The Community Wellbeing Index
November 2019 Update

It's what we do

Contents

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Data within the Community Wellbeing Index was refreshed for the first time in November 2019, providing an up to date view of wellbeing across communities throughout the UK. We are planning to refresh the data in the Index every year.

The measures making up the Index have largely remained the same. We have updated some indicators, mainly where new data sources have been identified.

This document has been produced to enable users of the Index to understand all of the measures and data sources that are included, along with the methodology applied for each.

People

Education and Learning

The availability of good, accessible, affordable services to help all ages make the most of education and learning opportunities.

Access to educational services: Equal access to education helps communities to grow and prosper together.

The indicator includes:
- Count of Schools
- Distance to nearest non-independent and special educational needs (SEN)
- Distance to nearest non-independent and SEN and rated good by Ofsted (1,2)
- Distance to nearest adult education facility (m)
- Distance to nearest library (m)

Further detail – Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to each of the nearest educational facilities, with a value of 0 if contained within the community. Ofsted ratings are only considered for England, these are not available for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Source - Geolytix Education pack, © OpenStreetMap contributors

School quality: Communities should benefit from equal access to quality education.

The indicator includes:
- School quality

Further detail - A measure of the Ofsted rating across schools within and around the community. Firstly, a score is assigned according to the strength of the rating received. Outstanding = 1.00, Good = 0.75, Requires Improvement = 0.50 and Inadequate = 0.25. In the instance of there being five or more schools within the community, the average Ofsted score of the schools within the community is taken. In instances where there are less than five schools within a locale, the average of the nearest five schools is taken, including for the schools within that community. Ofsted ratings are only considered for England, these are not available for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Source - Geolytix Education pack

Health

Access to good quality public, voluntary, and social care services that promote physical and mental health in the community.

Access to health services: Access to health services is beneficial to the wellbeing of the community as a whole.

The indicator includes:
- Distance to nearest GP (m)
- Distance to nearest hospital (m)
- Distance to nearest mental health service (m)
- Distance to nearest pharmacy (m)

Further detail - Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to each of the nearest health services, with a value of 0 if contained within the community.

Source - Geolytix POI pack

Prescription rates: Long-term health issues reduce wellbeing and can limit opportunities for social interaction.

The indicator includes:
- GP prescription rates for hypertension and heart failure
- GP prescription rates for diabetes
- GP prescription rates for antidepressants
- GP prescription rates for obesity
- GP prescription rates for dementia

Further detail - The % of drugs prescribed in relation to total patients, for GPs within the community. In the case of no GP within the community, the nearest two are selected.

Source - NHS UK

Economy, Work and Employment

Services and infrastructure in place to promote a sustainable, ethical, inclusive economy that meets the needs of local people.

Proximity of work to home: People who work close to home have more opportunities to interact with the local community.

The indicator includes:
- Workers employed at a location over 30km from their home address

Further detail - Proportion of workers in the community that are travelling 30km or more from their home address to their work address.

Source - Census 2011, ONS

Hours worked: Long hours worked can lead to a poor work-life balance.

The indicator includes:
- Hours worked (>49)

Further detail - Proportion of workers in the community working over 49 hours per week.

Source - Census 2011, ONS

Household income: Higher household income suggests a more economically prosperous community.

The indicator includes:
- Household income

Further detail - Average household income within the community. Figures are unavailable for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Source - ONS Income Estimates

Vacant commercial units: A high number of empty vacant commercial units suggests a struggling local economy.

The indicator includes:
- % vacant units

Further detail - Proportion of total commercial units in the community that are currently vacant. Figures are unavailable for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Source – Valuation Office Agency

Free school meals: A high number of children taking free school meals indicates a larger number of low-income families.

The indicator includes:
- Free school meals rate

Further detail - Proportion of children at schools within the community taking free school meals. Scotland is calculated separately, as children in primary school years 1 – 3 receive free school meals through a Scottish government initiative.

Source - Geolytix Education Pack

Unemployment: Unemployment rates in the community indicate a less prosperous economy.

The indicator includes:
- % adults claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) or Universal Credit

Further detail - Proportion of adults within the community claiming JSA or Universal Credit, depending on their location. Northern Ireland is calculated separately due to a lack of data on Universal Credit, JSA alone is used.

Source – Claimant Count, ONS

Place

Culture, Heritage and Leisure

Access to affordable and inclusive cultural and leisure activities, services and amenities which celebrate the diverse histories of people in the community.

Places of worship: Places of worship facilitate community socialising and can give a strong sense of social cohesion, culture and heritage.

The indicator includes:
• Distance to the nearest place of worship (m)

Further detail – Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to the nearest place of worship, with a value of 0 if contained within the community.
Source - © OpenStreetMap contributors

Types of workers: High counts of artists and musicians can lead to an increased diversity of culture within the community.

The indicator includes:
• % of artists and musicians

Further detail - Proportion of workers in the community that are artists or musicians.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Areas for leisure: Accessible leisure facilities are important for community spirit and wellbeing.

