

mapping disadvantage

young people who need help in England & Wales

Research Summary

Introduction

The Prince's Trust gives new opportunities to 14-30 year-olds, reaching out to those who need help most. We help young people develop confidence, learn new skills, get into work and start businesses. We offer training, work experience, loans and grants and personal support. This year The Trust helped around 35,000 young people to succeed.

As a charity, we are not only concerned with *how* we can improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people, we also want to know *where* we can have the greatest impact on changing their lives for the better.

Mapping Disadvantage addresses the 'where' question. How do we find 'harder to help' groups, those who are most excluded by multiple factors? Whilst indices do exist to map general deprivation there is little that focuses on disadvantage as it relates to young people. The results of our research show that their specific needs are not always captured by existing generic measures. This is a cause for concern given the mounting evidence that youth deprivation can have disproportionate effects on local communities: for example through escalating crime levels.

Mapping Disadvantage is the first major attempt to find the 'hot spots' where young people are less likely to succeed and where the transition from adolescence to adulthood is most likely to be problematic. It makes a key contribution to knowledge regarding the distribution of disadvantage and is unique in its focus on young people.

Unlike other indices, this work explicitly addresses the ethnic minority dimension. This is particularly important in relation to young people given that the minority ethnic population tends to be younger than average.

Methodology

Mapping Disadvantage is original research produced by The Prince's Trust and built around mapping and analysis by the New Policy Institute. It aims to locate those young people who need help most. The work highlights the geographical location of young people facing deprivation by looking at a range of measures associated with disadvantage.

The research is based on an analysis of factors identified by longitudinal research as limiting the success of young people in later life. These are:

- Not being in education or work
- Being from a minority ethnic group
- Dependency on state benefits
- Being looked after by the local authority in the event of family breakdown
- Not gaining qualifications at school or being absent from school
- Becoming involved in crime, either as victim or perpetrator

The analysis of these factors is organised around five themes:

- Population
- Income and Work
- Education
- Care
- Crime

The Maps

The results of this work are a series of maps showing the concentration of disadvantaged young people across England and Wales, with localities and regions ranked relative to each other.

The maps are divided by Government Office Region (GOR), across the themes of population, income and work, care and education, with supporting tables which look at young people and crime. (Crime is not shown in the maps due to the statistical measurements, which are county based and thus too wide to provide useful small-area data).

The maps focus on the ten Government Office Regions that make up England and Wales:

- The East of England
- The East Midlands
- London
- The North East
- The North West
- The South East
- The South West
- Wales
- The West Midlands
- Yorkshire and the Humber



yes

you

can

The research shows high levels of disadvantage amongst young people in London, Wales, the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber. It also indicates that the 'North-South divide', which has become the focus of current debate on deprivation, does not adequately encapsulate the geographic location of disadvantage affecting young people.

The small area statistics pin-pointed by our research suggest that youth disadvantage is located in 'hot spots' in all regions across England and Wales.

Young people face greatest levels of need in London when all factors are combined together. This is exacerbated by the large population concentration in the area. However, Wales and the North East also exhibit considerable levels of deprivation for young people.

Contrary to the 'North-South divide' theory, what is apparent for young people is more of a 'doughnut' distribution, with London as the centre and relatively lesser need clustered around the capital in the East, South East and South West. The East and West Midlands also demonstrate relatively low levels of need for young people, although more than the East, South East and South West. Thus, proximity to the capital is an important correlation with lower disadvantage although being in the capital itself is concurrent with very high levels of need.

There are clearly also high levels of need in the North, with Yorkshire and the Humber, the North East and the North West showing considerably higher levels of need than the GORs to their South. Despite its lower population, Wales demonstrates a great deal of disadvantage in terms of income, education and (to a lesser extent) crime.

Generally, levels of disadvantage are higher in major urban centres than in outlying areas. But this is not the full story. *Mapping Disadvantage* provides small area analysis, which shows pockets of disadvantage in all regions, including rural areas (such as parts of Wales).

Deprivation in Britain

Mapping Disadvantage highlights a number of diversions from current understandings of deprivation in Britain as a whole.

The most recent look at small area disadvantage in Britain is the DETR's Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 (IMD 2000). Whilst there is a clear link between general deprivation (as measured in the DETR's index) and youth disadvantage across the English regions, there are some striking differences at the smaller district level. These differences point to the fact that existing measures do not necessarily reflect the specific needs of young people.

