

## 3.2 Early Years

### Why this matters?

“Observational research and intervention studies show that the foundations of adult health are laid in early childhood and before birth. Slow growth and poor emotional support raise the lifetime risk of poor physical health and reduce physical, cognitive and emotional functioning in adulthood. Poor early experience and slow growth become embedded in biology during the processes of development, and form the basis of the individual’s biological and human capital, which affects health throughout life.”<sup>1</sup>

This is why the Marmot review of Health Inequalities in England 2010 highlighted that child development at age 5 is an important indicator of health and wellbeing. It therefore recommended a focus on ‘giving every child the best start in life’ with a particular emphasis on the under 5s.



**Note: Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) is a national measure of expected development for children in primary school reception classes. It covers 13 areas including communication, language, literacy, numeracy and personal development. Each of the thirteen areas is scored between 0 and 9.**

**Up to September 2012, the national expectation was that children achieve at least 78 points including at least 6 in each of communication, language and literacy and personal, social and emotional development.**

**A revised Early Years Foundation Stage profile came into effect in September 2012. Under the new measurement a child is considered to have achieved a ‘Good Level of Development’ (GLD) if they have achieved at least the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language) and in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy. Because the approach to measurement is different, it will not be possible to compare 2013 data onwards with previous years.**

The proportion of Newcastle children achieving a ‘good level of development’ at the Early Year Foundation Stage, rose by 26 percentage points from 43% in 2013 to 69.3% in 2016. This compares to a 2016 national average of 69.1% and an average amongst our statistical neighbours of 65.4%.

Figure 3.2-2 presents the percentage of children achieving a ‘Good Level of Development’ at the Early Year Foundation Stage from 2013 to 2016 by ward. 2016 ward averages range from 87% in West Gosforth to 53% in Westgate.

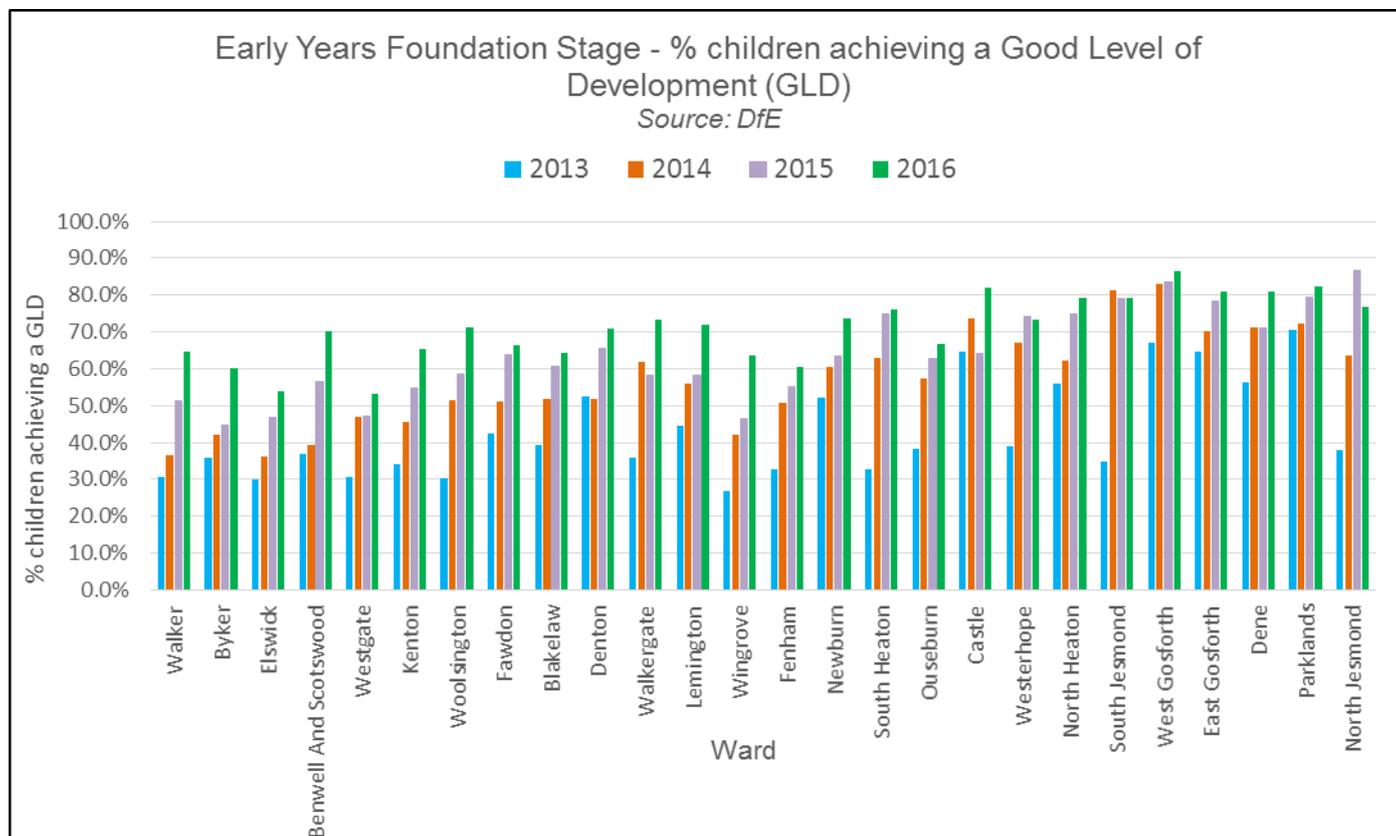


Figure 3.2-2: Percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development at EYFS by ward in 2016. Source: Department for Education 2016.

## References and Sources

<sup>1</sup> Wilkinson, R. and Marmot, M (editors) (2003) “Social determinants of health: the solid facts”. 2nd edition, World Health Organisation.