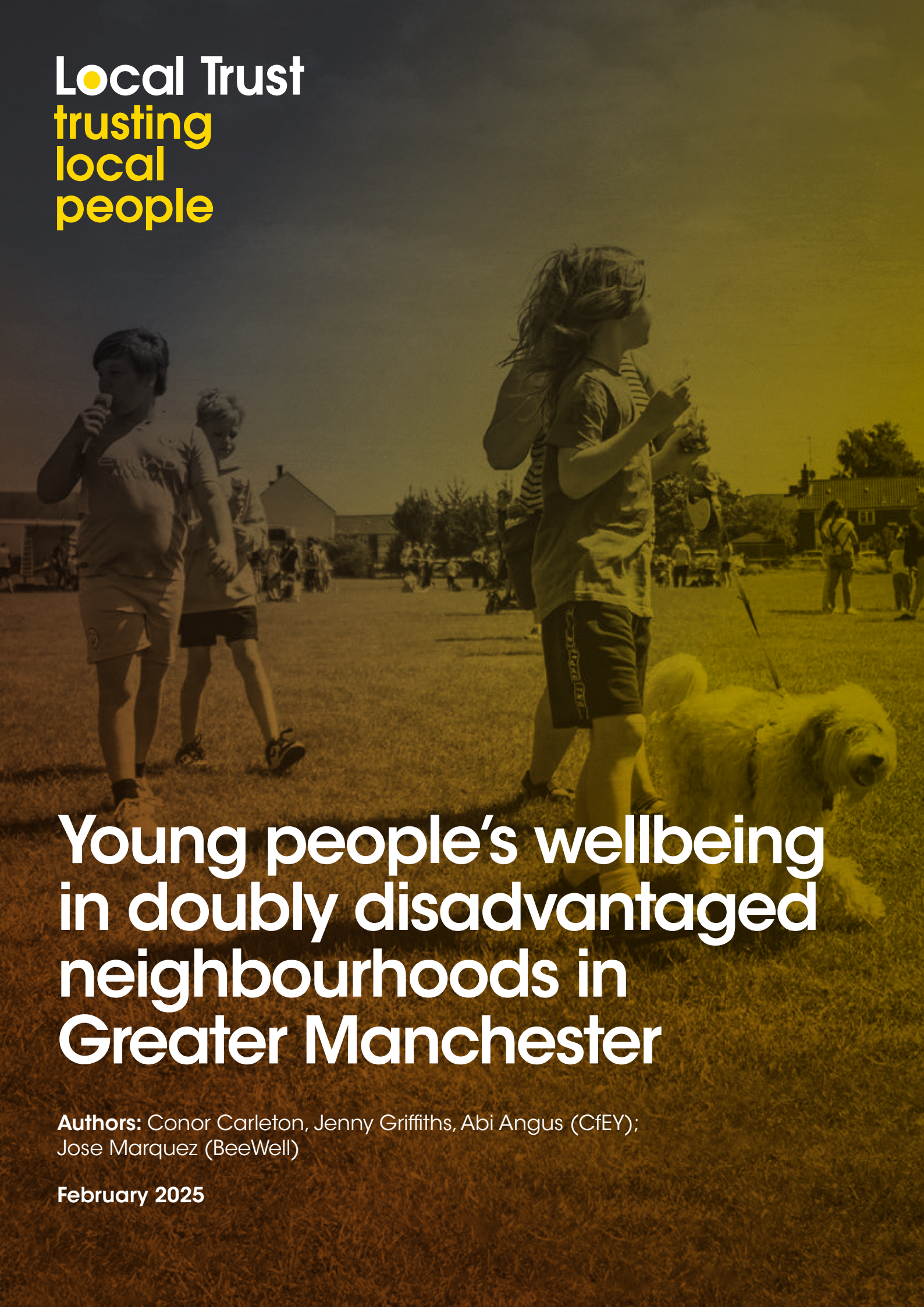


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Young people's wellbeing in doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester

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Local Trust

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The Centre for Education and Youth (CfEY) is a 'think and action-tank.' We use our timely and rigorous research to get under the skin of key issues in education and youth, aiming to shape debate, inform policy, and change practice.

#BeeWell is a collaboration between The University of Manchester, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, The Gregson Family Foundation, and the Anna Freud Centre. The programme measures young people's wellbeing on an annual basis and aims to bring about positive change in Greater Manchester's communities as a result.

Local Trust is a national charity set up in 2012 to deliver Big Local, a unique programme that puts residents across England in control of decisions about their own lives and neighbourhoods.

Local Trust's research and policy work contributes to demonstrating the value of long term, community-led funding. Using the learnings from the Big Local programme to bring about a wider transformation in the way policy makers, funders and other agencies engage with communities.

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Front cover: Justine Claire/Sompting Big Local summer event, August 2024.



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Forward from Local Trust

In 2018 Local Trust set out to map social infrastructure in England, acting on learning from the Big Local programme that the absence or presence of social infrastructure makes a big difference to a community's ability to take advantage of funding and other initiatives intended to support improvements to their environment and outcomes.

Working with the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion, we developed the Community Needs Index which not only did the mapping but demonstrated how important social infrastructure is to a wide range of outcomes. When combined with the Index of Multiple Deprivation we can see that areas doubly disadvantaged first materially and then by a lack of civic assets, connectivity or community activity are doing worse than equally deprived areas with stronger social infrastructure on many fronts, from health to employment, education to wellbeing.

From 2020-2024 the All-Party Parliamentary Group for 'left behind' neighbourhoods did a fantastic job of exploring the complex interrelated causes and problems that exist in doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods and sought to recommend solutions that would begin to undo the many knots.

It was at the launch of the APPG's final report 'A neighbourhood strategy for national renewal' that Local Trust and The Centre for Education and Youth (CfEY) first had a conversation about what social infrastructure means to and for young people in doubly disadvantaged communities. This report is the end result

of that conversation. But perhaps more importantly, it is also a first step towards understanding the impact of double disadvantage on opportunities for young people, through better data gathering and greater involvement of the target groups in decision making. Working with #Beewell's unmatched dataset we have been able to find out how young people in Greater Manchester really feel about the places they live in.

For me the most striking finding is that young people's preferred 'third place' – somewhere to spend time together that is neither school nor home – is not always or even usually the formal spaces accorded to them by either the local authority or the third sector. This chimes with one of the key learnings from Big Local, that there is no-one size fits all approach and that only handing decision making (and funding) over to those with 'skin in the game', in this context young people in communities, will lead to sustainable improvements in outcomes.

Madeleine Jennings

Head of policy and communications,
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Executive Summary

Introduction

In this report, we compare neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester identified as doubly disadvantaged with those considered non-doubly disadvantaged, as identified by measures relating to material deprivation and social infrastructure. Focusing on the views of young people, we look at overall life satisfaction and two emotions believed to be influenced by neighbourhood characteristics: loneliness and feeling unsafe in the local area. As detailed below, we also examine a range of measures related to the neighbourhoods' material deprivation and social infrastructure (civic assets, connectedness, and community engagement).

Methods

The quantitative analysis looks at how doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods (DDNs) differ from non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods (non-DDNs) in terms of material deprivation and social infrastructure, drawing on the Index of Material Deprivation (IMD) and Community Needs Index (CNI), alongside self-reported information from young people who participated in the #BeeWell survey.

Qualitative research was carried out through two online workshops with young people aged 16-25 and youth workers from across Greater Manchester.

Findings

- **Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods face greater material deprivation than non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester.**
 - Young people in DDNs report lower satisfaction with material resources than their peers in non-DDNs.
- 40% of young people who completed the #BeeWell survey in DDNs were eligible for free school meals, compared with 24% in non-DDNs.
- **Young people in doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods reported fewer good places to spend their time, and higher dissatisfaction with levels of investment in available facilities.**
 - More young people in 2023 said that they didn't have good places to spend their free time than in 2021, and this was higher in DDNs (22%) than non-DDNs (18%).
 - Young people in the workshops spoke of the importance of 'third places', often informal locations where they could interact socially, but their enjoyment of local facilities was often tempered by a lack of investment as well as seasonal limitations.

- **Social infrastructure has a greater impact on connectedness in DDNs than in non-DDNs, with longer travel times to key services by public transport, as well as a higher proportion of households without a car.**
 - Young people had mixed attitudes towards transport, with some reporting everything they needed within walking distance, but others reporting that a lack of investment in transport infrastructure impacted their lives negatively.
- **Community engagement was worse in DDNs compared with non-DDNs, particularly in terms of participation in arts, culture and entertainment.**
 - Voter turnout in local elections, and the number of registered charities per head were lower in DDNs, along with lower levels of funding from major grant funders and SME lending by banks.
 - Participation in arts, culture and entertainment was also systematically lower in DDNs though workshop participants had mixed experiences and several discussed community festivals or litter picking afternoons.
- **Youth wellbeing in DDNs was reported as worse than for those in non-DDNs.**
 - Young people in DDNs were more likely to report feeling unsafe in their neighbourhood, and this was particularly true for those identifying as female, those not on free school meals, and those from ethnic minorities.
 - Feelings of loneliness between DDN and non-DDN areas were not as significant, and the gap decreased with age. Young people in the workshops broadly said they did not feel lonely in their local area.
- The DDN-based gap in life dissatisfaction was greater than that for loneliness, but smaller than for feeling unsafe in the neighbourhood.
- Young people in the workshops had mixed responses, mentioning the pressures of social media, the impact of COVID-19, and a perceived lack of opportunities to relax or have fun. They also spoke of changing social attitudes and greater acceptance of diversity.

