

Lawrence Hill

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History of the area

Lawrence Hill has been recognised for many years as Bristol's most deprived wards with evidence of suffering severe social stress. This profile is based on Lawrence Hill ward which covers a number of communities including Old Market, St Judes, St Phillips, Barton Hill, the Dings, parts of Redcliffe and Lawrence Hill itself. All these communities are very deprived and have similar issues so a whole ward focus is not too problematic

Overall assessment

The 1998 index of local deprivation is available for sub ward areas and is useful for seeing what patterns of deprivation are like at a fine level as figures are available across the country. The index is based on 5 variables from the 1991 Census and needs to be treated with care. 21% of Lawrence Hill's Enumeration Districts are in top 10% for England and 62% are within top 10% for Bristol

As Council Tax is available for small areas within wards, it is possible to see what patterns are like within the ward sized areas. Lawrence Hill has the second highest rate of Council Tax Benefit in Bristol. It has a high of 65%, a median ED of 43% whilst the lowest ED is 0%.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 is the most up-to-date source of comparative information on deprivation in all of England's 8,414 wards. Devised by Oxford University on behalf of the DETR, it is one of the most widely used tools to target resources on deprived areas. Lawrence Hill is ranked 133 in England. This is within the top 2% of English Wards. It is the highest rank in Bristol.

Rationale

All of the deprived areas in these profiles have received regeneration funding in the past. The following paragraph outlines some of the main schemes that have been in operation and the ones that are currently running. Details of these schemes have been kept to a bare minimum - further information is available from the Regeneration Division. Communities in Lawrence Hill have received a variety of regeneration funds. The area is in the SRB2 inner city lifeline scheme. Part of the area is in the New Deal for Communities area. Parts of the ward, such as Redcliffe, Temple, and St Phillips have received substantial amounts of physical regeneration investment including Avon Meads and Temple Quay/ North Shore.

Guidance for the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal suggests that indices of deprivation as well as local conditions need to be taken into account when choosing areas. Lawrence Hill is the most deprived ward in Bristol and in the top 2% most deprived wards in the country. The area has a number of small communities that, with the exception of those covered by the New Deal for Communities area do not have particularly well developed community structures. For this reason, Lawrence Hill was not included as one of the pilot areas

This section tries to summarise what the area is like based on the quantitative information in this section of the profile. Lawrence Hill ward is the most deprived ward in Bristol. Deprivation is so acute that twice as many people as might be expected die when aged under 65. The ward is a collection of small communities. (common sense Lawrence Hill is a very small area) but all are deprived. There is considerable potential to link up with physical regeneration developments that are taking place around the Feeder and the docks.

Income and work

Information on incomes levels in ward sized areas is not available from any source - a draft income question was dropped from the 2001 Census. The Income domain score in the IMD gives some idea of the number of people whose incomes are so low that they qualify for means tested benefits. Lawrence Hill is ranked very highly for income deprivation, 108 out of 8414 wards in England ie in the the top 2% of the country.

HM Treasury studies have found that employment is the most effective way out of deprivation. The index of multiple deprivation gives a better idea of the extent of worklessness than simply looking at JSA figures gives. 29% of Lawrence Hill's population are work deprived, ranked 143rd out of English wards.

A proxy measure for unemployment is the number of people who qualify for Job Seeker's Allowance. The number of people who qualify for JSA is now much lower because of people are increasingly being offered places on New Deal programmes. Lawrence Hill has the highest unemployment rate in the city, 14.2% more than 3.5 times higher than the city average.

Economic inactivity is a useful measure as it enables takes into account people who are not in the labour market. Data is from the 1991 Census. NB People who are unemployed are classified as economically active. The percentage of people who are economically inactive in Lawrence Hill (less the NDC area) is higher than the city average. The total percentage of people who are 16+ and economically inactive is 43% (City: 38.3%). The percentage in the Other inactive category is 14.4% (City: 11.5%).

