



Family and Childcare Trust

Creating a family friendly UK

Where is the most family friendly area in London?

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*A report by the Family
and Childcare Trust
on family friendly
trends in London.*



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Introduction

There are now over 1.1 million families with dependent children living in London. Most of them successfully raise their children, although some families struggle with parenting. Drawing on ideas about resilience, developed by those working with vulnerable families, children and parents need certain protective factors to enable them to withstand stress and to thrive (Rutter, 1985; Lexmond, 2011). These are attributes or resources that help families withstand stress and achieve good outcomes. Although inter-related, these factors can be grouped into a number of areas:

1. Personal and family attributes, such as parenting skills.
2. A decent income and opportunities for social mobility
3. Access to family friendly work
4. High quality public services, such as schools and healthcare
5. A family friendly infrastructure, for example, housing and transport.

We have attempted to measure these 'family friendly' factors in this local report card. It examines trends towards becoming family friendly in London and accompanies our National Report Card for 2015. For our London report we have analysed 27 different sets of statistics that relate to wellbeing, income and poverty, employment, public services, housing and infrastructure. The analysis of the family friendly indicators was then collated and used to rank each local authority area, according to how family friendly we judged it to be.

It is important to stress that we not just grading public services and local authorities. We have indicators that relate to education and healthcare, as the quality of these services has a big impact on family wellbeing and outcomes. But there are many other family friendly factors that largely lie outside the control of local authorities. These include indicators that relate to income and employment. The London report card, therefore, is about places and the people that live there, and is not a grading of local authorities.

Generally deprived areas scored lower across a range of family friendly indicators, reflecting the challenges these areas face. But our analysis also highlighted a number of deprived areas that scored well on some indicators – for example, schools in Barking and Dagenham have had some success in narrowing the achievement gap at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers.

Cards are published at an important time. All the mainstream political parties went into the 2015 general election with significant pledges for families. A new government is the opportunity to turn these proposals into action. Since the election, the Government has announced many changes in policy that affect families, in particular, increasing funding for childcare and changes to tax credits. It is also a year since the Government announced that all new laws or policies from Westminster will be subject to the 'Family Test' to make sure they support strong and stable families (Department for Work and Pensions, 2014). It is an important time to audit family policy. We hope that the local and national report cards are a useful tool for those who want to work to make this country more family friendly.

Our methodology

We wanted to find indicators that would enable us to measure which areas are doing best for families. These needed to be robust enough to be broken down to local authority level. We searched for indicators that related to protective factors (income, access to family friendly work, high quality public services and a family friendly infrastructure and living environment). We decided to use some indicators that gave a broader indication of family wellbeing. These wellbeing indicators included local life satisfaction data, recorded crime, the prevalence of breastfeeding and fluency in English.

As we needed to analyse this data at a local authority level, the datasets we used needed to be large, in order for our analysis to be robust. The statistics we used were either derived from the Census, large national surveys or from administrative datasets, for example, the National Pupil Dataset. We were unable to rank the City of London or the Isles of Scilly, as data for those small local authorities was either unavailable or the figures were unreliable due to the small sample size.

We found it hard to find local data that relate to family friendly work. The Workplace Employment Relations Survey and the Work-Life Balance Study are both small UK surveys with sample size that is too small to enable a local authority area breakdown of results. Instead, we have used indicators from the Census, Labour Force Survey and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings as proxy measures of family friendly work, looking at pay differences between full and part-time workers, hours of work, Saturday and Sunday work and commuting times. There is also a lack of local data on parks, public

green space and the environment. As a consequence we only had one indicator on the environment – on air pollution.

Looking through the data, we also noticed that there is sometimes a long delay in making some surveys and administrative datasets accessible to researchers and the public. This makes it difficult to hold the Government to account on issues such as child poverty. We are also concerned to note that in some areas, important administrative data is no longer being collected or submitted by the public bodies concerned – for example, breastfeeding statistics and homelessness statistics in some parts of London.

The set of indicators that we used are given in Table One. For each family friendly indicator, we graded local authorities from 1 to 150 in England, with 150 being awarded to the local authority area that had the best results. For example, Richmond had the lowest level of childhood obesity in England and scored 150 in this area, whereas Southwark's results – the lowest in London – put them at 150 in the league table, giving them a score of 1. We then added up the scores for all 27 indicators to come up with an overall ranking. We have used data from our national ranking to produce a report card for London.

As already noted, we are not grading local authorities and public services. Rather, we are looking at a geographic area and judging how family friendly it is. It is also an average for an area, and almost all local authorities include some deprived wards.

Table One: family friendly indicators

	Indicator	Data source
	Broad family wellbeing statistics	
1	Average (mean) life satisfaction rating	Annual Population Survey, personal wellbeing dataset, April 2013 to March 2014
2	All recorded crime in 12 months to June 2014, per head of population	Police force recorded crime statistics (Home Office administrative data)
3	Percentage of babies totally or partially breastfed at the 6–8 week development check	NHS England statistical release Breastfeeding initiation and prevalence at 6 to 8 weeks, 2014 data, or most recent, if absent
4	Percentage of children who are overweight or obese in Year 6 of primary education	13/14 data Public Health England, available from the National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network
5	Adult participation in sport in reference week of Active People Survey	Department for Culture, Media and Sports Active People Survey 2012
6	Percentage of the over-3 population who cannot speak English well or at all	Census 2011

7	Single parent households with dependent children, as a percentage of all households	Census 2011
Income and poverty		
8	Child poverty – the percentage of children living in households receiving out-of-work benefits or on work tax credits where the household income is less than 60 per cent of median income	Department for Work and Pensions Households below average income data, 2013
9	Gross median weekly pay, for all employee jobs by residency	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2014
10	Percentage of the 16–64 population who are unemployed or economically inactive	Labour Force Survey, year to March 2015
11	Difference between Living Wage and gross hourly pay for the lowest paid 20% of employees (by residency)	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2014
Family friendly work		
12	Difference between gross hourly pay for female full-time and female part-time workers	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2014
13	Percentage of local authority residents aged 16–74 in employment who worked more than 49 hours per week in the week before Census 2011	Census 2011
14	Percentage of the 16–64 population working Saturday and/or Sunday	Labour Force Survey 2104
15	Average journey to work times in minutes	Labour Force Survey, 2014, quarter four
High quality public services		
16	Percentage uptake of free early education among eligible two year olds	Department for Education Provision for children under five statistics, January 2015
17	The percentage of boys achieving at least the expected levels in all 17 early learning goals at 4–5 years	Department for Education Early Years Foundation Stage Profile attainment, 2013/14
18	Proportions of pupils eligible for free school meals who get 5 grade A*–C grades at GCSE (including English and maths)	Department for Education, GCSE attainment by pupil characteristics, 2013/14, National Pupil Dataset
19	Percentage of 16–64 population with Level 4 qualifications	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, year to March 2015
20	Conception rate per 1,000 females under 18	Conception statistics, England and Wales, 2012
21	Local authority revenue expenditure for cultural services per head	Department for Communities and Local Government revenue outturn workbooks, 2015/16. Includes district council expenditure
Family friendly infrastructure		
22	Number of children in households accepted as homeless and in temporary accommodation, per head of population	Department for Communities and Local Government, Statutory Homeless Statistics, January – March 2015
23	Percentage of families with dependent children who live in the private rental sector	Census 2011
24	Reported child casualties by local authority, England, 2009 – 2013, as a percentage of 0–18 population,	Department for Transport Reported road casualties annual report, 2013
25	Percentage of families with dependent children who have no access to a car or van	Census 2011
26	Under Five childcare places per 100 children	Department for Education Provision for children under five statistics, January 2015
27	Estimate of the percentage of deaths that had particulate air pollution as a contributory factor	Public Health England

Overall ranking

When it comes to family friendly indicators, London is a city of many contrasts. As Table Two indicates, in some areas London does well compared with other parts of England, for example, its work to narrow the gap at

GCSE between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. For other many other indicators, such as child poverty and housing, its city-side performance is below average.

