



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Summary Citywide Profile 2023

Population and demographics

Demographics and Communities

- Coventry has a population of 345,325 people; this is an increase of over 28,000 residents since 2011 and makes it the second-largest Local Authority in the West Midlands region.
- Coventry residents are, on average 5 years younger than national and regional averages, with the median aged being 35.
- 13% of the city's population is between the ages of 18 and 24, compared to 8% in England as a whole.
- The number of children aged 5-14 living in Coventry has increased notably over the last 10 years, rising from 36,200 in 2011 to an estimated 44,100. This is a 22% rise compared to a 12% increase for England as a whole.
- Growth in older people is expected to accelerate and outpace other groups within 10-15 years, Coventry's 55-59 age group experienced the greatest growth of any age group. This means there is a need to focus on preventative health amongst the working age population now to help manage future demand on health and care services. The north-west Coventry neighbourhoods of Allesley Green and Lower Eastern Green have the highest proportion of resident aged 65+ with 29.1%.
- The city's growth has not been evenly distributed; therefore, local organisations may need to review the location of their services.
The fastest growing MSOAs are Whitley & Tolbar End, Henley Green & Wood End, and Central Coventry, with corresponding population growth rates of 45%, 36%, and 27% respectively. Of Coventry's 42 MSOAs, 20 had growth higher than England's average. 18 had growth higher than Coventry's overall growth of 8.9% with six growing by more than double Coventry's average.
- Over the last 10 years, between the academic years of 2010-11 and 2020-21, the total number of students enrolled at the city's two universities increased from 56,100 to 67,255. Census data gives an estimate of about 36,000 university students living in Coventry in 2021, a 29% increase from about 28,000 in 2011.

Diversity

- The city is becoming increasingly diverse with 45% of the population identifying as being part of an ethnic minority group compared to 26% in England as a whole.
- With 55.9% of Coventry's school children being from an ethnic minority group up from 39.7% in 2012, it is likely Coventry will continue to become more diverse.
- Some areas are more diverse than others, which should be a consideration when reviewing service provision. For example, in Brownhill Green 92.1% of residents were born in the UK, while in Coventry Central only 50.5% of residents were. Therefore, local organisations may need to review the services they provide to serve the residents' needs in different areas.
- 56% of adults said they felt a sense of belonging to Coventry, down from 83% in 2018. Those in Bablake (70%), Earlsdon (72%), Wainbody (65%), Woodlands (68%) and Wyken (67%) wards are significantly more likely to have a strong sense of belonging at neighbourhood level.
- Within Coventry, Polish (2.3%), Panjabi (2.3%) and Romanian (2.1%) are the three most popular main languages spoken aside from English.
- There are 16 languages that at least 1,000 Coventry residents speak as their main language and more than 100 languages and dialects spoken in the city in total.
- 14.2% of Coventry's residents – approximately 49,100 people, around 1 in every 7 Coventry residents arrived in the UK since 2011. Central Coventry and Lower Stoke & Gosford Park have the largest concentration with 39% and 34% of residents arriving in the last ten years.
- The changing profile of economic migrants in recent years will need to be considered so that any specific health needs are provided for. Barriers to access should be delivered by a culturally competent health and social care workforce, one that makes use of the rich community assets in the city.
- Partners across Coventry must consider appropriate messaging to address local anxieties, stakeholder groups are essential in addressing issues in specific neighbourhoods.
- There are barriers around communication and awareness in the city, but there are also examples where working together has improved matters. The city has a wealth of voluntary and community groups addressing specific issues – but these are often un-coordinated, which results in duplication of work, diluting the resource and capacity of these groups. An example of how this has been improved is through The Community Centre Consortium, 11 community centres from all over the city have

joined forces to exchange knowledge, best practices, and funding requests. They can speak with one voice to outside funders, pool and organise resources and coordinate efforts by cooperating rather than competing with one another.

