

**‘We make a living by
what we get, but we
make a life by what
we give.’**

Winston Churchill

**Let's
shine
a light
on local needs
and inspiring
local giving**



The Spire, High Street, Poole, BH15 1DF.
Telephone: 01202 670815
Email: admin@dorsetcf.org
www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org

 /DorsetCF
 @DorsetComFnd
 Dorset Community Foundation

We would like to thank the
following who helped us produce
this report:

**wates**
foundation

 **Bournemouth**
University

 **talbotvillagetrust**
A GRANT GIVING CHARITY

 **BARCLAYS**



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Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of Hidden Dorset. Many of you may remember our first edition in 2015 which illustrated the deprivation existing in Dorset, exhibiting the need for community action and philanthropy.



Our aim is that this edition of Hidden Dorset is more than just a report on how things are. We want it to form the basis of an ongoing commitment to understanding the needs and challenges in the county, to bring people together to tackle those needs and create a mechanism for tracking progress and demonstrating positive impact.

We'll be using Hidden Dorset to inform our strategy and improve our grant making, but we want it to have a wider purpose. Our aim is that it will help groups demonstrate the need for their projects, start conversations between donors and recipients, unite communities over a common purpose and bring together representatives from the private, public and voluntary sectors for the good of the county as a whole. We realise that this may take time but we want to highlight that we see this report as a catalyst for action.

The report suggests that some of our strengths can also be the source of our weaknesses and vice versa. For example, the general affluence of the county can exacerbate the problems of those who are struggling to make ends meet, but it is in some of the most disadvantaged areas where you will find some of the strongest communities.

From existing data we have created this published summary drawing out existing issues that we see as the most important, marrying them to case studies of work going on to alleviate the problems associated with those issues and suggesting further questions to instigate discussion and debate. This is a starting point to help us decide where we need to focus our attention, to identify the role we at Dorset Community Foundation can play in making a difference and to inspire others to take action. I welcome your input to this debate and would be delighted to hear from you at jon@dorsetcf.org about any of the issues raised.

This is an exciting time for the Foundation. We are delighted with the report and the partnerships that have developed during the project. We hope you enjoy it and find it useful. But the true value of Hidden Dorset isn't just in the information showcased in these pages, it's in what we do with it.

Jon Yates
Chief Executive



To create Hidden Dorset we have brought together the latest available statistical data to produce a comprehensive document, available to view on our website at dorsetcommunityfoundation.org.

This research shows that Dorset is a county of contrasts – between rich and poor, rural and urban, tradition and innovation.

A County of Contrasts



Bournemouth

has not only a popular and successful **tourism industry** but is home to a thriving **financial services and business sector**, including a fast-growing cluster of **creative and digital businesses** partly driven by graduates from **Bournemouth University**. Despite this prosperity, social needs in the district are arguably the most acute in Dorset and many working people are struggling to make ends meet; Bournemouth has the **highest proportion of households in fuel poverty** in Dorset at 12.2%, the **most areas in the top 20% most income deprived** and the **highest proportion of its population who are unemployed**. House sale prices and market rents are closer to what you would expect in London and the many seasonal jobs, zero-hour and fixed term contracts may compound the problems of the working poor. It is also the **worst area for premature deaths** in Dorset, and has the **most people over 60 years affected by income deprivation**.

Christchurch

is home to many **historic buildings**, a **picturesque harbour**, and **Bournemouth International Airport**. It has **fewer children living in low income families** and one of the **lowest proportions of households in fuel poverty** in Dorset. Residents achieve the **highest gross weekly earnings** in the county (4.3% higher than the **national average**). Despite this generally high standard of living, Christchurch has **two areas in the top 20% most deprived** in England (East and West Somerford), where some residents live hand to mouth and the area faces difficult problems such as anti-social behaviour and low aspirations in young people. Christchurch also

has the **highest proportion of older people in its population** in Dorset. **Nearly 1 in 3 people are age 65 – 90** and as such need additional support to address the **higher risks of long-term illness, mobility problems and acute loneliness**.

East Dorset

performs well across deprivation measures compared both locally and nationally, with **48 of its 57 areas in the top 50% least deprived neighbourhoods** in England. **Health, crime, fuel poverty, income and employment deprivation are all low** compared to the local and national picture. However, the district also has one of the **highest gender pay gaps** (a difference of £75 in gross weekly earnings) and next to West Dorset, it has the **next highest number of foodbanks** in the county, suggesting there are families living in poverty and deprivation amongst relative affluence. These families are likely to live in areas that score less favourably on the deprivation indices, namely parts of Wimborne, Corfe Mullen, Ferndown, Trickett's Cross and Three Legged Cross.

North Dorset

is a rural and agricultural area with **attractive, chocolate-box towns and villages** and strong **associations with novelist and poet Thomas Hardy**. It has one of the **lowest crime rates** and the **highest self-reported happiness levels** in Dorset. However, there are hidden problems behind this charming rural scene. Evidence shows **high levels of older residents affected by income deprivation and fuel poverty**; the pretty cottage in a quaint hamlet may be hiding an older person who is isolated and lonely, particularly in the winter when they may not be able to afford to heat their home and are frightened to go outside as the cobbled streets become slippery. **The district has the lowest average weekly earnings in Dorset**, which are 11% lower than the national average. Almost all of the areas within North Dorset are in England's **top 50% most affected by barriers to housing and services**.



Poole

is a busy tourist town, boasting a **historic maritime history** and the second largest natural harbour in the world. It is home to the **RNLI** and **Sunseeker International** and its beautiful beaches include the world-famous **Sandbanks beach**; the most expensive coastal area to buy property in the UK. However, the lives of the elite living in Sandbanks contrasts starkly with everyday life for many residents. Poole was identified in a 2017 survey to be the **least affordable place to rent a flat in the UK**. Particular neighbourhoods are severely affected by deprivation such as Poole Town, Alderney and Hamworthy West, and there are **17 areas in the top 20% most educationally deprived in England**. There is also a growing concern around loneliness; **around 3,600 older people may often feel lonely** in Poole. The Borough has six neighbourhoods where a **high number of older people aged 65+ provide more than 20 hours of care a week**.

Purbeck

is well known for its **natural beauty**, including heathland, woodland, dunes & beaches, and the internationally renowned Jurassic coastline. Swanage and Wareham are **popular with visitors**. Deprivation is generally low and there are **fewer children living in low income families**. Behind this idyllic image, **21 of its 29 areas experience education deprivation** and there are isolated pockets where residents face disadvantage; Langton Matravers has **high proportions of rural child poverty**, Lytchett Minster and Upton have a higher proportion of **older people affected by income deprivation** and individuals of Gypsy/Irish Traveller descent have a particularly **high risk of unemployment (1 in 2 people)**. Once again, it is easy to overlook the

needs of people facing such disadvantage when they are hidden in areas considered to be some of the most beautiful in the UK.



