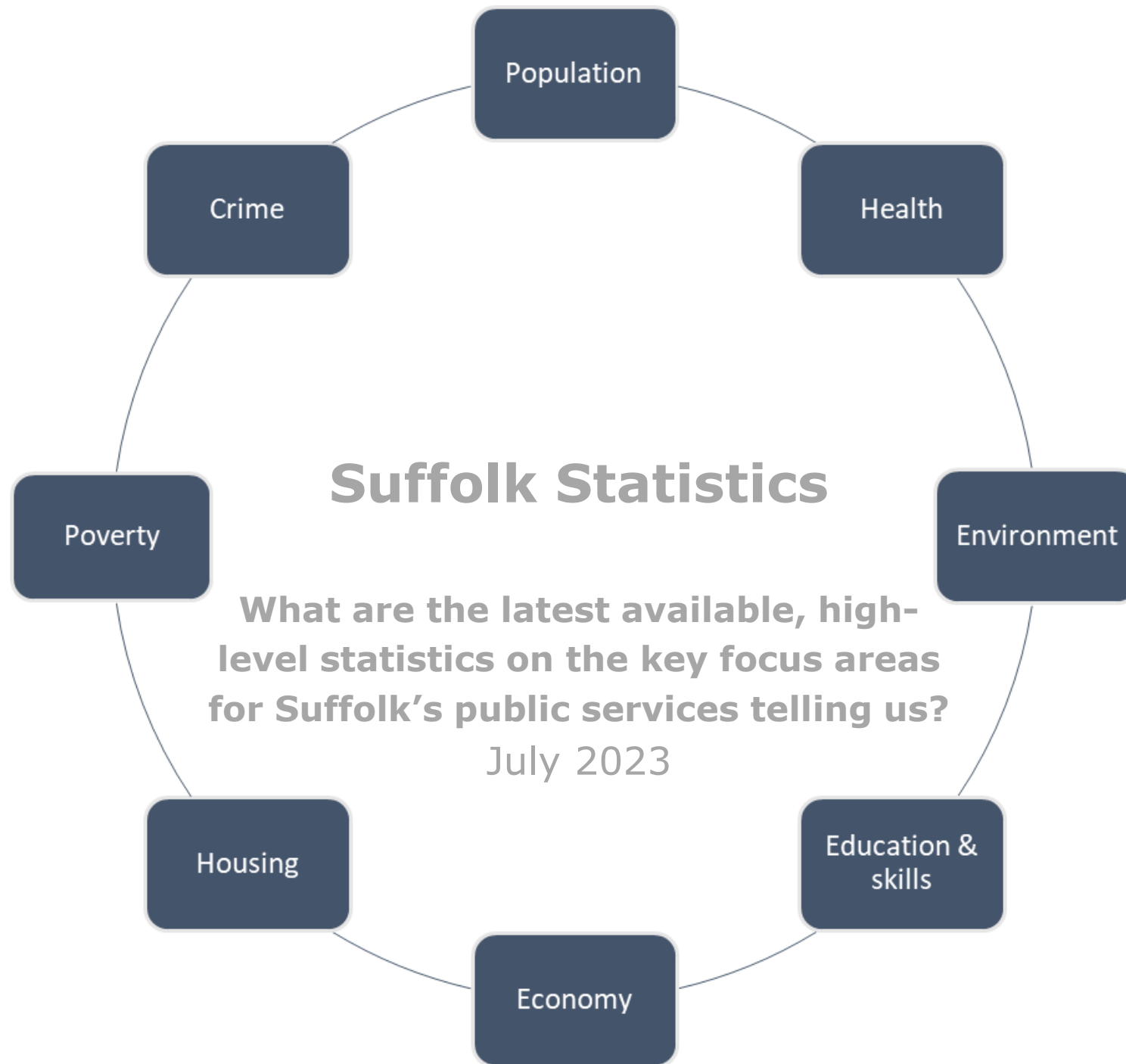


**Author:** Michaela Breilmann, Head of SODA

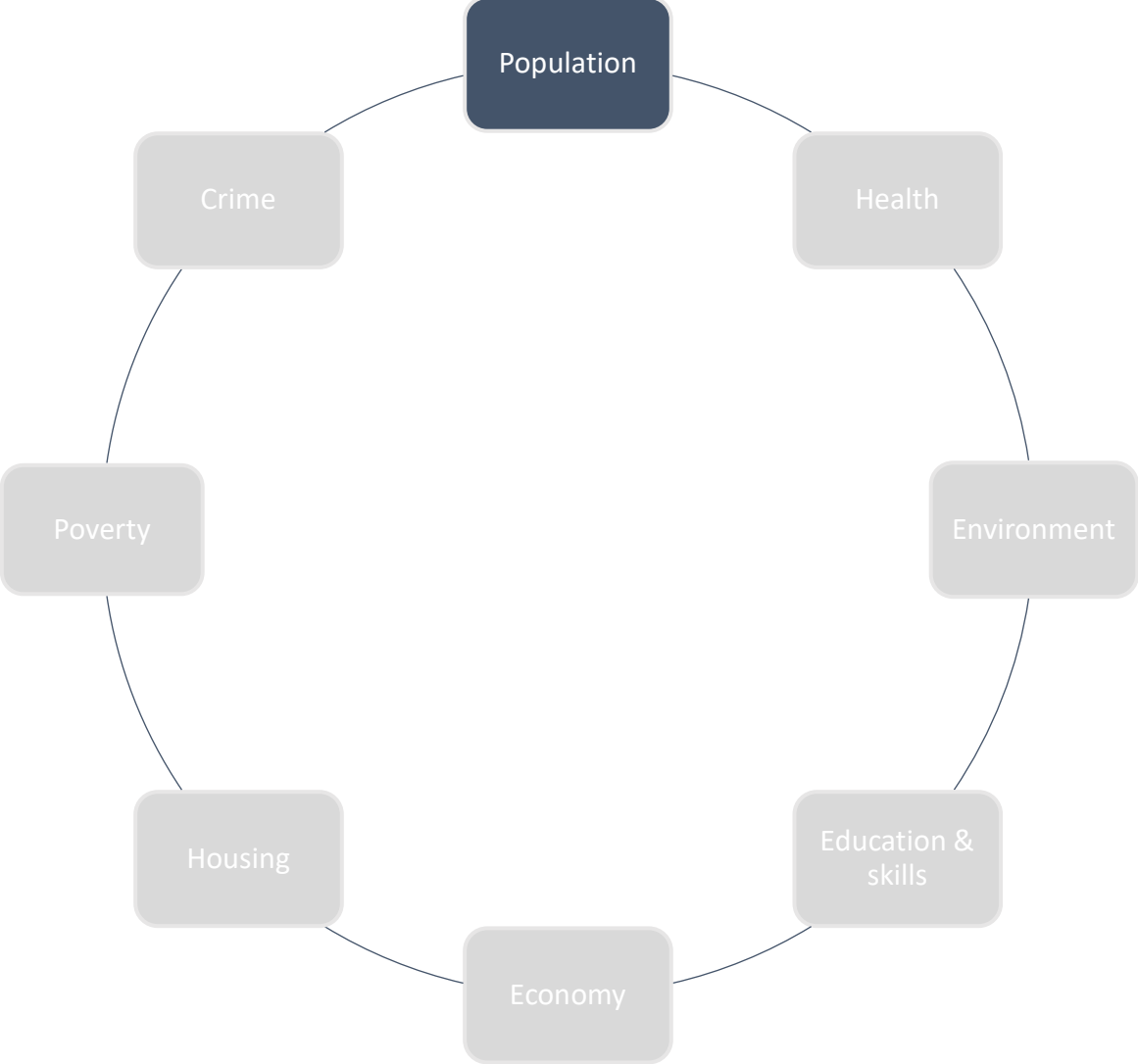
**Editor:** Anna Crispe, Assistant Director, Knowledge, Intelligence & Evidence, SCC



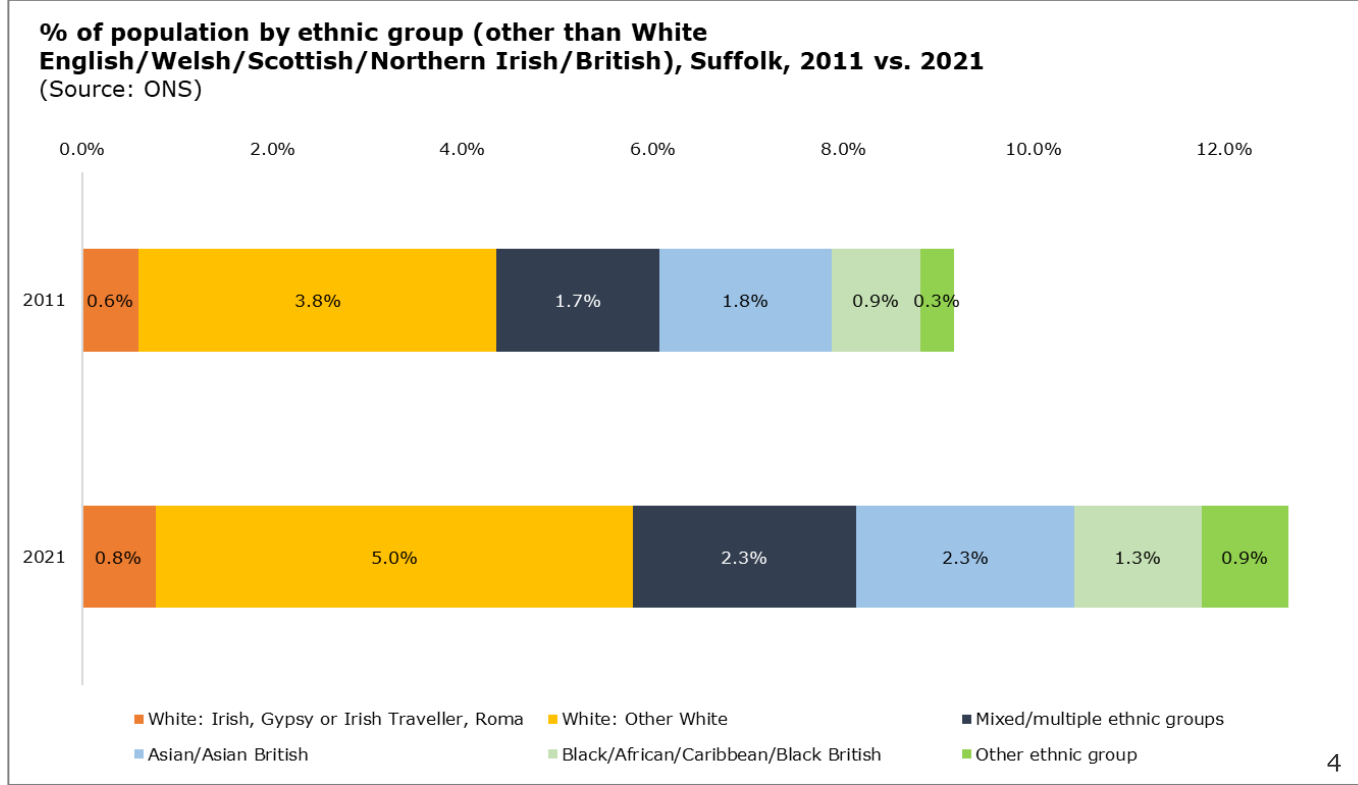
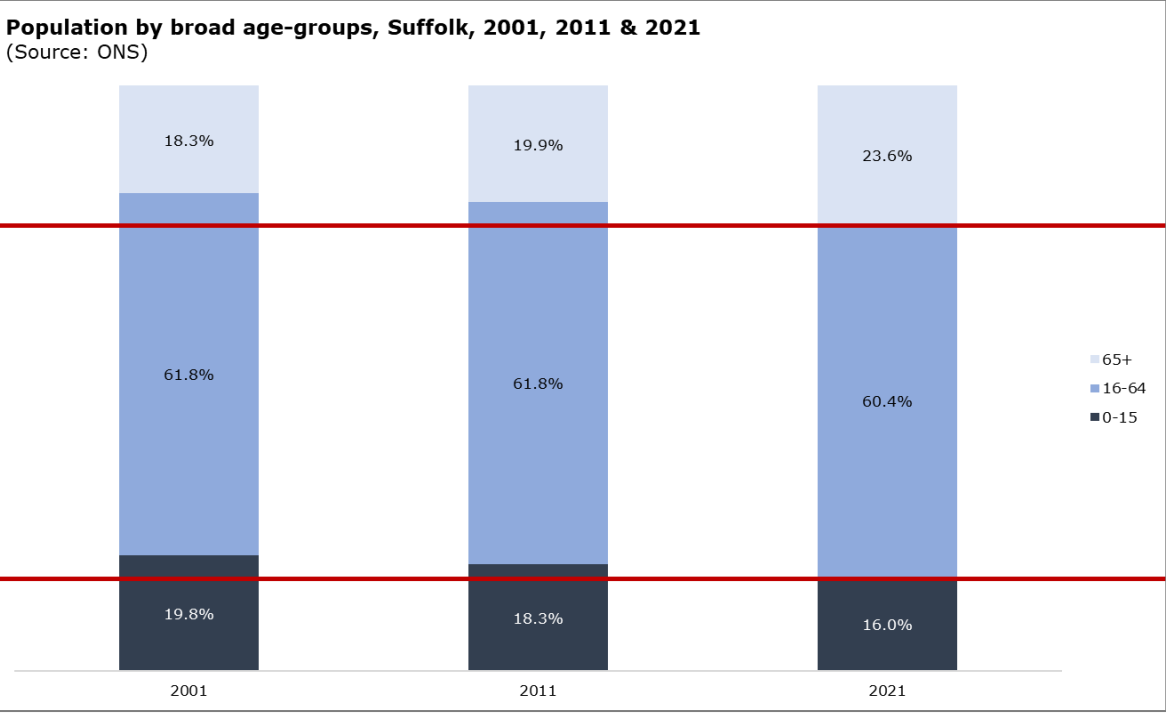
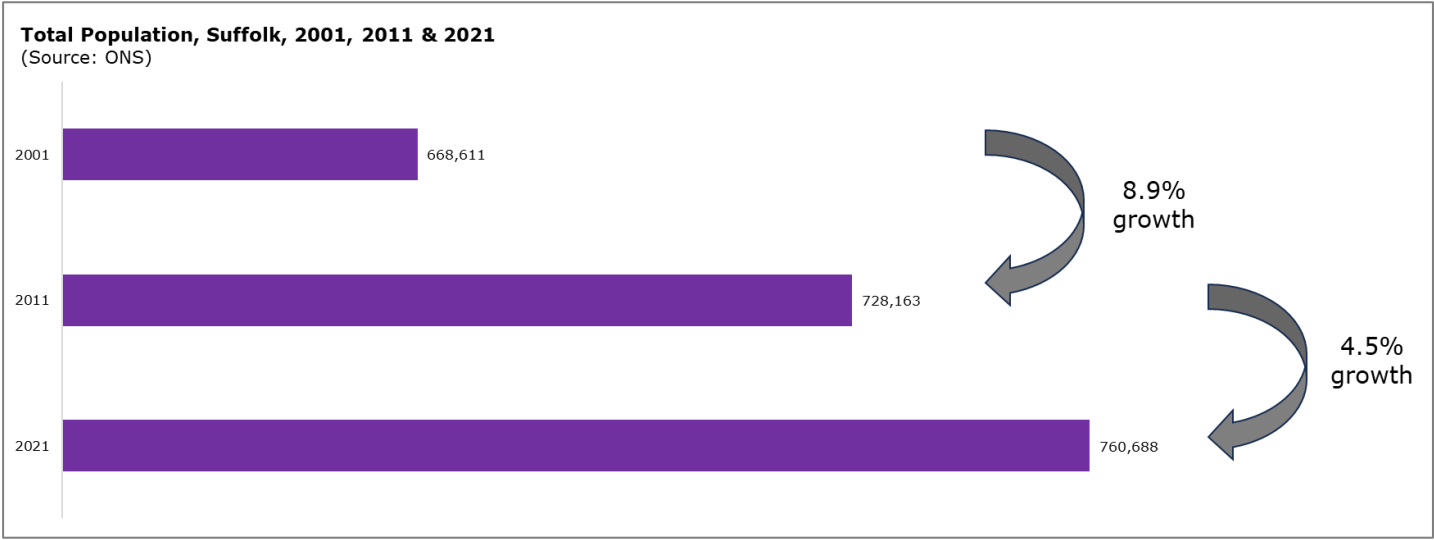
# Note on Data

