Tackling *Poverty.*

Part of the Sussex Uncovered Series.

NOVEMBER 2023

Sussex COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Contents

Introduction

At Sussex Community Foundation we have established ourselves as an effective local grant-maker and a service for individuals and companies who want to support Sussex people and communities.

We also want to play a leading role in local philanthropy, here in Sussex. We are developing a strategic approach to our grant making and aiming to inform our donors about the issues faced by our communities.

To that end we have created a series of reports about the needs of our communities, entitled Sussex Uncovered. These have developed a reputation for providing accessible information about Sussex, and a powerful message about the level of inequality and disadvantage in our county.

Last year we adopted a new five-year strategy to take us to 2027. We have defined our goal – to build a fairer, more equal Sussex, and identified four funding priorities:

Tackling poverty - **Reducing poverty and disadvantage in our communities**
Improving health - **Helping people live longer, better lives**
Reaching potential - **Providing life-changing skills, education and training**
Acting on climate - **Taking local action for the climate**

This report, the first of a series of Sussex Uncovered Reports on these funding priorities, will focus on poverty and disadvantage.

This report establishes a baseline of data about poverty in Sussex and represents the first step in a process of reducing poverty and disadvantage in our communities. We want to use what we learn to inform our development as a community foundation.

To do this, we have analysed and evaluated data under the following themes:

People living in financial hardship
People unemployed or involuntarily excluded from the labour market
People experiencing homelessness
People experiencing fuel poverty
People experiencing barriers because of their disability, ethnic background, immigration status or sexuality.

This analysis helped us to identify four key challenges for communities in Sussex today. These are:

Challenge 1: An aging population

Challenge 2: High levels of long-term illness and poor outcome for those with a disability

Challenge 3: Inflationary pressures are contributing towards financial hardship

Challenge 4: Multiple deprivation challenges in coastal communities

While many of the issues we face as a society are the result of global and national economic, demographic or indeed political changes, we think that these challenges are particularly relevant to Sussex and give a picture of the character of inequality in this corner of the UK.

While there is a lot of stark data, and worrying information, in this report, we do not despair. We see hope every day, in the amazing charities that we support and the dedicated and inspiring staff and volunteers that work with them to make Sussex a great place to live for everyone.

Our sincere thanks are due to OCSI for analysing and presenting the vast wealth of data in this report.

My personal hope is that this report will inform both charities and philanthropists about the challenges in our local community and will inspire us all to work together to make Sussex a fairer, more equal place.

Kevin Richmond, Chief Executive
November 2023

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Key *challenges.*

The data analysed in this section highlights the key challenges we face in Sussex. We are looking in particular at those areas and communities where support is needed the most.

Key challenges

Challenge 1: An aging population.

Sussex has a relatively old population, with 22.4% of residents aged 65+ compared with 18.4% in England.

The older (65+) population is projected to grow by 41.3% between 2020 and 2040 – faster than the average across England (38.3%). By contrast, there is projected to be a fall in population aged 0-15 (5.6% - faster than the projected fall across England – 4.2%).

The aging population is likely to present a key challenge in terms of rising social care and poor health burdens. There is also already evidence of relatively high financial hardship among older people, particularly in urban areas of the county.

By contrast, the fall in the population aged under 65, which is projected to be particularly large in the East of Sussex (most notably in Hastings and Eastbourne), is likely to present a set of economic challenges which could lead to increases in poverty. For example, reduced labour market demand may make it difficult for employers to find suitably qualified employees, a lack of a steady supply of workers could potentially increase labour market costs, while the potential loss of salaried employees could reduce disposable incomes and impact on consumer spending. All of these factors could lead to businesses relocating, with associated impacts on unemployment and resulting rises in poverty – particularly as the largest falls in the working age population are projected to occur in areas of Sussex which already experience the highest levels of worklessness. Conversely, the fall in the working age population may present an opportunity to reduce unemployment, as reduced labour market supply may increase job opportunities for the working age population and lead to wage inflation.

Challenge 2: High levels of long-term illness and poor outcome for those with a disability.

Sussex has a higher proportion of people with a disability (17.6%) compared to the South East (15.6%) and England (16.9%). Within Sussex, the highest proportion of people with a disability can be found in Hastings (21.7%), Eastbourne (20.8%) and Rother (20.8%). While this is partly explained by the higher

prevalence of older people, it is also notable that more than 1-in-10 people aged under 65 (10.8%) have a disability – which is above the regional (9.8%) and national (10.7%) average.

As well as the general health challenges associated with long-term illness and disability, there is strong evidence to suggest that people with disabilities across Sussex are more likely to experience material deprivation challenges.

People with a disability are more likely to experience worklessness, with 44.6% of working age people with a disability in employment, compared with 76.2% for those without a disability.

People with long-term health conditions account for 72% of all people receiving out of work benefits across Sussex, compared with 69.7% across England as a whole, indicating that poor health is the key driver of worklessness across the county. This contributes to higher levels of poverty experienced by those with a disability. This is most acutely evident when looking at the support needs of homeless households: approximately 52.1% of all homeless households have severe physical or mental health needs.

The relationship between disability and poverty can also be seen by looking at the spatial distribution of those with a disability.

People with a disability in Sussex are disproportionately more likely to be living in the most deprived areas, with nearly twice as many people identifying as disabled in areas ranked among the most deprived 10% on the Indices of Deprivation 2019, compared with areas ranked among the least deprived 10%.

Within Sussex, the highest proportion of people with a disability can be found

21.7%   **Hastings**

20.8%   **Eastbourne**

20.8%   **Rother**

Challenge 3: Inflationary pressures are contributing towards financial hardship.

UK inflation peaked at

9.6% in October 2022

People living in Sussex are facing a range of inflationary pressures. Data from the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupation housing costs (CPIH) shows that

UK inflation peaked at 9.6% in October 2022 and is at time of publication running at 6.3%[1]. The rising cost of energy bills are likely to have a notable impact on household finances. Rural and coastal areas of Sussex are especially vulnerable to rising energy costs. 8.2% of dwellings in rural Sussex have a low energy efficiency rating (Energy Performance Certificates F–G) - more than double the national average (3.3%).

There is also some evidence to suggest that rural and coastal areas of Sussex were already feeling the impact of high heating costs prior to the recent hike in fuel costs. In 2021, Sussex had a higher proportion of households in fuel poverty (9.6%) compared to the South East (8.6%) average. This was more of an issue in rural Sussex (where 10.2% of households were in fuel poverty), in comparison to 9.5% in urban areas. However, the highest proportion of households experiencing fuel poverty were found in coastal East Sussex, with Hastings (13.9%) and Bexhill (10.5%).

Lack of affordable housing is also likely to be a key factor in raising housing costs and increasing financial pressures. The average property price in Sussex over the 12 months from June 2022 to May 2023 is £414,868, considerably above the national average (£335,659); and 11 of the 13 Local Authorities in the county ranked above the national average on the Indices of Deprivation

Housing Affordability indicator (which measures the inability to afford to enter owner-occupation or the private rental market). These figures were captured prior to more recent rises in rents and mortgage costs which are likely to have further stretched the finances of those in poverty.

8.2%
of dwellings in rural Sussex have a low energy efficiency rating

9.6%
In 2021, Sussex had a higher proportion of households in fuel poverty than the South East

£414,868
The average property price in Sussex

These financial pressures have contributed to relatively high levels of homelessness – particularly in urban areas of the county. Brighton & Hove (1.4% of households), Hastings (1.13% of households) and Crawley (1.16% of households) all have higher rates of households assessed as homeless than the national average (0.66%).

The cost of food is overtaking housing as the largest contributor to the rising cost of living – data from the CPIH shows that the average price for food and non-alcoholic beverages has increased by 13.6% in the 12 months to August 2023, more than double the overall inflation rate (6.3%) over the same period. Again, rural and coastal areas of Sussex are most at risk of being adversely affected by these rising costs. The Priority Places for Food Index (PPFI) measures food insecurity, looking at proximity to supermarket retail facilities, accessibility to supermarket retail facilities, access to online deliveries, proximity to non-supermarket food provision, socio-economic barriers, family food support and fuel poverty. There are four Local Authorities in Sussex which are ranked as more deprived on the PPFI than the national average: Hastings, Rother, Lewes and Crawley.

Newhaven, Rye and parts of Hastings, Brighton, Crawley, Bexhill and Eastbourne are identified as areas with high levels of food insecurity. These already experienced a lack of accessibility to cheap, healthy

and sustainable sources of food prior to recent inflationary rises and are likely to be particularly vulnerable to recent price rises.

Challenge 4: Multiple deprivation challenges in coastal communities.

The map on the following page shows the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 rank across neighbourhoods in Sussex, with areas shaded dark blue ranked among the 20% of neighbourhoods in England with the highest levels of deprivation and areas shaded yellow among the 20% of neighbourhoods with the lowest levels of deprivation.

The highest levels of deprivation can be seen in the major coastal communities in Sussex, with each of the eight most deprived towns in Sussex located in coastal communities.

Heat map of deprivation (Indices of Deprivation 2019) across neighbourhoods in Sussex
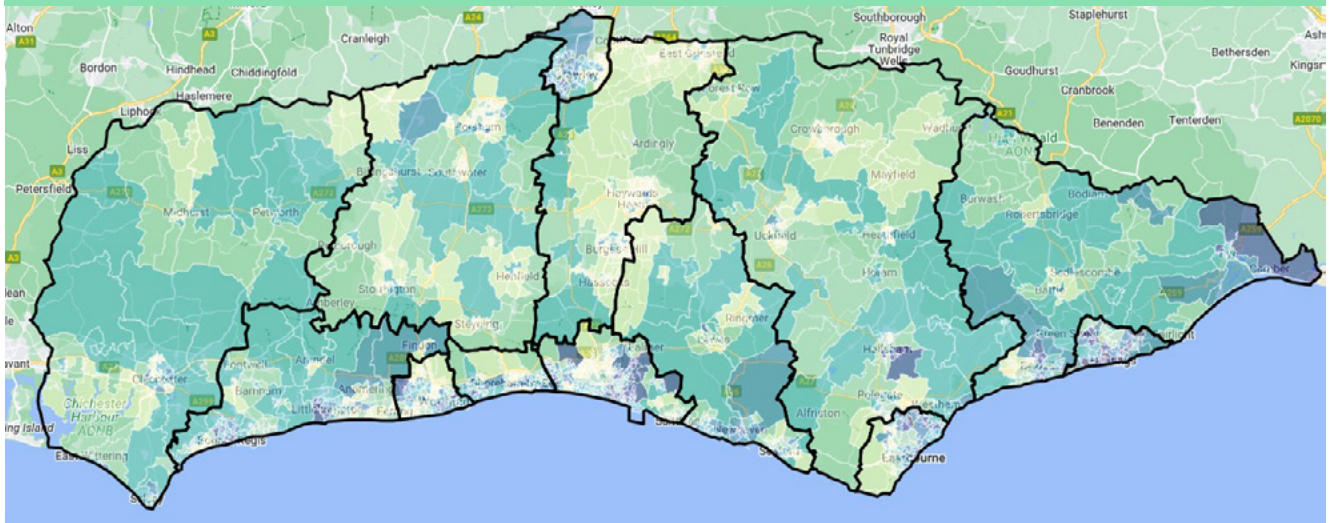
Source: Communities and Local Government (CLG) 2019

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 Rank

The colours on the map show Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Average LSOA Rank (lower = more deprived)

Showing all areas at LSOA level
- 26,277 to 32,844
- 19,708 to 26,277
- 13,139 to 19,708
- 6,570 to 13,139
- 1 to 6,570

The six most deprived coastal communities are Hastings, Portslade-by-Sea, Eastbourne, Bexhill, Brighton & Hove and Bognor Regis. They each experience a distinct set of challenges, from high levels of unemployment to poor health and disability.

Hastings
- Hastings performs poorly on all key deprivation measures, with the highest multiple deprivation score (34.2), the most deprived ward (Central St Leonards), the highest proportion of income deprived residents (20.1%), the highest concentration of highly deprived neighbourhoods (16 LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally in 2019) and the highest proportion of children and older people living in poverty (23.9% and 15.3%, respectively).
- This is likely to be linked to relatively high levels of worklessness in the town.
- Hastings is the town with the highest of people aged 18-24 claiming unemployment benefits (8.99%) – this is over double the average across Sussex.
- Poor health is a key driver of deprivation across Hastings. Hastings has the highest proportion of people with a disability of any Local Authority in Sussex (21.7%, compared with 16.9% across England) and the highest proportion of people with premature disability (14.7% of those aged under 65 are disabled under the Equality Act). People with health-related conditions account for 75% of all out-of-work benefits claimants and 69.1% of homeless households in the town.
- Hastings has the third highest rate of households assessed as homeless in the county (1.13%), nearly double the national rate (0.66%).
- Hastings had the second highest number in Sussex of rough sleepers (34 people) on a typical night.

Portslade-by-Sea

- Portslade-by-Sea has a higher overall IMD score (22.8) and a higher proportion of income deprived residents (14.1%) than the national average. It also has the joint highest proportion of multiply deprived households (0.48%).
- Portslade-by-Sea has higher levels of employment deprivation, people receiving out of work benefits and people receiving unemployment benefits than the national average.
- Portslade-by-Sea has higher levels of youth unemployment (6.7% of 18–24-year-olds receiving unemployment benefits) than the national average (4.9%)

Eastbourne

- Eastbourne has a higher proportion of people experiencing income deprivation than the national average (13.3%), a higher proportion of child poverty than the national average (20.2%) and the joint highest proportion of multiply deprived households (0.48%).
- Eastbourne has seen a notable increase in the number of areas identified as deprived (doubling from two to four between 2015 and 2019).
- Eastbourne has higher levels of employment deprivation, people receiving out of work benefits and people receiving unemployment benefits than the national average.
- Eastbourne has a relatively high proportion of people with a disability (20.8%) – the second highest of any Local Authority across Sussex and considerably higher than the average across England as a whole (16.9%).

Brighton & Hove

- Brighton & Hove has the second highest number of highly deprived areas (15 LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally in 2019) of any Local Authority and contains the third most deprived ward in Sussex (East Brighton).
- Brighton & Hove has higher levels of pensioner poverty (15.3%) than the national average (and contains the ward with the highest level of pensioner poverty - Queen's Park).
- Brighton & Hove has the highest number of people experiencing income deprivation (34,883) and employment deprivation (17,820) of any Local Authority in Sussex.
- Brighton & Hove has a higher self-reported unemployment rate (3.1% of people aged 16+ are unemployed) than the national average (2.9%) and the third highest of any Local Authority in Sussex.
- Brighton & Hove has the largest proportion of people identifying as 'not straight or heterosexual' out of all Local Authorities in England and Wales (11.7%). The non-straight or heterosexual population in Brighton & Hove are more likely to experience unemployment than across any other Local Authority in Sussex. 7.1% of people identifying as LGBTQ in the city are unemployed – higher than across any other town in Sussex and notably above the national average unemployment rate (2.9%).

