



Gloucestershire
Community Foundation
Gloucestershire Gives



VitalSigns



UK COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
GIVING FOR LOCAL GOOD

It is a pleasure to commend this first Gloucestershire Vital Signs Report to you.

The majority of people living in the county want to live in an area where everyone has the opportunity to flourish physically, intellectually, mentally and spiritually.

However, this report highlights the fact that there are significant inequalities in our midst. Nor everyone, for example, has the same access to adequate housing. Fuel and food poverty exist. There are different health outcomes for people living within a few miles of one another.

Nevertheless with courageous and concerted effort it is possible to address these inequalities: the task is not easy but we owe it to future generations to tackle them now.

I am delighted that the Gloucestershire Community Foundation and the Barnwood Trust have collaborated to produce this report. It provides evidence of the most pressing needs within the county and I trust it will be used to guide our charitable giving into the future.

I am in no doubt that by collaborative effort across statutory and voluntary organisations we can address some of the most pressing social and economic inequalities which blight our county.

Dame Janet Trotter DBE, Lord Lieutenant for the County of Gloucestershire and President of Gloucestershire Community Foundation

Barnwood Trust has been pleased to support the development of this first Vital Signs report by the Gloucestershire Community Foundation, and we applaud their initiative in bringing this information together. These reports, produced now by many of the national network of Community Foundations, provide a valuable insight into the local context for grant-giving. We are looking forward to collaborating with the Foundation in future years as these reports develop and we look together at different aspects of life in the county.

Sally Byng, CEO Barnwood Trust



Welcome to Gloucestershire Community Foundation's first Vital Signs report, produced in collaboration with Barnwood Trust. Barnwood Trust helped with collating some of the statistics presented in the report and we are grateful for their in-kind contribution. We also thank the inform team at Gloucestershire County Council for their guidance and input.

In this first report, we have provided an overview of six local vital issues, bringing together statistics from a range of national and local data sets, with the results from a survey of Gloucestershire residents. In bringing this information together, the six vital signs themes enable us to understand how Gloucestershire is performing statistically in relation to the rest of the UK, as well as sharing the views of people living in the county. Vital Signs highlights significant social and economic trends and assigns grades in areas critical to quality of life. These reports also promote awareness of community issues and are used by communities for social planning, by citizens and philanthropists to identify community needs and strengths, and by community foundations to inform their grant making and leadership activities.

The first Vital Signs report was developed by Community Foundations of Canada in 2001; it has subsequently been adopted by many Community Foundations all over the world.

Note on Boundaries: This report of Vital Signs refers to the County of Gloucestershire as administered by Gloucestershire County Council since the changes introduced by the Local Government Act 1972. Where the data includes South Gloucestershire, this is noted in the report.

GCF would like to thank all who contributed to this Vital Signs 2017 report: the Inform team at Gloucestershire County Council, Roz Warden and Sally Byng at Barnwood Trust, Lucy, David, Ronnie and Sue at Quartet Community Foundation, Mike Scott at UKCF, Gloucestershire residents who completed the survey, Dame Janet and Nic Davies who offered her time voluntarily for the design of the final report.

“If donors are looking for local expertise and a connection to their communities, community foundations are the better option”

Eleanor W Sachs (“The growing importance of community foundations”)

- Donating money remains the main way in which people engage with charity, 61% having done so in the last year.
- Medical research is the cause people are most likely to have donated money to (26%).
- A total amount of £9.7 billion was donated by generous Britons in 2016.
- According to the Charities’ Aid Foundation’s report “Overview of Charitable Giving in the UK” (2016), half of the population believed that most charities were trustworthy, with women and young people most likely to trust them.
- Younger people are less likely to donate money than older people but are more likely to volunteer, sign a petition and take part in a public demonstration or protest.
- Charities are increasingly accountable with more attention paid to governance.
- Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) Donor-advised funds are becoming increasingly popular in the UK and grew substantially in the UK in 2015. DAFs are philanthropic funds held within a charitable organisation that allow donors to make an irrevocable charitable contribution, receive immediate tax relief and then recommend charitable grants from the fund over time.
 - Grants from DAFs accounts also rose, with total charitable assets available for grant-making approaching £1 billion.
 - The steady rise is a result of both an increase in contributions to donor-advised fund accounts and gains from investment returns.
 - Charitable assets under management in all DAFs accounts totalled £903.4 million in the UK in 2015.
 - This growth should continue in the foreseeable future as more donors become aware of donor-advised funds and more financial, legal, and tax advisors incorporate these funds into their planning.





