

# Hertfordshire Matters

2020



**HCF**

Hertfordshire Community Foundation

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Home to 1.184 million people and covering 1,640 km<sup>2</sup>, the county of Hertfordshire comprises ten districts and 690 neighbourhoods. Each neighbourhood is home to approximately 1,500 people.

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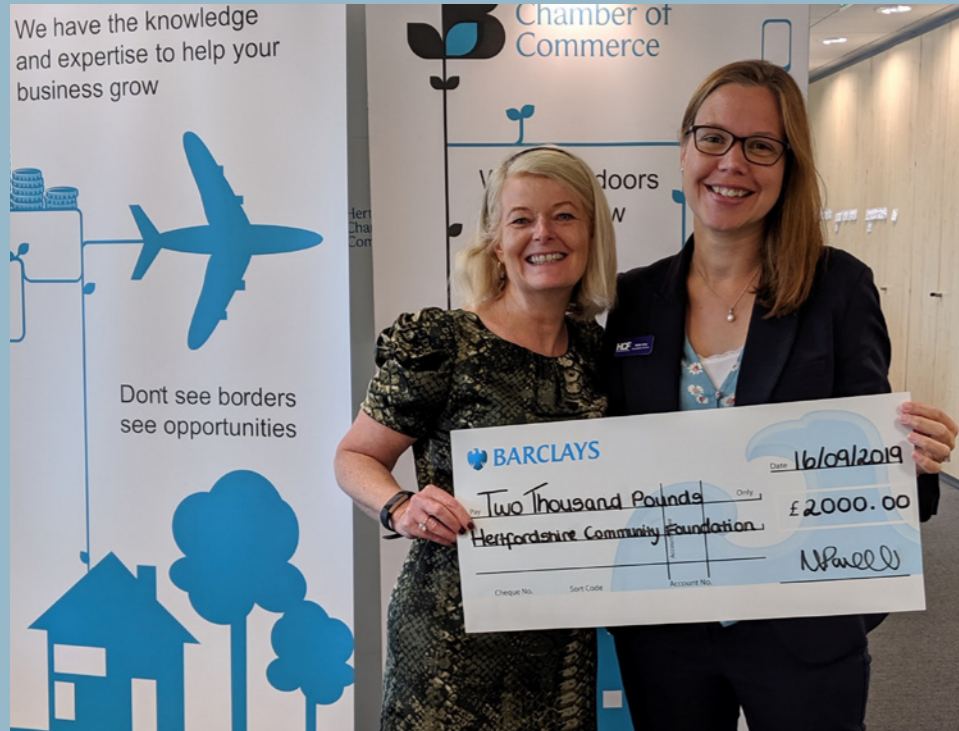
**HCF**  
*would like to thank*

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# Introduction



Understanding our local communities and the key social issues facing Hertfordshire's residents is fundamental to the work of HCF. Our Hertfordshire Matters research underpins every aspect of our work from our grant making through to the strategic advice we provide to local donors and philanthropists. It also provides evidence of need to support local groups and organisations as they seek to secure further funding.

Based on our latest research it is clear that Hertfordshire remains a county of contrast. Despite a modest decline in recent years, over 25,000 local children live in poverty, Borehamwood Cowley Hill falls within the top 10% most deprived areas in the country, hospital admissions for youth mental health are above the national average and there were 795 winter deaths in 2017/18 due to poor living conditions. However, perhaps one of the starkest developments has been the significant increase

in homelessness. Since 2011 there has been a 96% increase in statutory homelessness and a 165% increase in homeless households in temporary accommodation.

It is true to say that Hertfordshire compares with some counties favourably to some counties with lower levels of crime, higher than average incomes and good educational attainment. And yet, as this research highlights, there are real pockets of deprivation. Hertfordshire's population is growing and far too many people are living in need and facing challenging circumstances.

Many of us will turn to a local charity at some point in our lives and HCF's role remains as important as ever. HCF's ability to support small grassroots organisations underpins the work of hundreds of organisations and volunteers all working together to make Hertfordshire a better county for everyone.

*Helen Gray*  
Helen Gray  
Foundation Director



# Deprivation

For years Hertfordshire has had a reputation as a leafy and prosperous area so for many it may come as a surprise to find that the area is predominately urban, home to some stark inequalities and facing some real and pressing challenges.

Home to 1,184,365 people, it is the most densely populated non-urban county in the country with almost twice as many people per hectare than the average for England. That number is on the rise with projections indicating that Hertfordshire's population is due to increase faster than the national average across all age groups but in particular

the over 65s. Those increases are likely to place numerous and significant pressures on the existing infrastructure and services.