- Publicly available data from sources such as ONS, NHSE, PHE, DWP, DfE, etc. are not always published in a timely fashion and often not at low geographical levels.
- The following provides the most up-to-date data; wherever possible at the lowest geographical levels.
- This report covers the key focus areas of:



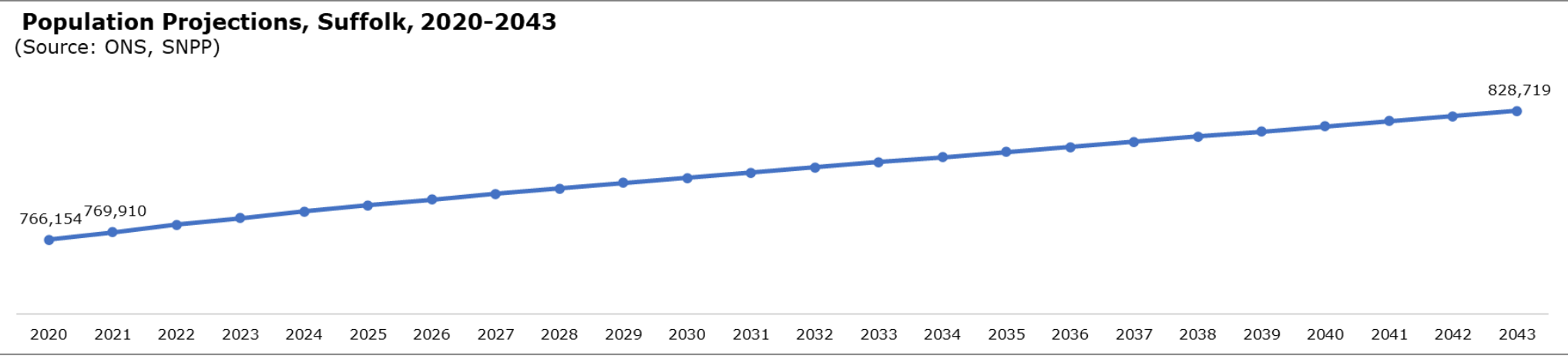


We have a growing and ageing population – that is now somewhat more ethnically diverse than 10 years ago (though still less diverse than the country overall: in Suffolk 87.3% are from White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British background compared to 74.4% nationally) .

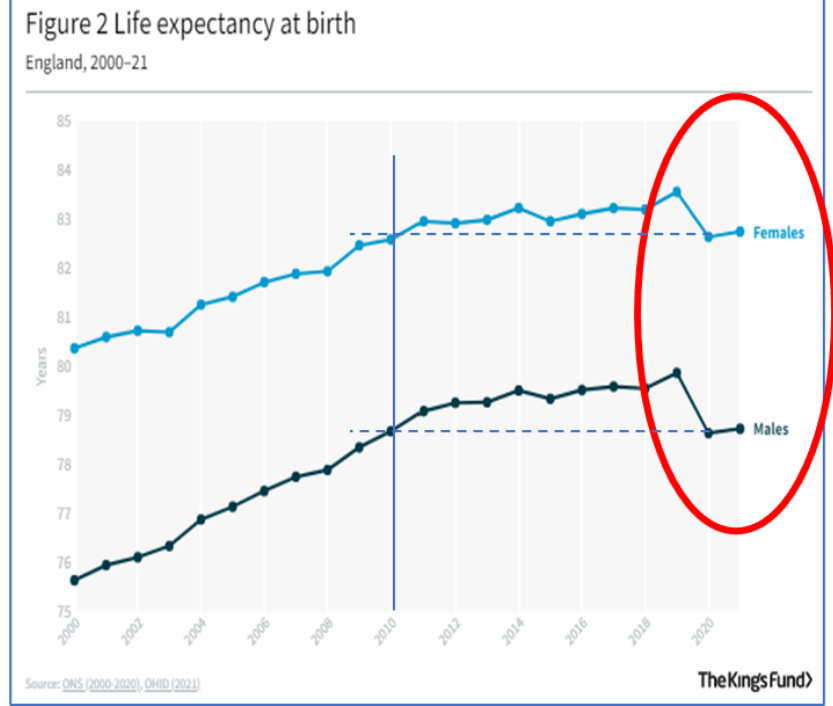
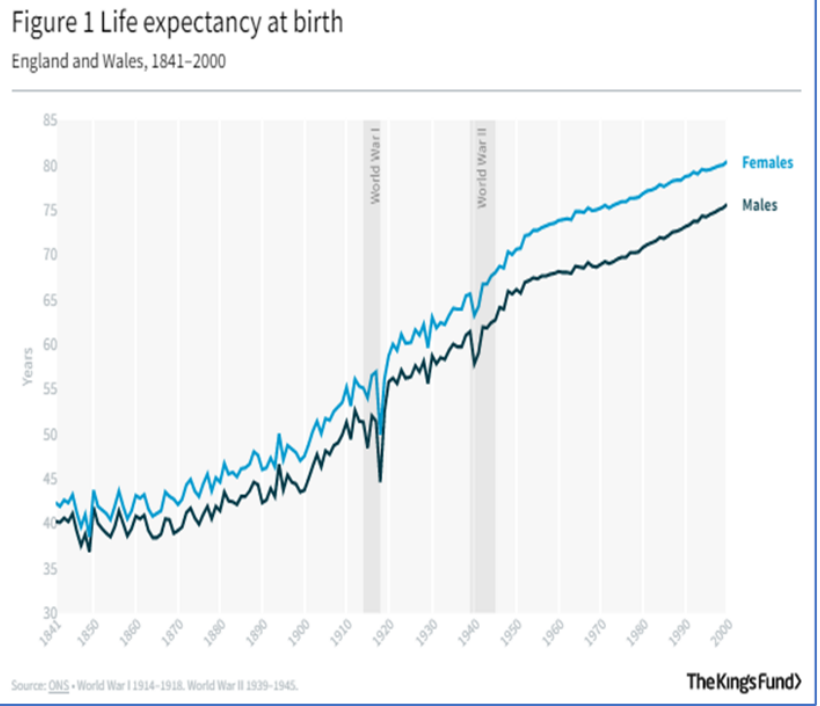


Source: ONS, Censuses 2001-2021.

Population growth is set to continue, however, due to the pandemic, previous projections may have to be revised. The ONS last provided population projections in 2020 (based on 2018 estimates), these predicted a rise by 8% to almost £830k by 2043.

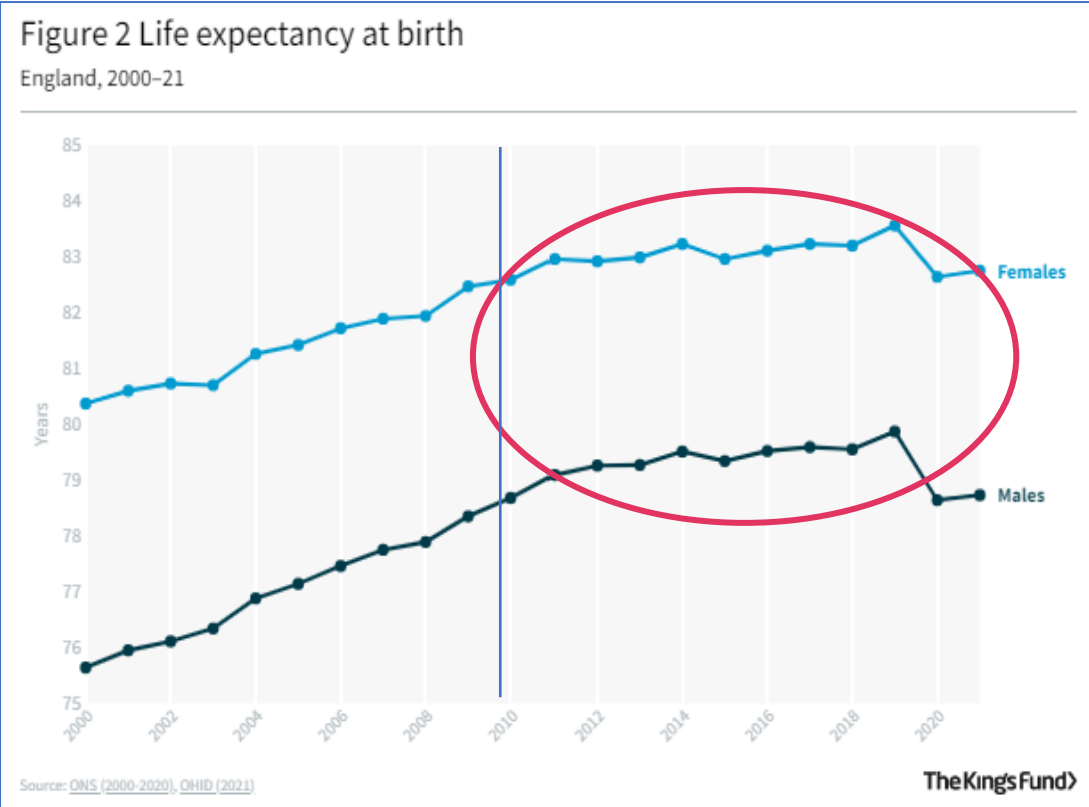
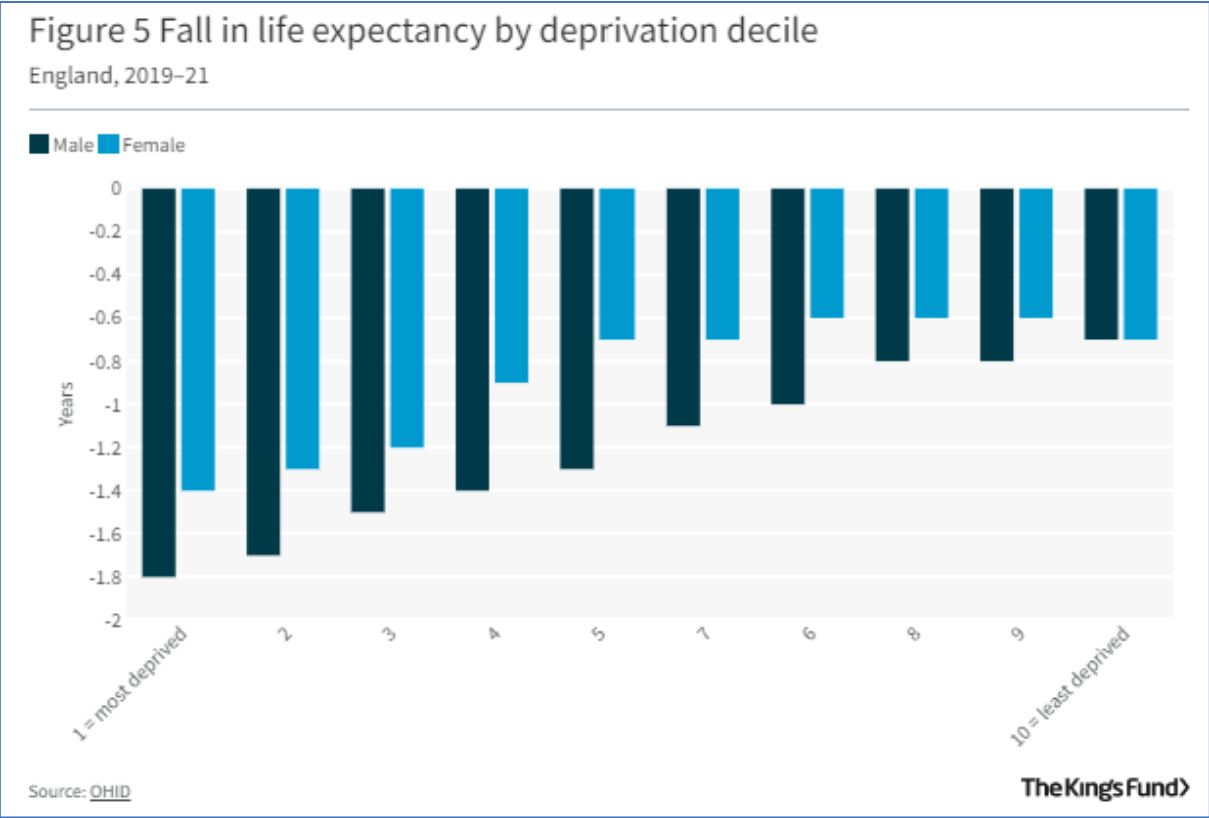


In 2020, the ONS estimated Suffolk's population to be 769,910 in 2021 – this is 9,222 higher than the actual population measured by the Census in 2021.

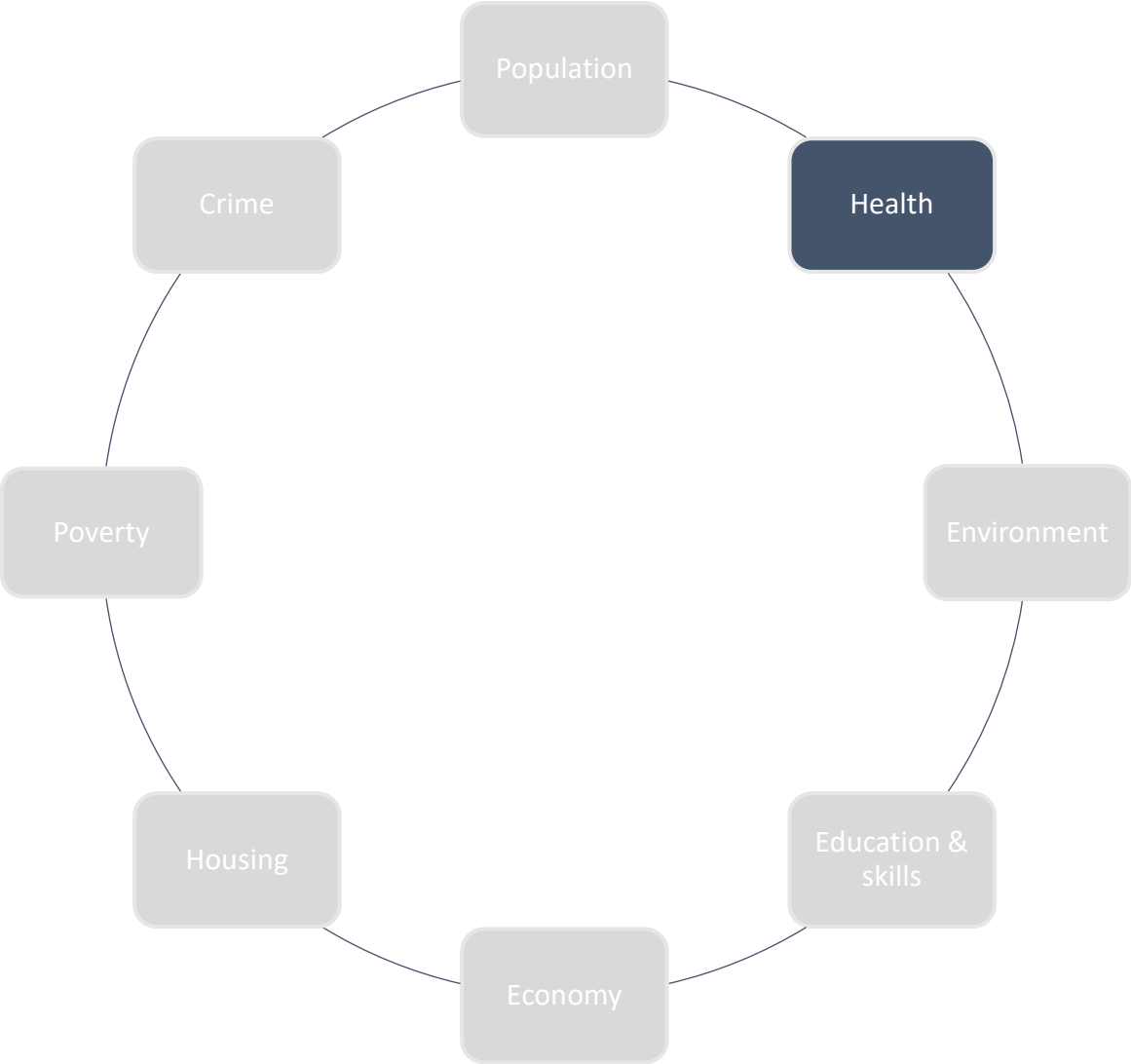


However, we already know though that **average life expectancy has been reduced by the pandemic**, with analysis by the King's Fund estimating that COVID has taken ten years off previously predicted life expectancy gains.

