



# Reaching *Potential.*

Part of the **Sussex Uncovered Series.**

SEPTEMBER 2024

 **Sussex**  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

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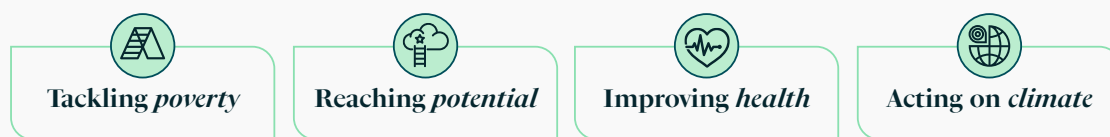
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# Introduction.

At Sussex Community Foundation our goal is to provide sustainable funding to support a vibrant community and charity sector.

We have established ourselves as an effective local grant maker and a service for individuals and companies who want to give back to their communities.

Our strategic approach to grant making includes publishing a series of data-led reports to inform our stakeholders on the needs of Sussex. These are built around our four funding priorities:



This second report focuses on 'Reaching Potential'. Education and training should help every child and young person to achieve a good quality of life. As adults we need access to employment and further skills development through our lives, to reach our full potential.

In gathering this data we looked at how well our education and training services are working across Sussex and what employment opportunities exist. We have also explored the additional barriers that people face in education, training and employment, our economy, population changes and inequality across our county.

The findings of our research were stark and will be surprising to those who see Sussex as a wealthy, privileged community. They present very significant challenges to our statutory services and to our private sector, which are not performing as well as we should hope.

## Some of the key challenges in education are:

- Poor educational attainment in Sussex (particularly at Key Stage 2) and especially in Hastings, Eastbourne, Rother, Arun and Adur
- Those pupils who face additional challenges (Free school meals, disability, Special Educational Needs) do less well at school than their peers in other parts of the country
- Sussex has a higher proportion of pupils with special educational needs than the England average
- Persistent absence from school increased during the pandemic, but is returning to normal more slowly in Sussex than average and is actually increasing in East Sussex
- 43% of Children in need in the county are identified as such because of parental mental health issues.

The economy of Sussex has additional challenges – lower jobs density with a lack of large urban centres, fewer large employers, lower levels of skills and poor transport links. These challenges are particularly stark in the eastern end of the county.

We have also looked at population change. The percentage of people over 65 is projected to increase and the birth rate to decrease. While the number of people of working age is expected to remain relatively stable, this is likely to impact the labour market and local economies, particularly in East Sussex.

This report establishes a baseline of data, but also highlights the vital role of local grassroots charities in identifying those people who are disadvantaged and helping them overcome barriers and reach their full potential. These charities inspire people to be the best they can be, and we are honoured to be able to support them.

We want to use what we learn to inform our development as a community foundation.

My hope is that this report will also be used by philanthropists, to inform them of the needs in Sussex and how they can donate. And by charities to provide evidence of local need to support their own fundraising. That it will help inspire us all to work together to make Sussex a fairer, more equal place.

Kevin Richmond, Chief Executive

September 2024



#### A note on the data used in this report

This report primarily focuses on data from the Department for Education (DfE) School Census, which captures detailed information relating to characteristics and attainment levels of pupils who attend maintained schools.

There are two key limitations with this data source:

1. This data is not available below Local Authority level due to privacy concerns, data suppression policies, and the statistical unreliability of small sample sizes.
2. This data does not cover pupils in the independent school sector.
3. The data does not cover those who undertake informal educational routes, such as those who are engaged in homeschooling.
4. The data is based on the pupils home postcode rather than where they attend school. Where a pupil has multiple home postcodes, the postcode recorded in the School Census is the postcode selected.
5. Pupils who live in Sussex but attend schools outside of Sussex are included. By contrast, those that attend schools within Sussex who reside outside of the area are excluded.

This report also uses data from the Census 2021 where possible, to provide a greater insight into issues faced by particular local areas. We have not used other small area datasets on educational deprivation e.g. indicators from the 2019 Indices of Deprivation – as this data is increasingly out of date – referring to pupil performance indicators from 2014/15 to 2016/17.



With thanks to OCSI for analysing and presenting the data in the Reaching Potential report.



# 1 *Key findings.*

This section summarises the range of secondary data presented in the subsequent chapters. It gives an overview of the key challenges that need to be addressed in order to support grassroots charities and community groups to continue providing life-changing skills, education, training and employment. It also highlights the neighbourhoods and communities where needs are most acute.

# 1 *School attainment & participation.*

## Key findings

**The majority of areas in Sussex are underperforming at Key Stage 2, while a number of areas experience low levels of attainment across all educational phases, resulting in lower participation in continuing education.**

Pupils in Sussex are performing less well than their peers at Key Stage 2, with 11 of the 13 Local Authorities in Sussex showing a lower proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths than the national average. Eastbourne is the most poorly performing Local Authority – with less than half of all pupils meeting the expected standard.

There is some evidence of poor performance continuing across the age groups – with a lower proportion of pupils in Sussex achieving grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs, and a lower Average Attainment 8 score at Key Stage 4 than across the South East region or England as a whole.

This is largely driven by notably poor performance in specific Local Authorities: Hastings has the worst outcomes for KS4 attainment across Sussex, with the lowest proportions on all four recorded measures of educational attainment. Crawley, Arun, Eastbourne and Rother also perform below the Sussex, regional and national average on all four measures.

This is subsequently reflected in lower participation in education, employment or apprenticeships at a post 16 level across Hastings, Eastbourne, Arun and Rother.

Young adults in Sussex are also less likely to enter Higher Education, with 11 of the 13 Local Authorities in Sussex showing lower levels of participation in Higher Education than the national average (40%). Again, Hastings (27%), Adur (29%), Eastbourne (30%), Arun (31%) and Crawley (33%) feature among the Local Authorities with the lowest participation levels (reflecting low levels of recorded educational attainment across the age groups).

There is also a close relationship between poverty and pupil attainment across the county, with the two Local Authorities with higher proportions of pupils eligible for Free school meals than the national average (24.4%), Hastings (35.9%) and Eastbourne (27.3%), performing consistently less well than other areas in Sussex on a range of educational outcomes.

High levels of recorded absence could also be a contributory factor. Evidence suggests that there is a direct link between absence and attainment, with pupils with higher attainment generally recording lower levels of overall absences at both KS2 and KS4<sup>1</sup>.

1. The link between absence and attainment can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/the-link-between-absence-and-attainment-at-ks2-and-ks4>

There is a sharp increase in persistent absence since the Covid pandemic nationally, with a slight decline between 2021/22 to 2022/23. Sussex and the wider South East also follow this trend with similar rates of persistent absences in 2022/23 (20.8% in Sussex compared to 20.3% in the South East and 20.9% across England). This is likely to be linked to the physical and mental health impacts of the pandemic, including incidence of Long Covid.

Rate of persistently absent enrolments				
	Primary		Secondary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Brighton & Hove	15.34	14.74	26.35	31.98
East Sussex	17.15	15.73	28.54	31.52
West Sussex	14.87	14.37	24.30	27.01
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>16.50</b>	<b>15.56</b>	<b>25.21</b>	<b>27.82</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>15.66</b>	<b>14.80</b>	<b>24.82</b>	<b>28.19</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>16.68</b>	<b>15.72</b>	<b>25.28</b>	<b>27.80</b>

Source: Department for Education – 2022/2023

East Sussex is the only area that has not reduced persistent absence rates since 2021/22 – instead showing a further marginal increase. East Sussex shows higher levels of persistent absence at both Primary and Secondary School level than across the South East and England as a whole. Persistent absence rates are also high for females across Brighton & Hove.

This is likely to be linked to relatively poor mental and physical health among children in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, with a higher prevalence of children receiving Disability Benefits and children in contact with mental health services than the regional and national average.

## Further education, higher education & training

The proportion of KS4 pupils going into sustained education, employment or apprenticeships is broadly similar across the majority of districts in Sussex, the South East and England alike.

However, Hastings (88.9%) and Eastbourne (90.9%) have notably lower rates of pupils in sustained education, employment or an apprenticeship. This is likely to be linked to the lower educational outcomes observed at KS4 in these areas.

## 2 Educational *inequalities* & *disadvantaged* groups.

### Key findings

**Pupils in educationally disadvantaged groups experience lower pupil attainment in Sussex than those experiencing similar disadvantage elsewhere in England; moreover, the gap in performance between those in vulnerable groups and their peers is greater in Sussex than across England as a whole.**

Pupils in Sussex are more likely to have Special Educational Needs and more likely to be identified as Children in need than the regional or national average. By contrast, Sussex has a lower proportion of children eligible for Free school meals (FSM), children whose first language is other than English, young carers and children in care than the average across England as a whole.

Children from disadvantaged groups in Sussex are more likely to experience poor educational outcomes than their peers elsewhere in England. Pupils eligible for FSM, disadvantaged pupils, pupils with English as an additional language and pupils with Special Educational Needs

are less likely to meet expected standards in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2 in Sussex than across the South East region and England as a whole.

Furthermore, there is some evidence to suggest that the attainment gap between those who are and are not experiencing educational disadvantage is greater in Sussex than elsewhere in England. For example, only 40.3% of females eligible for FSM in Sussex meet the expected standards at Key Stage 2, compared with 57.1% of pupils as a whole (a gap of 17 percentage points) – this is notably larger than the attainment gap for females eligible for FSM across England as a whole (where 47.1% of females eligible for FSM meet expected standards, compared with 59.9% of all pupils – a gap of less than 13 percentage points).

Addressing the underperformance of educationally disadvantaged groups is likely to have the largest impact in raising attainment levels across Sussex.

**“I feel a lot happier in myself and feel there is a path in life I can take. I feel part of a great community... I’m able to be a lot more open about my learning disabilities and feel accepted. I feel like I have a future ahead of me.”**

Team Domenica beneficiary



# 3 *Employment & job opportunities.*

## Key findings

**Job opportunities are fewer and access to jobs is harder in many of the same communities across Sussex that also show poorer educational outcomes, suggesting multiple barriers to reaching potential.**

East Sussex has lower jobs density (jobs as a ratio of the working age population) and higher travel times to large employment centres than the average across the South East and England, with 60.74 jobs per 100 working age population (compared to 77.86 for England) and 39 minute travel times to an employment centre with 5,000+ jobs (compared to 16 minutes for England). This reflects the relatively poor transport links and lack of large urban centres in the county.

This is evident across both rural and urban areas of the county – Hastings has the second lowest jobs density of all Local Authorities in Sussex (57.47 jobs per 100 working age population) and the highest average travel time to a large employment centre (5,000+ jobs) at 55 minutes. This shows that there is a lack of job opportunities locally and residents in Hastings need to travel further to access employment. This is likely to contribute to the poor labour market outcomes observed in the town. Moreover, the job opportunities within East Sussex are less likely to be high skilled – with 30.7% of jobs in East Sussex classified as managerial, professional or associate professional occupations, compared with 36.6% across the South East and 33.04% across England as a whole.

% of economically active people who are unemployed by highest qualification

	No qual	Level 1	Level 2	Apprenticeship	Level 3	Degree+
Brighton & Hove	8.64	9.04	10.39	5.80	11.97	4.65
East Sussex	8.00	7.67	7.41	3.88	4.36	3.45
West Sussex	7.45	7.19	6.88	4.07	4.08	3.18
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>7.79</b>	<b>7.56</b>	<b>7.47</b>	<b>4.21</b>	<b>5.43</b>	<b>3.60</b>
South East	7.70	7.26	7.22	3.87	4.83	3.24
England	8.67	8.23	8.02	4.61	5.69	3.86

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023



# 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 of children and young people

The table below shows the population age breakdowns of children and young people across the Local Authorities in Sussex, compared to the South East and England.

East Sussex and West Sussex have a lower proportion of children and young people across all age breakdowns (from pre-school to school age to young adults) than the England average. Crawley, Hastings and Mid Sussex have the highest proportion of pre-school and young school age children of all Local Authorities in Sussex. Brighton & Hove, Chichester and Crawley have the highest proportion of older school age children and young adults – with rates of young adults in Brighton & Hove notably above the national average (due to the relatively large student population in the city).

Proportion of the population who are children and young people by age groups across Local Authorities in Sussex					
	Pre-school	School age			Young adults
Local Authority	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24
Adur	4.95	6.06	5.90	4.95	4.13
Arun	4.40	4.99	5.03	4.64	4.49
Brighton & Hove	4.24	4.71	5.12	6.41	10.08
Chichester	4.28	4.95	5.34	5.26	5.27
Crawley	6.45	6.82	6.61	5.49	5.53
Eastbourne	4.64	5.44	5.69	5.25	5.14
Hastings	5.30	5.68	5.81	5.13	4.93
Horsham	5.02	5.46	6.13	5.23	4.21
Lewes	4.55	5.32	5.75	5.19	4.14
Mid Sussex	5.45	6.15	6.39	5.25	4.18
Rother	4.01	4.54	5.11	4.61	4.03
Wealden	4.48	5.29	5.64	5.05	4.16
Worthing	4.89	5.49	5.66	4.89	4.66
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>4.58</b>	<b>5.26</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.05</b>	<b>4.45</b>
<b>West Sussex</b>	<b>5.04</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>5.84</b>	<b>5.10</b>	<b>4.64</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>6.13</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>5.57</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>5.93</b>	<b>6.04</b>	<b>5.70</b>	<b>6.04</b>

Source: Census 2021

## 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. 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%).

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.