- Brighton & Hove has the highest rate of households assessed as homeless in the county (1.44%), nearly double the national rate (0.66%).
- Brighton & Hove had the highest number in Sussex of rough sleepers (41 people) on a typical night.

Bexhill
- Bexhill has a higher proportion of people income deprived (13.7%) than across England as a whole (12.9%).
- Bexhill Sidley ward is the 9th most deprived ward in Sussex and has the fourth highest proportion of people experiencing employment deprivation – with 21.6% of working age adults employment deprived – more than double the national average (9.9%).
- Bexhill has higher proportions of people employment deprived and receiving out-of-work benefits, but lower proportions of people unemployed than the national average. This suggests that wider factors such as poor health are key drivers of worklessness in this town. This is reflected in the relatively high proportion of people with a disability in the town, with just under 1-in-5 (24.3%) people recording a disability – higher than across any other town in Sussex and notably above the national average (16.9%).
- Bexhill also has higher levels of youth unemployment (6.6% of 18–24-year-olds receiving unemployment benefits) than the national average (4.9%).

CASE STUDY: Off the Fence

Off The Fence helps people who are socially excluded in Brighton & Hove. The charity provides emergency outreach to people who are homeless, including a homeless day centre, a school programme for people aged 6-18, and a women's centre supporting women in crisis. Off The Fence reaches around 30 people per night, who are given warm clothing, sleeping bags, hygiene products, food and drink.

"'P' had been rough sleeping for eight years after a relationship break up. He had effectively been off grid for that period. A couple of months after our first contact with him, our team supported him with temporary accommodation and registering for benefits. He's a changed man and now he often volunteers for us."

2 Population *profile.*

Population size, structure and composition are crucial elements from which to understand the characteristics and challenges of a community. Looking at trends and patterns in population gives us a better picture of an area's demographic characteristics from which to frame further exploration of local needs.

Population and growth

The total population living in Sussex in 2021 was 1,705,626. Of these, 882,676 live in West Sussex (51.8%), 545,847 live in East Sussex (32.0%) and 277,103 live in Brighton & Hove (16.2%). Approximately 1-in-5 Sussex residents live in rural areas (20.3% - 346,000 people).

Of all Local Authorities in Sussex, Rother has the greatest proportion of people living in rural areas (52.1%), followed by Chichester (50.7%).

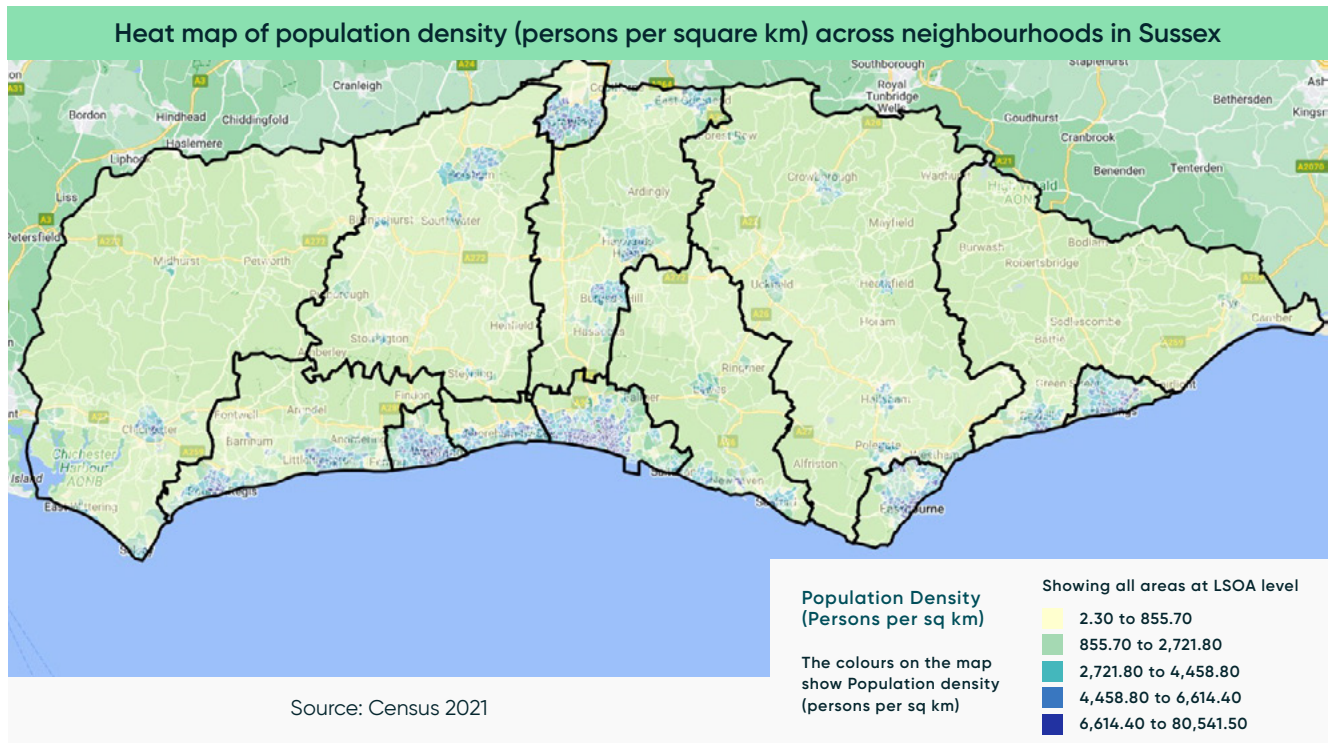| Total population across Sussex			
Area name	Total population	Rural population	Urban population
West Sussex	**882,676**	**203,952 (23.1%)**	**678,778 (76.9%)**
Adur	65,544	0 (0%)	65,544 (100%)
Arun	164,889	26,793 (16.2%)	138,177 (83.8%)
Chichester	124,068	63,002 (50.7%)	61,166 (49.3%)
Crawley	118,493	0 (0%)	118,493 (100%)
Horsham	146,778	89,720 (61.1%)	57,097 (38.9%)
Mid Sussex	152,566	24,437 (16.0%)	128,155 (84.0%)
Worthing	111,338	0 (0%)	111,338 (100%)
East Sussex	**545,847**	**142,223 (26.1%)**	**403,380 (73.9%)**
Eastbourne	101,689	0 (0%)	101,689 (100%)
Hastings	90,996	0 (0%)	90,996 (100%)
Lewes	99,905	23,862 (23.9%)	76,028 (76.1%)
Rother	93,110	48,542 (52.1%)	44,600 (47.9%)
Wealden	160,151	69,819 (43.6%)	90,325 (56.4%)
Brighton & Hove	**277,103**	**0 (0%)**	**277,103 (100%)**
Source: Census 2021			

The table below shows the 20 largest towns in Sussex and how the population within these has changed between 2011 and 2021. Sussex has seen a 6.1% population increase over the last 10 years. This is lower than the increase across the South East (7.5%) and England as a whole (6.6%) over the same period. Within Sussex, Crawley has had the largest increase in residents over the past 10 years (9,937), followed by Worthing (7,072). However, it is Hailsham which has shown the greatest percentage increase over this time period (16.5%).

Population change across the 20 largest towns in Sussex				
Town	Population 2011	Population 2021	Population difference	% Change
Brighton & Hove	229,700	232,161	2,461	1.07
Crawley	106,943	116,880	9,937	9.29
Worthing	109,120	116,192	7,072	6.48
Eastbourne	109,185	113,127	3,942	3.61
Hastings	91,053	92,048	995	1.09
Bognor Regis	63,885	70,095	6,210	9.72
Littlehampton	55,706	61,938	6,232	11.19
Shoreham-by-Sea	48,487	51,175	2,688	5.54
Horsham	48,041	50,485	2,444	5.09
Bexhill	42,369	43,754	1,385	3.27
Haywards Heath	33,845	38,690	4,845	14.32
Burgess Hill	30,635	33,352	2,717	8.87
Chichester	28,657	32,121	3,464	12.09
East Grinstead	29,084	30,633	1,549	5.33
Hailsham	19,977	23,263	3,286	16.45
Seaford	22,584	22,862	278	1.23
Crowborough	20,607	21,137	530	2.57
Portslade-by-Sea	19,921	20,390	1,048	2.35
Peacehaven	18,579	19,943	1,811	7.34
Lewes	17,297	16,723	-574	-3.32
Sussex	1,606,932	1,705,626	98,694	6.14
South East	8,634,750	9,278,065	643,315	7.45
England	53,012,456	56,490,048	3,477,592	6.56

Source: Census 2021

The map below shows the population density (persons per square kilometre) in Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across Sussex.

As shown, the most densely populated areas in Sussex are along the coastal strip. Hove Central is the LSOA with the highest population density in Sussex, with 32,490 people per square kilometre.

Heat map of population density (persons per square km) across neighbourhoods in Sussex

Source: Census 2021

Population Density (Persons per sq km)

The colours on the map show Population density (persons per sq km)

Showing all areas at LSOA level
- 2.30 to 855.70
- 855.70 to 2,721.80
- 2,721.80 to 4,458.80
- 4,458.80 to 6,614.40
- 6,614.40 to 80,541.50

Population by age

Sussex has a relatively high proportion of older people (22.4% are aged 65+) compared to the South East (19.5%) and England as a whole (18.4%). When comparing Local Authorities, Rother has the highest proportion of older people within Sussex, with almost 1-in-3 people aged over 65 (32.4%).

In contrast, Sussex has a lower proportion of people aged 0-19 (21.1%) than the South East (23.1%) and England (23.1%). Of all Local Authorities in Sussex, Crawley has the highest proportion of this age group (25.3% - higher than the national average).

Projected future change in population

The table below shows the projected percentage change in population by age breakdown between 2020 and 2040 across the Local Authorities in Sussex, comparing these to Sussex as a whole, the South East and England.

Projected population by age band for 2020-2040				
Local Authority	Total population % projected change 2020-2040	Age 0-14 % projected change 2020-2040	15-64 % projected change 2020-2040	65+ % projected change 2020-2040
Adur	6.07	-7.21	-0.03	31.02
Arun	13.99	-3.94	4.26	42.07
Brighton & Hove	5.54	-4.95	1.55	38.40
Chichester	10.58	-3.69	-1.73	43.97
Crawley	4.61	-13.49	1.39	47.32
Eastbourne	6.21	-11.36	-3.26	39.23
Hastings	2.73	-14.67	-5.61	42.85
Horsham	15.07	2.58	5.10	50.21
Lewes	9.06	-4.17	-0.49	38.22
Mid Sussex	8.97	-2.84	2.11	39.44
Rother	12.48	-6.87	-0.11	41.52
Wealden	9.63	-2.55	-0.67	39.52
Worthing	9.43	-6.25	2.14	40.49
Sussex	8.88	-5.56	0.82	41.28
South East	6.67	-6.99	0.37	39.11
England	7.90	-4.23	2.48	38.28

Source: ONS 2020

Sussex as a whole has a higher projected percentage change in the total population (8.9%) in comparison to the South East (6.7%) and England (7.9%). The population is expected to increase most in Horsham over these 20 years (15.1%).

Sussex as a whole has a higher projected percentage change in the total population (8.9%) in comparison to the South East (6.7%) and England (7.9%).

This projected change in the overall population is mainly driven by a large rise in the older population (a projected increase of 41.3% in those aged 65+). This increase is relatively high compared to the projected increase of 39.1% across the South East and 39.3% across England for this age bracket. This is likely to impact on demand for health and social care over the next 20 years. In contrast, there is a projected decline in the proportion of children across Sussex (a decrease of 5.6% in those aged 0-14, compared to the national average of 4.2%). The decline for this age group is particularly large in some areas, such as Hastings (14.7%), Crawley (13.5%) and Eastbourne (11.4%).

Whilst the working-age population is likely to remain fairly static across Sussex over this period, the proportion of those aged 15-64 in Hastings and Eastbourne is expected to fall by a considerable amount (5.6% and 3.3%, respectively). This is likely to have an impact on the labour market in these areas.

Minority ethnic communities

The table below shows detailed ethnic group breakdowns across Sussex. 275,185 people in Sussex are from Non-White British ethnic groups (16.1%) – this is considerably lower than the national average of 26.5%. Of these, 146,996 people are Non-White (8.6% of Sussex). The Asian community make up the highest proportion of Non-White residents, Non-White Residents, accounting for 3.7% of the population in Sussex.

| Detailed ethnic group breakdowns across Sussex		
Ethnic group	Number of people in Sussex	Proportion of the Sussex population (%)
White ethnic groups	**1,552,521**	**91.02**
White British	1,430,441	83.87
White Irish	15,129	0.89
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2,275	0.13
White Roma	2,391	0.14
White Other	102,285	6.00
Asian ethnic groups	**63,131**	**3.70**
Indian	20,747	1.22
Pakistani	8,760	0.51
Bangladeshi	6,434	0.38
Chinese	8,531	0.50
Other Asian	18,659	1.09
Mixed ethnic groups	**46,348**	**2.72**
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	9,475	0.56
Mixed White and Black African	7,823	0.46
Mixed White and Asian	15,225	0.89
Other Mixed	13,825	0.81
Black ethnic groups	**21,388**	**1.25**
Black African	14,032	0.82
Black Caribbean	4,139	0.24
Other Black	3,217	0.19
Other ethnic group	**16,129**	**0.95**
Arab	6,109	0.36

Source: Census 2021

The chart on the following page shows the proportion of broad ethnic minority groups across Local Authorities in Sussex, with comparison to England, the South East and Sussex.

Crawley is the most ethnically diverse Local Authority in Sussex and the only Local Authority with a higher proportion of people from Non-White British ethnic groups (38.2%) than the national average (26.5%).

