



Equality Information: Borough Characteristics 2024

February 2024

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies (such as the Council) to have due regard to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

The Equality Act 2010 defines the following protected characteristics against which it is illegal to discriminate:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

This report sets out currently available equality data for Reigate & Banstead Borough. It is available in large print or another language on request, by phoning 01737 276000.

The information provided uses available statistics for the protected characteristics or close approximate measures. Information on some protected characteristics may not be fully captured by available statistics, and readers are therefore encouraged to consider where data may be limited.

In addition to protected characteristics, this document also includes additional information on some factors which may contribute to persons being otherwise vulnerable, or which should be considered as part of wider support for equality. This includes information poverty and deprivation, along with more specific factors such as digital isolation.

The experiences of individuals within the borough or accessing Council services will often be unique to them, and cannot necessarily be defined in terms of broad categories. The potential combination and intersection of protected and non-protected characteristics, and how they can potentially present challenges beyond those of wider groups, should be considered in providing and reviewing Council services and activities for all persons.

Much of the information presented in this document is provided by the 2021 Census, conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). More information on the results of the Census can be found on the ONS's website, via their [Census 2021 results page](#). We've also included links to our data sources throughout this document, so you can click through to see the original information, or any updates that have been released.

You can also review information for the borough or other areas using the [ONS Census Maps Tool](#). This tool allows you to review available statistics at a borough level, and ward levels where available, or to compare to wider information on England and Wales.

Population

The most recent estimate of Reigate & Banstead borough's population is 153,629, as of mid-2022. The current population is likely to be slightly higher than this figure.

Looking at historic data and trends, the 2021 Census estimated the borough's population at 150,852, an increase from the [2011 Census level](#) of 137,835, and close to the [2018 ONS population projection](#) of 150,963. The same population projections estimate that the population of the borough is likely to grow to 154,959 by 2026 and 157,467 by 2031, although more recent estimates of growth have been slightly faster.

In terms of [population density](#), the borough had an estimated 1,190 persons per square kilometre in 2022. This is higher than the average for England and Wales of 399. Areas with similar population densities are generally on the outskirts of metropolitan areas, with many more rural areas having population densities of between 100 and 300, while cities outside of London typically have densities of between 3000 and 5000.