Recommendations

Drawing on the findings of both the quantitative and qualitative research, our recommendations are divided into two key themes: those most useful for local decision makers, and areas for further research.

For local decision makers

1. Greater meaningful involvement of young people in decision making
2. Improving the local environment and ring-fencing funding to safeguard 'third places' for young people

For further research

3. Mapping of informal third places to get a better understanding of their use by and appeal to both young people and the wider community
4. Collecting data that is relevant to young people's lives
5. Properly considering life quality, contentment, and happiness
6. Future proofing data and understanding change

Introduction

There has been growing concern about young people's wellbeing in recent years due to negative trends seen over the past decade, as well as the UK's poor standing in international rankings, where it has become seen as the unhappiest country in Europe for young people ([The Children's Society, 2024](#)). This report examines the wellbeing of young people through the lens of those living and growing up in doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods (DDNs) in Greater Manchester.

Wellbeing is often defined in terms of how people feel in their lives (i.e. experience positive emotions and the absence of negative ones) and about their lives (satisfaction with life) ([Diener, Oishi, & Lucas, 2002](#)). In this report, we look at overall life satisfaction and two emotions believed to be influenced by neighbourhood characteristics: loneliness and feeling unsafe in the local area. As detailed below, we also examine a range of measures related to neighbourhoods' material deprivation and social infrastructure (civic assets, connectedness, and community engagement).

The report focuses particularly on young people aged 12-15, who are moving from early to middle adolescence. This is a crucial developmental stage, as wellbeing declines from around ages 11-12 for reasons that are not well understood yet ([Marquez et al., 2024](#)), and most cases of lifelong mental health issues emerge around age 14.5 ([Solmi et al., 2022](#)).

Adolescent wellbeing is influenced by various factors relating to the individual, the developmental contexts in which they live (e.g. family, school, neighbourhood), and the interactions within and between them ([Sundquist et al., 2015](#); [Ford et al., 2021](#)). While a lot of research has looked at individual, family, and school influences, much less is known about the impact of neighbourhoods ([Sundquist et al., 2015](#); [Lee & Yoo, 2015](#)). Wellbeing outcomes such as life satisfaction, loneliness, and mental health symptoms, as well as socio-demographic differences in these, are known to vary across different local areas in the UK, including within Greater Manchester ([Marquez, Humphrey, Black & Wozmirska, 2024](#), [Marquez et al., 2023](#)). Neighbourhood factors linked to adolescent wellbeing include exposure to violence ([McAloney et al., 2009](#)), perceived safety ([Lee & Yoo, 2015](#)), socio-economic deprivation ([Visser et al., 2021](#)), access to areas to play ([Deighton, Yoon & Garland, 2020](#)), spaces for independence away from adult supervision ([Rogers, 2012](#)), green space quality and quantity ([Feng & Astell-Burt, 2017](#)), residential instability ([Snedker & Herting, 2016](#)), and social capital ([Aminzadeh et al., 2013](#)).

Social capital refers to aspects like social cohesion (e.g. mutual trust, reciprocity, community support, a sense of safety) and young people's involvement in community organisations, both of which influence adolescent wellbeing, even after accounting for factors like ethnicity, age, gender, and socio-economic status. ([Aminzadeh et al., 2013](#); [Oberle et al., 2011](#)).

The importance of neighbourhood social capital is what drives our focus on doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods. These areas have been defined as facing a double disadvantage, being highly deprived and having the least social infrastructure in the country ([Local Trust, 2018](#)). Research on adults has shown that residents of DDNs have significantly worse socio-economic outcomes compared to those in similarly deprived areas, underlining the importance of social infrastructure. However, there is still limited knowledge about the wellbeing of young people in DDNs in the UK. This report seeks to address this gap, focusing on Greater Manchester, a region with a higher-than-average concentration of DDNs.

We use a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative data. It is widely recognised that listening to young people is essential in understanding and improving their wellbeing. Firstly, it is the right thing to do from an ethical standpoint. Secondly, Article 12 of the UNCRC states that young people have the right to be heard in matters affecting their lives, and adults are legally obliged to ensure this right is upheld. Thirdly, research has shown that listening to young people is key in several aspects of the research process, such as survey co-production and identifying relevant research questions ([Casas et al., 2013](#)). This is clear in initiatives like #BeeWell, which listens to young people's voices to inform research and evidence-based responses aimed at improving wellbeing ([#BeeWell, n.d.](#)).

The remainder of this report provides a more detailed description of our methodology, presents the findings which combine insights from quantitative data analysis and focus group discussions, and finally draws some conclusions and makes recommendations for consideration by local decision makers and researchers.

Methodology

Our analysis is split into two sections. First, we investigate how doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods differ from non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in terms of material deprivation and social infrastructure (civic assets, connectedness, and community engagement).

This is assessed through quantitative methods using objective data from the IMD and the CNI, alongside self-reported information from young people who participated in the #BeeWell survey. Additionally, qualitative insights are drawn from young people's feedback in focus groups. Secondly, we apply the same mixed-methods approach to explore how young people's wellbeing (life dissatisfaction, loneliness, and feeling unsafe in their local area) differs from that of their peers living in non-DDNs.

The quantitative analysis includes a sample of 62,352 young people from Greater Manchester who took part in the #BeeWell survey in Autumn 2021. Some participants completed the survey in two or three years, resulting in a total of 89,355 completed surveys. Neighbourhoods were defined at the ward level, with 359 wards in Greater Manchester, of which 17 were classified as DDN listed in Appendix B, and 342 as non-DDN. Quantitative analyses also drew on data from the IMD and CNI, with variables described in Appendix A.

Alongside the quantitative analysis, the qualitative aspect of this research consisted of two workshops with young people aged 16-25 and youth workers from across Greater Manchester. To ensure the workshops contained young people from both DDN and non-DDNs, we utilised Local Trust's relationship with Big Local Community organisations for recruitment, alongside a more generalised recruitment approach in which we contacted schools, youth work groups, and other community organisations from across Greater

Manchester. The two workshops were held online in July and September 2024. The workshops provided interesting insight and detail to the quantitative data, but we recognise that the small sample means we should see the findings as illustrative rather than representative.

The two workshops were recorded and transcribed, before being thematically analysed to form the findings in his report. All participants gave informed consent to participate in this research with names and organisations remaining anonymous to preserve confidentiality.

Note on terminology

In 2018 the Local Trust commissioned OCSI to develop new data analysis to explore the difference that social infrastructure makes to outcomes in deprived communities. This original research identified 206 'left behind' neighbourhoods across England, with an update in 2020 to reflect changes to the IMD. This research identified 225 wards falling into this 'left behind' category.

The original term 'left behind' was intended to identify areas that had received a lower share of available investment and therefore lacked services and facilities that other areas had. In this research we use the term 'doubly disadvantaged' to reflect those neighbourhoods identified, using the combined data from the IMD and the CNI: they face the double disadvantage of high deprivation and a lack of social infrastructure. This is a more literal descriptor of the areas identified in the original research.

Findings

Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods: what are they like?

Our quantitative analysis reveals a clear pattern where doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods consistently show poorer outcomes compared to non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in terms of material deprivation and social infrastructure (civic assets, connectedness, and community engagement). This aligns with the qualitative reports from young people, which offer additional insights.

Material deprivation

DDNs face greater material deprivation than non-DDNs in Greater Manchester with young people in DDNs reporting lower satisfaction with material resources than their peers in non-DDNs and a greater proportion of young people in DDNs who completed the #BeeWell survey were eligible for free school meals (40% compared to 24%).

One of the factors used to define DDN is material deprivation, as measured by the IMD. Our analysis found that DDNs face greater material deprivation than non-DDNs in Greater Manchester. DDNs in

Greater Manchester have a much higher average rank in the IMD ranking (3993) compared to non-DDNs (12010). Another indicator of deprivation is children's eligibility for free school meals (FSM) over the past six years. A greater proportion of young people living in DDNs who took the #BeeWell survey (40.32%) were eligible for FSM compared to those in non-DDNs (24.37%). Finally, when asked how happy they are with the things they have (such as money and possessions), with 0 meaning very unhappy and 10 meaning very happy, #BeeWell respondents from DDN scored an average of 8.1, slightly lower than the 8.3 by their peers from non-DDNs.

