



**Understanding
Herefordshire**
People and places

Hereford City Neighbourhood Profile Summary

Herefordshire Council Strategic Evidence and Insight Team
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Introduction

About the neighbourhood profiles

This profile aims to provide key insights into those living in the Hereford City Primary Care Network (PCN) area. By highlighting key differences between localities and neighbourhoods within the area on a variety of topics such as population, health and wellbeing, mortality and the wider determinants of health, areas with high concentrations of deprivation and poorer outcomes can be identified. This can then inform effective commissioning and place-based, targeted planning.

A rate that is relatively high or low in a local context may not have the same interpretation when compared elsewhere in the country. To remain focused on highlighting key differences across the PCN area, a statement about every dataset analysed is not provided.

Links to data sources used to create this neighbourhood profile are located throughout the document and key sources are provided in the appendix. For a full list of sources that have informed these key findings and further explanatory notes, please see the glossary of information.

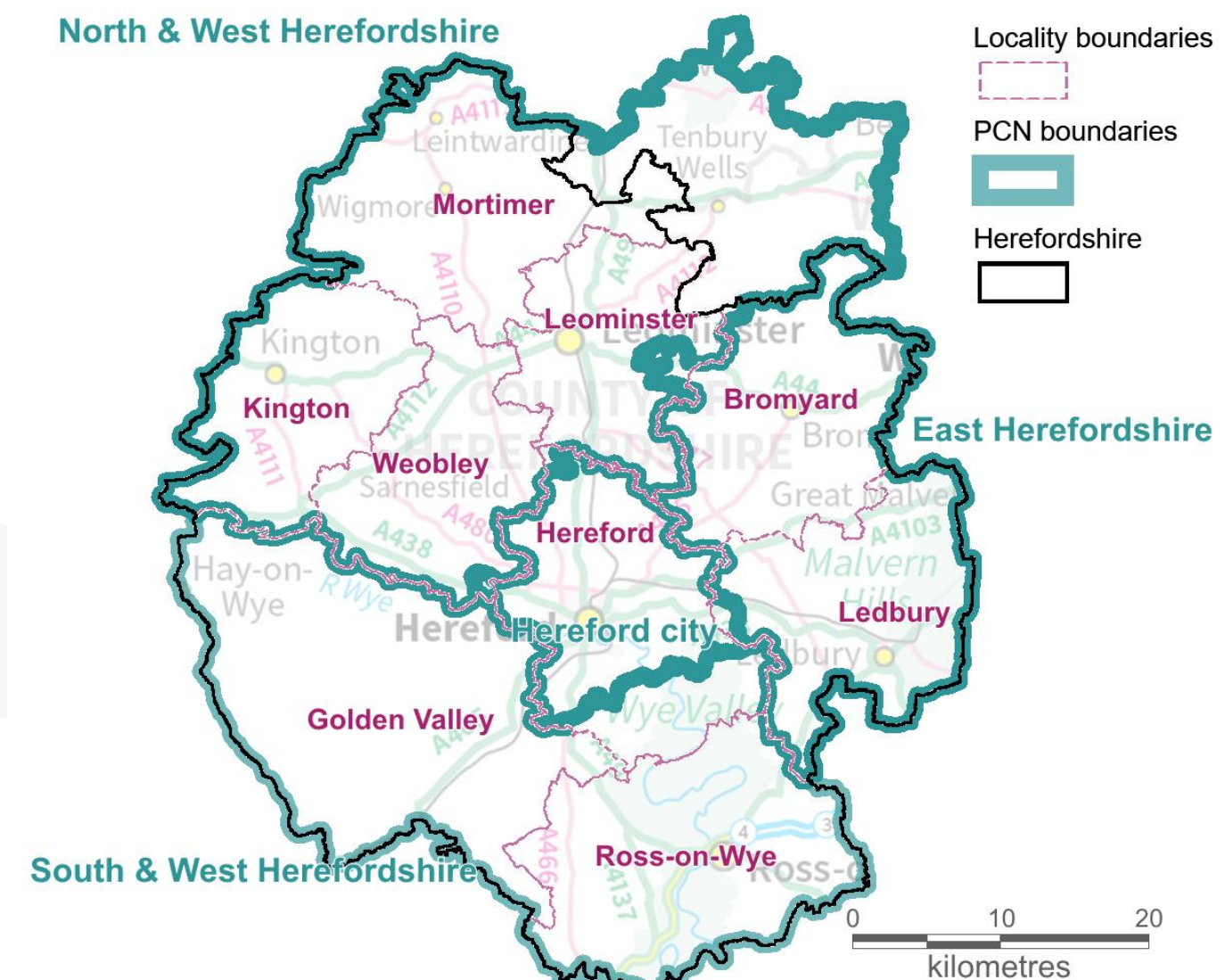
How have we defined a neighbourhood?

