



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships
Bringing ideas to life

Community Partnership Board

Wednesday, 13 September 2023 at 2.00 pm
in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, Melton

		Pages
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Welcome and Introduction (Caroline Topping)	
3	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 June 2023.	1 - 5
4	Community Partnership Board Performance Overview (Caroline Topping)	
5	Community Partnership Updates - Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and Villages Community Partnership - Alan Green - Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership - Kay Yule for Stephen Molyneux	
6	UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Programme Update (Marie Webster-Fitch and James Chandler)	
7	Community Partnership Annual Forum 2024 (Caroline Topping and Luke Bennett)	
8	Tackling Inequalities Workshop (Karen Moy and Nicole Rickard) - Introduction, Presentation and Workshop	
	CPB September 2023 Deprivation and Inequalities	6 - 28
	Cost of Living Impact Youth Voice	29 - 37

9	Any Other Business	
10	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday, 13 December 2023 at 10.00am at the Orbis Energy Centre, Lowestoft	

Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Partnership Meetings

The Council and members of the partnership may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting.

The Council cannot guarantee public seating areas will not be filmed or recorded. By entering the Conference Room and sitting in the public seating area, those present will be deemed to have consented to the possible use of filmed images and sound recordings. If you do not wish to be recorded, please speak to a member of the Democratic Services team at the earliest opportunity.

If you require this document in large print, audio or Braille or in a different language, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01502 523521 or email: democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Community Partnership Board** held at
The Fromus Centre, Saxmundham
on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 10am

Community Partnership Board Members Present:

Caroline Topping (CP Board Chair)
Chris Abraham (Chief Executive of Community Action Suffolk (CAS)),
Paul Ashdown (Chair of the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership)
Bobby Bennett (Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities)
Inspector Liz Casey (Safer Neighbourhood Team, Suffolk Constabulary)
John Fisher (Chair of the Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and Villages Community Partnership)
Katie Graham (ESC Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism),
Alan Green (Chair of the Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and Villages Community Partnership)
Louise Hardwick (NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Integrated Care Board)
Michael Ladd (Suffolk County Council representative)
Stephen Molyneux (Chair of the Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership)
Sally Noble (Chair of the Framlingham, Wickham Market and Villages Community Partnership),
Rosie Smithson (Chair of the Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership),
Edward Thompson (Chair of the Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership),
Lisa Perkins (Vice Chair, Adastral Park & Research Realisation Director for BT)

Others Present:

Julia Bates (East Coast College)
Luke Bennett (Partnerships Manager, East Suffolk Council),
Kay Bonning-Schmitt (Economic Development Programme Lead, East Suffolk Council)
James Chandler (Skills and Investment Lead, East Suffolk Council)
Andy Crump (Inspire Suffolk)
Michael Gray (Suffolk County Council)
Jasmine Joolia (Suffolk County Council)
Nick Khan (Strategic Director, East Suffolk Council),
Mags Lambert (Project Manager, East Suffolk Council)
Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities, East Suffolk Council and NHS Norfolk & Waveney / Ipswich & East Suffolk Integrated Care Boards),
Amy Ryan (Suffolk County Council)
Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer, East Suffolk Council)
Darian Vormund (New Anglia Enterprise Hub)
David Walford (Department for Work and Pensions)
Marie Webster-Fitch (Economic Development Manager, East Suffolk Council)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Beth Keys Holloway (Chair of Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership), Melanie Craig (Suffolk Community Foundation) and Roger Wright (Britten Pears Arts).

2 Welcome and Introduction (Caroline Topping)

Caroline Topping welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Councillors who would be sitting on the Board.

All those present introduced themselves.

3 Election of a Vice-Chair

Caroline Topping sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the 2023/24 year. She then proposed Lisa Perkins for the role and Lisa was seconded by Paul Ashdown.

There being no other nominations it was

RESOLVED

That Lisa Perkins be elected as Vice Chair for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

4 Minutes

Caroline Topping presented the minutes from the last meeting held on 15 March 2023.

There being no comments or amendments to the minutes it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

5 Community Partnership Priorities

6 Focus on Community Partnerships (Katie Graham)

Items 5 and 6 were considered together.

Nicole Rickard recapped the work done to set up the Community Partnerships, the priorities that had been agreed and the projects funded so far by the Community Partnership Board. Community Partnership meetings had been set up to be a solutions and partnership focussed means of delivery, not just a system for handing out grants.

Nicole Rickard and Katie Graham summarised the eight Community Partnerships and their individual priorities. The priorities of both the Board and the Community Partnerships had been developed using a combination of data provided by Suffolk County Council and local insight from residents and community groups. This approach was being used to refresh the priorities to ensure they continued to be relevant. Nicole Rickard summarised some of the projects that had been run through the Community Partnerships in the last four years.

Nicole Rickard confirmed that funding for Community Partnerships had been agreed for this and the next financial year from New Homes Bonus.

7 Ease the Squeeze Programme Update

An update had been circulated with the agenda on the work done so far under the Ease the Squeeze programme to help with the cost of living.

Nicole Rickard highlighted the following points:

- There had been approximately £1 million allocated to the cost of living programme, and so a wide variety of projects were delivered.
- Partnership working and match funding had been very important. For example funding from Suffolk County Council for the Cost of Living Community Grant fund had meant that smaller projects could be funded which might not have otherwise been possible.
- East Suffolk Council had worked with a number of charities and groups they had not worked with previously.
- 850 cost of living referrals had been dealt with so far, these were becoming more complicated compared to earlier referrals.

In addition to these points, Nicole Rickard summarised the learning from last year that would be taken forward to adapt the programme for the 2023/24 year. Partnership working had been important, and a data led approach was supported. Workshops had been run with partners to help shape the programme and this would be repeated this year.

Regarding specific projects, there had been some issues with the branding of warm rooms as people did not want to be seen to be going somewhere for warmth so there was a stigma attached. As a result some Partnerships had already changed the branding for this (to Warm Welcome and Community Rooms). The Comfort Food project had also been very hit and miss across the district and it was felt that the money for this could be used elsewhere with smaller food projects in individual areas.

Other issues that had been identified included ensuring branding and messaging was clear so that people understood what the Council could and could not do, and more work needed to be done to reach rural communities, including through the proposed mobile Community Pantry and Advice Hub.

It was agreed that a task and finish group on social isolation would be reconvened to help shape this programme and report back to the Board in the near future.

Caroline Topping commented on the role of council officers in setting up projects and accessing extra funding and thanked them for their work.

Chris Abraham asked whether any work could be done to understand why referrals that were coming through now were more complex. Nicole Rickard confirmed that there were several reasons for this. Some people had been referred earlier on for help and had now come back for further support, others had complicated life situations and had not prioritised finances until they had become overwhelming, and some had not acted on earlier advice around budgeting and prioritising and got into more difficulty. More work could be done on prevention and on signposting people to other sources of help.

Nick Khan commented that Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software was being introduced at ESC to identify which people were heading into difficulty based on their interaction with the Council around Council Tax and rents. This had been used by London authorities and by ESC during Covid and looked promising in terms of being able to identify people before they reach crisis point.

8 Outcome Proposal - Buzzabout (Demand Responsive Transport Service)

Nick Khan summarised work done to date on the transport and travel priority. Two demand responsive transport pilots are underway in the district. Katch in the Framlingham/Wickham Market/Campsea Ashe/Snape area and Buzzabout in the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes area. The aim for these services was for them to become as financially sustainable as possible, whilst they would ideally be self sustaining this would be difficult and it was recognised that they provided benefits in other areas like social isolation and mental health..

Mags Lambert summarised the data that had been gathered on the Buzzabout service in the last twelve months. The majority of journeys were to Lowestoft, and mostly for shopping. The service had operated on a Monday and Thursday, with Thursdays being a much more popular day. Going forward this would be changed to Tuesdays and Thursdays to increase uptake.

The service was mostly used by people over 55, and work would be done to target a wider demographic. The Board discussed use of the service by children, and agreed that it would be good to see if this could be increased to provide safe access to schools and clubs.

It was noted that a large number of users were from the Gunton area. Paul Ashdown commented that Gunton had only recently lost its bus service, and so it had not been much of a change to switch to Buzzabout. In other areas people needed to be persuaded back to a bus service.

Luke Bennett summarised the outcome proposal to extend the Buzzabout service for another 12 month period.

On the unanimous agreement of the report it was

RESOLVED

That £30,000 be allocated to extend the Buzzabout pilot to August 2024.

9 Date of Next Meeting - To be Confirmed

It was noted that the next meeting would be held 13 September 2023 at 2.00pm in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House.

The provisional date of the Annual Forum is the 22nd March 2024.

10 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Workshop

A workshop on funding available from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Attendees discussed challenges and opportunities around the skills priority and how funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund should be prioritised.

The outcomes of the workshop and progress on the programme would be shared with the Board.

.....
Chair



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships

Bringing ideas to life



EASTSUFFOLK
COUNCIL

Deprivation and Inequalities in East Suffolk

**Community Partnership Board –
September 2023**

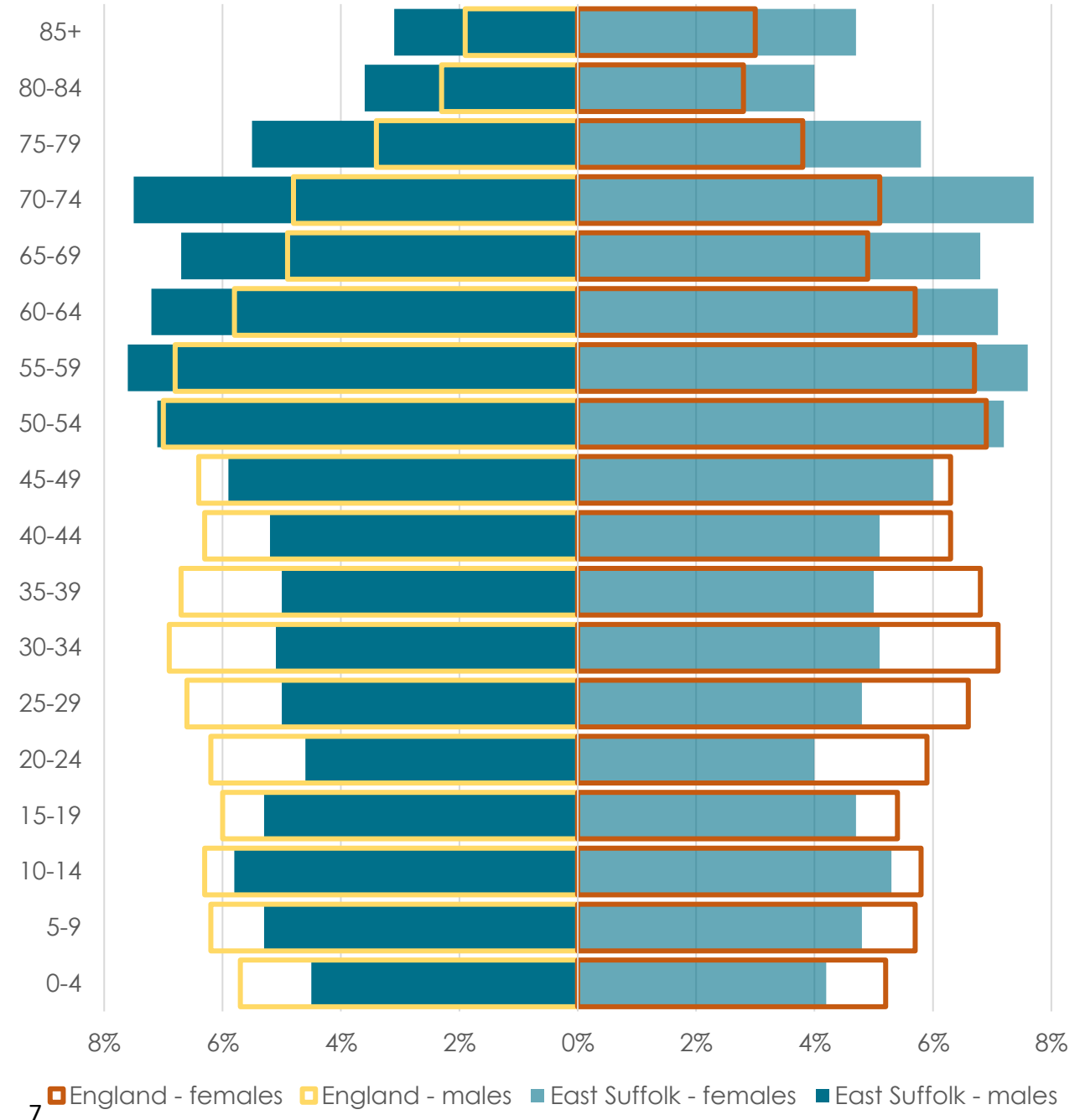
Population Age breakdown

The age pyramid shows the age breakdown of the population of East Suffolk against the national average

