



Community  
Foundation



# County Durham and Darlington's Vital Issues 2017

## Contents

|                               | <i>Page</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Introduction               | 2           |
| 2. Fairness and inequality    | 4           |
| 3. Arts, Culture and Heritage | 11          |
| 4. Environment                | 18          |
| 5. Safety                     | 26          |
| 6. Healthy Living             | 32          |
| 7. Work                       | 40          |
| 8. Housing and homelessness   | 48          |
| 9. Learning                   | 55          |
| 10. Strong communities        | 61          |
| 11. Local economy             | 68          |
| <br>Acknowledgements          | <br>73      |
| Glossary                      | 74          |
| References                    | 76          |

## Introduction

This is the first edition of Vital Issues for County Durham and Darlington. Vital Issues is part of a national initiative promoted through UK Community Foundations to provide an insight into the issues that affect communities across the country. For each area, a Vital Issues report is produced to provide an evidence base. This is then summarised in Vital Signs - a guide which identifies the issues that community philanthropy can help to address.

Much of the evidence used is drawn from government and local government sources, and we are very grateful to local authorities, in particular, for continuing to make high quality data on local performance freely available, including ward-level and other detailed data sets which are especially useful in identifying local patterns of need and opportunity.

We have used the most up to date information wherever possible, but in a small number of cases the data is slightly older, including some information taken from the 2011 Census. Although the Census data is now six years old, we still believe it has a value because many of the aspects of life measured remain stable over time, and because it is available at a much smaller geographic level, allowing us to differentiate between communities and neighbourhoods. Wherever possible we have supplemented older data with other additional information to ensure we are providing an accurate picture of the circumstances in 2017.

In addition to gathering statistical and qualitative data about the County Durham and Darlington, we also took the opportunity to discuss the issues in this report with people and organisations working across the area to get their impressions on the key issues affecting local communities. We are very grateful for their time and input, and they are listed in the 'Acknowledgements' section towards the back of this report.

The report is structured around ten key themes which cover the major aspects of everyday life. Each section concludes with suggestions of where philanthropic resources could helpfully be directed to address the issues identified. In addition, while drawing together the report, a key theme emerged which cuts across and runs through the ten themed sections:

**Rural issues** – organisations working in County Durham have long recognised that while the county as a whole is among the most deprived in the country, and this is borne out by the findings in this research, there are particular issues facing people in the rural communities. Many of these do not stand out from the official statistics because of the small numbers of people they affect, or because those in most need often live in pockets of deprivation within areas of affluence.

The County Durham Plan identified the key issues affecting these communities as:

- Employment / Education – rural County Durham has a narrow economic base and a lack of well-paid employment opportunities
- Affordable Housing – in some areas in-migration and second home ownership has raised house prices, pushing younger people away from rural areas and accentuating the population imbalance.

- Ageing Population – not adequately reflected in current housing, employment and service requirements.
- Accessibility and Broadband – accessing everyday services as well as education and employment represents a real challenge for many rural residents.
- Declining service provision – dispersed demand for local services such as village shops, post offices, doctor's surgeries has led to the decline of many essential services in rural areas.
- Protecting and maintaining our natural landscape – as well as being important to protect for its own sake, County Durham's rural landscapes are economic assets, which are critical to Durham's growing tourism industry.<sup>1</sup>

All of these issues are also evident from the research here, suggesting there is an ongoing need to continue to provide dedicated resources to support those most in need in our rural communities.

# 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 issued<sup>2</sup>**

|         | 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 Durham<sup>3</sup> 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 income<sup>4</sup>.

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)<sup>5</sup>.

### 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 58<sup>th</sup> on the proportion of most deprived LSOAs, and County Durham is 81<sup>st</sup>. 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>6</sup>**

| 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 47<sup>th</sup> in the country, putting it into the 20% most income deprived authority areas, and making it 8<sup>th</sup> out of 12 NE local authorities. County Durham is slightly less income-deprived than Darlington, being 68<sup>th</sup> in the country, in the 30% most deprived, and 9<sup>th</sup> out of the 12 NE authorities.

**Table 3 – Income domain scores, IMD 2015<sup>7</sup>**

| 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<sup>8</sup>**

| 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 | Horden                 | 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<sup>9</sup>**

| 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<sup>10</sup>. 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<sup>11</sup>.

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)<sup>12</sup>
- **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<sup>13</sup>. 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)<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>15</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. In Darlington, the rate is 19.6% and in County Durham it is 23.7%<sup>16</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 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<sup>17</sup>

|                     | County Durham | Darlington | North East | England & Wales |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| <b>Ethnicity</b>    |               |            |            |                 |
| 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%           |
| <b>Religion</b>     |               |            |            |                 |
| 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.

## 2 Arts, Culture and Heritage

### 2.1 Overview

The arts, culture and heritage are included in this report because it is important to recognise the range of cultural and heritage activities and opportunities that are available to local people living in County Durham and Darlington, as well as their significance in terms of providing employment and business start-up opportunities, and attracting visitors to the area. The development and success of Lumiere in Durham, Kynren at Bishop Auckland and Theatre Hullabaloo in Darlington indicate how important arts and culture can be to the growth and success of the area. It is important that communities and local organisations are able to make their voices heard in shaping the plans for the future.

### 2.2 Arts and culture across the area

County Durham and Darlington have always had a small number of very successful arts and cultural venues, including Beamish Museum, Bowes Museum, Durham Cathedral and Castle. In recent years, the range of venues and events has grown with the development of the Lumiere light festival in Durham City, the Kynren live action shows at Bishop Auckland, food, craft and music festivals throughout the year, and the Hippodrome and Theatre Hullabaloo at Darlington, to name just a few.

Some of these developments have been led by public bodies, others by individuals and trusts, and many rely on volunteers to perform, and to act as stewards and much more. The range of opportunities for individuals and groups to get involved in arts and cultural activity has grown dramatically.

The growth in arts and cultural opportunities has also brought an economic boost to the local area. The local authority recently reported that:

*"In 2015, County Durham attracted 18.67 million people - up 3% on 2014. The £777.5 million they spent helped to directly employ 8,776 people, with a further 2,185 jobs indirectly supported by tourism. Of those visitors 92% visited for the day, and spent £19.92 while 1.43 million stayed the night, spending on average £150.43 per trip. And each of those pounds and pence is multiplied in its effect, with knock on benefits for industrial output, employment and income.*

*"Every £1 spent in County Durham on arts and culture generates another £1.10 for the wider economy - 23p per pound more than London. And in meeting the 2020 target, £86.4 million more would be spent and another 1,630 jobs created."*<sup>18</sup>

In Darlington, the local authority has created a separate agency – Creative Darlington – which is tasked with leading on and delivering arts activities across the borough. While the budget available through local authority funding is significantly lower than previously (due to the local authority reprioritising in the face of austerity measures), the new agency can work more directly with other agencies and draw in external investment. Its remit is to provide a broad-based arts offer, particularly focusing on arts work with children and young people, and developing Darlington as

a place where creative people and businesses choose to build their practice. Recent projects include the Darlington Arts Festival and the Festival of Thrift<sup>19</sup>.

Alongside this, a more grass-roots organisation 'Darlington for Culture' came together, comprising a wide network of local arts groups. It initially formed as a campaigning group against the funding cuts the Council was proposing to make, but has now taken on a challenging role, holding Creative Darlington to account and providing useful input both in terms of policy development, but also providing volunteers to support events and activities.

Given the high priority being given to arts, culture and heritage in the area, it would make sense for additional philanthropic resources to be directed towards activity which is in line with the existing strategic priorities, to maximise the possibility of match funding and ensure maximum impact and publicity.

### 2.3 Creative sector employment

One of the key indicators of the size of the cultural sector is the level of employment it sustains.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) defines the creative sector as encompassing a wide range of activities including advertising agencies, retail sale in commercial art galleries, reproduction of video recording, artistic creation computer programming activities, and television programming and broadcasting activities.

**Chart 1 – Creative sector as % of all employment, 2015<sup>20</sup>**

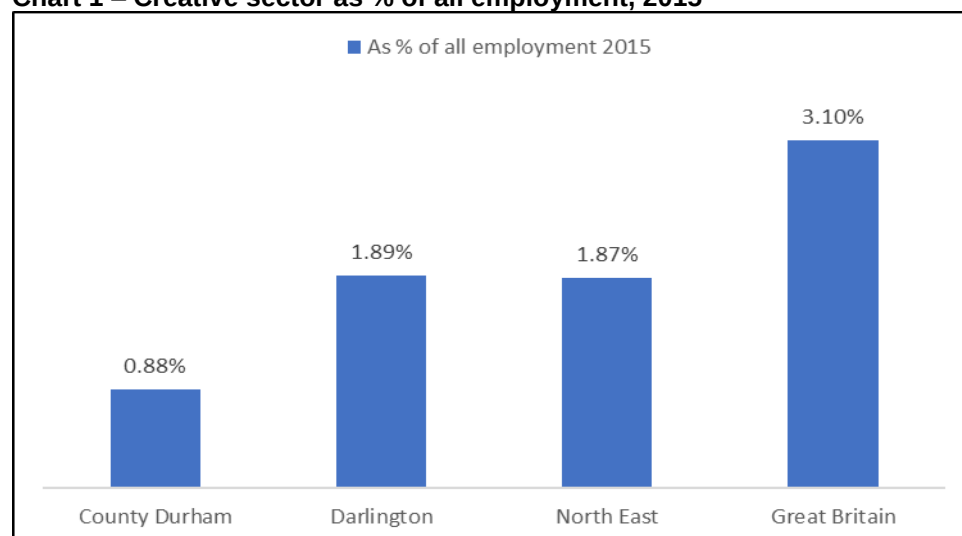
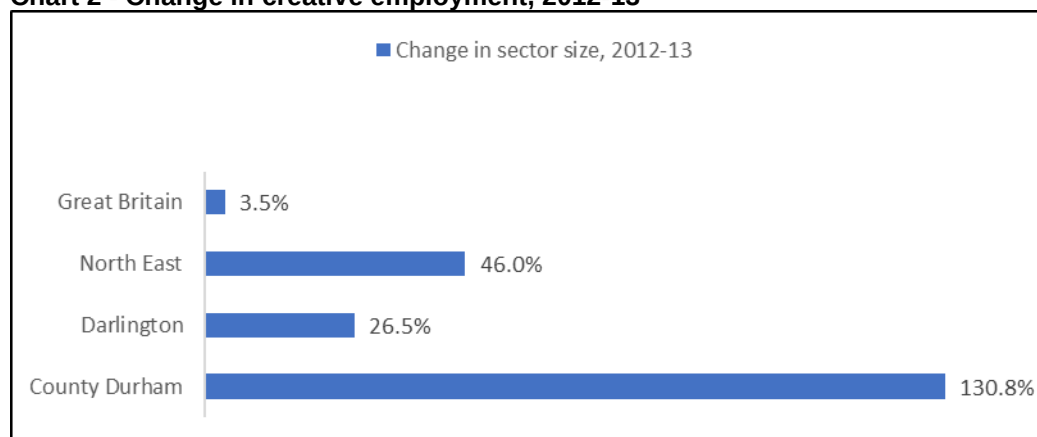


Chart 1, above, gives the % of all employment that is in this sector for 2015.

This demonstrates that, although Darlington has more than twice the % of employees working in the creative industries compared to County Durham, and surpasses the regional average, both Darlington and County Durham have significantly fewer creative workers than the country as a whole (though it should be borne in mind that the national figure is likely to be skewed by the high concentrations of creative industries in London).

**Chart 2 - Change in creative employment, 2012-13<sup>21</sup>**

To gain a fuller picture, it is also worth looking at the rates of change in employment in this sector. Chart 2, above, gives a very clear indication that Durham is enjoying a huge increase in creative industry employment, with the sector growing, albeit from a very small base, by over 100% in a single year. If this rate of change continues, Durham will very soon outstrip the regional average.

## 2.4 Cultural venues and investment

As noted above, the number of cultural assets in the sub-region has grown recently, particularly with the development of Locomotion and the Hippodrome.

One of the main sources of funding for developing and sustaining arts programming is Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations (NPO) scheme, which provides funding for periods of up to four years to selected arts organisations around the country. The NE benefits from around 3% of the national pot, however, the funds tend to be concentrated in the North of the region (primarily in Newcastle and Gateshead).

In the recently-announced 2018-22 funding round, 48 organisations in the NE region were made NPO awards, of which 7 are in County Durham and Darlington (see table 8).

**Table 8 –Arts Council National Portfolio Organisations awards, 2018-22<sup>22</sup>**

| Area                         | Awards   | Recipients                             | Annual £          | Total £           | % NE total  |
|------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| County Durham                | 7        | Beamish Museum                         | £436,776          | £1,747,104        | 6.6%        |
|                              |          | Durham County Council                  | £415,000          | £1,660,000        |             |
|                              |          | National Youth Choirs of Great Britain | £55,297           | £221,188          |             |
|                              |          | The Bowes Museum                       | £367,807          | £1,471,228        |             |
|                              |          | The Forge                              | £57,496           | £229,984          |             |
|                              |          | TIN Arts                               | £81,453           | £325,812          |             |
| Darlington                   | 1        | Theatre Hullabaloo                     | £250,318          | £1,001,272        | 1.2%        |
| <b>Durham and Darlington</b> | <b>8</b> |                                        | <b>£1,664,147</b> | <b>£6,656,588</b> | <b>7.7%</b> |
| NE Total                     | 48       | Various                                | £21,500,122       | £86,000,488       |             |

The largest awards were made to Beamish Museum and Durham County Council, both of which had been funded in the current NPO round too. In fact, all the 2018-22 recipients listed had previously been NPO funded, apart from the Bowes Museum.

Although County Durham and Darlington organisations are to be recipients of just under 15% of the awards made in the NE region, in value these total only 5.7% of the total NE awards (just over £86m over four years). This suggests there is work to be done to ensure that County Durham and Darlington can secure a fair share of national funding for the arts and culture.

By contrast, County Durham has secured significant amounts of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In 2014-15 45% of total grant spend (£13.64m) in Co. Durham came from the Heritage Lottery Fund, including a recent £10.75m grant to Beamish Museum.

## 2.5 Cultural and other amenities

A composite score can be created for each area which reflects the cultural amenities available in the locality. The score in table 9, below, considers a wide range of cultural amenities including performing arts venues, sports venues, zoos, high quality restaurants and cinemas. A wider amenities score is also provided which encompasses these cultural amenities but also includes facilities such as shopping centres and national heritage sites.

Both scores are indexed so that the national average score is 100.

**Table 9 - Cultural and other amenities scores<sup>23</sup>**

| Area Name       | Amenities: score (2013)* | Amenities (cultural): score (2012)** | No of Heritage sites (2007) | Listed buildings per sq km (2007) |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| County Durham   | 44.68                    | 67.67                                | 4.94                        | 1.36                              |
| Darlington      | 130.68                   | 131.15                               | 5.08                        | 2.64                              |
| North East      | 69.99                    | 85.40                                | 7.47                        | 1.41                              |
| England & Wales | 100                      | 100                                  |                             | 2.64                              |

\*This indicator takes into consideration: cultural amenities (as below); national heritage sites; retail floor space; employment in amenities-provision (as a proxy).

\*\*This indicator takes into consideration: sports arenas; cinemas; zoos; theme parks; major event venues; Visit England attractions; Michelin starred restaurants; performing arts venues; cathedrals.

On these scales, the NE region scores quite low, with a score of just below 70 for general amenities, and slightly better at 85 for cultural amenities. Darlington does much better, with above average scores for both measures, suggesting it is well resourced in terms of cultural and general amenities. In contrast, County Durham has an extremely low amenities score at 44.68, (although this is significantly higher than Northumberland's score at 27.12). This reflects the nature of the county and the indicators chosen to make up the score, as they are more likely to be found in larger conurbations rather than in villages, meaning predominantly rural areas are always going to achieve a lower score.

It also indicates that people must travel further to access the kind of facilities which people in more built up areas take for granted. Where public transport is limited (and expensive for those on low fixed incomes) this creates a barrier to access (see section 3 – environment).

There may, therefore, be a need for action to either provide transport for people in more rural areas to enable them to access services elsewhere, or to provide mobile services into more rural communities. A scheme is currently being developed in Teesdale to provide a regular theatre group, where transport is provided to take local people to the theatre in the Tees Valley, Sunderland or Newcastle, thereby reducing isolation and encouraging new friendships.

## 2.6 Participation in cultural activities

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport carries out an annual survey of participation in cultural activities, and reports on these at a regional level. Table 10 below shows how the NE region has fared in 2010-11 and in the latest survey in 2015-16. Scores are given for participation in arts, heritage, museum/gallery and library activity, as well as for giving to the cultural sector, and include both the NE % participating, the national average, and the NE region's ranking out of the nine regions.

**Table 10 - Participation in cultural activity, 2010-11 and 2015-16<sup>24</sup>**

| Area of participation                                       | North East |        | England | North East |        | England |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------|---------|------------|--------|---------|
|                                                             | 2010-11    | Rank/9 |         | 2015-16    | Rank/9 |         |
| Engaged with the arts in the past year                      | 70%        | 9      | 76%     | 72%        | 7      | 76%     |
| Visited a heritage site in past year                        | 71%        | 5      | 71%     | 72%        | 7      | 73%     |
| Visited a museum or gallery in past year                    | 47%        | 4      | 46%     | 51%        | 6      | 53%     |
| Visited a library in past year                              | 39%        | 5      | 40%     | 33%        | 6      | 33%     |
| Made a charitable donation to a cultural cause in past year | 35%        | 3      | 33%     | 24%        | 9      | 30%     |

Engagement with the arts, heritage sites and museums / galleries has risen in % terms both England-wide and in the NE region, and the NE's ranking has risen from 9<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> for arts, though fallen behind some other regions for heritage and museums / galleries.

In common with other areas, library attendance has dropped as library services have been reduced in the face of ongoing austerity. Only 1/3 of the population is now accessing a library at least once a year.

However, the biggest change is in charitable giving to a cultural cause. In 2010-11, 35% of the NE population had made a donation, making the NE region the third highest in terms of numbers of people donating. This has slumped in the past five years to 24%, the lowest rate in the country.

There is clearly work to do in terms of encouraging more people across the NE region to participate in cultural activities. Low levels of participation will, to some extent, reflect the relative deprivation of the region, as DCMS analysis indicates that those living in the most deprived areas will be least likely to participate in all aspects of cultural activity. With fewer people in the region now able to make financial donations to cultural activity, it is likely that this situation will worsen, as providers will be less able to provide as wide a range of opportunities, and those who do will need to charge more for participation to make ends meet.

One of the issues facing arts organisations is the lack of access to finance, advice and guidance to help them develop as an organisation. Arts organisations cannot access Awards for All funding for arts activity, which limits the range of options for start-up and project finance. There are also few networking and information-sharing opportunities for small arts groups. It is therefore important that they are able to tap into the resources available to support small businesses / enterprise development, as well as VCS infrastructure where it exists (see section 9 – strong communities).

There is, therefore, a clear need for additional resources in order to sustain and grow the range of arts and cultural activities available and ensure they remain accessible for all.

## **2.7 Arts and social change**

The arts have a long history of using creative forms to comment on or reflect the state of society, draw attention to an issue, or to encourage social change. There are many examples from professionals including works of literature (1984, The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists), films (I, Daniel Blake) and visual arts (Banksy).

In Durham and Darlington, there is a long history of arts, culture and music being associated with work-life, for instance creation of colliery banners and brass bands, the Miner's Gala, and local carnivals, fairs and agricultural shows.

Nowadays, UCRE8 uses a creative approach to working with all kinds of organisations through music, visual arts and creative writing, The Forge aims to create artistic and cultural experiences to inspire young people to become creative, confident individuals, and IncludFest is designed to bring together all sections of the community through music, dance, theatre and fun. The Bowes Museum and MIMA have also been developing a new project bringing together children from hill farming communities with those from traveller and refugee communities, to explore issues and reduce barriers to accessing arts and culture.

One area of growth for the arts in recent years has been in arts and health. There is an increasing evidence-base which demonstrates the wide range of health benefits that can result from engagement in creative activity<sup>25</sup>. Examples from County Durham include the 'Colour Your Life' programme delivered by a consortium of third sector providers which is available through social prescription and provides creative, learning and volunteering activities to promote mental health and emotional resilience.

Given the levels of deprivation and health issues in County Durham and Darlington, philanthropic support for any creative and cultural activities which also seek to create social change or improve health would be particularly helpful.

### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

People in County Durham and Darlington have fewer opportunities to engage in arts and cultural activities than those in other parts of the country and take-up of opportunities is low. Philanthropic support would be helpful for:

- activity to encourage more people to set up creative businesses, especially in County Durham.
- the development of arts organisations and providing the kind of support that will enable them to successfully bid for recognition and funding from the Arts Council and similar national funders.
- improvements to access to arts and cultural activities for those in isolated areas. This could include encouraging touring and outreach activity or transport to enable people to access to activities in other areas.
- activity to encourage more people from more deprived communities to access arts and cultural activities.
- development support and funding for smaller arts organisations to enable them to sustain and grow activity.
- cultural or creative activity that engenders social change, encourages improved physical or mental health and/or emotional resilience.

### 3 Environment

#### 3.1 Overview

The County Durham area is well known for the variety of its rural landscapes, including beautiful heather moors, wild hills and dales, stunning rivers and waterfalls and a dramatic coastline. It also has picturesque and post-industrial towns and villages and historic buildings and landmarks. The natural and built environments are advertised as tourist attractions as well as providing opportunities for outdoor activities for visitors and local people. This section looks at the natural and built environments, biodiversity, as well as the levels of pollution, recycling and household living conditions, and how they all impact on the lives of local people.

#### 3.2 Comparing the local environment to other areas

Various composite scores are available which assess the quality, and make-up of the environment, and associated issues, each of which is discussed below.

The **IMD Living Environment Deprivation Index** focuses on two indoor measures - housing without central heating, housing in poor condition (i.e. failing to meet the Decent Homes standard) - and two outdoor measures - air quality and road traffic accidents resulting in injury to pedestrians and cyclists. The County Durham and Darlington results on this measure are given in Table 11, below.

**Table 11 - IMD Living Environment Deprivation Index, 2015<sup>26</sup>**

| Local Authority<br>District name | Average<br>score | Rank of<br>average<br>score | % of LSOAs<br>in most<br>deprived<br>10%<br>nationally | Rank of %<br>of LSOAs in<br>most<br>deprived<br>10%<br>nationally | Decile |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Darlington                       | 10.7             | 285                         | 0.0%                                                   | 232                                                               | 8      |
| County Durham                    | 6.1              | 320                         | 1.2%                                                   | 216                                                               | 7      |

On this index, both County Durham and Darlington have low levels of deprivation, being within the least 30% (Darlington) and 40% (County Durham) of deprived communities. Of course, there is wide variation across the two areas, but no LSOA falls within the 1% most deprived. Part of Stanhope in Weardale and parts of Barnard Castle East and West fall in the 2% most deprived for indoors measures. All parts of County Durham and Darlington are in the 50% least deprived for outdoor measures.

By contrast, the **GTA Natural environment score** draws together housing density, road density, air quality, tranquillity, natural beauty, green space and water quality and indexes local scores to an England-wide average of 100. Scores above 100 indicate the environment is better than the average.

The scores for Darlington and County Durham are given in Table 12, below. These indicate that the NE's natural environment is among the better environments in England, and that County Durham is higher than the NE average. Darlington, by contrast scores below average. This measure rewards more rural areas, and this is reflected in the scores for County Durham and Darlington.

**Table 12 – GTA Natural environment scores, 2013<sup>27</sup>**

| Area Name     | Natural environment: score (2013) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| County Durham | 149.4                             |
| Darlington    | 65.52                             |
| North East    | 123.55                            |
| England       | 100                               |

This intra-regional difference is even more stark on the **GTPA Natural Beauty score**. This index focuses on assets including National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coasts, Blue Flag beaches, ancient woodlands, nature reserves and environmentally-sensitive areas. Again, this is indexed to the England average, meaning scores above 100 are better than average.

**Table 13 – GTA Natural environment scores, 2013<sup>28</sup>**

| Area Name     | Natural beauty: score (2013) |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| County Durham | 121.21                       |
| Darlington    | 3.99                         |
| North East    | 138.25                       |
| England       | 100.00                       |

Table 13 shows County Durham scores well because of the number of natural assets in the area, but Darlington's score is very low, reflecting the low number of protected sites in the Darlington area.

### 3.3 Pollution and energy use

Table 14, below, shows the performance of County Durham and Darlington in terms of a range of environmental measures.

**Table 14 – Measures of pollution and energy use<sup>29</sup>**

| Area Name     | CO2 emissions: total per capita (2014) | Electricity sales: domestic (per hhld) (2011) | Electricity sales: industrial (per consumer) (2011) | Deprivation: Air quality (2010) | Green belt (%) (2012) |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| County Durham | 5.64                                   | 3,711                                         | 77,734                                              | 0.67                            | 3.95                  |
| Darlington    | 5.64                                   | 3,949                                         | 73,464                                              | 0.80                            | -                     |
| North East    | 8.05                                   | 3,703                                         | 92,849                                              | 0.81                            | 8.52                  |
| England       | 6.10                                   | 4,266                                         | 73,365                                              | 0.97                            | 12.58                 |

County Durham and Darlington are very similar in terms of CO2 emissions and domestic electricity sales, and are lower than the national average on both of these measures. Industrial electricity sales are higher in County Durham than Darlington, reflecting the slightly heavier industrial structure. In terms of air quality, both areas

are significantly better than the national average, which should have beneficial health impacts. However, the amount of protected green belt is extremely low in the NE region generally and in these two areas in particular, although this is not unexpected as it reflects the low levels of major urbanisation. Overall this suggests a lower level of pollution and energy use in Darlington and County Durham.

### 3.4 Waste management

Table 15, below, gives the performance of Darlington and County Durham in terms of fly-tipping and waste management.

**Table 15 – measures of waste management and recycling<sup>30</sup>**

| Area Name     | Fly-tipping: total incidents (2010/11) | Waste (household): collected per hhld (2012/13) | Waste (household): recycled (2012/13) | Waste (municipal): landfill (2012/13) |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| County Durham | 7,564                                  | 538.50                                          | 43.56                                 | 37.54                                 |
| Darlington    | 2,090                                  | 582.69                                          | 37.78                                 | 44.94                                 |
| North East    | 64,745                                 | 602.10                                          | 35.89                                 | 28.33                                 |
| England       | 819,571                                | 503.13                                          | 41.59                                 | 30.33                                 |

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. It is increasing across the UK, and much of the blame for this is placed on local authorities. In some areas the number of waste collections has been reduced, and restrictions and charges for large-item collections and use of recycling depots have increased<sup>31</sup>, meaning that patterns of fly-tipping vary considerably. In the NE region rates are high compared to the rest of the country (64,745 incidents, or 8% of the national average), but County Durham and Darlington are low compared to this.

In terms of household waste management, the amounts collected and not recycled from households are higher than the England average in both County Durham and Darlington, and landfill is therefore higher than the average in both areas. Recycling rates are higher than average in County Durham but lower in Darlington, although rates tend to reflect availability of recycling facilities, so this is not necessarily an indication of low local willingness to recycle.

### 3.5 Climate change and deprivation

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has analysed which areas of the country are most likely to be affected by heat or flooding associated with climate change, and how resilient local communities are likely to be in the face of this, given their deprivation. They have produced maps which combine these factors to illustrate which areas are most climate disadvantaged<sup>32</sup>.

Their on-line mapping tool<sup>33</sup> indicates that the land West of the Wear from Durham City centre southwards to Sunderland Bridge is at extremely high risk of river and coastal flood disadvantage, while Chester-Le-Street, Bishop Auckland, Crook, West Darlington and East Newton Aycliffe are at relatively high risk.

Much of Weardale and Darlington Borough are at extremely high risk of heat disadvantage within the next 30 years.

The very high levels of flood and heat disadvantage suggest a need for action in those areas most at risk. These could include:

- identifying which groups of people in these areas are likely to be most adversely affected by flooding or heat, and least able to deal with that
- raising awareness of the potential issues
- engaging and empowering local people to respond should flooding or heat issues occur
- putting in place plans and resources to prevent flooding where possible and to ensure that local people are equipped to deal with flooding and heat should they happen.

### **3.6 Transport**

Buses provide the only public transport in most parts of County Durham, providing over 24m passenger journeys each year. Most towns and villages have at least two buses per hour during working hours Monday to Saturday, with much more frequent services along major routes. However, in more rural areas the services are less frequent, and in the evening, services are reduced in most areas and stop quite early, limiting the options for people to use public transport to access evening activities<sup>34</sup>.

Public transport in County Durham tends to be organised on a 'hub and spoke' model, meaning that travelling between places often involves having to go into a centre of population and back out again, adding to the time and cost involved.

Rural areas therefore tend to have a higher rate of car ownership than urban areas, simply to allow people to access work and education (the proportion of households with no car is 17% in Teesdale, 17.8% in Weardale and 22.7% in Rural East Durham, compared to over 27% in the county as a whole<sup>35</sup>). Those without cars may have very limited options in terms of accessing amenities not available in their immediate community.

In areas with lower car ownership, such as Stanley and East Durham<sup>36</sup> people are more reliant on public transport, and the costs can add up. For instance, if someone living in Stanley worked in Durham it would cost them £25 per week just to get the bus to work and back each day – a significant proportion of their wages if they are on minimum wage, and probably a deterrent for many looking for work.

In East Durham, villages sprung up to reflect coal deposits, meaning there is no coherent pattern to them and the road network is therefore underdeveloped. Communities have traditionally operated in isolation, being largely self-contained, each with their own facilities. As a result, people tended not to travel between communities, resulting in low car ownership and low use of public transport. This is starting to improve now as schools are closing or merging, meaning young people grow more used to travelling, and as more people move into the area who work elsewhere.

### **3.7 Conservation and biodiversity**

There are many statutory and third sector organisations involved in conserving the natural assets across County Durham and encouraging their sustainable development and use for the benefit of the area as a whole.

### Natural assets

Durham Wildlife Trust works across County Durham and Darlington as well as Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland, protecting over 800 hectares of natural resources. Across their patch there are 35 nature reserves including Hannah's Meadow in Teesdale, Low Barns Nature Reserve near Bishop Auckland, Redcar Field Nature Reserve outside Darlington and Rabbitbank Wood outside Consett. The Trust also works across Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSIs). There are over 80 of these in County Durham including Crag Gill and Hesledon Moor<sup>37</sup>. In addition, there are a large number of designated landscapes including the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), 17 Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, the Durham Heritage Coast and Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site.

The Durham Biodiversity Partnership has developed an action plan with five objectives:

- To support and encourage the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and the delivery of the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan.
- To promote and develop a landscape-scale approach to biodiversity in County Durham.
- To promote an integrated approach to action on landscape and biodiversity, using Natural Area Partnerships.
- To secure a 'positive audit' for biodiversity in new development.
- To promote biodiversity in landscape design.

### Biodiversity

The National Biodiversity Network has established an interactive atlas to record sightings of animals, birds and plants by location. Counts for the main groups are given in table 16 below.

Each of the counts is for a 10km radius from the centre of the area, so there will be overlaps between areas and therefore in counts, while other areas will not have been captured here (including large parts of County Durham). Nevertheless, the figures suggest a wide range of animals and plant-life exist across Darlington and County Durham.

**Table 16 – Counts of species within 10km of location centre<sup>38</sup>**

|              | County Durham | Darlington  |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Mammals      | 35            | 27          |
| Birds        | 177           | 162         |
| Reptiles     | 4             | 0           |
| Amphibians   | 5             | 5           |
| Fish         | 18            | 17          |
| Molluscs     | 78            | 96          |
| Arthropods   | 1144          | 682         |
| Plants       | 252           | 150         |
| Fungi        | 142           | 973         |
| Chromista    | 1             | 8           |
| Protozoa     | 17            | 15          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1873</b>   | <b>2135</b> |

### **Natural growth**

The Durham Tourism Management Plan 2012-16<sup>39</sup> states that the visitor economy is worth £659m to Durham and supports over 10,600 FTE jobs. The plan sets eight priorities for the period 2012-16, including:

- Extending visitor stays by developing the attractiveness of market towns and into rural and coastal destinations.
- Increasing the value of rural areas to the tourist economy, animating rural areas so there is more to see and do and they can be better marketed.

Key actions identified to help achieve these aims include:

- increasing awareness of and visitor numbers to parks and gardens
- developing a better understanding of the county's rural assets (such as the North Pennines and Hamsterley Forest) to better market them and to attract new operators to offer related services
- improving accessibility and condition of walks and cycleways
- making more of the diverse range of species and nature assets, including wildlife and flora
- development of agricultural shows as tourist attractions.

The plan includes a list of local partners identified to help achieve these aims, including local retailers, providers and communities, all of whom can play an important part, which will in turn help the growth of the rural economy. Where local communities are seeking philanthropic support to develop activities aimed at visitors it would make sense for these to be allied to the county's plan to maximise the potential for match funding and strategic support.

### **Natural health and wellbeing**

As well as being a destination for visitors, green areas also provide opportunities for local people to volunteer, relax and exercise. Durham County Council promotes walking for health and running programmes to encourage local people to use green spaces for exercise.

Natural England, together with Mind, have carried out a significant amount of work on the positive impact of engaging with nature on physical and mental health. They identified three main ways that the natural environment contributes to mental health benefits: i) directly through the restorative effect of nature; and indirectly by, ii) providing opportunities for positive social contact; and iii) providing opportunities for physical activity<sup>40</sup>. This approach has been adopted at The Breathing Space in Witton Gilbert which offers a wide range of health and wellbeing projects including guided walks and cycle rides.

They also reported a strong relationship between the proximity of urban open green spaces, how frequently people visited them, how long they stayed, and users' stress levels. Other researchers have also found a link between the quantity of green space available and longevity, a reduced likelihood of mental health problems, and lower levels of health inequality even where there is a high level of income-deprivation.

Nationally, Natural England found that in 2015-16 42% of people had visited green space in the previous week, and 47% of these visits were for health and exercise<sup>41</sup>, suggesting that 19.7% of the population use green space for health and exercise.

Table 17 below compares the amount of green space available in County Durham and Darlington and the proportion of the population who use it.

County Durham has more green space than most areas of the NE region, with nearly 94% of land classed as this, while the proportion in Darlington is slightly lower at 88%. However, the proportion of local people using the space for health and exercise is low, at 14.1%, compared to 17.3% across the NE region and 20.3% in Darlington.

**Table 17 – green space and frequency of use**

|            | <b>% land classed as green space</b> | <b>% using outdoor space for health and exercise</b> |
|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Co Durham  | 93.9                                 | 14.10%                                               |
| Darlington | 88.27                                | 20.30%                                               |
| NE region  | 92.15                                | 17.30%                                               |

This suggests that there is potential for philanthropy to support activity to encourage more people in County Durham to get out and about and enjoy the green space around them.

### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

County Durham includes some of the most beautiful green space in England, but higher densities of houses and roads in some areas mean parts of the county and the Darlington area score less well on some measures, and lack of protected and designated assets mean that the more urban areas are ranked low for natural beauty.

There are roles for local communities and organisations to work in the conservation and sustainable development of green resources and to encourage environmentally friendly actions by local households and businesses.

Specific actions that philanthropy could support include:

- Encouraging recycling where this is available, to reduce landfill.
- Encouraging local communities to support actions to increase sustainable green tourism.
- Putting in place plans and actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of flooding and heat associated with climate change for the most disadvantaged.
- Developing alternative ways to provide transport to enable people to access work, learning and leisure opportunities.
- Increasing use of green spaces for leisure and exercise purposes, particularly across County Durham.

## 4 Safety

### 4.1 Overview

The theme of safety covers crime and anti-social behaviour, and includes both the actual levels of these, and how they are perceived by local communities. In many cases the actual levels of crime can be higher than the official statistics suggest, simply because much of it is not reported. Similarly, the perception of crime levels can be higher or lower than the recorded level depending on the experiences of individuals and communities, and the extent to which they are influenced by newspapers and other media.

### 4.2 Recorded crime

As Table 18, below, shows, recorded crime in County Durham is lower than the North East average, at 55 crimes per 1,000 population in 2016, compared to 68 for the region. However, in Darlington the rate was 75 crimes per 1,000 population.

**Table 18 - Recorded crime rate per 1,000 population, headline offences, 2016<sup>42</sup>**

|                                     | County Durham | Darlington | North East |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Total recorded crime</b>         | 54.97         | 74.74      | 68.16      |
| <b>Victim-based crime</b>           |               |            |            |
| Violence against the person         | 14.57         | 18.35      | 16.08      |
| Homicide                            | -             | -          | 0.01       |
| Violence with injury                | 6.40          | 8.25       | 7.64       |
| Violence without injury             | 8.17          | 10.10      | 8.43       |
| Sexual offences                     | 1.73          | 2.16       | 2.00       |
| Robbery                             | 0.17          | 0.35       | 0.39       |
| Theft offences                      | 21.88         | 35.81      | 29.48      |
| Burglary                            | 6.72          | 8.63       | 6.92       |
| Domestic burglary                   | 2.31          | 3.09       | 2.72       |
| Non-domestic burglary               | 4.41          | 6.98       | 4.51       |
| Vehicle offences                    | 3.78          | 6.35       | 0.58       |
| Theft from the person               | 0.22          | 0.79       | 1.22       |
| Bicycle theft                       | 0.47          | 2.03       | 7.94       |
| Shoplifting                         | 4.80          | 9.50       | 8.30       |
| All other theft offences            | 5.90          | 8.51       | 13.01      |
| Criminal damage and arson           | 11.31         | 11.36      | -          |
| <b>Other crimes against society</b> |               |            |            |
| Drug offences                       | 1.85          | 2.23       | 0.52       |
| Possession of weapons offences      | 0.31          | 0.47       | 3.26       |
| Public order offences               | 2.18          | 2.79       | 1.17       |
| Miscellaneous crimes ag. society    | 0.99          | 1.21       | -          |

Darlington has higher than the regional average rates of violence against the person, sexual offences, drug offences and public order offences, all of which could be related to its status as a nightlife destination, attracting a lot of younger people from County Durham.