West Dorset

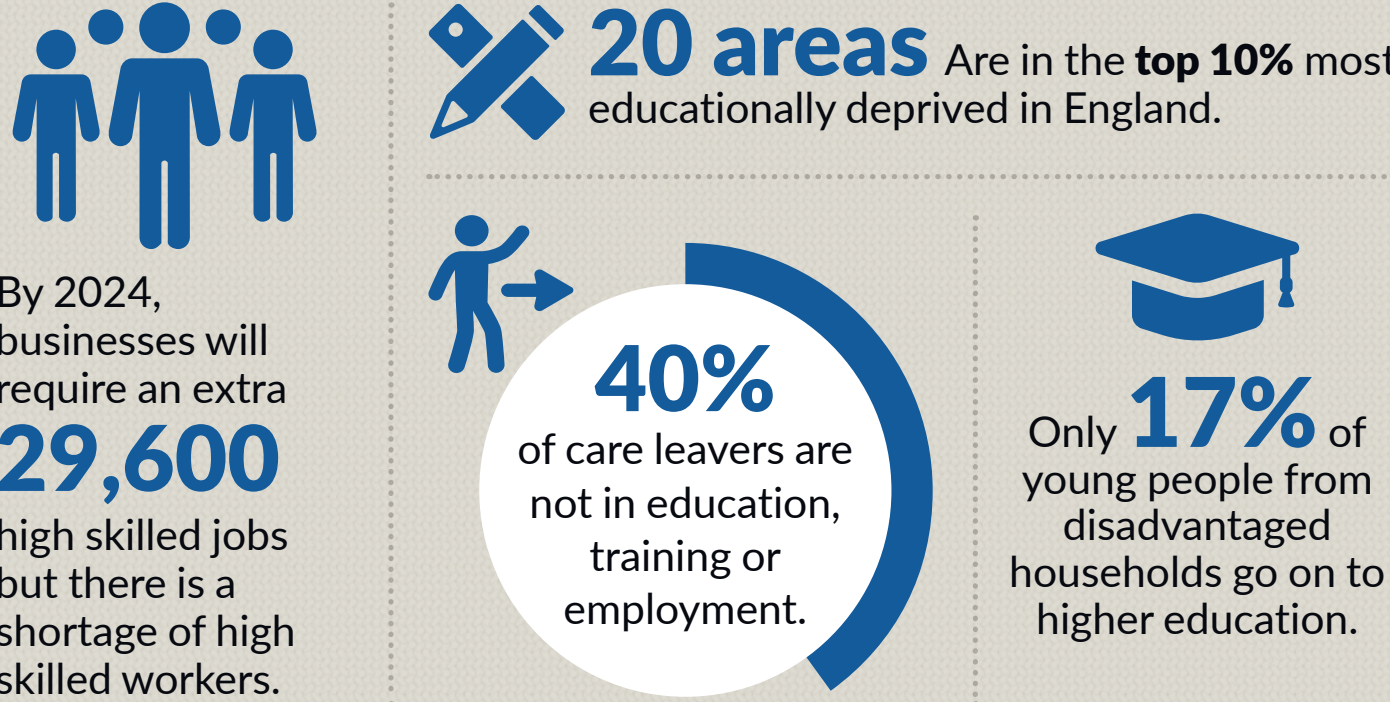
is a rural area, home to many **attractive market towns and quintessentially English villages**. It is steeped in **history and culture** and boasts the world famous **Jurassic coastline**. Some might be surprised to know that within this rich heritage many residents are living in a poverty trap. Families struggle to access housing and services due to **poor public transport** and the **high cost of housing** in proportion to average earnings. The district has the **most foodbanks in Dorset**. Pockets of particular deprivation are found in Bridport, Lyme Regis, Beaminster, Dorchester, Charminster and Sherborne. Families in these areas can find it difficult to afford basic living costs and to support their children; the cost of travel in such a rural area can prevent young people accessing further education and other opportunities.

Weymouth & Portland

has **key maritime connections**, a well-established **tourism and service industry**, a **beach rated amongst the best in the UK & Europe** and was chosen to host **watersport and sailing events at the 2012 Olympics**. This outward success is in conflict with the living experience of residents suffering from severe and multiple deprivation. Weymouth & Portland is the **third worst of 324 local authorities in England for social mobility** and has the **next most areas in the top 20% for Income and Employment deprivation** in Dorset, after Bournemouth. It also has the **highest proportion of children living in low income families in the county at 20%**. It is perhaps no wonder that Weymouth has the **busiest foodbank in Dorset**, feeding over 2,500 people each year.

