



Full report 2020



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CEO's Foreword

Having lived in Buckinghamshire for most of my life, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this in-depth study into the county, its people, and places. Our impact as a funding organisation is greatly enhanced by our understanding of the place we live, and it is equally important that the local charities and community groups we work with each year have the data and resources available to them to design great projects. Ultimately, our role as the Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire is to facilitate these community projects and enhance the local area by doing so.

Buckinghamshire Uncovered is our most detailed study of the county in our twenty years as the local Community Foundation. We take a deep dive into the data available across our six 'impact categories'. These are:

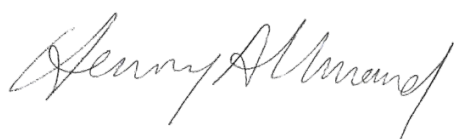
- Physical and Mental Health, Wellbeing and Safety
- The Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Education and Employment
- Community cohesion
- Reduction of isolation and disadvantage
- Environment and public spaces

With this report, we aim to show a balance of aspects to Buckinghamshire: the areas that are thriving and where help is needed most. Our twenty years' experience of working locally tells us that Buckinghamshire is a tale of two counties and we should embrace all aspects of our community to make progress.

It is a time of great change for Buckinghamshire. A new unitary authority gives hope to an even more distinct identity for our county. We are encouraged by the formation of new Community Boards that will establish truly local links between the authority and the community, and we hope that this independent analysis of Buckinghamshire will be as helpful to our partners in local government, as the charities and communities they represent.

The chapter for a new decade in Buckinghamshire is being defined. Our county's response to the impact and disruption of the Coronavirus pandemic has been exceptional. Now more than ever, a deep understanding of the needs and requirements of our county is needed. Looking to the future, Heart of Bucks will strive to continue to provide detailed research and analysis that our whole community can access.

So thank you for reading 'Buckinghamshire Uncovered', a project that has been in development for over a year. I am immensely proud of my colleagues who have worked so hard to produce this research and grateful to everyone who has supported us throughout our twenty years. A particular thank you to our kind and generous donors, without whom none of our work would be possible.



Henry Allmand, CEO

Buckinghamshire at a Glance: Key Facts

Total population: 540,100

Population by district:

Aylesbury Vale: 199,400

Chiltern: 95,900

South Bucks: 70,040

High Wycombe: 174,760

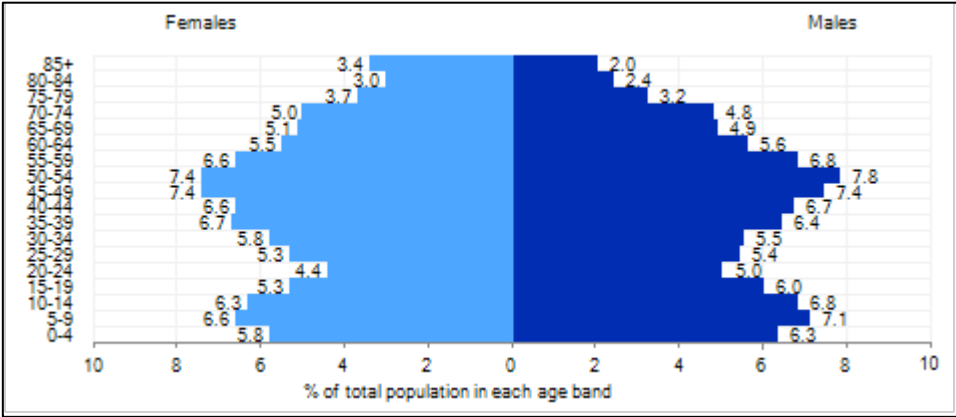
Percentage of working age people in the county: 61%

Percentage of children: 20%

Percentage of seniors: 19%

Female/male balance: 51% of the Bucks population is female and 49% is male

The percentage of females and males in each age band across Bucks



Source: ONS Mid year estimates 2018

Report Findings: The Headlines

You can read all of the headlines from this report in our 15-page Buckinghamshire Uncovered graphic report.



Residents in Bucks **live longer** compared to the national average
Sickness absence for Bucks is above the national average, with the highest rate in Wycombe
64% of adults in Aylesbury Vale are **overweight or obese**



Bucks residents attend more **arts events, festivals and performances** than the national average
In the High Wycombe and Aylesbury creative communities, **nearly 15,000 people are employed in creative industries**



Bucks has a lower **unemployment rate** than the national average
Across the county, women are claiming less in **out of work benefits** than men
Male Key Stage 2 pupils are achieving below the England average in **writing**



There are fewer instances of **violent crime** in Bucks compared to England as a whole
South Bucks is the third-worst performing district nationally in terms of **equality measurements**
Aylesbury Central ward has over twice the number of **violent crimes, sexual assaults and drug crimes** than the national average



Buckinghamshire as a whole has a lower rate of **child poverty** than the national average
In 2019, Chiltern ranked as the third least deprived local authority in England
Aylesbury Vale experiences the most **deprivation** of the four districts in Bucks



A reduction in **CO2 emissions** was recorded between 2010 and 2017 in all four Bucks local authorities
56.5% of all **household waste** in Buckinghamshire was recycled in 2017/18
Air quality is best in Aylesbury Vale

Physical and Mental Health, Wellbeing and Safety

Introduction

According to the Mental Health Foundation, “a clear distinction is often made between ‘mind’ and ‘body’. But when considering mental health and physical health, the two should not be thought of as separate.” The reason for this is that a decline in either physical or mental health can have a corresponding negative impact.

There are a number of indicators which can be reported on to give us an overview of people’s physical health in Buckinghamshire but currently there is a lack of mental health data available. In addition to this, wellbeing, which is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as “the state of being comfortable, healthy or happy”, is much harder to analyse as this is a very personal experience, uniquely felt by each individual.

Physical health

We’ll look at the following indicators to ascertain the state of physical health in Buckinghamshire:

- Life expectancy at birth (male and female)
- Recorded diabetes (%) in those aged 17+
- Recorded hypertension (%) in all ages
- Estimated dementia diagnosis rate (%) in those aged 65+
- People with life-limiting long-term illness/disability (%) all ages
- Sickness absence (%)

Life expectancy at birth

It’s a well-known fact that people are living longer. In Buckinghamshire, life expectancy at birth is better than the England average for both males and females (see table 1). The highest rate is for a female living in Chiltern (86 years) and the lowest for a male living in Aylesbury (81 years).

Table 1: Life expectancy at birth

	Males	Females
England	80	83
Buckinghamshire	82	85
Aylesbury Vale	81	84
Chiltern	83	86
South Bucks	82	85
Wycombe	82	85

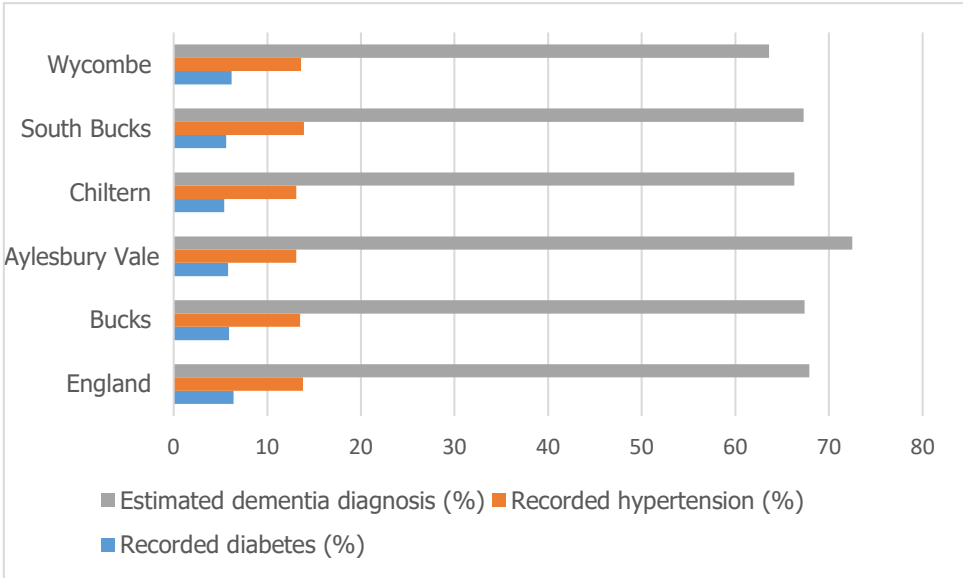
Source: Physical Activity Profile Bucks, 2018

Diabetes, hypertension and dementia diagnosis

When looking at levels of illness and disability, Buckinghamshire is similar to the England average across the board. The rates for diabetes and hypertension are the same as the

country-wide rate at 6% and 14% respectively and the estimated dementia diagnosis is at 67% (with England’s average sitting at 68%). At district level, the only variation from the England and Buckinghamshire averages is for dementia diagnosis which is highest in Aylesbury Vale (73%) and lowest in Wycombe (64%).

Chart 1: Comparison of health indicators



Source: Physical Activity Profile Bucks, 2018

Life-limiting long-term illness

The percentage of people with a life-limiting long-term illness or disability is consistent across the county at 13% for all districts. This is below the England-wide rate of 17%.

Sickness absence

Sickness absence is based on the percentage of employees who had at least one day off in the previous week. In Buckinghamshire, the rate is higher than the England average at 3% (the England average is 2%). However, when we look at the district-level rates there are larger variations. Chiltern has the lowest rate in the county at 1%, followed by Aylesbury Vale (2%) and then South Bucks (3%). Wycombe has the highest rate, with 4% of employees having at least one day off in the previous week.

Lifestyle

We’ll look at the following indicators to ascertain the state of lifestyle in Buckinghamshire:

- Adult excess weight (%)
- Excess weight in children aged 4-5 years (%)
- Excess weight in children aged 10-11 years (%)
- Physical activity levels
- Healthy eating (%)
- Smoking (%) in those aged 18+ years
- Admission episodes for alcohol specific conditions (2017/18) per 100,000

When looking at the lifestyle of people living in our county, the figures for Buckinghamshire as a whole are better than the England average for all indicators. However, at district level there are variations.

Excess weight

The UK is experiencing an epidemic of obesity affecting both adults and children. The Health Survey for England found that among boys and girls aged 2 to 15, the proportion of children who were classified as obese increased from nearly 12% in 1995 to 16% in 2016, peaking at 19% in 2004.

There is concern about the rise of childhood obesity and the implications of such obesity persisting into adulthood. The risk of obesity in adulthood and risk of future obesity-related ill health are greater as children get older. Studies tracking child obesity into adulthood have found that the probability of overweight and obese children becoming overweight or obese adults increases with age. The health consequences of childhood obesity include: increased blood lipids, glucose intolerance, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, increases in liver enzymes associated with fatty liver, exacerbation of conditions such as asthma and psychological problems such as social isolation, low self-esteem and bullying. (Public Health Outcome Framework).

Following the trend for the highest rates of diabetes, excess weight in adults is highest in Aylesbury Vale (64%) and Wycombe (61%). For children aged 4-5 years, excess weight is highest in South Bucks (20%) and for 10-11 year olds highest in Aylesbury Vale and South Bucks, both at 29% (see table 2).

Table 2: Excess weight (%)

	Adults	Children 4-5 years	Children 10-11 years
England	61	23	34
Buckinghamshire	60	18	27
Aylesbury Vale	64	17	29
Chiltern	52	16	24
South Bucks	55	20	29
Wycombe	61	19	27

Source: Physical Activity Profile Bucks, 2018

Physical activity

There is a direct correlation between high levels of excess weight and low levels of participation in sports and physical activity. 22% of adults aged 16+ in Wycombe are considered 'inactive' which means they carry out less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week. Aylesbury Vale and South Bucks have the second highest rate at 21%, followed by 19% in Chiltern (Active Lives Survey, November 2017/18).

Healthy eating and smoking

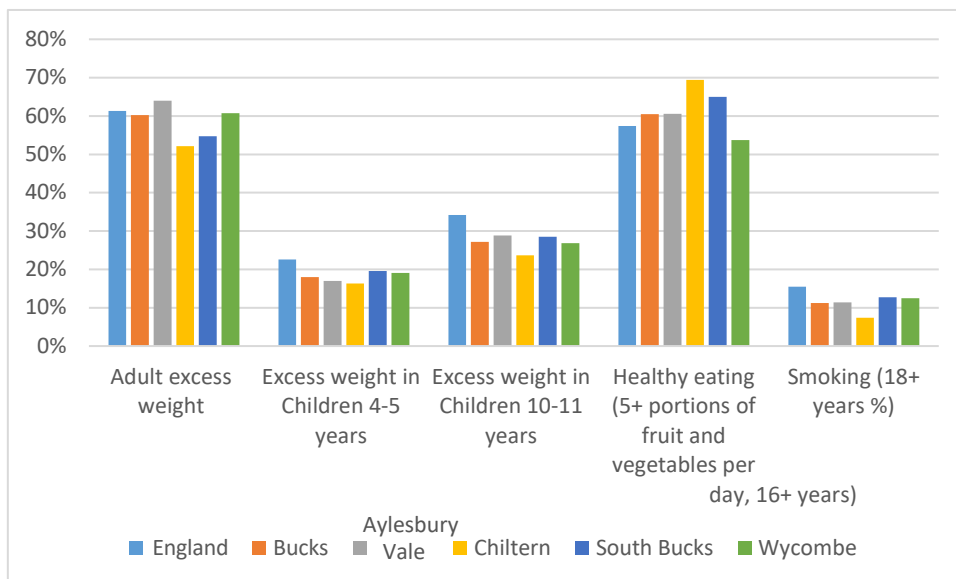
In line with the data above regarding high rates for diabetes and excess weight, the number of adults eating five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day is lowest in Wycombe

(54%). In Aylesbury Vale 61% of adults consume the recommended '5-a-day', followed by 65% in South Bucks and 69% in Chiltern.

Wycombe also has one of the highest rates of smoking together with South Bucks at 13%, followed by Aylesbury Vale (11%) and Chiltern (7.4%) (Physical Activity Profile Bucks, 2018).

