

A white silhouette of the county of Suffolk is centered on a teal background. The words "HIDDEN NEEDS" are printed in a bold, sans-serif font across the map. "HIDDEN" is in a light purple color, and "NEEDS" is in a darker purple color.

# HIDDEN NEEDS

Hidden Needs in Suffolk  
Taking The Long View  
2020



A REPORT TO SUFFOLK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

University of Suffolk

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**SUFFOLK**  
Community  
Foundation

Suffolk Community Foundation was established in 2005 as an independent grant making charity. As the central platform for philanthropy in the county, we are part of a 46-strong national network of community foundations whose aim is to improve the quality of life for local residents by encouraging local giving.

Over the last 15 years, Suffolk Community Foundation has become a significant funder to Suffolk's voluntary and community sector. From providing funding support to just a handful of community groups in 2005, we have as of Summer 2020, provided over 7,300 grants. During this time, we have distributed more than £27,000,000 in grants to local charities and community groups across the county.





## Hidden Needs in Suffolk Taking The Long View 2020



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**SUFFOLK**  
Community  
Foundation

# HIDDEN NEEDS

## Foreword From Suffolk Community Foundation

Our first Hidden Needs report was published in 2011 and was commissioned to show how deprivation manifested itself across Suffolk. It came as a surprise for many to learn that the reported level of deprivation was greater than expected in what is widely seen as a comfortable county. It was only when drilling down to neighbourhood level that a clearer picture emerged showing the presence of households faced with significant social need, often residing alongside more affluent households. Historical statistical analysis often looked at larger geographical areas and, consequently, local variances were often undetected as the larger-scale data analysis averaged out the level of deprivation. It was from this realisation that we first sought to highlight the concept of 'hidden' need.

With the publication of this third edition of Hidden Needs, we are now able to look at deprivation levels over a longer period rather than just observing a snapshot in time. This approach not only shows that there is persistent deprivation in Suffolk's most deprived areas, but also concludes that appreciable change has happened in the less deprived neighbourhoods, often the middle ground. This is supported by analysis of the data from 2007 that shows that, over time, the county is becoming relatively less advantaged and more deprived compared to other areas of England. We can position this decline. In 2007, Suffolk was ranked 115th out of 149 upper-tier local authorities. By 2019, we had slipped to 99th out of 151 upper-tier local authorities.

As we battle with the Coronavirus pandemic, with loss of life, changes to everyday routines and the related economic fallout, it is very apparent that we have significant additional challenges that lay ahead. This report highlights how Suffolk fared following the Great Recession of 2008/09, and how deprivation levels rose and were slow to recover. There is a growing risk that a repeat scenario is now looming large on the horizon. Deprivation is discriminate and will impact upon our most vulnerable people and communities, as we have recently seen in the way that BAME communities have been disproportionately affected by Coronavirus.

The economic conditions are certainly a main driver of deprivation, but in this study we also look at other driving factors, the three most persistent being: children's education; accessibility to services; and housing quality and affordability. Our report therefore considers how

best we tackle these issues, by using evidence, through adopting Theory of Change models, and working in co-ordinated cross-sector partnerships. Recent improvements in children's education bear testament that we can reverse these negative trends. However, they will certainly not improve without a huge commitment from everyone that wishes to make Suffolk a better place for all.

We are fortunate in Suffolk to have a strong and diverse voluntary sector which rises to the challenges presented by individuals and communities all over the county. Much like in 2008, it will be crucial that over the coming months and years, our voluntary and community sector is supported to play the vital role it always does in responding to the needs of Suffolk, be they hidden or not.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dr Noel Smith and, Dr Cristian Dogaru (University of Suffolk) and Michael Attwood (Head of Partnerships, Suffolk Community Foundation) for their dedication in producing this report.

**Stephen Singleton MBE**

Chief Executive  
Suffolk Community Foundation  
November 2020



# Executive Summary

This is the third in Suffolk Community Foundation's series of Hidden Needs studies. These studies set out to unpick the complex nature of deprivation in Suffolk and they play a vital role in a county where the lived reality of those facing hardship and lacking opportunity is often obscured.

Previous *Hidden Needs* studies looked at changes in Suffolk between 2007-2010 and 2010-2015, respectively, through neighbourhood<sup>2</sup>-level analysis of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). This study takes the long view, assessing the dynamics of deprivation between 2007 and 2019. 'Hidden needs', here, refers to uncovering these long-term dynamics where this perspective can be missed by looking only at short-term changes.

## KEY FINDINGS:

### Dynamics of deprivation

- **Overall, Suffolk is not among England's most deprived local authorities.** Suffolk is among the 40% least deprived authorities in England: 60% of English local authorities are more deprived than Suffolk. However, compared to England generally, the county is also not particularly advantaged.
- **Suffolk is becoming less advantaged and more deprived.** Between 2007-2010, 13% more neighbourhoods became more deprived than those which had become less deprived. Between 2010-2015, 38% more neighbourhoods declined than improved. Changes between the 2010 and 2015 IMDs reflect the period of the UK's last recession. Between 2015-2019 there was less pronounced change. There was no marked deterioration, but there was also no marked recovery from the earlier decline.
- **Change in Suffolk can be seen as the result of two dynamics.** First, there has been increasing and persistent deprivation in Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods. Three-quarters of Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods have seen no significant improvement in deprivation ranking since 2007, relative to the rest of England. Second, most change has happened in less deprived neighbourhoods – in the 'middle ground' of the distribution. This does not tend to mean that advantaged neighbourhoods have become deprived. It means that in places where a smaller proportion of households experienced deprivation, a larger proportion began to experience deprivation. This still might mean that only a minority of households in a neighbourhood experience deprivation. Nevertheless, it suggests that more households in Suffolk have become less resilient to challenging economic or social conditions.
- **Of the 75,000 people in Suffolk experiencing income deprivation, 54,000 (72%) live in urban areas and 21,000 (28%) live in rural areas.**
- **22,000 older people in Suffolk are in income deprivation.** However, a smaller proportion of older people in Suffolk are income deprived compared with England generally.
- **The distribution of deprivation in urban Suffolk is similar to the distribution in urban England.** By contrast, the distribution of deprivation in rural Suffolk is different from the distribution in the rest of rural England. It seems that 'decline in the middle ground' of Suffolk has had more to do with change in rural Suffolk than change in urban Suffolk.
- **Three aspects of deprivation which have been constantly more concentrated in Suffolk since 2007 relate to:** children's education, accessibility to services and housing quality. Suffolk is over-represented in England's most deprived 10% for these aspects of deprivation.
- **Although health, crime and barriers to housing have been consistently among the least concentrated aspects of deprivation in Suffolk, they are also aspects of deprivation which have seen the sharpest increases since 2007.** Other aspects showing sharp increases in deprivation include employment, education, housing quality and income.
- **Deprivation relating to income, employment and health are not pervasive in Suffolk generally.** However, where they are found, they are concentrated in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the county.
- **Deprivation relating to education, housing and the accessibility of services are not simply associated with the most deprived neighbourhoods in Suffolk but affect a range of neighbourhoods.**

The report is published in the midst of a major recession triggered by the Covid19 pandemic. There is a new urgency for evidence-based strategies for tackling deprivation and improving resilience, and for effective, synchronised partnership working. With this in mind, our analysis considers what are the 'drivers' of deprivation in Suffolk. The conclusion of the report explores a conceptual framework – a 'Theory of Change' – as a means of informing Suffolk Community Foundation's work in tackling deprivation.

<sup>1</sup> A 'neighbourhood' in the IMD is represented by 'Lower layer Super Output Area', a geographical area encompassing about 1,500 people.

## Income and employment

- **In 2019, in Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods, 25% of people on average lived in households experiencing employment deprivation, and 31% experienced income deprivation.**
- **Across Suffolk, 18,000 children experienced income deprivation – around 13% of all children in the county.**
- **Average wages in the county have persistently fallen below those in England.** Average pay in Suffolk in 2019 was £543 a week, compared with £580 in England. In Waveney, East Suffolk, the average weekly wage in 2017 was £115 less than the average for Suffolk, and £151 less than the average for England.

## Health

- **Between 2007 and 2019, the proportion of Suffolk neighbourhoods among England's most deprived 10% for health and disability has increased from 1.8% to 3.2%.**
- **Higher rates of disability and long-term illness are found in districts with greater deprivation.** In 2019, there were 6,700 adults in East Suffolk who were out of the labour market because of long term ill health and 5,700 in Ipswich.

## Education

- **In 2015, 18.4% of Suffolk neighbourhoods were among the most deprived 10% in England for education.** By 2019, this had fallen to 14.5% - an important improvement. However, educational deprivation in Suffolk remains disproportionately high.
- **There have been marked areas of improvement in terms of GCSE attainment and children's early years development.** In other areas, Suffolk has fared less well. The rate of school absences is marginally higher in Suffolk than for England generally. At primary school, Key Stage 2 results have been improving in Suffolk in line with national trends. However, Suffolk started with lower attainment rates in 2010 and has not managed to catch up with the national average. Until recently, spending per pupil in schools in Suffolk had fallen below the average for England.
- **Disadvantaged children in Suffolk schools have poorer attainment than other children.** In 2018, 63% of children in Suffolk reached the expected standard at Key Stage 2; for children eligible for free school meals, this dropped to 41%. Disadvantaged children in Suffolk do less well than disadvantaged children in England generally.
- **In Suffolk, as in England generally, black pupils are less likely than other children to attain expected levels of attainment at Key Stage 2, or to do as well at GCSEs.**
- **Since 2012, the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Suffolk has been declining in line with trends for England.** However, the proportion of NEET young people in Suffolk has remained higher than that in England. Local data reported in the Suffolk Observatory suggest that the proportion of NEET 16-18 years olds in the county has been increasing since 2019.
- **A smaller proportion of young people go on to higher education than average for England.** Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, nearly 34% of young people in Suffolk entered higher education, compared with 38% of young people in England. Overall, Suffolk has a smaller proportion of adults with higher qualifications. The proportion of adults in Suffolk with degrees increased from 15% to 25% between 2007 and 2019. However, this proportion has been consistently and significantly smaller than for England generally - and the gap appears to be slowly growing.

## Crime

- **Suffolk is generally safer than elsewhere in England.** However, the county has seen a net increase in crime-related deprivation in each wave of the IMD since 2007. Violent crime has increased in England over the last decade and violent crime in Suffolk has increased in line with the national trend.

## Housing

- **Since 2015, Suffolk has ranked more poorly for housing quality compared with England generally.** Rural neighbourhoods are more likely to perform poorly for housing quality than urban neighbourhoods. In 2019, 25% of rural neighbourhoods in Suffolk were in England's most deprived decile for housing quality, compared with 11% of urban neighbourhoods in Suffolk. This highlights a distinct hidden need in Suffolk: in generally advantaged rural areas, there are households living in excessively cold homes, with the cost of fuel drawing them into poverty and putting their health at risk.
- **House prices in Suffolk have increased faster than for England. The difference is greater with lower cost, affordable housing.** Between 2007 and 2019, the lower quartile house price in Suffolk increased by 39% compared with 28% in England. Since 2014, the lower quartile house price in Suffolk has been more than for England. Suffolk households need to spend a bigger proportion of their income on buying houses than is average for England.
- **Average rent in Suffolk is less than the average for England.** However, lower cost rent in Suffolk is more expensive than lower cost rent in England. In 2019, lower quartile rent in Suffolk costs £25 a week more than lower quartile rent in England.
- **The number of affordable houses being built per year in Suffolk has declined steadily since the 2008/09 Great Recession.**
- **Analysis of the IMD suggests that housing affordability in the county is becoming a more pronounced issue in rural Suffolk.**
- **Compared with England generally, Suffolk ranks poorly in terms of deprivation related to the accessibility of services. However, neighbourhoods ranked poorly for accessibility in Suffolk also tend to be those which experience less deprivation overall.** Barriers to accessibility are associated particularly – but not exclusively – with rural areas. Poor accessibility is likely to exacerbate the disadvantage experienced by deprived households in advantaged, rural neighbourhoods.



# INTRODUCTION

## Taking The Long View On Hidden Needs In Suffolk

### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This is the third in a series of studies commissioned by the Suffolk Community Foundation. These studies set out to unpick the complex and dynamic nature of deprivation and disadvantage in Suffolk. By doing this, the Foundation seeks both to be able to take a rigorously evidence-based approach to grant making, and to help make a compelling case to develop and channel local philanthropy towards local issues. The first two Hidden Needs reports have been influential and have been used extensively by a range of organisations in Suffolk. The Hidden Needs studies play a vital role in a county whose idyllic charm and relative wealth tends to conceal the lived reality of those households and neighbourhoods facing hardship and lacking opportunity.

The first Hidden Needs report was published in 2011 and examined changing neighbourhood-level deprivation in Suffolk by comparing results between the 2007 and 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Similarly, the second report analysed changes between the 2010 and 2015 IMDs. This report is a little different and assesses changes across the whole period between the 2007 IMD and the latest IMD, produced in 2019. Like the earlier studies, this analysis set out to report the extent of deprivation, and types of deprivation, in different areas and neighbourhoods in Suffolk. However, by taking this long view – from 2007 to 2019 – we attempt to go further by identifying the ‘drivers’ of the deprivation in Suffolk or, in other words, what types of deprivation shape the experience of different neighbourhoods in the county. In turn, by identifying the drivers of deprivation, it is hoped that this report can help inform better targeted strategies to address it and to improve resilience to deprivation.

Another unique aspect of this third Hidden Needs report is that it is published in the midst of the recession triggered by the global Covid19 pandemic. In the second quarter of 2020, the UK’s economic output shrank by over 20%, pushing the country into the deepest recession of any major global economy. The duration and impact of the recession are not yet known but it clearly poses risks to wellbeing and life chances in many communities, especially those already vulnerable to hardship and disadvantage. In this context, it is more urgent than ever to operate strong, evidence-based strategies for tackling deprivation and improving resilience, and to ensure the effective, well-aligned collaboration of

all partners with the relevant skills, local knowledge and resources.

With this in mind, the conclusion of the report explores the potential of developing a ‘Theory of Change’ – that is, a type of roadmap for change, which makes clear what change is necessary and why. Theory of Change is used by Community Foundations (and many other organisations internationally) as an approach towards designing strategies and assessing their impacts. Its consideration in this report is primarily as a means of informing Suffolk Community Foundation’s work in tackling deprivation. The simple Theory of Change outlined in this report might also serve as a point of discussion among Suffolk Community Foundation and all partners in the county about how to strengthen collaborative efforts to reduce deprivation and increase resilience.

### Definitions

Since the first report in 2011, the Hidden Needs studies have maintained a consistent understanding of the concepts of disadvantage and need. These remain as relevant in 2020 as they were in 2011.

#### **Disadvantage, poverty and deprivation**

Disadvantage is understood as the position of those on the sharp end of the unequal distribution of material resources and power in society. Deprivation, in turn, is understood as having to go without the material resources, services or opportunities that are commonly considered the basic standard of a ‘decent’ life, because a lack of either money or other intangible resources (like education) inhibit access to them.



There are different ways of defining minimum incomes and basic material needs. The lowest minimum standard in Britain is that set by the welfare system. In 2020, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation calculates that, after housing costs, the benefits system provides a safety net income of around £91 per week for a single adult, or £285 for a couple with two children<sup>1</sup>. An alternative approach is to set a 'poverty line' relative to average incomes: a standard poverty line of this sort is 60% of the national median (middle value) of income.

In this report, we concentrate on the measures of deprivation used in the Index of Multiple Deprivation, produced for England by the UK Government. So, for example, poverty is considered in terms of 'income deprivation' which is based on numbers of people claiming means-tested welfare benefits. This measure is used in the IMD and can be calculated for small areas and used to identify pockets of deprivation. (While this measure enables consistent and detailed analysis, it does not necessarily include all households which, by other standards, would be considered to be in poverty). Deprivation, more generally, is understood in the IMD in terms of a number of dimensions – income, but also employment, health, education, crime, housing, access to services and environment.

In the IMD – as in most definitions of deprivation and poverty – the focus is on the *relative* nature of disadvantage<sup>2</sup>. That is, deprivation is understood as the condition of households whose 'resources are so seriously below those commanded by the average family that they are in effect excluded from the ordinary living patterns, customs, and activities'<sup>3</sup>. Rather than defining deprivation in *absolute* terms – e.g. a definitive list of resources someone needs not to be deprived – *relative* deprivation is about the difference between one household's resources and the distribution of resources across the wider population.

### Need

As in the first *Hidden Needs* report, this report considers 'need' as varying for different population sub-groups and incorporating different elements, such as:

- material want or income poverty;
- lack of access to services;
- barriers to opportunities and social mobility.

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

### 'Hidden Needs'

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

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

This focus is operated at different levels in the analysis. It underpins the function of the *Hidden Needs* series to challenge assumptions which stereotype Suffolk as being a generally prosperous place with little disadvantage. It highlights both poverty and the other dimensions of deprivation. It examines deprivation at the neighbourhood level – in different parts of the county and across urban and rural communities – shedding light on pockets of disadvantage which are harder to see from a broad-brush perspective.

In this third *Hidden Needs* study, 'hidden needs' also refers to uncovering the *long-term* dynamics of deprivation in Suffolk – where this perspective can be missed by looking only at short-term changes. For example, relatively small increases in deprivation between one wave of the IMD to the next may seem inconsequential. However, a consistent series of small changes can represent a significant difference over time. This is one of the strengths of taking the long view.

In this third *Hidden Needs* study, 'hidden needs' also refers to uncovering the long-term dynamics of deprivation in Suffolk – where this perspective can be missed by looking only at short-term changes.

<sup>1</sup> A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2020 <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/minimum-income-standard-uk-2020>

<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/833951/loD2019\\_Technical\\_Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833951/loD2019_Technical_Report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Townsend, P. (1979). *Poverty in the United Kingdom*. London: Penguin

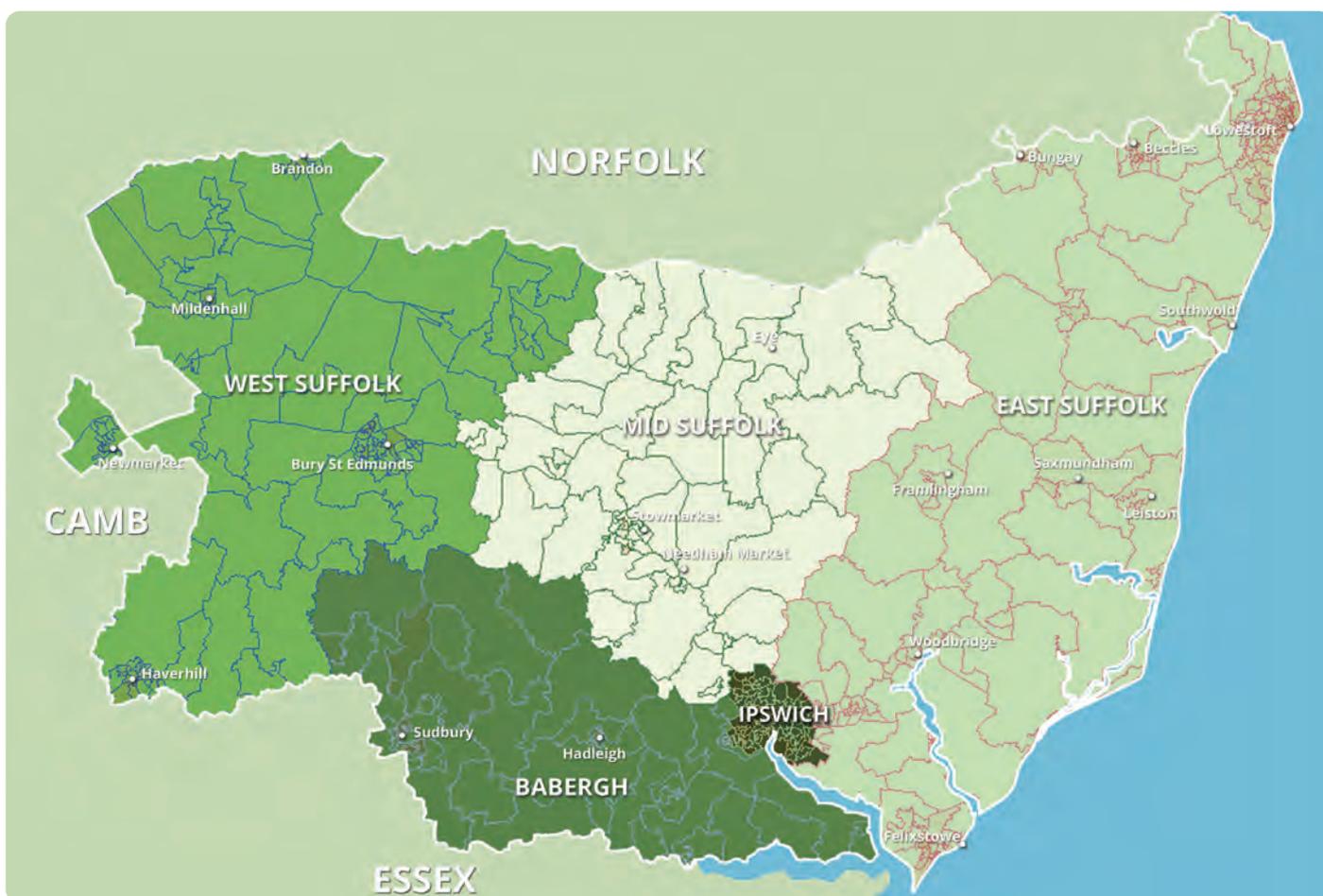
# SUFFOLK

## A Changing Population

There has been some change in Suffolk's lower-tier local authorities since the previous Hidden Needs report. In 2019, Waveney and Suffolk Coastal district councils joined to become East Suffolk District Council; in the same year St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath councils joined to become West Suffolk District Council. As a result of these changes Suffolk is now comprised of five lower-tier council areas; West Suffolk, Mid-Suffolk, Babergh, Ipswich and East Suffolk. There have been no changes at the upper-tier county level.



### SUFFOLK DISTRICTS



In 2019 the county's population was 761,400. This represents an increase of 22,900 since 2014, a 2.5% change.

*Estimated total population at national, regional and district level, 2019*

England	56,287,000
East	6,236,100
Suffolk	761,400 (100%)
Babergh	92,000 (12%)
East Suffolk	249,500 (33%)
Ipswich	136,900 (18%)
Mid Suffolk	103,900 (14%)
West Suffolk	179,000 (24%)

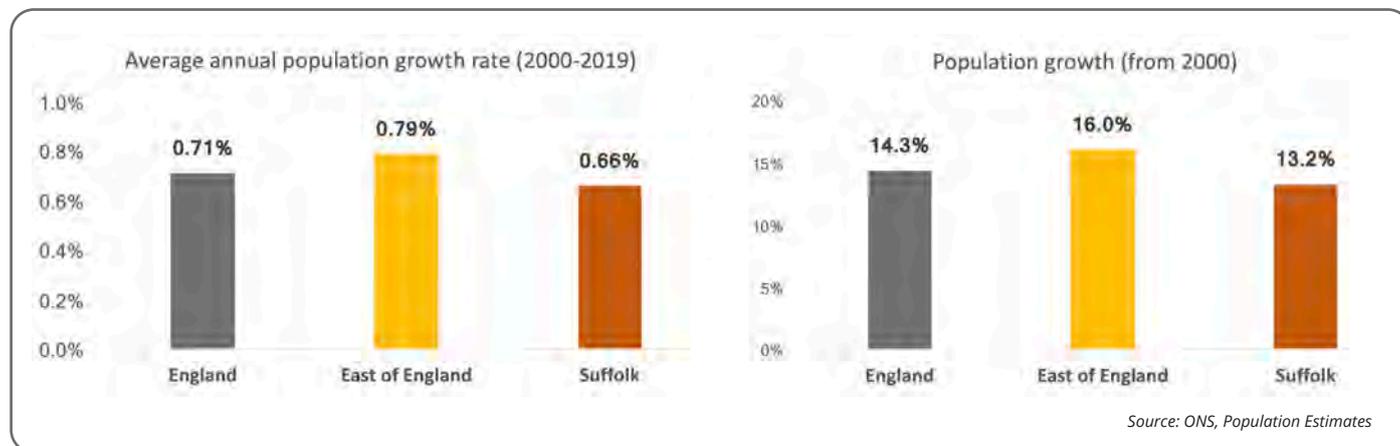
In 2019 the county's population was **761,400**. This represents an increase of **22,900** since 2014, a **2.5%** change

Source: ONS, Population Estimates

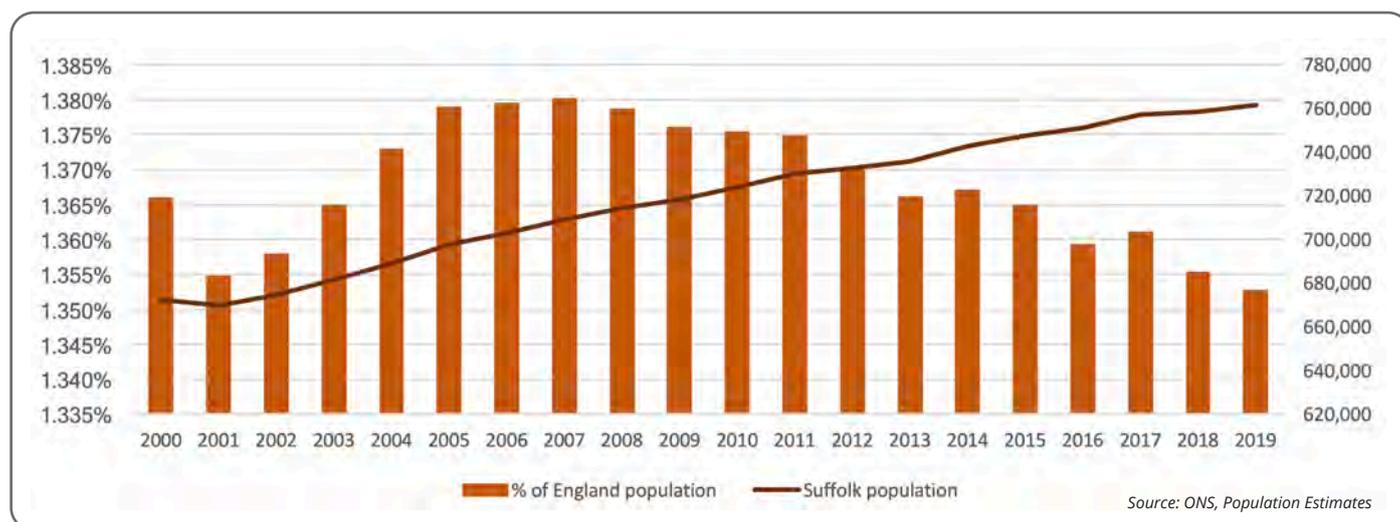
Suffolk's population is growing, but more slowly than the national and regional trends. The average annual growth rate for the total population between 2000 and 2019 was 0.66% per year for Suffolk, compared with 0.79% in East of England and 0.77% in England. Thus, between 2000 and 2019, Suffolk's population increased by 13.2%, compared

with 16.0% for East of England and 14.3% for England. Although Suffolk's population has increased over the past two decades in terms of the number of people, Suffolk's population as a proportion of England's population started declining in the last decade.

**Average annual population growth rates, 2000-2019**



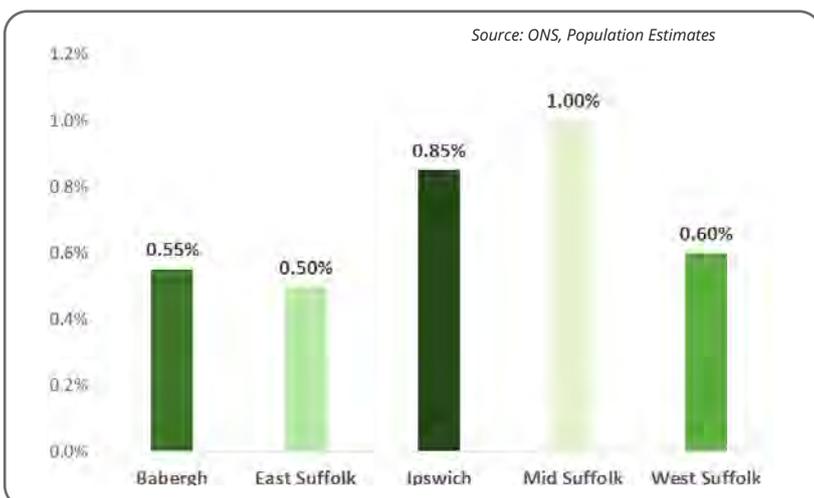
**Suffolk's population: in total and as percentage of England's population**



The rate of growth across Suffolk's districts is unequal, ranging from an average annual growth rate of 0.5% in East Suffolk, to 1.0% in Mid Suffolk. Babergh and East Suffolk

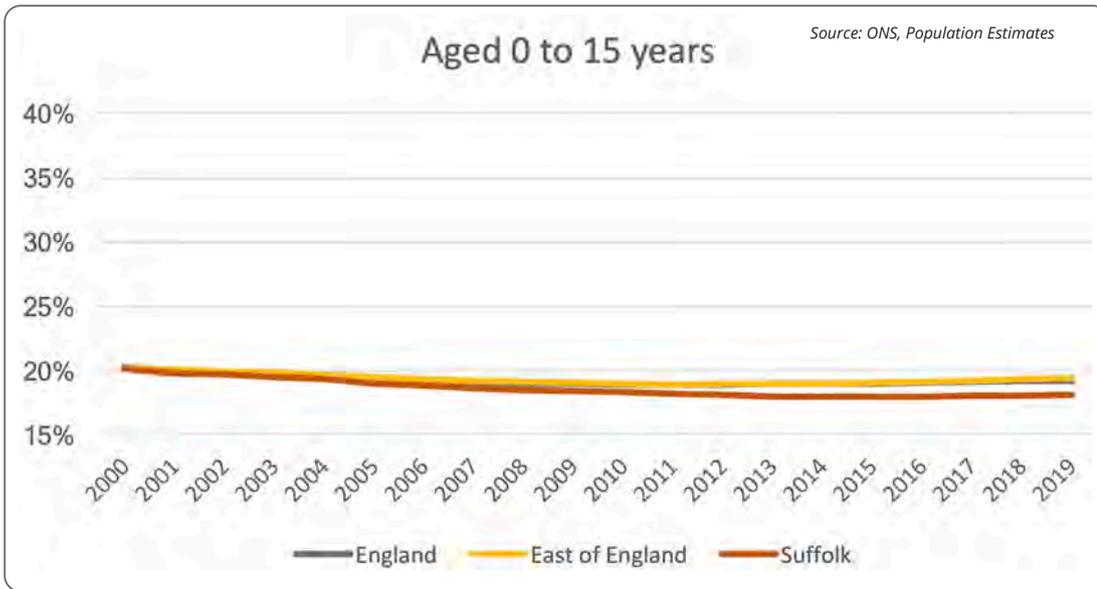
have been growing at the slowest rate, while Ipswich and Mid Suffolk have been growing at the fastest rate – higher, in fact, than the growth rate of England.

**Average annual population growth rates at district level, 2000-2019**

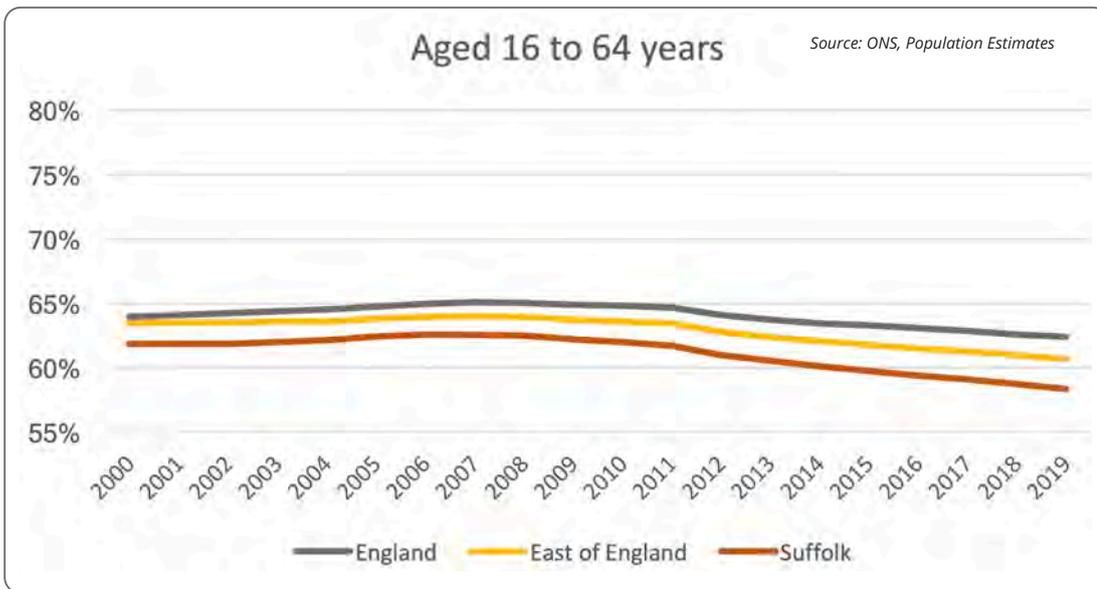


Another persistent trend for Suffolk is that its population continues to get older. This is a consequence of the declining proportion of working-age population (and, in a smaller measure, of children population) and an increase in the proportion of population aged 65 and over. While the trajectories follow the national and regional trends, the actual proportions are more extreme in Suffolk, with lower proportions of working age and higher proportions of aged 65 and over.

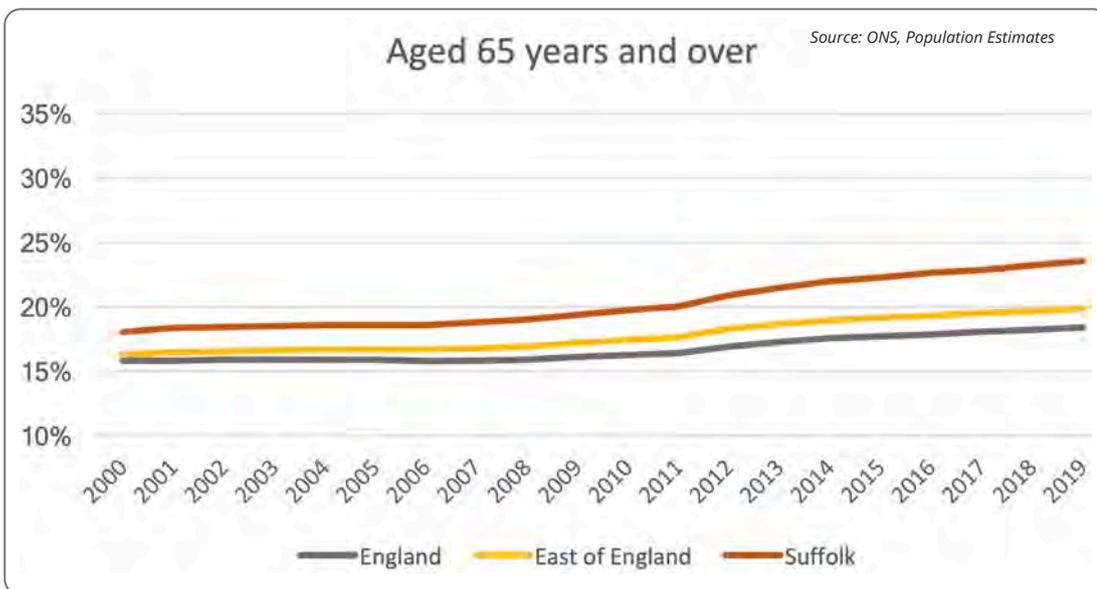
**Population change age 0 to 15: percentage of general population**



**Population change age 16 to 64: percentage of general population**



**Population change age over 65: percentage of general population**



The table below shows the population by each age-group, comparing change between 2019 and 2000 and 2004. In England, the proportion of children (age 0 to 15) in the entire population decreased by 1.1% from 2000 and, respectively, by 0.8% from 2004. In contrast, for the same periods, the proportion of children of Suffolk's population decreased by 2.0% and 1.2%, respectively – so decreasing at almost twice the rate as for England. Similarly, the decrease in proportion of working-age population (16 to 64 years) in England was

by 2.7% from 2000 and by 2.9% from 2004. In Suffolk the decrease for the same periods was larger: 3.5% and 3.8%.

