



Cornwall
Community
Foundation



Cornwall's

Vital Signs 2022



University
of Exeter

Sig

social innovation group



**UKCOMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS**

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.

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 Signs 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. 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.

Methodology

Our research for Vital Signs consisted of several strands.

- 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.
There were 265 respondents: 68% female; 31% male. 57% have lived in Cornwall for more than 20 years.
- We explored the emerging themes in more detail at three **community consultations**.

Welcome to

Cornwall's Vital Signs, an analysis of social need

We are very fortunate to call Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly our home. Our beautiful landscape, deep-rooted legends, warm Cornish hospitality and cultural heritage are world renowned. However, poverty and rural isolation, identified by our first Vital Signs research in 2017, are very real issues for many people in our communities. This, our second Vital Signs research, jointly carried out with the University of Exeter, highlights the challenges that our communities are facing, and how local giving can make a huge difference by addressing the urgent, and often overlooked, areas of need.



The Covid pandemic has exacerbated issues of deprivation and rural isolation. Poverty and access to services remain key challenges in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, alongside the lack of affordable and social housing. Housing costs have increased more than the national average over the last several years, and many landlords have converted long-term lets to Airbnb rentals. Only 11% of housing stock in Cornwall is social housing, compared to an average of 18% across England. Wages are lower in Cornwall, with a full-time worker earning less than 80% of the UK gross median annual salary. The cost of living crisis is putting more pressure on households and further increasing inequality. An increasing number of Cornish people are living in temporary accommodation while waiting on social housing lists. With no other options, some live in cars or vans, or have to move out of the area. Efforts are being made to address this crisis but the situation is complex and needs collaboration and urgent funding.

Cornwall remains one of the top-rated places to live in the UK in terms of the environment around us and access to nature, wildlife and natural resources. It is our responsibility to address climate change in order to preserve this environment for future generations.

Thanks to the fantastic fabric of local groups, charities and social enterprises who strengthen our communities, we have a lot to celebrate. Cornwall has a wide range of festivals and world-class visitor attractions. It is a hotbed for innovation, home to geothermal drilling and the UK's first spaceport. Our Vital Signs 2022 report brings you the voice of our communities, supported with facts and statistics, and offers an insight into fantastic local initiatives. The community projects featured in this report demonstrate that our communities are creative, resilient, resourceful and determined to make Cornwall a better place for 'one and all'.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Tamas Haydu Chief Executive

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.

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 an 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 both Cornwall and wider UK economic output. It is important that a more detailed understanding is developed of the skills and other requirements needed to unlock this potential.


“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

Vital statistics




In 2021 **26.5%** of the Cornish population earned under the real living wage (17.1% across the United Kingdom).



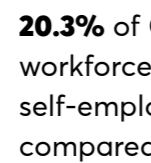
The unemployment rate in Cornwall is lower than that of England (**3.6%** for Southwest, **4.9%** for England between October 2020 and September 2021) but wage growth is stagnant.



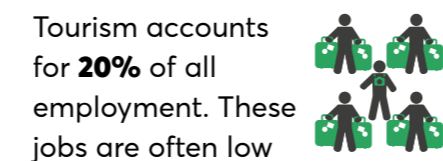
In 2019 tourism generated **£2 billion** and the sector accounts for **12%** Gross Value Added.



In 2021 a full-time worker in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly earned **£20,628**, **79%** of the UK gross median annual salary.



20.3% of Cornwall's workforce is self-employed compared to **13.5%** for the UK. **49%** of self-employed people earn less than the minimum wage.



Tourism accounts for **20%** of all employment. These jobs are often low wage, insecure and seasonal. In the hospitality sector over **70%** of jobs pay below the Living Wage.



Part-time work accounts for over **40%** of jobs in Cornwall.

CCF survey



48% of those surveyed don't think they receive a good wage for the job they do.



One in five feel that their current skills do not match what employers are looking for.

Quotes

“We need to upskill people or retrain them beyond seasonal hospitality jobs, 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.”

Survey respondent

“There are huge numbers 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 community consultation

“We are seeing a startling rise in working poverty.”

Newquay community consultation

Case study

Winning Steps South West

In 2020 WSSW received **£4,970** from the **Goldsmith's Fund**.

Winning Steps Southwest (WSSW) works with disadvantaged individuals who have fallen outside the traditional forms of education, training or support. WSSW specialises in offering a range of activity based therapies to young people, adults and the elderly with learning difficulties and disabilities or mental health issues.

