



Cambridgeshire's

VITAL SIGNS[®] 2021



Cambridgeshire Community Foundation



Cambridgeshire
Community
Foundation

INTRODUCTION



Cambridgeshire is a beautiful county, combining large areas of rural landscape with major urban centres of Peterborough and Cambridge. It is famous for its University and the Cambridgeshire Fens. In recent years an incredible boom in high-tech business including software and biotechnology, has brought pockets of prosperity and opportunity. Sadly, however, this success is not universal and many communities in the county face challenges of inequality and disadvantage.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) is the county's charity which aims to grow local philanthropy, matching generous people and organisations with our region's most important community causes. We exist to tackle disadvantage and empower the most vulnerable by supporting our local voluntary sector and strengthening communities to build from the ground up.

We achieve impact through our grant programmes, and by connecting people, information, and resources. Our grants enable communities to thrive and people to fulfil their potential.

A crucial part of our approach is to understand the challenges and opportunities that exist. This is the purpose of Vital Signs[®], whose goal is to "take the pulse" of our community, highlighting challenges, priorities, and opportunities for action.

Ultimately, the value of Vital Signs[®] is to inform our funding strategy, to inspire philanthropists and to build conversations with people who, like us, are passionate about making a difference most effectively.

We want everyone to share the opportunities that Cambridgeshire presents, and we look forward to having a conversation with you.

Please get in touch if you can help: michael@cambscf.org.uk

Michael O'Toole,
Chief Executive



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METHODOLOGY



Understanding needs and issues in a community is the first step to being able to solve them. This is what Vital Signs® in Cambridgeshire does. It looks at published statistics and facts gathered from local and national sources. It measures quality of life of different cities and communities to uncover the areas that need most help. Vital Signs® uses data generated and reported in our more comprehensive research report, Vital Issues.

The research concentrates on nine social themes, ranging from housing and homelessness to education and learning, and identifies how well the region is performing in relation to the rest of the UK and within the county. By measuring the vitality of our communities in these key areas, we are better able to inform our donors about issues and opportunities in the community, and set priorities.

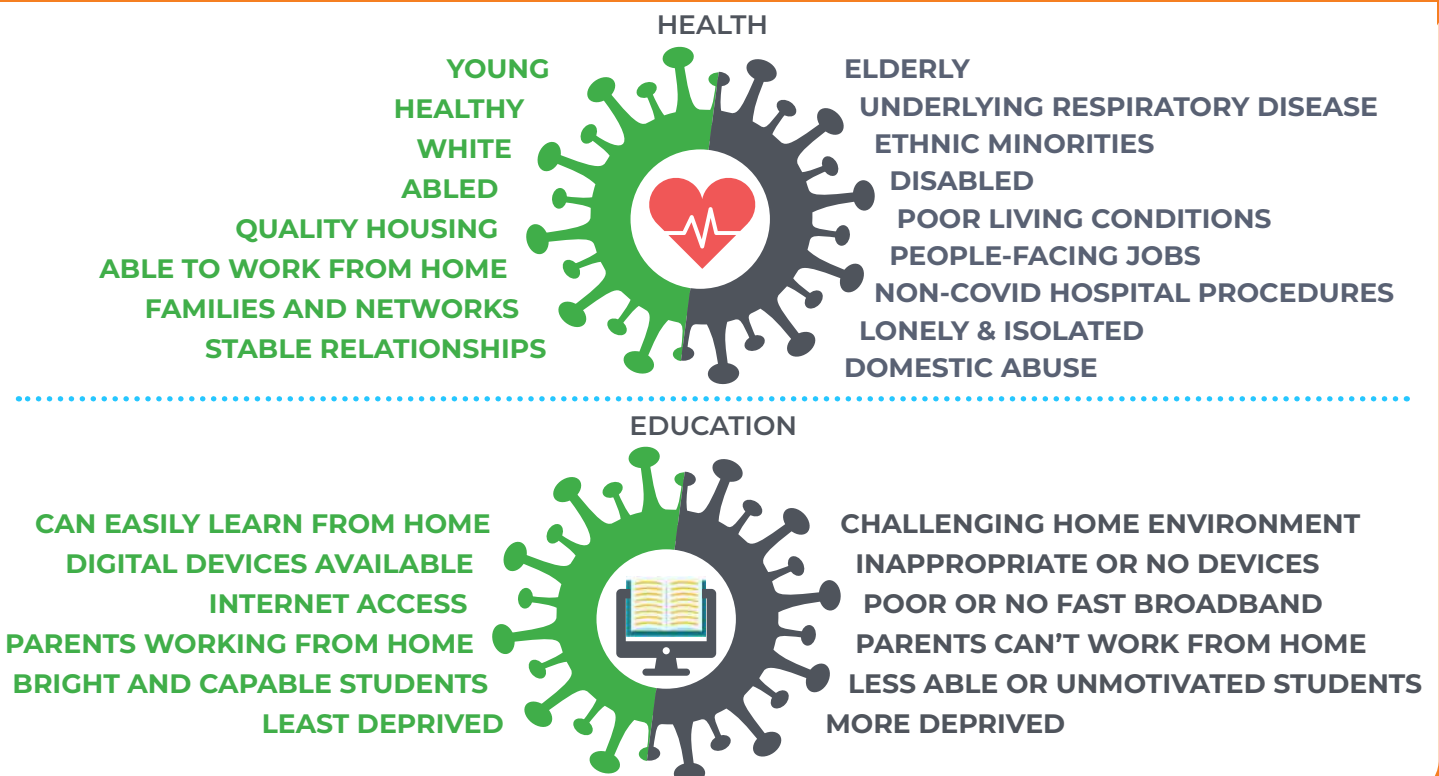
Cambridgeshire has six districts: Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Cambridgeshire is sometimes distinguished from Peterborough, but CCF supports initiatives across the county itself, and this report will use Cambridgeshire to refer to all six districts.

