



Hidden Needs in Northamptonshire: Update Report

August 2023

Dr Claire Paterson-Young and Professor Richard Hazenberg

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Foreword

Welcome to the second edition of our Hidden Needs Report highlighting urgent and priority needs across Northamptonshire. Thank you to the Institute of Social Innovation and Impact at the University of Northampton for researching and producing our latest report. Both the summary report and the full report are also available via our website: www.ncf.uk.com

Since we commissioned and published our last report in 2018 our communities have lived through one of this country's major life events since the Second World War, the COVID-19 pandemic, and also a current cost of living emergency which is causing huge pressures for local residents and exacerbating the economic and social effects of the pandemic. Our philanthropic and grant giving work is built around the recovery and revival of our communities, supporting them at this time. We feel that the best place to start is by looking at some of the current and priority needs through data, research and community knowledge.

We know that there is much to celebrate about Northamptonshire and its residents but we also know that there are persistent and emerging concerns around poverty and disadvantage. The report highlights the data across a range of themes including a new edition focusing on the access needs of rural communities. It also provides some great example case studies of the local charitable sector response. We hope again that this report will be read and used by anyone who wishes to understand Northamptonshire better whether you are a donor, company or individual that cares about our county, or community groups and charities which helps you to plan your activities of support or put forward your case for funding.

Through our updated edition of Hidden Needs we hope to encourage more local philanthropists to work closely with the Foundation to provide more directed grant giving in order to channel funds to address urgent local needs. We also wish to shine a spotlight on fantastic local projects already tackling those needs.



Rachel McGrath

Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Community Foundation

1. Introduction

Northamptonshire is a county originally consisting of seven districts: Corby, Daventry, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, Northampton, South Northamptonshire and Wellingborough. Since April 2021, Northamptonshire's borough councils were replaced with two unitary councils. The new West Northamptonshire unitary council serves the areas of Daventry District, Northampton and South Northants, and the new North Northamptonshire unitary council serves Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants. The county has a mixture of rural and urban areas, with several issues that require attention, including support for an ageing population, poverty, health, and well-being (Paterson-Young, Hazenberg, and Brylka, 2017; Northamptonshire Health & Wellbeing Board, 2016). One of the underlying causes of these inequalities is that the various needs of the county inhabitants are not being adequately identified or/and addressed by the local authorities and other actors (e.g., charities). Northamptonshire has experienced significant growth over time, with the population of Northamptonshire growing faster than the national average over the past 30 years. This growth is predicted to increase by 16.6% or 123,927 from 2018 to 2043 (JSNA, 2020).

A report on the Hidden Needs in Northamptonshire (Paterson-Young, Hazenberg and Brylka, 2017) highlighted the significant issues facing people living in Northamptonshire including poverty, health inequalities and social isolation. The problems affecting Northamptonshire have been exacerbated by Coronavirus (COVID-19), also known as SARS-CoV-2, a virus that has been spreading worldwide, affecting an individual's lungs and airways (with other affects under investigation). Action taken to limit the spreading of COVID-19 has included lockdown of entire countries, including the United Kingdom. This measure consists of physical isolation and social distancing, but in the long term, has resulted in social isolation and lower levels of well-being (Pierce, et al., 2020; Iob, Steptoe, and Fancourt, 2020). The impact on social isolation and well-being is intensified for individuals already experiencing a prominent level of deprivation and low levels of health and well-being. Research (Bell and Blanchflower, 2020) shows that approximately 20% of people had lost at least half of their income due to COVID-19.

This research seeks to update the original 'Hidden Needs' report (Paterson-Young et al., 2017), to assess the hidden needs of Northamptonshire's population in 2023. Northamptonshire

Community Foundation (NCF), a charity that delivers a variety of funding for the local voluntary and community sector in the region to support community-based action improving the lives of the county's most disadvantaged people and communities, has commissioned this updated research. The assessment of the county's hidden needs will help NCF to identify social problems in the county that need urgent attention and encourage prospective donors to contribute to these specific areas. The research was undertaken by researchers from the Institute for Social Innovation and Impact (ISII) at the University of Northampton. The ISII has provided expert evaluations of social impact to over 60 voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations since 2014.

2. Research Aims and Approach

This research project sought to update the previous report on hidden needs in Northamptonshire (Paterson-Young et al., 2017) to help NCF continue to provide equitable and appropriate funding. This research addressed the following research aims and questions:

Research Aim 1: Re-assess the hidden needs of the Northamptonshire's population.

Q1: What are the needs of Northamptonshire's population?

Q2: In which sectors are these needs concentrated?

Q3: How are the needs different social groups (e.g., youth, the elderly, minority groups)?

Research Aim 2: Assessing the geographical differences in the distribution of the identified hidden needs.

Q4: What are the needs of individuals living in towns and those living in rural areas?

Q5: Do these two groups of individuals have diverse needs or are these needs similar?

Q6: Do the needs differ between North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire?

Q7: Do these needs differ based on differences in deprivation (assessed through the Index of Multiple Deprivation)?

Research Aim 3: Assess the impact of COVID-19 on the hidden needs in Northamptonshire.

Q8: What impact has COVID-19 has on hidden needs in Northamptonshire?

Q9: How are the needs different across social groups (e.g., youth, minority groups)?

The research was delivered through a framework that used a mixed-methods approach building on both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data was gathered with a literature review that will focus on the previously published reports and other materials that are relevant to the topic of this research (academic and 'grey' literature). Quantitative data was based on the exploration of pre-existing survey data sets that can add value to the literature review (e.g.,

local authority statistics; IMD rankings, JSNA). The presentation of unitary and district level information is dependent on the data available. Finally, NCF Community Insights are presented in the report, illustrating the benefit of support offered by NCF to community organisations (Table 2.1).

Section	Theme	Group
Northamptonshire	Diversity	African Youth Arise
	Rural	Burton Latimer Town Council
Inequality and Deprivation	Health Deprivation and Disability	Northampton Town Football
	Food Vulnerability and Insecurity	United African Association
Health and Wellbeing	Health and Wellbeing	Friends of West Glebe Park
	Mental Health and Depression	The Lowdown
Children – Impact and Challenges	Education & Skills	Community Court Yard
	Health and Wellbeing for Children	The Kids Aid Foundation
Employment and Education	Employment	The Good Loaf CIC
	Qualifications, Skills and Experience	The Lab
Older People	Pensioner Poverty	Serve Rushden
	Dementia Diagnosis	Dementa Sings Out
Housing and Environment	Housing and Environment	Northampton Hope Centre
	Homelessness	The Daylight Centre
Crime and Justice	Re-offending in Northamptonshire	C2C Social Action
	Violence Crime	Springs Family Centre

Table 2.1. NCF Community Insights

3. Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire is a county in the East Midlands region of England. It is bordered by eight other counties: Warwickshire to the west, Leicestershire and Rutland to the north, Cambridgeshire to the east, Bedfordshire to the south-east, Buckinghamshire to the south, Oxfordshire to the south-west, and Northamptonshire to the north-west. Northamptonshire originally consisting of seven districts: Corby, Daventry, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, Northampton, South Northamptonshire, and Wellingborough. Since April 2021, Northamptonshire's councils were replaced with two unitary councils. The new West Northamptonshire unitary council serves the areas of Daventry District, Northampton and South Northants, and the new North Northamptonshire unitary council serves Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants. The county has a mixture of rural and urban areas, with several issues that need attention including support for an ageing population, poverty, health, and well-being (Paterson-Young, Hazenberg, and Brylka, 2017; Local Insight 2023 (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023) (Figure 3.1).



Figure 3.1. Map of Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire has several cultural and historical attractions including Delapre Abbey, the Althorp Estate (the ancestral home of the Spencer family and the final resting place of Princess Diana), the Silverstone Circuit (home of the British Grand Prix), and the historic town of Fotheringhay (the site of Mary, Queen of Scots' execution).

3.1. Population and Growth

Northamptonshire has experienced population growth higher than the national average, with the population growing an estimated 10.2% in the past decade (in comparison with 7.84% for England) (JSNA, 2020). In 2019, Northamptonshire's population was estimated at 753,278 people (all ages) (ONS mid-year estimates), an increase of 0.76% from 2018 (747,622) and 8.86% from 2011 (691,952) (JSNA, 2020). The unitary council split for Northamptonshire illustrates that a larger proportion of the population live in West Northamptonshire (405,050) than North Northamptonshire (348,228) (JSNA, 2020). The population in North Northamptonshire is expected to grow at a higher rate (JSNA, 2020). Population growth in Northamptonshire was highest in Corby, with a 22.4% increase in the past decade (Table 3.1.).

	Population	% change over 10 years			Population	
	1989	1999	2009	2019	2019	2020
Corby	52,900	0.20%	11.30%	22.40%	72,218	73,053
Daventry	62,700	9.90%	12.80%	10.60%	85,950	86,951
East Northamptonshire	67,100	9.80%	16.60%	10.00%	94,527	95,103
Kettering	75,200	7.60%	13.80%	10.50%	101,776	102,211
Northampton	181,700	7.70%	6.20%	8.00%	224,610	224,290
South Northamptonshire	68,500	13.30%	10.40%	10.30%	94,490	95,492
Wellingborough	67,400	5.30%	5.80%	6.10%	79,707	80,081
North Northamptonshire	262,600	6.10%	12.00%	11.60%	348,228	350,448
West Northamptonshire	312,900	9.40%	8.50%	9.10%	405,050	406,733
Northamptonshire	575,500	7.90%	10.10%	10.20%	753,278	757,181

Table 3.1. Northamptonshire Population (JSNA, 2020; Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

Northamptonshire is predicted to experience a growth in population of 16.6% (123,927) between 2018 and 2043, a prediction higher than the national average (JSNA, 2020). Population growth across Northamptonshire differs for North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire, with a predicted growth of 13.2% (52,973) in the west and 20.5% (70,955) in the north (JSNA, 2020). In 2021, North Northamptonshire experienced an increase in population (Figure 3.2) whilst West Northamptonshire experienced an increase in population (Figure 3.3) (ONS, 2011; ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021).

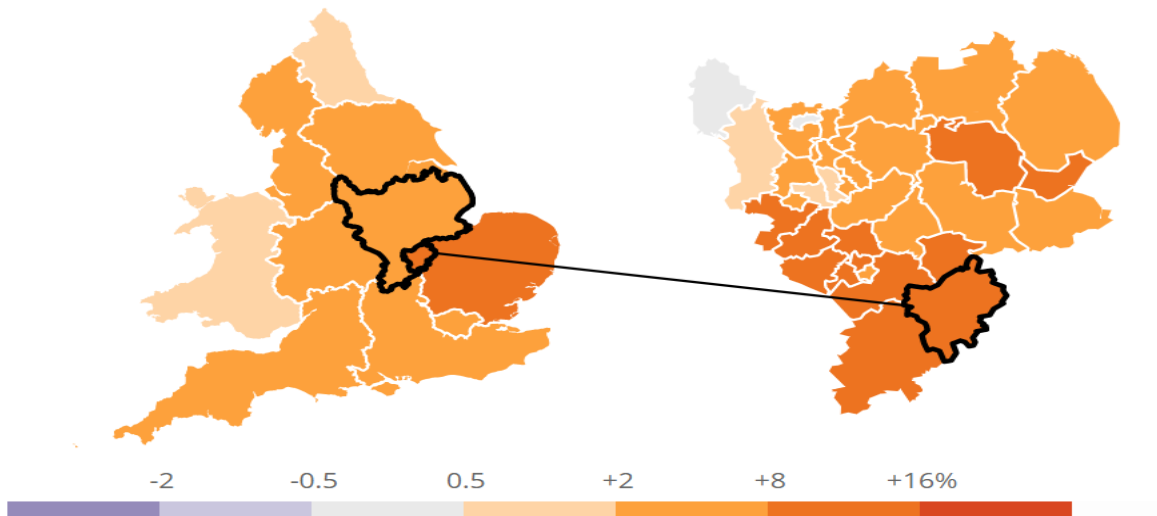


Figure 3.2. North Northamptonshire Population Change (ONS, 2011; ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021)

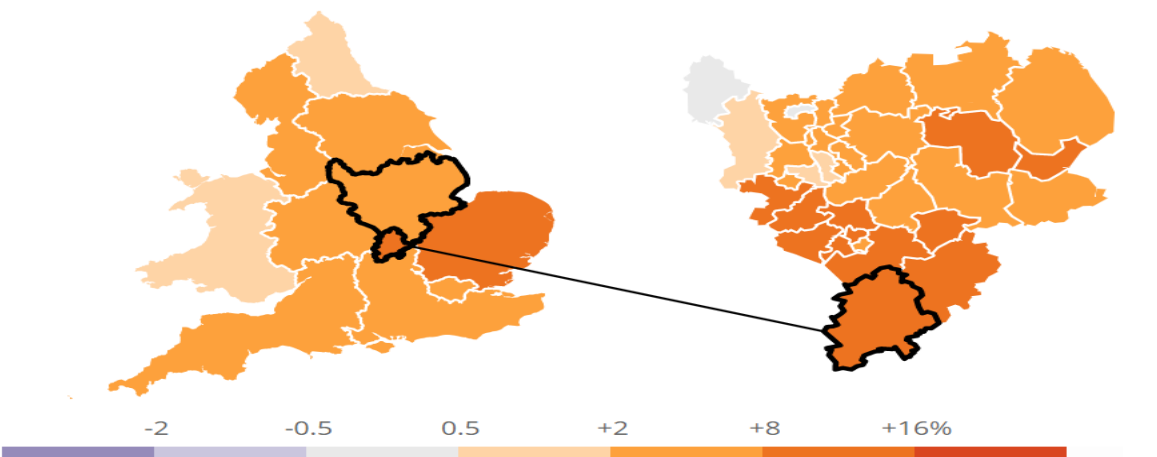


Figure 3.3. West Northamptonshire Population Change (ONS, 2011; ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021)

3.2. Diversity

Population diversity illustrates the county's development and socioeconomic status, allowing for greater appreciation of the potential needs in Northamptonshire. The population group with the highest increase in Northamptonshire are those aged 50 years and over and those aged 10-19 years (ONS, 2020). The population changes have resulted in new and emerging needs in Northamptonshire, with an increase in those aged 10-19 years creating pressures on schools, whilst the increase in those aged 65 years and over create pressures for health and social care services (JSNA, 2020). In North Northamptonshire, the average age for residents was 41.0 years (slightly lower than the median age for East Midlands – 41.6 years) in 2021 (Census, 2021). The number of people in North Northamptonshire aged 50 to 64 years increased by 19.1% (11,500) and the number of children aged under 4 years fell by 4.0% (850) (ONS North, 2021). In West Northamptonshire, the average age for residents was 40.1 years (lower than the median age for East Midlands – 41.6 years) in 2021 (Census, 2021). The number of people in West Northamptonshire aged 50 to 64 years increased by 17.6% (12,400) and the number of children aged under 4 years fell by 4.0% (1,000) (ONS West, 2021).

The ethnic structure in Northamptonshire can be understood by examining information from North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire. In North Northamptonshire, 80.9% (290,800) of residents reported a birthplace in England and in West Northamptonshire, 78.9% (335,700) of residents reported a birthplace in England (ONS North, 2021). The group with the next highest representation was Poland (2.8%; 10,200) in North Northamptonshire and Romania (2.7%; 11,600) in West Northamptonshire (ONS West, 2021). In North Northamptonshire, 90.3% of residents identified their ethnic group as 'White', 3.5% identified their ethnic group as 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh', 3.1% identified their ethnic group as 'Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African,' and 2.3% of residents identified their ethnic group as 'Mixed or Multiple' (ONS North, 2021). In West Northamptonshire, 85.9% of residents identified their ethnic group as 'White', 5.3% identified their ethnic group as 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh', 3.1% identified their ethnic group as 'Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African', and 2.8% of residents identified their ethnic group as 'Mixed or Multiple' (ONS West, 2021). Information on the proportion of births to non-UK mothers in Northamptonshire is limited to 2019, with Northamptonshire having the highest

percentage growth in the births to non-UK mothers (JSNA, 2020). Figure 3.4 provides a visual representation of the breakdown by ethnic group in Northamptonshire.

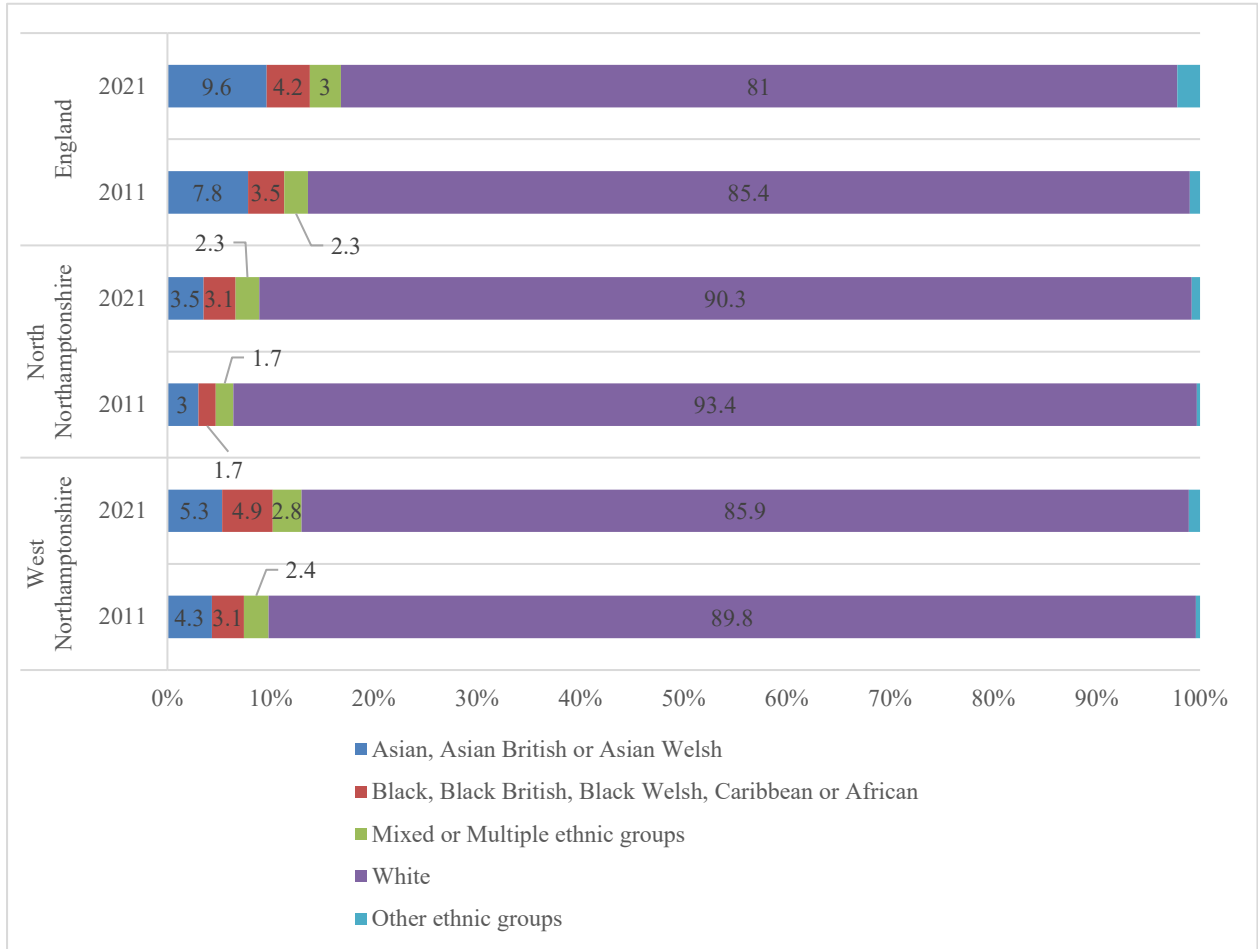


Figure 3.4. Ethnic group of residents in Northamptonshire and England in 2011 and 2021 (ONS 2011; ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021).

