

Stowmarket East

County Electoral Division profile
May 2026

This division comprises Combs Ford Ward in its entirety, and part of Stow Thorney Ward



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Electoral Division Profiles: an introduction

These profiles have been produced to support elected members, constituents and other interested parties in understanding the demographic, economic, social and educational profile of their neighbourhoods. We have used the latest data available at the time of publication.

Much more data is available from national and local sources than is captured here, but it is hoped that the profile will be a useful starting point for discussion, where local knowledge and experience can be used to flesh out and illuminate the information presented here.

The profile can be used to help look at some fundamental questions e.g.

- Does the age profile of the population match or differ from the national profile?
- Is there evidence of the ageing profile of the county in all the wards in the Division or just some?
- How diverse is the community in terms of ethnicity?
- What is the impact of deprivation on families and residents?
- Does there seem to be a link between deprivation and school performance?
- What is the breakdown of employment sectors in the area?
- Is it a relatively healthy area compared to the rest of the district or county?
- What sort of crime is prevalent in the community?

A vast amount of additional data is available on the **Suffolk Observatory**

www.suffolkobservatory.info

The Suffolk Observatory is a free online resource that contains all Suffolk's vital statistics; it is the one-stop-shop for information and intelligence about Suffolk. Through data, reports and maps, the Suffolk Observatory provides a comprehensive picture of the County. It is a great source for useful facts and figures that can be used for writing reports and presentations, informing strategic and business planning, preparing funding applications or supporting academic research. Data is presented around the key themes of population, children and young people, health and social care, housing, crime and community safety, deprivation, economy and employment and environment. All areas of the county are covered, right down to district, electoral division, ward and parish level, with information easily accessible in a variety of formats. You can also build your own reports for custom areas.

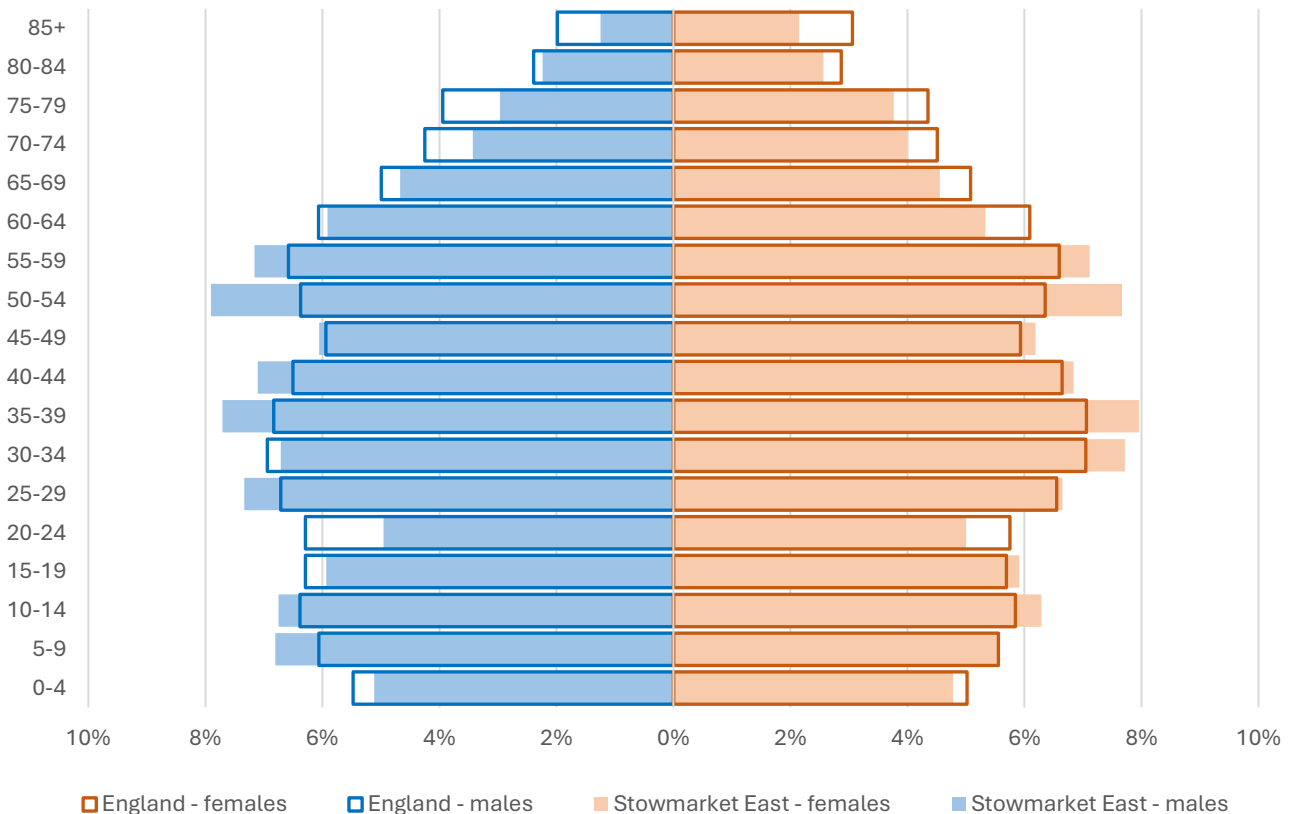
Technical Notes:

1. Where electoral divisions do not exactly match the boundaries at which the data is available (e.g. ward, Output Area or Lower Super Output Area), we have adopted a "best-fit" approach to produce a dataset.
2. District, county and national level data is provided where possible to provide a context for comparisons.

