



HARROGATE DISTRICT STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP

A Profile of the Harrogate District

2011/2012

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The Place



Key Facts

- **Populations of main town settlements:** Harrogate: 73,000+, Ripon: 16,000+, Knaresborough: 15,000+, Boroughbridge: 3,200+, Pateley Bridge: 2,700+
- **Wards:** 35 in the district
- **Parishes:** 148 Parishes in the district, making up 76 Parish and Town Councils
(Harrogate Borough Council (HBC))

Harrogate district is part of the County of North Yorkshire and local government service delivery is split between the Borough and County Council.

The district is one of the largest shire districts in England at 1305 sq km (505 sq miles) and lies between the cities of Leeds/Bradford in the south, the district of Richmondshire in the north, the City of York, Hambleton and Selby districts to the east, and Craven district and the Yorkshire Dales National Park in the west.

The district is characterised by being both rural and urban in nature, having large, sparsely populated areas alongside the major settlements of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon.

In the west, nearly half of the district comprises of the relatively sparsely populated Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which covers 233 square miles (603 km²) of Northern England with its upland farming and internationally important wildlife.

In the east, nearly a third of the district is low-lying flat arable farmland in the Vale of York. The district's three main settlements are centrally located: the Victorian spa town of Harrogate, the nearby medieval market town of Knaresborough and the cathedral City of Ripon; around 65% of the district's population is based in these urban areas.

The A1/A1(M) runs north/south through the eastern part of the district and provides good road links with the rest of the national motorway network.

The district is well known for its World Heritage Site (Fountains Abbey with Studley Royal), three historic battlefields and its award winning parks and gardens. The district contains over 130 scheduled ancient monuments, 50 buildings of exceptional interest (Grade I) and over 100 or more of special interest (Grade II*) and many more classified Grade II.

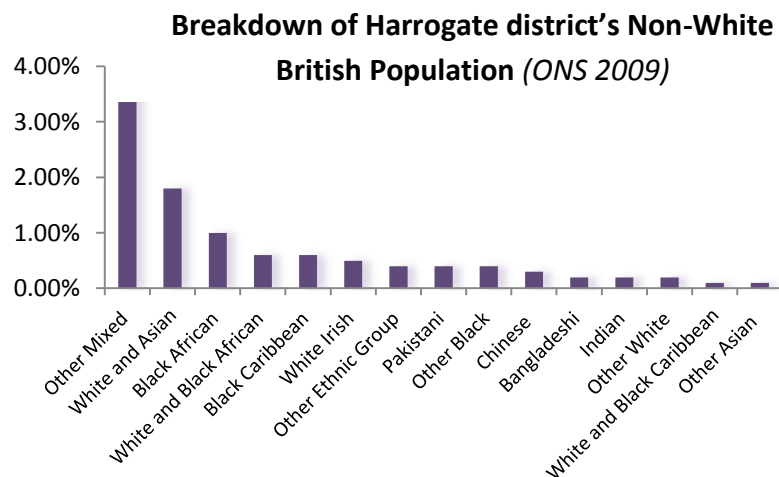




The People

Key Facts

- **Population:** 158,700 (2010 Mid-Year Estimate)
 - **Population Projection 2033:** 183,700 (16.49% rise)
 - **Population Density – persons per hectare:** 1.2 (2010 Mid-Year Estimate)
- (STREAM: Office of National Statistics (ONS))



■ Ethnicity

Based on ONS June 2009 estimates, the district demographic is predominately comprised of people who consider themselves to be White British (89.6%). A breakdown of the remaining 10.4% can be found above. ONS estimates that ethnic minority groups now account for approximately 17% of England's total population.

■ Socio-Economic Status

Average household income in the district is £41,833; around 15% higher than both North Yorkshire and England, furthermore 6.21% of the district's households can be classed as 'Affluent Modern Families' (compared to 1.97% nationally) (Acxiom 2010). Levels of deprivation are lower than average – the district ranks 44th out of 326 districts in England (Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010).

However; 2,575 of the district's children live in poverty (Department of Health 2011) and five Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) have been identified as more deprived than the national average – they are parts of Woodfield, Granby, Saltergate and Ripon Moorside (x2) (IMD 2010).

■ Migration

While net migration to the district was over 900 people in 2009, future net migration is expected to be much lower, at 300 per year. Immigration in the district is expected to drop to 1200 per year and emigration is expected to rise to 900 per year (Migration Yorkshire June 2011).

■ Age

When compared against North Yorkshire and the national average, the district has a higher percentage of people aged 10 – 19 and 40 – 54 years old. 19% of the district (31,000 people) are aged 65 and over; compared to 16% nationally (STREAM: ONS 2010 Mid-Year Estimate).

■ Marital Status

The district has a higher than average percentage of married people (56.65%) (Acxiom 2010).

