DARLINGTON
Borough Council

2021

Heighington & Coniscliffe

Sadberge & Middleton St George

Brinkburn & Faverdale

Harrogate Hill

Whinfield

Cockerton

North Road

Haughton & Springfield

Pierremont

Northgate

Stephenson

Red Hall & Lingfield

Mowden

College

Hummersknott

Park East

Bank Top & Lascelles

Eastbourne

Park West

Hurworth

Darlington Borough Profile

OCTOBER 2021

Contents

Foreword

Many of the issues identified in this report are longstanding and the Council has already instigated action to address them, primarily through the Council Plan.

Growing the Economy is a fundamental element of addressing the challenges outlined in this profile report, and there has been major success in bringing employment to Darlington with Amazon setting up a major facility and 1,700 jobs soon to be created by government relocations. A substantial house building programme is also underway to attract younger, working age, families which will help counterbalance the aging population ratio.

As highlighted in this report, maximising the potential of young people is key to sustained future prosperity. The Council is consequently working with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Darlington College, and other partners and employers to create clearer and easier routes for young people to access support and engage with local employers.

Bringing quality employment to Darlington is only one element of growing the town's prosperity. It's important that local residents are in a strong position to take up quality employment which is why an adult learning facility is a central feature of the Towns Fund proposal.

The Council also is committed to supporting the most vulnerable in our community. It has invested in a range of interventions to support struggling families such as, most recently, the Bread and Butter Thing food waste initiative and the School Uniform Exchange scheme which are saving local families significant money on essential goods.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated some existing areas of concern and introduced new ones. The Council is developing an approach to complementing national work on Levelling Up, aimed at ensuring all of our communities can access opportunities, and this profile report provides the underpinning evidence to inform our approach and ensure its effectiveness.

Population

A good understanding of our borough begins with a clear view of our residents. The current demographic make-up and how it is projected to change in the future is of vital importance to the Council and its partners to ensure that current and future services meet demand, from local healthcare provision to schools and waste collection. Understanding, too, what trends reflect wider regional and national patterns, and which are more specific to the borough also helps us better understand how local conditions affect our population, and therefore allow us to identify at an early stage emerging issues which we can collectively act upon to either encourage or mitigate against.

Age

Darlington has:

- Above average proportion of residents aged 45+
- Below average proportion of residents aged 15-44
- Similar to average proportion of young people aged 0-14
- An estimated 48,475 households (2021): this is expected to increase by 5.6% over the next 20 years (however, simultaneously, the working-age population is projected to decrease by 7.7%)

Implications?

- Darlington's old age dependency ratio, i.e. the ratio of older people to working age adults, is already higher than average
- According to ONS population projections this is predicted to get worse, and at a faster rate than elsewhere
- Without intervention, this is likely to translate into increasing pressures on public services and risk future growth

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Darlington State Pension Age Population	22,300	24,400	27,100	29,400	30,200
Darlington Working Age Population	62,100	60,900	59,500	58,200	57,300
Darlington Old Age Dependency Ratio	35.9	40.1	45.5	50.5	52.7
North East Old Age Dependency Ratio	33.6	37.2	41.4	44.5	45.6
England Old Age Dependency Ratio	30.9	33.3	36.7	39.8	41.7

Ward	Population
Bank Top & Lascelles	7,317
Brinkburn & Faverdale	6,739
Cockerton	6,283
College	4,270
Eastbourne	6,535
Harrowgate Hill	6,310
Haughton & Springfield	6,087
Heighington & Coniscliffe	4,587
Hummersknott	3,675
Hurworth	3,288
Mowden	3,815
North Road	6,435
Northgate	4,332
Park East	8,007
Park West	4,262

Pierremont	6,029
Red Hall & Lingfield	4,277
Sadberge & Middleton St George	6,614
Stephenson	4,818
Whinfield	3,722

Latest (Mid-2020) ONS estimates of ward populations vary from 3,288 in Hurworth, to 8,007 in Park East.

Births

The number of live births in Darlington fell 13% between 2013 and 2020, from 1,227 to 1,067.
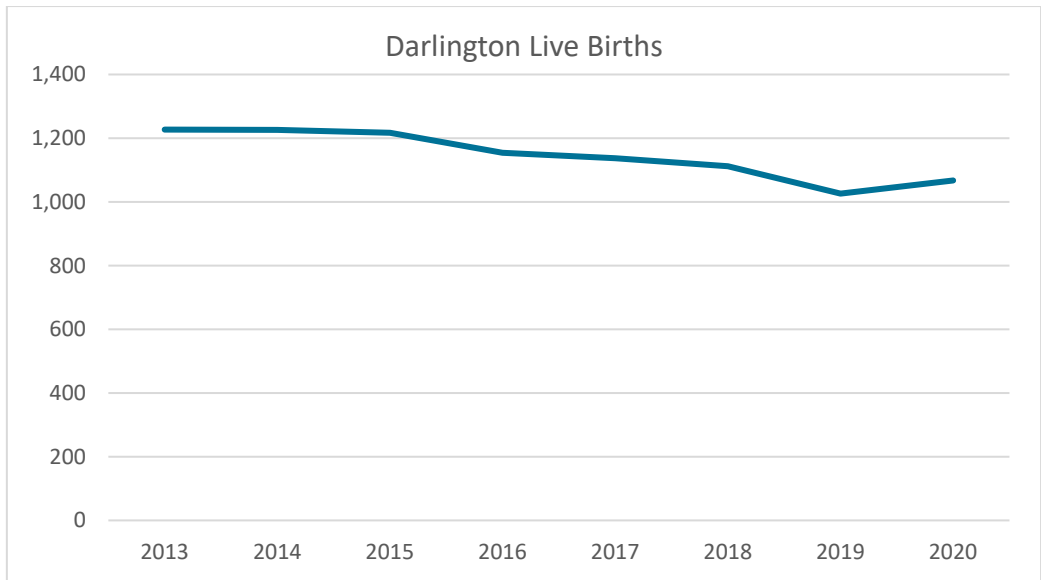
The local general fertility rate (GFT), defined as the number of live births per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 44, calculated using mid-year population estimates, also fell over the period, by 9%, from 62.0 to 56.6. This decline is not out of line with comparator groups, and Darlington remains in line with the national average and above the regional figure for this metric.
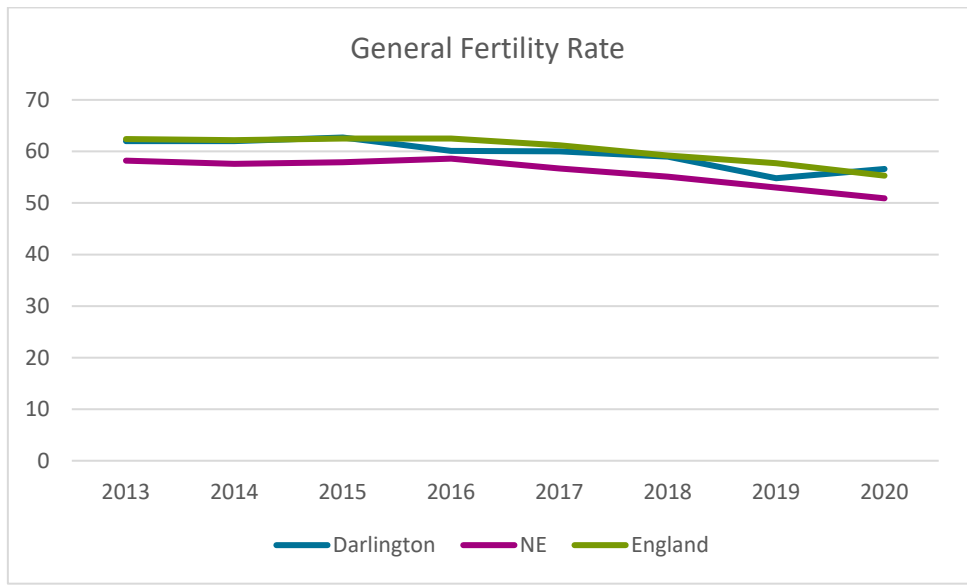
The mean (average) age of mothers, calculated using fertility rates per 1,000 female population by single year of age, has increased slightly, by 2%, since 2013, from 28.4 to 29 years. Again, this increase is mirrored elsewhere with the

average age of mothers increasing 2% and 3%, respectively, in the North East and England over the same period. Darlington remains below average for this metric.
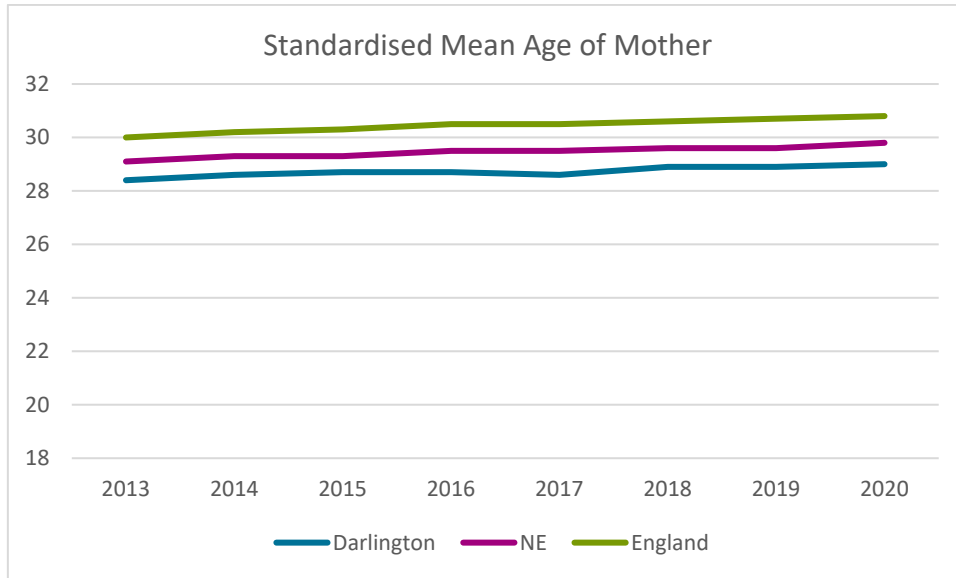
Breaking down by age band shows the fertility rate fell for under 30s, particularly under 20s (45%) and 20-24s (20%) between 2013 and 2020 but increased for mothers aged 40 and over by nearly a quarter although this group remains a low proportion of the total fertility rate.
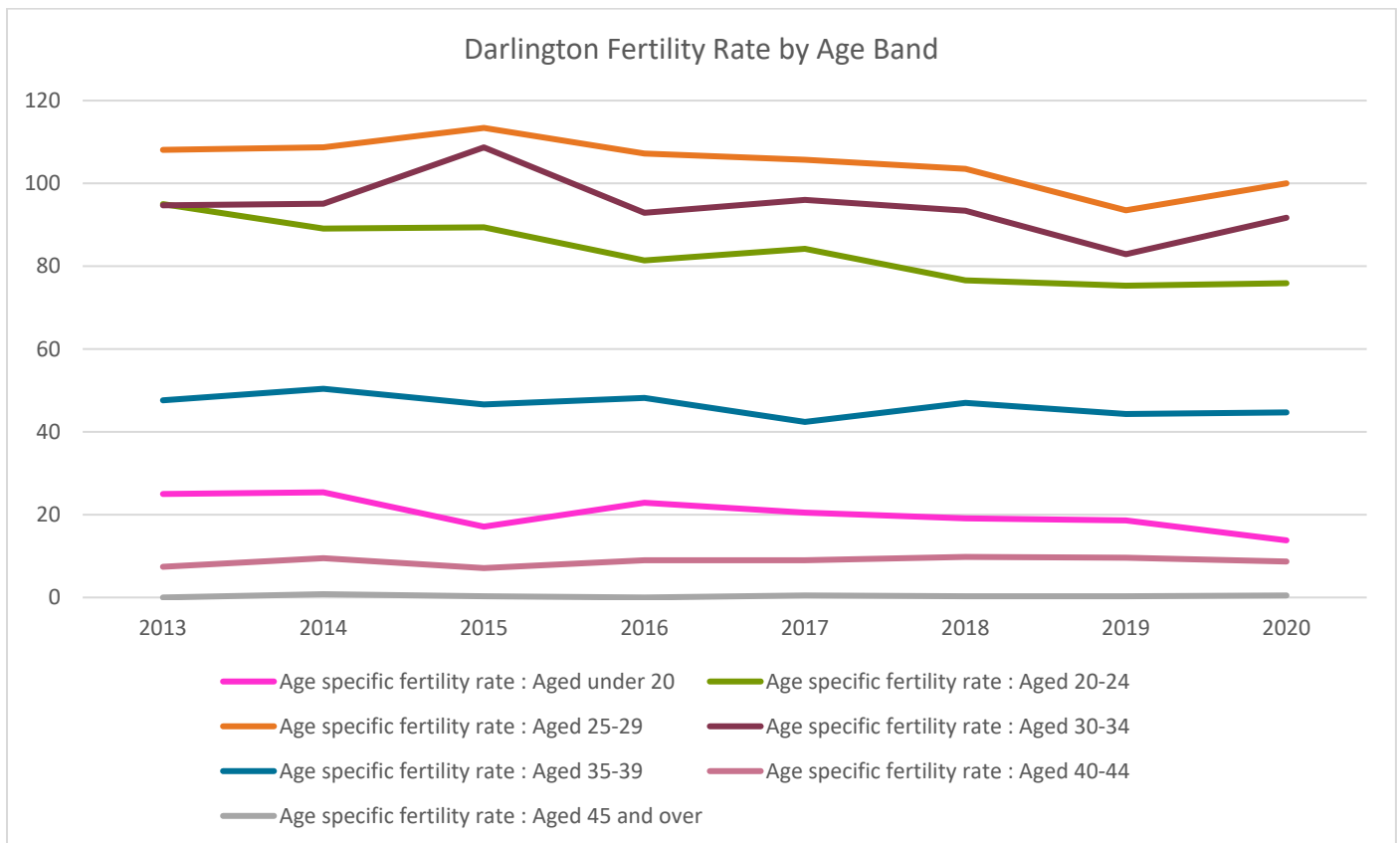
Comparing Darlington age-specific fertility rates to comparators shows the local trend is largely in line with the regional and national pattern for all age bands, but that Darlington remains significantly above average for the 20-29 fertility rate, and significantly below the England average for fertility of groups aged 30+.

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Fertility Rate - Under 20s

Fertility Rate - Aged 20-24

Fertility Rate - Aged 25-29

Fertility Rate - Aged 30-34

Fertility Rate - Aged 35-39

Fertility Rate - Aged 40-44

Fertility Rate - Aged 45+
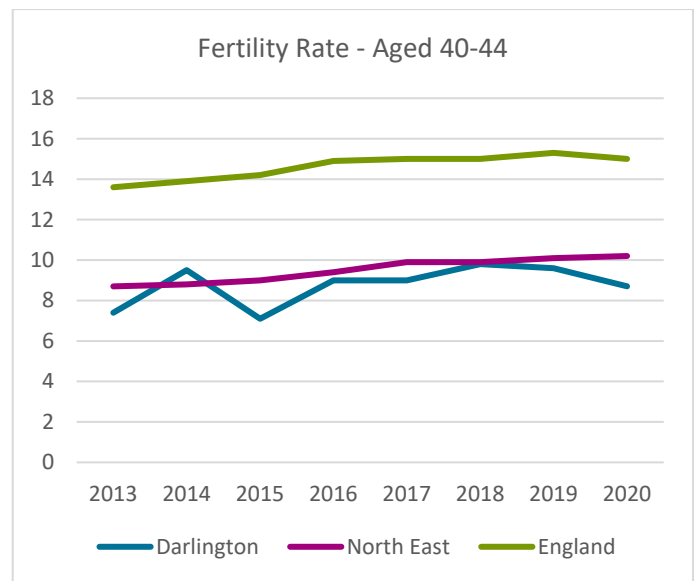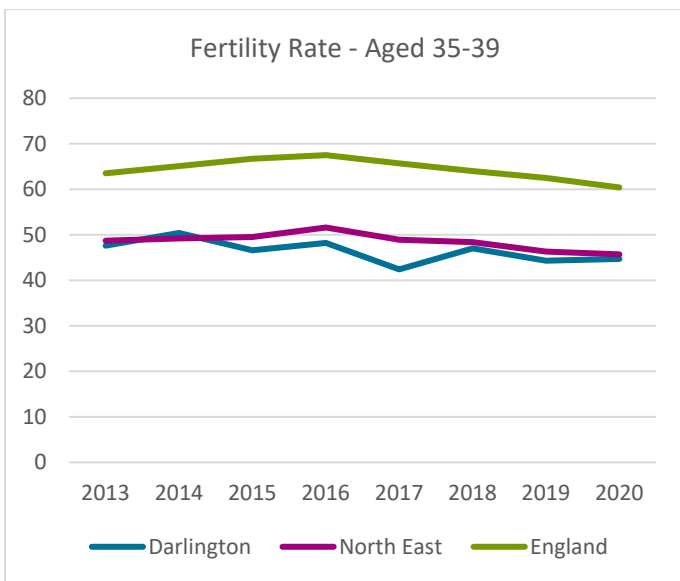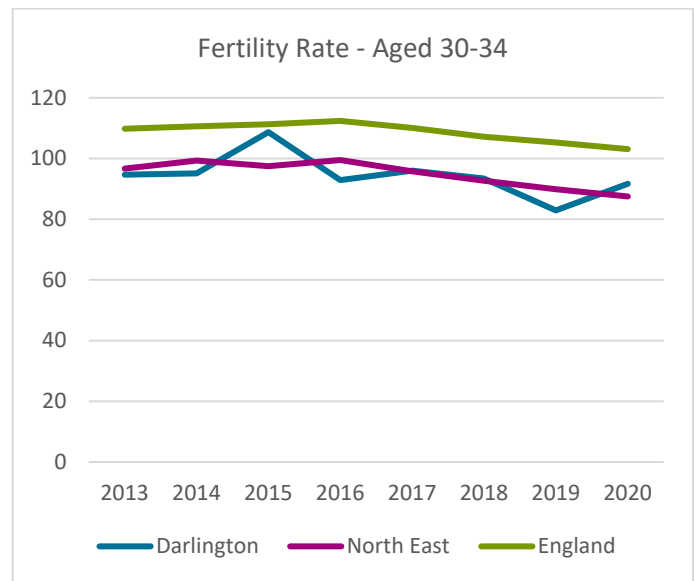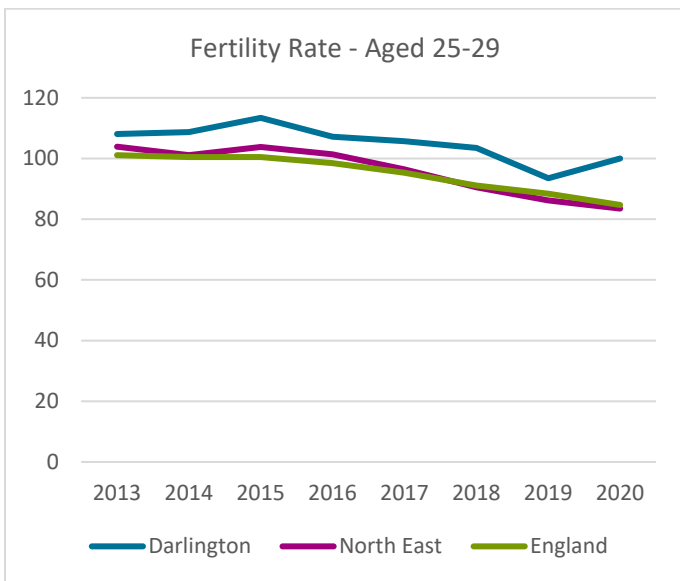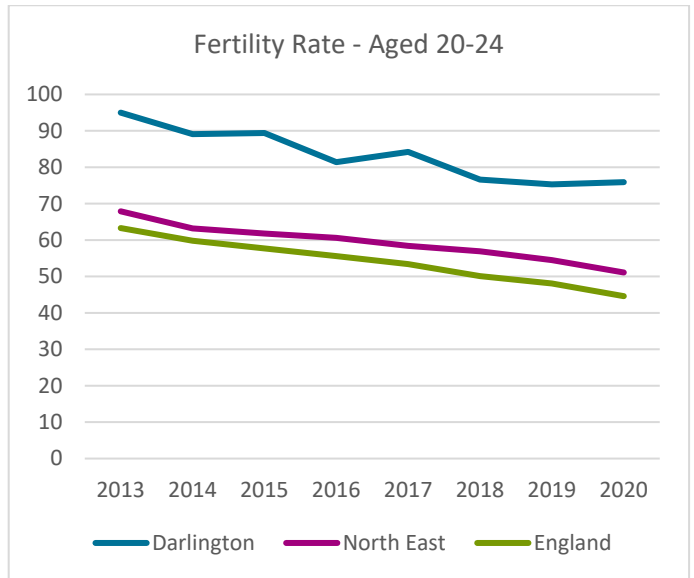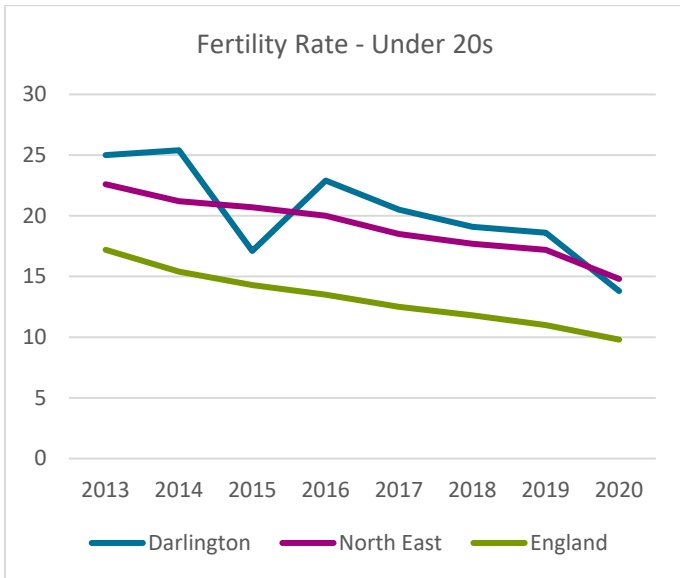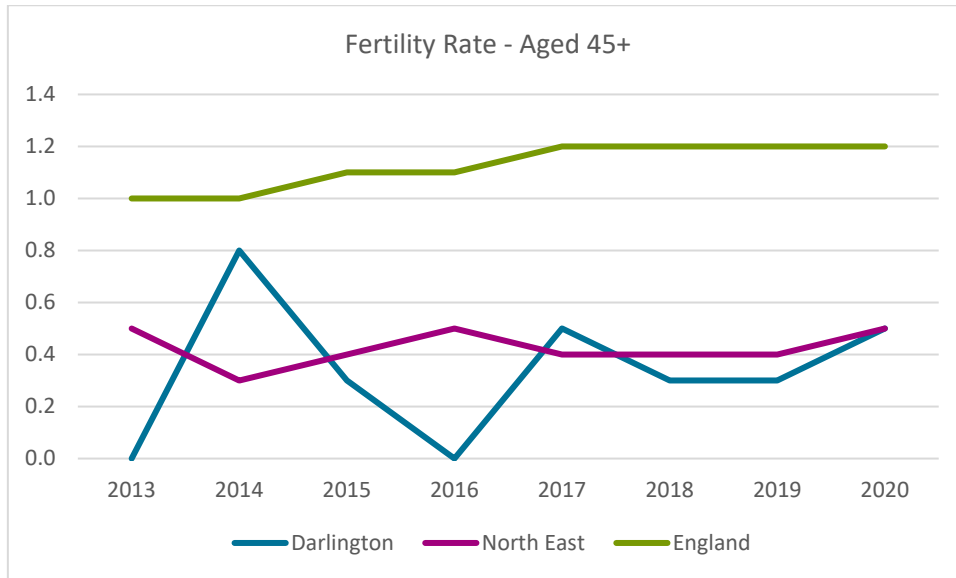
Child Population

20,122 0–15-year-olds live in Darlington, with:

- higher numbers living in Park East, Eastbourne and Bank Top and Lascelles wards,
- the least number of children living in Hurworth, Hummersknott and Mowden wards (collectively just over a third of the total of the highest three)

No. Children Aged 0-15
- 497 - 686
- 686 - 940
- 940 - 1031
- 1031 - 1395
- 1395 - 1682
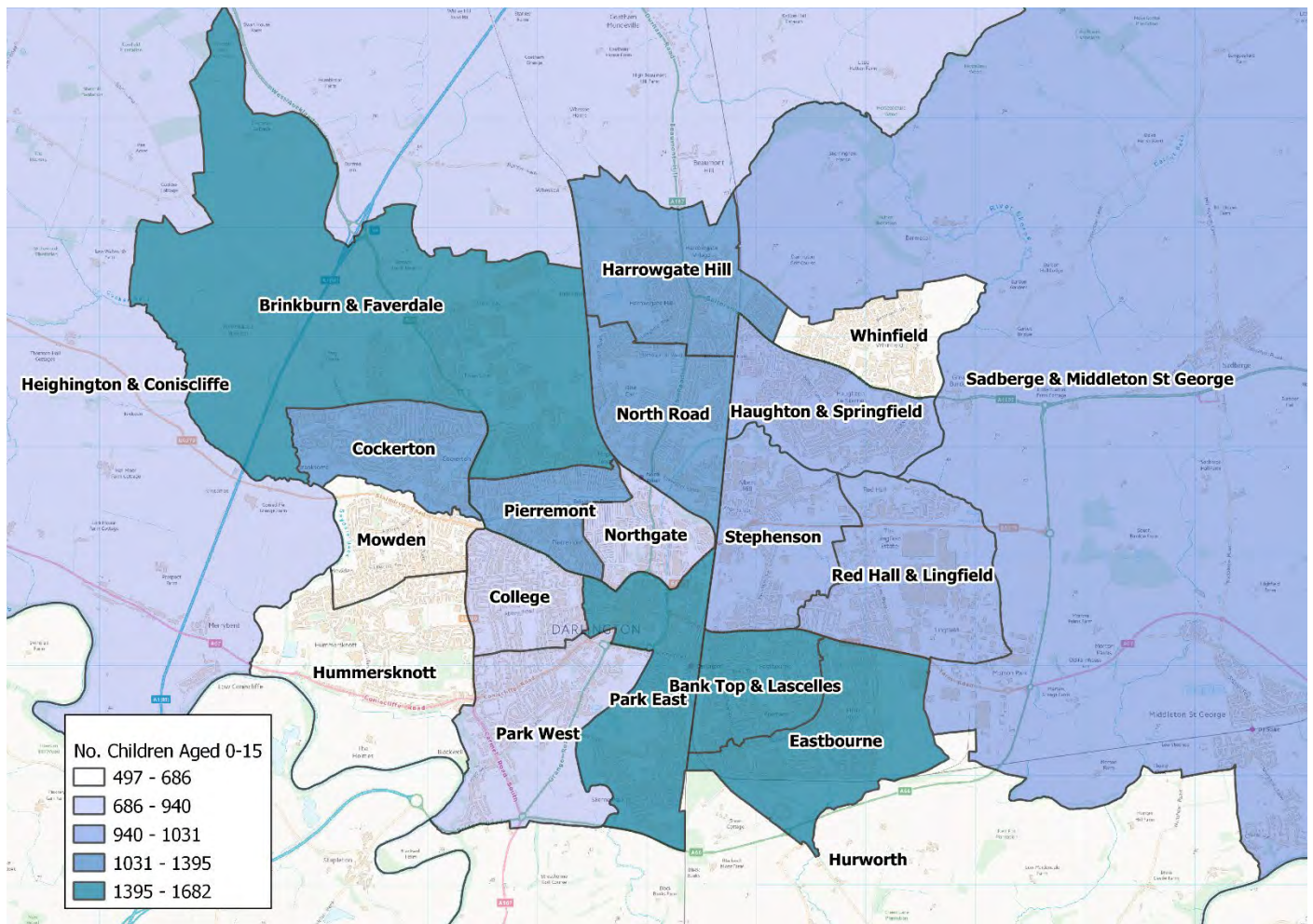
Diversity

Darlington became slightly more diverse between 2001 and 2011, with the proportion of residents within the White: Total ethnic group falling from 97.9% to 96.2% but remaining 10.8 percentage points above the England average and 0.9 percentage points above the North East figure.

All other ethnic groups increased proportionately from 2001, particularly the Asian: Total group which grew from 1.2% to 2.1%

The White: Other population in Darlington is the largest ethnic group after White: British, numbering 2,019 residents in 2011 (an increase of almost three-fold since 2001)

At ward level:
- The White: British population ranged from 78.4% (Northgate) to 97.3% (Cockerton East)
- 26.4% of the Asian: Total population lived in Northgate (12.3% of its total population)
- Northgate ward had the highest proportion of White: Other (5.4%) and Black: Total (1.0%) residents.
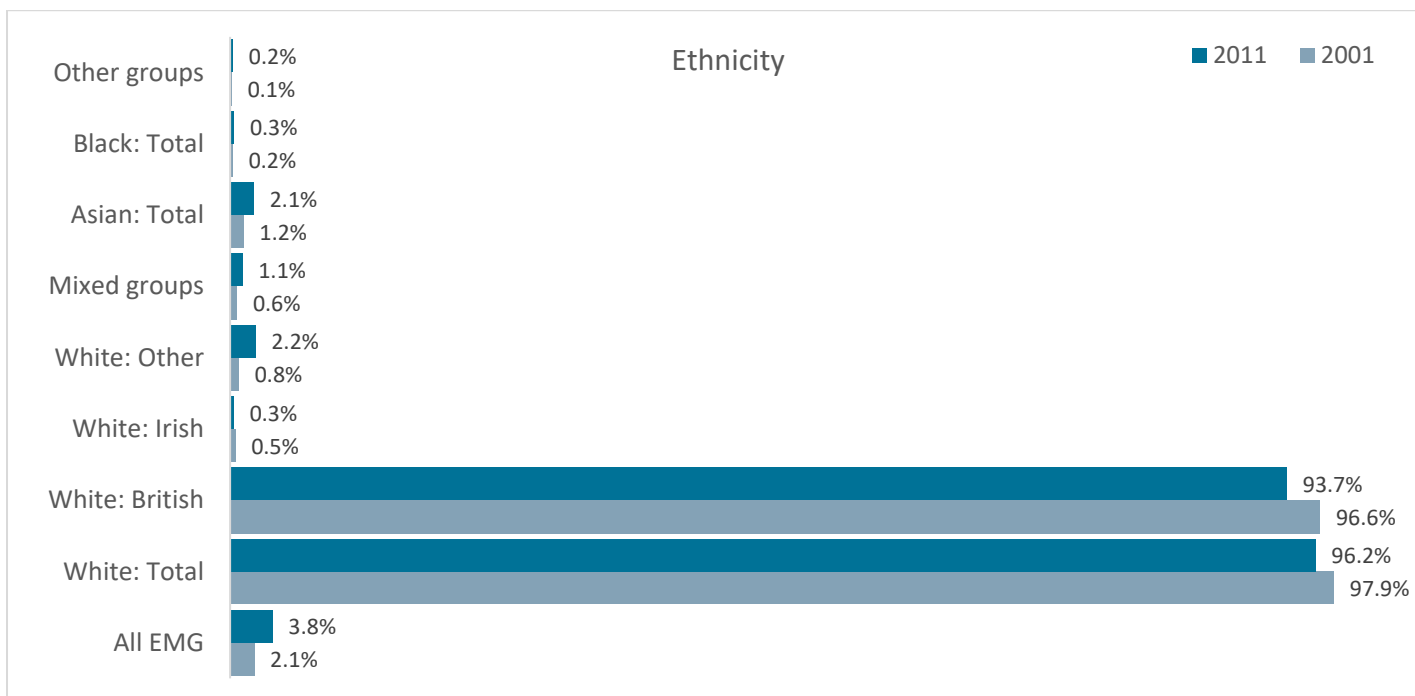
Ethnic minority groups in Darlington, compared to the majority White: Total population, have much smaller proportions of:
- Over 65s
- 0–15-year-olds

Ethnicity and Age

	All Groups	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other
65+	20,723	20,380	111	164	48	20
16-64	70,708	67,926	647	1,677	253	205
0-15	14,133	13,289	388	364	56	36

■ 0-15 ■ 16-64 ■ 65+
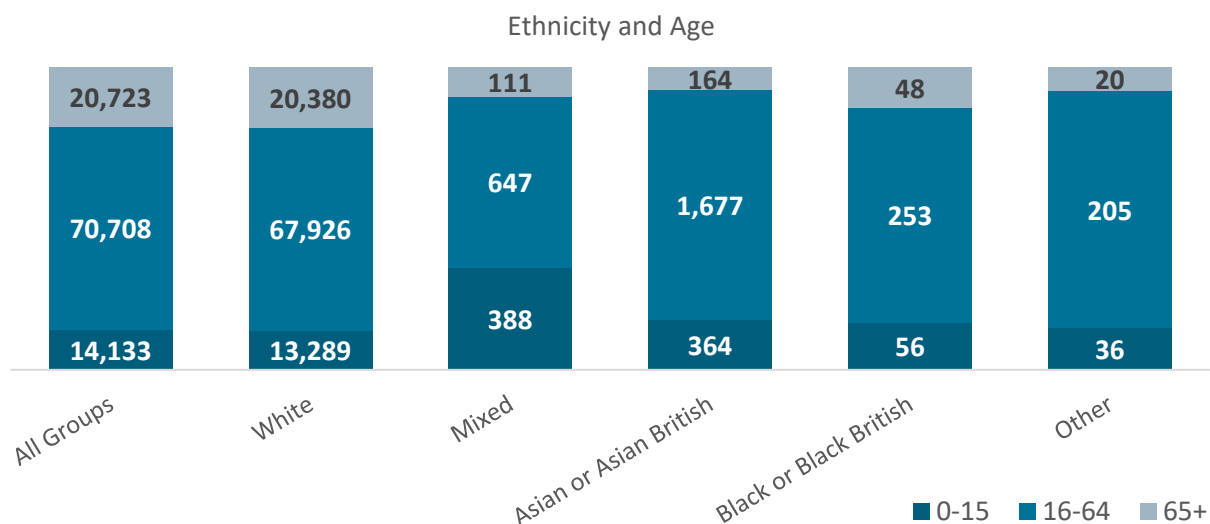
Countries of birth

The table below shows the countries where at least 100 Darlington residents were born, using 2011 census data

The most common non-UK countries of birth were:

- Poland (0.8%)

- Germany (0.7%)

- India (0.5%)

Country	Number of residents	Percentage
England	96,685	91.6%
Scotland	2,374	2.2%
Poland	887	0.8%
Germany	777	0.7%
Wales	543	0.5%
India	505	0.5%
Northern Ireland	419	0.4%
Other EU Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011	280	0.3%
Ireland	263	0.2%
Other South-East Asia	201	0.2%
Bangladesh	186	0.2%
Hong Kong	170	0.2%
Other EU Member Countries in 2001	158	0.1%
Other Middle East	144	0.1%
South Africa	137	0.1%
Philippines	124	0.1%
Lithuania	118	0.1%
United States	116	0.1%
China	115	0.1%
Romania	107	0.1%
Other South and Eastern Africa	100	0.1%

Languages

According to the 2011 census:

- 1.5% of Darlington's population had nobody at home speaking English as a *main* language (just over a third of the national average)

- Polish was spoken by 850+ residents, making it the second most common language in Darlington followed by around 250 residents who reported speaking Bengali.

National Insurance Number (NINO) Registrations

- 244 National Insurance Number registrations were made in Darlington to overseas nationals in 2020/21, a decrease of 32% since 2019/20 and 46% from the peak of 464 in 2015/16
- If this trend continues it could have implications for Darlington's future working-age population growth

Darlington NINO Registrations
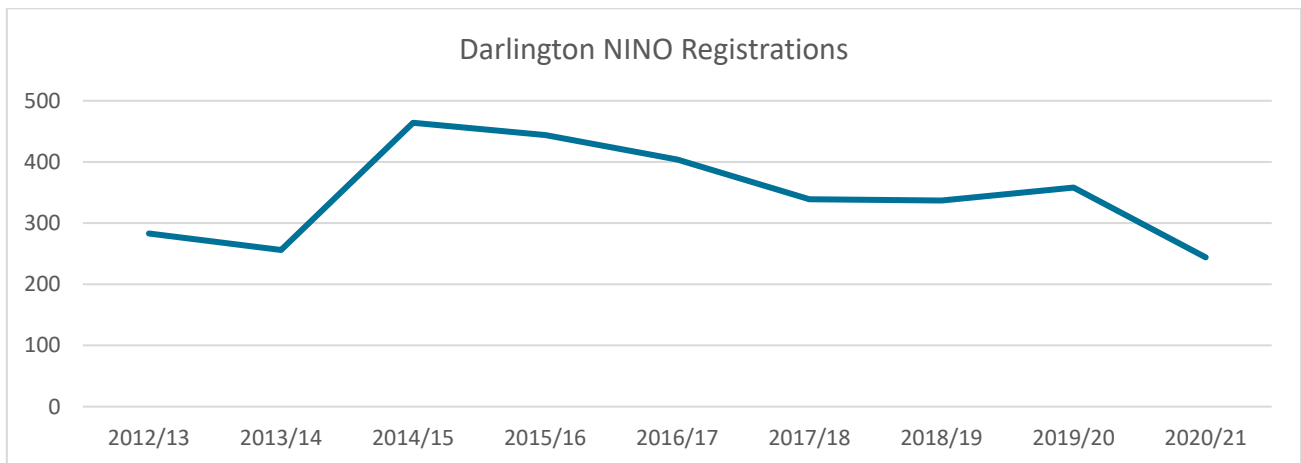
- A fall in registrations from European Union nationals accounted for the significant drop over the previous 12 months, falling from 55% of registrations in 2019/20 to less than a quarter (24%) of the total in 2020/21. Some of this fall may be due to the pandemic, but the primary reason is thought to be due to the UK's departure from the EU in 2020.
- NINO registrations from non-EU countries increased very slightly in 2020/21

NINO Registrations by Nationality 2012-21
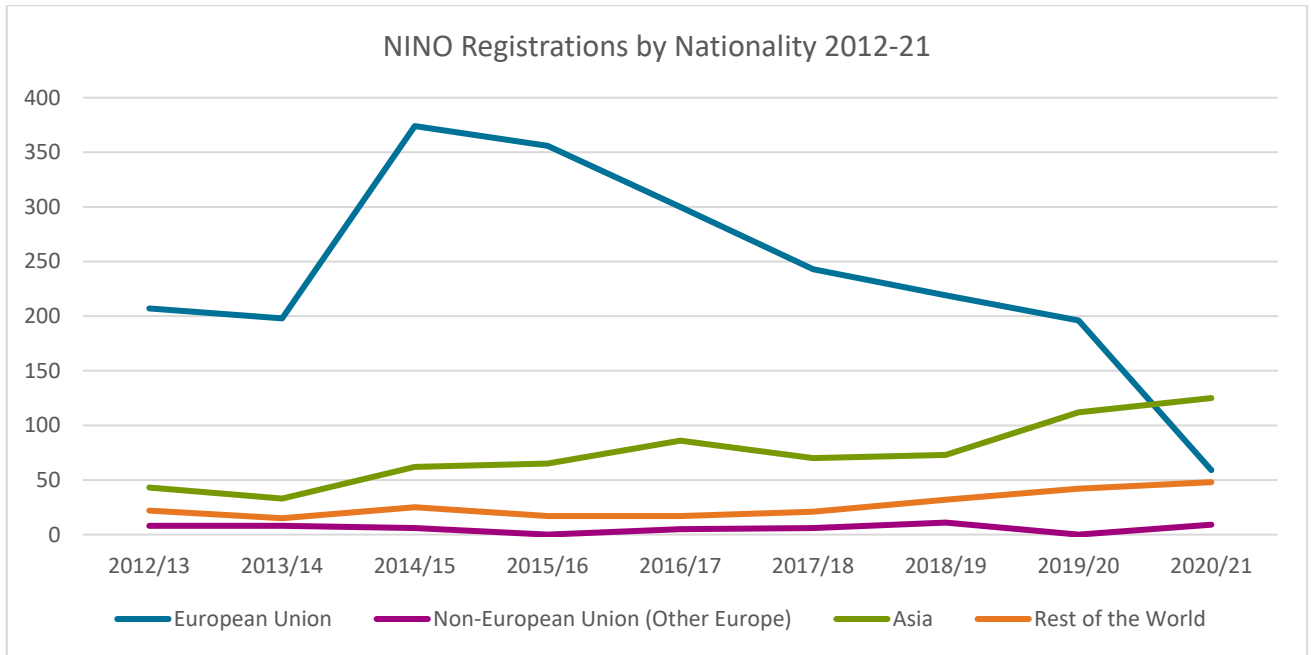
Disability

The proportion of Darlington residents reporting having an activity-limiting health problem or disability in the 2011 census, at 19.6%, was above the national average of 17.9%.

