

Insight

The English Indices of Deprivation 2019

Summary for Coventry

January 2020

- The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 were published by government department MHCLG on 30 September 2019. They rank all small areas in England according to different measures of deprivation and are the most widely used measure of deprivation
- The statistics on which the indices are calculated are from different time periods, most often from 2016 and 2017. The publication is an update to the Indices of Deprivation series, which was last published in 2015
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines seven domains of deprivation – Employment, Income, Health, Education, Crime, Barriers to housing and services, and the Living environment – to measure the level of multiple deprivation experienced by residents of neighbourhoods
- Overall, Coventry has improved notably between the IMD 2015 and the IMD 2019 **relative** to other local authority areas. This does not necessarily imply absolute improvement
- Depending on the way it is measured, Coventry ranks between 64th and 81st most deprived local authority area of 317 in England
- 28 out of Coventry's 195 neighbourhoods (14%) are amongst the most deprived 10% in England, a reduction from 36 in the IMD 2015
- There was relative improvement across all domains apart from Living environment, the area in which Coventry fairs least well relatively. This measures the quality of housing, air quality and road traffic accidents
- The Crime domain and the Barriers to housing and services are areas in which Coventry is in the best position relatively; these domains also showed the biggest relative improvement since the IMD 2015
- There was not a strong pattern of improvement in the IMD by deprivation decile, the areas that were more deprived in 2015 improved to a similar degree to those that were less deprived originally. However, this pattern varies by domain of deprivation

What do the Indices of Deprivation measure?

The Indices of Deprivation 2019 provide a relative measure of deprivation in small areas across England. The Indices of Deprivation 2019 are based on a concept of deprivation that is wider than income alone and considers the general lack of resources and opportunities. They are produced every few years by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

The indices are used widely to analyse patterns of deprivation, to identify areas that would benefit from special initiatives or programmes, and to determine eligibility for specific funding streams.

How do the Indices work?

The Indices of Deprivation 2019 is the collective name for a group of 10 indices which measure different aspects of deprivation. The most widely used of these is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which is a combination of the other indices to give an overall score for the relative level of multiple deprivation experienced in every neighbourhood in England.

The indices are grouped into seven domains that measure different aspects of deprivation, namely Income, Employment, Health, Education, Crime, Barriers to housing and services, and Living environment. Each of these domains has their scores and ranks, allowing users to focus on specific aspects of deprivation. In total, 37 separate statistics are used to produce a score for each domain and ultimately for the IMD for each small area in England.

All the Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England (32,844) can be ranked according to their Index of Multiple Deprivation score. This allows users to identify the most and least deprived areas in England and to compare whether one area is more deprived than another. There are 195 LSOAs in Coventry with an average population of 1,900 residents. An area has a higher deprivation score than another if there is a higher proportion of people living there who are classed as deprived.

A geographical area itself is not deprived: it is the circumstances and lifestyles of the people living there that affect its deprivation score. It is important to

remember that not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived – and that not all people experiencing deprivation live in deprived areas.

What can the Indices of Deprivation 2019 be used for?

The Indices of Deprivation 2019 can be used to:

- **Compare different areas in England and Coventry.** The Indices of Deprivation 2019 collects the same indicators and combines them in the same way for every LSOA in England. This means you can directly compare the ranks of different areas in England. If an area has a higher rank (i.e. closer to 1) than another, then it is more deprived.
- **Identify the most deprived areas in England and Coventry.** We can identify the neighbourhoods that are amongst the most deprived 5% or 10% (for example) in England. Map 1 below shows the most deprived 10% ('decile 1') in dark red.
- **Look at differences between the domains of deprivation.** Using the domain scores and ranks, you can compare which issues are the biggest concerns for each area.
- **Look at deprivation across larger areas.** Summaries of overall deprivation are provided for local authorities. There are several different ways to understand the level of deprivation for local authority areas and the best approach will depend on the purpose of the analysis.

What can't the Indices of Deprivation 2019 be used for?