Main findings

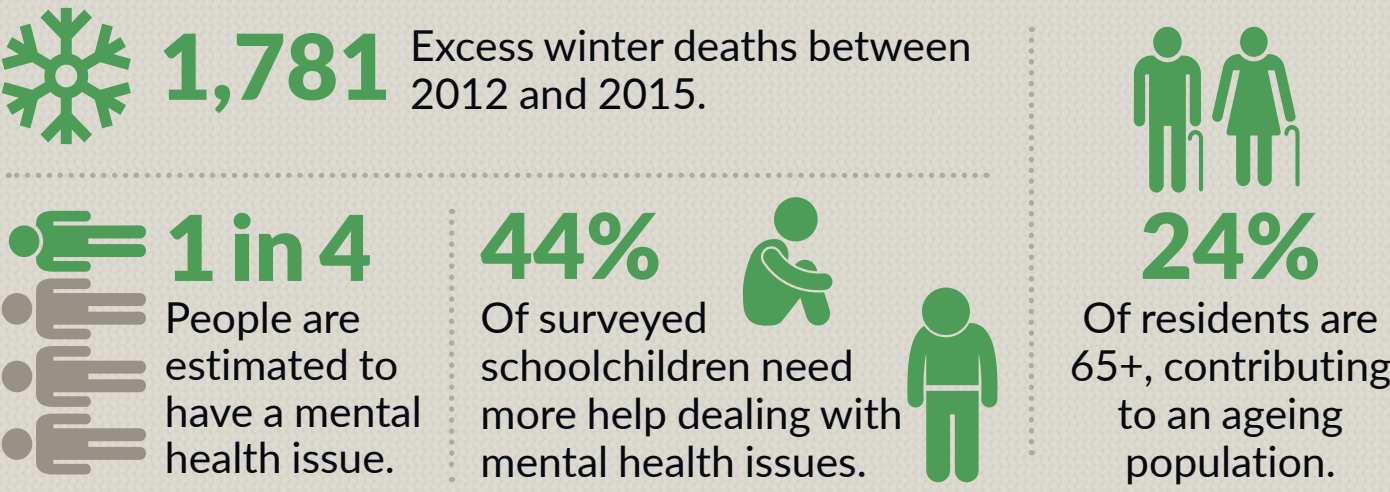
WORK, EDUCATION AND TRAINING



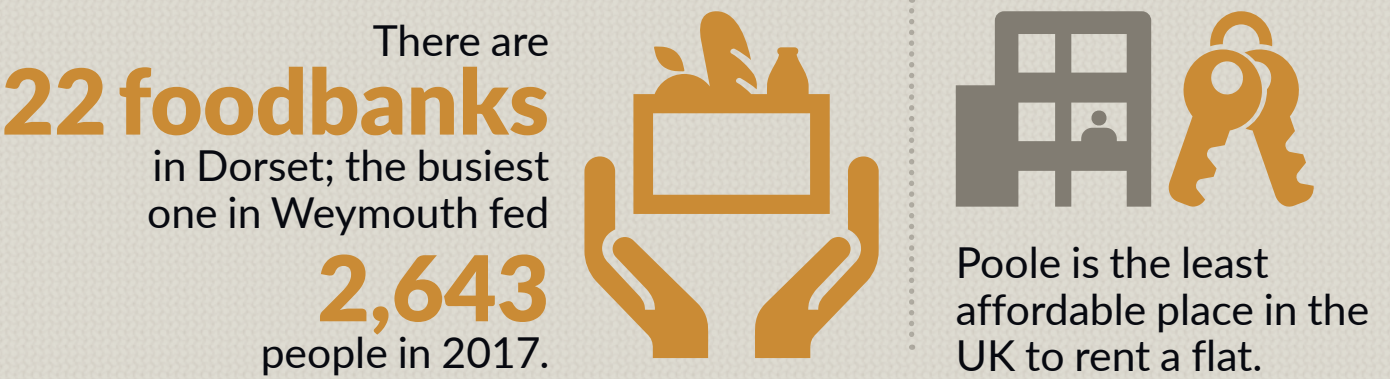
LONELINESS AND ISOLATION



HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH



DISADVANTAGE AND POVERTY



Disadvantage & Poverty

Research Headlines

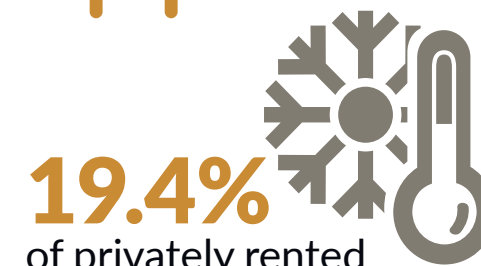
IN DORSET...



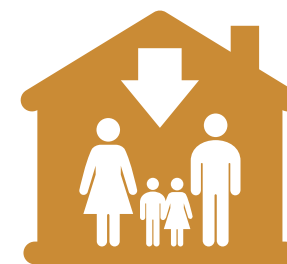
Weymouth & Portland area is the **third worst** in England for social mobility.



Looking at multiple deprivation factors, **1 in 3+** areas are ranked within the top **50%** most deprived in England. 32 of these are in the top **20%**.



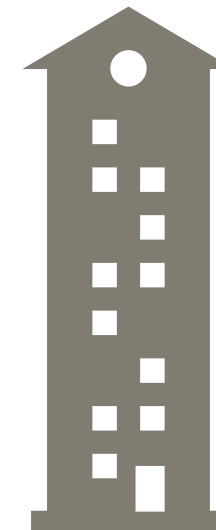
19.4% of privately rented households are in fuel poverty, compared to **7.7%** in owner occupied properties.



18,300

Children live in low income families in Dorset. Bournemouth and Weymouth & Portland have the highest proportion of children living in low income families.

Private sector rents expected to rise by **62%** (2012-2022).



- Over a **third** of households in private sector tenancies in Bournemouth are reliant on housing benefit.
- **485** children and young people are in care (an increase of **27%** between 2015/2017).
- **1 in 8** recorded crimes in Dorset were classified as domestic abuse-related in the year ending March 2017.
- Rates of unemployment are high amongst the Gypsy/Irish Traveller community in Purbeck, at **50%**.
- In 2017 there were **415** recorded homeless people in Dorset including **91** rough sleepers, **50%** of whom were located in Bournemouth.



Poole is the least affordable place in the UK to rent a flat.

10%

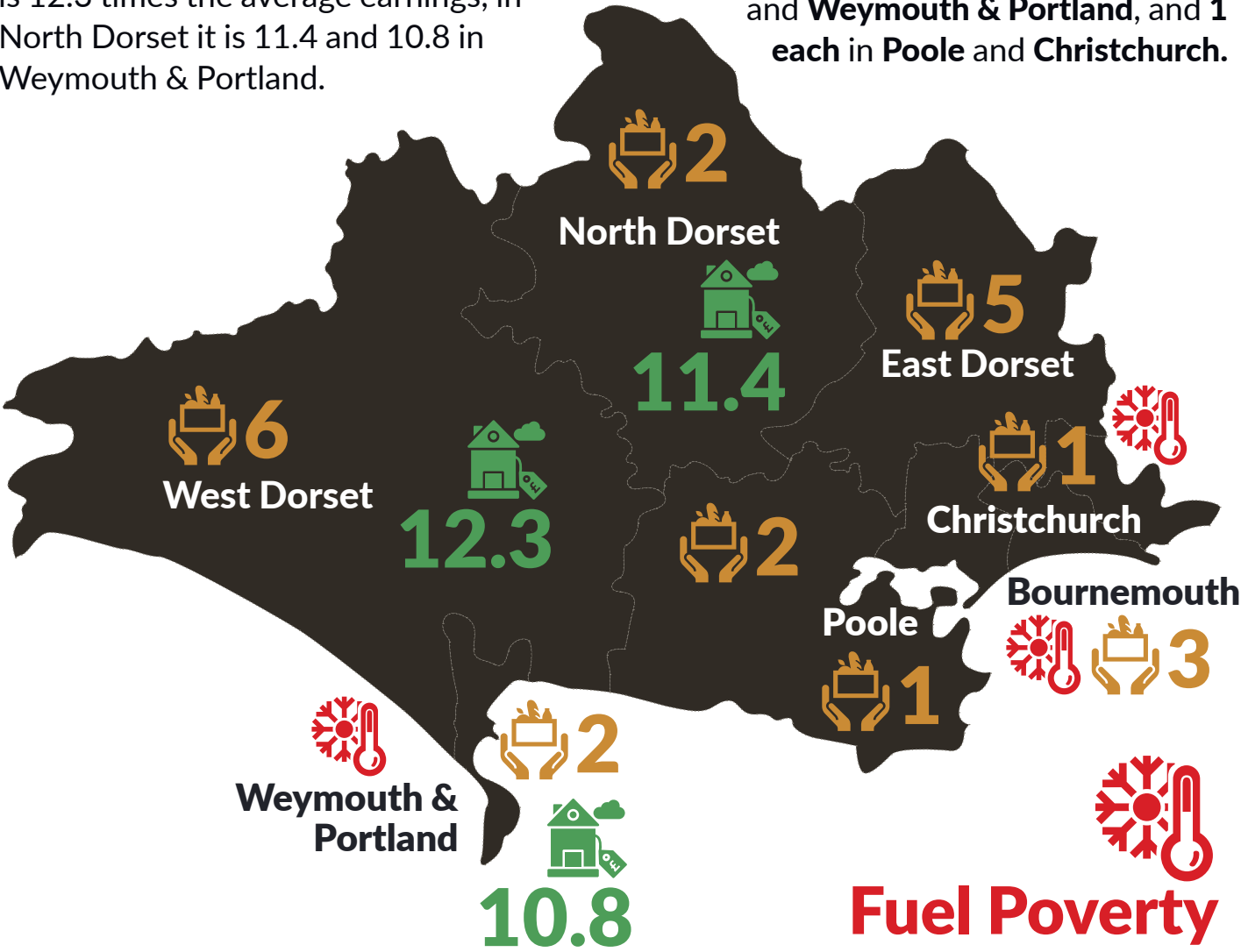
Most of the people aged **60+** affected by income deprivation live in Bournemouth where there are **nine areas** in the top **10%** most deprived.



