

Chapter 4: Ageing Well

Health

Falls

Winter Mortality Index

Winter Fuel Payments

Care & Vulnerable Older People

Adult Social Care: Care

Adult Social Care: Safeguarding

Adult Social Care: Social Care Contact

Appendix



Key Points

Background

Falls are the largest cause of emergency hospital admissions for older people, and significantly impact on long term outcomes, e.g. being a major precipitant of people moving from their own home to long-term nursing or residential care¹.

This measure should be understood in terms of assessing health service utilisation: the number of patients with falls related emergency admissions entering a hospital setting. It should not be used to assess need as many injurious falls will not result in emergency admissions. It should also not be used to assess falls prevention service effectiveness as there are a number of conditions which will increase susceptibility to injury, including osteoporosis, the treatment of which is the remit of other services.

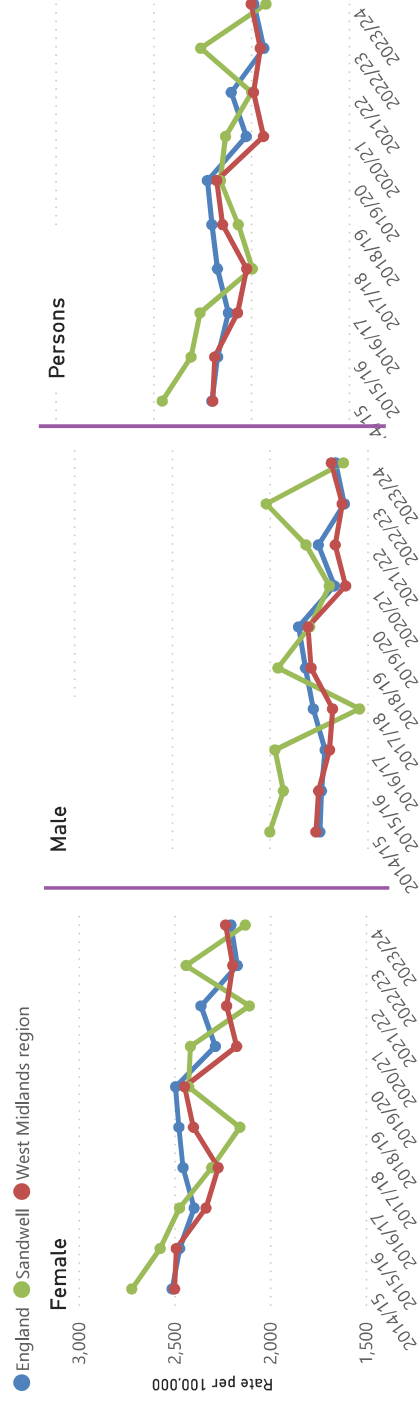
Interpretation - Emergency hospital admissions for falls injuries in persons aged 65 and over had been statistically worse in Sandwell than England before 2015/16, but after that have generally been statistically similar or better than England. In 2023/4 there were 980 such admissions the lowest in the period 2010/11-2023/4.

Emergency hospital admissions for falls injuries are higher (numbers and rates) for Females than Males and the over 80s have a lot more Emergency admissions for falls injuries than those aged 65-79.

