



Birch View Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Data Profile

September 2004

Birch View Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Introduction

Birch View is one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. This profile has been prepared to give baseline data about the area, against which the impact of Rochdale Borough's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy can be measured.

Background

The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal was launched in 2001 with two long-term goals:

- To reduce worklessness and crime and to improve health, skills, housing and physical environment in all the poorest neighbourhoods, and
- To narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country.

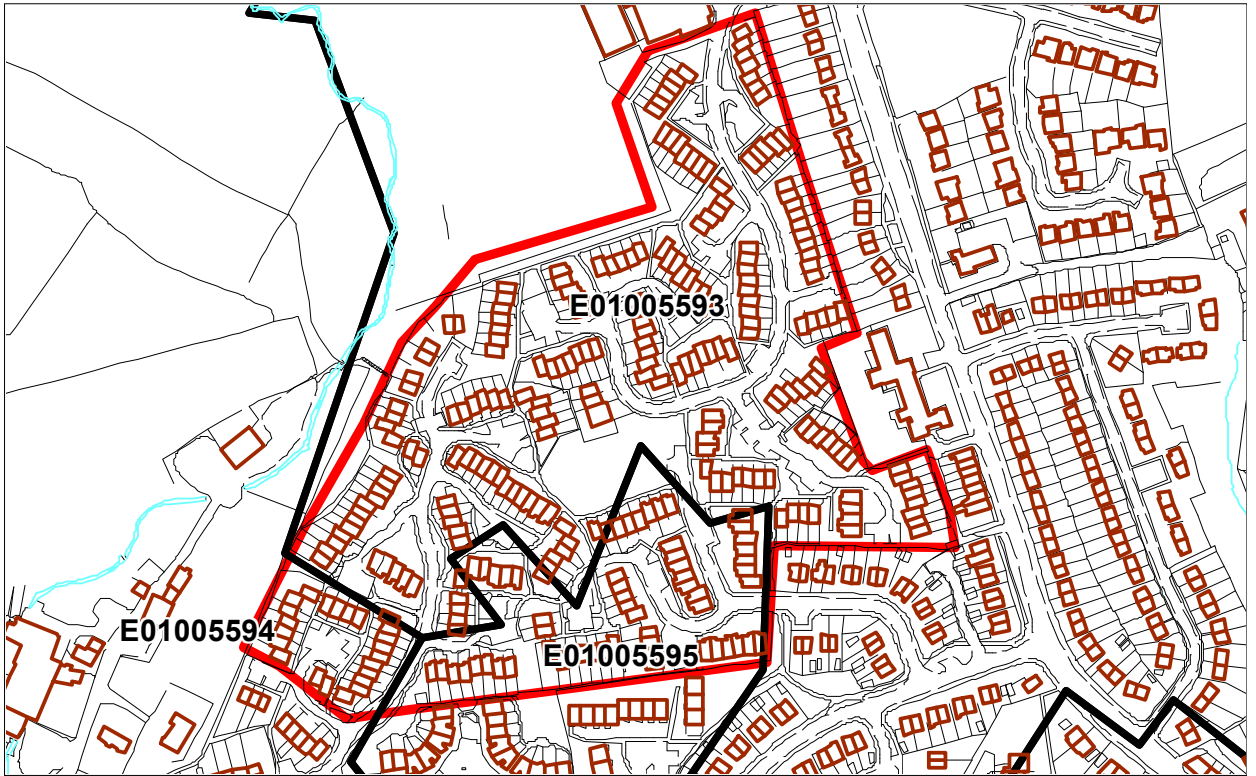
The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal seeks to address multiple deprivation. Deprivation is a wider measure than poverty, or the lack of basic necessities. It includes material deprivation, relating to diet, health, clothing, housing, household facilities, environment and work. People experiencing material deprivation may also experience social deprivation, ie they cannot enter into normal forms of family or other relationships, but this is much harder to measure. Poverty (which essentially is identified as low income) is associated with the other forms of deprivation. Worklessness and low-paid work; poor health, low educational attainment, poor housing, discrimination and area concentrations of deprivation are both the causes of poverty and deprivation and the symptoms, and they impact on one another.

In Rochdale Borough 18 neighbourhoods were identified as amongst the 7% most deprived areas nationally (using the 1998 Index of Deprivation), and a further 4 neighbourhoods identified as being "at risk" of decline.

Birch View has been included in the second phase of Rochdale Borough's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (Phase 1B) as an "at risk" neighbourhood. This profile has been prepared to give baseline data about the area, against which the impact of policy interventions can be measured. The data is from a wide range of sources.

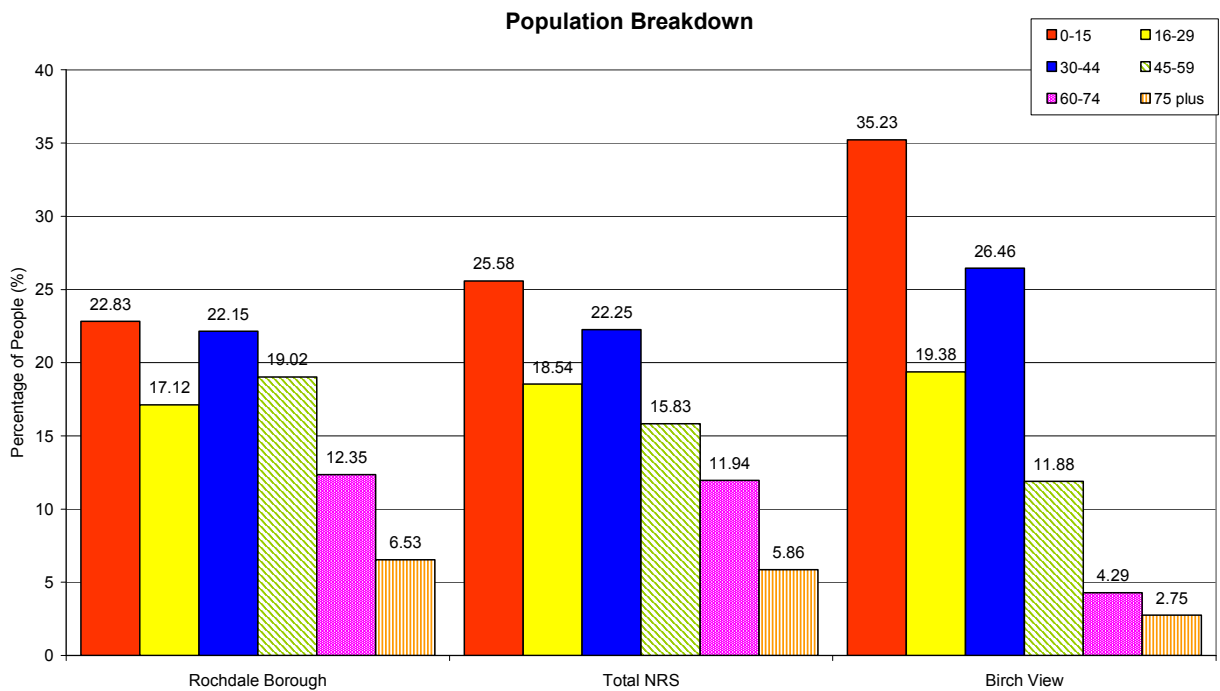
The data provided at neighbourhood level is most useful in terms of identifying issues of concern, but some of it has been produced using estimates, and should not be treated as the exact truth. Data is also available for Lower Super Output Areas, which are small areas of about 1,500 people. These do not fit exactly into neighbourhoods. This and ward level data is generally more accurate than the neighbourhood data. However, ward level data can only give an indication of the situation at neighbourhood level, particularly when the neighbourhood is much smaller than the ward.

Map 1: Birch View and Lower Super Output Area Boundaries



Demographics and Overall Deprivation

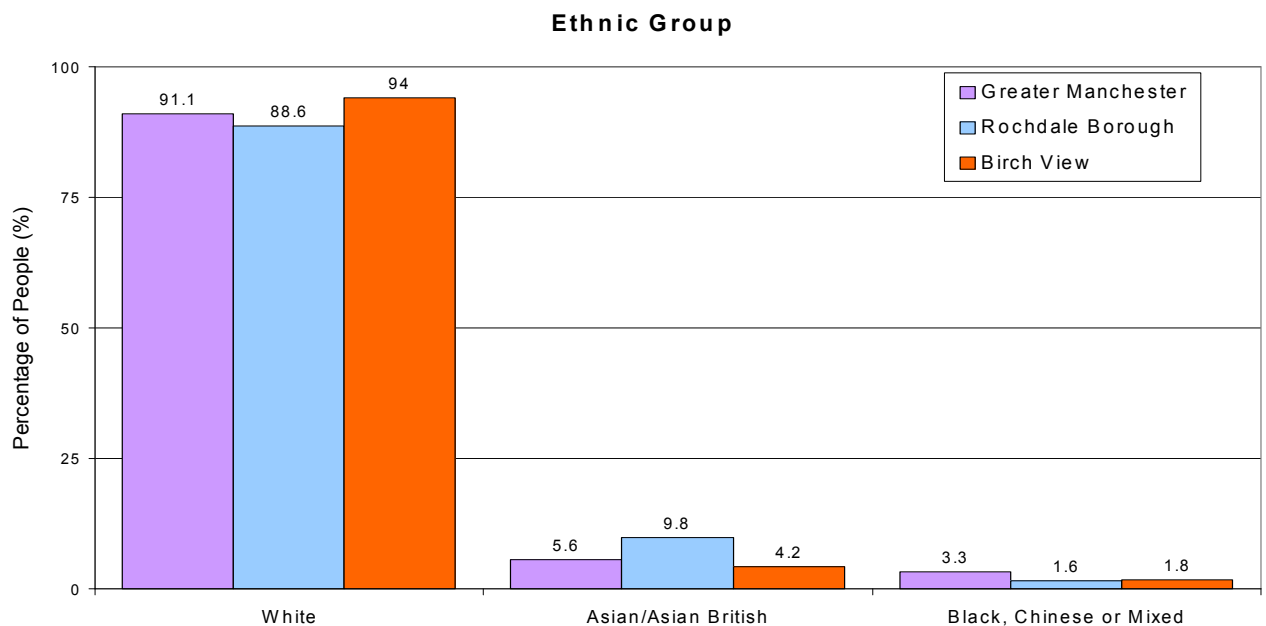
Graph 1: Population Breakdown



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 02, Crown Copyright 2003

Birch View has a total population of approximately 929 people, living in 341 households. It has a much younger age profile than nationally or for Rochdale borough. One in three people are children aged 0-15 (35% compared with 23% for the borough). One in ten residents are very young children aged 0-4 (12% compared with 7% in the borough and 6% in England and Wales). The level of older people aged 60 plus is correspondingly much lower in Birch View than elsewhere.

Graph 2: Ethnic Group



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 06, Crown copyright 2003

In Birch View the population is predominantly white, with just 4.16% of the population Asian/Asian British. This is much lower than the Rochdale Borough (9.80%) and Greater Manchester as a whole (5.64%).

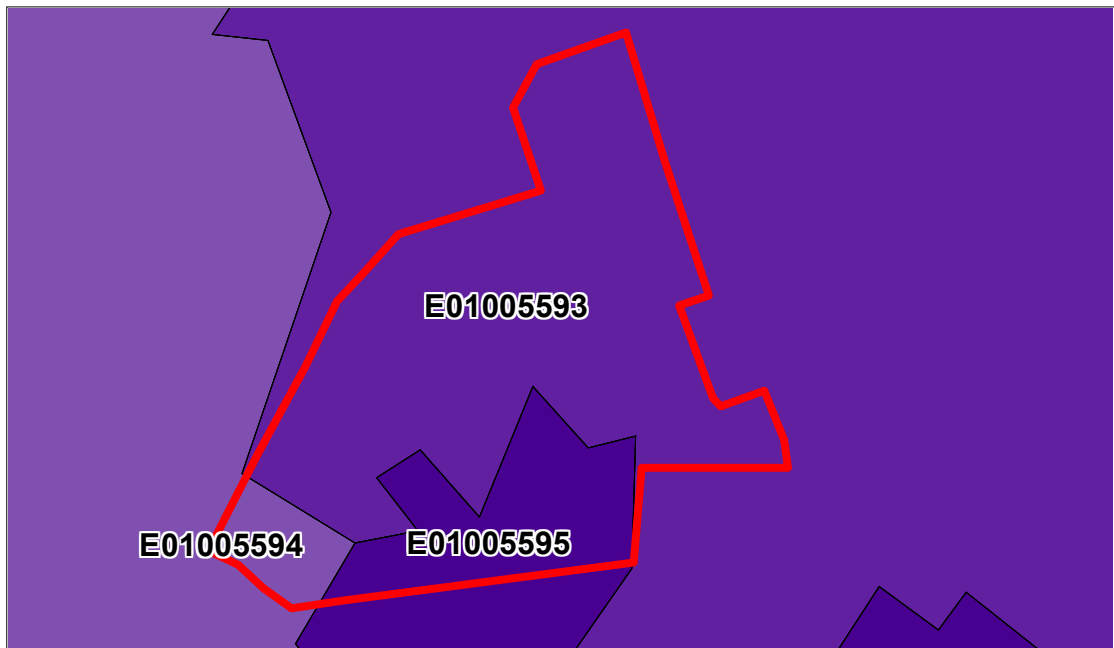
The overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (ID2004) combines seven domain measures of deprivation to give one overall score. The ID2004 is published at Lower Super Output Area (SOA), of which three fall partly within the Birch View neighbourhood (see map 1).

Table 1: Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation

SOA	RANK (Where 1 is the most deprived)	PERCENTILE (%)
E01005593	5,979	20
E01005594	9,908	40
E01005595	2,106	10

Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004

Map 2: Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation in Birch View



Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004

For the majority of Birch View the overall level of multiple deprivation is high. The majority of Birch View falls within the worst 10% and 20% of SOAs in the country and only a small proportion of Birch View falls within the worst 40% of SOAs in the country.

Income

An efficiently functioning economy benefits society. The lack of jobs produces low income and poverty which in turn has adverse effects on health and participation.

Low income is a key driver of deprivation. The Indices of Deprivation 2004 included an Income Deprivation domain, using data based on people living in families reliant on means tested income.