The strain may already be starting to show. The county still has a lower than average proportion of households in poverty but, in the four years since our last full report, all districts have shown an increase in levels of relative deprivation. 45 neighbourhoods are now among the 30% most deprived in the country and debt levels, for both mortgage and personal debt, are above the national average in the majority of districts.

While some areas are performing well above the national average there are others operating at the other end of the spectrum experiencing a combination of high levels of violent crime, household overcrowding and poor educational outcomes. Deprivation appears to be more likely in urban areas, while rural areas have their own challenges including poor quality housing, difficulty in accessing vital services like GPs and hospitals and fuel poverty.



**45** neighbourhoods rank among the **30%** most deprived in the country



**25,000**  
children are estimated to be living in poverty



There are an estimated  
**11,843**  
child carers in Hertfordshire



More than  
**26,000**  
older people are in need of social care and support

## Key facts and figures:

- Deprivation in Hertfordshire is generally below the England average. However, there are a significant number of people experiencing deprivation across the county, with more than 96,000 people identified as income deprived and 43,000 identified as involuntarily excluded from the labour market through unemployment, sickness, disability or caring responsibilities.
- There is evidence of inequality across the county with 45 neighbourhoods ranked among the most deprived 30% - with the highest concentrations in Broxbourne and Stevenage.
- Borehamwood Cowley Hill is the most deprived neighbourhood in Hertfordshire and is the only neighbourhood ranked among the most deprived 10% in England.
- In the Cowley Hill area of Borehamwood one-in-three residents are income deprived (rising to 40% among children) and one-in-four adults are out of work.
- Hertfordshire neighbourhoods show higher levels of deprivation in relation to barriers to housing and services and the living environment than other types of deprivation.
- All districts across Hertfordshire have shown an increase in relative levels of deprivation from 2010 to 2019, with Broxbourne and Stevenage areas seeing the greatest increases. In other words, Hertfordshire is becoming more deprived relative to other areas in England.
- Fuel poverty is a concern for certain areas in Hertfordshire but is much lower in more affluent areas across East and North Hertfordshire.
- Neighbourhoods in Dacorum, Watford and Broxbourne have the highest proportion of households deprived on multiple dimensions, with values at four times the national average.
- Debt levels in Hertfordshire are higher than the national average, with levels of mortgage and personal debt above the national average in the majority of districts across the county.
- Waltham Cross has the highest rate of child poverty where over 20% of children aged between 0-15 are in poverty, while the highest concentration of child poverty at neighbourhood level can be found in Hemel Hempstead.

## How HCF is helping

HCF's **Children's Fund** provides grants of up to £300 to children and families in crisis to enable them to buy essential household goods such as washing machines, ovens and children's beds. The fund is also used to buy exceptional items, such as a laptop for a family to help manage a child's diabetes and sensory equipment for a child with special needs.

HCF awarded a five-year grant to **Harpenden Money Advice Centre** an organisation that provides specialist financial advice to people facing overwhelming debt. HCF was able to provide funding to help towards core costs enabling the charity to meet growing demand for its services which included 56 new cases last year.

HCF has supported a group of the county's **Citizens Advice** bureaux, providing funding for a dedicated disability advice service to help individuals to navigate through the complex benefits system. During the first year of the project, 784 people were supported and over over £1.4m in benefits was secured. Building on this success the project will be rolled out in Watford and East Herts.

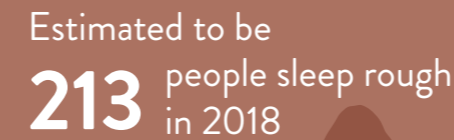
# Housing and homelessness

The recent UK housing crisis has been well documented but in Hertfordshire, affordability and availability of housing have been long-standing issues. House prices have been on the increase for years and home ownership has sunk to some of the lowest levels for a generation.



With some of the highest house prices in the country, access to decent housing is a real issue for many. The population has been growing faster than the housing supply, putting strain on the sector. Demand for social housing is extremely high in certain parts of the county, exacerbated by a reduction in the number of social homes in some areas.

One of the visible impacts of the above is the rise in homelessness. Levels of statutory homelessness have nearly doubled in the county since 2009 and there have been significant increases of people in temporary accommodation. Rough sleeping levels have also increased, are more concentrated in urban areas and in four out of the ten districts are above the national average.



