



London Borough of Sutton
Gender Pay Gap Report
31 March 2024

Executive Summary

The Gender Pay Gap Information Regulations require organisations with 250 or more employees to publish their gender pay gap data annually on the snapshot date of 31 March.

As of March 2024, the Council's mean pay gap is 8.68% (in favour of men). The mean Gender Pay Gap has decreased significantly since the previous reporting period, 31 March 2023, when it was 11.39%.

There is no one reason behind the gender pay gap - it's a complex issue. Caring responsibilities can play a big part. Women often care for young children or elderly relatives. This means women are more likely to work in part-time roles, which can be lower paid or have fewer opportunities for progression. The gender pay gap includes reporting on casual staff, who are typically in the lower bands of earners. This impact of Covid is showing to have impacted on the gender pay gap as a national trend.

Source: https://www.cipd.co.uk/Images/gender-pay-gap-reporting-guide_tcm18-107746.pdf

The gender pay gap has decreased. The percentage of women in the upper quartile of salaries is 69%, an increase on 2023 when it was 65%. Similarly, the percentage of women in the top four levels in the organisation (head of service and above) has increased from 59% in March 2023 to 64% in March 2024.

At Sutton, the waste and cleaning services, which are traditionally male-dominated lower paid roles are not delivered within the council. This means that our gender pay gap is higher than other councils who have these services in house. Nevertheless, the council is focussed on supporting our female workforce and promoting progression.

The Council understands that as a public body, community leader, a service provider, a major employer and a commissioner of goods and services, it has a clear social and statutory responsibility to prevent discrimination and advance equality. It has taken action over the year to try and address the gap and has future plans in place to continue over coming years.

Measuring the Gender Pay Gap

A gender pay gap is a measure of disadvantage (a gap) expressed as a comparison between what on average, men earn and what, on average, women earn (gender gap). The Gender Pay Gap Information Regulations require organisations with 250 or more employees to publish their gender pay gap data annually on the snapshot date of 31 March.

Organisations are required to measure their gender pay gap in several different ways. The measures used are consistent with those being used to report on the gender pay gap at a national level.

The gender pay gap measures being used are:

- Mean
- Median
- Quartile pay bands
- Bonus pay measure - not applicable

Each of the measures give a slightly different perspective on the gender pay gap, however each measure is more meaningful if read alongside the others and in the context of an organisation's overall HR and payroll policies and practices.

In terms of the gender pay gap, a positive pay gap indicates that men are paid more whilst a negative pay gap indicates women are paid more.

- A positive percentage figure reveals that typically or overall, female employees have lower pay or bonuses than male employees.
- A negative percentage figure reveals that typically or overall, male employees have lower pay or bonuses than female employees.
- A zero percentage figure (which is highly unlikely, but could exist for a median pay gap where a lot of employees are concentrated in the same pay grade) would reveal no gap between the two pay or bonuses of typical male and female employees or completely equal pay or bonuses overall.

Source: http://m.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/m/4/Managing_gender_pay_reporting_04_12_17.pdf

It is important to note the difference between the gender pay gap and equal pay. Equal pay is concerned with the difference in pay between like for like work, or work of an equal value. The gender pay gap explores the difference between the average pay of all men and women within an organisation.

Benchmarking

In the UK there is an estimated gender pay gap of 11.8% among all employees (Mean) (Source: Office for National Statistics) in favour of men, and if left alone this gap would take over a century to close. The gender pay gap is the difference in average earnings between men and women. Equal pay, on the other hand, is paying men and women the same amount to do the same job and has been a legal requirement since 1970.

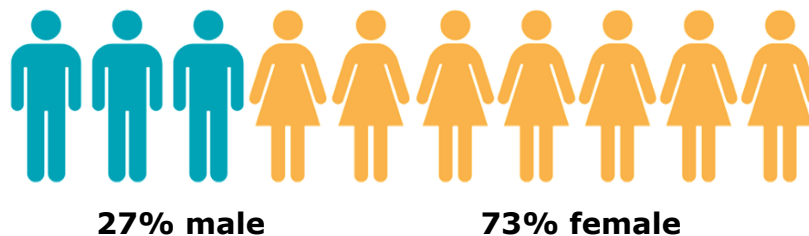
Scope

This data is based on all council employees (excluding school based staff) who were employed on 31 March 2024. For calculation purposes, only full-pay relevant employees have been included.

A full-pay relevant employee is an employee who is paid their full usual pay during the pay period on the snapshot date i.e. 31 March 2024. If the employee is paid less than their usual rate because of being on leave for that period, they are not counted as a full-pay relevant employee.

