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Equality Information: Borough Characteristics 2025

Contents

Reigate & Banstead
Borough Council
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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 155,985, as of the most recent mid-year population estimates, covering 2023. The current population is likely to be slightly higher than this figure.

This represents an increase from the 2021 Census estimate of 150,852, and the 2011 Census level of 137,835.

In terms of population density, the borough had an estimated 1,208 persons per square kilometre in 2023. This is higher than the average for England of approximately 443. Areas with similar populations 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.
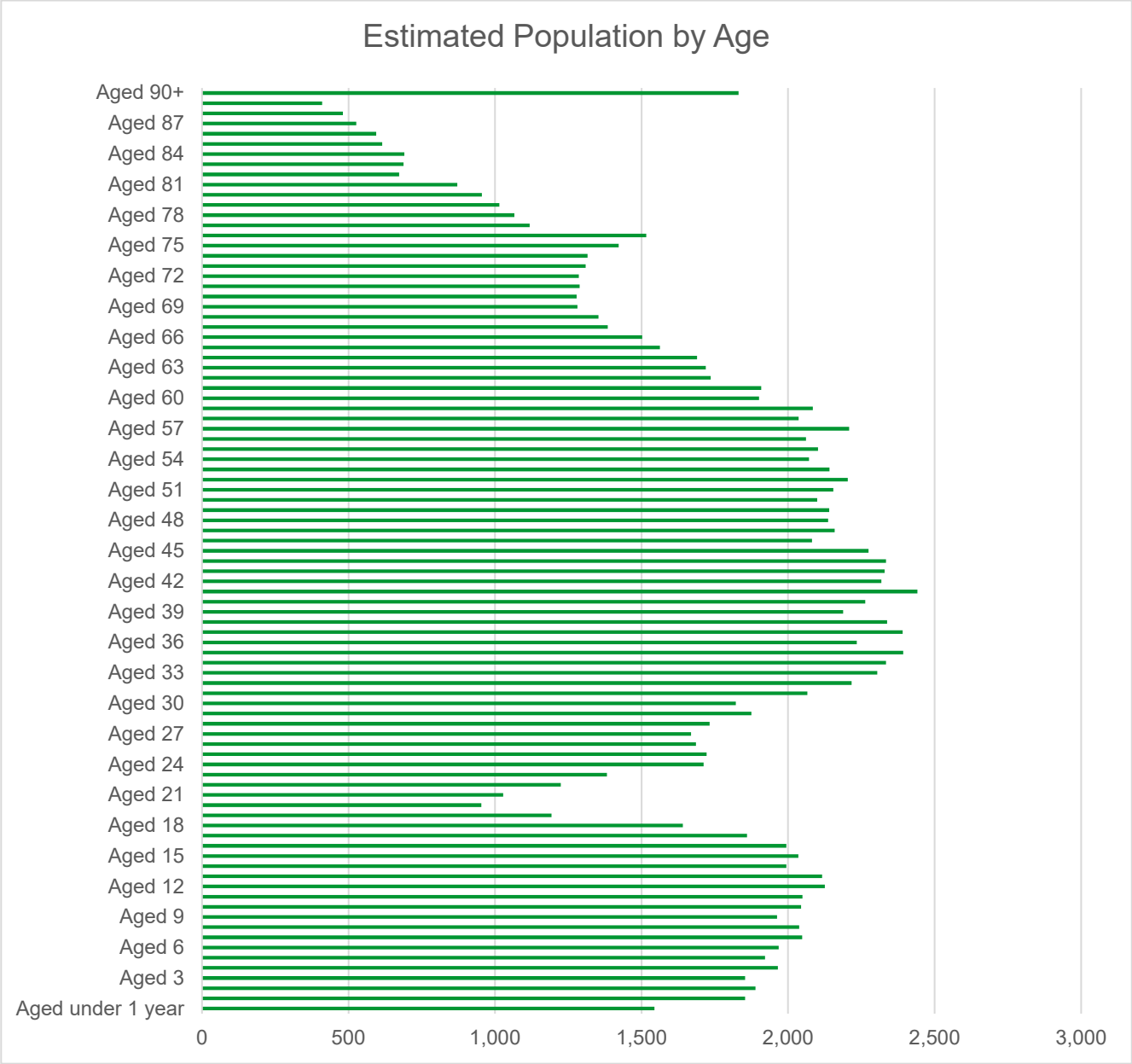
Age

