The Population of Disabled Children and Young People in Brighton and Hove

The aim of this report is to describe what we know about the population of disabled children and young people in Brighton and Hove. We look at the distribution of children across the city, child deprivation and child disability. We have analysed data from:

- the Compass
- the Indices of Deprivation (ID 2007) and
- the numbers of children receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Until recently the smallest geographical areas at which data, such as Census and ID data, was published was ward level. Different wards can vary widely in area (and population) and most are too large to be useful for pinpointing small areas of deprivation (see below).

Brighton and Hove ward map

1 Brunswick and Adelaide
2 Central Hove
3 East Brighton
4 Goldsmid
5 Hangleton and Knoll
6 Hanover and Elm Grove
7 Hollingbury and Stanmer
8 Moulsecoomb and Bevendean
9 North Portslade
10 Patcham
11 Preston Park
12 Queens Park
13 Regency
14 Rottingdean Coastal
15 St Peters and North Laine
16 South Portslade
17 Stanford
18 Westbourne
19 Wish
20 Withdean
21 Woodingdean
Super output areas (SOAs) are new geographical reporting units that have been introduced to help overcome these limitations. They are designed to have similar numbers of residents (an average of 1,500 and a minimum of 1,000), so that more meaningful comparisons between different areas can be made. They are constrained by ward boundaries, so data can be aggregated to provide ward level information.

These “lower layer” SOAs have also been combined into larger units, known as “middle layer” SOAs (MSOAs). MSOAs have a minimum of 5,000 residents and fit into local authority boundaries but not ward boundaries.

Brighton and Hove has 164 SOAs. How these relate to the city’s 21 wards and 33 middle layer SOAs is shown below.
Below we have reproduced a map showing the East, West, and Central Children’s Centre Areas. The three main areas are made up of 17 smaller areas. But in a number of cases their boundaries don’t coincide with SOA boundaries. So data reported at SOA level (such as ID data) can’t be directly overlaid onto them.

Because the city is surrounded by downland, there are large areas north of the A27 and in parts of the east of Brighton where few people live. So in the SOAs that include such land, most of the residents live in just a small part of the SOA.

For example in the North Portslade and Hangleton and Knoll wards (shown opposite, with their constituent SOAs), only small segments of their most northerly SOAs extend south of the A27 (compare this map to the one above). But the segments south of the A27 are where almost all the people in these SOAs live.

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1 from: East Area Contacts and Service Directory, CYPT, 2007
To plan provision the CYPT and services such as the Children’s Disability Service need to know how many children there are in the city, and where they live.

The map below shows the number of under 16s living in each MSOA of Brighton and Hove\(^2,3\). Maps comparing the distribution of the total population, the numbers of under 16 year olds, 16-59 year olds and older people are presented in appendix one. Each map has a distinct and different pattern, meaning that people in each age group are distributed differently within the city.

**Under 16s**

![Map showing the number of under 16s in each MSOA of Brighton and Hove](image)

For under 16s, the age group this report focuses on:
- the numbers are lowest in MSOAs in the central seafront area.
- they tend to increase with increasing distance from the city centre.
- But there are also hotspots – the most intense one being in East Brighton.

Many disabled children live in poverty\(^4\), so they are over-represented in the more deprived areas within local authorities. Amaze has reported that the proportions of children on the Compass are *several times* higher in the more deprived areas of Brighton and Hove than in the least deprived areas.

\(^2\) MSOA level maps are used here since they are good for identifying trends (compared to ward maps that are cruder and LSOA maps that are highly detailed)

\(^3\) The population data is from the ONS 2005 population estimates.

\(^4\) For example, see: Disabled Children and Child Poverty. EDCM briefing paper, 2007.
To plan the delivery of services for disabled children it is important to consider where, and how many, deprived children there are. This information would also be useful to many other children’s services, for targeting services to the most socially excluded and hardest to reach children.

The Indices of Deprivation are the Government’s official measure of deprivation at small area level. The deprivation characteristics of every SOA in England are scored across seven ‘domains’ and the SOAs are ranked in order of deprivation. SOAs in different parts of the country (within the same local authority or in different local authorities) can then be compared to one another. An Index of Multiple Deprivation (the IMD), formed by combining the seven domain indices, is often used to provide a snapshot of deprivation within a local authority. In appendix one the IMD map for Brighton and Hove together with maps for some of the domain indices are shown.