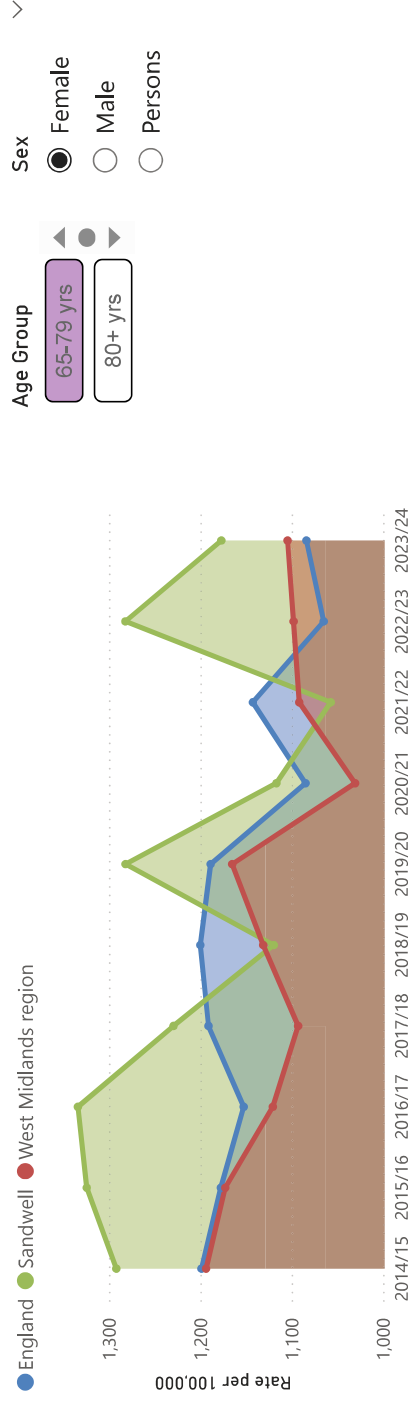
[1] Department of Health (2012), *improving outcomes and supporting transparency. Part 2: Summary technical specifications of public health indicators.*

At: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358

Emergency hospital admissions for falls injuries in persons aged 65 and over, directly age standardised rate per 100,000



Emergency hospital admissions for falls injuries in persons aged 65-79 yrs. directly age standardised rate per 100,000



Winter Mortality Index

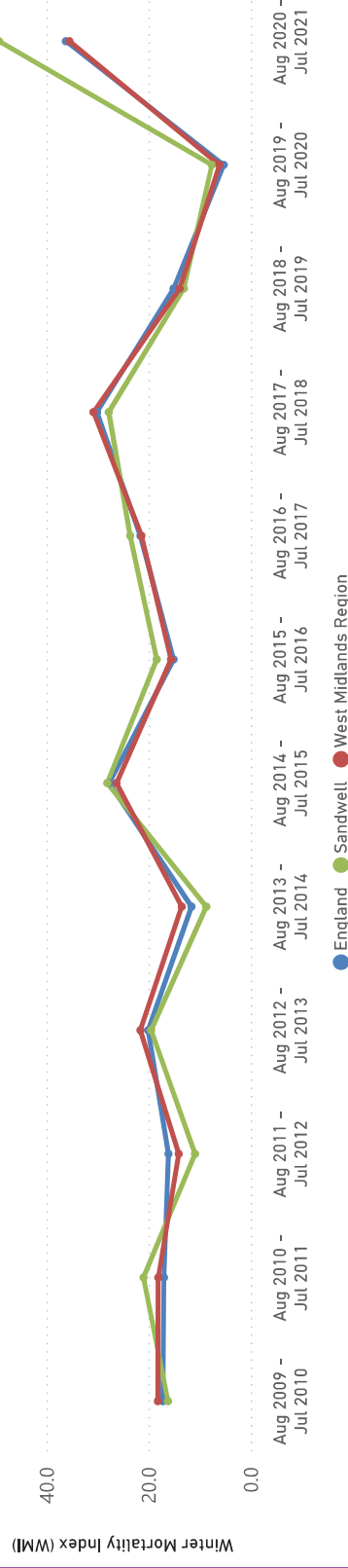
Key Points

Background the Winter Mortality Index (WMI) (previously excess winter mortality index) compares the number of deaths that occurred in the winter period (December to March) with the average of the non-winter periods (the rest of the year). Winter mortality is not solely a reflection of temperature, but of other factors including respiratory diseases and pressure on services, which have been more intense than usual during and following the height of the pandemic. The higher the index the greater the difference between deaths in winter and the rest of the year.