AREA COMPARISONS

Housing

In **West Dorset** the average house price is 12.3 times the average earnings, in North Dorset it is 11.4 and 10.8 in Weymouth & Portland.



Foodbanks

22 Voluntary foodbanks operate across Dorset – **6 in West Dorset**, **5 in East Dorset**, **3 in Bournemouth**, **2 in each of North Dorset, Purbeck and Weymouth & Portland**, and **1 each in Poole and Christchurch**.

HOW IS DCF HELPING?

- ✚ We have funded numerous charities and community groups which address the impact of homelessness and poverty.
- ✚ Our Surviving Winter Fund has supported thousands of people in fuel poverty over the last seven years by 'recycling' unwanted Winter Fuel Allowances.

Fuel Poverty

Bournemouth has the highest proportion of households in fuel poverty at 12.2%, followed by **c** at 10.6%. **Christchurch** and **East Dorset** have the lowest proportion at 8.6% and 8.5% respectively.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

How can we improve social mobility in particularly disadvantaged areas such as Weymouth and Portland?

What is the best way to support local children living in poverty – through educational opportunities, family support or mentoring activities?

How can we solve the root cause of fuel poverty in Dorset, as it is one of the biggest issues facing vulnerable and older residents?

How do we better understand the needs of minority groups who face unique challenges and disadvantage?

LOCAL SOLUTION

Christchurch Open Awards Centre – The Food Pantry is a new project that supplies emergency food parcels to families in crisis.

DCF has supported this project which mostly helps working families on a low income make ends meet.

Jae Harris, the project coordinator explained: 'The majority of the families that seek help are actually working and on a low income. The project was set up fairly recently and we expected to help around 150 families, but we already are helping about 230, as we also now take referrals from the local food bank. On delivery day people in need que up for an hour before we open! Most people are unaware of the project and are very shocked of the level of need in Christchurch, an area which is perceived to be relatively affluent.'



Work, Education & Training

Research Headlines

IN DORSET...

- By 2024, local businesses are expected to require an extra **29,600** high skilled jobs but research shows that we have a shortage of high skilled workers. Nationally, **9 in 10** STEM employers have found it difficult to hire qualified staff.
- In Weymouth & Portland more than **1 in 10** people earn less than the voluntary living wage.
- North Dorset residents earn the lowest weekly pay at **£496.80** (**11%** lower than the national average) whereas Christchurch residents get the highest weekly pay at **£576.60** (**4.3%** above the national average).
- Dorset's working age population (**16-64**) forms a smaller proportion of the population than the national average. About a third of people are already **over 50**.
- Only **17%** of young people from financially disadvantaged households (i.e. pupils receiving Free School Meals) enter into higher education by 19, compared to **41%** of non-FSM pupils.



40%
of care leavers are not in education, training or employment.



76,000
jobs pay less than the living wage (£7.83).



Just over **1 in 3** of all lone parents in Dorset are not in employment.



Only **17%** of young people from disadvantaged households go on to university education.

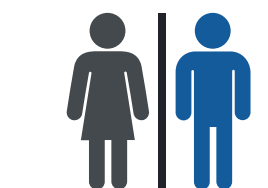
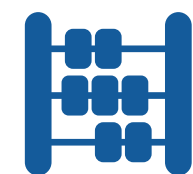
- **760** 16 and 17 year old NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) are known to local authorities in our county, **63%** living in shire Dorset.
- **20** areas fall within the top **10%** most educationally deprived in England.
- Only about **3%** of disadvantaged young people enter higher education at a 'selective university' (one of the most prestigious universities in the UK).



26,000

people claim Employment Support Allowance due to a health condition or disability.

Only **49%** of children from financially disadvantaged households had achieved a 'good level of development' by the **age of 5** and less than **35%** reached expected levels in reading, writing and maths at key stage 2 (**age 7-11**).