From chart 2 (below) Chiltern is identified as the healthiest district when analysing lifestyle factors, with the lowest rates for excess weight and smoking and the highest rates for healthy eating. Chiltern also has the lowest rates for alcohol-related hospital admissions (289 per 100,000), followed by Wycombe (339), Aylesbury Vale (344) and South Bucks (446). All district-level figures are below the England rate of 570 per 100,000.

Chart 2: Comparison of lifestyle indicators



Source: Physical Activity profile Bucks, 2018

Mortality

We'll look at the following indicators to see mortality trends in Buckinghamshire:

- Mortality rate, all causes (per 100,000) aged <75
- Deaths from cancer (%) all ages
- Mortality rate from cancer (per 100,000) <75 (2017)
- Mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (per 100,000) aged <75
- Suicide rate (per 100,000)
- Alcohol related mortality (per 100,000)
- Road casualties (per 100,000)
- Excess winter deaths

Mortality rate, all causes

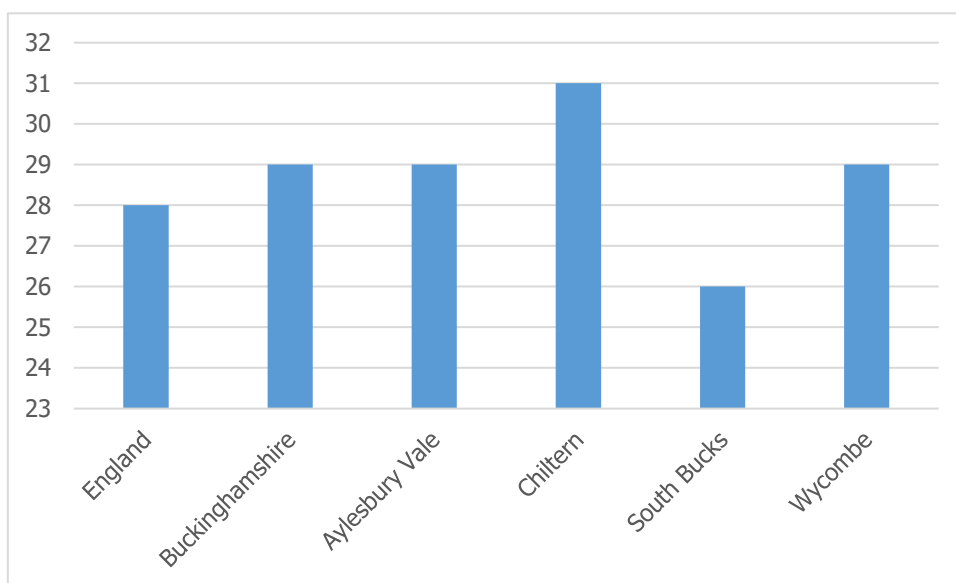
The mortality rate in Buckinghamshire (all causes) is 255 per 100,000 residents aged under 75. This is better than the England rate, which is 332 per 100,000. This would suggest that Buckinghamshire residents are healthier on average.

Deaths and mortality rate from cancer

There are around 164,000 cancer deaths in the UK every year, the equivalent of around 450 every day (2014-2016). Cancer also accounts for more than one in four of all UK deaths (Cancer Research UK, 2016).

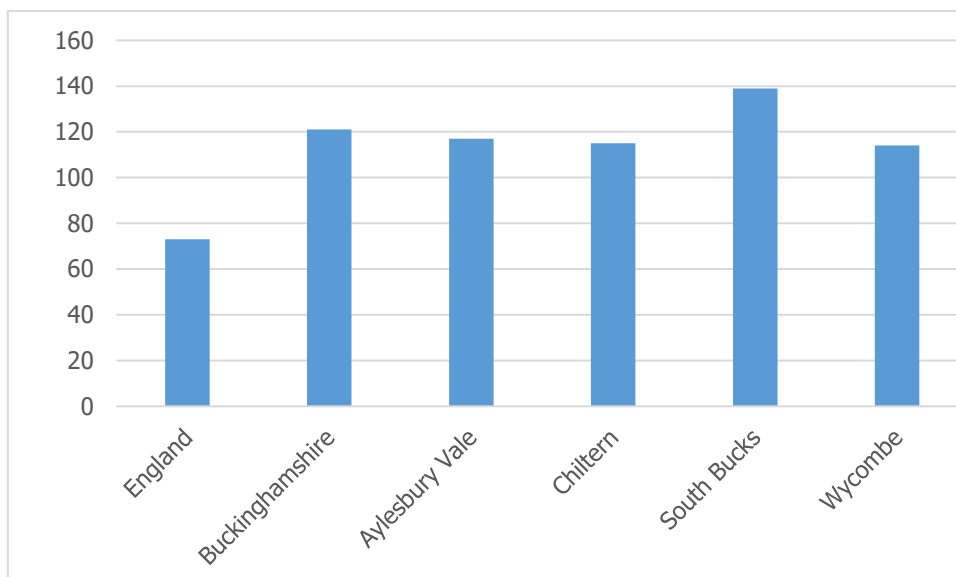
In Buckinghamshire 29% of all deaths are from cancer and at district level Chiltern has the highest rate at 31% (see chart 3). However, when we look at the cancer mortality rate for residents aged under 75 there are larger discrepancies. In England, data from 2015-2017 shows that 73 people per 100,000 died from cancer before they reached the age of 75. The Buckinghamshire average is two-thirds higher at 121 and at district level South Bucks is nearly double the England rate at 139 (see chart 4). The Buckinghamshire rate is also an increase from 2014-2016 where the county average was 114 per 100,000 (Public Health Outcomes Framework, 2017).

Chart 3: Deaths from cancer all ages (%)



Source: Public Health England Profile, 2019

Chart 4: Under 75 mortality rate from cancer per 100,000 (2015-2017)



Source: Public Health England Profile, 2019

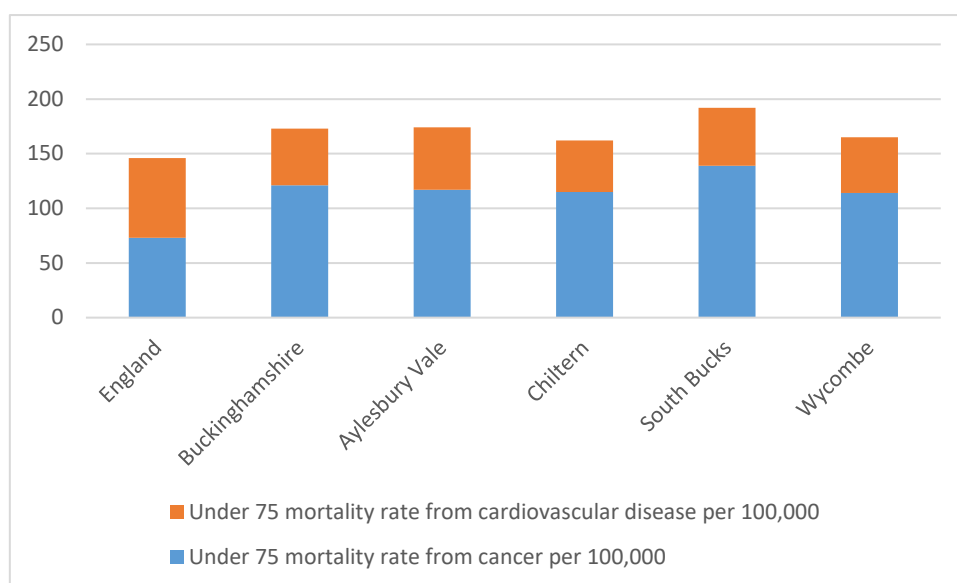
Mortality rate from cardiovascular disease

Cardiovascular disease is a general term for conditions affecting the heart or blood vessels. The four main types are coronary heart disease, strokes and TIAs, peripheral arterial disease and aortic disease. Cardiovascular disease is one of the main causes of death and disability in the UK, but it can often be largely prevented by leading a healthy lifestyle (NHS, 2018).

In Buckinghamshire the mortality rate for cardiovascular disease is 52 per 100,000 people, this is lower than the England rate which is 73. All district levels are also lower – Aylesbury Vale (57), South Bucks (53), Wycombe (51) and Chiltern (47).

Chart 5 (below) shows that South Bucks has the most deaths resulting from cardiovascular disease or cancer combined, whereas Chiltern has the lowest of the four districts.

Chart 5: Mortality rates for cardiovascular disease and cancer per 100,000



Source: Public Health England Profile, 2019

Suicide rate

The suicide rate in Buckinghamshire from 2015-2017 was seven people per 100,000, this is lower than the England-wide rate of 10 per 100,000. South Bucks has the highest district rate of 11 per 100,000; an increase from the 2014-2016 data where the rate was 8 per 100,000. Chiltern has the lowest rate of 4 per 100,000 a drop from 7 per 100,000 during 2014-2016 (Public Health England Profile, 2019).

Table 3: Suicide rate per 100,000

	England	Bucks	Aylesbury Vale	Chiltern	South Bucks	Wycombe
2014-2016	10	7	6	7	8	8
2015-2017	10	7	6	4	11	9

Source: Public Health England Profile, 2019

Alcohol related mortality

In 2017, on average 38 people per 100,000 died from of an alcohol-related death in Buckinghamshire. This is below the England average of 46 and the South East average of 43. All districts rates are also lower - Aylesbury Vale (39), South Bucks and Wycombe (38) and Chiltern (37). (Public Health Profile, 2019).

Road casualties

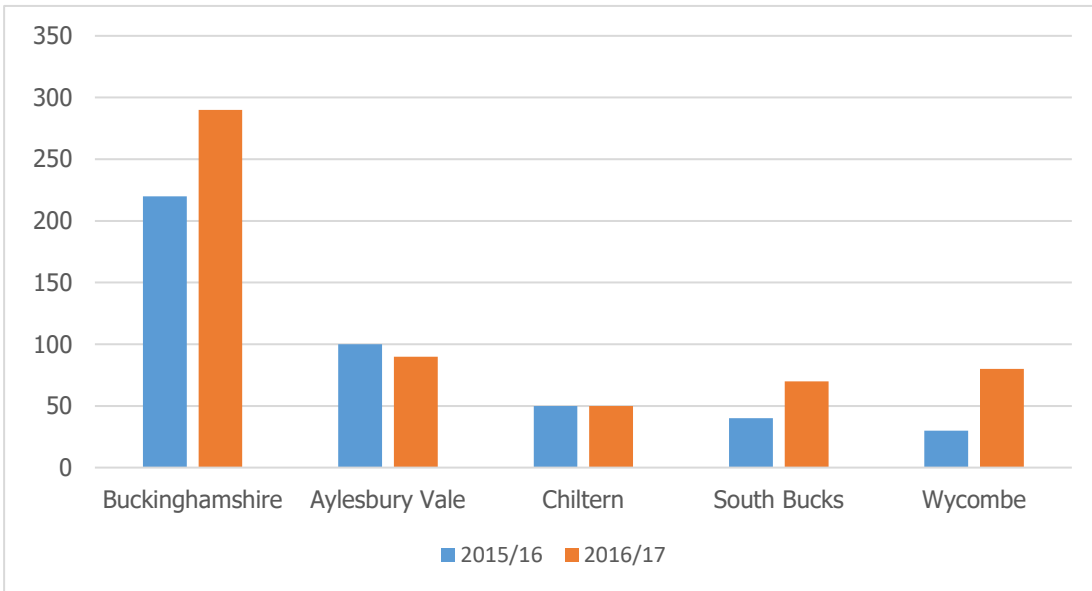
Data from the Public Health England Profile (2019) suggests that roads in South Bucks are the most dangerous with 62 people per 100,000 killed or seriously injured in the district between 2015 and 2017. This is much higher than all other districts – Aylesbury Vale (40), Chiltern (38) and Wycombe (38), as well as the England average (41).

Excess winter deaths

The latest data shows that the number of excess winter deaths is increasing in Buckinghamshire and England as a whole. In 2016/17 there were 290 excess winter deaths in Buckinghamshire, an increase of nearly a third from 2015/16 when there were 220. The largest increase was seen in Wycombe where there were 80 excess winter deaths, compared to 30 in 2015/16, this is an increase of 167% (see chart 8).

In England the number rose from 22,780 in 2015/16 to 32,730 in 2016/17.

Chart 8: Excess winter deaths



Source: Excess Winter Mortality Data, ONS

Mental health

We'll look at the following indicators to ascertain the state of mental health in Buckinghamshire:

- Serious mental illness prevalence
- Depression prevalence
- Clinical Commissioning Group mental health data

Serious mental illness prevalence

The data below shows an estimate of the percentage of people with a serious mental illness. This is based on the number of people listed on GP registers and the number of people recorded as having relevant health conditions. Table 4 shows that Buckinghamshire and its districts have a lower prevalence of mental illness compared to the England average.

Table 4: Serious mental illness prevalence (2017/18)

Area	Estimated prevalence
England	0.9%
Bucks	0.7%
Aylesbury Vale	0.8%
Chiltern	0.7%
South Bucks	0.7%
Wycombe	0.8%

Source: House of Commons Library

When analysing ward-level data, there are a number of areas that have a higher estimated prevalence than the England average. Table 5 below shows that all of these wards are in either Aylesbury Vale or Wycombe.

Table 5: Wards with greater prevalence of serious mental health illness than the England average (2017/18)

Ward	District	Estimated percentage
Southcourt	Aylesbury Vale	1.1%
Walton Court and Hawkslade	Aylesbury Vale	1.1%
Aylesbury Central	Aylesbury Vale	1%
Coldharbour	Aylesbury Vale	1%
Elmhurst	Aylesbury Vale	1%
Bowerdean	Wycombe	1%
Terriers and Amersham Hill	Wycombe	1%

Source: House of Commons Library

Depression prevalence

Table 6 below shows that levels of depression in Buckinghamshire are lower than the England average. At district level, Aylesbury Vale has the highest rate with nearly 10% of residents estimated to have depression.

Table 6: Depression prevalence (2017/18)

Area	Estimated prevalence
England	9.9%
Bucks	8.9%
Aylesbury Vale	9.7%
Chiltern	7.8%
South Bucks	8.3%
Wycombe	8.2%

Source: House of Commons Library

As with the data on serious mental illness, when analysing ward-level data, there are a number of areas that have a higher estimated prevalence than the England average. In line with the high rate in Aylesbury Vale the majority are in this district, in addition to one Wycombe ward.