■ Disability

The district has a lower than average percentage of the population who are disabled benefit claimants (0.6%) when compared to both North Yorkshire (0.8%) and England (1%). However, Woodfield ward and Mashamshire both have higher than the national average percentage of disabled benefit claimants (DWP/Nomis 2010).



Housing

Key Facts

- Households:** 69,357 in the Harrogate district
(STREAM: Valuation Office Agency (VOA) & Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM))
- Housing Types:** a higher than national average percentage of houses are detached (27.84%) or bungalows (10.82%) and there are lower than national average proportions of semi-detached (27.94%) and terraced (18.49%) houses. The proportion of flats is in line with the national trend.
- Tenure:** 74.67% of dwellings are owned by their occupier/s (69.85% nationally)
(Acxiom 2010)

Average House Prices (*Land Registry Apr – Jun 2011*)

	Harrogate	North Yorkshire	UK
Average house price	£265,207	£214,480	£228,095
Detached	£416,114	£310,831	£323,932
Semi-detached	£226,001	£184,255	£194,733
Terrace	£190,782	£164,715	£187,006
Flat	£197,097	£153,452	£225,332
Annual change in average house price	-4.40%	-3.40%	-2.90%

Affordability and Housing Needs

The annual affordable housing need in the district is 830 homes per year but the adopted Core Strategy makes provision for 390 new homes per year over the period 2004 to 2023. Approximately 160 of this annual provision will be homes for local people at affordable prices.

In 2010/11, a total of 57 new affordable homes were created. The low number reflects the lack of any large-scale housing development in the district as a consequence of the recession. Indeed, the total number of dwellings completed in the district as a percentage of all dwellings was 0.29% in 2010; this is below the averages for North Yorkshire and England (0.4% and 0.56% respectively) (*STREAM: CLG 2010*).

HBC has seen an increase in the number of people seeking help with their housing situation. In 2010/11 there was a total of 1199 Housing Advice cases that staff dealt with. The focus of the Housing Needs Service continues to be on preventing homelessness where possible and in 2010/11 homelessness was prevented in 658 cases. A total of 96 households made a homelessness application to the Council and in 76 cases a full homelessness duty was accepted (*HBC: Housing*).

Social Housing

In 2010 there was a social rented housing stock in the district of 6842; this makes up around 10% of all dwellings (compared to 20% nationally). The Local Authority rented dwelling stock was 3885 in 2011 (*HBC: Housing*) – around 6% of the district's total dwellings, compared with 8.73% nationally (*STREAM: CLG: 2010*).

Council Tax Bands

11.37% of dwellings within the district are Band A (the lowest), compared with 16.58% in North Yorkshire and 24.99% nationally, whilst there is a higher than average proportion of the district's dwellings in Bands E to H (the highest) (*STREAM: VOA & ODPM*).



Financial Inclusion

Key Facts

- Bank Accounts:** In 2010 there were 6 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within the district where less than 20% of working age people on a low income had a bank account – Woodfield, Ripon Spa, Pateley Bridge, Mashamshire, Bishop Monkton and Boroughbridge.
 - Pensions:** In 2009 there were 6 wards within the district where less than 50% of households did not have a pension product present – Woodfield, Knaresborough East, Ripon Minster, Low Harrogate, Ripon Spa and Granby.
- (North Yorkshire Advice Services Partnership: NY Financial Inclusion Strategy 2010-2015)*

Out-Of-Work Benefits

In May 2011 a total of 7.8% of the district’s working-age population were claiming out-of-work benefits, compared with 14.5% in Great Britain (*NOMIS*).

Fuel Poverty & Paying Bills

A ‘fuel poor’ household is one that cannot afford to keep adequately warm at reasonable cost. The most widely accepted definition of a fuel poor household is one which needs to spend more than 10% of their income on all fuel use to heat their home to an adequate standard of warmth (generally between 18-21C).

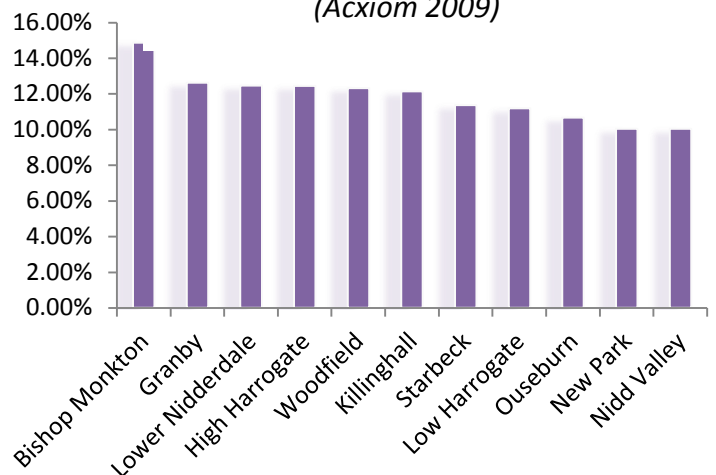
As seen to the right, in 2009 there were 11 wards within the district where over 10% of households were struggling to pay bills and 12 wards in which over 10% of households never pay a monthly credit card balance in full. Wards represented in both charts are Woodfield, New Park, Starbeck, Bishop Monkton, High Harrogate and Nidd Valley.

