



**Community  
Foundation**  
Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

## Tees Valley'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 the Tees Valley.

**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 food parcels being issued, with an increase across the country of 919% between 2011-12 and 2016-17 (table 1). In the NE region, the increase in the same period was more than eight times as much, at 8309%

**Table 1 – Trussell Trust 3-day emergency food supplies issued<sup>i</sup>**

		North East	England
2016-17	Adults	38,892	746,016
	Children	22,675	436,938
	Total	61,567	1,182,954
2011-12	Adults	519	82,679
	Children	222	46,018
	Total	741	128,697
Change	Adults	7494%	902%
	Children	10214%	949%
	Total	8309%	919%

The Trussell Trust currently operates 8 foodbanks in Middlesbrough, 8 in Redcar & Cleveland, 3 in Stockton-on Tees and 3 in Hartlepool<sup>ii</sup>. Other services are provided by local organisations including many churches across the Tees Valley. 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.

**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<sup>iii</sup>, relative poverty means that a person cannot 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 income.

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. Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Darlington were identified among the areas with the highest rates of SMD (150 to 307 people with 2+ aspects of SMD), whereas Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland fell into the next (100-149 people with 2+ aspects of SMD)<sup>iv</sup>.

### 1.3 Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015

The 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) ranks local authorities across the country on their average multiple deprivation score and by the proportion of their neighbourhoods (Lower Layer 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 the Tees Valley. Darlington is the highest ranked of the Tees Valley authorities, being 58<sup>th</sup> of 324 in the country on the proportion of most deprived LSOAs. Middlesbrough is the most deprived local authority area in the country on this measure. Hartlepool is also in the 10% most deprived, whereas Redcar & Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington are in the top 20%.

Table 2 – IMD 2015 average scores<sup>v</sup>

Local Authority District name (2013)	IMD - Average score	IMD - Rank of average score (UK)	IMD - Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	IMD - Rank of proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	UK decile	NE rank
Darlington	23.6	97	0.15	58	2	8
Hartlepool	33.2	18	0.33	10	1	2
Middlesbrough	40.2	6	0.49	1	1	1
Redcar and Cleveland	28.6	49	0.22	33	2	4
Stockton-on-Tees	24.6	88	0.18	47	2	7

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

The rankings for income deprivation are very similar to the overall IMD rankings for the Tees Valley authorities. Middlesbrough is the most income-deprived area in the country, with 49% of its LSOAs being in the top 10% most deprived. Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland are also in the top 10% of most deprived areas, while Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees are among the 20% most deprived.

**Table 3 – Income domain scores, IMD 2015<sup>vi</sup>**

Local Authority District name (2013)	Income - Average score	Income - Rank of average score	Income - Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	Income - Rank of Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	UK decile	NE rank
Darlington	0.17	73	0.17	47	2	8
Hartlepool	0.24	11	0.36	7	1	2
Middlesbrough	0.27	2	0.49	1	1	1
Redcar and Cleveland	0.20	33	0.24	26	1	6
Stockton-on-Tees	0.18	61	0.22	33	2	7

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

**Table 4 – Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), 2015<sup>vii</sup>**

Local Authority District name (2013)	IDACI - Average score	IDACI - Rank of average score	IDACI - Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	IDACI - Rank of proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	UK decile	NE rank
Darlington	0.22	96	0.12	72	3	9
Hartlepool	0.31	14	0.34	10	1	2
Middlesbrough	0.36	2	0.44	2	1	1
Redcar and Cleveland	0.27	31	0.24	22	1	4
Stockton-on-Tees	0.23	80	0.17	47	2	7

Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland are all in the 10% worst authorities for income deprivation affecting children. Middlesbrough is the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst authority in the country. Stockton-on-Tees is in the worst 20% and Darlington is in the worst 30%. However, all five of the Tees Valley authorities include LSOAs that are within the 1% worst in the country, and these are listed in table 5, below. Of

these 26 LSOAs, there are notable groupings in Brambles and Thorntree and Grangetown, suggesting these specific communities would benefit from services designed to address the causes of child poverty and to mitigate its impact.