Table Two: London-wide performance for family friendly indicators

Indicator	London performance compared with rest of England
Life satisfaction	Below average
Police recorded crime	Below average
Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks	Above average
Overweight and obese children	Below average
Adult participation in sport	Below average
English language fluency	Below average
Single parent households with dependent children	Below average
Child poverty	Below average
Median wages	Above average
Unemployment and economic inactivity	Mixed, with some places above and some below average
Pay for lowest income quintile	Mixed, with some places above and some below average
Pay difference between female full-time and part-time jobs	Mixed, with some places above and some below average
Working 49 or more hours per week	Below average
Working Saturday/Sunday	Above average
Journey to work time	Below average
Uptake of free early education for two year olds	Below average
Boys development at the end of nursery education	Mixed, with some places above and some below average
GCSE results for children eligible for free school meals	Above average
Adults with Level 4 qualifications	Above average
Teenage pregnancy	Mixed, with some places above and some below average
Cultural and leisure spend by local authorities	Mixed, with some places above and some below average
Homeless families	Below average
Families living in private rented housing	Below average
Child road casualties	Mixed, with most London local authorities clustering in the middle of the league table
Families with children without a car	Below average
Childcare places per 100 children	Below average
Particulate air pollution	Below average

But there are many differences between and within individual local authority areas. Table Three gives the overall family friendly scores for each London local authority area. Richmond is the most family friendly place in London and is ranked 3 out of 150 England, followed by Bromley (32) and Kingston (38). What is surprising is that so many London local authorities do badly. Ten out of the bottom 20 local authorities are located in London, including those which cover comparatively prosperous suburbs such as Croydon and Hounslow.

Barking and Dagenham is the lowest ranking London area at 149 out of 150. It gets low scores for lifestyle factors such as wellbeing, childhood obesity, exercise and teenage pregnancy. Unemployment and pay levels are among the worst in London. However, a high performing council has managed to improve children's outcomes and Barking and Dagenham Council has done particularly well to narrow the gap at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers. It has also managed to achieve a high uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds, one of the best results in London.

As can be seen, many of the local authority areas that achieve low scores have high levels of poverty. Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Tower Hamlets stand out in this respect. Such income deprivation is long-standing, but has been made worse by the proliferation of low waged jobs in recent years (Trust for London, 2015). Poverty places a great burden on families and communities, with overall levels of wellbeing tending to be lower in poor neighbourhoods. While the relationship between poverty and parenting skills is complex, poverty makes it much more difficult to be a good parent. Poor children are less likely to do well at school and progress to university. Nevertheless, there are deprived local authorities that have achieved higher scores in some areas, and high performing public services can make a difference to families' lives.

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Table Three: Overall scores and rankings for London local authority areas

	National ranking for England	Score	Comment
Barking and Dagenham	149	1236	Low scores for lifestyle factors such as wellbeing, childhood obesity, exercise and teenage pregnancy. Unemployment and pay levels are among the worst in London. However, a high performing council has managed to improve children's outcomes and Barking and Dagenham Council has done particularly well to narrow the gap at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers.
Barnet	95	1832.5	A prosperous local authority, although there are pockets of poverty in the south of the borough. The quality of family life may be adversely affected by public spending cuts, with Barnet having one of the lowest level of expenditure on cultural services of any local authority in Britain. Uptake of free early for deprived 2 year olds is also very low in Barnet, 20 percentage points below the national average.
Bexley	112	1708.5	An outer-London local authority where parents spend long hours commuting to work. Health indicators such as wellbeing, exercise and childhood obesity are poor in this local authority.
Brent	146=	1354.5	This local authority's family friendly indicators are mixed. Its schools have done well to narrow achievement gaps at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers. However, there are large numbers of homeless families in the local authority, as well as families living in insecure and poor quality private rental accommodation. Brent also has high levels of childhood obesity.

Bromley	32	2441.5	This local prosperous authority does well in most family friendly indicators, although many adults spend long hours commuting to work. Child road casualties are high in this local authority.
Camden	85	1916	Child poverty levels are high in this diverse local authority, where wealthy and poor families are often living in close proximity. Despite high levels of deprivation, its public services have achieved good outcomes in relation to reducing teenage pregnancy and narrowing the achievement gaps at GCSE between children on free school meals and their peers. The local authority needs to make sure that more deprived two year olds receive free early education; only 41 per cent of eligible children were receiving this help in 2015.
Croydon	142	1473	Croydon gets a surprisingly low family friendly score, given that many parts of the local authority are comparatively prosperous. The local authority needs to make sure that more deprived two year olds receive free early education; only 38 per cent of eligible children were receiving this help in 2015.
Ealing	123	1638	This local authority gets low scores for many family friendly indicators, in particular housing, with large numbers of homeless families and those living in insecure and poor quality private rental accommodation.
Enfield	141	1478	This outer London local authority should be doing better. It scores above average in most educational indicators, but many of its health indicators are poor. Childhood obesity levels are particularly high in Enfield.
Greenwich	133	1535	This outer London local authority should be doing better. It scores above average in most educational indicators, and has been successful in narrowing the gaps between boys and girls and between children on free school meals and their peers. However, childhood obesity levels are high in Greenwich and participation in sport is low.
Hackney	126+	1588.5	This diverse local authority is an area of contrasts. Its nurseries and schools have been very successful in reducing the educational gaps between boys and girls and between those eligible for free school meals and their peers. The adult population has a high proportion of people with high level qualifications. However, Hackney scores very badly on many other family friendly indicators such as life satisfaction, recorded crime, child poverty and childhood obesity.
Hammersmith and Fulham	68	2106.5	This local authority scores better than many London local authorities. However, uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds is low. Hammersmith and Fulham also has large proportions of homeless families living in temporary accommodation.
Haringey	132	1539.5	Despite high levels of child poverty, Haringey schools have done well to reduce the gaps in GCSE results between children on free school meals and their peers. In most other family friendly indicators, Haringey scores below average. There are also large proportions of homeless families living temporary accommodation
Harrow	105	1772.5	This prosperous outer-London local authority should be scoring higher, given a highly qualified adult population and schools that have been successful in closing the gap in GCSE results between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. There are large proportions of families living in the private rental sector because house prices are high and there is a shortage of social housing.