Long-term health problems or diability, census 2011
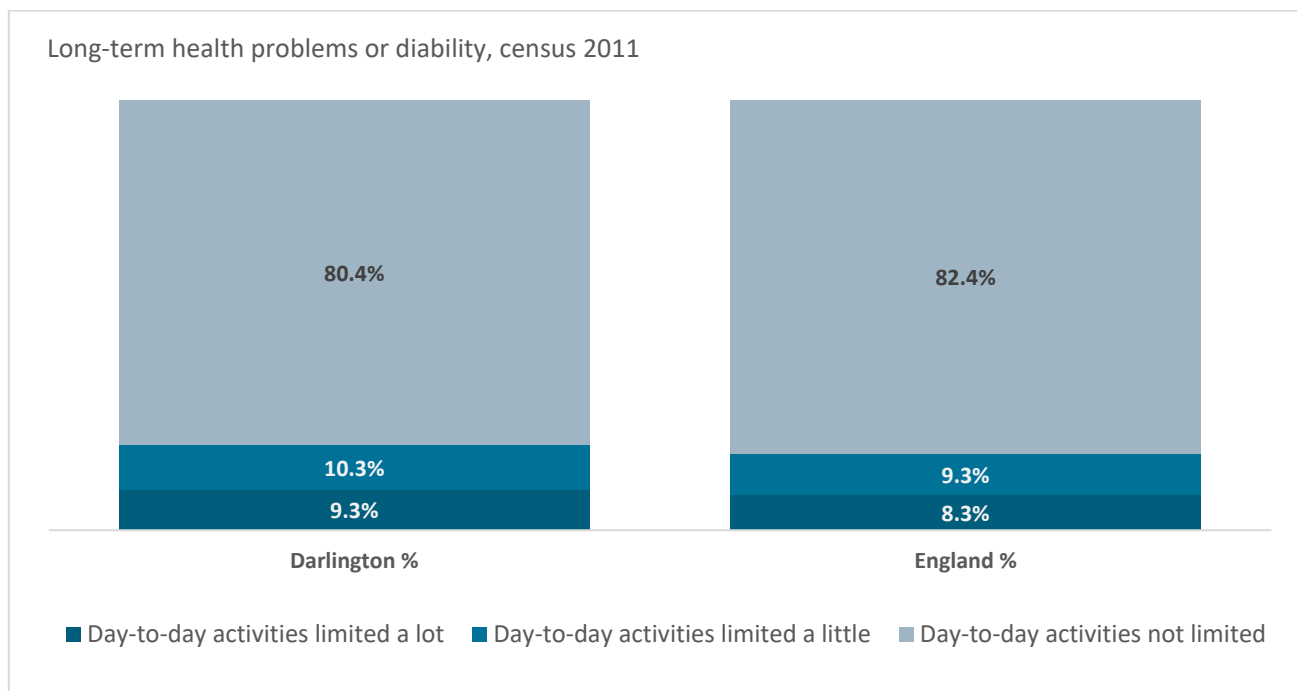
The areas of the borough with the highest proportions of residents reporting having an activity-limiting health problem or disability are listed below. Nearly a third of residents of one area of Haughton and Springfield reported having their day-to-day activities limited by their health and/or disability.

LSOA	Ward	Total residents in 2011	Proportion whose day to day activities are limited
Darlington 005C	Haughton and Springfield	1,427	32.4%
Darlington 012C	Bank Top and Lascelles	1,591	28.2%
Darlington 006D	Brinkburn and Faverdale	1,351	27.8%
Darlington 012A	Bank Top and Lascelles	1,210	27.7%
Darlington 009C	Stephenson	1,778	27.4%

CACI Household Profiles

As of 2021, Darlington has a higher-than-average proportion of households classified as 'comfortable communities' and 'urban adversity'. The proportion of households classified as 'affluent achievers' is in line with the national average, and the borough has a lower proportion of 'rising prosperity' and 'financially stretched' households.

Household Acorn Category Profile 2021

	Affluent Achievers	Rising Prosperity	Comfortable Communities	Financially Stretched	Urban Adversity
Darlington	21.5%	3.9%	27.5%	19.5%	27.7%
GB	21.9%	10.1%	26.2%	23.7%	17.8%
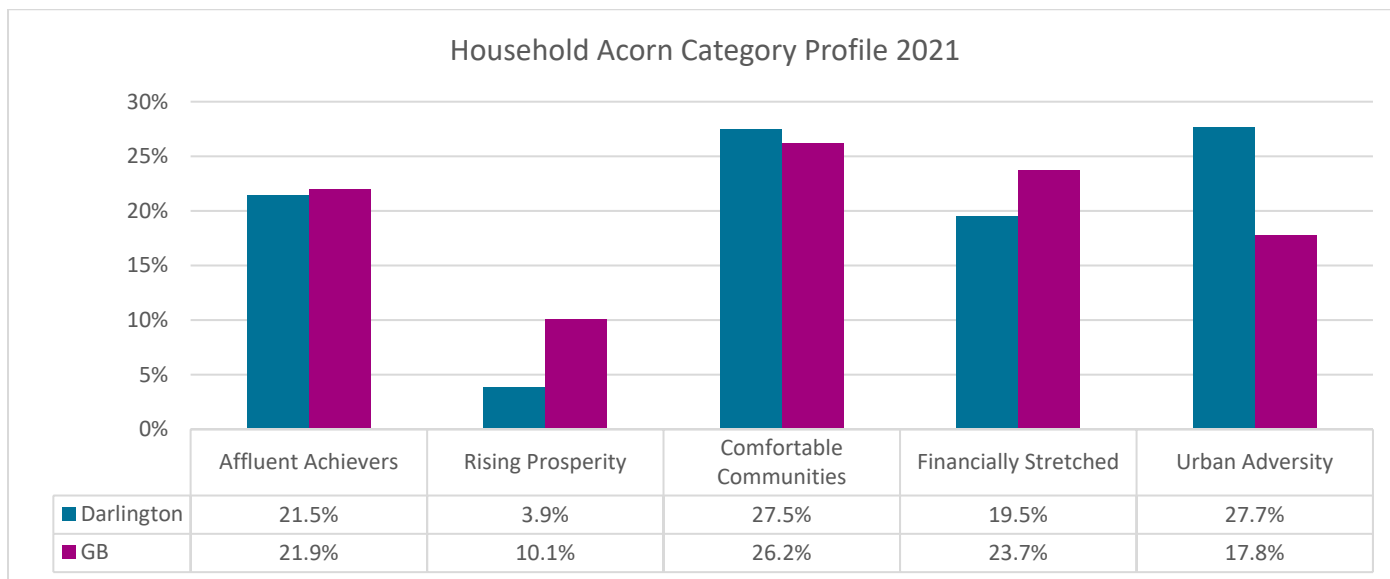
High level descriptions of these Acorn categories are provided in the below table.

Affluent Achievers *healthy, wealthy and confident consumers*	Rising Prosperity *younger, well educated and mostly prosperous*	Comfortable Communities *middle of the road Britain*	Financially Stretched *just get by with modest lifestyles and feel financial pressure*	Urban Adversity *find life the hardest and most difficult conditions*
• Most financially successful • Own expensive homes in wealthy, high status areas • Baby boomers • Well educated with managerial / professional jobs • Confident with new technology and finances	• Singles or couples • Professionals moving up career ladder • Mix of renters / owner occupiers • Internet generation • Cosmopolitan outlook and urban lifestyle	• Owner occupiers of average priced homes • Average incomes • Mix of professional, managerial, clerical and skilled occupations • Not very wealthy but few major financial worries	• Less married couples / more single parents, single, separated and divorced people • Incomes well below average • Lower paid administrative, clerical, semi skilled and manual jobs • Less likely to engage with financial services • Use internet socially	• Rent small homes in deprived areas • Significant debt / credit issues • High rates of benefit claimants • Low qualifications • Semi skilled or unskilled jobs • Many single adult households • Health problems

The graph below shows how the proportion of Darlington households by Acorn type changed over the last 4 years.

Darlington Acorn Household Types

Legend: ■ 2021 ■ 2017

Affluent Achievers
- Young professionals
- Detached singles
- Flourishing families
- Accomplished suburban families
- Later-life professionals
- Exclusive empty nesters
- Middle-aged suburbanites
- Asset-rich retirees
- Affluent elderly

Rising Prosperity
- Young flat buyers
- Socialising metropolitans
- Rising young families
- Cosmopolitan families
- Mid-life singles
- Retired metropolitans
- Older owners

Comfortable Communities
- Cosy young families
- Young families in terraces
- Terrace-owning families
- Green-belt families
- Young families in semis
- Contented families and couples
- Rural pensioners
- Contented elderly
- House-proud pensioners
- Terrace-owning pensioners

Financially Stretched
- Young renters in flats
- Squeezed singles and couples
- Squeezed young families
- Renting young families
- Struggling social renting families
- High occupancy families
- Conventional middle-agers
- Elderly in terraced estates
- Post industrial pensioners
- Elderly in semi-detached estates
- Pensioners in social rented flats

Urban Adversity
- Younger privately rented adversity
- Younger social renting adversity
- Poorer social renting families
- Deprived younger families
- Struggling owner occupier families
- Older people in social rented estates
- Struggling older owners
- Retired couples in social rented estates
- Deprived elderly renters
- Deprived older people renting flats

x-axis: 0% 2% 4% 6% 8% 10%

'Deprived younger families' remains the largest single household type at 5,383 (10.6%) of Darlington households, up from 7.2% in 2017. This group are described as being more likely than average to:

- o   Have a high number of pre-school children
- o   Live in terraced houses or flats (sometimes shared)
- o   Be private renters
- o   Suffer from issues with noise, vandalism or crime
- o   Be employed in low skilled jobs with below average incomes, or unemployed
- o   Have little to no savings
- o   Not use financial services, other than loans
- o   Have problem debt and may have been refused credit
- o   Enjoy generally good health
- o   Not regularly consume fruit and vegetables
- o   Smoke
- o   Use social media regularly

The maps show the most common category of Acorn household at Output Area (OA) level

Most Common Acorn Categories of Darlington OAs

1 Affluent Achievers
2 Rising Prosperity
3 Comfortable Communities
4 Financially Stretched
5 Urban Adversity

Most Common Acorn Categories of Darlington OAs

1 Affluent Achievers
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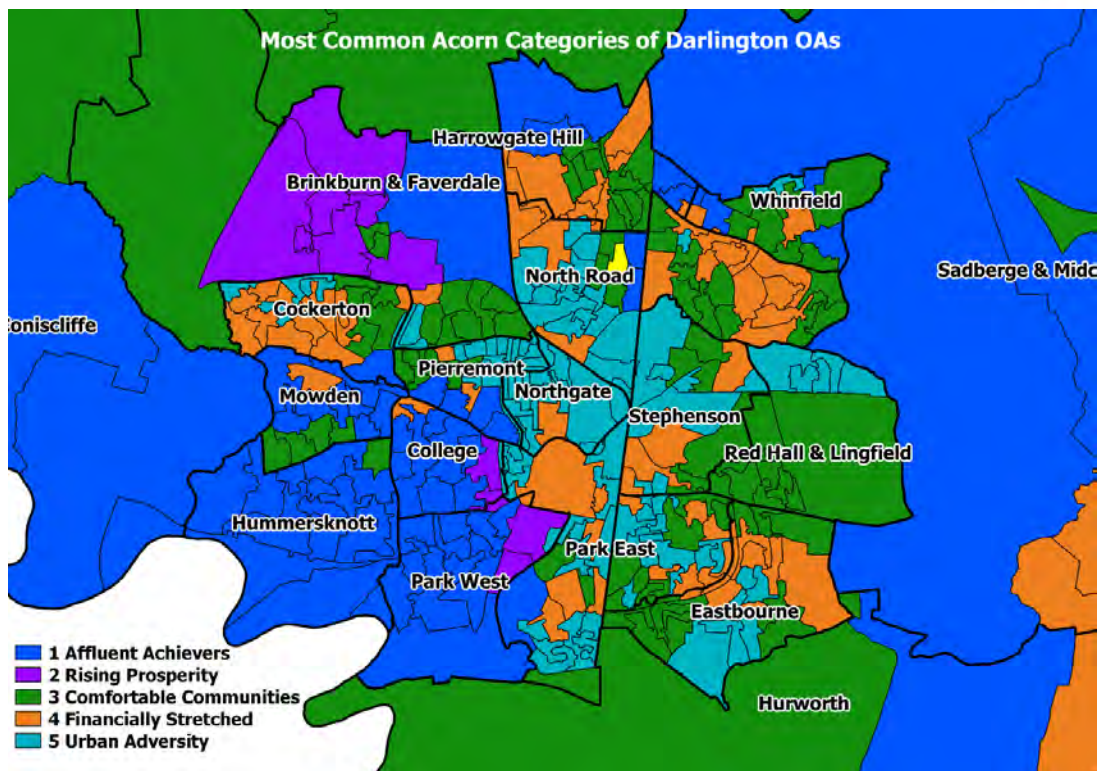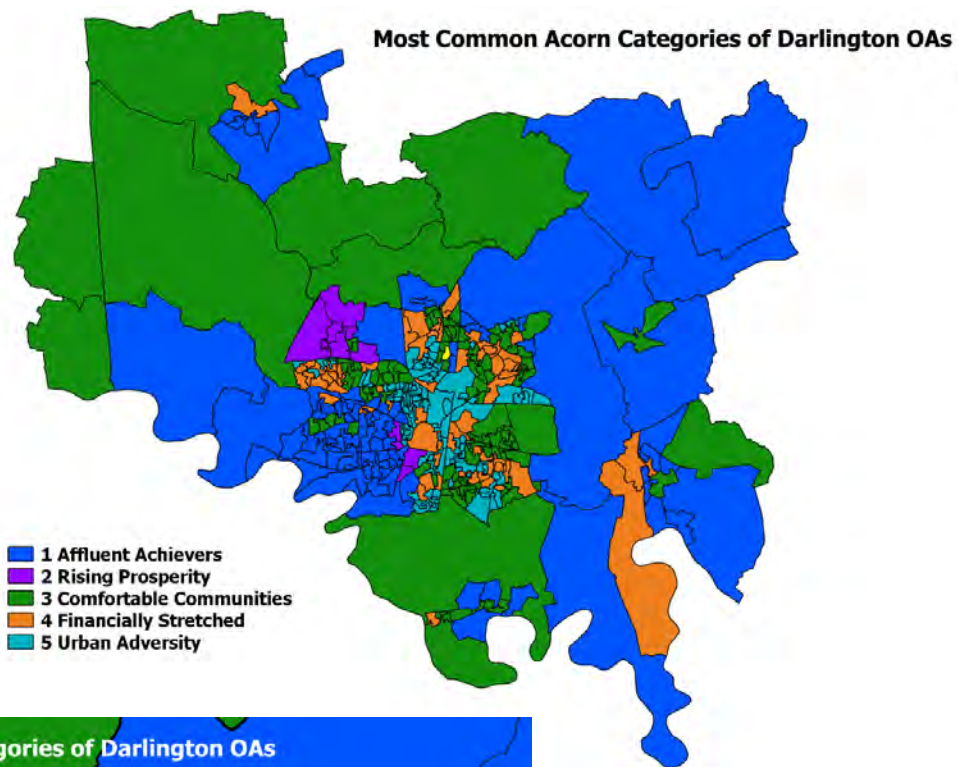
Young CACI Household Profiles

The change in the local population's Acorn make-up over the past four years has been starker for younger age groups. The below graphs show how local Acorn types and categories have changed between 2017 and 2021 for younger households. The proportion of Darlington's population comprised of younger 'financially stretched' and 'urban adversity' households increased by a quarter, from 21.6% to 28%, whilst the proportion of younger 'comfortable communities' households rose by a percentage point.
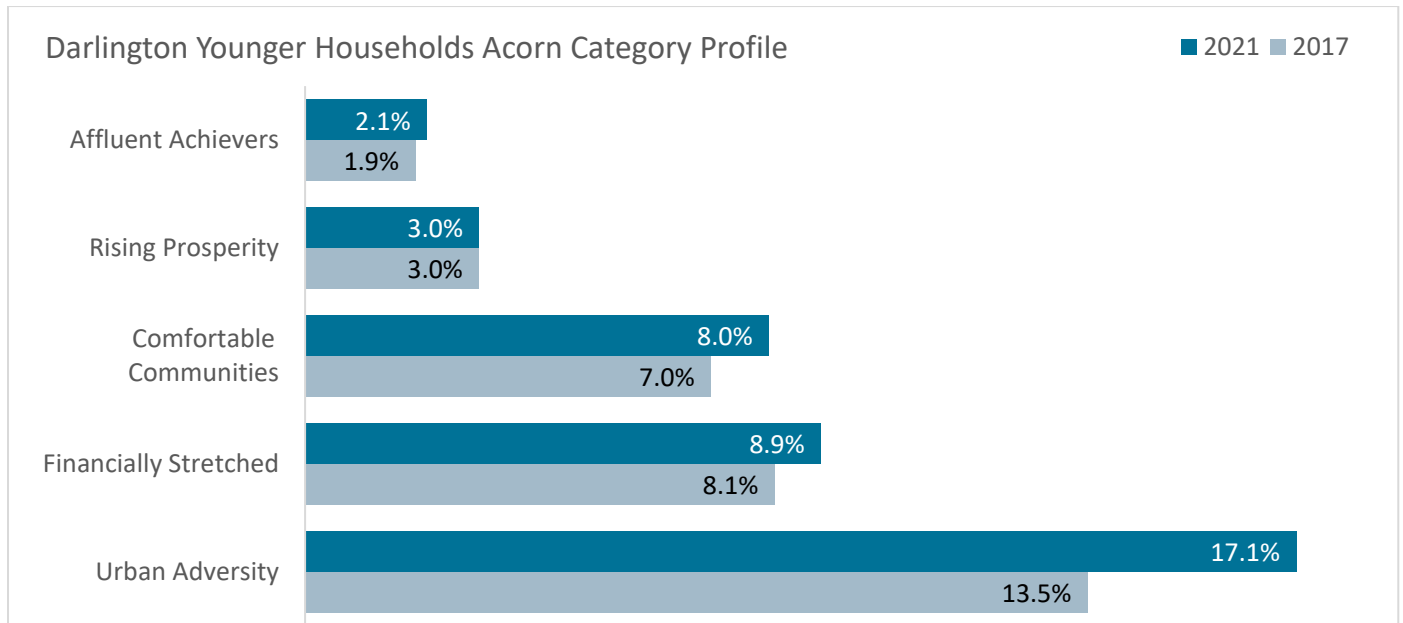
Considering younger Acorn households by type shows the majority of increases in financially stretched and urban adversity groups are 'squeezed young families' (up by more than a half) and 'deprived younger families' (up by 3.4 percentage points). There is considerable evidence that the economic impacts of the pandemic have been disproportionately borne by younger people, suggesting that this trend is likely to continue or even accelerate in the near future.

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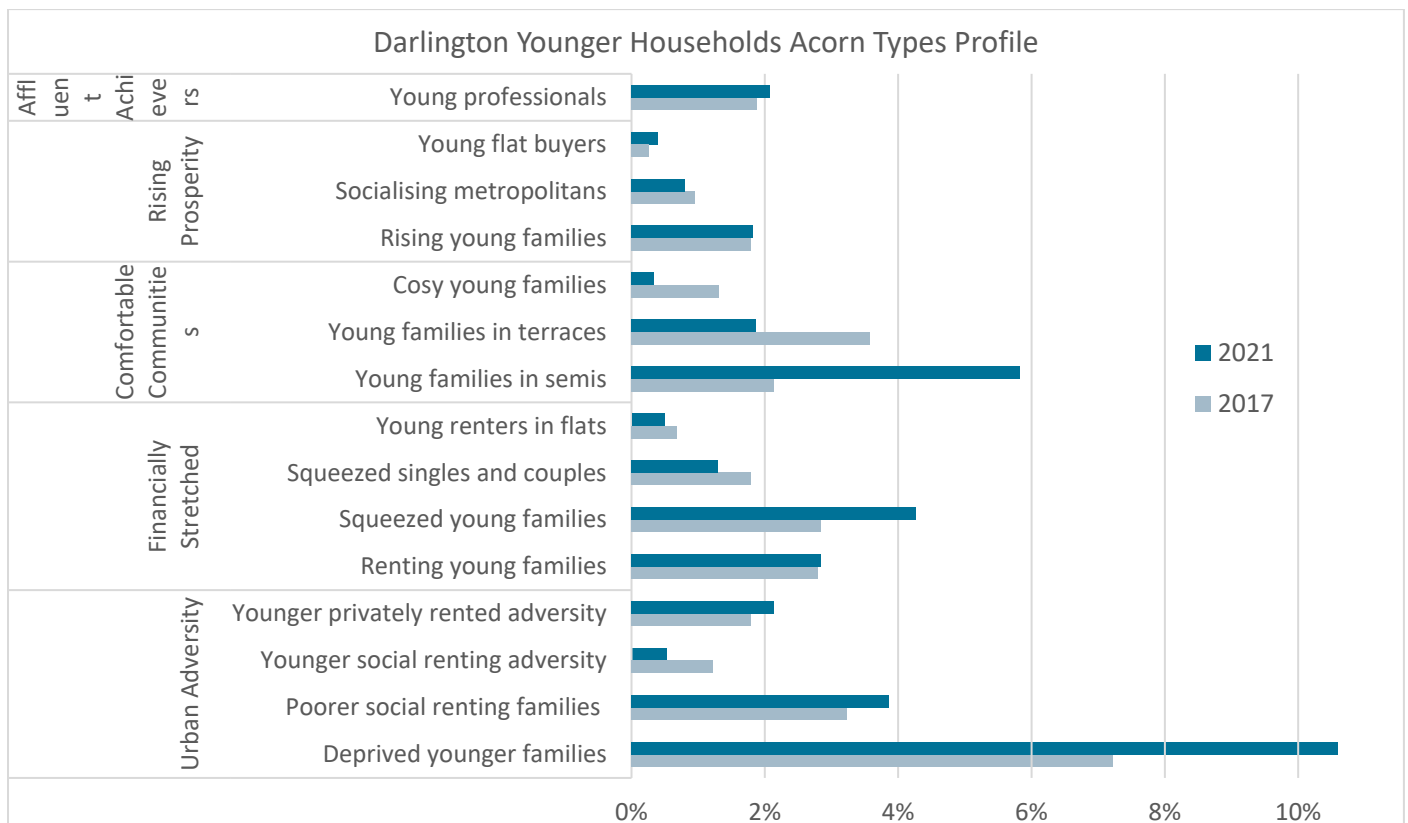
The Impact of Covid-19 on Demographics

The full impact of the pandemic on the local and national population is not likely to be understood for years to come, although it is likely to be impacts on births and migration, as well as deaths, but the picture is complicated by different factors pulling in different directions[1].

In terms of deaths, during the outbreak, weekly deaths rose to their highest recorded level and compared to pandemics that have occurred in recent history, the death rate has been much higher for older people. Locally, the ratio of registered deaths to expected deaths since the beginning of the pandemic is slightly lower (at 1.11) than the regional average of 1.13 and England average of 1.14.

27/03/2020 to 01/10/2021	Registered deaths	Expected deaths	Covid-19 deaths	Excess deaths	Ratio: registered / expected deaths
Darlington	1,928	1,735	300	193	1.11
North East	47,786	42,185	7,574	5,601	1.13
England	856,039	754,161	140,082	101,878	1.14

It has also been suggested that Covid-19 is and will be indirectly responsible for some deaths because of lower numbers seeking and undergoing treatment for other conditions. This would include people who could have gone on to live for many more years. The long-term health outlook of Covid-19 survivors is also not yet understood and may influence deaths' patterns in the future.

Regarding births, although not directly comparable, past events that caused high numbers of deaths resulted in an initial decline in births, followed by higher numbers around 1 to 5 years after the event, which influences the population structure, for example, the period following WW1. This time, the coronavirus pandemic has fallen within a time of decreasing fertility trends and there are factors which may impact in opposite directions. The lockdown period does not appear to have resulted in more births nationally, as some forecasters predicted due to, for example, couples spending more time together and/or family planning services being accessed less frequently, with relatively steep decreases in monthly fertility rates recorded in December 2020 and January 2021, when compared with the same months the previous year, of 8.1% and 10.2% respectively.

Furthermore, the economic uncertainty resulting in loss of income and lower job prospects may be encouraging couples to delay having children, and the formation of new relationships is likely to have reduced under lockdown conditions and fertility treatments accessed less. This may simply delay when people have children, but delays can also mean couples having fewer children. Ultimately, any long-term change in fertility caused by the coronavirus pandemic will be difficult to see for several years.

Finally, in terms of migration there has been a decrease in international travel to and from the UK since the beginning of the pandemic and the numbers of international migrants to and from the UK are likely to continue to be relatively low for the foreseeable future. It is difficult to predict the longer-term picture, due to the potential impact of the end of the transition period for the UK's departure from the European Union, ending freedom of movement between the UK and EU. However, Covid-19 has implications for international study and relative economic conditions affecting the likelihood of finding work. Ongoing global uncertainty regarding travel restrictions and the threat of subsequent waves of infection may tempt people to stop or delay their plans to move abroad.

Considering migration between areas within the UK, there could be fewer moves in 2021/22 for reasons including: changing personal circumstances; reduced job opportunities; and an increase in people working from home. In addition, some students may postpone their study, while others may choose to remain in the family home and attend their local university or study remotely if more courses are offered online. In terms of long-term implications for the population, there is evidence that delays in leaving the parental home may reduce the number of moves over a lifetime.

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[1] https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2020/12/07/what-could-the-impact-of-covid-19-be-on-uk-demography/

Health

The health of our residents is a primary factor determining their quality of life. A clear picture of our population's health is therefore necessary to effectively address current and emerging priorities, as well as overall demand for health and related services. For example, prompt diagnosis and treatment for many health conditions can reduce mortality and/or the likelihood of complications, so monitoring the prevalence of such conditions across the borough can allow us to identify opportunities for earlier and more effective interventions. The avoidable consequences of health conditions can also have costs for the local economy (for example, if they result in the individual needing to take more time off work than if they had been treated early), costs to health services, costs to social care and opportunity costs.

Self-Reported Health

SELF REPORTED HEALTH 2011	2019 IMD Score	General Health bad or very bad	General Health very bad
Park East	50.5	7.4	1.8
Northgate	41.7	7.1	1.5
Bank Top & Lascelles	42.4	7.7	1.8
Red Hall & Lingfield	36.4	7.1	1.2
North Road	41.1	7.3	1.8
Cockerton	36.2	8.8	1.9
Stephenson	37.3	9.5	2.4
Eastbourne	31.2	6.6	1.6
Haughton & Springfield	28.7	8	2
Pierremont	23.7	4.8	1
Whinfield	19.6	5.3	1.3
Park West	14.5	3.3	0.9
Harrowgate Hill	14.6	4.4	0.8
Hurworth	11.5	4.3	0.9
Brinkburn & Faverdale	14.8	3.6	0.7
Sadberge & Middleton St George	11.8	3.8	0.8
Heighington & Coniscliffe	12.1	3.6	1
College	7.1	3.1	0.8
Hummersknott	5.9	4.4	1.2
Mowden	4.1	4.3	1.1

- The tables on the next few pages aim to show at a glance local health differences between wards, and how closely they relate to deprivation, using conditional formatting applied to the latest available data at ward-level
- The three measures selected here relate to self-reported health in the 2011 census.
- As can be seen, there is a fairly clear correlation with deprivation, with the wards ranked as most deprived (red) also ranked highest – in general – for the proportion of residents reporting their health to be bad or very bad.
- The results from the recent 2021 census will begin to be made available in 2022, and the proportion of residents reporting their health as bad is considered likely to have increased due to a combination of factors including the borough's ageing population and the pandemic, both directly via long-Covid and indirectly via the wider impacts of the virus on, for example, people's wellbeing, economic circumstances and use of health services.

Behavioural Risk Factors and Child Health

BEHAVIOURAL RISK FACTORS AND CHILD HEALTH	2019 IMD Score	A&E attendances in Under 5s (crude rate per 1,000)	Emergency admissions aged Under 5s (crude rate per 1,000)	Emergency admissions for injuries in Under 15s (crude rate per 1,000)	Emergency admissions for injuries in Under 5s (crude rate per 1,000)	Reception: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (%)	Year 6: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (%)	Reception: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) (%)	Year 6: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) (%)
Park East	50.5	1377.6	273.9	232.6	31.2	32.1	43.4	12.5	26.4
Bank Top & Lascelles	42.4	1336	286.8	160.8	23.5	31.4	42	13.7	30
Northgate	41.7	1354.7	289.6	136.4	20.3	29.6	46.2	11.1	30.8
North Road	41.1	1310.4	324	201.5	33.6	23.8	37.5	9.5	22.5
Stephenson	37.3	1336.2	306.5	158.3	18.5	28.2	44.8	12.8	31
Red Hall & Lingfield	36.4	1360.4	335.7	158.4	25.4	31.6	44.1	13.2	32.4
Cockerton	36.2	1346.9	311.8	147.6	23.9	24.5	42	8.2	24
Eastbourne	31.2	1426.4	300.9	165.8	25.2	27.5	37.7	11.8	26.4
Haughton & Springfield	28.7	1241.9	329.9	118.2	18.2	16.7	33.3	11.1	20.5
Pierremont	23.7	1180.8	297.8	164.3	17.7	20	36.7	6.7	23.3
Whinfield	19.6	1130.7	265	124.4	15.2	23.8	33.3	-	19
Brinkburn & Faverdale	14.8	1111.1	266.2	143.9	17.9	21.6	32.7	7.8	16.3
Harrowgate Hill	14.6	1219.9	325	135.6	28.6	26.7	33.3	8.9	21.6
Park West	14.5	704.3	160.4	95.5	17.2	-	26.9	-	15.4
Heighington & Coniscliffe	12.1	661.6	173.5	126	11.8	19	33.3	9.5	18.2
Sadberge & Middleton St George	11.8	901.9	274.3	142.7	24	25.7	29.5	8.6	18.2
Hurworth	11.5	863.3	224.8	119.1	15.9	15.8	33.3	-	23.8
College	7.1	911	176	104.4	11.6	18.2	28	9.1	12
Hummersknott	5.9	650.7	222.6	145.8	20.7	17.6	30	-	15
Mowden	4.1	703.5	194.8	125	19.2	26.3	25	10.5	8.3
DARLINGTON		1168.6	280.1	149.4	22.4	25.0	36.5	9.8	22.1
ENGLAND		642.5	162.1	97.8	12.3	22.6	34.6	9.7	20.4

Data in the above table relating to hospital admissions and overweight children are based on five and three year, respectively, moving averages up to 2019/20. Source of all data is Public Health England[2].

- Darlington performs worse that the England measure for all metrics.
- Again, the table shows a clear correlation between behavioural risk factors and child health measures and deprivation, with Park East ward in particular scoring very highly across most measures.
- For a couple of indicators, however, the correlation is not so strong. Emergency admissions for injuries in under 15s, for example, was relatively high in a number of less deprived wards such as Pierremont, Hummersknott and Brinkburn & Faverdale. Similarly, Northgate ward – which scores quite highly on a number of other measures – has a lower than might be expected incidence of overweight children.
- Other measures, however – including hospital attendances and admissions for under 5s – have a much clearer relationship to deprivation.


Obesity

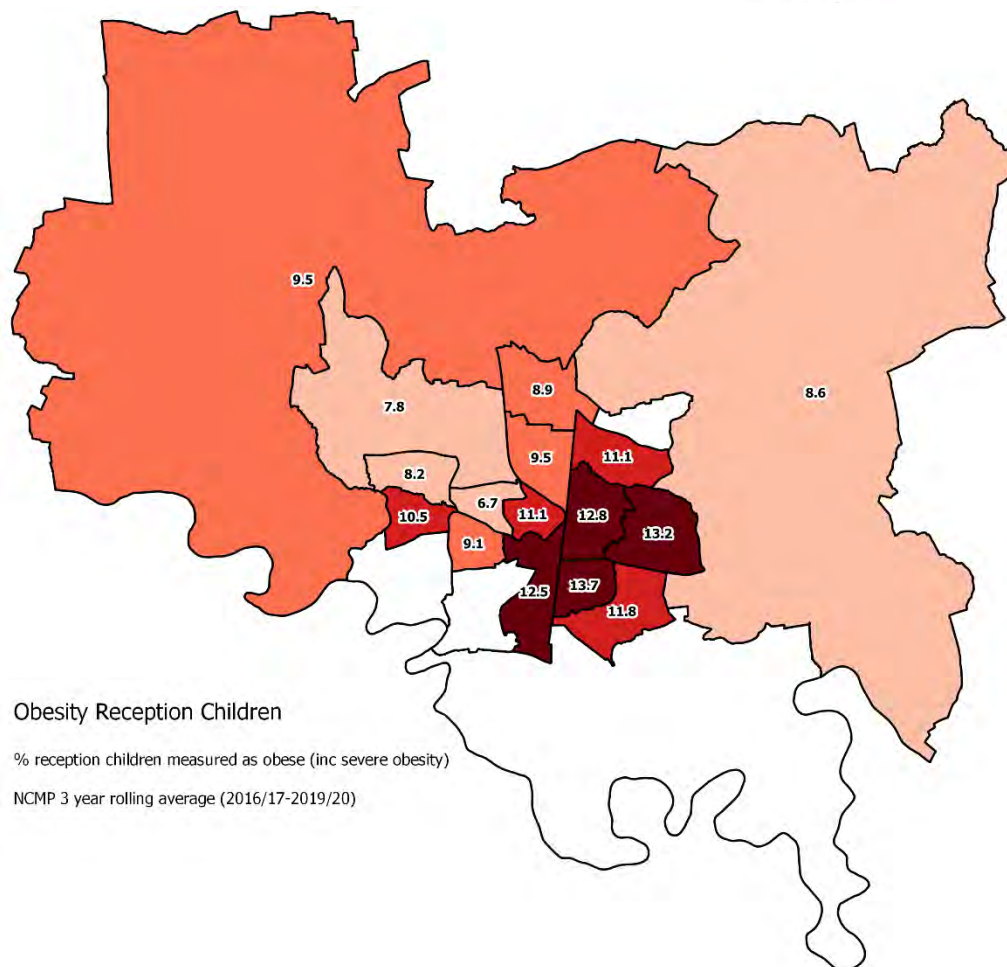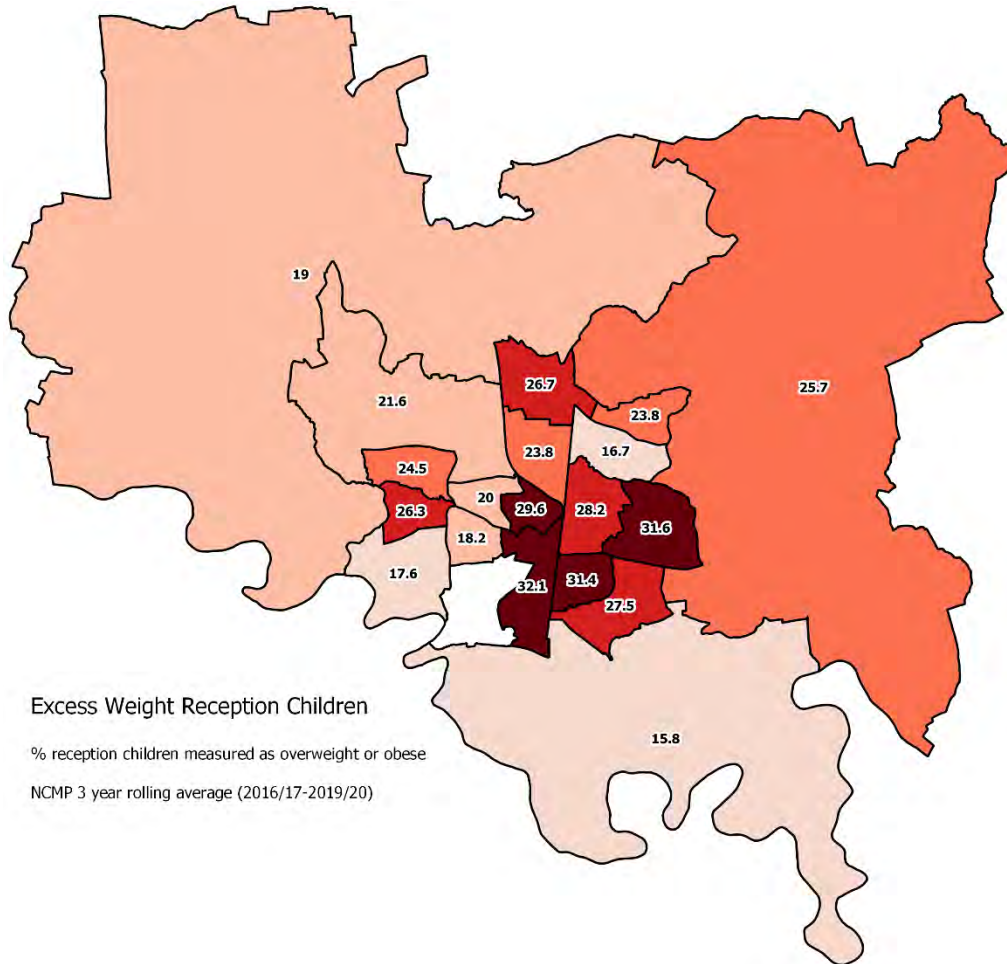**% adults (18+) classified as overweight or obese**
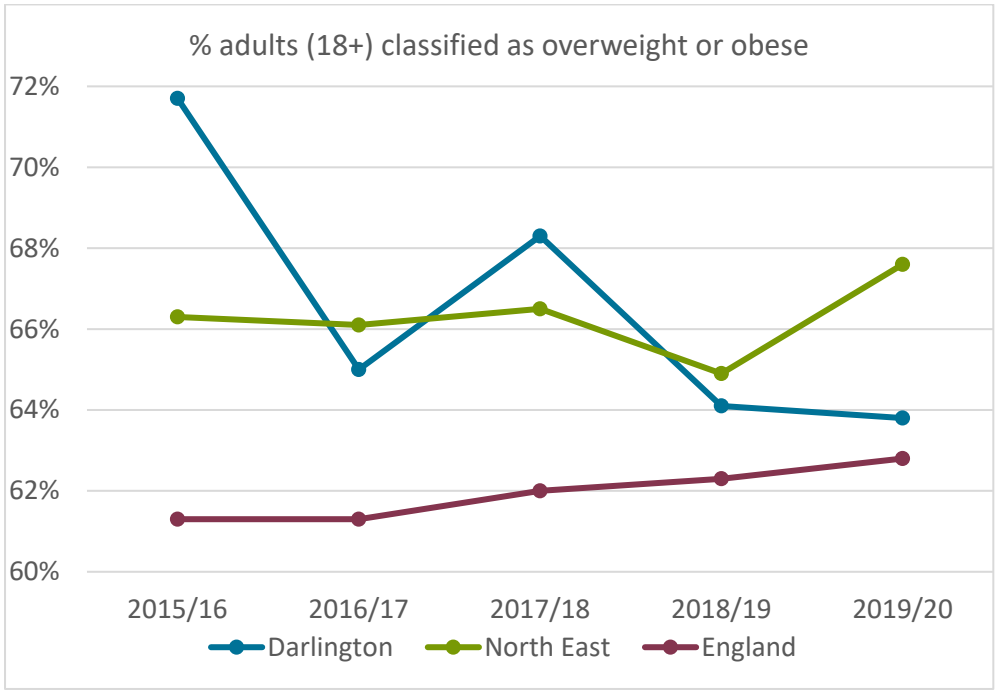
Data on obesity in adults at local level indicates that the proportion of adults classified as overweight or obese is falling and below the regional average, at 64%.
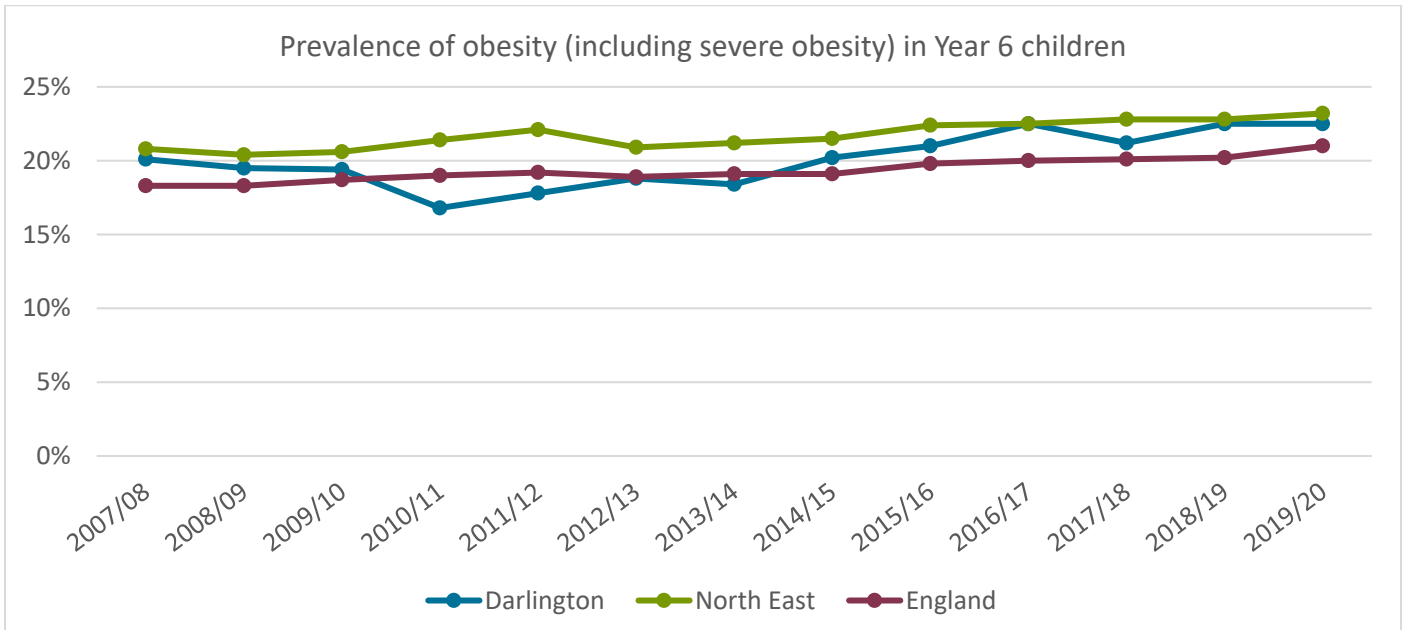
The proportion of reception children across the borough measured as obese or severely obese has been increasing since 2017/18, when Darlington was below the England and North East averages. Between 2018/19 and 2019/20 the borough jumped by a third from below average, at 9.1%, to above both the national and regional average, at 12%.

Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) in reception children
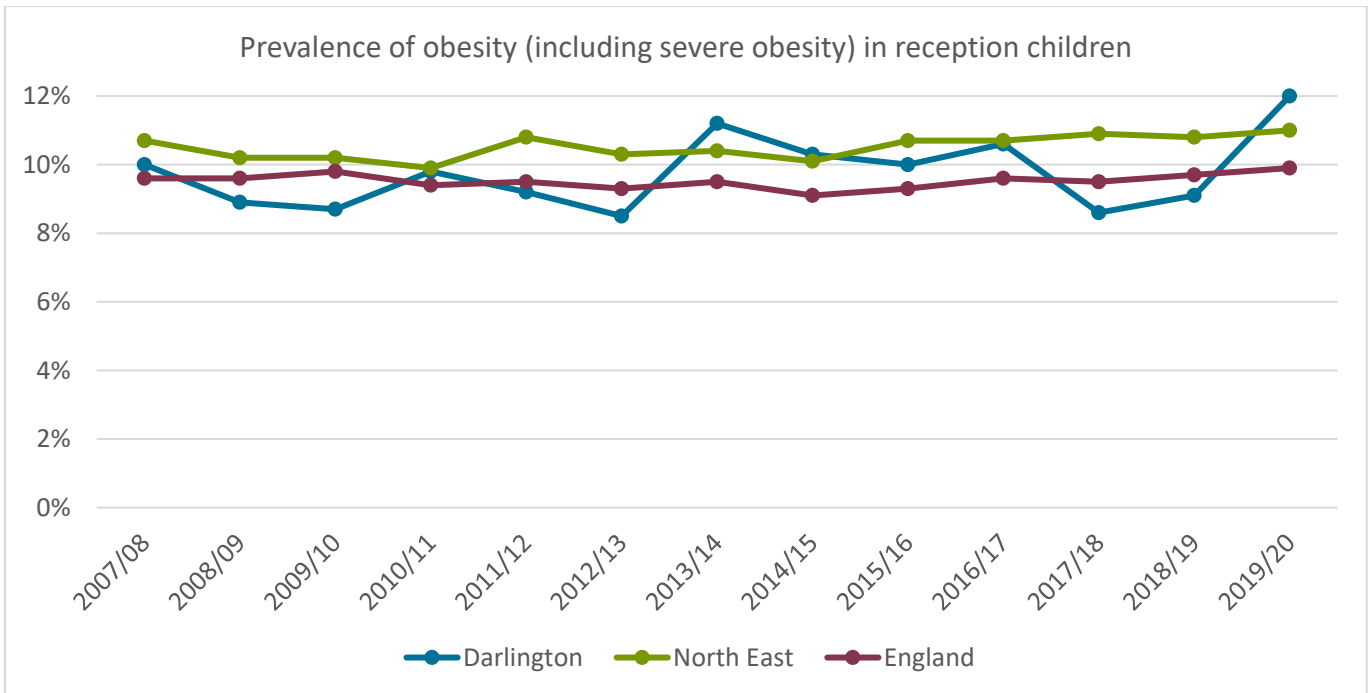
At ward-level, from 2016/17 to 2019/20:

- o A third (32.1%) of 4- and 5-year-olds living in Park East measured as having excess weight, compared to just 15.8% of those from Hurworth ward
- o 13.7% of reception children from Bank Top and Lascelles measured as obese, more than twice the rate of those children living in Pierremont ward (6.7%).

22

Excess Weight Reception Children

% reception children measured as overweight or obese

NCMP 3 year rolling average (2016/17-2019/20)

Obesity Reception Children

% reception children measured as obese (inc severe obesity)

NCMP 3 year rolling average (2016/17-2019/20)

23

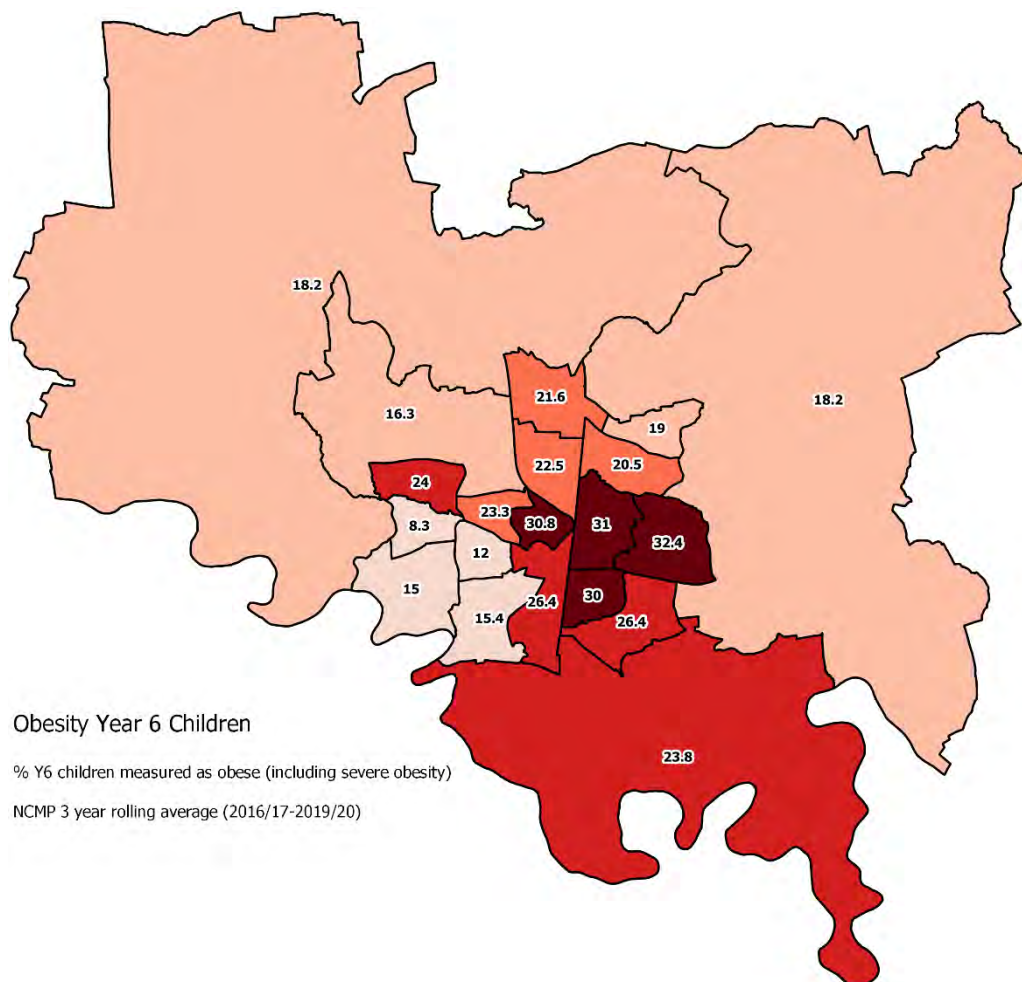The latest data for Year 6 children shows a similar consistent increase in the proportion measured as obese or severely obese, from approximately 16.8% in 2010/11 to 22.5% in 2019/20. This increase has been at a faster rate than elsewhere, meaning that Darlington has gone from below the national average to in line for the region.

Again, analysis at ward-level appears to show a correlation between child obesity and deprivation, with nearly half (46.2%) of Northgate 11–12-year-olds measured as overweight, compared to a quarter in Mowden, and nearly a third (32.4%) of Year 6 schoolchildren living in Red Hall and Lingfield measured as obese or severely obese, compared to just 8.3% of those from Mowden ward.

Excess Weight Year 6 Children

% year 6 children measured as overweight or obese

NCMP 3 year rolling average (2016/17-2019/20)

Obesity Year 6 Children

% Y6 children measured as obese (including severe obesity)

NCMP 3 year rolling average (2016/17-2019/20)
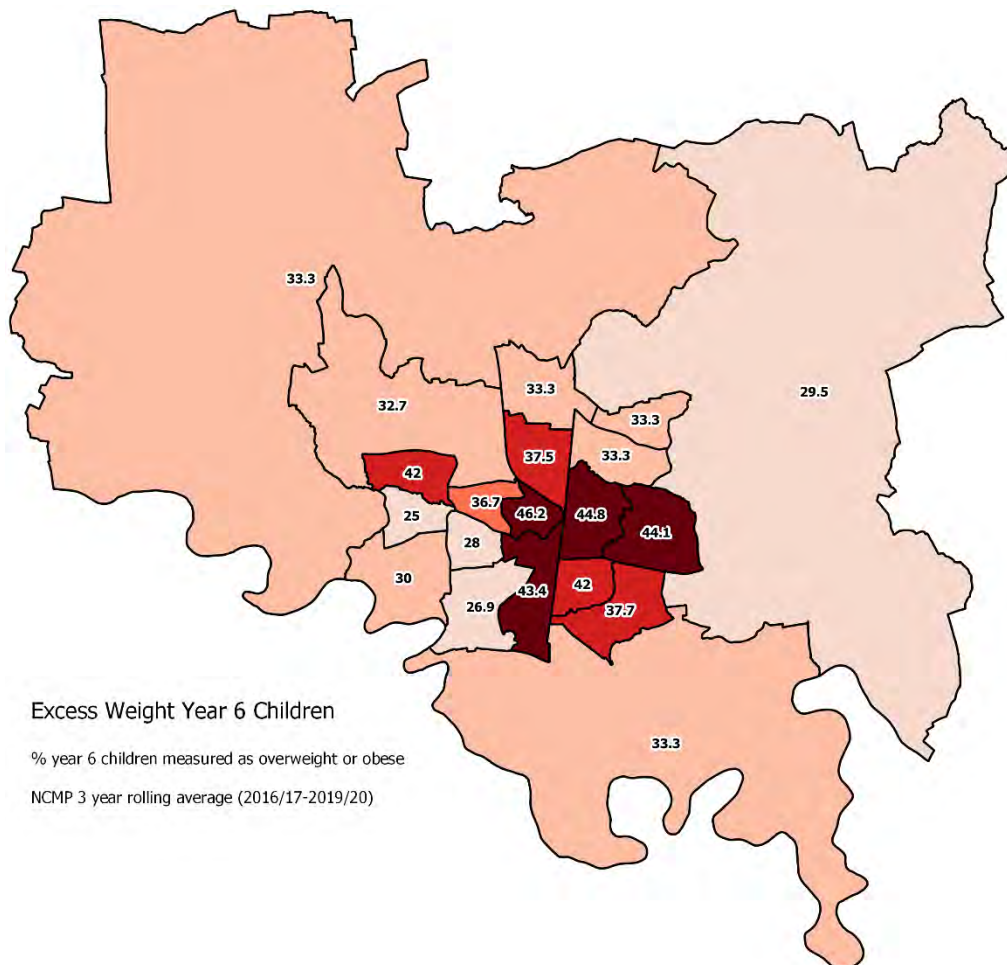
Exercise

Active Lives Measure	Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Trend
Percentage of physically active adults (18+)	Darlington	65.4%	63.8%	61.1%	66.1%	66.9%	↑
	North East	64.0%	64.0%	62.7%	64.9%	64.7%	↔
	England	66.1%	66.0%	66.3%	67.2%	66.4%	↓
Percentage of physically inactive adults (18+)	Darlington	24.1%	25.6%	27.4%	17.5%	24.1%	↑
	North East	24.6%	24.6%	26.6%	23.8%	24.6%	↑
	England	22.3%	22.2%	22.2%	21.4%	22.9%	↑
Percentage of physically active children and young people (<18)	Darlington			32.7%	51.6%	46.7%*	↓
	North East			42.1%	45.5%	46.2%	↑
	England			43.3%	46.8%	44.9%	↓

data for 2019/20 children and young people activity was only available at Tees Valley level

Data from the annual Sports England Active Lives survey appears to show that the proportion of adults who are physically active, defined as undertaking 150+ minutes of activity per week, increased slightly in Darlington in 2019/20 and was higher than the regional and national average.

However, at the same time the proportion of inactive adults, defined as undertaking less than 30 minutes a week of activity, also increased to nearly a quarter (24.1% for adults, from 17.5% the year before), above the national average.

Disease and Poor Health

DISEASE AND POOR HEALTH	2019 IMD Score	Emergency hospital admissions for all causes	Emergency hospital admissions for coronary heart disease	Emergency hospital admissions for stroke	Emergency hospital admissions for Myocardial Infarction (heart attack)	Emergency hospital admissions for COPD	Emergency hospital admissions for hip fracture in 65+	Incidence of all cancer	Incidence of breast cancer	Incidence of colorectal cancer	Incidence of lung cancer	Incidence of prostate cancer	Hospital stays for self harm
Park East	50.5	142.5	151	113.8	186.1	179.3	130.2	112.6	125.9	137.2	166.3	82.3	193.6
Bank Top & Lascelles	42.4	141.5	137.3	162.4	166.1	207.2	222.2	106.4	89.8	114.9	150.2	75.4	131.4
Northgate	41.7	138.7	147.3	127.3	207.6	146.9	70	92.3	77.9	96.3	143	50.2	176.3
North Road	41.1	137.4	152.5	106.2	175.2	229.3	160.2	98.4	67.3	84.5	213.9	61.9	175.2
Stephenson	37.3	126.1	125.8	173.4	165.4	172.7	90.5	106.5	83.4	54.3	169.7	66.2	121.4
Red Hall & Lingfield	36.4	141.2	112.2	116.9	136.1	103.8	89.3	116.6	108.9	110.9	175.7	98.6	128.9
Cockerton	36.2	126.9	116.6	106.7	125.1	220.4	90.2	122.8	103.8	105.5	219.4	92.7	135.9
Eastbourne	31.2	125.9	165.9	110.6	218.7	159.3	122.4	96.2	118	68.9	149	56.4	139.6
Haughton & Springfield	28.7	122.8	115.7	122.3	147.7	140	159.6	123.6	101	141.9	157.7	116.3	103.7
Pierremont	23.7	104.9	140.1	116.6	166.5	103.4	44.2	102.8	49.7	89	120.4	128.2	137.5
Whinfield	19.6	105.1	100.6	119.9	119.1	111	141.7	108.4	107.2	105.5	115.8	121.4	83.2
Brinkburn & Faverdale	14.8	104.5	108.3	105.1	140.5	70	94	92.1	61.8	108.9	111.8	87.9	70.4
Harrowgate Hill	14.6	106.1	125.3	79.4	145.2	118.1	89.2	100.1	91.5	102.2	142.5	98.2	72
Park West	14.5	86.7	121.3	59.9	157.3	79.9	96.9	103.9	83.8	84.4	56.7	141.5	113.7
Heighington & Coniscliffe	12.1	81.7	102.1	65.2	141.3	48.8	120.6	100.9	110	105.6	62	109.3	48.2
Sadberge & Middleton St George	11.8	86	83.2	94	114.5	39.8	91.4	101.9	117.9	118.7	95.3	113.6	87.2
Hurworth	11.5	86.1	98.8	70.9	109.8	52.4	96.5	91.4	84.2	139.5	60.6	83.2	51.4
College	7.1	91.7	114.3	97.4	122	72.4	105	100	105.3	86.4	39.4	92.2	76.1
Hummersknott	5.9	77.9	83.7	86.5	93.5	46	115.4	91.4	105	57.9	68.8	97.3	37
Mowden	4.1	73.8	81.5	68.6	104.4	47.4	66.8	87.6	95.8	106.9	68.2	81.9	-
DARLINGTON		111.5	118.4	104.3	145.7	118.1	115.6	103.5	95.1	102.2	125.3	94.1	112.7
ENGLAND		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Data relating to emergency admissions covers the period 2015/16 to 2019/20, and for cancer incidence covers 2014 to 2018.

- There continues to be a strong correlation between deprivation and poor health when it comes to emergency admissions, particularly for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and some forms of cancer, specifically lung.
- However the relationship with deprivation becomes much weaker for other types of cancer. In fact, there is a negative correlation between deprivation and the incidence of prostate cancer.
- The two types of cancer with the lowest correlation with deprivation, prostate and breast, are the only two where the local incidence falls below the England average.

Life expectancy and Causes of Death

LIFE EXPECTANCY AND CAUSES OF DEATH	2019 IMD Score	Deaths from all cancer, all ages	Deaths from all cancer, <75s	Deaths from all causes, all ages	Deaths from all causes, <75s	Deaths from preventable causes, <75s	Deaths from circulatory disease, all ages	Deaths from circulatory disease, <75s	Deaths from coronary heart disease, all ages	Deaths from respiratory diseases, all ages	Deaths from stroke, all ages	Life expectancy at birth (male)	Life expectancy at birth (female)
Park East	50.5	119.9	124.7	130.2	157.7	192.2	134	173.1	124.4	142	148.2	74	81.2
Bank Top & Lascelles	42.4	134.5	133.8	205.8	189.1	192.6	190.5	202	176.5	222.5	261.2	73.3	76.2
Northgate	41.7	107.4	131	120.7	163.4	173.1	136.8	209.8	129.8	141.8	171	77.2	80.3
North Road	41.1	121.2	136	132.8	145.4	173.8	107.3	88.4	92.6	129.7	121	76.4	80.5
Stephenson	37.3	131.3	137.1	149.7	195	183.3	126.4	206.8	148.9	164.2	137.2	73.1	78.2
Red Hall & Lingfield	36.4	106.6	119.7	107.7	137.2	160.5	115	132.6	88.9	147.4	187.9	78.6	81.7
Cockerton	36.2	128.9	156.1	106.8	151	151.5	104.7	121.1	136.9	116.8	57.4	76.4	82.2
Eastbourne	31.2	121.7	132.1	132.9	143.8	151.7	120.2	149.1	174.4	183.8	73.1	77.8	79.5
Haughton & Springfield	28.7	134.1	143.9	139.6	147.4	141.5	112.4	159.6	117.8	146.8	126.7	78.8	77.8
Pierremont	23.7	92	95.6	91.2	109	124.2	99.8	119.2	140.4	104.6	72.4	78.8	85.1
Whinfield	19.6	96.9	84.4	74	78.1	71.4	58.4	66.7	48.3	95.9	49.7	84	84.6
Brinkburn & Faverdale	14.8	76.2	94.3	64.4	69.9	81	62	39.1	76.6	87	64.3	83.4	89.9
Harrowgate Hill	14.6	109.4	93.5	83.3	86.2	72.6	76.3	95.5	75.4	71.9	66.1	81	86.4
Park West	14.5	88.6	84.5	76.4	87.3	88.1	76.1	56.2	74.7	68.7	57.2	79.8	87.3
Heighington & Coniscliffe	12.1	108.3	92.7	80.7	71.1	68	81.3	77.3	81.9	81.4	108.5	81.3	85.4
Sadberge & Middleton St George	11.8	107.7	82.5	107.4	80.1	62.9	81.2	70.1	65.3	89.9	92	81.7	81.8
Hurworth	11.5	94.2	106.7	76.4	79.8	75.7	77.4	58.3	88.6	83.9	34.1	80.4	86.6
College	7.1	117.5	88.3	109.1	68.4	68	107.6	54.3	106.6	95.4	157.6	82.4	83.3
Hummersknott	5.9	86.1	82.1	94.8	82.1	76.2	104.1	66.9	83	67.6	117.9	83.4	82.9
Mowden	4.1	63.2	60.2	54.6	52.6	40.7	56.3	45.8	56.1	62.2	35.5	85.9	90.3
DARLINGTON		108.3	109.6	110.1	115.7	118.5	102.6	109.4	104.5	115.8	108.3	78.6	81.9
ENGLAND		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	79.7	83.2

The data in this table relates to the period 2015-19.

- Again, there is a clear correlation between these measures and the wards with the highest levels of deprivation, with Bank Top & Lascelles in particular scoring the worst across almost all indicators.
- There are however some exceptions – Red Hall & Lingfield ward scores well, relative to its low Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score, for deaths from coronary heart disease, whereas College ward scores higher than might be anticipated for several indicators, most notably deaths at all ages from cancer and strokes.
- Darlington performs worse that the England measure for all metrics.

Life Expectancy

In terms of benchmarking with neighbours, life expectancy for both men and women in Darlington is lower than the England average, but above the regional average. Local life expectancy dropped in 2017-19 for females but continued increasing for males.
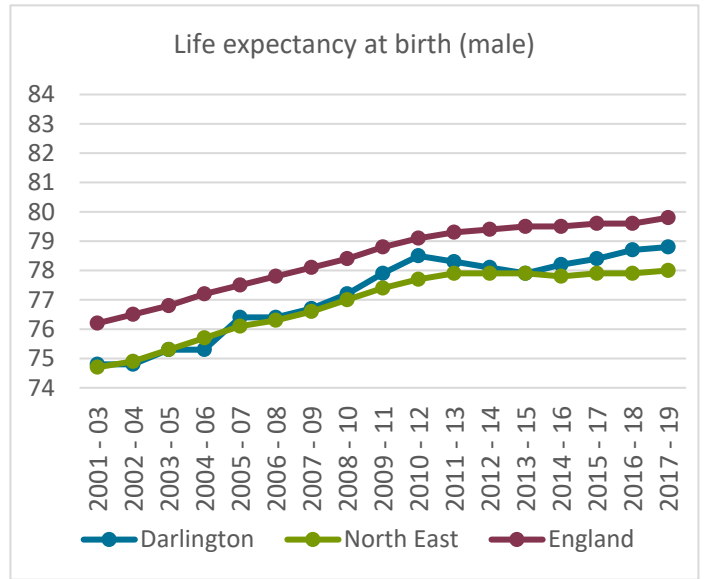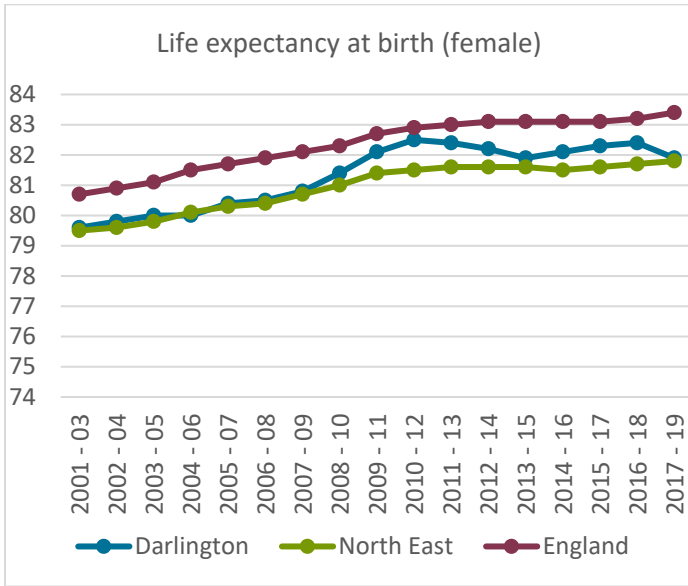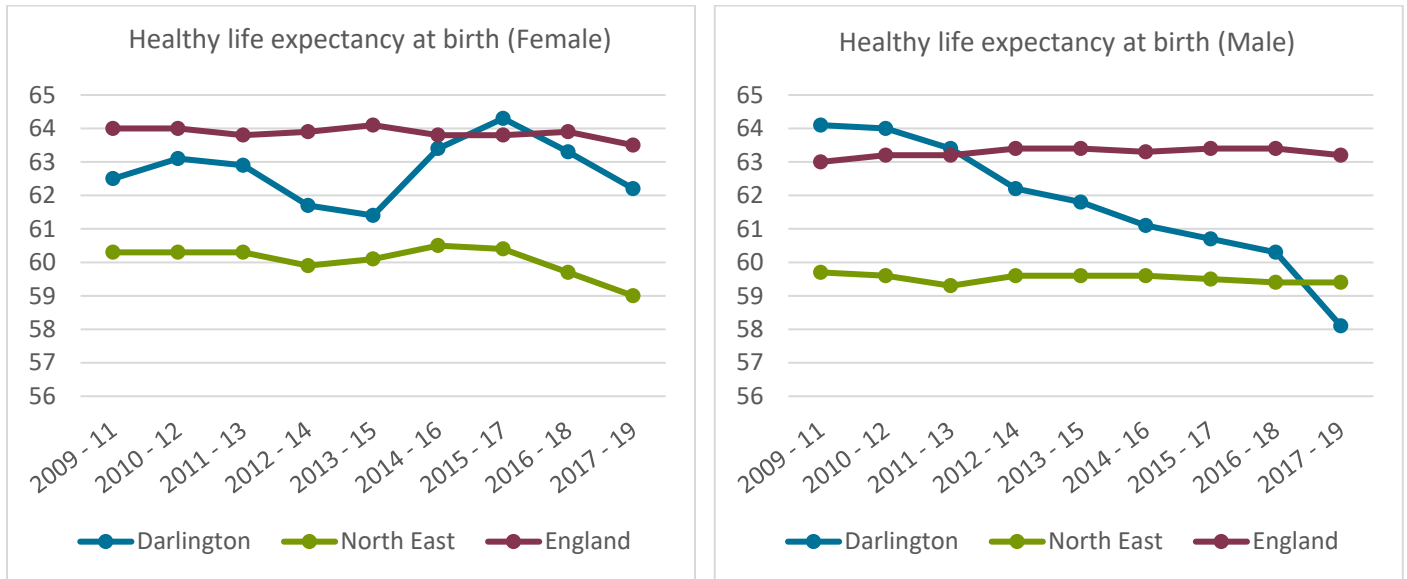

However, the gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas of Darlington and the least deprived areas is above national and in line with regional averages, at 11.9 years for men and 9.7 years for women.

This suggests that improvements in overall life expectancy for the borough have been disproportionately enjoyed by more affluent residents.
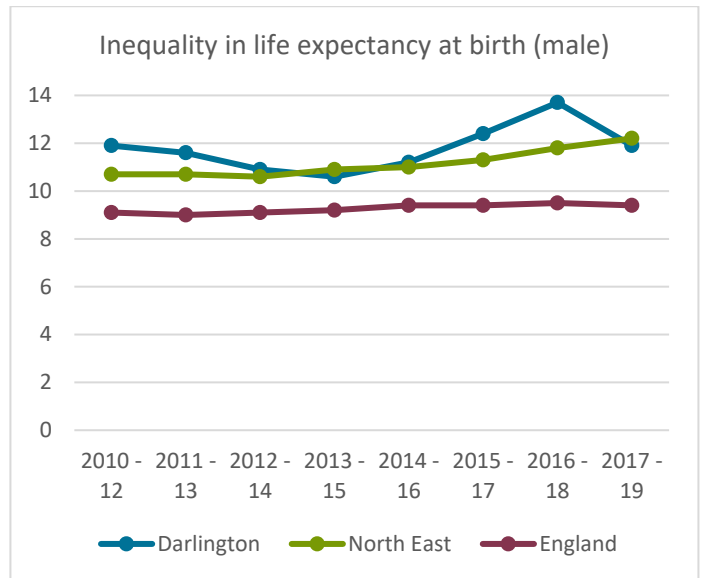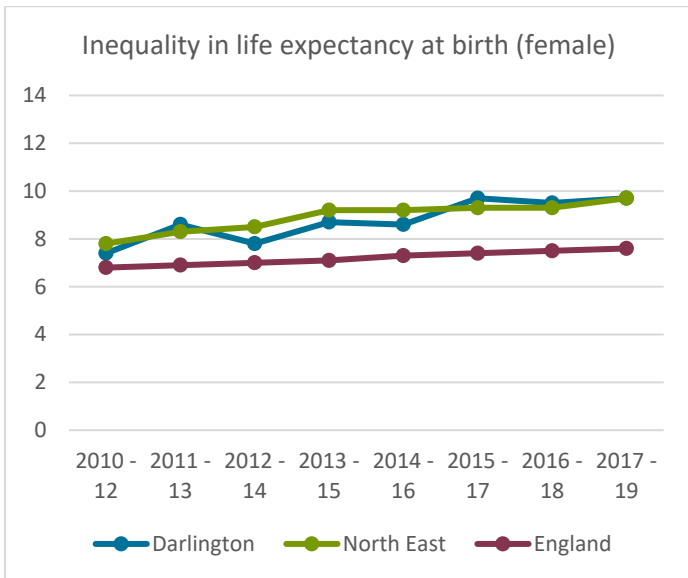
Healthy life expectancy

Darlington performs relatively well compared to the rest of the North East in terms of healthy life expectancy for females, however this measure has been falling at a faster rate than elsewhere since 2015-17 and is below the England average. Male healthy life expectancy has continued to fall and is now below the regional and national average, at 58 years.


Healthy life expectancy at birth (Female)

Healthy life expectancy at birth (Male)

Premature Deaths

Premature Mortality

Deaths from all causes, Under 75s

PHE standardised mortality ratio 2015-19
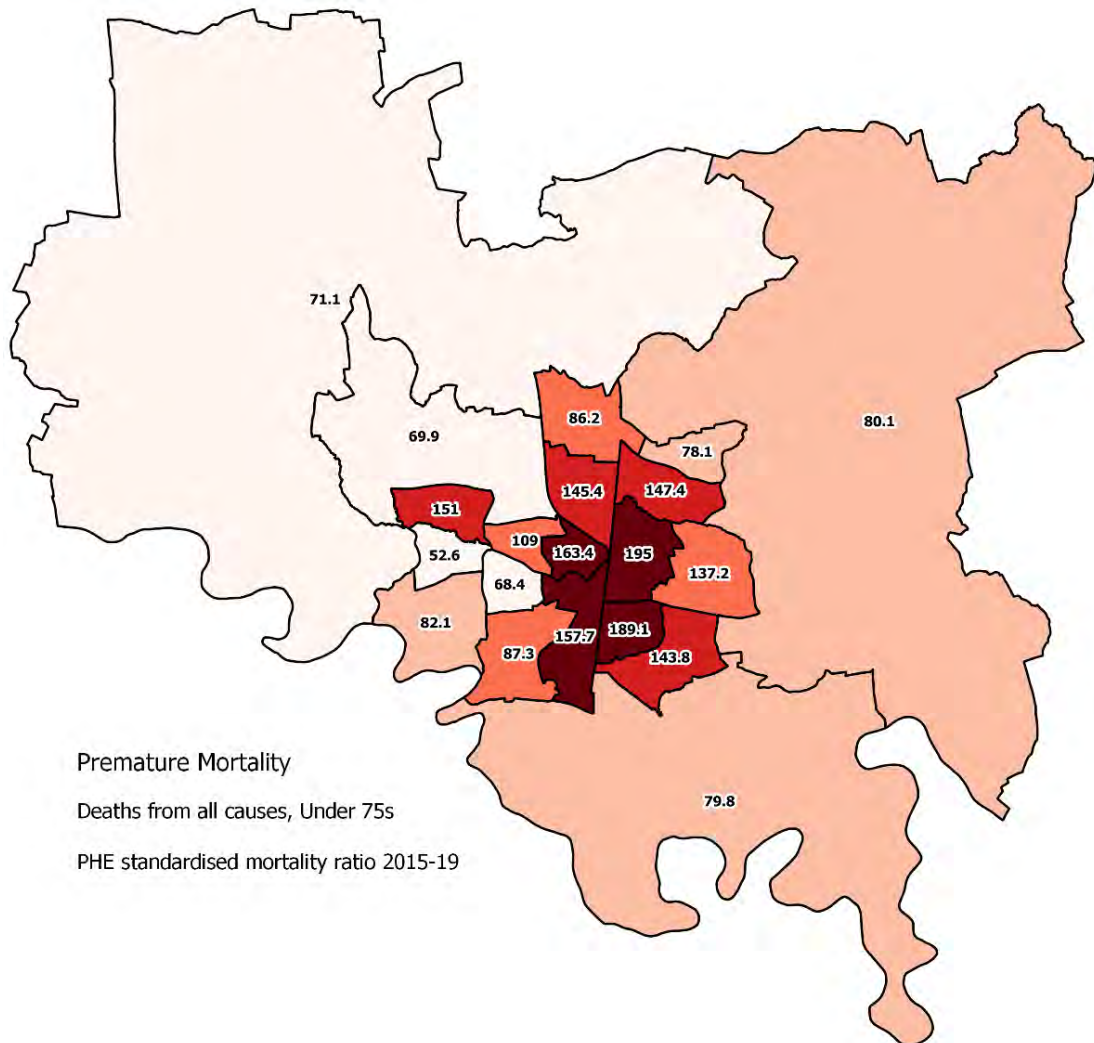
The wards with the highest levels of premature mortality are, in order from highest to lowest, Stephenson, Bank Top and Lascelles, Northgate and Park East.
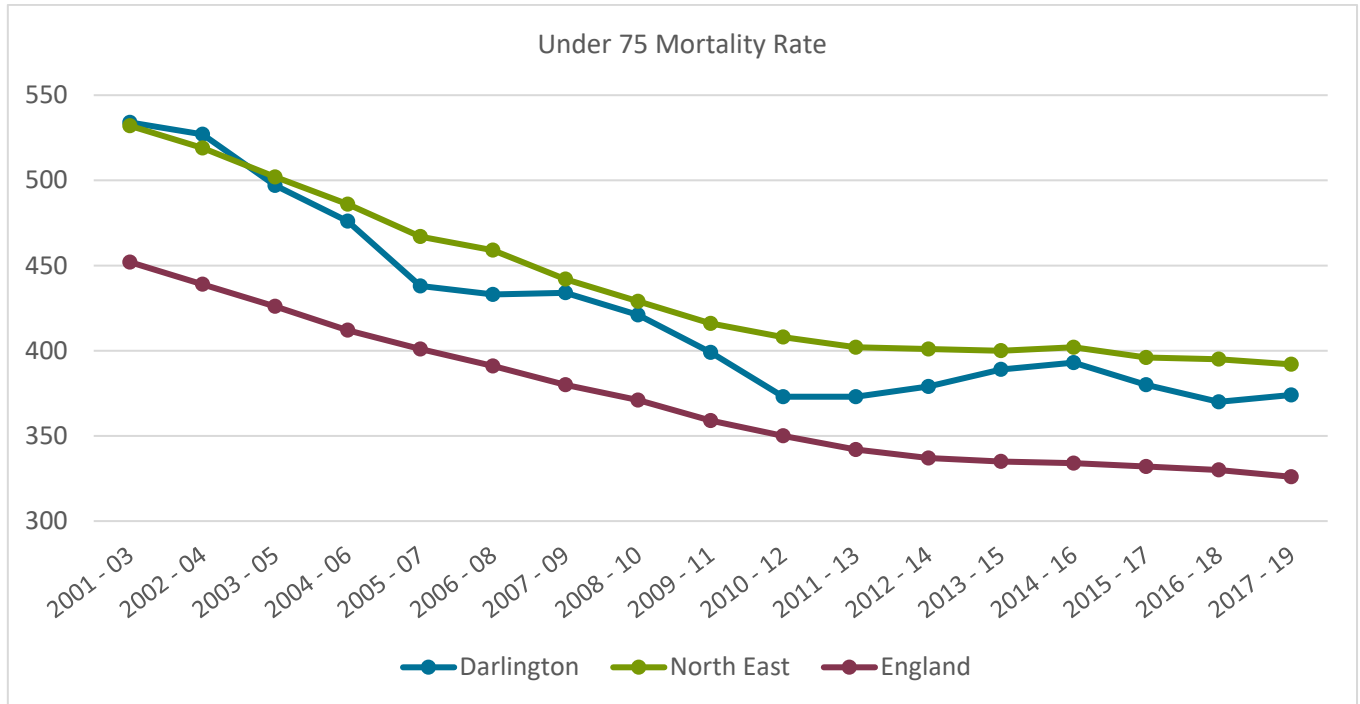
The premature mortality rate (deaths of residents aged under 75) has been broadly falling in line with elsewhere since the early 2000s, however there has been an upturn in this measure since 2010/12, meaning the gap between Darlington and the England average for this indicator has widened.

