntary organisations. Delivery of priorities and actions will be via a mix of project work streams which will be overseen by five Compact subgroups:

- Heritage
- Health and well-being
- Skills, education and entrepreneurship
- Audience development.
- Communications and marketing.

Culture can transform places and lives and in so doing, contribute to improved health and well-being outcomes – shaping the visible identity of place

As the Cultural Compact we will be the catalyst to engender new collaborative partnerships and projects, oversee the borough-wide programme and ensure alignment to the strategic goals and outcomes listed above.

STRATEGY ON A PAGE





CONTEXT

Local Cultural Sector

Walsall's cultural sector is built on its diversity, and that principle is key to the borough's economic regeneration. A place with the Town of 100 Trades identity at its core, the borough is one of innovation, creativity and teamwork. Through the co-design of **We Are Walsall 2040 – Our Future, Our Borough** collective voice emphasised the need for a diverse arts and culture scene, a strong leisure and tourism offer, and the infrastructure to attract the best talent. This strategy recognises the growth in creative sectors to unleash the potential of Walsall's assets, to champion the full breadth of the sector from grass roots to creative industry, and to provide new opportunities to capitalise on the talent of our people. Walsall has a rich industrial heritage and is home to a diverse, vibrant population. The town currently has a relatively small cultural sector which ranges from nationally known institutions such as the New Art Gallery Walsall to a myriad of local, community-based arts organisations, freelancers and creatives. In total the sector is made up of **385 cultural and creative businesses, 4.06% of the registered businesses** in the borough, up from 3.66% in 2019.¹ Though the trend is upwards, this is a significantly lower % than the national picture. In England as a whole, culture and creative businesses make up 9.3% of businesses in the country.

The cultural and creative sector employs 1,010 people (0.99% of the borough's employees). This figure however does not include self-employed or freelancers as currently a breakdown of the data is not available at a local level. Cultural participation in the borough is at 84.1% according to the latest DCMS/Arts Council figures.² This figure relates to people who have engaged with the arts in person in the previous 12 months (May 2023 to Mar 2024). This proportion is lower than the West Midlands as a whole (88.63%), which is in turn lower than the national indicator (90.42%). When analysed further, all cultural participation indices are lower than both the regional and English figures, with 30.3% of people engaging with the arts online, 21.13% visiting a public library building or mobile library, 49.83% visiting a heritage site and 26.33% visiting a museum or art gallery in the previous 12 months.

The Cultural Compact has supported events to increase cultural participation, including MakerFest '24 in September in Walsall town centre. This diverse festival celebrating creativity, innovation, community and entrepreneurialism attracted 50,000 visitors.

Walsall's Wider Economy and Demographics

As a borough with a strong historical heritage identity, Walsall faces challenging economic conditions. The local economic picture has influenced how we have approached the ambition, strategy and action plan. Appendix 1 contains a synopsis of data shared with our data group. According to the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation³, Walsall is 25 out of 317 most deprived Local Authorities in England.

¹ Arts Council England Culture and Place Data Explorer Summary Report – Walsall, 4 November 2024.

² Arts Council England Culture and Place Data Explorer Summary Report – Walsall, 4 November 2024.

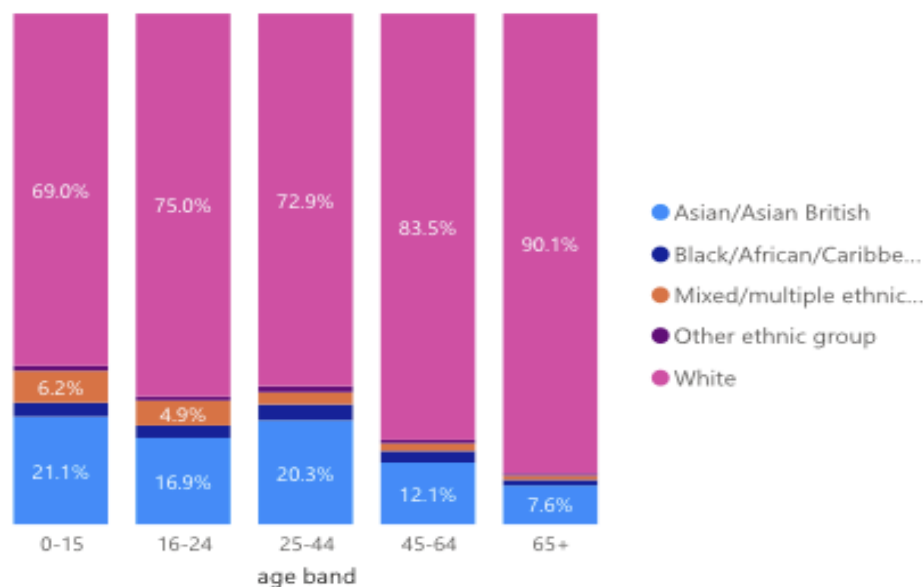
³ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government – IoD2019