Havering	87	1900.5	Havering is a local authority of educational contrasts. Its nurseries and schools have been successful in narrowing the achievement gaps between boys and girls and between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. However, many in its adult population lack higher level qualifications.
Hillingdon	108	1732	Hillingdon scores average scores in many family friendly indicators. However, uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds is low and there is a large development gap at five years between boys and girls.
Hounslow	138	1492	This outer-London local authority should be scoring better. In particular, family friendly indicators that relate to young children are low in Hounslow. The number of childcare places is low, compared to the number of children and childhood obesity levels are high.
Islington	73	2041	Child poverty levels are high in this diverse local authority, where wealthy and poor families are often living in close proximity.
Kensington and Chelsea	56	2225.5	This economically diverse local authority is an area of contrasts. It scores very well in many areas, particularly those that relate to schools and adult qualifications. However, homelessness is a major social problem in this local authority, which has one of the highest proportions of homeless families in temporary accommodation in the UK.
Kingston	38	2412	This local authority scores well above average for most family friendly indicators. However, work-life balance is an issue for some households, with long commuter journeys and work outside normal office hours.
Lambeth	106	1747.5	This diverse local authority is an area of contrasts. Its schools have been very successful in reducing the educational gaps between those eligible for free school meals and their peers. The adult population has a high proportion of people with high level qualifications. However, Lambeth scores very badly on many other family friendly indicators such as life satisfaction, recorded crime, child poverty, lone parenthood and childhood obesity.
Lewisham	125	1603	This economically diverse local authority has been successful in closing some of the achievement gaps between boys and girls, and between those eligible for free school meals and their peers. However, Lewisham scores below average on family friendly indicators that relate to housing, childhood obesity and exercise.
Merton	78	1972.5	This local authority scores above average on many family friendly indicators, although work-life balance is difficult, with many adults having long commuter journeys. This local authority needs to consider transport issues that relate to families.
Newham	148	1263.5	Homelessness, unemployment and low pay are major social problems in this deprived local authority. Newham's poverty results in its low scores in a wide range of family friendly indicators. However, the nurseries, schools and colleges in this local authority have been very successful in narrowing the educational achievement gaps between boys and girls and between children eligible for free school meals and their peers.
Redbridge	104	1779	While Redbridge scores above average in many family friendly indicators, high proportions of families are living in temporary accommodation or in the private rental sector.

Richmond	3	2767.5	Richmond scores well above average for most family friendly indicators, although some adults struggle to balance work and home. Child road casualties are high in Richmond.
Southwark	90	1873	This economically diverse local authority is an area of contrasts. Southwark has done well to reduce some of the achievement gaps between boys and girls and between children on free school meals and their peers. However, recorded crime, childhood obesity and child poverty are high.
Sutton	63	2156	Sutton scores above average for most family friendly indicators, although many adults have long commutes to work.
Tower Hamlets	134	1528.5	Tower Hamlets has been very successful in reducing the achievement gap between children on free school meals and their peers. However, this local authority area has a low score on many other family friendly indicators which include childhood obesity, uptake of free early education for deprived two year olds, homelessness and air pollution. Tower Hamlets has the highest rate of child poverty in the UK.
Waltham Forest	144	1416	Waltham Forest gets a surprisingly low family friendly score, given that it is an outer London suburb that does well at schooling and adult qualification indicators. However, this local authority has high proportions of homeless families and those living in the private rental sector.
Wandsworth	58	2203	Work-life balance indicators are lower than average in this generally prosperous local authority area. While Wandsworth's schools have managed to narrow the achievement gap between children on free school meals and their peers, the uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds is among the lowest in England.
Westminster	82	1933.5	This local authority is an area of extreme economic and social contrasts. Child poverty levels are high, while median wages are among the highest in Britain. Westminster has the highest proportions of homeless families of any local authority in England, but its nurseries and schools have been very successful in reducing the achievement gaps between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. Teenage pregnancy rates are very low.

Individual indicators – family and community wellbeing

Life satisfaction

The Office for National Statistics collects data on wellbeing, through its Annual Population Survey. This data looks at four conditions: life satisfaction, worthwhile, happiness and anxiety. We used the life satisfaction data, with the England scoring 7.49 in 2014. The highest scoring local authorities tended to be rural areas, for example, Rutland (7.83) and North Yorkshire (7.76) score highest, with urban areas getting a lower mark. There is a big research literature that links lower levels of life satisfaction with urban living, attributing low scores to factors such as fear of crime and higher levels of poverty. With an average score of 7.37 London local authorities tend to be lower on life satisfaction. In England four of the bottom ten local authorities for this indicator were located in London.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Kensington and Chelsea 7.70 (ranked 9 in England)
Southwark 7.56 (ranked 42 in England)
Merton 7.52 (ranked 54 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Hackney 7.13 – (ranked 147 in England)
Lambeth 6.99 – (ranked 149 in England)
Barking and Dagenham 6.93 (ranked 150 in England).

Recorded crime per head of population

Being a victim of a crime is usually a distressing experience. Fear of crime also impacts on family wellbeing. We felt it was important to include this as an indicator of family and community wellbeing. The indicator we used was police recorded crime in the 12 months to June 2014, per person. Generally, urban areas that receive large numbers of tourists had the highest levels of police recorded crime, mostly due to high theft levels. It was, therefore, not surprising that many London local authorities had high levels of recorded crime.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Barnet 6.06 (ranked 75 in England)
Havering 6.10 (ranked 76 in England)
Bromley 6.12 (ranked 78 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Kensington and Chelsea 11.57 (ranked 148 in England)
Camden 11.87 (ranked 149 in England)
Westminster 17.96 (ranked 150 in England).

Breastfeeding

While the use of formula milk is not indicative of bad parenting, there are many advantages of breastfeeding. It is free and protects a baby against infections and diseases. It also provides health benefits for mothers, including reducing the chances of breast cancer. For these reasons, the Government requires that midwifery and health visiting services help mothers to do this. Breastfeeding could thus be seen as an indicator of how well our health service is doing for families. It is an indicator of family wellbeing, as mothers who are stressed or receive little support from their partner, family or friends often find it more difficult to breastfeed.

In England, all women who initiate breastfeeding in hospital are counted in statistics, then data is collected again at the 6–8 week development review undertaken by a health visitor. However, in some areas these statistics are not being collected. The most recent national data for England (2012–13) indicated that 47.2 per cent of babies were partially or exclusively breastfed the time of the 6–8 week review, although there are big differences between local authorities. Older mothers, the better educated, those from higher income groups and some ethnic minority groups are most likely to breastfeed. Higher proportions of highly educated mothers and those from minority ethnic groups account for the high prevalence of breastfeeding in London, which is the region with the highest breastfeeding rates in the UK.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Kensington and Chelsea 86.5 per cent of babies partially or exclusively breastfed at 6–8 weeks (ranked 1 in England)
Hackney 83.6 per cent (ranked 2 in England)
Southwark 80.6 per cent (ranked 3 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Barking and Dagenham 54.5 per cent of babies partially or exclusively breastfed at 6–8 weeks (ranked 47 in England)
Bexley 48.4 per cent (ranked 68 in England)
Havering 42.4 per cent (ranked 94 in England).

Childhood obesity

Growing levels of obesity are one of the greatest challenges facing the NHS, with excess weight a contributory factor in cardio-vascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some types of cancer. This condition often starts in childhood, with overweight children more likely to become overweight or obese adults. In most cases childhood obesity is caused by the poor diet, over-eating and a lack of exercise. It is a growing trend, in 2012-2014, some 31.8 per cent of reception class children in England were obese or overweight, compared with 23.8 per cent in 2008-2010. By the time children reach year six of primary school obesity rates have increased and tend to be highest in London, where seven of England's bottom ten local authorities are located in the capital.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Richmond 24.3 per cent of year 6 children overweight or obese (ranked 1 in England)
 Kingston 28.4 per cent (ranked 8 in England)
 Bromley 29.9 per cent (ranked 21 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Barking and Dagenham 42.2 per cent year 6 children overweight or obese (ranked 148 in England)
 Tower Hamlets 42.3 per cent (ranked 149 in England)
 Southwark 43.8 per cent (ranked 150 in England).

