



Insight Matters



*Connecting Data,
Insight and Action
Across Surrey*



September 2026

Welcome to the First Edition

SODA is increasingly being commissioned to support strategic partnerships across Surrey, providing the evidence and insight needed to inform decision-making and drive collective action.

Effective partnership working relies on a shared understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and priorities facing our communities and SODA enables this collaboration.

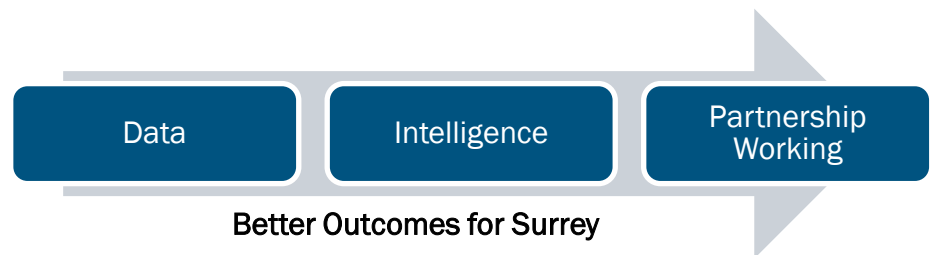
This monthly briefing aims to:

- Present key data and emerging trends affecting Surrey particularly the emerging picture of two new unitary authorities that will be established in April 2027
- Share intelligence and insights from partners
- Highlight issues and priorities shaping the strategic agenda.
- Support informed discussion, collaboration, and joint problem-solving.

As a partnership resource, this briefing is strengthened by contributions from across the system. We encourage partners to share intelligence, evidence, and emerging insights to help address knowledge gaps and build a richer collective understanding of Surrey's communities and services.

Building a shared evidence base to support better outcomes for Surrey's residents and communities.

SODA helps partners create a shared understanding of problems, enabling collective action and better outcomes for Surrey residents.



SODA combines:

- **Performance & Intelligence** - what is happening now
- **Analytics & Data Science** - what may happen next
- **Knowledge & Research** - why it is happening and the impact on communities

Strategic partnerships

- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Mental Health Prevention Board
- Community Safety & Prevention Board
- Early Help Strategic Board
- Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board

The Surrey Office of Data Analytics (SODA) is a coordinated intelligence partnership that provides insight, analysis, intelligence and data to help decision-makers improve outcomes for Surrey residents. Bringing together data, intelligence and expertise from across organisations, SODA helps partners:

- **Understand the magnitude of key issues** through shared intelligence
- **Identify trends, risks and root causes** affecting people and places
- **Target resources more effectively** to where they can have the greatest impact
- **Support prevention and early intervention** before harm escalates
- **Provide evidence for strategic and operational decisions**
- **Monitor outcomes and evaluate what works**



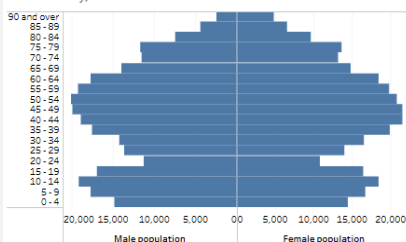
East Surrey Landscape

Check out
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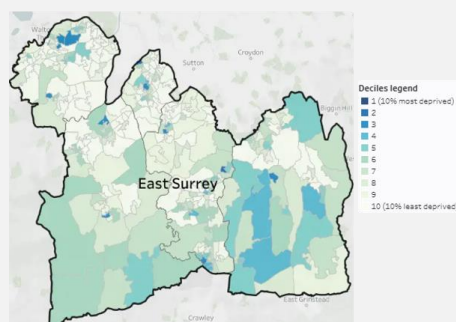
Areas Covered

- **Elmbridge**
- **Epsom & Ewell**
- **Mole Valley**
- **Reigate & Banstead**
- **Tandridge**

East Surrey, mid-2025



Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025



Population: **564,397** (mid-2025)

Households: **228,212** (2023)

