Northamptonshire
Hidden Needs
Northamptonshire Community Foundation has been at the forefront of funding small local charities and community groups to improve the wellbeing of our communities over the last 16 years working alongside a broad range of donors that feel passionate about making a positive difference to people’s lives and our county.

However, as this Hidden Needs Report highlights there are key areas of deprivation and inequality that are of great concern and need tackling within Northamptonshire. Through this report we hope to encourage more local philanthropists to work closely with the Foundation to provide more directed grant giving in order to channel funds to address urgent local needs.

The good news is that over the next three years Northamptonshire Community Foundation has a match fund endowment challenge in partnership with the Constance Travis Charitable Trust, which will boost any donor direct giving with a 50% uplift towards tackling hidden needs and pooling shared resources to best effect and impact.

We will look to engage with a range of partners and donors on how we can best work together to support the most pressing needs of our communities and build a better future for all.

Victoria Miles DL
CEO, Northamptonshire Community Foundation

About Northamptonshire Community Foundation

Northamptonshire Community Foundation is a unique charity which promotes and manages philanthropy.

We are the leading independent grant-making charity in the county and we are proud to have worked with our fund holders and donors to ensure projects make a sustainable impact on local needs, helping our donors make the most of their charitable giving.

We deliver a variety of funding for the local voluntary and community sector having awarded over £11 million in grants since our inception to make Northamptonshire a better place to live and have built an endowment of nearly £9 million. We aim to increase our endowment fund to at least £15 million by 2020. We are dedicated to funding community-based action which improves the lives of our county’s most disadvantaged people and communities. Child poverty, unemployment, homelessness, domestic violence and social isolation are just some of the issues we strive to tackle each year.

We are one of 46 Community Foundations across the UK and over 1800 similar foundations across the world which are playing a leading role in the development of community philanthropy and resources to sustain communities. Since the network’s conception £1 billion has been awarded nationally to community groups.
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Produced by the Institute for Social Innovation and Impact
at the University of Northampton for
Northamptonshire Community Foundation
Introduction

While appearing to be an attractive rural county stretched along the picturesque Nene Valley, Northamptonshire struggles with notable social inequalities, most significantly in: health and wellbeing; and skills/education.

The growth of Northamptonshire’s population and its increasing diversity and complexity, means that now is the right time to identify the hidden needs of the local population. These inequalities are present among all ethnic and social groups across the county. Amongst others, one of the underlying causes of these inequalities is that the various needs of the sub-region’s inhabitants are most likely not being adequately identified and/or addressed by the local authorities and other factors (e.g. charities). In fact, several areas in Northamptonshire such as Corby, some parts of Northampton, and to a lesser extent Kettering, stand out as the most deprived in England as well as in the county.

The growth of Northamptonshire’s population and its increasing diversity and complexity, means that now is the right time to identify the hidden needs of the local population. Indeed, the sub-region is now facing a considerable growth in the number of residents who are either under 20 or over 65 years of age; the county is also experiencing the expansion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups, as well as the development of new migrant communities from Romania and Bulgaria.

This report explores five areas of hidden need in Northamptonshire: population and deprivation; children and young people; health and wellbeing; housing; and crime.

This report explores five areas of hidden need in Northamptonshire (population and deprivation; children and young people; health and wellbeing; housing; and crime) and shows how Northamptonshire Community Foundation is meeting these needs through case-studies of projects that they have funded.

PICTURE: Umbrella Fair
Organisation’s annual free community festival to promote sustainable living and social change.
Northamptonshire has areas that are in the top 1 per cent most deprived nationally for education and skills, income and employment, health, crime and housing.

Overall, Northamptonshire’s outcomes are comparable with the national average, with the exception of self-harm related hospital admissions for adults. For this area, only one district in Northamptonshire reported hospital admissions lower than the national average, with the remaining six reporting higher numbers.

Life expectancy for males and females was lower in Corby and Northampton, with Daventry reporting also reporting lower female life expectancy.

On exploring the adult health and wellbeing in Corby and Northampton, issues identified included:

- smoking-related deaths
- alcohol-related hospital admissions
- self-harm related hospital admissions

Other areas reporting similar issues were Kettering and Wellingborough.

Northamptonshire has experienced a growth in the child population since 2011, with the highest proportion of children and young people concentrated in Corby, Kettering and Northampton.

Given the Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board (2016) priorities and the population growth, children’s health and wellbeing was discussed in this report. Corby and Northampton performed poorly in comparison with the national average in the areas of children’s health and wellbeing considered.