Child Poverty

In 2007 there were 6 wards where over 10% of children were classed as living in poverty. These wards were Granby, High Harrogate, New Park, Ripon Moorside, Saltergate and Starbeck (*North Yorkshire Advice Services Partnership: NY Financial Inclusion Strategy 2010-2015*).

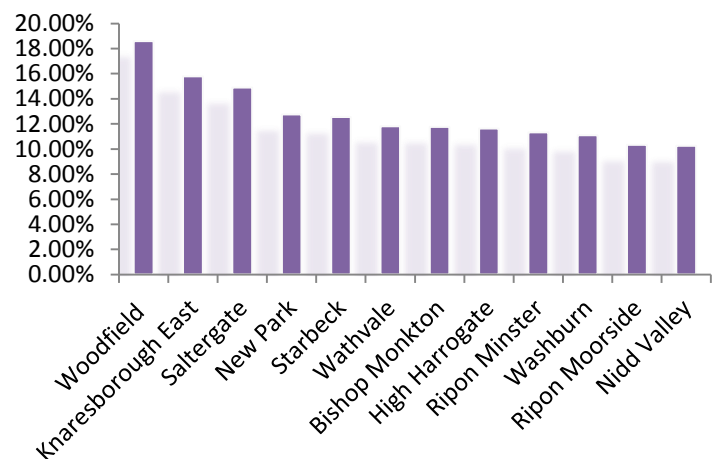
**Households Struggling to Pay Bills
(Wards with 10% and above)**

(Acxiom 2009)



Households where the monthly credit card balance is never paid in full (Wards with 10% and above)

(Acxiom 2009)





The Environment

Key Facts

- **Residual Household Waste per Household:** 581kg in 2010/11
- **Household Recycling Rate:** 32% in 2010/11 (40.8% nationally and 44.7% in North Yorkshire) *(HBC & DEFRA)*
- **Consumption of Gas and Electricity:** 890.95 megawatt and kilowatt hours per head of population in 2008 (725.11 nationally) *(STREAM: ONS)*

■ The Natural and Built Environment

The district boasts 52 Conservation Areas with numerous listed buildings. English Nature has designated 25 sites across the district as 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' and there are over 100 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINCs).

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for people and wildlife and do have public access. There are currently four in Harrogate district: Hookstone Woods and Birk Crag in Harrogate and Quarry Moor and Hell Wath in Ripon. A further LNR is under consideration at Rossett Acres in Harrogate. Harrogate Borough Council recently declared the district a wildlife haven.

2% of relevant land and highways were assessed in 2010/11 as having deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level *(HBC: NI 195)*.

In 2009/10 around 78% of new homes were built on previously developed land, this fell to 64% in 2010/11 *(HBC: BV 106)*.

■ Global Warming

27.94% of the district's population claim to be actively reducing their energy use (compared to 25.91% nationally). Furthermore, a higher than average percentage of people list 'Improving the Local Environment' as an interest or hobby *(Acxiom 2010)*.

Energy efficiency improvement in the Harrogate district for the years 1996-2007 was 28.09% and this had risen to 33.25% by 2008. The Yorkshire and Humber Region improved by 22.05% between 1996 and 2007 and nationally there was an improvement of 21.29% *(DEFRA)*.

In 2008, the district was emitting 7.5 tonnes per capita of carbon dioxide. This was higher than the national average (6.4 tonnes) but lower than North Yorkshire (8.4 tonnes) *(Department for Energy and Climate Change)*.

■ Flooding

There are a large number of rivers flowing through the district and, in many cases, dissecting urban areas. As a consequence, approximately 2,800 properties are at risk from river flooding; with many more susceptible to surface water flooding – flood defences are in place in several parts of the district but some particularly at risk areas include Ripon (Barrage Lane/Fishergreen and River View Road/Magdalens Road), Knaresborough (Waterside and Abbey Road), Boroughbridge (Milby Island), and Pateley Bridge *(Harrogate Multi Agency Flood Response Plan)*.

■ Air Quality

The district has two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's). These are Bond End Junction, Knaresborough and Skellgate Area, Ripon.



Voluntary & Community Sector

Key Facts

- **Voluntary & Community Organisations:** over 130 in the district.
- **Participation in charity/voluntary work:** 17.09% of the district's population listed Charity/Voluntary Work as an interest in 2010 (15.24% nationally), this was a 1% rise on 2009 (*Acxiom*).

