

The background of the cover is a complex, layered image. It features a close-up of a person's face, specifically the mouth and nose, which is partially obscured by a dark, semi-transparent rectangular box containing the title and subtitle. The face is rendered in a high-contrast, almost painterly style with warm tones. Overlaid on the left side of the image are numerous dark, ink-like splatters and drips that cascade downwards, adding a sense of movement and texture. The overall color palette is dominated by deep purples, magentas, and warm oranges, creating a dramatic and somewhat somber atmosphere.

# Hidden Needs

Hidden Deprivation and  
Community Need in Suffolk  
A report to The Suffolk Foundation

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# Hidden Needs

## Foreword from The Suffolk Foundation

Back in 2005, the first grant from the newly formed Suffolk Foundation went to the East Anglian Sailing Trust to support sailing for people with disabilities and their carers. Since then, on behalf of our donors and funding partners, £4 million has been awarded to local charities and community groups that are tackling social disadvantage in many forms such as homelessness, rural isolation, domestic violence, addiction, disability, mental ill health or family difficulties. Many of the groups that we support are working at a grassroots level to make Suffolk a better place, often with limited financial resources but always with enormous contributions of goodwill, tenacity and passion.

Suffolk was one of the last counties in the UK to create a community foundation, perhaps because of the mistaken perception that there was 'little or no need'. For those of us involved in those early days, we weren't quite sure what to expect. Certainly, many of us enjoy a wonderful quality of life in this beautiful county but it quickly became apparent through our grant-making that local charities and community groups were identifying deep pockets of need. The scale and nature of that need was harder to quantify as we began the match-maker's job of connecting the generosity of local donors with clearly identified social projects in need of support.

As for the hidden need, the penny dropped for us in 2006 when as members of the Suffolk Strategic Partnership we were party to a county audit commissioned by Suffolk County Council. The State of Suffolk Audit showed that Suffolk was defined as 'average' across a wide range of key statistics despite many people enjoying an exceptionally high quality of life. We began to question whether those averages were masking even greater disadvantage than we had initially anticipated. We knew there was much wealth and affluence in the county and yet we were still defined as 'average' - which begs the question, where exactly is the corresponding deprivation and how is it manifesting itself? This message was picked up by one of our young donors who offered to sponsor anonymously this needs analysis to enable us to understand better the scale and nature of social need in Suffolk to inform our grant-making and help consolidate the mass of information that was in the public domain but not readily accessible.

We welcome the opportunity to share these independent findings as our contribution to Suffolk's combined efforts to move forward in a positive and responsible manner. There are some key themes emerging from the report that will resonate with many readers, and which have already started to influence the Foundation's thinking and grant-making:

- Although Suffolk has many affluent areas, some of the areas that are identified as disadvantaged are amongst some of the most deprived in the UK. This strengthens our voice when we speak to national funders who would perhaps be inclined to overlook Suffolk. 19,000 children under 16 are living below the 'poverty line' - in some areas, this is as high as 1 in 4 children.
- More than 7% of young people aged 16-18 are not in education, training or employment - this is one of the highest rates for rural England and has serious implications for mental wellbeing and economic prospects for both the individuals and their communities.
- The rural nature of Suffolk has clear implications for service provision, particularly for the older population which is set to increase significantly, with a corresponding impact on carers - investment in community infrastructure and outreach services is vital and yet difficult to fund.
- Deprivation is complex and not easily summarised in one set of data. The activities of local voluntary organisations may not match local levels of deprivation, leading to gaps in community capacity where it is perhaps most needed. We need to explore how we work with others to help build stronger communities, from the grassroots up.

Looking at the 2010 edition of deprivation indices, the trend from the last set of comparable data in 2007 suggests there has been an increase in the experience of deprivation in Suffolk relative to rates in England as a whole. More than three times as many areas within Suffolk saw their relative deprivation ranking worsen substantially as saw it improve. This is a worrying trend that needs to be explored.

This Hidden Needs report is not the answer to every question and could never be an exhaustive summary of every social need. However, for us, this report represents a contribution to the continual improvement that we all seek for the county we love and has been designed to influence the Foundation's grant-making and the role we can play as a responsible catalyst for a better Suffolk for all.

Our thanks go to the University of Cambridge for their professional consultation and research, to all the contributors who gave their time and insight, to Suffolk's amazing voluntary and community sector who achieve so much with so little and, of course, to the generosity of our private donor who paid for this research, recognising that 'making a difference' comes in many different shapes and sizes.

**Stephen Singleton,**  
Chief Executive  
May 2011





# Executive Summary

Popular notions of poverty and deprivation in Britain often take them to be problems of inner city areas and large housing estates. This detailed review of the evidence on deprivation and hidden need in the communities of Suffolk shows that such a view is far from the whole truth:

- Nearly 78,000 people in the county live in income deprivation at the most minimal living standard provided by welfare benefits, and well below the 'poverty line'. This number represents 11 per cent of the total population, and includes 19,000 children aged under 16, and 24,000 people of retirement age.
- Deprivation and inequality go beyond income poverty and include other forms of disadvantage. As a whole, Suffolk has lower rates of multiple deprivation than England, but it is the second most deprived county in the East of England government region. The deprived circumstances of some Suffolk residents are compounded by geographic and social barriers, creating community need.
- In Ipswich and Lowestoft there are neighbourhoods with very high rates of multiple deprivation that are amongst the 10 per cent worst-off in England. An average of 33 per cent of people living in these areas is income deprived.
- County and district-level rates of deprivation can obscure the numbers of poor households that are living in a less deprived area. These 'hidden' deprived households are likely to be particularly vulnerable when resources are allocated to areas with the highest levels of need.
- Comparing the latest edition of deprivation indices with those from three years earlier show an increase in the experience of deprivation in Suffolk relative to rates in England as a whole. More than three times as many small areas within the county saw their relative ranking worsen as saw it improve, with employment outcomes an important reason for this.
- People in need do not always know what benefits and support they are entitled to, or do not have access to suitable services. Households who are not accessing services they need or claiming benefits that they are entitled to are doubly disadvantaged.
- Having a job does not always raise household income much above the poverty threshold. There is evidence of in-work poverty and under-counting of deprivation by standard measures in some parts of the county, particularly Forest Heath.
- Income deprivation affecting children is particularly concentrated in the larger towns in Suffolk. Across the county, less than half of five year-olds have reached a 'good' level of development. This is one of the worst outcomes in England, and is comparable to highly deprived urban areas.
- Childhood poverty also affects educational attainment: only 43% of low-income pupils claiming free school meals achieved 5 GCSEs at grades A\*- C, compared to 69% of pupils overall.

'Income deprivation affecting children is particularly concentrated in the larger towns in Suffolk. Across the county, less than half of five year-olds have reached a 'good' level of development.

- More than 7 per cent of young people aged 16 to 18 in Suffolk is not in education, training or employment. This is higher than the national average, and one of the highest rates for rural areas in England.
- The recession has hit youth employment hard, and recovery is slow. Many parts of Suffolk have limited opportunities for young people. Demand and supply of employment opportunities do not always match geographically. In Waveney, for example, there are seven job-seekers for every vacancy advertised in Job Centres.
- Older people are at risk of both economic and social deprivation, especially if they live alone. Over 40 per cent of people aged 75 and over live alone, and in most parts of Suffolk, at least one in ten people of retirement age is living in poverty. The proportion of very elderly people in the population is expected to rise, presenting a challenge to both public and third-sector service providers.
- Much of the county remains highly rural, and access to key services has steadily worsened in rural areas over the past two decades. The distances that residents of many parts of the county must travel to buy groceries, see a GP or post a parcel are amongst the highest in England.
- Migration has caused rapid change in the population composition of some districts, especially Forest Heath and Ipswich. The level of need in Forest Heath is likely to be significantly greater than the income deprivation figures alone suggest, as in-work poverty which is common among migrants is poorly captured by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
- The current capacity of the local voluntary sector does not appear to match the level of need in parts of the county. Voluntary organisations in Waveney, for example have not secured grants from the Foundation that reflect the size of the population in need, although other grant streams have been available there. Additional support to aspiring organisations may be needed, as may investment in community infrastructure and access.

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## INTRODUCTION

The majority of people living in Suffolk enjoy a good quality of life, and the county is typically seen as a fairly prosperous part of the UK. This report looks at the evidence and finds a more complex picture. Whilst deprivation of various types is not as widespread as elsewhere in the country, there are neighbourhoods within Suffolk's urban areas where much of the local population is in income poverty. Poverty and social disadvantage are not confined to the towns, and elsewhere in the county the material circumstances of poorer households are compounded by weaker infrastructure and travel distances to services.

## Objectives

The Suffolk Foundation works with communities, voluntary organisations and partners in the public and private sector to address need and alleviate disadvantage in the county. It administers a range of funding programmes, and in 2009/10 it awarded over £1.4m of grants to charities and community groups in the county. It is a member of the Community Foundation Network, whose members collectively administer endowments with a total value of £225m as at March 2010. The Suffolk Foundation commissioned this study to support and develop its work, and to assist all those working to improve the lives of Suffolk residents.

The past decade has seen a flourishing of the range of data and analysis available on the local distribution of poverty and disadvantage. The major statutory organisations working in the county have reported on some of these data; some of these important reports are listed in the endnotes. The aim of the present report is not simply to repeat these standard analyses of, for example, deprivation indices. Instead, it seeks to draw together a wide range of sources to provide analysis that is tailored to the particular circumstances of the county, and the nature of the Foundation's activities.

The purpose of the report is to enhance awareness of the extent, type and distribution of need and deprivation in the county, in a way that reflects:

- the varying incidence of deprivation between the districts that make up the county, and the fact that the underlying causes are not the same in each;
- that disadvantage is in some places highly concentrated and localised within particular neighbourhoods of the county's towns;
- that many deprived individuals and households live outside these areas with the highest rates, and may find it more difficult to gain access to support and services;
- the implications of the largely rural character of the county for analysing deprivation and for voluntary activities to alleviate it.

The topics addressed reflect the focus of the Foundation's activities. Therefore, for example, there is more attention to poverty being experienced by children and by older people than to housing or unemployment as aspects of social deprivation, since the former are at the centre of the Foundation's grant-making programme. This does not imply that issues that are treated less fully are considered less important dimensions of deprivation as a whole.

## Research methods

The first phase of research for this report involved consulting sixteen stakeholders in the county in one-to-one and small-group interviews. The interviewees were identified in discussions between the research team and the Foundation, and were drawn from a variety of public and voluntary sector bodies active in tackling disadvantage of various types. These interviews provided experts' perceptions of:

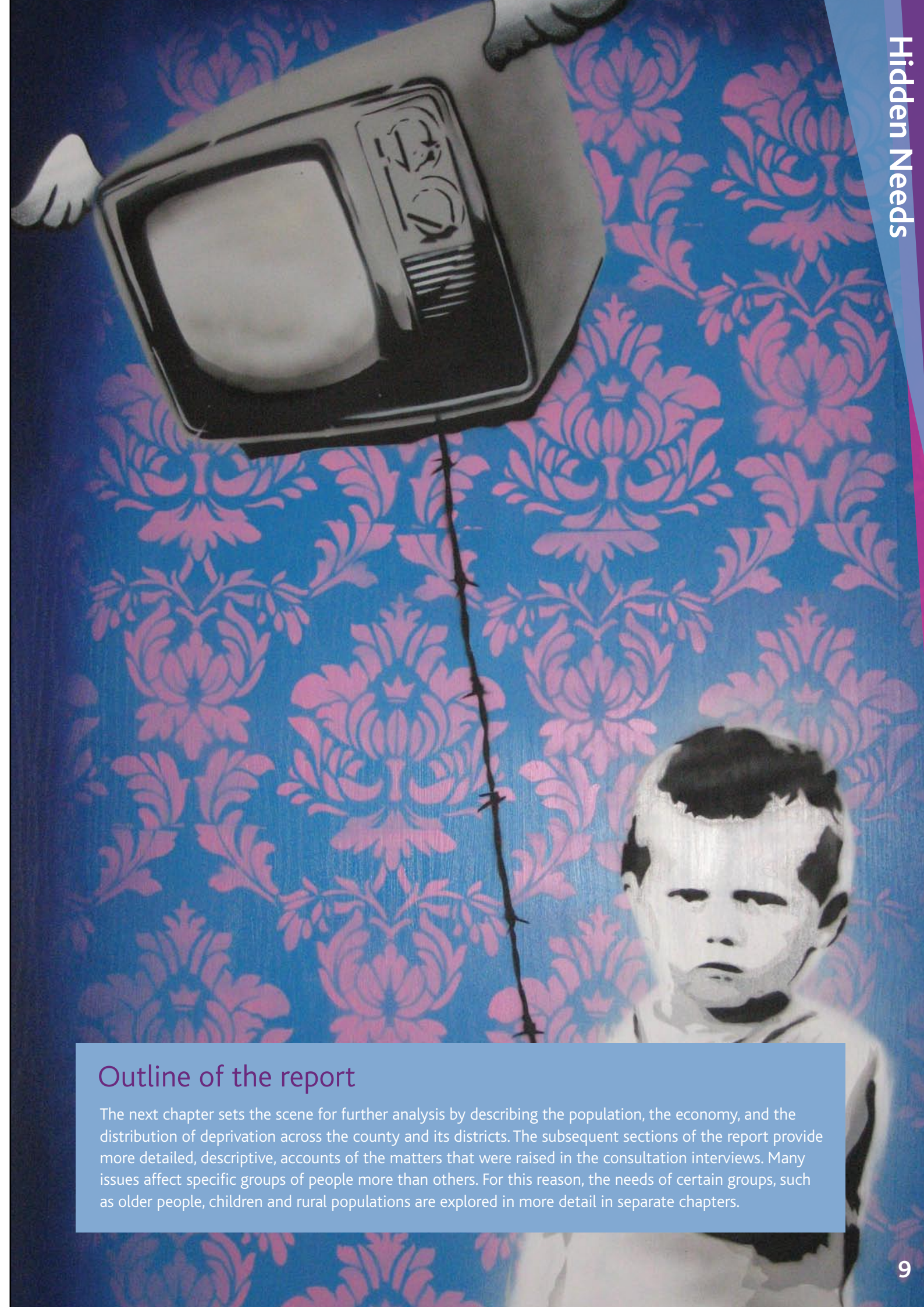
- the distribution and nature of need and disadvantage in the county;
- existing sources of information on this, and the gaps in the evidence base;
- the role of community and voluntary organisations in tackling disadvantage, and barriers to this work.