NCF Community Insights A - African Youth Arise (AYA)



African Youth Arise are a community group based in Northamptonshire that inspires young people of African descent to be a better version of themselves. They provide them with support and guidance in their personal development journey and access to opportunities through mentorship and coaching.

The group were awarded £3,052.50 through the Compton fund, to give access to African musical instruments to British African heritage youths to learn and understand their rich musical heritage and start a choir for young people between the ages of 11 to 18 years old.

This project was initially suggested by the young people in AYA regular young sub-committee. They have also highlighted the importance of representation and diversity in the music industry, as well as in society as a whole.

3.3. Rural

Rural areas have unique characteristics including open countryside with a scattering of small towns and villages, farming communities, sparsely populated upland areas, coastal communities, mining areas, and community villages on the periphery of large towns and cities. Local authority areas can contain several rural communities and understanding the needs experienced by rural communities is complex. In Northamptonshire, 20.2% of the population live in areas classified as 'rural town and fringe' and 11.1% of the population live in areas classified as 'rural villages and dispersed', which means over third of the population live in areas classified as 'rural' (ONS, 2020). Residents living in rural areas are disproportionately

older, with higher co-morbidities that require nuanced approaches from health and social care (ONS, 2020; Parish, 2022). An investigation conducted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Rural Health and Care and the National Centre for Rural Health and Care found that residents in rural areas have limited choices and opportunities to access health and social care. It recommended: *“Build(ing) an understanding of the distinctive health and care needs of rural areas, deliver services that are suited to the specific needs of rural places, develop a structural and regulatory framework that fosters adaption and innovation, and develop integrated services that provide holistic, person-centred care”* (Parish, 2022: 9). Northamptonshire comprises of several rural communities, with 239,741 residents living in Rural Classifications in 2020. In total, 18.31% were aged 0-15 years-old, 59.35% were aged 16-64 years-old and 22.34% were aged 65 years-old and over. The population of adults aged 65 years-old and over is higher in rural areas of Northamptonshire than urban areas (16.36%) (Figure 3.5).

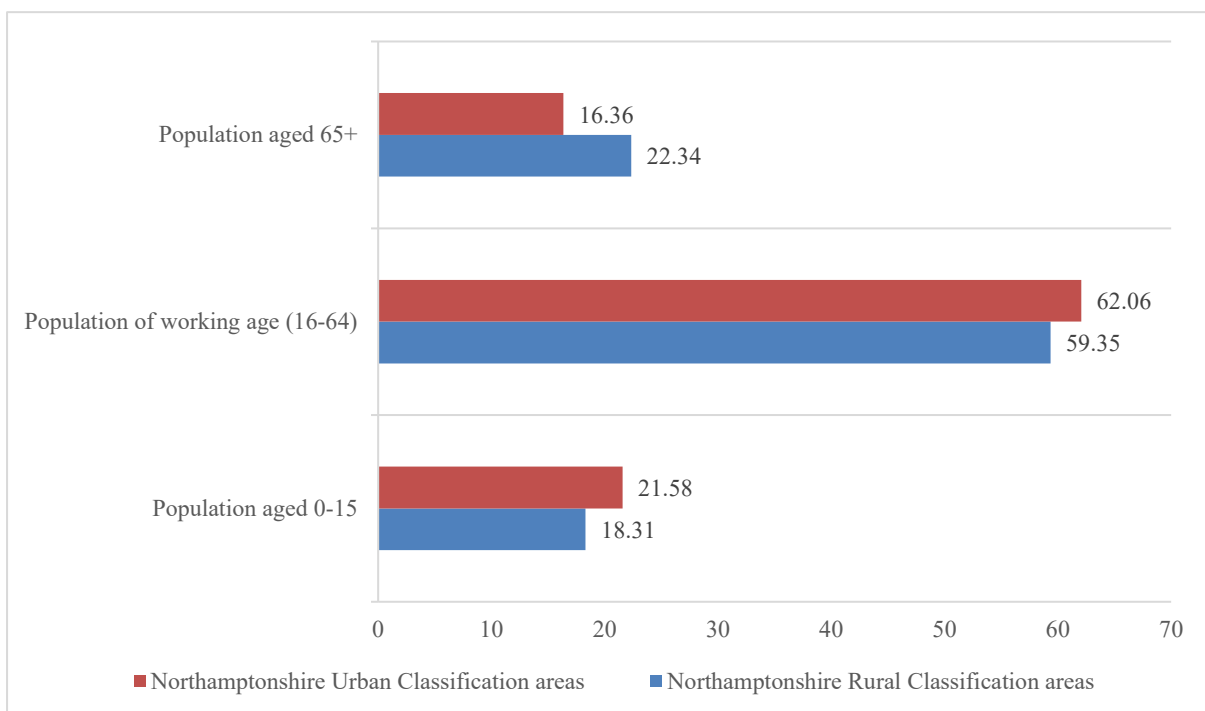


Figure 3.5. Population in urban and rural areas in Northamptonshire (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

The sparsity and rurality in Northamptonshire creates a disparity of needs, with the English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IMD, 2019) showing rural areas in Northamptonshire have a rank

of 23,889.2¹ in comparison to 15,761.8 in urban areas (i.e., lower scores = more deprived). Rural areas of Northamptonshire experience much less deprivation than urban areas in all areas, with the exception of living environment and geographic barriers. Overall, the health outcomes are more favourable in rural areas, with the health deprivation in rural areas 24,758.1 in comparison with 13,651.9 in urban areas (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

Access to services, travel and transport are areas that contribute to pressures on individuals living in rural areas. Residents living in rural areas have longer travel times (by public transport/walking and cycling) to supermarkets (+1.78 minutes), general practitioners (GPs) (+15.75 minutes), hospital (+26.72 minutes), town centre (+24.03) than residents living in urban areas (Figure 3.6). Health and care needs and outcomes cannot be separated from other complex and environmental issues including by proximity to healthcare.

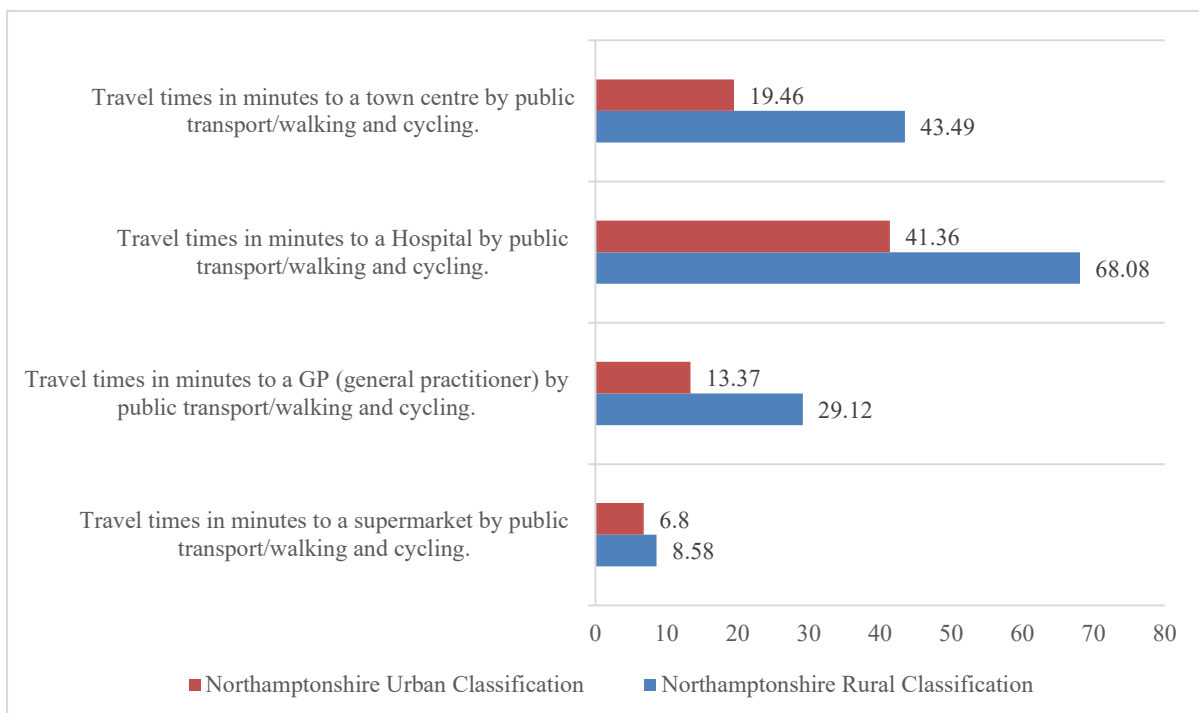


Figure 3.6. Access to services, by public transport/walking and cycling, in urban and rural areas in Northamptonshire (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

¹ There are 32,844 LSOA in England.

The OCSI (2023:12) report on ‘Rural Poverty in Northamptonshire’ found that rural areas in Northamptonshire often have long road distances “to the nearest GP (2.7km), more than double the average distance for people living in urban areas (1.3km)”. Furthermore, this report showed that rural areas “south of Towcester (E01027302) have the highest proportion of households with no car of all rural LSOA’s in Northamptonshire (24.4%)” (OCSI, 2023:12).

Individuals residing in rural areas can experience social isolation and loneliness due to barriers connecting with others, transportation challenges, limited economic resources, and less access to broadband Internet and cellular connectivity (Henning-Smith et al., 2019; Henning-Smith, 2020). In Northamptonshire, the average broadband download line speed (Mbit/s) for connections is lower in rural areas (62.20 Mbps versus 81.76 Mbps) and the percentage of premises that *do not* have access to *decent*² downloads speeds was higher (3.11% in comparison to 0.71%) (Figure 3.8).

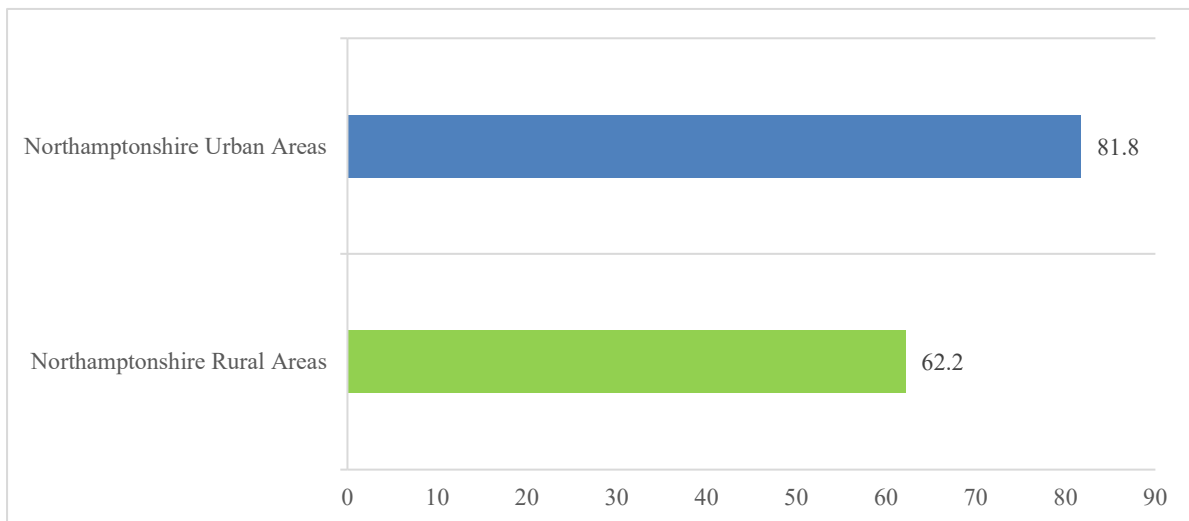


Figure 3.7. Shows the average broadband download line speed (Mbit/s) for connections in the area, in urban and rural areas in Northamptonshire (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

² Decent broadband is defined as a download speed of at least 10Mbit/s and an upload speed of at least 1Mbit/s.

NCF Community Insights B - Burton Latimer Town Council



Burton Latimer Town Council were awarded funding to secure the future of the Burton Latimer Community Managed Library. The grant has allowed them to continue to create a community hub in Burton Latimer. They have been able to work with groups providing mobility support (Supporting Independence) Economic support, and emotional support. The grant has allowed them to focus on the needs of Burton Latimer residents and enabled them to bring local community groups, organisations, and business together.

They have been able to increase their activity timetable recently starting a Ukulele group, extending their Singing For The Mind group and starting a new Rhymetime and Childminders session all requested by their members. Without this grant their community members would not have access to the extended services and support the library offers.

3.4. Summary

This section has illustrated that there are a variety of social problems across Northamptonshire that require support, and that this varies across different contexts within the county, whether these be geographical, political, or demographic in nature. The COVID-19 pandemic has

certainly exacerbated these existent problems in the county, and this has been combined with population growth that has only made these issues more acute. When combined with differences in infrastructure across the county, an ageing population and the challenges that have inevitably emerged from the creation of two unitary authorities, these problems require innovative solutions to overcome.

4. Inequality and Deprivation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (and predecessors) have produced local measures of deprivation for 50 years, with recent measures of deprivation published in 2019. The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IMD, 2019) updates the previous Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD, 2015), focused on patterns of multiple deprivation with supplementary analysis of Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI). Estimates for Northamptonshire suggest that over 127,000 people (around 16.9%) live in the 20% most deprived communities (IMD, 2019). People living in the most deprived areas experience significant inequality, with information suggesting that people living in the most deprived areas have lower life expectancy. The IMD 2019 is comprised of seven domains of deprivation:

- *Income* measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income.
- *Employment* measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market.
- *Health Deprivation and Disability* measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.
- *Education Skills and Training* measures the lack of attainment and skills.
- *Crime* measures the risk of personal and material victimisation.
- *Barriers to Housing and Services* measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services.
- *Living Environment* measures the quality of both the indoor and outdoor local environment.

The IMD (2019) shows the average score (the higher the score, the more deprived the area) and the rank (the lower the rank, the more deprived the area) for each domain³ in Northamptonshire's Districts and Boroughs. Overall, the IMD (2019) scores show that deprivation in Northamptonshire is highest in Corby and lowest in South Northamptonshire (Table 4.1).

³ This report will use the rank score in which the local authority district with a rank of 1 is the most deprived, and the area ranked 317 is the least deprived.

Local Authority District name (2019)	IMD – Rank of Average Rank ⁴
Corby	70
Northampton	105
Wellingborough	124
Kettering	161
East Northamptonshire	226
Daventry	243
South Northamptonshire	312

Table 4.1. Indices of Deprivation for Local Authority by District name [maximum 317] (lower rank represents higher need) (IMD, 2019)

4.1. Income Deprivation

The Income domain measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income. Northamptonshire ranks in the 113th for Income, with significant variance across the county. Corby appears in the 90th most deprived areas for Income Deprivation, followed by Wellingborough (124th) and Northampton (128th). South Northamptonshire is ranked at the opposite end of the scale (314th). Supplementary data for Income deprivation is identified through the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which measures the proportion of all children aged 0-15 years-old living in income deprived families and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI). The IDACI and IDAOPI mirror information for the Income domain, with Corby, Northampton and Wellingborough showing the highest levels of deprivation in Northamptonshire (IMD, 2019). Income deprivation in Northamptonshire are impacted by the rates of employment (including salary) and unemployment. In West Northamptonshire the unemployment rate is 3.1% whilst in North Northamptonshire the unemployment rate is 2.8% (NOMIS, 2023). In 2021, 77.6% of adults were economically active⁵ in North Northamptonshire (lower than the England average – 78.7%) in comparison to 82.5% of adults in West Northamptonshire (higher than the England average – 78.7%) (ONS, 2021).

⁴ Population weighted average of the combined ranks for the LSOAs in a larger area.

⁵ Defined as people who are either in employment or unemployed.

4.2. Employment Deprivation and Education, Skills and Training

The Employment domain measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. Northamptonshire ranks in the 109th for Employment, with significant variance across the county. Corby appears in the 79th most deprived areas for Employment Deprivation, followed by Wellingborough (117th), Northampton (150th), and Kettering (154th). South Northamptonshire ranks at the opposite end of the scale (313th) (IMD, 2019).

The Education, Skills and Training domain measures the lack of attainment and skills for local people in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire ranks in the 60th for Employment, Skills and Training with significant variance across the county. Corby appears in the 10th most deprived areas for Education, Skills and Training Deprivation, followed by Wellingborough (58th) and Northampton (80th). South Northamptonshire is ranked at the opposite end of the scale (272nd).

4.3. Health Deprivation and Disability

The Health Deprivation and Disability domain measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Northamptonshire ranks in the 87th for deprivation, with significant variance across the county. Corby appears in the 45th most deprived areas for Health Deprivation and Disability, followed by Northampton (77th) and Wellingborough (105th). South Northamptonshire is ranked at the opposite end of the scale (301st), however, the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)⁶ information shows that South Northamptonshire experiences pockets of Health Deprivation and Disability (IMD, 2019). Health inequality is higher for people living with disabilities, with barriers to health services exacerbated for individuals who experience physical and/or learning disabilities. Research (LeDeR, 2021) shows that life expectancy is around 32% lower for individuals with learning disabilities.

⁶ Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs): These geographical areas designated by the government can comprise up to 1,200 households and a population of up to 3,000 persons. See: [ONS \(2021\) Geographies](#).