Community foundations exist to promote to individuals and the community the values of giving, helping and philanthropy, as well as encouraging us all to take personal responsibility for improving the areas in which we live.

They also act as intermediary organisations, established to collect funds and then through these funds, make grants to support the local charitable infrastructure and address changing community needs.

Covering a defined geographic region, foundations serve the needs of all the residents in their area, regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin or ability.

Foundations also have an important community leadership role, acting as experts on the local non-profit infrastructure and on community needs. Their position in the community means that they can bring together local decision makers – including charity leaders, local authorities, the business community, foundations and funders - to develop a coordinated programme that will achieve a greater impact.

Community Foundations are governed by a volunteer board of local residents who are responsible for maintaining the organisation, and for identifying and funding priorities.

The population of Gloucestershire is 623,129 with concentrations in the towns of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud. The county also has a large rural area in the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean.

The average price for a semi-detached house in Gloucestershire in the period July 2016 to June 2017 was £244,840 . In 2016, median gross annual earnings before tax stood at £27,818.

Gloucestershire is home to several large companies; St James Place, Spirax Sarco, Supergroup, Mears Group, EDF Energy, Safran, Colt Car Company, Renishaw, Ecclesiastical Insurance and Ecotricity.

The University of Gloucestershire received a silver rating in recognition of its high quality teaching in the government's latest university rankings system.

The Royal Agricultural University was established in 1845 in Cirencester and was the first agricultural college in the English-speaking world. Hartpury College was established after World War II as an agricultural education centre. Hartpury is an Associate Faculty of the University of the West of England (UWE) and has been working in partnership with UWE since 1997.

Cheltenham Festivals attract over 180,000 visitors each year.

Gloucestershire has one of the most diverse landscapes in England, including:

- the Cotswolds AONB
- the Forest of Dean was designated the UK's first national forest park in 1938
- River Severn, canals and Gloucester Docks
- over 260 Grade 1 listed buildings
- Gloucester Cathedral
- Tewkesbury Abbey
- There are several royal residences in Gloucestershire, including Highgrove House and Gatcombe Park.

Cheltenham Racecourse is host to the best jumping horse racing action in the world, with a history dating back almost two centuries.

Gloucester Rugby Club was established in 1873 and plays in the Premiership.

Gloucestershire is home to modern day and not-so-modern day philanthropists

Robert Raikes was a journalist, philanthropist and pioneer of the Sunday school movement. Born in 1735 in Gloucester, he joined in humanitarian causes such as prison reform and hospital care. Raikes died in Gloucester in 1811 and is buried in the church of St. Mary de Crypt.

In 1783, the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Sir George Onesiphorus Paul was a key figure in the establishment of Barnwood House in the 1860s, the predecessor of Barnwood House Hospital which later became Barnwood Trust ; Sir George observed the poor conditions at the castle keep gaol, noting that inmates had to be chained to the wall to prevent escapes from the increasingly dilapidated structure. His concerns led to nationwide prison reform starting with Gloucester Gaol – the most advanced of its time.





Established in 1989, Gloucestershire Community Foundation is an independent charity and one of 46 Community Foundations in the UK. We work with donors to connect funds to local need, helping to overcome disadvantage in Gloucestershire.

We have two main roles; to manage the funds of our donors professionally and to make grants to charities and voluntary organisations in Gloucestershire. Our aim is to build a permanent and sustainable endowment for the communities of Gloucestershire. We also manage national programmes locally, including Comic Relief.

During 2016, we awarded over £300,000 to 101 community projects. Our expertise in grant making and in-depth knowledge of local need means we can target grants very accurately.

We are local experts in connecting those who want to give support with the community organisations that are most in need; we manage and distribute funds getting money to where it really matters - to voluntary groups on the front-line doing vital and life changing work in our local communities.

We are accredited by UKCF to standards endorsed by the Charity Commission.



About the Barnwood Trust

Barnwood Trust's vision is to create the best possible environment in Gloucestershire for disabled people and people with mental health problems to make the most of their lives

Researchers from Barnwood Trust supported Gloucestershire Community Foundation in collating statistics relating to the 6 Vital Signs themes from a range of local and national sources. Some of the findings from Barnwood Trust's 'Wellbeing in Gloucestershire' study, commissioned in 2013, have also been integrated into the report in relation to the relevant Vital Signs themes.

