



# Census 2021 - Health, Disability, and Unpaid Care Briefing



## Key Headlines

### General Health

- In Staffordshire, 81.7% of residents felt their health was either good or very good and 5.2% reported their health as either bad or very bad, both similar to national.
- Levels of general health have also remained similar to 2011.
- There is some variation across Staffordshire's districts with Cannock Chase reporting the highest level of bad or very bad health (6.4%) and Lichfield and Stafford the joint lowest level (4.5%).

### Disability

- 18.1% of Staffordshire residents have a disability; comprised of 10.7% whose day-to-day activities were limited a little and 7.4% whose were limited a lot.
- There has been a slight reduction in the proportion of residents who are disabled since 2011, with a reduction in those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot and a slight increase in those who are limited a little.
- Similarly, levels of disability varied across Staffordshire's districts with Cannock Chase (20.3%) reporting the highest levels of disability and Lichfield (16.7%) reporting the lowest.

### Unpaid Care

- Around one in ten (9.6%) residents aged over five provide some unpaid care every week, higher than the England average (8.9%).
- Since the last Census there has been a reduction in the proportion of residents providing unpaid care both locally and nationally, particularly those providing the least numbers of hours care (19 hours or less).
- Levels of unpaid care vary across Staffordshire's districts with Cannock Chase (10.3%) having the largest proportion of residents providing unpaid care and East Staffordshire (8.4%) the lowest.

## Introduction

Census Day took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021, with results providing a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics at a point in time. Health, disability, and unpaid care data is the final release of a series of topic summaries, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This data release provides information on general health, disability and unpaid care.

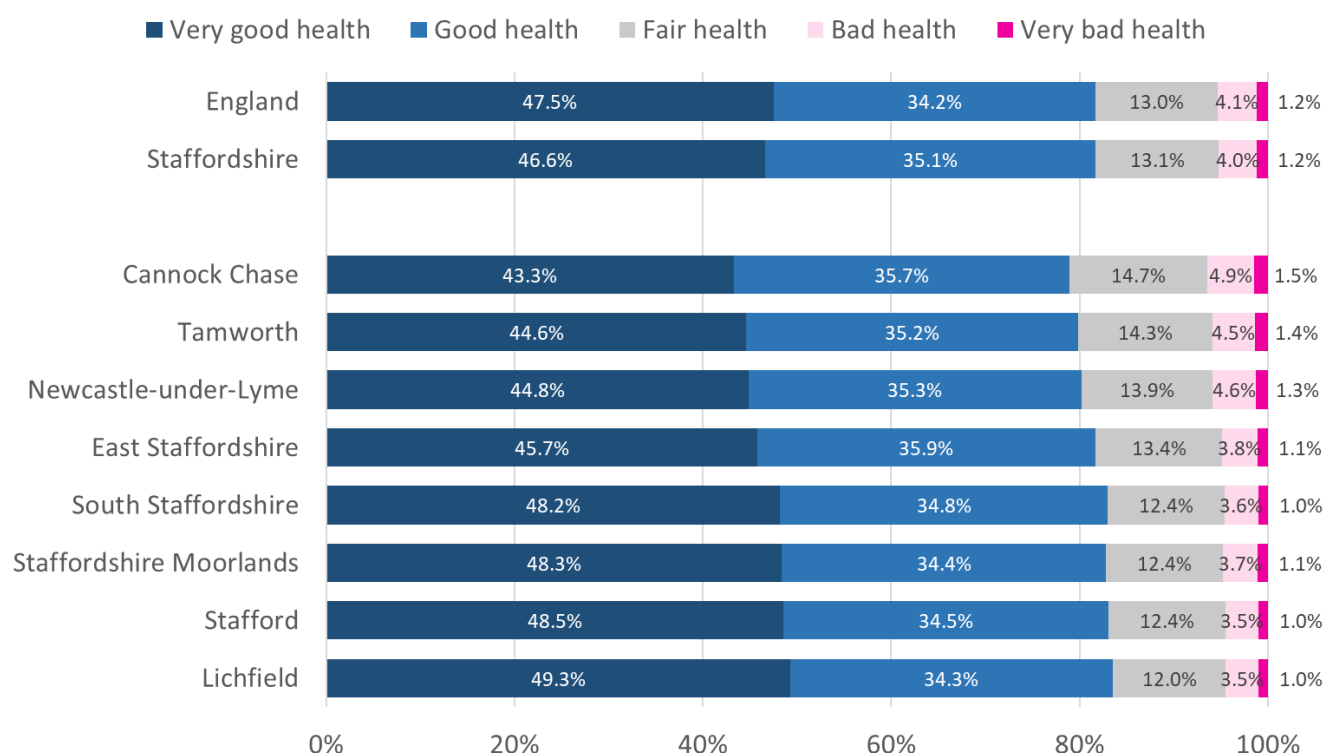
**Data Note:** Where possible, age-standardised proportions (ASPs) have been used as they allow comparison between populations that account for differences in population size and age structure. Unfortunately, ONS have not provided age standardised data for the 2011 Census or data below a district level, therefore for accuracy purposes, both comparisons over time and analysis below district level (e.g. ward and LSOA) are calculated using non-age-standardised figures.

