Harmony
Family Hub Profile 2020
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographics and Communities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospects</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Environment</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Wellbeing</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Introduction

Welcome

This is the Harmony Family Hub reach area profile. This covers the neighbourhood wards of Charterhouse, City Centre, Hillfields, Stoke/Stoke Heath, Stoke Park/New Century Business Park, and Upper Stoke Central.

What is the Coventry Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)?

Welcome to the Coventry Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA brings together evidence about the health and wellbeing of Coventry residents, to help leaders across health and care understand and work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Coventry.

Health is more than the healthcare system: it is not just about NHS hospitals, doctors or nurses. Instead, health is about people’s lives. Indeed, people’s health is determined by their economic and social circumstances, such as:

- Their communities; whether they have access to a good network of family and friends.
- Their prospects; whether they have access to good jobs and education.
- Their environment; whether they live in a good neighbourhood with access to green spaces.

These social circumstances determine people’s health and wellbeing, and therefore, are known as social determinants of health.

This JSNA contains a full range of evidence to provide decision-makers with an understanding of local people and communities. It contains a lot of numbers and statistics, because these are essential to show the trends of how things have changed, as well as comparisons with other places. However, because health is about people, this JSNA also contains a lot of evidence from local people and local community groups.

About this JSNA

The Health and Social Care Act of 2012 places a duty on Health and Wellbeing Boards to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. In April 2018, the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board approved a move towards a place-based approach to the JSNA, with the production of a citywide JSNA profile and JSNA profiles for each of the city’s eight Family Hub reach areas.

This JSNA is produced in 2019-2020 by Coventry City Council with co-operation from partners across the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board and ideas contributed by organisations working within the community.

Each JSNA profile is structured as follows:

- Demographics and Community
- Prospects
- Environment
- Health and Wellbeing

For each topic area covered, the JSNA explores:

- Why is this important?
- What is the local picture? How does it compare?
- What is happening? What else can be done?

In addition to the JSNA profiles, detailed statistical data and evidence is available in the citywide intelligence hub at www.coventry.gov.uk/jsna/. The hub provides tools to compare and contrast metrics and indicators of all kinds.

Local consultation and engagement events undertaken

A workshop was held in the Family Hub area with local community groups and organisations at the St Peters Centre in Hillfields in September 2019. While every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this profile is both accurate and up-to-date, please note that the information may become less reliable over time and the use of the information is at your own risk.
Executive summary

About the local area

The Harmony area consists of six neighbourhoods, namely: Charterhouse, City Centre, Hillfields, Stoke and Stoke Heath, Stoke Park and New Century Business Park, and Upper Stoke Central. However, some parts of these neighbourhoods fall under different Family Hub areas.

Demographics and Communities

Harmony is the fastest growing Family Hub area in Coventry. The area is very densely populated, with density 2.6 times the city average. Harmony area has more working age adults and fewer older residents compared to Coventry.

Harmony is home to a high proportion of people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. Apart from the City Centre, all neighbourhoods have more ‘Asian: Indian’ residents than Coventry average. Overall, Christianity is the predominant religion of local residents in the Harmony area.

The area is home to waves of new communities settling in the city. Some areas in Harmony have a high proportion of households that do not speak English as a first language. The most prominent languages after English in the Harmony area are Polish (3.5%) and Panjabi (2.5%).

Language barriers can act as a major barrier to social inclusion. It can create difficulties for people accessing services and integrating with other members of the community. Services throughout the community can play a key role in reducing these effects.

Prospects

Avoidable differences in health emerge by the time a child reaches the age of five. Overall in the Harmony area, the percentage of children who achieve a good level of development by age 5 is 10% below the Coventry average.

Harmony Family Hub experiences notable deprivation, but overall not too dissimilar to Coventry.

Harmony has the largest number of businesses in Coventry as it covers the City Centre area within the ring road. However, unemployment in Harmony overall is higher than Coventry but varies across neighbourhoods.

Housing and Environment

Satisfaction with the local area across most areas in Harmony is lower than the city average.

The physical layout of Hillfields, in particular, the lack of green spaces combined with incidences of vandalism and litter, means that the area is not perceived as safe or child friendly.

Harmony has the worst rate of recorded crime rates in Coventry. However, there are local initiatives that are aiming to improve the area to make it more welcoming to the residents.

Neighbourhoods in Harmony have very different landscapes in terms of accommodation type. Private rented accommodation accounts for the largest proportion of homes in the area, highest of all the Family Hubs. 23% of households in the area are in fuel poverty compared to 15.3% across Coventry.

Health and Wellbeing

Overall rates of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in Harmony is lower than the Coventry average. Many indicators of premature mortality appear out of the ordinary for some parts of the Harmony area especially Hillfields. Lower proportion of residents of Hillfields, City Centre and Upper Stoke Central self-reported to have a limiting long-term illness or disability compared to the Coventry average.

The area seems well served by primary care services and the City Centre area in particular see fewer local children (under 5s) attending A&E in the hospital than the Coventry average.

According to the Household Survey 2018, residents of Hillfields and City Centre report more unhealthy behaviours in terms of diet, smoking, physical activity compared to the Coventry average. Childhood obesity in Harmony worsens between age 5 and 11, in line with the overall picture for Coventry.

Harmony area has mid to high prevalence of diagnosed HIV. GP practices in Harmony have a reasonably good vaccination uptake for children who are 12-months, but uptake rates drop at older ages. Flu vaccination uptake in GP practices varied in the Harmony area.

Family Hubs and early intervention can help support residents to meet their health and care needs and reduce avoidable demand on services.
Demographics and Communities
Location

The catchment area around the Harmony Family Hub includes a few different neighbourhoods and communities. The map below shows the area bounded by the red line, with the area for which we can present data (‘MSOAs’, referred to as neighbourhoods in this document) bounded by blue lines. The Harmony area consists of six neighbourhoods, namely: Charterhouse, City Centre, Hillfields, Stoke and Stoke Heath, Stoke Park and New Century Business Park, and Upper Stoke Central.