Table 2: Income Deprivation

SOA	RANK (Where 1 is the most deprived)	PERCENTILE (%)
E01005593	5,474	20
E01005594	14,293	50
E01005595	4,602	20

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Map 3: Income Deprivation in Birch View

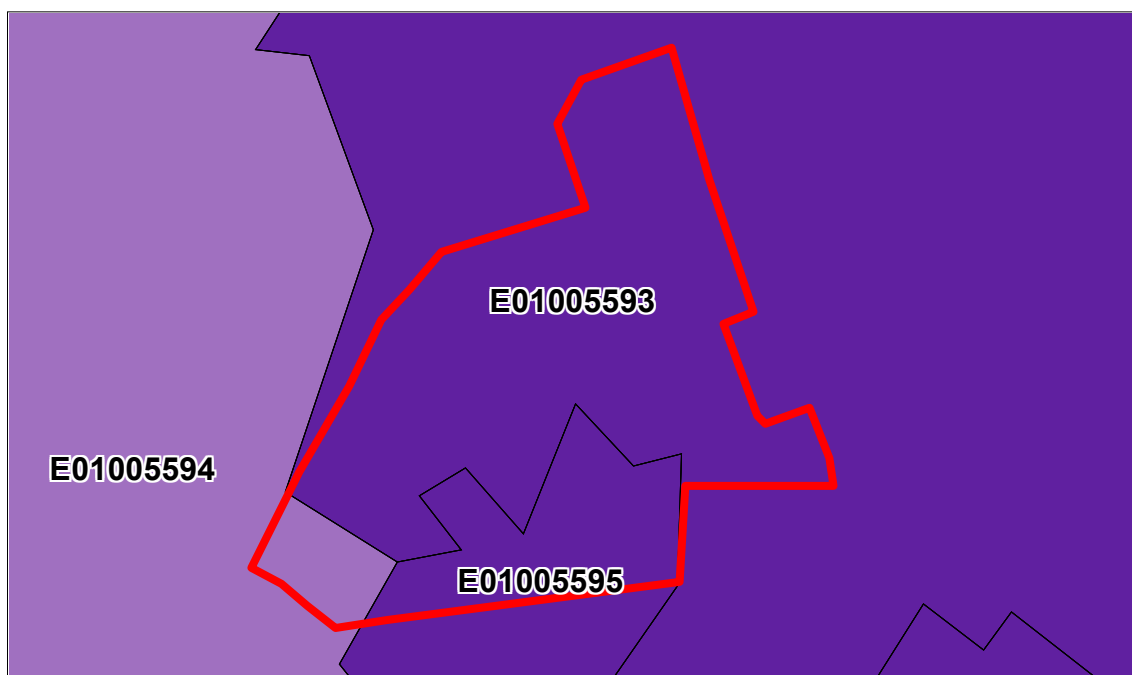


Table 3: Percentage of Children and Older People who are Income Deprived

SOA	Children (%)	Older People (%)
E01005593	36.2	17.9
E01005594	16.3	15.5
E01005595	30.5	31.8

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

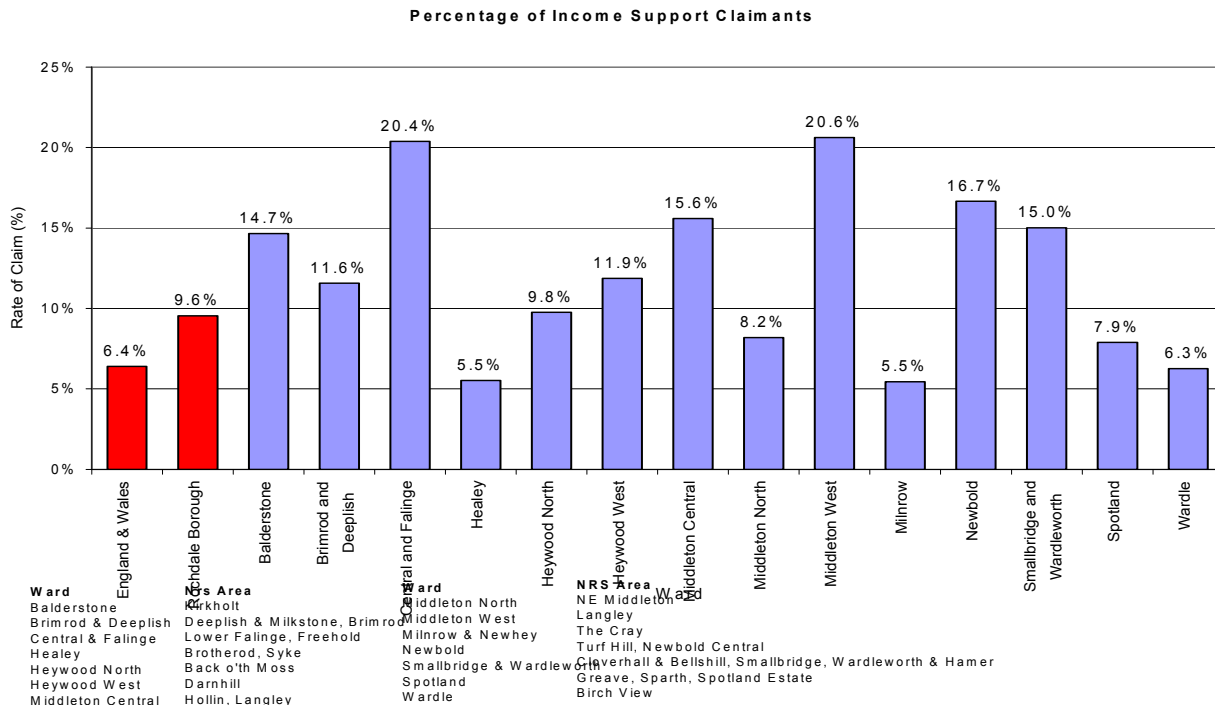
Income deprivation is high in the majority of Birch View. The majority of Birch View falls within the worst 20% of SOAs in the country. Between 16.3% and 36.2% of children suffer from income deprivation. A slightly lower percentage of older people suffer from income deprivation.

The average household income in Birch View is £20,790, compared with £26,791 in Rochdale borough and £29,374 for the UK (Source: CACI Paycheck, 2004). Poverty (i.e. low income) is associated with worklessness and low-paid work, poor health, low educational attainment, poor

housing, discrimination and area concentrations of deprivation. These are both the causes of poverty and deprivation they symptoms and they impact on each other.

In Birch View 51.5% of households claim Council Tax Benefit (RMBC Council Tax). Households are eligible for Council Tax Benefit if they claim Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance, or are working and on low pay.

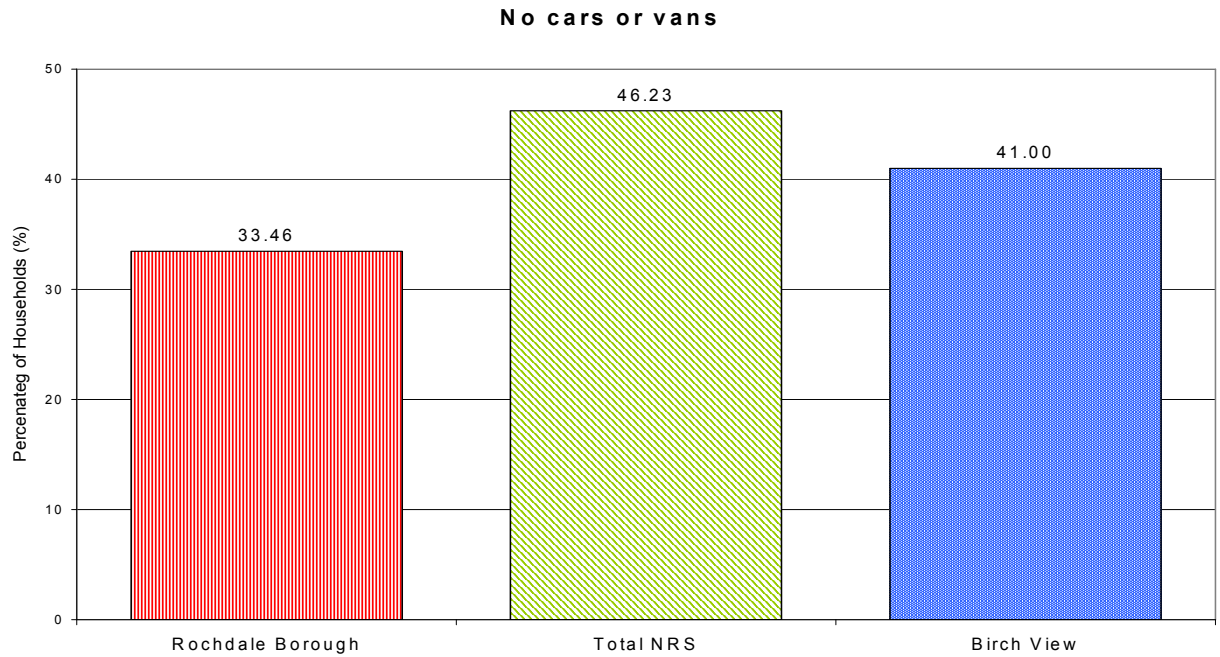
Graph 3: Percentage of People Claiming Income Support at August 2002



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (Information Analysis Directorate) Information Centre, Crown copyright 2003

Income support is designed to top up income to a minimum level. It is the welfare state's principal means-tested benefit and is therefore an indicator of income deprivation. Income support claimants are mainly pensioners, lone parents or people with disabilities. Birch View is in Wardle ward (pre-2004 wards) which has a relatively low level of income support claimants overall.

Graph 4: Percentage of Households with No Car or Van



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 17, Crown copyright 2003

In Birch View 41% of households have no car or van. This is higher than the borough average of 33% and the national average of 27%. The ownership of cars can be used as a crude indicator of available income.

Employment

In labour market terms the adult population has been traditionally divided into the employed, the unemployed and the economically inactive. However, changes in recent years in the labour market have resulted in a “blurring” of boundaries. There is a greater variety of patterns of work and non-work with more individuals in irregular jobs and with discontinuous employment patterns. Those classified as economically inactive may want work, but are unable to take up a job due to permanent sickness or disability. Others classified as “looking after home and family” may want to work but are unable to because of caring commitments and lack of suitable childcare or other support.

Graph 5: Percentage of People in Full-time and Part-time Employment



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 09a, Crown copyright 2003

In Birch View 34% of adults of working age are employed full-time. This is the same as the average for the NRS Phase 1B areas, but lower than the borough average of 39% and the national average of 41%. In contrast, the level of part-time workers is slightly higher than in the borough as a whole (14% compared with 12%).

Table 4: Percentage of People who are Employment Deprived

SOA	Employment deprivation (%)
E01005593	16.6
E01005594	13.2
E01005595	26.3

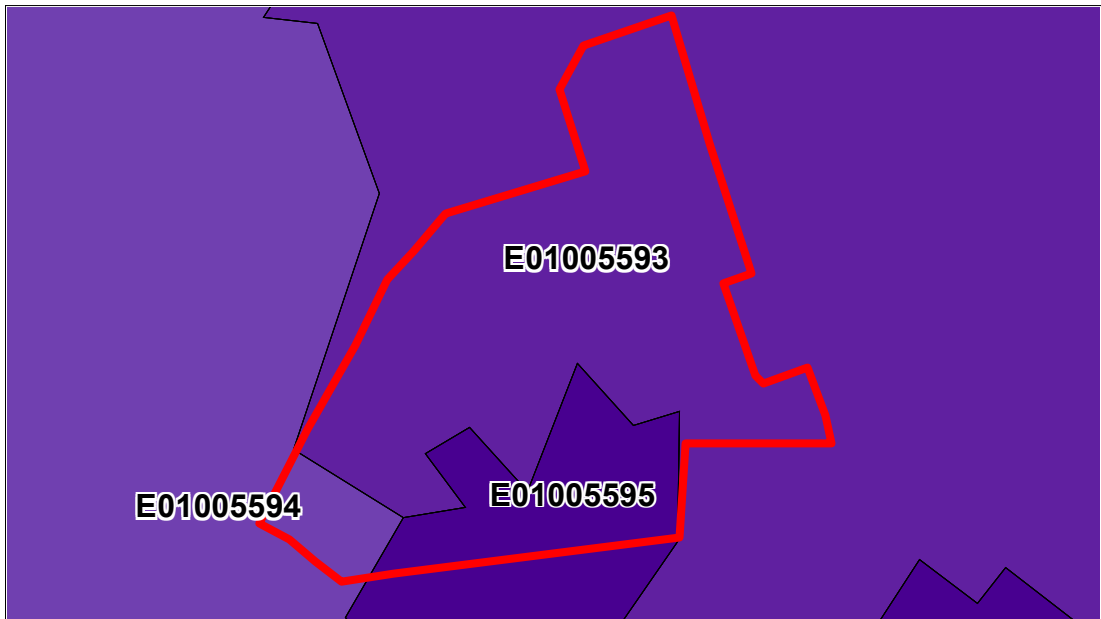
Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Table 5: Employment Deprivation

SOA	RANK (Where 1 is the most deprived)	PERCENTILE (%)
E01005593	5,674	20
E01005594	8,717	30
E01005595	1,413	10

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

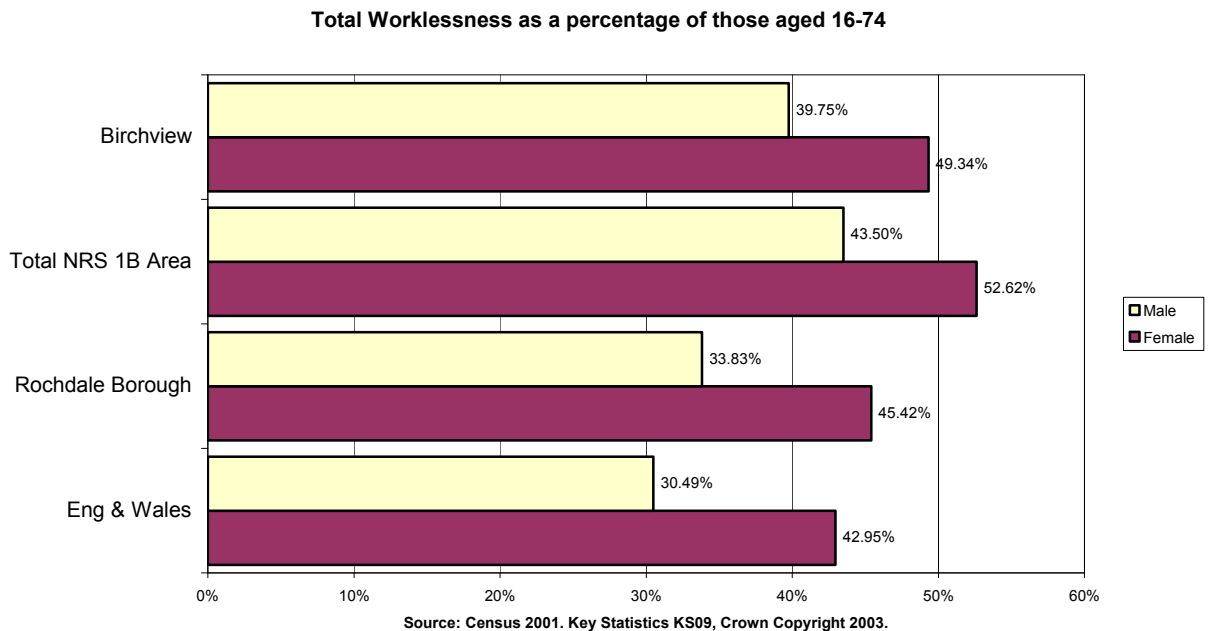
Map 4: Employment Deprivation in Birch View



