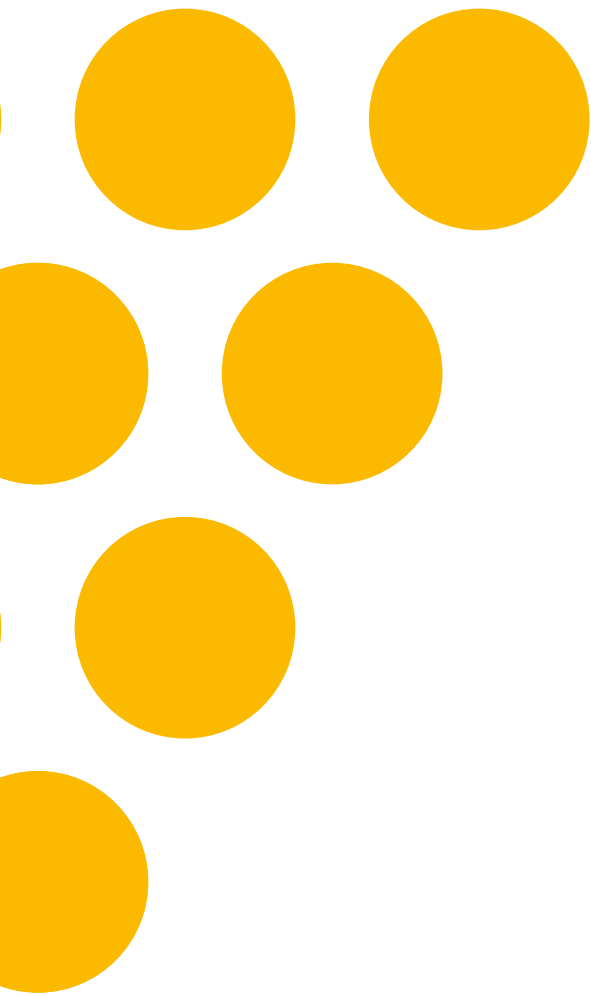




Cornwall
Community
Foundation



Cornwall's Vital Issues 2022



University
of Exeter

Sig

social innovation group



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GIVING FOR LOCAL GOOD

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Vital Signs

Vital Signs® is a research document designed to identify social and community priorities. Prepared by Cornwall Community Foundation (CCF), it reports on the vitality of our communities, identifying significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is supported by UK Community Foundations, with research support from the Social Innovation Group at the University of Exeter.

The process requires the production of two publications: a detailed report (Vital Issues); and a summary report (Vital Signs).

Understanding the Vital Issues and Vital Signs reports

Core themes

The core themes are the backbone of this report. This follows the approach recommended by UKCF and repeats themes from the 2017 Vital Issues report, although some sections have been combined and refined. Each area of research, the surveys, consultations and meetings have all been aligned to these themes where possible.

1. Local Economy and Employment
2. Fairness and Strong Communities
3. Healthy Living
4. Housing and Homelessness
5. Safety
6. Education and Learning
7. Arts, Culture and Heritage
8. Environment

Themes cross over and impact one another and therefore should not be interpreted in isolation. In addition, there are two further cross-cutting themes that, whilst not considered separately, impact all eight main themes: transport and rurality.

The impact of Covid, and the cost of living crisis also continue to exacerbate the issues facing communities across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Methodology

Our research for Vital Signs consisted of several work packages.

- We worked with the University of Exeter and reviewed statistical data, reports and consultations from charities, local authorities and national government.
- We supplemented this research with a survey of residents who use the services of, or are connected to the community groups, charities, and social enterprises CCF has supported. **265** respondents, **68%** female, **31%** male. **57%** have lived in Cornwall more than 20 years.
- We explored the emerging themes in more detail at three community consultations.

Community consultations

CCF chose three area types in which to undertake our community consultations:

1. **Rural** – Week St Mary, North Cornwall
2. **Coastal town** – Newquay
3. **Inland town** – Truro

The consultations brought together residents, community and business leaders, and those working across some of the groups CCF supports.

We thank Week St Mary Parish Hall, Newquay Orchard, St Petrocs and Cornwall Chamber of Commerce, who all kindly hosted and/or facilitated these consultations.

Additional note on interpretation & sources

The data herein is based on published research, survey results and community consultations. It aims to be independent, unbiased, free of preconceptions and political affiliation, and includes qualitative and quantitative data throughout. Every effort has been made to ensure that the analysis, interpretation and reporting is evidence-based.

Acknowledgements

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A big thank you to James Williams Vice Lord-Lieutenant for his generous donation to support the publication of the Vital Signs report.

Cornwall – the context

Cornwall lies on a long peninsula with no inland area more than **20 miles** from the sea. It has a coastline of over **400 miles (724 kilometres)**, **158 miles** designated as Heritage Coast, and over **300 beaches**. Its only land border is with Devon in the east, and it is the furthestmost western county of England.

Headline statistics:

- **30%** of Cornwall is classified as an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** and has the same status and level of protection as a National Park. It is the ninth largest protected landscape in the country (Cornwall AONB, 2022).
- **Nearly 75%** of Cornwall's land area is managed for agricultural use (Cornwall Wildlife Trust, 2020).
- The **Cornish Mining World Heritage Site** comprises of **18,222 ha** covering **5.5%** of Cornwall.
- Cornwall has: **22 Marine Conservation Zones; 4 Marine Special Areas of Conservation; 3 Marine Special Protected Areas; and 115 County Geology Sites** (Cornwall Wildlife Trust, 2020).
- **13%** of Cornwall is designated either a **Site of Scientific Interest (137)** or a **County Wildlife Site (505)** (Cornwall Wildlife Trust, 2020).
- Cornwall has its own language.

Population changes & structure

Cornwall's population at the time of the Census 2021 was **570,300**, an increase of **7.1%** since the 2011 Census (**532,300**); higher than the overall increase for England (**6.1%**).

The population has grown **14%** in the last 20 years and is still growing, but growth is mainly among older (40+) residents. There has been an increase of **25.1%** in people aged 65 years and over (populationdata.org, May 2022), while the number of young people in Cornwall (aged 39 or younger) is declining (Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2022).

The population is spread over **1,376 sq. miles** in total, equivalent to **414 people per sq. mile**, compared to **671** people per sq. mile across the UK. However, Cornwall has no major urban centre but is characterised by a number of small towns of **20,000-25,000** people and many dispersed rural settlements.

The gender split is estimated at **59% female, 41% male** (Citizens Advice Cornwall, 2022).

Ethnic diversity is limited in Cornwall: **95.7%** of the population is white British, (England average **79.8%**), **2.5%** white other, **0.6%** Asian, **0.1%** Black, **0.8%** mixed, **0.2%** Other (Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly insights Dashboard, August 2022).

The population of the Isles of Scilly's five inhabited islands, St. Mary's, Treco, St. Martin's, Bryher and St Agnes, is **2,224** (mid-2019 est.).

Cornish ethnicity

On 24 April 2014 Cornish people were granted minority status under the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. This affords the Cornish the same status as the UK's other Celtic people – the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish.

73,200, or **14%** of the total population, stated in the 2011 Census that they have Cornish national identity, although this was a write-in response which likely underestimates numbers. Census 2021 data is not yet available for this measure.

In recent years the Cornish language has become more widely used in official signage, street signs and in organisations' literature. Cornwall Council and Transport for Cornwall have been particularly active in this regard, the former using bilingual signage on its buses and the latter producing bilingual, or partially bilingual, documents (Institute of Cornish Studies, The State of Cornwall – What we currently know about our Socio-Economic Landscape, July 2022).



Rurality

47% of Cornwall's residents live outside of towns, in settlements of fewer than **3,000 people** (Cornwall Council (2011) 'Connecting Cornwall: 2030')

Cornwall Council Residents' Survey 2021*

In 2021, the Cornwall Council Residents' Survey identified the following services as in most need of improvement:

- 1. More affordable housing for local people/more/better housing in general**
12%
- 2. Road maintenance/gritting**
9%
- 3. Communications/updates**
8%
- 4. Policing/crime rate**
7%

* published
January
2022

Cost of living crisis

There is currently a cost-of-living crisis in the UK.

