

Cambridgeshire's

**VITAL SIGNS<sup>®</sup>**

**2017**



Cambridgeshire  
Community  
Foundation

# Local needs

## VITAL SIGNS® REPORT 2017

### Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF)'s Vital Signs report for 2017 focuses on early years' education and development

#### METHODOLOGY

The Vital Signs programme has been running in the UK since 2013, and is modelled on an initiative started by the Community Foundations of Canada. The goal of Vital Signs is to take the pulse of our community, to measure the quality of life and to highlight the county's priorities and opportunities for action. Existing statistical data is combined with the results of a community consultation survey to offer a picture of what life is like in Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough), formed from a combination of solid evidence and personal reflections. The evidence gathered will help CCF advise and guide donors, to help them understand where their funding can make the most difference.

A Vital Signs report is published annually, with a long report published every three years covering nine themes: fairness; education; economy and employment; health; housing; safety; strong communities; arts, culture and heritage; and environment. Brief interim reports addressing one or two themes are published in the intervening two years.

The data included has primarily been taken from local and national government sources, think tanks and charitable bodies. The information is considered accurate as of 2017. If you have any queries or believe any information in this report to be incorrect, please contact [info@cambscf.org.uk](mailto:info@cambscf.org.uk).

A total of 171 people responded to our 2017 community consultation online survey, giving their views on the provision of early years' services in their area.

#### BACKGROUND

Our Vital Signs 2016 research indicated that Cambridgeshire, a county associated with the highest of academic standards, actually falls below the national average on many markers of education (see issue 1, page 11). Following on from that, we decided to focus this year's interim Vital Signs report on education, particularly early years' education and development.

The early years learning of children has an enormous impact on their educational development and life chances, as numerous studies have shown, from as far back as the 2000/2001 Millennium Cohort Study (MCS). A longitudinal study covering 19,000 children, the MCS concluded that formal group care, such as that provided by playgroups and children's centres, at a very young age can reduce educational inequalities between advantaged and disadvantaged children when they reach the age of three. This is backed up by the results of our community consultation, the majority of respondents agreeing that early years services are important preparation for school.

#### GOALS FOR THIS REPORT

- Highlight Cambridgeshire's overall performance compared with the UK as a whole.
- Uncover the comparative strengths and weaknesses of each district in Cambridgeshire.
- Inform community philanthropists about local issues and opportunities.
- Start conversations with people who can support community philanthropy.
- Set priorities and identify opportunities for funding.



*Child attending the Meadows Children and Family Wing (see page 22)*

*This report covers the geographical area served by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation: the five districts which make up the county of Cambridgeshire and the Unitary Authority of Peterborough.*

*The estimated population of Cambridgeshire, including Peterborough is 830,279.*

*The county covers an area of 3,390 square km, making it the 15th largest of the 48 ceremonial counties in England.*

# Learning and development



A child painting at the Meadows Children and Family Wing (see page 22)

## Early learning goals

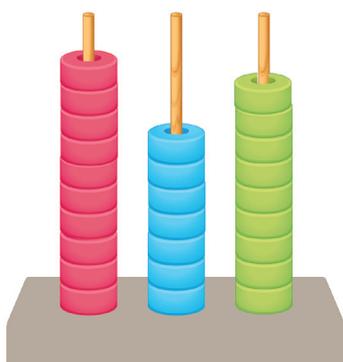


The government's Early Years' Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. At the end of the EYFS, the key government measure for children's early years' development is their attainment of the 17 Early Learning Goals, occurring at the end of their first year of primary school.

On leaving the Foundation Stage at the end of Reception, a child is considered to have a 'good level of development' if they have achieved at least the expected level in the Early Learning Goals in all aspects of personal, social and emotional development, physical development, communication and language, literacy and mathematics.

**69.7%**

of children in **Cambridgeshire** achieved a good level of development at the end of their first year at primary school



**62.9%**

of children in **Peterborough** achieved a good level of development at the end of their first year at primary school

National average  
**69.3%**

In **Cambridgeshire**, among children whose first language is not English

**56%**

achieved all Early Learning goals



Nationally an average of

**61%**

of children whose first language is not English achieved all Early Learning goals

In **Peterborough**, among children whose first language is not English

**47%**

achieved all Early Learning goals

# Early learning goals

Achievement of the Early Learning Goals in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is lower overall for children eligible for free school meals.