There are a few ways in which it is tempting to use the index, but which do not make sense, or which lead to unreliable results. Tiny differences in the deprivation scores are not meaningful. When identifying whether one area is more deprived than another, no significant conclusions can be drawn by using decimal places or rank differences of less than 100.

They do not measure absolute deprivation. The Indices of Deprivation 2019 are relative measures of deprivation. This means they can identify if one area is more deprived than another, but not by how much. For example, if an area has a rank of 40 it is not necessarily half as deprived as a place with a rank of 20.

They do not measure absolute change over time. Deprivation scores cannot be compared between 2019 and 2015 because an area's score is affected by the scores of other areas. As such, it is not possible to tell if a change in score reflects a real

change in the deprivation level of an area, or if it is due to the changes of other areas' scores. There are better statistics available at local authority level that give an indication of how different aspects of quality of life have changed in Coventry in recent years.

They do not measure affluence. The Indices of Deprivation 2019 are not a measure of affluence. All of the indicators in the indices are designed to identify aspects of deprivation, not affluence. Therefore, the area ranked as the least deprived is not necessarily the most affluent.

They cannot identify deprived people. The Indices of Deprivation 2019 measure the relative level of deprivation in an area. Within every area, there will be individuals who are deprived and individuals who are not.

Key Findings for Coventry

The city overall

Looking at all its neighbourhoods, Coventry's overall position in the IMD 2019 has improved notably compared to the IMD 2015. The city has become relatively less deprived overall, when compared to other local authority areas. All the different measures of summarising multiple deprivation at local authority level show a notable improvement in ranking for Coventry. *See table 1.*

This does not necessarily imply absolute improvement. The positive change shown in these summary measures is only a **relative** change. Below shows Coventry's ranking out of 317 local authorities according to five measures:

- According to the **local concentration** measure, Coventry ranks as 66th most deprived out of 317, an improvement from 38th in the IMD 2015. This ranks local authorities in terms of the deprivation levels experienced by the most deprived 10% of the local population. This summary measure tends to highlight those local authority areas with very highly deprived LSOAs.
- Looking at the **proportion of Coventry's neighbourhoods (LSOAs) that are amongst the most deprived 10%** in England, Coventry is the 64th most deprived, an improvement from 46th in the IMD 2015.
- Using the **extent** measure, which is a more sophisticated way of measuring the proportion of the district's population living in the most deprived LSOAs, Coventry is ranked 75th, an improvement from 55th in the IMD 2015.

- Using the **average of LSOA scores**, which summarises the district including deprived and less deprived LSOAs, Coventry is ranked 78th, an improvement from 54th in the IMD 2015.
- The **average of LSOA ranks** measure is a similar way of summarising as average of LSOA scores. Under this measure, Coventry is ranked 81st, an improvement from 59th in the IMD 2015.

Coventry ranks worse when using methods of ranking local authorities' in terms of the most deprived neighbourhoods in each area and better when ranking in terms of an average of the whole area. This points to the inequalities that exist across Coventry neighbourhoods.

Coventry has seen relative improvement across most of the domains of the IoD and in the IMD. See table 2 for the domain summaries for Coventry.

The deprivation domain in which Coventry is relatively most deprived is Living environment. This measures the quality of housing, air quality and road traffic accidents. It is also notable that, while Coventry's score has improved in most domains of deprivation, the city has become relatively worse in the Living environment domain. There are *indications*, however, that overall housing quality and air quality may have improved and impact from road traffic accidents may have reduced slightly. This further emphasises that these indices only track relative changes.

Another area that Coventry has historically ranked as relatively more deprived is the Income domain. It is ranked particularly high for income deprivation affecting children and older people (IDACI and IDOPI).

The Crime domain and Barriers to housing and services domain are areas where Coventry performs better out of the seven domains; these domains also show the biggest relative improvement since the 2015 indices. However, these two domains have a relatively small influence on the overall IMD position. Looking at measures used in these domains, which are briefly described in table 2, there are indications that some of these may not have improved in any absolute sense since the last indices, further emphasising that any analysis of change between indices only shows **relative change** compared to other places in England.