The Government's energy price cap was lifted in April, enabling energy firms to increase bills by **54%**, equivalent to **£700** more across a year for a 'typical' household paying by direct debit. The increase is greater for those with pre-pay meters.

Energy bills were due to increase by a further **80%** in October, but the new Energy Price Guarantee limited the October increase to **37%** (House of Commons Library, Domestic energy prices, September 2022). Additional measures, such as a **£400** rebate on energy bills, have been introduced. At the time of writing, universal support for energy bills is likely to last through winter 2022-2023 but will be targeted at the poorest households thereafter.

Cornish homes have poorer than average energy consumption and cost around **20%** more to heat than the average home in England.

In July 2022 inflation reached a 30-year high of **10.1%**, with a slight reduction to **9.9%** in August. The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) rose by **8.6%** in the 12 months to August 2022, down from **8.8%** in July (ONS, Consumer price inflation, UK: August 2022, published September 2022).

Citizens Advice Cornwall has had **36,900** issues reported between 2021-2022.

The top five issues in terms of frequency are identified as:

- 1. Benefits Universal Credit (8,996)**
- 2. Benefits and Tax credits (8,213)**
- 3. Debt (5,319)**
- 4. Financial Services and Capability (3,108)**
- 5. Housing (2,857)** (Citizens Advice Cornwall, 2022)

1. Local Economy and Employment

Overview

Overall, Cornwall is performing poorly against most measures of Local Economy and Employment and doesn't compare favourably to other areas of the UK. Cornwall's Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) scores for 2019 show worsening income and employment outcomes in deprived areas compared to the 2015 results (*Cornwall Council, IMD 2019*).

Employment rates are relatively positive but full-time workers in Cornwall only earn **79%** of the UK gross median annual salary, and a disproportionate number of people work in seasonal, part-time, insecure and low-paid jobs. Many people in Cornwall are extremely vulnerable to the cost-of-living crisis.

Our survey and community consultations highlighted concerns around wage and cost-of-living disparity, lack of opportunities, in-work-poverty and Cornwall's post-pandemic economic recovery.

There is increased focus on aerospace, renewable energy, and the environmental and maritime sectors as the key to Cornwall's future economic success. There is strong evidence of the potential for investment in these sectors to support wider national priorities and strengthen economic output in both Cornwall and the UK. It is important that a more detailed understanding is developed of the skills and other requirements needed to unlock this potential (*Institute for Cornish Studies, August 2022*).

1.1 Salary data

Across Cornwall, in 2021, **26.5%** of the population earned less than the real living wage, compared to **17.1%** across the United Kingdom (*ONS, 2022*).

In 2021 a full-time worker in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly earned **£20,628**, which was **79%** of the UK gross median annual salary (full-time **£25,597**, part-time **£11,313**), (*Cornwall Council, Economy Monitoring Monthly Update (EMMU), June 2022*).

Total resident gross annual earnings in 2021 equalled **£21,214**, which was **82%** of the UK average. (*Cornwall Council, EMMU, June 2022*).

Part-time work accounts for over **40%** of jobs in Cornwall (*University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West – Levelling up through education, April 2022*).

1.2 Unemployment

9,200 people, **3.5%** of the Cornish population, were unemployed between January and December 2021 (*ONS, 2021*).

The unemployment rate in Cornwall is lower than that of England (**3.6%** for Southwest, **4.9%** for England between October 2020 and September 2021) (*Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022*).

Cornwall's unemployment rate is low, but wage growth is stagnant and not keeping up with the rise in the cost of living, therefore average earnings have fallen (*Insights Dashboard, 2022*). **11,500** people (just over **3.5%** of the population) were in receipt of unemployment related benefits in February 2022 (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

1,279 issues related to employment were reported to Citizens Advice between 2021–2022 (*Citizens Advice Cornwall, 2022*).

Economic inactivity (people who are both 'looking for a job' and those who are not) has been consistently higher in Cornwall than England since Q3 2020. **22.5%** of Cornwall residents were classified as economically inactive in Q3 2021 (**21.2%** England) (*Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022*).

1.3 Universal Credit

Between March 2020 and June 2021, Universal Credit claimant rates rose **98%** in Cornwall, with the largest increase in Universal Credit claimants in Truro and Falmouth at **139%** (*Cornwall Council, EMMU, June 2022*).

As of May 2022, there were **44,194** Universal Credit claimants, up **0.4%** on the April figure and **78%** above the figures from March 2020 (**24,876**) (*Cornwall Council, Economic Monitoring Monthly Update, June 2022*). **42%** (**18,272**) of claimants were listed as working while **20%** (**8,763**) were searching for work.

1.4 Self-employment

20.3% of Cornwall's workforce are self-employed compared to **13.5%** for the UK. They have median earnings of **£14,100** a year (2019–2020) compared to UK median self-employed earnings of **£15,400** (*Cornwall Council, EMMU, June 2022*).

49% of self-employed people earn less than the minimum wage (*University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West – Levelling up through education, April 2022*).

1.5 Enterprise Zones in Cornwall

The Cornwall Marine Enterprise Zone is a base for marine businesses comprising of 15 hectares in 3 primary locations: Hayle Harbour, Falmouth Docks and Tolvaddon.

The Goonhilly Enterprise Zone is a world-class space asset and has received investment to grow in the commercial space sector and invest in satellite technology.

The Aerohub Enterprise Zone at Cornwall Airport Newquay provides airport facilities as well as landside development sites. It is the base for the Spaceport Cornwall project - the first horizontal satellite launch location in the UK.

Cornwall is one of **17** areas in England that has received funding of **£830,000** from the government to expand Food Enterprise Zones (*Cornwall Council, Enterprise Zones, 2022*).

1.6 Tourism

On the recommendation of Visit Cornwall, 2019 figures are used, as the last two years have been distorted due to COVID.

Cornwall is officially the UK's favourite holiday destination, having won the accolade for the eighth year in a row at the British Travel Awards.

Tourism generated **£2 billion** (**£455 million** just from hotels) and the sector accounts for **12%** Gross Value Added. In 2019 there were almost **5 million** staying trips, totalling nearly **25 million** total visitor nights (*Visit Cornwall, The Economic Impact of Cornwall's Visitor Economy 2019, November 2020*).

The total estimated employment for the sector is over **52,000** (direct, indirect and induced), accounting for **20%** of all employment (*Visit Cornwall, The Economic Impact of Cornwall's Visitor Economy 2019, November 2020*).

1.7 Gig economy and secondary jobs market

Many jobs in Cornwall are seasonal, linked to the tourism sector; **16.3%** of the Cornish workforce is engaged in tourism compared to **7.6%** in Britain (*Citizens Advice Cornwall, Radical Changes Needed to Reduce Zero Hours Poverty in Cornwall, September 2022*).

In the hospitality sector over **70%** of jobs pay below the Living Wage (*University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West – levelling up through education, April 2022*).

"Dependence on these often low wage, insecure and seasonal jobs is growing quicker (in Cornwall) than the rest of the nation." (Gill Pipkin, Citizens Advice Cornwall Chief Executive, 2022).

Zero-hours workers often earn less than permanent employees and miss out on employment rights, such as family friendly hours, statutory redundancy pay and protection from unfair dismissal, (*Citizens Advice Cornwall, Radical Changes Needed to Reduce Zero Hours Poverty in Cornwall, September 2022*).

CCF Survey of local residents

In a survey of local residents conducted for this report, **48%** of those surveyed don't think they receive a good wage for the job they do and nearly one in five feel that their current skills do not match what employers are looking for.

Nealy half (**42%**) of the respondents are concerned about Cornwall's recovery post-pandemic.

Survey comments

The issues raised in the survey were reflected in open-text comments:

Wages are low and jobs seem difficult to get unless you have transport and will travel.

Work opportunities are mostly short-term insecure contracts.

Lower pay with higher costs makes working in Cornwall challenging.

We need to upskill people or retrain them beyond seasonal hospitality jobs, and in trades and technology, to help support the future economy of Cornwall and retain people in the county. If there is a skilled workforce, employers will be attracted to invest here.