Adult participation in sport

Regular exercise improves physical and mental health, whereas physical inactivity predisposes us to obesity. Children with physically active parents are also more likely to participate in sport themselves. Some 35.2 per cent of the adult population played sport or engaged in active exercise for at least 30 minutes in the week before the last Active People Survey, but there are large differences in participation in sport and exercise between local authority areas. Although some London local authority areas score well, these are mostly central London local authorities with a large student population. Without students, London tends to score well below average in relation to adult participation in sport, with five of England's bottom ten local authorities are located in the capital.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Richmond 29.8 per cent of the adult population played sport or engaged in active exercise for at least 30 minutes in the week before the 2012 Active People Survey (ranked 2 in England)
 Hammersmith and Fulham 26.9 per cent (ranked 5 in England)
 Westminster 26.7 per cent (ranked 7 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Newham 15.8 per cent of the adult population played sport or engaged in active exercise for at least 30 minutes in the week before the 2012 Active People Survey (ranked 147 in England)
 Enfield 15.7 per cent (ranked 148 in England)
 Barking and Dagenham 14.4 per cent (ranked 149 in England)

Proficiency in English

As a consequence of international migration, England is a more diverse country. Fluency in English promotes migrants' integration, enabling them to find work and interact with those from outside their family or linguistic group. While the majority of new migrants and longer-settled minority ethnic groups speak and read English well or fluently, there some groups who struggle to communicate, including disproportionate numbers of mothers, refugees and EU migrants. Census 2011 data suggests that 1.7 per cent of the population aged over three do not speak English well or at all.

As might be expected, a lack of fluency in English is correlated with levels of recent migration, so it is not surprising that London (at 4.1 per cent of all those aged over three) has the highest proportion of people who do not speak English well or at all. This amounted to 320,000 people at the time of the 2011 census.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Havering 0.71 per cent of the population aged over 3 do not speak English well or at all (ranked 57 in England)
 Bromley 0.75 per cent (ranked 59 in England)
 Richmond 1.03 per cent (ranked 71 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Brent 7.97 per cent of the population aged over 3 do not speak English well or at all (ranked 148= in England)
 Tower Hamlets 7.97 per cent (ranked 148= in England)
 Newham 8.72 per cent (ranked 150 in England).

Single parents with dependent children as a percentage of all households

Bringing up children is easier and less stressful where both parents are actively involved, and for this reason family stability is desirable. Auditing new laws and policies against their impact on family stability and relationship breakdown are component of the Government's new Family Test.

The majority (64 per cent) of single parents now work in the UK, but the children of single parents are more likely to live in poverty than those living with two parents. An acrimonious breakdown of parents' relationship can also have a negative impact on children's wellbeing. The proportion of single parent households has remained constant for nearly 20 years, comprising about 7 per cent of all households in Census 2011. However, there are differences in the proportions of households headed by single parents between different areas, with London families disproportionately headed by single parents.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Kensington and Chelsea 4.86 per cent of households are single parent households with dependent children (ranked 5th in England)

Richmond 4.86 per cent (ranked 5th in England)

Kingston (5.58 per cent (ranked 19 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Croydon 11.60 per cent of households are single parent households with dependent children (ranked 147 in England)

Enfield 11.78 per cent (ranked 148 in England)

Barking and Dagenham 14.36 per cent (ranked 150 in England).

Individual indicators –

income and poverty

Although loving and warm relationships are found in families from all social classes, poverty can put pressure on families, by increasing parental stress and through the restrictions that a low income places on purchasing power and social activities. Research shows that it is harder to be a good parent on a low income, so earnings and action to alleviate poverty and inequality are important interventions to make the UK more family friendly (Lexmond et al, 2011). Poverty is also strongly associated with poor educational and health outcomes. Financial pressures can also contribute to the breakdown of relationships. Families have experienced close to a decade of stagnating living standards as wages have stalled while their expenditure on key items such as housing and childcare has increased. Tax and benefit changes implemented since 2010 have also reduced the income of most families with children¹.

The overall proportion of children living in families whose income falls below the relative poverty line (60 per cent of median income) has remained stable at 17 per cent², mostly due to a fall in workless households. But the proportion of families with working parents in poverty has increase significantly. For example, in 2013/14, 35 per cent of children in families where one parent works full-time were living in poverty compared to 27 per cent in 2009/10 (Belfield et al, 2015).

The Government has extended free school meals to all 5–7 year olds in England and will give parents greater help with their childcare costs from 2016, through increases in childcare help through Universal Credit, the new Tax Free Childcare scheme and increasing the hours of free early education. Despite these interventions, the future outlook for living standards for families is poor. This is because housing costs continue to increase and the Government proposes to significantly reduce financial support for parents both in and out of work.

We have chosen four measures of income and poverty as indicators of family friendly.

These are child poverty, unemployment and economic inactivity in the working age population, gross median weekly wages and average wages in the lowest paid 20 per cent of the population.

Child poverty

This measure sets of the percentage of children living in households receiving out-of-work benefits or working tax credits where the household income is less than 60

per cent of median income³. It is a measure of relative poverty, in that it is a standard that defines how an individual is doing relative to the rest of society. Across the UK, 15.9 per cent of children were living in poverty in 2013. In London, however, 23 per cent of children are living in poverty, using the 60 per cent of median income measure. The high costs of childcare and a growth in low paid jobs are two factors that contribute to high levels of child poverty in London, where the majority of poor children are living in households where at least one adult is working.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Richmond 8.8 per cent of children living in poverty (ranked 4 in England)

Kingston 12.1 per cent (ranked 22 in England)

Sutton 14.7 per cent (ranked 39 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Westminster 31.3 per cent of children living in poverty (ranked 145 in England)

Islington 34.5 per cent (ranked 149 in England)

Tower Hamlets 39.0 per cent (ranked 150 in England).

Median pay

Gross median weekly wages are another relative poverty measure. It is the mid-point on the salary range, with 50 per cent of jobs paying less and 50 per cent paying more. In areas where a high proportion of jobs are low paid, gross median weekly pay is lower. Generally this figure is highest in London and the South East, although living costs are also higher in these two regions.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Wandsworth £660.90 per week (ranked 1 in England)

Westminster £655.70 per week (ranked 2 in England)

Richmond £655 per week (ranked 3 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Waltham Forest £541.80 per week (ranked 52= in England)

Barking and Dagenham £517.80 per week (ranked 65 in England)

Newham £509.40 per week (ranked 74 in England).

1 Department for Work and Pensions Households below average income: 1994/1995 to 2013/2014 tables.

2 Ibid

Unemployment and economic inactivity

An unemployed person is defined as someone without a job who is looking for work, while the economically inactive are those who are not looking for a job – usually because they are studying, sick, disabled or have caring responsibilities. We took unemployment and economic inactivity in the 16-64 (working age) population as another of our indicators, as workless families are much more likely to live in poverty. In the year to March 2015, 27.4 per cent of the working age population was unemployed or economically inactive in England (5.4 per cent unemployed and 22 per cent economically inactive). Overall, the rates of unemployment (6.2 per cent) and economic inactivity (22.9 per cent) are higher in London, compared to the average for England, a factor that contributes to high poverty levels in the capital. However, there are big differences in the employment rate in different parts of London. The City of Westminster, an area with one of the highest levels of median wages, has one of the lowest rates of employment in England.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Lambeth 21.7 per cent of the working age population unemployed or economically inactive (ranked 13 in England)

Wandsworth 21.8 per cent (ranked 14 in England)

Richmond 23.3 per cent (ranked 27 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Barking and Dagenham 36.9 per cent of the working age population unemployed or economically inactive (ranked 132 in England)

Westminster 37.3 per cent (ranked 133 in England)

Newham 40.6 per cent (ranked 144 in England).