Most over-represented age group: **85+**

Most under-represented age group: **20-24**

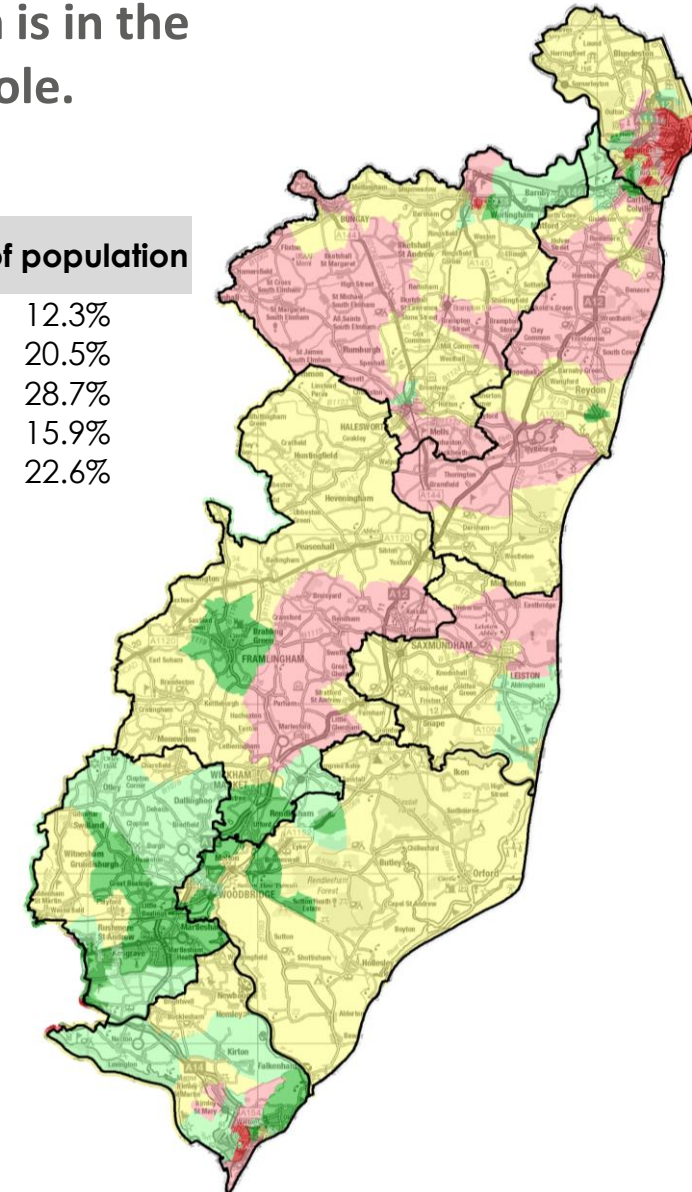
All groups below the age of 50 account for a smaller proportion of the East Suffolk population than they do across Great Britain as a whole



East Suffolk has an unusually varied deprivation profile - more of the population is in the least deprived quintile and in the most deprived quintile than in Suffolk as a whole.

- More than a fifth of the population (55,677 people or 22.6%) live in neighbourhoods in the **least deprived 20% of areas in England**
- But more than 30,000 people (12.5%) live in neighbourhoods in the **most deprived 20% of areas in England** (Core 20 areas)
- Relative deprivation is particularly high in Lowestoft, which includes **17 of the 20 most deprived LSOAs in East Suffolk**. Parts of Felixstowe (2 LSOAs) and Beccles (1 LSOA) are also in the 'Core 20'
- Relative deprivation has not changed - the **9 areas of Lowestoft in the 10% most deprived areas of England in 2015 remained there in 2019**. One area of Beccles moved into the 10% most deprived
- The domains of **deprivation relating to income, employment and children all over-index in East Suffolk**

IMD quintile	Population	% of population
1	30,298	12.3%
2	50,466	20.5%
3	70,700	28.7%
4	39,051	15.9%
5	55,677	22.6%



[Click here for more information about IMD](#)

Community Partnership

All

Ward

All

% of the population affected by income deprivation

11.3%

Suffolk average 10.2%

Population affected by income deprivation

27926

% of working people (aged 16-64) affected by employment deprivation

9.9%

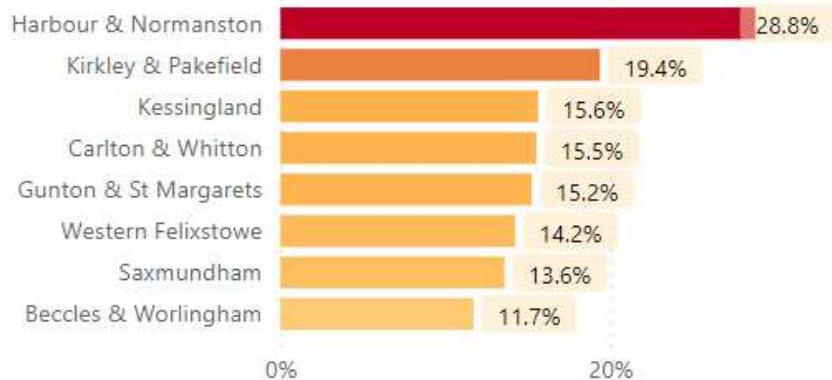
Suffolk average 8.3%

Working age population affected by employment deprivation

13663

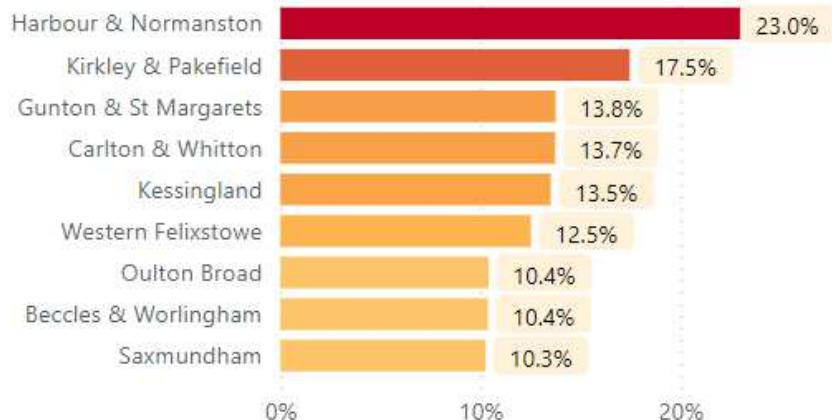
% of the population affected by income deprivation