A major reason for this massive data collection and collation exercise is that it enables pockets of deprivation to be identified (that are often obscured in ward level reporting). This means that local services can direct their resources appropriately.

Lack of income is a major factor in deprivation. Usually people experiencing severe deprivation also have very little income or other resources. The ID 2007 includes two additional indices that measure income deprivation in specific age groups. These focus on under 16 year olds and on older people. Their maps are compared on page 6.

In each map the SOAs in Brighton and Hove have been ranked in order of deprivation and colour-coded depending on whether they are in the least deprived (lightest shading) or more deprived quarters of SOAs in Brighton and Hove.

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5 These are income, employment, health and disability, education, skills and training, barriers to housing and services, living environment and crime.

6 The IMD provides some measure of the relative deprivation of different areas, but its derivation is complex. The different indices, that have different measurement scales, are combined according to different weighting.

7 Termed the “Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index” and the “Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index”
The child-specific index shows more intense deprivation in the eastern tract and in the west, compared to the older people-specific index. The differences raise some concerns about how representative of under 16s the wider IMD is.
The child income deprivation index records the proportions of children living in income deprivation in each SOA. It reveals enormous differences in the proportions of children affected by income deprivation in different parts of the city - the scores range from 4% to 74%. Thirty four SOAs in Brighton and Hove are in the most deprived 20% (quintile) in England for children living in income deprivation. More than 35% of children in each of them live in income deprivation. 15 of these SOAs - one in the west and the rest in the east - rank amongst the 10% (decile) most deprived in England. Most of the remaining 19 are adjacent to the SOAs in the most deprived decile.

The map opposite focuses on an eastern tract of the city. The SOAs where more than 50% of children live in income deprivation are shaded. Wards are overlaid to help the reader see where in the city these SOAs are.

They form two regions. One extends from the northern half of East Brighton ward into Hanover and Elm Grove and Moulsecoomb and Bevendean. The other includes parts of Moulsecoomb and Bevendean ward and Hollingbury and Stanmer ward.

(One more SOA has over 50% of children living in income deprivation. It is in the west – it is shaded dark blue in the map above.)
Knowing that children living in different areas of the city face such different levels of income deprivation may help service providers appreciate the different circumstances of families. Providers need to reflect on how this may affect: how families access services, how they present to services, how they take up what is on offer for their children.

However, when it comes to delivering services for individual children, it’s important to know about the numbers of children living in deprivation in an area, not just the proportions.

In the following map the numbers of children living in deprivation have been estimated. The estimates suggest that 50 children or less are living in income deprivation in most SOAs. However, seven SOAs in the eastern tract each have over 200 children living in income deprivation.

The exact relationship between income deprivation and childhood disability is difficult to categorise. Nevertheless, the extreme polarisation in the numbers of children living in income deprivation should be considered when apportioning resources.

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8 This was done using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index from ID 2007, and 2005 population estimates. How accurately this map reflects the numbers of children living in income deprivation depends on how good the income deprivation index is at measuring this type of deprivation. The data used to construct the ID 2007 is now several years old.
In Brighton and Hove the two sources of data that tell us something about the numbers of disabled children are the Compass and the data published by the DWP on the numbers of children claiming DLA.

In the following two maps we show the numbers of children and young people currently on the Compass (top panel) and the numbers of under 16s claiming DLA (in February 2008).

**Children and young people (aged 0-19) on the Compass**

![Children and young people on the Compass map]

**Under 16s claiming DLA**

![Under 16s claiming DLA map]

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9 In this case all children and young people on the Compass were included (not just the under 16s), in order to maximise the numbers per SOA.

10 The majority of SOAs have 5 or fewer claimants. Therefore the DWP rounds the numbers up or down to the nearest 5.
Both maps bear remarkable overall similarity to the map showing the numbers of children living in income deprivation, except that the total numbers of children are much lower.

We know that not all families with disabled children successfully claim DLA for their children. Without expert assistance, the most deprived and socially excluded families are the least likely to get DLA. Similarly, the Compass is a voluntary registration database so not every disabled child is registered. Disabled children in the most deprived areas are likely to be under-represented as extra effort is needed to make sure parents in these areas hear about the Compass and are supported to register.

So we anticipate that the numbers of disabled children are overall higher than shown in these maps and that the numbers in the most deprived areas are the most underestimated.