Table 1

Material deprivation in doubly disadvantaged and non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester

	DDN (8.4%)	Non-DDN (91.6%)
Average ranking position in IMD 2019	3944	11957
FSM rates	40.3%	24.4%
Rate of young people reporting unhappiness with the things they have (#Bee Well)	8.1%	8.3%

Note:

N.S. = Non-statistically-significant differences (p-value > 0.05)

89,355 survey responses: non-DDN 81,853 (91.6%), and DDN 7,502 (8.4%)

DDN = Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods as defined by OCSI:


<https://ocsi.uk/left-behind-neighbourhoods>

Unhappiness with the things you have was defined as scoring below 5 on the Oto 10 scale (see Appendix 1)

Civic assets


Young people in DDNs reported fewer good places to spend their time, and dissatisfaction with levels of investment in available facilities. Young people spoke of the importance of 'third places' where they could socialise but also dissatisfaction with the levels of investment leading to poor quality facilities or environment.

The first aspect of social infrastructure is civic assets, defined in the CNI in terms of local access or close proximity to key community, civic, educational and cultural assets. Most young people in the workshops spoke about a 'third place' in their local area to which they frequently go. Third places are social spaces outside of the home and place of work or education setting, such as churches, cafes, libraries, parks, and other spaces where people connect with their community (Oldenburg, 1989). For young people in our workshops these included local reservoirs and parks, food and drink establishments, shops, and sports facilities.

 **In Rochdale, it's quite a nice place to go to reservoirs, lakes, and so on, so I either walk there with friends, or sometimes I run there."**

Young person

However, participants also talked about a perceived decline in facilities designed for young people. They also spoke about seasonal limitations: while many felt there was plenty on offer for them in the summer, in the winter they felt there was much less to do. Several young people mentioned that their enjoyment of local facilities was tempered by their poor condition and lack of investment.

 **I feel like the environment [in Wigan], it just is not giving at all. I don't know, it just gives me the ick when you have to walk down where there's trash all over the ground."**

Young person

In the #BeeWell survey young people were asked to think about their local area, defined as within a five-minute walk from their home, and indicate whether they strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree that there are good places to spend their free time (e.g. leisure centres, parks, shops, youth centres/zones). Among young people in DDNs, 18.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed that there are good places to spend their free time, compared to 14.0% in non-DDNs [Table 2].

In the workshops, we asked participants to visualise the two places they travel to most in their local area, apart from their primary home. We asked them how they travel there, who they meet, and how safe they feel. We asked each young person to use a shared Miro board to map out these journeys. Figure 1 shows these visualisations.

A recurring theme in discussions with young people is perception of a decline in civic assets, such as the availability of suitable places to spend their free time. This aligns with the findings from the #BeeWell survey. When comparing responses from 15 year-olds who completed the #BeeWell survey in 2021 and 2023, the proportion of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed that there are good places to spend their free time increased from 19.8% in DDNs in 2021 (14.9% in non-DDNs) to 21.7% in DDNs in 2023 (17.5% in non-DDNs).

Table 2

Civic assets in doubly disadvantaged and non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester

	DDN (8.4%)	Non-DDN (91.6%)
Percentage of young people who disagree or strongly disagree that there are good places in their local area (i.e. within a five-minute walk from home) to spend their free time (e.g. leisure centres, parks, shops, youth centres/zones) (#BeeWell) Year 8, 9, and 10 students in 2021, 2022, and 2023	18.4	14.0
Year 10 students in 2021	19.8%	14.9%
Year 10 students in 2023	21.7%	17.5%

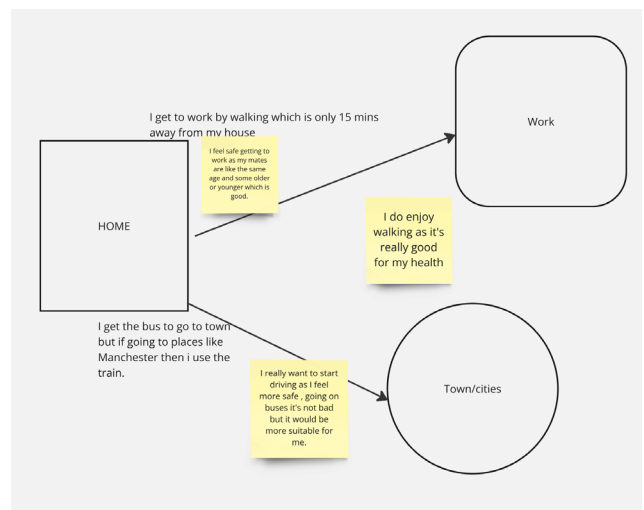
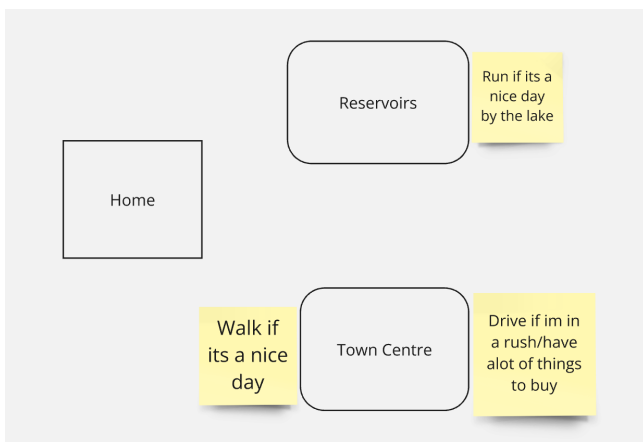
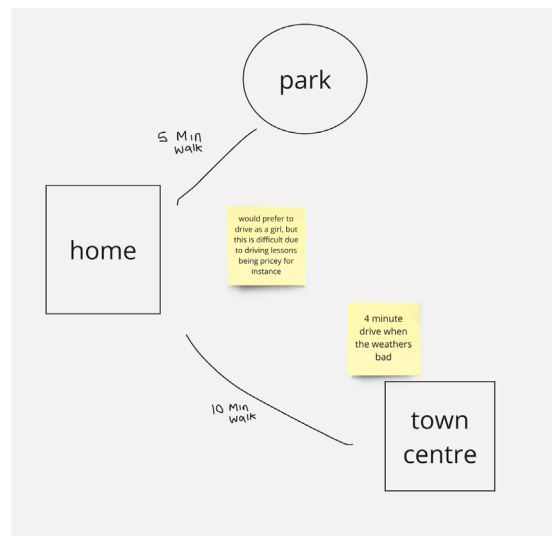
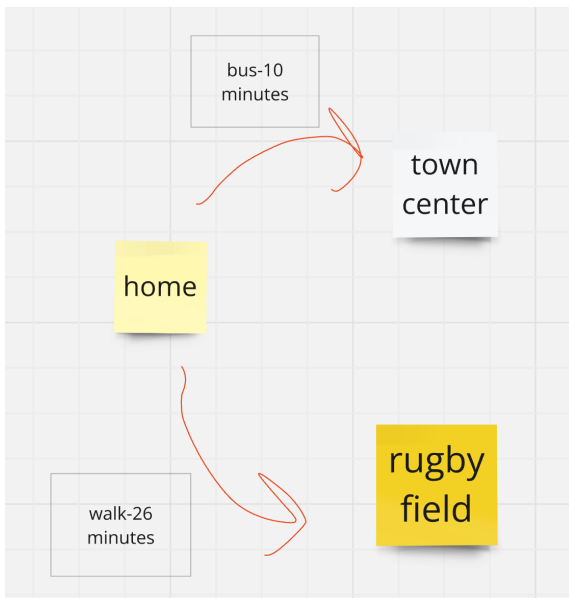
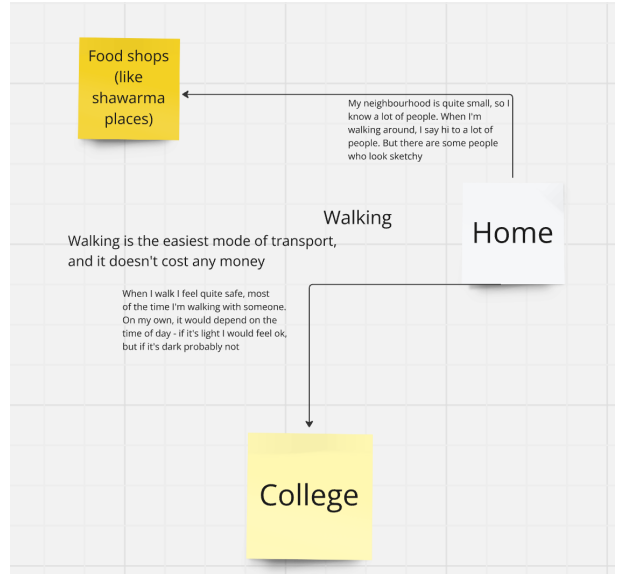
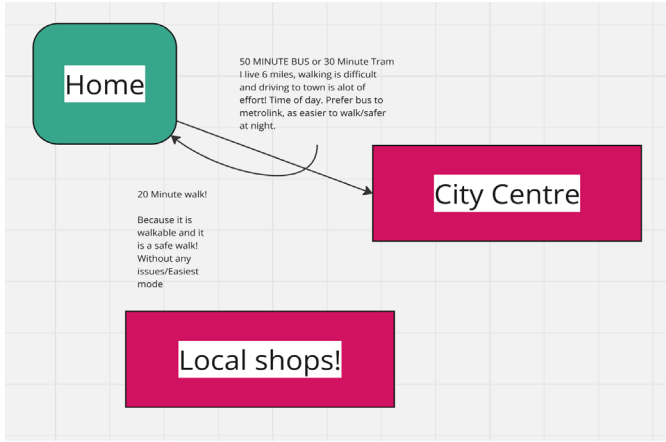
Note:

N.S. = Non-statistically-significant differences (p-value > 0.05)

89,355 survey responses: non-DDN 81,853 (91.6%), and DDN 7,502 (8.4%)


DDN= Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods as defined by OCSI: <https://ocsi.uk/left-behind-neighbourhoods>

Figure 1: Manchester's Market Street, 1994



Connectedness

The second element of social infrastructure is connectedness. We found that social infrastructure has a greater impact on connectedness in DDNs than in non-DDNs, with longer travel times to key services by public transport, as well as a higher proportion of households without a car.

 **I walk instead of taking the bus because especially in the mornings when you have to get to school, the buses are packed... It takes me 40 minutes to get to school on foot but it really doesn't feel that long so I just do it."**

Young person

In the CNI, connectedness is measured by access to key services within a reasonable travel distance, the quality

of transport and digital infrastructure, and the strength of the local job market. DDNs in Greater Manchester are likely to be much better connected than typical DDNs in other regions, which are often located in peripheral estates on the edge of towns. This is also the case with regard to job density (Local Trust and Centre for Progressive Policy, 2024).

We found worse outcomes in DDNs compared to non-DDNs in three CNI variables: travel time to key services by public transport or walking (an average of 16 minutes 5 seconds in DDNs, compared to 15 minutes 35 seconds in non-DDNs), the proportion of households without a car (41.3% in DDNs, compared to 28.9% in non-DDNs), and the proportion of people living alone (34.7% in DDNs, compared to 31.52% in non-DDNs). No statistically significant differences were found for two CNI outcomes: job density in the travel-to-work area and broadband speed.

Table 3

Connectedness in doubly disadvantaged and non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester

	DDN (8.4%)	Non-DDN (91.6%)
Jobs density in the travel-to-work area (CNI)	N.S.	N.S.
Travel time to key services by public transport/walking (CNI)	16.1	15.4
Households with no car (CNI)	21.7%	17.5%
Broadband speed (CNI)	N.S.	N.S.
People living alone (CNI)	34.7%	31.5%

Note:

N.S. = Non-statistically-significant differences (p-value > 0.05)

89,355 survey responses: non-DDN 81,853 (91.6%), and DDN 7,502 (8.4%)

DDN = Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods as defined by OCSI: <https://ocsi.uk/left-behind-neighbourhoods>

CNI = Community Needs Index

Young people in our workshops reported a mixed attitude towards transport and digital infrastructure within their neighbourhoods. While some young people reported that everything they need is comfortably within walking distance of their house, others discussed how a lack of investment in transport infrastructure impacts their lives. One young person shared how crowded and unreliable bus services in their local area mean they walk 40 minutes to school each day instead.

Engaged community

Community engagement was worse in DDNs compared with non-DDNs, particularly in terms of participation in arts, culture and entertainment. However, workshop participants had more mixed experiences and sometimes spoke with pride in community events.



Sometimes we organise community litter picks or we do community festivals just to bring our community together. And over the years I've just been really proud of it."

Young person

The third domain of social infrastructure is community engagement, which the CNI defines by factors such as the presence of active charities and the extent to which people participate in the civic life of their community. We found that community engagement was worse in DDNs compared with non-DDNs, particularly in terms of participation in arts, culture and entertainment. The findings from young people though suggest that the CNI indicators may be less relevant to understanding what community engagement looks like for them.

We found worse outcomes across all six available CNI measures. For instance, voter turnout in local elections was lower in

DDNs (26.9%) than in non-DDNs (33.7%), as was the number of registered charities per head (0.76 in DDNs, compared to 1.6 in non-DDNs). SME lending by banks (£480 in DDNs, compared to £1121 in non-DDNs), and participation in sports (68.5% in DDNs, compared to 75.0% in non-DDNs).

The #BeeWell survey responses further reveal poorer outcomes in DDNs across several related areas. A greater proportion of young people in DDNs disagreed or strongly disagreed that people in their local area (i.e. within a five-minute walk) support each other's wellbeing (17.6%) compared to those in non-DDNs (14.5%). Similarly, more young people in DDNs disagreed with statements like "you can trust people around here" (22.5% in DDNs, compared to 17.6% in non-DDNs) and "I could ask for help or a favour from neighbours" (20.1% in DDNs, compared to 17.1% in non-DDNs).

Another area related to civic and community engagement highlighted in #BeeWell is young people's participation in arts, culture, and entertainment. Although the differences individually seem small, it is of note that across almost all indicators young people in DDNs report being less engaged.

69.6% of young people in non-DDNs only attended youth activities, such as youth clubs or Scouts/Guides, once a year or less. In DDNs, this increased to 71.8% of young people attending only once a year or less. A similar pattern was seen for attending religious services (66.5% in DDNs, compared to 65.0% in non-DDNs), playing sports or exercising outside of school (18.2% in DDNs, compared to 14.4% in non-DDNs), going to the cinema (40.1% in DDNs, compared to 35.6% in non-DDNs), and watching live sports (64.7% in DDNs, compared to 61.1% in non-DDNs). DDNs also saw lower rates of reading for enjoyment (52.7% in DDNs, compared to 48.7% in non-DDNs), watching TV shows or films (64.7% in DDNs, compared to 61.1% in non-DDNs), and engaging in creative

hobbies (30.9% in DDNs, compared to 28.2% in non-DDNs). Additionally, fewer young people in DDNs reported being able to do things they enjoy in their free time often or almost always (71.4%) compared to their peers in non-DDNs (73.2%).

However, no differences were found between DDN and non-DDN young people in activities such as listening to music, drawing or painting, or playing video games.

#BeeWell also addressed feelings of discrimination. Young people in DDNs were less likely to report never feeling discriminated against due to their race, skin colour, or where they were born (67.8% in DDNs, compared to 70.8% in non-DDNs), gender (75.5% in DDNs, compared to 77.5% in non-DDNs), and sexuality (82.7% in DDNs, compared to 83.9% in non-DDNs). No differences between DDNs and non-DDNs were observed regarding discrimination based on disability or religion/faith.

This data is captured in Table 4.

Conversations in both workshops with young people about community engagement primarily centred on access to arts, culture, and entertainment. These conversations tended to be linked to conversations about civic pride: for many of the young people we spoke to, their level of community engagement depended both on what they felt was on offer and on the pride (or lack thereof) they felt for their local communities. This reflects previous findings about the link between 'pride in place' and mental health and wellbeing in a report for the Local Trust (Crisp et al., 2023).

Young people in the workshops had mixed experiences accessing arts, culture, and entertainment in their local areas. While some young people spoke about rugby clubs and reading groups they are members of, others told us there is nothing for them to access in their local area. However, a number of young people also mentioned community action groups they are members of. In particular, several young people discussed community festivals or litter picking afternoons that take place in their local areas. One young person mentioned an increase in local engagement that took place after the Manchester bombing in 2017.

 **After the Manchester bombing, which happened quite a while ago in 2017, there's a real sense of camaraderie and community, like not giving people dirty looks."**

Young person

Young people in the workshops were generally positive about community engagement but several young people told us they were reluctant to engage with their local communities due to a lack of investment in local infrastructure and the local environment.