For the population 65 years and older, a similar pattern is observed: while for England the proportion of older people in the population increased by 2.6% from 2000 and 2.5% from 2004, for Suffolk the increase is almost double, by 5.5% from 2000 and 5.0% from 2004. Among Suffolk's districts Babergh and Mid Suffolk experienced the largest increase in proportion of people over 65 years.

### Changes in the proportion of age groups in Suffolk districts from 2000/2004 to 2019

	Age 0 to 15 Compared with		Age 16 to 64 Compared with		Age over 65 Compared with	
	2000	2004	2000	2004	2000	2004
<b>England</b>	-1.05%	-0.35%	-1.53%	-2.16%	2.59%	2.50%
<b>East</b>	-0.80%	-0.26%	-2.73%	-2.91%	3.53%	3.17%
<b>Suffolk</b>	-2.03%	-1.23%	-3.49%	-3.77%	5.52%	5.00%
<i>Babergh</i>	-2.71%	-2.44%	-5.38%	-5.06%	8.09%	7.50%
<i>East Suffolk</i>	-2.80%	-1.89%	-3.73%	-4.00%	6.54%	5.85%
<i>Ipswich</i>	-0.64%	0.16%	0.83%	-0.78%	-0.09%	0.71%
<i>Mid Suffolk</i>	-3.14%	-2.81%	-3.94%	-3.84%	7.08%	6.76%
<i>West Suffolk</i>	-1.00%	0.13%	-5.24%	-5.13%	6.29%	5.05%

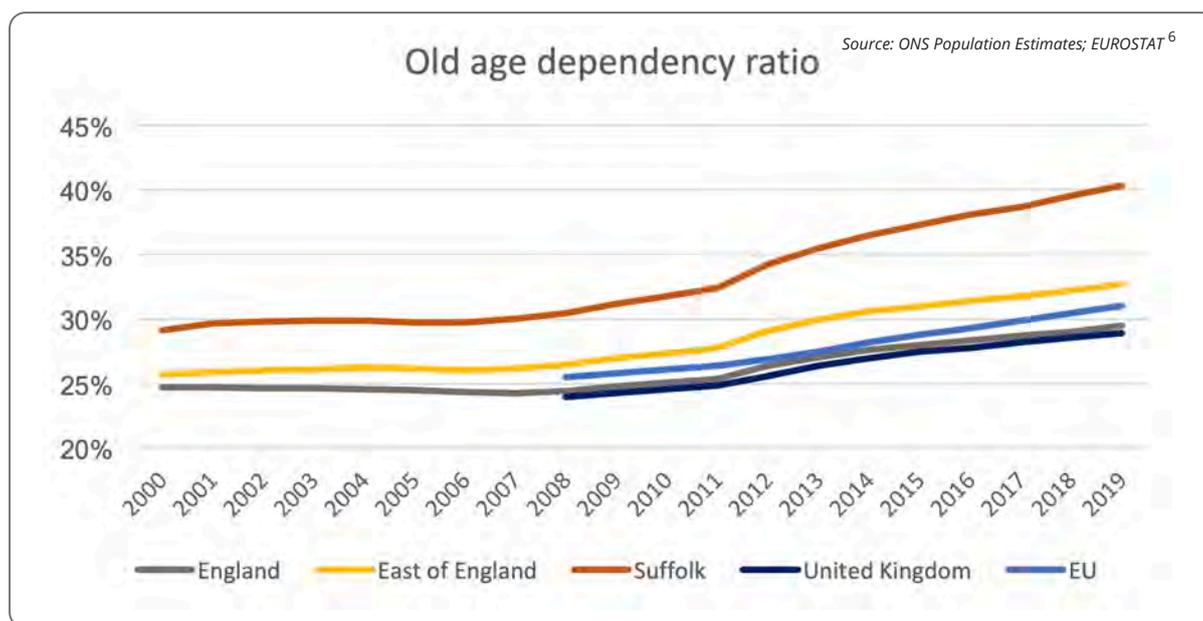
Since 2000 the proportion of Suffolk's total population aged over 65 has increased by 5.52%

Source: ONS, Population Estimates

The ageing of Suffolk's population has important consequences, as older people are likely to require greater access than others to particular services. Moreover, the relative proportion of economically active to economically inactive citizens will impact on the overall economy of the county. One way to quantify this<sup>4</sup> is the 'old-age dependency

ratio', which is the ratio between the number of persons aged 65 and over and the number of persons aged between 15 and 64<sup>5</sup>. We can see that Suffolk's has a higher ratio than both the regional, national and European values, with a steeper increase over the last decade.

### Old age dependency ratio



<sup>4</sup> For a discussion of this measure see <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/ageing/articles/livinglongerandoldagedependencywhatdoesthefuturehold/2019-06-24>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/tps00198>

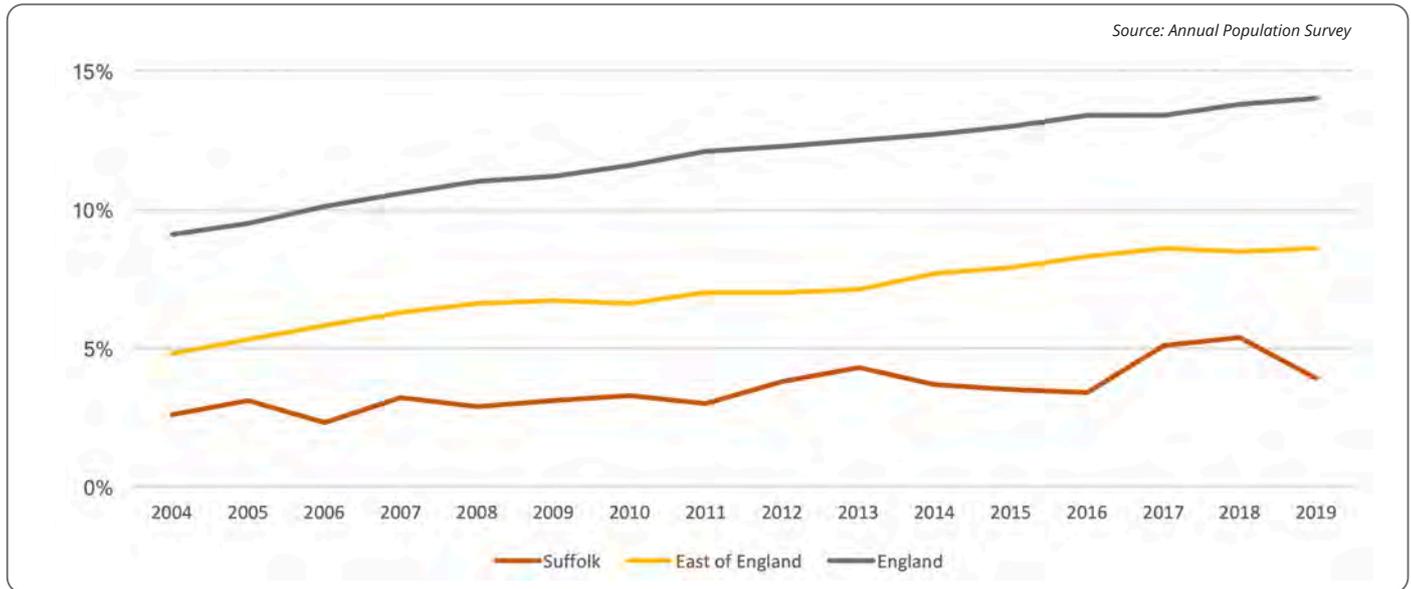
<sup>6</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tps00198/default/table?lang=en>

## ETHNICITY

Suffolk is less ethnically diverse than the region or England generally. Over 95% of the population is white, compared with 90% in the East and 85% in England. The proportion of

Suffolk's black and minority ethnic population has changed little over the last 15 years while, by contrast, in the region and in England generally there has been a steady increase.

**Black and ethnic minority population age 16 and over: percentage of general population age 16 and over**



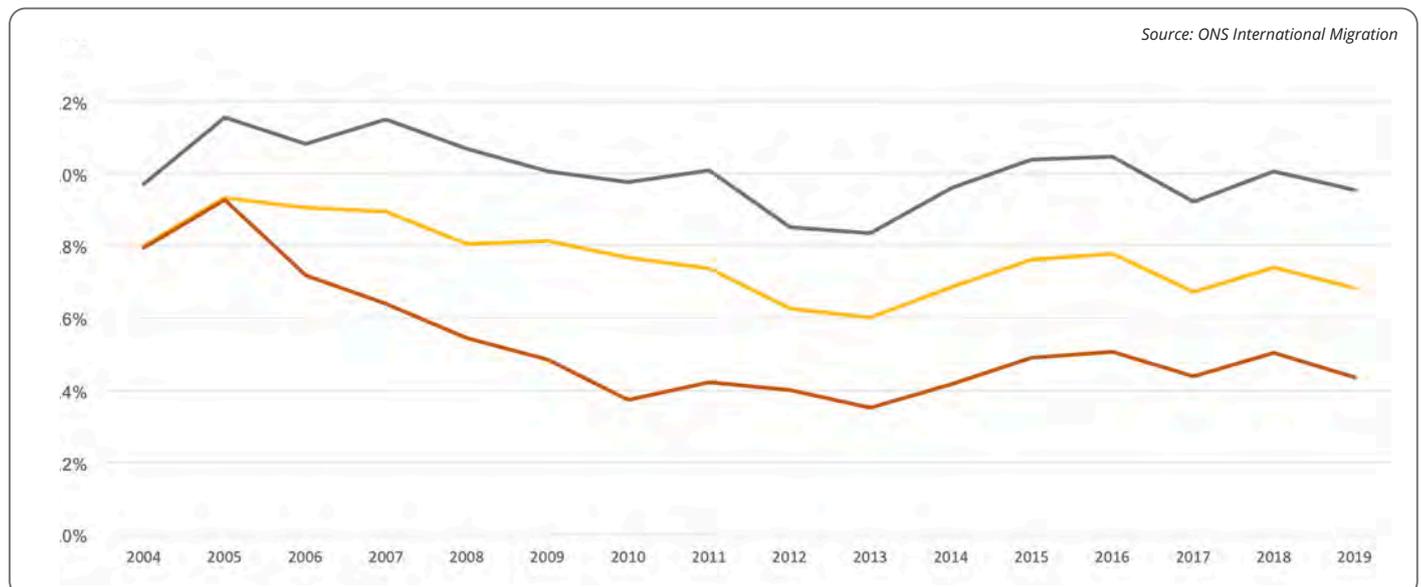
## MIGRATION

Assessing the implications of migration is complex. Migrants can increase demand on local resources in terms of housing and public services, but this must be considered alongside migrants' potential contribution to the local economy in terms of supplying labour to businesses, paying taxes, consuming goods and so forth. In Suffolk, inward migration of younger people carries the prospect over time of helping to balance the county's ageing population.

The previous Hidden Needs report found that, between 2005 and 2013, the rate of international immigration was falling and had remained consistently lower than for the Eastern region, which in turn was lower than the rate for

England. From 2013 there was a period of growth in the rate of international migration into Suffolk. This trend continued until around 2016, after which it entered a decline, very likely attributable to Brexit. Suffolk continues to show lower rates of international migration than both the East of England and England. It also shows a sharper decrease: while for England the international inflow rate in 2019 reached a very similar value with that of 2004 (0.96% vs. 0.97%), in Suffolk the inflow rate has dropped from 0.79% in 2004 to 0.44% in 2019. This means that, for the county as a whole, the impact of international immigration on population growth and age profile is limited.

**Fifteen-year trend: percentage of estimated population who are international immigrants.**





# CHANGING DEPRIVATION IN SUFFOLK

## About The Index Of Multiple Deprivation

The Hidden Needs research series focuses on analysis of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD is produced by the Government to rank nearly 33,000 neighbourhoods across England in terms of their relative deprivation. Deprivation is measured based on 39 separate indicators, organised across seven domains:

- Income
- Employment
- Health and disability
- Education, skills and training
- Crime
- Barriers to housing and services
- Living environment

The IMD ranks all neighbourhoods in England based on scores calculated for each of these domains, from the most deprived (rank 1) to the least deprived (rank 32,844). In addition, an 'overall' deprivation ranking is also calculated based a single score from all the domains. **This section of the report focuses on this overall deprivation measure**, with later sections focusing in more detail on specific domains and subdomains.

In the IMD, calculations for each of the domains are based on other statistical datasets. This means that there is a lag between the time when the information for these datasets is collected and the publication of the IMD. For example, some indicators in 2019 IMD relate to the year 2015/16.

A 'neighbourhood' in the IMD is represented by 'Lower layer Super Output Area', a geographical area encompassing

about 1,500 people. For some domains it is possible to identify the number of people experiencing deprivation, e.g. how many people in a particular neighbourhood experience income deprivation. More generally, however, the IMD is designed to give a continuous, relative ranking of all neighbourhoods. There is no definitive threshold above which an area is described as 'deprived'. Instead, we can talk of a particular neighbourhood to be in the 'most deprived 10%' or 'most deprived 20%' of all English neighbourhoods.

The IMD is produced at intervals – usually every four or five years. The first *Hidden Needs* study focused mainly on changes between the 2007 and 2010 waves; the second study concentrated on 2010-2015. In taking the long view, this study looks at change from 2007, across all four IMD waves.

IMD Wave	Hidden Needs 2011	Hidden Needs 2016	Hidden Needs 2020
2007	Hidden Needs 2011		Hidden Needs 2020
2010		Hidden Needs 2016	
2015			
2019			

In this report we sometimes talk about ‘more deprived’ and ‘more advantaged’ neighbourhoods. It is important to note, however, that less deprivation does not equate neatly with greater advantage or prosperity. That is, the IMD is specifically designed to detail relative deprivation; it is not designed to measure advantage. While it sets out to detail the graduations between neighbourhoods experiencing most deprivation, it is less precise in detailing graduations between neighbourhoods experiencing least deprivation. This means that a neighbourhood which is not ranked

among the most deprived neighbourhoods is not necessarily a prosperous one. It also means that it is possible for two neighbourhoods to share similar ranking for deprivation but also be significantly different in terms of their levels of prosperity. As an analogy: a field may contain weeds (deprivation) and crops (prosperity). It is possible for both weeds and crops to grow, independently of each other (up to a point!). Knowing how many weeds are in the field doesn't necessarily tell us how many crops are in the field.

### Deciles and quintiles?

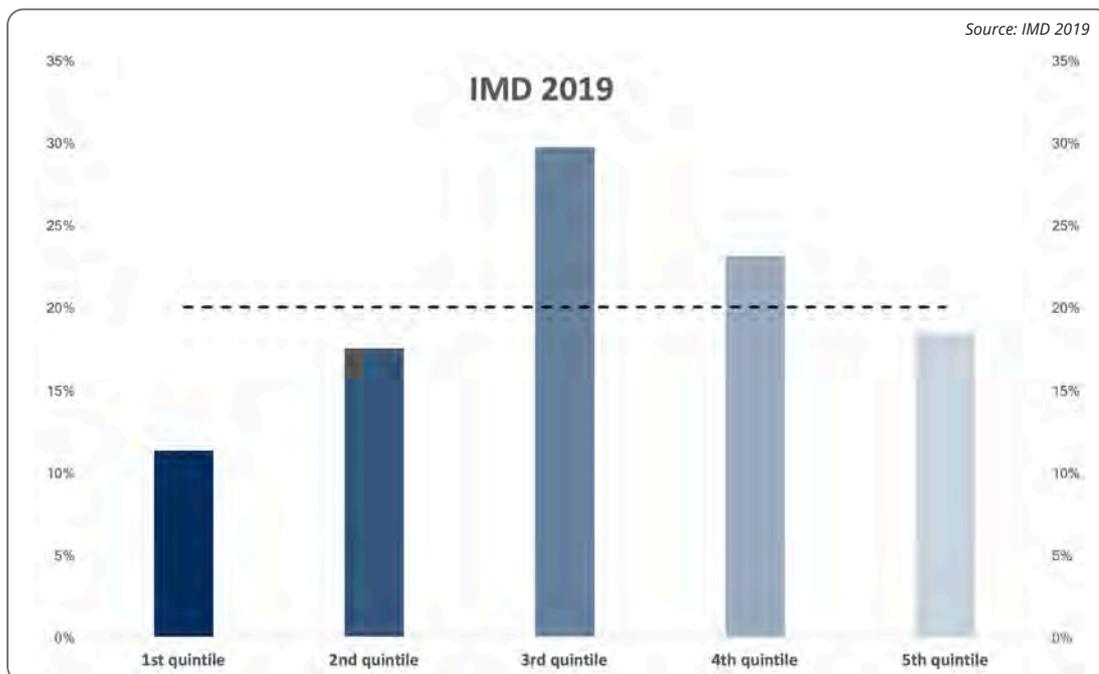
This report sometimes refers to ‘deciles’ and ‘quintiles’ when comparing neighbourhoods.

- A ‘decile’ is one of ten equal parts that England’s neighbourhoods are divided into: the ‘most deprived decile of neighbourhoods’ is the same as saying the ‘most deprived 10%’.
- A ‘quintile’ is one of five equal parts that England’s neighbourhoods are divided into: the ‘most deprived quintile of neighbourhoods’ is the same as saying the ‘most deprived 20%’.

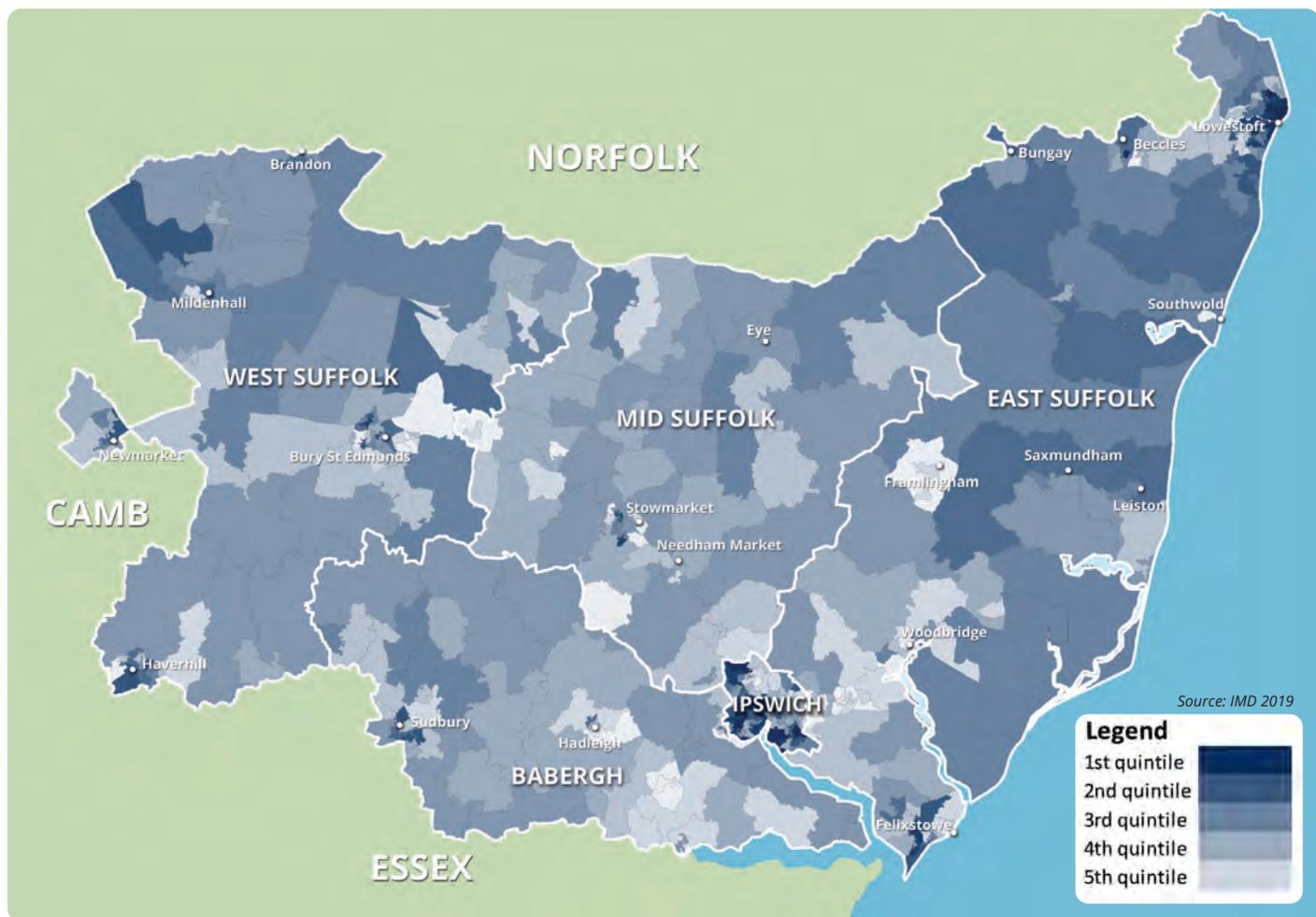
### The ‘broad-brush, snapshot’ view of deprivation in Suffolk in 2019

**Overall, Suffolk is not among England’s most deprived local authorities.** If we take a snapshot of 2019, we see that – in terms of average ranking of all neighbourhoods in the county – Suffolk was ranked 99<sup>th</sup> out of 151 upper-tier local authorities (where 1 is most deprived and 151 is least deprived). This means that, overall, Suffolk is among the 40% least deprived upper-tier local authorities in England: 60% of English upper-tier local authorities are more deprived than Suffolk.

If relative deprivation was evenly distributed among Suffolk and England neighbourhoods, we would expect to see 20% of Suffolk neighbourhoods among England’s 20% most deprived neighbourhoods. Instead, we see Suffolk under-represented among both England’s most deprived and least deprived neighbourhoods. Suffolk is over-represented in the middle of the distribution. **This means that, compared to England generally, neighbourhoods in Suffolk are more likely to be neither particularly deprived nor particularly advantaged.**



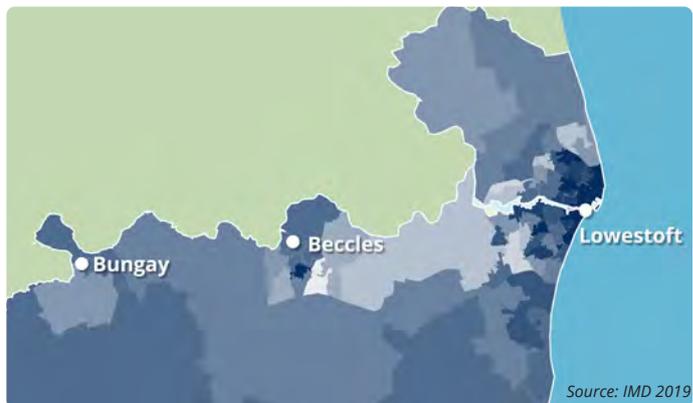
**Distribution of Suffolk neighbourhoods by national Overall IMD quintiles**



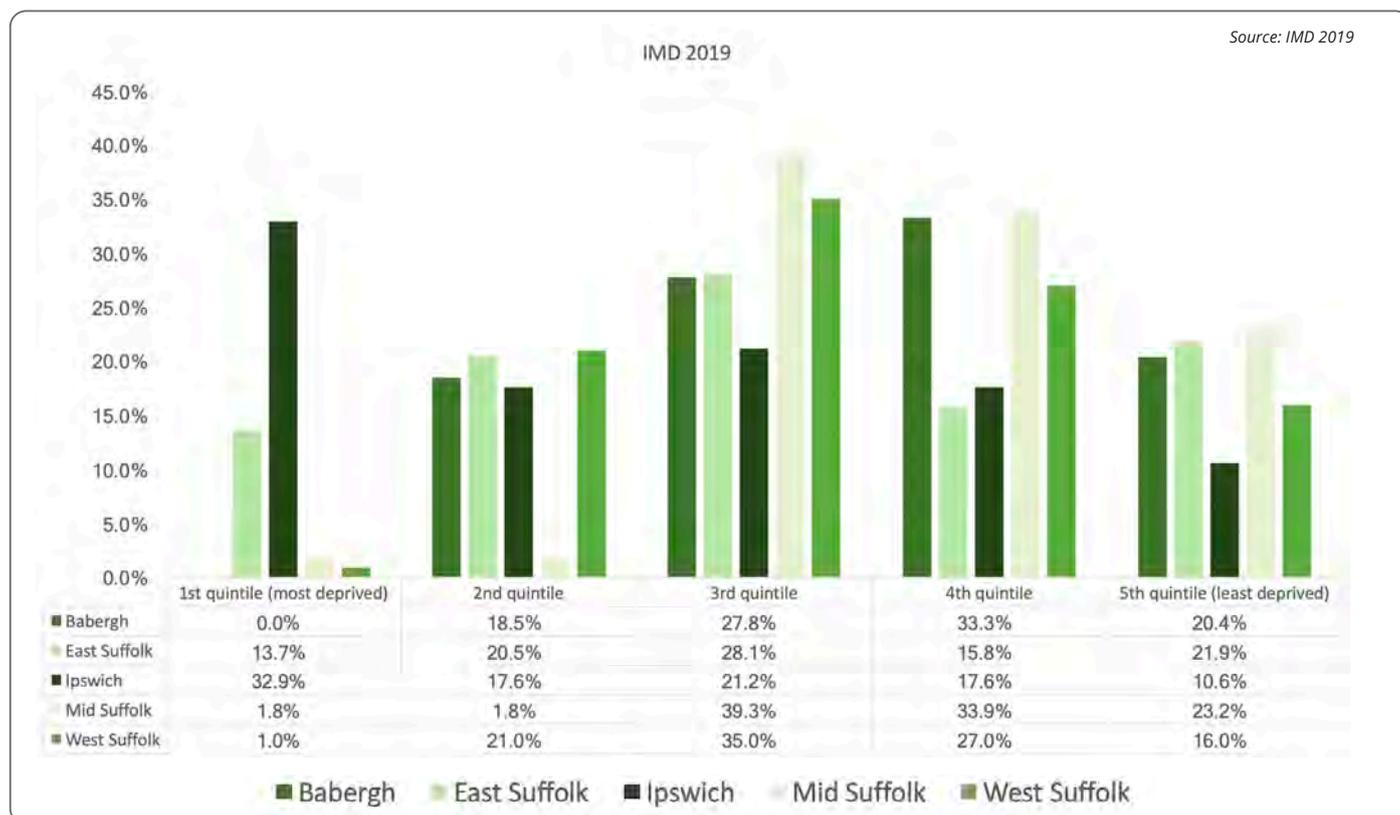
Even from a broad-brush, snapshot perspective, differences in deprivation in Suffolk are apparent. Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods are concentrated in Ipswich. Ipswich has a much higher concentration of deprived neighbourhoods (33%) than found in England generally. This is to be expected insofar as, across England, deprivation is concentrated in cities and large towns. East Suffolk also

has a higher proportion of more deprived neighbourhoods than other districts – but it also includes a concentration of the least deprived neighbourhoods. Babergh, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk all comprise a smaller proportion of most deprived neighbourhoods and more of the least deprived neighbourhoods.

**Quintile distribution (Overall IMD) in Ipswich area (left) and North-East area (right)**



## Distribution of Suffolk districts by Overall IMD quintiles



Although Suffolk is not one of the most deprived local authorities, it nevertheless includes 50 neighbourhoods (just

over 11% of all of the county's neighbourhoods) which fall among the most deprived 20% in England.

## The dynamics of deprivation in Suffolk

When we move beyond a broad-brush, snapshot of Suffolk - and start developing a detailed, long-term perspective - a more dynamic and complex picture emerges. Levels of relative deprivation in Suffolk are not static and have been

changing. **Indeed, reviewing all waves of the IMD since 2007 shows that, over time, the county has experienced increasing deprivation**, relative to the rest of England. In 2007, Suffolk was ranked the 115<sup>th</sup> most deprived upper-tier local authority and by 2019 it was ranked 99<sup>th</sup> most deprived.

### Rank of average score for Suffolk across IMD waves

Overall IMD rank: Suffolk changes 2007-2019				
	2007	2010	2015	2019
	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank
Suffolk	115	114	101	99
	out of	out of	out of	out of
Number of local authorities in England	149	149	152	151

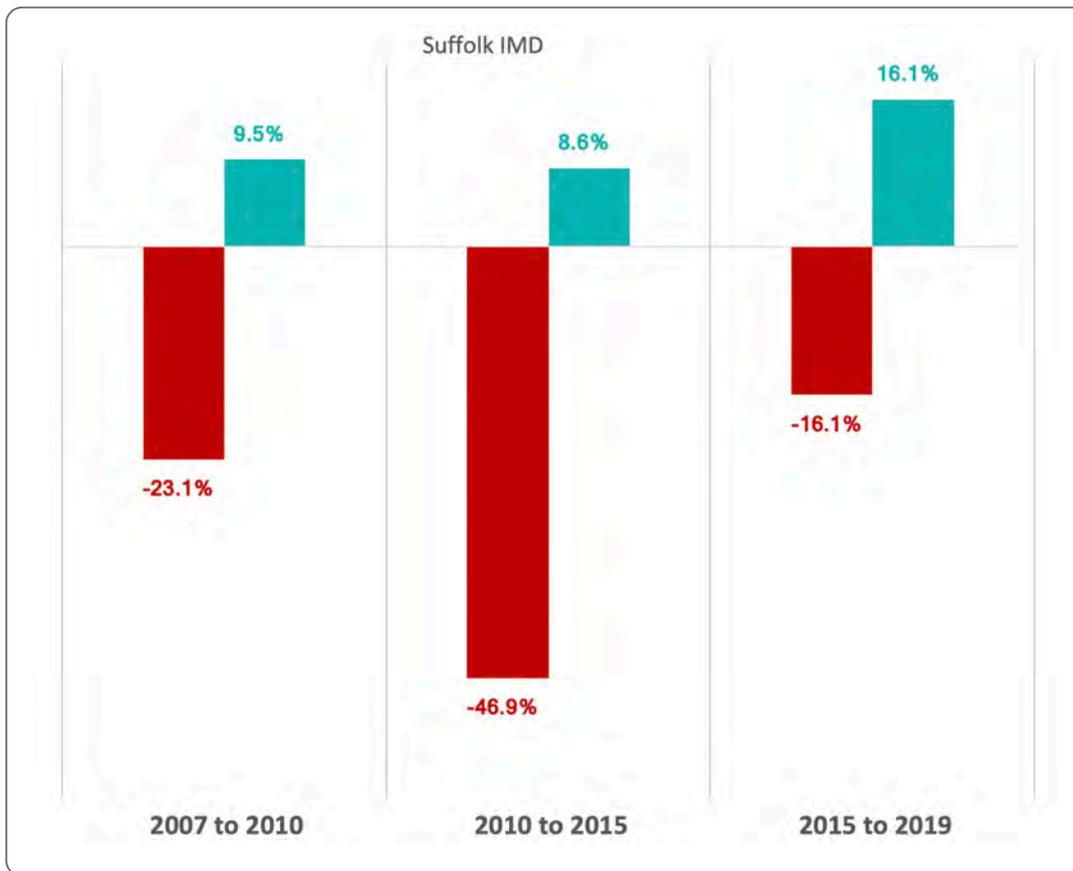
Note: a lower rank indicates a more relatively deprived local authority

In 2007, Suffolk was ranked the 115<sup>th</sup> most deprived upper-tier local authority, **by 2019 it was ranked the 99<sup>th</sup> most deprived.**

*The dynamics of deprivation in Suffolk can be described in three steps.*

- 1** Between 2007 and 2010, there was some decline in Suffolk: about 23% of Suffolk's neighbourhoods declined in rank by at least one decile, while only about 10% improved in rank; thus, a net of 13% more neighbourhoods became significantly more deprived, by at least a decile, than those which had become less deprived.
- 2** Between 2010 and 2015 the dynamic was more dramatic: almost half (47%) of Suffolk's neighbourhoods declined in ranking by at least a decile, while only about 9% improved in ranking. Thus, a net of 38% more neighbourhoods declined than improved. The methodology for the IMD means that there is a lag between the date of the data used in the IMD and the publication of the Index. The 2010 IMD mainly used data for 2008; the 2015 mainly used data for 2013. This means that changes between the 2010 and 2015 IMD reflect the period of the UK's last recession – the 2008/2009 'Great Recession' – and its aftermath.
- 3** Between 2015 and 2019 change was less pronounced: the proportion of neighbourhoods showing decline was the same as the proportion showing marked improvement, about 16%. More subtle changes have meant Suffolk still saw a drop in average ranking compared with other local authorities between 2015 and 2019 – but the decline is not nearly as marked as in previous waves of the IMD. Insofar as there is not marked deterioration, there is also no marked recovery from the decline in the earlier waves of the IMD.

*Percentage of Suffolk's neighbourhoods that changed ranking position by at least a decile between two IMD waves (Overall IMD)*

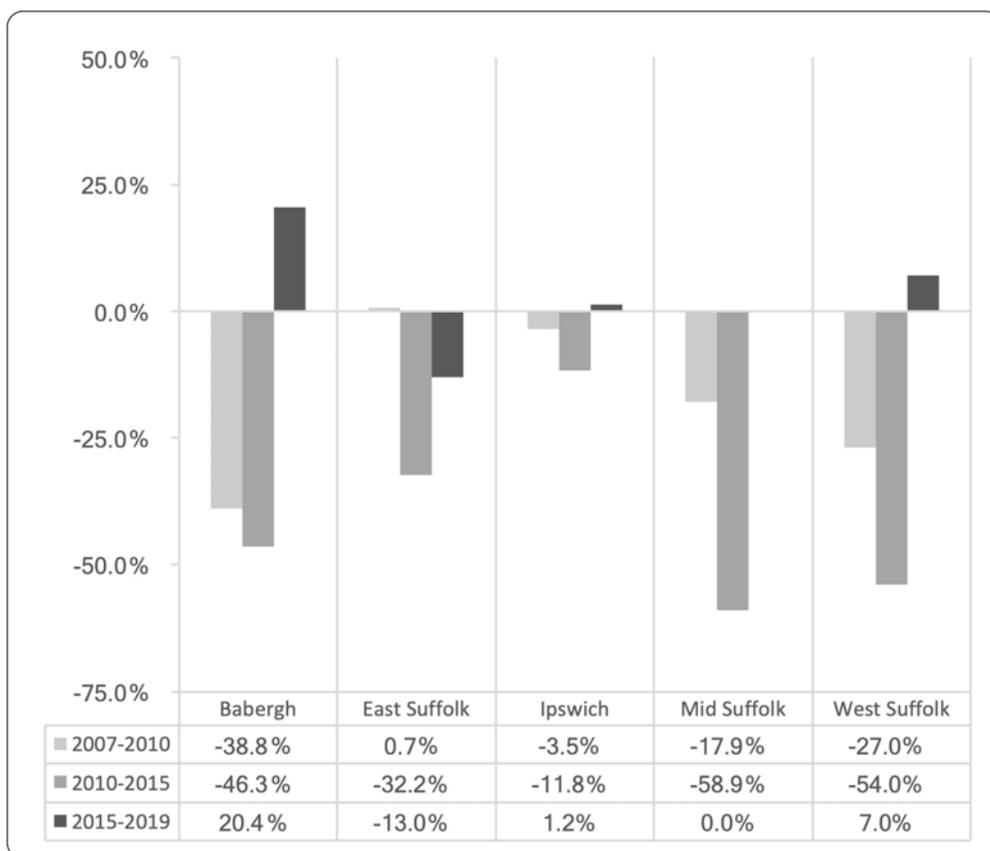


All districts within Suffolk have experienced more decline than improvement since the 2007 IMD. And all experienced sharpest decline between the 2010 and 2015 IMDs. However, there is some variation. For example, those districts with the least deprivation in 2007 – Babergh, Mid Suffolk and

West Suffolk – have seen the steepest net declines (although they still have less deprivation than Ipswich and East Suffolk in 2019). Ipswich has had least overall net change. In East Suffolk there has been net decline at both the 2015 and 2019 IMDs.