History

Coventry throughout its history has been praised for its influential role in the textile and cloth trade during the middle ages, and later for its service to industry in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Blitz in 1940 destroyed much of the city centre and the decades following this were dedicated to rebuilding the city. The motor industry during this time peaked and consequently, slumped during the 1970’s and 80’s leading to high unemployment rates. In the new millennium Coventry saw major regeneration and in 2017 was awarded the title of UK City of Culture 2021.

Hillfields was the first suburb of Coventry to expand outside of the city walls in 1828 and was deemed to be part of ‘new town’. Between 1841 and 1861 the new town saw over 2000 houses being built and the ribbon and weaving industry boomed. The standard of living here was of much higher standards than those remaining in the inner city. Moreover, Hillfields has been home to Coventry City Football ground for most of its life, since it was established in 1883 it remained in Hillfields until 2005 when the club relocated to the Ricoh Arena in Longford.

The Stoke area has a very vast reach of the city. Unlike other areas in Coventry, Stoke had plentiful amounts of clay and soil which enabled the area to become a centre piece in the tile making industry in the middle ages, since then the surrounding areas were built up for munition workers in the first world war and for the Humber factory that had been producing bicycles and cars.

Population

Why is this important?

By understanding the area’s changing demography and communities (that is, the characteristics of the area’s population), local communities and organisations can ensure that the area has the right mix of services to meet the needs of its people.

What is the local picture?

Harmony is the fastest growing Family Hub area in Coventry. The population in Harmony is estimated to be 37,816 in 2018; an increase of 19% in the three years to 2018. This is more than double the Coventry rate of 7%. A contributory factor to this increase is more students enrolling at Coventry University and living in newly developed student accommodation in and around the City Centre.

The area is very densely populated for Coventry, with density 2.6 times the city average. Canterbury Street and Raglan Street in Hillfields area has 163 persons per hectare - the most densely populated area in Coventry.

Harmony’s area age profile is different from the Coventry average with significantly more working age adults and fewer older residents. There are 10% more adults in the 18-64 age group here than in Coventry as a whole and nearly 7% less for the above 65 age group. The growth in working age residents has been significant between 2015 and 2018, increasing by 26% in the Harmony area, outstripping Coventry’s 8%. In contrast, the Harmony area sees slower growth for children (1% compared to Coventry’s 5%).

While there are local variations in children and elderly age groups, every neighbourhood of Harmony has a higher percentage of working age adults than Coventry’s average. Charterhouse, City Centre, and Hillfields stand out amongst Harmony neighbourhoods with their
significantly small percentage of older residents (all below 5%).

In particular, 93% of residents in the City Centre are of working age, which is 1.4 times higher than Coventry’s average of 65%. As a result, the City Centre also has a notably smaller proportion of children (4%; Coventry average is 22%). The number of student accommodation in the City Centre contributes to this characteristic.

According to the census 2011, there are 10,570 households in the area. Majority of households in Harmony have full-time students with the City Centre having the highest in the city. In addition, nearly half of the households in the City Centre are one-person households. With new student accommodation developed in recent years, the proportion of shared households may have increased.

**Diversity**

*Why is this important?*

The growth of new communities can change the profile of the area, which can have an impact on demand for local services such as schools and GP surgeries.

*What is the local picture?*

*How does it compare?*

**Harmony is home to a high proportion of people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.** In the 2011 census, the Harmony area had 56% of its population from BAME communities. Overall it has a lower proportion of residents that are ‘White: British’ compared to the city average. The speed of changing demographics means the 2011 data may not accurately reflect the current diversity in the area so the position in 2019 is difficult to assess.

**There is variation amongst the Harmony area neighbourhoods.** Hillfields has the lowest proportion of ‘White: British’ residents at 30%, while Stoke Park and New Century Business Park has the highest proportion at 69% (more than Coventry’s average of 67%). All Harmony neighbourhoods have a higher proportion of residents who identify as ‘White: Other’ than Coventry average.

**Apart from the City Centre, all neighbourhoods have more ‘Asian: Indian’ residents than Coventry average.**

Hillfields (14%), Charterhouse (10%), and the City Centre (8%) all have a notably higher proportion of ‘Black: African’ residents than Coventry average (4%). Hillfields stands out with 9% of ‘Asian: Bangladeshi’ residents when other Harmony neighbourhoods and the Coventry average range between 0.5% to 1%. It is a similar situation for ‘Asian: Pakistani’ residents, with 6% for Hillfields, and a range of 1% to 3% for other Harmony neighbourhoods and Coventry average.

**Overall, Christianity is the predominant religion of local residents in the Harmony area.** However, in some parts, the majority are of Muslim faith - Hillfields Cambridge Street (60%), Hillfields Village and Motor Museum (41.3%) and City Farm North (55.2%) compared to 7% for Coventry as a whole.

*Information about the area’s ethnic and religious profile is limited to information from the last census, in 2011. However, the 2019 school census data shows a similar picture to above in terms of ethnic profile.***

**The Harmony area is home to waves of new communities settling in the city.** It has the highest number of international migrants in Coventry with the number increasing over the past few years. Most reside in the City Centre and Hillfields with China and India being the most likely country of origin. This is probably due to Coventry University being the fourth largest recruiter of international students in the UK.

**Some areas in Harmony have a high proportion of households that do not speak English as a first language.** 31% of the households in the City Farm North area and 31% in the City Centre area had no residents that speak English as their first language and Hillfields Village and Motor Museum area slightly higher at 34%. The most prominent languages after English in the Harmony area are Polish (3.5%) and Panjabi (2.5%). With Barrs Heath-West of Clay Lane having the highest proportion of residents speaking Polish and Stoke Church End-Shakespeare Street having the highest proportion of residents speaking Panjabi.

