

Stonehouse Report

Neighbourhood profile

Stonehouse is characterised by high levels of deprivation, ranked the second most deprived neighbourhood in the city on the IMD, with higher than average low income homes, low levels of educational attainment, and a higher than average mortality rate. It has a higher proportion of younger people than the city average particularly in the 20–30 age group. The housing mix indicates a higher proportion of flats than elsewhere in the city, making up 70% of accommodation, the majority of the rest being terraced housing. There is also a high number of empty properties. The area is under-served by GP's compared to other areas in the city.

Stonehouse has been described as a collection of different 'neighbourhoods', with Union St acting as a physical divide between communities – statistics between the north and south of Union St are different. Stonehouse also contains the historic area of Stonehouse Peninsula. There is no library or community centre, and there is a lack of housing development sites.

Figures from 2012-13 unless stated

- Population of 10,476: 55.2% male, 44.8 % female
- 23.9% claiming benefit compared to city average of 11%
- Rate of ASB of 94.6 per 1000 population, compared to a city wide figure of 39.5
- Rate of all crime 208.3 per 1000 population compared to a city wide figure of 72.4
- Rate of children in need is 1,408 per 10,000 population aged 0-17
- Life expectancy 2010-12 was 77.8, compared to city figure of 80.5
- 34.6% of private sector homes classed as non- decent in 2010 compared to city average of 33.3%
- The rate of all clients in receipt of care packages was 423 per 10,000 population as compared to a city wide figure of 354.5
- 35.5% of pupils achieved 5 or more A* – C grades at GCSE compared to a city wide figure of 61.1%

Community Infrastructure

There are a number of resident and 'friends' groups: Stonehouse Residents Association, North Rd West Residents Association, Royal William Yard Residents Association, Friends of Devonport Park, High St flats informal group, Millfields Residents Association, Friends of Wyndham Sq (not met for a while), Stonehouse Action – support all of Stonehouse but main aim is to connect old and new communities, eg Millbay and Union St area.

Centres

Oasis – foodbank, lunches, provide advice and support, Union Corner – set up by Stonehouse Action as a space for community activity and volunteering, Manor St Childrens Centre, Fredrick St Youth Centre

Clubs

Stonehouse Tennis Club – opening up to local people eg free tennis lessons for local children

Other

Timebank, Millfields Inspired - new charity set up by CEDT, George House homeless hostel – very active and keen on linking with wider community, Stonehouse Play Association, Creative Arts School also housing Pride, REC and Street Factory.

Collaborative enforcement pilot

Proposal for pilot in city centre and Stonehouse agreed by Cabinet in Dec 2014, working on the ‘don’t walk by’ principle for all partner agencies. Agreed priorities are legal highs, abandoned vehicles, engagement and review of data sets.

Community views about priorities:

1000 houses were door knocked in May 2015. The biggest issues are as follows:

- Parking - including parking permits with limited residents parking, signage and rights of carers visiting clients
- Rubbish collection – rubbish left after bin collections, some fly tipping hot spots, residents leaving bins out
- Drugs
- Drunken or rowdy behaviour