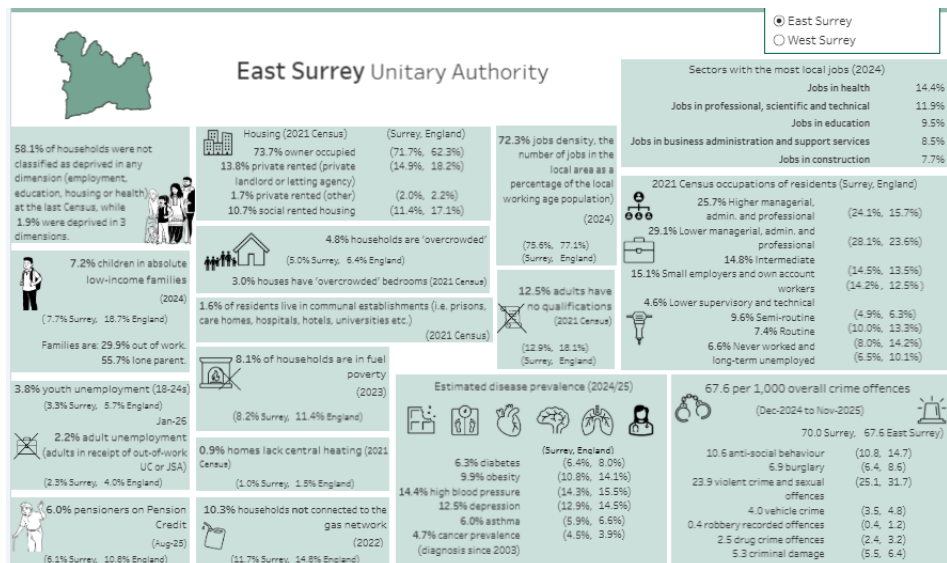
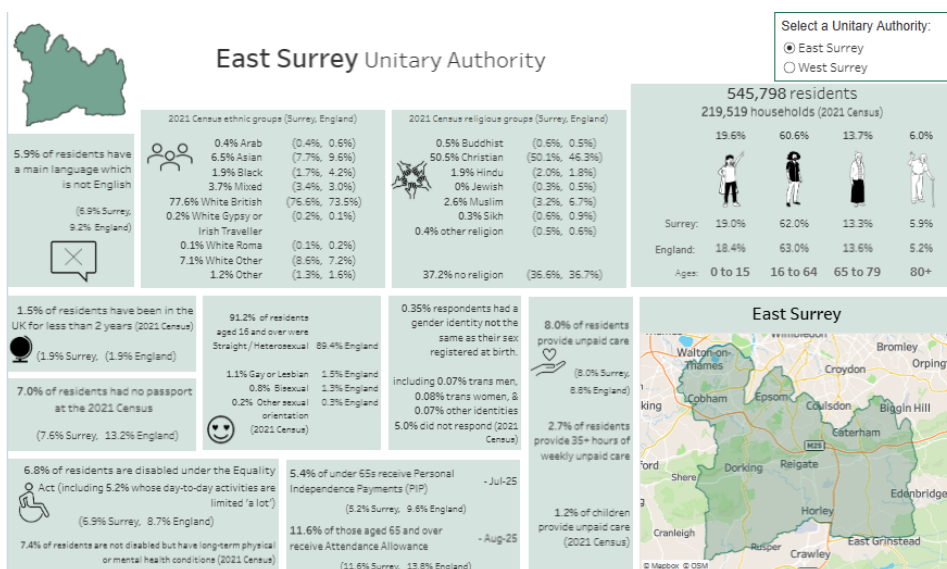
Total area: **296** square miles / **764** square kilometres

Electorate: 406,177

72 elected councillors representing 36 wards.

Liberal Democrats hold the majority with **40 of 72 seats**.

Covers five former borough and district areas.



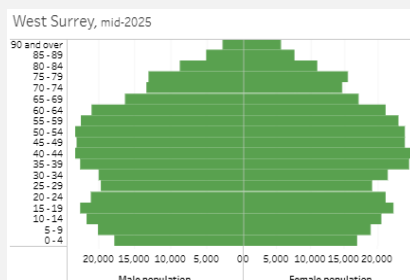


West Surrey Landscape

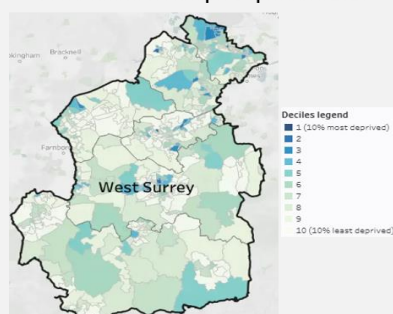
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Areas Covered

- **Guildford**
- **Runnymede**
- **Spelthorne**
- **Surrey Heath**
- **Waverley**
- **Woking**



Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025



Population: **690,858** (mid-2025)

Households: **271,895** (2023)

