

Our County – Strategic context

As a place, Surrey has a range of unique features and qualities that can create different challenges and opportunities. The statistics and observable trends below set the strategic context that the council must navigate.

Population	Economy
<p>Surrey has a population of 1.2 million residents, made up of approximately 481,800 households. This is expected to grow to 1.21 million by 2030</p> <p>Surrey is more urban than England as a whole but some areas of the county have large numbers of residents living rurally</p> <p>Ageing population - by 2030 the proportion of working age residents (16-64) and of younger people is expected to decrease while there are expected to be more residents aged over 65, and a 29 per cent increase the number of over 85s</p>	<p>Surrey has a strong economy worth £43.5 billion with a high (and increasing) proportion of large business, contrary to a national decline.</p> <p>A low unemployment rate averaging about 2.1% in 2022, compared to 2.9 per cent in the South East, and 3.6 per cent nationally.</p> <p>Residents in Surrey have average [full-time] earnings of £38,418pa (£42,770 for men and £34,066 for women), over £7,000 above national average of £31,383pa (£33,770 for men and £28,996 for women).</p> <p>Surrey has a high proportion of ‘micro-businesses’ at around 91.4 per cent, compared to the national average of 89.5 per cent.</p> <p>Surrey is attractive to business with a 25 per cent higher business density than the national average, but the rate of business births and growth in active businesses are falling in comparison to regional and national levels.</p> <p>The middle workforce (aged 25-44), who make up a large proportion of the skilled workforce and are a key driver of economic growth is expected to “decline by 8 per cent by 2030”, with signs of this decline already starting to show an impact.</p> <p>Despite this, Surrey still seeing a much higher rate of its residents employed as managers, directors, senior officials or professional occupations (63.8 per cent compared to 51.4 per cent nationally).</p>
<p>Health and wellbeing</p> <p>Surrey residents have longer life expectancies than people across most of England (approximately two years higher than the national average).</p> <p>Life expectancy varies considerably across the county. Between wards there is a 10-year gap in life expectancy for males (76-86), and a 14-year gap for females (80-94). Health and Wellbeing Board Dashboard Tableau Public.</p> <p>Nationally, and in Surrey, average ratings of well-being have deteriorated across all indicators in the year ending March 2021, continuing a trend that was seen across most indicators in the previous period, but even more sharply and which notably takes place during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is most profoundly observed with mental health across the population.</p> <p>Across Surrey in 2019, 5.36 per cent of all-cause mortality was attributable to particulate air pollution. There is strong evidence that air pollution causes the development of coronary heart disease, stroke,</p>	<p>Cost-of-Living</p> <p>As cost of living began to rise, a survey conducted in the summer of 2022 found that around 66 per cent of residents already reduced their energy usage to reduce cost and 63 per cent of respondents said that the additional cost of fuel had negatively impacted their household finances.</p> <p>Of the 4,197 clients seen by Surrey Citizens Advice between April – September 2022, 1,184 were new to their services. Support was given on approximately 7,000 issues, in particular around benefits, debt, housing and foodbanks.</p> <p>This increased demand appears to be coming from particular groups within the county, with 66 per cent of benefits claimants supported by Citizens Advice identifying as having a disability or long-term health condition, and two-thirds of clients identifying as female.</p> <p>Demand for food support is also increasing, with some foodbanks across Surrey stating they have seen a 300</p>

<p>respiratory disease, and lung cancer, exacerbates asthma and has a contributory role in mortality.</p> <p>Ethnic minority groups typically have poorer health outcomes. GRT communities have the poorest health outcomes of any ethnic groups, not only in the UK but internationally.</p> <p>Evidence also suggests that LGBTQIA+ people have disproportionately worse health outcomes and experiences of healthcare.</p>	<p>per cent increase of demand on their services between 2020 and 2022.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Education and skills</p> <p>According to the 2021 Census, nearly 286,000 children and young people live in Surrey. More than half of pupils achieve a strong pass (9-5) grade in English and Maths, compared to 43.4 per cent nationally and 46.5 per cent in the South East</p> <p>The county has a highly qualified workforce with over 50 per cent of the working age population holding a degree level qualification, with over 22 per cent of residents employed in professional, technical and scientific businesses.</p> <p>There is a growing demand for services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities</p> <p>There are generally low levels of deprivation in Surrey, but in some areas over 20 per cent of children are impacted by poverty. Pupils experiencing deprivation and those with additional needs are far less likely to do as well at school as their peers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Communities</p> <p>About 70 per cent of residents believe there is a strong sense of community in their local area. This is reflected in the county's vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector, with approximately 6,000 organisations and thousands of residents volunteering each year</p> <p>Over 93.5 per cent of people in Surrey recorded that they were satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live</p> <p>Surrey is one of the safest places in England and Wales, with the 6th lowest recorded crime rate of the 43 police forces, and lower than average rates of victim based crime</p> <p>Reported knife crime among young people has increased in the previous two years by 50 per cent</p> <p>Domestic violence has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic with incidents being 16.7 per cent higher in May 2020 than the same period the previous year</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Housing</p> <p>There is very strong demand for all types of housing, homes and accommodation in Surrey however the strongest demand is for affordable and social housing. In 2021 there were 14,134 households on the Surrey Housing Register, but only 4,711 social or affordable rent homes were built between 2011 and 2021.</p> <p>Average house prices in Surrey were £639,000 in 2022, placing it second only to Greater London for house prices.</p> <p>Surrey is not only more unaffordable for private ownership than England or the wider South East, it's also become more unaffordable more quickly, with the ratio rising 50 per cent since 2011, compared to 40 per cent across the wider South East.</p> <p>There is also a rising problem with homelessness, which local authorities have been facing for some time. Across Surrey, in 2021/2022, 1,912 households were owed a prevention duty (assessed as threatened with homelessness), and 1,366 households were owed a relief duty (assessed as homeless).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Environment and Infrastructure</p> <p>Surrey has one of the busiest road networks in the country, which carry double the national average traffic flow (4th highest in the country) and make it the slowest county to drive around.</p> <p>More than 40 per cent of residents work outside the county with nearly a quarter working in London. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic additional capacity was needed on the train network to address overcrowding on commuter services</p> <p>Recycling rates in Surrey are better than the national average with 54.15 per cent of household waste in Surrey being recycled, reused or composted in 2021 to 2022.</p> <p>CO2 emissions have fallen 22 per cent from 2026 to 2020, and whilst the rate of this drop has been increasing year-on-year, there are concerns we still won't meet the council's zero emissions target by 2050 for the county and need to fall by 46 per cent against 2019 levels by 2025 to be on track for the target</p> <p>Road transport is the main cause of air pollution in Surrey, and transport emissions remain high with Surrey having the 4th highest level of transport-related emissions of all counties in England in 2020.</p> <p>Residents have good access to woodland spaces with an estimated 24 per cent woodland cover.</p>