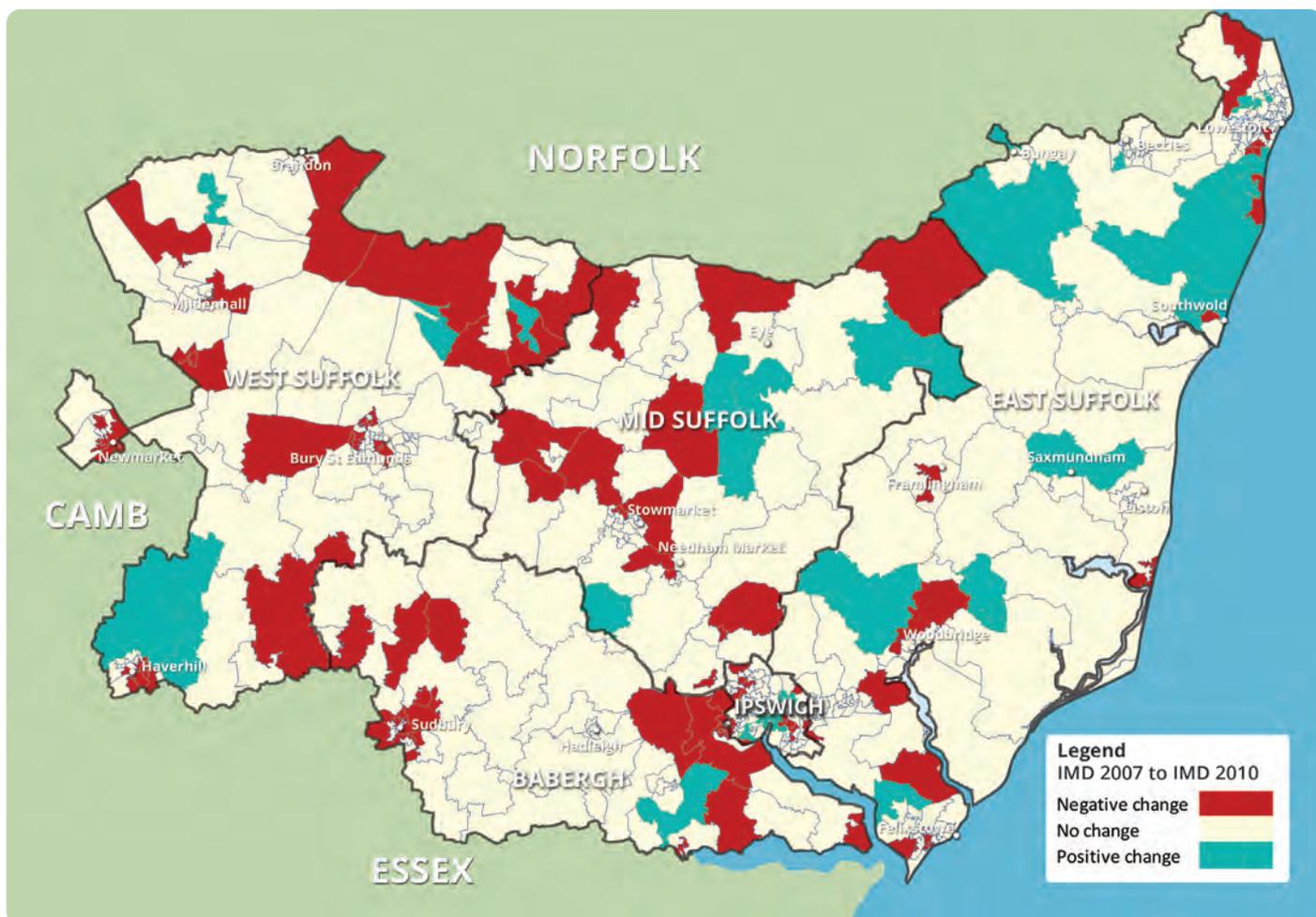


**Net change in percentage of neighbourhoods changing ranking by at least a decile between IMD waves (Overall IMD)**

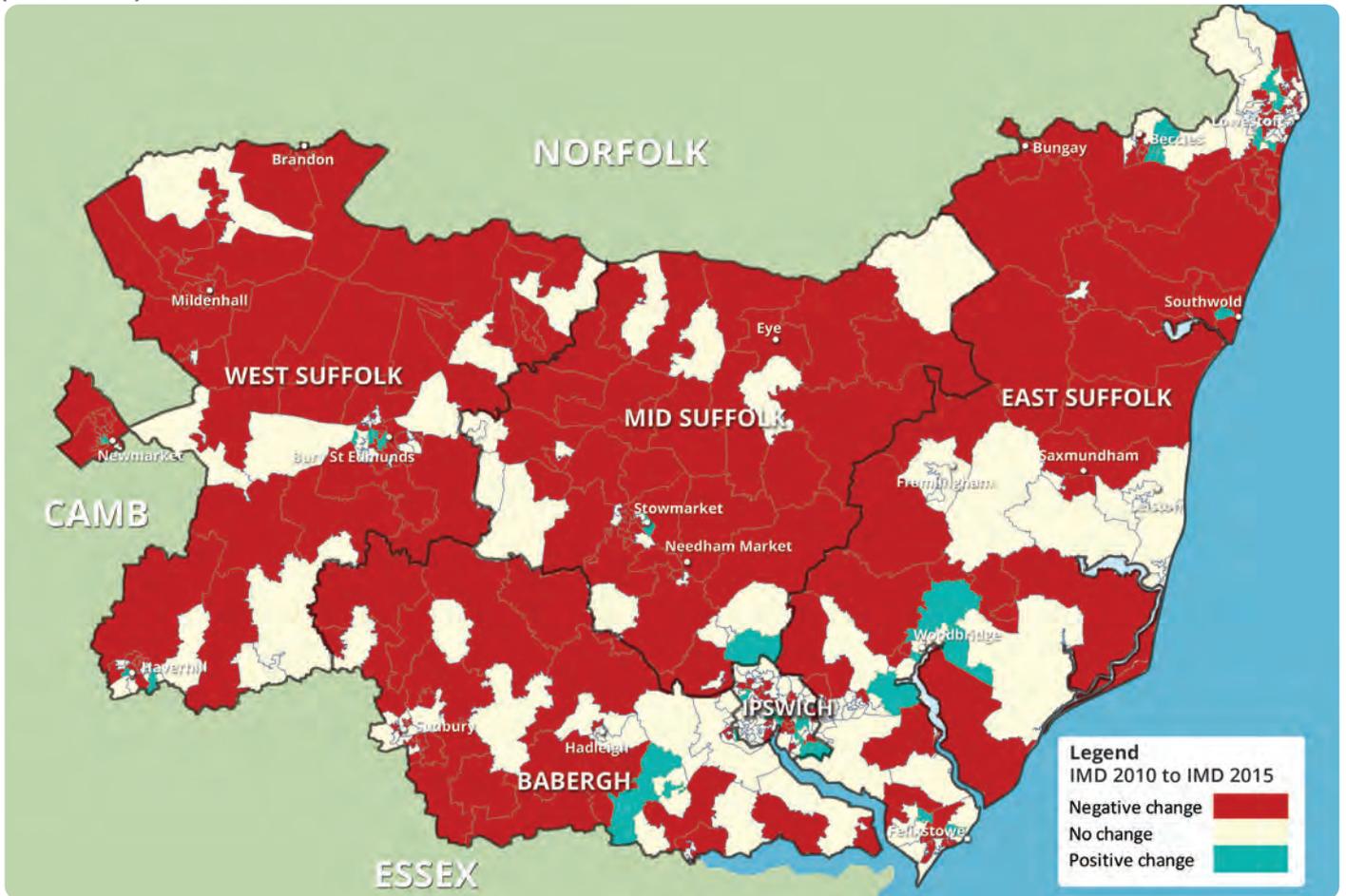


'Net change' = percentage point difference between % of neighbourhoods falling in rank and % of neighbourhoods climbing in rank, by at least one decile. In this table, -% indicates increasing deprivation; +% indicates decreasing deprivation.

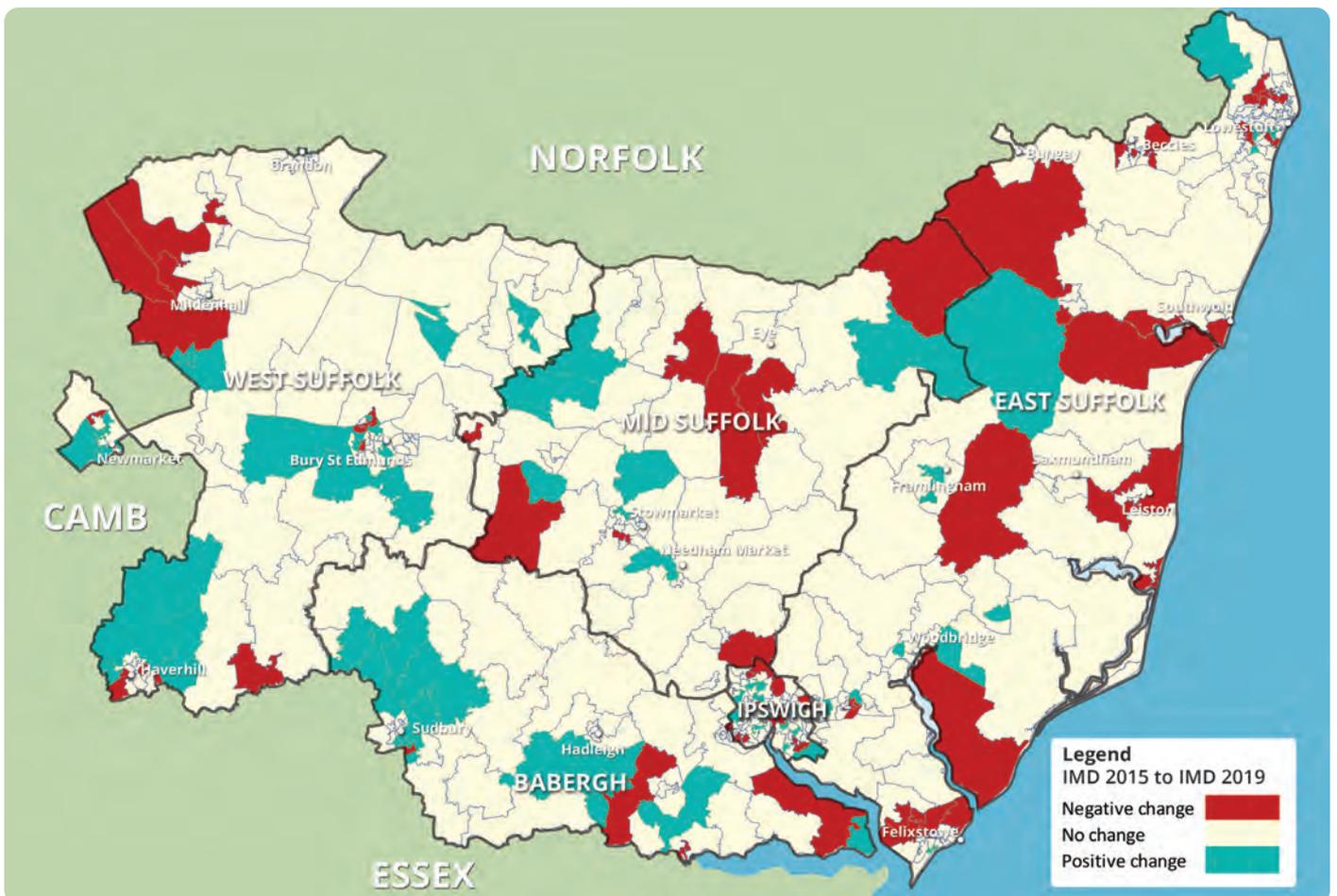
**Geographical distribution of neighbourhoods that experienced a change in ranking by at least a decile between IMD waves (Overall IMD). IMD 2007 TO 2010**



*Geographical distribution of neighbourhoods that experienced a change in ranking by at least a decile between IMD waves (Overall IMD). IMD 2010 TO 2015*



*Geographical distribution of neighbourhoods that experienced a change in ranking by at least a decile between IMD waves (Overall IMD). IMD 2015 TO 2020*



**Increasing deprivation in Suffolk can be seen as the result of two dynamics. First, there has been increasing and persistent deprivation in Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods. Second, Suffolk's relatively advantaged neighbourhoods are becoming less advantaged.** That is, that in neighbourhoods where a smaller proportion of households experienced deprivation, a larger proportion have begun to experience deprivation

## Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods

The proportion of Suffolk neighbourhoods which fall among England's 10% most deprived has been increasing. Between the 2007 and 2019 IMDs, the number of people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods has increased from 25,200 to 33,900.

### Overall IMD rank: change in proportion of most deprived neighbourhoods

	2007	2010	2015	2019
Most deprived England decile	3.6%	3.6%	4.8%	5.0%

Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods are all in Ipswich and East Suffolk. The proportion of Ipswich neighbourhoods among England's most deprived 10% has not changed much since 2007. In East Suffolk, the proportion of most

deprived neighbourhoods doubled between the 2010 and 2015 IMDs. In East Suffolk, these neighbourhoods tend to be concentrated in the area formerly known as Waveney.

### Overall IMD rank: district-level changes in proportion of most deprived neighbourhoods

	Most deprived England decile			
	2007	2010	2015	2019
Babergh	0%	0%	0%	0%
East Suffolk	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Ipswich	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Mid Suffolk	0%	0%	0%	0%
West Suffolk	0%	0%	0%	0%

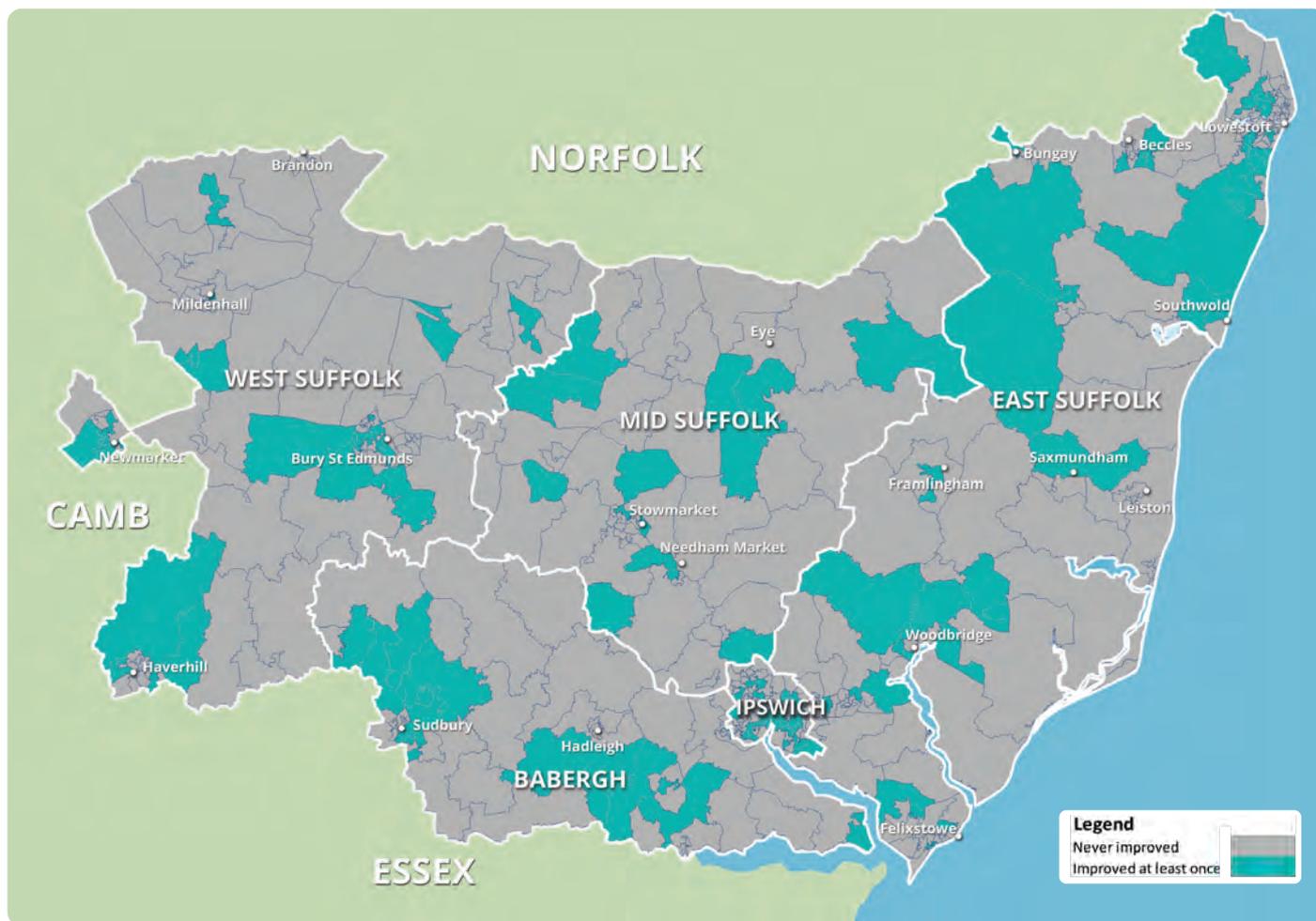
**A key finding from our longitudinal analysis is that deprivation in Suffolk seems to be particularly persistent. Of all Suffolk's neighbourhoods, only about 31% have improved significantly in ranking (by at least a decile) since 2007 – whereas in England, 47% improved in ranking during that period. Moreover, of Suffolk neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% in 2007, only a quarter improved in ranking (by a decile or more) at any point between 2007 and 2019. This means that three-quarters of Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods**

**have seen no significant improvement since 2007, relative to the rest of England.** Nationally, the trend is that the most deprived neighbourhoods see less movement than middle-ranking neighbourhoods. However, deprivation elsewhere in the country is somewhat less persistent than in Suffolk. In the most deprived 10% in all of England in 2007, nearly a third experienced some significant improvement between 2007 and 2019 – a greater proportion than is the case in Suffolk.

### Overall IMD rank: change in neighbourhoods ranked in most deprived 10% in 2007

Change between 2007 and 2019	Suffolk	England
Moved out of being in most deprived 10% (at least once)	25%	31%
Never moved out of out of being in most deprived 10%	75%	69%

Of all Suffolk's neighbourhoods, only about 31% have improved significantly in ranking (by at least a decile) since 2007 – whereas in England, 47% improved in ranking during that period.



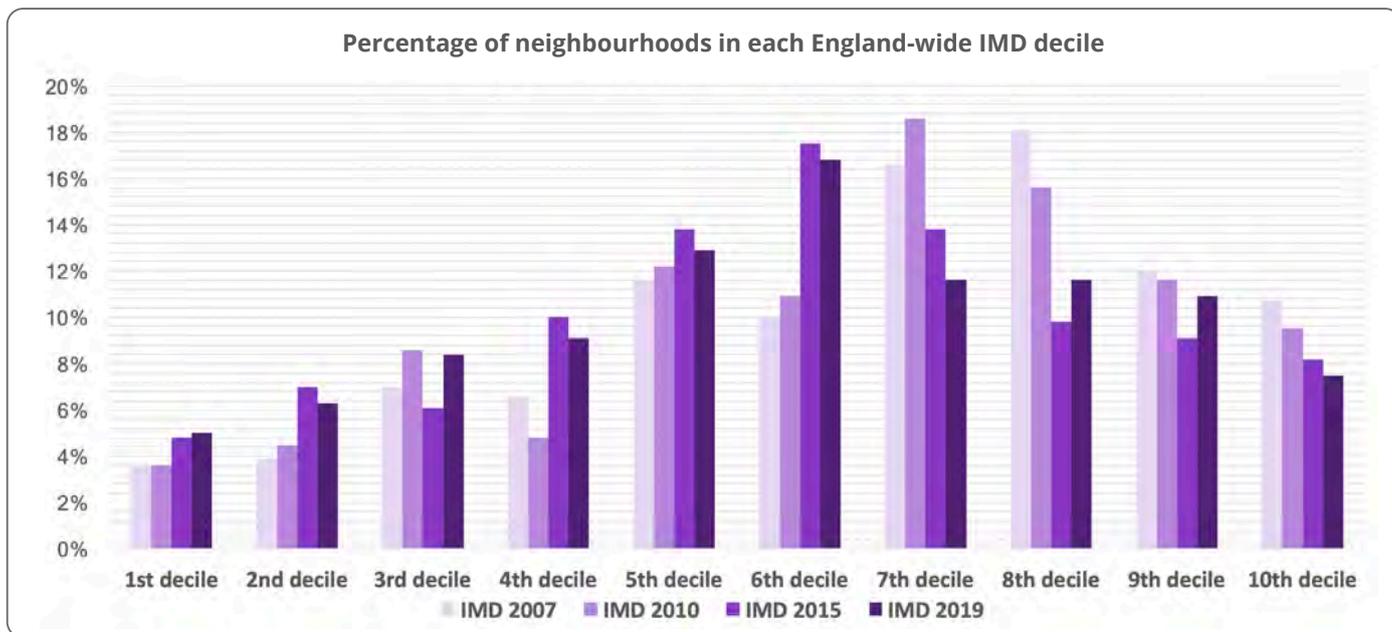
## Decline in the middle ground

While an increase in the most deprived neighbours tells part of the story of deprivation in Suffolk, most change has happened in less deprived neighbourhoods. *This does not tend to mean that advantaged neighbourhoods have become deprived. It is more likely to mean that advantaged neighbourhoods are becoming relatively less advantaged.* This is important to consider for a couple of reasons. First, less advantaged neighbourhoods are likely to be less resilient. They are more likely to include households which are vulnerable to challenging economic or social conditions.

Second, our analysis shows a consistent pattern of decline since the 2007 IMD, suggesting that this decline has become - or risks becoming - the 'direction of travel' for Suffolk.

The first graph on the next page shows the distribution of Suffolk neighbourhoods by decile, where 1 is the most deprived 10% in England, and 10 is the least deprived 10%. In each wave of the IMD the proportion of more deprived neighbourhoods has increased up to and including the 6<sup>th</sup> decile. The proportion of the least deprived neighbourhoods - those in the 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> deciles - has decreased over time.

**Change in distribution of Suffolk neighbourhood deprivation ranking by deciles (Overall IMD)**



In 2007 there was a concentration of Suffolk neighbourhoods around the 8th decile, but by 2019 this concentration had slipped down to the 6th decile (Figure 20).

**Percentage of Suffolk neighbourhoods in each national decile: IMD 2007 versus IMD 2019 (Overall IMD)**



## Urban and rural neighbourhoods

Another important aspect of deprivation in Suffolk relates to changes in urban and rural neighbourhoods. Rural neighbourhoods make up 37% of all neighbourhoods in Suffolk. In the national context, this is a large proportion:

in England overall, only 17% of neighbourhoods are rural. At the same time, across England generally, deprivation tends to be concentrated in urban rather than rural neighbourhoods. This means that what happens in rural neighbourhoods in Suffolk has a big impact on overall deprivation ranks in the county.

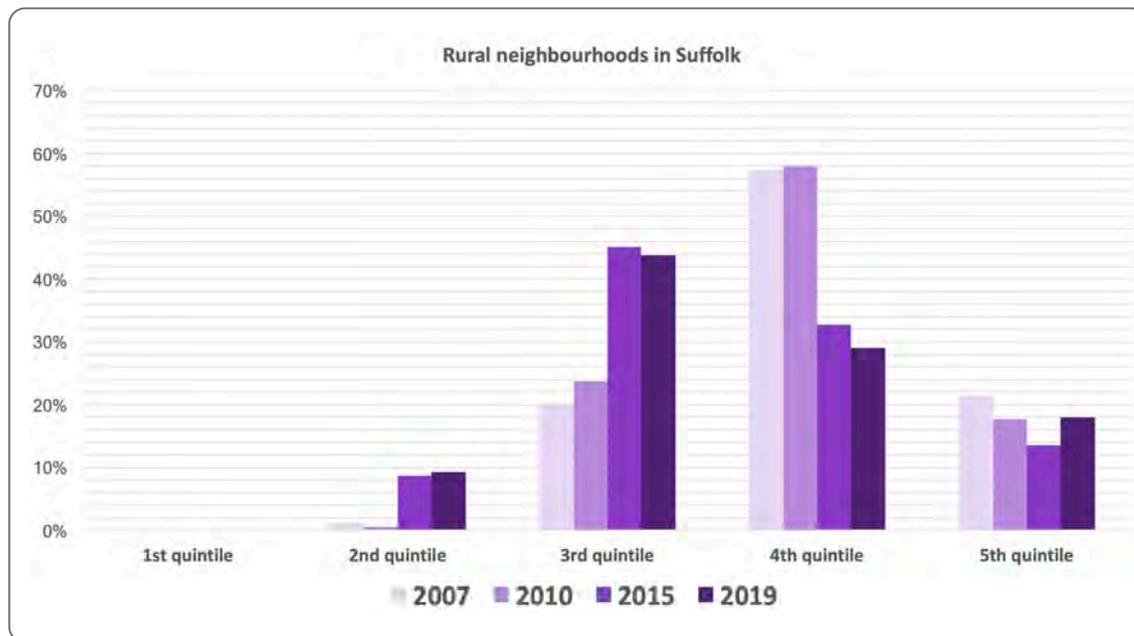
### % of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's more deprived 50% % of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's less deprived 50%

	Rural neighbourhoods		Urban neighbourhoods	
	More deprived 50%	Less deprived 50%	More deprived 50%	Less deprived 50%
2007	12%	88%	44%	55%
2010	11%	89%	47%	54%
2015	27%	74%	51%	50%
2019	27%	74%	51%	50%

Like England generally, deprivation in Suffolk is concentrated in urban areas. Since the 2007 IMD, no rural neighbourhoods in Suffolk have been ranked among England's 20% most deprived neighbourhoods (on the overall deprivation measure). Indeed, most rural

neighbourhoods in the county fall among the least deprived 50% of English neighbourhoods. Although this proportion has decreased over time, the 2019 IMD still reports three quarters of Suffolk's rural neighbourhoods as being in the 'top half' of the distribution.

### Distribution of Suffolk's rural neighbourhoods by national IMD quintiles (Overall IMD)

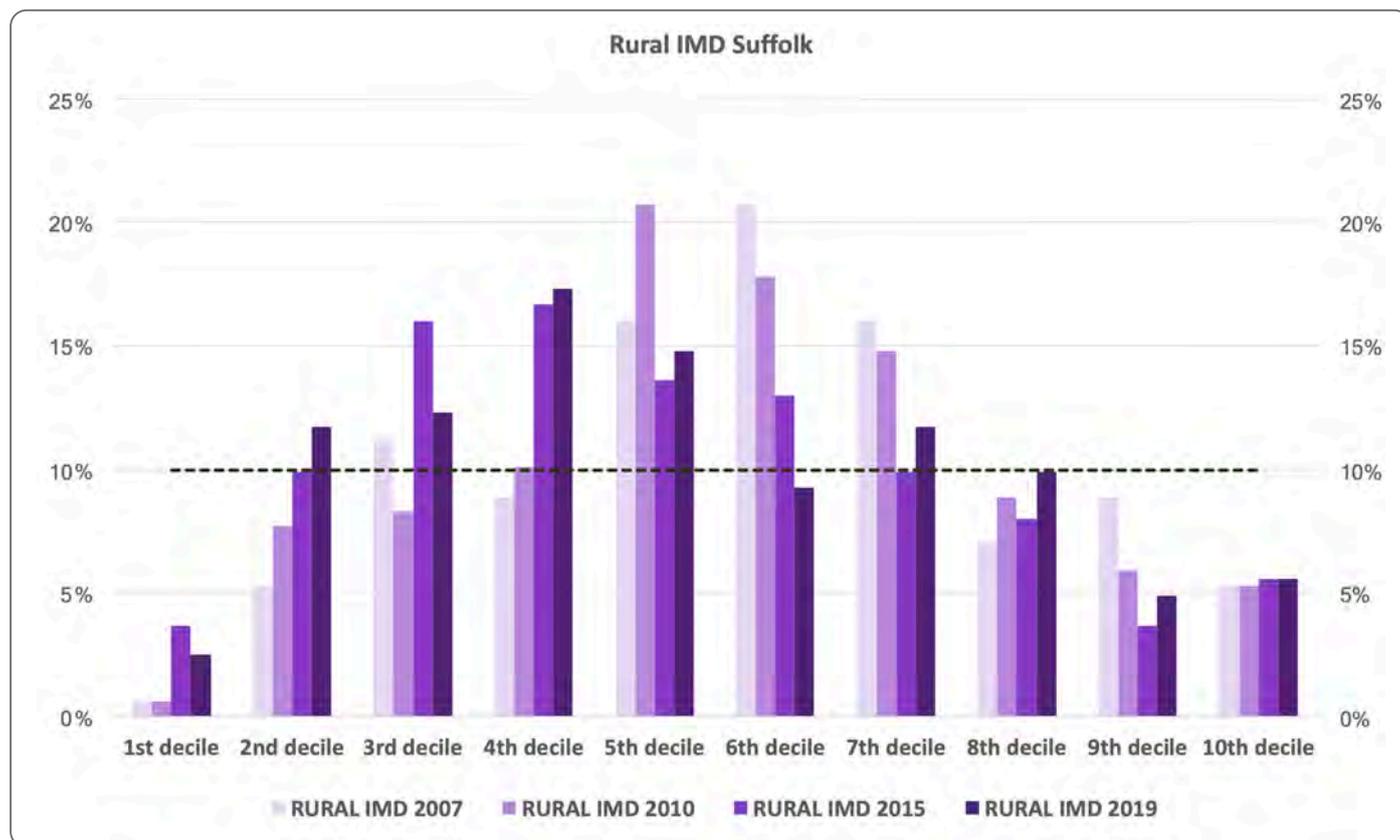


This is not to say that there is no deprivation in rural Suffolk. Because the IMD is based on place-level statistics, it can obscure levels of deprivation among individual households in rural areas. In effect, disadvantaged households are hidden in rural neighbourhoods in which households are, on average, relatively advantaged. **In the 2019 IMD, of the 75,000 people in Suffolk in income deprivation, 54,000 (72%) lived in urban areas but 21,000 (28%) lived in rural areas.**

How do rural neighbourhoods in Suffolk compare with rural neighbourhoods elsewhere in England? This can be difficult

to identify because the IMD ranks all neighbourhoods in England together, rural and urban. Given the predominance of urban neighbourhoods in England, and that fact that deprivation tends to be concentrated in urban areas, it can be hard to pick out change in rural areas. To help explore this better, our analysis has created a 'Rural IMD'. This reproduces the methodology of neighbourhood ranking across England but includes rural neighbourhoods only. We have also made the counterpart to this: an 'Urban IMD', ranking only urban neighbourhoods in England.

**Distribution of Suffolk's rural neighbourhoods using the 'Rural IMD' ranking, 2019**



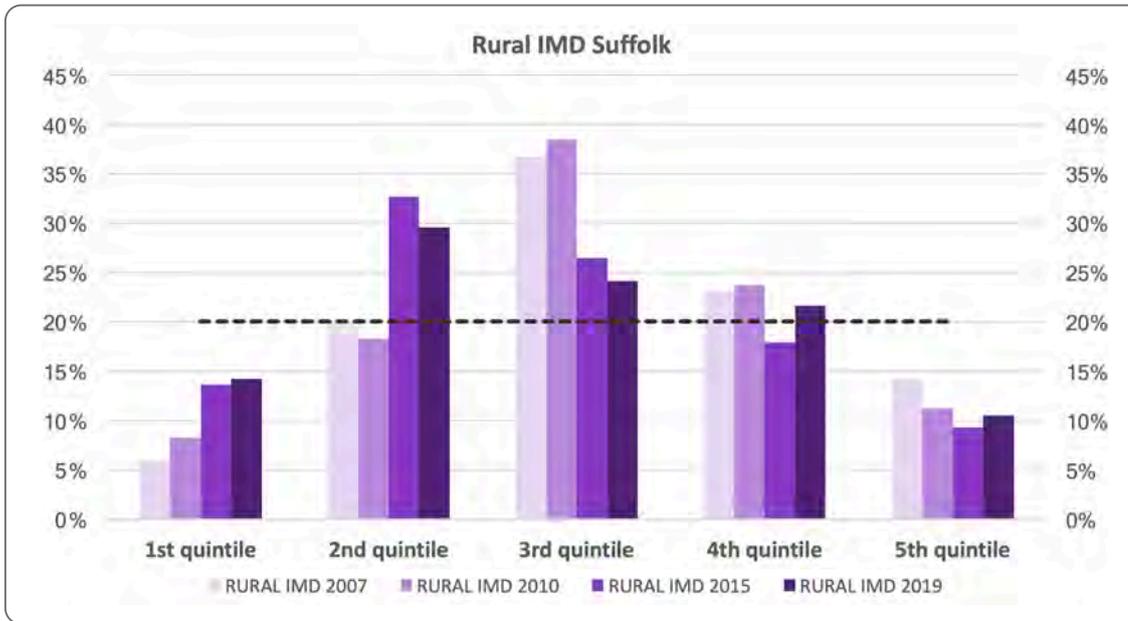
*This distribution is based on the RURAL IMD ranking, which ranks England neighbourhoods separately by urban and rural (first decile represents 10% most deprived rural neighbourhoods)*

*The dotted line represents the 10% limit within which all neighbourhoods would be distributed if the deprivation was spread randomly across England's neighbourhoods.*

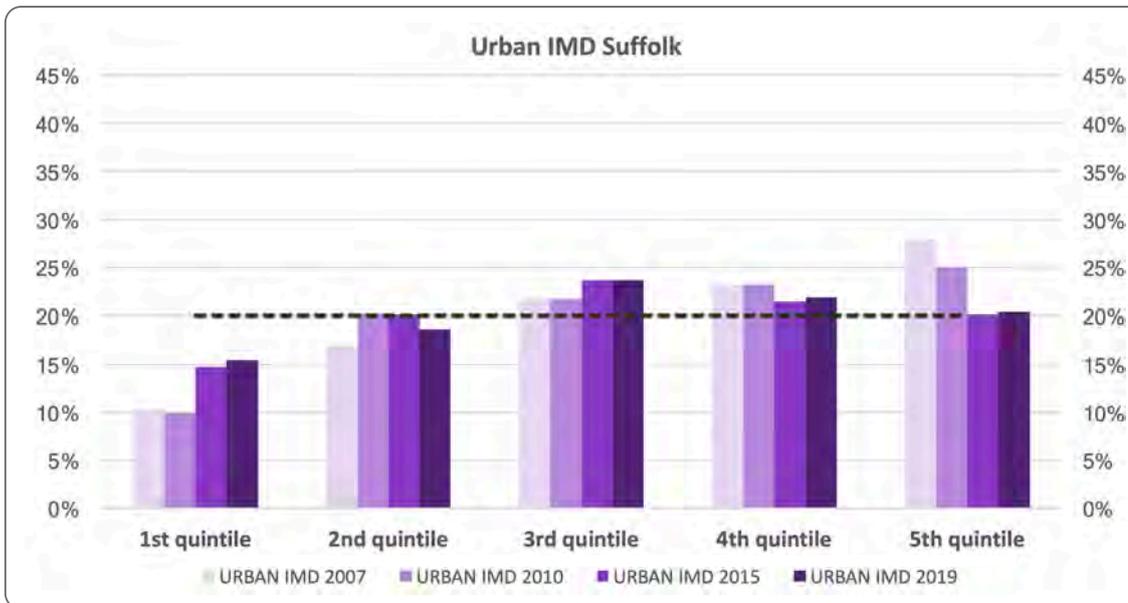
Looking at the 'Rural IMD' we can see that rural Suffolk experiences less deprivation than rural England generally. If deprivation was evenly spread in rural England, then 10% of rural neighbourhoods in Suffolk would be among the 10% most deprived in the 'Rural IMD'. Instead, only 2.5% of rural neighbourhoods in Suffolk fall into this band. At the other end of the scale, however, rural Suffolk is also under-represented among the least deprived rural neighbourhoods in England. Since the 2015 IMD, Suffolk's rural neighbourhoods have been concentrated in the 'lower-middle' (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> deciles) of the Rural IMD. This means that while rural Suffolk is more advantaged compared with urban Suffolk, it is not particularly advantaged compared with rural neighbourhoods in England generally.