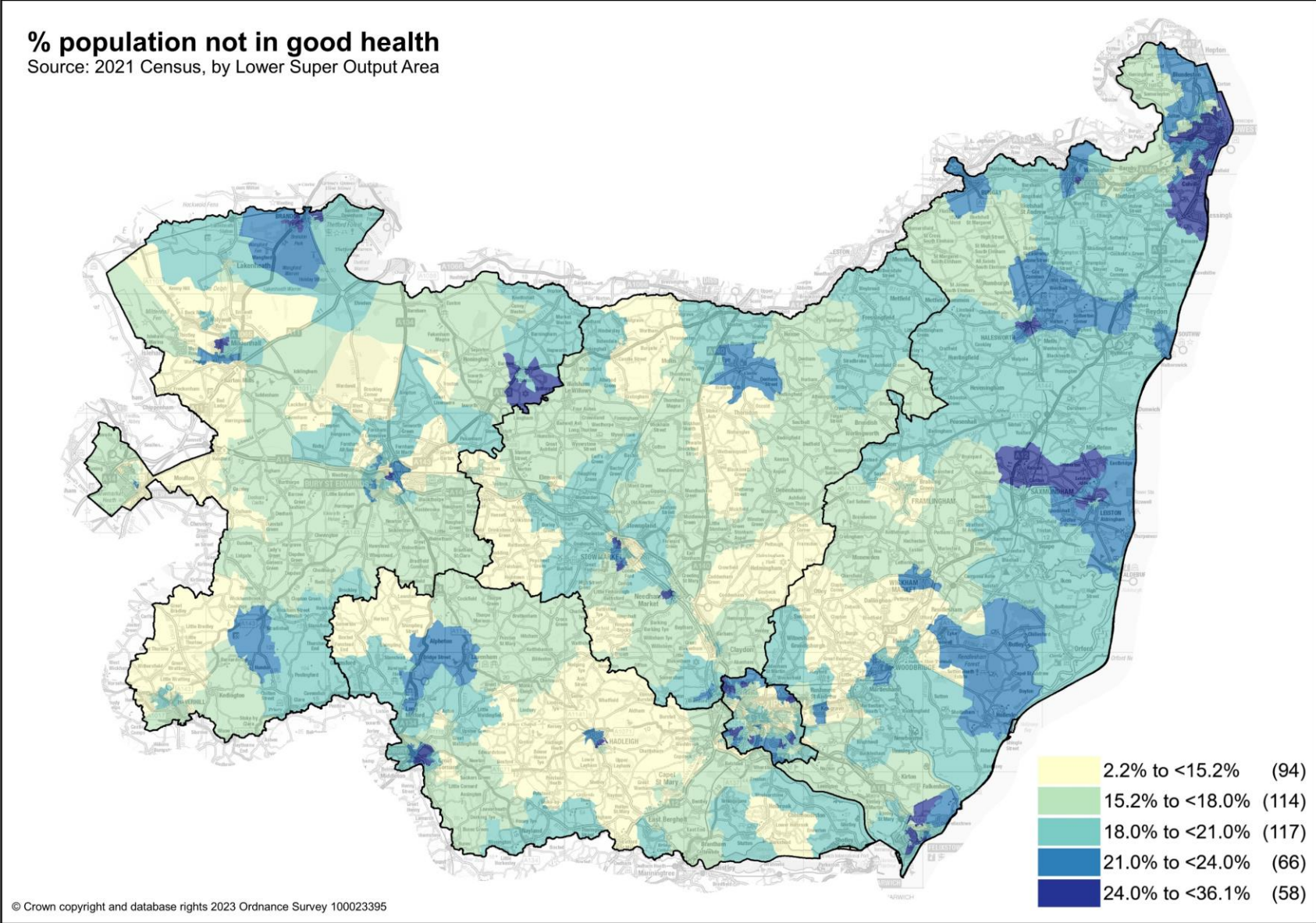
That reduction in life expectancy is not distributed equally across the population – and while the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is unclear, if it does reduce life expectancy, that effect will be magnified in more deprived communities, based on previous changes to life expectancy during austerity.



Source: King’s Fund, What is happening to life expectancy in England?, August 2022.



The latest census highlights inequalities in health status, with the % of population not in good health ranging from 2.2% to 36.1% across Suffolk's neighbourhoods (Suffolk and England averages = 18.6% and 18.9% respectively).



Source: ONS Census 2021.

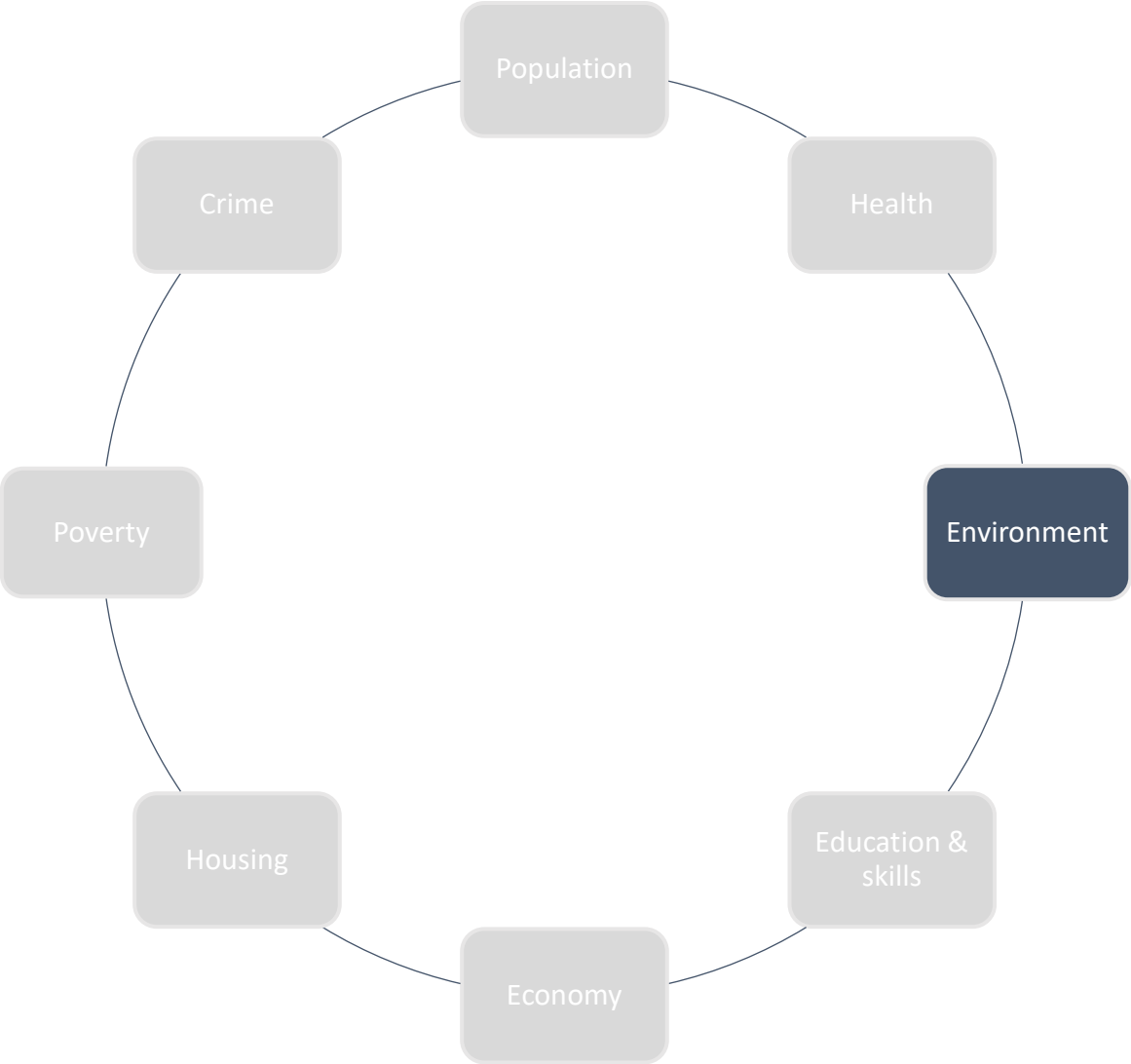


Whilst several key **health improvement indicators** perform statistically similarly or better compared to England, there is room for improvement, especially where **inequalities within Suffolk** are highlighted.

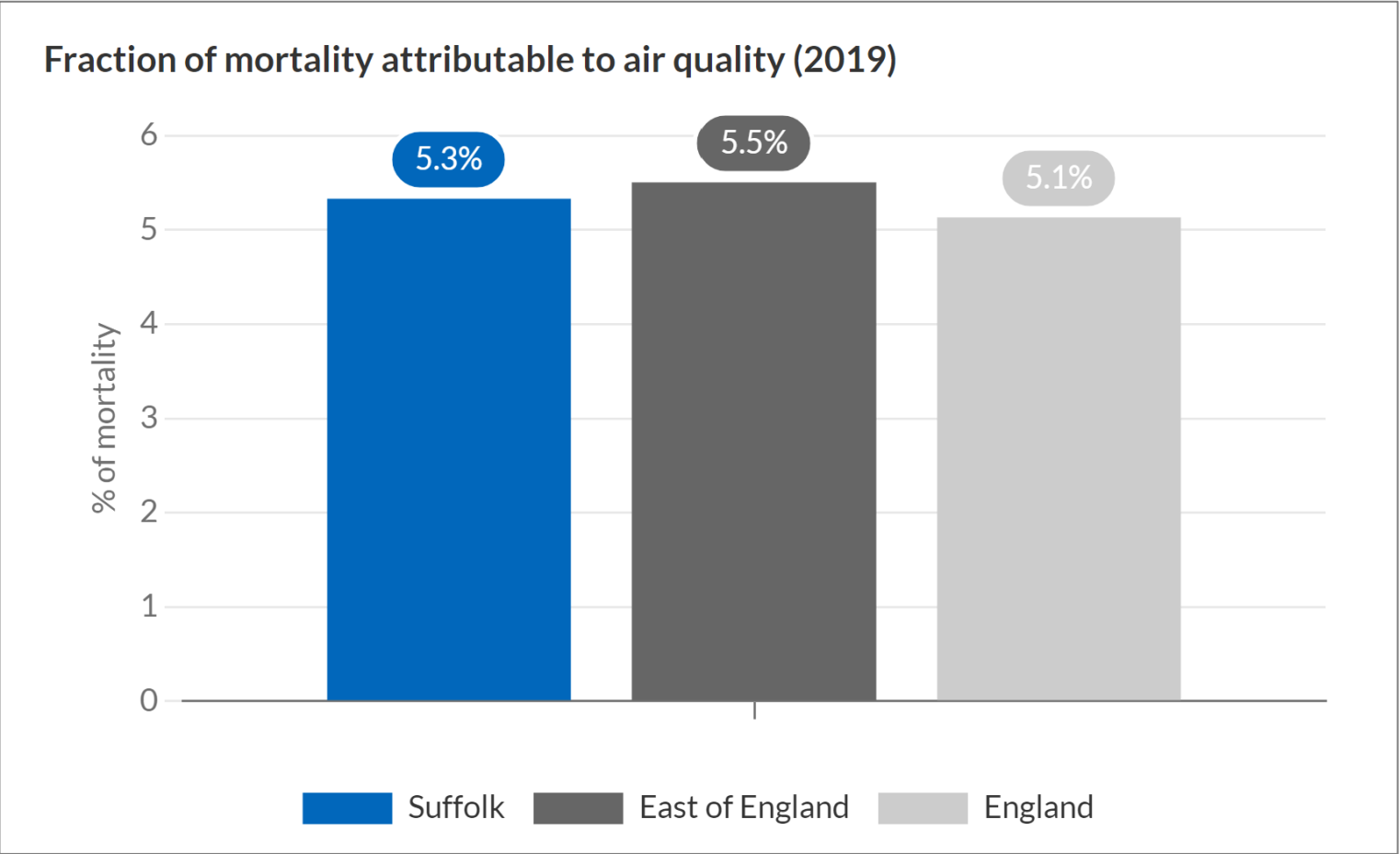
- 1 in 5 reception age children are overweight or obese, rising to 1 in 3 for year 6 children.
- In Ipswich 4 in 10 routine / manual worker's smoke
- Ipswich performs statistically significantly worse compared to England for several cancer screening indicators.
- 3-year pooled data indicates there were over 2,600 deaths under the age of 75 that were considered preventable (pre-pandemic).

Benchmarks compared to England:

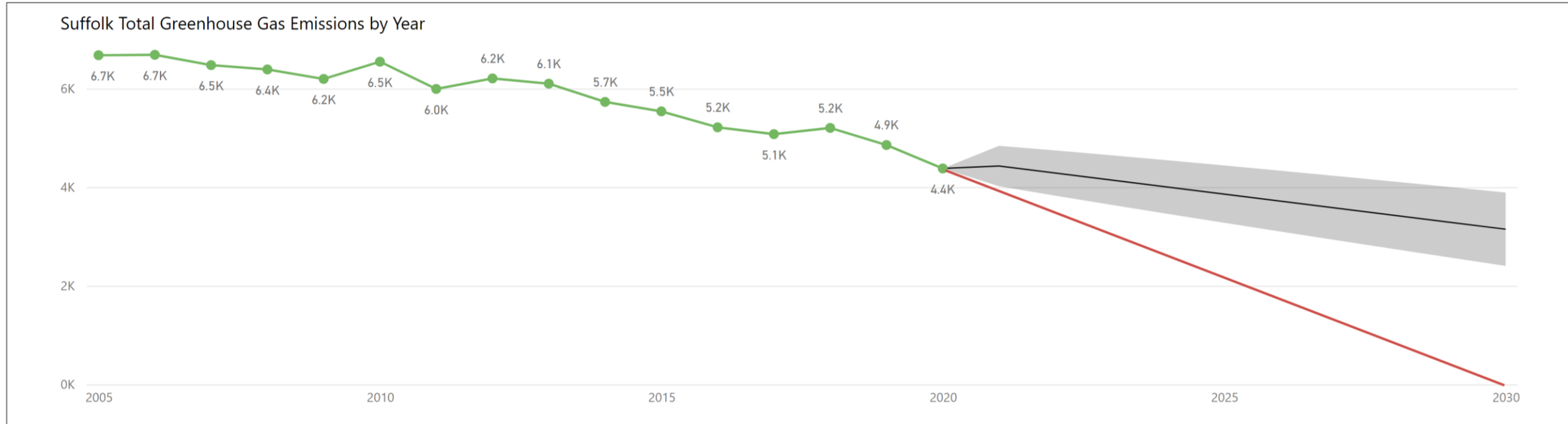
Indicator	Period			England	Suffolk	Babergh	East Suffolk	Ipswich	Mid Suffolk	West Suffolk
		◀▶	◀▶							
Reception: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (Persons, 4-5 yrs)	2021/22	◀▶	◀▶	22.3	22.3	21.4	24.0	24.7	16.7	20.9
Year 6: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (Persons, 10-11 yrs)	2021/22	◀▶	◀▶	37.8	36.0	32.6	39.0	39.4	33.7	31.9
Percentage of adults (aged 18 plus) classified as overweight or obese (Persons, 18+ yrs)	2021/22	◀▶	◀▶	63.8	65.6	64.3	63.9	68.1	69.2	65.3
Smoking Prevalence in adults (18+) - current smokers (APS) (Persons, 18+ yrs)	2021	◀▶	◀▶	13.0	13.2	9.8	12.1	22.0	11.7	10.6
Smoking prevalence in adults in routine and manual occupations (18-64) - current smokers (APS) (Persons, 18-64 yrs)	2020	◀▶	◀▶	24.5	27.2	15.1	26.8	36.4	25.8	27.6
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes (Persons, <75 yrs)	2021	◀▶	◀▶	363.4	296.5	263.0	318.5	365.3	235.7	275.6
Under 75 mortality rate from causes considered preventable (Persons, <75 yrs)	2021	◀▶	◀▶	183.2	135.9	119.5	144.9	172.2	92.2	134.6
Under 75 mortality rate from cancer considered preventable (Persons, <75 yrs)	2021	◀▶	◀▶	50.1	43.7	38.0	47.6	49.3	27.4	48.4
Under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases considered preventable (Persons, <75 yrs)	2021	◀▶	◀▶	30.2	22.6	20.1	26.6	24.0	20.2	19.0
Under 75 mortality rate from respiratory disease considered preventable (Persons, <75 yrs)	2021	◀▶	◀▶	15.6	8.0	*	9.4	9.0	*	7.9
Percentage of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2 (Persons, All ages)	2020	◀▶	◀▶	52.3	53.8	51.9	52.8	53.7	53.5	56.8
Cancer screening coverage: bowel cancer (Persons, 60-74 yrs)	2022	◀▶	◀▶	70.3*	74.5*	76.1	75.8	68.1	77.3	73.6
Cancer screening coverage: breast cancer (Female, 53-70 yrs)	2022	◀▶	◀▶	65.2*	74.4*	75.0	76.6	68.2	77.9	72.2
Cancer screening coverage: cervical cancer (aged 25 to 49 years old) (Female, 25-49 yrs)	2022	◀▶	◀▶	67.6*	73.7*	77.6	76.9	65.5	79.5	73.0
Cancer screening coverage: cervical cancer (aged 50 to 64 years old) (Female, 50-64 yrs)	2022	◀▶	◀▶	74.6*	77.1*	78.8	78.0	72.6	79.6	76.2



Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to the public's health, contributing to cardiovascular disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases.

