

# InformGloucestershire

## Personal Strengths and Social Capital - Baseline Findings

*An asset-based approach recognises the potential of people's strengths and resilience. It moves the narrative from solutions that are narrowly focused on needs, towards policies and interventions that are redesigned around what people and communities already possess and are capable of doing.*

*Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)*

### Active and Supportive Communities

- Overall, Gloucestershire communities fare better than the nation on a range of social capital measures such as personal relationships, social network support, and trust and co-operative norms. However, Gloucestershire communities are less active in civic engagement in comparison with the average national picture.
- There are large variations in social capital between geographies within the County. For instance, communities in Cheltenham and Gloucester in general are estimated to be less likely to have a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood compared to other districts, and on this measure Cotswold scores the highest.
- Even within district, huge disparities in social capital exist between local communities. In general the more deprived an area is, the lower level of social capital that area has.

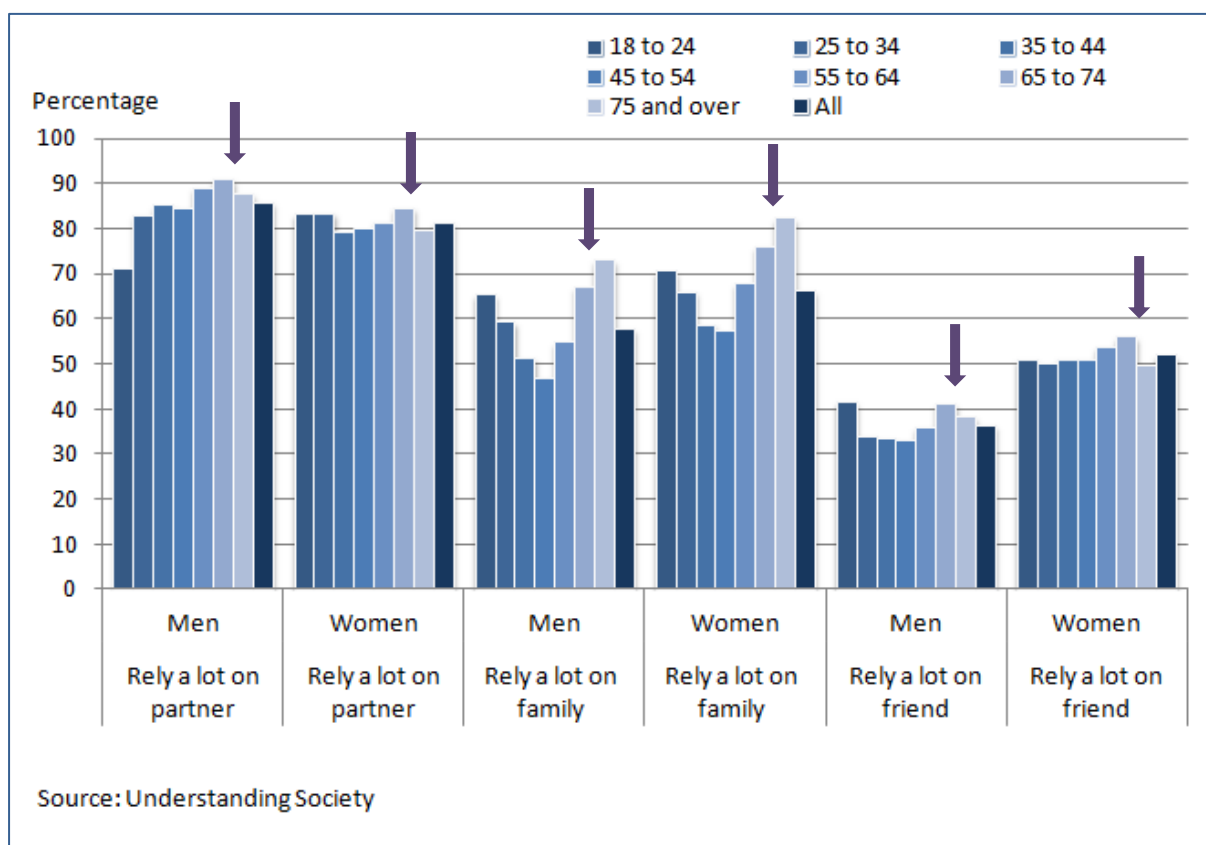
### Older People

- Various measures seem to suggest that old-age in itself is not necessarily felt as a deficit among many older people.
- On personal wellbeing, a higher proportion of older people have reported very high level of life satisfaction, worthwhileness and happiness than the younger age groups. The higher proportion of personal wellbeing persists from 65 years of age through to the very old age. The exception is on the measure of feeling worthwhile; in this case the proportion starts to dip from the age of 90.



- Compared to the younger age groups, older people are also reported to be more likely to regularly stop and talk with people in their neighbourhood, meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues at least once a week, feel they belong to their local area, be willing to help their neighbours and trust people in their local area.
- The 65-74 age group, in particular, shows a relatively high level of social capital. For instance, they are more likely than other age groups to have volunteered in the past 12 months, be interested in politics, be members of political, voluntary, professional or recreational organisations, and feel most people can be trusted (but not the central government!).
- On loneliness, the European Quality of Life Survey found that the proportion of people aged 65+ in the UK feeling lonely half, most or all of the time is comparable to that among the 35-64 age group.
- Women tend to have a wider support network than men, and this pattern persists through ages. Whilst similar proportions of men and women aged 65+ feel they can rely a lot on their partner in case of a serious problem, a much lower proportion of men than women feel they can access such support from their family and friends.