Since the pandemic they have been running a wide range of weekly art and craft workshops in village halls from Bude to Torpoint. These workshops have been widely attended and have helped beneficiaries forge new friendships and support networks within their own communities. Working with the local foodbanks and Gleaners they have been able to support those struggling with the cost of living by providing food and hygiene parcels throughout the year.

“As the cost of living becomes ever harder over the next twelve months, we see our work as a vital helpline that supports some of the most vulnerable within our communities.”

Nikki Markham, Director, Winning Steps South West



2 Fairness and Strong Communities

People who are treated fairly and have equal opportunities are better able to contribute socially and economically to the community. An equal and fair society reduces entrenched social and economic disadvantage.

Overview

Cornwall is one of the poorest regions in England with areas of high deprivation sitting alongside areas of considerable wealth, highlighting the divide between those who struggle and those who do not.

Performed every four years, the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a national measure of relative deprivation at small local area level. Cornwall's overall IMD ranking for 2019 was **83** of **317** local authorities (68 in 2015). However, of the **326** areas in Cornwall listed, **17** are in the top **10%** most deprived areas in England.

There is a strong sense of community across Cornwall with people feeling united in belonging through shared culture, history and heritage.

Volunteer rates and voter turnout are high, with an impressive number of community and

voluntary groups. However, the isolated geography and inadequate public transport network can leave people feeling lonely and isolated.

Post-pandemic, Cornwall is emerging as a leading 'work anywhere' region, bringing a mix of challenges and opportunities. There are opportunities for Cornwall residents to access jobs elsewhere in the UK – and to overcome rural transport barriers to access jobs within Cornwall, providing the digital infrastructure is good and people are equipped with digital skills.

Vital statistics

20 areas in Cornwall have more than **one-third** of children living in poverty.

In Cornwall fuel poverty affects over **12.6%** of all households (**32,367 homes**); on the Isles of Scilly it is **11.7%** (**131 homes**).

Fuel poverty costs the NHS **£14m** a year in Cornwall each winter.



The cost of heating an average Cornish home is around **20%** higher than homes in England.



The Trussell Trust has reported a **19%** increase in food parcel distribution in Cornwall compared to 2019.



Rising fuel prices affect people's ability to get to and complete their work.



Overall internet speeds in Cornwall are **28.51%** worse than the UK national average of **50.54 Mbps**.



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



CCF survey



87% of people recognised that there is a wide income gap across Cornwall.



76% of people would recommend Cornwall as a great place to live and work.



75% of people stated that there are insufficient means of public transport, which is a contributor to further inequality.

Quotes

'Cornwall has poor housing stock and is mostly off-grid for gas, so the energy prices are hitting people much harder here.'

Survey respondent

'It's a great place to live and the sense of community is outstanding.'

Survey respondent

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

Truro community consultation



Case study

Whole Again Communities

Whole Again Communities (WAC) is a social enterprise based on the Treneere estate in Penzance where **38%** of the children live in poverty.

They encourage and support people to learn to cook good quality, affordable food from scratch so they can embrace healthy eating at home. They also run a wide variety of gardening and upcycling workshops to develop families' understanding and skills to help protect and enhance their local wild growing spaces.

WAC received funding from the **Social Enterprise Fund** to provide hands-on training experience and employment opportunities to people with an interest in working in catering and hospitality.

They also received **£4,800** from the **Headstart Kernow Fund** to use towards workshops supporting young people to learn new skills and develop an understanding of caring for their own wellbeing and enjoying the local natural environment. The project enabled young people to try new activities, learn new skills, access the outdoors and meet new people through group activity. Participants (and their families) were encouraged and supported to continue to work with WAC on the ongoing wild-growing work they do, alongside Treneere Grows.



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. **Two-thirds** of Cornish adults are overweight or obese, the suicide rate is one every **5.5 days**, and a higher-than-average proportion of people live with a long-term health condition or disability.

Areas of high deprivation tend to suffer from poorer physical and mental health. This is attributed to factors including poor quality homes with damp, poor ventilation and a 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 an extremely high demand on the NHS, utility services and infrastructures and this was an express concern in our survey and consultations.

As of last summer, psychiatric units and dementia beds in Cornwall were at **100%** occupancy.

Vital statistics

Two-thirds of Cornish adults are overweight or obese, with diet-related issues estimated to cost around **£60m** per annum.

One-third of the adult population and half of children and young people in Cornwall are not meeting national physical activity guidelines.

Cardiovascular disease was the main cause of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2019 across all ages in Cornwall.