Community consultation quotes

During the Community Consultations, several participants raised the conjoined issues of jobs, skills and training:

People are getting stuck in the same level job and not being able to progress. – Truro

In many cases we are seeing three generations of worklessness and that is a very difficult cycle to break. – Truro

There are huge number of people who can't physically work any more hours but still can't keep up financially because the jobs just don't pay enough. – Truro

80% of people who start an apprenticeship with us stay with the company long term. – Truro

*Figures released stated that currently a household needs to be bringing in **£33K** per year to survive; anything under that and people are having to make difficult choices but that isn't a realistic household income currently in Cornwall.* – Truro

We are seeing a startling rise in working poverty. – Newquay

2. Fairness & Strong Communities

People who are treated fairly and have equal opportunity are better able to contribute socially and economically to the community, and to enhance growth and prosperity. An equal and fair society is likely to be safer by reducing entrenched social and economic disadvantage.

Overview

Cornwall doesn't compare favourably to other places in the UK when it comes to fairness. There is frustration at the lack of broad understanding of the issues facing Cornwall behind the idyllic holiday scenes. It is one of the poorest regions in England with areas of high deprivation and poverty related to poor health, housing, and lower levels of attainment in education. These issues are exacerbated by rurality and lack of transport. This deprivation sits alongside considerable wealth and affluence and highlights the divide between those who struggle and those who do not.

There is a strong sense of community across Cornwall with people feeling united in belonging through shared culture, history and heritage and communities gathering regularly to celebrate this. As in most of the UK this sense of community was strengthened during Covid. The consensus is that this is still prevalent and people across Cornwall feel a sense of pride in it.

Volunteer rates and voter turnout are high. There are an impressive number of community and voluntary groups, and the support of charities is generous despite relative poverty (see below). However, the isolated geography and inadequate public transport network can leave people lonely and isolated and not able to connect with their community as much as they might like to.

It is worth noting that, post-pandemic, Cornwall is emerging as a leading 'work anywhere' region, with pros and cons for Cornwall. On the plus side, Cornwall residents may be able to access jobs elsewhere in the UK and to overcome rural transport barriers to access jobs within Cornwall. This opportunity depends on an excellent digital infrastructure and developing the necessary digital skills. On the down side, workers relocating to Cornwall from elsewhere to work remotely may further push up house prices and squeeze the rental market.

2.1 Deprivation statistics

Published every four years, the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a national measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level across England. Small areas are ranked from 1 (most deprived) to **32,844** (least deprived) across seven measures of deprivation: Income; Employment; Education, Skills and Training; Health Deprivation & Disability; Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services; and Living Environment.

326 areas in Cornwall are included in the report and the most recent results (2019, pre-pandemic) listed **17** of these areas in the top **10%** most deprived areas in England.

Cornwall's overall IMD ranking for 2019 was **83** out of **317** local authorities (up from **68** in 2015) with improvements in Crime, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment and Health Deprivation and Disability. There was a decrease in the scores for Income, Employment and Education, Skills and Training.

The IMD tracks concentrations of deprivation more effectively than dispersed pockets so dispersed/rural deprivation is less visible on this measure.

2.2 Child poverty

21,945 children in Cornwall are estimated to be in low-income families before housing costs (*Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022*).

A child in the UK classified as living in poverty if they live in a household whose income is **60%** below the average income in a given year. Child poverty rates in Cornwall are an area of concern, with regions including North Cornwall and St Ives recording **37%** and **34%** respectively. These rates are significantly higher than the UK average of **28.3%**. Therefore, a significantly higher proportion of children in Cornwall face disadvantages related to child poverty, namely in health, cognitive development, and education, than the rest of the UK (*Public Health Scotland, Child Poverty Overview, December 2021*).

20 areas in Cornwall have more than one-third of children living in poverty (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

Area	Percentage of children living in poverty
Bodmin West	39.67
Four Lanes, Beacon & Troon	39.39
Camborne South	39.11
Roche & Goss Moor	38.66
St Stephen-in-Brannel	37.88
Roche & Bugle	37.82
Poundstock & Kilkhampton	37.22
St Blazey	36.92
Par – Cornwall	36.92
Pool & Illogan Highway	36.72
Trewoon, Coombe & Foxhole	36.41
Treverbyn & St Dennis	36.12
Pool & Tehidy	35.79
Camborne Trelowarren	35.53
Redruth North	35.35
Camelford & Boscastle	34.60
Penzance East	34.51
Rosewarne & Trevu	34.36
St Dennis & St Ender	34.11
Lostwithiel & Penwithick	34.03

2.3 Fuel poverty

A household is identified as fuel poor if it has higher than typical energy costs and would be left with a disposable income below the poverty line if it spent the required money to meet those costs (also defined as spending more than **10%** of household income on fuel to achieve adequate levels of warmth).

At the time of writing, fuel poverty affects over **12.6%** of all households (**32,367** homes) in Cornwall. On the Isles of Scilly it is **11.7%** (**131** homes) (Cornwall Council, Winter Wellbeing, August 2022). Both are below the England average of **13%**. These statistics do not take into account the recent rise in energy and living costs.

Fuel poverty costs the NHS **£14m** a year in Cornwall each winter (Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022).

7% of houses lack central heating (Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022).

114,000 households, **21.4%** of private homes and **15%** within the private rental sector are estimated to have an EPC of E or below (Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022). Energy Performance Certificates rank from A (a very energy efficient house) to G (not an energy efficient house).

The cost of heating an average Cornish home is around **20%** higher than homes in England (Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022).

2.4 Winter vs summer deaths

A higher percentage of people are dying in winter as they do not have the money to afford adequate heating.

Cold and damp can cause health problems, reducing people's life expectancy.

The Winter Wellbeing service has been running since 2011/2012 and has helped over **20,000** households to stay warm during the winter months, preventing **848** hospital admissions (Cornwall Council, Winter Wellbeing, 2022).

2.5 Foodbanks

Across Cornwall there is an increased demand on foodbanks and increased food insecurity (Cornwall Council, Policy and Intelligence Newsletter, December 2021).

The number of known settings providing food aid in Cornwall has risen from **20** in 2015 to **180** in 2021. As of July 2021, there were **28** official food bank charities in Cornwall, a huge increase from just **15** in 2015 (Cornwall Council: A Perfect Storm, Cost of Living, 2022).

66.9% of people accessed foodbanks for reasons of 'low Income' between January and August 2021, compared to **21%** between October 2011 and September 2012 (Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022).

The Trussell Trust has reported a **19%** increase in food parcel distribution in Cornwall compared to 2019 (Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022).

In Camborne, the food bank provides **23,000** meals each week, to over **540** families. DISC Newquay were providing **120** meals a week pre-pandemic. This reached a high of **4,000** and has levelled off to **3,000**. However, they note demand is increasing again and they are having to increase their offering to include basic groceries, as well as help with gas and electric top-ups and basic household items (DISC Newquay, 2022).

2.6 Free school meals

Since December 2020, Cornwall Council has delivered **190,630** free school meal vouchers to children, at a cost of **£4,328,031** spent (Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022).

Research suggests that a disproportionate number of rural households are on low incomes that fall just above the free school meal threshold (University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West – levelling up through education, April 2022).

2.7 Car ownership

405,600 vehicles were registered in Cornwall by the end of 2020. This equates to **0.71** per head of the population, which is a growth of **16.4%** since 2010 (Cornwall Council, 2022) and higher than the UK figure of **0.48**.

Given Cornwall's rurality and relatively poor public transport network, the higher-than-average car ownership indicates the necessity for a vehicle rather than a lack of deprivation.

Rising fuel prices affect some people's ability to get to and complete their work (Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022)

2.8 Voting

Cornwall is divided into six constituencies: Camborne and Redruth, North Cornwall, South East Cornwall, St Austell and Newquay, St Ives and Truro & Falmouth.

In 2015, all Cornish seats were won by the Conservatives, and they retained their seats again in the 2017 and 2019 general elections.

In 2019 the electorate was **437,454** and there was a **73.6%** turnout rate (UK **67.3%**) (*House of Commons Library, General Election 2019: Turnout, January 2020*).