## General Health

Across Staffordshire, 81.7% (707,100) of residents felt their health was either good or very good; in line with the England average (81.7%). 5.2% (47,900) reported their health as either bad or very bad, again similar to the England average (5.3%).

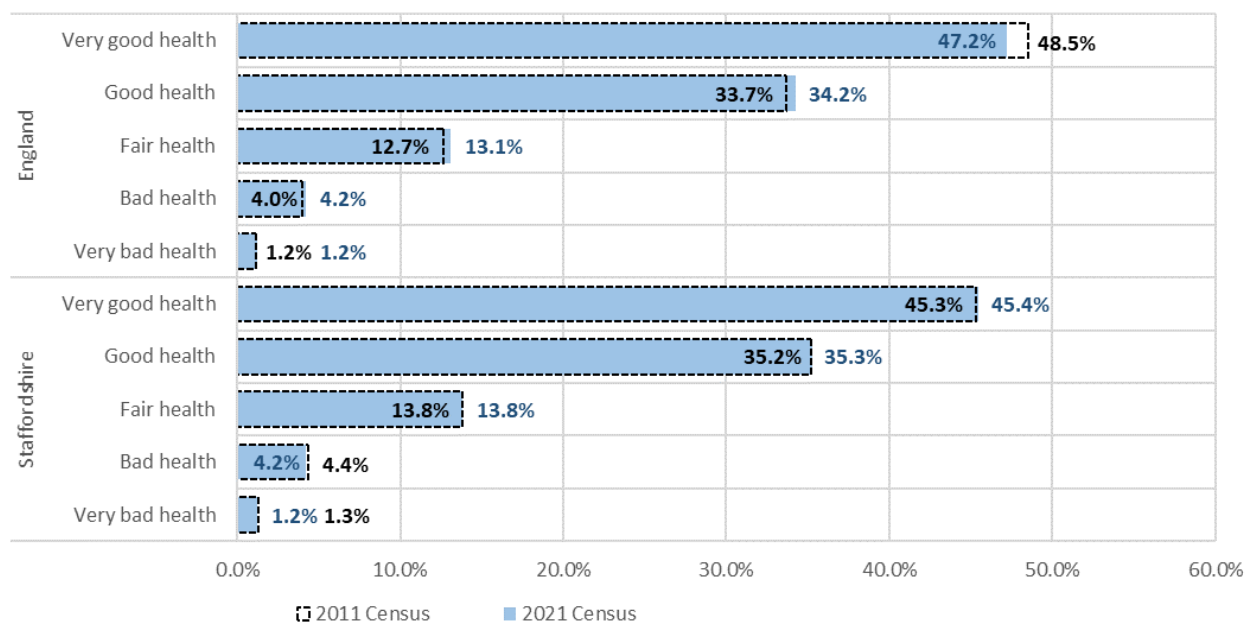
Levels of general health reported by residents varied between districts with Cannock Chase reporting the highest level of bad or very bad health (6.4%) and Lichfield and Stafford the joint lowest level (4.5%) - Figure 1.

**Figure 1** – General health in Staffordshire Districts and Boroughs, 2021



In Staffordshire in 2021, the general health reported by residents was very similar to levels in 2011, whereas nationally there was a small reduction in the total reporting good or very good health.

**Figure 2** – General health in Staffordshire and England, 2021 and 2011 (Non-age-standardised proportions)



In 2021, the five wards reported with the poorest health are Cannock North (9.1%) in Cannock Chase district, Leek North (9.1%) in Staffordshire Moorlands and Cross Heath (8.7%), Knutton (8.5%) and Holditch & Chesterton (8.3%) in Newcastle Borough.

A map showing this data at a lower level of geography, Lower Super Output Area<sup>1</sup>, can be found in Appendix 1.

<sup>1</sup> A Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographic area with a typical population of around 1,500 or 650 households.



