

**WALSALL RACIAL EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY
AUDIT, REVIEW AND PLAN**

FULL REPORT

August 2004

**Research and development report
prepared for Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership
by Race Equality West Midlands
in association with the Commission for Racial Equality Midlands Region
and West Midlands Race Equality Councils and Partnerships.**

Race Equality West Midlands

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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Executive summary</i>	3
<i>Glossary of acronyms used in this report</i>	20
1. Introduction: the project brief	22
2. Walsall: ethnic differences in local context	28
3. Race equality in national context	51
4. Perspectives of people and politicians on race equality in Walsall	84
5. The role of the voluntary and community sector, including black and minority ethnic organisations, in the promotion of race equality	104
6. Public authorities and the promotion of race equality	122
7. The Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and the promotion of race equality	142
8. Criteria for successful local equality provision	163
9. The Walsall Partnership for Equality and Cohesion	181
10. Towards a Walsall race equality strategy	199
Recommendations	208
Appendix A: Research methods	210
Appendix B: Initial response from the Commission for Racial Equality	218
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	221
<i>Bibliography and references</i>	223

Executive summary

1. Introduction: the project brief

ES1 The project brief was:

- to gather evidence of racial inequality, disadvantage and discrimination in Walsall.
- to undertake an audit of the views on race relations and community cohesion of randomly-selected residents of Walsall.
- to make a record of the needs of the main ethnic groups in Walsall by ward and local neighbourhood.
- to consult with Walsall's black and minority ethnic organisations on their perception of race and other inequalities in Walsall.
- to seek the views of Walsall Metropolitan Borough councillors on the function and role of race and other equality work at local level.
- to interview lead officers of public authorities and other key personnel involved with the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership on how best to promote race equality at local level.
- to make proposals for a possible racial equality and diversity structure and strategy for Walsall.
- to set out the purpose, functions, structure, strategic positioning, interconnectivity and funding requirements of any proposed racial equality organisation and to produce a draft plan to illustrate the nature of its activities.

ES2 The project report is based on an extensive research exercise. Information was gathered from existing sources, postal questionnaires, and face-to-face and telephone interviews.

ES3 The report provides evidence of racial inequality and of the policy responses to it, local perceptions of race relations and inequality, public authority and partnership responses to racial inequality and community fragmentation, and recommendations for local equality promotional activity in Walsall: a Walsall Partnership for Equality and Cohesion.

2. Walsall: ethnic differences in local context

ES4 Walsall is part of the West Midlands conurbation, together with Birmingham and the neighbouring Black Country boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, and Wolverhampton. It has a population of 253,482, of which 37,530, or 14.8%,

are from black and minority ethnic groups, the largest of which are Indian, followed by Pakistani, Mixed, Black Caribbean and African, and Bangladeshi. Of the total Walsall population, Christians form 72%, followed by Muslims who make up 5%, Sikhs 3%, and Hindus 2%.

- ES5 The average age of the Walsall population is 38 years. Walsall has a higher proportion of 0 - 4-year-olds and 5 - 15-year olds, and these are found in wards with large black and minority ethnic populations. There are fewer black and minorities of retirement age.
- ES6 In regard to education, Walsall has a lower than average proportion of school students achieving five or more A* - C grades at GCSE level. Within the black and minority ethnic community, 36.5% of boys and 50.0% of girls attained A* - C grades, compared with the national average of 50.7%. Indian pupils achieve the best results, in contrast to Bangladeshis and Pakistanis, who have worse results than other groups.
- ES7 A total of 56 pupils was permanently excluded in 2001, of which 12.5% was from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, mostly Black Caribbean.
- ES8 In regard to housing, there are above-average levels of black and minority ethnic married-couple households with dependent children. The highest proportion of married-couple households with dependent children are found in the Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani communities. Black and minority ethnic communities, especially the Mixed and Black categories, have above average levels of lone-parent households with dependent children. One-family all-pensioner households are more likely to be White.
- ES9 Walsall has a slightly less-than-average rate of overcrowded households but there is a significantly high level of overcrowding among the black and minority ethnic communities, especially in the areas of Palfrey, Pleck and St Matthews.
- ES10 A relatively large proportion of Walsall's social housing is classed as 'non-decent'. Research confirms that, in 2003, people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin were three times more likely than White groups to live in unfit housing. A significantly greater percentage of Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani groups live in owner-occupied households, and fewer are in rented accommodation.
- ES11 Below-average numbers of black and minority ethnic communities are economically active, and their level of unemployment is greater than the Walsall average. Above-average numbers of people of black and minority ethnic origin identified themselves as never working or as long-term unemployed.
- ES12 In Walsall, a high percentage of the general population report their health as 'not good', higher than for the black and minority ethnic population. Conversely, more black and minority ethnic persons report their health as 'good'.

- ES13 Mortality directly associated with diabetes among South Asians is three and a half times that in the general population. Walsall people of Asian ethnic origin also have the highest rates of admission for Coronary Heart Disease.
- ES14 Nationally, Black-Caribbean people are between three and five times more likely to suffer from psychotic illness, including schizophrenia, than other ethnic groups.
- ES15 Pakistani women have higher rates of Common Mental Disorders. Rates of suicide among Asian women in England are more than twice those of young white women.
- ES16 Other information on health differences by ethnicity is provided in respect of HIV and sexually-transmitted infections, the use of tobacco and alcohol, diet and nutrition, physical activity, teenage conception, infant mortality, and accidents.
- ES17 The chapter also provides information on crime rates in Walsall, including the rates of racially-aggravated offences, vehicle crime, domestic burglary, and robbery.

3. Race equality in national context

- ES18 In considering what, if any, kind of race equality provision is required for Walsall, it is necessary to take into account recent or proposed changes occurring at national level to the law and policy relating to equality issues. Local race equality funding and service arrangements need to be explored.
- ES19 In addition, there is a growing awareness of the levels of prejudice and discrimination expressed towards asylum seekers and refugees, Gypsies and Travellers, and certain faith groups, and of the lack of facilities to support them.
- ES20 The following factors will have an important impact on local equality and diversity work:
- Measures to eliminate institutional racism.
 - The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.
 - Audit Commission report (2004) on delivering improved services to local communities.
 - Community cohesion policy.
 - Resurgence of racist far-right parties.
 - Citizenship education.

- The White Paper on a New Commission for Equality and Human Rights.
- The Human Rights Act 1998.
- Changes to the CRE funding arrangements for organisations that promote equal opportunities and good relations.
- Aid for individual complainants of discrimination.
- Support for victims of racial harassment.
- New and potential race equality service user groups.

ES21 All these external factors are currently impacting on local race equality work and structures. Strategic choices have to be made as to what local race equality services are needed and how they are to be delivered. Specialisation and diversification may both be required.

ES22 Specialisation in regard to complainant aid, community development, work on improving relations between different racial groups, anti-harassment networking, and consultancy or consultation on policy matters, is already a feature of race equality organisations and is likely to become more pronounced.

ES23 The White Paper on the Commission for Equality and Human Rights envisages local race equality organisations specialising in promoting good relations between different communities, community cohesion, and inter-ethnic and inter-faith conflict resolution. This more limited set of objectives is already implicit in the CRE's *Getting Results* approach to funding.

ES24 The broader remit of the proposed national Commission for Equality and Human Rights, covering six strands of equality work, could be reflected at local level in the form of an overarching and coordinating umbrella organisation, possibly related, or attached, to the Local Strategic Partnership.

4. Perspectives of people and politicians on race equality in Walsall

ES25 Questionnaires to establish local views on ethnic and race relations in Walsall were sent to randomly-selected electors in each of Walsall's twenty wards. Sixty per cent of those sampled had lived in their local area of Walsall for more than twenty years. More than three quarters of respondents identified themselves strongly as belonging to their local area and to Walsall, and even more strongly to the West Midlands and to Britain.

ES26 Low crime levels were seen as the most important factor in making somewhere a good place to live. Good race relations were seen as less important in this respect. People believed they had little influence over local decision-making.

- ES27 Walsall people selected local shops as the main situation in which they regularly talked with people of different ethnic backgrounds to themselves. A majority, however, thought that Walsall was a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds got on well together and respected one another. Opinion was divided over whether race relations were getting better, staying the same, or getting worse, but 39% of the population thought they were getting worse. Even so, the vast majority thought that Walsall was becoming more integrated, or remaining at the same level of integration, although many thought that there were specific areas of the borough where race relations needed attention. Four areas: Birchills, Blakenall, Caldmore, and Leamore, were thought of as having significantly poor race relations, with eighteen out of twenty-two areas rated as having good or average race relations.
- ES28 A significant proportion of the general population believed that people of black and minority ethnic origin living in Walsall were treated the same or better than white people but, where worse treatment was perceived, it was in relation to employers and the police.
- ES29 Over three fifths of the population believed that the Council should provide opportunities to help people mix with people of different ethnic backgrounds to themselves, that children should be taught at school about different cultures, and that information should be made available to the general public about ethnic diversity, racial equality and different religions.
- ES30 Most people agreed that help should be provided to people who are discriminated against at work. Nevertheless, many of the comments made in the course of the exercise showed a considerable antipathy towards people of other races.
- ES31 All sixty of Walsall's newly-elected councillors were sent questionnaires to establish their views on race equality in Walsall, what should be done to promote race equality, and the current state of community relations. Councillors were asked open and closed-ended questions about how to improve race relations in Walsall. Most believed improvement in public services, raising awareness about others' way of life, campaigning against racist right-wing politicians, and a reduction in the number of asylum seekers, were important tasks. The greatest threat to good race and ethnic relations in Walsall were thought to be the development of ethnically-separate residential areas, the failure to improve public services, the increase in asylum seekers, and electioneering by racist organisations.
- ES32 Three quarters of councillors believed that effective public leadership was currently being provided in Walsall on race equality and community cohesion, but opinions differed over where the responsibility lay for leadership on these matters. All councillors thought that improved public services were important to good race and ethnic relations. All but one of the councillors claimed to have made known publicly their support for multicultural living and equal opportunities in Walsall.

- ES33 Opinions were fairly evenly divided over whether there was a need for an independent local race or other equality organisation in Walsall, but a majority did accept help should be given to victims of harassment and violence, and that expertise should be available in community conflict resolution. The most popular option for local equality work was that of raising public awareness about equality issues.
- ES34 More than half of councillors thought that black and minority ethnic communities received a fair share of public service provision and two thirds thought they were treated fairly by the Council and other public bodies.
- ES35 If there were to be any new equality structure for Walsall, councillors preferred a joint venture between the Council (or to a lesser extent the WBSP) and community groups. Councillors should be included on the board of any new local organisation. Councillors agreed that equality work might be funded in part, but not wholly, by the Council.
- ES36 Councillors met with people of different ethnic backgrounds to themselves. in work situations, local shops, their neighbourhoods, restaurants, pubs, cinemas, and community centres. They agreed that Walsall was a place where people of different ethnic backgrounds got on well together, and where ethnic differences were respected. They believed that ethnic relations had got better or stayed the same, and a majority thought that the borough had become more racially integrated in the last five years.
- ES37 Race relations needed attention in most areas of the town, but only Blakenall was singled out as having poor race relations.
- ES38 Most councillors thought that people of black and minority ethnic origin were treated the same by the Council and other public bodies, but a minority thought they were treated better. Nearly all councillors agreed that opportunities should be provided to help people to mix with people from other ethnic backgrounds, schools should teach about different cultures, and information on ethnic diversity, race equality and different religions should be made available to the general public.

