

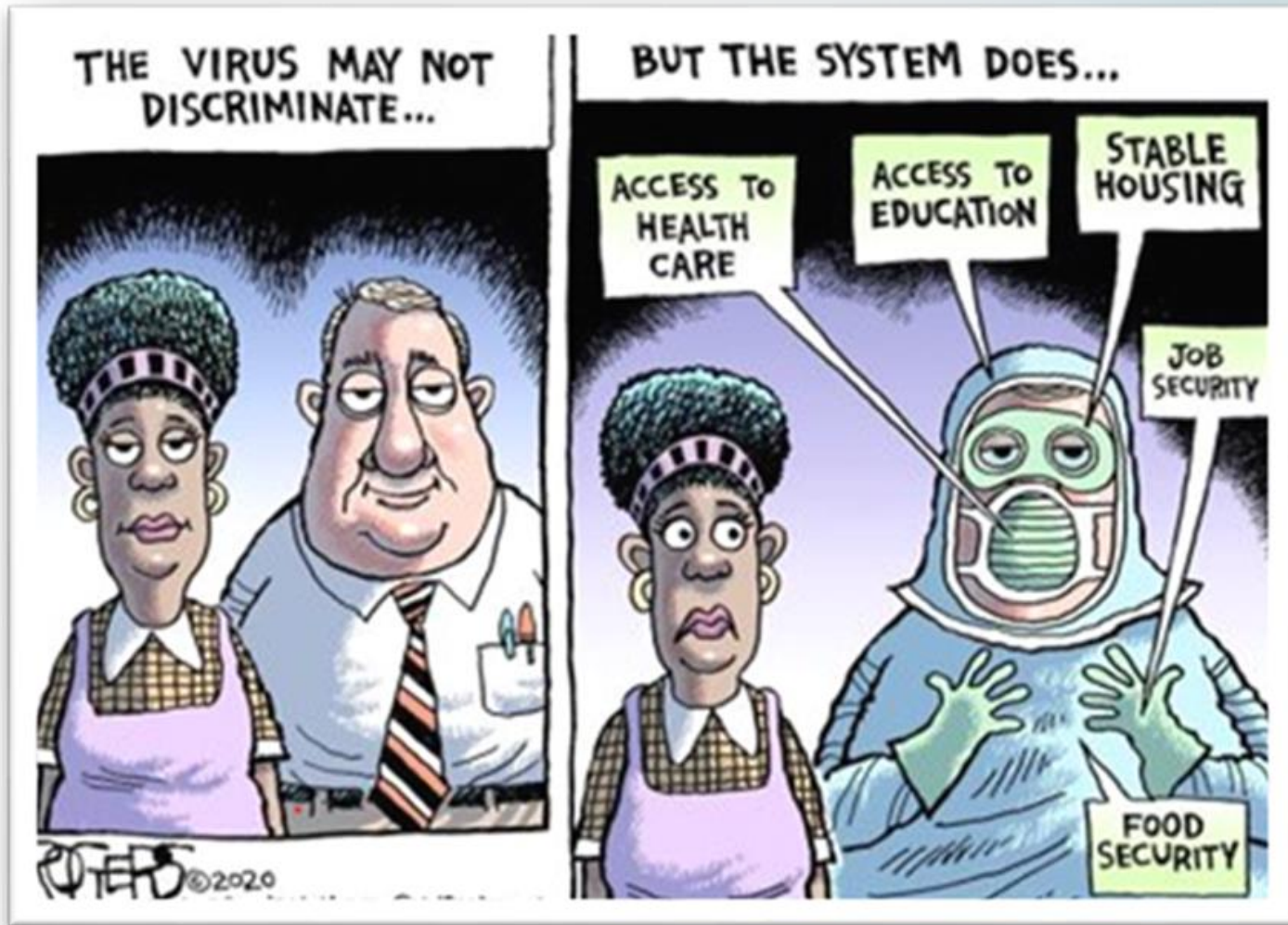
The impact of housing inequalities during a pandemic – a Local Authority perspective

