



Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation

Community

Health Check

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Community Health Check

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Community Health Check

Introduction

The Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation is the expert in revitalising communities in our area through effective charitable giving.

We invest in order to tackle disadvantage, and to create opportunities that otherwise would not exist for people in our area.

In order to be effective, the Community Foundation needs to know what is going on in our area. Our primary source of information is what we learn from our everyday work with local people who are involved in making a difference.

We also use statistics and research to help us put this more direct feedback into context. The health check tables that comprise this report show some of this information so that all of our stakeholders have access to the big picture of the issues that we face together.

We make sure that the grants we make reflect the needs of our communities and where those needs are concentrated.

No-one is better positioned than the Community Foundation to help clients invest their charitable giving where it is needed most and can be used to maximum effect.

Statistics Used

This report explores different aspects of community health using *indicators* like access to services, provision for the elderly, income levels, accessibility of services and educational achievement.

The report is based on the *Indices of Deprivation* which break the country down into a series of small geographical regions (called SOA's), which are used for survey and monitoring purposes.

The data is presented in the form of tables presented by Local Authority area.

For each *indicator* we show a table of how many SOA's fall into different categories:

Category description	Technical description
Very unhealthy	Areas ranked within the worst 10% nationally
Unhealthy	Areas ranked within the worst 20% nationally
Less healthy than the average	Remaining areas below the national average
Healthier than the average	Area ranks better than the national average

1. Employment Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure the rates of involuntary exclusion from work through unemployment and physical incapacity, for each smaller area (SOA).

In this table “unhealthy” correlates with a higher incidence of exclusion from employment.

Employment Indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	6	14	51	58.68%
Bedford	102	3	9	26	37.25%
South Bedfordshire	72	0	2	17	26.39%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	0	0	3	3.66%
Overall	377	9	25	97	31.50%

2. Children’s Wellbeing Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure the numbers of children living in households, where high levels of benefit and tax credits are being claimed, for each smaller area (SOA).

In this table “unhealthy” correlates with a higher incidence of children living in households where benefits and tax credits are being claimed ie income levels are low.

Child Poverty Indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	16	30	42	72.73%
Bedford	102	9	9	24	41.18%
South Bedfordshire	72	0	5	23	38.89%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	0	0	12	14.63%
Overall	377	25	44	101	41.86%

3. Community Security Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure the incidence of crimes against property, and crimes against other persons, for each smaller area (SOA).

In this table “unhealthy” correlates with a higher incidence of the specified crimes.

Crime and Disorder Indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	12	17	74	85.12%
Bedford	102	6	7	33	45.10%
South Bedfordshire	72	3	2	21	36.11%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	0	0	10	12.20%
Overall	377	21	26	138	44.63%

4. Education and Skills Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure and combine the performance of children in school, absenteeism, and numbers of adults with no formal qualifications, for each smaller area (SOA).

In this table “unhealthy” correlates with lower levels of education and skills.

Education and Skills indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	3	27	64	77.69%
Bedford	102	5	12	29	45.10%
South Bedfordshire	72	4	5	23	44.44%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	1	1	12	17.07%
Overall	377	13	45	128	46.08%

5. Senior Citizens Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure the numbers of people aged over 60 claiming a range of income related benefits and access to key services, for each smaller area (SOA).

In this table “unhealthy” correlates with a higher incidence of hardship among those aged over 60.

Deprivation Indices for the Elderly					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	18	21	36	61.98%
Bedford	102	7	6	25	37.25%
South Bedfordshire	72	0	3	21	33.33%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	1	1	17	23.17%
Overall	377	26	31	99	38.94%

6. Physical Wellbeing Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure the rates of people who die prematurely, whose quality of life is impaired by poor health, or who are disabled, for each smaller area (SOA).

In this table “unhealthy” correlates with lower levels physical well being.

Health Deprivation Indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	5	11	60	62.81%
Bedford	102	3	4	32	38.24%
South Bedfordshire	72	0	0	11	15.28%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	0	0	3	3.66%
Overall	377	8	15	106	30.00%

7. Access to Housing and Services Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure the barriers that prevent access to housing and key local services, such as doctors; post offices; food shops and schools, for each smaller area (SOA). The statistics capture 'geographical barriers' such as distance to travel and 'wider barriers' such as affordability.

In this table "unhealthy" correlates with lower levels of access to housing and services.

Housing and Services Deprivation Indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	0	13	66	65.29%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	1	5	27	40.24%
Bedford	102	9	6	25	39.22%
South Bedfordshire	72	2	2	13	23.61%
Overall	377	12	26	131	42.09%

8. Wealth Check Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure for the numbers of families living on means tested benefits for each smaller area (SOA).

In this table "unhealthy" correlates with higher levels of means tested benefits.

Income Deprivation Indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	25	19	40	69.42%
Bedford	102	8	10	23	40.20%
South Bedfordshire	72	0	3	19	30.56%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	0	0	11	13.41%
Overall	377	33	32	93	38.40%

9. Environment Health Check Indicator

This health check uses statistics that measure statistics on the health of communities' living environment, for each smaller area (SOA). The statistics comprise the 'indoors' living environment, which measures the quality of housing, and the 'outdoors' living environment, which contains two measures about air quality and the incidence of road traffic accidents.

In this table "unhealthy" correlates with lower environmental standards.

Living Environment Deprivation Indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	1	12	27	33.06%
Bedford	102	0	0	18	17.65%
South Bedfordshire	72	0	0	3	4.17%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	0	0	2	2.44%
Overall	377	1	12	50	14.33%

10. Overall Community Health Check

Finally all the above sections are combined into an overall index figure known as the Multiple Deprivation Index. This is displayed below and gives a general indication as to health and well being of a region.

In this table "unhealthy" correlates with higher overall incidence of deprivation.

Overall Deprivation Indices					
Local Authority	Total Number of Areas	Number Very Unhealthy	Number Unhealthy	Number A little less healthy than the average	% of SOA areas more unhealthy than the average
Luton	121	6	20	57	68.60%
Bedford	102	3	6	28	36.27%
South Bedfordshire	72	0	0	16	22.22%
Mid Bedfordshire	82	0	0	3	3.66%
Overall	377	9	26	104	32.69%

11. Summary

The “radar” diagram shown below contrasts the health of communities in each of the local authority areas by looking at the percentage of smaller areas (SOAs), which are less healthy than the average in each of the indicator categories of health considered earlier in this report.

The closer the radar plot is to the centre – the healthier the communities are against the indicator. The further away – the less healthy they are.