Prospects

Best Start in life

- At birth and in early years, Coventry appears to be better than the national average when a few statistics relevant to child development in infancy are assessed. However, by the age of five, fewer achieve a good level of development than in other similar places.
- The child mortality rate (1-17 years) in Coventry, whilst low in number, is 15.0 per 1,000, has remained persistently high compared to both the West Midlands (11.0) and England (10.3) since 2012.
- In 2021 Coventry the percentage of all babies born at low weight (under 2500g) was 8.1%, higher than the national average of 6.8%. This could be due to a relatively high number of babies born to Coventry mothers being premature, leading to a higher number of babies born at low weight; for the three years 2018-2020 1,255 Coventry babies were born prematurely, a rate of 99.7 per 1,000 compared to the national average of 79.1.
- By the age of two, the number of Coventry toddlers at the expected level of development is above the national average. 85.1% of those assessed in Coventry were at the expected level in all domains, compared to 81.2% across England overall and 79.0% across West Midlands overall.
- Uptake of funded early years childcare for all children aged two, three and four has increased. The 2-year-old up take has increased to 74.8% in 2022, compared to 72% nationally and 67% regionally. This is because of Early Years initiatives and a campaign to reach vulnerable families post Covid. Similarly, the 3- & 4-year-old take up increased from 86% to 88% but was still below national at 92% and regional 93% averages.
- The number of children in care remains above national average but is similar to statistical neighbours. In Coventry 89.5 children out of every 1,000 are in care. This is higher than England's rate of 70 but is more in line with statistical neighbour average rate of 89. This has been on a slightly increasing trend in recent years.
- The percentage of children under the age of 16 who live in absolute poverty is greater when compared to the rest of England. In Coventry in 2021/22, 21.4% of children under the age of 16 live in homes with 'absolute' low incomes, compared to

21.4% throughout the West Midlands and 15.3% in England. The percentage of children living in 'relative poverty' in Coventry is 26.7%, amounting to an estimated 18,267 children. This compares to 27.0% throughout the West Midlands and 19.9% in England. This has been on an increasing trend in Coventry, and elsewhere, since 2014/15. The End Child Poverty campaign attempts to model the number of children who live in households with a relatively low income. For 2020/21 they estimate that 24,367 of Coventry children (0-15) live in poverty, which amounts to over one-third of all children living in Coventry, 34.1%.

- Effective Early Help has a positive impact on the lives of children and young people and is a high priority in Coventry and nationally. Early Help services want to offer the right help, at the right time to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families and to prevent the need for high demand on statutory services.
- There are 8 Family Hubs located throughout the city, each of which provides a variety of services aimed at supporting families, children, and young people. They help coordinate Health visitors, social workers, midwives, police, and other professionals have been brought together by family hubs to identify vulnerable families and put together a coordinated package of help.

Education and skills

- Education standards remain consistent with national averages with 89.3% of primary and 86% of secondary students attending a good/outstanding school; the city continues to have a slightly higher than average percentage of young people proceeding from school to a sustained education, employment, or training.
- There are many factors that impact attainment and there are inequalities between some groups of pupils. Like the gender gap nationally, girls in Coventry tend to do better academically than boys. In 2022 60% of Coventry girls achieved the expected standard at key stage 2 compared to 48% of boys. Only 40% of disadvantaged pupils achieved the standard compared to 61% of those non-disadvantaged.
- A growing proportion of the city's residents are gaining qualifications. Two-fifths of the city's working age population is highly qualified. In 2021, 40.7% of Coventry's working age population is qualified to level 4 or above, which means they have a foundation degree or above. This has increased by about 15 percentage points over the past decade and the city is the second highest within the West Midlands.
- 7.6% of the city's working age population has no qualifications at all, a reduction from 10% in 2018 and has halved over the past decade.
- 54% of Coventry students at the end of year 6 met the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths combined, compared to 59% for England as a whole.