5. The role of the voluntary and community sector, including black and minority ethnic organisations, in the promotion of race equality

- ES39 Voluntary agencies were asked their views on Walsall race relations and local race equality promotional work. Of the organisations surveyed, half claimed to have been approached by people who had suffered from discrimination, harassment or violence. The majority offered general advice or referred clients on. Various specific black and minority ethnic needs were identified and suggestions made as to how needs might better be met or services to clients improved.
- ES40 Voluntary agencies were unanimously in favour of developing a local equality service for Walsall and offered to work closely with it. They were in favour of

a facility that dealt with all strands of equality, not only race. It should have a range of functions including support for victims of harassment and aid for complainants of discrimination. Most voluntary agencies thought that black and minority ethnic communities were treated fairly by the Council and other public bodies.

- ES41 The favoured structure for an equality organisation was a joint venture between the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and Walsall's community groups, possibly with links with the Community Empowerment Network, and with voluntary and community sector representatives on the board. It should be funded by national and local public sector bodies.
- ES42 Voluntary agencies selected the work situation as the place in which people of different ethnicity were most likely to mix. A majority thought Walsall was a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds got on well together. The voluntary sector was optimistic about race relations in Walsall but considered there were areas where race relations needed close attention. Most voluntary sector respondents thought that black and minority ethnic people were treated in the same way as whites by public authorities. Opportunities should be provided to help people of different ethnic backgrounds mix. Support should be given to people who have been discriminated against at work.
- ES43 Community and faith groups, a majority led by people of African-Caribbean or Asian origin, saw themselves not so much as service providers but as pressure groups, speaking up for vulnerable groups, although a third claimed to provide specialist advice, guidance and support. A majority had referred victims of discrimination, harassment, or violence on to other agencies.
- ES44 All community and faith groups supported the development of local race and other equality services for Walsall and many said they would become members of any new organisation. A surprisingly large number of community groups already provided various equality services. Four fifths of respondents thought any new organisation should adopt a multi-strand approach to equality work.
- ES45 Community and faith groups wanted local services that gave aid to complainants of discrimination and victims of harassment. They wanted services to be provided locally across all areas of the borough, possibly in Local Neighbourhood Offices.
- ES46 Three fifths of community and faith groups believed that Walsall Council treated black and minority ethnic people unfairly. There was dissatisfaction with the services of the council and other public bodies. Black and minority ethnic communities had insufficient control over what was provided, treatment was based on cultural stereotypes, and services were not designed to meet black and minority ethnic needs.
- ES47 Various options for the structure of a new equality facility, such as a joint venture between Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and Walsall's

community groups, were favoured. Community groups also supported a board membership of representatives of local voluntary groups and communities. A new equality organisation might be funded by national or local public bodies.

- ES48 Community and faith groups selected local shops, work and their local neighbourhood as situations in which they regularly talked with people of a different ethnic background. Three fifths of respondents thought that Walsall was a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds got on well together. Opinion was fairly evenly divided between those who thought relations between ethnic groups had got better, stayed the same, got worse, or 'didn't know'. Various areas of Walsall were credited with poor race relations. Roughly half of respondents felt that black and minority ethnic people were treated worse than white people by many public authorities.
- ES49 Community and faith groups thought opportunities should be provided to help people of different ethnic backgrounds mix, and support should be given to people who were discriminated against at work.
- ES50 Reports of interviews held with representatives of some of Walsall's community and faith groups provide an insight into the state of race relations in Walsall and further opinion on local race equality provision. The sample of community and faith groups interviewed included the African-Caribbean Social and Economic Regeneration Group (ASCERG), the Black Sisters Collective, the British Bangladeshi Council, Walsall Multifaith Forum, the Sikh Forum, the Trelawney Overseas Relief Association (TORA), and the Union of Muslim Organisations (UMO). Other individuals and organisations who contributed to the survey are listed in Appendix A.

6. Public authorities and the promotion of race equality

- ES51 Walsall's major public authority service providers, like others elsewhere in Britain, are bound under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 by the general duty to promote race equality and most must produce race equality schemes or policies. Many of the schemes examined closely follow the guidelines set out in the CRE's *Code of Practice*, but are weak on the use of base-line (racial monitoring) data, fail to recognise the importance of operating within existing performance management frameworks, and show little evidence of prior or meaningful consultation with the general public or black and ethnic minority communities.
- ES52 A public authority race equality scheme or policy in itself gives little indication of the organisation's effectiveness in promoting race equality. The following questions were posed to obtain a fuller picture of public authority progress.
- Is there a race equality scheme that goes beyond mere legal compliance to impact on and enhance the authority's practice in regard to service provision?

- Is there a competent, influential and effective equality and diversity officer in post?
- Are ethnic data on service need and take-up routinely collected?
- Is the data compiled, interpreted and presented as accessible and relevant management information?
- Is that information actively used in the decision-making process?
- Are there strategies, programmes and projects developed and targeted at alleviating ethnic disadvantage?
- Is there meaningful consultation with (ethnically-differentiated) user groups which results in changes to strategy, services and programmes?
- Are the relationships between the ethnic profile of staff, multi-racial team working, and the possibilities for sensitive and effective service delivery, fully explored and acted on?
- Is there evidence of a feedback loop with service evaluation and modification to strategy?

ES53 These questions are asked in respect of six of Walsall's main service areas: local authority services, education, employment, health, housing, and policing. An assessment is made of progress in public authority race equality promotion. The report takes into account the fact that the social housing stock has been transferred to Walsall Housing Group and its school management contracted to SERCO (Education Walsall).

ES54 Many public authorities provide three levels of service: (i) for the general public (used by all ethnic groups), (ii) for residents of particular geographical areas (impacting on clustered ethnic groups), and (iii) for specific ethnic categories, although the last constitutes a small proportion of total provision. This three-tier approach is often characterised within the organisation as (i) main-stream provision, (ii) area-based initiatives, and (iii) special programmes and projects. Public authorities mount initiatives directed at the same geographical areas of deprivation and at the same disadvantaged ethnic groups. There is a strong argument, practical, financial, and outcome-related, for greater coordination of these initiatives.

ES55 Public authorities in Walsall were asked about their race equality needs. They identified meeting their statutory racial equality duties, the inclusion of ethnic minorities in decision making about services, and the improvement of services generally, as well as specifically, by making them more relevant and sensitive to ethnic minority needs, and the employment of a more representative work force. A significant majority of public authorities supported the development of a local race equality body for the borough, but such a body could only expect to receive public authority support on the basis of its measurable success.

- ES56 Public authorities wanted a body that had a broader remit than just race equality. Any new arrangement should focus on raising public awareness about all strands of equality, assisting public authorities with their equality and diversity policies, and promoting community cohesion. Its aim also had to be that of improving the quality of services and involving wider sections of the community in decision-making.
- ES57 Officers of most public authorities believed that unfairness in the delivery of services arose because the services were not designed, nor thought through, to meet black and minority ethnic needs.
- ES58 It was generally recognised that if any new organisation was to be successful in promoting race equality and community cohesion in Walsall, it would have to be strategically and centrally placed, and effective in encouraging and engaging in joined-up approaches to local service provision.

7. Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and the promotion of race equality

- ES59 There is a strong case for strategically positioning race equality promotion within, or in close proximity to, the LSP. The CRE and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have produced advice for public authorities on how the race equality duty applies to them as members of partnerships. Promoting race equality through partnerships is advocated as a way of meeting the needs of communities, improving the way public services are delivered, contributing to a culture of inclusion and mutual respect for people from different racial groups, preventing racism, and providing anti-discriminatory services.
- ES60 The Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP) was formed in October 2001. Its vision is for Walsall to be prosperous, inclusive and competitive, and for its diverse communities to be involved, safer, healthier, and proud of its future. WBSP emphasises performance management, including evidence-based decision-making, regular monitoring, review and evaluation, links with public authority partner performance management systems, information technology, and financial management.
- ES61 WBSP operates through nine Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs) and six Theme Groups. The Theme Groups are:
- Community Safety and Crime Reduction
 - Economic Forum
 - Environmental and Housing
 - Health, Wellbeing and Social Care
 - Learning Executive Group

Community Engagement and Equality Partnership

- ES62 Each Theme Group has strategic objectives and floor targets. The role that each Theme Group might play in promoting race equality is explored. While the majority of Theme Group targets are ethnically undifferentiated, most Theme Leaders recognise that targets are unlikely to be achieved unless attention is paid to the performance of the individual ethnic groups which collectively constitute the target.
- ES63 Advice on Local Strategic Partnership formation stresses the importance of including local communities and hard-to-reach groups in partnership decision-making and the need to support them in their efforts to participate in partnership activity. Efforts should also be made to engage women, the disabled, older persons, faith and youth groups, and people from black and minority ethnic communities. Many LSPs have attempted to achieve these objectives by relating closely to recently-formed Community Empowerment Networks. The Walsall Community Empowerment Network is a 'network of networked voluntary and community organisations and individuals'. It provides representatives to the recently structured Community Engagement and Equality Partnership, which draws on two constituencies: geographical communities and communities of interest. The seven communities of interest, so far, are voluntary services, younger people, older people, disability, faith, black and minority ethnic communities, and women.
- ES64 The Community Engagement and Equality Partnership, therefore, forms a partnership to promote social inclusion and to influence public policy and service provision. The LSP and CEN provide an ideal context for public authorities to collaborate on drawing up and coordinating measures to promote race equality and community cohesion and for voluntary and community groups to become involved and to be consulted on race equality programmes, projects and schemes.

8. Criteria for successful local equality provision

- ES65 Walsall Strategic Race Equality Partnership was closed in 2003, following the withdrawal of funding by the CRE and WMBC. Walsall was not the only place in the West Midlands to lose its local race equality organisation. Common reasons for race equality organisations failing have been: lack of strategic direction, poor strategic positioning, failure to engage with the service-improvement agenda and other policy development, inadequate leadership and management, and political and communal factionalism within the executive, or between members. Conversely, successful race equality organisations play a strategic role in local affairs, provide valued services, have strong leadership and management, and demonstrate unity of purpose and a high level of achievement.
- ES66 Ten factors are critical to the success of any future facility in Walsall for promoting race equality and community cohesion. An equality structure that

does not comply to some large degree with these criteria is unlikely to be successful. A local equality organisation should have:

- Clear aims, objectives and priorities.

A local equality organisation must have agreed aims and objectives, set them out clearly, translate them into a comprehensive action plan and work programme, and establish measurable outcomes and pursue them vigorously. Where currently there is no organisation, as in Walsall, it is essential to reach agreement on what the new agency will do.

- Strategic awareness and position.

Any local equality organisation must be positioned at the hub of efforts to improve the quality and range of services available to local communities. It has to work closely with the public, private and voluntary sectors, and local communities themselves, to tackle social problems of health, crime, education, transport, housing, and the local environment, each with its own significant (in)equality components.

- Strong links with local communities.

An equality service must have close links with the communities it has been set up to serve. These communities of interest, or of residents, need to be sharply defined and targeted in line with the need for clarity of organisational vision.

- Strong links with public authorities and other service providers

Local equality organisation has an essential role to play in relation to the service improvement agenda of public authorities, whether working singly, or in partnership.

- Critical autonomy

An equality organisation must be a separate autonomous organisation, with community groups, rather than funders, in a majority on its governing body, in order to give it the freedom, autonomy and critical space to speak out against perceived institutional racism.

- Accessible, relevant and reliable service provision.