44 out of 167 neighbourhoods are amongst the most deprived 10% in England.⁴ Economic conditions vary across the borough, with the central and western wards being the most deprived areas.

The borough is diverse, with 55.5% of South Walsall identifying as non-white British and 31% of all under 15s coming from non-white backgrounds⁵. But there is variation across the borough, with over 80% of the population in the north and west of the borough identifying as white British. Our strategy therefore will need to accommodate this ethnic diversity, using an intersectional lens to ensure all activities are inclusive, affordable and reflective of their local communities and place.

Figure1: Walsall Ethnicity % by Age Group

Ethnicity % by Age Group



Health and Social Issues

The recent analysis by the local health economy, local authorities and third sector organisations has helped understand the future health, care and well-being needs of their community. This work has identified that the borough has some significant health and social cares issues to contend with. These include⁶:

- An aging population which has a higher propensity to ill health or poor quality of life.

⁴ LSOA (IMD 2019)

⁵ <https://www.walsallintelligence.org.uk/isna/>

⁶ <https://www.walsallintelligence.org.uk/isna/>

- Out of every 10,000 children, there are 278 in need.
- Like most areas, dementia will be increasingly prevalent across the borough.
- The Council and health services have seen an increased demand for Adult Social Care support.
- Only 3.8% of adults with a learning disability are in paid employment.
- In Southwest wards there are high degrees of fuel poverty.
- Walsall has higher than national average homelessness amongst the young and those leaving care.
- The borough has higher than national average homelessness resulting from domestic abuse.
- Reduction in healthy life expectancy – Walsall males can expect to live 5.3 and Walsall females can expect to live 5.8 fewer years in good health compared to England.

Against this backdrop, there is a real opportunity for culture to proactively support improved health and wellbeing outcomes. By working in partnership with other voluntary, NHS and council partners, the Compact can use creativity to tackle or raise awareness of different issues across the borough.



Methodology

The strategy has been developed in a consultative and collaborative manner. We have used the following design principles to guide development and decision making:



Figure 2: Design principles

Using the brief, consultation with the Compact Board Chair and Vice Chair and the design principles above, we implemented the following programme of activity to gather evidence.

- Creatives and Board workshop – early August
- A review of local demographic and social data.
- 2 meetings with data analysis group to plan and review data findings.
- 3 stakeholder engagement workshops:
 - One with varying health, voluntary and third sector organisations and those council leads with strong links into the community.
 - One with a wide range of representatives from the cultural and creative sector, ranging from formally funded institutions to freelance practitioners.
 - One with an invited audience of 16-18 years studying media, facilitated by Walsall College.
- Interviews with Arts Council England, WMCA, the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Regeneration and Deputy Leader of the Council and other Council representatives
- A review of local and regional strategy and potential investment routes.
- A test and challenge workshop with members for the Cultural Compact Board.

The data and the outputs from the diverse engagements were then synthesised to produce the proposed vision, themes, implementation model and action plan of our strategy.

What Walsall Means To You

As part of the workshops, we asked stakeholders to summarise what Walsall meant to them personally. The word cloud below is striking and **unique to Walsall**. It reflects the deep sense of community present across its wards, its sense of place as home and the strength derived from the diversity of the borough.



Figure 3: Word Cloud Summary of Stakeholder Viewpoints

What Do We Mean By Culture?

