



Cambridgeshire
Community
Foundation

For a better county

Cambridgeshire's **VITAL SIGNS®** 2024



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**THE
CAMBRIDGE**
Building Society

arm

INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to introduce the latest Vital Signs® report for Cambridgeshire, as we mark Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's 20th anniversary.

As the charity for a better Cambridgeshire, it is crucial that our work is firmly based upon an understanding of local needs. This is important to guide our grant-making and to inspire our donors to support charitable projects that tackle the most vital issues in our local community. These supported projects contribute to a better quality of life across the county, including reducing disadvantage and inequalities.



Our grants strengthen social action, local resources, connectivity and resilience to help communities thrive. A crucial part of our approach in understanding both the local challenges and opportunities is Vital Signs®, whose goal is to “take the pulse” of our community. Vital Signs® highlights key published statistical data to give a rounded picture of life in Cambridgeshire, most of it from local and national government sources, think tanks and other charitable bodies.

The value of Vital Signs® is to inform our funding strategy, to inspire supporters and to encourage conversations among people who, like us, are passionate about making a difference.

Please get in touch if you'd like to discuss how we can help you make an impact in our local community.

Email michael@cambscf.org.uk

Michael O'Toole,
Chief Executive

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METHODOLOGY

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

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

Cambridgeshire has six districts: Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire. This report will use Cambridgeshire to refer to all six districts.

The data presented in this report was collected and accurate as of February 2024. This information may have changed or become outdated since that time. If you would like to find out more about how the data was collected or where it was sourced from, please get in touch.

Some of our partner charities have had a chance to review our findings to support the conclusions.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Peterborough and Fenland continue to have worse health outcomes than other areas of Cambridgeshire, with lower life expectancy and avoidable mortality. However, Cambridge has the highest inequality in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas.

Average life expectancy.



In Cambridge the inequality in life expectancy between the most and least deprived people is

12 years

for men and

11.8 years

for women.



This is

16th worst

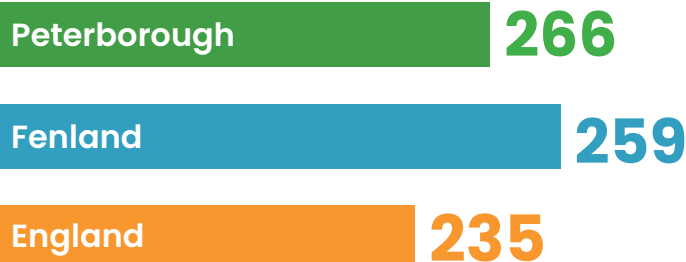
out of all local authorities in England for males and

5th worst

for females.



Fenland and Peterborough have above the average rate of avoidable deaths per 100,000 than for England (approx. 30 per 100,000 more).



Number of avoidable deaths per 100,000

The percentage of adults classed as physically active.



Cambridge
80%

Fenland
60%

England
67%



Fenland and Peterborough have worse rates of prevalence of obesity in year 6 children compared to England.



Peterborough **25%**

Fenland **27%**

England **23%**

Prevalence of obesity

Percentage of residents classified as disabled.



Fenland **20%**

S. Cambridgeshire **15%**

England **17%**



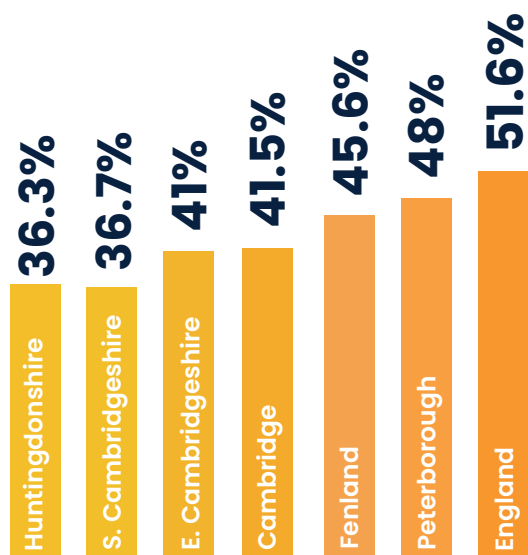
THE BLUE SMILE PROJECT

The Foundation supports children's mental health charity, The Blue Smile Project, who provide counselling and art-based therapy.