Projected population by age band for 2020-2040				
Local Authority	Total projection %	Age 0-14 projection %	Age 15-64 projection %	Age 65+ projection %
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
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>8.88</b>	<b>-5.56</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>41.28</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>6.67</b>	<b>-6.99</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>39.11</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>7.90</b>	<b>-4.23</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>38.28</b>

Source: ONS 2020

# Minority ethnic communities

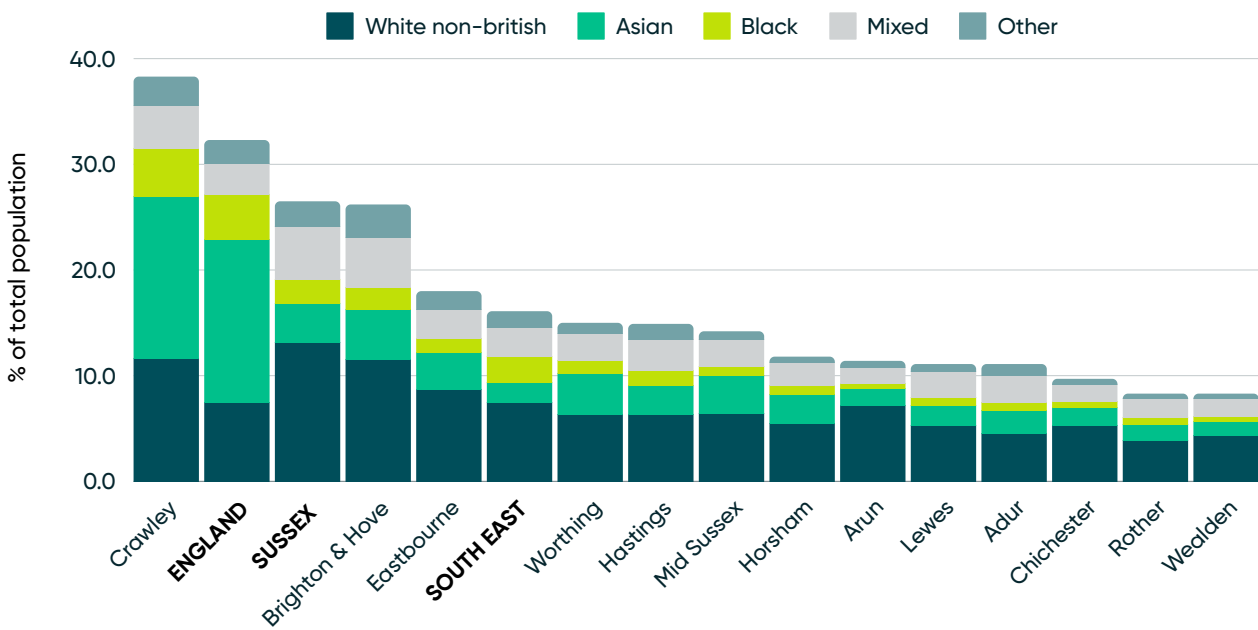
275,185 people in Sussex are from Non-White British ethnic groups (16.1%) – this is considerably lower than the national average of 26.5%. Of these, 146,996 people are Non-White (8.6% of Sussex). The Asian community make up the highest proportion of Non-White residents, accounting for 3.7% of the population in Sussex. One-third of these Asian residents identify as Indian (1.2%).

Whilst the proportion of ethnic minority groups in Sussex is lower than the national average, a

slightly higher proportion of Sussex residents live in a household with someone of a different ethnic group to themselves – 10.8% of Sussex households are ‘multi-ethnic’ compared to the national average of 10.4%.

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%).

Ethnic minority group breakdowns across Local Authorities in Sussex

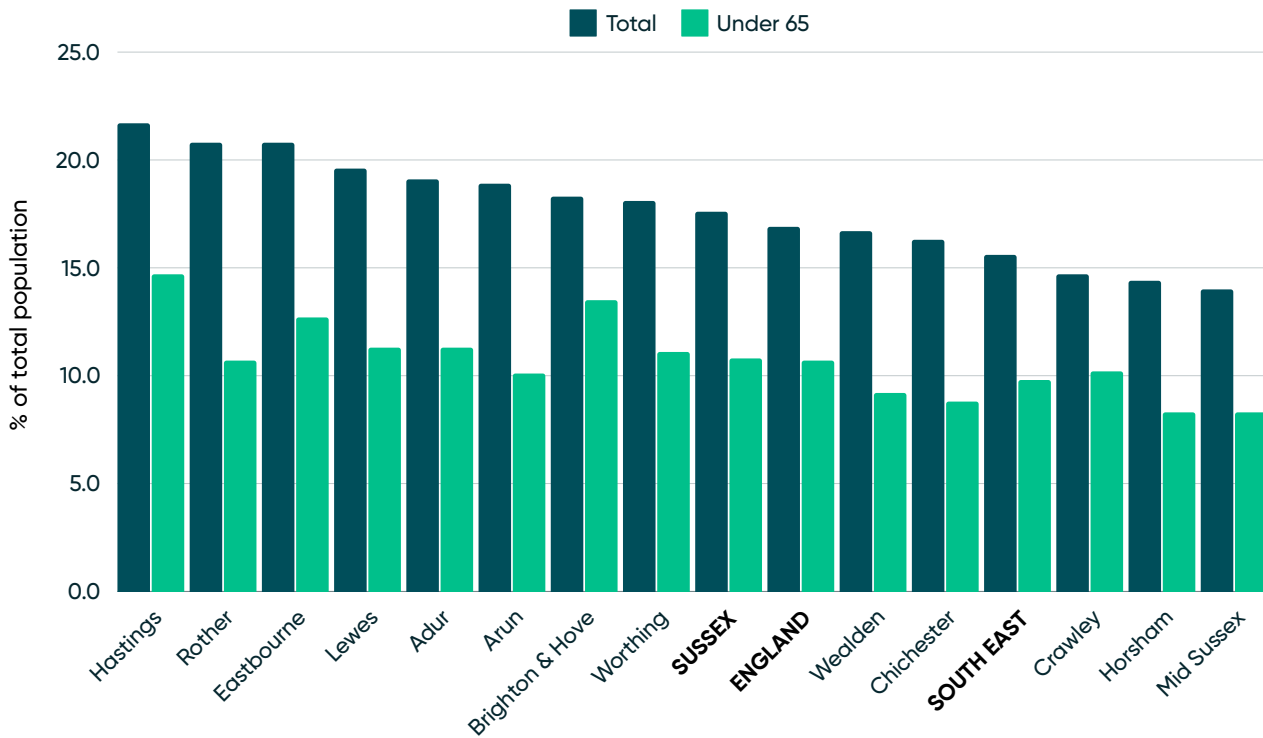


Source: Census 2021

# People with a disability

The chart on the next page shows the proportion of all people who are classified as disabled under the Equality Act, broken down by those under and over the age of 65. 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.

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



Source: Census 2021

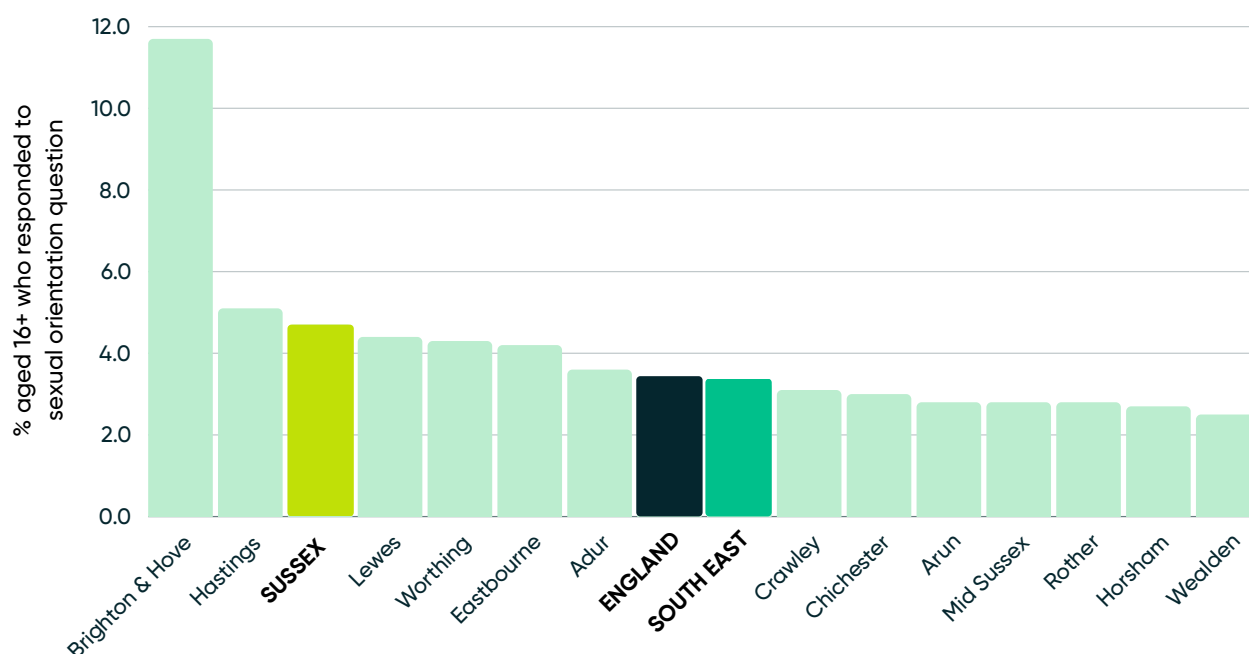
As shown, Sussex has a higher proportion of total people with a disability (17.6%) compared to the South East (15.6%) and England (16.9%). Within Sussex, the highest proportion of people with a disability can be found in Hastings (21.7%), Eastbourne (20.8%) and Rother (20.8%). Hastings also has the largest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

## 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%<sup>2</sup>). Hastings, Lewes, Worthing, Eastbourne and Adur also have higher proportions of people that are not straight or heterosexual than the national average.

2. Note: 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.

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

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 average (3.3%). Those identifying as gay or lesbian make up the majority of the non-heterosexual population in Sussex (2.5%).

Similarly, Brighton & Hove is the Local Authority with the highest proportion of non-cis gender residents in Sussex (0.99%<sup>3</sup>). 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%).

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 (%)
<b>Straight or heterosexual</b>	<b>1,252,972</b>	<b>95.31</b>
<b>Not straight or heterosexual</b>	<b>61,646</b>	<b>4.69</b>
Gay or lesbian	33,027	2.51
Bisexual	22,666	1.72
All other sexual orientations	5,953	0.45

Source: Census 2021

3. Note: 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.

**POPULATION PROFILE**

## Key facts and figures

- Sussex has an older population with a relatively low proportion of younger people compared to the South East and England – both East Sussex and West Sussex have a lower proportion of pre-school, school age and young adults compared to the national average (4.45% of people are 20–24 in East Sussex, 4.64% in West Sussex and 6.04% in England).
- 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 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 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, accounting 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 a queer sexual orientation (4.7%) compared to both the national average (3.4%) and regional average (3.3%).





# 3 *School attainment & participation.*

This section explores data on educational attainment at Key Stage 2 (Primary School) and Key Stage 4 (Secondary School), further and higher education, as well as data on pupil absences. Together these datasets give an insight into the nature and extent of spatial inequalities in educational attainment and skills across Sussex.

## School attainment & participation

Due to constraints with the availability of educational data and also due to different reporting requirements across state and independent schools, the education data in this report focuses on outcomes of state-funded maintained schools only. The table below shows a breakdown of pupils in Sussex schools and comparator areas by education type (including independent schools and state-funded primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools).

Although Sussex has a higher proportion of pupils at independent schools than the England average, as can be seen in the table, a considerably lower proportion of pupils attend independent schools than state-funded education across the county.

% of pupils by education type							
Area name	Independent school	Non-maintained special school	State-funded AP school	State-funded nursery	State-funded primary	State-funded secondary	State-funded special school
Brighton & Hove	12.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	49.2	36.6	1.4
East Sussex	8.5	0.3	0.1	n/a	50.1	39.0	1.9
West Sussex	9.4	0.1	0.2	0.4	49.2	39.1	1.6
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

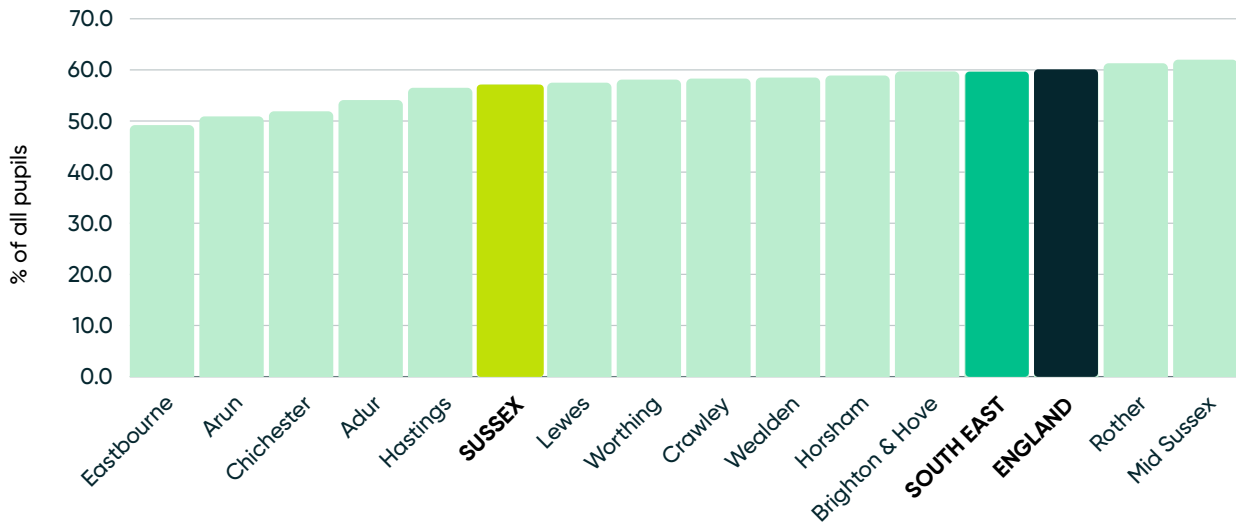
## Key Stage 2 attainment

The following chart shows the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (combined) in state-funded schools for all Local Authorities in Sussex - as well as the Sussex, South East and England averages.