Gross hourly pay for those on in the lowest income quintile compared with the Living Wage

A number of community organisations – supported by research – argue that the current National Minimum Wage is not enough to cover the basic cost of living, and have campaigned for a Living Wage that pays enough for households to have a minimum acceptable standard of living. The UK and London Living wage is an hourly rate that is updated annually. The current UK Living Wage is £7.85 an hour, and £9.15 in London.

Some 18 per cent of jobs in London were paid below the London Living Wage in 2014, although there are differences in this proportion between different local authorities. There has been a proliferation of low paid jobs in recent years in London, which has resulted in a change to London's poverty profile. Today most poor families in London are those where at least one adult is in work.

We looked gross hourly pay for the bottom 20 per cent (quintile) of employees, and calculated the difference between this and the UK or London Living Wage. Local authority areas in London and the South East generally did best, with the average pay for the bottom quintile more than the London Living Wage. But the lowest three scoring local authority areas are also in London, showing that low pay is also prevalent in the capital, where the cost of living is highest.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Kensington and Chelsea – median wages for bottom 20 per cent of residents £1.48 more than the London Living Wage (ranked 1 in England)

Wandsworth – median wages for bottom 20 per cent of residents £1.27 more than the London Living Wage (ranked 2 in England)

Richmond – median wages for bottom 20 per cent of residents £1.19 more than the London Living Wage (ranked 3 in England)

Low scores

Barking and Dagenham – median wages for bottom 20 per cent of residents £1.38 less than the London Living Wage (ranked 148 in England)

Brent – median wages for bottom 20 per cent of residents £1.43 less than the London Living Wage (ranked 149 in England)

Newham – median wages for bottom 20 per cent of residents £1.84 less than the London Living Wage (ranked 150 in England).

Individual indicators – access to family friendly work

Almost all research about parental employment highlights the importance of flexible work opportunities in helping parents balance family life and work. Children may also benefit, as emerging evidence suggests flexible work arrangements have a positive impact on children's learning, as working parents can spend more time with their children.

Since 2002 parents have also had the right to ask for flexible working, a right which has now been extended to all workers. Despite this development, a minority of employees have access to flexible work opportunities which are usually taken to include part-time working, flexi-time, term-time working, job shares, temporary reduced hours, annualised hours, compressed hours and opportunities to regularly work from home. Data from the 2011 Workplace Employment Relations Survey showed that only a third (34 per cent) of workplaces allowed flexi-time working, where staff could vary their time at work outside core hours. Part-time work was the most frequent flexible work option, with 56 per cent of workplaces offering this in 2011. But in many organisations part-time jobs are often of a lower status than full-time employment and are less likely to lead to promotion.

There are also some groups of workers who have less access to flexible work practices. These include those who work in male-dominated workplaces or who have the fewest skills and qualifications, therefore the least bargaining power.

But family friendly work is about more than flexible work opportunities, and there are many other work practices that impact on the quality of family life. There is a culture of long hours, with workers in the UK working longer than their peers in most EU countries and commuting time can also eat into family time. As already noted, low pay can have many impacts on the quality of family life by increasing parental stress and forcing families to go without essential items (Davis et al, 2014; Lexmond et al, 2011). Parents on low incomes may also take on overtime work or a second job in order to increase their wages, which in turn further impacts on the quality of family life.

As already noted, there is a limited amount of local data that relates to family friendly work. We have used indicators from the Census, Labour Force Survey and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings as proxy measures of family friendly work, looking at pay differences between full and part-time workers, hours of work, Saturday and Sunday work and commuting times.

Difference in pay levels between female full-time and female part-time work

Part-time employment is strategy that parents – disproportionately mothers – adopt to keep down their childcare costs and help balance work with family life. But in many organisations part-time jobs are often of a lower status than full-time employment and are less likely to lead to promotion (Grant et al, 2005). As a consequence, part-time jobs also tend to be less well paid, when compared pro rata, with full-time employment. In research by the Timewise Foundation (2013) just 3 per cent of part-time jobs advertised in March 2012 paid a salary of more than £20,000 per year full-time equivalent.

We took the difference in median gross hourly between female full-time and female part-time employment as an indicator of family friendly employment. In 2014, the median gross hourly pay for full-time female worker was £12.37 in England, but for a part-time female worker it was £8.46, a difference of £3.91 per hour. At a local authority area level, where part-time jobs enjoy greater parity, this figure will be lower, although this may be due to a general prevalence of low-paid jobs. Generally, the areas with the biggest gaps are those where local residents include many women who are very well-paid, but also others who are at the lower end of the income spectrum

Top scoring London local authority areas

Newham –£0.29 pay difference per hour between female full-time and part-time work (ranked 1 in England)

Barking and Dagenham £0.58 pay difference per hour (ranked 3 in England)

Tower Hamlets £1.55 pay difference per hour (ranked 19 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas scores

Merton £6.81 pay difference per hour (ranked 148 in England)

Wandsworth £7.52 pay difference per hour (ranked 149 in England)

Kensington and Chelsea £8.26 pay difference per hour (ranked 150 in England).

Working 49 or more hours per week

Although there are some exceptions for some groups such as the self-employed, regulations are meant to prevent employees from spending more than 48 hours per week at work. Despite this, there is a still a culture of long working hours in the UK, which can have a negative impact on family life and the time that children spend with their parents. Census 2011 data indicated that 13.3 per cent of employed 16-74 year olds worked 49 or more hours per week (10.2 per cent males and 3.1 per cent females). Generally, those living in prosperous parts of London worked the longest hours, with eight of the bottom ten local authorities located in London. The areas where fewest workers worked 49 or more hours per week were largely deprived areas, suggesting a trade-off between a higher income and family friendly work.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Waltham Forest 10.9 per cent of 16-74 workforce working 49 or more hours per week (ranked 45 in England)

Croydon 11.7 per cent (ranked 66 in England)

Enfield 11.8 per cent (ranked 68 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Hammersmith and Fulham 23.3 per cent of 16-74 workforce working 49 or more hours per week (ranked 148 in England)

Westminster 31.2 per cent (ranked 149 in England)

Kensington and Chelsea 35.1 per cent (ranked 150 in England).

Working Saturday and Sunday

Although weekend work is essential in some sectors of the economy – health and social care, for example – working outside normal office hours has the potential to impact on family life. Parents may also find it difficult to find formal childcare if they need it. Nationally, Labour Force Survey data suggests that nearly 3 million people are required as part of their usual working pattern to work Saturday, about 10 per cent of the workforce. Over 2 million people work on Sunday. The prevalence of Saturday and Sunday work is usually determined by the local labour market and the range of jobs available. The large number of jobs in financial services – which usually do not require weekend work – means that a smaller proportion of Londoners have to work at the weekend, compared to most other regions of the UK.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Hammersmith and Fulham 4.2 per cent of the working-age (16-64) population usually work Saturday and/or Sunday (ranked 5 in England)

Wandsworth 6.1 per cent (ranked 11 in England)

Enfield 6.2 per cent (ranked 12 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Kingston 15.2 per cent of the working-age (16-64) population usually work Saturday and/or Sunday (ranked 105 in England)

Lewisham 15.6 per cent (ranked 112 in England)

Havering 15.7 per cent (ranked 114 in England).