Respiratory Disease
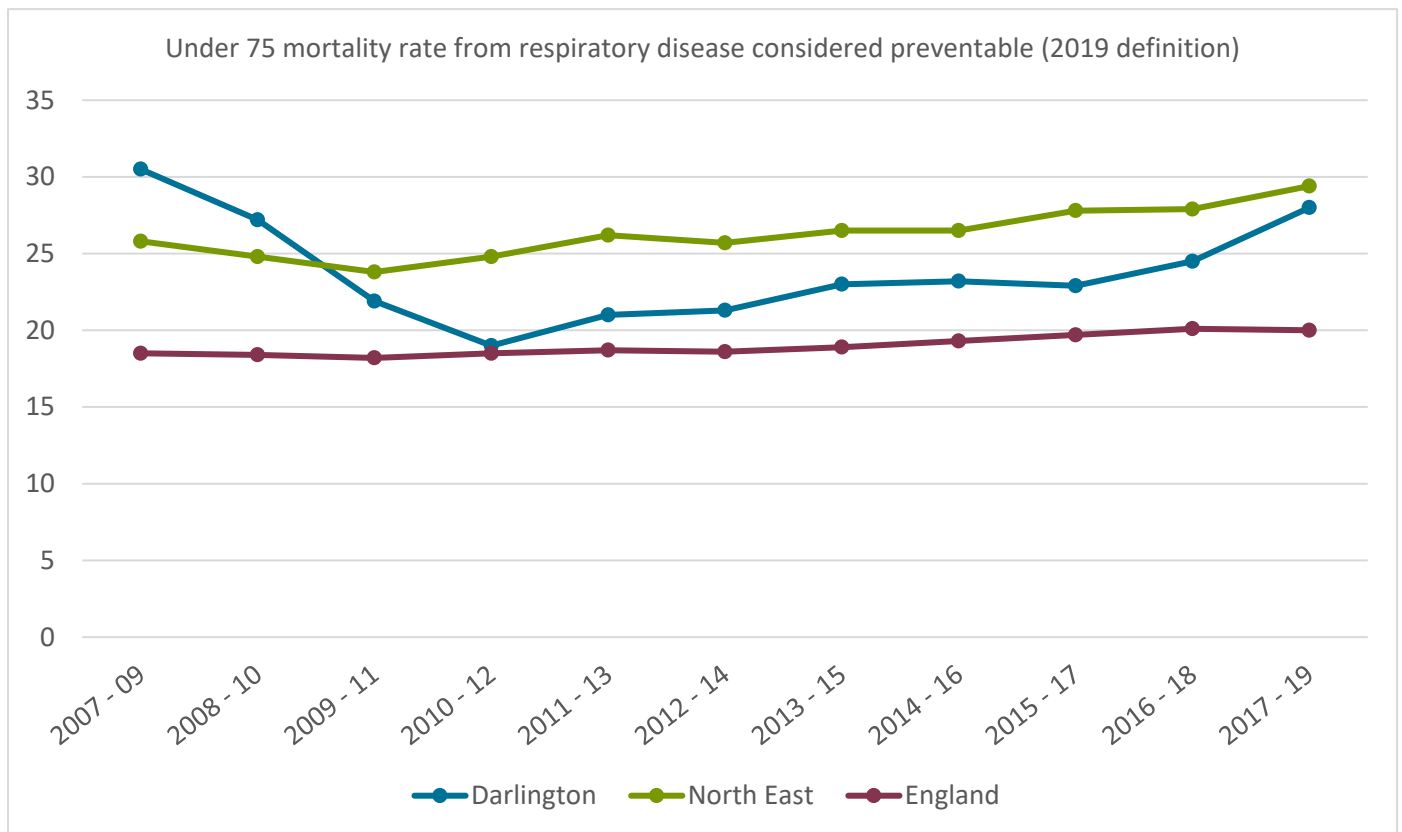
Local under 75 mortality rates from respiratory disease consistently increased over the last decade and, as of 2017-19, were significantly above the national average and in line with the rest of the North East.

The wards with the highest rates of deaths from respiratory disease are Bank Top and Lascelles, and, to a lesser extent, Eastbourne. The wards with the lowest rates of death due to respiratory disease are Mowden and Hummersknott.

Stroke

Under 75 Mortality Rate from Stroke
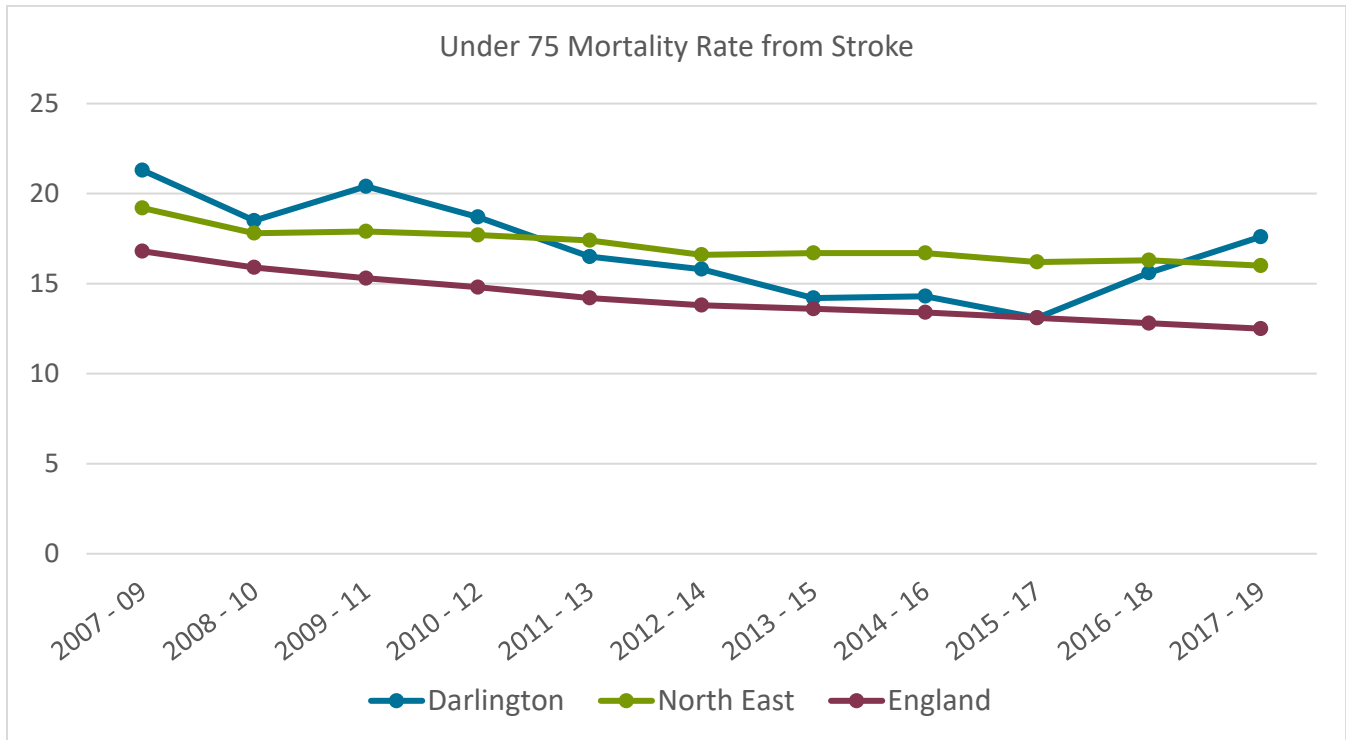
Trend data for premature mortality from stroke show local rates were falling from 2009/11 to 2015/17 but then started increasing and exceeded regional and national comparators from 2017-19.
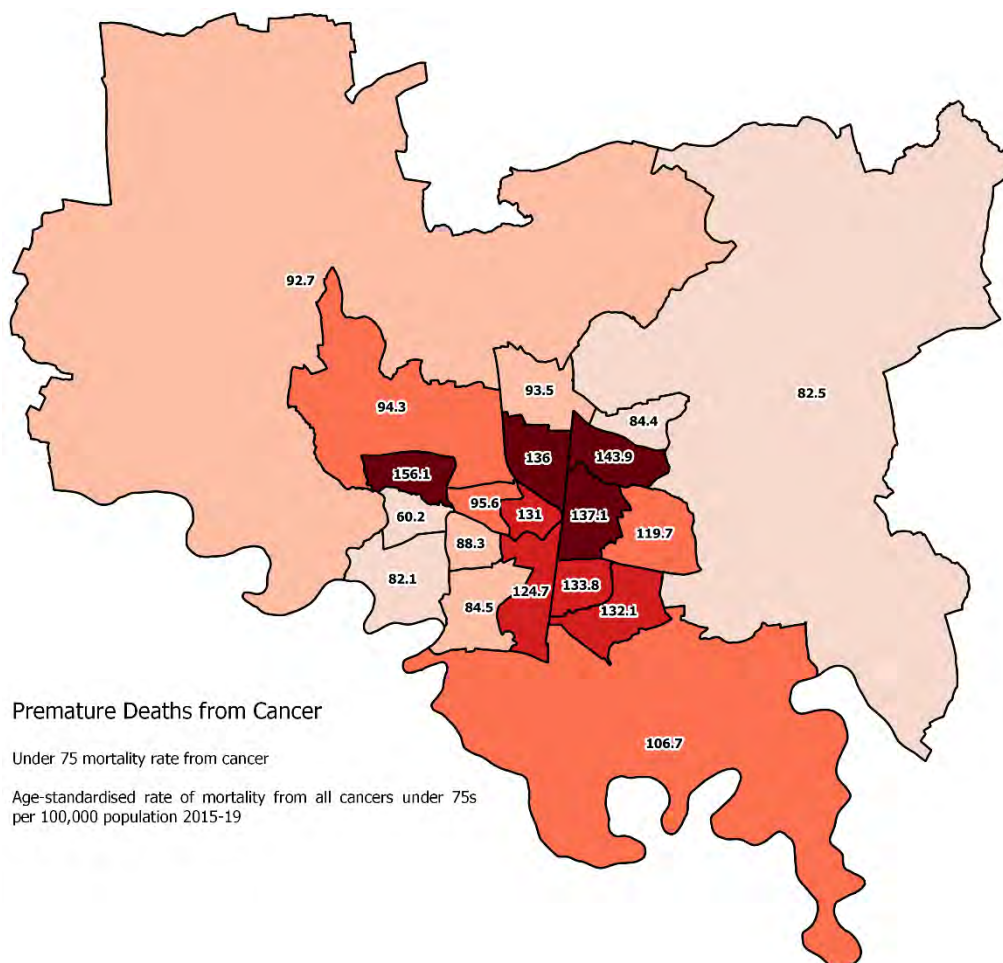
The wards with the highest rates of deaths from stroke are Bank Top and Lascelles, and Red Hall and Lingfield. The wards with the lowest rates of death due to stroke are Hurworth and Mowden.

Cancer

Under 75 mortality rate from cancer
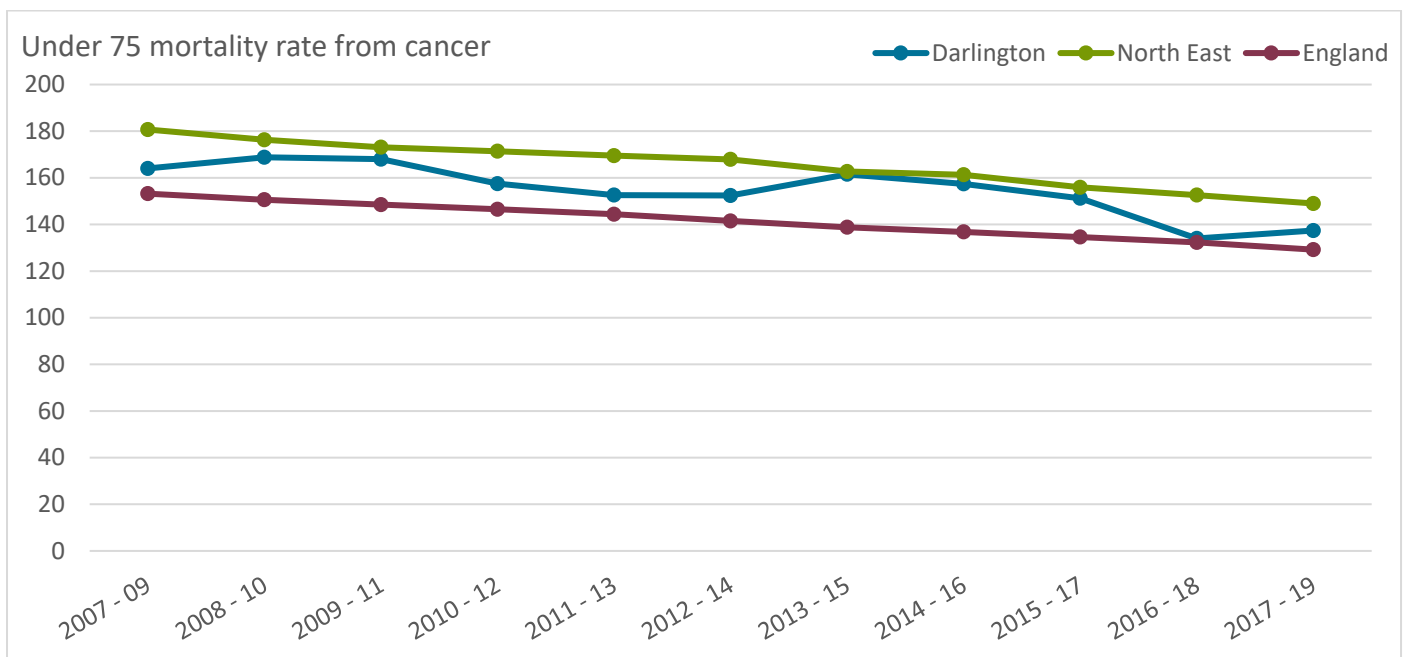
The under 75 mortality rate from all cancers has been broadly falling in Darlington, in line with elsewhere, since 2007/09 however a slight uptick was recorded from 2017-19.

The wards with the highest incidence of premature deaths from cancer are Cockerton and Haughton & Springfield. Mowden and Hummersknott wards have the lowest incidence of under 75s deaths from cancer.

Premature Deaths from Cancer

Under 75 mortality rate from cancer

Age-standardised rate of mortality from all cancers under 75s per 100,000 population 2015-19

The average under 75 mortality rate of all cancers for the five least deprived wards is 84.0, compared to 132.5 for the five most deprived, suggesting residents in the most deprived wards are approximately 58% more likely to die prematurely from cancer than those from the least deprived.

This analysis does mask difference between types of cancer, however: the relationship between the incidence of certain cancers, namely prostate and breast cancer, is actually negatively related to deprivation in Darlington. Lung cancer has the strongest relationship of all the measures to deprivation[3]

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[3] https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/mortality/deprivation-gradient

Mental Health

The graph below shows the number of Darlington residents in contact with mental health services by age band. Due to the formation of Tees Valley CCG in April 2020, which superseded Darlington CCG, local borough-level data on the number of residents using/ requesting mental health services etc. is no longer readily available. Borough-level data has been requested but has not yet been received and therefore the data shown in the below graph from April 2020 forward has been estimated using Tees Valley-level data extrapolated to Darlington's population. The orange line shows the point from which data changes from actual recorded figures to projections.
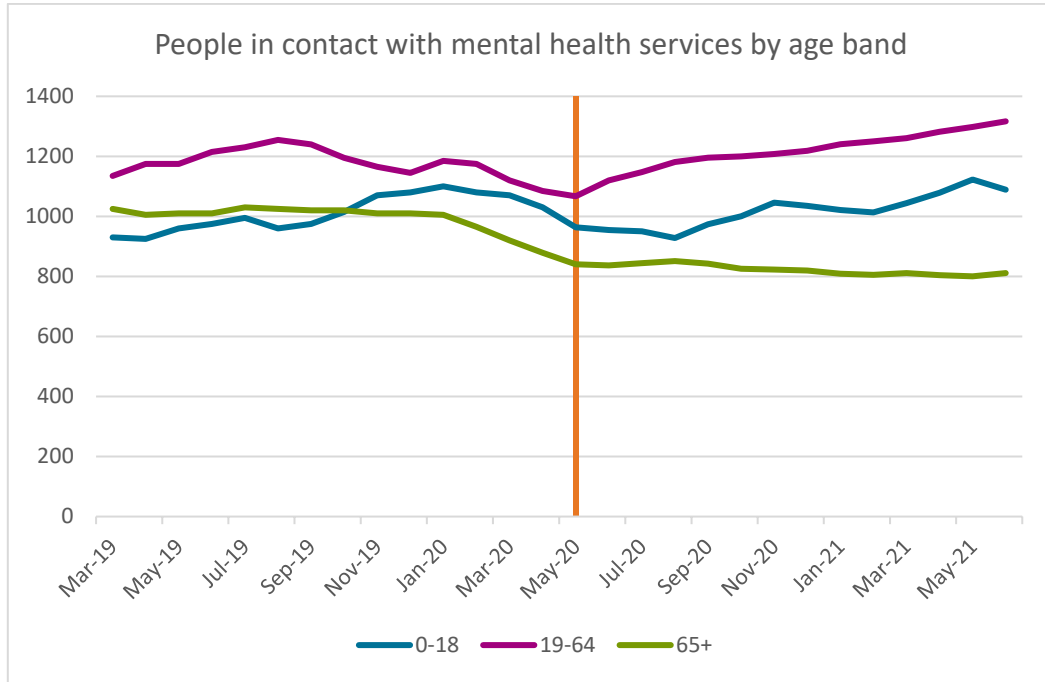
The projections suggest the number of people from younger age groups in contact with mental health services has increased since May 2020, by 13% for 0–18-year-olds and 23% for working age residents. The number of Over 65s projected to be in contact with local mental health services is projected to have fallen slightly, by 3%.

The graph below shows open referrals to mental health services by age group (again using extrapolated figures based on Tees Valley-level data from May 2020). Open referrals are expected to have increased by 13% for adults and 15% for children and young people.
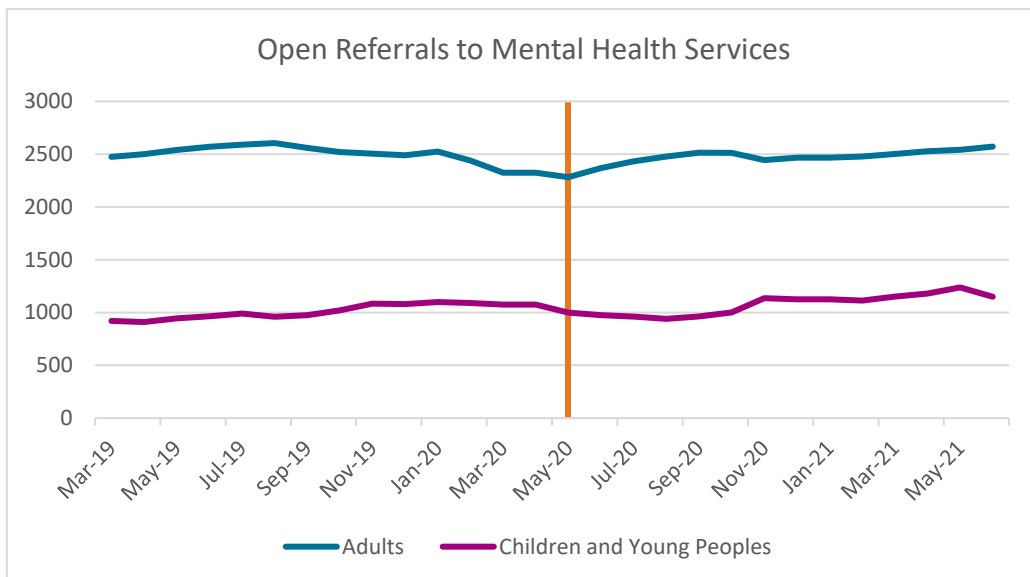
The Impact of Covid-19 on Health[4]

The immediate risks to people's health go beyond the direct harm caused by the virus. Reprioritisation of health care services to manage Covid-19-related demand has led to increased unmet need for care. Health Foundation analysis shows that 6 million 'missing patients' did not seek treatment in 2020, which could mean many living with poor health for longer and likely to require more extensive care when they do present at GPs or in hospitals. In cases of acute need, such as cancer care, where treatments have been delayed, reductions in survival rates are likely.

Long Covid will limit people's ability to return to daily life. By May 2021, an estimated 1 million people self-reported being affected by long Covid (equivalent to 1 in 5 people who tested positive for Covid-19). Women and those from more deprived backgrounds appear to be at particular risk, disrupting employment and reducing quality of life. The duration and extent of this condition is yet to be understood.

Pandemic restrictions have also affected people's mental health through reduced social interaction, changing work conditions and loss of work and income. Although the easing of restrictions tended to improve mental health, by September 2020 there had been a sustained deterioration in mental health for a fifth of the population. Women, younger people and those facing financial hardship have fared the worst.

The vaccination programme has been crucial in reducing the spread of the virus and preventing deaths and hospitalisations with over 70 million doses of the vaccine given by 12 June 2021. Despite this there are emerging differences in access to and uptake of the vaccine. In the least deprived fifth of areas 95% of people aged 50 and older have received one dose, compared with 88% in the poorest. 67% of black Caribbean people and 78% of Pakistani people older than 50 have received one dose compared with 94% of white people. These threaten to exacerbate existing health inequalities as well as the continued risk posed by existing and emerging variants.

Health risk behaviours, such as smoking and drinking alcohol, decreased during the first lockdown. However, this reduction masks an increase in these behaviours among heavy smokers and drinkers. Lighter smokers were more likely to quit during the first wave, but in people who smoked more than 20 cigarettes a day there was no change. By September 2020, 8.5 million people's drinking levels were considered high risk, compared with 4.8 million in February 2020. There was also a 20% increase in alcohol-specific deaths in 2020 compared with 2019, the increase occurring between April and December, with deaths 28% higher in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared with a year earlier.

Going forward, the pandemic has left people facing long delays in access to health care and poorer mental health and further risks to people's health may come from a decline in living conditions as pandemic restrictions have led to reduced social activities, changing work conditions and loss of work and income for some. In addition, negative impacts of the pandemic on the wider determinants of health are likely to have longer term implications for people's health, such as gaps in education due to school closures, and loss of work and income.
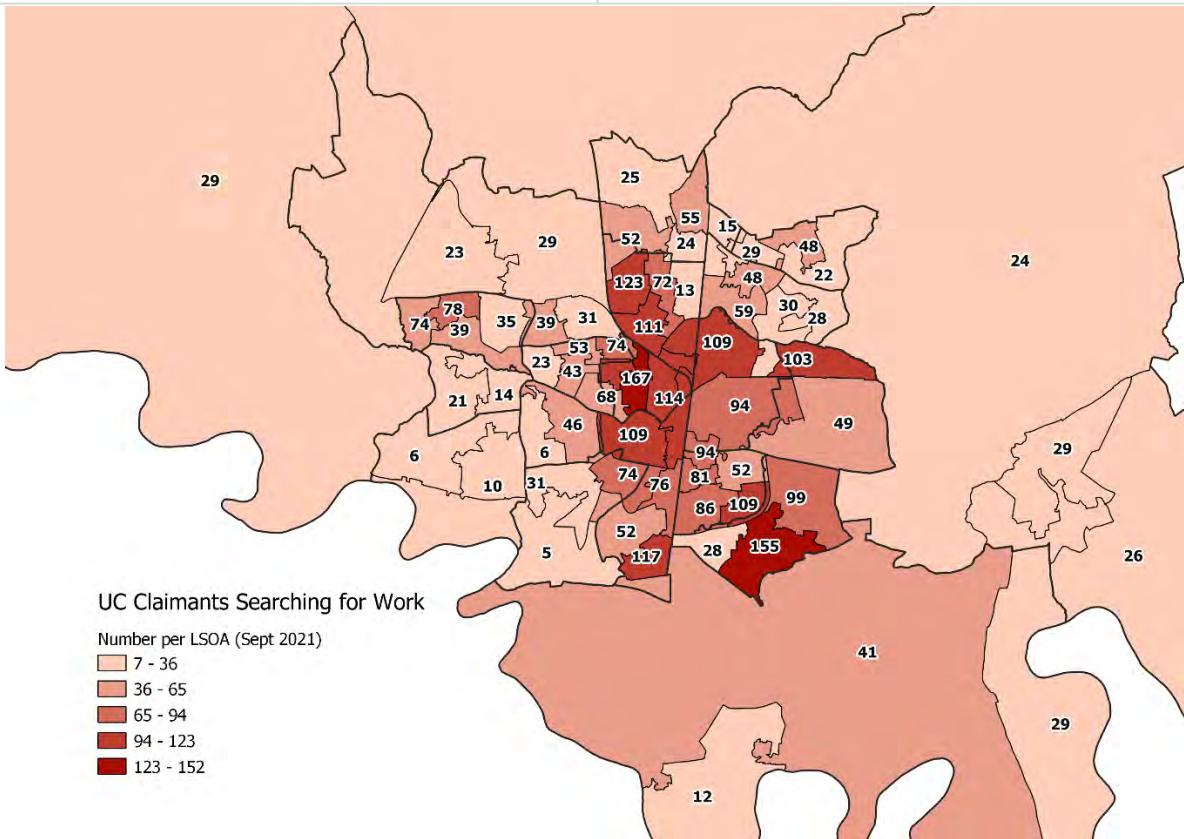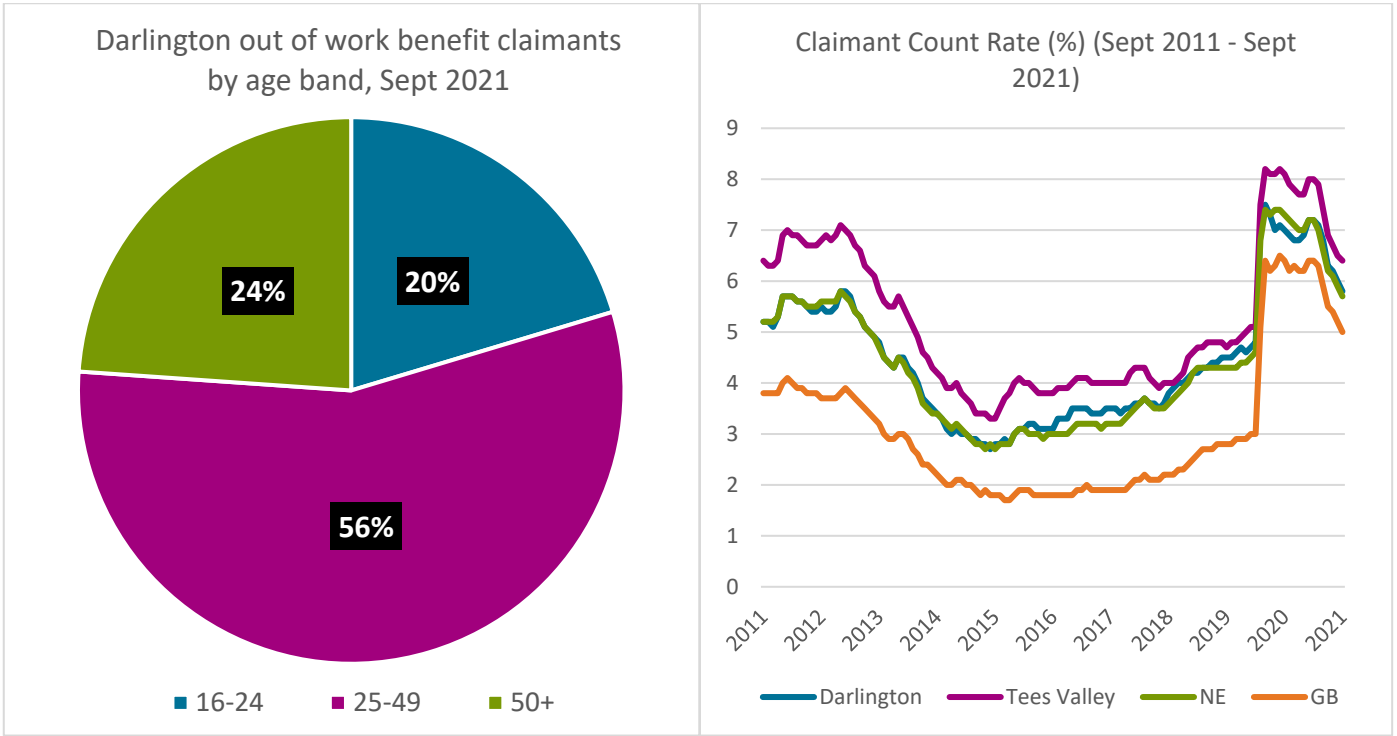
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[4] https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/unequal-pandemic-fairer-recovery

Economy

The health of our local ecoomy is inextricably linked to the health and wellbeing of our residents. A strong economy provides quality employment opportunities,and ensures local service providers have the necessary resources to effactually meet the needs of residents. This section therefore outlines the Darlington picture across a range of key economic measures, including employment, productivity, businesses and wage levels, highlighting how we compare to the region and nationally, and how these indicators have changed over time. This information helps the Council and its partners identify any areas of opportunity or concern across different groups, sectors or areas of the borough, to inform and drive action.

Unemployment (Out-of-work benefit claimants)

- The Darlington claimant count in September 2021 was 5.8%, down from a peak of 7.5% in May 2020 but still above regional and national comparators and the borough's pre-Covid level of 4.8% in March 2020.
- 3,760 residents were in receipt of out of work benefits in September 2021 (59% male / 41% female)
- 56% of out of work benefit claimants were aged 25-49
- Claimants are most likely to live in the town centre, Northgate, North Road, Firthmoor, Skerne Park and Red Hall areas

Darlington out of work benefit claimants by age band, Sept 2021

- 16-24: 20%
- 25-49: 56%
- 50+: 24%

Claimant Count Rate (%) (Sept 2011 - Sept 2021)

Darlington — Tees Valley — NE — GB

UC Claimants Searching for Work

Number per LSOA (Sept 2021)
- 7 - 36
- 36 - 65
- 65 - 94
- 94 - 123
- 123 - 152

Youth Unemployment

The claimant count (those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit who are out of work) for Darlington 18–24-year-olds, at 10.1%, is the 24th highest of 374 British local authority areas. The average for the North East is 7.6% and for Great Britain is 6.5%. There were 735 Darlington residents aged 18-24 in September 2021 claiming benefits for reason of unemployment.

18-24 Claimant Count Rate (%) - Sept 2021
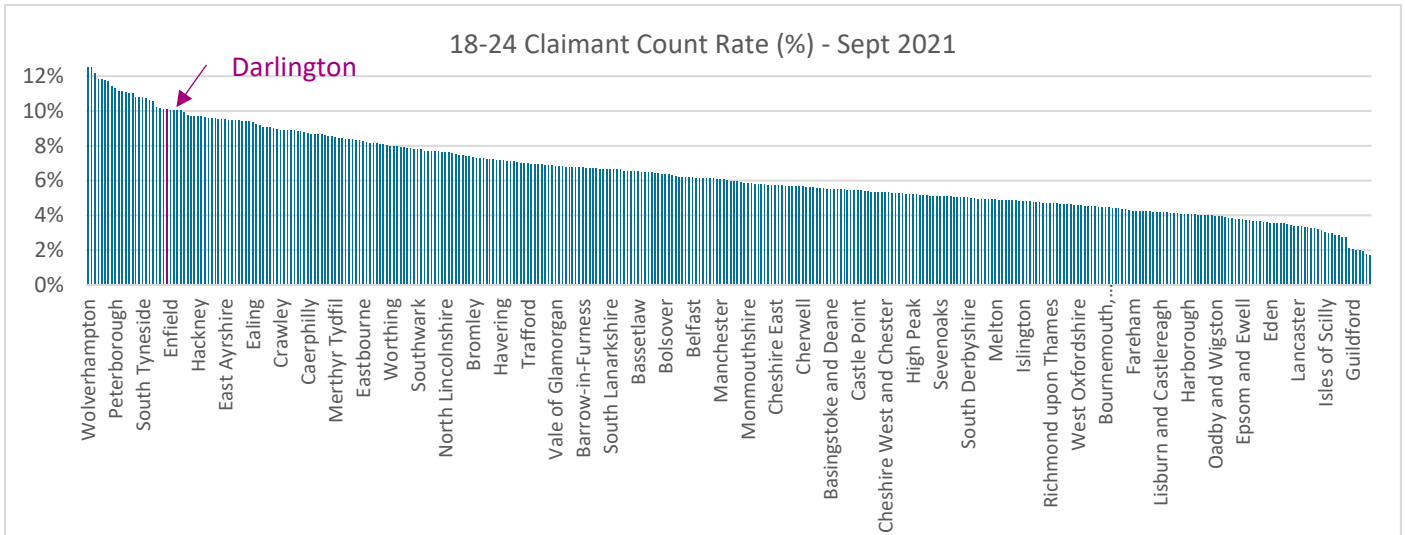
Darlington has consistently performed relatively high for this metric[5], however the claimant count for this age group has generally followed a similar pattern to elsewhere over the course of the pandemic, including falling since a second peak of 13.8% in March 2021.

18-24 Claimant Count
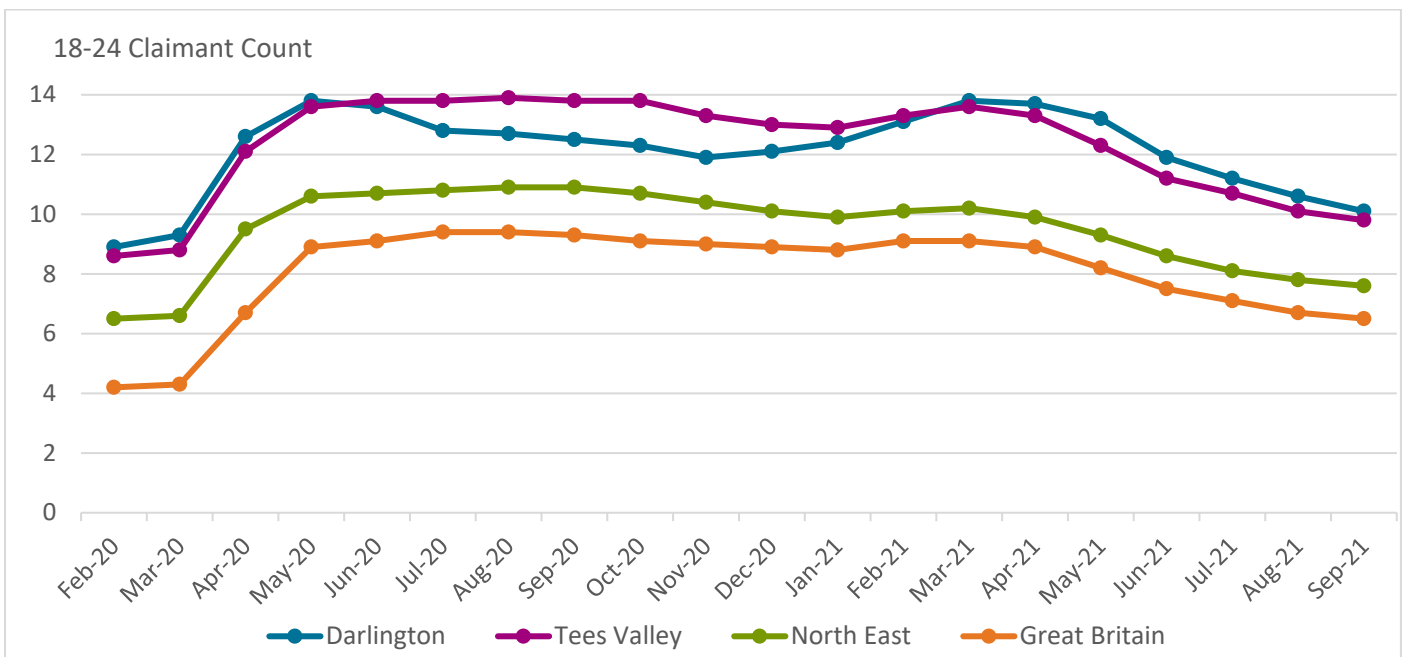
Breakdown by Age

The claimant count rate is particularly high for 18–21-year-olds, reflecting national findings that employment over the course of the pandemic has fallen most for young people at key 'transition' points such as leaving school and higher education.

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[5] A key reason for Darlington's high relative youth claimant count rate is not having a university, and therefore fewer higher education students resident in the borough. There is a clear drop in the borough's population for residents aged between 18 and 24, which will be largely accounted for by young people leaving to attend university. Regionally and nationally this trend largely cancels itself out as outfluxes of young people are replaced by influxes of a similar size of students attending local universities.