**Numbers**

There are 40,728 under 16s in the city.
10,116 – a quarter of them - live in SOAs that rank in the most deprived quintile in England for income deprivation affecting children (see page 7)
4.6% of them live in the seven SOAs that rank in the least deprived quintile.

There are 10,263 under 16s in the city living in income deprivation.
5,082 – half of them - live in the SOAs that rank in the most deprived quintile.
0.8% of them live in the seven SOAs that rank in the least deprived quintile.

There are 1,340 under 16s in the city getting DLA
640 – 48% of them - live in the SOAs that rank in the most deprived quintile.
2.6% of them live in the seven SOAs that rank in the least deprived quintile.

There are 832 under 16s on the Compass
374 – 45% of them - live in the SOAs that rank in the most deprived quintile.
2.2% of them live in the seven SOAs that rank in the least deprived quintile.

The proportion of children in the UK that are disabled is not known. Current estimates range from 5 to 7%; and the proportions of disabled children may differ somewhat from area to area. If we consider the conservative estimate of 5% then we would expect there to be just over 2,000 disabled under 16 year olds in Brighton and Hove.
The numbers of under16s on the Compass in each of the CYPT areas

30% are in the West area
West Hove 51
East Hove 31
Hangleton 28
Knoll & Stanford 44
North Portslade 58
South Portslade 38
total 250

29% are in the Central Area
Cityview 61
Hollingdean 33
Hollingdean Plus 3
Patcham 51
Preston Park 31
Tarner 64
total 243

41% are in the East Area
Kemp Town & Queens Park 37
Moulsecoomb Bevendean & Coldean 148
Rottingdean & Saltdean 19
Whitehawk 97
Woodingdean 38
total 339

Multiple Deprivation

As the Compass asks about families’ circumstances, we are able to find out whether families experience multiple deprivation. We have found that almost double the proportion of families living in SOAs in the most deprived decile of SOAs in England experience multiple deprivation than in the least deprived decile.11

The greater complexity of issues for families experiencing multiple deprivation is another reason why services should consider directing a greater proportion of their resources to these areas. And again this demands that service providers consider how this pattern of multiple deprivation may affect families’ capacity to access and take up services.

Below we have mapped some data on the 832 under 16 year olds on the Compass who live in Brighton and Hove. Because the numbers involved are relatively low we have done this at ward level. In these maps no data is shown for the four central seafront wards, because each has less than 20 children on the Compass.

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11 The factors scored were: having more than one child on the Compass, living in housing parents considered inadequate for the child’s needs, being a sole carer, a main carer being ill or disabled.
The first map shows the proportions of the under 16s in Brighton and Hove on the Compass.

The proportions are several times higher in East Brighton and Mouslecoomb and Bevendean wards than in wards such as Withdean and Stanford.

The rest of the maps report on what proportions of under 16s on the Compass in each ward are affected by a variety of factors.

**Proportions of under 16s on the Compass that have a sole carer**

**Proportions that have a sick or disabled carer**
Proportions living in housing their parents consider inadequate for their child’s needs

Proportions with severely challenging behaviour

Proportions excluded from school (fixed term or permanent exclusions) in the year
Often, the wards with high proportions of children affected include some combination of East Brighton, Moulsecoomb and Bevendale, North Portslade, South Portslade, and Hangleton and Knoll.

But relatively high proportions of the children on the Compass who live in Patcham have been excluded from school and relatively high proportions have been bullied at school. Interestingly, Patcham has already been targeted by local education services as an action area for reducing the numbers of children at risk of school exclusion.

In our previous report *Short break and related services: analysis of information from the Compass*, we sub-grouped the children on the Compass according to what schools they attended in order to broadly reflect the severity of their needs. We noted that, compared to the group that included all those at mainstream schools and units, a higher proportion of those at local special schools were from less deprived areas.

We have described here how deprived and disabled children are concentrated in small areas of Brighton and Hove. Together these findings raise important questions. Are there different spectra of disabilities amongst children living in more and less deprived circumstances? Or are disabled children’s needs in the more deprived areas less likely to be recognised and met? Perhaps both are true.

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Appendix 1 – The Population of Brighton and Hove

All People

Under 16s
Appendix 2 – Deprivation Indices for Brighton and Hove

In each case the SOAs in Brighton and Hove have been ranked in order of deprivation and colour-coded depending on whether they are in the least deprived (lightest shading) or more deprived quarters of SOAs in Brighton and Hove.

IMD

Health and Disability
Environment

Education, Skills and Training

Barriers to Housing and Services