Ward

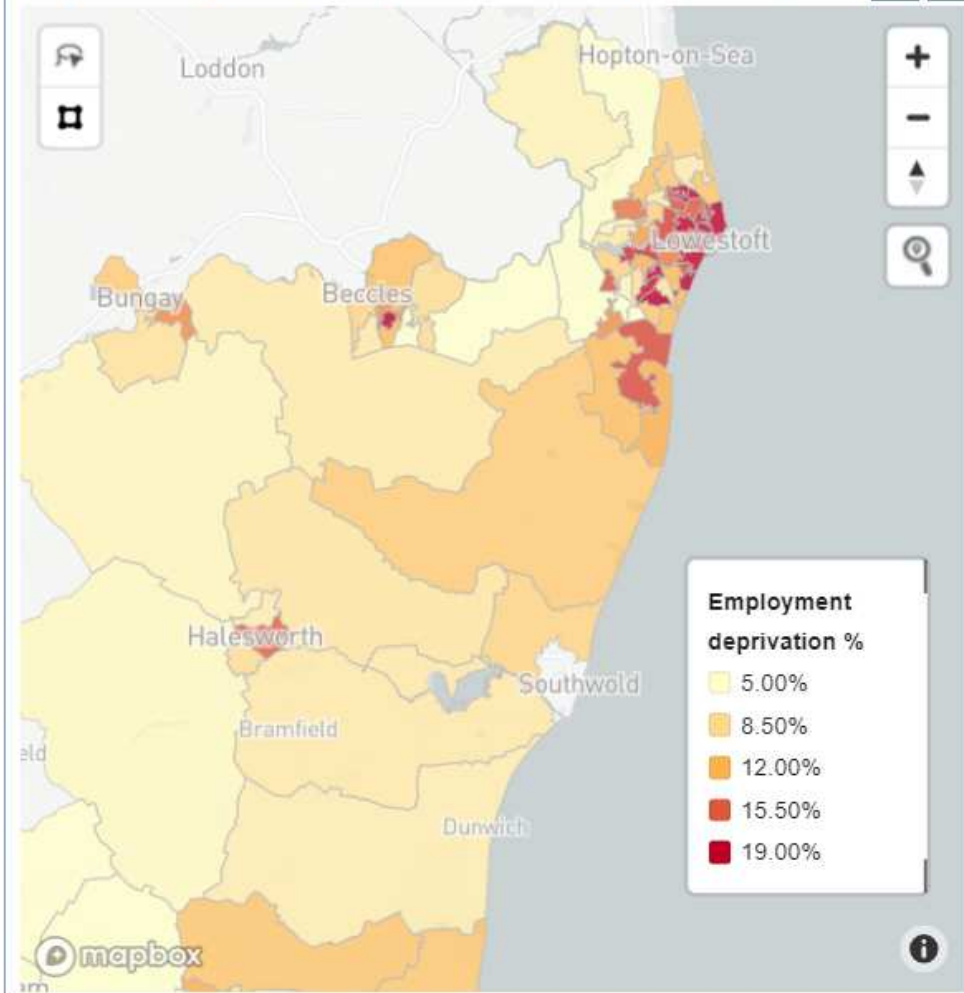


% of the working population affected by employment deprivation

Ward

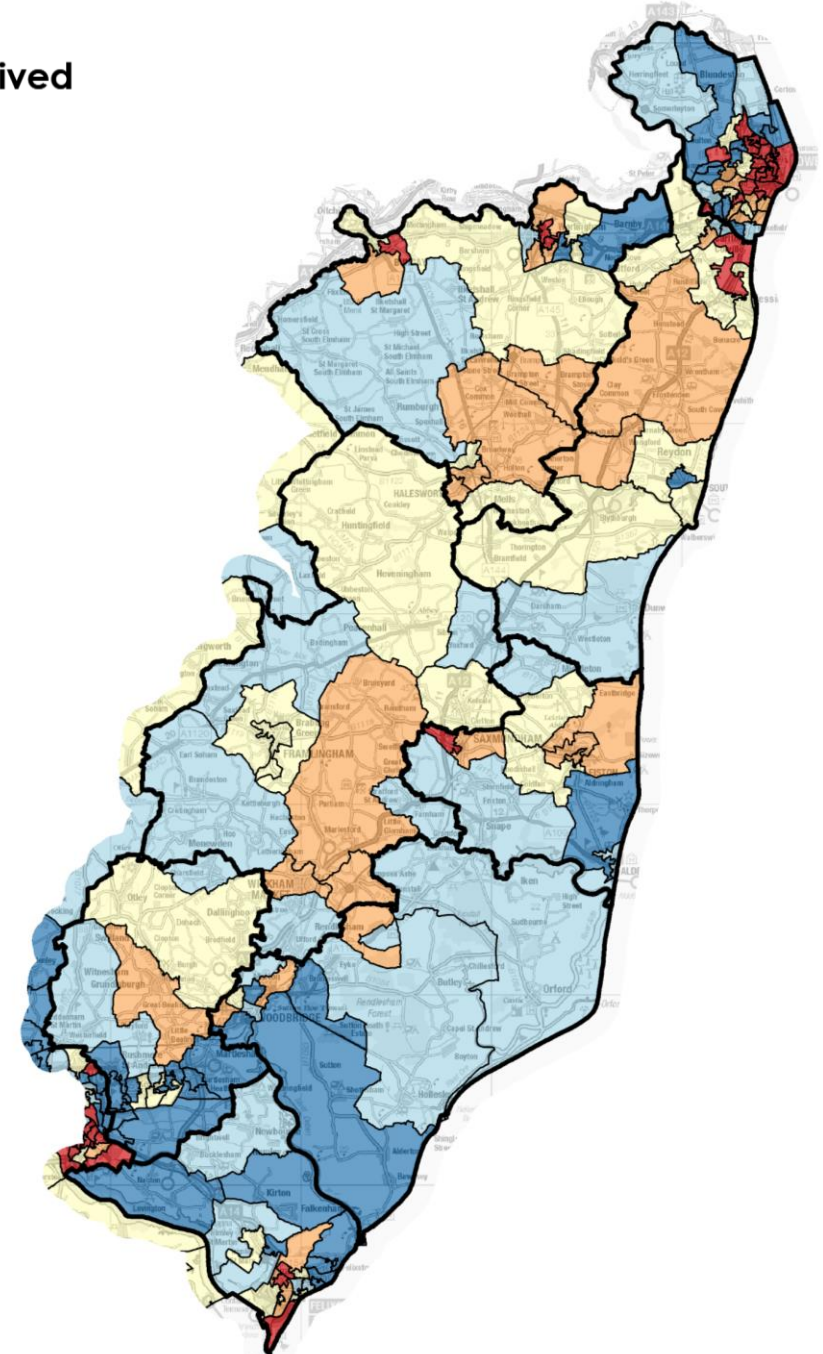
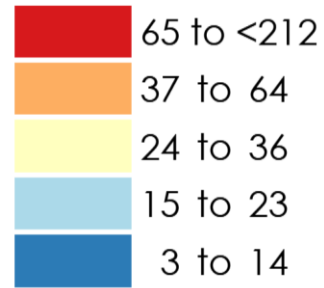


% of working people (aged 16-64) affected by employment deprivation



Deprivation Children

Children aged 0-15 income deprived



% of children affected by
income deprivation

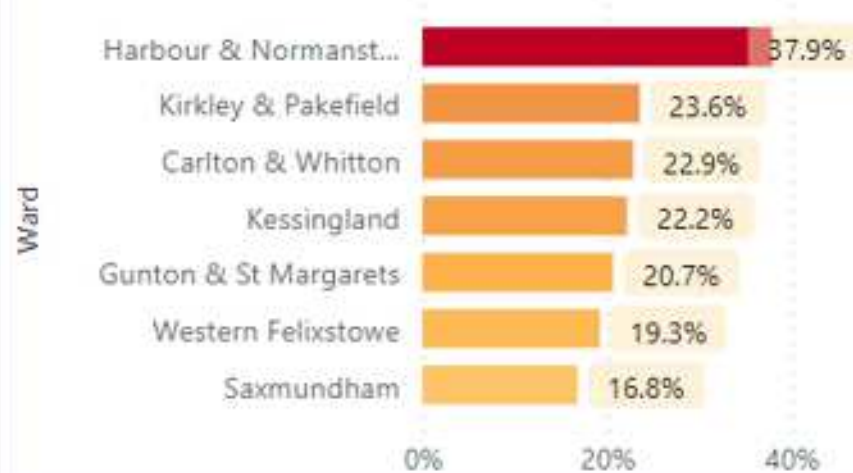
15.2%

Suffolk average 13.6%

Children population
affected by deprivation

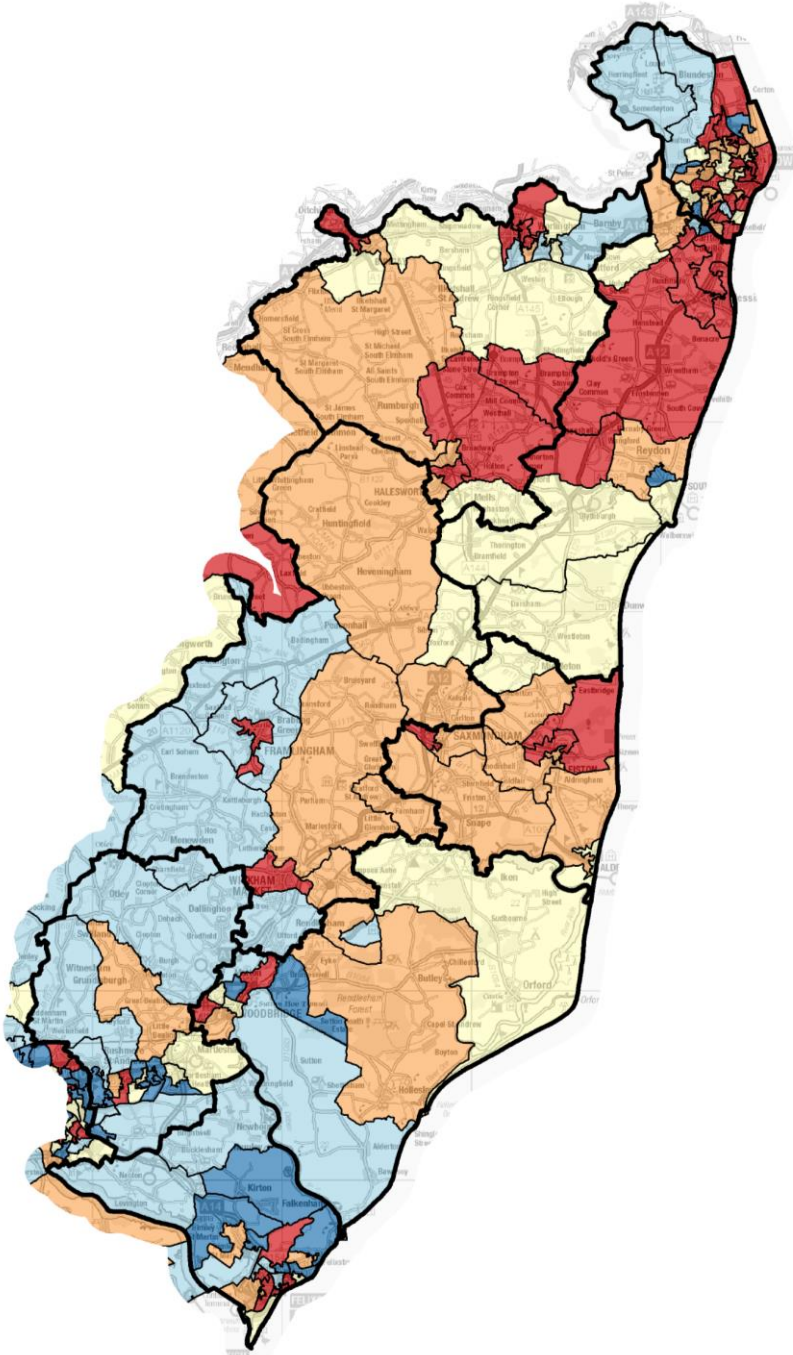
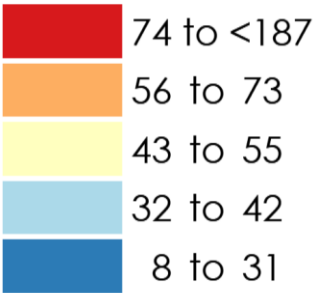
6322

% of children affected by income deprivation



Deprivation Older people

People aged 60+ income deprived



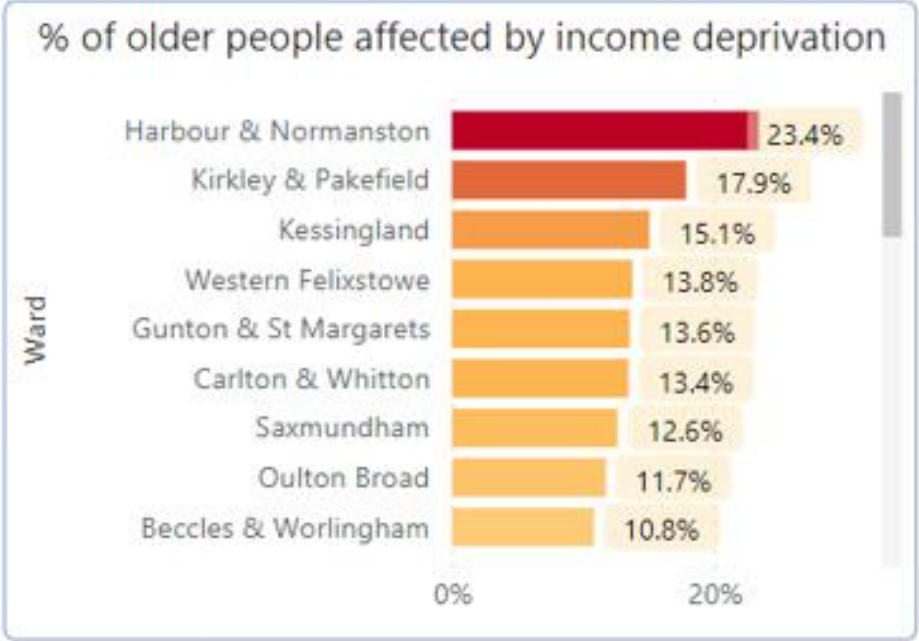
% of older people (aged 65 and over) affected by income deprivation

10.5%

Suffolk average 10.2%

Older population affected by income deprivation

7184



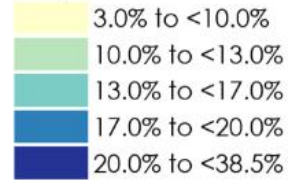


Parts of Lowestoft have the highest percentage of children eligible for free school meals in Suffolk...

