



OXFORDSHIRE NEEDS ANALYSIS

Education and Skills

November 2019

This report was produced by Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF) using community mapping and reporting tool Local Insight. This tool has been developed by OCSI and makes use of open data to help councils and community organisations make informed funding and policy decisions. It brings in up-to-date data drawn from the Census, the Department for Work and Pensions, deprivation indices and other sources. The majority of place-based data is published at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). In this report we have used LSOA, Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA) and Wards. For an explanation of statistical geographies please view the appendix at the end of the document.

Note that data will change regularly as information is updated on Local Insight. This report was correct at the date of publication.



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Introduction

In the 2018 Education and Skills grants round, OCF used this insight approach for the first time to set the priorities for grant making. The grants round was a tremendous success and we awarded over £47,000. As always, the number of applications outnumbered the funds available.

From the 2018 insight and further qualitative information gathered we realised the early years sector would benefit from additional resourcing. A new strategic project around early years intervention to increase school readiness has been agreed to launch in January 2020.

OCF is committed to funding further projects tackling education inequality. This Education and Skills Grants round will therefore prioritise projects that support older primary children through to young people – ages seven to 21 years – in their academic and practical learning.

This insight is written to identify the areas in Oxfordshire that may be in greatest need, where there is the greatest potential to prevent children and young people from being 'left behind', and to ensure the opportunities for thriving in this county are available to all.

Indices of Deprivation (IoD) – Education, Skills and Training domain

The IoD rankings are published by the Department of Communities and Local Government and are derived from census data. They work on the assumption that there are several different types of deprivation, and that these can be measured within small neighbourhoods, or Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs – areas of around 1,600 people). Each area has an aggregate ranking, but more telling information can be found by drilling down into the detail of each of the indices, or domains.

There are 407 LSOAs in Oxfordshire. Within the Education, Skills and Training domain 2019, there are 40 LSOAs that rank as the 20% most deprived within England (25 in the top 10% most deprived). This domain has several more granular sub-domains as follows.

Adult Skills sub-domain

The IoD 2019 Adult Skills sub-domain measures the lack of skills in the local population. The following indicators are included: The proportion of working age adults with no or low qualifications; English language proficiency: The proportion of working age adults who cannot speak English or cannot speak English well. Data shows Average LSOA Rank, a lower rank indicates that an area is experiencing high levels of deprivation.

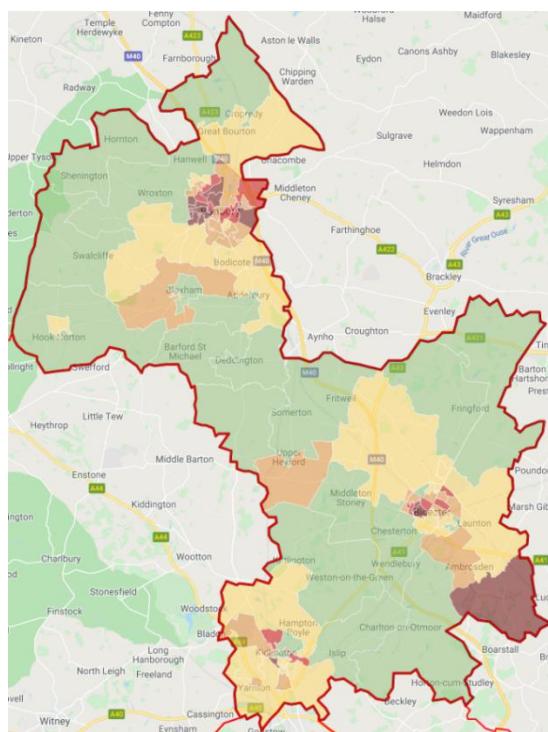
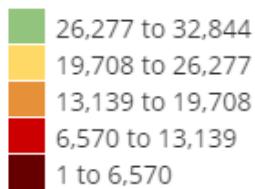
Within the Adult Skills sub-domain, the picture is not without deprivation. There are 30 LSOAs appearing in the 20% most deprived with England.



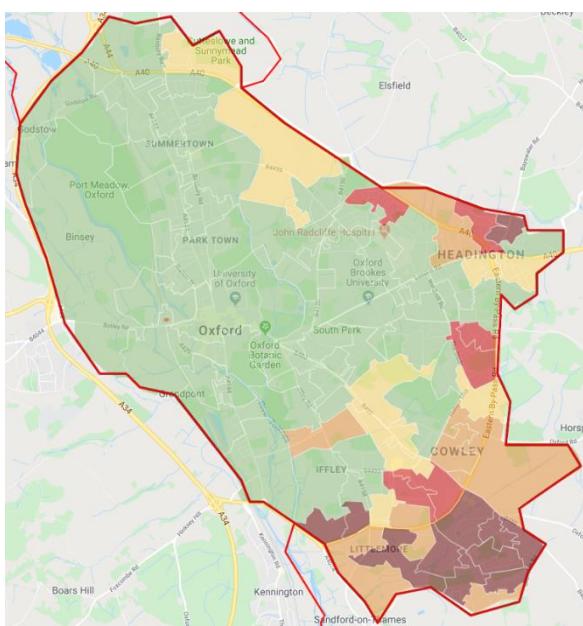
IoD 2019 Adult Skills Sub-domain Rank

The colours on the map show IoD 2019 Adult Skills Sub-domain Average LSOA Rank (lower = more deprived)

