

2016

CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S

Vital Signs



Starting conversations...

Methodology

Vital Signs® is a project that has been running in the UK since 2013, modelled on a program initiated by the Community Foundations of Canada. The goal of Vital Signs® is to “take the pulse” of our community – to measure the quality of life and highlight the county’s priorities and opportunities for action. We have combined existing statistical data with a community consultation to give a picture of what life is like in Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough) formed from a solid evidence base and personal reflections. The data included has primarily been taken from local and national government sources, think tanks and other charitable bodies. The information is considered accurate as of 2016. If you have any queries or believe any information provided in this report to be incorrect, please contact info@cambscf.org.uk.

174 people responded to our community consultation online survey, grading their local area A-E on each Vital Signs® theme, and commenting on what they considered to be the most urgent need relating to that theme. Grades were defined as follows:

- A** Excellent- our community is doing great.
- B** We’re doing well and headed in the right direction.
- C** Some progress is being made, but not quickly enough.
- D** Of concern; we need to focus on this.
- E** In dire need of immediate corrective action.

The grades published in this report for each theme are the average (mode) response calculated for each Cambridgeshire sub-region.

Goals for this report

Highlight Cambridgeshire's overall performance compared with the UK as a whole.

Uncover the comparative strengths and weaknesses of each sub-region in Cambridgeshire.

Inform community philanthropists about local issues and opportunities.

Start conversations with people who can support community philanthropy.

Set priorities and identify opportunities for our funding.

This report covers the geographical area served by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation: the 5 districts which make up the county of Cambridgeshire and the Unitary Authority of Peterborough.

The estimated population of Cambridgeshire, including Peterborough, is 830,279.

The county covers an area of 3,390 square km, making it the 15th largest of the 48 ceremonial counties in England.

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Fairness

The education and employment prospects of disadvantaged children across Cambridgeshire are worse than the national average.

Deprivation and child poverty in Peterborough and Fenland are greater than the national average.

Every local authority in Cambridgeshire falls far below the national average for the education and employment prospects of disadvantaged children.

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	D
East Cambridgeshire	B
Fenland	D
Huntingdonshire	C
Peterborough	C
South Cambridgeshire	C

16

neighbourhoods in Cambridgeshire (2 in Huntingdonshire, 2 in Cambridge, and 12 in Fenland) are among the 20% most deprived in the country.

Over 20%

of children in Fenland and Peterborough live in poverty.

11.3%

of households in Cambridge City are fuel poor.

Bottom 20

Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, and South Cambridgeshire are among the 20 worst performing local authorities in the country regarding what pupils eligible for free school meals go on to do after 16.



Eddie's in Cambridgeshire

“ We are a very well off city overall but tend to leave the disadvantaged behind. ”

“ Cambridge City Foodbank has recently opened a distribution centre in our village. There should be NO NEED for this BUT there is. ”

“ There isn't really any disadvantage and exclusion in the area but actually this means that there is disadvantage and exclusion, because people can't even get into the area to live and work. This creates an economy and society which is not diverse. ”

Donor funds that support Fairness – Ridgeon Family Charity Fund, ARM Community Fund

FoodCycle Peterborough were awarded funds towards the costs of equipment and training to provide healthy, communal meals to people at risk from food poverty and social isolation in the local community.

Cambridge Central Aid Society received funds to support families in Cambridge City not able to buy basics for children such as carpets, bedding, and childrens clothes.

Education

Cambridgeshire excluding Peterborough falls below the national average on every marker of school readiness.

Cambridgeshire also fall below the national average for A*- C GCSE grades.

In Cambridgeshire excluding Peterborough, the gap in the academic performance - from reception onwards - between children eligible for free school meals and those not eligible is worse than the national average.

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	B
East Cambridgeshire	B
Fenland	D
Huntingdonshire	B
Peterborough	D
South Cambridgeshire	B

65.8% of children in Cambridgeshire excluding Peterborough achieve a good level of development at the end of reception.

43% of children in Cambridgeshire excluding Peterborough eligible for free school meals achieve a good level of development at the end of reception.

55.5% of children in Peterborough achieved 5 A*- C grades at GCSE.

Nearly **3/4** of children eligible for free school meals in Cambridgeshire excluding Peterborough do not achieve NVQ level 3 (compared to 39% of those not eligible).



Peterborough and Cambridgeshire District Dyslexia Association

“ Community cohesion and involvement in the education sector. Better understanding of different cultures, tackling xenophobia. ”

“ Availability of adult education courses at low price. ”

“ Wisbech - particularly low standards of basic literacy and numeracy. High dropout rates in sixth forms for A Level students in majority of state secondary schools. ”

Donor Funds that support Education – Microsoft Research Limited Fund, D&J Lloyd Community First Fund

Oblique Arts received funds to run literacy workshops for the Traveller community at Smithy Fen.