As well as a grants programme, Barnwood Trust has a community building programme which aims to increase the involvement of disabled people and people with mental health problems, in creating communities and places where everyone is included and no one is isolated.



What's in this report?

This report is defined by six social themes. Where possible each of the themes received a grade based on the latest data available for each key indicator, benchmarking how Gloucestershire is performing in relation to the rest of the UK. Each theme has one core indicator. Vital Signs employs a common set of grading scales; here is what each grade means:

- A Gloucestershire is performing better than 80% of comparable areas.**
- B Gloucestershire is performing better than 60% of comparable areas.**
- C Gloucestershire is performing better than 40% of comparable areas.**
- D Gloucestershire is performing worse than 60% of comparable areas.**
- E Gloucestershire is performing worse than 80% of comparable areas.**

Methodology:

The data in this report was gathered from a variety of sources including Grant Thornton Place Analytics, a repository of a wide range of data sets, through which it is possible to compare statistics about Gloucestershire in relation to regional and national trends. These data sets include the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 and the 2011 Census. Other sources of data for this report include Public Health England, Department for Education, OCSI, ONS, Gloucestershire Constabulary, and Inform Gloucestershire (Gloucestershire County Council). The information here is a snapshot and only analyses a limited amount of the available data.

Note to the reader: The core indicators and grades are useful for comparing Vital Signs areas at a national level, although they can do no more than provide a starting point for this (for example, the core indicator for health is the number of deaths by cardio vascular disease and in no way represents the rating of wellbeing as a whole in Gloucestershire), which is why we also make reference to the Joint Strategy Needs Assessment report "Understanding Gloucestershire – 2017", produced by Gloucestershire County Council and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.

During the period of 1st August to 1st September, GCF conducted an online survey. The survey, which was anonymous, was distributed to all known community groups in Gloucestershire. There were 79 respondents who provided some Community Insights.

All information is considered accurate as of September 2017.



The six vital signs themes enable us to understand how Gloucestershire is performing statistically in relation to the rest of the UK, as well as sharing the views of people living in the county. In this section, we will provide a brief snapshot of how our county is performing.

Compared to the national picture, Gloucestershire is performing well in the key areas of work and learning and strong communities. The indicator for work and learning is leading the way nationally with an 'A' grade and there is continuing improvement in the areas of Health and Housing (grade C).

However, according to the Indices of Deprivation in 2015, 13 areas of Gloucestershire fall in the top 10% most deprived parts of the country; 10 in Gloucester and three in Cheltenham. In these areas, the population does not benefit from the same standards or access to services and the data shows that this affects life chances, life expectancy and children's grades at schools.

Strong Communities	<p>Grade B – (indicator: crime score across different neighbourhoods)</p> <p>The total crime rate in Gloucestershire is lower than the national average. Seven neighbourhoods in Gloucester and five in Cheltenham are listed in the 10% most deprived nationally for their total crime rate.</p> <p>63.5% of people identify as Christian, 2.3% are from another faith group.</p> <p>Women head the majority of lone-parent households and 14% of women (compared to 10% of men) live in a household without a car.</p> <p>Average overall life satisfaction in Gloucestershire is 7.70 (out of 10), higher than the national average of 7.65</p>
Housing	<p>Grade C – (indicator: housing costs and homeless applications)</p> <p>The average house price in the Forest of Dean is £237,139 whilst the average in the Cotswolds is £405,827. Houses prices were lowest in Gloucester where the average price stood at £190,653.</p> <p>Cotswold district ranks as the most deprived district in the county for 'Barriers to housing and Services'.</p> <p>2.75% of households have no central heating (as at 2011). Death from causes attributable to the cold and poor living conditions has increased and the majority affected were over 75 years old.</p> <p>The number of individuals living in residential care in Gloucestershire is lower than at regional and national level.</p> <p>In 2015/16, 673 people approached district councils across Gloucestershire as homeless. Rough sleeping and homelessness have increased and the estimated number of rough sleepers has doubled, from 21 in 2015 to 42 in 2016.</p>

Safety

Grade C – (indicator: reported crime)

In 2015/16, crimes rates were just under 80 crimes per 1,000 people.

The lowest crime rates have been in the more rural districts of Forest of Dean, Cotswolds and Tewkesbury.

In the 2012 online pupil survey, 6% of children in secondary schools witnessed or were victims of domestic abuse.