Charities and Unregistered Organisations

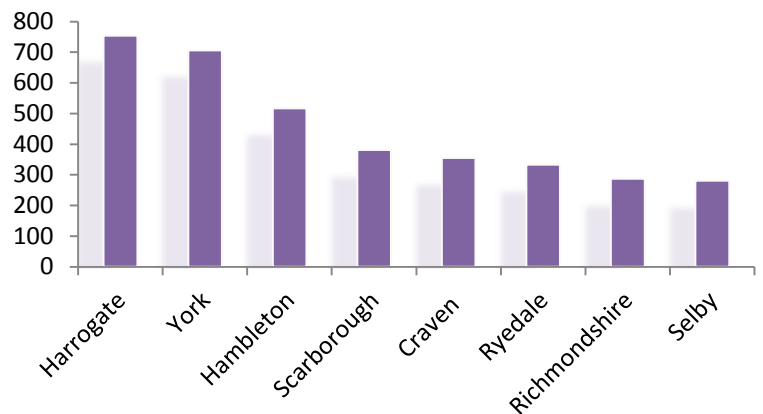
The graph to the right shows the district to have the most registered charities in North Yorkshire and York. There are 754 registered charities and 1698 unregistered, ranging from very small to quite large organisations, but with the majority having an income of less than £10,000. The percentage of unregistered organisations is the second lowest in the sub-region at 16% (or 168 in total) (*involve Yorks & Humber 'Below the radar?' 2011*).

Some have paid staff, and indeed the sector employs around 7% of the workforce in North Yorkshire (over 37,000 people) (*Making it happen: The contribution of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) to Local Enterprise Partnership objectives 2011*).

Customer Needs

Between 2008/09 and 2009/10, voluntary organisations in the Harrogate district grew in terms of turnover (45.5% of organisations), number of volunteers (42% of organisations) and staff (48.2% of organisations). The demand for these services increased for 69% of organisations and decreased for 6%. Of the organisations that indicated a change in demand, 41% stated that the change was as a result of the recession (*Joint Infrastructure Strategy HACVS RCVS 2010-2012*).

Registered Charities in North Yorkshire and York
(*involve Yorks & Humber 'Below the radar?' 2011*)



Volunteering

367,000 hours of volunteering take place in N Yorkshire & York every week (*Making it happen...*). Locally; we know that 40,000 hours per year are contributed by volunteers placed by Harrogate Volunteer Centre.

Harrogate Volunteer Centre in 2009/10:

- 768 enquiries about volunteer opportunities
- 205 organisations had 357 volunteering opportunities registered
(*Harrogate CVS*)

Ripon Volunteer Centre in 2010/11:

- 170 enquiries about volunteer opportunities
- 132 enquiries resulted in volunteering placements
- 144 organisations had volunteering opportunities registered
(*Ripon CVS*)



Community Safety

Key Facts

- **Crime:** reduction of 8% (646 crimes) in the district over the last three years
- **Hate Crime:** 34 incidents of hate crime in 2010/11 (38% reduction year-on-year)
(Harrogate district Community Safety Partnership (HDCSP) Plan 2011/12)

Instances of Crime in Harrogate district 2007/08 – 2010/11 (HDCSP Plan 2011/2012)

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Theft from vehicle	471	585	410	451
Criminal damage	1,767	1,781	1,381	1,294
Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle	182	236	170	118
Domestic burglary	333	320	369	463
Burglary (other) eg. Shops, sheds etc	663	693	519	577
Theft of cycle	155	200	180	138
Theft from person	107	143	135	82

■ Crime

The table above shows a general decline in crime levels over a four year period (the exception being domestic burglary that increased by around 40% between 2007/08 and 2010/11). The largest decrease in crime type was theft or unauthorised taking of vehicles, which fell by 35% over four years.

■ Anti-Social Behaviour

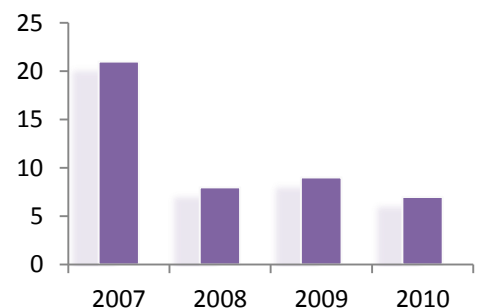
Nearly half of a panel of district residents considered anti-social behaviour to be a problem in 2010/11. This is reflected in nearly 10,000 reports of anti-social behaviour in the district taken by HBC and North Yorkshire Police in the same year (HDCSP Plan 2011/12).

