

# **2025/26 Budget Impact Assessment**

## 1. Introduction

The Budget consultation timetable is as follows:

- **14, 19, 20, 26 November and 4, 10, 12 December 2024** - meetings with representatives of town and parish councils
- **16 January 2025** - Budget consultation meeting with representatives of the business community
- **16 January 2025** - Budget consultation meeting with representatives of the voluntary and community and social enterprise sector
- **20 January 2025** - Budget consultation with representatives of the trade unions
- **27 January 2025** - Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee
- **28 January 2025** - Children's Scrutiny Committee
- **30 January 2025** - Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee

Following this consultation, the approval process for the 2025/26 Budget will be:

- **14 February 2025** - Cabinet consideration of proposed 2025/26 budget
- **20 February 2025** - County Council approval of the Budget 2025/26

### **Risk management**

It remains of paramount importance that the Authority's finances are used in an effective and controlled way, both to manage the risks to the organisation and to support those in greatest need but also to deliver other vital local priorities.

The Authority, like all organisations, faces a wide range of risks and these can occur at any level, from the strategic to day-to-day operations. Effective risk management ensures that the Authority understands and effectively mitigates these risks.

There are several risks and challenges facing the authority which are managed including under the Authority's Risk Management Framework. A number of these key risk areas are highlighted within the Community Assessment pages which follow.

The management of risks, including those which cut across service areas, is a key element of the Authority's work to deliver the community priorities.

## Financial Considerations

The Authority has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced and robust annual budget. The target budget and service targets for 2025/26 were approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 8 January 2025 and set out in the table below:

Service area	2024/25 Adjusted Base Budget £000	Inflation and National Living Wage £000	Other Growth and pressures £000	Savings, Alternative Funding and Additional Income £000	2025/26 Target Budget £000	Net Change 24/25 to 25/26 £000	Net change 24/25 to 25/26 %
Integrated Adult Social Care	354,322	19,120	18,190	(8,185)	383,447	29,125	8.2%
Children and Young People's Futures	224,970	7,834	11,054	(6,530)	237,328	12,358	5.5%
Public Health & Communities	13,931	225	365	(1,450)	13,071	(860)	-6.2%
Performance & Partnerships	7,431	121	75	(447)	7,180	(251)	-3.4%
Corporate Services	54,709	1,251	2,822	(3,319)	55,463	754	1.4%
Climate Change, Environment & Transport	84,753	3,346	1,312	(1,808)	87,603	2,850	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>740,116</b>	<b>31,897</b>	<b>33,818</b>	<b>(21,739)</b>	<b>784,092</b>	<b>43,976</b>	<b>5.9%</b>

This assessment considers overall impacts of the Authority's draft proposed budget for 2025/26 and provides high level information to assist in the budget setting decision making process. The draft budget book includes details of planned technical and service changes and proposed savings strategies. Proposals to change services and policies will be subject to specific impact assessments.

All impact assessments are published at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/published/> Proposals that do not affect service delivery or do not have a significant impact on staffing do not require a full impact assessment.

The local government finance settlement for 2025/26 represents is for one year and the expectation is that the Government will issue a multi-year settlement from 2026/27.

On 18th December 2024, the Government issued the provisional local government finance settlement for 2025/26 financial year. The Final Settlement is likely to follow in early February 2025.

## 2025/26 Service budget targets

The service budget targets include funding for inflation and pressures that mainly relate to children and adult services. Significant savings and income initiatives are required to set a balanced budget. Overall, service budget targets will increase by just under £44 million in 2025/26, an increase of 5.9%.

### Integrated Adult Social Care

The draft total budget for Integrated Adult Social Care is £383.4 million. This is an increase of £29.1 million or 8.2% from the 2024/25 adjusted budget, comprising two main elements:

- Integrated Adult Social Care Operations – an increase of £27.7 million; and
- Integrated Adult Social Care Commissioning – an increase of £1.4 million.

Growth and demand pressures amount to £18.2 million. The impact of inflation including pay and the national living wages adds £19.1 million and planned savings amount to £8.2 million.

In November 2024, the Government announced that the National Living Wage (NLW) will increase by 6.7% to £12.21 per hour in April 2025 for those aged 21 and over, and by 16.3% to £10 per hour for those aged 18-20. NLW is the principal driver of price inflation in the care markets because it impacts directly on the price of labour. The proposed budget for Integrated Adult Social Care reflects an estimated inflationary pressure of £17.0 million due to National Living Wage impact.

Although Integrated Adult Social Care has seen an increased level of investment from the previous year, on-going pressures remain, and significant work will need to take place to ensure we achieve and balanced budget. This will require us to remain focussed on our statutory duties and support more individuals to leverage family and community resources. Additionally, we plan to provide greater levels of information and advice, which will help us comply with the Care Act duties to prevent, reduce, and delay the need for adult social care. While people will still receive necessary care and support, the number of individuals for whom we directly commission services is expected to decrease. As a result, we anticipate a reduction in the number of people accessing statutory adult social care services.

As we redesign for the future, the budget includes service efficiencies of £1.8 million. This will be challenging. We are working to ensure that the right staff are in the right place to deliver our strategy, including increasing capacity in our Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) team.

We will also continue our partnership work with the provider market to ensure best value, sustainability and sufficiency. Particularly given the new pressures facing the provider market from employer national insurance contributions that has not benefitted from additional government funding.

### Children's and Young People's Futures

The draft total budget for Children and Young People's Futures (excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant) is £237.3 million. This is an increase of £12.4 million or 5.5% from the 2024/25 adjusted budget, comprising of two elements:

- Children's Social Care – an increase of £11.8 million; and
- Education Learning and Inclusion Services – an increase of £545,000 which is mainly for school transport.

The 2025/26 proposed budget for Children's Social Care and Health & Wellbeing is £172.1 million. Overall, the budget provides additional investment of £11.8 million (7.4%). This is net of savings. Growth and demand pressures amount to £10.3 million. The impact of inflation, including pay and national living wage adds £6 million and planned savings amount to £4.5 million.

Provision of appropriate accommodation and support for our vulnerable children remains a key priority. The care and support that some of our young people require is increasingly more complex and expensive for us to buy. The budget allows for additional investment of £11.5 million, before savings, for placements for our Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People.

More children in supported and residential provision combined with rising costs account for the majority of the pressure. The budget reflects the changing profile of the children we look after and the types of provisions and support offered to our young people.

Lack of sufficiency of placements of the right kind, in the right places, means that children are not consistently getting access to care and accommodation that meets their needs. We continue to invest in our own in-house residential provision with an additional £1.1m investment. This funding, in addition to that provided in the last budget, will go some way to addressing the shortage of accommodation options.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 the Government published "Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive". This policy statement set out the Government's approach to rebalancing the children's social care system toward earlier intervention through Family Help and strengthened multi-agency child protection alongside other efforts to support children to live with kinship carers or in fostering families.

The budget also allows an additional £1.4 million for those placed in Special Guardianship or Adoption arrangements reflecting the growth in the number of such arrangements as well as an increase in the value of allowances paid. £800,000 of additional investment has been allocated to the Early Help budget to add capacity across our early help provision to support families to access help when they need it.

Other additions to the budget include £1.5 million for pay and other staffing changes. Savings of £4.5 million are planned for next year.

Our focus is on ensuring that every child in our care is in the best provision to meet their needs and deliver the best outcome for them. This ethos underpins the "Place Called Home" strategy which aims to ensure every child's care pathway is right for them. This is expected to reduce costs by £1.3 million. Expanding our own residential provision is expected to save a further £1.1 million.

A continued focus on workforce recruitment, retention and wellbeing is gradually leading to a more stable workforce although agency workers will continue to fulfil essential roles in the short term. We have increased the number of newly qualified social workers and invested in additional resource to ensure they are appropriately supported at this stage of their career. In the medium term this will lead to a reduction in the number of agency workers required. Nationally the government has set a requirement for all regions to adopt a regional agency pay cap which must be implemented by October 2025. It is anticipated that this will encourage more agency workers to convert to permanent staff status as well as reduce agency costs. £1.7 million of agency cost savings are planned for 2025/26 but it should be noted that deliverability depends on swift regional agreement and implementation of a pay cap.

Other savings initiatives across various budgets amount to £365,000.