The responses of the interviewees were collated and used to design a programme of desk-based statistical analysis for the second phase of the study, the findings of which are presented in the rest of the report. The data sources used include official deprivation measures, survey data and administrative statistics; full details of the sources used are given in the appendix.

'Human needs are complex, and encompass safety and security, social relationships and leisure, and representation and participation in a society.'







# Definitions

Before reporting the results of the analyses, some key terms need to be defined.

## Disadvantage, poverty and deprivation

Disadvantage is understood as the position of those on the sharp end of the unequal distribution of material resources and power in British society. Deprivation, in turn, is understood as having to go without goods, services or relationships that are normatively considered the basic standard of a 'decent' life, because a lack of income, wealth or intangible resources like education inhibit access to them.

There are different ways of defining minimum incomes and basic material needs. One minimal standard might be an amount deemed sufficient to furnish housing, subsistence, and basic material goods. The lowest minimum standard in Britain is that set by the welfare system, which allows roughly £65 per week for a single adult aged over 25, or £100 for a couple without children, plus housing costs.

An alternative approach is to set a 'poverty line' relative to average incomes, recognising that material expectations are higher in wealthier countries. A standard poverty line of this sort is 60% of the national median (middle value) of income. This sort of standard sees poverty as in part a result of inequality, not just failure to secure absolute basic subsistence. More sophisticated approaches recognise that human needs are complex, and encompass safety and security, social relationships and leisure, and representation and participation in a society. Of course, all these can be hindered by income poverty, and so, for example, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation derives a poverty line by asking a panel of people what they consider to be basic standards of material *and* social life<sup>i</sup>. These can also be hindered by other forms of want - for example, want of education, or physical or social barriers to access.

In this report, except where indicated, the poverty figures used are derived from numbers receiving welfare benefits. This is because, unlike other poverty measures, such numbers can be calculated for small areas and used to identify pockets of deprivation. However, this means that a stringent criteria for poverty has been used. The numbers do not count many households and individuals who by other standards, including communal norms, would be considered to be living in poverty.

## Need

In the consultation interviews 'need' was understood and discussed by the respondents with reference to specific population sub-groups and in many different ways as:

- material want or income poverty;
- loneliness or social isolation;
- lack of access or limited access to services and opportunities.

Need may be experienced by individuals, communities, areas, businesses or sectors of the economy. For the purposes of this report, need is taken as arising from a condition or state of a household or person which means that it is hard to secure the basic necessities without external support. It thus reflects both the condition - which might be physical or mental ill-health, caring responsibilities and so forth - and the disadvantage which means that the need cannot be met from private resources.

## 'Hidden Needs'

A particular focus of the study is on 'hidden need', meaning

- forms of deprivation or need that are not widely recognised or addressed;
- types of deprivation that are not recorded using the methods that are normally used to measure deprivation;
- aspects of deprivation that are difficult to locate geographically.

## Outline of the report

The next chapter sets the scene for further analysis by describing the population, the economy, and the distribution of deprivation across the county and its districts. The subsequent sections of the report provide more detailed, descriptive, accounts of the matters that were raised in the consultation interviews. Many issues affect specific groups of people more than others. For this reason, the needs of certain groups, such as older people, children and rural populations are explored in more detail in separate chapters.



KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS

This chapter provides background information about the county, its districts and the distribution of deprivation. It is intended to provide a basis for understanding the thematically organised later chapters.

Suffolk and its districts

Suffolk is a non-metropolitan county, bordered by Norfolk to the North, Cambridgeshire to the West and Essex to the South. It is divided into seven local authority districts: Babergh, Forest Heath, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, St. Edmundsbury, Suffolk Coastal, and Waveney. The map below (Figure 1) shows the district boundaries and major towns. Throughout this report the 'East of England' refers to the region used in official statistics, which includes the counties of Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk.

Responsibilities are divided between the county and district councils. Suffolk County Council is responsible for major services which are provided county-wide in all seven districts. These include business and trading standards, education, environment, conservation of the countryside, waste disposal, leisure and culture, public safety, registration of births, marriages and deaths, social care and transport. District councils, on the other hand, are responsible for matters to do with housing, local planning, waste collection, council tax collection, licensing, cemeteries and crematoria. The district of Ipswich has recently sought to become a unitary district running all functions in its area, but its application was not approved.

Figure 1: Map of Suffolk, its districts and larger towns



Population

The proportion of older people above the state pension age in Suffolk is above the national average, and a lower proportion of people are of working age. The age structure and size of the resident population, however, varies greatly between the seven boroughs within Suffolk. Some boroughs, such as Forest Heath and Ipswich have large proportions of younger and working-age people (Table 1).

The ratio of working-age adults who are most likely to be economically active, to those who are more likely to need care - older people and children, is

lowest in Babergh, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, which have large older populations. The proportion of very old (aged 85 and over) is also significantly higher in these three areas than elsewhere in the county, region and country.

Between 2001 and 2009 Suffolk's overall population increased by nearly 7 percent, which is a typical rate of population growth for the Eastern region (Table 2). The population of Forest Heath increased by over 10 percent, a change partly reflecting in-migration.

Table 1: 2009 Population below, at and above working age, by district				
	Estimated total population 2009	% aged 15 or under	% working age Men 16-64 Women 16-59	% older people Men 65+ Women 60+
Babergh	85,700	19	56	25
Forest Heath	62,200	21	61	18
Ipswich	126,500	19	63	18
Mid Suffolk	94,200	18	58	23
St Edmundsbury	103,700	19	59	23
Suffolk Coastal	124,100	18	56	27
Waveney	117,600	17	56	27
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>713,900</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>East of England</b>	<b>5,766,800</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>51,809,700</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19</b>

Table 2: Population change 2001-2009, by district			
	2001	2009	% increase 2001-2009
Babergh	83,475	85,600	2.5
Forest Heath	55,523	62,200	12.0
Ipswich	117,061	126,500	8.1
Mid Suffolk	86,861	94,200	8.4
St Edmundsbury	98,201	103,700	5.6
Suffolk Coastal	115,148	124,100	7.8
Waveney	112,342	117,600	4.8
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>668,611</b>	<b>713,900</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>East of England</b>	<b>5,388,140</b>	<b>5,766,800</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>49,138,831</b>	<b>51,809,700</b>	<b>5.4</b>

Source for both tables: 2009 ONS mid-year population estimates.

## Ethnicity

Suffolk is less ethnically mixed than England as a whole, although this varies between the seven districts within the county. Those areas with oldest population (Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Babergh), are also the least ethnically diverse (Table 3). The greatest diversity can be found in Ipswich and Forest Heath, where the proportion of white British of the total population is below the national average. Comparison of the 2007 ONS estimates with 2001 census data suggests that the size of minority ethnic and migrant populations is growing rapidly, as is their proportion of Suffolk's population. In Forest Heath in particular, this reflects the levels of migration from the new accession countries of the EU<sup>ii</sup>.

Table 3: Proportion of population that is 'White British', 'White Other' and all other ethnic groups, 2007			
	White British %	White Other %	All other BME* %
Babergh	93.5	2.3	4.5
Forest Heath	68.7	19.3	12.0
Ipswich	85.7	3.1	11.2
Mid Suffolk	94.2	2.1	3.6
St Edmundsbury	91.2	3.7	5.1
Suffolk Coastal	92.0	2.7	5.2
Waveney	94.2	1.8	4.0
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>89.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>East of England</b>	<b>86.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>12.9</b>

Source: ONS experimental population estimates by ethnicity (2007).  
Notes: \* All other BME includes 'White Irish'.

Table 4: Change in ethnic composition of resident population in Suffolk 2001-2007		
	2001	2007
% of population White British	96.8	89.6
% of population White Other	1.3	4.1
% of population Black and Minority ethnic (including White Irish)	1.9	6.3

Source: ONS (2001 Census and 2007 mid-year population estimates).

Comparison of the ethnic composition of Suffolk's population in 2001 (census) and 2007 (ONS mid-year population estimates) shows a notable increase in ethnic diversity (Table 4).

The county-level figures conceal a great degree of variation between different parts of the county. In Forest Heath and Ipswich, for example, the proportion of white British of the resident population has fallen from 76% and 91% (2001) to 69% and 86% (2007) respectively.

## Migration

Much of this change is believed to be the result of increased and continuing international in-migration. In 2004-2009, the estimated number of non-UK nationals in Suffolk has increased from 21,900 in 2004 to 29,800 in 2009. At the same time, their proportion of the overall population has grown.

Migrants are unequally distributed, as Table 5 shows, with Forest Heath and Ipswich having significantly larger foreign populations than other parts of the county. The growth in foreign population during the period 2004-09 has been greatest in Ipswich. Although the proportion of foreign nationals in some parts of Suffolk is notable, the county overall still has a smaller proportion of migrants than England on average.

Following the two most recent rounds of European Union enlargement in 2004 and 2007, migration from Eastern Europe has received a lot of attention in the British media. Although data on these so-called migrant workers is scant, some indication of the numbers can be gained from a comparison of non-British annual National Insurance (NI) registrations for years before and after the enlargement. As would be expected, the numbers increase immediately after 2004 and remain fairly constant until 2009 when the impact of the economic downturn on employment prospects would begin to affect Suffolk's economy. Reliable information about migrants' country of origin is not available for county or district level. A survey of 400 migrants in Suffolk carried out in 2010, however, estimated that the largest migrant groups in the county are from Poland, Portugal, India and Pakistan<sup>iii</sup>.

Table 5: Population composition by nationality (2004-2009), by district				
	2004		2009	
	UK nationals	Non-UK nationals	UK nationals	Non-UK nationals
Babergh	98.3	1.7	97.3	2.3
Forest Heath	85.6	14.4	84.4	15.6
Ipswich	96.7	3.3	92.2	7.9
Mid Suffolk	98.6	1.3	96.7	3.3
St Edmundsbury	96.8	3.1	98.0	1.4
Suffolk Coastal	98.4	1.6	99.1	0.7
Waveney	98.0	2.0	98.1	1.8
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>

Source: Annual Population Survey (2004 and 2009).

Quantifying the implications of international in-migration is difficult. While the vast majority of migrants work, pay taxes, consume goods and help to reinvigorate the region’s economy, migrants also need housing, health care and other services. The burden of providing services for migrants and their children falls most heavily on areas that have the highest concentrations of new migrants whose language skills and knowledge of British society may be limited.

To a great extent, however, the implications of migration on service provision and delivery are determined by the characteristics of the migrant populations. Young, unmarried labour migrants, for example, tend to need and use less public sector services than families or refugees, who often have traumatic past experiences. The report considers the needs of migrant populations in more detail in the chapter on demographic change.

Table 6: National Insurance Number Registrations, indicator of international in-migration						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Foreign NiNo registrations in Suffolk	2,920	4,960	4,820	5,340	4,560	3,730

Source: ONS Local Area Migration Indicators (2010).

## Industry and Economy

The largest sectors of employment in Suffolk are public administration, education and health, followed by distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants and banking, finance and insurance. Although only relatively small numbers are classified as working

directly in agriculture, a much larger number of related businesses and jobs depend on and constitute the rural economy. Table 7 below lists the main employment sectors in each district.

Table 7: Sectors employing 5,000 or more employees by district			
Babergh	Forest Heath	Ipswich	Mid Suffolk
Distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants	Distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants	Public services	Public services
Banking, finance and insurance		Banking, finance and insurance	Distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants
Manufacturing		Distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants	Manufacturing
Public services			
Special features of the local labour market			
Home to large number of global brands	Horse-racing industry  US airbase	Five prominent industrial estates relating to business, light industry, storage and distribution	

Table 7: Sectors employing 5,000 or more employees by district		
St Edmundsbury	Suffolk Coastal	Waveney
Public services	Public services	Distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants
Distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants	Transport and communications	Public services
Manufacturing	Distribution, retail, hotels and restaurants	Manufacturing
Banking, finance and insurance	Banking, finance and insurance	Banking, finance and insurance
Special features of the local labour market		
Strong food manufacturing industry		Adnams Brewery

Source: Annual Business Inquiry (2008); Suffolk Key District Features.

Reflecting its mix of industries, Suffolk has fewer people in professional and managerial occupations compared to the rest of the region and the country, and more employed in skilled trades and elementary occupations (Table 8).

Table 8: Employment by Occupational category (all employed people)				
	Total number in Suffolk	Suffolk (%)	East of England (%)	England (%)
Managers and senior officials	49,500	14	18	16
Professional occupations	35,900	10	14	14
Associate professional & technical	51,300	15	14	15
Administrative and secretarial	42,100	12	11	11
Skilled trades	44,900	13	11	10
Personal service occupations	27,100	8	8	9
Sales and customer service	26,600	8	7	7
Process, plant and machine operatives	25,700	7	6	7
Elementary occupations	42,100	12	11	11

Source: Annual Population Survey (Jan-Dec 2009).



Economic activity and unemployment

The overall economic activity rate in Suffolk is similar to the regional average and slightly above the national rate, according to the government’s Labour Force Survey. Economic activity is lowest in Waveney, which also has the highest unemployment rate in Suffolk. This means Waveney has the greatest proportion of working-age adults outside of the labour market for reasons such as caring responsibilities or ill-health.

The most up-to-date estimates of levels of unemployment are provided by the numbers claiming Job Seeker’s Allowance, although this excludes some who would like to work but who are not eligible or do

not claim. The claimant unemployment rate in Suffolk is similar to the regional average and, at 2.7 per cent, slightly below the national average of 3.4 percent. Ipswich and Waveney have rates well above national and regional averages (Table 9).