18-24 Claimant Count by Age Band - Sept 2021

■ 16-17 ■ 18-21 ■ 22-24
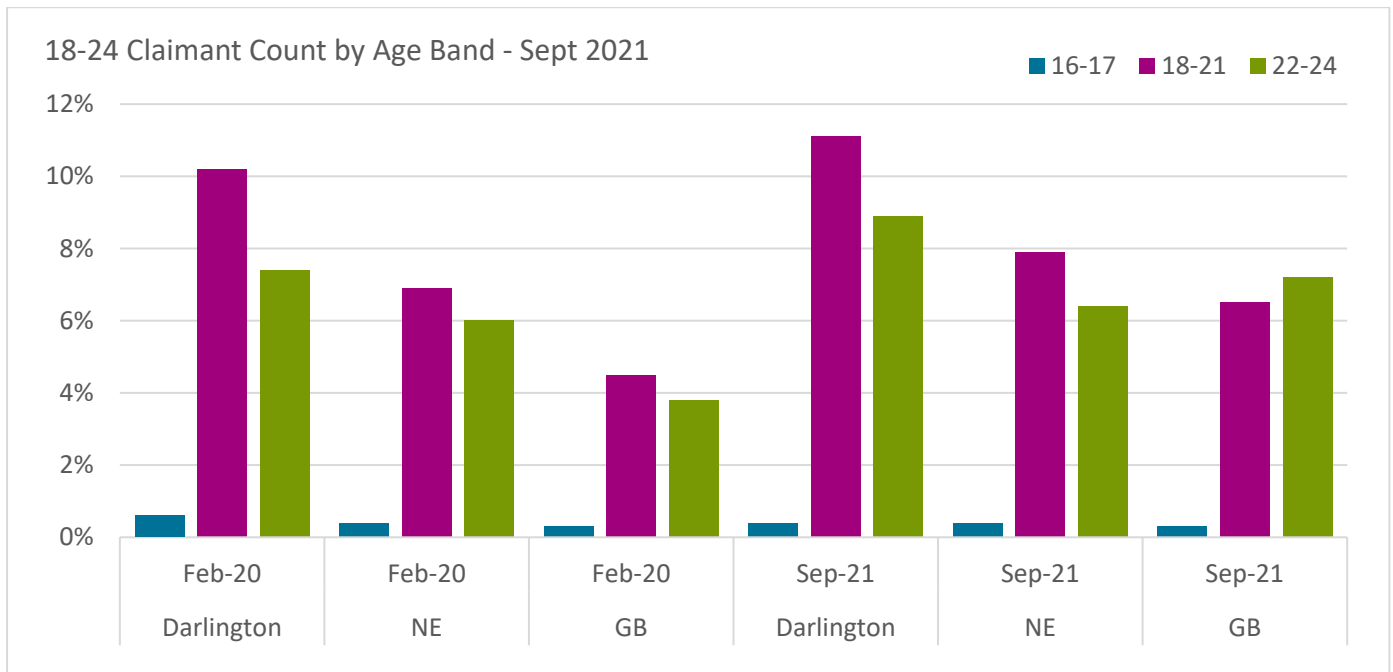
Breakdown by Sex

In absolute terms, the increase in 18-24 claimants has been fairly evenly split by sex (from Feb 2020 to Sept 2021, the number of female claimants increased by 50, and male by 35), however in proportional terms young female claimants have increased by a fifth (20%) compared to less than a tenth for males (9%). This reflects national findings that 'the recovery appears to be weaker for women than men, with part-time work in particular not recovering to the same extent as full-time work'[6].

Darlington 18-24 Claimant Count by Sex
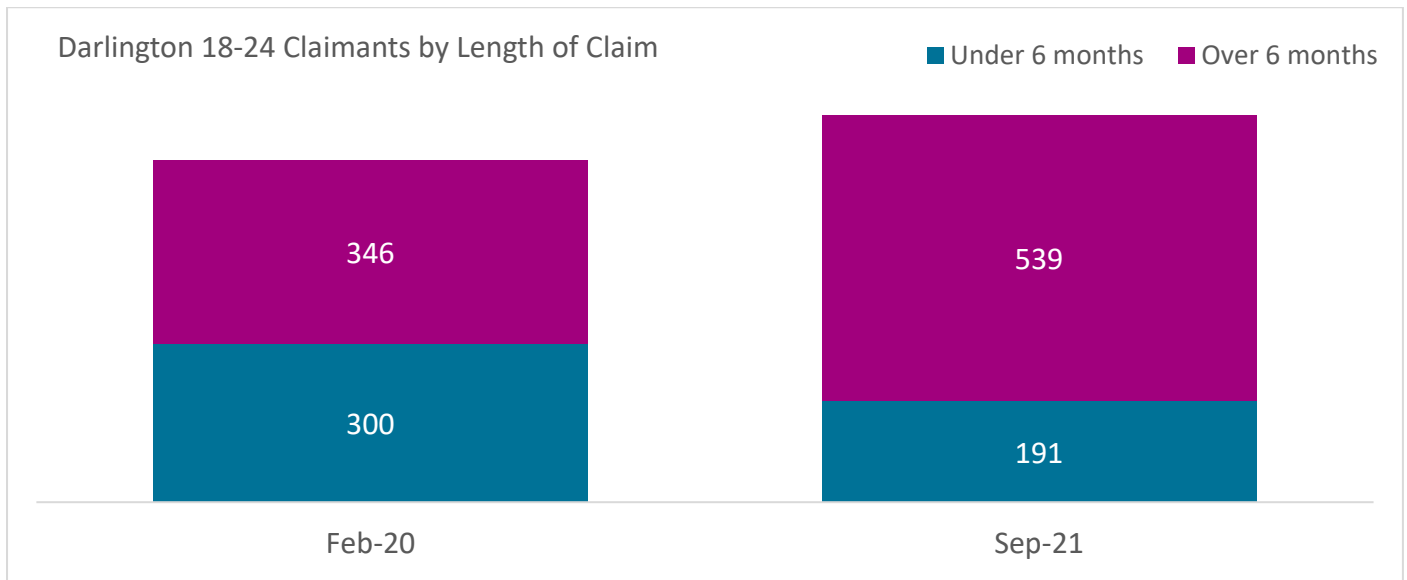
■ Sep-21 ■ Feb-20
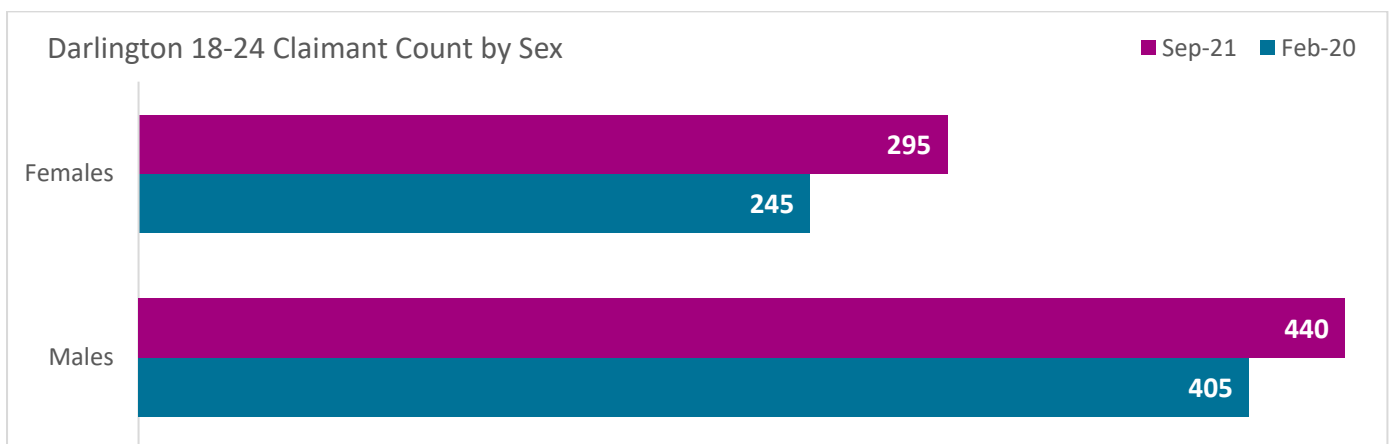
Breakdown by length of claim

A significant difference between current young claimants and the equivalent group pre-pandemic, is the average length of their claim. The number of claimants claiming for less than 6 months has actually fallen by more than a third (300 to 191 from Feb 2020 to Sept 2021), whilst the number claiming for longer than this has increased by 56%, from 346 to 539.

Given the scarring effects of long-term unemployment for young people in terms of future job and pay prospects, which are well documented, without intervention the growth in younger residents claiming for more than six months is likely to have significant implications for the cohort's life chances[7].

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[6] https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/resource/labour-market-statistics-september-2021
[7] https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/press-releases/corona-crisis-could-increase-youth-unemployment-by-600000-this-year-and-scar-young-peoples-prospects-for-far-longer/
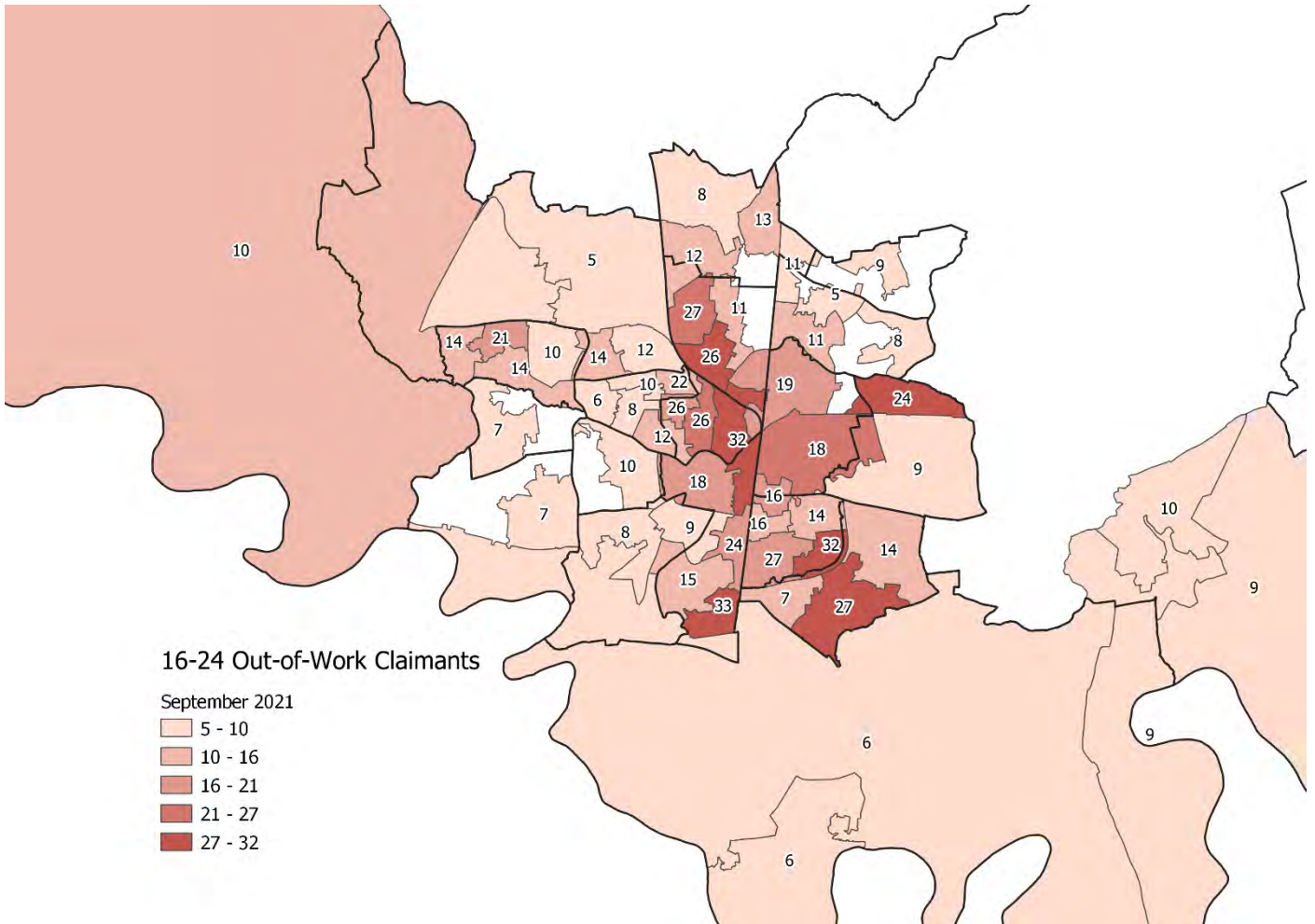
Darlington 18-24 Claimants by Length of Claim ■ Under 6 months ■ Over 6 months

	Feb-20	Sep-21
Over 6 months	346	539
Under 6 months	300	191

Analysis by the Resolution Foundation[8], for instance, has found that the scarring effects of recessions on youth unemployment is significant at all qualification levels, with 2009 graduates still suffering from higher unemployment than their 2013 counterparts. Overall, the graphs below demonstrate the estimated change in employment levels and – for those who do manage to find work – pay for graduates, mid-level and low-level education leavers.

Estimated Change in Employment Level, 2020-23

Graduates	Mid-Level	Low-Level
13%	27%	37%

Estimated Change in Pay, 2020-22

Graduates	Mid-Level	Low-Level
7%	9%	19%
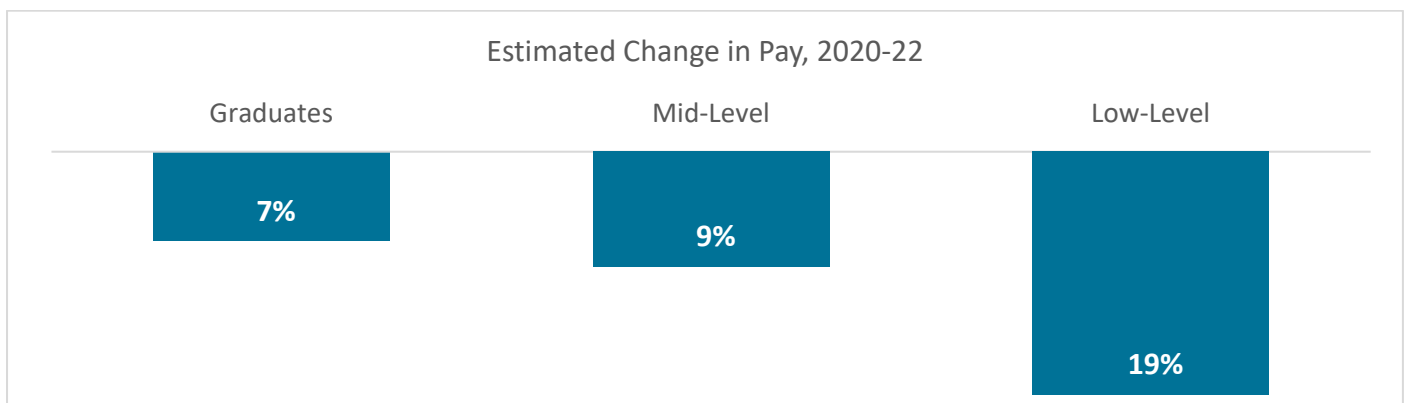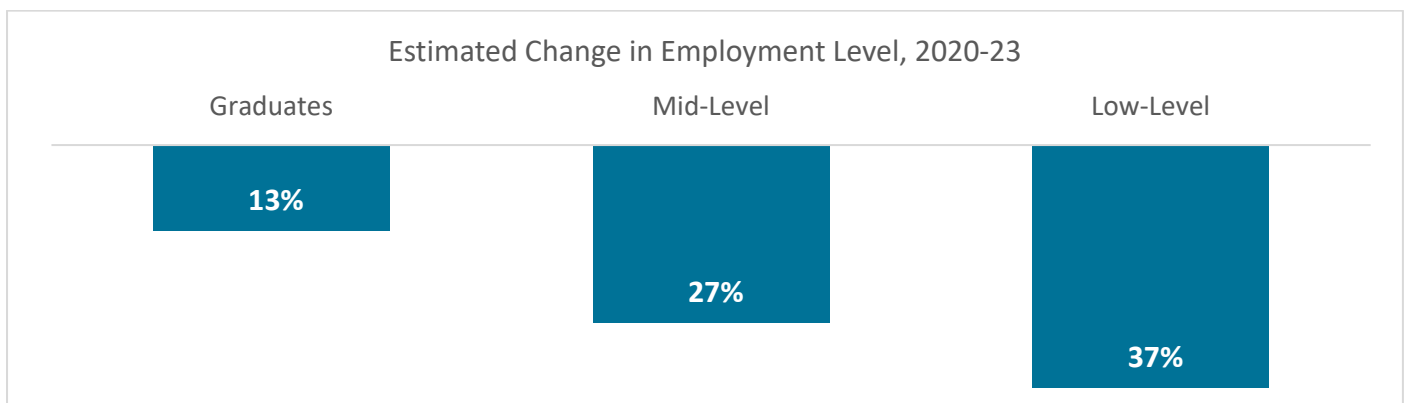
Breakdown by Area

The most recent data at small area level, from September 2021, is shown in the below map. Claimants tend to be concentrated towards the centre of the borough, most notably in the Northgate, Park East, Bank Top and Lascelles, and North Road wards.

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[8] https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/class-of-2020/

16-24 Out-of-Work Claimants

September 2021
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 16
- 16 - 21
- 21 - 27
- 27 - 32

At ward level, the proportion of 18–24-year-old residents in receipt of out-of-work benefits in September 2021 was more than five times higher in Park East (16.2%), than in Hummersknott (2.9%).

Area	18-24 Claimant Count Rate
England	6.5
North East	7.6
Tees Valley	9.8
Darlington	10.1
Bank Top and Lascelles Ward	14.6%
Brinkburn and Faverdale Ward	6.1%
Cockerton Ward	11.9%
College Ward	2.8%
Eastbourne Ward	11.5%
Harrowgate Hill Ward	6.5%
Haughton and Springfield Ward	8.7%
Heighington and Coniscliffe Ward	3.8%
Hummersknott Ward	2.9%
Hurworth Ward	3.0%
Mowden Ward	4.1%
North Road Ward	15.0%
Northgate Ward	15.2%
Park East Ward	16.2%
Park West Ward	3.4%
Pierremont Ward	9.9%

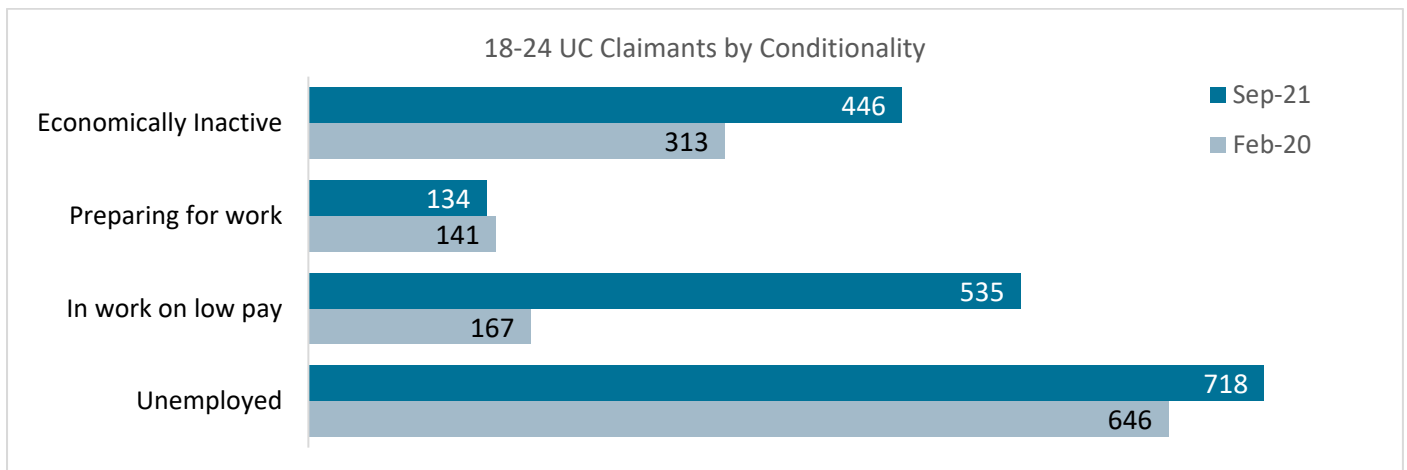|	
Red Hall and Lingfield Ward	11.2%
Sadberge and Middleton St George Ward	7.4%
Stephenson Ward	9.0%
Whinfield Ward	9.9%

Wider cohorts

Non-claimants

Whilst the claimant count is a useful proxy for unemployment, it is not a perfect measure as many unemployed people, and younger residents in particular, do not claim out-of-work benefits: the LGiU has estimated only 60% of 18-24 years olds searching for work actually make a claim which, if true, would mean the number of young unemployed people in Darlington could be closer to 1,325 (approximately 18%).

Low paid workers / Economically Inactive

Furthermore, there are many 18–24-year-olds in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) not counted in the claimant count due to their conditionality, including those who are economically inactive (i.e. not expected to be working due to, for example, disability or caring responsibilities) but also those who are in-work but on very low pay (and therefore having to 'top up' their earnings) or those who are moving towards the labour market. The number of young people claiming UC for all of these reasons has increased since pre-pandemic, however the greatest proportional increase by far (220%) has been those who are in-work but on low pay.

18-24 UC Claimants by Conditionality

- Economically Inactive: Sep-21 = 446, Feb-20 = 313
- Preparing for work: Sep-21 = 134, Feb-20 = 141
- In work on low pay: Sep-21 = 535, Feb-20 = 167
- Unemployed: Sep-21 = 718, Feb-20 = 646

Plotting how the size of each of these groups has changed over the course of the pandemic shows that the 'In work on low pay' group has almost perfectly mirrored the 'unemployed' cohort since the end of 2020, with any increases/decreases matched almost perfectly by a counter movement in the other group, suggesting that where young people are managing to find work, it is overwhelmingly in low paid and/or low hours roles.
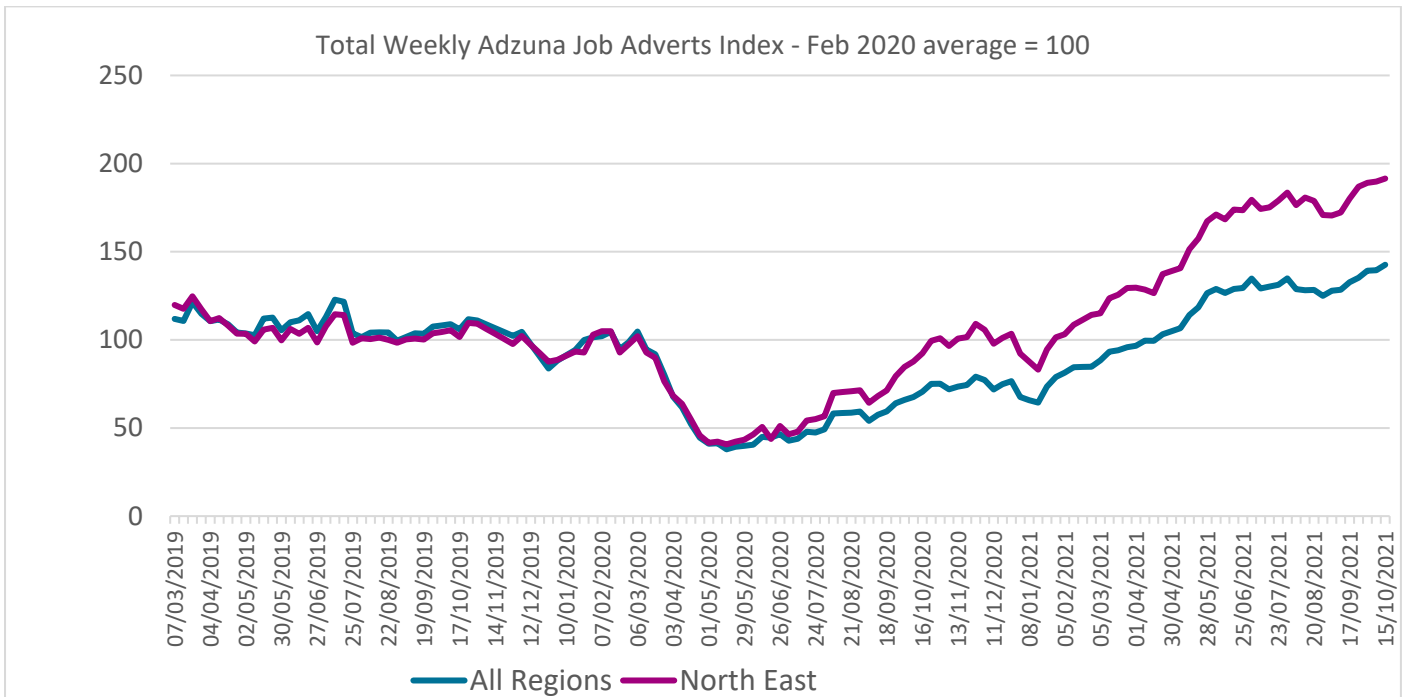
Darlington 16-24 UC Claimants by Conditionality
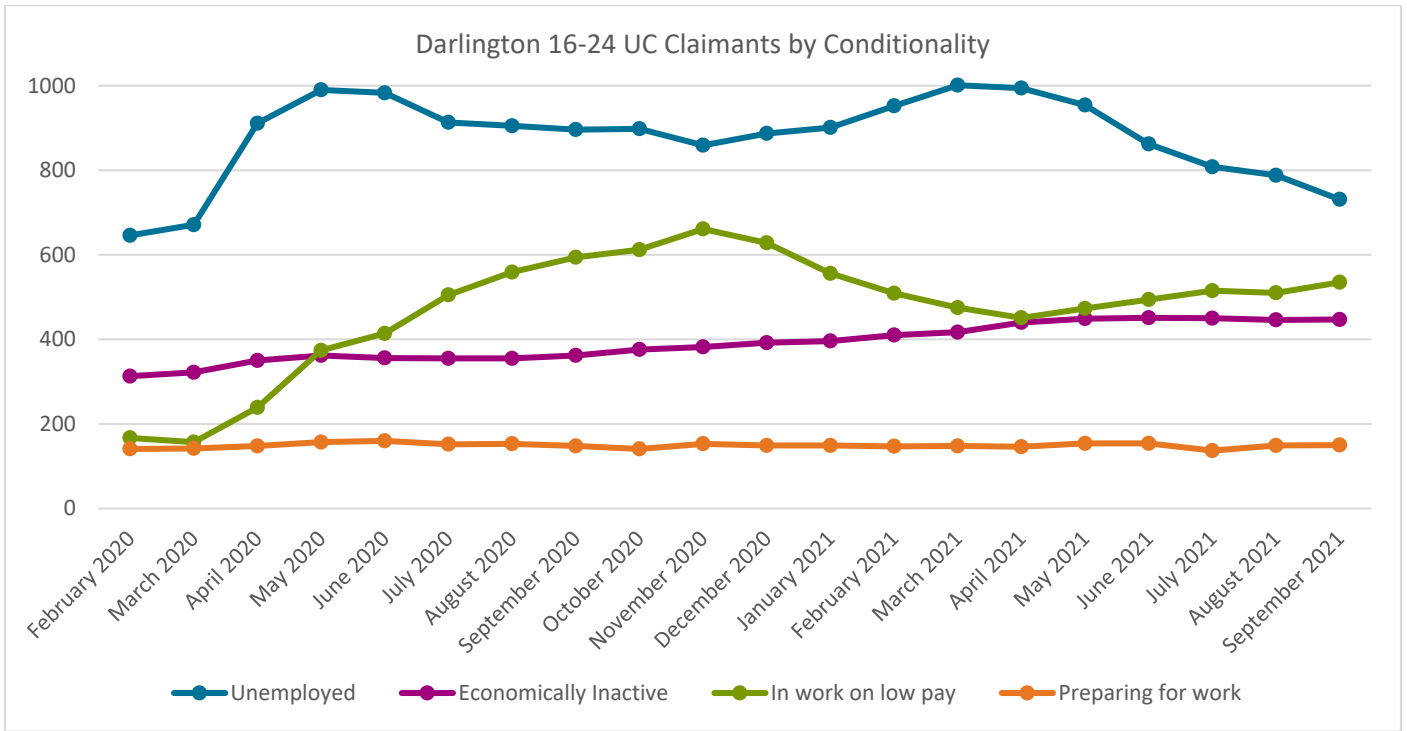
Furloughed workers

As of the end of August 2021, an estimated 150 Darlington under 25s were still furloughed[9].
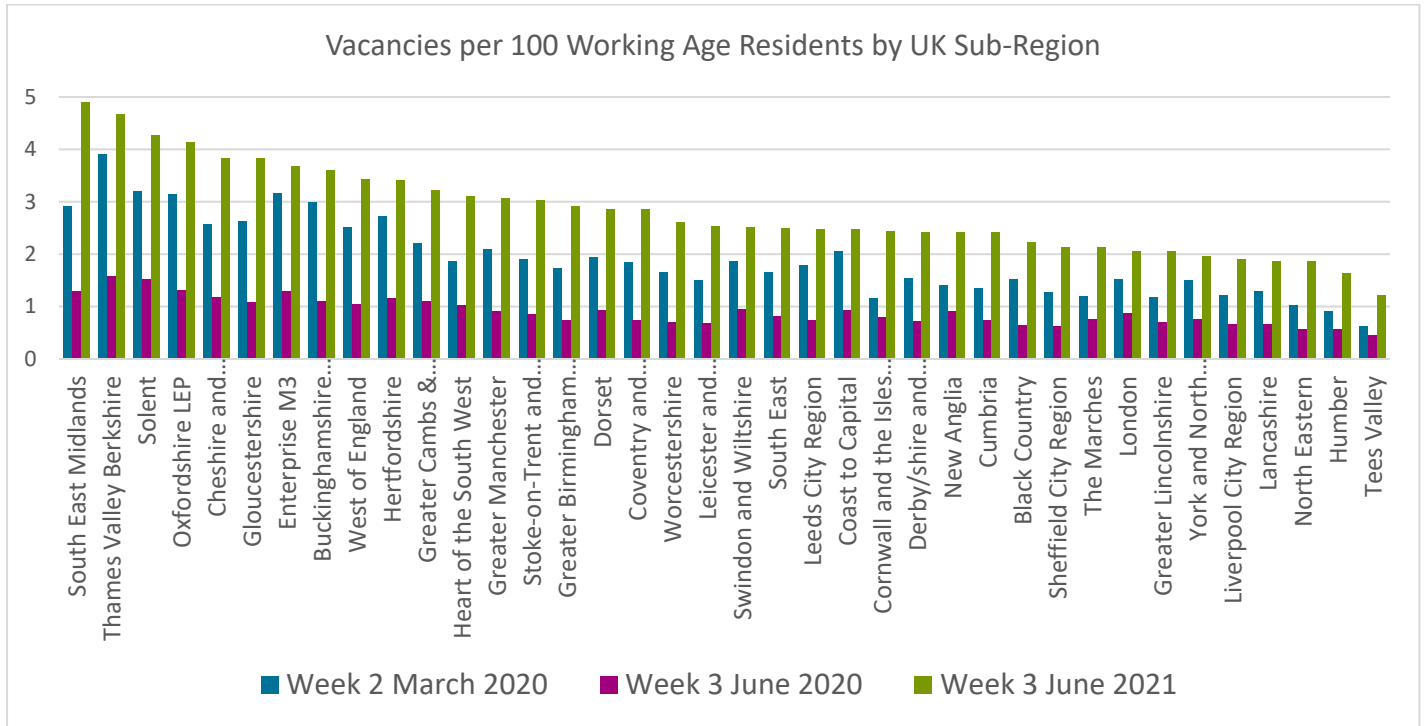
Vacancies

The proxy measure used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for vacancies, total weekly job adverts on Adzuna, shows that job openings in the North East had recovered to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2020 and are currently approximately 90% above the numbers recorded in February 2020.
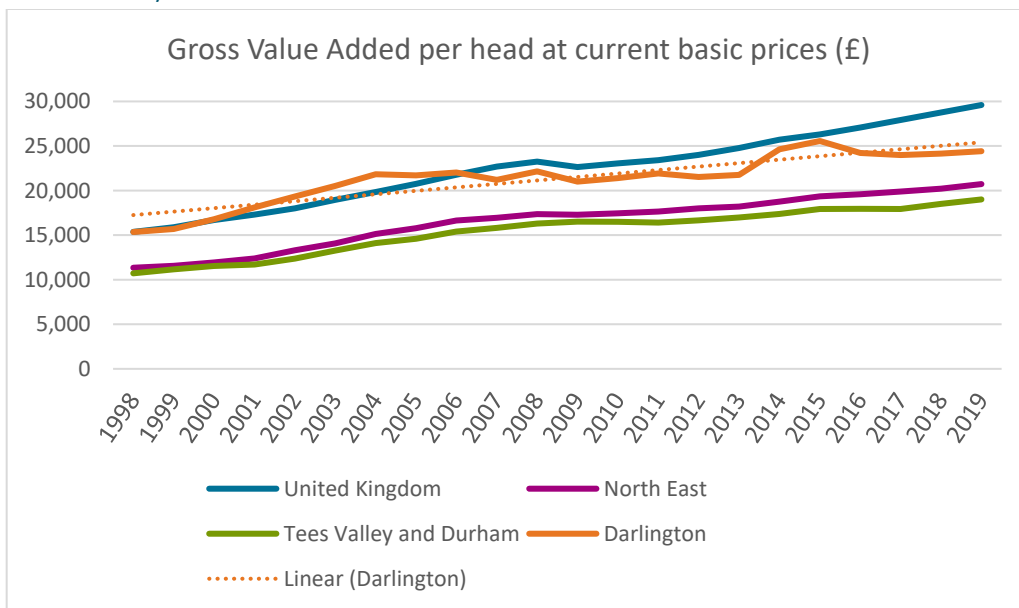
Total Weekly Adzuna Job Adverts Index - Feb 2020 average = 100

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[9] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-29-july-2021

Additional analysis undertaken by Adzuna and the Institute for Employment Studies[10], however, puts these figures into context. As the graph below demonstrates, in absolute terms Tees Valley job vacancies per capita remained the lowest in the country in June 2021, despite a relatively high proportionate increase. In addition, despite record hiring figures, there remained 3.4 jobseekers per vacancy in Darlington in June, up from 3.1 in June 2019 leading the IES to conclude that, 'many...people currently out of work aren't matching up to the jobs on offer, despite an acute talent shortage. This means many jobs are lying unfilled and accumulating, inflation overall hiring volumes.'

Vacancies per 100 Working Age Residents by UK Sub-Region

■ Week 2 March 2020   ■ Week 3 June 2020   ■ Week 3 June 2021

Even more recent analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)[11] has concluded the widely reported surge in job vacancies has been overwhelmingly driven by low-paying work, in a small number of sectors, with the majority (64%) of unemployed workers facing at least 10% greater competition for relevant new job openings than pre-pandemic.

Productivity

Gross Value Added per head at current basic prices (£)

— United Kingdom   — North East
— Tees Valley and Durham   — Darlington
······· Linear (Darlington)

Productivity, measured via Gross Valued Added (GVA) per head:

- has consistently been significantly above the Tees Valley and regional averages over the past 20 years
- is continuing to increase broadly in line with elsewhere however a dip has been recorded since 2015 when Darlington was close to the UK average.
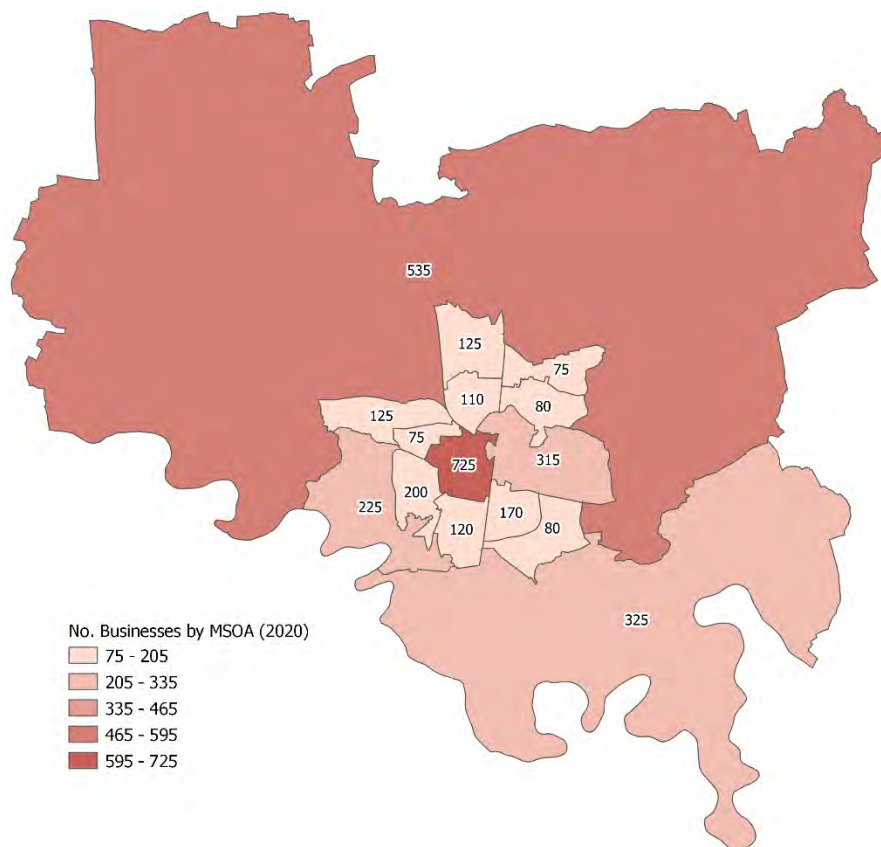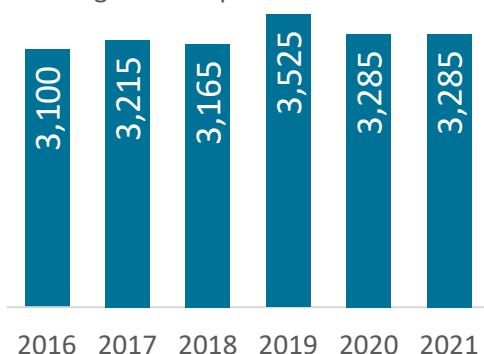
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[10] https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/system/files/resources/files/Adzuna%20IES%20online%20vacancy%20analysis%20June%202020.pdf
[11] https://ifs.org.uk/publications/15628

Businesses

- Darlington was home to 3,285 enterprises in 2021, no change from the previous year

- 88% of enterprises are Micro (0-9 employees)

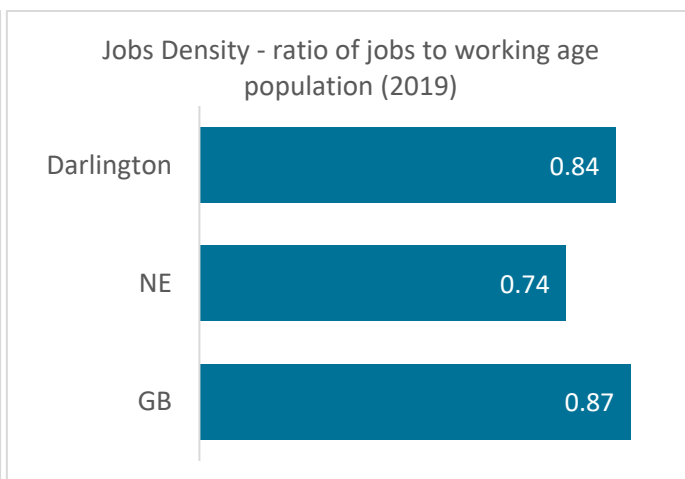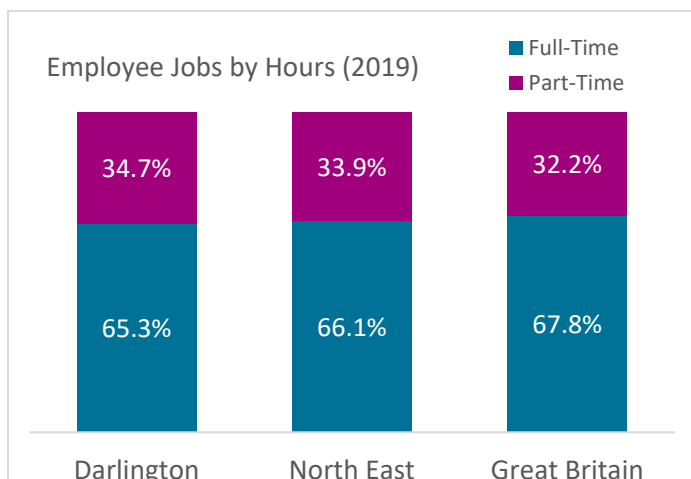- 15% of businesses are in professional, scientific and technical industries

Darlington Enterprises

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
3,100	3,215	3,165	3,525	3,285	3,285

No. Businesses by MSOA (2020)
- 75 - 205
- 205 - 335
- 335 - 465
- 465 - 595
- 595 - 725

Enterprises by Type (2020)	Darlington	North East	UK
Micro (0-9)	88.0%	87.6%	89.6%
Small (10-49)	9.4%	10.1%	8.5%
Medium (50-249)	1.8%	1.8%	1.5%
Large (250+)	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%

Industry (2020)	No. Darlington businesses	% of total	North East	UK
Professional, scientific & technical	500	15.2%	15.2%	16.6%
Construction	400	12.2%	13.4%	13.0%
Retail	300	9.1%	8.4%	8.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other	290	8.8%	7.4%	6.4%
Accommodation & food	260	7.9%	9.1%	6.1%
Business administration & support	230	7.0%	7.7%	8.5%
Manufacturing	180	5.5%	6.3%	5.0%
Motor trades	160	4.9%	3.4%	2.8%
Transport & storage	155	4.7%	4.6%	5.0%
Information & communication	155	4.7%	4.5%	7.8%
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	150	4.6%	5.2%	4.6%
Health	150	4.6%	4.1%	3.8%
Property	105	3.2%	3.2%	3.8%
Wholesale	90	2.7%	3.1%	3.9%
Financial & insurance	70	2.1%	1.6%	2.2%
Education	60	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%
Mining, quarrying & utilities	15	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%
Public administration & defence	10	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%

Jobs

Employee Jobs by Hours (2019)

| | Full-Time | Part-Time |

Darlington	65.3%	34.7%
North East	66.1%	33.9%
Great Britain	67.8%	32.2%

Jobs Density - ratio of jobs to working age population (2019)

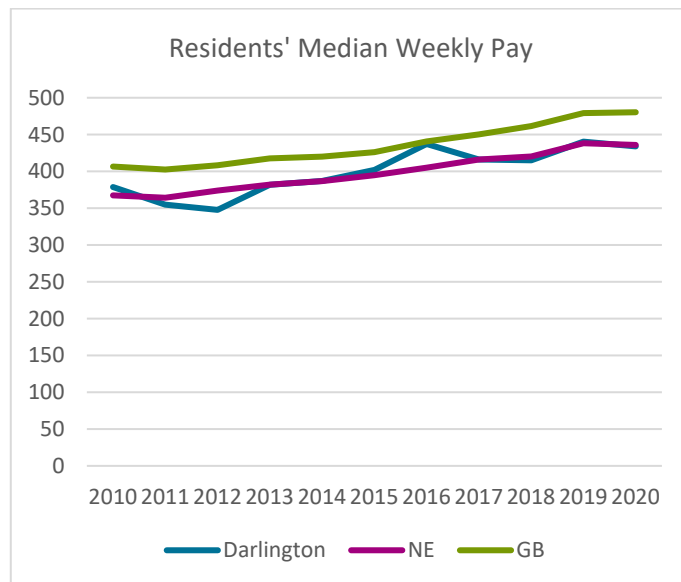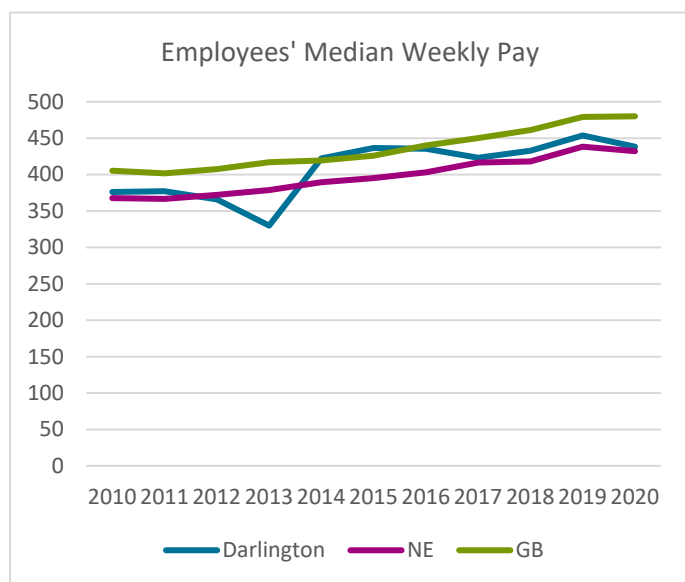| Darlington | 0.84 |
| NE | 0.74 |
| GB | 0.87 |

As of 2019:

- Darlington was home to an estimated 49,000 jobs
- The ratio of total jobs to 16-64 population was 0.84, significantly above the regional average (0.74) and close to the national figure (0.87)
- The proportion of full-time jobs in Darlington was slightly lower than elsewhere, at 65.3%
- Over a third of Darlington employees, pre-Covid, were working in Health and Social Care or Retail

Employee Jobs by Industry	Darlington	North East	Great Britain	Average UK weekly 1]
B: Mining and Quarrying	0.1	0.1	0.2	£1,122
C: Manufacturing	6.1	10.1	8	£631
D: Electricity, Gas, Steam & Air Conditioning Supply	0	1	0.4	£777
E: Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	0.5	0.6	0.7	£777
F: Construction	3.1	4.5	4.9	£660
G: Wholesale & Retail; Repair of Motor Vehicles	14.3	14.5	15	£518
H: Transportation and Storage	6.1	4.6	4.9	£597
I: Accommodation and Food Service Activities	6.1	7.5	7.7	£265
J: Information and Communication	2.6	3.1	4.3	£948
K: Financial and Insurance Activities	6.1	2.3	3.5	£1,171
L: Real Estate Activities	1	1.8	1.7	£637
M: Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	9.2	6	8.8	£855
N: Administrative and Support Service Activities	9.2	7.7	8.9	£494
O: Public Administration & Defence; Social Security	6.1	6.5	4.4	£623
P: Education	7.1	9.3	8.7	£489
Q: Human Health and Social Work Activities	20.4	16	13.1	£481
R: Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2	2.4	2.5	£443
S: Other Service Activities	2	1.9	2	£430

There is a direct link between low skills and a low-wage economy in most sectors and some of Darlington's largest employment sectors, pre-pandemic, create challenges; more than half of the workforce was employed within the Accommodation & Food Services, Retail, Art, Entertainment & Recreation, Business, Administration & Support Services, and Health and Social Care sectors. Nationally, these sectors have the lowest median weekly pay and generally tend to have entry-level opportunities that are accessible to Darlington residents with no or low skills.

Wage Levels

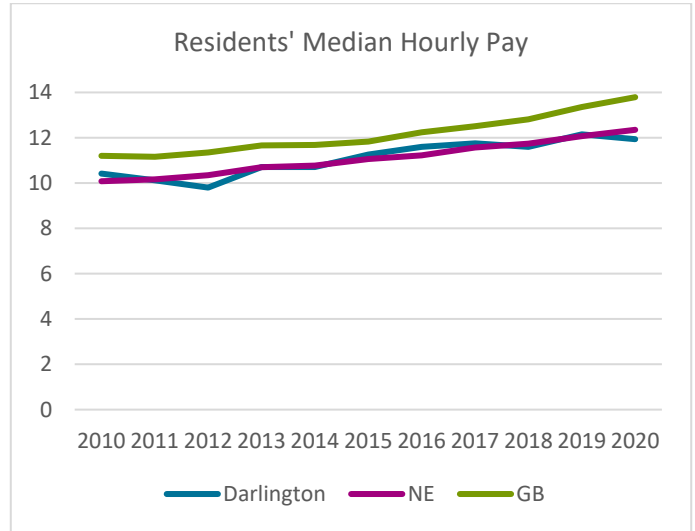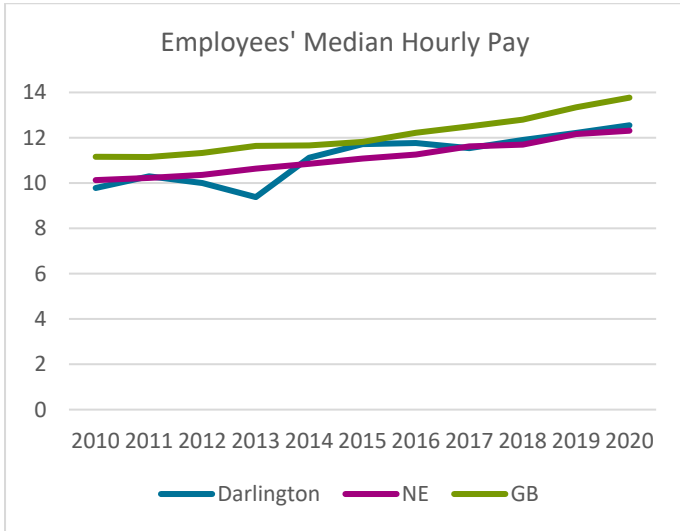*2020 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings data*

Weekly pay for both Darlington residents and employees has increased since 2010, and is in line with the North East average, however the rate of increase has been slightly lower than comparator groups: local employees' weekly wages have risen 17% since 2010, compared to 18% regionally and nationally, whilst residents have seen an increase of 15% against a regional average of 19% and 18% nationally.

The rate of increase is relevant as comparing the change in average wages to prices provides an indication of how real incomes have changed in recent years. Comparing the increases in average weekly pay to the official measure of inflation, the Bank of England's Consumer Price Index (CPI)[12] shows that wages have failed to keep pace with increases in the cost of living, particularly for Darlington residents who have seen their pay grow at less than half the rate of prices.

Average weekly pay (£)	Employees			Residents			CPI
	Darlington	NE	GB	Darlington	NE	GB	
2010	376.0	367.7	405.3	378.7	367.4	406.5	100.0
2020	438.3	432.1	480.0	433.9	435.8	480.3	131.1
% Change	16.6%	17.5%	18.4%	14.6%	18.6%	18.2%	31.1%

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[12] https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator
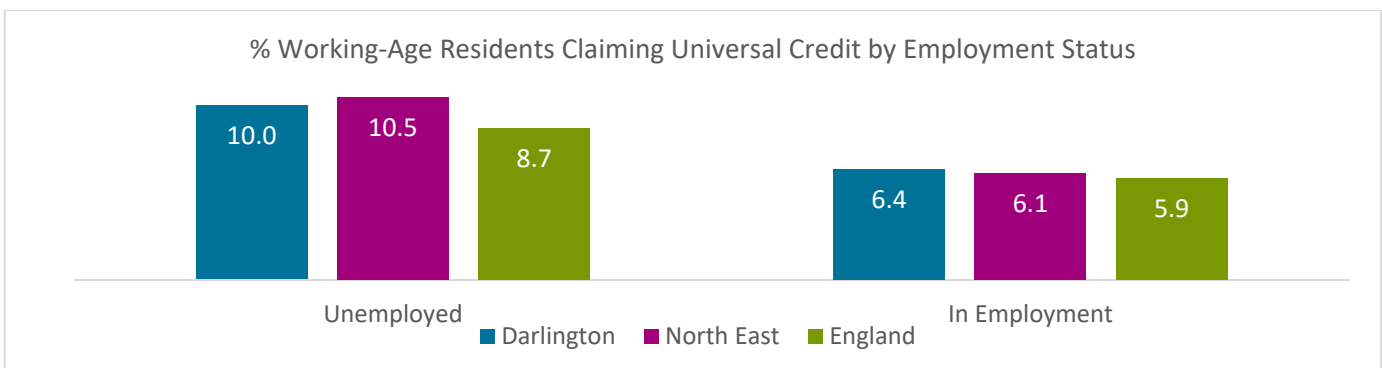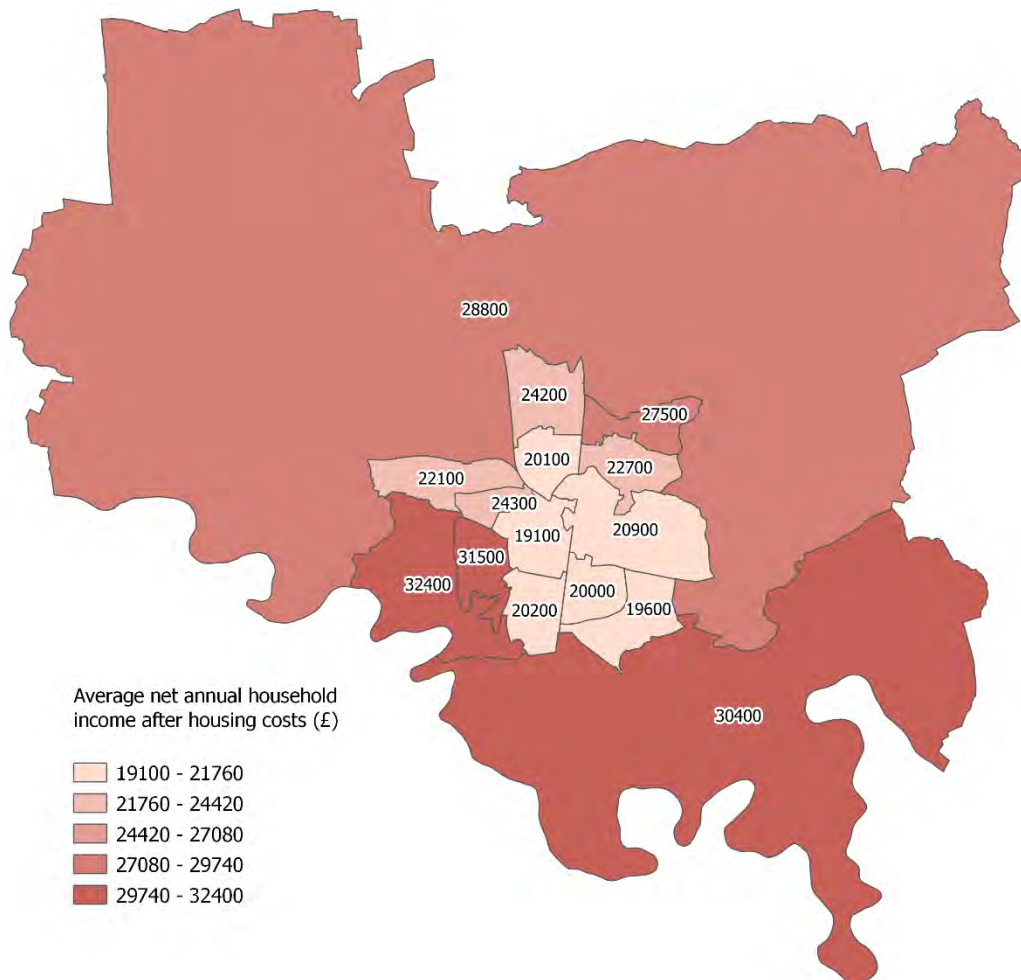
In terms of hourly pay, again both residents and emplpyees have seen an increase since 2010 and are in line with regional comparators (although residents' hourly pay did dip slightly in 2020).

Good terms and conditions of employment include being paid a Real Living Wage (RLW) and good career progression. The RLW is independently calculated each year by the Living Wage Foundation, based on what employees and their families need to live and is currently set at £9.50 per hour. However, the proportion of employees living in Darlington paid less than the RLW has been increasing over recent years, in contrast to elsewhere, to more than a quarter (25.2%) in 2020 compared to 21.4% regionally and 17.3% nationally.
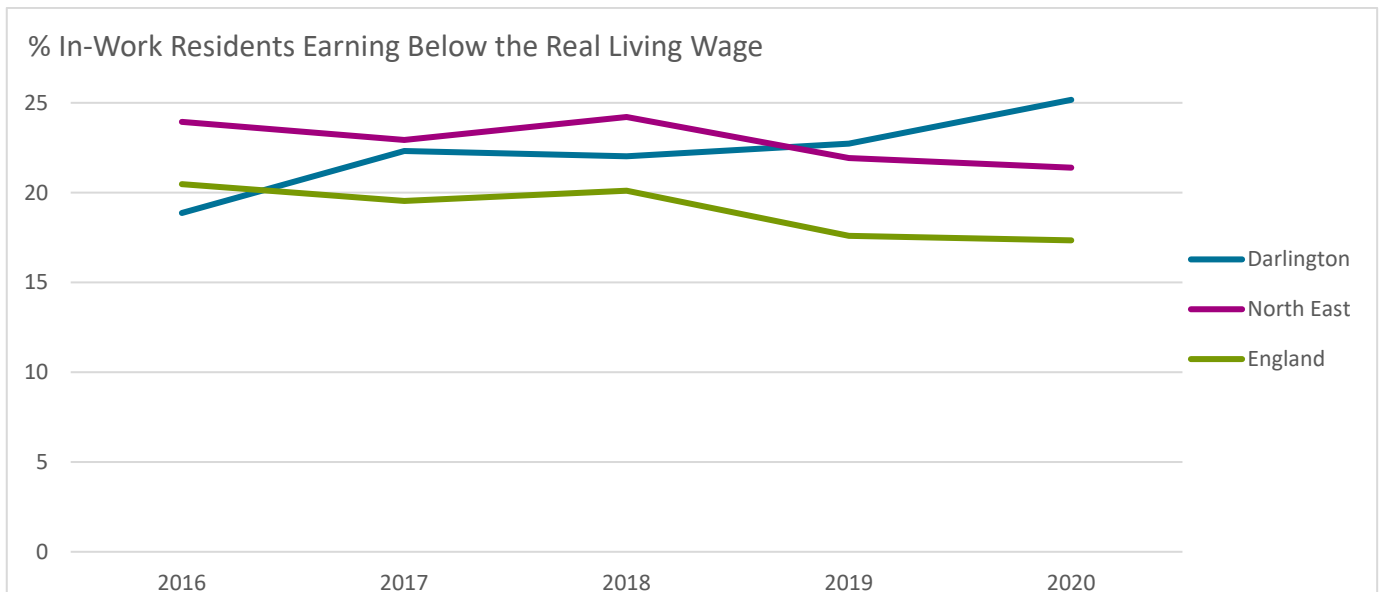
Darlington also has a higher-than-average proportion of employed residents in receipt of Universal Credit (UC), highlighting an ongoing issue of in-work poverty.

Average net annual household income after housing costs (£)

- 19100 - 21760
- 21760 - 24420
- 24420 - 27080
- 27080 - 29740
- 29740 - 32400

The growing disparity in pay is partly illustrated by the variance in average annual equivalised[13] household incomes after housing costs[14] across the borough: whilst residents of the College wards enjoyed an average net annual household income of £32,400 per year in 2018, those living in Northgate ward averaged just over half of that (59%), at £19,100.

- Just **47.6%** of local jobs are defined as 'good quality' (England average: 52.9%)
  % of people on permanent contracts (or temporary but not seeking permanent employment), who earn more than 2/3 of the UK median wage, and are not overworked (<49 hours a week), or underworked (unwillingly working part-time)

Women's Work?

- The gender pay gap in Darlington is **15.2%** (defined as the difference between average hourly pay for male and female employees) and women undertake **55%** of Darlington's 42k jobs (GB average: 51%)

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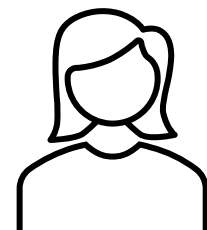
[13] Equivalised income considers household size and composition and so makes it easier to compare income across households. It acknowledges that, for example, two people do not need double the income of one person to have the same living standards.
[14] www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/smallareaincomeestimates formiddlelayersuperoutputareasenglandandwales

The Impact of Covid-19 on the Economy[15]

The magnitude of the recession caused by the pandemic was unprecedented in modern times. GDP declined by 9.8% in 2020, the steepest drop since consistent records began in 1948 and the most in over three hundred years on some estimates.

A strong recovery in spring and early summer 2021 did lead to a rebound in GDP, which as of July 2021 was 2% lower than before the pandemic, but Covid-19 has affected different sectors of the economy to different degrees. Sectors reliant on social contact, including hospitality and entertainment, have been especially badly hit whilst others, such as financial services, have fared relatively better.

After recovering strongly as the economy reopened however, economic growth appears to have slowed over the summer of 2021. At first this was linked to the spread of the Delta variant and the large numbers of people required to self-isolate as a result (the 'pingdemic'). A more persistent factor is the disruption to global supply chains which has led to supply shortages of some goods. Many firms are also reporting difficulty in hiring staff.

Inflation has risen over 2021, partly a result of the supply problems, and is expected to continue to do so heading into 2022. This may cause consumers to become more cautious in their spending and, in turn, rein in economic growth. Another important, and as yet unanswered, question is how the end of the furlough scheme at the end of September 2021 will affect the labour market and, in turn, consumer spending.

Ultimately, there remains a great deal of uncertainty over the economic outlook and how strong and sustained the national recovery will be, even assuming there won't be a resurgence of the virus that materially impacts the economy.

As of September, the average forecast among economists for GDP growth in 2021 was 6.8%. Expectations rose during the spring and early summer as data showed a strong recovery. In March 2021, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast GDP growth of 4.0% in 2021 and it is very likely to revise that higher in its next set of forecasts.

Even when the economic shock of the pandemic does eventually dissipate, the crisis may result in permanent damage, or "scarring", to the economy. An estimate from the OBR, published in March 2021, suggests this will lower the level of GDP by 3% compared to what it would have been without the pandemic, while the Bank of England's more recent estimate is 1%.

In terms of the youth labour market, the pandemic has intensified the trend towards increased polarisation between high- and low-skill jobs, leading to fewer 'stepping stone' mid-skill jobs and more young people in insecure and part-time work[16]. Nationally, long-term unemployment among young people has risen, with 170,000 young people unemployed for more than six months, and those with a health condition or disability, or who are young parents are most likely to be among this group. At the same time there has been a significant contraction in the size of the youth labour market, with an unprecedented 200,000 more young people staying in or moving into full-time education than before the crisis, which is contributing to employer difficulties in filling entry level jobs, especially where those roles are not being advertised flexibly.

[15] https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8866/
[16] https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/resource/better-future-transforming-jobs-and-skills-young-people-post-pandemic

Education and Skills

Good education and skills are vital ingredients for both Darlington residents' wellbeing, and the boriough's economy. Higher education and skills means that children and young people are able to reach their potential, that people are better able to find high quality and well paid employment, that local businesses and employers are more productive, and that Darlington remains an appealing place for investors. Understanding how educational and skills levels vary across the borough, and amongst groups, helps partners better target relevant services and support to where it is most needed. Having a clear picture too of how the education and skills of our residents matches the needs of local employers is also necessary to ensure that the *right* services and support are made available, and ensure that our population is best equipped to take advantage of local opportunities.

Educational attainment

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS profile is a teacher assessment of children's development at the end of the academic year in which the child turns five. Children reach a good level of development if they achieve at least the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development, physical development, and communication and language) and in the early learning goals in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

The 2018/19 results show that the proportion of children achieving a good level of development had increased every year since 2015 and, at 71.7%, remained in line with the national average (71.8%), those of statistical neighbours (70.4%) and North East local authorities (71.8%)
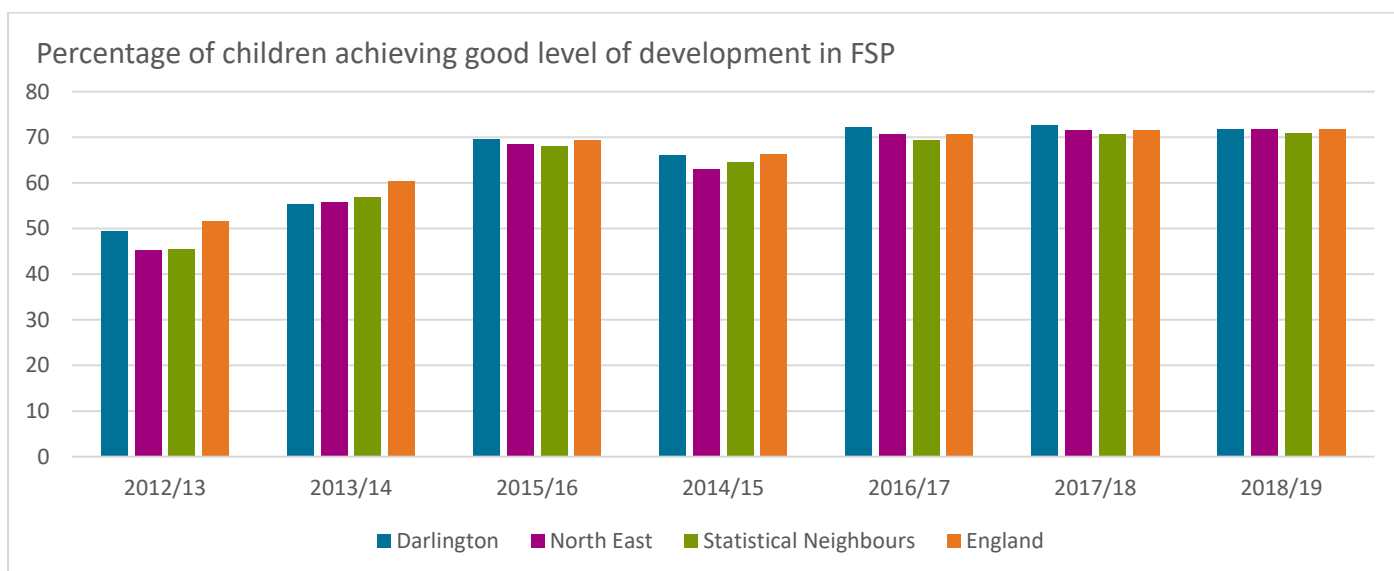

Despite Darlington's relatively positive performance, the inequality gap in achievement across early learning goals, defined as the difference between the mean for the lowest attaining 20% and the median for all students, increased in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 and Darlington remains notably above all comparator areas, with the lowest achieving 20% of early years pupils scoring 40%, on average, lower than the Darlington average.

The percentage inequality gap in achievement across all Early Learning Goals
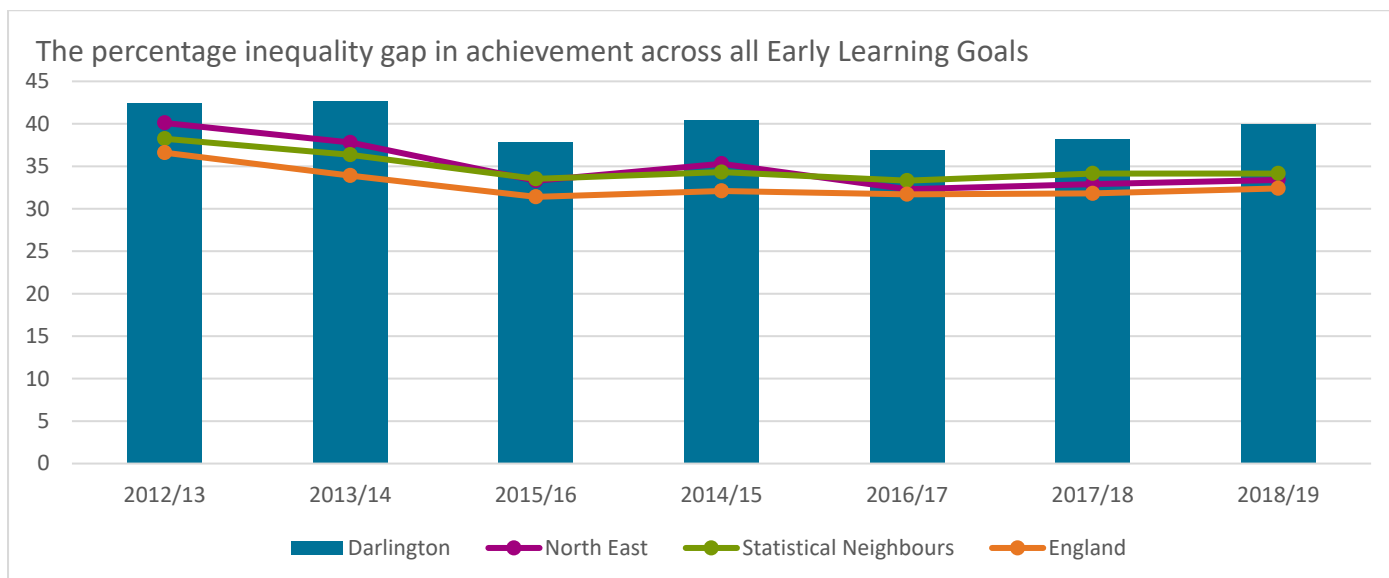
Key Stage 2

The key performance measure of attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) is the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in the core subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths.

% pupils achieving expected standard in KS2 for Reading, Writing & Maths
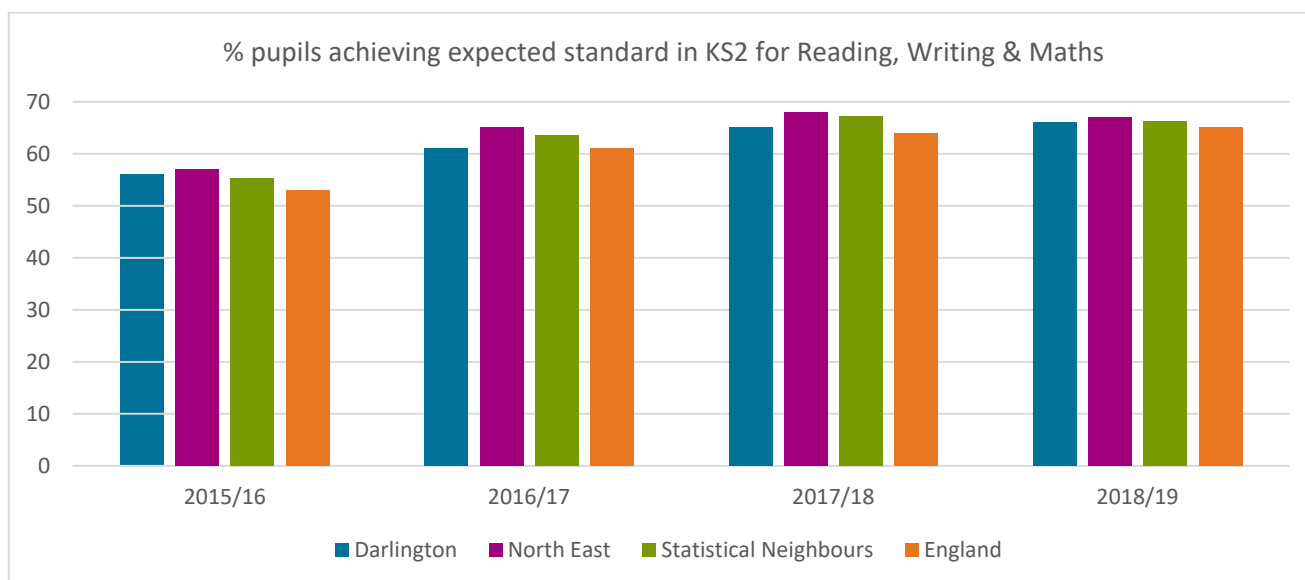
The graph above shows how Darlington compares in this relative to national figures, those of statistical neighbours and local authorities in the North East. There has been an improvement in performance since 2016 with 66% of pupils achieving the expected standard in 2018/19, above the national figure of 65% and just slightly below both the North East (67%) and statistical neighbours (66.2%).

In terms of the KS2 attainment gap, Darlington also performs well, with an attainment gap of 18 percentage points between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils, compared to 22.3 regionally and 20 nationally.

KS2 pupils achieving expected standard (2018/19)	Disadvantaged	Non-Disadvantaged	Percentage Point Gap
Darlington	55	73	18
North East	54	75	21
Statistical Neighbours	51.8	74.1	22.3
England	51	71	20

2018/19	% pupils eligible for FSM in last 6 years	% pupils achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths	% pupils achieving higher standard in reading, writing and maths
Red Hall Primary School	71%	67%	11%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	61%	87%	13%
Skerne Park Academy	58%	60%	7%
Firthmoor Primary School	56%	77%	10%
The Rydal Academy	55%	43%	2%
Gurney Pease Academy	55%	42%	0%
Northwood Primary School	54%	81%	14%
Corporation Road Community Primary School	49%	61%	13%
Springfield Academy	44%	58%	10%
St John's Church of England Academy	41%	83%	17%
Reid Street Primary School	34%	50%	20%
Heathfield Primary School	33%	65%	8%
St Mary's Cockerton Church of England Primary School	30%	53%	7%
Harrowgate Hill Primary School	25%	66%	10%
St Teresa's RC Primary School	21%	78%	13%
West Park Academy	21%	69%	16%
Whinfield Primary School	20%	65%	15%
Bishopton Redmarshall CofE Primary School	20%	61%	17%
High Coniscliffe CofE Primary School	18%	80%	7%
Holy Family RC Primary School	17%	80%	10%
St Bede's RC Primary School	14%	65%	19%
St. George's Church of England Academy	12%	78%	22%
Mowden Junior School	10%	80%	24%
St Augustine's RC Primary School	10%	87%	17%
Abbey Junior School	8%	82%	18%
Hurworth Primary School	5%	83%	20%
Heighington Church of England Primary School	4%	77%	21%

Analysis at school-level shows there is an inverse correlation with deprivation for this metric, but it isn't particularly strong, with a number of notable outliers e.g. Mount Pleasant Primary School which has the second highest proportion of FSM-eligible children in the borough and the highest proportion of KS2 students achieving a good level of development.
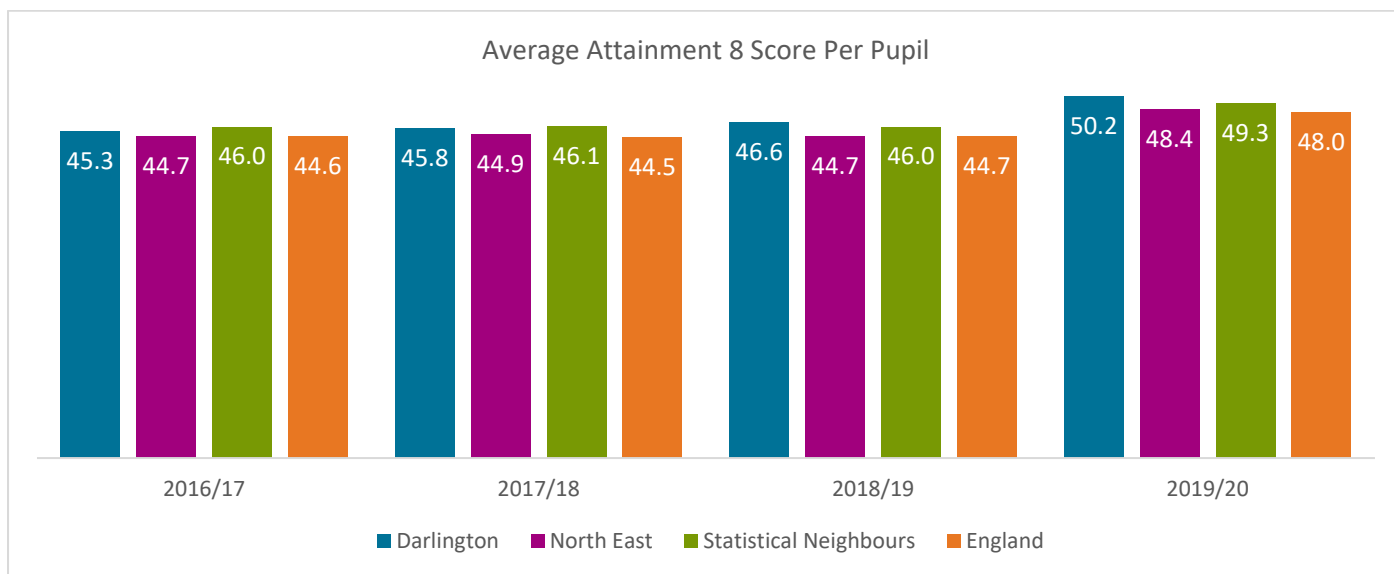
Key Stage 4

The key measures at Key Stage 4 (KS4) are:

- Attainment 8
- Progress 8
- Percentage of pupils achieving A*–C in both English and Maths (achieving a grade 5 or above from 2016/17)

Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils on up to eight qualifications including English, Maths, three qualifications that count towards the English Baccalaureate (sciences, languages and humanities), and three other qualifications from the Department for Education (DfE) approved list.

Results are graded by scores of 1–9, where 9 is the highest score, replacing the previous A*–G grades.

Average Attainment 8 Score Per Pupil

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Darlington	45.3	45.8	46.6	50.2
North East	44.7	44.9	44.7	48.4
Statistical Neighbours	46.0	46.1	46.0	49.3
England	44.6	44.5	44.7	48.0

The graph above shows Darlington's Attainment 8 score compared to other comparator groups for the past four years. At 50.2, Darlington has a slightly higher average Attainment 8 score than the national (48.0), North East (48.4) and statistical neighbours (49.3). However, it must be noted that, due to Covid-19, pupils scheduled to sit GCSE and A/AS level exams in 2020 were awarded either a centre assessment grade (based on what the school/college believed the student would most likely have achieved had exams gone ahead) or their calculated grade using an Ofqual model – whichever was the higher of the two. As a result of the new method of awarding grades, the 2020 pupil attainment statistics are unlike previous years and therefore should not be directly compared as a measure of changes in student performance.

In terms of the Attainment 8 inequality gap, Darlington performed less well in 2019/20, with an attainment gap of 16.1 percentage points between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils, compared to 14.4 regionally and 13.5 nationally. This was a slight increase from 15.0 percentage points the previous year, but Darlington was still significantly above comparator groups in 2019/20 for this metric.

Average score	Disadvantaged	Non-Disadvantaged	Percentage Point Gap
Darlington	39.1	55.2	16.1
NE	38.6	53	14.4
Statistical Neighbours	38.68	53.53	14.85
England	40.2	53.7	13.5

Key Stage 2-4 Progress

The new progress measure, Progress 8, measures the amount of progress pupils have made relative to other pupils nationally with the same level of attainment at Key Stage 2.

The national progress score for each subject, by definition, is set to zero.
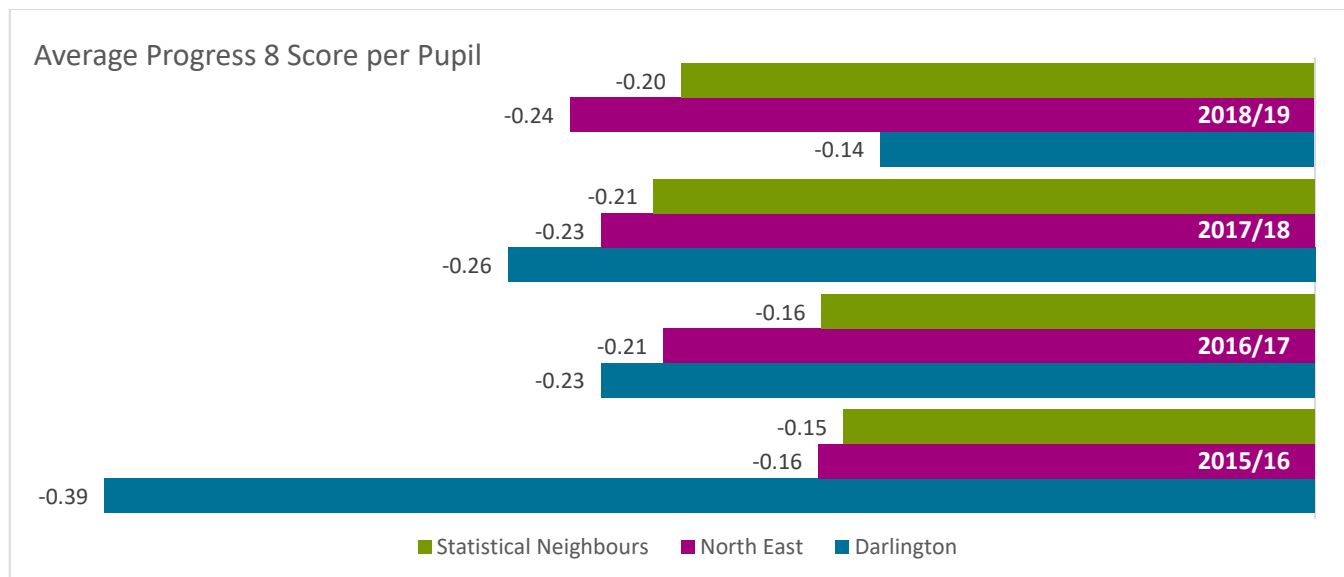
The graph above shows that Darlington pupils have a Progress 8 score of −0.14 in 2018/19, still below the national progress score but above other comparator groups.

Again, however, the attainment gap was higher in Darlington than elsewhere, at 0.63, in line with the regional average and above statistical neighbours and the national average.

Average Progress 8 score	Disadvantaged	Non-Disadvantaged	Attainment Gap
Darlington	-0.59	0.04	0.63
NE	-0.67	-0.04	0.63
Statistical Neighbours	-0.64	-0.03	0.61
England	-0.45	0.13	0.58

The inequality gap can also be illustrated using a schools-level analysis, which shows a clear inverse correlation between the proportion of free school meal (FSM)-eligible students at each institution and its key KS4 performance measures, particularly average Attainment 8 scores for which the R^2 value with FSM-eligibility is 0.847.

| School name	% pupils eligible for FSM during past 6 years	Attainment 8 score	Progress 8 score	% pupils achieving strong 5+ in English & maths GCSEs
Wyvern Academy	52	36.6	-0.92	24
St Aidan's Church of England Academy	51.4	39.5	-0.27	12
Haughton Academy	48.7	43.6	-0.24	37
Longfield Academy of Sport	36.3	45.1	-0.11	42
Hurworth School	21.8	48.7	-0.24	46
Hummersknott Academy	19	52.1	0.06	49
Polam Hall School	17.1	48.6	-0.07	43
Carmel College	15.8	56	0.38	65

Socioeconomically Segregated Schools

Methodology devised by SchoolDash[17] compares the proportion of children in each school eligible for free school meals (FSM) with the government's measure of local deprivation, income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI). The results are outlined below, where purple indicates schools taking fewer poorer pupils than might be expected given their local area, and orange taking a greater proportion of poorer pupils than might be expected.

School	FSM*	IDACI	LI	Ofsted Rating
High Coniscliffe CE Primary School	17.7%	4.5%	3.9	Outstanding
Red Hall Primary School	71.3%	24.9%	2.86	Good
Wyvern Academy	52.0%	24.6%	2.11	Requires Improvement
St Aidan's CoE Academy	51.4%	25.0%	2.06	Good
Skerne Park Academy	57.7%	30.3%	1.90	Requires Improvement
Haughton Academy	48.7%	25.9%	1.88	Requires Improvement
Gurney Pease Academy	54.8%	30.1%	1.82	Good
Northwood Primary School	53.6%	29.5%	1.82	Good
Bishopton Redmarshall CoE Primary School	19.5%	10.8%	1.81	Good
Firthmoor Primary School	56.4%	31.5%	1.79	Good
St Mary's Cockerton CoE Primary School	29.6%	16.6%	1.78	Good
Corporation Rd Community Primary School	49.0%	27.8%	1.76	Requires Improvement
The Rydal Academy	54.9%	31.7%	1.73	Good
Springfield Academy	43.6%	26.5%	1.65	Requires Improvement
Longfield Academy of Sport	36.3%	25.1%	1.45	None
St George's CoE Academy School	12.3%	9.1%	1.35	Outstanding
West Park Academy	20.7%	15.8%	1.31	Good
St John's CoE Academy	41.2%	32.3%	1.28	Outstanding
Reid Street Primary School	33.8%	27.1%	1.25	Good
Hurworth School	21.8%	20.2%	1.08	Outstanding
Heathfield Primary School	32.8%	32.3%	1.02	Good
Harrowgate Hill Primary School	24.6%	24.5%	1.00	Requires Improvement
Whinfield Primary School	19.9%	21.0%	0.95	Good
Holy Family RC Primary School	17.0%	20.4%	0.83	Good
Mowden Junior School	9.9%	12.7%	0.78	Good
Hummersknott Academy	19.0%	26.1%	0.73	Requires Improvement
Polam Hall School	17.1%	24.6%	0.70	Requires Improvement
Hurworth Primary School	5.0%	7.8%	0.64	Good
St Teresa's RC Primary School	20.8%	32.6%	0.63	Good
Carmel College	15.8%	25.6%	0.62	Outstanding
St Bede's RC Primary School	13.6%	24.3%	0.56	Good
Mowden Infants School	6.1%	14.8%	0.41	Good
Heighington CoE Primary School	3.7%	10.5%	0.35	Good
St Augustine's RC Primary School	9.7%	28.0%	0.35	Outstanding
Abbey Junior School	7.5%	25.2%	0.30	Good
Abbey Infants School	4.3%	25.3%	0.17	Outstanding

[17] https://www.schooldash.com/blog-1608.html#20160802

Comparing the proportion of schools in each grouping by their most recent Ofsted rating shows that, whilst the majority of schools in both groups are rated 'Good', those schools taking less poorer pupils than might be expected are nearly five times as likely to be rated outstanding than those taking more (29% compared to 6%) and less than half as likely to be rated 'Requires Improvement' (14% compared to 29%).

Ofsted Rating of Darlington Schools by Relative Proportion of Poorer Pupils
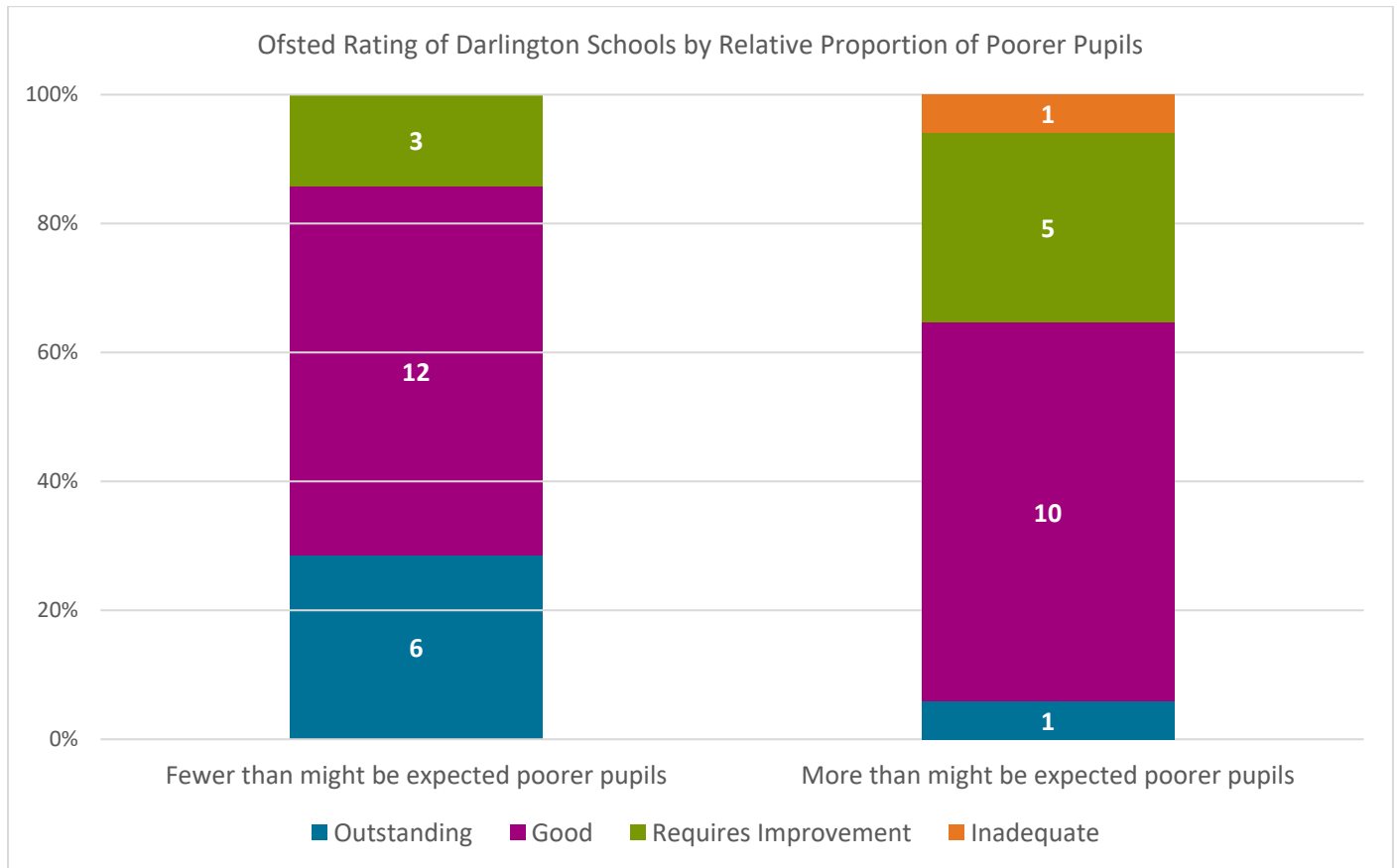
Post-16 attainment

Key Stage 5

Provisional data shows the Average Point Score (APS) per A Level entry for each pupil's best three A Levels increased in 2020, in line with elsewhere, after falling in 2018 and 2019 but Darlington continues to perform lower than comparator groups.


Average point score per entry - best 3 A Levels
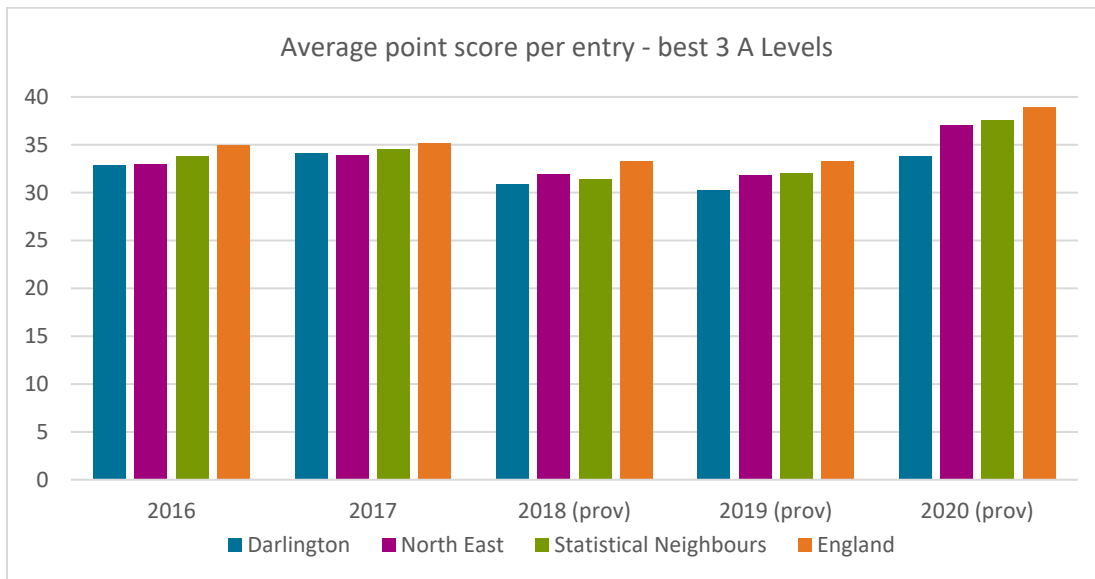
Grade	UCAS Points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

2018/19	APS per A Level Entry	APS in best 3 A Level Entries	% A level students achieving at least three A levels at grades AAB or better, at least two of which are in facilitating subjects*
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College	35.54	30.53	11.8%
Carmel College	36.96	36.04	17.0%
Polam Hall School	24.00	24.60	0.0%

A level facilitating subjects are: biology, chemistry, physics, Maths, further Maths, geography, history, English literature, modern and classical languages

The proportion of Darlington students attaining a Level 3 qualification by 19 fell in 2020 to 53.1%, from 55.2% in 2019, widening the gap with the England average (54.4%), although Darlington remains in line with statistical neighbours and above the regional average of 50.9%.

% achieving a Level 3 qualification by age 19

Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 by age 19
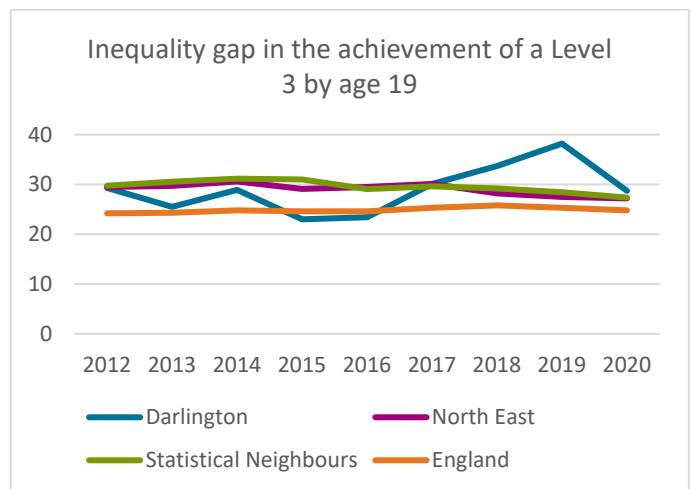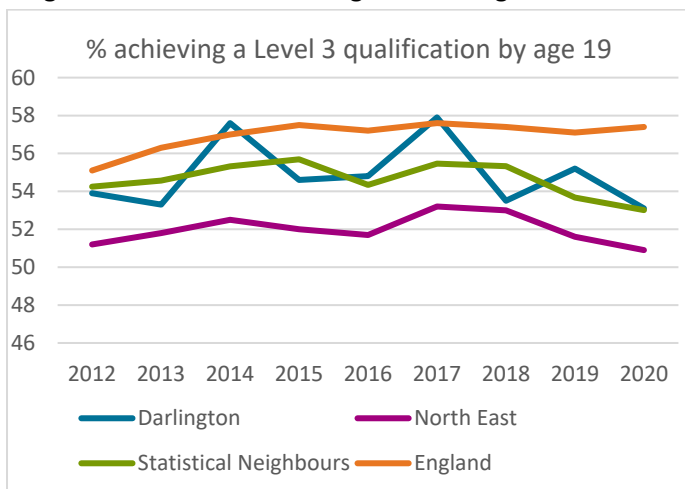
Again, however, positive outcomes appear to have been disproportionately enjoyed by more affluent students as the inequality gap – after generally falling between 2012 and 2016 – has been increasing markedly since 2017 and, despite a drop in 2020, remains above comparator groups.

Pupil Destinations

The vast majority (93%) of local KS4 pupils went on to sustained destinations (defined as going to or remaining in education or employment/training a year after they have finished compulsory schooling) in 2019, with the proportion ranging from 88% to 96% for different schools for which this data is available. Pupils attending schools with the highest proportions of disadvantaged pupils, however, are less likely to go on to a sustained destination. If they do remain in education, they are also significantly more likely to study at a further education college that graduates from other schools (58% compared to 24%).

| School	% pupils eligible for FSM during past 6 years	Pupils staying in education or employment for at least 2 terms after KS4	Apprenticeships	Employment	Education	Further education college	School sixth form college	Sixth form college
St Aidan's CoE Academy	51.40%	88%	2%	1%	85%	66%	5%	14%
Haughton Academy	48.70%	88%	4%	6%	79%	49%	6%	24%
Hurworth School	21.80%	95%	6%	3%	86%	25%	7%	54%
Hummersknott Academy	19.00%	96%	3%	2%	91%	26%	9%	54%
Polam Hall School	17.10%	89%	2%	2%	85%	26%	42%	17%
Carmel College	15.80%	95%	3%	3%	89%	18%	54%	16%

For KS5 destinations, outcomes relating to pupil destinations by institution are outlined in the below table. Overall, the majority of students went on to sustained destinations, with the majority going on to continue their education.

Darlington College had the lowest proportion of students going on to sustained destinations (76%) and going on to continue their education (29%).

Students from Darlington College, however, were the most likely to go into employment (27%).

Carmel College scored the highest for proportion of students continuing to higher education and the top third of higher education institutions.

| School / college	Students staying in education or employment for at least two terms after 16 to 18 study	Apprenticeships	Students staying in education	Higher education	Top third of higher education institutions	Students entering employment
Carmel College	94%	6%	75%	78%	34%	13%
Darlington College	76%	20%	29%	38%	1%	27%
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College	92%	11%	61%	74%	24%	20%
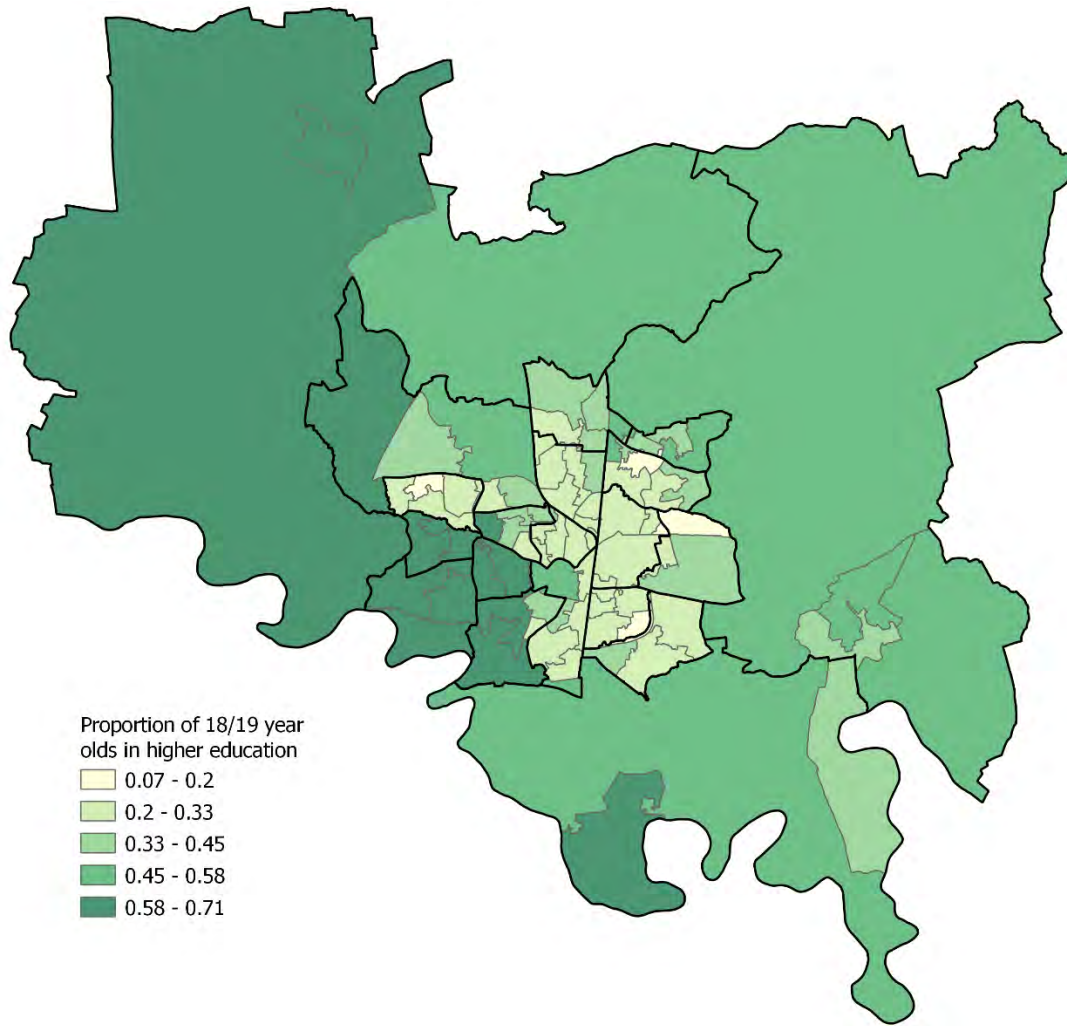
The maps show the young participation rate, defined as the proportion of state-funded mainstream students who completed their GCSEs (Key Stage 4) between 2012 and 2016 who entered higher education by the age of 19.

There is significant variation in young participation across the borough, with the proportion of young people in higher education by age 18-19 ranging from an average of two thirds or more in the west end, compared to just 7% in Branksome and 15% in Red Hall.
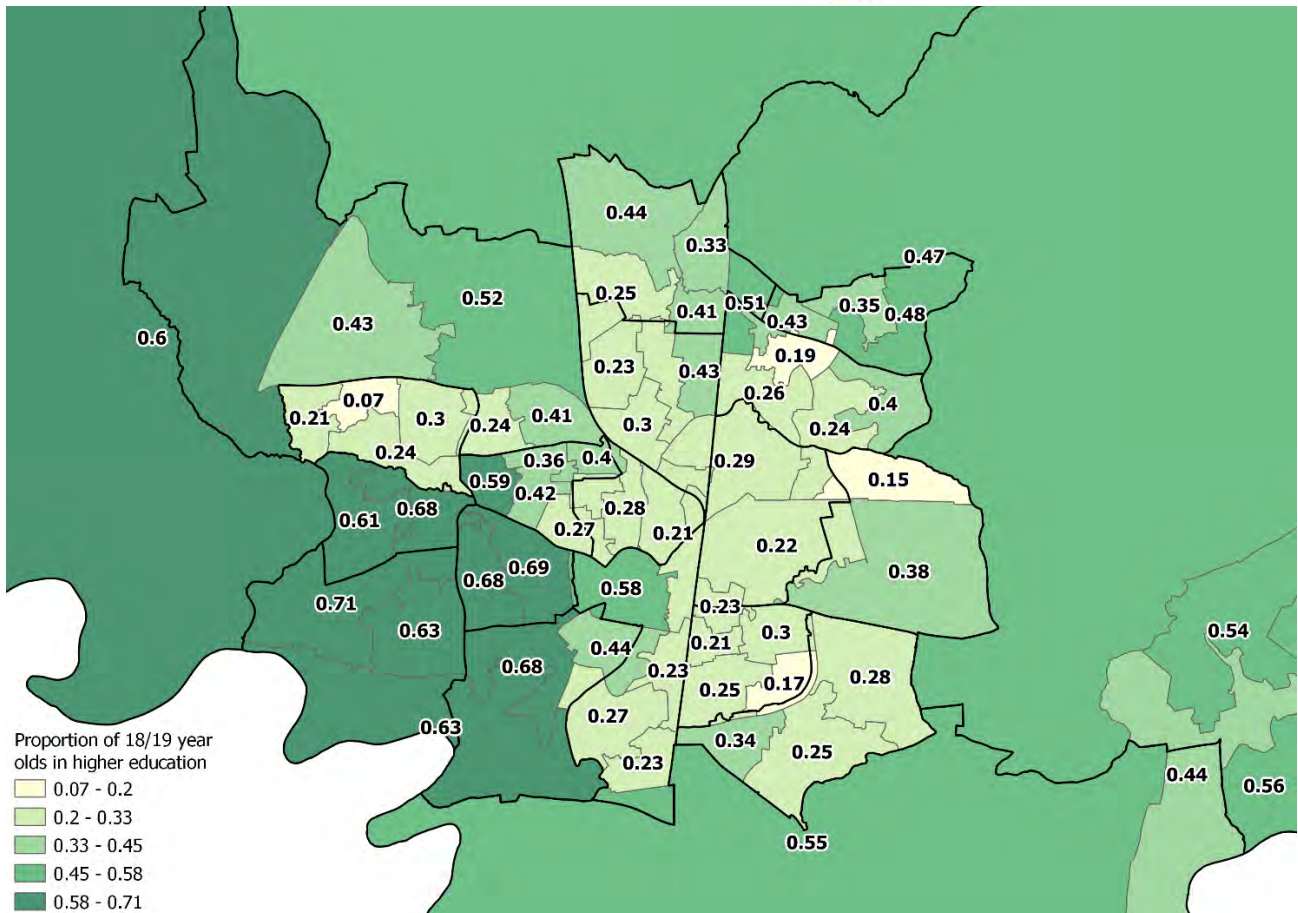
Proportion of 18/19 year olds in higher education
- 0.07 - 0.2
- 0.2 - 0.33
- 0.33 - 0.45
- 0.45 - 0.58
- 0.58 - 0.71

Proportion of 18/19 year olds in higher education
- 0.07 - 0.2
- 0.2 - 0.33
- 0.33 - 0.45
- 0.45 - 0.58
- 0.58 - 0.71

Youth Participation Quintiles by LSOA
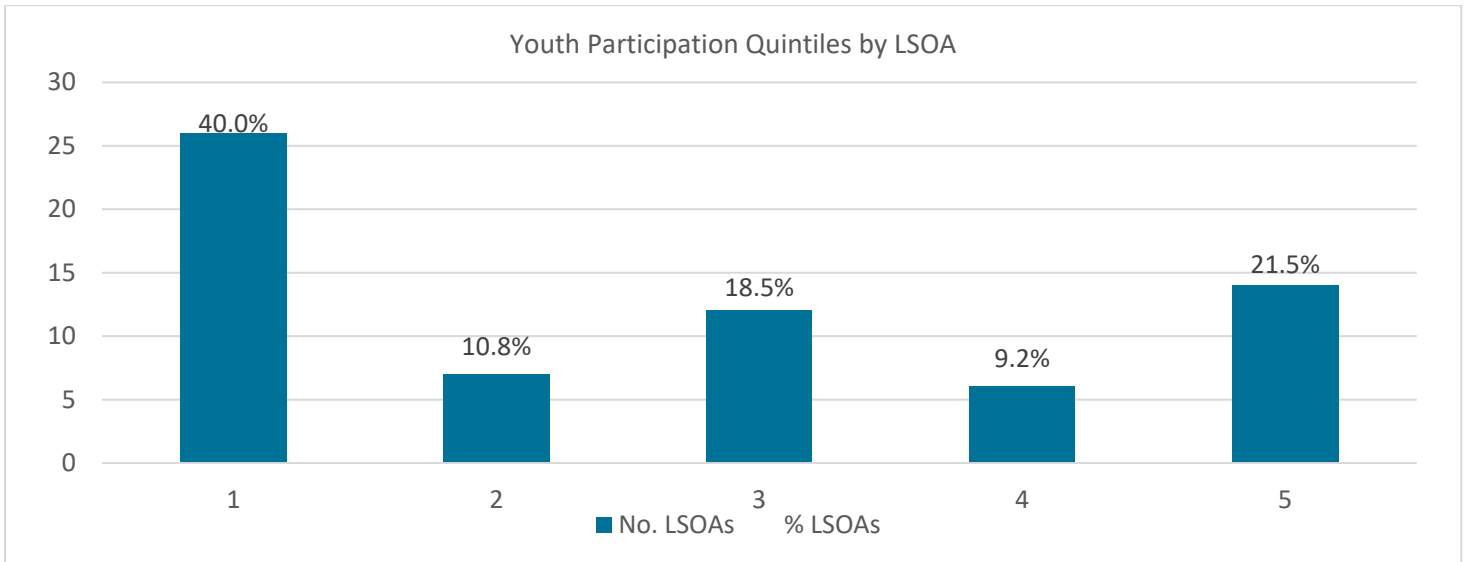
40% of Darlington LSOAs fall into Quintile 1, the lowest 20% of England areas for youth participation, with the number of LSOAs in Quintiles 2 to 4 below the national average. 21.5% of Darlington areas, however, fall into the top quintile for this metric, suggesting again that the local picture is more polarised than elsewhere.
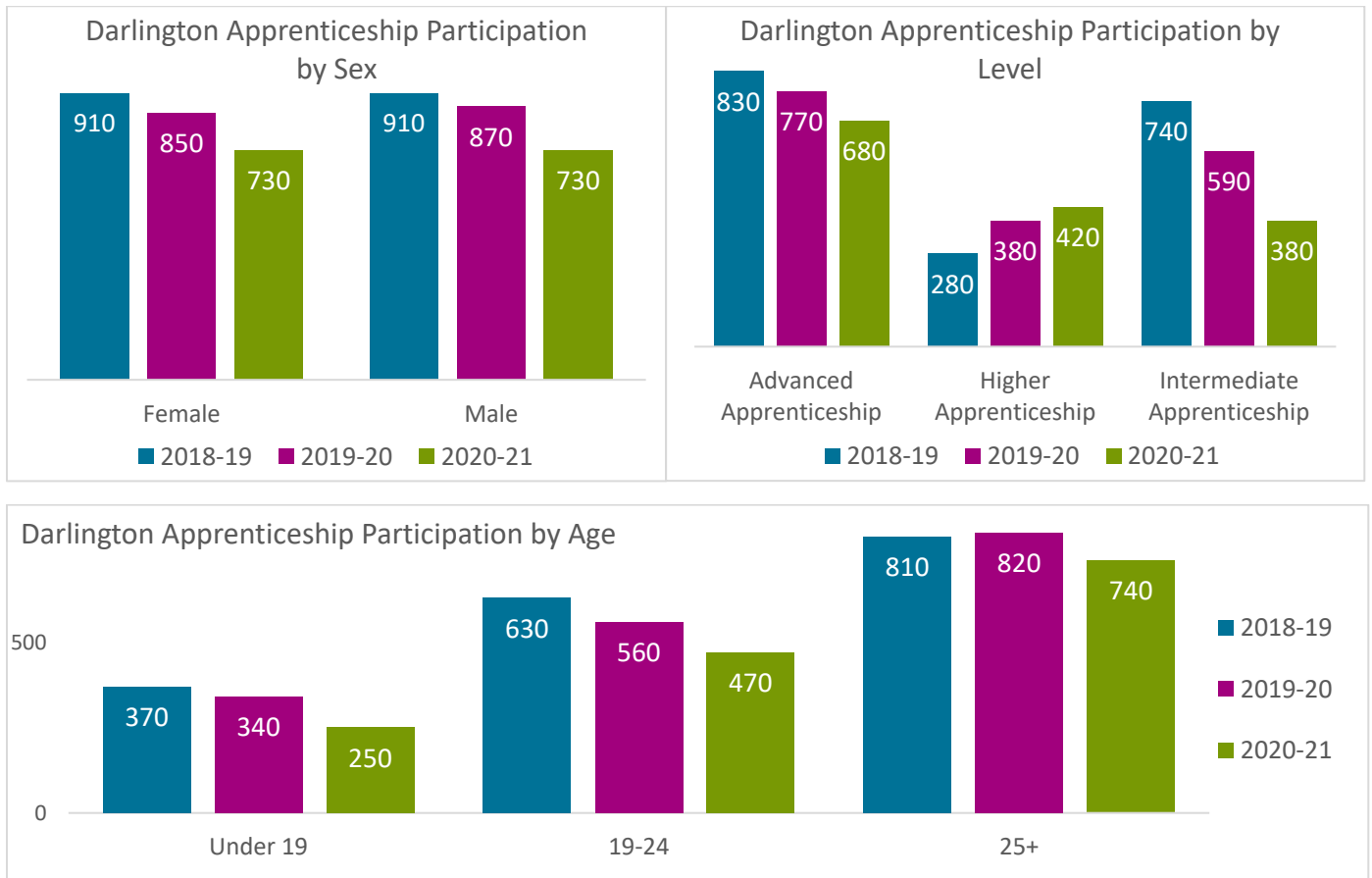
Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship starts and participation have been falling locally and nationally over the past couple of years, a trend that has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Overall Darlington apprenticeship starts fell by 25% in 2020/21, above the England average of 22%, and the below graphs show that there were particular falls for males (31% compared to an England average of 28%), intermediate apprenticeships (48% compared to an England average of 35%), and Under 19s (35% compared to an England average of 30%).
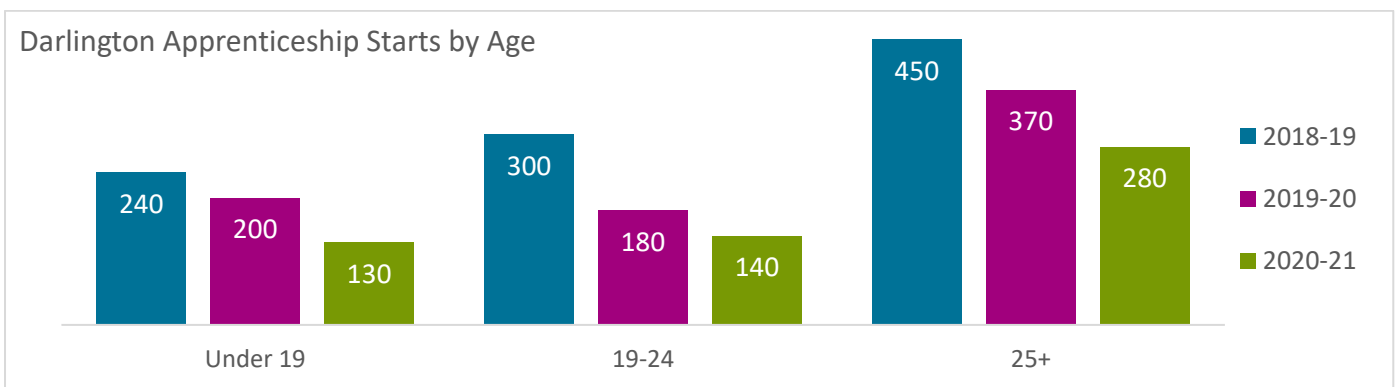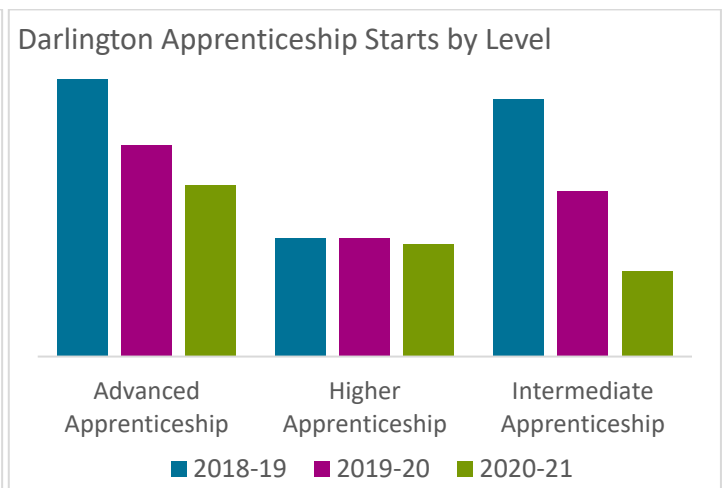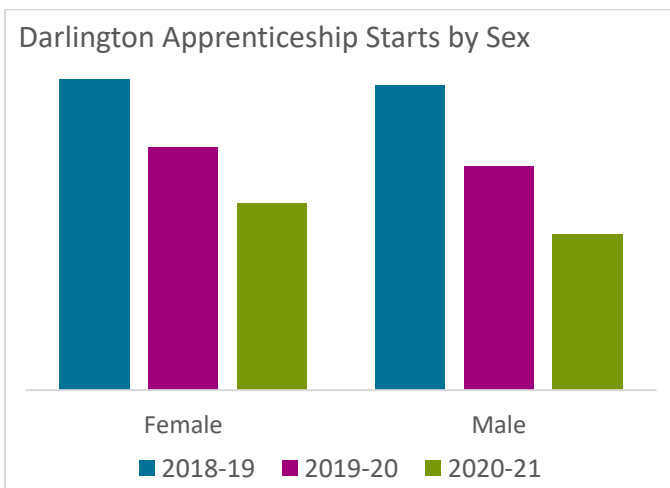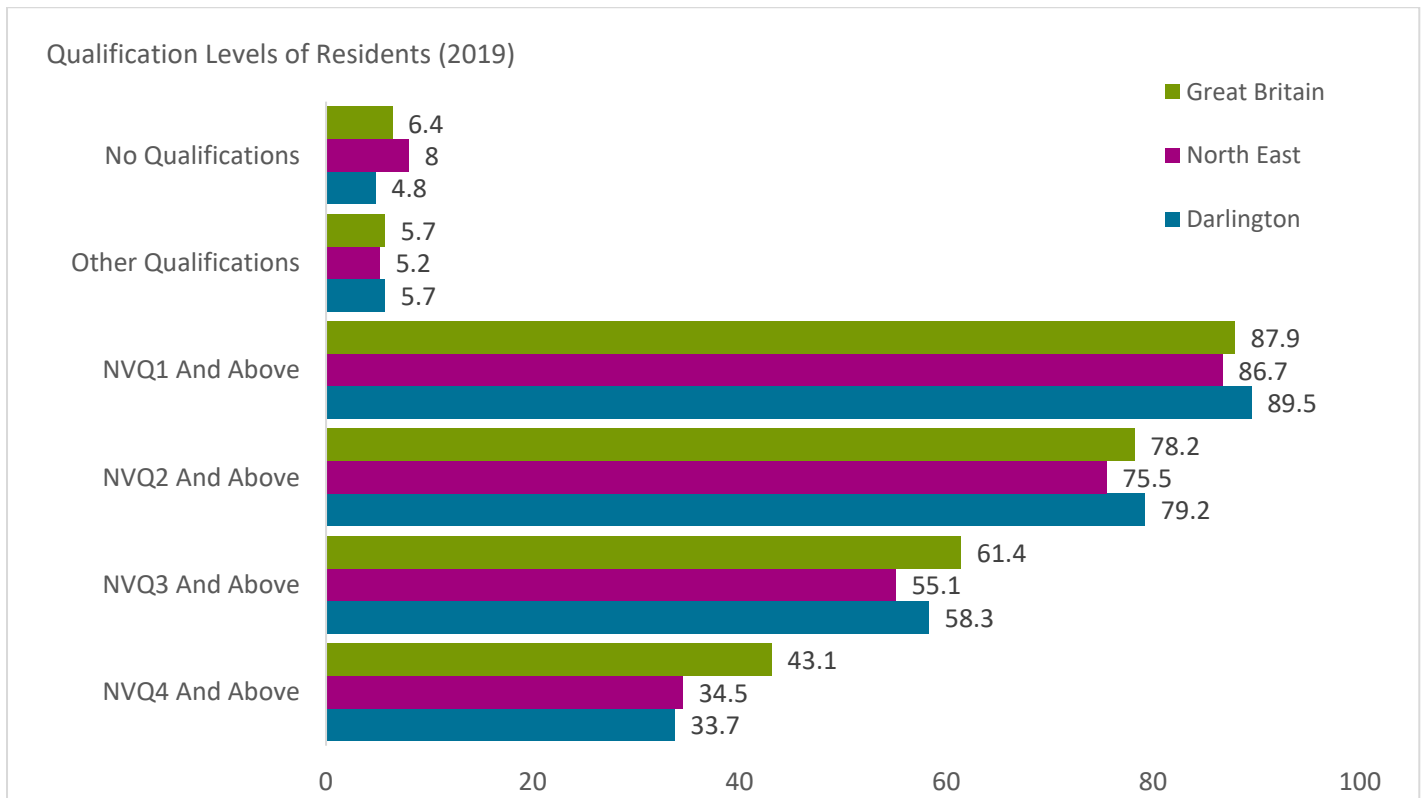
Overall Darlington participation in apprenticeships also fell 14% in total in 2020/21, again above the England average of 9%, and the below graphs show that – again – there were particular falls for males (16% compared to an England average of 10%), intermediate apprenticeships (36% compared to an England average of 25%), and Under 19s (26% compared to an England average of 22%).