Sussex has a lower proportion of people identifying as 'White: non-British' (7.2%) compared to the regional average (7.5%) and national average (7.5%).
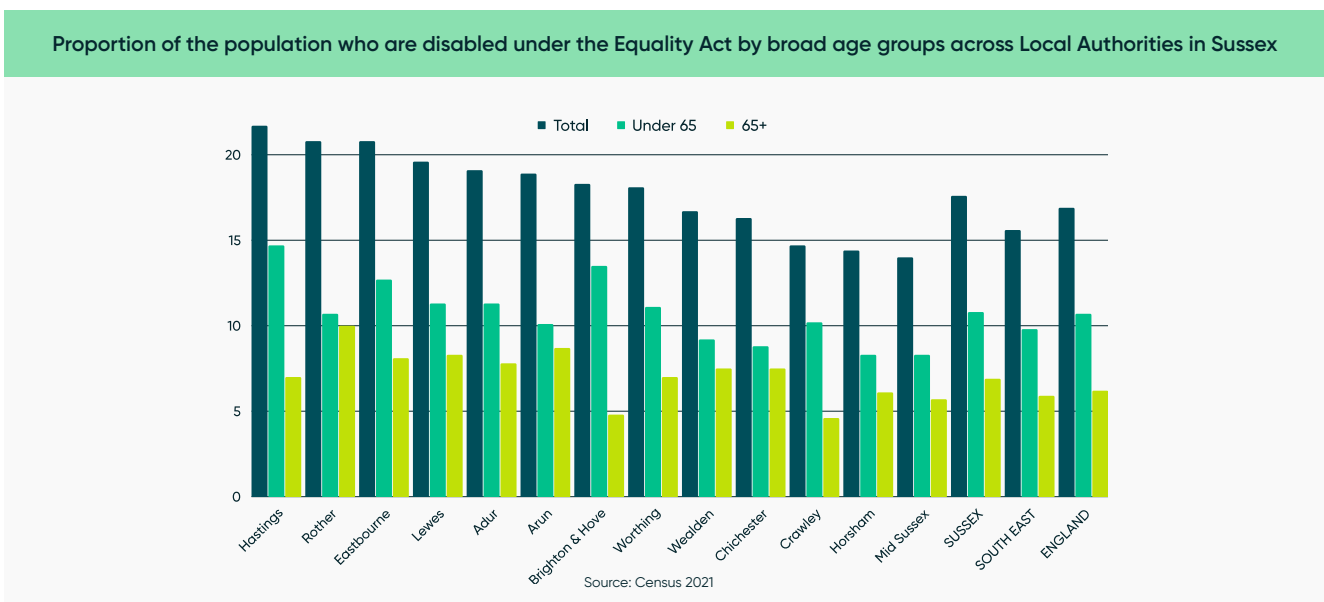
Of all Local Authorities in Sussex, the highest proportion of people identifying with a Non-White British ethnic group are in Crawley and Brighton & Hove. Crawley shows relatively large Asian and Black communities (15.4% and 4.5%, respectively) compared to other areas in Sussex – both of these being higher than the national average.

Ethnic minority group breakdowns across Local Authorities in Sussex

Source: Census 2021
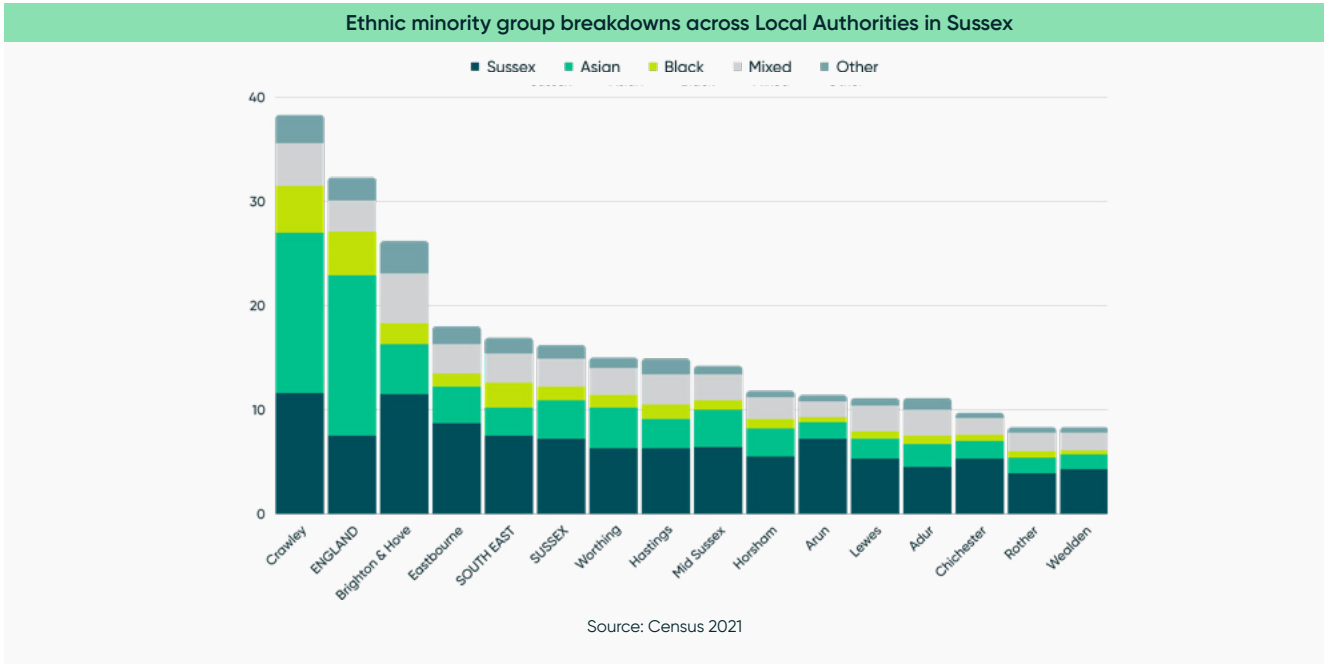
People with a disability

People are considered disabled if they self-reported their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions in the 2021 Census.

As shown, Sussex has a higher proportion of total people with a disability (17.6%) compared to the South East (15.6%) and England (16.9%). Within Sussex, the highest proportion of people with a disability can be found in Hastings (21.7%), Eastbourne (20.8%) and Rother (20.8%). Hastings also has the largest proportion of residents with premature disability (14.7% of those aged under 65 are disabled under the Equality Act), whilst Rother has the greatest proportion of older people with a disability (10.0% of those aged 65+) reflecting the older age profile in the area.

Proportion of the population who are disabled under the Equality Act by broad age groups across Local Authorities in Sussex

Source: Census 2021

LGBTQ populations

People who identify with the LGBTQ community are a significant feature of the Sussex population – Brighton & Hove has the highest proportion of residents identifying as not straight or heterosexual out of all Local Authorities in England and Wales (11.7%)[2]. Hastings, Lewes, Worthing, Eastbourne and Adur also have higher proportions of people that are not straight or heterosexual than the national average.

regional average (3.3%). Those identifying as gay or lesbian make up the majority of the
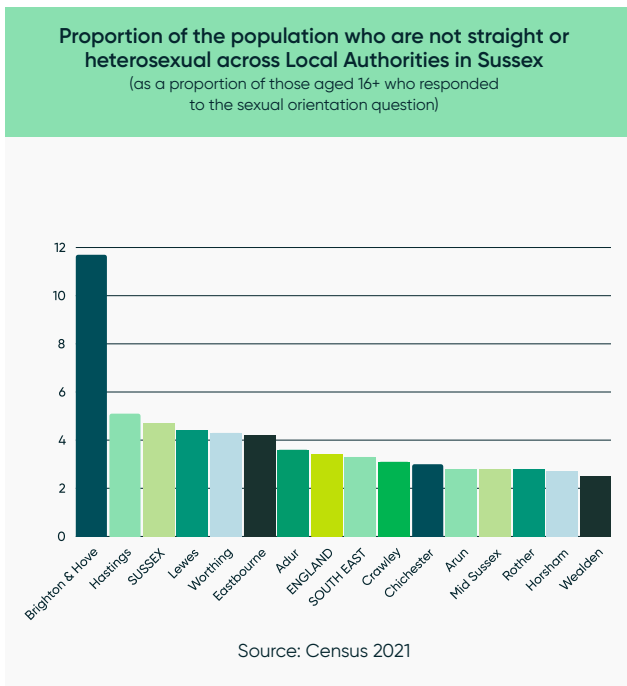
Sexual orientation breakdowns across Sussex
(as a % of those aged 16+ who responded to the sexual orientation question)

Sexual orientation	Number of people in Sussex	Proportion of the Sussex population (%)
Straight or heterosexual	**1,252,972**	**95.31**
Not straight or heterosexual	**61,646**	**4.69**
Gay or lesbian	33,027	2.51
Bisexual	22,666	1.72
All other sexual orientations	5,953	0.45

Source: Census 2021

Proportion of the population who are not straight or heterosexual across Local Authorities in Sussex
(as a proportion of those aged 16+ who responded to the sexual orientation question)

Source: Census 2021

Similarly, Brighton & Hove is the Local Authority with the highest proportion of non-cis gender residents in Sussex (0.99%)[3]. These minority communities are less common in Sussex (0.47%) than England as a whole (0.55%), with the majority of residents in Sussex identifying with the same sex they were registered with at birth (99.5%).

Additionally, whilst the majority of the Sussex population still identify as straight or heterosexual (95.3%), Sussex has a greater proportion of residents identifying as non-heterosexual (4.7%) compared to both the national average (3.4%) and regional

Gender identity breakdowns across Sussex
(as a % of those aged 16+ who responded to the sexual orientation question)

Gender identity	Number of people in Sussex	Proportion of the Sussex population (%)
The same as sex registered at birth	1,334,065	99.50
Different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	**2,133**	**0.16**
Trans woman	1,185	0.09
Trans man	1,236	0.09
All other gender identities	2,192	0.16

Source: Census 2021

Key facts and figures

- The total population living in Sussex in 2021 was 1,705,626.
- Approximately 1-in-5 Sussex residents live in rural areas (20.3% - 346,000 people).
- Sussex has seen a 6.1% population increase over the last 10 years. This is lower than the increase across the South East (7.5%) and England as a whole (6.6%) over the same period.
- Hailsham has shown the greatest percentage increase out of the 20 largest towns in Sussex between 2011 and 2021 (16.5%).
- There are a higher proportion of people aged 65+ in Sussex (22.4%) compared to the South East (19.5%) and England as a whole (18.4%). This is projected to increase in Sussex between 2020 and 2040, with a 41.3% rise in the older population. Again, this is relatively high compared to the projected increase of 39.1% across the South East and 39.3% across England for this age bracket.
- The working age population in Hastings and Eastbourne is expected to fall by a considerable amount in the next 20 years (5.6% and 3.3%, respectively) relative to the small projected growth expected across Sussex, the South East and England. This is likely to have an impact on the labour market and in these areas.
- Sussex has a higher proportion of people identifying as 'White British' (83.9%) compared to the regional average (78.8%) and national average (73.5%).
- The Asian community make up the highest proportion of Non-White residents, but they still only account for 3.7% of the population in Sussex. One third of these Asian residents identify as Indian (1.2%).
- Crawley shows relatively large Asian and Black communities (15.4% and 4.5%, respectively) compared to other areas in Sussex – both of these being higher than the national average.
- Sussex has a higher proportion of total people with a disability (17.6%) compared to the South East (15.6%) and England (16.9%). Within Sussex, the highest proportion of people with a disability can be found in Hastings (21.7%), Eastbourne (20.8%) and Rother (20.8%).
- People who identify with the LGBTQ community are a significant feature of the Sussex population – Brighton & Hove has the highest proportion of residents identifying as not straight or heterosexual out of all Local Authorities in England and Wales (11.7%). Additionally, whilst the majority of the Sussex population still identify as straight or heterosexual (95.3%), Sussex has a greater proportion of residents identifying as not straight or heterosexual (4.7%) compared to both the national average (3.4%) and regional average (3.3%).

3

People living in *financial hardship.*

This section explores data from key deprivation measures (with a focus on the Index of Multiple Deprivation and its Income domain), together with specific data on benefit claimants, children and older people in poverty and personal debt. Together these datasets give an insight into the nature and extent of financial hardship across Sussex.

Key deprivation measures

The table on the following page shows the performance of towns in Sussex on key deprivation measures. Figures from the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019[4] indicate that Sussex is slightly less deprived than the national average, but slightly more deprived compared to the rest of the South East. This pattern is replicated when looking at income deprivation[5], with 10.2% of people in Sussex experiencing deprivation related to low income, which is lower than the national average (12.9%) but higher than the regional average (9.1%).

Hastings performs notably poorly across various key deprivation indicators, and it is among the four towns, including Portslade-by-Sea, Eastbourne and Bexhill, that exhibit income deprivation scores exceeding the national average. Deprivation levels are higher in coastal communities, with each of the eight most deprived towns in Sussex located in coastal areas.

The final key deprivation measure from the 2021 Census refers to households which are deprived in all four of the following deprivation characteristics: employment, education, health & disability and housing. This measure captures multiple deprivation experienced by households (rather than neighbourhoods) and presents a different picture of poverty, with a higher proportion of households in Sussex having multiple needs (0.28%) in comparison to both England as a whole (0.23%) and the South East (0.21%). Portslade-by-Sea and Eastbourne are the towns with the highest proportion of these households (0.48%) – this is over double the national average.

Key deprivation measures for the largest towns across Sussex			
Town	Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) Score	IMD 2019 Rank	IoD 2019 Income Score (% income deprived)	% multiply deprived households (Census 2021)
Hastings	34.15	9,027	20.10	0.47
Portslade-by-Sea	22.83	13,638	14.13	0.48
Bexhill	21.67	15,325	13.69	0.21
Brighton & Hove	21.34	16,418	12.45	0.47
Eastbourne	20.71	16,043	13.28	0.48
Bognor Regis	19.60	16,337	10.97	0.34
Littlehampton	19.58	16,956	10.94	0.28
Peacehaven	19.13	16,158	12.64	0.36
Hailsham	18.96	17,264	12.10	0.16
Crawley	18.95	16,346	10.96	0.26
Shoreham-by-Sea	17.30	18,165	10.49	0.36
Worthing	16.62	18,917	9.90	0.36
Chichester	15.00	20,219	9.67	0.17
Seaford	13.49	21,216	8.96	0.11
Lewes	12.90	22,157	9.41	0.26
Horsham	8.86	25,881	6.11	0.15
Burgess Hill	8.82	26,091	6.41	0.07
Crowborough	8.08	27,020	6.26	0.10
East Grinstead	7.14	27,991	5.15	0.13
Haywards Heath	6.41	28,789	5.37	0.12
Sussex	**17.28**	**18,915**	**10.23**	**0.28**
South East	**15.55**	**20,519**	**9.13**	**0.21**
England	**21.76**	**16,356**	**12.86**	**0.23**

Source: Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Census 2021

The chart on the right shows the change in the number of Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which are ranked in the most deprived 10% nationally between 2015 and 2019 across each of the Local Authorities in Sussex.