Age

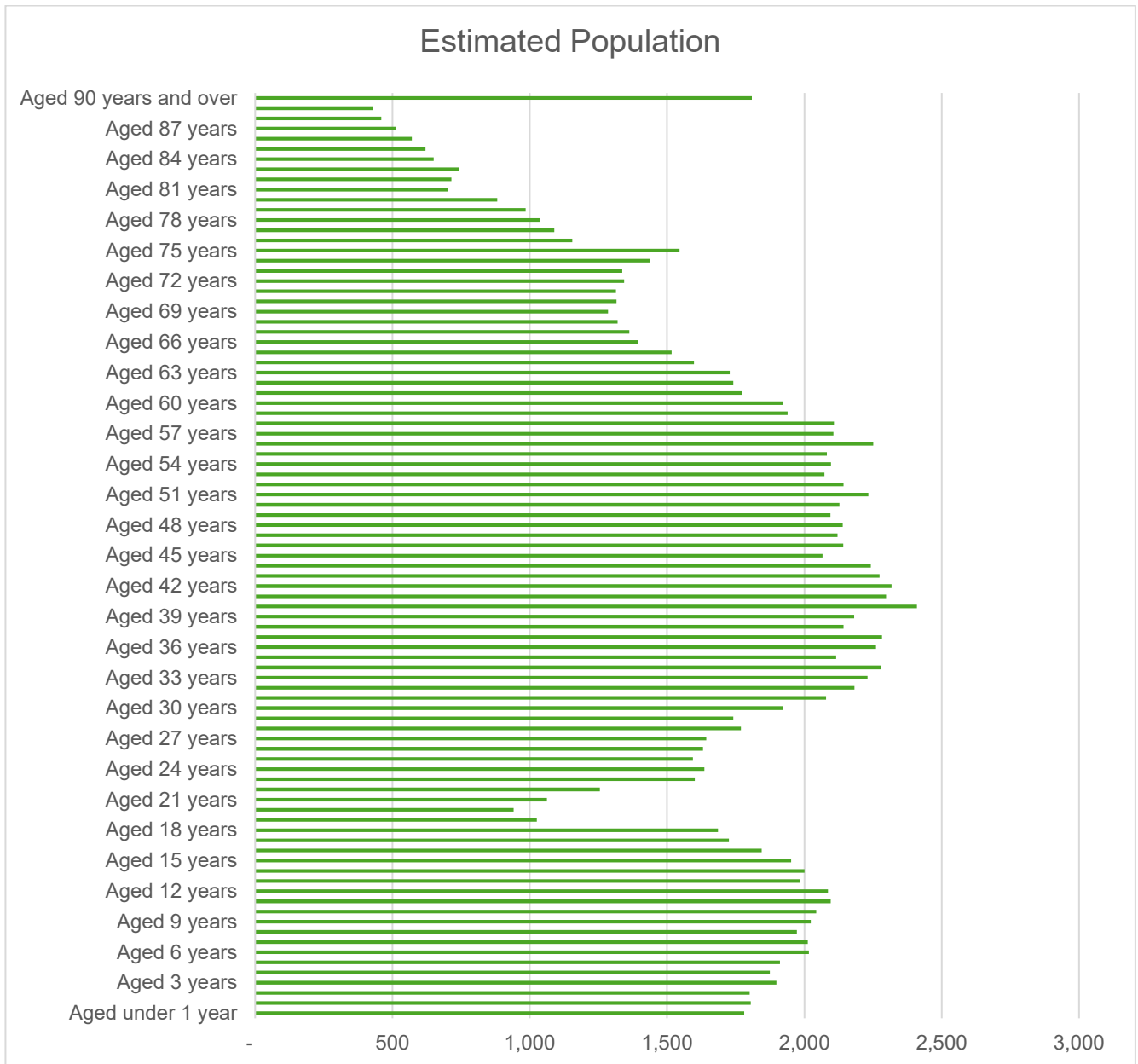
Of the population of the borough in 2022, the most recent projections estimate that:

- 33,096 borough residents were aged 16 and under. This represents 21.54% of the population. This is slightly higher than the proportion for England and Wales, of 19.61%
- 26,721 borough residents were aged over 65 and over. This represents 17.71% of the population. This is slightly lower than the proportion for England and Wales of 18.56%

The ONS reports that [life expectancy](#) at birth for females in Reigate & Banstead is 84.04 years; for males it is 80.77 years. These are higher than the UK figures of 82.82 for females and 78.85 for males. (All ONS life expectancy figures are differentiated by sex).

An overview of the age distribution in the borough can be seen in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Age in Reigate and Banstead



Population projections indicate that the average age of the borough’s population is likely to increase over time. An overview of the projection of proportions of the borough population aged 65 or older in future years can be found in Figure 2 below.

Shifts in population growth since the projections were made suggest that the proportion of the population aged 65 and older may be lower than was anticipated – new projections are anticipated later in 2024.

Figure 2: Projected proportion of the borough population aged 65 and older over time

Year	Proportion of borough population aged 65 and older
2022	17.92% (Estimated)
2025	19.22% (Projected)
2030	20.99% (Projected)
2035	22.60% (Projected)
2040	23.78% (Projected)

There are also variations in the age profile of the borough by area. An overview of the most recent data on the proportions of the borough population aged either 16 and under, or 65 and older can be found in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3: Proportion of borough population aged 16 and under, or 65 and over, by ward

Ward	Proportion of borough population aged 16 or under	Proportion of borough population aged 65 or older
Banstead Village	15.90%	25.11%
Chipstead, Kingswood & Woodmansterne	18.87%	21.46%
Earlswood & Whitebushes	21.09%	12.60%
Hooley, Merstham & Netherne	24.10%	13.36%
Horley Central & South	18.95%	19.02%
Horley East & Salfords	22.03%	15.95%