 **People throw rubbish, and the canal is dirty"**

Young person

Table 4

Community engagement in doubly disadvantaged and non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester

	DDN (8.4%)	Non-DDN (91.6%)
Voter turnout at local elections (CNI)	26.9%	33.7%
Registered charities per head (CNI)	0.8	1.6
SME lending by banks (CNI)	479.7	1120.8
Leisure and culture participation: participation in sports (CNI)	68.5%	75.0%
Percentage of young people who disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements about their local area (i.e. within five-minute walk) (#Bee Well)		
- "People support each others' wellbeing"	17.6%	14.5%
- "You can trust people around here"	22.5%	17.6%
- "I could ask for help or a favour from neighbours"	20.1%	17.1%
Youth low participation (only once a year or less) in certain activities: (#BeeWell)		
- Going to youth activities, such as youth clubs or Scouts/Guides	71.8%	69.7%
- Attending religious services	66.5%	65.0%
- Playing sports or exercising outside of school	18.2%	14.4%
- Going to the cinema	40.1%	35.6%
- Watching live sports	64.7%	61.1%
- Reading for enjoyment	52.7%	48.7%
- Go to museums or galleries	75.5%	72.2%
- Engaging in creative hobbies	30.9%	28.2%
- Drawing or painting	N.S.	N.S.
- Playing video games	N.S.	N.S.
Proportion of young people who reported they can do things they enjoy in their free time 'often' or 'almost always' (#BeeWell)	71.4%	73.2%
Rates of young people who reported never feeling discriminated against due to their (#BeeWell):		
- Race, skin colour, or where they were born	67.8%	70.8%
- Gender	75.5%	77.5%
- Sexuality	82.7%	83.9%
- Disability	N.S.	N.S.
- Religion or faith	N.S.	N.S.

Note:

N.S. = Non-statistically-significant differences (p-value > 0.05)

89,355 survey responses: non-DDN 81,853 (91.6%), and DDN 7,502 (8.4%)

DDN = Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods as defined by OCSI: <https://ocsi.uk/left-behind-neighbourhoods>

CNI = Community Needs Index

Table 5

Youth wellbeing in doubly disadvantaged and non-doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester, by sex, LGBTQ+ status, ethnicity, FSM, SEN, and year group

	% unhappy (4 or less on the 0 to 10 life satisfaction scale)	% lonely (often/always)	% unsafe in the local area (fairly unsafe or very unsafe)
Sex			
Male (Non-DDN)	13.0%	7.4%	13.3%
Male (DDN)	15.7%	8.4%	18.2%
Female (Non-DDN)	24.7%	12.6%	16.1%
Female (DDN)	27.9%	14.3%	24.4%
LGBTQ+ status			
Cisnet (Non-DDN)	14.9%	7.0%	12.9%
Cisnet (DDN)	17.4%	8.3%	19.8%
LGBTQ+ (Non-DDN)	35.5%	22.8%	23.9%
LGBTQ+ (DDN)	39.2%	24.6%	30.3%
Ethnicity			
White British (Non-DDN)	19.2%	10.5%	15.7%
White British (DDN)	22.2%	12.1%	23.9%
Ethnic minority (Non-DDN)	18.7%	9.1%	13.1%
Ethnic minority (DDN)	21.4%	10.3%	16.1%
FSM			
Non FSM (Non-DDN)	17.6%	9.5%	13.8%
Non FSM (DDN)	20.2%	10.7%	21.9%
FSM (Non-DDN)	23.1%	11.7%	17.8%
FSM (DDN)	24.5%	12.6%	20.7%
SEN			
Non-SEN (Non-DDN)	18.6%	9.6%	14.7%
Non-SEN (DDN)	22.0%	11.0%	21.9%
SEN (Non-DDN)	21.3%	12.2%	15.2%
SEN (DDN)	21.8%	14.0%	18.4%
Year group			
Year 8 (Non-DDN)	16.6%	8.7%	n.a.
Year 8 (DDN)	21.3%	11.5%	n.a.
Year 9 (Non-DDN)	18.0%	9.6%	n.a.
Year 9 (DDN)	21.6%	10.9%	n.a.
Year 10 (Non-DDN)	17.3%	9.1%	n.a.
Year 10 (DDN)	18.9%	10.8%	n.a.

Note:

DDN= Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods as defined by OCSI: <https://oc.si.uk/left-t> 89,355 survey responses: non-DDN 81,853 (91.6%), and DDN 7,502 (8.4%)

n.a. = data is not available. The variable on feeling unsafe in the local area changed from 2022 to 2023, so comparisons are not possible


Youth wellbeing in Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods

Youth wellbeing in DDNs was reported as worse than for those in non-DDNs. Young people in DDNs were more likely to report feeling unsafe in their neighbourhood and experience greater life dissatisfaction.

The first criteria, feeling unsafe in your neighbourhood, is closely related to the experience of living in a specific area. The second, feeling lonely, is becoming increasingly significant, with growing research highlighting the important role neighbourhoods can play in this (Marquez et al., 2023). The third, feeling dissatisfied with life as a whole, is a broader and more comprehensive measure that ultimately captures young people's overall assessment of their life 'all things considered'. In this case, young people are asked to reflect on their life as a whole and rate their satisfaction on a scale from 0 (most dissatisfied) to 10 (most satisfied). See Table 5 for more detail. We report the proportion of respondents scoring below the midpoint on this scale, which is standard practice in the field (The Children's Society, 2024).

Feeling unsafe in your neighbourhood

We found that young people in DDNs were more likely to report feeling unsafe in their neighbourhood, and this was particularly true for those identifying as female, those not on free school meals, and those from ethnic minorities.


 **I have to get two buses. It's either one that goes past my house, or one that [means I] have to go through the park, and sometimes I have to get the option to go through the park and I just have to run."**

Young person

A broad range of experiences and opinions on neighbourhood safety were shared in our workshops. While some young people told us they do feel safe in their areas, others told us they feel unsafe, particularly at night. Some young people felt their areas are becoming safer, while others felt the opposite.

Most young people told us they have felt unsafe in their local area before. There was unanimous agreement by the young people in both workshops that areas feel safer in daylight than at night. This sentiment, however, was not shared by some of the youth workers, who reported feeling safe in their local areas during the day and at night. This suggests a difference in the experiences of older and younger people which would be worth exploring further, along with the reasons for their relative feelings of safety. Many young people shared that they feel safer in summer than in winter, where longer nights and colder weather make it more challenging to be outside in their local areas.

There was also some disagreement between the young people on how their local areas are changing: while some felt that their areas have become more dangerous over time, others felt that their area had seen a reduction in violent crime recently. Several young people also reported feeling safer in their neighbourhoods due to changing social attitudes and a growing acceptance of the diverse range of communities, for instance, LGBTQ+ people, within their area.

 **When I first moved here there was a lot of crime. And as time has progressed, it's basically become... I haven't seen anything major happen recently."**

Young person

These varied views are largely reflected in the data, which shows a gap between young people in DDNs and non-DDNs, but also varies between different groups. A higher proportion of young people in DDNs (21.2%) reported feeling fairly or very unsafe in their local area (i.e. within a 5-minute walk from home) compared to those in non-DDNs (14.6%). The gap between DDNs and non-DDNs was more pronounced among girls (24.4% in DDNs, 16.1% in non-DDNs) than boys (18.2% in DDN, 13.3% in non-DDN), among cis het young people (19.8% in DDN, 12.9% in non-DDN) compared to LGBTQ+ young people (30.3% in DDN, 23.9% in non-DDN), and among white young people (23.9% in DDN, 15.7% in non-DDN) compared to those from ethnic minorities (16.1% in DDN, 13.1% in non-DDN). The gap was also larger for non-FSM eligible young people (21.9% in DDN, 13.8% in non-DDN) than for FSM eligible young people (20.7% in DDN, 17.8% in non-DDN), and for non-SEN young people (21.9% in DDN, 14.7% in non-DDN) compared to SEN young people (18.4% in DDN, 15.2% in non-DDN). This measure changed in #BeeWell from the second wave in 2022 to the third in 2023, so comparisons across years and ages were not possible.

“ I won't get the Metrolink because the Metrolink has a weird foresty part on the way out and people have thrown rocks at a Metrolink and smashed [the] windows.”

Young person

Feeling lonely

“ If you go to busy cities, like London or Manchester... I do see lots of people like me... I feel more safe with these people more of my age, travelling at that time. And that means I feel more relaxed.”

Young person

The differences between DDN and non-DDN in terms of feeling lonely were not as significant as those for feeling unsafe in the neighbourhood, but they remained noteworthy. A higher proportion of young people in DDNs (11.4%) reported feeling lonely often or always, compared to those in non-DDNs (9.9%). The disparity was more pronounced among girls (14.3% in DDN, 12.6% in non-DDN) than boys (8.4% in DDN, 7.4% in non-DDN), and among LGBTQ+ young people (24.6% in DDN, 22.8% in non-DDN) compared to cis het young people (8.3% in DDN, 7.0% in non-DDN). Additionally, the gap was wider for white young people (12.1% in DDN, 10.5% in non-DDN) than for those from ethnic minorities (10.3% in DDN, 9.1% in non-DDN). The disparity was also greater for non-FSM eligible young people (10.7% in DDN, 9.5% in non-DDN) compared to FSM eligible young people (12.6% in DDN, 11.7% in non-DDN), and for SEN young people (14.0% in DDN, 12.2% in non-DDN) compared to non-SEN young people (11.0% in DDN, 9.6% in non-DDN). Finally, the gap between DDN and non-DDN decreased with age, being larger for Year 8 pupils (11.5% in DDN, 8.7% in non-DDN) compared to Year 9 (10.9% in DDN, 9.6% in non-DDN) and Year 10 (10.8% in DDN, 9.1% in non-DDN).