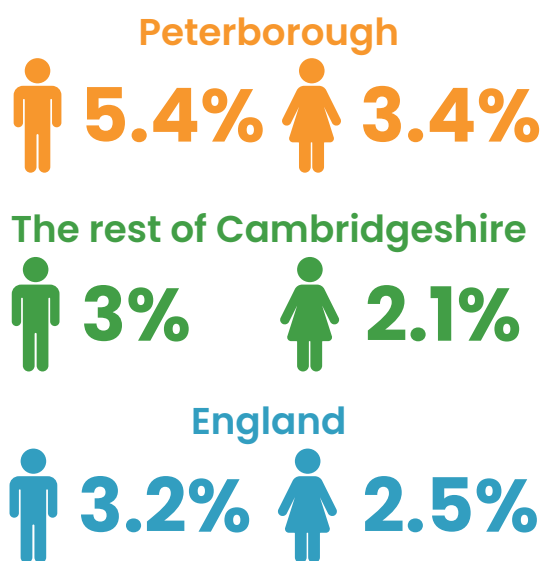
EDUCATION & LEARNING

Vulnerable children in Cambridgeshire have worse educational outcomes. At the end of their early years' education, less than half of the children eligible for free school meals have a good level of development, which is assessed in communication, physical development, social development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, and art. The level of qualifications varies across the county; Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire have above than the average for England, whilst around a quarter in Fenland and Peterborough residents have no academic qualifications.

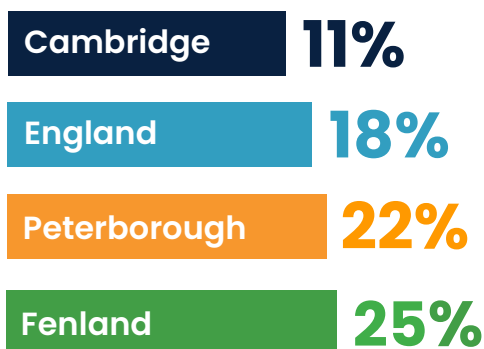
Less than half of the children who were eligible for free school meals reached a good level of development at the end of Early Years, with the whole of Cambridgeshire below the England average.



Percentage of 16-17 year-olds not in education, employment or training.



Percentage of residents with no academic qualifications.



THE CONVERSATION STAMFORD CIC

The Foundation has funded The Conversation Stamford CIC's school workshops for children and their families to creatively explore anxiety, fear, self-awareness and developing healthy coping mechanisms.

LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Whilst Cambridgeshire is growing, there is a difference in earnings across the county, with the highest earnings in South Cambridgeshire and the lowest in Fenland. In the 2021 census, over 20% of residents were retired in all districts apart from Cambridge and Peterborough.

Cambridge and Peterborough had the

1st and 2nd greatest

population increase in the 63 cities studied by the Centre for Cities.



Percentage of 16-64 year-olds who are economically inactive.



Fenland
26.7%

Huntingdonshire
12.6%

Historically, it has been more difficult for those with a disability to be in work. This is sometimes referred to as the disability employment gap.

When comparing the employment rate for people with an Equality Act defined or work-limiting disability with the employment rate for non-disabled people, Fenland has a disability employment gap greater than Great Britain as a whole. The other districts have a gap, but it is still lower than Great Britain as a whole.



Fenland has the lowest employment rate at 71.8%. Huntingdonshire has the highest at 86.1%.



The employment rate for Great Britain is 75.5% and East of England is 78%.



PAPWORTH TRUST

The Foundation has supported Papworth Trust's 'Routeway to Work' project. It provides people with disabilities and long-term health conditions with tailored work experience within Papworth Trust's OWL Bikes Shop and Workshop. Participants are supported to experience and carry out different roles, which help them learn vital skills to realise their employment aspirations.