**Community cohesion in Harmony, overall, is similar to Coventry.** The 2018 Household Survey shows that the proportion of residents that chat with their neighbours regularly and agree they get along with their neighbours is not significantly different from the Coventry average. However, the survey showed that fewer residents in Harmony exchange or borrow things with their neighbours compared to Coventry as a whole.

Most thought their neighbourhood was a place where people from different backgrounds got on well together, a proportion not significantly different from Coventry average (88%). The City Centre at 74% was the only area where fewer residents thought it wasn’t. In addition, the City Centre alongside Hillfields and Upper Stoke Central
reported having less diverse friendship groups compared to the Coventry average.

The proportion of residents in Harmony area that participate in cultural events is similar to the Coventry average. Participating in cultural events helps to combat social isolation. Higher rates of participation than the Coventry average were reported from surveyed residents of the City Centre and Upper Stoke Central.

However, focusing on risk factors for residents aged 65+, Age UK identified much of the Harmony area at “high” to “very high risk” of social isolation. Poets Corner, Stoke Park, Binley Road were identified as “low” to “very low risk”.

What else is happening?
What else can be done?

Language can act as a major barrier to social inclusion. It can create difficulties for people accessing services and integrating with other members of the community. Services throughout the community can play a key role in reducing these effects. One of the difficulties local organisations face is tailoring their resources to meet the needs of a diverse range of individuals. Libraries provide a useful resource for learning languages, from opportunities to attend English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses, to conversation cafes to meet other people and practice their conversational English. The Family Hub also offers support groups; however, they have reported that there are many new languages and different countries attending so they have found it “very hard to be all inclusive with limited resources.”

There are translation services within Hillfields, but time, planning and funding limits their success. Projects such as the Building Bridges project and MiFriendly Cities work in partnership across Coventry to “bring all communities together by supporting, participating and investing in the skills.” The project focuses on developing and improving skills through providing ESOL classes, youth integration, volunteering programmes and supporting independence. Lingo Links language club was a successful group that exchanges languages. People of all different nationalities are able to meet each other to practice their language skills.

Having a strong connection to the area impacts people’s relationships with each other and their perception of safety. Overall, participants at the engagement workshop recognised that there is “not a strong sense of community”. Which affects the ways in which people perceive the area and how happy they are.
could work more efficiently and in partnership with each other, saving time in referring people to the correct services. One participant stated, “we almost need to know about services before needing that service, it would save lots of time for the people who need it most”. An example of how this was successful is from Coventry Alzheimer’s Society where due to their previous connections and knowledge they were able to direct clients to the appropriate services immediately. Without prior knowledge it would have taken much longer.

Volunteers in the Harmony Family Hub area are an asset. Charitable organisations such as Age UK and Coventry Alzheimer’s Society both employ befriending volunteers, work with Grapevine’s Feel Good Community project and actively seek referrals for volunteers from local churches. The volunteers are invaluable to the organisations and is also a chance for the volunteers to meet new people and support the community. However, there are noticeable commitment issues during summer and warmer months.

The Harmony Family Hub collaborates and co-ordinates a range of services in the area. It could also be used to make connection with individuals and maximise the success of partnerships.

Community Assets

Why is this important?

Understanding the local network of assets, resources and community organisations helps facilitate sharing and understanding to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities. Below is a collation of specific comments and places mentioned in the engagement sessions:

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<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire</td>
<td>Work in Coventry and Warwickshire to offer support and services to older people. They offer information and advice, home help services and work together to overcome loneliness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Belgrade Theatre</td>
<td>Provide lots of support in the area. They have worked in partnership with Coventry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coventry Alzheimer’s Society</td>
<td>Provides a range of dementia support services from one to one support, to groups and activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre</td>
<td>Provide support for refugees and asylum seekers. They offer a range of services, some of which include: helping their clients access health care, supporting individuals in learning to speak English and offering impartial and confidential advice to those that have newly arrived.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Midlands Fire Service</td>
<td>West Midlands Fire Service will visit those who are vulnerable to fire and complete safe and wellness checks where they will have the opportunity to see whether clients have any additional needs. They also offer a range of preventative services e.g. programme for young children starting fires</td>
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<tr>
<td>FWT</td>
<td>FWT aims to break down barriers that women face in accessing services. They provide skills, training and support to empower women in the community. They</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harmony Family Hub</td>
<td>Host a range of activities and advice, working in partnership with the community. The hub can direct individuals to different services in the area and provide information and support.</td>
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<td>Hillz FM</td>
<td>A community radio station which benefits the local people in the Hillfields community run by volunteers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kairos</td>
<td>Supports sex workers – aims to increase life-chances, choices and wellbeing of women in prostitution, affected by or at risk of sexual exploitation in Coventry. The service collaborates with women to support them. They have recently moved from St Peters Community Centre to All Saints Church, St Margaret’s, Walsgrave Rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lingo Links</td>
<td>A small group of individuals that meet to practice different languages.</td>
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<td>Coventry Peace House</td>
<td>Provides a night shelter for asylum seekers, community space for arts and campaign groups. Can be hired out for public use.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive Youth Foundation</td>
<td>Specialises in helping young people across Coventry. They have partnerships with different organisations throughout the city endorsing health champions, providing youth activities and understanding the needs of children at risk of school exclusion promoting the importance of healthy habits and choices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reclalm the Canal Project</td>
<td>Helps to empower local communities by enabling them to participate in organising a local festival in 2019 summer.</td>
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<td>The importance of ‘Word-of-Mouth’</td>
<td><strong>Word-of-Mouth</strong> was discussed as being the most effective way of communication to spread knowledge of services they know of and have previously worked with. Meeting different people and building relationships was seen as vital in working together as one.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Wave</td>
<td>Indoor waterpark and gym that offers a range of activities and classes for people of all ages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waiting Rooms</td>
<td>Is a (Birmingham) council run website which has a list of local organisations, what they do and services they offer. This is updated</td>
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| **Working Actively to Change Hillfields (WATCH)** | Community Centre in the heart of Hillfields. Involve and supports people facing numerous challenges. Some of the projects they have run for the community are:
- Exceed in Coventry
- Children & Young People’s Project
- Accelerate Project
Also offers a range of support and advice services, such as job clubs where individuals can gain support writing their CV. |
| **Young People Centre** | Positive Youth Foundation host around 20 sessions a week that are free and open access. There are good regular numbers in attendance, if young people come to one type of session, they try to get them to go to another. |
Prospects
Best start in life

Why is this important?
Avoidable differences in health that appear during pregnancy, birth and the early years impact on a person’s lifelong health, happiness and productivity in society.