The type of jobs that people are employed in is an important as whether they are employed. Employment by sector is relevant to regeneration as some sectors are more vulnerable to job losses. For instance the other services sector incorporates banking, insurance and finance jobs and these have experienced stronger growth over the past decade than manufacturing. The data is from the 1991 Census and although out of date, is broadly comparable between wards and across the city. The main difference in employment structure is for the transport, distribution and catering sector. Detailed figures, from the 1991 Census, follow. Agriculture, forestry and fishing 0% (City: 0.3%), Energy and water 0.7% (City: 1.4%), Manufacturing: mining, metal and other 15.2% (City: 16.7%), Construction 5.9% (City: 7.3%), Transport, distribution and catering 33.8% (City: 27.7%), Other services 42.4% (City: 45.6%).

VAT registrations by ward give some idea of the amount of economic activity going on in an area. It is not a perfect measure - VAT registration may not be at a different place to which people work. Small firms are not required to register for VAT. Lawrence Hill has 720 VAT registered businesses that employ 1-49 employees, 25 that employ 25-249 people and 15 companies that employ 250 or more staff.

Major non-housing redevelopments are monitored as part of the development control process. The sites that are included on the database are all large - 0.1 ha minimum. Figures are for developments since 1996. (Figures on housing developments are in the housing section). There have been 13 major industrial redevelopments in Lawrence Hill, 2 of which were in the NDC area between 1996 and 2000. The St Philips Marsh area is one of Bristol's largest industrial areas.

Education

Education is one of the domains within the 2000 Index of Multiple Deprivation. The overall score gives an indication of how much education and skills levels contribute to deprivation in the area. The ranks for most wards in Bristol tend to be high which suggests that, compared with other factors which contribute to deprivation, education is a particularly severe problem in Bristol. Lawrence Hill has an education domain ranking of 439. This is within the top 6% of English wards.

Most figures for Education are based on schools within the area - only university entrance and KS2 data is based on residents rather than the figures of schools in the area. The following figures are for Lawrence Hill (less NDC) area: 4 Nursery schools: (Redcliffe Nursery, Rosemary Nursery, Spring Woods Nursery, St. Philips Marsh Nursery), 4 Primary schools (Bannerman Road County Primary, Easton CE VA Primary, Millpond County Primary, St Nicholas RC VA Primary) and one secondary school St Mary Redcliffe and Temple Secondary. However, this school takes pupils from across the city. The following schools are in the NDC are itself: Cashmore Nursery, Barton Hill County Infants, Barton Hill County Primary, Hannah More County Primary.

Higher rates of unauthorised absence are linked to lower rates of educational attainment and higher rates of youth offending. The figures used are for primary schools as data from secondary schools is much more difficult to relate to neighbourhood areas. 3.2% of pupil sessions were lost to unauthorised absence, almost three times the city average of 1.2%

Attainment at Key Stage 2 (approx 11 years old) for 2000 is available by ED. The following figures show the percentage of pupils who got Level 4+. Attainment figures for the percentage of pupils getting level 4 or greater at Key Stage 2 for Lawrence Hill (less the NDC area) are: English L4+ 56% (34 % lower) Maths - L4+ 52% (39% lower) Science - L4+ 67% (27% lower).

Accurate and up-to-date data based on residents won't be available until after the GCSE exams in summer 2001. The figures that follow are based on schools which students in the area are likely to go to. Lawrence Hill has one secondary school, the C of E St Mary Redcliffe, that takes pupils from across the city. The attainment figures for GCSEs at this school are twice the Bristol average. Attainment at schools outside the ward where local students are likely to go varies. Fairfield school's figures are better than the Bristol average and close to the national average. Attainment at St George Community College are low compared with the Bristol average and very low compared with the national average.

Literacy and numeracy rates quoted are based on modelled data from the Basic Skills Unit which used 1991 Census data to predict rates. Figures were calculated for people of working age. National literacy and numeracy issues were picked up by the Moser report which recommended that poor literacy and numeracy should be halved by 2008. Lawrence Hill has poor literacy and numeracy figures that are around the national average. 14.5% of people have poor literacy and 20.5% of people have poor numeracy

Comparisons of the number of people who go to university aged 17 - 19 give some indication of the number of people who will go on to get a higher level qualification. University is not the only route to higher education. People may choose to get a job when leavin school or college and go to university later. of people aged between 17 and 19 in Easton got a university place in 1997 and 1998.