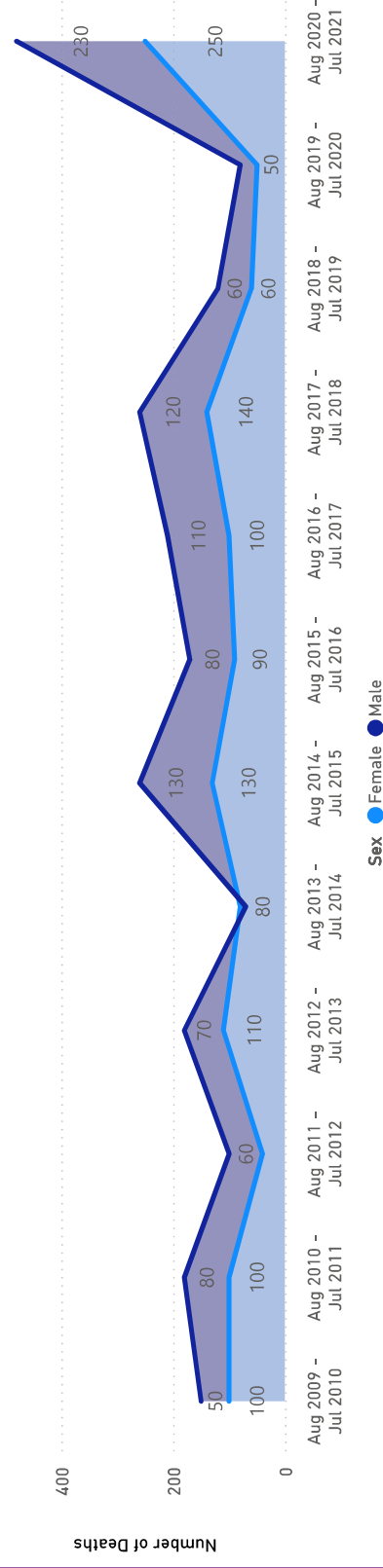
Interpretation the Winter Mortality Index (WMI) for Sandwell is: -

- variable over the years and was not statistically different to the England and the West Midlands region average until 2020-21 where Sandwell is statistically worse than the England and the West Midlands region averages (which also increased in 2020-21)
- the higher deaths in 2021-21 may not be solely due to COVID but could be other factors such as healthcare challenges during the pandemic
- Male and Female excess deaths were fairly similar over the 2009/10 to 2020/21 period