Cambridge Student Community Action received funds to run projects supporting dis-engaged pupils referred from local schools, with English as a second language and with their homework.

Economy and Employment

Cambridge City and Peterborough's local economies seem strong and are forecast to grow.

But Fenland has a relatively low value economy, dominated by low skilled occupations, with low average employee earnings.

Fenland and East Cambridgeshire have low job density rates, meaning that there are nearly 2 people per job.

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	B
East Cambridgeshire	B
Fenland	D
Huntingdonshire	B
Peterborough	B
South Cambridgeshire	B

BELOW National Average

Full-time employees in Fenland, Huntingdonshire, Peterborough and East Cambridgeshire receive a weekly wage below the national average.

29%

Fenland and East Cambridgeshire job density rates 29% lower than the national average.

40%

of part-time jobs in Cambridge City pay below the living wage.

6.7%

of 16-19 year olds in Fenland are not in education, employment or training- a rate above the national average.

78.2%

The gap in the employment rate between those with a learning disability and the overall employment rate in Cambridgeshire- nearly 12% over the national average.



Gauntlet Auto Project in Huntingdonshire

24% of survey respondents mentioned the area suffered from too many low-paid jobs and a lack of (quality) jobs outside of Cambridge. 27.2% of survey respondents mentioned shops closing and staying empty.

“ There are lots of part time jobs and zero hour contracts that offer no support or safety net. ”

“ Low wages in a ridiculously high priced city; disparity between high and low earners is HUGE. ”

“ Cambridge and South Cambs have an illusion of well-being if you are one of the well paid employed but it is a terrible place to live if you are on benefits or low pay as everything is so expensive and dominated by what might be called middle class cultural norms. ”

Donor Funds that support Employment – LEP Prize Challenge, Outlook Fund

Cambridgeshire County Council Youth Support Service was awarded a grant to run a Young Enterprise project to increase the employability and aspirations of care leavers.

The Ferry Project in Wisbech, Fenland received funds to hold a weekly job club and an annual job fair in Wisbech.

Health

Life expectancy varies widely across the county according to levels of financial deprivation.

Rates of emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm across Cambridgeshire are above the national average.

Peterborough exceeds the national average for its mortality rate from causes considered preventable and its proportion of smokers. It falls below the national average for the proportion of people who are physically active, and for the proportion of people who do not get their '5 a day'.

Fenland has the highest rate of childhood obesity and smoking prevalence in the county.

26.7% Peterborough's rate of hospital admissions for young people due to substance misuse is 26.7% above the national average.

48.3% Peterborough's rate of hospital admissions for self-harm by young people is 48.3% above the national average.

21.2% Over 1/5 of people in Fenland aged 12 upwards smoke.

24.8% of responses mentioned mental health and another 24.8% mentioned obesity as problems that urgently need addressing.

☞ Variety of (affordable) physical activities in rural areas so people don't need to go into Cambridge. ☞

☞ Mental health support seems to be in dire straits for all, but especially for teenagers who are under extreme stress. ☞

☞ Most people are very healthy in South Cambs but there are excluded and vulnerable groups, such as Gypsies and Travellers, families on low incomes, people with disabilities, carers and refugees. Support to these groups is being cut in the current financial climate. ☞

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	C
East Cambridgeshire	B
Fenland	E
Huntingdonshire	C
Peterborough	D
South Cambridgeshire	B

9.3 years

Men in the most deprived areas of Cambridge City live 9.3 years less than men in the most affluent areas of the city.



Grafham Water Sailability in Huntingdonshire

Donor Funds that support Healthy Living – Healthy Fenland Fund, Ridgeons Community Fund

Mind in Cambridgeshire received funds for a Workplace Intervention project helping prevent suicide amongst men.

Home-Start in Royston and South Cambridgeshire was granted funds towards an early intervention home-visiting support service for parents with poor mental health and their young children in Cambridgeshire.

Housing

Cambridge City house prices are rising faster than any other city in the UK.

Homelessness is increasing across the region, and is highest in Peterborough.

As house prices rise, so does commuting; young people are more likely to move away for work; families are likely to be separated; and renters will struggle to settle down and invest in the area.

Cambridge City and Peterborough have higher levels of non-decent homes than the national average. Nearly half of these are inhabited by vulnerable people.