As shown, Sussex as a whole has seen a slight increase in deprivation, with two more LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally in 2019 compared to 2015. Eastbourne has seen the largest increase, with the number of areas ranked in the most deprived 10% doubling between IoD 2015 and 2019, with further increases in Rother and Crawley. Brighton & Hove has seen a fall in the number of deprived areas (from 17 to 15) over the same period. However, it is Hastings which had the largest number of LSOAs ranked in the lowest 10% on the IMD 2019 (16).

Change in the number of LSOAs in the top 10% on the IMD between 2015 and 2019 for Local Authorities across Sussex			
Local Authority	Number of LSOAs in top 10% on IMD 2015	Number of LSOAs in top 10% on IMD 2019	Change in number of LSOAs IMD 2015 – IMD 2019
Brighton & Hove	17	15	-2
Eastbourne	2	4	2
Rother	1	2	1
Crawley	0	1	1
Hastings	16	16	0
Arun	4	4	0
Adur	0	0	0
Lewes	0	0	0
Chichester	0	0	0
Worthing	0	0	0
Wealden	0	0	0
Horsham	0	0	0
Mid Sussex	0	0	0
Sussex	**40**	**42**	**2**

Source: Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

CASE STUDY: Chichester District Foodbank

Chichester District Foodbank provides three-day emergency food parcels and support for local residents in crisis. Originally set up to cover Chichester, the foodbank now also supports deprived rural communities across the whole district including Selsey, Petworth and Midhurst, providing food parcels for 1,300 families and individuals.

"One of our clients told our delivery teams that we were a lifeline - without our help him and his son would have gone hungry."

Working-age benefit claimants

The chart below shows the proportion of people aged 16–64 receiving DWP benefits between May 2018 and November 2022 across Sussex, the South East and England. These benefits are payable to anyone aged 16–64 who need additional financial support due to low income, worklessness, poor health, caring responsibilities, bereavement or disability.

Time series of working-age DWP benefit claimants between May-18 and Nov-22 across Sussex, the South East and England

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) May-18 to Nov-22
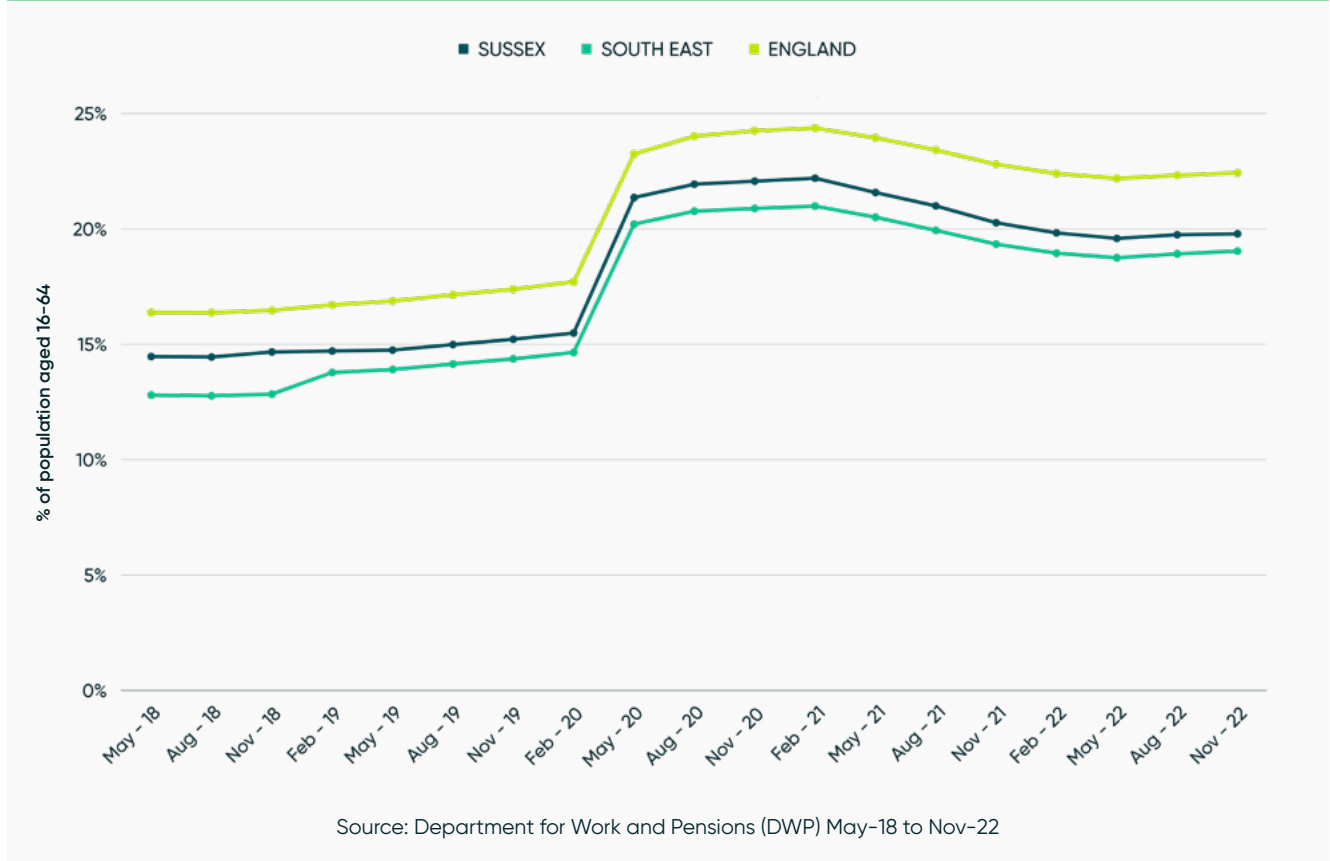
The proportion of benefit claimants has increased across Sussex, changing from 14.5% in May-18 to 19.8% in Nov-22. The large rise in 2020 coincided with the period of the first Covid-19 lockdown – where there was a sharp rise in unemployment (see People unemployed or involuntarily excluded from the labour market section below). This is a similar pattern to both England and the South East; however, Sussex consistently shows a lower proportion of claimants compared to the national average, and a slightly higher proportion of claimants compared to the regional average.

Children and older people in poverty

The charts below show the proportion of children (aged 0-19) and pensioners (aged 65+) who are living in financial hardship.

Proportion of children aged 0-19 in relative low-income families across Local Authorities in Sussex

% of children aged 0-19

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 2021/2022
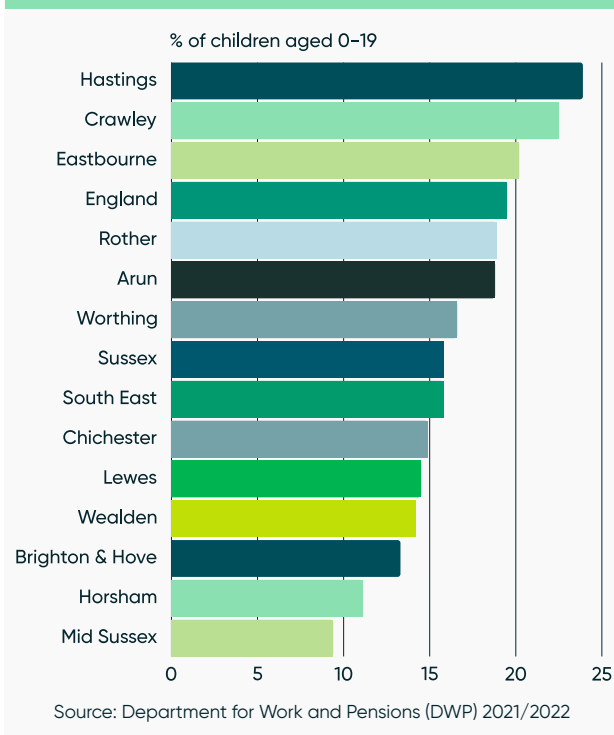
Overall, child poverty[6] in Sussex is about average for the South East, with Hastings standing out as having the highest levels of child poverty (23.9%). Crawley and Eastbourne also show higher proportions of children in poverty (22.5% and 20.2%, respectively) compared to the national average (19.5%). The ward with the highest levels of child poverty in Sussex is Langley Green & Tushmore in Crawley, where over 1-in-3 children are growing up in low-income families (34.5%). This is a salient challenge in

Crawley, given that this Local Authority has the highest proportion of people aged 0-19 in Sussex.

Sussex also has a similar proportion of older people living in poverty (8.9%)[7] compared to the South East (8.7%) – both lower than the national average (11.3%). Again, there are particularly high levels of Pension Credit claimants in Hastings (15.3%), as well as Brighton & Hove (15.3%). The ward with the highest level of older people in poverty in Sussex is Queen's Park in Brighton & Hove, where 1-in-3 people aged 65+ are claiming Pension Credit (33.3%).

Proportion of pensioners in poverty (Pension Credit claimants) across Local Authorities in Sussex

% of population aged 65+

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Nov-22
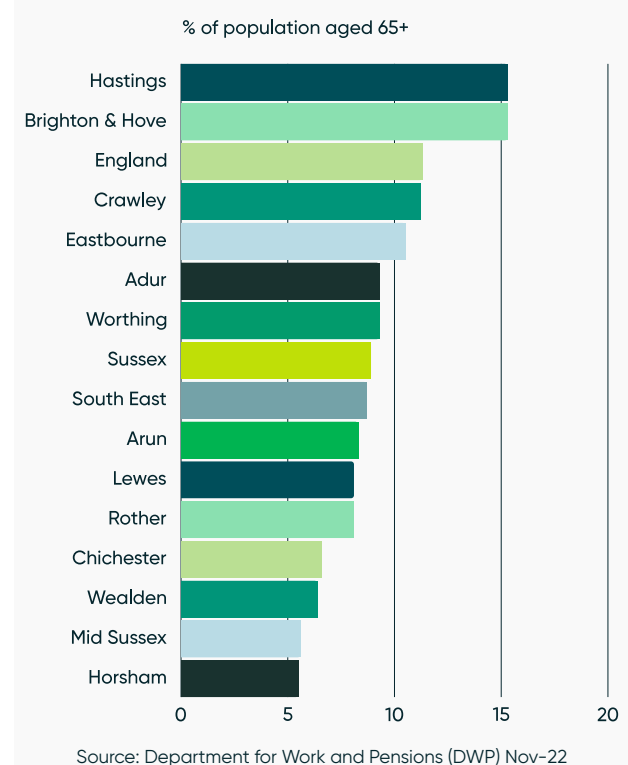
Personal debt

The table below shows the total amount of borrowing outstanding on customer accounts for unsecured personal loans per person aged 18+ across the largest towns in Sussex.

On average, Sussex has a lower amount of personal debt per head (£550.93) compared to both the national average (£575.83) and the regional average (£628.28). There are five towns in Sussex with higher amounts of personal debt than the South East, with particularly high levels in Crawley (£742.21).

Personal debt per person aged 18+ across the 20 largest towns in Sussex	
Town	Personal debt per head
Crawley	£742.21
Haywards Heath	£659.57
East Grinstead	£637.45
Hailsham	£634.93
Peacehaven	£631.15
Burgess Hill	£605.39
Littlehampton	£582.97
Crowborough	£573.40
Horsham	£559.85
Hastings	£558.92
Worthing	£551.89
Bognor Regis	£550.75
Shoreham-by-Sea	£545.87
Eastbourne	£537.24
Portslade-by-Sea	£532.59
Bexhill	£492.43
Seaford	£476.29
Chichester	£438.21
Brighton & Hove	£389.35
Lewes	£353.61
Sussex	£550.93
South East	£628.28
England	£575.83

UK Finance (September 2021)

CASE STUDY:
Crawley CAP Centre

Crawley CAP Centre offers debt counselling, supporting their clients until they are debt free. Statistically, over 65% of clients had waited over a year before seeking help with their debts. 49% had gone without heating or hot water, 65% sacrificed meals and 51% considered or attempted suicide. Crawley was one of the worst areas hit for job loss in the UK during the Covid-19 pandemic.
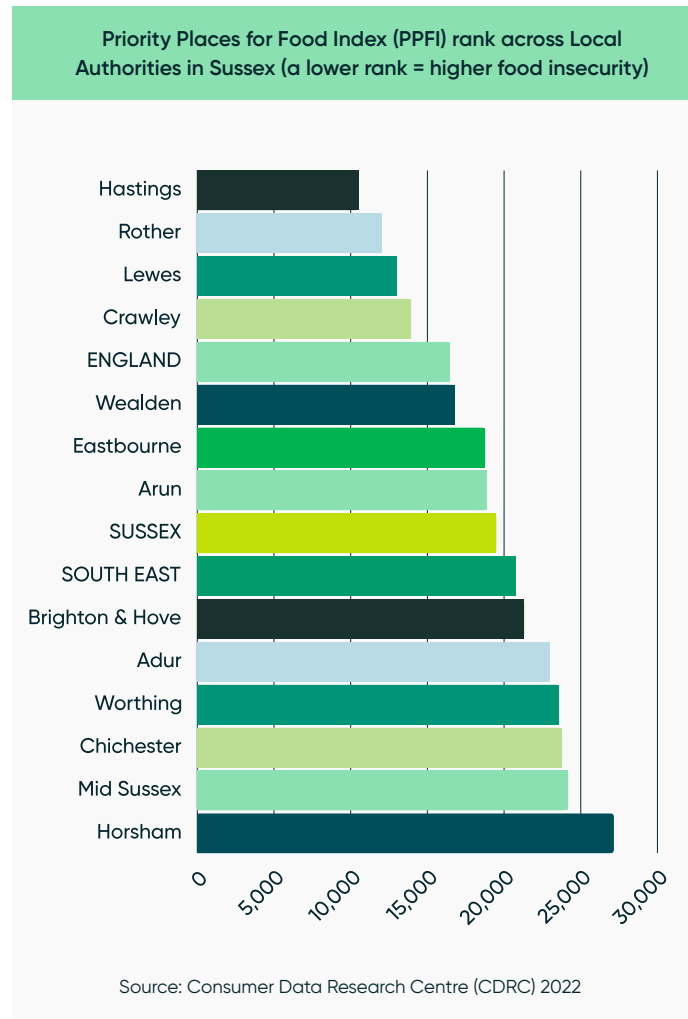
"If anybody get themselves in a pickle with their finances I would highly recommend going to CAP – there is no judgement, they are supportive and will direct to the people that can help to sort out things."

(A beneficiary)

Food insecurity

The chart on the right shows the Priority Places for Food Index (PPFI)[8] rank for all Local Authorities in Sussex, where a lower rank indicates higher food insecurity.