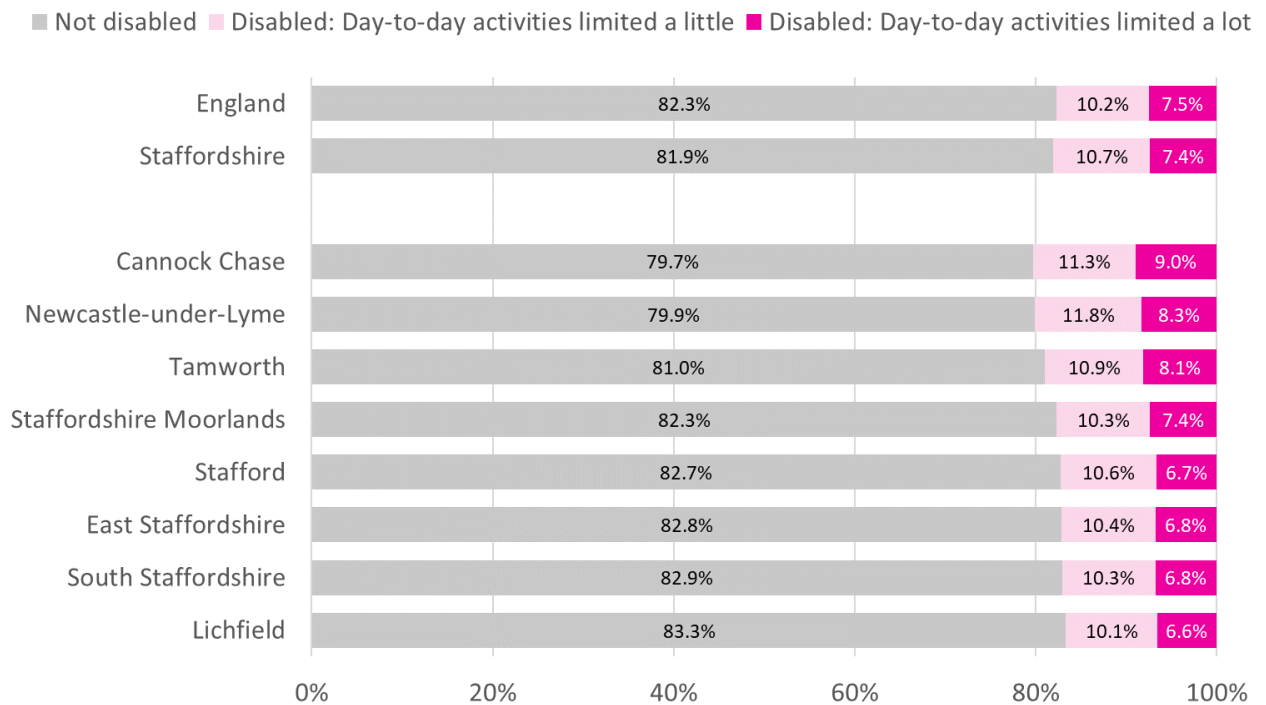
## Disability

The 2021 Census asked whether residents had any physical or mental health condition or illnesses, lasting or expected to last 12 months or more. They were then asked whether this reduced their ability to carry out day-to-day activities – in line with the Equality Act definition of disability.

Across Staffordshire, 18.1% (164,800) are reported to be disabled, higher than the England average (17.3%). Of these people, 10.7% (96,800) reported their day-to-day activities being limited a little and 7.4% (67,900) their day-to-day activities limited a lot.

