



JSNA Newsletter May 2026

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the latest issue of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) newsletter for Bedford Borough, which features:

- Access to the latest information on deprivation for Bedford Borough on the new dashboard
- New child poverty dashboard shows the number of children in poverty is increasing
- New report and dashboard identify which groups in Bedford Borough are more likely not to be in good health
- The instructional video for the IMD Data Dashboard

The newsletter will keep you informed about the key additions and updates to the [JSNA website](#), as well providing hints on how to use its functions and tools.

We hope you find this newsletter useful and please share it with colleagues and contacts who may be interested. They can sign up for future editions [here](#).

The JSNA team is also available to provide short presentations to teams about the JSNA, highlight what is available on the JSNA website and how to use its key features. If you would like to us meet with your team, please contact us at: jsnafeedback@bedford.gov.uk

Access the latest information on deprivation for Bedford Borough



Interrogate the 2025 Indices of Deprivation (IoD) measures to understand deprivation in Bedford Borough relative to the rest of the country, compare it to neighbours, see how levels have changed from previous years, and identify differences across the borough.

- Overall Bedford Borough remained in the fourth-least deprived decile nationally, meaning that 60% of other local authority areas are more deprived.
- Bedford Borough's ranking has improved in Employment, Housing and Living Environment but fallen in Education, Crime, Health and Income, as well as for Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People.
- Five small geographical areas (LSOAs) fall within the most deprived 10% nationally, while six are among the least deprived 10%.
- Barriers to housing and services, such as poor central heating, homes in a poor state of repair and how close people are to local services including post offices, primary schools, supermarkets and GPs, were the greatest contributors to deprivation in Bedford Borough.

[Click here to access the IMD Data Dashboard](#)

Child poverty dashboard shows the number of children in poverty is increasing



Learn about the poverty levels affecting the children of Bedford Borough and how these have changed over time.

- Understand the different measures of poverty, how many children are affected by each measure in the Borough.
- Discover differences by ward, family type, the number of children in a household, the working status of parents and ethnicity.
- Overall in Bedford Borough: 10% of households on universal credit include children; 11% of children live in absolute low income households; 12% of children

live in relative low income households; 21% of children are eligible for free school meals; and 25% of children live in relative low income households after housing costs.

[Click here to access the Child Poverty Dashboard](#)

New report and dashboard identify which groups in Bedford Borough are more likely not to be in good health

Discover the personal, social and economic characteristics of the people in Bedford Borough who were least likely to feel they were in good health

- Among those most likely to report not being in good health were: Gypsy and Irish Travellers; people not born in the UK who had been in the country for more than 10 years; people living in bedsits or flats and those who rent; those with limited or no central heating; people who lived in overcrowded homes; people living alone; and people who provided over 20 hours of unpaid care to a relative or friend.
- Findings are based on analysis of the 2021 Census question that asked people how they felt about their health combined with answers to 26 other questions each representing a different personal, social or economic characteristic.
- Read the report for the highlights as well as context, past trends and future expectations.
- Explore the dashboard to understand variations in health perception for different characteristic groups.



[Click here to see the General Health report](#)

Watch this instructional video to get the most of the IMD Dashboard

This video has been designed to help users access the IMD Data Dashboard and apply its key functions.

Follow the step-by-step guide through the Dashboard to:

- Understand the different indexes of deprivation and what they mean.
- Switch between measures and locations.
- Understand changes over time.
- Focus on specific areas.



[Click here to access the IMD Dashboard video](#)

Coming soon: A new look and feel for the JSNA website

The JSNA website is being improved with an updated design and better navigation to ensure everyone can find what they are looking for quickly and easily.

Also available on the Bedford Borough JSNA website:

[Health Needs Assessments](#)

[Census 2021 highlights](#)

[Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments](#)

[Director of Public Health reports](#)

[Custom made maps](#)

[Central Bedfordshire JSNA website](#)

[Milton Keynes City JSNA website](#)

This bulletin has been sent to you by the shared Public Health team based at [Bedford Borough Council](#)

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