Horley West & Sidlow	23.17%	16.21%
Lower Kingswood, Tadworth & Walton	18.09%	25.92%
Meadvale & St John's	24.14%	13.59%
Nork	19.53%	23.20%
Redhill East	21.82%	11.09%
Redhill West & Wray Common	24.57%	15.60%
Reigate	20.98%	20.45%
South Park & Woodhatch	24.79%	16.36%
Tattenham Corner & Preston	23.84%	16.17%

Children and Parenthood

As of the most recent estimates, there are 34,821 children (persons aged under 18) in the borough, making up 22.67% of the borough population. This is relatively close to the 2011 level, when it was 22.08% of the population, although the level has varied slightly over time. More information on age distribution in the borough is available in the age section of this document.

Data about pregnancy and maternity is limited at a local authority level. However the ONS publishes [data about live births](#). This figures are indicative of pregnancy and maternity levels, although readers should be aware that they will not necessarily coincide exactly.

In 2021 there were 1,750 live births to parents in the borough. This level has remained relatively constant in recent years, with an average level of 1727 since 2016.

For live births, the ONS records the ages of mothers. A small percentage of births may be to a parent with a different gender identity, but this is not captured in the available data and is therefore not reflected here. Information on the age of fathers is also not captured.

In 2021 63.4% of live births were to mothers aged 30-39, with 29.43% to mothers aged 20-29, 5.87% to mothers aged 40+ and 1.3% to mothers aged under 20. Only 0.23% of live births (3 in 2021) are to mothers aged under 18; this level has remained relatively constant with an average level of 4 per year since 2016.

In terms of households, 32.95% of households in the borough reported having dependent children, consisting of 24.79% couples, 5.86% lone parents, and 2.30% other household types.

Sex and Gender

The 2021 Census collected information on the sex and gender of participants. [Information on the sex of participants](#) was collected independently to [information on their gender](#).

The Census question on sex asked participants to provide a response of either female or male, and participants considering how to answer were asked to use the sex recorded on their birth certificate or Gender Recognition Certificate. The ONS recognised that there would be those who might not find these responses fully fitting – the ONS website contains additional information on [the development of the Census questions on sex and gender identity](#).

The Census question on gender identity asked if participants aged 16 or older identified with the same gender as their sex registered at birth, and provided space to enter a gender identity for those who answered ‘no’. This question was voluntary and was therefore not answered by all participants.

According to the findings of the 2021 Census, the population of the borough in 2021 was 51% female and 49% male.

The findings of the 2021 Census regarding gender identity in the borough were as set out in Figure 4 below:

Figure 4: Gender identity in Reigate and Banstead

Gender Identity	Proportion of Borough Population
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	94.53%
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	0.13%

Trans woman	0.09%
Trans man	0.07%
Non-binary	0.04%
All other gender identities	0.02%
Not answered	5.12%

According to the above findings, approximately 0.36% of people in Reigate and Banstead reported a gender identity different to that registered at birth. This is consistent with [an estimate by Government Equalities Office in 2018](#) that trans people make up between 0.3% and 0.75% of the UK population.

Ethnicity

The 2021 Census asked respondents to identify the ethnic group that they felt they belonged to.

From this [Census 2021 ethnicity data](#), of the population of the borough in 2021, the most common responses to the Census' ethnicity question were 'White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British' at 76.87%, 'White: Other White' at 6.12% and 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian' at 3.07%.

As per ONS groupings, the percentages of responses to the Census' ethnicity question in the borough were:

- Asian, British Asian or Asian Welsh: 7.55%
- Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: 2.93%
- Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: 3.67%
- Other ethnic group: 1.44%
- White: 84.41%

A more detailed breakdown of the responses to the Census question regarding ethnicity can be found in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Ethnicity in the borough

Ethnic Group	Percentage of borough population
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	76.87%
White: Other White	6.12%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian	3.07%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian	1.91%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African	1.91%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Pakistani	1.35%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	1.26%
White: Irish	1.14%
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	1.14%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1.08%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	0.84%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Caribbean	0.66%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Chinese	0.63%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Bangladeshi	0.59%

Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	0.49%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Other Black	0.36%
Other ethnic group: Arab	0.30%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.18%
White: Roma	0.10%

Language

Most households in the borough have at least one member who speaks English as a main language, according to the [2021 Census household language information](#). However, over 8% of households contain at least one person for whom English isn't their main language, and over 4% have either no-one or only children for whom English is a main language.

