
REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	22nd JULY 2021	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	CATEGORY:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	FRANK MCARDLE (01283 595702) frank.mcardle@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SOCIAL MOBILITY UPDATE	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To note the update provided.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

2.1 To respond to a query raised by the Chair of this Committee at a previous meeting of this Committee regarding Social Mobility.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan sets out the aim to 'Support Social Mobility to ensure people have the opportunity to access skilled jobs, higher and further education' (P2.4).

3.2 Progress on this aim has been affected by the pandemic. The Chair of this Committee requested a Note updating Members on the current position, including the plan to develop a Social Mobility Action Plan. A copy of the Note is attached as Appendix A.

Appendices

A. Note on Social Mobility

Appendix A

Note on Social Mobility

26 June 2021

Definitions of Social Mobility vary, the Social Mobility Commission states that, 'Social Mobility is about ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to build a good life for themselves regardless of their family background. In a Socially Mobile society, every individual has a fair chance of reaching their potential ... But Britain's Social Mobility problem is not just one of income or class background. It is increasingly one of geography'.

Social Mobility in South Derbyshire was highlighted in 2017 when the Social Mobility Commission ranked South Derbyshire 311th out of 324 local authorities in England (1 is best) (**State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain**). The study combined a number of indicators, focused on education and employment prospects, together with life stages (early years, school, youth, and working lives) to identify where people from disadvantaged backgrounds are most, and least likely, to make social progress.

	Overall ranking	Early Years	Schools	Youth	Adulthood
Ages		0-5	5-16	16-18	18+
South Derbyshire	311 / 324	288	313	301	69

Social Mobility Commission, 2017

The Commission used those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) as its key indicator of disadvantage. In 2018, 1,233 young people were eligible for FSM in South Derbyshire, a rate of 10.5% (England average 14.1%).

The State of the Nation report highlighted that the greatest challenges were faced by those aged under 18 years. This has since been reiterated in two more recent studies.

In stark contrast to the State of the Nation report, South Derbyshire is ranked 3rd most Socially Mobile in England in **The long shadow of deprivation: Differences in opportunity across England** (Social Mobility Commission, 2020). This study focused on adult earnings, exploring the differences in pay of the sons of the most and least disadvantaged families. Outside of London, South Derbyshire was found to have one of the smallest pay gaps at age 28 between the most and least deprived sons at age 16, by where they grew up. It also has one of the smallest educational attainment gaps at age 28 between the most and least deprived sons at age 16, by where they grew up.

The report found that Social Mobility is a postcode lottery, with large differences across areas in both the adult pay of disadvantaged adults, and the size of the pay gap for those from deprived families, relative to those from affluent families. Disadvantaged young adults in areas with high Social Mobility can earn twice as much as their counterparts in areas where it is low. In areas of high Social Mobility, educational achievement accounts for almost all of the earnings difference between individuals from deprived and affluent families.

Most recently, the study **Lost Learning: Why we need to level up education** (Onward/New Schools Network, 2021) explored regional disparities and found that families in some areas have little chance of securing access to a Good or Outstanding School. South Derbyshire is identified as the worst performing area where pupils have a 1 in 3

chance of attending an underperforming primary school and a 100% chance of attending an underperforming secondary school. Taking a three-year average of 1998-2000 and 2017-2019, Derbyshire dropped 74 places from 40th to 124th in GCSE attainment.

South Derbyshire	Bottom 20 local authorities by share of pupils attending underperforming primary schools	Bottom 20 local authorities for share of pupils attending underperforming secondary schools
Rank of local authorities	7 th lowest	1 st lowest
Share of pupils	32%	100%

Ofsted Inspection Data 2019, Onward analysis

These Social Mobility issues can be seen in the performance of secondary schools in the area.

South Derbyshire Secondary School	Progress 8 - Progress description (KS2-4 across 8 subjects)	Progress 8 - School disadvantaged pupils progress score (Eligible for FSM)	Percentage achieving Grade 4 or above in English and Maths (~GCSE C or above)	Attainment 8 score (Eight qualifications including English and Maths)	Attainment 8 disadvantaged pupils (Eligible for FSM)
John Port Spencer Academy	0.03 (Average)	-0.51	78%	51.7	42.4
William Allitt School	-0.58 (Well below average)	-0.97	58%	40.2	29.8
Granville Academy	-0.16 (Average)	-0.45	67%	43.0	35.2
The Pingle Academy	0.11 (Average)	-0.33	65%	43.1	31.4
Eng state funded schools average		0.13	65%	46.7	50.3

Ofsted Inspection Data, 2019

Challenges

- available data is lagged by several years; OFSTED inspections were undertaken some years ago.
- the State of the Nation index has not been updated since 2017.
- headline data is likely to mask a more complex picture.
- activities of schools and other organisations have been restricted by social distancing.
- resources of partner organisations have been diverted to Covid response activities.

The Council has worked with the South Derbyshire Partnership, which brings together the local authorities with schools, colleges, employers and other agencies. The Partnership has consulted with experts from Derbyshire County Council and the University of Derby plus other local organisations to explore the data and issues, and undertaken research and explored other areas facing similar issues.

Emerging Focus

- Issues affect younger age groups not adults; Rapid population growth may be a factor.
- A relatively small group of children and young people face a high level of disadvantage compared to others in the area; Likely to include issues of school readiness.
- Households with children eligible for Free School Meals; Issues of complex lifestyles.
- Geographic concentration; A focus on Swadlincote urban core, Newhall, Woodville.
- Challenges in school performance – attendance, attainment and progression.
- COVID-19 may have exacerbated existing issues; Eg. household debt, digital exclusion.

Individual partner organisations have increasingly prioritised Social Mobility in their plans and strategies. The Partnership itself is currently funding a pilot project in Newhall led by South Derbyshire CVS. This is working intensively with a small cohort of households with complex issues/needs, exploring underlying issues and developing solutions. Along with the research and data analysis this will inform the Partnership's Social Mobility Action Plan.

The Partnership aims to complete the research and develop the Action Plan during 2021/22. However, this will be subject to the resources that the partner organisations can commit alongside their ongoing Covid-19 response activities.