We can gain further understanding of the dynamics of deprivation in Suffolk by comparing the 'Rural IMD' and 'Urban IMD'. **The distribution of deprivation ranking in urban Suffolk is reasonably similar to the distribution in urban England.** Under-representation in the most deprived quintile and over-representation in the least deprived quintile might reflect the fact that Suffolk does not have the type of urban concentration found elsewhere in England, such as London or Birmingham. **By contrast, the distribution of deprivation ranking in rural Suffolk is different from the distribution in the rest of rural England:** Suffolk is under-represented at both the most deprived and least deprived ends of the distribution and over-represented in the middle ground.

*Distribution of urban neighbourhoods in Suffolk by national 'Urban IMD' ranking*



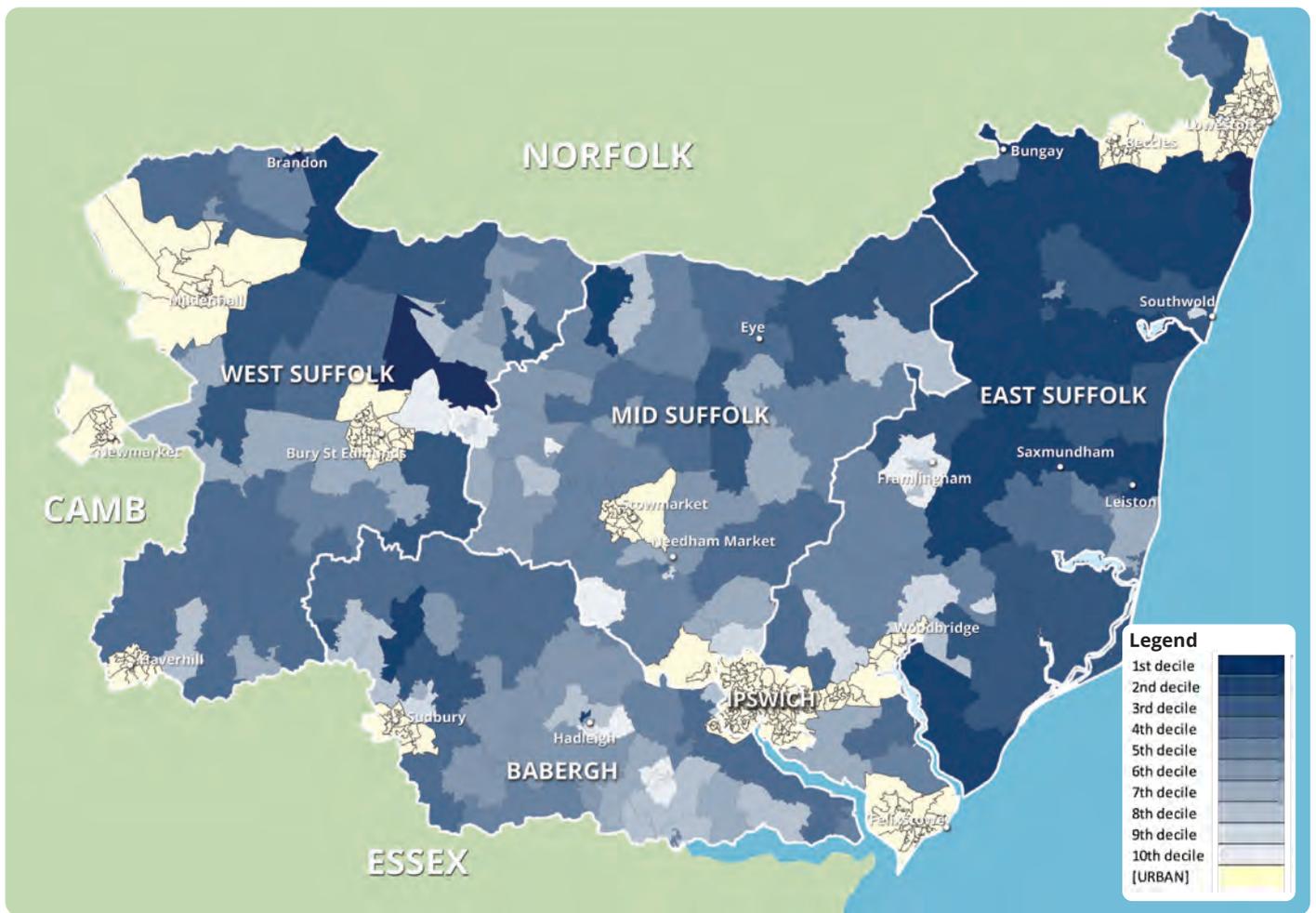
*Distribution of urban neighbourhoods in Suffolk by national 'Urban IMD' ranking*



These graphs also tell us something about different stories of change in rural and urban Suffolk respectively. Both rural and urban neighbourhoods in Suffolk experienced increasing relative deprivation, particularly between the 2010 and 2015 IMDs (the period of the Great Recession). For urban neighbourhoods in Suffolk there was a sharp increase in the proportion of them found in the most deprived quintile, and similarly a decrease in neighbourhoods in the most advantaged quintile. There is much less change in the middle of distribution in the 'Urban IMD'. Rural

Suffolk, however, saw more widespread change across the distribution. In this sense, change during this period can be understood to have had a more focused impact in urban Suffolk – on the very most and least deprived neighbourhoods – and a more widespread impact in rural Suffolk on a broad range of neighbourhoods. **This might also suggest that 'decline in the middle ground' of Suffolk has had more to do with changes in rural Suffolk than change in urban Suffolk.**

Distribution of Suffolk's rural neighbourhoods by 'Rural IMD' deciles



# DRIVERS OF DEPRIVATION IN SUFFOLK

## Aspects Of Deprivation In Suffolk

Looking at the overall IMD measure, we can see that Suffolk is not as deprived as many other places in England. There are however pockets of persistent deprivation and, over time, the county is becoming less advantaged. This section looks at the factors influencing deprivation in Suffolk over time. What is it that drives deprivation in Suffolk? Addressing this involves examining the different types of deprivation – the various ‘domains’ – on which the overall measure of deprivation is calculated.



### IMD DOMAINS AND SUB-DOMAINS

- **Income**
- **Employment**
- **Health and Disability;**
- **Education, Skills and Training**
  - children and young people’s education
  - adult skills
- **Crime**
- **Barriers to Housing and Services, including:**
  - geographical barriers
  - wider barriers to housing
- **Living Environment, including:**
  - housing quality
  - outside environment

The drivers of deprivation in Suffolk can be identified by addressing two questions:

- Which aspects of deprivation have always been more concentrated in Suffolk since 2007?
- Which aspects of deprivation have been increasing since 2007?

We also need to examine which neighbourhoods are affected by which types of deprivation. Some types of deprivation are not widespread in Suffolk but are concentrated in the neighbourhoods that are most deprived overall. Other types of deprivation have seen a sharp increase over time, but this happened in otherwise advantaged neighbourhoods – and, as such, these changes cannot be said to have resulted in deprivation.

### Which aspects of deprivation have always been more concentrated in Suffolk?

In order to consider what overall deprivation means in the context of Suffolk we can look at which aspects of deprivation are most concentrated. One way of doing this is to identify the specific types of deprivation which have been – consistently since 2007 - more concentrated in Suffolk compared with the distribution of IMD’s overall deprivation ranking. For example, in 2007, 3.6% of neighbourhoods in Suffolk were among the 10% most deprived in England in terms of overall deprivation. But more neighbourhoods – 6.6% - were among the 10% most deprived in terms of

education deprivation. Education deprivation has been more concentrated than overall deprivation in each wave of the IMD between 2007 and 2019. That said, there was a marked improvement in Suffolk’s ranking between 2015 and 2019 – a fall from 18.4% to 14.5% of neighbourhoods ranked in England’s most educationally deprived neighbourhoods. While this is a distinctly positive development, it remains the case that education is one of the areas that has had a relatively bigger impact on overall deprivation in Suffolk than some other aspects.

**Most concentrated aspects of deprivation: percentage of Suffolk neighbourhoods ranked among England's most deprived 10% by overall deprivation and selected domains and subdomains**

	2007	2010	2015	2019
Overall IMD	3.6	3.6	4.8	5.0
Children's education subdomain	6.6	8.8	18.4	14.5
Geographical barriers subdomain	26.3	24.9	26.5	25.6
Indoors (housing quality) subdomain	9.3	9.5	15.9	16.1

**Our analysis identified three aspects of deprivation which have been constantly more concentrated in Suffolk. Along with children's education, these include geographical barriers to services and housing quality.**

Not only are these aspects of deprivation more concentrated than other forms of deprivation in Suffolk, but also Suffolk is over-represented among England's most deprived 10% in these three aspects. This has been the case for barriers to services since 2007, and education and housing quality since 2015.

The counterpart here is to note which types of deprivation have been consistently less concentrated in Suffolk compared with the distribution of the IMD's overall

deprivation ranking. These factors have had a bigger impact than others on maintaining Suffolk's relatively good overall IMD ranking. Compared with England generally, Suffolk has had disproportionately low rates of deprivation relating to health, crime, barriers to housing and outdoors environment. The proportion of older people in income deprivation has reduced over time. This does not mean that no older people in the county experience poverty. **Indeed, in the 2019 IMD, just over 22,000 older people in Suffolk were in income deprivation. However, a relatively smaller proportion are income deprived compared with England generally.**

**Least concentrated aspects of deprivation: percentage of Suffolk neighbourhoods ranked among England's most deprived 10% by overall deprivation and selected domains and subdomains**

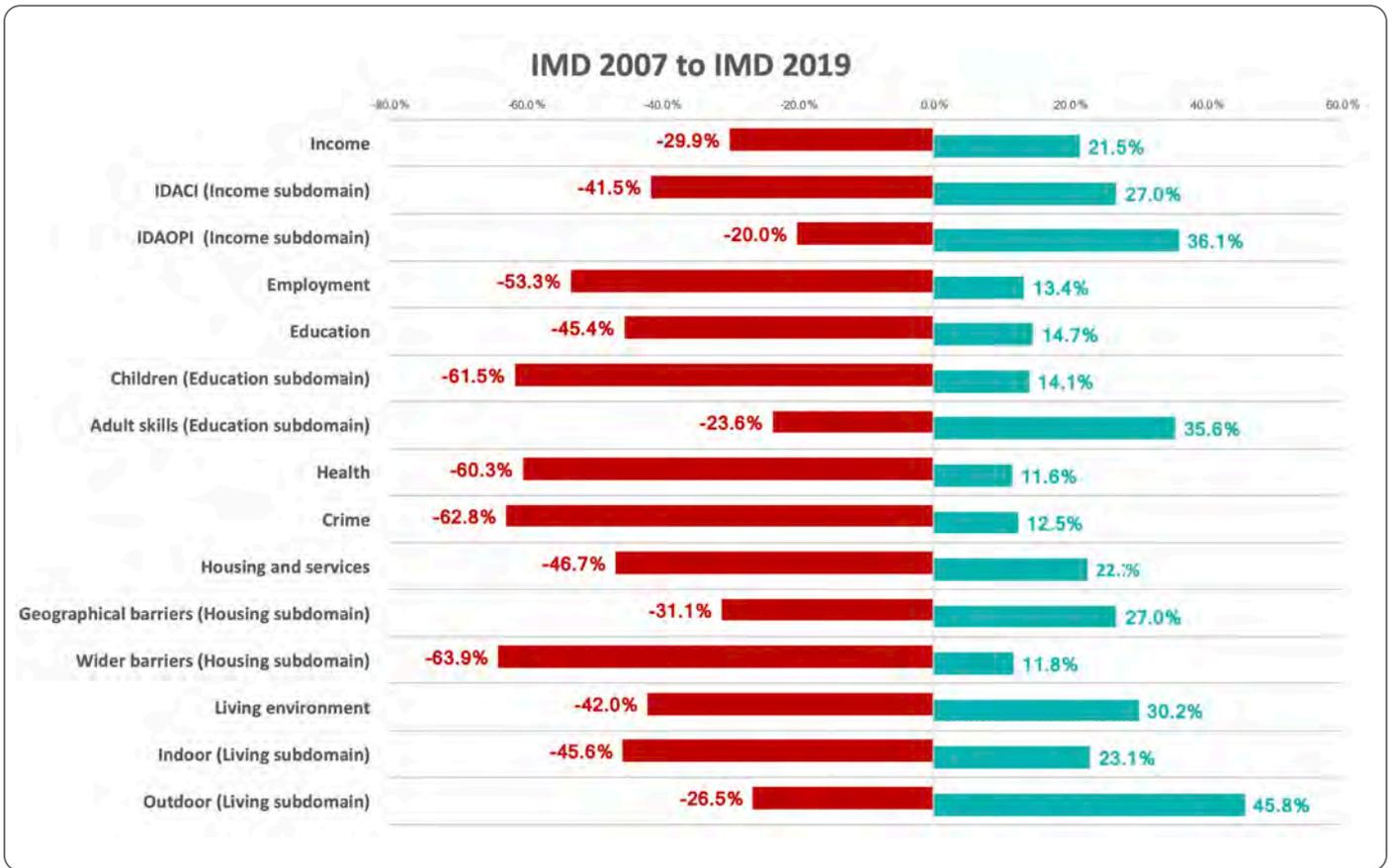
	2007	2010	2015	2019
Overall IMD	3.6	3.6	4.8	5.0
Income deprivation affecting older people	2.5	2.7	1.6	1.6
Health domain	1.8	1.4	2.7	3.2
Crime	2.3	2.9	4.3	4.8
Wider barriers to housing	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Outdoors environment	0.0	1.1	0.2	0.2

**Which aspects of deprivation have been increasing since 2007?**

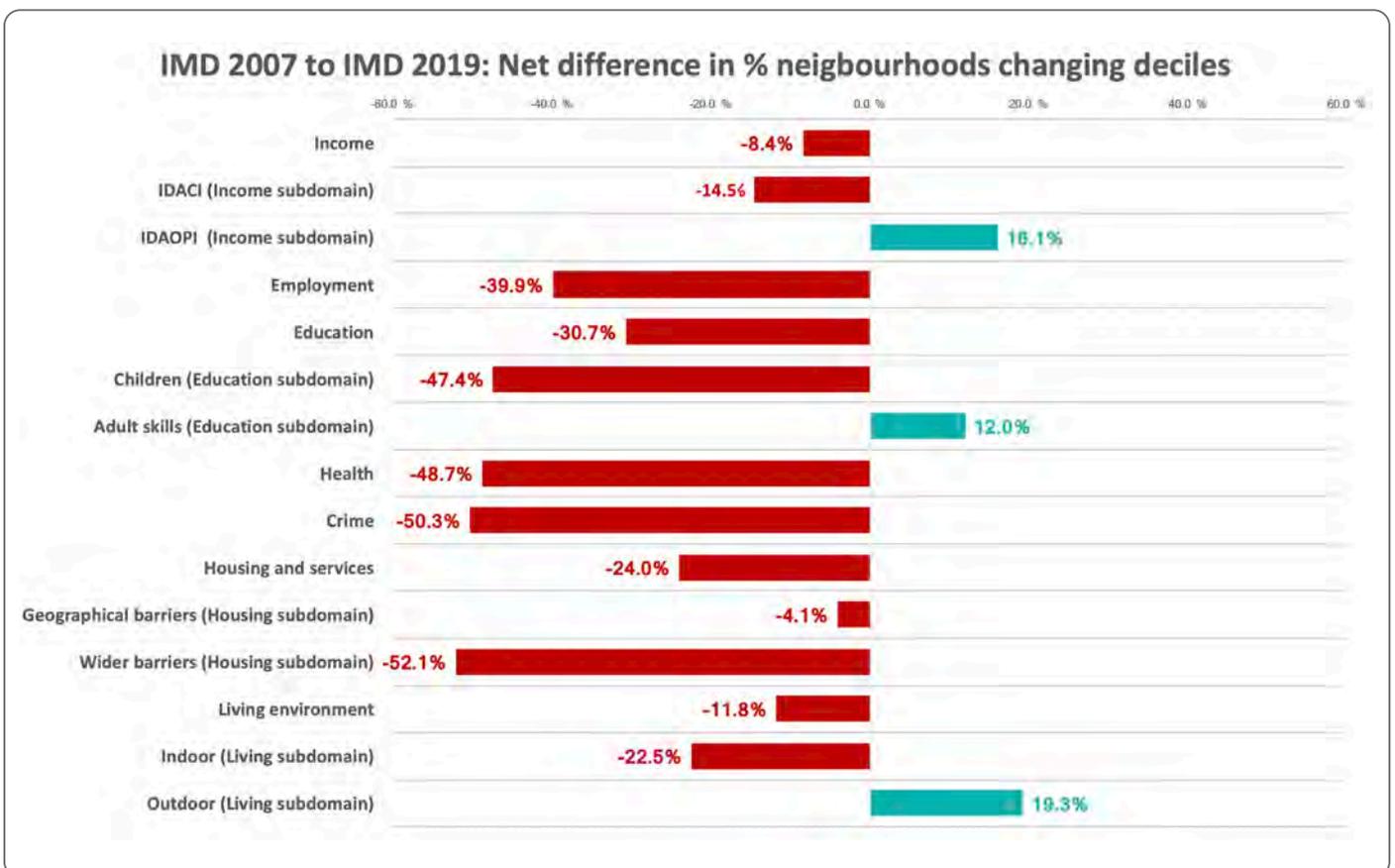
To understand why overall deprivation has been changing in Suffolk we can look at which domains of deprivation have changed the most. We can do this by comparing the proportions of neighbourhoods which have either improved or declined in ranking (by at least a decile) for each domain.

As well as showing where the most dynamic movement has been, this also allows us to see the 'net change' - the difference between the proportions of neighbourhoods improving or declining.

Percentage of neighbourhoods that changed ranking by at least a decile in the Overall IMD and its domains and subdomains, between IMD 2007 and IMD 2019



Net difference between the proportion of neighbourhoods that improved in rank by a decile and dropped in rank by at least a decile, between IMD 2007 and IMD 2019



Between 2007 and 2019, Suffolk has had some net improvement across IMD waves – for example, in relation to income deprivation affecting older people, and for the outdoor environment (encompassing air quality and road safety). **Although health, crime and barriers to housing have been consistently among the least concentrated aspects of deprivation in Suffolk, they are also aspects of deprivation which have seen the sharpest increases.**

**Other aspects showing sharp increases in deprivation include employment, education, housing quality and income.**

The largest net changes happened between 2010-2015. Suffolk’s neighbourhood ranking for education saw some recovery between 2015—2019. For most other domains, however, there has been a net increase in deprivation between each wave of the IMD since 2007.

*Net differences between the proportion of neighbourhoods that dropped and improved in ranking by at least a decile between successive IMD waves*

IMD domains: net change in neighbourhood ranking			
	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2019
	(% point difference)		
<b>Income</b>	-2.7	-2.7	-7.2
Affecting children	+0.7	-5.0	-8.6
Affecting older people	+7.3	+7.3	+8.1
<b>Employment</b>	-19.8	-22.0	-7.2
<b>Education</b>	-0.9	-40.8	+17.4
Children and young people’s education	-4.1	-61.9	+21.8
Adult skills	0.0	+12	0.0
<b>Health</b>	-2.2	-34.7	-14.1
<b>Crime</b>	-22.6	-23.6	-7.5
<b>Barriers to housing and services</b>	-6.8	-8.4	-14.1
Geographical barriers	-0.5	-6.1	-2.7
Wider barriers to housing	-23.8	-22.9	-31.1
<b>Living environment</b>	-25.6	-5.7	+12.5
Housing quality subdomain	0.0	-29.0	+6.8
Outside environment subdomain	-39.7	+49.0	+12.9

‘Net change’ = percentage point difference between % of neighbourhoods falling in rank and % of neighbourhoods climbing in rank, by at least one decile. In this table, -% indicates increasing deprivation; +% indicates decreasing deprivation.

Different types of deprivation have a greater impact on different neighbourhoods. Suffolk, as a whole, does not rank poorly for income, employment and health. However, where these aspects of deprivation do occur, they are concentrated in Suffolk’s most deprived neighbourhoods. In contrast, deprivation related to education, crime and housing quality affect both the most deprived and the middle ground. In

other words, some aspects of deprivation are focused on the most deprived neighbourhoods in the county; other aspects have a more general impact and, to varying degrees, serve to erode resilience, increase the risks facing vulnerable households in otherwise advantaged neighbourhoods, and ‘drag down’ Suffolk’s overall IMD ranking.

# INCOME, EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH

Relative deprivation relating to income, employment and health are not pervasive in Suffolk generally. However, where they are found in Suffolk, they are concentrated in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the county.



## Income and employment

Income related deprivation is measured in the IMD in terms of the proportion of people living in households dependent on out of work benefits, pension credit or those receiving in-work tax credits and whose household income is below 60% of the national average income. The IMD's 'Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index' is based on the proportion of children (aged 0-15) living in such

households. Employment related deprivation is measured in terms of out-of-work benefits, disability benefits and carer's allowance.

Although a smaller proportion of Suffolk neighbourhoods experience income and employment deprivation than average for England, this proportion of Suffolk neighbourhoods among England's most deprived has grown over time. In the case of income deprivation, this is particularly true for households with children.

Proportion of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for income and employment

	2007	2010	2015	2019
Income	2.7%	2.9%	3.4%	3.4%
Income deprivation affecting children	1.1%	2.0%	4.3%	5.0%
Employment	4.1%	3.9%	4.5%	5.2%

The picture is not without its complexity. The proportion of people experiencing income and employment deprivation in Suffolk actually declined between 2015 and 2019. However, faster improvement across England generally means that the county has performed less well than elsewhere on these measures.

The number of neighbourhoods experiencing income and employment deprivation is relatively small, but they are concentrated among those neighbourhoods experiencing greatest overall deprivation. For example, in 2019, 14 out

of the 15 neighbourhoods in the 10% most deprived for income were also in the 10% most overall deprived group. There is a clear association between income, employment and overall deprivation in each wave of the IMD. To a large extent this is to be expected; the IMD overall measure gives more weight to income and employment than other types of deprivation. It nevertheless highlights that although income and employment are not problematic for Suffolk generally, they are at the root of the most severe deprivation in the county.

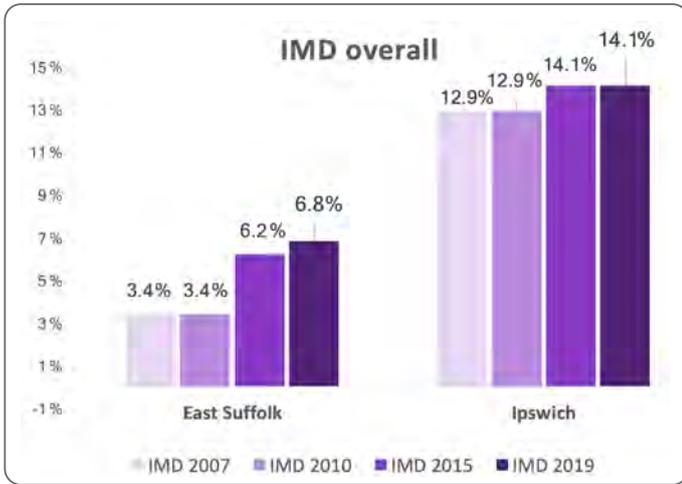
Distribution of income and employment deprivation in Suffolk (2019)

Number of neighbourhoods in most deprived 10% for...	Overall deprivation rank						Total
	Deciles: 1 = 10% most deprived 10 = 10% least deprived						
	1	2	3	4	5 to 10		
Income	15	14	1	0	0	0	15
Income deprivation affecting children	22	13	7	1	1	0	22
Employment	23	20	3	0	0	0	23

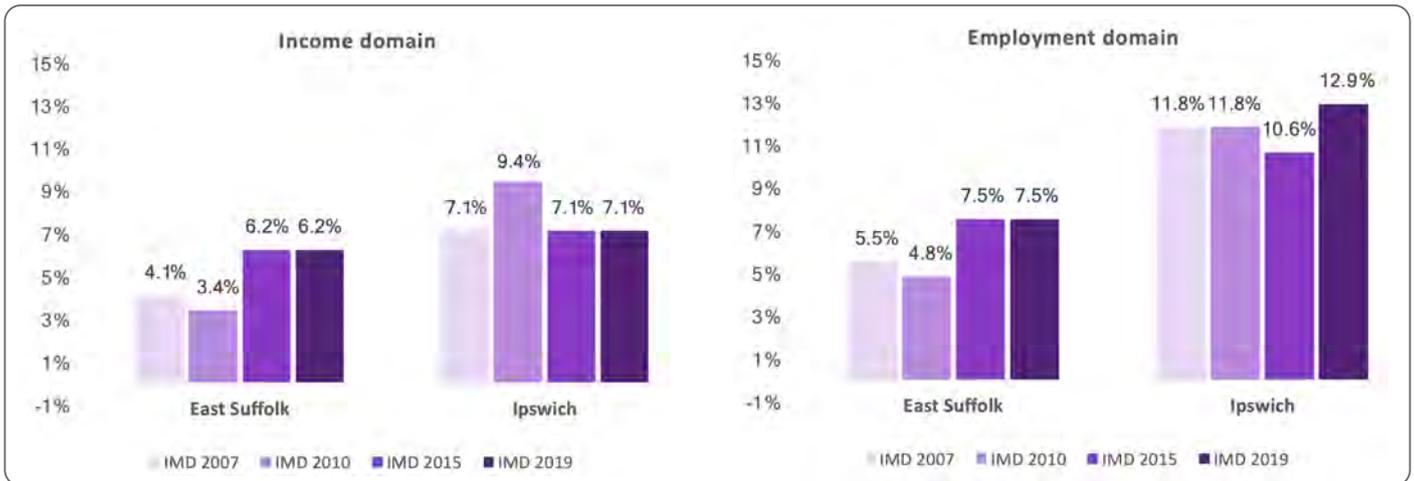
As the most deprived neighbourhoods are found in Ipswich and East Suffolk, this is also where income and employment deprivation occur. In both districts, the similarities between the proportion of overall deprivation and proportion of income and employment deprivation are striking. In Ipswich,

deprivation on all three measures has been constant and persistent. In East Suffolk, deprivation on all three measures increased sharply between 2010 and 2015, the period of the Great Recession.

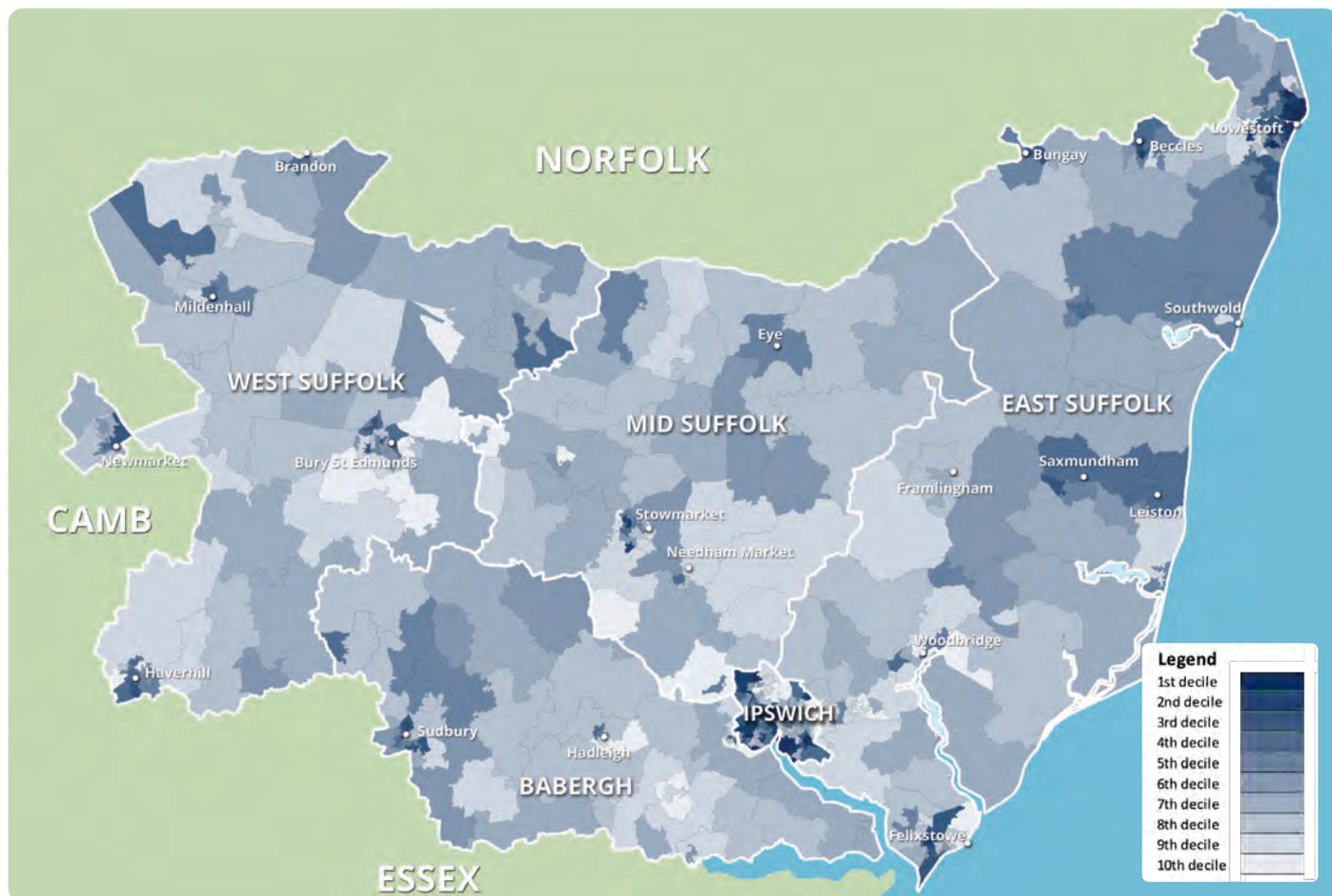
*Percentage of East Suffolk and Ipswich neighbourhoods in the most deprived Overall IMD decile*



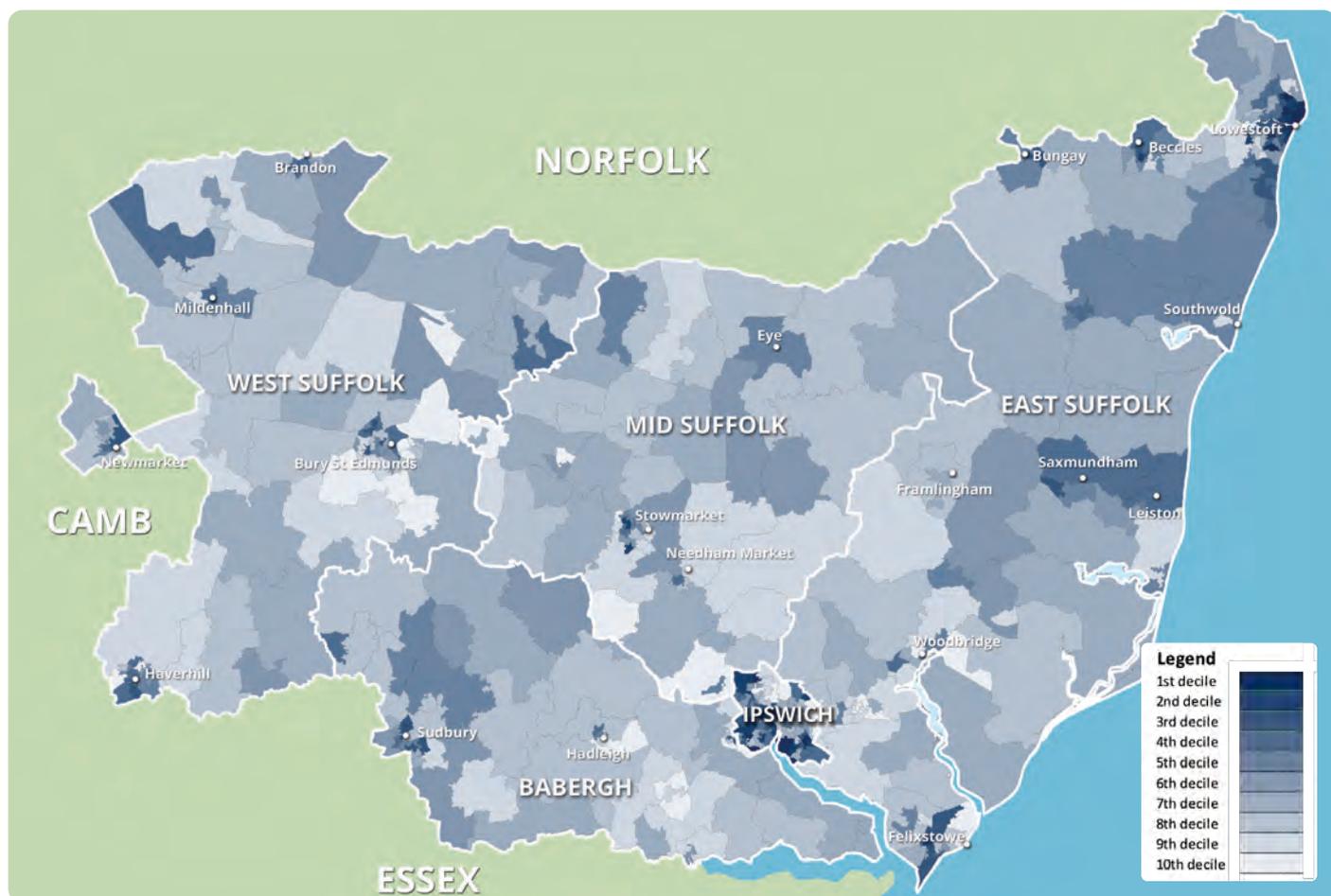
*Percentage of East Suffolk and Ipswich neighbourhoods in the most deprived deciles for Income and Employment deprivation*



*Geographical distribution of Income deprivation deciles, 2019*



*Geographical distribution of Employment deprivation deciles, for IMD 2019*



What does this level of deprivation look like in more concrete terms? **In 2019, for example, in Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods, 25% of people on average lived in households experiencing employment deprivation, and 31% experienced income deprivation.**

Income deprivation affecting children follows a similar pattern. It is concentrated in the most overall deprived neighbourhoods in Ipswich and East Suffolk. On average in 2019, 36% of children in the most deprived neighbourhoods lived in income deprivation. In 2019, income deprivation affecting children was reported as being a slightly more widespread issue for the county. For the first time, both Babergh and Mid Suffolk each had one neighbourhood in the most deprived 10% on this measure. **Across Suffolk,**

**over 18,000 children experienced income deprivation – around 13% of all children in the county.**

These figures chime with – although perhaps underestimate – the Government's other assessments of child poverty in the county. The Government's main poverty indicator (the Households Below Average Income survey) estimated 22,900 children living in relative income poverty in Suffolk in 2018/19. These statistics also show that child poverty has been increasing across the county, with the difference in poverty rates between Suffolk and Great Britain becoming smaller. The child poverty rate in Ipswich is far greater than the rate for Great Britain. Within East Suffolk, the child poverty rate in Waveney in 2018/19 was 21% - again, markedly higher than the national rate.

