



**Community
Foundation**
Tyne & Wear and Northumberland



County Durham and Darlington's Vital Issues 2017

Fairness and inequality

1. Fairness and inequality

1.1 Overview

This theme is about equality and inequality in the broadest terms. This includes financial measures such as income levels, but also covers factors such as life expectancy and access to services.

1.2 Understanding poverty

It is useful to provide some definitions of poverty to contextualise the issues in County Durham and Darlington.

Absolute poverty is defined as a lack of sufficient resources to meet basic needs, usually taken to include food, clean water, shelter and clothing. Only those at the very margins of society are usually considered to fall into this category, for example people who are homeless. However, given the rise in the number and take-up of foodbanks, this assumption is no longer so robust.

The Trussell Trust has reported a massive increase in the number of emergency food parcels being issued, with an increase across the country of 919% between 2011-12 and 2016-17. In the NE region, the increase in the same period was more than eight times as much, at 8309% (see Table 1).

Table 1 – Trussell Trust 3-day emergency food supplies issuedⁱ

	North East			England		
	Adults	Children	All	Adults	Children	All
2016-17	38,892	22,675	61,567	746,016	436,938	1,182,954
2011-12	519	222	741	82,679	46,018	128,697
Change	7494%	10,214%	8,309%	902%	949%	919%

The Trussell Trust currently operates 26 foodbanks across County Durhamⁱⁱ and other services are provided by local organisations including East Durham Trust in Peterlee and Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre in Bishop Auckland. There are no Trussell Trust foodbanks in Darlington, but similar services are provided by the Salvation Army, King's Church and St Andrew's Haughton-le-Skerne Church, among others.

Relative poverty means having low income or resources compared to the average, and reflects the local level of wealth – relative poverty in India is very different to relative poverty in New York. According to Full Fact, relative poverty means that a person can't afford an ordinary living pattern, i.e. they are excluded from the activities and opportunities that the average person enjoys. A household is in relative poverty (also called relative low income) if its income is below 60% of the median household incomeⁱⁱⁱ.

By contrast, **social exclusion** refers to the way in which individuals or communities are systematically excluded from accessing rights, services, or opportunities that are normally available to people, and which are fundamental to social integration. The exclusion is usually caused by circumstances including unemployment, low income, race, religion, disability or ill health. The impact of the exclusion is often heightened by negative attitudes and social stigma, creating further barriers to access.

Severe and multiple disadvantage (SMD) occurs when someone faces multiple, often related and mutually reinforcing issues, which create a high degree of exclusion from society and lead to high levels of stigma. The four issues that are most often found together are offending, substance misuse, homelessness and mental health problems. A study by Lankelly Chase mapped the locations of people living with SMD in 2015. Darlington was identified one of the areas with the highest rates of SMD (150 to 307 people with 2+ aspects of SMD), whereas County Durham fell into the mid-range group (67 to 99 people with 2+ aspects of SMD)^{iv}.

1.3 Index of Multiple Deprivation

The 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks local authorities across the country on their average multiple deprivation score and by the proportion of their neighbourhoods (Lower Level Super Output Areas or LSOAs) that fall within the 10% most deprived in the country, and it is this latter rank that is recommended for judging local authority deprivation.

Table 2 (below) gives the scores and proportions of LSOAs for County Durham and Darlington. Darlington is ranked 58th on the proportion of most deprived LSOAs, and County Durham is 81st. This means that County Durham falls in the 30% most deprived nationally, and Darlington is in the 20% most deprived. Darlington and County Durham are 8th and 10th out of the 12 NE local authorities.

County Durham and Darlington are therefore among the more deprived local authority areas in the country, but are less deprived than most parts of the NE region.

Table 2 – IMD 2015 average scores^v

Area	IMD average score	IMD rank of average score	IMD % LSOAs in 10% most deprived	IMD rank of LSOAs in 10% most deprived	UK decile	NE rank
County Durham	25.7	75	11%	81	3	10
Darlington	23.6	97	15%	58	2	8

The IMD average score is an aggregate of the seven domains of deprivation, made up of: 22.5% income, 22.5% employment, 13.5% education, 13.5% health, 9.3% crime, 9.3% barriers to housing and services, 9.3% living environment.

Each of the other domains are analysed in other sections of this report, but the focus here will first be on income.