The Westgate area of Gloucester has the highest crime rate of the county.

Healthy living

Grade C – (indicators: Deaths by circulatory disease, cancer and long-term conditions, hospital admissions)

Projections for 2014 to 2039 show a sharp increase in population in the age group 65 or over, from 123,800 in 2014 to 206,300 in 2039 (an increase of 66.6%).

Life expectancy is increasing but the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas is increasing. It varies by over 10 years within Gloucester district alone.

The rate of young people admitted to hospital for self-harm is higher than the national average, particularly for women. (526.0 per 100,000 in Gloucestershire, compared to 398.8 for England).

Nearly half (48.9%) of White British people compared to 58.5% of Asian/Asian British and 56.7% of African/Caribbean/Black British people over the age of 65 have a long term health problem or disability which limits their activities.

Learning and work

Grade A – (indicators: Rate of unemployment, GCSE results)

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit has fallen from 3.6% in 2009 to 1% in July 2016.

7.3% of people with a long-term health problem or disability have never been in paid employment.

16.2% of people with a long term health problem or disability provide unpaid care.

Only 29.25% of pupils receiving free school meals achieved 5 A*-C grade GCSEs (including Maths & English) compared to 63.5% of 'all other' pupils.

The number of Black pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades (including Maths and English) was 19.5 percentage points lower than their white counterparts.

Rurality and Access to services

Access to services grade C

Nearly 30% of people in Gloucestershire live in a rural area.

In the Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean, the rate is much higher with 79% and 67% of people and access to services is more restricted.

7% of households in rural areas have no access to a car, and 27% of people with a long term health problem/disability live in household without a car.

In the Cotswold district, on average, 1 in 5 residents are living in an area where it takes over 45 minutes to access an essential service.

Helping communities and individuals to develop social capital is a key factor in creating strong communities. There are 2,754 registered charities in Gloucestershire with 86% of them having an income below £1m. Effective grants should help to respond to current needs but also support preventative measures to stop problems from escalating.

Overall, Gloucestershire is not a very deprived county but some areas are considered to be amongst the most deprived 10% in the country, including:

- Podsmead in Gloucester is the most deprived area for income and education, skills and training.
- Matson and Robinswood in Gloucester are the most deprived areas for employment.
- Kingsholm and Wotton in Gloucester are the most deprived areas for health and disability.

THE FACTS

- There are 3,692 young carers in the county.
- 124 asylum seekers and their dependents were living in the county at the end of the first quarter of 2016 (119 in Gloucester and five in Tewkesbury).
- Over a 12 month period between 2016-2017 food banks gave 22143 food parcels to adults and children in Gloucestershire.
- In the Local Policing Survey (2017) the top 3 things that led to people feeling cohesive in their area were:
 - Good location/area (19.4%).
 - The people (19.2%).
 - Close to/ good amenities (16%).
- Gloucester Gateway Trust targets the areas of Matson and Robinswood, White City, Podsmead, Tuffley and Stonehouse.

A study by Barnwood Trust on Wellbeing in Gloucestershire found that there were higher levels of belonging amongst Gloucestershire residents (80%) than at national level (63%). However, the figure in Gloucestershire was lower for individuals living with an impairment (73%).



Community insights Community means to me...

‘A supportive neighbourhood.’

‘All the people in a local area ideally working in harmony.’

‘People with common purposes and shared lives in some way.’

‘A small area where different people live, those on a journey together, everybody helping, everybody accessing.’

‘A place where people’s strengths are recognised and utilised and appreciated and where weaknesses are forgiven and supported.’

‘Invitations for a local area to attend a gathering.’

Vital Steps

Family Space in Hesters Way, Cheltenham was founded in 1995 and is situated in one of the most deprived areas in the county. Family Space has improved the lives of thousands of people in West Cheltenham and has 40 volunteers across all their activities. These come from all walks of life within the community from local business people, church members, and students ; some stay for many years and some come for a short period of time to gain work experience. A grant of £7,800 was awarded to Family Space for a project called “Time Out” to support families in need. This includes helping parents to improve their parenting skills and enjoy family life, which has a big impact on children and their future. Many of the volunteers are Mums who have been previously been supported by the organisation and attended the Time Out group in the past.