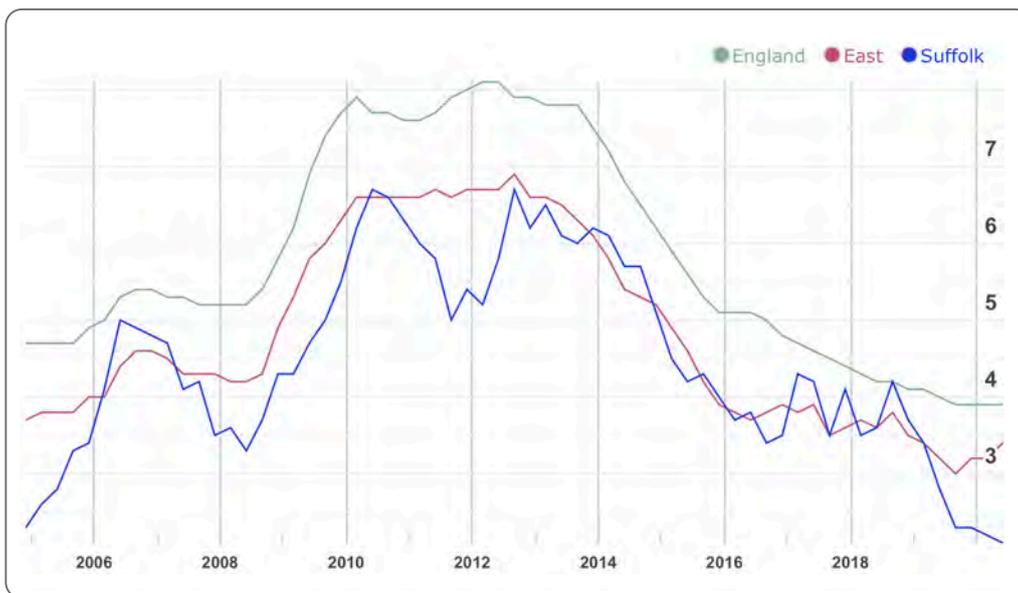
Percentage of children (aged 0-15) living in Relative Low Income Families					
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Babergh	12%	14%	13%	15%	15%
East Suffolk	13%	15%	15%	17%	17%
Ipswich	18%	21%	21%	26%	25%
Mid Suffolk	11%	12%	12%	13%	13%
West Suffolk	10%	11%	11%	13%	12%
Suffolk	13%	15%	15%	17%	17%
Great Britain	16%	16%	17%	18%	18%

Source: Department for Work and Pensions<sup>7</sup>

Poverty and income deprivation have a strong relationship with employment. Suffolk has consistently had a lower unemployment rate than that of England. However, in line with England, the 2008/9 Great Recession triggered a sharp increase in unemployment in the county. Between the

lowest point in unemployment in 2007/2008 (prior to the Great Recession) to the highest point following the recession in 2011/12, an additional 13,300 people in Suffolk became unemployed. Like the rest of England, it took until 2015 for unemployment rates to return to pre-recession levels.

**Unemployment rate in Suffolk and England**



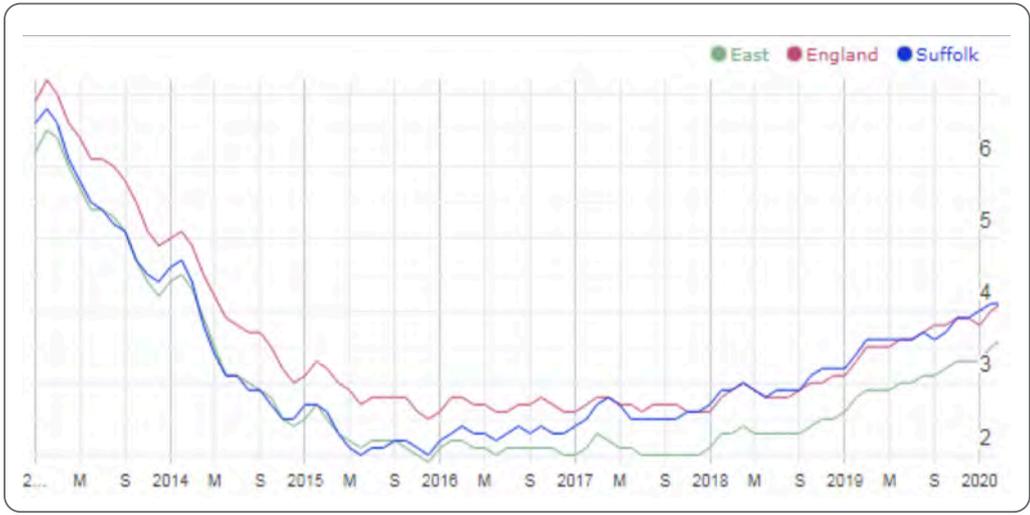
Source: Labour Market Statistics, Nomis

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-201415-to-201819/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-201415-to-201819>

Although unemployment in Suffolk is generally lower than in England, this has not been the case for young people. The graph below shows how the proportion of young people claiming benefits fell following the Great Recession. During this period, a smaller proportion of young people claimed out of

work benefits in Suffolk compared with England. In England, the claimant rate began increasing again in 2018. In Suffolk, however, the claimant rate began increasing far sooner so that by 2018 the rate of youth unemployment in the county was the same as – or even more than – that for England.

**Rate of claimants of out-of-work benefits aged 18-24 in Suffolk and England**

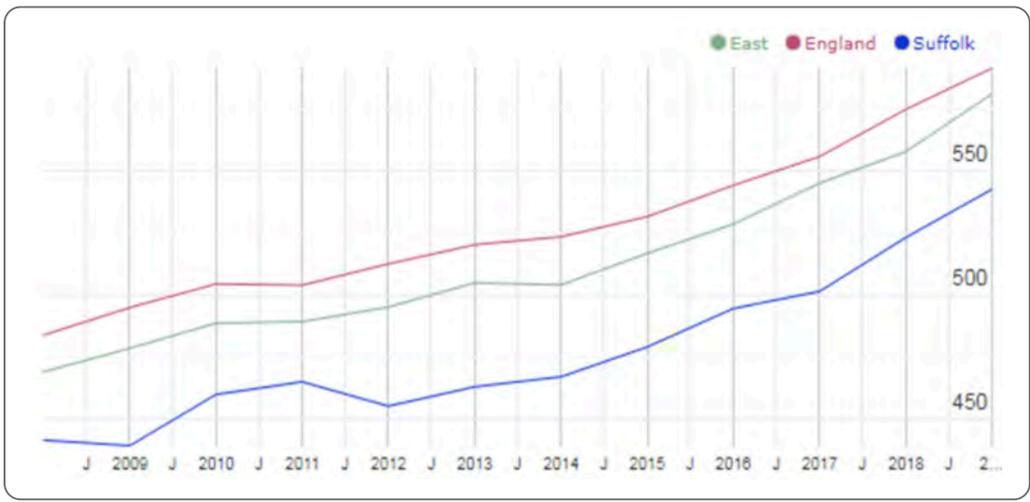


Source: Labour Market Statistics, Nomis

Along with unemployment, the other key dimension of income deprivation is in-work poverty. A long-standing characteristic of Suffolk has been low pay. **Average wages in the county have persistently fallen below those in England.** For example, gross average pay in Suffolk in 2019 was £543 a week, compared with £580 in England. Low pay is an issue across the county: in most years since 2007, average pay in most districts has been below the average for

England. Within Suffolk, average pay has been consistently lower in Ipswich, Forest Heath (now part of West Suffolk) and Waveney (now part of East Suffolk) than in other districts. **In Waveney, where the pay gap has been greatest, the average weekly wage in 2017 was £115 less than the average for Suffolk, and £151 less than the average for England<sup>8</sup>.**

**Gross weekly pay (all full-time workers) in Suffolk and England**



Source: Labour Market Statistics, Nomis

<sup>8</sup> Derived from Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/placeofresidencebylocalauthorityshetable8>



When costs of inflation are taken into account, 'real' wages have not increased much in Britain. The Great Recession

triggered a long period during which the value of wages has fallen and stagnated.

**Average wages in England, adjusted for inflation**



Source: Monthly Wages and Salaries Survey, ONS

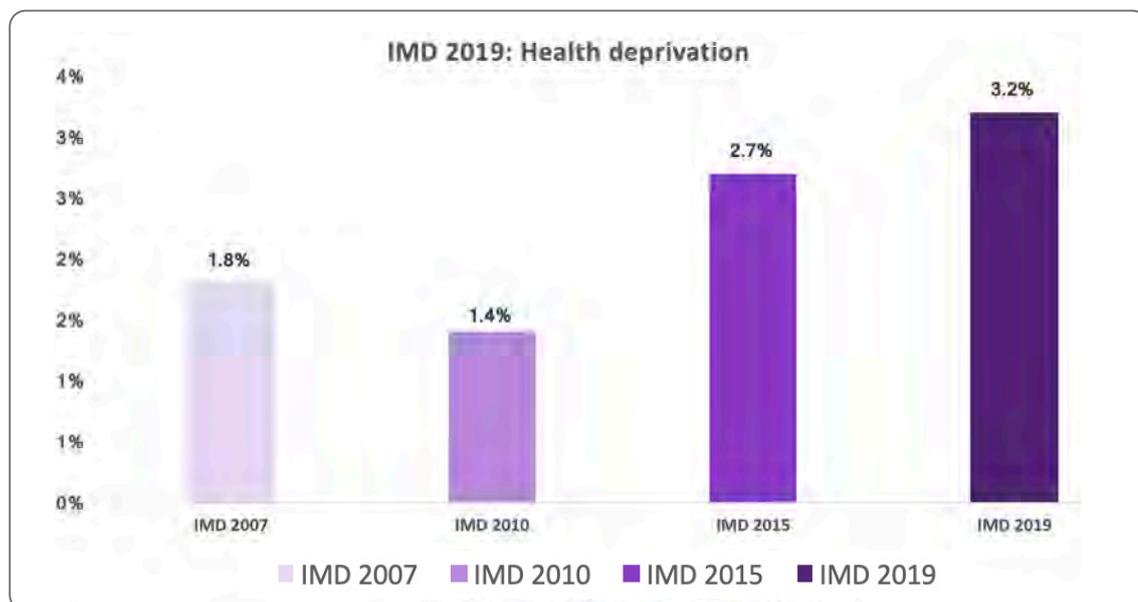
**Health**

The IMD measures health deprivation in terms of:

- differences in life span and the average number of potential years lost;
- the relative proportion of people with illness or disability (and receiving relevant welfare benefits);
- the number of emergency hospital admissions; and
- the rate of adults suffering from mood and anxiety disorders.

Compared with England generally, Suffolk has low levels of deprivation related to health and disability. Within Suffolk, it is less concentrated than other forms of deprivation. However, this is one aspect of deprivation where Suffolk has fallen sharply in the national ranking. Since 2007, there has been a gradual increase in the proportion of neighbourhoods at the more deprived end of the distribution of health ranking and a decrease in the proportion at the less deprived end. **Over this period, the proportion of Suffolk neighbourhoods among England's most deprived 10% for health and disability has increased from 1.8% to 3.2%.**

**Proportion of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for deprivation related to Health and Disability**



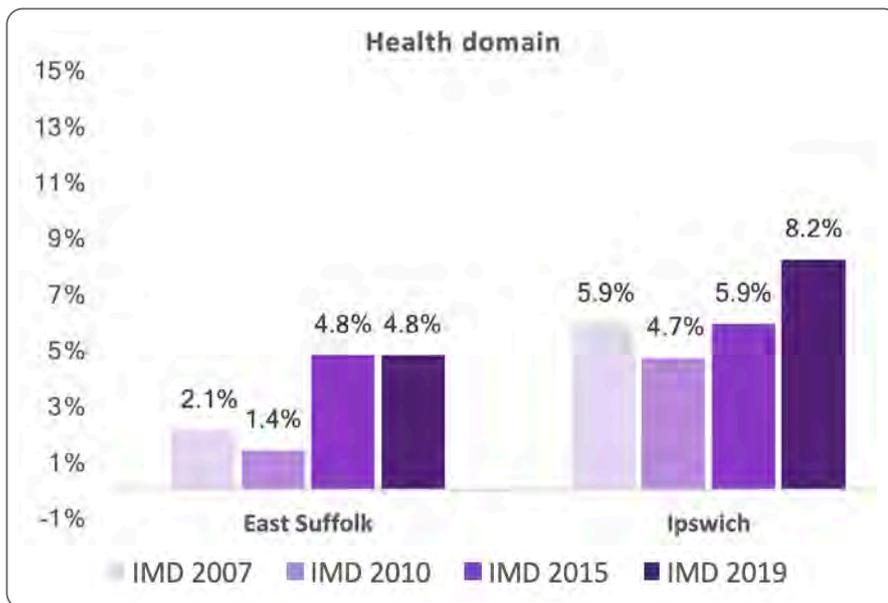
Health deprivation is concentrated in the overall most deprived neighbourhoods. Of the 14 Suffolk neighbourhoods in the most deprived group for health, 12

were also in the group with greatest overall deprivation. These neighbourhoods are all in Ipswich and East Suffolk,

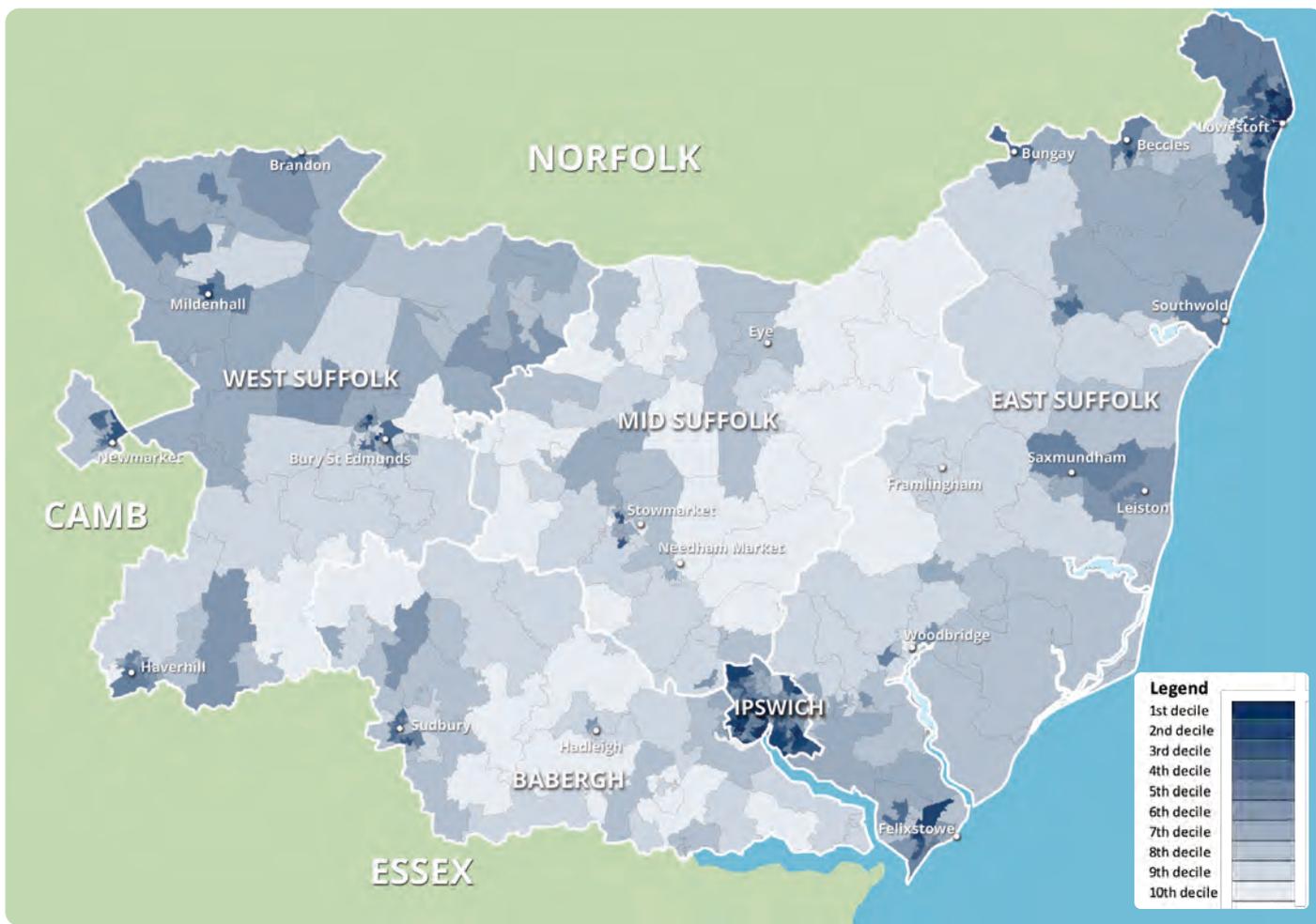
### Distribution of health deprivation in Suffolk (2019)

Number of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for health	Overall deprivation rank					
	Deciles: 1 = 10% most deprived					
	10 = 10% least deprived					
	1	2	3	4	5 to 10	Total
14	12 (86%)	2 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	14 (100%)

### Percentage of Ipswich and East Suffolk neighbourhoods in most deprived decile for deprivation relating to Health and Disability



Geographical distribution of Health deprivation deciles, for IMD 2019



The close connection between income deprivation and health deprivation is widely acknowledged. The 2010 Marmot review of health inequalities highlighted that there ‘is a social gradient in health – the lower a person’s social position, the worse his or her health’<sup>9</sup>. In response, the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care System (a partnership of all health services, social care and the voluntary sector) has set ‘reducing the health gap’ as the primary ambition of its 2019-2024 strategic plan.

The main measurement of health inequalities in the UK is the difference in life expectancy between those in the most deprived and least deprived neighbourhoods. Health inequalities in Suffolk are not as great as on average for England. Nevertheless, health inequalities still have an impact in the county: **men in the most deprived areas of Suffolk live 7 years less than those in the least deprived areas; for women, there is a 4.4 year difference**<sup>10</sup>.

Inequality in years of life expectancy at birth (2015-2017)		
	Male	Female
Babergh	6.5	3.6
Forest Heath*	4.3	0.0
Ipswich	7.1	5.7
Mid Suffolk	-	6.9
St Edmundsbury*	5.1	2.7
Suffolk Coastal**	2.9	0.1
Waveney**	7.7	5.6
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>

Source: State of Suffolk Report 2019<sup>11</sup>

\*Now West Suffolk \*\*Now East Suffolk

Note: figure for Mid Suffolk males unavailable; the number of cases is too small.

Men in the most deprived areas of Suffolk live, on average, **7 years less** than those in the least deprived areas; for women, there is a **4.4 year** difference.

Across England this inequality is more pronounced, with men in the most deprived areas living 9.4 years less than those in the least deprived, for women in England there is a 7.4 year difference between those in the most and least deprived areas.

<sup>9</sup> Marmot, M. at al., (2010), Fair Society Healthy Lives – Executive Summary, <http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

<sup>10</sup> Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board (2019) State of Suffolk Report 2019

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/state-of-suffolk-report/sos19-ill-life-expectancy#SignetBibliographie\\_002](https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/state-of-suffolk-report/sos19-ill-life-expectancy#SignetBibliographie_002)

The long-term pattern shows Suffolk having close to national average rates of people claiming Disability Living Allowance, and generally, low rates of claimants of out-of-work benefits for people in ill health and disability. Higher rates of disability and long-term illness are found in districts with greater deprivation. **This includes, for example, the number of adults who are out of the labour market because of long term ill health: between 2007 and 2019, the majority of**

**this group – varying between 58% and 76% - were in East Suffolk and Ipswich. In 2019, this equates to 6,700 adults in East Suffolk and 5,700 in Ipswich<sup>12</sup>.**

Again, in terms of common mental health problems and more severe illnesses (preventing people from working and needing to claim Employment and Support Allowance), Suffolk has lower than average rates for England but higher rates in more deprived districts.

Mental health in Suffolk		
	Estimated prevalence of common mental disorders (2017; % of population aged 16+)	Employment and Support Allowance claimants for mental and behavioural disorders (2018; % per 1,000 working age population)
Babergh	13.7%	16.8%
Forest Heath*	14.4%	19.4%
Ipswich	18.2%	34.2%
Mid Suffolk	12.7%	16.4%
St Edmundsbury*	14.1%	18.3%
Suffolk Coastal**	13.1%	19.8%
Waveney**	16.4%	30.4%
<i>Suffolk</i>	14.8%	23.2%
<b>England</b>	16.9%	27.3%

Source: Public Health England<sup>13</sup>  
 More than % for Suffolk  
 \*Now West Suffolk  
 \*\*Now East Suffolk

Suffolk County Council's Mental Health Needs Assessment<sup>14</sup> reports that emergency hospital admissions because of self-harm are significantly higher in Suffolk than England as a whole – 201 admissions per 100,000 of the population in Suffolk, compared with 185 per 100,000 in England. It went on to calculate that:

- over 85% of the variation in emergency admission rates for self-harm (2013-16) was explained by deprivation;
- for each increase in deprivation (from one decile to the next, more deprived decile) emergency admission rates for self-harm in Suffolk increased by 45.6 admissions per 100,000 residents
- these inequalities have worsened between 2009-2011 and 2013-2016: the increase of emergency admission rates by decile of deprivation has more than doubled, from 22.7 to 45.6 admissions per 100,000<sup>15</sup>.

In reviewing national progress on tackling health inequalities ten years after its initial 2010 review, the Marmot review argues that austerity measures introduced as a result of the 2008/2009 Great Recession served to increase inequality:

*Since 2010 life expectancy in England has stalled; this has not happened since at least 1900. ... Life expectancy follows the social gradient – the more deprived the area the shorter the life expectancy. This gradient has become steeper; inequalities in life expectancy have increased. ... Large funding cuts have affected the social determinants across the whole of England ...*  
**Health Equity in England 2020<sup>16</sup>**

Although spending on health has grown in England, the rate of growth was cut deeply during austerity. The King's Fund reports that budgets 'rose by 1.4% each year on average (adjusting for inflation) in the 10 years between 2009/10 to 2018/19, compared to the 3.7% average rises since the NHS was established'<sup>17</sup>. In terms of mental health services, the

Royal College of Psychiatrists stated that the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust experienced a fall in income, in real terms, each year for 5 years between 2012/13 and 2016/17. This means that during a period of increasing demand from people experiencing mental health problems, the Trust had less money relatively to spend on services.

<sup>12</sup> Nomis  
<sup>13</sup> <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/mental%20health#page/0/gid/1/pat/102/par/E10000029/ati/101/are/E07000206/iid/93495/age/164/sex/4/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0>  
<sup>14</sup> <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/mhna-2018>  
<sup>15</sup> [https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/MHNA\\_Self-harm\\_Suffolk\\_2018\\_2-1.pdf](https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/MHNA_Self-harm_Suffolk_2018_2-1.pdf)  
<sup>16</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>  
<sup>17</sup> <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/nhs-in-a-nutshell/nhs-budget>

# EDUCATION, CRIME, HOUSING AND ACCESSIBILITY

Relative deprivation relating to; education, housing, and the accessibility of services, are the most concentrated forms of deprivation in Suffolk. Deprivation related to crime is not concentrated in the county, but there has been a marked decline in Suffolk's ranking on this measure over time. Unlike income, employment and health, these types of deprivation are not simply associated with the most deprived neighbourhoods in Suffolk. Instead, they have a more complex impact on the overall experience of deprivation and resilience for households and neighbourhoods. In this section we discuss how:



- Education and crime deprivation are concentrated not just in the most deprived 10% for overall deprivation but across a wider group of neighbourhoods in the 'bottom third' of the ranking.
- Deprivation related to housing quality and housing affordability affect a wide range of neighbourhoods but have a more pronounced impact in rural areas.
- Deprivation related to the accessibility of services is concentrated in neighbourhoods which otherwise experience the least deprivation. Many households in these neighbourhoods will have the resources to be able to overcome obstacles to accessing services. For some households, the additional costs of reaching services - and the disadvantage resulting from not being able to access opportunities - represent important hidden needs.

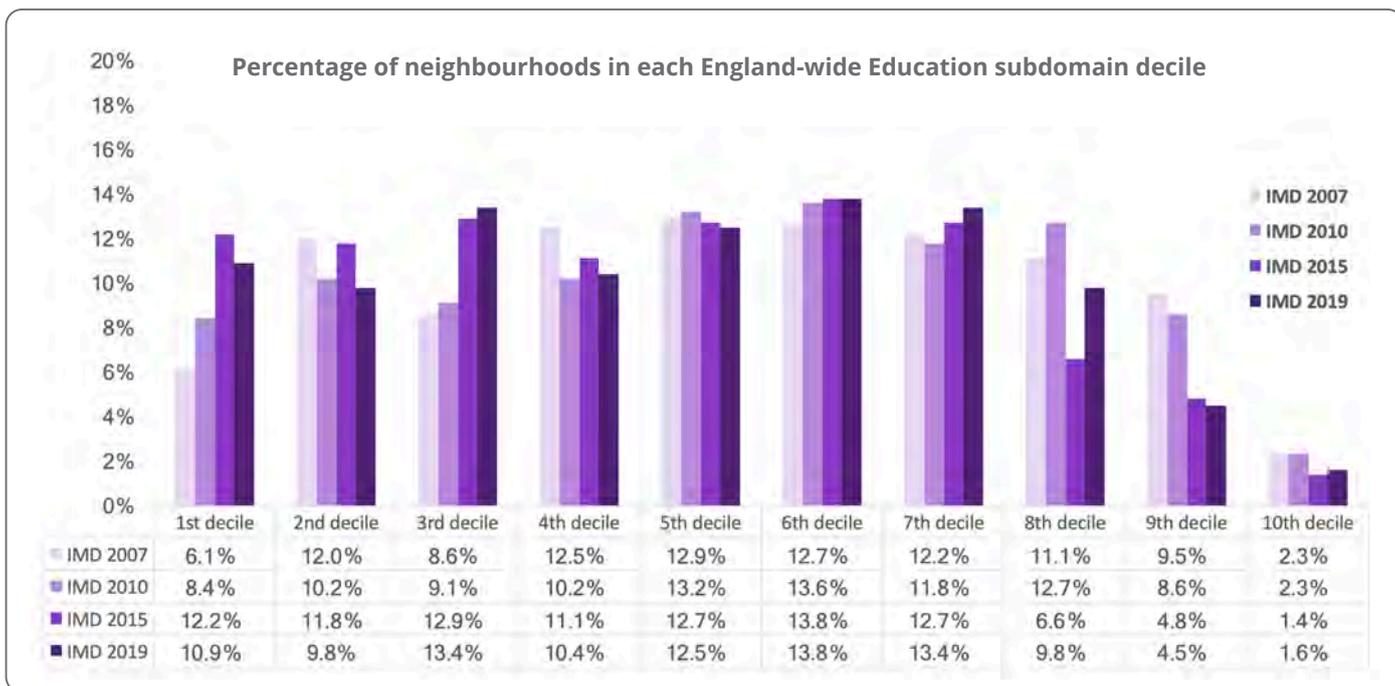
## Education

Educational deprivation (specifically the IMD's 'Children and Young People' Subdomain) has been one of the most concentrated types of deprivation in Suffolk since the 2005 IMD. Since the 2015 IMD, Suffolk has been over-represented

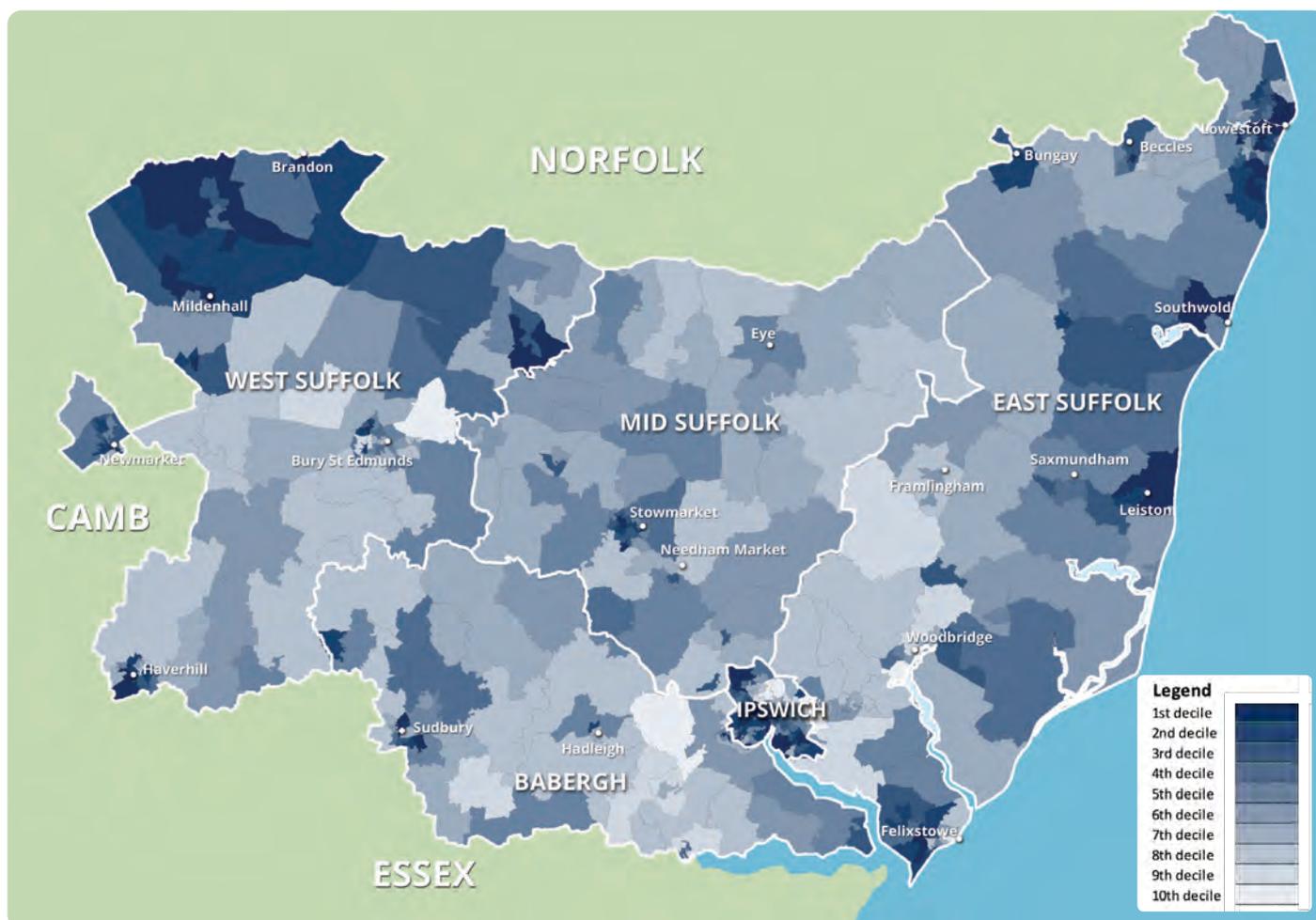
among England's most deprived neighbourhoods for education. **That is, in 2015, 18.4% of Suffolk neighbourhoods were in the most 10% educationally deprived. By 2019, this had fallen to 14.5% - an important improvement, but it still means that educational deprivation in Suffolk remains disproportionately high.**



*Distribution of Suffolk's neighbourhoods by national deciles for deprivation related to Children and Young People Education subdomain, IMD 2007 to IMD 2019*



*Geographical distribution of deprivation related to Children and Young People Education, 2019*



Of the 64 Suffolk neighbourhoods among England's 10% most deprived neighbourhoods for education, only 17 are in the most deprived 10% for overall deprivation. **Rather than being exclusively associated with the very most**

**deprived neighbourhoods, education deprivation is mainly spread over the bottom third of the distribution. Of the 64 neighbourhoods, nearly all – 54 – are in the more deprived 30% group for overall deprivation.**

### Distribution of deprivation related to education\* (2019)

Number of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for education	Overall deprivation rank					
	Deciles: 1 = 10% most deprived 10 = 10% least deprived					
	1	2	3	4	5 to 10	Total
64	17 (27%)	23 (36%)	14 (22%)	5 (8%)	5 (8%)	64 (100%)

\*IMD 'Children and Young People's Education' subdomain

The fact that educational deprivation is experienced by this group – and not equally experienced by all neighbourhoods in Suffolk - means that it is an important factor in exacerbating disadvantage for neighbourhoods who are

already impacted by other forms of deprivation. The long-term damage caused by educational inequality is well recognised and, for example, is a theme highlighted by the Marmot inquiry:

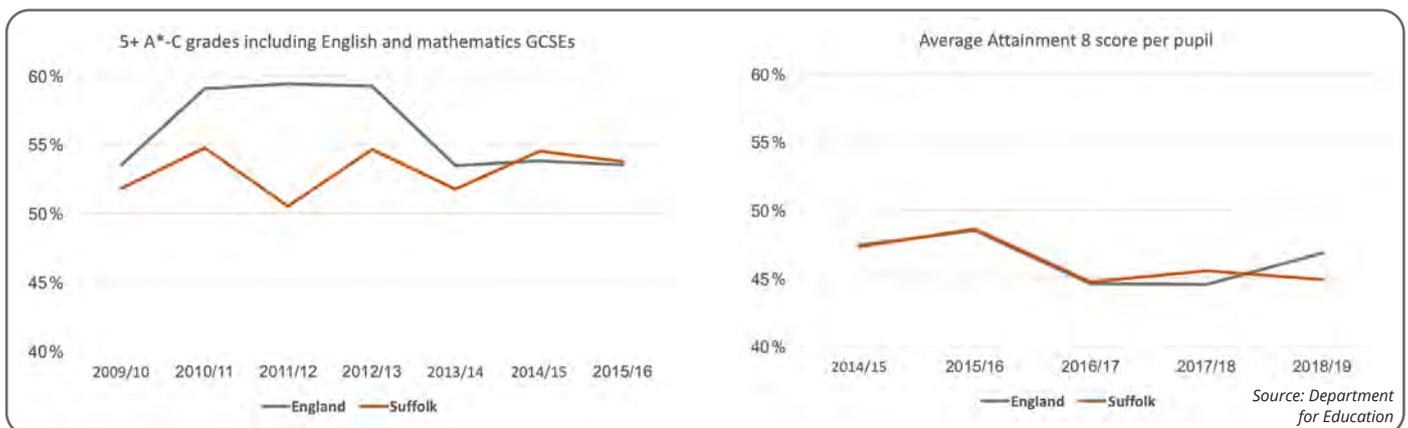
*Inequalities in educational outcomes affect physical and mental health, as well as income, employment and quality of life. The graded relationship between socioeconomic position and educational outcome has significant implications for subsequent employment, income, living standards, behaviours, and mental and physical health.*  
**Health Equity in England 2020<sup>18</sup>**

Deprivation in relation to children's education is measured in the IMD in terms of:

- Key Stage 2 attainment: results of Standard Assessments Tests when children are aged around 11 years
- Key Stage 4 attainment: based on GCSE results
- Secondary school absences
- Number of pupils staying on in post-16 education
- Numbers entering higher education

**There have been marked areas of improvement in educational attainment in Suffolk.** One such area includes GCSE attainment rates in Suffolk. For much of the period since 2009/10, attainment in Suffolk has fallen behind the national rate. This gap, however, has been narrowing since 2012/13. Since 2014/15, improvement in Suffolk has brought GCSE attainment in the county above the national rate. This is likely to go some way in explaining the improvement for Suffolk's ranking for educational deprivation in the 2019 IMD.

### Percentage of pupils achieving prescribed thresholds at GCSEs in Suffolk and England<sup>19</sup>

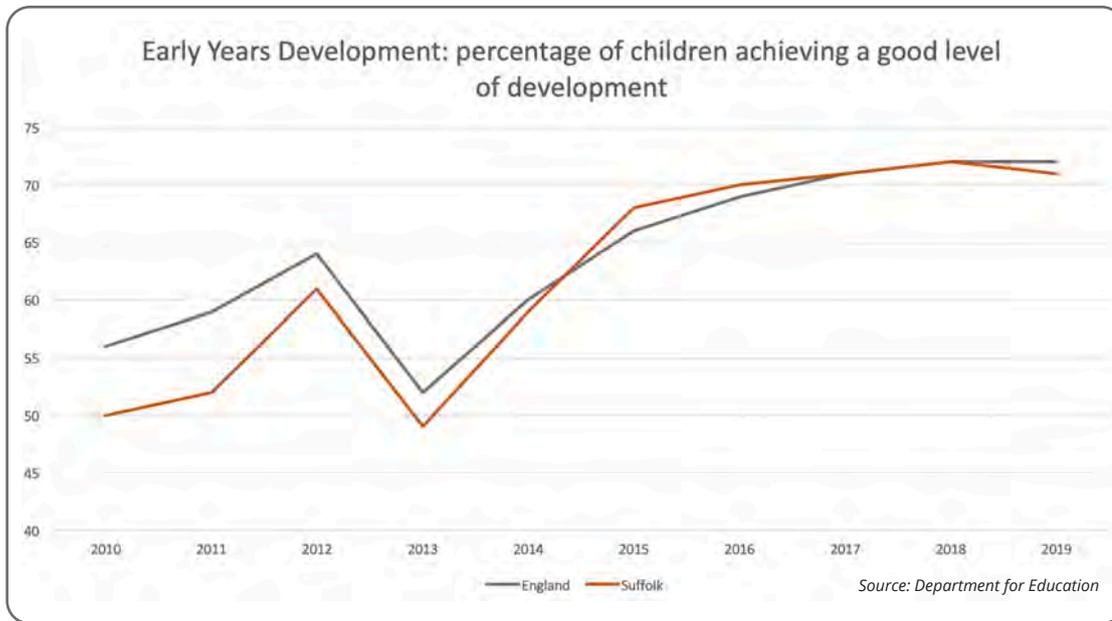


Early years development is another area where there has been marked improvement. Until 2014, Suffolk lagged behind England in terms of the proportion of children aged 0-5 who had achieved a good level of development. Since

2014, Suffolk has caught up and stayed up with national rates of early years development, improving in line with national trends.