Overall, Corby and Northampton reported low outcomes in comparison to the national average on most areas explored in the report. The main issues identified in the report vary from across the districts, with improvements required for education, skills, health and wellbeing.
Northamptonshire has experienced a 4.5% increase in population, which exceeds the national and regional growth trends in England and Wales.

The highest area of population growth involved those aged 65 years and over who now account for 17.3% of the population.

The highest proportions of older people are concentrated in Daventry, East Northamptonshire, South Northamptonshire and Wellingborough.

In Northamptonshire, the highest proportion of non-white British communities is the Asian community (3.67 per cent). This is followed by the Black Caribbean community (estimated at 2.45 per cent) and the mixed ethnic groups (estimated at 2.05 per cent).

The greatest diversity was concentrated in the districts of Northampton and Wellingborough.

Northamptonshire has also experienced growth in the child population (0-15 years-old); with 20.1 per cent of the population aged 15 years and under.

The highest proportions of children and young people are concentrated in Corby, Kettering and Northampton.

Northamptonshire: Hidden Needs
Northamptonshire Community Foundation

Most to least deprived areas of Northamptonshire:
- Corby
- Northampton
- Wellingborough
- Kettering
- Daventry
- East Northamptonshire
- South Northamptonshire
As a snapshot of a year, Northamptonshire Community Foundation enabled donors to:

- Help 4172 people attend regular social activities who were identified as especially vulnerable
- Reduce social isolation for 14,046 people and got them connected to community activity and networks
- 1551 people were supported to achieve independent living
- 990 people started on the pathway to employability

Donor Testimony

“As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Margaret Giffen Charitable Trust who have donated to the NCF Margaret Giffen Community Fund which has benefited from the matched funding scheme I can confirm that many local community projects and charities have benefited from this fund. It would have been very difficult for me and my fellow trustees firstly to have located the many organisations who have benefited from this fund and secondly to have adequately vetted the numerous applications made for financial support. NCF have the necessary resources, expertise and experience to do so which gives us every confidence that the funds we have donated are in safe hands and finding their way to where they are of most benefit to the local community as a whole.”

Barry Rogers, Partner at Tollers Solicitors and Chair of trustees, the Margaret Giffen Charitable Trust

Group Testimony

“The grant has helped a large section of the local community, that has been in financial difficulty and not able to feed themselves and their families. We also have been able to refine our service through adapting an office into a sorting area for the donated produce. This has produced a safer working environment for staff, volunteers, donors and clients.”

Paul Adams, The Daylight Centre, Wellingborough
Children and Young People

Child Poverty

Childhood poverty leads to negative health outcomes and premature mortality.

The proportion of children and young people under 16 years-old living in low incomes families was 15 per cent in Northamptonshire, lower than the national average (20.1 per cent).

The areas with the highest proportion of children living in low income families are:

- **Corby** (20.1%): 2700 children
- **Northampton** (19.1%): 8400 children
- **Wellingborough** (18.9%): 2900 children

Education

Education deprivation measures acknowledge the education, skills and training level for children, young people and adults.

NATIONAL AVERAGE: (not comparable - periods differ); at end of 2013 was 7.6 per cent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
<th>2013-2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Northamptonshire</td>
<td>5.8</td>
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<td>Kettering</td>
<td>5.2</td>
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<td>Northampton</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<td>South Northamptonshire</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellingborough</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>7.2</td>
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</tbody>
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Percentage of young people aged 16-24 Not in Education, Employment and Training:
Supporting young people in sport has always been a great passion of mine. I am very much a local man, born and brought up in the town so it is important to me to give a little bit back, helping youth progress in the county and beyond.

Mick White, Fund holder

As a snapshot of a year Northamptonshire Community Foundation enabled donors to:

- Help 11,618 people access support services
- Provide 21,885 hours of community activity
- Enabled 28,944 people to take part in community activities
- Provide 2074 hours of education and training

“The parents of the nursery children have been very interested in the hot meals - the children talk about them and the parents have shown interest in cooking the same food at home as the children are eating food that they do not eat at home.

“We also know that many families do not eat around a table and some have considered purchasing a table as the children have commented about it. Eating round a table improves communication in a family.”

Kathryn White, Blackthorn Good Neighbours, Northampton

PICTURE: Springs Family Centre providing cooking on a budget courses and tackling food poverty

Produced by the Institute of Social Innovation and Impact at the University of Northampton
Children and Young People (cont.)

Community Solution / REAL (Realm of Experiential and Alternate Learning)

REAL provide alternative learning opportunities for hard to reach young people age 11-17 living in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire Community Foundation funded £7,442 for 39 weekly activities over the course of one year for a group of NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training) girls aged 13-16. These activities included:

- Girls’ self-defence, yoga and relaxation;
- Anger management and sexual health workshops;
- Arts and crafts;
- Sports such as climbing and swimming;
- Self-esteem and healthy eating;
- Belly dancing;
- Shiatsu massage;
- Volunteering in the community; and
- A goddess empowerment day.