To meet the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths at Key Stage 2, students are assessed through national curriculum tests (commonly known as SATs). The expected standard is set by the Department for Education and is based on the curriculum objectives for these subjects.

Students who meet the expected standard in all three subjects are considered to have attained a good level of academic achievement for their age group. The results of these assessments provide valuable information about individual student progress and also contribute to overall school performance evaluations.

## Key Stage 2 pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths



Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

Sussex as a whole has a lower rate of Key Stage 2 attainment (57.1%) than both the South East (59.7%) and the average across England (59.9%). Mid Sussex and Rother have the highest rate of Key Stage 2 attainment of all Local Authorities in Sussex, surpassing both the national and regional performance levels. However, Hastings, Adur, Chichester, Arun and Eastbourne emerge as the districts with the lowest performance levels – all below the Sussex average.



## Little Green Pig

### CASE STUDY

Little Green Pig works with children and young people who face challenging circumstances in areas across Sussex; supporting them with creative writing initiatives that build confidence, literacy, and provide a platform to be heard. Their volunteers encourage the participants' interest without the pressures that they may face in the classroom if writing is normally a challenge for them.

"When T first arrived at Whitehawk Club, she was shy, nervous and reluctant to attend. However, with the encouragement of her mum and the Little Green Pig team, she gradually gained confidence and would skip into club with a big smile. Her attendance became more regular, and she enjoyed connecting with the other children. T's literacy skills and imaginative writing improved – she no longer felt limitations on her creativity. She was happy, and she was proud of herself. Before she would never share her writing with the group, but she became one of the children who asked to share first. She produced longer and more sophisticated pieces of writing and wasn't afraid to ask for support when needed. Over the sessions, her self-belief and confidence grew."

## Key Stage 4 attainment

The table below includes key measures of educational attainment at Key Stage 4 in state-funded schools for all Local Authorities in Sussex – as well as the Sussex, South East and England averages. It includes the following metrics of educational attainment and progress:

Key Stage 4 performance (by pupil residency)				
Local Authority	% achieving 5 or above in Eng and Maths GCSEs	% achieving 4 or above in Eng and Maths GCSEs	Average Attainment 8 score	Average Progress 8 score
Adur	49.66	70.41	46.84	0.070
Arun	37.28	57.63	42.03	-0.200
Brighton & Hove	49.91	70.13	47.82	0.001
Chichester	42.97	64.50	45.28	-0.004
Crawley	36.55	60.62	42.40	-0.253
Eastbourne	39.17	63.35	43.39	-0.085
Hastings	31.75	51.37	37.01	-0.844
Horsham	54.10	74.34	50.97	0.330
Lewes	46.92	68.97	46.21	0.092
Mid Sussex	52.48	73.53	49.81	0.233
Rother	42.84	61.81	44.35	-0.194
Wealden	48.68	71.22	48.57	0.089
Worthing	47.49	69.87	47.68	0.177
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>45.23</b>	<b>66.60</b>	<b>45.98</b>	<b>-0.024</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>47.64</b>	<b>67.37</b>	<b>47.34</b>	<b>-0.025</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>45.51</b>	<b>65.39</b>	<b>46.43</b>	<b>-0.026</b>

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

- % of pupils achieving grades 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs:** these measures represent the proportion of students who receive a grade 4 or above or grade 5 or above in both their English and Maths GCSEs. This measure can be used to assess overall performance, as an overview of a student's abilities to meet key academic thresholds in these fundamental subjects.
- Average Attainment 8 score of all pupils:** this is a measure used to assess the performance of students across eight qualifications at the end of Key Stage 4. This score is an average taken from a student's best results in eight key subjects and is used to evaluate overall academic achievement. A higher score reflects better academic performance.
- Average Progress 8 score of all pupils:** this is a performance metric used to assess the academic progress of students between the end of Primary School (age 11) and the end of Secondary School (age 16). It is calculated based on the results of eight subjects taken by students at the end of Key Stage 4. A zero score indicates students made the expected level of progress, minus indicates less progress than expected and a positive score indicates more progress than expected.

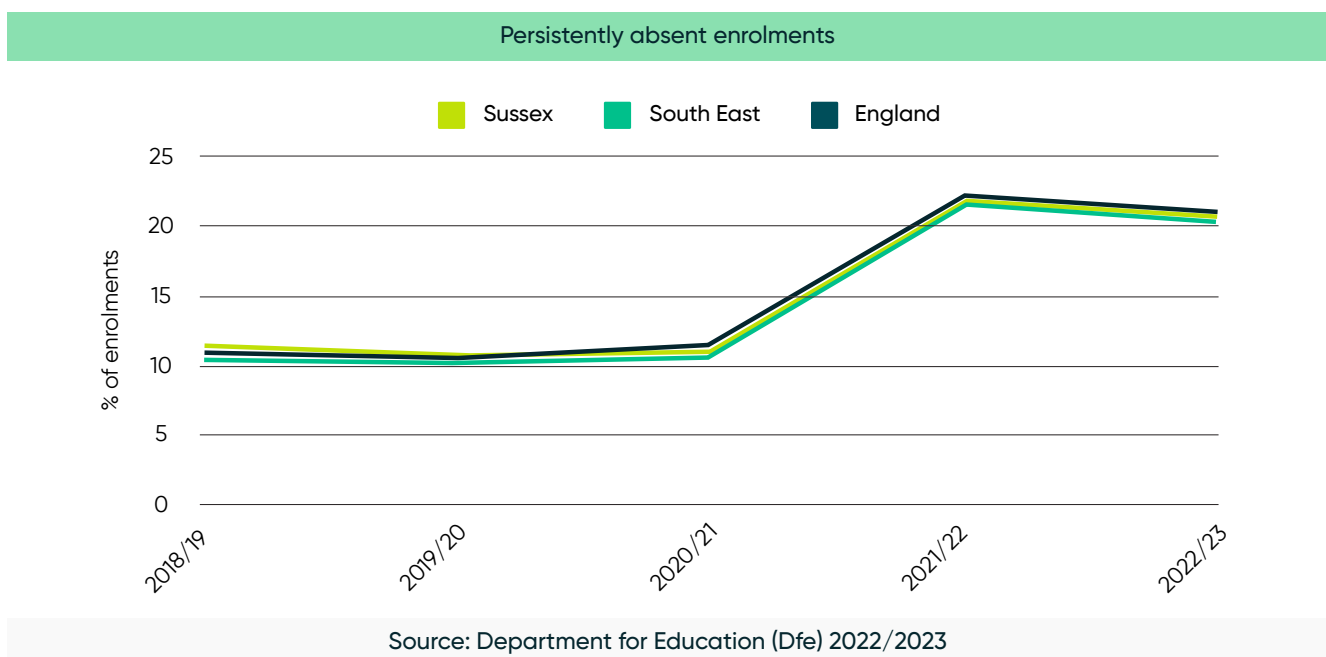
Sussex has a lower proportion of Key Stage 4 pupils achieving 5 or above in English and Maths than the South East and England, as well as lower average attainment 8 scores with 45.98 compared to 47.34 across the region and 46.43 across England. Within Sussex, Hastings has the worst outcomes for KS4 attainment, with the lowest proportions on all four measures of educational attainment. Crawley, Arun, Eastbourne and Rother also perform below the county, regional and national average on all four measures.

## Pupil absences

Analysing pupil absences provides insight into educational engagement within an area. Low levels of engagement can be the result of various factors, such as socioeconomic disadvantage, family dynamics, mental health issues, learning disabilities, or the school environment.

Evidence also suggests that there is a direct link between absence and attainment, with pupils with higher attainment generally recording lower levels of overall absences at both KS2 and KS4<sup>4</sup>.

The chart below shows the rate of persistent absence from 2018/19 to 2022/23 for state-funded Primary and Secondary Schools in Sussex, the South East and England. Persistent absence is defined as when a student misses at least 10% of the available school sessions within a specified academic year.



**Evidence suggests that there is a direct link between absence and attainment.**

4. The link between absence and attainment can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/the-link-between-absence-and-attainment-at-ks2-and-ks4>

There is a sharp increase in persistent absence since the Covid pandemic nationally, with a slight decline between 2021/22 to 2022/23. Sussex and the wider South East also follow this trend with similar rates of persistent absences in 2022/23 (20.8% in Sussex compared to 20.3% in the South East and 20.9% across England). This is likely to be linked to the physical and mental health impacts of the pandemic, including incidence of Long Covid.

This table offers a breakdown of persistent absence trends. The breakdown shows separate rates of persistent absence in state-funded Primary & Secondary Schools by gender.

The table shows that persistent absences are a bigger problem for Secondary Schools, with girls more likely than boys to be persistent absentees across all areas. This is particularly true in Brighton & Hove which has the highest rate of persistent absentees amongst girls of all the comparator areas (31.98% compared to 27.80% across England), as well as the biggest gap between genders. At Primary School the opposite is true, and boys are more likely to be persistent absentees across all areas, with the highest rates in East Sussex (17.15% compared to 16.68% across England).

Rate of persistently absent enrolments				
	Primary		Secondary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Brighton & Hove	15.34	14.74	26.35	31.98
East Sussex	17.15	15.73	28.54	31.52
West Sussex	14.87	14.37	24.30	27.01
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>16.50</b>	<b>15.56</b>	<b>25.21</b>	<b>27.82</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>15.66</b>	<b>14.80</b>	<b>24.82</b>	<b>28.19</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>16.68</b>	<b>15.72</b>	<b>25.28</b>	<b>27.80</b>

Source: Department for Education – 2022/2023



## The Juno Project

### CASE STUDY

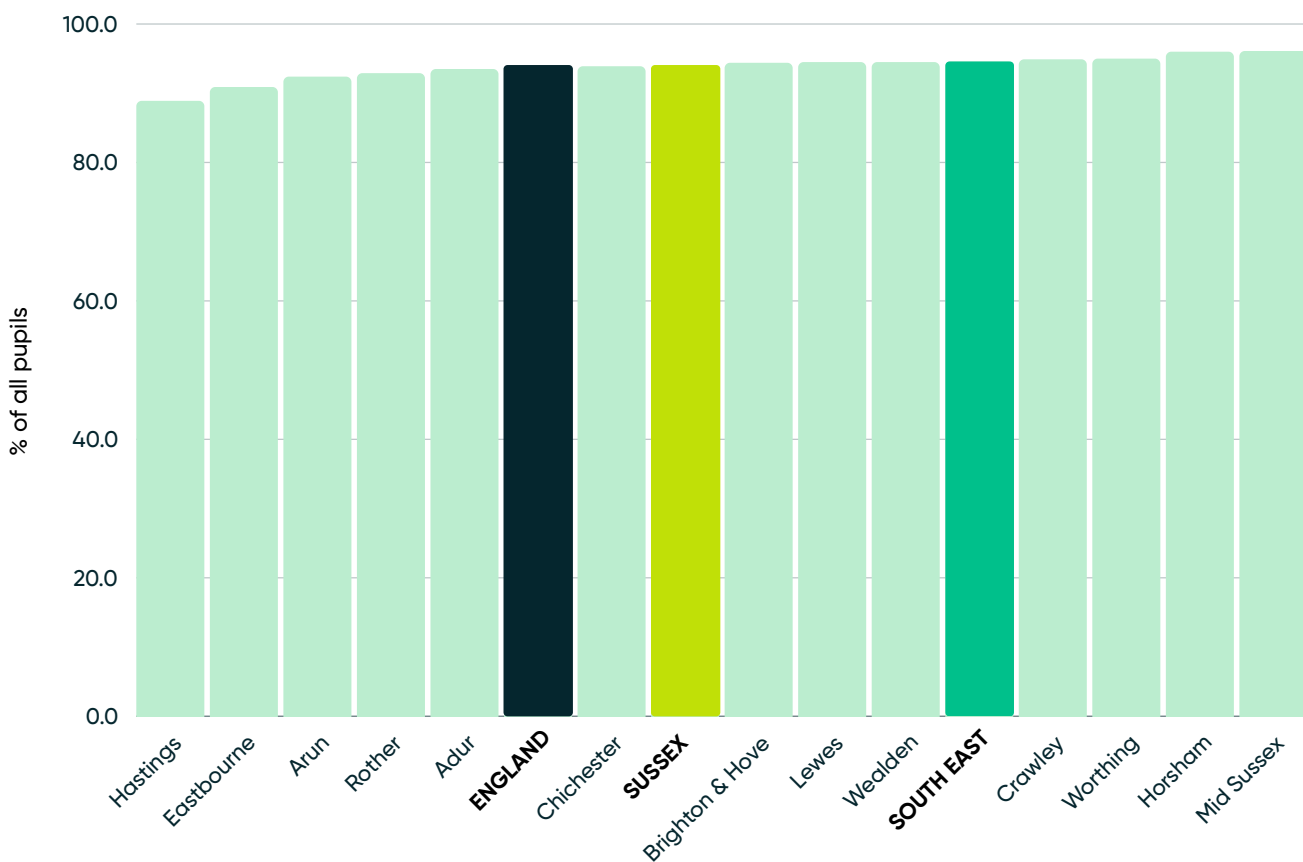
The Juno Project supports vulnerable and marginalised young women across Sussex who struggle with mental health challenges. 60% of the young women referred are at risk of exclusion or becoming NEET (Not in education, employment or training).

"A suffered with social anxiety of such severity that it impacted on her ability to engage with her peers, teachers and her classroom learning. This anxiety started after A had been a victim of abuse. During the initial sessions, A was visibly nervous and shaky; she did not make eye contact with the facilitator or her peers and did not speak. After several weeks attending the programme, A became a regular contributor and her body language became more positive. Her teachers have reported that A now engages more fully in her learning through classroom discussion and asking questions."

## Key Stage 4 destinations

The table below shows the percentage of pupils continuing to a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination in England in the year after completing Key Stage 4 study (after year 11) from state-funded mainstream schools. It covers students who left Key Stage 4 study in 2020/21 and their destinations in 2021/22. Sustained is defined as continuing in education for at least two terms (six months) past KS4.

