



# **Economies for Healthier Lives: Link Up Leigh Park Setting the Scene Report**

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## Introduction

Havant Borough Council has been selected to deliver one of four pilot schemes supported by The Health Foundation's Economies for Healthier Lives programme.<sup>1</sup> With a focus on strengthening relationships between economic development and health, the programme known as Link Up Leigh Park, aims to develop initiatives/schemes that support and empower young people aged 16-24-years-old residing in Leigh Park, an area that sits within Havant Borough. The rationale for this approach is for several reasons:

Nationally, there is recognised economic inactivity of young people aged 16-24-years-old, particularly those identified as having long-term health issues. Furthermore, this programme focuses on young people as previous research has demonstrated that socio-economic status plays a significant role in young individuals' abilities to pursue education and employment. In fact, strong positive correlations have been found between young people with a low socio-economic background and being uneducated or unemployed.<sup>2</sup> This means that the young residents of Leigh Park, identified as an area of high deprivation, may find it more difficult to seek and secure education, employment, or training due to their potential low socio-economic status and limited resources available to them.

With the above in mind, the Link Up Leigh Park programme brings together a range of partners to holistically address barriers that these young people face when taking next steps to access opportunities in post-16 education, training and employment. Partners will not only include agencies such as health partners, businesses, local authorities and statutory bodies, but also residents, so that opportunities are created with those who will benefit from them.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/funding-and-partnerships/programmes/economies-for-healthier-lives>

<sup>2</sup> Ron Thompson (2011) *Individualisation and social exclusion: the case of young people not in education, employment or training*, *Oxford Review of Education*, 37:6, 785-802, DOI: 10.1080/03054985.2011.636507

## Overview of this report

This report has been written to provide a background for the programme, as well as a current overview of Leigh Park and how the area compares to the whole of the borough, the county and the nation. It will focus on four leading factors impacting the health and economic inequalities in the area. The specific details of these factors will be used to monitor and evaluate the progress and outcomes of the programme until its end date of September 2024. The four factors that will be elaborated on are: economic, social, environmental and health. As the programme partners explore and identify the opportunities and challenges that young people in Leigh Park experience, it is an aim that a suite of interventions will be developed alongside a series of metrics to measure programme outcomes.

## Programme Objectives & Outcomes

The Link Up Leigh Park programme was conceived as a 10-year programme to ensure that systems and interventions created during the three-year funded period deliver a lasting societal change which is needed in Leigh Park.

During the initial three-year funded period, the Link Up Leigh Park programme has three key elements which are summarised below:

- 1. To gain a deep understanding of the barriers young people in Leigh Park face to remaining in or moving back into education, employment or training.**
- 2. Mapping the community organisations, education providers, businesses and public sector organisations including health and local authorities that bring about change in Leigh Park.**
- 3. Bringing these organisations that often operate in silos together to deliver initiatives in a coordinated way to create pathways into meaningful work for young people and, thus, creating a partnership network.**

The aims of the programme will address the economic and health inequalities in Leigh Park, by developing initiatives/interventions that will focus on the following economic development areas, with health wraparound support to reduce barriers (summarised below):

1. Supporting young people 16-24 to continue or return to education post-16.
2. Support young people to access meaningful skills training that is relevant to the local labour market.
3. Work with local employers to encourage a higher uptake of apprenticeships, work placements and employment for local young people.
4. Develop sustainable pathways to employment and training.
5. Develop a physical and virtual one-stop shop to provide services for young people in Leigh Park.

## Overview of Leigh Park

### Location

Leigh Park is classed as a suburb of Havant, a town in Hampshire in the South-East of England. First established in 1948, its population is estimated to be 28,000 residents that reside within four wards: Battins, Bondfields, Warren Park and Barncroft. There are three local authorities responsible for this area. They are Havant Borough Council (HBC), Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Portsmouth City Council (PCC; supporting as a social housing landlord to residents).

Leigh Park, once known as the largest council estate in Europe, is one of six places in the South-East of England described as 'Left Behind', with high poverty rates and significant

health inequalities caused by various economic, social and environmental factors.<sup>3,4</sup> More specifically, some areas of Leigh Park are in the 5% most deprived areas of England and residents' health outcomes are significantly worse than England and Hampshire averages as are economic outcomes. The lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic has widened the gap, particularly for young people.

### Leigh Park Resident Profile

The demographic of many families and residents as of early 2022 is made up mostly of a 'Family Basics' profile which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common profile (12.9%) of residents living within the Havant and Waterlooville Primary Care Network (PCN).<sup>5</sup> These families are described as 'families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet'. Many of these types of families are more likely than average to have no qualifications or the highest level of education being GCSEs. The average income of these families is £26k and it is common that they are more likely than average to have never been employed or been in long-term employment. Most residents living across Leigh Park identify in the 'White' ethnic group, with 97% of Havant borough identifying as this.<sup>6</sup> According to the 2021 census,<sup>7</sup> 15-24-year-olds make up 11.8% of the Leigh Park population.

### Economic Factors

Of interest to this programme is the number of young people from the area aged 16-24-years-old that are not currently in full-time education, training or employment which will be expanded on later in this section. These young people are often referred to as 'NEET'.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from April to June 2022,<sup>8</sup> on a national

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<sup>3</sup> Deprivation Data Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

<sup>4</sup> Munford, Mott et al. (2022). *Overcoming health inequalities in 'left behind' neighbourhoods*. Northern Health Science Alliance and the APPG for 'left behind' neighbourhoods

<sup>5</sup> Havant Borough Council Communications Office. *Leigh Park Mosaic Profile*. January 2022. Mosaic Grand Index file

<sup>6</sup> *Strategic Health Asset Planning and Evaluation (SHAPE)*. Place Atlas. <https://shapeatlas.net/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps?msoa=E02004769>

<sup>8</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS), published 25 August 2022, ONS website, statistical bulletin, *Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)*, UK: August 2022

level, the total number of 16-24-year-olds that were NEET was 711,000 (10.4% of 16-24-year-olds in the UK population). In terms of comparing these numbers on a county and district level, young people claiming Universal Credit (aged 16-24-years) and 16-17-year-olds being tracked as NEETS or Unknowns by Hampshire County Council were of interest.

As of September 2022, the ONS reported 160 claimants aged 16-24 years old across Leigh Park's four wards which made up 6.4% of total claimants in Havant district (total number of claimants: 2,500).<sup>9</sup> The majority of claimants were men aged 18-21-years-old. The highest number of claimants across Havant district were residing in a ward of Leigh Park, Warren Park. The 16-24-year-old claimants residing in Leigh Park made up an estimated 5% of young people claiming Universal Credit across Hampshire County (not including Isle of Wight, Southampton or Portsmouth).

According to HCC's December 2022 monthly labour market headlines,<sup>10</sup> the rate of 16-17-year-old residents in Hampshire recorded as NEETS & unknowns was 8.9% in November. This statistic was higher on the month and on the year. It should be noted that the rate of 16-17-year-old NEETS & Unknowns statistics for Havant district was unavailable at the time that this report was written, but likely to be reported on in early 2023.

It is additionally worth noting that, according to a report written in 2020,<sup>11</sup> Havant tended to have the second lowest job density in Hampshire County (0.64 jobs per working age population) which would have an impact on opportunities available for the young people residing in the Leigh Park area. This would also indicate that the area was a net exporter of employment, meaning residents tend to have to travel out of the Borough for work.

In comparison to the average proportion of people in jobs that pay lower than the national living wage in Hampshire (12.7%) in 2020, Havant's percentage was higher by nearly 3%. In

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<sup>9</sup> ONS Monthly Claimant Count Data. September 2022. Ward and District Rates calculated from ONS SAPE 2019 Single Age Population Estimates.

<sup>10</sup> Economic and Business Intelligence Service, Hampshire County Council. December 2022. Hampshire Monthly Labour Market Update December 2022.

<sup>11</sup> State of the Economy. July 2020. Economic and Business Intelligence Service (EBIS), Hampshire County Council.



terms of working age residents, Havant measured as having the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportion with low skill (22.6% of residents) across the county. According to the State of the Economy Report written by HCC, the definition of low skill included GCSE 1-3 or vocational equivalents and no formal qualifications. In terms of intermediate-skilled residents (defined as having levels 2 and 3 qualifications; 38.8%), this proportion of Havant's population measured just below Hampshire's average (39%). Lastly, Havant residents are recorded as having a gap of advanced skills, with percentages measuring lower than county and national averages. Though these statistics are not of the present day landscape, they do resonate with the Leigh Park Resident Profile section above which shared more recent findings of the area.

In relation to resident skill levels are resident occupations reported at the time of the 2021 Census.<sup>12</sup> The top five occupations for Leigh Park residents aged 16 years and over were: skilled trades occupations (6.9%), elementary occupations (6.8%), process, plant and machine occupations (4.5%), sales and customer services occupations (4.5%) and caring, leisure and other service occupations (3.6%).

## Social and Environmental Factors

Leigh Park was developed in the 1940s to meet housing need for Portsmouth City Council following the aftermath of World War II. This service, though the need for housing has shifted, still exists at present with Portsmouth City Council continuing as a social housing landlord in Leigh Park. Although there has been an increase in private ownership stemming from The Right to Buy scheme during the 1980s, roughly 43% of homes are still social housing. As of 2022,<sup>13</sup> a total of 4,482 properties are managed by the Portsmouth City Council housing team. Of these, 4,142 are rented properties and 340 are leasehold properties.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps?msoa=E02004769>

<sup>13</sup> Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth City council website. Portsmouth housing in Havant Borough Council 2022. Briefing note for Havant Borough Council.

