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# **Life Expectancy in Wirral**

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# Life Expectancy in Wirral 2012-14

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## Current Version: 1

Version History	Date	Author	Reviewer	Actions
V1	June 2016	Hannah Cotgrave	Sarah Kinsella	
V2	August 2016	As above	As above	

## Report Overview

Abstract	
<b>Intended or potential audience</b>	<b>External</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community &amp; voluntary sector organisations</li><li>• Councillors and Constituency Managers</li><li>• CCG and CT colleagues</li></ul> <b>Internal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JSNA Bulletin</li><li>• DMT (plus other departmental DMTs)</li><li>• Relevant LA Heads of Service</li></ul>
<b>Links with other topic areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deprivation</li><li>• Population</li></ul>

## Table of contents

Section	Page
Key Findings	3
Introduction	4
What does life expectancy at birth measure?	4
Current data for Wirral by gender	5
Life Expectancy by Wirral ward	5

## List of Tables

No.	Description	Page
1	Life expectancy by Wirral ward, 2007-11 (95% Confidence Limits, 5 years pooled). Ranked from lowest to highest life expectancy	
2	Life Expectancy with Healthy Life Expectancy and proportion, 2012-14	
3	Life Expectancy with Disability-Free Life Expectancy and proportion, 2012-14	

## List of Figures

No.	Description	Page
1	Cause of health inequalities	3
2	Trend in life expectancy for males and females, Wirral and England, 1991-2013	
3	Life Expectancy at birth (95% Confidence Limits) by Wirral Constituency, 2007-11 (5 years pooled).	

## Key Findings

- In the most recent time period (2012-14), life expectancy in Wirral has improved by about two months for males and fallen by about one month for females compared to 2011-13 data.
- The gap between in life expectancy between England and Wirral has remained at about 19 months for males and 10 months for females.
- Both national and local data indicate that if the gap between men and women in life expectancy continues to narrow to the extent that it has done over the previous 20 years the gap may close completely in another 20 years.
- Having said this, although the overall trend in Wirral shows a narrowing of the gap in life expectancy between males and females since 1991, the most recent time period (2012-14) shows that the gap has widened again slightly.
- Despite life expectancy having increased rapidly over the last few decades, healthy life expectancy has not increased, but rather decreased, for both Wirral and England. Therefore, these additional years of life are being spent in poorer health and adding more strain to health and social care resources.

## Introduction

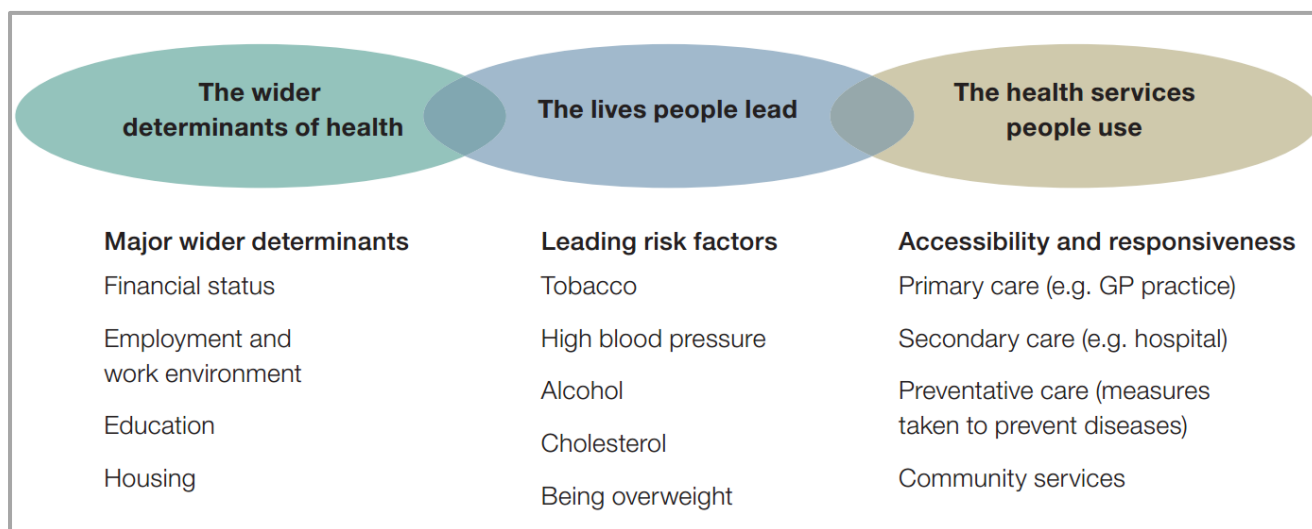
This update summarises the most recently available data (2012-14) for life expectancy in Wirral and our progress compared to England overall.