Winter Mortality Index



Number of Winter Deaths By Year and Sex



Key Points

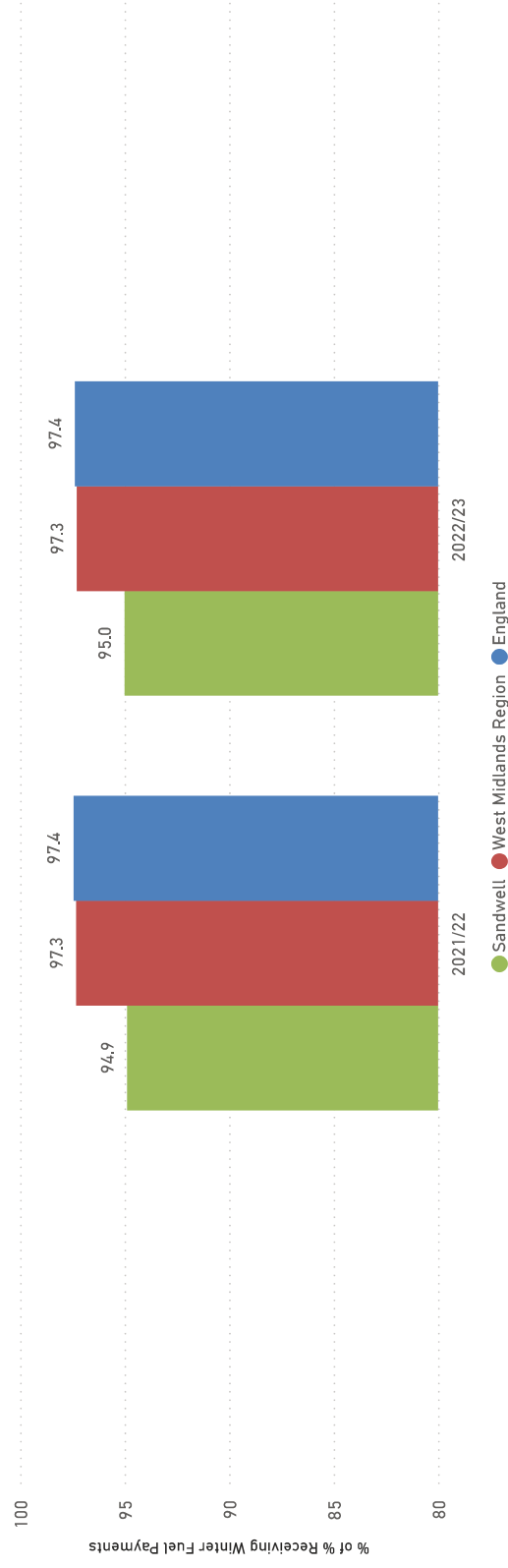
Background [Winter Fuel Payments](#) were introduced in 1997 to help older people meet the costs of heating their homes in winter. They are paid in a lump sum each winter. People will usually receive the Winter Fuel Payment automatically if they meet certain [eligibility criteria](#) and receive the State Pension or another social security benefit. If eligible, people should receive a letter in October or November of the year. People who didn't receive a letter, but think they are eligible, can also make a claim for the payment.

Interpretation In Sandwell in 2021/22 and 2022/23: -

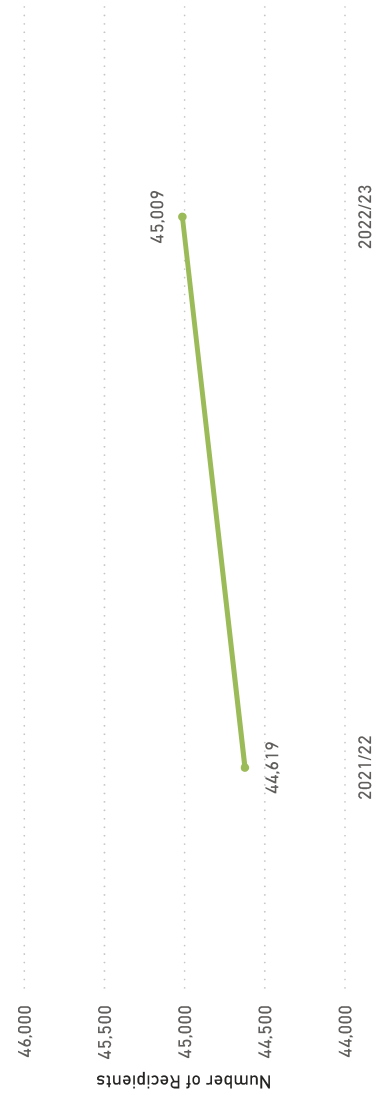
- the percentage of people of pensionable age receiving winter fuel payments was lower than the West Midlands Region and England
- lower proportions are thought to highlight areas with high levels of migration/transient populations, possible problems with the payment system and the proportion of residents in care homes/long-term NHS settings
- in Sandwell there were 44,619 recipients of winter fuel payments in 2021/22 and 45,009 recipients in 2022/23

Data Limitations Data from 2021/22 onwards only is used because data from this date onwards shows the number of people claiming Winter Fuel Payments whereas previous data was essentially an estimate and it is not recommended to compare the two types of data. The amount individuals get depends on their age and household status and so statistics on this just reflect the age and household status in Sandwell and so meaningful analysis or comparison with national figures cannot be produced. In 2023 eligible individuals would get between £250 and £600.

