



# Tackling *Poverty*. Executive Summary

NOVEMBER 2023

 **Sussex**  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION





# Tackling Poverty.

PART OF THE SUSSEX UNCOVERED SERIES.

## Introduction.

Sussex Community Foundation produced the Tackling Poverty report to look into key data around poverty within our county. The data analysed gives us an insight into the challenges faced by people in Sussex.

In this Executive Summary we highlight the four key challenges for Sussex communities today. While many of these issues 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.

Kevin Richmond, Chief Executive

November 2023



With thanks to OCSI for analysing and presenting the data in the Tackling Poverty report.

The full report can be found on our website.

# 1

## CHALLENGE ONE:

### *An aging population.*

- Sussex has a relatively old population, with 22.4% of residents being 65 or over, compared to England's 18.4%.
- This older population is projected to grow by 41.3% between 2020-2040. Faster than the average across England (38.3%).
- The population of those aged between 0 and 15 is expected to decline at a rate of 5.6%, also faster than the rest of England (4.2%).
- As the population ages there will be a significant increase in social care and health-related burdens. With evidence to show that a large proportion of older individuals in urban areas of the county are already facing financial hardship.
- With the decline in the under-65 population, especially in East Sussex (specifically Hastings and Eastbourne), we can see economic obstacles that could lead to increases in poverty.

# 2

## CHALLENGE TWO:

### *High levels of long-term illness and poor outcome for those with a disability.*

- In Sussex there is a higher number of people with a disability (17.6%) than the South East (15.6%) and England (16.9%).
- In addition to the general health challenges that arise from long-term illness and disability, there's strong evidence that people with disabilities are more likely to face material deprivation issues.
- People with a disability are more likely to experience unemployment: only 44.6% of working-age people with a disability are employed, compared with 76.2% of those without a disability.
- People with a disability in Sussex are also more likely to be living in the most deprived areas.

## CHALLENGE THREE:

## 3

## Inflationary pressures are contributing towards financial hardship.

- Energy bills are expected to significantly affect households in Sussex. The rural and coastal regions are particularly vulnerable to rising energy costs.
- Lack of affordable housing is a key factor in rising housing costs, increasing financial pressures. The average property price in Sussex in June 2022 - May 2023 was £414,868, way above the national average of £335,659.
- These financial pressures have led to relatively high levels of homelessness – particularly in urban areas of the county. Brighton & Hove, Hastings and Crawley all have higher rates of households assessed as 'homeless' than the national average.
- According to the Consumer Prices Index, the cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages has increased by 13.6% in the 12 months leading up to August 2023. More than double the overall inflation rate (6.3%), overtaking housing as the biggest contributor to increased cost of living.
- Hastings, Rother, Lewes and Crawley are all considered more deprived than the national average, according to the Priority Places for Food Index which measures food insecurity.

## CASE STUDY

4Sight Vision Support, based in Bognor Regis, aims to reduce social isolation, keep members in employment and help them remain happy and independent.

**“I felt depressed as I could no longer work or be as active as before. 4Sight helped me access a range of support, benefits and find ways to adapt to stay independent. They built my confidence back up again. I am so grateful to have someone I can phone for advice who really understands what living with sight loss means.”**

Member of 4Sight Vision Support, Bognor Regis

## CHALLENGE FOUR:

# 4 Multiple *deprivation* challenges in coastal communities.

- Many areas in Sussex rank among the 20% of neighbourhoods in England with the highest levels of deprivation.
- We can see the highest levels of deprivation around the Sussex coast, with the eight most underprivileged towns situated in coastal communities: Hastings, Portslade-by-Sea, Bexhill, Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne, Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Peacehaven.

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 and 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

## CASE STUDY

“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 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.”

Member of Staff at Education Futures Trust, Hastings



## Deprivation across Sussex.

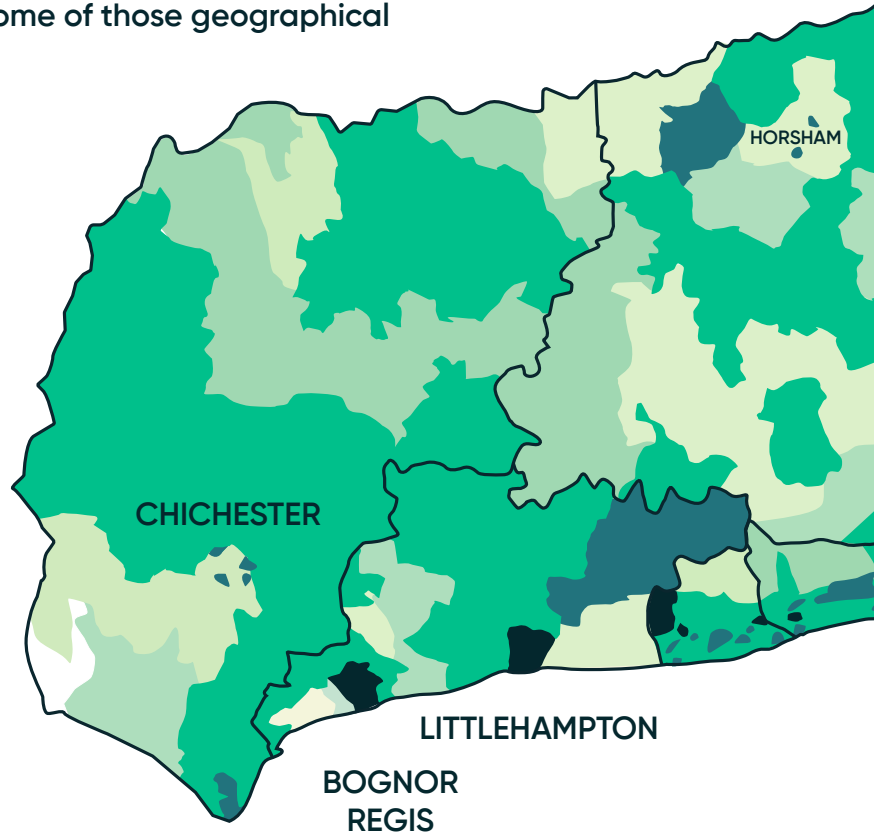
We've highlighted key issues around some of those geographical areas which are hit the hardest.

### Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Rank

The colours on the map show Index of Multiple Deprivation 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 - 6,570

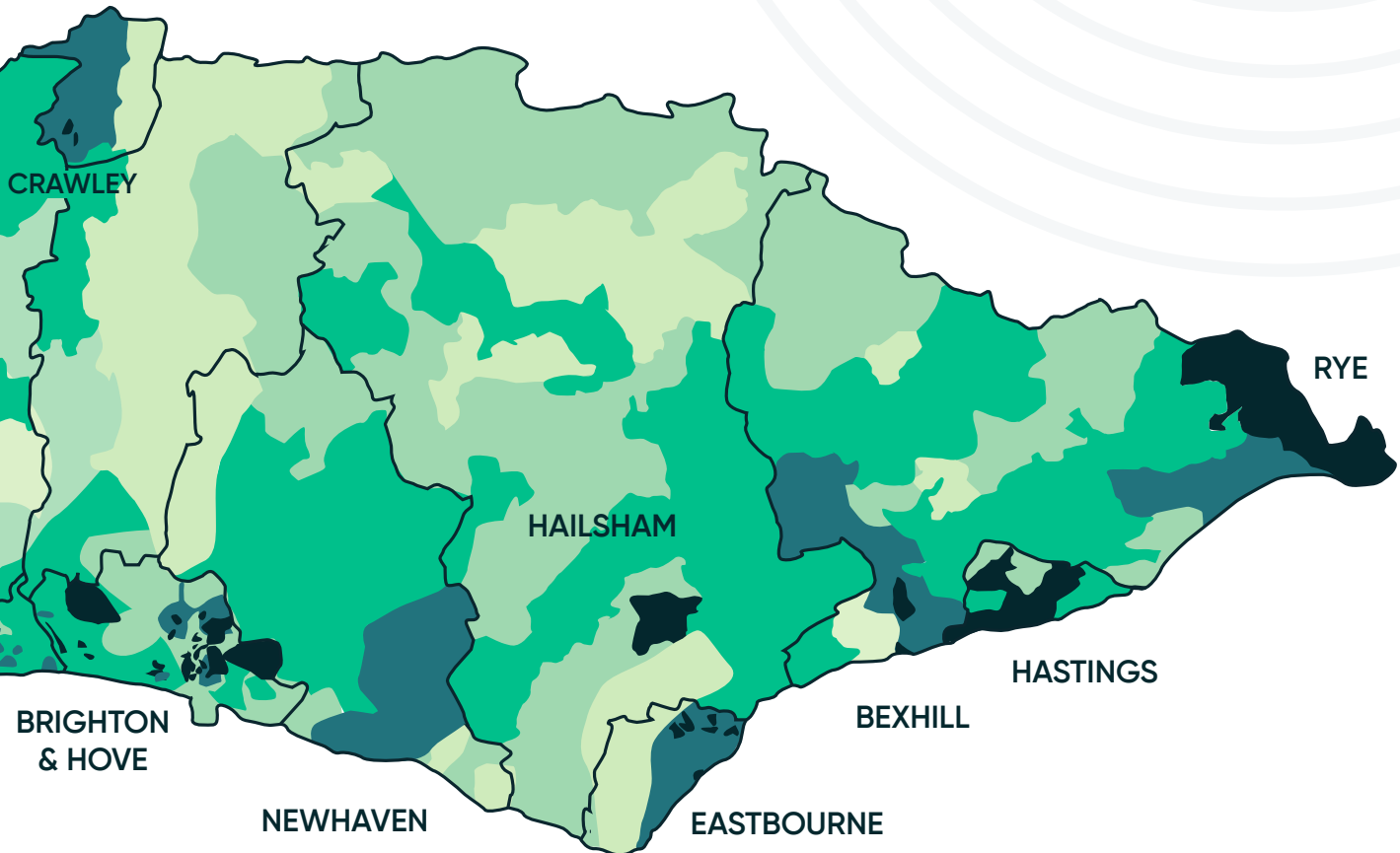


People from LGBTQ communities are more likely to be unemployed than those identifying as heterosexual across Sussex. The highest unemployment rate among this group is in Brighton & Hove.

Sussex has a higher proportion of households in fuel poverty compared to the South East, particularly in rural Sussex.

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

Hastings stands out in Sussex for the highest levels of child poverty above the national average, followed by Crawley and Eastbourne.



\*LSOA: Lower-layer Super Output Areas

Source: Communities and Local Government (CLG) 2019

In Sussex, the top three Local Authorities for the number of people rough sleeping on a 'typical night' are Brighton & Hove, Hastings and Worthing.

The rate of older people living in poverty in Sussex is higher than the South East. We can see high levels of Pension Credit claimants especially in Hastings and in Brighton & Hove.

Sussex has only seen a 6.1% population increase over the last 10 years, lower than across the South East (9.5%) and England as a whole (6.6%).



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