There is little comparable and reliable data about skills levels at a neighbourhood level in Bristol. The figures used are from the 1991 census and relate to higher qualifications. These figures tie in with current educational attainment figures and are therefore likely to be still broadly accurate. There are far fewer people in Lawrence Hill (less NDC) with a higher qualification than the city average. 6.5% of men had a higher qualification (City: 17.3%). 6.5% of women had a higher qualification (City: 14%).

Crime

Fear of crime is a significant issue as it may lead to people changing the way that they behave - in particular older people may become extremely reluctant to go out after dark. Lawrence Hill has some of the highest percentages of families worried about crime and families worried about attack. The percentage of families worried about vandalism is also above the city average.

Crime in Bristol is higher than the English and regional average. It is similar to the rate for other large cities such as Leeds and Manchester. Lawrence Hill is a crime hotspot for many different forms of crime. Domestic burglary (and in some areas such as St Phillips, commercial burglary), and violent crime such as robbery and assault are all much higher than the city average. Vehicle crime is also more prevalent than the city average. There is a strong belief that a considerable amount of robberies and burglaries are drug related. The crime and disorder issues in Lawrence Hill are perhaps best viewed as part of broader inner city Bristol crime problems.

Violence against the person includes a range of crimes ranging from assault, racially aggravated assault, domestic violence through to crimes such as threats to kill, wounding and murder. Lawrence Hill has a violence against the person rate per 100,000 of 4145. This compares with a Bristol rate of 1284 (223% different) and an England rate of 956 (334% different)..

The number of sexual offences is relatively small so small changes in in areas figure have a relatively large effect on how much higher or lower it is than comparator rates. Lawrence Hill has a sexual offences rate per 100,000 of 272. This compares with a Bristol rate of 82 (232% different) and an England rate of 70 (289% different)..

Rates for robbery (muggings) tend to be higher in city centres and the areas which are immediately around them. Figures for robbery include theft of mobile phones. Lawrence Hill has a Robbery rate per 100,000 of 2637. This compares with a Bristol rate of 357 (639% different) and an England rate of 134 (1868% different)..

Burglary is one of the areas where the Government have set a floor target. Although none of the targeted areas currently has a burglary rate which is greater than 2.5 x the national rate if, as the Government plan, the national rate falls by 25% by 2008, Knowle West's current rate would be above the floor target. Lawrence Hill has a Burglary rate per 100,000 of 7203. This compares with a Bristol rate of 3280 (120% different) and an England rate of 1851 (289% different)..

The majority of crimes categorised as theft are stealing or attempting to steal cars or shoplifting. Crimes are recorded from where the vehicle is stolen or the location of the shop, which tends to be in the city centre itself rather than just outside the city centre or outer estates. This helps explain why rates for this category of crime appear to be lower for priority areas. Lawrence Hill has a Theft rate per 100,000 of 22751. This compares with a Bristol rate of 8021 (184% different) and an England rate of 4241 (436% different)..

Fraud and forgery tends to be more common in wards where there are a larger number of commercial premises. The outer estates are therefore likely to have a lower rate. Lawrence Hill has a Fraud & Forgery rate per 100,000 of 747. This compares with a Bristol rate of 539 (39% different) and an England rate of 543 (38% different)..

Criminal damage rates in Knowle West are particularly high. Criminal damage tends to be higher in areas where there are relatively large number of young people. Lawrence Hill has a Criminal Damage rate per 100,000 of 4757. This compares with a Bristol rate of 1886 (152% different) and an England rate of 1673 (184% different)..

Drug offences relate to possession and supply of controlled substances. All three areas have high rates for drug offences. Lawrence Hill has a Drug Offences rate per 100,000 of 1305. This compares with a Bristol rate of 203 (543% different) and an England rate of 256 (410% different)..

Other offences cover a wide range of crimes. It includes things like failing to comply with a court order and firearms offences. Lawrence Hill has a Other offences rate per 100,000 of 435. This compares with a Bristol rate of 126 (245% different) and an England rate of 121 (260% different)..

The total number of crimes in an area gives an overall picture of the extent of recorded crime. Areas which have very low populations compared to the number of commercial premises that they have tend to have much higher rates. Lawrence Hill has a total crime rate per 100,000 of 44251. This compares with a Bristol rate of 15778 (180% different) and an England rate of 9847 (349% different)..