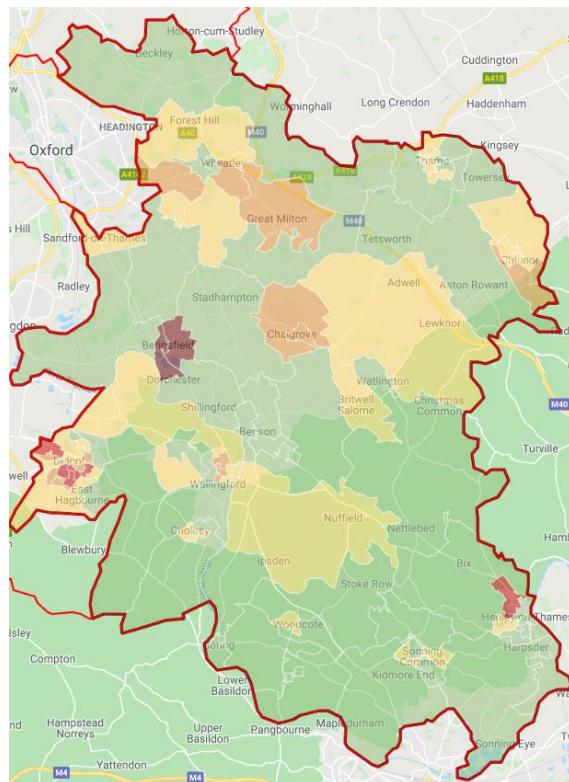
Showing all areas at LSOA level



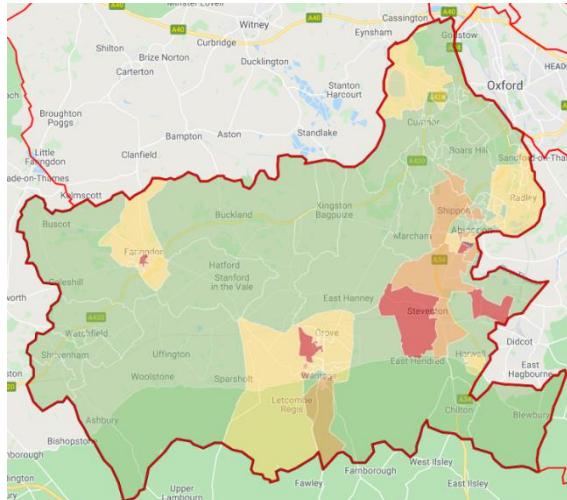
Cherwell



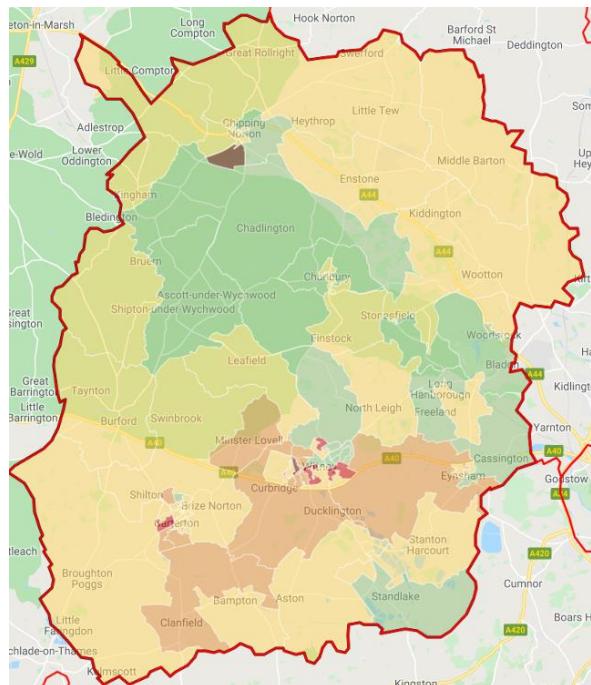
Oxford City



South Oxfordshire



Vale of White Horse



West Oxfordshire

Areas that are in the most deprived 20% by this measure are in these locations:

Cherwell: Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington.

Oxford City: Barton, Blackbird Leys, Littlemore, Northfield Brook, Rose Hill.

South Oxfordshire: Berinsfield.