Mapping Disadvantage highest need areas for young people

Area	Region
Birmingham	West Midlands
Blaenau Gwent	Wales
Hackney	London
Haringey	London
Islington	London
Kingston upon Hull City	Yorkshire & Humber
Liverpool	North West
Manchester	North West
Middlesbrough	North East
Newham	London
Nottingham City	East Midlands
Southwark	London

Population

Areas where there are in fact low numbers of young people can be relatively disadvantaged. Areas which exhibit this are Fenland and Great Yarmouth in the East, Newark and Sherwood in the East Midlands, Derwentside and Easington in the North East, Spelthorne and Dover in the South East, and Kennet in the South West.

Income and Work

Mapping Disadvantage highlights areas where young people on means-tested benefits are high in proportion to the total population receiving means-tested benefits. These areas include Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil in Wales, North East Lincolnshire in Yorkshire and the Humber, and Derwentside in the North East. There may be a case for specific, youth targeted interventions in these areas.

Education

When examining education measures there is a strong relationship between low GCSE performance (less than 5 GCSEs) and absenteeism. There is also a lesser, but still strong, relationship between the proportion of pupils receiving free school meals and GCSE performance.

Care

The measurements on young people involved in the care system show some surprising results, which are sometimes at variance with the other measures in the indices. For example, Herefordshire and West Sussex show a particularly stark picture for young people in care, comparative to the other measures for those areas. These results can show the direct influence of local authority policy on young people in care.

Mapping Disadvantage Regional Rankings

Region	Deprivation Ranking				
	Population	Income & Work	Care	Education	Crime
East of England	6	9	8	8	10
East Midlands	7	7	5	7	6
London	1	3	2	5	2
North East	4	1	1	3	1
North West	2	4	9	4	4
South East	9	10	6	9	9
South West	10	8	10	10	8
Wales	8	2	7	1	5
West Midlands	5	6	4	6	7
Yorkshire & Humber	3	5	3	2	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Highest level of need

Lowest level of need

East of England

The East of England exhibits a level of need well below the average compared with the rest of England and Wales. Young people are concentrated in Peterborough, and the Thurrock and Tendring districts of Essex demonstrate the highest levels of need in the region.

Peterborough and Southend stand out as having the highest levels of need in terms of young people in care. There are a few pockets where there is a high level of dependency on means-tested state benefits. However, there are only five wards – each in Peterborough and Great Yarmouth – where at least 20% of the adult population are benefit recipients.

East Midlands

As a whole, the East Midlands has a level of disadvantage below the national average. Disadvantaged young people are concentrated in the urban centres of Nottingham, Northampton and Leicester. In terms of income and work, the highest need is demonstrated in the north of the region in Nottingham, Bolsover and Chesterfield. Young people in care are more prevalent in Derby, and Nottingham displays a high level of need in education. Furthermore, both Nottingham and Leicester have 12 and 13 wards respectively where the adult population claiming means-tested benefits is greater than 20%.

London

London records the highest level of need overall, particularly in the Inner London area. This is partly due to the population size in the capital and its high proportion of younger people. The highest incidence of disadvantaged young people is to be found in Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets. In terms of income and work the levels of need are highest in Hackney, Haringey and Newham, although the whole inner London area shows high

need levels. Care needs are also high across London, with Islington heading the list. In addition, crime levels are high, with Inner London showing a greater incidence than Outer London. Benefit dependency is high, with three-quarters of all London boroughs showing at least one ward where benefit dependency is higher than 20%. Hackney and Newham have 23 such wards, Islington and Southwark have 18 and Tower Hamlets has 17.

North East

The second-highest level of overall need is shown in the North East. Disadvantaged young people are concentrated in Middlesbrough and Newcastle and the south of the region. Income and work levels are a concern in the south again, with Easington, Middlesbrough and Gateshead showing high levels of need. Regarding education, high levels of disadvantage show again in Middlesbrough and Newcastle. The crime index is high in Tyne and Wear and Durham where the number of young people being proceeded against is substantial. Benefit dependency is high: Middlesbrough has 16 wards where the number of the adult population receiving means tested benefits exceeds 20%. Easington, Newcastle upon Tyne and Stockton-on-Tees have 12 wards.