1.4 Income

Table 3, below, gives the scores for Darlington and County Durham on the income domain of the IMD 2015.

Again, Darlington has more LSOAs in the most income deprived 10%, and is ranked 47th in the country, putting it into the 20% most income deprived authority areas, and making it 8th out of 12 NE local authorities. County Durham is slightly less income-deprived than Darlington, being 68th in the country, in the 30% most deprived, and 9th out of the 12 NE authorities.

Table 3 – Income domain scores, IMD 2015^{vi}

Area	Income average score	Income rank of average score	Income % LSOAs in 10% most deprived	Income rank of LSOAs in 10% most deprived	UK decile	NE rank
County Durham	0.18	59	0.12	68	3	9
Darlington	0.17	73	0.17	47	2	8

The IMD 2015 also provides two additional analyses of income – the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), and the income deprivation affecting older people index (IDAOPI). The scores for County Durham and Darlington on these indices are given below.

Table 4 – Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), 2015^{vii}

Area	IDACI average score	IDACI rank of average score	IDACI % LSOAs in 10% most deprived	IDACI rank of LSOAs in 10% most deprived	UK decile	NE rank
County Durham	0.24	63	14%	65	2	8
Darlington	0.22	96	12%	72	3	9

Table 4 indicates that more children are affected by income deprivation in County Durham than in Darlington, with County Durham in the 20% most deprived and Darlington in the 30% most deprived. However, both County Durham and Darlington contain some communities with the very highest levels of childhood deprivation in the country – see Table 5, below.

Table 5 – LSOAs in the 1% most deprived for children in the UK

LSOA ref	Location	Rank out of 32,844 LSOAs
County Durham 032E	Peterlee	28
County Durham 058E	Bishop Auckland	82
County Durham 055E	Bishop Auckland	142
Darlington 008E	Darlington town centre	270
County Durham 032D	Peterlee	282
County Durham 036A	Hornden	332

In terms of older people facing income deprivation, rates are higher in Darlington than in County Durham, with Darlington again in the 30% most deprived, and County Durham in the 40% most deprived (Table 6).

Table 6 – Income deprivation affecting older people index, 2015^{viii}

Area	IDAOPI average score	IDAOPI rank of average score	IDAOPI % LSOAs in 10% most deprived	IDAOPI rank of LSOAs in 10% most deprived	UK decile	NE rank
County Durham	0.19	64	5%	107	4	11
Darlington	0.18	92	9%	75	3	10

However, none of the 1% most deprived LSOAs are in County Durham or Darlington. The areas with the most deprived older people in the area are Darlington 014D, in Park East (ranked 405 out of 32,844 LSOAs) and County Durham 058E in Bishop Auckland (ranked 353 out of 32,844 LSOAs).

1.5 Access to benefits and services

Universal Credit is gradually being rolled out across the country. Applications need to be made on-line, and applicants then have a 7-day period when they are not eligible for any benefits, followed by a minimum of 6 weeks', and in many cases up to 13 weeks' wait before their application is approved and benefits are paid. To maintain eligibility, recipients need to apply for a minimum of three jobs per day through the government's web-based portal. Failure to do so means they will be sanctioned, i.e. have their benefits cut.

Broadband access and IT literacy is very patchy in the rural areas of Teesdale and Weardale^x. Many older people in these areas do not use the internet and are reliant on young relatives to access services for them. East Durham Trust estimates that 20-25% of its local population also don't use the internet. People who do not or cannot use the internet regularly are at risk of not being able to claim Universal Credit and facing sanctions if they are unable to make the required number of online job applications.

Lack of access to the internet also limits people's ability to source and access other forms of support as diverse as supermarket home delivery services and foodbanks.

1.6 Indebtedness

Being on a low income often results in increased indebtedness, which can arise because of:

- a change in circumstances - if income drops, e.g. because someone loses their job or has their hours cut, they may be unable to keep up repayments on the debts they accrued previously.
- lack of choice - most people on benefits or low income are unable to access cheaper debt, so are reliant on providers such as Brighthouse (who charge higher initial prices for household items, and then offer payment plans at higher interest rates than regular retail schemes)
- a sudden crisis - having to find the money to pay for a funeral, a new boiler, or any other unexpected expense, which can affect anyone, but is harder when your options are limited.