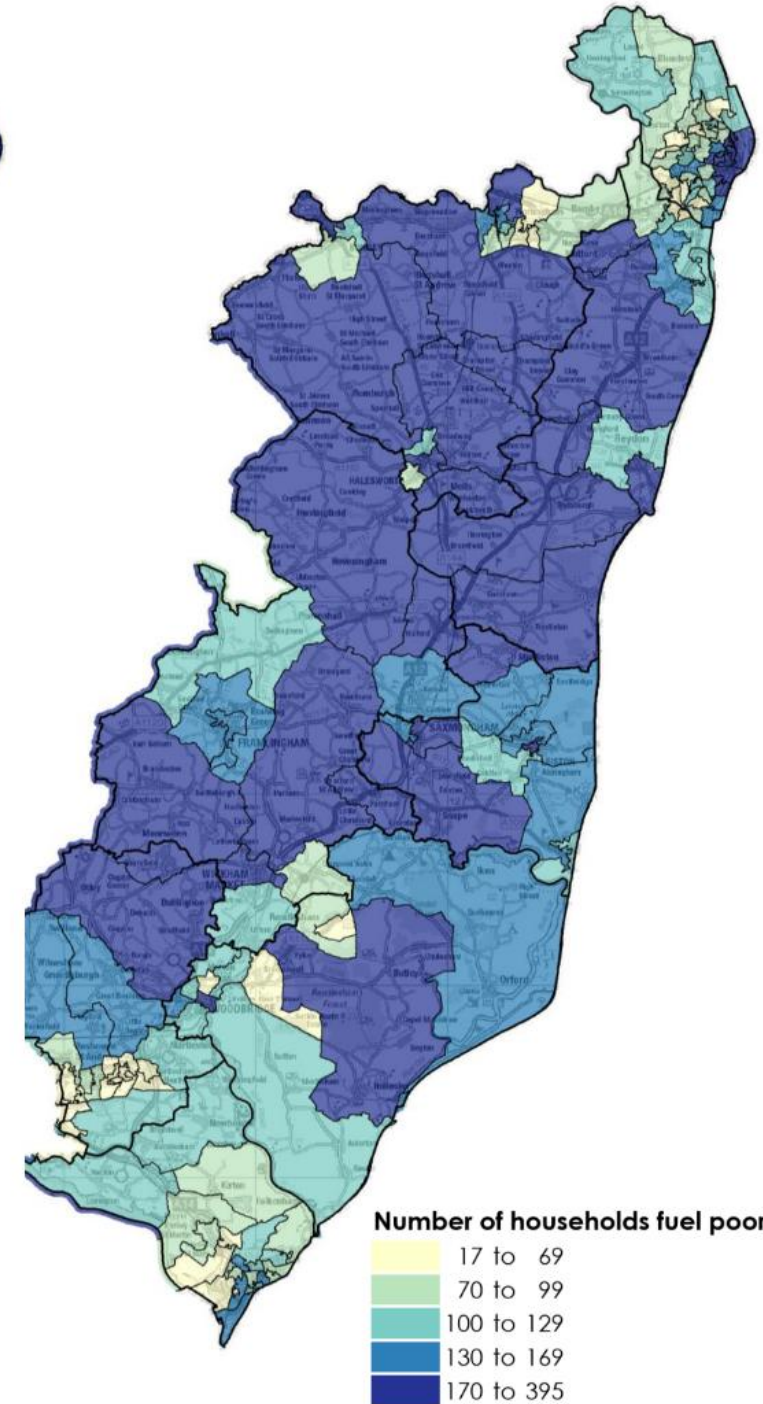
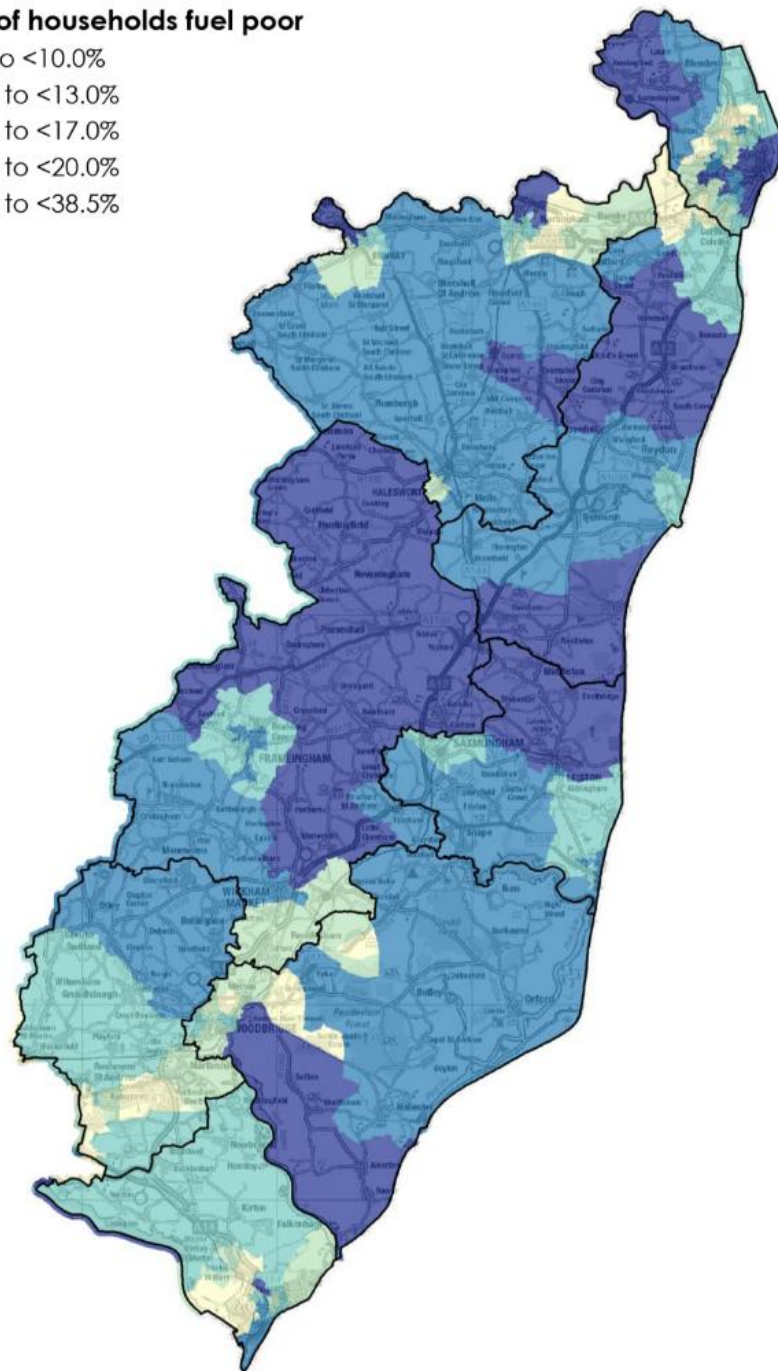
- IDACI (IMD) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families – **6,322** children (**15.2%**) were living in families who were income deprived in 2019.
- By March 2021, **7,419** children in East Suffolk were living in relative low income (data from DWP and HMRC)
- **40% of children in Gunton West, Lowestoft Central, Pakefield North, and Lowestoft Harbour and Kirkley** receive free school meals and therefore live in absolute poverty – as the threshold for free school meals (£7,400) is so low

Deprivation Fuel poverty

Proportion of households fuel poor



Community Partnership	Number of households	Number of households in fuel poverty	% of households in fuel poverty
Aldeburgh, Leiston & Saxmundham	7,879	1,426	18.1%
Beccles, Bungay & Halesworth	15,483	2,468	15.9%
Felixstowe Peninsular	16,262	2,164	13.3%
Framlingham & Wickham Market	7,017	1,388	19.8%
Kesgrave & Martlesham	14,431	1,322	9.2%
Lowestoft & Northern Parishes	30,301	5,547	18.3%
Carlton Colville, Kessingland & Southwold	9,805	1,373	14.0%
Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula	10,821	1,404	13.0%
East Suffolk	111,999	17,092	15.3%



Employment and education Benefit claimants

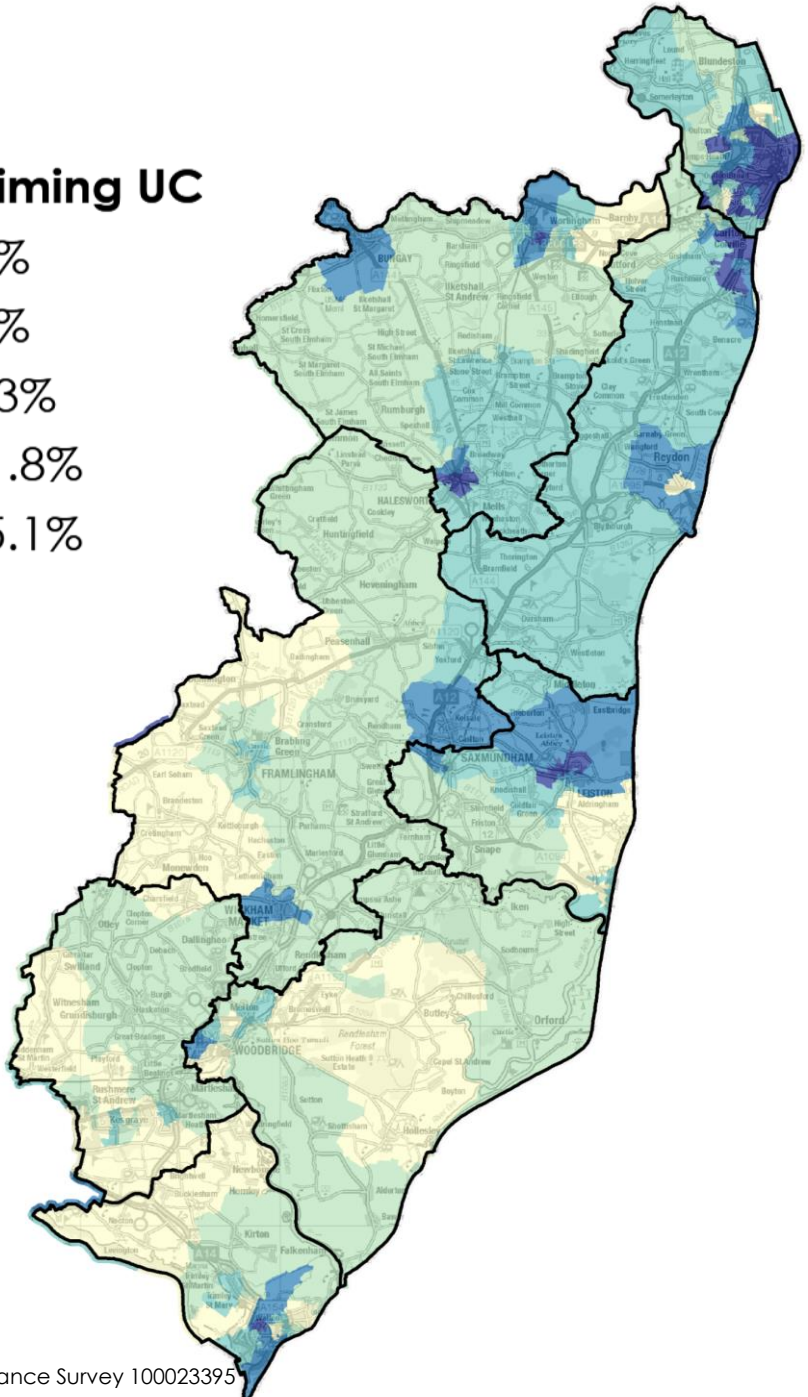
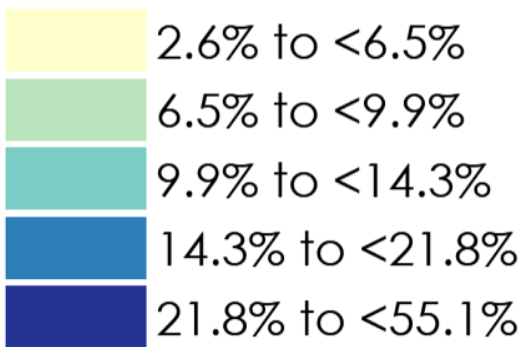


14.7%

of adults in receipt
of Universal Credit
in East Suffolk

Highest CP: Lowestoft 24.5%
Lowest CP: Kesgrave & Martlesham 6.5%

% adults 18-64 claiming UC



Source: DWP, June 2023 provisional data applied to 2021 Census estimates of working age adults. Map © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 100023395

Health and social care

Life expectancy

	Life expectancy at birth for males	Life expectancy at birth for females
East Suffolk	80.4	83.8
Suffolk	80.7	84.1
England	79.4	83.1

Highest and lowest life expectancy in East Suffolk

Melton Ward (Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula CP)	84.5	90.0
Harbour & Normanston Ward (Lowestoft and NP CP)	75.1	79.9

9.4 years



difference in Life Expectancy at birth between Harbour & Normanston, and Melton Wards