- Like the gender gap nationally, girls in Coventry tend to do better academically than boys. In 2022 60% of Coventry girls achieved the expected standard at key stage 2 compared to 48% of boys.
- Free school meals eligibility in Coventry continues to increase and now officially stands at 24.8% over all school years in 2022. However, this metric is disguised by the universal infant free school meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The maximum free school meals eligibility rate in any one class year in Coventry is currently 30%, which could be more indicative of the real eligibility rate. This is very high, considering that the eligibility criteria for free school meals is an annual net income of £7,400 after any benefits – suggesting a very high rate of severe deprivation amongst young families in Coventry.
- Adult education offers opportunities across the city for adults to engage and learn. Wards with higher levels of deprivation have higher volumes of learners such as St Michaels (12%) and Foleshill (12%). However, there could still be community groups and areas of the city that are under-represented, and we need to continue to ensure our Skills Providers have good reach across the city.
- The Coventry Skills Strategy seeks to ensure Coventry residents have skills that match the needs of local employers, not only for now, but also for the vacancies of the future. The strategy aims to build aspiration throughout all educational levels, with Coventry's young people inspired to learn, seeing clear pathways to the jobs they strive towards.
- Community groups across the city are working together to provide better opportunities and outcomes for children. Having a healthy balanced meal is vital for children going to school and concentrating, there is lots of food-based provision for children throughout the holidays through initiatives such as Holiday Activities and Food programmes (HAF) as well as Magic Breakfasts.

Economy

- Growth in the local Coventry economy has slowed since 2016. Total annual GDP in Coventry, the value of all economic activity within the city, was at £11.094 billion in 2021, and had grown by only an estimated average of 0.4% per year since 2016; this is lower than the growth across England overall (2.8%) and in the overall economy of the West Midlands combined authority area (2.0%).

- The gap between average earnings in Coventry and the rest of the region has gotten smaller in recent years and now show that average earnings for Coventry residents are slightly higher than the national average, at £33,887 for full time workers compared to £33,208 across England overall.
- The unemployment rate in 2022 was 4.9%, equating to 9,400 residents: down from 5.5% in 2021 but higher than the pre pandemic 2019 level of 4.3%. Coventry's employment rate is not exceptionally low and like that of other university cities.
- Increases in economic inactivity has been driven by increasing 'involuntary' economic inactivity, for example people who are long term sick; an estimated 28,300 form this group who the Centre for Cities call the 'hidden unemployed', to add to the 9,400 Coventry residents who are unemployed (not employed and actively seeking work).
- Coventry was UK City of Culture between May 2021 and May 2022; this had a positive impact on Coventry's economy and tourism.
- The impact of this cost-of-living crisis on communities across the city is yet to be fully realised, as people across the city face rapidly rising energy, fuel, food, and housing costs.
- Financial insecurities are causing high levels of anxiety and other mental health challenges, as well as being a significant cost barrier to maintaining physical health for vulnerable groups.
- Those living in Foleshill (31%), St. Michaels (33%) or the Wyken (25%) wards are significantly more likely to feel worried about money almost all the time compared to the total average (17%).
- Those under the age of 35 are significantly more likely to feel worried all the time (22%), as well as Those with a disability are also significantly more likely to worry about money almost all the time compared to those with no disability (23% vs. 14%).
- Just over two thirds (69%) of residents' state that in the last 12 months they and their household always had enough of the kind of food they wanted. This is significantly lower than the 78% recorded in 2021. In 2022 4% indicate that sometimes they and other household members did not have enough to eat, up from 2%.
- Coventry Food Network is a food partnership which brings together several public, private, voluntary and community sector partners to address food poverty and its causes by taking a city-wide collaborative and strategic approach towards a unified Coventry Food Network and Strategy.