Job seekers face a much harder task in some parts of the county than others. In Waveney, there are over seven people signed on as seeking work for every vacancy advertised through the Job Centre (Table 10). While nearly a quarter of the county’s claimant unemployed live in Waveney, only 15 per cent of the vacancies are open there.

Table 9: JSA claimant unemployment rate, by district		
Area	JSA claimants (November 2010)	
	Number	% of working-age population
Babergh	1,030	2.0
Forest Heath	838	2.1
Ipswich	3,506	4.2
Mid Suffolk	1,082	1.9
St Edmundsbury	1,395	2.2
Suffolk Coastal	1,337	1.8
Waveney	2,877	4.1
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>12,065</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>East of England</b>	<b>103,483</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>1,156,394</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Source: JSA claimant count, mid-2009 resident population.

‘Full-time employment does not guarantee a comfortable existence above the poverty line. While the regional median average income is higher than the national average, Suffolk lags behind both the region and the nation.’

Table 10: JSA claimant unemployment and job centre vacancies, by district			
	JSA Claimant Count	Job Centre Vacancies	Job seekers per vacancy
Babergh	1,030	434	2.4
Forest Heath	838	348	2.4
Ipswich	3,506	1,010	3.5
Mid Suffolk	1,082	373	2.9
St Edmundsbury	1,395	621	2.3
Suffolk Coastal	1,337	512	2.6
Waveney	2,877	401	7.2
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>12,065</b>	<b>3,699</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>East of England</b>	<b>103,483</b>	<b>33,748</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>1,156,394</b>	<b>314,560</b>	<b>3.7</b>

Source: ONS JCP vacancies for 2009; JSA claimant count November 2010.

Income

Full-time employment does not guarantee a comfortable existence above the poverty line. While the regional median average income is higher than the national average, Suffolk lags behind both the region and the nation, with a gross median income of £478 for full-time workers compared to £523 for East of England and £506 for England. Despite low levels of unemployment, Forest Heath also has

low rates of pay, with median (middle value) gross weekly earnings of £398 (Table 11). The lowest-paid quarter of full-time workers in that district earn only £322 a week. The median income in Suffolk reflects the size and occupational structure of the county’s economy as well as the variation in skills profiles between the districts within the county.

Table 11: Median and lower-quartile earnings from employment for full-time workers		
	25 percentile (gross £/week)	Median income (gross £/week)
Babergh	345	505
Forest Heath	322	398
Ipswich	336	469
Mid Suffolk	342	457
St Edmundsbury	346	484
Suffolk Coastal	359	515
Waveney	345	466
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>478</b>
<b>East of England</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>523</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>506</b>

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), 2010 (ONS, NOMIS).

## Key deprivation measures

The preceding gives the economic and demographic background to the county. The report now turns to the central question of where in the county deprivation rates are highest. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010, published by the government, provide a starting point. The IMD measures the prevalence of deprivation among the resident population for over 32,000 small areas (called Lower-level Super Output Areas, or LSOAs) in England. It draws on multiple

sources of data to bring together different aspects of deprivation, including income poverty, unemployment, health, housing and environmental problems. Every small area is given a score and a ranking. An LSOA area might thus be said to be 'among the 10% most deprived in England'; this would mean that the proportion of its population experiencing these forms of deprivation is among the highest 10% in England.

Suffolk, like the East of England more generally, has a relatively small proportion of areas falling amongst the most deprived in the country (Table 12). Even so, Suffolk is the second most deprived county in the East, after Norfolk<sup>iv</sup>. In Ipswich and Waveney there are neighbourhoods that fall among the 10% most deprived in the whole of England. These areas have extremely high incidence of material deprivation.

For example, income poverty rates among people in the worst 10% of areas in Suffolk range from 25% to 40%, with an average of 33%. This means that in these most disadvantaged parts of the county, over a third of the population are living in financial hardship. Ipswich is among the 100 most deprived local authorities, out of almost 400 in England; Waveney is just outside the worst-off 100.

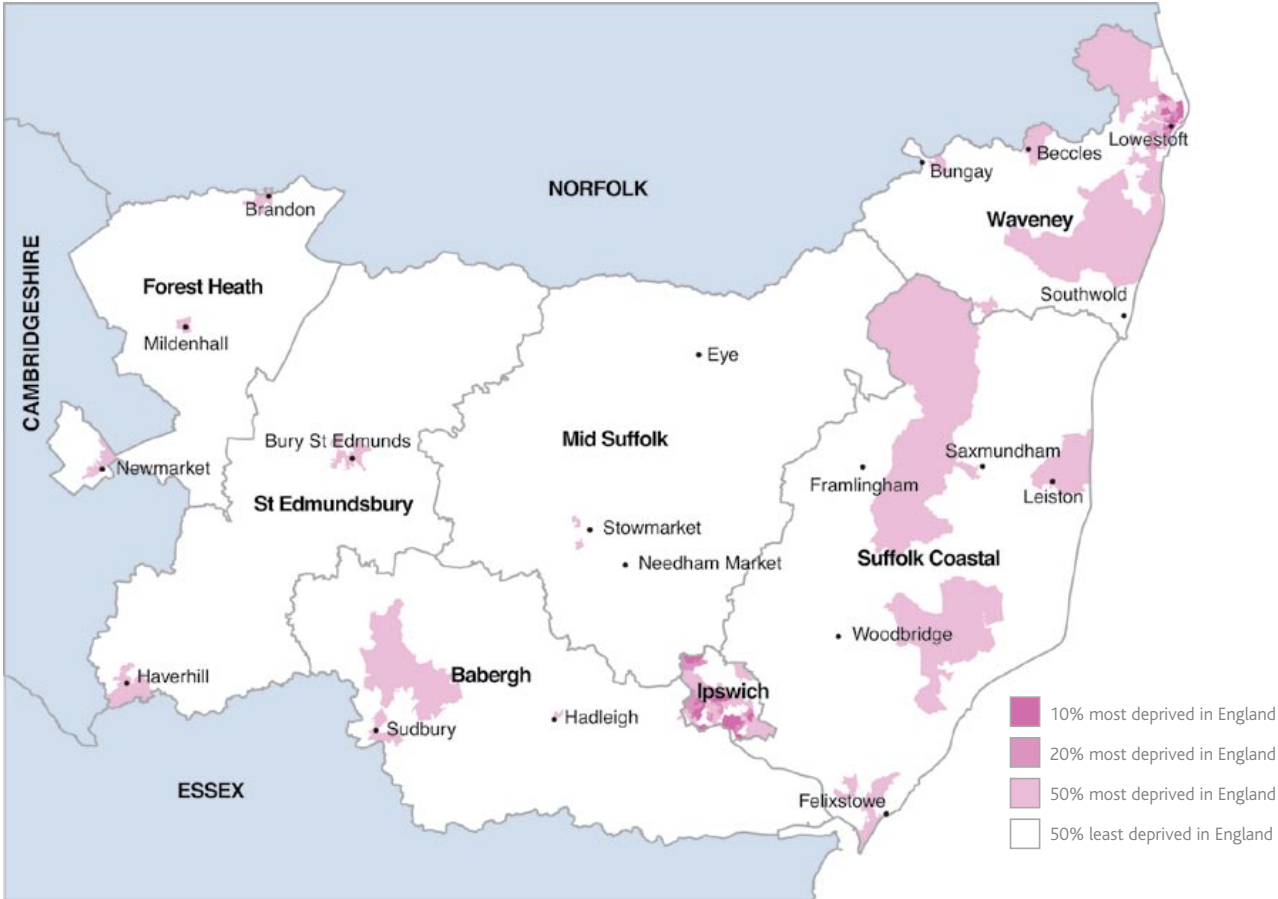
Table 12: Percentage of small areas by deprivation decile group, Suffolk, East of England and England, 2010			
	Suffolk	East of England	England
10% most deprived	3.3	2.8	10.0
10-20% most deprived	4.5	4.7	10.0
20-50% most deprived	25.1	27.1	30.0
50% least deprived	67.1	65.4	50.0

Source: DCLG Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

Table 13: Deprivation rates by population group and district				
	Income Deprivation, all people (% rate)	Employment Deprivation among working-age adults (% rate)	Income Deprivation affecting older people (% rate)	Income Deprivation affecting children (% rate)
Babergh	9	6	12	12
Forest Heath	8	5	16	9
Ipswich	16	11	20	23
Mid Suffolk	8	5	12	10
St Edmundsbury	9	7	13	12
Suffolk Coastal	8	6	12	11
Waveney	15	11	17	22
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>East of England</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>

Source: DCLG, Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

Figure 2: Index of Multiple Deprivation, ranking of local concentration of deprivation relative to all England



Source: DCLG, Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

Mapping the rankings of the 428 LSOA areas in Suffolk shows that eastern seaward part of the county contains the areas with the highest rates of multiple deprivation (Figure 2). As noted above, it shows that the most disadvantaged areas are concentrated in the coastal part of Lowestoft and central, southern and western Ipswich.

The lightest pink areas are those that, whilst not having the highest concentrations of deprivation, nonetheless have significant deprived populations. Such areas are widespread in the two coastal districts, and are also found in and around the towns of the inland council areas. The extent of disadvantage in these areas should not be underestimated. By the IMD's measure, an average of 16% of the population in these areas is in income poverty, compared to only 7% in the least deprived half of LSOAs.



### Recent trends in deprivation

The IMD 2010 is the third issue of the indices to have been produced for the same geographical units and using largely consistent methods and sources. The data it is built from relate mainly to 2008; the previous edition, IMD 2007, used data that came largely from 2005. It is possible therefore to compare the two indices to get an indication of recent trends in the concentration of deprivation in Suffolk. Since the IMD measures relative deprivation, this can show whether Suffolk became more or less deprived between 2005 and 2008 relative to England as a whole.

Since the majority of areas in England have quite similar deprivation rates near the average, small changes in Suffolk’s rankings between IMD 2007 and IMD 2010 do not necessarily indicate large increases in deprivation rates. However, if one looks only at larger changes in rankings, there are clear indications that many more parts of Suffolk became more

deprived, relative to England as a whole, than became less so. A total of 94 LSOAs became relatively more deprived by enough to move them up a decile towards the most deprived in England, whilst only 22 changed enough to move them down a decile, towards the least deprived in England (Table 14).

The table shows that many of the relatively worsening areas were located in Babergh and St Edmundsbury. Few of the moves place specific parts of the county into the most highly deprived group in England as a whole, yet nonetheless show clearly that overall deprivation is worsening, or at least improving less swiftly than in England as a whole. Analysis of the underlying indicators suggest that it is poorer employment outcomes, and also poorer relative outcomes on crime and disorder measures that are contributing to Suffolk’s worse outcomes in the 2010 edition of the IMD.

### Limits of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation

The IMD is a useful and well-known measure, but it is only a starting point. It evaluates the local concentration of deprivation, rather than its overall scale. As discussed further below, the IMD estimates that there are nearly 78,000 people living in income poverty, including 24,000 elderly people and 19,000 children under 16. Material want and social need are far from absent in the county. The scale of inequalities is borne out by other measures; for example, the Health Authority’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment noted a gap of twelve years in life expectancy between the best-off and worst-off wards in Suffolk’.

Also, in order to produce estimates for small areas, the IMD is forced to rely largely on administrative data, such as that derived from the operation of the benefits system. This brings with it several shortcomings. Firstly, its definition of poverty is not aligned with the standard poverty line of 60% of median income. It thus may not identify areas where low rates of pay cause in-work poverty. The previous section suggests that low-pay is widespread in Forest Heath in particular, and thus its relatively low scoring on the IMD may disguise higher rates of poverty. Using benefits data also relies on people being able and willing to claim all state benefits. This is known to be a problem where some migrants may be ineligible – as in Forest Heath, again – or where there are other reasons why people eligible for assistance do not claim. Compared to urban areas, rural areas have lower take-up of benefits, and since Suffolk is a largely rural county, we turn to this aspect of hidden deprivation in the next section.

Table 14: Numbers of Suffolk LSOAs with change in overall deprivation rank within 2007-2010, decile equivalent moves

	Increasing relative deprivation		No change	Decreasing relative deprivation	
	2 decile equivalent	1 decile equivalent		1 decile equivalent	2 decile equivalent
Babergh	0	21	33	0	0
Forest Heath	1	10	22	1	0
Ipswich	0	10	64	5	0
Mid Suffolk	0	10	40	4	0
St. Edmundsbury	1	26	30	3	1
Suffolk Coastal	1	11	57	1	1
Waveney	0	3	64	6	0
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>

Source: IMD 2007 and IMD 2010.

‘The IMD estimates that there are nearly 78,000 people living in income poverty, including 24,000 elderly people and 19,000 children under 16. Material want and social need are far from absent in the county.’

DEPRIVATION IN RURAL SUFFOLK

The county has a largely rural character, with much of the population living in small towns, villages and isolated dwellings. The Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) produces a set of urban/rural classifications of geographic units based on their settlement patterns.

At district level, this categorises six of the seven constituent districts as rural districts, with four of them (Babergh, Forest Heath, Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal) being amongst the most distinctly rural type of local authority in England. The urban (defined as being in a settlement with a population over 10,000), town and rural parts of the county are shown in Figure 3.

The rurality of much of the county has several implications for meeting community need. Firstly, standard deprivation measures may under-estimate both the extent and concentration of local rural deprivation. Rural residents are less likely to claim benefits to which they are entitled, and rural poverty can result from low-pay and intermittent

employment; this all has implications for deprivation measures based on welfare benefit claims, like the IMD. Research also shows that rural deprivation may be concentrated in particular parts of small settlements, but this is disguised because the area units used to measure deprivation nationally are too large to pick up on this.

Aside from the problem of identifying deprivation, characteristics of the countryside may exacerbate need. Important public and private services may be located at a distance, and transport links may be poor - a burden that falls heavily on those who are unable to run a car. This section looks first at what is known about the location of rural deprivation in Suffolk, then at the evidence on rural accessibility.