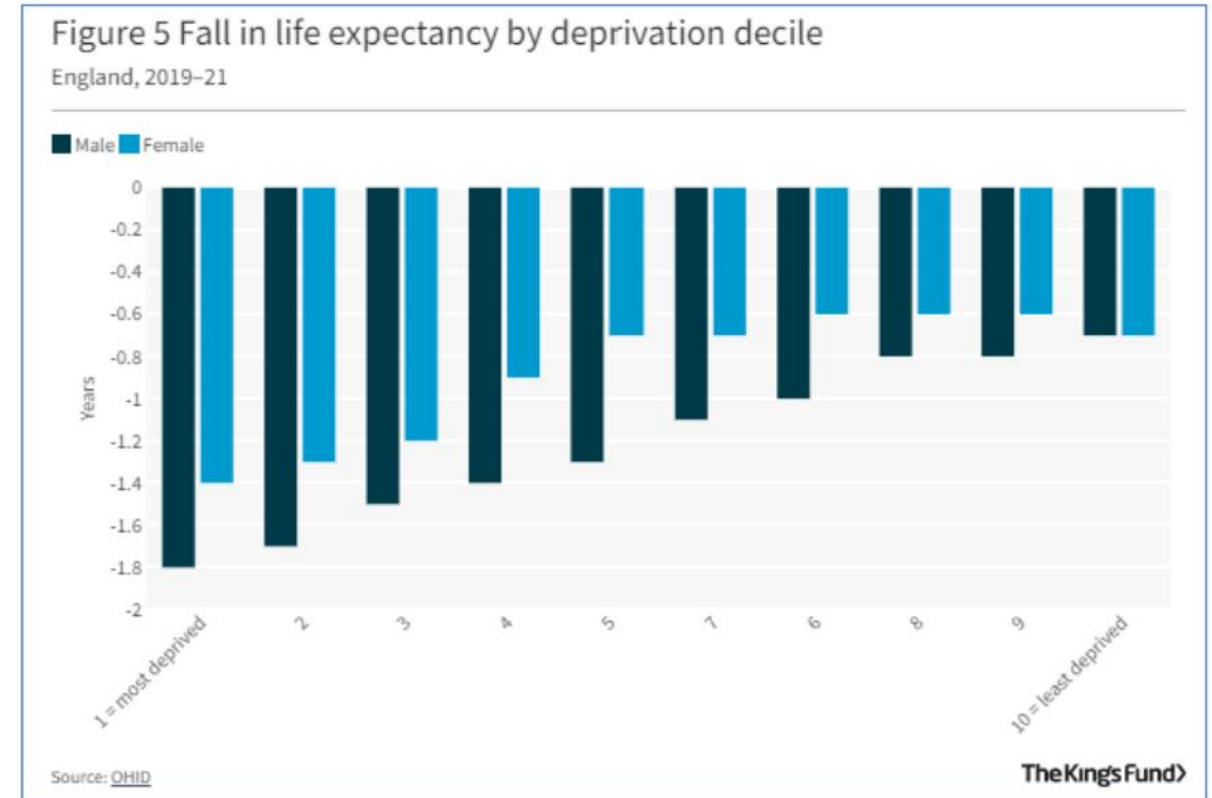
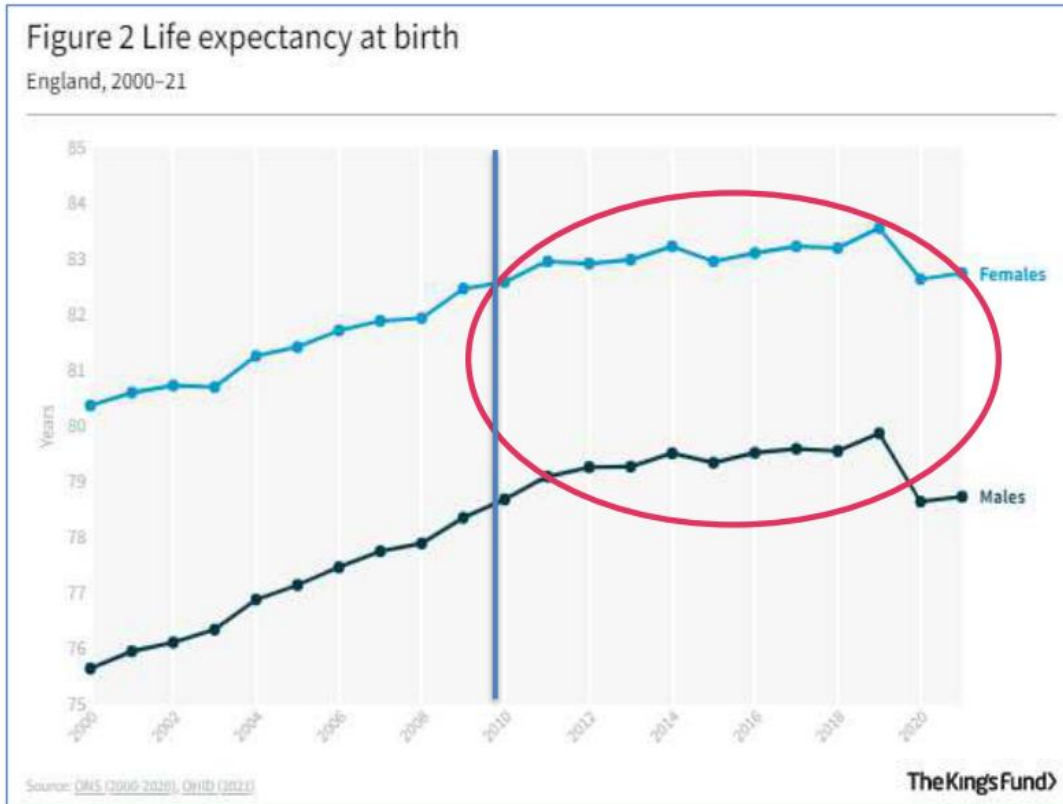
10.1 years



difference in Life Expectancy at birth between Harbour & Normanston, and Melton Wards

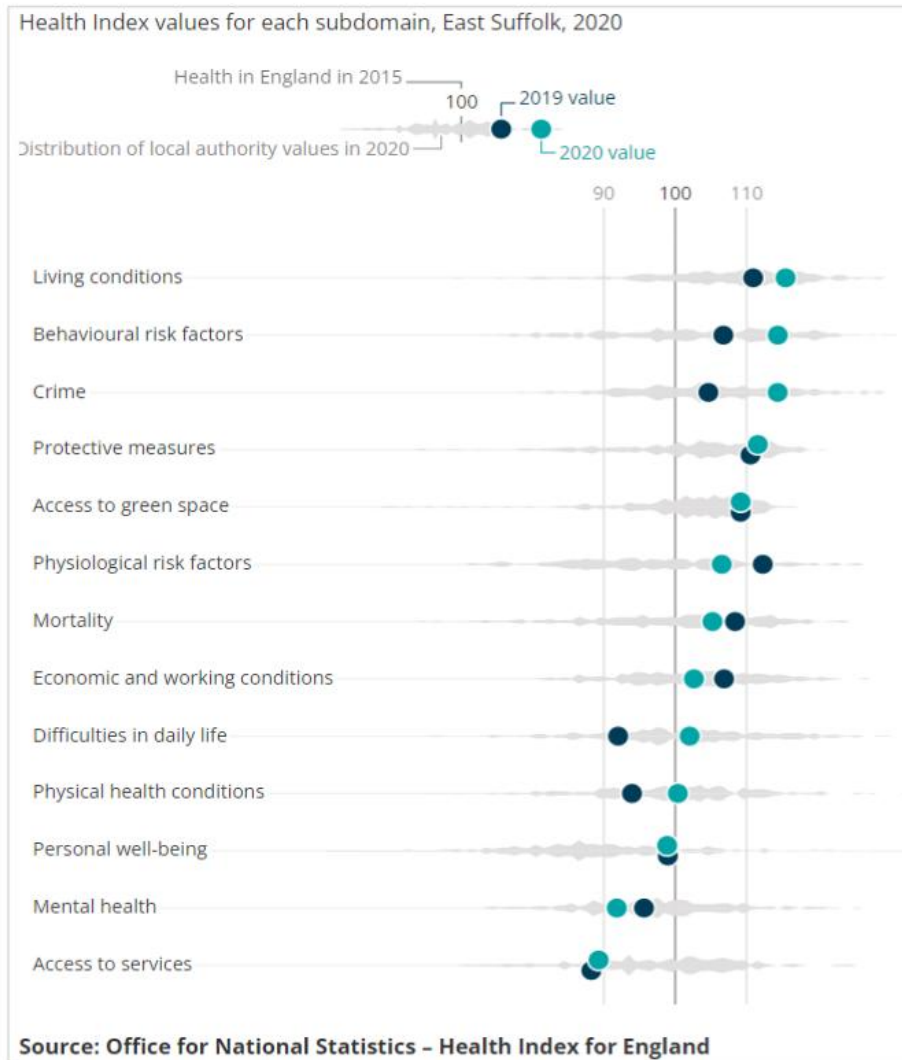


The **post Covid reduction in life expectancy** is not distributed equally
 While the **impact of the cost-of-living crisis** is unclear, if it does reduce life expectancy, that effect will be magnified in more deprived communities (based on previous changes to life expectancy during austerity)





While many aspects of health in East Suffolk are good, some aspects are worse than in the rest of Suffolk, and England



Data from the ONS Health Index compares a range of health indicators to England. **East Suffolk's Health Index score improved in 2020** (from 2019). It scored **best on living conditions and behavioural risk factors** (among the best 25% authorities in England).

Some of East Suffolk's lowest scores are for indicators for mental health, access to services (linked to rurality), levels of disability, and high numbers of children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

Aggregated GP data for East Suffolk indicates a statistically **significantly higher prevalence of depression** in the registered population compared to England (13.8% vs 12.7%). Around 2,650 people registered with East Suffolk GPs have a **dementia diagnosis**.



Looking at health data in more detail suggests that key areas of concern include:



The rate of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children and young people under the age of 5 (144.4 per 10,000) are **statistically higher** than England.

The rate of emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (217.7 per 100,000) are **statistically higher** than England.



1 in 4 reception age children are overweight or obese (24.0%) - **statistically higher** than England (22.3%).

1 in 5 patients report a long-term musculoskeletal problem (such as arthritis) (24.0%) - **statistically higher** than England (22.3%).

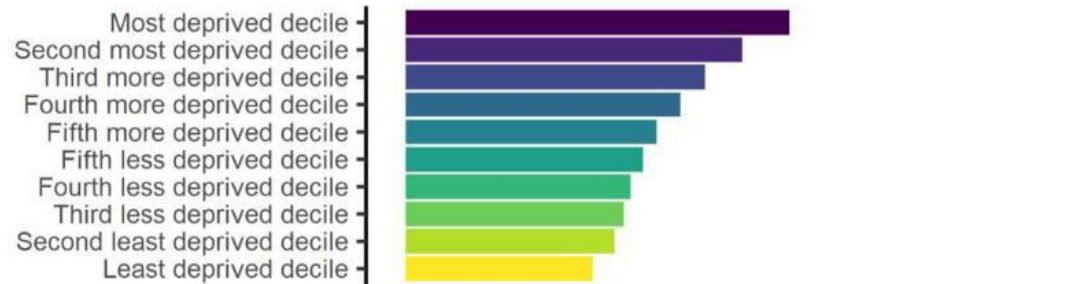


East Suffolk is **statistically similar** compared to England in relation to a range of **health risk behaviours, alcohol use, smoking and physical activity**

As deprivation increases, so does the proportion of people with risky health behaviour so behaviour change **opportunities are likely to be greater in the core 20 most deprived communities.**

Physical Inactivity

Physically inactive adults (19+; 2020/21)



Smoking prevalence in adults (18+; 2019)



0% 20% 40% 60%
Percentage of adults

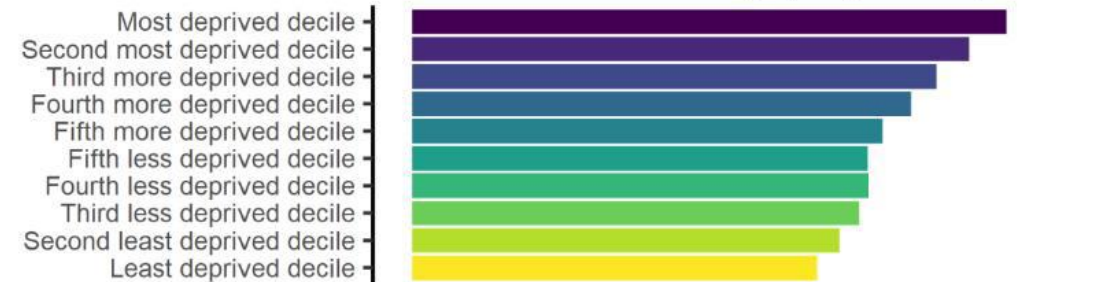
Smoking

Obesity

Adults (18+) classified as overweight or obese (2020/21)