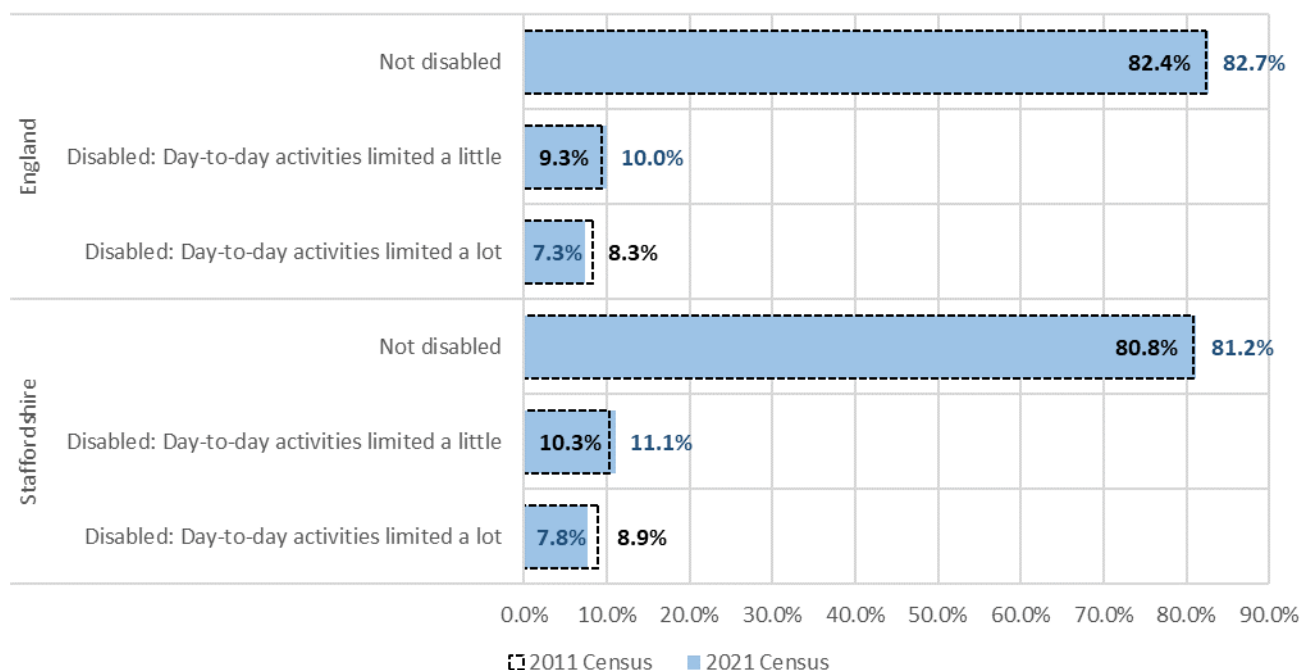
Levels of disability varied between districts with Cannock Chase (20.3%) reporting the highest levels of disability and Lichfield (16.7%) reporting the lowest levels of disability (Figure 3).

**Figure 3** - Disability in Staffordshire Districts and Boroughs, 2021



Compared to the 2011 Census, there has been a slight reduction in the proportion of residents who are disabled; with a reduction in those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot and a slight increase in those whose activities are limited a little. (Figure 4)

**Figure 1** - Disability in Staffordshire and England, 2021 and 2011  
(Non-age-standardised proportions)



The five wards with the highest levels of disability in 2021 are Leek North (25.6%) and Biddulph South (25.0%) in Staffordshire Moorlands, Featherstone & Shareshill (25.4%) in South Staffordshire, Newcastle-under-Lyme Town (25.2%) in Newcastle Borough and Cannock East (25.0%) in Cannock Chase district.

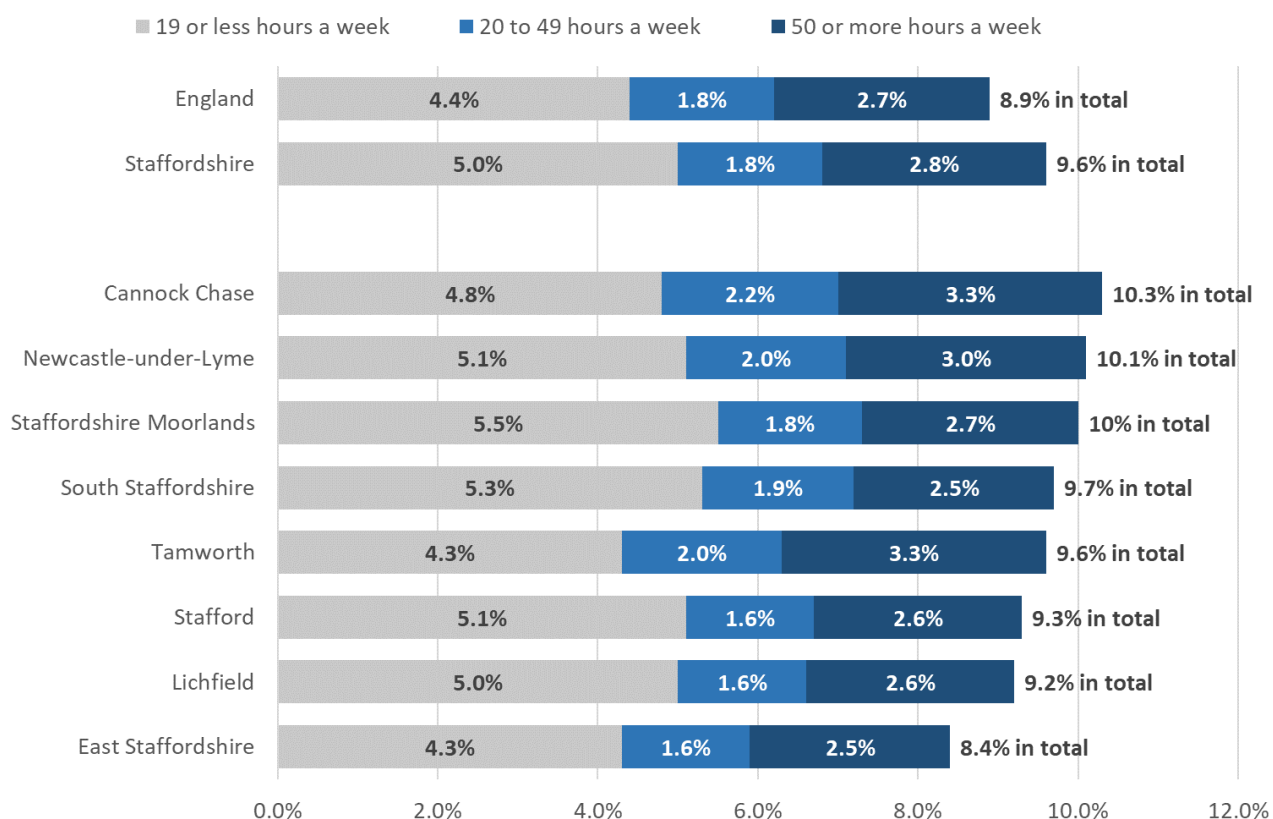
A map showing this data at a lower level of geography, Lower Super Output area, can be found in Appendix 2.