Diversity and Covid-19

This Vital Signs® Report was researched and produced during the pandemic (Covid-19) which first hit the UK in the Spring of 2020. Diversity issues related to race and gender have also been highlighted during the last few years since our last report. So, this Vital Signs® Report takes a cross sectional look across the nine themes via the issues of Covid-19 and diversity.

COVID – 19

Coronavirus presents long-term risks to widen existing divisions & inequalities



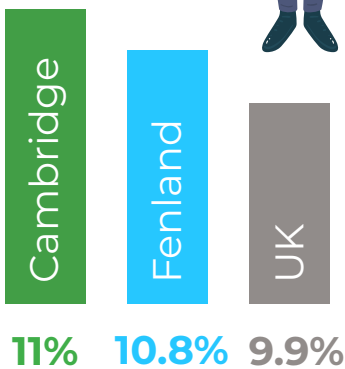
FAIRNESS



In Cambridgeshire, a county with a population of 850,000 and two large cities, the gap between the wealthy districts in the South and the more deprived parts in the North has widened in the last decade. In the cities of Cambridge and Peterborough the inequalities of income, deprivation, education and health between the most and least deprived wards are huge.



Cambridge has the highest rate of fuel poverty in the county at 11% of households, compared to 10.8% in Fenland and a UK average of 9.9%.



Cambridge is the **MOST UNEQUAL CITY** for distribution of wealth out of 58

in England and Wales (according to Centre for Cities).



The digital divide has become more apparent during the pandemic as demands for working from home, home schooling, and accessing GPs and support groups online increased. This impacts particularly people who are poor and geographically rural, reducing employment opportunities, educational achievement and access to public, health and social services.



National estimates suggest that, in Cambridgeshire, 100,000 people or

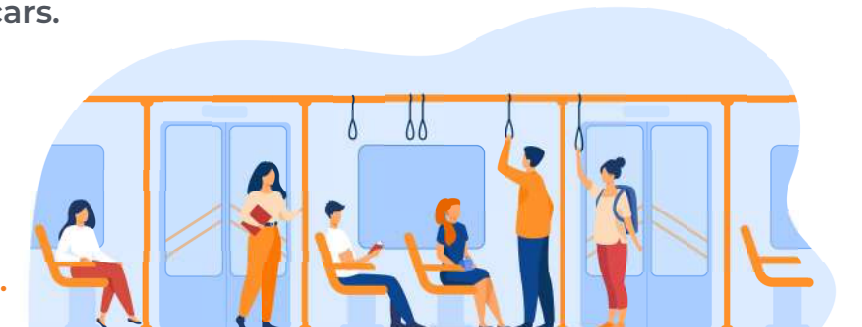
12%

of the population have limited internet access.

The lack of public transport in rural areas has increased isolation and reduced access for those without their own cars.



of the county's population is more than an hour by public transport from the nearest employment centre.