Extract from Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Strategy

Surrey is already one of the healthiest places to live in England. Our services also perform well with most health and care providers rated good or outstanding. Yet there are big differences between what most of us experience and what some of us can expect, for example, with a 12-year gap in female life expectancy from birth depending on where you live. Because most people in Surrey are living longer, that means more people living with ill health and conditions such as dementia, social isolation, and loneliness. Although Surrey has good outcomes generally, there were existing health inequalities that were exacerbated due to COVID-19.

We know that clinical care alone only makes about 20 per cent contribution to health and wellbeing, with a 30 per cent contribution from individual health behaviours; the rest (the wider determinants of health, excluding genetic and hereditary factors) is influenced by factors such as education, housing, employment, the environment. Recognising the interdependencies between the wider determinants of health, and the biochemical, psychological and social aspects of a person is fundamental to enabling people to remain healthy and well and how we – as a system – should engage with them.

As a partnership, we want to create a health and care system that builds on the amazing community spirit we've witnessed during the pandemic. One that builds trust and relationships with communities, and supports people to take more control in their lives and in their communities, with easy access to high-quality care when it's needed.

With a focus on prevention and support that is targeted where it's most needed, we will reduce the unfairness some people experience in accessing care, so nobody is left behind.

We will work as a system to harness innovation within business, ensuring that residents can access locally produced support, health and care which is joined up and digitally advanced.

We are focussed on improving outcomes for the people of Surrey, reducing health inequalities, and providing the best care at the right time to enable people to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

Population Insights

We have used a number of methods to ensure the views of the population of Surrey are embedded throughout this document. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) forms the bedrock of these insights as it provides an in-depth assessment of the current and future needs of our local communities. This, in turn, informs the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which has identified the priority populations and set the priorities and outcomes for people in Surrey.

We have backed up the insights obtained from these documents by engaging with Healthwatch, our local providers and other Voluntary Sector organisations to understand what our populations are telling them directly. Alongside these

conversations, we have engaged with our populations directly through “on the street” engagement events and Place-specific engagement activities during the development of their local delivery plans. The voice of our population has been clear and strong; and this document reflects this.

Our population

The JSNA is an assessment of the current and future health and social care needs of the local community that may be met by the local authorities, district and borough councils or NHS.

As far as age-make-up is concerned, the largest five-year cohorts in Surrey are those between 45 and 49, and those between 50 and 54. The population of Surrey is roughly similar to England's, with a slightly higher proportion of 5 to 19-year-olds and a much smaller proportion of 20 to 34-year-olds. As a result, Surrey's working-age population is getting older, which affects both the workforce and the health care needs of the population.

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are useful indicators of population health and health inequalities. Surrey residents have longer life expectancies than people in the South East as a whole and this is longer than the life expectancies of people across most of England. However inequalities in life expectancy exist between the most and least deprived areas in Surrey. Spelthorne has the lowest life expectancy (80.7 years) for males, while Elmbridge has the highest (82.5 years). Life expectancy for women is also lowest in Spelthorne (84.2 years), it is highest in both Epsom & Ewell, and in Mole Valley. (85.8 years). In Surrey, circulatory diseases, cancer, and COVID-19 account for the largest gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived quintiles.

There are also inequalities in how long a resident in Surrey can expect to spend their life in good general health. Healthy life expectancy in Surrey was 67.8 years and 69.7 years for males and females respectively. This is higher than both the South East and England. However, the inequality in healthy life expectancy varies with deprivation by 8.3 years in males and 8.4 years for females (Office for Health, Improvement and Disabilities - OHID public health profiles).

Physical environment and socio-economic factors also have a significant impact on health and wellbeing and therefore are important to consider when assessing the health needs of our population. A natural environment can positively affect mental health, physical fitness, cognitive ability, and immune function, as well as lower mortality rates. The majority (90 per cent) of private addresses in Surrey have private outdoor space, which is similar to the national average. In terms of public space, the average distance to the nearest park, public garden or playing field in Surrey is 370 metres, slightly below the national average of 379 metres. This is a positive opportunity for Surrey, and we should consider how we can leverage this access to green space to maximise the positive impact it has on residents' health.

There is clear evidence that good work improves health and wellbeing across people's lives. In Surrey 73.6 per cent of the population are economically active (people aged 16 and over who are either in employment or unemployed) and 2.8 per

cent of those who are economically active are unemployed. Just over a quarter (26.4 per cent) of the population are economically inactive (people not in employment who have not been seeking work within the last four weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next two weeks), of which 2 per cent are long term sick or disabled and 12.9 per cent are retired.

Link to Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment | Surrey-i \(surreyi.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment)

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