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	D
East Cambridgeshire	D
Fenland	D
Huntingdonshire	D
Peterborough	B
South Cambridgeshire	D

3rd
Cambridge City
Is the third least
affordable city in the UK.

47%
Cambridge City's median house price
rose 47% between 2010 and 2015.

85% The number of households in
Peterborough accepted as
homeless and in priority need rose
85% between 2011 and 2015.

83% Peterborough has a
homelessness rate 83%
above the national average.



Wintercomfort in Cambridge City

69% of survey respondents indicated that the greatest problem facing the area is the unaffordability of housing.

“ The cost of local housing is horrendous with the progeny of local residents standing no chance of affording to get on the housing ladder near their families. ”

“ There needs to be more investment in social housing because a lot of the new housing being built are flats that are used by high wealth individuals as a base in Cambridge which is a commuter town to London. ”

“ Multiple occupancy houses are of concern. They need tighter regulation and monitoring to keep those within them safe and free from exploitation. ”

Donor Funds that support Housing and Homelessness – Warm Homes Healthy People Fund, Birketts Community Grassroots Endowed Fund.

Light Project Peterborough received funds to provide a winter night shelter for up to 8 homeless people, from early December until the end of February.

Wintercomfort in Cambridge City was granted funds to provide 735 cooked breakfasts for homeless people, at a cost of £2 per breakfast.

Safety

Crime rates have increased across Cambridgeshire since 2013.

Cambridge City and Peterborough have crime rates above the national average.

Fenland exceeds the Cambridgeshire force average for violence and sexual offences, shoplifting, burglary, criminal damage and arson.

Fenland suffers from crime centred on its high population of migrant workers including human trafficking, sham marriages, drug-dealing, smuggling, violent assaults and illegal evictions.

Cambridgeshire's rate (excluding Peterborough) of road injuries and deaths is

26.7%
above the national average.

Fenland has a rate of criminal damage and arson

**ABOVE
National
Average**

Peterborough had **Over 2X** Cambridge City's number of antisocial behaviour incidents between June 2015 and June 2016.

The rates of violent and sexual offences in both Cambridge City and Peterborough have

MORE THAN DOUBLED
since 2013.

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	B
East Cambridgeshire	B
Fenland	B
Huntingdonshire	B
Peterborough	C
South Cambridgeshire	B



Alconbury Recreation Field Charity in Huntingdonshire

20.9% of survey respondents counted road safety as the most urgent priority for safety in their area, and 27.3% mentioned a need for a more visible police presence.

“ Crime rates have gone up even in small rural areas that had previously no crime at all. ”

“ We have had a recent rise in race-hate crimes and it is becoming increasingly difficult if you are a foreign national. ”

“ The council are planning to switch off many street lights. Without street lighting we will have more accidents and possibly more incidents of crime. ”

Donor Funds that support Safety – Police and Crime Commissioner Youth Fund for Cambridgeshire, Restore Fund.

The Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust was granted funds to provide home security for 30 vulnerable and persistently targeted domestic abuse victims, and their children, and for 30 older victims of crime.

Sexuality in Fenland was funded to run workshops in secondary schools about the impact of bullying and hate crimes towards LGBT young people.

Strong Communities

A community's strength is likely to be sapped by high levels of migration, commuting, and inequalities of wealth- all present in Cambridgeshire.

Far fewer people volunteer in Cambridgeshire than the national average, according to estimates.

Most of Cambridgeshire's urban neighbourhoods and half of its rural areas carry a very high risk of social isolation for elderly people.

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	B
East Cambridgeshire	C
Fenland	C
Huntingdonshire	C
Peterborough	B
South Cambridgeshire	B

20%
BELOW

The estimated proportion of people in Cambridgeshire aged 15-75 who volunteer at least once a month is 20% below the national average.

14

Age UK estimate that there is only one of Cambridge City's fourteen wards which does not carry a "very high risk" of loneliness among the elderly.

21/24

Age UK estimate that there is a "very high risk" of loneliness among the elderly in 21 out of 24 wards in Peterborough.

BELOW National Average

The proportion of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like across Cambridgeshire is lower than the national average.

2nd

Wisbech in Fenland ranks the 2nd worst town in the UK for its level of ethnic integration; Peterborough ranks 16th worst.