Overall, the budget provides additional investment of £545,000 (0.8%) in Education, Learning and Inclusion Services. This is net of savings and removal of one off funding allocated for specific purposes in 2024/25.

Due to ongoing work of the Transport Co-ordination Services (TCS) the cost of Personalised School Transport has stabilised from 2024/25, despite the ongoing increases in the number of children requiring complex transport arrangements. Transport is now a more integrated part of the development of Education Health and Care Plans and placements. This is helping more cost effective options being considered reducing distances travelled and journey times. The dedicated review team in TCS continue to review networks and individual transport arrangements to drive out efficiencies and help meet financial saving targets.

### **Schools Funding**

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a grant that is paid in support of the local authority's schools budget. It is the main source of income for the schools budget. In 2025/26 the DSG for schools and early years setting is increasing by £78.1 million. The Teacher's Pay Award Grant (TPAG) and Teacher's Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) £19.5 million for 2024/25 and Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG) recognising the full year effect of £18.1 million are now included within the base funding of the DSG.

Of this increase in funding Early Years Funding has seen an additional £35.2 million due to the introduction of funding for children aged 9 months up to (and including) 2 year olds to assist new working parent entitlements. This also recognises increases to reflect teachers' pay and pensions and the National Living Wage (NLW).

Within the DSG a significant cost pressure continues to relate to support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This is largely due to the continued rise in the number of children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and a year on year increase in demand for higher cost independent specialist provision. Whilst Devon supports a higher than average percentage of children in mainstream settings, which could be linked to the higher proportion of EHCPs in Devon overall, it does not have sufficient state funded special school or specialist resource provision to meet the current or future demand; this has resulted in more independent places needing to be commissioned.

Increasing demand and expenditure within SEND will be mitigated by the SEND Transformation Programme Deficit Management Plan, which has been developed with support from the Department for Education. These pressures will be managed across four key strategic areas, Inclusion and early help; Preparation for Adulthood; Sufficiency; and Financial Management and placement value. The overarching aim is to ensure that the children and young people of Devon are supported according to their level of need within the funding envelope available.

Within the Safety Valve and SEND Transformation programme there is significant investment by the authority and DfE to increase our special school places by 48% (525 places). Proposals are to open two new special schools which are being delivered through successful bids to the Department for Education Free Schools programme. The schools were programmed to open in September 2025 in Ivybridge and September 2026 in Cranbrook, in total both schools when full operational will support over 230 students. There have been delays to each of the projects and Devon officers are continuing to work with the Department for Education to mitigate any slippage including the use of temporary accommodation. Opportunities for smaller expansions are being explored in East Devon and Exeter as a part of the wider programme.

The High Needs Block funding has seen an increase of £8.6 million (7.7%) for 2025/26 to £125.5 million. However, this is not sufficient to meet the continued demands or requirements by the DfE to clear the EHCP backlog within SEND and has meant it has been difficult to contain the costs within the funding being received from Government.

The Authority joined the DfE's Safety Valve Intervention Programme in March 2024 and has seen investment from the DfE agreed totalling £95 million between 2024-2032.

The budget has been set based on the Safety Valve Intervention Programme submission from March 2024 which set the required transfer to DSG deficit reserve of £44 million after mitigating management actions of nearly £22.5 million.

The additional demands or requirements by the DfE has meant it has been difficult to contain the costs within the funding being received from Government. Discussions with the DfE advisors have led the Authority to submit a revised plan in February 2025 to recognise the changing pressures to SEND and the Safety Valve.

## 2. Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against someone based on the following protected characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

The Authority must consider how people will be affected by its decisions and in so doing it must give due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Foster good relations.

Where relevant, the Authority must take into account the protected characteristics. This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require without disadvantage, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis to meet their needs, advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

The Authority has also pledged to treat Care Experienced People as a protected characteristic.

The Authority also needs to ensure that human rights are protected such that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing that the Authority does results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).

The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Authority from taking difficult decisions, for example, those which result in service reductions or closures. It does however require the Authority to ensure that such decisions are:

- Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
- Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision).
- Fair.
- Necessary.
- Reasonable, and those affected have been adequately consulted.



### 3. Budget and Council Tax for 2025/26

#### Council Tax

Increases in Council Tax help to support services of which older, disabled and young people are the main users.

The amount of Council Tax payable by households is set according to a property valuation known as banding. The following tables explore how much revenue different percentage rises would generate for the County Council and the annual increase for each household.

In 2016/17, the Government introduced the Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax allowing authorities with adult social care responsibilities to increase council tax by an average 2% per annum for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21, 3% in 2021/22, and 1% in 2022/23 and a further 2% adult social care precept for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The new Government has allowed a further 2% to be added to the Adult Social Care Precept in 2025/26.

In addition, the Government has set the Council Tax increase that will trigger a referendum, excluding the Adult Social Care precept, at 3% for 2025/26.

#### Council Tax Bands and current amounts (2024/25)

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£1,143.78	£1,334.41	£1,525.04	£1,715.67	£2,096.93	£2,478.19	£2,859.45	£3,431.34

Total Council Tax precept income for Devon County Council in 2024/25 is £523.974 million.

#### Scenarios – Increase in pounds per annum per household from 2024/25 to 2025/26:

Council Tax Percentage Increase	Income for Devon County Council	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
1%	£5.240 million	11.44	13.34	15.25	17.16	20.97	24.78	28.59	34.31
2.99%	£15.667 million	34.20	39.90	45.60	51.30	62.70	74.10	85.50	102.60
4.99%	£26.146 million	57.07	66.59	76.10	85.61	104.64	123.66	142.69	171.22

The additional income in the previous table assumes that the council tax base is unchanged from the previous year. It is expected that there will also be an increase in the council tax base (and increase in income) for 2025/26 and the County Council is awaiting the final figures from the billing authorities (district councils) before the council tax base can be finalised.

Impacts of Council Tax increases are difficult to analyse. Comprehensive modelling data from district councils in developing Council Tax Support schemes has shown a highly complex picture in terms of linking wealth/income or other household profiling to property value.

## 4. Community Assessment

The following pages set out a Community Assessment with sections on:

- Population overview
- Cost of living
- Economy: Impacts on business and the public sector
- Health and care
- Education and skills
- Safety
- Connectivity
- Voluntary, Community Sector and Social Enterprises

The Community Assessment was produced for the 2023/24 Budget and the assessment below includes last year's feedback from the Council's Equality Reference Group (voluntary and community sector representatives) received during that process.

## 4.1 Population overview

All data referred to in this document is drawn from Devon County Council’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment unless otherwise attributed. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Devon Health and Wellbeing

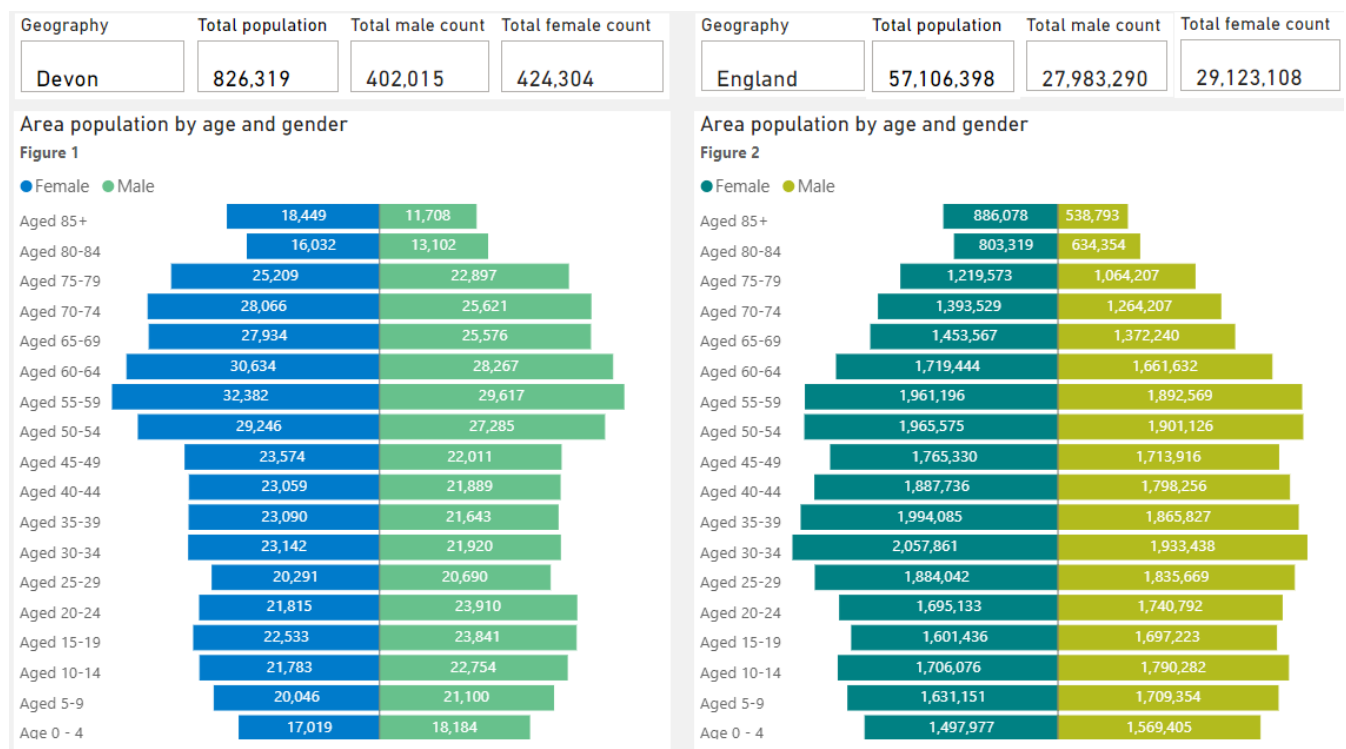
Devon is the third largest county in England, covering 2,534 square miles. The county council area has around 826,300 residents, with a higher proportion of older people compared to the national average. Devon is also one of the most sparsely population counties, with few large settlements and a dispersed rural population.

The growth of the Devon population is influenced by longer life expectancy, internal migration, and increases in new developments across the county.

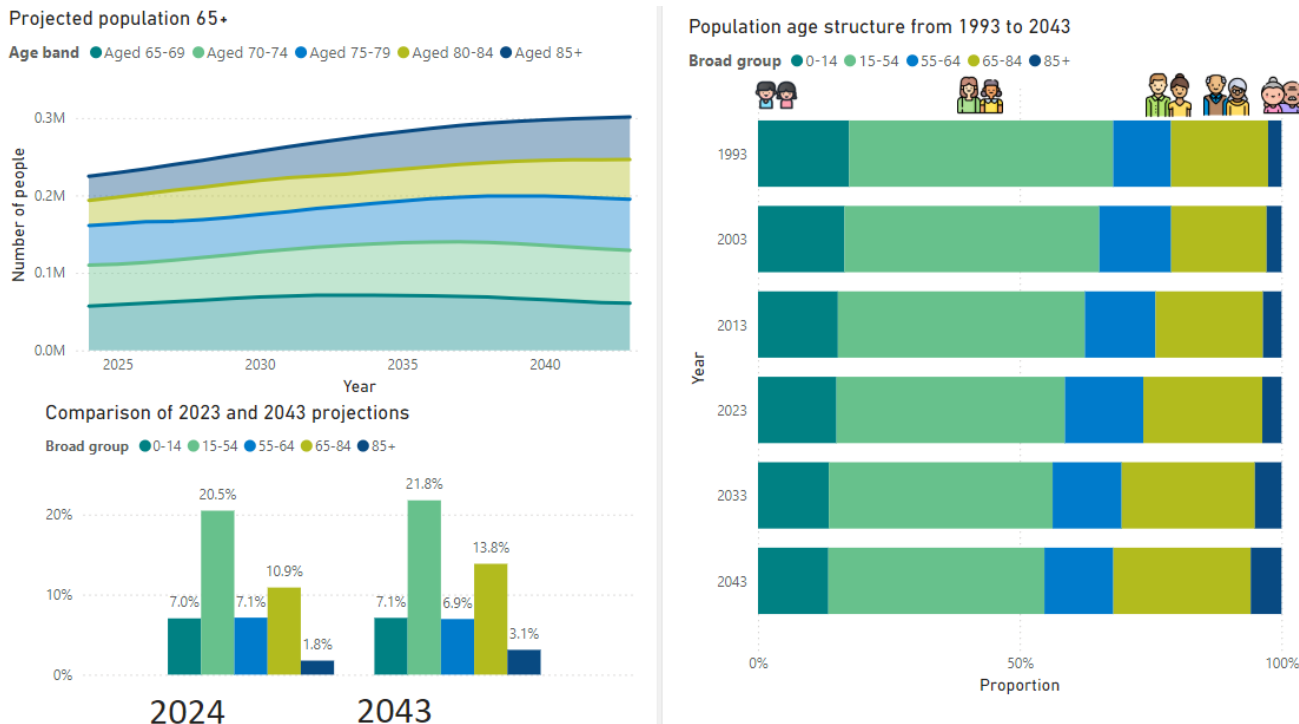
Across Devon, older people aged 65 years and older account for around 1 in 4 of the total population. By 2043, we expect this to increase to 1 in 3.

All district areas across Devon are expected to grow in population size over the next 20 years with Exeter, East Devon, and Teignbridge seeing some of the larger increases.

**Figure 1: Population in Devon and England (2022)**



**Figure 2: Population Projection in Devon**



**Resettlement**

Since the 2021 Census, Devon has seen various resettlement schemes. These include 468 people under the ARAP, ACRS, and UKRS schemes, 932 people from Hong Kong under the British National (Overseas) Visa scheme, and 2,300 Ukrainians under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Additionally, 200 to 300 asylum seekers are temporarily accommodated at any time, along with significant numbers of migrant workers from countries like Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, and the Philippines, many in the health and care sector. Unaccompanied children and young people seeking asylum have also been placed in Devon.

**Ethnicity**

According to the 2021 census, much of the Devon population is white ethnicity, making up 96.4% of the population. The remaining 3.6% of the population consists of Asian (1.5%), Mixed (1.4%), Other (0.5%), and Black (0.3%) ethnic groups.

**Gender**

94% of the Devon population identifies with the same gender as their sex registered at birth. Small proportions of 0.06%, 0.07% and 0.21% make up trans men, trans women and other gender identities respectively. 5.64% of the Devon population did not answer or disclose their gender identity.

**Sexual Orientation**

The majority of the Devon population aged 16 years and over identified as straight or heterosexual. Approximately 3.2% identified with an LGB+ (gay, lesbian, bisexual or other), while 7.5% did not answer the question.

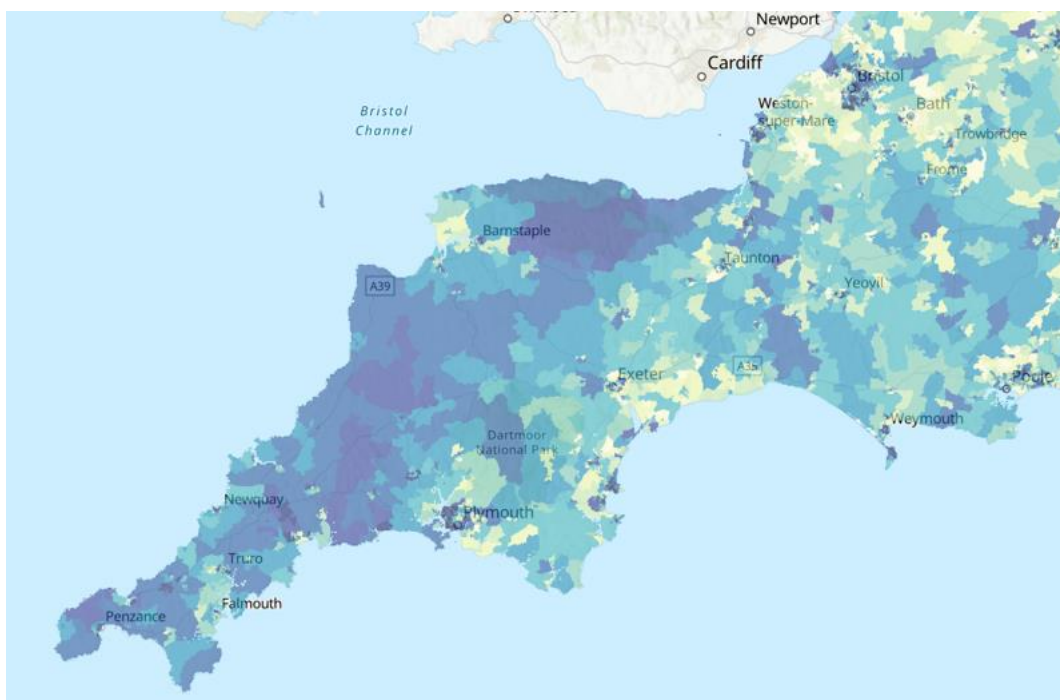
## Disability

Approximately 18.5% of Devon's population reported having a disability that limits their day-to-day activities. This includes both physical and mental conditions expected to last 12 months or more.