Not meeting the recommended '5-a-day' on a 'usual day' (16+; 2019/20)

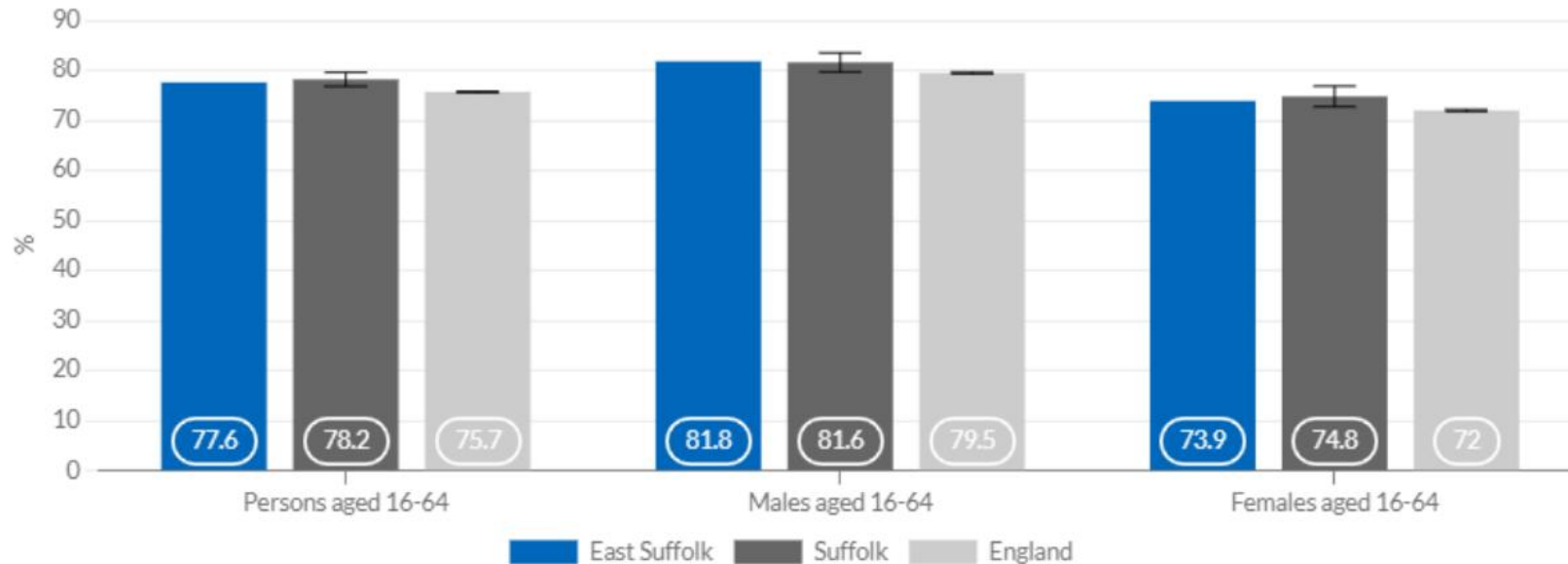


0% 20% 40% 60%
Percentage of adults

Poor Diet



Employment rate by gender (2022-06)

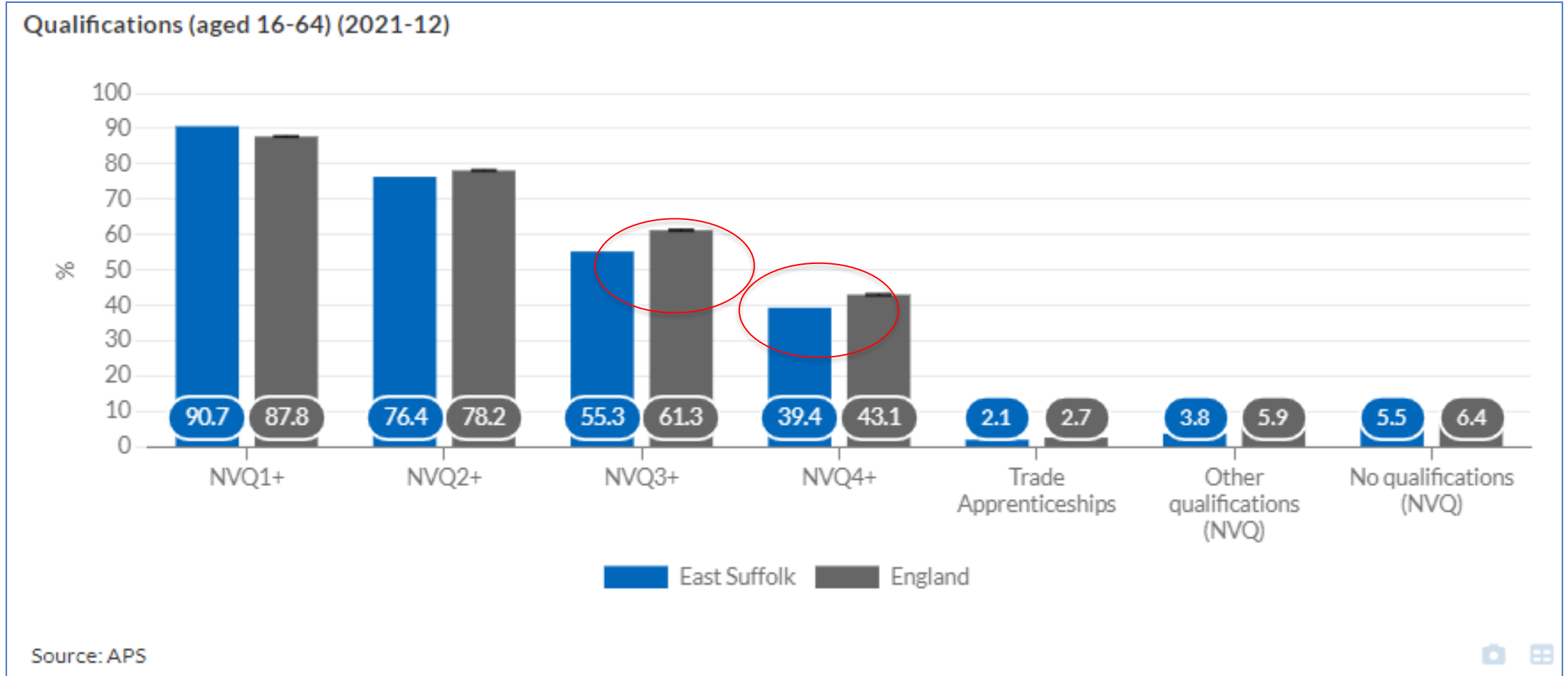


Source: APS

Employment rates in East Suffolk are higher than for England – and remained resilient during the pandemic

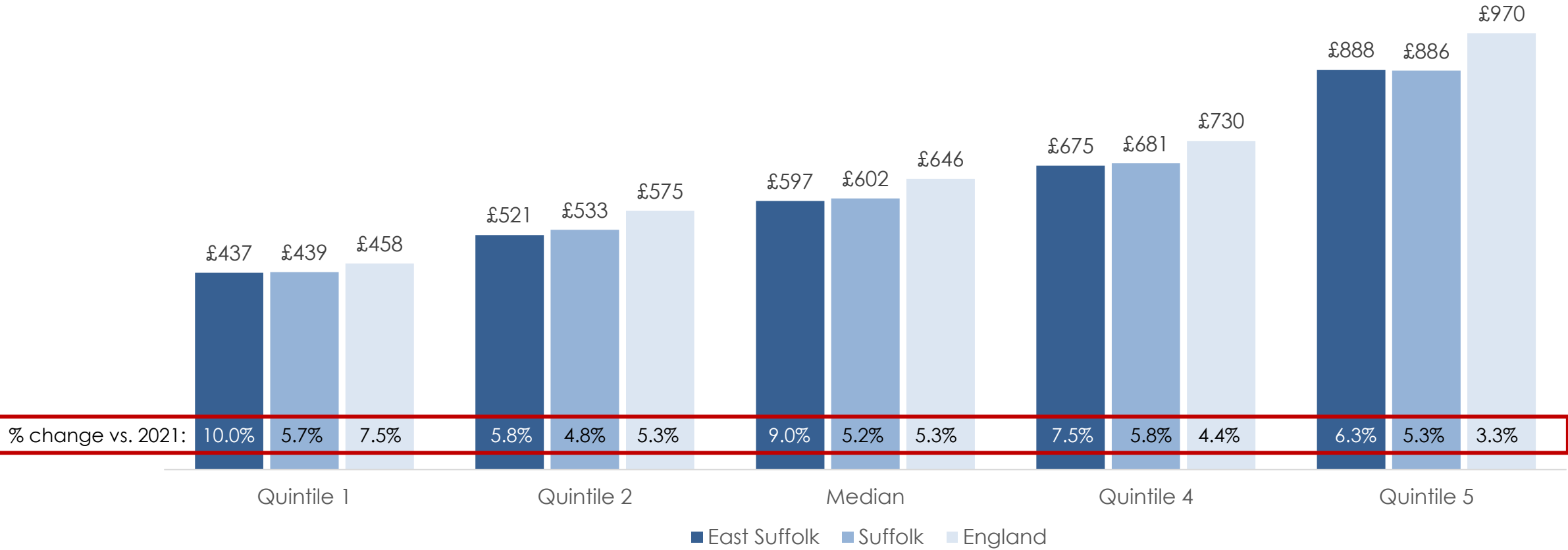


East Suffolk has lower levels of people with NVQ 3 & 4 qualifications than England as a whole....



Employment and education Income

Gross weekly full-time pay by quintile, East Suffolk residents vs. Suffolk & England, 2022