Health

Health is one of the least strong domains within the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Taking Bristol as a whole, ill-health is less of a contributory factor to deprivation than employment, income, housing and education. Lawrence Hill is the highest ward in the city for the health domain of the index of multiple deprivation. It is ranked within the top 4% of English wards.

The number of primary care facilities in an area is an indication of how easy it is for people to access health care. It is worth bearing in mind that some health facilities might be just outside wards and therefore relatively accessible to local people even though they are not counted in the total for their area. There are 2 GPs' practices and 2 Health Centres accommodating a total of 6 GPs in Lawrence Hill. There are 3 GPs based at the Charlotte Keel Health Centre, 1 at Lawrence Hill Health Centre, 1 at 269 Stapleton Road and 1 GP at Corbett House Surgery. There are currently 2 opticians located in Lawrence Hill and 3 pharmacists.

Low birth weight is defined as babies who weigh less than 2.5 kg at birth. About 10% of babies weigh less than this at birth, however higher rates of low birth weight can indicate problems with maternal health. Low birth weight is correlated with maternal smoking. Lawrence Hill is ranked 6th in Bristol for infants born with a low birth weight; 98.8 out of 1000 on average. The infant mortality rate is lower though, ranked 10th in the city.

Standardised mortality ratios take into account the differences in age structure between areas and compare the death rates including those for premature death. Figures are

presented as an index where 100 equals the Avon average, 200 equals twice the average rate and 50 equals half the average rate. Figures for specific diseases don't tend to work well for small areas. Lawrence Hill SMR for all causes for people who die aged under 65 is 219 the highest rate in the city. The rate is significantly high - the lower limit is 189. Lawrence Hill has high SMRs for causes of death such as Cancer and heart disease

Government Response To The Health Select Committee's Second Report On The Tobacco Industry and The Health Risks Of Smoking states that "Smoking is the major cause of health inequalities." The figures quoted from the Citizen's Panel are difficult to reconcile with other sources of data, however it does allow data from different wards to be compared. The figures are based on relatively small samples and therefore need to be treated with caution. 28% of people in Lawrence Hill smoke, the 7th highest in the city

Reducing teenage conceptions is one of the Government's Public Service Agreement targets. The annual number of teenage conceptions, particularly for girls under 16, is low so figures don't work well for small areas. Instead, data has been used for PCG areas. Teenage conceptions for all girls aged between 11 and 15 is 50% higher than the Avon average for the Bristol inner PCG. Teenage conceptions for all girls aged under 19 are 2.25x higher than the Avon average.

Mental health is difficult to measure. There is still considerable stigma attached to mental illnesses which can lead to prejudice. In addition, it is linked to some of the most extreme forms of social exclusion such as rough sleeping and imprisonment. Suicides and deliberate self harm are not representative of mental health as a whole but are one way in which variations can be mapped. Bristol Inner has an SMR for suicide and deliberate self harm of 171. The rate is significantly high - the lower confidence limit is 106. Avon average = 100

Housing

Results from the 2001 House condition survey are expected June/July 2001. The data included is from a private house condition survey undertaken in the mid 1990s. PSA targets for house disrepair only apply to public sector housing. 21 % of homes were unfit in Lawrence Hill in 1995 - above the average for the city.

Estimates of tenure for ward sized areas are only available from the Census. Changes in housing policy mean that the mix and proportion of social housing will have changed. However, broad comparisons with the city are still possible. Owned outright or buying: 26.2% (City: 63.6%); Rented privately or with a job: 11.7% (City: 10.5%); Rented from housing association: 8.5% (City: 3.7%); Rented from local authority: 53.5% (City: 22.1%);

House prices in Bristol have risen sharply over the past two years. Data is based on postcode information from HM Land registry which have been allocated to wards. Lawrence Hill average house prices are as follows: Detached - no sales; Av Semi det. £68,226; Av Terraced £ 53,307; Av Flat £75,003; Av overall £59,623. House prices in Lawrence Hill are lower than the Bristol average

Housing developments are monitored as part of the development control process. The figures relate to developments for 1997/98 through to 1999/00. There were 24 house completions in Lawrence Hill between 1997 and 2000. This number of house completions in the next three years is likely to be substantially greater due several warehouse/ flat conversions in Redcliffe and a substantial number of houses planned for North Shore.