See table 2 for the domain summaries for Coventry

Within the city

28 Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Coventry are in the most 10% deprived in England (14.4% in Coventry compared to 10% across England overall). This is a notable reduction from 36 in the IMD 2015.

50 LSOAs in Coventry are in the most 20% deprived in England (26% in Coventry compared to 20% across England overall). This is a notable reduction from 61 in the IMD 2015. *See table 3 for the number of Coventry's neighbourhoods amongst the most deprived 10% and 20% neighbourhoods in England for the last three indices.*

Three-quarters of Coventry's neighbourhoods improved in ranking between IMD 2015 and IMD 2019. This means that they have become relatively less deprived compared to others across England. It is not necessarily a reflection of residents experiencing less deprivation.

Map 2 below shows the geographical pattern of relative improvement by Coventry neighbourhood between the IMD 2015 and the IMD 2019. We can see that most of the areas of high deprivation experienced some improvement. **On average, neighbourhoods that were originally less deprived improved to a similar extent to those that were more deprived.**

There is a pattern of greatest relative improvement in areas around the city centre, including parts of Hillfields and Charterhouse, radiating Southwards to parts of Cheylesmore and Eastwards to parts of Stoke and Binley. These are also the areas that have seen most notable and persistent relative improvement since the IMD 2010. More recently, since 2015, there has also been a concentration of relative improvement near the city centre to the West, in Chapelfields and by Holyhead Road and Allesley Old Road. The recent improvements are often found in areas where students live, suggesting that the increase in full-time students studying in the city has been a factor in the improving deprivation measures, but this is by no means the only story.

Table 1 - Coventry's relative position in the IMD over time

Index of Multiple Deprivation local authority summary measures	Description	IMD 2010	IMD 2015	IMD 2019
		Coventry national rank <i>(out of 326 local authorities; 1=most deprived)</i>	Coventry national rank <i>(out of 326 local authorities; 1=most deprived)</i>	Coventry national rank <i>(out of 317 local authorities; 1=most deprived)</i>
Local Concentration	This measure defines 'hot spots' of deprivation by reference to a percentage of the local authority district's population.	37	38	66
Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally		Unavailable	46	64
Extent	Proportion of districts' population living in the most deprived LSOAs in the country (broader than 10% most deprived)	52	55	75
Average of LSOA scores	Average of the district's IMD scores across all its LSOAs	50	54	78
Average of LSOA ranks	Average of the district's LSOAs ranks	53	59	81

Table 2 - Coventry's relative position across all domains of the Indices of Deprivation