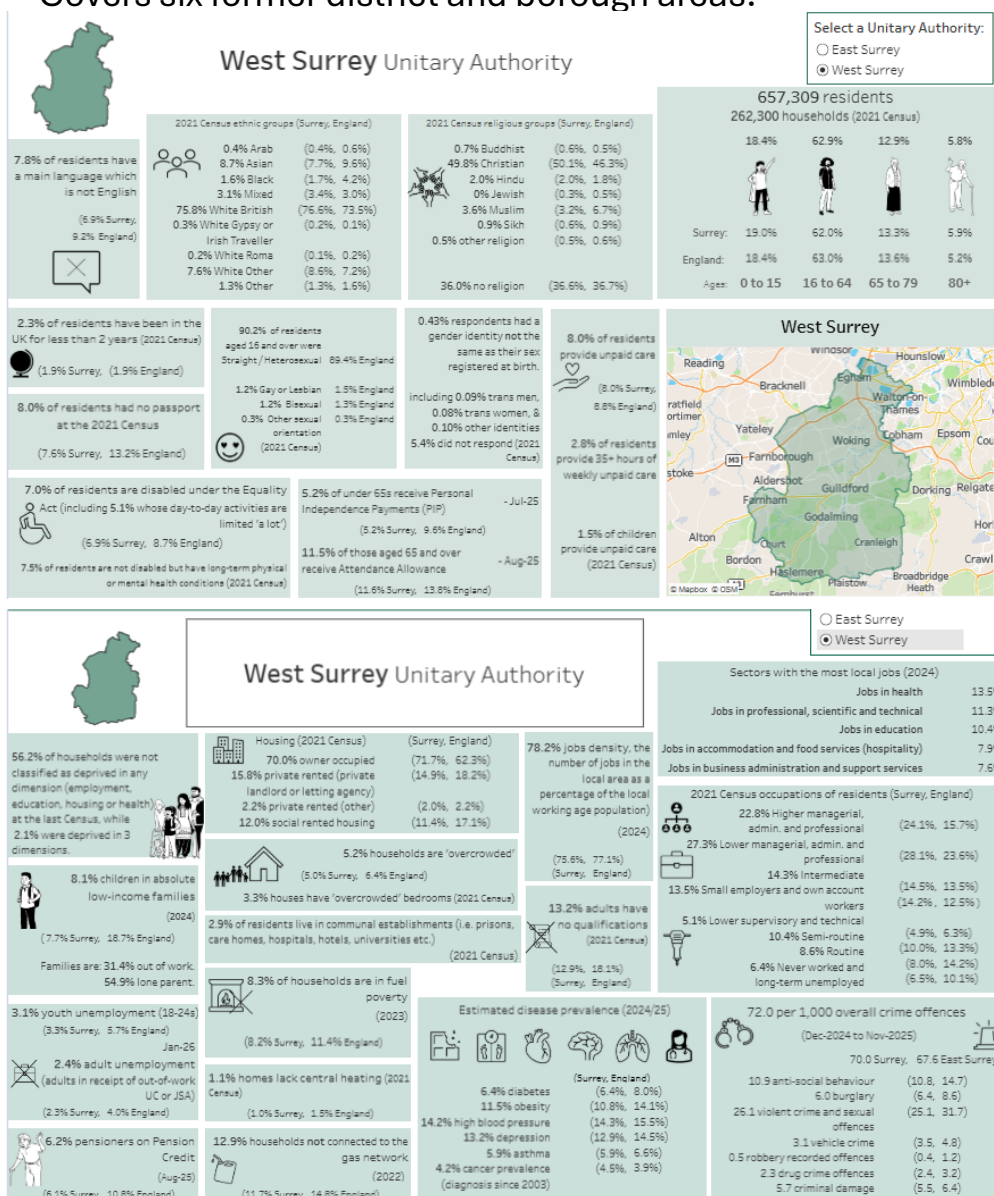
Total area: **347** square miles / **898** square kilometres

Electorate: 488,899

90 elected councillors representing 45 wards.

Liberal Democrats hold the majority with **56 of 90 seats**.

Covers six former district and borough areas.





How SODA Helps Surrey to Understand Community Harm

Community harms rarely occur in isolation

Across Surrey, evidence from local partnerships, national trends and community insight shows increasing overlap between vulnerability, exploitation, violence, anti-social behaviour and community cohesion challenges.

Understanding these connections allows partners to identify risks earlier, target resources more effectively and prevent harm before it escalates.

This is where SODA adds value by bringing together data, intelligence, research and community insight into a single picture.