Fenland **32.2%**

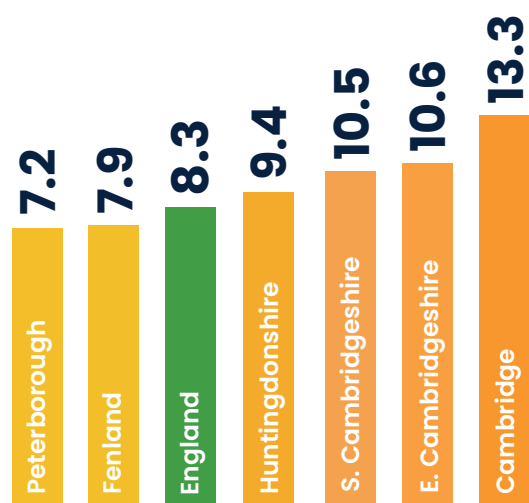
Other Districts **28%**

Great Britain **26.3%**

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Average house prices continue to rise faster than average earnings, making housing less affordable for many people across Cambridgeshire. Also, although rough sleeping decreased due to measures taken during the pandemic, it has risen again in Cambridge and Peterborough.

Houses across the county are less affordable than the average across England, except in Peterborough and Fenland where they are more affordable.



Average salary to house price ratio.

The 10 most expensive wards for house prices are all in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and the 10 least expensive wards are all in Fenland and Peterborough.



The median house price in the most expensive ward is just over

8 times greater

than the median house price in the least expensive ward.



Newnham, Cambridge

1,216k



Clarkson, Fenland

150k



NEW MEANING FOUNDATION

The Foundation supports New Meaning Foundation's construction workshop in Waterbeach where ex-homeless trainees learn on-the-job construction skills whilst building micro homes to rehouse more ex-homeless people.

Proportion of female rough sleepers.



Cambridge

35%

England

15%

In Peterborough, the number of rough sleepers from an EU background

is over triple

the England average.



WINTERCOMFORT

Wintercomfort received funding for a Tenancy Support Programme to help their service users maintain secured tenancies and break the cycle of falling back into homelessness.

Having a home is much more than having a house. Homeless people often have no money or belongings to set up a home. Mental health issues, substance misuse and a lack of support can also contribute to failed tenancies.

The Tenancy Support Programme addresses this gap by offering comprehensive support after securing housing. A Tenancy Support Advisor supports the move-in, provides home furnishings, teaches life skills, offers ongoing practical and emotional support, and facilitates access to Wintercomfort's other services, such as the employability programme.

This holistic approach recognises that simply providing accommodation is not always sufficient to successfully support someone in their move away from homelessness.



ENVIRONMENT

The environment affects the quality of life. Air quality in the county's cities has improved, with Peterborough and Cambridge having fewer days of poor air quality since the last Vital Signs report. CO₂ emissions have also reduced across all areas in line with the rest of England.

In East Cambridgeshire, Fenland,
and Huntingdonshire,

over 50%

of homes have an energy rating of

D or below



Peterborough and Cambridge
were ranked

19th and 41st

out of 63 UK cities for poor
air quality.



From 2005 to 2021, CO₂
emissions have been reducing
across all areas. This is in line
with the rest of England.



THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Hayley Wood is home to a threatened plant, the oxlip, only found in our corner of East Anglia.

The Foundation has supported the efforts of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire to ensure that the oxlip thrives, along with the delicate ecosystem that supports it.

SAFETY

How safe people feel in their local areas affects their wellbeing. Anti-social behaviour rates have fallen across Cambridgeshire in the last decade. Cambridge and Peterborough have the highest reported offence rate across all offences.

The rate of children cautioned or sentenced.



Peterborough **The rest of Cambridgeshire**

3.6 **1.9**

Caution rate per 1000

Offence rate per 1,000 residents.



England **94**

Cambridge **98**

Peterborough **114**

From a low point in 2013/14 the crime severity score has risen in all areas. Only Peterborough has a higher crime severity score than the England and Wales average.