What is the local picture?
At the end of the most recent academic year 64% of key stage 2 pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to the city average of 62%. There is some variation between the neighbourhoods that make up Harmony, parts of Hillfields are below average and parts of Stoke Heath / Barras Heath are above average. For local pupils assessed at the end of key stage 4 the average Attainment 8 score was similar to the city average with

Education and Skills

Why is this important?
Lack of educational attainment and low aspirations are major causes of a wide range of social disadvantages later in life, including poor employment prospects, social alienation and mental and physical health problems. To help children and young people realise their full potential in life, these barriers need to be addressed through championing high levels of educational attainment and raising their aspirations.

Local initiatives and creating community champions in the area could positively impact the ways in which people connect to each other and the community. Hillz FM, a community radio station was considered an asset within the community. Supported by volunteers it seeks to involve people facing disadvantage, social exclusion and ethnic minority groups.

Local initiatives

Education and Skills

Prospects
again parts of Hillfields having lower than average scores and parts of Stoke higher than average.

The proportion of pupils with special educational needs varies across Harmony. Binley Road- central Church Lane (6.1%) has the lowest percentage of pupils with special educational needs in Coventry while the city centre and Gosford Green- Kingsway are among the top 10% in Coventry for largest proportion of students. Special school attendance in Harmony is similar to the Coventry average.

The proportion of people living in Harmony with no qualifications vary across the area. The City average for the proportion of the population with no qualifications is 24% while Harmony is at 22.6%. However, some areas have 35% or above of local residents with no qualifications-Stoke Heath’s, Mercer Avenue/Heath Crescent area (35%) and Hillfields Village and Motor and Museum (35.5%). In comparison to this, 23% of the population in Coventry has a degree or higher. In the Harmony area that figure is 21.4%.

What else is happening?
What else can be done?

Culturally aware services and clearer sign-posting can help meet the diverse needs of local communities.

FWT offer a culturally sensitive place for all women to access Education, Training, Healthcare and Employment Opportunities. They operate from a women-only centre in Foleshill but deliver programmes to all women in Coventry.

The library also provides skills and training sessions and have noticed an increase in visitors since it moved from St Peter’s Centre to the WATCH Centre. This may be partly due to the location and ease of accessibility to the Centre. The library saw an increased uptake of the reading scheme over the summer of 2019 and have hosted well attended newly arrived programmes, access programmes and healthy living workshops.

There are many opportunities to further develop skills and gain qualifications in the area.

Working Actively to Change Hillfields (WATCH) Community Centre host a range of opportunities and events to teach people of all age’s new skills. Some projects include: Accelerate is a partnership of local organisations providing co-ordinated employment support to people who are at a disadvantage when looking for work. ‘Jumping Through Hoops’ enables people to access employment support services and introduce them to radio training and children and young people project funding received from BBC Children in Need enabling young people aged 8-18 to gain confidence and communication skills using radio.

The library also supports children through programmes such as Bookstart. Through Bookstart, children of preschool age receive a free information pack containing a variety of activities, guidance for parents and a book. This is in the hope that good literacy habits will be formed at a much younger age. Rhyme Time is also an opportunity for the formation of good literacy habits and encourage the development of language and social skills amongst babies and toddlers.

Economy and Growth

Why is this important?

Being in meaningful paid employment is a protective factor for health. Increasing the quality and quantity of work, and thereby addressing the unequal distribution of income, wealth and power, will contribute to reduce avoidable health inequalities.

What is the local picture?

Harmony Family Hub experiences notable deprivation, but overall not too dissimilar to Coventry. In 2019,15% of Harmony residents lived in areas that were considered the 10% most deprived in England; all of which fall in Hillfields. They make up 38% of Hillfields population. In Hillfields, particularly Hillfields Village & Motor Museum, is the 2nd most deprived in Coventry. Residents in City Farm North live in areas that are 20% most deprived in England while Canterbury Street, Raglan Street, Swans Lane and Thackhall Street live in areas that are 30% most deprived in England.

Across Harmony, compared to 2015, 10 out of 15 areas improved in ranking against other English areas. The other five areas remained in their 2015 deciles. Poets Corner of Upper Stoke Central is the least deprived neighbourhood of Harmony and improved by one decile from 2015.

The deprivation faced by Harmony children is reflected in the high proportion of pupils who are eligible for free school meals. 23.4% of children in Harmony (approximately 1050) are eligible for school meals. This is third highest rate of all Family Hub areas. Looking at schools by neighbourhood, the proportion of eligibility is highest in Hillfields ranging from 25% to 36%, ranking the 4th highest in proportion of all Coventry neighbourhoods. This means Hillfields schools have a relatively high attendance of children from deprived backgrounds. In addition, the percentage of children living in income-
deprived households in the Hillfields Village & Motor Museum area is 3rd highest in Coventry.

The proportion of residents who are economically inactive is higher than average. This means they are not actively seeking employment, for reasons such as retirement, care responsibilities, long-term sickness, and study. 48% of residents in Hillfields and 62% in the City Centre area (within the ring road) are economically inactive. Additionally, Hillfields is amongst the areas with the lowest income per household in Coventry.