A report by the Money Advice Service showed that over 30% of the population is over-indebted in County Durham, and over 20% in Darlington^x.

The key causes in this region include:

- Application of sanctions to benefits
- Being in a 'low pay – no pay' cycle with inconsistent employment patterns, reliant on slow benefits payments, and having no savings to provide financial resilience
- Long-term deprivation, e.g. ex-mining communities which have not recovered fully from pit closures in the 1980s, meaning people have not had the opportunity to rebuild savings and develop financial resilience

- Having aspirations to keep up with others, especially among people with children who feel they should have the 'right' brands and technology, so have a tendency to live beyond their means.

There are ways to help address these issues, and reduce financial exclusion, including better signposting to services such as foodbanks, furniture recycling schemes, Citizens Advice and debt management services, and improving the support people get when they first take on a tenancy. Five Lamps in Stockton-On-Tees has also established a loans programme which offers loans to people considered high risk by other lenders, with an interest rate of 89.9%, which is favourable compared to the 500%+ offered by lenders like Provident, and people from County Durham could be signposted to this and similar services.

There is a role of philanthropy in supporting work to reduce indebtedness and to help those it affects to manage their finances better.

1.5 Other major equality issues

Other stark measures of inequality include:

- **Life expectancy** at birth, which for males is 78.1 in County Durham and 77.9 in Darlington, compared to 79.5 across England, and for females is 81.2 (County Durham) and 81.9 (Darlington) compared to 83.1 England-wide.
- **Eligibility for free school meals** which is higher in both Darlington (18.4% primary, 15.4% secondary) and County Durham (20.8% primary, 17.8% secondary) compared to the national average (15.2% primary, 14.1% secondary)^{xi}
- **Access to cultural assets and funding** is very uneven, with the County Durham and Darlington area only receiving 8% of the entire NE allocation of Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation funds (see section 2 – Arts, Culture and Heritage).
- **Fuel poverty** which is higher in the NE region at 13.3% of households, compared to 11% average across England^{xii}. As with most other measures, rates vary significantly between communities, in County Durham local rates vary between 14.8% in Chester-Le-Street and 27.6% in Teesdale and 30.3% in Weardale (2012 figures)^{xiii}.

As noted above, access to services can be heavily influenced by factors such as sexuality, disability and race, creating social exclusion for those who face barriers to access. Key statistics include:

- **Sexual identity** – only 1.5% of people in the NE region identify as gay, bisexual or other, compared to 2.2% nationally^{xiv}. The low level of self-identification as anything other than heterosexual may mean there is more stigma attached to those who are openly gay or bisexual.

- **Disability** – across England as a whole, 17.6% of people have some form of disability that limits their activity. In Darlington, the rate is 19.6% and in County Durham it is 23.7%^{xv}. Given that disabled people are more likely to live in poverty, to be unemployed, and to be unable to access services, leisure opportunities, and to engage in civic society, the higher rates in County Durham imply a greater need for steps to address access issues.
- **Ethnicity** – the North East in general is far less diverse ethnically than England, and Darlington and County Durham are even more so, with less than 6% of the population being non-white in Darlington, and less than 3% in County Durham (see table 7).
- **Religion** – the picture is very similar in terms of religion, with only 1.1% of people in County Durham and 2.1% of people in Darlington having a religion other than Christianity, compared to 8.4% in England and Wales (table 7).

Table 7 – ethnic and religious diversity, 2011^{xvi}

	County Durham	Darlington	North East	England & Wales
Ethnicity				
African	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	1.8%
Arab	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
Asian/British Asian	0.6%	1.8%	2.3%	6.8%
Bangladeshi	0.1%	0.5%	0.4%	0.8%
Black/British Black	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	3.3%
Caribbean	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	1.1%
Chinese	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%
Chinese/Other	0.5%	0.6%	1.0%	1.7%
Indian	0.3%	0.7%	0.6%	2.5%
Mixed	0.6%	1.1%	0.9%	2.2%
Pakistani	0.1%	0.1%	0.8%	2.0%
White	97.2%	94.2%	92.3%	76.7%
Religion				
Buddhist	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%
Christian	72.0%	67.4%	67.5%	59.3%
Hindu	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	1.5%
Jewish	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%
Muslim	0.4%	0.9%	1.8%	4.8%
Other	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
Sikh	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.8%

Given how homogenous the populations of Darlington, and in particular County Durham are, and the higher than average rates of disability, there is potential for heightened tensions and therefore greater need for actions to address divisions and stigma, to ensure that all parts of the community have access to services, and to prevent the development of hate crime.