Vital Steps

Community Building at Barnwood Trust is about local people working together to build healthier, safer, more inclusive and welcoming communities. The team are supporting residents in 20 different neighbourhoods to grow their skills and confidence to enable them to connect more people together in their community. Residents across Gloucestershire have set up their own art groups, held fun days, established men sheds, and set up mindfulness clubs. Barnwood’s Small Sparks grants offer support of up to £250 to local groups, with over 500 grants awarded throughout Gloucestershire to date.

Although a wealthy county, housing affordability and availability is still an issue in parts of Gloucestershire, particularly in the Cotswolds where house prices are high and local people are often priced out of the market. Homelessness continues to be an issue, with the number of people sleeping rough on the county's streets increasing ever year.



THE FACTS

- The ratio of housing affordability (median incomes to median house prices) in Gloucestershire was 7.91 in 2016 compared to 8.4 for the South West.
- Despite a growing ageing population, the number of people living in residential care has not significantly changed since 2001.
- The number of adults in residential care in Gloucestershire is lower than at regional and national level.
- In 2015, 28635 households were living in fuel poverty in Gloucestershire. The number of excess winter deaths across Gloucestershire for 2014/15 was 508.
- 673 people approached district councils across Gloucestershire as homeless. Rough sleeping and homelessness have increased and the estimated number of rough sleepers has doubled to 42 in 2016.



Community Insights

‘Housing is very expensive here.’

‘Extremely difficult to afford houses in small villages.’

‘Many bought by outsiders and buy to let.’

‘No options for my son who has challenging behaviour and autism and LD in stroud area.’

‘Local people keen to build their own low cost homes find it very difficult to secure help, land etc.’

‘People are suffering, there is not adequate support and very little, availability of shared ownership property/affordable homes in rural areas.’

‘The support should be taken into the community, not expect people on limited resources or with disabilities to access centralised resources.’

Vital Steps

CHYP (Cirencester Housing for Young People) was founded in 1986 to help vulnerable young homeless people, aged 16 to 25, in and around the Cirencester area. CHYP provides 11 units of supported accommodation and has helped over 500 local young people over the years. As well as accommodation, young people are assigned a support worker who will tailor support according to individual needs. Some young people present with complex issues and need intensive and ongoing support, especially since CHYP noted that the average age of residents has fallen to 16 – 17 year olds. A grant of £8,000 was awarded to CHYP towards a supported housing worker salary for one year. During the past 12 months the houses have generally been fully occupied with a growing waiting list. Along with other supported housing providers in the county, CHYP delivers responsive and preventative support to break the cycle of homelessness and its associated consequences.

Vital Steps

The Surviving Winter Campaign began in 2001, as a vehicle for generous pensioners to ‘recycle’ their Winter Fuel payments and has now developed into a giving portal for anyone who wants to help support vulnerable people survive the winter. GCF has raised £29,000 for the campaign which has helped to fund local lunch clubs for older people, homeless shelters, individual help with fuel bills and distribution of parcels through food banks.

Gloucestershire is a safe place to live, with low rates of recorded crime. The urban centres of Cheltenham and Gloucester experience the highest crime rates, with increasing concern over knife crime. The Police have recorded lower levels of hate crime in Gloucestershire than any other area in the south west of England.

The Wellbeing Study commissioned by Barnwood Trust in 2013 looked at perceptions of safety amongst Gloucestershire residents. It found that:

- The vast majority (85%) of individuals either agreed (47%) or strongly agreed (38%) that they 'felt safe when out and about in their local area'.
- Respondents living with an impairment were less likely to feel safe in their local area. 77% of respondents living with an impairment felt safe 'out and about' in their local area, compared to 89% of respondents living with no impairment

THE FACTS

- Recorded crime in Gloucestershire for 2015/16 was 28.07 per 1,000 people (compared to the average of 68 for England and Wales).
- Domestic abuse data for Gloucestershire from February 2017 shows a 10% rise in police recorded incidents of domestic abuse from 2014/15 to 2015/16, with 11,475 incidents.
- According to Women's Aid, victims are aged between 26 and 33 when they first report the abuse, but abuse often starts at a younger age and most victims experience abuse several times before reporting.
- 6% of children report witnessing domestic abuse quite often.
- The number of racist incidents recorded increased by 21% from 2014/15 – 2015/16, partly due to increased awareness of hate crimes and the follow up support provided through the county's Hate Crime strategy.
- Between September 2016 and August 2017, Gloucestershire Constabulary recorded an average of 239 domestic abuse crimes a month.



