



Rural Forum South East
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**Rural Forum
South East**
*To help inform and develop
delivery of rural policy and
services in the region.*



RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE

336,500 (27%) of the young people in the SE live in rural areas but many in the 15 to 29 age group are leaving their communities in order to seek opportunities in urban areas. This has an adverse effect on the land-based sector. This is largely due to extracurricular activities, social facilities, health advice and employment not being readily available in the countryside.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS TO SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

The high cost of travel and lack of adequate public transport provision, impacts on the ability of people of all ages in rural areas of the SE to access employment, education, healthcare and social activities. Some 71,000 households in the rural South East have no car or van.

THE AGEING POPULATION

408,500 (30%) of pensioners in the SE live in rural areas. By 2029 there will be 20% more people over 65 living in rural areas than in urban areas. This presents significant challenges for health and social care provision, the farming community and to the demographic balance of rural communities.

FUEL POVERTY

242,500 (10%) of rural households in the SE live in fuel poverty which is an added challenge given the ageing population and lower wage levels in rural areas. There is a dependency on fuel, oil and Calor gas for heating, which like all fuel prices are predicted to increase.

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS AND ASSETS

There are 2,800 Community Buildings in rural areas across the SE which are predominantly volunteer run and funded. They are the hubs of community life, offering irreplaceable support for vulnerable people but they require maintenance and management.