'Neighbourhoods' can be defined in different ways i.e. PCN, a Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) or ward. In this profile, a 'neighbourhood' refers to localities within a PCN. This includes capturing data on the residents who live in each PCN and the patients who are registered with the General Practitioners (GPs) in the PCN.

Both are captured because the data between the two can differ. For example, most health statistics are based on patients who are registered with a GP surgery in the county, which may differ or not relate to their 'usual residence', where people are counted at their family home.

The boundaries used in this neighbourhood profile may differ to those used elsewhere. The City PCN boundary is represented below, with sub-localities of North Hereford, South Hereford and Rural Hereford.

Figure 1: Boundary map of Herefordshire showing PCN and locality boundaries



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Hereford City PCN Area: overview

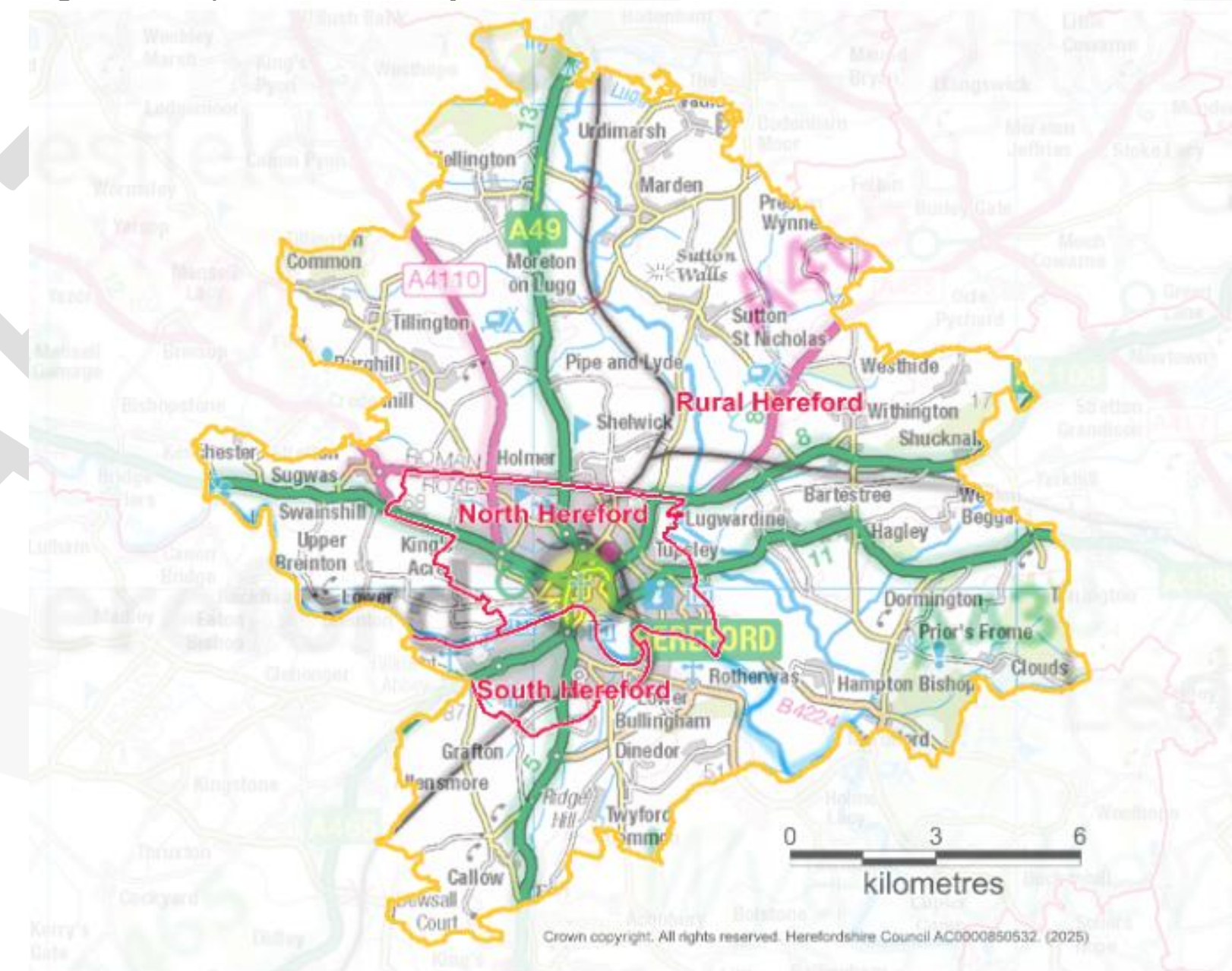
The Hereford City PCN area includes the urban area of Hereford City and its surrounding rural and semi-rural areas. It covers two PCNs: Hereford Medical Group (HMG) and Wargrave, Belmont and Cantilupe (WBC). There are four GP practices under the City Herefordshire PCN area: Belmont Medical Centre, Cantilupe and Hampton Dene Surgery, Wargrave House Surgery & Hereford Medical Group. The profile presents data as a unified PCN and separate PCNs, depending on the dataset used for a particular topic.