2.9 Access to a post office

According to a report undertaken by Citizens Advice Cornwall in 2019, **20** Cornish Parish Councils found that the majority of residents felt that there weren't enough post offices.

77% of Cornwall parishes still have a post office but **18%** only opened on a reduced number of days and **22%** had shut down.

Citizens Advice doesn't believe that access to rural post offices in Cornwall will improve beyond current levels (*CornwallLive, Rural Cornwall is more deprived of basic services than a decade ago, January 2019*).

2.10 Broadband

62,000 people in Cornwall have never used the Internet but the number of people who aren't online has been falling rapidly (*Wildanet, Connecting Cornwall, Demonstrating the Value of Improved Connectivity, April 2022*).

Overall internet speeds in Cornwall are **28.51%** worse than the UK national average of **50.54 Mbps**. However, there has been extensive investment in the roll-out of superfast broadband. The cost of this service will be a barrier for many.

Research suggests that for every **£1** spent on digital inclusion, there is an average return of **£15**. This includes social, wellbeing and economic impact (*Wildanet, Connecting Cornwall, Demonstrating the Value of Improved Connectivity, April 2022*).

2.11 Financial assistance & engagement in charitable giving

In the financial year 2020/2021 around **£50,870,000** was provided to residents in need, through existing financial assistance schemes by Cornwall Council.

To date (March 2022) (FY 2021/2022) around **£46,196,000** has been donated. Crisis and Care funding available to adults and families to support with food, energy, utilities, clothing and essential household costs provided **£751,412** in FY 2020/2021 and **£436,000** in FY 2021/2022 to date (March 2022).

In FY 2020/2021, Cornwall Council supported residents with **£4,748,205** in Council Tax Hardship funding, and **£42,217,883** through the Council Tax Support Scheme (*Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022*).

2.12 Volunteering & taking part

There are approximately **4,500** voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Around one-third of the population in Cornwall undertakes formal volunteering at least once a month.

Over **4,000** volunteers signed up through Volunteer Cornwall to support their communities during the pandemic, over **30%** of whom had never volunteered before.

The age breakdown was:

3% 16–19 years of age

33% 20–39 years of age

41% 40–59 years of age

23% 60+ years

All volunteers stated that they would like to continue to volunteer after the pandemic (*Volunteer Cornwall, July 2022*).

CCF Survey of local residents

In the survey of local residents undertaken for this report, **87%** of respondents recognised that there is a wide income gap across Cornwall, and three in four stated that there are not sufficient means of public transport, which was a contributor to further inequality.

The majority of respondents (**76%**) stated that they would recommend Cornwall as a great place to live and work, and that they get involved in local activities and events (**70%**) and find it easy to meet people (**76%**).

Only **11%** of respondents don't know their neighbours.

Survey comments

The open-text comments in our survey reflected some of these issues:

There is no connectivity with public transport services, and people feel that their opinions on it are disregarded.

Public transport which allows a worker to arrive at and leave their place of work sensibly is almost non-existent.

I can pay my bills but it leaves nothing left for any emergencies. I've not been able to have a holiday – even to visit my brother who lives in the midlands – for many, many years. I've cut down and don't have a landline anymore – I'm losing touch.

Cornwall has poor housing stock and is mostly off-grid for gas, so the energy prices are hitting people much harder here. This winter will be hard for many people.

I live in a rural village which happily still has a village pub and post office/shop. The village is connected by events and the local church/chapel and playgroup. There is a strong community cohesion.

I get involved in local activities but do still have to travel by my own vehicle for most.

It's a great place to live and the sense of community is outstanding. Not so great for work!

When I can get involved, I do. I have good neighbours – during covid we supported each other over the garden fence! Rural areas closure of facilities has been a huge problem, my village has lost almost everything in the last 15 years.

Community consultation quotes

In our Community Consultation events, a range of issues were raised around connectivity and the opportunity to participate in local events and decision-making.

Cornwall Council is too far away and tends to be town-centric. Central government is very detached. – Week St Mary

The reliance on internet excludes elderly people who don't use the internet, including hospital appointments.

– Week St Mary

I have no signal for a smart meter. – Week St Mary

Local councils don't benefit from business rates. Local taxation should be reformed and there is a need for tourist tax. – Newquay

I wouldn't have survived Covid if we wouldn't have a village shop. Over 100 members of the community donated a total of £20,000 to restart the community shop. The community also help with 60 volunteer hours a week to run the shop.

– Week St Mary

The library kept me going through Covid – this is my happy place. – Week St Mary

Community groups are holding communities together. We are very fortunate to offer activities to the village, but we can't keep asking the same people for donations.

– Week St Mary

We need to all support each other. Everyone is in the same storm, but we might be in different boats and therefore have different needs. – Truro

We need community-based support solutions so people don't have to travel or don't miss out because they can't travel. – Truro

There is a low crime/very little fear of crime because of our strong communities. – Truro

We regularly have people using the foodbank who are working two or three jobs but still can't make ends meet. – Truro

There is a strong sense of community in Cornwall which will help everyone through; yes, we have problems but there are many positives. – Truro

We need a social model of change, founded in community empowerment. Rural means tight-knit local communities, funding keeps them going and builds resilience. – Truro

3. Healthy Living

Overview

Cornwall fares as 'average' for healthy living indicators with life expectancy figures marginally higher than the UK. However, there are certainly areas for concern with two-thirds of Cornish adults being overweight or obese, suicides at the rate of one every **5.5** days and a higher-than-average proportion of people with a long-term health condition or disability.

Areas of high deprivation tend to suffer from poorer health attributed to factors including poor quality homes with damp, poor ventilation, and lack of any or regular heating; poor diet; limited or no exercise; excess intake of alcohol and smoking.

Our ageing population and proportionally higher numbers of older people in Cornwall, in addition to a swell of tourists throughout the year, puts extremely high demand on the NHS, utility services and infrastructures. This was an express concern in our survey and consultations.

As at summer 2022 Cornwall's psychiatric units and dementia beds were at **100%** occupancy (*Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Health and Care Partnership, Green Plan, 2021*).

3.1 Diet & Exercise

Two-thirds of Cornish adults are overweight or obese, with diet-related issues estimated to cost around **£60m** per annum (*Cornwall Council, 'Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020-2021'*).

One third of the adult population and half of children and young people in Cornwall are not meeting national physical activity guidelines (*Cornwall Council, The Cornwall Transport Plan, September 2021*).

3.2 Cardiovascular disease

Cardiovascular disease was the main cause of disability adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2019 across all ages in Cornwall. To reduce the life expectancy gap/inequality in life expectancy, focus would have to be put on cardiovascular diseases. It is also a major cause of premature mortality both in Cornwall and across the UK (*Cornwall Council, Population Health Profile, 2021-2022*).

Long-term exposure to ambient fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) accounted for **18.02** per **100,000** attributable cardiovascular deaths in 2019.

3.3 Life expectancy

The life expectancy for males in Cornwall is **79.8** years (2018 to 2020) compared to **79.0** years in the UK. Female: **83.7** years in 2018 to 2020 (**82.0** years UK), (*ONS, Life Expectancy for local areas of the UK, 2021*).

3.4 Drug & alcohol dependency

As at summer 2022, just over **1,200** people in treatment for alcohol dependency (age range not specified) (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

Admission rates for alcohol-specific conditions for under 18s was **29.3** per **100,000** in 2017/18-2019/20 which is less than the national average (**30.7** per **100,000**) (*Cornwall Council, Population Health Profile, 2021-2022*).

There are **6,775** dependent drinkers of which **1,768 (26%)** are receiving treatment (*Safer Cornwall, Partnership Plan, 2019-2022*).

There are **2,237** known users of heroin and crack cocaine, of which **1,340 (60%)** are receiving treatment. There were **31** drug-related deaths in 2021, the highest number of drug related deaths on record (*Safer Cornwall, Partnership Plan, 2019-2022*).

