



**Community
Foundation**
Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

Tees Valley's Vital Issues 2017

Strong Communities

Strong communities

1.1 Overview

The strong communities section of this report focuses on the extent to which local people play an active role in society and how well the relationships they have with each other and social institutions provide for a good quality of life.

According to Dr E Wedlock, author of *Crime and Cohesive Communities*, “*local areas with a high sense of community, political trust and sense of belonging show significantly lower levels of all reported crime*”, making this a good starting point for looking at this issue.

1.2 Crime score

An overall crime score can be calculated by looking at the average rates of a set of crimes per population. This is given in table 54 below for the Tees Valley area:

Table 54 – crime scores, 2016ⁱⁱ

Area Name	Crime: score (2016)
Darlington	120.34
Hartlepool	141.6
Middlesbrough	181.95
Redcar and Cleveland	127.56
Stockton on Tees	111.97
North East	109.9
England & Wales	100

These scores suggest that crime in the Tees Valley is higher than elsewhere in the NE region, and in the UK as a whole (see also section 4 – Safety). Following Dr Wedlock’s logic, this would suggest that there is a lower degree of cohesion in the Tees Valley than elsewhere. Indeed, the analysis in section 4 indicates that where there is a higher level of crime, trust can break down and wellbeing can be affected, indicating that this is to some extent a self-reinforcing relationship.

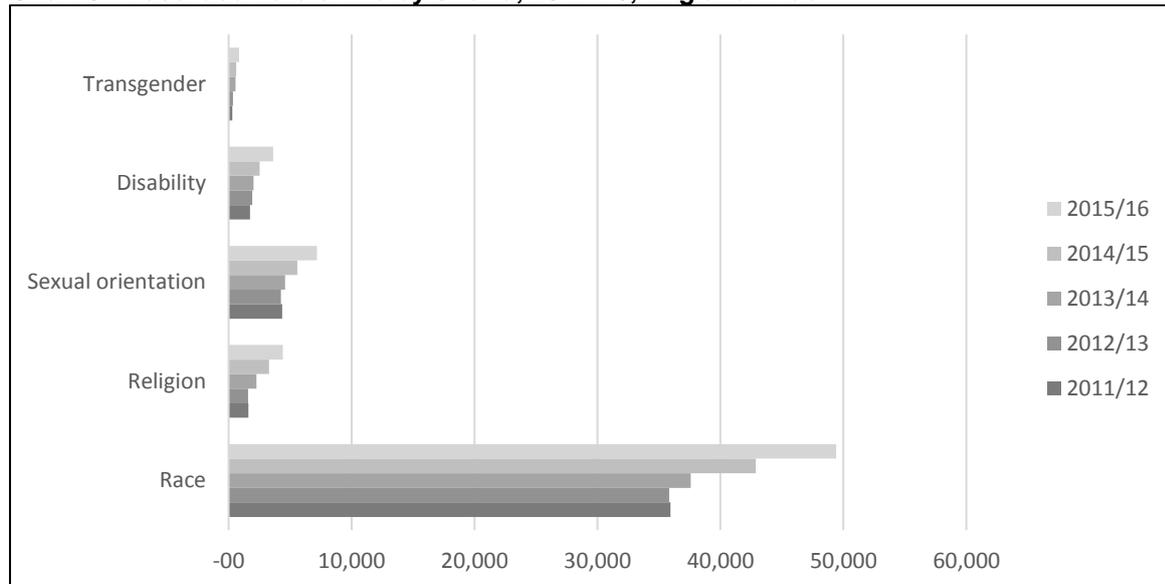
However, analysis of the annual data on wellbeing (analysed in section 5 – healthy living) indicates that, for the most part, people in the Tees Valley were as contented as the rest of the country, despite higher crime and deprivation.

1.3 Hate Crime

Hate crime has become increasingly common throughout the UK. Figures are not available at a regional or local level, but chart 9 gives the rates of growth across England since 2011.

All strands of recorded hate crime have expanded, with the biggest proportional increases in hate crimes against religious groups, and targeting people with disabilities and transgender people.

Chart 9 – recorded hate crime by strand, 2011-16, England-wideⁱⁱⁱ



There is no reason to believe that people living in the Tees Valley are more or less likely to perpetrate or suffer from a hate crime than anyone else, however the Gazette reported in 2016 that hate crime had risen by 33% in the three months after the Brexit vote, suggesting tensions exist^{iv}.