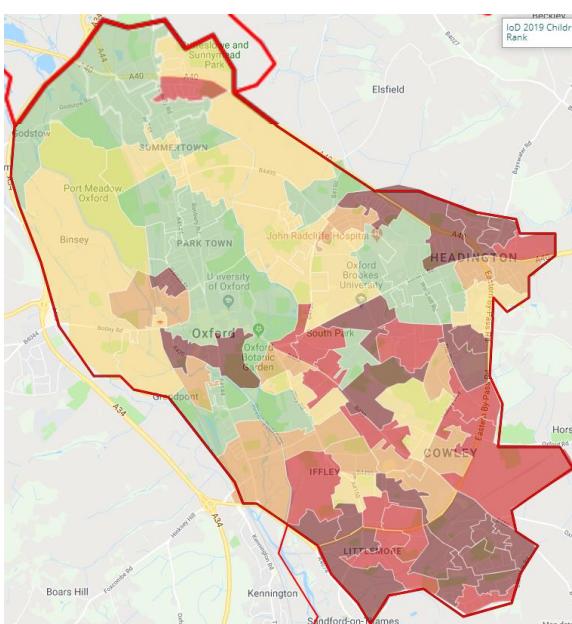
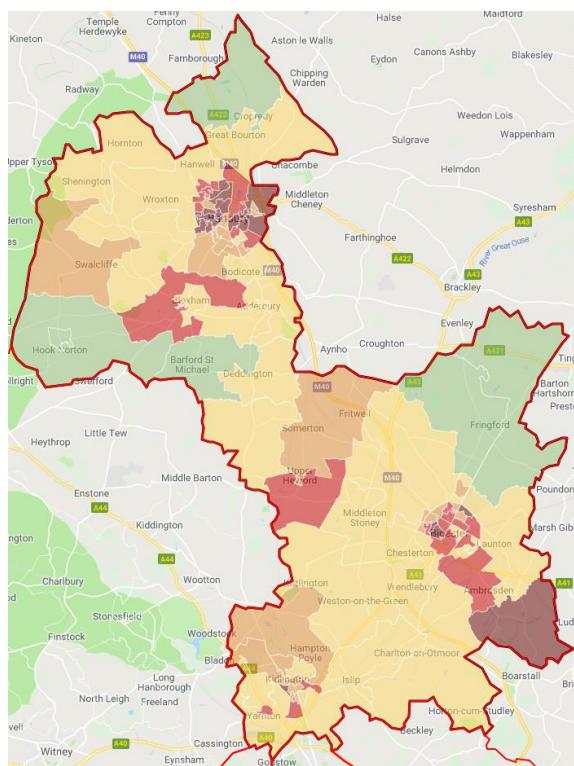
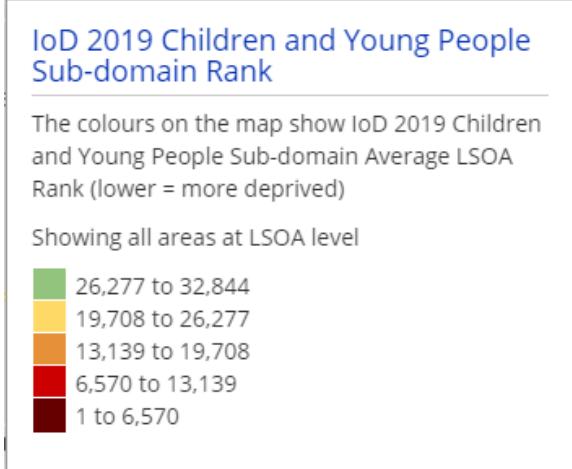
Vale of White Horse: Abingdon.

West Oxfordshire: Chipping Norton, Witney.

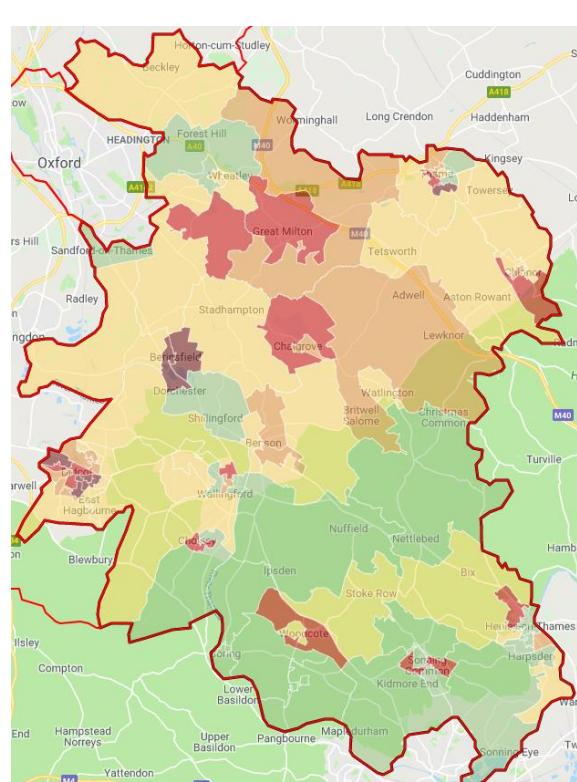
Children and Young People sub-domain

The IoD 2019 Children and Young People sub-domain measures the lack of attainment in the local population. Indicators include Key Stage 2 (year 6 primary school); Key Stage 4 attainment (GCSE); Secondary school absences; the proportion of young people not staying on in education above age 16; the proportion of young people aged under 21 not entering higher education. Data shows Average LSOA Rank, a lower rank indicates that an area is experiencing high levels of deprivation.