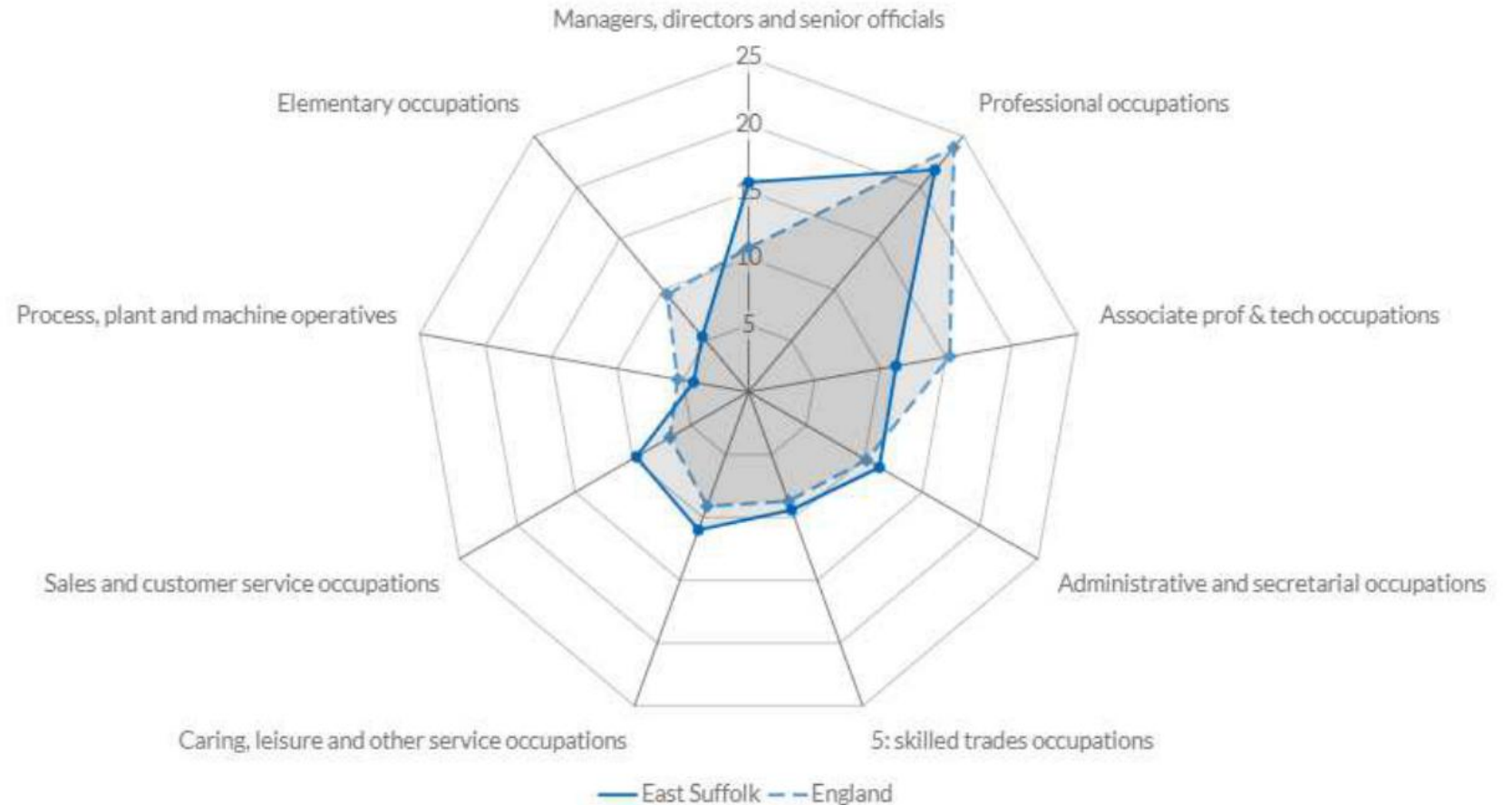


Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2020. (Note – we focus on weekly pay rather than annual pay, as the latter relates to employees who have been in the same job for more than a year. Therefore, the weekly pay data provides a better idea of differences and changes over 2020 than the annual pay data would.)



These lower skill and pay levels are only partially reflected in employment patterns – more people are in sales and caring occupations, but fewer people in elementary occupations. East Suffolk has fewer people in professional occupations, and associated professional and technical roles, but more people in managerial roles, than the England average.

Percentage employment by major group (2021-12)



Source: APS

- Cost of Living Referrals – 996 to 30th August
- 70+ projects identified through series of workshops, against four priority themes:
 - **Money**
 - **Food and Essentials**
 - **Energy and Fuel**
 - **Housing**
- 12 priority projects identified (18 delivered)
- Almost £1 million secured - including £228k from UKSP Fund, £124k from SCC for Cost-of-Living Community Grants, **£100k from the Community Partnership Board** and £53k from 2022/23 Councillor Enabling Communities Budgets

MONEY ROADSHOWS

WORRIED ABOUT THE RISING COST OF LIVING?

Come to our Money Roadshows for free professional advice on how to Ease the Squeeze, including:

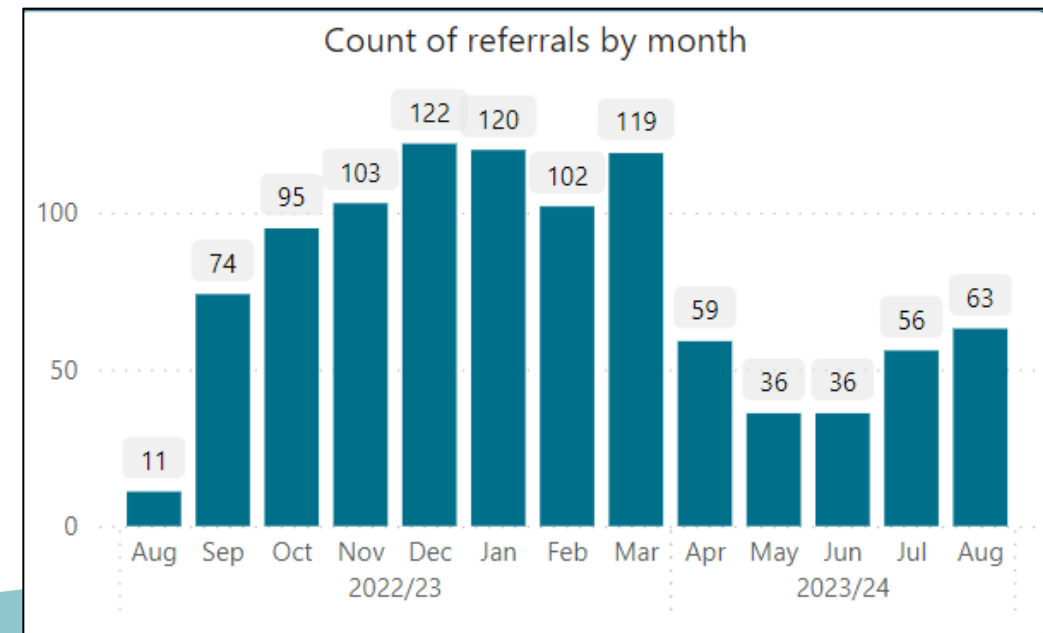
- Money saving tips
- Dealing with rising fuel costs
- Benefits advice
- Financial support and dealing with debt

Find out exactly what support is available for you and how to access it.

FOR INFORMATION, INCLUDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT, FUNDING AND ADVICE, VISIT WWW.EASTSUFFOLK.GOV.UK/SQUEEZE OR CALL 0333 016 2000

Have a confidential chat with a professional or arrange to speak with them at a more convenient time.

See overleaf for venues and times.



Ease the Squeeze Programme Overview

Project	Progress
1. Network of Warm Rooms	32 Warm Rooms funded Winter 2022/23, planning underway for 2023/24 'Warm Welcomes'
2. Food Network Coordinator	FNC post currently out to advert with CAS
3. Community Pantries	Second round of grants now live (four pantries funded to date)
4. Handyperson Project	Project is live and Warm Homes team are taking referrals
5. Cooking on a Budget Classes	Programme to be rolled out from September through schools
6. Cooking Equipment	Stock of microwaves, hobs, slow cookers available
7. Comfort Food	13 Comfort Food Cafes funded in 2022/23 [project now paused]
8. ID Document Fund	Funding being allocated by Community Help Hub as needed
9. Field to Fork Kits / Growing Spaces	15 Growing Spaces funded / 1,600 Growing Kits allocated to families
10. Winter Warmth Packs	280 packs provided during winter 2022/23
11. Digital Projects	Laptops in Warm Rooms, Data/Sim cards through Good Things Foundation
12. School Uniform Banks	Grants now live – 5 applications to date



What does all of this data tell us?



Population

Slow population growth and rapid population ageing will bring challenges

East Suffolk is less diverse than other areas

Many health outcomes remain good – but some indicators relating to children (e.g. mental health, obesity, injury) are less good and mental health/intentional self harm



Deprivation & Inequalities

More than 30,000 people live in the most deprived 20% of areas in England. Inequalities remain deep and entrenched in some areas - and are likely to be exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis

Deprivation affecting children is particularly high in some areas

East Suffolk has the widest socio-economic disparity in Suffolk – this can be associated with poor outcomes, lack of aspiration and the ‘politics of envy’



Education, skills & Economy

Educational outcomes could be better; adult skill and wage levels remain relatively low, particularly for women

While there are lots of positive indicators relating to the economy, the combined shocks of the pandemic, Brexit, global inflation and national recession are likely to make economic conditions challenging

So, what else can we do?



- **Take every opportunity to address inequalities** - with a focus on particular groups in specific places e.g. low income families in the Harbour and Normanston ward in Lowestoft
- Focus on the things which cause **early and preventable deaths** e.g. smoking and managing blood pressure
- Incentivise **behaviour change** so people are more active, eat better, stop smoking and manage long term conditions
- Continue to **support individuals, households and businesses through difficult economic conditions**
- Consider what the East Suffolk **workers of tomorrow** need to be skilled at and, in an area with an older and un-diverse population, where those workers are going to come from
- Help people to maximise their **life opportunities and increase their aspirations**
- Lead **prevention and early intervention activity** – informed by data - and push for a shift in investment at local, Suffolk and ICS (x2) level
- Seek out **those with lived experience to shape what we do** (e.g. Healthwatch Poverty Community Champions)
- Continue to be **brave and innovative** – pilot/experiment but understand what works – and stop what doesn't
- **Work better together** to maximise reach – we can't achieve our ambitions alone
- Stick to our principle of **sustainable change** – not 'sticking plasters'

Examples - What's already happening?



- Ease the Squeeze Cost of Living programme, East Suffolk Community Help Hub, Cost of Living referral process, financial inclusion work
- Food Poverty/Network work with Community Action Suffolk through the Collaborative Communities Board
- Outreach into communities – St Andrew's and Bridge View (Lowestoft), Bungay Community Support, joint sessions/work with Citizens Advice
- Prevention work with our two ICS health systems including Cold Homes and Making Every Contact County pilot with James Paget University Hospital (Norfolk & Waveney ICS) and the proposed Be Well bus (Suffolk and NE Essex ICS)
- 3 Counties 'Partnership for East Coast Communities' (PECC) – opportunity for a deep dive in Lowestoft
- Successful £150k bid with Public Health/Norfolk and Waveney ICB for funding for a 'Healthy Heart' CVD programme in Lowestoft
- UKSP fund programmes – Employment, Skills, Business Support, Towns/Communities (ends 2025)
- Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)/CP Board Project – Community/Business Hubs in rural areas
- Healthy Behaviours Programme (SCC/all Districts/Boroughs, ICSs) – Smoking, Physical Activity, Healthy Weight
- Emerging focus on 'Inclusive Investment' – ensuring that investment benefits the Core 20 cohort
- Work to establish East Suffolk as an 'Age Friendly Community'



Cost-of-Living Impact 2022 - 2023 (South)

Youth Voice



43 Responses

Felixstowe Peninsula CP

Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula CP

Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages CP

and Feedback from East Suffolk Young People's Action Group (ESYPAG)

August 2023

Context

3 Community Partnership areas in the south of the district focused on the impact of the cost of living on young people in our area via a Youth Voice survey targeting secondary schools. The majority of Ease the Squeeze initiatives focused on the challenges facing adults during the cost-of-living crisis and whilst some projects were inclusive of families the wider impact of the cost-of-living on our young people was not necessarily considered. The following report highlights the key issues for young people and areas for future consideration.

Please note that survey responses have been quoted as the original wording and spelling

Felixstowe - 39 Responses (Age range 9 - 23yrs)

- 9-12 years = 9 responses
- 13-15 years = 18 responses
- 16-18 years = 10 responses
- 19+ years = 1 response
- Unknown = 1 response

Q1: What is your understanding of the current financial and cost of living crisis?

Little understanding = 12 responses, Understand fairly well = 26 responses, Not Sure = 1 response

Q2: Do you have any further comments about your understanding of the current financial and 'cost-of-living' crisis?

Why is everything up in price? It can't possibly be due to the war in Ukraine.

When will it end?

It all makes sense as I watch the news and that gives me an understanding. But I don't understand why the pound has dropped in value?

Prices rising, food expensive

Everything going to garbage

I think its utterly absurd that were even in a damn crisis. I mean i am not bloody surprised but oh my god why are we so stupid...we dont need to be in one if the government sorted there priorities out!

About inflation? why is it rising why are our familys going through this?

I know for certain that the 'cost of living crisis' is not a laughing matter. Prices are going up all over the UK, and I know it must be a very stressful time for many adults.

Cost of living is being increased due to shit government

Its making families struggle to live

High prices - gone up too much

Q3: What impact is the current financial crisis having on you and your family?

