



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS



Government Office for the West Midlands

Early Years A Government Office Perspective

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Outline

- Government Office role
- What is happening in the West Midlands – the regional picture
- Outcomes for children in the West Midlands



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GOWM Role

GOWM is one of 9 GOs across England

- Strengthening National Policies
 - Ensuring policy is delivery friendly
 - Providing local intelligence
 - Reflecting local priorities, experience and concerns
- Integrating regional strategies
 - Connect Whitehall to key regional players
 - Connect national policies, regional strategy and local delivery
 - Build shared vision for stakeholders with different politics and priorities



West Midlands Picture (1)

- Local Area Agreements
 - What are LAAs?
 - What difference will they make?
 - Eight out of 14 WM LSPs have included NI 116 (child poverty indicator) in their LAAs
 - All WM LSPs have included NI 55 or 56 (obesity indicators)
 - All LAAs include NIs 72 and 92 (Foundation Stage Profile statutory indicators)



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West Midlands Picture (2)

Work focused services for parents in Children's Centres - Sandwell

Child Development Grants - payable where parents take up their childcare and have contact with their local **children's centre** - **Dudley, Telford, Worcestershire** shortlisted

Support for Teenage Parents - New approaches to supporting the children of teenage parents - **Sandwell, Worcestershire** shortlisted

Free Entitlement for 2 year olds – access to free early years education for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds – **Telford & Wrekin, Worcestershire, Sandwell, Birmingham**



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West Midlands Picture (3)

3 and 4 year old pathfinder – Flexible, extended hours of free early years education for 3 and 4 year olds – [Telford & Wrekin, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire](#)

0-7 partnership programme – exploring ways to improve the links between early years provision and schools.

Disabled children's access to childcare – [Solihull](#)

Family Nurse partnerships – Intensive nurse delivered support for single teenage mothers – [Walsall, Birmingham and Coventry](#)



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West Midlands Picture – be Healthy

Key Messages:

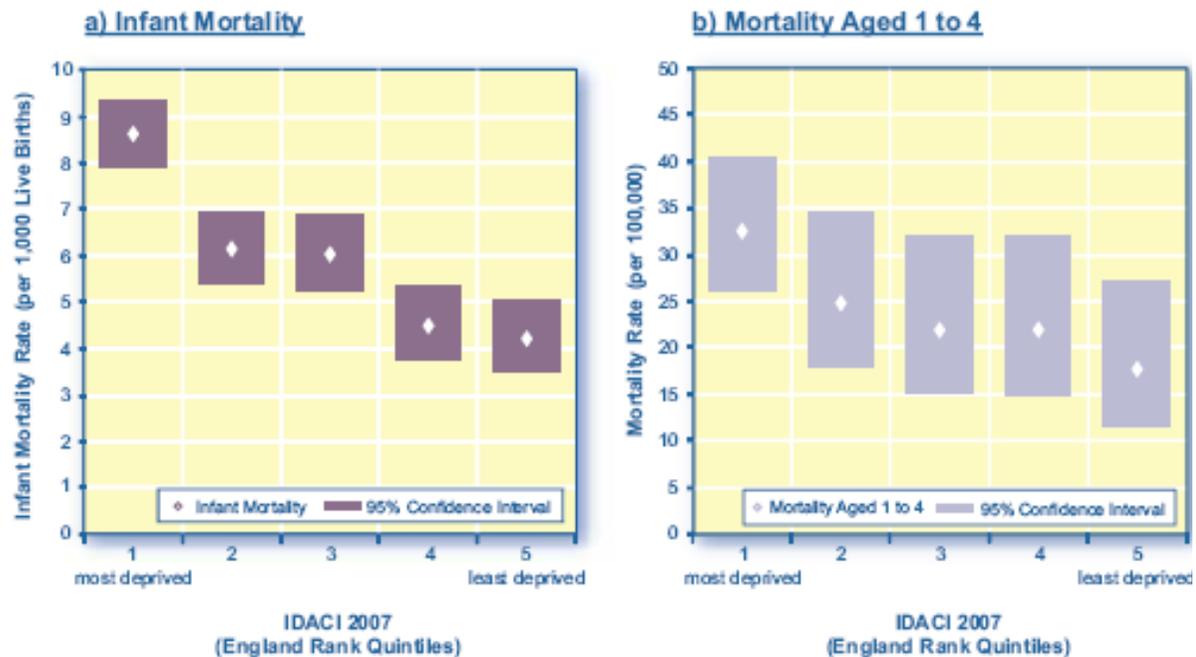
- There are approximately 320,000 children aged under 5 in the West Midlands. More children than average live in areas ranked amongst the 20% most deprived in England for income deprivation affecting children.
- Life expectancy at birth in the West Midlands is lower than the England average.
- Birmingham has the highest rates of perinatal and infant mortality and second highest mortality rates for 1 to 4 year old children in the region.
- Factors influencing high mortality rates include: deprivation, smoking during pregnancy, low birth weight, maternal age, high body mass and ethnicity.
- Nearly half of hospital admissions for children under 5 are within the 1st year of life, the majority of which are emergency admissions.
- There are large differences in breastfeeding initiation rates in the region, from only 4 in 10 in Stoke-on-Trent to 7 in 10 mothers in Herefordshire.



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West Midlands Picture – Stay safe

Mortality of Children Under 5 in the West Midlands by Deprivation, 2004-2006



West Midlands Picture – Enjoy and Achieve

Foundation Stage Profile - Percentage of children achieving good level of overall achievement

	2006	2007	2008
West Midlands	43	43	48
Birmingham	42	40	44
Coventry	45	41	49
Dudley	42	35	38
Herefordshire	43	48	42
Sandwell	41	41	45
Shropshire	38	43	57
Solihull	52	64	65
Staffordshire	53	57	59
Stoke-on-Trent	46	43	43
Telford & Wrekin	34	37	46
Walsall	33	39	42
Warwickshire	50	49	54
Wolverhampton	32	30	40
Worcestershire	36	36	40



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West Midlands Picture – economic wellbeing

- **Some facts and figures**
- In West Mids **186,250** children depend on workless benefits, but not all these are living in poverty
- **40%** of poor children live in families where at least one parent is working, but earning low wages
- Estimated that **240,000** children are living in poverty in the West Midlands

- **What are we doing?**
- Reduce proportion of children living in poverty.
- *Economic Inclusion Panel*
- *Regional Children and Young People's Forum*
- Childcare Sufficiency Audit
- Extension of the free entitlement offer, also to 2 year olds