



BIHR COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group (C-SAG)* Briefing Paper

Born in Bradford pre-COVID-19 Child Wellbeing Survey

Date: 11th June 2020

Background

Born in Bradford (BiB) administered a survey to primary school children in 89 Bradford schools between 2016 and 2019. The children were aged 7-10 when they completed the survey, in Years 3 and 4 with previously missed children assessed in year 5. This is an initial summary of responses from 15,641 children. Children within Born in Bradford's ongoing cohort study are currently being asked to complete some of these questions again to find out the impact of the COVID-19 response on child wellbeing.

This briefing summarises pre-COVID-19 child wellbeing in Bradford and highlights the prevalence of vulnerabilities to support planning during the crisis and recovery period.

Methods

For this report, we grouped questions within four domains: (1) home, family and family relationships, (2) material resources, (3) friends and school, (4) subjective (self-reported) wellbeing. Within each domain, we then defined 'vulnerabilities' on the basis of research showing these to be childhood risk factors for long-term health, wellbeing, educational attainment, and social mobility. The risk factors that we label as vulnerabilities are, by domain:

- **Home, family, family relationships:** family never gets along, no garden, no nearby park, never plays in park
- **Material resources:** no winter coat, not having 3 meals a day, no internet at home, worried about money all the time
- **Friends and school:** don't like school, not many friends, bullied, mean to others all the time, feel left out all the time
- **Subjective wellbeing:** never happy, always sad, ill/unwell all of the time, keep worries to self, can never work out what to do when things are hard

It is important to note that these are not the extreme vulnerabilities (living in family with an adult with drug/alcohol problems or mental health problems, domestic abuse) that are modelled for [local areas by the Children's Commissioner](#), rather these are more common risk factors with long-term consequences. It should also be noted that the data are self-reported by the children.

Schools reported the ethnicity of students answering the survey.

Table 1: Number of respondents by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
Pakistani	6773	43.30
Bangladeshi	459	2.93
Indian	350	2.24
Black/Black British	276	1.76
White British	4226	27.02
Mixed	890	5.69
Gypsy/Irish Traveller	190	1.21
White Other	707	4.52
Other	423	2.70
Unknown	1347	8.61

Summary of Key Findings

Home, family and family relationships

Most children report good family relationships, however, a worrying 1 in 20 report that their family never gets along well together. Thirteen percent don't have a garden and almost a third say there is no park near their home where they can play; 7% never play in a park. Within this domain a third of children have one of these vulnerabilities and 10% have more than one.

Material resources

Almost 1 in 10 children report not having a warm winter coat; 18% say they don't have a computer, laptop or tablet with internet access at home. Over 14% of children say they don't have three meals a day. One quarter of children say they worry about how much money their family has all of the time. Within this domain, just over a third of children have one of these vulnerabilities and 14% have more than one.