## Key facts and figures:

- Hertfordshire is the most densely populated non-urban county in England.
- Population growth has outstripped increase in housing supply across the county with the population growing by 5.8% while the housing stock increased by 4.9% between 2009 and 2018.
- The issue of population growth exceeding housing supply is particularly acute in Welwyn Hatfield, which has experienced a population growth of 10.9% between 2011 and 2018 while the stock of available housing has increased by 4.7% over the same period.
- Since 2011 there has been a 96% increase in statutory homelessness across Hertfordshire and a 165% increase in homeless households in temporary accommodation.
- Broxbourne is ranked among the top 10 districts in England with the highest levels of homelessness – more than one in 100 households in Broxbourne are living in temporary accommodation (more than 3 times the national average).
- 18,500 households in Hertfordshire are on the waiting list for social housing, with demand outstripping supply – particularly in Dacorum, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield.
- 18% of households in Hertfordshire live in social rented accommodation – above the national average.
- More than a quarter of homes in rural Hertfordshire are in poor condition – above the national average.
- More than one in 10 households in Waltham Cross, Hatfield, Watford and Borehamwood live in overcrowded conditions.
- There is a lack of affordable housing across the county, with house prices in nine of the 10 districts higher than the national average.
- £47,000 in savings would be required to afford a 15% mortgage deposit and stamp duty for an entry level priced house in Hertfordshire (England = £23,000).
- Royston, Hatfield and Hertford have seen higher levels of new homes built than other towns across the county.
- In Dacorum, over one in 10 households are on the waiting list for social housing (10.7%) – more than double the national average.
- Watford shows the highest rate of rough sleeping of all districts in Hertfordshire with 3.5 per 10,000 households, well above the England average of 2.0 per 10,000 households. Rates in Stevenage, Welwyn Hatfield and Dacorum are also above the England average.



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## How HCF is helping

HCF provided a grant to fund a support worker at the recently opened SPARKs community cafe, hub and night shelter in the middle of Hatfield. Run by local charity **Resolve**, the centre has already helped 32 homeless people. As a result, antisocial behaviour in the local area is reported to have reduced and a number of the guests have started volunteering in the community cafe as they work towards rebuilding their lives.

Live Life is a project run by **Herts Young Homeless**, a charity supporting young people. The project is open to anyone aged between 16-24 who has experienced homelessness including sofa surfing and stays in temporary accommodation. HCF provided funding towards the expansion of their Live Life project in Watford which was developed by service users to provide accessible training, education and employment opportunities for very vulnerable young people.

# Health and wellbeing

As we've already mentioned, Hertfordshire is home to a range of inequalities which extends to the health and wellbeing of its residents. Life expectancy is higher than the national average when viewed at county level, but the reality is that it can differ by over a decade depending on where you live within the county.

With an ageing population it may be reasonable to expect an increase in age related illnesses and while the stats do show that the county has a higher incidence of

dementia than the national average, it also shows a lower proportion of people living with life limiting illnesses.

Good mental health is essential for a flourishing society and yet mental health continues to be an issue of national concern with an estimated one in four adults experiencing mental health problems at some stage during their lives. Hertfordshire is no exception with Hemel Hempstead recording the highest concentration of people with poor mental health.



## Key facts and figures:

- There is a high degree of inequality in life expectancy across Hertfordshire, with males in Peartree (Welwyn Hatfield) living on average 11 years less than males in Aldenham in Hertsmere; and females in Holywell (Watford) living nearly 13 years less than those in Welwyn North.
- Seven towns in Hertfordshire record a higher number of deaths than expected given the age profile of the population, with Hatfield recording the highest premature mortality rates.
- Broxbourne has higher rates of death from circulatory disease, respiratory disease and stroke and Three Rivers has higher levels of cancer and coronary heart disease than would be expected given the age and gender profile of these areas.
- Across the East of England (including Hertfordshire) there were a reported 5,600 excess winter deaths in 2017/18, and 795 in Hertfordshire. Nationally 2017/18 saw the highest rate of winter related deaths since records began in 1975.
- Stevenage, North Hertfordshire, Broxbourne and Three Rivers all had a higher ratio of excess winter deaths than the average for England.
- Hertfordshire has a lower proportion of people with a limiting long-term illness than the average across England, but there are 117 neighbourhoods where the proportion is above average.
- Younger children in Hertfordshire are more likely to be admitted to hospital for mental health related conditions.
- Hertfordshire has higher incidence of dementia than the national average, with 9,500 people aged 65+ diagnosed with dementia.
- Hertfordshire has a lower proportion of low birth weight births than the average across England; however, the low birth weight rate in Bushey is one and a half times the national average.
- England has one of the highest rates of obesity in Europe with a significant increase over recent decades. 61.8% of adults in Hertfordshire are either overweight or obese compared to 63.8% across England.
- The proportion of adults (aged 16+) who are physically active is higher in and around more rural areas in Hertfordshire and obesity among children is higher in areas where physical activity among adults is lower.
- Access to hospitals and GP surgeries is a greater issue for rural areas where travel distance and times are further and longer. Royston and Tring show average travel times of 50+ minutes to the nearest hospital, while in Hertford travel time is 17 minutes.
- Stevenage has a higher rate of teenage maternities than on average across the county, while overall Hertfordshire has a lower proportion of teen births than nationally.
- Just under 47,000 people aged under 65 have a disability and are receiving disability benefits to support their health and social care needs.
- Letchworth, Waltham Cross and Stevenage have a relatively high proportion of people receiving disability benefits to support their social care needs.
- Seven neighbourhoods in Hertfordshire have twice the national average of the working age population claiming Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance due to sickness or disability.
- Borehamwood, Waltham Cross and Watford all show higher than expected levels of hospitalisations due to alcohol-attributable harm.
- Royston is the only town in Hertfordshire with a higher rate of emergency hospital admissions for self-harm than the regional average.
- There were 243 deaths due to suicide between 2016- 2018, below the average for England, with suicide rates highest in men and women aged between 45 and 49. It is estimated that each suicide impacts on 135 people.