For example: If an employee is on any kind of leave and not being paid their full usual amount in the pay period for reasons such as Statutory Sick Pay or Statutory Maternity Pay then they are not full-pay relevant employees.

Workforce split of those included in the Gender Pay Gap reporting as at 31 March 2024



	Gender Pay Gap - the difference between women’s pay and men’s pay as a percentage of men’s pay (minus % means women have higher pay, positive % means men have higher pay)
Mean Hourly Rate	8.68%
Median Hourly Rate	4.97%

Median

The difference between the median hourly rate of pay of male full-pay relevant employees and the median hourly rate of pay of female full-pay relevant employees. The median is the middle figure and by identifying the wage of the middle earner, the median is the best representation of the ‘typical’ gender difference.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/view-gender-pay-gap-information>

As of March 2024, the Council has a median pay gap of 4.97% which means it is slightly favourable towards men. For every £100 earned by a man a woman would earn £95.03. Since there is a major concentration of women in every

quartile except upper, which is more even, this leads to a larger gap in the median figure which is in favour of men.

Mean

The difference between the mean hourly rate of pay of male full-pay relevant employees and that of female full-pay relevant employees. The mean is calculated by the sum of all hourly rates divided by headcount of employees (men or women).

By taking into account the full earnings distribution, the mean takes into account the low and high earners in an organisation – this is particularly useful as women are often over-represented at the low earning extreme and men are over-represented at the high earning extreme.

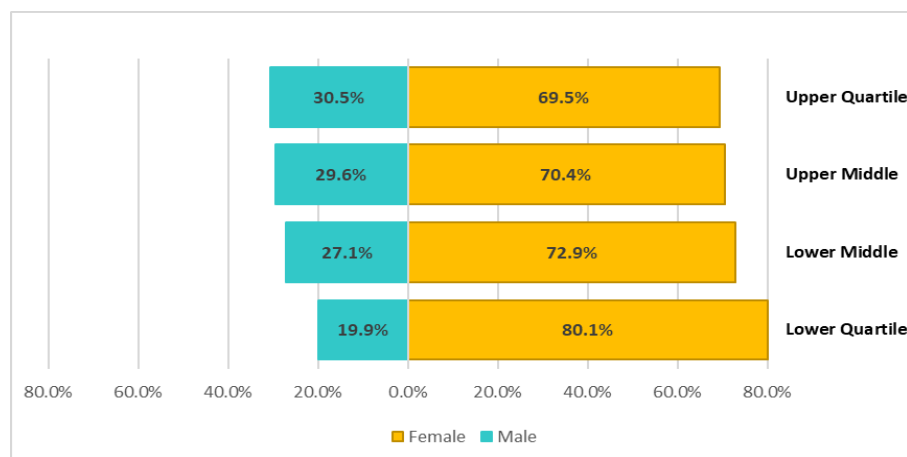
Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/view-gender-pay-gap-information>

As of March 2024, the Council's mean pay gap is 8.68% which means the gap is slightly in favour of men. For every £100 earned by a man a woman would earn £91.32 This compares favourably with the rest of the UK estimate of 13.9%, but does show that there is still room for improvement.

One of the contributing factors to the mean pay gap for the organisation is that the gender pay split in the bottom three pay grades of the council is 73% women and 27% men.

Quartiles

The graph below illustrates the gender distribution across London Borough of Sutton in four equally sized quartiles based on hourly pay rates, with the lower quartile including the lowest-paid 25% of employees and the upper quartile covering the highest-paid 25%.



At London Borough of Sutton the concentration of women in the three lower quartiles broadly matches the workforce profile, however the proportion of men increases in the upper quartile compared to women (see above). The percentage of women in the upper quartile has increased from 63.7% to 69.5% since 2023, and the percentage of women in the upper middle quartile has decreased from 77.1% to 70.4%.

London Councils Comparison

London Borough of Sutton is able to compare itself to London as a whole. The ranking in the table below reflects that women are represented more in the lower two quartiles, given that the council does not deliver waste and cleansing services in house, but shows a positive picture for London Borough of Sutton in the upper two quartiles where the council is 3rd out of 33 London boroughs in the upper middle quartile and 10th out of 33 London boroughs for women in the upper quartile. The upper quartile shows a positive trajectory.