% of pupils completing KS4 in sustained education, employment & apprenticeships



Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2021/2022

The proportion of KS4 pupils going into sustained education, employment or apprenticeships is broadly similar across the majority of districts in Sussex, the South East and England alike.

However, Hastings (88.9%) and Eastbourne (90.9%) have notably lower rates of pupils in sustained education, employment or an apprenticeship. This is likely to be linked to the lower educational outcomes observed at KS4 in these areas.

## Further Education (FE) and apprenticeships

This section shows the rates of participation and achievements in further education and skills (FES) for different age groups for the academic year 2023/2024 (August 2023 to January 2024) based on data returned by providers in February 2024.

This data does not include higher education eg degrees taken in higher education institutions (HEI) but will include Further Education (FE) learning performed at a HEI, degrees performed at a FE institution and degrees undertaken as part of an apprenticeship programme.

Participation is defined as people who have attended one day or more on a learning aim in the given academic year. Achievement is defined as the number of learners who successfully complete the programme. Categories include;

- **Apprenticeships** – includes paid jobs that incorporate on-the-job and off-the-job training leading to nationally recognised qualifications.
- **Community learning** – Community learning funds a wide range of non-formal courses, from personal development through to older people's learning, IT courses, employability skills, family learning and activities to promote civic engagement and community development. Courses may be offered by local authorities, colleges, and voluntary and community groups, and include activity targeted at deprived areas and disadvantaged groups.
- **Education and training** – includes mainly classroom-based adult further education that is not classed as an apprenticeship, community learning or workplace learning. It can also include distance learning or e-learning. It includes traineeships and offender learning.
- **Further education and skills** – a broader category which includes those studying a course in a FE college, training provider or within their local community, and employees undertaking an apprenticeship or other qualification in the workplace<sup>5</sup>.

The tables below show participation levels and achievements at FES at different ages across Sussex and comparator areas.

Participation and achievements in FES (Under 19)		
	Apprenticeships (under 19)	
	Participation %	Achievements %
Brighton & Hove	2.43	0.22
East Sussex	4.08	0.62
West Sussex	3.76	0.69
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b>0.59</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>4.57</b>	<b>0.65</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>0.82</b>

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2023/2024

5. See here for more details on the breakdowns included in this dataset <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/methodology/further-education-and-skills-statistics-methodology#content-section-1-content-4>



Amongst those under 19 years old, Brighton & Hove has the lowest rates of participation and achievements in apprenticeships. This may be a reflection of the preferred education routes among young people in the city and could indicate that young people in the county are more likely to continue studying and moving on to Higher Education instead of taking up apprenticeships.

Sussex as a whole also has lower rates of apprenticeship, participation and achievements than the regional and national average, with 3.64% of those under 19 participating in an apprenticeship compared to 4.57% in the South East and 5.56% across England.

As shown in the table below, Sussex has a lower rate of participation than the national average for all indicators – showing a lower proportion of 19–24 years in apprenticeships, community learning, education and training and FES.

Brighton & Hove has the lowest rates of participation compared to all other areas, other than in the community learning category where rates are slightly lower across West Sussex. East Sussex and West Sussex are generally more in line with regional and national rates, with East Sussex showing the highest rates of participation in education and training and FES.

Participation and achievements in FES (Aged 19 to 24)								
	19–24							
	Apprenticeships		Community learning		Education and training		FES	
	Participation %	Achievements %	Participation %	Achievements %	Participation %	Achievements %	Participation %	Achievements %
Brighton & Hove	1.56	0.20	0.09	0.06	1.88	0.35	3.53	0.67
East Sussex	5.71	0.64	0.21	0.04	4.03	0.46	9.92	1.61
West Sussex	5.80	0.62	0.06	0.02	3.10	0.47	8.88	1.57
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>7.46</b>	<b>1.30</b>
South East	5.88	0.61	0.21	0.13	2.76	0.45	8.73	1.58
England	5.36	0.57	0.29	0.16	3.46	0.76	8.93	1.95

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2023/2024

## Sussex has lower rates of apprenticeship participation and achievements than the regional and national average for those under 19.

For those aged 25+, Sussex also falls below the national rates across all of the categories, with values more in line with the regional average. Brighton & Hove again has low levels of participation in apprenticeships, whilst West Sussex has the lowest rates of participation across community learning, education and training and FES categories.

East Sussex surpasses both the national and regional rates for participation in community learning, with 0.73% compared to 0.62% across the South East and 0.61% for England. Contrastingly, West Sussex has the lowest rates of all comparator areas with 0.26%.

As shown in this section, Sussex has worse outcomes than comparator areas in children continuing on to higher educational participation and training. This follows on from the lower overall attainment rates at KS2 and KS4 that were highlighted in the previous section.



### Villiers Park Educational Trust

#### CASE STUDY

Villiers Park Educational Trust is committed to improving the social mobility of less advantaged young people across the UK, through local hubs including Hastings. They deliver programmes that develop personal and employability skills and raise academic outcomes for young people aged 11-19 from under-represented backgrounds.

"Cambridge University wouldn't be on my radar without Villiers Park. Their Future Leaders Programme has boosted my confidence massively and challenged me in helpful ways – by not making things easy, testing my limits. The practice interviews particularly made me realise I must prepare more; but rather than being scary, it's productive. It's reduced anxiety because I know what to expect."



## Spatial inequalities in adult skills

This section explores the highest level of qualification achieved by residents across Local Authorities and neighbourhoods in Sussex. Together these indicators highlight educational disparities and support the identification of communities that may be falling behind in terms of the skills profile of the adult population.

### a) Highest level of qualification

The table below classifies adult residents (aged 16+) in Sussex and comparator areas by their highest level of qualification. This data is derived from the question asking people to indicate all qualifications held, or their nearest equivalent, in the latest Census. This may include foreign qualifications where they were matched to the closest UK equivalent.

Qualification level as a % of all people aged 16+							
	None	Level 1	Level 2	Apprenticeship	Level 3	Degree +	Other
Brighton & Hove	12.41	7.03	10.65	3.42	19.70	44.52	2.27
East Sussex	17.33	10.75	14.93	5.62	17.14	31.35	2.89
West Sussex	15.76	10.54	15.16	5.40	17.54	32.73	2.86
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>15.71</b>	<b>10.03</b>	<b>14.34</b>	<b>5.14</b>	<b>17.77</b>	<b>34.25</b>	<b>2.77</b>
South East	15.38	9.78	13.86	5.12	17.39	35.77	2.70
England	18.08	9.69	13.32	5.32	16.92	33.92	2.76

Source: Census 2021

As shown, Sussex has a lower proportion of residents aged 16+ with no qualifications (15.71%) compared to the national average (18.08%) and a higher proportion of residents with degree qualifications or above (34.25% compared to 33.92% across England).

East Sussex shows poorer adult skill outcomes compared to West Sussex, with 17.33% of the adult population here having no qualifications (vs. 15.76% in West Sussex). East Sussex also has the highest proportion of people with Level 1 qualifications and apprenticeships. Some of this may be attributable to the older age profile in the county.

**There has been an overall improvement in skills levels across Sussex, with Adur showing the largest improvement in the proportion of adults with qualifications.**

## b) Qualifications by local authority over time

The table below shows the proportion of people with no qualifications or high skilled qualifications in Sussex Local Authorities and comparator areas, including a comparison of the 2011 and 2021 Censuses.

Qualification level as a % of all people aged 16+				
Local Authority	No qualifications		Degree or above	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Adur	25.58	19.51	21.99	27.92
Arun	24.86	19.73	22.77	26.40
Brighton & Hove	16.06	12.41	36.86	44.52
Chichester	19.51	14.84	32.39	37.24
Crawley	20.10	17.83	21.54	27.54
Eastbourne	23.24	18.41	24.42	29.81
Hastings	25.38	20.13	21.23	28.59
Horsham	16.31	12.49	32.61	36.97
Lewes	21.45	16.07	29.42	34.82
Mid Sussex	14.84	11.72	33.63	38.67
Rother	24.7	18.88	25.46	29.87
Wealden	19.88	14.94	28.88	32.58
Worthing	21.31	16.22	25.96	31.74
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>22.58</b>	<b>17.33</b>	<b>26.24</b>	<b>31.35</b>
<b>West Sussex</b>	<b>19.99</b>	<b>15.76</b>	<b>27.79</b>	<b>32.73</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>19.08</b>	<b>15.38</b>	<b>29.94</b>	<b>35.77</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>22.46</b>	<b>18.08</b>	<b>27.38</b>	<b>33.92</b>

Source: Census 2021

There has been an overall improvement in skills levels across Sussex, the region and England alike. Adur has seen the largest reduction in the proportion of adults with no qualifications – falling by 6.1 percentage points between 2011 and 2021. There have also been large reductions (by more than 5 percentage points) in Rother, Lewes, Hastings, Arun and Worthing – notably above the average fall in adults with no qualifications across England as a whole (4.3 percentage points).

Although there have also been decreases in the proportion of people with no qualifications across all Sussex Local Authorities between 2011 and 2021, the geographic differences are mirrored between Censuses. Hastings still has the highest proportion of adults with no qualifications in 2021 (20.13%), while Adur, Arun, Rother and Eastbourne continue to show higher levels of adults with no qualifications than the national average.

The picture is slightly different at degree level, where Brighton & Hove and Hastings show the greatest increase in qualification outcomes of all Sussex Local Authorities between 2011 and 2021 (7.7 and 7.4 percentage points, respectively)

– notably above the national average (6.5 percentage points). By contrast, each of the other Local Authorities saw a smaller increase than the national average. This is likely to have been impacted by the influx of relatively highly qualified adults from London and other cities – both Brighton & Hove and Hastings rank among the Local Authorities with the largest in-migration of residents from London<sup>6</sup>. As seen in the job opportunities section below, Brighton & Hove has a notably higher proportion of working age adults in high skilled jobs than other areas in Sussex, whilst Hastings has a lower proportion of people working in low skilled jobs than the England average.



## Love Local Jobs Foundation (LLJF)

### CASE STUDY

**LLJF works alongside local businesses, schools and community organisations to engage disadvantaged and disengaged young people across Sussex, raise their life and career aspirations, and inspire them to become the best possible version of themselves.**

Their programme 'Dare to Dream' helps young people to reach their potential with inspirational talks, business mentoring and workplace experience.

"I have been heavily inspired by this programme. It has shown me that I do have confidence and I just needed a push to see I can use it to do more things outside my comfort zone. By pushing myself, I have started working towards goals that I never thought I would be able to achieve."



6. Between 2020 and 2021 – just under 6,400 people moved into Brighton & Hove from London, while 1,200 people migrated into Hastings from London – Source: Census 2021 [https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census\\_2021\\_od](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021_od)

**SCHOOL ATTAINMENT & PARTICIPATION**

## Key facts and figures

### Attainment at KS2 and KS4

- Sussex as a whole has nearly a 3% lower rate of Key Stage 2 attainment (57.1%) than both the South East average (59.7%) and the average across England (59.9%) – Hastings, Adur, Chichester, Arun and Eastbourne all have lower performance levels than the Sussex average.
- Sussex has a lower proportion of Key Stage 4 pupils achieving grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs than the South East and England, as well as lower average attainment 8 scores. Hastings has the worst outcomes for KS4 attainment across Sussex.

### Pupil absences

- There has been a sharp increase in persistent absence since the Covid pandemic – with similar rates of persistent absences in 2022/23 in Sussex (20.8%) compared to the South East (20.3%) and England (20.9%).
- Although persistent absence has started to decrease, it remains high in the post-pandemic period – East Sussex is the only area that has not reduced persistent absence rates since 2021/22 – instead showing a further marginal increase.
- At Secondary School, Brighton & Hove has the highest rate of persistent absences amongst girls of all the comparator areas (31.98% compared to 27.80% across England), as well as the biggest gap between genders.
- At Primary School the opposite is true; boys are more likely to be persistent absentees across all areas, with the highest rates in East Sussex (17.15% compared to 16.68% across England).

### KS4 destinations

- KS4 pupils going into sustained education, employment or apprenticeships is broadly similar across the majority of districts in Sussex, the South East and England alike – with notably lower rates in Hastings and Eastbourne.

### Further education and training

- Sussex as a whole has lower rates of apprenticeship participation and achievements than the regional and national average, with 3.64% of those under 19 participating in an apprenticeship compared to 4.57% in the South East and 5.56% across England – Brighton & Hove has by far the lowest rates across Sussex.

- Sussex also has lower participation rates in apprenticeships, community learning, education and training and FES amongst 19–24-year-olds, particularly in Brighton & Hove.
- For those aged 25+, Sussex also falls below the national rates across all categories of further education, with values more in line with the regional average. Brighton & Hove has low levels of participation in apprenticeships, whilst West Sussex has the lowest rates of participation across community learning, education and training and FES categories.

#### **Adult skills**

- Sussex has a lower proportion of residents aged 16+ with no qualifications (15.71%) compared to the national average (18.08%) and a higher proportion of residents with degree qualifications or above (34.25% compared to 33.92% in England).
- East Sussex shows poorer adult skill outcomes, with 17.33% of the adult population here having no qualifications. Conversely, more than one-in-four adults in Brighton & Hove are educated to degree level (44.52%).
- Skill levels are improving across all areas of Sussex, most notably in Hastings which has seen one of the largest falls in the proportion of adults with no qualifications and one of the largest increases in the proportion of adults with high level qualifications across Sussex.



# 4 Educational *inequalities* & *disadvantaged* groups.

This section explores the proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) across Sussex and comparator areas, as well as the academic performance of these pupils and other educationally disadvantaged communities.



## Special educational needs (SEN)

This section provides an overview of the prevalence and impact of learning disabilities and neurodiversity, as well as of other disadvantaged communities. This table shows the proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Sussex schools and comparator areas, including those with SEN support or an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan.

