

## Social Mobility in South Derbyshire

- **The Sutton Trust**
  - Social Mobility Index 2015
  - SD is 533rd out of 533 parliamentary constituencies in England (1 is best)
- **Social Mobility Commission**
  - State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain
  - SD is 311th out of 324 local authority areas in England (1 is best)

## The Sutton Trust

- Social Mobility is about breaking the link between an individual's parental background and their opportunities to reach their full potential
- Focuses on income and social class – salary, job prestige, and level of education required by your occupation
- Three drivers: Economic opportunities; Capability development; and, Fair access to job & education opportunities

## 1. Economic opportunities

Quantity and quality of jobs available - factors:

- Economic growth - creation of opportunities (eg. real wage growth)
- Structure of the economy (eg. growth in automation and loss of routine-based jobs; decline of stable full-time employment)
- Geographical distribution of opportunities/ growth

## 2. Capabilities development

Equipping people with skills and capabilities – factors:

- Hard skills (eg. literacy, numeracy)
- 'Non-cognitive' skills (eg. resilience, motivation, confidence, aspirations) – increasingly important
- Parental and community influences (eg. gaps in education attainment appear early in life; 'Summer learning loss')

## 3. Access to education and jobs

Equal opportunities to get jobs, regardless of socio-economic background, gender or race:

- Admissions and recruitment biases (eg. race, gender)
- Understanding of opportunities (eg. career paths; access to information; moving to good school catchments)
- Networks and peer group norms (eg. family or social circle; finding work experience)

## Underlying factors

Influence mobility through key drivers:

- Structure and quality of the education system
- Parental education
- Health outcomes
- Political attitudes
- Infrastructure development (eg. broadband)
- Home environment
- Public transport investment
- Employment support
- Housing support
- Level of income inequality
- Etc

## Social Mobility Commission

- Social Mobility is about every individual having a fair chance of achieving their potential, regardless of their background
- Key is not just income or class, but geography
- Index assesses 16 indicators covering education, employability and housing prospects
- Identifies where people from disadvantaged backgrounds are most, and least, likely to make social progress
- Four life stages

## 1. Early Years

- The early years of a child's life have a lasting impact; And the greatest impact on their development
- Parenting and home support matter more than external opportunities at this stage
- Deprived areas do not consistently underperform on the Early Years indicators
- Key factors include: High quality pre-school settings; Effective promotion and use of early education; Integration of health and education services; Uptake of the free early education offer for 2yr olds; and, Availability of good parenting programmes

## 2. Schools

- Educational attainment is linked to social disadvantage and place; The attainment gap between disadvantaged and better off pupils, which starts in the early years, widens during a child's schooling
- 39% of pupils on FSM achieve A\*-C in Eng & Maths; 67% for all other pupils
- Key factors include: Attending a good/outstanding secondary school; High quality teaching; Secondary school teacher turnover; Pupil-teacher ratios; Increasing importance of developing soft skills such as teamwork; Links to other schools and to employers; and, Levels of pupil funding/investment in facilities

## 3. Youth

- The years following school are critical for social mobility – this is when young people make key choices about their life; Those who struggle to make the transition from school to work often face lifelong difficulties
- Rural isolation limits access to FE, HE and a range of inspiration and support activities from employers, universities and charities; And restricts choice for low income youngsters who wish to live at home while studying
- Key factors include: Availability of good careers support – disadvantaged have lesser access to informal networks and work experience; Access to higher level apprenticeships and larger employers, and so entry level jobs; Labour market preparation at school; and, Pursuing higher qualifications which typically lead to greater job security and social mobility

## 4. Working Lives

- Access to good jobs, leads to higher wages and often to better prospects for pay progression
- High-paying, knowledge-based industries (eg. professional, scientific and technical activities) are highly spatially concentrated in the South East
- Key factors include: High housing costs are a major barrier, with an increasing reliance on family support for first time buyers; Poor connectivity within and between areas, restricting access to employment and support services; Graduate jobs are highly concentrated in cities; and, Renters tend to have fewer retirement savings, poorer quality housing, worse child outcomes and less involvement with their community

## East Midlands

- Higher barriers face youngsters in older industrial towns, especially deprived mining and manufacturing communities, leading to narrower aspirations
- Low quality secondary schools, result in poor educational outcomes, and less university participation
- Poor transport links, restrict opportunities to access education and employment
- With some notable exceptions, fewer large employers
- Weaker labour markets, which have a greater share of low-skilled, low-paid employment and fewer professional and managerial jobs
- Notably – there is no direct correlation between an area's affluence and its ability to sustain high levels of social mobility