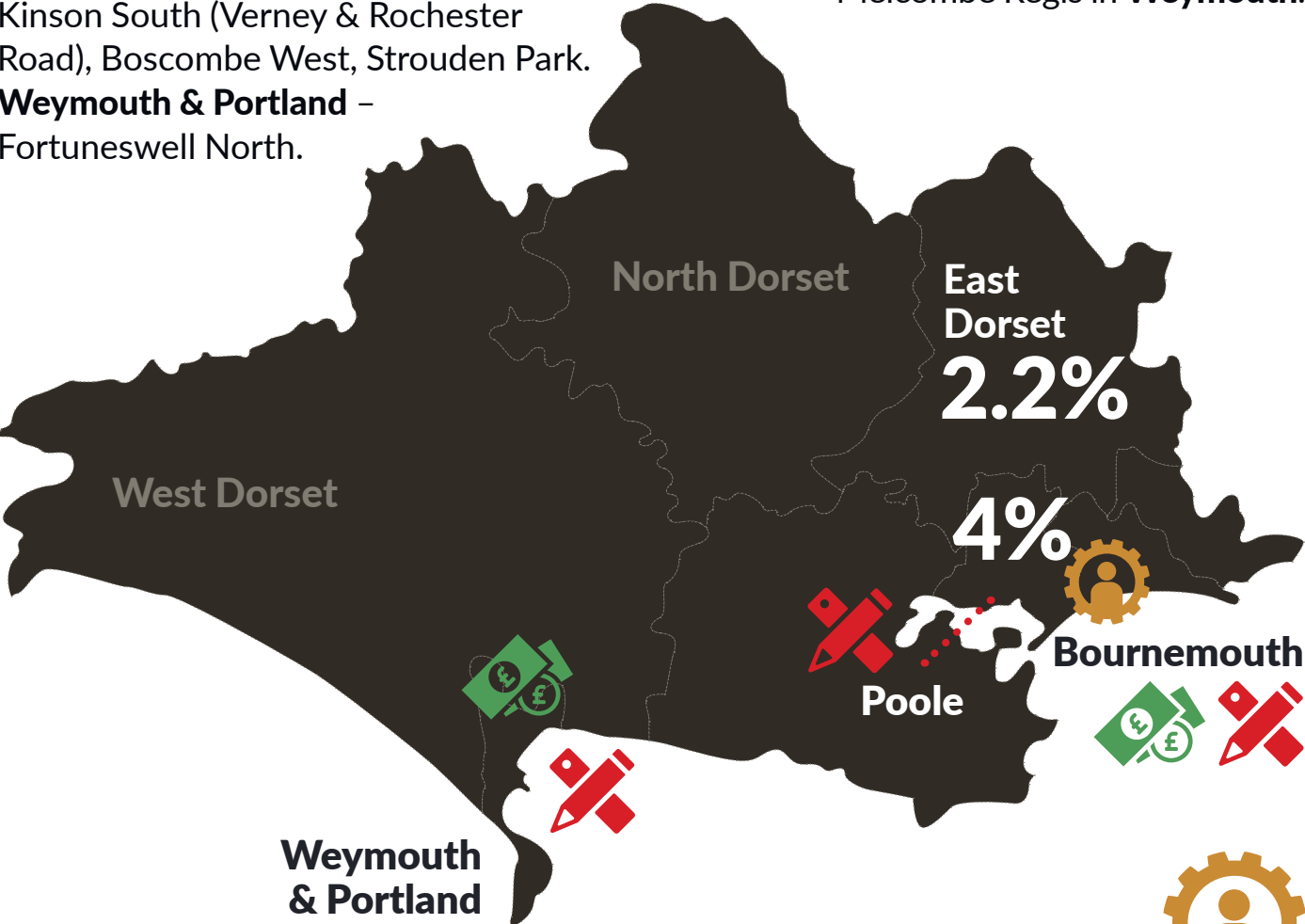


£3,900
average annual difference in earnings between men and women in North Dorset, East Dorset, Poole and Christchurch.

AREA COMPARISONS

Education Deprivation

Areas within Dorset falling in the top 5% most educationally deprived in England are: **Poole** – Melbury Ave, Canford Way, Hamworthy West. **Bournemouth** – Kinson South (Verney & Rochester Road), Boscombe West, Strouden Park. **Weymouth & Portland** – Fortuneswell North.



HOW IS DCF HELPING?

- ✚ We work in partnership with local engineering company Superior to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) courses at college.
- ✚ Our DCF Bursary Fund helps disadvantaged young people access or continue vocational courses at college.

Employment & Income Deprivation

Areas of highest employment deprivation in Dorset falling in the top 5% in England are: Boscombe West (Churchill Gardens & The Crescent area) in **Bournemouth** and Melcombe Regis in **Weymouth**.

Unemployment
Bournemouth has the highest unemployment at 4%.
East Dorset has the lowest unemployment at 2.2%.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Poverty and deprivation negatively affect educational attainment and employment prospects – can philanthropic giving help with this issue?

How does the voluntary sector continue to support the growing population of older people when the percentage of our working population is getting smaller?

While the state has legal responsibility to provide the best education possible, what role can communities and businesses play in supporting young people achieve their potential?

LOCAL SOLUTION

Samee Employability Centre supports people with ambitions for self-employment.



Since Samee was set up four years ago it has helped 294 clients of which 58% are disabled and many have been out of work for more than five years with over 50% claiming Employment and Support Allowance. DCF supported a pilot project providing tailored business start-up support for disabled clients.

Samantha Everard of Samee explained: 'The supported project has only been running for six months and we have already engaged 68 Dorset based disabled entrepreneurs. The financial support from DCF has helped us to successfully support 13 disabled clients into self-employment and three into employment with our added advocacy support.'

The Samee team



Health, Wellbeing & Mental Health

Research Headlines

IN DORSET...



24%

An ageing population with **24%** of residents over retirement age.



1 in 5

Local residents suffering with a long-term health problem or disability.



44%

Half of surveyed schoolchildren want more help dealing with stress and **44%** need support to deal with mental health issues.

An estimated **20,000** people of all ages live with some degree of learning disability, with only **3,721** on GP registers.



1,781

Excess winter deaths (2012-15) mostly amongst the elderly.



Bournemouth is one of the **worst local authorities** for premature deaths and is one of the worst in England for lung cancer, lung disease, heart disease & strokes.



An estimated **13,000** people live with dementia, but only **64%** have received a diagnosis.



132,000

People (**1 in 4**) estimated to have a mental health issue.



83,000+

Unpaid carers, a third of them are **over 65**.

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group predicts a **5.4%** increase of patients on the Serious Mental Health (SMH) practice register by 2022/23.