Life expectancy at birth in England showed dramatic increases throughout the twentieth century as health and living conditions improved. It increased from 46 for men and 50 for women in 1900, to 76 for men and 80 for women in 2000 and has continued to increase since then.

However, increases in life expectancy have not been uniform across all social groups. Life expectancy has shown a marked increase for those in more affluent social groups, while progress has been significantly slower for people in more deprived social groups. This is despite people having universal health care from the NHS since 1948. Since the 1970s, the inequality gap in life expectancy between these groups has increased.

Consequently, reducing inequalities in life expectancy was a public health target throughout the 1990s and 2000s and is now one of the overarching indicators in the current [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(PHOF\)](#). The causes of these health inequalities are complex and involve interactions between social, educational, economic and structural factors (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:** Causes of health inequalities



**Source:** National Audit Office

## What does life expectancy at birth measure?

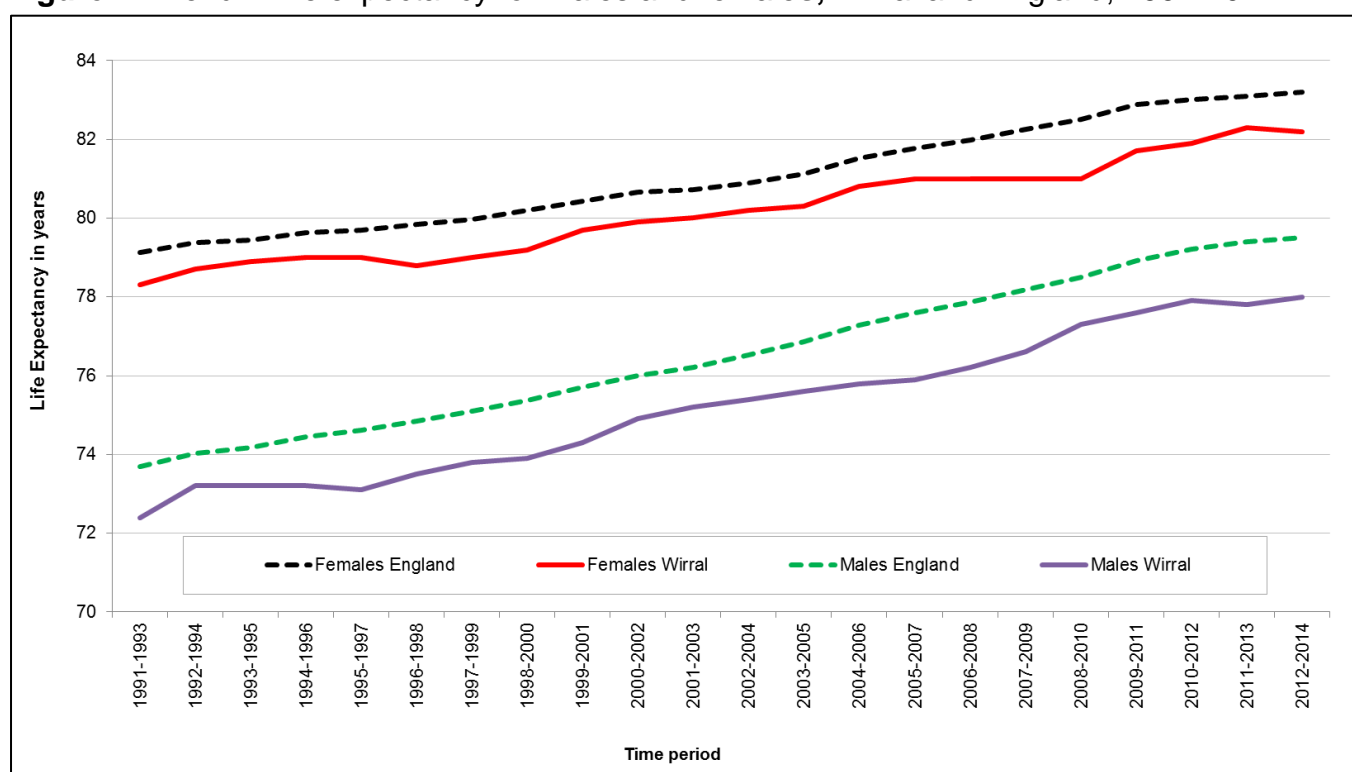
Life expectancy is, “an estimate of the average number of years a person...would survive if he or she experienced the particular area’s age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout the rest of his or her life”. So it is based on the life expectancy of people dying within a time period. It is not the number of years a baby could *actually* expect to live, because it makes no allowance for probable future changes in death rates (i.e people living longer) and people moving away from the area in which they were born.