There were **31** drug-related deaths in 2021; the highest number of drug related deaths on record.

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.

114,023 or **21.33%** of the population's day-to-day lives are limited by a long-term health condition or disability, which is much higher than the UK average.

Cornwall Council and the NHS declared a joint Critical Incident in adult social care in January 2022 due to staff shortages.

Cornwall has the highest number of unpaid carers (**12%** of the population), with carers often being family members.

CCF survey

- 74%** of people believe that not everyone has equal access to health services.
- 76%** of people stated that they cannot always get to see a health professional.

Quotes

'There is no hospital transport available, and our nearest hospital is an hour away, so making appointments can take a full day and be costly.'

Survey respondent

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

Newquay community consultation

'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 community consultation

Case study

Liskeard & Looe Breathers Group

Liskeard and Southeast Cornwall Breathers Group is a not-for-profit set up in 2006 by people who have Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

In 2019, Cornwall Breather's received two grants of **£2,500** from the **CCF Community Fund** and **The Live Well Fund** towards their No Smoking Schools Project. Despite their own multiple health issues, members have made a remarkable impression on schools, medical professionals and the local community over the last 15 years. They have reached over **30,000** school students, showing them the harms of smoking and how smoking can ruin their health.

The funding support from both funds recently enabled Cornwall Breathers to create an educational video and lesson package. Any school can download the lesson plan and use it as a 1-hour PSHE lesson, complete with an online Q&A session.

CCF Grants Officer, Donna Wheadon went to the premier viewing of the No Smoking School Project video. She said: *"It was an emotional and touching visit and showed great dedication, selflessness and passion from the members of Cornwall Breathers, who want to show people the long-term harm of smoking, with lived experience"*



4 Housing and Homelessness

Overview

In February 2022 Cornwall Council announced a housing crisis.


Housing is a contentious issue and it was one of the most passionately discussed in our community consultations. It was unanimously agreed upon in our survey, with **93%** of respondents recognising that 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 a 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. However, solutions are complicated and will take time to implement, so sadly this is likely to be the situation for some time to come.


Vital statistics

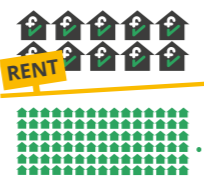
 The average house price in Cornwall in 2022 is **£302,121** (England **£297,524**).


In Cornwall in 2021 the average home cost **10.99 times**  average earnings (England **9.1**).



 Across Cornwall the mean affordability gap for terraced housing in 2022 is **£119,360**.


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

 Only **11%** of housing stock in Cornwall is social housing, compared to an average of **18%** across England.

Cornwall Council delivered the second-highest number of affordable homes in the country in 2020/21 (**814 built**) but just ten of those were available to rent from the council or housing association. 

 There are over **650** households (**1,200 people**) in temporary accommodation.

22,000 households  are on the social housing waiting list. 

As of March 2022, approximately **29,000** homes are not lived in all year round. 

CCF survey



93% of respondents recognised there is insufficient, affordable local housing.



84% stated that there are too many homes unoccupied for part of the year.

Quotes

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

Survey respondent

'So many professional people are living in tents and vans.'

Newquay community consultation

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

Newquay community consultation

'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 community consultation

Case study

Drop in and Share Centre (DISC) Newquay

The Drop in and Share Centre (DISC) in Newquay plays a vital role in supporting the community of Newquay and the surrounding areas.

DISC received £10,000 from the **CCF Crisis Fund** to support individuals who find themselves in crisis. Since the pandemic, and now due to the rising cost of living, many individuals are having to make the impossible decision of whether to eat or heat. This has led people into a downward spiral of worry.

DISC provides a safe and warm space where people can go to have a freshly cooked meal, seek debt advice, pick up food necessities like fruit and vegetables and receive small grants to help cover increasing household costs.

*"We at DISC have seen a **300%** increase in demand for cooked meals, as well as vegetables and fruit. Our electric top-ups have trebled and we have to deal with more and more people facing eviction and debt."*

Monique Collins, Manager



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 as 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.

There has been a greater complexity and volume of demand on services, exacerbated by lockdown isolation and the impacts on mental health and wellbeing.

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.


Vital statistics

 **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.

12% increase in the number of reported crimes but overall crime rate is low, with Cornwall being ranked **3rd** in their national comparison group.



Volume of anti-social behaviour incidents is **26%** lower than May 2021.

 From July 2021 to 31 July 2022 reports of hate crime in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly increased by **21.8%** (**2,371** to **2,888**).

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.