NCF Community Insights C - Northampton Town Football in the Community

Northampton Town Football in the Community is a sport for development charity, with a vision to create a healthy, happy and connected Northamptonshire using the power of sport. They prioritise the most vulnerable in the community, including children, young people and adults who are living with disabilities, those who are socially isolated, or who are affected by deprivation. The organisation received an award of £4,950 from the Cecil Pettit Legacy Fund to support their successful Disability Holiday Course provision which provides regular physical activity sessions for children with a disability aged 5-13 during school holiday periods. The project supported children and young people with a disability from across Northamptonshire and over the course of the year, they had 169 participants with many parents and carers noting an increased level of confidence and self-esteem in their child since attending and an increased amount of physical activity levels following on from completing a course.

4.4. Crime

The Crime domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire ranks in the 113th for Crime, with significant variance across the county. Northampton appears in the 44th most deprived areas for Crime Deprivation, followed by Wellingborough (85th), Corby (125th), and Kettering (127th). South Northamptonshire is ranks at the opposite end of the scale (279th) (IMD, 2019).

4.5. Barriers to Housing and Living Environment

The Barriers to Housing and Services domain measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. Northamptonshire ranks in the 65th for Barriers to Housing and Services, with significant variance across the county. Corby appears in the 63rd most deprived areas for Barriers to Housing and Services, followed by Northampton (72nd) and Daventry (101st). South Northamptonshire is ranks at the opposite end of the scale (183rd). The Living Environment domain measures the quality of both the indoor and outdoor local environment. Northamptonshire ranks 116th for Living Environment, with some variance across the country. Northampton appears in the 160th most deprived areas for Living Environment, followed by Kettering (211th) and Daventry (213th). Table 4.2 and Table 4.3 provide a detailed breakdown for indices of deprivation in each domain across Northamptonshire (IMD, 2019).

Local Authority District name (2019)	Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment
Corby	90	79	10	45	125	63	297
Daventry	263	259	208	229	170	101	213
East Northamptonshire	228	226	123	213	206	195	241
Kettering	153	154	103	127	127	198	211
Northampton	128	150	80	77	44	72	160
South Northamptonshire	314	313	272	301	279	183	261
Wellingborough	124	117	58	105	85	148	234

Table 4.2. Indices of Deprivation for Northamptonshire for each domain (IMD, 2019)

Local Authority District name (2019)	IDACI - Rank of average rank	IDAOPi - Rank of average rank
Corby	94	94
Daventry	253	280
East Northamptonshire	232	212
Kettering	148	173
Northampton	127	121
South Northamptonshire	314	304
Wellingborough	121	134

Table 4.3. IDACI and IDAOPi Measures for Northamptonshire (IMD, 2019)

4.6. Inequality and Deprivation Impact on Individuals

Inequality and deprivation in Northamptonshire are starkly different based on local area, with individuals living in the 20% most deprived areas experiencing higher needs than individuals living in the 20% least deprived. These needs impact on life expectancy with the ICS (2021) showing stark differences in prevalence of special education needs, weight issues in reception children and Year 6 children, self-harm hospital admission in 10-24 year-olds, adult life satisfaction, average anxiety scores, unemployment in 16-64 year-olds, average household spend on alcohol, average household spend on tobacco, premature deaths from cardiovascular disease, emergency admissions for falls in people aged 65+ and life expectancy (Table 4.4)⁷.

⁷ Key areas will be explored in further detail in this report.

Social Problem	North		West	
	20% least deprived	20% most deprived	20% least deprived	20% most deprived
Prevalence of special education needs	8%	16%	8%	14%
Reception children overweight or obese	19%	26%	18%	25%
Year 6 children overweight or obese	28%	38%	28%	39%
Self-harm hospital admission in 10-24 years (per 100,000)	361	1,030	507	1,214
Adult life satisfaction score (out of 10)	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.6
Average anxiety score (out of 10)	2.5	2.8	2.4	2.8
Unemployment rate in ages 16-64 years old	0.7%	3.1%	0.6%	3.0%
% weekly income spend on alcohol	£20 (3%)	£14 (1%)	£20 (3%)	£14 (3%)
% weekly income spend on tobacco	£4 (0.6%)	£7 (1.4%)	£4 (0.6%)	£7 (1.4%)
Premature deaths from cardiovascular disease (rate per 100,000)	85	192	87	203
Emergency Admission for falls in people aged 65+ (rate per 100,000)	1,810	2,705	2,146	2,587
Life Expectancy	82 Male 84 Female	75 Male 79 Female	82 Male 84 Female	75 Male 79 Female

Table 4.4. Inequalities in Northamptonshire for individuals in 20% most deprived in comparison with individuals in 20% least deprived (ICS, 2021)

4.7. Food Insecurity and Vulnerability

Food insecurity refers to the situation in which an individual does not have access to enough safe and nutritious food to support normal development and growth whilst food vulnerability is based on combining benefits claimed and household-level insecurity (i.e., living alone as an older person, low-income households) (Smith et al., 2018 cited in Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Food insecurity is an issue in the United Kingdom, with data illustrated 4.7 million people (7%) in the UK live in food insecure households (Francis-Devine, Malik and Danechi, 2023). In 2021, the percentage of the population living in the areas of highest risk of food insecurity was higher in North Northamptonshire (21.6%) than West Northamptonshire (15.3%) (Public Health England, 2023).

The Food Vulnerability Index was designed by the Red Cross in 2020 to combine indicators identified by Smith et al. (2018) (cited in cited in Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023) including:

- Frailty,
- Living alone,
- Distance to services,
- Digital exclusion,
- Income deprivation,
- Income support for families,
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for families,
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for families,
- Pension credit (Guarantee) families,
- Working tax credit and child tax credit families not already counted,
- Universal Credit families where no adult is in 'Working - no requirements' conditionality regime,
- Asylum seekers in England in receipt of subsistence support,
- Accommodation support.

In 2020, food vulnerability⁸ in Northamptonshire was highest in Daventry (223.02), East Northamptonshire (229.73) and Kettering (220.84). Furthermore, food vulnerability was higher in rural areas of Northamptonshire than urban areas of Northamptonshire (Figure 4.1).

⁸ The food vulnerability index score shows vulnerability with higher figures illustrating more vulnerability. See British Red Cross for https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aWpzgvLKGEF5Ay_xVps17nnbT1zIEki7RGIIJXL5APo/edit#.

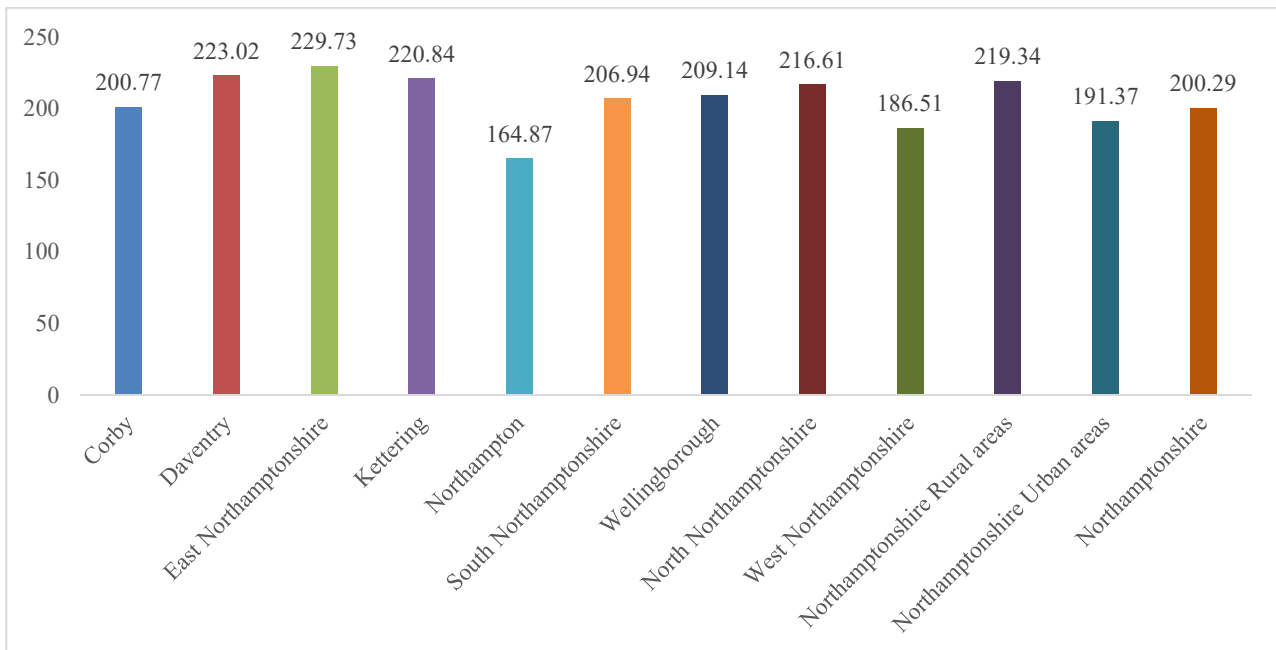


Figure 4.1. Food Vulnerability scored in Northamptonshire (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

NCF Community Insights D - United African Association (UAA)



United African Association is an advice, support, advocate organisation for the African community in Northamptonshire. Their activities include providing African food parcels, supporting the wider community, offering telephone befriending services, hosting ladies swimming sessions for beginners and improvers and other wellbeing events. The organisation received a grant of £2,000 from the Family Food Aid Fund to provide food parcels to mainly African beneficiaries, who have encountered many difficulties due employment shortages and are unable to access benefits because of their

immigration status. With the help of the award, UAA were able to support 420 beneficiaries with access to food parcels, as well as providing additional support such as acting as an advocate when further support is needed through Adult Social Services or Local Authorities.

4.8. Summary

This section has illustrated the inequality and deprivation in Northamptonshire, with inequality and deprivation in Northamptonshire relatively high (14.7% of LSOAs in Northamptonshire are amongst the top 20% most deprived nationally). There is variance in all deprivation domains with Corby, Wellingborough and Northampton experiencing the highest levels of deprivation in the country. Inequality and deprivation impacts on all communities however there are concerns nationally over the impact of inequality and deprivation on children. In Northamptonshire, children (aged under 16 years-old) living in low-income families is higher in North Northamptonshire (20%) than West Northamptonshire (9.1%) (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a, Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020b). Furthermore, Corby has the highest proportion of income deprivation affecting children, with 22.0% families in the top 20% most deprived followed by Northampton (13.5%), Kettering (12.3%) and East Northamptonshire (8.2%) (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a, Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020b). Addressing inequality and deprivation in Northamptonshire is essential for improving outcomes for children and the wider population.

5. Health and Wellbeing

Health inequalities refer to avoidable differences in health and wellbeing across the population, and between distinct groups within society. The Health Deprivation and Disability domain measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health, with obesity and physical activity linked with health and wellbeing. Core areas examined for health and wellbeing in Northamptonshire are life-expectancy, obesity, smoking in pregnancy, substance use, self-harm, and suicide. Health and wellbeing inequalities experienced by residents in Northamptonshire create pressures on Public Health. Information for GP registrations illustrates the pressure on health services, with April 2020 data revealing a higher number of registered GP patients than estimated population in Northamptonshire (ONS mid-year 2019 estimates) (ONS, 2020). In West Northamptonshire, the proportion of individuals reporting ‘bad or very bad health’ increased from 3.4% in 2011 to 4.2% in 2021 (national average 5.3%) (ONS, 2023). Health and wellbeing problems have been exasperated in recent years with the COVID-19 pandemic and although the full impact remains unknown, research shows that at the beginning of the pandemic individuals experienced lower levels of physical health and subjective wellbeing, with significant mental distress manifesting at the end of the lockdown (Sibley et al., 2020). Furthermore, research investigating population mental health concluded that, due to the pandemic, levels decreased compared to the trends before COVID-19 (i.e., people felt worse) (Pierce et al., 2020).

NCF Community Insights E - Friends of West Glebe Park



The Friends of West Glebe park are a voluntary body that are committed to the protection and development of the use of the open space for community use. The group were funded £3000 to put

on an Active Communities Family Funday. The aim of the event was to provide ‘come and try’ sessions in a variety of sports and physical activities and promote wellbeing for the Corby Community. This event supported the community in signposting them to sports and activities sessions and health and wellbeing services available to them in the local area. Many families had the chance to take part in activities together and try new things. The event brought many different cultures and communities together, all having a sense of pride in the town and their community.

5.1. Life Expectancy

Supporting adults to take responsibility by promoting healthy lifestyles remains a priority in Northamptonshire (Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy, 2022). In North Northamptonshire, the average male life expectancy was 79.2 years, and the average female life expectancy was 82.4 years (2018-2020) (Public Health England, 2023). In West Northamptonshire, the average male life expectancy was 79.8 years, and the average female life expectancy was 82.8 years (2018-2020) (Public Health England, 2023) (Figure 5.1). Life expectancy at birth for male and female residents in North Northamptonshire are lower than the England average in which female life expectancy at birth (2018-2020) is 83.1 years and male life expectancy at birth is 79.4 years (Public Health England, 2023). Although life expectancy at birth for female residents in West Northamptonshire is lower than the England average, male life expectancy at birth is slightly higher (Public Health England, 2023).

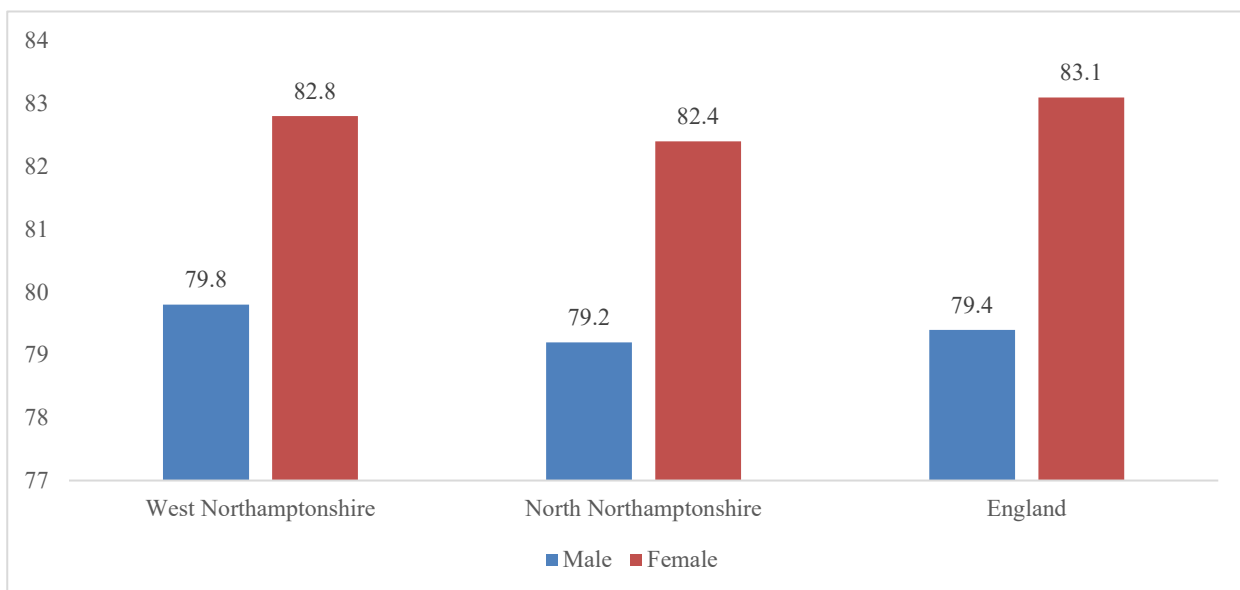


Figure 5.1. Life expectancy in Northamptonshire, by gender (Public Health England, 2023)

Detailed information on life expectancy in Northamptonshire shows higher life expectancy at birth for residents in rural areas than urban areas, for both men and women. East Northamptonshire (80.30 years) and South Northamptonshire (81.44 years) have the highest life expectancy at birth for men, whilst Daventry (84.7 years) and South Northamptonshire (84.67 years) have the highest life expectancy at birth for women (Table 5.1).

Area	Male (Years)	Female (Years)
Corby	77.57	81.11
Daventry	81.25	84.17
East Northamptonshire	80.30	83.59
Kettering	79.69	82.54
Northampton	78.52	82.74
South Northamptonshire	81.44	84.67
Wellingborough	79.45	82.98
Northamptonshire Rural areas	81.25	84.45
Northamptonshire Urban areas	78.80	82.47
Northamptonshire	79.58	83.10

Table 5.1. Life expectancy in the most deprived areas in comparison with the least deprived areas in Northamptonshire, by district.

Further information on life expectancy illustrates that life expectancy is lower in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived areas for each area of Northamptonshire's main areas (Table 5.2).

Area	Male (Years)	Female (Years)
Wellingborough	8.0 ↓	2.9 ↓
South Northamptonshire	0 -	0 -
Northampton	9.6 ↓	7.2 ↓
Kettering	7.1 ↓	7.1 ↓
East Northamptonshire	6.3 ↓	5.0 ↓
Daventry	3.6 ↓	2.8 ↓
Corby	Unavailable	Unavailable

Table 5.2. Life expectancy in the most deprived areas in comparison with the least deprived areas in Northamptonshire, by district (Public Health England, 2023)

Life expectancy provides a statistical measure for the average time an individual will live but does not account for the number of years an individual will expect good health. Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) considers the number of years an individual would experience good health, with data for Northamptonshire showing that female HLE at birth was 66.3 years, whilst males HLE at birth was 65.8 years (Public Health England, 2023). In England, HLE is lower for male (63.1 years) and female (63.9 years) residents.