Winter Fuel Payments-Percentage of People of Pensionable Age Receiving Winter Fuel Payments



Number of Winter Fuel Recipients in Sandwell 2021/22 & 2022/23



Adult Social Care: Care

Key Points

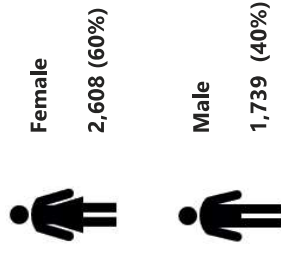
People Supported by Sandwell Adult Social Care at 30th June 2023

4,347 adults were supported on this date and 60% of those supported were female (2,608 adults) and 40% of those supported were male (1,739 adults). The larger number of females may reflect higher female life expectancy meaning more females reach ages where they are more likely to require the adult social care.

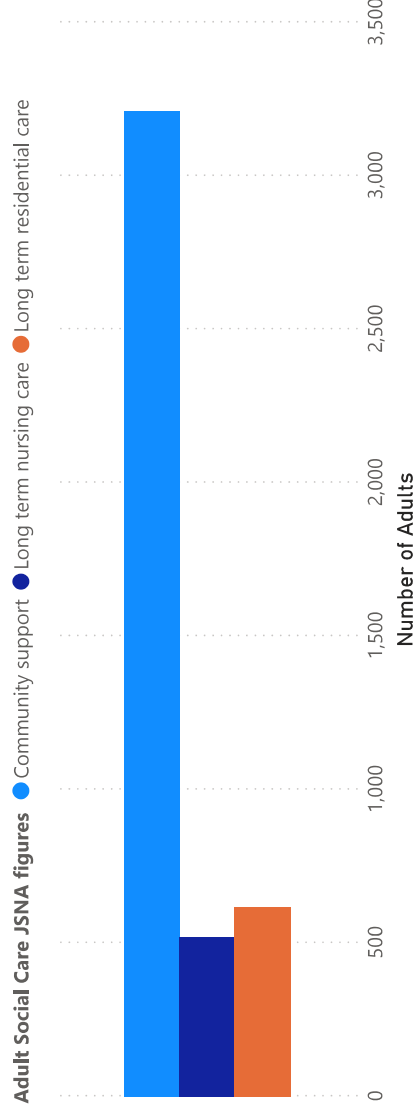
On this date nearly three quarters of adults supported (3,212 people) were supported in the community, 520 people were in long term nursing care and 615 people were in long term residential care.

The ethnicity and age profile of those supported by Adult Social Care may reflect the ethnic and age mix of those most likely to be supported by adult social care in Sandwell with over 65% of adults being supported being aged 65 or over.

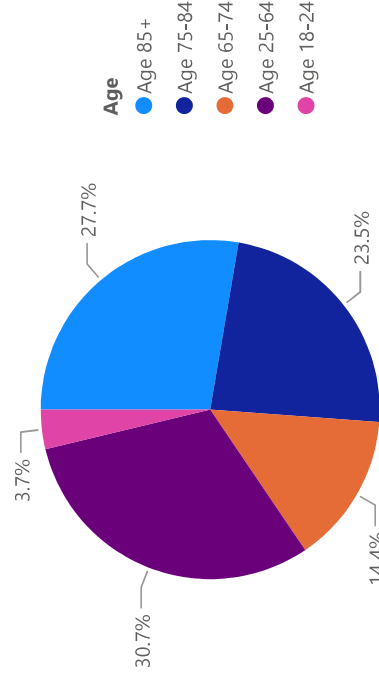
4,347 supported by Adult Social Care at 30th June 2023