## How HCF is helping

HCF's annual winter appeal provides grants to local residents facing fuel and food poverty over the winter months to help individuals and families to keep warm and well.

HCF provided funding to **Signpost**, a youth mental health charity. With a focus on early intervention, the funding helped recruit, train and support a team of qualified volunteers to provide counselling sessions to 75 young people aged 11-13 across Hemel Hempstead, St Albans and Hatfield.

**Music24** provides music therapy sessions for people with dementia and their carers. With funding from HCF, Music24 has been able to maintain and expand its services to include Hoddesdon and Stevenage. The groups have been life changing for those attending with one member saying, "Attending the groups has changed both our lives."

There were  
**795**  
excess winter  
deaths in  
the county in  
2017 / 2018  
an increase from

**710**  
in 2016/17



**243**

deaths due to  
suicide between  
2016-2018

**28.8%**  
of 10-11 year olds are either  
overweight or obese compared to  
**33.3%**  
across England



**9,500**

people aged 65+ diagnosed  
with dementia, higher than  
the national average





# Crime and safety

It's reassuring to see that Hertfordshire remains a relatively safe county with lower than average rates for most crime types but rates of shoplifting, vehicle crime and drugs offences remain relatively high in some areas. The latter a reflection of the potential impact of County Lines drug operations, moving into urban areas across the county.

Knife crime may have reached record levels across the UK and it has been growing at a faster rate across Hertfordshire with a 90% increase between 2010/2011 and 2017/2018 when the rate of offences exceeded the regional average for the first time in a decade.

The county has seen lower levels of domestic abuse than the regional average and domestic abuse accounts for a lower proportion of total offences than average across England and

Wales. That said, it's worth remembering that figures only take into consideration recorded crimes, not those which are unreported.

The data seem to indicate that the most common crimes differ depending on the nature of the area, for example violent crime and antisocial behaviour tend to be more concentrated around towns and city centres while burglary and vehicle crime are greater issues in rural neighbourhoods.



## How HCF is helping

HCF has recently funded the 'Wrong to Right - Breaking the Cycle of Addiction and Crime' project being run by **The Living Room**. It's an awareness campaign aimed at those working in local prisons, probation and police to help raise the profile of the charity and its services among those working in and around the criminal justice system.

HCF funded **Future Living** Hertford's Monica Group Programme for survivors of domestic abuse. The programme includes counselling, training and workshops, supported volunteering opportunities and access to pro-bono legal support. The programme helps participants to rebuild self-esteem, increase confidence and equips them with the skills to rebuild their lives.

**Three Rivers Community Safety Partnerships** received a grant from HCF's PCC Action Fund toward a joint project across three districts for a Youth Violent Crime Reduction project working with a pupil referral unit and Police Community Support Officers. This has helped to identify people currently involved, or at risk of being involved, in violent crime so support services can be provided.

HCF manages significant funds dedicated to making Hertfordshire a safer county for everyone including the Police and Crime Commissioner's Action Fund and the Herts in Trust Fund.

## Key facts and figures:

- Across most crime types, Hertfordshire has a lower crime rate than across the East of England and England. However, the county experiences higher rates of shoplifting and slightly higher rates of drug offences and vehicle crime.
- Violent crime and anti-social behaviour are more concentrated around towns and city centres, while burglary and vehicle crime are greater issues in rural neighbourhoods.
- Drug offences are a particular issue in and around Waltham Cross, where they are nearly four times the England average.
- 10 towns across the county have higher levels of drug offences than the national average.
- There are three neighbourhoods in Hertfordshire where drug offences were at or above ten times the England average.
- Waltham Cross has higher levels of violent crime and burglary than other towns across the county and England as a whole.
- Although knife crime rates remain below the average across England and Wales crime has been growing at a faster rate than the regional and national average, with a 90% increase in knife crime between 2010/2011 and 2017/2018 – more than four times the average rate of increase across England.