The rural share of deprivation

Suffolk Action with Communities in Rural England (Suffolk ACRE) and Suffolk County Council commissioned Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) to further develop the evidence base on rural deprivation across the county<sup>vi</sup>. This was done in three ways:

- using statistically modelled datasets to identify small pockets of deprivation in rural Suffolk that are not identified using existing measures such as the IMD;
- exploring the rural share of total deprivation in Suffolk - that is, the proportion of deprived people that lives outside urban areas - by looking at the numbers of people experiencing different aspects of deprivation;
- profiling 119 small settlements in Suffolk with populations greater than 300 to produce a short profile report covering a full set of indicators of deprivation.

The first question is the proportion of deprived people in Suffolk that live in rural areas. This has implications for the reach of initiatives and programmes aimed at meeting community need. Table 15 shows that 42% of the whole population of Suffolk live in rural areas, and that nearly the same proportion of some deprived groups live in rural areas. The Suffolk countryside contains almost an even share of people with long-term illness, adults with no qualifications and low-income pensioners.

This is shown visually in Figure 4 (over the page). This map plots circles whose size is proportionate to the number of income-deprived people living in each small area, over the urban-rural classification map. Although the largest and most clustered populations are in the larger towns, it shows how in the most rural areas of even the less deprived districts like Mid Suffolk there are considerable numbers of people living in poverty.

Table 15: Deprived and disadvantaged groups, percentage living in rural areas of Suffolk

Group	% of group in rural Suffolk
People with limiting long term illness	39.7
Adults with no qualifications	39.0
Pension credit claimants	36.6
Disability Living Allowance claimants	32.1
Social rented housing tenants	31.1
Incapacity Benefit claimants	30.7
Households lacking central heating	29.8
DWP 'working age client group'	29.4
Overcrowded households	26.6
Households with no car or van	26.5
Children in workless households	26.1
IMD affecting children index	24.9
Jobseekers Allowance claimants	24.0
Whole population	42.0

Source: OCSI (2007) from Census 2001, ODPM (2004), DWP (2006), ONS (2005).  
Note. The DWP 'working age client group' relates to the number of people of working age receiving benefits.

Figure 3: DEFRA Urban/Rural classification of LSOAs in Suffolk

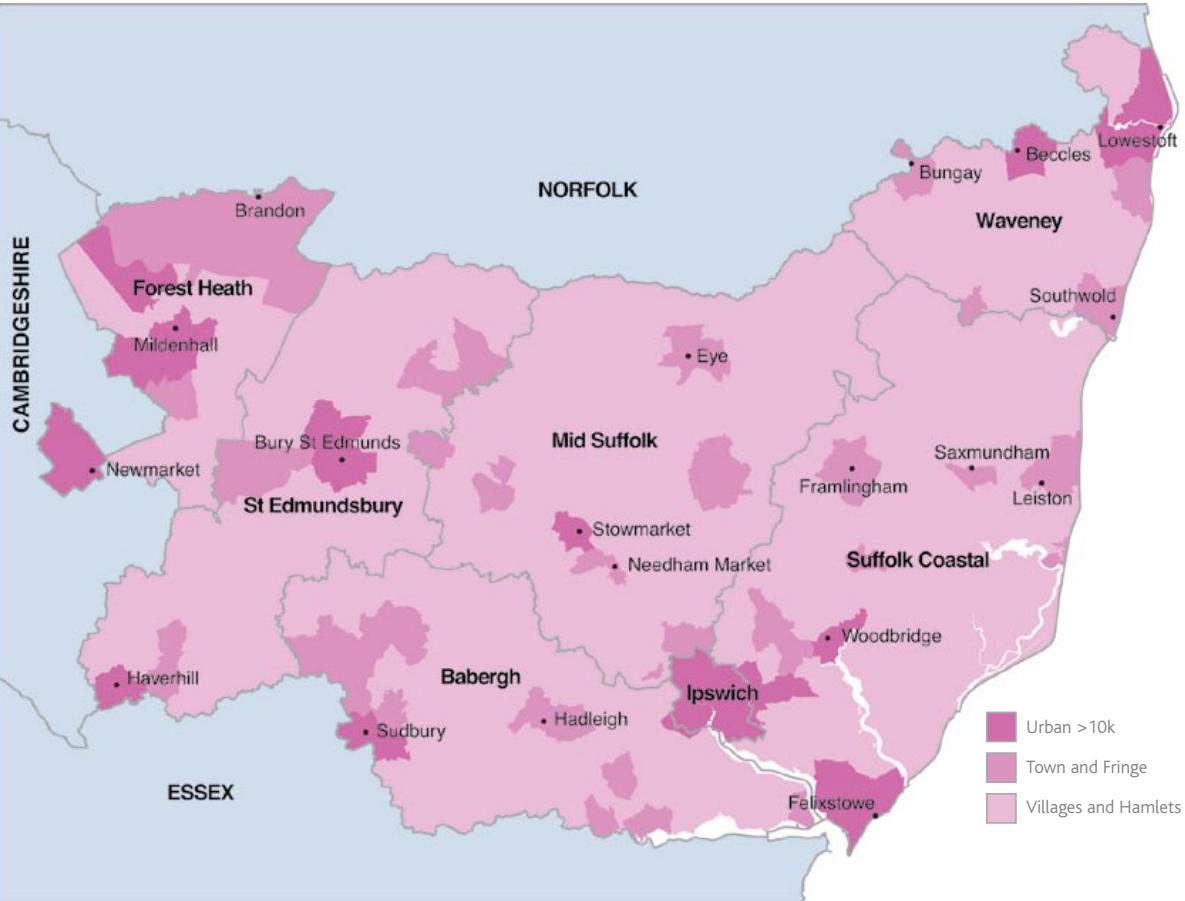
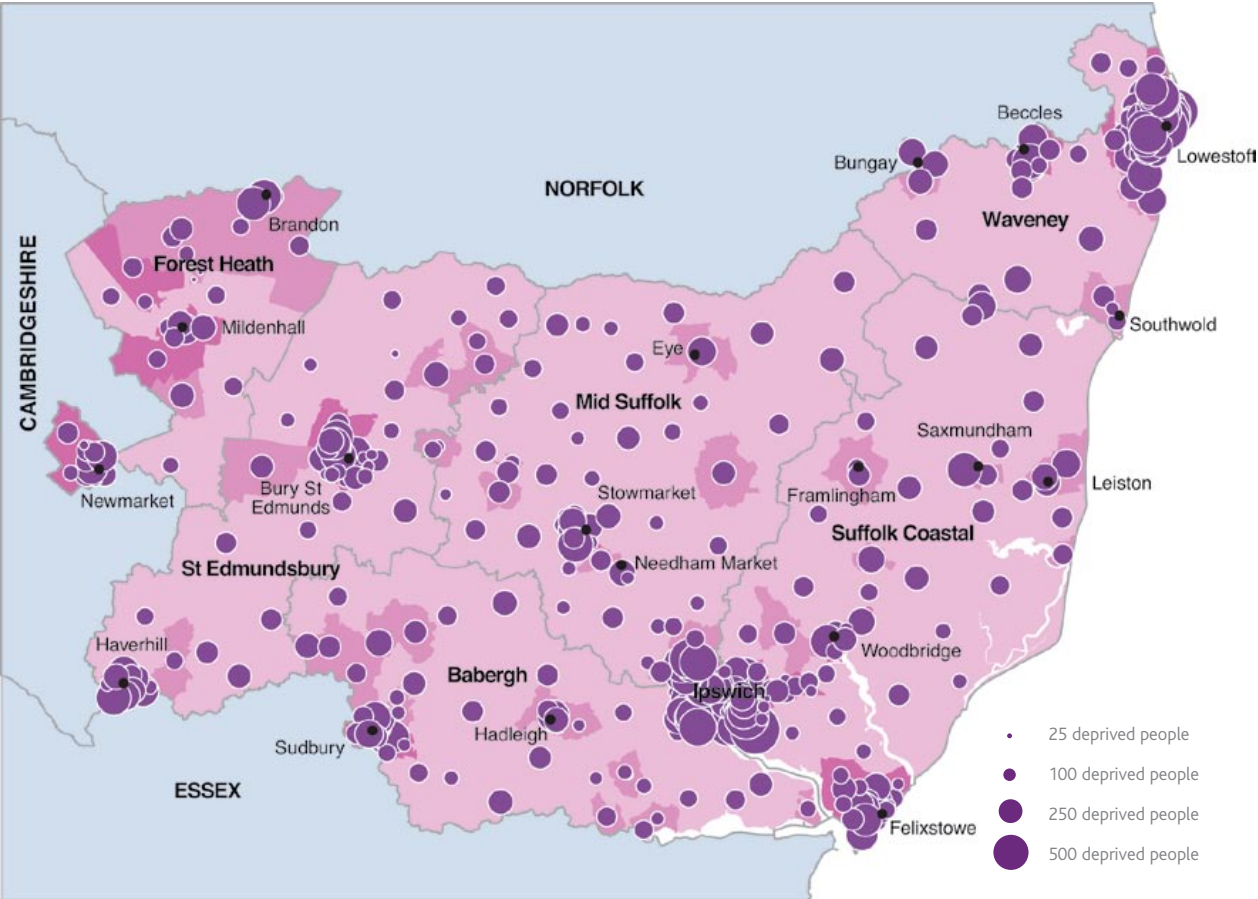




Figure 4: Counts of income-deprived people overlaid on urban/rural classification



Source: DEFRA urban/rural classification; IMD 2010.

Locating disadvantaged rural communities

The preceding analysis shows that a large share of many disadvantaged populations live in the countryside. A second question is whether there are deprived communities, with high rates of deprivation and concentrated need in the countryside. OCSI’s research enabled deprivation to be examined at the smaller Output Area (OA) scale rather than the much larger Super Output Area (LSOA). It identified 11 rural Suffolk OAs within the 10% most deprived OAs in the whole region. These are shown in Table 16.

Of these, only two, in Saxmundham, lie within a larger area which is identified by the standard IMD as one of the most deprived. The rest are ‘hidden’ within less deprived SOAs and so would not be highlighted using standard indicators. However, only around 16% of the rural deprived population lives in the areas listed above. As the map above shows the large majority of disadvantaged persons live in parts of the countryside where most of their neighbours are not in similar circumstances. Planning needs to take account of both the overall reach to rural populations, and communities where need may be most concentrated.

Table 16: Location of pockets of rural deprivation amongst 10% most deprived in East of England

Settlement	Location
Barningham	To the east of the village, near Stanton in St Edmundsbury
Leiston	The estate around Seaward Avenue in Leiston, Suffolk Coastal
Peasenhall	Including the Mount Pleasant housing area, Suffolk Coastal
Saxmundham	Three OAs are highly deprived
Upthorpe	A predominantly retired community to the north of the village
Willingham	In Waveney
Ampton & Timworth	Plus a number of isolated settlements to the north of Bury St Edmunds
Whitehouse in Ipswich	Mobile homes to the west of the A14
Kessingland	Part of this small seaside town

Source: Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion, for Suffolk ACRE and Suffolk County Council.

Accessibility of services

Disadvantage can be exacerbated or ameliorated by access to services. These might be services for daily life, such as general shops and post offices, facilities that enable social interaction, such as pubs and community centres, or welfare services like GP practices and job centres. The 2001 Census found that 55,000 households in Suffolk have no car available. As Table 15 showed, over a quarter of all households with no car live in the rural parts of Suffolk. Public transport goes some way, in some areas, to bridge this gap. However, a national report of the Transport Select Committee in 2005 highlighted the problem of private operators withdrawing less profitable services, leaving them to depend on subsidy funding from local authorities. Even where they are provided with subsidy, the costs of public transport are a serious burden on income-deprived households.

The problem of accessibility to such services in rural areas has long been acknowledged, and between 1991 and 2000 the Rural Development Commission and subsequently the Countryside Agency conducted a national rural services survey. Although this has now ceased, it provided a record of the loss of services such as regular buses, post offices, shops and schools. Suffolk ACRE held its own rural services survey in 2008 and compared its findings with national figures where these were available, although there may be some inconsistencies in recording.

This picture of the decline of local services in rural parishes is shown in Table 17 (over the page). By 2008, only 33% of parishes had a post office, down from 57% in 1991. Only 14% had a general store, and barely half had a pub in 2008. For almost all categories of services, the provision in Suffolk is appreciably worse than in England as a whole.

‘The large majority of disadvantaged persons live in parts of the countryside where most of their neighbours are not in similar circumstances.’