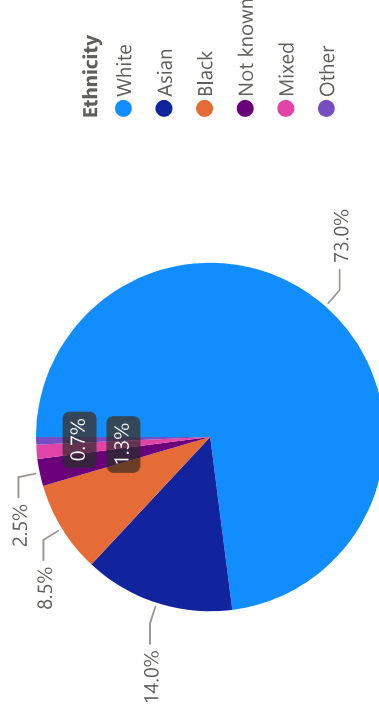
Numbers of Adults By Type of Care Received at 30 June 2023



% of Adults Supported at 30th June 2023 by Age



% of Adults Supported at 30th June 2023 by Ethnicity



Key Points

Reablement

Reablement is a type of care that helps people to relearn how to do daily activities, like cooking meals and washing, often allowing people to be able to live more independently following being in hospital.

The number of episodes of reablement increased in Sandwell from 2,299 in 2020-21 to 2,710 in 2022-23.

Safeguarding Concerns

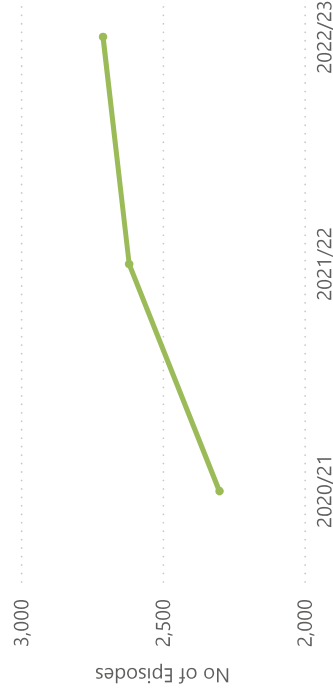
In Sandwell, the number of safeguarding concerns decreased from 3,817 in 2020-21 to 1,366 in 2022-23. The number of Section 42 (Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to make enquiries if there are certain concerns about adults in their area) enquiries decreased from 1,822 in 2020-21 to 313 in 2022-23.

Safeguarding Outcomes

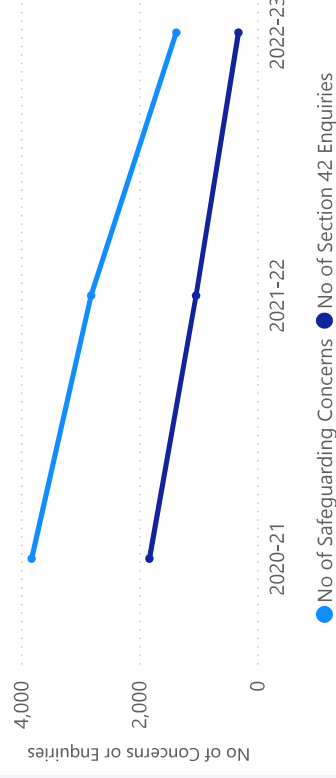
Of the cases where a risk was identified, the proportion of cases where the risk was reduced or removed increased from 94.4% in 2020-21 to 94.7% in 2022-3.

Of the cases where desired outcomes were expressed, the proportion of cases where desired outcomes were not achieved increased slightly from 6.0% in 2020-21 to 6.5% in 2022-3.