The following themes were identified: Rising cost, food and shopping, gas and electricity bills/heating, family time, holidays or not much impact

Families Struggling:

Making days out harder

Struggling to afford food shop – stressful

Mum has 3 jobs and stepdad has 1 but still struggling to make ends meet

We have to be careful on what we buy. If there's a cheaper option for something we often get that as we're a family of 5 but it hasn't had a massive impact on us in general for everyday living or basic needs such as clothes. Although, in the winter we didn't have the heating on unless one of us was having a shower/bath because it costs so much.

Prices of bills are expensive. food and drinks are getting quite expensive We still buy all of our normal items but we just complain about how much items are for example a box of cereal can be from 2-4 pounds. And sometimes for like 5 items its £20+

We are having to shop in larger quantities and are considering alternative shops

We aren't going on massive holidays like a few years ago. We still are going abroad but not to a get to by plane country. For Christmas my Mum, Dad and grandparents had to limit what we get for Christmas

Not being able to pay bills

Gas and electric bills are high, we constanly have to make sure we are not using too much eletricity but i need to use my laptop for schoolwork, therefore it is a hard task to complete as we do not want to use too much electric.

I know my family are struggling with the cost of living crisis and it will continue to get worse for my family unless there is a solution to stabilize the cost of living

Things are more expensive so we have to be more careful about things and we can't buy as many things.

Struggling with paying bills, no longer being able to afford non-necessities

I cant go into detail or youll be reading for weeks. Its barbaric and absurd!

Our family is affected by the gas, electricity, and hot water bills. We can rarely have heating on and when we do it is only for a couple of hours a night

In my family, we do the little things to keep the bills for water or gas down. For example, we keep the temperature in our house at a certain level and we usually don't go above that

Gas and electric bills are high, we constanly have to make sure we are not using too much eletricity but i need to use my laptop for schoolwork, therefore it is a hard task to complete as we do not want to use too much electric.

My parents are struggling with the current financial crisis and have had to cut down on the food we buy and haven't been able to turn the heating on much and can't afford firewood.

Food is extortionate. I'm on benefits and can't afford to live. I'm using food banks and have no luxuries if I want to eat well!

Had to reduce back on food usage because the bills are so expensive and the morgate

It's hard, mainly because we have a lot of family

The raising of food prices and energy bill prices are making it harder and stricter for our parents which makes them less at ease which may lead to restrictions to us children. Such as harder to do online school work and some effects on mental health

Less impact:

It's made life only slightly harder

It's fine I guess

Not much of impact

Were ok

Not too bad

My family seem to be doing alright. We have been doing energy saving hours where we turn off anything that uses electricity.

Not a massive impact, less branded things

It isn't having much problems yet, however as we turn into a recession I believe things would be soon to change

It isn't impacting my family -these brokies are complaining too much just make some money

For me and my family we haven't be really that greatly affected other than being aware of it and careful with the general things like leaving lights on and stuff like that. Also because of the cost of living i know there's been a slight change in my Dance club fees or prices for costumes for our upcoming show but that's it really.

Don't know

Q4: Are there clubs, groups or activities that you will no longer be able to attend due to the cost?

NO = 30 Responses Yes = 9 Responses

The Yes responses referred to activities no longer able to attend:

- Gym
- Kickboxing
- Air Training Corps
- Ballet, gym and Judo
- Games Nights
- Scouts, football, basketball
- Gold Outside of School
- *No money for games*
- *I used to do ballet and gymnastics and judo (all different times in my life) but i had to stop all of those.*
- *I go to a games night on a Friday but now cannot afford to get the bus every Friday. I also attended airsoft once a month which I can't do now*

Q5: Do the news reports regarding the financial crisis impact on your mental health?

NO = 19 responses

Maybe = 11 responses

Yes = 8 responses

Struggle

I swear about the politicians as they are all useless

have therapy but doesn't help

I cut my wrists and legs

Listen to Music

Keep it to myself

Take medicines

I don't know if I'll ever be able to afford University and im scared of debt wich i know ill be in if the cost of living continues to go up..lets linger on that - COST OF LIVING ... I DIDNT EVEN WANNA BE BORN BUT ITS "ALL PART OF GODS PLAN" THEY SAY...BUT WHY ON EARTH DO I HAVE TO PAY TO HAVE THE LIFE I DONT EVEN WANT..hey maybe we should statt taxing birds and cows and bares and sharks and all the animals "taking up our space" and "living rent free" the rich to have to worry about a thing while the rest of us are working 2+ jobs to keep kids in school, affording luxuries such as TAMPONS - and im not even going to continue because im drained...so screw doing ballet..i just wanna be able to live..

Q6: What would you like to learn more about regarding the cost-of-living?

Top theme, with 15 responses, centred around money management, opening bank accounts, costs to run a household, understanding tax

The next theme centred around wanting to understand why this is happening, how people are being affected including their parents, the role of the government.

Only 4 responses said they did not want to learn more about the cost of living, one response stating to know more would only worry them more.

What caused it, the war in Ukraine couldn't have caused around 25% inflation by itself and how in lockdown due to covid would that effect today's inflation.

Why it is happening and how to save money on small products like food

Why are things so expensive now- Why aren't they lowering prices

I'd like to learn more about the way costs are affected by the cost of living crisis, as it isn't normally a "child problem" so to speak.

I would like to know why the pound keeps dropping in value. I also want to know if we are the only country that is having this severe impact on the cost of living crisis.

More general knowledge about finances, how to manage in a crises

Think how to pay bills and manage money should be a top priority in school because when students leave school most are clueless on how to actually manage their own money and how to actually pay bills.

As I'm coming of an age where I am experiencing more independance I would like/need to know more about bank accounts like how to set one up and manage it especially because of the increase in cost of living it would be useful aswell when I get a job in college.Finance in general.

What it costs to run a household or other. I would like to get a better idea of how much it would be to own my own house one day

How about the government lower prices and tax the rich

How to manage money and save for my future to give me a good start as an adult

Q7: If you had a grant to help people through the cost-of-living crisis, what would you spend it on?

3 key themes emerged:

- Food and drink (including healthy eating and cooking on a budget)
- Paying bills in particular electricity and heating
- Basic necessities

Miscellaneous themes including:

- Supporting or setting up a charity
- Leisure activities e.g. gym membership
- Schools – further education, excursions
- Budgeting
- Helping People (including their own parents and own home)

I would send checks to people with minimum wage or who can't afford to pay for food and rent. I would also deliver food to people.

Food. It is probably one of the things most affected by the cost of living crisis. Otherwise I'd spend it on helping with fuel, another very expensive thing to many

I would spend it on lower heating bills because i understand that some people have to choose between food and heating which I think should never be a choice you have to make

Healthier food options. People are now turning to junk food as their main source of food as it is always cheaper than healthier options e.g vegetables and fruits

I would use the money to help begin a charity which would be able to fund more money to benefit those struggling on the cost of living crisis

Food and water because it's getting ridiculously expensive for a basic human necessity.

Buy parents their dream stuff

Anything I could to help, I would probably buy myself up in the world enough to change the laws and buy out taxing companies and all that rubbish along with lowering the living cost. Idk..its all just a dream huh

I'm not entirely sure as I have always been a saver than a spender but I guess i would put it towards future plans e.g. hobbies, school excursions, university, further ahead. Or as it's a lot of money donate some to my family/charity because there's others who need it more.

Educate people in budgeting , meal plans, cooking and how to live on a budget.

I am currently homeless and living in a hostel so I'd save the grant until I can move into my own place and pay for things I need

I would give some money to those who are struggling the most and if i have any to spare i would buy as much long lasting food as i could and give it to a food bank that could give to the most people.

gas so we have heating more often

Q8: Are you aware of anything your school is doing to help students or families through the cost-of-living crisis?

No = 23 responses Yes = 13 responses Unsure = 2 response N/A = 1 responses

Stationary and some uniform are being handed out if that student is having issues at getting the correct things for school then FXS will sort that out

If we can't afford pens for school then they will give us some.

We have a breakfast club so all students can get breakfast

They are issuing school supplies and grants to the most needing families.

No, however I believe they would do something if I child really was struggling

They are doing nothing

Only bursaries

They have been giving free school meals to people who don't have enough money to afford normal school meals

I have heard that my school is being more understanding and supportive with the school uniform and equipment prices.

Help students by giving them equipment if families can't afford it.

o, nothing new but more chances for free school meals would help a little more.

Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula CP area

2 Responses 1 x 14yrs Sudbourne

1 x 15yrs Tunstall

1 x does not understand cost-of-living crisis 1 x understands fairly well

1 x family impacted by cost-of-living crisis *not having a lot of money to spend on food*

No family had received help in the form of food parcels, fuel vouchers or other benefits due to the cost-of-living crisis

No young people affected by news reports – no impact on mental health

1 x response indicating clubs, groups or activities that no longer be able to attend due to the cost *volleyball, horse riding and gym*

No responses re wanting to learn more about the cost-of-living

2 x responses re mental Health needs NOT met at school

Not able to fully express how or what i need.

Too much homework

Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages

2 Responses: 1 x 14yrs, 1 x 18yrs - both Saxmundham

2 x family impacted by cost-of-living crisis

Shorter showers, turning lights off

An immense impact- we are finding it difficult to keep up with costs of food, travel to schools as well as energy bills

2 x young people affected by news reports – impact on mental health

2 x response indicating clubs, groups or activities that no longer be able to attend due to the cost

Musical theatre, dance, drama

1 response re wanting to learn more about the cost-of-living

How to be cost effective, budgeting for food as well as mortgages and university bills during the financial crisis

1 x responses re mental Health needs NOT met at school (18yr old)

ESYPAG Feedback

- Financial Resilience courses commissioned via Christians Against Poverty to help young people understand the financial pressures facing their parents
- A Poverty Proofing in schools project is running to address these issues. 7 schools involved up to the end of term with a report provided to each. This will then feed into a report for Suffolk with recommendations.
- Noted that pupils were looking shabbier and that this could be the impact of the COL either direct cost of uniform or washing less due to fuel/water costs.
- One item raised was why can't pupil's parents purchase non-labelled shirts etc rather than more costly items with the school logo on? The jumpers cover up the labelled shirt!
- Jo shared a story of a pupil repeatedly wearing his school jumper for PE, Xmas jumper day – leading to unintended bullying.
- Another example was a pupil in household with hoarding issues, no bed linen. The office assistant bought a duvet etc but the mother told her to 'f*** ***'. The mother did apologise stating so much stress.

Hungry children

Another example – near empty lunchboxes “*mum can't afford shopping*”; pupil/parent stress “*all I hear about is mortgages, debt and credit cards*”

Noted that there were still enquiries about the Field to Fork project and others, and how could people be encouraged to join the journey and accept help.

- A breakfast club set up earlier in the year at Farlingaye High School had no take-up, with this considered to be due to pride.
- Where a holiday activity offered a free hot meal, that it was greatly appreciated, and one young person had 3 servings.
- Youth clubs who previously may have provided free pastries perhaps once a month, were now offering these weekly.
- Should safe spaces for young people offered for mental health support, also need to incorporate cost of living support, such as snacks & hot drinks?

High School Transition – have we lost the love and care?

It was mentioned that there needs to be more support for high school transition. Pupils can go from love and care in primary school to detention in year 7 – it feels like we have lost the ‘love and care’

Cost of Living and Sexual Health

National news item - New STI data shows 24% increase in rates in England-

Key statistics include:

- 50% increase in gonorrhoea since 2021.
- 24% increase in chlamydia since 2021.
- 15% increase in syphilis since 2021.
- 8% increase in number of consultations at sexual health services since 2021.
- 26% increase in STI diagnoses among young people aged 15 to 24 since 2021.
- 21% increase in chlamydia in young people despite no increase in testing among this group.
- The latest UKHSA figures prove that the Government has no vision or ambition for improving sexual health.

Terence Higgins Trust advised that there has been an increase in requests for free condoms. The cost of living has caused increase in cost of condoms and cost and access to travel for treatment prohibitive.