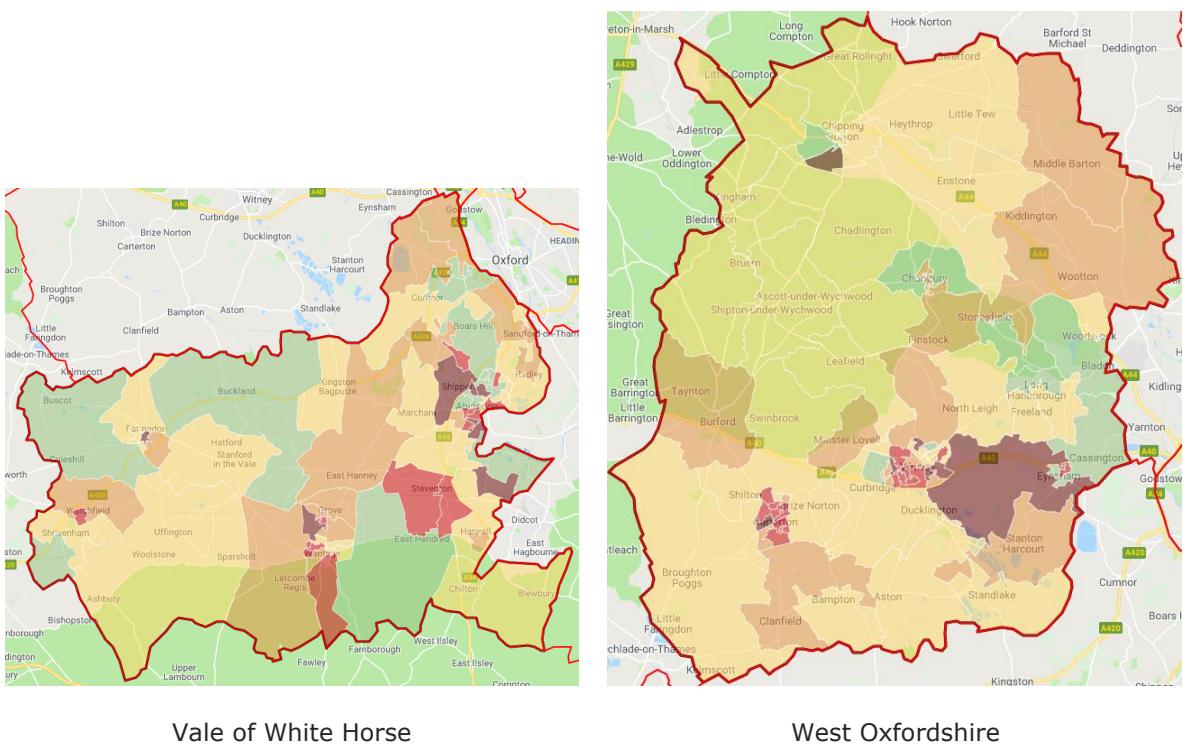




Oxford City



South Oxfordshire



As can be seen from the maps above each of the districts of Oxfordshire has some pockets of deprivation by this measure. There are 62 LSOAs in Oxfordshire that are in the most deprived 20% nationally by this measure in the following areas:

Cherwell: Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington.

Oxford City: Barton, Blackbird Leys, Carfax, Cowley, Jericho, Littlemore, Northfield Brook, Northway, Rose Hill.

South Oxfordshire: Berinsfield, Didcot, Thame.

Vale of White Horse: Abingdon, Farringdon, Grove.

West Oxfordshire: Carterton, Chipping Norton, Witney.

Educational attainment

The IoD 2019 Children and Young People sub-domain shows includes average measures of attainment at Key Stage 2 (Year 6 primary school) and Key Stage 4 (GCSE). However, the Department of Education has stopped publishing data at a local level (only at local authority level) so it is harder to drill down into the data to identify pockets of deprivation at each age group.

The table below shows wards of Oxford in order of IoD Children and Young People sub-domain. The colours represent how they would compare nationally in comparison to MSOAs (areas of comparable size). Dark red shows the areas to be in the 20% most deprived, red in the next 20%, orange in the next 20%, yellow the next 20% and green will be in the least deprived 20%. The third and fourth columns are data from the 2013-14 academic year as this was when it was last published at this localised level.



Ward	IoD 2019 Children and Young People	Average Point Score - Key Stage 2 pupils (2013-14)	Pupils 5 GCSE at A*-C, inc. English and Maths (2013-14)	IoD 2019 Staying on in education post 16	IoD 2019 Entry to higher education indicator
Blackbird Leys	2400.62	26.43	32.03	0.24	0.93
Banbury Ruscote	2565.60	27.55	37.92	0.22	0.95
Barton and Sandhills	3152.83	27.49	46.21	0.29	0.90
Northfield Brook	4508.65	25.48	44.79	0.24	0.92
Abingdon Caldecott	6315.19	28.79	43.85	0.19	0.92
Littlemore	6320.33	26.57	55.56	0.21	0.90
Banbury Cross and Neithrop	7534.79	27.30	50.88	0.23	0.92
Churchill	7582.62	28.02	46.13	0.18	0.88
Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown	7843.88	28.37	42.71	0.24	0.92
Berinsfield	8115.17	26.21	29.58	0.30	0.91
Carterton North West	8137.74	27.87	59.79	0.32	0.90
Didcot South	8645.18	28.74	56.32	0.27	0.93
Banbury Hardwick	9286.88	28.66	54.46	0.19	0.93
Didcot West	9554.73	28.05	57.31	0.28	0.91
Rose Hill and Iffley	10003.04	26.22	40.20	0.18	0.86
Bicester West	10058.77	28.74	50.28	0.21	0.93
Witney South	10087.34	27.92	57.67	0.19	0.91
Grove North	10981.39	28.35	66.15	0.22	0.90
Witney Central	11121.41	27.92	54.49	0.16	0.90
Cowley Marsh	11125.70	26.51	59.42	0.20	0.86
Grove	11580.96	28.43	64.24	0.22	0.90
Carterton South	11728.96	28.71	66.85	0.21	0.91
Carterton	11769.36	28.61	60.97	0.24	0.91
Lye Valley	11906.40	27.85	61.15	0.25	0.88
Steventon & the Hanneys	12292.88	29.22	59.06	0.24	0.88
Cowley	12369.87	28.25	48.12	0.19	0.89
Bicester East	12587.96	28.92	53.27	0.24	0.92
Bicester	12734.54	28.86	52.35	0.22	0.92
Didcot	12897.07	28.65	62.21	0.25	0.92
Bicester South and Ambrosden	13695.56	28.77	47.28	0.23	0.91
Kidlington East	13740.57	28.51	64.84	0.24	0.88
Chalgrove	14101.22	29.44	61.13	0.23	0.91
Carterton North East	14418.79	29.06	56.82	0.21	0.92
St Mary's	14506.92	27.38	48.76	0.25	0.86