Demographic Profile - Age

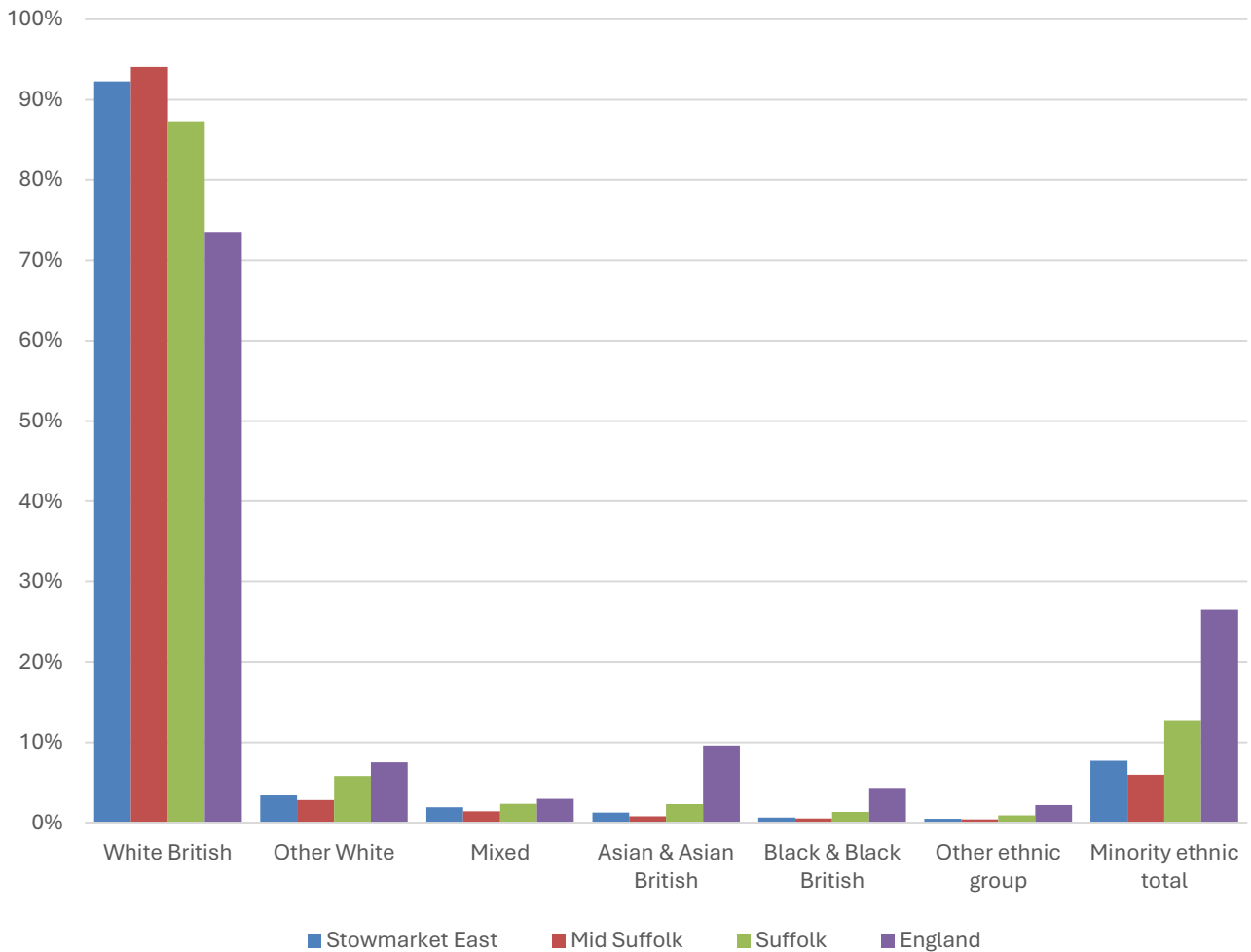
In mid-2024, the estimated population of Stowmarket East stood at 11,448, a decrease of 0.4% over the past decade. The age structure of the component wards and the division as a whole is set out below.

| | Stowmarket East Division | Stow Thorney Ward | Combs Ford Ward |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| All Ages | 11,448 | 5,782 | 5,666 |
| 0-4 | 566 | 360 | 206 |
| 5-9 | 705 | 424 | 281 |
| 10-14 | 746 | 431 | 315 |
| 15-19 | 678 | 386 | 292 |
| 20-24 | 570 | 296 | 274 |
| 25-29 | 800 | 408 | 392 |
| 30-34 | 827 | 487 | 340 |
| 35-39 | 897 | 535 | 362 |
| 40-44 | 798 | 461 | 337 |
| 45-49 | 701 | 403 | 298 |
| 50-54 | 891 | 445 | 446 |
| 55-59 | 817 | 341 | 476 |
| 60-64 | 643 | 235 | 408 |
| 65-69 | 528 | 176 | 352 |
| 70-74 | 425 | 133 | 292 |
| 75-79 | 386 | 122 | 264 |
| 80-84 | 275 | 84 | 191 |
| 85+ | 195 | 55 | 140 |



- The age pyramid for Stowmarket East division is broadly similar to that of England as a whole, but slightly younger overall.
- The most common age group in the division is 35-39-year-olds (7.8%4 of the local population), followed by 50-54-year-olds (7.78%), and 30-34-year-olds (7.22%).
- Just under a quarter of the population of Stowmarket East is aged under 20, similar to the England average.
- There is a lower-than-average proportion of residents of retirement age in the division.