[5.2. Weight Management and Obesity in Adults](#)

Weight issues in adults were reported in Northamptonshire, with 12.9% of adults in North Northamptonshire and 9.4% of adults in West Northamptonshire reporting being overweight or obese in 2019-2020 (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Northamptonshire’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2016-2020) seeks to tackle obesity by creating environments that promote health and sustainable lifestyles, supporting health childhood, and preventing ill health through tackling inequality. Despite Northamptonshire’s priority to promote healthier lifestyles, information on physical activity and healthy eating, position Northamptonshire worse than the English average. On physical activity, 62.6% of adults in North Northamptonshire (worse than the England average – 67.3%) and 63% of adults in West Northamptonshire (worse than the England average – 67.3%) reported involvement in physically activity in 2020-21 (Public Health England, 2023). In regard to healthy eating, 53% of adults in North Northamptonshire and 52% in West Northamptonshire reported eating ‘5-a-day’ in 2019-2020 (Figure 5.2)

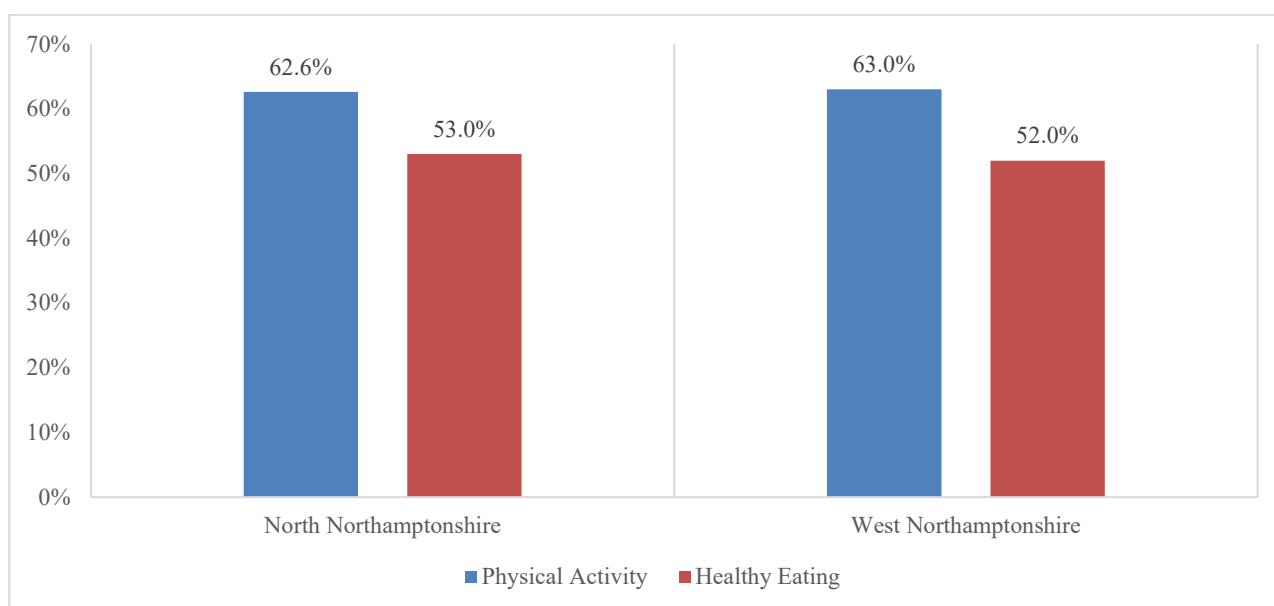


Figure 5.2. Healthy lifestyle for adults in Northamptonshire (Public Health England, 2023)

Detailed information on the proportion of physically active adults shows a decrease (since 2017/2018) in the percentage of physically active adults in Daventry, East Northamptonshire, Northampton and South Northamptonshire (Table 5.3)

Area	%
Corby	59.60 ↑
Daventry	67.75 ↓
East Northamptonshire	64.24 ↓
Kettering	63.37 ↑
Northampton	62.69 ↓
South Northamptonshire	68.52 ↓
Wellingborough	60.90 ↑
Northamptonshire Rural Classification areas	67.39
Northamptonshire Urban Classification areas	62.11
Northamptonshire	63.80

Table 5.3. Proportion of physically active adults in Northamptonshire by District (2018/2019) (%) (Public Health England, 2023)

5.3. Cardiovascular Disease and Respiratory Diseases

Cardiovascular diseases is an important public health problem, affecting the blood supply to the heart and other vital organs. Progress is being made in reducing the impact of cardiovascular disease in Northamptonshire, with death rates falling in line with England (ICS, 2021). In West Northamptonshire, the number of premature deaths from cardiovascular disease (rate per 100,000) population in 2021 was 28.9 deaths (Public Health England, 2023). Whilst, in North Northamptonshire, the number of premature deaths from cardiovascular disease (rate per 100,000) population in 2021 was 29.6 deaths (Public Health England, 2023). In England, premature cardiovascular disease (rate per 100,000) population in 2021 was 30.2 deaths (Public Health England, 2023) which is higher than West and North Northamptonshire.

Respiratory diseases is another important public health issue, affecting around 20% of people in England. Respiratory disease is an illness of the airways and other structures of the lungs and includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, occupational lung diseases and pulmonary hypertension (ICS, 2021). In West Northamptonshire, the number of premature deaths in under 75s from preventable respiratory diseases (rate per 100,000) population in 2021 was 17.0 deaths (Public Health England, 2023). Whilst, in North Northamptonshire, the number of premature deaths in under 75s from preventable respiratory diseases (rate per 100,000) population in 2021 was 20.8 deaths, higher than the English national average (15.6 per 100,000) (Public Health England, 2023). The rate of preventable respiratory disease in North Northamptonshire was higher than the English national average (15.6 per 100,000) (Public Health England, 2023).

In 2020-2021, Integrated Care Services (ICS) illustrate that whilst the prevalence of coronary heart disease (CHD) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Northamptonshire are similar to the national averages, the rate of hospital attendance is significantly higher (ICS, 2021)

5.4. Smoking

Smoking prevalence in North Northamptonshire (16.6%) was higher than the English (13.0%) national average in 2021 whilst smoking prevalence was lower in West Northamptonshire (11.5%) (Public Health England, 2023). Smoking prevalence is higher in people (18-64 years-old) working in routine and manual occupation, with 29.1% in North Northamptonshire and 27.1% in West Northamptonshire (England average was 24.5%) (Public Health England, 2023). Other issues associated with smoking include smoking in pregnancy with data from 2021-2022 showing that

11.3% of mothers in West Northamptonshire and 11.2% of mothers in North Northamptonshire were smoking at the time of birth (Public Health England, 2023). Both are higher than the England average which is 9.1% (Public Health England, 2023). Figure 5.3 illustrates the proportion of the population who smoke in Northamptonshire and the proportion of women smoking whilst pregnant.

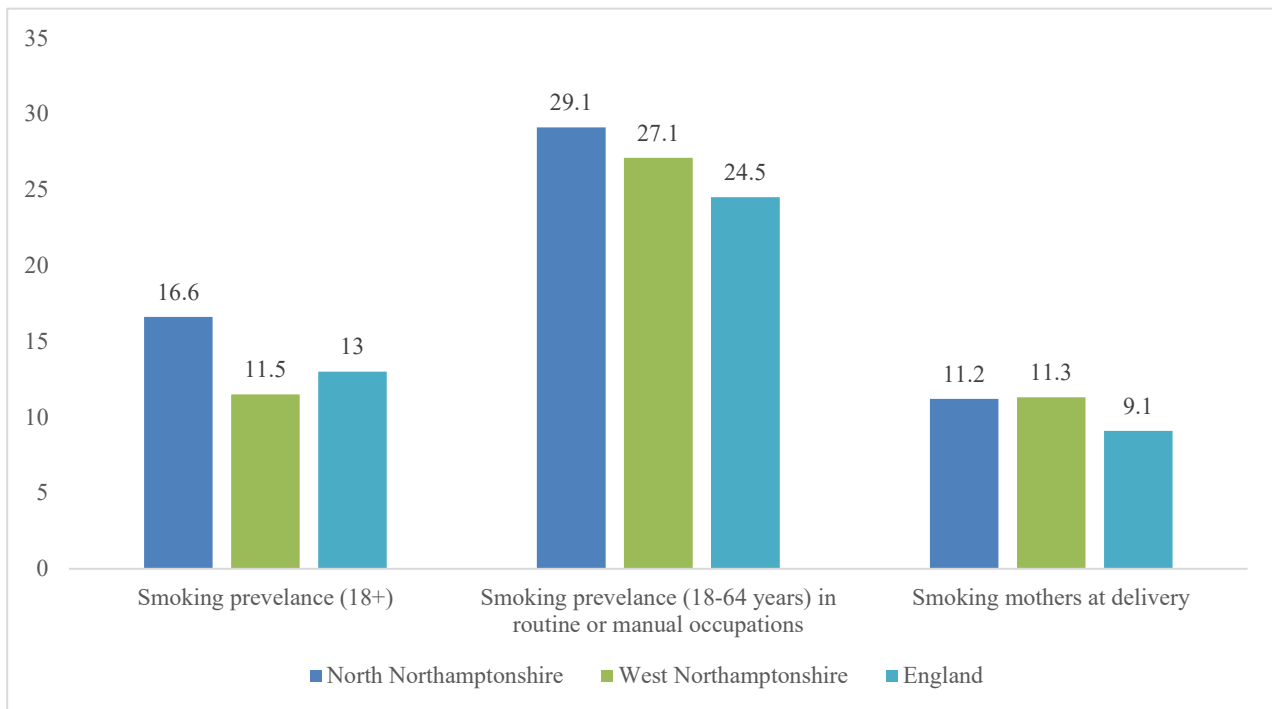


Figure 5.3. Smoking in Northamptonshire (%) (Public Health England, 2023)

5.5. Alcohol and Substance Misuse

Alcohol-related hospital admissions per 100,000 population were 479 people in North Northamptonshire and 473 people in West Northamptonshire (2021-2022) (England average was 494) (Public Health England, 2023). Information on Hospital admission rates for alcohol-specific conditions are available for Districts in Northamptonshire (Table 5.4). Hospital admission rates for alcohol-specific conditions in 2018/2019 (directly age-standardised rate per 100,000 population) increased across all Districts in Northamptonshire, highest in Corby (863.9), Kettering (839.1) and Northampton (831.1). Hospital admission rates for alcohol-specific conditions for children under 18 years-old in 2016/2017 and 2018/2019 decreased across all Districts in Northamptonshire except for Northampton (JSNA North, 2021; JSNA West, 2021).

Area	All (2018/2019)	Children (2016/2017 – 2018/2019)
Northampton	831.1 ↑	31.4 ↑
Wellingborough	782.8 ↑	27.5 ↓
Kettering	839.1 ↑	36.5 ↓
Corby	863.9 ↑	39.3 ↓
Daventry	654.1 ↑	19.5 ↓
East Northamptonshire	672.2 ↑	25.0 ↓
South Northamptonshire	531.5 ↑	25.6 ↓
Regional	699.5	26.3
England	663.7	31.6

Table 5.4. Hospital admission rate for alcohol-specific conditions (per 100,000) (JSNA North, 2021; JSNA West, 2021)

5.6. Mental Health and Depression

The Small Area Mental Health Index⁹ is a measure of population mental health for each LSOA in England. Northamptonshire’s urban (1.28) areas experience higher levels of mental health need than rural areas (0.60). District level data shows higher than Northamptonshire average mental health needs in Kettering (1.58) and Corby (1.40), higher than the average in England (0.70) (Figure 5.4).

⁹ It combines data on mental health from multiple sources (NHS-Mental health related hospital attendances, GP Patient Survey question on health state, Prescribing data Antidepressants, QOF (depression), and DWP (Incapacity benefit and Employment support allowance for mental illness), with a high score indicating higher experience mental health inequality.

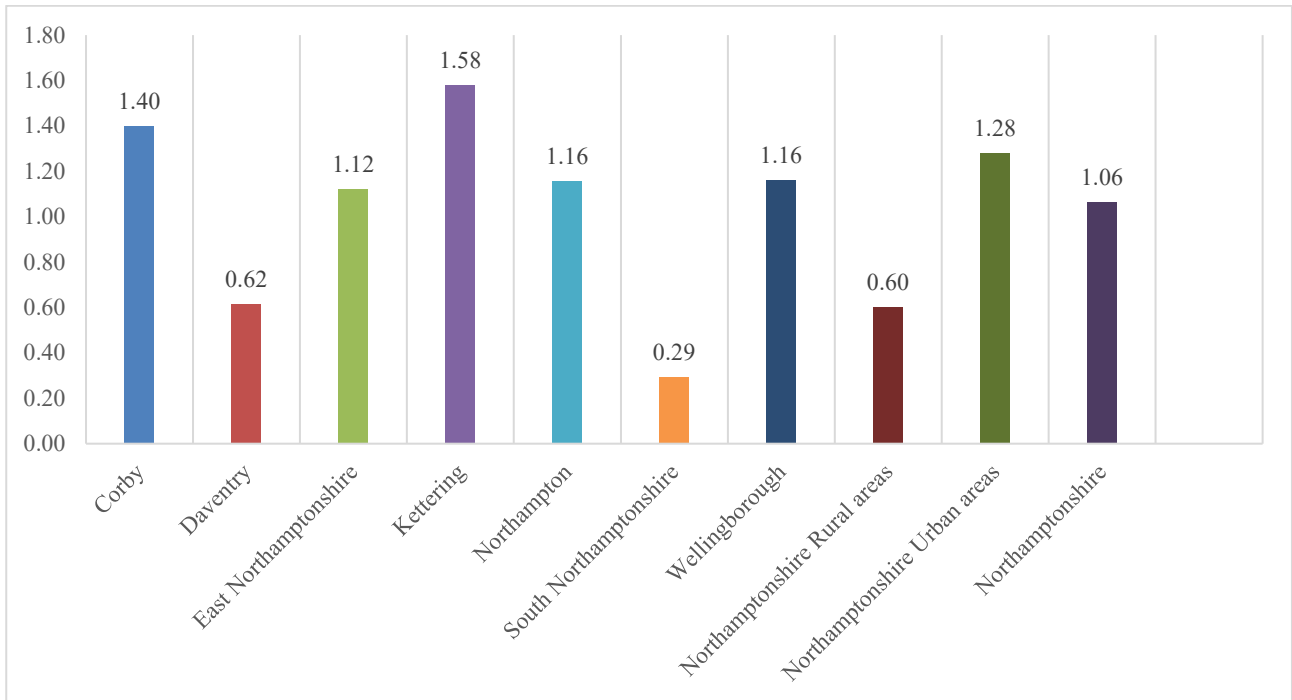


Figure 5.4. The Small Area Mental Health Index score in Northamptonshire by District in 2019 (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

The prevalence of depression in Northamptonshire was slightly higher in urban areas (13.79%) than rural areas (13.47%). District level data shows a higher prevalence of depression in Kettering (15.31%), East Northamptonshire (14.74%) and Corby (14.07%) than the average in England (11.7%) (Figure 5.5).

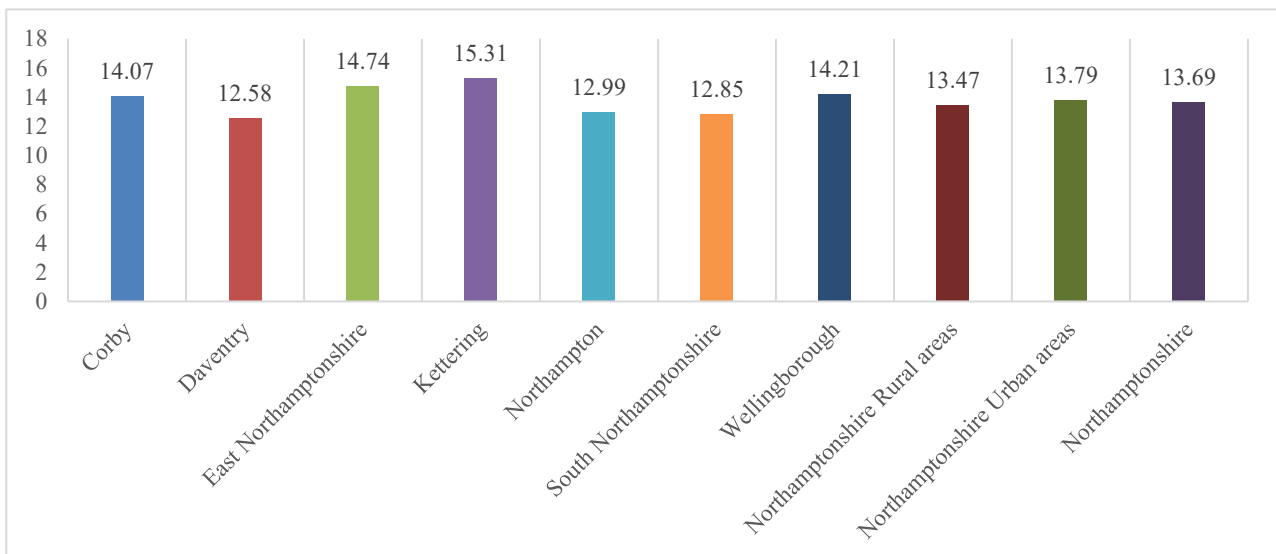


Figure 5.5. Percentage of depression in Northamptonshire by District in 2019/2020 (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

NCF Community Insights F – The Lowdown



The Lowdown is a mental health charity providing free and confidential support services to young people aged 11 and 25 living in Northamptonshire. They provide a caring, non-judgemental environment where young people are supported fully on their journey towards positive emotional health and wellbeing regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, ability, sexuality, economic condition or perceived disadvantage.

The Lowdown were awarded £4995 to fund one-to-one counselling support sessions for young adults aged 19-25 in Northampton and the surrounding areas. Within the counselling sessions the clients explore and express their feelings and gain support, guidance, and coping strategies to build their confidence and empower them to make positive changes on their journey towards emotional health and wellbeing.

5.7. Self-Harm and Suicide

Self-harm related injuries was a significant issue reported in the original Northamptonshire 'Hidden Needs' report (Paterson-Young et al., 2017), with six districts in Northamptonshire reporting higher levels of hospitalisation for self-harm related injuries in 2014/2015. Recent reports found 297 hospital admissions for self-harm per 100,000 population in West Northamptonshire and 196 hospital admissions for self-harm per 100,000 population in North Northamptonshire (ONS North, 2021; ONS

West, 2021) in 2019-2020. The figures on self-harm remain worse than the national average in England (163.9). There were 11 suicides per 100,000 reported in North Northamptonshire (ONS North, 2021) and 8 suicides per 100,000 reported in West Northamptonshire (ONS West, 2021) in 2018-2020. Figure 5.6 illustrates the self-harm and suicide rates per 100,000 in Northamptonshire.

