

CALDERDALE COUNCIL PERFORMANCE 2019-20 SUMMARY

We have an aspiration to be the Best Borough in the North, and are extremely proud to be achieving top quartile performance in many areas. It is worth noting that this summary reflects our performance for the whole period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, with the on-going Covid 19 crisis only impacting a short period. That said however, our rank of 8th out of 20 Northern Boroughs reflects that performance is not improving consistently across all areas.

The performance of Calderdale Council has varied in 2019-20. We know this because we measure ourselves on around 90 key performance indicators which provide us with evidence of how well we are doing against our own ambitions, and against other local authorities. This helps us to celebrate and learn from success, as well as identify where we need to improve. We treat a selection of these as super key performance indicators as they have the biggest impact on the people of Calderdale and are aligned to our priorities.

Grow The Economy	Reduce Inequality	Build A Sustainable Future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary school educational attainment • Workforce skills - NVQ Level 4+ • Digital skills • Median gross weekly pay • Employment rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy • Physically active • Older people accessing social care • School readiness • Crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New dwellings • Road maintenance • Air quality • Litter • Parks & green spaces

We also consider some key indicators of success which will help us to understand and measure our progress against [Vision 2024](#) for Calderdale including business start-up and survival, school readiness, educational attainment, the value of our tourist economy, air quality and physical activity, amongst others. Not everything can be measured in statistics though and our [resident's perception](#) of our place and our progress towards this shared vision is equally important. The vision we share with our partners in the public, private and voluntary sector is also examined at our annual assembly [We Are Calderdale](#).

As part of our wider commitment to transparency and an ambition to be open by default, we publish quarterly updates to show how we are doing against our performance indicators. We also publish an interactive dashboard which allows you to look at our performance over time and compare us to others areas. These can be found on our open data platform [Calderdale DataWorks](#). For our super key performance indicators, nearly 60% have improved or maintained performance over the past year. Some 75% are either on or near target for 2019-20. This is a smaller proportion than last year and reflects our desire to set increasingly challenging targets for improvement.

Achievements

Outcomes in **secondary education** remain high this year and we are well above national, regional and Northern Borough performance for both attainment and progress at the end of secondary school. In fact it is one our strongest areas of performance and we rank 2nd of the Northern Boroughs in these measures. A high proportion of our secondary schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted and secondary school attendance is above national and regional averages.

Calderdale is home to a flourishing **cultural scene** with something to offer every visitor. The historic Piece Hall and Anne Lister's Shibden Hall sit alongside the Tour de Yorkshire, dozens of annual festivals and enviable independent music venues. The value of the visitor economy in Calderdale has seen a 1.4% annual increase to an estimated £349m in 2018, with 6.5 million trips being made to our area. Tourism now supports an estimated 7000 jobs across the borough. Our resident perception survey shows these growing cultural opportunities are benefiting local people too as 85% have attended more than one attraction or event in the past year.

Our **resident's perception** of Calderdale has also improved markedly over the past year. A greater proportion of people in Calderdale now report feeling or acting positively across all Vision theme indicators. Standout improvement is clear in the perception of arts, culture and heritage opportunities, opportunities for businesses to thrive and succeed and the feeling that people from different backgrounds get on well together. We can also see strong community responses, with people in Calderdale more likely than regional or national average to report taking part in formal volunteering. We've seen this kindness and resilience in practice over recent months with the overwhelming community volunteer response to both the destructive flooding of February 2020 and the current Covid 19 crisis.

Further significant work has gone into understanding and dealing with **crime** in Calderdale over the past year. While our Northern Borough ranking remains low and we recognise the continued challenge posed by crime we are pleased to have changed the direction of travel with total crime now falling rather than rising. This year there were fewer than 6000 crimes recorded quarterly for the first time since 2017-18. The most recent survey from the West Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioner found that 60.7% of respondents in Calderdale felt that people from different backgrounds got on well together and 87.6% feel safe. A greater proportion of residents feel safe in Calderdale than any other local authority area in West Yorkshire.

In Calderdale we have a distinctive topography with stunning **parks and green spaces** that are free to be enjoyed by all. The Parks, Open Spaces Countryside survey carried out in September 2019 showed a slight increase in the number of residents using parks and green spaces to 82.4%. A cleanliness survey carried out around the same time also showed that only 4% of sites surveyed reported an unacceptable level of litter.