Culture means many things to many people. For our Cultural Compact strategy, we are defining culture in its broadest sense so that it encompasses:

- Heritage - architecture, green spaces, civic buildings, canals, museums and industrial history and community social heritage.
- A sense of shared identity – traditions, language, shared experience, value systems, beliefs, lifestyles and shared pride.
- Cultural practice - festivals, music, entertainment, creative activities, art, literature, sport, events and food and drink.

Walsall's culture is dynamic, ever-changing and distinctive. It is constantly evolving reflecting its demographics and population. This strategy recognises that culture can transform places and lives and in so doing so, support improved health and well-being



The Strategy

Vision

Walsall has a strong industrial heritage, with a strong and distinctive local cultural identity, both at a town and a ward level.

Our vision for the Walsall Cultural Compact is:

Pride in our people and place – ambitious about our collective vibrant future.

Outcomes

Adoption of this strategy will lead to the following outcomes:

- 1) Culture is maximised which in turn will capitalise on Walsall's new momentum
- 2) The wider place/partnership is aligned, supporting reduction in inequalities in health, wellbeing, economic and environmental indices
- 3) Profile and importance of culture is raised and aligned to wider Heritage Strategy
- 4) Opportunities for diverse community engagement are expanded and enhanced
- 5) Growth of cultural and creative infrastructure, enabling a wider economy and ecosystem

Values

As a Compact we will adopt four values, reflective of current practice and how we will continue to operate in the future. These four values are:

Ambitious	Collegiate	Transparent	Inclusive
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Principles

To implement the strategy, we will adopt three foundational principles that will act as the golden thread running through all aspects of the strategy. These will be:

- Inclusivity – using an intersectional lens
- Health and well-being
- Mutual partnership working

These principles will ensure that we take everyone with us, that creativity can be part of your health and wellbeing or contribute to improving health and wellbeing outcomes. They will ensure that by working collaboratively, the compact can maximise its beneficial impact.

This will mean that all our efforts and work as a Compact will take these principles into account and we will challenge ourselves to make sure that all proposed activity

include elements of these values. We will be ambitious in our thinking but focused to ensure we stay true to these core, three principles.

Strategic Priorities

Based on our synthesis and research findings we recommend that the Compact focuses on three key priorities

- Priority 1: **Amplify the cultural and creative ecosystem.**
- Priority 2: **Develop audiences** for Walsall to encourage **greater diversity** and attract new audiences
- Priority 3: Increase **social participation in culture** for health, social well-being and benefit across the borough.

1. Amplify the cultural and creative ecosystem

Priority one focuses on expanding, growing and promoting the cultural ecosystem, building on existing projects such as the Makerfest, New Art Gallery Walsall and its community engagement programme and the Guildhall Creative Industries Project. The Compact will develop activities that are both public facing and those that focus on building capacity and infrastructure.

Our immediate short-term actions will be focused on evolving the Cultural Compact organisationally, so that it is fit for purpose for delivery of this strategy. We will establish an interim Board and Sub-groups (see section below) which will work for 6 months after adoption of the strategy to recruit a new Board and Chair. One of our initial challenges is funding for the Compact Secretariat, therefore we will reach out to the regional bodies Culture and Create Central and other partners to explore alternative funding mechanisms. Our Board development work will involve seeking representatives from the formally funding cultural sector as well as freelancers. We will also identify advocates of Walsall who are passionate about culture across the private, community, education, public and health sectors.

One Walsall will continue to be our accountable body during this process, but our ambition longer-term is to review our organisational structure and governance model and explore options for an independent Compact model. We will explore:

- a) Acting as a body with no formal structure
- b) Working as an informal partnership where the compact isn't a constituted body but rather operates via a Board of volunteer partners with an agreed Terms of Reference
- c) An independent organisation constituted as either a CIC or Company Limited by Guarantee, which may or may not aspire to become a charity.

Once the Compact has been formalised, we will need to develop a business plan. This will outline our role as a convenor, catalyst and communicator and how we will provide a compliance function for any future bids. Building links across the borough, including the business community will be key for the Compact's long-

term viability. During this development process, a key action will be to work with the Council Ambassador's network to meet with private sector organisations who want to support the Compact and its work.