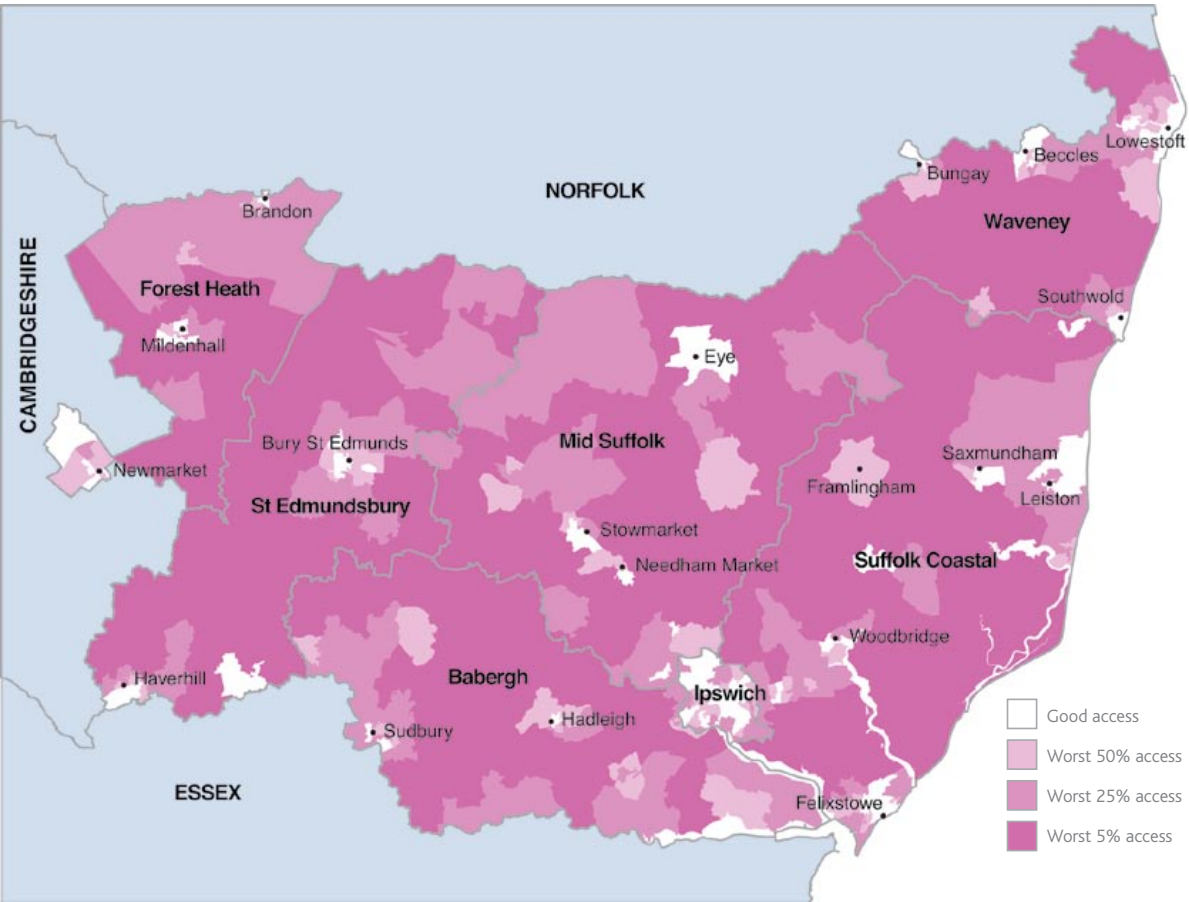
Table 17: Access to key services in rural parishes, England and Suffolk, 1991-2008					
	1991	1994	1997	2000	2008
<b>Has a post office (% of rural parishes)</b>					
National	58	57	57	54	44
Suffolk	57	54	52	47	33
<b>Has a general store (% of rural parishes)</b>					
National	29	28	30	29	n/a
Suffolk	25	19	21	24	14
<b>Has a public house (% of rural parishes)</b>					
National	n/a	70	71	75	34
Suffolk	70	65	67	68	58
<b>Has a GP surgery (% of rural parishes)</b>					
National	16	17	17	14	15
Suffolk	13	11	12	15	15
<b>Has community transport (% of Suffolk rural parishes)</b>					
Dial a Ride	1	2	15	24	37
Minibus, car sharing etc.	11	12	15	17	27
<b>Affordable housing (% of Suffolk rural parishes)</b>					
Has affordable housing in parish					29
Affordable housing is planned in parish					28

Sources: Rural Development Commission, Countryside Agency, Suffolk ACRE.

Similar kinds of data were used to measure barriers to access to services as part of the IMD. In this case, the average distance of the population to a primary school, to a GP surgery, to a post office and to a general store or supermarket were measured. The urban parts of Suffolk, like towns and cities elsewhere, have generally short distances to these key services. However, the average distance to such services in the county is worse than that for England and for the region generally. Half of the county's population has to travel nearly 2km to a post office, and nearly 4km to a general store or supermarket.

The map (Figure 5) shows that away from the larger towns, there are many areas which score among the 5% worst in England for access to key services. Mid Suffolk, and to a lesser extent, Babergh, have many areas with extremely poor access, creating particular difficulties for disadvantaged households in those places.

Figure 5: Distance to key services (post office, GP, primary school, general store), relative to England average



Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010, Geographical Barriers to Services domain.

Internet access in rural areas

Since the advent of widespread fast internet access in the past five to ten years, a huge range of services have come to be delivered online. Some of these are services that already existed, but can be delivered more cheaply or conveniently online, such as shopping and public administration. Others exploit the media to achieve things that were hard or impossible before, such as rapid, instant organisation by communities joined by common interests but possibly separated by space.

Providing the infrastructure for high-quality internet access is not cheap, and it can be expensive and unprofitable in more remote rural areas. The Commission for Rural Communities, Suffolk Chamber for Commerce and Suffolk County Council, among others, have taken a special interest in this. If internet access is expensive or of poor quality, it can compound disadvantage in several ways<sup>vii</sup>:

- people are left unable to buy goods more cheaply online and select from a wider range of goods and providers;

- people cannot connect with helpful public services, and easily identify support to which they might be entitled;
- people are unable to benefit from training, education and entrepreneurial opportunities offered online;
- people cannot use the internet to engage with others and organise community activities.

Research commissioned by the county council from the specialist consultancy SamKnows found that whilst broadband access is universal in Suffolk, in many rural areas it is at below-average speeds, and there is little competition among providers<sup>viii</sup>. This means that many residents are unable to benefit from the cheapest and best services available. However, given that the cost of IT equipment and private broadband subscriptions remain considerable for those on low-incomes, a more important question is the availability of communal provision of internet access, and training in how to use it. Community organisations have a key role to play in meeting this need.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

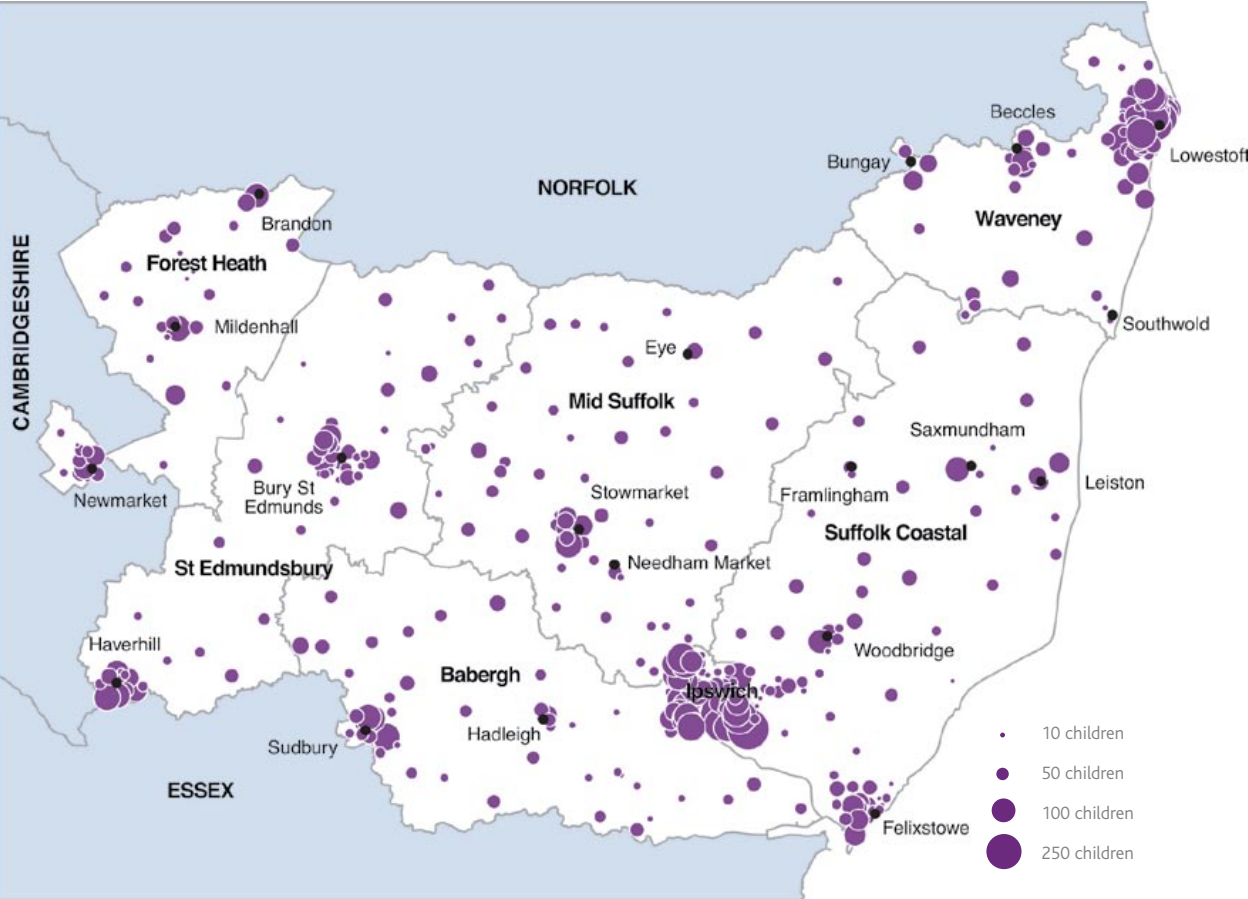
Deprivation affecting children and young people is a concern not only for the present, but for the future since it profoundly affects their life chances. It is one of the Suffolk Foundation’s principal areas of activity - by far the largest number of recent grants were made to organisations working with this age group. This section looks particularly at the location and nature of deprivation affecting people under 21.

Income deprivation affecting children

Compared to income deprivation affecting the general population in Suffolk, poverty affecting children is particularly concentrated in the larger towns (Figure 6). By the IMD’s measure, there are nearly 20,000 children living in income-deprived households in the county, and over half of these are in Ipswich or in Waveney, especially in Lowestoft. Nearly one in every four children (23%) in Ipswich is being brought up in poverty.

Recently published data on teachers’ assessments of young children’s development picks up the effects of childhood poverty at an early stage. Suffolk was amongst the worst scoring authorities, with more than 50% of five year olds not reaching attaining a ‘good’ level of development. This places the county in the company of many highly-deprived inner-city areas with similarly poor outcomes on early childhood development<sup>ix</sup>.

Figure 6: Counts of children aged under 16 in income deprivation



Source: IMD 2010, Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

Educational attainment

One of the reasons tackling child poverty is often seen as a high priority is the link between income deprivation and low educational attainment. As Table 18 shows, across England just under 70% of school pupils who sat GCSEs in 2008/09 passed 5 subjects at grades A\*-C. However, less than half of pupils who received free school meals on account of low family income attained this level.

Given the evidence that has already been reviewed, it is not surprising to see that Ipswich had the highest proportion of GCSE candidates receiving free school meals in 2008/09 (13.0%), whilst Mid Suffolk had the lowest (3.9%). What is surprising is

the differences between districts in the attainment of low-income children at GCSE. In Suffolk Coastal and Forest Heath, over 45% of pupils on free school meals gained 5 A\*-C grades, but in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, barely a quarter of similarly economically disadvantaged children attained this level.

The table alone cannot explain these large differences, but it is worth noting that Babergh and Mid Suffolk are among the most rural districts with low overall rates of child poverty. It may be that local schools are less well adapted to catering to the needs of low-income pupils, or that there is less availability and less take-up of educational support around and outside school itself.

Table 18: Percentage of pupils gaining 5 A*-C grades or equivalent at GCSE, by free school meal status, 2008/09			
	% all pupils gaining 5 A*-C GCSE	% FSM pupils gaining 5 A*-C GCSE	% of pupils with FSM
Babergh	72.2	27.3	5.8
Forest Heath	73.6	45.8	5.5
Ipswich	60.9	34.9	13.0
Mid Suffolk	67.3	26.2	3.9
St Edmundsbury	73.0	44.6	6.4
Suffolk Coastal	70.2	51.6	4.7
Waveney	59.5	38.1	9.8
East of England	69.0	43.3	8.0
England	69.8	48.9	12.9

Source: Department for Education.

‘One of the reasons tackling child poverty is often seen as a high priority is the link between income deprivation and low educational attainment.’

## Young people

The category of 'NEETs' - Not in Education, Employment or Training - is a fairly new acronym in policy analysis, even if it is hardly a new concept. It is used to describe young people over the age of compulsory education who are neither working nor continuing to study. The period from post-compulsory education to 18 and then 25 years is seen as crucial to the development of skills, aspirations and achievements for life. Measures such as the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) were designed to provide support and incentives for young people from low-income families to stay in education, and the Connexions service was established to give advice and support. During the research for this report, the government announced the ending of the EMA, and it is now closed to new applicants; existing students will receive support until the end of the

academic year. The details of a replacement are yet to be announced, but it is expected to focus on students with the very lowest incomes.

Numbers and proportions of young people aged 16 to 18 not in education, training and employment have been regularly monitored by both national government and local Connexions services. According to the latest figures available, Suffolk has 1,530 young people who are NEET, or 7.4% of the population aged 16-18 (Table 19). This is, after Peterborough, the second highest among councils in the East of England and one of the highest rates in England for a predominantly rural area. This reinforces the finding of a shortage of employment and training opportunities in some parts of the county suggested by the evidence above on vacancies and job-seekers (Table 10).

Table 19: 16-18 year-olds not in education, employment & training (NEET) November 2009 - January 2010		
16 to 18 year-olds not in education, training or employment (NEET)		
	Number	% of 16-18 year olds
Suffolk	1,530	7.4
East of England	10,790	5.9
England	104,120	6.4

Source: Connexions Service, for the Department of Education.