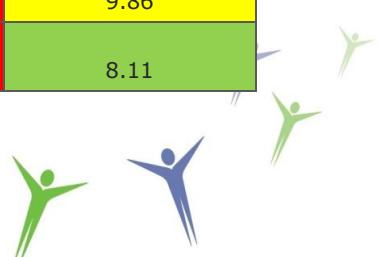
Wantage & Grove Brook	14564.64	28.63	51.72	0.18	0.91
Bicester North and Caversfield	14565.40	28.91	55.69	0.21	0.91
Kidlington	14667.84	28.60	60.73	0.23	0.88
St Clement's	14890.64	26.06	51.01	0.21	0.85
Marcham	15087.90	27.73	46.41	0.27	0.87
Witney East	15592.18	28.63	66.99	0.20	0.89
Abingdon Abbey Northcourt	16546.21	28.45	55.00	0.21	0.87
Garsington & Horspath	17130.22	30.39	48.35	0.27	0.87
Kidlington West	17448.47	29.75	59.04	0.20	0.88
Witney North	17608.91	28.54	55.11	0.22	0.88
Ridgeway	18084.54	28.89	61.70	0.20	0.86
Didcot North East	18424.76	28.81	69.97	0.23	0.91

The table does not include any of the areas showing above average results across the board. This table should be useful as a guide to projects that OCF would prioritise for funding. We will prioritise projects that are focused on any of the age groups, in areas that show greater deprivation.

Social Consequences

At the top we see the areas that scoring worst in the IoD 2019 Children and Young people. For many of these areas it is possible to identify some of the consequences of poor educational attainment. Below is a table showing areas where they are in the most deprived 40% nationally for Working-age DWP Benefit Claimants aged 16-24 and for Possession of Weapons Offences or Anti-Social Behaviour.

Ward	IoD 2019 Children and Young People Sub-domain Rank	Working-age DWP benefit claimants aged 16-24	Possession of weapons offences	Anti-social behaviour
Blackbird Leys	2400.62	10.10	1.00	15.90
Banbury Ruscote	2565.60	9.00	0.98	18.27
Barton and Sandhills	3152.83	9.54	0.70	15.41
Northfield Brook	4508.65	13.46	1.06	10.17
Abingdon Caldecott	6315.19	7.11	0.37	6.87
Littlemore	6320.33	9.97	0.91	17.32
Banbury Cross and Neithrop	7534.79	9.53	2.23	29.23
Churchill	7582.62	1.56	0.66	17.30
Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown	7843.88	7.04	1.13	13.20
Berinsfield	8115.17	9.48	0.00	6.92
Carterton North West	8137.74	7.27	0.83	8.95
Didcot South	8645.18	8.28	0.76	9.86
Banbury Hardwick	9286.88	5.44	0.73	8.11



Didcot West	9554.73	6.90	0.70	4.45
Rose Hill and Iffley	10003.04	8.35	0.92	17.95
Bicester West	10058.77	5.18	0.45	6.88
Witney South	10087.34	6.19	1.21	18.73
Witney Central	11121.41	10.14	1.08	20.26
Cowley Marsh	11125.70	2.32	1.48	18.00
Cowley	12369.87	3.72	1.37	18.32
Bicester East	12587.96	4.65	0.85	21.37

The fact that so many of these areas show a high level of DWP claimants aged 16-24 is particularly shocking when considering the job density (as shown below). Unemployment is not the result of there being no jobs available in Oxfordshire, but more likely that there are not the people qualified to do the jobs available.

The consequences of a poor education and subsequent lack of work can lead many people feeling 'left behind'. A growing number being 'left behind' can have terrible consequences for society; we have seen rising numbers of knife attacks and incidents of anti-social behaviour across the country. 'Left behind' children and young people are often vulnerable to crime. Those that are absent or excluded from school or formal education are most at risk. Most recruiting for gangs such as county lines, and grooming for child sexual exploitation takes place during school hours.

Job density

Job density shows the number of jobs located in the local area as a percentage of the working age population in that area. Data is taken from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) of approximately 80,000 businesses and weighted to represent all sectors of the UK economy.

District	Job density %
Oxford City	112.8
Cherwell	86.9
Vale of White Horse	82.7
South Oxfordshire	73.6
West Oxfordshire	71.3

The table above shows the job density per district of Oxfordshire. In the case of Oxford City, the number exceeding 100 means that there are more jobs than residents of working age.

We can see that the places with the highest rate of 16-24 year olds claiming DWP benefits are most frequently in Oxford City and Cherwell – the places with the highest job density.

English language skills

One of the most fundamental skills required for most employment is the ability to speak English. Over the last year Oxford City has seen its population increase by more than 3,500 due to international migration. This and existing diverse communities see some areas with a relatively high proportion of people who cannot speak English well.

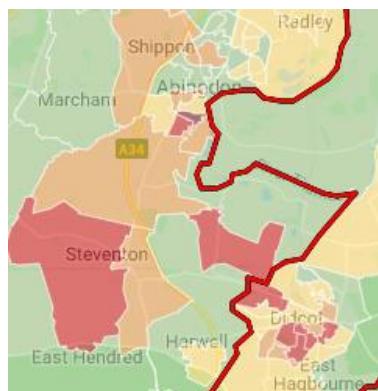
The maps below show areas of greatest deprivation from the IoD 2019 Adult skills and English language proficiency indicator. This metric shows % of adults with low/no qualifications OR who cannot speak English well/at all.

IoD 2019 Adult skills and English language proficiency indicator

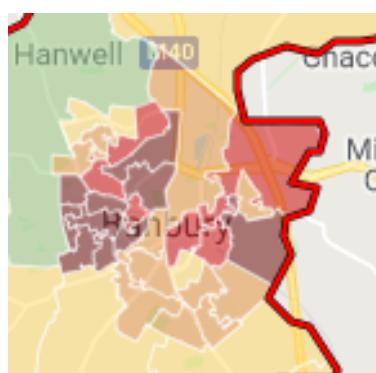
The colours on the map show % of adults with low/no qualifications OR who cannot speak English well/at all

Showing all areas at LSOA level

0.031 to 0.210
0.210 to 0.269
0.269 to 0.327
0.327 to 0.405
0.405 to 0.754



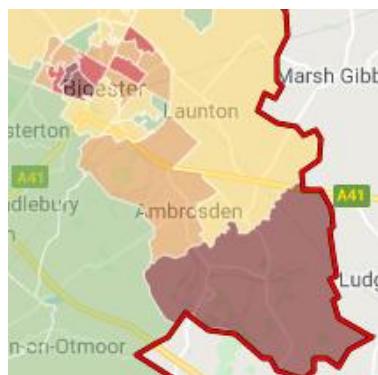
Abingdon / Didcot



Banbury



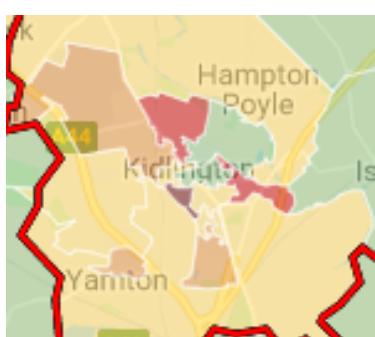
Berisfield



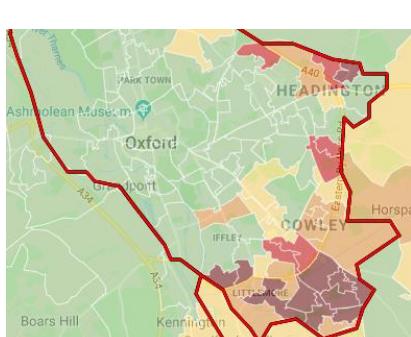
Bicester



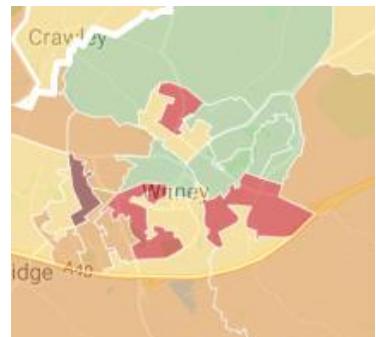
Chipping Norton



Kidlington



Oxford



Witney

The areas are very similar to those that have been shown in the other indices.



Conclusion

Overall, the data in Oxfordshire shows vast inequalities in education. Most of the maps above resemble a patchwork – indicating that Oxfordshire is home to some of the most and least deprived areas for several metrics.

Although the Adult Skills domain does show deprivation in Oxfordshire, it is nowhere near as widely spread or as bad as deprivation for the Children and Young People domain. This round of funding will prioritise funding projects that help children and young people aged 7-21yrs. This represents those who are starting their Key Stage 2, through to the point where they should be work ready.

As stated earlier in this document, we will prioritise projects that are delivered in the areas of greatest deprivation for each of the age groups, i.e. we would prioritise a project in Garsington & Horspath focusing on skills for 16 year olds, but not for Key Stage 2 pupils where they appear to be more successful.

We do recognise that most projects aren't confined to a single ward. We will take into consideration the levels of deprivation in neighbouring areas. We see this in a town such as Didcot, where the ward of Didcot South appears close to the top of the Educational Attainment table above, whereas Didcot North East appears at the foot of the table. Similarly, some areas of Witney, Chipping Norton, Kidlington and Abingdon don't feature in the tables above but they also have pockets of deprivation.

Much of the data in this report is focusing on academic attainment that will be achieved in school. We are not able to fund schools but wish to support charities and community groups that support children in their learning both academically and in practical skills. We believe education and mentoring in the broadest sense are measures that may prevent children dropping out of education at an earlier age and potentially ending up in 'left behind' – out of work and vulnerable to crime.