Having established an operating structure and new board, the Compact will then move into delivery, using its sub-groups to develop programmes and projects and apply for investment to fund this activity. Within two years, we will partner with colleges, HE and private training providers to create a programme to develop CPD and business skills for creative freelancers. We want to support the aspiration and ambition within our cultural ecosystem, helping both existing and future entrepreneurs to build vibrant careers within the sector, supporting them to work regionally, nationally and internationally.

Our Heritage sub-group will build on the existing Council Heritage Strategy and work to develop a social history project bid within two years.

In the medium to longer term, priority 3 will focus on the Communications sub-group, fostering communication across different strands of cultural activity, supporting ecosystem connectivity and networking. Our goal is for the Compact to act as a convenor, facilitating collaboration and partnership between the cultural, private and public sectors whilst ensuring long-term viability and sustainability.

Activities linked to priority 3 will also focus on the Compact as a communicator. Our Board members will provide creative and cultural advocacy throughout the borough. They will be cultural champions, helping communicate events, ambitions and opportunities throughout our business and community sectors, ensuring key stakeholders are kept informed of our activity and generating support for future initiatives. In addition, we will instigate a community cultural champion programme where each advocate can promote specific community culture.

Longer term, we aspire to work with WMCA and other skills funding agencies on initiatives to address the skills gaps with our cultural ecosystem. Linking in potentially with wider regional programmes to build a strong pathway of talent to ensure the culture is not only resilient but a vibrant and aspirational sector for young people.

2. Develop audiences for Walsall to encourage greater diversity and attract new audiences.

Priority 2 recognises that currently there is no audience data reflective of diverse audiences engaging in the borough. To grow cultural activity within the borough and to encourage greater participation, there is a need for some focused work to develop audiences across all of the wards. To prepare any funding bids to support cultural activity, the Compact will need to review both our, partner and other organisational cultural programmes and activities within the borough and map these against existing DCMS/ACE audience data.

Once this has been completed, we can use the findings to develop funding bids. Our priority focus will be to submit an expression of interest to Arts Council

England (ACE) for a Place Partnership bid, as they have funding and have been involved in the consultation to develop this strategy.

This EOI will form the basis of future fund-raising activity. If the EOI is successful the Compact can then develop a full bid. This bid will focus on:

- Audience development research linked to place based cultural programming
- Community health outcomes based on the analysis carried out in priority1.
- Resource for the Compact function (Programme Manager and sub-contracted audience development consultant).
- Development of audiences and programming so that there is paid and non-paid programming across the borough so that everyone feels welcome at events, from curated large-scale spectacle to those that are co-created to be distinctly Walsall and that there is widespread inclusive access.

ACE have already been consulted as part of the strategy development process and have indicated that they would be supportive of such a bid, and willing to help us with the application process and understanding its requirements. Walsall is a priority place for ACE and historically has made far fewer bids for funding than other authorities within both the West Midlands and nationally.

3. Increase social participation for health, social well-being and benefit across the borough.

Priority three addresses the wide-ranging challenges across the borough, recognizing the benefits that increased participation in cultural activity can have on health and social well-being. Building on the JNSA and existing work that has already been done by the NHS and the Council, our goal will be for the Compact's health and well-being sub-group to collate and map the health needs and priorities across the area. Working with the existing data analysis skills of Compact members, we will review health data against postcodes and demographic data, thereby ensuring we have a framework on which to build new initiatives, linked to audience and cultural participation

Our medium to long-term activity will focus on building partnerships with community groups, council leads, the NHS and other health organisations to engage with the diverse communities across our area. Recognising the diversity within Walsall, we will take an inclusive, intersectional lens to build links with groups working with all ages and communities across all wards of the borough.

Once we have evolved our partnerships, we will explore national exemplars of **Creative Health programmes** to develop a Walsall specific project. We will be seeking to develop communities of interest, creating topics of conversation that stimulate people and creativity, addressing the priority health and social challenges of our area. Once we have a proposed framework, we will work collaboratively with the WMCA, NHS England and other institutions to explore funding options. This is an ambitious medium to long-term goal, but one that will have far-reaching social benefit if we can achieve our objective.



The Role of Walsall Cultural Compact

In order to deliver this strategy, we will evolve the Compact so that it has four clear functions across our community.

- 1) **Convenor** – the compact will be a pivotal organisation, bringing people together from different sectors within the borough. We will broker relationships and partnerships so that there is greater connectivity, conversation and cultural action. Central to this, will be both formalised meetings such as Board and Sub-group meetings but also a programme of informal events and meetings, responding to the needs of the ecosystem. The current Creatives group will be evolved and expanded to form a regular network event, aimed at making connections, supporting collaboration and fostering better communication.
- 2) **Catalyst** – linked to the role of convenor, our ambition is not to deliver all cultural activity within the borough. Rather our role will be one of a catalyst, facilitating collaborations and partnerships between different bodies so that we are able to achieve a wider range of projects and creative activity across the whole borough. By bringing disparate groups together and using our centralised knowledge to cross-pollinate new ways of working we hope to foster innovative, cross-community collaborations to achieve new, place-based programming.
- 3) **Compliance** – where the Compact is responsible for project bids and procuring delivery resource, we will provide governance and oversight of those projects, as well as oversight of the implementation of the strategy.
- 4) **Communicator** – a key role for the Board and Compact will be to act as advocates for the sector, sharing the impact and outcomes of our work as well as disseminating information on community programmes and events.

Format of the Compact

Going forward, we will evolve the Compact so that it consists of both a Board and five sub-groups. The Board will be developed so that it contains representation from both the cultural, private, voluntary, community, education, health and public sector. The Board will provide strategic oversight but each theme will be delivered by the sub-groups, who will each have a chair. These will each focus on:

- **Heritage** – the group will absorb the existing Heritage Group
- **Health and well-being** – the group will have representatives from health, community, voluntary and private sector.
- **Skills, education and entrepreneurship** – representatives will come from the Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP), Walsall College, HE and the private sector.
- **Audience development** – this sub-group will be focused initially on the ACE bid, and representatives will come from the cultural, community, health and private sectors. It will be key for this group to include representatives with experience of working with ACE and bid writing.
- **Communications** – this group will build on the existing Compact sub-group and oversee the communications activity, which will need to be delivered via external partners or sub-contracted resource.

Compact Name

A last consideration for the Compact will be to consider our name. Other compacts across the region have developed their brand, so that their activity and remit is more easily understood by the communities. These other compacts include Stoke Creates, The Shire in Herefordshire and Vibrant Shropshire. As part of our strategy development, we have generated a working title which is outlined below.

Walsall Makes (working title)

Partnership in action – where culture and creativity align.

As part of our strategy development, a draft working name for the Compact was proposed for further consideration and review. One of the tasks over the next six months, as the Board is evolved, will be to consult with colleagues and partners to agree our new brand identity.

Conclusion

Walsall's culture is dynamic, ever-changing and distinctive. It is constantly evolving reflecting its demographics and population. The Compact believes that culture can transform places and lives and in so doing so, contribute to improved health and well-being outcomes.

The above strategy outlines how the Cultural Compact, working collaboratively across the borough, can engender vibrant, productive partnerships and projects. We will be the catalyst to a diverse programme of activity that will be inclusive and contribute to wider health and social care aims. We are ambitious for our borough and believe that the strategy will foster greater breadth and depth of cultural engagement and support a growing and dynamic cultural ecosystem.