■ Road Safety

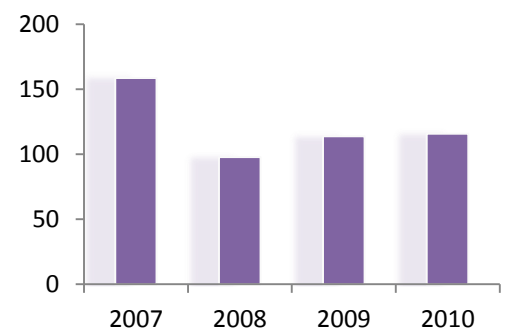
Road safety is a key issue in the Harrogate district and between 2007 and 2009 there were 70 sites where there were 4 or more 'personal injury collisions' within a 100 metre radius. 3 of the top 4 sites were along the A59 (the other being the A661 Wetherby Road/Railway Road Junction in Harrogate) (NYCC Road Casualties Report 2010).

Whilst the number of serious accidents in Harrogate district reduced between 2007 and 2010 (as seen in the charts to the right) it is recognised that on-going improvements to road safety are required (HDCSP 2011 & Harrogate district-wide Transport Priorities 2010).

Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (NI 48)



People killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions (NI 147)





Culture & Leisure

Key Facts

- Some of the district's attractions:** 1 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 1 World Heritage Site, 1 cathedral, 50 buildings of exceptional interest (Grade 1), 50 'In Bloom' titles, 1 RHS Gardens, 1 Award Winning Turkish Baths, mysterious natural rock formations, castles, caves, real ale breweries and award winning restaurants.

Cultural Events

The Harrogate district is home to a number of cultural events and festivals including Harrogate International Festival, Ripon International Festival, the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival, Knaresborough Feva, the Great Knaresborough Bed Race and the Northern Aldborough Festival as well as a number of vibrant rural events – the largest of which being the Great Yorkshire Show.

Culture and Leisure Venues

The district has a wide range of cultural venues and facilities including the newly restored Royal Hall and Harrogate Theatre, as well as a number of beautiful outdoor settings for summer music concerts and events.

Across the district there are 3 theatres, 9 sports halls, 50 football pitches, 33 cricket grounds, nine swimming pools, one new skate park, 50 public/village halls, 17 outdoor tennis courts, nine golf clubs, 66 children's play areas, 15 galleries and museums and eight public libraries - £3.4m has recently been spent on refurbishing and extending Harrogate Library (*HBC*).

Participation in Sport

The 2008 PLACE Survey indicated that 50.2% of the district's population were satisfied with sports provision (*PLACE Survey*) - this is reflected in the district's higher than average participation in sport. In terms of participation rates, the top 5 sports in the district are swimming, gym, cycling, football and athletics (*Active People Survey 4*).

Hobbies and Interests

As seen below, the people of the district consider reading, dining out and music amongst their most valued interests. When compared to England as a whole, there is significantly more interest in pursuits such as food, hiking, current affairs, wildlife, golf, skiing and travel (51% of people had been on holiday in Europe between 2007 and 2010 compared with 44% nationally). Less popular in the district is football, DIY, betting, fishing and religious activities (*Acxiom 2010*).

Top 10 Hobbies and Interests	Harrogate	North Yorkshire	England
% Reading Books	76.02%	73.75%	71.81%
% Eating Out	69.09%	66.64%	65.67%
% Music/CDs	61.24%	58.52%	58.73%
% Fine Food/Cooking	54.82%	49.73%	48.02%
% Gardening	54.70%	56.22%	51.06%
% Hiking/Walking	51.15%	48.88%	42.68%
% World Travel	45.64%	40.01%	41.38%
% Crosswords & Puzzles	45.37%	47.18%	44.94%
% Going To The Pub	43.67%	43.70%	42.58%
% Theatre & Cultural Events	36.95%	33.45%	35.45%



Health & Wellbeing

Key Facts

- **Access to GPs:** the findings of LINK's 'Access to GPs' Harrogate district Survey demonstrated that the majority of respondents are able to access a GP appointment within 2 to 3 days (2011).
- **NHS Hospitals in Harrogate district:** 2; District General Hospital & Ripon Community Hospital
- **Life Expectancy (Male):** 79.4 (England: 78.3) (2007-2009)
- **Life Expectancy (Female):** 83.1 (England 82.3) (2007-2009)

(Department of Health (DoH) 2011)

Life Expectancy

The life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the national average. Men living in the most deprived wards have 5.8 years shorter life expectancy than those least deprived and, likewise, women will have 3.3 years shorter life expectancy in the more deprived wards (DoH: *Slope Index of Inequality 2011*).

Mortality Rates

Over the last 10 years, all-cause mortality rates have fallen. The early death rate from cancer has fluctuated and the early death rate from stroke and heart disease has fallen. Both are better than the national average (2007-2009) (DoH 2011).