An equality organisation needs to be clear as to what services it will provide and make them known to users. It may need to specialise in complainant aid, support for victims of harassment, community cohesion projects and conflict resolution, or public education and awareness-raising (all accompanied by the extension of a single equality remit to other equality strands).

- Sufficient capacity to fulfil purpose.

A local equality organisation should have sufficient capacity to undertake the jobs expected of it. If, for example, it is expected to drive forward a multi-stranded equality programme or a single-stranded equality programme for each theme group of the WBSP, it will need to have the staff and staffing expertise, and other resources, to do so. The achievement of ‘critical mass’ or resources fit for purpose, is essential to any organisation’s success.

- Financial viability.

Any new equality organisation in Walsall will need to attract funding sufficient for purpose. It is most likely to succeed in this task if what it sets out to do is seen as integral and essential to WMBC, WBSP and other public authorities’ vision, purpose and priorities, namely the drive to improve services and achieve floor targets. Financial viability is most likely to be achieved if funding comes from a multiplicity of sources.

- The capacity to acquire and retain capable and competent staff.

The conditions of service in local race equality organisations have deteriorated in recent years. If the staff of any new equality organisation are to provide quality services, they need attractive conditions, including opportunities for training and development. This might be achieved by employing staff directly on attractive conditions, or by seconding them from major public service providers.

- Management expertise.

Management expertise is essential in any organisation hoping to tap into different funding streams, to respond to the conditions imposed by different funding bodies, to respond to the service improvement drive of public authorities, to elicit support from local communities, as well as to mount successful projects and build a motivated team of staff. Essential management skills are entrepreneurship and financial management, human resource management, project management, performance management, and, specific to the job, diversity management.

9. The Walsall Partnership for Equality and Cohesion (WALPEC)

ES67 A new race equality agency in Walsall should provide the following race equality functions:

- casework and complainant aid.
- support for victims of racial harassment, violence, or racially-motivated crime.
- action to raise public awareness about race and other equality issues.

- assistance for public authorities on race and other equality policy to improve services.
- projects to promote community cohesion and good relations between persons of different racial groups.
- projects aimed at improving the quality of life and health of disadvantaged sections of the community.

ES68 Members of the public prioritise support for victims of harassment and violence, complainant aid, public awareness-raising, and action to build links between communities. Public authorities prioritise action to raise public awareness, but want assistance on race equality policy.

ES69 While most respondents are in favour of a generic approach to equality, there is also a recognition that this might weaken the focus on race equality. WALPEC should be set up with the potential to become generic, but focus in its first year of operation on developing an integrated five-year race equality and community cohesion strategy.

ES70 WALPEC's aims should be closely related to the functions it is expected to perform. If generic in nature, these could be:

- to encourage awareness and good practice on equality, diversity and human rights.
- to promote equality of opportunity between people in the different groups protected by discrimination law.
- to work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination and harassment.
- to promote good relations among different communities and between these communities and the wider society.

ES71 WALPEC would work in partnership with public authority service providers, the private sector, and voluntary and community groups to deliver its objectives and add value to the work of others. It would assist the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP) in action planning, alignment and inclusion of matters relating to race equality promotion and community cohesion. It would assist public authorities by undertaking methodical scrutiny of their race equality schemes and embedding race equality in their performance management systems. It would assist the private sector with diversity management and commission work on equality promotion as necessary. In regard to the voluntary and community sector, WALPEC would work for community involvement and cohesion, building the capacity of the sector to deliver race equality objectives and services, and commissioning work from the sector as appropriate.

- ES72 The structure of WALPEC would depend on its functions, especially on whether it took a multiple-strand approach to equality. A steering committee might be made up of persons drawn two thirds from the Community Empowerment Network and one third from the WBSP Theme Groups. It would need to be accountable to local community user groups in order to retain the necessary freedom and autonomy to pursue its agenda objectively and critically.
- ES73 WALPEC might deliver services in a variety of different ways by:
- increasing collaboration between major service providers.
 - developing partnerships through the WBSP.
 - increasing community involvement and participation through the Community Empowerment Network.
 - delivering some services through service level agreements with the voluntary and community sector.
 - contracting out work to public, private or voluntary agencies.
 - offering services directly.
- ES74 WALPEC would position itself strategically at the centre of WBSP and Walsall CEN activity, so that it could effectively relate to the work of the public, private, voluntary, and community sectors.
- ES75 It would seek funding from multiple funding sources, but there would be an expectation that local public authorities would give it financial support in return for help with equality promotion and service improvement. WALPEC might receive core funding from its 'parent' organisations, grant aid in return for service level agreements with public authorities, grant aid from the CRE, payments in kind from, for example, staff secondments, and charitable grants, for example, from the Big Lottery Fund.
- ES76 WALPEC would explore various ways of acquiring a suitable complement of high-calibre managers and staff, particularly the possibility of secondments from public authorities. This would greatly assist all concerned in delivering strategic equality objectives.
- ES77 The Chair and Partnership Director of the WBSP, the Leader and Chief Executive of the WMBC, the Chair and Theme Leader of the Walsall Community Engagement and Equality Partnership, and a representative of the Commission for Racial Equality might help to drive these proposals forward, politically and economically. A WALPEC Steering Committee needs to be set up and arrangements put in place to appoint, or second, a chief executive to begin work on the Walsall race equality and community cohesion strategy (see below).

10. Towards a Walsall race equality strategy

- ES78 In its first year of operation, WALPEC would focus on developing and delivering a race equality and community cohesion strategy and action plan, adding, in subsequent years, strategies and actions relating to other equality strands, eventually leading to the production of a comprehensive equality strategy and plan.
- ES79 WALPEC, through Local Neighbourhood Partnerships and Theme Groups of the WBSP would produce an integrated equality and community cohesion strategy and action plan to be adopted by the WBSP.
- ES80 WALPEC would help to coordinate and align strategic partners' race equality schemes, policies and initiatives, drawing out common themes, work strands and joint projects.
- ES81 With the agreement and support of the authorities, WALPEC would undertake a methodical scrutiny of public authorities' statutory race equality schemes and policies, ensuring they have in place performance management systems or performance indicators relating to ethnicity or to the satisfaction of ethnic service needs.
- ES82 WALPEC would provide assistance to business on diversity management, marketing, and delivery of goods and services, to black and ethnic minorities, and on workforce recruitment and development. And it would support initiatives aimed at improving access to training and jobs.
- ES83 WALPEC would develop a comprehensive strategy for increasing community (especially black and minority ethnic community) involvement in the general democratic process, as well as in specific consultation exercises and decision-making to improve services.
- ES84 WALPEC would encourage the WMBC and WBSP and other agencies to develop and mount projects in partnership with local communities that lead to integration and interspersions and build bridges, and resolve conflicts and tensions. It would put in place funding, training and other resources to build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector. And it would try to obtain resources for the sector to deliver race equality programmes and projects.
- ES85 The strategy would be developed within the context of the WBSP, especially the Theme Groups and the Community Empowerment Network (as set out in more detail in the full text).
- ES86 The plan would also include details and arrangements for:
- public awareness raising.
 - casework and complainant aid.

- support for victims of racial harassment and violence.
- any additional plans for promoting community cohesion.
- WALPEC's own arrangements for building the capacity of black and minority ethnic groups.
- WALPEC's own arrangements for the direct delivery of race equality projects.

Recommendations

ES87 Fifteen recommendations are provided on how to set up the Walsall Partnership for Equality and Cohesion.

Glossary of acronyms used in this report

ACAS	Advisory and Conciliation Advice Service
ACSERG	African-Caribbean Social and Economic Regeneration Group
AGM	Annual General Meeting
Akasha	A Sanskrit word meaning 'The sun within'
BB Council	British Bangladeshi Council
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BMEA	Black Minority Ethnic Alliance
BNP	British National Party
BSC	Black Sisters Collective
BTEG	Black Training and Enterprise Group
CAB	Citizens' Advice Bureau
CATS	Communication and Translation Services
CEF	Community Empowerment Fund
CEHR	Commission for Equality and Human Rights
CEN	Community Empowerment Network
CLSP	Community Legal Services Partnership
Con	Conservative (Party)
CRE	Commission for Racial Equality
CVS	Council for Voluntary Service
CYPSP	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
DRC	Disability Rights Commission
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EMAG	Ethnic Minority Attainment Grant
EMO	Ethnic Minority Outreach
EOC	Equal Opportunity Commission
ERDF	European Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
EW	Education Walsall
GP	General Practitioner
HAZ	Health Action Zone
HEFC	Higher Education Funding Council
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HORT 1	Home Office Road Traffic (1) form
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
JCP	Jobcentre Plus
LA	Local Authority
Lab	Labour (Party)
LEG	Learning Executive Group
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans
Lib Dem	Liberal Democratic (Party)
LNP	Local Neighbourhood Partnership
LSA	Local Service Agreement
LSC	Learning and Skills Council
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MRC	Midland Refugee Council

NACAB	National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux
NASS	National Asylum Support Service
NHS	National Health Service
NRF	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education
PSA	Public Service Agreement
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PMF	Performance Management Framework
QM	Quality Mark
REC	Race Equality Council
REP	Race Equality Partnership
RES	Race Equality Sandwell
REWM	Race Equality West Midlands
SACRE	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
SEAs	Specialist Employment Advisers
SERCO	Service Company
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound
SRB	Single Regeneration Budget
SREP	Strategic Race Equality Partnership
SRL	Social Registered Landlord
STAR	Standing Together Against Racism
TEC	Training and Enterprise Council
TORA	Trelawny Overseas Relief Association
TUC	Trade Union Congress
UK	United Kingdom
UKIP	United Kingdom Independence Party
UMO	Union of Muslim Organisations
USA	United States of America
VAT	Value Added Tax
WALCAT	Walsall College of Art and Technology
WALPEC	Walsall Partnership for Equality and Cohesion
WATMOS	Walsall Association of Tenant Management Organisations
WBSP	Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership
WEB	Walsall Education Board
WHG	Walsall Housing Group
WLLA	Walsall Lifelong Learning Alliance
WMBC	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
WMP	West Midlands Police
WRAP	Walsall Raising Achievement Project
WSREP	Walsall Strategic Race Equality Partnership
WTPCT	Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust
WVA	Walsall Voluntary Action

Chapter One

Introduction: the project brief

- 1.1 Following the closure of the Walsall Strategic Race Equality Partnership in 2003, officers of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC) and the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) met to discuss how best to promote local race equality work in the Borough. Race Equality West Midlands (REWM) was subsequently commissioned by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP) to undertake an Equality and Diversity Audit, Review and Plan for the Borough.

The project brief

- 1.2 The tasks specified were:

Evidence of racial inequality, disadvantage and discrimination

- to gather evidence of racial inequality, disadvantage and discrimination in Walsall.

Walsall residents' views on race relations and community cohesion

- to undertake an audit of the views on race relations and community cohesion of randomly-selected residents of Walsall.

Record of ethnic groups' needs

- to make a record of the needs of the main ethnic groups in Walsall by ward and local neighbourhood.

Black and minority ethnic views of race and other inequalities

- to consult with Walsall's black and minority ethnic organisations on their perception of race and other inequalities in Walsall and their priorities for action.

Civic leaders' views on the function and role of local race equality work

- to seek the views of Walsall Metropolitan Borough councillors on the function and role of race and other equality work at local level.

Public authority views on race equality promotion

- to interview lead officers of public authorities and other key personnel involved with the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership on how the promotion of race and other equalities might best be undertaken at local level and what, if any, organisational form that promotion should take.