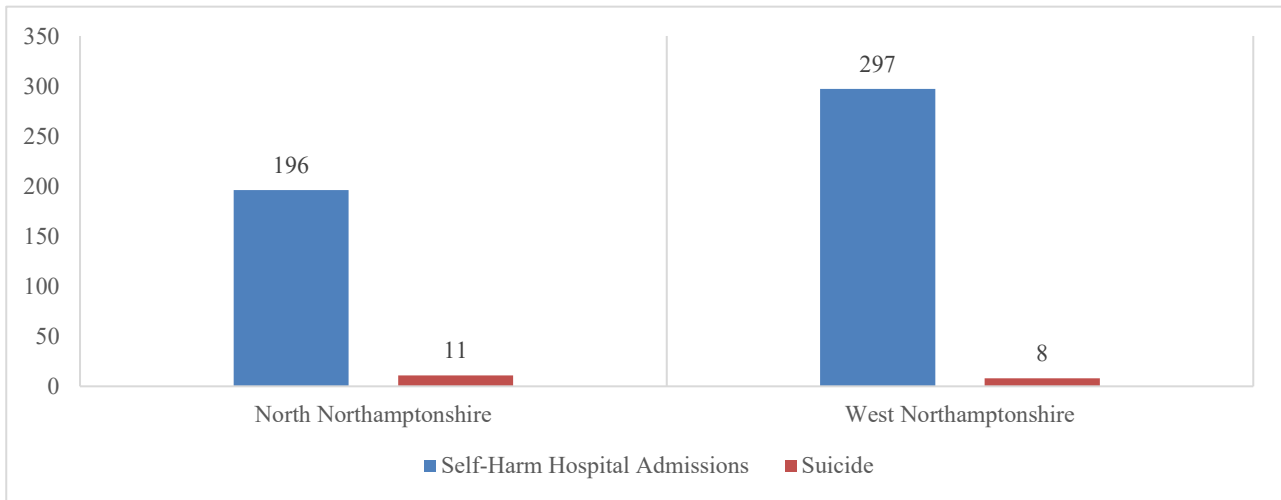


Figure 5.6. Self-Harm and Suicide per 100,000 population (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021)

The Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-25 was launched in September 2022 to tackle suicide in Northamptonshire. Self-harm and suicide per 100,000 population in Northamptonshire is available at District level, showing an increase in emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (per 100,000) in all Districts except East Northamptonshire, and an increase in suicide (per 100,000) for all areas except Corby (Table 5.5).

Area	Self-Harm	Suicide
Northampton	439.7 ↑	9.81 ↑
Wellingborough	289.9 ↑	13.4 ↑
Kettering	340.3 ↑	9.66 ↑
Corby	305.7 ↑	11.0 ↓
Daventry	268.2 ↑	6.25 ↑
East Northamptonshire	233.4 ↓	10.8 ↑
South Northamptonshire	186.0 ↑	9.38 ↑
Regional	200.9	8.73
England	193.4	9.64

Table 5.5. Rates of self-harm and suicide (per 100,000) in Northamptonshire by District (Public Health England, 2023)

5.8.Unpaid Care

Unpaid care responsibilities create challenges for individuals in Northamptonshire, with a significant proportion of unpaid carers (75%) care for someone over 65 years-old and 25% of unpaid carers care for someone over 85 years-old (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). There are an estimated 75,350 unpaid carers in Northamptonshire, with approximately 2,000 aged 15 years-old or younger (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Unpaid care was highest in Wellingborough (2.74%) and Corby (2.72%) (Figure 5.7).

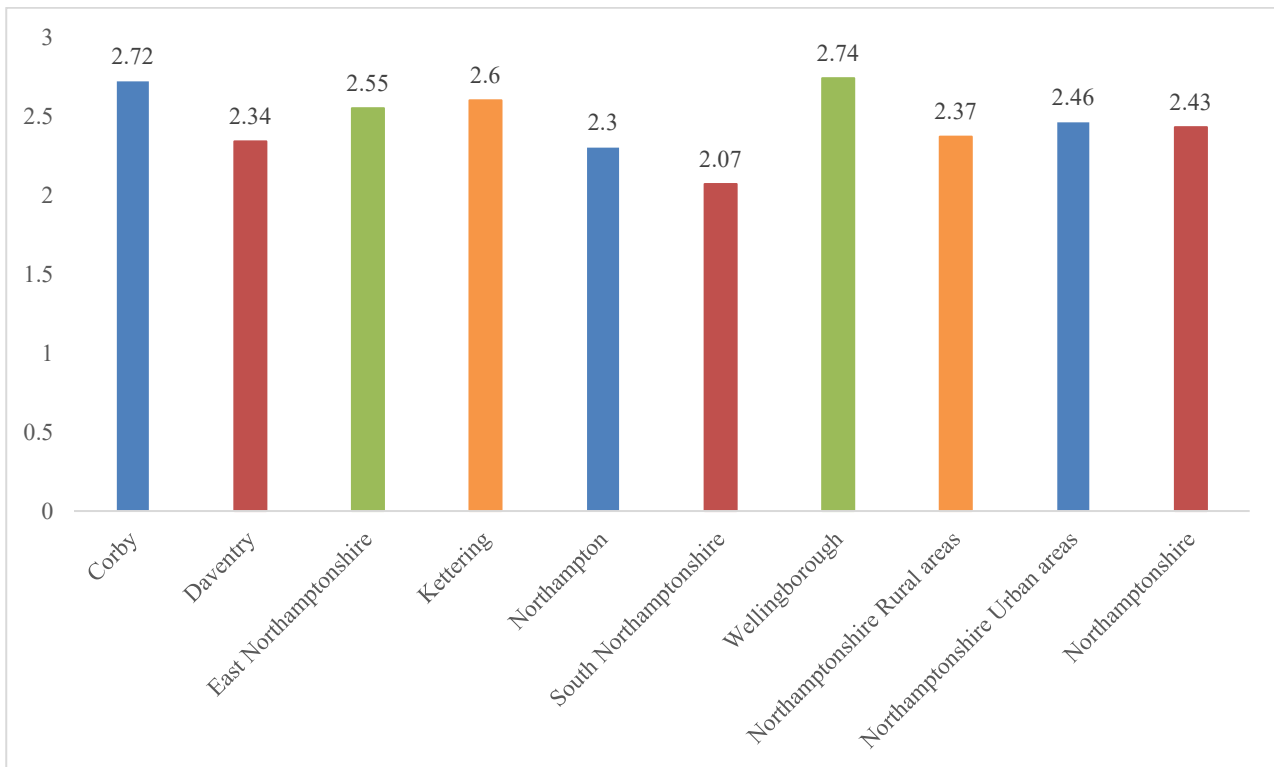


Figure 5.7. Proportion providing unpaid care for 50+ hours per week (Individuals giving 50+ hours/residents*100) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

5.8. Summary

This section has illustrated the health and wellbeing inequality in Northamptonshire with emphasis on life expectancy, weight management and obesity in adults, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, smoking, alcohol and substance misuse, self-harm and suicide and unpaid care. Northamptonshire ranks in the 87th for Health deprivation, with Corby in the 45th most deprived areas for Health Deprivation and Disability, followed by Northampton (77th) and Wellingborough (105th) (IMD, 2019). Average life expectancy is higher in West Northamptonshire for male residents (+0.6 years) and female residents (+0.4 years) than North Northamptonshire (Public Health England, 2023). Wight issues in adults are higher in North Northamptonshire (+3.5%), with lower rates of physical activity also present in North Northamptonshire (-0.8%) (Public Health England, 2023). Health eating (adults eating ‘5-a-day’), on the other hand, is higher in North Northamptonshire (+1%) (Public Health England, 2023).

Smoking prevalence in Northamptonshire is highest in North Northamptonshire (+5.1%) than West Northamptonshire (Public Health England, 2023) as is smoking prevalence in people (18-64 years-old) working in routine and manual occupation (+2% higher in North Northamptonshire than West Northamptonshire) (Public Health England, 2023). Smoking in pregnancy was higher than the average in England (9.1%) in North Northamptonshire (11.2%) and West Northamptonshire (11.3%) in 2021-2022 (Public Health England, 2023). Alcohol related hospital admissions per 100,000 population was higher in North Northamptonshire (+6) than West Northamptonshire in 2021-2022, although both are lower than the England average of 494 (Public Health England, 2023).

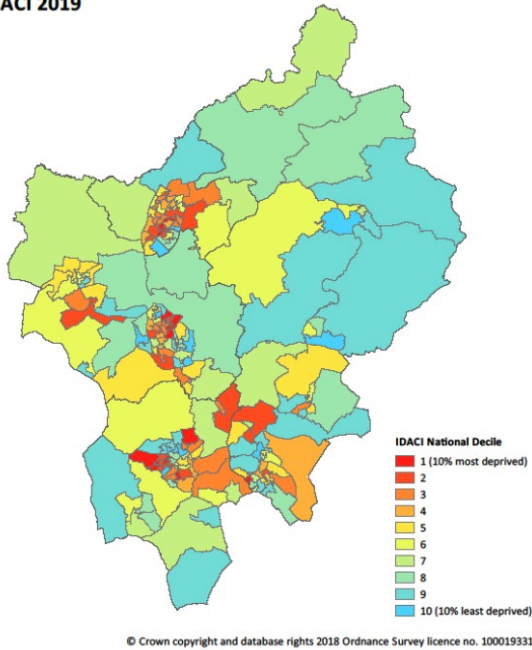
Mental health needs in Northamptonshire are higher in urban areas (+0.68) areas than rural areas, with mental health issues highest in Kettering and Corby (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Depression in Northamptonshire was slightly higher in urban areas (+0.32) than rural areas, with the highest prevalence of depression in Kettering, East Northamptonshire and Corby (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Hospital admission for self-harm (per 100,000 population) were higher in West Northamptonshire (+101) than North Northamptonshire (Public Health England, 2023), with information showing that emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (per 100,000) increased in all districts except East Northamptonshire (Public Health England, 2023).

6. Children – Impact and Challenges

Child poverty remains a concern in the United Kingdom, with Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) (2023) finding that 3.9 million children were living in poverty in 2020/2021, including 1.3 million primary school children and 1 million children under the age of 4 years old. Poverty and deprivation creates health inequalities for children, young people and families, inequalities exasperated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Northamptonshire was ranked 113th for Income Deprivation. In 2020-2021, 20% of children (aged under 16 years) in North Northamptonshire (30 LSOAs) and 9.1% of children (aged under 16 years) in West Northamptonshire (21 LSOAs) live in low-income families (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a, Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020b). A breakdown of income deprivation affecting children shows that Corby has the highest proportion of income deprivation affecting children, with 22.0% in the top 20% most deprived followed by Northampton (13.5%), Kettering (12.3%) and East Northamptonshire (8.2%) (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a, Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020b). Daventry and South Northamptonshire have lower child income deprivation in comparison to other areas across Northamptonshire and England (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a/b).

Information for North Northamptonshire (2020-2021) shows that the number of children (aged under 16 years) living in absolute or relative low-income families has reduced, with 7,561 in absolute low-income families and 9,932 in relative low-income families. Information for West Northamptonshire (2020-2021) shows that the number of children (aged under 16 years) living in absolute or relative low-income families has reduced, with 8,987 in absolute low-income families and 11,467 in relative low-income families (Figures 6.1 and 6.2). Children living in poverty have poorer education and health outcomes than their non-deprived peers (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2023); therefore appropriate and targeted support is required.

North Northamptonshire
IDACI 2019



West Northamptonshire
IDACI 2019

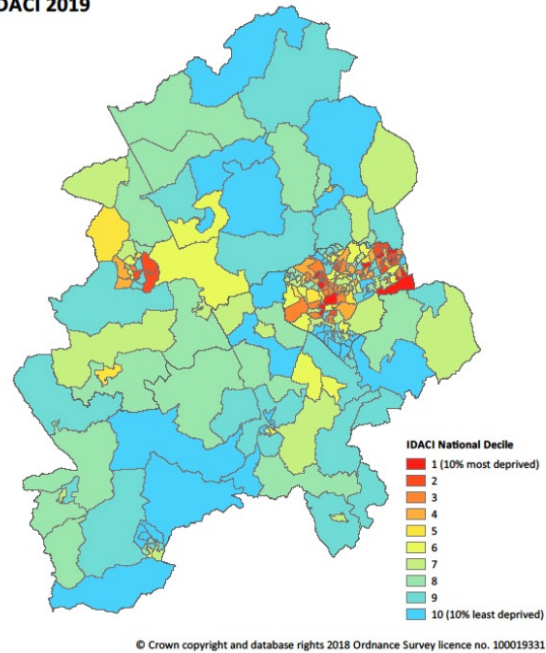


Figure 6.1 and Figure 6.2. North and West Northamptonshire IDACI 2019 (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a/b)

6.1. Education and Skills

Research has shown deprivation and poverty has a negative impact on education and skills development, with children living in poverty leaving school with fewer qualification and skills than peers from more affluent communities (DCSF, 2009). In North Northamptonshire, 70% of children achieving a good level of development on finishing reception in 2019 and 69% of children achieved a standard pass (4) in England and Maths at GCSE in 2021 (Public Health England, 2023). In West Northamptonshire, 72% of children achieving a good level of development on finishing reception in 2019 and 73% of children achieved a standard pass (4) in England and Maths at GCSE in 2021 (Public Health England, 2023). A breakdown by district is available for 2018/2019, with the average attainment 8 score¹⁰ lower than the national average in Corby (42.1), East Northamptonshire (44.4), Northampton (45.0) and Wellingborough (45.1) (Public Health England, 2023). Interestingly, Kettering experiences a high level of IDACI however the levels of GCSE attainment (average attainment 8 score) are higher than the national average (Table 6.1).

¹⁰ Attainment 8 illustrates the average academic performance of a secondary school based on students highest score across eight approved subjects.

Area	%
Northampton	45.0 ↑
Wellingborough	45.1 ↓
Kettering	47.8 ↑
Corby	42.1 ↑
Daventry	47.0 ↑
East Northamptonshire	44.4 ↓
South Northamptonshire	49.3 ↑
Regional	45.8
England	46.9

Table 6.1. Proportion of GCSE attainment (average attainment 8 score) by District (2019) (%) (Public Health England, 2023)

In West Northamptonshire (2021-2022), the number of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5 years-old was 2,441 (78.3%), the number of children achieving the expected level in communication skills at 2-2.5 years-old was 2,512 (80.6%) and the number of children achieving the expected level in personal social skills at 2-2.5 years-old was 2,752 (88.3%) (Public Health England, 2023). In North Northamptonshire (2021-2022), the number of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5 years-old was 1,948 (74.2%), the number of children achieving the expected level in communication skills at 2-2.5 years-old was 2,020 (77.0%) and the number of children achieving the expected level in personal social skills at 2-2.5 years-old was 2,239 (85.3%) (Public Health England, 2023). In terms of experience in school, the percentage of children achieving the expected level in phonics at Year 1 was 76.3% in West Northamptonshire and 71.6% in North Northamptonshire. The proportion of children meeting the child development requirements in West and North Northamptonshire are lower than the England average in achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5 years-old (81.1%), achieving expected level in communication skills at 2-2.5 years-old (86.5%) and achieving expected level in personal social skills at 2-2.5 years-old (91.1%) (Public Health England, 2023).

NCF Community Insights G – Community Court Yard



Community Court Yard is a not for profit social enterprise that delivers youth and community work which at its' core is based around grassroots community engagement with a focus on social education.

The group were awarded £5000 to run an alternative education programme for young people not attending education to connect them back into education, utilising a blended learning approach that combined practical learning through gaming (discord / twitch to), cooking, crafting, storytelling with basic English and Maths skills.

The young people have challenged their own narrative about education and the role it plays in their lives. For families, this has meant they have been able to rebuild relationships with schools - as they are now communicating about learning plans rather than behaviour problems.

[6.2. Health and Wellbeing for Children](#)

Public Health England (2017) estimated that obesity “deprives an individual of an extra 9 years of life, preventing many individuals from reaching retirement age”. Obesity contribute to the risk of developing cancer, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and heart disease (Public Health England, 2020). In North Northamptonshire, 22% of children in reception class (lower than the England average of 22.3%) and 39.1% of children in Year 6 were categorised as overweight or obese in 2021-2022 (higher than the England average of 37.8%) (Public Health England, 2023)¹¹. In West Northamptonshire, 19.6% of children in reception class (lower than the England average of 22.3%)

¹¹ Caution should be exercised when interpreting figures due to low sample size.

and 35.9% of children in Year 6 were categorised as overweight or obese in 2021-2022 (lower than the England average of 37.8%) (Public Health England, 2023) (Figure 6.3).

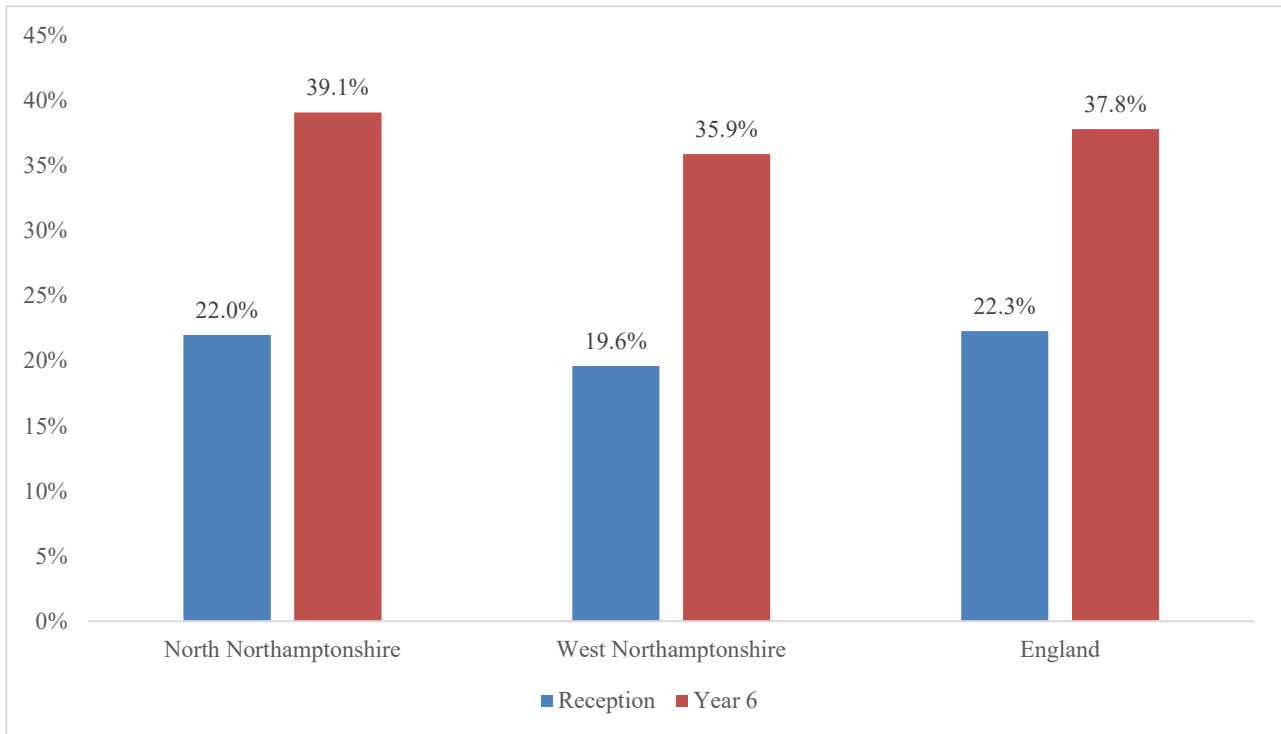


Figure 6.3. Obesity in children (Public Health England, 2023)

The most recent data on the prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) in Year 6 children was released for 2018-2019, showing the highest proportion of obesity for Year 6 children in Corby (23.3), Wellingborough (20.3) and Northampton (19.2) (JSNA North, 2021; JSNA West, 2021). The proportion of obesity for Year 6 children increased across all Districts in Northamptonshire, with the exception of Northampton (Table 6.2).