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

LSOA ref	Location	Rank of 32,844 LSOAs	LSOA ref	Location	Rank of 32,844 LSOAs
Middlesbrough 007D	Brambles and Thorntree	10	Middlesbrough 010C	Berwick Hills and Pallister	125
Middlesbrough 004C	Berwick Hills and Pallister	25	Hartlepool 008A	Burn Valley	156
Stockton-on-Tees 012C	Newtown	35	Hartlepool 002F	Headland and Harbour	159
Stockton-on-Tees 017A	Thornaby	39	Middlesbrough 007E	Brambles and Thorntree	161
Redcar and Cleveland 022D	South Bank	40	Middlesbrough 018D	Hemlington	163
Middlesbrough 002A	North Ormesby	45	Hartlepool 005B	Headland and Harbour	165
Middlesbrough 010D	Park End and Beckfield	50	Redcar and Cleveland 009A	Grangetown	203
Middlesbrough 002C	Brambles and Thorntree	63	Redcar and Cleveland 015A	Eston	205
Middlesbrough 007F	Brambles and Thorntree	70	Middlesbrough 018C	Hemlington	214
Redcar and Cleveland 009F	Grangetown	81	Redcar and Cleveland 009B	Grangetown	236
Hartlepool 002D	De Bruce	85	Darlington 008E	Darlington town centre	270
Middlesbrough 003B	Newport	111	Hartlepool 003I	Jesmond	288
Middlesbrough 002B	North Ormesby	124	Middlesbrough 003D	Newport	309

In terms of income deprivation affecting older people, again Middlesbrough ranks high, being the 11<sup>th</sup> worst local authority in the country, while Hartlepool is also in the top 10%. Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees are in the 20% worst banding, and Darlington is in the 30% worst.

**Table 6 – Income deprivation affecting older people index (IDAOPI), 2015<sup>viii</sup>**

Local Authority District name (2013)	IDAOPI - Average score	IDAOPI - Rank of average score	IDAOPI - Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	IDAOPI - Rank of proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	UK decile	NE rank
Darlington	0.18	92	0.09	75	3	10
Hartlepool	0.24	32	0.24	24	1	3
Middlesbrough	0.25	22	0.38	11	1	1
Redcar and Cleveland	0.19	73	0.15	50	2	5
Stockton-on-Tees	0.18	89	0.12	63	2	8

However, only three LSOAs in the Tees Valley are in the worst 1% for income deprivation affecting older people, and these are:

**Table 7 – LSOAs in the 1% most deprived for older people in the UK**

LSOA ref	Location	Rank out of 32,844 LSOAs
Middlesbrough 003F	Newport	83
Middlesbrough 001G	Central	96
Middlesbrough 001E	Central	129

### 1.5 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, or if costs rise, e.g. utility bills
- 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 expected 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 Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, and over 20% in Darlington, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland<sup>ix</sup>.

The key causes in this region include:

- Application of sanctions to benefits (cuts to benefits imposed due to the recipient not keeping up with eligibility requirements)
- 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
- 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 on better terms, with an interest rate of 89.9%, which is favourable compared to the 500%+ offered by lenders like Provident.

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

## 1.6 Other major equality issues

Other stark measures of inequality include:

- **Life expectancy** at birth, which for males ranges between 76.1 and 78.1 across the Tees Valley, compared to 79.5 across England, and for females is between 79.8 and 81.9 compared to 83.1 England-wide. In different parts of Middlesbrough there is an 11-year difference between the highest and lowest life expectancy (see section 5 – health).

**Table 8 – life expectancy at birth**

	Life expectancy at birth (Male)	Life expectancy at birth (Female)
Darlington	77.9	81.9
Hartlepool	76.8	81.3
Middlesbrough	76.1	79.8
Redcar & Cleveland	78.1	81.8
Stockton-on-Tees	78.1	81.7
NE Region	77.9	81.6
England	79.5	83.1

- **Eligibility for free school meals** which is far higher than the national average across the whole of the Tees Valley. Darlington is closest to the average in both age-groups, while rates in Middlesbrough are more than twice the national average at primary level, and almost twice the national rate at secondary.