## Current data for Wirral by gender

Figure 2 shows life expectancy for men and women in England and Wirral between 1991 and 2014. Over the last 20 years life expectancy has increased by 5.5 years in men in England and 4.8 years in Wirral, and 3.9 years in women nationally and 3.5 years in Wirral. This means that the longevity gap between men and women is getting smaller. On average women spend more of their lives in ill health than men.

In 2012-14, life expectancy in Wirral was 78.0 for men and 82.2 for women, compared to 79.5 years for men and 83.1 years for women in England (see **Figure 2**). Life expectancy in Wirral has historically shown a trend of increasing nearly every time period. However, the gap between Wirral and England has not improved; the gap has fluctuated between 12 and 20 months of life expectancy for men and between 8 and 15 months of life expectancy for women. In the most recent time period the gap has got wider as life expectancy dropped slightly for women from 82.3 years to 82.2 years in Wirral, while the gap for men has got narrower.

**Figure 2:** Trend in life expectancy for males and females, Wirral and England, 1991-2014



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2016a

## Life expectancy by Wirral Ward

Data was aggregated for five years and combined for males and females to get a robust estimate of life expectancy for wards. This is because wards are small areas so will be subject to a lot of random variation until the numbers are aggregated up by combining years or combining males and females. As **Table 1** shows, there is significant variation in life expectancy between wards in Wirral. There is a variation of over 10 years between Rock Ferry ward (74.1 years) and Heswall ward (84.4 years).

We are currently unable to provide life expectancy data for 2012-14 at a ward level due to data not being available at this granularity.

**Table 1:** Life expectancy by Wirral ward, 2007-11 (95% Confidence Limits, 5 years pooled). Ranked from lowest to highest life expectancy