As shown, Sussex has lower levels of food insecurity compared to England as a whole (PPFI ranks of 19,488 and 16,436, respectively), yet slightly higher levels of food insecurity compared to the South East (with a PPFI rank of 20,755). There are four Local Authorities in Sussex with lower PPFI ranks than the national average: Hastings (10,499), Rother (12,007), Lewes (12,973) and Crawley (13,937). This reflects a lack of accessibility to cheap, healthy and sustainable sources of food in these areas, as well as high vulnerability to increases in the cost of living.

Priority Places for Food Index (PPFI) rank across Local Authorities in Sussex (a lower rank = higher food insecurity)

Source: Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC) 2022

CASE STUDY: SHOUT Worthing Soup Kitchen

SHOUT WSK works with the homeless community, those in food poverty, and others living in temporary accommodation without cooking facilities. They provide a pop-up food bank alongside a food parcel service weekly for those in need.

"'M' contacted SHOUT WSK when he was homeless. He had split from his wife, had several health issues and was also visually impaired. With the help of our outreach worker, 'M' found a bedsit with furniture and everything he needed to have a fresh start. We also supported him in securing work with one of the major kitchen manufacturers based in Sussex. We have witnessed his life turning round."

Key facts and figures

- Sussex is slightly less deprived than the national average, but slightly more deprived compared to the rest of the South East. Sussex has seen a slight increase in the number of highly deprived areas between 2015 and 2019 and an increase in the proportion of people claiming DWP benefits since 2018.

- Hastings performs poorly on all key deprivation measures, with the highest multiple deprivation score (34.2), the most deprived ward (Central St Leonards), the highest proportion of income deprived residents (20.1%), the highest concentration of highly deprived neighbourhoods (16 LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally in 2019), the highest proportion of children and older people living in poverty (23.9% and 15.3%, respectively) and the highest levels of food insecurity (a PPFI rank of 10,499).

- Other areas also experience deprivation challenges:

  - Portslade-by-Sea has a higher overall IMD score (22.8) and a higher proportion of income deprived residents (14.1%) than the national average. It also has the joint highest proportion of multiply deprived households (0.48%).

  - Eastbourne has seen a notable increase in the number of areas identified as deprived (doubling from two to four between 2015 and 2019), has a higher proportion of people experiencing income deprivation than the national average (13.3%) a higher proportion of child poverty than the national average (20.2%) and the joint highest proportion of multiply deprived households (0.48%).

  - Crawley has a higher proportion of children in poverty (22.5%) than the national average (and contains the ward with the highest overall child poverty - Langley Green & Tushmore) and has particularly high levels of personal debt (£742.21).

  - Brighton & Hove has higher levels of pensioner poverty (15.3%) than the national average (and contains the ward with the highest level of pensioner poverty – Queen's Park), and has the second highest number of highly deprived areas (15 LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally in 2019).

  - Bexhill has a higher proportion of people income deprived than across England as a whole (13.7% versus 12.9%, respectively).

4

People *unemployed* or involuntary *excluded* from the labour market.

This section covers unemployment and worklessness, a complex and multifaceted issue that can have significant impacts on individuals, families and communities. The following datasets explore economic activity and out-of-work benefits to present a picture of unemployment across Sussex.

Economic activity

This table shows economic activity status breakdowns across Sussex. 846,493 people in Sussex are economically active (59.7%), which is slightly lower than the national average (60.9%). Of these, the majority of residents are employed full-time (30.9%), whilst 12.4% are employed part-time and 11.7% are self-employed. There is a lower proportion of people who are economically active and unemployed in Sussex (2.6%) than across England as a whole (2.9%).

571,623 residents in Sussex are economically inactive (40.3%), which is slightly higher than the national average (39.1%). The majority of these residents are retired (25.3%).

Economic activity breakdowns across Sussex			
Economic activity status	Number of people in Sussex	Proportion of the population in Sussex (%)	Proportion of the population in England (%)
Economically active	846,493	59.69	60.86
Employed full-time	438,391	30.91	34.27
Employed part-time	175,851	12.40	11.90
Self-employed people	165,717	11.69	9.54
Unemployed	36,534	2.58	2.85
Full-time student	30,000	2.12	2.30
Economically inactive	571,623	40.31	39.14
Retired	359,117	25.32	21.48
Student	66,232	4.67	5.64
Looking after home/family	56,936	4.01	4.80
Long-term sick/disabled	51,593	3.64	4.07
Other	37,745	2.66	3.14

Source: Census 2021

Key worklessness measures

The table on the following page shows key worklessness measures across the largest towns in Sussex. These include the Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 Employment domain[9] score, the proportion of residents claiming unemployment benefits (either Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Universal Credit for those who are out of work[10]) and the proportion of people claiming out-of-work benefits[11].

As we can see, Sussex scores lower than England on all key measures, but has greater employment challenges relative to the South East. For example, 8.4% of the working age population in Sussex are employment deprived, compared to the regional average of 7.2% and the national average of 9.9%. More recent figures on looking at the proportion of people claiming out-of-work benefits suggest a larger number of people are currently involuntarily excluded from the labour market, with 11.21% of those in Sussex claiming out-of-work benefits, compared to 10.41% across the South East and 12.82% across England.

Key worklessness measures for the largest towns across			
Town	Index of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 Employment domain score	Proportion of unemployment benefit claimants (%; Jul-23)	Proportion of out-of-work benefit claimants (%; Nov-22)
Hastings	15.93	5.10	20.41
Bexhill	12.84	3.84	16.17
Portslade-by-Sea	11.89	4.09	14.55
Eastbourne	11.40	4.33	15.71
Hailsham	10.12	2.98	12.70
Peacehaven	9.93	3.41	13.56
Littlehampton	9.80	3.46	13.36
Brighton & Hove	9.44	3.89	11.81
Bognor Regis	9.27	3.43	12.32
Worthing	8.93	2.81	11.47
Shoreham-by-Sea	8.74	2.57	10.62
Seaford	8.66	2.41	11.16
Chichester	8.08	3.34	11.26
Crawley	7.67	4.30	12.90
Lewes	7.32	2.69	10.62
Burgess Hill	5.79	1.71	6.97
Horsham	5.71	1.96	7.12
Haywards Heath	4.54	1.46	5.89
Crowborough	4.52	1.26	6.20
East Grinstead	3.83	2.35	6.64
Sussex	8.43	3.14	11.21
South East	7.20	3.09	10.41
England	9.90	3.88	12.82

Source: Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)/Department for Work and Pensions

Worklessness is widespread within Hastings, with this town having the highest IoD Employment domain score (15.9%), the highest proportion of unemployment benefit claimants (5.1%) and the highest proportion of out-of-work benefit claimants (20.4%) of all largest towns in Sussex. This is consistent with Hastings having the highest proportion of residents who are income deprived (see People in financial hardship section above), highlighting worklessness and low income as prominent challenges within this area of Sussex.

Other towns in Sussex also experience employment challenges:

- Six towns in Sussex have a higher proportion of people employment deprived than the national average (Hastings, Bexhill, Portslade-by-Sea, Eastbourne, Hailsham and Peacehaven).

- Eastbourne and Portslade have higher levels of employment deprivation, people receiving out of work benefits and people receiving unemployment benefits than the national average.

- Bexhill, Hailsham and Peacehaven have higher proportions of people employment deprived and receiving out-of-work benefits but lower proportions of people unemployed than the national average. This suggests that wider factors such as poor health are key drivers of worklessness in these towns.

- By contrast, Crawley experiences relatively high levels of unemployment (with 4.3% of the working age population receiving unemployment benefits – the third highest in the county) but lower levels of employment deprivation than the county average. This is partially attributable to a relatively large rise in unemployment in Crawley in recent years[12] due to the impacts of the pandemic on the aerospace industry (a major employer in the area).

PEOPLE UNEMPLOYED OR INVOLUNTARY EXCLUDED FROM THE LABOUR MARKET

Benefit claimant trends

The proportion of people claiming unemployment benefits has increased across all areas between Jul-18 and Jul-23. In Sussex, the unemployment rate has increased from 1.6% to 3.1% over this period. This latest figure is lower than the national average (3.9%) and only slightly higher the regional average (3.1%), with the gap in unemployment between Sussex and the South East closing over the previous year.

There was also a sharp rise in the proportion of people claiming unemployment benefits across all areas in March 2020, reflecting the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown. This had a dramatic effect on the labour market, with a large fall in employment meaning that the proportion of people claiming unemployment benefits in Sussex rose to 6.1% in May-20 (still lower than the national rise to 6.5% during this time).

**Time series of unemployment benefit (JSA and UC)
claimants between Jul-18 and Jul-23 across Sussex, the South East and England**
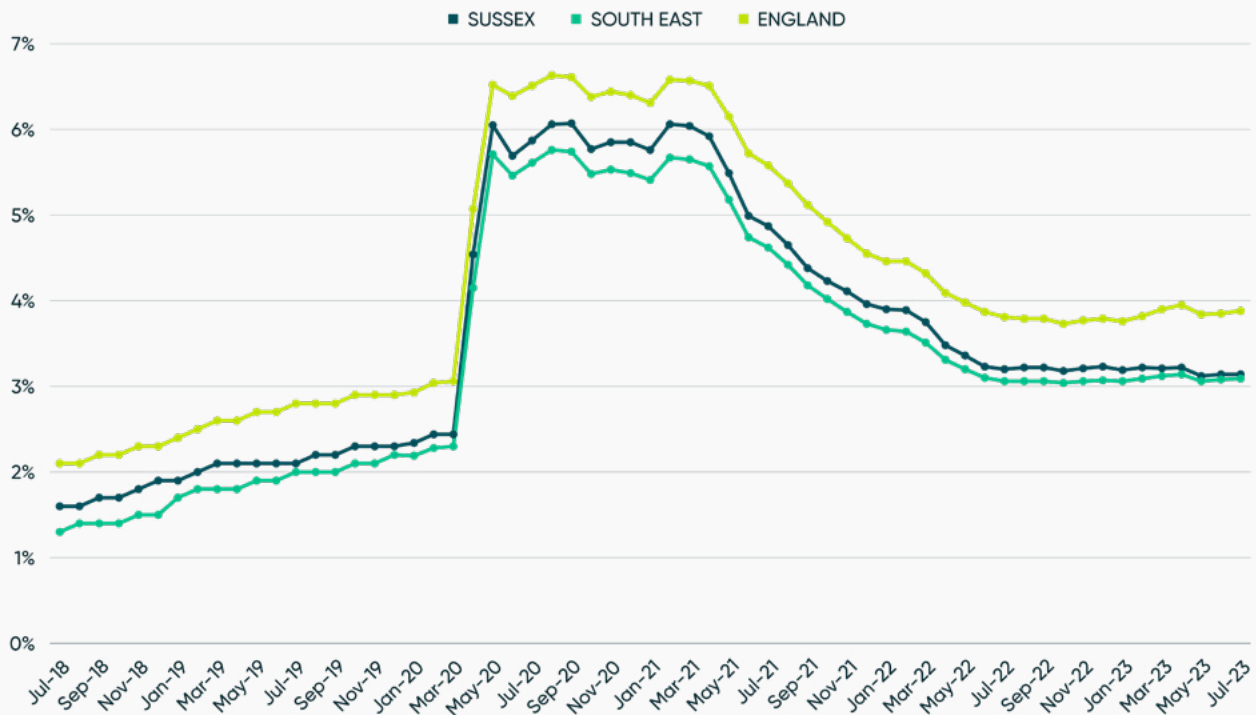
Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Jul-18 to Jul-23

The chart below shows the change in the proportion of out-of-work benefit claimants between 2018 and 2022. The trend shown in this chart largely mirrors the trend observed in the unemployment chart above, with a large rise in Sussex, the region and England alike during the period of the pandemic – however, the corresponding fall in 2021 was smaller. This suggests that while unemployment fell dramatically following the lifting of lockdown restrictions, some people did not return to the labour market but instead moved on to claim other workless benefits. This may be attributable to some of the health impacts of the pandemic which lead to rising levels of people out of work with long-term health conditions or caring responsibilities.

Time series of out-of-work benefit claimants between May-18 and Nov-22 across Sussex, the South East and England
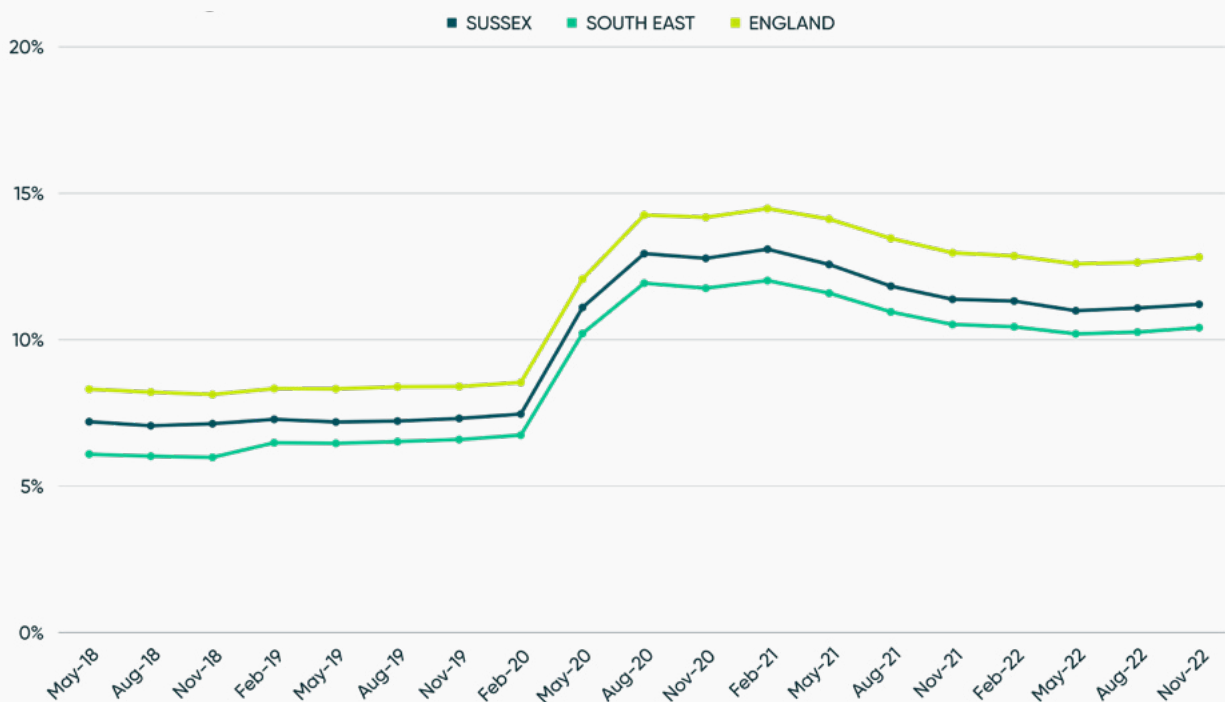
Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Jul-18 to Jul-23

Youth and older person unemployment

Hasting is the town with the highest proportion of people aged 18–24 claiming unemployment benefits (9.0%). There are also high rates of youth unemployment in Portslade-by-Sea (6.7%) and Bexhill (6.6%). Eight out of the 20 largest towns in Sussex have higher proportions of youth unemployment than the national average (4.9%).