Karen Horrocks

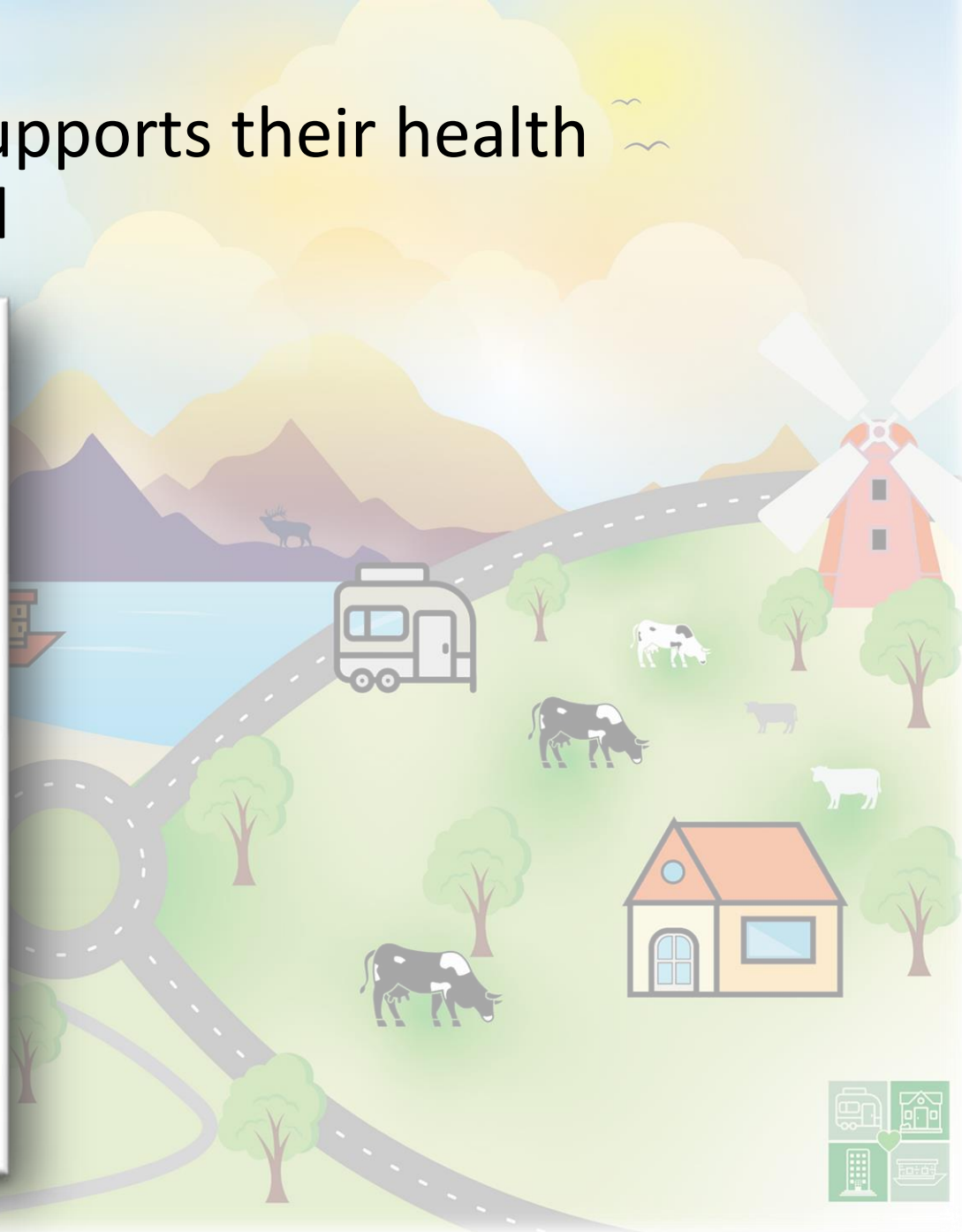
Health and Wellbeing Programme
Manager, Office for Health
Improvement and Disparities (OHID)



Everyone has the right to a home that supports their health and wellbeing and doesn't make them ill