10

towns across the county have higher level of drug offences than the national average

511

recorded knife crimes in 2017/2018



11,130

recorded domestic abuse related offences in 2017/2018



## Strong communities

We know that where we live and our sense of belonging, how we engage on both a social and community level, can have a huge impact on our health, wellbeing and general resilience.

By looking at certain indicators such as satisfaction levels, volunteering numbers, civil engagement and the strength and sustainability of the local voluntary sector, we can start to build a picture of what and where the strengths and opportunities lie.

Overall Hertfordshire residents report lower levels of belonging and satisfaction with their local area than the national average. Notably rural areas appear to score better than urban ones, perhaps a reflection of the higher levels of deprivation experienced in more urban areas.

On a positive note, the county's residents do appear to be engaging with community issues with higher than average levels of volunteering to support sport and physical activity, higher than average turnouts at recent elections and a higher than average number of charities.

However, despite having a higher than average number of charities per person, the level of funding coming into the county to support their work is less than half the national average and the spread of funding indicates efforts may not always be concentrated in the areas of greatest need.



## How HCF is helping

HCF provided funding to Borehamwood-based charity **Gratitude** to purchase a van. The van is now used to collect excess food from supermarkets. Local volunteers cook and share community meals, helping to address food poverty, and all other food is distributed to local food banks and night shelters.

By supporting **Mudlarks Community Garden**, HCF was able to help tackle both loneliness and isolation and provide support to adults with learning difficulties. A recent grant enabled Mudlarks to provide a free gardening service delivered by people with learning disabilities to local elderly residents.

Many grants have been made to address loneliness and to help connect lives through the Hertfordshire County Council Community Grants Fund managed by HCF. **Open Door** Berkhamsted received a grant to reach out to all members of the community, and **CDA Herts** is addressing rural isolation through its East Herts Village Connector project.

## Key facts and figures:

- Hertfordshire has lower levels of belonging and satisfaction with the local area than the national average.
- People have a greater sense of belonging to their local area in rural areas away from larger towns and more populated neighbourhoods.
- Chorleywood has the highest level of satisfaction with their local area.
- The neighbourhoods in Hertfordshire which score highly in terms of local social relationships are predominantly located in North and East Hertfordshire.
- Hertfordshire has more charities per 1,000 population than across England.
- A higher proportion of adults in Hertfordshire volunteer to support sport and physical activity than across England, with the highest rates in North Hertfordshire and Dacorum.
- A higher proportion of people voted at the most recent local elections in Hertfordshire than across England, with turnout highest in St Albans and lowest in Broxbourne.
- Hertfordshire received lower levels of grant funding per head than the average across England, with the highest levels of funding in Welwyn Hatfield and lowest levels in Hertsmere.
- The most deprived districts in Hertfordshire are receiving lower levels of grant funding per head (calculated based on location of the organisations receiving funding) than the county average.

17.1%

of people aged 16+ volunteered to support sport and physical activity in the last 12 months



37.1%

Hertford residents voted in the 2019 election, higher than the national average



58.5%

of pensioners live alone

Hertfordshire receives less than half the national average grant funding per head at just

£16.80



# Education and work



A person's ability to reach their full potential and live well in their local community is dependent on a range of factors from the quality of their education to the opportunities available to them in later life. As a county Hertfordshire performs better than the national average in nearly all areas – educational achievement for children and adults, employment levels and average earnings – but as is so often the case, digging a little deeper reveals some areas for concern.

Overall, pupils in Hertfordshire perform above the national average at all benchmarked stages but there are some areas where performance is at the other end of the scale. Two districts consistently perform below the national average and there are 14 neighbourhoods across the county that are ranked among the most deprived 10% in England for Children and Young People's education.

When it comes to work, Hertfordshire again performs well at county level with a higher than average job density, proportion of working age people being economically active and average earnings. But, the research highlights four districts where workplace earnings are below the national average suggesting that in some cases those working in Hertfordshire are earning less than those living in the county but working further afield. It's likely to be a contributing factor to the third of residents who are travelling longer distances - including a significant proportion who commute into London on a daily basis - to get to the jobs and salaries they need in order to afford to live in the county.

