

PRIORITY: OUR PEOPLE

OUTCOME: P2.4 - Support social mobility to ensure people have the opportunity to access skilled jobs, higher and further education.

Measure and Ref	P2.4A – Deliver the objectives identified in the South Derbyshire Partnership Social Mobility Action Plan				Committee	F&M
<p>Project detail</p>	<p>Delivery against the key themes identified in the South Derbyshire Partnership's Social Mobility Action Plan, as appropriate to the Council.</p>				<p>Why this is important</p>	<p>South Derbyshire has performed poorly on a number of indicators of Social Mobility for disadvantaged young people in recent years. The Social Mobility Commission's Social Mobility Index ranked South Derbyshire 311/324 local authority areas in 2017. Whilst the number of disadvantaged residents affected in South Derbyshire is relatively small, Social Mobility aims to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to build a good life for themselves regardless of geography or family background.</p>
					<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>The Council is working with the South Derbyshire Partnership to research, develop and implement a Social Mobility Action Plan.</p>
	Annual target	Q1 Outturn (Apr-June)	Q2 Outturn (Apr - Sept)	Q3 Outturn (Apr - Dec)	Q4 Outturn (Apr 20 - Mar 21)	
2020/21					Research and data analysis	
2021/22					Develop Action Plan	
2022/23					Implement Year 1 actions	
2023/24					Implement Year 2 actions	

Performance Overview – quarterly update

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 development of Partnership’s Social Mobility Action Plan in 2021/22.

Actions to sustain or improve performance

The development of the South Derbyshire Partnership Action Plan is underway though is proving to be challenging to deliver:

- 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.

Benchmarking

The Social Mobility Commission has not published an update to its 2017 Social Mobility Index. Consequently, the South Derbyshire Partnership will need to identify other indicators that can be used to monitor the Action Plan (eg. attainment by disadvantaged pupils).