## Unpaid Carers

In Staffordshire, 9.6% (81,800) of residents over 5 years old provide some unpaid care each week; higher than the England average (8.9%). 5.0% (42,200) of residents provide less than 19 hours unpaid care, 1.8% (15,400) provide 20 to 49 hours and 2.8% (24,200) provide 50 hours or more a week.

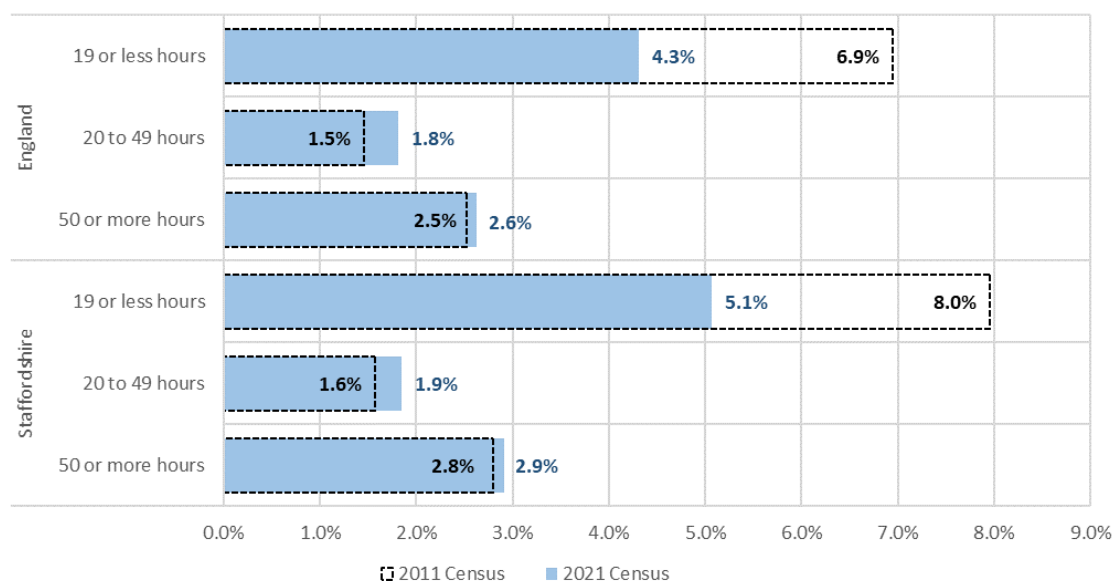
Levels varied between districts, with Cannock Chase (10.3%) reporting the highest levels of unpaid care and East Staffordshire (8.4%) the lowest (Figure 5).