3.5 Mental health

There is a strong link between financial insecurity and mental health. Stress regarding finances can significantly worsen mental health and wellbeing (*Insights Dashboard, 2022*) and life expectancy of those with a mental illness is lower than it is for those without one (*Cornwall Council, Population Health Profile, 2021–2022*).

12.2% (59,309) of 16+ year-olds are estimated to be living with depression and **0.89% (5,270)** with a mental health issue in 2020/2021 (*Cornwall Council, Population Health Profile, 2021–2022*).

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have higher levels of self-harm and suicide than the national average and the third-highest rate of suicide in the UK, one suicide every **5.5** days. This is likely due to the high levels of deprivation and isolation (*Cornwall Council, Population Health Profile, 2021–2022*).

Referrals to help children and young people with their mental health continue to grow and the waiting time for treatment is growing beyond recommended timescales (*Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Health and Care Partnership, Green Plan, 2021*).

3.6 Dementia

The number of people in Cornwall who have dementia is predicted to increase over the next few decades (around **49%** in the next **15** years).

It is estimated that **3.42% (4,984)** 65+ year-olds were living with dementia in 2020/2021.

Estimated dementia diagnosis rate (aged 65 and over) in 2021 was **53.4%** and dementia accounted for **10.5%** of all deaths across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (*Cornwall Council, Population Health Profile, 2021–2022*).

3.7 Long-term illness

Cornwall has a higher-than-average proportion of people whose day-to-day lives are limited by a long-term health condition or disability, equating to **114,023** or **21.33%** of the population, much higher than the UK average (*Disability Cornwall, 2022*).

Living in cold housing has been shown to increase the risk of respiratory problems such as asthma, and to worsen arthritis (*Cornwall Council, Cost of Living, 2022*).

3.8 Carers

The majority of job vacancies are in the Health and Social Work sector (**40.5%**). The crisis of staff recruitment and retention in this sector has meant that the Council and NHS declared a joint Critical Incident in adult social care in January 2022 (*Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022*).

There were **454** reported issues regarding health and community care to Citizens Advice between 2021–2022 (*Citizens Advice Cornwall, 2022*).

Cornwall has the highest number of unpaid carers (**12%** of the population), with them often being family members creating a reliance on jobs offering flexible hours (*Citizens Advice Cornwall, Radical Changes Needed to Reduce Zero Hours Poverty in Cornwall, September 2022*).

14% of all jobs are reliant on care work, compared to the national average of **13%** (*Citizens Advice Cornwall, Radical Changes Needed to Reduce Zero Hours Poverty in Cornwall, September 2022*).

CCF Survey of local residents

Concerns about health provisions in Cornwall were raised in our survey of local residents. **74%** of people responded that not everyone has equal access to health services; **76%** stated they cannot always get to see a health professional when they need to; and **67%** said that they have had to wait to see a health professional.

Survey comments

The open text comments in the survey also reflected issues around health.

Getting to see my local GP has become harder since Covid 19. I have had experience of trying to get mental health support for a family member and it was ineffective and poor.

We've had four different dentists in a year – my two kids and their kids can't get secure NHS dentists.

A large majority of the retired population in Cornwall do not use or have access to a smartphone, computer or email. They do not have equal access to health services when GPs are enforcing everyone use an online system to contact a doctor.

Emergency services in RCHT are at breaking point and have been for years. This is not a county to get seriously ill in!

There is no hospital transport available for those who cannot drive, and our nearest hospital is an hour away. This means making appointments can take a full day and be costly.

Community consultation quotes

Participants in the community consultations raised a range of issues related to health and care.

Lack of care facilities for elderly people. – Week St Mary

Carers were taken away due to budget cuts, difficult to get to cover rural areas. – Week St Mary

Hidden rural poverty – some people are living on a diet of chocolate and cereals. – Week St Mary

People can't access basic health services like a dentist.
– Newquay

Reduction of green places due to development. – Newquay

The pressure on mental health services is immense and services are not joined up. We can't cope with the sheer number of referrals on our waiting list.

– Wave Project, Newquay

I think in under-18s we are going to soon experience a tsunami of issues we aren't currently seeing which are related to COVID. – Newquay

We have to provide food according to how people can cook and what facilities people have access to. If people are living in hotel rooms, cars and vans you can't give them a pie which has to go in the oven. – Foodbank, Truro

There are funding issues causing the closure of facilities, but the sea is free, how do we ensure safe access for all and use everything we are lucky enough to have around us. – Truro

4. Housing & Homelessness

Overview

Cornwall is in a housing crisis (*Cornwall Council, February 2022*). This isn't unique to Cornwall but is particularly severe here. Housing is a contentious issue, it was one of the most passionately discussed in our community consultations and unanimously agreed upon in our survey, with **93%** of respondents recognising there is insufficient, affordable local housing.

We have already noted the huge disparity between wages and the cost of living in Cornwall and it was a commonly held view in our consultations that affordable housing in Cornwall is a myth, with housing labelled as 'affordable' beyond the reach of the majority.

The pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, a shift from long-term to short-term/holiday rentals, an increase in the number of people wanting to live in Cornwall (and their huge purchasing advantage) have all combined to create this crisis point. The result is unacceptable numbers of Cornish people on social housing lists, in temporary accommodation, living in vans and cars, having to move out of the area, or finding themselves homeless.

There is recognition from all areas that there is a crisis, and much work is happening to address it, but solutions are complicated and will take time to implement, so sadly this is likely to be the situation for some time to come.

4.1 Housing stock

In Cornwall **66%** of housing stock is owner occupied, compared to **64%** across England. The private rented sector accounts for **23%** (**19%** across England) and the remaining **11%** is socially rented (**18%** in England) (*Cornwall Council, 2021*).

4.2 Average house prices

The average house price in Cornwall rose by more than **15%** in 2021 compared to **10.8%** in the UK (*Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022*).

The average house price in Cornwall is **£302,121** (*Cornwall Council, 2022*) compared to England, which is **£297,524** in 2022 (*GOV.UK, 2022*). In 2011, in Cornwall the average home cost **8.86** times average earnings. By 2021, that had increased to **10.99** times, compared to **9.1** in England, (*ONS, 2021*).

Across Cornwall the mean affordability gap for flats is **£100,644** and the mean for terraced housing is **£119,360**, (*The Social and Economic Research Unit of the Institute of Cornish Studies (SERU), Local Housing Affordability in Cornwall, pending publication*).

Average rent in May 2022 was **£1,090** a month, a **31%** increase from May 2019 (**£829**).

4.3 Rented housing

There was a drastic reduction in the availability of rented housing in 2021, as homeowners shifted from long-term lets to short-term holiday lets (*Cornwall Council, 2020*).

There were **271** new rental listings on Rightmove in Cornwall in May 2022 (**46%** reduction from May 2019) (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

22,423 households are currently on the waiting list for social housing in Cornwall (*Cornwall Council, May 2022*). This has more than doubled since 2020 when it was just over **9,000** (*BBC News, Cornwall housing crisis: Demand doubles for affordable homes, June 2022*).

Only **11%** of housing stock in Cornwall is social housing, compared to an average of **18%** across England (*Office for National Statistics, Housing Affordability in England and Wales: 2021, March 2022*).

4.4 Homelessness

Nearly **3,500** households received support from the local authority last year with either homelessness prevention or temporary accommodation (*St Petrocs, 2022*). There are over **650** households, which is around **1,200** people, in temporary accommodation. There are over **22,000** households on the social housing waiting list, representing **8%** of the population of Cornwall (*St Petrocs, 2022*).

In June 2022 St Petroc's homeless charity worked with **108** people who had slept rough at some point in the month; in May 2022 the equivalent figure was 99.