Harmony has the largest number of businesses in Coventry as it covers the City Centre area within the ring road. The City Centre as a whole has 1480 businesses of which 75% were micro businesses (0 to 9 employees).

Unemployment in Harmony overall is higher than Coventry but varies across neighbourhoods. With Hillfields Village & Motor Museum nearly 4 times the rate of Coventry (3%), the worst in the city and Poets Corner and Middle Stoke Church lane at 1%.

What else is happening?
What else can be done?

Opportunities for stable employment appear limited and perceptions of financial instability is growing. Participants commented that there is an increasing “sense of hopelessness and fear among young people who are having to use homeless shelters”. It was felt that many of the issues surrounding financial insecurity were often interlinked and that more preventative measures and interventions were needed to alleviate some of the everyday struggles people face. Despite this there are active groups within the community aimed at helping individuals gain entry to paid employment. For example, Grapevine provide schemes such as ‘Connect 2 Work’ which helps people over the age of 18 with a learning disability to achieve their job goals.

Positive Youth Foundation also provide programmes aimed at helping young people achieve their potential, for example The Raising Aspirations Programme is delivered through meeting the diverse needs of young people ensuring that they are supported and challenged. They help by enabling personal development and functional skills to young people who may be experiencing challenges within mainstream education.

Joined-up working can help residents and communities overcome some of the challenge’s food poverty creates. Organisations such as the Hope Centre have set up holiday schemes to ensure that children are able to have access to healthy balanced meals during the school holidays. It also offers activities and development opportunities to the children in this area. In 2019, for 5 weeks during the summer school holidays their Family, Food and Fun programme fed 1007 people with 575 of them being children.
Housing and Environment
Localities and Neighbourhoods

Why is this important?
The quality of the built and natural environment, such as the local neighbourhood, access to local shops and services, and access to parks and green spaces, affects the health and well-being of everyone.

What is the local picture?
How does it compare?
Satisfaction with the local area across most areas in Harmony is lower than the city average. Stoke Park & New Century Business Park area is the only area above the city average with 87% of people feeling satisfied and a sense of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood. People in the City Centre area had the lowest level of satisfaction and were less likely to feel a sense of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood than the Coventry average. Furthermore, in the Harmony area, the City Centre and Hillfields had the lowest proportion of residents (31%) that agreed there were opportunities for them to be actively involved in improving their local area and influence decisions affecting their local area, significantly lower than the Coventry average. By contrast, 72.2% residents of Stoke Park and New Century Business Park agreed they could influence decisions affecting their local area, the second highest proportion in Coventry.

Air quality is the poorest in the city due to the presence of the major arterial trunk roads. Due to this, there are many locations around and near the Harmony area where the level of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in the air is measured. The annual mean NO2 levels for the majority of the Harmony area are within the safety levels set by the European Directive. However, some areas exceed the limit: Walsgrave Road (near Clement Street) and at the junction of Stoney Stanton Road and Harnall Lane East. Levels of particulate matter are worse in the City Centre while levels of sulphur dioxide in the Harmony area appear to be similar to Coventry as a whole.

The poor physical layout of Hillfields, combined with little attractive green space, vandalism and litter, means that the area is not perceived as safe or child friendly. However, there are local initiatives that are aiming to improve the area to make it more welcoming to the residents. Yardley Street was identified as an area of concern with “condoms and needles on the ground.” Making it an unappealing environment, particularly for children and young people. Litter was also identified as problematic, a lack of bins in the area has meant that the “environment is in such a mess people will drop their litter as well. If the area was cleaner people would be less inclined to drop litter” which would change the perceptions and feel of the area.

What else is happening?
What else can be done?
Climate change and air pollution were concerns for residents in the area. In reaction to The Woodland Trust launching the “Big Climate Fightback” Voluntary Action Coventry would like to gather people in the area to positively fight climate change, giving people a sense of pride and purpose in the community by planting trees and brightening the area.

Brightening the area with community led projects and art could help bring a sense of community to residents. One of the suggestions at the engagement workshop was to highlight Hillfields as an asset through art and creative activities. Painting murals to celebrate the diversity of the city could give people the sense of ownership for the space they live in and a sense of pride. Art could be used “as a way of reclaiming space” and giving young people the opportunity to feel proud of the area and forge connections with it. Working in partnership with the City of Culture could make the project sustainable.

Lack of child friendly spaces hinders community cohesion and integration, adding to growing perceptions of not feeling safe. Due to perceptions of the area not being well kept or clean, residents voiced a reluctance to take their children to parks in Hillfields. This has led to more people becoming isolated from the community as often they do not engage with other members of the community or leave their homes. Groups of men loitering around public spaces as well as open drug deals were also reported to add to the reluctance of residents enjoying the outdoor space.

Housing and Homelessness

Why is this important?
Historically, housing is only considered in relation to health in terms of support to help vulnerable people to live healthy, independent lives and reduce the pressure on families and carers. However, it is now recognised that good quality housing for all leads to better health and wellbeing, as it indirectly affects early years outcomes, educational achievement, economic prosperity and community safety. Conversely, rough sleeping and homelessness significantly impacts on a person’s mental and physical health, and the longer someone experiences
rough sleeping, the more likely they will develop additional mental and physical health needs, develop substance misuse issues and have contact with the criminal justice system.

What is the local picture?
How does it compare?

Neighbourhoods in Harmony have very different landscapes in terms of accommodation type. The City Centre (86%) and Hillfields Village & Motor Museum (69%) are in the top 5% in Coventry for the highest proportion of “flats, maisonettes, or apartments, or mobile/temporary accommodation”, giving context to its high population density. While Poets Corner is amongst the highest in terms of proportion of terraced housing, nearly double the Coventry average (43%). This data is based on the census taken in 2011 and with significant student accommodation development in the City Centre, proportion of flats would have further increased.