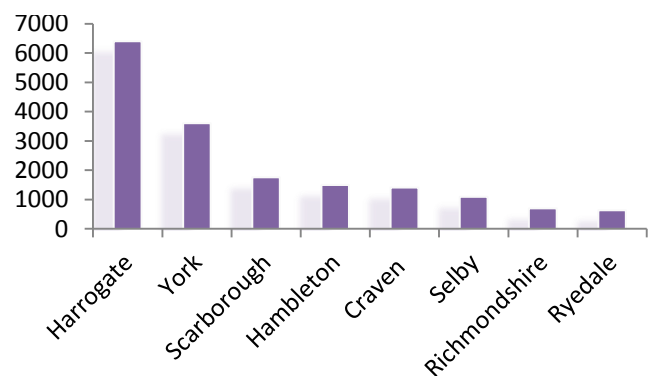
Child Health

About 14.1% of Year 6 children are obese (2009/10). A lower than average percentage of pupils spend at least 3 hours each week on school sport (2009/10). 72.2% of mothers initiate breast feeding (2009/10) and 14.5% of expectant mothers smoke during pregnancy (2009/10) (DoH 2011).

Adult Health

An estimated 14.0% of adults smoke (2009/10) and 20.7% are obese (2006 – 2008). However, a higher than average percentage of adults are healthy eaters (2006-2008) and physically active (2009/10) (DoH 2011).

Mental Health Service Users in York and North Yorkshire (NHS 2008-2009)



The graph (above) shows that, in 2008/09, the district had the highest amount of mental health service users in York and North Yorkshire.

Alcohol Related Harm

It has been recognised that alcohol related harm is a particular problem in the Harrogate district, in particular among under 18 year olds and females. In 2008 admission to hospital of those aged under 18 for alcohol specific reasons stood at a rate of 93.7 per 100,000 of the population (against a regional average of 62.2).

It is estimated that 11% of the district's drinking population consume at least twice the daily recommended amount of alcohol in a single drinking session; this is above the regional average of 10% (*North West Public Health Observatory*).



Education & Skills

Key Facts

- **Total Number of Schools:** 107
 - **Number of Primary Schools:** 79
 - **Number of Secondary Schools:** 11
 - **Other:** 17
- **Attainment:** In 2010, 90.1% of the district's pupils gained 5+ A*-C GCSEs (75.3% nationally).
(Department for Education (DfE))
- **Qualifications:** 31.24% of the district's population are qualified to degree level or above (23.78% nationally).
(Acxiom 2010)
- It is thought that 3% of primary and 2% of secondary pupils in the district have a first language that is not English.
(Harrogate Migration Profile November 2011)

■ Attainment

In 2010, the district's primary and secondary school pupils' achieved above the national average across key stage 2 and 4. Furthermore, secondary school attainment has improved year-on-year over a 4 year period *(DfE)*.

■ Pupil Teacher Ratios

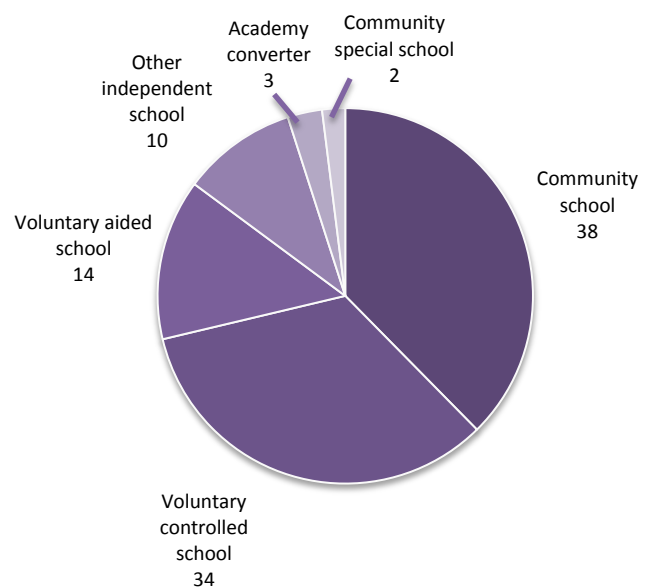
Within the district's primary schools there are 21 pupils to every teacher and 16 pupils to every teacher within secondary schools. This is consistent with the National average *(DfE)*.

■ Skills

A higher percentage of the district's working-age population consider themselves skilled in areas such as management, marketing, communications, Microsoft Office and customer care compared to the North Yorkshire and national average *(Acxiom 2009)*.

20.65% of people in the district can speak a second language – over 4% above the national average *(Acxiom 2010)*.