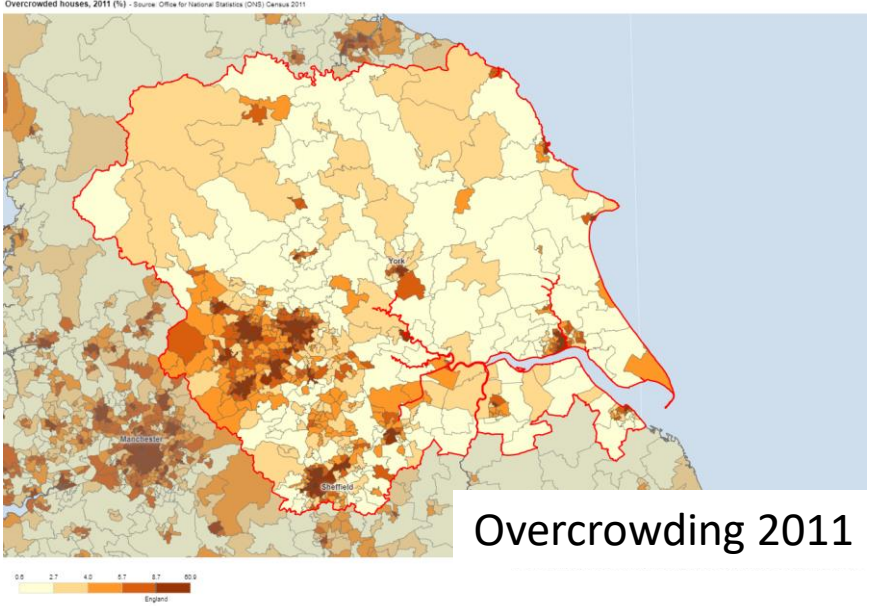
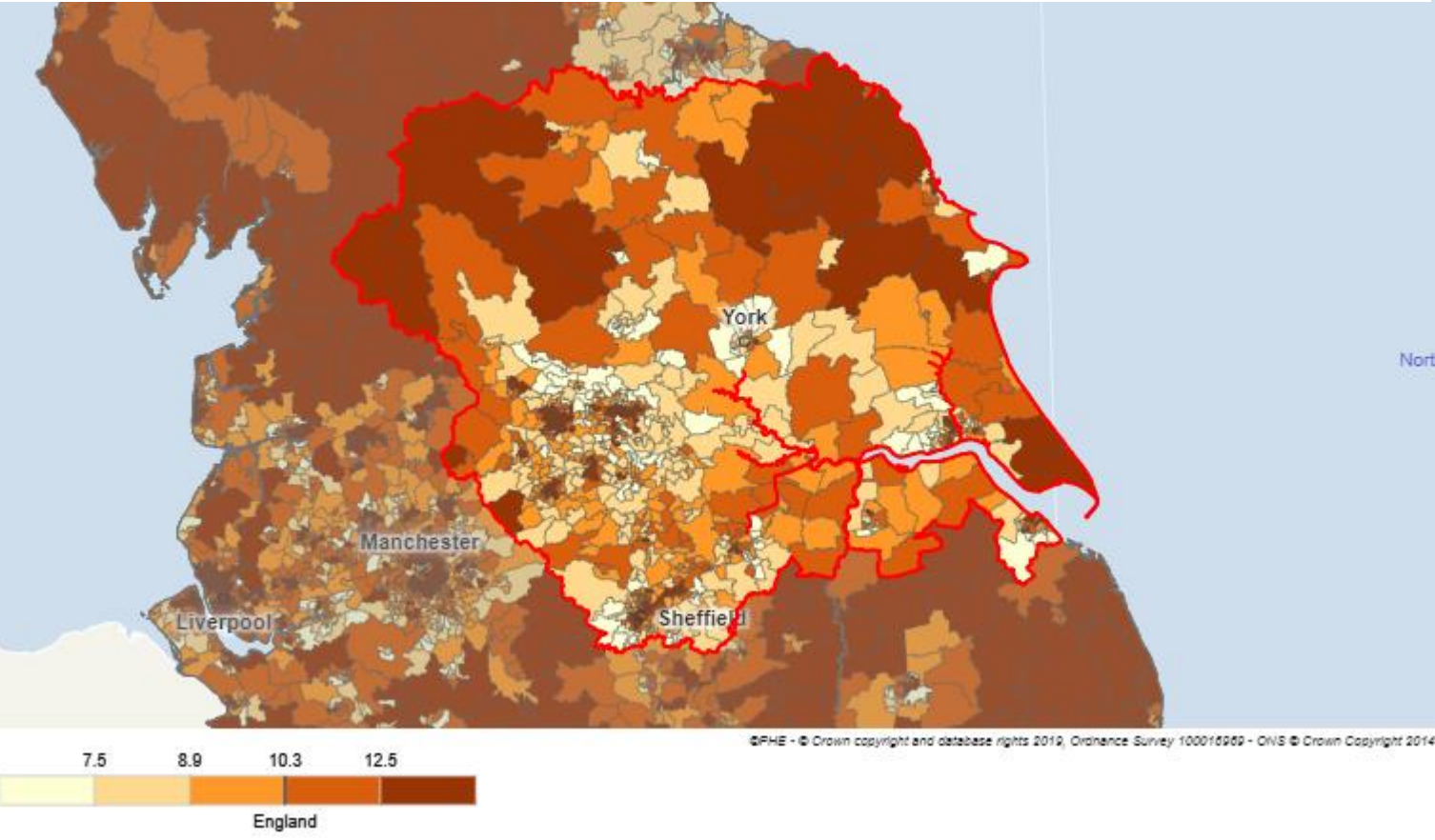


Artist: [Rob Rogers](#) (2020)