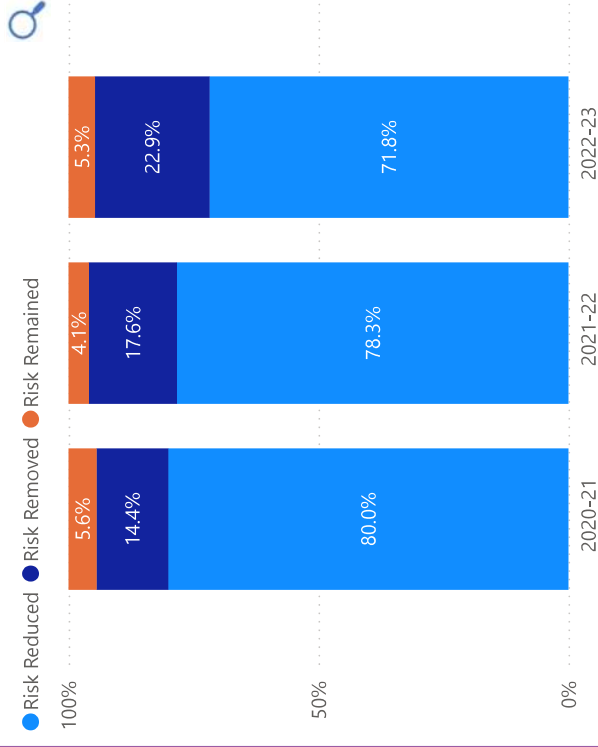
Episodes of Reablement Completed in Year



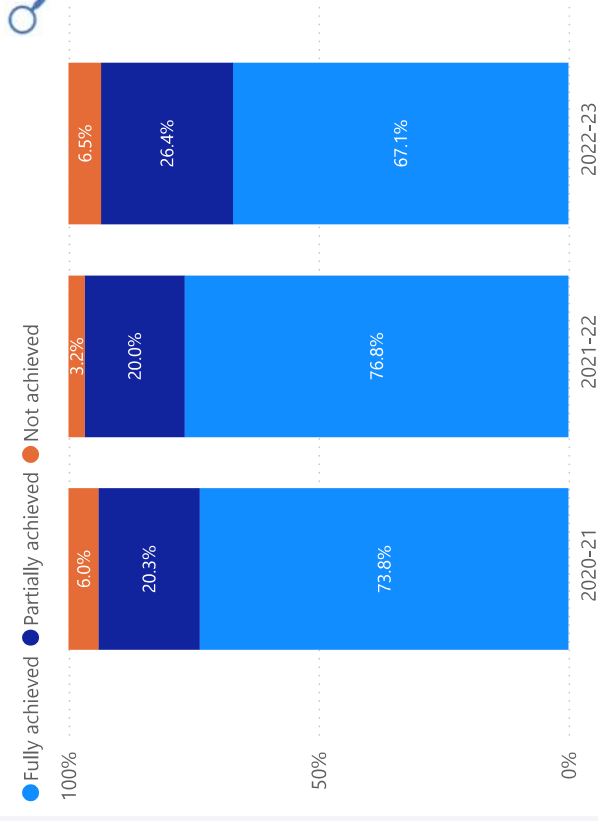
Safeguarding Concerns and Section 42 Enquiries 2020-21 to 2022-23



Safeguarding Outcomes



% of Cases Where Desired Outcomes Were Achieved Where They Were Expressed



Key Points

Social Contact for Adult Social Care Users Aged 65 and Above

Over the period 2014/5 to 2021/22 those aged 65 or over using social care had a higher percentage of adult carers who have as much social contact as they would like in Sandwell than the West Midlands Region and England.

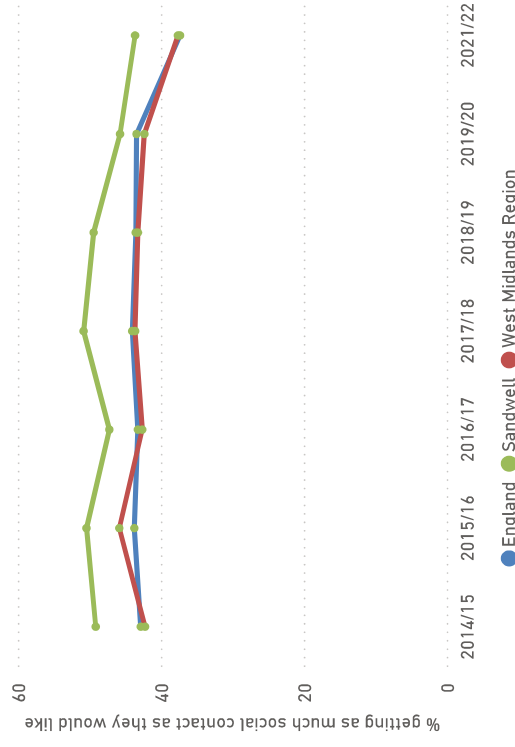
In 2021/22 the proportion in Sandwell was 43.6% compared to 37.6% for the West Midlands Region and 37.3% for England and statistically similar to the regional and national proportions.