Table 7: Wards with greater prevalence of depression than the England average (2017/18)

Wards	District	Estimated percentage
Riverside	Aylesbury Vale	12.4%
Walton Court and Hawkslade	Aylesbury Vale	11.2%
Southcourt	Aylesbury Vale	11.1%
Gatehouse	Aylesbury Vale	11.1%
Elmhurst	Aylesbury Vale	10.6%
Edlesborough	Aylesbury Vale	10.6%
Pitstone and Cheddington	Aylesbury Vale	10.6%
Quainton	Aylesbury Vale	10.5%
Waddesdon	Aylesbury Vale	10.3%
Coldharbour	Aylesbury Vale	10%
Stokenchurch and Radnage	Wycombe	12%

Source: House of Commons Library

Clinical Commissioning Group mental health data

The Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is a group of 50 member GP practices and their associated branches across the entire county.

The platform displays the most recent data publicly available on different indicators. Due to this, it is not possible to access data from previous years in order to make comparisons.

Indicator	Figure	Date
Number of people entering IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) services	570 people	Dec 2018
% of People who have completed IAPT treatment and moved to recovery (aged 18+)	58%	2018
% of population aged 16-74 with generalised anxiety disorder	3.2%	2012
Admissions for depression (aged 15+)	8 per 100,000	2012
Admissions for mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol	43 per 100,000	2017/18

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The Arts, Culture and Heritage

Introduction

When looking at the impact that the arts, culture and heritage can have on communities, Arts Council England say it best:

“When we talk about the value of arts and culture to society, we always start with its intrinsic value: how arts and culture can illuminate our inner lives and enrich our emotional world. This is what we cherish. However, we also understand that arts and culture has a wider, more measurable impact on our economy, health and wellbeing, society and education. It’s important we also recognise this impact to help people think of our arts and culture for what they are: a strategic national resource.”

Data on arts, culture and heritage at local authority level is difficult to access. The Taking Part Survey is the major survey on arts and culture engagement, however this is only available at regional and national levels.

The newly formed Bucks Cultural Partnership is working closely with arts groups and art practitioners, which should offer further insight into arts engagement in the near future.

We’ll look at the following indicators to ascertain engagement with the arts, culture and heritage:

- Number employed in the creative industries
- Arts, museum and library engagement at local authority level
- Local data on museum attendance
- Cultural engagement of adults in the South East
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport estimates

Number employed in the creative industries

The UK’s creative industries contribute £92 billion to the economy each year and employ just over two million people, accounting for 6% of all UK jobs (Graduate Prospects Ltd).

The Creative Nation (2018) report by Nesta identifies 47 geographical units based on 243 ‘Travel To Work Areas’ (TTWA). These are defined by the Office for National Statistics using census data for commuting between wards, based on the different locations of individuals’ home and work addresses. High Wycombe and Aylesbury together form one of the 47 creative communities identified.

In the High Wycombe and Aylesbury creative community, 14,965 people are employed in creative industries, ranking 13th in the UK (out of 47), and there are 3,475 creative businesses.

The fastest growing creative sector is publishing, which between 2011-14 and 2015-2016 created 1,020 jobs. In terms of number of businesses, the fastest growing sector is film, TV, video, radio and photography, which between 2011-14 and 2015-16 grew by 90 businesses.

According to Nesta, data from Meetup.com (a networking platform where users can create, register and attend events) shows that 298 people participated in events in 2017, placing the county's creative community at 43rd out of 47 in the UK.

Arts, museum and library engagement at local authority level

For the data below, the percentages are based on a survey carried out by Arts Council England and represent the number of adults (aged 16+) taking part who had carried out an activity or attended an event or service in the 12 months prior to interview.

Data on arts engagement consists of those who have spent time carrying out a creative, artistic, theatrical, musical or craft activity as well as those who have attended an event, performance or festival which involve any of the aforementioned activities.

Table 1: Arts engagement

	England	Aylesbury Vale	Chiltern	South Bucks	Wycombe
Spent time carrying out an activity	35%	36%	40%	37%	41%
Attended an event, performance or festival	52%	57%	67%	64%	59%
TOTAL	44%	47%	54%	51%	50%

Source: Active Lives Survey, Arts Council England (2015-17)

Table 2: Used a public library service

England	Aylesbury Vale	Chiltern	South Bucks	Wycombe
35%	27%	33%	29%	36%

Source: Active Lives Survey, Arts Council England (2015-17)

Table 3: Attended a museum or gallery

England	Aylesbury Vale	Chiltern	South Bucks	Wycombe
47%	50%	58%	50%	51%

Source: Active Lives Survey, Arts Council England (2015-17)

The tables above show that engagement tends to be above the England average across the four districts, with the exception of public library use where only Wycombe topped the England rate.

There are currently 29 libraries in Buckinghamshire, 10 of which are in Wycombe, forming the highest proportion, followed by eight in Aylesbury Vale, six in Chiltern and five in South Bucks. This may explain why attendance is highest in the Wycombe district.

Wycombe also has the highest proportion of people spending time carrying out arts-related activities.

In Chiltern, engagement levels are above average. The district has the highest art event attendance and highest arts engagement overall, as well as the highest museum or gallery attendance. In contrast, Aylesbury Vale has the lowest engagement across the board.

Local data on museum attendance

The table below shows the footfall for local museums during 2018.

Bucks County Museum	93,500
Marlow Museum	1,718
Amersham Museum	10,236
Chiltern Open Air Museum	54,000
Wycombe Museum	Not available
Chesham Museum	Temporarily closed

Source: Data provided by each individual museum

Cultural engagement of adults in the South East (2016/17)

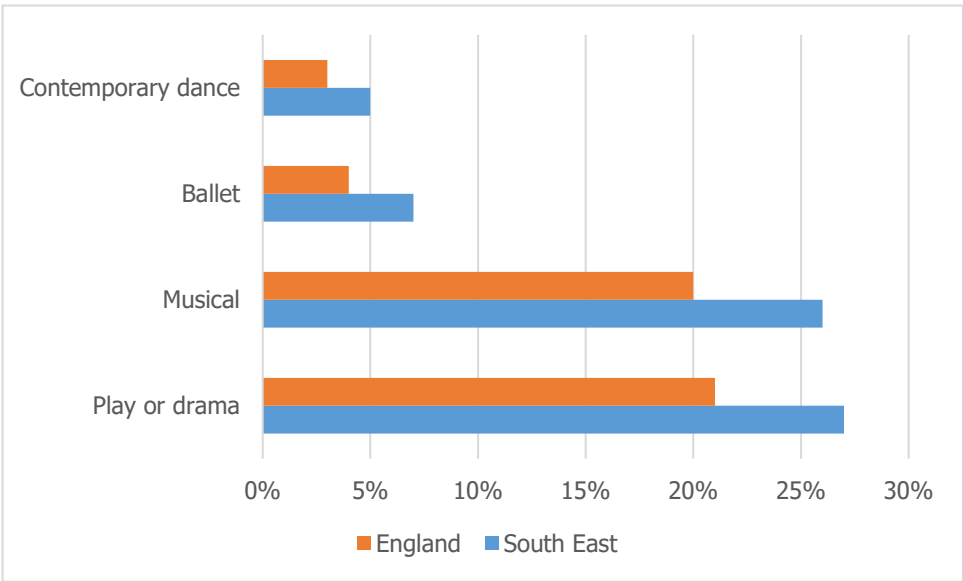
According to the Taking Part Survey, 81% of adults in the South East engaged in arts at least once during 2016/17, this is higher than the country-wide rate of 77%.

More than half of adults (54%) had visited a museum or gallery at least once in the past 12 months, similar to the England rate of 52%.

Around three in 10 adults (36%) used a public library service at least once during 2016/17, this is a decrease from 41% in 2010/11.

Graph 1 below shows the activities which adults in the South East were more likely to have attended during 2016/17 compared with England as a whole.

Graph 1: Art activity attendance comparison (England and South East)



Source: Taking Part Survey, 2016/17

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport estimates (2017)

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) helps to drive growth, enrich lives and promote Britain abroad. They protect and promote our cultural and artistic heritage and help businesses and communities to grow by investing in innovation and highlighting Britain as a great place to visit. They help to give the UK a unique advantage on the global stage, striving for economic success.

In 2017, all DCMS sectors contributed nearly £268bn to the UK economy, accounting for 15% of all Gross Value Added (GVA). This is an increase of over 3% from nearly £259bn in 2016, compared to nearly 5% for the UK economy as a whole.

The table below shows the growth of each sector and their contribution to the UK economy.

Table 4: DCMS sector contributions

Sector	2010	2017	% change
Digital	£98.2bn	£130.5bn	+33%
Cultural	£21.3bn	£29.5	+38%
Media & Sport	£66.3bn	£101.5bn	+53%

Source: Taking Part Survey, England Adult Report (2017/18)

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Education and Employment

Introduction

According to the Economic and Social Research Council (2014), education has become one of the clearest indicators of life outcomes, such as employment, income and social status. It's also a strong predictor of attitudes and wellbeing.

For people with low levels of education, the emphasis on its importance can make it harder for them to develop a social identity, which in turn can negatively affect self-esteem and wellbeing.

The research project 'Identity, Socioeconomic Status and Wellbeing' has investigated the psychological effect of differences in education. The findings suggest that higher levels of education are associated with a wide range of positive outcomes such as improved health and wellbeing, higher social trust and greater political interest. However the project has also shown that people who report they are happy with their education level, regardless of whether it is high or low, have incorporated education as part of their identity and are benefitting psychologically.

We'll look at the following indicators to ascertain achievement in education:

- Key Stage 2 pupils reaching expected standard
- Key Stage 4 overall performance
- A-Level performance
- Qualification levels

Key Stage 2 pupils reaching expected standard

Key Stage 2 consists of school years 3-6, where pupils are aged between 7 and 11 years. The achievement rate for Key Stage 2 pupils in Buckinghamshire is better than the England rate overall for reading and mathematics. However, boys in Buckinghamshire are achieving below average in writing with 31% not reaching the expected standard compared to 29% in England overall (see table 1 below).

Table 1: Key Stage 2 pupils reaching the expected standard (2017)

	England Boys	Bucks Boys	England Girls	Bucks Girls
Overall	58%	60%	66%	67%
Reading	76%	77%	84%	86%
Writing	71%	69%	83%	83%
Mathematics	77%	78%	79%	80%

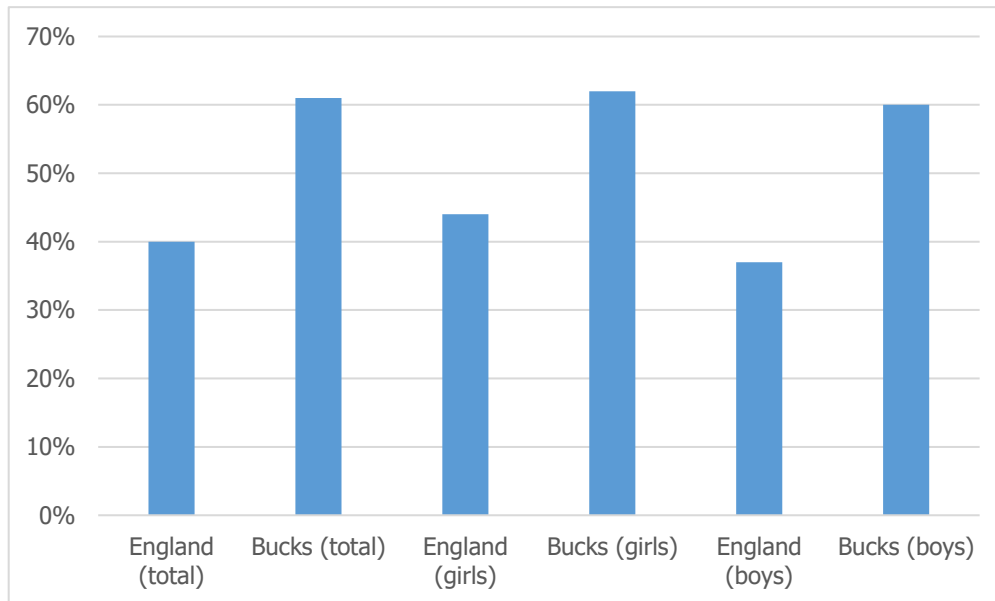
Source: Dept. of Education: National Curriculum Assessments at KS2, 2017

Key Stage 4 overall performance

Key Stage 4 consists of the two years of education which incorporate GCSEs. In England this is years 10 and 11, when pupils are aged between 14 and 16 years.

At Key Stage 4 the performance gap between England as a whole and Buckinghamshire has increased. In 2018, 40% of pupils in England achieved a grade 5 or above in English and Maths, compared to 61% of pupils in Bucks. Although in Buckinghamshire girls are still outperforming boys, compared to the rest of England boys are performing well (see graph 1).

Graph 1: Pupils achieving grade 5 or above in GCSE English and maths (2018)

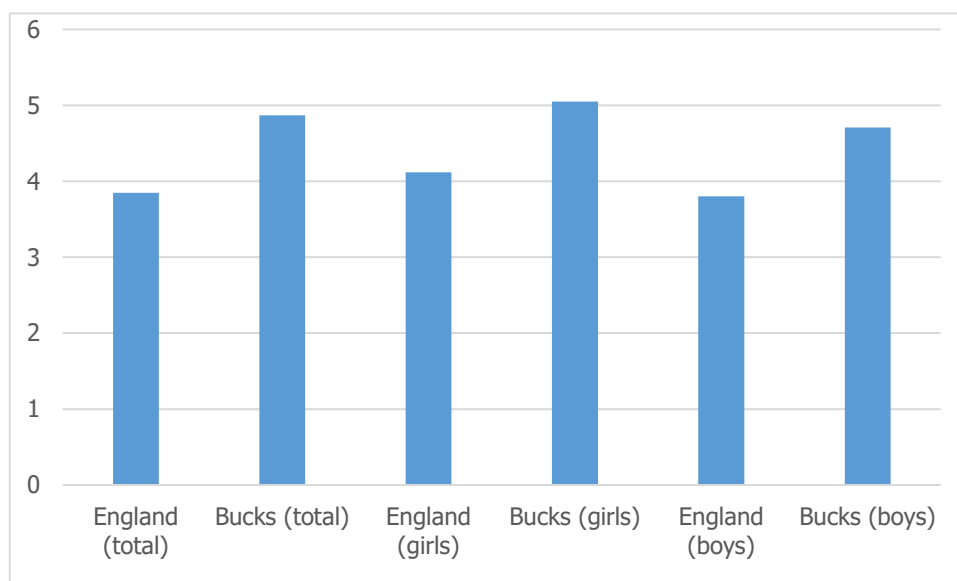


Source: Office for National Statistics

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a set of subjects at GCSE designed to keep young people's options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc consists of English language and literature, maths, the sciences, geography or history, and a language.

It is evident from the below graph (2) that in Buckinghamshire the average EBacc point score is higher than the England average for both boys and girls.

Graph 2: EBacc average point score (2018)



Source: Office for National Statistics

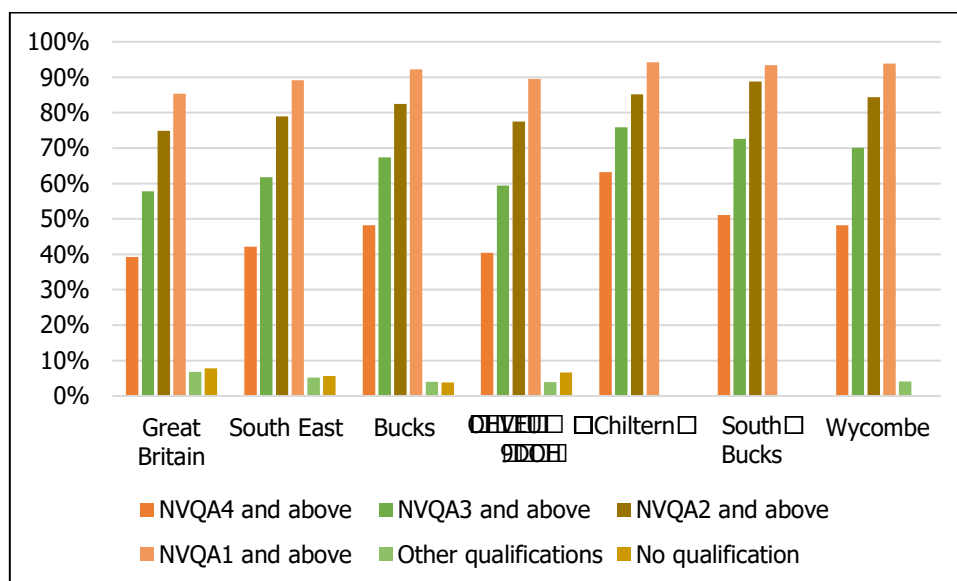
A-level performance

Continuing onto A-levels, Bucks pupils who studied at this level between 2016 and 2018 achieved a B- grade on average, this is compared to an average grade of C+ for England as a whole. During the same period, 27% of pupils in Buckinghamshire achieved grades AAB or higher, of which two are in facilitating subjects, this is nearly double the England rate of 14% (ONS, 2018).

Qualification levels

Qualification levels are high in Buckinghamshire compared to England as a whole and the South East region. Among the 4 districts in Bucks, Chiltern has the highest proportion of people with Degree level qualifications and NVQA and above. On the other hand, the Aylesbury Vale area recorded lowest in NVQA indicators.

Graph 3: Qualification Levels (January-December 2018)



Source: Office for National Statistics

We'll look at the following indicators to assess the state of employment in Bucks:

- Economically active/inactive rates
- Occupation breakdown
- Unemployment rate
- Job density
- Lone parents and employment
- Earnings by place of residence
- Out of work benefits
- NEET youths

Economically active/inactive rates

In Buckinghamshire 61% of the population are 16-64 years old and of working age (ONS, 2018).

A person is considered economically active if they are employed, self-employed or unemployed. People who are neither in employment or unemployed are regarded as economically inactive, this includes students, those looking after the family, the long-term sick and those who are retired. The ONS Annual Population Survey (2018) shows that Buckinghamshire has more economically active residents (82%) compared to Great Britain (79%). District-wide, a higher proportion of males are economically active compared to females, however the smallest gap is in Chiltern where there is only a 2% difference between the sexes. The largest difference is in Aylesbury Vale where the gap is 12% (see table 2).

Table 2: % of the population who are economically active or inactive (2018)

	Great Britain	Bucks	Aylesbury Vale	Chiltern	South Bucks	Wycombe
Total economically active	79%	82%	83%	81%	82%	83%
Economically active males	83%	87%	89%	82%	87%	86%
Economically active females	74%	78%	77%	80%	77%	80%
Total economically inactive	21%	18%	17%	19%	18%	17%

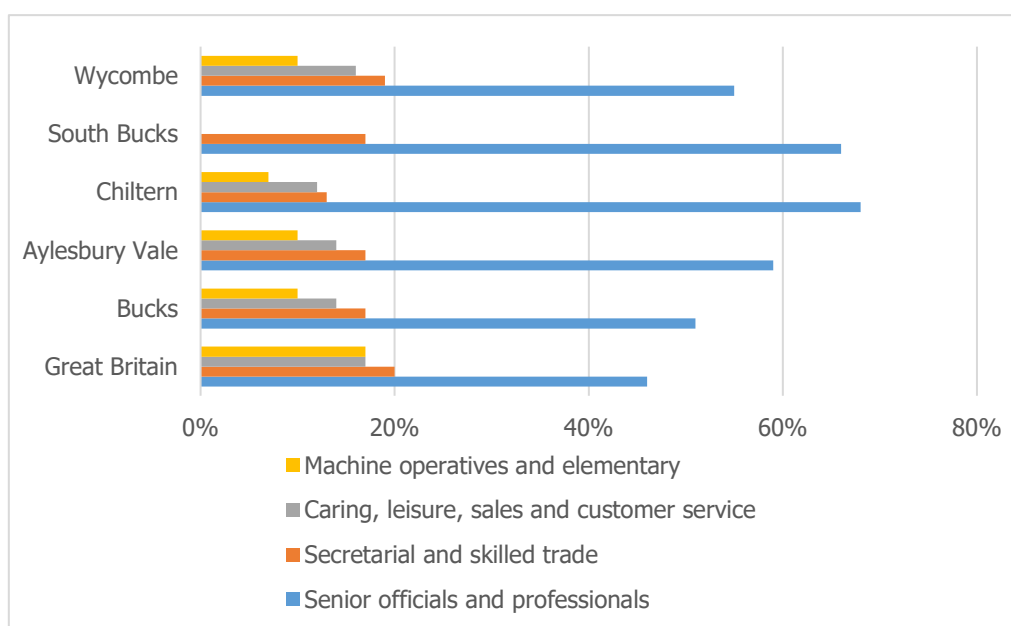
Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2018

Of those who were employed between January and December 2018, the majority in both Great Britain and Buckinghamshire are 'senior officials and professionals' and the minority are 'machine operatives and elementary' (see graph 4 below for full breakdown).

Occupation breakdown

Graph 4 (below) shows that the highest proportion of occupations in Buckinghamshire are senior officials and professionals. This is also the highest proportion of occupations in Great Britain, although the percentages in Buckinghamshire are much higher, particularly in Chiltern (68% of occupations compared to 46% in Great Britain). Machine operatives and elementary occupations make up the smallest proportion in our county.

Graph 4: Occupation breakdown (January – December 2018)



Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

NB: No data is available for 'caring, leisure, sales and customer service' and 'machine operative and elementary' in South Bucks due to the sample size being too small to provide a reliable estimate.

Unemployment rate

Unemployment figures show the total proportion of unemployed people as a percentage of the working age population, including those not claiming benefits. As we can see from table 4 below, Buckinghamshire has a lower unemployment rate than the England-wide average. The highest level of unemployment is noticed in Wycombe (3.4%) and lowest in Aylesbury Vale (2.6%).

Table 4: Unemployment (January – December 2018)

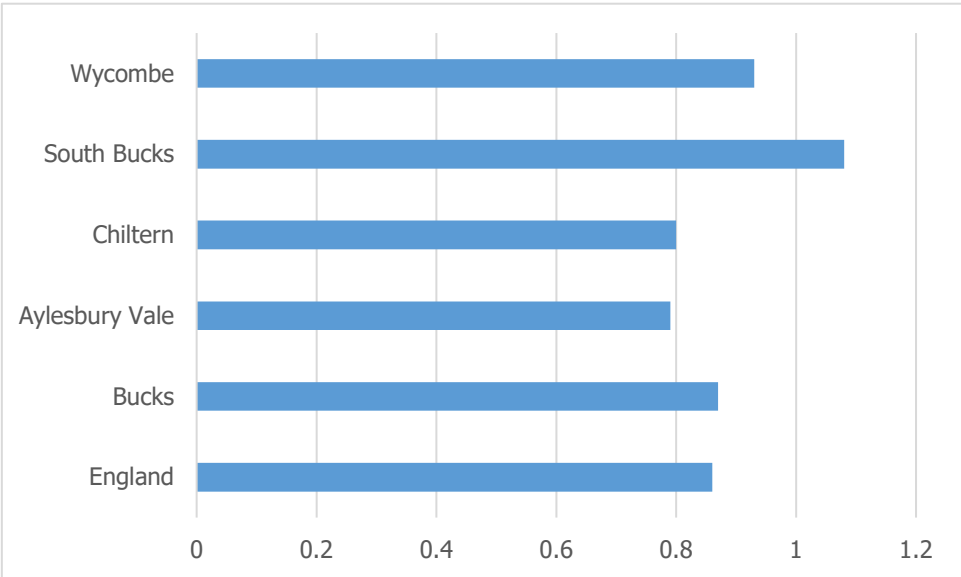
	England	Bucks	Aylesbury Vale	Chiltern	South Bucks	Wycombe
Unemployment rate	4.2%	2.2%	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	3.4%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Job density

Job density is the number of jobs in an area divided by resident population aged 16-64 in that area. A score of 1.0 means there is one job for every resident aged 16-64. The job density scores for Buckinghamshire and England are very similar, at 0.87 and 0.86 respectively. However, at district level there are variations (see graph 5 below). It is evident from the graph that, although Wycombe has the highest unemployment rate, job density in the district is higher than the Buckinghamshire and England averages.

Graph 5: Job density (2017)

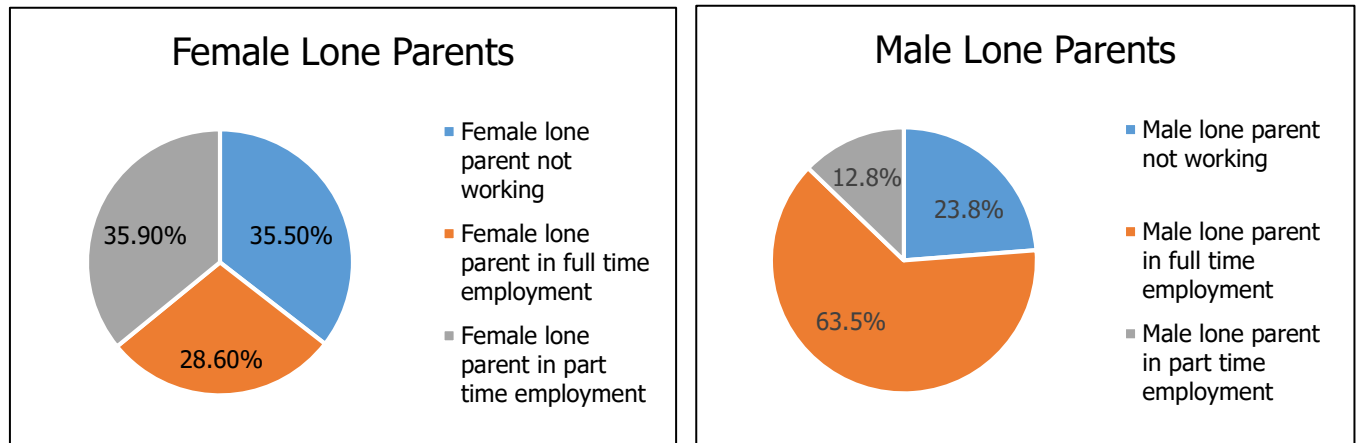


Source: ONS Job Density

Lone parents and employment

According to the latest Census (2011), the majority of lone parents are female. In England, females account for 91% of lone parents which is only slightly above the Buckinghamshire rate of 89%. Graph 6 below demonstrates the gender difference in employment patterns within Buckinghamshire. The majority of male lone parents are working full time, whereas only one third of female lone parents are in full time employment. This trend is reflected both nationally and locally.

Graph 6: Lone parents and employment in Buckinghamshire



Source: Census 2011, published July 2014

Earnings by place of residence

Graph 7: Gross weekly pay (2019)



Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis

Residents in Buckinghamshire who work full-time earn more than the average in England per week. Gross weekly pay is highest in South Bucks at £833, where the pay gap between the sexes is £143. Chiltern has the largest pay gap between males (£879) and females (£585). The

lowest gender pay gap is noticed in Wycombe, where men earn £18 more than women. Gross weekly earnings are lowest in Aylesbury Vale where males earn £169 less and females £200 less than the highest rates. This equates to £8,188 and £10,400 respectively per year.

Out of work benefits

The claimant count is the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. This is measured by combining the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits with the number of people receiving Universal Credit principally for the reason of being unemployed. Claimants declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which the claim is made.