In contrast to the findings from the quantitative aspect of this research, the young people we spoke to broadly told us they did not feel lonely in their local areas. While some young people told us they felt there was little to do in their local area and that they had to travel to bigger cities - like Central Manchester or London - most told us they felt that there were 'people like them' in their local areas and that they felt a keen sense of community with others locally.

When asked if they felt there were other people in their local area that were 'like them,' most young people across both workshops responded positively. Young people told us they knew lots of people with whom they could relate, felt that there were others with the same ethnic background as them, and reported knowing people with similar and shared life experiences. Some young people told us their neighbourhoods feel small and that, as a result, they know most of the people in their immediate areas. Some young people told us they felt they had to travel to larger cities, like London or Manchester, to find people like them.

Feeling dissatisfied with their life as a whole

Finally, the DDNs-based gap in life dissatisfaction was greater than that for loneliness, but smaller than for feeling unsafe in the neighbourhood. This was reflected in the workshops where responses to questions on life satisfaction were mixed across both workshops.

To explore the perception of change around life satisfaction, for one exercise we asked workshop participants to choose a photograph from a selection of six of various areas of Greater Manchester at some point in history. One group selected a photo of central Manchester from 1994, and the other group chose a photograph

of housing in Salford from 1972. These photos can be seen in Figures 2 and 3. We then asked the groups to reflect on how their lives may differ from young people growing up at the times the photos were taken.

The group who selected the photo of central Manchester in 1994 expressed negative views about their lives in comparison to the imagined lives of young people in the 1990s. They told us they imagined young people then would have been more relaxed, and more peaceful, with no pressure from social media and lower expectations that they would conform to behavioural norms. They felt that young people then would have been able to enjoy their lives free from worries about how they look, how much fun they were perceived to be having, and at a slower pace, with less rushing from one thing to the next.

The group who selected the photo of Salford housing in 1972 focused more on social attitudes. Several young people reflected that they would have experienced more racism towards themselves and their families, and all the young people spoke about the increased hardship and poverty that they imagined young people faced compared to the present day. However, several young people drew imagined commonalities in terms of community. The photograph depicts a young boy playing in a back alley: one young person shared a memory of learning to ride a bike (borrowed from a neighbour) in a similar environment when they were younger.

Young people spoke about feeling pressured by social media to look, act, and experience life in specific ways. They also spoke about the impact of Covid-19, a perceived lack of life opportunities, and what they felt were limited opportunities to relax or have fun. However, these thoughts were tempered by an acknowledgement

that changing social attitudes have led to greater acceptance of diversity within their local areas, leading to a perceived reduction in racism, homophobia, and sexism.

These findings echo what the data tells us. A higher proportion of young people in DDNs (21.9%) reported feeling dissatisfied with life (i.e. scoring 4 or less on the 0 to 10 overall life satisfaction scale), compared to those in non-DDNs (18.8%). The disparity was more pronounced among girls (27.9% in DDN, 24.7% in non-DDN) than boys (15.7% in DDN, 13.0% in non-DDN), and among LGBTQ+ young people (39.2% in DDN, 35.5% in non-DDN) compared to cis-het young people (17.4% in DDN, 14.9% in non-DDN). Additionally, the gap

was wider for white young people (22.2% in DDN, 19.2% in non-DDN) than for those from ethnic minorities (21.4% in DDN, 18.7% in non-DDN). The disparity was also greater for non-FSM eligible young people (20.2% in DDN, 17.6% in non-DDN) compared to FSM eligible young people (24.5% in DDN, 23.1% in non-DDN), and for non-SEN young people (22.0% in DDN, 18.6% in non-DDN) compared to SEN young people (21.8% in DDN, 21.3% in non-DDN). Finally, the gap between DDN and non-DDN decreased with age, being larger for Year 8 pupils (21.3% in DDN, 16.6% in non-DDN) compared to Year 9 (21.6% in DDN, 18.0% in non-DDN) and Year 10 (18.9% in DDN, 17.3% in non-DDN).

Conclusion

This report explores the wellbeing of young people in doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods (DDNs) in Greater Manchester. Young people in these areas report markedly poorer outcomes compared to their peers in non-DDNs, including feeling less safe, more lonely, and with lower overall life satisfaction.

Our quantitative analysis reveals that young people in DDNs face significant disparities. Data shows young people in DDNs report lower satisfaction with material resources, enjoy fewer accessible civic assets, and experience weaker community engagement compared to their peers in non-DDNs. Furthermore, they are more likely to feel unsafe in their local neighbourhoods. In particular, girls, LGBTQ+ young people, and those from minority ethnic backgrounds report particularly pronounced vulnerabilities. These findings paint a comprehensive picture of the compounded disadvantages faced by young people in these areas.

The qualitative insights gathered in our workshops shed further light on these challenges. In these sessions, young people described the negative impact of what they saw as diminishing civic assets, such as parks, youth centres, and other community facilities. They spoke of barriers to mobility due to inadequate public transport, feelings of isolation caused

by unsafe environments, and the poor condition of local infrastructure, which impacts both their sense of pride in their local area and the opportunities they feel are available to them locally. Despite these issues, some participants talked positively about their communities, particularly participants in areas with high levels of grassroots civic activity.

To address the disparities explored in this report, in the following section we set out a list of recommendations for local policy makers and decision makers in Greater Manchester particularly, but that we believe will also be relevant for other areas. These recommendations include increasing investment in local environments, safeguarding essential community spaces, and ensuring young people's involvement in decision-making. These actions can improve neighbourhood safety, provide meaningful opportunities for connection, and empower young people to shape the future of their communities.

Recommendations

Drawing on the findings of both the quantitative and qualitative research, our recommendations are divided into two key themes: those most useful for local decision makers, and areas for further research.

For local decision makers

1. Greater meaningful involvement of young people in decision making
2. Improving the local environment and ring-fencing funding to safeguard 'third places' for young people

For further research

3. Mapping of informal 'third places' to get a better understanding of their use by and appeal to both young people and the wider community
4. Collecting data that is relevant to young people's lives
5. Properly considering life quality, contentment, and happiness
6. Future proofing data and understanding change

Local decision makers

1. Greater meaningful involvement of young people in decision making

The ongoing work of #BeeWell and the workshops held for this project reveal how important it is to involve young people in decision making. Children and young people experience their local areas in ways that can be very different to adults, and their views are therefore essential. Particular thought needs to be given as to the best way to achieve this involvement, as traditional methods (such as invitations to public meetings) are unlikely to attract young people or reach those most marginalised.

2. Improving the local environment and ring-fencing funding to safeguard 'third places' for young people

Investment in the local environment is essential to addressing inequalities in doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Participants highlighted how clean, well-lit, and well-maintained areas with accessible parks, green spaces, and functioning community assets positively impact both wellbeing and safety. Targeted investment in community capacity in doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods is vital if improvements to the local environment are to be sustained, this can be achieved via initiatives such as the Community Wealth Fund or a new regeneration programme focused on these areas.

A critical focus must be on safeguarding and enhancing 'third places.' While third places can include formal spaces like youth clubs and leisure centres, they may also be more informal places where young people meet outside of school or their homes, including park bandstands, playing fields, or town centres. These are spaces we should be encouraging young people to use, and funding should be made available to make these spaces more accessible, pleasant, and safe for young people. In many cases this might look like funding for small changes such as installing bins, extending park toilet hours, or cleaning and painting other urban spaces young people use, to make them safer and more inviting.

We recommend targeted funding, such as through the Community Wealth Fund, to prioritise young people's needs and ensure their voices shape the design and maintenance of third places. These investments are vital to improving wellbeing and fostering more inclusive communities.

For further research

3. Mapping of informal 'third places' to get a better understanding of their use by and appeal to both young people and the wider community

'Third places' are clearly of huge importance to young people, but evidence suggests they are also a central part of civic infrastructure that supports community cohesion. The identification of these places and better understanding of how they are used can help funders and decision makers target funding where it will be of most benefit to young people. Mapping activities and locations that are important to young people could help identify where improvements to the quality of the local environment will make the most difference to perceptions of life satisfaction and safety.

4. Collecting data that is relevant to young people's lives

The current data collected in relation to local areas focuses primarily on measurable assets such as civic space and amenities. Many of these measures are more relevant to adults, such as those about car ownership and participation in democracy. Young people need to be involved in discussions around what measures would be most relevant to understanding their lives, for example, travel times to destinations of choice.

5. Properly considering life quality, contentment and happiness

Current data on outcomes for young people focuses primarily on future outcomes and measures of success, such as qualifications achieved, employment and income. It is important that measures relating to young people's quality of life are also collected and considered in local decision making. Better data collection around wellbeing and life quality, such as the surveys carried out by #BeeWell, can better inform our understanding of the decisions young people make for the future, for example in terms of employment and mobility.