Appendix 1 – Data Overview

Introduction and Context



- Who lives in Walsall?
- What is the make-up of this diverse Borough?
- What are the key health challenges?
- What are the considerations that the cultural strategy needs to recognise as the Compact plans its future direction?
- Data source – Walsall JSNA



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Demographics



- Population 285,478 – 50.8% female, 49.2% male
- East of the borough = older and slower population growth
- Centre, south & west – rapid population growth and younger population
- Under 16s = 22.4% of population
- Over 65s = 17.6%

1. Under 5s
19,501
6.8%

2. 5-15s
42,540
14.9%

3. 16-64s
173,316
60.7%

4. Over 65s
50,121
17.6%

Ward Name	Median Age	Estimated Population
Aldridge Central and South	48	13,990
Pelsall	48	11,447
Streetly	48	13,684
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	46	13,048
Short Heath	45	11,452
Pheasey Park Farm	43	11,396
Rushall-Shelfield	42	12,101
Bloxwich West	41	13,965
Brownhills	41	13,448
Paddock	41	13,428
Willenhall North	39	12,616
Bloxwich East	38	13,024
Willenhall South	36	17,176
Bentley and Darlaston North	35	14,292
St. Matthews	34	17,274
Birchills Leamore	33	16,038
Darlaston South	32	16,642
Palfrey	32	17,387
Pleck	32	16,546
Blakenall	31	16,524
Total		285,478

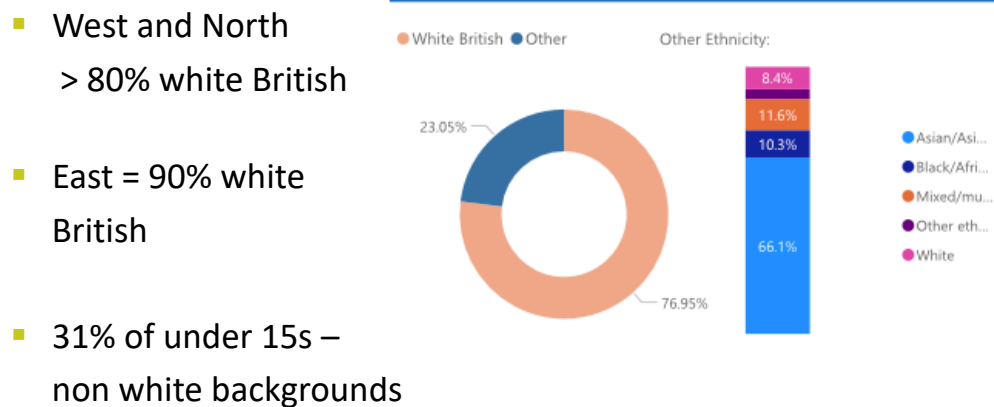


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Ethnicity

- S Walsall greatest ethnic diversity – 55.5% nonwhite British (Palfrey 64.9%, Pleck 58.9% + Pakistani 17.6%, Indian 13.9% and Bangladeshi 6.4%)

Walsall Ethnic Composition (Census 2011)



- West and North
> 80% white British
- East = 90% white British
- 31% of under 15s – non white backgrounds

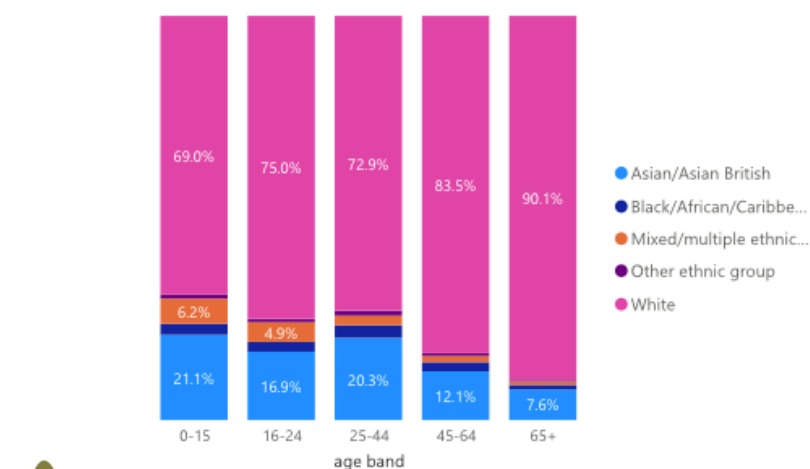


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Ethnicity

Cultural programming will need to respond to the diversity of communities and intergenerational differences of each ward