CCF survey



83% of respondents considered Cornwall a safe place to live.

Quotes

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

'It is a safe place in comparison with the rest of country.'
Survey respondent

'There's a worry about domestic abuse as people in a breakdown have nowhere to go.'
Newquay community consultation

Case study

White Gold Cornwall Foundation

White Gold Cornwall Foundation (WGCF) works with vulnerable or at-risk young people. They may be presenting challenging or unacceptable behaviours, excluded from, or failing to engage in, education, involved or at risk of becoming involved with the Criminal Justice System. They provide 1:1 mentoring to help them navigate life's challenges.

WGCF received **£5,000** from **The Worval Foundation** to specifically support **15** young people over six months who were facing extreme mental health issues including anxiety, depression and loneliness through the Covid-19 lockdowns. The benefits from the support have not only been seen in the young people but also in their families and communities. The support and help put into place will assist them with living independent lives and learning skills to progress.

"The grant has ensured consistency and continuity of support for our young members. Relationships are built up over time and, if we didn't receive this funding, we would not be able to build the trust that can be the difference in that young person being able to cope, or to manage their fears and anxieties. We are extremely grateful for the support of CCF and cannot underestimate the life-changing differences it makes."

Alan Miliner, CEO



6 Education and Learning

Overview

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

In 2022 almost all exam grades for GCSE and A level across all subjects were lower than the rest of England.

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.


In addition, at every decile of disadvantage, rurality is associated with worse educational outcomes.


Vital statistics


 **5.6%** of 16–64 year olds in Cornwall have no qualifications (**6.6%** in Great Britain).

60% of disadvantaged pupils in the South West didn't gain passes in GCSE English and Maths in 2019 (*inner London 40%*).

 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 is less, equating to over **£14,000** less funding over the course of a child's life from 0 to 18 years.

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. 

Quotes

'Most local young people have to leave Cornwall to pursue further training towards their career choice.'

Survey respondent

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

Survey respondent

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

Newquay community consultation

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

Truro community consultation

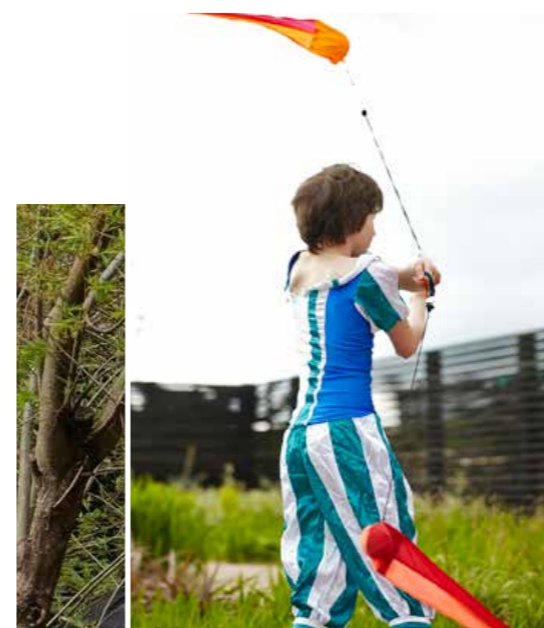
Case study

Swamp Circus

Swamp Circus Trust is a small charity based in Penryn that uses performing arts, including different circus skills, to improve the health and wellbeing of young people living in deprived communities across Cornwall.

A recent grant of **£2,000** from the **Headstart Kernow Fund** helped to fund community taster sessions aimed at schools and young-people-focused community groups. People in attendance were able to get a taste of the active group-learning sessions of yoga, acrobatics, circus skills and games.

As well as helping towards the community taster sessions, the grant from Headstart supported their summer camp. Members were able to stay and develop their circus skills, attend mindfulness training sessions from Cornwall Mindful Medicine, attend forest school sessions and learn about organic food and farming. The extension to their education helped to improve their mental health and wellbeing and improved their physical health through the circus skills and performance sessions.



7 Arts, Culture & Heritage

Overview

“Cornish culture is thriving and is visible through heritage, language, food, community involvement and strong attachment to place.”

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

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, including 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, as well as village feast and celebration days. These are a critical part of our vibrant cultural scene.

However, whilst Cornwall has many festivals and celebrates, access and affordability to its arts, culture and history are 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 as they would like.

“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.”

*Quotes taken from "The State of Cornwall – What we currently know about our Socio-Economic Landscape", Institute of Cornish Studies, July 2022.

Vital statistics

Cornwall has:



13,000 listed buildings,



1,437 scheduled monuments,



517 historic ports and



145 conservations areas.