**Table 9 – eligibility for free school meals at primary and secondary school<sup>x</sup>**

	Primary	Secondary
Darlington	18.4	15.4
Hartlepool	25.7	20.9
Middlesbrough	32.0	27.9
Redcar and Cleveland	21.9	17.6
Stockton-on-Tees	20.5	17.7
England	15.2	14.1

- Access to **cultural amenities and funding** is very patchy, for example the Tees Valley as a whole receives less than 10% of the entire North East 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<sup>xi</sup>. As with most other measures, rates vary significantly between communities. Tees Valley rates stand at: 10.7% in Stockton-on-Tees, 11.8% in Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland, 12.6% in Darlington, and 14.3% in Middlesbrough.

As noted above, access to services can also 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<sup>xii</sup>. 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. Tees Valley rates range between 19% in Stockton-on-Tees 22.8% in Redcar & Cleveland and 23.2% in Hartlepool<sup>xiii</sup>. 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 Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool imply a greater need for steps to address access issues.
- **Ethnicity** – the North East in general is far less diverse ethnically than England as a whole, with only 7.7% of the population not being white. The Tees Valley is quite mixed, with low levels of ethnic mix in Darlington (less than 6%), Hartlepool (less than 4%) and Redcar & Cleveland (2%), while Stockton-on-Tees (9%) and Middlesbrough (20%) have much larger non-white populations<sup>xiv</sup>.
- **Religion** – the picture is very similar in terms of religion. Across the NE as a whole, only 3% of people have a religion other than Christianity. The Tees Valley rates are 1% in Redcar & Cleveland, 1.4% in Hartlepool, 2.2% in Darlington, 3.3% in Stockton-on-Tees, and 8.4% in Middlesbrough, of whom 7.1% are Muslim<sup>xv</sup>.

Given how non-diverse the population is in most parts of the Tees Valley, and the higher than average rates of disability, there is potential for heightened tensions and therefore greater need for action 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

- There has been exponential 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 that these are able to continue where they are needed.
- Darlington, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough are among 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.



- Middlesbrough is the most deprived local authority area in the country, and the most income-deprived. Therefore any measures to address any aspects of deprivation, and in particular to identify and address the causes of income deprivation and to ameliorate its impact, would be beneficial.
- There are pockets of extreme deprivation throughout the Tees Valley, in particular in areas where children are living in deprivation, and a smaller number of communities where older people are living in poverty. Targeted interventions focusing on these communities could help to address their specific needs.
- There is a need to support work to address the high levels of indebtedness, by providing alternative sources of finance and encouraging people to access other services that provide low cost or free food, furniture, etc.
- The low levels of diversity in the general population, 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.

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

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

<sup>iii</sup> <https://fullfact.org/>

<sup>iv</sup> **Lankelly Chase (2015)** *Hard Edges – Mapping SMD 2015*, downloaded from:

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

<sup>v</sup> **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

<sup>vi</sup> **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

<sup>vii</sup> **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

<sup>viii</sup> **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

<sup>ix</sup> **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](https://mascdn.azureedge.net/cms/personalising-the-debt-sector-a-segmentation-of-the-over-indebted-population_november2013.pdf) 16/7/17 10:03

<sup>x</sup> **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

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- <sup>xi</sup> **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
- <sup>xii</sup> **ONS (2015)** *Sexual identity, UK*, downloaded from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/datasets/sexualidentityuk>, 10/7/17 14:13
- <sup>xiii</sup> **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=\\*%26newoffset=25%26pageSize=25%26edition=tcm%3A77-286348](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160112162201/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?newquery=*%26newoffset=25%26pageSize=25%26edition=tcm%3A77-286348), 10/7/17 15:13
- <sup>xiv</sup> **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
- <sup>xv</sup> **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