- SEN support – additional to, or different from, the support generally made for other children of the same age in a school. It is provided for pupils who are identified as having a learning difficulty or a disability that requires extra or different help to that normally provided as part of the school's usual curriculum offer.
- EHC plan – may be issued to a pupil who needs more support than is available through SEN support. This will follow a statutory assessment process whereby the local authority considers the pupil's special educational needs and any relevant health and social care needs; sets out long term outcomes; and specifies provision which will deliver additional support to meet those needs.
- SEN needs – a combination of pupils with SEN support or an EHC plan<sup>7</sup>.

Pupils with SEN needs		
Area name	% pupils with SEN needs (SEN Support + EHC plans)	% pupils with EHC plans
Brighton & Hove	20.39	4.70
East Sussex	17.43	3.92
West Sussex	18.71	4.09
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>18.56</b>	<b>4.12</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>17.16</b>	<b>4.58</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>17.14</b>	<b>4.25</b>

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023



### CASE STUDY

mASCot is a parent-led organisation that supports more than 1,300 families who have autistic children and young people in Brighton & Hove and surrounding areas. Thanks to the group's support, their members can enjoy a social life with their peers and a wide range of opportunities and activities which might otherwise be unavailable.

"mASCot's Youth Club has been life changing for H. He fell into a very deep depression before discovering he was autistic. He barely left the house for a couple of years. It took huge effort to find the courage to come along for the first session, but the volunteers at mASCot were so kind and welcoming that he persevered. Reconnecting with other teens helped him rediscover himself. He's since managed to start college and make plans for the future."

7. This data includes state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools and state-funded alternative provision schools for those in Early Years up until Year 14.

Sussex has a higher proportion of pupils with SEN needs than the average across the region and England with 18.56% of pupils receiving SEN support or an EHC plan compared to 17.16% in the South East and 17.14% nationally.

However, Sussex has a slightly lower proportion of pupils who are on an EHC plan than regional and national averages, with 4.12% of pupils receiving this greater level of support compared to 4.58% in the South East and 4.25% in England.

Within Sussex, Brighton & Hove has the highest levels of need around SEN support, with 20.39% of pupils receiving extra help for support with learning disabilities or neurodiversity.

Pupils in Sussex who have SEN are less likely to get an EHC plan than elsewhere, with 22.23% of SEN pupils in Sussex receiving a plan compared to 26.69% in the South East and 24.79% in England. This may mean that pupils in Sussex are less likely to get the support and provision they require.

The table below shows SEN need by type as a proportion of all pupils across Sussex, the South East and England. Types of need include those who have either an EHC plan or SEN support.

SEN need by type as a % of all pupils			
Type of need	Sussex	South East	England
Speech, Language and Communications needs	24.42	23.04	23.73
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	19.62	19.52	19.56
Specific Learning Difficulty	16.45	13.19	11.70
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	13.03	15.49	14.22
Moderate Learning Difficulty	11.32	14.07	15.29
Other Difficulty/Disability	4.22	3.65	3.61
Physical Disability	2.79	2.47	2.53
Severe Learning Difficulty	1.90	2.20	2.31
Hearing Impairment	1.38	1.43	1.60
Visual Impairment	0.76	0.77	0.94
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	0.52	0.63	0.75
Multi- Sensory Impairment	0.27	0.32	0.31

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

Across all areas, the most common type of need among SEN pupils is Speech, Language and Communications needs, with Sussex displaying slightly higher rates of need on this measure (24.42%) than across the South East (23.04%) and England (23.73%). Sussex also has a higher proportion of pupils with the following types of SEN need than both regional and national averages: Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Specific Learning Difficulty, Other Difficulty/Disability and Physical Disability.

Regional differences in SEN need could be linked to the general health needs of the local population or other socioeconomic factors associated with SEN<sup>8</sup>. However, there is also some evidence to suggest that levels of SEN need are connected to the types of schools within a certain area – with school practices (rather than aspects of the child or the Local Authority) determining levels of need. In some cases, parents are willing to move to certain areas in order to obtain necessary provision<sup>9</sup>.

## Attainment and SEN

Sussex has a lower proportion of SEN pupils meeting the expected standard or higher at KS2 for both boys and girls relative to the South East and England. Boys with SEN have poorer educational outcomes, with 17.2% of boys in Sussex meeting the expected standard compared to 19.0% of girls.

## Attainment and outcomes for educationally disadvantaged communities

This section explores attainment and outcomes for educationally disadvantaged communities (including Children in need, looked after children and pupils receiving Free school meals).



### Horsham Youth

#### CASE STUDY

**Horsham Youth provides youth clubs, one-to-one and group work, education and advice in the Horsham District. Their Café offers drop-ins, meeting places, SEN youth clubs, LGBTQ support and mental health provision.**

“A 16-year-old boy was autistic and suffered from mental health issues. He had complex family relationships and school was not an easy place for him to be. He was often dropped off by his parents who didn’t want to have him at home. Engaging with the centre offered him a space where he felt confident and his needs were understood. His difficulties making friends were addressed and he learnt to approach situations differently. Those relationships continued back into school where he became happier and more settled.”

8. See an analysis and summary of these data sources from DfE here for more information: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1164690/Special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disability\\_an\\_analysis\\_and\\_summary\\_of\\_data\\_sources.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1164690/Special_educational_needs_and_disability_an_analysis_and_summary_of_data_sources.pdf)

9. Identifying pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Education Policy Institute. [https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SEND-Identification\\_2021-EPI.pdf](https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SEND-Identification_2021-EPI.pdf)

## Disadvantaged communities

### Pupil characteristics

This table shows data on pupil characteristics for state-funded Primary and Secondary Schools in Sussex Local Authorities and comparator regions. It includes the proportion of pupils who are known to be eligible for Free school meals (FSM), pupils whose first language is not English and the proportion of pupils who are young carers. These are all groups who may face greater barriers to success in the education system, requiring targeted support and interventions to achieve learning opportunities. The cells highlighted show the Local Authorities with the highest proportion of pupils in each category.

Sussex as a whole has lower levels of pupil disadvantage based on the measures in the table above, in comparison with regional and national rates. However, Hastings and Eastbourne have high rates of pupils eligible for free school meals (35.9% and 27.3%, respectively) and Crawley has an especially high proportion of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English (30.7%) relative to other areas in Sussex.

Pupil characteristics			
Local Authority	% pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	% of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	% of pupils who are a young carer <sup>10</sup>
Adur	15.74	6.09	1.26
Arun	17.92	11.99	0.96
Brighton & Hove	23.37	15.47	1.23
Chichester	15.82	6.95	0.67
Crawley	22.05	30.72	1.17
Eastbourne	27.34	12.84	1.08
Hastings	35.86	10.08	1.29
Horsham	10.00	7.19	1.11
Lewes	20.26	5.48	0.83
Mid Sussex	10.24	8.14	0.81
Rother	22.90	4.97	0.52
Wealden	16.35	3.55	0.95
Worthing	15.99	9.54	0.83
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>19.04</b>	<b>11.23</b>	<b>1.01</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>19.10</b>	<b>15.81</b>	<b>1.68</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>24.38</b>	<b>20.56</b>	<b>1.40</b>

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

### a) Young carers

East Sussex has a higher proportion of young carers than the South East and England, with 0.95% of children aged under 16 providing informal unpaid care compared to 0.80% across West Sussex, 0.84% across the South East and 0.75% for England (figures are based on self-reported responses to the 2021 Census). An unpaid carer may look after, give help or support to anyone who has long-term physical or mental ill-health conditions, illness or problems related to old age.

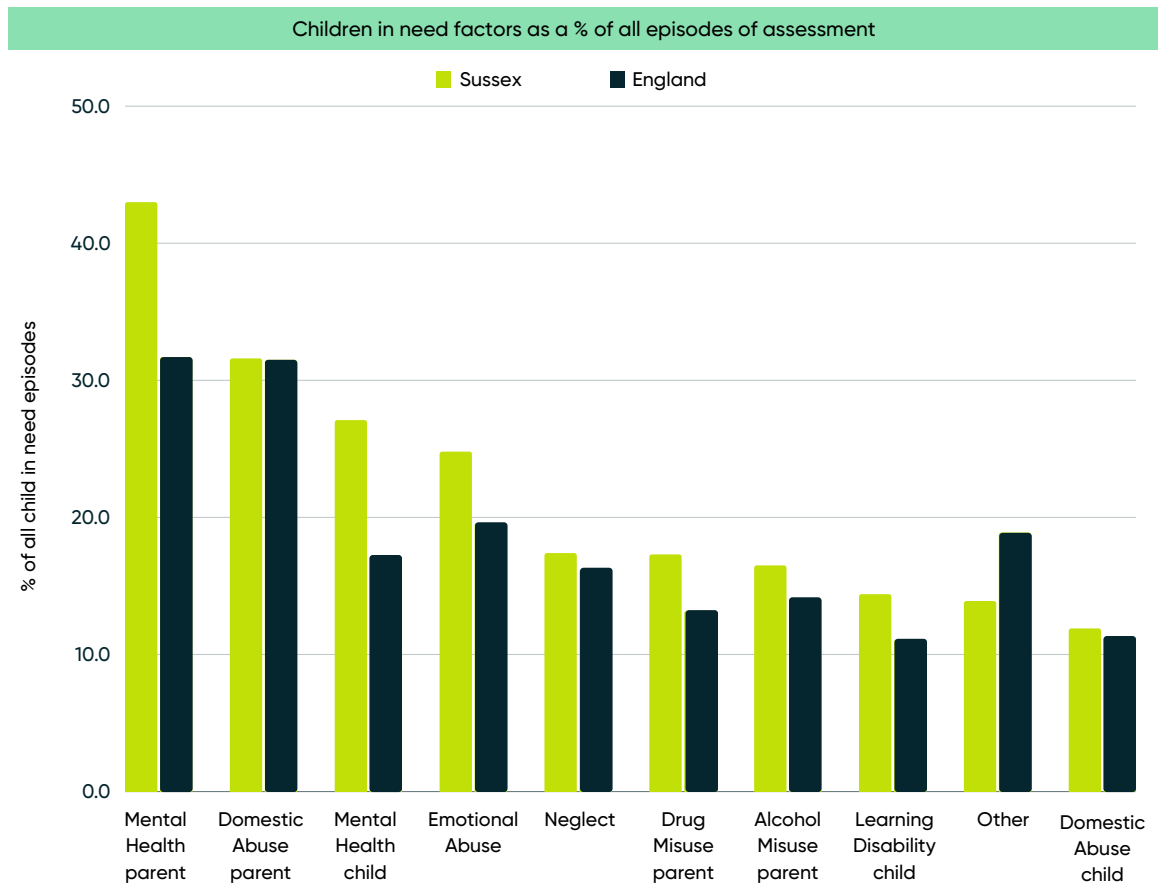
10. Data on young carers has been collected in the school census for the first time in 2022/23. The young carer indicator identifies, for those children on roll on spring census day, whether they have been identified as a young carer either by the school (including where the pupil self declares) or by parent or guardian (Source: DfE)

## b) Children in need

Children in need are a legally defined group of children (under the Children Act 1989), assessed as needing help and protection as a result of risks to their development or health. This group includes Children on child in need plans, Children on child protection plans, Children looked after by local authorities, care leavers and disabled children. These children are likely to face disadvantages due to various outside factors which can hinder their educational and personal development.

Sussex has a slightly higher proportion of Children in need than across England, with a rate of 349.2 children per 10,000 under 18, compared to 342.7 nationally. East Sussex also scores just above the national rate (351.0). Brighton & Hove has the highest rates of children in need across Sussex, with a rate of 462.7 per 10,000 children.

The chart below includes the top ten reasons behind Children in need assessments in Sussex, compared to the average for England.



Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

Parental mental health is the dominant factor behind Children in need in Sussex, measuring considerably above the national rate (43.0%), compared to 31.7% of those across England. Sussex also has a notably higher proportion of child in need episodes due to child mental health, emotional abuse, parent drug misuse, parent alcohol misuse and child learning disability than the England average for these factors.

## Children in care

The chart below shows the proportion of Children looked after at 31 March 2023 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years. Children in care face disadvantages due to likely emotional trauma, instability, lack of support and social stigma, all of which lead to specific educational needs.

Sussex has a lower proportion of looked after children than the national average, with 0.58 per 10,000 children aged under 18 compared to 0.71 for England as a whole. However, Brighton & Hove has a higher proportion of children in care (0.74) than the England average, considerably above other parts of the county.

Children looked after at 31 March 2023 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years



Source: Department for Education (DfE) March 31st 2023

## Attainment and outcomes of children in need

The following section provides insight into absences, permanent exclusions and attainment for pupils in state-funded Secondary Schools that are categorised as Children in need at 31st March in 2023. There are three sub-categories shown;

- Children in need (CINO) – excluding Children on a child protection plan and Children looked after.
- Children on a child protection plan (CPPO) – excluding Children looked after.
- Children looked after (CLA) – excludes children who are in respite care in their most recent

**Sussex has a lower proportion of Children looked after than the national average, with 0.58 per 10,000 children aged under 18.**

## Persistent absence

Sussex has higher levels of persistent absence across all Children in need groups than the England average, with particularly high rates amongst Children on a child protection plan (60.40% compared to 58.22% in the South East and 56.53% nationally). This is largely driven by a high proportion of persistent absences amongst those on CPPO plans in Brighton & Hove (68.79%) – above the East and West Sussex county averages. Brighton & Hove also has the highest rate of persistent absences amongst Children in need (53.11%), whilst East Sussex shows the highest rate among CLA pupils (21.08%).

## Permanent exclusions and suspensions

- Permanent Exclusion refers to a pupil who's excluded and who will not come back to that school (unless the exclusion is overturned).
- One Plus Suspension refers to pupils with one or more suspensions across the reporting period.

Sussex as a whole has lower rates of permanent exclusion and one plus suspension for CINO pupils than both the South East and England. However, in Sussex, CLA pupils have higher rates of suspension (13.27% compared to 12.21% in England) and CPPO pupils have higher rates of permanent exclusion and suspension (15.41% with at least one suspension compared to 13.85% in England).