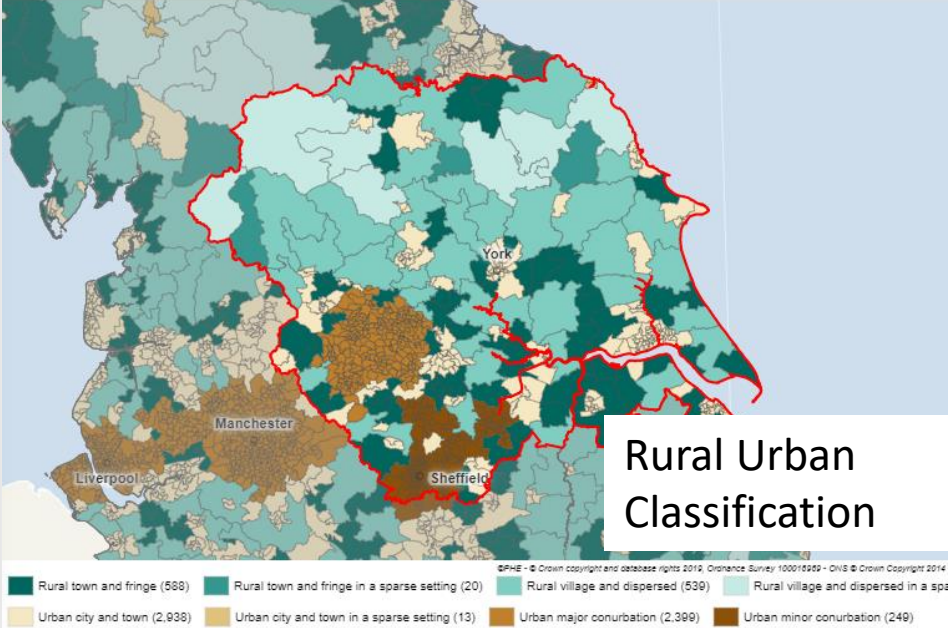
The Yorkshire and Humber (Y&H) Region is diverse

Fuel poverty 2018



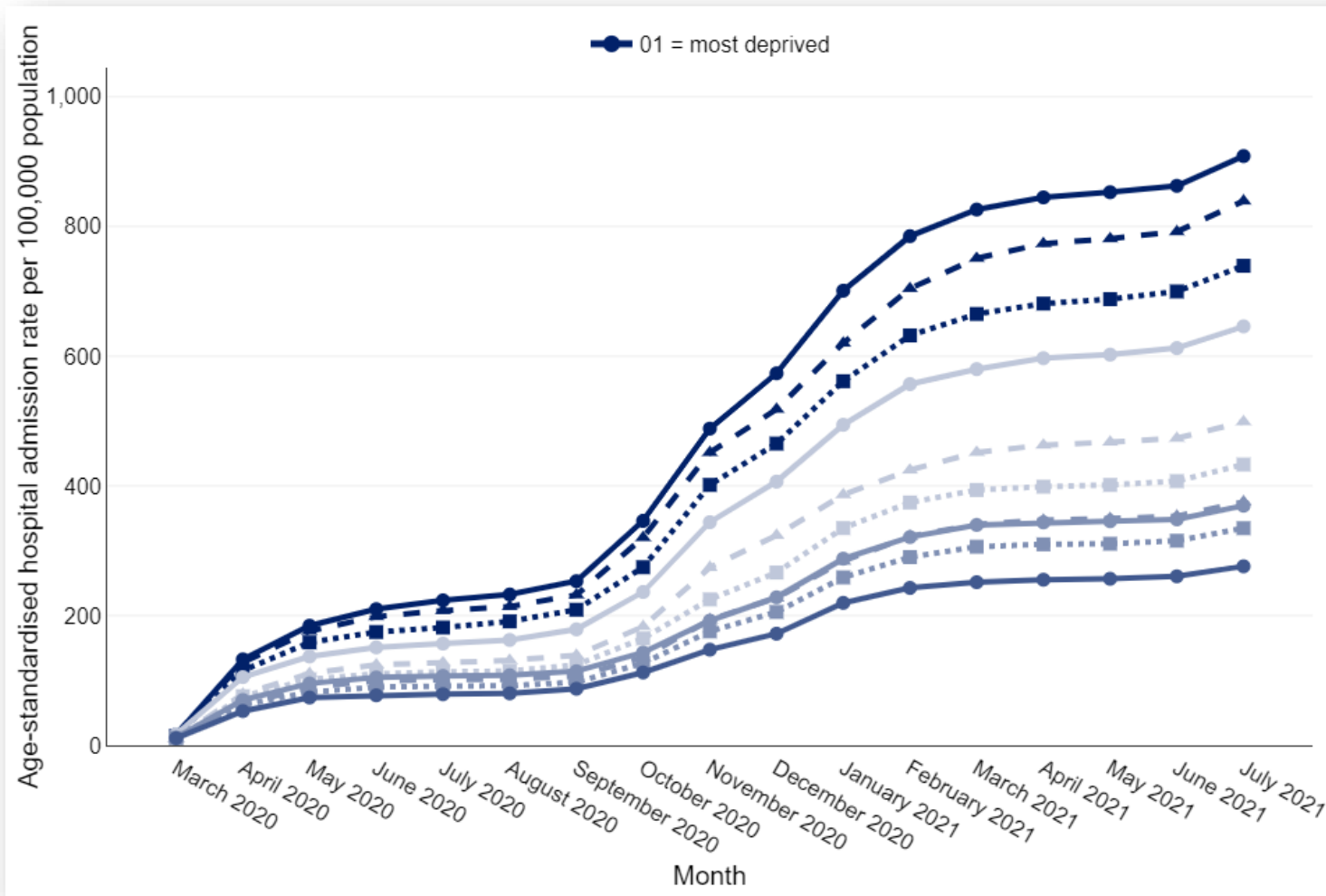
Overcrowding 2011

Rural Urban Classification - Source: Office for National Statistics and Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)