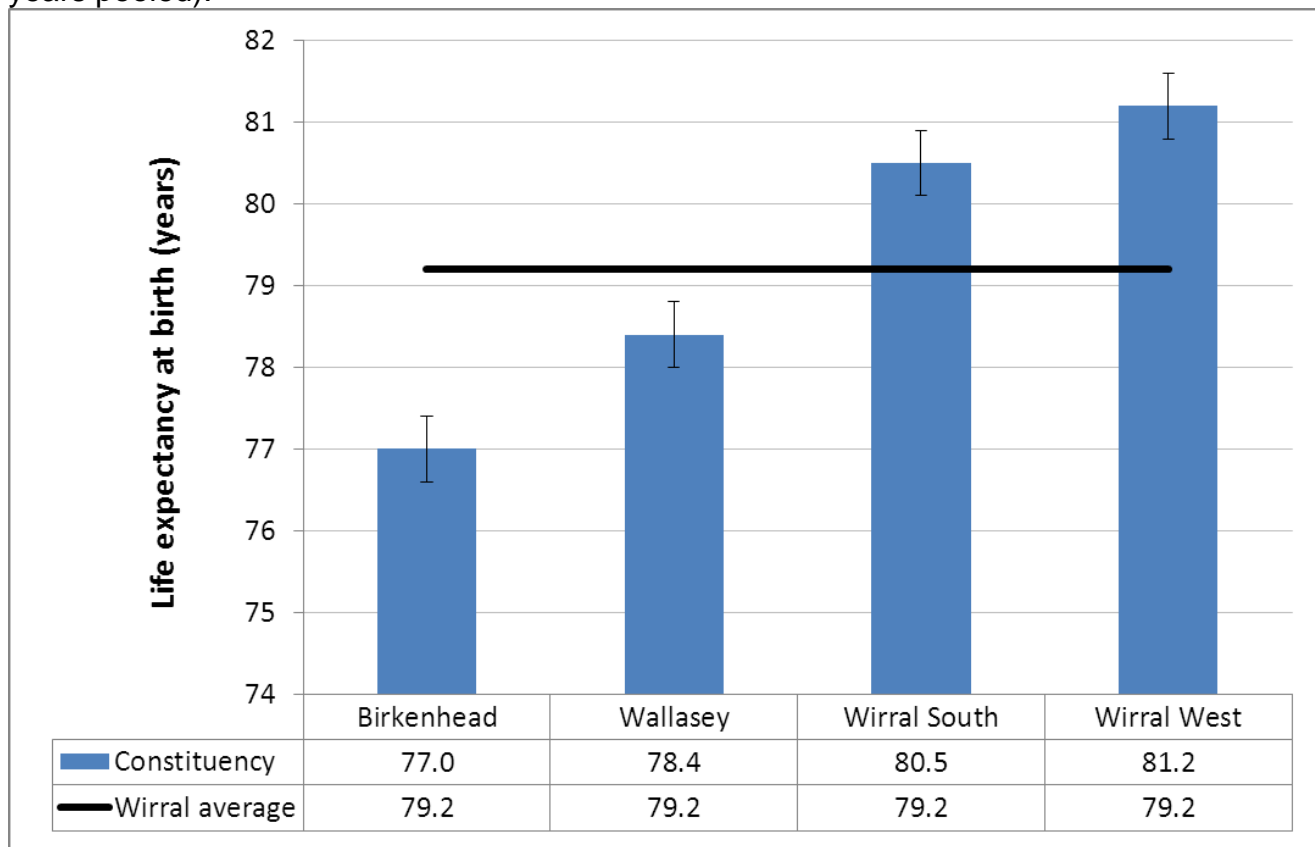
Ward	Constituency	Life Expectancy at birth (Years)	Lower Confidence Limit	Upper Confidence Limit
Rock Ferry	Birkenhead	74.1	73.2	75.1
Bidston & St James	Birkenhead	74.7	73.7	75.7
Birkenhead & Tranmere	Birkenhead	74.8	73.7	75.9
Seacombe	Wallasey	76.4	75.3	77.5
Moreton West & Saughall Massie	Wallasey	76.8	75.9	77.6
Bromborough	Wirral South	76.9	75.8	77.9
Eastham	Wirral South	77.4	76.5	78.3
Upton	West Wirral	77.7	76.7	78.7
New Brighton	Wallasey	77.7	76.8	78.7
Leasowe & Moreton East	Wallasey	78.6	77.6	79.6
Liscard	Wallasey	78.6	77.6	79.6
Claughton	Birkenhead	79.1	78.3	79.9
Bebington	Wirral South	80.1	79.2	81.0
Clatterbridge	Wirral South	80.1	79.2	81.0
Hoylake & Meols	West Wirral	80.3	79.4	81.3
Prenton	Birkenhead	80.8	79.8	81.7
Wallasey	Wallasey	81.7	80.7	82.8
Oxton	Birkenhead	82.6	81.7	83.5
West Kirby & Thurstaston	West Wirral	82.7	81.8	83.7
Pensby & Thingwall	West Wirral	82.9	81.9	83.9
Greasby, Frankby & Irby	West Wirral	84.0	82.9	85.0
Heswall	Wirral South	84.4	83.6	85.2