Table 19 - Analysis of crime in County Durham and Darlington by area, 2016-17<sup>43</sup>

|                   |          | ALL<br>Crime | VICTIM-BASED CRIME             |                 |            |                |                 | ALL<br>Incidents | SELECTED INCIDENT TYPES      |                             |                                        |                                       |
|-------------------|----------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                   |          |              | Violence against<br>the person | Sexual offences | Robbery    | Theft Offences | Criminal damage |                  | alcohol-related<br>incidents | domestic abuse<br>incidents | alcohol-related<br>anti-social behav'r | youth-related anti-<br>social behav'r |
| DARLINGTON        | Mar-17   | 7,929        | 1,959                          | 227             | 37         | 3,790          | 1,204           | 35,286           | 3,829                        | <b>2,929</b>                | 577                                    | 1,682                                 |
|                   | Mar-16   | 10,189       | 2,912                          | 259             | 54         | 4,191          | 1,708           | 36,030           | 4,629                        | <b>2,893</b>                | 662                                    | 1,867                                 |
|                   | % change | -22%         | -33%                           | -12%            | -31%       | -10%           | -30%            | -2%              | -17%                         | <b>1%</b>                   | -13%                                   | -10%                                  |
| <b>SOUTH</b>      |          |              |                                |                 |            |                |                 |                  |                              |                             |                                        |                                       |
| Barnard           | Mar-17   | 636          | 143                            | 23              | -          | 320            | 96              | 3,914            | 246                          | <b>157</b>                  | 38                                     | 105                                   |
| Castle            | Mar-16   | 742          | 161                            | 31              | 2          | 355            | 119             | 3,691            | 276                          | <b>139</b>                  | 44                                     | 115                                   |
|                   | % change | -14%         | -11%                           | -26%            | -100%      | -10%           | -19%            | 6%               | -11%                         | <b>13%</b>                  | -14%                                   | -9%                                   |
| Bishop            | Mar-17   | 3,197        | 772                            | 62              | 6          | 1,258          | <b>723</b>      | 14,675           | 1,521                        | 1,065                       | 280                                    | <b>1,070</b>                          |
| Auckland          | Mar-16   | 3,752        | 1,087                          | 87              | 15         | 1,369          | <b>688</b>      | 14,380           | 1,754                        | 1,126                       | 271                                    | <b>793</b>                            |
|                   | % change | -15%         | -29%                           | -29%            | -60%       | -8%            | <b>5%</b>       | 2%               | -13%                         | -5%                         | 3%                                     | <b>35%</b>                            |
| Crook             | Mar-17   | 1,623        | 473                            | 76              | 5          | 543            | <b>384</b>      | 8,480            | 967                          | <b>740</b>                  | <b>154</b>                             | <b>479</b>                            |
|                   | Mar-16   | 2,001        | 657                            | 79              | 4          | 629            | <b>380</b>      | 7,803            | 997                          | <b>735</b>                  | <b>125</b>                             | <b>329</b>                            |
|                   | % change | -19%         | -28%                           | -4%             | 25%        | -14%           | <b>1%</b>       | 9%               | -3%                          | <b>1%</b>                   | <b>23%</b>                             | <b>46%</b>                            |
| Newton            | Mar-17   | 2,888        | 799                            | 90              | 4          | 1,114          | 591             | 14,554           | 1,312                        | 1,402                       | 208                                    | <b>832</b>                            |
| Aycliffe          | Mar-16   | 3,702        | 1,301                          | 115             | 10         | 1,139          | 675             | 14,455           | 1,592                        | 1,427                       | 203                                    | <b>703</b>                            |
|                   | % change | -22%         | -39%                           | -22%            | -60%       | -2%            | -12%            | 1%               | -18%                         | -2%                         | 2%                                     | <b>18%</b>                            |
| Spenny-moor       | Mar-17   | 2,089        | 631                            | 52              | 4          | 703            | 458             | 11,125           | 1,337                        | <b>1,130</b>                | <b>288</b>                             | 555                                   |
|                   | Mar-16   | 2,877        | 959                            | 111             | 10         | 790            | 595             | 11,532           | 1,606                        | <b>1,104</b>                | <b>238</b>                             | 676                                   |
|                   | % change | -27%         | -34%                           | -53%            | -60%       | -11%           | -23%            | -4%              | -17%                         | <b>2%</b>                   | <b>21%</b>                             | -18%                                  |
| ALL SOUTH         | Mar-17   | 10,433       | 2,818                          | 303             | 19         | 3,938          | 2,252           | 52,748           | 5,383                        | 4,494                       | <b>968</b>                             | <b>3,041</b>                          |
|                   | Mar-16   | 13,074       | 4,165                          | 423             | 41         | 4,282          | 2,457           | 51,861           | 6,225                        | 4,531                       | <b>881</b>                             | <b>2,616</b>                          |
|                   | % change | -20%         | -32%                           | -28%            | -54%       | -8%            | -8%             | 2%               | -14%                         | -1%                         | <b>10%</b>                             | <b>16%</b>                            |
| <b>EAST</b>       |          |              |                                |                 |            |                |                 |                  |                              |                             |                                        |                                       |
| Durham            | Mar-17   | 4,803        | 1,173                          | 160             | <b>20</b>  | 2,039          | 808             | 23,262           | 2,735                        | 1,541                       | 463                                    | 772                                   |
|                   | Mar-16   | 5,893        | 1,790                          | 175             | <b>19</b>  | 2,306          | 903             | 23,716           | 3,279                        | 1,648                       | 551                                    | 709                                   |
|                   | % change | -18%         | -34%                           | -9%             | <b>5%</b>  | -12%           | -11%            | -2%              | -17%                         | -6%                         | -16%                                   | 9%                                    |
| Peterlee          | Mar-17   | 4,025        | 842                            | <b>113</b>      | 14         | 1,853          | 882             | 18,299           | 1,799                        | 1,652                       | 263                                    | <b>984</b>                            |
|                   | Mar-16   | 5,448        | 1,458                          | <b>105</b>      | 26         | 2,060          | 1,243           | 19,069           | 2,203                        | 1,741                       | 319                                    | <b>969</b>                            |
|                   | % change | -26%         | -42%                           | <b>8%</b>       | -46%       | -10%           | -29%            | -4%              | -18%                         | -5%                         | -18%                                   | <b>2%</b>                             |
| Seaham            | Mar-17   | 2,337        | 568                            | 59              | <b>7</b>   | 1,055          | 486             | 12,176           | 1,346                        | 1,087                       | 233                                    | 568                                   |
|                   | Mar-16   | 3,339        | 1,030                          | 100             | <b>6</b>   | 1,298          | 552             | 12,399           | 1,572                        | 1,166                       | 252                                    | 493                                   |
|                   | % change | -30%         | -45%                           | -41%            | <b>17%</b> | -19%           | -12%            | -2%              | -14%                         | -7%                         | -8%                                    | <b>15%</b>                            |
| ALL EAST          | Mar-17   | 11,165       | 2,583                          | 332             | 41         | 4,947          | 2,176           | 53,737           | 5,880                        | 4,280                       | 959                                    | 2,324                                 |
|                   | Mar-16   | 14,680       | 4,278                          | 380             | 51         | 5,664          | 2,698           | 55,184           | 7,054                        | 4,555                       | 1,122                                  | 2,171                                 |
|                   | % change | -24%         | -40%                           | -13%            | -20%       | -13%           | -19%            | -3%              | -17%                         | -6%                         | -15%                                   | 7%                                    |
| <b>WEST</b>       |          |              |                                |                 |            |                |                 |                  |                              |                             |                                        |                                       |
| Chester-le-Street | Mar-17   | 2,495        | 752                            | 60              | <b>16</b>  | 921            | 552             | 13,025           | 1,521                        | <b>1,193</b>                | 218                                    | <b>751</b>                            |
|                   | Mar-16   | 3,180        | 1,141                          | 92              | <b>15</b>  | 988            | 570             | 12,651           | 1,729                        | <b>1,168</b>                | 256                                    | <b>657</b>                            |
|                   | % change | -22%         | -34%                           | -35%            | <b>7%</b>  | -7%            | -3%             | 3%               | -12%                         | <b>2%</b>                   | -15%                                   | <b>14%</b>                            |
| Stanley           | Mar-17   | 2,284        | 652                            | 56              | <b>10</b>  | <b>886</b>     | 508             | 11,275           | 1,437                        | 1,122                       | 206                                    | <b>587</b>                            |
|                   | Mar-16   | 2,781        | 1,013                          | 86              | <b>6</b>   | <b>817</b>     | 509             | 10,394           | 1,532                        | 1,226                       | 216                                    | <b>473</b>                            |
|                   | % change | -18%         | -36%                           | -35%            | <b>67%</b> | <b>8%</b>      | 0%              | 8%               | -6%                          | -8%                         | -5%                                    | <b>24%</b>                            |
| Consett           | Mar-17   | 2,178        | 778                            | <b>124</b>      | 3          | 662            | 393             | 10,823           | 1,277                        | 999                         | 158                                    | <b>471</b>                            |
|                   | Mar-16   | 2,860        | 1,095                          | <b>115</b>      | 7          | 781            | 538             | 11,174           | 1,420                        | 1,100                       | 221                                    | <b>421</b>                            |
|                   | % change | -24%         | -29%                           | <b>8%</b>       | -57%       | -15%           | -27%            | -3%              | -10%                         | -9%                         | -29%                                   | <b>12%</b>                            |
| ALL WEST          | Mar-17   | 6,957        | 2,182                          | 240             | <b>29</b>  | 2,469          | 1,453           | 35,123           | 4,235                        | 3,314                       | 582                                    | <b>1,809</b>                          |
|                   | Mar-16   | 8,821        | 3,249                          | 293             | <b>28</b>  | 2,586          | 1,617           | 34,219           | 4,681                        | 3,494                       | 693                                    | <b>1,551</b>                          |
|                   | % change | -21%         | -33%                           | -18%            | <b>4%</b>  | -5%            | -10%            | 3%               | -10%                         | -5%                         | -16%                                   | <b>17%</b>                            |
| ALL               | Mar-17   | 36,484       | 9,542                          | 1,102           | 126        | 15,144         | 7,085           | 176,894          | 19,327                       | 15,017                      | 3,086                                  | <b>8,856</b>                          |
|                   | Mar-16   | 46,764       | 14,604                         | 1,355           | 174        | 16,723         | 8,480           | 177,294          | 22,589                       | 15,473                      | 3,358                                  | <b>8,205</b>                          |
|                   | % change | -22%         | -35%                           | -19%            | -28%       | -9%            | -16%            | 0%               | -14%                         | -3%                         | -8%                                    | <b>8%</b>                             |

County Durham has higher than average rates of vehicle offences, drug offences and public order offences. However, the county-wide figures disguise some big differences between neighbourhoods. Table 19, above, gives a breakdown by area.

Shaded cells indicate high rates of change against the general pattern, and suggest that:

- Recorded sexual violence is increasing in Peterlee and Consett
- Robbery is up in Durham, Seaham, Chester-le-Street and Stanley
- Domestic abuse is increasing in Darlington, Barnard Castle, Crook, Spennymoor and Chester-le-Street
- Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour is increasing in Crook and Spennymoor
- Youth-related anti-social behaviour is increasing in many areas.

This suggests that there may be particular issues in specific localities which could helpfully be addressed by targeted interventions supported through philanthropy.

The rates of different common crimes can be combined to create a crime score for an area, and these are given in Table 20 below.

**Table 20 - Combined crime score by area, 2016<sup>44</sup>**

| Area Name       | Crime: score (2016) | Offences: Burglaries (per 1,000 pop) (2016) | Offences: total (per 1,000 pop) (2016) | Offences: total change (LT) (2003 - 2016) | Offences: total change (ST) (2015-2016) | Offences: violent crimes (per 1,000 pop) (2016) |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| County Durham   | 88.21               | 2.3                                         | 54.77                                  | 57.39                                     | -41.34                                  | 14.52                                           |
| Darlington      | 120.34              | 3.09                                        | 74.72                                  | -33.86                                    | -42.65                                  | 18.34                                           |
| North East      | 109.9               | 2.72                                        | 68.01                                  | -35.45                                    | -39.08                                  | 16.05                                           |
| England & Wales | 100                 | 3.22                                        | 62.89                                  | -43.57                                    | -39.27                                  | 16.08                                           |

This confirms that crime is lower in County Durham than other parts of the region and the UK. However, the number of crimes is increasing, with a 57% increase between 2003-16, although the year-on-year figures give a reduction, suggesting the growth might have halted. Darlington, on the other hand, has a much higher than average crime score, with above average rates of burglary and violent crimes, but the total number of crimes has dropped 34% since 2003.

### 4.3 Anti-social behaviour

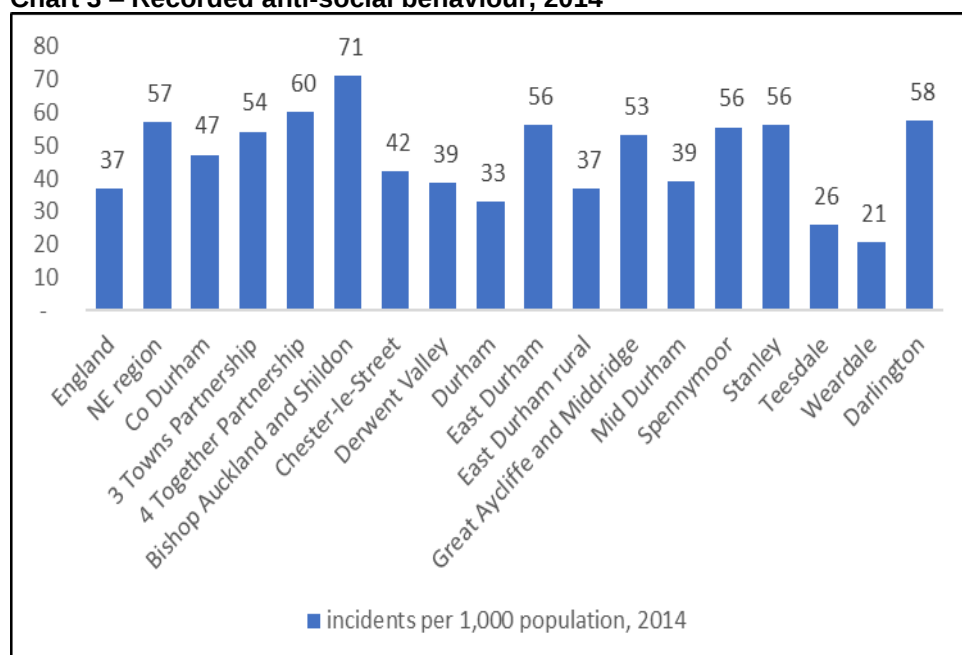
Anti-social behaviour is defined in The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as acting in a manner that has "caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator". Anti-social behaviour is very worrying for local people, and can often result in the perceived level of crime being higher than the actual level of crime recorded, because people are aware of troubling activities in their neighbourhood.

Anti-social behaviour is not recorded as a crime, but is recorded and reported by each police force at a neighbourhood level. The levels for County Durham and Darlington are shown in Chart 3 below.

This chart indicates that there are wide disparities in the levels of anti-social behaviour between different areas. The NE regional average of 57 incidents per 1,000 population is significantly higher than the national average of 37, and the County Durham average of 47 sits in the middle. Only Durham City, Teesdale and Weardale have rates below the national average. The highest rates recorded are in Bishop Auckland and Shildon, which at 71 incidents per 1,000 population is significantly higher than anywhere else in County Durham.

This suggests there is an issue with anti-social behaviour in the area, but it could be that the local police were cracking down on anti-social behaviour in this period, so encouraged people to report it, and then recorded it more rigorously than elsewhere. It would be worthwhile looking into this to see whether there is a local anti-social behaviour issue that needs to be addressed or not.

**Chart 3 – Recorded anti-social behaviour, 2014<sup>45</sup>**



#### 4.4 Reoffending rates

The likelihood of an offender reoffending is influenced by a wide variety of factors including the availability and quality of employment, housing, healthcare, drugs and alcohol, as well as support from friends and family. Providing support for offenders, both before they are released from prison and once they are back in the community, can be beneficial in helping them to stay clear of crime.

This is an area where the third sector has a long history of effective working, and increased support could be made available in those areas where reoffending is highest.

Table 21, below, shows how reoffending rates in County Durham and the Tees Valley have changed in the last decade. In County Durham, there has been a reduction of 2%, or 2,451 in the number of offenders who go on to reoffend. A similar reduction has been achieved in Darlington, reducing the number of reoffenders by 698, though the reoffending rate there is still higher than in County

Durham and in the NE region. In all areas, the average number of previous offences per offender has gone up, as has the reoffences per reoffender.

**Table 21 - Reoffending rates, 2006-15<sup>46</sup>**

| Area       | Period | Proportion of offenders who reoffend (%) | Average number of reoffences per reoffender | Number of reoffences | Number of reoffenders | Average number of previous offences per offender |
|------------|--------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| County     | 2006   | 30                                       | 3                                           | 18507                | 6489                  | 9                                                |
| Durham     | 2015   | 28                                       | 3                                           | 13638                | 4038                  | 15                                               |
|            | diff   | -2                                       | 1                                           | -4869                | -2451                 | 6                                                |
| Darlington | 2006   | 34                                       | 3                                           | 6079                 | 1860                  | 11                                               |
|            | 2015   | 31                                       | 4                                           | 4536                 | 1162                  | 20                                               |
|            | diff   | -2                                       | 1                                           | -1543                | -698                  | 9                                                |
| North      | 2006   | 31                                       | 3                                           | 46391                | 15089                 | 11                                               |
| East       | 2015   | 30                                       | 4                                           | 30547                | 8461                  | 18                                               |
|            | diff   | -1                                       | 1                                           | -15844               | -6628                 | 8                                                |

#### 4.5 Perceptions of crime

The Crime Survey 2015<sup>47</sup> asked people about whether they thought crime in their own area was higher than the national average, about the same, or lower. The survey found that people living in the most deprived communities are more likely to think that crime levels in their community are higher (21%) or above average (53%), compared to 8% and 41% for those in the midrange for deprivation. This suggests that because County Durham and Darlington are among the more deprived areas in the country, people living here are more likely to over-estimate the level of crime in their own neighbourhoods.

The same survey found that people who had been victims of crime in their local area were twice as likely (19%) to perceive crime as being higher than average than those who had not been a victim of crime (8%).

Given that the actual crime rates in Darlington are higher than average, this means that perceptions are likely to be of even higher crime levels here, which will create fear and worry, particularly among those who have been a victim of crime. Further questions in the survey reveal that 33% of people who perceive there to have been a rise in local crime worry that they are fairly or very likely to become a victim of crime.

Those who have been a victim of crime are likely to score less well on the personal well-being ratings of happiness, satisfaction, and worthwhileness and to record higher levels of anxiety, particularly younger people aged 16-24 (see section 5 – healthy living). This is particularly true of those who are victims of violent offences, and especially domestic violence.

It is therefore essential that the police can increase public confidence, particularly in areas of high deprivation and high crime such as Darlington.

In its annual police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL) assessment for 2017, Durham Constabulary was rated outstanding for efficiency and effectiveness

and good for legitimacy for the past two years, and the inspector noted that *“It recognises the importance of enhancing public confidence and has established ways of engaging with those with less trust and confidence in the police to understand their perception of fair and respectful treatment.”*<sup>48</sup>

This is a very positive assessment, and suggests that good relations should exist between the police and the community in County Durham and Darlington, which may help to mitigate raised perceptions of crime.

### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

Although recorded crime is lower in County Durham than the regional and national average, there are some communities where robbery, sexual violence, domestic abuse or anti-social behaviour appear to be an issue, so:

- actions to investigate the reasons for pockets of increased crime, and then to address them would be welcome.

Our analysis suggests that the incidence rates and reoffending is higher in Darlington, so measures that would be helpful include:

- supporting work with people of all ages, and particularly young people to discourage them from moving into crime by offering viable alternatives (e.g. securing education, training, employment opportunities, raising their aspirations).
- working with offenders before and after release into the community to support them not to return to crime.
- supporting victims of crime to help them overcome anxiety about becoming the victim of crime again and restore their trust and confidence in the community.

## 5 Healthy Living

### 5.1 Overview

The North East region has a reputation as one of the least healthy areas in the UK, and it contains some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country in terms of health and disability. Table 22, below, shows that based on the number of LSOAs that fall into the 10% most deprived on health indicators, County Durham is the 25<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority area in the country (putting it into the top 10%), and Darlington is the 46<sup>th</sup> most deprived (and therefore in the top 20%).

**Table 22 - Rank of local authorities on health deprivation and disability<sup>49</sup>**

|               | <b>Health Deprivation and Disability -<br/>Rank of proportion of LSOAs in<br/>most deprived 10% nationally<br/>(out of 326 areas)</b> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Darlington    | 46                                                                                                                                    |
| County Durham | 25                                                                                                                                    |

As table 23, below, shows, 31% of all the LSOAs in County Durham area in the most deprived 10% in the country, (including 6 that are in the 1% most deprived), and a further 23% are in the 20% most deprived. In Darlington, the situation is not quite as severe, with 20% and 17% in the top two bands.

In County Durham only 12% of LSOAs are above average for health and disability, and in Darlington 28% are. If health issues were evenly spread across the country, by definition, you would expect 50% to be above average.

Across the two areas, only 1% of LSOAs are in the top 30% bandings.

**Table 23 - Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 - Health Deprivation and Disability**

| <b>Health deprivation and disability decile</b> | <b>County Durham</b> |             | <b>Darlington</b> |             | <b>Durham and Darlington</b> |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
|                                                 | <b>LSOAs</b>         | <b>%</b>    | <b>LSOAs</b>      | <b>%</b>    | <b>LSOAs</b>                 | <b>%</b>    |
| 1                                               | 101                  | 31%         | 13                | 20%         | 114                          | 29%         |
| 2                                               | 75                   | 23%         | 11                | 17%         | 86                           | 22%         |
| 3                                               | 48                   | 15%         | 8                 | 12%         | 56                           | 14%         |
| 4                                               | 34                   | 10%         | 10                | 15%         | 44                           | 11%         |
| 5                                               | 27                   | 8%          | 5                 | 8%          | 32                           | 8%          |
| 6                                               | 25                   | 8%          | 10                | 15%         | 35                           | 9%          |
| 7                                               | 9                    | 3%          | 7                 | 11%         | 16                           | 4%          |
| 8                                               | 3                    | 1%          | 1                 | 2%          | 4                            | 1%          |
| 9                                               | 1                    | 0%          | 0                 | 0%          | 1                            | 0%          |
| 10                                              | 1                    | 0%          | 0                 | 0%          | 1                            | 0%          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                   | <b>324</b>           | <b>100%</b> | <b>65</b>         | <b>100%</b> | <b>389</b>                   | <b>100%</b> |

The IMD health and disability measure draws on a wide range of health indicators, including Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL), Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio, Measures of acute morbidity (derived from Hospital Episode Statistics) and the proportion of adults under 60 suffering from mood or anxiety disorders based on prescribing, suicide mortality rate and health benefits data, to give a broad-based

score that covers physical and mental health as well as expected lifespan. Each of these is looked at in more depth below.

## 5.2 Life expectancy and causes of death

Life expectancy for people in both Durham and Darlington is close to the NE regional average, and around two years shorter than the national average. In terms of infant mortality, this is lower in County Durham than the national average (3.4 per 1,000 births compared to 3.9), but slightly higher than average in Darlington (4.1 per 1,000 births) – see table 23.