Demographic Profile - Ethnicity

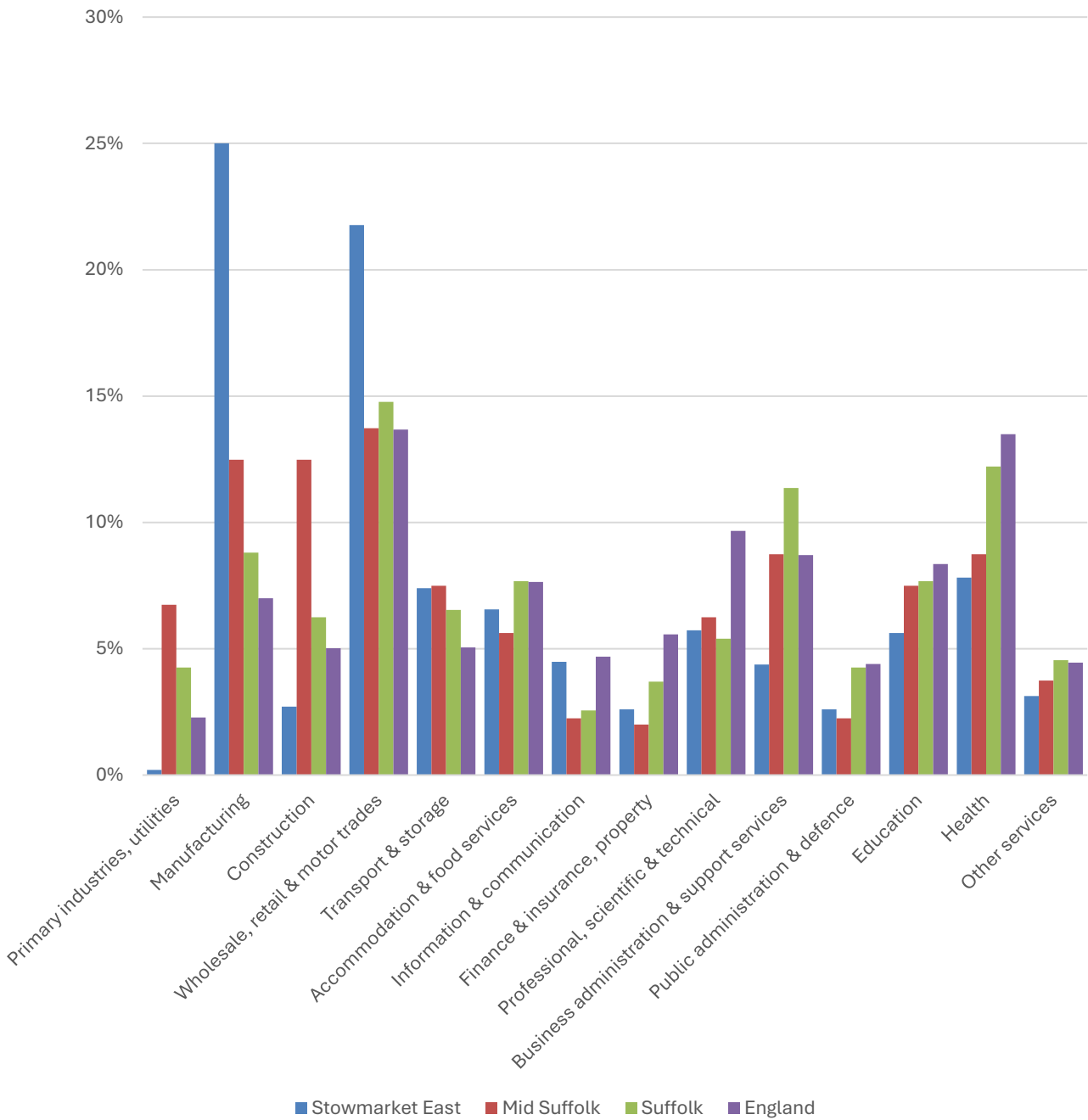


- According to the latest data (2021 Census), 92.3% of the population of Stowmarket East is White British.
- There were 862 (7.7%) residents from minority ethnic groups in the division, over half the proportion in Suffolk overall, and just over a third of the England average.
- Stowmarket East’s population is more ethnically diverse than that of Mid Suffolk as a whole, with each minority ethnic group making up a slightly larger proportion of residents in the division compared to the district overall.

| | All people | | White British | | Other White | | Mixed | | Asian and Asian British | | Black and Black British | | Other Ethnic Group | | Total minority ethnic population | |
|-----------------|------------|---|---------------|------|-------------|-----|--------|-----|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------------------|------|
| | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| Stowmarket East | 11,170 | | 10,308 | 92.3 | 380 | 3.4 | 216 | 1.9 | 142 | 1.3 | 70 | 0.6 | 54 | 0.5 | 862 | 7.7 |
| Mid Suffolk | 102,701 | | 96,581 | 94.0 | 2,882 | 2.8 | 1,463 | 1.4 | 821 | 0.8 | 553 | 0.5 | 401 | 0.4 | 6,120 | 6.0 |
| Suffolk | 760,687 | | 664,205 | 87.3 | 44,066 | 5.8 | 17,807 | 2.3 | 17,483 | 2.3 | 10,168 | 1.3 | 6,958 | 0.9 | 96,482 | 12.7 |
| England | | | | 73.5 | | 7.5 | | 3.0 | | 9.6 | | 4.2 | | 2.2 | | 26.5 |

Economy

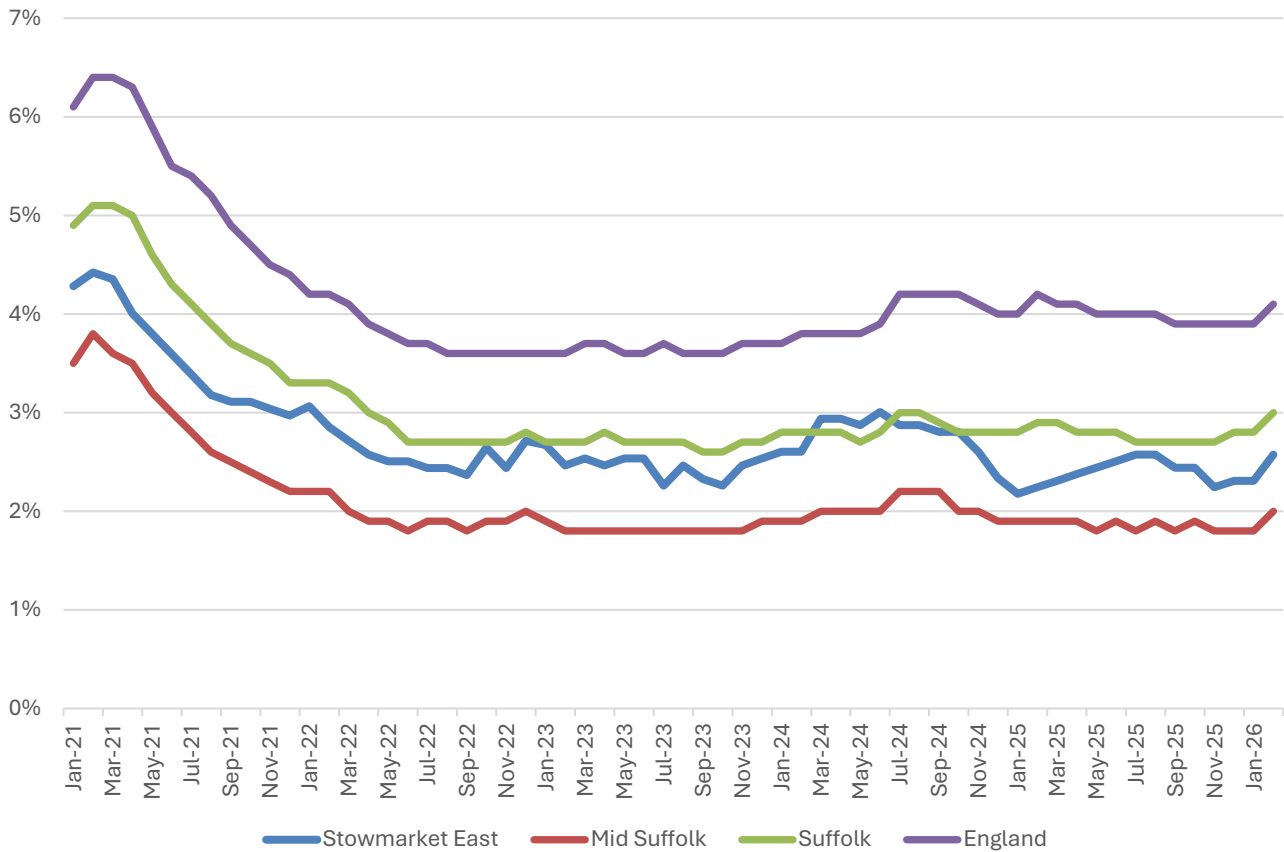
There are around 4,900 people employed in Stowmarket East.



- Manufacturing is of particular importance in Stowmarket East. The sector provides 1 in 4 jobs in the division, compared to only 7% of employment nationwide.
- Wholesale, retail and motor trades provides a further 21.8% of jobs in Stowmarket East.

Labour Market

Out-of-work benefit claimant rate



- In common with Mid Suffolk, Suffolk and England as a whole, Stowmarket East saw a steady decline in the proportion of the working age population claiming out-of-work benefits during 2021 and into 2022 following a peak during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since then, the claimant rate has been relatively stable within half a percentage point of 2.5%.
- In February 2026 (the latest available data), 2.6% of 16-64-year-olds were claiming out-of-work benefits in the division.
- The claimant rate in the division is generally similar to the county figure, above the overall Mid Suffolk rate and below the national benchmark.

Schools

School Information

Schools in the Division

| Name | Phase | Academy Status | No. pupils | Average cohort size at: | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | Foundation Stage (age 4-7) | KS2 (age 7-11) | KS4 (age 14-16) | KS5 (age 16-18) |
| Cedars Park Community Primary School | Primary | AC | 389 | 51 | 57 | | |
| Combs Ford Primary School | Primary | AC | 299 | 43 | 54 | | |
| Trinity CEVAP School | Primary | LA | 177 | 21 | 25 | | |

Academy Status key: AS = Academy Sponsored, AC = Academy Converter, LA = LA Maintained, F = Free

Ofsted information

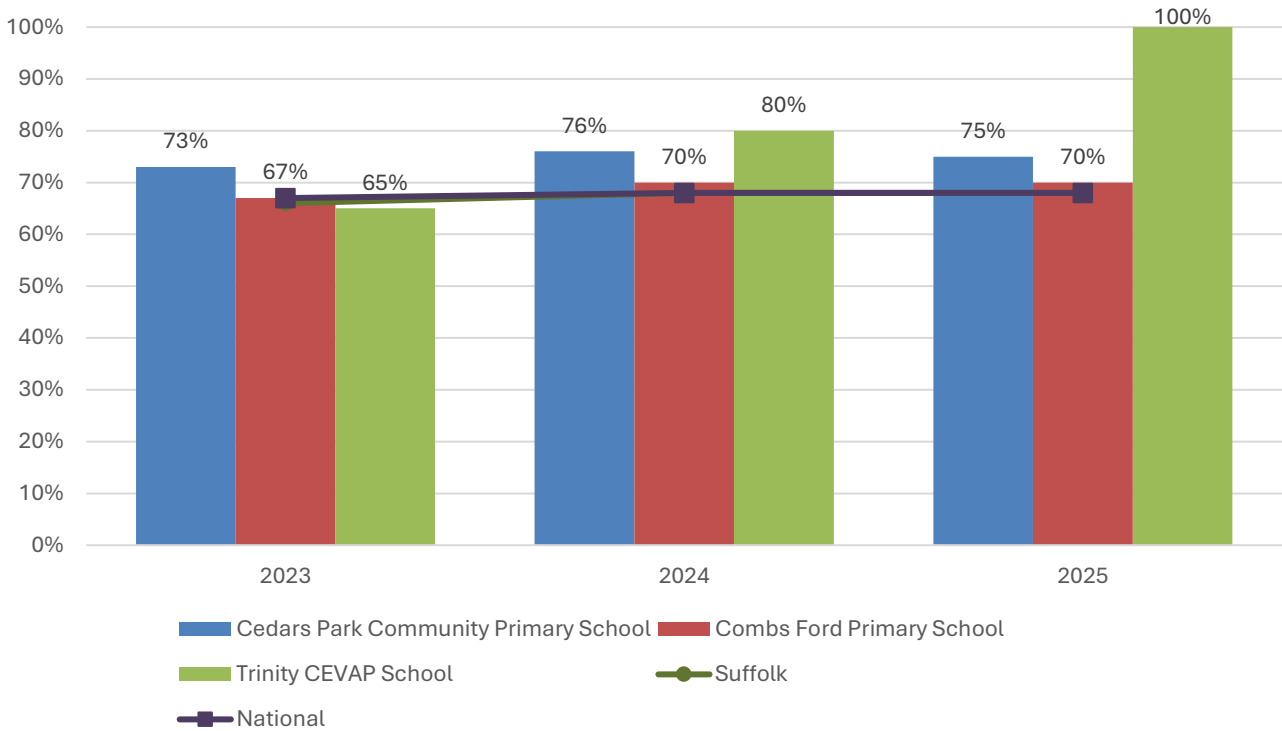
| Name | Overall effectiveness | Effectiveness of leadership and management | Behaviour and attitudes | Personal development | Early years provision (if applicable) | Quality of education | Last inspection date |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cedars Park Community Primary School | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 27/06/2023 |
| Combs Ford Primary School | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 11/02/2025 |
| Trinity CEVAP School | 2 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 04/06/2019 |

| Code | Judgement | Code | Judgement |
|------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 0 | Insufficient evidence | SM | Special measures |
| 1 | Outstanding | 8 | Does not apply |
| 2 | Good | 9 | No judgement |
| 3 | Requires improvement | Null | No data available |
| 4 | Inadequate | Not judged | Not judged |
| SWK | Serious weaknesses | 5 | No overall grade |

School Attainment

Foundation Stage Profile (reception)