Potential roles for philanthropy

- County Durham and Darlington are in the 20% and 30% most deprived local authority areas in the country. However, each contain pockets of much more extreme deprivation, especially for children, in Peterlee, Bishop Auckland, Horden and Darlington town centre.
- There has been significant growth in the number of foodbanks established, and in the numbers of people receiving emergency food parcels. There may well be a role for philanthropy in helping to ensure these are able to continue where they are needed.
- Darlington is one of the areas with the highest rates of severe and multiple deprivation, which philanthropic funds could be used to address to help those individuals to retake control of their lives.
- The low levels of diversity in the general population of County Durham, together with high levels of disability can lead to those who are perceived as different attracting negative attention and leading to hate crime. Philanthropic resources could be usefully focused on encouraging community cohesion and integration, particularly through community events to bring together different groups and encourage understanding.

References

ⁱ **Trussell Trust (2017)**, <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/#fy-2011-2012> accessed 10/7/17 12:41

ⁱⁱ **Trussell Trust (2017)**, <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank>, accessed 10/7/17 12:41

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://fullfact.org/>

^{iv} **Lankelly Chase (2015)** *Hard Edges – Mapping SMD 2015*, downloaded from:

<http://lankellychase.org.uk/multiple-disadvantage/publications/hard-edges/> 7/7/17, 10:00

^v **Dept of Communities and Local Government (2015)** *English Indices of multiple deprivation*, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>, 31/5/17 07:20

^{vi} **Dept of Communities and Local Government (2015)** *English Indices of multiple deprivation*, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>, 31/5/17 07:20

^{vii} **Dept of Communities and Local Government (2015)** *English Indices of multiple deprivation*, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>, 31/5/17 07:20

^{viii} **Dept of Communities and Local Government (2015)** *English Indices of multiple deprivation*, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>, 31/5/17 07:20

^{ix} **Durham County Council (2016)** *County Durham Plan*, accessed at: <http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/issuesandoptions?pointId=s1458228396309>, 13/7/17 15:59

^x **Money Advice Service (2013)** *Personalising the debt sector – a segmentation of the over-indebted population*, downloaded from: https://mascdn.azureedge.net/cms/personalising-the-debt-sector-a-segmentation-of-the-over-indebted-population_november2013.pdf 16/7/17 10:03

-
- ^{xi} **Dept for Education (2016)** *Schools, pupils and their characteristics, January 2016*, accessed via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2016> 10/7/17 13:36
- ^{xii} **Dept for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2017)** *Fuel Poverty detailed tables 2015*, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuel-poverty-detailed-tables-2017>, 10/7/17 13:44
- ^{xiii} **Durham County Council (2016)** AAP area profiles, downloaded from: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs> 1/6/17 07:00
- ^{xiv} **ONS (2015)** *Sexual identity, UK*, downloaded from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/datasets/sexualidentityuk>, 10/7/17 14:13
- ^{xv} **ONS (2011)** *Census 2011 QS303EW Long term health problem or disability, local authorities England and Wales*, downloaded from: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160112162201/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?newquery=*%&newoffset=25&pageSize=25&edition=tc%3A77-286348, 10/7/17 15:13
- ^{xvi} **ONS (2011)** *Census 2011*, analysed and downloaded from: [http://gt-placeanalytics.org/placeanalytics/\(S\(hs2u0145e1r0tv45qtou4omi\)\)/paweb/ShowAllIndicators.aspx?spatialLevel=18&indicators=143,7784,7852,345,7788,346,7785,7789,347,7786,348,349,7787,3114,3113,3115,3116,3117,3119,3118,8922,8921,8923](http://gt-placeanalytics.org/placeanalytics/(S(hs2u0145e1r0tv45qtou4omi))/paweb/ShowAllIndicators.aspx?spatialLevel=18&indicators=143,7784,7852,345,7788,346,7785,7789,347,7786,348,349,7787,3114,3113,3115,3116,3117,3119,3118,8922,8921,8923), 10/7/17 14:51