Homelessness is rising across the county and foodbank use is increasing.



In Peterborough,
homelessness is

4 times

that of Cambridge
and

8/1000

are homeless.



Foodbank use has

doubled

since 2016.



CCF supports Food Cycle Peterborough to provide a community meal for on average 70 people per week where guests and volunteers can build friendships.



CCF supports those in fuel poverty through its Surviving Winter Programme by helping to ensure that everyone can keep warm in their homes as well as being able to put food on their table.

Covid-19 has caused already existing disparities in prosperity, education, healthcare and social connectivity to increase significantly, adversely affecting poorer and deprived households and BAME communities in particular. The need for good internet access during the pandemic has become apparent during the long lockdowns.

Digitally excluded people are prevented from accessing services, education and social connections online. Those who can work from home have been able to isolate more easily than those who work in the manufacturing, healthcare or public service industries. These employees are also less vulnerable to layoffs and can be more able to assist with home schooling.

In Cambridge, 40% can work from home compared to 34% in Peterborough. These factors may help to explain the differences in welfare and education between the cities. They also affect the risk of contracting Covid-19.



Cambridgeshire is less ethnically diverse than the rest of England but there has been an increase in hate crimes in the county, as well as a fall in the number who think people from different backgrounds get along. Ethnic inequalities are likely to contribute to differences in fairness indicators.



LEARNING AND EDUCATION

A range of standards – personal, social, emotional and physical – plus achieving early learning goals in literacy and maths, define a child as having a good level of development. The county is below the national average in indicators of early years development and school engagement. Poor outcomes for children eligible for free school meals (FSM) reflects the impact of deprivation on education and later life prospects.



5 year olds eligible for FSM who achieve a good level of attainment

Cambridgeshire

44%

National average

55%



Peterborough fares worse than the rest of the county across all indicators of educational attainment, engagement and prospects. More school leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET).



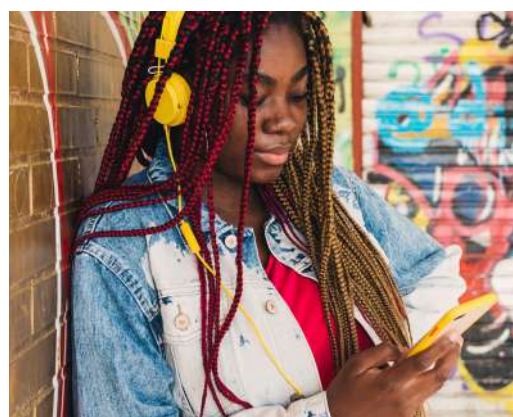
Peterborough

10%

Rest of county

7%

School leavers NEET



Black school leavers in Peterborough are much more likely to be NEET than those in the rest of Cambridgeshire.

Peterborough

4.3%

Rest of county

1.8%

Black school leavers who are NEET



The rate of school absence is more than three times higher among those eligible for FSM and is highest in the county's three most deprived districts - Cambridge, Fenland and Peterborough.



Most deprived districts Rest of county

18% 5%



Eligible for FSM Not eligible for FSM

24% 7%

Rates of school absence

Students in Peterborough have a lower likelihood of achieving 5 GCSEs at grade C/4 or above.

Peterborough

55%

Cambridgeshire

68%

England

65%



CCF supports Turtle Dove Cambridge who work with NEET young women in Cambridgeshire through offering work experience at events, emotional support and practical opportunities to raise self-esteem, promote further connection with the community and improve mental health.

School closures have led to learning loss and those who are digitally excluded or from poor families have limited access to online learning.

Students who only have internet access through their phones are sometimes excluded from online learning and work submissions.

Pupils with low phonics skills, possibly due to hearing difficulties, could not obtain diagnosis and assistance at a crucial stage of development because hospital visits were not possible.



Black school leavers in deprived areas are more likely to be NEET than other areas in Cambridgeshire.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The deprived districts of Fenland and Peterborough have higher rates of preventable mortality, lower life expectancy and more deaths from respiratory illness than other areas of Cambridgeshire and nationally. All of these higher rates can be linked to deprivation, including fuel poverty and income.



Number of deaths from respiratory illnesses between 2013 and 2017



Life expectancy for men and women has increased across all districts since 2002 though health outcomes are worst in the most deprived districts. In Peterborough and Fenland lower life expectancies reflect the relationship between deprivation, underlying health issues and barriers to healthcare.