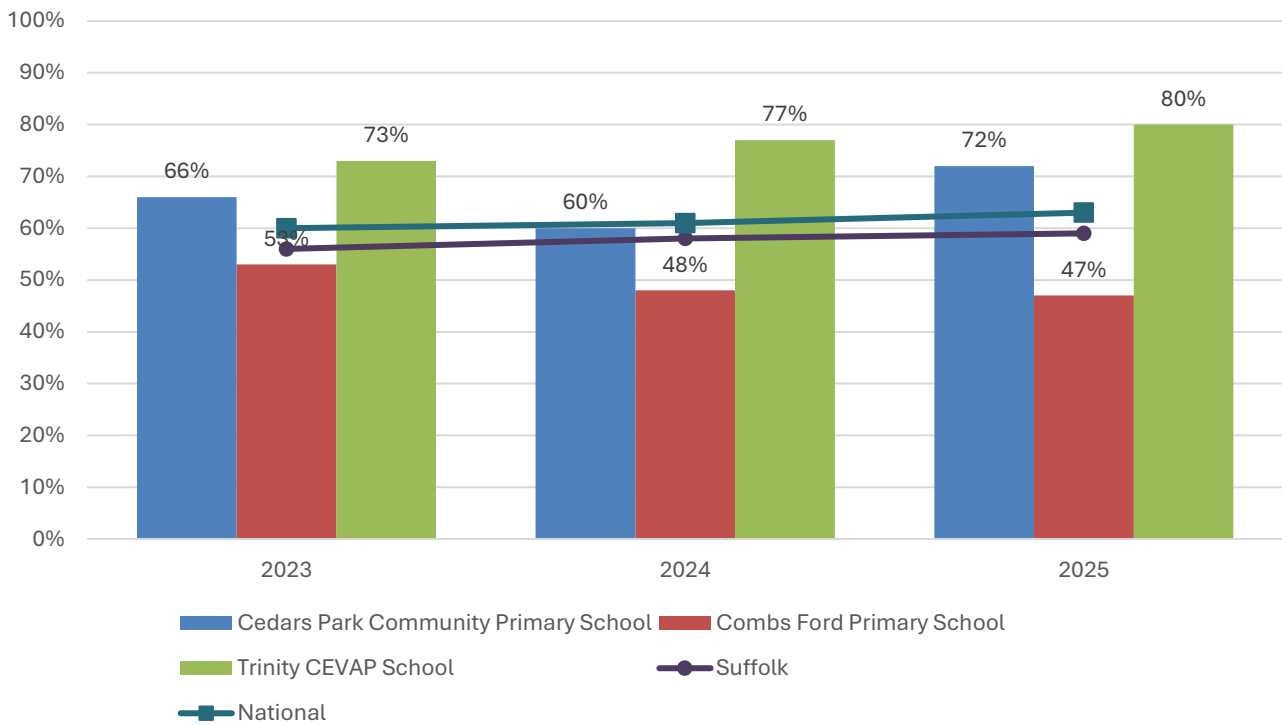
% pupils achieving Good Level of Development (GLD)



- In 2025, the percentage of pupils who achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage (FS) was above the national figure of 68% at all three schools in Stowmarket East; 75% at Cedars Park Community Primary School, 70% at Combs Ford Primary School, and 100% at Trinity CEVAP School.
- Attainment was also above the national benchmark at all three schools in 2024.
- Only at Trinity CEVAP School in 2023 did FS attainment fall below the national figure at a school in Stowmarket East during the last three years.

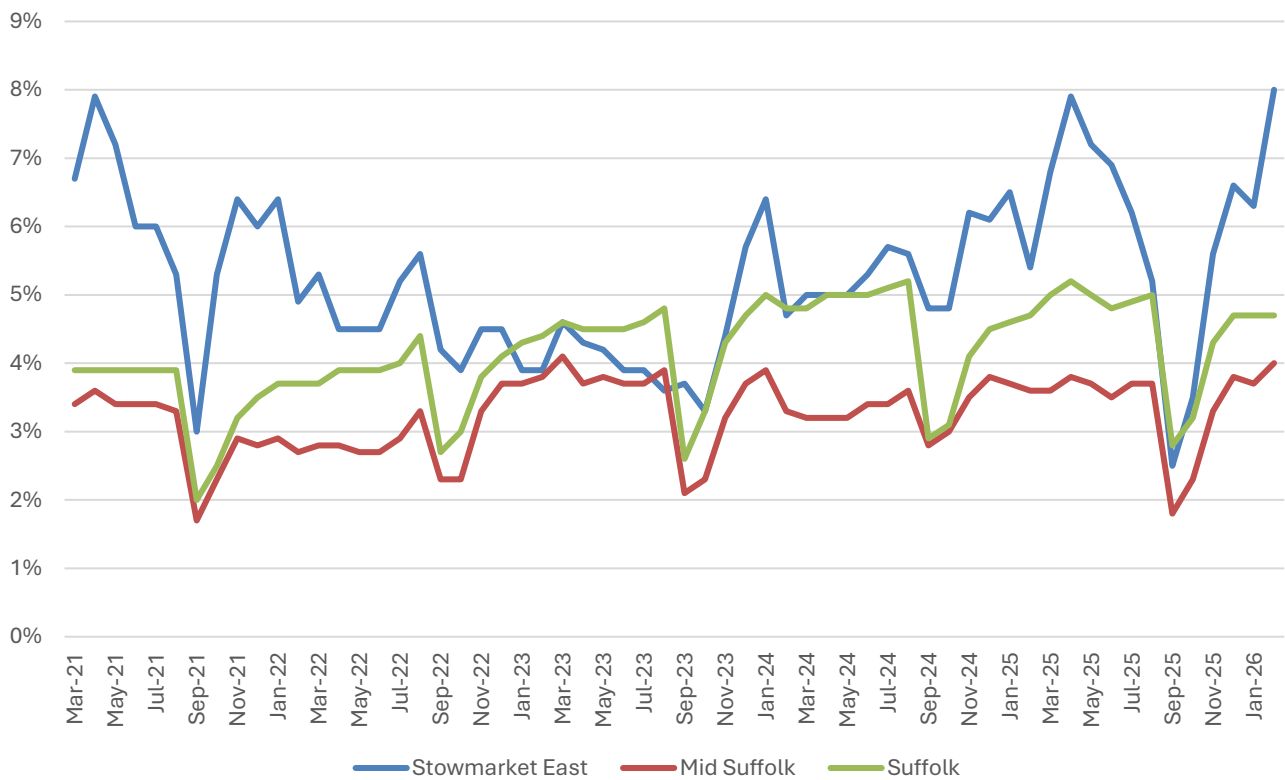
Key Stage 2 (age 11)

% pupils achieving the Expected Level or better in Reading, Writing and Mathematics



- Key stage 2 attainment at Trinity CEVAP School has been consistently well above the county and national average over the past three years of data.
- The opposite is true of Combs Ford Primary School, where the percentage of pupils who achieved the expected level or better in reading, writing and mathematics was consistently below the national benchmark.
- Attainment was more variable at Cedars Park Community Primary School, though the lowest KS2 attainment percentage at the school during this period, 60% in 2024, was only one percentage point below the national figure.