6. Future proofing data and understanding change

Perceptions of how an area had changed were important findings, but it can be hard to match these to the current data to understand what is most influential on people's perceptions of an area. Understanding this is an important aspect of how you bring change to an area, in particular one that is doubly disadvantaged and may have a negative perception in the minds of both people that live there, and those living elsewhere.

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Appendix 1: Measures

More detailed information about the measures used in the data analyses presented in this report is shown in Table A1.1.

Table A1.1

Description of the measures analysed in this report

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Material deprivation						
Average ranking position in Index of Material Deprivation (IMD) 2019	IMD		Average position of DDN and non-DDN in the IMD 2019 ranking in the UK	2019	Ward	
FSM rates	LAs		Percentage of young people eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years	?	Individual	
Rate of young people reporting unhappiness with the things they have	#BeeWell	Good Childhood Index	Percentage of #BeeWell participants scoring 4 or less in the 0 to 10 scale on self-reported happiness with the things they have	2021-23	Individual	
Civic assets						
Density of community space assets	CNI	AddressBase	This is conceptualised as the number of community and civic assets inside the community boundary or within 1km of it, divided by the number of people living in the community. The following assets are included: • public/village hall/other community facility • youth recreational/social club • church hall/religious meeting place/hall • community service centre/office • place of worship	2018	Point Location	Details are not available on the how accessible the assets are to the community. It is also not possible to determine whether the asset is in use or vacant.

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Density of educational assets	CNI	AddressBase	This is conceptualised as the number of educational assets inside the community boundary or within 1km of it, divided by the number of people living in the community. The following assets are included: • further education college • higher education college • children's nursery/crèche • first school • infant school • junior school • middle school • primary school • secondary/high school • non-state secondary school • university • special needs establishment • other educational establishment	2018	Point Location	Details are not available on the how accessible the assets are to the community. It is also not possible to determine whether the asset is in use or vacant.
Density of sport and leisure assets	CNI	AddressBase	This is conceptualised as the number of sports and leisure facilities inside the community boundary or within 1km of it, divided by the number of people living in the community. The following assets are included: • public house/ bar/ nightclub • activity/leisure/sports centre • skateboarding facility • recreational/social club	2018	Point Location	Details are not available on the how accessible the assets are to the community. It is also not possible to determine whether the asset is in use or vacant.
Density of cultural assets	CNI	AddressBase	This is conceptualised as the number of cultural assets inside the community boundary or within 1km of it, divided by the number of people living in the community. The following assets are included: • library • reading room • museum/ gallery	2018	Point Location	Details are not available on the how accessible the assets are to the community. It is also not possible to determine whether the asset is in use or vacant.
Green assets: a) density of green assets	CNI	AddressBase	This is conceptualised as the number of green assets inside the community boundary or within 1km of it, divided by the number of people living in the community. The following assets are included: • public park/garden • public open space / nature reserve • playground • play area • paddling pool • picnic/barbeque site • allotment • playing field • recreation ground	2018	Point Location	This indicator is one of three components of the green assets indicator. Details are not available on the accessibility of the asset form within the community. Some assets are not open- access to the whole community, e.g. allotments and some of the play areas/paddling pools. It is not possible to distinguish between these (though private parkland has been excluded). There is no information regarding the size or quality of the green space. It is not possible to determine whether the asset is in use or vacant.

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Green assets: b) area of public green space	CNI	Ordnance Survey	The percentage of an area that is covered by public parks and gardens. This is intended to complement the density of green assets indicator by providing additional information on the sizes of those assets which are not available from the density measure.	2017	Shapefile	This indicator is one of three components of the green assets indicator. Internal validation has revealed that some green spaces have been excluded from the ordnance survey data.
Green assets: c) parks and open space/landscape and natural heritage	CNI	Historic England/ Natural England/ Environment Agency/ Keep Britain Tidy/Blue Flag/The Wildlife Trust/ UNESCO/ Woodland Trust	A composite measure combining the following open-space indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of parks and gardens (Grades I, II & 3) per 10,000 population • traditional orchards per 10,000 population • Green Flag parks (Heritage Award) per 10,000 population • national park/heritage coast (square km per head) • country parks (hectares per head) • National Trust land (always open to public) (hectares per head) • Blue Flag beaches per 10,000 population • Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (hectares per head) • Special Areas of Conservation/ Special Protection Areas/Special Sites of Scientific Interest/ local nature reserves/ national nature reserves/ Ramsar Wetlands/ancient woodlands (hectares per head) • Wildlife Trust Reserves/ UNESCO Geoparks per 10,000 population • Ancient trees per 10,000 population 			
Percentage of young people who disagree or strongly disagree that there are good places in their local area (i.e. within a five-minute walk from home) to spend their free time (e.g. leisure centres, parks, shops, youth centres/zones) (#BeeWell)	#BeeWell			2021-23	Individual	

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Connectedness						
Jobs density in the travel-to-work area	CNI	BRES	The number of jobs located in the area as a percentage of the working-age population in that area – this is to be used as a measure of economic opportunities locally. Data are taken from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) of approximately 80,000 businesses, weighted to represent all sectors of the UK economy. The BRES definition of an employee is anyone aged 16 years or over at the time of the survey, whom the employer pays directly from its payroll(s) in return for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or for being on a training scheme. This indicator will be calculated at travel-to-work-area (TTWA) level rather than at community-geography level, to reflect the fact that people typically commute outside of their local ward to work. TTWAs are a geography created to approximate labour-market areas. In other words, they are designed to reflect self-contained areas in which most people both live and work. The current criteria for defining TTWAs are that at least 75% of the area's resident workforce work in the area, and at least 75% of people who work in the area also live in the area. The area must also have an economically active population of at least 3,500.	2017	TIWA	This measure does not take into account the quality of the jobs, whether they are full- or part-time, on temporary or permanent contracts, or how easily accessible the core of the travel-to-work area is from the geography of the community.
Travel time to key services by public transport/walking	CNI	Department for Transport	Travel times in minutes to key services by public transport/ walking/cycling. The following services are included: • primary schools • employment centres (Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) with more than 500 jobs) • further education institutions • GPs • hospital • secondary schools • supermarkets • town centres These statistics are derived from the analysis of spatial data on public transport timetables; road, cycle and footpath networks; population; and key local services.	2016	LSOA	Although the statistics are calculated to a high level of geographical detail, some assumptions and simplifications are necessary in the modelling (for example assigning the start point of journeys to a single point in each output area, road speeds, and interchange times for public transport)

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Households with no car	CNI	Census 2011	The proportion of households who do not have a car or van. Figures are based on responses to the 2011 Census car ownership question, which asks for information on the number of cars or vans owned or available for use by one or more members of a household. It includes company cars and vans available for private use. This is included to supplement the accessibility and labour market indicators in this domain, to take account of the additional challenges in accessing services for those without access to private transport.	2011	Ward	The count of cars or vans in an area is based on details for private households only. Cars or vans used by residents of communal establishments are not counted.
Broadband speed	CNI	OfCom	A composite indicator of the average broadband download linespeed (Mbit/s) for connections in the area, and the percentage of broadband connections in the area that receive low download speeds (less than 2 Mbit/s).	2017	Postcode	Due to variations in broadband performance over time, these data should not be regarded as a definitive view of the UK's fixed broadband infrastructure. However, the information provided here may be useful in identifying variations in broadband performance
People living alone	CNI	Census 2011	Shows the proportion of households that comprise one person living alone (as a proportion of all households). Figures are self-reported and taken from the household composition questions in the 2011 census. This is included as a proxy measure of social isolation	2011	Ward	

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Engaged community						
Voter turnout at local elections	CNI	Electoral Commission	Valid votes turnout (%) at the most recent local council elections	2016, 2017, 2018	Ward	There is some local variation in the frequency and dates of local elections, with different parts of the country going to the polls at different times and at different intervals. Caution is therefore advised when drawing direct comparisons between local areas, as the sociopolitical context varies from year to year with associated impacts on turnout rates. Another factor affecting turnout is whether the local election is concurrent with other elections (for example, turnout is generally higher when general elections coincide with local ones. We have included suggested steps to mitigate against this in the 'Approach to developing the indicator' section. Frequency can also have an impact on turnout, with a risk of electoral fatigue in areas required to re-elect councillors annually.
Registered charities per head	CNI	Charities Commission	Registered charities in England by postcode	2018	Postcode	This is based on the location of charities rather than on their area of operations (some will have a global focus). We plan to exclude large charities from this measure. This indicator is included in this theme to capture the level of thirdsector activity in the local area
Grant funding per head from major grant funders	CNI	360 Giving GrantNav data	Combined grant funding from grant-giving organisations whose data has to be subject to the 360giving standard.	Various	Postcode	Data are based on the location of grant recipients rather than the location of their beneficiaries. This is indicator is included in this theme to capture the level of third-sector activity in the local area
SME lending by banks	CNI	UK Finance	Total value of lending to Small-Medium Enterprise (SME) businesses from key financial lenders (Barclays, CYBG, Lloyds Banking Group, HSBC, Nationwide Building Society, Royal Bank of Scotland and Santander UK in Great Britain)	2017.18	Postcode sector	This is included in the active/ engaged community theme to capture the level of community business activity in the local area