Appendix: Data sources (via Local Insight)

IoD 2019 Education, Skills and Training Rank

The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 Education Skills and Training Domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills. These two sub-domains are designed to reflect the 'flow' and 'stock' of educational disadvantage within an area respectively. That is the 'children and young people' sub-domain measures the attainment of qualifications and associated measures ('flow') while the 'skills' sub-domain measures the lack of qualifications in the resident working age adult population ('stock'). Children and Young People sub-domain includes: Key stage 2 attainment: The average points score/scaled score of pupils taking reading writing and mathematics Key stage 2 exams; Key stage 4 attainment: The average capped points score of pupils taking Key stage 4; Secondary school absence: The proportion of authorised and unauthorised absences from secondary school; Staying on in education post 16: The proportion of young people not staying on in school or non-advanced education above age 16 and Entry to higher education: The proportion of young people aged under 21 not entering higher education. The Adult Skills sub-domain includes: Adult skills: The proportion of working age adults with no or low qualifications women aged 25 to 59 and men aged 25 to 64; English language proficiency: The proportion of working age adults who cannot speak English or cannot speak English well women aged 25 to 59 and men aged 25 to 64. Data shows Average LSOA Rank, a lower rank indicates that an area is experiencing high levels of deprivation. *Last update: September 2019*

Source: Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>)

ID 2019 Adult Skills Sub-domain Score

The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 Adult Skills sub-domain measures the lack of skills in the local population. The following indicators are included: Adult Skills: The proportion of working age adults with no or low qualifications women aged 25 to 59 and men aged 25 to 64; English language proficiency: The proportion of working age adults who cannot speak English or cannot speak English well women aged 25 to 59 and men aged 25 to 64. Data shows Average LSOA Rank, a lower rank indicates that an area is experiencing high levels of deprivation. *Last update: (September 2019)*

Source: Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>)

ID 2015 Children and Young People Sub-domain Score

The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 Children and Young People sub-domain measures the lack of attainment in the local population. The following indicators are included: Key Stage 2 attainment: The scaled score of pupils taking Mathematics, English reading and English grammar, punctuation and spelling Key Stage 2 exams; Key Stage 4 attainment: The average capped points score of pupils taking Key Stage 4; Secondary school absence: The proportion of authorised and unauthorised absences from secondary school; Staying on in education post 16: The proportion of young people not staying on in school or non-advanced education above age 16 and Entry to higher education: The proportion of young people aged under 21 not entering higher education. Data shows Average LSOA Rank, a lower rank indicates that an area is experiencing high levels of deprivation. *Last update: (September 2019)*

Source: Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>)



Pupils achieving Key Stage 2, Level 4 in Reading, Writing and Maths

Shows the proportion of pupils achieving level 4 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at Key Stage 2 (KS2). Level 4 is the expected level for most 11 year olds. Figures are based on postcode of the pupils residence and derived from the School Census. KS2 is the National Curriculum standard test for eleven year olds.

Last update: published June 2015

Source: Department for Education (DfE)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-neighbourhood-absence-and-attainment>)

Pupils achieving 5 or more Key Stage 4 (GCSE) passes at A*-C, including English and Maths

Shows the proportion of pupils achieving five or more GCSE grades A*-C including English and Mathematics at Key Stage 4 (KS4). Figures are based on postcode of the pupils residence and derived from the School Census. KS4 is the National Curriculum standard test for pupils in year eleven (aged 15-16). *Last update: published June 2015*

Source: Department for Education (DfE)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-neighbourhood-absence-and-attainment>)

IoD 2019 Staying on in education post 16 indicator

IoD 2019 Staying on in education post 16 indicator measures the proportion of young people not staying on in school or non-advanced education above age 16, based on receipt of Child Benefit. Child Benefit is a tax-free payment that most parents can claim for their child(ren). Children aged under 16 are eligible. Those aged between 16 and 19 are only eligible if they are in relevant education or training, or registered for work, education or training with an approved body. The numerator for the indicator is the number of people aged 17 receiving Child Benefit (who are only eligible if they are in relevant education or training), at Lower-layer Super Output Area level for the period 2010 to 2012. The denominator is the number of people in the area aged 15 receiving Child Benefit in the period 2008 to 2010. The data was supplied by HM Revenue & Customs. The indicator was calculated in a positive form as the proportion of children staying on in school or non-advanced education. This figure was subtracted from 1 to produce the proportion not staying on in education after the age of 16. Shrinkage was applied to the indicator. A higher score indicates that an area is experiencing high levels of deprivation. *Last update: 2019*

Source: Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>)

Working-age DWP benefit claimants aged 16-24

Shows the proportion of people aged 16-24 receiving DWP benefits. DWP Benefits are benefits payable to all people who need additional financial support due to low income, worklessness, poor health, caring responsibilities, bereavement or disability. The following benefits are included: Bereavement Benefit, Carers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance, Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Pension Credit and Widows Benefit. Figure are derived from 100% sample of administrative records from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), with all clients receiving more than one benefit counted only by their primary reason for interacting with the benefits system (to avoid double counting). Universal Credit (UC) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) started to replace the benefits included in this measure from April 2013 when new Jobseeker's Allowance and Disability Living Allowance claimants started to move onto the new benefits in selected geographical areas. This rollout intensified from March 2016 onwards to capture all of the other Working age DWP Benefits. As UC and PIP are not included in this measure it no longer represent a complete count of working age people receiving DWP Benefits. As a result the measure was discontinued in November 2016. Rate calculated as = (Working-age DWP benefit claimants aged 16-24)/(Population aged 16-24)*100. *Last update: Nov-16*

