

Where is Wolverhampton?

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To start off...

- On official measures, Wolverhampton is a middle-ranking local authority.
 - 80th out of 150 on the proportion of children getting C grades in English, maths and three other subjects
 - In 2011, the rate was around the national average – 59 per cent of children met the official benchmark
 - At first sight, using the government measures, the school system does not stand out

On the official measure

- Birmingham 59 per cent - 69th
- Coventry 55 per cent - 120th
- Dudley 60 per cent - 64th
- Sandwell 50 per cent - 140th
- Solihull 63 per cent - 33rd
- Walsall 57 per cent - 101st
- Wolverhampton 59 per cent - 80th

But is that the whole story?

- But this is an inadequate measure
- It looks heavily at the D/C boundary
- Includes equivalents
- What happens if you look *only* at GCSEs, and exclude equivalent qualifications?
- The pass rate for Wolverhampton slips to 50 per cent – and falls back.

On GCSEs only

- Birmingham - 69th to 117th
- Coventry - 120th to 122nd
- Dudley - 64th to 69th
- Sandwell - 140th to 145th
- Solihull - 33rd to 48th
- Walsall - 101st to 138th
- Wolverhampton - 80th to 111th

An eye on the tables?

- Nationally, 21 per cent of children who get the five GCSE measure do so with a C – exactly - in English *and* in maths
- The same figure comes in at 36 per cent within Wolverhampton. So the passes are coming in *very* tightly

An eye on the tables?

- Nationally, the average child who does not manage to meet the 5 GCSE target does so with a comfortable E in English and a scraped E in maths
- In Wolverhampton, the same individuals are finishing a third of a grade behind in both subjects

Is this a real thing?

- If Wolverhampton were really average for the country, you would expect 726 kids to get five GCSEs at B. Only 465 do.

Is this a real thing?

- If Wolverhampton were really average for the country, you would expect 274 kids to get five GCSEs at A. Only 158 do. (Of them, 30 attend Wolverhampton Girls)

Is this a real thing?

- If Wolverhampton were really average for the country, you would expect 56 kids to get five GCSEs at A*. Only 21 do. (Of them, 9 attend Wolverhampton Girls)

Results cluster near the line...

Area	5 A*-C inc English & Maths (official measure)	5 A*-C inc English & Maths (GCSEs only)	5 A*-B inc English & Maths (GCSEs only)	5 A*-A inc English & Maths (GCSEs only)	5 A* inc English & Maths (GCSEs only)
England	59	54	26	10	1.7
West Midlands	58	50	21	7.6	1.4
Wolverhampton	59	50	18	7.1	1.3

...and boys lag

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Wolverhampton boys	54	44	12.5	3	0.2

Can we look beyond the official measure altogether?

- The FT uses an “FT score”: we take GCSE *grades* in English, maths and their three best other GCSEs.
- Grades across five GCSEs corresponds to the minimum tally required for entry to a top British university.
- We give eight points for an A* down to one point for a G. You do better if you stretch at one end and help at the other.

How does Wolverhampton do?

• Birmingham	23.7 points
• Coventry	22.9 points
• Dudley	24.6 points
• Sandwell	20.3 points
• Solihull	25.5 points
• Walsall	22.6 points
• Wolverhampton	22.0 points

Moving to the FT score

- Birmingham - 69th to 106th
- Coventry - 120th to 127th
- Dudley - 64th to 85th
- Sandwell - 140th to 147th
- Solihull - 33rd to 56th
- Walsall - 101st to 131st
- Wolverhampton - 80th to 137th

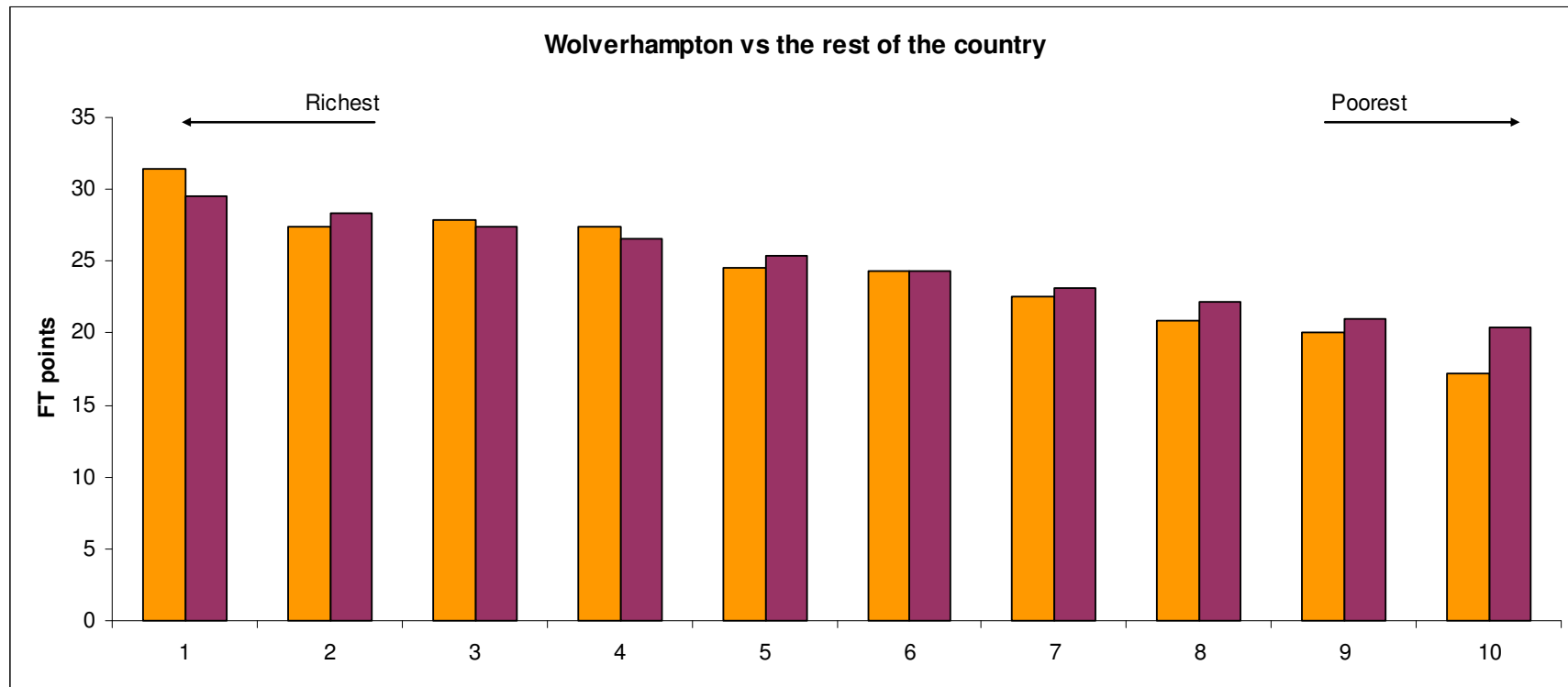
The boys problem

- One of four LAs where boys get fewer than 20 points, with Sandwell, Hull and Knowsley.
- Boys in Wolverhampton are a full three points below the boys' average – one grade in three of five subjects.

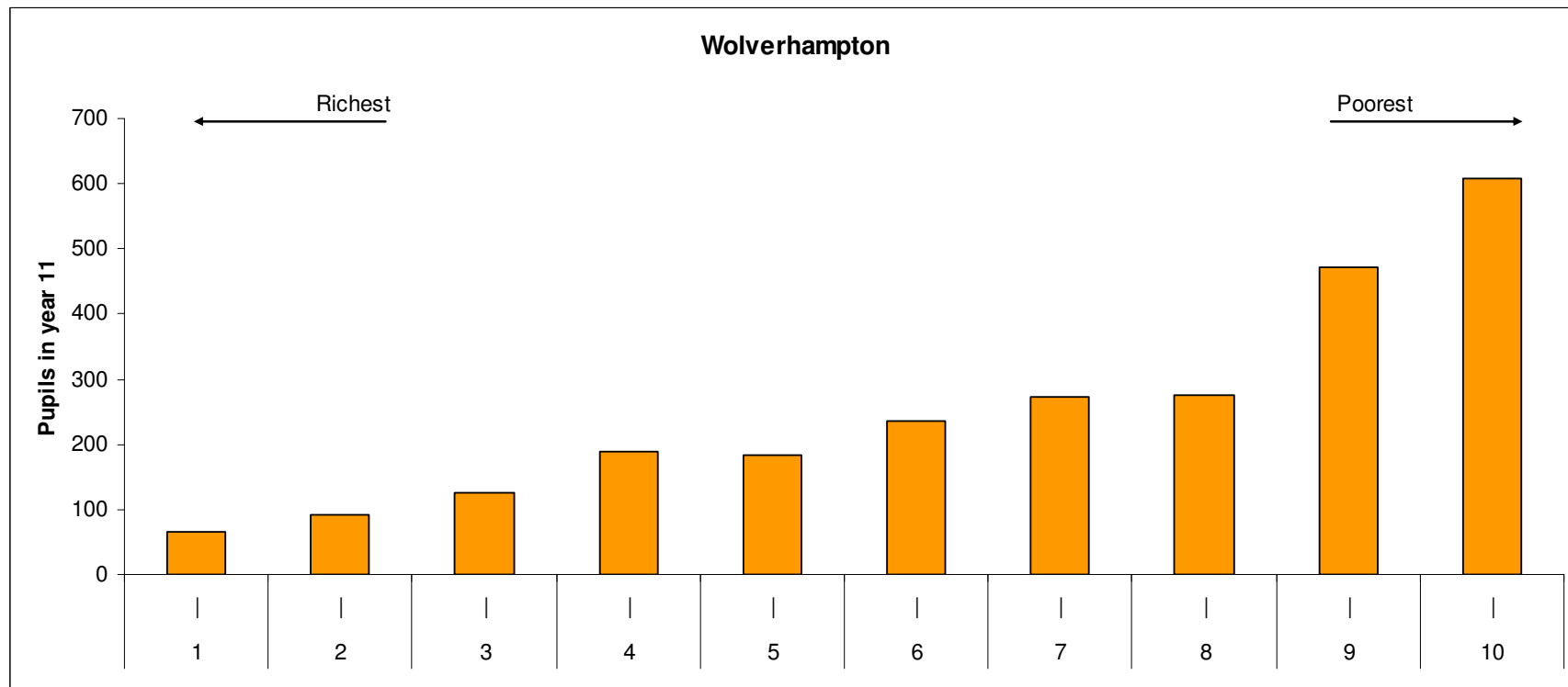
Is this good performance?

- Wolverhampton is a poor area. So is this just because your kids are tougher?

Poor kids lag in Wolverhampton



...which weighs on results



We can test this

- We can test this statistically. We build a simple statistical model, where we put in ethnicity, poverty and we see how children would be expected to do at an *average* school.

How does Wolverhampton do?

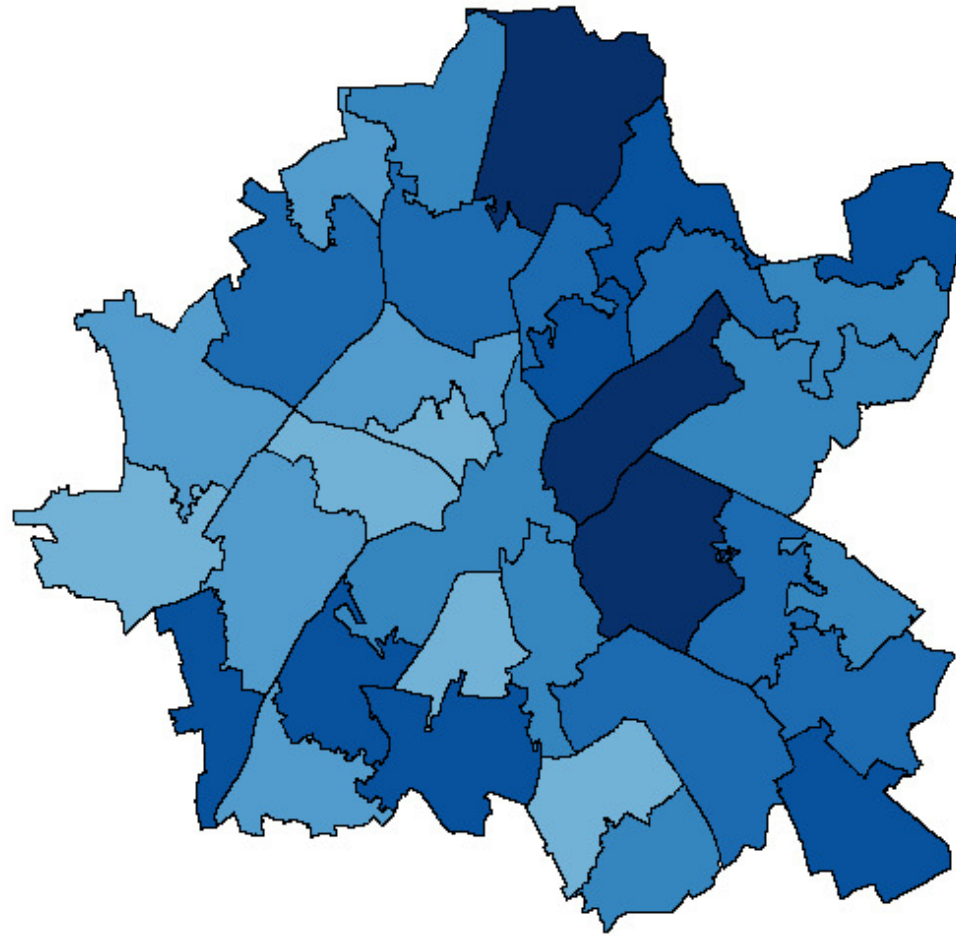
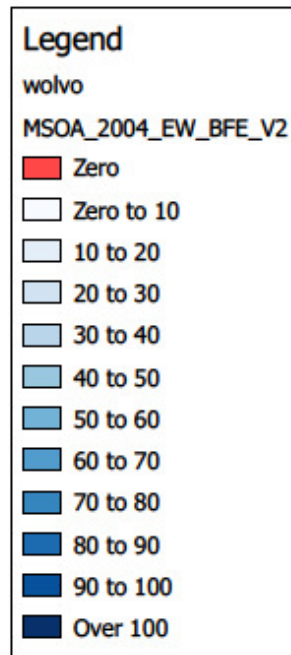
[compared to Westminster]

- Birmingham -2.64 points
- Coventry -3.00 points
- Dudley -3.05 points
- Sandwell -3.25 points
- Solihull -2.60 points
- Walsall -3.30 points
- Wolverhampton -3.14 points

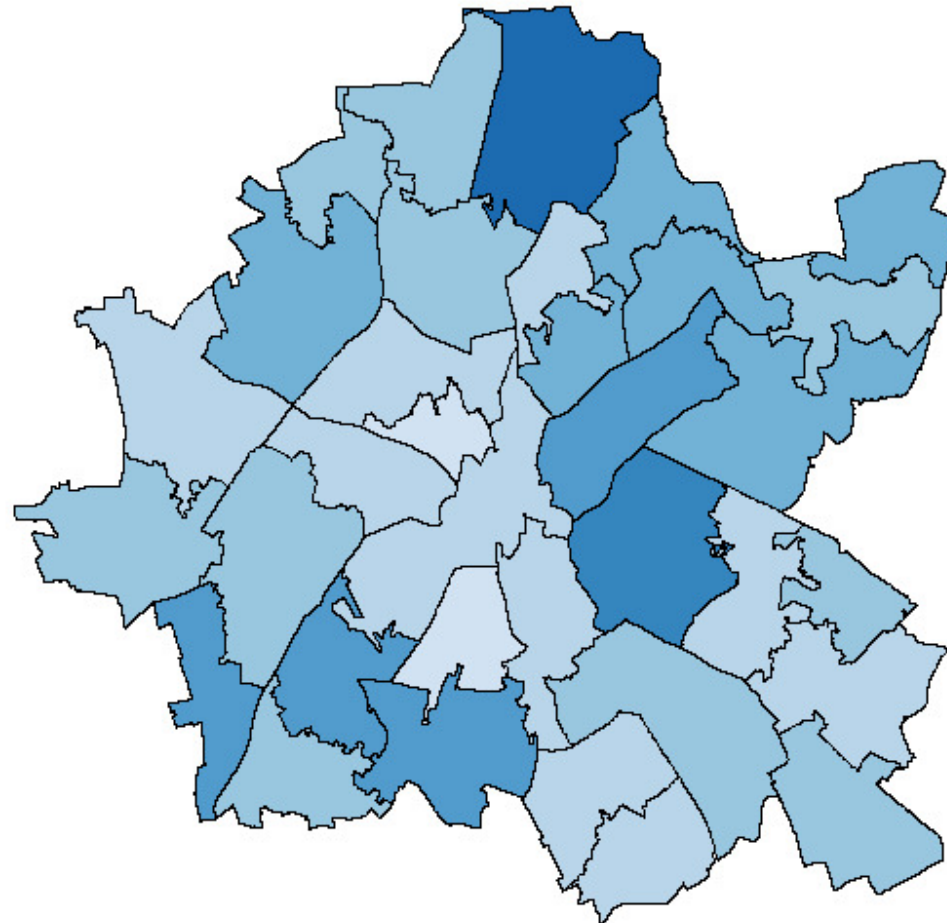
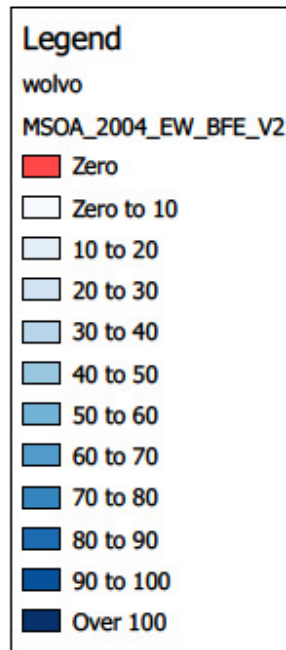
What is happening?

- Schools in Wolverhampton are *very* flattered by the official statistics.
- It is not that the city is *poor*, it is that it does badly by its poor kids.

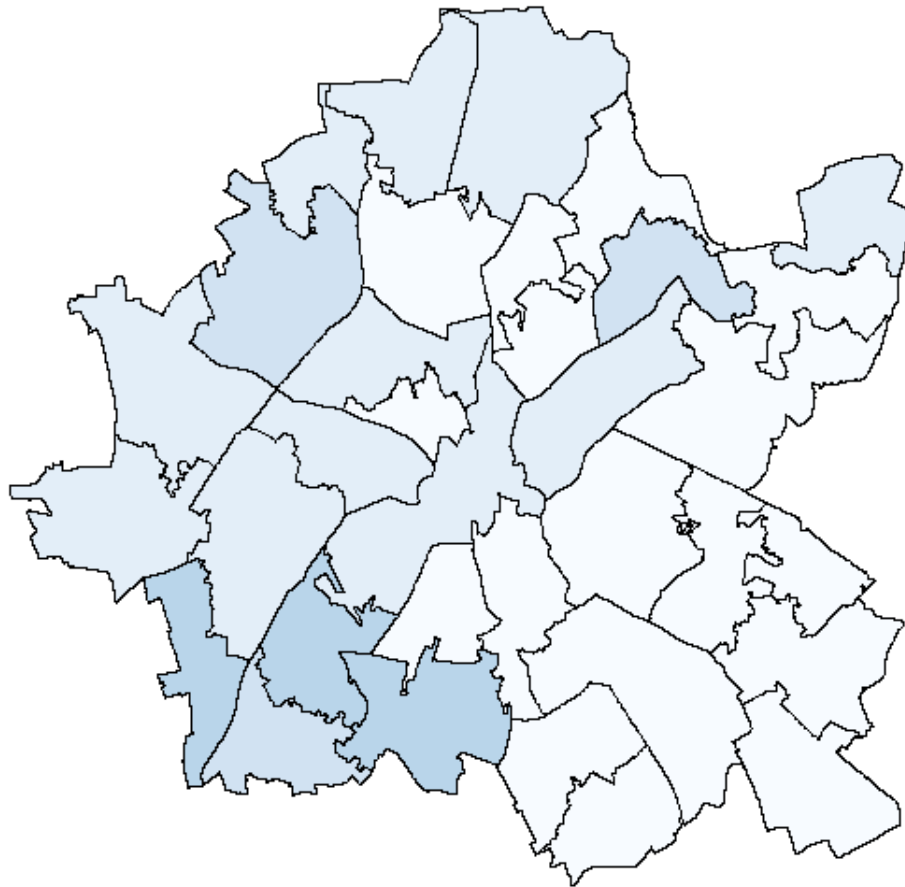
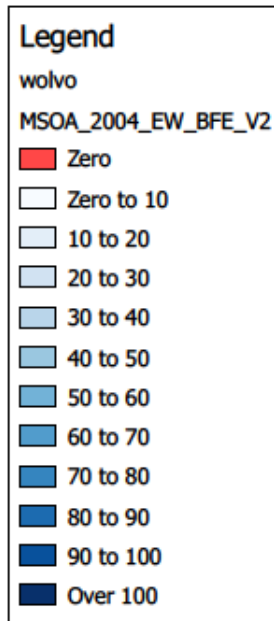
Where children live...



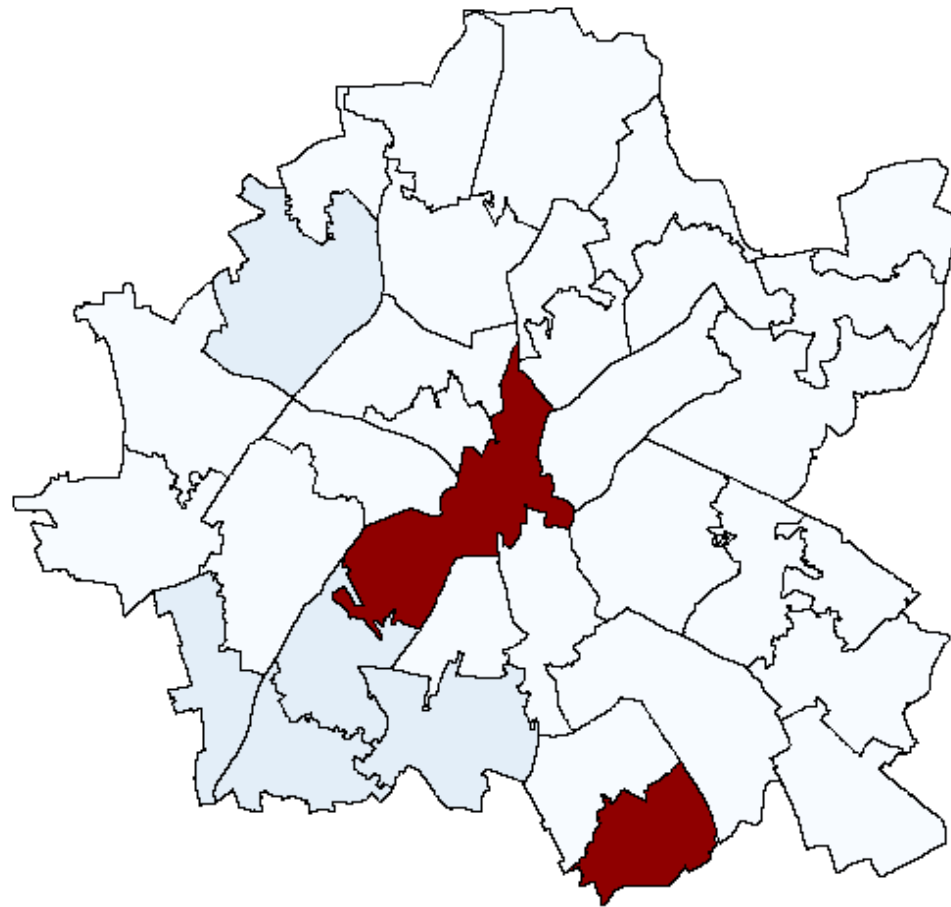
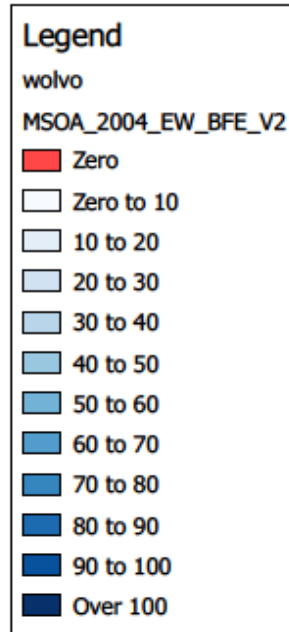
...who get five Cs...



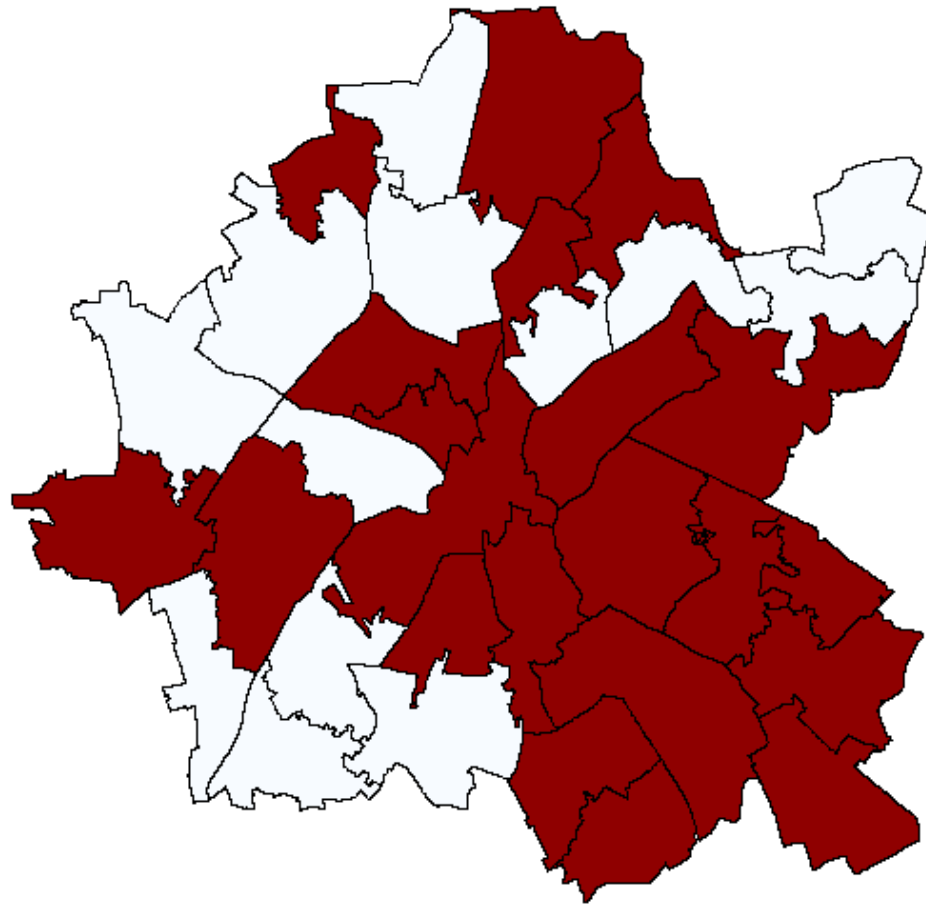
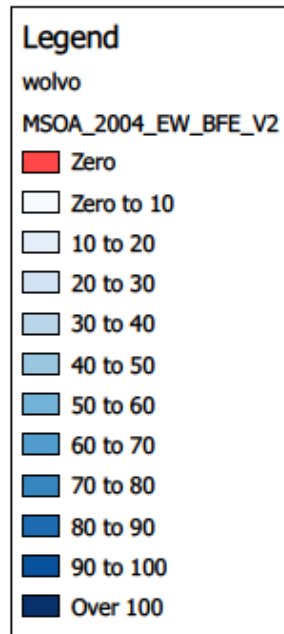
...who get five Bs...



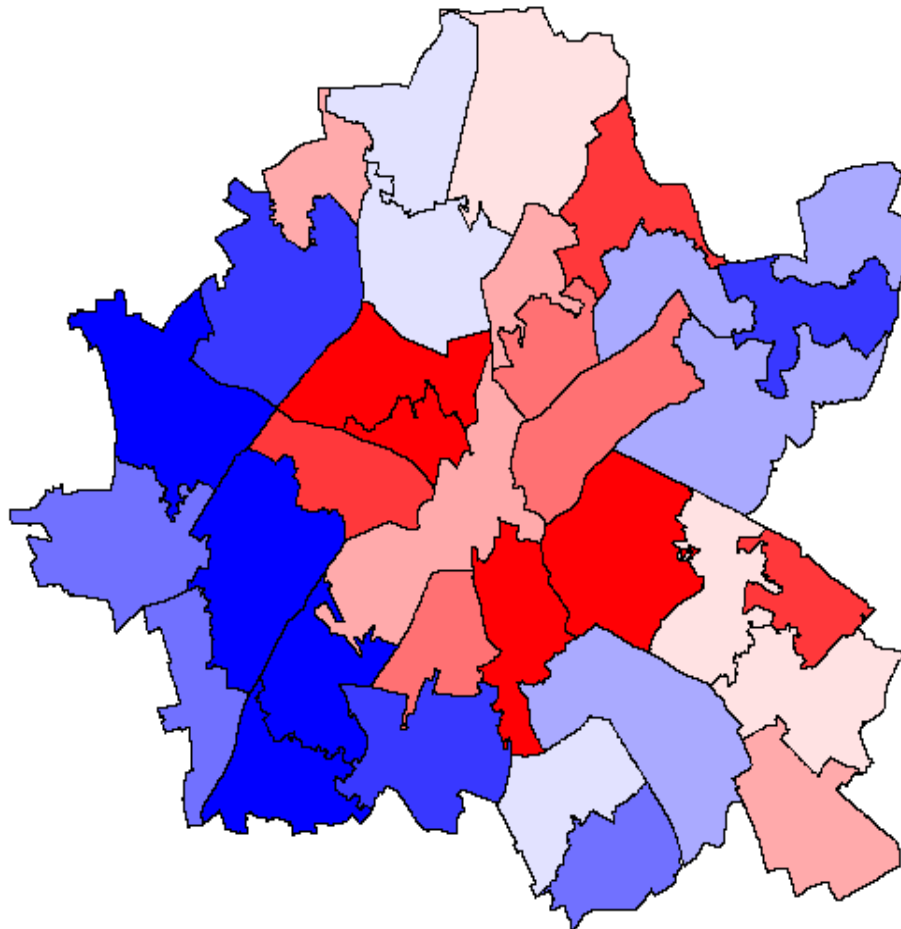
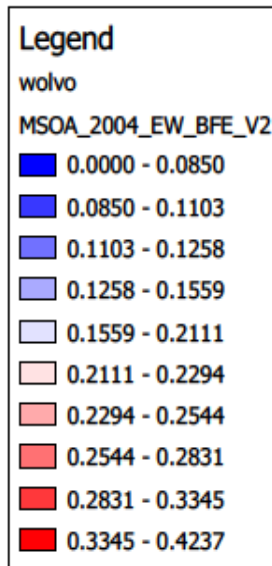
...who get five As...



...who get five A*s...



And who is missing out?



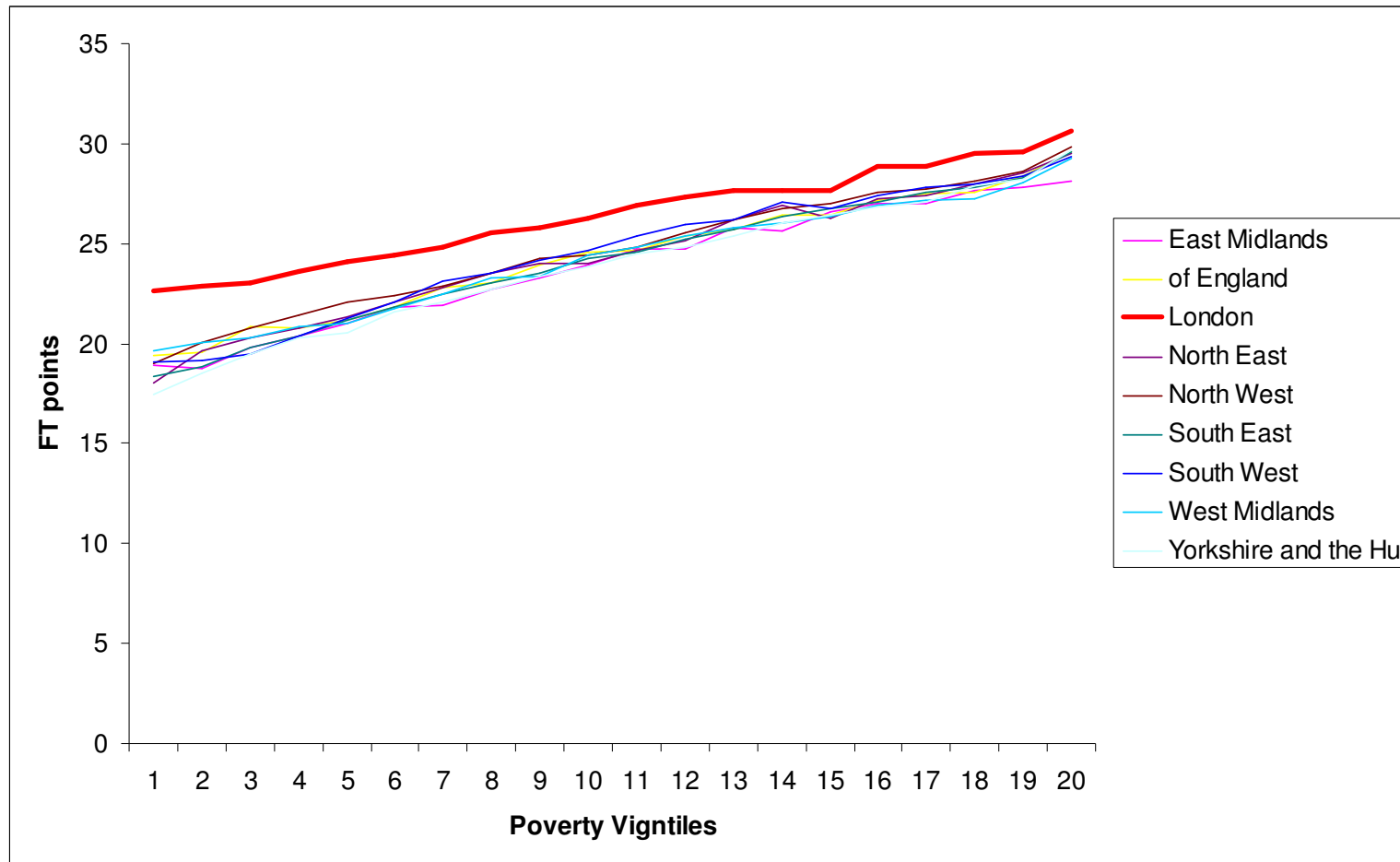
Poverty, measured
by free school meals

So it's worse than it looked...

But this is not immutable

- In Hackney in 2006, the average maths grade for a child from the bottom deprivation decile was a solid E – the same as Wolverhampton.
- In 2011, the same kids in Hackney now average a very slight shade below a C. The same children in Wolverhampton are on the same strong E.

London was ahead in 2006



...but isn't slowing down