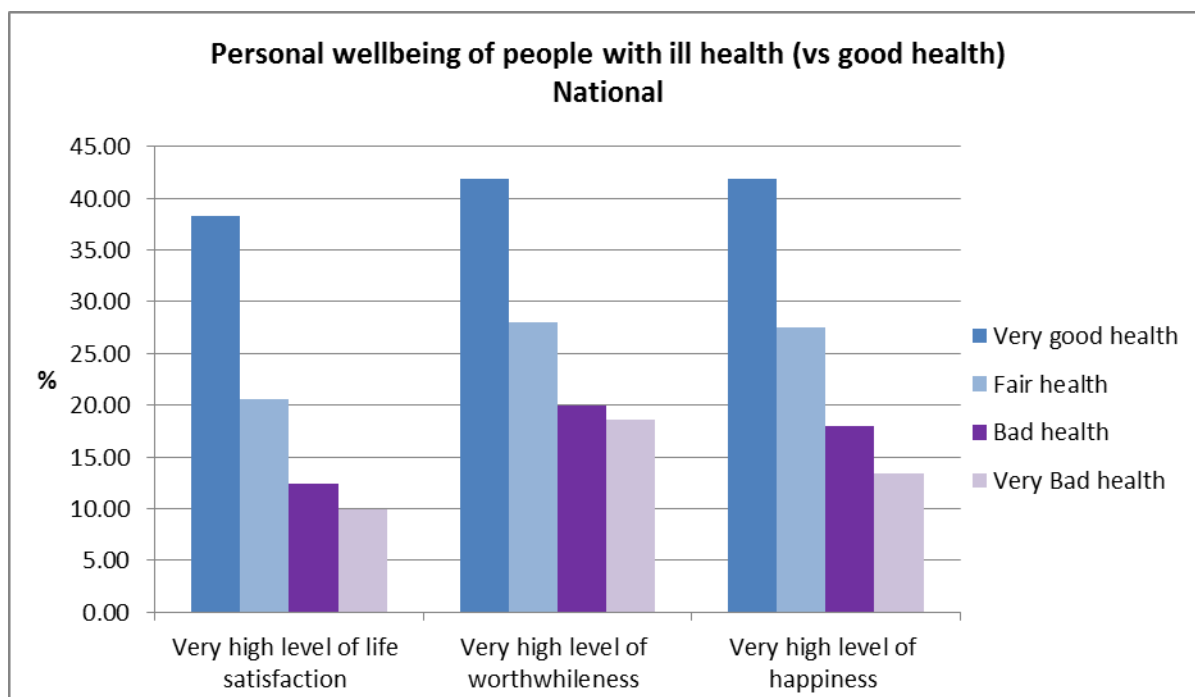
**Proportion of people who feel they can rely a lot on their partner, family and friends in case of a serious problem (vs younger age groups), 2010 to 2011, UK**



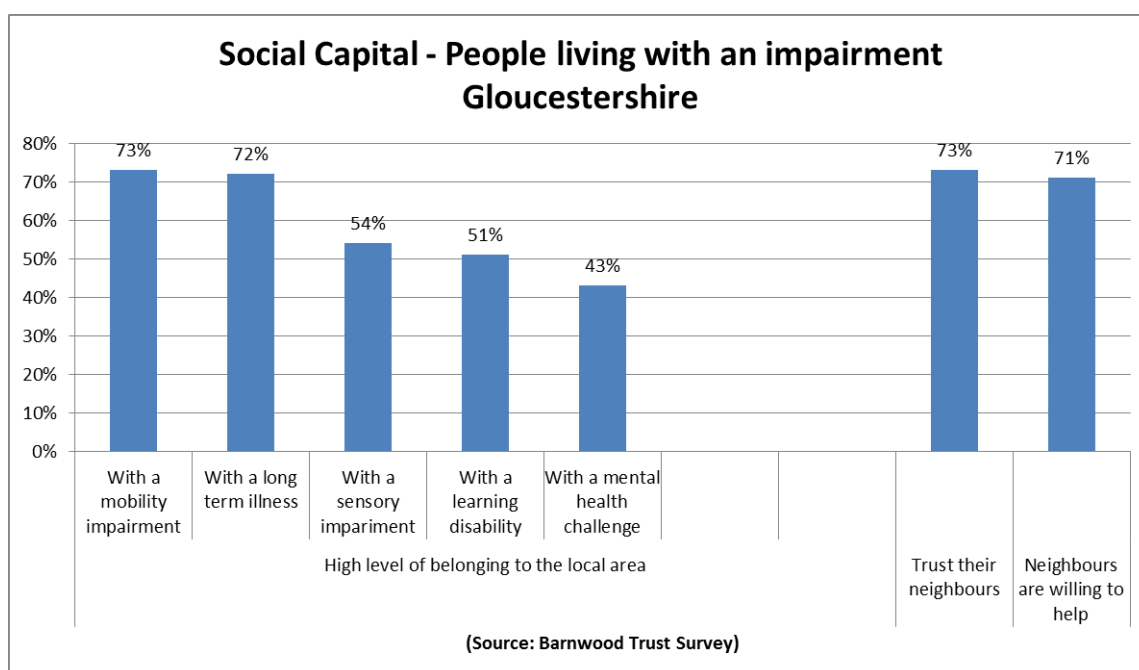
- The proportion of people using the internet decreases with age so that the proportion of people aged 75+ using the internet is the lowest of all age groups. However, more than 85% of the 55-64 age band and 70% of the 65-74 age band are currently internet users, meaning that within 5-10 years, usage among the over-75s will rise rapidly.

### Adults with Disabilities

- Health is found to be a key factor affecting a person's sense of wellbeing, and survey shows a direct link between a person's state of health and their reporting of sense of wellbeing.
- The proportion of people reporting very high level of life satisfaction, worthwhileness and happiness dropped rapidly from around 38-42% among those who have very good health to 10-18% among those who have very bad health.



- People with a disability are also less likely to use the internet; just 70% compared to over 90% of those without a disability, meaning that three in ten people with a disability are not able to access information or services available online themselves.
- A person's disability type is found to be associated with their sense of belonging to their local area. People with a mental health issue, learning disability or sensory impairment are less likely to have a high level of sense of belonging to their local area than those with mobility impairment.

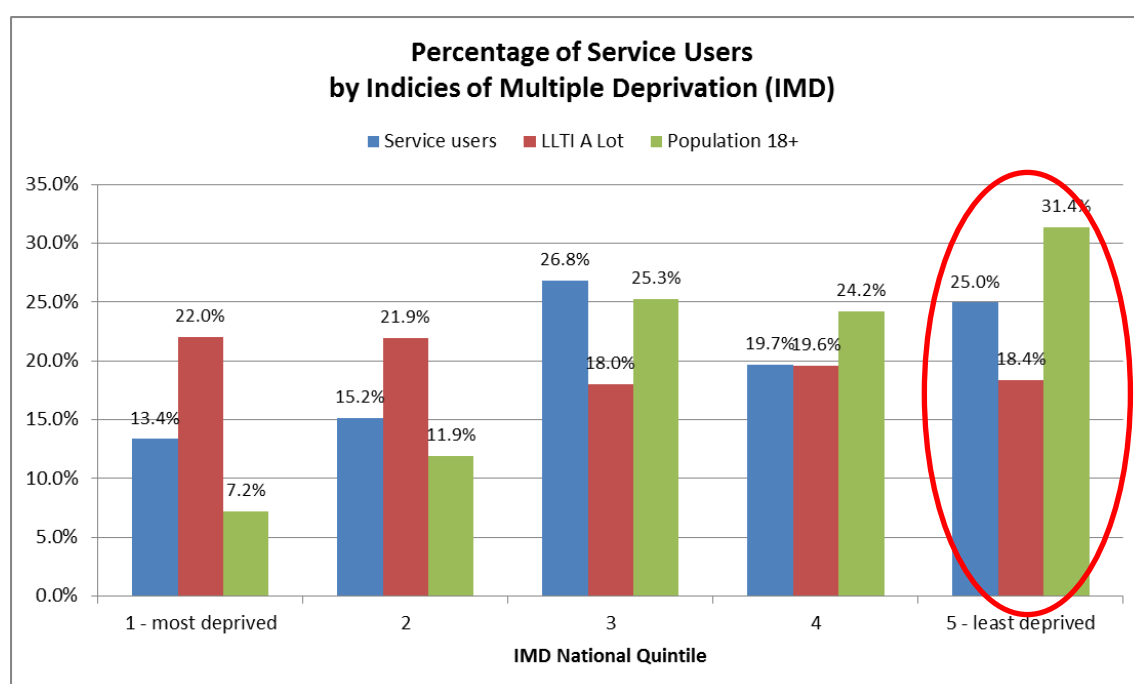


## Service Users – Personal strengths and social capital

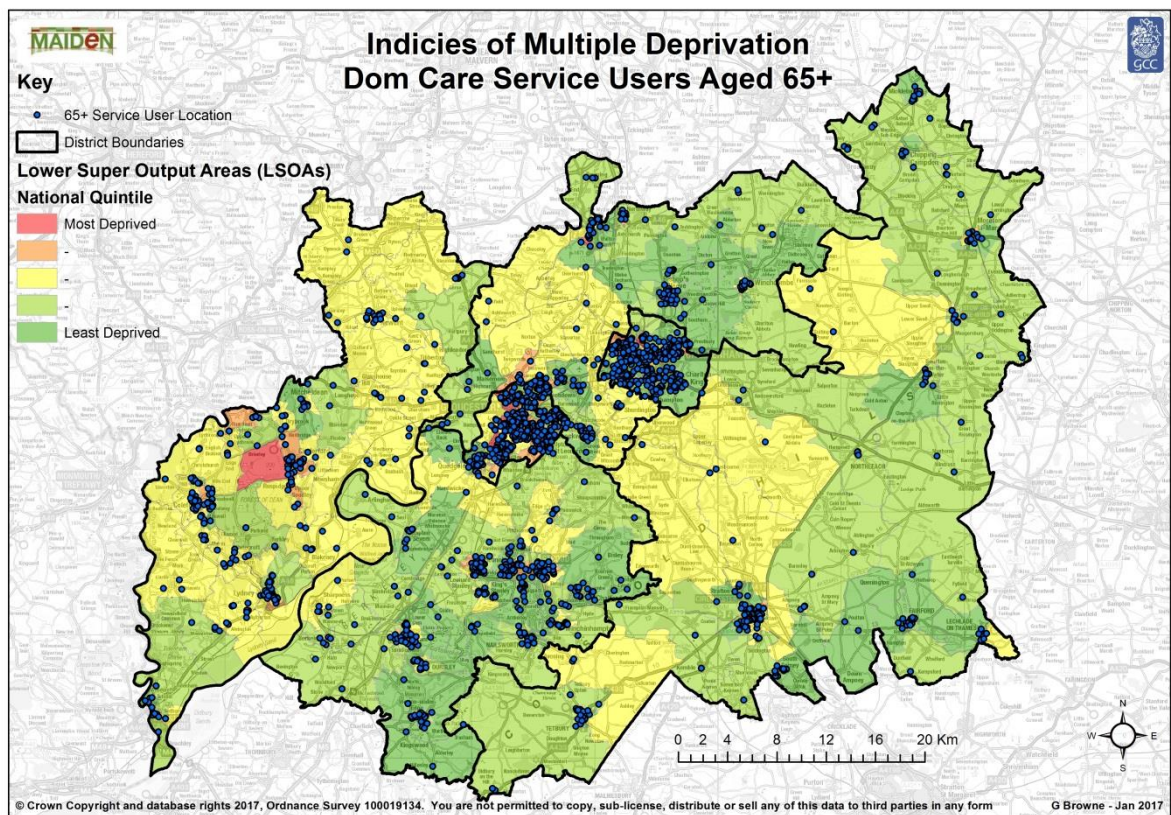
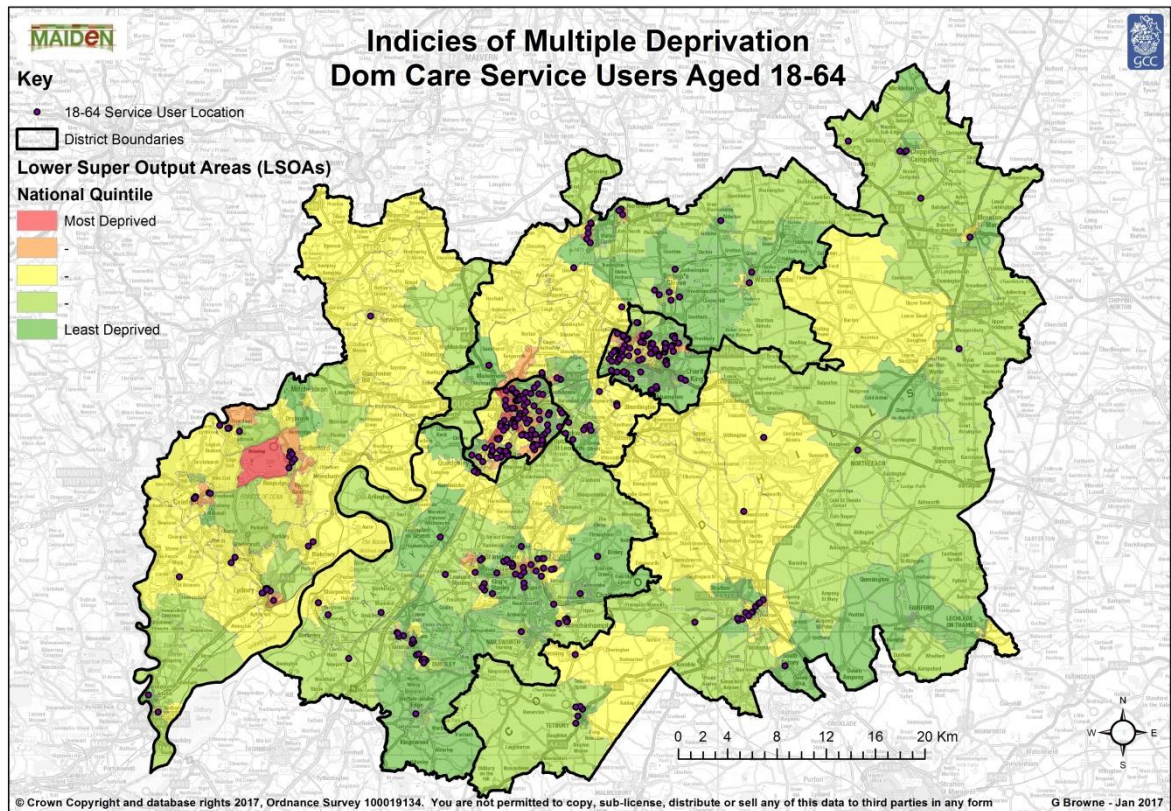
ACORN segmentation and Indices of Multiple Deprivation are used to try and understand how GCC service users may differ on personal strengths and social capital to the general adult population and the adult population with a severe disability or long-term illness. Service users in residential/nursing homes are not included in the analysis as their addresses are of establishments, and therefore would not be suitable for the purposes of this analysis. User survey results are also analysed to identify areas of strengths among service users including carers.

### Deprivation and Socio-economic group

- Overall, a quarter of GCC service users live in areas identified as the least deprived 20% nationally. The proportion is higher than that for the adult population with a severe disability/long-term illness but lower than that for the general adult population in Gloucestershire.

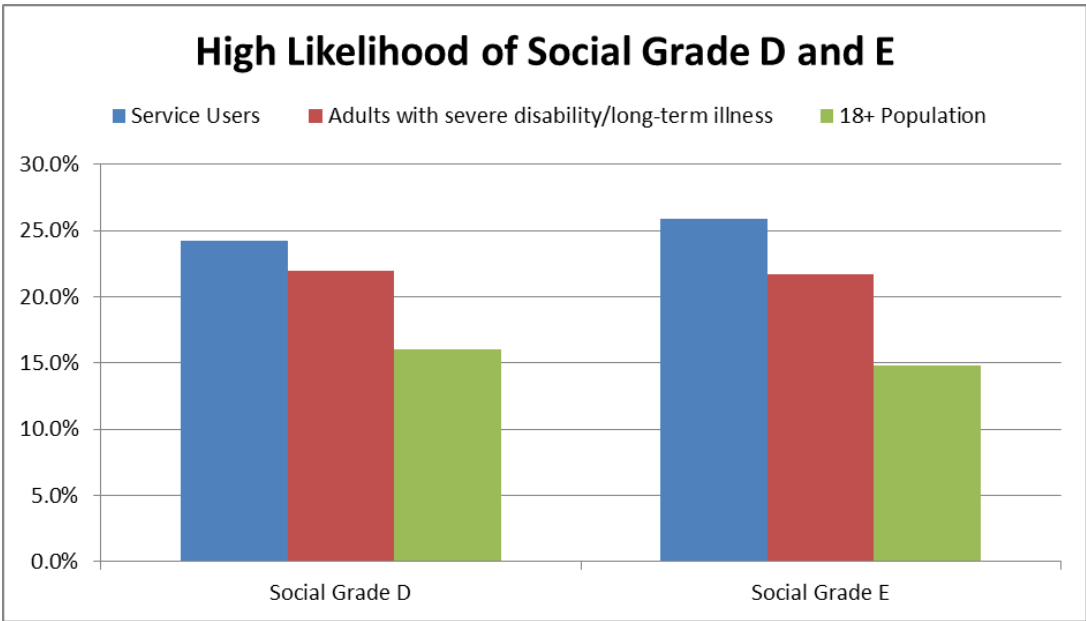




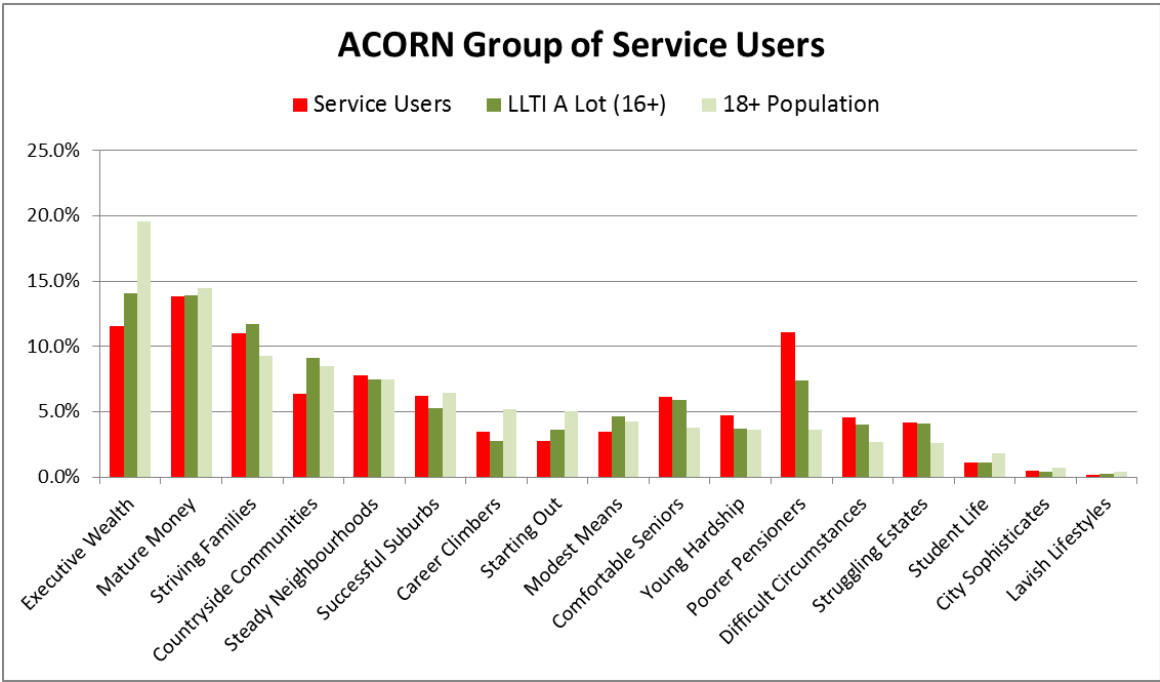


- ACORN segmentation shows that compared to the general adult population and adults with a severe disability/long-term illness, GCC service users are more likely to

live in areas dominated by population classed as Social Grade D and E (semi-skilled & unskilled manual occupations, unemployed and lowest grade occupations).

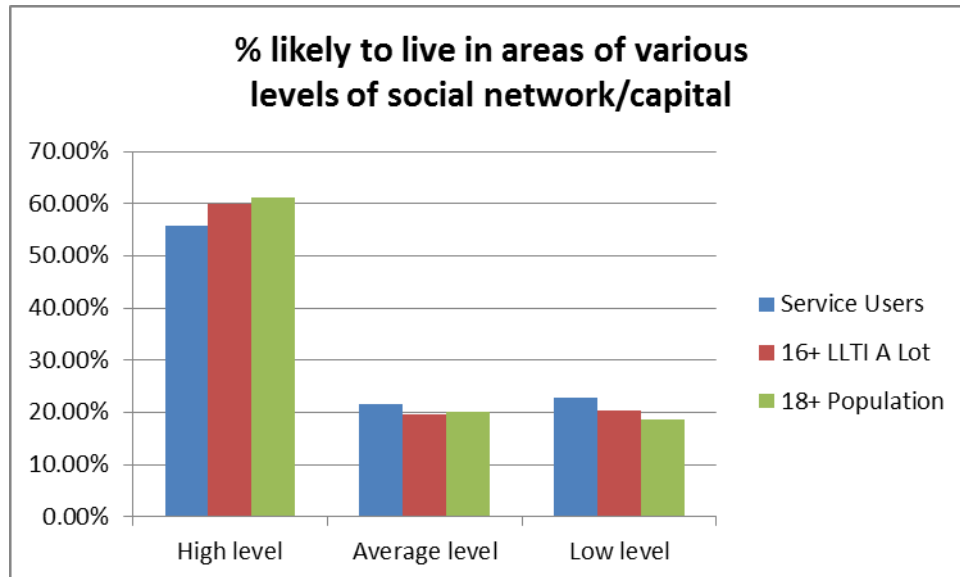


- ACORN segmentation further suggests that the largest numbers of GCC service users come from areas characterised by mature money, striving families, poorer pensioners, and executive wealth. Compared to the general adult population and adults with a severe disability/long-term illness, however, the number of GCC service users living in areas dominated by poorer pensioners is disproportionately high, while the number from areas dominated by executive wealth is disproportionately low.



### Social network/capital<sup>1</sup>

- Compared to adults with severe disability/long-term illness or the general adult population, GCC service users are less likely to live in areas that have a high level of social network/capital.

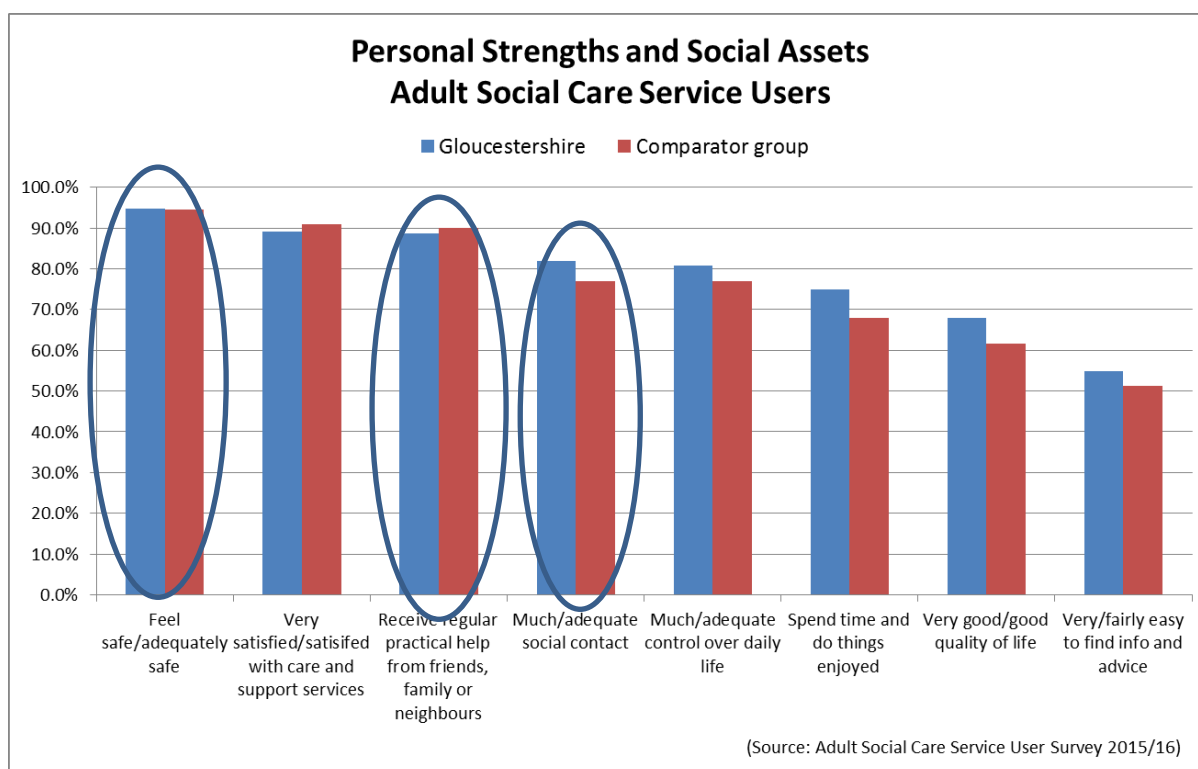


- However, at least 90% of GCC service users surveyed in the 2015/16 service user survey reported positively on feeling safe and on receiving regular help from their social network.
- On social contact where a lower proportion of survey respondents reported positively, GCC service users still score higher than those in comparable authorities.

---

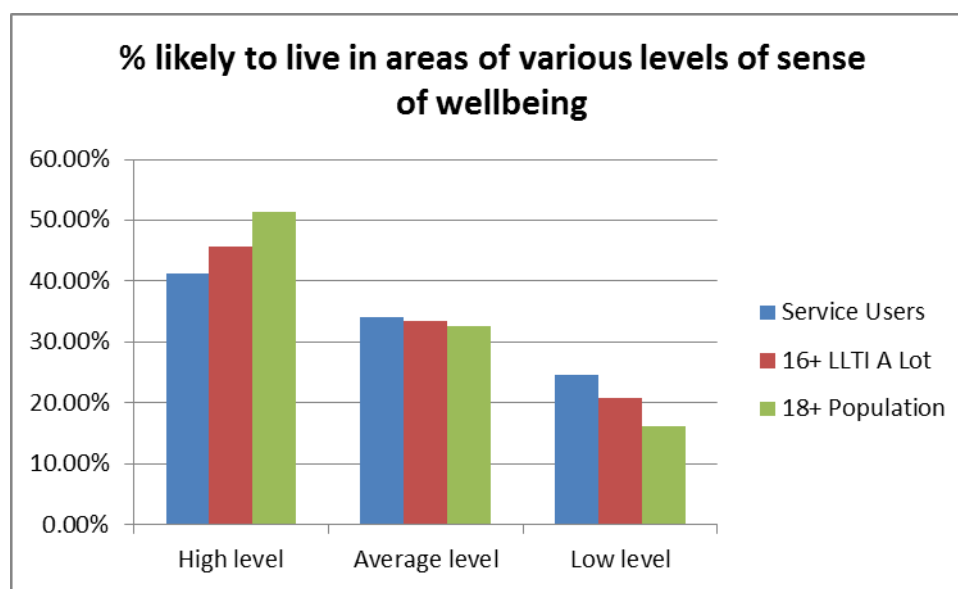
<sup>1</sup> Talk regularly with neighbours, able to go to someone in neighbourhood for advice, able to borrow things from neighbours, sense of belonging to a neighbourhood, and satisfied with social life





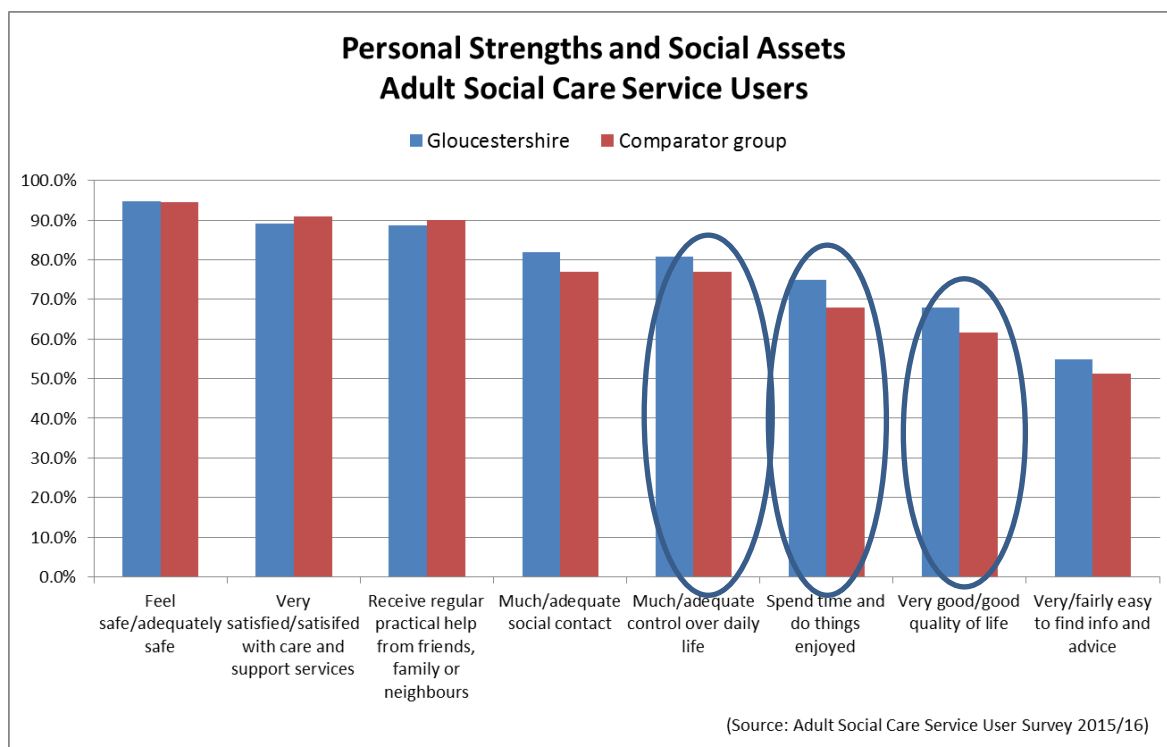
### Sense of wellbeing<sup>2</sup>

- Compared to adults with severe disability/long-term illness or the general adult population, GCC service users are less likely to live in areas that have a high level of sense of wellbeing.



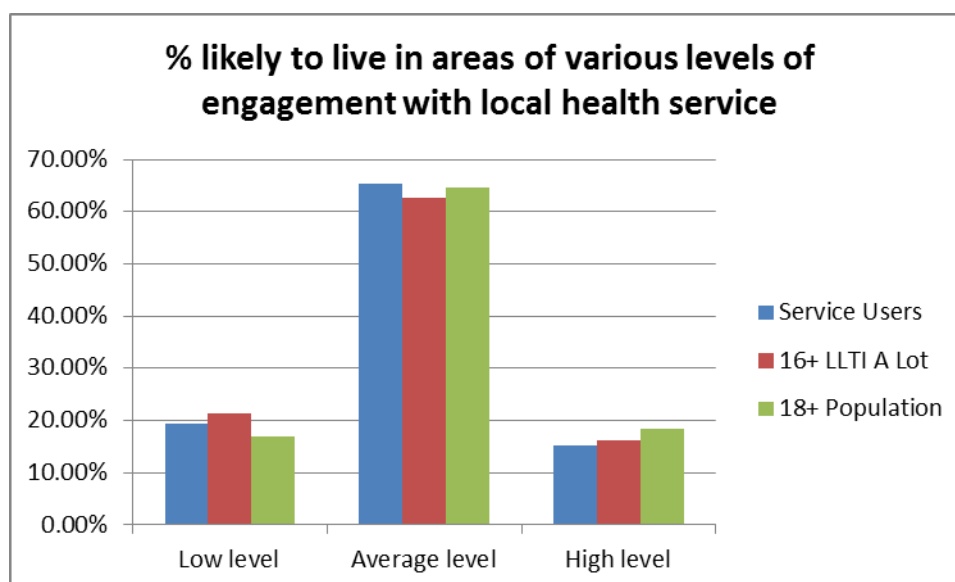
- However, on measures such as control over life, enjoying things and quality of life, a higher percentage of GCC service users in the 2015/16 service user survey reported positively than those in comparable authorities.

<sup>2</sup> Satisfied with life overall, satisfied with health, and satisfied with income



### Engagement with local health service<sup>3</sup>

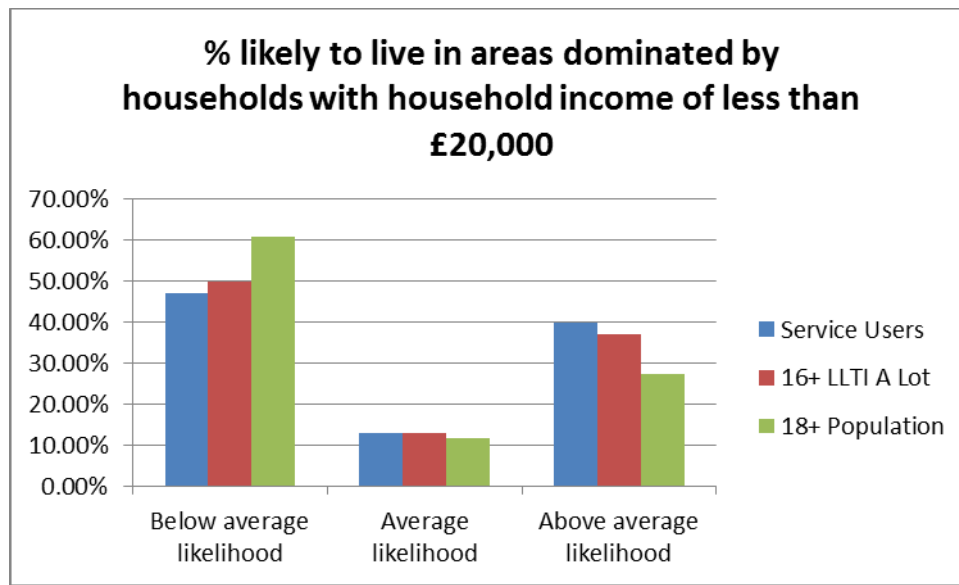
- Compared to adults with severe disability/long-term illness or the general adult population, GCC service users are less likely to live in areas that have a high level of engagement with local health services.



<sup>3</sup> Engagement in role of contributors, influencers, enthusiasts and time givers

## Household income

- Compared to adults with severe disability/long-term illness or the general adult population, GCC service users are more likely to live in areas where the predominant income bracket among local households is below £20,000.



## **Carer Service Users – Personal strengths and social capital**

- There is a high proportion of GCC carer service users in the carer survey 2014/15 reporting positively on perceived personal safety (85%).
- On other questions that also indicate perceived strengths and social capital, GCC carer service users in general reported less positively than those in comparable local authorities. The gaps are most marked on questions about social contact, able to spend time as they want, control over life and able to look after themselves.