Social Contact for Carers Aged 65 and Above

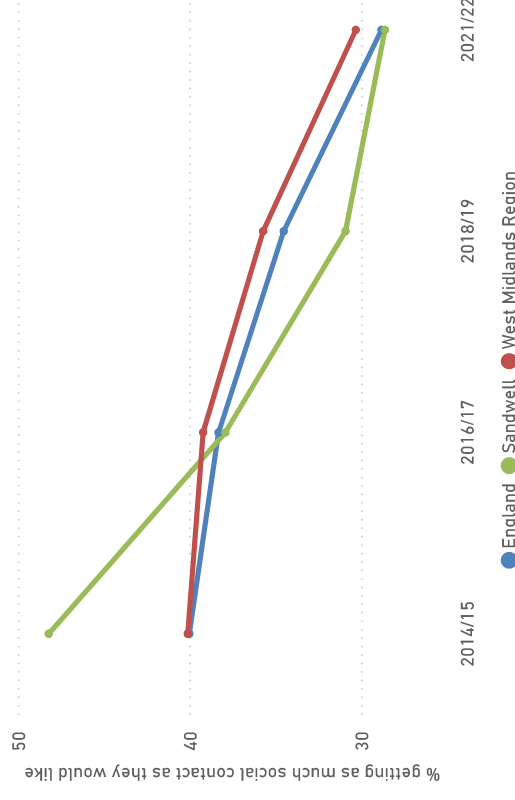
Over the period 2016/7 to 2021/22 Carers aged 65 or over had a lower percentage of adult carers who have as much social contact as they would like in Sandwell than the West Midlands Region and England.

In 2021/22 the proportion in Sandwell was 28.6% compared to 30.3% for the West Midlands Region and 28.8% for England and statistically similar to the regional and national proportions.

Social Contact for Service Users Aged 65 and Above 2014/15 to 2021/22



Social Contact for Carers Aged 65 and Above 2014/15 to 2021/22



Social Contact - Proportion (%) of Those Aged 65 and Above Who Have As Much Social Contact As They Would Like

There is clear link between loneliness and poor mental and physical health. A key element of the Government's vision for social care is to tackle loneliness and social isolation, supporting people to remain connected to their communities and to develop and maintain connections to their friends and family. These measures draw on self-reported levels of social contact as an indicator of social isolation for both users of social care and carers.

Data Caveats

Service user data is in single financial years whereas carers data is in biennial financial years (2020/21 is for 2020 and 2021).

Data Collection was not completed during the COVID 19 pandemic and so there is no 2020/21 data for service users and carers.

Appendix: Chapter 4 - Ageing Well

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Data Sources

Falls

Fingertips Public Health Profiles: Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over (accessed March 2025)

Winter Mortality

Fingertips Public Health data (accessed November 2023)

Winter Fuel Payments

Fingertips Public Health, Department for Work and Pensions & Office for National Statistics data (accessed November 2023)

Adult Social Care: Care

Sandwell Council Adult and Social care

Adult Social Care: Safeguarding

Sandwell Council Adult and Social care

Adult Social Care: Social Contact

Fingertips Public Health data (accessed November 2023)

Contact

If you have any queries or comments please contact the Public Health Research and Intelligence Team: research_sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk