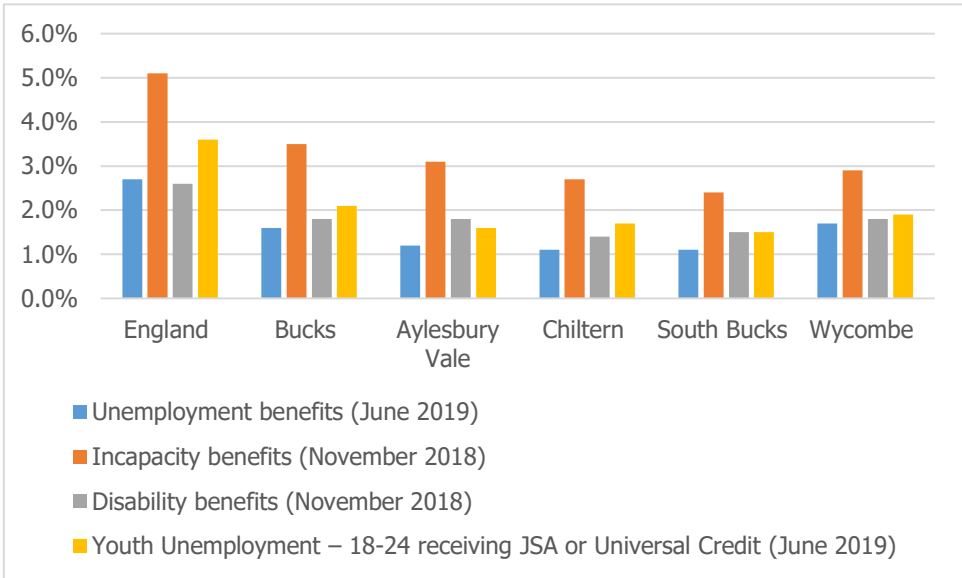
Table 5: Out of work benefit claimant count (number and %) (May 2019)

	Great Britain	Bucks		Aylesbury Vale		Chiltern		South Bucks		Wycombe	
All people	2.7%	4,135	1.3%	1,400	1.1%	565	1%	425	1%	1,745	1.6%
Male	3.2%	2,440	1.5%	820	1.3%	320	1.2%	245	1.2%	1,050	2%
Female	2.2%	1,700	1%	580	0.9%	245	0.9%	175	0.8%	695	1.3%

Source: ONS claimant count

The claimant count in Buckinghamshire is fairly consistent across all districts and is lower than the average for England as a whole. Males in Wycombe make up the largest proportion (2%) and females in South Bucks the lowest (0.8%).

Graph 8: Types of benefit



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

Incapacity benefits make up the largest proportion of out of work benefits for both England and Buckinghamshire. Unemployment benefits in the county make up the smallest proportion and are noticeably lower than the England rate.

NEET youths

NEET stands for 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' and refers to a person who is unemployed and not in school or vocational training.

Table 6: Proportion of NEET youths aged 16-17 years (2017/18*)

	Total proportion	Age 16 – Male	Age 16 - Female	Age 17 - Male	Age 17 - Female
England	6%	4%	3%	9%	7%
Bucks	6%	6%	5%	8%	6%

Source: Department for Education

*Average between December 2017 and February 2018

Table 6 shows that in Buckinghamshire the proportion of NEET youths increases between 16 and 17 years for both sexes. However, although the total proportion of NEET youths in Buckinghamshire is the same as England as a whole, there are a higher proportion of 16 year olds who are NEET and a lower proportion of 17 year olds (compared to England).

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Community cohesion

Introduction

According to Involve Foundation's 'Community Cohesion and Participation – A Practical Framework', "there is no 'magic bullet' that can create or sustain community cohesion. A range of factors contribute to shaping social relationships, and what works in one place may not be suitable elsewhere. Hence in order to build strong communities it will always be necessary to adopt a flexible and multi-pronged approach, underpinned by an in-depth understanding of the characteristics and needs of the communities in question."

The framework also states that various recommendations for local communities to come together to debate their shared values and visions are often not supported. This is reinforced by findings from Locality (2018), which identifies that 71% of people feel they currently have little or no control over the big decisions that affect their local community.

We'll look at the following indicators to evaluate the state of community cohesion in Bucks:

- Violent crime and sexual offences
- Anti-social behaviour
- Drug crimes
- Crime summary of Local Policing Areas
- Personal wellbeing
- Thriving Places Index
- Charity sector overview
- Volunteering overview

Violent crime and sexual offences

The violent crime rate per 1,000 residents shows the total neighbourhood-level incidents of violent crime recorded by police during a 12-month period and as a rate per 1,000 residents. Table 1 below shows that there are fewer incidents in Buckinghamshire per 1,000 residents compared to England as a whole. However, when we look at table 2, we can see that the number of incidents in the Aylesbury Central ward is over double the England rate.

**Table 1: Local authority violent crime and sexual assault rate
(June 18 to May 19)**

Area	Incidents / 1,000 residents
England	29.6
Buckinghamshire	21.7
Aylesbury Vale	18.3
Chiltern	13.9
South Bucks	18
Wycombe	18.6

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures)

**Table 2: Violent crime and sexual assault ward-based high rates
(June 18 to May 19)**

Ward	District	Incidents /1,000 residents
Aylesbury Central	Aylesbury Vale	70.4
Beaconsfield South	South Bucks	34.9
Southcourt	Aylesbury Vale	32.1
Waterside	Chiltern	32

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures)

**Table 3: Violent crime and sexual assault ward-based low rates
(June 18 to May 19)**

Ward	District	Incidents /1,000 residents
Ballinger & Chartridge	Chiltern	3.8 (not 4)
Cholesbury	Chiltern	4.3
Lacey Green & Speen	Wycombe	4
Hampden Valley	Wycombe	5.7

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures)

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is a broad term that covers any activity that impacts on other people in a negative way, for example noise nuisance, rowdy behaviour, fly-tipping and kerb-crawling. It can drag an area down or prevent the regeneration of an area where other bodies are looking to invest, and has become a major part of community safety work.

The anti-social behaviour rate per 1,000 residents shows the total neighbourhood-level incidents of such behaviour recorded by police during a 12-month period, and as a rate per 1,000 residents.

Table 4 below shows that the Buckinghamshire rate is half the England rate. However, Aylesbury Central again comes out as the worst ward with nearly double the number of incidents as England (table 5).

Table 4: Local authority anti-social behaviour rate (2018/19)

Area	Incidents /1,000 residents
England	22.2
Buckinghamshire	10.5
Aylesbury Vale	8.6
Chiltern	8.5
South Bucks	8.3
Wycombe	10.7

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures)

**Table 5: Anti-social behaviour ward-based high rates
(June 18 to May19)**

Ward	District	Incidents /1,000 residents
Aylesbury Central	Aylesbury Vale	40
Waterside	Chiltern	22.1
Ridgeway	Chiltern	21.4
Castlefield	Wycombe	20.7

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures)

**Table 6: Anti-social behaviour ward-based low rates
(June 18 to May19)**

Ward	District	Incidents /1,000 residents
Oakley	Aylesbury Vale	1
Lacey Green & Speen	Wycombe	1.1
Tingewick	Aylesbury Vale	1.5
Hampden Valley	Wycombe	1.6

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures)

Drug crimes

The drug crime rate per 1,000 residents shows the total neighbourhood-level incidents recorded by police during a 12-month period and as a rate per 1,000 residents.

Table 7 shows that the drug crime rate in Buckinghamshire is lower than the England rate per 1,000 residents. However, table 8 shows that Aylesbury Central again comes out as the worst ward with over double the England rate.

Table 7: Local authority drug crime rate (June 18 to May 19)

Area	Incidents /1,000 residents
England	2.5
Buckinghamshire	1.8
Aylesbury Vale	1.6
Chiltern	1.2
South Bucks	1.1
Wycombe	2.2

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures)

Table 8: Drug crime ward-based high rates (June 18 to May 19)

Ward	District	Incidents /1,000 residents
Aylesbury Central	Aylesbury Vale	7.1
Southcourt	Aylesbury Vale	4.8
Elmhurst	Aylesbury Vale	4.4
Vale	Chiltern	4.3

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures)

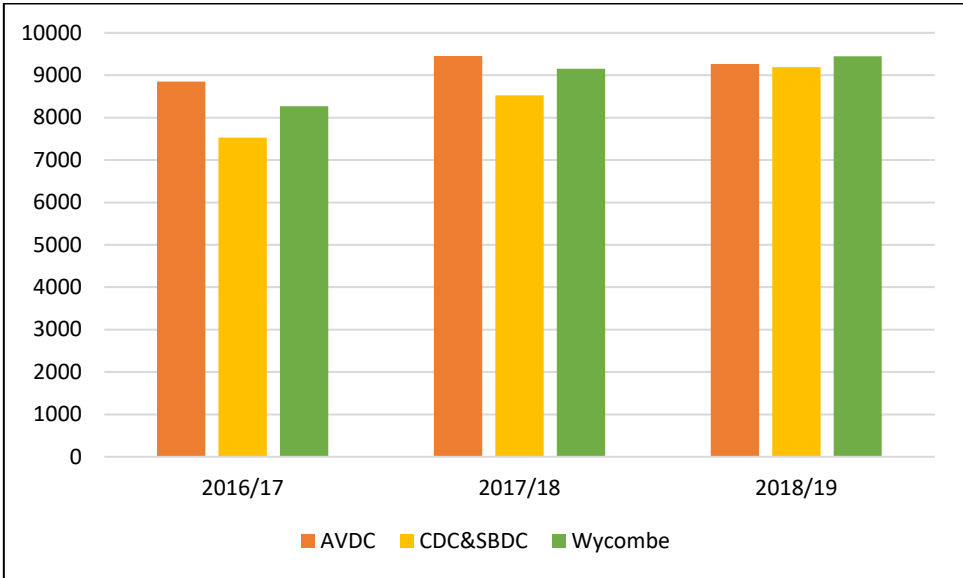
From June 18 to May 19 there were no drug incidents recorded in a total of 6 wards across Buckinghamshire. These wards are Lacey Green and Speen from Wycombe district; Little Missenden and Holmer Green from Chiltern district and Waddesdon and Watermead wards from Aylesbury district. On the contrary, every ward of South Bucks district had some incidents of drug crime during the above mentioned period.

Crime summary of Local Policing Areas

Local Policing Areas (LPAs) in the county are grouped as Aylesbury Vale, Wycombe and Chiltern and South Bucks combined. The crime summary is broken down into the following categories:

- Victim-based crime (including violence, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, vehicle crime, theft offences, arson and criminal damage)
- Crimes against society (including drug offences, possession of weapon offences and miscellaneous crimes against society)
- Recorded hate crime
- Domestic crimes and incidents

Graph 1: Victim-based crime in LPAs
Between August 2018 and July 2019

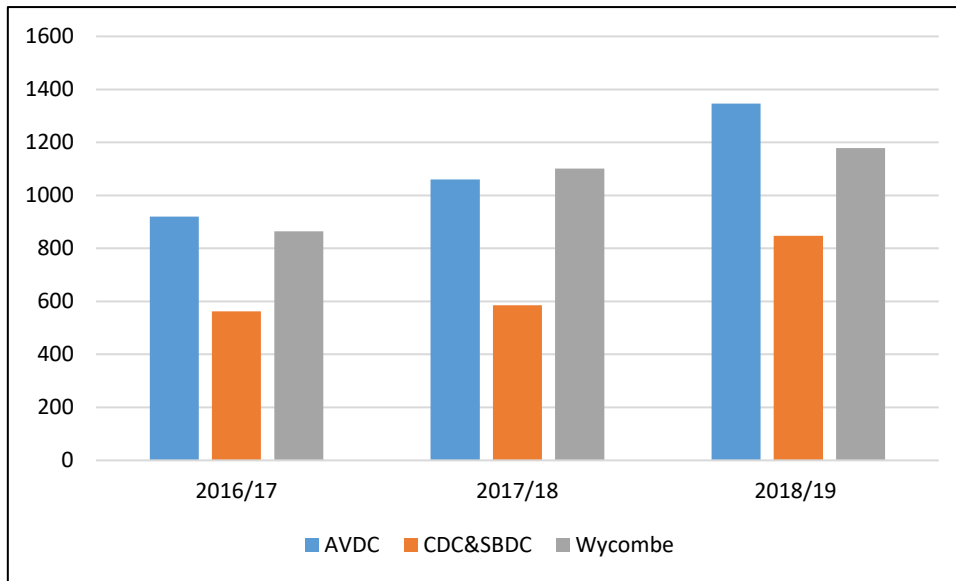


Source: Thames Valley crime recording system – Niche

Graph 1 shows victim-based crime has increased in each LPA from 2016/17 to 2018/19. The highest recorded victim-based crime is noticed in Aylesbury Vale for the first two years showed in this graph, but reduced by 2% in 2018/19. Wycombe district recorded the highest level of victim-based crime in the most recent year (2018/19).

Graph 2: Crimes against society in LPAs

Between August 2018 and July 2019

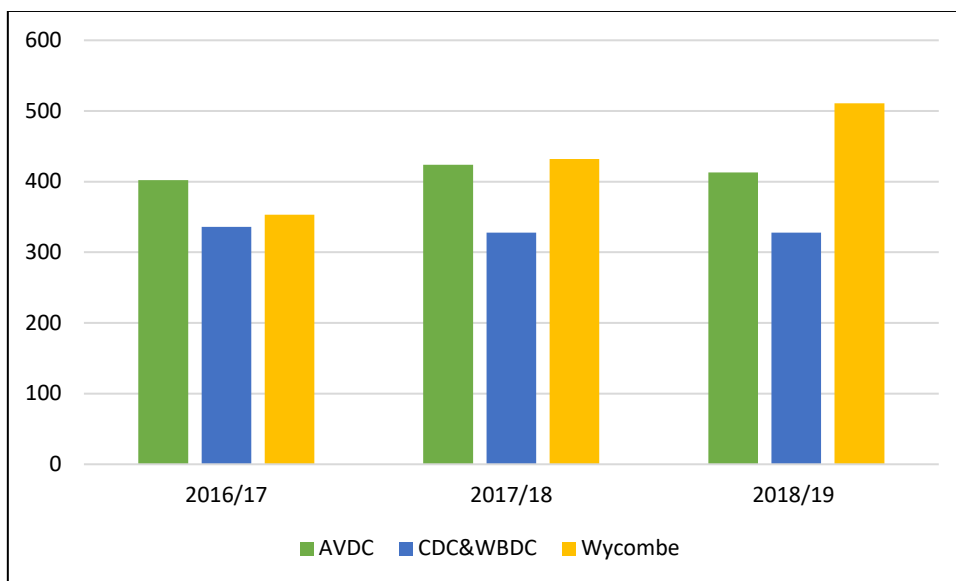


Source: Thames Valley crime recording system – Niche

Graph 2 shows that the number of crimes against society has increased year on year for each LPA. It is also evident that Chiltern and South Bucks district councils combined had the lowest rate in last three years, whereas the recorded crime number is significantly higher in Aylesbury Vale compared to the other districts during 2018/19.