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Employment deprivation in the indices of deprivation measures involuntary exclusion of the working age population from the world of work. It includes elements of the “hidden unemployed” such as those who are out of the workforce due to sickness. Employment deprivation is high in the majority of Birch View. Birch View SOAs were ranked between 1,413 and 8,717 out of 32,482 in England. In Birch View between 13.2% and 26.3% adults of working age suffer from employment deprivation,

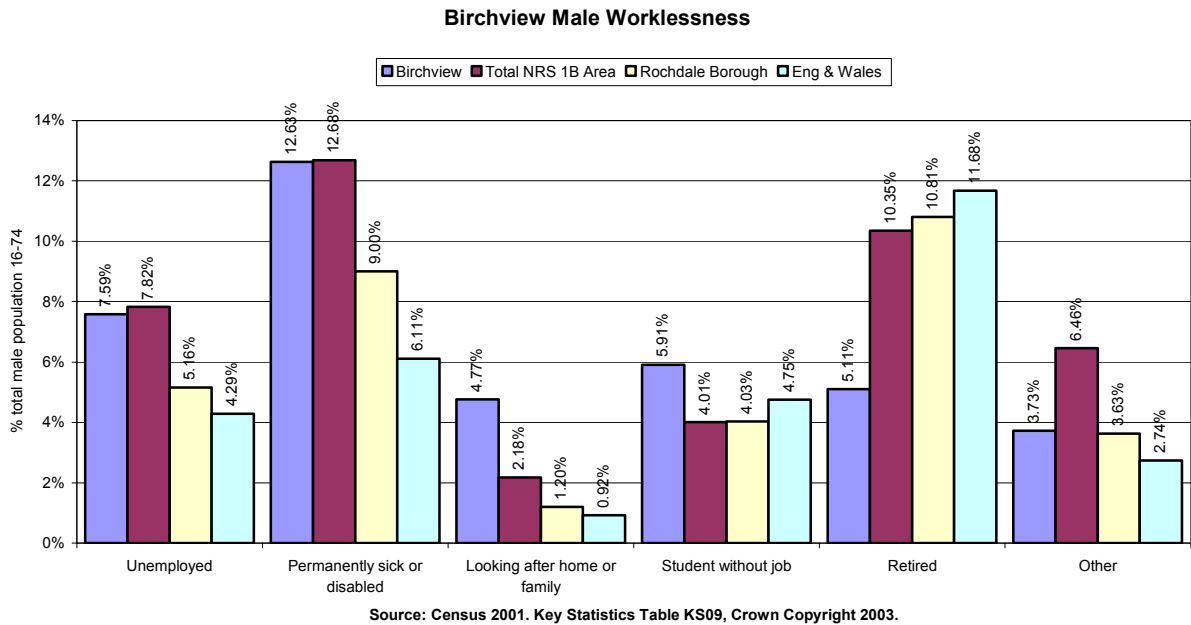
Graph 6: Total Worklessness



The rate of ‘worklessness’ is gained from the 2001 Census, where people were asked whether or not they had undertaken or were actively looking for paid work in the last 4 weeks. ‘Worklessness’ includes those who define themselves as ‘unemployed’, ‘permanently sick or disabled’, ‘looking after home or family’, ‘student without a job’, ‘retired’ and ‘other’, (i.e. none of the above).

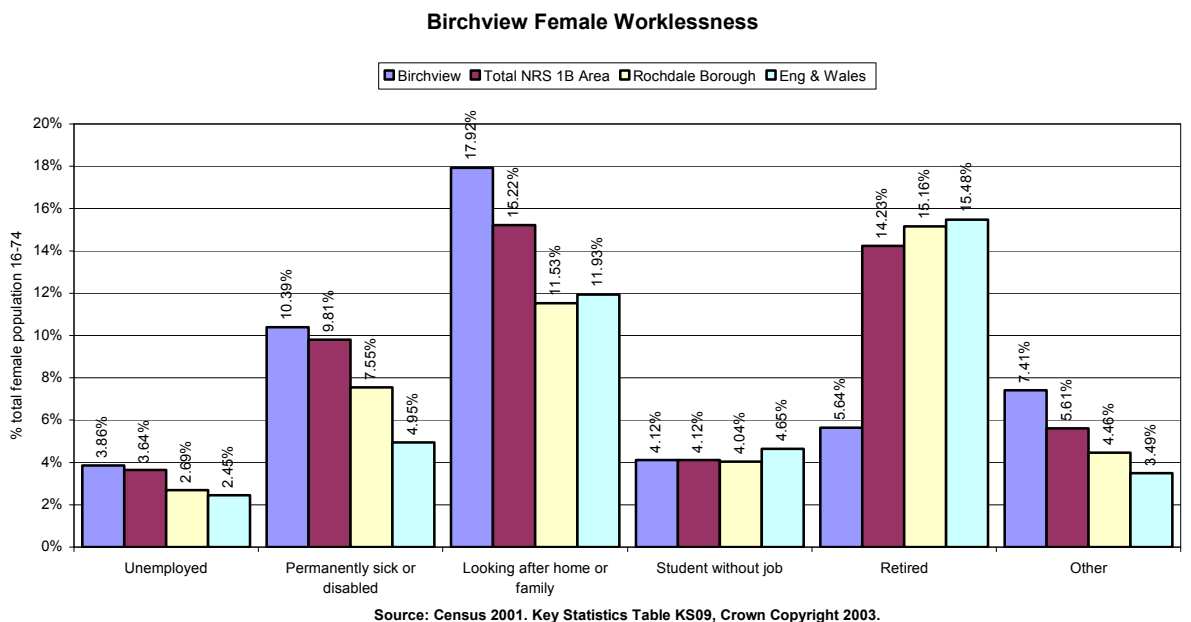
Birch View has a lower overall level of worklessness than the NRS 1B area as a whole but is still around 10% higher than the level for the Rochdale Borough and England & Wales for both males and females. Gender differences in Birch View follow broadly the same pattern as Rochdale and England & Wales in that women consistently have around a 10-13% higher rate of worklessness than men. When looking at worklessness it is important to distinguish between men and women as they have very different employment and worklessness patterns, as can be seen below.

Graph 7: Male Worklessness



Men aged 16-74 in Birch View are around twice as likely to be unemployed and be permanently sick or disabled than those in England & Wales. Overall men have an extremely low rate of 'looking after home or family', however the level in Birch View is five times as higher than the national average. The levels of 'student without job' and 'other' are broadly in line with the comparative areas, however the number of men aged 16-74 who are 'retired' is around half that of both the Rochdale and England & Wales average and so is not a significant factor contributing to the overall high level of worklessness in Birch View.

Graph 8: Female Worklessness



Overall we can expect the characteristics of female 'worklessness' to differ from males quite considerably, in that women who are not in formal employment are significantly more likely to be classed as 'looking after home or family' than 'unemployed', (i.e. actively seeking work) than men. In Birch View women aged 16-74 have a lower level of unemployment and a much higher level of 'looking after home or family' than males, as expected. However those who are permanently sick or disabled account for one in ten females in Birch View, this is twice as high than in England and Wales, and also higher than in the Rochdale Borough and in the NRS 1B area. 'Looking after home or family' is also around 5% higher than in England & Wales and the Rochdale Borough. Females aged 16-74 who are 'retired' account for around three times less than the national and borough average.

Graph 9: Unemployment Aged 16-74

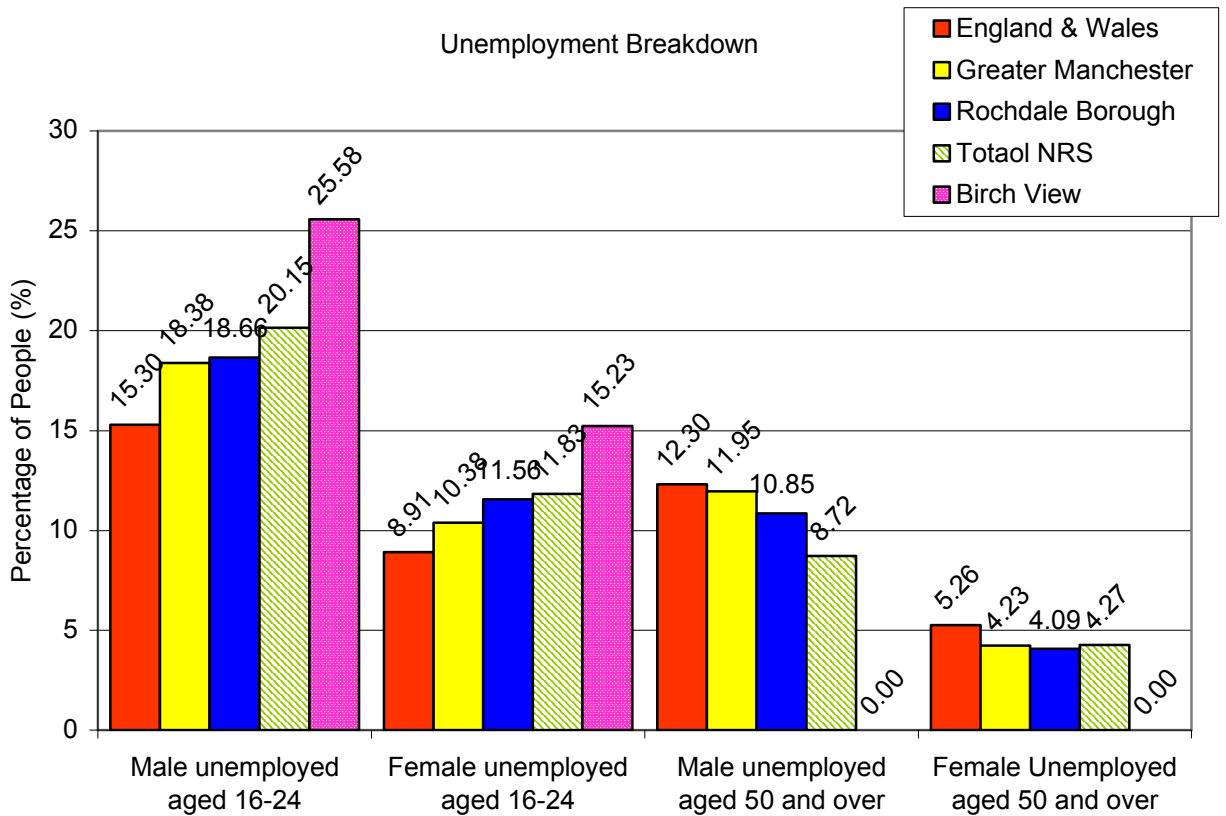


Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 09a, Crown Copyright 2003

In Birch View 5.54% of adults of working age were unemployed in 2001, higher than the borough average of 3.89% or national average of 3.55%. There was also a slightly higher percentage of long-term unemployed. A person is classed in the 2001 Census as long-term unemployed if they have been unemployed for 18 months or longer.

Unemployment increases the risk of social exclusion, impacts on income and reduces access to services and opportunities. Unemployment does not affect all groups equally. The young, disabled and some minority groups are likely to experience disproportionate levels of unemployment. Whilst increasing employment levels is essential, it is important that jobs quality jobs offering decent rates of pay.

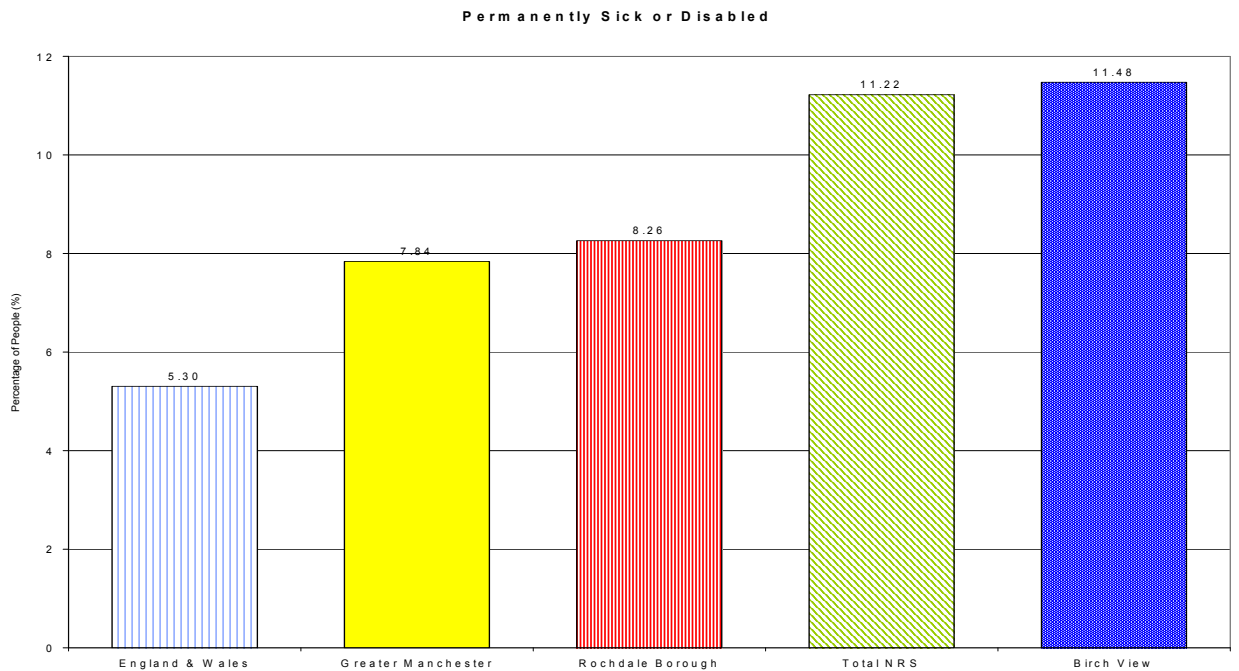
Graph 10: Unemployment Breakdown



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Tables KS09b&c, Crown copyright 2003

This graph shows the breakdown of the unemployed based on 2001 Census data. Young adults aged 16-24 form a much larger percentage of the unemployed in Birch View than in the Rochdale Borough or nationally. 25.6% of the unemployed are young men, and 15% of the total unemployed are young women. There were no adults aged 50 and over who were unemployed. It should be noted that this data is based on very small numbers and should be treated with caution.

