

# Harrow Vitality Profiles

## 2018 - 2019

### About the Harrow Vitality Profiles



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## Foreword

This is the fifth edition of the Harrow Vitality Profiles, first produced by the Council in 2004. Over those fifteen years Harrow has consistently welcomed new communities to our borough. They have settled and added to Harrow's heritage and its diversity.

Since the first edition in 2004, there has been a 15% increase in population (nearly 34,000 more people). The Vitality Profiles are an account of the rich demographic mix of our community, providing ward by ward breakdowns, of ethnicity, faith, and age. It shows our residents are living longer and where life expectancy is greatest.

The Vitality Profiles are both an interesting read for anyone living, working, trading or studying in Harrow, and an essential tool to help elected members, council officers and other public bodies plan their services. Changes across the borough are not uniform, we continually need to track what is happening across all our neighbourhoods, so that we can deliver our services to areas which are the most deprived and to those people who have the greatest need.

The facts and figures contained here are a snapshot in time, sourced from demographic, social and economic databases and presented in an interesting and easy to read format. That format is designed to provide the reader with a good understanding of Harrow, its people and communities.

The Vitality Profiles provides council services and other public and voluntary sector bodies with the facts they need to develop effective strategies to address need. Those facts will in turn provide the evidence to develop projects and funding bids to secure additional investment into Harrow.

Compared to 2004 there is a far wider range of indicators on offer. These latest profiles contain the most up-to-date deprivation data, sourced from the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation and a more comprehensive range of health indicators. Our next edition will draw upon the 2021 Census to reflect the global nature of Harrow's ever changing population.

Given the Climate Emergency, we have decided to minimise our carbon footprint and therefore this edition is only being published digitally. It is on the council's website and the information is available in a variety of formats too.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Keith Ferry".

**Cllr Keith Ferry**  
Deputy Leader Harrow  
Council  
Regeneration, Planning  
& Employment Portfolio  
Holder

# About the Harrow Vitality Profiles

## Introduction

The Harrow Vitality Profiles contain a range of statistics which build-up a picture of Harrow - its people and the environment.

These Profiles update the previous editions, published in 2013, 2010, 2006 and 2004.

The aims of the Harrow Vitality Profiles remain the same as before - to bring together in one place a range of key information about Harrow, its people and their needs in an interesting and standard format.

The range of information in the Harrow Vitality Profiles remains broad, reflecting the diverse range of services which the council and our partners provide, but also combining key datasets about Harrow from government and other agencies.

Changes from the previous version are:

- new layout and presentation of charts
- the People of Harrow section only contains new data, as the majority of indicators in this section draw upon the 2011 Census results which will not be updated until the next census in 2021. This information can still be found in the previous edition (2011/2013).
- new section on Crime
- new section on Residents' Profiles, sourced from Experian's Mosaic consumer classification system
- new data from the 2019 Indices of Deprivation
- updated indicators for: Ambulance and Fire; Probation; Economy; Education; Environment; Health; Housing; and Social Care

The majority of the data is depicted at the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level. The LSOA level is Harrow's preferred geography and it is also the standard geography for Government departments at the small area level.

Ward level information is also very important to the council and many of the indicators are summarised at this level.

The indicators in the 2018/2019 edition of the Harrow Vitality Profiles are grouped under the following headings:

People of Harrow  
Deprivation  
Ambulance and Fire  
Crime  
Probation  
Economy  
Education  
Environment  
Health  
Housing  
Social Care  
Residents' Profiles

## Availability of the Harrow Vitality Profiles

The Harrow Vitality Profiles can be viewed and used in the following ways:

The profiles can be viewed and freely downloaded from the council's website using the following link <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/council/vitality-profiles?documentId=12986&categoryId=210283>

Ward profiles using the rankings of 75 HVP indicators are also available on the website. These show where the top three rankings for each indicator fall by ward, also the lowest ranking.