A more detailed breakdown of where households have English as a main language is provided in Figure 6 below.

Figure 6: English as a main language for households in the borough

Household Type	Number of households within the borough	Percentage of households within the borough
All people aged 16 and over in household have English as a main language	54906	91.74%
At least one but not all people aged 16 and over in household have English as a main language	2271	3.79%
No people aged 16 and over in household but at least one person aged 3 to 15 has English as a main language	710	1.19%
No people in household have English as a main language	1962	3.28%

In terms of [language proficiency by population](#):

- 97.44% of the applicable borough population either have English as a main language or can speak English very well,
- 1.85% of the applicable borough population are able to speak English well
- 0.71% of the applicable borough population are not able to speak English well, or don't speak it at all

Other than English, the most common main languages among borough residents are Romanian, Portuguese and Polish. When considering the accessibility of information, however, it should be remembered that the correlations between main language and proficiency in English are not recorded, so these languages will not necessarily be most represented among those who would benefit from additional language support.

A more detailed breakdown of the most common other [languages spoken as a main language within the borough](#), from the 2021 Census, is provided in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7: Languages used as a main language within the borough

Language	Number of users as a main language	Percentage of users as a main language
English	136506	90.49%
Romanian	749	0.50%
Portuguese	747	0.50%
Polish	736	0.49%
Spanish	495	0.33%
Tamil	444	0.29%
Urdu	423	0.28%
Malayalam	422	0.28%
Tagalog or Filipino	378	0.25%
Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya)	300	0.20%
Italian	286	0.19%
French	257	0.17%
Hungarian	254	0.17%

Bulgarian	247	0.16%
Arabic	212	0.14%

Religion or Belief

In 2021, 49.05% of residents reported their religion as Christian and 38.09% reported having no religion. The Census question specifically asked respondents regarding their religion, rather than beliefs more widely.

More information on the [how residents of the borough reported their religion](#) can be found in Figure 8 below.

Figure 8: Religions reported within the borough

Religion	Percentage of borough population
Christian	49.05%
No religion	38.09%
Not answered	6.04%
Muslim	3.08%
Hindu	2.41%
Buddhist	0.46%
Other religion	0.42%
Jewish	0.24%
Sikh	0.21%

The proportion of residents reporting their religion as Christian has declined significantly from the 2011 figure of 61.9%, whilst the proportion reporting as having no religion has increased significantly from the 2011 figure of 26.3%. The numbers of residents reporting their religion as Muslim or Hindu have also had a relatively high proportional increase, but remain a relatively small minority of the borough’s population.

Sexual Orientation

In 2021, 91% of residents aged 16 and over reported their sexual orientation as ‘Straight or Heterosexual’, 2.3% reported other sexual orientations, and the remaining 6.7% did not answer the question.

More information on the [how residents of the borough reported their sexual orientation](#) can be found in Figure 9 below.

Figure 9: Sexual orientation in the borough

Sexual Orientation	Percentage of borough population aged 16 and over
Straight or Heterosexual	91.00%
Not answered	6.70%
Gay or Lesbian	1.16%
Bisexual	0.91%
Pansexual	0.07%
Asexual	0.05%
Queer	0.01%
All other sexual orientations	0.10%

Marriage and Civil Partnership

In 2021, 52.5% of adult residents reported being married or in a civil partnership, whilst 47.5% did not.

A more detailed breakdown of [reported marriage and civil partnership status in the borough](#) can be found in Figure 10 below.