**Figure 5 – Unpaid care in Staffordshire Districts and Boroughs, 2021**



Compared to 2011, both Staffordshire and nationally there has been a reduction in the overall proportion of residents providing unpaid care, particularly those providing 19 hours or less (Staffordshire - 8.0% to 5.1%, England - 6.9% to 4.3%). However, those providing a greater number of hours care has increased slightly (Figure 6).

**Figure 6 – Number of hours of unpaid care provided a week in Staffordshire, and England, 2021 and 2011. (Non-age-standardised proportions)**



In 2021, the highest levels of unpaid care are in Biddulph Moor (13.4%), Biddulph South (12.2%), Horton (12.1%) and Churnet (11.7%) in the Staffordshire Moorlands and Hednesford North (11.4%) in Cannock Chase. In contrast, the wards with the lowest levels are in East Staffordshire, in the Burton area.

A map showing the proportion providing unpaid care (total) at a lower level of geography, Lower Super Output area, can be found in Appendix 3.



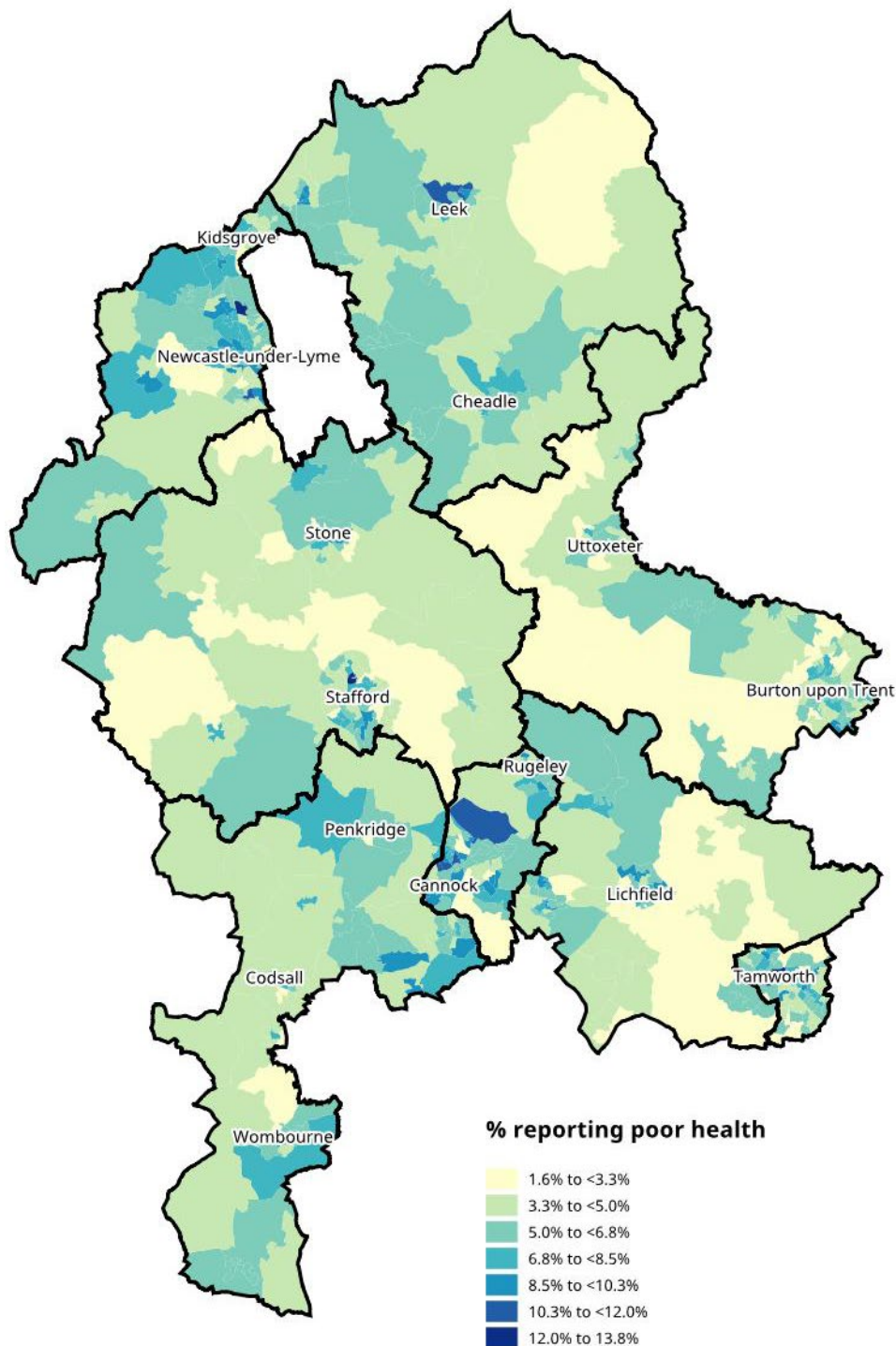
## Useful Links

The ONS data is available to explore and use now, with a number of helpful resources made publicly available.