West Sussex has the highest rates of permanent exclusion for both CINO (0.54%) and CPPO (2.62%) pupils in Sussex. East Sussex has the highest rates of suspension for CINO (12.86%) and CPPO pupils (17.31%). Brighton & Hove has the highest rate of suspension for CLA pupils (16.13%).



### CASE STUDY

**VYD offers football programmes to improve the wellbeing of people of all ages living in the most deprived areas of Brighton & Hove. They recently delivered a course called 'Football Leaders' targeted at young people who were at risk of exclusion.**

"When the course started one of the participants was very shy to speak, let alone speak in front of other people and groups. We observed the young person go from not willingly volunteering to take any lead role at the beginning, to, very confidently, explaining to groups the activities he had set up and encouraging those he was leading, as the course progressed.

He had become fully competent and was presenting excellent leadership abilities. At the end of the course he stated on his evaluation: 'I can see how I've changed and feel much more confident to speak in front of others'. It was clearly visible to see his attitude change with positive body language, good humour and patience with those he was leading."

## Key Stage 4 attainment

CINO pupils in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove have lower attainment 8 scores than across the South East and England. However, CPPO pupils perform better than the regional and national average in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove alike.

While pupils in West Sussex generally show higher levels of attainment than the Sussex average, CLA and CPPO pupils in the county perform less well than pupils with similar needs across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

## c) Free school meals (FSM)

### Attainment and outcomes

This section provides insight into absences, permanent exclusions and attainment for pupils in state-funded Primary and Secondary Schools that are eligible for FSM and, where possible, those categorised as disadvantaged more broadly<sup>11</sup>. These are defined as;

- FSM eligible – full-time pupils, who are entitled by virtue of benefits their family claims and/or household income, to free lunchtime meals.
- Disadvantaged – needs to meet at least one of the following criteria: eligible for FSM in the last six years (eligibility on Census day); looked after continuously for one day or more and aged 4-15; adopted from care. This excludes Children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

### Persistent absence

Sussex has higher rates of persistent absence at Primary School and Secondary School among FSM eligible students than both the South East and England averages. This is particularly true at Secondary School level where 51.81% of FSM eligible students had persistent absences (compared to 49.99% in the South East and 44.95% in England) and 50.35% of FSM eligible students in the past six years were persistently absent (compared to 48.65% in the South East and 43.78% nationally). Within Sussex, it is East Sussex with the highest rates at secondary level, and West Sussex with the highest rates at primary level.

### Permanent exclusions and suspensions

Sussex as a whole has higher rates of permanent exclusion at Primary School amongst FSM eligible students than both the South East and England (0.08% compared to 0.03% regionally and 0.05% nationally). Sussex also has higher rates of suspensions at Secondary School amongst FSM eligible students than regional and national averages (13.28% compared to 12.49% in the South East and 12.81% in England).

11. Absence data does not have the 'Disadvantaged' category but instead shows those eligible for FSM in the last 6 years. Also, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) attainment data and exclusion/suspension data does not have a 'Disadvantaged' category or an alternative.



Within Sussex, East Sussex has a notably high rate of Primary School permanent exclusions amongst FSM eligible students (0.11%) and Secondary School suspensions (14.94%). West Sussex has higher rates of permanent exclusion at secondary level (0.54%) and the highest rate of suspensions at primary level (2.16%).

### Key Stage 2 attainment

At KS2, Sussex has worse attainment outcomes than the South East and England for FSM eligible and disadvantaged pupils, with lower rates of both boys and girls meeting the expected standard or higher in reading, writing and maths. Boys have the lowest attainment rates, with only 33.59% of FSM eligible boys in Sussex meeting the expected standard compared to 40.30% for England. Only 34.58% of disadvantaged boys in Sussex meet the expected standard compared to 40.85% nationally.

Within Sussex, West Sussex has the lowest rates of pupils meeting the expected standard across both FSM pupils (31.23% of boys and 36.91% of girls) and disadvantaged pupils (33.74% of boys and 38.03% of girls). East Sussex has the lowest proportion of boys meeting the higher standard (0.92% of FSM eligible and 1.05% of disadvantaged pupils) and Brighton & Hove has the lowest proportion of girls meeting the higher standard (0.69% of FSM eligible and 0.94% of disadvantaged pupils).

### Key Stage 4 attainment

FSM eligible and disadvantaged KS4 students in Sussex have worse attainment outcomes than the regional and national averages for both boys and girls. Again, boys have lower attainment scores than girls, with FSM eligible boys in Sussex showing an average attainment 8 score of 29.45 (compared to 29.90 in the South East and 32.55 nationally) and disadvantaged boys showing a score of 29.13 (compared to 30.13 regionally and 32.77 across England).

Girls in receipt of FSM in Sussex perform notably less well compared to girls elsewhere in the country, with an average attainment 8 score of 33.26 amongst FSM eligible girls (compared to 37.40 for FSM eligible girls in England) and 32.95 amongst disadvantaged girls (compared to 37.62 for disadvantaged girls in England). Within Sussex, it is East Sussex that performs the worst for both boys and girls that are either FSM eligible or disadvantaged.

## d) People experiencing language barriers

This section explores data around individuals experiencing language barriers. It includes rates of students whose first language is not English, attainment outcomes from KS2 to KS4 for those whose first language is not English and Census figures on English proficiency.

People with language barriers often face significant challenges that hinder their potential. These individuals may struggle to navigate learning opportunities or understand educational materials and are therefore vulnerable to falling behind in learning settings.

## English language proficiency

Overall, Sussex has a higher proportion of people who cannot speak English at all (1.32%) than the regional average (0.92%) but a lower proportion than the national average (1.57%) (figures are self-reported and taken from the English language proficiency questions in the 2021 Census).

Within Sussex, Crawley has the highest rates of people who cannot speak English (2.21%), exceeding the national rate. Arun (1.19%), Brighton & Hove (1.01%), and Eastbourne (0.99%) all have higher rates of people who cannot speak English compared to the South East average but remain below the national rate. Rother (0.20%) and Wealden (0.19%) have notably low rates of people who cannot speak English compared to other areas in Sussex.

## English as an additional language (EAL)

“First language” is the language to which a child was initially exposed to during early development and continues to be exposed to in the home or in the community. A pupil whose first language is other than English does not mean that the pupil is necessarily fluent in a language other than English or that they cannot speak English.

The chart on the next page shows the proportion of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English in Sussex Local Authorities, for state-funded Primary and Secondary Schools in the academic year 2022/2023.



## Conversation Over Borders

### CASE STUDY

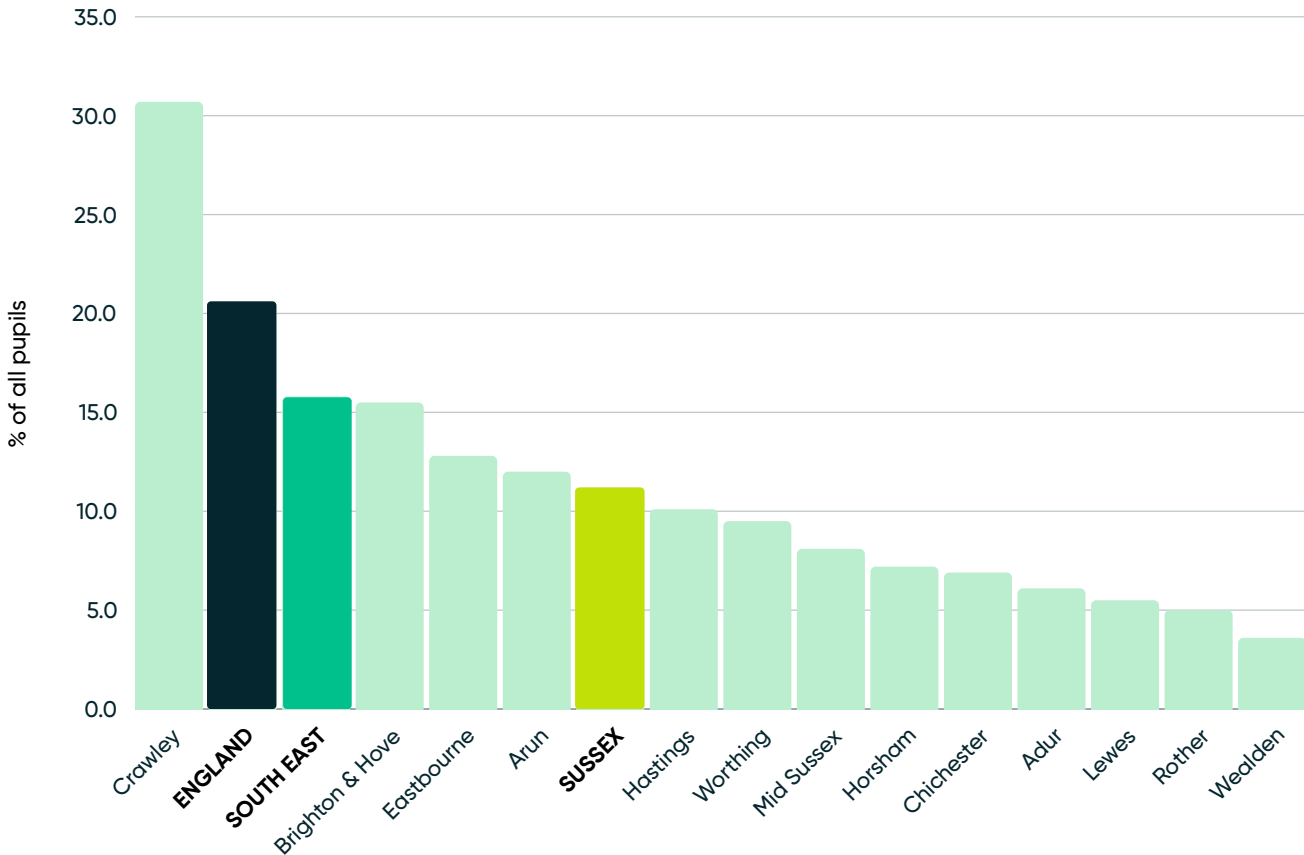
Conversation Over Borders helps bring displaced people together with the communities around them to build connection, friendship and help them learn from one another. Their “English & Befriending” project pairs volunteers and learners to build friendships and practise English.



“K is a nurse in her early 20s who had been in the UK for two years and began taking English classes for a few months with Conversation Over Borders. She wanted to begin classes in preparation for the English Occupational Test, which she had to complete to register with the English Midwifery Council.

Taking part in English classes helped K build her confidence and allowed her to improve her communication skills. By talking with her teacher, she became more comfortable with English accents and pronunciation. After the sessions, K applied for her English exam and passed it. K now Volunteers at Conversation Over Borders whilst working as a Nurse for the NHS.”

## Pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English



Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

Sussex has a significantly lower proportion of pupils whose first language is not English (11.2%) compared to regional (15.8%) and national levels (20.6%), with most Local Authorities recording below 10% of pupils whose first language is not English.

However, Crawley has the highest proportion of pupils whose first language is not English (30.7%), exceeding both regional and national levels. Brighton & Hove follows, with a rate just below the regional and national averages (15.5%).

### Key Stage 2 attainment

Sussex as a whole has lower rates of attainment for KS2 students whose first language is not English, compared to the South East and England. 49.45% of boys met the standard in Sussex compared to 58.43% nationally, whilst 57.47% of girls met the standard compared to 65.68% across England.

Within Sussex, for students whose first language is not English, Brighton & Hove has the lowest rates of boys meeting the expected Key Stage 2 standard (43.46%) and East Sussex has the lowest rates of girls (53.21%).

### Key Stage 4 attainment

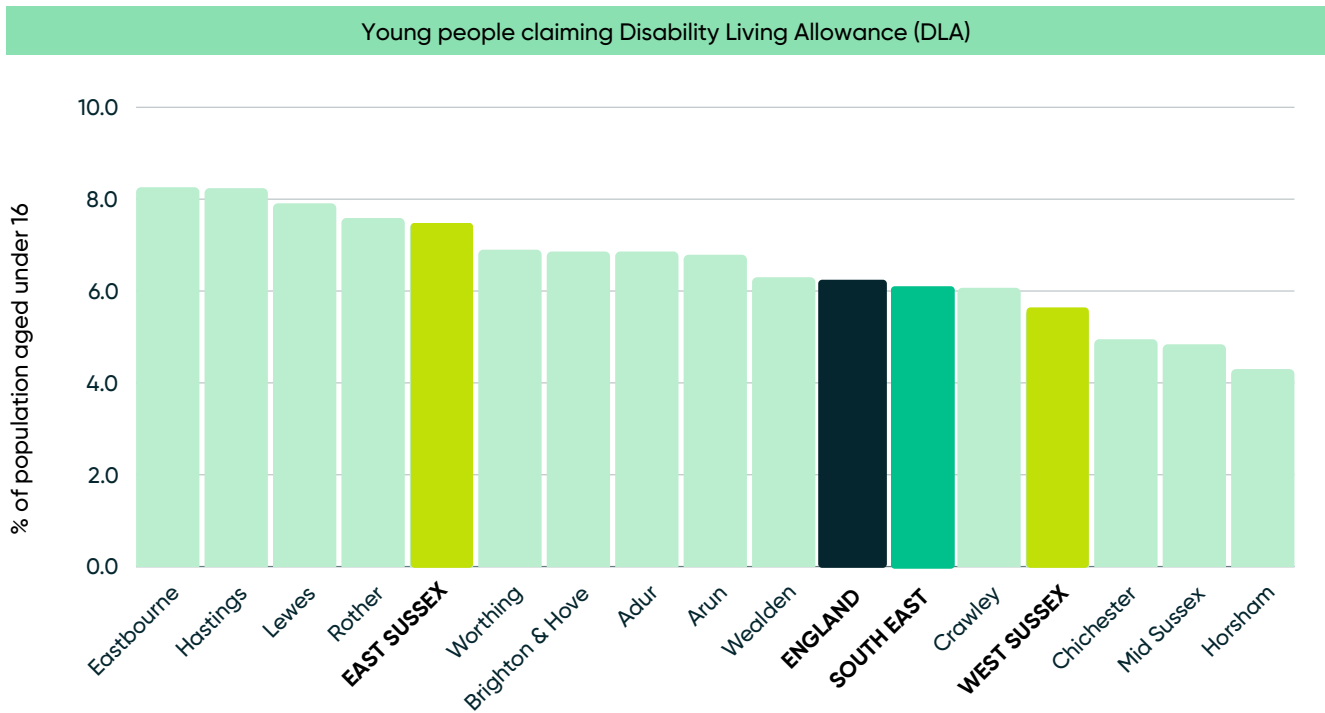
Sussex has worse Key Stage 4 attainment outcomes than the South East and England for pupils whose first language is not English, for both boys and girls. This is particularly true for pupils achieving

a grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs which 44.37% of EAL boys and 47.48% of EAL girls achieved in Sussex, compared to 49.54% and 53.87% respectively across England).