Private rented accommodation accounts for the largest proportion of homes in the area, highest of all the Family Hubs. This is mostly due to the City Centre having 61% of privately rented households, nearly three times the Coventry average (22%). While Hillfields Village & Motor Museum area has the highest proportion of socially rented houses in Coventry at 74%. Harmony household ownership varies across the neighbourhoods with Middle Stoke, Binley Road and Poets Corner ranking amongst the highest (over 70%). Median property prices in Harmony are below the Coventry median price of 170,000, with the exception of Binley Road where in 2019 was 198,000 and Poets Corner at 182,000.

23% of households in the area are in fuel poverty compared to 15.3% across Coventry. A household is fuel poor if they have fuel costs that are above the national median level and, were they to spend that amount, they would be left with residual income below the official poverty line. 10 out of 15 neighbourhoods in the Harmony area are within the worst 25% of areas for fuel poverty in Coventry - Gosford Green has 35% of all households in the area in fuel poverty (the worst in Coventry is 43% in Gosford & Gulson Roads).

What else is happening?
What else can be done?

Residents expressed concerns about the level of rough sleeping and hidden homelessness in the area. Churches and local projects may help, but solving the crisis involves more investment. Churches were highlighted as an asset for rough sleepers, providing them with hot food and sleeping bags and directing them to where they can access support. However, one participant commented that this is becoming more difficult as “in the city centre people go into churches who are homeless or have mental health needs and become challenging and sometimes violent. It is unnerving for the churches who have to deal with it.” Financial deprivation and visible homelessness have led to residents feeling an “increased sense of hopelessness and fear among people using shelters”. Preventative measures need to be taken so that people have the correct support.

Crime and Community Safety

Why is this important?
Being a victim of crime, and being worried about crime, impacts on a person’s perception of their quality of life in the neighbourhood and has a negative effect on a person’s mental and physical wellbeing.

What is the local picture?
How does it compare?

The worst rate of recorded crime rates in Coventry is seen in Harmony. The rate has increased over the years. With the highest level of crime seen in the City Centre (503 per 1,000) followed by Hillfields Village & Motor Museum (485 per 1,000) – over 5 times the Coventry average. Anti-social behaviour is the largest proportion of the total followed by violence & sexual offences. In addition, the Household Survey 2018 found 33% of those residents asked in the City Centre felt unsafe at night and 39% in Hillfields, both higher than the Coventry average (26%). Other areas of Harmony where reported crime rates are substantially higher than the city:

Anti-social behaviour is substantially higher than the city average in 8 of the 15 areas in Harmony ranging from 22.3-150.7 per 1,000 population.

Drug related crimes were also higher in 8 out of the 15 neighbourhoods in Harmony. Many of the neighbourhoods similar to those with high rates of anti-social behaviour (Hillfields - Canterbury Street, Raglan Street, Coronation Road, Swanswell Basin, Stoke Heath, City Farm North).

Violence and sexual offences were nearly 1.5 times higher than the Coventry average in Shakespeare Street, around Mercer Avenue and City Farm North.

After the City Centre, burglary rates were highest in Shakespeare Street and shoplifting was the highest in Stoke Park.
The highest number of race related hate crimes were recorded in the City Centre (total 165 hate crimes between 2015-2017) and the Hillfields area ranked 4th in Coventry.

What else is happening?

Crime, and perceptions of crime have an impact on people's perception of safety. There are parts of the Harmony area where a poor reputation means people feel unable to use the facilities and services there. Participants at the engagement workshop reported that “people don’t feel safe…the area has got worse over time, you can just feel it getting more desperate”.

Drugs and alcohol abuse were key factors in why residents did not feel safe with people reporting that “drug deals and other criminal activities are more brazen now”. Residents reported bins being set on fire, however, they did not want to confront individuals for fear of becoming a target. Anti-social behaviour, bins being set on fire and alcohol abuse were all mentioned to be high in this area.

Organised events can help address and improve perceptions of safety however, the poor location of the Family Hub limits people’s access to these events. Participants reported that the Family Hub is in a poor location as it is hidden away, and it is not a pleasant route to get to. People feel unsafe walking alone at night and may not access the Family Hub because of this. The Family Hub is also encouraging participation within younger people to help build a safer community. They are creating a CD influenced by how children in the area are feeling.

Positive Youth Foundation provide a Positive Futures programme, which focuses on reducing fears and instances of youth related violence. The programme is designed to lead on current issues such as knife crime and offer professional development training to upskill young people. The programme also provides a safe and accessible timetable of after-school, weekend and evening provision.
Health and Wellbeing
Life Expectancy

Why is this important?
Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are extremely important summary measures of overall population health. The Marmot Review, Fair Society, Healthy Lives, demonstrates that people experiencing multiple deprivation not only live shorter lives, but also spend a greater proportion of their shorter lives with a disability or in poor health. As a Marmot city, Coventry has adopted and embedded the principles of Marmot, tackling at a local level the social conditions that can lead to health inequalities, and working to improve the areas in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.

What is the local picture?
How does it compare?

Overall rates of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in Harmony is lower than the Coventry average. Life expectancy in the city is currently 82.4 years for females and 78.3 for males. It has consistently remained below the regional and national averages. Compared to other areas of the city, Hillfields is amongst the neighbourhoods with lowest life expectancy and healthy life expectancy while Upper Stoke Central is amongst the highest.

The gap in years between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy is very large for Coventry - and this is even more pronounced in some neighbourhoods in Harmony. The gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for males in Hillfields is 21.1 years compared to 16.1 for Coventry overall; and for females, 28.4 years compared to 20.3 years.

Many indicators of premature mortality appear out of the ordinary for some parts of the Harmony area.