Metric	2018 Ranking (out of 33)	2020 Ranking (out of 33)	2021 Ranking (out of 33)	2022 Ranking (out of 33)	2023 Ranking (out of 33)
% of women in upper quartile (1st is best)	16th	12th	10th	9th	10th
% of women in upper middle quartile (1st is best)	2nd	2nd	3rd	3rd	3rd
% of women in lower middle quartile (33rd is best)	6th	3rd	2nd	1st	3rd
% of women in lower quartile (33rd is best)	5th	2nd	2nd	3rd	2nd

Bonus pay reporting

London Borough of Sutton does not pay bonuses. Therefore this element of the pay gap reporting does not apply to the council.

Pay gap reporting and hours worked

There is a difference between the pay gaps when compared with full-time and part-time hours worked. The ONS defines full-time work as more than 30 hours per week. They estimate that for full-time employees, there is a median pay gap of 7.0% in favour of men. This reduces significantly to 3.0% in favour of women

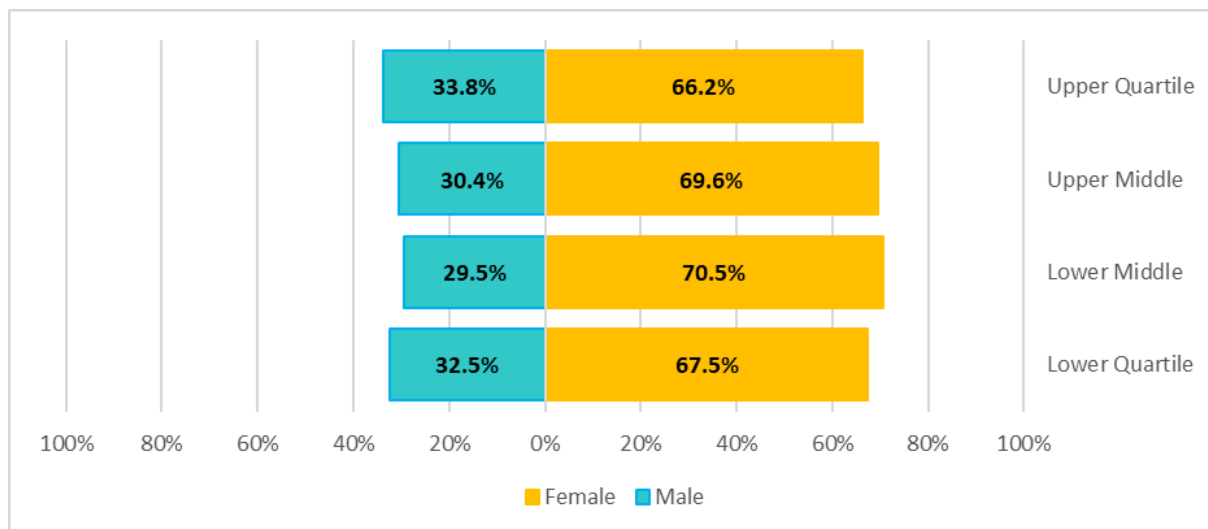
when looking at part-time hours worked (ONS, 2024). The reason for this difference is due to women being more likely to be employed part-time and often earning less per hour than their full-time counterparts. Whilst this reduces the gap for part-time employees, it means the gap is wider when looking at full-time and part-time employees combined.

The full-time pay gap

The Council's workforce is made up of 78% full-time employees, 53% of which are female.

As of March 2024, the Council has a mean pay gap of 5.00% for full-time staff which means it is slightly favourable towards men. For every £100 earned by a man in a full-time role, a woman would earn £95.00. The Council has a median pay gap of 2.02% for full-time staff in favour of men. For every £100 earned by a man in a full-time role, a woman would earn £97.98.

The graph below shows the distribution of gender for full-time staff across the quartiles. Female employees are overrepresented in the lower and lower middle quartiles. The upper middle quartile is representative of the gender split, whilst the upper quartile is weighted in favour of men. This contributes to the gender pay gap for full-time staff as there are on average more women in lower-paid full-time roles than men, and on average more men in higher-paid full-time roles than women.