NEET % (Not in Education, Employment or Training)



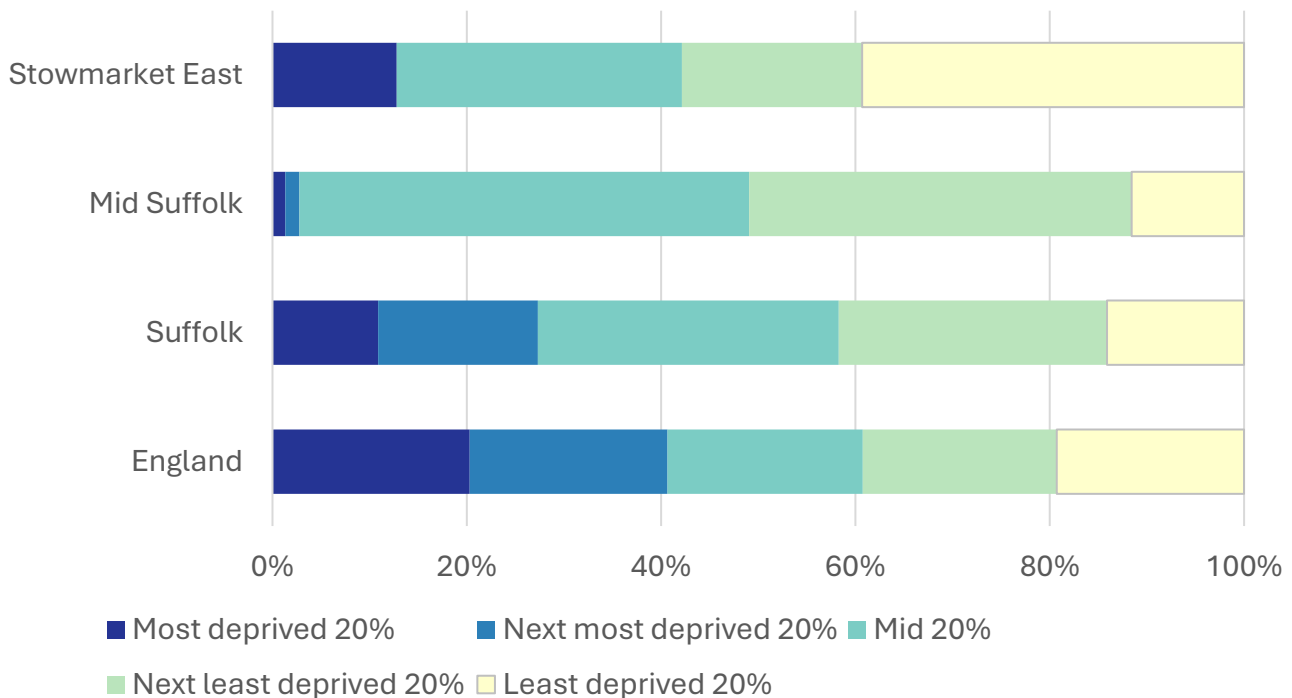
- In February 2026, 8% of 16-17-year-olds in Stowmarket East were classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- NEET levels fluctuate considerably according to the time of year and due to small numbers of 16-17-year-olds in the division, typically being at their lowest at the beginning of a new school year.
- In Stowmarket East, the proportion of children who are NEET is generally above the district and county figures.

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2025 (see map overleaf)

The IMD combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. Small areas (Lower Super Output Areas, average population 1,700) are most commonly described as being in 1 of 5 quintile bands. The bottom quintile represents the 20% of areas that are the most deprived in England; these are shaded pale yellow on the map. The top quintile represents the least deprived areas in England and is shaded dark blue.

The Index is widely used to analyse patterns of deprivation, identify areas that would benefit from special initiatives or programmes and as a tool to determine eligibility for specific funding streams.

The chart below shows the percentage of the population of the division that live in areas ranked among each of the five quintiles of deprivation, alongside the district, county and England comparators.



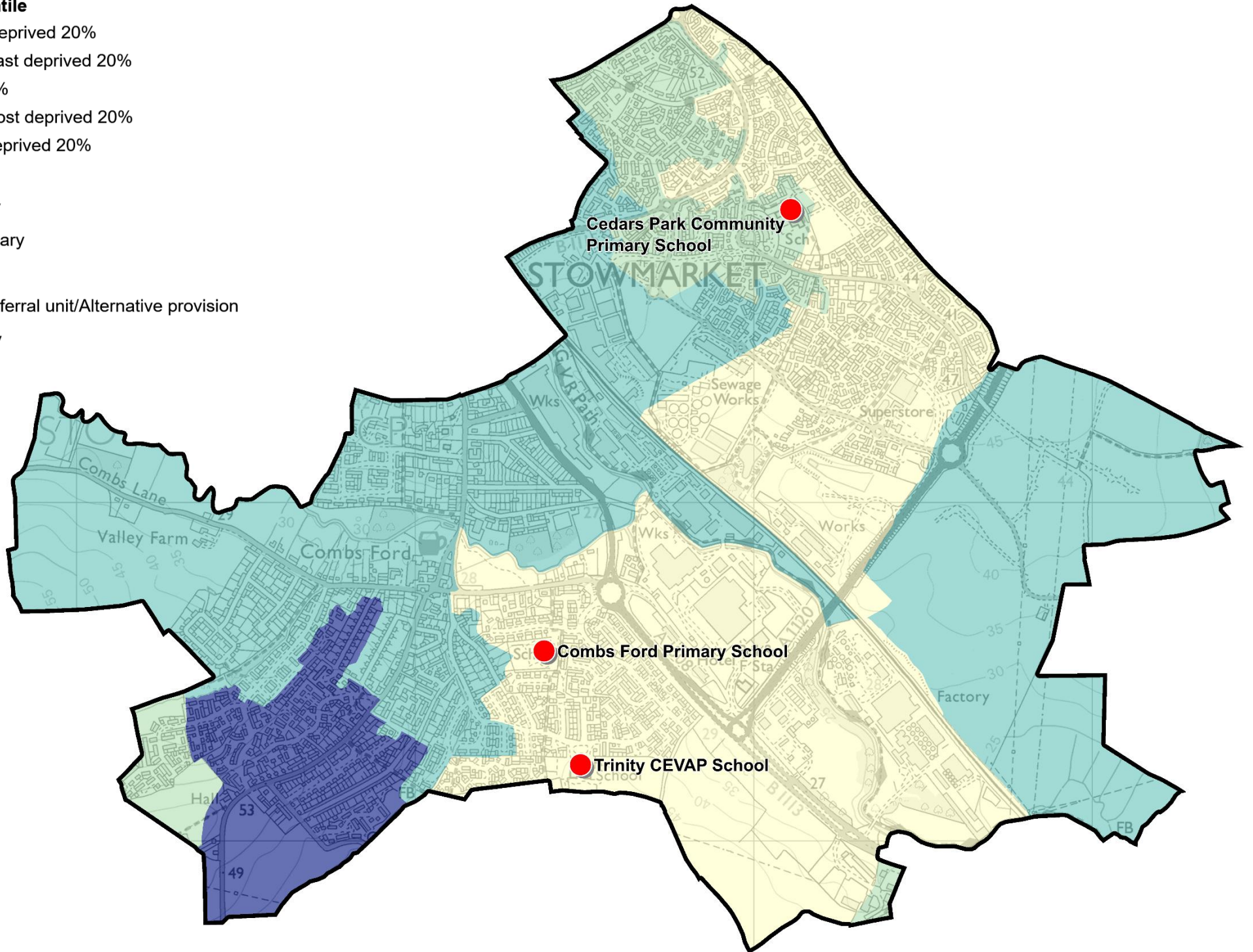
- The 2025 IMD shows that deprivation levels in Stowmarket East are extremely varied, with parts of the division ranked in four of the five deprivation quintiles in England.
- The largest proportion of the population (39%) of Stowmarket East live in neighbourhoods that are ranked among the least deprived fifth in England, with a further 19% of the division in the second least deprived quintile, and 29% in the middle quintile.
- A smaller part of the division, in Combs Ford, is ranked in the most deprived 20% of places in England.
- See the map overleaf for the distribution of IMD 2025 results across the division.