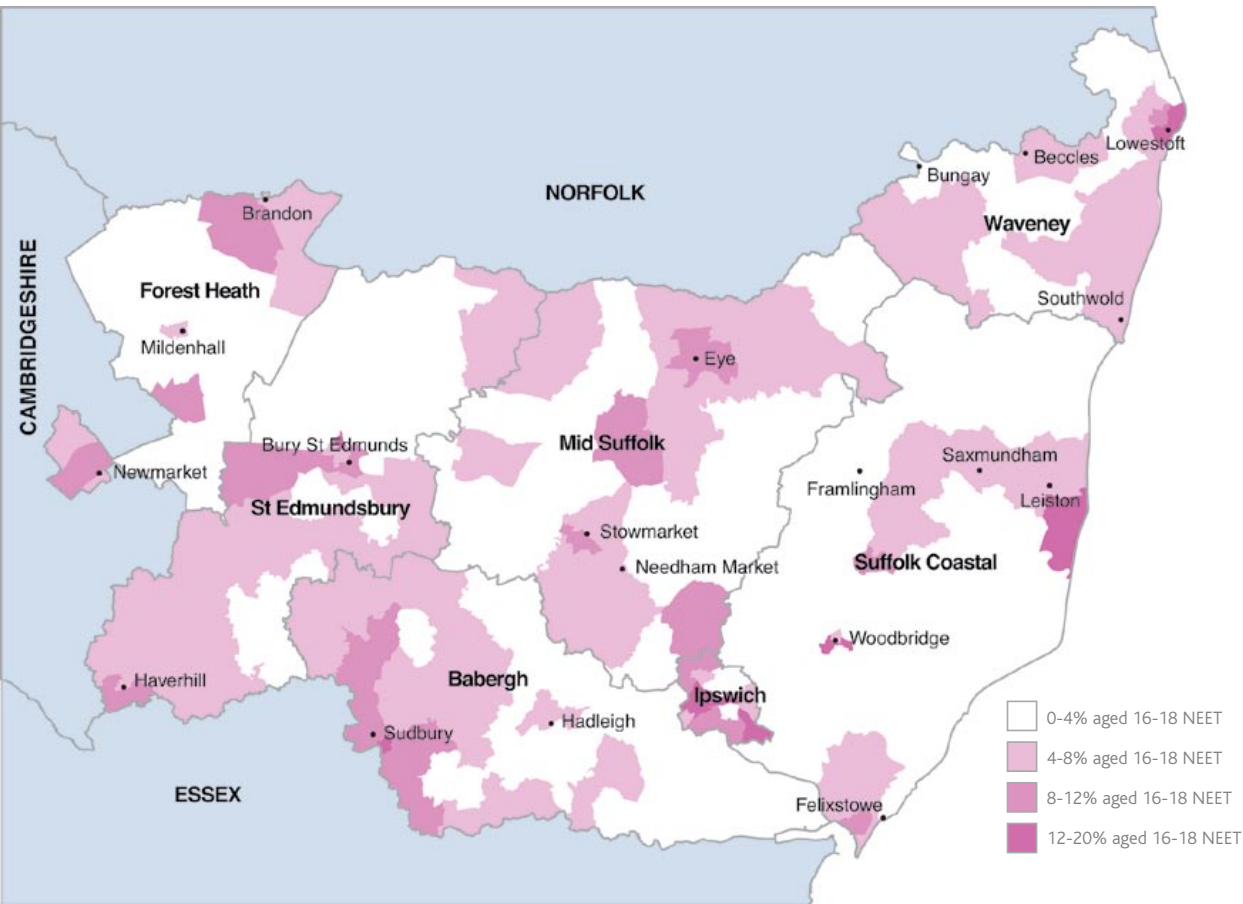
There are concentrations of NEETs in some parts of the county. Suffolk's Connexions service provided data on the local distribution of NEET young people in Suffolk, which were mapped to ward level (Figure 7). Mapping the data on NEET clusters confirms the views of professionals that there are 'hotspots' of young people outside the labour market and education in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Haverhill, as well as in some of the smaller towns like Sudbury. In Westgate ward in Ipswich, nearly one in five young people is NEET.

Young workers are particularly vulnerable to economic downturns, which affect labour markets long after the period of economic recession has technically ended. Firms often prefer to keep skilled and experienced labour on whilst letting newer recruits go, and are less likely to take on new staff while prospects are

uncertain. This bears hard on those new to the labour market seeking to break into or develop a career. Prolonged unemployment whilst young is known to have negative long-term effects on employment prospects.

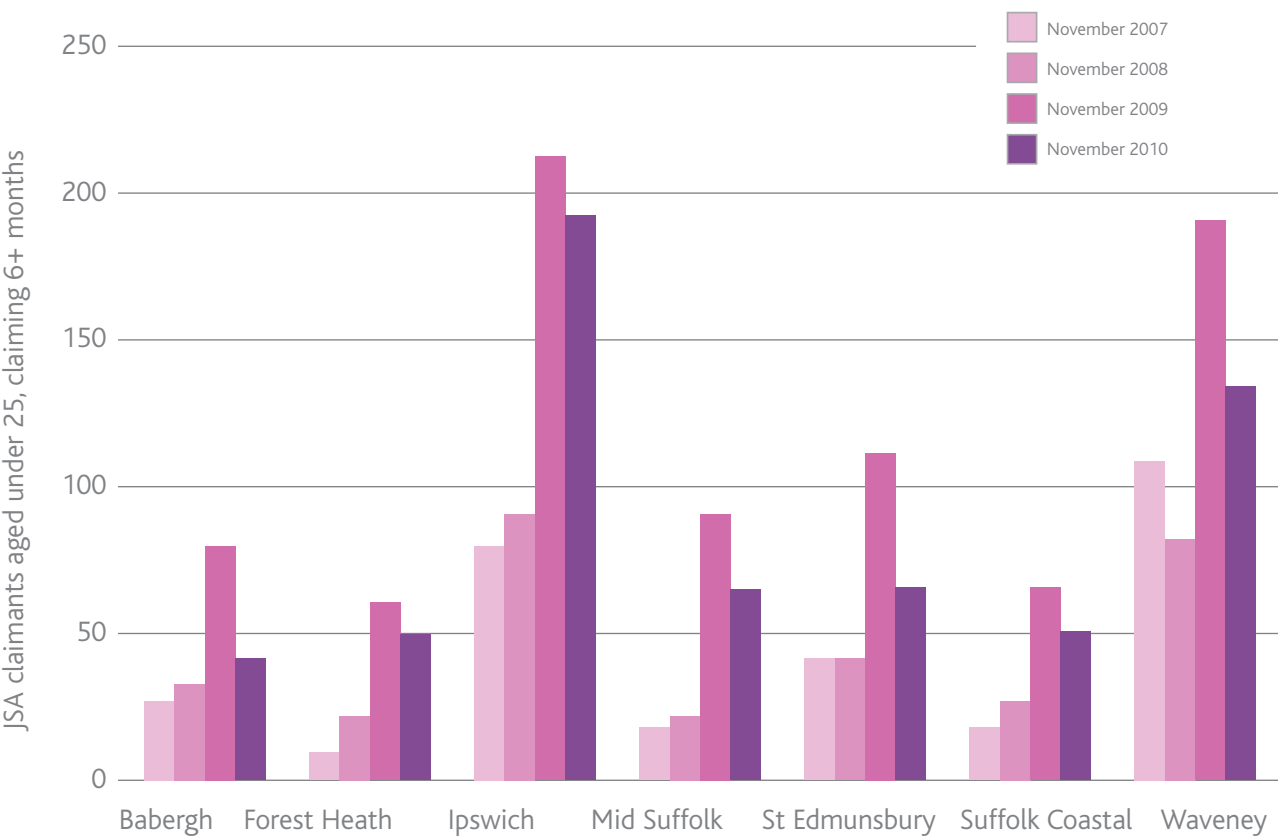
As the current recession struck in Suffolk, the number of young people aged under 25 claiming Job-Seeker's Allowance continuously for six months or longer more than doubled (Figure 8). By November 2010, the figures had fallen somewhat, but remain well above the pre-recession levels: there were nearly 600 young people on long-term unemployment benefits. In Ipswich in particular, the recovery has been slow, pointing to a continuing need for support amongst this group.

Figure 7: Proportions of young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training, by Ward, December 2010



Source: Suffolk Youth and Connexions Service.

Figure 8: Young people aged under 25 claiming Job Seeker's Allowance for 6 months or more, 2007-10





## POPULATION CHANGE: AGEING AND MIGRATION

The introductory chapter pointed to some of the changes that are currently taking place in the demographics of the county. The report now looks at the implications of current and future population change. As with youth, old age is not in itself a form of disadvantage, and similarly, international migrants are a diverse group. However, both situations may be accompanied by income poverty, ill health and isolation, giving rise to a distinct set of needs which voluntary organisations strive to address.

### The older population of Suffolk

In Suffolk, the proportion of people at or above the current state retirement age (60 for women, 65 for men) is above the regional and national averages (Table 20). In Waveney, Suffolk Coastal and Babergh over a quarter of the population belong in this age group. The latest estimates are that there are 70,000 elderly people aged 75 and above in the county, 60% of these women.

A proportion of these older people are carers for others. The latest reliable figures for districts come from the 2001 Census, which found that 11% of people aged 65 or over provide some unpaid care for others, and that there are nearly 4,500 retirement-age people in Suffolk who provided more than 50 hours per week of unpaid care (Table 21). These figures are broadly in line with regional and national averages - but the table also shows that there are 660 people aged 85 and above who are providers of unpaid care. These being Census figures, the figure now is almost certainly higher.

Table 20: Proportion of people at or above state retirement age, by district

	% aged over 59 (women)/64 (men)
Babergh	25.2
Forest Heath	18.2
Ipswich	17.9
Mid Suffolk	23.5
St Edmundsbury	22.7
Suffolk Coastal	26.5
Waveney	27.0
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>23.2</b>
<b>East of England</b>	<b>20.5</b>
<b>England total</b>	<b>19.3</b>

Source: 2009 ONS mid-year population estimates.

Table 21: People aged over 65 providing unpaid care, 2001

	People aged 65 and over providing unpaid care		People aged 65 and over providing more than 50 hours unpaid care a week		People aged 85 and over providing unpaid care	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Suffolk	13,984	11.9	4,462	3.8	661	5.2
East of England	100,850	11.8	33,469	3.9	4,546	5.1
England	881,818	11.8	313,933	4.2	38,291	5.0

Source: Census 2001.

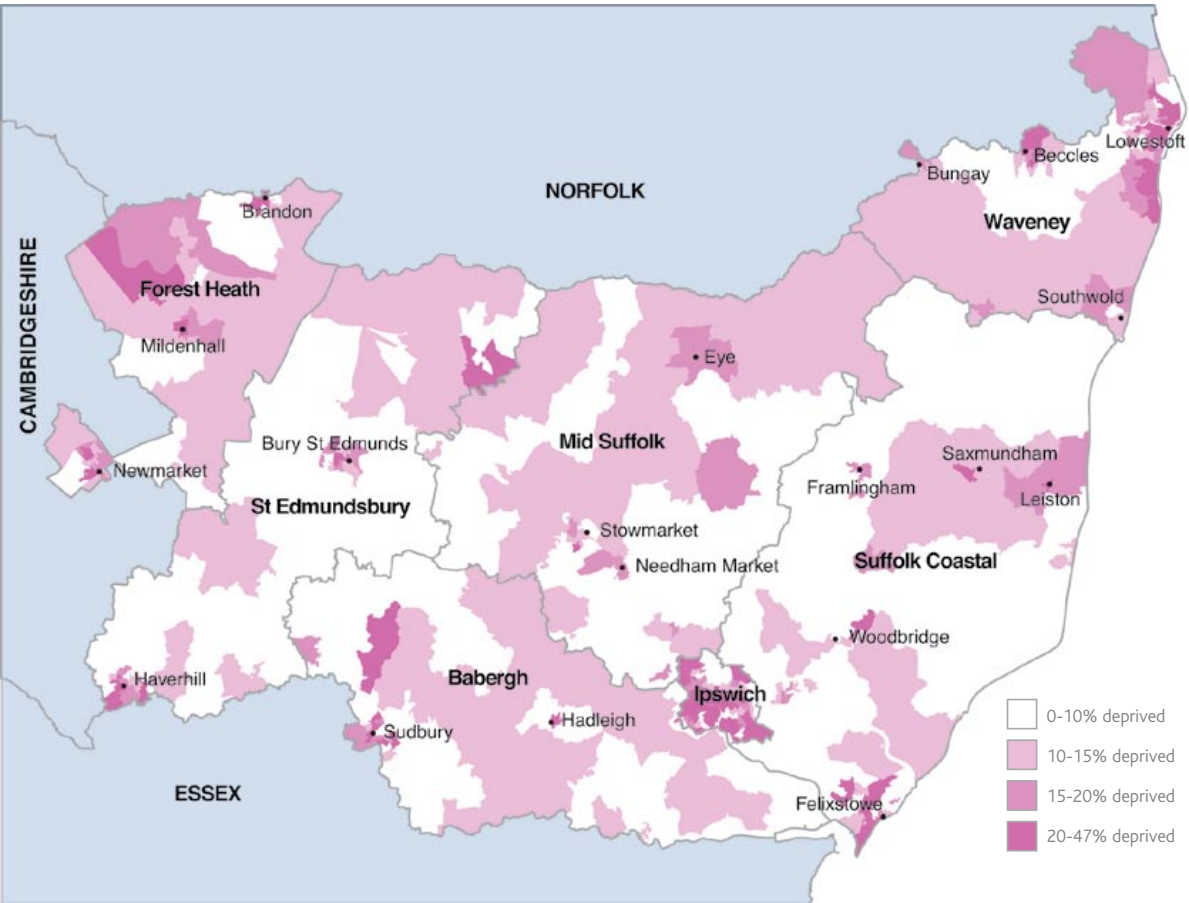
### Older people in income poverty

Although average pensioners' income has grown faster between 1998-99 and 2008-09 than average earnings, pensioners remain a low income group. Women are especially disadvantaged, with an average gross weekly income of £264 for women compared to £304 for men. These averages of course conceal considerable variation between wealthier and more disadvantaged pensioners. However, the fact that this average gross weekly income is below the lowest median full-time pay for any Suffolk district (£398 per week in Forest Heath), indicates that many pensioners are considerably worse off than their working-age peers. Fixed incomes render people vulnerable to price rises brought about by government interventions to counteract the impact of recession. Rising cost of essentials, such as fuel

and consumer goods, can have a detrimental effect on the health of older people if they become unable to maintain comfortable indoors temperature or healthy nutritious diet.