Average journey to work times in minutes

Long journeys to work can eat into the time that parents spend with their children. Parents who spend long hours commuting to work may also need childcare early in the morning in or in the early evening. Generally, those living in London and the South East spent a longer time travelling to work. The average home to work journey time in England was 29 minutes in 2014, but in London it was 38 minutes. The bottom 18 local authorities for commuting times are all located in London.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Kensington and Chelsea 28 minutes home to work journey time (ranked 84= in England)

Hillingdon 29 minutes (ranked 94= in England)

Islington 30 minutes (ranked 100= in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Redbridge 46 minutes home to work journey time (ranked 147= in England)

Wandsworth 46 minutes (ranked 147= in England)

Bexley 48 minutes (ranked 149 in England)

Bromley 49 minutes (ranked 150 in England).

Individual indicators – high quality public services

High quality public services make a major difference to family life. We had included seven indicators that related to the quality of public services

Uptake of free early education among deprived two year olds

In September 2014 the 40 per cent most income deprived two year olds became entitled to part-time free early education in England, amounting to 570 hours per year and most usually delivered by schools, pre-schools and day nurseries. This provision is meant to narrow the development gap between the most disadvantaged children and their peers. But take-up of free early education among deprived two year olds has been low in some areas, sometimes because there are not enough places, but also because parents do not want this help. By January 2015 just 58 per cent of children were receiving this provision in England, but in London only 46 per cent of eligible children were doing so. Nine of the ten bottom scoring local authorities are located in London. Overall, some 26,500 of London's most disadvantaged two year olds are missing out on early education.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Richmond 85 per cent of eligible two years olds receiving free early education (ranked 1 in England)
Kingston 71 per cent (ranked 18= in England)
Redbridge 66 per cent (ranked 46= in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Wandsworth 33 per cent of eligible two years olds receiving free early education (ranked 148 in England)
Newham 31 per cent (ranked 149 in England)
Tower Hamlets 26 per cent (ranked 150 in England).

Difference in development between boys and girls at five years

Through early education and schooling there are gaps in children's outcomes between different groups of children. The development gap between deprived children and their peers is marked, and there are also differences in outcomes between different ethnic groups. There are also differences in outcomes between boys and girls, with the latter doing better in all stages of schooling. In the Early years Foundation Stage profile assessment, 67 per cent of girls, but just 50 per cent of boys achieved the expected level of development in all 17 early learning goals (ELGs), a 17

percentage point difference. However, some nurseries have managed to narrow these development gaps, and have made sure that that boys do well in early education. London does a little better than average in this respect, with four of the ten best performing local authorities for boys' achievement located in London. However, there are also a number of low scoring local authorities in London.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Lewisham 70 per cent of boys achieving expected level of development in all ELGs (ranked 1 in England)
Bexley 65 per cent (ranked 2 in England)
Greenwich 64 per cent (ranked 3 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Tower Hamlets 43 per cent of boys achieving expected level of development in all ELGs (ranked 123= in England)
Camden 42 per cent (ranked 130= in England)
Hillingdon 41 per cent (ranked 135= in England).

GCSE results for children on free school meals

Children's test and examination results have continued to improve, but in all parts of the UK there are still large gaps in achievement between the most disadvantaged children and their peers. In England, for example, just 41.8 per cent of students entitled to free school meal obtained 5A*-C grades (including English and maths) at GCSE in 2014, compared with 69.8 per cent of all other children. However, London students who are eligible for free school meals do much better than children elsewhere in England, with 19 out of the top 20 local authorities located in London.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Kensington and Chelsea 71.1 of children eligible for free school meals obtained 5A*-C grades (including English and maths) at GCSE (ranked 1 in England).
Westminster 70.8 per cent (ranked 2 in England)
Tower Hamlets 65.6 per cent (ranked 3 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Havering 44.9, per cent of children eligible for free school meals obtained 5A*-C grades (including English and maths) at GCSE (ranked 41 in England)
Lewisham 44.1 per cent (ranked 44 in England)
Bexley 39.2 per cent (ranked 68 in England).

Adult qualifications

The numbers of young people remaining in education has continued to rise and the numbers starting full-time university courses was at its highest ever level in 2015. As a consequence, the proportion of the adult population with higher level qualifications – Level 4 and above – has continued to rise. In England, some 35.7 per cent of working-age population is qualified at this level and above. At 49.1 per cent, London's population has the highest proportion of adults with a higher level qualification of any English region, partly due to a large student population in the capital, many of whom remain in London at the end of their courses. Some 16 of the top scoring local authorities are located in London.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Wandsworth 69.7 per cent of working age population qualified at Level 4 and above (ranked 1 in England)
Hammersmith and Fulham 67 per cent (ranked 2 in England)
Richmond 66.8 per cent (ranked 3 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Bexley 33.0 per cent of working age population qualified at Level 4 and above (ranked 81 in England)
Barking and Dagenham 29.4 per cent (ranked 102 in England)
Havering 25.7 per cent (ranked 126 in England).

Under 18 conceptions

Overall, the UK is a country with deep-seated health inequalities that span a range of family health indicators, including breastfeeding uptake, healthy behaviours, hospital admissions and mortality. These inequalities do not only affect the very poorest. Rather there is a close link between where a family is on the socio-economic ladder and the health of its members – the higher the rank, the better the health. These inequalities remain one of the biggest challenges facing the NHS.

Noting this, there are many family healthcare indicators that we could have used and we have already looked at the prevalence of breastfeeding and childhood obesity. Conceptions and births to the under 18s is another important health indicator. Children born to teenage parents are more likely to have a low birthweight, live in poverty and do badly at school. Teenage mothers are more likely to be unemployed and experience relationship breakdown. Reducing

conceptions among teenagers has been a major policy success, particularly in parts of London. In England, there were 24.5 conceptions per 1,000 females under 18 in 2012, compared with 42.1 in 2003. London saw conceptions to under 18s fall to 25.9 per 1,000 females under 18, from 50.3 in 2003. While five of the ten best performing local authority areas are located in London, there are some parts of the capital where the rate of teenage pregnancy is well above average.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Westminster 9.8 conceptions per 1,000 females under 18 (ranked 1 in England)
Barnet 10.2 (ranked 2 in England)
Richmond 11.8 (ranked 4 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Croydon 32.4 conceptions per 1,000 females under 18 (ranked 122 in England)
Lewisham 33.0 (ranked 124 in England)
Barking and Dagenham 40.3 (ranked 146 in England).

Local authority expenditure on cultural and leisure provision

Local authorities support much cultural, leisure and sport provision in the UK, services which have the potential to improve the quality of life in the communities where we live. Councils provide some of these services itself, by running libraries, adult education services, sports centres and parks. Local government also commissions and provides grant funding to culture and leisure services. Local authority revenue expenditure on cultural and related services amount to an average of £7,544,000 in 2015/16, 3 per cent less than the previous financial year, but there are large differences in expenditure per head between local authorities, including those in London. Here, the overall local authority expenditure on culture and leisure is below the average for England. With many other providers of cultural activities based in central London – the national orchestras, for example – the lower spend per head is likely to have less of an impact on the quality of life.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Lambeth £137.38 per head of population (ranked 2 in England)
Havering £118.24 per head (ranked 12 in England)
Hillingdon £109.45 per head (ranked 19 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Greenwich £37.84 per head of population (ranked 140 in England)

Camden £35.91 per head (ranked 145 in England)

Bexley £25.35 per head of population (ranked 148 in England).

Individual indicators – a family friendly infrastructure and living environment

Families need a supportive infrastructure and living environment in order to thrive, which includes decent, secure housing, transport, childcare and a clean living environment.