SODA's Approach

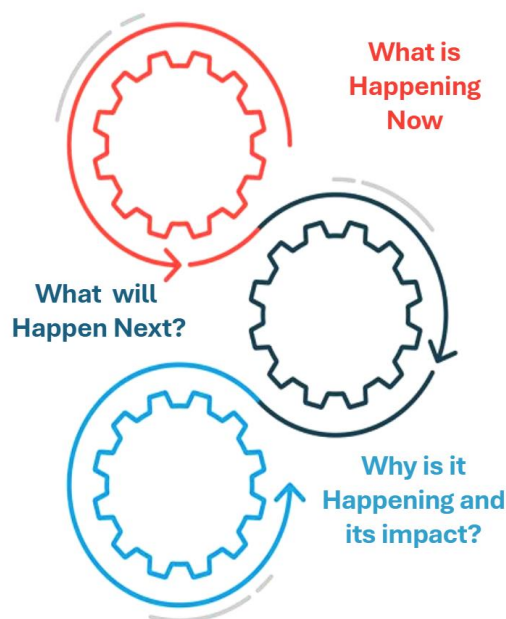
- Identify risks
- Combine intelligence
- Target intervention
- Measure impact

Priorities

-  Prevention
Stop harm before it starts
-  Early Intervention
Identify and support early
-  Vulnerability
Protect and empower individuals and families
-  Community Cohesion
Stronger communities
-  Safety and Wellbeing
Creating places where everyone can thrive

How SODA helps

- Combines data from multiple partners
- Identifies emerging risks
- Produces strategic assessments
- Supports evidence-based decision-making
- Strengthens prevention activity

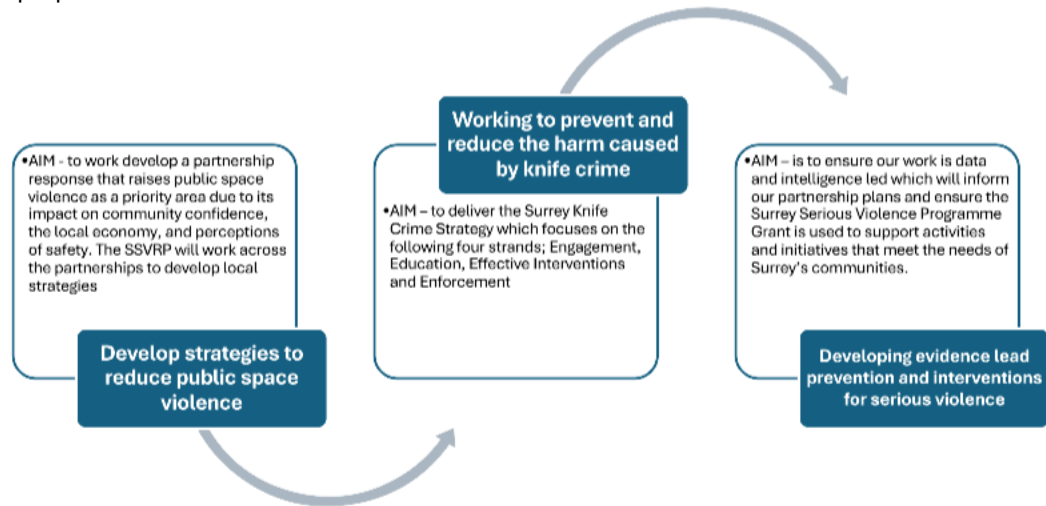


Using data, intelligence and evidence for better-informed strategic decisions

Serious Violence in Surrey

A Partnership Response to Serious Violence: Findings from the 2026 Needs Assessment

Violence is preventable, not inevitable. But where violence occurs it cannot be tackled in isolation. Violence must be addressed through prevention strategies that look at the multiple risk factors that cause and perpetuate violence. It is important we also recognise and promote the protective factors that mitigate against the perpetration and victimisation of violence.



Response to the expected changes to the Serious Violence Programme Commissioned – September 2025

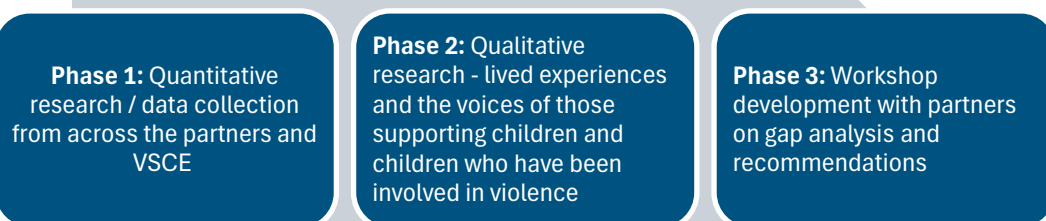
Aim: Work together as a partnership to identify and understand the gap between the current situation in Surrey and where we want to be to support children and young people affected by serious violence, whether as victims, offenders or both.