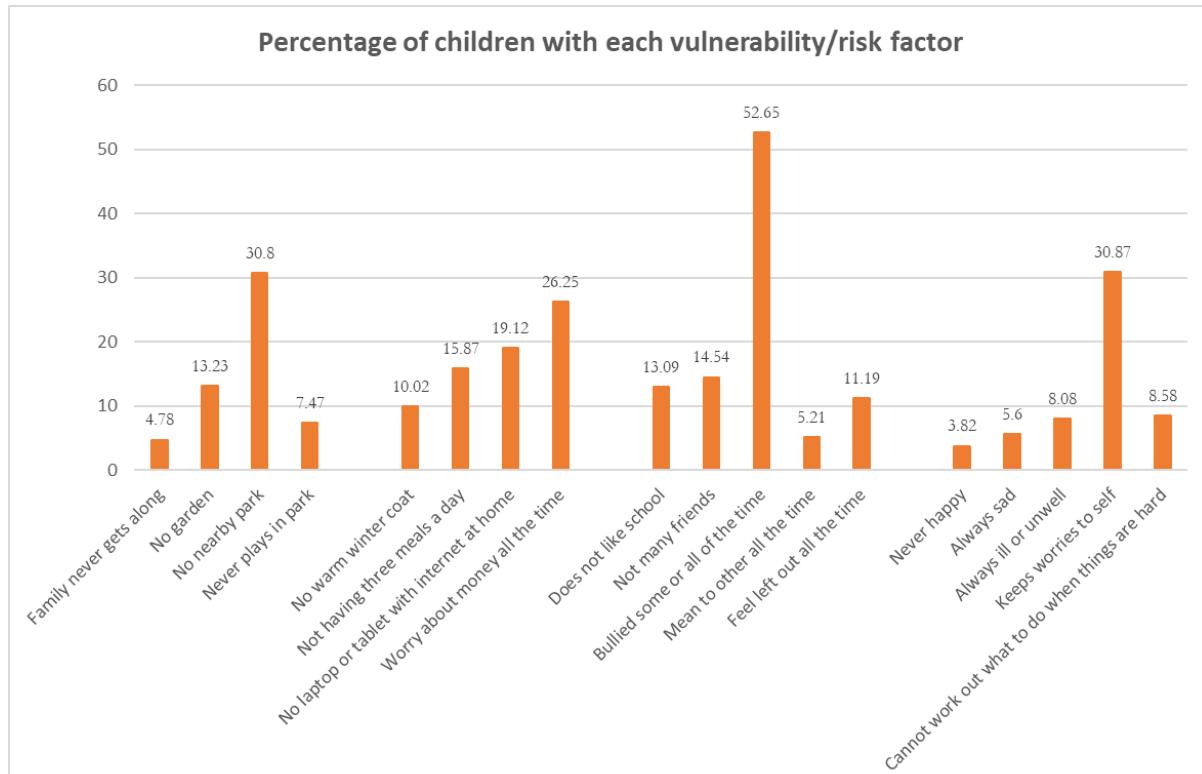
Friends and school

The majority of children like school a lot, but 13% say they do not like school. 14% say they don't have many friends; 11% say they are bullied all of the time and 41% are bullied some of the time; 11% say they feel left out of things all the time. 1 in 20 children said that they were mean to other children all of the time. Within this domain 40% of children had one of these vulnerabilities and 23% had more than one.

Self reported wellbeing

Most children are happy all or some of the time, but 4% say they are never happy and 5.5% report being sad all the time. Eight percent of children say they are ill or unwell all of the time. Almost a third of children say that if they are worried about something they keep it to themselves. Eight percent of children say they can never work out what to do when things are hard. Within this domain a third of children had one of these vulnerabilities and 10% had more than one.

Figure 1



Variation by ethnicity

There was remarkably little difference in the prevalence of vulnerabilities and deficits in child wellbeing by ethnicity. The exception was the Gypsy and Irish Traveller children who were more likely than children from other ethnic groups to be worried about money all the time and to be twice as likely to report being mean to other children all the time.

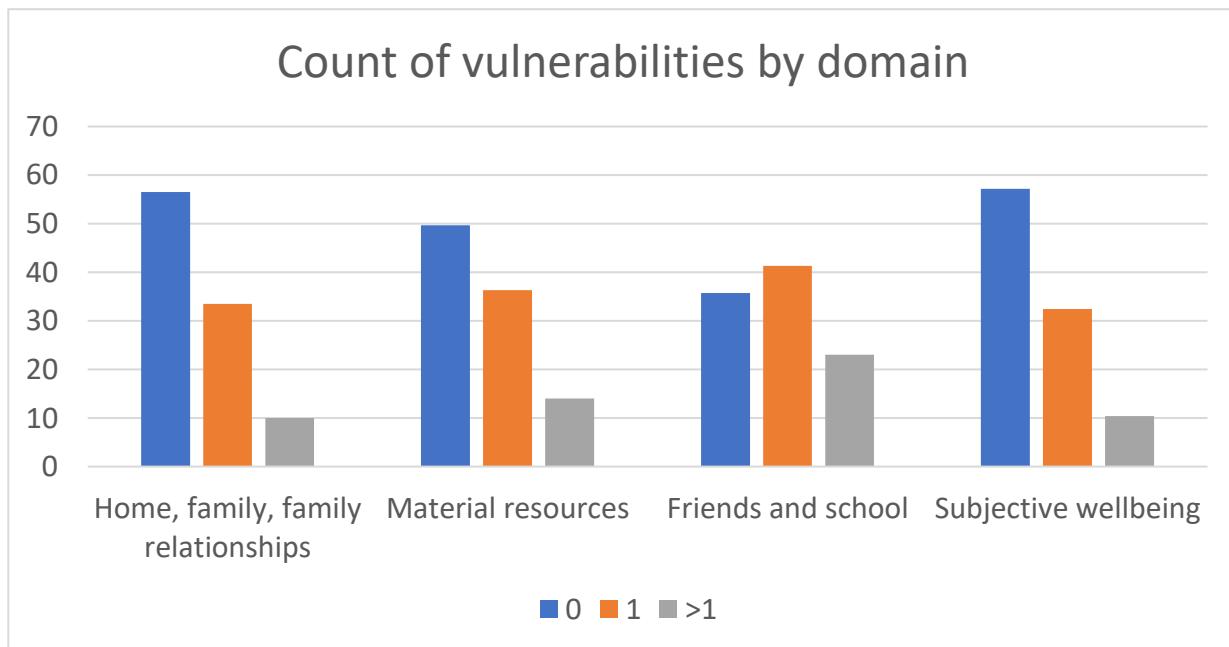
Variation by gender

Boys were consistently more likely to report vulnerabilities in the home and family relationships, material resources and subjective wellbeing domains, but the differences were not large. Within the friends and school domain, equal numbers of boys and girls had vulnerabilities.