IMD 2025 quintile

- Least deprived 20%
- Next least deprived 20%
- Mid 20%
- Next most deprived 20%
- Most deprived 20%

School Phase

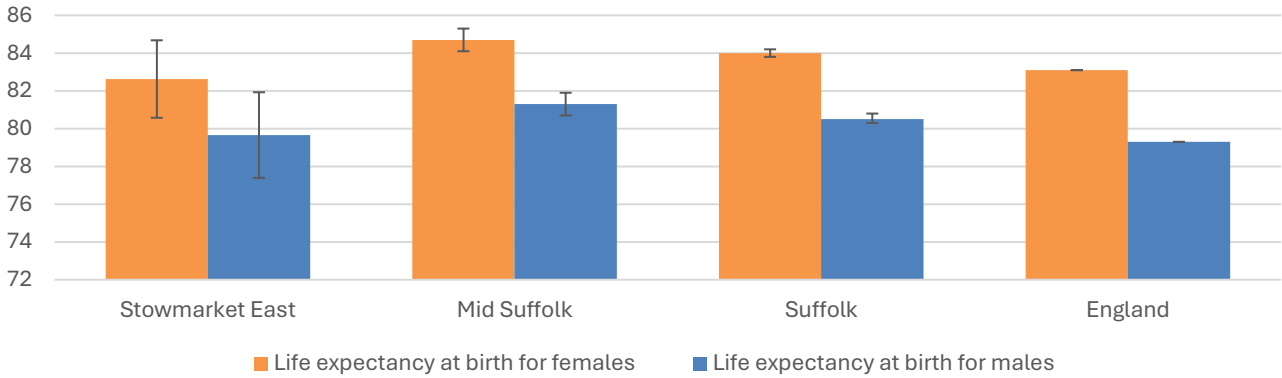
- Primary
- Secondary
- Special
- Pupil referral unit/Alternative provision
- Nursery



Health

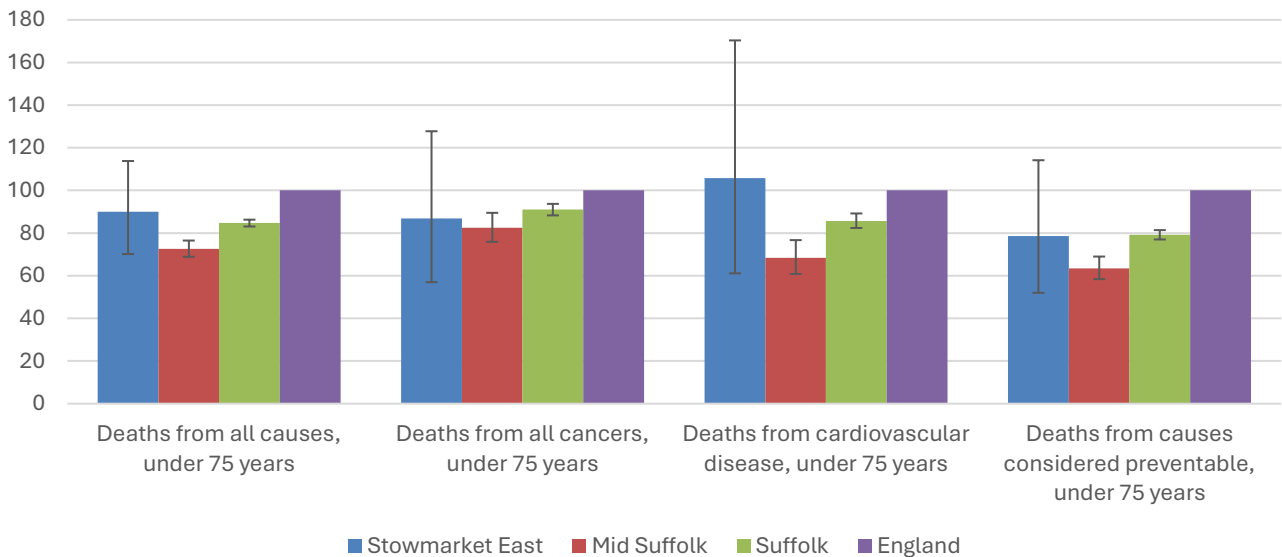
The local data used here is based on relatively small numbers. The confidence limits provide an indication of the reliability of the data. The 95% confidence intervals utilised on the chart provide a range within which there is 95% chance of the true result lying.