Rural Urban Classification

People in the most deprived areas in Y&H are more likely to be admitted to hospital with COVID-19

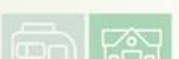


Cumulative age-standardised hospital admission rate per 100,000 population, for COVID-19 in Yorkshire and Humber by deprivation deciles (all ages), March 2020 to July 2021 (CHIME, 2021)



“One person confessed that they had been going out for walks in the local park when they should have been isolating. They lived in a high-rise Council flat, and walking helped them manage their mental health.

They said their flat was horrible and they would go mad if they stayed there for 10 days. You can offer help- but there is nothing you can do to change their housing situation in the short term.”





Excluded groups-
people experiencing
homelessness,
migrants

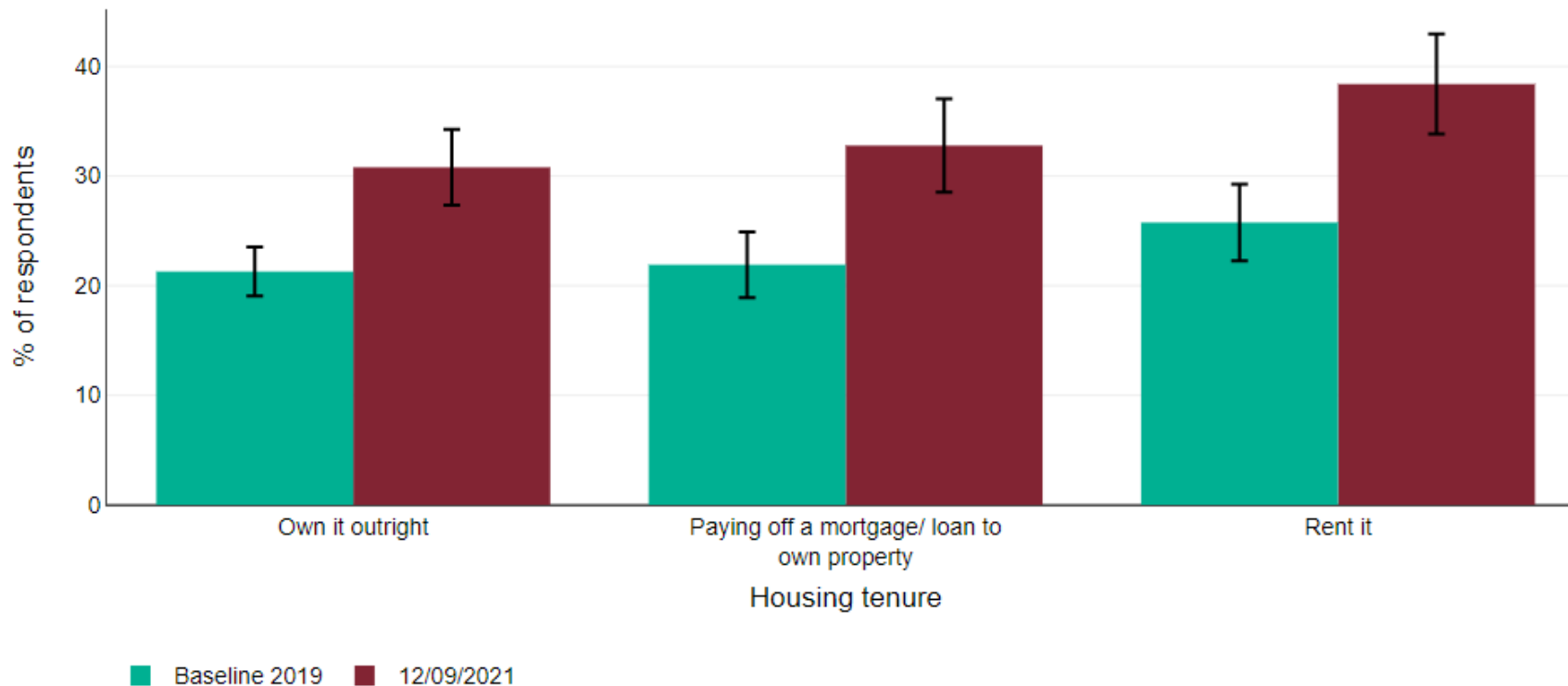
Socio-economic
factors- income,
employment,
wealth