Source: Public Health Intelligence Team, Wirral Council, 2015

We are currently unable to provide life expectancy data for 2012-14 at a ward level due to data not being available at this granularity.

Figure 3 (over) shows that in 2007-11, Birkenhead had the lowest life expectancy of the four Wirral constituencies (77.0 years), while Wirral West had the highest (81.2 years).

**Figure 3: Life Expectancy at birth (95% Confidence Limits) by Wirral Constituency, 2007-11 (5 years pooled).**



Source: Public Health Intelligence Team, Wirral Council, 2015

### Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE)

Healthy Life Expectancy is an estimate of the number of years a person can expect to spend in 'very good' or 'good' health based on the current mortality and health status of a population.

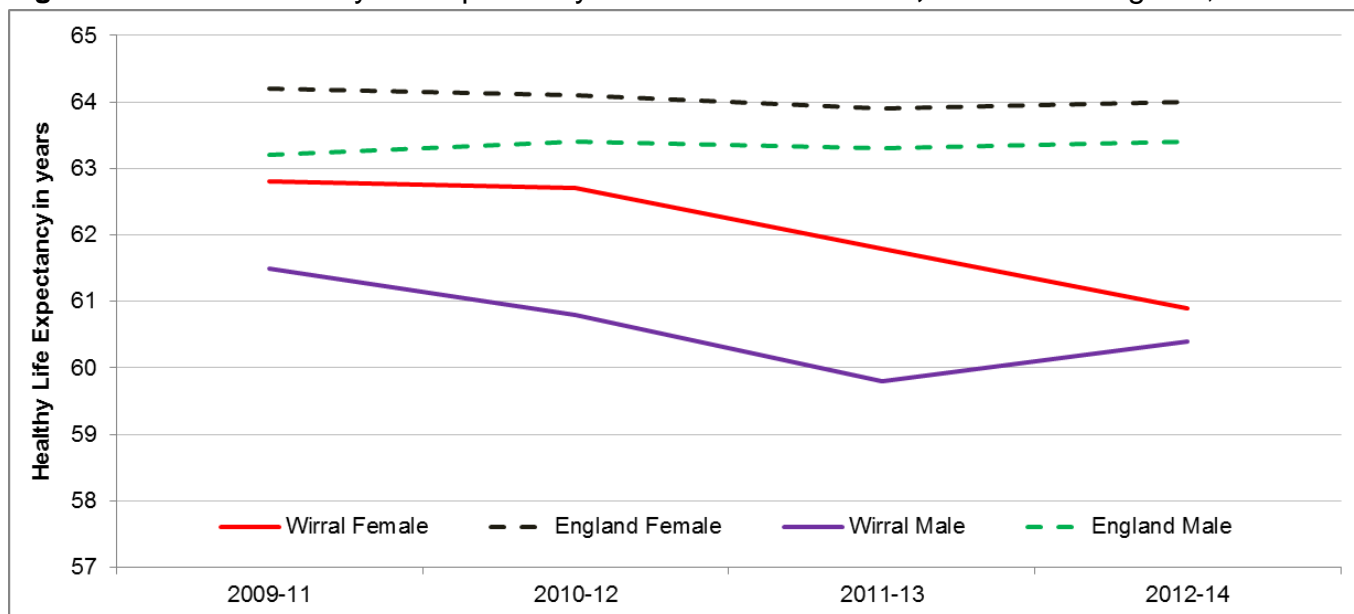
In 2012-14, healthy life expectancy in Wirral was 60.4 for men and 60.9 for women, compared to 63.4 years for men and 64.0 years for women in England (see **Table 2**). By comparing HLE to LE, it means that in Wirral, a male will spend approximately 77% of their life in 'good' health, whereas women in Wirral will only spend around 74% of their life in 'good' health. Healthy life expectancy in Wirral and England has historically shown a trend of decreasing nearly every time period since 2009-11. Despite this, the gap between Wirral and England has not improved but has in fact widened from 1.4 years to 3.1 years for women, and 1.7 years to 3.0 years for men. Contrary to this, the gap between male healthy life expectancy in England and Wirral has decreased for the last time period; from 3.5 years in 2011-13 to 3.0 years in 2012-14 (see **Figure 4**).