Ethnicity % by Age Group

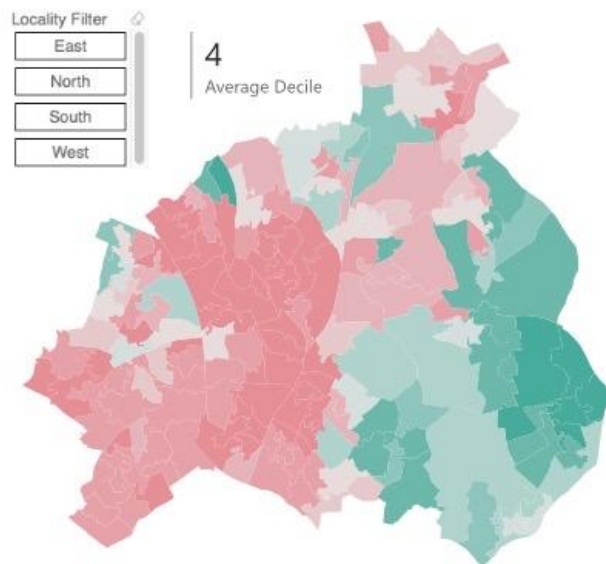


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Deprivation

- 44/167 neighbourhoods are amongst most deprived 10% in England.
- According to 2019 index, Walsall is 25/317 deprived LA in England.
- Central and western wards are the most deprived areas.

Deprivation Map of Walsall by LSOA (IMD 2019)



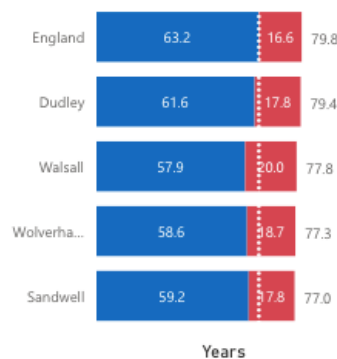
Map Crown copyright & database rights 2022. 100019529.

Health

- Walsall's population has a higher than national average expectancy of ill health during their lifetime. Aging populations may have a higher propensity to ill-health/poor quality of life.

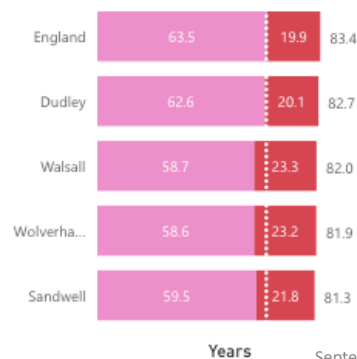
Years in Poor Health Comparison

● Expected Good Health ● Expected Poor Health



Years in Poor Health Comparison

● Expected Good Health ● Expected Poor Health



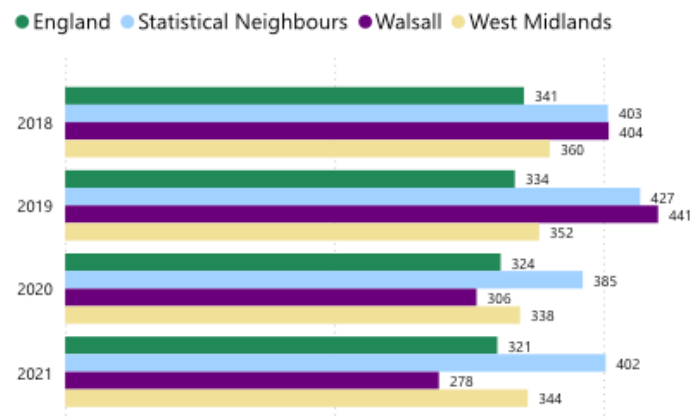
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Children in Need



- A child in need is unlikely to maintain a satisfactory level of health or development of levels will be significantly impaired. Walsall's levels have declined significantly for the past 2 years.

Children in need rate per 10,000



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Health Issues

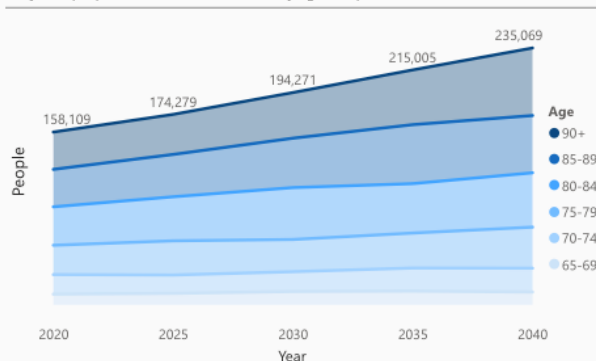


- Dementia will be increasingly prevalent across the Borough

Future Projections

How many people with Dementia could there be in Walsall by 2040?