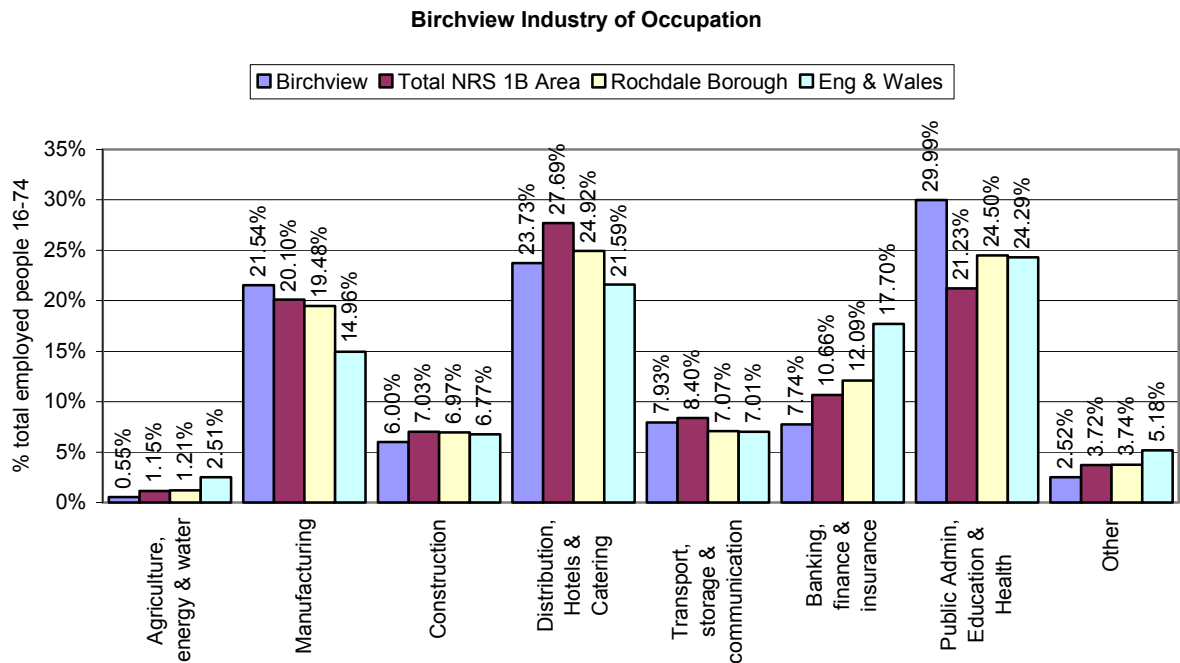
Graph 11: Percentage of People who are Permanently Sick or Disabled (Aged 16-74)



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 09a, Crown Copyright 2003

In Birch View a high percentage of adults of working age are permanently sick or disabled: 11.48% compared with 8.26% in the borough and 5.30% in England and Wales. These people should be considered as part of the “hidden unemployed” to gain a better picture of the true levels of involuntary exclusion from the labour market.

Graph 12: Industry of Occupation

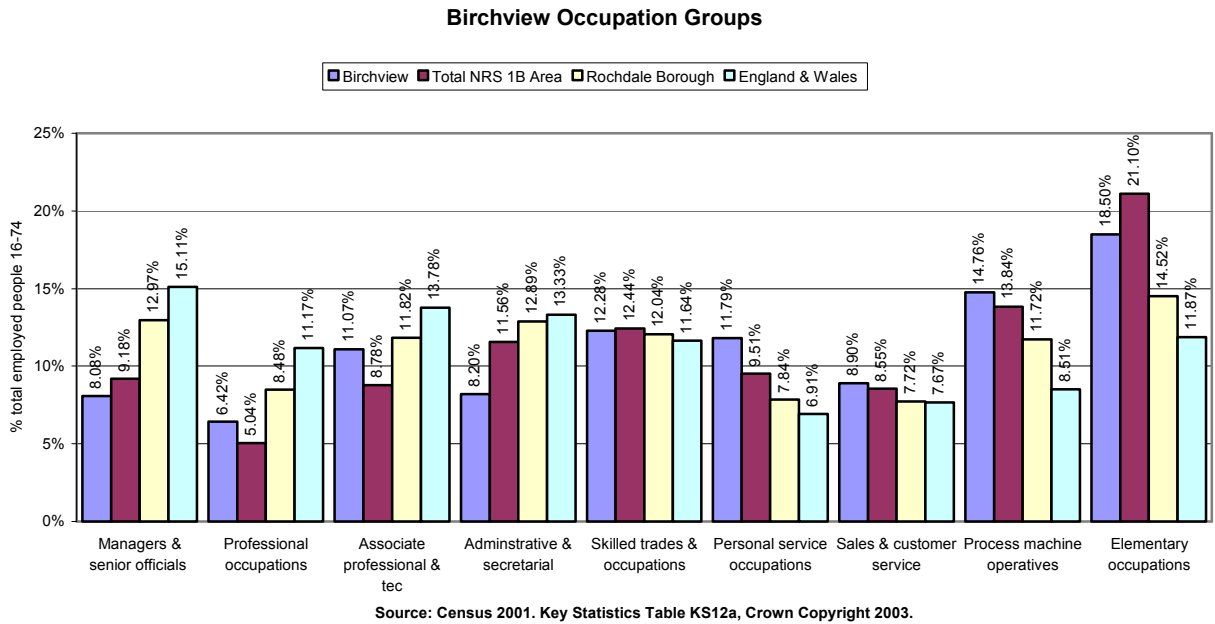


Source: Census 2001. Key Statistic Table KS11a. Crown Copyright 2003.

In Birch View almost a third of employed people work in ‘Public Administration, Education & Health’ Industries compared to one quarter in Rochdale and England & Wales. Around one in four work in ‘Distribution, Hotels & Catering’, a slightly lower proportion than the Rochdale Borough. One in five work in ‘Manufacturing’, compared with one in seven in England & Wales, and less than one in ten work in ‘Banking, Finance & Insurance’, compared to one in six nationwide. Industry of employment is determined in the Census by the response to the question asking for a description of the business of the person's employer. The responses are coded to a modified version of the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities, (UK SIC), 1992.

Industry of employment can be considered a factor in determining rates of pay and working conditions. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2004 found that gross pay for full-time employees in ‘Public Administration, Education & Health industries averaged £395.33 per week in the UK and ‘Distribution, Hotels & Catering was £341.47. This can be compared to ‘Banking, Finance & Insurance’, which was £555.35. However these overall averages mask the different levels of pay and conditions within an industry – occupation is by far the best predictor of pay and working conditions.

Graph 13: Occupation Groups



In Birch View it can be seen that there is a definite pattern to occupational groupings. At the higher end of the occupational scale in groups 1-2, ('managers & senior officials' and 'professional occupations'), there is clearly a much lower proportion than those in England & Wales and the Rochdale Borough. There are much higher proportions of people employed at the lower end of the scale, in particular groups 8-9, 'process machine operatives' and 'elementary occupations' both have around double the amount of workers in Birch View than in England and Wales as a whole. In the Census 2001 occupations are coded to the 2000 edition of the Standard Occupancy Classification, (SOC) using the response to the question asking for full title of main job, and the description of what is done in that job.

In Birch View the most important occupation groups are 'process machine operatives' or 'elementary occupations'. 'Process machine operatives' includes such jobs as plant & machine operatives, assemblers & routine operatives, (e.g. machinists), construction operatives, (e.g. scaffolder), transport drivers & operatives, (e.g. hgv drivers, taxi drivers), and mobile machine drivers & operatives, (e.g. crane driver, fork lift truck driver). 'Elementary occupations' includes all elementary trades, plant & storage related workers, (e.g. farm workers, labourers on construction sites, packers in factories) and elementary administration & service occupations, (e.g. postal worker, hospital porter, waiters, window cleaners, traffic wardens, shelf stackers, etc.) ASHE 2004 determined that the average gross weekly pay for full-time process machine operatives was £364, whilst for elementary occupations it was £212.70. This can be compared with the average gross weekly pay for managers & senior officials who received £727.50.

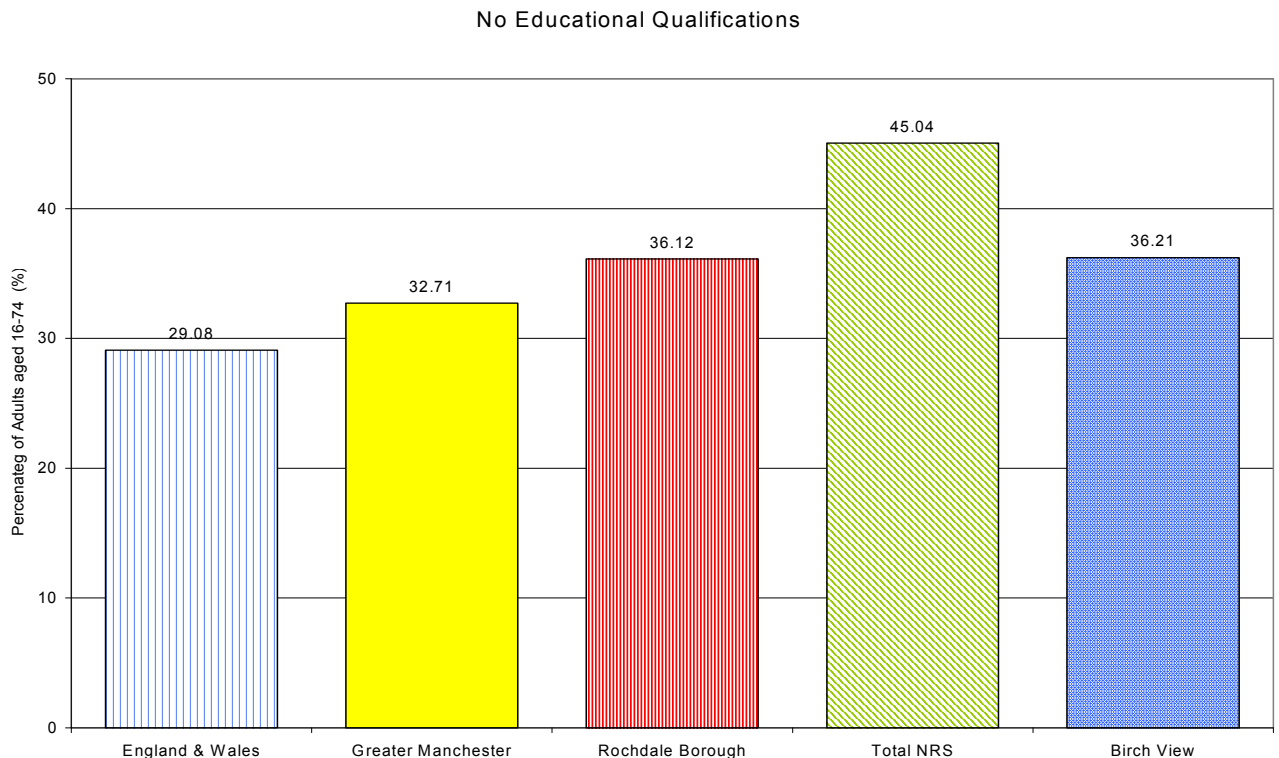
If we combine this occupational group pattern with the above trends in industry of employment we can see that the majority of workers in Birch View are concentrated in low skilled, low paying industries.

Education

Low educational attainment increases the risk of social exclusion not only during school years but in future years due to the importance of education in securing employment. There is a clear correlation between GCSE attainment and subsequent labour market position, and employment is the most important way of avoiding poverty.

Without greater numbers of highly skilled people in a locality it is difficult to generate more employment. Lack of skills amongst a local population is one of the most significant obstacles to raising employment levels.

Graph 14: Percentage of Adults (Aged 16-74) with No Educational Qualifications



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 13, Crown Copyright 2003

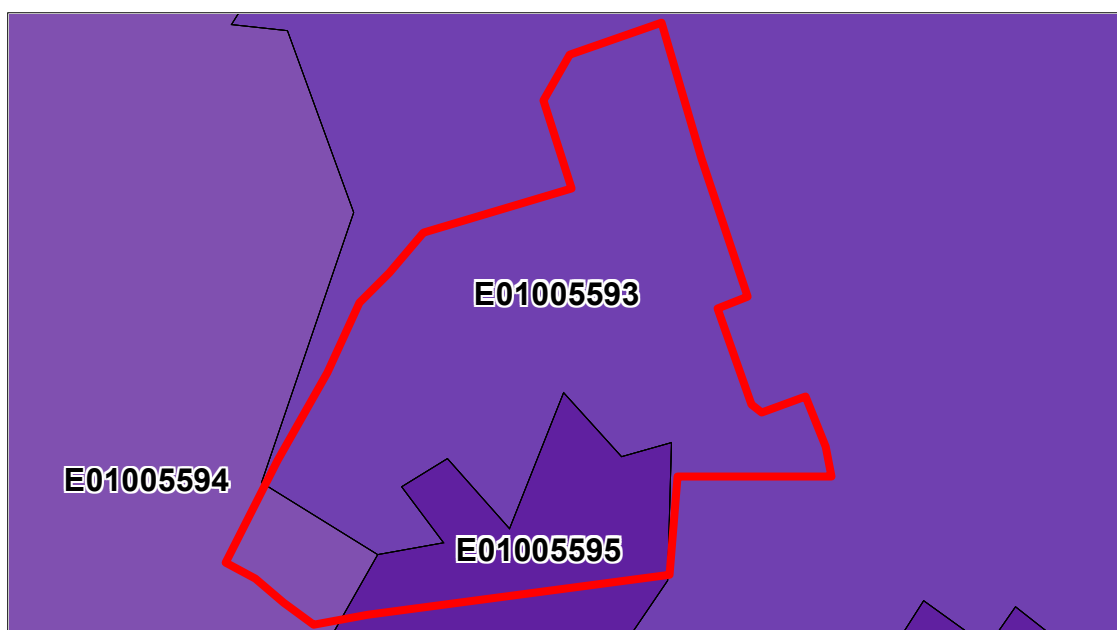
In Birch View more than one in three working age adults have no educational qualifications. This is similar to the borough level, although significantly lower than the NRS Phase 1B areas as a whole. It is, however, much higher than the England and Wales average of 29%.

Table 6: Education, Skills and Training Deprivation

SOA	RANK (Where 1 is the most deprived)	PERCENTILE (%)
E01005593	7,848	30
E01005594	12,683	40
E01005595	5,282	20

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Map 5: Education, Skills and Training Deprivation in Birch View



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

The education, skills and training deprivation domain includes two sub-domains, the lack of attainment among children and young people and the lack of qualifications in terms of skills. In Birch View education, skills and training deprivation is ranked between 5,282 and 12,683. Education, skills and training deprivation falls between the worst 20% and 40% of SOAs in the country.

Table 7: SATs Key Stage 2 – Percentage awarded Level 4 and above 2002-2003

Area	English	Maths	Science
Birch View	57.2	61.8	80.9
Rochdale Borough	68.5	67.9	80.5
England	75.0	73.0	87.0

Source: RMBC Education Information and Department for Education and Science website

Notes:

- (1) The data for NRS Areas is based on pupils living within the area. The data for Rochdale borough and England is based on pupils attending school within the area, and may include pupils who do not live within the area. Similarly, pupils living within the area but who attend school outside the area will not be included in the results.
- (2) The data for NRS Areas is based on pupils who actually took the exams. The data for Rochdale borough and England also includes pupils who were eligible to take the exam but did not attend on the day, or were disapplied.