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Arts council funding	CNI	Arts Council	The arts council publishes data on a range of its funding streams. There are geographic data available showing where all the 828 National Portfolio Organisations are located and how much each organisation receives in funding. There are also geographic data on where their grants are being spent.	2018	Local authority	
Self-reported measures of community and civic participation	CNI	Place Survey (NI 3, NI 6) TellUs Survey	As part of the National Indicator Set programme, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) collected a series of indicators relating to community and civic participation. • NI 3: civic participation in the local area (the proportion of the adult population who say they have, in the last 12 months, participated in a group which makes decisions that affect their local area); • NI 6: percentage who have given unpaid help at least once a month over the last 12 months; • NI 110 - young people's participation in positive activities (the proportion of young people in school year 10 reporting participation in any group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sports, arts, music or youth group) in the previous four weeks).	20,082,009	Local Authority	Data are constructed from surveys with a small sample size. Because of the small sample size, it is not possible to publish data at smaller geographies than local authority level. Data are increasingly out of date, with no nationwide measure for each of these indicators published in the last 10 years.
Leisure and culture participation: a) culture and heritage participation	CNI	Taking Part survey	A combined indicator derived from responses to the Taking Part survey to produce the following indicators • % of local authority population visiting a heritage site at least three times in the past 12 months • % of local authority population visiting a museum or gallery at least once in the past 12 months • % of local authority population visiting an archive at least once in the past 12 months	2011-2013	LA	Data are constructed from surveys with a small sample size. Because of the small sample size, it is not possible to publish data at smaller geographies than local-authority level. These data will be standardised and combined with the participation in sport indicator (see row below) to produce an overall leisure and culture participation indicator.

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Leisure and culture participation: b) participation in sports	CNI	Sport England (Active Lives Adult Survey)	These data show the modelled estimated percentage of adults (aged 16+) who are classed as 'active'. People are described as being active if they have done at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) physical activity (excluding gardening) in the previous week. Activity is counted in moderate-intensity equivalent minutes, whereby each 'moderate' minute counts as one minute and each 'vigorous' minute counts as two minutes. Moderate activity is defined as activity where you raise your breathing rate; whereas vigorous activity is defined as one in which you are out of breath or sweating (you may not be able to say more than a few words without pausing for breath).		MSOA	Data are derived from survey data with a small sample size, which have been modelled down to small-area level, based on local characteristics. Sport England has modelled its 'active lives activity' estimates to produce small-area estimates at MSOA level. More information about the data modelling process can be found in Sport England's SAE technical document: https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/partneringlocal-government/smallarea-estimates/
Strength of local social relationships	CNI	Social life (constructed from responses to the Community Life Survey and Understanding Society Survey)	This is calculated by combining responses to the following questions: "To what extent would you agree or disagree that people in this neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood?" (Community Life Survey); "The friendships and associations I have with other people in my neighbourhood mean a lot to me." (Understanding Society Survey); "I borrow things and exchange favours with my neighbours." (Understanding Society Survey); "I regularly stop and talk with people in my neighbourhood." (Understanding Society Survey); "I would be willing to work together with others on something to improve my neighbourhood." (Understanding Society Survey); "If I needed advice about something I could go to someone in my neighbourhood." (Understanding Society Survey).	2014-2015	Output area	Data are modelled from the Community Life Survey and Understanding Society Survey (based on the sociodemographic characteristics of the local area). Caution should be applied when interpreting these results at small-area level because of the small sample size of the survey
Percentage of young people who disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements about their their local area (i.e. within five-minute walk)	#BeeWell	Adapted from Policing and Community Safety survey and Health Behaviours in Schools Checklist	Percentage of #BeeWell participants who responded 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree' to statements about their local area (i.e. within five-minute walk), including 'People support each other's wellbeing', 'You can trust people around here', and 'I could ask for help or a favour from neighbours', with the response options including: Strongly agree; Agree; Neither agree nor disagree; Disagree; Strongly disagree	2021-23	Individual	

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Youth low participation (only once a year or less) in certain activities:	#BeeWell	Adapted from Millennium Cohort Study	Percentage of #BeeWell participants who responded 'once a year or less' or 'never or almost never' to the questions 'How often do you do the following activities when you are not at school?', with the response options including: Most days; At least once a week; At least once a month; Several times a year; Once a year or less; Never or almost never	2021-23	Individual	
Proportion of young people who reported they can do things they enjoy in their free time	#BeeWell	Original #BeeWell item	Percentage of #BeeWell participants who responded 'often' or 'almost always' to the questions 'How often can you do things that			
you like in your free time?', with the response options including: Almost always; Often; Sometimes; Not often; Almost never	2021-23	Individual				
Rates of young people who reported never feeling discriminated	#BeeWell	Adapted from Determinants of Adolescent Social Wellbeing and Health Study & Harvard Measuring Discrimination Resource	Percentage of #BeeWell participants who responded 'never' to the questions 'How often do people make you feel bad because of: your race, skin colour, or where you were born; your gender; your sexuality; your disability; your religion or faith', with the response options including: often or always; some of the time			
time; occasionally; hardly ever; never	2021-23	Individual				

	Source	Primary source	Details	Date	Granularity	Notes
Youth wellbeing						
% unhappy (4 or less on the 0 to 10 life satisfaction scale)	#BeeWell	ONS	Percentage of #BeeWell participants scoring 4 or less in the 0 to 10 life satisfaction scale	2021-23	Individual	
% lonely (often/always)	#BeeWell	ONS	Percentage of #BeeWell participants who responded 'often' or 'always' to the question 'How often do you feel lonely?', with the response options including: often or always; some of the time; occasionally; hardly ever; never	2021-23	Individual	
% unsafe in the local area (fairly unsafe or very unsafe)	#BeeWell	Adapted from Policing and Community Safety survey and Health Behaviours in Schools Checklist	Percentage of #BeeWell participants who responded 'fairly unsafe' or 'very unsafe' to the question 'How safe do you feel when in your local area? By "local area", we mean the area within about 5 minutes walking distance of your home', with the response options including: 'very safe'; 'fairly safe'; 'fairly unsafe'; 'very unsafe'; 'don't know'	2021-23	Individual	

Note:

The list and description of CNI items can also be found here in Appendix 1 here: https://localtrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/local_trust_ocsi_left_behind_research_august_2019.pdf

DDNs = Left behind neighbourhoods as defined by OCSI (<https://ocsi.uk/left-behind-neighbourhoods/>)

Appendix 2:

List of doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester

Neighbourhoods were defined at the ward level, with 359 wards in Greater Manchester, of which 17 were classified as DDN (n=7,502; 8.40%), listed in Table A2.1 below, and 342 as non-DDN (n=81,853; 91.60%)

Table A2.1

List of doubly disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester

Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhood (Ward 2017) Code	Doubly disadvantaged neighbourhood (Ward 2017) Name	Local Authority Code	Local Authority District Name	County code	County name	Region Code	Region Name
E05000652	Brightmet	E08000001	Bolton			E12000002	West North
E05000655	Farnworth	E08000001	Bolton			E12000002	West North
E05000658	Harper Green	E08000001	Bolton			E12000002	West North
E05000693	Charlestown	E08000003	Manchester			E12000002	West North
E05000704	Harpurhey	E08000003	Manchester			E12000002	West North
E05000709	Miles Platting and Newton Heath	E08000003	Manchester			E12000002	West North
E05000718	Woodhouse Park	E08000003	Manchester			E12000002	West North
E05000739	Balderstone and Kirkholt	E08000005	Rochdale			E12000002	West North
E05000753	Smallbridge and Firgrove	E08000005	Rochdale			E12000002	West North
E05000757	West Heywood	E08000005	Rochdale			E12000002	West North
E05000758	West Middleton	E08000005	Rochdale			E12000002	West North
E05000769	Little Hulton	E08000006	Salford			E12000002	West North
E05000811	Hyde Godley	E08000008	Tameside Tameside			E12000002	West North
E05000814	Longdendale	E08000008	Tameside Tameside			E12000002	West North
E05000845	Atherton	E08000010	Wigan			E12000002	West North
E05000854	Leigh West	E08000010	Wigan			E12000002	West North
E05000857	Pemberton	E08000010	Wigan			E12000002	West North

About Local Trust

Local Trust is a place-based funder supporting communities to transform and improve their lives and the places in which they live. We believe there is a need to put more power, resources, and decision-making into the hands of communities.

We do this by trusting local people. Our aims are to demonstrate the value of long term, unconditional, resident-led funding, and to draw on the learning from our work delivering the Big Local programme to promote a wider transformation in the way policy makers, funders and others engage with communities and place.

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