The most recent projections estimate that of the population of the borough in 2023:

- 35,258 borough residents were aged under 18. This represents 22.60% of the population. This is slightly higher than the proportion for England, of 20.80%

- 28,033 borough residents were aged over 65 and over. This represents 17.97% of the population. This is slightly lower than the proportion for England of 18.69%

The ONS reports that life expectancy at birth for females in Reigate & Banstead is 84.59 years; for males it is 81.24 years. These are higher than the figures for England of 83.05 for females and 79.11 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 distribution in Reigate & Banstead

It is estimated that the lower population of persons around the age of 20 is influenced by movements of university students, in addition to variations in birth rates over time.

Population projections suggest that the average age of the borough's population and the proportion of the borough's population aged 65 and over are likely to increase over time. However, this has been taking place at a lower rate than previously projected. New population projections are expected to be available later in 2025.

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 2: Proportion of population aged under 18, or 65 and over, by ward

Ward	Proportion of population aged under 18	Proportion of population aged 65 and over
Banstead Village	16.90%	25.11%
Chipstead, Kingswood & Woodmansterne	20.23%	21.46%
Earlswood & Whitebushes	22.39%	12.60%
Hooley, Merstham & Netherne	25.28%	13.36%
Horley Central & South	22.36%	19.02%
Horley East & Salfords	22.93%	15.95%
Horley West & Sidlow	24.20%	16.21%
Lower Kingswood, Tadworth & Walton	19.21%	25.92%
Meadvale & St John's	25.31%	13.59%
Nork	20.71%	23.20%

Redhill East	22.82%	11.09%
Redhill West & Wray Common	26.25%	15.60%
Reigate	22.35%	20.45%
South Park & Woodhatch	26.33%	16.36%
Tattenham Corner & Preston	25.03%	16.17%

Children and Parenthood

As of the most recent estimates, there were 35,258 children (persons aged under 18) in the borough in 2023, making up 22.60% 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.

The borough had a maternity rate of 52.8 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 in 2023, representing 1,538 maternities.

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. Since the conclusion of the Census, analysis of the data and methodology has identified some potential flaws in the survey process for gender identity in 2021 – more information is available within the ONS quality information on sexual orientation and gender identity. Whilst findings are broadly consistent with other measures, potential for some overrepresentation of those with a different gender identity to that assigned at both is identified as a possibility resulting from uncertainty about details of the question.

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 3 below:

Figure 3: Gender identity in Reigate & 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 4 below.

Figure 4: Ethnicity in the borough

Ethnic group	Proportion 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 5 below.

Figure 5: English as a main language for households in the borough

Household type	Number of households within the borough	Proportion 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 do not 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, including those identified by the 2021 Census as having 200 or more persons speaking them as a main language, is provided in Figure 6 below.

Figure 6: Languages used as a main language within the borough

Language	Number of users as a main language	Proportion of population using 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 7 below.

Figure 7: Religion within the borough

Religion	Proportion 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.

As identified in the Sex and Gender Identity section of this document, the ONS provided additional information on the development of the associated questions and related data quality considerations. Due to the newness and optionality of the question in the 2021 Census and potential social challenges around the topic, it remains possible that the reported figures may not be fully representative.

More information on the how residents of the borough reported their sexual orientation can be found in Figure 8 below.

Figure 8: Sexual orientation in the borough

Sexual orientation	Proportion of the borough 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 9 below.

Figure 9: Marital and civil partnership status in the borough

Marital and civil partnership status	Proportion 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 10 and 11 below.

Figure 10: Disability in the borough

Disability Category	Proportion 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 11: Health in the borough

Health category	Proportion 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 12 below.

Figure 12: Unpaid care provision in the borough

Unpaid care provided	Proportion 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 has unfortunately not been updated recently and was last published in 2019. It is therefore possible that levels of deprivation may have changed during the intervening period and the figures provided should therefore be considered with regard to this possibility. However, the IMD remains a useful tool for estimating overall deprivation levels.