Life expectancy at birth



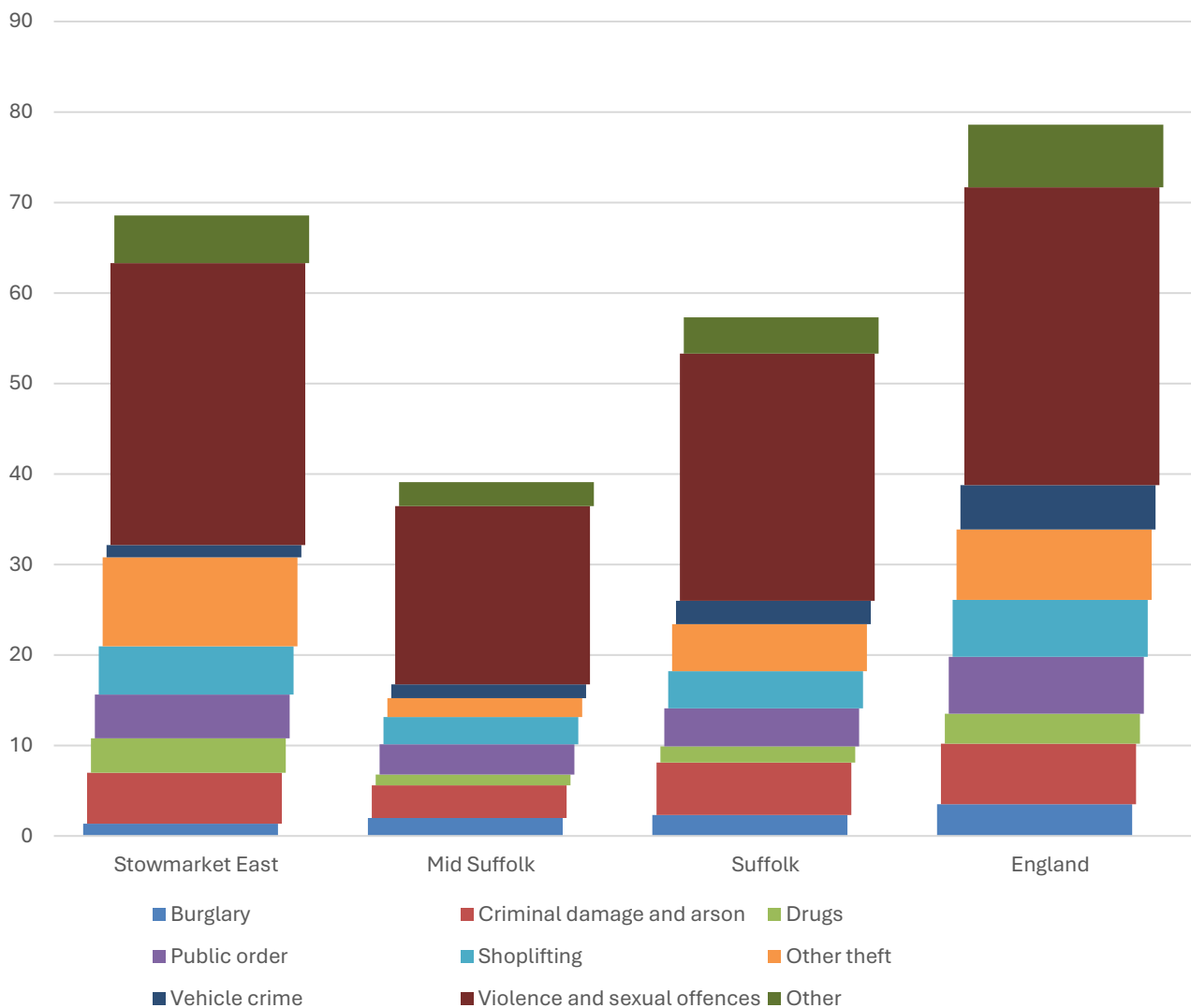
- The latest life expectancy at birth estimates for Stowmarket East are 82.6 for females (the England figure is 83.1), and 79.7 for males (compared to 79.3 nationally).
- Life expectancy for both males and females in the division are statistically similar to the England figures.

Deaths, under 75 years, standardised mortality ratio



- Estimated standardised mortality ratios for early deaths from all causes, all cancers, and causes considered preventable in Stowmarket East are below 100, indicating that deaths in under 75s due to these causes are lower than in England.
- Confidence intervals around these estimates are wide for local data, however, and early deaths from all of the causes shown here are statistically similar in the division to Mid Suffolk, Suffolk, and England.
- The standardised mortality ratio data shown here means that for every 100 early deaths from all causes across England as a whole, there are an estimated 90 comparable deaths in Stowmarket East.

Crime & Community Safety



- Recorded crime in Stowmarket East is high compared to both the district and county averages.
- In the year to the end of January 2026, there were 69 recorded crimes per 1,000 residents in the division, compared to 39 in Mid Suffolk, and 57 countywide.
- All types of crime occur at a higher rate in the division than across Suffolk overall, with the exception of vehicle crime.
- By far the most common type of crime recorded during this period was violence and sexual offences, which accounted for almost half of all recorded crimes in the division.
- Other theft incidents were recorded at around five times the frequency in Stowmarket East than they were in Mid Suffolk.

Additional Information

Parishes in Division

Stowmarket (part)

Data sources

| Category | Indicator | Source |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Demographic Profile | Quinary population table 2024 | ONS 2024 mid-year population estimates |
| | Population pyramid 2024 | ONS 2024 mid-year population estimates |
| | Ethnicity 2021 | ONS 2021 Census |
| Economy | Employment by broad industrial sector 2024 | ONS Business Register and Employment Survey via NOMIS |
| Labour market | Claimant count: The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit who are out of work (% 16-64 population) January 2021-February 2026 | DWP via NOMIS |
| Education | School information and attainment 2023-2025 | Suffolk County Council CYP iHub |
| | % 16-17-year-olds NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) March 2021 to February 2026 | Suffolk County Council CYP iHub via the Suffolk Observatory |
| Deprivation | Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 | Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government |
| Health | Life expectancy at birth 2016-2020 (2018-2020 for comparator areas) | Office for Health Improvement and Disparities |
| Health | Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from all causes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and from causes considered preventable (under 75 years), 2016-2020 (2019-2023 for comparator areas). The standardised mortality ratio is the ratio of observed deaths in the study group to expected deaths in the general population | Office for Health Improvement and Disparities |
| Community Safety | Recorded crime rate per 1,000 resident population February 2025 to January 2026 | Data.police.uk via the Suffolk Observatory |

For more data and information about Stowmarket East Electoral Division, see the Suffolk Observatory www.suffolkobservatory.info