Local services are concentrated within Hereford City forms, with residents in the surrounding rural areas looking to the large villages of Lugwardine, Burghill, Withington, Marden, Wellington and Fownhope for services.

There were 75,800 residents (mid-2024) and a total of 78,900 GP patients were registered with the four GP practices as of April 2025, although not all will live in the area (and some residents will be registered with other GPs).

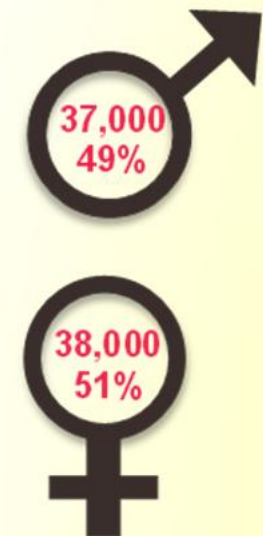
Situated at the heart of the county, Hereford City is a historic market town that is characterised by its medieval heritage, inclusive of timber-framed buildings and an ancient Cathedral. The City's landscape blends dense residential neighbourhoods with a thriving independent market culture, providing a central hub for infrastructure, transport and community services to the surrounding rural population. The River Wye (a site of Special Scientific Interest) bisects the City, acting as both a central scenic feature and a key structural dividing line for the northern and southern communities.

Figure 2: Map of Hereford City and its sub-localities



Data source: [Primary Care Network Profiles](#). Understanding Herefordshire. Last Accessed 23 June 2026

PCN at a glance



2018–2024

Total deaths
13,000

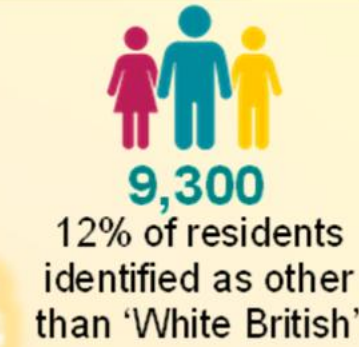
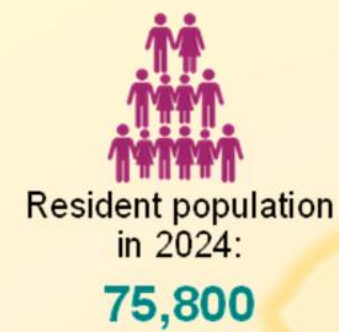
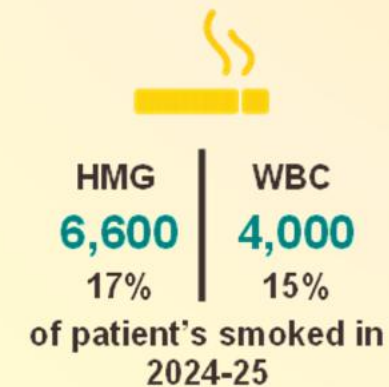
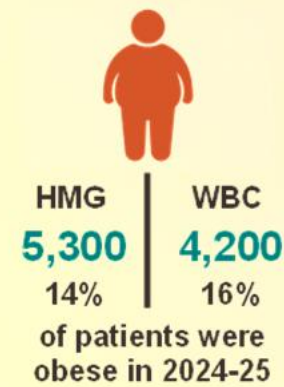
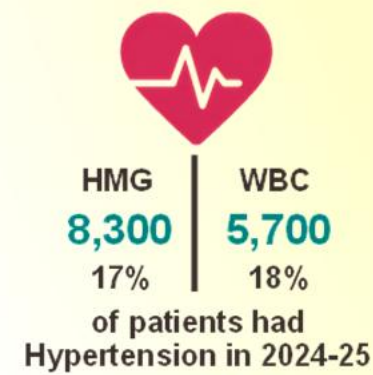
1,700 AVOIDABLE

Most common causes

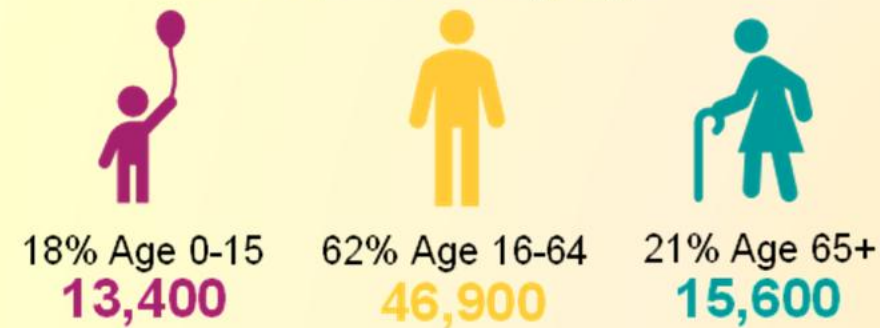


Four of Nine areas amongst the 20% most deprived in England are in Newton Farm, Hunderton and parts of Red Hill wards.

12 city areas in total are amongst the 20% most deprived in Herefordshire.



Population by age



Understanding Hereford City area: insights for decision-makers

The Hereford City neighbourhood profile contains a wide range of information on the area's population, health and wellbeing, wider determinants of health and community characteristics. The insights below summarise the most important themes emerging from the profile. They are intended to help readers understand the story of the area and identify the factors most likely to influence future population wellbeing and demand for services.

1. Herefordshire's youngest and most urban population

Home to 77,300 residents, Hereford City has the largest population of the county's four PCN areas. Despite having the smallest geographic footprint (71 square miles), it is the most densely populated. It is also the only predominantly urban PCN area, with 81% of residents (62,400) living in the city itself and the remainder in the surrounding rural and semi-rural communities.

As the county's main centre for employment, education, retail, healthcare and public services, Hereford serves a much wider population than those living within the PCN area. The area is divided by the River Wye, with many key services concentrated north of the river and a major employment centre at Rotherwas in the south. Unlike more remote parts of the county, most communities within the PCN area experience relatively good access to services.

The population is younger than elsewhere in Herefordshire, with higher proportions of children and younger working-age adults, although around one in five residents are aged 65 and over. There are also notable differences within the PCN area. South Hereford has the highest proportion of children (21% under 16 compared with 16% elsewhere in the area), while North Hereford has higher concentrations of younger adults around the city centre. Rural Hereford is closest to the county age profile, although it remains slightly younger overall.

The area is also one of the most ethnically diverse parts of Herefordshire, with 12% of residents from an ethnic background other than White British, compared with 9% across the county.

2. Characterised by marked contrasts between communities

While many residents experience good health, employment opportunities and high quality of life, the City PCN area contains some of Herefordshire's most pronounced inequalities.

Persistent areas of multiple deprivation are concentrated in Hereford, particularly south of the river Wye. Of the nine areas of Herefordshire amongst the 20% most deprived in England in 2025, four were in the Newton Farm and Hunderton areas of south Hereford. A further eight areas were amongst the 20% most deprived in Herefordshire, located both north and south of the river.

These areas experience overlapping deprivation relating to health, income, employment, education, and crime. The more deprived areas also tend to have higher numbers of people claiming income and employment-related benefits, as well as higher numbers of people claiming benefits related to disabilities and health conditions.

As is often the case in urban areas, deprived communities exist side-by-side with some of the least deprived. Of the eleven areas of Herefordshire which are amongst the 20% *least* deprived in England, all but two are urban areas in or adjoining the city. Most of these are to the north and east of the city, particularly around Tupsley, but they also include Belmont Rural in the south. Unlike more remote parts of Herefordshire, the rural communities surrounding Hereford are generally less affected by challenges relating to housing and access to services.

3. Health outcomes closely reflect inequalities

The social and economic inequalities seen across the city are also reflected in health outcomes. The most deprived communities experience poorer health, higher levels of disability, lower life expectancy and have greater demand for health and care services.

Life expectancy varies considerably across the area, and is significantly lower for people in parts of central and south Hereford than the rest of the county. Males living in Hereford South West can expect to live to age 75; around five years less than those in some neighbouring communities, highlighting the scale of inequality.

Many of the county's most health-deprived neighbourhoods are located within the City PCN area. Mortality rates in the most deprived communities are significantly higher than elsewhere.

4. Preventable illness contributes to poorer health outcomes and increasing needs

Many of the common causes of ill health in the City PCN area are potentially preventable, and contribute to the inequalities in health outcomes seen across the area.

Smoking remains one of the most important risk factors for poor health and premature mortality, and although rates have fallen in recent years, some City practices report smoking rates of 17 to 19%, among the highest in Herefordshire (nationally 13% of patients aged 15 and over smoke). The prevalence of some long-term conditions is also increasing across both City PCNs, with around 14,000 people living with hypertension, 5,000 with diabetes and 950 with heart failure, contributing to increasing health needs.

The consequences can be seen in wider health outcomes. As in the rest of the county, diseases of the circulatory system and cancer account for more than half of all deaths in the area. Premature mortality is higher than the county figure and around one in five deaths are considered avoidable through prevention or effective healthcare – a higher proportion than in the county's other PCN areas.

5. Children growing up in deprived communities face greater disadvantage

The inequalities seen across the wider population are also evident for children and young people. Disadvantage often begins early and is concentrated in the same communities that experience poorer outcomes throughout life.

Indicators of higher levels of early-years vulnerability and family need are concentrated in some of the most deprived neighbourhoods of South Hereford, suggesting greater demand for early support and intervention services.

Many of these same communities also experience higher levels of SEND and poorer outcomes relating to children's education and skills. Childhood obesity is also notably higher in parts of South Hereford than elsewhere in the PCN area.

6. Hereford's urban role creates opportunities and challenges.

The area has the highest concentrations of jobs, businesses and services, but it also experiences pressures associated with an urban environment. Higher housing density means more properties at risk of flooding from the River Wye, with some deprived areas among those most vulnerable. Poor air quality related to traffic congestion is a long-standing issue around Edgar Street and the ring road.

Although it has the county's lowest proportion of homes at risk from housing-related hazards, housing-related inequalities remain. Several areas of North Hereford and the surrounding rural areas are among the most deprived nationally for indoor living environment. In addition, 14 of the county's 23 most deprived areas in terms of 'wider barriers' are located within the city itself – this measures pressures relating to housing affordability, overcrowding and homelessness. These issues affect areas in North Hereford as well as several of the neighbourhoods that experience the highest levels of overall deprivation in South Hereford.

Community satisfaction, belonging, and perceptions of safety are noticeably lower than in the rest of Herefordshire. Looking ahead, Hereford is expected to accommodate a sizeable proportion of the county's housing growth and development. Balancing growth with existing inequalities and increasing demand for services will remain a key challenge.

Areas of deprivation

Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health outcomes, often driven by deprivation. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines measures of income, employment, education, health, crime, living environment, and housing and services to rank small areas across England by their relative level of deprivation.

Overall, Herefordshire experiences average levels of multiple deprivation compared to England, but there are persistent pockets across Hereford and the market towns. The Hereford City PCN area reflects the county image with 27 of its 47 LSOAs being amongst the 50% least deprived in England, two of which were in the 10% least deprived (St Paul's and Old Eign Hill in Tupsley).

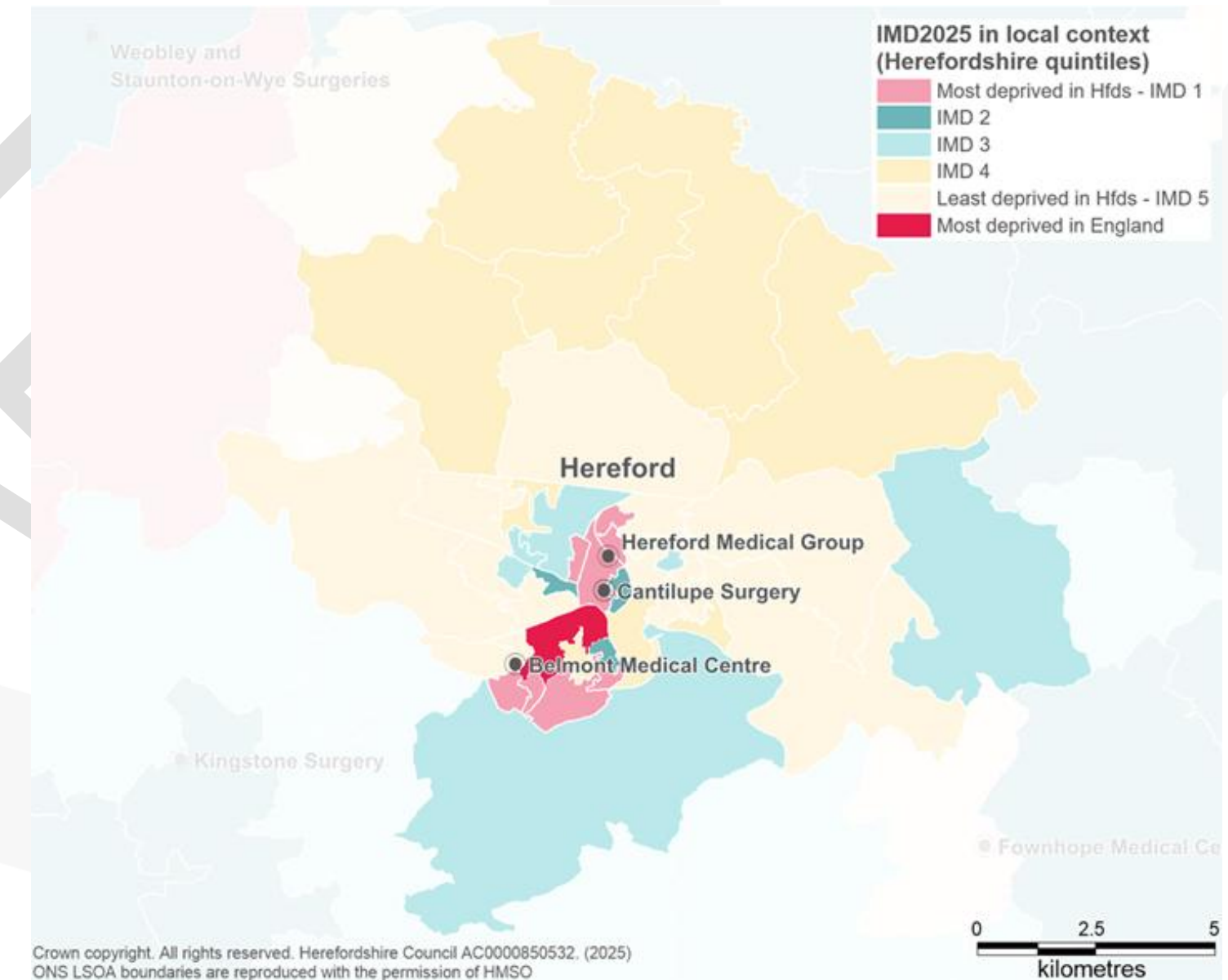
However, **four of nine** Herefordshire areas which are amongst the 20% most deprived in England are in South Hereford (Golden Post–Newton Farm, Redhill–Belmont Road, Bishop's Meadow–Hunderton, and Hunderton).

Another eight across north and south Hereford are amongst the 20% most deprived in Herefordshire. This means that **half (12) of the 20% most deprived areas in the county (IMD1) are in the urban areas of Hereford City**; six of which are also among the 10% most deprived.

Urban areas tend to experience higher levels of deprivation across people-based measures. Golden Post–Newton Farm, Redhill–Belmont Road, Bishop's Meadow–Hunderton, Hunderton, and Newton Farm–Brampton Road rank among the most deprived for income, employment, and education and skills. Hereford City Centre and Courtyard are also among the most deprived for health and disability and crime. Redhill–Ross Road, Putson, and Whitecross–Sainsbury's fall within the 10% most deprived for education and skills, health and disability, and crime respectively.

Rural areas are more likely to experience place-based deprivation, although Hereford City Rural is relatively less deprived than the rest of rural Herefordshire. Hopsvalley is the only LSOA in the area amongst the 20% most deprived in England for barriers to services. With Amberley and Queenswood, it is also amongst the 20% most deprived in England in terms of indoor living environment.

Figure 3: Map of overall local deprivation in 2025 across Hereford City



Data source: [Indices of deprivation 2025](#). Deprivation scores for GP practices are included in OHID's [National General Practice Profiles on Fingertips](#).

Individual types of deprivation are covered in more detail in relevant sections of the full neighbourhood profile.

Focus on areas of deprivation: Hunderton and Newton Farm (also including part of Red Hill)

The adjoining neighbourhoods of Golden Post-Newton Farm, Bishop's Meadow-Hunderton, Redhill-Belmont Road and Hunderton form a cluster of deprivation within South Hereford City. They represent **four of nine areas** of Herefordshire which were **amongst the 20% most deprived in England** in terms of overall, multiple deprivation (and therefore considered to be the NHS 'Core20' areas).