Proposal for a borough-wide racial equality structure and strategy

- on the basis of research and consultation, to make proposals for a possible racial equality and diversity structure and strategy for Walsall that takes into account neighbourhood renewal, economic development, the Local Strategic Partnership, the Community Empowerment Network, the statutory duty of listed public authorities to promote race equality, and other relevant matters.

Proposal for a Walsall local racial equality organisation

- to set out the purpose, functions, structure, strategic positioning, interconnectivity and funding requirements of any proposed racial equality organisation and to produce a draft plan to illustrate the nature of its activities.

- 1.3 After further discussion with the Commissioning Partners and in the light of the DTI White Paper on the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, it was agreed to broaden the terms of reference beyond the strictly-limited focus on race equality:

Proposal for generic equality provision

- to touch on other equality strands, not to the same degree, but to open up the possibility for positioning any proposed structure to relate to matters of gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation, and age.

- 1.4 Project proposals required that local information on the views of Walsall residents, local councillors, black and minority ethnic organisations, and public authorities be gathered by various surveys, using desk-top, field-questionnaire and interview methods.

- 1.5 The progress of the project was monitored and overseen by a steering group consisting of senior officers and/or members of the main commissioning bodies, namely the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership, the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, and the Walsall Community Empowerment Network.

- 1.6 REWM project officers were supported by an expert advisory committee of regional race equality experts drawn from neighbouring local authority race equality organisations.

- 1.7 Despite the clarity of the contractual brief, it was apparent that some groups and individuals in Walsall had different expectations of the research exercise, which was interpreted alternatively as:

Audit of black and minority ethnic need

- to conduct an audit of Walsall's black and minority ethnic groups. (While this constituted an element of the work, it failed to recognise the

community cohesion dimension of race equality, requiring a key focus on the quality of the relationship between Walsall's minority ethnic and majority white communities.)

Work on counteracting extreme far-right activity

- to embark on measures to ensure that racist far-right candidates were not elected in the June 2004 election. (In any event, the contract was agreed too late for the audit process to have had any effect on the outcome. On 15 March 2004, however, the CRE, REWM and the Midlands TUC jointly organised a very successful conference at the Bescot Stadium, Walsall, on *Combating Racism through Democracy*.)

Celebration of diversity

- to organise a multi-cultural festival to promote and celebrate the diversity and harmonious co-existence of Walsall's communities.

Assessment of the effect of the closure of the Walsall Strategic Race Equality Partnership

- to assess the effect of the closure of the Walsall Strategic Race Equality Partnership, whether there is unevenness in the distribution of resources to Walsall's black and minority ethnic voluntary and community groups, and if they have been marginalised in partnership work.

- 1.8 None of these formed part of the project, although elements of these expectations may have been addressed incidentally in pursuit of the agreed brief.

Research exercise

- 1.9 A variety of methods was used to gather information, including desk top and field research. Questionnaires were prepared for the following categories of respondent:

- community groups/associations
- public authorities
- main voluntary agencies
- civic leaders (councillors)
- members of the public.

- 1.10 A series of face-to-face and telephone interviews was also held with key local figures with an interest in the promotion of race equality.

Events during the life of the project

1.11 During the life of the project, four unrelated events occurred which had, or might be thought to have had, a bearing on Walsall's race relations and on the outcome of the project.

1.12 These were:

Resignation of Chair of Hospital Trust

- the resignation of the Chair of Walsall Manor Hospital Trust for comments he made on the quality of nurses recruited from overseas.

Racist far-right electoral activity

- the decision by the British National Party to contest the June 2004 local elections in seven Walsall wards.

Claims of inter-ethnic conflict

- news reports claiming that Pakistani gangs were targeting African-Caribbean young people in Walsall (*Sunday Telegraph*, 7.12.03), followed by the Channel 4 documentary *Who You Callin' a Ni**er?* (9.08.04), which claimed relationships between Walsall's black and minority ethnic communities were deteriorating.

The BTEG report

- a critical report commissioned by BTEG (Aug 2004) on the level of black and minority ethnic involvement in the WBSP.

1.13 Chapter Three of the REWM report refers to the performance of the BNP in the local elections, the timing of which led to a decision to postpone research on the views of local residents and civic leaders until after the results were known.

1.14 The REWM audit found no evidence to support Darcus Howe's sensational claim that relationships between Pakistani and African Caribbean communities in Walsall had deteriorated or resembled a 'low intensity war which threatens to explode with ferocity' (*Express and Star*, 17.08.04).

1.15 The BTEG-commissioned report undertaken by ACSERG was critical of black and minority ethnic involvement in the work of the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and the disproportionately small percentage of NRF funds allocated to Walsall's black and minority ethnic voluntary and community sector. It recommended a five-year funding plan for Walsall's Black and Minority Ethnic Alliance (BMEA), including capacity building of infrastructure, a series of open meetings hosted jointly by WBSP and BMEA, steps to increase WBSP capacity to promote race equality, and more transparency in relation to funding decisions.

- 1.16 In commissioning the Walsall Racial Equality and Diversity Audit, Review and Plan from REWM, the WBSP had already acted in the spirit of the BTEG recommendations. This audit and report provides further information on black and minority ethnic voluntary organisations and communities and their needs, and detailed proposals about how, together with the WBSP and the Community Empowerment Network, they might become involved in measures to promote equality in Walsall.

Content of report

- 1.17 The report that follows is intended to fulfil the Commissioning Partners' brief in entirety. It is presented in four parts:
- Evidence of racial inequality and of the policy responses to it.
 - Local perceptions of race relations and inequality.
 - Public authority and partnership responses to racial inequality and community fragmentation.
 - Proposals for local equality provision in Walsall.

Evidence of racial inequality and of the policy responses to it

- 1.18 Chapters Two and Three describe contemporary race relations and policy devised to deal with them in local and national context. Available local racially-differentiated information is presented as objective evidence of difference, disadvantage, inequality, and of possible racial discrimination in Walsall. This is followed by an examination of the wider national policy context impacting on local equality and diversity work, such as the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, considerations of community fragmentation and cohesion, and the White Paper proposals for a new Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

Local perceptions of race relations and inequality

- 1.19 Chapters Four, Five and Six present evidence from the REWM Audit (summer 2004) about Walsall residents', local councillors', and voluntary and community organisations' opinions of race relations and community cohesion in the Borough. This section of the report also covers black and minority ethnic perceptions of local race relations and racial inequality.

Public authority and partnership responses to racial inequality and community fragmentation

- 1.20 Chapters Six and Seven deal in turn with the action being taken to promote race equality by Walsall's main public authority service providers and the strategic partnerships to which they belong. The chapters also include lead

officers' views on how the promotion of race and other equalities might best be undertaken in Walsall and the organisational form that promotion should take.

Proposals for local equality provision in Walsall

- 1.21 Chapters Eight, Nine and Ten set out proposals for successfully promoting race equality and community cohesion in Walsall. There are recommendations for a new organisation, provisionally entitled the Walsall Partnership for Equality and Cohesion, and for a Walsall-wide equality strategy and action plan, which the new organisation would be responsible for developing and working to. The report concludes with a series of interrelated recommendations on how best to take the project forward.

Chapter Two

Walsall: ethnic differences in local context

Introduction

- 2.1 This chapter, based on recent demographic and other available social and economic information, describes the quality of people's lives in Walsall. It deals with the differences between the borough's main ethnic groups in education, housing, economic activity, health and the experience of crime.
- 2.2 As one of the 88 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, Walsall is expected to improve living standards and the quality of its public services. To encourage service delivery in disadvantaged neighbourhoods to become more focused, the government has introduced a set of 'floor targets' for each of the policy areas addressed by its Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. These targets are meant to raise minimum standards rather than to improve national averages. 'Floor target' is a generic term used to describe a government target that sets a minimum standard of service for disadvantaged groups or areas, or narrows the gap between them and the rest of the country. Each of the main service areas is examined for differences of impact on ethnic groups and the efforts made to reduce them in pursuit of the national floor targets.
- 2.3 Walsall Metropolitan Borough lies ten miles north of Birmingham and forms part of the West Midlands conurbation. It covers an area of approximately 41 square miles. The borough is also part of the Black Country, a grouping of the four Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, all of similar size and having a history based on engineering and mining.

Population

- 2.4 In 2001, Walsall had a population of 253,482, a reduction of almost 6,000 (2.3%) since the 1991 Census. Walsall has become a more ethnically diverse area since 1991. The black and minority ethnic population has increased by more than 35% since 1991 to a total of 37,530, or 14.8% of the population. This compares with an average of 11.26% across the West Midlands region.
- 2.5 The largest black and minority ethnic groups in Walsall are people of Indian origin, (5.4%)¹, followed by Pakistani (3.68%)², Mixed (1.39%)³, Black (African-Caribbean and other) (1.38%)⁴, and Bangladeshi (0.99%) groups.⁵ In November 2001, there were 225 asylum seekers known to Walsall Borough Council, of whom 167 were men, 36 women and 22 children.⁶
- 2.6 Walsall's largest black and minority ethnic concentrations are in the Palfey (48.77%), Pleck (41.13%), St Matthew's (32.37%), Paddock (27.83%) and Bentley and Darlaston North (20.53%) wards, which are among the most deprived in Walsall and the country. The wards are ranked on the Indices of

Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2000 as follows:⁷ St. Matthew's 222nd, Pleck 350th, Bentley and Darlaston North 539th, Palfrey 652nd, Paddock 4,586th worst out of 8,414 wards.⁸ Wards with the largest concentrations of White population including Bloxwich East⁹, Bloxwich West¹⁰, Brownhills¹¹ and Pelsall¹², are ranked 664th, 918th, 997th and 2,601st worst, out of 8,414 wards..

- 2.7 Overall, 72.07% of people in Walsall claim to be Christian compared to the national average of 71.7%. The highest proportions of Christians are found in the wards of Pelsall (83.25%), Pheasey Park Farm (83.01%), Streetly (82.15%) and Aldridge North and Walsall Wood (81.66%). Muslims are the second largest religious group in Walsall (13,620 - 5.37%)¹³, followed by Sikhs (7,715 - 3.04%)¹⁴ and Hindus (4,089 - 1.61%)¹⁵.

Age structure

0 – 4 year-olds

- 2.8 The average age of the Walsall population is 38.3 years. Walsall has a higher proportion of 0-4-year-olds (6.47%) than in the West Midlands (6.1%) and England and Wales (5.9%). The black and minority ethnic population has an above average proportion of 0 - 4-year-olds: 10.70%. This is a far higher proportion than for the white population at 5.74%, and the Walsall average of 6.47%.
- 2.9 There is a strong correlation between wards with a high percentage of black and minority ethnic communities and those with high concentrations of 0 - 4-year-olds, for instance, the wards of Palfrey (9.15%), Pleck (8.44%), Bentley and Darlaston North (6.83%) and St Matthew's (6.73%). By contrast, wards with a low percentage of black and minority ethnic communities (Bloxwich East, Bloxwich West and Pelsall) have lower proportions of 0 - 4-year-olds.

5 – 15-year-olds

- 2.10 The percentage of 5 to 15 year olds in Walsall (15.25%) is greater than for the West Midlands (14.7%) and England average (14.2%). The black and minority ethnic population has above average population levels of 5 - 15-year-olds: 25.09%, far greater than that of the White population at 13.54%.
- 2.11 There is a strong correlation between wards with a higher percentage of black and minority ethnic communities and those with high concentrations of 5 - 15 year olds, for instance, the wards of Pleck (16.89%), Palfrey (18.23%) and Bentley and Darlaston North (16.54%). By contrast, wards with low percentages of black and minority ethnic communities (Pelsall, Bloxwich East and Brownhills) have lower concentrations of 5 - 15 year olds.