The data is available to view and query with the council's corporate Geographical Information System (ArcGIS)

## Indicator Composition

Each indicator has broadly the same content:

- headline facts
- a bar chart showing the variations in the indicator at ward level
- a map displaying the variations between different parts of Harrow at Lower Super Output Area, Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) or ward level
- short explanatory text giving the key findings and explaining the nature and limitations of the data

## Comparative Data

Work on successive Harrow Vitality Profile reports has resulted in the establishment of a database containing a comprehensive time series of data for the majority of the indicators depicted in this report. This information is used in headline comparisons and graphical display at ward level. However, comparisons over time are not always possible, as definitions, eligibility for benefits and survey questions can change over time. For example, the equalisation of state pension age for men and women means that definitions of people of retirement and those of working age are now constantly changing, making comparisons over time more difficult.

Continual changes to the state benefits system means that some existing benefits have been superseded by new benefits, such as Universal Credit. Therefore, the latest profiles reflect the new benefits which have been backtracked for comparability purposes where possible.

Where relevant, national and regional comparators have been included. It is important not to view Harrow in isolation and this information is often essential for external funding bids.

## Denominators Used to Calculate Rates

The denominators used for the Vitality Profiles reports are continually revised to take into account any growth and decline in Harrow's local population and housing structure.

The following have been used as denominators:

- Office for National Statistics 2016 Mid-Year Population Estimates have been used as basis for calculating the rate per 1,000 population.
- Council Tax register for rate per 1,000 dwellings
- Due to the lack of reliable household estimates at the small area level, dwelling counts have been used as a proxy for household denominators. In Harrow there is a good correlation between dwelling and household numbers across the borough. The 2011 Census data is now considered to be too old to use for this purpose, due to the amount of new housing development in the borough since 2011.

## Additional Information

This report provides an important snapshot in time. It was produced from a series of databases which can be analysed in many different ways and linked with other information too. A number of these databases are regularly updated and much of this information was obtained from various websites. A number of indicators can be correlated with one another.

Please beware of potentially false conclusions - similar patterns may not necessarily mean that there is any relationship - let alone a cause-and-effect relationship.

## Map Display

Data has been displayed on maps according to each Super Output Area (SOA) or ward value for each indicator. For ease of interpretation, wards or SOAs are allocated to one of five bands according to their value, and the five bands are displayed on each map using five levels of shading.

The breakdown of categories depends on each dataset. For example, the deprivation maps have been shaded to show Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in comparison to national levels. For other data sets the five band shadings are based on Jenks' Natural Breaks Classification. This is a data classification method designed to determine the best arrangement of values into different classes. This shading method allows areas with very high or low values to be grouped together so they stand out. For example, for Social Rented Housing there are only a few areas with very high concentrations, so to group the top 20% together would be misleading. Therefore the maps will show only the top few areas in the highest category.

Where possible the darkest shading has been allocated to areas thought to be most in need. This means that in some datasets, areas with high numbers will be shaded darkest - for example, areas with high numbers of people living in temporary accommodation. But for other indicators areas with low rates are shaded darkest - such as areas with the lowest percentage of pupils achieving the recognised standard of academic achievement. Darkest shading on the Crime maps show areas with the highest rates of incidents, for example Anti-Social Behaviour.

## Super Output Areas

Super Output Areas or SOAs are a geographic hierarchy introduced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2004. There are two layers of SOA - the lower layer SOA (LSOA) and the middle layer SOA (MSOA). The SOAs used in these Profiles are the LSOAs, with the exception of five indicators in the Health Section, which use MSOAs. Harrow has 137 LSOAs, currently all nesting within the borough's 21 wards. Nationally many of the LSOA boundaries changed post 2011 Census, but statistically Harrow's LSOA boundaries remained unchanged, allowing full comparisons with previous datasets. Typically there are either six or seven LSOAs in each ward. The average sized LSOA in Harrow has 1,817 residents and 631 households. Harrow currently has 30 MSOAs, although prior to the 2011 Census there were 31 MSOAs.

There is a finer level geography available, which is the Output Area (OA) - there are 642 of these in Harrow (633 prior to the 2011 Census).

The LSOAs are an ideal geography for the Vitality Profiles as they allow us to map information in quite fine detail and generally safeguard the confidentiality of the information about people or businesses (known as disclosure control). Mapping at the OA level would compromise the disclosure control too often. In some instances the maps can only be produced at ward level in order to protect individuals and where there are too few occurrences to map at any other level.

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