In Birch View a lower percentage of pupils were awarded Key Stage 2 Level 4 or above in English and Math's in comparison the Rochdale Borough and England.

In Birch View 34.4% of pupils taking GCSEs in 2003 gained 5 A* to C grades. This is lower than the average for the borough of 41.3% and considerably lower than the national average of 52.9%.

It is sometimes suggested that an increased level of education provides the ability to optimise health services, increases knowledge of health damaging behaviours and increases the willingness of individuals to invest in human capital. However, despite this education does not play a dominant role in health. Education is often considered to be more important in terms of the opportunity that it creates to improve material condition. However, educational attainment, as an indicator of socio-economic position, is primarily related to health through the advantage

it gives people in their later socio-economic trajectories, not simply because education encourages healthy behaviour.

Health

Disadvantaged communities face multiple deprivation which can have a serious effect on health. People living in disadvantaged communities are the least likely to have access to the best services when they are ill and are more likely to die at a younger age.

Poor health is a symptom of living in a poorer neighbourhood and a cause of its continuing decline. Socio-economic factors such as income, educational attainment, housing, environment and fear of crime greatly influence the health of individuals from before birth right throughout life. In deprived areas these problems can be compounded by poor access to health services, but also by poor day-to-day access to healthy affordable food, safe leisure and recreation and affordable convenient public transport.

Increasing inequalities in health over recent decades reflect the increasing polarisation of life chances – of opportunities, of material circumstance and of behaviours related to health. The growth in inequalities in income and the consequent increase in poverty underlies the widening health divide in Britain.

Table 8: Key Health Indicators at Super Output Area level for Birch View

Lower SOA	SMR All Causes	SMR Circulatory Disease	SMR Neoplasm's	Birth Rate Lone Mothers	SIR "not good health"	SIR LLTI	SIR Permanently Sick or Disabled
E01005593	126.19	93.57	*	23.01	160.87	141.44	164.47
E01005594	91.86	75.56	*	20.63	129.55	124.41	131.92
E01005595	165.39	138.28	106.39	19.51	180.88	161.11	293.17

Source: North West Public Health Observatory Small Area Database 1998 – 2002

- SMR – Standardised Mortality Ratio – 100 is England and Wales average – SMR greater than 100 shows higher than expected deaths, adjusted for age and gender
- Birth Rate Lone Mothers – shows the percentage of babies born to lone mothers. The level in the North West for 1998-2002 was 19.61%, for Rochdale PCT 14.21% and Heywood and Middleton PCT 25.22%
- SIR – Standardised Illness Ratio – derived from 2001 Census – 100 is England and Wales average – SIR above 100 shows higher than expected level of illness, adjusted for age and gender
- Not good health – based on a self-assessment of a person's general health over the 12 months before the 2001 census - all people
- LLTI – Limiting long-term illness –based on a self-assessment of whether or not a person has a limiting long-term illness or disability which limits their daily activities or the work they can do - all people
- Permanently sick or disabled – adults aged 16-74 (sub-category of economic inactivity)
- * Indicates suppressed information

The table above indicates that the level of deaths (all causes) in most of Birch View is higher than expected, as are the levels of “not good health” and limiting long-term illness. The high incidence of permanently sick or disabled indicates high levels of working age adults who are unable to work owing to permanent sickness or disability.

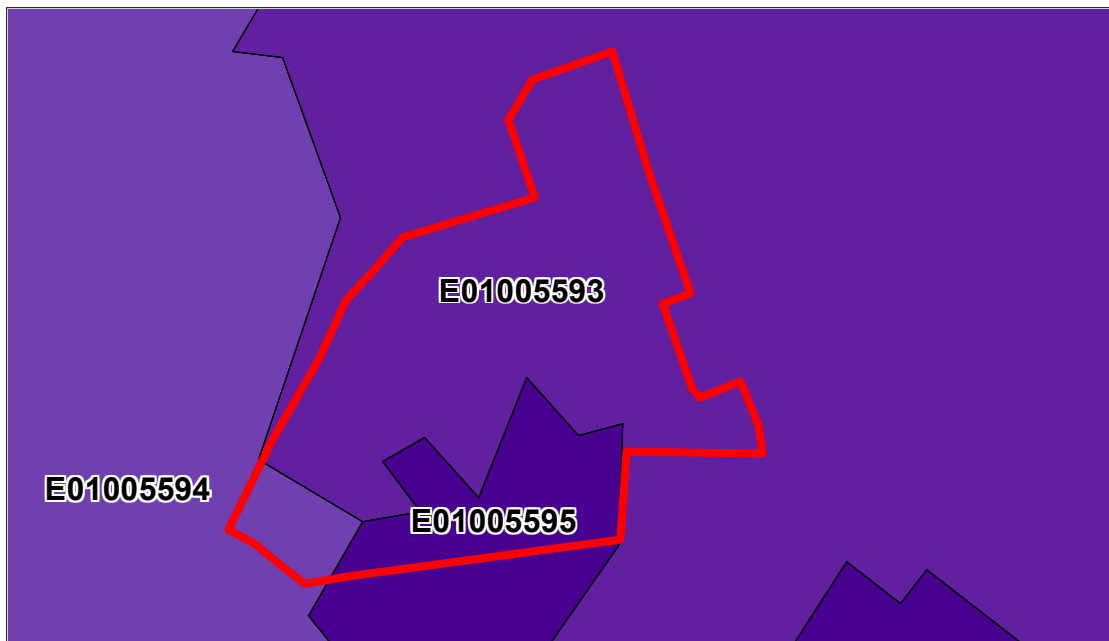
The Indices of Deprivation 2004 also show high levels of health deprivation and disability in Birch View.

Table 9: Health Deprivation and Disability

SOA	RANK (Where 1 is the most deprived)	PERCENTILE (%)
E01005593	3,415	20
E01005594	7,512	30
E01005595	507	10

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Map 6: Health Deprivation and Disability in Birch View



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Health deprivation and disability in Birch View falls between the worst 10% and 30% of SOAs in the country. The south of Birch View has a particularly high level of health deprivation and disability and was ranked 507 out of 32,482 SOAs.

Graph 15: Percentage of People with a Limiting Long-term Illness (All People)

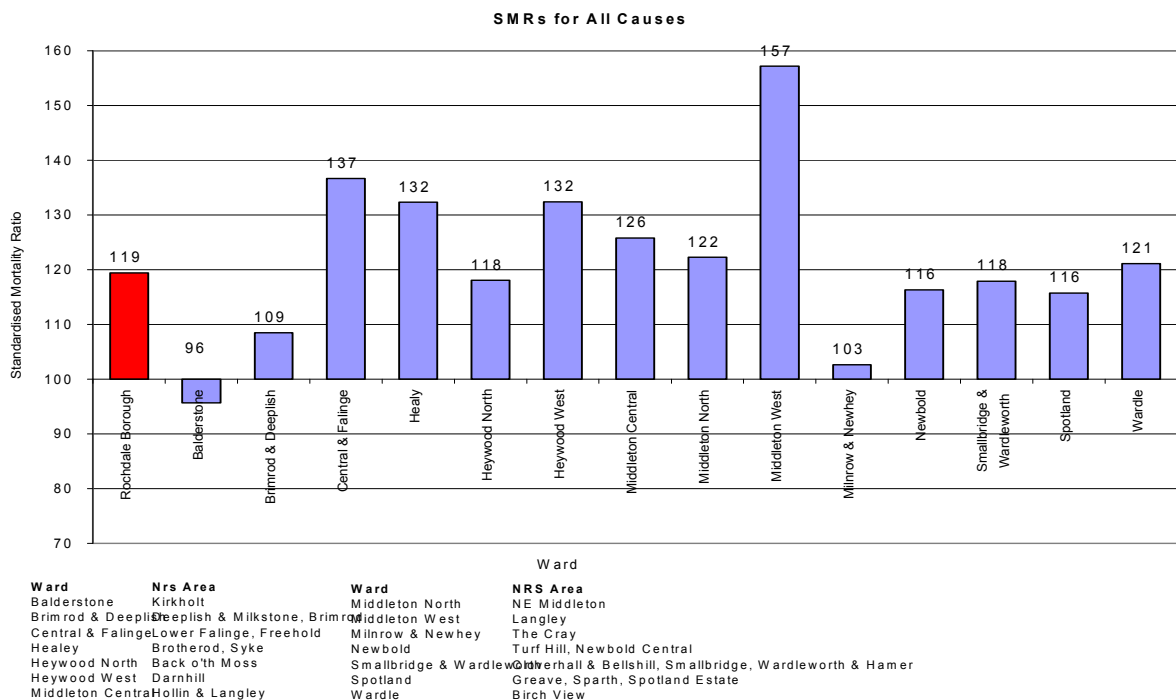


Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistic Table KS08, Crown Copyright 2003

Limiting long-term illness in the 2001 Census was a self-assessment of whether or not someone has a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits their daily activity or the work they can do including problems that are due to old age. In Birch View the level of limiting long-term illness was about the same as in England and Wales. However, this data does not make any adjustments for age, and the levels of limiting long-term illness would be expected to increase with age of population. Birch View has a particularly young age profile, and Table 8 shows that in fact most of Birch View has relatively high levels of limiting long-term illness when the data is adjusted for age and gender (see SIR – LLTI, where levels above 100 indicate higher than expected levels).

The following data is at Ward level, which tells us less about the situation in Birch View, however it may be the only source of data available, or alternatively is useful as it is updated on a regular basis. The wards used are the old pre-2004 wards, as data for new wards is not yet available. Birch View is within Wardle ward.

Graph 16: Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) for All Causes of Death by Ward 1997-1999

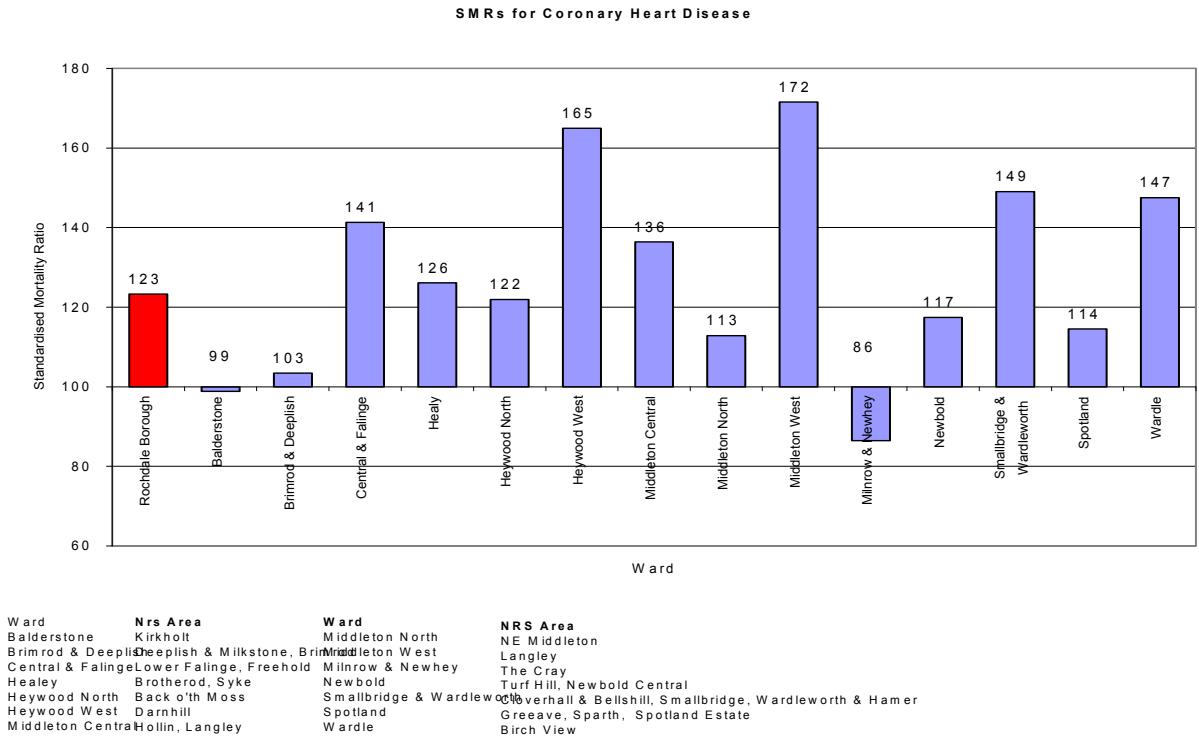


Source: Rochdale PCT

Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) are used to reflect an area’s mortality experience, taking into account age and gender. The national average for each SMR is standardised at 100. Any measure above this number indicates that the death rate is higher in that particular area. Any measure below 100 indicates that the area has lower than expected death rates compared with the England and Wales average. Wardle has an SMR of 121, i.e. higher than expected mortality compared with England and Wales, and which is similar to the Rochdale borough average of 119.

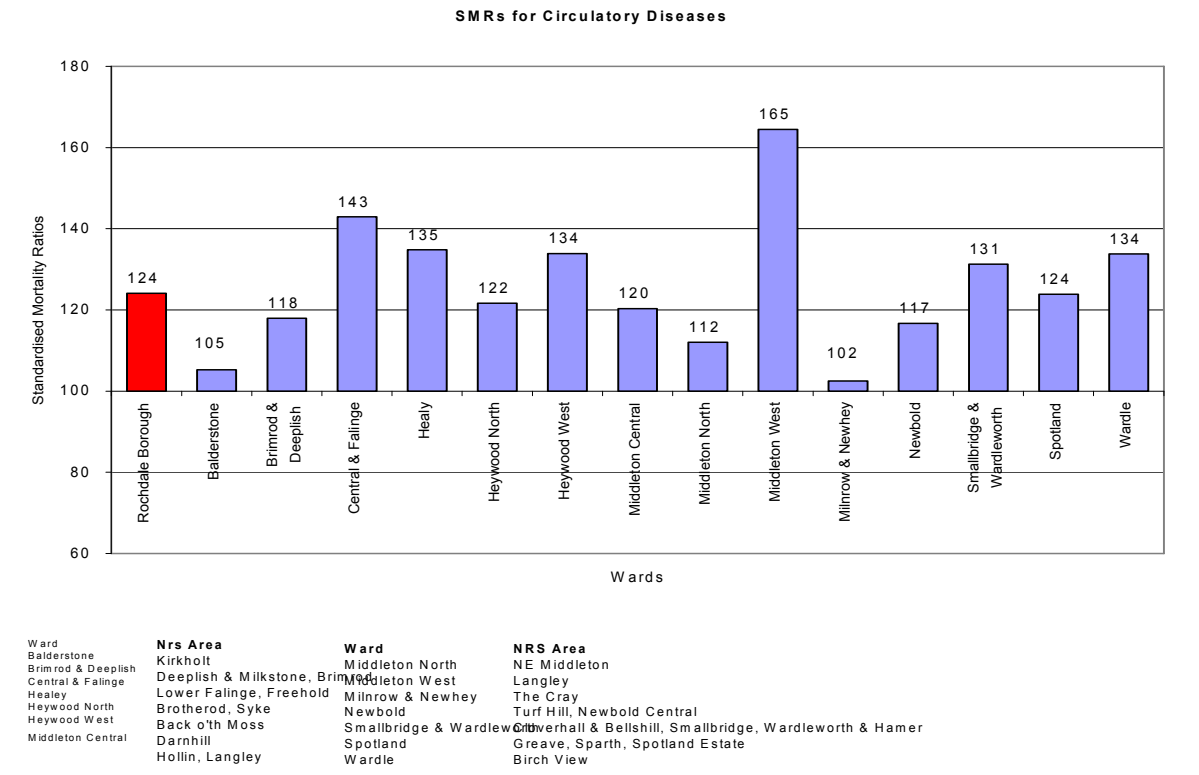
The graphs below show SMRs for causes of death which are particularly high in Wardle ward.

