

KNOWLEDGE HUB

OUR LATEST INSIGHT, NEWS, EVENTS AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

We carry out research, share our knowledge of Oxfordshire's key social issues and forge relationships with data partners to help increase the reach and impact of this insight.

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Why insight matters

Our Oxfordshire Uncovered research and ongoing insights show that Oxfordshire has many people and even whole communities that are being left behind:

We see too many people sleeping rough in Oxford, and hundreds more live in situations where they are vulnerable to homelessness.

There are pockets of family poverty across the county that many of us find shocking. This can contribute to the surprising lack of educational attainment in Oxfordshire.

In today's individualistic, more mobile society there has been a marked erosion of community and wellbeing, resulting in an epidemic of feelings of loneliness and isolation and poor mental health.

These themes of homelessness, education inequality and loneliness and isolation have become the focus of our grants rounds and strategic programmes.



Oxfordshire Uncovered

Oxfordshire Uncovered reveals those areas and themes where pockets of deprivation can be found, and where communities are struggling. We gather information from many sources, which allows us to compare the picture in Oxfordshire with the rest of England, and to visualise the granular detail of the areas of social need specific to our county.

The report led us to developing further research to drill down into the data behind specific issues or areas. We have invested in several digital tools to enable us to analyse the data that matters to us and our partners.

"A reality check, which I think accurately paints the picture of life in the county. This is the first time I have seen such a holistic document describing life in Oxfordshire, and it will undoubtedly inform some of our decision making."

Andy Boyd, Former Chief Superintendent, Thames Valley Police



Our open data partners

360Giving

360Giving supports organisations to publish their grants data in an open and standardised way. They help people to understand and use the data to support decision-making and learning across the charitable giving sector.

360Giving publish the grant making data of 115 (and counting) of the UK's leading funders including OCF and several other trusts and foundations, such as, The National Lottery, The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Wellcome Trust. We can use this data to analyse the level of funding by issue, geographic area, or charity.

Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI)

Local Insight, provided by OCSI, is a community mapping and reporting tool. It gives up-to-date open data mapped to areas in which we work. The data is drawn from several government departments and areas, such as Work and Pensions, Education, Census, Office of National Statistics as well as other reputable sources.

OCSI are also responsible for producing the Indices of Deprivation on behalf of the Ministry of Housing. The indices of deprivation combine statistics on relative deprivation in small areas in England and are frequently the foundation to our insight reports.



Our approach

The use of data is the foundation of everything we do. Good data analysis ensures the decisions we make are evidence-based to deliver real change.



Analysis of need: We use many different sets of data to analyse any need. We combine the metrics to give us a rounded overview of the problem.



Credibility: We only use data from credible sources – such as academic, government, or independent social researchers.



Quantitative & Qualitative: We believe that qualitative data is equally important to quantitative – it is only with both that an accurate picture can be painted.



Open data: Most of the data we use is open data – available to all. We are grateful to all who share data with us and reciprocate by sharing data that we collect.



Partnerships: We work in partnership with the public, private and third sector to produce and analyse data.



Impact monitoring: We collect data on the impact that our (and other's) funding has, this informs us as to how we can best make a difference.



Our knowledge hub online

Insights

We produce insight reports which, through needs analysis, define the priority issues and which areas of Oxfordshire are in greatest need. We now publish these and external research reports online, including:

- Attitudes to homelessness and rough sleeping
- What works to promote development in the early years of life
- Didcot insight summary
- Early Years – the origin of the attainment gap
- Loneliness and Isolation needs analysis

Blog

The OCF team publishes short blogs through Passle – commenting on articles found in other publications and sharing our thoughts on social issues, the charitable sector, giving and philanthropy.

News

Regular updates about what is happening at OCF and locally with our partners. Including stories about grant making, groups we have supported, our work on priority projects, news from our donors, new insights and highlights from some of our events.



How can you help?

We welcome any feedback on our insights, blog and news. We would also love to hear from you if you have ideas on new insights you would like to see or any research you would like to share with us as we develop our plans for 2020 and beyond.



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