Retirement age

- 2.12 The percentage of people in Walsall who have reached retirement age is 16.17%. The black and minority ethnic population has below average

proportions of retired people: 6.93%, compared with the white population at 17.77%. There is a strong correlation between wards with a higher percentage of black and minority ethnic people and those with lower proportions of the retired.

Education

GCSE/GNVQ attainment

- 2.13 The proportion of school students in Walsall achieving five or more A* - C grades at GCSE/GNVQ was 43.0% in 2003, compared with the national average of 50.7%¹⁶. In the Black Country, Walsall had the worst performance after Sandwell (35.7%), with Wolverhampton (46.7%) and Dudley (56.7%) performing better.
- 2.14 There are significant variations by ethnicity and gender in achievement at GCSE/GNVQ level¹⁷. Within the black and minority ethnic community, 36.5% of boys, and 50.0% of girls, attained five or more grades A* - C in 2003. In all ethnic groups, girls performed better than boys. This gender gap was most significant for Mixed and White pupils.
- 2.15 Indian pupils had the highest achievement levels, with 66.8% gaining five or more A* - C grades. By contrast, the performance of the Bangladeshi (22.2% with 5 or more A* - C grades) and Pakistani pupils (28.9% with 5 or more A* - C grades) was well below other groups, followed by Mixed group (32.2%) and White pupils (42.7%), respectively. The achievement levels of Walsall's Bangladeshi and Pakistani pupils was also far lower than the national average for Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups¹⁸.

National curriculum Key Stage 3 attainment

English

- 2.16 In Walsall, there is considerable ethnic variation at Key Stage 3 English (taken by 14 year olds). In 2003:
- The average number of pupils achieving Key Stage English level 5 or above was 63%, compared with the national average of 69%.
 - Indian pupils were the best performing group, with 85% achieving Key Stage 3 English.
 - Pakistani pupils were the worst performing group, with 49% achieving Key Stage 3 English level 5 or above (well below the national average for Pakistani pupils of 57%), followed by Mixed (60%), Bangladeshi (61%), and White and Black (62%) pupils, who performed at similar levels¹⁹.

Mathematics

2.17 At Key Stage 3 Mathematics, there are also considerable ethnic variations in performance. In 2003:

- The average number of pupils achieving Key Stage 3 Mathematics level 5 or above in Walsall was 64%, compared with the national average of 71%.
- Indian pupils were the best performing group, with 81% achieving Key Stage 3 Mathematics level 5 or above.
- Pakistani pupils were the worst performing group, with 48% achieving Key Stage 3 Mathematics (well below the national average for this group of 71%), followed by Bangladeshi (53%), Black (58%), Mixed (63%), and White (64%) pupils.

Science

2.18 At Key Stage 3 Science, likewise, there are ethnic variations in performance. In 2003:

- The average number of pupils achieving Key Stage 3 Science level 5 or above in Walsall was 60%, compared with the national average of 68%.
- Indian pupils were the best performing group, with 78% achieving Key Stage 3 Science level 5 or above.
- The Pakistani pupils were again the worst performing group with 36% achieving Key Stage 3 Science (well below the national average for Pakistani pupils of 47%), followed by Bangladeshi (47%), Black (55%), Mixed (58%), and White pupils (61%).

2.19 Variations in achievement according to ethnic origin also occur at Key Stage 2 (taken by 11 year olds), with significant underperformance by pupils of Bangladeshi and Pakistani origin²⁰.

School exclusion

2.20 A total of 56 pupils was permanently excluded in 2001/01. Of these, 12.5% was from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, a lower proportion than for the black and minority ethnic school population as a whole (19%). Two of the seven exclusions were in primary schools (20%) with five in secondary schools (11%). Most of the ethnic minority pupils who were excluded, however, were Black Caribbean or Black Other (five in total, or 9% of the overall number).

2.21 Nationally, pupils from Black-Caribbean or Black-other ethnic groups are about four times as likely to be excluded as the average pupil²¹. Research has also confirmed that black pupils are three times more likely to be excluded than white pupils.²²

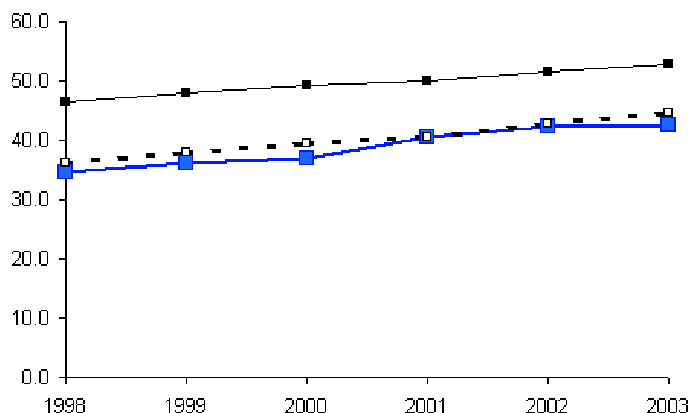
Achievement of floor targets – education

- 2.22 The government’s floor targets for education is to increase the percentage of pupils obtaining five or more GCSEs at A*-C, with at least 38 per cent to achieve this standard in every local education authority (LEA) by 2004. In 1998, 34.6 per cent of pupils obtained five or more GCSEs at A-C in Walsall. Walsall ranked 56th, Dudley 10th, Birmingham 45th, Wolverhampton 53rd and Sandwell 80th, out of 88 NRF authorities.
- 2.23 Table 1 shows that in 2003, 42.6% of pupils obtained five or more GCSEs at A*-C in Walsall, slightly lower than the all-NRF authorities group average of 44.6%. Walsall increased by one position and ranked 55th, whereas Dudley ranked 10th, Birmingham 17th, Wolverhampton 28th, and Sandwell 83rd, out of all 88 NRF authorities.

Table 1

Walsall MD GCSEs: 5+ A*-C, comparison with all-NRF average

Year	Score	Group	England Average
1998	34.6	36.1	46.3
1999	36.1	37.9	47.9
2000	37.0	39.5	49.2
2001	40.6	40.5	50.0
2002	42.4	42.7	51.5
2003	42.6	44.6	52.9



Key:

—■— Local Authority Score - □ - Group Average —■— England Average

Housing

Household type

Married-couple households with dependent children

- 2.24 In 2001, Walsall had 18,754 (18.51%) married-couple households with dependent children. There are above-average levels of black and minority ethnic married-couple households with dependent children (33.43%), compared with the White level of 16.99%. There are significant variations within black and minority ethnic communities. The highest numbers of married-couple households with dependent children are Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani (39.74%), in comparison with Black (15.02%) and Mixed (16.41%).

Lone-parent households with dependent children

- 2.25 In 2001, Walsall had 7,041 (6.95%) lone-parent households with dependent children. Black and minority ethnic communities have above average levels (10%) of lone-parent households with dependent children, with Mixed (26.34%) and Black (14.72%) groups having significantly greater proportions than for Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani groups (7.69%). By contrast, the White population has below the borough average of lone-parent households with dependent children (6.64%).

One-family all-pensioner households

- 2.26 In 2001, Walsall had 9,368 (9.24%) one-family all-pensioner households. Far fewer numbers of black and ethnic minorities people live in one-family all-pensioner households (2.49%), but with Black groups (3.95%) having a higher

frequency than the Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani (2.22%) and Mixed groups (1.53%).

One-person pensioner households

- 2.27 In 2001, Walsall had 14,966 (14.77%) one-person pensioner households. A below-average proportion of black and ethnic minorities live in one-person pensioner households (3.93%), compared with the White population (15.87%). Among black and ethnic minorities there are significant variations. The rate for Black groups (10.31%) is far higher than for Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani (2.66%), and Mixed (0.76%).

Living conditions

Overcrowding

- 2.28 The 2001 Census defines overcrowding as households with an occupancy rate of -1 or less. The occupancy rating provides a measure of under-occupancy and overcrowding. The value -1 implies that there is one room too few and that there is overcrowding in the household. The occupancy rating assumes that every household, including a one-person household, requires a minimum of two common rooms (excluding bathroom).
- 2.29 In 2001, Walsall had a rate of 5.63% of overcrowded households, slightly less than the England average (6.9%). There were, however, above-average levels of overcrowded households among black and ethnic minorities (17.39%). In particular, higher concentrations of overcrowded housing were to be found in the Palfrey (10.56%), Pleck (9.66%), and St. Matthew's (9.00%) wards.
- 2.30 Families of Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic origin tend to be larger than those of other ethnic groups, with 4.7 and 4.2 people per household respectively, compared with an average of 2.3 for white families. Prima facie, large families are more likely to suffer from poverty, and have parents who are out of work, and have less income per child than smaller families.²³

Lack of amenities

Decent homes

- 2.31 In Walsall, 80.3% of local-authority-owned dwellings (now devolved to housing trusts) are non-decent. Walsall ranked 42nd best out of all NRF Local Authorities.²⁴ Research has also confirmed that, in 2003, people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin were three times more likely than White groups to live in unfit housing.²⁵

Lack of central heating

- 2.32 In 2001, the percentage of households lacking central heating in Walsall (13.56%) was far greater than the England average (8.5%). There is a strong correlation between the wards in Walsall with high concentrations of black

and minority ethnic communities (Pleck - 9.06%, and Bentley and Darlaston North - 18.39%) and those lacking central heating.

Tenure

Owner-occupied households

- 2.33 In 2001, Walsall had 64.73% of owner-occupied households.²⁶ There are, however, significant variations according to ethnicity. Above average levels of black and minority ethnic communities live in owner-occupied households (67.78%), as compared with the White population (64.42%), and the Walsall average (64.73%). There are variations within black and minority ethnic communities, with a significantly greater percentage of Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani groups (75.91%) living in owner-occupied households, in contrast to Black (47.19%), and Mixed (37.12%) groups.
- 2.34 There is also a strong correlation between the wards in Walsall with higher concentrations of black and ethnic minorities (St Matthew's 50.63%, Bentley and Darlaston North 52.80%, Pleck 54.59%, and Palfrey 59.55%) and those with high levels of owner-occupation.

Rented households

- 2.35 The percentage of Walsall households renting their properties was 27.41%.²⁷ Below average proportions of black and ethnic minorities live in rented households (20.28%), compared with the White population (28.14%). There continues to be variations within black and minority ethnic communities, with far greater percentages of Mixed (43.18%) and Black (41.27%) groups renting their properties, compared with the Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani groups (13.39%).

Privately-rented households

- 2.36 Above average numbers of black and minority ethnic communities live in privately-rented households²⁸ (8.24%) compared with the White community (4.53%) and the Walsall average of 4.88%.

Living rent free

- 2.37 Above average numbers of black and minority ethnic communities (3.68%) 'live rent free'²⁹, in comparison with the White population of 2.89%, and the Walsall average of 2.96%.

Achievement of floor target: housing

- 2.38 The floor target for housing is, by 2010, to bring all social housing into decent condition, with most of this improvement taking place in deprived areas, and to increase the proportion of private housing in decent condition occupied by vulnerable groups.
- 2.39 In 2001, 80.3% of local authority dwellings was non-decent. Walsall ranked 42nd out of 88 NRF authorities. By contrast, Dudley ranked 10th, Wolverhampton 32nd and Birmingham 37th, out of 88 NRF authorities.