Figure 10: Marital and civil partnership status in the borough

Marital and civil partnership status	Percentage of borough adult population
Never married and never registered a civil partnership	33.09%
Married: Opposite sex	50.12%
Married: Same sex	0.23%
In a registered civil partnership: Opposite sex	0.07%
In a registered civil partnership: Same sex	0.13%
Separated, but still married	1.93%
Separated, but still in a registered civil partnership	0.01%
Divorced	8.46%
Formerly in a civil partnership now legally dissolved	0.02%
Widowed	5.93%
Surviving partner from civil partnership	0.01%

Health and Disability

In 2021, 13.97% of the borough population were reported as being disabled under the Equality Act, with their day to day activities limited either a little or a lot. A further 7.51% were reported to have a long term physical or mental health condition, but not to be disabled under the Equality Act.

Regarding health more generally, 86.3% of residents were reported as having good or very good health, whilst the remaining 13.7% were reported as having fair, bad, or very bad health.

A more detailed breakdown of [reported levels of disability](#) and [reported levels of health](#) can be found in Figures 11 and 12 below.

Figure 11: Disability in the borough

Disability Category	Percentage of borough population
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	5.38%
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	8.59%
Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	7.51%
Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long term physical or mental health conditions	78.53%

Figure 12: Health in the borough

Health Category	Percentage of borough population
Very good health	53.80%
Good health	32.50%
Fair health	10.30%

Bad health	2.64%
Very bad health	0.76%

The 2021 Census also collected information about residents' caring activities and responsibilities. Information was collected on the number of hours of unpaid care that residents aged 5 and over provided during a week.

The Census defines an unpaid carer as someone who may look after, give help or support to anyone who has long-term physical or mental ill-health conditions, illness or problems related to old age. This does not include any activities as part of paid employment. This help can be within or outside of the carer's household.

Of those aged 5 and over, 7.87% provided at least some unpaid care during a week, with 4.50% providing 10 or more hours, including 2.08% providing 50 or more hours.

A more detailed breakdown of [unpaid care provision in the borough](#) can be found in Figure 13 below.

Figure 13: Unpaid care provision in the borough

Unpaid care provided	Percentage of borough population aged 5 and over
Provides no unpaid care	92.13%
Provides 9 hours or less unpaid care a week	3.37%
Provides 10 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	1.01%
Provides 20 to 34 hours unpaid care a week	0.70%
Provides 35 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	0.70%
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	2.08%

Deprivation

The Government uses a tool known as the [Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\)](#) to assess relative deprivation in England. The index was last published in 2019. In 2019, Reigate & Banstead borough was ranked 276 out of 317 local authorities (where 1 = the most deprived). The borough as a whole therefore fares well in terms of deprivation. However, areas and people within the borough can still face significant challenges.