## Key facts and figures:

- Unemployment rates have been increasing in Watford and Stevenage and are drawing closer to the national average.
- Waltham Cross has the highest unemployment rate of the major towns in Hertfordshire, at one and a half times the national average.
- Borehamwood and Letchworth Garden City have a higher proportion of people claiming out of work benefits due to sickness or disability than the national average.
- Pupils in Hertfordshire outperform the national average at all benchmarked stages – with higher levels of average attainment at Key Stages 1, 2 and 4.
- However, there is notable inequality in educational attainment within Hertfordshire, with pupils in Broxbourne and Stevenage consistently performing at below the national average.
- There are pockets of very high educational deprivation among children and young people, with 14 neighbourhoods in Hertfordshire ranked among the most deprived 10% in England in terms of the Children and Young People Education deprivation domain.
- The neighbourhoods with the highest levels of educational disadvantage are found in Letchworth Garden City, Welwyn Garden City and Hemel Hempstead.
- Young adults living in Hertfordshire are more likely to progress to Higher Education; however, education participation rates are lower than the national average in Stevenage, Broxbourne, Hemel Hempstead, Royston and Hatfield.
- A relatively low proportion of adults have no qualifications across Hertfordshire, while the proportion of people qualified to degree level is above the national average.
- However, areas of Broxbourne

(Waltham Cross, Hoddesdon and Cheshunt) have a higher proportion of people with no qualifications than the regional and national average.

- Hertfordshire has a higher rate of people employed full-time than across England, as well as higher rates of self-employment, particularly in rural areas.
- The three largest job sectors in Hertfordshire are business administration and support services; professional, scientific and technical; and retail.
- Stevenage and Watford have very high levels of public sector employment.
- People living in each of the districts in Hertfordshire earn more per week than

the national average.

- However, those working in Hertfordshire earn less than those living in Hertfordshire but working outside the county, with workplace earnings in Watford, Dacorum, St Albans and North Hertfordshire below the national average.
- Each of the towns in Hertfordshire have higher median household income than the England average (with the exception of Waltham Cross).
- A much higher proportion of people travel more than 10km to work in Hertfordshire than across England with a relatively high proportion of people commuting into London.





**14**  
neighbourhoods are ranked among  
the most deprived  
**10%**  
in England in the Children and  
Young People Education domain



**42.3%** of the working age population are in  
full time employment

**32.9%**  
of people travel more than  
**10km**  
to get to work

Full time  
employed people in  
Hertfordshire earn  
**£80**  
a week more than the  
England average



**117,694**  
people commute into London  
for work



### How HCF is helping

HCF funded a bespoke mentoring programme run by **Business Education Events (BEE)**. Working with 14 and 15 year olds from Onslow St Audrey's School in Hatfield BEE help the children to make the most of opportunities available to them. The programme has proven to be successful in increasing resilience and reducing the likelihood of becoming involved or affected by crime.

HCF provided a grant to **Colnbrook School**, a special needs school in Watford. Funds were used to landscape the school's play area which had been closed due to safety concerns. The school is located in an area of deprivation and for many of the children, the school playground is their only access to an outdoor play area. Thanks to HCF's grant and the support of other local funders, the playground has reopened.

Based in Welwyn Garden City, **Recover** provides training opportunities to people facing difficulties through a combination of drug and alcohol addiction and poor mental health. By teaching people how to upcycle furniture, they acquire new skills and the confidence to return to the workplace. HCF provided a grant to enable Recover to open a market stall in St Albans providing new learning experiences.

# Environment



The environment we live and work in is instrumental to our health and wellbeing. Our ability to get the help we need from local services, the quality and cleanliness of our surroundings and our access to open spaces, arts and culture can all have an impact, whether it's physical, material or psychological.

Access to services like GPs, schools and supermarkets is something that many now take for granted but it's not that way for everyone. As you may expect, people living in rural areas do experience greater travel times, but what may be more surprising is that even those in some urban areas are experiencing relatively high travel times to key services like employment centres.

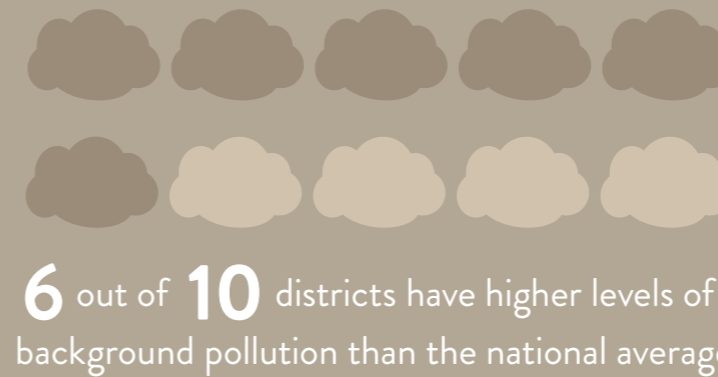
It's good to see Hertfordshire residents making the most of local opportunities

with around half reporting going to local museums, parks or heritage sites. It's a testament to the strength of the local culture and heritage sector despite the fact it receives less than a third of the average Arts Council funding.

Environmental concerns have also been high on the agenda in recent times and it's fantastic to see that the county is making good progress. While some areas are still struggling with higher than average CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and levels of background pollutants, overall carbon dioxide emissions have been reducing steadily since 2005 and over half of our household waste is sent for recycling which is well above the national average.