- In 2021 Coventry had the 4th highest fuel poverty rate of all local authority areas in England. An estimated 28,525 Coventry households are estimated to be fuel poor, amounting to 20.8% of all households in the city compared to 13.1% for England overall.
- 14.1% of the city's neighbourhoods are amongst the 10% most deprived areas in England and over a quarter, 25.6%, are amongst the most deprived 20% of areas.
- The city's refugees and asylum seekers are nearly twice as likely to reside in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods than the wider population.
- Community assets are crucial to health through the opportunities and services they provide directly and indirectly, through a sense of empowerment and control. In Coventry we respond to the needs of our communities through our integrated services community prototypes and other place-based partnerships, rooted in and driven by place, working creatively with shared resources to make positive change.
- Community and voluntary organisations are working together to address the needs of those on low incomes with affordable access to quality housing, heating, and insulation. This support involves supporting the HAF Programme, developing and implementing the Food Hubs and Advice work, raising awareness, and supporting the delivery of the Household Support Fund, and exploring opportunities for collaborative working for the Coventry Food Network with a range of organisations both locally and nationally, including Business in the Community and Feeding Britain.

Environment

Localities and neighbourhoods

- Coventry is the fourth most densely populated of the West Midlands' 30 authorities, only Birmingham, Sandwell and Wolverhampton are more densely populated.
- Coventry has good access to services and is generally considered an asset that is enjoyed by residents in the city; However, residents' satisfaction with their area is lower than the national average. In the 2022, the Coventry Household Survey found that 66% of Coventry residents were satisfied with their local area compared with 81% nationally.
- Whilst many areas of the city overall benefit from a good supply of green spaces, some residents have no access to nearby green spaces or outdoor sports facilities. Residents in Henley and Wainbody enjoy access to over 100 hectares of green space contrasting with Upper Stoke, Lower Stoke, Radford, and Foleshill who have access to levels below the average of 62.3 hectares.

- Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to the public's health and has a harmful impact on the health of people living, working, and studying within Coventry. Air quality particularly affects the most vulnerable, having a disproportionate impact on the elderly, pregnant, children, and those with cardiovascular and/or respiratory disease.
- In Coventry, the main air quality issues identified and being addressed by the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process relate to residential properties that are near major arterial routes in the city, which experience high levels of congestion. Currently identified hotspots include sections of Holyhead Road, Walsgrave Road, Foleshill/Longford Road, Stoney Stanton Road and at certain junctions along the A45.
- Green Space Strategy aims to protect the cities green spaces, from large parks and playing fields to allotments, churchyards, and riverbanks. The strategy has already seen success in investment in children's play, more spaces being managed positively for wildlife, greater community involvement with 30 friends or volunteer groups now working with the park service, the achievement of five Green Flag Awards, the delivery of large-scale investment in War Memorial Park and Coombe Country Park supported by external funding and achieving a national award for the wildflower planting on key highways verges and within selected parks. These achievements, along with other factors, has led to a significant increase in the use of green spaces in Coventry, reflecting the national picture.
- Green corridors form an important element of the landscape within Coventry, however there are some barriers to accessing these spaces that need to be addressed. Further work is required to address perceptions of anti-social behaviour, personal safety, dog fouling and access issues relating to volumes of traffic, busy roads, and safety concerns for cyclists. Further investment is also required to improve the quality and facilities of some green spaces.

Housing and homelessness

- The median house price in Coventry for the year ending September 2022 was £214,500, lower than the West Midlands regional average of £225,000 and the England average of £275,000. Over the last five years Coventry house prices have increased by 6% a year on average, similar to the level of increase elsewhere.
- Coventry to still be more affordable than the other parts of the West Midlands metropolitan area.

- There has been an increase in private renting and a reduction in home ownership amongst Coventry residents over the last 10 years.
- Household overcrowding is more prevalent in Coventry (7.7% of all households) than national (6.4%) and regional averages (5.4%). However, overcrowding has reduced since 2011 when it was at 9.5% of households.
- Threats to population health and wellbeing are exacerbated by the increased costs associated with keeping homes warm, dry, and ventilated sufficiently over the colder months of the year and potential intermittent shortages in energy supply.
- The homelessness rate in the city rose higher in 2021/22 than in the previous year. This is projected to further increase in 2022/2023, the cost-of-living crisis is a factor here. The number of households accepted under a main homelessness duty increased from 722 in 2020/21 to 800 in 2021/22. There was a 14% increase in case demand on homelessness prevention and relief services in 2021/2022 compared with 2020/2021
- Rough sleepers tend to be complex cases, often requiring more than one specialist service involved in their support to relieve homelessness. It is difficult to understand the true extent of numbers rough sleeping in Coventry at any given time.
- People with lived experiences have a unique and essential role to play in helping to prepare people to accept and receive support. Coventry has had success in working with people and volunteers with lived experiences of drug and alcohol misuse who are members of the city's Multiple Complex Needs Boards. As experts by experience, these volunteers worked closely with the police and the Council to influence the city's approach to working with a variety of people.
- Investment in additional frontline resources to support more residents facing homelessness is needed.

Crime

- Recorded crime has been on an increasing trend in Coventry, however overall rates do not rank particularly highly when compared to other areas. Coventry's total recorded crime rate in 2022 was 122 per 1,000 residents, compared to 93 for England overall.
- A total of 42,021 crimes were recorded by the police during 2022, an increase of 8% since 38,990 cases recorded in 2021.
- The proportion of Coventry residents who feel safe during both the day and night remains significantly lower than the latest LGA national polling figure of 95%; and Coventry people feel less safe than four years ago.

- Safety during the day is significantly lower amongst those living in the Foleshill (55%), Henley (69%) and Upper Stoke (69%) wards when compared to the survey average. Residents living in Longford (34%), Henley (29%), Lower Stoke (29%) and Upper Stoke (25%) wards have a particularly low sense of safety after dark.
- There has been a reduction in First-time entrants to Youth Justice System. Coventry has seen more of a marked decline compared to the current family group and national comparators.

Health and Wellbeing

Life expectancy

- Overall health in the city is below average, life expectancy has remained below the regional and national averages. Life Expectancy has decreased in the most recent data, this in part could be due to the inclusion of Covid 19 data.
- Life expectancy for females in Coventry is 82.0 years and for males is 78.0 from 2018 to 2020. This is below the national average of 83.1 for women and 79.4 for men.
- Healthy life expectancy for Coventry males is lower than the national (63.1) and regional (61.9) averages whereas for Coventry females it is slightly higher (62.6) and (63.9). The trends show little change in recent years for women, but it has fallen a little for men.
- There are significant health inequalities across Coventry's neighbourhoods and effect certain communities disproportionately. Males living in less deprived areas of the city can, on average live up to 10.7 years longer than those living in the most deprived areas of Coventry; and for females the gap is 7.8 years.
- People in more deprived parts of the city not only live shorter lives, but also spend a greater proportion of their shorter lives in poor health compared to those living in less deprived parts of the city.
- Premature mortality (deaths amongst residents aged under 75 years) is higher than the national average for both males and females.

Health Protection

- The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally changed all our lives and impacted on Coventry people and their health and wellbeing, like it did everywhere. It

had a wide range of impacts, from direct health impacts to many varied impacts on different aspects of life. From 23 February 2020 to 30 April 2023, there were out of a total of 123,095 cases amongst Coventry residents, where an individual tested positive and officially reported the result, and 20,795,205 across England overall.