Last year one of the most concerning indicators for us was **excess weight and obesity** as far too many of our reception age children were overweight, well above national and regional averages. With initiatives including Food For Life and the Calderdale Food Network we are pleased to say this has improved dramatically. Reception age children in Calderdale are now less likely than their regional peers to be overweight and our Northern Borough ranking has improved significantly in the year to 4th from 16th. Improvement in the number of children in Year 6 who are overweight has seen our Northern Borough ranking improve to 5th from 8th over the same period. Excess weight in adults does remain a concern and in appreciation of the impact on health and wellbeing, excess weight across the life stages will become a super key performance indicator next year.

Our ambition to make Calderdale the most active borough sees work continue with schools, clubs, communities, workplaces and care homes to reduce the number of physically inactive people in Calderdale. We now rank 2nd of the Northern Boroughs for **physical activity** with 65.7% of adults physically active.

Challenges

Children in Calderdale do relatively well at the very earliest school measurements with attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage above regional average. However, we face a challenge during later **primary education**. Achievement and progress at Key Stage 1 and 2 is not what we would hope and we perform poorly compared to regional and national averages. We currently rank 17th of Northern Boroughs in children meeting the expected standard of reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2 and rank similarly at Key Stage 1. We hope that the priority given to this issue through initiatives with the English Hub, Research School and Teaching School Alliances, along with the action plan from the Early Years Peer Review this year will drive improvements. The Mind the Gap strategy will ensure that the material disadvantage that underlies the inequalities seen across educational outcomes will be given comprehensive consideration.

We have seen continued demand in **children's social care** with high levels of referrals to the service and a high number of child protection plans. This represents a significant budgetary challenge as well as being an indicator of vulnerability in the community. The commitment of our skilled staff and on going budgetary support mean that the quality and timeliness of the support to children and families has been maintained despite this demand. The service also continues to innovate with the launch of the specialist Early Help Hub in the hope of securing good outcomes for families at the earliest possible time. Concerns about the sufficiency and cost of placements for looked after children remain however and reflect a growing national concern.

We continue to have some real challenges with the housing sufficiency and the **delivery of new homes** has been below target for some time. Progress around the Local Plan will enable housing delivery to regain momentum by releasing new sites for development. As members of The Calderdale Together Housing Investment Partnership we have supported the delivery of 37 new homes over 5 sites so far, with a further 13 sites and 460 homes already in the pipeline.

The vast road network poses a continued challenge in Calderdale. **Road condition** on principle roads sees us continue to rank 14th of the Northern Boroughs with unclassified road condition ranking 18th. However, our participation in a Highways Peer Review this year leaves us confident in our plans to improve and also recognises areas of substantial strength, including delivery of major highways improvement projects (such as on the A629) and securing significant external funding.

Data released this year on **life expectancy** for 2016-18 show improvement in life expectancy has stalled both regionally and nationally. In Calderdale, male life expectancy at birth fell noticeably more than comparators and this is the first fall seen since 2008-10. While our Northern Borough ranking remains high we have moved to the second quartile for performance on this measure and the direction of movement is a concern. Female healthy life expectancy at birth has also seen decline for the same time period. In other health indicators, an increasing proportion of women in Calderdale are smoking at the time of delivery of their babies and this has been increasing each year since 2015-16.

In the most recent data (to the end of December 2019) the **employment rate** in Calderdale stood at 72.1%, the lowest for a number of years. This fall has not been seen regionally or nationally and our Northern Borough ranking has moved to 14th from 10th. National predictions on the immediate impact of Covid 19 on employment make this all the more concerning. This may stand to exacerbate existing challenges around poverty and inequality, faced both locally and nationally. Our [Anti-Poverty Action Plan](#) has been put into practice this year, focusing on prevention, intervention and resilience to reduce poverty in the long term. The release of the [Indices of Deprivation 2019](#) reaffirms the need for this concerted action, seeing Calderdale rank 66th of 317 English local authorities on the overall measure of deprivation.

Looking to the Future

There may never have been a time of greater unknowns for local government. The challenge presented across our entire function by Covid 19 is unprecedented and must be considered alongside the pressures we face from climate change, flooding and the UK's exit from the European Union. It is likely that they will colour both our challenges and achievements in the years to come. We'll make sure our performance indicators adapt quickly to meet these changing needs and allow us to make the most of new opportunities. We'll build on what really makes Calderdale distinctive – our people and businesses and their determination to together rise to the challenge ahead.