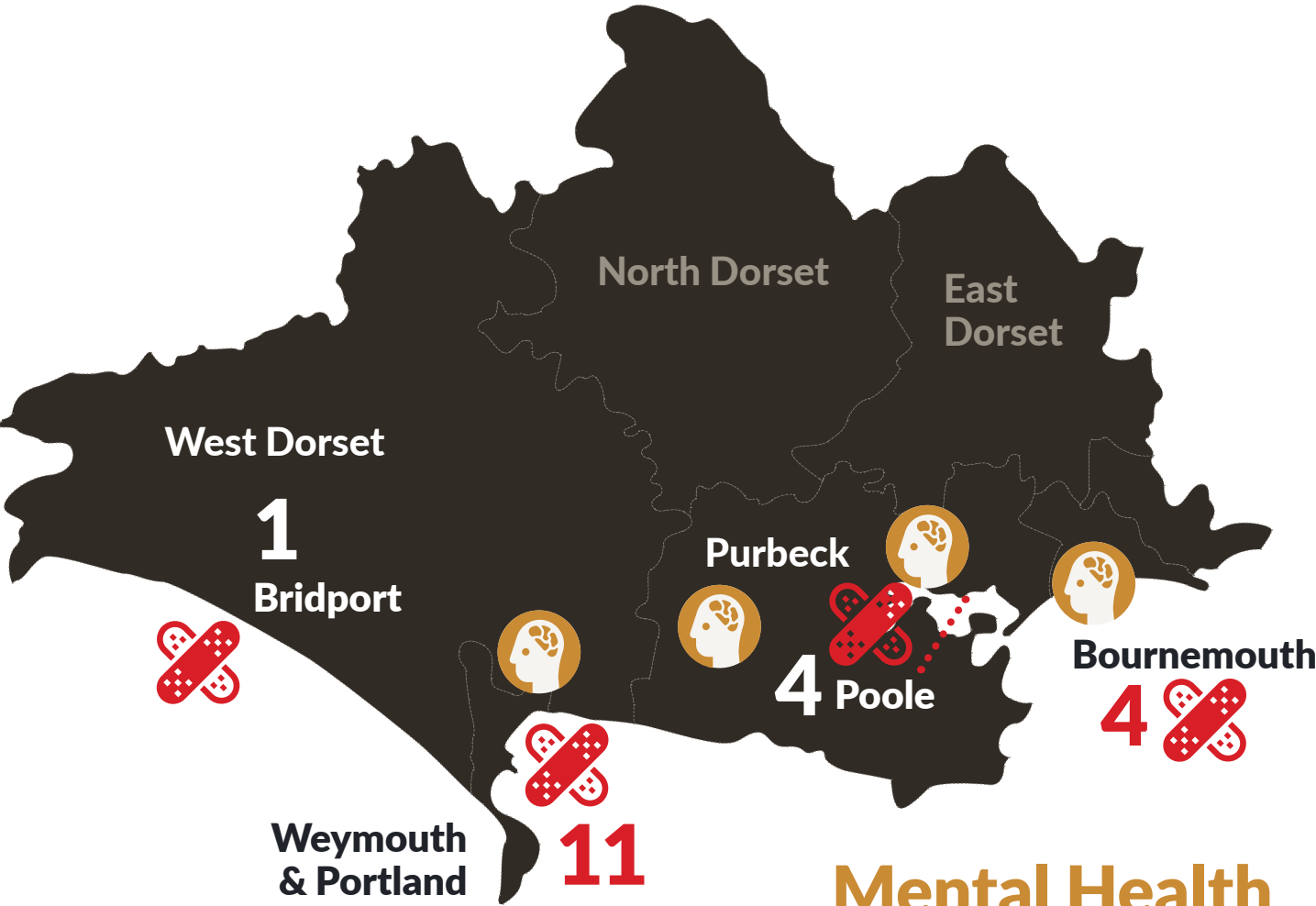


AREA COMPARISONS



Health Deprivation

Bournemouth has four areas in the top 10% most health deprived in England and a further 13 in the top 20%. **Weymouth & Portland** has 11 areas in the top 20% most health deprived. **Poole** also has four areas in the top 20% most health deprived and **Bridport** in **West Dorset** has one.



HOW IS DCF HELPING?

- ✚ We launched a dedicated mental health fund in 2018 – The Graham Burrough Fund for Mental Health.
- ✚ Through the Comic Relief Fund we have supported numerous health and wellbeing projects such as sports sessions and community cooking initiatives.

Mental Health

Five Dorset localities have a higher than national prevalence for depression: **Weymouth & Portland, Poole North, East & Central Bournemouth, Purbeck.**



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What role do community activities targeting isolation have in addressing mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety?

Can we as a county do more to support carers? There is a lack of respite provision for unpaid carers across Dorset.

Does the Winter Fuel Allowance need to be means tested and only offered to people who really need it?

Over half of people aged 65 and over have a life-limiting illness. How can we support them and ensure that they don't remain hidden and unsupported in their homes?

LOCAL SOLUTION

Burngate Stone Carving Centre – the 'Out of the Blue' project supported by DCF has a positive impact on the lives of people with mental health issues.

It works by improving self-esteem, mental wellbeing, aspirations & social networks, leading to healthier lifestyles and preventing deterioration and statutory intervention. Arts are a powerful way to address poor mental health and provide a practical therapeutic alternative to traditional services.

'Beneficiaries are gaining new skills, along with a new-found sense of purpose and hope while improving self-esteem and confidence within a safe environment, meeting new people and finding new interests and opportunities.' Kate Cross, Burngate Stone Carving Centre.



'Out of the Blue' project participants



Loneliness & Isolation

Research Headlines

UK WIDE...

- Loneliness is associated with an increased risk of developing coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, disability, the onset of cognitive decline, clinical dementia and depression.
- **8 out of 10** carers feel lonely or socially isolated and a quarter haven't had a day off from caring for 5+ years.
- **9 out of 10** carers under 24 years old felt lonely or socially isolated due to their caring role.
- **52%** of lone parents suffer from loneliness and **61%** were worried that their child was lonely some or all the time.
- **67%** of disabled people and 85% of young disabled adults (**18-34**) feel lonely, and on a typical day one in eight (**13%**) disabled people had under half an hour interaction with someone else.
- **41%** of lesbian, gay and bisexual older people live alone compared to **28%** of heterosexual older people, making them at higher risk of loneliness and mental health issues.

1 / 20
adults and
1 / 10
older people
report often
feeling lonely.



IN DORSET...



1 in 5
households in shire
Dorset are vulnerable to
social isolation/
loneliness because of
rurality and an increasing
elderly population.



30%
of carers in
Dorset are over
65 years of age.