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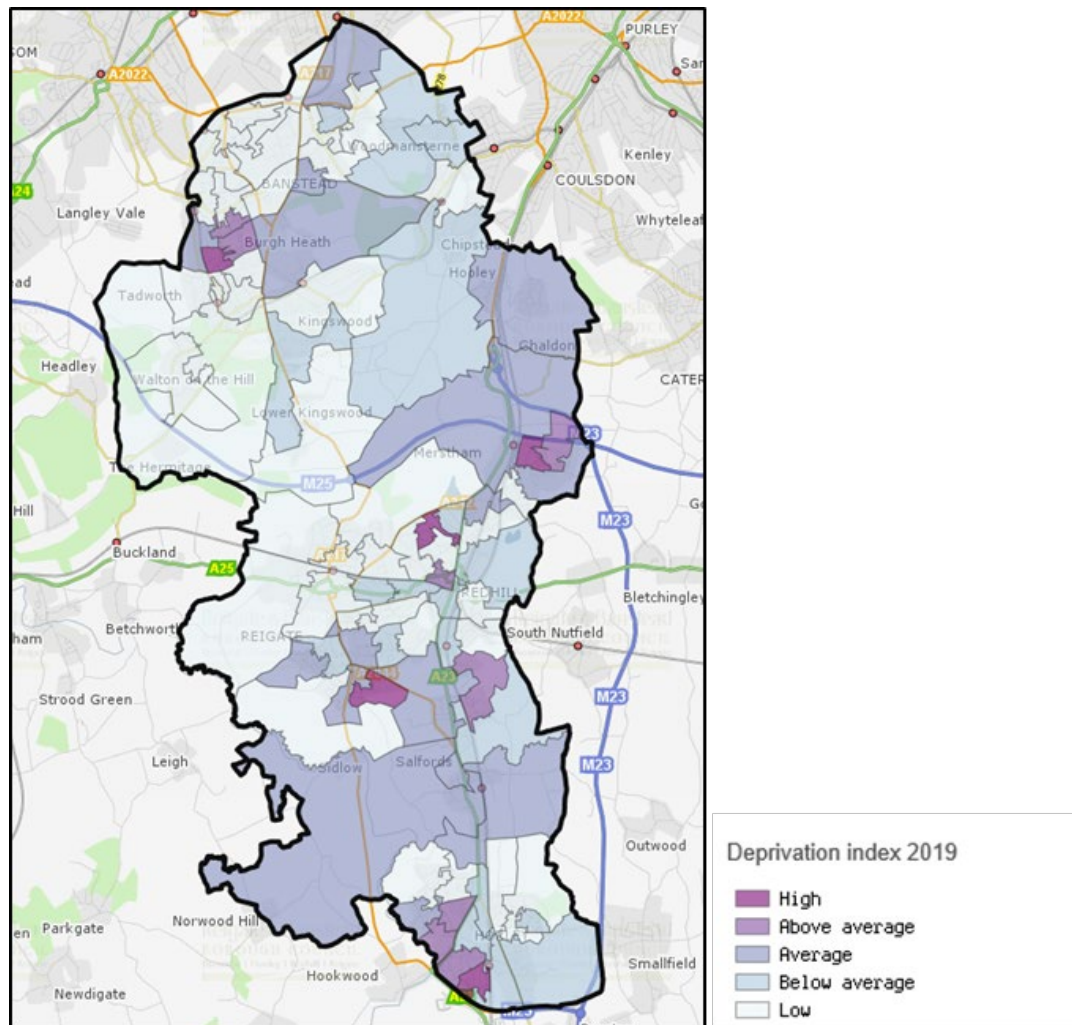
Parts of Merstham were in the top 20% most deprived areas nationally for income deprivation affecting older people, with parts of Preston in the top 30% nationally.

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 13 below shows the varying concentrations of deprivation across the borough as identified in the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Figure 13: 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 direct 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 had 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. Whilst there are likely to have been changes to these factors since the data was compiled, digital exclusion remains an important consideration.

Surrey-i, a data sharing tool used across Surrey, provides [additional information on digital exclusion in the borough](#). The borough ranks 6 out of 11 districts and boroughs in Surrey according to the Digital Exclusion Index Rank, with a Digital Inclusion Index Score of 54.71 out of 100. Of the areas within the borough, most areas fall between scores of 40 and 60. south Tattenham scores lowest at 32.87, whilst east Horley scores highest at 70.57. Areas with a lower score may require additional consideration when developing a communications approach.