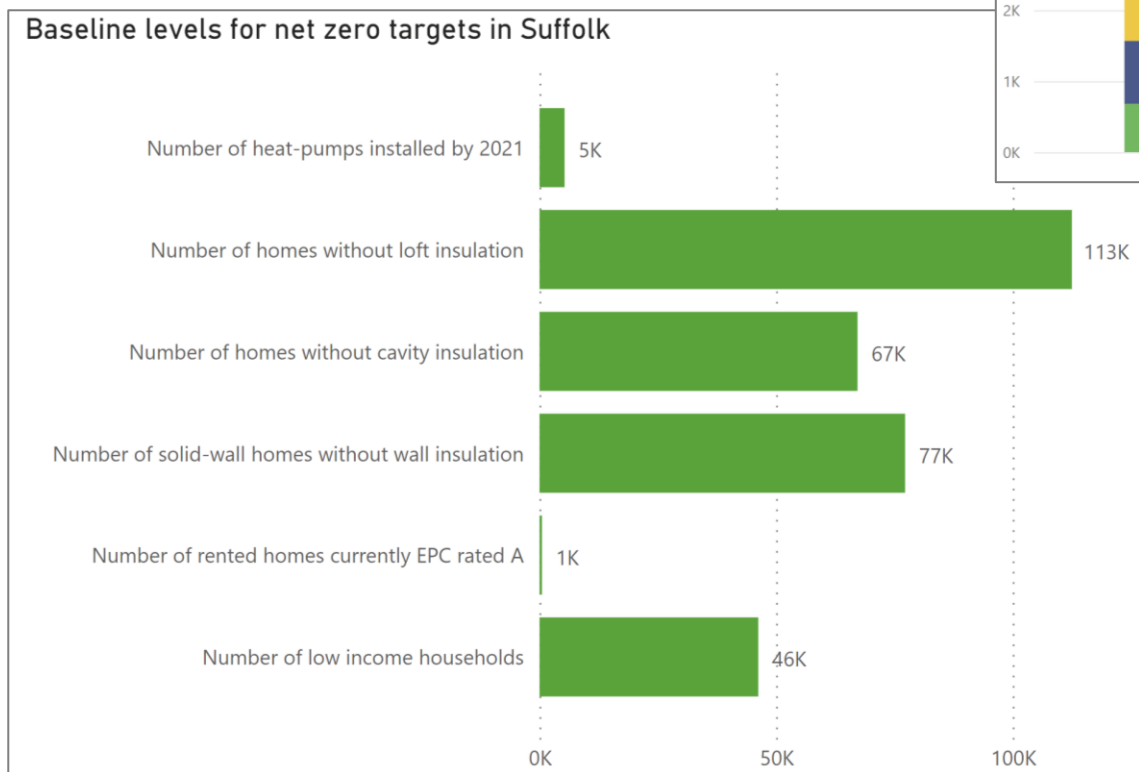
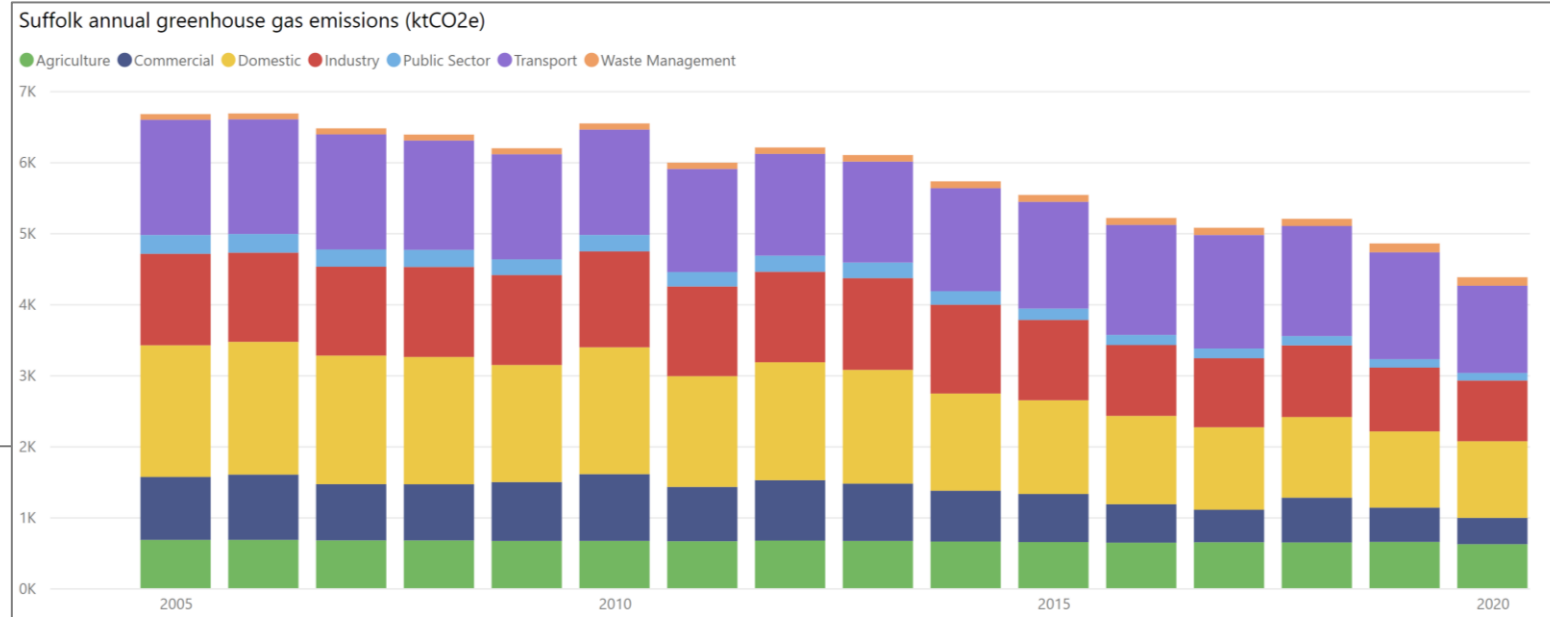


Suffolk's greenhouse gas emissions have reduced over the past 15 years or so. However, to reach Suffolk's ambition of being carbon neutral by 2030, emissions must drop faster than historical rates.

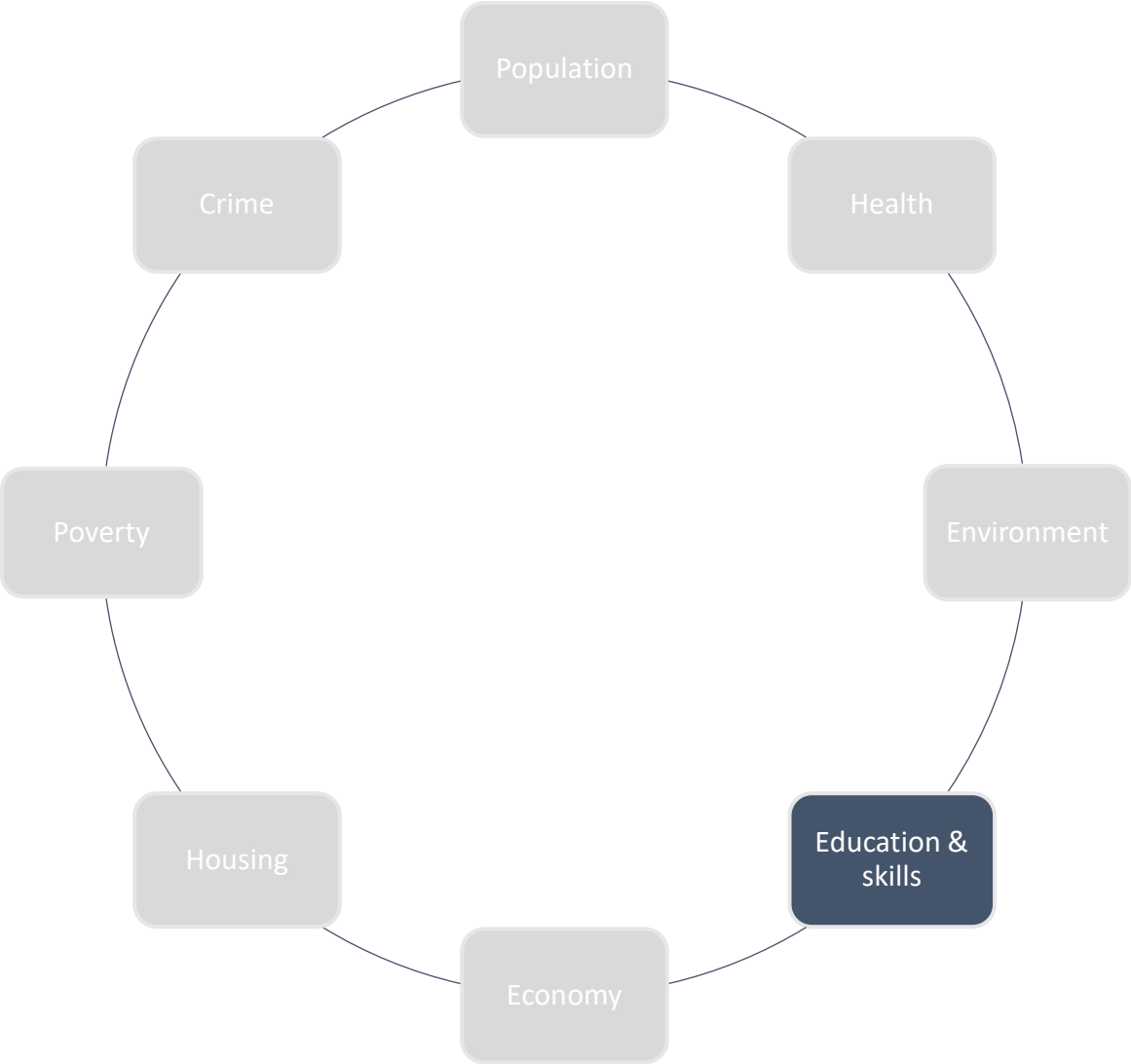


This graph shows the actual total greenhouse gas emissions between 2005 and 2020. The black line shows the projection to 2030 based on the current rate of decline. The red line shows the required reduction to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Transport and Domestic are the 'sectors' emitting the most greenhouse gases, e.g., in 2020 they accounted for 28% and 25% of total emissions, respectively.

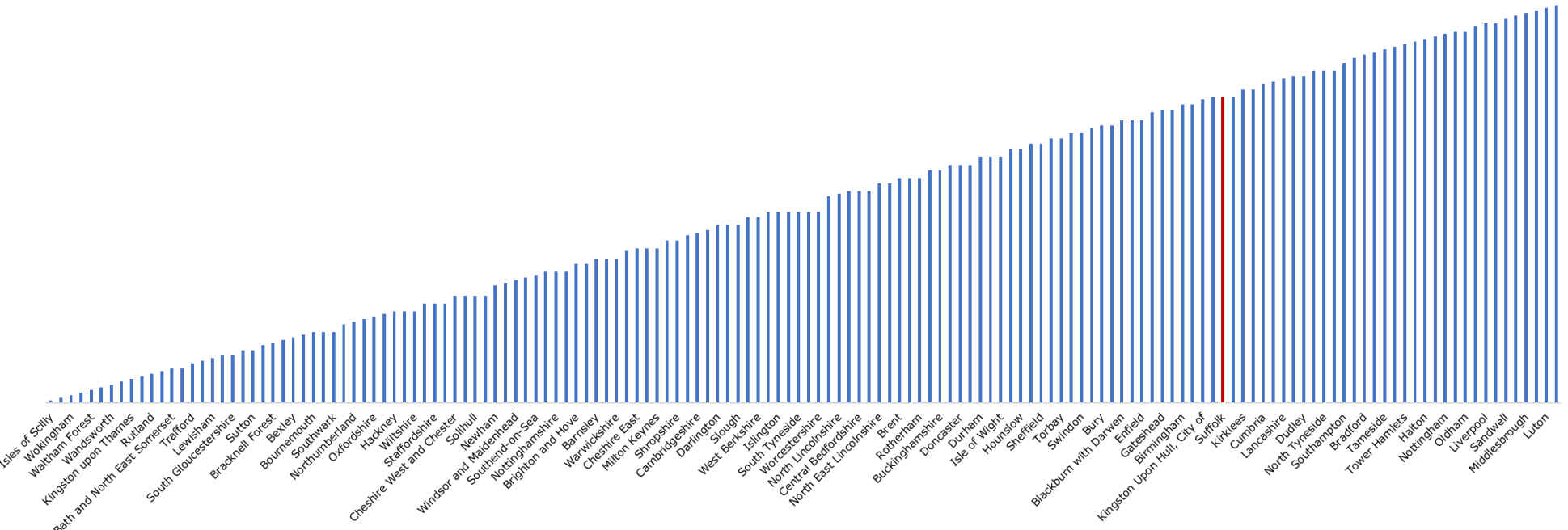


The Government has outlined targets to be reached by 2030 to achieve its net zero ambition for the UK by 2050. In the 'domestic' sector, Suffolk will need to contribute installation of 11,000 heat pumps, retrofit 39k homes with loft insulation, 20k homes with cavity insulation and 20k homes with wall insulation by 2030 for the UK to hit its overall targets.



In the main, attainment levels have improved both locally as well as nationally over the past 10 years. However, Suffolk continues to be behind national averages, for example, at Early Years/Foundation Stage Suffolk ranks 117<sup>th</sup> out of 152 LAs, despite being just outside the least deprived third of Authorities nationally.