Graph 3: LPA recorded hate crime

Between 2016 and 2019

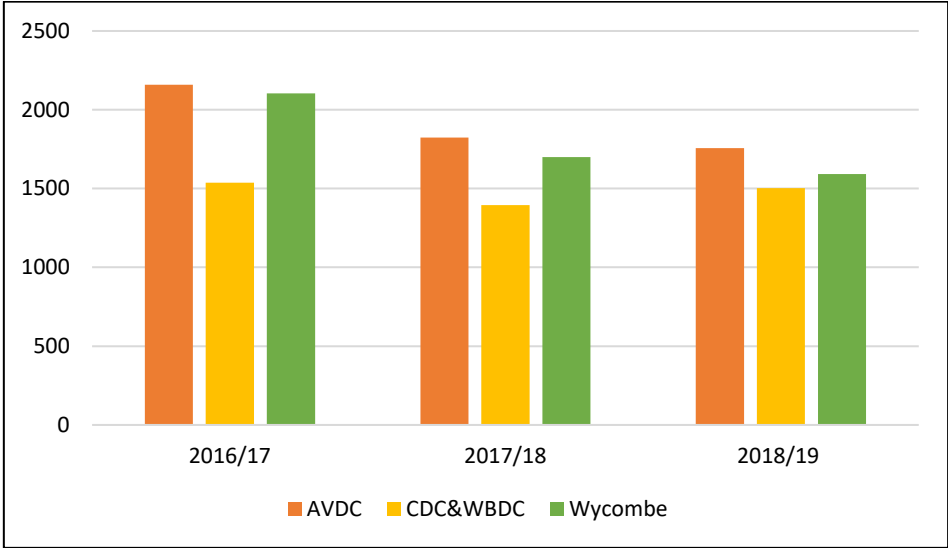


Source: Thames Valley crime recording system – Niche

Graph 3 shows that Chiltern and South Bucks combined is the only LPA where recorded hate crime has remained almost the same year on year. On the contrary, Wycombe LPA experienced an 18% increase in recorded hate crime during 2018/19 than the previous year.

Graph 4: LPA domestic crimes and incidents

Between August 2018- and July 2019



Source: Thames Valley crime recording system – Niche

Graph 4 shows that the trend of recorded domestic crime and incidents has generally decreased over the last three years in each LPA. The only exception is Chiltern and South Bucks combined, which experienced a slight increase in 2018/19 than the previous year. Aylesbury Vale recorded the highest in each year, though the number is decreasing year on year.

Personal wellbeing

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) report 'Understanding well-being inequalities: Who has the poorest personal well-being?' people with the poorest personal wellbeing were most likely to:

- Self-report very bad or bad health
- Be economically inactive with long-term illness or disability
- Be middle-aged
- Be single, separated, widowed or divorced
- Be renters
- Have no or basic education

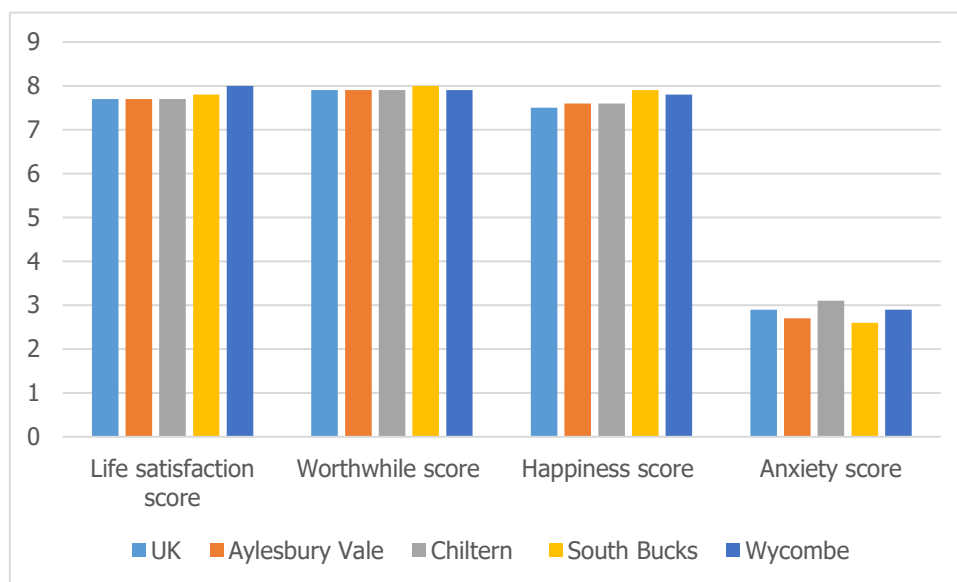
The report also identifies three groups of people who are at particular risk of having the poorest personal wellbeing. These are:

- Unemployed or inactive renters with self-reported health problems or disability
- Employed renters with self-reported health problems or disability
- Retired homeowners with self-reported health problems or disability

"There are inequalities in our society beyond the purely economic ones. Improving how people feel about their lives is important for the health of our society in so many ways – not least the social and economic implications"

- Silvia Manclossi, head of quality of life team, ONS

Graph 5: Comparison of personal wellbeing indicators (2017/18)



Source: Annual Population Survey, ONS

Graph 5 shows that in Buckinghamshire all personal wellbeing scores are similar to the UK average, with scores in South Bucks and Wycombe being slightly higher for both life satisfaction and happiness. There are larger variations between anxiety scores, with the data suggesting that residents in Chiltern are the most anxious.

Thriving Places Index

ONS has worked in collaboration with the UK charity Happy City to consider a wide range of local circumstances and how these might help us to understand differences in personal wellbeing at a local level. Happy City developed the Thriving Places Index (TPI) as a framework of measuring what matters at a local level. The TPI looks at the strengths and challenges of an area and identifies whether conditions are in place for people to thrive. In particular, the TPI analyses the following and produces a score from 0-10.

- Is it a fair and equal place to live?
- Is it sustainable enough so that future generations can flourish?
- Are the conditions present for everyone to do well?

Table 9: Thriving Places Index scores (2019)

Area	Equality	Sustainability	Local conditions
Aylesbury Vale	3.9	5.5	6.4
Chiltern	1.5	3.2	7.0
South Bucks	1.1	3.9	6.9
Wycombe	2.6	4.8	6.3

Source: Thriving Places Index

The TPI identifies a score below 3.5 as very low and a score above 6.5 as very high.

All districts score poorly on equality, in particular South Bucks which is identified as the third worst district in England. Wycombe and Chiltern also have low scores of less than 3.5. Aylesbury Vale performs somewhat better, with a score of 3.9.

Scores on sustainability are mixed; Chiltern has a 'very low' score placing them as the second worst district in England. In contrast, Aylesbury Vale achieves a 'good' score of 5.5. Wycombe's score is close to the average for all England districts combined and South Bucks' score is somewhat below average.

All districts in Buckinghamshire have high scores of above six for local conditions, with Chiltern coming top of all districts in England and South Bucks coming a close second.

Charity sector overview

It is somewhat difficult to analyse the charity sector in Buckinghamshire as the data available is based on the registered address of a charity, rather than the area that they operate. Therefore, the data below may include charities that are based in Buckinghamshire but have a national or global focus.

Table 10: Buckinghamshire charities (2018)

	Charities /1000 people	Actual number
England	3	158,086
Buckinghamshire	4	2,252
Aylesbury Vale	4	827
Chiltern	5	510
South Bucks	4	290
Wycombe	4	625

Source: Charity Commission

Table 11: Wards with a high number of charities (2018)

Ward	District	Charities /1000 people	Actual number
Bledlow	Wycombe	12	37
Great Missenden	Chiltern	12	26
Ashley Green, Latimer and Chenies	Chiltern	10	22
Haddenham & Stone	Aylesbury Vale	6	59

Source: Charity Commission

Table 11: Wards with a low number of charities (2018)

Ward	District	Charities / 1000 people	Actual number
Micklefield	Wycombe	1	5
Booker and Cressex	Wycombe	1	5
Coldharbour	Aylesbury Vale	1	13
Southcourt	Aylesbury Vale	1	10
Walton Court & Hawkslade	Aylesbury Vale	1	9

Source: Charity Commission

The data above shows that there are more registered charities in Buckinghamshire per 1,000 residents than England as a whole. Community Impact Bucks' 'State of the Sector Report (2018) also identifies that there are approximately 1,785 unregistered voluntary groups in Buckinghamshire.

According to the NCVO Civil Society Almanac (2019), rural areas have more voluntary organisations per person but the organisations tend to be smaller. Similarly, smaller voluntary organisations are more likely to work locally.

Volunteering overview

Community Impact Bucks' State of the Sector Report (2018) reveals that approximately 175,000 adults in Buckinghamshire volunteer in some capacity at least once a year. In addition to this, 81% of the voluntary sector in Buckinghamshire experienced an increase or stable levels of volunteers from 2017 to 2018.

The data below from the NCVO Civil Society Almanac (2019) provides an overview of volunteering nationally:

- More than 21 million (nearly 4 in 10) volunteers helped UK charities in 2017/18. The estimated value of their work per year is £23.9bn
- 91% of charities rely solely on the work of volunteers
- 55% of recent volunteers reported giving time to more than one organisation
- 81% of people mainly volunteered in their own neighbourhood

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Reduction of isolation and disadvantage

Introduction

Social isolation and deprivation is an area receiving increasing attention from local authorities, the voluntary sector and local organisations as these two factors directly affect the health and wellbeing of individuals. According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, an independent social change organisation working to solve UK poverty, “lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion” lead to overall poverty.

In this chapter, we’ll look at the following indicators to evaluate the state of isolation and disadvantage in Buckinghamshire:

- Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019
- Children in poverty
- Fuel poverty
- Food bank use
- Housing and homelessness
- Loneliness

IMD 2019

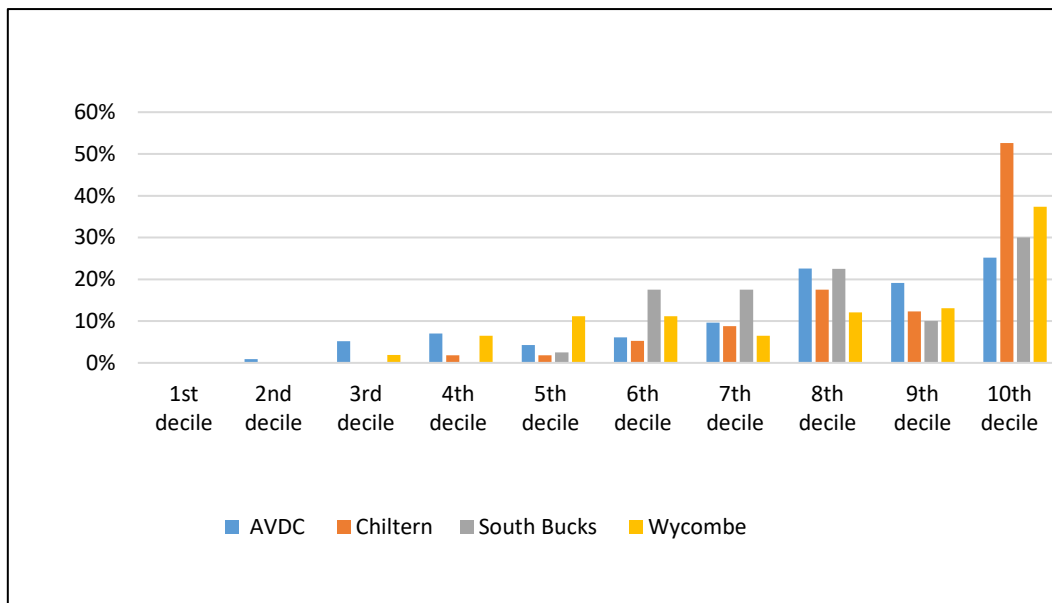
The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a qualitative study released every four years, providing a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas. This study has proven to be a valuable resource for identifying disadvantaged places requiring immediate intervention.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 provides a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas across England, based on seven different domains of deprivation. They are income, employment, education, health, crime, living environment and barriers to housing and services. IMD data measures the relative distribution of deprivation at a small area level.

The 32,844 Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England are ranked according to their deprivation score. Decile 1 represents the most deprived 10 percent of areas nationally, while decile 10 represents the least deprived 10 percent of areas nationally.