Table 55 demonstrates that the population of the Tees Valley has become more diverse, and in terms of ethnicity, most parts of the area are at least as diverse as the NE average^v.

Table 55 - Population by place of birth, 2014^{vi}

		UK	Other EU	Outside EU	Total
Darlington	No ('000)	97	4	3	104
	%	93%	4%	3%	100%
Hartlepool	No ('000)	88	1	3	92
	%	96%	1%	3%	100%
Middlesbrough	No ('000)	125	3	10	138
	%	91%	2%	7%	100%
Redcar & Cleveland	No ('000)	131	1	1	133
	%	98%	1%	1%	100%
Stockton-on-Tees	No ('000)	182	1	8	191
	%	95%	1%	4%	100%
North East	No ('000)	2,446	52	2,580	5,078
	%	48%	1%	51%	100%
UK	No ('000)	55,375	3,026	5,285	63,686
	%	87%	5%	8%	100%

There are significant migrant communities in the Tees Valley (e.g. a burgeoning Czech-Roma community in Middlesbrough) and the area is also home to large numbers of asylum seekers (Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Stockton are among the

largest host local authorities for asylum seekers per head of population in the UK). There is some evidence that tensions have risen as a result, exacerbated by Brexit, and 2016 saw widespread media coverage of the apparent targeting of asylum seekers' homes which were identifiable because of their red front doors (the standard colour used by their landlord)^{vii}.

There is a perceived weakness in terms of the community capacity building to support diversity, and a lack of strategic coordination to address issues around community cohesion. In particular, there is little specialist support for LGBTQ, BME and asylum-seeker communities, and these groups are not seen to be linking into the wider sector support available through local infrastructure organisations. The latter group, in particular, have issues around trust of authority, but need to have good links in order to access the education and health services (particularly mental health services) they require. Where support is available, it tends to be through the churches, but they have limited resources. Strengthening the support available for minority groups will mean they are stronger and more able to deal with hate-related incidents should they occur, and to work with the wider community to improve integration and tolerance.

There is clearly a need to ensure that hate crime is addressed whenever it occurs, and that those who are most likely to fall victim to it are supported to recognise it when it does occur and take appropriate action to report and stop it. As the community becomes more diverse there may also be a need to take positive action to encourage cohesion through community events and information sharing.

1.4 Engagement in civic and social society

Voter turn-out can also be used as a measure of civic engagement. Table 56 below gives the turnouts for the Tees Valley elections 2015-16.

Table 56 - Voter turnout in elections 2015-16^{viii}

	Darlington	Hartlepool	Middlesbro'	Redcar & Cleveland	Stockton-on-Tees
2016 EU referendum	71%	66%	65%	70%	71%
2016 Local elections		27%			
<i>highest</i>		<i>Rural West</i> 36%			
<i>lowest</i>		<i>Manor House</i> 19%			
2015 PCC	19.7% Tees-Valley wide				
2015 General election	62%	56%	59%	63%	65%
2015 Local elections	62%	56%	52%	65%	64%
<i>highest</i>	<i>Park West</i> 77%	<i>Rural West</i> 36%	<i>Marton West</i> 67%	<i>West-worth</i> 72%	<i>Hartburn</i> 75%
<i>lowest</i>	<i>Stephen-son</i> 48%	<i>Manor House</i> 19%	<i>Berwick Hills & Pallister</i> 36%	<i>Grange-town</i> 51%	<i>Stockton Town Centre</i> 48%

Turnout is lower in Hartlepool and Middlesbrough than the other areas of the Tees Valley, and it is noticeable that where ward level data is available, the wards with the higher turnouts are the least deprived, whereas those with the highest levels of deprivation also have the lowest turn-out.

This suggests an inverse relationship between deprivation and engagement with local (and probably national) democratic processes. There therefore seems to be an obvious role for philanthropic support for activity to encourage engagement in democratic processes aimed at those communities which are most deprived.

1.5 Charity and community organisations

As part of the Taking Part survey (see section 2 for more details) participants are asked whether they have engaged in any voluntary work in the previous year. In 2014-15, only 15.6% of NE respondents said they had, growing to 16.4% in 2015-16. (UK figures were 24.4% and 24.4%, respectively.) Again, this may reflect the relative deprivation of the region, as analysis of the national figures shows that on average only 17.7% of those in the most deprived communities volunteer, compared to 29.6% of those in the least deprived areas.

The recent Third Sector Trends Study^{ix} reported on the strength and sustainability of organisations across the NE region, including the Tees Valley (see table 57 below). This suggests that more organisations consider themselves to be in a very strong or a strong position in the Tees Valley, as compared to the NE as a whole.