There are no GP surgeries within the four wards of Leigh Park. As mentioned earlier in this report, most residents in Leigh Park live in the Havant and Waterlooville PCN. Within this PCN are six GP surgeries: Denmead Health Centre, Oaks Healthcare, Park Lane Medical Centre, The Bosmere Medical Practice, The Staunton Surgery and The Village Surgery.<sup>14</sup>

To further breakdown social and environmental factors, according to statistics from 2019-2020:

- There were a large number of lone parent households. There were 18.1% across Leigh Park wards in comparison to 11% in Havant and 10.6% nationally.
- Teenage conception rates were significantly higher in Leigh Park wards than the national rate (2.1% to 3.8% where the national rate is 1.1%).
- The percentage of pupils showing a good level of development at age 5 was significantly below national average (35% in one of the four wards versus national rate which was 60.4%).

Last to mention, with reference to the State of Society report written by Hampshire County Council in 2020,<sup>15</sup> although the area is reasonably well connected by bus and train, bus and train fares to attend college, employment and interviews in neighbouring areas, for example, can be prohibitive for young people from households on low incomes.

## Health Factors

As it has already been mentioned, Leigh Park is described as an area with significant health inequalities. In terms of high priorities, mental health has been measured and is within the worst 10% in the country. Reported in 2021,<sup>16</sup> a total of 1,447 young people aged 17-22 years were estimated to be living with a common mental health disorder in Havant Borough.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/B1357-PCN-Adjusted-Populations-v1.3-updated-31-March.xlsx>

<sup>15</sup> *State of the Society. September 2020. Economic and Business Intelligence Service (EBIS), Hampshire County Council.*

<sup>16</sup> *Children and Young People: Wellbeing and Common Mental Health Disorders Estimated Prevalance. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Produced by HIOW Public Health Intelligence Teams.*

Notably, Leigh Park was the area with the largest group of children and young people living with a common mental health disorder.

From a survey completed in November 2021 to review physical activity from 2020-2021,<sup>17</sup> all four of Leigh Park's wards were highest on the list of areas of inactivity; the highest percentage of inactivity (28.37%) being Battins ward.

As of March 2022, a total of 1,687 0-25-year-olds living in Havant have a current statement/EHC plan, meaning that they are in receipt of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) support.<sup>18</sup> This count is the highest it has been in the last 5 years with a likely increase in the number of 16-25-year-olds receiving support based on data recorded across the county.

Recorded in 2020, Havant district had the highest number of smokers (13.7%) in Hampshire County (8%), with averages also higher than England (12.1%).<sup>19</sup> The area of Leigh Park has the highest smoking rates in the county.

In terms of disease prevalence, recorded via QOF 2021/2022,<sup>20</sup> the following diseases have higher prevalence across Havant Borough, which will likely be experienced at higher rates in Leigh Park, in comparison to the country:

- Asthma (7.8% compared to national average [n. avg.] 6.5%)
- Cancer (4.72% compared to n. avg. 3.32%)
- Coronary heart disease (3.93% compared to n. avg. 3.08%)
- Diabetes mellitus (9.11% compared to n. avg. 7.61%)
- Heart failure (1.49% compared to n. avg. 0.95%)
- Hypertension (17.26% compared to n. avg. 14.28%)
- Obesity (12.83% in comparison to n. avg. 10.11%)

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<sup>17</sup> *Energise Me. Havant – Building our collective understanding. 2020-2021. Powerpoint presentation.*

<sup>18</sup> *Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Prevalence. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Produced by HIOW Public Health Intelligence Teams.*

<sup>19</sup> *Lifestyle Risk Factors – Smoking. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Produced by HIOW Public Health Intelligence Teams.*

<sup>20</sup> *Strategic Health Asset Planning and Evaluation (SHAPE). Place Atlas. <https://shapeatlas.net/>*

Lastly, life expectancy in Leigh Park is 10 years less for men and 8 years less for women in comparison to more affluent parts of the Borough. Healthy life expectancy is below 60 years for both men and women in all Leigh Park wards, significantly below the national and Hampshire rates.

### Next Steps

At present, researchers from the University of Portsmouth are delivering a Participatory Insight Programme to delve deeper into understanding the needs of the young people residing in Leigh Park, by taking a look at the whole picture. This research element will include interviews with representatives from local businesses and organisations. The interviews will explore key themes/topics regarding the organisation, employment/skills, health and wellbeing, the local area, solutions to any challenges young people face. The second part will include focus groups with four groups: (a) 15-16-year-olds; (b) 16-18-year-olds; (c) 18-24-year-olds; and (d) parents/guardians of 15-24-year-olds. The key themes and topics that the focus group sessions will explore are employment, education, the local area, health and wellbeing and friends/family.

The aims of the research will be to deliver to key outcomes: identify barriers and facilitators for young individuals living in Leigh Park face to accessing and securing further education, training and employment. In doing so, it will support in informing and shaping the initiatives (also referred to as 'interventions') that the Link Up Leigh Park programme strives to deliver.