

# Peterborough

## Area Assessment (Summary version)

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Provided under embargo



**oneplace**

for an independent overview  
of local public services

## Peterborough at a glance

This independent assessment by six inspectorates sets out how well local public services are tackling the major issues in Peterborough. It says how well they are delivering better results for local people and how likely these are to improve in future. If, and only if, our assessment shows that the following special circumstances are met in relation to a major issue, we use flags to highlight our judgements. We use a green flag to highlight where others can learn from outstanding achievements or improvements or an innovation that has very promising prospects of success. We use a red flag to highlight where we have significant concerns about results and future prospects that are not being tackled adequately. This means that local partners need to do something more or different to improve these prospects.

### Green flags - exceptional performance or innovation that others can learn from

 Green flag: Waste Partnership is Key to Reducing Waste

### Red flags - significant concerns, action needed

 Red flag: High Crime Levels

## The local area

Peterborough is situated in the east of England. It includes the urban city centre of Peterborough, which is surrounded by more rural areas. The government has chosen Peterborough to be a growth area. A lot of property has been built in the past few years. With a population of around 164,000 (Office for National Statistics mid-2007), it has a younger population than average but forecasts indicate that there will be an older population living in Peterborough over the next twenty years. Most of the jobs in Peterborough are in the distribution and service sectors. More people come into the city to work compared to those who commute out.

The area is home to people from different backgrounds and lifestyles, including a fairly large number of migrant workers. Peterborough was a national asylum support service dispersal area for asylum seekers and has more recently attracted significant numbers of economic migrants from the Eastern European countries. This rapid increase in the number of economic migrants has put significant additional demands on public services, something the government has recently recognised through the allocation of additional funding through the Migration Impacts Fund.

Levels of people living in poverty in Peterborough are generally higher than average.

Peterborough's public services have agreed the following challenges that they need to tackle:

Creating opportunities - tackling inequalities

Creating strong and supportive communities

Creating the UK's environment capital

Delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth

The next section tells you how Peterborough's public services are doing in each of their local priority areas.

## How is Peterborough doing?

### Creating opportunities - tackling inequalities

Local organisations in Peterborough are working to increase opportunity, prosperity and life chances for local residents. They recognise that there are inequalities which prevent some groups from taking up services and achieving good outcomes.

Work is targeted well at cultural groups and geographical areas to try and reduce inequalities. For example, Peterborough's 'TB or not TB campaign' is targeted at the Pakistani community to help reduce tuberculosis, breastfeeding and community health trainers are working with people from the poorest areas; and stop smoking activity is targeted at migrants. As a result, more women are breastfeeding their babies and smoking targets have been met.

Children in Peterborough get off to a good start in nursery schools. But, overall Peterborough children's exam and test result are not as good as those for children who live in similar places. According to local data for examination results in 2009 improvements are being made. Arrangements for making sure that children are kept safe and protected are adequate. An inspection of adult services was completed in January 2009. Safeguarding of adults was judged to be adequate. But the Council and NHS Peterborough had already identified the issues raised in the inspection and action had begun to address these.

The health of people in some areas of Peterborough is poor when compared nationally. On average Peterborough residents live shorter and less healthy lives. This is improving but not at the same rate as elsewhere. The areas of poor health are concentrated mostly in central Peterborough.

Drinking too much alcohol causes problems in Peterborough. Hospital stays due to alcohol are higher than average. Rates of violent and sexual crimes

linked to alcohol are also higher than the national average.

But partners are working together to deliver some health improvements for local people. Numbers of breastfeeding mothers have risen as a result of improved support. Fewer teenagers are becoming pregnant. And Chlamydia screening rates have improved.

The number of households accepted as homeless is high, compared to similar places. And there are too many people living in temporary accommodation.

We will look in more depth next year at how local partners are working to improve the health of people in Peterborough. We will also look to see how effectively partners are reducing homelessness issues.

## Creating strong and supportive communities

Peterborough has a history of high crime levels. This continues. Numbers of thefts, robberies and burglaries are higher than similar areas. Overall, crime has reduced but progress is not consistent and the average rates of similar areas are reducing much faster. But anti-social behaviour is less of a problem. It is not seen as a major problem by residents who think local organisations are dealing with it.

Recent actions to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour locally are having some impact. Local events such as 'Weeks of Action' and 'Treat Your Streets' are delivering improvements for local residents. The police are targeting the most active burglars in the city. The number of burglaries is reducing. Vehicle crime is also reducing following a new approach by partners.

Re-offending by young people in Peterborough is lower than similar areas, and the Youth Offending Team works reasonably well. The number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system has reduced over a quarter since 2006/07 to 303.

Local organisations are encouraging residents to take pride in their area. One hundred and ninety-six Street Leaders and 26 Community Crime Fighters have been recruited. These local residents work with other residents to help improve issues that concern them.

## Creating the UK's environment capital

Good progress is being made to improve the environment. Local Peterborough organisations are working together to create a cleaner and more environmentally friendly area.

More people are recycling and composting waste. The overall level of recycling achieved in 2008/09 was 48 per cent; an increase over the previous year. This was partly achieved through good joint working with other councils in Cambridgeshire through RECAP - recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These new initiatives are encouraging local people and

businesses to recycle more.

Peterborough continues to get cleaner. Following consultation and feedback from residents extra cleaning and targeting of specific areas is resulting in a better local environment.

More and more people in Peterborough are using public transport. Partners are effectively promoting the use of sustainable travel. This is leading to a shift towards more cycling, walking and use of public transport and less car usage.

Local organisations are working to reduce the carbon footprint of Peterborough. The Council introduced its 'Your Footprint Counts' campaign. It tells people about carbon reduction activities at roadshows and other events.

## Delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth

As a growth area, significant progress is being made in planning and building the new infrastructure of Peterborough. One of the largest health care developments in Europe is taking place in the city. New schools and new roads have been built and work has started on the re-development of the city centre. A new university centre has recently opened.

But the recession is having a significant impact on Peterborough. More people are unemployed, job vacancies have fallen and house repossessions are increasing. But partners are working well to help people and businesses during the downturn. And as a result the area is in a good position to take advantage of economic recovery.

Housing provision is also a key issue for Peterborough. A lack of affordable housing plus Peterborough's growing population means more homes are needed. Partners have made improvements in housing for local people. Although fewer new houses are being built in Peterborough current targets are being met. The Council and its partners are making good progress on delivering zero carbon homes and additional affordable homes.

CAA looks at how well local public services, working together, are meeting the needs of the people they serve. It's a joint assessment made by a group of independent watchdogs about the performance of local public services, and how likely they are to meet local priorities. From 9 December you will find the results of Comprehensive Area Assessment on the Oneplace website - <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/>



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