Altogether, the IMD estimates that there are nearly 25,000 income-deprived older people in Suffolk, about 15% of the total older population. Whereas unemployment and child poverty in Suffolk are particularly concentrated in the larger towns, especially Ipswich and Lowestoft, income deprivation affecting older people is much more evenly spread across the county (Figure 9). Although rates are highest in the towns, across large swathes of the county more than one in every ten pensioners is income deprived.

Figure 9: Rates of income deprivation affecting older people



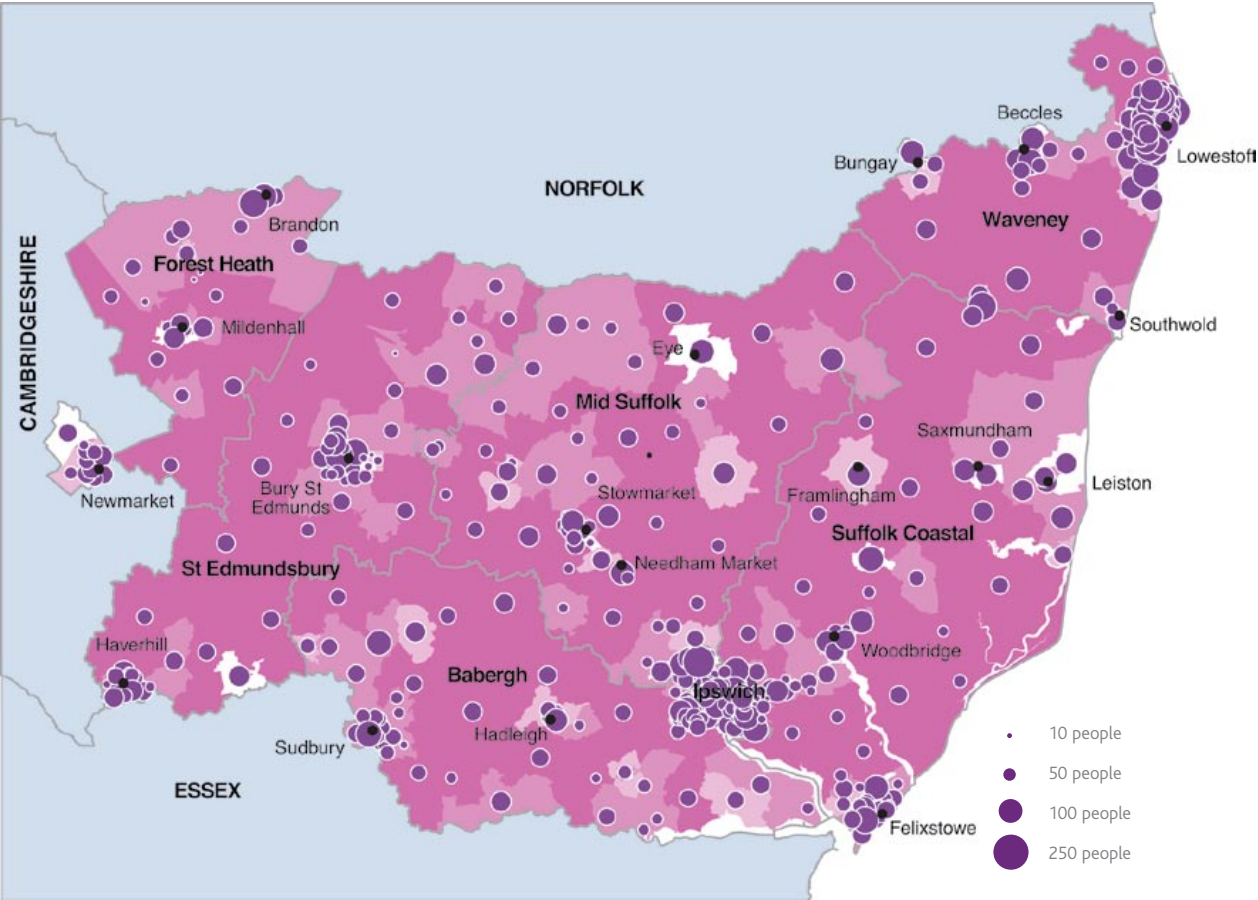
Source: IMD 2010, Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPi).

## Isolation and living alone

Financial constraints caused by low income increase the risk of social isolation among older people by reducing their ability to afford suitable transportation. The situation can be exacerbated by poor health, frailty, and rurality. Long distances and the frequent need for small-scale provision mean that issues such as isolation are more pronounced and more difficult and costly to address in rural areas than urban areas. The interaction between income deprivation in old age and poor access to services is shown in Figure

10. As before, the size and location of the circles indicates the numbers of older people experiencing income deprivation; these are plotted over the map of distances to key services (see Figure 5). In the remote areas of Suffolk Coastal, Mid Suffolk and Babergh, there are considerable numbers of low-income pensioners. Across the county as a whole, nearly 10,000 income-deprived older people live on average more than 4km from the nearest GP, and almost as far from somewhere to shop for groceries.

Figure 10: Counts of income-deprived older people, plotted over map of physical access to key services



Source: IMD 2010, IDAOPI and Geographical Barriers to Services sub-domain.

Eating healthily and getting enough exercise help older people to remain sufficiently fit to continue living independently. Recent studies by Age UK Suffolk show that the importance of healthy lifestyle is acknowledged by Suffolk's older residents<sup>x</sup>. The implementation of good advice in practice, however, can be difficult especially for those who live alone. Cooking or taking a walk alone can be deemed frustrating or even unsafe. Even simple things such as buying fruit and vegetables in sufficiently small

quantities for one person can be problematic in areas where access to supermarkets is restricted or much of the groceries in local shops are pre-packaged.

The risk of social isolation is greatest for people who live on their own. In the older age groups living alone is very common, especially for women, who often outlive their husbands if they were married. At the last Census, over half of women aged 75 and older in Suffolk were found to be living on their own (Table 22).

Table 22: Numbers and proportions of older people living alone, and in communal establishments, by sex			
	Number	% living alone	% in communal establishments
<b>People of retirement age</b>			
Total	140,349	31	4
Women (60 and over)	87,384	37	4
Men (65 and over)	52,965	20	2
<b>People aged 75 and over</b>			
Total	59,943	42	8
Women	36,986	53	10
Men	22,957	26	4

Source: Census 2001.

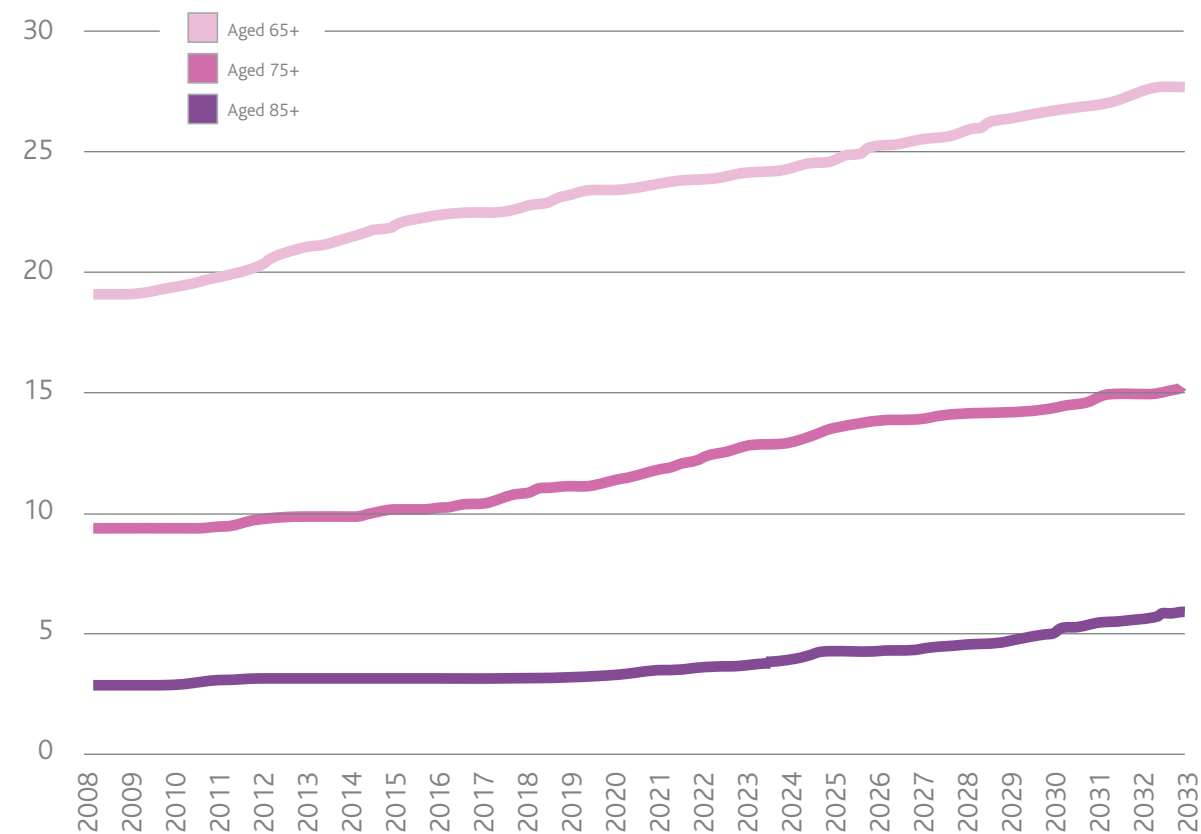
Increasing life expectancies mean that the elderly population of Suffolk is projected to increase over the next two decades, both in absolute numbers and as a share of the total population. The Office of National Statistics projects that the proportion of the county's population aged 65 and above will rise from 19% in 2008 to 28% by 2033 (Figure 11). Over that period the number of very elderly people aged

85 and over is projected to more than double, from approximately 20,000 at present to almost 55,000. If poverty rates do not improve, this implies growing need for support and services across the county, and specific measures to support access to services in rural areas. As Table 21 on existing caring responsibility shows, it also suggests that greater number of older people will take on unpaid caring responsibilities.

'The risk of social isolation is greatest for people who live on their own. In the older age groups living alone is very common, especially for women.'



Figure 11: Projected elderly population of Suffolk, as % of total population, 2008-2033



Source: ONS 2008-based Sub-national Population Projections for England.

## Services for older people

The availability of services that are designed to help older people improve their quality of life or manage their day-to-day activities varies considerably. Although the provision of services is generally better in cities than in rural areas, anecdotal evidence suggests that this may not always be the case. Moreover, the needs of older people vary extensively depending on personal circumstances. Subsequently, the extent to which these needs are met is also a sum of many factors and one type of support solutions does not fit all.

Consultation interviews suggest that lack of awareness of existing options and physical accessibility are among the key factors influencing older people's take-up of services. Although finding out about services and opportunities in one's local area has never been easier, the increased use of Internet for the distribution of information has functioned to further disadvantage older people. According to recent figures from the ONS, approximately 60% of people aged 65 or more have never used the internet. Improved computer literacy and ability to use the internet to find information, to access services and to socialise with others could greatly improve the quality of life for older people. Training courses and free trials or computer rental schemes specifically targeted for this client group are in much demand.

## Migration

The introductory chapter indicated that international migration has been a significant component of population change in Suffolk in recent years. However, the circumstances under which migrants move and their situation in England vary very widely, and so the implications for community need are not straightforward. In the worst position, and most vulnerable to exploitation, are migrants who have heightened need due to physical disability or mental health problems, who live in areas where racism or discrimination limit their opportunities for social interaction, who are in the UK illegally or whose legal status is determined by their relationship status, or who have no access to language courses or support networks that operate in their own languages. Quantifying their numbers is not possible with the sources available, but they are often among those who might most depend on the support of voluntary organisations.

Overall, migrants (as well as minority ethnic households generally) are known to have a weaker labour market position, higher likelihood of being unemployed and lower wages than British people on average. Controlled access to labour market and compulsory dispersal have been cited as causing social and economic deprivation among asylum seekers and refugees. A recent survey of 400 migrants in Suffolk highlighted language and not knowing what services are available as the main barriers to accessing services. While the survey results suggest fairly high levels of satisfaction with immediate living environment and health services, both satisfaction and usage rates were low for training in English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL), adult education and schools, with less than half of the respondents being satisfied with the provision or quality of these services.

The low rate of satisfaction with ESOL training is particularly concerning, as the ability to speak English well is a key factor influencing migrants' ability to navigate in their new environment. In the same survey, nearly a quarter of the survey respondents with limited English language skills reported difficulties in accessing services they need, while approximately a third also found it hard to find work. Undeveloped English language skills are also known to make migrants more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse by partners and employers.

Insufficient, inflexible and geographically concentrated provision of ESOL training in Suffolk is an acknowledged problem that has been exacerbated by the recent increase in numbers of migrant workers and cuts in funding<sup>xi</sup>. In the light of the evidence highlighting the importance of language skills for migrants' quality of life, improved and more accessible ESOL provision is needed throughout the county, but especially in Northern and Western parts of the county where the unmet demand is believed to be greatest.

**'A recent survey of 400 migrants in Suffolk highlighted language and not knowing what services are available as the main barriers to accessing services.'**

## THE CHALLENGE FOR CHARITIES

The report so far has demonstrated that Suffolk is a large and diverse county, in which areas cannot be simply classified into 'needy' and 'well-served'. The extent to which vulnerability leads to disadvantage and deprivation depends on the context. A village or an area where the needs of older people are well served may have nothing for young people or people with disabilities. This section draws on the views of participants in the study to consider how the community sector can tackle the issues identified in the analysis above, and reflects on the opportunities and obstacles for charities and community groups.

### Voluntary sector infrastructure

Suffolk has some 3,100 registered charities, which vary in type and scope from Scouts and Guides groups to rape crisis centres to homeless action groups. Some of the charities working in the county are part of national or international umbrella organisations with considerable budgets, paid full-time staff, and extensive collaborative networks. In Suffolk, it is small and localised charities that predominate. The activities or services they run are often small-scale and target the needs of one specific group of people in one specific area. Many of them operate on very small budgets of a few thousand pounds a year, running their operations on voluntary basis without any paid employees. Such groups and volunteers rarely have the opportunity or resources to establish links or partnerships with other voluntary sector organisations. This type of collaboration, however, could help them to improve the quality and scope of their services. The pooling of resources to facilitate information sharing and provision of services during evenings and weekends, for example, can help to make the services more accessible.