Area	%
Northampton	19.2 ↓
Wellingborough	20.3 ↑
Kettering	17.5 ↑
Corby	23.3 ↑
Daventry	17.1 ↑
East Northamptonshire	17.2 ↑
South Northamptonshire	14.4 ↑
Regional	19.7
England	20.2

Table 6.2. Proportion of childhood (Year 6) obesity Northamptonshire by District (JSNA North, 2021; JSNA West, 2021)

Another area of information on children’s experiences in Northamptonshire was hospital attendance for injuries. Attendance at hospital for children under 4 years-old is rising, with rates in West Northamptonshire higher than North Northamptonshire. In West Northamptonshire (2021-2022), the number of children (aged 0 – 14 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 68.1 (per 10,000), the number of children (aged 0 – 4 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 81.5 (per 10,000) and the number of young people (aged 15 to 24 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 145.5 (per 10,000) (Public Health England, 2023). In North Northamptonshire (2021-2022), the number of children (aged 0 – 14 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 53.9 (per 10,000), the number of children (aged 0 – 4 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 69.5 (per 10,000) and the number of young people (aged 15 to 24 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 114.4 (per 10,000) (Public Health England, 2023). In England (2021-2022), the number of children (aged 0 – 14 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 84.3 (per 10,000), the number of children (aged 0 – 4 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 103.6 (per 10,000) and the number of young people (aged 15 to 24 years-old) attending hospital for unintentional and deliberate injuries was 118.6 (per 10,000) (Public Health England, 2023) (Figure 6.4).

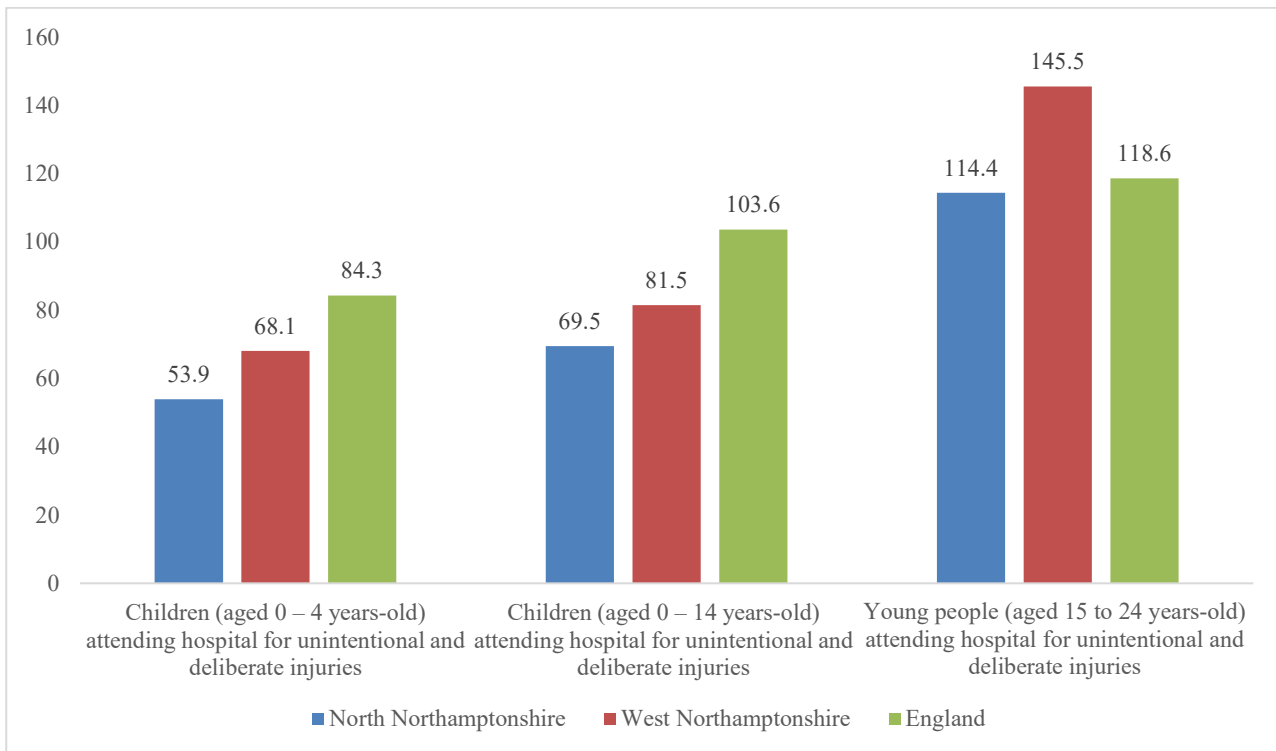


Figure 6.4. Injuries in Children (per 10,000) in 2021-2022 (Public Health England, 2023)

NCF Community Insights H – The Kids Aid Foundation



KidsAid is a local charity supporting children who have experienced trauma with creative therapies and wellbeing support. Their aim is to help young people to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives and to ensure early years’ trauma does not manifest in later life.

The KidsAid Foundation were awarded £4900 to fund Crisis support for children suffering from complex trauma. The sessions made a profound impact to the mental health and wellbeing of the parents they worked with. Themes included improved resilience, relationships and mental health and wellbeing. Following their intervention, beneficiaries were able to regulate their emotions in a healthier way, communicate their difficulties and problem solve more effectively. Difficulties such as sleeping problems and lack of engagement in school improved significantly following support.

6.3. Summary

This section has illustrated the inequality and deprivation experienced by children in Northamptonshire with emphasis on education and skills, and health and wellbeing. Children achieving a good level of development upon finishing reception was lower in North Northamptonshire (-2%) than West Northamptonshire (72%) in 2019 and, similarly, children achieving a standard pass (4) in English and Maths at GCSE was lower in North Northamptonshire (-4%) than West Northamptonshire in 2021 (Public Health England, 2023). The average attainment scores for children (average attainment 8¹² score) illustrate that Corby (42.1), East Northamptonshire (44.4), Northampton (45.0) and Wellingborough (45.1) have rates lower than the average in England (46.9). Children achieving a good level of development at 2 – 2.5 years was higher in West Northamptonshire (+4.1%) than North Northamptonshire in 2021-2022, children achieving the expected level in communication skills at 2 - 2.5 years-old was higher in West Northamptonshire (+3.6%) than North Northamptonshire, and finally, children achieving the expected level in personal social skills at 2 - 2.5 years-old was higher in West Northamptonshire (+3%) than North Northamptonshire (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). Children achieving the expected level in phonics at Year 1 was higher in West Northamptonshire (76.3%) than North Northamptonshire (71.6%) Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).

In Northamptonshire, the percentage of children in reception categorised as overweight or obese was higher in North Northamptonshire (+2.4%) than West Northamptonshire in 2021-2022 (Public Health England, 2023). Similarly, children in Year 6 categorised as overweight or obese was higher in North Northamptonshire (+3.2%) than West Northamptonshire in 2021-2022 (Public Health England, 2023). Obesity (including severe obesity) in Year 6 children (2018-2019) was highest in Corby (23.3), Wellingborough (20.3) and Northampton (19.2) (Public Health England, 2023). Hospital attendance (per 10,000) for unintentional and deliberate injuries for children (aged 0 – 14 years-old) was higher in West Northamptonshire (+14.2) than in North Northamptonshire, with attendance at hospital for children in the lower age bracket (0 – 4 years-old) higher in West Northamptonshire (+12), and attendance at hospital for older children and young people (aged 15 to 24 years-old) also higher in West Northamptonshire (+31.1) (Public Health England, 2023).

¹² Attainment 8 illustrates the average academic performance of a secondary school based on students highest score across eight approved subjects.

7. Employment and Education

Unemployment soared in many countries as a result of COVID-19 and ‘lockdown’ restrictions. Securing and maintaining employment is influenced by a multitude of factors including health, opportunity, qualifications, skills and experience. Research (Woessmann, 2016) has illustrated the importance of supporting adults to upskill or reskill to improve opportunities. In Northamptonshire there has been a shift from people with no qualifications to people with level 4/5 qualifications and above (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

7.1. Unemployment

In West Northamptonshire the unemployment rate is 3.1% whilst in North Northamptonshire the unemployment rate is 2.8% (NOMIS, 2023). The rate of unemployment is lower than the England average (3.6%) (NOMIS, 2023). District level data shows that unemployment was highest in Kettering (3.8%), Wellingborough (3.4%), Corby (3.6%) and Northampton (3.0%) (October 2021-September 2022)¹³ (NOMIS, 2023). The proportion of individuals claiming out-of-work benefits in West Northamptonshire was 3.2% (April 2023), whilst in North Northamptonshire the number claiming out-of-work benefits was 3.5% (April 2023) (NOMIS, 2023b). The proportion of individuals claiming out-of-work benefits is lower than the England average (3.9%) (NOMIS, 2023b). District level data shows that out-of-work benefits claims were highest in Corby (3.6%) and Northampton (3.0%) (NOMIS, 2023)¹⁴ (Table 7.1).

¹³ In Northamptonshire, there are 83.7% of people considered economically active people.

¹⁴ These are the latest data available on out-of-work benefits in Northamptonshire.

Area	Unemployment (%) (2021-2022)	Out-of-work benefits (%) (2020)
Corby	3.6%	3.6%
Daventry	2.2%	2.2%
East Northamptonshire	2.1%	1.7%
Kettering	3.8%	2.7%
Northampton	3.0%	3.0%
South Northamptonshire	2.0%	1.0%
Wellingborough	3.4%	2.9%
West Northamptonshire	3.1%	3.0%
North Northamptonshire	2.8%	3.1%
England	3.6%	3.9%

Table 7.1. Distribution of the level of unemployment (%) and out-of-work benefits (NOMIS, 2023; NOMIS, 2023b)

Specific figures on youth unemployment, for March 2023, illustrate that Corby (7.06%), Wellingborough (6.56%) and Northampton (5.72%) have the highest levels of youth unemployment (18–24-year-olds receiving JSA or Universal Credit) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Rural and urban differences are evident for youth unemployment with higher levels of youth unemployment in urban areas (5.75%) than rural areas (3.27%) of Northamptonshire (Table 7.2) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

Area	%
Corby	7.06
Daventry	3.62
East Northamptonshire	4.01
Kettering	5.72
Northampton	5.4
South Northamptonshire	2.3
Wellingborough	6.56
North Northamptonshire	5.74
West Northamptonshire	4.5
Northamptonshire	5.04
England	5

Table 7.3. Youth unemployment (18-24 receiving JSA or Universal Credit) (Mar 2023) (%) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

NCF Community Insights I – The Good Loaf CIC

The Good Loaf CIC is an artesian bakery with a community cafe providing training and employment opportunities for vulnerable women in order to break the cycle of poverty, unemployment and/or offending. The group were awarded £4,888.80 from the Social Enterprise Fund for Northamptonshire to deliver a work program which aimed to improve skills, confidence and employment options for vulnerable women. The sessions included employability skills, goal setting, budgeting and reading & writing sessions. The 52 beneficiaries involved in the project improved their CV's and built confidence to be able to take on new challenges such as looking for work and attending interviews. From this project 20 participants went on to take up work or a volunteer placement/experience opportunity.

7.2. Qualifications, Skills and Experience

Securing and maintaining employment is influenced by a multitude of factors including health, opportunity, qualifications, skills and experience. Research (Woessmann, 2016) has illustrated the importance of supporting adults to upskill or reskill to improve opportunities. In Northamptonshire

there has been a shift from people with no qualifications to people with level 4/5 qualifications and above (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Despite changes, there remains a high number of residents in Northamptonshire who have no qualifications, which creates challenges for securing employment. Areas with the highest number of residents with no qualifications are Wellingborough (21.63%) and Corby (22.98%) (these are also the areas who have residents with the least number of qualifications at level 4/5) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). By LSOA areas, the areas that have the highest proportion of residents with no qualifications are *characterised* by higher levels of deprivation (Table 7.3). The number of people with no qualifications is higher in urban areas (20.29%) than rural areas (14.90%) whilst the number of people with Level 4/5 qualifications was highest in rural areas (34.19%) than urban areas (27.23%).

Area	People with no qualifications	Highest level of qualification: Level 4/5 (degree or higher) qualifications
Corby	22.98	23.27
Daventry	15.11	33.89
East Northamptonshire	17.69	28.75
Kettering	18.54	27.96
Northampton	19.88	29.4
South Northamptonshire	13.62	35.42
Wellingborough	21.63	25.88
North Northamptonshire	19.95	26.72
West Northamptonshire	17.41	31.76
Northamptonshire	18.57	29.46
England	18.1	33.9

Table 7.3. Qualifications for adults in Northamptonshire (%) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023, 2021)

NCF Community Insights J – The Lab



The Lab aims to provide its' members with a mutually supportive community, hosting regular events and workshops alongside opportunities to socialise in a creative low-pressure environment with like-minded people. The Lab provides opportunities for creative learning and expression to those who may not otherwise have access. The group were awarded £2,999.20 from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire to host a fortnightly cross-generational skill swap sessions focusing on a range of themes including wellbeing, music & entertainment, food, environment, history and creative arts. The events each had local volunteer experts sharing their field of interest as either a short presentation, conversation starter or practical workshop. The project supported 86 participants with many noting the increase in practical skills as well as increase in knowledge.

7.3. Summary

This section has illustrated the current picture for employment, skills and education in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire ranks in the 60th for Employment, Skills and Training Deprivation, with the highest issues in Corby (79th) followed by Wellingborough (117th), Northampton (150th), and Kettering (154th) (IMD, 2019). Unemployment rates are lower in North Northamptonshire (-0.3%) than West Northamptonshire albeit unemployment in both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire is lower than the England average (-1% and -0.7% respectively) (NOMIS, 2023). Unemployment was highest in Kettering (3.8%), Wellingborough (3.4%), Corby (3.6%) and Northampton (3.0%) (October 2021-September 2022)¹⁵ (NOMIS, 2023). Out-of-work benefit claims were higher in North Northamptonshire (+0.1%) than West

¹⁵ In Northamptonshire, there are 83.7% of people considered economically active people.

Northamptonshire, with district level data shows that out-of-work benefits claims were highest in Corby (3.6%) (NOMIS, 2023)¹⁶. Youth unemployment (18–24-year-olds receiving JSA or Universal Credit) is higher in urban areas (+2.48%) than rural areas of Northamptonshire, with the highest rates of youth unemployment in Corby (7.06%), Wellingborough (6.56%) and Northampton (5.72%) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

Experiences with COVID-19 have resulted in an increase in individuals seeking to re-qualify and/or pursue other careers. In Northamptonshire, there has been a shift from people with no qualifications to people with level 4/5 qualifications and above (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023, 2021). Urban areas of Northamptonshire have higher numbers of people without qualifications (+5.39%) than rural areas whilst the opposite is true of people with Level 4/5 qualifications (-6.96%) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023, 2021). The number of residents in Northamptonshire without qualifications was highest in Wellingborough (21.63%), and Corby (22.98%) (these are also the areas who have residents with the least number of qualifications at level 4/5) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023, 2021).

¹⁶ These are the latest data available on out-of-work benefits in Northamptonshire.

8. Older People

The older population in England and Wales is growing, with information (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). suggesting that over 11 million people (18.6% of the population) are aged 65 years and over, with over 500,000 people aged 90 years and over. The changing age structure in England and Wales means the average age of the population is 40 years. Northamptonshire is one of the UK's fastest growing counties in England and Wales, with Northamptonshire seeing the highest increase in population groups aged 50 years and over (and those aged 10-19 years) (ONS, 2020). The population changes result in new and emerging needs in Northamptonshire, with the increase in those aged 65 years and over creating pressures for health and social care (JSNA, 2020). In North Northamptonshire, the average age for residents was 41.0 years (slightly lower than the median age for East Midlands – 41.6 years) in 2021 (Census, 2021). The number of people in North Northamptonshire aged 50 to 64 years increased by 19.1% (11,500) since the previous census (ONS North, 2021). In West Northamptonshire, the average age for residents was 40.1 years (lower than the median age for East Midlands – 41.6 years) in 2021 (Census, 2021). The number of people in West Northamptonshire aged 50 to 64 years increased by 17.6% (12,400) since the previous census (ONS West, 2021). Challenges associated with an ageing population are well documented, with quality of life, illness susceptibility, co-mobilities, independence, social isolation and access to services just a snapshot of the issues facing this ageing population.

8.1. Pensioner Poverty

The original Northamptonshire 'Hidden Needs' report (Paterson-Young et al., 2017) illustrated the new and emerging needs associated with an ageing population including increased isolation, promoting independent living, keeping warm, safe and secure. Research conducted by Roberts and Windle (2020) found that social isolation in Northamptonshire has an impact on loneliness and wellbeing, noting isolation and loneliness were higher for older people living in urban communities than older people living in rural communities. Further, rates of pensioner poverty in Northamptonshire, defined as pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit, shows higher levels of pensioners in poverty in urban areas (13.7%) than rural areas (8.2%). Detailed information on Northamptonshire districts shows the highest level of older people living in poverty in Northampton (11.70%), Corby (11.62%) and Wellingborough (10.36%) (Table 8.1).

Area	Pensioners in poverty (Pension Credit) (%)
Corby	11.62
Daventry	6.31
East Northamptonshire	7.95
Kettering	9.26
Northampton	11.7
South Northamptonshire	5.96
Wellingborough	10.36
North Northamptonshire	9.51
West Northamptonshire	8.8
Northamptonshire	9.14
England	11.3

Table 8.1. Pensioners in poverty (Pension Credit) (%) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

NCF Community Insights K – Serve Rushden

SERVE aims to promote independent living for the elderly and adults with disabilities in Northamptonshire and encourage them to remain in their own homes; and to promote health and wellbeing through a range of activities, exercise and advice on healthy eating.

SERVE were funded £2850 through the Winter Wellbeing fund to upscale their Meal on Wheel’s project (born out of the pandemic) to support more people struggling with the cost of living who are unable to leave their homes independently with hot and nutritious meals, and provide home advice on how to stay warm at home during the cold weather months and provide essential items such as blankets, microwaves and non-perishable food items etc.