Community Insights

71 respondents out of 79 knew people in their local area who they feel they could rely on in an emergency.

‘Help us make our homes more secure. It is too expensive for many of us.’

24 respondents out of 79 had concerns over domestic abuse and child exploitation.

‘Disability Hate Crime: people often get abused on buses or in the street.’

‘Lack of opportunities, for young people leads to anti-social behaviour which leads to tensions as one group of people is not talking to the other.’

‘Uncertainty of what the future will bring, how to manage in certain circumstances.’

Vital Steps

Stroud Beresford group was formed during the 1970s to support people affected by domestic abuse. It provides short term supported accommodation for women and children and outreach services to women who wish to remain in their own home. The group works in partnership with other organisations and with grant funding from the High Sheriff and the Police and Crime Commissioner’s funds, it also delivers workshops on healthy relationships for young people.

The intended change is to reduce the likelihood of a young person ending up in an abusive relationship, either as a victim or perpetrator. To date, 141 local young people have attended a workshop, with a further 60 planned to attend in 2016/17.

Picture (c) Gloucestershire PCC



Gloucestershire faces the same health challenges we see across the UK, with increasing numbers of patients, particularly young people, with mental health needs and a growing gap between rich and poor. Life expectancy for residents of Gloucestershire is increasing but the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas is increasing, varying by more than 10 years within Gloucester district alone.

THE FACTS

- 1.7% of Gloucestershire residents live in areas which are amongst the top 10% most deprived nationally for health (1 area in Cheltenham, 3 in Gloucester).
- 16% people from Gypsy/Irish Traveller communities are in poor health, compared to 5% of White British people.
- A higher number of younger people in Gloucestershire aged 10-24 (particularly female) are admitted to hospital for self-harm compared to the national average.
- Suicide rates for 2010-2012 show higher levels in Gloucestershire than England overall (with suicide being three times higher for men) but this has since started to level off.
- The number of alcohol related hospital stays in Gloucester and Cheltenham is higher than the national average. 21,700 people in the county are thought to have an alcohol dependence.
- 12,300 people are thought to have a drug misuse issue.
- Physical activity levels in Gloucester and the Forest of Dean are lower than in other parts of the county.
- 34,500 people were diagnosed with depression in 2014/15 compared with 27,000 in 2012/13.



Community Insights:

40 respondents said 'yes' they had noticed gaps and changes to the availability of local health provision and 39 said 'no'.

'Harder to access GP services than it was 5 years ago.'

'Impossible to get physiotherapy or hydrotherapy.'

'There are so many gaps in local NHS mental health services that I don't know where to start. Timely support for mental health issues before they escalate would help.'

'I was referred for CBT but deemed not enough at risk based on a survey I filled out.'

'Very poor domestic abuse services, and none specifically for BME women which leaves them trapped in violent relationships. We desperately need decent and well funded women's services, run by and for women.'

My GP surgery reception closed in afternoons, longer waiting times for a GP appointment (average 3 weeks for a routine appointment).

Vital Steps

Active Gloucestershire has been working with local communities for over 10 years. Their charitable objective is to promote community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities and opportunities to participate in sport and other physical activities. GCF contributed £10,000 towards the costs of an Active for Life project, engaging the over 55s in physical activity. Active for Life is a three year programme which will engage 3,300 people over 55 in physical activity, recruit over 300 ambassadors and work with a range of community groups, care homes and friends and family.

Vital Steps

Nelson Trust was founded in 1985 near Stroud and developed a residential treatment centre providing a programme of care and support for people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Nelson Trust also undertakes community based services across Gloucestershire and surrounding counties. A £5,000 grant from GCF helped the Nelson Trust deliver art therapy sessions at their women's centre in Gloucester. Each week, the women attending were able to develop skills in using a variety of art materials and create pieces of artwork for an exhibition, they also reported increased confidence levels and self-esteem as well as being able to reflect on and assess their own progress.

Gloucestershire is performing well when it comes to learning and work, with low unemployment levels and good GCSE results. However, many of the county's communities are sitting in the top 10% most deprived nationally for education, skills and training, and this number has increased since 2010.