## How HCF is helping

**9 Lives Furniture** is a Hertfordshire charity that collects, refurbishes and re-distributes quality household goods. Since opening in 2004, they have diverted over 811 tonnes of waste from landfill sites. This is achieved by providing training, support and work placements for people with learning disabilities and those recovering from mental ill health, helping them develop the skills and confidence to move towards education and employment. HCF provided funding towards staff costs, ensuring the charity continued to have a positive impact on both the individuals it works with and the wider environment.

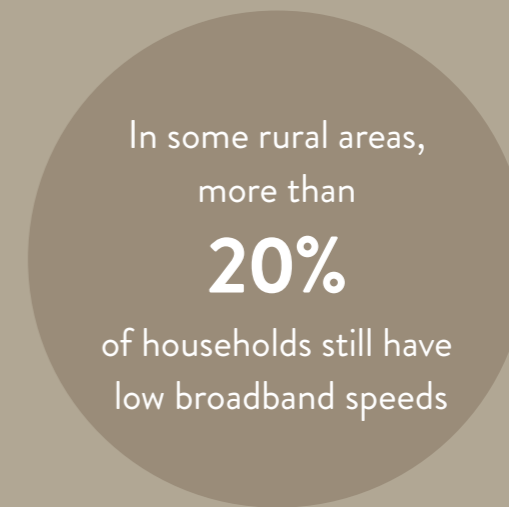


**16.9%** of households have no car

**51.7%**

of household waste is sent for recycling - compared to the England average of

**43.5%**



## Key facts and figures:

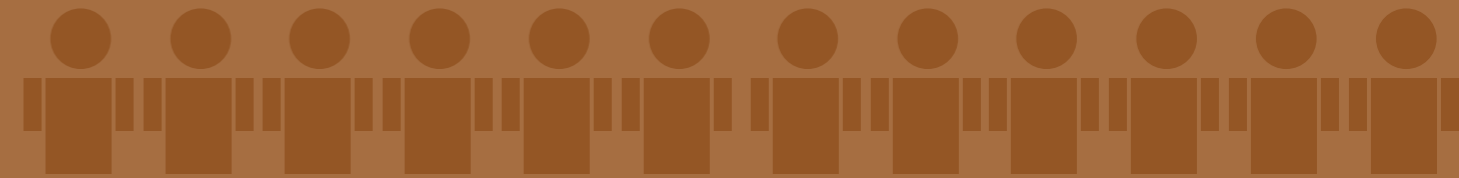
- Carbon dioxide emissions have reduced steadily since 2005 but Hertsmere, St Albans and Three Rivers are still above the England average.
- Hertfordshire has a lower proportion of residual household waste per household than on average across England, with a higher proportion sent for reuse, recycling or composting.
- Rural areas have better air quality with higher concentrations of pollution around urban centres and towns. Six of the 10 Local Authorities in Hertfordshire have higher levels of pollution than the national average.
- Hertfordshire has vast areas of accessibility to green space, with rural spaces dispersed across the county, but less immediate access from within urban centres.

# Population

## Key facts and figures:

- The total population in Hertfordshire in 2018 was 1,184,365 a 5.8% increase since 2011 (compared to a 5.4% increase across England).
- Hertfordshire is showing greater growth of children and working-age populations than other areas across England. However, the fastest projected rate of growth is seen among the over 65s across each of the districts in Hertfordshire.
- Population is growing at a faster rate across Hertfordshire than the England average and it is already the most densely populated non-urban county in England with 7.2 persons per hectare, compared with 3.2 in the East of England and 4.3 for England.
- While a lower proportion of the population are from ethnic minority groups across Hertfordshire, a number of towns have very high proportions of people in ethnic minority groups - in Waltham Cross twice the England average population identify as being from an ethnic minority group (with a further seven towns containing more ethnically diverse populations than England as a whole).
- Christianity is the largest religion in Hertfordshire, but people are more likely to have no religion than across England. There is also a larger Hindu and Jewish population than on average across the county.
- More people are moving out of Hertfordshire (into other Local Authorities within England) than are moving in (with the notable exceptions of Three Rivers and East Hertfordshire). Watford and Welwyn Hatfield are seeing higher levels of international in-migration than the national average.
- All areas show greater increase in the 65+ age group, but Hertfordshire areas also show greater projections among children and working-age groups
- Welwyn Hatfield has the greatest % increase across all age groups, with considerably above average population growth predicted in the 0-14 and 15-64 age groups. The majority of areas in Hertfordshire show greater predicted population growth amongst children and working-age people than the England average.