**Early Years - pupils achieving at least expected level across all Early Learning Goals, England LAs ranked (1 = highest/top ranked; 152 = lowest/bottom ranked), 2022**  
 (Source: SCC, Education Team)



**Suffolk's ranking at other Key Stages (KS)**

**114<sup>th</sup> KS1**  
 reaching at least expected levels in Reading (R)

**120<sup>th</sup> KS1**  
 reaching at least expected levels in Writing (W)

**21<sup>st</sup> KS1**  
 reaching at least expected levels in Maths (M)

**114<sup>th</sup> KS2**  
 reaching at least expected levels in RWM

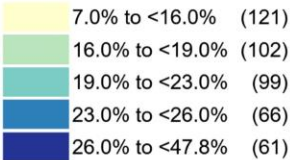
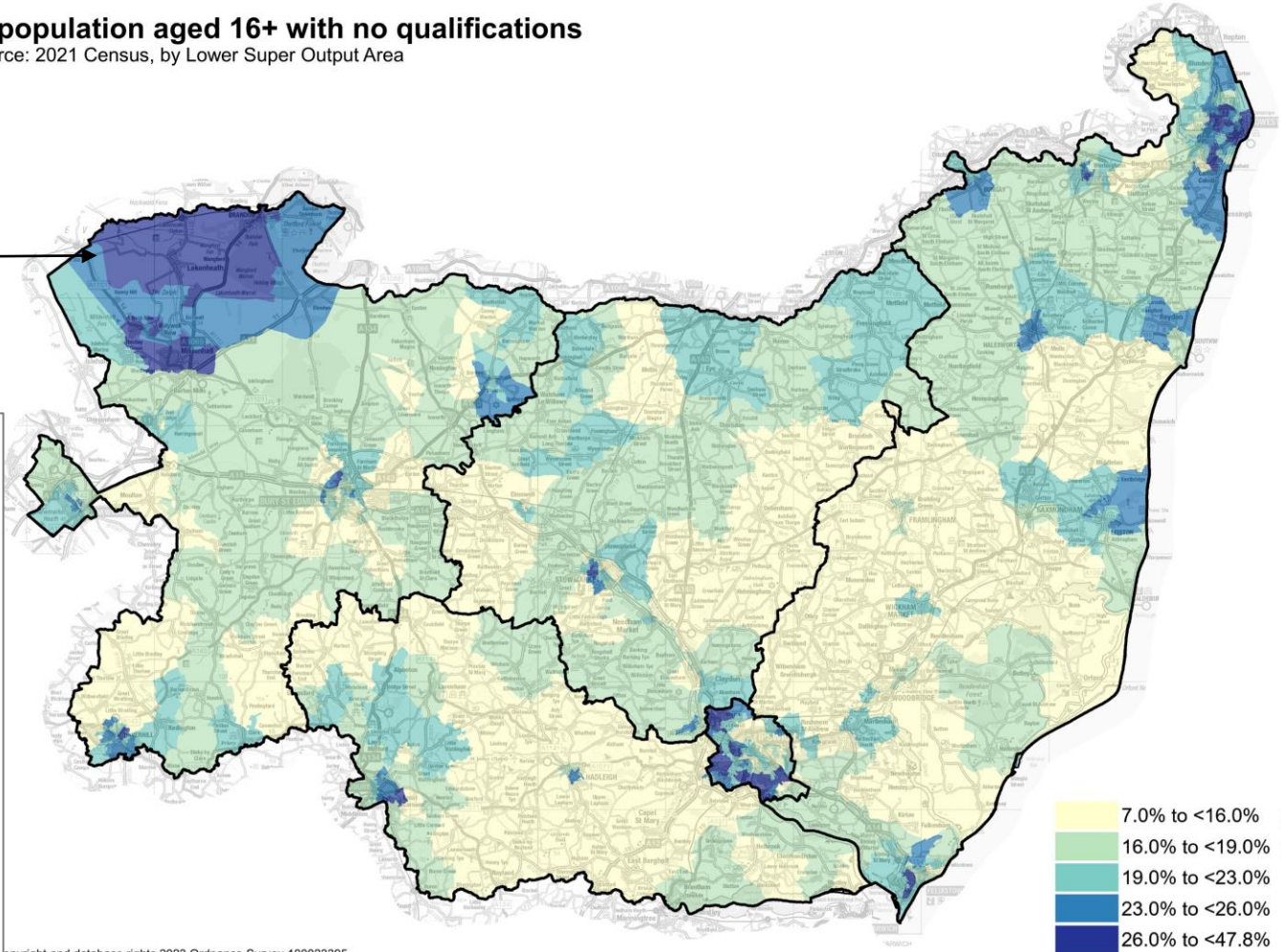
**74<sup>th</sup> KS4**  
 achieving 4-9 in English & Maths GCSEs

In 2021, Suffolk's 16-64 population over-indexed against the national average on having no qualifications (19.7% vs. 18.1%) and under-indexed on the highest qualification (28.1% vs. 33.9%). Across Suffolk's LSOAs the range is between 7% and 47.8% on no qualifications.

\* Note – this area includes USVF personnel; many of whom have answered 'no qualifications' instead of 'qualifications achieved outside of England/Wales, equivalent not stated or unknown'

**% population aged 16+ with no qualifications**

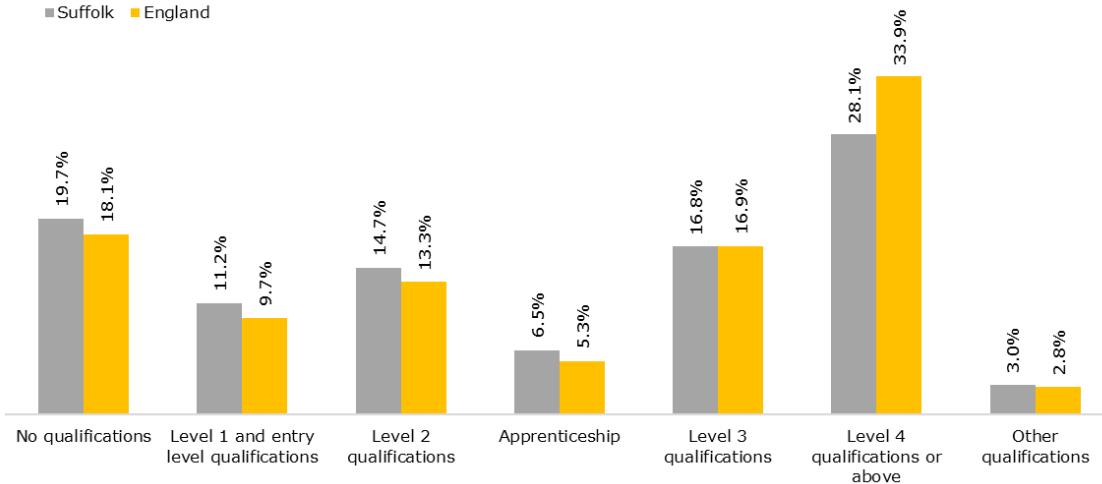
Source: 2021 Census, by Lower Super Output Area



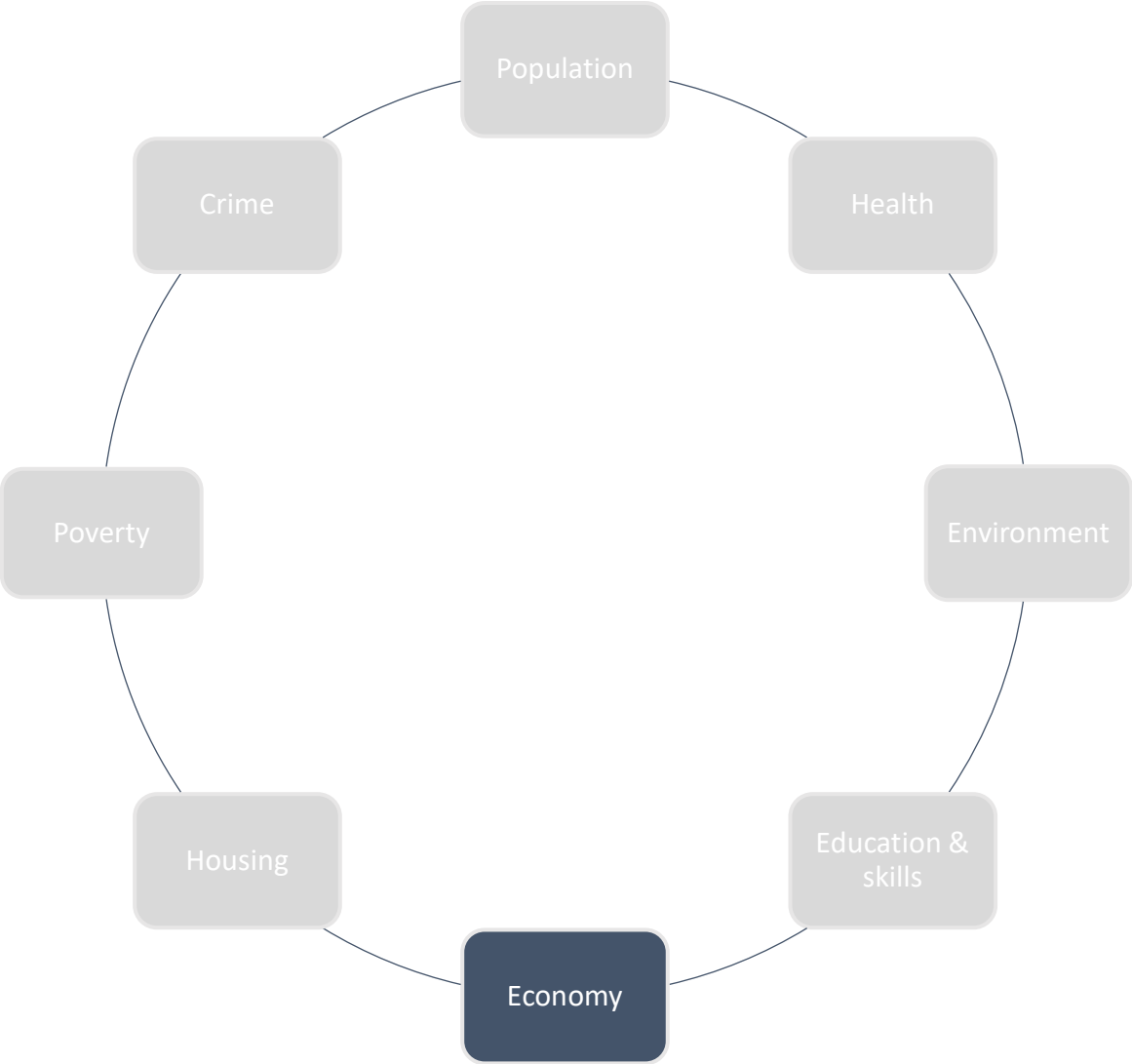
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**% of 16-64s by level of qualification, Suffolk vs. England, 2021**

(Source: ONS, Census 2021)

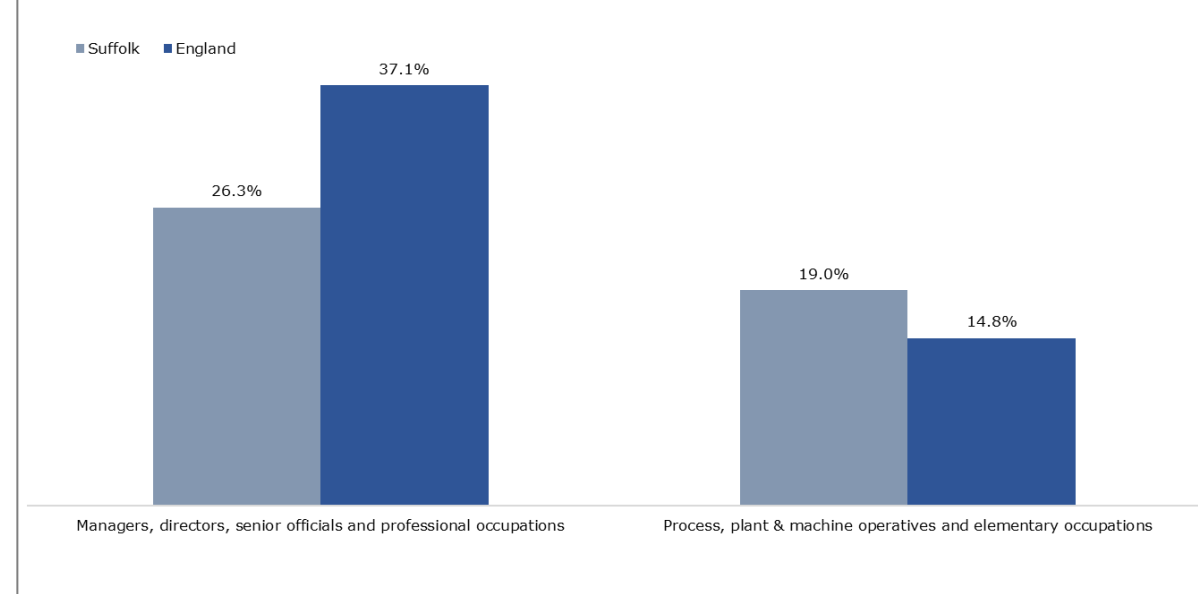






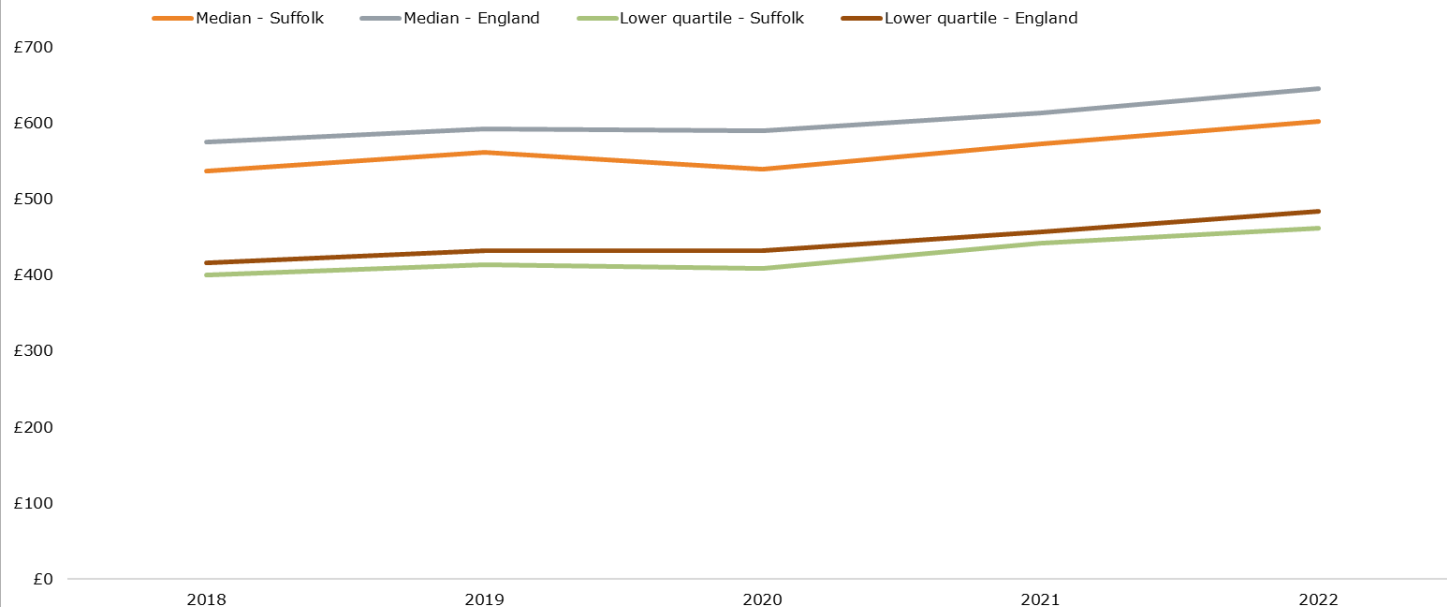
In 2022, Suffolk had below average proportions of 16-64s working in the highest paid occupations, i.e., managers, directors & senior officials and professional occupations, and above average levels of people in lower paid occupations, i.e., process, plant & machine operatives and elementary occupations.