A woman from the least deprived areas of Peterborough can expect to live

13 more

healthy years than one from the most deprived.



(For men the difference is 14 years.)



Rates of disability tend to be highest in deprived areas and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic has worsened care and wellbeing for those living with disabilities.

Peterborough

16.3%

Fenland

20%

South Cambridgeshire

13.6%

Percentage of people who have a long-term illness or disability.

The number of deaths attributable to mental and behavioural disorders has increased since 2013 in all areas apart from Cambridge. Death from these disorders is more common among women while men have a far higher rate of suicide.



Fenland and Peterborough

20

South Cambs and Huntingdonshire

12

Nationwide

15

Deaths per 100,000 occurring from suicide in 2018.



In Cambridge, almost

1 in 5

of all deaths of females in 2019 were due to a mental or behavioural disorder.



The incidence of coronavirus infection has been concentrated in Peterborough and Cambridge. Covid-19 has worsened outcomes for those with respiratory illness and underlying health conditions which are often associated with social deprivation and poor housing.

Non-Covid care has also been affected with those waiting for other treatments such as cancer, heart problems and implants being significantly delayed as coronavirus patients overwhelm hospitals. Those with disabilities have also fared badly during the pandemic.



Differences in life expectancy are linked to deprivation, incomes, social mobility and fairness which often adversely impact the BAME communities.

Women have a higher rate of deaths attributable to mental and behavioural disorders. Rates of disability are highest in more deprived areas.

DIVERSITY



CCF has supported Magpas Air Ambulance to help provide CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) skills training courses for local communities.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Housing affordability and quality are major concerns in all regions of the county. Even the cheapest homes in Cambridge are out of reach for low-income earners, reducing social mobility. An increase in homelessness has occurred in families with dependent children.



119 out of 463

local neighbourhoods across the county fall in the worst 20% nationwide for barriers to housing, including affordability and quality.

Cambridge is the **30th most expensive district** out of 339 for housing in the country. Average house prices are **13 times the median income**.



Newnham, Cambridge

851k



Peterborough East

149k

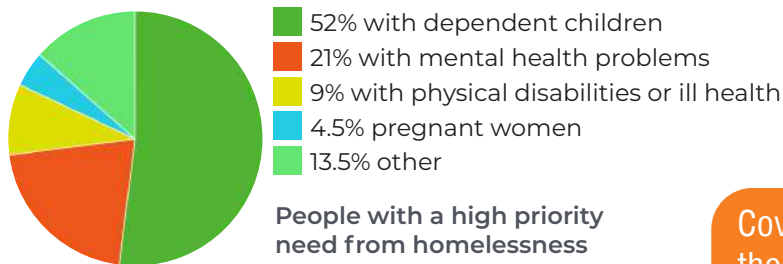


Waterlees Village

130k

The median house price in Newnham, Cambridge (most expensive ward in the county), is more than six times those in Waterlees Village and Peterborough East.

Over the last five years, there has been an increase in homelessness in all districts except Cambridge. The homelessness rate in Peterborough is now more than double all other districts. Peterborough and Fenland have a higher proportion of people with dependent children needing homelessness assistance. Those who are homeless in Peterborough are more likely to be non-white.



CCF supports The Light Project in Peterborough which supports the homeless through emergency shelter and other essential support.



Peterborough
0.8%
Cambridge
0.2%
England
0.2%

The rate of statutory homelessness

Covid-19 has disproportionately affected those on low incomes through poorer health outcomes and higher rates of redundancy. At the same time, huge discrepancies in access to affordable housing is reducing social mobility across Cambridgeshire. It is likely that Covid-19 will exacerbate the housing crisis in Cambridge and push people out of the city.



Ethnic minorities make up 10% of the homeless in Peterborough, versus just over 1% in the rest of Cambridgeshire.



STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strong communities depend on social cohesion between their members and are adversely affected by inequality, deprivation and lack of ethnic integration. Growing social and economic inequalities increase the risk of isolating demographic groups and reduce the bonds between people, places and systems.



Loneliness is a pervasive issue that has significant impact on well-being and health. According to an Age UK survey, 6% of respondents said they feel lonely often or always. Those living in the most deprived areas were more likely to feel lonely often/always than those living in the least deprived areas (9% compared with 4%). Cambridge and East Cambridgeshire have the most wards in the county at high risk of loneliness.