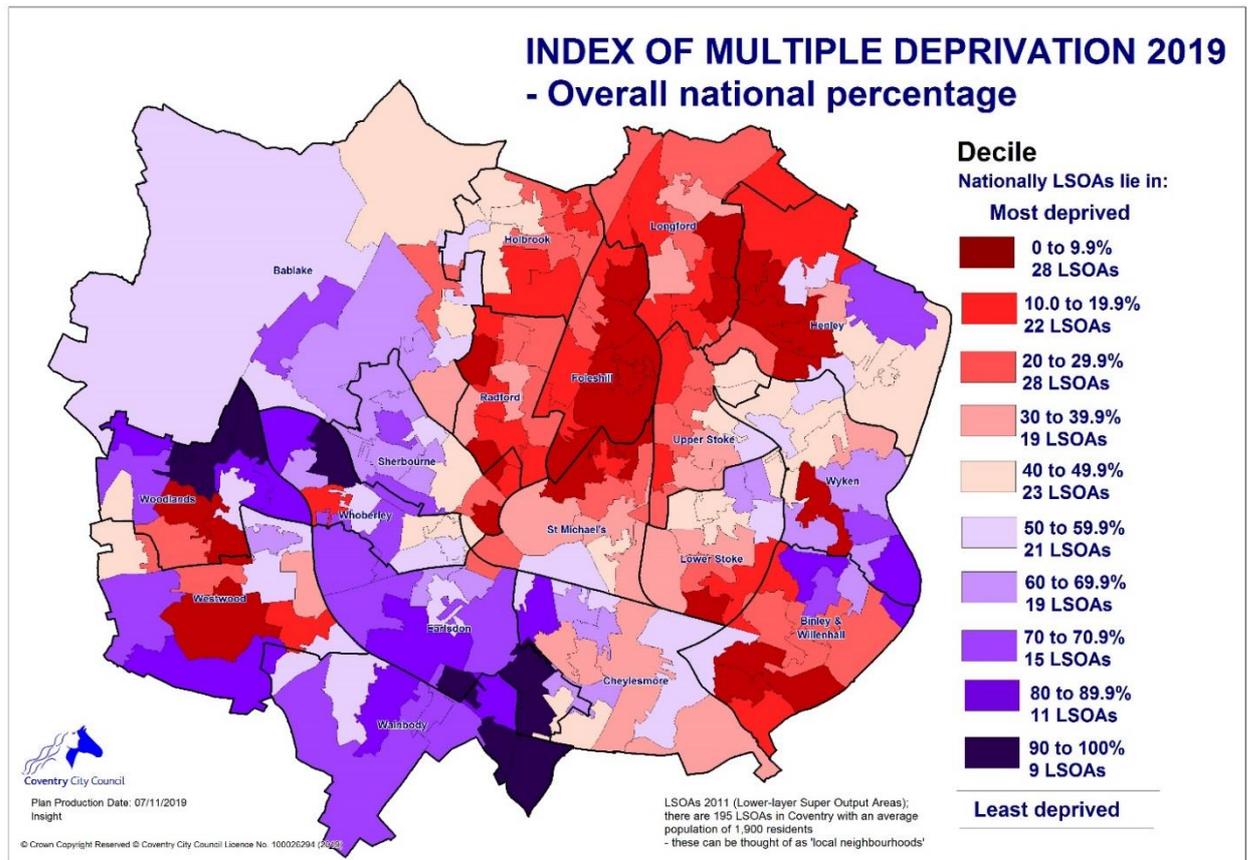
Indices of Deprivation (IoD) Domains 2015 to 2019 change in Coventry national rank	The measures used in this domain	According to: Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally		According to: Average of LSOA Scores	
		IoD 2015 <i>(out of 326, 1=most deprived)</i>	IoD 2019 <i>(out of 317, 1=most deprived)</i>	IoD 2015 <i>(out of 326, 1=most deprived)</i>	IoD 2019 <i>(out of 317, 1=most deprived)</i>
Index of Multiple Deprivation	A combination of all domains below	46	64	54	78
Income	A selection of in-work and out-of-work benefit claim statistics	44	50	56	68
Employment	A selection of benefit claim statistics that indicate unemployment or inactivity	73	82	81	95
Education	Key stages 2 & 4 attainment; the rate of further & higher education entry; levels of adult skills	80	116	99	105
Health	Premature death, work-limiting illness or disability, hospital admissions & rates of mental ill health	50	69	54	76

Crime	Recorded crime rates; violence, burglary, theft and criminal damage	81	139	50	117
Barriers to Housing and Services	Road distance to key services, homelessness, housing affordability	150	206	119	165
Living Environment	Housing quality, air quality, road traffic accidents	58	44	49	43
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	Those from the Income domain applied to households with children	57	49	48	53
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDOP1)	Those from the Income domain applied to households of older people	31	37	41	50