Table 57 – Financial wellbeing of third sector organisations, 2016

	Tees Valley	North East England
In a very strong position	11.6%	10.4%
In a strong position	20.7%	18.2%
In a stable position	32.9%	38.9%
In a weak position	23.8%	21.2%
Experiencing mixed fortunes	11.0%	11.3%

Table 58, below shows how Tees Valley organisations are using reserves. The number without reserves has decreased since 2014, from over 26% to around 20%. This is a big improvement compared the NE average.

Table 58 - % of organisations' use of reserves, 2016

	Tees Valley			North East		
	2016	2014	diff	2016	2014	diff
No reserves	20.3	26.4	-6.1	19.7	23.1	-3.4
Reserves not used	35.9	32.2	3.7	39.0	36.5	2.5
Reserves used for development	16.9	13	3.9	14.4	13.2	1.2
Reserves used for essential costs	19.5	18.7	0.8	19.8	20.9	-1.1
Reserves used for a mix of purposes	7.4	9.7	-2.3	7.0	6.4	0.6

Of those using their reserves, the proportion using them for essential costs has risen, (but is still slightly lower than the NE average) suggesting that more organisations are finding their income is not covering their full costs.

When asked about whether they had applied to grant-making organisations for funds, the responses were:

Table 59 – applications made to grant-making bodies and success rates

	Local grant-making foundations		Local public sector organisations		National grant-maker	
	Tees Valley	NE	Tees Valley	NE	Tees Valley	NE
In the last two years, we made an application and were successful	50	54.6	44.8	42.6	41.6	36.7
In the last two years, we made an application but unsuccessfully	8.1	7.7	7.4	7.4	14.3	14.7
In the last two years, we did not make an application	41.9	37.7	47.8	50	44.2	49.6
Percentage success rate	86%	88%	86%	85%	74%	71%

Fewer Tees Valley organisations have made applications to local grant-making foundations than the regional average, and those that do have a slightly lower success rate. The situation is reversed for local public sector organisations, and more Tees Valley organisations have applied to national grant makers than the NE average, and they have been more successful.

This suggests that overall, the financial stability and sustainability of third sector organisations in the Tees Valley is better than the NE average.

Organisations were also asked about working with other organisations, either in the third sector, the public sector or the private sector. The results of this question are shown in Table 60. These indicate that Tees Valley third sector organisations are less risk-averse than their neighbours in the rest of the region. They are more likely than the NE average to already be working with, or plan to be working with, organisations from each sector.

Table 60 – desire to work with other organisations

	Tees Valley	North East England
Intention to work more closely with other TSOs		
Doing this now	28.8	23.2
Planning to do this	16.5	16.0
Not planning to do this	53.7	60.8
Intention to work more closely with public sector organisations		
Doing this now	25.9	19.6
Planning to do this	17.7	14.4
Not planning to do this	56.4	66.0
Intention to work more closely with private sector organisations		
Doing this now	7.4	6.1
Planning to do this	17.7	14.1
Not planning to do this	74.9	79.7

This is a great strength for Tees Valley organisations, maximising the number of potential partners they can work with, while also diversifying potential income streams.

At the more extreme end, there may also be opportunities for organisations to consider merging to reduce costs and benefit from synergies. This is something that seldom happens in the third sector, and is particularly rare in the NE region. There may be a role for philanthropy in encouraging more organisations to consider this as an option, and to help them identify the right potential merger partners – probably the most crucial factor in the whole process.

1.6 Gaps in third sector support

However, this does not mean that the sector is as resilient throughout the sub-region. The Lloyds Foundation recently identified that Redcar & Cleveland gets a disproportionately small number of grants. As a result, they have chosen to work with a small number of organisations in the area to help them to strengthen in terms of management capability. The group of around six organisations will benefit from ongoing mentoring and peer support over a period of 12 months, after which it is hoped the key people involved will be able to share their learning with other local organisations.

Several of the people consulted in researching this report feel there is an issue in terms of succession planning and supporting up and coming managers within the third sector in the Tees Valley, and there is a concern that in a few years' time there will be no-one to fill the shoes of today's managers and Chief Executives. There have been several management and leadership programmes in the past, but there is no mechanism at the moment to support skills development. If the Lloyds Foundation programme is successful in Redcar it might provide a replicable model that could be used across the Tees Valley, if not alternative solutions will be required. This is another area where philanthropic support could be key to the long term success of the sector.