**Table 23 - Life expectancy and causes of death, 2012-15<sup>50</sup>**

| Indicator                               | Period    | County Durham | Darlington | NE Region | England |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Life expectancy at birth (Male)         | 2013 - 15 | 78.1          | 77.9       | 77.9      | 79.5    |
| Life expectancy at birth (Female)       | 2013 - 15 | 81.2          | 81.9       | 81.6      | 83.1    |
| Infant mortality (per 1000 births)      | 2013 - 15 | 3.4           | 4.1        | 3.6       | 3.9     |
| Killed and seriously injured on roads   | 2013 - 15 | 38.2          | 31.3       | 32.4      | 38.5    |
| Suicide rate                            | 2013 - 15 | 15.7          | 14.2       | 12.4      | 10.1    |
| Smoking related deaths                  | 2013 - 15 | 381           | 320.7      | 369       | 283.5   |
| Under 75 mortality rate: cardiovascular | 2013 - 15 | 83            | 79.5       | 85.1      | 74.6    |
| Under 75 mortality rate: cancer         | 2013 - 15 | 163.2         | 161.8      | 162.7     | 138.8   |
| Excess winter deaths                    | 2012 - 15 | 19.7          | 20.8       | 19.3      | 19.6    |

In numbers of people who die because of road accidents, County Durham is around average for the UK and the rate in Darlington is nearly 20% lower than the average, at 31.3 per 100,000 population compared to the average of 38.5.

However, in terms of the other causes of premature death, both County Durham and Darlington have far higher rates than the average. Cancer deaths are 17% higher than the national average in both areas, cardiovascular deaths are 11% higher in County Durham and 6% higher in Darlington, and smoking-related deaths are 35% higher in County Durham and 13% higher in Darlington. Saddest of all, the suicide rate in County Durham is 55% above the national average, and 40% higher in Darlington. Again, there are pockets where this is a particular issue, for instance in rural areas where isolation is a particular issue, and in very deprived communities such as Stanley and Derwentside, where people's choices are, or appear to be, limited, where young men in particular seem unable to ask for help, and where sources of help have been cut through austerity measures.

## 5.3 Health and lifestyles

Given the inflated death rates from smoking-related diseases, it is not surprising that rates of smoking in adults are higher in both County Durham and Darlington than the national average. However, the figures for physical activity and obesity are both better than the regional average, and not massively higher than the England averages, with people in County Durham being slightly more likely than in Darlington

to be physically active, but also more likely to be carrying excess weight. Nevertheless, while the figures are close to the national average, these are both issues that are important to maintaining a healthy lifestyle, so it would be beneficial to encourage more people to become physically active and regulate their weight. In some areas, this might be about encouraging people to move more, or to eat more healthily, but in other areas the issue might be around choice. For instance, in areas where there are limited shopping choices people might not be able to access, or afford, fresh fruit and vegetables. Here it might be necessary to look at alternative approaches such as developing community gardening or allotment schemes to teach and enable people to grow their own, or setting up healthy eating take-away services to combat the chips and burger alternatives.

**Table 24 - Adults' health and lifestyle, 2015<sup>51</sup>**

| Indicator                              | Period  | County Durham | Darlington | NE Region | England |
|----------------------------------------|---------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Smoking prevalence in adults           | 2015    | 19.0%         | 17.9%      | 18.7%     | 16.9%   |
| Percentage of physically active adults | 2015    | 57.3%         | 56.5%      | 52.9%     | 57.0%   |
| Excess weight in adults                | 2013-15 | 67.6%         | 65.4%      | 68.6%     | 64.8%   |

When it comes to children's health and lifestyle the picture is not as rosy (table 25, below). Far more women are smoking in pregnancy than the national average, and many fewer are choosing to breastfeed their child, both of which can have serious consequences for the future health of their children. Both issues are more widespread in County Durham than Darlington, with Darlington being one of the top performing areas in the region.

As they grow up, young people in County Durham and Darlington are more likely to require admission to hospital due to excess alcohol consumption than elsewhere in the UK, and more under-18 girls are likely to end up pregnant. However, the figures for both County Durham and Darlington are below the NE average, and Darlington fares better than County Durham.

**Table 25 - Children's health and lifestyle, 2014-16<sup>52</sup>**

| Indicator                                                                  | Period  | County Durham | Darlington | NE Region | England |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Mother smoker at time of delivery                                          | 2015-16 | 18.1%         | 14.8%      | 16.7%     | 10.6%   |
| Breastfeeding initiation                                                   | 2014-15 | 57.6%         | 63.2%      | 60.1%     | 74.3%   |
| Obese children (Year 6)                                                    | 2015-16 | 22.1%         | 21.0%      | 22.4%     | 19.8%   |
| Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions (under 18, per 100,000) | 2015-16 | 67.5          | 58.7       | 66.9      | 37.4    |
| Under 18 conceptions (per 1,000 females aged 15-17)                        | 2015    | 26.4          | 25.1       | 28.0      | 20.8    |

#### 5.4 Disease and poor health

Among the wider population, hospital admission due to alcohol is also higher than the England average but among the lower in the NE region, and the incidence of

sexually transmitted disease is lower than the England average, though here Darlington's rates (724 per 100,000) are significantly higher than County Durham's (573 per 100,000).

In some areas, there are also issues with drugs and self-harming. Several years ago, legal highs were a big problem in Teesdale<sup>53</sup>, while Darlington Memorial Hospital was reputedly among the worst in the country for admissions of young people with issues around alcohol and/or self-harm, and areas like Stanley have problems with hard drugs, evidenced by the large numbers of needle drop facilities in local chemists.

Early cancer diagnoses are slightly lower in Darlington than the average, and diabetes rates are slightly higher than average, particularly in County Durham, as are hip fracture rates. TB is much lower than the national average in both areas (though the national average is heavily skewed by exceptionally high rates of TB among homeless people in London and other large cities), with Darlington being close to the NE average rate, and County Durham's rate being exceptionally low.

**Table 26 - Disease and poor health, 2013-16<sup>54</sup>**

| Indicator                                                        | Period  | County Durham | Darlington | NE Region | England |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Cancer diagnosed at early stage (Stage 1 or 2)                   | 2015    | 53.3%         | 49.7%      | 52.3%     | 52.4%   |
| Hospital stays for self-harm                                     | 2015-16 | 197.2         | 194.4      | 230.5     | 196.5   |
| Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions (per 100,000) | 2015-16 | 752           | 739        | 852       | 647     |
| Recorded diabetes                                                | 2014-15 | 7.0%          | 6.8%       | 6.7%      | 6.4%    |
| Incidence of TB (3 year average)                                 | 2013-15 | 1.9           | 5.1        | 5.5       | 12      |
| New sexually transmitted infections (per 100,000)                | 2016    | 573           | 724        | 648       | 795     |
| Hip fractures in people aged 65 or over (per 100,000)            | 2015-16 | 655           | 625        | 679       | 589     |

There are programmes in some areas designed to take a long-term approach to addressing ill-health and wellbeing issues. For instance, the Healthy New Towns project in Darlington involves planning and developing a whole new community designed to encourage better health and lifestyles, including using smart technology to promote health and refocus health services. If this is successful, a similar approach might be used elsewhere.

The CCG in Darlington has set up a multi-disciplinary team to address elderly care, which includes Age UK, Darlington Mind and Darlington Action on Disability. There are also moves for third sector organisations to share premises with GPs and others, allowing integrated service provision. This way of working is improving GPs' understanding of the third sector and the benefits of working together.

## 5.5 Mental health and wellbeing

The annual Personal Wellbeing Survey attempts to provide a snapshot of levels of wellbeing across the country, and results for the County Durham and Darlington are summarised in table 27.

**Table 27 - Mean scores on personal wellbeing survey, 2011-12 and 2014-15<sup>55</sup>**

|               | life satisfaction |         | worthwhile |         | happiness |         | anxiety |         |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
|               | 2011-12           | 2014-15 | 2011-12    | 2014-15 | 2011-12   | 2014-15 | 2011-12 | 2014-15 |
| County Durham | 7.49              | 7.68    | 7.64       | 7.74    | 7.09      | 7.37    | 3.27    | 3.00    |
| Darlington    | 7.53              | 7.67    | 7.70       | 7.79    | 7.36      | 7.46    | 2.91    | 2.98    |
| North East    | 7.43              | 7.55    | 7.62       | 7.73    | 7.18      | 7.34    | 3.22    | 3.01    |
| England       | 7.40              | 7.60    | 7.66       | 7.81    | 7.28      | 7.45    | 3.15    | 2.86    |

The results indicate that people in County Durham and Darlington have similar levels of wellbeing on most measures.

- They have become more satisfied with their lives over time, and in 2015 recorded higher levels of satisfaction than the England average.
- In terms of feeling what they do is worthwhile, again rates increased in both areas, and both exceeded the regional average, but the increase was less than in other parts of the country, meaning they were both now below the average in England.
- When asked about happiness, people in Durham gave a much improved rating, and went from being one of the least happy parts of the NE to above average for the region. Darlington's score also increased, bringing the district to above the national average.
- However, while England's score for anxiety fell by almost 10%, bringing it down to 2.86, the rate in County Durham fell less, to 3.00, and the score for Darlington rose slightly to 2.98, meaning people in both areas are slightly less likely to feel anxiety than the NE average, but more so than elsewhere in the country.

There is increasing recognition of the importance of mental health to overall wellbeing, with the NHS's own mental health taskforce estimating that one in four adults experiences at least one diagnosable mental health problem in any given year<sup>56</sup>.

The government has improved access to mental health services through the Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme, which operates across the country, and is often delivered by third sector mental health organisations. The referral and success rates for IAPT programmes in Durham and Darlington are given in table 28.

Many people who are referred for IAPT services do not complete assessment. The target is that this is completed within 6 weeks in 75% of cases, but many people wait much longer than this, and either feel better, so do not take up the assessment when it is offered, or seek an alternative source of help in the meantime. Of those who do undertake assessment, just over half in Durham and Darlington complete their recommended treatment. Success rates vary, with only 26% of those who complete treatment in Darlington making a reliable recovery, compared to 33% in Durham.

People in Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG area are least likely to report an improvement (45%) compared to 52% in Darlington and 56% in North Durham.

**Table 28 – IAPT services referrals, completion and outcomes, March 2017<sup>57</sup>**

| CCGName                                        | Referrals Received | Of whom, first assessment complete |     | Of whom, finished treatment |     | Of those finishing course: |     |                         |     |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
|                                                |                    |                                    |     |                             |     | Made a reliable recovery   |     | Reported an improvement |     |
| NHS Darlington CCG                             | 910                | 490                                | 54% | 250                         | 51% | 65                         | 26% | 130                     | 52% |
| NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG | 1675               | 1655                               | 99% | 845                         | 51% | 280                        | 33% | 380                     | 45% |
| NHS North Durham CCG                           | 2290               | 1580                               | 69% | 805                         | 51% | 265                        | 33% | 450                     | 56% |

Overall this means that only 7% of people referred to IAPT in Darlington make a reliable recovery (54% x 51% x 26%), while 17% of people in Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield do, and 12% in North Durham. The rates for reporting any improvement are 14%, 23% and 20%.

At the more extreme end of need, people with multiple disadvantage (see section 1 – Fairness and inequality) also often have mental health issues. Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) works across large parts of the UK to bring together partnerships of organisations to provide coordinated approaches to multiple needs. Unfortunately, there is no MEAM partnership in the Tees Valley area, and philanthropic support would be very beneficial to establish this kind of approach to support some of the people in most need in the area.

## 5.6 Changes to how health services are delivered

There are big changes taking place in how health services are delivered across the UK. The country has been split into 44 footprint areas, one of which is Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield, Darlington, Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby, while North Durham falls within the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham footprint. In each area, a partnership was formed and tasked with creating a Sustainability and Transition Plan (STP) setting out proposals to improve how health care is delivered by all agencies across the area.

The plans are designed to cover:

- Improving the health and wellbeing of the population
- Improving the quality of care that is provided
- Improving the efficiency of NHS services.

The plan that covers South Durham and the Tees Valley has four priority areas:

- Preventing ill health and increasing self-care
- Health and care in communities and neighbourhoods
- Quality of care in our hospitals – “Better Health Programme”
- Use of technology in health care

The priorities for the North Durham area are:

- Scaling up work on ill-health prevention and improving well being
- Improving the quality and experience of care by increasing collaboration between organisations that provide out of hospital care and making the best use of acute or hospital based services
- Closing the gap in local finances.

Both areas are prioritising preventative work, so there will be opportunities for local organisations to provide new and existing services through social prescribing or similar initiatives. Social prescribing usually involves one or more organisations providing 'navigators' who work with the person in need to help to identify appropriate community-based activities and support to address their health needs. Examples of existing social prescribing in County Durham include 'Colour Your Life' (see section 2 – arts and culture) and 'Wellbeing for Life'.

Alongside this, in County Durham, a new Director of Integration has been appointed with the specific remit of integrating the delivery of health and social care. They will be developing multi-disciplinary teams to provide support to patients in hospital and in the community, using a holistic approach to sustain people's independence and reduce hospital admissions. As part of this, they will be looking to extend the third sector's role in delivery of services, again probably using a social prescribing model, which may open other opportunities for third sector organisations across the county.

However, in most models of social prescribing there is little additional funding available to the organisation providing the activity, as most of the income accrues to the navigator organisation. This means that delivery organisations will still need financial support to be able to provide the activities prescribed unless organisations can successfully lobby the STP partnerships to ensure there are sufficient funds in the model to pay for service delivery.

### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

Although County Durham and Darlington are close to the national average on a wide range of health indicators, they are still in the most deprived areas in the country on the measures used in the IMD, and there are some worrying statistics indicating issues that require urgent attention. Ways in which these could be addressed through philanthropic giving include:

- Supporting interventions to address lifestyle issues, including excess weight and lack of physical activity, encouraging exercise and sports activities, healthy eating interventions, and activities to increase awareness of issues around weight and lifestyle.
- Looking at what choices people have for accessing healthy foods and considering options such as community gardening or allotment programmes or healthy eating take-aways.
- Smoking cessation activities.
- Support for young women before and during pregnancy to educate them on the healthy choices they could make for themselves and their children.
- Diversionary activities for young people, especially in County Durham, to encourage better lifestyle choices.
- Exploring the reasons for the high suicide rates in both areas; ensuring support is available to those considering taking their own lives and helping the families and friends of those who commit suicide.
- Supporting the development of a MEAM partnership for the Tees Valley to coordinate support for people with multiple disadvantage.
- Providing support to organisations delivering preventative activities and work through social prescribing type arrangements.

## 6 Work

### 6.2 Overview

The North East region has suffered some of the highest rates of unemployment in the UK for decades, and still has the highest regional rate in England. The decline of heavy industry and traditional manufacturing have left some communities with extremely low levels of employment, and inter-generational unemployment still exists in some neighbourhoods<sup>58</sup>. Across County Durham there are distinct differences between communities, with some areas benefitting from a wide range of employment opportunities and good rates of pay, in other communities the options are far narrower.

### 6.3 Employment rates

Since the coalition government came into power in 2010 there has been increasing emphasis on getting people off benefits and into work. Measures have been taken to make claiming benefits more difficult and to reduce the amounts payable, people with disabilities have had to be assessed as to whether they are capable of work, and working families have been offered financial incentives to take up employment. All this has meant that the number of people eligible to claim benefits due to unemployment has reduced, and the proportion of adults in employment or self-employment has increased from 70% in 2011 to 74% in 2016 (see Table 29).

**Table 29 - Economic activity rate, 2011 and 2016<sup>59</sup>**

| Variable                  | County Durham |      |      | Darlington |      |      | North East |      |      | England |      |      |
|---------------------------|---------------|------|------|------------|------|------|------------|------|------|---------|------|------|
|                           | 2011          | 2016 | diff | 2011       | 2016 | diff | 2011       | 2016 | diff | 2011    | 2016 | diff |
| <b>All people 16-64:</b>  |               |      |      |            |      |      |            |      |      |         |      |      |
| Economic activity rate    | 73%           | 76%  | 3%   | 74%        | 80%  | 5%   | 73%        | 76%  | 3%   | 76%     | 78%  | 2%   |
| Employment rate           | 67%           | 71%  | 4%   | 68%        | 75%  | 7%   | 65%        | 70%  | 6%   | 70%     | 74%  | 4%   |
| % employees               | 62%           | 64%  | 2%   | 61%        | 65%  | 4%   | 58%        | 63%  | 4%   | 60%     | 63%  | 3%   |
| % self employed           | 5%            | 6%   | 1%   | 7%         | 9%   | 2%   | 6%         | 7%   | 1%   | 9%      | 11%  | 1%   |
| <b>Males aged 16-64</b>   |               |      |      |            |      |      |            |      |      |         |      |      |
| Economic activity rate    | 80%           | 80%  | 0%   | 81%        | 83%  | 2%   | 79%        | 81%  | 2%   | 83%     | 84%  | 1%   |
| Employment rate           | 73%           | 74%  | 2%   | 72%        | 79%  | 7%   | 69%        | 75%  | 6%   | 75%     | 79%  | 4%   |
| % employees               | 67%           | 67%  | 1%   | 63%        | 65%  | 2%   | 60%        | 65%  | 5%   | 62%     | 65%  | 3%   |
| % self employed           | 6%            | 7%   | 1%   | 9%         | 12%  | 4%   | 9%         | 10%  | 1%   | 13%     | 15%  | 1%   |
| <b>Females aged 16-64</b> |               |      |      |            |      |      |            |      |      |         |      |      |
| Economic activity rate    | 67%           | 72%  | 5%   | 68%        | 76%  | 8%   | 67%        | 70%  | 4%   | 70%     | 73%  | 3%   |
| Employment rate           | 62%           | 68%  | 6%   | 64%        | 71%  | 7%   | 61%        | 66%  | 5%   | 65%     | 69%  | 4%   |
| % employees               | 57%           | 61%  | 4%   | 59%        | 64%  | 6%   | 57%        | 61%  | 4%   | 59%     | 62%  | 3%   |
| % self employed           | 5%            | 6%   | 1%   | 5%         | 6%   | 1%   | 4%         | 5%   | 1%   | 6%      | 7%   | 2%   |

In Darlington, the economic activity rate (i.e. the number of people who are either in work or are on benefits and actively seeking work) has increased from 74% to 80%. The number of people in employment is 65%, 2% higher than the national average, while the self-employment rate has grown from 7% to 9%, compared to a national average of 11%. The picture is similar in County Durham. The economic activity rate has grown to 76%, the same as the NE average, and the number of people in employment is 64%, also higher than the national average, while 6% of people are self-employed. In rural areas, it is common for people to hold two or three different

jobs, often not well-paid, and seasonal, just to be able to make enough income to survive.

#### 6.4 Unemployment rates

As you would expect, the changes in rates of economic inactivity and unemployment reflect the changes in employment. Table 30 indicates that across England the proportion of working-age people who are unemployed has dropped from 8% to 5%, and in the NE region from 11% to 7%. Both County Durham and Darlington have also seen falls, to 7% in County Durham and 6% in Darlington.

There is an interesting change in the behaviour of people who are economically inactive (i.e. they are not in work or not on benefits and actively seeking work). This group includes the long-term sick, students, carers and people who have retired early. In Darlington, more people in this group are now likely to say they want a job, whereas in Durham they are now more likely to say they don't. The number of people classed as economically inactive has dropped, so it may simply be that those who were economically inactive and wanted a job have found one, so are no longer inactive.

**Table 30 - Unemployment, 2011 and 2016<sup>60</sup>**

| Variable                      | County Durham |      |      | Darlington |      |      | North East |      |      | England |      |      |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------|------|------------|------|------|------------|------|------|---------|------|------|
|                               | 2011          | 2016 | diff | 2011       | 2016 | diff | 2011       | 2016 | diff | 2011    | 2016 | diff |
| <b>All people aged 16-64:</b> |               |      |      |            |      |      |            |      |      |         |      |      |
| Unemployment rate             | 8%            | 7%   | -2%  | 9%         | 6%   | -3%  | 11%        | 7%   | -4%  | 8%      | 5%   | -3%  |
| % economically inactive       | 27%           | 24%  | -3%  | 26%        | 20%  | -5%  | 27%        | 25%  | -3%  | 24%     | 22%  | -2%  |
| - who want a job              | 30%           | 22%  | -8%  | 20%        | 25%  | 5%   | 24%        | 23%  | -1%  | 24%     | 24%  | 0%   |
| - do not want a job           | 70%           | 78%  | 8%   | 80%        | 75%  | -5%  | 76%        | 77%  | 1%   | 76%     | 76%  | 0%   |
| <b>Males aged 16-64</b>       |               |      |      |            |      |      |            |      |      |         |      |      |
| Unemployment rate             | 9%            | 7%   | -2%  | 12%        | 5%   | -7%  | 12%        | 7%   | -5%  | 9%      | 5%   | -4%  |
| % economically inactive       | 20%           | 20%  | 0%   | 19%        | 17%  | -2%  | 21%        | 19%  | -2%  | 17%     | 16%  | -1%  |
| - who want a job              | 36%           | 28%  | -8%  | 23%        | 26%  | 4%   | 29%        | 27%  | -2%  | 27%     | 26%  | -2%  |
| - do not want a job           | 64%           | 72%  | 8%   | 78%        | 74%  | -4%  | 71%        | 73%  | 2%   | 73%     | 74%  | 2%   |
| <b>Females aged 16-64</b>     |               |      |      |            |      |      |            |      |      |         |      |      |
| Unemployment rate             | 8%            | 6%   | -2%  | 6%         | 7%   | 1%   | 9%         | 6%   | -3%  | 8%      | 5%   | -3%  |
| % economically inactive       | 33%           | 28%  | -5%  | 32%        | 24%  | -8%  | 33%        | 30%  | -4%  | 30%     | 27%  | -3%  |
| - who want a job              | 27%           | 19%  | -8%  | 18%        | 24%  | 6%   | 21%        | 21%  | -1%  | 22%     | 23%  | 1%   |
| - do not want a job           | 73%           | 82%  | 8%   | 82%        | 77%  | -6%  | 79%        | 80%  | 1%   | 78%     | 77%  | -1%  |

Although the headline figures indicate a reduction in the overall rates of unemployment, they mask large differences in rates between different communities.

Table 31 demonstrates that the local unemployment rates vary tremendously across both counties, with rates in Darlington ranging from 0.7% in Heighington & Coniscliffe and Hummersknott to 8.7% in Northgate.

The picture in County Durham is similar, ranging from 6.1% in Horden to 0.1% in Neville's Cross.

**Table 31 – selected County Durham and Darlington unemployment rates, June 2017<sup>61</sup>**

|                | County Durham           |             | Darlington                |             |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Highest        | Horden                  | 6.1%        | Northgate                 | 8.7%        |
|                | Peterlee East           | 5.1%        | Park East                 | 6.8%        |
|                | Craghead and South Moor | 4.8%        | North Road                | 5.6%        |
| Lowest         | Barnard Castle West     | 0.5%        | Mowden                    | 1.0%        |
|                | Elvet and Gilesgate     | 0.5%        | Hummersknott              | 0.9%        |
|                | Neville's Cross         | 0.1%        | Heighington & Coniscliffe | 0.7%        |
| <b>Average</b> |                         | <b>2.6%</b> |                           | <b>3.5%</b> |

(It is worth noting that the way the 'claimant count' is measured has change significantly over the past few decades, making it difficult to compare different time periods. The current measure is inconsistent across the country due to the gradual roll-out of Universal Credit. This requires more people to look for work, including people who previously claimed housing benefit but not Job Seekers Allowance, the partners of people on Job Seekers Allowance, and people awaiting Work Capability Assessment. This means more people fall within the definition of 'on benefits and actively seeking work', raising the claimant count<sup>62</sup>.)

**Table 33 – Long-term unemployment<sup>63</sup>**

|               | Local unemployment rate 2016 | UK % of unemployed for 1 yr+ 2016 | Estimated local 1 yr+ rate 2016 | UK % of unemployed for 5 yr+ 2016 | Estimated local 5yr+ rate 2016 |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| County Durham | 1.6%                         | 31.0%                             | 0.50%                           | 7.9%                              | 0.04%                          |
| Darlington    | 2.4%                         | 29.6%                             | 0.71%                           | 6.8%                              | 0.05%                          |
| North East    | 2.1%                         | 32.4%                             | 0.68%                           | 8.3%                              | 0.06%                          |
| Great Britain | 1.2%                         | 31.6%                             | 0.38%                           | 7.4%                              | 0.03%                          |

It is generally true that the longer someone has been out of work, the harder it will be for them to secure a job. Assuming that the levels of long-term and very long-term unemployment are similar in County Durham and Darlington to the national average, because the area has higher unemployment, it is also likely to have higher long-term and very long-term unemployment. This is shown in Table 33, above. It will, therefore, be important to make sure that appropriate support and training is available to those who have been out of work longest to ensure they have the skills to secure and sustain employment.

## 6.5 Occupations

In County Durham, there has been a reduction in the numbers of people engaged in processing, plant and machine operative, and associate professional and technical work, while the proportion of people in professional occupations has grown. However, there are still fewer managers and directors in County Durham than elsewhere in the country, and more salespeople.

Darlington has also seen an increase in professional occupations, along with caring, leisure and service occupations and process, plant and machine operatives, while the numbers of administrative and sales people have fallen.

As a result, County Durham's occupational pattern has become more similar to the England average, while Darlington's is more skewed towards caring, leisure, sales, processing and elementary work, all of which tend to be lower paid than managerial and professional work.

**Table 34 - Occupational analysis (using SOCO 2010), 2011 and 2016<sup>64</sup>**

| % all in employment who are:                  | County Durham |      | Darlington |      | North East |      | England |      |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|------|------------|------|------------|------|---------|------|
|                                               | 2011          | 2016 | 2011       | 2016 | 2011       | 2016 | 2011    | 2016 |
| Managers, directors and senior officials      | 8%            | 8%   | 10%        | 10%  | 8%         | 8%   | 10%     | 11%  |
| Professional occupations                      | 15%           | 19%  | 14%        | 17%  | 17%        | 18%  | 20%     | 20%  |
| Associate prof & tech occupations             | 15%           | 12%  | 12%        | 12%  | 13%        | 12%  | 14%     | 15%  |
| Administrative and secretarial occupations    | 11%           | 11%  | 12%        | 10%  | 11%        | 11%  | 11%     | 10%  |
| Skilled trades occupations                    | 12%           | 12%  | 10%        | 9%   | 12%        | 11%  | 11%     | 10%  |
| Caring, leisure and other service occupations | 7%            | 9%   | 10%        | 13%  | 10%        | 10%  | 9%      | 9%   |
| Sales and customer service occupations        | 10%           | 9%   | 12%        | 9%   | 10%        | 10%  | 8%      | 7%   |
| Process, plant and machine operatives         | 9%            | 7%   | 6%         | 8%   | 8%         | 8%   | 6%      | 6%   |
| Elementary occupations                        | 12%           | 12%  | 12%        | 12%  | 12%        | 12%  | 11%     | 11%  |

## 6.6 Wages

Table 34 indicates that the average weekly earnings for all categories of worker have increased over the period 2012-16.

**Table 34 - Average weekly earnings, 2012 and 2016<sup>65</sup>**

| Area       | Male F/T |         | Male P/T |         | Female F/T |         | Female P/T |         |
|------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
|            | 2012     | 2016    | 2012     | 2016    | 2012       | 2016    | 2012       | 2016    |
| Co. Durham | £463.80  | £519.80 | £145.60  | £189.20 | £387.10    | £429.90 | £157.50    | £183.60 |
| Darlington | £481.20  | £517.10 |          |         | £403.40    | £460.40 | £150.60    | £188.20 |
| North East | £490.20  | £529.10 | £149.90  | £172.80 | £406.90    | £438.80 | £154.90    | £180.70 |
| England    | £553.30  | £585.20 | £146.00  | £167.70 | £452.80    | £482.60 | £158.20    | £180.60 |

In County Durham, the increases have been higher than the national average at 12% and 11% for full time males and females, respectively (compared to 6% and 7% England-wide), and 30% and 17% for part-time workers (compared to 15% and 14%). However, the actual amounts paid for full-time work are still 9% less than the national average for full-time males and females.

In Darlington, the picture is similar for full-time males. Full time females in Darlington have seen a 14% increase in pay, bringing them much closer to the national average.

For part-time workers, the weekly pay amounts are not very informative as they will be heavily influenced by the numbers of hours worked, so it is better to look at hourly rates of pay. These are given in Table 35, below.

The rates of pay for part-time males workers in County Durham are significantly lower than for full-time, probably reflecting a difference in the type of work undertaken, as part-time male workers tend to be in lower-skilled occupations including processing, service and retail work.

**Table 35 - Average hourly pay, 2012 and 2016<sup>66</sup>**

| Area          | Male Full Time Workers |        | Male Part Time Workers |       | Female Full Time Workers |        | Female Part Time Workers |       |
|---------------|------------------------|--------|------------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------|
|               | 2012                   | 2016   | 2012                   | 2016  | 2012                     | 2016   | 2012                     | 2016  |
| County Durham | £11.33                 | £12.76 | £7.81                  | £8.48 | £10.34                   | £11.29 | £8.00                    | £8.77 |
| Darlington    | £11.63                 | £12.49 |                        |       | £11.04                   | £12.25 | £7.50                    | £8.73 |
| North East    | £12.10                 | £13.05 | £7.70                  | £8.49 | £10.96                   | £11.70 | £7.67                    | £8.59 |
| England       | £13.59                 | £14.39 | £7.77                  | £8.59 | £12.12                   | £12.90 | £8.15                    | £9.00 |

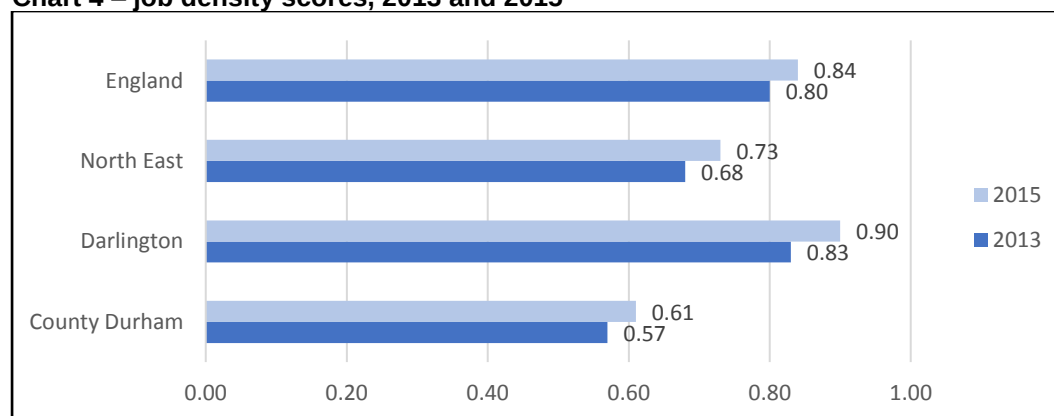
The rates for part-time male workers in County Durham rose by less than the national average in 2012-16, and are 11p/hr less than the national average. For female workers, rates in County Durham rose by the national average 10%, but are still 23p below the national average. In Darlington, there are too few part-time male employees for figures to be produced, and among women the rate of change was higher than the national average, but they are still paid 27p less per hour than the England-wide mean.

The fact that the increase in weekly pay is far higher than increases in hourly rates for all part-time workers indicates that the average hours worked by part-time staff has increased.

## 6.7 Job density

Chart 4 below shows the job density scores for Darlington and County Durham, compared to the NE and England averages.

**Chart 4 – job density scores, 2013 and 2015<sup>67</sup>**



This shows that the number of jobs available per head of population has increased in each area. The score for the North East is lower than the England-wide average, but is growing at a slightly faster rate, implying that it may catch up eventually. Darlington has a higher rate than the England average, and is growing at a faster rate. By contrast, the rate in County Durham is low, and is only growing at the national rate, meaning it will not catch up.

## 6.8 Young people

The number of young people taking up apprenticeships in Darlington has varied quite considerably over the past five years, with a high point in 2011/12 of 1,850 places being taken up, dropping to 1,230 in 2013/14 (chart 5). In 2015/16, it had risen again to 1,700. Similarly, in County Durham, the number dropped between 2011/12 and 2013/14 and has risen again, now standing at 8,380. This pattern is echoed at regional level and probably reflects a change to the way apprenticeships were delivered or counted, rather than necessarily meaning that there was a drastic change in the numbers of young people taking on this type of opportunity.

**Chart 5 – numbers of apprenticeships taken up, 2011-16<sup>68</sup>**

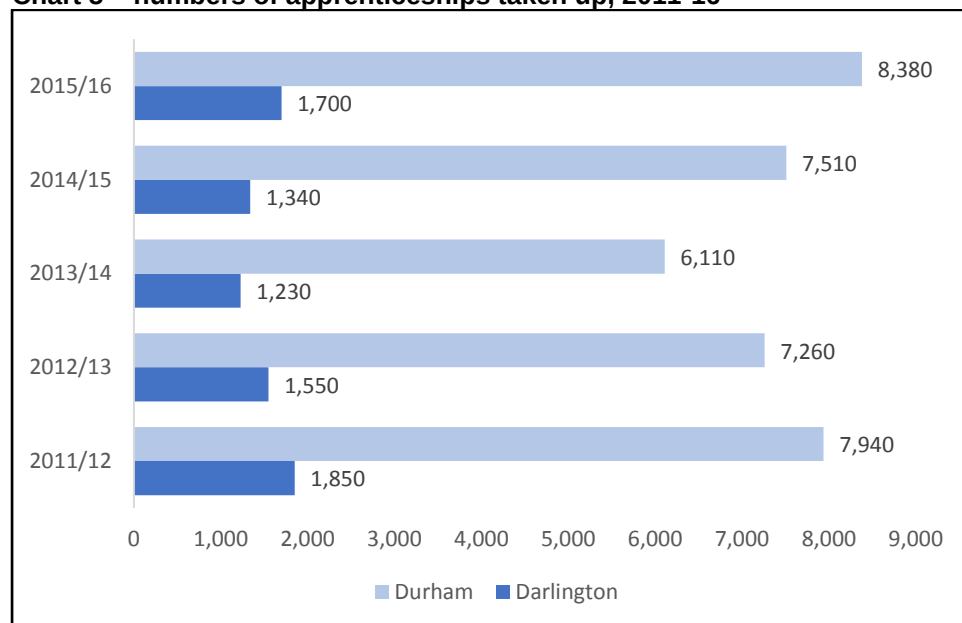


Table 36, below, shows the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Between 2012 and 2015, the proportion of young people ending up in this category has fallen, most dramatically in County Durham from 10% to 6%, but also in Darlington from 8% to 6%.

**Table 36 - NEET young people, 2012 and 2015<sup>69</sup>**

|               | 2012                 |     | 2015                 |    |
|---------------|----------------------|-----|----------------------|----|
|               | 16-18 year olds NEET | %   | 16-18 year olds NEET | %  |
| County Durham | 1,810                | 10% | 1,010                | 6% |
| Darlington    | 310                  | 8%  | 230                  | 6% |
| North East    | 340                  | 5%  | 5,010                | 6% |
| England       | 99,990               | 5%  | 68,385               | 4% |

However, both areas still have rates far higher than the national average of 4%, suggesting there is a need to engage with young people, ideally before they leave school, to encourage them to form good working habits that will enable them to cope with the demands of continued education, training or work.

This is an area where philanthropic giving could have a positive influence, including giving in kind, for example through widening the opportunities for work experience and placements, mentoring, and careers guidance.

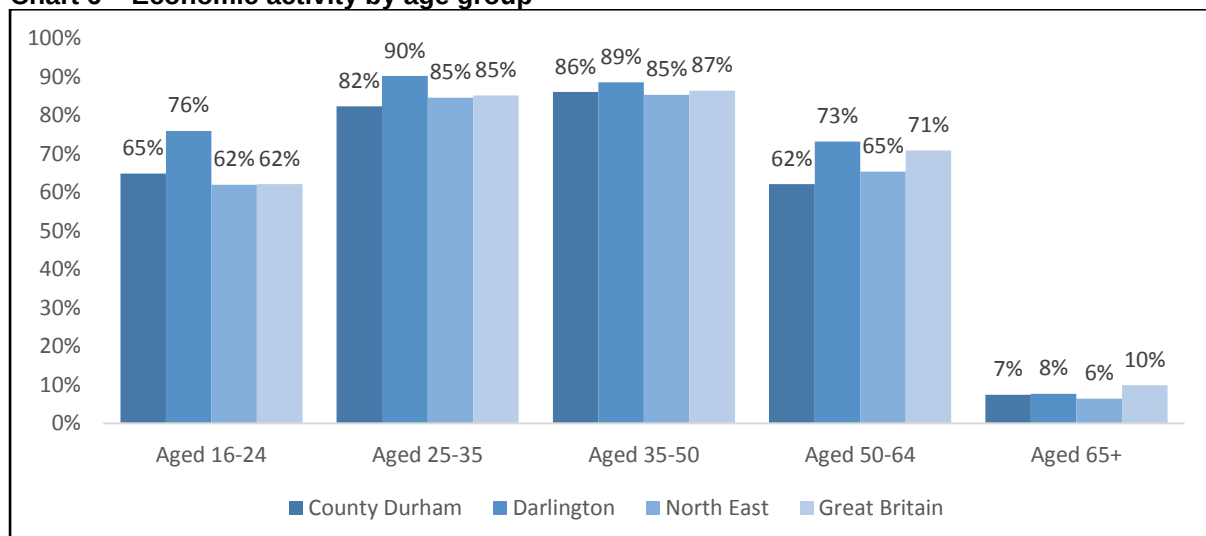
In the Durham Dales, Upper Teesdale Advice and Support Service (UTASS) identified an issue with young people not being made aware of the opportunities available within farming. They accessed some funding to provide a 'Farmers of the Future' project in 2011, which provided 12-month placements for young people to work on local farms and undertake study to skill them up to work in the agricultural sector. 11 young people took part and all went on to work in the sector. Again, philanthropic support for this kind of initiative could help to ensure that young people choose to work in agriculture in the future.

The Durham Works programme is EU-funded to work with young people and employers across County Durham, encouraging employers to recognise the benefits of taking on and training young people, and helping young people to develop the skills and attitudes necessary to secure and sustain employment or training. The programme is more flexible than most, allowing young people to access different kinds of support during their time on the programme, rather than being locked into one provider, enabling them to progress over time.

## 6.9 Older people

People who are economically active include both those who are in work and those actively seeking work. Across the UK, the usual pattern is that most people (over 85%) are economically active between the ages of 25 and 50, and then it drops slightly (to 71%) until 65, when it drops down to 10% or less.

**Chart 6 – Economic activity by age group<sup>70</sup>**



In Darlington, the rates of activity are higher than average in every age group until 65+, when the rate drops to a below-average 8%. In County Durham, activity rates are slightly below average from age 25 to 50, and then drop quite steeply, with only 62% of those aged 50-64 economically active and only 7% of those aged 65+.

It's not possible to tell from the data why activity rates drop so much in County Durham, but it would be worth looking further into this to see whether there is a role for philanthropy in addressing any issues.

### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

In common with most parts of the NE region, County Durham and Darlington have higher rates of unemployment and lower rates of self-employment than elsewhere in England. However, there are particular groups who are more likely to be out of work than others, and to earn less. Specific roles for philanthropy to help address these issues include:

- Supporting targeted activity to address worklessness in those communities where the rates are highest. Interventions need to be directed both at ensuring those looking for work (labour supply) are appropriately skilled and well equipped to apply for and secure it, and that employers (the demand side of the market) are willing to employ local people, not blacklisting certain postcodes, and that new small businesses (including social enterprises) are encouraged to expand and take on more staff.
- Supporting activity to reskill and motivate the long term unemployed to be able to secure appropriate employment.
- Providing support, including practical support to encourage young people to stay engaged in work, education or employment. This could include greater employer engagement in schools, providing work experience and work placements, visits to technical development or production facilities, mentoring and work shadowing.
- Looking into why fewer older people (aged 50+) in County Durham are engaged in work.