Economic Activity

- 2.40 The 2001 Census defines the economically active population as those who are full and part-time employees, the self-employed, the unemployed, and full-time students. A below-average number of black and minority ethnic communities is economically active (57.30%), compared with the Walsall average of 63.18%.

Unemployment

- 2.41 The unemployment rate in Walsall dropped from 14,304 (11.4%) in 1991, to 7,882 (4.36%) in 2001, a reduction of nearly 50%. The level of unemployment within black and minority ethnic communities is 6.53% greater than the Walsall average. Above average levels of unemployment in Walsall occur mainly in the wards of Pleck (6.00%), St Matthew's (6.00%), and Palfrey (5.24%).

Socio-economic classification

- 2.42 Social class can be defined by resident occupations. Class I includes high and low managerial and professional occupations. Class II includes intermediate, small employer, low supervisory and technical occupations. Class III includes semi routine and routine occupations.

Socio-economic class I

- 2.43 Fewer black and ethnic minorities belong to Class I (15.51%), in comparison with the White population (19.55%), and the Walsall average (19.05%). Fewer people belonging to Class I live in the wards of Palfrey (14.79%), Pleck (12.98%), and Bentley and Darlaston North (12.96%).

Socio-economic class II

- 2.44 Fewer black and ethnic minorities belong to Class II (17.95%) in comparison with the White population (22.55%), and the Walsall average (21.98%).

Socio-economic Class III

- 2.45 In Walsall, the most frequently occurring socio-economic classification is Class III (27.50%), followed by Class I (19.05%), and Class II (21.98%). The instance of Class III membership stands at 27.17% for the white community and 26.03% for black and ethnic minorities.

Never worked and long term unemployed

- 2.46 Above average numbers of people of black and minority ethnic origin are identified as never working or as long-term unemployed (16.24%), in contrast to the white population at 4.03%, and the borough average of 5.54%.
- 2.47 National research has confirmed that Indians and the Chinese are somewhat worse off than White people, but Black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi families and households are far more likely to be in poverty than the average: 69% of Pakistani or Bangladeshi individuals were in poverty in 2002/3, compared with 22% of Indians, and 20% of Whites³⁰. For some groups such as Pakistani and Bangladeshi women, there are traditions of non-participation in the labour market.³¹ That position is considerably worse than for the next worst-performing group, black women of African origin, of whom 49% participate in the labour market.³²
- 2.48 In 2002/3, while 40% of white young people left the New Deal programme to enter sustained employment, only 31% of young people from ethnic minority groups did so, largely because ethnic minorities tend to live in areas where the New Deal is performing worst.³³ National research has also confirmed that one factor influencing ethnic minority unemployment is ‘indirect’ discrimination. It is well established that there is an ethnic penalty in the labour market.³⁴

Achievement of floor targets: worklessness

- 2.49 The floor target for worklessness, is over the three years to Spring 2006, to increase the employment rate of disadvantaged areas and groups, taking into account the economic cycle, lone parents, ethnic minorities, people aged 50 and over, those with the lowest qualifications, and the 30 local authority districts with the poorest initial labour market position, and to significantly reduce the difference between their employment rates and the overall rate. In 1997, the overall employment rate in Walsall was 68.9%. Walsall ranked 36th, Dudley 4th, Wolverhampton 29th, Sandwell 51st and Birmingham 66th, out of 88 NRF authorities.
- 2.50 Table 2 shows that in 2001, the overall employment rate in Walsall increased to 72.5%, against the all-NRF-authorities’ group average of 69.3%. Walsall increased by 13 positions and ranked 23rd best out of 88 NRF authorities. By comparison, Dudley ranked 4th, Wolverhampton 49th, Sandwell 52nd, and Birmingham 73rd, out of 88 NRF authorities.

Table 2

Walsall MD overall employment rate, comparison with all-NRF average

Year
Score
Group
England Average

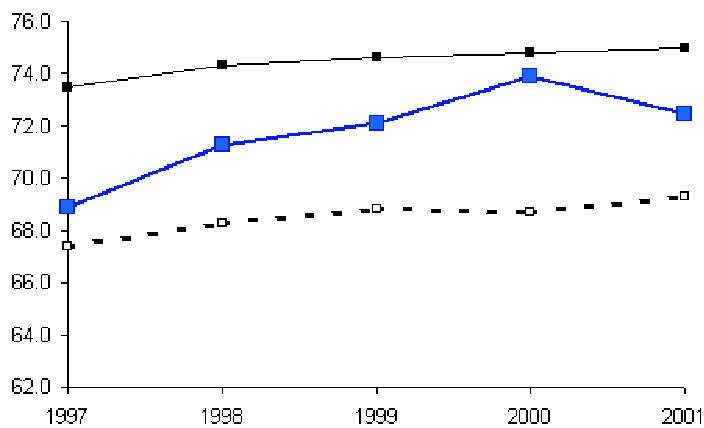
1997
68.9
67.4
73.5

1998
71.3
68.3
74.3

1999
72.1
68.8
74.6

2000
73.9
68.7
74.8

2001
72.5
69.3
75.0



Key:

—■— Local Authority Score - - - □ - - - Group Average —■— England Average

2.51 A principal component of the national floor target is the employment rate of ethnic minorities. The target is, over the three years to Spring 2006, to increase the employment rate of disadvantaged areas and groups, taking into account the economic cycle, ethnic minorities, and the 30 local authority districts with the poorest initial labour market position, and to significantly reduce the difference between their employment rates and the overall rate. In

2001, the employment rate of ethnic minorities was 53%, below the England and Wales average of 57.4%, and on a par with the all-NRF-authorities' group average. Walsall ranked 27th, Sandwell 7th, Wolverhampton 12th, and Birmingham 38th, of 88 NRF authorities.

Health

- 2.52 The inequalities in health outcomes persist, for example, between socially-disadvantaged and affluent sections of the population, male and female, and people from different black and minority ethnic groups.³⁵

Limiting long term illness (LLTI)³⁶

- 2.53 Since 1991, there has been a 6.33% increase in the proportion of Walsall's population reporting LLTI, to a borough average of 20.43% in 2001. There is a strong correlation between wards with high black and minority ethnic concentrations (Pleck Bentley, and Darlaston North), with 21% of people reporting LLTI.

People's perception of their health

- 2.54 In Walsall, a high percentage of people report their health as 'not good' (10.94%) compared with the national average (9.2%). Below-average levels of people from black and minority ethnic communities reported their health as 'not good' (8.3%), against the borough average. Similarly, a lower percentage of people reported their health as 'good' (64.73%), compared to the national average (68.60%). There is a strong correlation between wards with a high percentage of black and minority ethnic communities (Pleck (62%) and Bentley and Darlaston North (63%)) and those reporting their health as 'good'.

Diabetes

- 2.55 In England, mortality directly associated with diabetes amongst South Asian³⁷ migrants is around three and half times that in the general population.³⁸ Non-insulin dependent diabetes remain undiagnosed in up to 40% of Asian diabetics.³⁹ The Pakistani (15%) and Bangladeshi (12.7%) groups have a greater prevalence of diabetes than the Indian community (9.1%).⁴⁰ Walsall's Asian Health and Lifestyle Survey 2000⁴¹ found Pakistani and Bangladeshis of both sexes were more than five times as likely to have diabetes, and Indian men and women were almost three times as likely, as the general population.⁴² Nationally, health care for Asian and African-Caribbean diabetics is inadequate and there is poorer compliance arising from patients' lack of management because of the inappropriateness of health information.⁴³

Coronary heart disease and stroke

- 2.56 Nationally, the Indian community appears to have less Myocardial Infarctions (MIs) and Angina than the Pakistani and Bangladeshi.⁴⁴ Walsall people of Asian ethnic origin have the highest rate of admission for heart disease,

followed by Black groups.⁴⁵ Highest mortality rates for Coronary Heart Disease occur amongst those from the Indian subcontinent.⁴⁶ South Asians patients are less likely than white patients to receive coronary revascularisation in relation to need.⁴⁷

- 2.57 The prevalence of obesity in Walsall's South Asians was 18.8% in 2000.⁴⁸ This is lower than the general population figure of 21% for females, and 19% for males. However, there has been a huge increase in obesity prevalence over the last five years. Bangladeshi females have the highest obesity prevalence at 35%. In England, 32% of Black-Caribbean women and 26% of Pakistani women were obese, compared with 21% of women in the general population.⁴⁹ According to recent research, African-Caribbean girls are more likely to be overweight, and African-Caribbean and Pakistani girls are more likely to be obese, than girls in the general population. Indian and Pakistani boys are more likely to be overweight.⁵⁰
- 2.58 Admission rates for strokes in Walsall's 'other' ethnic origin population was the highest in the region (991.2/1000). In comparison, stroke admissions for white populations across all districts were relatively low, ranging from between 120.6/1000 in Birmingham, to 141.5/1000 in Dudley.⁵¹ In England, the prevalence of stroke for Black-Caribbean men showed rates two-third higher than the general population, but they had much lower rates of angina (1.9%, compared to 5.3% of men in the general population).⁵²

Mental health

- 2.59 Nationally, Black-Caribbean people are between three and five times more likely to suffer from psychotic illness, including schizophrenia, than other ethnic groups.⁵³ Pakistani women have higher rates of Common Mental Disorders (depression, anxiety, mixed anxiety and depression disorder, phobia, obsessive compulsive disorder, and panic disorder).⁵⁴ In addition, Black patients also have higher rates of in-patient admission for use of mental health services, as well as compulsory psychiatric admission, compared with white and other groups. There is also evidence that black patients follow more coercive and complex pathways to specialist care, with ethnic variations in primary care assessments.⁵⁵ Rates of suicide amongst Asian women in England are more than twice those of young white women.⁵⁶

HIV and sexually transmitted infections

- 2.60 Nationally, black and minority ethnic groups in the UK are disproportionately affected by HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Prevalence rates vary across the different groups with Black-Caribbean and Black groups especially affected by STIs.⁵⁷

Tobacco

- 2.61 The Asian Health and Lifestyle Survey found that 10% of Walsall's South Asians said they smoked (but 23% of Bangladeshis, 13% of Pakistanis, and 9% of Indians).⁵⁸

- 2.62 Self-reported smoking prevalence amongst Bangladeshi men was 44% (but only 1% in Bangladeshi women), compared with 27% of men in the general population, and 17% of Chinese males.⁵⁹ Among men who had ever smoked, 35% of Black Caribbean, 35% of Indian, 21% of Pakistani, and 19% of Bangladeshi, had stopped smoking, compared with 54% of the general population.⁶⁰
- 2.63 There is a higher prevalence of pan (paan or betel) use amongst Bangladeshi males and females.⁶¹

Diet and nutrition

- 2.64 In Walsall, Bangladeshis were less likely to eat fruit on most days of every day, compared with Indians and Pakistanis. Pakistanis were the least likely to eat fresh or frozen vegetables most days or every day.⁶² Similarly, in England, Bangladeshis have a poor diet, including high consumption levels of red meat, adjusted high fat scores, and low fibre scores.⁶³

Alcohol

- 2.65 Large variations are reported in the prevalence of alcohol consumption across minority ethnic groups, as compared with the white population. Consumption rates are highest amongst White (92%) and Caribbean (87%), lower amongst Indian (66%) and Chinese men (68-73%), and substantially lower amongst Bangladeshi and Pakistani (3-8%).⁶⁴ This supports finding from the Asian Health and Lifestyle Survey whereby, among Asian Groups, Indians seem to be the highest consumers of alcohol.⁶⁵

Prevention services

- 2.66 In Walsall, Bangladeshi and Pakistani women are less than half as likely as those in the general population to take up invitations to cervical cancer screening.⁶⁶ Nationally, these groups also have a low uptake of breast screening.⁶⁷

Stress and friendship

- 2.67 In Walsall, racial harassment seems to be a cause of worry for 33% of respondents of Asian ethnic origin, compared with just 9% in 1995.⁶⁸

Physical activities

- 2.68 According to the Health Survey for England 1999, the highest age-standardised ratios relating to the current guideline for recommended participation in physical activity were found amongst Black Caribbean (1.13) and Irish (0.97), lower ratios being found amongst Indian (0.86), Chinese (0.62), Pakistani (0.70), and Bangladeshi (0.55) men.