Projected people with Dementia 2020-2040 by Age Group.



In 2040, the expected Dementia population could be:

4,687

Total Projected

2,900

Females Projection

1,787

Males Projection

1.62

Female : Male Ratio

Projections from POPPI, using Dementia UK data and ONS population projections



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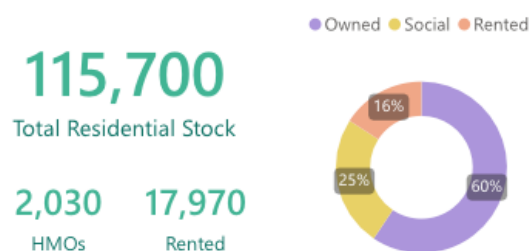
Health Issues

- Increasing need for Adult Social Care Services
 - New contacts received by Walsall ASC services in 22/23 = 13,343
 - New individuals contacting Walsall ASC in 22/23 = 8,577
 - People receiving a long term care service – 4,031
 - People receiving community-based support – 2,903
 - % of adults with a learning disability in paid employment – 3.8%

Housing

- Substantial growth in the rented sector since 2007, now estimated at 16% of housing stock.

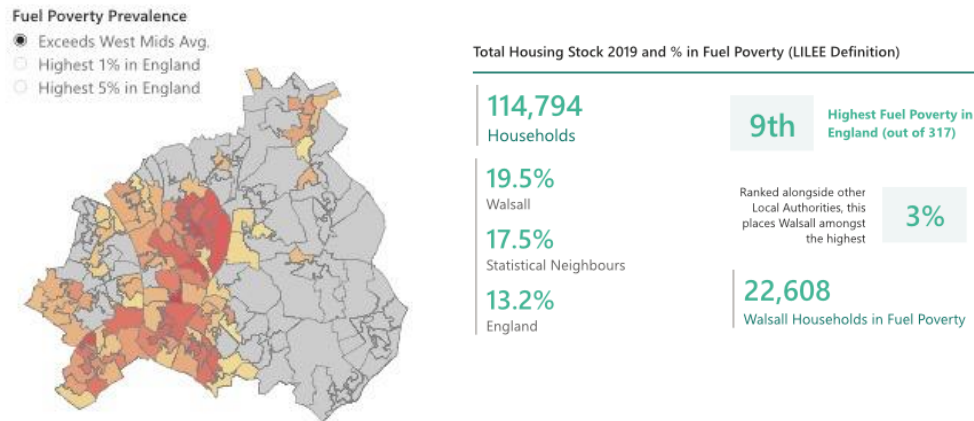
Total Housing Stock Overview 2019



- HMO = housing in multiple occupation

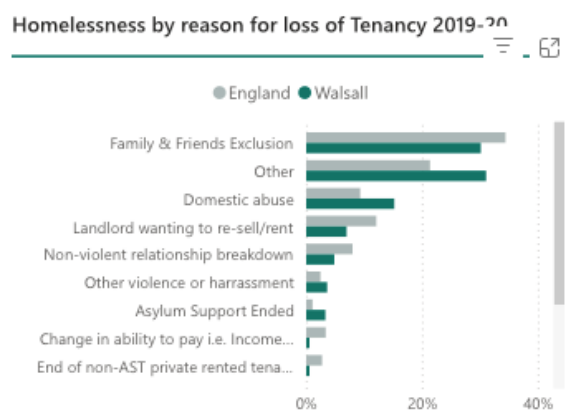
Housing

- High degrees of fuel poverty within the borough – predominantly in southwest wards.



Homelessness

- Walsall has higher demand for support from younger age groups (18-25yrs) and young people leaving care.



- Domestic abuse is also higher than the national average