Chart 1: Distribution of deprivation by deciles 2019

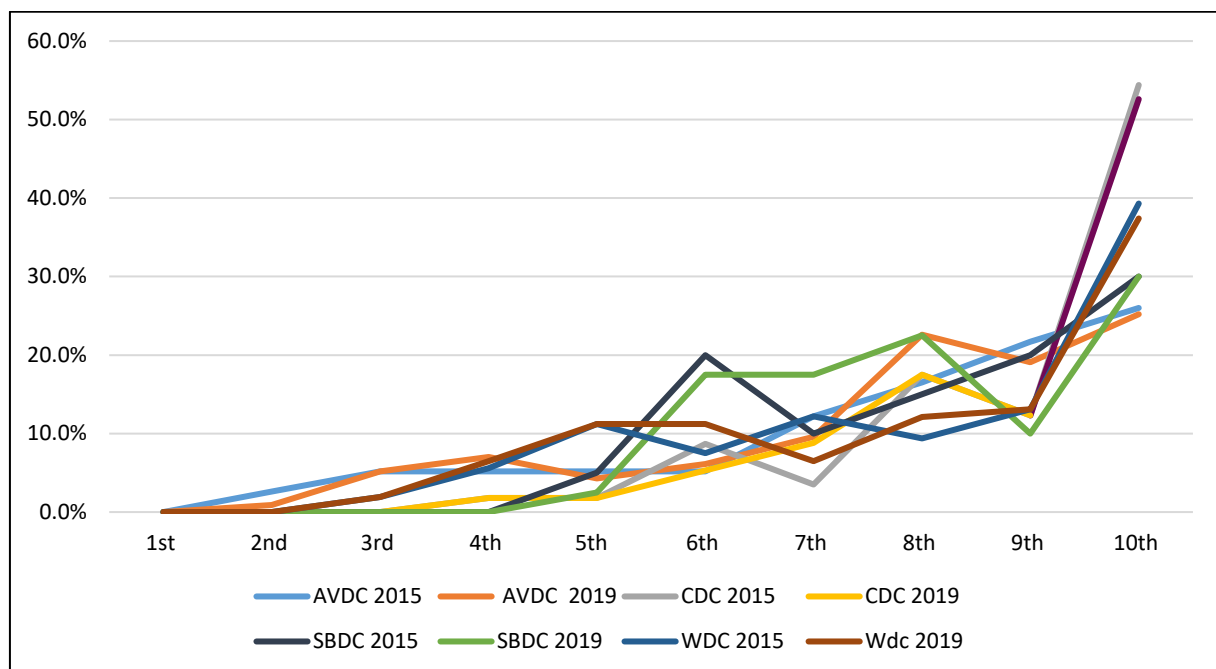
Buckinghamshire



Source: IMD 2019, Ministry of Housing, communities & local government

Chart 1 illustrates the distribution of deprivation among the local authorities of Buckinghamshire. No districts have been recorded as having areas in the 1st decile. 2nd decile deprivation is only noticed in Aylesbury Vale, here represented as 'Aylesbury Vale' (0.9%). Chiltern is the least deprived district as more than half of the LSOAs (53%) are in 10th decile, whereas overall deprivation is higher in Aylesbury Vale compared to other districts.

**Chart 2: Deprivation in local authorities - changes over time
2015 and 2019**



Source: IMD 2019, Ministry of Housing, communities & local government

Chart 2 depicts changes in deprivation in Buckinghamshire over time. Since 2015, overall deprivation at a local authority level has decreased. There are no significant changes in lower deciles in Chiltern, where no LSOAs come under 30%, and in South Bucks no LSOAs are under 40%. Deprivation in 2nd deciles has noticeably decreased in Aylesbury Vale from 2015. In Wycombe, there are more areas under the 4th, 6th and 8th deciles in 2019 than in 2015 which is an indication of overall improvement.

Table 1: IMD 2019 average rank and scores

Districts	IMD Average Rank	IMD Average Score
Aylesbury Vale	277	11.2
Chiltern	315	6.9
South Bucks	292	9.5
Wycombe	280	10.7

Source: IMD 2019, Ministry of Housing, communities & local government

Table 1 shows the distribution of average ranks and scores in local authorities of Buckinghamshire. There are 317 local authorities in England. The local authority district with an IMD average rank of 1 is the most deprived, and the area ranked 317 is the least deprived. The IMD average score summarises the average level of deprivation across an area. The more deprived an area, the higher the IMD score but the lower the rank. Chiltern ranked as the 3rd least deprived local authority in England with a score of 315. All other districts ranked between 270 and 300. Comparatively higher deprivation is noticed in Aylesbury Vale, as depicted by the score (11.2) and rank (277).

Table 2: Deprived wards in Buckinghamshire, 2019

Areas	IMD Rank
England	16,356
Aylesbury Vale	23,936
Southcourt	11,231
Riverside	13,344
Elmhurst	13,420
Gatehouse	14,720
Wycombe	24,172

Oakridge and Castlefield	11,230
Micklefield	12,940
Chiltern	27,947
Ridgeway	16,638
South Bucks	25,203
Wexham and Fulmer	19,688

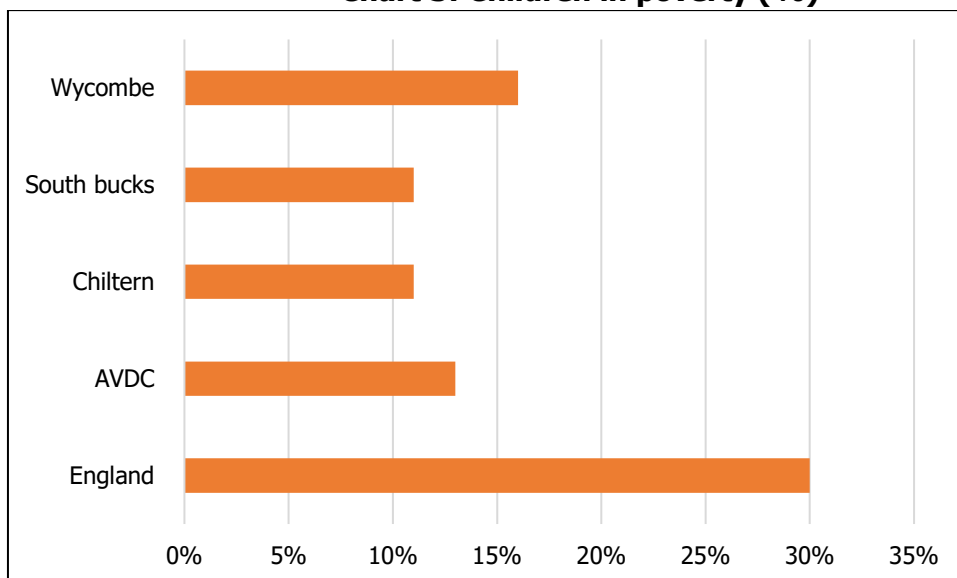
Source: IMD 2019, Ministry of Housing, communities & local government

The distribution of deprivation in wards helps to identify the pockets which need more attention. It is evident from the above table (Table 2) that four wards ranked lower than the English average in Aylesbury Vale and two in Wycombe. Oakridge and Castlefield ward is identified as the most deprived ward in Buckinghamshire. The lowest ranking wards of Chiltern and South Bucks are above the national average, which is representative of their overall ranking.

Children in poverty

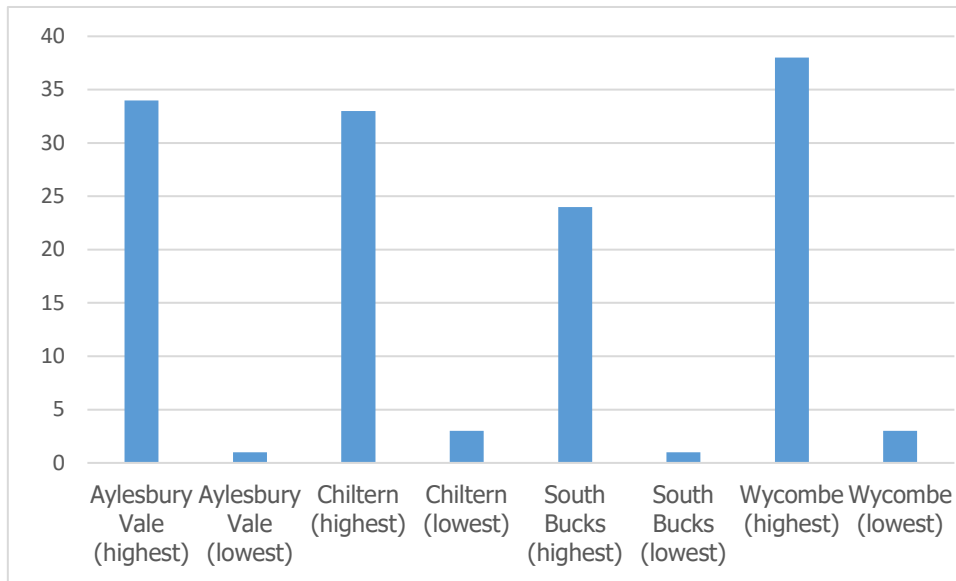
Growing up in poverty can affect children throughout their lives. They are more likely to have physical and mental health problems, underachieve at school and have employment difficulties in adult life, in addition to experiencing stigma, bullying and social deprivation (Children’s Society).

Chart 3: Children in poverty (%)



Source: End Child Poverty, May 2019

Chart 4: Highest and lowest ward child poverty rates per district (%)



Source: End Child Poverty, 2019

Charts 3 and 4 above show that while Buckinghamshire as a whole has a lower rate of child poverty than the national average, individual wards in three of the four districts actually have a higher rate than the England average of 30%.

In Wycombe, 38% of children in Oakridge and Castlefield live in poverty, compared to 3% in Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens. In Aylesbury Vale, the rate is highest in Quarrendon (34%) and lowest in Bierton (1%). This is closely followed by Ridgeway in Chiltern, where 33% of children live in poverty, compared to 3% in Chesham Bois and Weedon Hill. In South Bucks the highest rate is in Wexham and Iver West (both 24%) and the lowest in Taplow (1%).

Fuel poverty

The estimated number of fuel poor household has decreased in both Buckinghamshire and the South East between 2016 and 2017, however the percentage has remained the same across the county. Number decreases are also seen in Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe whilst slight increases can be observed in Chiltern and South Bucks (see table 3 below).

Table 3: Estimated fuel poor households (number and %)

	South East	Bucks	Aylesbury Vale	Chiltern	South Bucks	Wycombe
2016	336,585 9%	17,437 8%	5,890 8%	3,136 8%	2,155 8%	6,256 9%
2017	330,916 9%	17,150 8%	5,624 8%	3,195 8%	2,192 8%	6,139 9%

Source: Sub-regional Fuel Poverty England (2018 & 2019)

Food bank use

Food bank use is increasing every year in the UK and the demand for food banks recorded an all-time high in 2019, according to a recent data released by The Trussell Trust, who support a nationwide network of food banks.

In the South East, The Trussell Trust food banks distributed 148,640 three-day emergency food parcels in 2018-19. 93,417 of these parcels went to adults and 55,223 went to children (according to The Trussell Trust's end of year stats).

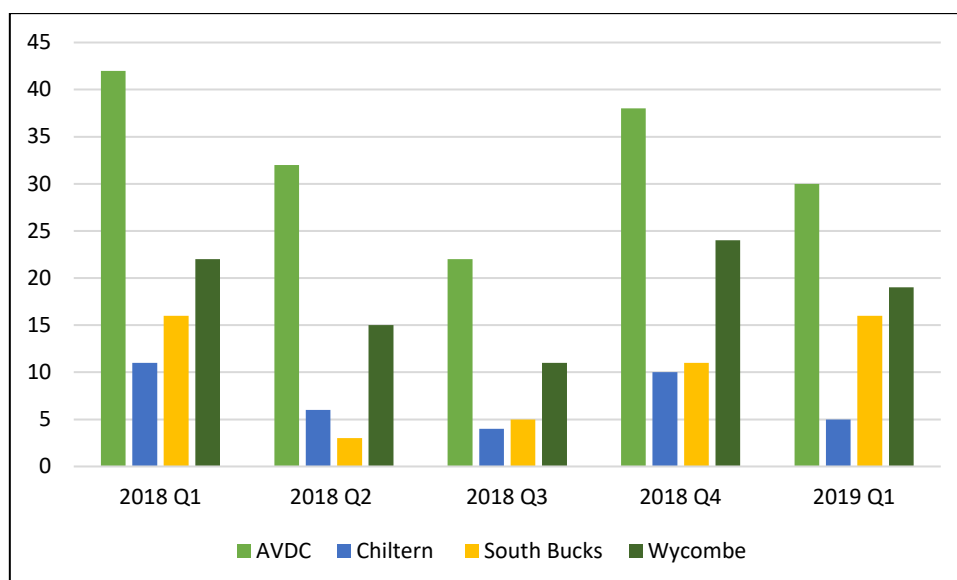
Locally, Chesham food bank distributed 36,099 products, redeemed 1162 vouchers and helped 2643 people in between 01/08/2018 and 31/07/2019. During the same period, One Can Trust had 5363 referrals and fed 1017 people in High Wycombe and the surrounding areas. Last year (2019), Aylesbury food banks provided 27,342 meals to local people in crisis, which is a 54.2% increase from the previous year, demonstrating the increasing demand in the Aylesbury area (according to Buckinghamshire food bank data collected from individual food banks).

Housing and homelessness

A warm, dry home with the necessary amenities is fundamental to people's wellbeing. Despite Britain being one of the richest countries in the world, many people live in accommodation that is run-down, overcrowded or dangerous. Others have lost their homes altogether. Bad housing robs people of their security, health, and a fair chance in life (Shelter).

The true level of homelessness is difficult to ascertain because of the often hidden nature of the problem. Homelessness affects people not only sleeping rough but also those in temporary accommodation or living in unfit houses.

Chart 5: Households accepted as homeless and in priority need



Source: Shelter housing data bank

In Buckinghamshire, the highest number of households recorded in 'priority need' according to Shelter's housing data bank is in Aylesbury Vale, while Chiltern recorded the lowest level of homelessness in priority need (Chart 5). Priority need groups include those with dependent

children, those made homeless due to an emergency or vulnerable due to physical or mental health issues.

Table 4: Households in temporary accommodation

District	2018 Q1	2018 Q2	2018 Q3	2018 Q4	2019 Q1
Aylesbury Vale	78	73	75	82	75
Chiltern	26	22	19	25	27
South Bucks	58	47	36	30	37
Wycombe	85	90	101	76	87

Source: Shelter housing data bank

Data on households in temporary accommodation varies between different quarters. According to homeless charity Shelter, low income, unemployment and poverty are almost universal factors in homelessness. Having no fixed address also makes finding employment difficult, creating a cycle which is hard to break. Almost all those who experience homelessness are poor, and only a minority are employed.

Loneliness

Loneliness is a subjective feeling which relates to the difference between a person’s desired levels of social contact and their actual level of social contact, and is linked to the perceived quality of the person’s relationships. Loneliness is never desired and lessening these feelings can take a long time (Age UK 2018).