## 7 Housing and homelessness

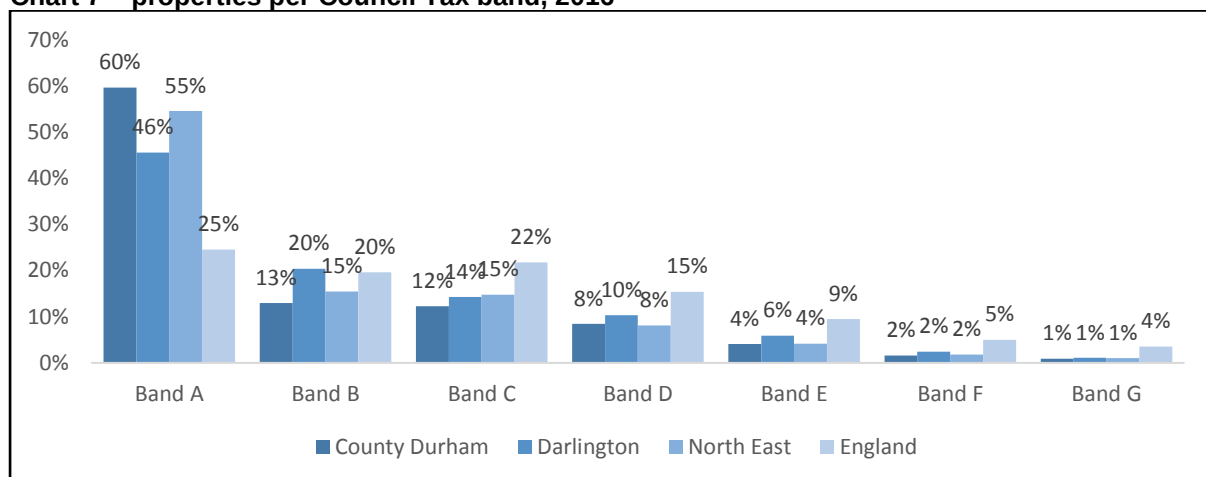
### 7.1 Overview

The national housing shortage has been big news for a long time in the UK, with Councils being encouraged to build far more homes, including on green belt land, and house prices continuing to soar in areas where demand exceeds supply. In the NE region, the shortage is less acute, reflected in lower house prices in most areas, but issues remain around the affordability, condition and appropriateness of the housing stock for current and future needs, while changes to benefits mean many people are increasingly struggling to afford to cover their housing costs.

### 7.2 Housing stock and tenure

Most of the housing stock in County Durham falls into Council tax band A, which is the lowest band and applies to the lowest value properties. In Darlington, 46% of homes are in this band and 20% in band B. This implies that in both areas the average housing valuation is lower than the England average, and in the case of Durham, also lower than the NE average. This should imply that County Durham and Darlington are very affordable places to live.

**Chart 7 – properties per Council Tax band, 2016<sup>71</sup>**



In 2016, there were 239,685 homes in County Durham, of which 11,522 (4.8%) were unoccupied.<sup>72</sup> The occupancy rate varies considerably across the county, ranging from 90% occupancy in Weardale to 98% in Great Ayton and Middridge<sup>73</sup>. Shelter (the national housing and homelessness charity) estimates that over 1/3 of all unoccupied homes have been so for at least six months, so meet the definition of an 'empty home'<sup>74</sup> suggesting approximately 1.3%, or over 3,200 individual dwellings in County Durham have been empty for at least six months. In Darlington, approximately 1% of homes are empty, and 230 dwellings have been empty for at least 2 years<sup>75</sup>.

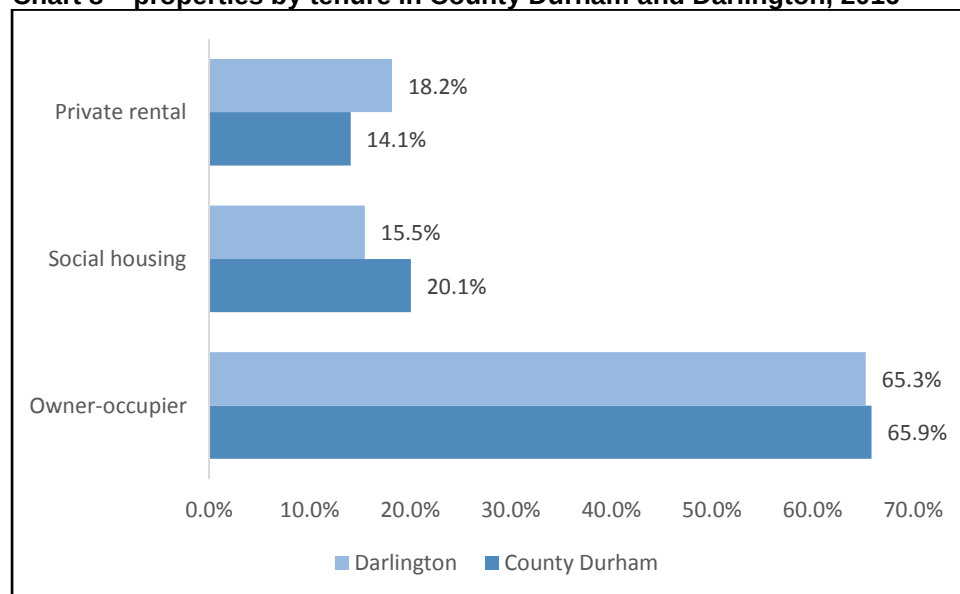
The Department for Communities and Local Government has provided funding for some empty homes to be redeveloped, and regional charities including Five Lamps and Changing Lives were able to access funding to support the redevelopment of some properties in County Durham. Given the number of empty homes in communities across County Durham and Darlington, there would be scope for more of this kind of development to take place, though it will be important to ensure that

there are local jobs and amenities available to guarantee that tenancies can be sustained. This means a more cross-cutting approach may be required, with whole community regeneration involving all sections of the local community, rather than just focusing on homes.

Empty homes can also be brought back into use to provide housing for specific groups, for instance, the charity Single Homeless: Action Initiative Durham (SHAID) in Stanley were able to secure funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner's fund to refurbish two houses and provide accommodation for ex-convicts who would otherwise have struggled to secure appropriate accommodation.

Chart 8, below, shows the tenure of properties across County Durham. Almost two thirds of properties are owner occupied, 36% mortgage-free, and 30% with a mortgage. A further 20% rent from social providers and 14% rent privately. In Darlington, a very similar proportion are owner-occupiers, but there is a reversal in the rental sector, with 18% in private rentals and 15% in social housing.

**Chart 8 – properties by tenure in County Durham and Darlington, 2016<sup>76 77</sup>**



### 7.3 Average property prices

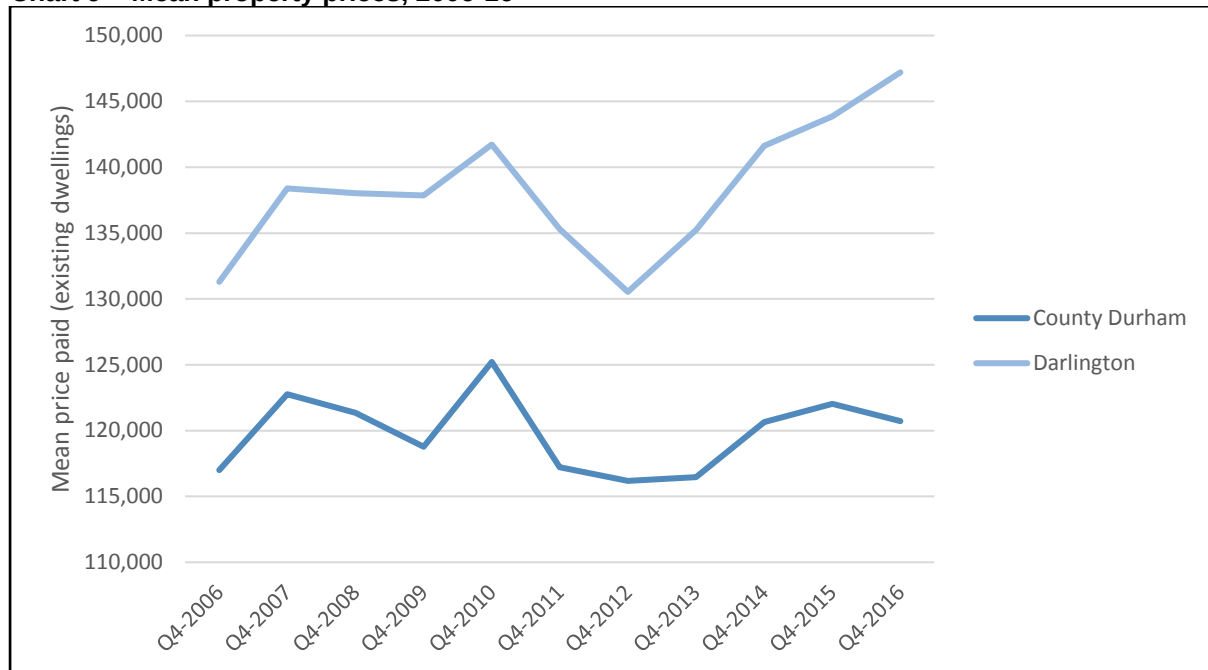
The NE region has not had the rapid property price inflation experienced in the South of the country. After the economic crash of 2008, prices fell rapidly in many areas, and, in some places, have taken many years to recover to their pre-crash levels, while in other neighbourhoods prices are rising more quickly again.

Prices have risen far more quickly in Darlington than County Durham, with the average Darlington property increasing from £130k to £148 in the ten years 2006-16, whereas in County Durham prices have been more variable, and by 2016 were only about £4k more than a decade earlier.

Again, this masks a range of different outcomes in different areas. In Durham City, prices rose by 7% between 2008 and 2014, and in the 4 Together AAP (which stretches from Chilton to Cornforth) the rise was 8%. At the same time, prices

crashed by 15% in Weardale and 20% in Stanley<sup>78</sup>, potentially leaving people with negative equity.

**Chart 9 – Mean property prices, 2006-16<sup>79</sup>**



Nevertheless, looking at house prices in isolation doesn't tell you whether people's wages are sufficient to be able to afford to buy. In Darlington, the average ratio of earnings to house prices fell from 5.7 to 4.92 between 2006 and 2016, meaning that homes should be becoming more affordable. Earlier figures are not available for County Durham, but in 2016 the ratio was 4.55, suggesting that homes in County Durham should be even more affordable, given the wages in the area<sup>80</sup>.

These ratios suggest that homes in Darlington and County Durham are among the most affordable in the country, and are even low for the NE region.

Despite this, young people in rural areas are often priced out of the housing market. There is a shortage of housing available, particularly in areas where there is antipathy towards new housing being built, meaning prices remain high. Where wages are low this makes house-buying unaffordable. This is exacerbated when people inherit houses and use them as holiday homes, often only visiting for a few weekends a year, contributing little to the local economy, and leaving the house empty most of the time.

## 7.2 Rental market

Table 37 shows that average rental costs in Darlington and County Durham are very similar, with just a £5/wk difference in social housing rents. Private rental costs are also very similar in Darlington and County Durham, and £31 to £35 per week higher than in social housing (over £1,500 pa). This creates a significant barrier to entry of the private sector.

Another barrier can be the requirement to pay a bond and/or rent in advance, which is not affordable for many people, including a lot of young people and people on benefits or limited incomes.

**Table 37 - Average weekly rents by landlord, 2015**

|               | <b>Local authority</b> | <b>Housing Assoc /<br/>Private registered<br/>provider</b> | <b>Private landlord</b> |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| County Durham |                        | £75.61                                                     | £107.02                 |
| Darlington    | £72.88                 | £80.72                                                     | £107.94                 |

For many people working in agriculture in the Durham Dales, being a tenanted hill farmer means they have little control over the condition of their property, or the services available to them, and there are big differences in the amount of rent payable depending on how vocal the tenant is, who the landlord is, and the relationship between the two of them. Some landlords are quite progressive and will invest in their properties, whereas others are not interested in change and apply pressure to prevent it happening, for instance attempting to block broadband installation on their land.

## 7.5 Changes to housing and other benefits

Recent changes to eligibility criteria for housing benefit mean that many more people may find themselves unable to secure and maintain a tenancy due to restrictions on the amount of rent that will be covered through housing benefit:

- single young people aged 18-21 are not eligible for any housing benefit
- single people aged 22-35 can only get housing benefit to pay for a single room in shared accommodation or a bedsit
- the introduction of the underoccupancy charge (bedroom tax) means that those with more bedrooms than deemed necessary are expected to pay a proportion of their rent themselves
- the introduction of the benefits cap for those on Housing Benefit and Universal Credit means the total amount payable for all benefits per week is limited to £384.62/wk (or £257.69 for single people without children).

In addition, further issues are caused by:

- most benefits being subject to a benefits freeze until 2020, meaning they will not increase in monetary terms during that time, further reducing the value of the benefits payable
- the difficulties in rolling out Universal Credit, meaning that claimants wait a minimum of 6 weeks, and up to 12 weeks to receive any benefit, leaving them without any resources to pay rent
- a lack of one-bedroom rental accommodation, meaning some people are locked into larger properties and face having to pay the bedroom tax, while others cannot find suitable accommodation in which to live
- where new property is built it tends to be for sale only, locking out people who cannot afford, or cannot access, mortgage finance.

As a result, more and more people will struggle to meet their monthly rent, leaving them in danger of facing eviction.

## 7.6 Homelessness

The number of people officially recognised as homeless appears to be falling throughout the NE region including in County Durham and Darlington. This is contrary to the national picture of rising homelessness, however organisations working in the homelessness field argue the recorded figures vastly underestimate the size of the problem due to the tight restrictions on who is eligible to be counted as 'homeless'. Anyone deemed to be intentionally homeless (for example because of failure to pay rent, or giving up a home where they reasonably could have lived) is excluded from the figures.

**Table 38 - Local authorities' actions in relation to homelessness applications<sup>81</sup>**

|                                                                      | County Durham |             | Darlington |             | North East  |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                                      | 2012          | 2016        | 2012       | 2016        | 2012        | 2016        |
| <b>Decisions taken:</b>                                              |               |             |            |             |             |             |
| Accepted as being homeless and a priority need                       | 339           | 170         | 28         | 14          | 1800        | 1334        |
| <i>Number per 1,000 households</i>                                   | <i>1.51</i>   | <i>0.74</i> | <i>0.6</i> | <i>0.3</i>  | <i>1.62</i> | <i>1.15</i> |
| <b>Eligible but not accepted:</b>                                    |               |             |            |             |             |             |
| Homeless and in priority need, but intentionally                     | 51            | 30          | 19         | 14          | 210         | 123         |
| Homeless but not in priority need                                    | 172           | 51          | 1          | 5           | 1270        | 743         |
| Not homeless                                                         | 248           | 10          | 2          | 14          | 1340        | 1020        |
| <b>Total decisions</b>                                               | <b>810</b>    | <b>261</b>  | <b>50</b>  | <b>47</b>   | <b>4630</b> | <b>3700</b> |
| <b>Accommodation secured by LA:</b>                                  |               |             |            |             |             |             |
| Bed and breakfast (including shared annexe)                          | 1             |             |            |             | 60          | 0           |
| Hostels                                                              | 3             |             |            |             | 20          | 8           |
| LA/HA stock                                                          | 20            |             |            | 8           | 120         | 100         |
| Private sector leased (by LA or HA)                                  |               | 5           |            |             |             | 14          |
| Other types (including private landlord)                             |               |             |            |             |             |             |
| <b>Total in temporary accommodation</b>                              | <b>24</b>     | <b>8</b>    |            | <b>12</b>   | <b>210</b>  | <b>141</b>  |
| <i>Number per 1,000 households</i>                                   | <i>0.11</i>   | <i>0.03</i> | <i>0</i>   | <i>0.25</i> | <i>0.19</i> | <i>0.12</i> |
| Duty owed but no accommodation has been secured at end of March 2015 | 76            | 21          |            |             | 450         | 337         |

During the period 2012-16 there was a massive drop in the number of homelessness decisions made in County Durham from 810 to 261. The number of people accepted as homeless and a priority halved in this time, and there were drops in each of the 'eligible' categories too. In Darlington, the number of decisions made only fell by 3, but again there was a drop of around 50% in the number of people accepted as homeless and a priority.

The Youth Homelessness Databank established by Centrepoin provides estimates of the number of young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in an area. Their analysis for the County Durham and Darlington is given at Table 39 below. Although several of the figures are missing (the databank is still in development), across the whole dataset there appears to be a reasonably consistent pattern of central government estimates being lower than local authority and/or charity estimates. This is because the local government and charity estimates are based on actual consultations with young people who are, or at risk of, homelessness, so includes all those young people who are sofa-surfing, rough sleeping, or sleeping in cars and do not count as homeless because they are judged to have become so intentionally.

This is likely to be an increasingly useful source of information on youth homelessness as the datasets increase.

**Table 39 – different agencies' analysis of numbers of homeless young people<sup>82</sup>**

| Area          | Central government |         | Local government |                | Charities      |                |
|---------------|--------------------|---------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|               | 2012-13            | 2015-16 | 2012-13          | 2015-16        | 2012-13        | 2015-16        |
| County Durham | 156                | 15      | <i>no data</i>   | 325            | 162            | <i>no data</i> |
| Darlington    | 32                 | 18      | <i>no data</i>   | <i>no data</i> | <i>no data</i> | 15             |

## 7.7 Rough Sleeping

Recent reports have indicated a massive increase in the number of people sleeping rough throughout the UK<sup>83</sup> and there are concerns that this figure will continue to increase with widespread cuts to housing support services traditionally provided or funded by local authorities. While recorded rates of rough sleeping are relatively low in Darlington and County Durham, many suspect the official figures underestimate the size of the problem, especially since in many areas the figures provided are estimates and not based on a physical count of people (in Table 40, shaded cells indicate an actual count has taken place).

2016 rates in Darlington are roughly twice as high as in County Durham, and both are higher than the NE average, though well below the England average. What is more worrying is that there appears to be an increase in the numbers of people sleeping rough in both areas.

**Table 40 - Rough sleeping rates – autumn count 2011-16<sup>84</sup>**

| Local Authority | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2016 Rough Sleeping Rate (per 1,000 households) |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------------------|
| County Durham   | 2     | 11    | 3     | 13    | 3     | 12    | 0.05                                            |
| Darlington      | -     | 1     | 2     | 1     | 1     | 5     | 0.11                                            |
| North East      | 32    | 62    | 25    | 35    | 38    | 45    | 0.04                                            |
| Rest of England | 1,735 | 1,752 | 1,871 | 2,002 | 2,629 | 3,170 | 0.16                                            |

### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

Although housing is relatively cheap to purchase in both County Durham and Darlington, for those who are unable to buy, changes to eligibility for benefits and the way benefits are paid out risk leaving more people unable to obtain and sustain a tenancy. Specific areas in which philanthropic giving could play a key role include:

- establishing a fund for bonds / advance rent payments to enable people to take on tenancies
- funding to enable the refurbishment and reuse of empty homes
- provision of truly affordable smaller accommodation for single people and couples
- support and advice for people at risk of homelessness
- collection of accurate data to uncover the true scale of homelessness.

## 8 Learning

### 8.1 Overview

Much has been done to improve the ranking of schools in the NE region in the past few decades, and standards are now at, or above, the national average in many parts of the region. However, there are still issues with pupils eligible for free school meals not performing as well as their counterparts, and with fewer young people from the region applying for and gaining places at the best higher education establishments.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation's education strand ranks the 326 local authorities by their number of LSOAs that fall into the 10% most deprived. On this basis, Darlington falls into the 30% most deprived educationally, and County Durham is in the 40% most deprived (see table 40), making them the least educationally deprived areas in the south of the region.

**Table 40 – standings according to the IMD Education strand, 2015<sup>85</sup>**

| Local Authority District name | Education, Skills and Training - Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally | Education, Skills and Training - Rank of proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally | Decile (1 = most deprived, 10 = least deprived) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| County Durham                 | 8%                                                                                   | 126                                                                                          | 4                                               |
| Darlington                    | 14%                                                                                  | 75                                                                                           | 3                                               |

### 8.2 Early years

Table 41, below, shows that in both Darlington and County Durham, at least as many 3 and 4 year olds access pre-school provision as the national average. For 2 year olds, both areas have higher attendance than the national average. However, across all ages the NE average is higher than either Darlington or County Durham.

**Table 41 - Percentage of pre-school population attending funded early years provision<sup>86</sup>**

|               | All providers - percentage of population |      |        |             |      |        |             |      |        |
|---------------|------------------------------------------|------|--------|-------------|------|--------|-------------|------|--------|
|               | 2-year-olds                              |      |        | 3-year-olds |      |        | 4-year-olds |      |        |
|               | 2015                                     | 2016 | change | 2011        | 2016 | change | 2011        | 2016 | change |
| County Durham | 62                                       | 74   | 19%    | 93          | 94   | 1%     | 98          | 98   | 0%     |
| Darlington    | 57                                       | 76   | 33%    | 100         | 96   | -4%    | 100         | 97   | -3%    |
| North East    | 65                                       | 78   | 20%    | 96          | 97   | 1%     | 99          | 99   | 0%     |
| England       | 58                                       | 68   | 17%    | 92          | 93   | 1%     | 96          | 97   | 1%     |

Ofsted inspects and rates pre-school provision. The quality of services in County Durham is exceptionally high, with 95% of providers rated good or outstanding (compared to the England average of 86%) and no inadequate ratings. Darlington services are also better than the England average with 89% good or outstanding.

### 8.3 Key Stage 2

At Key Stage 2, again more pupils reach the expected standard in County Durham and Darlington than the national average, with Durham again edging ahead of Darlington. However, in common with all areas of the country, those pupils who are

eligible for free school meals lag behind their counterparts in terms of academic achievement. The attainment gap is 24% in County Durham and 25% in Darlington, 3-4% above the national average (see table 42).

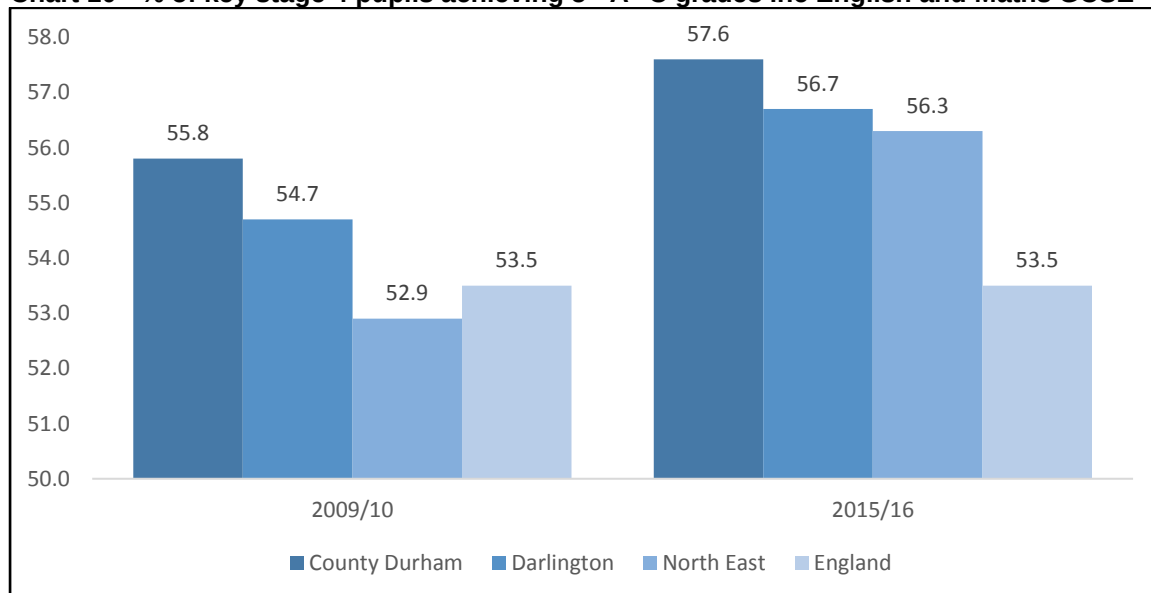
**Table 42 - Attainment of pupils at key stage 2 by free school meal eligibility, 2016<sup>87</sup>**

|                                         | County Durham | Darlington | North East | England    |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Pupils with free school meals</b>    |               |            |            |            |
| % pupils eligible for free school meals | 19%           | 17%        | 20%        | 16%        |
| Number of pupils                        | 1,027         | 211        | 5,590      | 90,680     |
| % reaching the expected standard        | 40%           | 36%        | 39%        | 36%        |
| <b>All other pupils</b>                 |               |            |            |            |
| Number of pupils                        | 4,343         | 1,018      | 22,280     | 490,378    |
| % reaching the expected standard        | 64%           | 61%        | 62%        | 57%        |
| <b>Gap in attainment</b>                | <b>24%</b>    | <b>25%</b> | <b>23%</b> | <b>21%</b> |
| <b>All pupils</b>                       |               |            |            |            |
| Number of pupils                        | 5,370         | 1,229      | 27,870     | 581,058    |
| % reaching the expected standard        | 59%           | 56%        | 57%        | 54%        |

#### 8.4 GCSE performance

At GCSE level, County Durham pupils are still edging ahead of Darlington pupils, and both areas are still ahead of both the NE and national average performance. Encouragingly, both areas have also managed to maintain an overall improvement in their performance over the past 10 years, whereas England-wide success rates appear to have reached a plateau.

**Chart 10 - % of key stage 4 pupils achieving 5+ A\*-C grades inc English and Maths GCSE<sup>88</sup>**



#### 8.5 Absence from school

Table 43, below, shows the rates of authorised and unauthorised absence from school at primary and secondary level. At primary level, the rates for County Durham and Darlington are virtually identical, with slightly higher than average rates of overall absence, this being authorised absence (i.e. for illness, pre-agreed appointments etc.). One slight worry at primary level is that the percentage of pupils

who are persistent absentees is a third higher than the national average in County Durham.

At secondary level the picture is similar, with slightly higher overall absence, this being authorised absence for the most part.

However, the rate of persistent secondary school absentees in Darlington is 60% above the norm at 8.7%. This means that more than one in 12 secondary pupils in Darlington is away from school for 28 days or more each academic year. This is a concern, being disruptive to both the individual's education and that of their classmates, as the teachers are then obliged to spend more time helping the absentee to catch up. There is also a growing body of evidence that absenteeism from school is linked to poor educational achievement and an increased chance of ending up NEET (not in education, employment or training – see section 6 – Work)<sup>89</sup>.

**Table 43 - Pupil absence from schools, 2014-15<sup>90</sup>**

|                               | Darlington | Durham | North East | England |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|------------|---------|
| <b>Primary</b>                |            |        |            |         |
| Absence                       | 4.3%       | 4.3%   | 4.2%       | 4.0%    |
| Authorised absence            | 3.4%       | 3.4%   | 3.2%       | 3.1%    |
| Unauthorised absence          | 0.8%       | 0.9%   | 1.0%       | 0.9%    |
| % pupils persistent absentees | 2.8%       | 2.2%   | 2.2%       | 2.1%    |
| <b>Secondary</b>              |            |        |            |         |
| Absence                       | 6.2%       | 5.5%   | 5.6%       | 5.3%    |
| Authorised absence            | 4.6%       | 4.1%   | 4.1%       | 4.0%    |
| Unauthorised absence          | 1.6%       | 1.5%   | 1.5%       | 1.3%    |
| % pupils persistent absentees | 8.7%       | 5.6%   | 5.9%       | 5.4%    |

The reasons for absence from school include illness (58% of absence) and family holidays (11%)<sup>91</sup>, as well as truancy which may result from bullying, inability to cope with schoolwork, or undiagnosed emotional or behavioural disorders<sup>92</sup>.

## 8.6 Post 16

Table 44, below, provides a breakdown of the destinations of those students who choose to stay on at school to age 18.

**Table 44 - Destinations of Key Stage 5 students<sup>93</sup>**

|                                                           | Durham | Darlington | North East | England |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------|---------|
| Further education college or other provider               | 10%    | 14%        | 12%        | 10%     |
| Sixth form                                                | 3%     | 3%         | 4%         | 3%      |
| Apprenticeships                                           | 7%     | 5%         | 7%         | 5%      |
| UK higher education institution                           | 65%    | 58%        | 60%        | 58%     |
| Top third of HEIs                                         | 22%    | 20%        | 20%        | 26%     |
| <i>Russell Group (incl. Ox. and Cam.)</i>                 | 19%    | 18%        | 17%        | 17%     |
| Education / employment / training combination destination | 2%     | x          | 1%         | 1%      |
| Destination not sustained                                 | 7%     | 8%         | 8%         | 7%      |
| Destination not sustained / recorded NEET                 | 2%     | x          | 2%         | 2%      |
| Activity not captured in data                             | 5%     | 9%         | 7%         | 13%     |

In County Durham, more than average of these young people go on to higher education, and of those 22% get into the top third of higher education institutions, and 19% get into the Russell Group institutions. This is higher than both the NE and national averages.

In Darlington, more young people are likely to go to an FE or sixth form provider at age 18 (17%, compared to the national average of 13%). 58% of students will go into higher education, but again, a higher proportion of Darlington pupils than the national average gets into Russell Group institutions (18%, compared to the national average of 17%).

However, when the data is broken down into those pupils who had free school meals in secondary school and those who did not, the gap in performance shown at KS2 persists. In County Durham, young people who were not eligible for free school meals are almost three times more likely to end up in higher education than those who were eligible, and three and a half times more likely to go to a top level higher education institute. In Darlington, the difference is about the same for going into higher education, but even wider for top level HEIs, with those not on free school meals four and a half times more likely to access these places.

**Table 44 – Eligibility for free school meals and entry into higher education<sup>94</sup>**

|               | Pupils with Free School Meals |          |           | Pupils without Free School Meals |          |           | Gap          |          |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
|               | Top 33% HEIs                  | Other HE | Not in HE | Top 33% HEIs                     | Other HE | Not in HE | Top 33% HEIs | Other HE |
| County Durham | 2%                            | 10%      | 88%       | 7%                               | 27%      | 66%       | 5%           | 17%      |
| Darlington    | 2%                            | 11%      | 87%       | 9%                               | 32%      | 59%       | 7%           | 21%      |
| England       | 4%                            | 19%      | 77%       | 12%                              | 28%      | 60%       | 8%           | 9%       |

This finding reinforces the need to provide additional support to children and young people who are eligible for free school meals to ensure they can perform as well as their counterparts, and have the same levels of expectation and aspiration regarding continuing into good quality higher education.

### 8.7 Adults' skills

Across the North East region, rates of literacy and numeracy are low compared to other regions.

The period 2003-11 saw an increase in people in the NE with the very lowest levels of both numeracy and literacy.

In terms of literacy, there was a substantial increase in the number of people with the highest skills, but the region remained 8<sup>th</sup> in the league of 9 regions (a slight improvement from 9<sup>th</sup> in 2003).

In terms of numeracy, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of the population with higher skills, in line with the English trend, and the NE retained its position as 8<sup>th</sup> out of 9 regions.

**Table 45 - Literacy and Numeracy by region, 2003 and 2011<sup>95</sup>**

|                        | UK   |      | North East |      | North East rank |      |
|------------------------|------|------|------------|------|-----------------|------|
|                        | 2003 | 2011 | 2003       | 2011 | 2003            | 2011 |
| <b>Literacy</b>        |      |      |            |      |                 |      |
| Entry Level 1 or below | 3%   | 5%   | 4%         | 9%   | 2               | 2    |
| Entry Level 2          | 2%   | 2%   | 4%         | 1%   | 1               | 9    |
| Entry Level 3          | 11%  | 8%   | 14%        | 7%   | 1               | 4    |
| Level 1                | 40%  | 28%  | 41%        | 31%  | 4               | 1    |
| Level 2 or above*      | 44%  | 57%  | 37%        | 52%  | 9               | 8    |
| <b>Numeracy</b>        |      |      |            |      |                 |      |
| Entry Level 1 or below | 5%   | 7%   | 6%         | 8%   | 1               | 2    |
| Entry Level 2          | 16%  | 17%  | 22%        | 23%  | 1               | 1    |
| Entry Level 3          | 25%  | 25%  | 27%        | 24%  | 3               | 7    |
| Level 1                | 28%  | 29%  | 25%        | 27%  | 9               | 9    |
| Level 2 or above*      | 25%  | 22%  | 21%        | 18%  | 8               | 8    |

\*Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE grade A\*-C

This is clearly an area where the NE region needs to improve, but there is a dearth of statistics at any level below regional, making it difficult to identify sub-regional variations.

Table 46, below, provides a breakdown of the highest educational achievement of adults in both County Durham and Darlington.

Both areas have seen a reduction in the number of working-age adults with no qualifications, and an increase in the number at each level of qualification, implying that the workforce is becoming more skilled. Darlington has historically had a higher level of people with qualifications than County Durham at each level, and this is still the case, with Darlington's rate of qualifications increase exceeding the NE average.

**Table 46 - Highest educational attainment population aged 16-64, 2011 and 2016<sup>96</sup>**

|               | % with NVQ4+ |      | % with NVQ3+ |      | % with NVQ2+ |      | % with NVQ1+ |      | % with no qualifications |      |
|---------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------------------|------|
|               | 2012         | 2016 | 2012         | 2016 | 2012         | 2016 | 2012         | 2016 | 2012                     | 2016 |
| County Durham | 25%          | 30%  | 42%          | 51%  | 66%          | 72%  | 83%          | 84%  | 12%                      | 10%  |
| Darlington    | 27%          | 33%  | 47%          | 54%  | 69%          | 74%  | 82%          | 84%  | 11%                      | 8%   |
| North East    | 26%          | 31%  | 46%          | 52%  | 69%          | 74%  | 82%          | 85%  | 12%                      | 9%   |

In parts of County Durham there is still an issue with lack of digital skills, particularly among the older generation, who are often reliant on young people to undertake tasks like making on-line bookings or admin work, filing governmental returns etc. There is a need for ongoing support and training to equip these older people to be able to gain the skills and confidence to be able to do this for themselves.

### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

In general, children, young people and adults all perform as well as or better than the national average in terms of education and skills. However, there are three areas where there could be a role for philanthropy in improving educational standards:

- Pupils eligible for free school meals still perform less well than their counterparts in schools throughout Darlington and County Durham and fewer access the best higher education establishments. It would be helpful to understand why this and then support targeted actions to enable all young people eligible for free school meals to reach their full potential.
- In Darlington, there is a worrying level of persistence absence, starting in primary school and increasing at secondary level. Again, it would be helpful to understand the reasons for this and to support actions to address this issue.
- In rural areas, there is a need for training and support for older people to be able to engage confidently with the digital world.

## 9 Strong communities

### 9.1 Overview

The strong communities section of this report focuses on the extent to which local people play an active role in society and how 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*”<sup>97</sup>, making this a good starting point for looking at this issue.

### 9.2 Crime score

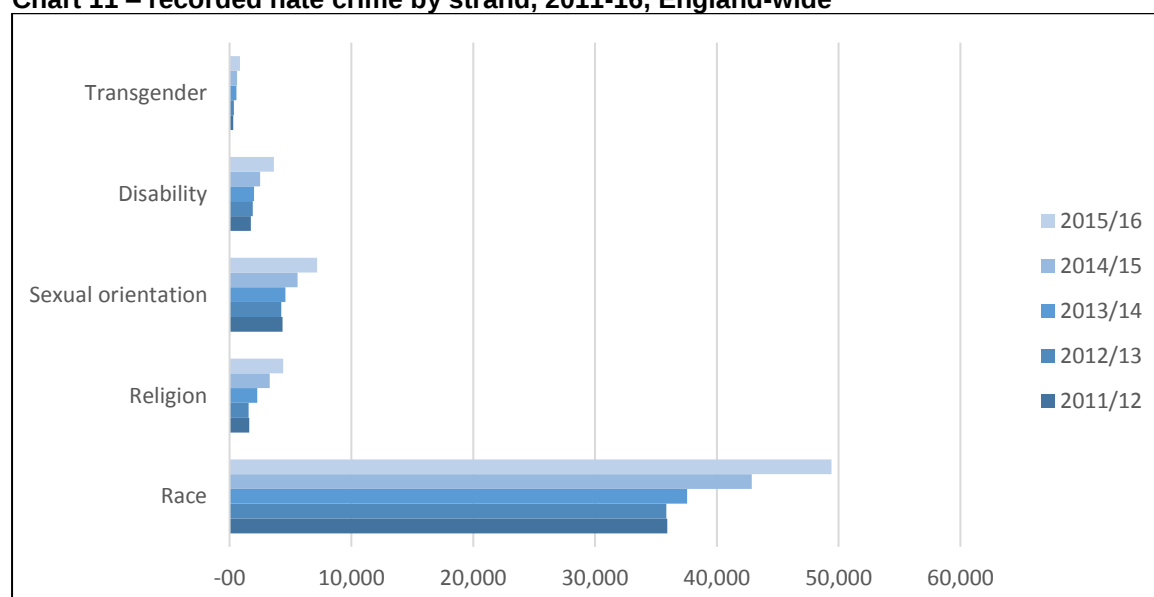
An overall crime score can be calculated by looking at the average rates of a set of crimes per population. This is given in table 47 below for the County Durham and Darlington areas. The crime score for County Durham is lower than average, meaning that there is less crime in the county than elsewhere in England, making it a safer place to live. Darlington, on the other hand, has an above average level of crime. Using Dr Wedlock's logic, this suggests that you would expect to find higher levels of community cohesion in County Durham than Darlington.

**Table 47 – crime scores, 2016<sup>98</sup>**

| Area Name       | Crime: score (2016) |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| County Durham   | 88.2                |
| Darlington      | 120.3               |
| North East      | 109.9               |
| England & Wales | 100.0               |

### 9.3 Hate crime

**Chart 11 – recorded hate crime by strand, 2011-16, England-wide<sup>99</sup>**



Hate crime has become increasingly common throughout the UK, with race-related incidents being by far the most common (chart 11). All strands of hate crime have expanded, with the biggest proportional increases in hate crimes against religious groups, and targeting people with disabilities and transgender people.

In County Durham, the number of hate crimes grew from 409 in 2013/14 to 452 in 2016/17, a similar rate of increase to the national picture<sup>100</sup>.

During this period, the population of the UK, including the NE region, has become more diverse. Darlington has more ethnic diversity than average in the region, with 7% of its population having been born outside of the UK. In County Durham, the proportion is half this at 3% <sup>101</sup>.

There is no reason to believe that people living in County Durham or Darlington are more likely to perpetrate or suffer from a hate crime than anyone else, however Palatinate (Durham's independent student newspaper) reported in 2016 that hate crime had risen by 16% in the three months after the Brexit vote<sup>102</sup>, and in 2013 police in Darlington reported a surge in hate crime following the murder of Lee Rigby<sup>103</sup>, suggesting tensions exist.

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. Ron Hogg (Police and Crime Commissioner Durham) recently funded Show Racism the Red Card to provide racism awareness training in schools throughout County Durham and Darlington<sup>104</sup>. In 2016 Darlington Borough Council passed a motion condemning racism and hate crime. The motion, which was passed unanimously, said:

*"We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crime have no place in our country. We at Darlington Borough Council condemn these activities unequivocally and will work to prevent this escalating. We reassure people living in Darlington that they are valued members of society and we have a duty to be good neighbours."* <sup>105</sup>

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 to encourage increased understanding and tolerance.

#### **9.4 Engagement in civic and social society**

Voter turn-out can also be used as a measure of civic engagement. Table 48, below, gives the turnouts for the elections during 2015 and 2016.

Voting patterns in Darlington and the Tees Valley appear to reflect the regional and national patterns, with higher turn-outs for general elections and issues of national interest (and then also for local elections if held on the same day), but lower interest in other issues. The turn-out for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections is particularly low.

**Table 48 - Voter turnout in elections 2015-16<sup>106</sup>**

|                                  | <b>Durham</b> | <b>Darlington</b>       |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 2016 EU referendum               | 69%           | 71.1%                   |
| 2015 Police & Crime Commissioner | 17.4%         |                         |
| 2015 General election            | 61.7%         | 62.5%                   |
| 2015 Local elections             |               | 62.2%                   |
| <i>highest</i>                   |               | <i>Park West</i> 76.8%  |
| <i>lowest</i>                    |               | <i>Stephenson</i> 47.5% |

For local elections, it is possible to disaggregate the results and identify those wards with the highest and lowest turn-outs. From looking across the wider region, it appears that turn-out is lowest in more deprived wards, and that pattern is reflected in the Darlington results above. This suggests a role for philanthropy in supporting work to encourage those in more deprived areas to engage in the electoral and civic processes to allow them a voice in issues that could affect their lives.

### 9.5 Area Action Partnerships

When Durham became a unitary authority and the District Councils were abolished, the local authority established 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) across County Durham. The partnerships include representatives of the local community, the third sector, county and town councils, and emergency services. They provide local services and give local people the opportunity to determine how these are delivered. Each AAP has a full time Coordinator and administrative support, and each has a local enabling fund of £120k pa which is available to meet local needs.

### 9.6 Charity and community organisations

As part of the Taking Part survey (see section 2) 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.) This might 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.

In County Durham's rural areas there is a lot of informal volunteering that may not be captured, with people simply keeping an eye on their neighbours, particularly where there are elderly or infirm. Many of the area's large-scale assets such as Beamish Museum and Durham Castle and Cathedral, are very reliant on volunteers. It will be interesting to see whether the survey shows that the proportion of people in County Durham who volunteer increases now that events such as Lumiere and Kynren are using so many volunteers.

The recent Third Sector Trends Study<sup>107</sup> reported on the health of voluntary organisations across the North of England, including Darlington and County Durham. The results in terms of financial strength are given in Table 49, below.

This indicates that fewer organisations in County Durham are in a weak position or experiencing mixed fortunes compared to NE organisations generally, but fewer are also in a strong (17.5%) or very strong (5.8%) position. Tees Valley (including Darlington) organisations are by contrast much closer to the regional average, with

28% in either a strong or very strong position financially. This suggests that more organisations in County Durham will be less resilient to changes in income, contracts etc.

**Table 49 – Financial wellbeing of third sector organisations, 2016**

|                             | County Durham | Tees Valley | North East England |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| In a very strong position   | 5.8%          | 11.6%       | 10.4%              |
| In a strong position        | 17.5%         | 20.7%       | 18.2%              |
| In a stable position        | 50.5%         | 32.9%       | 38.9%              |
| In a weak position          | 11.7%         | 23.8%       | 21.2%              |
| Experiencing mixed fortunes | 14.6%         | 11.0%       | 11.3%              |

In terms of reserves, Table 50 shows that fewer organisations had no reserves than in 2014, which is a positive change. In County Durham, fewer organisations are using their reserves at all, and fewer of those who do are doing so for essential costs, suggesting that more of them are managing to break even on a year by year basis. In the Tees Valley, however, although fewer organisations were using reserves overall, an increasing percentage were having to use them to cover essential costs, implying income is insufficient to cover the costs of service delivery.

**Table 50 - % of organisations' use of reserves, 2016**

|                                     | County Durham |      |      | Tees Valley |      |      | North East |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|------|-------------|------|------|------------|------|------|
|                                     | 2016          | 2014 | diff | 2016        | 2014 | diff | 2016       | 2014 | diff |
| No reserves                         | 20.8          | 27.6 | -6.8 | 20.3        | 26.4 | -6.1 | 19.7       | 23.1 | -3.4 |
| Reserves not used                   | 43.8          | 36.8 | 7    | 35.9        | 32.2 | 3.7  | 39         | 36.5 | 2.5  |
| Reserves used for development       | 10.1          | 9.8  | 0.3  | 16.9        | 13   | 3.9  | 14.4       | 13.2 | 1.2  |
| Reserves used for essential costs   | 15.2          | 20.7 | -5.5 | 19.5        | 18.7 | 0.8  | 19.8       | 20.9 | -1.1 |
| Reserves used for a mix of purposes | 10.1          | 5.1  | 5    | 7.4         | 9.7  | -2.3 | 7          | 6.4  | 0.6  |

Organisations were also asked about their experiences of applying for grants. Half of organisations in County Durham and Darlington had made successful applications to local grant-making trusts, and success rates for applications were around the average in both areas. Organisations in both areas had also made an above-average number of successful applications to local public-sector bodies, and again their success rate was above the average.

When it comes to national grant-makers, Tees Valley groups (including Darlington) had made an above-average number of successful applications, and had an above-average success rate. However, groups in County Durham were less likely than average to make applications to national grant-makers, though those which did had an above-average rate of success. There may be work to do in encouraging County Durham groups to approach national grant-makers.

**Table 51 – applications made to grant-making bodies and success rates**

|                                | local grant-making foundation |             |      | local public sector organisation |             |      | national grant-maker |             |      |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------|----------------------------------|-------------|------|----------------------|-------------|------|
|                                | Co Durham                     | Tees Valley | NE   | Co Durham                        | Tees Valley | NE   | Co Durham            | Tees Valley | NE   |
| In the last two years, we made | 50.5                          | 50          | 54.6 | 48.4                             | 44.8        | 42.6 | 33.5                 | 41.6        | 36.7 |

|                                                                  |      |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|
| an application and were successful                               |      |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |
| In the last two years, we made an application but unsuccessfully | 7.1  | 8.1  | 7.7  | 5.5  | 7.4  | 7.4 | 13.1 | 14.3 | 14.7 |
| In the last two years, we did not make an application            | 42.3 | 41.9 | 37.7 | 46.2 | 47.8 | 50  | 53.4 | 44.2 | 49.6 |
| Percentage success rate                                          | 88%  | 86%  | 88%  | 90%  | 86%  | 85% | 72%  | 74%  | 71%  |

Finally, organisations were asked about whether they work with other organisations, or are planning to do this. Tees Valley groups were more likely to be working with or seeking to work with third sector, public and private organisations, which bodes well for their future sustainability as this will enable them to gain access to a wider range of funding and expertise to be benefit from experiencing a wide range of working practices.

**Table 52 – desire to work with other organisations**

|                                                                         | County Durham | Tees Valley | North East England |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| <b>Intention to work more closely with other TSOs</b>                   |               |             |                    |
| Doing this now                                                          | 21.6          | 28.8        | 23.2               |
| Planning to do this                                                     | 16.5          | 16.5        | 16.0               |
| Not planning to do this                                                 | 61.3          | 53.7        | 60.8               |
| <b>Intention to work more closely with public sector organisations</b>  |               |             |                    |
| Doing this now                                                          | 17.0          | 25.9        | 19.6               |
| Planning to do this                                                     | 14.4          | 17.7        | 14.4               |
| Not planning to do this                                                 | 68.6          | 56.4        | 66.0               |
| <b>Intention to work more closely with private sector organisations</b> |               |             |                    |
| Doing this now                                                          | 3.1           | 7.4         | 6.1                |
| Planning to do this                                                     | 13.9          | 17.7        | 14.1               |
| Not planning to do this                                                 | 83.0          | 74.9        | 79.7               |

County Durham organisations, on the other hand, were much less likely to be involved in, or seeking these kinds of relationships. Only Northumberland organisations were less likely to seek out partnership working opportunities. This insularity will limit opportunities for County Durham organisations, and it would be helpful if County Durham third sector organisations could be encouraged to look at developing partnership relationships.

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 important factor of the whole process.

### **9.7 Asset transfers**

There has been a large asset-transfer programme in County Durham, providing the opportunity for local groups to take on the running and management of council services and facilities. The initial wave of transfers included many community buildings, and organisations were supported to develop a sustainability plan for their building. However, many have since run into problems such as lacking the key skills on their management boards, and financial problems due to the loss of key tenants or unexpected costs such as high utility bills or dealing with Legionella.

The Council is now inviting ideas from local communities and organisations wishing to take over the running and management of other facilities and services such as leisure centres, libraries, play areas, household waste recycling centres, museums, theatres and bowling greens. While this provides an opportunity for existing or new organisations to take on local services, it may also result in similar issues around lack of expertise and/or unexpected costs, so additional support may be required to support organisations to become more resilient.

### **9.8 Gaps in third sector support**

There have been massive changes to the way infrastructure support is provided to third sector organisations in Darlington and County Durham over the past few years.

In County Durham, whereas there used to be a local infrastructure organisation in every district, now Durham Community Action operates as a sector development agency across the county. In Darlington, there is no dedicated third sector infrastructure support since the closure of Evolution in 2015. With third sector organisations being such a key player in meeting the needs of so many deprived communities in Darlington, 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.

### **9.9 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 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. At the moment, the main focus 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**

This section opened with a quote suggesting 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 communities in County Durham and Darlington. These include:

- Community events and activities to reduce misunderstanding, distrust and hate crime
- Supporting those most vulnerable to hate crime to ensure they can report it.
- Encouraging an understanding of, and interest in, local and national democracy, particularly in the more deprived areas where turnout tends to be lowest
- Encouraging volunteering and engagement with local third sector organisations
- Providing encouragement to County Durham organisations to consider working in partnership with organisations from all sectors
- Supporting organisations which have taken on a transferred asset and face managerial or financial issues
- Developing new mechanisms to provide development support for new and embryonic organisations in Darlington.
- Potentially supporting the Our Darlington movement to develop an alternative way to support people and organisations across Darlington.

## 10 Local economy

### 10.1 Overview

The North East economy has suffered serious knocks in the past few decades, from the mass closure of pits and steelworks in the 1980s to the mothballing of Redcar steelworks in 2015. There have also obviously been good news stories, including Nissan at Sunderland and Hitachi at Newton Aycliffe, but the region still has ground to make up to recover economically, and Brexit creates added uncertainty for businesses reliant on exports to Europe.

Since the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) was formed and devolution of some financial responsibilities agreed, it has developed a comprehensive Strategic Economic Plan which sets out plans for and targets for: business growth; research, development, innovation and energy; education, employment and skills; place; culture; and transport and infrastructure.

County Durham is within the NELEP area, which chose not to go down the devolution route, so has less local control of financial resources. The County Durham Economic Partnership has set out its 'Altogether Wealthier' vision for the county, this being *'to shape a County Durham where people want to live, work, invest, visit and enable our residents and businesses to achieve their potential'*.<sup>108</sup> The plan focuses on five measures of success: employment rate; Gross Value Added (GVA); number of businesses; household disposable income; and reducing the number of LSOAs in the Index of Multiple Deprivation's top 20% employment domain from 168 to 65.

Most of the issues focused on in these two strategies are covered elsewhere in this report. This section will focus on GVA and business development and growth.

### 10.2 Productivity

The usual measure of business productivity is the Gross Value Added, which is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.

**Table 53 - Regional gross value added (income approach) at current basic prices, 2015<sup>109</sup>**

| Area          | Gross Value Added (£m) | GVA per head (£) | GVA per head index (UK = 100) | Growth in GVA on year (%) | Growth in GVA per head on year (%) | Share of national GVA |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| County Durham | 8,042                  | 15,475           | 61.0                          | 2.1                       | 1.7                                | 0.5%                  |
| Darlington    | 2,591                  | 24,585           | 97.0                          | 5.8                       | 5.7                                | 0.2%                  |
| North East    | 49,677                 | 18,927           | 74.7                          | 3.0                       | 2.8                                | 3.1%                  |
| England       | 1,433,164              | 26,159           | 103.2                         | 3.0                       | 2.1                                | 88.7%                 |
| Great Britain | 1,616,212              | 25,549           | 100.8                         | 2.9                       | 2.1                                | 100.0%                |

The NE region provides 3.1% of the whole country's GVA. Of this, 0.5% is produced in County Durham and 0.2% in Darlington (Table 53, above). However, looking at the GVA £ per head of population, Darlington outperforms the regional norm, with £24kpa which is 30% higher than the NE average, and within 4% of the national average. By contrast, County Durham's average GVA per head is less than £15.5k,

18% short of the regional average and only 60% of the national average. The 2015 County Durham GVA was also growing more slowly than the average, meaning it is likely to lag even further behind, where the Darlington growth rate was twice the national average, suggesting Darlington will have exceeded the national average by now.

### 10.3 Employer types

The sector and hours worked can have a big influence on the terms and conditions an employee receives. Table 54 shows the split of public / private and full-time / part-time workers in the Tees Valley.

**Table 54 - Employees by public / private sector<sup>110</sup>**

|               | Full time employees |         |     | Part time employees |         |     | Total employees |         |      |
|---------------|---------------------|---------|-----|---------------------|---------|-----|-----------------|---------|------|
|               | Public              | Private | All | Public              | Private | All | Public          | Private | All  |
| County Durham | 13%                 | 55%     | 68% | 9%                  | 23%     | 32% | 22%             | 78%     | 100% |
| Darlington    | 15%                 | 52%     | 67% | 9%                  | 24%     | 33% | 24%             | 76%     | 100% |
| North East    | 14%                 | 54%     | 68% | 8%                  | 24%     | 32% | 22%             | 78%     | 100% |
| UK            | 11%                 | 58%     | 69% | 7%                  | 24%     | 31% | 18%             | 82%     | 100% |

More people work in the public sector in the NE region than the UK average, and this is true of both County Durham, and, even more so, Darlington. In the recent period of austerity this has big implications for job security and wage rates, with many posts being cut (especially at local authorities) and those who stay in work facing pay caps and pay freezes.

In most parts of the UK, the proportion of people working in the public sector fell between 2010 and 2015, however, this was not true of Darlington.

Table 55, below, provides a snapshot of the way the private/public split has changed over the past five years.

**Table 55 - No of businesses by size (number of employees), 2012-16<sup>111</sup>**

|            |      | Private sector |               |                 |              | Public sector |               |                 |              |
|------------|------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
|            |      | Micro (0-9)    | Small (10-49) | Medium (50-249) | Large (250+) | Micro (0-9)   | Small (10-49) | Medium (50-249) | Large (250+) |
| Co Durham  | 2012 | 10,050         | 1,140         | 200             | 30           | 35            | 10            | 10              | 5            |
|            | 2016 | 11,695         | 1,310         | 240             | 25           | 65            | 10            | 20              | 5            |
|            | diff | 16%            | 15%           | 20%             | -17%         | 86%           | 0%            | 100%            | 0%           |
| Darlington | 2012 | 2,240          | 305           | 40              | 15           | 5             | 5             | 10              | 5            |
|            | 2016 | 2,715          | 300           | 45              | 15           | 5             | 5             | 10              | 5            |
|            | diff | 21%            | -2%           | 13%             | 0%           | 0%            | 0%            | 0%              | 0%           |
| North East | 2012 | 48,635         | 6,265         | 1,060           | 220          | 100           | 15            | 55              | 65           |
|            | 2016 | 58,960         | 7,005         | 1,185           | 240          | 190           | 55            | 110             | 55           |
|            | diff | 21%            | 12%           | 12%             | 9%           | 90%           | 267%          | 100%            | -15%         |
| England    | 2012 | 1,630,820      | 169,590       | 28,460          | 6,320        | 3,625         | 845           | 1,675           | 1,330        |
|            | 2016 | 1,969,960      | 192,990       | 31,925          | 7,390        | 5,985         | 1,510         | 2,780           | 1,110        |
|            | diff | 21%            | 14%           | 12%             | 17%          | 65%           | 79%           | 66%             | -17%         |

In Darlington, there has been no change to the numbers of public sector employers in any of the size categories. However, in County Durham there has been a massive increase in the number of micro-entities in the public sector, and a doubling of the

number of medium-sized entities. This may be a result of an increasing number of public sector functions being 'floated off' into quasi-autonomous units as larger organisations are disaggregated and broken up.

By contrast, the data shows that in the private sector, five of the large employers in County Durham have gone (either shrinking below the threshold, moving location, or closing/merging). There has, however, been growth in the number of micro, small and medium entities, meaning that overall the number of private sector businesses grew by 1,850.

In Darlington, there was also growth in micro and medium sized businesses, increasing the number of employers by 475, or 18%.

However, although this all sounds very positive, neither area achieved the levels of growth achieved nationally, with businesses in every category growing, giving an overall growth rate of 20%.

#### 10.4 Industrial sectors

There have been no significant changes in the NE in general, nor in County Durham. However, in Darlington there have been shifts away from manufacturing, retail and information and communications, and increases in business administration and support services and education<sup>112</sup>.

#### 10.5 Business start-ups and survival

The NE region has a reputation for being not as entrepreneurial as the rest of the country, and Table 56 bears this out, with a lower rate of new business formation than elsewhere in the country. Small businesses can often be the lifeblood of a community, meeting local needs, providing opportunities for local employment, and supporting other businesses and organisations. This is particularly true of social enterprises, which are often founded to meet a specific local need, addressing market failure where the private sector has withdrawn from a section of the market because it is not profitable enough.

**Table 56 – business start-ups and success<sup>113</sup>**

| Area Name     | Bus & enterprise : score (2015) | closure rate (2015) | formation rate (2015) | survival rate: 12 mths (2015) | survival rate: 24 mths (2015) | survival rate: 36 mths (2015) | Businesses : per 000 pop (2016) |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| County Durham | 91.52                           | 8.94                | 12.48                 | 92.67                         | 75.44                         | 59.36                         | 38.14                           |
| Darlington    | 93.38                           | 10.2                | 12.79                 | 93.83                         | 77.78                         | 61.43                         | 45.83                           |
| North East    | 96.18                           | 9.65                | 13.57                 | 92.28                         | 74.7                          | 60.43                         | 39.55                           |
| Great Britain | 100                             | 9.48                | 14.44                 | 92.25                         | 75.15                         | 59.39                         | 56.58                           |

The overall business 'score' given in table 56 gives an indication of the success of new and existing business in the area. It takes into consideration an area's business formation rate, number of enterprises, number of failing businesses, and change in total number of businesses. On this basis, both Darlington and County Durham are performing below par for the NE region, and for the country as a whole. Looking at

the number of businesses per head of population, this is very low for County Durham, though higher than the regional average for Darlington.

The business start-up and survival rates may give a clue as to why this is the case.

In both areas, the business formation rate is lower than the regional and national average, meaning that fewer new business are being started here than elsewhere. However, of those business that do start, the survival rates at 12, 24 and 36 months are all at or higher than the national average, and higher in Darlington than County Durham.

The issue therefore appears to be that historically there were fewer, larger business in the NE region, and that now not enough people are choosing to start new businesses. The fact that survival rates are high suggests that it's purely the number of start-ups that is the current issue, rather than the quality of the start-ups or of the support available to them.

Where people do have an idea for a business, one of the key barriers to taking this step is access to finance. The new Enterprise Allowance scheme includes access to loan finance, but the eligibility criteria are strict, and anyone with a poor credit history will not be able to use this, or other mainstream lender, to access the finance needed to cover set-up and working capital costs.

This suggests that there may be a role for philanthropy in encouraging the start-up of new businesses, including social enterprises, and in providing grant or loan finance to support new businesses. Other local businesses could also support new enterprise through practical support such as use of meeting rooms or other space, as well as mentoring and specialist skills such as marketing and finance advice.

### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

- The continued austerity measures and pay caps / freezes will hit those areas with the highest levels of public sector employment hardest, suggesting that Darlington will be harder hit than County Durham and action may be needed to support public sector workers.
- If larger employers close or make significant redundancies, there may need to be swift action to provide job clubs, retraining opportunities, and foodbanks to meet immediate needs.
- Business start-ups can provide local employment and services and meet community needs. Social enterprises often set up in areas where commercial businesses will not or cannot. Rates of start-up are lower in Darlington and County Durham than elsewhere in the country, so additional support could be provided to encourage people to consider starting new enterprises in their local area.
- Providing financial support for the costs of setting up new businesses, either as grants or easy access loans.
- Encouraging other businesses to support start-ups through practical support and advice / mentoring.

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## Glossary

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AAP          | Action area partnership – the partnership body in each of the 14 geographic areas into which County Durham is split which gives people in County Durham a greater choice and voice in local affairs.                                                                                                                                                              |
| BME          | Black and minority ethnic (used to refer to members of non-white communities in the UK)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| DCLG         | Department for Communities and Local Government. The Department for Communities and Local Government's job is to create great places to live and work, and to give more power to local people to shape what happens in their area.                                                                                                                                |
| DCMS         | Department for Culture, Media and Sport. A governmental department responsible for protecting and promoting the UK's cultural and artistic heritage and helping businesses and communities to grow by investing in innovation.                                                                                                                                    |
| Decile       | When data is sorted by value it can be split into equal parts. If split into ten, each equal part is a decile (if split into four, each is a quartile). With scores, the first decile is the highest scoring 10% and the tenth is the lowest. Being in the first decile may be bad (if the score is for deprivation), or good (e.g. if it is for natural beauty). |
| Domain       | One of the themes used to organise and report on data in the Index of Multiple Deprivation and similar datasets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Fuel poverty | A household is in fuel poverty if they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.                                                                                                                                 |
| IDACI        | Income deprivation affecting children index – one of the additional indices created as part of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| IDAOP        | Income deprivation affecting older people index – one of the additional indices created as part of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| IMD          | See Index of Multiple Deprivation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Index of Multiple Deprivation    | A UK government quantitative study of deprived areas in English local councils. The 2015 version covers seven domains – income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, living environment which are reported on separately and combined into the overall IMD score and ranks.                                |
| LGBTQ                            | Abbreviation that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer, and is used to designate a community of people whose sexual or gender identities can create shared political and social concerns.                                                                                                                                       |
| LSOA                             | Lower Layer Super Output Area is a geographic area designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Each LSOA covers 4-6 output areas, and includes a population of around 1,500 people.                                                                                                                      |
| Poverty line                     | The Child Poverty Action Group sets the poverty line in the UK at 60% of the median UK household income. In other words, if a household's income is less than 60% of this average, CPAG considers them to be living in poverty.                                                                                                               |
| Severe and multiple disadvantage | 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. |
| SMD                              | See severe and multiple disadvantage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Social exclusion                 | 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                                                                                                   |
| TVCA                             | Tees Valley Combined Authority. The TVCA unites the five local authorities on key decisions that affect Tees Valley, aiming to strengthen the area and accelerate economic growth.                                                                                                                                                            |

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