Teenage conception

- 2.69 In Walsall there was a 62.6% conception rate for under 18s per 1000. In England, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women are less likely to use contraceptive methods than white women.⁶⁹ Nationally, young people from Bangladeshi and African-Caribbean ethnic groups are at substantially greater risk of teenage parenthood than the national average.⁷⁰

Parents and babies

- 2.70 In England, babies of mothers born in Pakistan have an infant mortality rate higher than babies of mothers born in any other country and double the overall infant mortality rate.⁷¹ In 2000, infant mortality among babies of mothers of Pakistani origin was 12.2 per 1000 live births, more than double the infant mortality rate for all babies.⁷² Similarly, stillbirth and perinatal rates were significantly higher for these mothers.⁷³
- 2.71 Nationally, women from black and minority ethnic groups use antenatal services less intensively, and a higher proportion book too late for screening to be useful. Women of South Asian origin may be up to 70% less likely to receive prenatal testing for haemoglobin disorders and Down's syndrome than white women and some research suggests that such women might be less likely to be offered testing. In addition, rates of maternal deaths for Asian women were three times those for white women.⁷⁴
- 2.72 Recent research has found that Pakistani and Bangladeshi fathers were less likely than other groups to feed their babies at least once a day: only 30% and 38% of fathers from these groups did so. This compares with 54% of Black-Caribbean fathers and 49% Black-African fathers.⁷⁵

Other health services

- 2.73 Nationally, black and ethnic minorities are less likely to visit the dentist than white people, and rates are particularly low for Bangladeshi and Pakistani children.⁷⁶
- 2.74 South Asian women, especially Bangladeshis, are less likely to have visited an optician than white women. Amongst men, African-Caribbeans and Bangladeshis are the least likely to have used opticians.⁷⁷

Accidents

- 2.75 The admission rate for accidents among Walsall's black and Asian population was the highest in the region (1070.0/1000), closely followed by the rate for Dudley's black and Asian population.⁷⁸

Achievement of floor targets: health

- 2.76 One of the health floor targets is, by 2010, to reduce by at least 10% the gap between the fifth of areas with the lowest life expectancy at birth and the population as a whole. Another is to reduce inequality between the fifth of wards with the highest under-18 conception rate and the average ward rate by at least 25%. Another is to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40%, and the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50%, by 2010, compared with the average for 1994-98, tackling the significantly higher incidence in disadvantaged communities.

Male life expectancy at birth

- 2.77 A principal component of the national floor target is male life expectancy at birth. In 1997, average male life expectancy in Walsall was 74.2 years compared with the England average of 74.8 years, and group average of 73.3 years. Walsall ranked 20th, Dudley 5th, Wolverhampton 37th, Birmingham 41st and Sandwell 69th, out of 88 NRF authorities.
- 2.78 Table 3 shows that in 2001, average male life expectancy in Walsall increased to 74.7 years, compared with the England average of 76 years, and group (all NRF authorities) average of 74.4 years. Walsall decreased by 16 positions, to 36th, out of 88 NRF authorities. By comparison, Dudley ranked 11th (average male life expectancy of 75.6 years), Wolverhampton 42nd (average male life expectancy of 74.5 years), Birmingham 66th (average male life expectancy 73.7 years), and Sandwell 68th (average male life expectancy of 73.7 years), out of 88 NRF authorities.

Table 3

Walsall MD male life expectancy: comparison with all-NRF average

Year
Score
Group
England Average

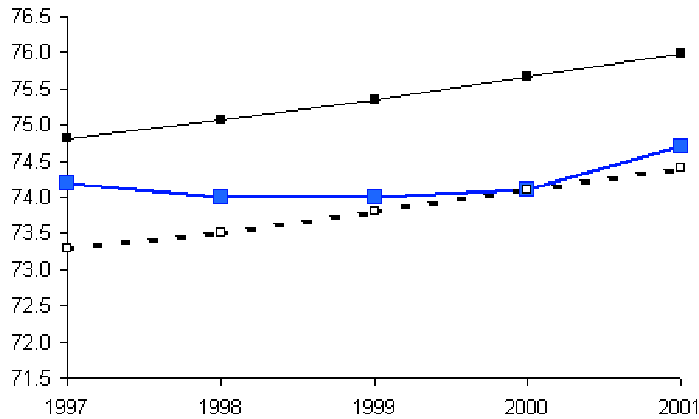
1997
74.2
73.3
74.8

1998
74.0
73.5
75.1

1999
74.0
73.8
75.3

2000
74.1
74.1
75.7

2001
74.7
74.4
76.0



Key:

—■— Local Authority Score - □ - Group Average —■— England Average

Female life expectancy at birth

- 2.79 In 1997, average female life expectancy in Walsall was 79.5 years. Walsall ranked 23rd, Dudley 14th, Birmingham 34th, Wolverhampton 40th and Sandwell 49th, out of 88 NRF authorities.
- 2.80 Table 4 shows that in 2001, average female life expectancy in Walsall increased to 80.3 years compared to the England average of 80.6 years, and group (all NRF authorities) average of 79.6 years. Walsall increased by 4 positions to 19th, out of 88 NRF authorities. By comparison, Dudley ranked 17th (average female life expectancy of 80.3 years) Wolverhampton 23rd (80.1 years), Birmingham 31st (average female life expectancy 79.7 years) and Sandwell 69th (average female life expectancy 78.8 years), out of 88 NRF authorities.

Table 4

Walsall MD female life expectancy, comparison with all-NRF average

Year
Score
Group
England Average

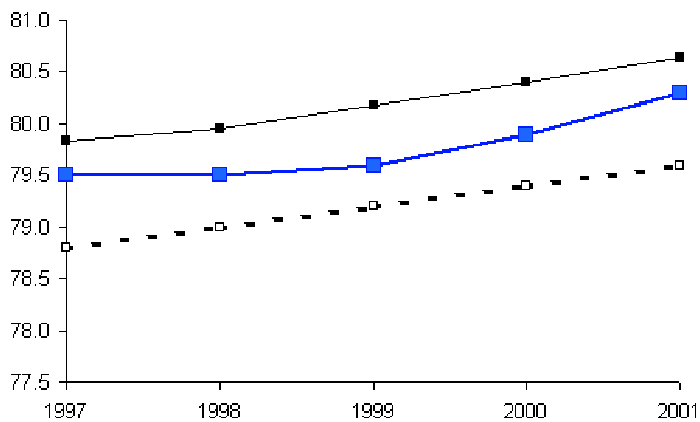
1997
79.5
78.8
79.8

1998
79.5
79.0
80.0

1999
79.6
79.2
80.2

2000
79.9
79.4
80.4

2001
80.3
79.6
80.6



Key:

—■— Local Authority Score - □ - Group Average —■— England Average

Under-age conception rate

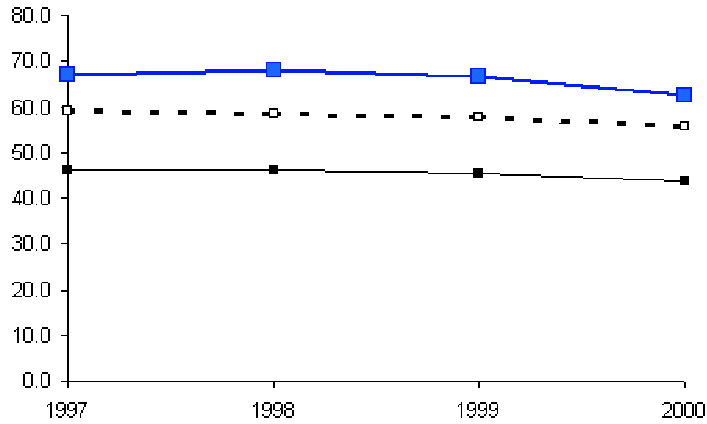
- 2.81 In 1997, Walsall's under-18 conception rate was 67.1 per 1000 population, compared with the England average of 46.2, and the NRF authorities' group average of 59.1. Walsall ranked 70th, Dudley 36th, Birmingham 42nd, and Sandwell 75th, out of 88 NRF authorities.
- 2.82 Table 5 shows that in 2000, the under-18 conception rate in Walsall was 62.6 per 1000 population, compared to the England average of 43.8, and group (all NRF authorities) average of 55.7. In 2000, Walsall had increased by one position to 69th, in comparison to Dudley 36th (53.1 per 1000 population),

Birmingham 43rd (54.9 per 1000 population), Wolverhampton 67th (61.7 per 1000 population), and Sandwell 73rd (64.8 per 1000 population), out 88 NRF authorities.

Table 5

Walsall MD teenage pregnancy rate: comparison with all-NRF average

Year	Score	Group	England Average
1997	67.1	59.1	46.2
1998	68.1	58.5	46.1
1999	66.5	57.7	45.4
2000	62.6	55.7	43.8



Key:

—■— Local Authority Score - □ - Group Average —■— England Average

Accident rate

- 2.83 In 1997, the overall casualty rate was 5.0 per 1,000 population compared with the England average of 6.0. Walsall ranked 22nd, Dudley 9th, Sandwell 19th, Birmingham 36th, and Wolverhampton 42nd, out of 88 NRF authorities.
- 2.84 Table 6 shows that in 2002, the overall casualty rate in Walsall reduced to 4.1 per 1,000 population, compared with the England average of 5.4, and group average of 5.6. Walsall increased by 12 positions and ranked 10th best out of 88 NRF authorities. By comparison, Dudley ranked 14th, Sandwell 52nd, Wolverhampton 58th, and Birmingham 73rd, out of 88 NRF authorities.

Table 6

Walsall MD overall road casualties: comparison with all-NRF average

Year
Score
Group
England Average

1997

5.0

6.1

6.0

1998

5.2

6.1

5.9

1999

4.9

6.0

5.8

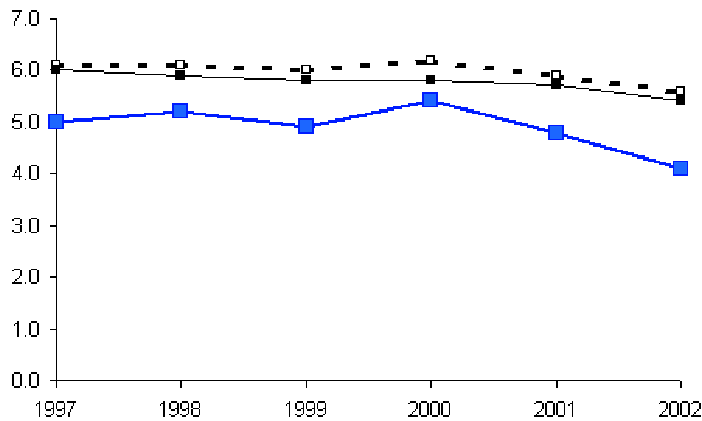
2000

5.4

6.2
5.8

2001
4.8
5.9
5.7

2002
4.1
5.6
5.4



Key:

■ Local Authority Score □ Group Average ■ England Average

Crime

Racial Harassment

2.85 In 2001/02, there was a total of 257 racially-aggravated offences in Walsall. Of those:

- 44 were racially-aggravated crimes relating to criminal damage.
- 31 were racially-aggravated fear or provocation of violence and racist incidents: non-crime.
- 182 were offences of racially-aggravated common assault (including 6 offences of wounding S.20 and 2 S.47 ABH) relating to violence against a person.⁷⁹

2.86 In 2002/03, there was a total of 225 racially-aggravated offences in Walsall.

Of those:

- 44 were racially-aggravated crimes relating to criminal damage.
- 22 were racially-aggravated fear or provocation of violence and racist incidents: non-crime.
- 159 were offences of racially-aggravated common assault relating to violence against a person.