- Access to the ONS data tables can be found [here](#).
- ONS Local Authority interactive guide is available [here](#).

For more information contact the Insight Team at:  
[insight.team@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:insight.team@staffordshire.gov.uk).

**Appendix 1** – Percentage in Poor Health (bad and very bad health combined) by Lower Super Output Areas<sup>2</sup>, 2021.

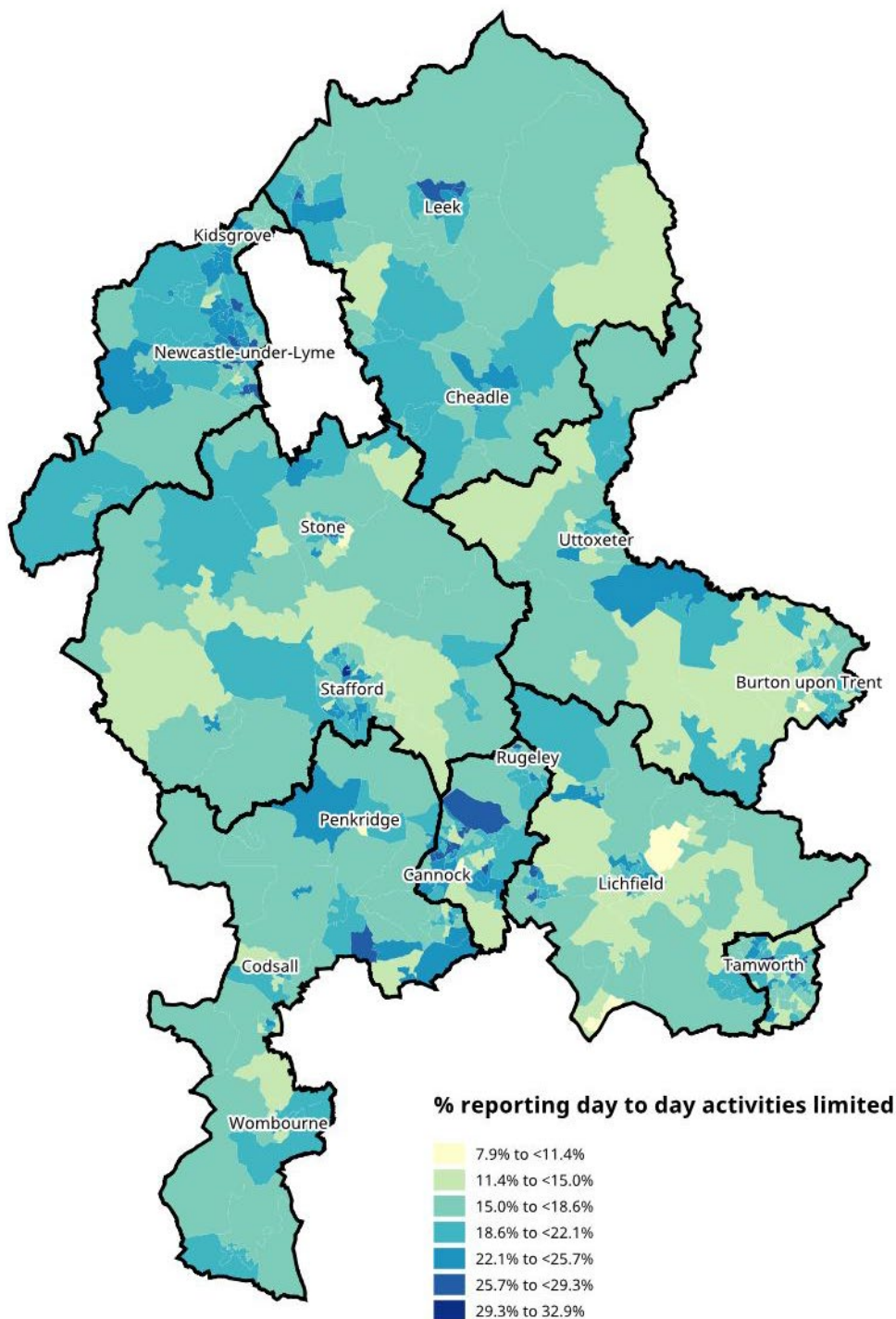


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<sup>2</sup> A Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographic area with a typical population of around 1,500 or 650 households.