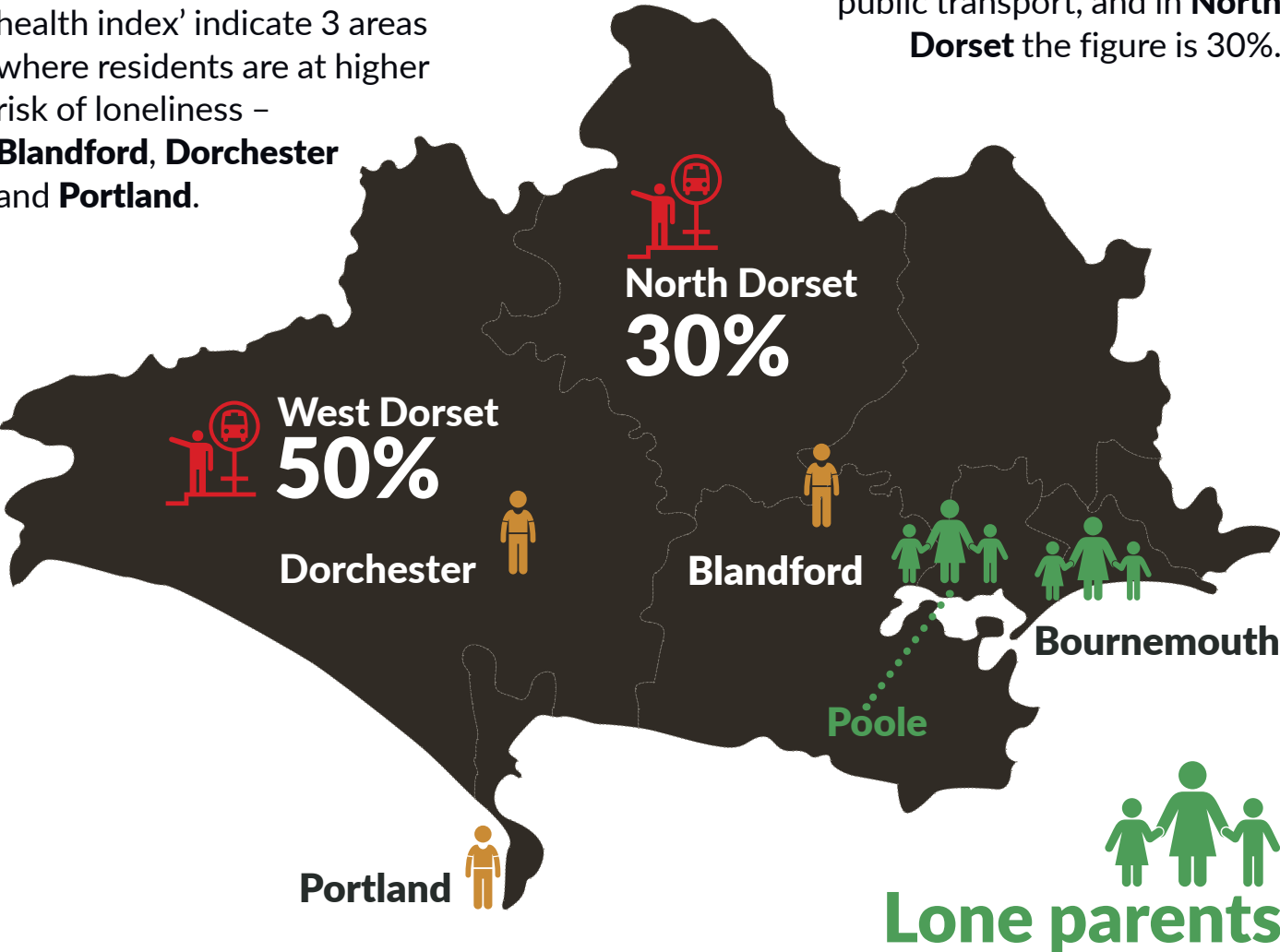


15% +
of the shire Dorset population has no
easily accessible public transport connection
to an acute hospital and it can take more
than 90 minutes to reach one.

AREA COMPARISONS



Risk
Dorset County Council's 'social isolation index' and 'mental health index' indicate 3 areas where residents are at higher risk of loneliness – **Blandford, Dorchester** and **Portland**.



Access
Just under 50% of **West Dorset** have no easily accessible public transport, and in **North Dorset** the figure is 30%.



Lone parents
Just under 50% of the lone parents in Dorset live in **Bournemouth** and **Poole**.

HOW IS DCF HELPING?

- ✚ The Toby's of Shaftesbury Fund aims to address social isolation amongst young people.
- ✚ For many years we have supported local groups providing services for older people as one of the priority areas of the Neighbourhood Fund.
- ✚ We are working with Wessex Water to launch a specific fund to support community cohesion projects.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Due to the rural nature of the county and the infrastructure pressures, what can the voluntary sector do to help ease the strain and improve access to local services?

How do strong communities play a role in helping with social and rural isolation?

How can we support the voluntary sector to celebrate diversity?

If prevention is of such a high importance, how shall we work to address factors such as poor health, lower income, retirement, physical environment and public transport that contribute to loneliness and isolation?

LOCAL SOLUTION

Poole Men's Shed – a project where older men meet to socialise and enjoy community activities whilst working on different craft projects.

Many older men struggle with loss of social networks when they retire and many of the current services suit women better so this initiative is a unique way of engaging them.

Ian Price, Poole Men's Sheds explained: 'The grant from DCF will enable us to expand our services and offer places for new members. We provide a unique opportunity for retired and older men to meet, socialise and enjoy community activities which reduce isolation and create social bonds which improve wellbeing.'

One of the beneficiaries shared his story: 'After my wife passed away I lost my friends as they had moved or died or were just not available. I found that I was getting up of a morning and watching TV until late at night. I had lost the art of

making conversation – it was a very bad period. The companionship and interest has turned my life around – I can talk to people other than doctors and nurses, my dark thoughts are a thing of the past.'



Our Ambassador John Young (left) with members of Poole Men's Shed



Inspiring local giving

At DCF we firmly believe that 'Seeing is Believing' and we are inviting you to join us on our regular visits to funded projects. You don't have to be a donor or a fundholder – just email us at admin@dorsetcf.org to enquire.

We have identified many issues in this report. We believe in the power of local people addressing these via structured, impactful philanthropy and local giving. Here are ways we can help you achieve the change you want to see:

Individuals and Families

- Create a charitable fund to target a cause or area that is close to your heart
- Have as much or as little involvement as desired while we take care of governance
- See the effect of your giving via our impact reports
- See the results in person on our specially arranged visits or retain anonymity if you wish
- Create a legacy in your estate to continue to support the things you care about

David and Tracey Collins have created a fund using existing family charitable assets in order to maximise the impact of their giving through our knowledge of local groups.



David and Tracey Collins

Professional Advisers

Flexible giving mechanisms to help with your client's wishes:

- Creating a charitable fund to target a cause or area close to their heart
- Managing an established trust - because of our wide objectives and geographical reach we are perfectly positioned to assume assets from closing down charities or charitable trusts to continue to fulfil the original objects, giving trustees peace of mind
- Creating a lasting legacy through a gift in a client's estate
- Working through you or directly with your client to achieve their aims
- Philanthropy services can enhance client engagement and achieve social good

'Now that I have been introduced to the philanthropy services the Foundation offers and have experience of setting up a Foundation legacy fund for a client, I would thoroughly recommend their giving mechanisms to everyone who wants to give back locally in a bespoke and impactful way.'



Lee Young from Frettons

Companies For your Corporate Social Responsibility:

- Create a fund that reflects your company's ethos
- Plan strategic charitable giving in line with business objectives and engage employees
- Develop public recognition or maintain anonymity
- Enhance your reputation with employees and stakeholders

DCF worked with Kitson & Trotman solicitors to utilise residual client balances they held to establish a new fund to support West Dorset causes.



Tracy Scammell from Kitson & Trotman and Jon Yates of DCF

'We are very pleased to be working with the Foundation as it has more than 18 years' experience in supporting local residents facing disadvantage.'

Mark Wallis and Superior supported Nathan through the Superior STEM Fund. Nathan has just been offered a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

'Working in partnership with DCF gives us the confidence we need that our bursary fund is making a real difference.'



Nathan and Mark Wallis from Superior

Charitable Trusts and Foundations

We manage a number of funds that have been set up as a result of local trusts transferring their assets to the Foundation so that the excellent work they have undertaken for many years is continued in perpetuity.

There are many reasons why a trust may consider transferring their assets to the Foundation and these include:

- The charitable objectives of the trust make it difficult to identify beneficiaries
- The assets of the trust are too small to have significant impact
- The work of administering the trust is becoming a concern for trustees, who are also finding it harder to recruit new and engaged trustees



Ros Capson, Pam Burrough and Lesley Archibald

'I am very happy indeed that such a viable future for the Trust has been established. I wish I had discovered just how the Foundation works at an earlier stage in our decision making. I feel very confident that Graham's legacy will be administered wisely and will continue, in his name, to help and cheer many others suffering mental health problems.'

Pam Burrough, former Chair of the Graham Burrough Charitable Trust.