**Table 2: Life Expectancy with Healthy Life Expectancy and proportion, 2012-14**

Area	Life Expectancy, Males (Years)	Healthy Life Expectancy, Males (Years)	Proportion of life spent in 'good' health, Males	Life Expectancy, Females (Years)	Healthy Life Expectancy, Females (Years)	Proportion of life spent in 'good' health, Females
Wirral	78.0	60.4	77.4%	82.2	60.9	74.1%
North West	78.1	61.1	78.2%	81.9	61.8	75.5%
England	79.5	63.4	79.7%	83.2	64.0	76.9%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2016b

**Figure 4:** Trend in healthy life expectancy for males and females, Wirral and England, 2009-2014



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2016b

### Disability-Free Life Expectancy (DFLE)

The DFLE figures produced by the Office for National Statistics are not the years a person should expect to live disability-free but are a snapshot of the mortality and health status of the area's population in a given 3-year period. This is due to potential changes in mortality and health rates in the future. In 2012-14, DFLE for males in Wirral was 59.6 years and 60.5 years for females, compared to 63.3 for males and 63.2 for females in England (See **Table 3**). This means that males in Wirral will spend approximately 76% of their life 'disability-free' whereas women will only spend around 74% of their life 'disability-free'. As Figure 5 shows, disability-free life expectancy has decreased in Wirral and England between 2009-11 and 2012-14. However, DFLE in Wirral has declined at a higher rate meaning that the gap between Wirral and England has increased during this time; from approximately 10 months to 32 months for females, and 23 months to 44 months for males.

