



# Challenges Facing Young People in Rural Areas



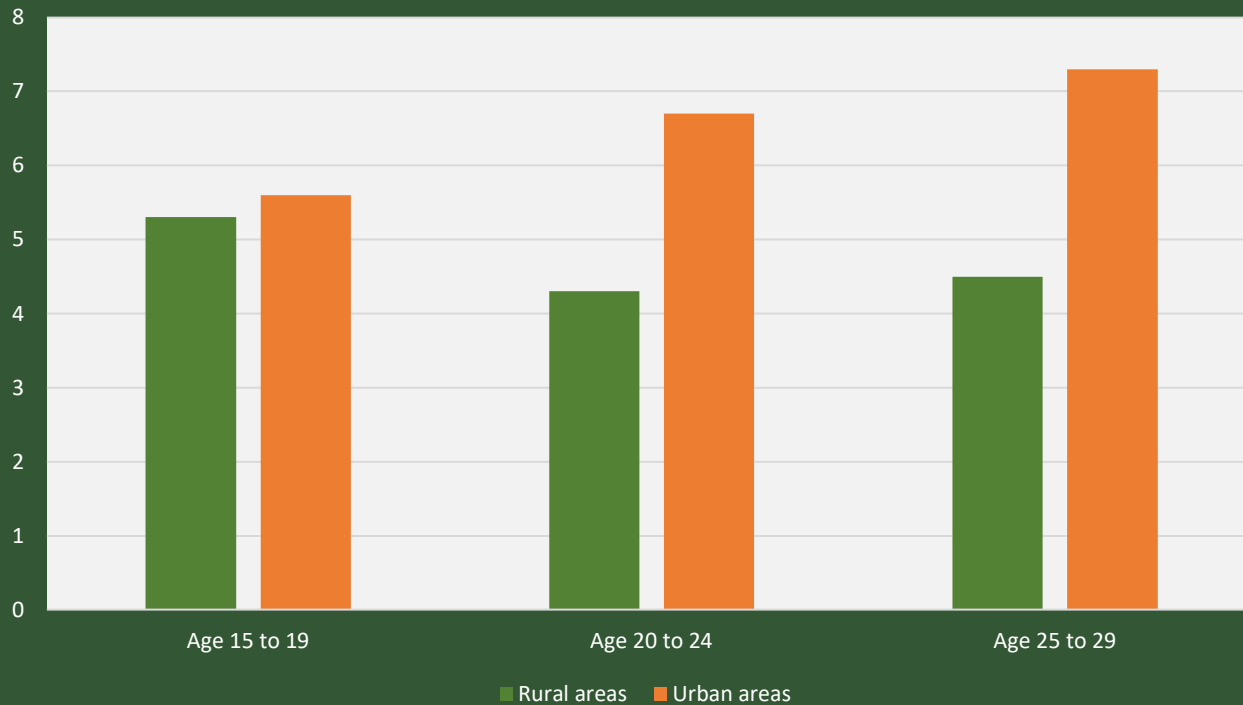
# Presentation Content

- Young People in rural areas
- Policy Context of Revitalising Rural
- Listening to young voices - what issues concern them?
- Asks of Government



# Where are the young people in England?

Per cent of total population within stated age groups  
(2019)



- Young people start higher education or employment and move out of rural areas to urban centres.
- ONS figures for the period 2011 to 2019 show that there has been a net movement of those aged 17 to 20 of about 40,000 per year from rural to urban areas.



# Revitalising Rural

Realising the Vision

**We want a fairer  
distribution of national  
resources to rural areas and  
for more nuanced national  
policies that reflect rural  
circumstances**

[www.rsnonline.org.uk/revitalising-rural](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/revitalising-rural)





**RSN has been exploring challenges facing young people in Somerset with Young Somerset, one of our Rural Services Partnership Members**

**CONNECTIONS**



# A lack of transport options can make accessing leisure activities, education, skills and employment difficult





# Reliance on family members for transport





“Where I live  
there is only  
three buses  
a day”

“I just don’t  
go out”





Urban areas in 21/22 will still receive some 61% (£107) per head in Settlement Funding Assessment grant more than their rural counterparts



Rural areas have less funding available to spend on discretionary services



in 2021/22 planned expenditure on **PUBLIC TRANSPORT** per resident is NEARLY **10X MORE IN** predominantly URBAN AREAS



Almost a ***sixth*** of rural premises  
in England cannot access a  
superfast broadband connection.







Lack of connectivity means that our rural young people are being left behind when needing to access learning and resources



“...the wifi is really bad, sometimes in lockdown, google meets wouldn't load, or school work, it was a struggle”



# CATHY SAYS

**“When I lived on the outskirts of Wellington with my friend in the midst of COVID, the internet there was bad to a point that only one of us could be online at a time. My friend and I both had to attend online schooling at the same time of the day, for quite a long time. As a result, one of us always had to miss the lessons during the day and catch up on work, until extremely late at night and this did not do my mental health any good.”**





**Some 7% of rural premises  
(or 274,000 households &  
businesses) in England  
cannot access a decent  
fixed broadband  
connection of 10 Mbps**

**There remain significant  
issues with mobile  
connectivity in rural  
premises. Some 30% of  
those in England are  
premises where it is not  
possible to make an indoor  
phone call on all four of the  
mobile networks**



# Other issues facing young people in rural areas to explore

- Access to Further Education
  - Accessibility – buses to FE establishments, where they exist at all, can involve long journeys or run at inconvenient times;
  - Choice – many rural young people can only realistically access one college or school (sixth form), so their subject options are likely to be reduced; and
  - Cost – travel to FE establishments can prove expensive, with many pupils paying fares of £200 or more per term.
- Access to apprenticeships / skills and training
- Rural areas can be ‘Job rich but career poor’
- Access to affordable housing

# Revitalising Rural

Realising the Vision

Currently developing the campaign to draw together policy asks of Government relevant to young people in rural areas

Looking forward to everyone's input today!



RURAL  
SERVICES  
NETWORK



RURAL  
SERVICES  
NETWORK