School Type (where more than one of that type exists within the district) *(DfE 2011)*



■ Further Education

In 2010, 3.1 % of the district's 16-18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 4.4% in North Yorkshire (LAA – NI 117). Harrogate College is a higher education institution and in 2010/11 had 964 number of students enrolled with potential enrolment of 923 in 2011/12 (<16yr olds).



Technology

Key Facts

- **Internet Connectivity:** 74.81% of people within the district are connected to the internet - over 2% above the national average
- **Computer Ownership:** a higher than average percentage of the district's population own a computer (see graph below)
(Acxiom 2010)

- **Computer Ownership/Literacy**

27% of the district's population have skills in Microsoft Office – compared to 23% nationally.

11.24% of the district have a handheld computer e.g. Blackberry (8.3% nationally) *(Acxiom 2010)*.

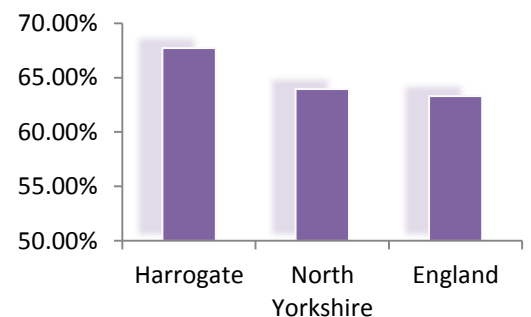
- **Internet**

97.12% of the domestic internet connections within the district are broadband. This is above the national average *(Acxiom 2010)*. However, as seen on the map to the right, there remains a significant number of broadband 'not spots' (no broadband provision) which impact upon business, enterprise and access to services; especially in the more rurally isolated areas.

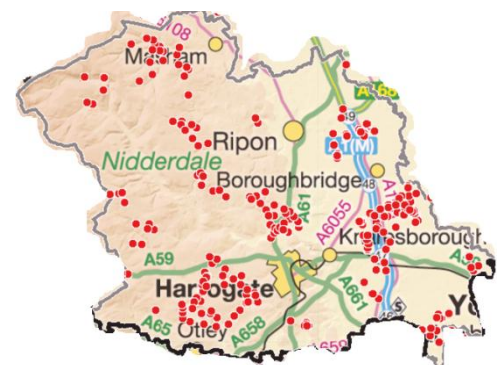
'Connecting North Yorkshire' is developing community broadband schemes, which rely on aggregating the needs and wishes of the community for better broadband *(NYCC: Connecting North Yorkshire Vision)*.

As seen below, residents of the district utilise the internet for a wide range of purposes *(Acxiom 2010)*.

Computer Ownership (% of population)
(Acxiom 2010)



Broadband 'Not Spots' (NYCC)



Use the internet for...	Harrogate	North Yorkshire	England
Ebay	45.40%	44.33%	42.88%
Email	75.21%	71.72%	72.84%
Gambling/Betting	4.96%	5.50%	5.61%
Google/other search	73.19%	68.91%	68.55%
MSN Messenger	15.25%	15.32%	18.94%
News/weather information	50.95%	46.47%	47.29%
Online banking	49.08%	42.92%	44.59%
Online gaming	6.10%	6.74%	8.00%
Price comparison	51.50%	47.86%	47.67%
Social networking	36.33%	34.36%	36.16%
Utility bills	35.92%	31.53%	31.80%



Transport

Key Facts

- Car Ownership:** 86.92% of households within the district own at least one car (almost 8% above the National average)
(Acxiom 2010)
- Proximity to Town Centres:** 88.08% of the district's working-age population live within 40 minutes travel to a town centre; this is 4% below the National average
(STREAM: Department for Transport 2009)

Access to Services *(Department for Transport & Commission for Rural Communities 2009)*

	Harrogate	North Yorkshire	England
Households within 60 mins travel from a Hospital	93.29%	87.1%	95.38%
Households more than 8km from a Dentist	4.51%	7.67%	1.22%
Households more than 8km from a Bank or Building Society	2.61%	6.40%	1.28%
Households more than 8km from a Job Centre	34.45%	40.95%	12.53%
Households more than 6km from a Post Office	0.20%	0.75%	0.05%
Households more than 6km from a Primary School	0.00%	0.42%	0.02%
Households more than 8km from a Secondary School	4.62%	8.19%	1.45%
Households more than 8km from a Supermarket	5.73%	7.23%	0.98%

Overview

The main roads within the district include the north/south A61; linking Ripon and Harrogate with Leeds, and the A59; connecting Skipton in the west to York in the east. The A1/A1(M) runs north/south through the eastern part of the district and provides good road links with the rest of the national motorway network. The Leeds/Harrogate/York rail line provides services at Harrogate, Knaresborough and some of the villages in the south and a direct link to London Kings Cross from Harrogate has recently been introduced. Harrogate Station had 1,220,324 entries and exits in 2009/10 – 20,000 more than in 2008/09. The 'flagship' 36 Bus between Ripon/Harrogate and Leeds has been running with increased frequency for several years now.