Around 33% in Cambridgeshire don't feel connected to their community.



86%

78%

A Cambridgeshire County Council survey in 2016 found that those who agree that people from ethnic backgrounds in their area get along, fell to 78% from 86% in 2008.



CCF supports Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust to run a community café, helping people to be better prepared for employment and to run a digital inclusion project to improve independence, community resilience, and mental health.

Poor early years opportunities are hampering the life chances for thousands of people.

Out of 324 local authorities, Fenland was ranked the

WORST IN ENGLAND

for social mobility based on schooling.



Fenland and East Cambridgeshire were ranked

6th & 14th WORST

for social mobility factors overall, including early years development and schooling.

Covid-19 has significantly reduced social connections in communities. 1 in 7 people across the UK were feeling “lockdown lonely”, meaning their well-being was affected by being lonely in the last seven days. This was a significant increase from the 1 in 20 who feel lonely during normal times. This highlights the need for accessible and visible community support for people who might be socially isolated, such as those in ill health or adult carers.

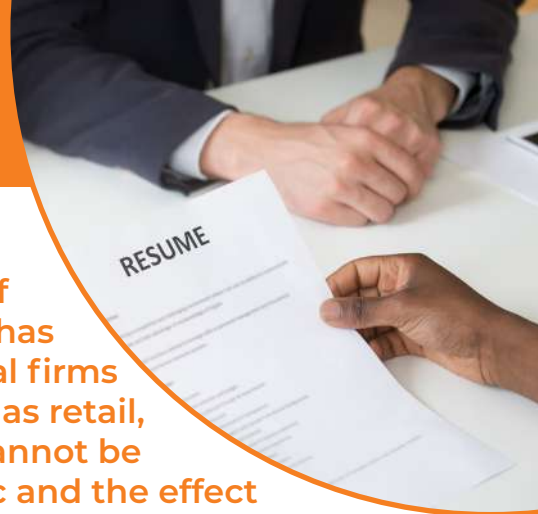


According to data collected in the 2011 Census, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are less ethnically diverse than the rest of England, with ethnic minorities making up 10% of the population, compared to 15% nationally.

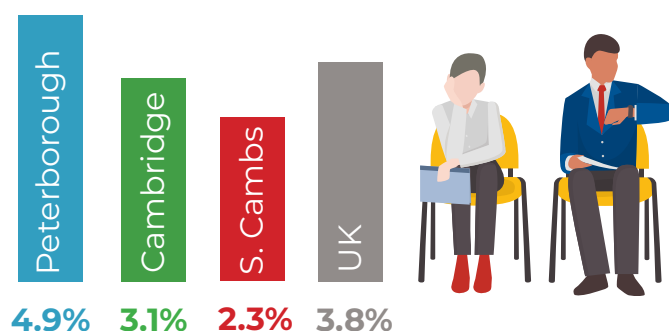


LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

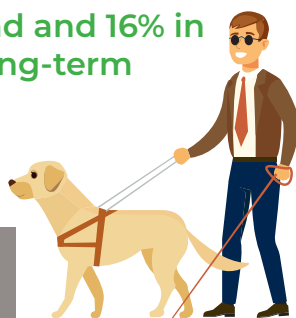
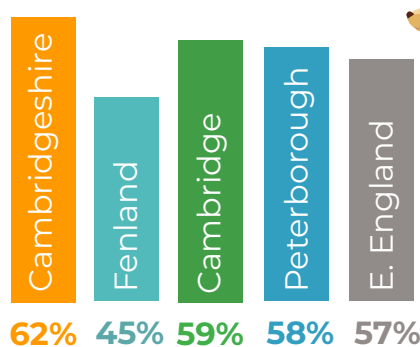
Cambridgeshire's local economy had been growing in all districts before the Coronavirus crisis. The benefits of growth, however, are unevenly distributed. Cambridge has reaped success through technology and pharmaceutical firms while other districts rely on lower value industries such as retail, manufacturing, health care and hospitality. Jobs that cannot be done from home have borne the brunt of the pandemic and the effect has been most acute in Fenland and Peterborough.



Peterborough has the highest unemployment rate in the county.



People living with disabilities in poorer regions face additional barriers to health access, mobility, education and have fewer employment opportunities. 20% of people in Fenland and 16% in Peterborough have a long-term illness or disability.