## Deprivation

There are hotspots of urban deprivation across Devon with the highest overall deprivation levels in areas such as Ilfracombe, Exeter and Barnstaple. Many rural and coastal areas, particularly in North and West Devon experience higher levels of deprivation impacted by low wages and a higher cost of living.

**Figure 3: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019**

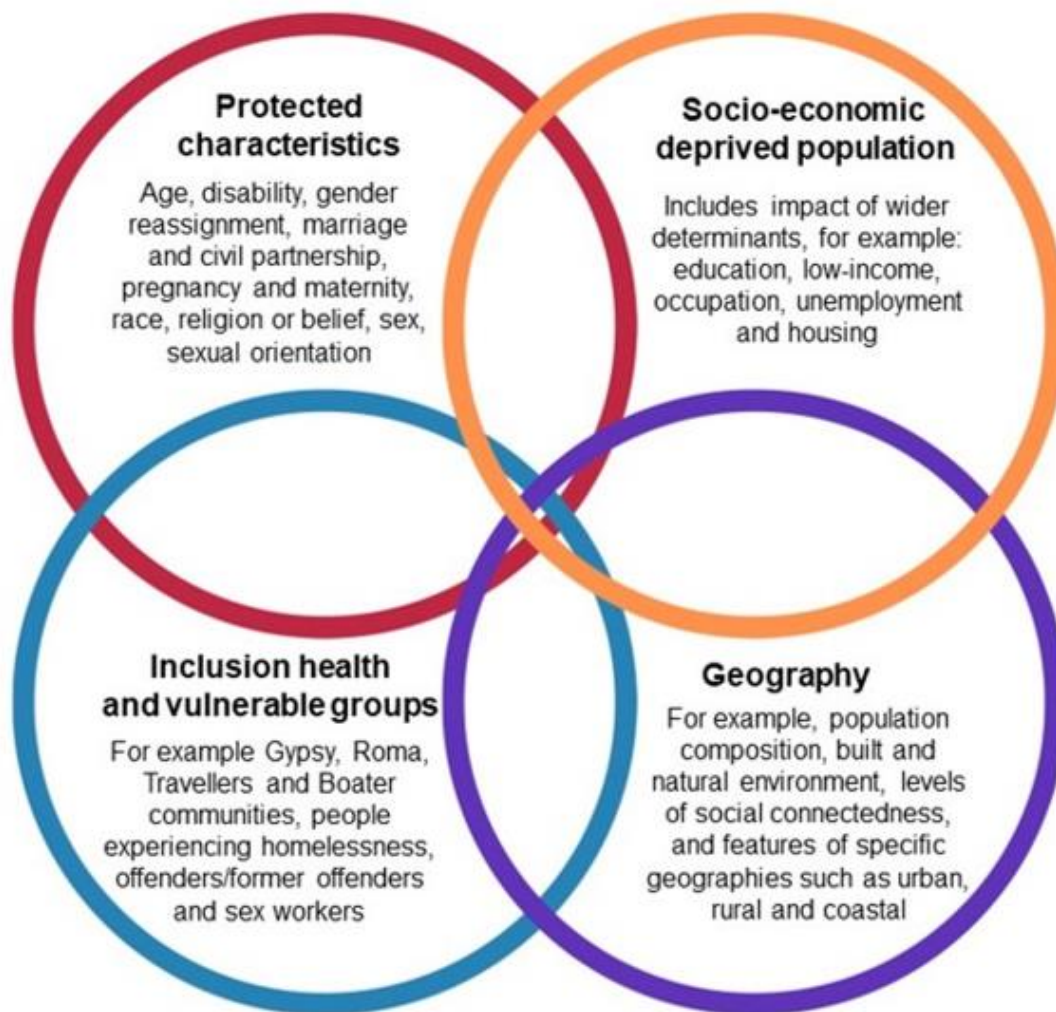


Inequalities in health and wellbeing outcomes across Devon are a priority. People with certain protective characteristics, people living in areas with higher levels of socio-economic deprivation, people considered inclusion health and vulnerable groups, or people who live in certain areas, are disproportionately impacted in health and wellbeing outcomes compared to others.

Further information has been provided in Appendix 1 but can also be found following the link provided:

[Census 2021 - Facts and Figures](#)

**Figure 4: Dimensions of Health Inequalities**



The Devon population is diverse in its needs and inequality can take many forms which impacts population health, to which organisations from across the system need to respond. An ageing and growing population will create increased demand on services which will need to be balanced with the challenge of ensuring the needs of other groups in the population can also be met.

Further information is available in the following links:

1. [Challenges, Opportunities and Priorities 2023 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(devon.gov.uk\)](#) under the section 'Understanding our communities'.
2. [Public Health Dashboards - Devon Health and Wellbeing](#)
3. [Deprivation Dashboard - Devon Health and Wellbeing](#)
4. [Devon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Summary - Devon Health and Wellbeing](#)
5. [Devon Population Dashboard - Devon Health and Wellbeing](#)
6. [Devon Annual Public Health Report 2023-24 - Devon Health and Wellbeing](#)

## 4.2 Cost of living

A significant proportion of the people in Devon have below-average incomes and above-average housing costs. This makes them particularly vulnerable to increases in the cost of living.

- In 2024 Torrridge £632.40, North Devon £637.60 and Teignbridge £655.40, have among the lowest average residence based full-time earnings in UK, with the average for Devon at £678.30 being significantly below the UK average of £728.30.
- Lower than average wages and lack of access to affordable housing, public transport and digital connectivity has a major impact on rural communities' ability to access vital public services, education, skills, training, and employment (National Rural Services Network 2022).
- Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council have seen people from minority ethnic groups facing Council Tax debt as they struggle to understand and prioritise finances. This can lead to missing out on financial support. There is a higher proportion of Black, Asian, and other ethnically diverse groups in private rented accommodation and have problems with accessing financial support which could lead to greater numbers of evictions.
- In 2023, the Equality Reference Group reported that the growth in reliance on temporary accommodation, resulting from the housing shortage, is leading to refugees living in hotels and unable to access or cook traditional food.
- The housing affordability ratio in Devon is 10.2 compared to 8.3 nationally (average house price divided by average annual earnings for 2023), with rates as high as 13.1 in South Hams. Compared to the rest of England, Devon also has: a higher proportion people who do not have access to mains gas; lower levels of social rented properties (outside of Exeter); higher levels of privately rented properties, but combined with lower levels of mortgaged properties overall. There are localities in which people are especially at risk from higher for longer mortgage rates, around Cranbrook, parts of Exeter, Barnstaple, Tiverton, Cullompton, and Newton Abbot/Kingsteignton, particularly among younger first-time buyers.
- The [One Devon Cost of Living Index](#) summarises risk relating to cost of living across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay neighbourhoods in relation to fuel poverty, food insecurity, income deprivation, child poverty and unemployment. The 10 highest Devon neighbourhoods (2023) were Buckfastleigh North, Tiverton Leat Street, Exeter Burnthouse Lane, Northam Central, Exmouth Moorfield Road, Bideford Churchill Road, Ilfracombe Fore Street and Quay, Newton Abbot Sandringham Road, Bideford Town Centre, and Exmouth Littleham.
- Inflation hits people on lower incomes hardest so large parts of Devon's population are especially vulnerable to increases in the cost of food, energy, mortgages, and private rents. Fawcett Devon reported that some older women have had to use savings to cope with the unexpected rise in state pension age and many women tend to be on considerably lower pensions linked to their previous earnings.
- In the 18 months up to October 2022 Devon households with low or very low food insecurity increased from 17% to 29%. (Food and Fuel Insecurity in Devon report: December 2022)

- The Devon Faith and Belief Forum have stated that churches and religious establishments have been providing warm spaces but hostility towards some Muslims has made it harder for the mosque to provide wider community support.
- 79% of Devon households plan to reduce their energy usage, with 36% planning to switch their heating off altogether: this will put people already vulnerable to respiratory and cardiac conditions at even higher risk of illness and death. (Food and Fuel Insecurity in Devon Report: December 2022)
- 80% to 90% of households experiencing food insecurity are also fuel insecure. Households with the highest rates of food and fuel insecurity include those: (Food and Fuel Insecurity in Devon report, December 2022)
  - with total incomes of less than £16,190 *and* children
  - with children and a single adult
  - where the main respondent is long-term sick or disabled
  - in which one or more household members have mental health problems
  - In which one or more household members are unemployed.

Devon Households accessing emergency food in the past 30 days was up from 2% (April 21) to 5% (Oct 22); 84% of these were in receipt of means-tested benefits. (Food and Fuel insecurity in Devon: December 2022)

A Food Poverty study in 2021 also found some evidence that households in which the household was either Black ethnicity or mixed heritage were more likely to be food insecure. This was explored further and in 2023 the research reported that there were many commonalities with the mainstream experience of food insecurity. Shame and embarrassment created stress and anxiety, and food provision lacked cultural diversity (such as fish, yams, plantain, cassava and buckwheat, and a preference for fresh food over canned) and this resulted in under-representation in food support services.

The Authority continues to work in partnership with, and provide support to, the Devon Food Partnership which aims to ensure that nutritious, local, sustainably produced food is available and affordable for everyone in Devon. In relation to the cost-of-living crisis, we continue to work through this partnership and others to understand better and respond collaboratively to food and fuel insecurity.

The Government's Household Support Fund administered by the Authority includes support to District hardship schemes; free school meal holiday vouchers; citizens advice energy relief scheme; early help family support scheme and a Food, Fuel & More grant scheme for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations supporting population groups who struggle the most to access support. Devon's approach to household support can be viewed on our website: [Household Support Fund \(HSF6\): Devon's approach | Cost of living | Devon County Council](#) The Government's Autumn budget statement of 2024 announced a further Household Support Fund (HSF) (Scheme No.7), running for a further 12 months, to 31 March 2026. However, HSF No.7 funding levels and scheme details have yet to be published.

The Authority provides a number of grants to external organisations, and in particular will provide support to Citizens Advice (CA) Devon which provides free, impartial, confidential and



independent advice to help people overcome their problems. CA Devon helped mitigate the negative impacts of COVID as well as the continued impact of the rising costs of living on people's financial circumstances and other aspects of their lives; helping to ensure they receive the financial and practical support they need to maintain and improve their financial, physical and mental health.

The vision and activity of CA Devon aligns well with the [Strategic Plan | 2021 – 2025 | Devon County Council – Grow up, live well and prosper](#) - and in particular its commitment to creating a fairer Devon; inclusive, compassionate and caring, where everyone is safe, connected and resilient. It aligns particularly well with DCC's priority to tackle poverty and inequality – to make Devon a fairer place, address poverty, health and other inequalities, and ensure support for those people and families struggling most.

The Authority has pledged to treat Care Experienced People as a protected characteristic. A UCL study shows that 70 per cent of care experienced people die early; more than half of the people who are in custody up to the age of 21 years old have been in care (Become Charity); and a quarter of the homeless population is care experienced (The Independent Review of Children's Social Care). We continue to work in partnership, such as with Team Devon District Councils to provide help and support to Care Experienced People, such as through the Household Support Fund district schemes and respective Council Tax support schemes.

For young people attending higher education, there are increasing pressures of managing finances. Increasing debt and lack of suitable, affordable housing for young people is a major challenge.

### 4.3 Economy: Impacts on business and the public sector

All data in this section is from the Authority's economy team analysis (various data sources, including ONS) – 2024.

Up until 2024, most organisations in Devon were finding it difficult to recruit and retain staff, although recruitment overall has now slowed significantly. This, however, continues to affect some sectors, including Health and Care, and is partly because of high housing costs and lower than average pay. Reduced discretionary spending and slowing in the construction sector are likely to impact jobs in construction, real estate, tourism, and hospitality. Outside of Exeter, most of Devon depends on jobs in these sectors.

Up to 2024, high inflation pushed up construction costs, with the Authority and other Devon local authorities hit hard by the increased cost of building and of maintaining buildings and infrastructure. The continuing high cost-of-living is likely to increase the number of residents who need help with Council Tax payments, whilst business failures will impact the Business Rates base. The greatest pressures are being felt across younger families and those with a fixed income.

Devon has:

- Varied skill levels: above average in South Hams and average, or below average, elsewhere.
- Difficulty in recruiting to lower and some medium paid jobs, especially in areas where house prices are high, where there are few properties for sale/rent, and where there are many second homes and holiday lets in some areas.

- Continuing high numbers of economically inactive over 50s – their numbers have risen since 2020 especially in Torridge and East Devon, partly because of early retirement and long-term sickness, although are now slightly lower in some other areas. These people may now be impacted by the rising cost-of-living and some may return to the workplace if able to do so.
- High numbers of people employed in sectors vulnerable to recession and changes in disposable incomes, such as tourism, construction, transport, retail, and hospitality. Levels of business failure currently remain low but some failures are starting to appear. Devon's economy is dominated by small and micro businesses, and levels of business confidence over the next 6 to 12 months are now very low, with rising costs across energy, labour, debt repayment, taxation and raw materials being amongst the key cost drivers and with reducing consumer spend all taking a toll on levels of confidence. As is the case across the country, the financial situation of Local Authorities is curtailing their ability to respond to the increased levels of need across all areas of their work.

## 4.4 Health and Care

All data referred to in this section is taken from the Authority's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment unless otherwise stated <https://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/>

Devon faces many challenges in addressing inequalities in health and wellbeing. In Devon there are many population groups across the life course that experience inequalities in health and wellbeing outcomes. Please refer to section 4.1 for more information around different population groups.

- Devon has an ageing and growing population with proportionately more older people compared to England. The growth of the Devon population is influenced by longer life expectancy, internal migration, and increases in new developments across the county.
- Dementia and Alzheimer's disease, ischaemic heart diseases, chronic lower respiratory diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, and cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung are the top five leading causes of death in Devon in 2023. Risks factors influencing the leading causes in Devon include age, genetics, lifestyle factors such as smoking, obesity, alcohol and physical inactivity.
- The average life expectancy in Devon is approximately 85 years for men and 87 years for women. Healthy life expectancy is 77 years for men and 79 years for women. This indicates that people in Devon typically spend about a decade in poorer health towards the end of their lives.
- Across Devon, people living in the poorer neighbourhoods tend to, on average, die between 5 and 7 years earlier than people living in more affluent neighbourhoods. However, the difference in life expectancy is even more stark in smaller areas such as Central Ilfracombe and Liverton in Exmouth where there is a staggering 15-year difference. Moreover, people in poorer areas also spend more of their shorter lives with a disability and/or in poorer health.
- Climate change is also already impacting health in a variety of ways, including leading to death and illness through increasing frequent extreme weather events such as heatwaves, storms, floods, disruption to food systems, increases in communicable diseases, and mental health

issues. Climate change risks undermining many of the social determinants for good health and wellbeing such as clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of residents in Devon:
  - Health inequalities: The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing health inequalities, affecting the most vulnerable people. Those living in the most deprived areas faced greater challenges and poorer health outcomes.
  - Mental health: There was a notable increase in mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and stress. The isolation and uncertainty caused by the pandemic contributed to these problems. Mental health issues
  - Lifestyle changes: The pandemic led to changes in lifestyles, with some people adopting healthier habits, while others experienced weight gain and reduced physical activity.
  - Impact on children and young people: The mental health of children and young people was particularly affected, with higher rates of hospitalisations for mental health conditions and self-harm.
  - Increased demand for services: The demand for health and care services increased significantly, driven by both the direct effects of COVID-19 and the indirect effects of lifestyle changes and delayed care
- Mental health and physical health are deeply interconnected, and changes in one can significantly impact the other. Hospitalisations in children and young people are considerably higher in Devon. Rates are even higher for those are in vulnerable groups such as disadvantaged groups and care experienced children and young people.

In 2023 Young Devon reported that for young people who have grown up with the impact of austerity, covid, cost of living means there is now a “tidal wave” of young people presenting with mental health issues. Young Devon report there has been a 55 per cent increase in mental health issues in the past four years. This is particularly noticeable in LGBTQ+ young people who are “stuck in high-cost public services” as well as young people in lower-income families.

The Intercom Trust, a charity providing support to LGBTQ+ people, has been “inundated” with calls to their helpline by people with mental health concerns.

In 2023, Living Options Devon, a charity providing support to disabled and Deaf people, reported that disabled still face anxiety from Covid such as feeling anxious about leaving home. People are not returning to the activities, or the activities that took place before Covid have not restarted, and there has been a subsequent loss of skills with social interaction. Mental health issues have increased and there are higher waiting lists for community-based support. More people than ever are now requiring additional low-level/early intervention support.

- Loneliness and social isolation can have profound effects on both mental and physical health such as:
  - Mental health: Loneliness is strongly associated with poor mental health. The lack of social interaction can exacerbate feelings of sadness and hopelessness.
  - Cardiovascular disease: Social isolation and loneliness are associated with a higher risk of heart disease and stroke. Studies have shown that lonely individuals have a 29% higher risk of heart disease and a 32% higher risk of stroke.
  - Immune system: Chronic loneliness can weaken the immune system, making individuals more susceptible to infections and illnesses.
  - Cognitive decline: Loneliness is a significant risk factor for cognitive decline and dementia. Socially isolated individuals are more likely to experience memory loss and cognitive impairment.
  - Premature mortality: Loneliness and social isolation can lead to premature death.
  - Inflammation and chronic illness: Loneliness can lead to increased levels of inflammation in the body, which is linked to various chronic illnesses such as diabetes, vascular disease, and Alzheimer's disease.
- Health outcomes for people with a disability, 53.5% of disabled people aged 16 to 64 years in the UK were employed compared with 81.6% of non-disabled people. Within Devon the ASCOF show people with a learning disability known to social care is 7.6%.
- Health is an area for which there are evidenced differences in outcomes for people with protected characteristics. For instance, disabled, unpaid carers, people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, Travellers and Gypsies and people who identify as LGBT+ experience significant inequalities in accessing services.
- Fawcett Devon reported that problems with social care availability impacts disproportionately on women who are more likely to pick up the role of unpaid carers.
- Devon is supporting refugee resettlement via Government schemes (from Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine in particular). In addition, people seeking asylum are being supported by the Home Office through temporary hotel-based accommodation and onward resettlement.

## 4.5 Education and skills

### Ofsted Grading of Devon's Schools

This information is from September 2024, Ofsted have now changed their grading criteria and will now longer be providing an overall grading for schools.

- 83.7% (83,791) of Devon pupils<sup>1</sup> are attending schools that have been judged as Good or Outstanding. This is an improvement from Sept 2023 (82.1%) but is not as good as nationally (90.0%) or regionally (88.1%). This reflects the fact that some large secondary schools are currently graded as requiring improvement.
- 86.2% (4,586) of pupils in Devon with SEN education, health and care plans<sup>2</sup> are attending Good or Outstanding Schools. This is better than Sept 2023 (82.5%) but not as good as nationally or regionally (90.4% and 87.9% respectively).
- 80.9% (18,371) of disadvantaged children<sup>3</sup> in Devon are attending Good or Outstanding schools. This is better than Sept 2023 (79.4%). These are pupils who are Free School Meal children, children in care, adopted from care or service children. No national benchmarks are currently available for disadvantage children.
- 82.8% of Devon children in care for any period of time attended schools judged as good or outstanding in 2023/24<sup>4</sup> (84.5% in 2022/23). No national benchmarks are available for children in care.

<sup>1</sup> Ofsted MI Report uses Spring census pupil cohorts from DfE Get Information About Schools

<sup>2</sup> Pupil numbers as at Spring Census 2024

<sup>3</sup> Pupil numbers from DfE 2024-25 financial year pupil premium download from GIAP, July 24

<sup>4</sup> DCC CiC annual report 2023/24

### Attainment

Children in Devon perform higher than National expectations in the Early years and Phonics screening test but are below expectations by the end of Primary (KS2), Secondary (KS4) and Further Education (KS5) in all or most areas.

#### Early Years Foundation Stage

- In Devon of the children assessed using the early years foundation stage profile, 69% are achieving a good level of development (GLD)
- This is an increase of 1.5% over the previous academic year
- This is 1.3% higher than the National\* comparison but 0.2% lower than the regional comparison

Publication: Early years foundation stage profile results, Academic year 2023/24

#### Phonics Screen test

- From the Year 1 phonics cohort in Devon, 82.0% achieved the expected standard of 32
- This is an increase of 3% over the previous academic year
- This is 2% higher than the National comparison and 1% higher than the regional comparison

DfE Key stage 1 and phonics screening check attainment, academic year 2023/24, published 10/10/24

#### Key Stage 2

- Attainment in the combined reading, writing and maths measure has risen slightly this year. 56% of Devon’s pupils met the expected standard, up from (55%) in 2023.
- Devon’s pupils are not performing as well as Nationally (60%) or Regionally (58%).
- In Reading, Devon pupils (75%) performed above National (74%) and Regional (74%)
- In Maths, Devon (69%) performed lower than National (73%) and Regional (70%)
- In Writing, Devon (68%) performed lower than National (72%) and Regional (70%)

data source: DfE 2023/24 Key Stage 2 provisional results (10/09/24)

#### **Key Stage 4**

- In the academic year 23/24, students in Devon achieved a lower Attainment 8 Average Point score (45.3) than Nationally (46.0) and Regionally (46.0)
- The percentage achieving 9-4 English and Maths in Devon (65.2%) is slightly below the National average (65.4%) and the South West average (65.7%)
- Devon's Progress score (-0.08) is slightly below the National average (-0.03) and the South West average (-0.03)

Key stage 4 performance, Academic year 2023/24 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK

#### **Key Stage 5**

- In the academic year 23/24, students in Devon achieved a lower Average Point score (33.9) than Nationally (34.34) across the South-West (34.13)
- There has been a consistent decline from 39.37 in 2020/21 to 33.9 in 2023/24.

A level and other 16 to 18 results, Academic year 2023/24 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK

#### **Free School Meals**

- The number of Children eligible for Free School Meals continues to rise. On Spring 2024 census day, 20,098 pupils in Devon LA maintained schools and academies were eligible for Free School Meals. This is an increase of 4.9% (945 pupils) on last year.
- This means that 19.9% of the Devon pupil population in state funded schools are eligible for Free School Meals. This remains significantly lower than the national average (24.6% at Jan 2024).

#### **Special Educational Needs**

- 5.4% of pupils attending Devon state funded schools<sup>1</sup> have an EHCP, representing 5,437 pupils, an increase on the last year of 338 pupils. This is higher than nationally and regionally. This differs from the number of pupils with an EHCP maintained by Devon LA, which is 8,873 pupils as at Jan 2024.
- 14.8% of pupils attending Devon state funded schools<sup>1</sup> have SEN Support, representing 14,909 pupils, an increase of 185 pupils. Devon has a higher proportion of SEN Support than nationally and regionally (13.4% and 14.1% respectively).

data source: DfE schools, pupils & their characteristics 23/24, Special educational needs in England 23/24, Education, health and care plans 2024

#### **Overall Absence Rates**

- Overall absence rates have fallen slightly in the last year, both in Devon and nationally. Devon’s absence rate for the combined autumn & spring 2023/24 terms was 7.6%, higher than nationally (6.9%)

Data source: DfE Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn and spring terms, published 17/10/24

## 4.6 Safety

As set out by the Local Government Association (2022) cost of living briefing, the impact on communities of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis is complex and evolving.

Reduced community resilience and heightened vulnerability are seen through:

- Intensification of economic hardship for families and communities has been linked to contributing to increasing prevalence of domestic and intimate partner violence. Police data relating to domestic abuse for Devon indicates that there has been an increase of 1% in year ending (YE) March 2024 from the previous year. However, when assessing pre pandemic figures (data is not directly comparable due to recording methods), there has been a 9% increase, (Devon and Cornwall Police Data).
- There has been a slight increase in rape and sexual offences to YE March 2024 (around 1%). It should be noted that this reflects a stabilisation from the bounce in reported sexual violence experienced in 2021/22. When removing historical offences from the latest figures for YE March 2024 (i.e. those that took place outside of the year) there has been an increase in these offences of 15%, (Devon and Cornwall Police Data).
- Increasing risks of sexual exploitation with provider services reporting a concerning increase in women forced into sex work through an inability to meet the increasing cost of living. Recent evidence shows that there is heightened risk for migrants and individuals with irregular migration status. The fact that many of these individuals have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) can often contribute to opportunities for exploitation by those that harm. (Safer Devon Community Safety Strategic Assessment, 2024).
- It is likely that there is an increased risk of wider forms of exploitation including criminal, domestic and labour exploitation, due to economic hardship.
- Periods of economic instability are evidenced to contribute to grievance narratives as well as acts of hate demonstrated in the summer of 2024, where widespread racist and anti-immigration speech and acts were carried out within communities. In Devon there was a small increase in hate offences during the two weeks of unrest which followed from July 29th. Nationally, it was shown that areas of highest disruption and rioting were areas of high economic deprivation.
- In the YE March 2024, there has been a drop in Police recorded hate crime. However, partners, commissioned services and professionals across the system warn that many victims of hate crime do not choose to report to the Police due to perceptions of not being believed or not receiving a positive outcome. Contradicting this trend, although figures are small, there has been a marked rise in Police recorded trans hate crimes. This mirrors anecdotal evidence of grievance narratives towards the trans community across Devon, both online and within 'real world' spaces.
- In 2023, the Equality Reference Group advised that racism and other forms of identity-based harm increased during austerity and continued to accelerate during the pandemic and cost of living crisis. Refugees, disabled people, and single parents can be viewed as a 'burden' on

public services/spending and the perception is they are taking from the rest of the population. Intergenerational tensions could increase.

- Impacts on young people’s resilience due to the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and pressures on schools and other universal/early support provisions. This is playing out in: increased risk of exploitation; increases in mental health need; increased reports of hate and anti-social behaviour; rise in fixed term exclusions (up 86%) and permanent exclusions (up 39%) with increased levels of special educational needs in exclusions data. (Devon County Council – Education and Inclusion Service). It is also likely to be reflected in the increasing concern around Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and misogyny seen in schools and within peer groups. (Safer Devon Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2024).
- An increase nationally in vulnerable people being targeted by scams and illegal money lending (loan sharks) because of the cost-of-living crisis (Citizens Advice 2022). Risks around financial exploitation are anticipated to increase. Devon is ranked in the top 14 out of 152 council areas in England for the highest number of operations undertaken by the Illegal Money Lending Team England over the last six years.
- In the 2023/2024 academic year, 1,3090 bullying and prejudiced related incident reports were received from schools. There was a significant increase to 55% of all assailants having some SEND, an increase from 43% last year. The most noticeable increase is children who are recorded as SEN or SEMH on school records. Across all ages, racism incidents increased by 9%. In Primary schools, racism reports increased by 50%, with a noticeable increase in year 5. The year saw a 6% increase in the number of children and staff targeted by racism who are Black, Black British, Black Caribbean or Black African. There was nearly a 50% decrease in the number of Hate crimes recorded during the 2023/24 academic year. Verbal offenses of sexism/sexual harassment increased to 66%, compared to 28% the previous year. There was a noticeable increase in sexism/sexual harassment threats. The academic year saw an increase of 10% of gender identity prejudice. [Bullying, prejudice, and racism incident audit - academic year 2023 to 2024 - Support for schools and settings](#)

The evolving policy landscape presents opportunities to strengthen our response to harms affecting safety in Devon’s communities. To date, the government has expressed commitment to halving violence against women and girls, tackling serious violence and anti-social behaviour, and responding to extremism, alongside commitment to young people, families and prevention (Gov.uk, News Stories published between July – December 2024; Gov.uk, Crime and Policing Minister Speech October 2024). We expect further detail to arise during 2025 and anticipate changes to existing statutory duties and increasing expectations around scrutiny and collaboration.



## 4.7 Connectivity

Devon's large, rural geography is associated with transport and digital connectivity challenges. Providing services across such a large area is difficult.

Much of Devon's bus network is not commercially viable and relies on subsidy. Limited public transport options particularly effects young people who cannot yet drive, those with certain disabilities and people who cannot afford to purchase or run a car and who are therefore more reliant on public transport to access work and other opportunities.

### Map showing commercial and DCC supported bus services in Devon – August 2022



#### Key

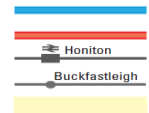
Commercial services

Supported services

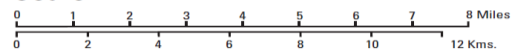
Rail line and station

Private rail line and station

Fare Car areas



#### Scale



GRMMAPPING.CO.UK 29/07/22

Poor digital connectivity is a barrier to growth, economic prosperity and social mobility and is compounded by cost-of-living increases which will disproportionately impact rural residents. Fawcett Devon report that women tend to have a higher dependence on public transport and may be less IT literate. Intersectionality of age, sex and rurality means they face barriers in access to services irrespective of being on-line.

Rural communities face an additional burden from inflation as access to food, education and services are made more difficult due to the high cost of travel, limited availability and high cost of food in rural areas, and the cost of heating homes which are more often poorly insulated and without gas.

Young Devon reported in 2023 that getting around has become more difficult for young adults who already face high costs with insuring vehicles couples with high fuel prices and cost of lessons and vehicles on top.

While recent initiatives such as the £2 fare cap and funding through the Government's National Bus initiatives have maintained or improved some access there remain longstanding accessibility issues across much of Devon. For example, the cessation of education courses means that students are forced to travel further afield to study or struggle to access jobs. Those in deep rural areas such as north Devon can face up to a five-hour daily commute to study or to work.

In 2023, the Equality Reference Group members also highlighted their concerns that as households start to cut back on spending Broadband could be seen as a non-essential compared to food and heating. This could isolate young people further and exacerbate mental health problems. A loss of Broadband will also limit access to online services and education as many services are still not providing local, face to face support.

## 4.8 Voluntary, community sector and social enterprises

Following the pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis, the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector continues to experience significant challenges to funding and volunteering, especially the recruitment of new volunteers. This has impacted on capacity and capability to provide services, despite demand for those services remaining high.

The National Centre for Voluntary Organisations UK Civil Society Almanac (Oct 2022) reports that in the last year the numbers of people:

- formally volunteering, at least once a year, fell 7% (37% to 30%)
- formally volunteering, at least once a month, fell 6% (23% to 17%).

Informal volunteering, however, saw a small increase of 2%: but with 81% of volunteers volunteering in their local area and with a higher proportion of mutual aid groups in more affluent areas this leads to inequalities. This is likely to worsen as people's capacity to volunteer may be affected by the need to return to work.

VCSE organisations, particularly small and medium sized organisations operating with small margins, are reporting significant risks to their viability, with many funding streams focusing on new VCSE service offers as opposed to supporting the sector with ongoing core costs. There is a very substantial risk that if the preventative work of many VCSE organisations ceases the burden on frontline statutory services will increase even more.

Recent research from Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) describes the current cost pressures which are affecting donations to charities, including:

- 58% of people planning to cut some discretionary spending in next 6 months.
- Only 25% of people currently donating to charity, down from 29% last year.
- 12% reporting that they plan to cut back on charity donations.

Figures from the NCVO's UK Civil Society Almanac 2024, reports that government funding accounted for 26% of the sector's income in 2021-22, down from 30% the previous year.

86% of charity leaders anticipate that demand for their services is likely to increase. Homelessness, food, and debt charities have seen surges in demand as people struggle to cover the cost of food, other essentials and utility costs. Citizens Advice has helped more people with cost-of-living issues than at this point (Data for January to June 2014 to 2024) in any other year on record. This includes record numbers of people helped with energy debts, food banks and charitable support and homelessness.

As a result of the cost-of-living crisis, charities also find goods and services more expensive, and donations will not go as far as they once did. Pro Bono Economics analysis suggests a £20 donation in 2021 is predicted to be worth just £17.60 in 2024.

The Chancellor announced in the October 2024 budget that employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) would increase from 13.8% to 15% from April 2025, and later confirmed there would be no exemptions or reimbursements based on charitable status. The threshold above which employers will be liable to pay NICs was also lowered from £9,100 to £5,000 from next April 2025. The national minimum wage rate was also increased.