Homeless families with dependent children housed in temporary accommodation

Stable, decent housing is vital to families, but shortages of social housing and house price rises – 4.2 per cent in the 12 months to August 2015 – have put this out of the reach of many families.

How we treat homeless families is a key indicator of a family friendly nation. Compared with the 1990s there are now fewer homeless households in temporary accommodation while waiting for a permanent social tenancy. However, the number of homeless families living in bed and breakfast accommodation – one specific type of temporary accommodation – has increased by more than 300 per cent in the last five years. Families living in temporary accommodation usually have to move home frequently, making it difficult settle in and make friends. Some families in temporary accommodation live in cramped conditions and have to share kitchens and bathrooms with strangers.

At the end of March 2015 there were 64,710 households in temporary accommodation in England, of which 48,240 were in London. When the overall numbers of households with dependent children are taken into account, London local authorities have the largest proportion of homeless families with dependent children in temporary accommodation. Some 27 of the 30 worst performing local authorities for homeless families were located in London.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Merton 0.18 per cent of all households are homeless and in temporary accommodation (ranked 108 in England)

Richmond 0.28 per cent (ranked 115 in England)

Sutton 0.34 per cent (ranked 118 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Brent 2.74 per cent of all households are homeless and in temporary accommodation (ranked 148 in England).

Haringey 2.75 per cent (ranked 149 in England)

Newham 2.99 (ranked 150 in England).

Families with dependent children living in the private rental sector

Over the last ten years there have been major changes in patterns of housing tenure in the UK, with many more families living in privately rented accommodation, with proportionately fewer owner occupiers and social tenants. These changes have been driven by year-on-year rises in house prices and shortages of socially rented housing. In 2014 more than 1 in 5 families with dependent children were private renters, compared with 1 in 10 in 2007. Too much privately rented housing is of poor quality and regulation of this type of accommodation is weak. In England 33 per cent of private rented homes do not meet government's Decent Homes Standard compared with 20 per cent of owner-occupied homes and 15 per cent of social housing (Shelter, 2013). Six months is the de facto length of a tenancy agreement for private renters and as a consequence many families in this type of accommodation are forced to move home frequently. This can disrupt children's education and social lives, as well as parents' support networks. A wide range of organisations are now lobbying for a longer 'family' tenancy for those in the private rental sector, as well as the regulation of letting agents' fees.

In London, 26.2 per cent of families with dependent children lived in the private rental sector in 2011, compared with 19.6 per cent in England as a whole. Seven of the ten local authorities with the largest proportion of families living in private rental accommodation are located in London.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Islington 12.5 per cent of families with dependent children living in the private rental sector (ranked 2 in England)

Havering 15.0 per cent (ranked 19 in England)

Bromley 15.1 per cent (ranked 23 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Brent 34.5 per cent of families with dependent living in the private rental sector (ranked 147 in England)

Westminster 34.9 per cent (ranked 148 in England)

Newham 36.6 per cent (ranked 150 in England).

Child road casualties per head of population under 18, 2009–2013

In 2013 some 2,029 children under 16 were killed or seriously injured on roads in Britain, of whom the majority were pedestrians. We believe that safe roads are part of a family friendly infrastructure. While there has been a year-on-year decline in road casualties in recent years, there are differences between social groups in the rates of child casualties. Children from the lowest socio-economic classes are three times more likely to be killed as pedestrians, because they are more likely to play outside unsupervised, and less likely to be driven to school and to leisure activities. These factors account for some, but not all of the variation in child road casualties between different areas. Local decisions about transport policy also have the potential to make a big impact on child road casualties. London local authority areas mostly cluster in the middle of the league table, although there are a small number of areas near the top of the league table.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Richmond 0.385 child road casualties per 100 children, 2009–2013 annual average (ranked 1 in England)

Harrow 0.397 (ranked 3 in England)

Sutton 0.418 (ranked 4 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Lewisham 0.643 child road casualties per 100 children, 2009–2013 annual average (ranked 64 in England)

Lambeth 0.648 (ranked 65 in England)

Haringey 0.692 (ranked 76 in England)

Families without dependent children without access to a car/van

Families who have limited access to public transport and cannot afford a car are disadvantaged. It can be more difficult to find and keep work, shopping options are reduced and family lives are also more stressful and pressured. Transport poverty may prevent children from taking up free early education or attending after-school enrichment activities.

Generally, families living in London were least likely to have access to a car, with 31.0 per cent of families with dependent children having no car in the capital, compared with 19.2 per cent in England. Nine of the ten lowest scoring areas for access to a car were located in London. This may not matter in parts of the capital where public transport is good, although a car often

makes life less stressful for parents. However, it should not be forgotten that there are parts of outer London that are not well-served by public transport.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Bromley 16.1 per cent of families with dependent children having no access to a car or van (ranked 56 in England)

Bexley 16.2 per cent (ranked 59 in England)

Harrow 17.0 per cent (ranked 63 in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Hackney 53.8 per cent of families with dependent children having no access to a car or van (ranked 148 in England)

Westminster 54.0 per cent (ranked 149 in England)

Islington 55.9 per cent (ranked 150 in England).

Under-fives childcare places per 100 children

Childcare provision is an essential part of the social infrastructure, enabling parents to work, and employers to keep essential staff. However, there is a lack of childcare in some areas, both for under-fives and children at school. We used local authority, Department for Education and Ofsted early years' places data. Generally, areas that have a high level of maternal employment have proportionately more childcare places. This is because childcare operates as a quasi-market and greater demand from working parents leads to greater supply. London local authorities tend to score lower, as the maternal employment rate is lower in the capital than in most other parts of the UK.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Bromley 48 years childcare places per 100 children under five (ranked 19th in England)

Richmond 47 places (ranked 24th in England)

Southwark 44 places (ranked 46th in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Hounslow, Newham and Tower Hamlets each 28 places (ranked 146th in England)

Barking and Dagenham 26 places (ranked 148th in England)

Islington 24 places (ranked 150 in England).

Pollution – Particulate emissions

We also included an indicator to reflect families need for a clean environment, which also supports good health. Pollution has many different components, which include litter, gaseous pollution, water and soil contaminants, radiation and particulate matter in the air.

Although pollution levels are measured in specific locations, regionally or nationally, there is little data on pollution at a local authority level. However, in 2014 Public Health England undertook analysis on particulate air pollution, which is associated with an increased risk of asthma and other respiratory and cardio-vascular disease. This shows levels of human-produced pollution and the proportion of deaths by local authority where particulate air pollution is a contributory factor. In England some 5.6 per cent of all deaths had human-made particulate air pollution as a contributory factor; in London this was 7.6 per cent. Some 27 of England's the highest scoring local authorities for particulate air pollution are located in London. Generally, urban local authorities score badly in all parts of the UK, due to high densities of road traffic. These figures show that we have underestimated the effects of pollution on family health.

Top scoring London local authority areas

Bromley 6.3 per cent of all deaths had human-made particulate air pollution as a contributory factor (ranked 111= in England)

Havering 6.3 per cent (ranked 111= in England)

Harrow 6.4 per cent (ranked 113= in England)

Lowest scoring London local authority areas

Tower Hamlets 8.1 per cent of all deaths had human-made particulate air pollution as a contributory factor (ranked 148 in England).

Kensington and Chelsea 8.3 per cent (ranked 149= in England)

Westminster 8.3 per cent (ranked 149= in England).