Graph 17: Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR) for Coronary Heart Disease by Ward 1997-1991



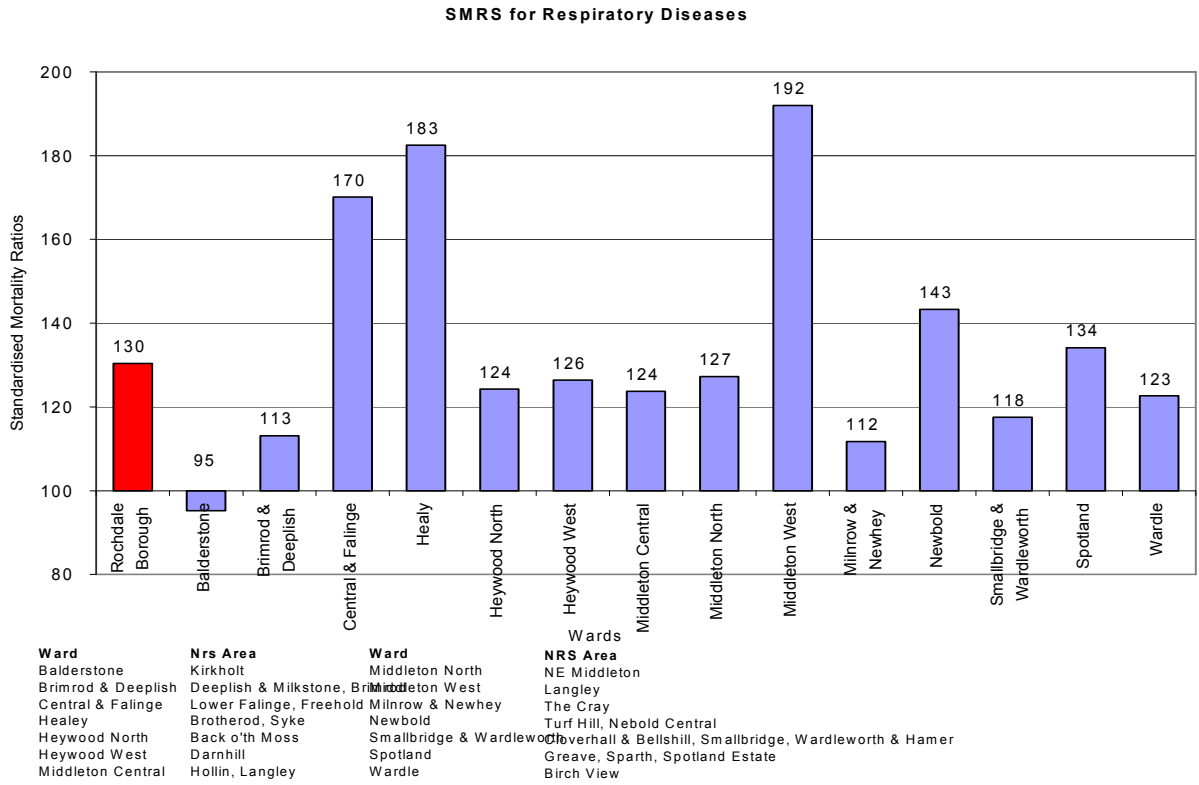
Source: Rochdale PCT

Graph 18: Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) for Circulatory Diseases 1997-1999



Source: Rochdale PCT

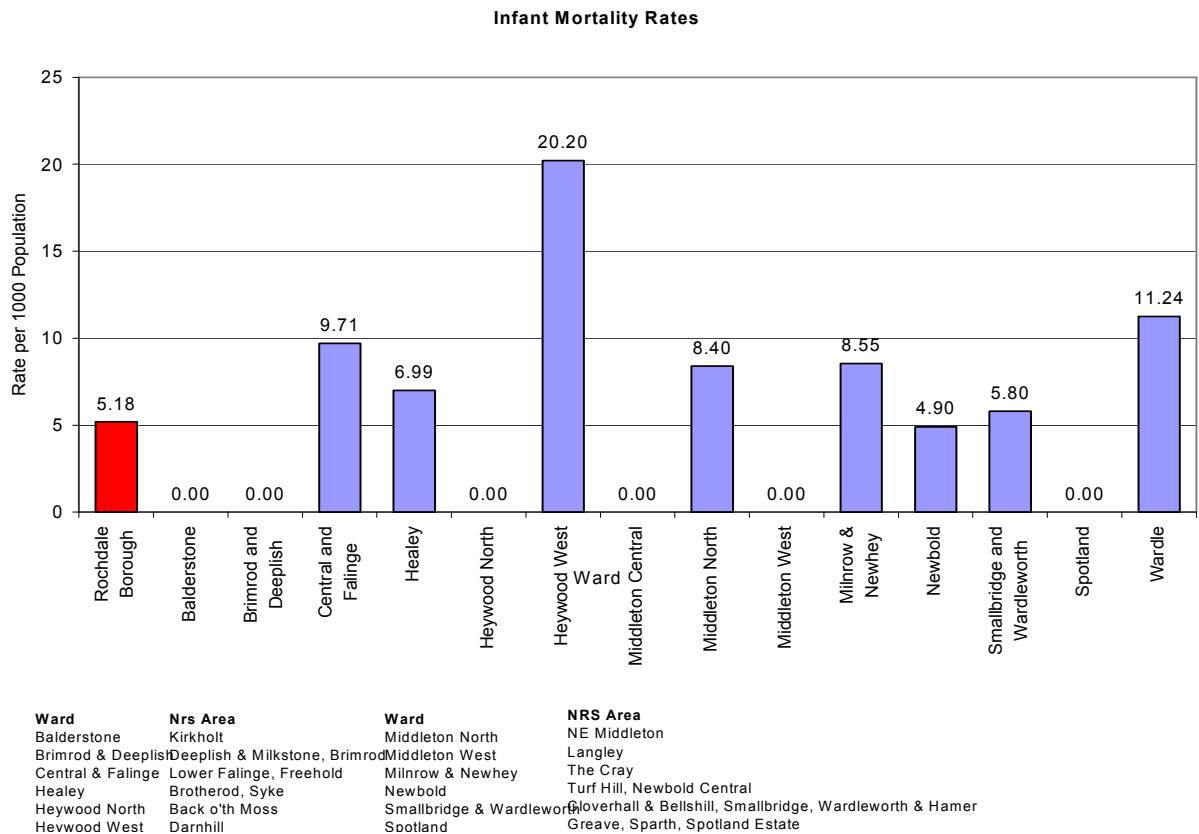
Graph 19: Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) for Respiratory Diseases 1997-1999



Source: Rochdale PCT

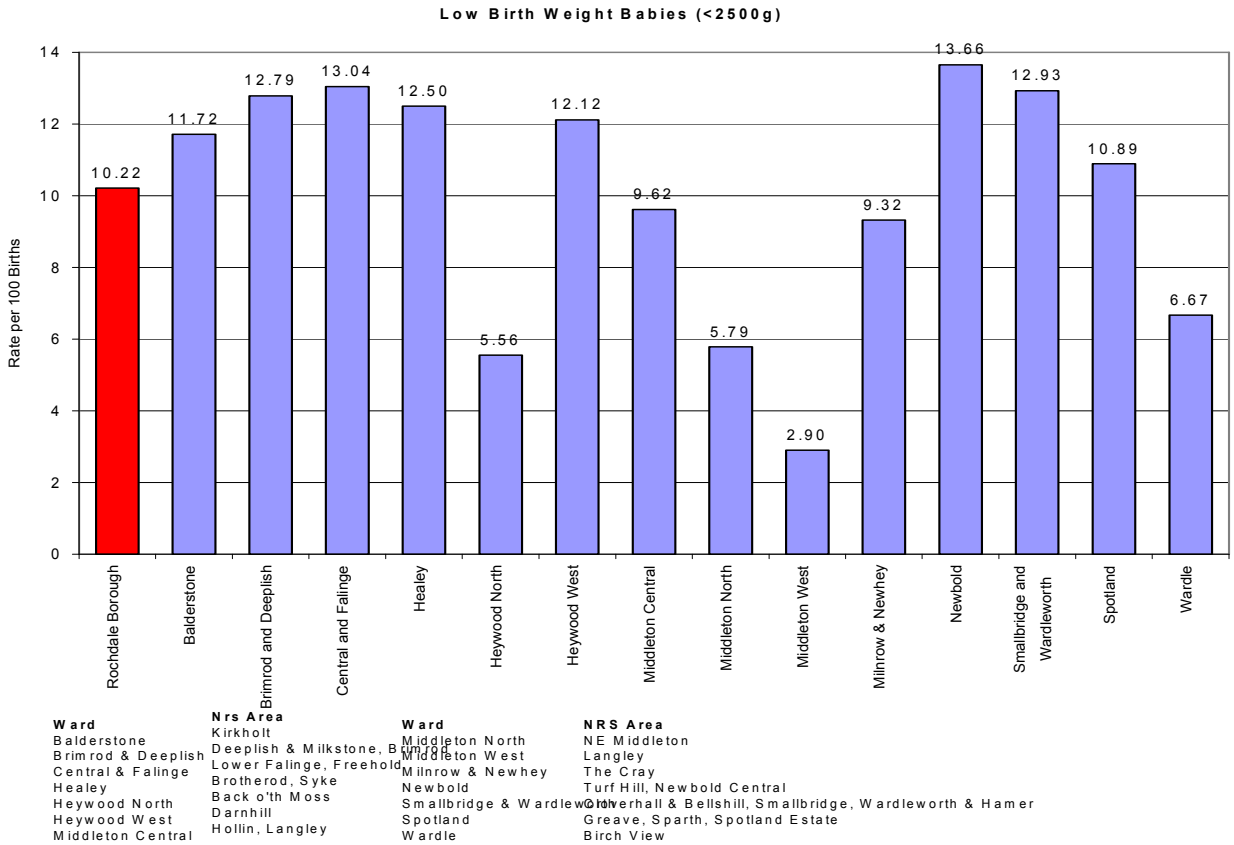
The infant mortality rate correlates strongly with poor health in the first few weeks of life. The infant mortality rate in Wardle was high at 11.24 in 2002.

Graph 20: Infant Mortality Rates by Ward, 2002



Source: Rochdale PCT

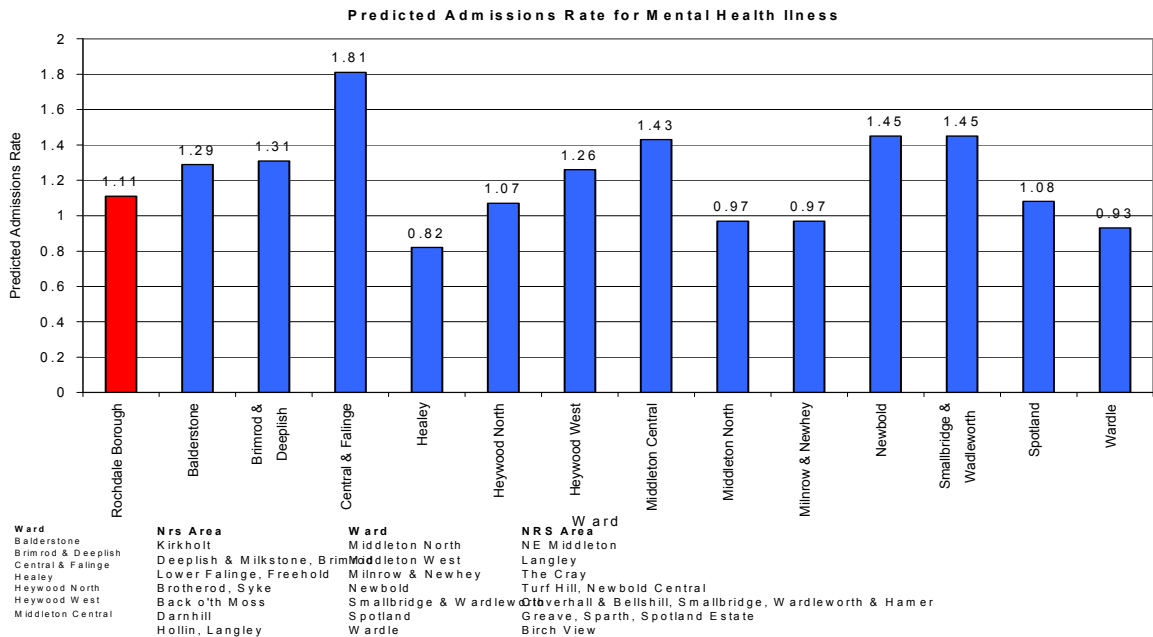
Graph 21: Low Birth Weight Babies (< 2,500g) by Ward, 2002



Source: Rochdale PCT

The rate of low birth-weight babies (< 2,500g) in Wardle is 6.67, lower than the borough total of 10.22.

Graph 22: Predicted Admissions for Mental Health Illness 2000 by Ward



Source: Rochdale PCT

Poor mental health can lead to a variety of forms of social exclusion including long-term unemployment, homelessness, alcohol and substance misuse and social isolation. More than half of the adults with mental health problems in employment are on low incomes.

In Wardle the predicted admissions rate for people with mental health problems is 0.93 per 100,000 people. This is lower than the borough average of 1.11 per 100,000 people.

Crime

The nature of deprived areas often means that they face higher than average crime rates. Crime has been recognised as both a symptom and a cause of deprivation. In deprived areas high crime rates can discourage people from setting up new businesses and hamper existing ones. They stifle the housing market and scare off crucial service providers for example GP's.

Factors producing the greatest explanation for different crime levels were residential instability, low socio-economic status and high levels of family disruption. Communities where both people and buildings appear disorderly sent out the visual message that the community is out of control and therefore may attract more crime. Signs of disorder undermine social control, residents shrink into their dwellings and take less interest in the public space.

Fear of crime is greatest amongst the poorest communities, and the risk of crime is also genuinely greater. The fear of crime may cause individuals to withdraw physically and psychologically from community life. The lack of neighbourhood cohesion, neighbourhood incivility and the perception of high neighbourhood crime levels contribute to being afraid of crime and the risk of victimisation. Community action is both a way of combating crime and a way of countering fear of crime. The experience of crime can have an impact on both physical and mental health.