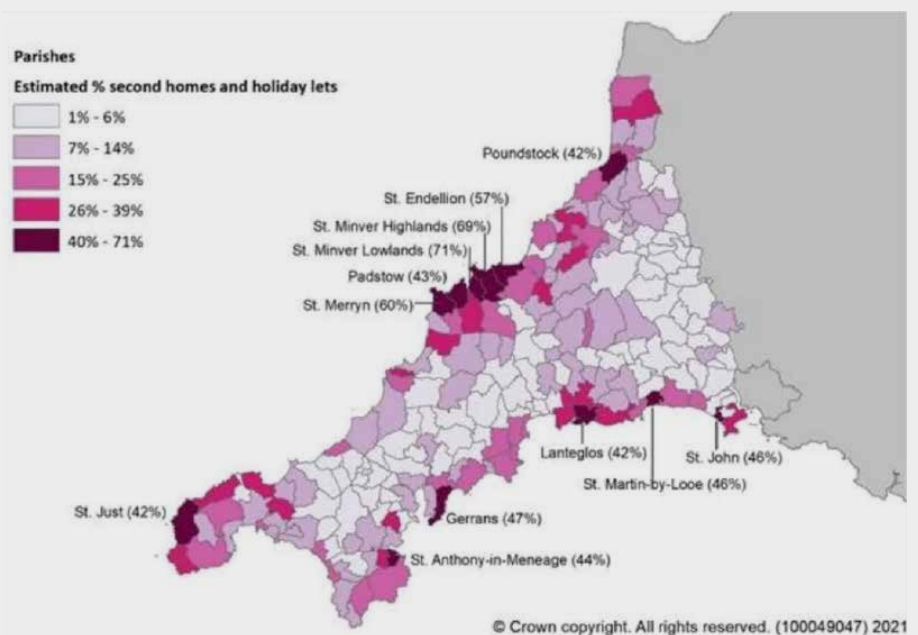
On any given night St Petroc's estimates that **40 to 50** people are sleeping outside in Cornwall, with peaks of up to **60** on some occasions. They estimate this to be around **10%** of the total number of people experiencing homelessness in Cornwall, taking into account those who are forced to live in transient accommodation, people who are 'sofa surfing' and those living in emergency accommodation without a plan for rapid rehousing.

The cost-of-living crisis will likely cause an increase in the number of people unable to afford housing and therefore an increase in homelessness and households in temporary accommodation (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

4.5 Second-homes & holiday lets

There are **12,776** second homes in Cornwall (*Cornwall Council, May 2022*). **8%** of residential housing stock is second homes or short-term holiday lets, up to **71%** in some areas:

St Minver Lowlands	71%	St John	46%
St Minver Highlands	69%	St Anthony-in-Meneage	44%
St Merryn	60%	Padstow	43%
St Endellion	57%	Poundstock	42%
Gerrans	47%	St Just	42%
St Martin-by-Looe	46%	Lanteglos	42%



There are **15,000** short-term holiday lets in Cornwall (*The Big Issue, February 2022*), a **660%** increase in the last five years (*CPRE, The Countryside Charity, New research: a huge rise in holiday lets is strangling rural communities, January 2022*).

As of March 2022, approximately **29,000** homes are not lived in all year round, (*Institute of Cornish Studies, The State of Cornwall – What we currently know about our Socio-Economic Landscape, July 2022*).

On Airbnb the number of "entire places" for rent in coastal spots in England and Wales increased by **56%** between 2019 and 2022, compared with **15%** in non-coastal areas. In St Ives & Halsetown close to **900** 'entire place' Airbnbs were listed in 2022, or one in five homes.

The numbers indicates that landlords in popular seaside towns and quiet coastal getaways may be favouring tourists over tenants at a time when many such communities are being hit by rising living costs, mortgage and house prices, (*The Guardian, Alarm over sharp rise in Airbnb listings in coastal areas of England and Wales, October 2022*).

4.6 Volume of house building

Cornwall Council delivered the second-highest number of affordable homes in the country in 2020/21 (**814** built) and has consistently been in the top three councils for building new affordable homes. However, this number is a five-year low and Cornwall starts from a historic position of having significantly fewer social rented homes than the rest of the country, (*Homes for Cornwall, August 2022*). In addition, just ten of those **814** were available to rent from the council or housing association, (*ITV News, Number of 'affordable' homes being built in Cornwall at its lowest in five years, January 2022*).

CCF Survey of local residents

Survey results echo the stats above with **93%** of respondents recognising there is insufficient, affordable local housing and not enough housing for people on low incomes (**83%** agree).

Private rental accommodation was considered to not be affordable by **87%** of people, with **84%** agreeing that there are too many homes unoccupied for part of the year.

Survey comments

Open-text survey comments on this theme echoed the findings from the survey.

The huge imbalance between job opportunities and appropriate living accommodation is an ongoing disaster.

Our grown-up children cannot afford to buy or rent in Falmouth even when born there. This cannot be right! Our families are moving away to buy or rent.

Young people are unable to afford a home in Cornwall and rent prices are extortionate.

Houses are empty whilst people are homeless.

Private rents are ridiculously high with not enough council housing.

New-builds are being advertised as affordable when they're being built but when they're being sold, it's not affordable. Cornwall is low income, but houses are more expensive than the rest of the UK.

Affordable housing is a myth. It is not affordable to many of Cornwall's poorer families, who need it most.

Community consultation quotes

Housing was a concern for those participating in the community consultation.

New housing developments in Bude put pressure on the GP services. Development of towns have a ripple effect on rural areas. – Week St Mary

Housing prices will force the average age up in the village as younger families won't be able to afford to live here.

– Week St Mary

So many professional people are living in tents and vans.

– Newquay

We don't need to think about affordable houses as it is a myth. We need social housing. – Newquay

A lot of HNS Staff are living in cars. – Newquay

Parents working full time can't find anything affordable in Newquay. They have to move out of Cornwall. – Newquay

There needs to be a positive shared vision of what we can achieve if we can crack the housing issue in Cornwall. – Truro

We can't just accept managing homelessness we need to prevent and resolve it. – Truro

5. Safety

Overview

Cornwall is performing relatively well against the rest of the UK. It is perceived as a safe place to live and work, as reflected in our questionnaire results (**83%** agreed) and this is confirmed by comparatively low crime rates.

Theft and property crime are very low, and we have one of the lowest burglary rates in the UK. However, residents of larger towns experience twice the level of crime than those in rural areas and some crime rates have risen in recent years. Weapons and drug offences have increased, and Cornwall is experiencing more persistent and challenging anti-social behaviour (*Safer Cornwall, Partnership Plan, 2019-2022*).

There has been a greater complexity and volume of demand on services, exacerbated by lockdown isolation and the impacts on mental health and wellbeing (*Safer Cornwall, Partnership Plan, 2019-2022*).

The Safer Cornwall Partnership has identified some overarching high-risk themes: domestic abuse and sexual violence; exploitation; anti-social behaviour; serious violence and hate crime. They have also identified cross-cutting factors that make people more vulnerable to harm: drug use and problem drinking; experience of trauma; poor mental health; isolation/exclusion; poverty and hardship.

5.1 Crime statistics (including seasonality)

27,720 crimes, **48.7** crimes per 1,000 residents, compared to **64.4** for similar areas and a national rate of **88** crimes per 1,000 residents (*Safer Cornwall, Partnership Plan, 2019-2022*).

12% increase in the number of reported crimes but overall crime rate is low, with Cornwall being ranked 3rd in their national comparison group (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

In the year September 2021 to August 2022, **13.3k** crimes – **38.1%** of all crimes committed in Cornwall – were violent crimes.

In this same timeframe shoplifting was the fastest growing crime in Cornwall, increasing by **50.5%** over those last 12 months (*Plumplot, Cornwall Crime Stats, August 2022*).

Just over half of all violence with injury occurs in the ten towns within the Safer Towns Programme: Bodmin, Camborne, Falmouth, Liskeard, Penzance, Newquay, Redruth, Saltash, St Austell and Truro (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

Rape and other sexual offences have increased by **20%** (**100** offences) and **31%** (**228** offences) respectively (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

5.2 Police response to anti-social behaviour

In 2022, the volume of anti-social behaviour incidents was **26%** lower than May 2021 (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

Police endeavour to ensure the people involved receive the right support, as well as police taking appropriate enforcement action (*Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard, August 2022*).

5.3 Hate crimes

From July 2021 to 31 July 2022 reports of hate crime in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly increased by **21.8** per cent, from **2,371** hate crimes to **2,888**, (*BBC News, Hate Crime Reports in Devon and Cornwall up more than 20%, October 2022*).