**Table 3:** Life Expectancy with Disability-Free Life Expectancy and proportion, 2012-14

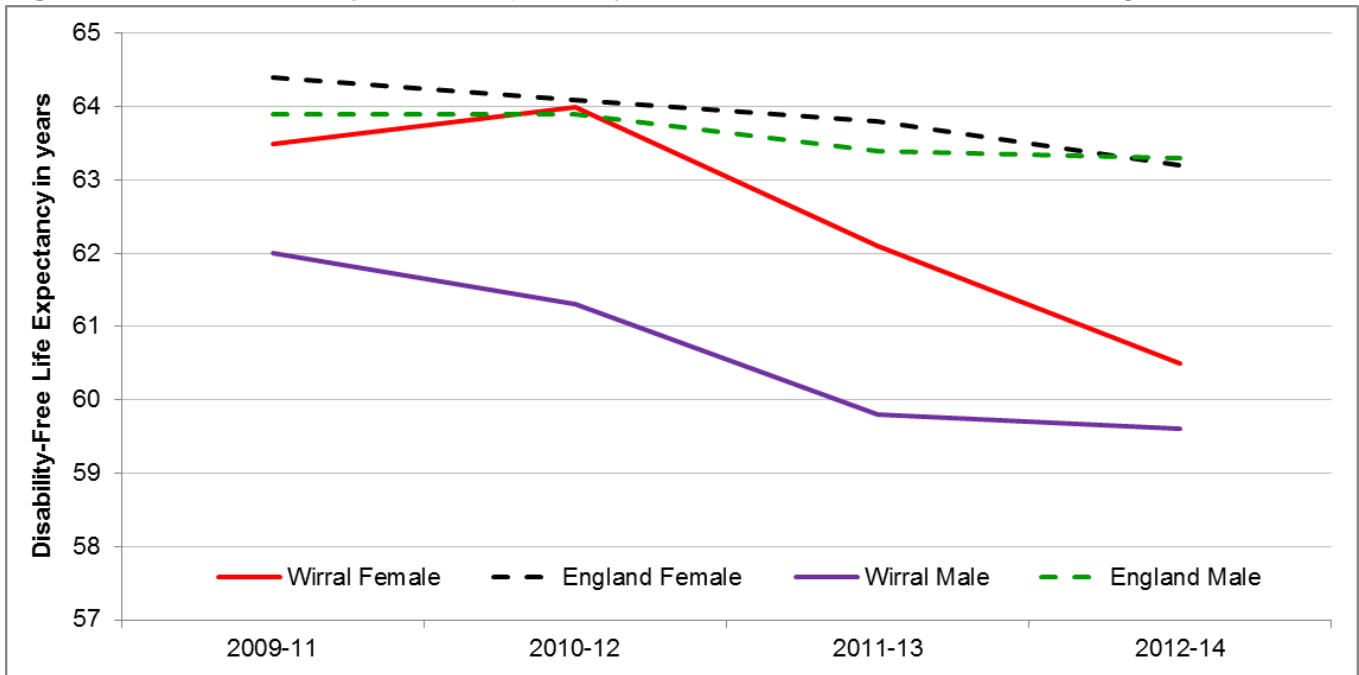
Area	Life Expectancy, Males (Years)	Disability Free Life Expectancy, Males (Years)	Proportion of life spent 'disability-free', Males	Life Expectancy, Females (Years)	Disability Free Life Expectancy, Females (Years)	Proportion of life spent 'disability-free', Females
Wirral	78.0	59.6	76.4%	82.2	60.5	73.6%
North West	78.1	61.0	78.1%	81.9	61.0	74.5%
England	79.5	63.3	79.6%	83.2	63.2	76.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2016c

With Life Expectancy having increased rapidly over the past few decades, it is important that both DFLE and HLE increase also, however, this does not appear to be the case for Wirral or England, with both HLE and DFLE decreasing. Therefore, these additional years of life are being spent in poorer health and adding more strain to health and social care resources.



**Figure 5:** Trend in disability-free life expectancy for males and females, Wirral and England, 2009-2014



## References

National Audit Office, 2010, Tackling inequalities in life expectancy in areas with the worst health and deprivation, Accessed at 13 May 2016, Available at: <http://www.nao.org.uk/>

Office for National Statistics, 2016a, Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 65 by Local Areas in England and Wales: 2012 to 2014, Accessed at 12 May 2016, Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk>

Office for National Statistics, 2016b, Healthy life expectancy at birth and age 65 by upper tier local authority and area deprivation: England, 2012 to 2014, Accessed at 13 May 2016, Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

Office for National Statistics, 2016c, Disability-free life expectancy (DFLE), life expectancy (LE) and proportion of life spent disability-free for all ages, Accessed at 13 May 2016, Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

## Further Reading / Links

Wirral JSNA

<http://info.wirral.nhs.uk/ourjsna/>

Health & Social Care Outcomes Framework

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-and-social-care-outcomes-frameworks>

Public Health England – Data and analysis tools

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/phe-data-and-analysis-tools>

Office for National Statistics – Life Expectancies

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies>

Life Expectancy Calculator

[http://www.riskprediction.org.uk/index\\_lifeexp.php](http://www.riskprediction.org.uk/index_lifeexp.php)

Public Health Outcomes Framework:

<http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework>