

Inequalities in Ipswich – identifying priority areas and types of inequalities

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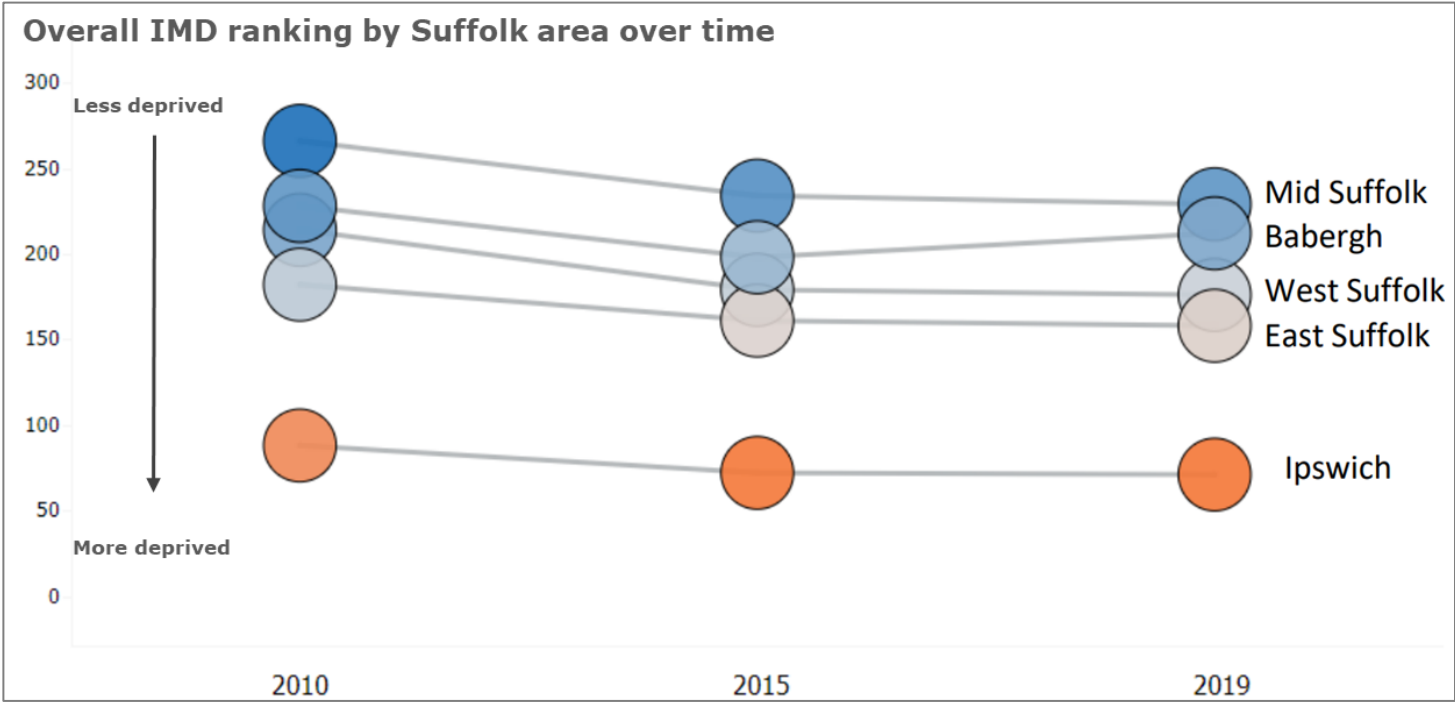
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Ipswich Borough Council approached SODA with the following business issue

*"There are many deprived areas in Ipswich and different types of inequalities exist across the borough. How do we **best identify the specific needs within each area**, to enable better distribution of our and our partners' resources? We are seeking an **evidence base that will enable us to identify priority areas within Ipswich, based on each area's specific types of deprivation and inequalities**. The intention is that this evidence base will be used to support strategic decision making to determine where best to target our and partner (incl. Police, Health, SCC and VCSFEs) resources and make investments. We also envisage that this output will be used more widely within the borough to prioritise innovation areas or investment. The overall desired outcome is to reduce deprivation and inequalities in Ipswich over time."*

Background

- The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of **relative** deprivation for small areas in England. The IMD ranks every small area (Lower-super Output Area; LSOA) in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area). The IMD has been published in 2010, 2015 and most recently in 2019.
- 7 domains of deprivation are combined to create the Index: Income, Employment, Education, Health, Crime, Barriers to Housing & Services and Living Environment.
- Ipswich ranked 71 out of 317 English local authorities in 2019 and is the most **relatively** deprived Authority within Suffolk.
- 61% of LSOAs in Ipswich are in the most deprived 50% nationally – with 45.8% of LSOAs in Ipswich being in the most deprived 30% nationally.
- Ranking across the 16 Ipswich wards range from Gipping (695 out of 7,427 English wards) to Bixley (5,730 out of 7,427). Three-quarters (75%; 12 out of 16) of Ipswich wards rank in the most deprived 50% nationally. And only two wards are in the least deprived 30% nationally.

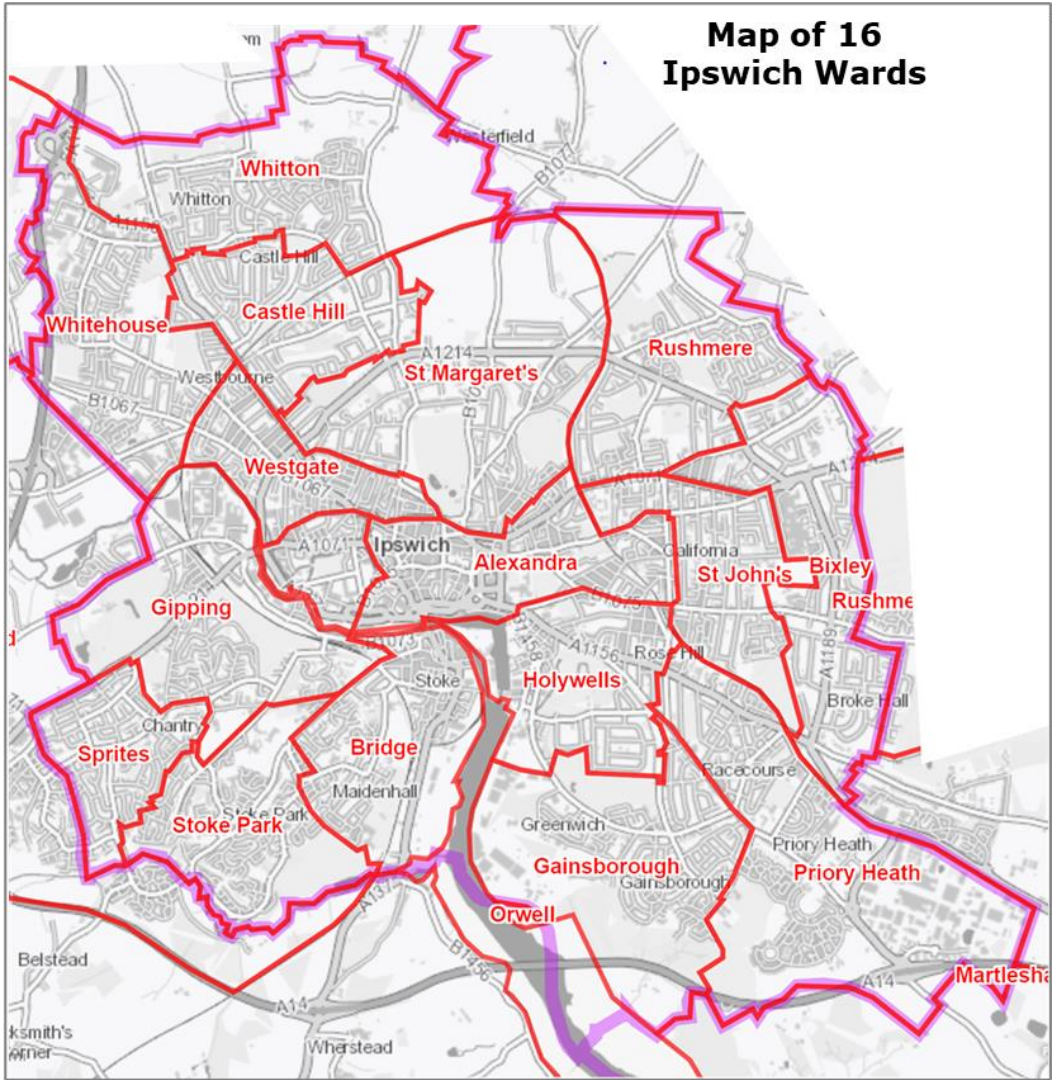


Ipswich Ward	IMD 2019 rank (out of 7,427 English wards)	IMD 2019 Decile (1 = most deprived; 10 = least deprived)
Gipping	695	1
Gainsborough	840	2
Westgate	849	2
Bridge	865	2
Stoke Park	892	2
Whitton	924	2
Priory Heath	967	2
Sprites	1,236	2
Alexandra	1,331	2
Whitehouse	1,593	3
Holywells	2,914	4
Rushmere	3,548	5
St John's	4,166	6
St Margaret's	4,185	6
Castle Hill	5,211	8
Bixley	5,730	8

SODA's Approach – Data & Geographical level

- The IMD was last published in 2019 (with most indicators being pre-2018) and is therefore much out of date – with COVID and the Cost-of-Living Crisis taking place since then. Both events had a significant impact on increasing inequalities and deprivation.
- SODA identified **17 indicators across 4 categories**, that provide a strong evidence base for inequalities. Datasets were sourced from public sources and SODA partners. The most **up-to-date data** has been used and **analysed at ward level**.

Category	Indicator	Source	Latest Date
Deprivation	Claimant Count (number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed)	ONS	May 2024
	Proportion of 16-64s <u>employed</u> on Universal Credit (<u>in-work poverty</u>).	DWP	March 2024
	Gross disposable household income (GDHI)	ONS	March 2024
	Proportion of Children in low-income families	DWP	March 2024
	Fuel Poverty	BEIS	2022
Health	Life Expectancy	NHS	2016-2020
	Year 6: prevalence of overweight/obese	OHID	2020/21-2022/23
	Depression Prevalence	NHS	2022/23
	Death from causes considered preventable, under 75 years, standardised mortality rates	NHS	2016-2020
Education	Key Stage 2: meet expected standard	DfE	School year 2022/23
	GCSE avg. attainment 8 score and grades 9-5 in English & Maths	DfE	School year 2022/23
	Absence from school (suspensions and exclusions)	DfE	School year 2022/23
	Adults without any qualifications	ONS	2021
Social	Proportion of 0-17s who are Children in Need (CIN), with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) or Children in Care (CIC)	Suffolk County Council	2016/17-2020/21
	Antisocial Behaviour crimes; as proportion of population	Data.Police.UK	April 2024
	All Crime; as proportion of population	Data.Police.UK	April 2024
	Violence & sexual offences; as proportion of population	Data.Police.UK	April 2024



SODA's Approach – Methodology

- When using multiple indicators describing non-comparable datasets, such as health data against crime rates or GCSE achievement, a measure must be introduced to allow meaningful comparison. To provide this meaningful comparison across the range of the 17 indicators, we have used Z-scores as a statistical tool for ranking.
- We calculated a Z-score for each indicator in each ward to show how far each data point is from the average (mean) of the dataset. The aggregated Z-scores have been normalised to the ward that diverges most from the mean so that different datasets can be compared.
- A Z-score of '0' denotes the mean of a dataset and '-1' or '+1' both show a divergence from the dataset. A positive figure can be interpreted as better than average and a negative figure as worse than average.
- This means, that like the IMD, the following report provides a measure of **relative performance of the 16 wards within Ipswich**, i.e., we do not quantify how deprived or affluent an area is in absolute terms.
- Although no weightings have been applied, there is a de facto weighting in favour of the Deprivation category, which includes 5 indicators, while the other three categories consist of four indicators each.
- We have ranked the Ipswich wards from **worst/lowest (1) Z-score to best/highest (16)**. This has been done for the Overall Z-scores, i.e., all 17 indicators, and for each category, i.e., relevant indicators in each category. **The ranking provides the evidence on which wards experience the most inequalities within the Borough of Ipswich to allow an understanding on where to prioritise activities and interventions.**
- We also provide detail on how each category/indicator contributes to each ward's Z-score(s), **giving an understanding on the categories, e.g., education, health, etc., of focus in each ward.**

Summary of findings

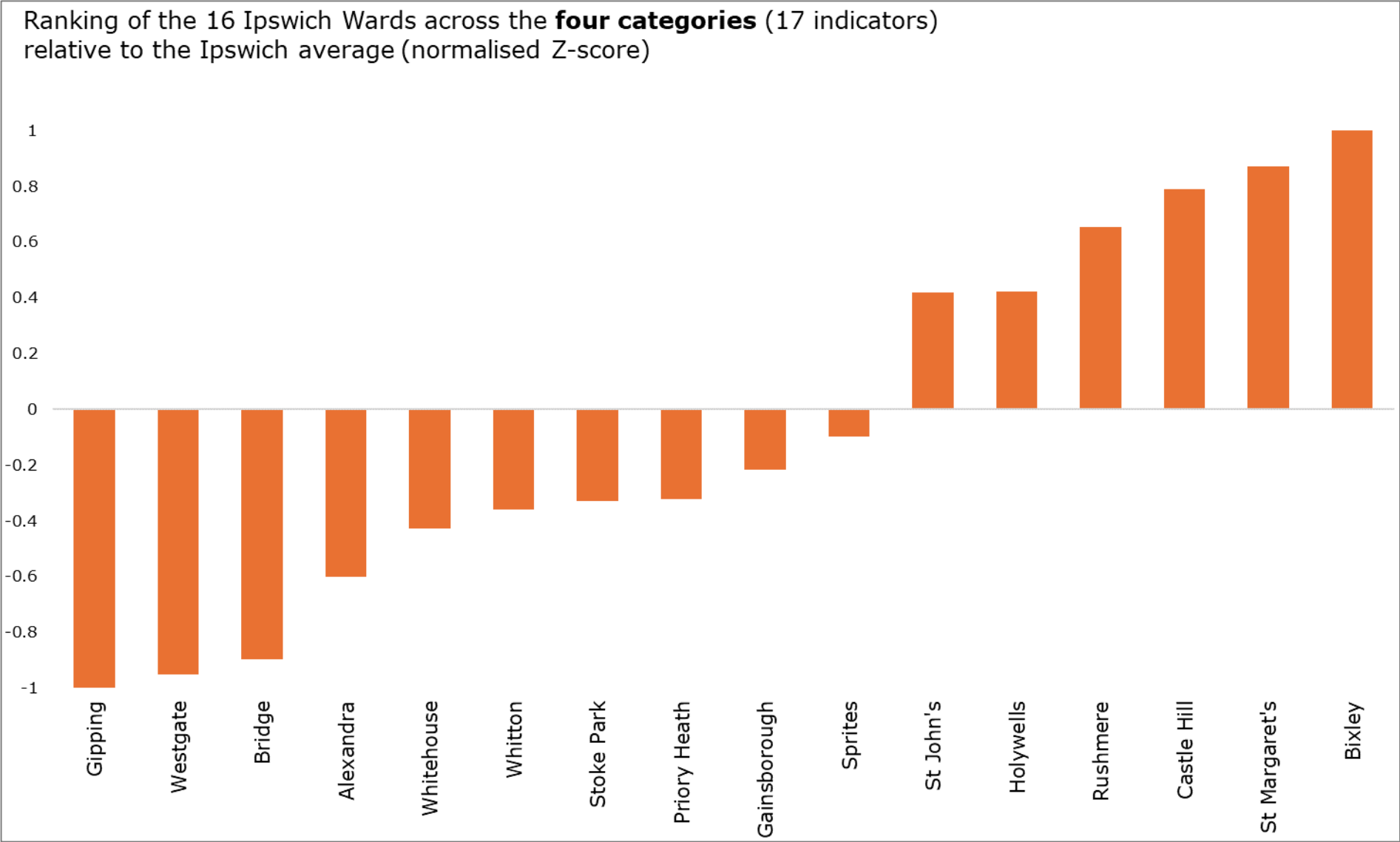
- Based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Ipswich is the relatively most deprived Authority in Suffolk. 12 out of the 16 Ipswich wards (75%) are in the most deprived 30% nationally.
- The IMD provides a national context for Ipswich, while this SODA report provides a **relative** measure of inequalities for the wards within Ipswich only. This is to support decision making on where to focus local resources.
- All Ipswich wards have some issues, which is unsurprising if the national picture is considered.
- Based on our analysis, which uses 17 key indicators across 4 categories (Deprivation, Health, Education, and Social) the following ranking – from worst/lowest to best/highest - has been established:
 1. Gipping
 2. Westgate
 3. Bridge
 4. Alexandra
 5. Whitehouse
 6. Whitton
 7. Stoke Park
 8. Priory Heath
 9. Gainsborough
 10. Sprites
 11. St John's
 12. Holywells
 13. Rushmere
 14. Castle Hill
 15. St Margaret's
 16. Bixley
- Each ward has its own area(s) of focus, which are detailed in Section 2 of this report.

Ranking of the 16 Ipswich Wards

The following section shows the Overall and the four categories' ranking of each ward relative to the Ipswich average.



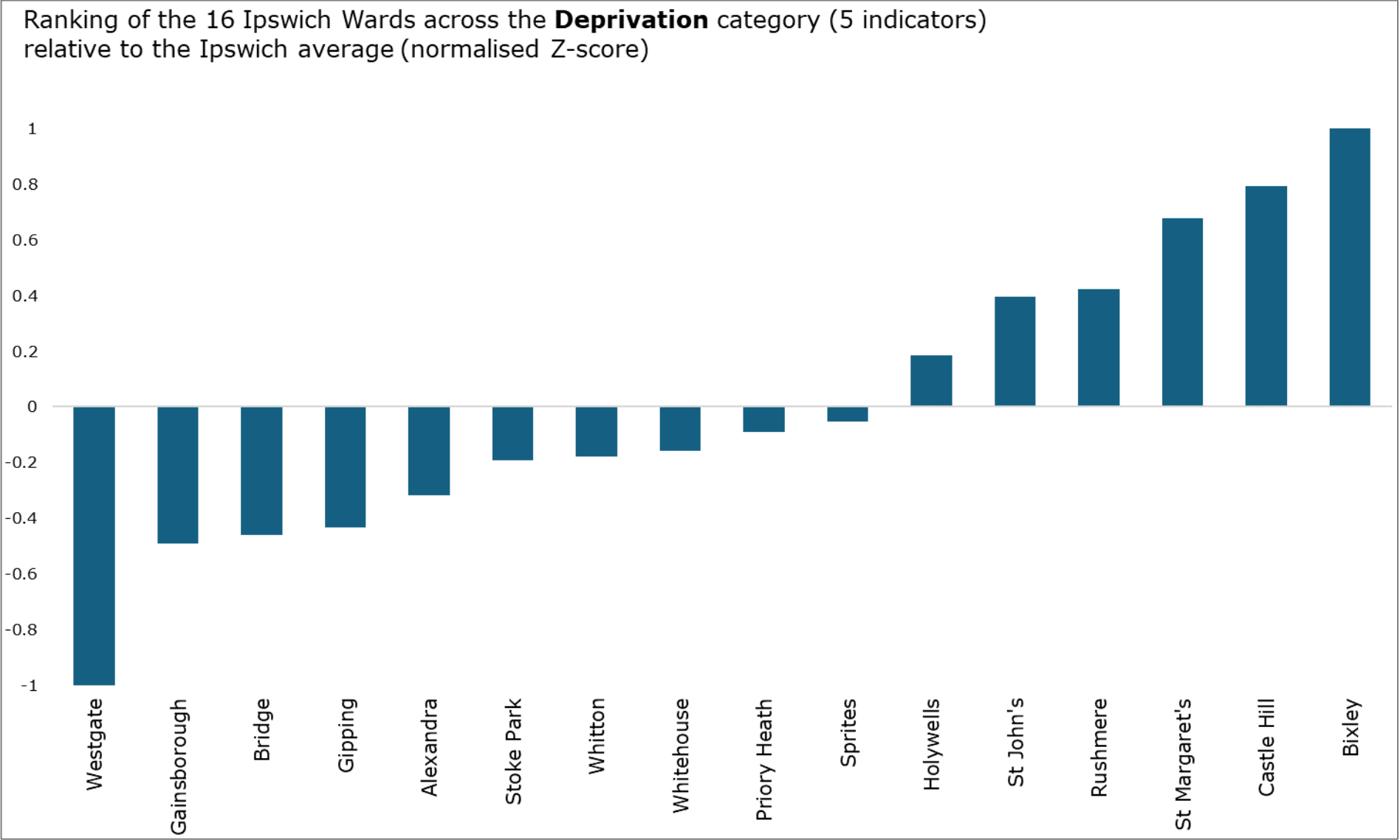
Overall, Gipping is the lowest placed ward, followed by Westgate and Bridge. While the top three wards are Bixley, St. Margaret's and Castle Hill. More wards (10) are below the Ipswich average, with only 6 performing above average.



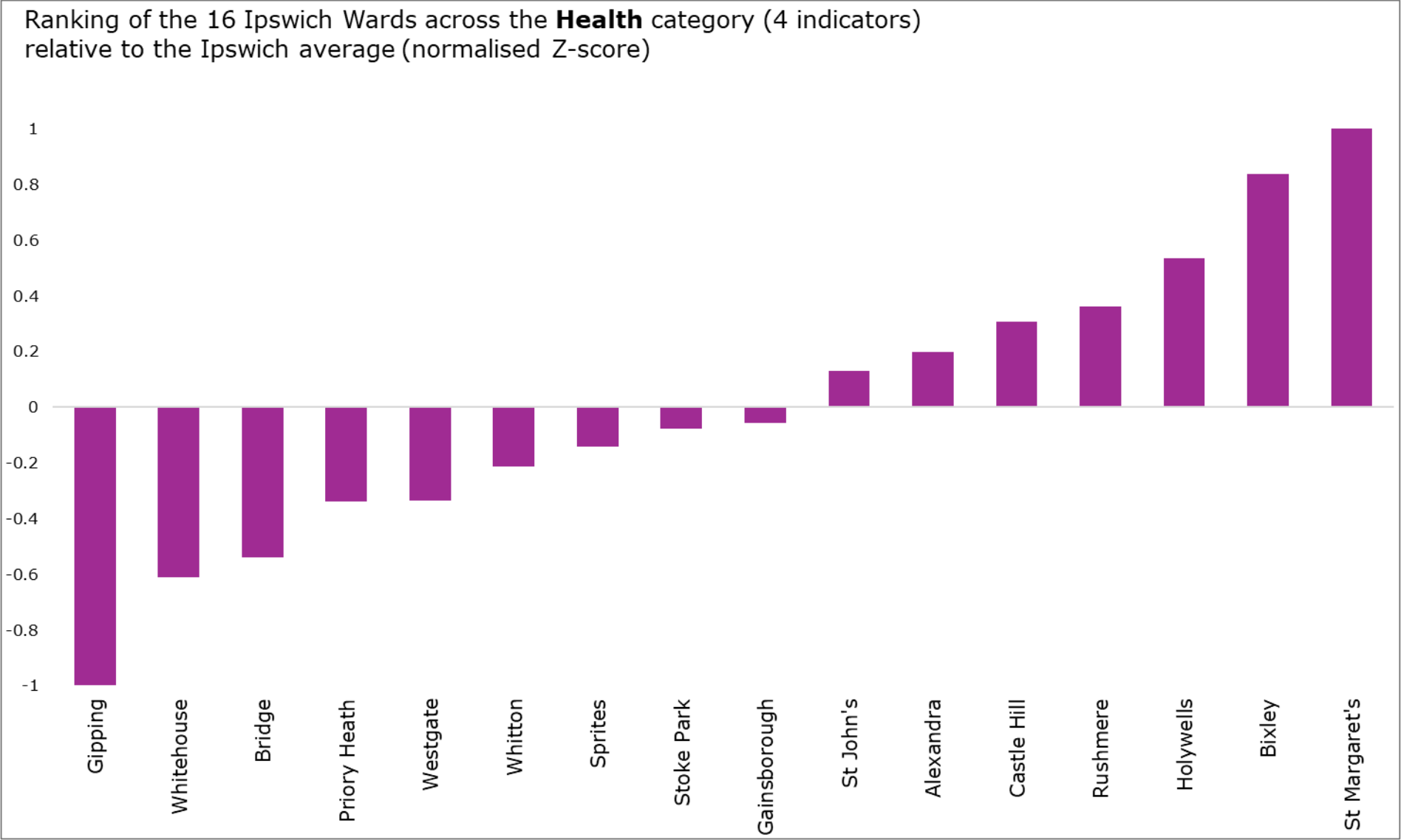
The 6 wards that are above the Ipswich average, are the same wards that were also relatively less deprived across the IMD 2019 (*i.e.*, IMD Decile 4 or above – ref. table on page 3).

The 10 wards below the Ipswich average were in the most deprived 30% nationally on the IMD 2019.

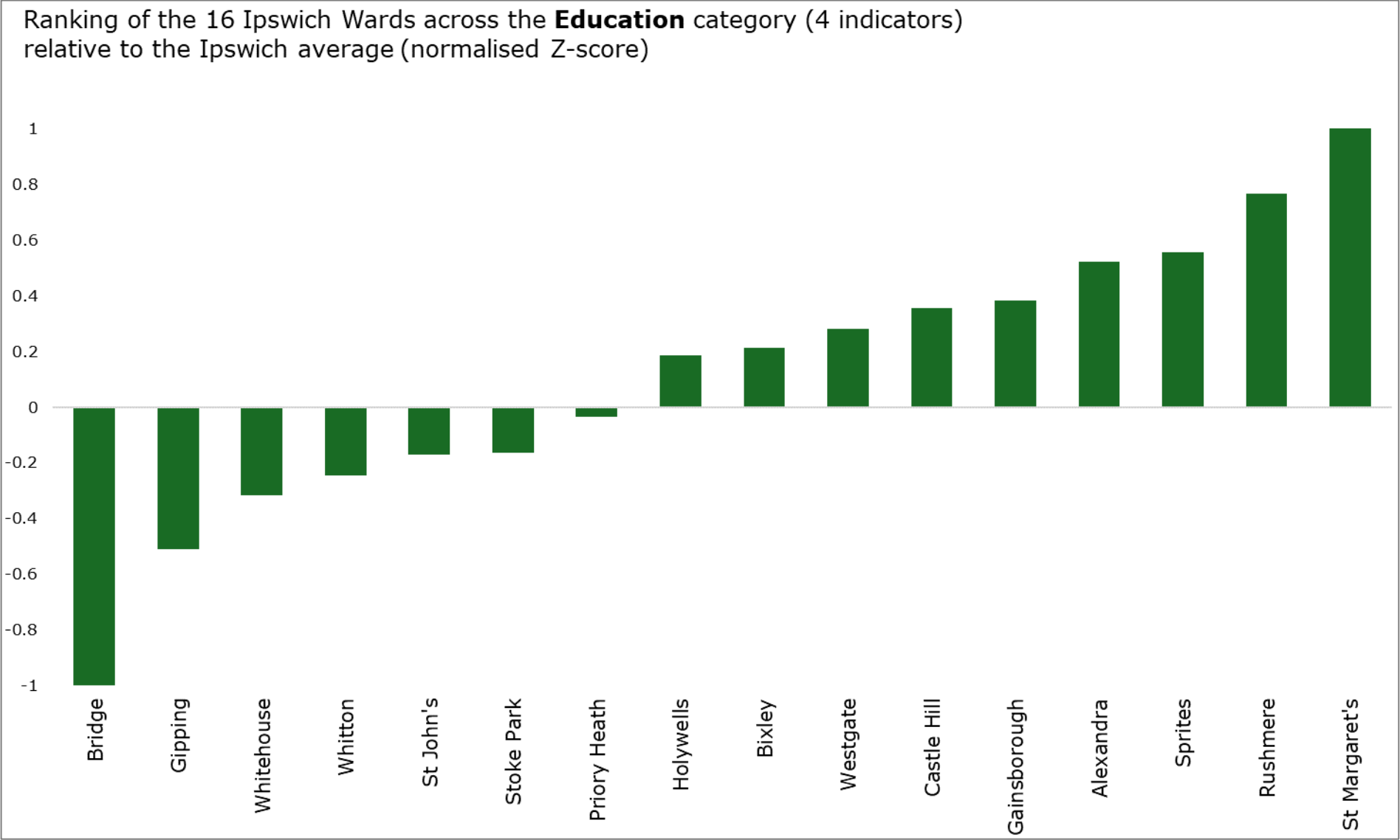
Across the **Deprivation** category, Westgate, Gainsborough and Bridge are the lowest placed wards, with Bixley, Castle Hill, and St. Margaret's being the top three. As with the overall ranking, the same 10 wards are below the Ipswich average.



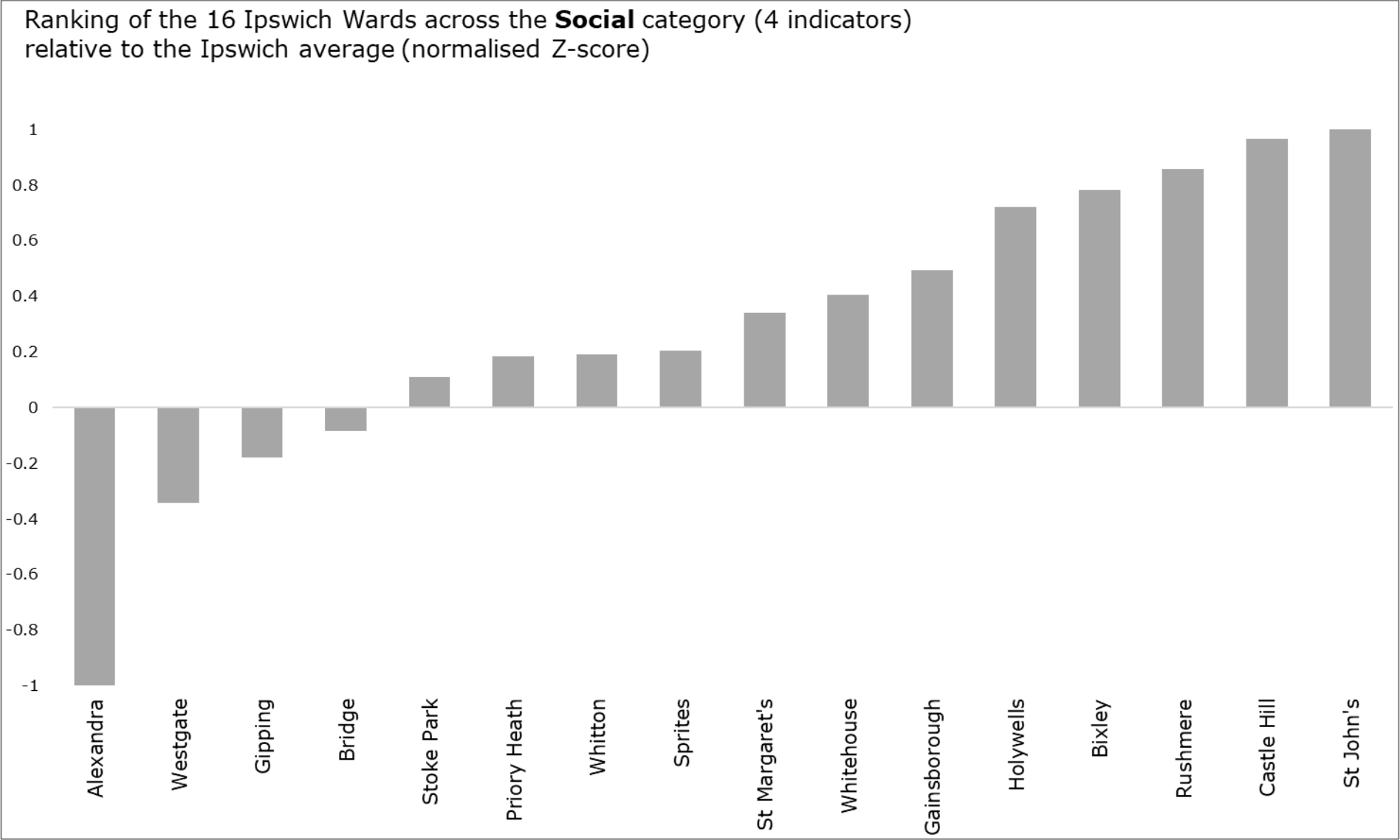
Gipping is the lowest placed ward in the **Health** category, followed by Whitehouse and Bridge. The top three are St. Margaret's, Bixley and Holywells. Across this category, 9 wards are below and 7 above the Ipswich average (with Alexandra ward being above average in this category).



Across the **Education** category, 7 wards are below the Ipswich average. Lowest placed is Bridge, followed by Gipping and Whitehouse. While St. Margaret's, Rushmere, and Sprites are best performing.



11 wards are above the Ipswich average across the **Social** category, with Alexandra, Westgate, Gipping, and Bridge being below. St John's, Castle Hill, and Rushmere are the best placed in this category.

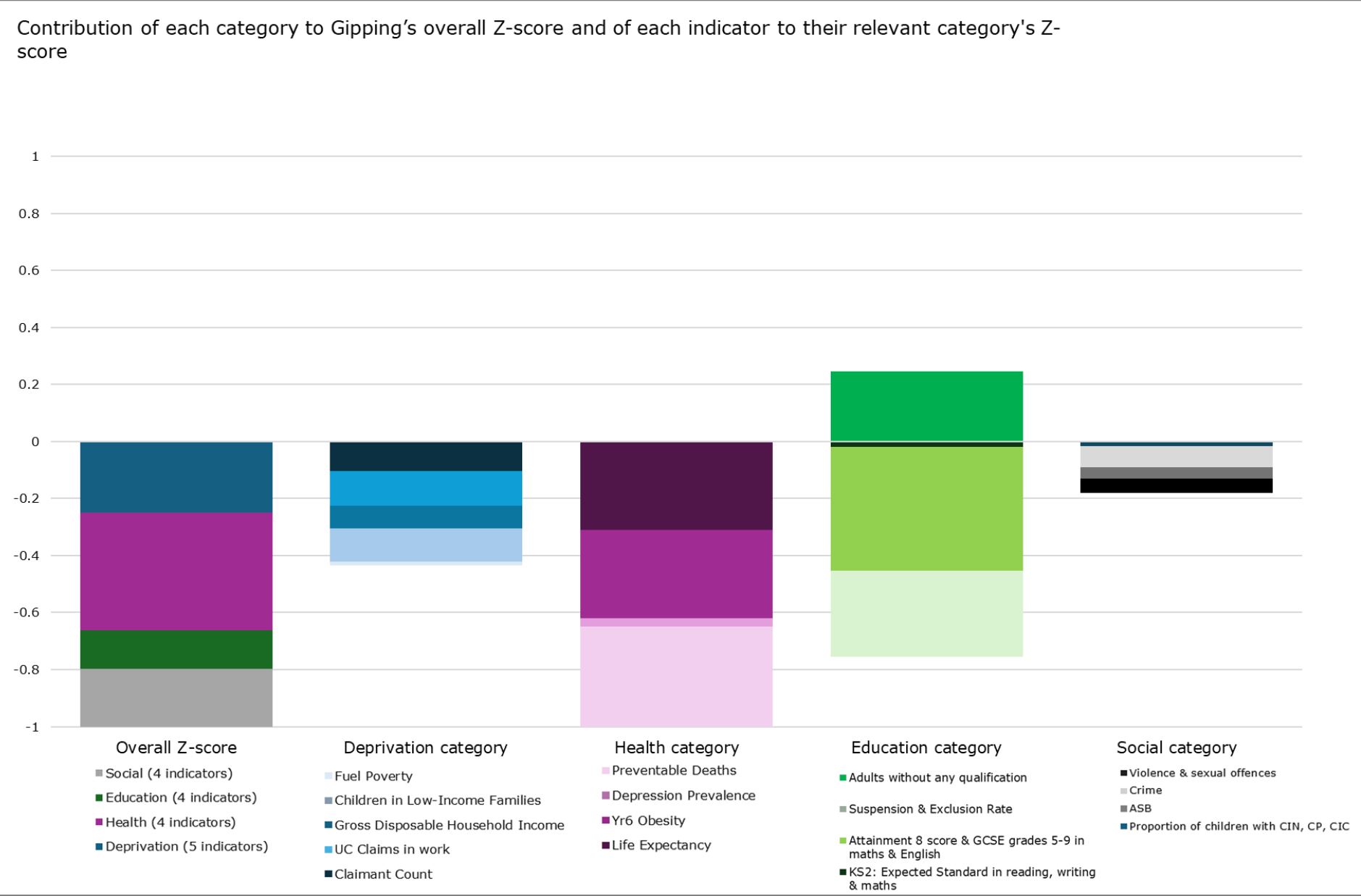


Ward Profiles

The following section shows how each indicator contributes to a ward's overall and category Z-scores.



1. Gipping (worst/lowest ranked ward within Ipswich)

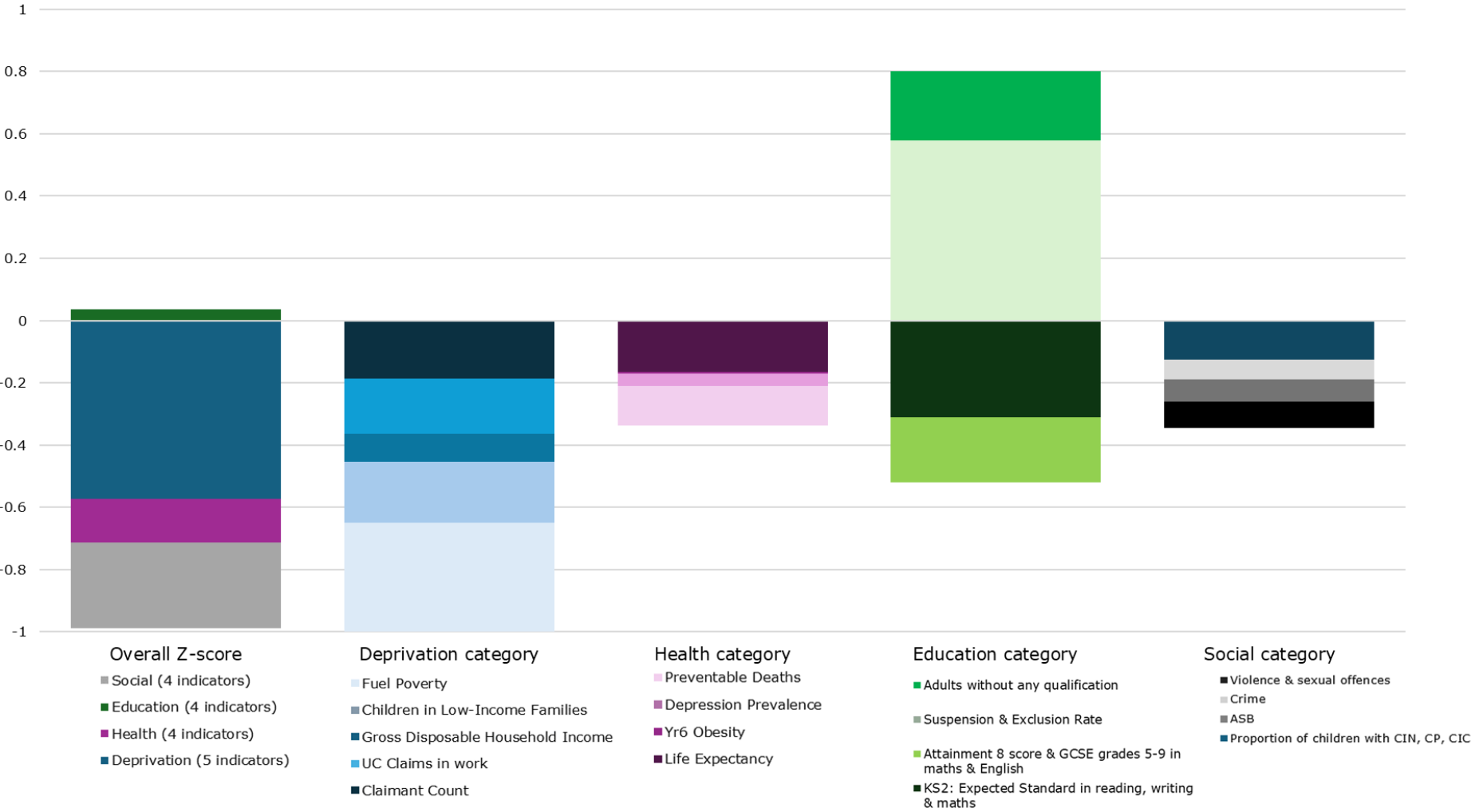


Deprivation and Health are the key issues in Gipping, with in-work poverty, number of children in low-income families, depression prevalence and Year 6 obesity being high and gross-disposable household income being low.

GCSE attainment is also relatively low in Gipping, while school exclusions/suspensions are relatively high.

2. Westgate

Contribution of each category to Westgate’s overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score



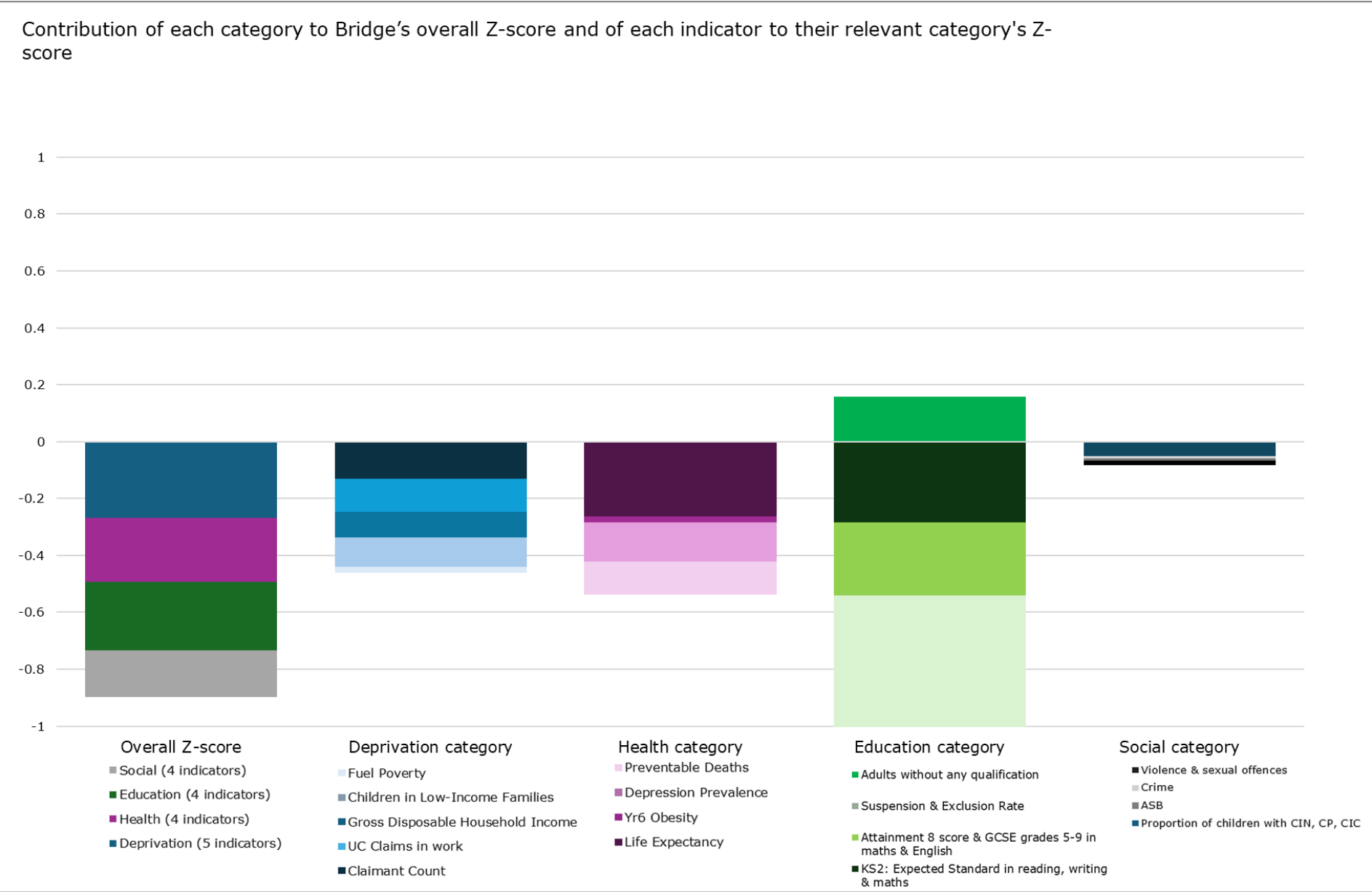
The two lowest performing categories in Westgate are Deprivation and Social.

Within Deprivation, both unemployment and in-work poverty (UC claims while in work) are relatively high, which is also reflected in the other indicators in this category.

The relatively low performance on the Social category is driven by the relatively higher proportion of children in social care and more violence & sexual offences per head.

In addition, Key Stage 2 and GCSE attainment are also an issue in Westgate.

3. Bridge



In the Bridge ward, Deprivation and Education are the two lowest performing categories though Health is a close third.

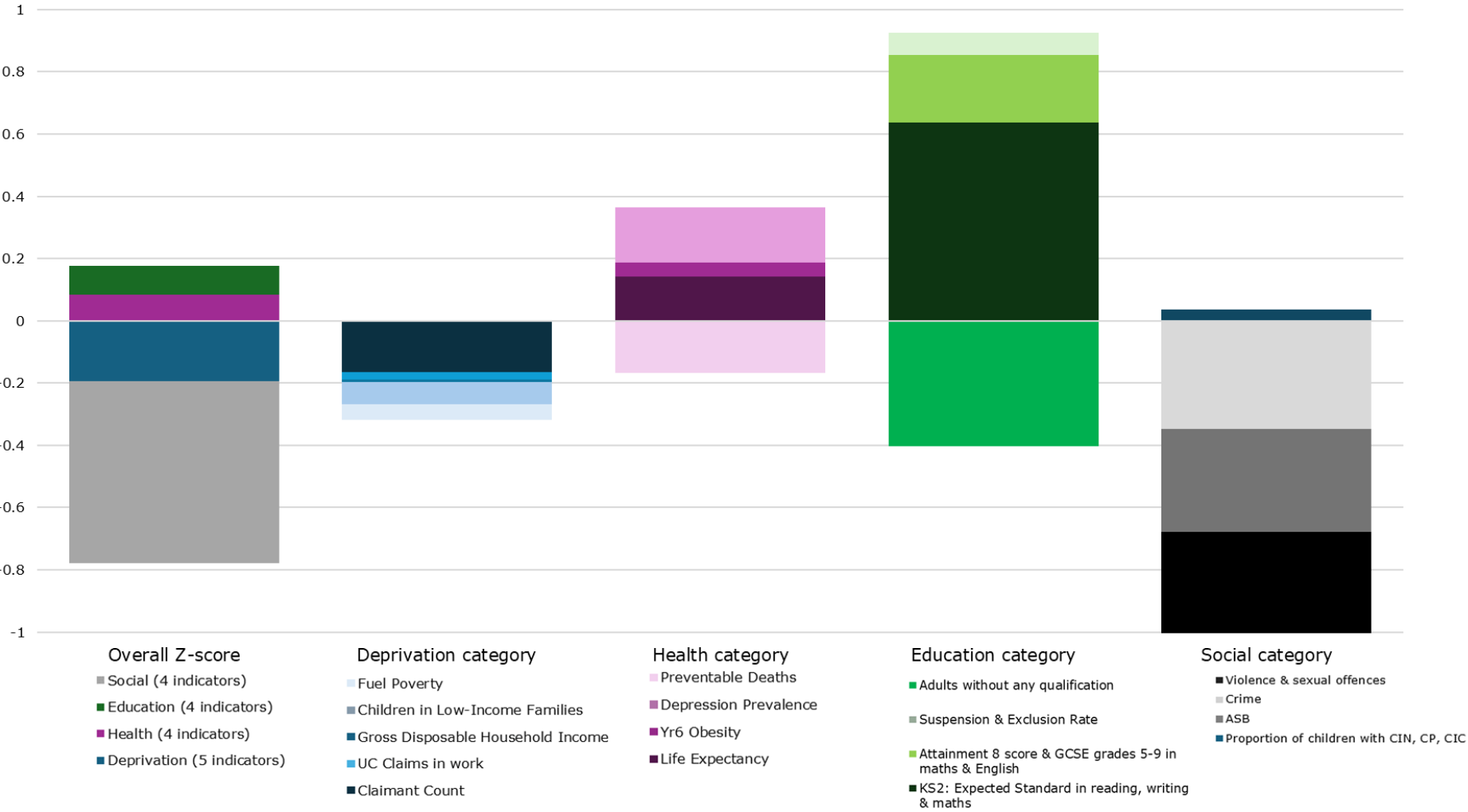
Unemployment and in-work poverty are relatively high, which decreases the gross-disposable household income and leads to higher number of children in low-income families.

School attainment is relatively low and school exclusion/suspension rates relatively high.

Key drivers of the relatively low performance in the Health category are lower Life Expectancy and higher rates of depression.

4. Alexandra

Contribution of each category to Alexandra's overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score

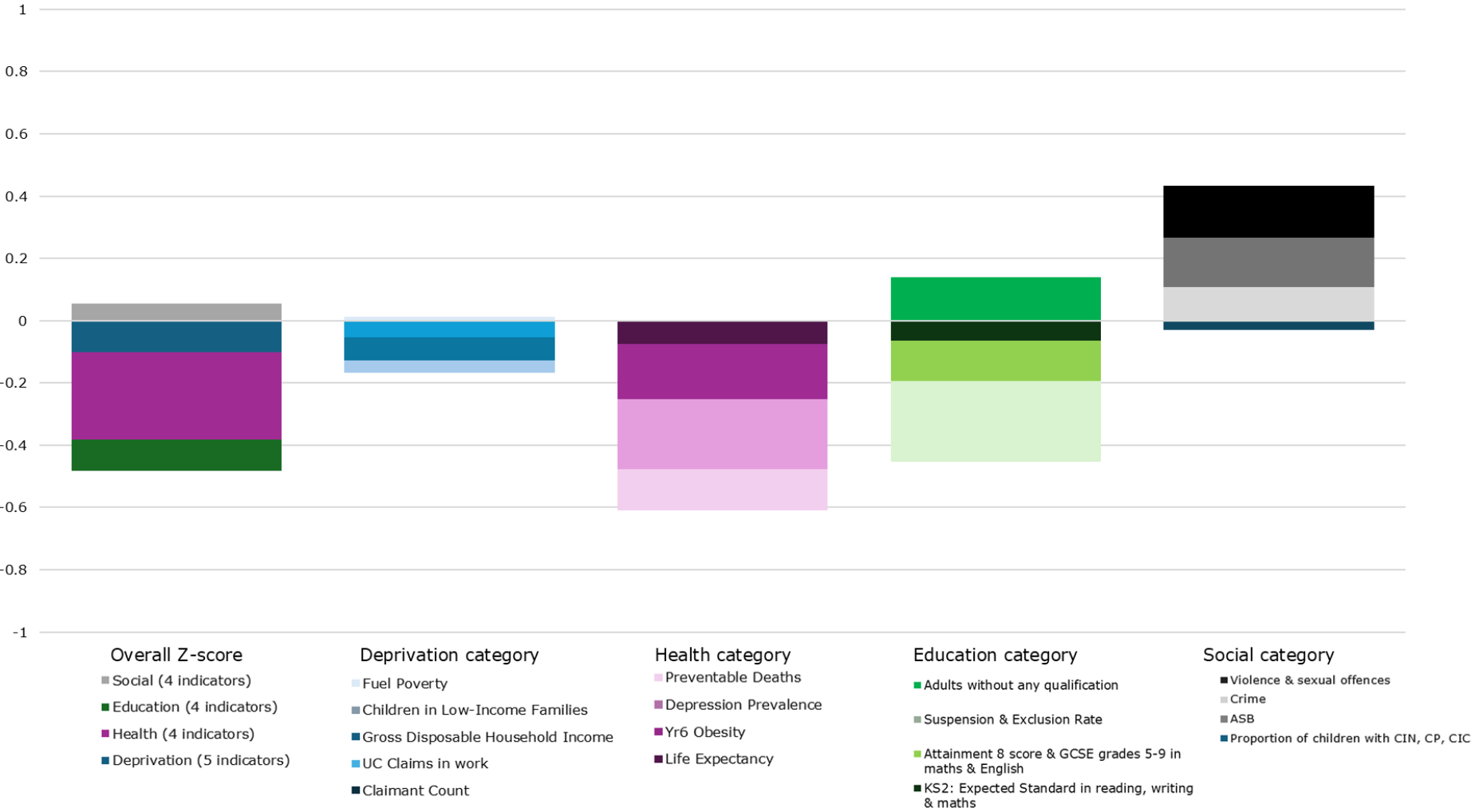


The lowest performing categories in the Alexandra ward are Social and Deprivation.

All types of crime, violence & sexual offences and ASB are relatively high. While relatively high unemployment is also a key driver of poor performance as is the relatively high number of adults without any qualifications.

5. Whitehouse

Contribution of each category to Whitehouse’s overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score



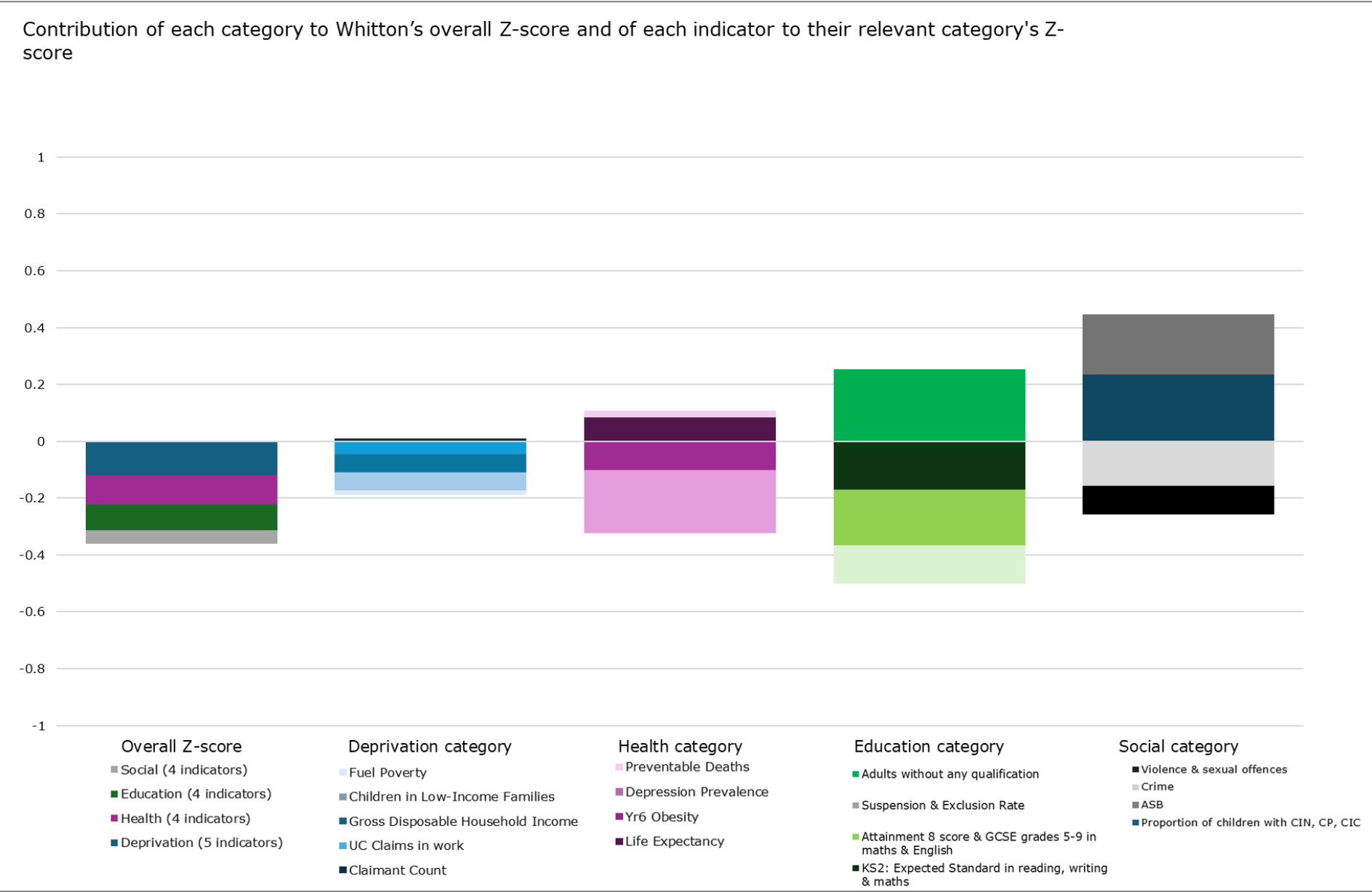
Health is the key issue in Whitehouse. Followed by Deprivation and Education.

Year 6 obesity and depression prevalence are relatively high.

Within Deprivation it seems in-work poverty (UC claims while in work) seem to be a bigger issue than unemployment.

While within Education, school exclusions/suspensions are relatively high and GCSE attainment relatively low.

6. Whitton

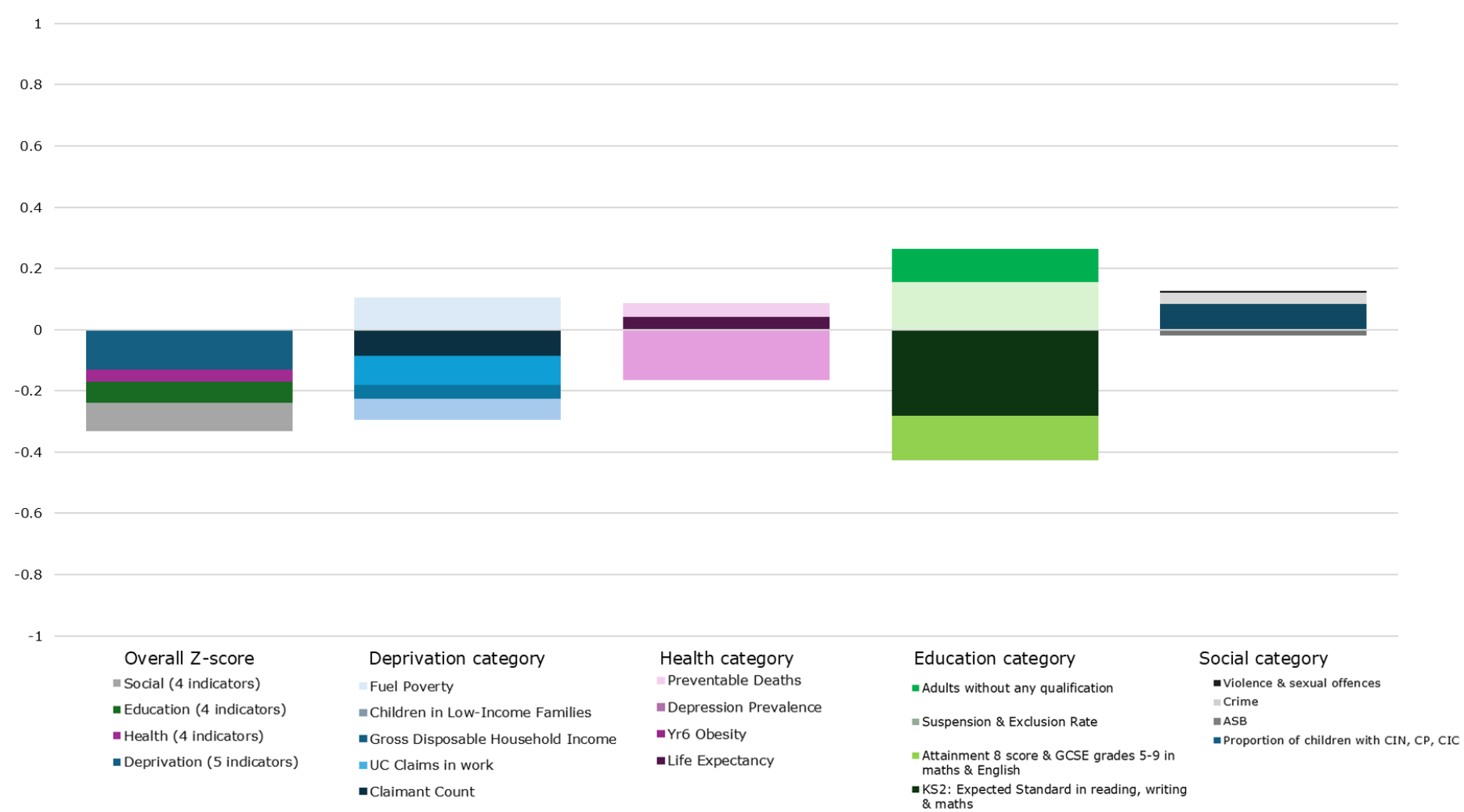


Deprivation and Health are the key issues in Whitton, with in-work poverty, number of children in low-income families, depression prevalence and Year 6 obesity being high and gross-disposable household income being low.

School attainment levels are also relatively low, while school exclusions/suspensions are relatively high, as are all types of crimes rates (incl. violence & sexual offences).

7. Stoke Park

Contribution of each category to Stoke Park's overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score



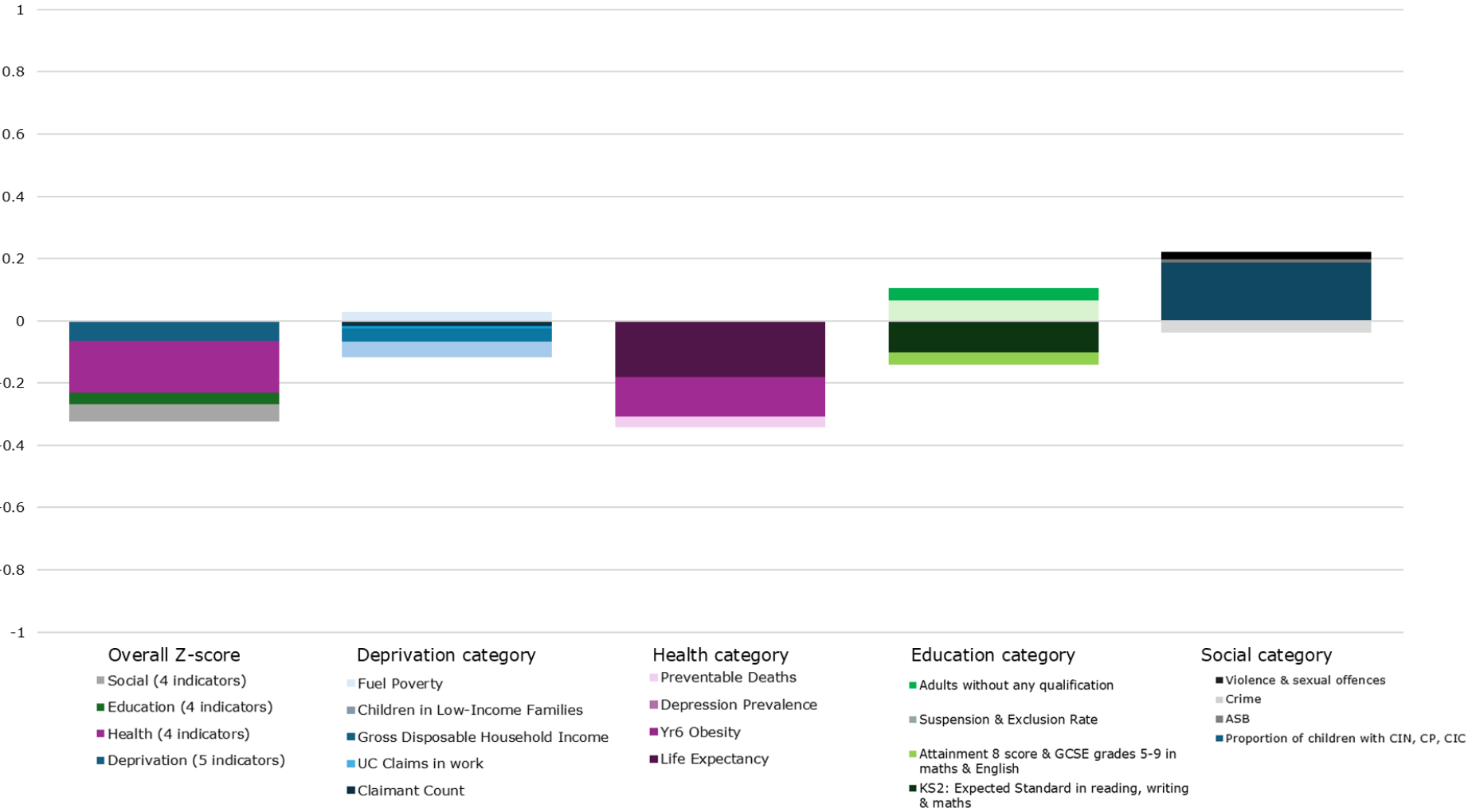
In Stoke Park Deprivation and Education are the lowest performing categories.

Both unemployment and in work poverty are an issue as is depression prevalence.

School attainment levels are also relatively low.

8. Priory Heath

Contribution of each category to Priory Heath’s overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score

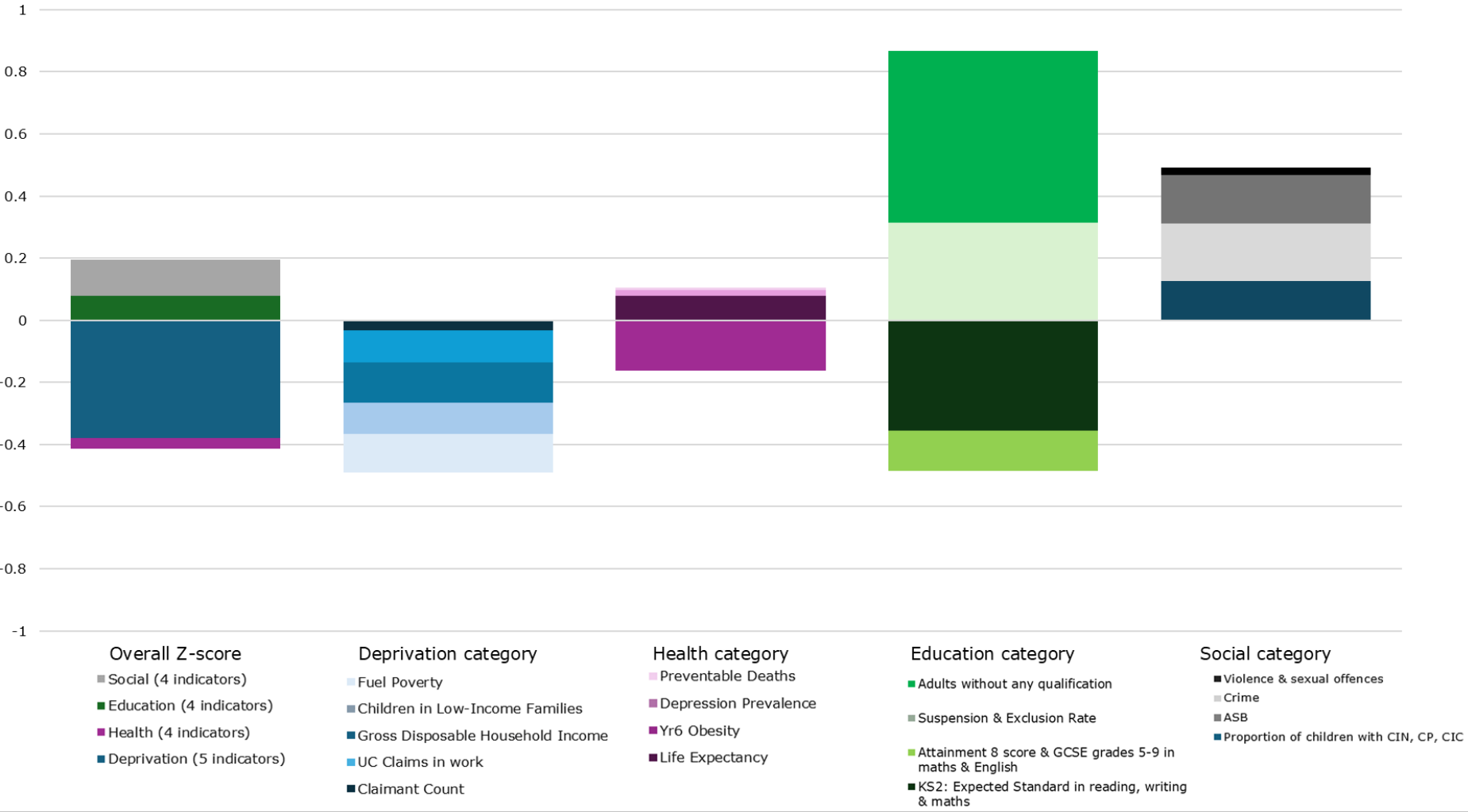


Within the Priory Heath ward, Health is the key issue.

This is driven by relative low Life Expectancy and relative high rates of Year 6 pupils being obese.

9. Gainsborough

Contribution of each category to Gainsborough's overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score

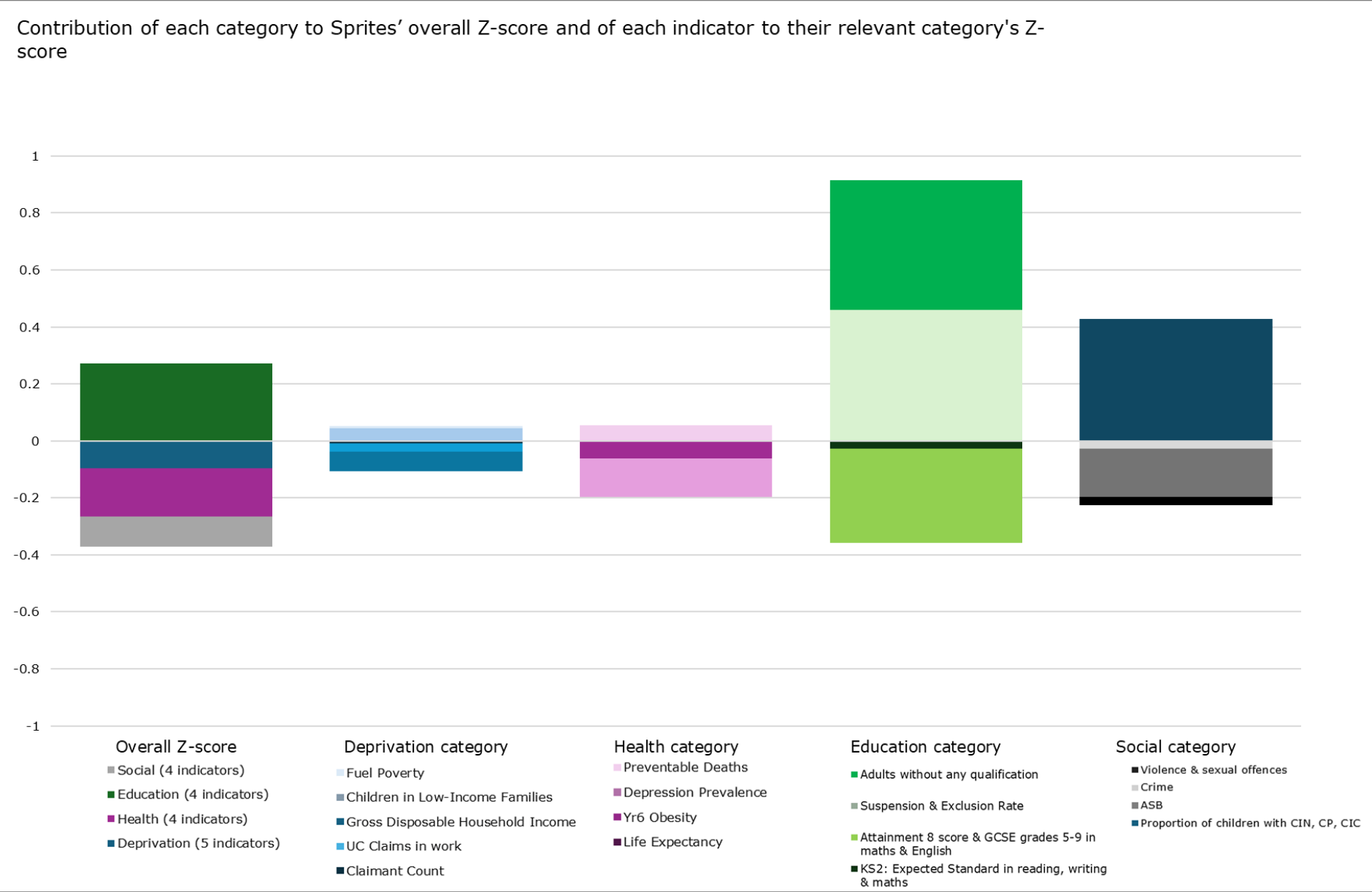


Deprivation is the key issue in Gainsborough.

The number of UC claimants that are in work is relatively high, which means that gross-disposable income is relatively low, while numbers of children in low-income families and fuel-poor households are high.

Year 6 obesity and school attainment levels are also an issue in Gainsborough.

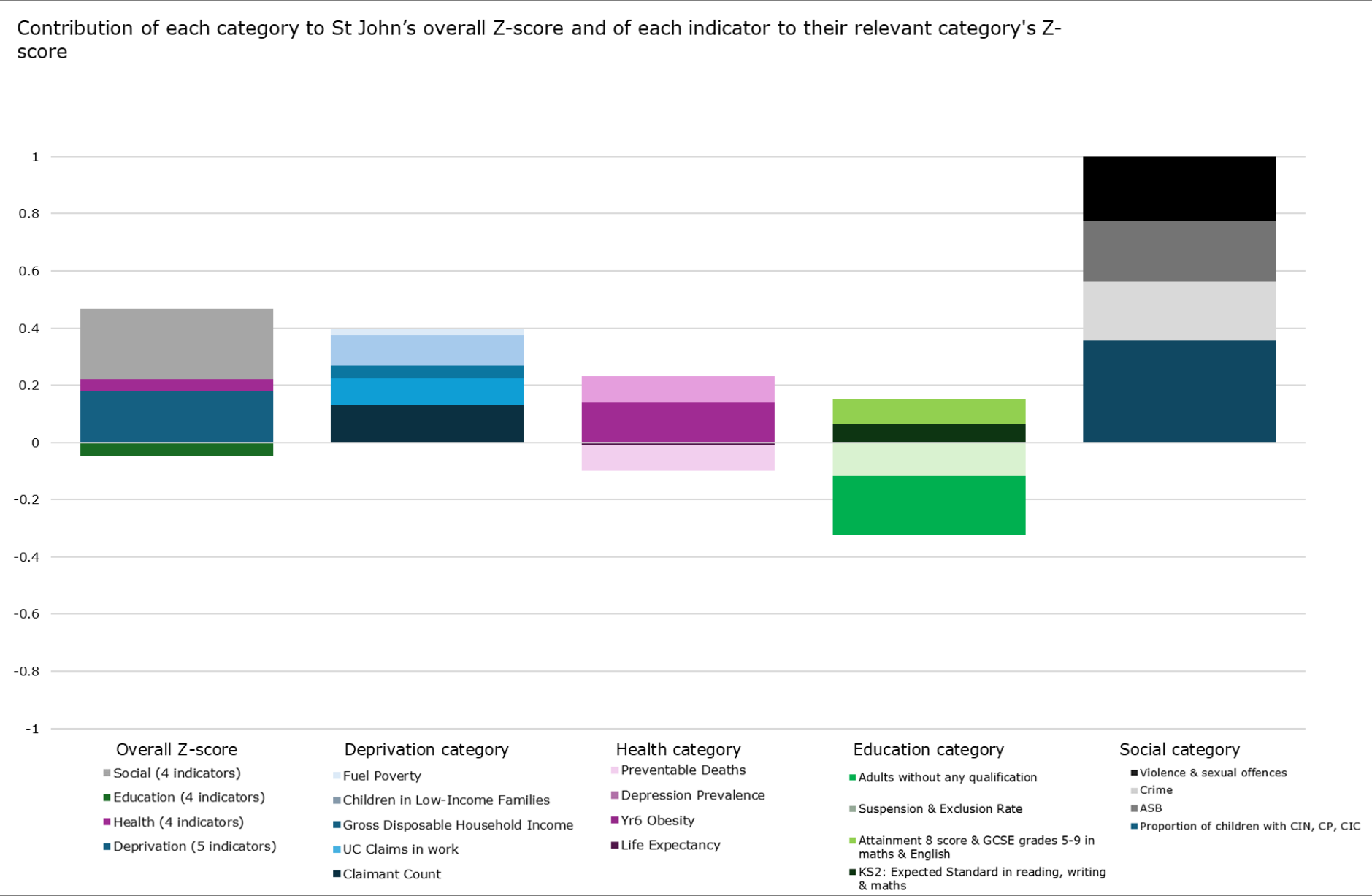
10. Sprites



In Sprites, Health is the lowest ranked category, followed by the Social one.

Year 6 obesity, depression prevalence, ASB are relatively high in Sprites, with GCSE attainment levels being relatively low.

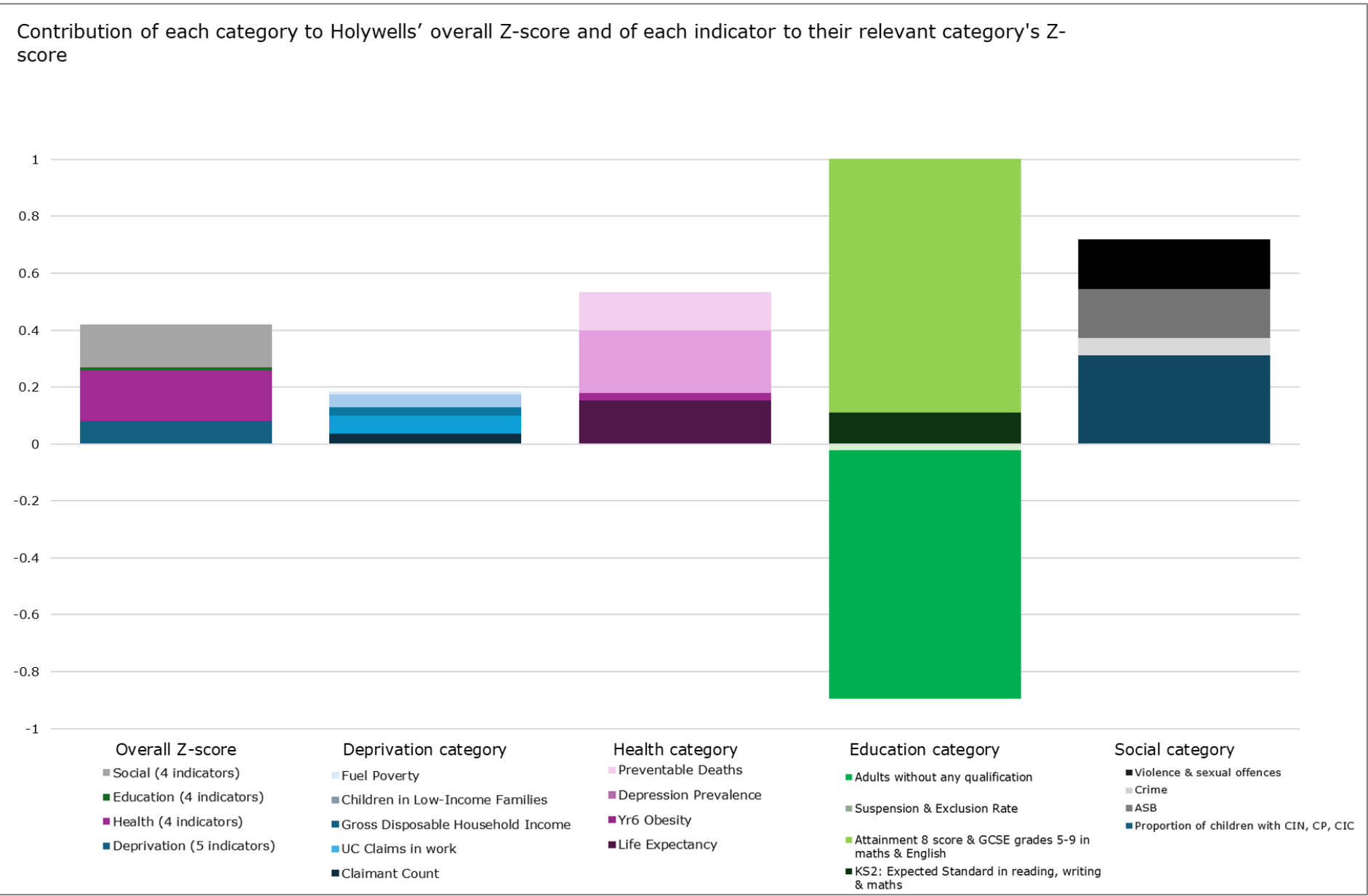
11. St John's



St John's is the 6th best/highest performing ward relatively in Ipswich.

Education is the lowest performing category in this ward, driven by relatively higher number of school exclusions/suspensions and adults without any qualifications.

12. Holywells

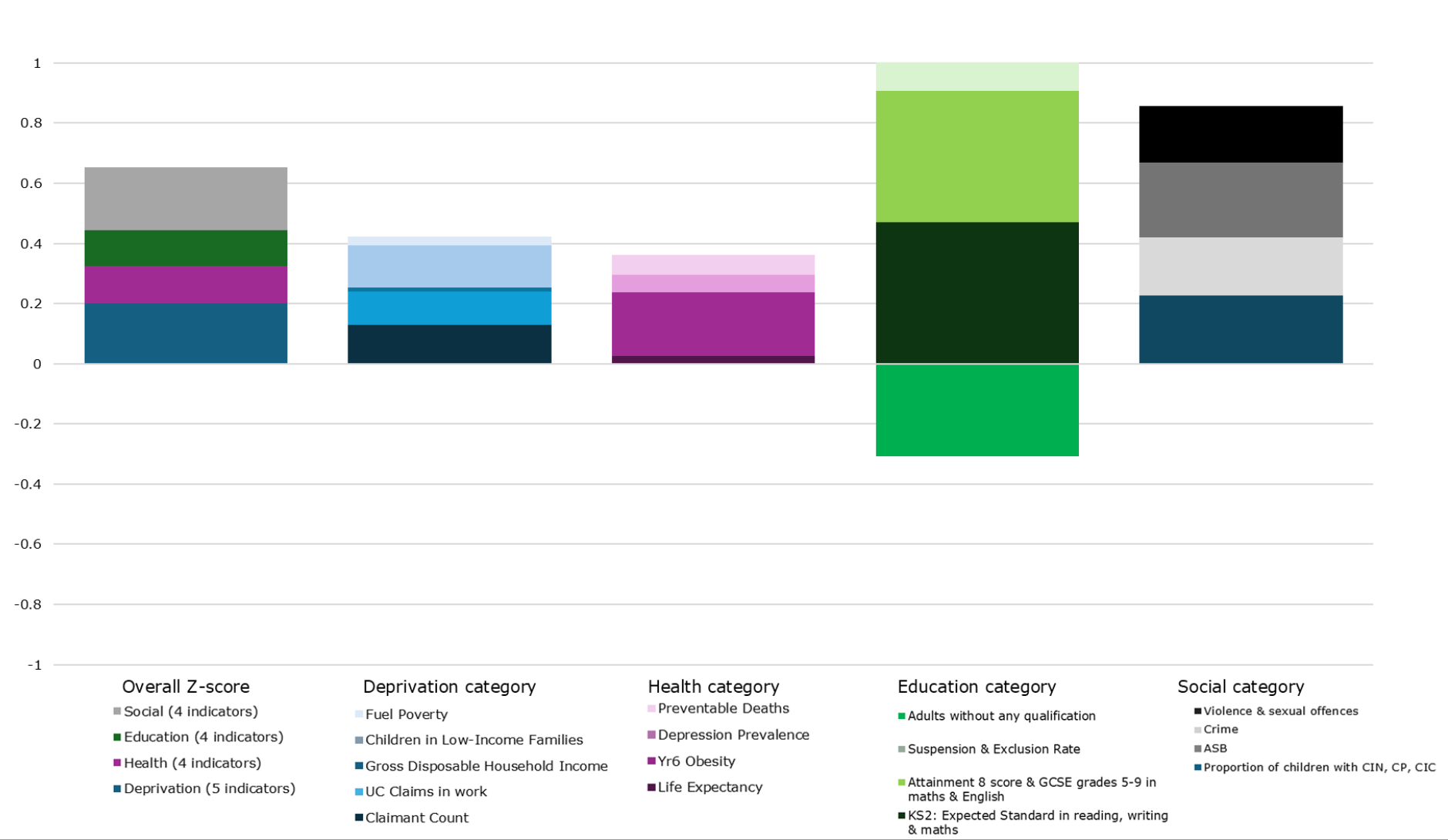


Holywells is the 5th best/highest performing ward relatively in Ipswich.

As in St John's ward, Education is the lowest performing category in Holywells, driven by the relatively high number of adults without any qualifications.

13. Rushmere

Contribution of each category to Rushmere’s overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score

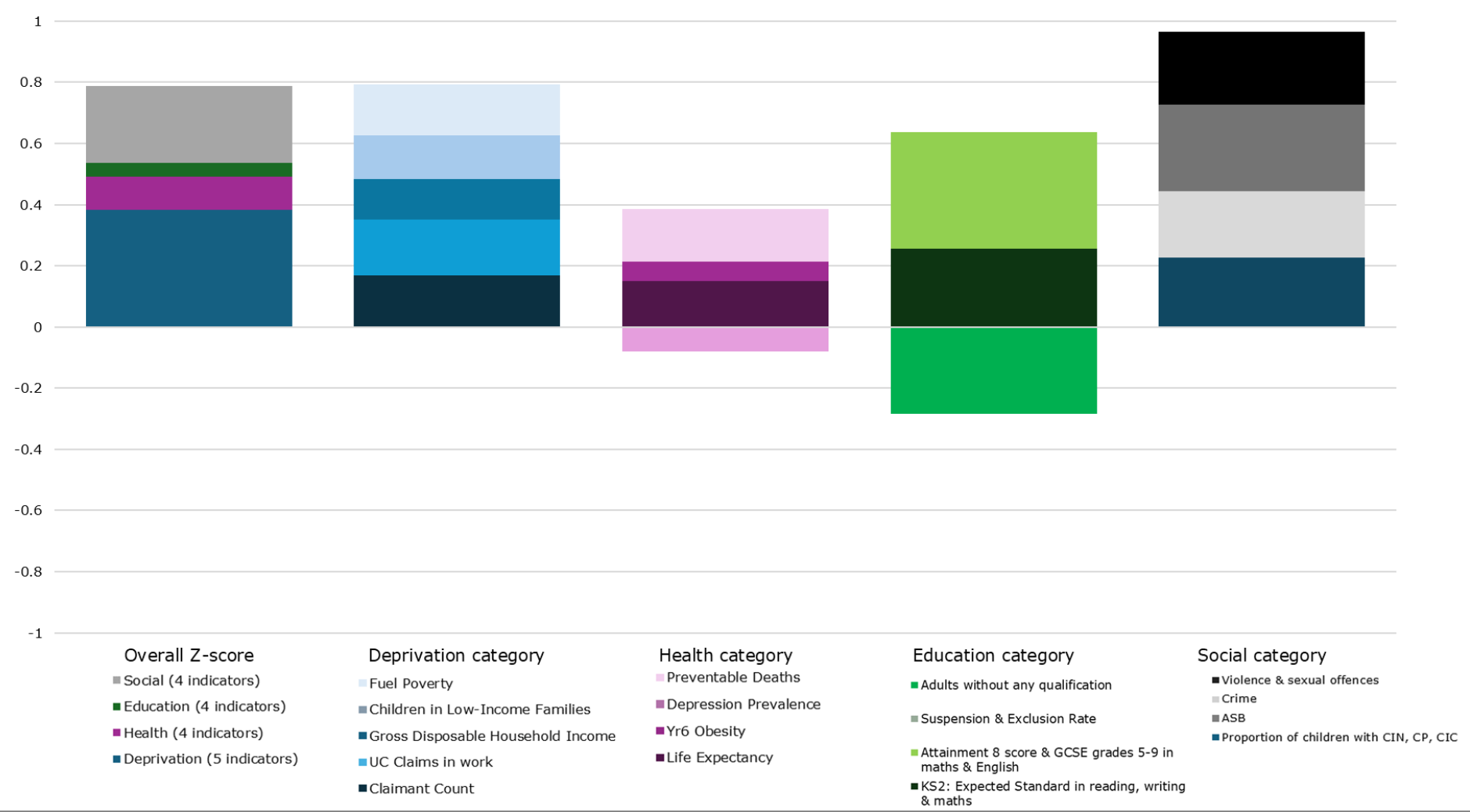


Rushmere is placed 4th in the relative ranking amongst Ipswich wards.

The only negative indictor is the relative low number of adults without any qualifications. However, Life Expectancy and gross-disposable household income are relatively low performing indicators in this ward too.

14. Castle Hill

Contribution of each category to Castle Hill's overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score

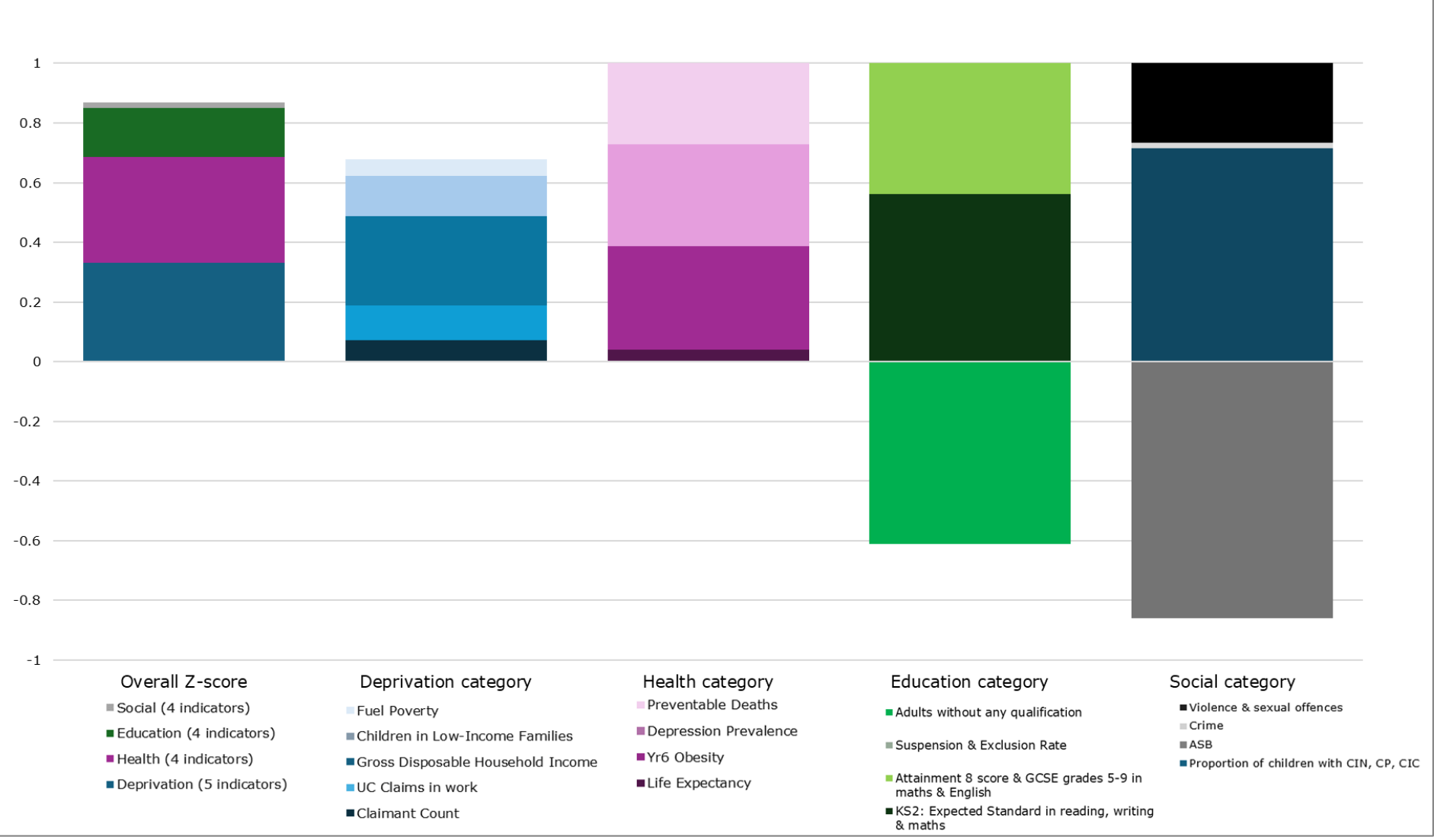


The 3rd best/highest performing ranked ward is Castle Hill.

The top three issues in this ward are the relative high number of adults without any qualification, relatively higher depression prevalence and Year 6 obesity levels.

15. St Margaret's

Contribution of each category to St Margaret's overall Z-score and of each indicator to their relevant category's Z-score



St Margaret's, in 2nd place, has some issues with relatively higher levels of ASB, number of adults without any qualification and unemployment as well as relatively lower Life Expectancy.

16. Bixley (best/highest ranked ward within Ipswich)



Bixley, relatively best/highest ranked ward in Ipswichh, is underperforming in the Education category. This is driven by relatively higher numbers of adults without any qualifications and school exclusions/suspensions.



Virtual collaboration - Real insight