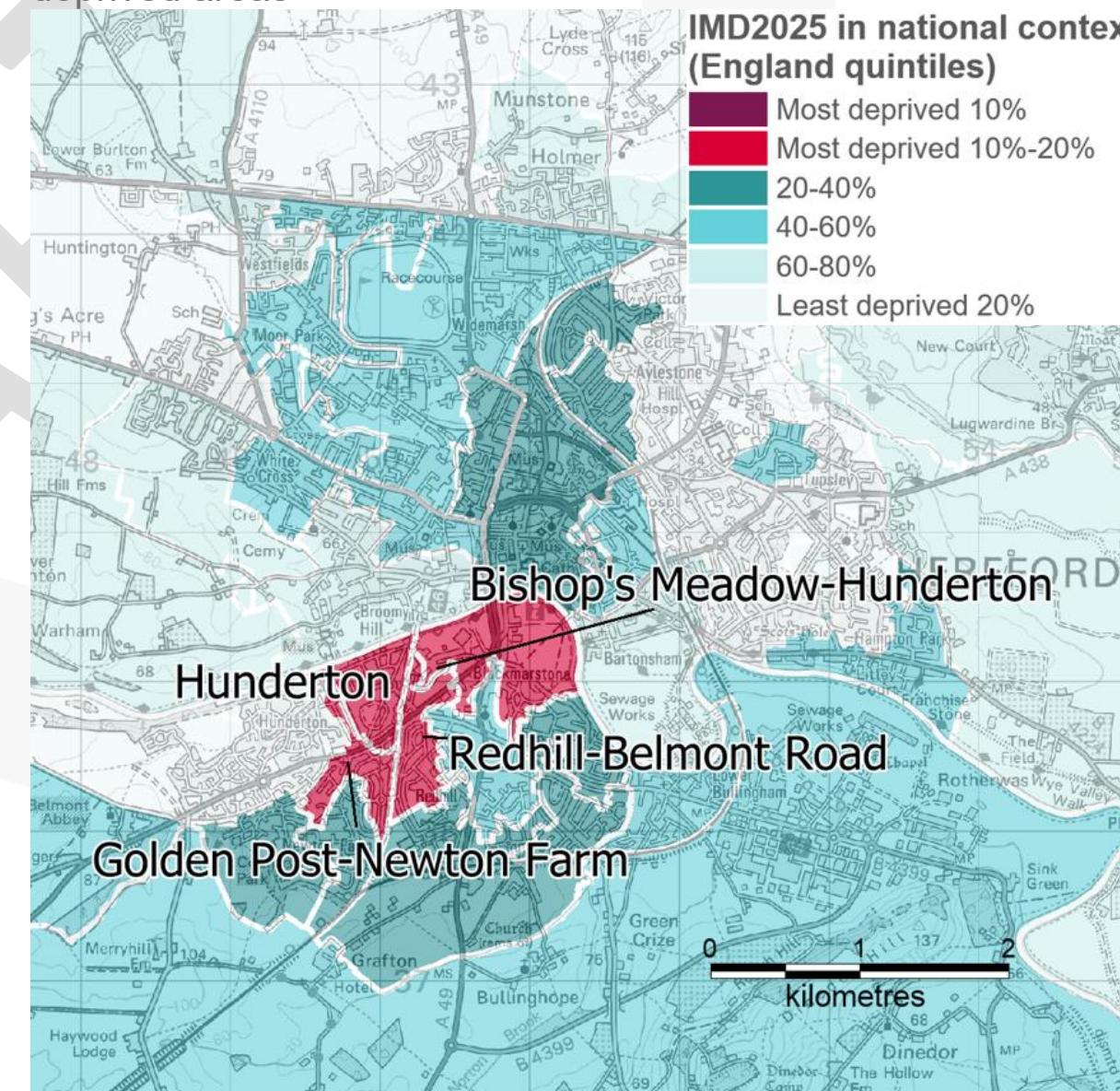
Over 40% of the 9,900 residents of these four areas are living in income deprivation nationally.

As urban areas, they are relatively less deprived in terms of access to services and the indoor living environment. Despite this, most areas still face challenges with access to housing, and some are also affected by a lack of quality outdoor living environments. Other observations include:

- South Hereford in general has a younger age profile than the rest of the county, with higher proportions of children and working-age adults and a lower share of residents aged 65+. Along with nearby Putson, Golden Post-Newton Farm and Hunderton have notably high proportions of children.
- In keeping with the age profile, notably more people of working age living alone and relatively high proportions of people who have never been married
- Relatively high proportions of residents separated from a marriage or legal partnership
- Indicators of higher levels of early-years (under 5) vulnerability and family need (Children in Need, Early Help, Free School Meals and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)).
- In terms of economic activity, more residents report being long-term sick or disabled and more residents looking after the home or family.
- Higher numbers of people claiming income and employment-related benefits, as well as higher numbers of people claiming benefits related to disabilities and health conditions.
- Higher rates of emergency hospital admissions in these areas

- Deprivation is the driving risk factor for digital exclusion in these areas
- Bordered by the River Wye to the north, some households in Hunderton and Bishops Meadow-Hunderton are at high risk of flooding

Figure 4: Map showing national deprivation levels across Hereford City's most deprived areas



Data source: [Indices of deprivation 2025](#)