Recent achievements

We are very proud to share that over the last 18 years we have raised an amazing **£10 million** and built an endowment of **£2.5m** to generate funds into the future through one off donations, regular donations, legacies and charitable trust transfers. In 2018, we launch The Tampon Tax Community Fund, Wessex Water Community Fund and re-open for applications the iWill fund and The Mars Goodness KNOWS Programme – contracted Funds we manage on behalf of the Government and local companies.

Here are some of our other recent achievements...

Bursaries to Young People

This year we are celebrating a total of 120 bursaries that have enabled local young people in difficult personal circumstances fulfil their educational potential. The generous legacy of the retired teacher Marjorie Gordon enabled us to set up The DCF Bursary Fund which will exist in perpetuity supporting our future workforce.



Above: Jacob Bond, a blacksmithing and welding student supported through the bursary fund

Neighbourhood Fund

This year, our Neighbourhood Fund gave out its 50th grant! Since it first launched in 2016 the fund has awarded grants to 29 groups supporting older people, 12 projects supporting people with mental health difficulties and 9 general disadvantage projects. In 2017, the fund was boosted by a £100,000 donation from a closing down charitable trust, which enabled us to support even more worthy projects.

Mental Health Fund

As this report highlights, mental health is one of the biggest issues affecting local communities and one in four local people are estimated to have some kind of mental health issue. In 2018, we completed transfer of The Graham Burrough Fund for Mental Health which enabled us to set up a new mental health fund.

The first grant from The Graham Burrough Fund for Mental Health supported the Borough Harmony Centre in Bridport



Left: The Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, Mr Angus Campbell meeting British Paratriathlon Champion Hannah Moore alongside Jonathan Greenwood and Ellie Maguire from DCF

Lord-Lieutenant's Fund for Young and Talented

Launched in 2017, this Fund aims to level the playing field for talented young sports people who may be unable to progress due to disadvantage. Over 45 grants have been made so far with some beneficiaries already achieving great things at regional, national and international competitions. Swimmer Jacob Peters has reached finals at both the World Junior Championships and Commonwealth Games (2018) and Para athlete Hannah Moore won the European Championships in 2018 (two years after having her foot amputated).



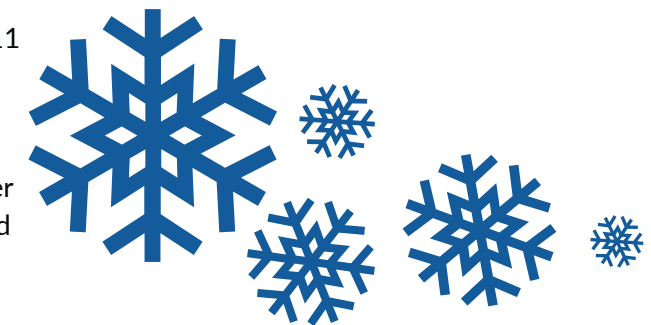
Jacob Peters, World Junior Championships and Commonwealth Games swimmer and Jasmine McCrea, GB swimmer were also supported through the fund

Surviving Winter Appeal

We have been running the Appeal since 2011 and during the winter of 2017/2018 we raised a record £75,000 helping over 220 local vulnerable people. Over half of them had existing health conditions such as cancer or lung problems and over 67% of them lived in hard to heat or park homes.

Mrs and Mrs W benefitted from the Appeal: *'Both my wife and I are disabled, and we have a very high gas and electric bill. Because of our disability we can't move around a lot, so we need to keep the house warm.'*

The Surviving Winter Appeal has supported hundreds of local older people across Dorset since it first launched seven years ago.

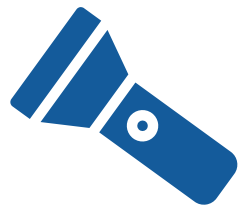


Surviving Winter Fund beneficiaries



Conclusion

This report has brought all the available data together to build a picture of need in our county.



We have produced it for three very important reasons:

1. To share the report altruistically with those who have a stake in Dorset
2. To inform our grant making strategy
3. To use as a Call to Action:
 - To Encourage Collaborative Action
 - To Encourage Philanthropy
 - To Encourage Conversation

To put it more succinctly we want this report to 'Shine a Light on Local Needs and Inspire Local Giving'.

We want to do this because we have a county of contrasts.

This report highlights the diversity present in our county across a range of measurements; the evidence is that for Dorset residents there can be very different experiences for people living in the same towns and villages.

Behind the statistics presented here there will be thousands of individuals with personal experiences that tell this story in human terms. The overall picture in the next decade is a population growing both in size and age in a county where the number of children living in low income families will also increase. This suggests that we have structural issues in our society that require structural responses.



We have a national trend that seems to be placing more reliance on the Charitable/Voluntary Sector to meet social need, alongside the reduction of statutory funding. This has created within the sector a situation where smaller charities are struggling to survive and where very large national charities are fundraising on an industrial scale.

Are these national charities best placed to meet the needs of society as a whole? If not, then how do we meet the structural issues we have affecting youth opportunity, social mobility, health and well-being, an ageing population, loneliness and isolation and shocking levels of fuel poverty. How can we collectively act now to level the playing field for our residents?

The overriding conversation we want to base on this report concerns the extent to which philanthropy and charitable giving needs to feature in a structural response. The available information presented here exhibits how complicated the picture is. We know that there are a great number of organisations, large and small, public and private, working tirelessly at a grassroots level to help people experiencing disadvantage in its many forms. We at Dorset Community Foundation believe in the need to grow local philanthropy as an integral part of creating solutions to address the contrasts we see through the work of these dedicated people and organisations. Put simply:

- We believe in a strong voluntary sector helping those most in need
- We believe in the power of philanthropy to achieve social good in support of that strong voluntary sector

Dorset Community Foundation is a catalyst for action by working collaboratively with all sections of society.

A catalyst for action...

Through our work we see many of the well run local charitable and voluntary organisations receive the funding they need and deserve. We also see, just as crucially, local people actively and joyously contributing what they can to help address the local issues that they care about. This is philanthropy in the modern sense of a community of people from all walks of life giving according to their means towards the greater good.

I hope that something in this report has ignited an interest in you as to my mind there has never been a greater need to generate local, collective action to address local social issues.

We at Dorset Community Foundation will continue to work tirelessly to help more people. If you would like to join us in that endeavour, please get in touch. Whatever thoughts you have as result of reading this report I would be delighted if you would share them with me.

Jon Yates, Chief Executive
Dorset Community Foundation
jon@dorsetcf.org
01202 670815
The Spire, High Street, Poole, BH15 1DF



Representatives from groups funded at the September 2017 round of the Neighbourhood Fund.



We would like to thank all the hard-working local charities and community groups which help tackle issues raised in this report.



DCF is one of 46 Community Foundations across the UK and collectively we have distributed over £77 million in grants to date. We also manage a total endowment of £580 million, which will provide a source of income for charitable giving for generations to come.