Peterborough
has the
22nd highest
offending rate
out of
154
youth justice
service areas.



Nearly a fifth of all crimes in Cambridgeshire were domestic abuse related.



PETERBOROUGH POLICE AMATEUR BOXING CLUB

The Foundation supports Peterborough Police Amateur Boxing Club which is run by serving police officers and works to reduce antisocial behaviour and crime. The club supports youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and areas with high rates of crime and poverty.

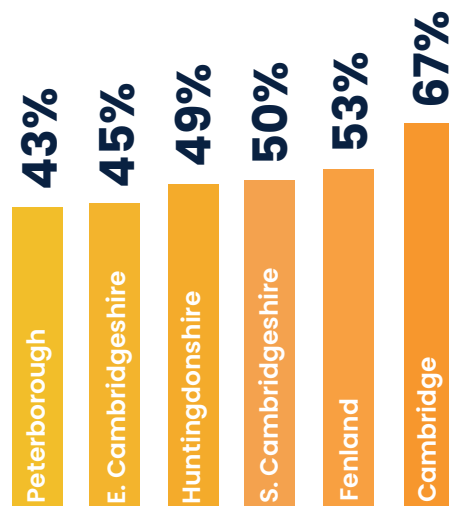
Young people who may be susceptible to criminal influence are offered a safe space to deal with aggression/behaviour issues in a controlled environment, nurture key life skills, ensure a healthy lifestyle and develop a sense of belonging.

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

The arts, culture and heritage enrich lives and communities. Access to these varies across the county. Cambridge ranks highly for museums, archives and artifacts with a majority of residents visiting a museum or gallery every year, whilst Fenland scores well in culture and memories.



Percentage of the population visiting a museum or gallery at least once in last 12 months.



Cambridge is ranked

2nd out of 316

local authorities
for Museums,
Archives and
Artefacts.



Fenland is ranked
19th out of 316

local authorities
for Culture and
Memories.



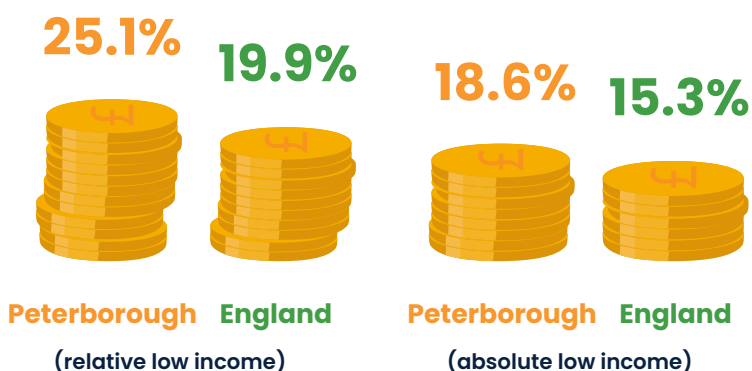
BEDAZZLE PROJECTS

Bedazzle Projects received a grant towards developing a film performance by young adults with a range of learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues. The film, 'Typical?', draws upon the lived experiences of those with disabilities. It explores their experiences on the margins, considered 'non-typical'. The film highlights this to a wider audience and aids a better understanding of the difficulties that people with disabilities face in their everyday lives.

STRONG COMMUNITIES

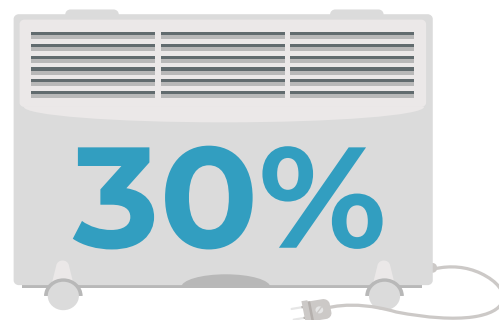
Strong communities depend on social cohesion and local opportunities. Also, poverty affects people's life chances, with child poverty and fuel poverty being above the England average in some areas of the county. Unpaid care also plays a vital role in communities; the last census shows that Fenland provides the most unpaid care in the county.