By doing this work we hope it will help us identify:

- What needs exist
- Who is affected and to what extent
- What is causing the need
- What resources, services or interventions already exist
- Where gaps, duplications or inefficiencies remain

Completion Date: April 2026

The assessment was split into three phases:



Serious Violence Needs Assessment Overview

Wider Risk Factors to Serious Violence

The assessment identifies a consistent set of overlapping risks, including:

- Adverse childhood experiences and unresolved trauma
- Mental health needs and emotional dysregulation
- Neurodivergence and SEND
- Educational exclusion and disengagement
- Criminal and sexual exploitation, including county lines
- Peer influence and unsafe physical and digital environments

The assessment highlights several behaviours that can indicate escalating risk:

- Persistent anti-social behaviour
- Harassment and stalking
- Animal abuse
- Fire-setting behaviour
- Missing episodes
- School exclusion and persistent absence
- Substance misuse

Linking Serious Violence to Community Harm and Community Safety

Serious Violence Does Not Occur in Isolation

The Needs Assessment highlights that serious violence involving children and young people forms part of a wider ecosystem of harm, with shared drivers, victims, locations and risk factors across the Community Safety and Prevention Board priorities.

Serious violence affecting children and young people in Surrey is concentrated, not widespread. It is more likely to affect teenagers, particularly between ages of 14 and 18, and to be linked to specific places, times of year and life transitions.

Recommendations from the Assessment

Recommendation 1 – Prevention and Early Intervention

Recommendation 2 – Place-based and problem-solving approach

Recommendation 3 – Targeted interventions for cohorts with heightened need

Recommendation 4 – Exploitation and contextual safeguarding

Recommendation 5 – Systems, data and partnership capability

Recommendation 6 – Community confidence and safe environments



What's Emerging ...

Understanding the Landscape

Open-source research is used to understand the environmental factors.

This allows SODA to assess the wider landscape to ensure we are considering what might be the next emerging area for Surrey. Using this alongside partner information allows us to build a complete Surrey picture that is evidence-led to determine the correct response to a problem.

1. Serious Violence

Knife Crime risk remains [concentrated in youth cohorts](#) and driven by the perception of threat, not just offending patterns.

2. Retail Crime

Over the past year, the number of charges for shoplifting has increased four-fold, with more than 800 cases recorded county-wide in Surrey. The arrest rate for these crimes has more than doubled, rising from around 10% to 24%, while the solved outcome rate has improved from 11% two years ago to 23.5% this year.

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s105733/Retail%20Crime%20Update.pdf>

A refreshed Retail Crime Strategy was launched in 2025, setting out how Surrey Police will work in partnership with retailers, business networks, and other agencies to prevent crime, improve detection rates, and support victims.

3. Crime and Policing Act

The Crime and Policing Bill received Royal Assent in April 2026. It has over 70 measures including tougher police powers to crackdown on ASB and retail crime.

4. Drugs & Synthetic Opioids

Nitazenes are a class of synthetic opioids which can be up to 500 times more potent than heroin and can be readily manufactured at low cost. The National Crime Agency (NCA) reported 333 fatalities linked to nitazenes in 2024. The presence of these in the unregulated drug market has risen steeply in the last seven years. [UK's growing synthetic opioid problem: Nitazene deaths could be underestimated by a third | King's College London](#)

5. Housing Instability and Pressure from South East

Housing instability is now a central driver of vulnerability, exploitation, and poor outcomes. In 2025, [45% of all people sleeping rough on a single night in autumn were in London and the South East](#). Epsom & Ewell has [one of the highest numbers of homeless households](#) living in temporary accommodation and is in top seven boroughs outside of London. It faces the additional challenge of the South East's very high housing costs, coupled with a severe shortage of housing.



How can you contribute ...

Connect and Learn More

Help us to build the Surrey picture by sharing your knowledge

- Community cohesion tensions
- Youth weapon carrying perceptions
- Anti-Social Behaviour information to inform a Surrey Needs Assessment
- Exploitation concerns
- Homelessness and safety impacts

What are you seeing locally?

Share emerging risks, datasets, research and community concerns with SODA. [Surrey-i](#) is a tool for everyone to use and publish information on.

Contact SODA

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Surrey-i Knowledge Area

[Surrey Office of Data Analytics \(SODA\): A partnership approach to insight | Surrey-i](#)

Queries on Surrey-i: surreyi.helpdesk@surreycc.gov.uk