During this period there was in total 30 'Disorders' Command and Control incidents (H1 OCU – 20 and H2 OCU – 10).⁸⁰

- 2.87 Nationally, ethnic minorities suffer consistently higher rates of victimisation and fear of crime, whether or not overall crime rates are falling or increasing. Just under half: 43 % of Asians, and 40% of black people, are 'very afraid' of violent crime, compared to 19% of whites.⁸¹

Achievement of floor target: crime

- 2.88 The floor target is to reduce crime and the fear of crime, improve performance overall, including by reducing the gap between the highest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas, and the best comparable areas, and to reduce:
- vehicle crime by 30% from 1998-99 to 2004,
 - domestic burglary by 25% from 1998-99 to 2005,
 - robbery in the ten Street Crime Initiative areas by 14% from 1999-2000 to 2005, and to maintain that level.

The principal components of the national floor targets are dealt with in turn below.

Vehicle crime rate

- 2.89 In 2002, vehicle crime rate in Walsall reduced to 18.8 per 1000 population, equal to the England average, and below the group average (25.8). Walsall increased by 28 positions and ranked 27th out of 88 NRF authorities. By contrast, Dudley ranked 21st, Wolverhampton 47th, Sandwell 58th, and Birmingham 59th, out of 88 NRF authorities.
- 2.90 In 2002, the vehicle crime rate in Walsall reduced to 21.0 per 1000 households, slightly more than the England average of 20.7, and less than the group average of 30.5. Walsall increased by 19 positions and ranked 30th out of all NRF authorities. By comparison, Dudley ranked 24th, Wolverhampton 41st, Sandwell 58th, and Birmingham 62nd, out of all NRF authorities.

Robbery rate

2.91 In 2002, the robbery rate in Walsall reduced to 1.8 per 1000 population, lower than the England (2.2) and NRF authorities group (4.0) averages. Walsall increased by 8 positions and ranked 42nd best out of 88 NRF authorities. By comparison, Dudley ranked 40th, Sandwell 60th, Wolverhampton 61st, and Birmingham 70th out of 88 NRF authorities.

Endnotes

¹ The borough's largest concentration of Indians is found in the wards of Palfrey (18.24%), Pleck (14.85%), Paddock (14.18%), and Bentley and Darlaston North (9.14%).

² The borough's largest concentration of Pakistanis is found in the wards of Palfrey (16.68%), Pleck (15.56%), St Matthew's (10.55%) and Birchills Leamore (7.85%).

³ The borough's largest concentration of Mixed groups is found in the wards of St Matthew's (2.76%), Pleck (2.47%), Willenhall South (2.45%) and Palfrey (2.38%).

⁴ The borough's largest concentration of Black groups is found in the wards of St. Matthew's (3.96%), Pleck (2.93%), Palfrey (2.65%) and Bentley and Darlaston North (2.03%).

⁵ The Borough's largest concentration of Bangladeshis is found in the wards of Palfrey (6.43%), St. Matthew's (4.21%), Pleck (3.0%) and Bentley and Darlaston North (2.90%).

⁶ Walsall Education Development Plan 2002-2007 page 42.

⁷ The IMD 2000 was constructed by combining the six transformed domain scores, using the following weights: Income - 25%; Employment – 25%; Health Deprivation & Disability – 15%; Education, Skills

and Training – 15%; Housing – 10% and Geographical Access to Services – 10%. The wards with a rank of 1 are the most deprived, and 8414 the least deprived.

⁸ www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_urbanpolicy/document/downloadable/odpm_urbpol_608100.xls

⁹ With a 4% BME population.

¹⁰ With a 3.91% BME population.

¹¹ With a 3.55% BME population.

¹² With a 3.19% BME population.

¹³ The borough's largest concentration of Muslims are in Palfrey (27.34%), Pleck (20.12%) St. Matthew (15.02%), Bentley and Darlaston North (9.21%).

¹⁴ The borough's largest concentration of Sikhs are in Paddock (10.02%), Willenhall South (7.18%), Palfrey (7.17%) and Pleck 5.88%).

¹⁵ The borough's largest concentration of Hindus are in Pleck (6.91%), Palfrey (5.41%), Paddock (3.81%) and Bentley and Darlaston North (2.80%).

¹⁶ LEA achievements at GCSE/GNVQ in 2003 by ethnicity and gender. Source: DfES

¹⁷ These findings are also reflected within the Walsall Education Development Plan 2002-2007, as per pages 23 and 67.

¹⁸ National achievement levels of Pakistani pupils was 41.9% and Bangladeshi pupils was 45.8% gaining 5+ A* - C GCSE/GNVQ. These findings are also confirmed by Bhattacharyya G, Ison L and Blair M [2003] *Minority Ethnic Attainment and Participation in Education and Training: the evidence HMSO*.

¹⁹ These findings are also reflected within the Walsall Education Development Plan 2002-2007, as per pages 21, 27 and 28.

²⁰ These findings are also supported in the Walsall Education Development Plan 2002-2007, pages 19, 21, 25, 27 and 28.

²¹ As per Walsall Education Development Plan 2002-2007 page 54.

²² White A (ed) [2002] *Social focus in brief: ethnicity 2002* ONS.

²³ DWP [2003a] *Opportunity for All 2003* HMSO.

²⁴ www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk - Floor Target Interactive.

²⁵ White A (ed) [2002] *Social focus in brief: ethnicity 2002* ONS.

²⁶ Owned outright, owned with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership.

²⁷ From the Local Authority, Housing Association, Registered Social Landlord, Housing Corporation and Charitable Trust.

²⁸ Private landlord or letting agency, employer of a household member, relative or friends of a household member.

²⁹ Could include households that are living in accommodation other than private rented.

- ³⁰ DWP [2004] *HBAI 2002/3* HMSO.
- ³¹ DWP [2003b] *Full employment in every region* HMSO.
- ³² Equal Opportunities Commission [2002] *Facts about women and men in Great Britain 2003*.
- ³³ TUC [2003] *The New Deal and Race* TUC.
- ³⁴ Strategy Unit [2003] *Ethnic minorities and the Labour Market: Final report* HMSO.
- ³⁵ The Acheson Report, 1998 - '*The Independent Inquiry into Inequalities and Health*' identified the needs of ethnic minority populations should be given specific consideration.
- ³⁶ Based on whether or not the person indicated a long term illness, health problem or disability which limits their daily activities or the work they can do, including problems that are due to old age.
- ³⁷ South Asian describes people born in the Indian sub-continent, ie. Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi or those descended from persons born in these communities.
- ³⁸ Peter J Aspinall, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Health Services Studies, University of Kent & Special Advisor to the London Health Observatory & Dr Bobbie Jacobson, Director, London Health Observatory [July 2004] '*Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focussed Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice*', page 6.
- ³⁹ '*Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice*' [2004], page 6.
- ⁴⁰ The Asian Health & Lifestyle Survey 2000 - page 17.
- ⁴¹ Dr S.Pooransingh, Mr J.Kumar and Dr S.Ramiah [2001] '*The Asian Health & Lifestyle Survey 2000*' - Department of Public Health Medicine, Walsall Health Authority. This was a substantial survey of the health status and lifestyles of Walsall's South Asian population in 2000 with a sample of 943 Asian residents aged 21-70 years.
- ⁴² Health Survey for England 1999.
- ⁴³ Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice [July 2004] page 6.
- ⁴⁴ South Asian men were 30% more likely to have ischaemic heart disease (heart attack or angina) than men in the general population. As per Health Survey for England 1999.
- ⁴⁵ Walsall Health Authority Public Health Directorate 'Health Status in Walsall into the 21st century' [2001] '*Standardised rates of admission for heart disease by ethnicity*', page 5.
- ⁴⁶ Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice [July 2004] page 4.
- ⁴⁷ Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice [July 2004] page 4.
- ⁴⁸ The Asian Health & Lifestyle Survey 2000 - page 17.
- ⁴⁹ *Health Survey for England* [1999].
- ⁵⁰ '*Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice*' [July 2004] page 11.

- ⁵¹ Walsall Health Authority Public Health Directorate 'Health Status in Walsall into the 21st century' [2001] 'Standardised rates of admission for strokes by ethnicity', page 6.
- ⁵² *Health Survey for England* [1999].
- ⁵³ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004] page 7.
- ⁵⁴ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004] page 7.
- ⁵⁵ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004] page 7.
- ⁵⁶ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004] page 7.
- ⁵⁷ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004] page 8.
- ⁵⁸ 'The Asian Health & Lifestyle Survey' [2000], page 18.
- ⁵⁹ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004], page 12.
- ⁶⁰ *Health Survey for England* [1999].
- ⁶¹ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004], page 12.
- ⁶² 'The Asian Health & Lifestyle Survey' [2000], page 17 and supported by findings within the 'Health Survey for England' [1999].
- ⁶³ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004], page 14.
- ⁶⁴ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004], page 13.
- ⁶⁵ 'The Asian Health & Lifestyle Survey' [2000], page 17.
- ⁶⁶ Dr S Pooransingh, Dr Sam Ramiah, Public Health Department, Walsall Health Authority, [July 2001] 'Prevention of Cervical Cancer – Cervical Screening Uptake Among South Asian's in Walsall'; page 3. This is also supported by findings in 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004] page 14.
- ⁶⁷ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004] page 14.
- ⁶⁸ 'The Asian Health & Lifestyle Survey' [2000], page 19.
- ⁶⁹ 'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice' [July 2004] page 14.
- ⁷⁰ 'Health Survey for England' [1999].

⁷¹ *'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice'* [July 2004], page 10.

⁷² *'Tackling Health Inequalities'* [2002] Cross-Cutting Review.

⁷³ *'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice'* [July 2004], page 10.

⁷⁴ *'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice'* [July 2004] page 10.

⁷⁵ Economic and Social Research Council [2004] *'Seven Ages of Men and Women'*, page 10.

⁷⁶ *'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice'* [July 2004] page 17.

⁷⁷ *'Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care: A Focused Review of the Evidence and Selected Examples of Good Practice'* [July 2004] page 17.

⁷⁸ Walsall Health Authority Public Health Directorate *'Health Status in Walsall into the 21st century'* [2001] *'Standardised rates of admission for accidents by ethnicity'*, page 7.

⁷⁹ RHBE Directorate, Walsall MBC Statistics acquired from Strategic Intelligence Unit, Service Improvements.

⁸⁰ Oasis (source of log), *'Disorder' Command and Control Incidents'*.

⁸¹ Home Office [2003] *'Crime in England and Wales 2002/3'* HMSO.