- The proportion of Coventry adults diagnosed with depression according to GP registers, has been on an increasing trend. Mental ill health is of growing concern, in 2013/14 it was 6.5% which increased to 11.9% in 2021/22, amounting to 40,743 residents.
- Uptake rates in Coventry are below the 95% threshold for several different childhood vaccinations. The rates are lower than the national and regional averages and often lower than average compared to similar areas. Three examples are: DTaP/IPV/Hib for one-year olds at 90.3%, a vaccination offered to babies to protect them against five serious childhood diseases; the rotavirus vaccine at 88.5%, which protects against gastroenteritis; and MMR for 2 year olds has an uptake rate of 88.5%. However, some rank slightly better including HPV vaccine Dose 1 for 12 to 13 years and Meningococcal ACWY Conjugate for 14 to 15 vaccine.
- Cancer screenings for at risk populations are relatively low. The coverage of screening for cancers such as breast cancer, cervical cancer and bowel cancer across at-risk populations are below the national average, moreover Coventry performs worse than similar areas with screening rates relatively low compared to the city's 'CIPFA statistical neighbour' areas.
- Coventry has high rates for some communicable diseases; the COVID-19 pandemic may have also led to delayed diagnosis and initiation of treatment.

Demand and Access

- Coventry has good access to health services, with most residents being able to reach a pharmacy within a few minutes. Over 95% of Coventry residents could reach a GP or pharmacy within 10 minutes by public transport in 2020 (data on recently reduced bus services is not available yet.)
- Digital Access adds another dimension to inequalities of access to healthcare. There are many online pharmacies now, including some operating from Coventry. This is a significant improvement in access for people with busy lives, as well as full digital access. However, there should be awareness of the potential risk of online pharmacies eroding the viability of local pharmacies that provide physical access – depending on future trends.

- GP Patient survey indicates higher satisfaction in Coventry than the national average. When asked 'Overall, how would you describe your experience of your GP practice?', 75% of Coventry respondents said good or very good, better than 72% for England overall – but down from 80% in 2020. When asked 'Generally, how easy is it to get through to someone at your GP practice on the phone?', 60% of Coventry respondents said easy or very easy, better than 53% for England overall – but down from 70% in 2021.
- In the winter of 2022/23, the NHS was facing significant challenges, with waiting lists and waiting times in A&E and for Ambulances high. There are indications that it is worse than average in Coventry.
- The demand for Adult Social Care rises every year as people live longer and there are more people living longer with more complex needs.
- Improving people's awareness of support groups and available activities can be a more efficient and effective way to help them meet their health needs. However, these groups need support to build their capacity and to ensure their sustainability.

Lifestyles

- Whilst smoking rates continue to fall, those living in a very deprived area (IMD Decile 1) are much more likely to smoke. Between one-in-nine and one-in-seven adult Coventry residents are current smokers, using two different data sources – but both sources show smoking prevalence to be falling.
- The consumption of alcohol overall in Coventry, at population level, appears not to be disproportionately high compared to other places.
- Hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions in 2020/21 shows Coventry's rate of 649 per 100,000 is significantly worse than the England average rate of 494 and the West Midland average rate of 564. Alcohol related hospital admission and deaths are much higher amongst men in Coventry, they make over two-thirds of admissions and deaths.
- The importance of eating healthy food remains well recognised by the majority of residents (93%, however %); being able to cook from scratch every night is becoming more challenging for some, both due to time pressures and by not having everything needed in their kitchen to do so.
- Responses to the Active Lives Survey in 2020/21 gives an estimate that 59% of adults in Coventry take part in 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week, which is the level amount of physical activity recommended by the chief medical

officer. This is significantly lower than the West Midlands (63%) and England (66%) averages

- At reception, Coventry's obesity rate is similar to the England average; but by year 6, the city's obesity rate is higher than the England average.
- It is important to understand that lifestyle factors are rooted in socio-economic conditions. To address health inequalities and establish an environment that promotes and preserves good health, it is important to acknowledge that lifestyle factors are rooted in socioeconomic conditions. Therefore, a citywide integrated working approach is needed.
- Priorities around improving access to parks and green spaces, reducing loneliness and social isolation, hyper local community interventions showcasing services to improve health and wellbeing have been identified to support and promote communities' health and lifestyles.