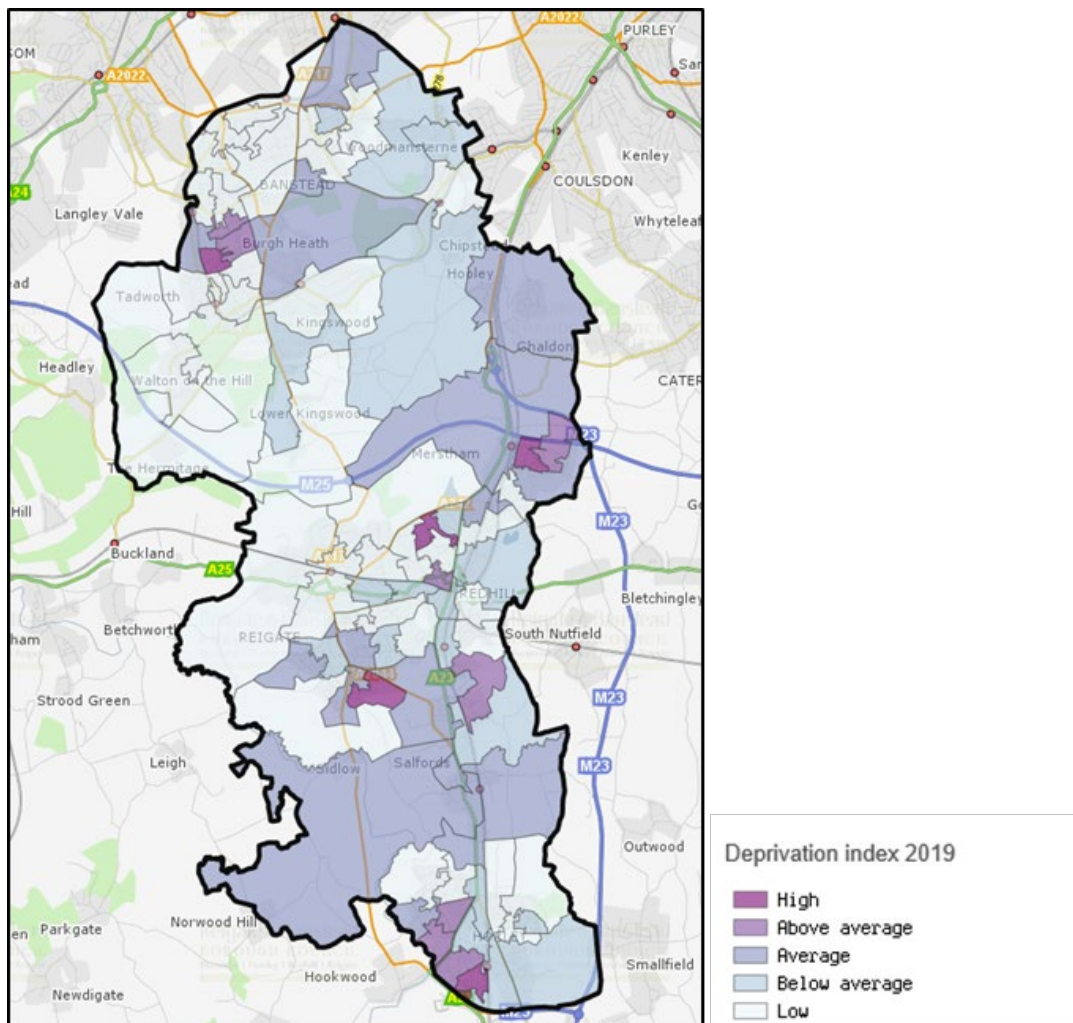
Parts of Merstham were in the top 20% most deprived areas nationally for income deprivation affecting older people, with parts of Preston in the top 30% nationally.

For income deprivation affecting children, parts of Merstham, Preston and Redhill were in the top 20% of most deprived areas nationally, with parts of South Park and Woodhatch and Horley in the top 30%.

Parts of Merstham, Preston, Redhill and Horley ranked in the top 30% nationally when it comes to health deprivation and disability.

Figure 14 below shows the varying concentrations of deprivation across the borough.

Figure 14: Deprivation distribution across the borough



You can view more information on deprivation in the borough via the link to the Index of Multiple Deprivation above, or via the interactive [dashboard](#) or [map](#).

The 2021 Census also provided [information on the deprivation of households](#), assessed in terms of education, employment, health and housing (referred to as dimensions). According to these findings:

- 57.06% of the borough's households are not deprived in any dimension
- 30.83% are deprived in one dimension
- 9.89% are deprived in two dimensions
- 2.06% are deprived in three dimensions
- 0.16% are deprived in four dimensions

The distribution of this deprivation is broadly consistent with that observed in the IMD, with deprivation most observed in central Horley, Merstham, South Park and Woodhatch, and south Tattenham.

Digital Exclusion

Whilst not a measure of deprivation, the level of access different sectors of the population may have to digital content and tools is also important to consider in planning and delivering Council services.

Digital access is not a topic captured by the 2021 Census, but [information about digital exclusion from 2019 \(ONS\)](#) suggests that 1.4% of the borough population has never used the internet, whilst figures from 2017 suggest that 8.2% of adults did not access online services over a 3 month period, and around 20% lack one or more basic digital skills.

Information from the [Greater Manchester Office of Data Analytics](#), based on data on demography, broadband information and deprivation scores, suggests that the rural areas around Lower Kingswood and Salfords are likely to be those at greatest risk of digital exclusion in the borough, with those in more urban areas at lower risk. (Information contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.)