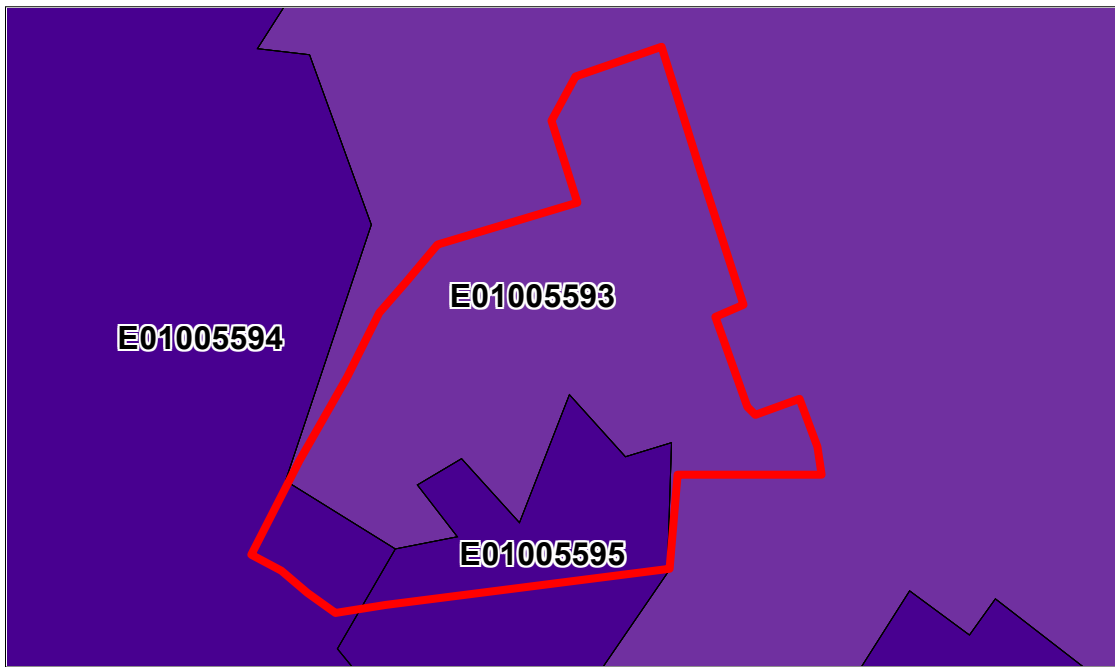
The experience of burglary can disproportionately affect low-income households. Such households are often unable to afford contents insurance especially when living in areas where premiums are extortionately high. Low-income households may not be able to afford security measures and are therefore more likely to worry about crime.

Table 10: Crime Deprivation

SOA	RANK (Where 1 is the most deprived)	PERCENTILE (%)
E01005593	6,512	30
E01005594	2,854	10
E01005595	1,648	10

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

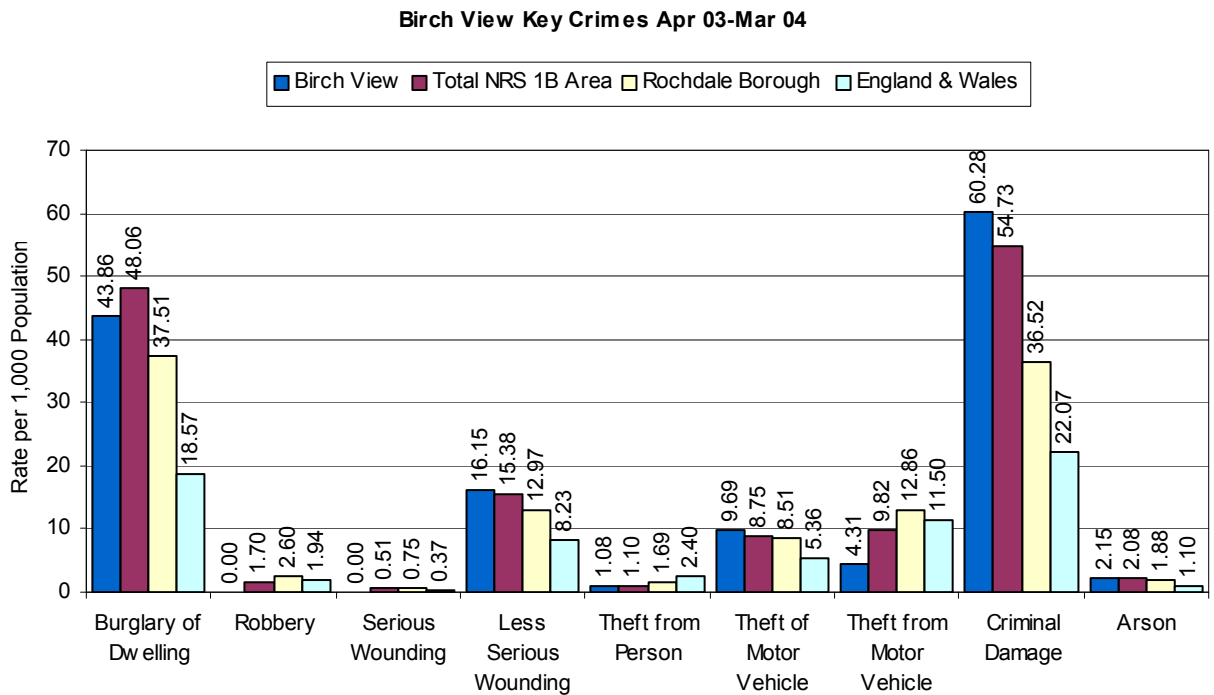
Map 7: Crime Deprivation in Birch View



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Crime Deprivation in Birch View is high. Birch View SOAs were ranked between 1,648 and 6,512 and therefore fall between the worst 10% and the worst 30% of SOAs in the country.

Graph 23: Key Crimes Apr 03 - Mar 04



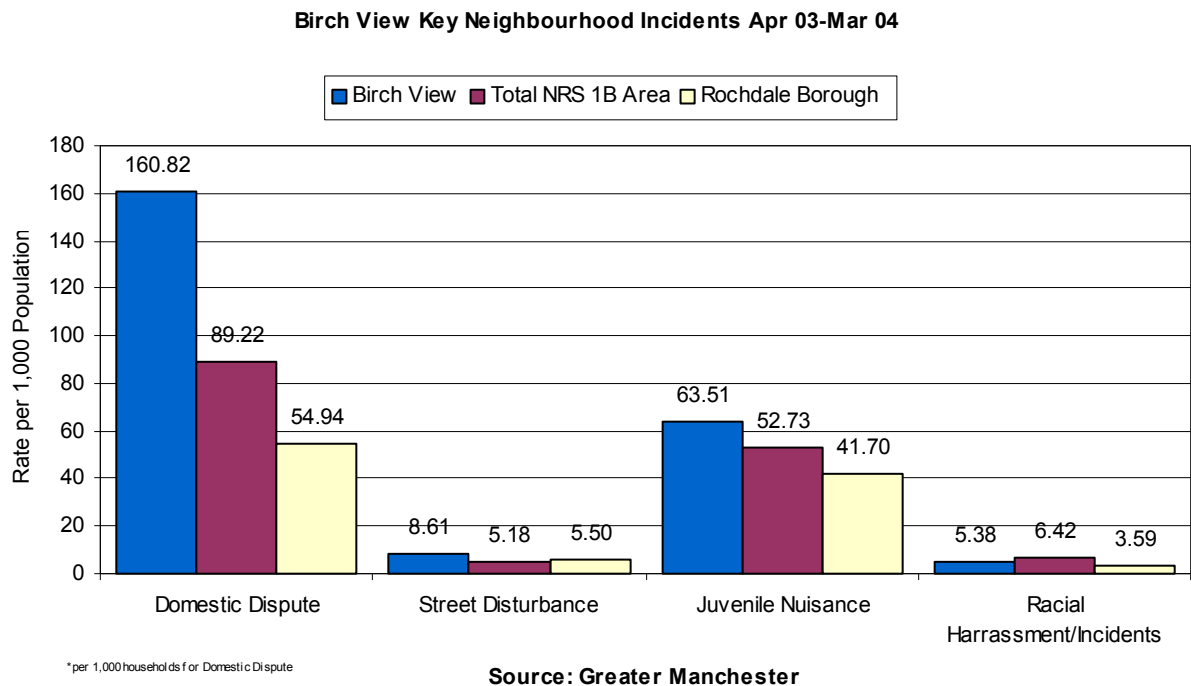
* - per 1,000 households for Burglary of Dwelling

Source: Greater Manchester Police

'Key crimes' cover a selection of crimes as recorded by the police. Many other crimes are not covered here, (e.g. murder, kidnap, possession of firearm etc.); this is because these are so few in numbers their numbers cannot be impacted on at neighbourhood level. Further to this it must also be remembered that all recorded offences by the police does not include all criminal offences taken place within that time period; there are many crimes which go undetected.

Birch View has around two and a half times as high a rate of Burglary of Dwelling than England & Wales as a whole, and around a five times higher rate than England and Wales. Birch View also has over one and a half times the rate of criminal damage compared with Rochdale borough and nearly three times the rate for England and Wales. Criminal damage as defined by the law means 'deliberately, or recklessly, destroying or damaging a home, building, vehicle or other item that belongs to somebody else', and would also include racially aggravated criminal damage which, for the purposes of this report, is not classified separately. There are also slightly higher rates of less serious wounding and theft of motor vehicle. Other key crimes such as arson, robbery, serious wounding etc. are extremely small in number and so not of significance.

Graph 24: Key Neighbourhood Incidents Apr 03 – Mar 04



All reports of incidents, whether by a victim, witness or third party, will result in registration by the police, however an incident will only be recorded as a 'crime' if, on the balance of probability, the circumstances as reported amount to a crime as defined by law and there is no available evidence to suggest otherwise. Domestic disputes, street disturbances and juvenile nuisances are therefore crime-related incidents and not actual recorded crimes themselves, and as such can cover a wide range of activities, (for instance youths causing annoyance on street corners would be classed as 'juvenile nuisance', etc.). 'Racially Aggravated Incidents' are incidents which are reported to the police where no crime has taken place, that are deemed to have a racial aspect to the problem. This is often dependent on the officer's perception upon arrival of the scene, and so may frequently be a subjective, rather than objective, classification of events. At present there is no national comparator for incident rates as they are not subject to the same National Recording Standard as recorded crimes.

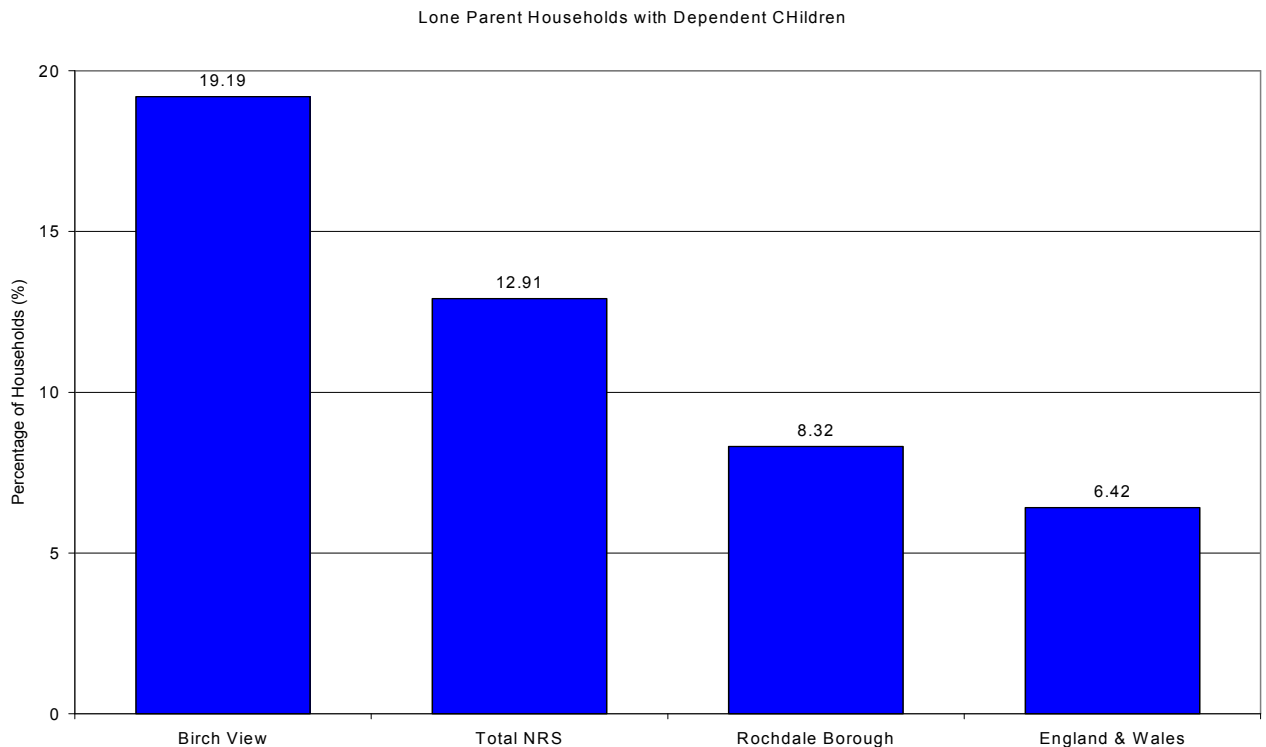
In terms of crime-related incidents Birch View has an extremely high level of 'domestic disputes', nearly three times that of the NRS 1B area as a whole and three times that of the Borough average. It also has one and a half times the level of 'juvenile nuisance' than the Borough as a whole. The levels of 'street disturbance', (i.e. public order problems reported to the police that are not crimes), and 'racially aggravated incidents' are roughly the same as the total NRS 1B area and the Rochdale Borough, and the slight difference that there is would not be considered significant.

Children

At the end of the 20th century children in Britain were some of the poorest in Europe and the 'developed' world. There are several factors which serve to make children particularly vulnerable to experiencing poverty. These are as follows; living in a lone parent family, living in an ethnic minority, living in a large family, living in a family where there is an adult or child with a long-term illness or disability and either living in a workless home or one dependent on low pay.

In Birch View one in three (35%) of the population are children aged between 0 and 15 years, and 12% are children aged 0-4 years.

Graph 25: Lone Parent Households with Dependent Children

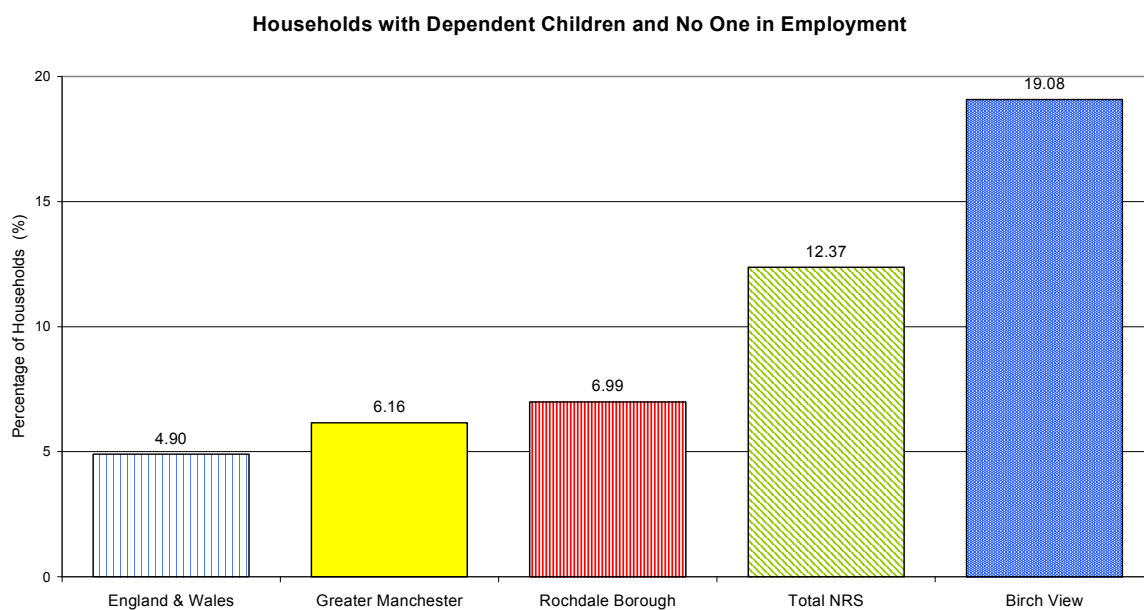


Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 20, Crown copyright 2003

Children who live within lone parent families are more likely to experience life reliant on the lowest levels of means tested benefit. The majority of lone parents are women and children in these households tend to stay poorer for longer. The number of children living in lone parent households is steadily increasing. Living in a lone parent family should not inevitably lead to poverty but this is affected by access to adequate work and childcare. In Birch View 19.19% of households are comprised of lone parents with dependent children. This is higher than the average for the NRS Phase 1B areas (12.91%) and for the Rochdale Borough (8.32%).

Lone mothers head an increasing number of households in Britain and have higher rates of ill health than all other mothers.

Graph 26: Percentage of Households with Dependent Children and No Adult in Employment



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 21, Crown copyright 2003

The employment status of the household which children live in also presents a major risk for child poverty. In 1995/96 the UK had the highest rate of children in workless households across the EU. Worklessness creates an economic disadvantage but also creates the potential for stress and tension within a family. It also has the danger of limiting a child's aspirations and social contacts. In Birch View 19% of households have dependent children and no adult in employment. This is an extremely high level – nearly three times the level in Rochdale borough as a whole and nearly four times that in England and Wales.

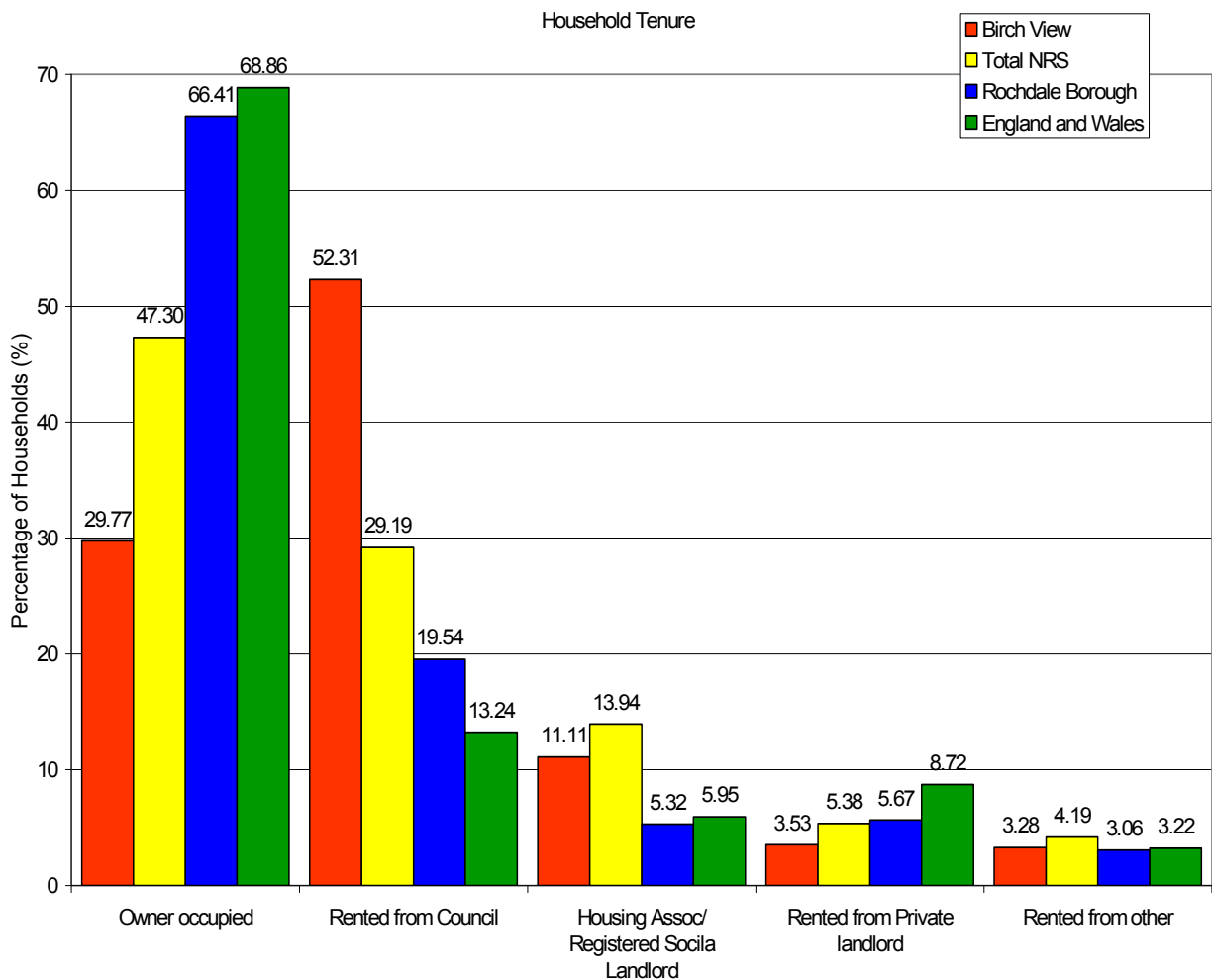
Housing

Access to decent housing is essential to the development of strong, successful and sustainable communities. In deprived areas, improving poor housing can boost the health and prospects of local people and stimulate renewal.

The Indices of Deprivation 2004 included a domain on the Living Environment. This was made up of indicators on housing quality and also outdoor environment quality (air pollution and road traffic accidents).

In Birch View there are 360 household spaces. A household space refers to the accommodation occupied by an individual household or, if unoccupied, available for an individual household. (Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 16 & 18, Crown Copyright 2003).

Graph 27: Household Tenure



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 18, Crown copyright 2003

In Birch View the majority of households rent their property from the council (52.31%). This is higher than the percentage of households who rent their property from the council in the Rochdale Borough (19.54%) and England and Wales (13.24%). Only 29.77% of households in Birch View own their own home. This is significantly lower than the percentage in both the Rochdale Borough and England and Wales.

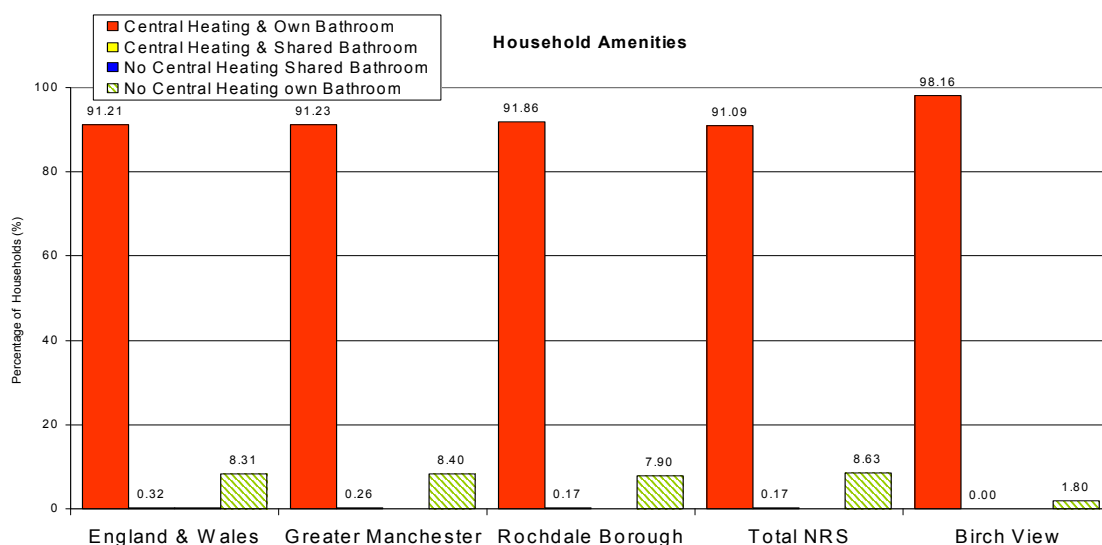
Table 11: Living Environment Deprivation

SOA	RANK (Where 1 is the most deprived)	PERCENTILE (%)
E01005593	23,778	80
E01005594	22,546	80
E01005595	11,025	40

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Living environment deprivation in Birch View is low. The SOAs which lie within Birch View were ranked between 11,025 and 23,778 out of 32,482 and therefore fall between the worst 40% and 80% of the worst SOAs in the country.

Graph 28: Household Amenities



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 19, Crown copyright 2003

Poor and unsuitable housing is related to low income. When people cannot afford to repair their homes and keep them damp free and when homes are over crowded there is an adverse effect on quality of life and health. Those with the lowest income have the least choice about their housing situation, with the most vulnerable groups often having to live in the least desirable housing. In Birch View the level of household amenities is very high, with virtually all households having central heating and their own bathroom.

Table12: Percentage of Properties in each Council Tax Band

Band	% Of Properties
A	97.08
B	2.05
C	0.29
U	0.58

Source: Rochdale M.B.C, Council Tax

In Birch View 97% of properties are in Council Tax Band A, compared with 57.9% in the Rochdale Borough. The valuation for properties in Band A is under £40,000. However, this is not the real sale value of the properties in this band as they are based on rental value calculated before the Council Tax was introduced in 1993.

Table13: Average Property Prices By Financial Year

Year	Birch View	Rochdale Borough
01/04/00 - 31/03/01	£23,255.00	£59,212.76
01/04/01 - 31/03/02	£24,666.00	£64,741.20
01/04/02 - 31/03/03	£31,119.00	£73,398.04
01/04/03 - 31/03/04	£41,991.00	£86,160.18

Source: HM Land Registry, Crown Copyright 2004

The table above shows that since April 2000 there has been an increase in property prices in both the Rochdale Borough and Birch View. Despite the increase in property prices in both areas the average price of property in the Rochdale Borough is 50% higher than the of Birch View.

There are a very low number of voids (properties empty for more than 6 months) In Birch View (o.29%). (Source: Rochdale MBC Council Tax).

Table 14: barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation

SOA	RANK (Where 1 is the most deprived)	PERCENTILE (%)
E01005593	7,314	30
E01005594	9,636	30
E01005595	14,379	50

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Barriers to housing and services deprivation has two sub-domains, geographical barriers and wider barriers which include issues relating to access to housing such as affordability. In Birch View the level barriers to housing and services deprivation is relatively low. All of the SOAs in Birch View fall within the worst 30% or above.

Bibliography

- Burchardt, T. (2003). "Disability, capability and social exclusion". In Millar, J (ed). "Understanding Social Security, The Policy Press, Bristol
- Burrows, R. (2003). "Poverty and Home Ownership in Contemporary Britain". The Policy Press, Bristol.
- Camina, M. (2004). "Understanding and Engaging in Deprived Communities" Home Office Report Online. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/rdsolr0704.pdf>.
- Department for Education and Skills. (2001). "Youth Cohort Study: The activities and experiences of 16 year olds: England and Wales". www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics.
- Department of Trade and Industry. (1998). "Our Competitive Future: Building the Knowledge Drive Economy: The Competitiveness White Paper". The Stationery Office, London.
- Department of Work and Pensions. (2002). "The Abstract of Statistics". Stationery Office, London.
- Darton, D and Strelitz, J. (eds). (2003). "Tackling UK Poverty and Disadvantage in the twenty-first century. An explanation of the issues". Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- Feinstein L. and Symons J. (1999). "Attainment in Secondary School". Oxford Economic Papers, 51:Pg. 300-321.
- Gordon, D. Adelman, L. et al (2000). "Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain" Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- Green, A. (1999). "Problems of Measuring Participation in the Labour Market". in Dorling, D and Simpson, S. (eds). "Statistics in Society. The Arithmetic of Politics" Arnold, London.
- Home Office. (2000). "The 2000 British Crime Survey: England and Wales". Home Office, London.
- Home Office. (2001). "Recorder Crime Statistics: England and Wales" Home Office, London.
- HM Treasury. (2004). "Child Poverty Review". HM Treasury, London.
- Lupton, R (2003) "Poverty Street – The dynamics of Neighbourhood Decline and Renewal" The Policy Press
- Manson, D. (ed) (2003). "Explaining Ethnic Differences: Changing Patterns of Disadvantage on Britain". The Policy Press, Bristol. Chapters 4, 5, 7 and 9.
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (July 2002) "Factsheet 7: Crime and Neighbourhood Renewal". Neighbourhood Renewal Unit.
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (July 2002) "Factsheet 17: Education, Skills and Neighbourhood Renewal". Neighbourhood Renewal Unit.
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (July 2002) "Factsheet 14: Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal". Neighbourhood Renewal Unit.
- Oldham M.B.C (2001). "Social Inclusion Audit". Policy, Performance and Regeneration. Policy and Partnership Division.

Ridge, T (2002). “Childhood Poverty and Social Exclusion: From a Child’s Perspective”. The Policy Press, Bristol.

Shaw, M. Dorling, D. Gordon, D and Smith, G. D. (2003). “ The Widening Gap: health Inequalities and Policy in Britain”. The Policy Press, Bristol.

Social Inclusion Unit. (April 2002) “A National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal: A Framework for Consultation”.

Social Inclusion Unit (March 2001) “Preventing Social Exclusion”.

Sutherland, H. Sefton, T. Piachaud, D. (2003). “Poverty in Britain: The Impact of the Government and Policy since 1997”. Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York.