In October 2018, the government announced a loneliness strategy to tackle loneliness in the UK. Loneliness can occur at any point in life and is an experience likely to affect most of us at some point. The ‘loneliness strategy’ summarised some of the most important known effects of loneliness in the following way:

“Its health impact is thought to be on a par with other public health priorities like obesity or smoking. Research shows that loneliness is associated with a greater risk of inactivity, smoking and risk-taking behaviour; increased risk of coronary heart disease and stroke; an increased risk of depression, low self-esteem, reported sleep problems and increased stress response; and with cognitive decline and an increased risk of Alzheimer’s. What’s more, feeling lonely can make a person more likely to perceive, expect and remember others’ behaviour to be unfriendly. This can increase social anxiety and cause them to withdraw further, creating a vicious cycle.”

Table 5: Risk of loneliness in Bucks (Aged 65 and above)

Districts	Very High to High risk	Medium risk	Low to very low risk
Aylesbury Vale	Buckingham, Winslow, Quarrendon, Elmhurst, Watermead, Aylesbury Central, Southcourt, Walton Court and Hawkslade, Coldharbour	Cheddington, Pitstone, Tingwick, Wendover, Cholesbury, Stoke Mandeville,	Wing, Marsh Gibbon, Aston Clinton
Chiltern	St Mary's and Waterside, Ridgeway, Vale, Amersham on the Hill, Amersham common	Seer Green, Great Missenden, Ashley Green, Latimer, Chennies	Little Missenden, Prestwood, The lee, Bellingdon, Ballinger, Chartridge
South Bucks	Beaconsfield South, Iver village and Richings Park, Iver Heath, Burnham Lent Rise	Denham North, Dorney and Burnham South	Burnham Beeches, Gerrards Cross, Stoke Poges, Taplow
Wycombe	Ryemead, Micklefield, Totteridge, Bowerdean, Oakridge and Castlefield	Downley and Plomer Hill, Bourne End and Hedsor, Stokenchurch	Bledlow and Bradenham, Greater Hugenden, Greater Marlow

Source: Age UK Loneliness heat map, 2016 data

The Age UK loneliness heat map is a good source for finding pockets of loneliness regionally, where the level of risk is divided into three categories depending on the severity. Retirement, bereavement, poor physical and mental health, a missing sense of community, location, financial difficulties and lack of transport can cause loneliness at any point of time in life. Table 5 shows examples of wards from four local authorities within different categories of risk. It is clear from the above table that people living in wards which are situated in the heart of a town (Aylesbury Central, Amersham on the Hill, Oakridge and Castlefield) can experience a high risk of loneliness, while small communities in Wing, Stoke Poges, Chartridge and Bledlow have a very low risk of loneliness.

Digital skills also play an important role in connecting with others. According to the Office for National Statistics, "in an increasingly digital age, those who are not engaging effectively with the digital world are at risk of being left behind."

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Environment and public spaces

Introduction

This is the first time a global generation of children will grow up in a world made far more dangerous and uncertain as a result of a changing climate and a degraded environment, according to UNICEF. A recent research by Forest research indicated that the UK will be subjected to warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, raising air temperatures, an increased number of storms and heavier rainfall.

There is significant evidence of the physical and mental health benefits of access to green space. People exposed to poor quality environments are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes than people who enjoy good quality environments, according to UCL Institute of Health Equity.

We'll be looking at the following indicators to determine the state of environmental matters in Buckinghamshire:

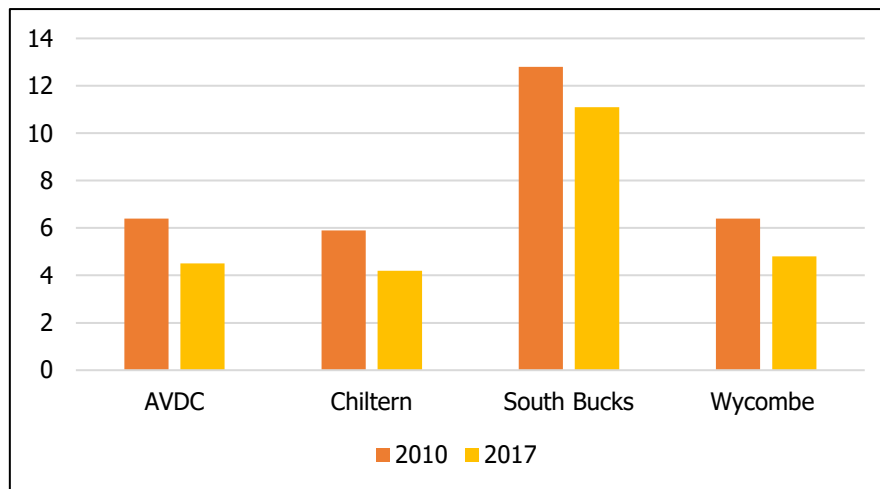
- CO₂ emission estimates
- Air quality IMD 2019 score
- Greenspace coverage
- Energy consumption
- Waste recycling
- Living Environment Deprivation Index

CO₂ emission estimates

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main greenhouse gas, accounting for 81% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions (2017). Between 2010 and 2017, carbon dioxide emissions decreased in the majority of local authorities in the UK. According to the department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's release on 27th June 2019, the main driver of the decrease in UK emissions in 2017 was a change in the fuel mix for electricity generation, with a decrease in the use of coal and more use of renewables. There was also a reduction in the use of gas for heating buildings due to warmer weather in the first half of 2017.

Chart 1: CO₂ emission per capita (Kilo tonnes)

Buckinghamshire



Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; Office for National Statistics

Chart 1 reflects the same trend in Buckinghamshire, with CO₂ emission reduction recorded in all four local authorities between the period of 2010 and 2017. The highest CO₂ emissions per person is noticed in South Bucks (11.1Kt), with more than double the CO₂ emissions of Chiltern (4.2Kt) in 2017.

Air quality IMD 2019 score

Air quality is considered one of the indices of deprivation. It is an estimate of the concentration of the four pollutants in the local area. A higher score indicates that the air quality is worse than lower scoring areas. Amongst all four district authorities, air quality is best in Aylesbury Vale, as the district scores lowest (0.8), while South Bucks has the highest score in Bucks (1.1), indicating poorer air quality. Chiltern and Wycombe both scored 0.9 which is similar to Buckinghamshire average.

Greenspace coverage

Proximity to plentiful, good quality green space has an important influence on the health of the local population. The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) includes an indicator on the use of outdoor space for health or exercise reasons, which provides an important incentive for local authorities to ensure good quality, accessible open spaces in local areas (Health Equality Evidence review: September 2014).

Buckinghamshire is known for its natural landscapes. Approximately half of the Chiltern Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), is within Buckinghamshire with Chiltern district having the major share of AONB areas at 70%.

Table 1: Greenspace coverage (2017)

Areas	Total % of green space area coverage
Aylesbury Vale	1.4%
Chiltern	3.3%
South Bucks	10.7%
Wycombe	2.5%

Source; Ordnance Survey. OS data collected from Local Insight

Table 1 shows the percentage of an area that is covered by green space in local authorities of Buckinghamshire. Types of greenspace included are: allotments or community growing spaces, bowling greens, cemeteries, religious grounds, golf courses, other sports facilities, play spaces, playing fields, public parks or gardens and tennis courts.

South Bucks has the greatest area of green space coverage. Chiltern and South Bucks authorities published a 'Joint open space study' in March 2018, which portrays the quality and number of green spaces in the above-mentioned districts. Amongst the 16 public parks and gardens of South Bucks, almost 70% were good or very good. 46% of natural and semi-natural greenspaces are good and 50% of all allotments scored as average.

In July 2019, 3 parks in Aylesbury won the 'green flag' award which is awarded to parks with the highest possible standards, including being beautifully maintained and having excellent visitor facilities. 2 parks in the Wycombe district also got the same award in 2018.

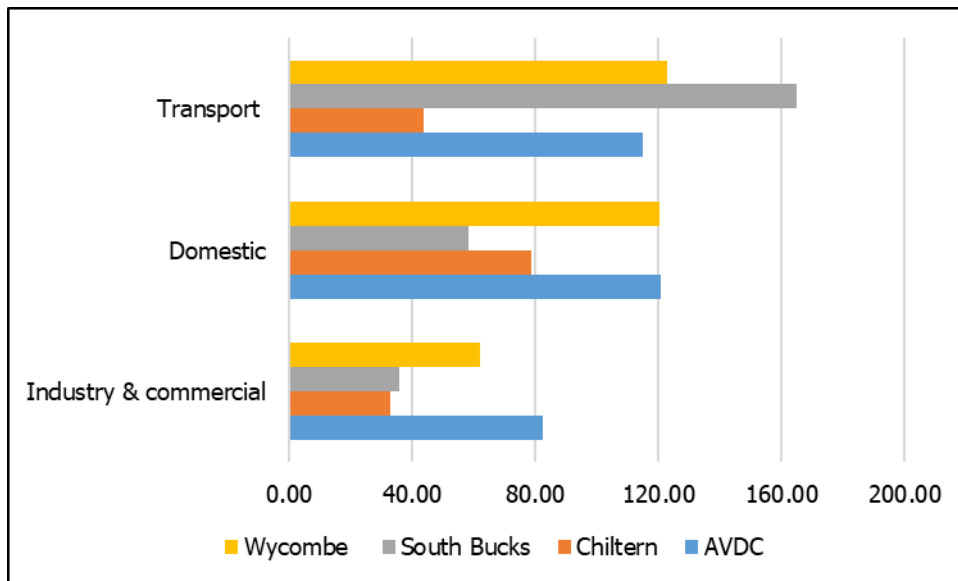
Energy consumption

Total energy consumption in the UK increased by 1.1% in 2018, with three quarters of gas consumption in the domestic sector because of the severe weather brought by 'the Beast from the East' (ECUK, 1970 to 2018). Long term trends in consumption by sector shows the growth in the transport sector and fall in the industrial sector.

Local authority data for energy consumption is available for 2017, which shows the consumption in different sectors (Chart 2). Transport is the largest sector for South Bucks and Wycombe districts, whereas energy consumption by the transport sector is comparatively low in Chiltern. Domestic energy consumption is highest in Aylesbury Vale district, with South Bucks using the least energy for domestic use. Domestic energy consumption in Chiltern (79 Ktoe) is comparatively higher than other sectors' energy intakes (Transport: 44 ktoe and Industry: 33ktoe).

Chart 2: Energy Consumption 2017 (Ktoe*)

Buckinghamshire



Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

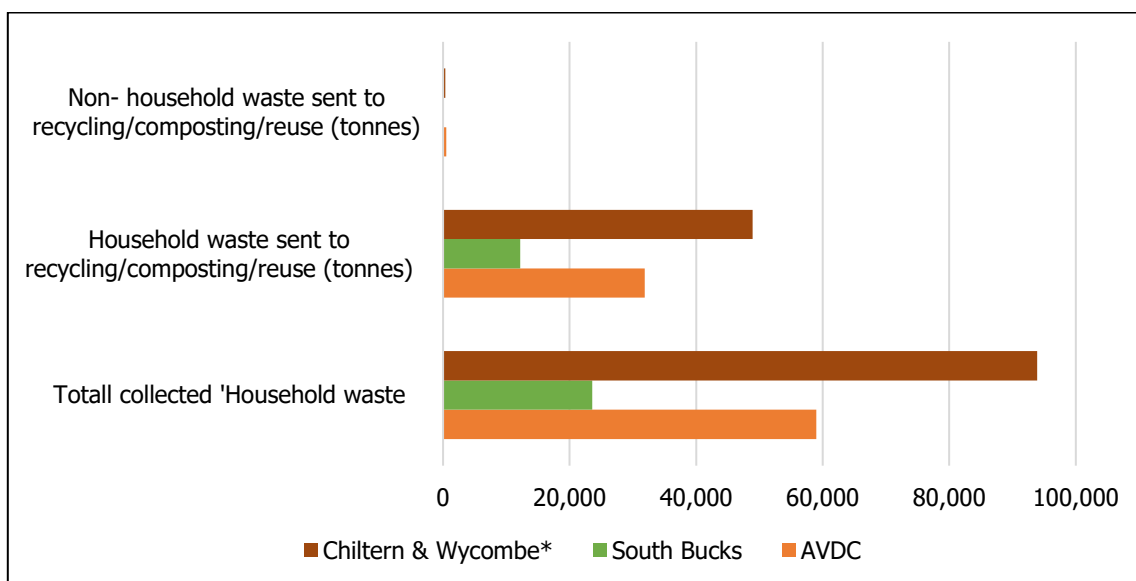
*Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent

Industry and commercial sectors used the least energy in the local authorities of Buckinghamshire in 2017 according to the above chart. Aylesbury Vale district (82.5ktoe) recorded consuming the highest levels of energy, followed by Wycombe (62ktoe).

Waste recycling

Preventing and managing waste is the key to protecting the environment. The Waste Management Plan (2013) sets out reuse and recycling as being at the core of waste management in the UK with 'the vision of doing more with less'. Its key aims are to set out work 'towards a zero waste economy'. The most recent statistics show that the rate of household waste recycling is increasing in England towards the target of recycling 50% of households waste by 2020.

Chart 3: Local authority collected and household waste 2017/18



Source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Note: *Chiltern District Council jointly reports their waste data with Wycombe District Council as of 2015/16

Buckinghamshire complies with the target of recycling 50% of household waste according to the recent statistics. 56.5% of all household waste was recycled in 2017/18, however still a large portion (43.5%) of household waste is going to landfill. The above chart (Chart 3) clearly demonstrates that there is a substantial gap between collected waste and recycled waste, showing that there is still more to be done to reduce the carbon impact of waste.

Living Environment Deprivation Index (2019)

The Living Environment Deprivation Domain measures the quality of the local environment. This indicator is comprised of two domains, indoors and outdoors, which measures quality of housing, air quality and road traffic incidents.

Buckinghamshire remains one of the counties where all the local authorities have very good living environments. Chiltern ranked 9th amongst 317 local authorities in England, confirming the comparative better living environment in that area. Wycombe ranked 31st, Aylesbury Vale 44th and South Bucks 66th.

Deprivation level varies from ward to ward, however. Hambleden Valley of Wycombe district is the most deprived ward for living environment, followed by Grendon Underwood and Brill of Aylesbury Vale. On the other hand, the Chesham Bois and Little Chalfont wards of Chiltern are two of the least deprived wards.

‘What humans do over the next 50 years will determine the fate of all life on the planet.’

David Attenborough

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