Running a charity and providing support services to vulnerable people is not easy. Setting up a charitable organisation and accessing sufficient funds, recruiting the right people and promoting the service require considerable levels of knowledge, effort and skills. The extent to which the needs of disadvantaged people or households are met varies according to their location, their awareness of available services and their ability to access them. The promotion of services and provision of transportation to enable people to access services are of nearly as high importance as the provision itself. While the internet is a great way to find out about funding opportunities, the promotion of services solely on-line is not always very effective if people belonging to the target client group are not active internet users.



START Community Transport reaching out across Sudbury.

Specialised services are generally more readily available in areas where the numbers of people needing them are high. As highlighted in the section on rural issues, Suffolk ACRE's recent report on rural deprivation demonstrates that many individuals and households facing a specific type of disadvantage live outside of the most deprived areas where these issues are common or prominent. A key finding of the analysis is that measures of concentration, like the

IMD, do not on their own provide an adequate basis for planning and targeting interventions. If service delivery focuses exclusively on the worst affected areas there is a risk that a significant proportion of potential clients are excluded. Some groups, for example as we have seen, deprived older people are generally not geographically concentrated - but may also be unable or unwilling to travel far to avail themselves of potentially beneficial services.



Bringing the community together at the Stour Valley Lunch Club.

### Community infrastructure

In areas like Suffolk outreach is essential for organisations seeking to provide an inclusive service to clients who may find moving from one place to another difficult. Effective outreach, however, is costly, and often dependent on the availability of facilities, transportation, and manpower. Village halls and other communal facilities are an invaluable resource to statutory outreach services as well as small voluntary organisations and community groups. In the consultation interviews carried out in the first phase of the research, concerns were expressed over the 'dying down' of communities in rural areas and the decline in activities and services caused by closure, disrepair and inadequate space of village halls and other communal facilities. Keeping such facilities in good shape, heated and functional is costly, and the resources of especially ageing communities that are declining in size are limited. While registering village halls and other facilities as

charities enables them to get rate relief and apply for grants and funding, considerable input is needed from members of the local community to take advantage of the grants and other opportunities to access financial support.

The provision of help and support services (including schemes such as befriending) in people's own homes is both problematic and costly, not least because of the necessity of CRB checks. Private transportation is required for outreach services, especially in rural areas. While there may be much willingness and enthusiasm on local residents' part to help and engage, the practicalities can present barriers to participation. New approaches such as telephone befriending have been developed to address this issue and to enable frail volunteers and people with no private cars to volunteer in spite of the physical limitations their health or location may impose.



## Voluntary sector infrastructure and The Suffolk Foundation

The voluntary sector is seen as setting up operations to address needs that are insufficiently met by public sector provision. However, this does not necessarily mean that charities are most active where the need, however measured, is greatest. Voluntary activity to tackle deprivation and meet community need may be inhibited by several factors:

- lack of infrastructure and facilities;
- lack of financial resources to support such facilities;
- lack of knowledge regarding possibilities for community activism and funding opportunities;
- lack of formal organisational experience;
- lack of knowledge regarding support available for aspiring charities.

The Suffolk Foundation’s own grants data provide one way of assessing the strength of voluntary activity and infrastructure in different parts of Suffolk. In 2009/10, the Foundation made grants with a total value of just over £1.4m (Table 23). The majority of grant monies went to organisations working in a specific district within Suffolk, whilst just under a quarter (£330,000) of the total went to support county-wide activities.

To assess the success of different districts in securing grant aid, the second column of Table 23 shows the percentage of all grant funding going to each district. For this purpose, county-wide grants are taken to benefit each district on the basis of its population size, and so are shared relative to each district’s total 2009 population share.

The first comparison that can be made is between the percentage of grant funding to each district and the district’s share of the total population. Looked at this way, the voluntary sector in Ipswich has been particularly successful in securing a large share of grant funding (28%) relative to its population share (18%). This suggests a more vigorous voluntary sector there, or at least one that is more successful in bidding for funding. By contrast, Babergh, Mid Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney all received a smaller proportion of the Foundation’s grant funding than their total population share. This may mean that there are barriers to community activity or successful bidding in these areas, or that voluntary activities either do not need or are not eligible for the Suffolk Foundation’s grant-making programmes.

Table 23: Suffolk Foundation grant allocations by district, 2009/10, compared to district shares of population (2009) and income-deprived population (2007)

	Suffolk Foundation total grants (£000)	% share of all grants, inc county-wide*	% of all population, 2009	% of income-deprived population, 2007
Babergh	86	9	12	10
Forest Heath	107	10	9	6
Ipswich	335	28	18	25
Mid Suffolk	85	9	13	9
St Edmundsbury	213	18	14	12
Suffolk Coastal	133	13	17	13
Waveney	123	13	16	23
County-wide	330	-	-	-
Total	1,413	100	100	100

Source: Suffolk Foundation (2010), IMD 2010, ONS mid-year population estimates (2009).  
Notes: \*County-wide grant funding is distributed among districts relative to their total population. Columns may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

An alternative way to make the comparison is to look at the proportion of grant funding disbursed to districts relative not to districts’ total population share, but their share of the population who may be in need. The final column of Table 23 shows the percentage of Suffolk’s total income-deprived population that lives in each district, as a broad indicator of need. This gives a different picture. Looked at this way, Ipswich receiving of the largest share (28%) of grant funding does not seem so disproportionate, since it also has the highest proportion (25%) of deprived persons. St Edmundsbury now appears to do especially well, securing 18% of the funding whilst having 12% of the population in need.

The most striking and concerning finding from this comparison relates to Waveney, which attracted 13% of grant funding, but where nearly a quarter (23%) of Suffolk’s income-deprived population is living. The rest of the report has consistently highlighted Waveney as having both large numbers of people experiencing deprivation of various forms, and considerable concentrations of disadvantage in communities on the coastal side of Lowestoft. However, the local voluntary sector does not appear to have been able to secure grant funding commensurate to that level of need. This strongly suggests that there should be further work to look at why this is so - whether a lack of existing activities, or poor support for bidding - and to see how this could be addressed. Aspiring community groups and voluntary sector organisations may need support to realise their ambitions. Targeted distribution of information regarding support that is available to such groups, information about funding opportunities and even direct practical assistance in bidding for funding may be needed to strength the community and voluntary sector in such areas.



'Healthy Ambitions' cookery project at the Waterside Community Centre.



Optua encourages people with disabilities to 'Be Your Best'.

A few cautions should be noted about this analysis. Firstly, as the rest of this report has stressed, income deprivation is only one measure of need, and so it should not be an expectation that the distribution of grant aid should follow it exactly. As noted above, for example, the IMD’s income deprivation measure may under-count deprivation in Forest Heath, where there is in-work poverty and many economic migrants who do not or cannot claim some benefits. That said, the differences between districts should not be discounted - for example, as shown in Table 13, in Ipswich and Waveney 20 to 25 per cent of children are affected by income deprivation, compared to every tenth child in Mid Suffolk.

Secondly, the role of The Suffolk Foundation’s county-wide grants is only crudely reflected in this type of analysis; many of these in fact work with quite tightly defined groups across the county. A key question is the extent to which organisations who were generously supported with county-wide grants in 2009/10 were able to meet need in areas and among groups which had less dedicated local provision. Furthermore, other grant providers have been active in specific parts of the county. For example, the Big Lottery Fair Share Trust had a dedicated six-year programme specific to Waveney, which may have met some of the need already. Nonetheless, the match between funding need and funding success should remain an important concern in the Foundation’s ongoing work in managing a wide and developing range of grant programmes within the constraints of a responsive model.

## Emerging issues, recent changes, future challenges

The Local Government Finance Settlement, the Coalition government’s decentralisation policy, the Localism Bill, the Big Society agenda, and outsourcing of public sector services in Suffolk present both challenges and opportunities for different sectors of Suffolk society. While these changes may present opportunities for social enterprises, charities and small businesses to grow and develop, it is possible that the impact of funding cuts and restructuring of public sector service provision will have most negative effects on the most disadvantaged groups and individuals.

Although Suffolk is not among the hardest hit areas, the cuts (shown in Table 24) are considerable. It is unlikely that reductions of this magnitude in public sector spending can be made without negative consequences for the scope, scale or quality of service provision. As in England overall, some of the districts facing the largest reductions in expenditure are those with the highest rates of deprivation.

Table 24: Estimated reduction and change in revenue spending power in Suffolk districts		
Change in estimated 'revenue spending power' 2011-12		
	(£ million)	(%)
Babergh	-1.11	-8.5
Forest Heath	-0.67	-7.1
Ipswich	-1.27	-5.4
Mid Suffolk	-0.79	-5.8
St Edmundsbury	-0.85	-5.6
Suffolk Coastal	-1.19	-6.6
Waveney	-1.40	-7.8

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government (2011).

‘It is unlikely that reductions of this magnitude in public sector spending can be made without negative consequences for the scope, scale or quality of service provision.’

In principle, the outsourcing of public sector services to private and third sector organisations makes it possible for these organisations to grow and take a greater role in influencing the scope, type and quality of local service provision. In reality, however, there is potential for positive change only if the Council is willing to procure services also from smaller and medium-sized organisations, which prevail in Suffolk. Many of these organisations have in-depth knowledge of the issues affecting the communities within which they operate and established standing and links that can be utilised to recruit volunteers.

However, they are likely to lack the resources required for successful bidding of larger government contracts and would therefore need considerable support in the bidding process. Moreover, as the contracts are to be awarded for a limited numbers of years, the provision is more susceptible to disruptions and there is less incentive for continuing development to ensure best possible coverage. As the contract is likely to go to the organisation who can provide best value for money, there is a risk that the publicly funded services become even more outcome-oriented than they are at the moment, directing the resources to those individuals whose propensity to reach a target outcome is greatest. As a result, the delivery of services to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable may suffer. One area that may be under threat is regular public transport, of crucial importance in rural areas, and an area where commercial providers, sometimes with subsidy, have dominated to date.

Decentralisation and legislative changes designed to 'localise' decision making and the allocation of public resources pose further risks to the most vulnerable. Groups and communities with lower levels of community engagement, fewer resources, and less human and social capital to maximise their resources may be increasingly disadvantaged if their needs are not actively lobbied for. Fair distribution of resources for services in the local level depends on equal levels of political power and representation between different interest groups. This is all the more important when the overall budgets are reduced and fewer services are provided universally. Deprived individuals and households who are in a small minority in their areas may face further disadvantage and those whose interests are not represented at the local level are at risk of being left to rely increasingly on third-sector provision for their most basic needs.

Overall, people’s reliance on informal support networks and the third sector is likely to increase as a result of funding cuts and restructuring of the public sector provision. The emphasis on volunteering may mean that services become better in areas where volunteering is already thriving, rather than in the areas where the services are most needed, placing the people living in other areas in further disadvantage. The findings from the analysis of grants data suggests this concern is highly pressing in Suffolk.



Home-Start Suffolk Coastal’s Tara Somers at one of their family group meetings.



# Where next?

It is in the interest of those working together with voluntary organisations and community groups to understand what kind of need is experienced, where and on what scale. It is, however, also important to understand the complex nature that this need or disadvantage may take in order to find effective ways of supporting grass-roots organisations and service providers.

With a firm evidence base, a wider sweep of organisations may be brought in: businesses as well as individuals and voluntary groups have a role to play. As an example, the report has highlighted the large numbers of young people not in education, employment or training; small business might take on apprentices in areas and communities where opportunities for young people are limited and thus help to transform lives, even if one at a time.

Some of the issues highlighted in this report, such as child poverty and social and economic deprivation affecting older people are well known. Matters such as the increased importance of computer literacy and internet access, on the other hand, are less often discussed in the context of attempts to address poverty and deprivation. Looking at the statistics displayed in this report in the light of the recent political developments and anecdotal evidence from people who work with the most vulnerable population groups in the county, a few conclusions can be drawn about the 'hidden' or unmet needs experienced in Suffolk.

In a place like Suffolk where travel distances are long, access to services presents a major barrier to service engagement. The benefits that can be acquired for increased use of electronic communication are significant. Effective maximisation of such potential, however, is dependent on comprehensive broadband coverage and people's ability to access computers and use software. Support could also be directed to the development of services that work to reduce physical accessibility barriers, which prevent especially older people, people with disabilities and poorer rural households from accessing opportunities in villages, towns and cities.

Voluntary activity is more common in certain parts of the county than in others, and among certain types of organisations and community groups. More can to be done to find out the barriers to community engagement and encourage and support volunteering and community involvement among population segments and in areas where organised activity is low. Outreach services and voluntary sector operations are all dependent on the availability of safe and accessible facilities where activities can take place. Community centres and church halls serve an essential function enabling people to come together and service providers to bring their services closer to those who need them. Financial support to help maintain these facilities and provide new facilities where none currently exist is a key component to more active community engagement and the building of socially cohesive communities. The Suffolk Foundation has the opportunity to take a leading role in supporting infrastructure. This might be of the traditional kind - meeting places and activities - but as already mentioned, might also be opportunities to take advantage of the opportunities provided by new technology, in for example, web-based community co-ordination.

The report shows that, when looking just a little beneath the surface, there is no shortage of need in the county. There are areas of concentrated multiple deprivation, but also many individuals and households in need living in less obviously deprived areas. Planning and careful targeting are all needed; this report hopes to be a piece of the evidence base for this work. Its findings suggest there are challenges for all the stakeholders involved - those working on the ground to address the social consequences of deprivation, those who fund those activities, and also those who provide the support and infrastructure that enables the vital hands-on work to continue.

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'More can to be done to find out the barriers to community engagement and encourage and support volunteering and community involvement among population segments and in areas where organised activity is low.'





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