The indicator includes:
• Distance to nearest leisure facility (m)
• Distance to nearest grass pitch (m)
• Distance to nearest sports hall (m)
• Distance to nearest swimming pool (m)

Further detail – Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to the nearest leisure facilities, with a value of 0 if contained within the community.
Source - © OpenStreetMap contributors

Museums, art galleries, music halls, theatres: These promote cultural and leisure activities, which in turn support local heritage.

The indicator includes:
• Distance to nearest museum (m)
• Distance to nearest art gallery (m)
• Distance to nearest theatre (m)
• Distance to nearest music hall (m)

Further detail – Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to each of the nearest venues, with a value of 0 if contained within the community.
Source - © OpenStreetMap contributors

The number of listed buildings: Protected historical or important buildings within an area can help connect a community to its heritage.

The indicator includes:
• Count of listed buildings

Further detail - Count of listed buildings that are present within the community.
Source - © OpenStreetMap contributors

Transport, Mobility and Connectivity

Access to affordable and sustainable transport and communication networks for everyone, especially those with disabilities.

Communication - Internet: Communities with a poor internet connection may feel disconnected from their own community and from others.

The indicator includes:
• Average internet speed
• Maximum internet speed
• Count of total connections per 10,000 population

Further detail - Various measures of internet connectivity considered, including the average and maximum speeds, and total connections across the community. Whilst high speeds may be available, connection counts show actual take-up of services.
Source - Ofcom

Public transport: Buses and rail are key public transport facilities. Communities with poor transport links may feel isolated and disconnected from other communities.

The indicator includes:
• Count of bus stops per 10,000 population
• Distance to major rail station (>1,000,000 annual passengers)
• Distance to any rail station
• Traffic counts of buses

Further detail - Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to the nearest rail stations, with a value of 0 if contained within the community. Figures around the traffic count of buses are unavailable for Northern Ireland.
Source - Geolytix Transport pack

Housing, Space and Environment

Affordable, secure, quality housing, a safe and clean surrounding environment, and well-kept, accessible and inclusive public spaces for people of all ages.

Affordability: People benefit from being able to afford housing within their community.

The indicator includes:
• Affordability

Further detail - The average house price within the community on all residential properties sold since 2016, divided by the average household income of the community. A larger score demonstrates 'less affordability'. Figures are unavailable for Northern Ireland and Scotland.
Source - Land Registry, ONS Income Estimates

Overcrowding: A higher count of people per room suggests overcrowding within the community and a lack of suitably sized accommodation.

The indicator includes:
• Overcrowding

Further detail - Proportion of households within the community that have more than one person per room.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Public green space: Green space encourages leisure activities and a sense of wellbeing.

The indicator includes:
• % public green space

Further detail – The proportion of land within the community given over to publicly accessible green space.
Source - Ordnance Survey, Geolytix Physical Geography pack

Public space: Spaces open to all are important in bringing people together.

The indicator includes:
• Distance to nearest community centre (m)
• Distance to nearest playground (m)

Further detail - Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to the nearest public spaces, with a value of 0 if contained within the community.
Source - Ordnance Survey, Geolytix Physical Geography pack

Traffic pollution: Noise and air pollution have negative implications for wellbeing.

The indicator includes:
• HGV traffic
• Total traffic count

Further detail - The maximum count of both HGV and total traffic going through the community. High counts of traffic will result in higher levels of pollution.
Source – Office for Transport

Air quality: Poor air quality can lead to health problems.

The indicator includes:
• The count of certain gases in the air

Further detail - The count of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) and Particulate Matter (PM10) within the air.
Source – Consumer Data Research Centre

Relationships

Relationships and Trust

The state of family, social and community relationships and the impact of any breakdown in trust on issues like crime.

Social spaces: Places for socialising help to bring people together.

The indicator includes:
- Distance to nearest pub (m)
- Distance to nearest café (m)
- Distance to nearest community centre (m)
- Distance to nearest playground (m)

Further detail - Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to each of the nearest social spaces, with a value of 0 if contained within the community.
Source - © OpenStreetMap contributors

Presence of young children: The presence of babies, preschool and primary school aged children encourages a closer link to the community.

The indicator includes:
- % of young children (aged <14)

Further detail - Proportion of children aged 14 and under within the community.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

One-person household aged 50+: Older people living alone may feel isolated.

The indicator includes:
- One-person households aged 50+

Further detail - Proportion of households with sole occupants, aged 50 and over within the community.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Proximity of work to home: People who work close to home have more opportunities to interact with the local community.

The indicator includes:
- Workers employed at a location over 30km from their home address

Further detail - Proportion of workers in the community that are travelling 30km or more from their home address to their work address.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Household churn: A higher number of houses being sold suggests that people are not staying within the area, weakening community bonds.

The indicator includes:
- Proportion of houses sold

Further detail - Proportion of households that have been sold in the community since 2016. Figures are unavailable for Northern Ireland and Scotland.
Source - Land Registry

Long-term health status: Poor health can limit community interaction and social activity.