Within Sussex, East Sussex has the lowest KS4 attainment outcomes for EAL pupils for boys, with the lowest proportion achieving a 5 or above in English and Maths (43.88%) and the lowest average attainment 8 scores (44.47%). For girls, Brighton & Hove shows the worst outcomes for EAL pupils, with the lowest proportion achieving a grade 5 or above (46.91%) and amongst the lowest average attainment 8 score (49.83%; similar to that in West Sussex).

## e) Young people and disability

The chart below shows the proportion of young people aged under 16 claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in Local Authorities across Sussex and comparator areas. DLA is payable to children and adults who become disabled before the age of 65, who need help with personal care or have walking difficulties because they are physically or mentally disabled.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) – November 2023

East Sussex has a higher proportion of young people claiming DLA (7.48%) than West Sussex (5.59%), the South East (6.09%) and England (6.12%). Eastbourne and Hastings have the highest proportions of young DLA claimants, with rates above the national average (8.26% and 8.24%, respectively).

## EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITIES & DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

# Key facts and figures

### Educational inequalities & disadvantage groups

- Sussex has a higher proportion of pupils with SEN needs than the average across the region and England, with 18.56% of pupils receiving SEN support or an EHC plan compared to 17.16% in the South East and 17.14% nationally.
- Within Sussex, Brighton & Hove has the highest levels of need around SEN support, with 20.39% of pupils receiving extra help for support with learning disabilities or neurodiversity.
- The most common type of need among SEN pupils is Speech, Language and Communications needs, with Sussex displaying slightly higher rates of need on this measure (24.42%) than across the South East (23.04%) and England (23.73%).
- Sussex also has a higher proportion of pupils with the following types of SEN need than both regional and national averages: Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Specific Learning Difficulty, Other Difficulty/Disability and Physical Disability.
- Sussex has a lower proportion of SEN pupils meeting the expected standard or higher at KS2 for both boys and girls relative to the South East and England.

### Disadvantaged communities

- Sussex has a lower level of pupils eligible for FSM, pupils whose first language is not English and pupils who are young carers in comparison with regional and national rates.
- Hastings and Eastbourne have the highest rates of pupils eligible for FSM in Sussex, and Crawley has an especially high proportion of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English.

### Children in need and children in care

- Sussex has a slightly higher proportion of Children in need than across England, with a rate of 349.2 children per 10,000 under 18, compared to 342.7 nationally - Brighton & Hove has the highest rates of Children in need with a rate of 462.7 per 10,000 children.
- Parental mental health is the dominant issue behind Children in need in Sussex, with 43.0% of all child in need factors being due to the mental health of the parent, compared to 31.7% of those across England.
- Sussex has a lower proportion of looked after children than the national average, with 0.58 per 10,000 children aged under 18 compared to 0.71 for England as a

whole. However, Brighton & Hove has a higher proportion than the England average (0.74), considerably above other parts of the county.

#### **Attainment and outcomes of Children in need**

- Sussex has higher levels of persistent absence across all Children in need groups than the England average – driven by high rates in Brighton & Hove.
- Sussex, as a whole, has lower rates of permanent exclusion and suspensions for CINO students than both the South East and England.
- CINO pupils in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove have lower attainment 8 scores than across the South East and England.

#### **Attainment and outcomes of FSM eligible pupils**

Sussex has higher rates of persistent absence at Primary School and Secondary School among FSM eligible students than the South East and England averages.

- Sussex, as a whole, has higher rates of permanent exclusion at Primary School and higher rates of suspensions at Secondary School amongst FSM eligible students than regional and national averages.
- At KS2 and KS4, Sussex has worse attainment outcomes than the South East and England for FSM eligible and disadvantaged pupils for both boys and girls.

#### **People experiencing language barriers**

- Sussex has a higher proportion of people who cannot speak English at all (1.32%) than the regional average (0.92%) but a lower proportion than the national average (1.57%) – Crawley has the highest rates of people who cannot speak English (2.21%), exceeding the national rate.
- Sussex has a significantly lower proportion of pupils whose first language is not English (11.2%) compared to regional (15.8%) and national levels (20.6%) – Crawley has the highest rates in Sussex (30.7%).
- Sussex has lower rates of attainment in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 for pupils whose first language is not English compared to both national and regional averages:
  - 49.95% of boys met the expected KS2 standard in Sussex, compared to 58.43% nationally, whilst 57.47% of girls met the expected KS2 standard compared to 65.68% across England.
  - 44.37% of boys and 47.48% of girls achieved a 5 or above in English and Maths at KS4 in Sussex, compared to 49.54% and 53.87% respectively in England.

#### **Young people and disability**

- East Sussex has a higher proportion of young people claiming DLA (7.48%) than West Sussex (5.59%), the South East (6.09%) and England (6.12%). The highest rates of young people claiming DLA are in Eastbourne (8.26%) and Hastings (8.24%).



# 5

## *Employment & job opportunities.*

Job opportunities are a necessary requirement for good employment outcomes in an area, ensuring that individuals can effectively utilise their skills and qualifications, whilst enhancing social and psychological well-being. Without sufficient job opportunities, even highly skilled individuals may struggle to find suitable employment.

## Jobs density and access to jobs

Job opportunities are fewer and access to jobs is harder in many communities across Sussex, which reflects the relatively poor transport links and lack of large urban centres in the county. The table below shows the number of jobs available per 100 working age adults in Sussex Local Authorities and comparator areas, as well as the average travel times to the nearest employment centre (in minutes).

East Sussex has lower jobs density and higher travel times to large employment centres than the average across the South East and England, with 60.74 jobs per 100 working age population (compared to 77.86 for England) and 39 minute travel times to an employment centre with 5,000+ jobs (compared to 16 minutes for England).

Hastings has the second lowest jobs density of all Local Authorities in Sussex (57.47 jobs per 100 working age people) and the highest average travel time to a large employment centre (5,000+ jobs) at 55 minutes. This shows that there are a lack of job opportunities locally and residents in Hastings need to travel further to access employment. This is likely to contribute to the poor labour market outcomes observed in the town.

Jobs density and travel times to employment centre			
Local Authority	Jobs density	Travel time to employment centre (500+ jobs)	Travel time to employment centre (5000+ jobs)
Adur	58.56	9	18
Arun	54.84	9	24
Brighton & Hove	76.10	8	12
Chichester	88.83	11	20
Crawley	110.25	9	10
Eastbourne	66.94	9	40
Hastings	57.47	8	55
Horsham	68.45	10	17
Lewes	61.41	10	24
Mid Sussex	66.84	10	26
Rother	60.39	13	48
Wealden	58.46	12	32
Worthing	70.74	8	11
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>60.74</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>West Sussex</b>	<b>74.12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>76.16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>77.86</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2022, Travel time: Department for Transport (DfT) 2019



## Businesses by size

This table provides a breakdown of local business units in Sussex Local Authorities and comparator areas, based on number of employees.

East Sussex has a higher proportion of small businesses and a lower proportion of large businesses than the South East and England averages, with 73.79 businesses employing 0-4 people (71.84 in England) and 6.47 employing 20+ people (7.93 in England). Horsham, Rother and Wealden are the three Local Authorities in Sussex with the highest proportion of small businesses and the lowest proportion of large businesses. Conversely, Crawley has the lowest proportion of small businesses and the highest proportion of large businesses.

Businesses by size (number of employees)				
Local Authority	0-4	5-9	10-19	20+
Adur	73.64	12.15	7.10	6.92
Arun	71.47	13.49	7.71	7.17
Brighton & Hove	74.04	11.71	7.44	6.81
Chichester	73.99	12.09	6.99	6.93
Crawley	63.66	13.60	9.03	13.71
Eastbourne	69.18	13.30	8.44	8.95
Hastings	69.48	13.61	9.17	7.74
Horsham	74.52	12.11	6.93	6.39
Lewes	72.76	13.21	7.22	6.91
Mid Sussex	74.21	12.22	7.03	6.60
Rother	75.52	11.86	6.64	5.98
Wealden	76.95	11.66	6.36	4.97
Worthing	71.37	12.49	7.97	8.18
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>73.78</b>	<b>12.49</b>	<b>7.25</b>	<b>6.47</b>
<b>West Sussex</b>	<b>72.29</b>	<b>12.55</b>	<b>7.43</b>	<b>7.68</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>72.94</b>	<b>12.18</b>	<b>7.28</b>	<b>7.60</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>71.84</b>	<b>12.76</b>	<b>7.48</b>	<b>7.93</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2023

## High and low skills occupations

The table below shows the working age population (aged 16–64) in Sussex Local Authorities and comparator areas, based on their place of employment and occupation classification. The data summarises the following occupation types:

- High skills: these include highly skilled professionals requiring advanced education like doctors and engineers; and associate professional and technical roles needing vocational training beyond high school, such as medical technicians and IT support specialists.
- Low skills: includes jobs that typically require minimal formal education and training. Examples are cleaners, labourers, refuse collectors, and kitchen assistants.

Workplace population aged 16–64 by occupation type (as a % of working age population)		
Local Authority	Low skills	High skills
Adur	6.42	30.12
Arun	7.02	23.79
Brighton & Hove	5.50	39.75
Chichester	8.77	41.04
Crawley	10.20	31.61
Eastbourne	7.60	29.00
Hastings	5.80	28.19
Horsham	5.64	38.60
Lewes	5.67	34.68
Mid Sussex	5.66	41.76
Rother	5.75	28.41
Wealden	5.66	32.04
Worthing	6.00	35.84
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>6.07</b>	<b>30.68</b>
<b>West Sussex</b>	<b>7.08</b>	<b>34.88</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>6.58</b>	<b>36.62</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>7.41</b>	<b>33.04</b>

Source: Census 2021/Office for National Statistics 2023

East Sussex (6.07%) and West Sussex (7.08%) have a lower proportion of the working-age population in low skilled jobs than the average across England (7.41%). Crawley has notably high rates of low-skilled employment with 10.20%. Chichester and Eastbourne also have above average rates of low-skilled employment, with the second and third highest levels across Sussex Local Authorities.

Despite this, East Sussex also has below the national average rates of high-skilled workplace employment with 30.68% of the working-age population in high-skilled jobs compared to 36.62% across the South East and 33.04% in England. Arun has notably low rates of high-skilled employment with 23.79% of its workplace population in high skilled jobs. Rother, Hastings and Eastbourne also have some of the lowest rates of high-skilled employment of all Local Authorities in Sussex.



## On Your Way

### CASE STUDY

**On Your Way is a Job Club and Digital Inclusion project run by and for local people in East Brighton. They provide on-the-spot advice at weekly drop-in sessions, offering a welcoming space and reliable and expert advice.**

"An 18-year-old boy experiencing PTSD came to us. Initially he was clearly traumatised and wouldn't speak to anyone. We still made him feel welcome, gave him time to just settle in and invited him to come back when he was ready. We were really pleased that he did come back - he came to us 10 times over a period of five weeks.

We talked to him about what type of work he would like to do. He had been a carer for his nan and felt that he could do care work. With our support, he prepared a CV and applied to two jobs, receiving an offer for both. We have spoken to him regularly since he started the new job to make sure everything is still going OK, and have really seen the difference in his confidence, communication and outlook on life."

**East Sussex has lower jobs density and higher travel times to large employment centres than the national average.**

## Adult skills and employment outcomes

The table below provides a breakdown of the proportion of economically active adults who have no qualifications and who are unemployed and the proportion of economically active adults who have degree qualifications and who are unemployed.

% of economically active people who are unemployed by highest qualification						
	No qual	Level 1	Level 2	Apprenticeship	Level 3	Degree+
Brighton & Hove	8.64	9.04	10.39	5.80	11.97	4.65
East Sussex	8.00	7.67	7.41	3.88	4.36	3.45
West Sussex	7.45	7.19	6.88	4.07	4.08	3.18
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>7.79</b>	<b>7.56</b>	<b>7.47</b>	<b>4.21</b>	<b>5.43</b>	<b>3.60</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>7.70</b>	<b>7.26</b>	<b>7.22</b>	<b>3.87</b>	<b>4.83</b>	<b>3.24</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>8.67</b>	<b>8.23</b>	<b>8.02</b>	<b>4.61</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>3.86</b>

Source: Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

Across all areas, a higher proportion of economically active people with no or low qualifications are unemployed than people with degree+ qualifications. Brighton & Hove has the highest rates of unemployment across all skill levels, with notably high proportions of people with low to mid-level skills (levels 2 and 3) who are unemployed.



### Team Domenica

#### CASE STUDY

**Team Domenica supports young people with learning disabilities across Sussex to gain the necessary skills and confidence to find paid work, and benefit from the self-worth that comes with employment.**

"C left college fearing that his learning disability was an impassable barrier and he had no chance at a future. After joining Team Domenica, his outlook took a turn for the better. During his work experience in Café Domenica, his Café Training Assistant worked closely with him to develop new skills. For the first time, C's outstanding teamwork, resilience and work ethic were valued; over time, C began to work independently, and he soon moved on to an internship, fitting into the team seamlessly. His hard work has paid off as he was recently offered a full time job."