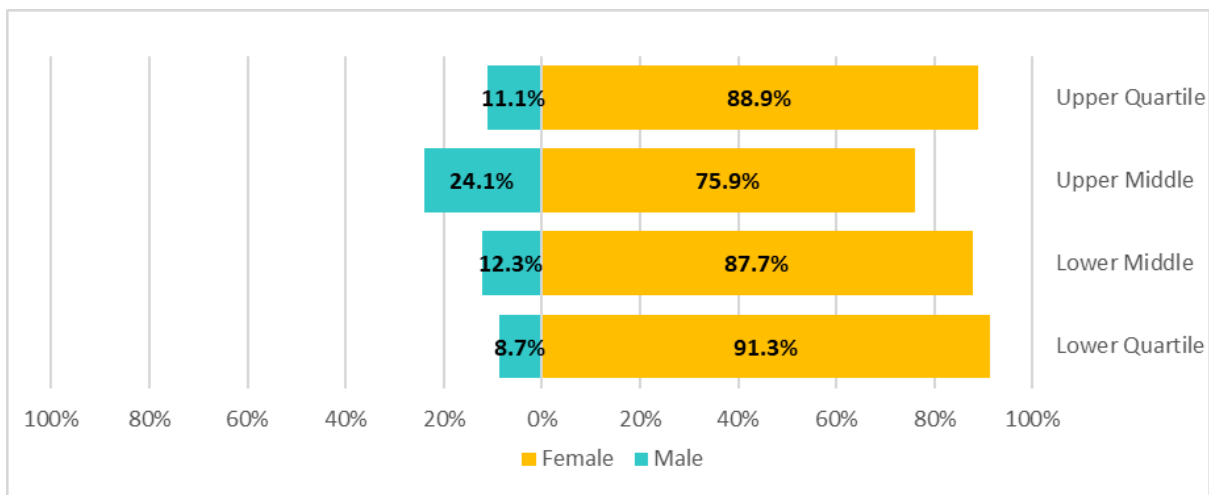


The part-time pay gap

The Council's workforce is made up of 22% part-time employees, 87% of which are female.

As of March 2024, the Council has a median pay gap of 20.03% for part-time staff which means it is favourable towards men. For every £100 earned by a man in a part-time role, a woman would earn £79.97. The Council has a mean pay gap of 8.52% for part-time staff in favour of men. For every £100 earned by a man in a part-time role, a woman would earn £91.48.

The Council’s part-time workforce has a slightly more unusual gender distribution between quartiles. The most common trend shows that there are often more women in the lower and lower middle quartiles, fewer women in the upper middle quartile, with the fewest women in the upper quartile. The Council’s part-time workforce distribution shows that there are more women in the middle quartiles, and fewer women in the lower and upper quartiles.



Whilst the ONS suggest that the inclusion of part-time employees tends to reduce the overall pay gap, the Council sees the opposite happening. This is in part due to the workforce retaining lower paid care and administrative roles that are often held by women, whilst outsourcing the lower-paid male-dominated roles such as caretakers and waste services, meaning the gender pay gap is more heavily affected by the distribution of part-time employees.

What is the Council doing to close the gap?

The Council's Equality and Diversity Framework sets out its commitment to Equalities in service provision and employment. It also sets out the requirements that the Equality Act 2010 places on Local Authorities. The Framework complements and reflects the key priorities set out in London Borough of Sutton's Corporate Plan, Ambitious for Sutton 2022 - 2027.

Sutton is committed to addressing diversity and is approaching this with a number of initiatives, policies and actions to address gender equality in the workforce over the last year to help ensure there are no barriers to progression. These are outlined below.

Recruitment stage

Sutton uses anonymous application forms for recruitment and the recruitment team has reviewed the information on the website to welcome diverse applicants and to encourage applications from under-represented groups. Both permanent and temporary recruitment systems provide the ability to monitor application levels/shortlisting and appointment levels of applicants based on gender and other equalities characteristics. This monitoring shows that the majority of shortlisted applicants were women (67%) and the majority of appointed applicants were also women (70%), so there is no adverse impact on females in the short listing and appointment process. Of those who are on secondment or acting into more senior roles, 69% were women (6% higher than 2022/23) and 68% of those promoted internally in the last year.

We have equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) focused training for all our hiring managers which focuses on eliminating bias during the interview process. In 2022, we rolled out a scheme to ensure that there are gender diverse panels where there is a misrepresentation of women in a particular department (including senior positions). This pilot was a success and is now part of our standard recruitment procedure. We have also actively rebranded our job adverts, promoting our commitment to diversity, flexible working and recognising and celebrating our staff networks.

Employment stage

Our PRIDE Values are embedded in our organisational development and performance management arrangements, including the "D" for diversity. We have continued to develop our EDI training with mandatory training courses for all managers around having uncomfortable conversations in 23/24, targeted events for managers and staff and live streams and e-learning throughout the year.