Compared to Coventry average, Hillfields has:

- More emergency hospital admissions at all ages are seen while City Centre and Upper Stoke Central is significantly lower
- More emergency hospital admissions for cardiovascular disease
- More hospital stays for alcohol-related harm while Stoke Park & New Century Business Park and Upper Stoke Central is significantly lower
- Higher incidences of lung cancer
- Lower incidences of breast cancer
- More dying from respiratory disease and coronary heart disease (in all age groups)

- More dying from causes that could be preventable while Upper Stoke Central has fewer residents dying from these causes

Lower proportion of residents of Hillfields, City Centre and Upper Stoke Central self-reported to have a limiting long-term illness or disability compared to the Coventry average (18%). These neighbourhoods have the lowest rates among the city. This may be due to the youthful age profile of the area.

What else is happening?
What else can be done?

A social gradient approach focusing on people’s prospects and opportunities, housing, and environment and lifestyle factors can help improve outcomes, and reduce inequality and reduce premature mortality.

Family Hubs and early intervention can help support residents to meet their health and care needs and reduce avoidable demand on services. Personal barriers were attributed to affecting the access to services people face, some of the reasons for this were people not wanting to go for help alone, young men not wanting to appear vulnerable and negative perceptions around foodbank use. Budget cuts and funding were added to the pressures and constraints on access to services. “If resources were organised more and focused on preventative measures it would be cheaper in the future”. The Family Hub commented that lots of people were unaware of the services they offer and that they get one of the least referrals in this area, this could be due to the diversity of the area and not knowing what help is available or individuals are entitled to.

Libraries throughout the city have also forged partnerships with Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust to encourage healthy lifestyles by reaching people who may not access health related help through traditional routes. There are regular library-based sessions for health checks for over 40’s, sexual health advice, baby clinics and Improving Access to Psychological Therapy drop in sessions.

Local pharmacies have great potential to reach more people that need help and advice. Local pharmacies were identified as an asset to the community. They work closely with healthy lifestyles and have the potential to distribute information readily. Some organisations found that it was easier to promote services through the pharmacy than the GPs themselves as “it is very difficult to speak to the GPs which has been restricting referrals.”
The library has been successful in reaching people who may not access health provision via traditional routes. The library provides specialist Reading Well collections which have been developed on a national level by The Reading Agency in consultation with health professionals and are available throughout the libraries in Coventry. The collections focus on mental health, long term conditions, young people’s mental health and dementia. The library took an active role in promoting the Public Health England, Mental Health Campaign, ‘Every Mind Matters’, this included encouraging more open conversations around mental health and raising awareness of the online self-help tool created by Public Health England. They also worked in partnership with Coventry University library to actively engage students and staff and raise awareness of the project.

Health Protection

Why is this important?

Before the introduction of widespread immunisation and vaccinations, infectious and communicable diseases (that is, diseases that can spread from one person or living organism to another) were a major and widespread cause of death and permanent disability, especially among children.

To stop the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases and ensure herd immunity, it is important to maintain 95% vaccination coverage. Monitoring health protection coverage helps to identify possible drops in immunity before levels of disease rise.

What is the local picture?

How does it compare?

Citywide, Coventry has relatively high rates for some communicable diseases, such as higher rates of diagnosed HIV. Coventry also faces declining rates of recorded childhood vaccination.

Health protection At 24 months, uptake rates for Hib/Men C vaccine and PCV booster are low for the majority of practices. While at five years, MMR booster uptake also drops to as low as 43%. The proportion of children aged one to 18 years with zero MMR doses in Harmony is amongst the highest in Coventry. The City Centre has the highest percentage of measles susceptibility among those aged five to 18 year in Coventry.

Harmony area has mid to high prevalence of diagnosed HIV. However, the number of tests carried out in GP practices is low. GP practices in Harmony are encouraged to conduct more tests if their area has a high prevalence of diagnosed HIV. Additionally, three of the six pharmacies that offer free HIV testing in Coventry are in the Harmony area.

GP practices in Harmony have a reasonably good vaccination uptake for children who are 12-months old, but uptake rates drop at older ages. Vaccination coverage statistics for children suggests that in April-June 2019, 90% of children in the Harmony Family Hub area received the combined DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB (hexavalent) vaccine by their first birthday. The Harmony Family Hub is ranked sixth out of eight Family Hub areas. In addition, 84% receive the Meningococcal B vaccine (MenB) vaccine (ranked eighth); 90% receive two doses of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) vaccine (ranked seventh) and 95% receive the rotavirus vaccine (ranked third).

By the end of their fifth birthday, 81% of children in the Harmony Family Hub area receive both measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccinations, ranked fourth of eight Family Hub areas and below the 95% coverage.

Flu vaccination uptake in GP practices varied in the Harmony area. There was adequate uptake among those eligible under 65s and pregnant women. However, for those 65 or over and under 5s, the area contained practices in the lowest 25% of practices in relation to uptake. The vaccination uptake data is based on three practices in the Harmony area.

What else is happening?

What else can be done?

The citywide JSNA identified that a culturally competent approach that recognises and makes best use of the assets of the city’s diverse communities is essential. This includes working with local community and religious groups to encourage take-up of vaccination, diagnosis and screening programmes.

Culturally aware services and clearer sign-posting can help meet the diverse needs of local communities. Organisations in attendance at the engagement workshop stated that they would like to target different populations but do not always have the resources to meet their needs in the same way. Budget cuts were deemed a contributory factor in the area with a need to organise more focused and preventative measures to reduce costs in the future.

Partnerships between local community organisations, local pharmacies and the wider community can help encourage people to access the help they need. For
example, services based at the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre make health care and education more accessible to communities. They provide support and translation services to people new to the city. Partnerships between FWT and midwifery services, health visitors and GPs to raise awareness of cervical screenings for people from BAME backgrounds.