Older person unemployment is less prevalent across Sussex, with lower proportions of people aged 50+ receiving JSA or Universal Credit here (1.1%) compared to the South East (1.2%) and England (1.5%). Four towns show higher rates of older person unemployment than the national average, with Hailsham having the highest rate (2.2%). Horsham and Seaford also have relatively high levels of older people experiencing unemployment, despite having relatively low levels of overall unemployment.

Key facts and figures

- Sussex has lower levels of employment deprivation (8.4%) than the national average (9.9%) but higher levels compared to the South East (7.2%). This pattern continues across most workless measures, with Sussex having lower proportions of both unemployment benefit claimants (3.1%) and out-of-work benefit claimants (11.2%) than the national averages (3.9% and 12.8%, respectively), yet slightly higher rates than the regional averages (3.1% and 10.4%, respectively).

- There are multiple challenges related to unemployment and worklessness within the area of Hastings:

  - Seven out of the ten wards in Sussex with the highest score on the IoD Employment domain are in Hastings, with Baird and Central St Leonards being the wards with the highest levels of employment deprivation (23.1% of the working age population in these areas are involuntarily excluded from the labour market).
  - Central St Leonards has the highest rate of people claiming unemployment benefits (8.5%).
  - Hastings is the town with the highest proportion of people aged 18-24 claiming unemployment benefits (9.0%) – this is over double the average across Sussex.
  - Baird and Central St Leonards are the two wards in Sussex with the highest proportions of residents claiming out-of-work benefits (28.9% and 28.0%, respectively) – both over double the national average.

- Although older person unemployment is less prevalent in Sussex (1.1%) compared to both the South East (1.2%) and England (1.5%), there are high rates of people aged 50+ claiming unemployment benefits in Hailsham (2.2%) and Horsham (1.9%).
- Other towns in Sussex also experience employment challenges:

  - Eastbourne and Portslade have higher levels of employment deprivation, people receiving out-of-work benefits and people receiving unemployment benefits than the national average.
  - Bexhill, Hailsham and Peacehaven have higher proportions of people employment deprived and receiving out-of-work benefits but lower proportions of people unemployed than the national average. This suggests that wider factors such as poor health are key drivers of worklessness in these towns.
  - By contrast, Crawley experiences relatively high levels of unemployment (with 4.3% of the working age population receiving unemployment benefits – the third highest in the county) but lower levels of employment deprivation than the county average. This is partially attributable to a relatively large rise in unemployment in Crawley in recent years due to the impacts of the pandemic on the aerospace industry (a major employer in the area).

5

People experiencing *homelessness.*

This section covers homelessness in Sussex, a complex issue with significant societal impacts. The primary data available for insights into the various dimensions of this problem is collected by Local Authorities as part of the statutory prevention and relief duties owed. We have also included the rough sleeping snapshot for further insight. This data serves as the most reliable foundation available for understanding and addressing homelessness.

Homelessness initial assessments

The table on the right shows an overview of the initial assessments of homelessness circumstances and needs. Figures shown are a percentage of households and represent the outcomes of Local Authority initial assessments. The shades of green represent the upper (darkest green), middle and lower tertiles of the data in the table.

- Prevention duties include any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless.
- Relief duties are owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation. The main duty is the duty a Local Authority has to an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need[13].

In 2022/23 there were 7,383 initial assessments across Sussex[14], of which 6,990 were owed a prevention duty and 3,954 were owed a relief duty.

As shown, Brighton & Hove has the highest rates of initial assessments (2.42% of households), with assessments finding 1.4% of households as homeless and 0.89% as threatened with homelessness. Both of these figures are significantly higher than England as a whole.

Crawley has the highest rate of households threatened with homelessness (0.99%) with Hastings (0.92%) and Brighton & Hove (0.89%) also facing high rates. Crawley (1.16%) and Hastings (1.13%) also have higher rates of households assessed as homeless than the national average (0.66%).
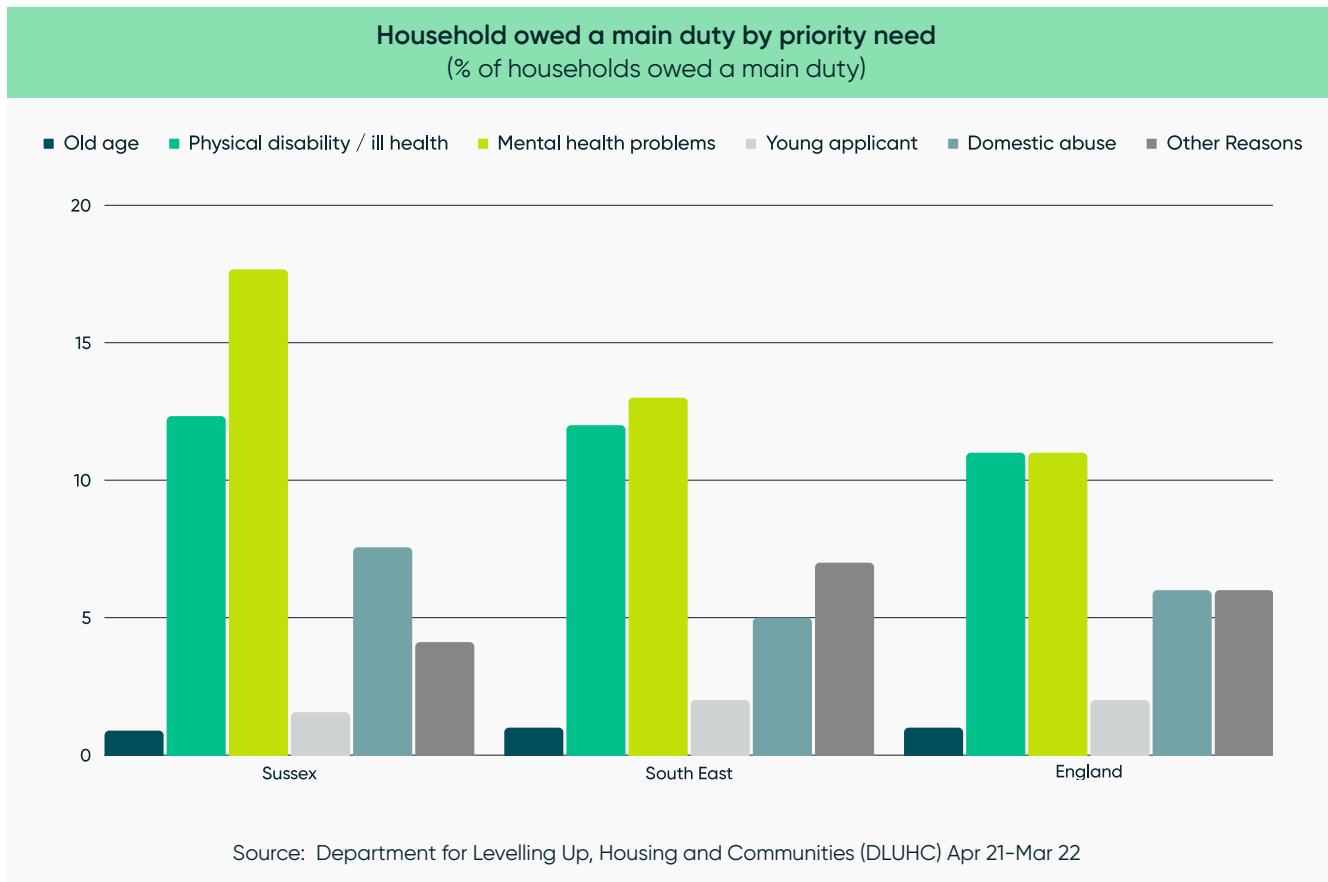
Initial assessments of homelessness circumstances and needs by number of households per 1,000			
Local Authority	Total initial assessments	Threatened with homelessness (Prevention duty owed)	Assessed as homeless (Relief duty owed)
Adur	0.37	0.13	0.23
Arun	1.22	0.48	0.53
Brighton & Hove	2.42	0.89	1.40
Chichester	0.17	0.09	0.08
Crawley	2.31	0.99	1.16
Hastings	2.07	0.92	1.13
Horsham	0.60	0.24	0.33
Mid Sussex	0.63	0.28	0.34
Rother	0.93	0.41	0.49
Wealden	0.35	0.18	0.16
Worthing	0.65	0.19	0.45
Sussex	**0.82**	**0.34**	**0.44**
South East	**1.63**	**0.78**	**0.72**
England	**1.30**	**0.59**	**0.66**

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Apr-22 to Mar-23

Households owed a main duty by priority need

The main homelessness duty refers to the responsibility a Local Authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need[15]. In Sussex, 1,891 households were owed a main duty, of which 391 were vulnerable households.

The chart below shows there are higher rates of mental health problems in Sussex (12.8% among those owed a main duty) when compared to the South East (11%) and England (10%). There is also a higher prevalence of physical disability / ill health among homeless households in Sussex (13.6% of households owed a main duty) than the South East (12%) and England (11%).

Household owed a main duty by priority need
(% of households owed a main duty)

Legend: ■ Old age ■ Physical disability / ill health ■ Mental health problems ■ Young applicant ■ Domestic abuse ■ Other Reasons

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Apr 21–Mar 22

Rough sleeping snapshot

Local Authorities, in conjunction with local agencies, decide an approach to use for their snapshot of rough sleeping[16]. Most Local Authorities in England used an evidence-based meeting for their rough sleeping snapshot, which is similar to previous years. This is an evidence-based assessment by local agencies, leading to a single snapshot figure that represents the number of people thought to be sleeping rough in the local authority on a 'typical night' which is a single date chosen by the Local Authority between 1 October and 30 November.

As shown below, in Sussex, the top three Local Authorities for the number of people rough sleeping on a 'typical night' are Brighton & Hove (41 people), Hastings (34 people) and Worthing (31 people).

Rough sleeping snapshot in Sussex: Autumn 2022		
Local Authority	Approach	Single night estimate
Adur	Estimate including spotlight	5
Arun	Estimate including spotlight	9
Brighton & Hove	Count	41
Chichester	Estimate including spotlight	5
Crawley	Estimate	10
Eastbourne	Estimate including spotlight	12
Hastings	Estimate including spotlight	34
Horsham	Estimate including spotlight	6
Lewes	Estimate including spotlight	11
Mid Sussex	Estimate including spotlight	1
Rother	Estimate including spotlight	9
Wealden	Estimate including spotlight	1
Worthing	Estimate including spotlight	31

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Released February 2023

CASE STUDY: Crawley Open House

Crawley Open House drop-in Resource Centre welcomes around 50 visitors daily, and they also run a food bank and community outreach team. No-one locally does more to accommodate and support those who have fallen through the cracks.

"We have a relentless need for food. Our hostel kitchen staff serve three meals a day to 24 hostel residents 365 days a year. It's a vital part of the offering in the hostel, as many of the residents haven't eaten properly for a long time."

Key facts and figures

- In Sussex, there were 7,383 initial assessments of which 6,990 were owed a prevention duty and 3,954 were owed a relief duty.

- Brighton & Hove have the highest rate of households assessed as homeless (1.4% of households).

- Crawley have the highest rate of households threatened with homelessness (0.99% of households).

- In Sussex, 1891 households were owed a main duty of which 850 included a vulnerable household member.

- There are higher rates of mental health problems in Sussex among those owed a main duty (12.8%) than England and the South East.

- There are higher rates of physical disability / ill health among households owed a main duty in Sussex (13.6%) than England and the South East.

- In Sussex, the top 3 Local Authorities for the number of people rough sleeping on a 'typical night' by a significant margin are Brighton & Hove (41), Hastings (34), and Worthing (31).

6

People experiencing *fuel poverty.*

This section explores fuel poverty across Sussex, giving insight into the households that spend a high proportion of their household income to keep their home at a reasonable temperature.

Households in fuel poverty

This table shows the number and proportion of households in fuel poverty[17] across the largest towns in Sussex.

As shown, Sussex has a higher proportion of households in fuel poverty (9.6%) compared to the South East (8.6%), but a lower proportion than the national average (13.3%). This is more of an issue in rural Sussex where 10.2% of households are in fuel poverty, in comparison to 9.5% in urban areas. However, the highest concentration of households in fuel poverty can be found in the larger coastal towns. Brighton & Hove is the town with the largest number of affected households (12,927 households, 12.2%), while Hastings has the highest proportion of affected households out of the largest towns in Sussex (13.9%). Bexhill and Eastbourne also show higher proportions of households in fuel poverty compared to the average across Sussex (10.5% and 9.9%, respectively). Each of these towns has a relatively old housing stock which is likely to contribute to additional heating costs, as well as a relatively high proportion of low-income households (as observed in the financial hardship section above).

Households in fuel poverty across the largest towns in Sussex		
Town	Number of households in fuel poverty	Proportion of households in fuel poverty (%)
Hastings	5,792	13.91
Brighton & Hove	12,927	12.21
Bexhill	2,215	10.46
Eastbourne	4,978	9.93
Worthing	4,563	9.32
Lewes	703	9.32
Bognor Regis	2,527	8.86
Littlehampton	2,071	8.75
Chichester	1,121	8.57
Portslade-by-Sea	724	8.52
Hailsham	734	8.43
Seaford	911	8.42
Shoreham-by-Sea	1,824	8.01
Peacehaven	637	7.21
Crawley	3,027	6.76
Crowborough	602	6.69
East Grinstead	772	6.43
Haywards Heath	920	6.41
Burgess Hill	796	6.24
Horsham	1,194	6.06
Sussex	**68,125**	**9.57**
Rural Sussex	**14,148**	**10.17**
Urban Sussex	**53,702**	**9.48**
South East	**295,891**	**8.60**
England	**3,008,828**	**13.33**

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021)

The chart below shows the IoD 2019 Housing in poor condition score[18] across all Local Authorities in Sussex.

Just under 1-in-5 (18%) homes in Sussex are in poor condition, indicating lower levels of thermal comfort, health & safety, repair and modernisation – however, this is below the national average (20%). Four Local Authorities in Sussex have a higher proportion of households in poor condition than across England as a whole – Horsham (22%), Rother (23%), Wealden (24%) and Chichester (25%), indicating particularly high levels of housing deprivation in these more rural Local Authorities.

Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 housing in poor condition score across Local Authorities in Sussex (higher score = higher levels of deprivation)
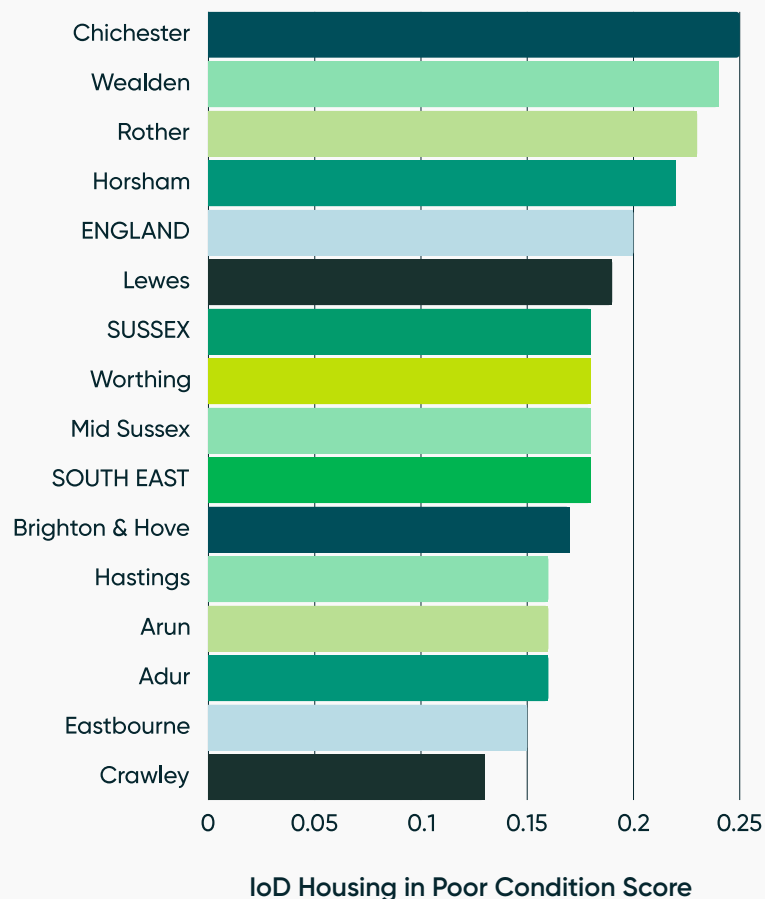
IoD Housing in Poor Condition Score

Source: Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 2019

Key facts and figures

- Fuel poverty is a significant challenge in rural Sussex:
  - 10.2% of households in rural Sussex are in fuel poverty, compared to 9.5% in urban Sussex.
  - Rural Sussex has over double the proportion households with low energy efficiency (8.2%) compared to the national average (3.3%).
  - Four Local Authorities in Sussex have a higher proportion of households in poor condition than across England as a whole – Horsham (22%), Rother (23%), Wealden (24%) and Chichester (25%), indicating particularly high levels of housing deprivation in these more rural Local Authorities.

CASE STUDY: Education Futures Trust

Education Futures Trust provides high quality and innovative support and learning tailored to improve the life chances of vulnerable children and adults, particularly in Hastings.

The grant awarded by the Foundation enabled the group to set up a 'Warm Space' to offer a refuge from the cold during the winter months to their clients. Warm drinks, snacks and hot meals were offered throughout the day, whilst skills-based activities would take place for those who wanted to be involved. The staff also offered advice, for example how to reduce the heating bills, or how to cook simple meals at home.

'M' used the Warm Space to its full potential - to access hot food and drink and things he could use that he would otherwise not be able to afford, as well as to build social relationships."

"Those that use our services tell us that they are struggling. When attending our all-day courses, many come without food and try to hide this. When provided with donated pastries, they will often keep one to take home for 'tea'. Those receiving our food hampers tell us that they only want food that can be eaten cold from the can; avoiding potatoes and items requiring heat or preparation.

We have learned that those we work with are going hungry and are cold. The choice between food and heat is no longer the challenge: many have neither."

7

## People experiencing barriers because of their *disability, ethnic background* or *sexuality*.

This section explores challenges experienced by people with a disability, people from ethnic minority backgrounds and the LGBTQ community across Sussex.

People with disabilities and from ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to live in deprived areas.

The chart below shows the proportion of people with a disability living in areas grouped by level of deprivation on the Indices of Deprivation 2019. Each LSOA

neighbourhood has been grouped into one of 10 deciles (shown as 10 bars in the chart), with each decile representing the rank of the neighbourhood across England – so the first bar shows LSOAs ranked among the most deprived 10% in England, the second bar shows those in the 10-20% and so on.

Proportion of people identified as disabled under the Equality Act by decile of deprivation (Indices of Deprivation 2019) across Sussex
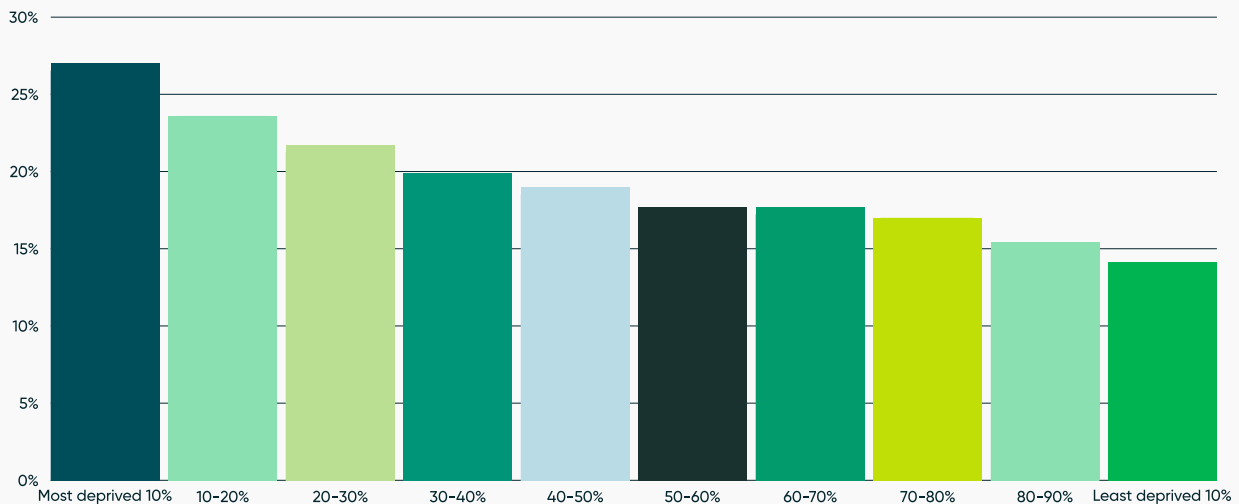
Source: Census 2021, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

CASE STUDY: Radical Rhizomes

Marlborough Productions in Brighton & Hove created Radical Rhizomes (RR), a project which runs social gatherings, creative activities and shared meals, offering a support network to people in the city who suffer from multiple marginalisation of racism, homophobia/transphobia and ableism. RR helps members access mainstreams services, from housing to mental health, and distributes council funds to help vulnerable people at financial disadvantage with winter essentials.

"As a QTIPoC person, I spent a lot of time alone hiding myself or my queerness but since I joined RR I feel welcome, happy and confident. It's like going home."

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING BARRIERS BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITY, ETHNIC BACKGROUND OR SEXUALITY

People living in the most deprived areas are disproportionately more likely to have a disability. More than one-in-four people (27%) in Sussex living in neighbourhoods ranked among the 10% most deprived in England identify as disabled under the Equality Act. The proportion of people identifying as disabled increases across each deprivation decile, with nearly twice as many people identifying as disabled in areas ranked among the most deprived 10%, compared with areas ranked among the least deprived 10%.

A similar relationship can be observed for people from Non-White ethnic minority groups, as shown in the chart below.

The most deprived areas show the highest concentration of people in Non-White ethnic groups, while there are a lower proportion of people from Non-White ethnic groups in the least deprived areas of Sussex.

People who identify as disabled under the Equality Act are considerably less likely to be in employment than those without a disability across each of the Local Authorities in Sussex. In 11 of the 13 Local Authorities, less than half of all working age people with a disability are in employment.

The gap is particularly large in Hastings, where just 38.8% of people with a disability are in employment, compared with 75.6% of people without a disability.

There is generally more variation in the employment rate among those with a disability than those without a disability across Local Authorities in Sussex. This could be attributable to differences in severity of disability as well as challenges of accessing suitable employment in some labour markets in Sussex.

Proportion of people in Non-White ethnic groups by decile of deprivation (Indices of Deprivation 2019) across Sussex
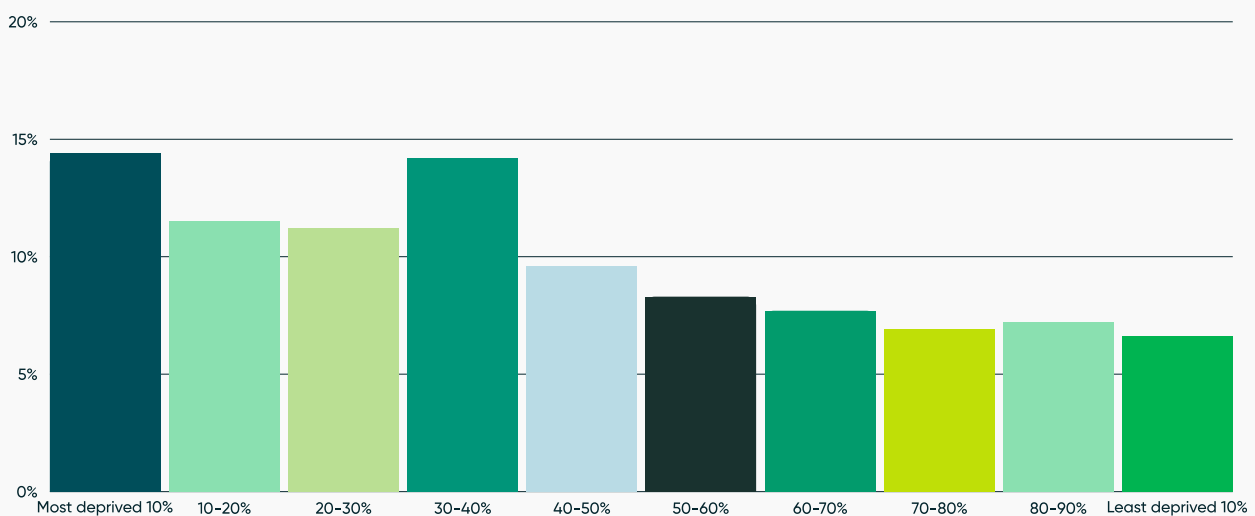
Source: Census 2021, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

On average, people from Non-White ethnic minority groups are more likely to be unemployed than those from White ethnic groups across Sussex.

People from Mixed ethnic groups are more likely to be unemployed than the national average across all Local Authorities in Sussex.

People from Black ethnic groups are more likely to be unemployed than those from White ethnic groups across each Local Authority in Sussex. People from Black ethnic groups have a higher unemployment rate than the national average across all Local Authorities apart from Horsham and Chichester.

People from each of the five broad ethnic groups have a higher unemployment rate than the national average in Hastings and Crawley.

| Self-reported unemployment (among people aged 16+ by broad ethnic group)						
Local Authority	Total	Asian	Black	Mixed	White	Other
Brighton & Hove	3.1%	2.6%	5.5%	4.5%	3.0%	3.7%
Eastbourne	2.9%	2.8%	4.4%	6.0%	2.8%	4.7%
Hastings	3.4%	3.0%	6.4%	5.4%	3.3%	5.7%
Lewes	2.4%	2.7%	5.1%	4.7%	2.3%	3.9%
Rother	2.2%	1.5%	3.2%	5.8%	2.1%	2.6%
Wealden	1.9%	2.7%	4.1%	4.5%	1.8%	2.0%
Adur	2.4%	1.9%	4.8%	5.8%	2.3%	3.9%
Arun	2.2%	2.6%	5.9%	4.1%	2.2%	2.6%
Chichester	2.0%	1.8%	2.6%	3.8%	2.0%	3.4%
Crawley	4.4%	5.3%	6.6%	6.7%	3.9%	7.3%
Horsham	2.1%	3.1%	2.9%	3.5%	2.0%	4.2%
Mid Sussex	2.1%	2.8%	3.9%	3.5%	2.0%	3.3%
Worthing	2.5%	2.8%	3.7%	4.4%	2.5%	4.5%
Sussex	2.6%	3.4%	5.2%	4.7%	2.4%	4.3%
South East	2.5%	3.2%	4.5%	4.4%	2.3%	3.9%
England	2.9%	3.7%	6.1%	5.5%	2.5%	4.8%
Source: Census 2021						

People from LGBTQ communities are more likely to be unemployed than those identifying as straight or heterosexual across each of the Local Authorities in Sussex.

The highest unemployment rate among individuals who identify as LGBTQ is found in Brighton and Hove, where 7.1% of LGBTQ individuals are unemployed.

The chart below compares the unemployment rate by sexual orientation across Local Authorities in Sussex.[19]

Unemployment and worklessness is higher among ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities and the LGBTQ community in Sussex.