<sup>19</sup> The decline in attainment rates in England after 2012/13 reflect changes in how this measure is calculated (restrictions on what qualifications could be included) rather than a decline in performance. Attainment 8 is part of the new secondary accountability system that was implemented for all schools from 2016.

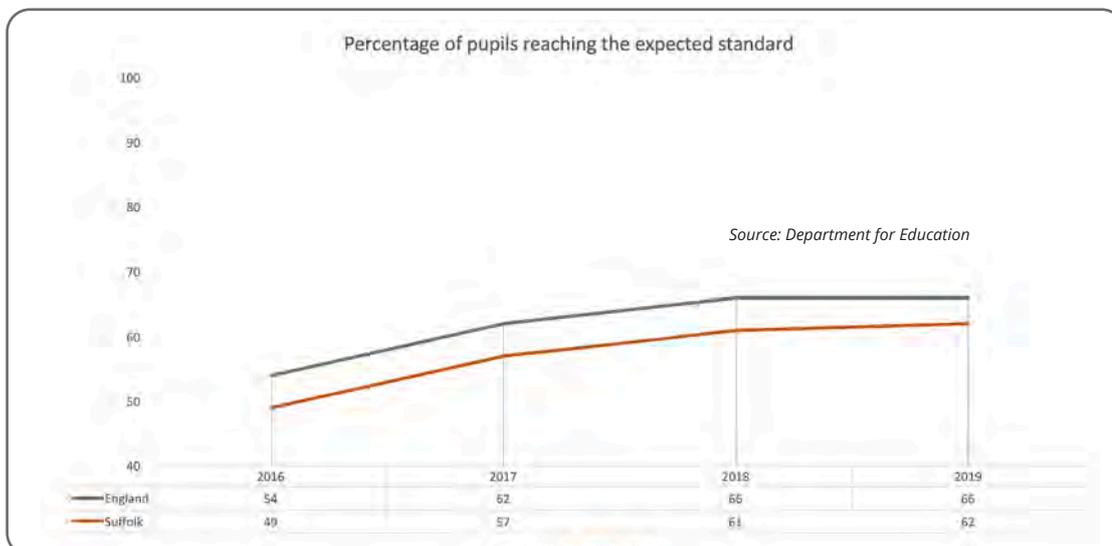
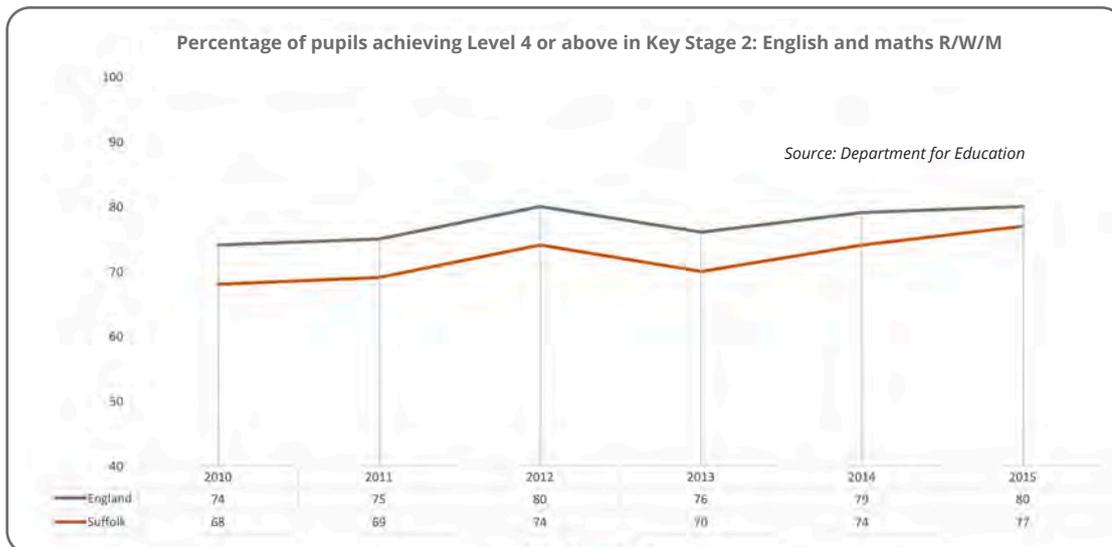
**Percentage of children achieving a good level of development in Suffolk and England**



In other areas of educational performance Suffolk has fared less well. **The rate of school absences is marginally higher in Suffolk than for England generally. At primary school, Key Stage 2 results have been improving in Suffolk in**

**line with national trends. However, trends since 2010 show that Suffolk started with lower attainment rates and has not managed to catch up with the national average.**

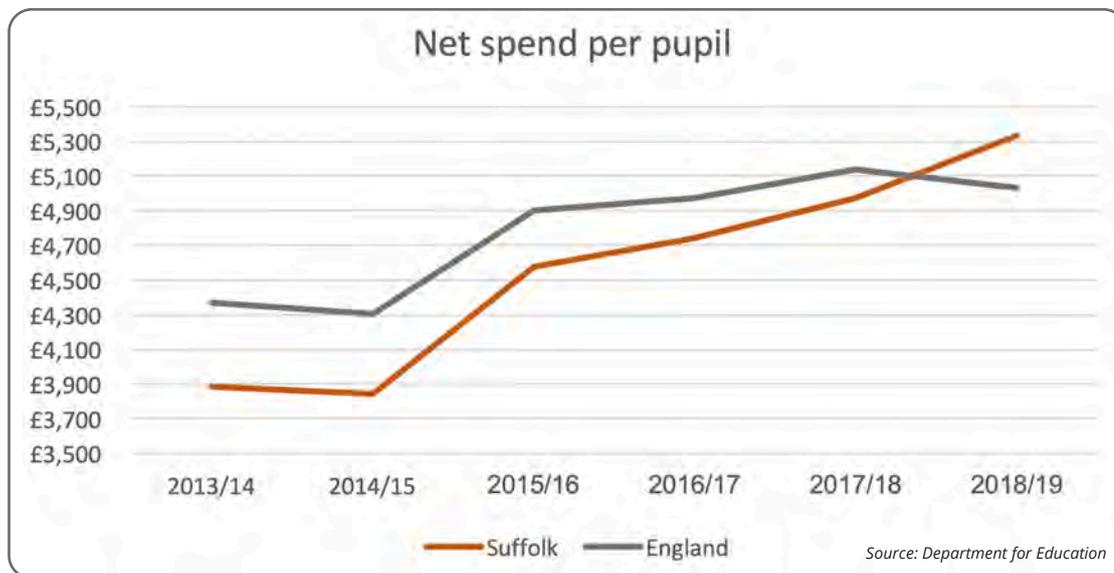
**Percentage of pupils reaching standard measures of attainment at Key Stage 2 in Suffolk and England**



Austerity, following the Great Recession, has had an impact on Suffolk County Council's spending power. The extent to which educational spending impacts on educational outcomes in Suffolk is a complex question and cannot be

determined here. What we can note, however, is that, **until recently, spending per pupil in Suffolk schools had fallen below the average for England.**

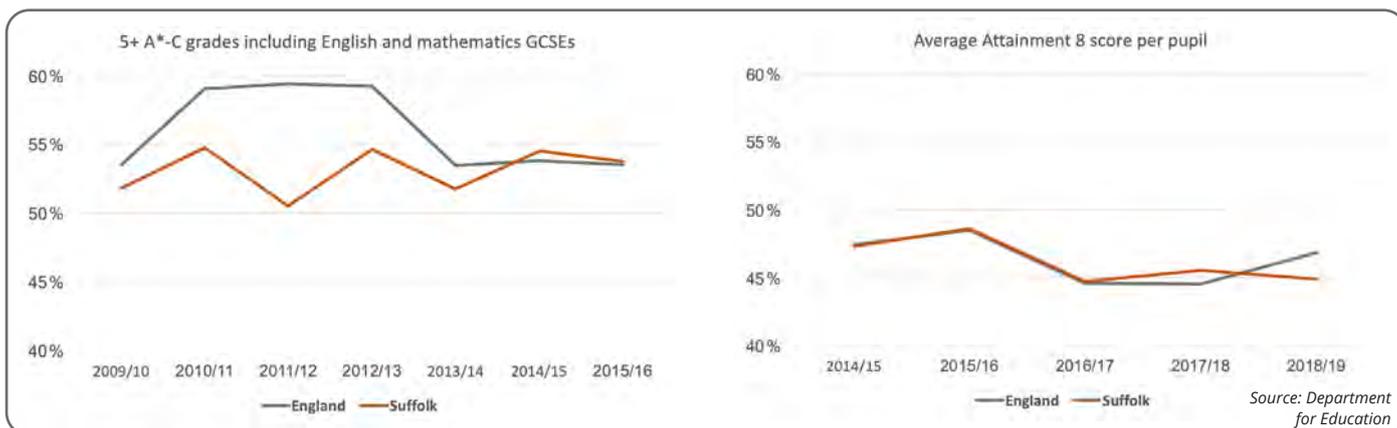
**Net spending per pupil in schools in Suffolk and England**



A particular issue of concern is that disadvantaged children in Suffolk schools have poorer attainment than other children. Suffolk's disadvantaged children tend to do less well than other children in the county. In 2018, for example, 63% of children in Suffolk reached the expected standard at Key Stage 2 but, for children eligible for free school meals, this dropped to 41%. **Even more concerning, disadvantaged children in Suffolk do less well than**

**disadvantaged children in England generally.** The graphs below chart a long-term trend of attainment rates amongst children eligible for free school meals in Suffolk consistently falling short of those for children on free school meals nationally. The same disparities have been true too in terms of GCSE attainment among pupils eligible for free school meals, though the gap appears to have been reducing since 2013/2014.

**Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals reaching standard measures of attainment at Key Stage 2 in Suffolk and England**



The Suffolk Observatory reports that a smaller proportion of black and minority ethnic children achieve the expected level of development during the Early Years Foundation Stage than white children in Suffolk. Black and minority ethnic

children in Suffolk are also less likely to achieve this level of expected development than black and minority ethnic children in England generally.



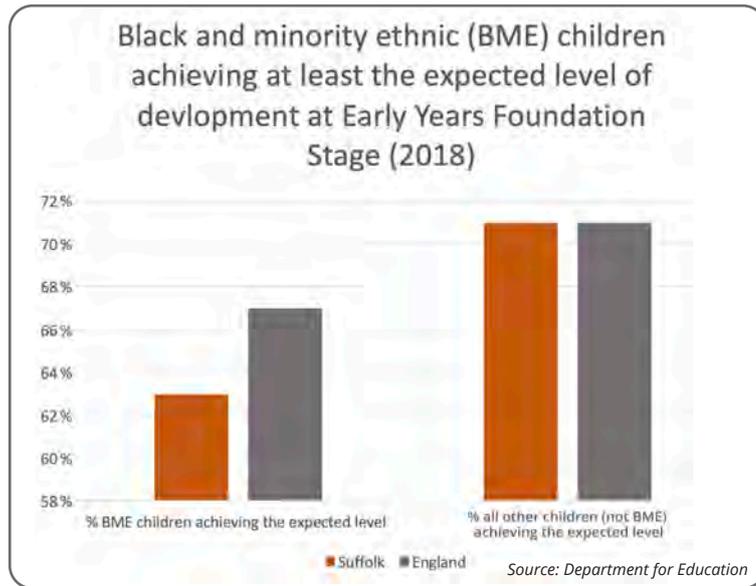
The Fox Inn  
Beer Festival

Sharing Parenting 

Family Resource Pack

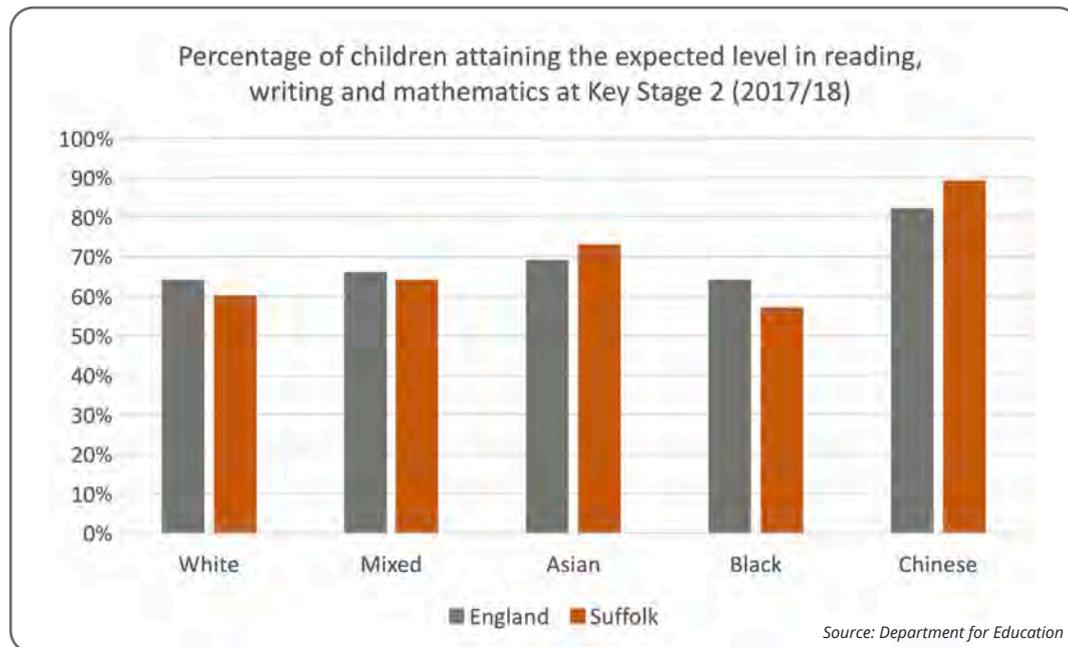


**Black and minority children and all other children reaching at least the expected level of development at the Early Years Foundation Stage (2018)**

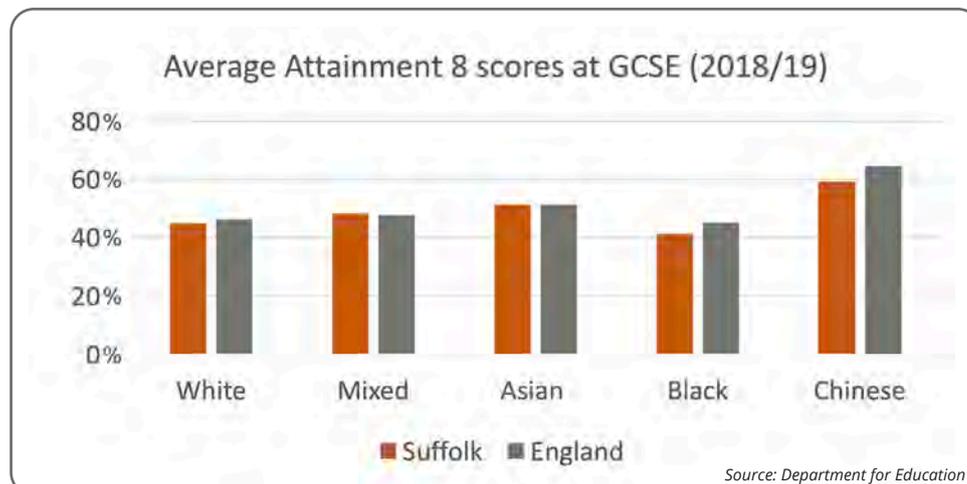


In Suffolk, as in England generally, black pupils are less likely than other children to attain expected levels of attainment at Key Stage 2, or to do as well at GCSEs.

**Percentage of children attaining the expected level in English and maths at Key Stage 2, by ethnicity (2018)**



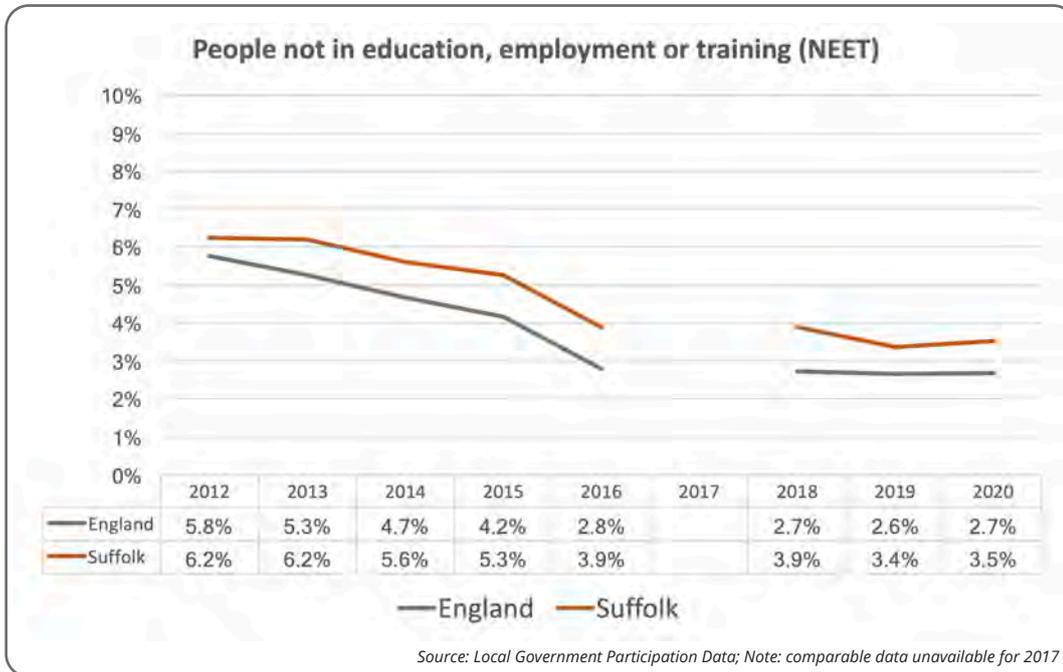
**Average Attainment 8 scores at GCSE, by ethnicity (2018-19)**



The proportion of young people staying on in education after age 16 is an important measure for deprivation. Those who leave school and are not in education, employment or training ('NEET') face particularly high risks of disadvantage. Since 2012, the proportion of NEET young people in Suffolk has been declining in line with trends for England. However,

throughout this period, **the proportion of NEET young people in Suffolk has remained higher than that of England as a whole. Local data reported in the Suffolk Observatory suggests that the proportion of NEET 16-18 years olds in the county has been increasing since 2019.**

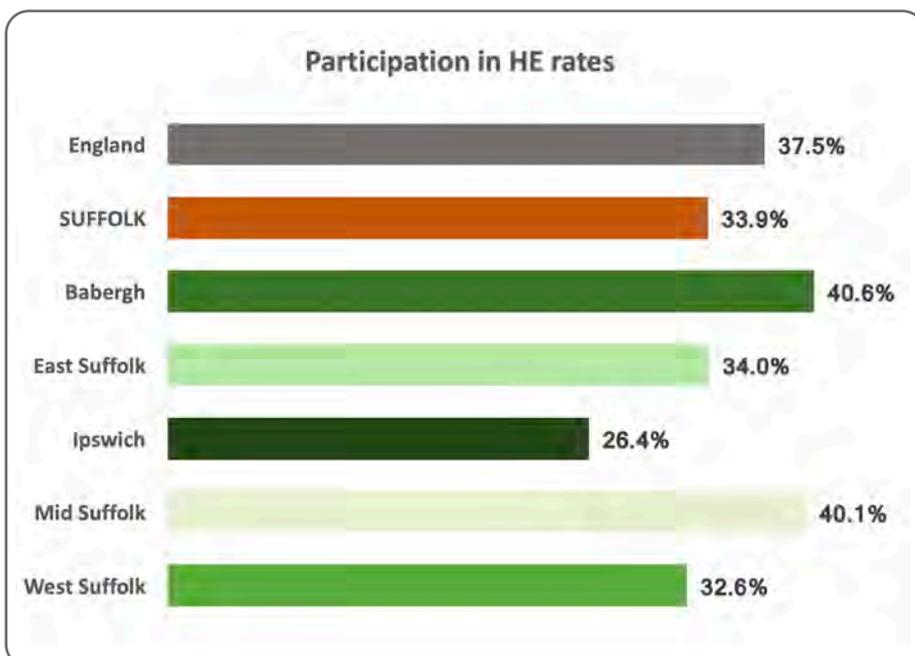
**Percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Suffolk and England**



In terms of the proportion of young people going onto higher education, Suffolk also falls under the national average. The Office for Students collects local area data on the percentage of young people aged 18 or 19 who enter higher education. **Figures for students who began their studies between 2009-10 and 2013-14, record that 33.9% of young people in Suffolk entered higher education,**

**compared with 37.5% of young people in England.** Participation rates in Mid Suffolk and Babergh are higher than the average rate. East Suffolk has the same rate as Suffolk overall, but, within East Suffolk, the former area of Waveney has a lower participation rate of 24.9% - similar to the rates in Ipswich (26.4%) and the former area of Forest Heath in West Suffolk (25.5%).

**Percentage of young people aged 18 or 19 entering higher education between 2009-10 and 2013-14**

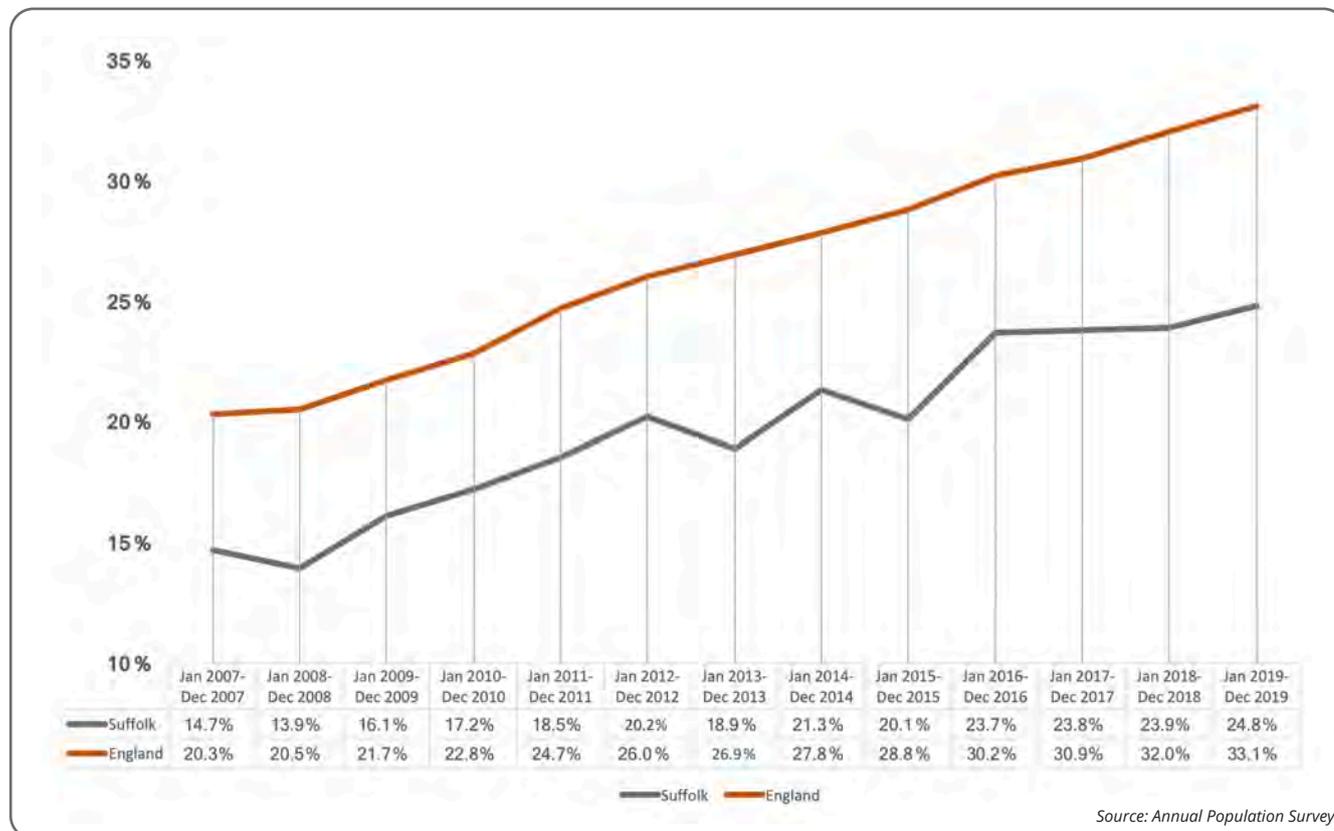


Source: POLAR4, Office for Students.

The outcome of participation rates in further and higher education is the level of skills and qualifications in a population. **In this regard, a long-standing characteristic of Suffolk is that, compared with England, it has a smaller proportion of adults with higher qualifications. The proportion of adults in Suffolk with degrees has increased – from 15% to 25% between 2007 and**

**2019. However, this rate has been consistently and significantly smaller than for England generally - and the gap appears to be slowly growing.** (The average annual percentage point difference between Suffolk and England between 2007-2011 was nearly 6%; between 2014-2019 it was nearly 8%).

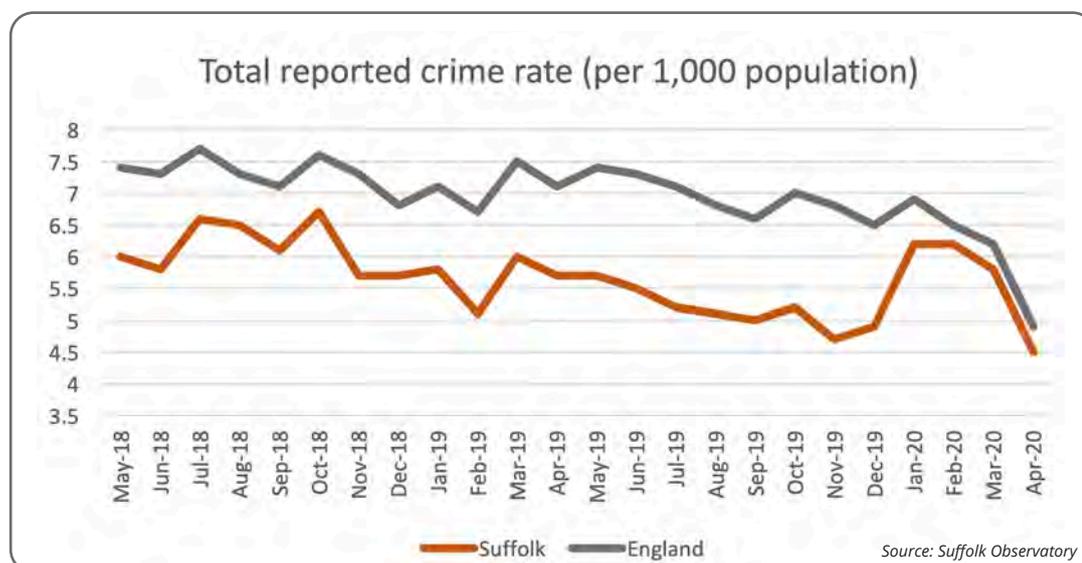
*Percentage of working age population (16 to 64) with degree or equivalent and above*



## Crime

The overall crime rate in Suffolk is lower than in England. **Suffolk is generally safer than elsewhere in England.**

*Percentage of working population (16 to 64) with degree or equivalent and above*



**However, Suffolk has seen a net increase in crime-related deprivation in each wave of the IMD since 2007.** In 2007, 10 Suffolk neighbourhoods were among the most deprived decile group in England for crime; by 2019, this had increased to 21 neighbourhoods. Suffolk is still under-represented among England's most deprived neighbourhoods in terms of crime, but this has become more of an issue for the county.

Crime-related deprivation in Suffolk is concentrated in urban rather than rural areas. It is concentrated in the most overall deprived neighbourhoods – but it is not exclusively limited to these neighbourhoods. That is, the 21 Suffolk neighbourhoods among England's most deprived decile for crime in 2019 are spread over the 'bottom third' of the distribution of overall deprivation.

Distribution of deprivation related to crime (2019)						
Number of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for crime	Overall deprivation rank					
	Deciles: 1 = 10% most deprived 10 = 10% least deprived					
	1	2	3	4	5 to 10	Total
21	9 (43%)	7 (33%)	3 (14%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	21 (100%)

Crime deprivation in the IMD is assessed in terms of statistics on violence, burglary, theft and criminal damage. The table below shows crime rates in Suffolk, and England and Wales, in 2019, and the rate of change in crime rates between 2015 and 2019. Rates of offences for violence, theft and criminal damage are less in Suffolk than nationally.

Crime rates for theft and criminal damage have changed little, with only small fluctuations from year to year. **Violent crime has increased in England over the last decade and violent crime in Suffolk has increased in line with the national trend.**

Crime rates (per 1,000 population) in Suffolk and England and Wales 2015-2019				
	Suffolk		England and Wales	
	Crime rate 2019	% change in crime rate 2015-19	Crime rate 2019*	% change in crime rate 2015-19
Total recorded crime (excluding fraud)	72	+39%	83	+45%
Violence against the person	26	+130%	28	+123%
Theft offences	23	+2%	30	+9%
Criminal damage and arson	8	-7%	10	+11%

\*Average rate across all police force areas

Source: ONS

**Within Suffolk, Ipswich and the former Waveney district have the highest rates of violent crime. Since 2015, both areas have had a higher rate of violent crime than average for England.**

Rate of offences for violence against the person (per 1,000 population) 2019	
England and Wales	28
Suffolk	26
Ipswich Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	40
Suffolk Coastal CSP	17
Waveney CSP	31
Western Suffolk CSP	22

Source: ONS

## Housing

The IMD assesses housing in two ways:

- housing quality (as part of the IMD's Living Environment domain), measured in terms of the proportion of housing in poor quality and without central heating; and
- barriers to housing, measured in terms of homelessness, over-crowding and affordability.

Deprivation relating to housing quality is one of the more concentrated forms of deprivation in Suffolk. There was a sharp increase between 2010 and 2015, but this needs to be treated with caution. Between 2010 and 2015, the IMD's measurement of housing condition changed and it began using the national 'Decent Homes Standard'. **Nevertheless, it remains the case that, since the 2015 IMD, Suffolk ranks more poorly for housing quality compared with England generally.**

### Percentage of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for overall deprivation and housing quality

	2007	2010	2015	2019
Overall deprivation	3.6%	3.6%	4.8%	5.0%
Housing quality	9.3%	9.3%	15.9%	16.1%

Deprivation relating to housing quality is distributed across a wide range of Suffolk neighbourhoods. It is not particularly more associated with neighbourhoods in the 10% most overall deprived group than it is with other neighbourhoods.

However, two thirds of the most deprived neighbourhoods for housing quality are in the 'bottom half' of the distribution of overall deprivation.

### Distribution of deprivation related to housing quality\* (2019)

Number of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for housing quality = 71

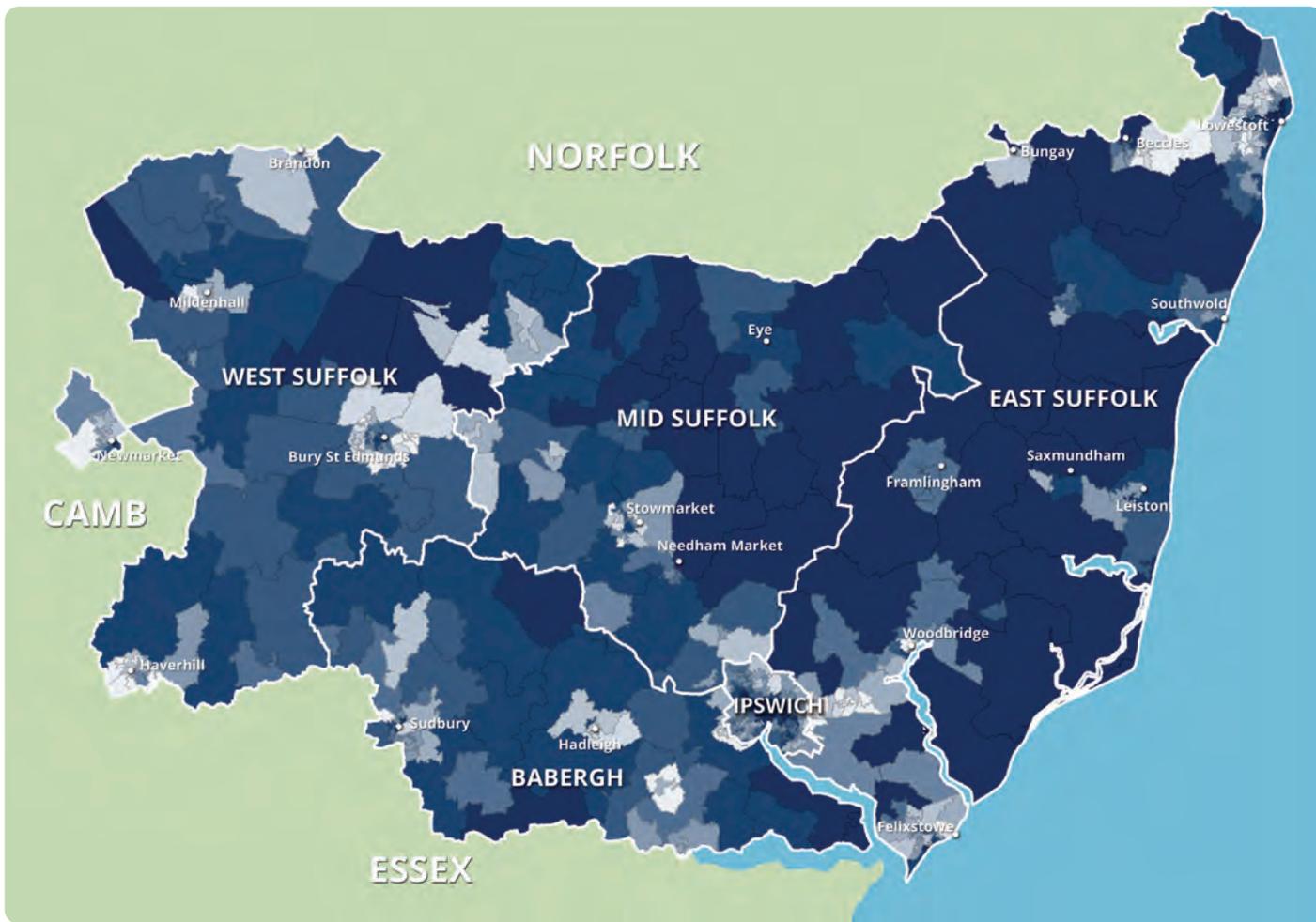
#### Overall deprivation rank

Deciles: 1 = 10% most deprived  
10 = 10% least deprived

Decile	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Number	5	8	5	13	16	19	4	1	0	0	71
%	7%	11%	7%	18%	23%	27%	6%	1%	0%	0%	100%

\*IMD 'Indoors Environment' subdomain





**Rural neighbourhoods are more likely to perform poorly for housing quality in the IMD than urban neighbourhoods.** In 2019, 25% of rural neighbourhoods in Suffolk were in England’s most deprived decile for housing quality, compared with 11% of urban neighbourhoods in Suffolk. In fact, 76% of Suffolk’s rural neighbourhoods were in the ‘bottom half’ of the distribution of housing quality deprivation, compared with 48% of urban neighbourhoods.

This reflects the national situation. The Local Government Association, for example, reports that in 2017 around 50% of homes in the most rural areas and villages in England did not meet the Decent Home Standard, compared with around 30% in small towns and urban areas<sup>20</sup>.

One of the reasons for this is that rural homes tend to be older and more likely to be what the Decent Home Standards defines to be ‘excessively cold’.