Demand and Access

Why is this important?
The demand for health and care services is expected to increase as the city’s population grows and ages. To manage this growth, there is a need to shift the emphasis to proactive and preventative care. This means ensuring people have better general health regardless of where they live, requiring fewer visits to hospital and shorter stays if they need in-patient care; and remodelling urgent and emergency and planned care, so that it can cater for the expected increase in demand.

What is the local picture?
How does it compare?
The area seems well served by primary care services and the City Centre area in particular see less local children (under 5s) attending A&E in the hospital than the Coventry average. 

- 6 GP practices in the area and 9 GP practices on the edge of the Harmony area, all within 15 minutes’ walk
- 10 pharmacies, 11 opticians and 5 dental surgeries which are within 15 minutes’ walk
- Coventry Integrated Sexual Health Service based in City of Coventry Health Centre is in close proximity to the residents of Hillfields and the City Centre
- Family Hub - child and family health activities including baby well-being clinics

What else is happening?  
What else can be done?

Money could be invested into preventative services such as transport so that people can access the support, they need without their problems escalating. Some people are reluctant to access services due to the price of transport. Throughout the engagement sessions it was suggested that money could be invested into a minibus or a local service to take people to places they need to go safely. Currently, the only known service like this is Ring and Ride. However, organisation and communications with these services have been difficult for some organisations.

Lifestyles

Why is this important?
Individual behaviours, such as eating enough fruits and vegetables, smoking, alcohol consumption, and physical activity can affect health. These lifestyle behaviours are strongly influenced by the environment in which people live. For example, people living in a ‘food desert’, with limited access to affordable and healthy food, are more likely to eat unhealthily; an unsafe environment is likely to discourage people from walking or cycling; and social and cultural influences, including friendship groups, advertising and media, play an important role in determining people’s lifestyles. These lifestyle risk factors – poor diet, physical inactivity, excessive alcohol consumption and smoking – are all linked to ill health and premature death. Having a combination of the risk factors contributes to greater ill health. People facing poorer social circumstances are more at risk of having multiple risk factors, exacerbating avoidable differences in health.

What is the local picture?
How does it compare?
According to the Household Survey 2018, residents of Hillfields and City Centre report more unhealthy behaviours in terms of diet, smoking, physical activity compared to the Coventry average:

- More residents eat takeaways once or twice a week or more in Hillfields
- Less residents eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day in the City Centre
- More people report they smoke in the City Centre. However, the number of 15-year olds who regularly smoke is lower than the Coventry average.
- Fewer residents report they play sport and take part in active recreation (this includes recreational walking or cycling, active play with children and dance) in both Hillfields & City Centre

Childhood obesity in Harmony worsens between age 5 and 11, in line with the overall picture for Coventry. For children in reception, City Centre (13.6%) ranks amongst the highest rates in obesity in Coventry while for children in Year 6 Hillfields (27%) ranks amongst the highest.

Residents in Hillfields and City Centre have a similar level of mental well-being as Coventry average. The percentage of patients aged 18 and over with depression...
as recorded by GP practices varies from 6-14% (based on 3 practices in Harmony) whereas the nationally it is around 10%. The percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses is higher than the England value in two out of the three practices in Harmony.

**Teenage conception rates in Harmony are similar to Coventry average.** However, Coventry average is much higher than the national average.

**What else is happening?**

**What else can be done?**

Partnerships between the local sport centre, The Wave and community organisations can help encourage people to access sports, leisure and exercise activities.

**There are many many projects taking place within the area to promote the health and wellbeing of its residents.** Cook and eat well is a big lottery funded project based in the area aiming to target isolation and malnutrition in those over the age of 55. It offers people the chance to learn new recipes, meet new people and gain confidence in the kitchen.

Healthy Lifestyles also operate within the area, they work with individuals in identifying small changes to their lifestyles that will have a more positive impact on their health and wellbeing.

The Family Hub also provides health-based services in and outside their hub.
Conclusions

Demographics and Communities

Harmony is the fastest growing Family Hub area in Coventry. Some areas in Harmony have a high proportion of households that do not speak English as a first language.

Time, planning and funding limits the success of some community interventions such as translation services.

Having a strong connection to the area impacts people’s relationships with each other and their perception of safety, but a lack of knowledge and collaborative approach limits the opportunities organisations have to reach a large number of people.

Social Media and Networking events were successful in ensuring that individuals and organisations had knowledge of other services.

Volunteers in the Harmony Family Hub area are an asset.

Prospects

The area’s large, youthful population can help bring about change and improvement in the community - therefore, it is important to increase opportunities for young people.

Creating community champions in the area could positively impact the ways in which people connect to each other and the community.

Culturally aware services and clearer sign-posting can help meet the diverse needs of local communities and there are many opportunities to further develop skills and gain qualifications in the area.

Opportunities for stable employment appear limited and perceptions of financial instability is growing.

Joined-up working can help residents and communities overcome some of the challenge’s food poverty creates.

Housing and environment

Local initiatives help improve the area to make it more welcoming, making the area’s pocket green spaces more attractive, safe and child friendly.

Brightening the area with local initiatives and art could help bring a sense of community to residents.

Residents expressed concerns about the level of rough sleeping and hidden homelessness in the area. Churches and local projects may help but solving the crisis involves more investment.

Crime, and perceptions of crime have an impact on people’s perception of safety. There are parts of the Harmony area where a poor reputation means people feel unable to use the facilities and services there.

Health and Wellbeing

Money could be invested into preventative services such as transport so that people can access the support they need without their problems escalating.

Partnerships between local community organisations, local pharmacies and the wider community can help encourage people to access the help they need.

A social gradient approach focusing on people’s prospects and opportunities, housing, and environment and lifestyle factors can help improve outcomes, and reduce inequality and reduce premature mortality.

Family Hubs and early intervention can help support residents to meet their health and care needs and reduce demand on services.