There are also some gaps in terms of infrastructure support for the third sector in the Tees Valley. There is no dedicated third sector infrastructure support in Darlington since the closure of Evolution in 2015, and Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency looks set to close its doors in autumn 2017. With third sector organisations being such a key player in meeting the needs of so many deprived communities in the Tees Valley, it is important that support exists at a local level to nurture the development of new organisations and groupings, particularly those that spring from the grass roots of local communities and estates.

1.7 Our Darlington

Representatives of a number of third sector organisations in Darlington have recently come together under the Our Darlington banner to garner 'collective responsibility for providing a better Darlington for everyone'. The vision of the collective is that in the face of continuing austerity measures, helping people who are marginalised will help everyone and make Darlington a better and more inclusive place to live.

The group is still in the early stages of forming a coherent strategy for achieving this vision, but at the moment it appears that it is likely to involve all sectors (public,

private and third sector) as well as engaging the public if it is to achieve its aim, and that this will take time. The main focus at present is around ensuring there is VCS representation on the relevant strategic boards.

A feasibility study is currently being undertaken into the idea, which will report in late 2017 and may make recommendations for how the group and its ideas can be taken forward.

Potential roles for philanthropy

Much of the analysis carried out here suggests that communities are more cohesive where there is less deprivation, though it's not clear from evidence which is the chicken and which is the egg. Logic suggests that where people have more time and resources to spare they are more able to engage in non-essential tasks, so the key to increasing cohesion may lie in reducing inequality and increasing wealth. However, there are also specific actions that can be taken to strengthen the Tees Valley community. These include:

- Community events and activities to reduce misunderstanding, distrust and hate crime
- Ensuring support is in place for those most vulnerable to hate crime so they are able to report it, at both individual and community level.
- Encouraging an understanding of, and interest in, local and national democracy.
- Encouraging volunteering and engagement with local third sector organisations.
- Providing focused support to organisations which are struggling to survive and grow, including encouraging them to consider merger and providing a mechanism to enable organisations to come together and discuss this.
- Succession planning and support to develop the skills of younger, less experienced staff to enable them to become the managers of the future.
- Developing new mechanisms to provide development support for new and embryonic organisations and minority communities where there is no local infrastructure support available.
- Potentially supporting the Our Darlington movement to develop an alternative way to support people and organisations across Darlington.

-
- ⁱ **Wedlock, E (2015)** *Crime and Cohesive Communities*. Home Office (2006), accessed at: <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.510.6857&rep=rep1&type=pdf>
- ⁱⁱ **Grant Thornton Analytics (2017)** *Crime*, created and downloaded at: [http://gt-placeanalytics.org/placeanalytics/\(S\(evylqt4540vmzrfqueuupwqh\)\)/paweb/ShowAllIndicators.aspx?spatialLevel=18&indicators=904,145,463,1430,927,7885](http://gt-placeanalytics.org/placeanalytics/(S(evylqt4540vmzrfqueuupwqh))/paweb/ShowAllIndicators.aspx?spatialLevel=18&indicators=904,145,463,1430,927,7885) 27/6/17 17:59
- ⁱⁱⁱ **Home Office (2016)** *Police recorded crime*, ONS, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016> 4/7/16 15:26
- ^{iv} **Brown, M (2016)** *Hate crime offences jump by a third on Teesside in the three months since Brexit vote*, Gazette Online. Downloaded from: <http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/hate-crime-offences-jump-third-12605458>, 1/6/17 14:34
- ^v **Office of National Statistics, (2015)** *Population resident in the United Kingdom, excluding some residents in communal establishments, by country of birth*, downloaded from: www.ons.gov.uk 13/6/17 12:33
- ^{vi} **Office of National Statistics, (2015)** *Population resident in the United Kingdom, excluding some residents in communal establishments, by country of birth*, downloaded from: www.ons.gov.uk 13/6/17 12:33
- ^{vii} **Norfolk, A (2016)** *Apartheid of the asylum seekers on British streets*, Financial Times, London. Accessed at: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/apartheid-of-the-asylum-seekers-on-british-streets-hl98brdx2v2>, 14/6/17 12:33
- ^{viii} **The Electoral Commission (2016)** *Electoral Data*, accessed from: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/our-research/electoral-data> 1/6/17 10:55
- ^{ix} **Chapman, T and Hunter, J (2017)** *Third Sector Trends in the North of England – a summary of key findings*, IPPR North.