8.2. Hospital Admissions and Injuries for Falls

Independence and, more importantly, the loss of independence has a significant impact on people’s lives. Molenaar et al. (2020) found that functional independence (for example, mobility, travel and daily living), helps to reduce the number of care hours required, which helps people remain in their own homes. Loss of independence does not only impact on mobility, travel and daily living – it also

impacts on people’s emotional wellbeing. Supporting residents to maintain independence requires support in improving health, safety and wellbeing. Older people in Northamptonshire experience multiple issues including hospital admissions for falls, emergency department visits for hip injuries and dementia. Hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ per 100,000 in 2020-21 were recorded for North Northamptonshire (1,893) and West Northamptonshire (2,727) (Public Health England, 2023). District breakdowns are unavailable on Hospital admissions caused by falls in people aged 65 years and over; however, detailed information are published for emergency department visits for hip injuries (per 100,000) (Table 8.2) and dementia (Table 8.3) (Public Health England, 2023). There has been a decrease in emergency hospital admissions for hip fractures in Northamptonshire (with the exception of Kettering and East Northamptonshire) but rates remain high. A higher proportion of residents over 65 and over with emergency hospital admissions for hip fractures reside in Corby (765.6) and Kettering (753.9) [higher than the average across the Region and England] (Public Health England, 2023). Daventry (590.1) and Northampton (577.5) have higher rates of hospital admissions than the average across England (Public Health England, 2023).

Area	Hip Injuries per 100,000 people
Northampton	577.5 ↓
Wellingborough	541.2 ↓
Kettering	753.9 ↑
Corby	765.6 ↓
Daventry	590.1 ↓
East Northamptonshire	537.2 ↑
South Northamptonshire	406.4 ↓
Regional	614.1
England	558.4

Table 8.2. Emergency hospital admission rate for hip fractures, per 100,000 for residents 65 years and over by District (2018-2019) (Public Health England, 2023)

8.3. Dementia Diagnosis

There has been an increase in dementia diagnosis in Northamptonshire (with the exception of South Northamptonshire). A higher proportion (% recorded diagnosis of dementia as a proportion of the estimated number with dementia) of residents over 65 and over diagnosed with dementia reside in

Corby (88.5) and Northampton (72.8) [higher than the average across the Region and England) (Table 8.3) (Public Health England, 2023). Dementia is a disease that affects memory, thinking and cognitive ability which impacts on a person’s ability to perform daily tasks (WHO, 2023). Age may play a role in individuals experiencing dementia however dementia is not an inevitable consequence of ageing. Indeed, approximately 9% of dementia cases are categorised young onset dementia (onset before 65 years-old). Studies have shown that dementia symptoms, or cognitive decline, can be reduced through physical activity, reduced alcohol consumption, weight, and healthy eating (WHO, 2023).

Area	Dementia Diagnosis Rate per 100,000 People
Northampton	72.8 ↑
Wellingborough	66.9 ↑
Kettering	71.2 ↑
Corby	88.5 ↑
Daventry	61.9 ↑
East Northamptonshire	71.1 ↑
South Northamptonshire	48.3 ↓
Regional	72.3
England	68.7

Table 8.3. Dementia diagnosis rate in residents 65 years and over by District (2019) (Public Health England, 2023)

NCF Community Insights L – Dementia Sings Out



“Dementia Sings Out” is a non-profit-making venture to encourage people of all ages and abilities to meet on a weekly basis to sing uplifting and inspirational songs. It is open to anyone living with dementia, whether they are living independently or resident in local Care Homes. These free choir sessions are held every Thursday morning for an hour of lively and interactive singing followed by refreshments and socialising amongst all the participants’ carers and the Dementia Friends Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir members. Dementia Sings Out were awarded £3000 through the Constance Travis Endowment fund for Northamptonshire to enable them to continue providing support, through free weekly singing sessions, for people in the Wellingborough area living with dementia, and their carers.

8.4. Summary

This section has illustrated the current picture for older people in Northamptonshire, emphasising issues associated with poverty, admissions to hospital/injuries from falls, and dementia diagnosis. Northamptonshire is one of the UK’s fastest growing counties in England and Wales, with Northamptonshire seeing the highest increase in population groups aged 50 years and over (and those aged 10-19 years) (ONS, 2020). Pensioner poverty, defined as pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit, was higher in urban areas (++5.5%) than rural areas of Northamptonshire. The highest level of pensioners in poverty was Northampton (11.70%), Corby (11.62%) and Wellingborough (10.36%).

Hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ years (per 100,000) was higher in West Northamptonshire (+834) than North Northamptonshire in 2020-2021, with hospital admission for

hip fractures for residents 65+ years was highest in Corby (765.6) and Kettering (753.9), Daventry (590.1) and Northampton (577.5) [higher than the average in England - 551] (Public Health England, 2023). Dementia diagnosis in Northamptonshire has increased in all areas (with the exception of South Northamptonshire), with the highest proportions of residents over 65+ years diagnosed with dementia reside in Corby (88.5) and Northampton (72.8) [higher than the average in England - 62] (Public Health England, 2023).

9. Housing and Environment

Northamptonshire has experienced population growth that exceeds the national average, with the population growing an estimated 10.2% in the past decade (in comparison with 7.84% for England) (JSNA, 2020). In 2019, Northamptonshire's population was estimated at 753,278 people (ONS mid-year estimates), an increase of 0.76% from 2018 (747,622) and 8.86% from 2011 (691,952) (JSNA, 2020). Population growth is influenced by housing and environment, with Northamptonshire experiencing housing growth over this period, with 22,280 new houses built between 2011 and 2019. West and North Northamptonshire's Joint Core Strategies estimate an increase in houses of between 77,000 and 82,000 houses, by 2031. Despite the increase in available housing, Northamptonshire ranks in the 65th for Barriers to Housing and Services, with significant variance across the county. Corby appears in the 63rd most deprived areas for Barriers to Housing and Services, followed by Northampton (72nd) and Daventry (101st). South Northamptonshire ranks at the opposite end of the scale (183rd). The Living Environment domain measures the quality of both the indoor and outdoor local environment. Northamptonshire ranks 116th for Living Environment, with some variance across the country. Northampton appears in the 160th most deprived areas for Living Environment, followed by Kettering (211th) and Daventry (213th). In 2020, the number of households experiencing fuel poverty in North Northamptonshire was 18,314 whilst the proportion of households experiencing fuel poverty in West Northamptonshire was 19,857 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).

NCF Community Insights M – Northampton Hope Centre



Northampton Hope Centre is a charity aiming to support those who are homeless, hungry or living in hardship. Hope's support stretches from crisis support for the homeless through their hand up service to long term sustainable food support. The charity was awarded £6,000 from the Constance Travis

Endowment Fund to support their on-going hand up service offering food, clothing, welfare packs, shelter, showers, advice and support those who are homeless. The service includes drop-in sessions, mental health support, opportunities to socialise, as well as practical support such as getting a haircut. The service is open from Monday to Saturday, providing a vital lifeline to those in crisis as well as support to achieving longer term goals of tenancy sustainment, reduction in addictive behaviours, improvement in mental health.

9.1. Overcrowding

Problems with overcrowding were noted in Northamptonshire¹⁷ with an increase in overcrowding since 2011. Overcrowding was recorded at 5.02% in West Northamptonshire and 3.59% in North Northamptonshire, with the highest levels of overcrowding in Northampton (7.16%), and Corby (2.47%) (Table 9.1) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023).

Area	Overcrowding (%)
Corby	4.47
Daventry	2.82
East Northamptonshire	2.48
Kettering	3.58
Northampton	7.16
South Northamptonshire	1.96
Wellingborough	4.14
North Northamptonshire	3.59
West Northamptonshire	5.02
Northamptonshire	4.36

Table 9.1. Overcrowding in Northamptonshire (%) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023)

9.2. Homelessness

In 2021-2022, the number of households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act was 1,972 in West Northamptonshire and 1,211 in North Northamptonshire (Office for Health

¹⁷ Whether a household's bedroom accommodation is overcrowded, ideally occupied or under-occupied. This is calculated by comparing the number of bedrooms the household requires to the number of available bedrooms.

Improvement and Disparities, 2023). Experiences of homelessness in Northamptonshire (2017/2018) show decreases in statutory homelessness rate (Crude rate per 1,000 households), with the highest levels found in Daventry (0.51), Wellingborough (0.42) and East Northamptonshire (0.42) (Public Health England, 2023). Despite high rates of homelessness in areas of Northamptonshire, all areas have lower rates than the national average (Table 9.2).

Area	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 households)
Northampton	0.14 ↓
Wellingborough	0.42 ↓
Kettering	0.38 ↓
Corby	Unavailable
Daventry	0.51 -
East Northamptonshire	0.42 ↓
South Northamptonshire	Unavailable
Regional	0.43
England	0.79

Table 9.2. Statutory homelessness rate (eligible homeless people not in priority need) by District (2019) (Public Health England, 2023).

NCF Community Insights N – The Daylight Centre



The Daylight Centre is a local charity working to prevent and alleviate homelessness, poverty and social isolation across Wellingborough and the surrounding areas. The group were funded £3000 to support their Community Centre activities which provided socially excluded individuals with a space where they can access a range of practical support and advisory services for the issues they face and relieving food poverty through their Foodbank and the provision of either free or low-cost meals for those in critical need.

They delivered services that prevented escalation of need, developed resilience, and promoted independence. In the reporting period they offered varying levels of wrap around support which included practical interventions (i.e., self-care activities,) person centred support sessions, volunteering opportunities and a variety of activities to improve overall wellbeing.

9.3. Resident Satisfaction in the Community

Residents' satisfaction in the community and community cohesions can be measured through the Community Needs Index. The Community Needs Index identifies poor community and infrastructure experience, relative isolation, and poor community (higher score represented greater need). The area with the greatest Community Needs score in Northamptonshire is Corby (109.13), followed by Kettering (104.62) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). The Community Needs Index considers individual areas including civil assets, connectedness and active and engaged community. The Civil Assets score measures the presence of key community, civic, educational and cultural assets in the area (including pubs, libraries, green space, swimming facilities, and community centres). The area with the greatest Civil Asset need is Corby (45.02) followed by Kettering (37.95) and Northampton (34.36) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). The Connectedness score measures connectivity to key services, digital infrastructure, isolation and strength of the local jobs market. It looks at whether residents have access to key services, such as health services, within a reasonable travel distance (higher score represents greater need). The area with the greatest Connectedness score in Northamptonshire is Wellingborough (21.31) followed by East Northamptonshire (16.02) and Corby (15.81) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Finally, the Active and Engaged Community score measures the levels of third sector civic and community activity and barriers to participation and engagement. The areas with the greatest Active and Engaged Community score in Northamptonshire are Kettering (51.29), Corby (48.29), and Northampton (46.72) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023) (Table 9.3).

Area	Community Needs	Civic Assets	Connectedness	Active and Engaged Community
Corby	109.13	45.02	15.81	48.29
Daventry	47.08	24.68	10.29	12.11
East Northamptonshire	49.92	16.61	16.02	17.29
Kettering	104.62	37.95	15.38	51.29
Northampton	89.27	34.36	8.19	46.72
South Northamptonshire	48.61	23.69	7.96	16.96
Wellingborough	73.53	17.36	21.31	34.87
North Northamptonshire	83.12	28.58	17.05	37.49
West Northamptonshire	71.25	29.91	8.58	32.76
Northamptonshire	76.69	29.3	12.46	34.93

Table 9.3. Community Needs Index scores in Northamptonshire (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

9.4. Summary

This section has illustrated the experiences of Northamptonshire residents in the category of housing and living environment, primarily focused on overcrowding, homelessness and resident satisfaction in the community. Northamptonshire ranks in the 65th for Barriers to Housing and Services and 116th for Living Environment (IMD, 2019). Overcrowding¹⁸ was higher in West Northamptonshire (+1.43%) than North Northamptonshire, with the highest levels of overcrowding recorded in Northampton (7.16%), and Corby (2.47%) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023, 2021). Households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act was higher in West Northamptonshire (+761) than and North Northamptonshire in 2021-2022 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023) whilst the highest levels of statutory homelessness (crude rate per 1,000 households) was found in Daventry (0.51), Wellingborough (0.42) and East Northamptonshire (0.42) (Public Health England, 2023).

Northampton appears in the 160th most deprived areas for Living Environment, followed by Kettering (211th) and Daventry (213th). In 2020, the proportion of households experiencing fuel poverty was

¹⁸ Whether a household's bedroom accommodation is overcrowded, ideally occupied or under-occupied. This is calculated by comparing the number of bedrooms the household requires to the number of available bedrooms.

higher in North Northamptonshire (12.9) than West Northamptonshire (11.9) in comparison to 13.3 in England (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). Resident satisfaction is evidenced through the Community Needs score (see Section 9.3), with other areas of community satisfaction evidenced in the Civil Asset score, Connectedness score and Active and Engaged Community score. Community Need scores are highest in Corby (109.13) followed by Kettering (104.62) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Civil Asset scores are highest in Corby (45.02) followed by Kettering (37.95) and Northampton (34.36) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Connectedness score was highest in Wellingborough (21.31) followed by East Northamptonshire (16.02) and Corby (15.81) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Finally, Active and Engaged Community score was highest in Kettering (51.29), Corby (48.29), and Northampton (46.72) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

10. Crime and Justice

The Crime Domain (IMD, 2019) examines the risk of personal and material victimisation in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire ranks in the 113th for Crime, with significant variance across the county. Northampton is ranked as the 44th most deprived area for Crime Deprivation, followed by Wellingborough (85th), Corby (125th), and Kettering (127th). South Northamptonshire is ranked at the opposite end of the scale (279th) (IMD, 2019).

10.1. Overview of crime in Northamptonshire

Brighton Analytics Limited (2023) provide an overview of crime rates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with Northamptonshire ranked among the top 20 most dangerous counties. Northamptonshire had an overall crime rate of 85 crimes per 1,000 people in 2022 (in comparison to 83.77 crime per 1,000 people in England), with the most dangerous areas Kettering, Northampton and Wellingborough (Brighton Analytics Limited, 2023) (Table 10.1).

Area	Criminal Offence Type									
	Anti-social behaviour	Burglary	Violent crime and sexual offences	Robbery recorded offences	Vehicle crime	Shoplifting offences	Public order offences	Criminal damage	Drug crime offences	Possession of weapons offences
Corby	18.14	8.97	43.60	1.26	3.23	8.09	6.32	8.46	2.37	1.55
Daventry	10.95	6.24	29.43	0.26	4.51	1.61	3.92	5.51	1.67	0.59
East Northamptonshire	14.24	8.18	28.45	0.70	4.11	4.08	4.24	6.30	2.11	0.77
Kettering	17.78	8.68	46.26	1.21	4.39	5.20	6.57	7.79	3.88	1.28
Northampton	20.13	13.44	55.61	1.58	8.51	5.37	8.68	11.08	3.73	1.68
South Northamptonshire	7.85	5.27	20.28	0.14	3.85	1.11	2.87	4.30	0.80	0.46
Wellingborough	18.99	9.97	44.41	1.42	3.77	4.40	6.69	9.60	3.48	1.57
North Northamptonshire	17.17	8.90	40.45	1.13	3.93	5.31	5.92	7.94	3.00	1.26
West Northamptonshire	15.29	10.00	41.72	0.96	6.56	3.57	6.30	8.30	2.60	1.16
Northamptonshire Rural areas	7.75	5.73	19.52	0.21	3.43	0.86	2.60	4.21	1.05	0.41
Northamptonshire Urban areas	17.84	9.76	44.46	1.26	5.38	5.34	6.72	8.67	3.10	1.33

Table 10.1. Crime Rate per 1,000 in Northamptonshire (Local Community Insights, 2023)

10.2. Re-offending in Northamptonshire

In North Northamptonshire (2019-2020), the percentage of offenders who re-offended was 19.6%, with an average number of re-offences per re-offender of 3.57 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). In West Northamptonshire (2019-2020), the percentage of offenders who re-offended was 24%, with an average number of re-offences per re-offender of 3.81 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).

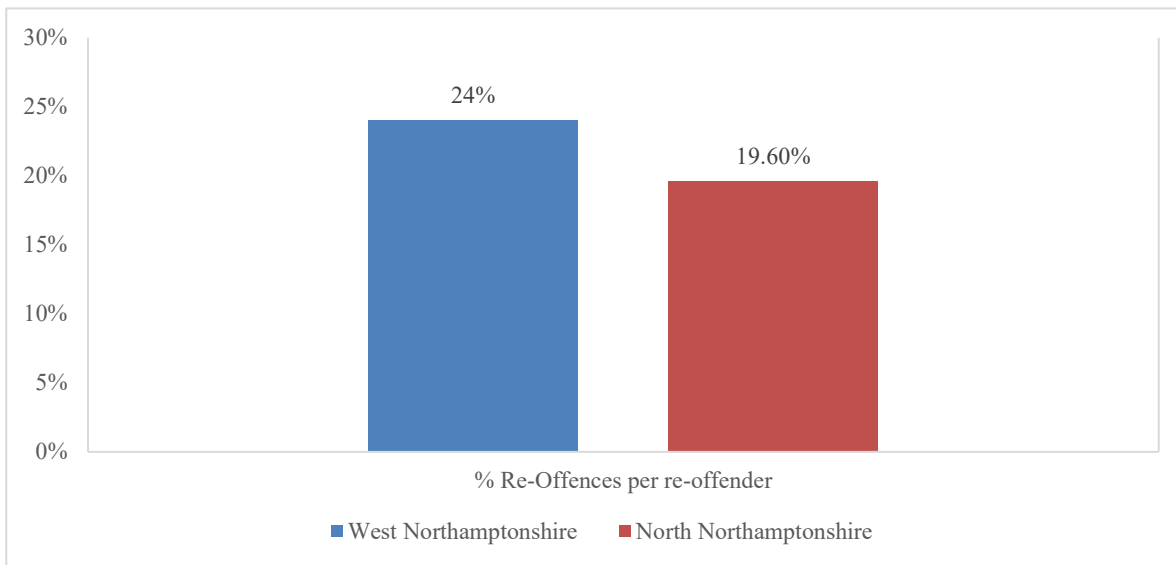


Figure 10.1. Re-offences per re-offender in West and North Northamptonshire (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).

NCF Community Insights O – C2C Social Action



C2C Social Action is an offender rehabilitation charity working to create a safer, stronger Northamptonshire. The main aim of the organisation is to offer help and support to individuals and

families of individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system, or who are at risk of being involved. Through one-to-one support addressing the pathways to reduce reoffending, and projects such as C2C Grows and their walking wellbeing group, they aim to help these individuals restore their lives, find hope for the future, and positively contribute to the communities they live in.