Congestion

The three main corridors of congestion within the district are the A61 (Ripon Road/Station Parade/Leeds Road), A661 (Wetherby Road) and A59 (Knaresborough Road/Skipton Road) *(North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-16)*.

The Harrogate Borough Local Development Framework (LDF) is proposing to increase housing in the district by around 7500 by 2026; based on a conservative estimate of 6 trips per household per day, this would result in an extra 44000 new car trips.

In 2010, 11 transport related 'priority interventions' were established for the district. These included:

- Expanded walking and cycling networks (i.e. Bilton to Ripley cycle way)
- Park and Ride
- Improved local bus services
- Electrify the Harrogate Line and increase frequency
- Strengthening rural bus services
- Expansion of demand responsive bus services



The Economy

Key Facts

- **Businesses:** approximately 9,000
- **Jobs:** approximately 87,000
- **Business Size:** Only 0.5% of businesses employ over 250 staff, but account for over 21% of jobs in the district.
(HBC Economic Development Strategy 2010)
- **Economically Active Population:** 74.7% (76.2% in the UK) (NOMIS)

Economic Profile

The majority of the Harrogate district economy (approximately 80%) is most strongly influenced by relationships with the wider Leeds (city region) economy, particularly Harrogate town itself. The remaining 20% (including some of the market towns and rural areas) has more affinity with the North Yorkshire and York economy.

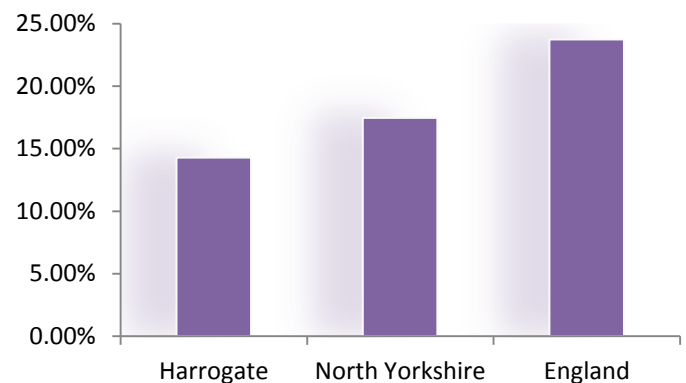
The tourism and visitor economy represents around 25 per cent of the district's total economy, contributing £500m annually and supporting some 23,000 jobs.

Financial and business services account for over 18% of district employment, with large employers including Engage Mutual, Royal Bank of Scotland, Link and TSYS. The manufacturing sector accounts for 12% of employment (c. 8,900 jobs); employment in public administration, education and health totals 24% of jobs (HBC: latest published figures at March 2010)

The district boasts an internationally recognised conference and exhibition centre which generates approximately £150 million in Harrogate town.

It isn't just the Harrogate economy that enjoys a boost from the activities of Harrogate International Centre. The business also helps generate 3,000 jobs in the district in support industries such as hotels and guest houses, restaurants and shops and transport and event services.

Council Tax Benefit Claimants (% of population)
(DWP Nov 2010)



Economic Health

Unemployment: Whilst 1,989 (2.0% of district) of the working age population were claiming Job Seekers Allowance in September 2011; this was below the national average of 3.9% (DWP and NYCC).

Benefit Claimants: the average number of Council Tax and Housing Benefit claimants per month rose by 20% over 4 years to the end of 2010/11 (HBC).

Shop Vacancy Rate: 7.7% across the district with Ripon having the highest percentage of vacant shops (13%) (HBC September 2011)

When compared to the national average, 3% more of the district's population are self-employed (DWP) and Harrogate district ranked 28 of 324 in its ability to 'bounce back' economically (HDCSP Plan 2011-12).

Sources of Further Information:

- **General:**

www.stream.lis.org.uk

- **Housing:**

HBC's Core Strategy DPD - <http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/pages/harrogate-3161.aspx>

HBC's Housing Services - <http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/pages/housing-100007.aspx>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housingview/>

- **Transport:**

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/>

[North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-16](#)

- **Health & Wellbeing:**

District Health Profile 2011 - <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=105251>

- **The Environment:**

The Action for the Environment Group - <http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/Pages/harrogate-1255.aspx>

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>

- **Culture & Leisure:**

<http://www.destinationculture.org.uk/>

- **The Economy:**

HBC Business and Economic Development - <http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/Pages/harrogate-267.aspx>

- **Community Safety:**

<http://www.saferharrogate.org.uk/>

<http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk>

<http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/>

- **The Voluntary & Community Sector:**

<http://www.harrogatecvs.org.uk/>

<http://www.riponcvs.co.uk/>