

# South Derbyshire Partnership

## Report to the Board

**Date of meeting: 8 August 2018**

**Agenda Item: 6**

### **Social Mobility Update**

#### **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 To support further work to identify the nature and extent of Social Mobility issues in South Derbyshire.

#### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

2.1 To update the Board on the exploration of Social Mobility issues in South Derbyshire, following a discussion at the last Board meeting on progression by residents of the District into Higher Education, and the on-going work of the raising aspirations (RISE) initiative.

#### **3.0 Detail**

##### **Social Mobility**

- 3.1 Social Mobility and the factors that influence it have been researched by a range of organisations in recent years. Definitions of Social Mobility vary, the Social Mobility Commission state 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'.
- 3.2 The Social Mobility Commission ranked South Derbyshire 311<sup>th</sup> out of 324 local authorities in England (1 is best) (State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain). Similarly, the Sutton Trust ranked South Derbyshire 533<sup>rd</sup> out of 533 parliamentary constituencies in England (1 is best) (Social Mobility Index 2015).
- 3.3 The studies combine 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.

## **Social Mobility Workshop**

3.4 The Partnership held a workshop in June to explore partners' views on Social Mobility issues in South Derbyshire. The event attracted more than twenty representatives from the public, private and voluntary/community sector with an active interest in the issue.

3.5 The Workshop discussion highlighted the following:

- A high level of interest in Social Mobility issues amongst partners;
- There was not a single or commonly understood definition of Social Mobility;
- Social Mobility is a cross-cutting issue, with many contributory factors affecting different age groups, and is not necessarily directly linked to prosperity;
- Scepticism regarding the national studies and how representative their findings are;
- Significant level of existing activity that may show up in the data in coming years;
- Further exploration is required to narrow down the issue (if there is one);
- Partners need to review their own data and surveys for further insights; and,
- There are a number of partners and initiatives working to address Social Mobility issues including RISE.

## **RISE Initiative**

3.6 RISE is a partnership initiative designed to build confidence and aspiration in young people to help make sure they flourish and fully achieve what they are capable of. The work also looks at the wider community and is focusing in particular on South Derbyshire's most deprived communities. It is concentrating on five key activities:

1. Encouraging young people to believe in themselves and their ability to influence their own future.
2. Working with parents and carers to stress the value of education and a life fully lived for their children.
3. Working with our partners to promote volunteering and an exchange of skills within the community.
4. Promoting a sense of pride in the urban environment.
5. Highlighting positive stories and reinforcing common themes that connect generations.

3.7 Since its formation, it has emerged from the work of RISE that challenges include:

- A need to specifically identify the root causes of poor Social Mobility as identified in national league tables.
- As a result of the above, what is therefore required to address it.

- A need to constantly and consistently reinforce why this work is so important not only for present communities but also for future generations.
- An allocation of sufficient time and resource in which to take this forward.

### **Way Forward**

- To further investigate the issue through local data sources/surveys and examination of comparable areas, to provide a more complete picture than is available from the national studies; and,
- To explore the need for, and the focus of, a dedicated piece of local research working with local educational institutions.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications for the Partnership arising from this report.

### **5.0 Conclusions**

5.1 Social Mobility encompasses a number of issues that are already a focus for the Partnership, including raising aspirations, addressing the wider determinants of public health and employability. However, Social Mobility is multifaceted and further work is needed to identify the specific issues in South Derbyshire.

### **Appendix A: Social Mobility Presentation**

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