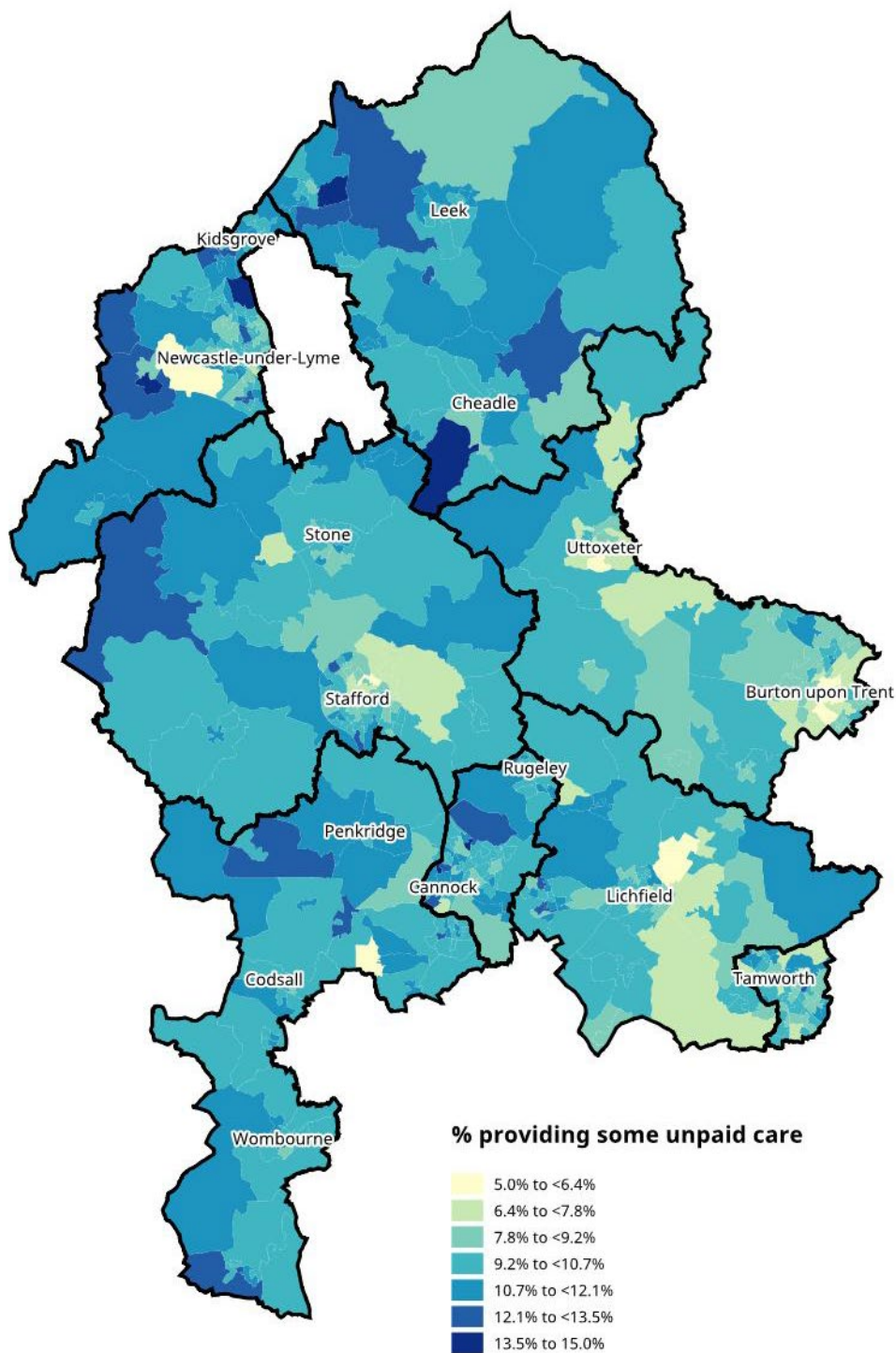
**Appendix 2** – Disability (disabled with day-to-day activities limited a lot or a little) by Lower Super Output Area<sup>3</sup>, 2021.



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<sup>3</sup> A Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographic area with a typical population of around 1,500 or 650 households.

### Appendix 3 – Provision of unpaid care by Lower Super Output Area<sup>4</sup>, 2021



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<sup>4</sup> A Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographic area with a typical population of around 1,500 or 650 households.