The funding supported 24 beneficiaries and 3 volunteers, with a number of benefits gained from the program. For example one young woman referred via the Youth Offending Team has not re-offended and now attends college in Kettering. She would like to become a youth worker and is coming back in the summer to be a youth volunteer for the project. The project has helped the young women become part of the wider community, be less isolated and return to education.

Community Solution / Baby Basics Northampton

Baby Basics provides Moses baskets with essential items for mothers struggling financially with newborn babies. The service was set up in 2013 by four mothers to provide valuable support to Health Care professionals.

NCF funded £3,000 for the recruitment of a part-time member of staff to manage the daily operations of the project. This role was created to ensure the effective management of referrals, the donations process, volunteers, general administration and to ensure that all baskets meet with health and safety requirements.

The Baby Basics program supported 366 families, providing the essentials for mothers experiencing financial difficulty. The project has been able to engage with the community in donating items and also in encouraging local community groups to help.
Health and social care measures acknowledge disability, life expectancy, obesity, alcohol-related issues, self-harm, smoking related deaths and suicide.

Statistics shown where result is higher than national average.

**Under 18s hospitalised for alcohol related issues**
Per 100,000 (2012/13-2014/15)
- Corby: 56.9
- Northampton: 38.8
- South Northants: 36.9
- National: 36.6

**Smoking Deaths**
Per 100,000 (2012-2014)
- Corby: 412
- Kettering: 278
- Northampton: 308
- National Average: 274

**Health and Wellbeing**

Life expectancy in Corby is significantly lower for both men (76.7 years) and women (79.5), than the national average (79.5 and 83.2, respectively).

(2012-2014)
Care and Repair are an independent, charitable, home improvement agency whose overall aim is to support vulnerable people to remain independent in their own homes, regardless of tenure, by helping keep them warm, safe and secure.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation funded £2,990 to the ‘Surviving Winter’ program to purchase and distribute Keep Warm packs throughout Northamptonshire to those most vulnerable from the effects of the cold.

The program supported 133 beneficiaries, enabling them to be kept safe and warm in their own homes. Home energy assessments were also completed to identify other energy measures that would improve the long term safety and wellbeing of the beneficiary. The group also signposted clients to other agencies for additional support and assistance including debt management, tariff switching, home insulation and eco deals.

Donor Testimony

“Running a small charity is becoming increasingly onerous, with all the rules and regulations now facing us and the Northamptonshire Community Foundation has the professional support and expertise to enable us to deal with the daily management issues that confront us.

“The Foundation has expanded enormously since it was founded fifteen years ago and has been a huge success story. The trustees of the Queen’s Institute are confident that this charity which has done so much to help the health of the inhabitants of Northampton will continue to prosper under the guidance of the team at the Community Foundation.”

Michael Orton-Jones, former Chairman, Northampton Queen’s Institute Relief in Sickness

Group Testimony

“The grant has enabled the ongoing provision of the pool for the benefit of the children of Pattishall. It has enabled essential maintenance and improvement works to be carried out. It has provided a safe, familiar and community based environment where children have been able to boost their water confidence and improve swimming abilities.”

Valerie Mahoney, Pattishall Swimming Club, South Northamptonshire
As a snapshot of a year
Northamptonshire Community Foundation enabled donors to:

28,708
Get 28,708 people taking part in sports, leisure and recreational activities

6,015
Provide 6015 new hours of sport, exercise and leisure activities

11,692
Enable 11,692 people taking part in activities promoting healthy lifestyles

4,015
Resulted in 4015 people reporting improved health (mental, physical and emotional)

PICTURE: Live at Home supporting vulnerable older people at risk of social isolation
Housing measures consider the barriers to housing and services, acknowledging the physical and financial accessibility to housing and other key local services.

The numbers accepted as being homeless and in priority need in Northamptonshire vary from area to area.

Donor Testimony

“I am delighted to support Northamptonshire Community Foundation and to have become an N100 member. I have been impressed with the variety of projects the Foundation are involved in, and the many differing age groups those benefit. I really like too the fact I am supporting a local cause and that the Foundation offers its N100 members opportunities to see first-hand the work their donations are helping fund.”