C2C Social Action were funded £5000 through the High Sheriff Initiative Fund, to run a wellbeing course, to empower young people in Kettering and divert young people from crime – both those who are already involved in the criminal justice system and those at risk of being involved.

10.3. Violent and Sexual Crime in Northamptonshire

Violent crime in Northamptonshire, particularly violent crime involving children and young people, has received significant attention in 2023, with the murder of Rohan ‘Fred’ Shand (16 years-old) in March 2023 and Kwanbena Osei-Poku (19 years-old) in April 2023. In North Northamptonshire (2021-2022), the number of violent offences (per 1,000 population) was 35.7 and the number of sexual offences (per 1,000 population) was 3.5. The number of violent crimes requiring hospital admission (including sexual violence) was 40.1, which was lower than the England average (41.9) (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). In West Northamptonshire (2021-2022), the number of violent offences (per 1,000 population) was 36.1 and the number of sexual offences (per 1,000 population) was 3.7. The number of violent crimes requiring hospital admission (including sexual violence) was 36.2, which was higher than the regional average (32.9), but lower than North Northamptonshire (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).

NCF Community Insights P – Springs Family Centre



Springs Family is situated in Spring Boroughs and has created a street level centre at the heart of the neighbourhood. They have two large youth clubs, a Jobsclub for all, a project for young people getting

into work, a music recording studio, a cooking course for young people, a hub open four afternoons a week for people to come in and chat and make friends, 1:1 work and much more.

They were awarded £5000 through the High Sheriff Initiative Fund to provide a more intensive support to individuals within their youth work and employ a youth worker with lived experience of the challenges their young people face. Their youth work includes Junior Hub for 8-10year olds – set up because of anti-social behaviour on the estate, Spring Boroughs Youth Hub for 11-25 year olds, detached outreach work, football in the park, basketball practice, music recording studio sessions. They showcase how small-scale interventions can make a real difference to reducing knife crime and youth violence.

10.4. Summary

This section has illustrated problems with crime and justice in Northamptonshire, primarily focused on overall crime in Northamptonshire, violent and sexual crimes, and re-offending. Northamptonshire ranked among the top 20 most dangerous countries, with an overall crime rate of 85 crimes per 1,000 in 2022 (in comparison with 83.77 crime per 1,000 people in England (Brighton Analytics Limited, 2023). The percentage of offenders who re-offend was lower in North Northamptonshire (-4.4%) than West Northamptonshire, with the average number of re-offences (per re-offender) also lower in North Northamptonshire (-0.24) (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). Violent crime in Northamptonshire, particularly violent crime involving children and young people, is an area of concern in Northamptonshire. Violent offences (per 1,000 population) was lower in North Northamptonshire (-0.4) than West Northamptonshire in 2021-2022 and the number of sexual offences (per 1,000 population) was also lower in North Northamptonshire (-0.2) than West Northamptonshire in 2021-2022 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). Interestingly, the number of violent crimes requiring hospital admission (including sexual violence) was higher in North Northamptonshire (+3.9) than West Northamptonshire (36.2), both of which was lower than the England average (41.9) (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).

11. Summary

Northamptonshire has experienced population growth higher than the national average, with the population growing an estimated 10.2% in the past decade (in comparison with 7.84% for England) (JSNA, 2020). In 2019, Northamptonshire's population was estimated at 753,278 people (all ages) (ONS mid-year estimates), an increase of 0.76% from 2018 (747,622) and 8.86% from 2011 (691,952) (JSNA, 2020). The unitary council split for Northamptonshire illustrates that a larger proportion of the population live in West Northamptonshire (405,050) than North Northamptonshire (348,228) (JSNA, 2020). Population growth creates pressure on local authorities to ensure priority needs are addressed at the right time. The eight themes are summarised below¹⁹.

Access to services in rural areas: Access to services, travel and transport contribute to pressures on individuals in accessing services, especially individuals living in rural areas.

- Residents living in rural areas have longer travel times (by public transport/walking and cycling) to supermarkets (+1.78 minutes), general practitioners (GPs) (+15.75 minutes), hospital (+26.72 minutes), and town centre (+24.03), than residents living in urban areas.
- In Northamptonshire, the average broadband download line speed for connections is lower in rural areas (62.2 Mbit/s) and the percentage of premises that *do not* have access to *decent*²⁰ downloads speeds was higher (3.11% in comparison to 0.71%)

Inequality and Deprivation: Poverty and deprivation in Northamptonshire are relatively high, with 14.7% of LSOAs in Northamptonshire being amongst the top 20% most deprived nationally.

- Northamptonshire ranks in the 113th for Income deprivation, with significant variance across the county, with Corby (90th), Wellingborough (124th) and Northampton (128th) the most deprived area in Northamptonshire.
- There is variance in all deprivation domains with Corby, Wellingborough and Northampton experiencing the highest levels of deprivation in the country.
- Children (aged under 16 years-old) living in low-income families is higher in North Northamptonshire (20%) than West Northamptonshire (9.1%) (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a, Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020b).

¹⁹ Deprivation figures are reported based on local authority areas with a maximum of 317 areas.

²⁰ Decent broadband is defined as a download speed of at least 10Mbit/s and an upload speed of at least 1Mbit/s.

- Corby has the highest proportion of income deprivation affecting children, with 22.0% families in the top 20% most deprived followed by Northampton (13.5%), Kettering (12.3%) and East Northamptonshire (8.2%) (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a, Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020b).
- In 2020, food vulnerability²¹ in Northamptonshire was highest in Daventry (223.02), East Northamptonshire (229.73) and Kettering (220.84) which illustrates a higher vulnerability in these areas.

Health and Wellbeing: Northamptonshire ranks in the 87th for Health deprivation, with Corby in the 45th most deprived areas for Health Deprivation and Disability, followed by Northampton (77th) and Wellingborough (105th) (IMD, 2019).

- The average male life expectancy was 79.2 in North Northamptonshire and 79.8 in West Northamptonshire (2018-2020) (Public Health England, 2023). Whilst, the average female life expectancy was 82.4 in North Northamptonshire and 82.8 in West Northamptonshire (2018-2020) (Public Health England, 2023).
 - Life expectancy at birth for male and female residents in North Northamptonshire are lower than the England average in which female life expectancy at birth (2018-2020) is 83.1 years and male life expectancy at birth is 79.4 years (Public Health England, 2023). Although life expectancy at birth for female residents in West Northamptonshire is lower than the England average, male life expectancy at birth is slightly higher (Public Health England, 2023).
- Weight issues in adults were highest in North Northamptonshire (12.9%) than West Northamptonshire (9.4%) in 2019-2020 (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).
- Physical activity for adults is lower in North Northamptonshire (62.2%) than West Northamptonshire (63%) in 2020-2021. Engagement in physical activity in North and West Northamptonshire are worse than the average in England (67.3%) (Public Health England, 2023).

²¹ Food vulnerability and insecurity are based on the model designed by Smith et al. (2018) based on combining benefits claimed and household-level insecurity (i.e., living alone as an older person, low-income households) (cited in Community Insights, 2023). The food vulnerability index score shows vulnerability with higher figures illustrating more vulnerability.

- Healthy eating (adults eating ‘5-a-day’) is higher in North Northamptonshire (53%) than West Northamptonshire (52%) in 2019-2020 (Public Health England).
- Smoking prevalence in North Northamptonshire (16.6%) was higher than the average in England (13.0%) whilst smoking prevalence in West Northamptonshire (11.5%) is lower (Public Health England, 2023).
 - Smoking prevalence is higher in people (18-64 years-old) working in routine and manual occupation, with 29.1% in North Northamptonshire and 27.1% in West Northamptonshire (England average was 24.5%) (Public Health England, 2023).
 - Smoking in pregnancy was higher than the average in England (9.1%) in North Northamptonshire (11.2%) and West Northamptonshire (11.3%) in 2021-2022 (Public Health England, 2023).
- Alcohol related hospital admissions per 100,000 population was higher in West Northamptonshire (467) than North Northamptonshire (431) in 2020-2021 (Public Health England, 2023).
 - Hospital admission rates for alcohol-specific conditions in 2018/2019 (directly age-standardised rate per 100,000 population) increased across all Districts in Northamptonshire, with Corby (863.9), Kettering (839.1) and Northampton (831.1) experiencing the highest levels (JSNA North, 2021; JSNA West, 2021).
- Mental health needs in Northamptonshire are higher in urban areas (1.28) areas than rural areas (0.60). Mental health in Kettering (1.58) and Corby (1.40) are higher than the average in England (0.7) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).
- The prevalence of depression in Northamptonshire was slightly higher in urban areas (13.79%) than rural areas (13.47%). Depression in Kettering (15.31%), East Northamptonshire (14.74%) and Corby (14.07%) are higher than the average in England (11.7) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).
- Hospital admission for self-harm (per 100,000 population) were higher in West Northamptonshire (297) and North Northamptonshire (196) than the average in England (163.9) in 2019-2020 (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021). Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (per 100,000) increased in all districts except East Northamptonshire (Public Health England, 2023).

Children – Impact and Challenges: In Northamptonshire, children (aged under 16 years-old) living in low-income families is higher in North Northamptonshire (20%) than West Northamptonshire

(9.1%) (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020a, Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020b).

- The percentage of children achieving a good level of development upon finishing reception was lower in North Northamptonshire (70%) than West Northamptonshire (72%) in 2019. Similarly, the percentage of children achieved a standard pass (4) in English and Maths at GCSE was lower in North Northamptonshire (69%) than West Northamptonshire (73%) in 2021 (Public Health England, 2023).
 - Average attainment scores for children (average attainment 8²² score) illustrate that Corby (42.1), East Northamptonshire (44.4), Northampton (45.0) and Wellingborough (45.1) have rates lower than the average in England (46.9).
- Children achieving a good level of development at 2 – 2.5 years was higher in West Northamptonshire (78.3%) than North Northamptonshire (74.2%) in 2021-2022. Similarly, children achieving the expected level in communication skills at 2 - 2.5 years-old was higher in West Northamptonshire (80.6%) than North Northamptonshire (77.0%). Finally, the number of children achieving the expected level in personal social skills at 2 - 2.5 years-old was higher in West Northamptonshire (88.3%) than North Northamptonshire (85.3%) (Public Health England, 2023). Levels are lower than the England average as shown in section 6.1.
- Children achieving the expected level in phonics at Year 1 was higher in West Northamptonshire (76.3%) than North Northamptonshire (71.6%) (Public Health England, 2023).

Obesity is a contributing risk factor in developing cancer, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and heart disease (Public Health, 2020).

- Children in reception categorised as overweight or obese was higher in North Northamptonshire (22%) than West Northamptonshire (19.6%) in 2019-2020 (both lower than the England average of 22.3%). Children in Year 6 categorised as overweight or obese was higher in North Northamptonshire (39.1%) than West Northamptonshire (35.9%) in 2021-2022 (higher than the England average of 37.8% in North Northamptonshire but lower in West Northamptonshire) (Public Health England, 2023).

²² Attainment 8 illustrates the average academic performance of a secondary school based on students highest score across eight approved subjects.

- Obesity (including severe obesity) in Year 6 children (2018-2019) illustrate that Corby (23.3%), Wellingborough (20.3%) and Northampton (19.2%) have the highest level of obesity in Northamptonshire (Public Health England, 2023).
- Hospital attendance (per 10,000) for unintentional and deliberate injuries for children (aged 0 – 14 years-old) was higher in West Northamptonshire (+14.2) than in North Northamptonshire, with attendance at hospital for children in the lower age bracket (0 – 4 years-old) higher in West Northamptonshire (+12), and attendance at hospital for older children and young people (aged 15 to 24 years-old) also higher in West Northamptonshire (+31.1) (Public Health England, 2023).

Education, Skills and Training: Northamptonshire ranks in the 60th for Employment, Skills and Training Deprivation with Corby in the 10th most deprived area followed by Wellingborough (58th) and Northampton (80th).

- Employment deprivation in Northamptonshire is highest in Corby (79th) followed by Wellingborough (117th), Northampton (150th), and Kettering (154th) (IMD, 2019).
- Unemployment in each unitary in Northamptonshire is lower than the England average (3.6%), with the unemployment rate in North Northamptonshire 2.8% and the unemployment rate in West Northamptonshire 3.1% (NOMIS, 2023).
 - Unemployment was highest in Kettering (3.8%), Wellingborough (3.4%), Corby (3.6%) and Northampton (3.0%) (October 2021-September 2022)²³ (NOMIS, 2023).
- The proportion of individuals claiming out-of-work benefits in West Northamptonshire was 3.0% whilst in North Northamptonshire the number claiming out-of-work benefits was 3.1% (January 2023) (NOMIS, 2023b).
 - District level data shows that out-of-work benefits claims were highest in Corby (3.6%) and Northampton (3.0%) (NOMIS, 2023)²⁴
- Youth unemployment (18–24-year-olds receiving JSA or Universal Credit) levels are highest in Corby (7.06%), Wellingborough (6.56%) and Northampton (5.72%) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023). Youth unemployment is higher in urban areas (5.75%) than rural areas (3.27%) of Northamptonshire.

²³ In Northamptonshire, there are 83.7% of people considered economically active people.

²⁴ These are the latest data available on out-of-work benefits in Northamptonshire.

- Northamptonshire experienced a shift from people with no qualifications to people with level 4/5 qualifications and above (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023, 2021). Despite changes, there remains a high number of residents in Northamptonshire who have no qualifications which creates challenges for securing employment.
 - Residents with no qualification was highest in Wellingborough (21.63%), and Corby (22.98%) (these are also the areas who have residents with the least number of qualifications at level 4/5) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023, 2021). The number of people with no qualifications is higher in urban areas (20.29%) than rural areas (14.90%) whilst the number of people with Level 4/5 qualifications was highest in rural areas (34.19%) than urban areas (27.23%).

Older People: Northamptonshire is one of the UK’s fastest growing counties in England and Wales, with Northamptonshire seeing the highest increase in population groups aged 50 years and over (and those aged 10-19 years) (ONS, 2020).

- The average age of residents was 41.0 years in North Northamptonshire and 40.1 years in West Northamptonshire (in comparison to 41.6 years in the East Midland).
- Pensioner poverty, defined as pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit, was higher in urban areas (13.7%) than rural areas (8.2%) of Northamptonshire. The highest level of pensioners in poverty was Northampton (11.70%), Corby (11.62%) and Wellingborough (10.36%).
- Hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ years (per 100,000) was 1,893 in North Northamptonshire and 2,727 in West Northamptonshire (2020-21).
- Hospital admission for hip fractures for residents 65+ years was highest in Corby (765.6) and Kettering (753.9), Daventry (590.1) and Northampton (577.5) [higher than the average in England - 551] (Public Health England, 2023).
- Dementia diagnosis in Northamptonshire has increased in all areas (with the exception of South Northamptonshire), with a higher proportion of residents over 65+ years diagnosed with dementia reside in Corby (88.5) and Northampton (72.8) [higher than the average in England - 62] (Public Health England, 2023).

Housing and Living Environment: Northamptonshire ranks in the 65th for Barriers to Housing and Services and 116th for Living Environment (IMD, 2019).

- Corby appears in the 63rd most deprived areas for Barriers to Housing and Services, followed by Northampton (72nd) and Daventry (101st) (IMD, 2019).
- Northampton appears in the 160th most deprived areas for Living Environment, followed by Kettering (211th) and Daventry (213th) (IMD, 2019).
- Overcrowding²⁵ was higher in West Northamptonshire (5.02%) than North Northamptonshire (3.59%). The highest levels of overcrowding were recorded in Northampton (7.16%), and Corby (2.47%) (ONS North, 2021; ONS West, 2021; Community Insights, 2023, 2021).
- Households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act was higher in West Northamptonshire (1,972) than and North Northamptonshire (1,211) in 2021-2022 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).
 - The highest levels of statutory homelessness (crude rate per 1,000 households) was highest in Daventry (0.51), Wellingborough (0.42) and East Northamptonshire (0.42) (Public Health England, 2023).
- Northampton appears in the 160th most deprived areas for Living Environment, followed by Kettering (211th) and Daventry (213th). In 2020, the proportion of households experiencing fuel poverty was higher in North Northamptonshire (12.9) than West Northamptonshire (11.9) in comparison to 13.3 in England (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).
- Community Needs score was highest in Corby (109.13) followed by Kettering (104.62) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).
- Civil Asset score was highest in Corby (45.02) followed by Kettering (37.95) and Northampton (34.36) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).
- Connectedness score was highest in Wellingborough (21.31) followed by East Northamptonshire (16.02) and Corby (15.81) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).
- Active and Engaged Community score was highest in Kettering (51.29), Corby (48.29), and Northampton (46.72) (Local Insight (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion), 2023).

Crime: The Crime domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire ranks in the 113th for Crime, with Northampton in the 44th most

²⁵ Whether a household's bedroom accommodation is overcrowded, ideally occupied or under-occupied. This is calculated by comparing the number of bedrooms the household requires to the number of available bedrooms.

deprived area for Crime Deprivation, followed by Wellingborough (85th), Corby (125th), and Kettering (127th) (IMD, 2019).

- Northamptonshire ranked among the top 20 most dangerous countries, with an overall crime rate of 85 crimes per 1,000 in 2022 (in comparison with 83.77 crime per 1,000 people in England (Brighton Analytics Limited, 2023))
- The percentage of offenders who re-offend was lower in North Northamptonshire (19.6%) than West Northamptonshire (24%), with the average number of re-offences (per re-offender) lower in North Northamptonshire (3.57) than West Northamptonshire (3.81) (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).
- Violent crime in Northamptonshire, particularly violent crime involving children and young people, has received significant attention in 2023, with the murder of Rohan ‘Fred’ Shand (16 years-old) in March 2023 and Kwanbena Osei-Poku (19 years-old) in April 2023.
 - The number of violent offences (per 1,000 population) was lower in North Northamptonshire (35.7) than West Northamptonshire (36.1) in 2021-2022 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).
 - The number of sexual offences (per 1,000 population) was lower in North Northamptonshire (3.5) than West Northamptonshire (3.7) in 2021-2022 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).
 - The number of violent crimes requiring hospital admission (including sexual violence) was higher in North Northamptonshire (40.1) than West Northamptonshire (36.2), both of which was lower than the England average (41.9) (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023).

Finally, addressing priority needs at the right time requires access to the correct data to ensure existing and emerging needs are identified. Replacement of eight councils in Northamptonshire with two new unitary councils (April 2021) has created challenges in accessing comparable data, with both unitarities placing their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) pages under development.

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