THE FACTS

- 11,605 people aged 18+ have a learning disability.
- The unemployment rate is 4.55% compared to 5.09% for England and 4.26% in the South West.
- 23 neighbourhoods are in the top 10% most deprived nationally for Education, Skills and Training. These 23 neighbourhoods account for 35,455 people or 5.7% of the county's population. This is an increase from 16 neighbourhoods in 2010.
- 1,115 pupils attend 13 special schools in Gloucestershire.
- 159 pupils attend a Pupil Referral unit.
- Permanent secondary school exclusions is higher in Gloucestershire than England as a whole (0.23% in 2014/15).
- 11.4% of pupils in primary schools are claiming free school meals. 35% of pupils in special schools claimed free school meals.
- 45,839 residents aged 16 – 64 have no qualifications.



Community Insights

46 respondents out of 79 are in full time permanent employment. The rest have a temporary contract (2), self-employed (7) do not work or are retired (24).

‘I am over retirement age but work as a minister of religion and spend two days per week volunteering at a local adventure centre.’

My particular age group nearly 50, are always overlooked with employment opportunities.

‘There’s a big need for more educational opportunities. Many of us would like to learn more - about current affairs, law, mental health, social issues. Need a People’s University full of short courses for people who love learning, word of mouth.’

Vital Steps

Longhope Youth Project (LYP) in the Forest of Dean is a voluntary youth group established in 2015.

LYP provides youth sessions and one to one mentoring to young people from a variety of backgrounds, some of whom have special educational and behavioural needs. A grant was awarded towards the costs of this project aimed at developing confidence among young people and adding value to their education and academic opportunities. During the sessions, young people are encouraged to reflect upon their success and give workers the opportunity to note changes in perceptions and behaviours. LYP is gathering evidence during this pilot programme with a view to securing longer term funding.



Nearly 30% of people in Gloucestershire live in a rural area, which for many provides a geographical barrier to accessing services and support.

Findings from Barnwood Trust's Wellbeing Study in 2013, showed that 13% of respondents stated that they were unable to access social and community spaces when they wanted to. The study also highlighted a number of issues faced by residents across Gloucestershire, trying to access basic services and needs but still facing barriers.

THE FACTS

- The Barnwood Trust Wellbeing Study showed that people living with an impairment were more likely to state that they were unable to access social spaces (21%) than those living with no impairment (11%).
- 8% of respondents to the study reported a lack of public transport or infrequent and unreliable public transport as being a barrier to accessing services.
- 34% of respondents to the wellbeing study aged over 85 stated that they were unable to access services in their local area when they needed to.
- 17.1% of households in Gloucestershire have no access to a car.
- People with a long term health problem or disability are more likely than others to live in a household without access to a car (26.8% of people with a long term health problems or disability compared with 8.8% of people without a long term health problem or disability).
- 28% of Black/African/Caribbean/Black British people live in a household with no access to a car, compared to 11% of White British people.



Community Insights:

54 out of 79 respondents felt that reliable and affordable public transport would help to maintain support in their local neighbourhood.

‘In my work as a volunteer for a blind person’s charity we find old people have great difficulty getting to events just a few miles away. There are too few buses and not enough facilities or meeting places for older people to meet easily, leaving them isolated and lonely in their homes.’

‘Better maintenance of existing public areas, there are quite a few play areas but they are not very accessible if you have disabilities - would love to have Pittville park in Stroud.’

‘Bus service from Tewkesbury to Gloucester is poor It only runs every hour and last bus from Gloucester back to Tewkesbury is around 6.15 pm! It makes it difficult for young people to get to Gloucestershire College (Gloucester Docks) and you cannot get to Gloucester in the evening either as there is no bus!’

Vital Steps

Arts in Rural Gloucestershire (AIR G) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. Its aim is to increase access and participation in the arts across the county. A grant enabled AiR G to deliver weekly drama sessions for young people over a seven month period, culminating in a performance in March 2017. Young people created a new piece of theatre based around a local topic that they felt passionate about and this work helped young people to consider the neighbourhoods in which they live and the communities they belong to. The sessions were led by two theatre professionals. To increase access to this opportunity, AiR G worked in collaboration with Gloucestershire Young Carers which referred young people to the group.

Vital Steps

Forest Sensory Services was incorporated in November 2010 with The Forge. They have 325 sensory impaired members and also support carers and relatives. Each year they provide a programme of activities to encourage peer support particularly information groups, a lunch club and a reading group. The IT class provides essential skills using talking computers for everyday living and socialising.

Grants to Forest Sensory Services contribute towards the expenses of volunteers running the activities and transportation costs in this very isolated, deprived rural area. FSS uses volunteer drivers to transport people as, for those with sight loss, getting around on public transport is not an option.

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