*The proportion of homes which are very energy inefficient is much higher in the most rural areas: 50 per cent in the most rural areas and 25 per cent in village centres compared with 7 per cent in urban areas. Two in five homes in rural areas are off the gas grid and many depend on more expensive fuel; and if of solid wall construction, houses can be difficult to insulate.*

*Local Government Association, 2017<sup>21</sup>*

In 2018, the ‘Suffolk Housing and Health Needs Assessment’ estimated that 10,687 properties in Suffolk failed to meet the Decent Home Standard because they were excessively cold<sup>22</sup>.

*In terms of location, properties in ‘rural’ areas have the highest prevalence estimate for excess cold with 23.4%, followed by 11.9% in ‘village centres’, 5.6% in ‘rural residential’ and down to 1.5% in ‘suburban residential’/‘other urban centre’.*

*Suffolk County Council, 2018<sup>23</sup>*

<sup>20</sup> Local Government Association in partnership with Public Health England (2017) Health and wellbeing in rural areas

<sup>21</sup> ibid

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/Suffolk\\_Housing\\_and\\_Health\\_Final\\_Mar18HWB.pdf](https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/Suffolk_Housing_and_Health_Final_Mar18HWB.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> ibid

The two main impacts of poorly insulated and cold homes are risks for health and fuel poverty. In terms of health, the Housing and Health Needs Assessment estimated that removing the risk of excess cold had the potential of yielding an average yearly saving to the NHS in Suffolk (in first year treatment costs) of £6.84 million. It goes on to estimate that there are, on average, 123 excess winter deaths per year caused by cold homes in Suffolk, with 41 of these attributable to fuel poverty<sup>24</sup>.

Fuel poverty is defined in terms of households who have above average fuel costs and whose income, after fuel costs, falls below the income poverty threshold. The Housing and

Health Needs Assessment suggests that, in 2015, there were 29,306 households in Suffolk in fuel poverty - representing 9.1% of all households in the county, compared with 11% nationally. Although the absolute *number* of households in fuel poverty is greatest in Ipswich, the *proportion* was higher in Suffolk's more rural districts – Mid Suffolk and Babergh - districts where overall deprivation is lowest.

**This highlights a distinct hidden need in Suffolk: in generally advantaged rural areas of the county there are households living in excessively cold homes, with the cost of fuel drawing them into poverty, putting their health – and potentially their lives – at risk.**

#### Estimated number and proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2015, by district and borough, and Suffolk

District	Number of households	% of households
Babergh	3,737	9.6
Forest Heath	2,265	8.6
Ipswich	5,239	8.9
Mid Suffolk	4,258	10.2
St Edmundsbury	4,070	8.6
Suffolk Coastal	4,818	8.7
Waveney	4,919	9.3
<i>Suffolk County</i>	<i>29,306</i>	<i>9.1</i>

Source: Suffolk County Council (2018) Housing and Health Needs Assessment<sup>25</sup>

The issue of barriers to housing also seems to highlight distinct hidden needs. On the one hand, there are no Suffolk neighbourhoods among England's most deprived 10% on this measure. Indeed, the majority of Suffolk's

neighbourhood's – 63% in 2019 – are among the least deprived, 'top half' of the distribution. On the other hand, this is one of the types of deprivation for which Suffolk's ranking has declined most sharply since the 2007 IMD.

#### Deprivation relating to wider barriers to housing

% of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's more deprived 50%

% of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's less deprived 50%

2007	17%	84%
2010	25%	75%
2015	33%	67%
2019	37%	63%

The IMD measures wider barriers to housing in terms of overcrowding, homelessness and affordability. Overcrowding does not appear to be a driver of deprivation in Suffolk. Based on the 2011 census, the Suffolk Housing and Health Needs Assessment reports that Suffolk has a lower than average rate of overcrowding: 5.5% of residents lived in overcrowded housing compared with 11.1% in England.

Since 2006/07, the number of households assessed as being homeless and in priority need in Suffolk has remained quite stable at around 500-600<sup>26</sup>. Overall, the rate of homelessness in Suffolk has been consistently less than for England, although it has been generally higher in Ipswich

and West Suffolk. For example, in England in 2017/18, some 2.4 of every 1,000 households were homeless and in priority need. This compares to a rate of 2.9 in Ipswich and 3.2 in West Suffolk<sup>27</sup>. Suffolk's Housing and Health Needs Assessment reports that the number of households being housed in temporary accommodation in Suffolk has increased, with a marked rise in the number of children in temporary accommodation. In 2011/12 there were 148 children in temporary accommodation; by the end of 2019, this number had increased to 292<sup>28</sup>. The Needs Assessment associates increased demand for temporary accommodation with a decline in the number of affordable houses being built in the county.

<sup>24</sup> ibid

<sup>25</sup> ibid

<sup>26</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Live Tables on Homelessness <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>

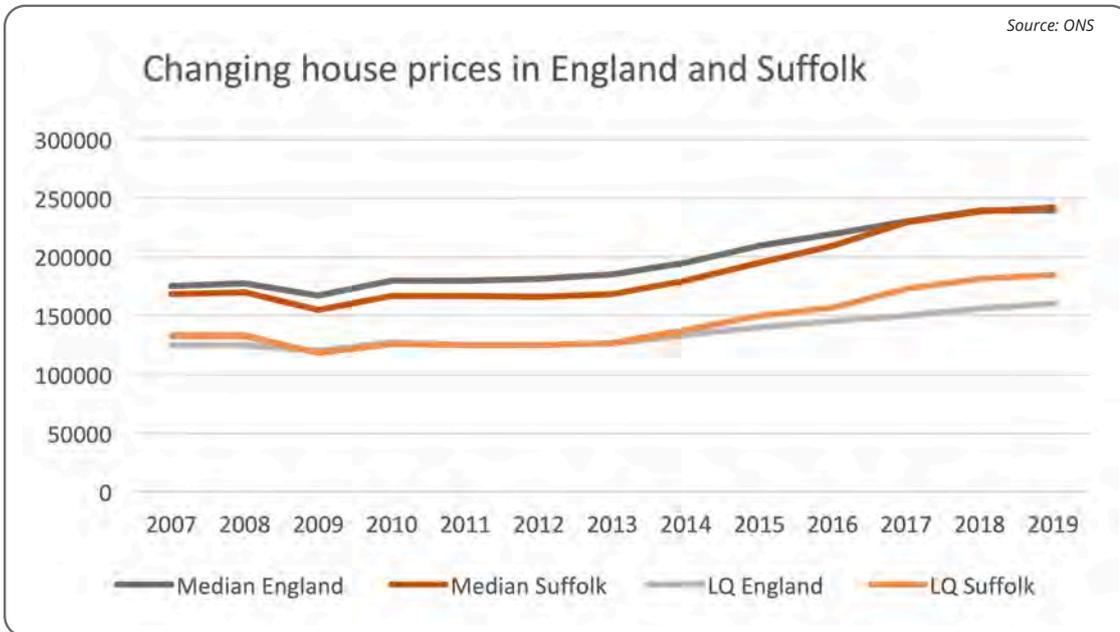
<sup>27</sup> ibid

<sup>28</sup> ibid

**Housing affordability is likely to have had greatest impact on deprivation related to barriers to housing. House prices in Suffolk have increased faster than for England. In 2007, the average (median) house price in the county was less than the average for England but by 2019 house prices in Suffolk were just above average. The difference is greater with lower cost, affordable**

**housing.** (The 'lower quartile' house price is the threshold that divides the cheapest 25% from the more expensive 75%). Between 2007 and 2019, the lower quartile house price in Suffolk increased by 39% compared with 28% in England. Since 2014, the lower quartile house price in Suffolk has been more than for England.

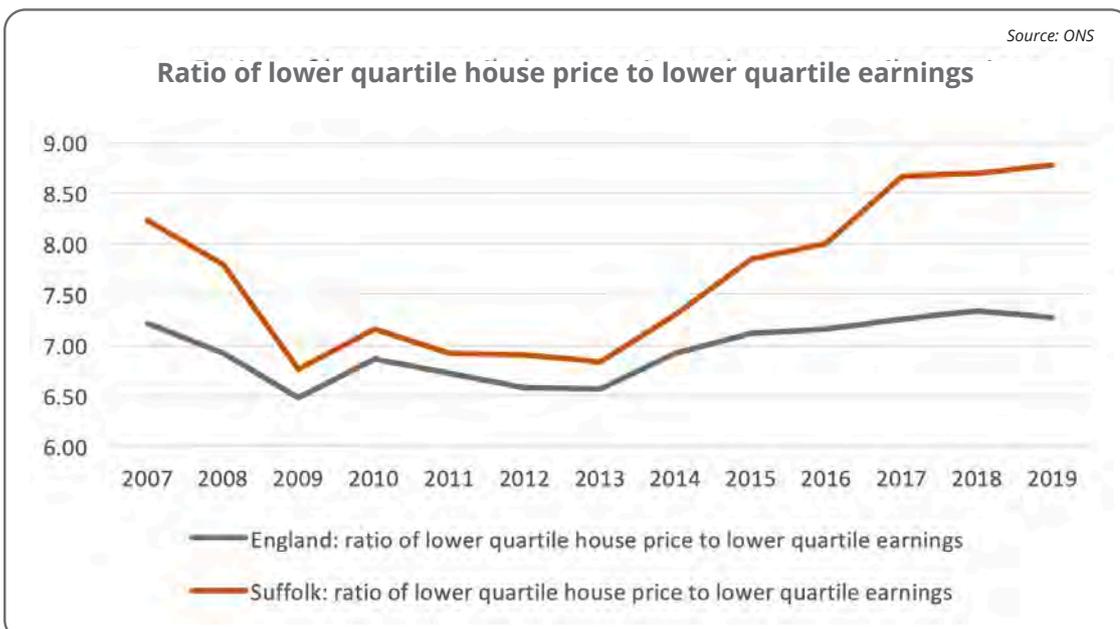
*Changing house prices in Suffolk and England: median house prices and lower quartile house prices*

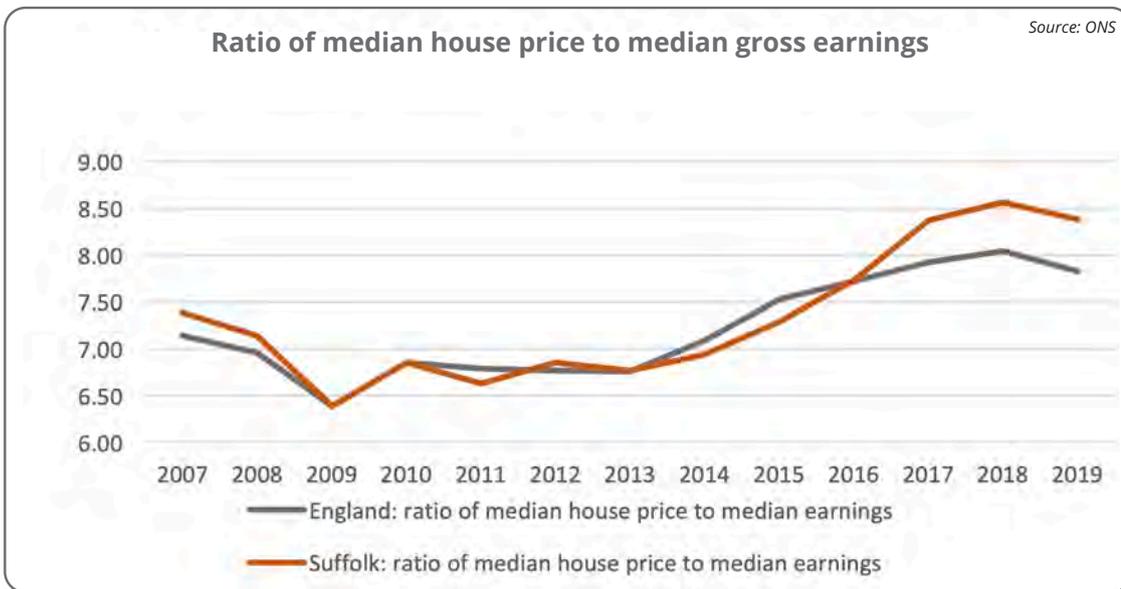


The impact of higher house prices is exacerbated by the lower average wages in Suffolk. **Looking at the ratio of house prices to income, Suffolk households need to spend a bigger proportion of their income on buying houses than the average for England.** In terms of the ratio between average house prices and average wages, housing

has been relatively more expensive in Suffolk than in England since 2016. **For lower income households buying lower cost housing (lower quartile earnings and lower quartile prices), housing has been relatively more expensive in Suffolk than in England since before 2007 – and it has become increasingly more expensive since 2013.**

*Changing house prices in Suffolk and England: median house prices and lower quartile house prices*





The most affordable housing for low income households in Suffolk is in Ipswich – with a price-to-earnings ratio in 2019 of 7.92. This is still above the average for England (7.27). The

least affordable housing for low income households is in Babergh, where the lower quartile house price is ten times as much as lower quartile earnings.

Ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile gross annual earnings 2019	
England	7.27
Suffolk	8.78
Babergh	10.12
Ipswich	7.79
Mid Suffolk	9.08
East Suffolk	8.21
West Suffolk	9.62

Looking at the full spectrum of rented accommodation, average private rent in Suffolk is less than the average for England. **However, comparing what is available at lower cost rents, Suffolk is more expensive than England. In 2019, for example, lower quartile rent in Suffolk costs £25 a week more than lower quartile rent in England<sup>29</sup>.**

The Housing and Health Needs Assessment highlights the challenges presented to some households by housing

costs. Based on a 2014 survey, it reports that 31% of Suffolk residents had difficulty meeting some form of housing costs, with those in the rented sector more likely to experience difficulties compared to owner-occupiers. Moreover, 24% of private renters estimated they spent 45% or more on housing costs, compared to 8% of owner-occupiers<sup>30</sup>. The association between mental health and housing affordability has been highlighted by the Marmot review of health inequalities:

*In 2017, 21% of adults in England said a housing issue had negatively impacted their mental health, even when they had no previous mental health issues, and housing affordability was most frequently stated as the reason. Not being able to afford decent housing increases blood pressure and hypertension, depression and anxiety. Cuts in housing benefit, introduced in 2011, have been found to be associated with a statistically significant increase in mental health problems...*

*Health Equity in England 2020<sup>31</sup>*

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/private-rental-market-summary-statistics-october-2015-to-september-2016>

<sup>30</sup> [https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/Suffolk\\_Housing\\_and\\_Health\\_Final\\_Mar18HWB.pdf](https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/Suffolk_Housing_and_Health_Final_Mar18HWB.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>

# SUFFOLK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

GIVE TO WHAT YOU LOVE



REBUILDING  
LOCAL  
LIVES  
TOGETHER

Annual Report 2019/2020



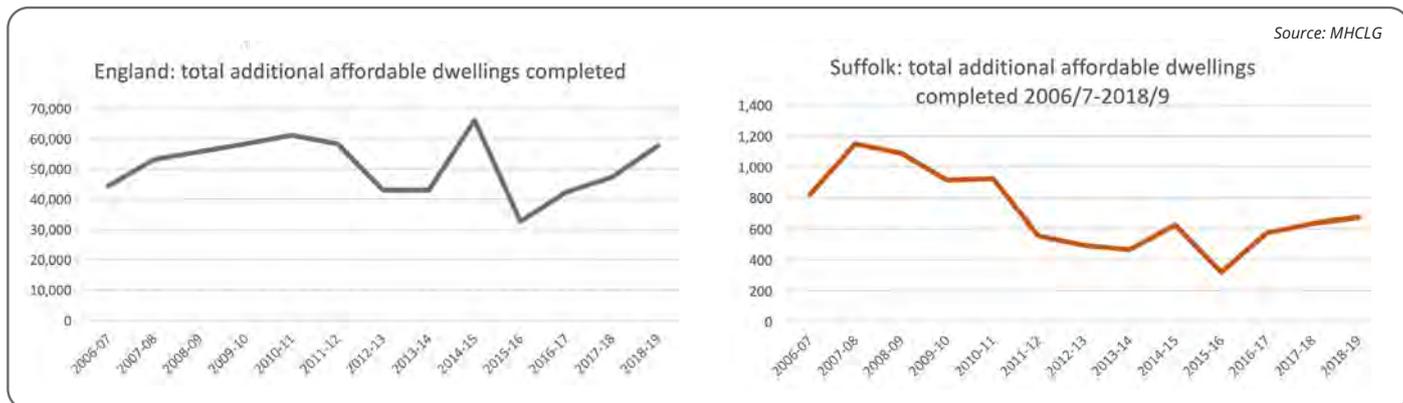
SUFFOLK  
Community  
Foundation



To download the latest copy of Suffolk Community Foundation's Annual Report, click here



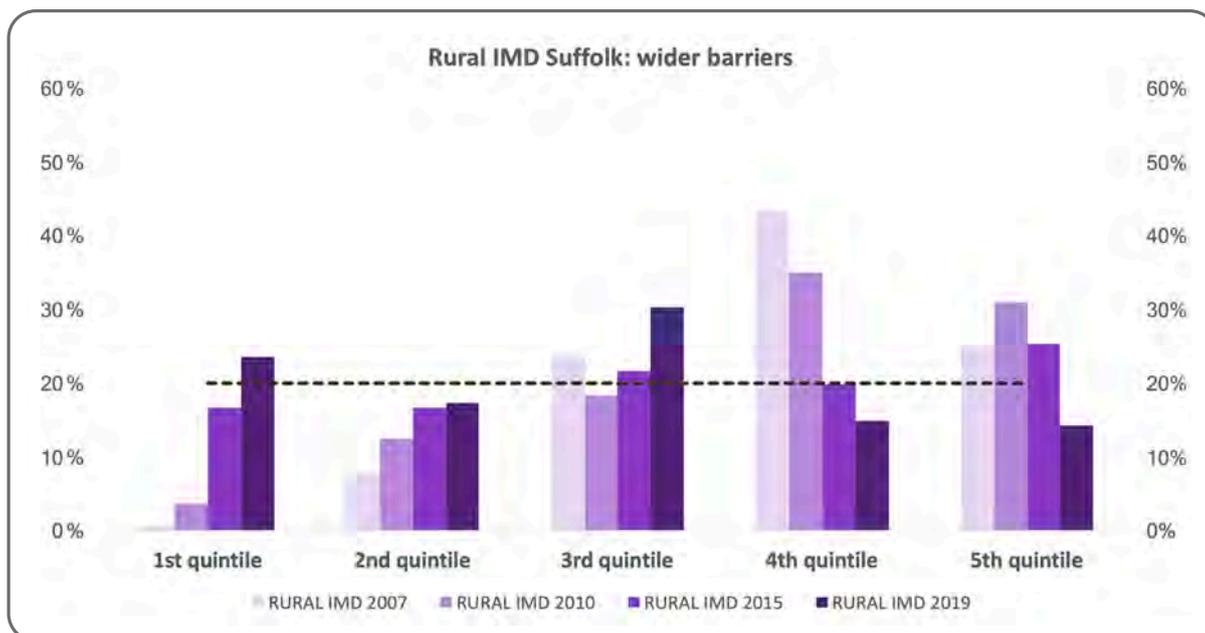
Number of affordable houses built in Suffolk and England, 2006/07 to 2018/19.

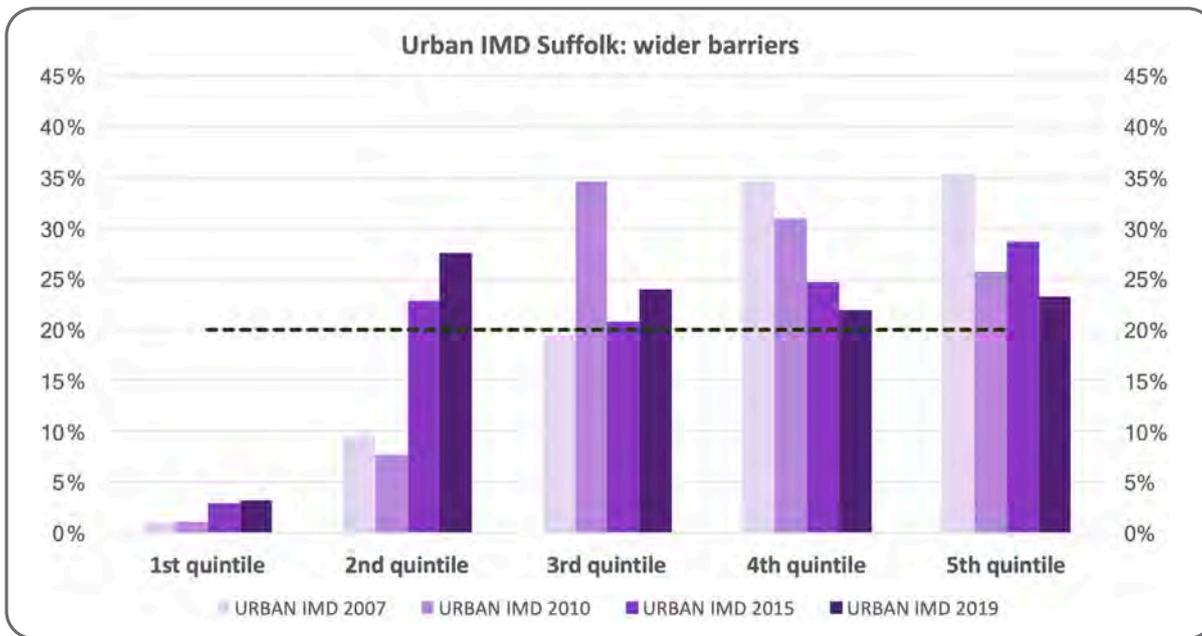


These issues of housing affordability are likely to have an impact on low income households in deprived neighbourhoods. In Suffolk, however, access to affordable housing must also be understood as a hidden need, affecting a wide range of neighbourhoods. Increasingly, barriers to housing seems to be a particular dynamic in rural Suffolk. Analysis of the 'Rural IMD' shows that - on a ranking of all rural neighbourhoods in England for barriers to housing - rural Suffolk has become relatively more deprived.

In 2007, less than 1% of Suffolk neighbourhoods were in the most deprived 'Rural IMD' quintile on this measure; as of 2019, this has increased to 23.5% of rural Suffolk neighbourhoods. The 'Urban IMD' shows some increase in deprivation in urban Suffolk neighbourhoods, relative to urban England, but not to the same degree. **This suggests that housing affordability in the county is becoming a more pronounced issue in rural Suffolk.**

Distribution of Suffolk neighbourhoods by 'Rural IMD': deprivation related to Wider Barriers to Housing



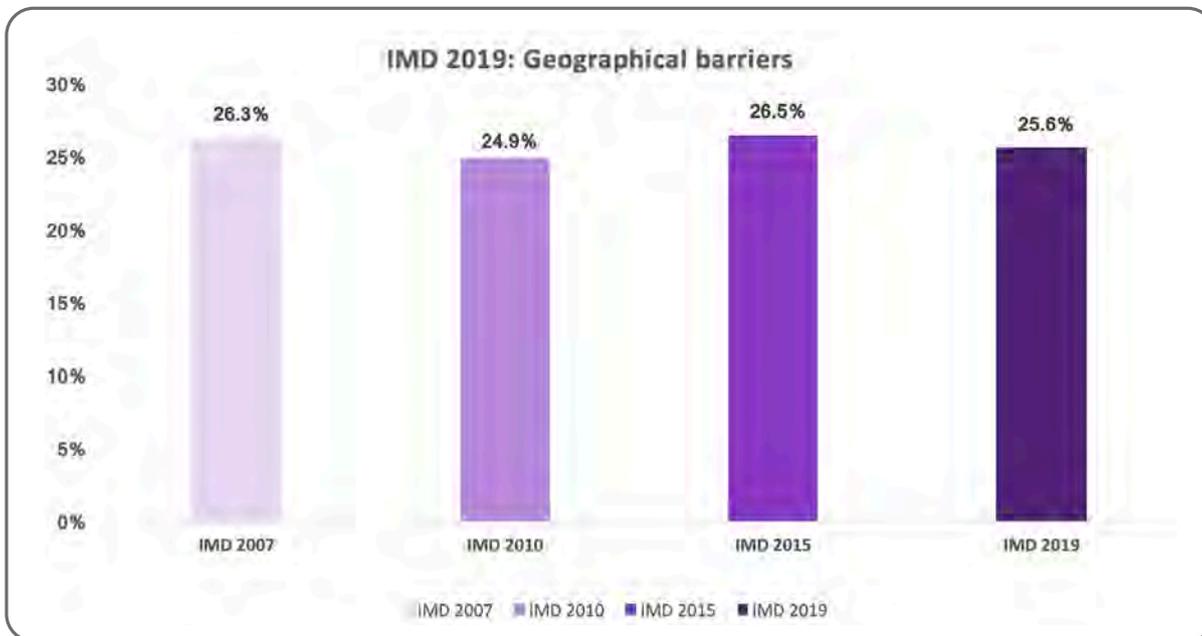


### Accessibility

Alongside barriers to housing, the IMD measures deprivation in terms of geographical access to services. Specifically, this is measured by looking at the distance between neighbourhoods and the certain services (post office,

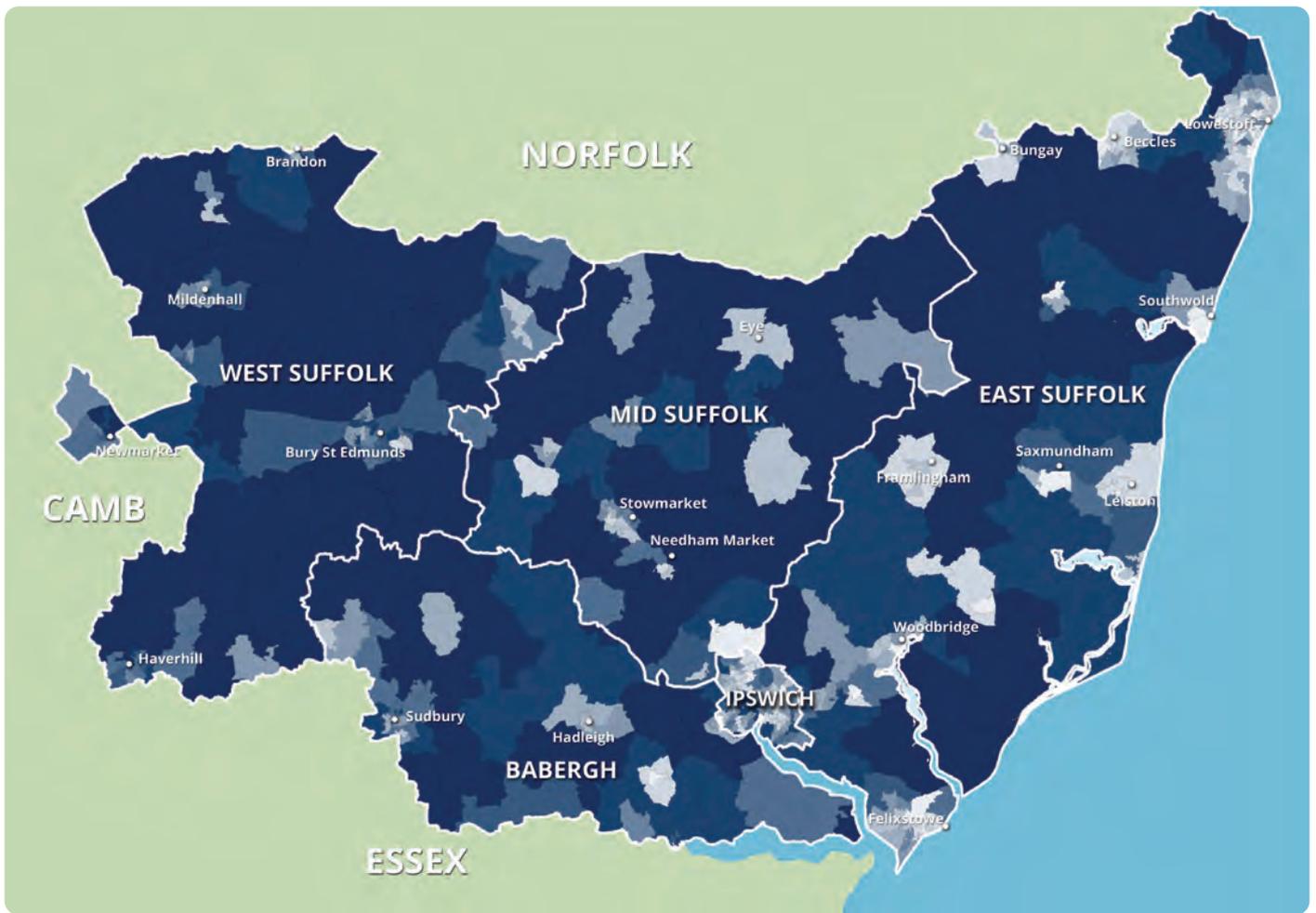
primary school, food shop and GP surgery). This measure is important because it is the single type of deprivation for which Suffolk performs most poorly in the IMD. In each wave of the IMD since 2007, over a quarter of Suffolk neighbourhoods have been among England's most deprived 10% on this measure.

Percentage of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for deprivation related to Geographical Barriers to Services



Unsurprisingly, most neighbourhoods with geographical barriers to services are located in rural areas. In 2019, 53% of rural neighbourhoods in Suffolk were in the most

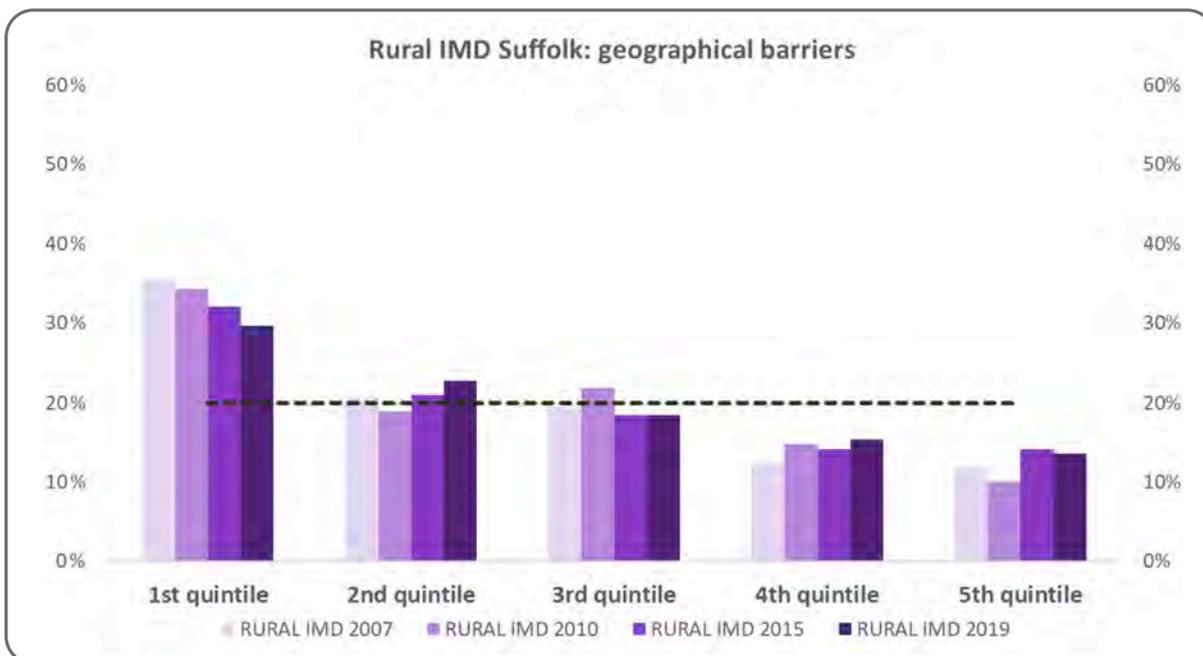
deprived decile for accessibility, compared with 10% of urban neighbourhoods.

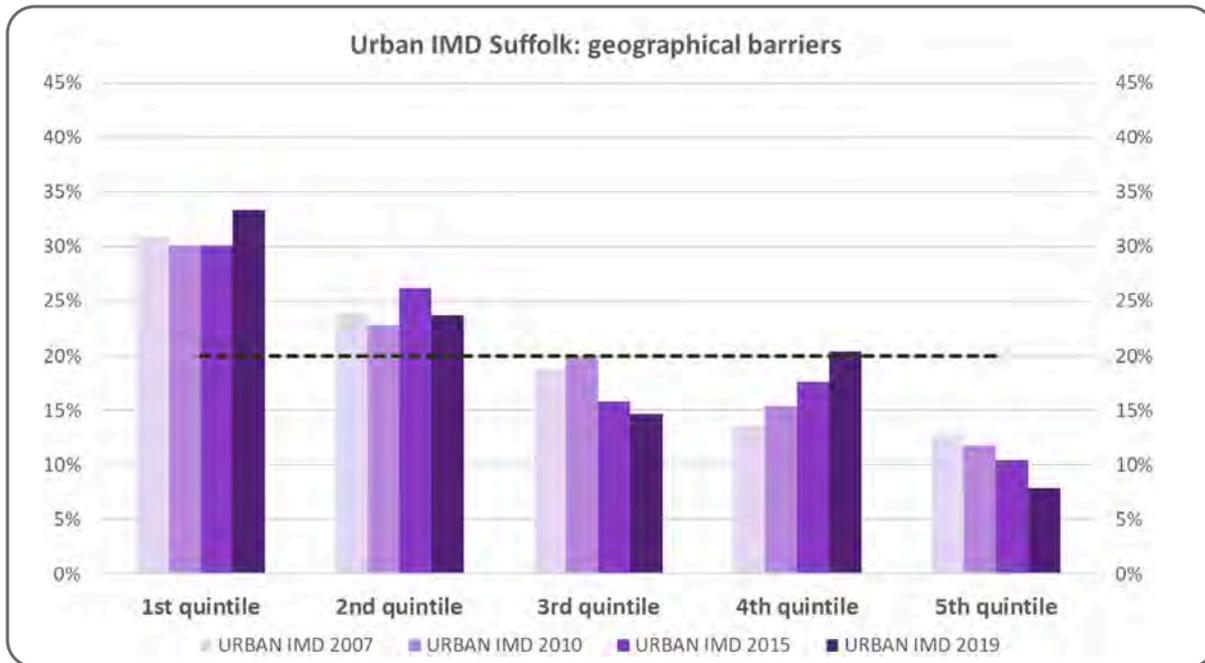


Furthermore, our 'Rural IMD' analysis suggests that barriers to services in rural Suffolk are greater than in rural England generally. If Suffolk had average distribution of ranking on this measure then 20% of neighbourhoods would be in the most deprived quintile; instead, 30% of rural Suffolk neighbourhoods are in the most deprived rural quintile.

Closer inspection also reveals that, compared with urban England, urban neighbourhoods in Suffolk also have greater geographical barriers: 33% are among the most deprived neighbourhoods in urban England. These urban neighbourhoods are likely to be those on the outskirts and in the suburbs of Suffolk's towns.

Distribution of Suffolk neighbourhoods by 'Rural IMD': deprivation related to Geographical Barriers to Services





It would seem, however, that geographical barriers to services are not a direct driver of deprivation in Suffolk. None of the neighbourhoods experiencing overall deprivation are among the most deprived group for geographical access. Nearly all (92%) of the neighbourhoods

in the most deprived decile for geographical barriers are in the most advantaged, 'top half' of the distribution. Often then, neighbourhoods in rural areas and suburbs may have more difficulty accessing services but they remain otherwise relatively advantaged.

Distribution of deprivation related to geographical barriers to services (2019)						
Number of Suffolk neighbourhoods in England's most deprived 10% for geographical barriers	Overall deprivation rank					
	Deciles: 1 = 10% most deprived 10 = 10% least deprived					
	1	2	3	4	5 to 10	Total
113	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.9%)	8 (7.1%)	104 (92%)	113 (100%)

This is not to dismiss accessibility as a factor in deprivation in the county. It serves to have a 'cooling effect' on the overall IMD deprivation ranking for the county. It may also serve as an indirect driver of deprivation in terms of its impact on employment opportunities (including young people's access to post-16 education and training, and subsequent skills development). More tangibly, poor accessibility exacerbates the disadvantage experienced by deprived households in otherwise advantaged, rural neighbourhoods. For example,

research published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2010 found that rural households had to spend up to 20% more to achieve the same living standards as urban households, with the largest portion of this additional expense (60-100%) required for additional transport costs<sup>32</sup>. For rural households on low income and 'just about managing', the additional costs associated with overcoming poor access to services and opportunities can quickly become unmanageable.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/minimum-income-standard-rural-households>





# DEPRIVATION, CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

## What Does The Long View Show Us?

Suffolk, overall, is not one of England's most deprived counties. At the same time, it is not one of the most advantaged: Suffolk neighbourhoods are under-represented among the least deprived in England. Relative deprivation has been increasing in Suffolk since the 2007 IMD.