Conclusions

Our London Report Card shows a divided city. In some areas, children and their parents are thriving. In other areas, our data shows that some families are struggling to survive. While there are poor families in every London local authority, there is an East-West divide in the capital in relation to the quality of family life. Barking and Dagenham and Newham are at the bottom of the family friendly league table for many indicators.

Compared with the rest of England, London's schools are doing well, but our local report card shows that London is failing on many other aspects of family life. Londoners are unhappier and more likely to be victims of crime. While median wages are above average for England, the poorest working families are falling behind, with nearly one in five jobs paid below the National Minimum Wage in London. Proposed changes to the tax credit system will force more of London's working families into poverty.

Commuting and a culture of working long hours eats up into the time that London parents can spend with their children. Too many families are also living in unsatisfactory accommodation – they are homeless or living in poor quality – and expensive – private rental accommodation. Home is the centre of family life, but too many London families lack secure, decent and affordable housing. Building more homes to rent or to buy must be the priority area for action, if London is to become a truly family friendly city.

Generally, deprived areas scored lower across a range of family friendly indicators, reflecting the challenges in these areas face. But our analysis also highlighted some of London's poorest boroughs that scored well on some indicators – for example, those that scored well on nursery provision and education. This shows that high quality public services can make a difference to the lives of families.

There are also local authority areas that are not experiencing high levels of deprivation, but do badly on some family friendly indicators. There may be big gaps in the educational outcomes between poor children and their peers, for example.

We want parents to use the data in the local report card to hold the Government to account, at a national and local level. This can only take place if statistics are collected and rapidly made public. We are concerned that some public services are not collecting essential statistics, and that there is often a long delays in publishing surveys and administrative data.

We also want to influence the views of local authorities. The Government now subjects and all new laws or government to the 'Family Test' to make sure they support strong and stable families. The Family Test

applies at a national level to central government departments. But we would also like the Mayor of London and the capital's local authorities to adopt their own family tests, to make sure that local policy changes boost family resilience.

Parents are children's primary carers and public policy needs to support them in this role. They need a fair share of resources and decent housing, as well as high quality public services. Parents need employment that enables them to balance work with caring obligation. Family life is precious and deserves protecting. We hope that our 2015 London Report Card is a useful tool for those who want to work to make the city truly family friendly.

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Local authority rankings for England

Local Authority	England Ranking	Score	Local Authority	England Ranking	Score
EASTERN			SOUTH EAST		
Bedford	47	2263.5	Bracknell Forest	14	2615.5
Cambridgeshire	12	2641.5	Brighton and Hove	24	2520.5
Central Bedfordshire	37	2414	Buckinghamshire	11	2654.5
Essex	55	2229.5	East Sussex	43	2327
Hertfordshire	25	2517	Hampshire	7	2704.5
Luton	143	1470.5	Isle of Wight	97	1821.5
Norfolk	80	1960.5	Kent	79	1967
Peterborough	114	1688.5	Medway	98	1812
Southend	103	1781	Milton Keynes	60	2185.5
Suffolk	54	2231.5	Oxfordshire	13	2617
Thurrock	126=	1588.5	Portsmouth	81	1954.5
			Reading	65	2121.5
EAST MIDLANDS			Slough	115	1687.5
Derby City	99	1810.5	Southampton	113	1708
Derbyshire	42	2364	Surrey	8	2703.5
Leicester City	140	1484.5	West Berkshire	6	2716.5
Leicestershire	17	2563.5	West Sussex	29	2455.5
Lincolnshire	67	2107.5	Windsor and Maidenhead	2	2813
Northamptonshire	83	1923	Wokingham	4	2762
Nottingham City	145	1388			
Nottinghamshire	50	2253	SOUTH WEST		
Rutland	27	2502	Bath and North East Somerset	1	2866
			Bournemouth	36	2415.5
LONDON			Bristol	84	1921.5
Barking and Dagenham	149	1236	Cornwall	57	2203.5
Barnet	95	1832.5	Devon	20	2550.5
Bexley	112	1708.5	Dorset	5	2729.5
Brent	146=	1354.5	Gloucestershire	16	2565
Bromley	32	2441.5	North Somerset	26	2502.5
Camden	85	1916	Plymouth	77	2063.5
Croydon	142	1473	Poole	39	2394.5
Ealing	123	1638	Somerset	41	2364.5
Enfield	141	1478	South Gloucestershire	21	2545
Greenwich	133	1535	Swindon	70	2077
Hackney	126+	1588.5	Torbay	89	1878
Hammersmith and Fulham	68	2106.5	Wiltshire	33	2438.5
Haringey	132	1539.5			

Harrow	105	1772.5	WEST MIDLANDS		
Havering	87	1900.5	Birmingham	135	1528.5
Hillingdon	108	1732	Coventry	93	1835
Hounslow	138	1492	Dudley	100	1806.5
Islington	73	2041	Herefordshire	66	2110
Kensington and Chelsea	56	2225.5	Sandwell	150	1180
Kingston	38	2412	Shropshire	35	2429.5
Lambeth	106	1747.5	Solihull	40	2380
Lewisham	125	1603	Staffordshire	31	2445
Merton	78	1972.5	Stoke-on-Trent	118	1650.5
Newham	148	1263.5	Telford and Wrekin	109	1731.5
Redbridge	104	1779	Walsall	146=	1354.5
Richmond	3	2767.5	Warwickshire	19	2561.5
Southwark	90	1873	Wolverhampton	137	1511
Sutton	63	2156	Worcestershire	45	2299.5
Tower Hamlets	134	1528.5			
Waltham Forest	144	1416	YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE		
Wandsworth	58	2203	Barnsley	101	1800
Westminster	82	1933.5	Bradford	102	1782.5
			Calderdale	44	2310
NORTH EAST			Doncaster	119	1644
Darlington	59	2199	East Riding	18	2562
Durham	69	2100	Hull	128	1584.5
Gateshead	76	1990.5	Kirklees	61	2185
Hartlepool	107	1736	Leeds	48=	2262.5
Middlesbrough	139	1491	North East Lincolnshire	129	1572
Newcastle	77	1983	North Lincolnshire	53	2236
North Tyneside	52	2246.5	North Yorkshire	23	2525.5
Northumberland	48=	2262.5	Rotherham	88	1880.5
Redcar and Cleveland	110	1725.5	Sheffield	62	2174.5
Stockton-on-Tees	96	1827	Wakefield	86	1906
South Tyneside	94	1833.5	York	34	2437
Sunderland	122	1640.5			
NORTH WEST					
Blackburn and Darwen	92	1851			
Blackpool	124	1607.5			
Bolton	120	1643.5			
Bury	46	2293.5			
Cheshire East	10	2681			

Cheshire West and Chester	15	2580			
Cumbria	22	2541			
Halton	74	2027			
Knowsley	111	1714.5			
Lancashire	51	2250			
Liverpool	117	1653			
Manchester	130	1544.5			
Oldham	136	1520			
Rochdale	121	1642			
Salford	131	1544			
Sefton	64	2130			
St Helens	91	1862			
Stockport	30	2446			
Tameside	116	1673			
Trafford	9	2686			
Warrington	28	2470.5			
Wigan	75	2014.5			
Wirral	71	2069.5			

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About the Family and Childcare Trust

The Family and Childcare Trust works to make the UK a better place for families. Our vision is of a society where government, business and communities do all they can to support every family to thrive. Through our research, campaigning and practical support we are creating a more family friendly UK.

The Family and Childcare Trust's annual childcare costs survey is the definitive report on childcare costs and sufficiency in the UK and its data are used by the Department for Education and OECD.

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