According to the Civil Society (December 2024), 3 in 5 charity employers are expecting to have to consider reducing their number of staff due to the government's recently announced increase to the rate of employer NICs and minimum wage rate rises. The results come from a survey, conducted by the Charity Finance Group (CFG), which show that 87% of employers in the sector are concerned about their organisation's ability to afford the increased costs. 67% said they were likely to cancel plans to expand or create new services or hire more staff due to the NICs increase and lowering of the threshold.

In considering the community assessment, representatives from the Devon VCSE sector advised that one-year rolling contracts are not helpful for the sector. Although they recognise that local authorities are in a similar position with their one-year settlements. The one-year arrangements limit the ability to recruit and retain high quality staff. Community development can take at least three to five years to deliver. Contract prices are not increasing in line with increases in inflation and this is in on top of years of austerity. During austerity and during the pandemic there was a reliance on the sector to 'plug the gaps' and support early intervention. However, this cannot be provided at the same cost as previous years. The public sector needs to be aware that VCSE cannot continue to mitigate their service reductions.

The VCSE Sector has called for improved partnership working and collaboration with the public sector to find joint responses to mitigate the problems facing Devon. In response, the Devon and Torbay VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector) Assembly and Devon County Council has recently entered into a shared Civic Agreement (July 2024), to develop shared priorities and response where applicable.

## Appendix 1

### Population (Census 2021)

Census 2021	Total: All usual residents	Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh		Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African		Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups		White		White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British		Other ethnic group	
	number	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
<b>Devon</b>	<b>811,642</b>	<b>11,845</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>10,967</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>782,455</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>751,816</b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>3,901</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>264,695</i>	<i>5,947</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>2,786</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>4,656</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>248,727</i>	<i>94.0</i>	<i>236,802</i>	<i>89.5</i>	<i>2,579</i>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>Torbay</i>	<i>139,324</i>	<i>2,254</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>2,084</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>133,922</i>	<i>96.1</i>	<i>128,375</i>	<i>92.1</i>	<i>617</i>	<i>0.4</i>
East Devon	150,823	1,459	1.0	348	0.2	1,720	1.1	146,847	97.4	142,011	94.2	449	0.3
Exeter	130,707	6,375	4.9	1,137	0.9	3,308	2.5	118,034	90.3	108,095	82.7	1,853	1.4
Mid Devon	82,853	562	0.7	101	0.1	899	1.1	81,068	97.8	77,699	93.8	223	0.3
North Devon	98,612	1,135	1.2	325	0.3	1,174	1.2	95,639	97.0	92,944	94.3	339	0.3
South Hams	88,628	614	0.7	149	0.2	1,048	1.2	86,427	97.5	83,481	94.2	390	0.4
Teignbridge	134,802	1,004	0.7	216	0.2	1,564	1.2	131,668	97.7	127,937	94.9	350	0.3
Torridge	68,114	356	0.5	75	0.1	630	0.9	66,920	98.2	65,452	96.1	133	0.2
West Devon	57,094	337	0.6	122	0.2	626	1.1	55,847	97.8	54,196	94.9	162	0.3
<b>England</b>	<b>56,490,048</b>	<b>5,426,392</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>2,381,724</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>1,669,378</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>45,783,401</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>41,540,791</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>1,229,153</b>	<b>2.2</b>

### Census 2021 (Breakdown by gender)

Census 2021	Total: All usual residents aged 16 years and over	Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth		Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given		Trans woman		Trans man		All other gender identities		Not answered	
	number	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
<b>Devon</b>	<b>683,470</b>	<b>642,587</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>38,549</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>218,624</i>	<i>205,959</i>	<i>94.2</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>266</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>11,444</i>	<i>5.2</i>
<i>Torbay</i>	<i>117,032</i>	<i>109,984</i>	<i>94.0</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>6,599</i>	<i>5.6</i>
East Devon	127,389	120,074	94.3	113	0.1	57	0.0	55	0.0	85	0.1	7,005	5.5
Exeter	111,331	103,398	92.9	189	0.2	119	0.1	98	0.1	243	0.2	7,284	6.5
Mid Devon	68,204	64,216	94.2	116	0.2	46	0.1	36	0.1	42	0.1	3,748	5.5
North Devon	82,193	77,351	94.1	98	0.1	63	0.1	55	0.1	58	0.1	4,568	5.6
South Hams	74,968	71,042	94.8	67	0.1	59	0.1	42	0.1	64	0.1	3,694	4.9
Teignbridge	113,461	106,969	94.3	103	0.1	73	0.1	63	0.1	99	0.1	6,154	5.4
Torridge	57,560	53,969	93.8	54	0.1	40	0.1	33	0.1	52	0.1	3,412	5.9
West Devon	48,362	45,568	94.2	34	0.1	19	0.0	26	0.1	31	0.1	2,684	5.5
<b>England</b>	<b>46,006,957</b>	<b>43,002,331</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>113,760</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>45,684</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>46,513</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>45,886</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2,752,783</b>	<b>6.0</b>

## Census 2021 (Breakdown by sexual orientation)

Census 2021	Total: All usual residents aged 16 years and over	Straight or Heterosexual		Gay or Lesbian		Bisexual		All other sexual orientations		Not answered	
		number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
<b>Devon</b>	<b>683,469</b>	<b>612,432</b>	<b>89.6</b>	<b>8,820</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>51,447</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>218,624</i>	<i>194,465</i>	<i>88.9</i>	<i>4,297</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>4,509</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>924</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>14,429</i>	<i>6.6</i>
<i>Torbay</i>	<i>117,032</i>	<i>104,729</i>	<i>89.5</i>	<i>2,035</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>1,344</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>8,626</i>	<i>7.4</i>
East Devon	127,388	115,356	90.6	1,456	1.1	1,143	0.9	281	0.2	9,152	7.2
Exeter	111,331	95,950	86.2	2,154	1.9	3,062	2.8	679	0.6	9,486	8.5
Mid Devon	68,205	61,506	90.2	768	1.1	720	1.1	186	0.3	5,025	7.4
North Devon	82,193	74,190	90.3	913	1.1	807	1.0	204	0.2	6,079	7.4
South Hams	74,968	67,712	90.3	858	1.1	770	1.0	231	0.3	5,397	7.2
Teignbridge	113,461	102,424	90.3	1,412	1.2	1,182	1.0	276	0.2	8,167	7.2
Torrige	57,558	51,744	89.9	723	1.3	516	0.9	109	0.2	4,466	7.8
West Devon	48,363	43,550	90.0	536	1.1	470	1.0	132	0.3	3,675	7.6
<b>England</b>	<b>46,006,957</b>	<b>41,114,478</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>709,704</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>591,690</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>158,357</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3,432,728</b>	<b>7.5</b>

## Census 2021 (Disability)

Disabled (day to day activities limited a little): 11.8% of total population in the County

Disabled (day to day activities limited a lot): 7.7% of total population in the County

(Total disabled 19.5% of total population in the County)

## Annual population survey – working age people with disabilities (Full Census data on total population with disabilities yet to be released)

Annual Population Survey - % aged 16-64 who are EA core or work-limiting disabled	Jan 2021-Dec 2021			Jul 2021-Jun 2022		
	numerator	Number of aged 16-64	percent	numerator	Number of aged 16-64	percent
<b>Devon</b>	<b>112,300</b>	<b>455,900</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>109,700</b>	<b>456,200</b>	<b>24.0</b>
<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>58,500</i>	<i>165,900</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>55,900</i>	<i>165,500</i>	<i>33.7</i>
<i>Torbay</i>	<i>18,600</i>	<i>73,500</i>	<i>25.4</i>	<i>20,800</i>	<i>73,800</i>	<i>28.1</i>
East Devon	18,700	78,100	23.9	14,800	78,700	18.8
Exeter	22,600	89,700	25.2	20,200	89,200	22.6
Mid Devon	13,500	47,000	28.8	13,800	46,800	29.5
North Devon	9,200	50,700	18.2	9,700	51,300	19.0
South Hams	13,800	45,300	30.5	13,600	46,400	29.2
Teignbridge	15,200	76,300	19.9	22,200	74,800	29.7
Torrige	9,300	38,400	24.3	8,800	38,700	22.8
West Devon	10,000	30,400	32.9	6,600	30,300	21.7
<b>England</b>	<b>7,985,500</b>	<b>34,873,900</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>8,216,600</b>	<b>34,934,500</b>	<b>23.5</b>