More children in Peterborough are in relative low income families compared to the England average, and more children in Peterborough are in absolute low income families compared to the England average.

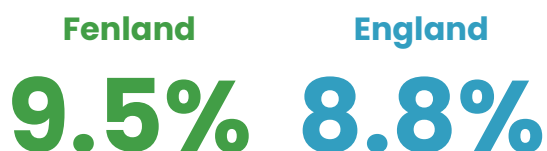


Fenland has the highest proportion of fuel poor households and is above the England average.

Five areas in Peterborough have fuel poverty of over 30%.



Percentage of unpaid carers.



PETERBOROUGH UNITED FOUNDATION

The Foundation has supported Peterborough United Foundation's Extra Time Hub, a weekly gathering open to anyone who is retired or semi-retired. Activities aim to support physical and mental wellbeing, reduce isolation and help members feel more connected with their community.

JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

It can be challenging to decide how to achieve the greatest impact with your charitable gifts. We have the experience, research, and knowledge to help you support the causes you care about. We help to maximise your impact, by understanding your interests, advising on local needs, and guiding you through the options available.

SET UP A FUND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY OR BUSINESS

A fund is a simple, cost-effective alternative to a charitable trust. With a one-off or regular donation towards your fund, you can award grants to local charitable and community projects.

Setting up a fund with us makes giving to local causes easy, effective and reduces risk. We take care of all the admin, including initial set up, ongoing management and due diligence.

We secure and assess relevant applications from local charitable and community organisations that achieve positive change where it is needed most in Cambridgeshire. With us taking care of the admin, you can get involved in the more meaningful aspects of giving. You, your family, or business team have the flexibility to be as involved as you wish in deciding your fund's grant awards. You can also engage with supported projects through project visits and volunteering.

Our team monitors the effective delivery of funded projects and reports on their impact, giving you a clear understanding of the difference made by your fund.

Unlike traditional trusts and foundations, your fund will remain flexible into the future. Should you feel that its aims need to be adjusted over time to support evolving community needs, we will support you in doing so.

BUSINESS FUNDS

Businesses often want to support local communities, where staff and customers are based. However, knowing how to find and fund effective local projects can require a lot of time and effort.

Setting up a fund with us makes giving to local causes easy and effective. Your team can become actively involved in your charitable giving, from forming the panel that awards your grants, to visiting funded projects and volunteering.

As a business, the ability to communicate your goals and achievements, both internally and externally, can be important. We help to demonstrate the impact of your support, with regular updates on how your giving has made a difference. We can provide project photos, case studies and statistics.

LEAVE A LEGACY

As well as looking after your loved ones, your will can benefit the charitable causes you care about. By leaving a legacy to us, you can either make an immediate gift or set up a fund that supports your chosen causes in perpetuity. We can work with your family and/or professional advisers to award grants from your fund for as long as they wish to be involved.

“**My fund has been hugely cathartic; out of our sadness, it gave us the opportunity to help causes that my late husband would have been thrilled to support. The Foundation enabled us to give in a meaningful way and showed us projects that we didn't know about before. It's easy to give, but harder to make a real difference; the Foundation makes this possible.**”

– Catherine Stewart, John Stewart Memorial Fund

LET US MANAGE YOUR PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING PROGRAMME

We are a trusted partner for grant programmes, working with both local and national public sector partners. Our experience, research, and knowledge of the local community ensure that programmes reach intended beneficiaries. We deliver programmes efficiently and cost-effectively through well-established systems and processes. We process applications and take care of the associated administrative tasks and due diligence.

This leaves you to choose the projects you wish to support. You will receive reports demonstrating the programme's impact, offering valuable insights to shape your future work.

TRANSFER AN EXISTING CHARITABLE TRUST

Tap into the Foundation's grant-making and community expertise. Transfer existing trust assets to us to ensure that your trust efficiently and cost-effectively supports your intended beneficiaries.

MAKE A DONATION

We welcome donations of any size to support our charitable activities.

Visit cambscf.org.uk/donate



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Find out more

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