

Preventing and reducing poverty among priority populations in Surrey

As the cost-of-living crisis deepens poverty in Surrey, its impact on health has become increasingly severe, reinforcing poverty as a major public health issue requiring coordinated, cross-sector action.



Key Findings

- Mixed-methods research showed that stigma, complex application processes and restrictive eligibility criteria often prevent people from accessing the support they need.
- Food insecurity is the most common form of hardship.
- Affordable and stable housing was identified by residents as the most important factor in preventing financial difficulty



Recommendations

System level:

- Develop a cross-Surrey Strategic Poverty Framework aligning health, social care, housing, employment and education.

Community level:

- Co-production with residents
- Peer support networks
- Local awareness of services
- Digital & practical skills support
- Community-led initiatives

Service level:

- Simpler and more transparent access routes
- Co-located, face-to-face and trauma-informed services
- Tailored support for carers, disabled residents and people with long-term conditions
- Early intervention and staff training to reduce stigma and improve cultural competence



A whole-system approach is needed to prevent and reduce poverty and address its structural drivers across Surrey.