Self-reported unemployment
(by sexual orientation)

■ Straight or Heterosexual   ■ LGBTQ

Source: Census 2021
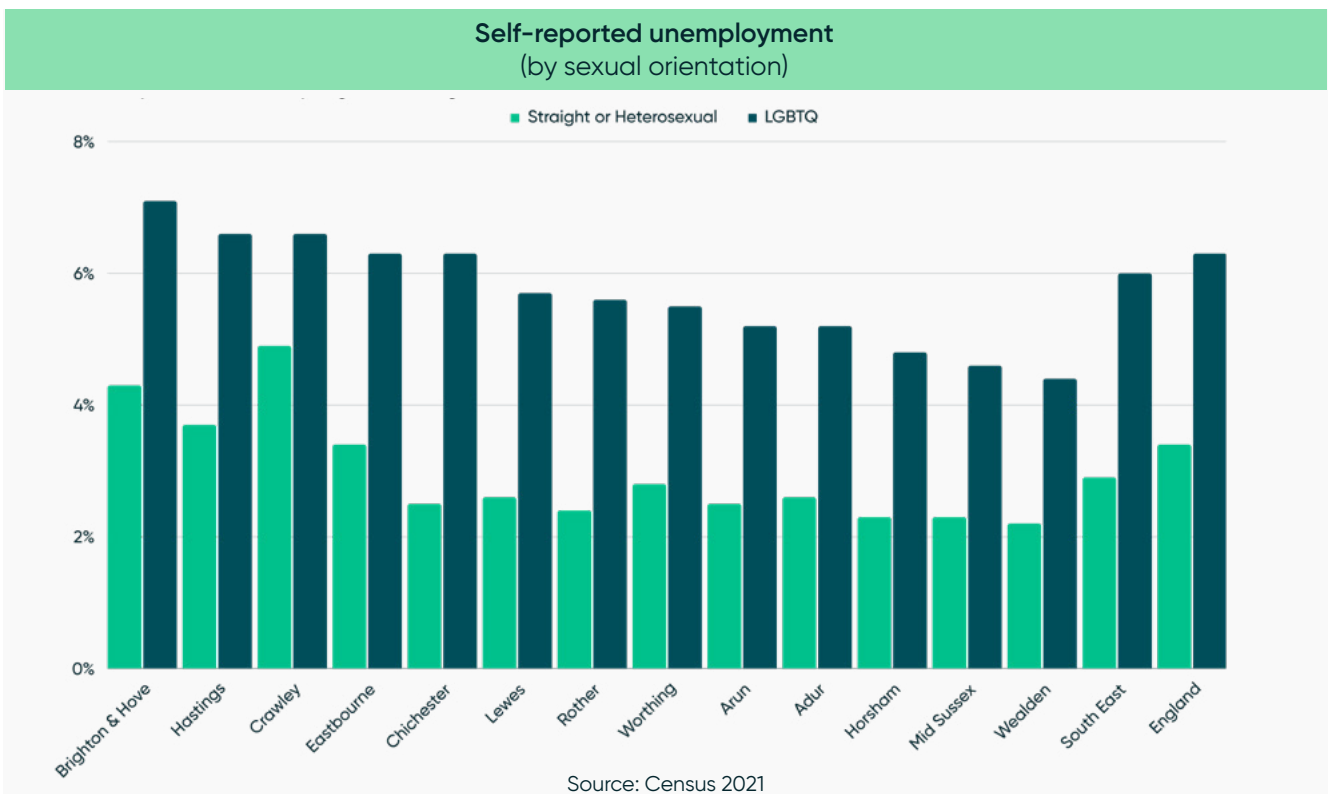
CASE STUDY: Our Neighbourhood

Our Neighbourhood runs projects that help alleviate food poverty in Eastbourne and surrounding areas. They run a lunch club, a Community Kitchen for refugees and another one for residents, as well as offering cooking lessons to those living in temporary accommodation.
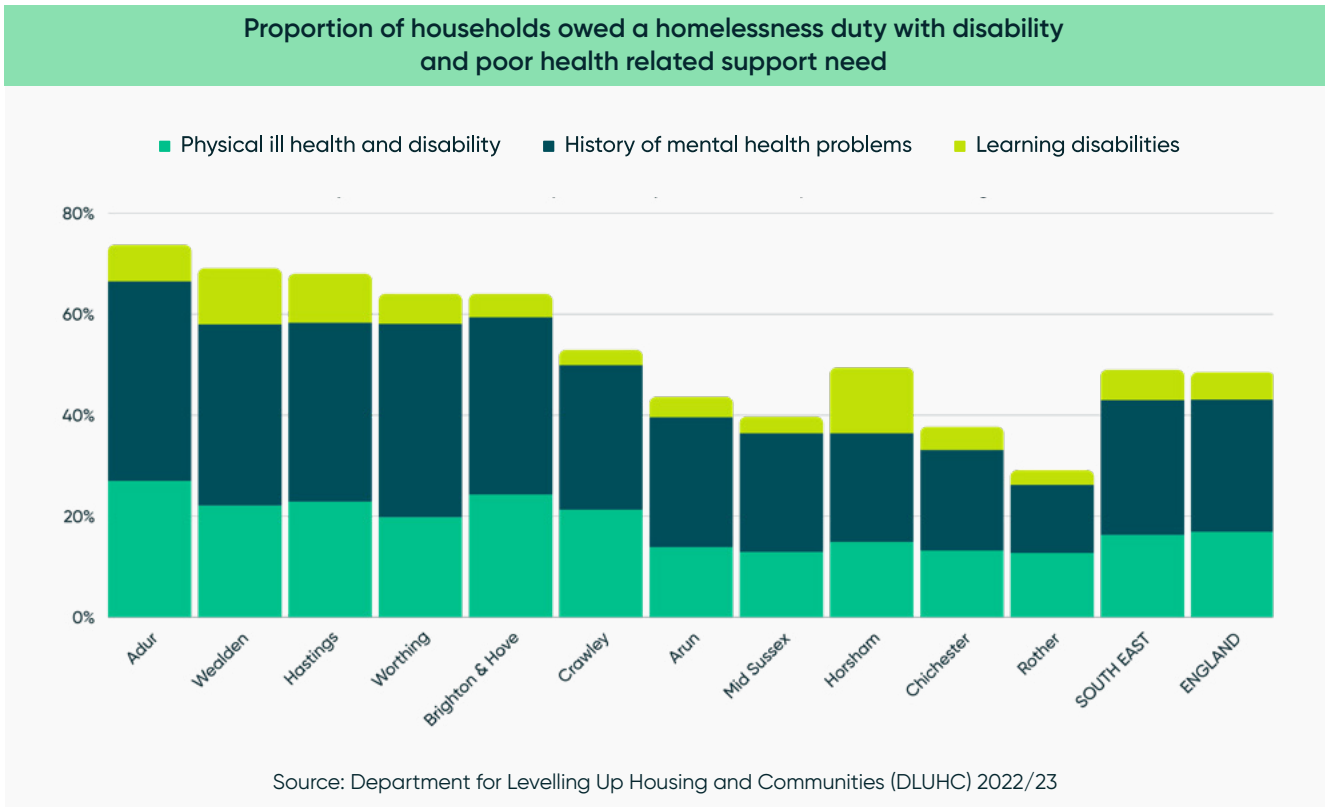
"D was living in temporary supported accommodation and was suffering from depression when she first joined Our Neighbourhood's cookery courses. She has now been regularly attending the sessions and loves to cook and mix with people from all around the world. She now volunteers in various projects and is a changed woman."

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING BARRIERS BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITY, ETHNIC BACKGROUND OR SEXUALITY

The chart below shows the proportion of homeless households with physical or mental health related support needs across selected Local Authorities in Sussex.[20]

People with physical or mental health needs make up a large proportion of homeless households across each of the Sussex Local Authorities.

To highlight the case in Hastings, where homelessness rates are some of the highest in Sussex, 68.0% of homeless households had disability-related support needs. Firstly, this reflects the relatively high proportion of people with disabilities in the town (as seen in the Population profile section above); and secondly, the disproportionate number of disabled people in Hastings who are not in the labour market, and who are therefore at greater risk of experiencing financial hardship. Hastings also has a relatively large proportion of homeless households with learning disabilities – 9.7% (significantly higher than the national average of 5.4%).

Mental health challenges were the most commonly cited support need across each of the Local Authorities in Sussex; Adur, Wealden, Hastings, Brighton & Hove and Worthing all have over 35% of all homeless households having mental health support needs.

Proportion of households owed a homelessness duty with disability and poor health related support need

Source: Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) 2022/23

Key facts and figures

- People with disabilities are more likely to live in areas of Sussex that are ranked as highly deprived. 27% of all people in Sussex living in the most deprived 10% of areas in the country had a disability, compared with 14% of those living in the least deprived areas.
- People from Non-White ethnic groups are also disproportionately likely to reside in more deprived areas, with 14.4% living in the most deprived 10% of areas, compared with 6.6% of people in the least deprived areas 10% of areas in England.
- People with a disability are considerably less likely to be employed than those without a disability across all areas of Sussex. In 11 of the 13 Local Authorities in Sussex less than half of all working age people with a disability are in employment.
    - The gap is particularly large in Hastings, where just 38.8% of people with a disability are in employment, compared with 75.6% of people without a disability.
- On average, people from Non-White ethnic minority groups are more likely to be unemployed than those from White ethnic groups across Sussex.
- People from Mixed ethnic groups are more likely to be unemployed than the national average across all Local Authorities in Sussex.
- People from Black ethnic groups are also more likely to be unemployed than those from White ethnic groups across each Local Authority in Sussex.
- People from LGBTQ communities are more likely to be unemployed than those identifying as straight or heterosexual across each of the Local Authorities in Sussex.
- Brighton & Hove has the highest unemployment rate among the LGBTQ community (7.1%) - notably above the national average (6.3%).
- People with disabilities make up a large proportion of homeless households across each of the Sussex Local Authorities. Hastings stands out as having both high levels of homelessness and a high proportion (68%) of homeless households with disability-related support needs.

References

1 Based on Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) as of August 2023. Source: Office for National Statistics.

2 Figures are based on responses to the 2021 Census sexual orientation questions (which are voluntary). These figures have been calculated using only those who responded to this question as the denominator, rather than the total population. Therefore, these figures represent proportions of all those aged 16+ who responded to the sexual orientation question. As there are a multitude of reasons why people may not have responded to this question, presenting these as a proportion of those who answered gives a more accurate picture of sexual orientation.

3 Figures are based on responses to the 2021 Census gender identity questions (which are voluntary). These figures have been calculated using only those who responded to this question as the denominator, rather than the total population. Therefore, these figures represent proportions of all those aged 16+ who responded to the gender identity question. As there are a multitude of reasons why people may not have responded to this question, presenting these as a proportion of those who answered gives a more accurate picture of gender identity.

4 The Indices of Deprivation 2019 are a relative measure of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England. The overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 combines together indicators under seven different domains of deprivation: Income Deprivation; Employment Deprivation; Education Skills and Training Deprivation; Health Deprivation and Disability; Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services and Living Environment Deprivation. A higher score (and lower rank) indicates that an area is experiencing high levels of deprivation.

5 The income deprivation measure considers the proportion of the population who are experiencing deprivation related to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests). A higher score indicates that an area is experiencing high levels of deprivation.

6 This measure of child poverty shows the proportion of children aged 0-19 in relative low-income families. Relative low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more

References

of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Children are dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education.

7 Older people living in poverty are defined as people aged 65+ in receipt of Pension Credit. Pension Credit provides financial help for people aged 65 or over whose income is below a certain level set by the law.

8 The Priority Places for Food Index is a composite index formed of data compiled across seven different dimensions relating to food insecurity: proximity to supermarket retail facilities, accessibility to supermarket retail facilities, access to online deliveries, proximity to non-supermarket food provision, socio-economic barriers, family food support and fuel poverty. It is constructed using open data to capture complex and multidimensional aspects of food insecurity. It has been developed in response to the 2022 cost of living crisis which puts many of our communities under severe financial pressure and at an increased risk of food insecurity.

9 The IoD Employment domain measures the proportion of the working age population who are involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to due to unemployment, sickness/disability or caring responsibilities. A higher score indicates that an area is experiencing relatively higher levels of deprivation.

10 JSA is payable to people under pensionable age who are out of work and available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week. However, this is slowly being replaced by Universal Credit. There are differences in conditionality rules and eligibility criteria between Universal Credit and Jobseeker's Allowance. The phased roll-out of Universal Credit across the country means that these differences in eligibility and conditionality affect geographical places differentially depending on how advanced the roll out is in that area. Until Universal Credit is fully rolled out, it is not possible to get a consistent measure of unemployment benefit claimant rate. Furthermore, the Universal Credit 'searching for work' conditionality group includes some individuals who would not have been previously eligible for Jobseeker's Allowance under the old benefits system eg those with work limiting illness awaiting a Work Capability Assessment.

11 Out of work benefits are defined as being on at least one of the following benefits: Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), Employment and

References

Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Income Support (IS) where Carers Allowance (CA) not also in payment, Pension Credit (PC) where Carers Allowance (CA) and Universal Credit (UC) conditionality regime is one of Searching for Work, Preparing for Work or Planning for Work.

12 The latest unemployment figures are for July 2023, while the Indices of Deprivation figures cover the financial year 2015/16.

13 The data is not comparable with homelessness decisions or prevention/ relief activity reported prior to April 2018. Amendments to legislation, as introduced by the 2017 HRA, include new duties that mean more people are eligible for assistance out of homelessness from Local Authorities. However, households are now only owed a main duty if they did not secure accommodation in the prevention or relief stage.

14 Please note, Eastbourne and Lewes failed to provide full and accurate data across the four quarters for the initial assessment of homelessness circumstances and needs. Therefore, they are not included in the source data. Because of this missing Local Authority data, figures for Sussex are derived from the remaining Local Authority data.

15 These households are only owed a main duty if they did not secure accommodation in the prevention or relief stage, and so it is not owed to those 'threatened with homelessness'. A minimum 56 days of assistance must have elapsed from a household approaching the Local Authority to being owed a main duty.

16 Different approaches a local authority can decide to use include; A count-based estimate which is the number of people seen sleeping rough on a 'typical night', an evidence-based estimate meeting which is an evidence-based assessment by local agencies providing a single snapshot figure that represents the number of people thought to be sleeping rough, or an evidence-based estimate meeting including a spotlight count which is the same as above, but with one of the evidence sources also including a street count, which might not be as extensive as the count-based estimate but has taken place after midnight on the 'typical night'.

17 The definition of fuel poverty is based on the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) fuel poverty metric where a household is considered fuel poor if a) it is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G as determined by the most up-to-date Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency

References

Rating (FPEER) Methodology; and b) its disposable income (income after housing costs (AHC) and energy needs) would be below the poverty line. The indicator is estimated using regional data from the English Housing Survey and modelling down to local areas based on characteristics of the local area. Note: this dataset is from 2021. The recent soaring energy prices and cost of living crisis may have changed the scale of fuel poverty since then across the UK.

18 The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 housing in poor condition indicator is a modelled estimate of the proportion of social and private homes that fail to meet the Decent Homes standard. A property fails the Decent Homes Standard if it fails to meet any one of four separate components: 1) Housing Health and Safety Rating System 2) Disrepair 3) Modernisation 4) Thermal comfort. Each of these components was modelled separately, using data from the 2015 English Housing Survey at national level, in combination with a commercial dataset that provides information on the age, type, tenure and occupant characteristics of the housing stock at individual dwelling level.

19 The unemployment figures in this section only include those who answered the sexual orientation question and are therefore inconsistent with the figures shown for ethnic groups above.

20 Eastbourne and Lewes did not submit complete homeless returns so have been excluded from this analysis.

Sources

With thanks to OCSI for providing and analysing the data for this report.

Photography by Darren Cool Images.

Tackling *Poverty.*
Part of the Sussex Uncovered Series.

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