There are over **70** museums in Cornwall.



Cornwall has over **250** festivals.



There are approximately **6,000** creative industries businesses in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly contributing an estimated **2.5%** to Gross Value Added

CCF survey



63% agreed or strongly agreed that Cornwall has a wide range of sporting and cultural facilities.



67% stated that traveling to arts, culture and heritage events is difficult.



56% cannot afford to attend as many arts, culture and heritage events as they would like.

Quotes

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

Survey respondent

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

Survey respondent

“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 community consultation

Case study

St Piran's Day Falmouth

With a grant of **£1,500** from **The Amaranth Fund** St Piran's Day Falmouth was able to host its biggest heritage parade. Around **300** primary aged children took part in the parade, starting at St Mary's Gardens and finishing at the Princess Pavilion.

As well as its annual parade, St Piran's Day Falmouth used the funding support to host food and drink stalls, local craft stalls with a Cornish theme and entertainment for all ages, including musicians and dancers at the Princess Pavilion, carrying on St Piran's Day celebrations.

“To a certain extent we were walking into the unknown with this event – just a handful of us, used to a much smaller event following an accustomed pattern, organising something major! To feel we had some financial support was a huge help – it was probably our saviour.”

Esme Tackley, Committee Member



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.

However, this natural capital is at risk: the average temperature in Cornwall has increased by nearly **1 degree Celsius** in the last **35 years** and Cornwall Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019.

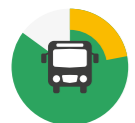
Air quality is at the low end of the moderate range, but water quality is a persistent and growing concern and recycling levels are well below optimum at just **33%**. The rurality and inadequate transport network mean car ownership is high.

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.”*

Vital statistics



Bus patronage in February 2022 (**85%**) is much higher than in February 2021 (**22%**).



In September 2022 the river Fal was announced as the most polluted site in the UK.



261,085 tonnes of waste was collected in 2019–2020 but just **33.3%** was reused, recycled or composted.



Cornwall is currently generating **40%** of its electricity supply from renewables



80,000kg of rubbish was removed from Cornish beaches in 2019



CCF survey

88% considered that Cornwall is impacted by climate change.



63% stated that they do not recycle as much as they could in their area.

Quotes

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

Survey respondent

‘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.’

Survey respondent

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

Truro community consultation



Case study

Newquay Orchard - Urban Biodiversity CIC

Urban Biodiversity CIC believes all communities in Cornwall need to be sustainable in the face of the climate crisis. They believe everyone should have access to high quality and productive green space to contribute solutions to the climate crisis whilst improving health and wellbeing. At Newquay Community Orchard this is achieved by delivering land-based activities and qualifications that reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and increase employability for members and volunteers.

Built by the community, for the community, the Orchard is a place for people to come together to grow, learn and relax. Across the seven-acre site sits a market garden, a wild wood, the espalier, a traditional orchard and Kowel Gwenen, a community building with co-workspaces. The Canteen at the Orchard serves fresh produce from the market garden.

A grant of **£1,000** from **The Headland Community Fund** helped to build a new volunteer hub at the Orchard. On average the Orchard welcomes **100** volunteers each week and the hub has enabled the most disadvantaged people to access volunteering. This hub has built the confidence, wellbeing, skills and resilience of each volunteer, giving them a better opportunity to progress into education, training and employment.

About Cornwall Community Foundation

Here at Cornwall Community Foundation (CCF) we want Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to be a great place to live for everyone - a place where people work together to address disadvantage and build strong, resilient communities.

Since 2003 we have awarded more than £15m in small grants to grassroots, front-line, volunteer-led organisations that are making a positive impact in their area, helping to overcome the challenges of disadvantage, exclusion and poverty for all.

This work wouldn't be possible without our generous donors.

There are many ways to support our work:

Make a one-off donation online

Join one of our regular giving supporter groups:

- **Friends of the Foundation**
- **The Business Club**
- **The Cornwall Club**
- **Cornwall Women's Fund**

Speak to us about how we can help you set up your own fund to support specific causes or geographic areas you are passionate about, or if you would like information on leaving CCF a gift in your will.

Research & references

Full research and references can be found in our longform paper: Vital Issues, available on our website

www.cornwallcommunityfoundation.com/vitalsigns2022



If you are involved in a community group in your area, please contact us for more information about the grants we have available and please help us spread the word to other groups you may know.

For more information:

call **01566 779333** or email office@cornwallfoundation.com
cornwallcommunityfoundation.com

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