The Council has six equality staff network groups across the council, each with a senior manager sponsor, who are helping build awareness of the needs of all, ensuring fair and respectful treatment. These include Multi-Ethnic+Allies,

LGBTQ+Allies, Early Careers and Youth+Allies, Women's+Allies, Parents & Carers+Allies, Inclusive Abilities+Allies who all meet regularly. HR&OD, policy and partnerships and the staff networks meet every six weeks with a focus on borough wide and workforce equality. This group reports to our Chief Executive and Strategic Directors quarterly. The council continues to implement its Acting on Womens' Experience (AWE) plan, sponsored by a Strategic Director.

The council's active Women's +allies staff network ran events for International Women's Day in March. The Women's +allies staff network's WoW (Wellbeing of Women) group held joint sessions with Kingston's network to raise awareness of the impact and support available for those with endometriosis and polycystic ovarian syndrome. Sutton's Chief Executive is a sponsor of the Pan-London Women's Network, in which Sutton plays an active role. An event 'Allyship is a Verb' took place in April.

An online talk was held on Menopause held by Sutton and Kingston's Women's (+A) Staff Network to coincide with World Menopause Day on 18 October, and nine members of staff were trained as Menopause champions in June 2023. Free period products are now provided in staff and customer-facing toilets in council buildings across the borough. Events and a webcam background promoted Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. The council ran a virtual event for National Fertility Awareness Week with The Fertility Coaching Company and launched a new e-learning module to support the Fertility Treatment Guidance which was agreed in partnership with the staff networks and Trade Unions.

To support Sutton's White Ribbon accreditation (a campaign against violence towards women and girls), the council's White Ribbon Ambassadors gave out leaflets and stickers in Trinity Square and attended the annual White Ribbon event. A 16 days of action calendar of activity was promoted to staff ending on World Human Rights Day.

Reverse mentoring links Sutton's most senior leaders with a mentor who shares their lived experience both personally and in the workplace. Building on the review of recruitment practice, the Council has implemented diverse interview panels, drawing on this pool of reverse mentors and our network members.

Aspiring leaders and aspiring managers programmes launched as pilots to support our women in progressing their careers. Feedback was so positive that these programmes are now part of our core learning offer, and progression of those on the programme will be tracked to monitor its effectiveness. A third of participants have progressed since this programme started.

An inclusive language guide was developed in partnership with the Council's staff networks to provide a toolkit around appropriate and inclusive language and ways to challenge inappropriate language. A 'What it means to be a manager in

Sutton' guide has been developed to promote consistency and clear expectations.

Plans for the future

The activity described in this section will continue. In addition, specific actions we will be taking to reduce our Gender Pay Gap year on year include:

- Continuing to implement our EDI Plan across the equalities characteristics
- Ongoing engagement programme - Managers briefings, webinars, Corporate Leadership and Managers Network sessions, staff networks, staff awards and 'wall of thanks', inductions. The focus will be a focus on women, ethnicity and neurodiversity.
- Engaging with our staff through our regular staff surveys, and acting on what we hear.
- Monitoring the workforce profile of staff undertaking learning activity matching gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality as part of our equalities reporting.
- Improving promotion of women's development and leadership opportunities and continuing our aspiring leaders and managers programmes targeted at female staff who would like to progress their careers.
- Continuing to promote menopause awareness and increased support for women experiencing menopause and perimenopausal symptoms, including sessions for all our managers.
- Reviewing workforce monitoring reports and ensuring that where there is underrepresentation at senior levels, there are no barriers within the organisation that are preventing women from progressing.
- Promoting our allyship programme - commitment to challenge.
- Reviewing policies and signposting regarding reproductive health, child care, maternity, adoption, kinship and shared parental leave.
- Continuing to hear from our active Women's +allies network and provide open discussion sessions around empowering women and understanding barriers to progression.
- Increasing senior level involvement in understanding women's experiences e.g. champions, reverse mentors, panels.
- Publishing our gender pay assessment annually
- ally and providing a deep dive into the figures to better understand any changes year on year and focus our efforts.
- Senior level champions in each department promoting diversity.
- Development sessions around imposter syndrome, the wheel of power and privilege and hearing from diverse voices.
- A further pulse staff survey will be undertaken in 2025, resulting in an evidence based action plan to respond to what is heard and to support the council's work to attract and retain the best talent to Sutton.

This information reassures us that the council is working hard to ensure equality across the council, but highlights there is always more that can be done as an organisation and as individuals. The council will continue to embed diversity and inclusion in all we do, that goes beyond gender, and covers other areas such as disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation and those with caring responsibilities.