Employment rates for disabled people

Covid-19 has had a deep and long-lasting effect on the economy. Unemployment rates, which had fallen in the UK and across Cambridgeshire since 2016, are now increasing. Annual unemployment measured in June 2020 was 3.8%, propped up by the Government's furlough scheme to retain workers. In November, this had climbed to 4.8% nationally and is expected to increase further. The percentage of the population claiming unemployment support has doubled in all districts since 2016.

The impact of Covid-19 on job losses is unequal across districts due to different industrial compositions. Areas with more retail, hospitality and manufacturing jobs that cannot be done from home have suffered the most. Centre for Cities estimate that around 40% of workers in Cambridge can work from home, compared to around 34% in Peterborough. Uneven job losses link to existing disparities in deprivation, since professional jobs that can be done from home also tend to be paid more.



CCF supports Rowan who support those with learning disabilities through the provision of workshops.

SAFETY

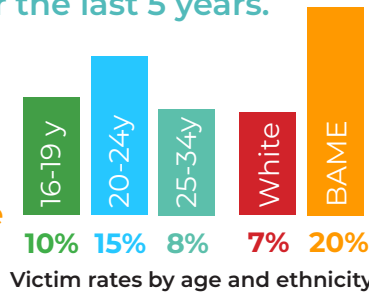
Cambridge and Peterborough have the highest crime rates in the county. Antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse, vandalism and public drunkenness are also above the national average, growing significantly over the last decade and linked to deprivation. Surveys of offenders revealed that 94% have needs related to financial, employment or mental health problems.



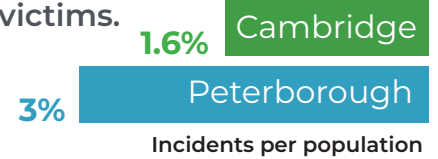
16% of crimes in Cambridgeshire were related to domestic abuse, up from 10% over the last 5 years.



Young women are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse and mixed ethnicity women are particularly at risk.



Domestic abuse tends to be more prevalent in deprived areas and the pandemic is likely to worsen conditions for victims.



The majority of hate crimes occur in Peterborough followed by Cambridge. These two cities, with the highest population densities in the county, have the highest number of crimes, significantly above the national average. White British is the largest cohort of offenders in the county.



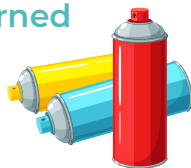
Cambridge and Peterborough have the highest crime rates and severity scores in the county.

Peterborough 11%
Cambridge 12.7%
England average 8.8%



Percentage of people concerned about public drunkenness, vandalism and graffiti.

Cambridgeshire 17% UK 12%



Crime rates fell across the nation during the Covid-19 lockdown, with 25% less crime in April 2020 than 2019, partly due to a reduced opportunity for theft crimes with more people at home. However, this trend is reversing as lockdowns lift.

Covid-19 worsened conditions for victims of domestic abuse and blocked some coping mechanisms such as leaving the home, finding new accommodation or accessing counselling.



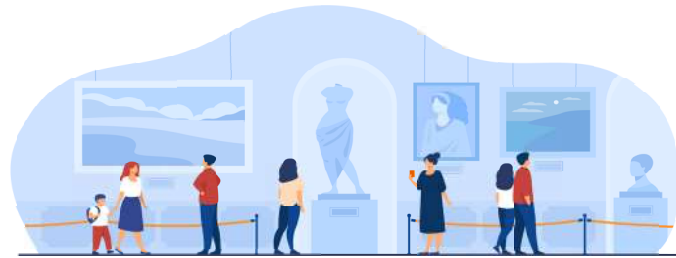
CCF supports Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth who protect and support young people, ensuring they become responsible members of the community. They also patrol the village, identify and tackle low level anti-social behaviour.

Hate crimes in Cambridgeshire, the majority of which are motivated by racism, have been increasing since 2013 in line with national trends. However, while the number of hate crimes fell nationally between 2019 and 2020, the trend in Cambridgeshire has continued to increase. Disproportional rates of offending from minority ethnicities may be linked to deprivation and other needs, which are identified for 94% of offenders.



ARTS AND CULTURE

While Cambridge is ranked among the top 20 for its arts, culture and heritage, other parts of the county face barriers to participation such as distance, lack of transport and cost. Successful efforts have been made in recent years to encourage children and young adults from deprived backgrounds to increase their engagement with the arts.



For museums, archives and artefacts, Cambridge ranks



local authorities nationally.

East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough are among the bottom third.