The indicator includes:
- Long-term illness

Further detail - Proportion of the population that are suffering from long-term illnesses and disabilities, categorised as 'day-to-day activities limited a lot'.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Crime in the community: A high level of crime can erode trust within a community.

The indicator includes:
- Crime in the community per 10,000 population

Further detail - Total crime counts in the community, per 10,000 population. Crime data for Scotland has not been updated as part of the refresh due to the unavailability of up-to-date figures.
Source - data.police.uk, IMD Scotland

Crime in the town centre: Even if the community itself has low crime rates, there may be a low sense of safety if the nearest town centre is a crime hotspot.

The indicator includes:
- Crime in the town centre

Further detail - Total crime counts in the nearest city centre, large town centre, major city centre, major urban centre or town centre. This is restricted to the nearest centre within 20km. If there is no centre within 20km of the locale, the indicator has been assigned a weight of zero for the community. Figures around crime in the town centre are not available for Scotland.
Source - data.police.uk, Geolytix Retail Places

Equality

Equal and fair opportunities for everyone, regardless of ethnicity, religion, colour, age, ability, sexuality, gender, income etc. Services and infrastructure in place to promote equality, equity and fairness.

House price gap: Large differences in house prices suggests inequality within a community.

The indicator includes:
- The gap between the highest and lowest priced houses within the community

Further detail - The Inter Quartile Range (IQR) of the house price for all houses sold in the community since 2016. The IQR is used to avoid skews for particularly cheap and expensive properties. Figures are unavailable for Northern Ireland and Scotland.
Source - Land Registry

Equality Continued

Second home ownership: Areas with a high proportion of second homes may have less of a sense of community.

The indicator includes:
- % of second homes in the community

Further detail - Proportion of empty houses within the community, providing a proxy for second home ownership.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Independent schools: A stronger presence of independent schools may have a negative impact on educational equality.

The indicator includes:
- Distance to nearest independent school

Further detail - Distance is measured from the outer boundary of the locale to the nearest independent school, with a value of 0 if contained within the community. This is weighted separately for London and the South East due to a much higher supply in those two regions.
Source - Geolytix Education pack

Qualifications: A disparity in types of qualifications may produce inconsistent job opportunities and earning potential within a community.

The indicator includes:
- Degree level qualifications versus no qualifications

Further detail - The absolute difference between the proportion of the population that have a degree level qualification against the proportion of the population with no qualifications. A large score represents a less equal community.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Ethnic Equality: Ethnic minority representation in higher level jobs represents equal and fair opportunities for everyone.

The indicator includes:
- Ethnic representation in professional occupations

Further detail - The proportion of ethnic minorities in:
1. Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations,
2. Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations and 3. Intermediate occupations versus the total proportion of ethnic minorities.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Relative affluence: Large differences in income suggest inequality within a community.

The indicator includes:
- Variance in household income

Further detail - The proportion of households within the community earning above average income versus the proportion of households earning below average. A larger score represents a more equal community. Figures are unavailable for Northern Ireland and Scotland.
Source - ONS Income Estimates

Long-term security: A high count of families in private rented housing can indicate a lack of security.

The indicator includes:
- % families in private rented housing

Further detail - The proportion of houses within the community that are privately rented and have at least one dependent child.
Source - Census 2011, ONS

Voice and Participation

Democratic governance and decision-making mechanisms in place to allow people to express themselves and take either individual or collective action to improve the local community and beyond.

Voter turnout: High voter turnout suggests more political engagement within the community.

The indicator includes:
- General election turnout
- Local election turnout

Further detail - The proportion of people within the community who have voted in both general and local elections. As these cover larger geographical areas (Wards and Parliamentary Constituencies), counts are apportioned to Output Areas. Using the British Census Survey, an index is then applied, based on the age, ethnicity and region of the Output Area. Results are reaggregated to the communities within our Community Wellbeing Index. Communities without a local election in the past four years are assigned a weight of zero for that variable. Figures around local election turnout are unavailable for Northern Ireland.
Source - Electoral Commission, British Census Survey

Co-op member engagement: Choosing which local causes to fund indicates people want to effect change within the local area.

The indicator includes:
- Co-op member engagement

Further detail - The proportion of Co-op members within the community that have selected a cause through the Local Community Fund within the past year. Communities with 100 or less total members are assigned a weight of zero.
Source – Co-op

Signing of petitions: When people sign petitions, it suggests that they feel they have a voice, and can take action to improve the local community.

The indicator includes:
- Signing of petitions per 1,000 people

Further detail - The proportion of people within the community signing petitions. As these are at Parliamentary Constituency level, counts are apportioned to Output Areas. Using the British Census Survey, an index is then applied, based on the age, ethnicity and region of the Output Area. Results are reaggregated to the communities within our Community Wellbeing Index.
Source - Government Petitions, British Census Survey

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