



THE RURAL BULLETIN

Exclusively brought to you by the Rural Services Network



RURAL
SERVICES
NETWORK

THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

The National Champion for Rural Services, ensuring people in rural areas have a strong voice

This Rural Bulletin is published by the Rural Services Network and brings you a round up of our existing publications in one place! Get the latest rural news, read our current rural commentary in the Hinterland, focus in on our weekly Spotlight special feature and check out what we've been up to this week at RSN HQ!

If you have any comments on the Rural Bulletin, please contact us [here](#).

LATEST RURAL NEWS



[What could your community do with £5,000?](#)



[Faster growth predicted in rural areas after Brexit](#)



[Ofcom urged to dump rural mobile plan](#)



[Rural firefighters take on new role fighting crime](#)



[Attack launched on fair funding review](#)



[Rural housing market details revealed](#)



[Parkinson's awareness in rural communities](#)



[Government urged to produce new rural strategy](#)



[Rural Related Politics - An RSN weekly review](#)



On 1st March, the Rural Services Network launched a campaign calling on the Government to develop a Rural Strategy.

We are asking members to support this call by signing a petition [here](#)

Additional Information:

- [Further details about the campaign](#)
- [Supporters of the campaign](#)
- [RSN template report 'Time for a Rural Strategy'](#)
- [Summary of the 'Rural England – A different place demands a different strategy' event](#)

[demands a different strategy' event](#)



A quarterly bulletin facilitated by your membership of the **Rural Services Network** and produced in partnership with the **Rural Housing Alliance**, highlighting a selection of current rural housing issues and opportunities

This issue discusses an recently established affordable housing commission, how the Hastoe Group is helping bring a community hospital back, an affordable housing scheme in Devon, the new legislation to protect tenants in privately rented

accommodation and much much more!

All this information can be accessed [here](#)



In [Hinterland](#) this week:

The huge public sector resource absorbed by Brexit, Modern Slavery, the rise of the “Pensioner Town”, help for farm tenants, the challenges of accessing mental health services in the countryside and the origins of the rural big cat. [Read on...](#)

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK AT RSN HQ!

Today the RSN will attend a meeting of the **Rural Coalition**. Amongst other things, this will be a chance to discuss progress and next steps on the call for a Rural Strategy with a range of key rural interest organisations.

In the coming months the [RSN Observatory](#) section will be changing with the provision of Observatory - Member Insights, where our member authorities will be able to search for the analyses and data that define their areas. The latest sample analysis can now be found for:

Households not connected to the gas network (2015 to 2017), currently sitting in the Observatory Local Services section [HERE](#)

As the Member Insights section takes shape, further details of the analyses available will be advertised here in What's New, so keep checking back for more information.



We are taking bookings for the **South East Regional Seminar** event which will be held on 29 April 2019 kindly hosted by Sevenoaks District Council. This event focuses on Vulnerability. For more information [click here](#) or contact us on events@sparse.gov.uk

Please be aware we are having to rearrange the date for the North East Regional Seminar (originally scheduled for 23.05.19) due to the possibility that this will clash with European Elections. As soon as we have a confirmed new date we will update the seminar leaflet and website.

LATEST RESEARCH & COMMENTARY



[How can we develop a picture of income \[in\]equality in the countryside?](#)

Some people have higher incomes and wealth than others. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), average household income in 2018 contracted by 1.6% for the poorest fifth of the nation and rose by 4.7% for the richest fifth. ONS's statistical bulletin also reveals how median household disposable income growth plateaued at £28,400 in 2018, ending four years of previous growth. The gap between the poorest and richest households appears to be growing; thus reversing a downward trend over the previous 10 years. What is income inequality and how prevalent is it in rural areas? Jessica Sellick investigates.

- Read the full article [here](#)



[Developing a theory of change: mapping out the "missing \[rural\] middle" or \(re\)describing a process?](#)

A 'theory of change' involves people coming together to think about the difference that they want to make (and with whom), the context within which they work and what activities they need to undertake to lead to this positive change. But does a theory of change have a transformative effect on community projects or is it retrospective in leading us to reflect on what we're already

The RSN is sponsored by **First** 

doing? Jessica Sellick investigates.

- Read the full article [here](#)



RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

The **latest** edition of the **Funding Digest** can be viewed [here](#)

Looking for funding for your local project or community group? This monthly bulletin includes links to various sources of grant funding that you may be able to access!



GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

Read the **latest RSN suggested draft responses** for key rural consultations and view the latest Government Consultations that may be relevant to rural communities [here](#)



RURAL OBSERVATORY

The Rural Observatory - provides analysis, facts, figures and commentary impacting upon rural communities
Visit the Rural Observatory [here](#)



FAIRER FUNDING

Find out about our campaign for fairer funding for rural areas [here](#)
This includes our work on the Local Government Finance Settlement

EVENTS & MEETINGS

BECOME A MEMBER



RSN PRIORITIES

Public Sector Funding, Barriers to Access, Future of Rural Areas, Health and Wellbeing



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