**% of 16-64s by occupation groups, Suffolk vs. England, 2022**  
(Source: ONS, APS)



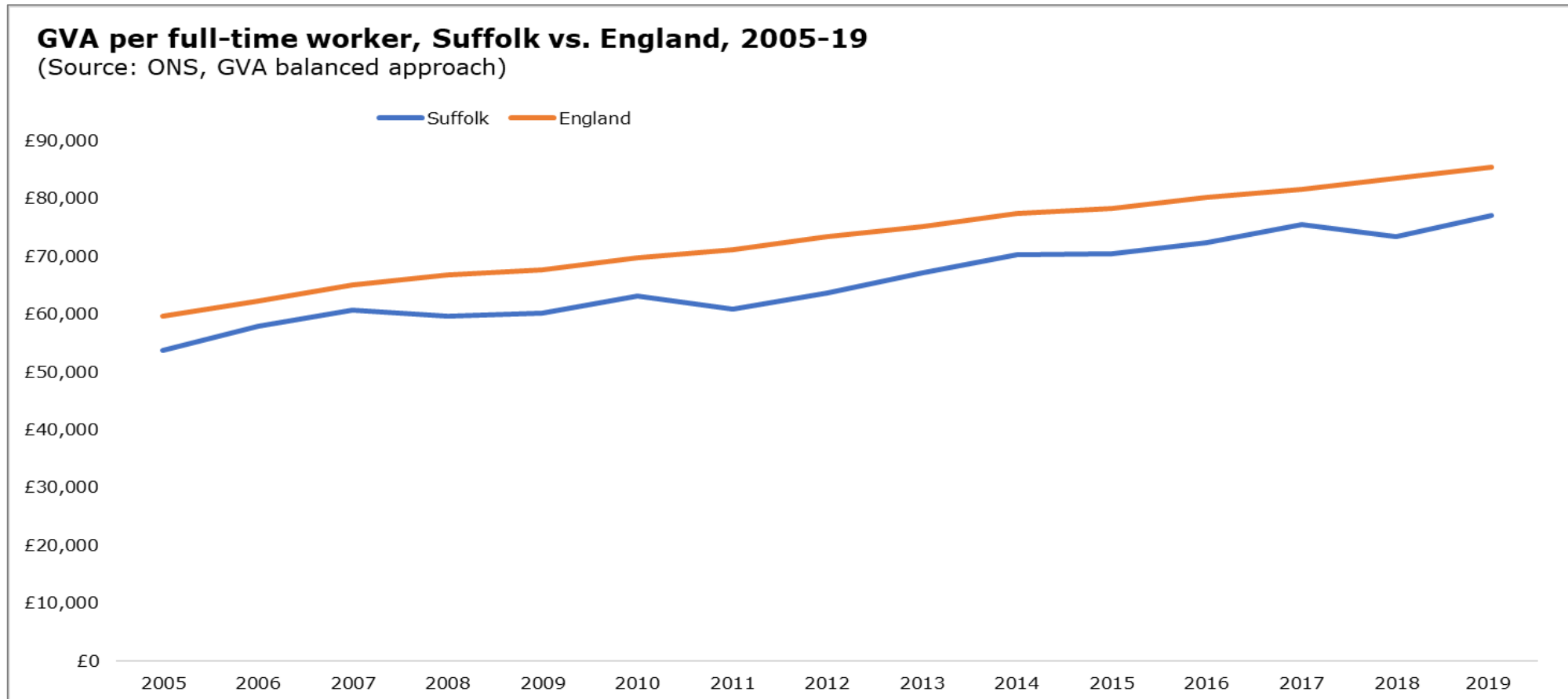
**Median and lower quartile gross weekly pay, Suffolk vs. England, 2018 - 2022**

(Source: ONS)



This translates into a below average earnings profile across Suffolk. In 2022 median gross weekly pay in Suffolk was £43 lower than the England average. While the lower quartile (LQ) gross weekly pay in Suffolk also continuous to lag the national average (£462 vs. £484).

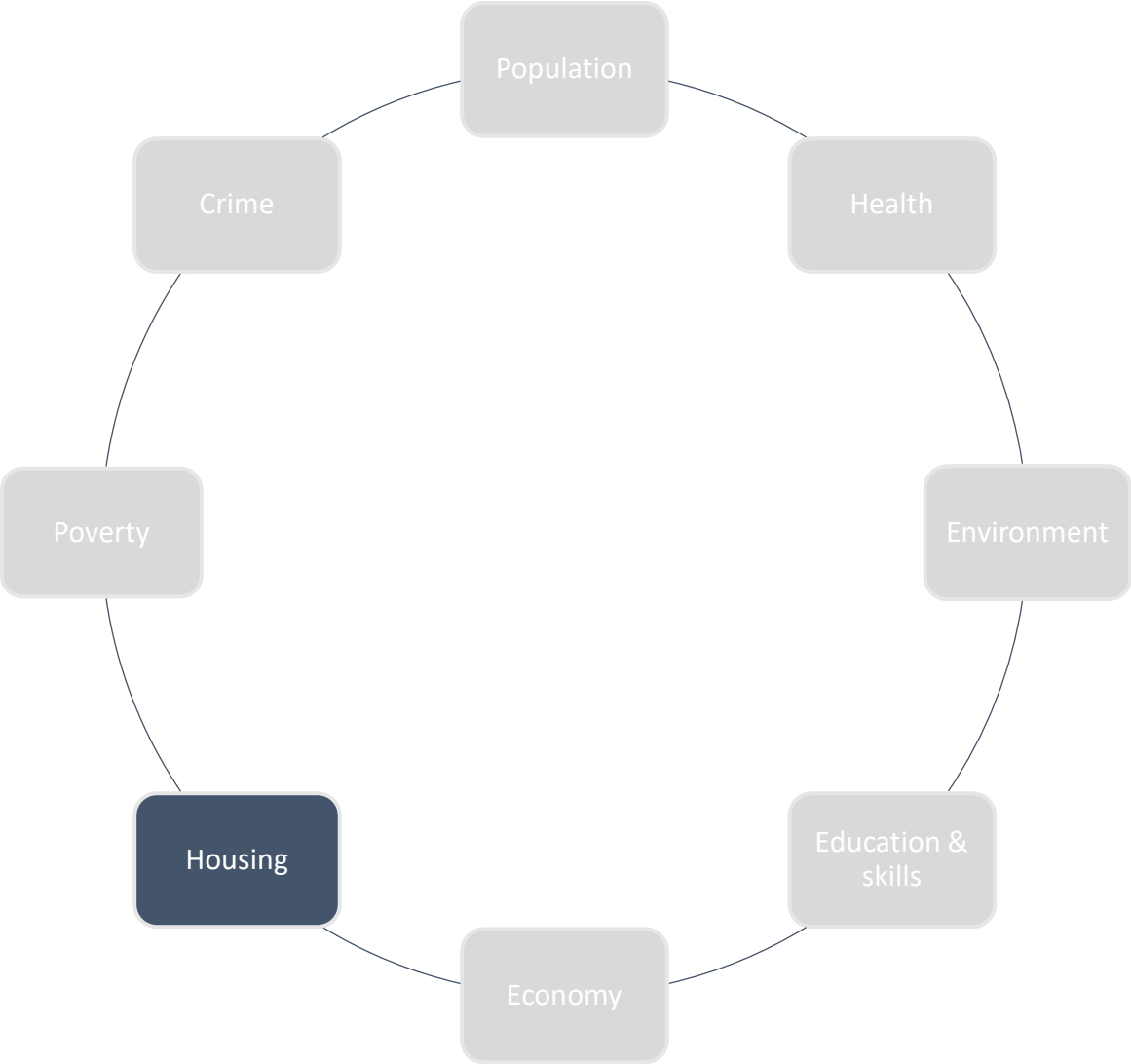
This also means that productivity (Gross Value Added, **GVA**) per full-time worker is below the **England average**. This productivity gap is estimated to reach £3.2bn in 20 years' time, driven by continued lower than average wages.



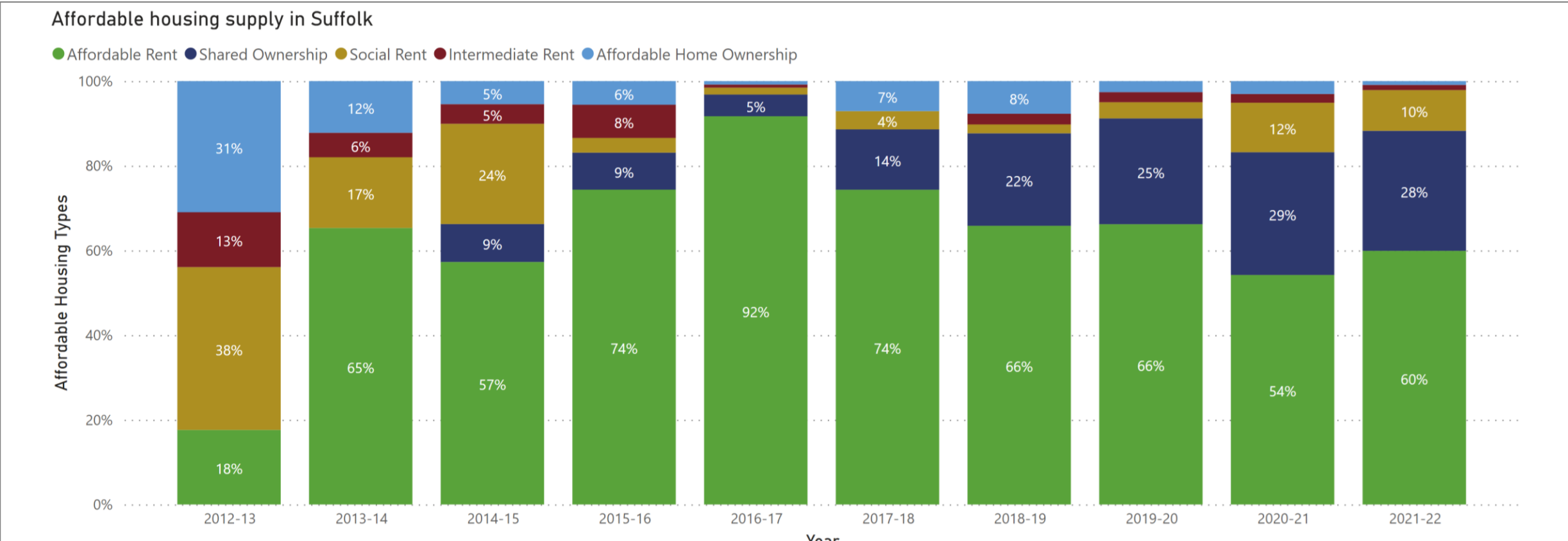
There are opportunities in attracting growing sectors such as Information & Communication and Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities. Could we also make even more of the strength in Transportation & Storage and Admin & Support services?

Suffolk Industry Strengths and Weaknesses



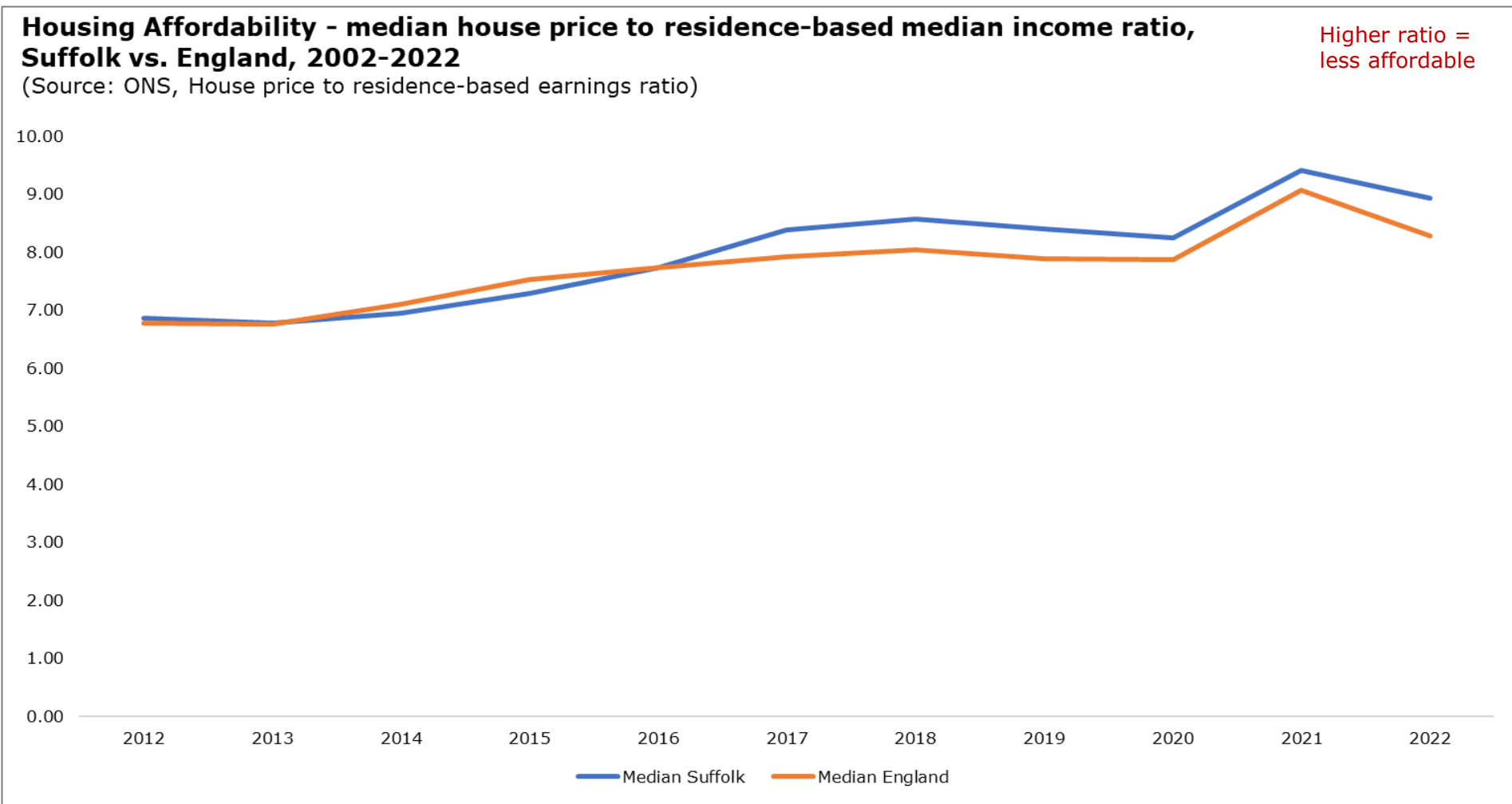


Over the past 10 years, the proportion of social rented housing has decreased significantly.



Source: DLUHC, accessed via SODA's [Suffolk Housing Dashboard](#) .