Alistair Jepson, N100 member

The number of homeless people per 1,000 households in Corby (3.07) and Northampton (3.44) were considerably higher than the national average (2.52).
Support 8060 people using new and improved community facilities

Helped 440 people access support services due to discrimination or unfair treatment

As a snapshot of a year
Northamptonshire Community Foundation enabled donors to:

8060 440

Support 8060 people using new and improved community facilities
Helped 440 people access support services due to discrimination or unfair treatment

Accommodation Concern aims to prevent and alleviate poverty, hardship, need and distress and reaches these objectives by delivering advice, support and preventative services to the most excluded and disadvantaged members of our community.

NCF funded £2,840 for the delivery of advice and outcome focused support for those faced with homelessness, to assist them in finding and keeping appropriate accommodation, to access critical services, improve health, wellbeing and economic prospects, and to prevent further homelessness.

This funding supported 76 beneficiaries, to access advice and support, including: increasing budgeting skills, accessing services and events in the community. It enabled 72 beneficiaries to find stable housing including social and private sector housing with the remaining beneficiaries receiving support to access medical services.

Group Testimony

“Last year we supported 4000 people from Rushden and across East Northamptonshire. As the primary emergency and crisis response organisation for this area it is essential that we now streamline our services to ensure we can attract future funding and ongoing support and ensure we provide good quality services to vulnerable people.”

Mark Lees, East Northamptonshire Faith Group, East Northamptonshire
Crime measures focus on four main areas: violence against the person, burglary, theft and criminal damage.

The highest proportion of crimes and offences were committed in Northampton (39.8 per cent), followed by Kettering (23.5 per cent).

Given the number of children and young people living in low income families and the levels of deprivation in Northamptonshire, providing opportunities for children and young people is paramount.

As a snapshot of a year Northamptonshire Community Foundation enabled donors to:

- 75 new community partnerships to strengthen safer communities
- 806 people diverted from crime and anti-social behaviour
- 262 people reporting feeling safer in their communities
- 114 ex-offenders taking part in projects designed to divert them away from criminal behaviour

**Community Solution / Thorplands Club 81**

Thorplands Club 81 is provided by local residents with the overriding aim is to improve the lives of the people, especially youth, of Thorplands and surrounding eastern district by providing affordable sporting activities for young people from low incomes families in the deprived high crime area of Thorplands and eastern districts.

The Northamptonshire Community Foundation funded £9,597 to pay for the hire of all weather and grass pitches at Northampton Academy.

The funding supported 120 beneficiaries and 25 volunteers supporting the activities. The funding grant was awarded to divert young people away from crime and anti social behaviour and provide healthy affordable sport.
Recent information produced by Specialist Public Health (SPH) and Business Intelligence and Project Management (BI&PM) in 2017 found an overall increase in violent crime trends (per 1,000 population) and re-offending (average number of re-offences per offender) (Northamptonshire County Council, 2017).

PICTURE: Rural Enterprises CIC providing educational opportunities for young people at risk of exclusion
Conclusion

Northamptonshire is a fast growing county situated in the heart of England. The mix of urban and rural areas within Northamptonshire highlights a mix of competing and emerging needs for local areas and communities.

Whilst urban areas show poorer health and wellbeing outcomes, they have better access to support services, rural areas experiencing better health and wellbeing overall but with less access to services for those in need. This particularly has implications in terms of the rapid growth of the number of older people and the risk of social isolation for vulnerable people. There is a need to tackle child poverty with an estimated 21,730 children and young people living in poverty.

Through the Hidden Needs Report what emerges is several key priority and very urgent needs within Northamptonshire: there is serious deprivation to be addressed in specific areas of the county as Northamptonshire has some of England’s most deprived neighbourhoods in terms of education and skills, income and employment, health, crime and housing.

Barriers to accessing services combined with the highlighted priority needs will only widen inequality and poverty within our communities and negatively impact the social and economic wellbeing of future generations.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation believes that community based solutions delivered by local charitable groups and voluntary organisations are a key element to tackling some of the priority needs of the county head on. Indeed a properly resourced civil society is responsive and creative to the needs of communities on the ground and some example solutions have been highlighted in this report.

We also believe that philanthropy plays a key role in supporting groups and organisations to be properly resourced to improve the wellbeing and lives of people in Northamptonshire. As a Community Foundation we manage a range of funds on behalf of a diverse number of donors.

If you are surprised or concerned by the findings of this report and want to make a difference in Northamptonshire, we are a great place to start and wish to hear from you.

Whether you are an individual, company, trust or local authority, we can provide community solutions to your local charitable giving and in turn you will help us tackle some of the most pressing needs for our county.

We will also help you make a lasting impact through helping us tackle these needs together and build a better future for all.
PICTURE: Bradlaugh Fields and Barn putting on a local community show for residents and preserving a local wildlife park
Northamptonshire / Hidden Needs