



What does a sustainable community look like?

Well run, with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership

What do sustainable communities offer?

- Representative, accountable governance systems which both facilitate strategic, visionary leadership and enable inclusive, active and effective participation by individuals and organisations;
- Effective engagement with the community at neighbourhood level, including capacity building to develop the community's skills, knowledge and confidence;
- Strong, informed and effective partnerships that lead by example (e.g. government, business, community);
- A strong, inclusive, community and voluntary sector;
- A sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

Using this report to explore data on Governance for Findon

Sub heading	Indicators
How engaged are people locally?	Place Survey governance questions, Active Charities

What other information might be available?

- Place Survey data may be available from your local authority, and provide more detailed measures of civic participation. Data from the electoral commission can also provide more information relating to voter participation in local, national and European elections (www.electoralcommission.org.uk/home).



A recent report by the Office for National Statistics found that over 50s are more likely to feel they belong to their communities than younger people and subsequently feel happier⁴. Community engagement across all groups within an area is therefore an important aspect of resident wellbeing, often even more so in rural areas due to the remote nature of many communities.

Some areas have found that the process of developing a community plan can help increase the engagement with people living and working locally; and other actions to improve engagement with particular local groups might also be seen as priorities for local community plans.

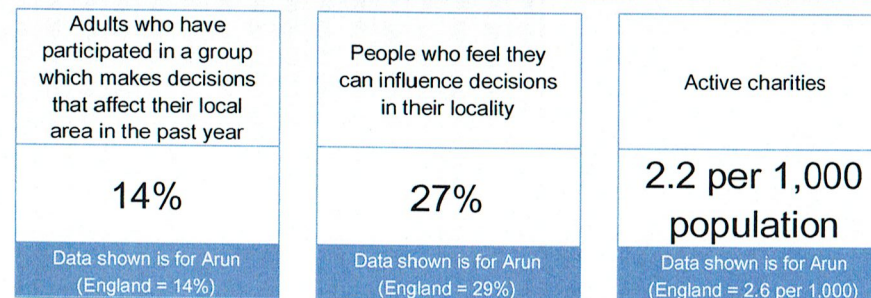
What information is shown here?

The data shown is from the national 'Place Survey', collected by all local authorities in 2008. Data is only published for the local authority area; however more detailed information may be available from local surveys.

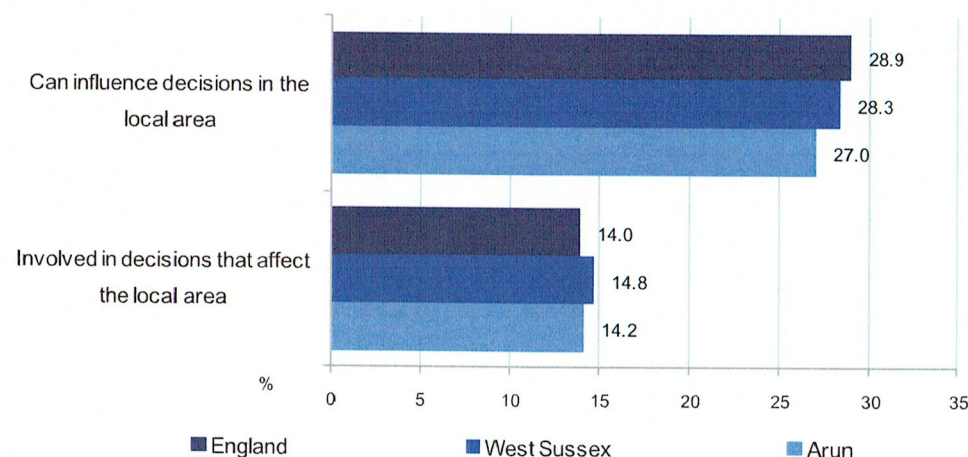
The chart on the right shows how your local authority compares with the national picture. Across England, nearly 30% of people asked felt they could influence local decisions, but less than half that number had actually participated in a group making such decisions in the past year.

Where next?

Information on the strength of the local neighbourhood and community safety can be found in the Social and Cultural section ([page 5](#)).



Indicators of civic engagement



Source: Place Survey 2008, Active Charities (NCVO 2009)

⁴ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/wellbeing/measuring-national-well-being/older-people-s-neighbourhoods/art-older-people-s-neighbourhoods.html>