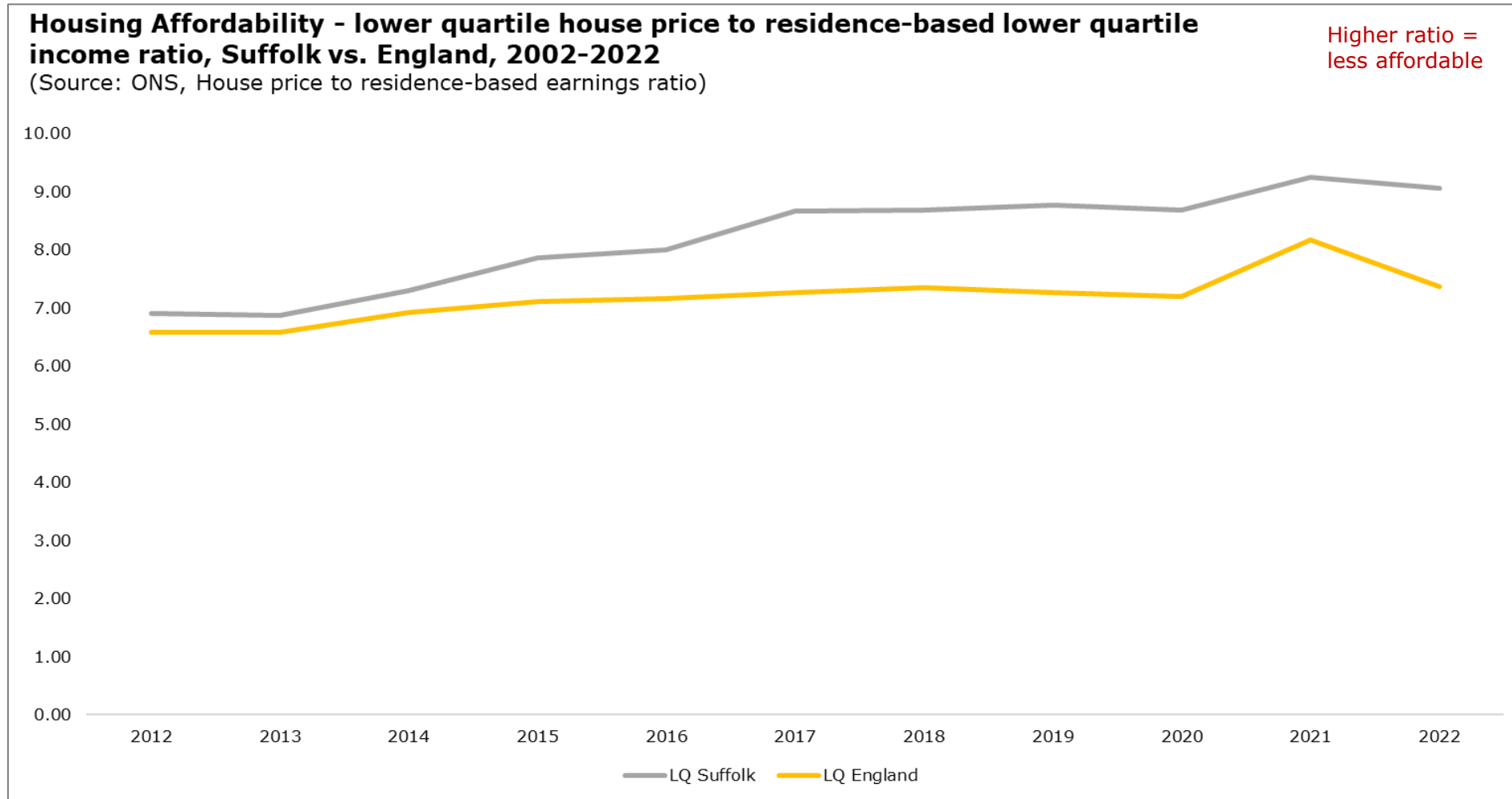
Housing affordability has become worse across England, but more so in Suffolk than the national average: while 10 years ago housing affordability in Suffolk was in line with England averages, median housing affordability is now worse than in England overall. **This is due to a combination of low incomes and relatively high house prices and rents in Suffolk.**



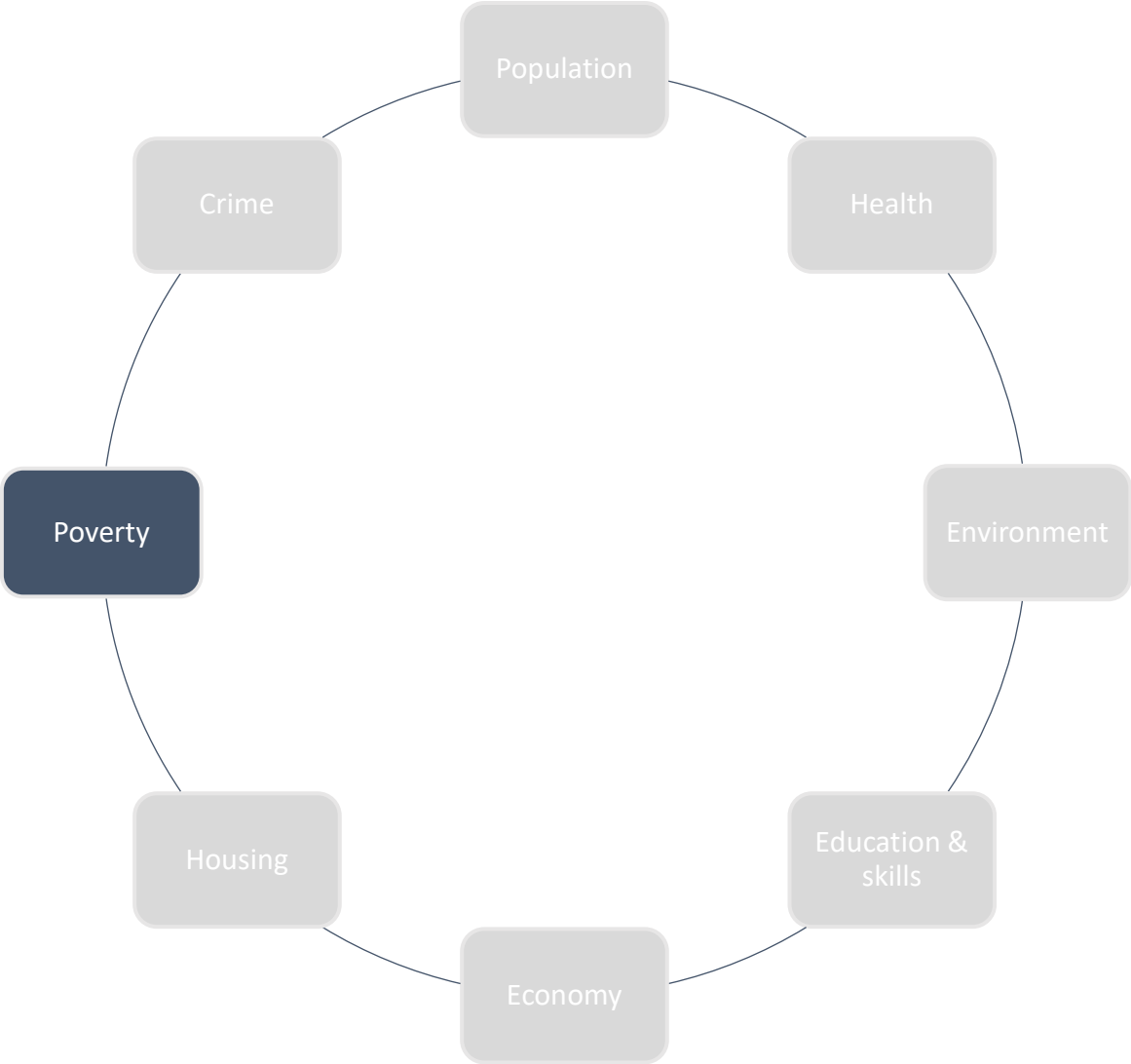
In 2022 the median housing affordability ratio was 8.93 across Suffolk- ranging from 7.81 in Ipswich to 10.6 in Babergh - compared to 8.28 nationally.

In general, for those in the lowest 25% of earners housing is even less affordable in Suffolk than for those in the median income bracket. The ratio across Suffolk was 9.05 for the lower earners (7.36 across England). Within Suffolk the range was 7.7 (Ipswich) to 10.5 (Babergh).

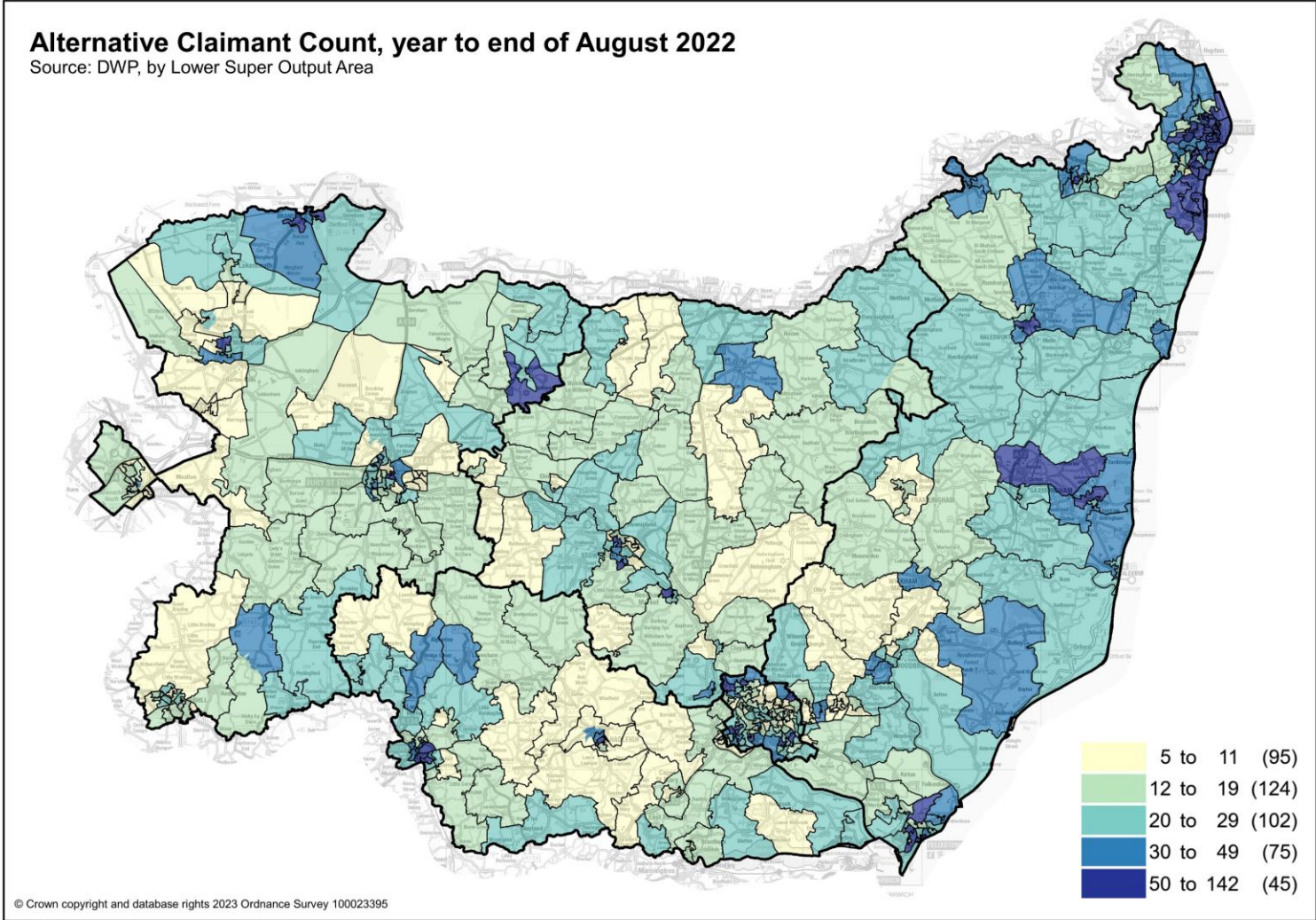
Unless wages rise and / or house prices fall, this will continue to impact Suffolk's lowest earners – this group tends to include first-time buyers.



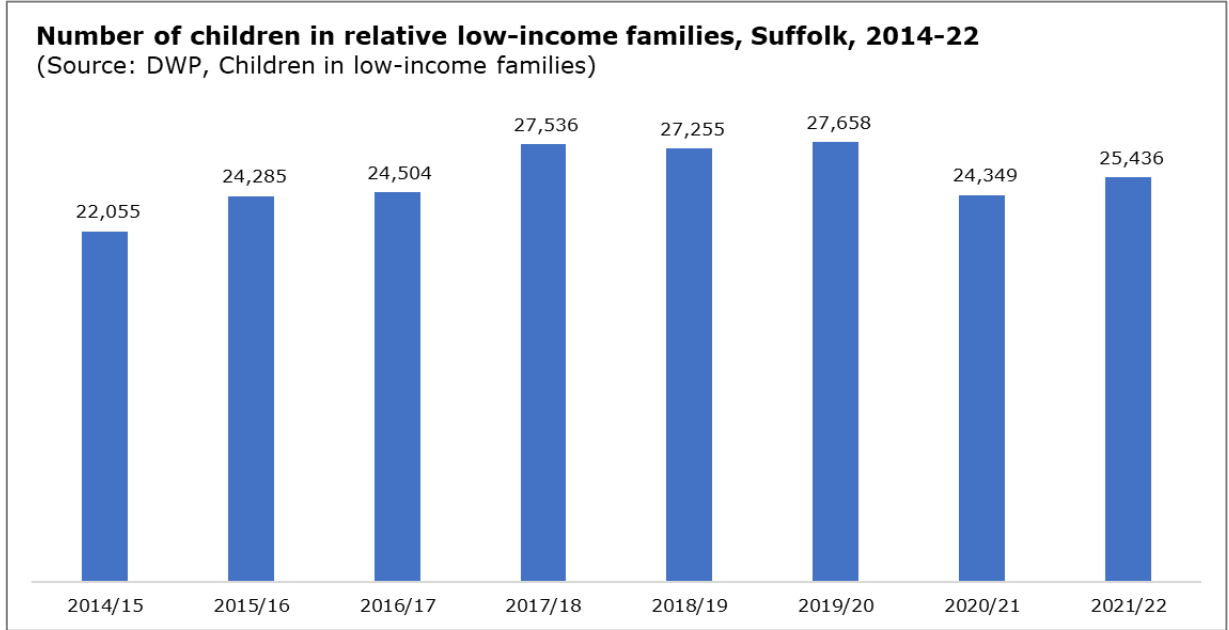
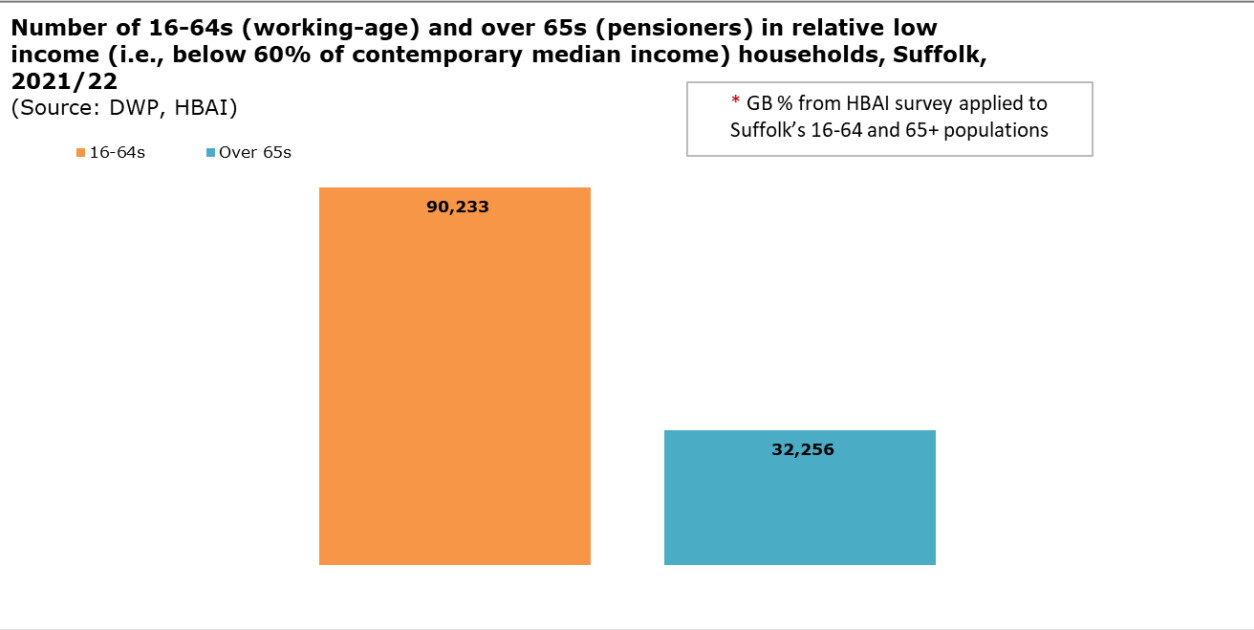




The DWP's Alternative Claimant Count provides a granular employment statistic. Based on this, there were on average **11,159 16-64s (2.5%) classed as unemployed by DWP** in the 12 months to August 2022. However, within Suffolk, unemployment based on this metric, ranged from 5% in Ipswich to 1.7% in Mid Suffolk.