North West

Taking all measures together, the North West shows an average level of need. Again, urban centres show a concentration of disadvantaged young people with Blackburn, Manchester and Preston being highest. Income and work indices show high levels of need in Knowsley, Liverpool and Halton and to a lesser extent Merseyside. Greater Manchester and some of the Cumbrian districts show significantly on this index. Young people with experience of the care system are prevalent in Blackburn, Blackpool and Liverpool.

Education is a sphere of serious concern in Knowsley and Liverpool, only slightly less so for Manchester, Salford and Rochdale. The crime index is very high for Greater Manchester. Benefit dependency amongst the adult population is very high in some districts, with 33 of the 42 districts having at least one ward where more than 20% of the population are on benefits. Manchester and Liverpool have exceptionally high frequencies and eight districts number among the top 10% highest frequencies for benefit dependency in England and Wales.

South East

The level of need in the South East is one of the lowest overall in England and Wales. Disadvantaged young people are largely concentrated in the Medway towns, and the highest levels of need in relation to income are prevalent in the coastal districts with Hastings and Thanet recording a level that is high even by national standards. The care index shows a high level of need in Brighton and Hove. Education need is low throughout the region, but the Isle of Wight shows the greatest need in this index. Benefit dependency is low but Thanet, Hastings, Brighton and Hove and the Isle of Wight have higher levels than the rest of the region.

South West

The South West region displays levels of need that are well below average on all measures, leaving the region with one of the lowest overall levels of need in England and Wales. The greatest concentration of young people is in the university towns of the region, particularly Bristol. The Penwith district of Cornwall shows the highest level of need in the income and work index while only Bristol stands out as having a pronounced level of need for young people in or leaving care. The education index shows relatively low levels of need throughout most of the region. Two thirds of the region's districts contain 1 or more wards where the claimant ratio exceeds 20 per cent, with Bristol again heading the list, followed by Penwith, North Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

Wales

Although there are high levels of need across Wales, there are quite large differences between the various indices. The population of young people in Wales is fairly low although Swansea, Cardiff and Wrexham have higher numbers of young people. The income and work index shows high levels of need throughout the south of Wales, particularly in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil. Figures on care are limited, however, there appears to be a very high level of need in Caerphilly. Education, also, shows high levels of disadvantage, with Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent showing need levels of serious concern. The crime indicator shows high levels of need and benefit dependency at the ward level is also marked, with only 3 of the 21 districts having no wards where the claimant ratio exceeds 20%. Rhondda, Cynon, Taff and Caerphilly show significant levels of need in this area.

West Midlands

The West Midlands comes out a little below average in relation to national levels of need. Disadvantaged young people are more prevalent in Birmingham. In relation to income and work, Birmingham, Sandwell and Wolverhampton show the highest levels of need in the region. Care data is again somewhat lacking, although Herefordshire and Stoke-on-Trent appear to be areas of concern in the region. In terms of education, Sandwell and Stoke-on-Trent show significantly within the region. Reliable crime statistics are also scarce but, from the data available, Metropolitan West Midlands shows figures which are at the national maximum. Just over 40% of the districts have wards where the claimant ratio exceeds 20%, with Birmingham heading the list.

Yorkshire and the Humber

Across the indices, Yorkshire and the Humber has an above average level of need. Disadvantaged young people are concentrated more in the south of the region, particularly in Bradford and Kirklees. Income measures show a high level of need within the south again, principally in Barnsley, Hull and Doncaster. The care index highlights Hull as an area for concern. The Humber is significant in the crime index, whereas benefit dependency is highest in Sheffield and Hull which both have 10 wards where more than 20% of the population is dependent on benefits. Overall, 70% of the districts in the region have at least one such ward.

Conclusions

Mapping Disadvantage is intended to raise questions and to provoke enquiry, drawing attention to areas — whether at ward, district or county level — with an apparently noteworthy degree of need. It has not been designed to provide a definitive assessment of need. However, it does offer a comprehensive overview of some of the problems which can affect young people in England and Wales. As such, it is an invaluable resource to assist in the planning and targeting of resources for young people at risk or lacking the opportunity to succeed.

There is mounting evidence that intervention in the lives of disadvantaged young people plays a key part in neighbourhood renewal (indeed there is a disproportionately negative effect in not investing in young people). This strengthens the case for decision makers locally and nationally to weigh this targeted research against the traditional indices of disadvantage, both when targeting those in most need and framing policy.

To order call 020 8957 5190

Mapping Disadvantage is available at £22.50 including postage and packing.