Children with multiple vulnerabilities

Only about 1 in ten children (9.55%) have no vulnerabilities at all, and a further 1 in ten (9.71%) have more than 1 vulnerability in all four domains.

Figure 2: Number of children with zero, only one, or more than 1 vulnerability by domain



Schools

Of the 89 primary schools that took part in the survey, 14 have more than 30 children with more than 1 vulnerability in all four domains; effectively across their Year 3 and 4 age groups they have approximately a whole class size population of these vulnerable children.

To account for differences in school size we also ranked schools according to the percentage of these vulnerable children. Twelve schools had greater than 13% of these students.*

School names have been suppressed in this public briefing.

Neighbourhoods

For the 6,147 children who are also in the Born in Bradford study we can link to their most up-to-date address information and map vulnerabilities by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). Figures 3 and 4 map the percentage and the count of children with more than one vulnerability across all 4 domains across 234 LSOAs.

Figure 3

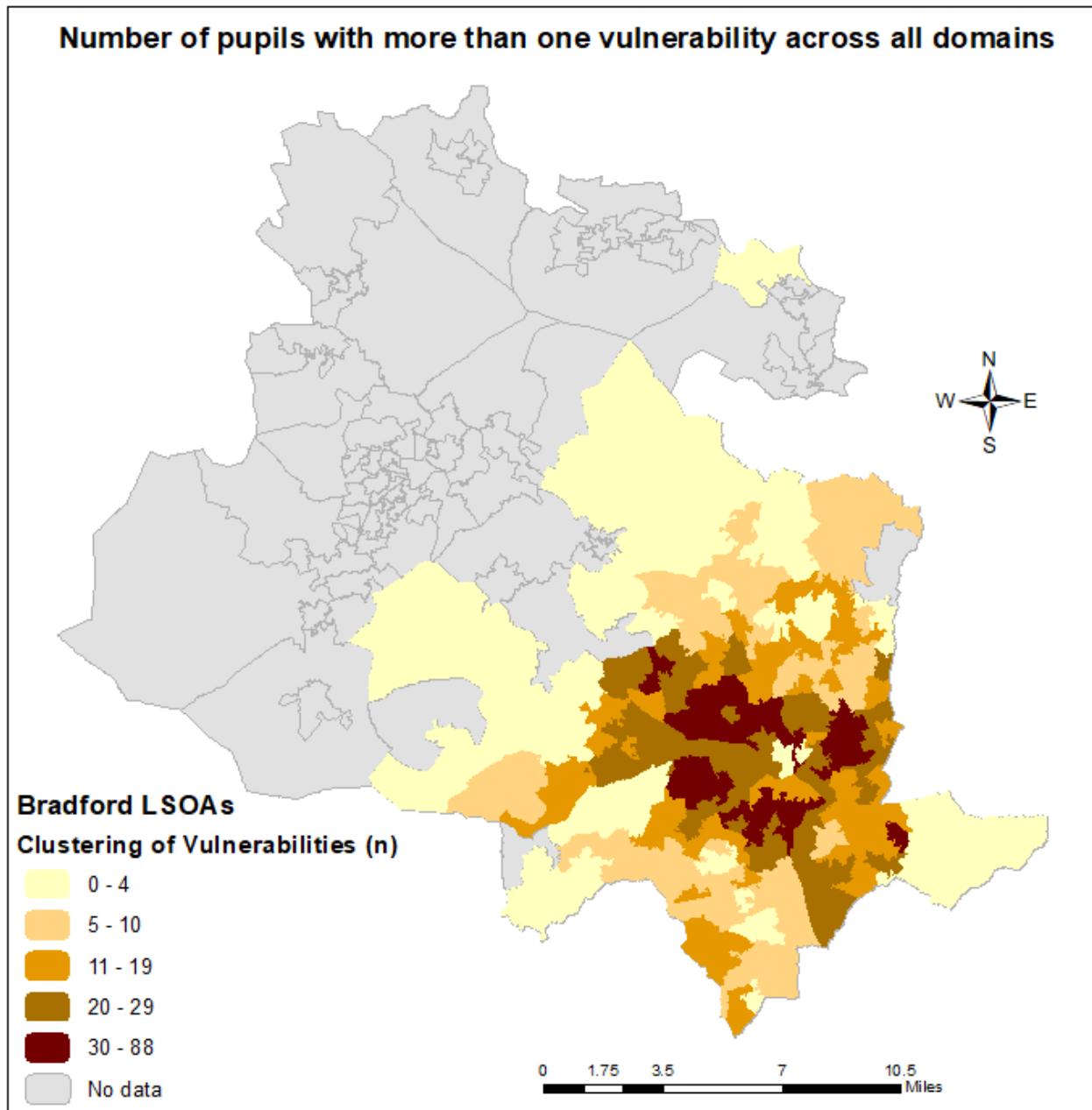
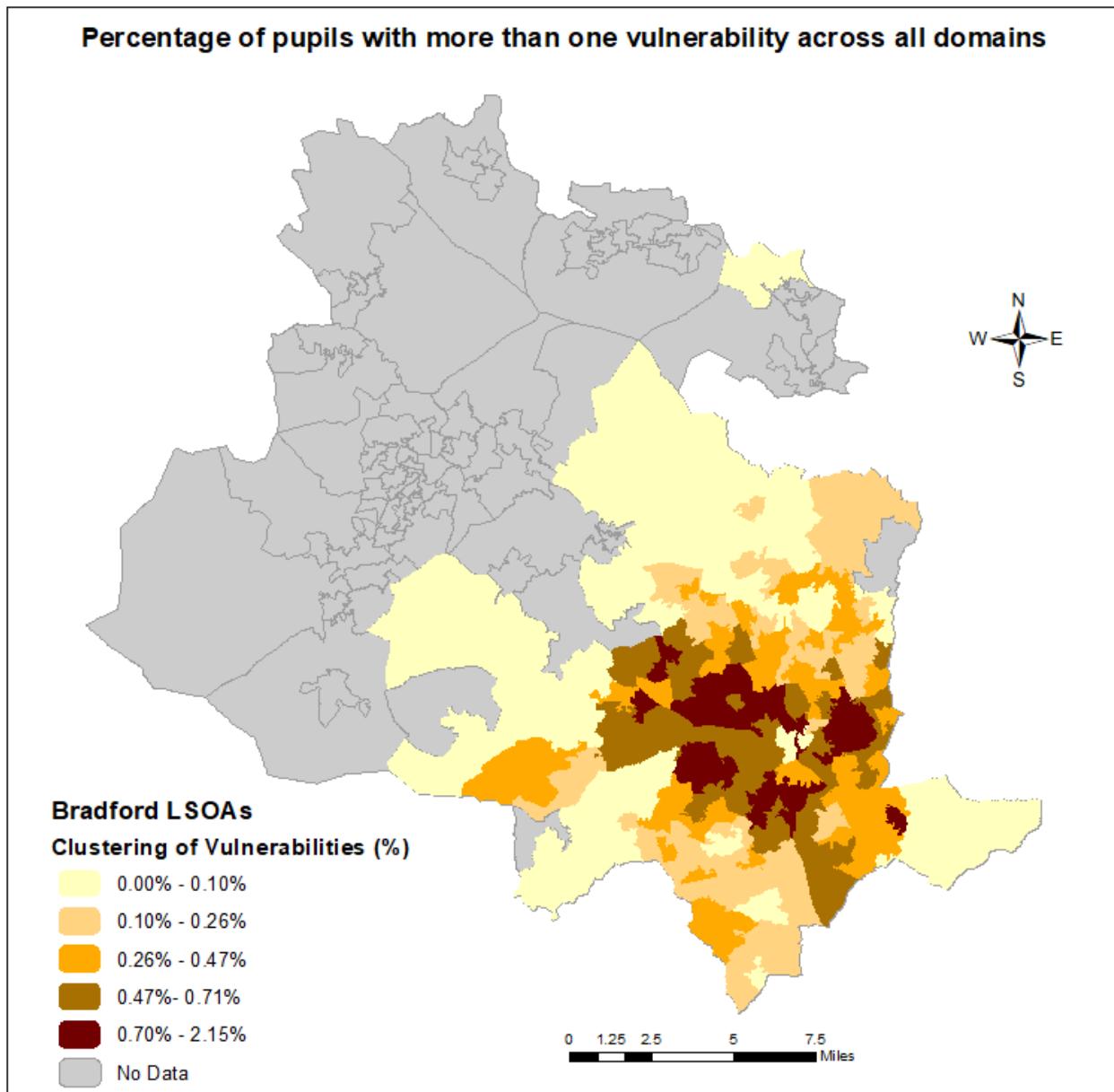


Figure 4



*The BIHR COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group (CSAG) includes members of the BIHR academic and research team. It works closely with the Bradford Multi-agency CSAG which has representatives from the NHS and local authority. Both groups aim to add value to the Bradford District response to and recovery from, COVID-19

**cut-off derived from examining distribution of percentage scores