Geographical-
rural/urban/coastal,
north/south, areas
of deprivation

Protected
characteristics-
Ethnic group, age,
disability



Renters are more likely to experience high anxiety, and it has worsened in COVID-19

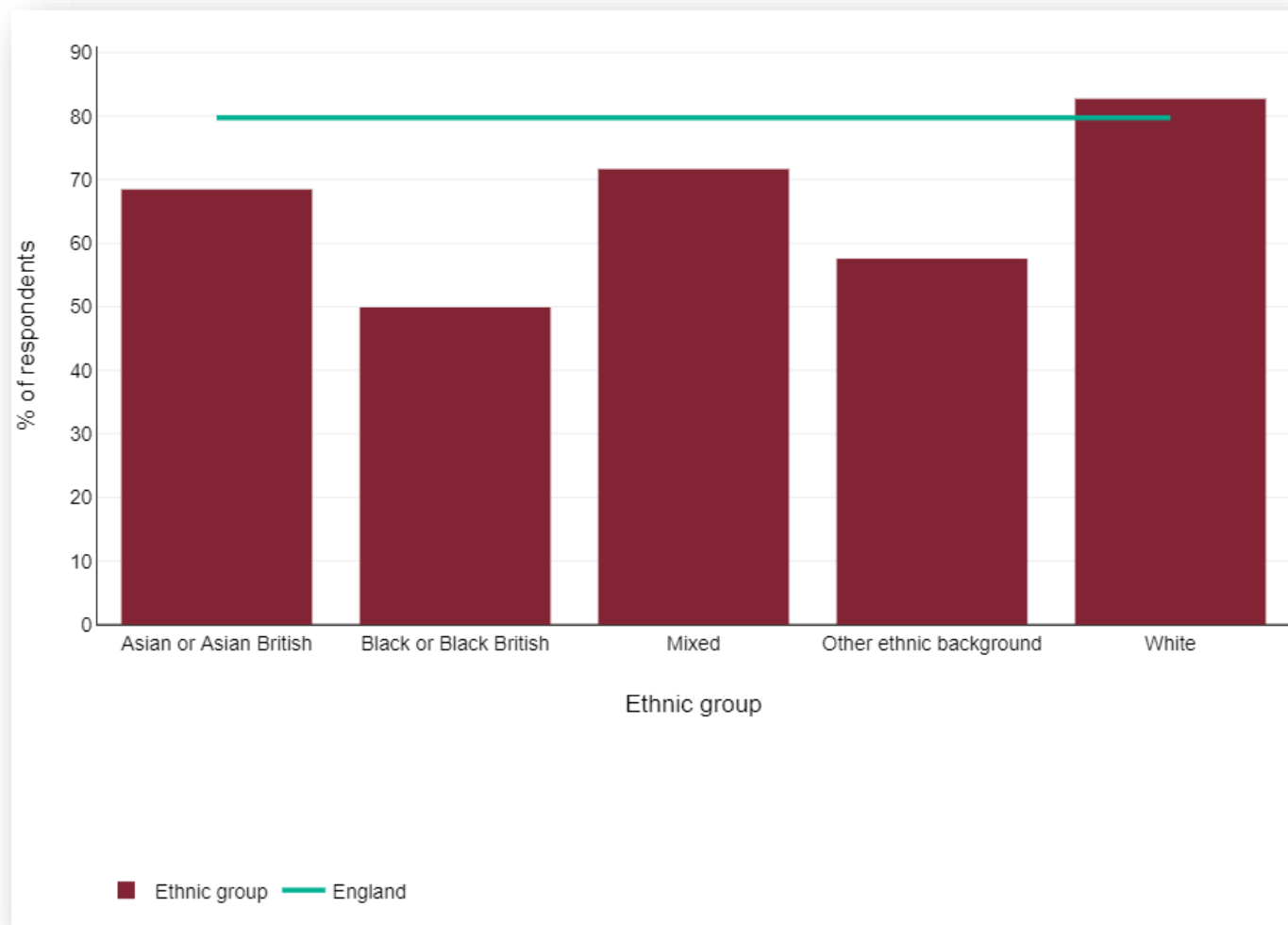


Percentage of respondents with high anxiety (score 6-10) in England, by housing tenure – 2019 compared with September 2021 (OHID, 2021)

<https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/covid-19-indirect-effects/>