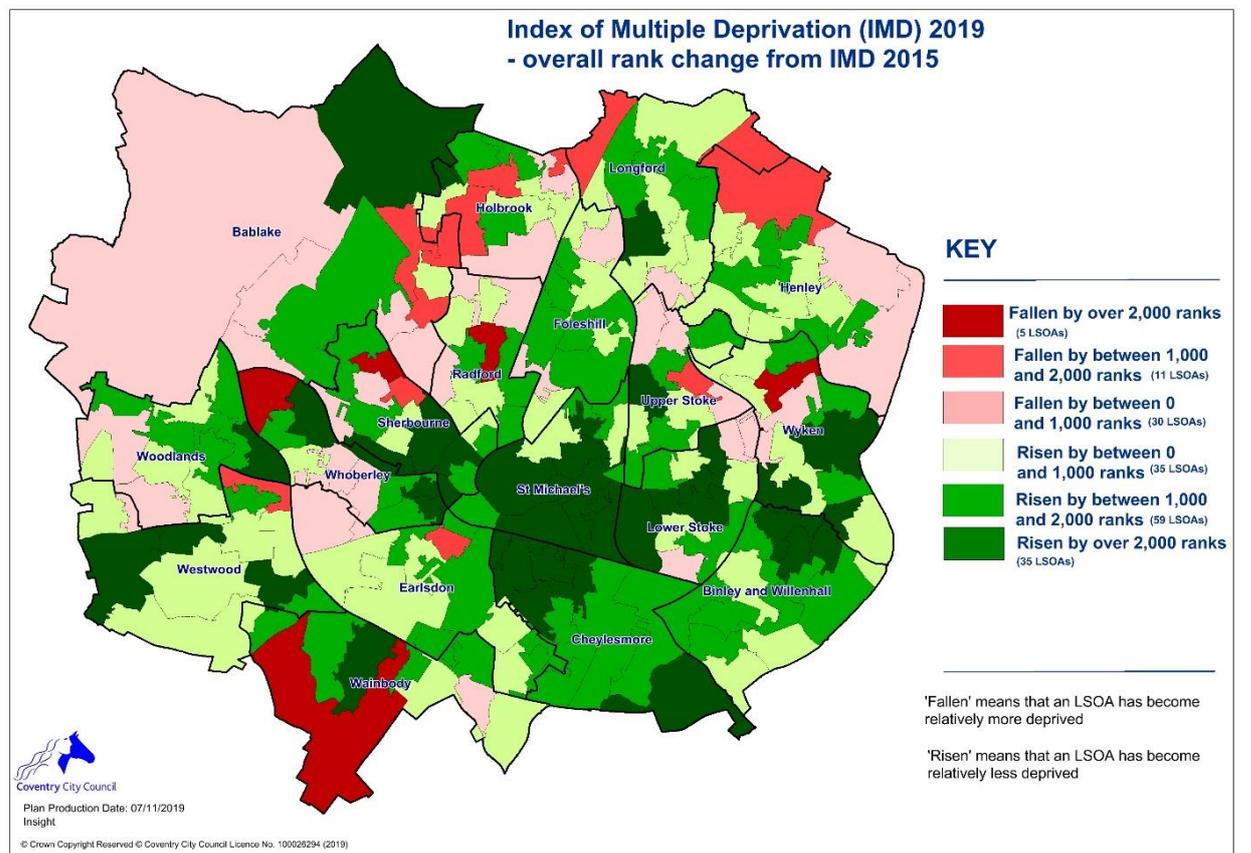
Table 3 - Number of Coventry's LSOAs in most deprived nationally

	IMD 2010	IMD 2015	IMD 2019
Number of LSOAs in 10% most deprived nationally	35 out of 197	36 out of 195	28 out of 195
Number of LSOAs in 20% most deprived nationally	61 out of 197	61 out of 195	50 out of 195

Map 1 - Coventry LSOAs by deprivation decile



Map 2 - Coventry LSOAs - change in rank



Access to the Data

Data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation for Coventry is available via a dashboard on [this link](#).

The national data set and report from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government can be read by following [this link](#). And further data exploration resources can be found [here](#).

Further analysis can be conducted using the Indices of Deprivation. For advice contact Coventry City Council's Insight Team on insight@coventry.gov.uk.