**47%**

of children in **Cambridgeshire** eligible for free school meals achieved all the Early Learning Goals, against

**69%**

of those not eligible

**52%**

of children in **Peterborough** eligible for free school meals achieved all the Early Learning Goals, against

**62%**

of those not eligible



National average

**52%**

of children known to be eligible for free school meals achieved all the Early Learning Goals, against

**70%**

of those not eligible



Findings from the Early Intervention Foundation suggest **Cambridgeshire's** total cost of late intervention in the early years learning of children to be **£144 million or £223 per person**, while **Peterborough's** was **£70 million or £361 per person**



## Accessibility of early years' services

% of survey respondents in each district that said accessibility of early years' services is good

Cambridge City **44%**  
 South Cambridgeshire **25%**  
 East Cambridgeshire **0%**  
 Huntingdonshire **62.5%**  
 Fenland **56%**  
 Peterborough **0%**



A child attending a group run by Home-Start Cambridgeshire



**Distribution of children known to be eligible for free school meals is not equal across Cambridgeshire**

**18.1%**

of pupils in Fenland receive free school meals compared to

**6.8%**

in South Cambridgeshire

Waterlees in Fenland is the most deprived ward in the county, and has

**33.7%**

of pupils claiming free school meals

Within the city of Cambridge Abbey ward has

**24.5%**

of children claiming free school meals, while in neighbouring Market Ward

**3.1%**

of children receive and in West Chesterton 4.2% of children receive free school meals

# Child poverty

**Deprivation and child poverty are strongly linked to children's early years' development. According to a 2015 County Council report, "children growing up in poverty achieve less well [in Cambridgeshire] than almost anywhere else in the country".**

Less than one third of children growing up in poverty in Cambridgeshire achieve a good level of development at the end of the first year of primary school.



Photograph courtesy of [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

## Child poverty in Cambridgeshire

Research by the charity End Child Poverty suggests that, after housing costs are taken into account:

- 22.1%** of children in **Cambridge City** live in poverty
- 26.6%** of children in **Fenland** live in poverty
- 29.8%** of children in **Peterborough** live in poverty
- 17.3%** of children in **Huntingdonshire** live in poverty
- 15.8%** of children in **East Cambridgeshire** live in poverty
- 13.8%** of children in **South Cambridgeshire** live in poverty



Research from the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission suggests that Cambridge is a 'social mobility coldspot', and that East Cambridgeshire is the 14th worst local authority in England for social mobility according to the Commission's Social Mobility Index, with Cambridge City and Fenland both in the bottom 20%

# Health and wellbeing

The health of children has a considerable impact on their early years' development.

In Public Health England's overview of child health, Peterborough measured worse than the England average for 13 criteria in its Child Health Profile. Cambridgeshire measured worse than the England average for 2 criteria in its Child Health Profile.



Children attending a group run by Home-Start Cambridgeshire

## A&E attendances (0-4 years) 2015/16



Peterborough **800.7 per 1000**  
 Cambridgeshire **416.7 per 1000**  
 England average **587.9 per 1000**

## Children with one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth



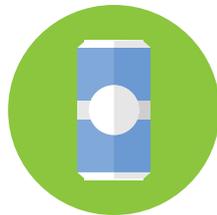
Peterborough **30%**  
 Cambridgeshire **16.9%**  
 England average **24.8%**

## Parental mental health has a critical impact on children's mental health

**22,700**

children and young people in Cambridgeshire live with a parent with mental illness

Between **one and two-thirds** of these children and young people are likely to develop mental health problems themselves



It is estimated that

**5,400**

children and young people live with a problem drinker who has concurrent mental health problems;

**3,300**

are living with a drug user with concurrent mental health problems; and

**1,300**

live with a parent with all three



Children and their parents attending a group run by Home-Start Cambridgeshire

## Maternal mental health, particularly in the first 18 months of life, has an impact on a child's long-term mental health

There were an estimated

**754**

women with major post-natal depression in Cambridgeshire based on births in 2011



**Development of children at the end of their first year of primary school provides a good indicator of their educational, emotional, social and physical development up to that point. This early years' development impacts on children's ongoing educational development and life chances.**

Learning and development of children in Cambridgeshire is affected by a wide variety of factors including whether English is their first language, poverty and the health of children and their parents or carers. And it would seem, location within the county has an effect due to the vast inequalities present.

The importance of early intervention and structured pre-school education, as well as support for the whole family has been demonstrated. In issue 4 of *The Forum*, CCF's quarterly magazine, you can read about the vital contribution local organisations such as the Fields Children's Centre (page 12), Home-Start Royston and South Cambridgeshire (page 20) and Meadows Children and Family Wing (page 22) make to supporting children and families. This support improves early years' learning and development and therefore the life chances of children in the county.



*Children attending the Meadows Children and Family Wing (see page 22)*

Vital Signs® is a community philanthropy guide from your local community foundations, measuring the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs® is supported by UK Community Foundations.



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GIVING FOR LOCAL GOOD

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Canadian communities.