There are  
**195,000**  
people aged 65 years old  
and above and this is projected  
to grow by  
**23%**  
over the next ten years



The population of Hertfordshire stands at  
**1,184,365**

**20.6%**

of the population is aged 0-15 which is slightly above the national average of

**19.2%**



The county's population  
has grown by  
**5.8%**  
since 2011

## For more information

A full and detailed version of this report is available at [www.hertscf.org.uk/hertfordshire-matters](http://www.hertscf.org.uk/hertfordshire-matters)  
Hard copies are also available on request.

Details of the information sources used in this publication can be found in the full Hertfordshire Matters report.

A key source is the Office for National Statistics: [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)



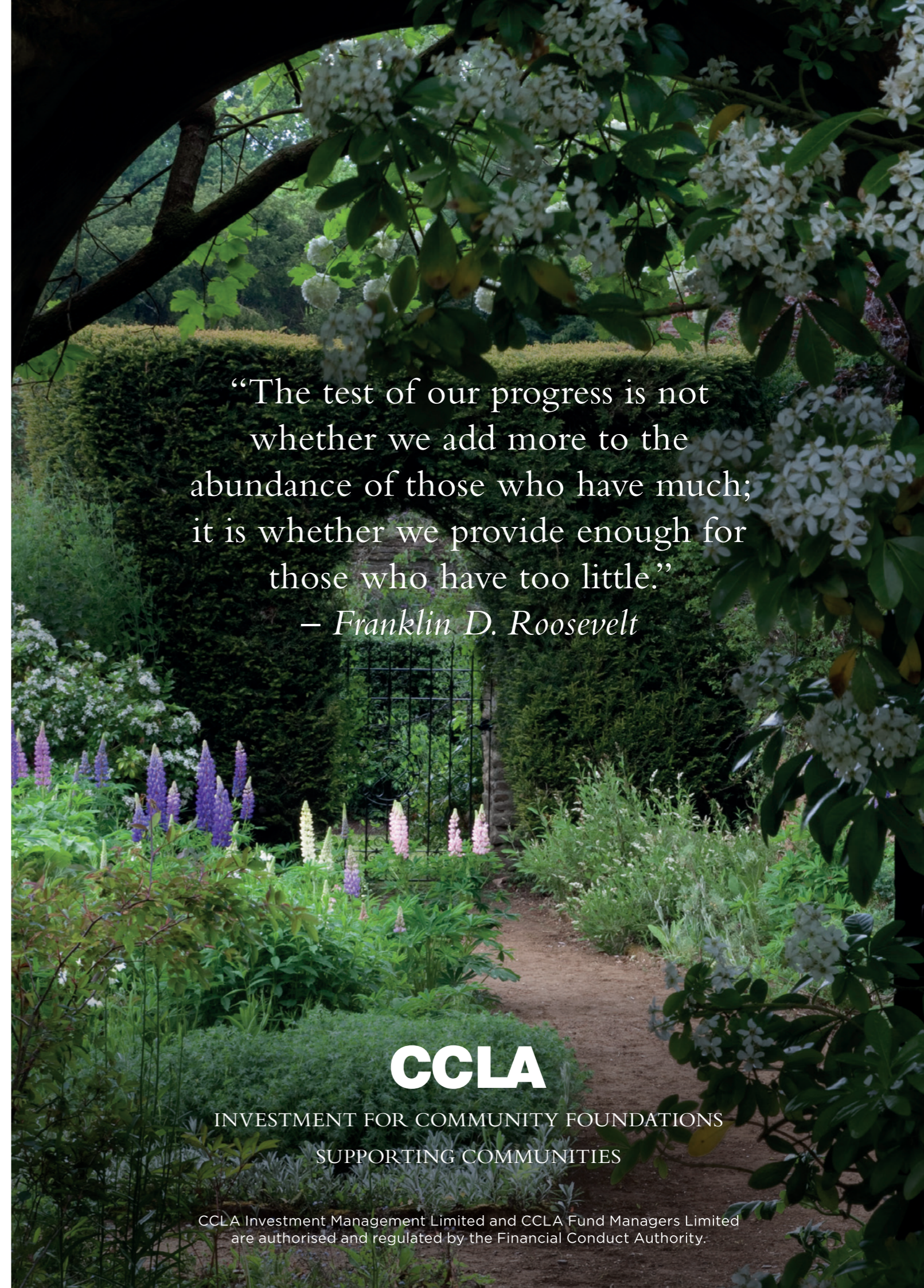
For all enquiries relating to HCF's grant programmes and training and development opportunities please contact a member of HCF's team on

01707 251351 or email [office@hertscf.org.uk](mailto:office@hertscf.org.uk)

For groups interested in the latest HCF funding opportunities please visit: [www.hertscf.org.uk/grant-making](http://www.hertscf.org.uk/grant-making).

If you would like to support the work of HCF to help address some of the issues highlighted in this report please contact:

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“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

– *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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