In 2020 there were **632** recorded hate crimes. These were ranked in frequency:

- 1. Racist (47%)**
- 2. Homophobic (16%)**
- 3. Disablist (14%)**
- 4. Other (7%)**
- 5. Transphobic (7%)**
- 6. Religious/Belief (5%)**
- 7. Sex or gender (3%)**
- 8. Not stated (1%)**

(*Devon and Cornwall Police, Crime statistics, 2020*)

5.4 Fire safety

Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service's overall effectiveness requires improvement (*HMICFRS, Cornwall 2021/22, December 2021*).

There are **31** fire stations in Cornwall, with **32%** full-time firefighters and **68%** on-call. There is **1** firefighter per 1,000 population compared to a national level of **0.56** (*HMICFRS, Cornwall 2021/22, December 2021*), however they have to cover a larger area more urban fire stations.

As people struggle to heat their homes there is a concern that other, more dangerous, appliances are likely to be used, increasing the risk of house fires (*Cornwall Council, Cost of Living: A Perfect Storm, 2022*).

CCF Survey of local residents

The vast majority of respondents to the survey of residents considered Cornwall a safe place to live (**83%**) with **62%** agreeing they would feel safe walking home alone at night.

Despite this perception of safety only **10%** of respondents felt there were sufficient police patrolling their area and responding to crime quickly.

Nearly one-quarter of the people who replied reported that they had been affected by anti-social behaviour. However, based on responses to previous questions, this is presumed not to have been at the level to be a safety concern.

Survey comments

The open-text comments reflected the trend in the survey data:

I feel safe in my area, but this is different if I travel into towns ie Penzance, Camborne at night.

We don't need more policing, we need more activities for young people and a sense of belonging.

It is a safe place in comparison with rest of country, but poor lighting and no visible police presence make it feel very unsafe for a female to walk alone.

We are situated far away from major towns/cities so emergency services struggle to reach us if there is a problem.

Community consultation quotes

The participants in the community consultation also commented on safety in specific contexts..

Worry about domestic abuse as people in a breakdown have nowhere to go. – Newquay

Increase in safeguarding issues in adult social care. – Newquay

6. Education & Learning

Overview

Across most measures Cornwall is performing worse than the rest of the UK when it comes to education and learning.

In 2022 exam grades for GCSE and A level across all subjects were lower than the rest of England, with the exception of grade C or above A level results, which were **1%** higher.

There are widespread funding issues; within the state system our teachers are the lowest paid across England and, on a measure of school income per pupil, Cornwall is **142** out of **149** local authorities.

Funding and provisions for SEND children (special educational needs and disability) is woefully lacking. Parents of SEND children are struggling to get the help and support they need, and Cornwall is the second-lowest funded area in the UK.

When it comes to higher education, the South West region is performing poorly and failing disadvantaged young people. Only **18%** enter higher education by age 19 – the lowest of all English regions. The rate for poorer pupils in London is now higher than for young people as a whole in the region (*University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West, Levelling up through education, April 2022*).

There is also concern at the lack of male teachers in Cornwall; just **27.1%** of the workforce in the 2021–22 academic year. The Education Policy Institute states that pupil outcomes can be helped when teachers better represent their pupils.

In addition, at every decile of disadvantage, rurality is associated with worse educational outcomes (*University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West Levelling up through education, April 2022*).

Deeply embedded poverty also affects attainment. Pupils who have been eligible for Free School Meals for at least **80%** of their school lives (persistent/long-term disadvantaged) have an average attainment gap that is roughly twice as large as that for pupils who have been eligible for less than **20%** of their school lives (*University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West Levelling up through education, April 2022*).

6.1 Work age population without qualifications

5.6% of 16–64 year-olds in Cornwall have no qualifications, compared to **6.6%** in Great Britain (*ONS, 2021*).

36.4% of the same sample are qualified to NVQ4 and above level (HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent), compared to **43.6%** across Great Britain (*ONS, 2021*).

6.2 Number of schools, colleges, & universities

There are seven universities and colleges in Cornwall, operating across **13** campuses and offering further and higher education (broadly comprising degrees, and A levels or diplomas).

The institutions are Falmouth University, University of Exeter, Plymouth University, Cornwall College, Truro College and Penwith College.

Cornwall has **53** secondary schools that serve nearly **33,000** students.

There are **239** primary schools, serving over **44,000** students. A Citizens Advice Cornwall survey found that **71%** of parishes have reasonable access to a primary school (*CornwallLive, Rural Cornwall is more deprived of basic services than a decade ago, January 2019*).

6.3 Exam results

In 2022 across all subjects **34.5%** of A level students received grade A/A*, compared to **36%** across England. **83.8%** achieved grade C or above, compared to **82.7%** across England (*The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation, September 2022*).

At GCSE level **54.9%** received a grade 5 (strong pass) or above, compared to **61.2%** across England and **21.1%** achieved grade 7/A and above, compared to **27.3%** in England (*The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation, September 2022*).

60% of disadvantaged pupils in the South West didn't gain passes in GCSE English and Maths in 2019 – compared with **40%** in Inner London.

6.4 Funding

Cornwall is **142nd** out of **149** local authorities for school income per pupil.

Cornwall is **151st** out of **151** local authorities for average gross salary of teachers.

In Cornwall funding for education and non-statutory children's social care, including early years and family support services, is relatively low. It is less than **£2,000** per child, compared with a median of **£2,753** across **150** English local authorities. This equates to a difference of over **£14,000** less funding over the course of a child's life from 0 to 18 years (*University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West, Levelling up through education, April 2022*).

6.5 Attainment

The South West also has the largest attainment gaps in the country at the end of secondary school. In Cornwall disadvantaged pupils are on average **20.7** months behind (*University of Exeter, Social Mobility in the South West Levelling up through education, April 2022*).

CCF Survey comments

Respondents in the survey of residents reflected on the educational and career prospects for young people:

Most local young have to leave Cornwall to pursue further training towards a career choice they have made.

There should be more encouragement of lifelong learning and continuous improvement.

Schools in Cornwall are underfunded and many school buildings are Victorian without the prerequisite facilities and resources to provide a good, rounded education.

The SEND (special education needs and disability) provision in Cornwall is terrible. Too many kids being failed with no suitable provision for autistic children.

Colleges are struggling with funding and some have closed down or reduced their courses in the last few years. Students have to travel further to get education.

Community consultation quotes

Participants in the community consultations also remarked on educational issues in Cornwall.

Cost of going to university reduces aspiration for young people in Cornwall. – Newquay

The advice and support have to be accessible. A third of adults in the area we support have a reading age of seven. – Truro

Work experience isn't supported adequately by schools; young people aren't being given the chance to see and experience the different opportunities that are out there for them, so they have no aspirations. – Truro

Children are only aspiring to what they see, mostly within their family. – Truro

There is a prevailing view that to succeed you need to leave. – Truro

7. Arts, Culture and Heritage

Overview

“Cornish culture is thriving and is visible through heritage, language, food, community involvement, and strong attachment to place” (Institute of Cornish Studies, The State of Cornwall – What we currently know about our Socia-Economic Landscape, July 2022).

Cornwall has **13,000** listed buildings, **1,437** scheduled monuments, **517** historic ports and **145** conservations areas (Cornwall Council 2022).

Our Cornish Mining World heritage site covers nearly **20,000** hectares and is made up of **10** distinct areas across Cornwall and West Devon.

There are over **70** museums in Cornwall and countless other cultural attractions, some of the most famous being: Tintagel Castle, St Michael's Mount, The Eden Project, The Minack Theatre, Tate St Ives and Land's End. They attract vast numbers of visitors.

There are over **250** festivals in Cornwall, including literature, food, cider, music, oyster, beer, and fish festivals as well as village feast and celebration days (including Trevithick, Flora, Obby Oss, Golowan, Lafrowda & St Pirans). The more high-profile events include Port Eliot Festival and Boardmasters, making them a critical part of our vibrant cultural scene.