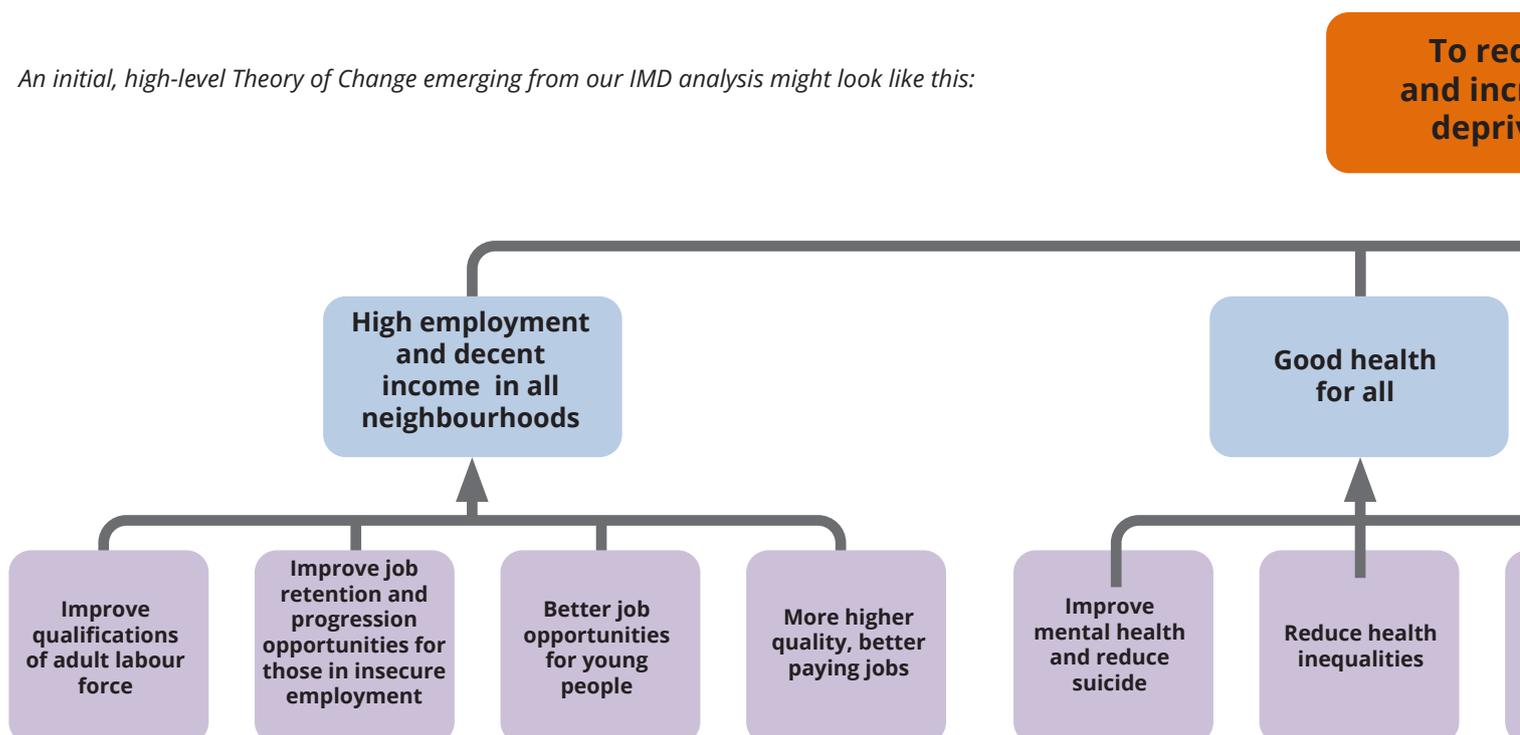
The biggest increase in relative deprivation happened between the 2010 and 2015 IMDs and this covers the same period as the aftermath of the UK's Great Recession in 2008/09. The county did not see anything like the same decline between the 2015 and 2019 IMDs – but neither did it see any recovery of the earlier decline.

Overall deprivation appears to be more fluid elsewhere in England and more persistent in Suffolk. Between 2007 and 2019, 31% of neighbourhoods in Suffolk saw some significant, relative improvement (by a decile) at some time; 69% did not improve. In England, however, 47% of neighbourhoods improved over the same period, with 53% not improving. The number of Suffolk neighbourhoods among the most deprived 10% in England has increased from 16 to 22. Three quarters (75%) of Suffolk's most deprived neighbourhoods in 2007 did not significantly improve at any point. By comparison with England generally over the same period, the most deprived neighbourhoods

saw more improvement (only 69% did not improve). The drivers of deprivation more exclusively associated with the most deprived neighbourhoods in Suffolk related to income, employment and health. Suffolk's lower-than-average wages are an important element here.

The biggest movement in Suffolk has been in the middle-ranking neighbourhoods. In 2007, for example, there was a concentration of neighbourhoods around the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> deciles of distribution (where 1<sup>st</sup> decile is most deprived). This has gradually shifted until neighbourhoods in 2019 were concentrated around the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> deciles. More advantaged neighbourhoods have become less advantaged. Arguably, many households in the county have become less resilient and more vulnerable to economic and social adversity. Deprivation related to education appears to have an impact across neighbourhoods across the bottom half of the distribution. The same is true regarding crime, albeit to a lesser extent. Suffolk has higher rates of deprivation related to

*An initial, high-level Theory of Change emerging from our IMD analysis might look like this:*



housing quality, compared with England, and less affordable housing for people on lower incomes. Housing issues are more pronounced in rural neighbourhoods.

The various drivers of deprivation in Suffolk are interlinked and interact in complex, dynamic ways. For example, being on a low income and in receipt of free school meals is associated with lower attainment of qualifications in schools. At the same time, a lack of qualifications is associated with lower earnings and lower income. The high cost of housing may mean a family is unable to avoid living in an excessively cold home which, in turn, impacts on health. People's experience of deprivation varies, depending on the configuration of drivers impacting on them. Deprivation is the sum of these different drivers. This means that in order to tackle deprivation – and to improve people's resilience to deprivation – the range of drivers at play need to be addressed.

### The new context: Covid19 and recession

As we emerge from the Covid19 lockdown, the future appears challenging and uncertain. The country is entering one of the deepest recessions in its history. The UK's GDP is forecast to shrink by 9.75% in 2020. For comparison, the UK's GDP fell by 7.2% during the whole period of the 2008/2009 Great Recession. Government borrowing in response to the pandemic is at the highest level since the world wars: borrowing this year is expected to exceed £350 billion and the UK's debt is now greater than its economy, for the first time since 1963.

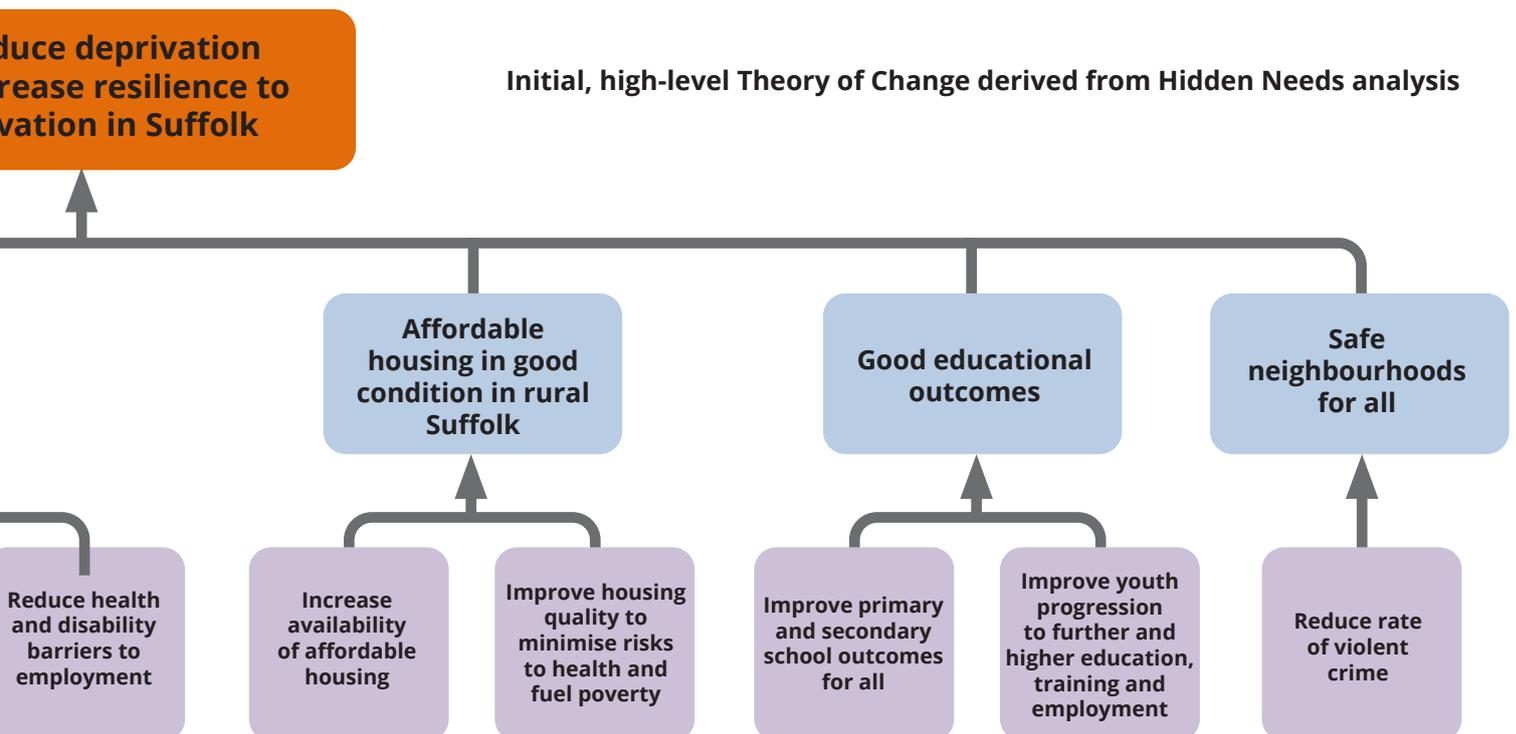
While the impact and duration of the new recession is unknown, there has been an immediate impact on unemployment. In less than 6 months, the number of people in Suffolk claiming out of work benefits has more than doubled – jumping from just over 11,000 in March 2020, when lockdown began, to almost 23,000 in July 2020.

The local impact of the new recession will depend on, among other things, the approach taken by central government to public spending. As things stand, the pandemic has already taken its toll on local authority budgets, both through additional costs on response measures (e.g. in social care, education and highways and infrastructure) and lost revenues (e.g. reductions in business rates). In July 2020, Suffolk County Council reported additional spending of £57.8 million and, even after extra central government support, a projected potential shortfall of over £23 million.

Our analysis shows that, compared with many other local authorities, Suffolk – alongside Norfolk and Essex – experienced a greater increase in deprivation during the period of the last recession. Although we cannot say that the Post-C19 recession will have the same impact, it does highlight the potential risks facing Suffolk going forward.

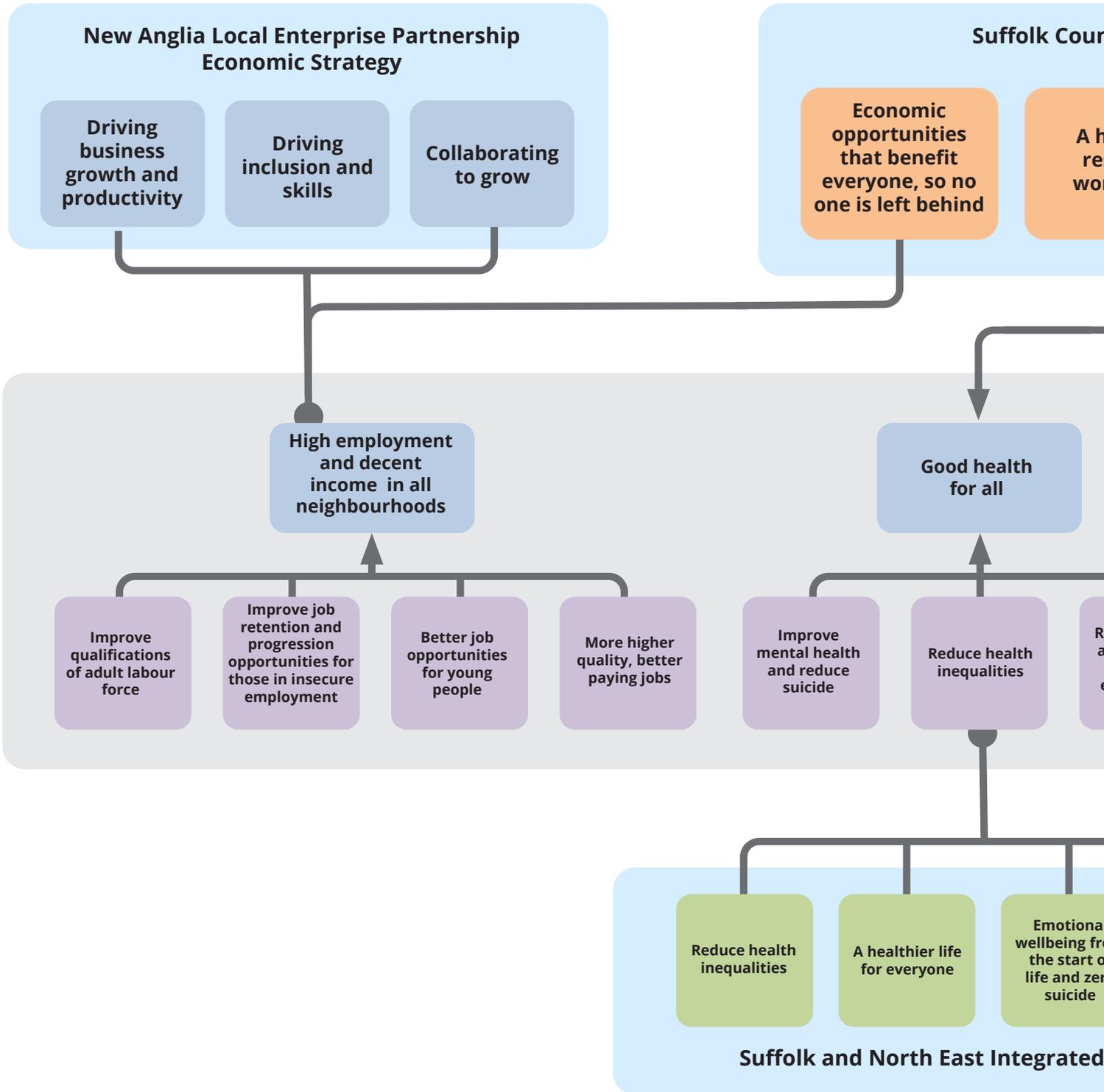
### Change and resilience: towards a Theory of Change?

Our analysis has identified a number of drivers of deprivation in Suffolk: income and employment; health; housing quality and affordability, especially in rural Suffolk; education; and crime. If we reverse this, we can say that these drivers then indicate the issues that need to be tackled in order to reduce deprivation and build resilience in the face of a new recession. In turn, this starts to map out a type of roadmap for change – sometimes referred to as a 'Theory of Change'. Theory of Change is a widely used methodology for designing and articulating the steps required for an organisation to make the change it aspires to make and achieve its intended objectives. Suffolk Community Foundation's interest in considering a Theory of Change is primarily as a means of informing its own strategy for tackling deprivation, although – as we discuss below - it might be of interest to wider partners.



Deprivation is complex. By definition, tackling multiple deprivation requires a multi-pronged approach. It follows that if we do not address the different forms of deprivation in play in Suffolk, we will not ameliorate the circumstances of the most deprived households and we will not address the needs

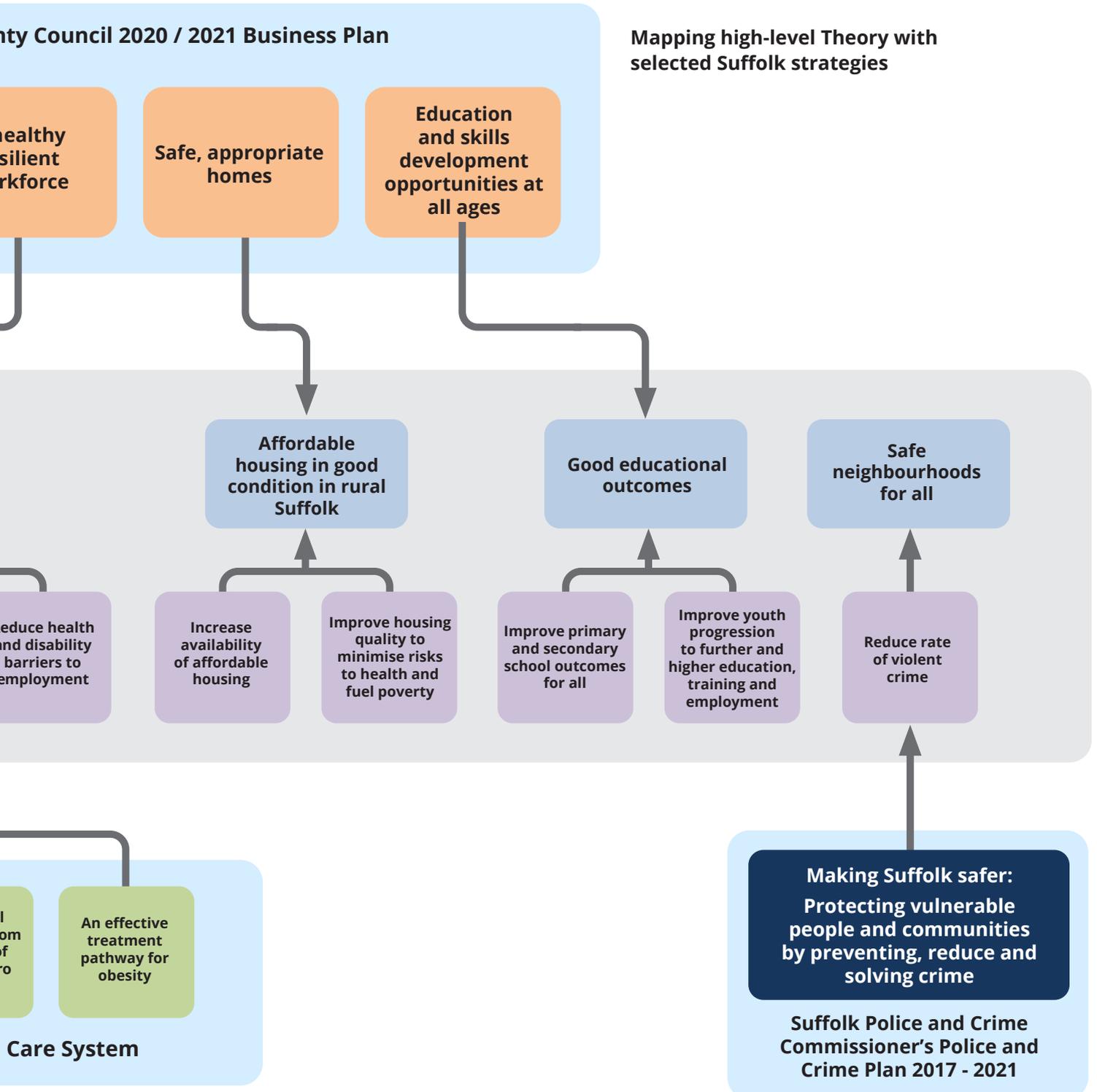
of the full range of households experiencing deprivation. It also follows that deprivation cannot be addressed by one service or a number of organisations working in isolation. Instead it requires all services and organisations to be working in coordination as a whole system.



## Strategies for Suffolk

There are a number of strategic plans in Suffolk which – directly or indirectly – set out to address aspects of deprivation. There are many areas of overlap between these

plans and the Theory of Change outlined above. This can be illustrated in the diagram below which shows the selected objectives from selected strategies in relation to the Hidden Needs high-level Theory of Change.



This not only highlights the overlap between strategies, but also that the strategies operate separately in the sense of focusing on different areas of need. The Theory of Change is useful here as a way of 'mapping out' how these different strategies contribute to tackling multiple deprivation.

The fact that there are multiple strategies, operated separately by different agencies, means that it can be challenging to synchronise the activity of all organisations across all sectors which have the potential to contribute to addressing deprivation. The Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care System (ICS) offers a good example of how this challenge has been grappled with. Established in 2018 to draw together all parts of the health and care system, the ICS is led by a board representing health, local government and the community and voluntary sector. Its current *Realising Ambition* programme represents a new model of partnership in the region, with Suffolk and Essex Community Foundations given responsibility for distributing £2m of NHS Transformation Funding to support local community and voluntary sector organisations to address public health outcomes. This initiative points to what a 'gold standard' of partnership might look like: sustained, funded, genuine collaboration between public sector and third sector to tackle mutually shared objectives.

## The value of a Theory of Change

Given the number of local strategies relevant to reducing deprivation in Suffolk, proposals for yet another strategy are unlikely to be helpful. So how might a Theory of Change offer added value?

A relatively straightforward use of the Theory of Change is as a guide for what the Suffolk Community Foundation funds. The type of high-level Theory of Change presented on the previous page is sometimes used by funders or grant-making bodies to identify a set of broad objectives; applicants for funding then are asked to set out how their proposed

initiatives will address those objectives. This is useful in ensuring that resources are focused on meeting specified goals while at the same time maximising the possibility of applicants' creativity and expertise in designing how the goals can be achieved. The value of Suffolk Community Foundation using the high-level Theory of Change in this way would be to assist applicants in being able to demonstrate how their proposals address the fundamental objective of reducing deprivation and building resilience to deprivation.

If there is appetite among the Foundation's partners, there is potential for more ambitious uses of the Theory of Change. For example, a more developed version of the Theory of Change - one which more comprehensively maps out relevant local strategies - would be of use to community and voluntary sector organisations in Suffolk to better pinpoint how their activities overlap with and contribute to the objectives of public sector agencies. Through collaboration with local organisations and communities, it is likely that the objectives in the high-level Theory of Change would need to be augmented and an additional level of more detailed outcomes specified. The resulting 'map' could be valuable for organisations in helping to identify opportunities and to demonstrate how they interface with local strategic objectives in their funding applications to public sector and other bodies. In practice, this may be particularly true for medium and smaller community and voluntary organisations, with the potential to make a disproportionate impact on meeting urgent, local need.

At its most ambitious, if the Theory of Change can be more fully developed with representative engagement across Suffolk, it has the potential to support 'whole system' strategic thinking in the county. Here it would serve as a mechanism to co-ordinate strategies and cross-sector collaboration, to critically challenge assumptions and ensure an evidence-based approach and, importantly, to identify gaps in strategic planning.



## Mapping Interventions

The potential value of a Theory of Change as a means of mapping the contribution made by organisations can be illustrated in the following case studies. These highlight examples of how community and voluntary sector initiatives contribute to addressing aspects of deprivation in Suffolk.

### ICENI

Iceni is an Ipswich-based charity which specialises in supporting children and parents in Suffolk who have been affected by addiction and domestic abuse. Its holistic approach is designed to safeguard children, to reduce their need to enter the care system and, as such, to give them the **best start in life**. It also works with parents to enable them to break cycles of substance addiction and domestic violence, and to improve parenting skills and ensure children are protected. Overcoming addiction reduces a key barrier to **employment** and Iceni offers a range of therapies to improve **mental health**. Safe children with good parents are likely to do **better in school**. Iceni's operation focuses on some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England and, as such, it is an important provision for reducing health inequalities. Its work in **preventing domestic abuse** is important for reducing violent crime.

### SURVIVING WINTER

Surviving Winter is an annual initiative, led by the Suffolk Community Foundation, to respond to **fuel poverty** and reduce the health risks associated with living in **excessively cold** homes. It involves a crowd funding campaign, where those in receipt of government winter fuel payments who do not need them are encouraged to donate all or a proportion of their payment to be re-distributed to those in need. In addition, it connects people in fuel poverty with Citizens Advice organisations in Suffolk for benefits advice and help to **maximise household income**. An important element of the campaign is its partnership with *Warm Homes Healthy People*, a partnership of Suffolk's councils, that operates a service to help vulnerable people and families make their homes more **energy efficient** and cheaper to heat.

### FORWARD MOVES

The Green Light Trust's Forward Moves supports young people in West Suffolk from challenging backgrounds

who are facing significant barriers to entry into the labour market. It aims to help them to **become work ready** through a developmental process involving, for example, confidence building, additional qualifications, career mentoring and experiential ecological trips to develop social skills.

### BSC MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

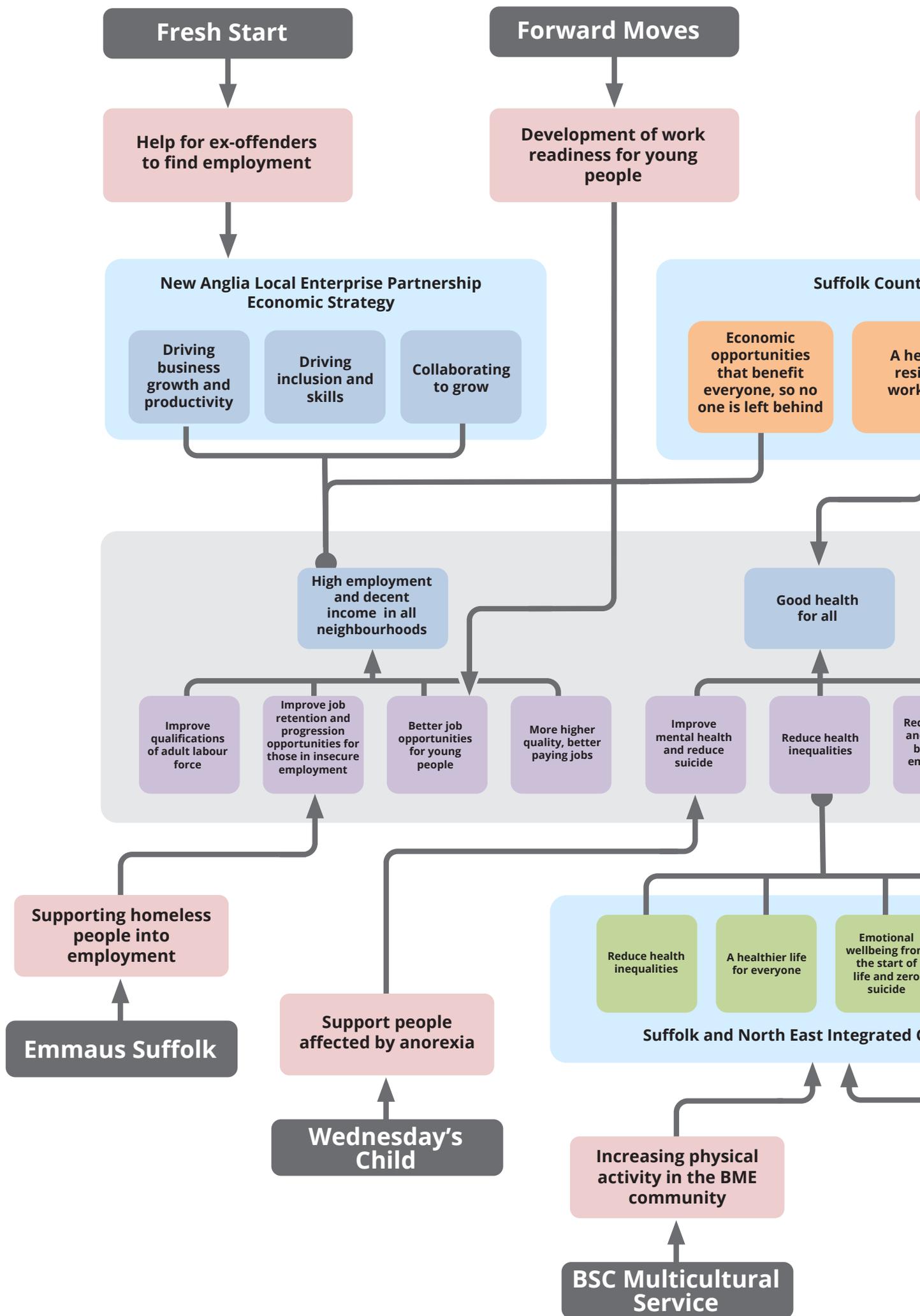
The ICS Realising Ambition initiative is funding BSC Multicultural Services to provide an activity programme to black and ethnic minority communities in Ipswich. The programme aims to: increase regular, **physical activity**; breakdown barriers to accessing activities; to reduce isolation and **improve mental wellbeing**. In addition, by offering opportunities for participants from diverse backgrounds to become qualified coaches, referees and instructors, it seeks to enhance **employment opportunities**.

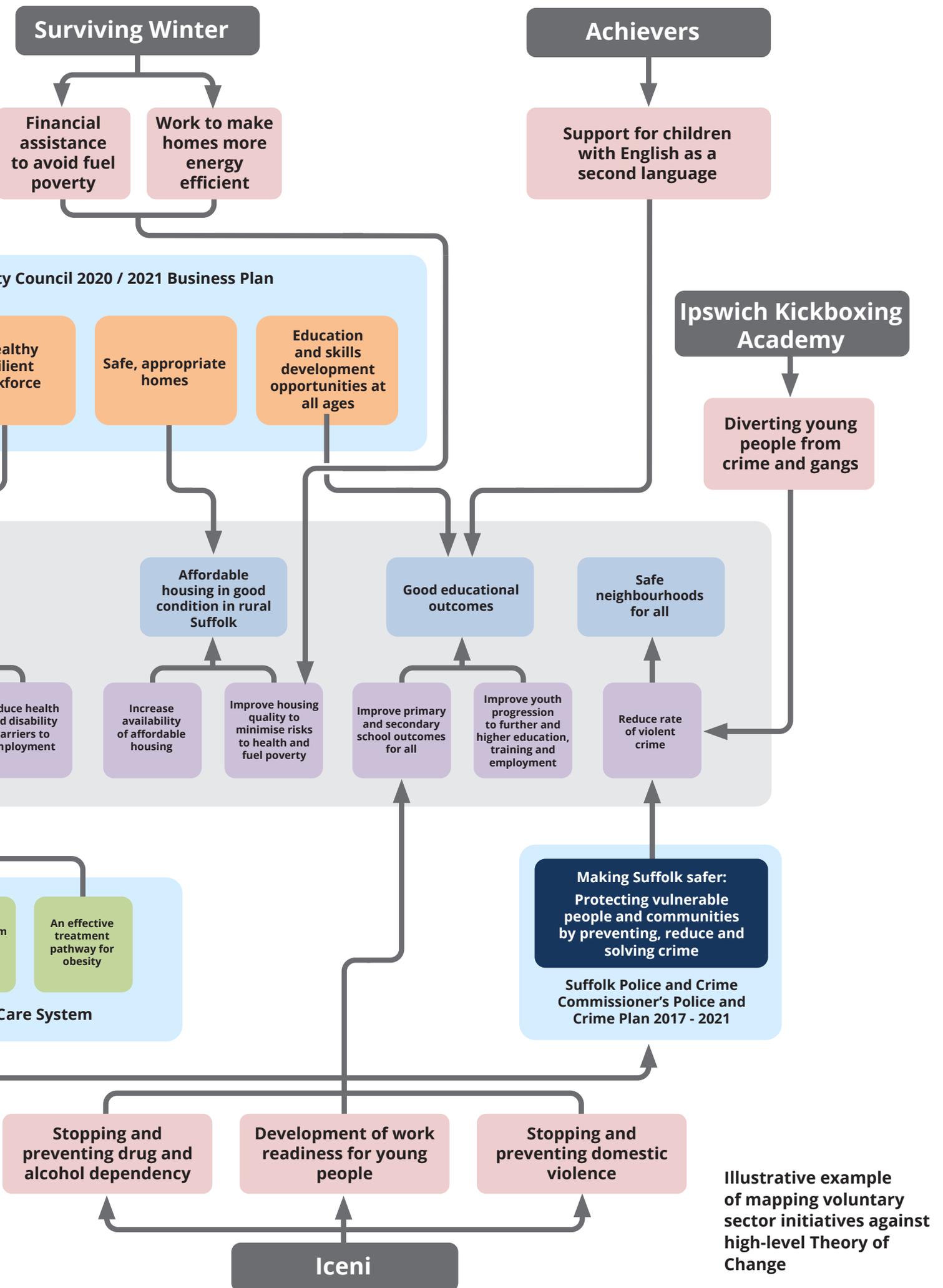
A Theory of Change can be used to interlink these diverse initiatives and map out how they contribute to addressing a common, fundamental objective of addressing deprivation. This is illustrated below, using the case studies alongside a selection of further examples.

### SUFFOLK FAMILY CARERS

Suffolk Family Carers has been providing support to carers young and old across Suffolk for over 30 years. This support is vital and helps enhance the health and wellbeing of the carer, providing them with their own support network enables their continued caring responsibilities to be more manageable. Like many VCSE providers, they have had to adapt their services during the CV19 pandemic. They have built upon the elements of support and information that they know work well for people, utilising telephone, text, email or video contact. Their groups, clubs and workshops have moved online, and they continue to offer them regularly.

The fact that there are multiple strategies, operated separately by different agencies, means that it can be challenging to synchronise the activity of all organisations across all sectors which have the potential to contribute to addressing deprivation.





## Learning from the past to be resilient in the future

This *Hidden Needs* analysis has highlighted serious, long term trends in Suffolk: persistent pockets of profound deprivation and, more generally, what might be described as the gradual erosion of resilience to deprivation. This report has been produced at a point when the UK is facing one of the deepest recessions in its history and an uncertain future. It is more important than ever to have the most effective arrangements in place to be able to weather the storm and support the most vulnerable people and neighbourhoods.

The complex, multifaceted, tenacious nature of deprivation means that it can only be reduced through the sustained

and effective collaboration of everyone with the relevant local knowledge, skills and resources. This includes the need for sustained, genuine, funded partnerships across the public and community and voluntary sectors. The illustrative mapping of case studies against a Theory of Change - as offered above - suggests both that there is valuable action happening and that a conceptual framework for co-ordinating this action is not impossible. At the same time, the post-C19 recession we face brings a new urgency to securing strong and comprehensive collaboration and partnership.

*"Let us learn from the past, by using the partnership structures that have served us so well during the pandemic emergency and commit to tackling deprivation through strong leadership and a clear vision, for together we can improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our communities."*

*Stephen Singleton MBE, Chief Executive, Suffolk Community Foundation*



## Appendix

### Data Sources

#### *NOMIS*

Part of the data used in this report was obtained through NOMIS (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>), a service provided by the Office for National Statistics (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/>), ONS, that gives free access to detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics from official sources. Data obtained from NOMIS were:

- Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey
- Population Estimates
- Labour Market Statistic (income and unemployment)

#### *Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)*

IMD data was obtained from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation>

#### *Crime*

Data on levels of crime in Suffolk was obtained from Suffolk Observatory, <https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/crime-and-community-safety/>

#### *Education*

Data on education was obtained from the Department of Education websites:

- Early Years foundation stage profile: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-early-years-foundation-stage-profile>
- Key Stage 2 attainment: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-key-stage-2>
- Key Stage 4 (GCSE) attainment: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-gcses-key-stage-4>
- Net spending per pupil: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-local-authority-school-finance-data>

Data on progression to Higher Education was obtained from the Office for Student's webpage, "Young Participation by Area – POLAR4": <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/get-the-area-based-measures-data/>

#### *Housing*

Data on housing prices was obtained from the Office for National Statistics, House price to residence-based earnings ratio dataset at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoresidencebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian>

Data on housing affordability was obtained from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Live tables on affordable housing supply, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply>

#### *International migration*

Data on international migration was obtained from the Office for National Statistics - International migration website at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration>

#### *NEET*

Data on the estimate of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) was obtained from the Department of Education website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neet-data-by-local-authority-2012-16-to-18-year-olds-not-in-education-employment-or-training>



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