Home-Start Cambridge

“ Perception that migrant workers are responsible for every ill which befalls us. Huge tensions about influx of Eastern Europeans . Many rural communities need help with basic issues around volunteering, community action etc. as they do not necessary contain the skills needed compared to other areas in the county. ”

“ The lack of paid staff to facilitate volunteer projects can lead to key volunteers becoming burnt out very quickly. ”

“ Volunteering opportunities need to be developed for those with disabilities as well as those out of work. More inclusive work needs to be done with the range of diversity within the community. ”

Donor Funds that support Strong Communities – Charity Lifeline Community Benefit Fund, Burnthouse Farm Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

Histon & Impington Parish Council in South Cambridgeshire received a grant towards a 10 week Community Champion programme for 20 young people to learn first aid, food hygiene, safeguarding, and dementia training to equip them to support elderly isolated people in the village.

Peterborough Police Amateur Boxing Club was granted funds to run a 10 week social inclusion course within the boxing club to bring young people together from all areas of Peterborough.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Cambridge City is nationally prominent for its high number of heritage and cultural assets and the organised activities associated with them.

The number of assets in every other Cambridgeshire region including Peterborough falls well below the national average.

The comparative strength of Cambridge City in this respect may discourage similar efforts in nearby regions, with their residents opting to travel for days out instead. This disadvantages those unable to travel - physically or financially - and weakens communities.

Cambridge City ranked

4th

in the country for its level of cultural assets and the activities making use of them.

Fenland ranked

107th

out of 325 local authorities for its level of cultural assets and the activities making use of them.

East Cambridgeshire ranked

125th

Huntingdonshire ranked

178th

Peterborough ranked **207th**

When asked what they considered to be the most urgent priority for arts and culture, **27.2% of survey respondents mentioned a lack of cultural amenities and activities outside Cambridge City, and 21% mentioned a lack of funding in this area.**

“ One of the main reasons that the community doesn't participate in arts, culture and heritage is due to the lack of transport- everything happens in Cambridge. Some of the projects are not aimed at the whole community and therefore this doesn't help for a cohesive community. ”

“ Cambridge culture tends to fall back on middle class white culture too much. We are blessed with exceptional culture in Cambridge but it doesn't feel inclusive especially in theatres: mainly elderly white audiences. ”

“ Employment in cultural industries - there is an imbalance towards science, research and tech leaving those interested in arts/ culture/ media careers with little choice but London. Opportunity for diverse groups to celebrate their cultures and values - don't see much of this. ”

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	B
East Cambridgeshire	B
Fenland	D
Huntingdonshire	B
Peterborough	B
South Cambridgeshire	B

Bottom 25 South Cambridgeshire ranked in the bottom 25 of all English local authorities for its level of cultural assets and the activities making use of them.



Romsey Mill Trust in Cambridge City

Donor Funds that support Arts, Culture and Heritage – High Sheriff's Awards, AmeyCespa Community Fund.

The Fitzwilliam Museum Development Trust received funds to run Just Arts in Cambridge City - a programme that offers a deeper engagement with the visual arts for young people in care.

Viva Arts and Community Group, in East Cambridgeshire, was granted funds to run a 4-month long musical theatre project for rurally isolated young people.

Environment

The living environment in Cambridge City ranks as deprived. This seems to be the result of both a high proportion of non-decent housing and poor air quality, resulting from high levels of traffic in and out of the city.

Peterborough has the highest rates of flytipping in the county.

Huntingdonshire emits the greatest amount of CO₂, followed by South Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Feedback from survey:

Cambridge City	C
East Cambridgeshire	B
Fenland	B
Huntingdonshire	B
Peterborough	B
South Cambridgeshire	B

OVER
1/3

of neighbourhoods in Cambridge City are among the 20% most deprived in the country when it comes to living environment.

OVER
5%

of Cambridgeshire's (including Peterborough) population mortality is attributed to air pollution.

An estimated
38.7%

of private housing stock in Peterborough is classed as non-decent; 37% of private housing is classified as such in Cambridge City.

The rate of flytipping in Peterborough is

**Nearly
2.5X**

the national average.

Huntingdonshire is the

**16th
BEST**

performing local authority in the UK for household recycling.



Transition Cambridge

When survey respondents were asked what they considered to be the most urgent priority for the environment, 34.5% mentioned a need to reduce the amount of litter and fly-tipping.

Donor Funds that support the environment – Dulverton Trust Fund, Savills Cambridge Grassroots Environment Award.

The Froglife Trust in Peterborough received funding towards Green Pathways which supports disadvantaged 5-18 year olds to improve green spaces.

Whitehill Allotment Society in Cambridge City was granted funds to develop a communal orchard.



Cambridgeshire Community Foundation is part of a worldwide charitable network of community foundations. We manage funds on behalf of individuals and organisations, building endowment and acting as the vital link between donors and local needs, connecting people with causes.

If you would like to find out more about Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, or how you can give to tackle local needs in Cambridgeshire including Peterborough, please

get in touch:

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