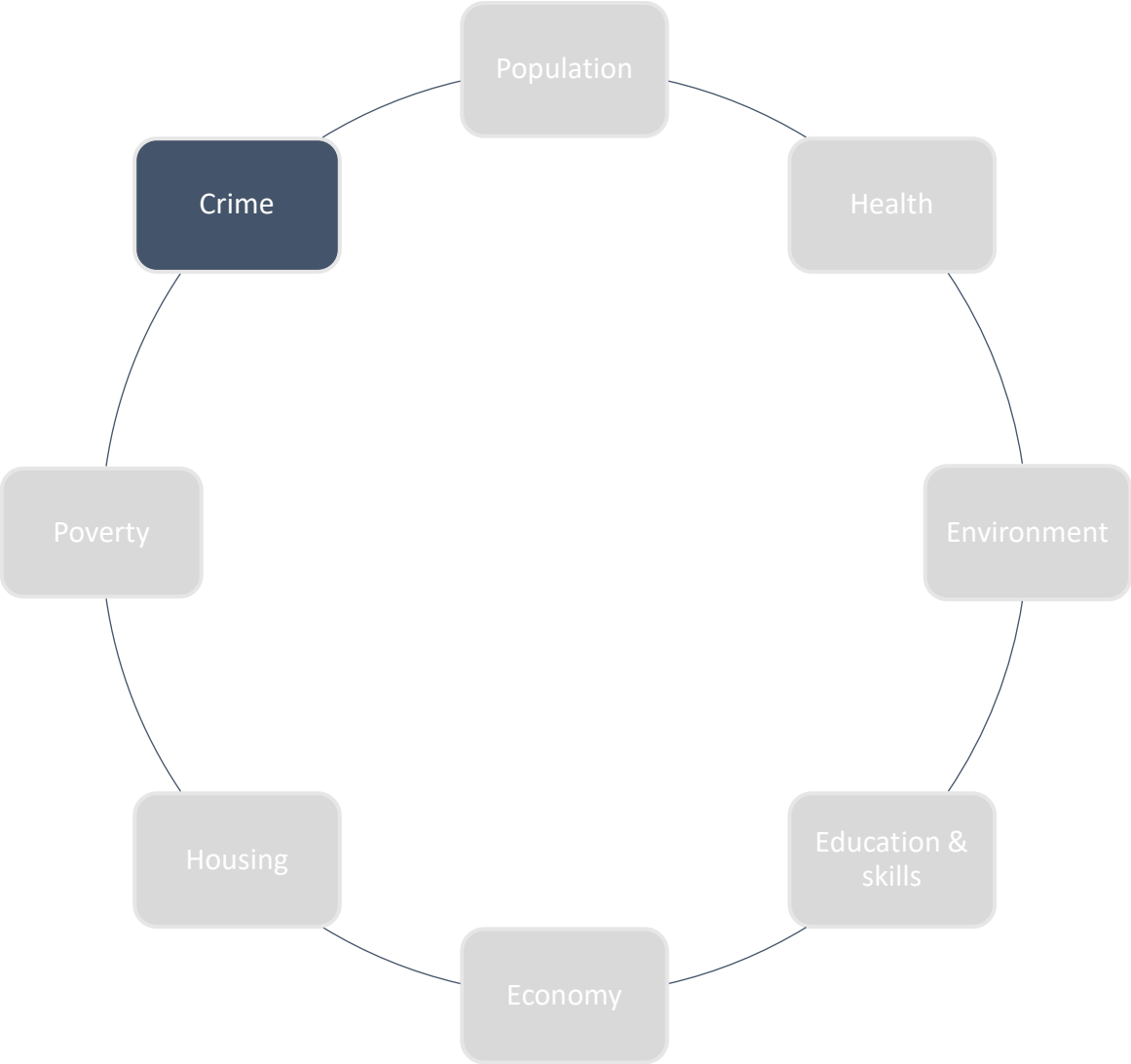


In 2021/22, over 90k working-age adults and around 32k pensioners lived in relative low-income households in Suffolk. 25,436 of Suffolk's children lived in relative low-income families in 2021/22., with the vast majority (71%) of children in relative low-income families living in working households.

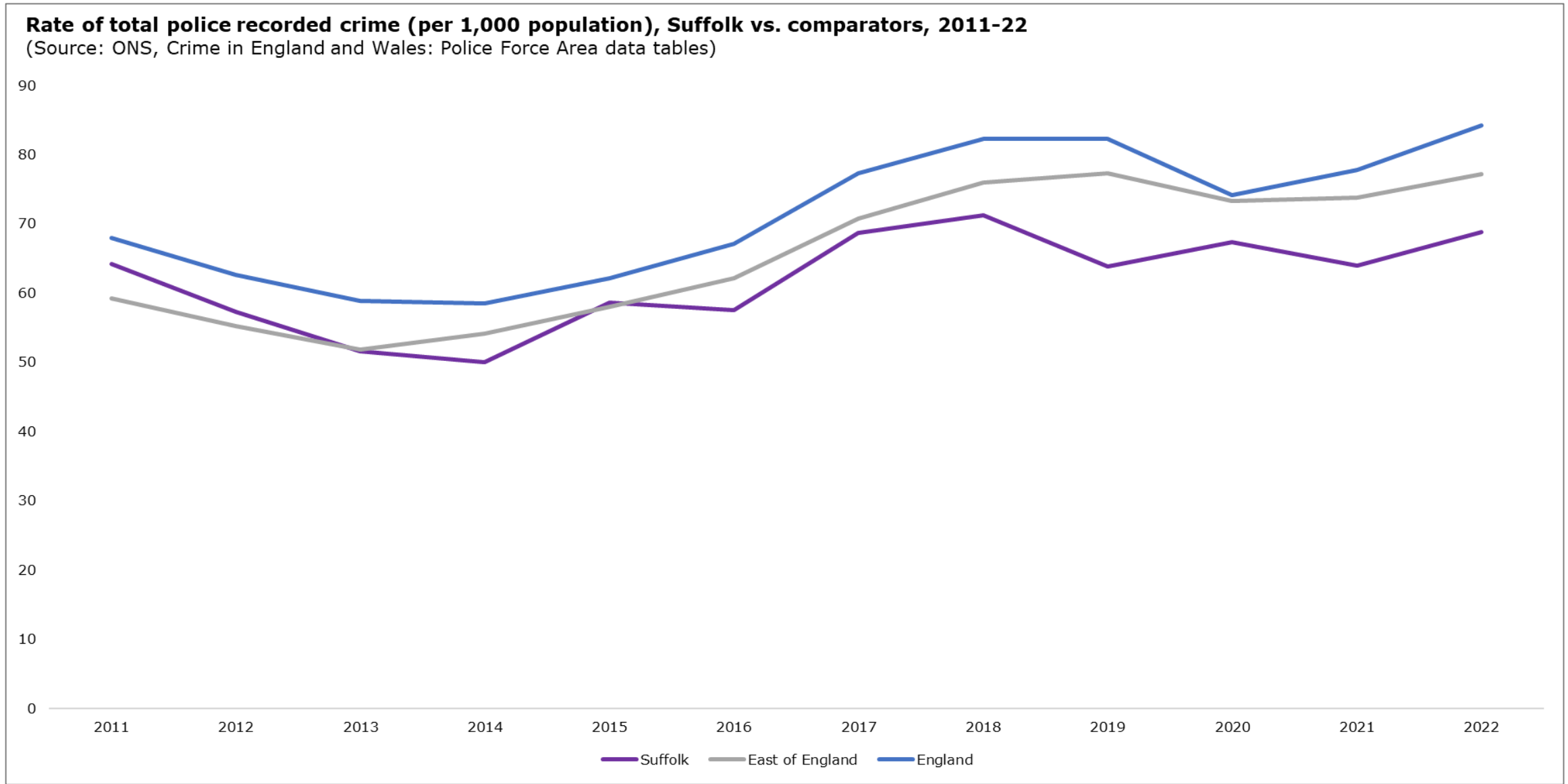


Over the past 5 years, numbers of children in relative low-income families have increased at county and national levels, with Suffolk's numbers increasing by 3.8%, compared to 16.6% across England.

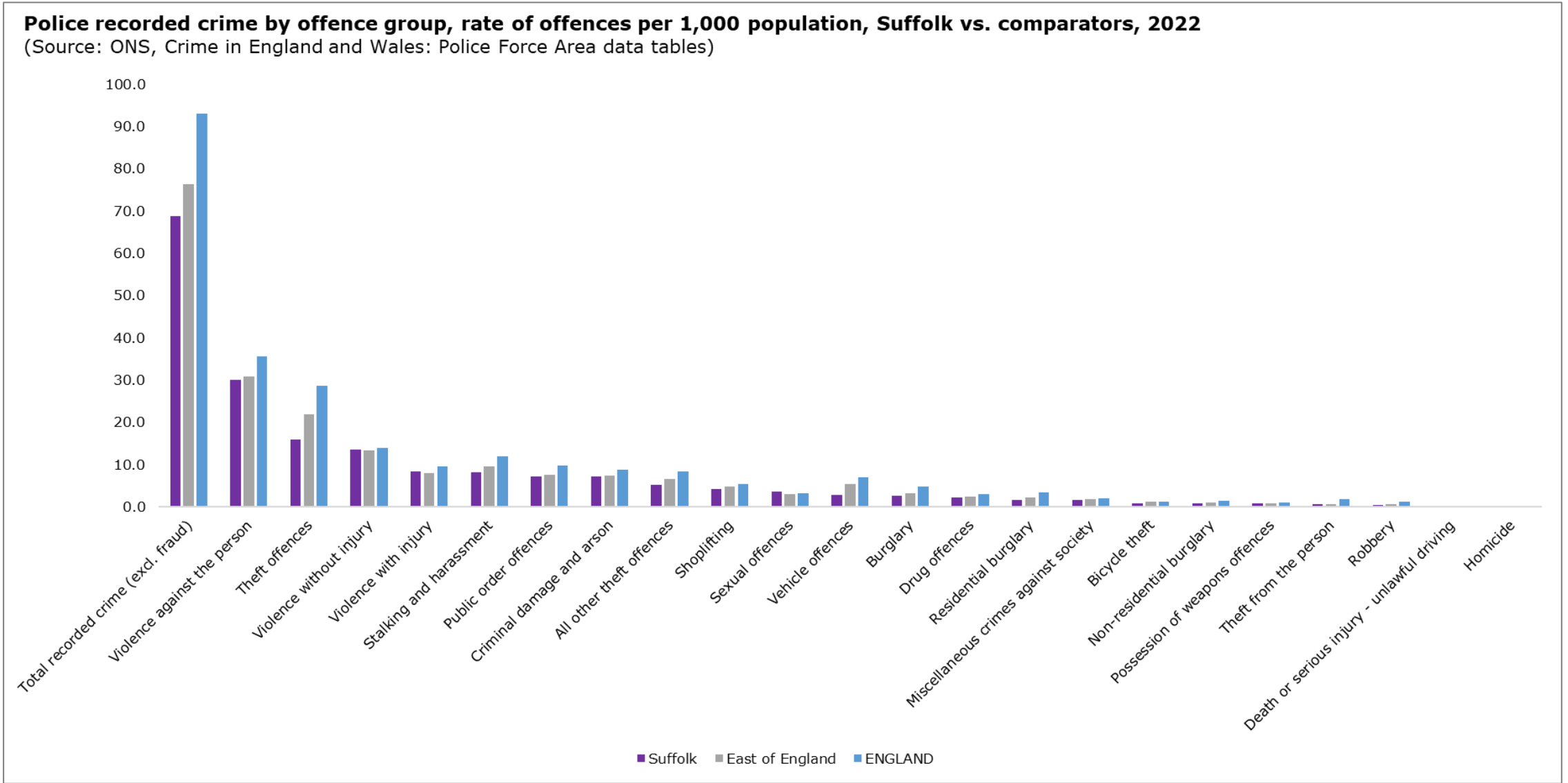
However, within Suffolk, Ipswich saw an increase of 16.3%, while East Suffolk and Mid Suffolk both saw declines.

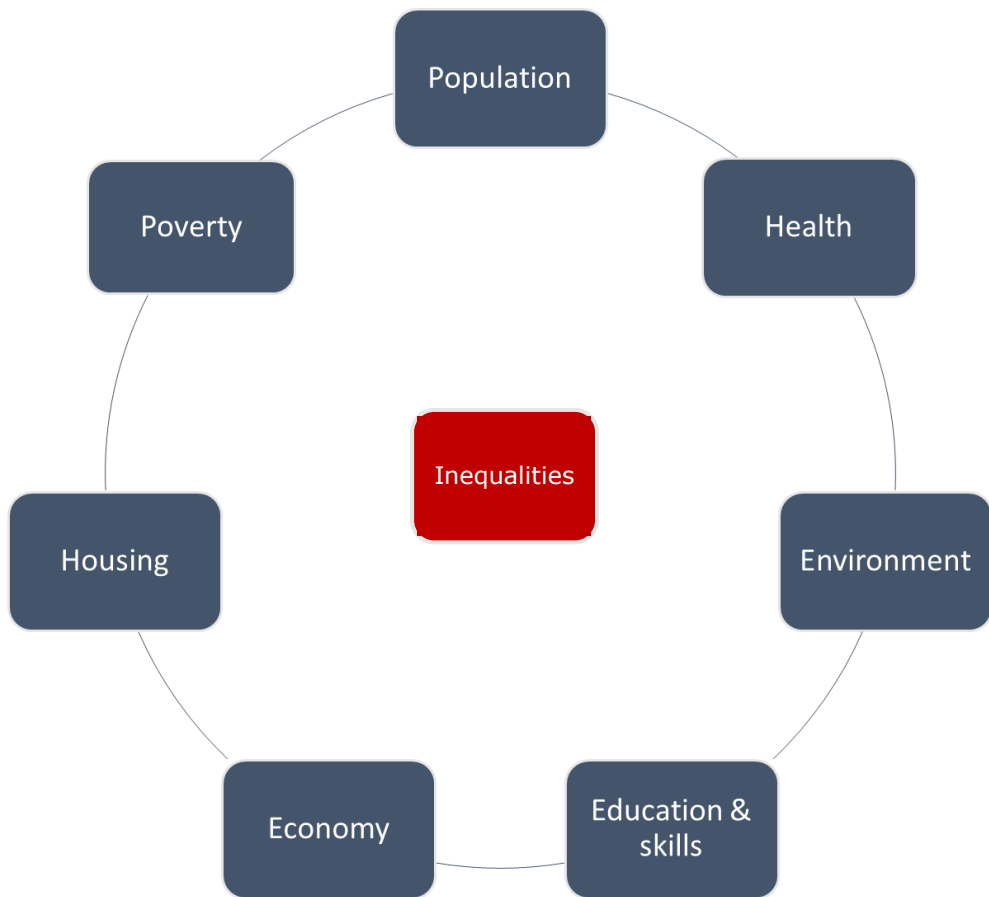


# Suffolk's crime rate tends to be below both regional and national averages...



...with Suffolk under-indexing against all types of offences, expect for Violence without injury, Sexual offences and Possession of weapons offences, which are in-line with England averages.





### What is the data telling us?

- Suffolk's population is growing and ageing – care needed for older population; where are Suffolk's workers coming from?
- However, life expectancy has not statistically significantly improved for males or females in the last 10 years and following on from COVID any potential predicted increases in LE are now reduced by 10 years.
- Suffolk is less diverse than other areas nationally.
- Greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced beyond recent downward trends to ensure we hit our target of being carbon neutral by 2030.
- Many health outcomes remain good – but some indicators relating to children (mental health, obesity) are less good.
- Deprivation affecting children is particularly high in some areas.
- Suffolk's wages have traditionally been lower than national averages. This is due to a lower-skilled workforce, with school attainment levels and adult skills levels tending to be lower in Suffolk than nationally.
- Crime rates relatively low.
- Inequalities remain deep and entrenched in some areas and are likely to be exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.
- Regional, national and international data suggests that socio-economic disparity can be associated with poor outcomes, lack of aspiration and the 'politics of envy'.



# SODA

The SUFFOLK OFFICE  
of DATA & ANALYTICS



*Virtual collaboration - Real insight*