The table below shows the link between qualifications and unemployment broken down by Local Authorities in Sussex, including a comparison of the overall proportion of economically active people who are unemployed.

Unemployed economically active by highest qualification			
Local Authority	% of economically active people who are unemployed	% of economically active people with no qualifications who are unemployed	% of economically active people with degree+ qualifications who are unemployed
Adur	4.61	6.77	3.01
Arun	4.74	7.07	3.08
Brighton & Hove	7.22	8.64	4.65
Chichester	4.60	5.85	3.02
Crawley	7.32	10.38	5.12
Eastbourne	6.26	8.95	4.41
Hastings	6.57	10.18	4.19
Horsham	3.88	6.88	2.83
Lewes	4.91	7.64	3.16
Mid Sussex	3.70	6.33	2.54
Rother	4.96	7.62	3.52
Wealden	3.82	5.80	2.69
Worthing	4.88	7.28	3.25
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>3.45</b>
<b>West Sussex</b>	<b>4.77</b>	<b>7.45</b>	<b>3.18</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>4.89</b>	<b>7.70</b>	<b>3.24</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>5.70</b>	<b>8.67</b>	<b>3.86</b>

Source: Census 2021

Crawley and Hastings show particularly high rates of people with no qualifications who are unemployed. Crawley and Brighton & Hove record the highest rates of people with degree+ qualifications who are unemployed.

**Brighton & Hove has the highest rates of unemployment across all skill levels.**

**EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

## Key facts and figures

### Adult skills and employment outcomes

- Brighton & Hove has some of the highest rates of unemployment across Sussex at all adult skills levels, with notably high proportions of people with low to mid-level skills (levels 2 and 3) who are unemployed.
- Crawley (10.38%) and Hastings (10.18%) show particularly high rates of people with no qualifications who are unemployed (England = 8.67%) and Crawley (5.12%) and Brighton & Hove (4.65%) record the highest rates of people with degree+ qualifications who are unemployed (compared to 3.86% in England).

### Job opportunities

- East Sussex has lower jobs density and higher travel times to large employment centres, with 60.74 jobs per 100 working age population (compared to 77.86 for England) and 39 minute travel times to an employment centre with 5,000+ jobs (compared to 16 minutes for England). Hastings has the second lowest jobs density of all Local Authorities in Sussex (57.47 jobs per 100 working age people) and the highest average travel time to a large employment centre (5,000+ jobs) at 55 minutes.
- East Sussex has a higher proportion of small businesses and a lower proportion of large businesses, with 73.79 businesses employing 0-4 people (71.84 in England) and 6.47 employing 20+ people (7.93 in England). Crawley has the lowest proportion of small businesses and the highest proportion of large businesses of all Local Authorities in Sussex.
- East Sussex (6.07%) and West Sussex (7.08%) have a lower proportion of the working-age population in low-skilled jobs than the average across England (7.41%) but Crawley has notably high rates of low-skilled employment with 10.20%.
- East Sussex also has below the national average rates of high-skilled workplace employment with 30.68% of the working-age population in high-skilled jobs compared to 36.62% across the South East and 33.04% in England. Arun has notably low rates of high-skilled employment compared to other areas in Sussex, with 23.79% of its workplace population in high-skilled jobs.

## Appendix: data details

Indicator	Description	Source and date
Population by age	These population figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and are self-reported figures from the 2021 Census. Rate calculated as = (Population by age)/(Total population)*100	Census 2021
Population 2020 to 2040 % projected changes	This indicator shows the total projected percentage change in population, as well as the projected change for the age groups: 0-14, 15-64 and 65+.	Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2020-2040
Population by ethnic group	This information was created from responses to the ethnic group question in the 2021 Census. The ethnic group question records the perceived ethnic group and cultural background of an individual. The ethnic group question covers all people usually resident in the area. Rate calculated as = (Population in ethnic group)/(All usual residents (census KS201))*100	Census 2021
Disabled under the Equality Act	Shows the proportion of residents Disabled under the Equality Act. Figures are taken from responses to the 2021 Census, based on a self-assessment of whether or not a person has a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits their daily activities or the work they can do, including problems that are due to old age.	Census 2021
LGBTQ+ populations	Figures are based on responses to the 2021 Census sexual orientation questions (which are voluntary). Only those who have responded to the question are included in the denominator.	Census 2021
Population by gender identity	Figures are based on responses to the 2021 Census gender identity questions (which are voluntary). Only those who have responded to the question are included in the denominator.	Census 2021
Key Stage 2 pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths	To meet the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths at Key Stage 2, students are assessed through national curriculum tests (commonly known as SATs). The expected standard is set by the Department for Education and is based on the curriculum objectives for these subjects.  See here for more details: <a href="https://exploreeducationstatistics.service.gov.uk/find/statistics/key-stage-attainment">https://exploreeducationstatistics.service.gov.uk/find/statistics/key-stage-attainment</a>	Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023

Indicator	Description	Source and date
Key Stage 4 performance (by pupil residency)	<p>% of pupils achieving grades 5 or above in Eng and Maths GCSEs: these measures represent the proportion of students who receive a grade 4 or above or grade 5 or above in both their English and Maths GCSEs.</p> <p>Average Attainment 8 score of all pupils: this is a measure used to assess the performance of students across eight qualifications at the end of Key Stage 4. This score is an average taken from a student's best results in eight key subjects and is used to evaluate overall academic achievement. A higher score reflects better academic performance.</p> <p>Average Progress 8 score of all pupils: this is a performance metric used to assess the academic progress of students between the end of Primary School (age 11) and the end of Secondary School (age 16). It is calculated based on the results of eight subjects taken by students at the end of Key Stage 4. A zero score indicates students made the expected level of progress, minus indicates less progress than expected and a positive score indicates more progress than expected.</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://exploreeducation-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage4-performance">https://exploreeducation-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage4-performance</a></p>	Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023
Persistent absences	<p>Persistent absence is defined as when a student misses at least 10% of the available school sessions within a specified academic year.</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england</a></p>	Department for Education (DfE) 2022/2023
Pupils completing KS4 in sustained education, employment & apprenticeships	<p>Shows the percentage of pupils continuing to a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination in England in the year after completing Key Stage 4 study (after year 11) from state-funded mainstream schools. It covers students who left Key Stage 4 study in 2020/21 and their destinations in 2021/22. Sustained is defined as continuing in education for at least two terms (6 months) past KS4(6 months).</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-destination-measures">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-destination-measures</a></p>	Department for Education (DfE) 2021/2022



Indicator	Description	Source and date
Further education and skills (FES) participation and achievements by age group	<p>Shows the rates of participation and achievements in further education and skills (FES) for different age groups for the academic year 2023/2024 (August 2023 to January 2024) based on data returned by providers in February 2024. This data does not include higher education (e.g. degrees taken in higher education institutions (HEI)) but will include Further Education (FE) learning performed at a HEI, degrees performed at a FE institution and degrees undertaken as part of an apprenticeship programme. Participation is defined as people who have attended one day or more on a learning aim in the given academic year. Achievement is defined as the number of learners who successfully complete the programme.</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/further-education-and-skills">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/further-education-and-skills</a></p>	Department for Education (DfE) 2023/2024
Participation of state school pupils in higher education	<p>Shows the percentage of state school pupils in higher education. The data is recorded as the proportion of the 16 year old state-funded mainstream school pupils in the MSOA who sat their GCSEs in the summer of 2010 to 2014 that were in higher education at the age of 18 or 19. The denominator is the total number of Key Stage 4 pupils living in the MSOA, rounded to the nearest 5. Further information on how TUNDRA is calculated can be found here: <a href="https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/">https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/</a></p>	Office for Students, ONS 2019-2020
Highest level of qualification	<p>This dataset classifies adult residents (aged 16+) in Sussex and comparator areas by their highest level of qualification. This data is derived from the question asking people to indicate all qualifications held, or their nearest equivalent, in the latest Census. This may include foreign qualifications where they were matched to the closest UK equivalent.</p>	Census 2021
Economic activity by highest level of qualification	<p>Provides a breakdown of the proportion of economically active adults by qualification level who are unemployed. This data is derived from the question asking people to indicate all qualifications held, or their nearest equivalent, in the latest Census and their economic activity status. This may include foreign qualifications where they were matched to the closest UK equivalent.</p>	Census 2021

Indicator	Description	Source and date
Jobs density (jobs as a % of working age population)	Shows the number of jobs located in the local area as a percentage of the working age population in that area. Data is taken from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) of approximately 80,000 businesses and weighted to represent all sectors of the UK economy. The BRES definition of an employee is anyone working on the BRES reference date who is aged 16 years or over that the contributor directly pays from its payroll(s), in return for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme. Rate calculated as = (Total employment)/(Population aged 16-64)*100	Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2022
Travel time to nearest employment centre (mins)	Travel times in minutes to an employment centre (LSOA with more than 500 jobs and more than 5,000 jobs) by public transport/walking and cycling. These statistics are derived from the analysis of spatial data on public transport timetables; road, cycle and footpath networks; population and key local services. The data shows the average minimum travel time - the shortest travel time by walking and public transport, averaged over the LSOA. Where the shortest journey is by public transport, an average of five minutes is added to allow for a margin for catching the service, but if a quicker walking journey is available, this will be used with nothing added.	Department for Transport (DfT) 2019
Businesses by size	This dataset provides a count of VAT registered local business units taken from the Inter-Departmental Business Register and categorised by 4 employment size bands (0-4, 5-9, 10-19 and 20+ paid employees).	Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2023
Workplace population aged 16-64 by occupation type	This release contains Census 2021 estimates for the workplace population in England and Wales. The workplace population is an estimate of the usually resident population aged 16 years and over, working in an area. It includes people who work mainly at or from home, or do not have a fixed place of work, in their area of usual residence.	Census 2021/Office for National Statistics 2023
Schools, pupils and their characteristics	<p>This release contains the latest statistics on school and pupil numbers and their characteristics, including age, gender, free school meals (FSM) eligibility, English as an additional language, ethnicity, school characteristics, class sizes.</p> <p>The publication combines information from the school census, school level annual school census, general hospital school census and alternative provision census.</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://explore.educationstatistics.service.gov.uk/find/statistics/school-pupils-andtheir-characteristics">https://explore.educationstatistics.service.gov.uk/find/statistics/school-pupils-andtheir-characteristics</a></p>	Department for Education (DfE) 2022/23

Indicator	Description	Source and date
Pupils with SEN needs	<p>This publication combines information from the school census (state-funded schools), school level annual school census (independent schools) and general hospital school census on pupils with special educational needs (SEN).</p> <p>The publication includes breakdowns by type of SEN provision, type of need, age, national curriculum year group, sex, ethnicity, English as a first language and free school meal eligibility.</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england</a></p>	Department for Education (DfE) 2022/23
Children in need	<p>This annual release contains statistics on Children in need in England, including child protection plans, and referrals to and assessments completed by children's social care services. Each reporting year covers the financial year, 1 April to 31 March.</p> <p>Children in need are a legally defined group of children (under the Children Act 1989), assessed as needing help and protection as a result of risks to their development or health. This group includes Children on child in need plans, Children on child protection plans, Children looked after by local authorities, care leavers and disabled children.</p> <p>Children in need include young people aged 18 or over who continue to receive care, accommodation or support from children's services, and unborn children.</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need</a></p>	Department for Education 2023
Outcomes for Children in need	<p>This statistical release provides a range of outcome measures at national and local authority level for Children in need (CIN), including Children looked after (CLA) by local authorities in England.</p> <p>The outcome measures cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• special educational needs</li> <li>• educational attainment (Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4) and progress (Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4)</li> <li>• destinations from school</li> <li>• absence from school</li> <li>• suspensions and permanent exclusions from school</li> <li>• free school meal eligibility</li> <li>• type of school attended.</li> </ul> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/outcomes-for-children-in-need-including-children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/outcomes-for-children-in-need-including-children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england</a></p>	Department for Education 2022/2023

Indicator	Description	Source and date
Children looked after in England including adoptions	<p>This release provides information on children looked after (CLA) in England, including numbers of CLA adopted, care leavers and CLA who were missing from their placement. Data is taken from the annual SSDA903 data collection which is collected from local authorities in England.</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoptions/2023">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoptions/2023</a></p>	Department for Education 2022/2023
Young carers	<p>Children (aged 0–15) providing informal unpaid care. Figures are based on self-reported responses to the 2021 Census. An unpaid carer may look after, give help or support to anyone who has long-term physical or mental ill-health conditions, illness or problems related to old age. This does not include any activities as part of paid employment. This help can be within or outside of the carer's household. As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Rate calculated as (People aged 0–15 providing unpaid care)/(Population aged under 16 (Census 2021))*10</p>	Census 2021
English language proficiency	<p>This information was created from responses to the languages spoken question in the 2021 census which aims to classify households by the combination of adults and children within a household that have English as a main language. The question covers all people aged 16+ usually resident in the area.</p>	Census 2021
Asylum seekers	<p>This data briefing summarises statistics on asylum seekers in the UK and refugees who arrive through resettlement programmes.</p> <p>See here for more details: <a href="https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01403/">https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01403/</a></p>	Home Office, Immigration system statistics quarterly December 2023
Previously served in regular or reserve UK armed forces	<p>This dataset provides Census 2021 estimates that classify usual residents aged 16 years and over who have previously served in the UK armed forces. The estimates are as at Census Day, 21 March 2021.</p>	Census 2021
Economically active and unemployed veterans	<p>This dataset provides Census 2021 estimates that classify usual residents aged 16 years and over who are economically active in the week before the census in England and Wales who have previously served in the UK armed forces by their employment status. The estimates are as at Census Day, 21 March 2021.</p>	Census 2021
Children claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	<p>Shows the proportion of young people aged under 16 claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA). DLA is payable to children and adults who become disabled before the age of 65, who need help with personal care or have walking difficulties because they are physically or mentally disabled.</p>	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) November 2023

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