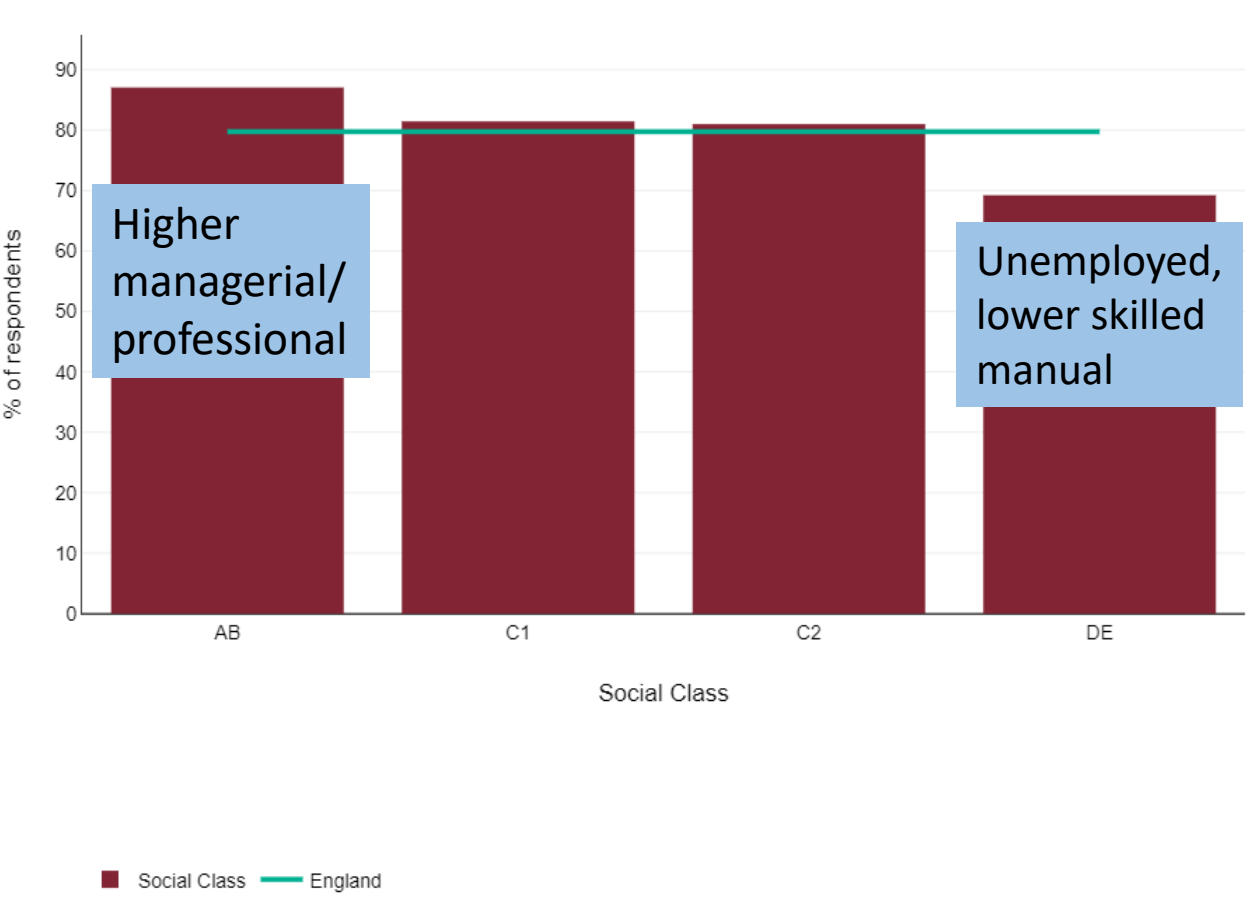


Access to a private garden is unequal for different ethnic groups

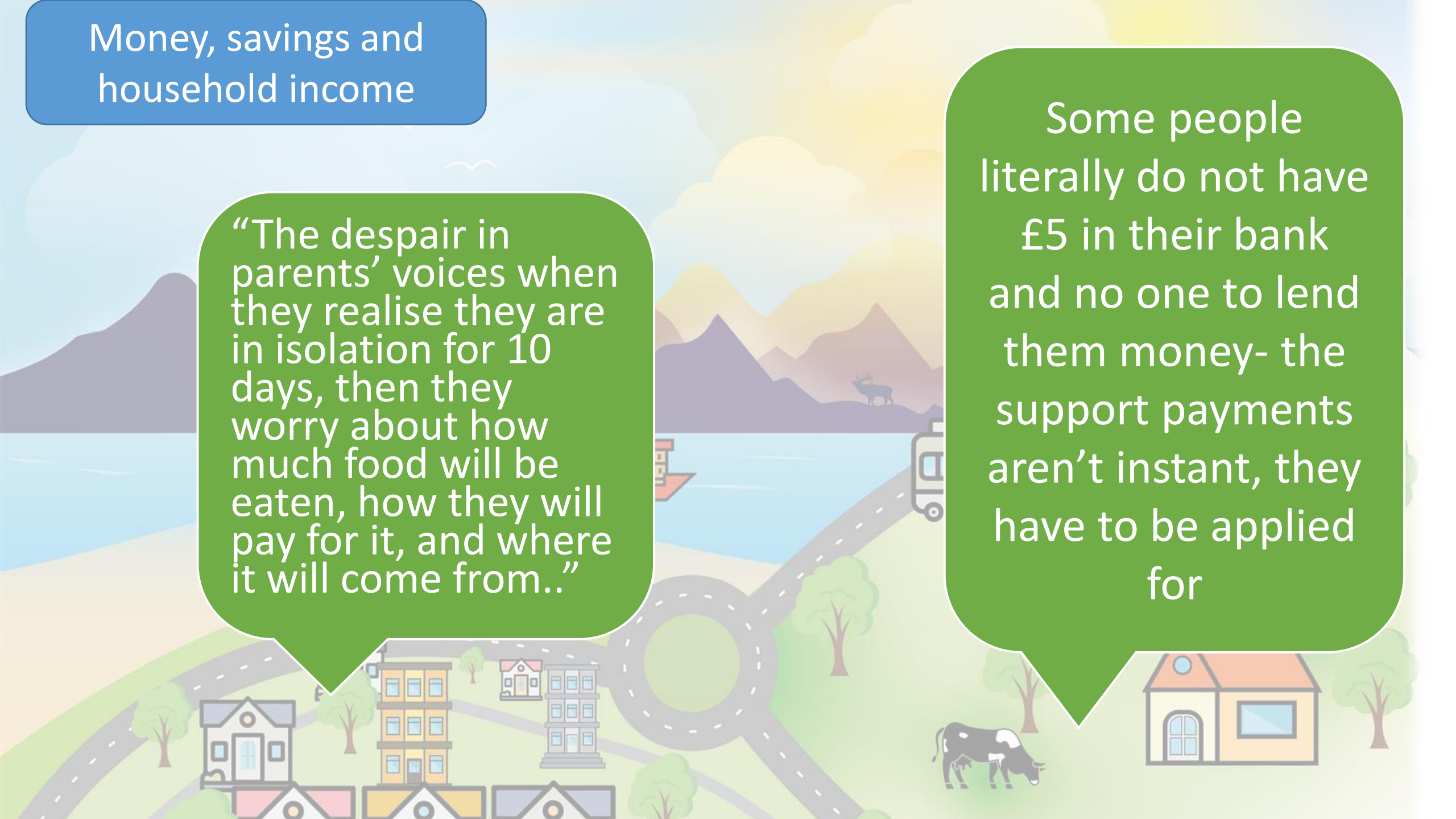


Access to a private garden (self-reported) by ethnic group and social class- 2014-2019 in England
Source: OHID WICH Tool <https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/covid-19-indirect-effects/>

Access to a private garden is unequal by social classification



Access to a private garden (self-reported) by ethnic group and social class- 2014-2019 in England
Source: OHID WICH Tool <https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/covid-19-indirect-effects/>

The background is a vibrant, stylized illustration of a landscape. It features rolling green hills, a blue lake, and purple mountains in the distance. A winding road with a roundabout is visible, along with a bus and a cow. In the foreground, there are several colorful buildings, including a white house with a blue roof and a yellow house with a red roof. The sky is bright yellow with soft clouds.

Money, savings and household income

“The despair in parents’ voices when they realise they are in isolation for 10 days, then they worry about how much food will be eaten, how they will pay for it, and where it will come from..”

Some people literally do not have £5 in their bank and no one to lend them money- the support payments aren't instant, they have to be applied for

Community, family and friends

“The main thing that kept coming up was around access to food and medical support (they can't leave home as in isolation but don't have anyone close by who could help) – just really reiterated how supportive neighbours, having family/friends close by is not always guaranteed”

“The first thing workers did in March 2020 was call all the families they knew on our Gypsy and Traveller community sites. We heard lots of stories about how people were looking after each other, going to the shops for all their neighbours”



Suitability and size of housing

“I remember speaking to a **family living in a one-bedroom flat** during lockdown. Dad was offered two different jobs, but they were night shifts. The kids weren't at school. How would he sleep during the day if he took a night shift?”

“We supported a family in an overcrowded house who had recently come to the UK, their child had tested positive for COVID-19 and everyone had to isolate at home, whilst still keeping apart. **But they lived in a 1-bedroom flat.** We supported them with their social housing application that had got stuck because of one piece of documentation. We took the time to find out what they needed- unpick and understand the problems they are facing and help them solve them”



Caring and staying
healthy and
independent at home

“...we uncover other unmet needs, for example: elderly couples separated by hospital admissions uncovered a much larger care need once the “carer” was hospitalised, often families are ill prepared or unable to provide a greater level of support.”



Shared housing and housing in multiple occupancy

“we come across households with multiple nationalities and languages, this made it difficult for the positive COVID-19 case to share contacts (not knowing or ever communicating with others in their household)..”

“..the team are often met with a level of fear around authority and a refusal to accept support.”



“Why don't people just...”