However, whilst Cornwall has many festivals and celebrates its arts, culture and history (including its own language), access and affordability is a barrier for many. **67%** of our survey respondents stated that traveling to arts, culture and heritage events is difficult and more than half of respondents (**56%**) cannot afford to attend as many arts, culture, and heritage events as they would like.

There are approximately **6,000** creative industries businesses in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, contributing an estimated **2.5%** to Gross Value Added. Addressing barriers to finance, access to markets at local, national, and international level, and improving business performance/productivity represent the greatest opportunities to increase the contribution that the Creative Industries can make to the economy of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (Cornwall Council, Creative Census 2022 Analysis, April 2022).

There is much more scope for telling a fuller version of 'who we are' to both local people and visitors, many of whom are invited to 'discover their own Cornwall' rather than learn about our culture and heritage (Institute of Cornish Studies, The State of Cornwall – What we currently know about our Socia-Economic Landscape, July 2022).

CCF Survey of local residents

More than half of respondents (**63%**) agreed or strongly agreed that Cornwall has a wide range of sporting and cultural facilities and celebrates its history and culture effectively (**60%**).

However, many (**67%**) stated that traveling to arts culture, and heritage events is difficult, and more than half of respondents (**56%**) cannot afford to attend as many arts, culture and heritage events as they would like.

CCF Survey comments

Survey respondents offered the following observations in open-text comments.

There used to be more accessible community theatre and music events in our local village prior to the pandemic. I am fortunate to have transport to attend events in the bigger towns and to access other venues but the cost of fuel is now a consideration when booking.

Cornwall has a strong individual identity and values its historic language and customs.

I am a wheelchair user and find it very hard to get onto local transport due to where I live.

Too many libraries have been closed, they are a valuable hub in communities. I cannot afford to visit the theatre, heritage sites, cultural events etc.

Museums and leisure centres in Cornwall are being closed down and are affecting people's mental health and physical health. Cultural and sporting facilities should not be the first thing to go in cuts.

Community consultation quotes

The opportunities associated with a vibrant arts and culture sector were noted by participants in the community consultations.

Cornwall was designated at the UK's first rural Social Enterprise Zone. – Truro

Cornwall is home to many unique people with a different view on how things are done, and we need to harness that to find solutions. – Truro

8. Environment

Overview

Cornwall is one of the top-rated places to live in the UK in terms of the environment around us and the access to nature, wildlife and natural resources. *“Cornwall’s natural capital is a key part of the identity and is fundamental to ensuring strong economic and social security”* (Institute of Cornish Studies, *The State of Cornwall – What we currently know about our Socia-Economic Landscape*, July 2022).

However, this natural capital is at risk; the average temperature in Cornwall has increased by nearly 1 degree Celsius in the last 35 years (Cornwall Wildlife Trust, *State of Nature*, 2020) and Cornwall Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019.

Air quality is at the low end of the moderate range, but water quality is a persistent and growing concern and recycling levels are well below optimum at just **33%**. The rurality and inadequate transport network mean car ownership is high.

Positive steps are being taken. Most notably, Cornwall Council has made a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. The number of B Corps in Cornwall is growing steadily and there is an understanding from residents (highlighted in our survey results and consultations) that many of us could, and need, to do more; **79%** admitted that they have opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Institute of Cornish Studies summarised: *“Challenges moving forward relate to the degree to which we will be able to maximise the opportunities of our natural resources (or natural capital), such as lithium and renewable energy, without risking the exploitation (and associated societal vulnerability) that we have experienced in the past with forms of extractive Industries”* (Institute of Cornish Studies, *The State of Cornwall – What we currently know about our Socia-Economic Landscape*, July 2022).

8.1 Air quality

Air quality in Cornwall was **19 ug/m³** in May 2022, this is within the moderate range (**12.1 – 35.4 ug**). A slight decrease in emissions was recorded at Treliske in April (**18.7 ug/m³**) in comparison to the previous month (**19 ug/m³**) (Cornwall Council, *Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard*, August 2022).

27% of all greenhouse gas emissions in Cornwall are from transport (Cornwall Council, *The Cornwall Transport Plan*, September 2021).

Bus patronage in Feb 2022 (**85%**) is much higher than in Feb 2021 (**22%**). Bus patronage levels for the same period outside of London is **72%**, meaning that Cornwall’s bus patronage lies in a strong position and shows the importance of buses for those in Cornwall (Cornwall Council, *Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Insights Dashboard*, August 2022).

The increase in the use of buses instead of single car use for small journeys improves air quality and reduces an individual’s carbon footprint.

Over two-thirds of the trips made in Cornwall are less than 5 miles. There is good potential to change a high proportion of these trips to non-CO² emitting modes of travel (Cornwall Council, *The Cornwall Transport Plan*, September 2021).

8.2 Water quality and sewage

The river Fal was recently announced as the most polluted site in the UK, due to storm overflows pumping wastewater into the river for nearly **7,500** hours in 2021, more than ten months of the year (*The Independent*, *England’s most polluted rivers*, September 2022).

At the height of the 2022 tourist season, Surfers Against Sewage issued sewage warnings for nine Cornish beaches (**Surfers Against Sewage, 2022**).

8.3 Renewables

Cornwall has become one of the leading areas for renewable energy and has wind farms, solar energy sites and the UK’s first geothermal development site.

Cornwall is currently generating **40%** of its electricity supply from renewables and Cornwall Council has set a target for Cornwall to become carbon neutral by 2030, well ahead of the UK target of 2050 (Cornwall Council, *Climate Change Plan*, July 2019).

8.4 B Corp certification

B Corp Certification is awarded by the not-for-profit network, B Lab, to companies that meet the high standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability. There are around **5,000** B Corps worldwide, over **800** in the UK, and **31** in Cornwall.

8.5 Recycling

261,085 tonnes of waste collected in 2019–2020 but just **33.3%** was reused, recycled or composted, which is below the national average (*Falmouth Packet, Recycling in Cornwall falls to lowest rate in decade in 2020, May 2021*). This was the lowest rate for a decade after a high of **38.1%** in 2018/19.

Top recycling areas in Cornwall saw almost **42%** of waste recycled, while some areas recycled as little as **15%** (*Falmouth Packet, Recycling in Cornwall falls to lowest rate in decade in 2020, May 2021*).

8.6 6 Fly-tipping

Cornwall Council spends **£250,000** annually clearing up waste that has been fly-tipped (*Environment Agency, 2021*).

Figures from DEFRA state that **3,374** incidents of fly-tipping were recorded across the Duchy in 2020–2021, a rise from **3,657** in 2019–2020 (*CornwallLive, Horrendous fly tipping on the rise in Cornwall, January 2022*).

3,734 incidents of fly-tipping were recorded across Cornwall in 2020–2021. **690** actions were taken, resulting in nine fixed penalty fines and two prosecutions (*CornwallLive, Horrendous fly tipping on the rise in Cornwall, January 2022*).

80,000kg of rubbish was removed from Cornish beaches in 2019 (*Cornwall Wildlife Trust, State of Nature, 2020*).

CCF Survey of local residents

88% of the people who replied considered that Cornwall is impacted by climate change with **79%** admitting that they have opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint.

Many felt that they do not recycle as much as they could in their area (**63%**).

The vast majority felt they had enough outdoor spaces in their neighbourhood (**82%**).

CCF Survey comments

Participants in the community consultations also reflected on Cornwall's potential to deliver on environmental objectives.

We are so connected to the environment. Cornwall was one of the first major local authorities to declare a climate emergency. – Truro

Cornwall can, and should, deliver environmental solutions to transport and work issues. – Truro

Community consultation quotes

Open-text comments from survey respondents commented on the need for more support for environmental actions.

We want to encourage the next generation to look after our environment and local community spaces but are struggling to get local people involved.

We need better recycling facilities, such as soft plastics and garden waste and compostable food waste should be regularly collected for free.

Cornwall is affected by climate change, but I cannot afford to reduce my carbon footprint due to lack of public transport, costs of ethical/sustainable products and services etc... I do as much as I can afford.

Food composting would be a great addition to the County.

Cornwall should have a digester for food and good local level renewable energy schemes. There should be a focus on incentivising green energy employers and upskilling in green engineering and other pro-environmental services.

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