CCF supports Acting Now who use theatre as a platform to empower people and to help those at risk of social exclusion to unlock their potential and drive change in their lives.

Young people living in deprived areas are



15% less likely

each year to engage in 3 or more arts activities than a young person who lives in the least deprived areas.

Young people with low educational attainment are

44% less likely

to engage in 3 or more activities of arts and culture.



Creative industries are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 due to the forced closures of theatres, museums and other facilities.

The Creative Industries Federation study on the impact of Covid-19 found that more than 400,000 people are likely to be made redundant nationwide.

The East of England had 166,000 jobs in the creative industries of which 25% are likely to be at risk due to the pandemic. Many were self employed and have received little financial support.



ENVIRONMENT



The outdoor environment of the county is higher than average, with air quality much improved in the last five years, although still an issue in cities and on the roads. Indoors, however, poor quality housing results in inefficient heat retention and increases emissions from energy use. Cambridge has high rates of fuel poverty, adversely affecting health and wellbeing.



Cambridge

47

Peterborough

84

Deaths per year attributable to pollution in 2017

Carbon emissions have decreased by 27% in Cambridgeshire since 2005 but road transport emissions per capita in Cambridgeshire are 150% of the national average.



CCF supports FWAG to re-introduce wildflowers into the River Ouse floodplain grassland using wildflower-seeded feed given to cattle.

Cambridge and Peterborough are the

11th and 15th

worst cities out of 58 in the UK for air quality.



Cambridge

40

Peterborough

38

days per year with poor air quality

Fenland and East Cambridgeshire each have more housing stock (60%) rated D or below for energy performance, meaning a majority of the homes in these regions has relatively poor heat retention and appliance efficiency.



Access to parks and green space has been particularly important during the Covid-19 crises. Overall, Cambridgeshire has relatively easy access to green space, with a high share of homes having gardens and many parks compared to national averages. However, Peterborough and East Cambridgeshire have higher barriers to the natural environment, and are ranked in the bottom quarter of districts for access to parks and open space. With people spending more time at home, quality of housing has become paramount and those in poor housing or unable to afford their heating costs may feel adverse effects on their health and wellbeing.



ABOUT CCF AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

With the incredible support of our donors, CCF is approaching £20m of grants awarded since 2004. We are so grateful to all the philanthropists who have been inspired to help.

The Coronavirus pandemic has, more than ever, shone a bright light on the inequalities and huge disadvantages that some of the most vulnerable face.

Sadly, the pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing challenges and Vital Signs® shows that it risks leaving lasting damage. We are determined to inspire the support of people, businesses and organisations that can help overcome these impacts. There is enormous success and prosperity in Cambridgeshire. We want to capitalise upon these resources to provide funding for local community projects that make a real, positive difference. Through your support, we can do more to empower communities to create the best methods of helping people who are less fortunate.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS THAT YOU CAN BE INVOLVED.

Named Funds: For long-term community impact, individuals and corporate partners can set up a named fund with CCF. Your fund is ring-fenced to benefit causes important to you. This can be a geographic area, for example near your company site, or to specific communities, such as young people. A CCF named fund helps you achieve the biggest impact for people.

Donations: Offering one off sums or regular smaller amounts is of great help to CCF. Donations can be made via our [justgiving page](#) or directly. We also accept cheques (payable to Cambridgeshire Community Foundation). Please post to CCF, Hangar One, The Airport, Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8TG. As a Registered Charity we can increase the value of your gift by 25% if you are able to donate under "Gift Aid". A declaration form can be downloaded from our website.

Become a Friend of CCF: Make a regular gift, starting from £30 a month to support Cambridgeshire communities in a simple but effective way.

By joining with us to make a difference across Cambridgeshire and help those less fortunate you will:

- Demonstrate your support for your local community
- Support the development of CCF
- Help the most vulnerable and disadvantaged
- Receive thanks on our website and elsewhere
- Attend events and meet the people you helped, connect with other Friends & receive regular updates about our work
- If you're a business, use our Friends of CCF logo.



And remember, Gift Aid could add 25% to your donation!

If you can help, or require more information, please contact our Chief Executive, Michael O'Toole at michael@cambscf.org.uk or call on 01223 410535.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation is a Registered Charity: 1103314

Thanks to Sam Weller, Sarah Nelson, Wendy Dear and Karen Jinks for the production of this 2021 Vital Signs® Report.