The following data relates to public sector housing. Void rates for council homes have been used to indicate areas with hard to let properties. Void rates in Bristol as a whole are low and voids may be as a result of improvement programmes. Lawrence Hill comes under a number of area housing offices. Dove St is in Clifton Area, Redcliffe is in Bedminster, Lawrence Hill itself is in Easton area and Barton Hill comes under St George. The characteristics of all of these areas are quite different. Research for the Barton Hill NDC programme found that void rates were high in high rise blocks and it is likely that this pattern is replicated across the rest of the Lawrence Hill area.. Housing management data is available for housing areas. Comparisons between areas reflect the different characteristics of the neighbourhoods that they are made up of. It is not possible to say, without further research what the level of arrears in Lawrence Hill is likely to be as it comes under four housing areas.

Environment

The physical environment and natural environment in deprived areas can be very varied. However, the environment in deprived areas tends to be badly maintained and at greater risk of being damaged. The environment in Lawrence Hill is one of the most crowded and polluted in Bristol. On a positive note, there are a substantial number of children's play areas, however, the amount of open space and woodland is limited. Air pollution in Lawrence Hill is amongst the worst in the city and there are a number of sites with contaminated land. There are also a high number of complaints about noise

Data from the citizen's panel gives an indication of car use and other forms of transport in ward areas. Overall, Bristol has high car usage figures. If one mode of transport in an area is well-used this tends to be reflected in lower usage figures for other modes. Car use figures for Lawrence Hill tend to be fairly low. The Redcliffe survey suggested that only 30% of Redcliffe residents had a car.

Communities of interest

Black and ethnic minorities suffer from widespread discrimination. For instance similarly aged, similarly qualified black people are at least twice as likely to be unemployed than white people. Black and ethnic minority communities also suffer from hate crimes. About 30% of people in Lawrence Hill ward (less the NDC area) were from an ethnic minority background at the time of the last census. This is considerably higher than the national average and is similar to the ethnic composition of Ashley

Disabled people live in all wards in the city and are one of the most socially excluded groups. There is evidence (eg the number of people who qualify for severe disabled living allowance) to show that there is a higher proportion of disabled people live in wards which are deprived. Disabled people may also find it more costly and more inconvenient to live in deprived areas - access to shops and other services tends to be more difficult.

Lawrence Hill has the highest rates for people claiming disability benefits in Bristol. Data from the City Council's citizens panel suggests that more people in Lawrence Hill have a limiting long term illness. The physical and built environment may also be problematic for some disabled people such as flights of steps in blocks of flats, difficulty in getting parking places close to housing in the area etc.

Young people have distinctive views. They are much more likely to be both victims and perpetrators of crime. The proportion of young people compared with the rest of the population tends to be higher in deprived areas. The percentage of young people (aged under 19) Lawrence Hill Ward is slightly higher the Bristol average - 24% compared with 22%.

Older people are more likely to be disabled. Pensioners who are reliant on state benefits have very low incomes - 39% of all income support claimants in Bristol are pensioners. The proportion of older people in Lawrence Hill ward is fairly similar to the city average

Women are likely to experience discrimination in the workplace and this is reflected in lower average incomes for women. However detailed information about discrimination is not available at a neighbourhood level. Information is available about domestic violence and this tends to be correlated with deprivation. Lawrence Hill has a relatively high concentration of domestic incidents and domestic violence. Lawrence Hill also has one of the highest targets for the creation of new nursery places in the city

There is relatively little data on how the experiences of gay and lesbian people who live in deprived areas differ across the city. People who are gay and lesbian are discriminated against in the job market and are also subject to homophobic attacks. The majority of attacks occur in the city centre or in the Old Market area of the city. There are a number of support organisations for gay and lesbians in Lawrence Hill such as the Terrence Higgins Trust. There are also a number of gay clubs and pubs in parts of Lawrence Hill that are used by people from across the city. One of the effects of this concentration of services is that homophobic attacks also tend to be concentrated in this area.