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

(<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=103>)

Possession of weapons offences

Shows 12 month total of neighbourhood-level incidents of possession of weapons, and as a rate per 1,000 residents. The incidents were located to the point at which they occurred and allocated to the appropriate output area and lower super output area (LSOA). Rate calculated as = (Possession of weapons offences)/(Total population)*1000 *Date: Sep-18 to Aug-19*

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures) (<https://data.police.uk/>)

Anti-social behaviour

Shows 12 month total of neighbourhood-level incidents of anti-social behaviour, and as a rate per 1,000 residents. The incidents were located to the point at which they occurred and allocated to the appropriate output area and lower super output area (LSOA).

Rate calculated as = (Anti-social behaviour offences)/(Total population)*1000

Source: Police UK (Police recorded crime figures) (<https://data.police.uk/>)

Jobs density (jobs as a percentage of the working age population)

Shows the number of jobs located in the local area as a percentage of the working age population in that area. Data is taken from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) of approximately 80,000 businesses and weighted to represent all sectors of the UK economy. The BRES definition of an employee is anyone working on the BRES reference date who is aged 16 years or over that the contributor directly pays from its payroll(s), in return for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme. Rate calculated as = (Total employment)/(Population aged 16-64)*100 *Last update: Sept 2019*

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforbusinesses/businesssurveys/businessregisterandemploymentsurvey>)



Appendix: Statistical Geographies

The vast majority of place-based open data is published at least one of the following geographies. Output Areas and Super Output Areas are standard areas that were primarily designed for the publication of the Census. They have been designed to be fairly homogenous in terms of population size, so that you can compare like-for-like when looking at changes over time & when comparing different areas and different datasets.

Output Areas (OAs): These are the smallest of the geographies that data is published at and have an average population of about 310 residents (the table below shows the upper and lower thresholds). Not very much data is published at this level, although Census outputs are.

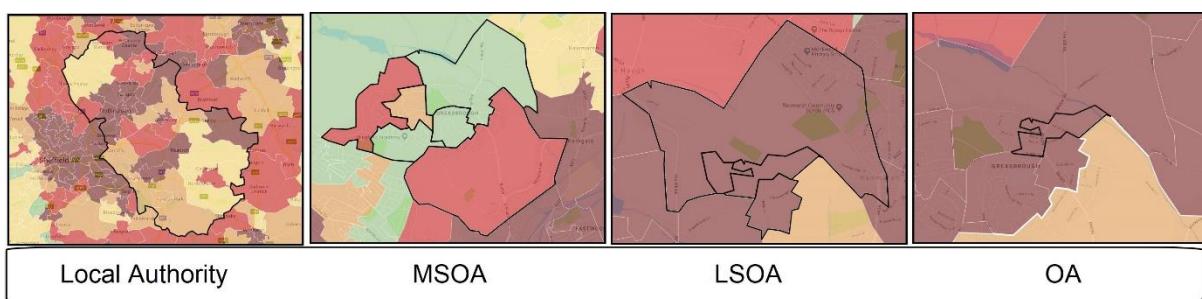
Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs): LSOAs have an average population of 1500 people or 650 households. A lot more data is available directly at LSOA level, including the majority of the data included within Local Insight.

Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs): MSOAs have an average population of 7500 residents or 4000 households. There are some datasets out there that are published at MSOA level as the smallest geography – for example estimates on prevalence of different health conditions.

Area Type	Lower threshold		Upper threshold	
	People	Households	People	Households
Output Areas	100	40	625	250
Lower Layer Super Output Areas	1,000	400	3,000	1,200
Middle Layer Super Output Areas	5,000	2,000	15,000	6,000
Electoral wards/divisions	100	40	n/a	n/a

Source: Office of National Statistics

The whole of England and Wales can be broken down into these constituent areas – or building blocks (Scotland and Northern Ireland are a different story). OAs nestle within the boundaries of LSOAs, LSOAs nestle within the boundaries of MSOAs and MSOAs nestle within the boundaries of Local Authorities.



NB: Each image is not to scale. These images show how OAs nestles within LSOAs and LSOAs within MSOAs.

These geographies are really useful in providing the structure for collecting, processing, storing and aggregating data, as well as being a great unit to show comparison. However, they do have one pretty big drawback and that is people do not tend to relate to them, at all. There are no names associated with LSOAs and they cut across neighbourhoods rather than aligning with real communities on the ground.

Wards

People generally tend to be more familiar with the term wards and will be more likely to identify which ward they are from, rather than which LSOA. Wards are a very useful unit for analysis precisely because of this.

However, datasets are often not published directly at ward level. Firstly, because ward boundaries change a lot and are therefore less likely to be consistent over time (not too mention the administrative headache it would be). Secondly, wards vary greatly in size (anything from 1000 to 30,000 people), and therefore it is difficult to compare different areas to each other.

So when using place-based data, you may need to source data for different types of areas depending on the questions you are trying to answer and the audiences you are engaging with (read to the end for resources that can help with this).