Darlington Apprenticeship Participation by Sex

	Female	Male
2018-19	910	910
2019-20	850	870
2020-21	730	730

Darlington Apprenticeship Participation by Level

	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship	Intermediate Apprenticeship
2018-19	830	280	740
2019-20	770	380	590
2020-21	680	420	380

Darlington Apprenticeship Participation by Age

	Under 19	19-24	25+
2018-19	370	630	810
2019-20	340	560	820
2020-21	250	470	740

Analysis by the YMCA found a drop from 84% sustained employment upon completion of an apprenticeship to 55% over the course of the pandemic.
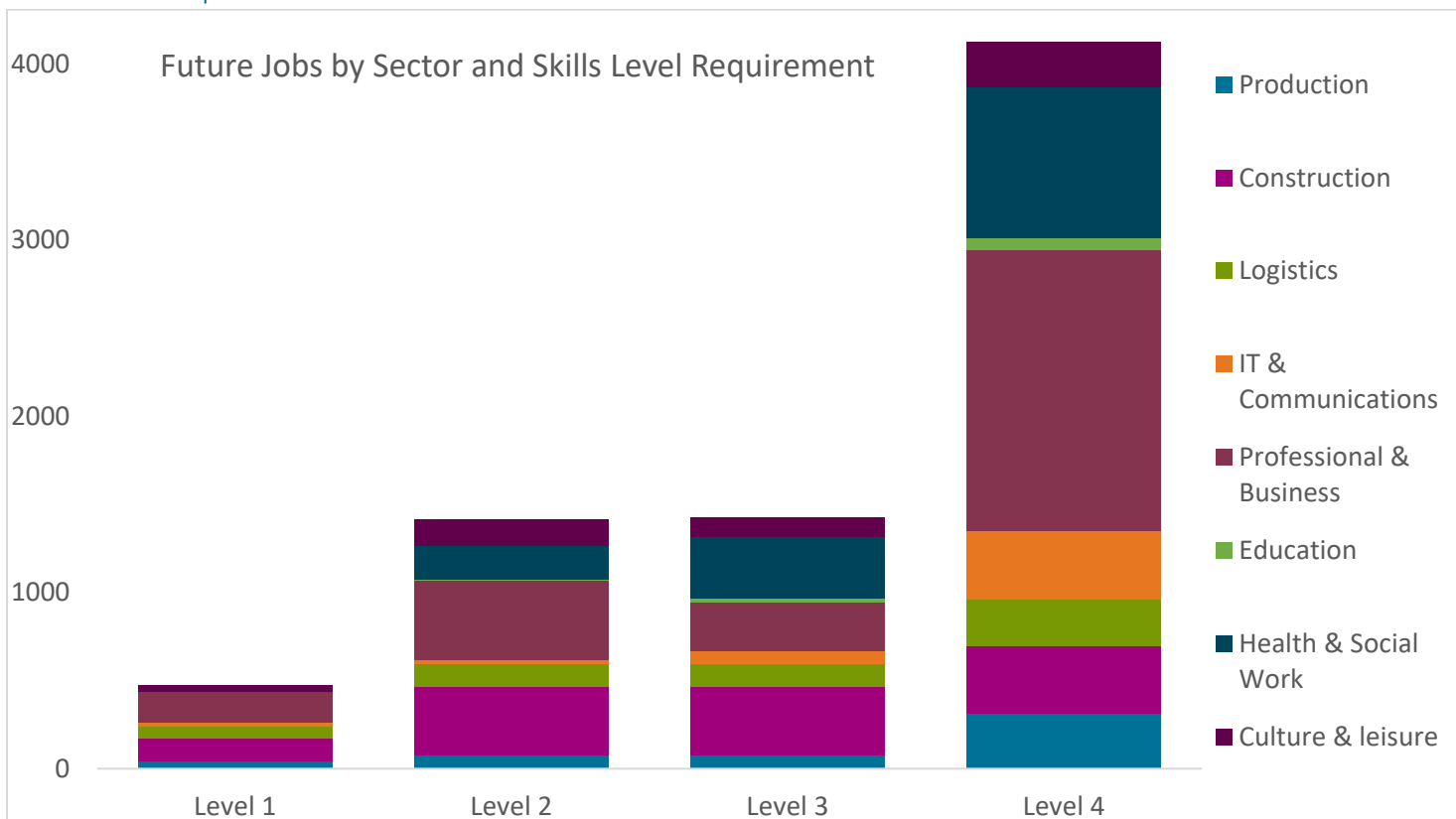
Qualifications

Darlington residents are less likely to have no qualifications than their regional and national counterparts, and more likely to have an NVQ Level 2 or above.

Qualification Levels of Residents (2019)

Legend:
- Great Britain
- North East
- Darlington

Category	Great Britain	North East	Darlington
No Qualifications	6.4	8	4.8
Other Qualifications	5.7	5.2	5.7
NVQ1 And Above	87.9	86.7	89.5
NVQ2 And Above	78.2	75.5	79.2
NVQ3 And Above	61.4	55.1	58.3
NVQ4 And Above	43.1	34.5	33.7

However, Darlington residents are also less likely than elsewhere to have an NVQ Level 4 or above qualification.

Future skills requirements

Future Jobs by Sector and Skills Level Requirement

Legend:
- Production
- Construction
- Logistics
- IT & Communications
- Professional & Business
- Education
- Health & Social Work
- Culture & leisure

The local ambition for future employment is to create an additional 7,034 full-time equivalent jobs by 2036 of which:

- 55.4% will require a Level 4 qualification
- 100% will require a minimum Level 1 qualification

According to data from the Employer Skills Survey 2019[18]:

- 4% of all Darlington employers and 21% of employers with at least one vacancy had a 'skill-shortage vacancy' (SSV), defined as vacancies which are reported to be hard to-fill because applicants lack relevant skills, qualifications or experience (England averages = 6% and 32%)
- 16% of Darlington employers has a 'skills gap' in their existing workforce (Eng = 13%)
- 50% of Darlington employers with a skills gap felt it impacted on their establishment's performance (Eng = 66%)
- 45% of Darlington establishments had staff with qualifications more advanced than required for their current role (Eng = 42%)
- 68% of Darlington's hard-to-fill vacancies were for skilled trade roles (Eng = 16%)
- 68% of all hard-to-fill vacancies in Darlington were due to 'Not enough people interested in doing this type of job' (Eng = 20%)
- Of those Darlington establishments who anticipated a need for new skills in the next 12 months, 49% were for 'Managers, Directors and senior officials' (Eng =44%), followed by 10% for 'Professional occupations" (Eng = 8%)

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[18] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-skills-survey-2019-england-results

The Impact of Covid-19 on Education and Skills

Children and young people's education has been significantly disrupted as a result of Covid-19 and the infection prevention and control measures that have been in place in schools, colleges and early years settings.

Analysis of learning loss conducted prior to the pandemic showed every day of education lost likely leads to reduced attainment, and Ofsted has found, despite remote education being offered, learning is still being lost when students self-isolate, particularly when this happens repeatedly.

58% of sessions nationally, and 60% in Darlington, in the spring term 2021 were recorded as not attending due to circumstance related to coronavirus. This represents 219 million school days nationally and nearly half a million in Darlington. National attendance data for the summer term 2021 shows that as Covid-19 prevalence increased, absence due to Covid-19 increased rapidly: at 8.5% in state-funded schools on 1 July compared to 1.2% on 10 June.

Analysis of learning loss during the 2020/21 academic year found that by spring 2021, primary pupils were on average behind pupils in 2019/20 by around 2 to 3.5 months[19], suggesting pupils made less progress during periods when they were learning from home than when they were in the classroom, despite the provision of remote education. More recent research in July 2021 found teachers estimated pupils were three months behind, on average[20].

Disadvantaged pupils (defined as those eligible for free school meals) have been worse affected than their peers by time out of the classroom – falling 0.5 to 1 month further behind than other pupils, and pupils with English as an additional language appear to have been worse affected in terms of reading.

In addition to learning loss, missing face-to-face education is associated with considerable harm to the health and wellbeing of children and young people. A recent systematic review prepared for SAGE found that the evidence for impacts of school closures on mental health and wellbeing was substantial and consistent, with considerable impacts across the range of emotional, behavioural and restlessness/inattention problems, and overall psychological wellbeing. These harms occurred at a time when children and young people were much less visible to protective systems, and access to health and social care was reduced.

In terms of higher and further education, youth participation in full-time education has risen to its highest rate on record (48%, compared with 43% before the crisis began)[21] however the number of people starting apprenticeships has severely fallen. On average, only 40% of apprenticeships continued as normal during the pandemic with the rest facing learning disruptions or being furloughed or made redundant[22] and, as shown in the body of this report, the fall in the number of starts and participation was greater in Darlington than the national average.

Analysis suggests that provision of apprenticeships is likely to be in short supply for as long as the economic outlook looks negative and uncertain[23] and, as apprenticeships are an important source of training for those unlikely to go to university, decreased opportunities are expected to give rise to greater economic inequality between those from low and high socioeconomic backgrounds[24].

Job loss more generally has an impact on training because work is an important source of learning in itself and skills can depreciate if people have long periods of inactivity. In this regard, people with lower socioeconomic statuses are likely to be worse hit.[25]

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[19] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994364/Understanding_Progress_in_the_2020_21_Academic_Year_Initial_Report_3_.pdf
[20] https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/news/pupils-three-months-behind-on-learning-as-new-term-starts
[21] https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/resource/better-future-transforming-jobs-and-skills-young-people-post-pandemic
[22] https://www.suttontrust.com/our-research/covid-19-impacts-apprenticeships/
[23] https://cver.lse.ac.uk/textonly/cver/pubs/cverbrf012.pdf
[24] https://ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/BN-Inequalities-in-education-skills-and-incomes-in-the-UK-the-implications-of-the-COVID-19-pandemic.pdf
[25] https://ifs.org.uk/publications/14967

Income and Debt

Just focussing on borough-level economic metrics, as in the previous section, is not sufficient to understand how household-level economies vary and change over time in Darlington. Moreover, the relevant stakeholders and services who focus on issues related to household-lovel economic issues, such as low income and debt, typically differ from those focussing on the local economy at a more macro level. There are, of course, clear linkages between the economic picture at macro and micro level, and it is vital for partners to understand whether, and how, higher level economic trends and interventions are having the desired impact for residents and improving their quality of life. This section therefore focuses on measures relating to residents' and households' personal finances, to ensure the council and wider stakeholders do have the required understanding of how the economy is being experienced by our population to effectively target support.

Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2019

More than 18,000 (17%) of Darlington's residents live in neighbourhoods in the 10% most deprived in England
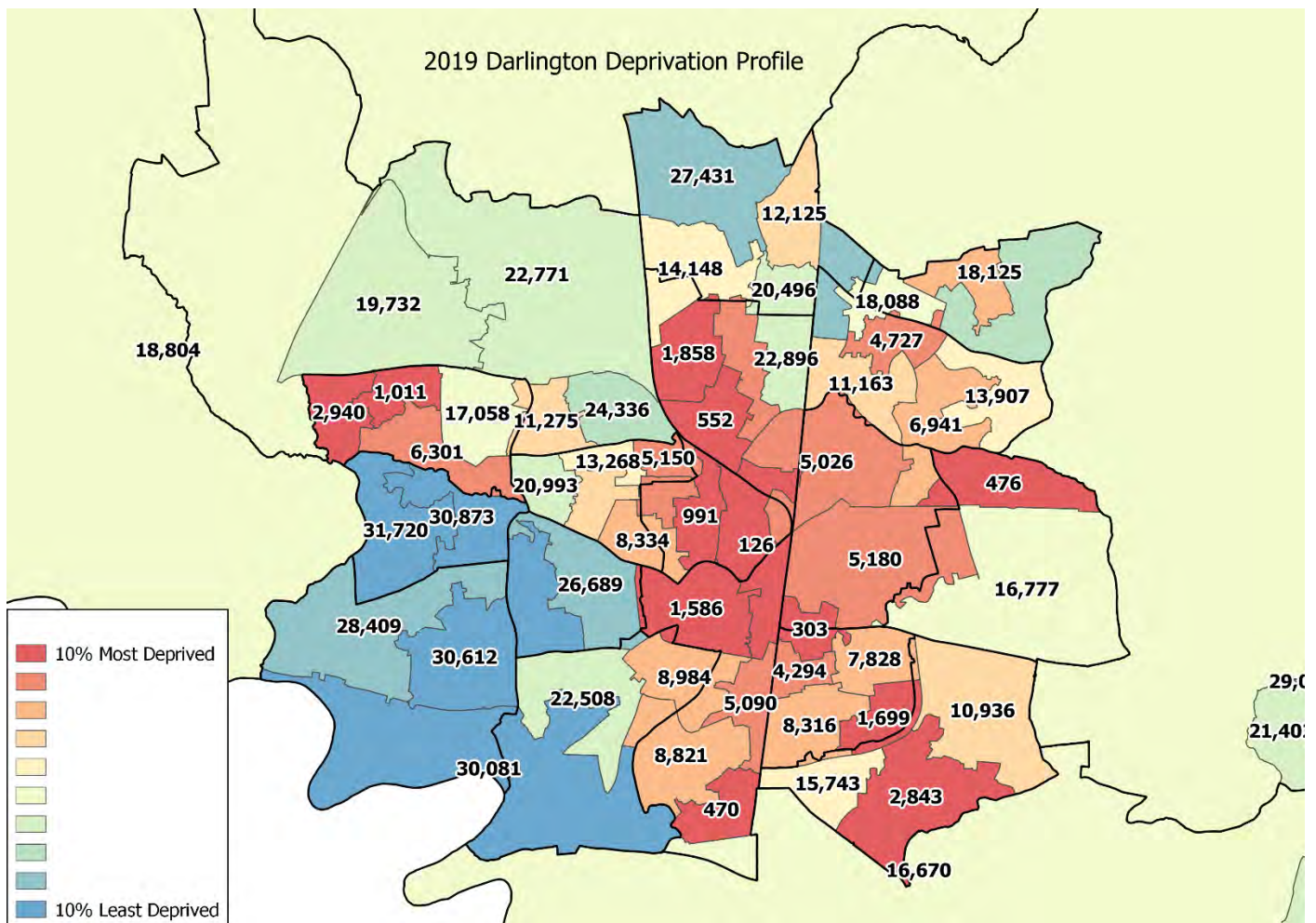
Numbers = ranking out of 32,866 areas in England

The most deprived area in Darlington stretches from Bank Top to North Road and is in the top 0.25% most deprived of areas nationwide.

Profiling areas in the topmost deprived 10% nationally shows households in these areas are more likely than average to:
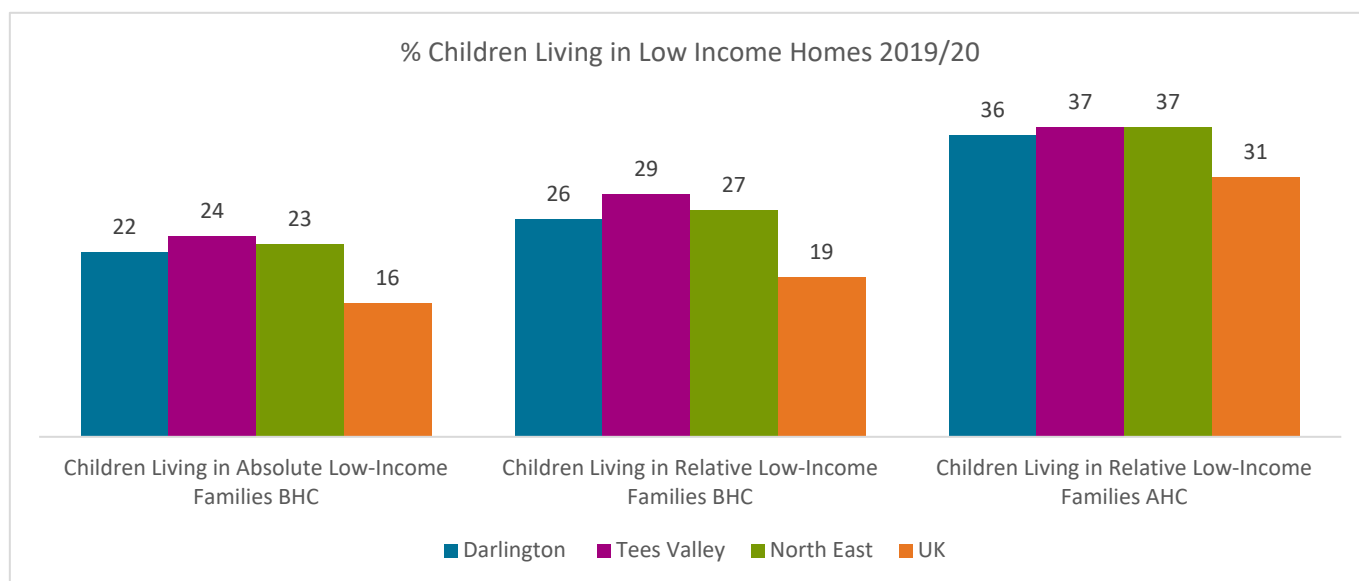
- o Be defined as 'Urban Adversity'
- o Be younger
- o Contain children

66

- o Be in receipt of means-tested benefits and/or in low-skilled employment

Child poverty

The table below shows the number and proportion of children in Darlington living in low-income families, compared to sub-regional, regional, and national comparators[26]. For all measures Darlington has higher rates than the Great Britain average, but is below the equivalent average figures for the Tees Valley and North East.

2019/20	Children Living in Absolute Low-Income Families BHC		Children Living in Relative Low-Income Families BHC		Children Living in Relative Low-Income Families AHC	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darlington	**4,343**	**22**	**5,209**	**26**	**7,288**	**36**
Tees Valley	n/a	24	n/a	29	n/a	37
North East		23		27		37
UK		16		19		31

% Children Living in Low Income Homes 2019/20

Small area data

Levels of child poverty vary considerably across the borough. The graph below shows the percentage of all children under the age of 16 living in relative poverty *before housing costs*[27] (BHC) at ward level in 2019/20:

- The proportion of children living in relative poverty BHC varied between 7% in Hummersknott to 47% in Northgate ward (almost seven times higher)
- More than half of Darlington's wards had a higher rate of relative child poverty BHC than the UK average of 19%
- In nearly half of wards (9), more than 25% of children were living in relative poverty BHC

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[26] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2020 and http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/local-child-poverty-data-2014-15-2019-20/

[27] Before Housing Costs (BHC) measures do not take account of the effect on disposable income of some households having to pay a lot more in rent or mortgage payments than others. They are therefore lower than 'After Housing Cost' (AHC) measures of child poverty which do take regional variations in essential living costs into account.

% Under 16s in relative poverty BHC 2019/20

Ward	%
Northgate	47%
Park East	37%
Eastbourne	37%
Bank Top & Lascelles	35%
Stephenson	33%
North Road	32%
Red Hall & Lingfield	32%
Cockerton	28%
Haughton & Springfield	26%
Pierremont	25%
Whinfield	22%
Harrowgate Hill	22%
Brinkburn & Faverdale	19%
Sadberge & Middleton St George	17%
Heighington & Coniscliffe	15%
Hurworth	10%
Mowden	9%
College	9%
Park West	7%
Hummersknott	7%

- Inequalities in relative poverty BHC can also be seen at LSOA (neighbourhood) level, ranging between 5% in one area of Park West to 70% in one LSOA that overlaps Bank Top and Lascelles and Stephenson wards, as shown in the map below.
- The highest concentrations of children living in relative poverty BHC are mainly in urban wards near the town centre.
- The areas shaded pale yellow are below the national average. Those in darkest shading have concentrations of child poverty between 3 to 4 times the UK average.

Percentage of children under 16 in relative poverty BHC 2019/20

% children in relative poverty BHC
- 5.4 - 18.3
- 18.3 - 31.2
- 31.2 - 44.2
- 44.2 - 57.1
- 57.1 - 70
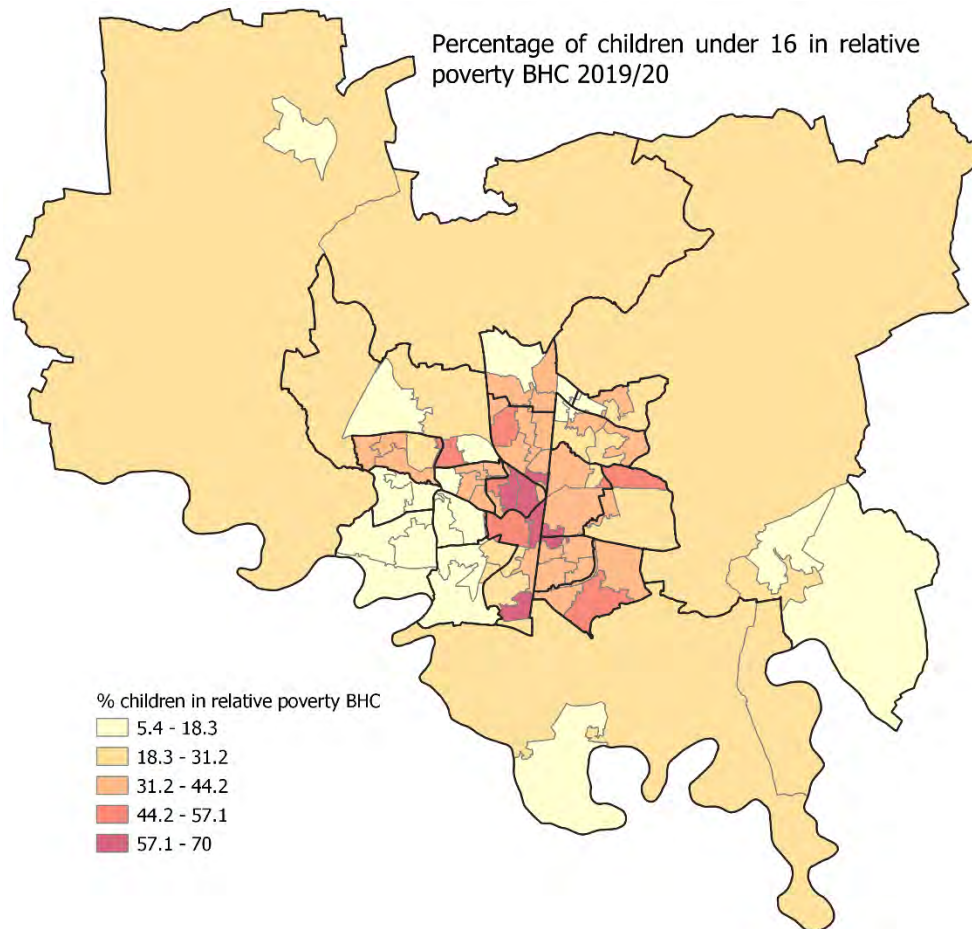
Free school meals

The number of children eligible for free school meals is often used as a proxy measure for child poverty. However, it does exclude some children in low-income working households.

To be eligible for free school meals a family must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Universal Credit (only if income is less than £7,400 a year after tax excluding benefits)

In Spring 2021, 25.0% of school pupils in Darlington qualified for free school meals compared with 20.8% nationally[28]. The percentage of children eligible for free school meals has increased by over a half since 2017/18, with a particular increase between 2019/20 and 2020/21, from 21.3% to 25% due to the economic impacts of the pandemic.

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[28] https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics

% school pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
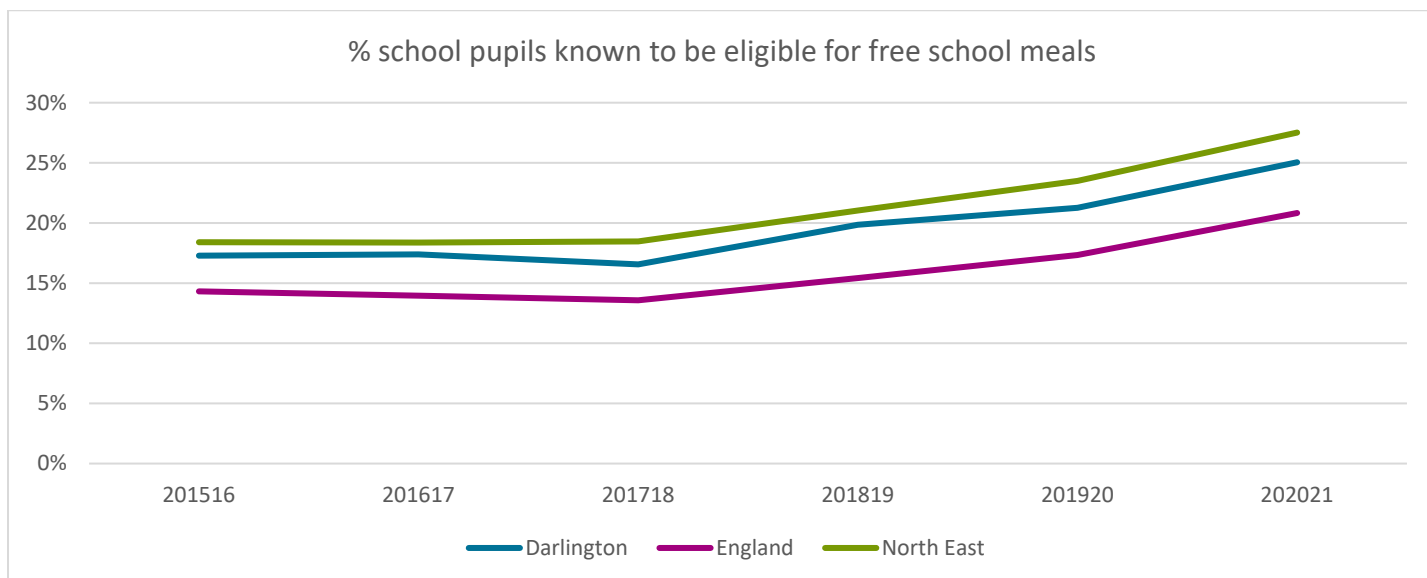
Small Area data

FSM-eligibility varies considerably across Darlington. As of October 2020:

- o For primary schools, 57% of Skerne Park Academy pupils were eligible for free school meals compared to just 4% of Hurworth Primary School pupils
- o For secondary schools, 39% of Wyvern Academy students were eligible compared to just 11% of Carmel College students

Old-age poverty
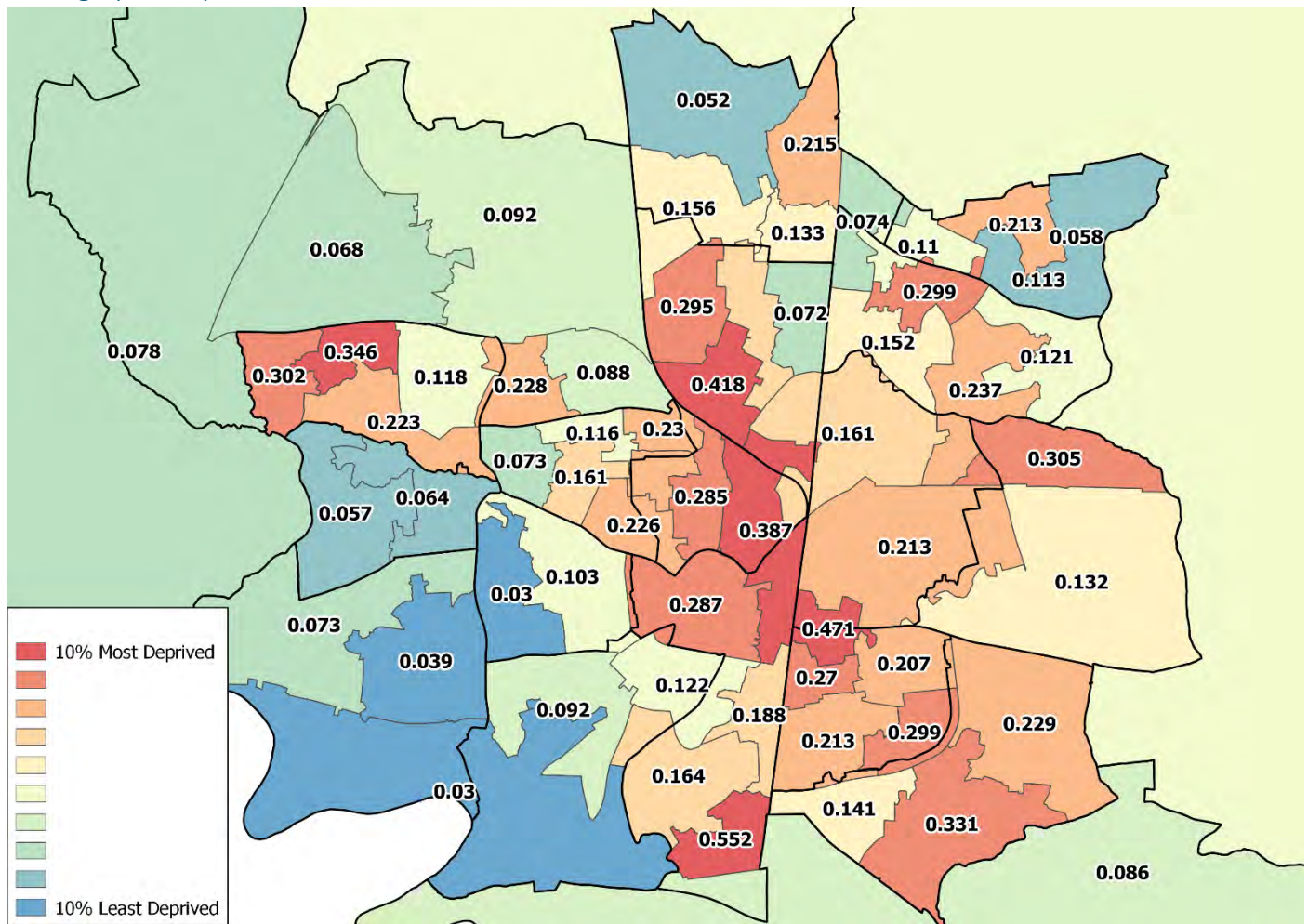
numbers show the proportion of older people in each area estimated to be income deprived

Older people have been relatively more protected from the impacts of austerity and welfare reforms relating to income, due to the ongoing application of the triple lock and a focus on working age benefits for the more significant cuts. However, there do remain pockets of Darlington where significant proportions of older people live in income deprivation, including Skerne Park (55%), parts of Bank Top and Lascelles and Stephenson wards (47%), and North Road (42%).

Debt

Insolvencies[29]

Local data on insolvencies over the past decade shows that Darlington has consistently had a higher-than-average rate of insolvencies, bankruptcies and individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) between 2015 and 2020. While rates for debt relief orders (DROs) remained below the regional average in 2020, they did increase from the previous year, unlike elsewhere where rates fell, meaning the gap has significantly reduced. The total number of individual insolvencies in 2020 was 290, a fall from 331 the previous year.

Nationally, the number of bankruptcies and DROs have remained low since the start of the first UK lockdown in March 2020, when compared with pre-pandemic levels. This is likely to be partly driven by temporary government measures put in place in response to the coronavirus pandemic, including enhanced government financial support for companies and individuals and restrictions on debt-collection activities. As these interventions continue to be lifted, the number of insolvencies is likely to begin rising again.
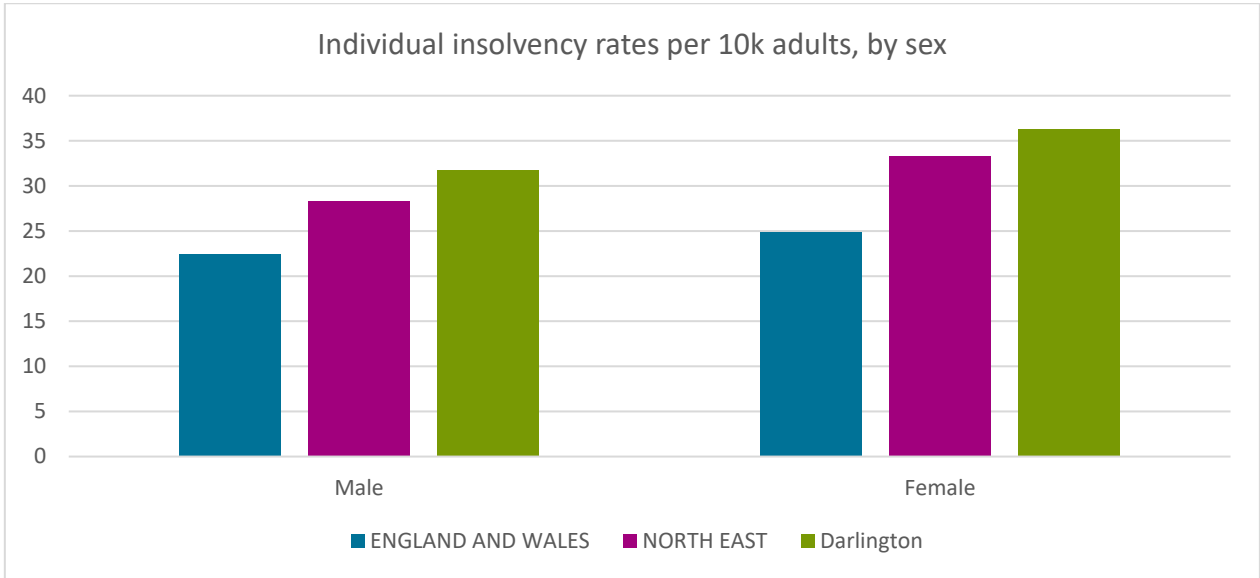
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[29] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/individual-insolvencies-by-location-age-and-gender-england-and-wales-2020

Individual Insolvency Rates per 10k adults

Bankruptcy Rates per 10k adults

Debt relief orders per 10k adults

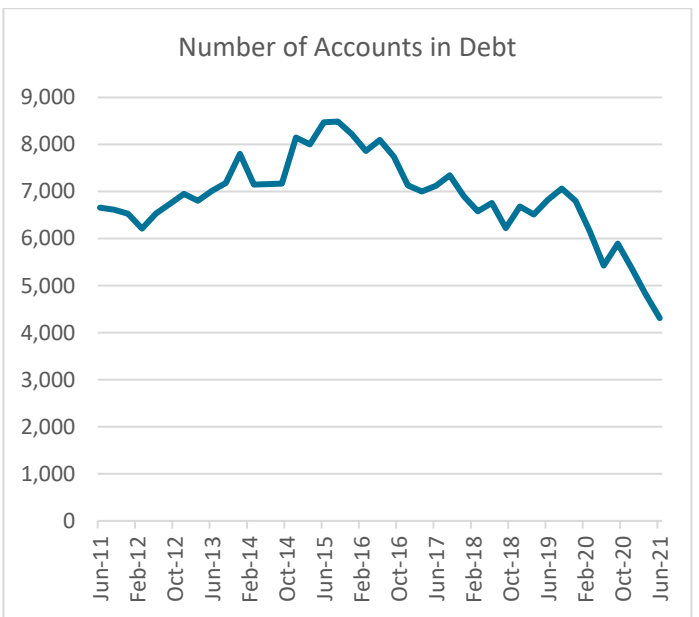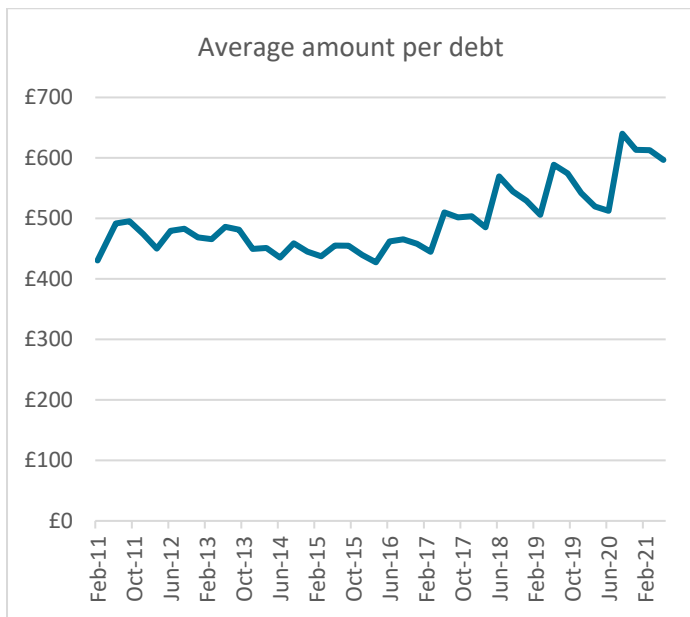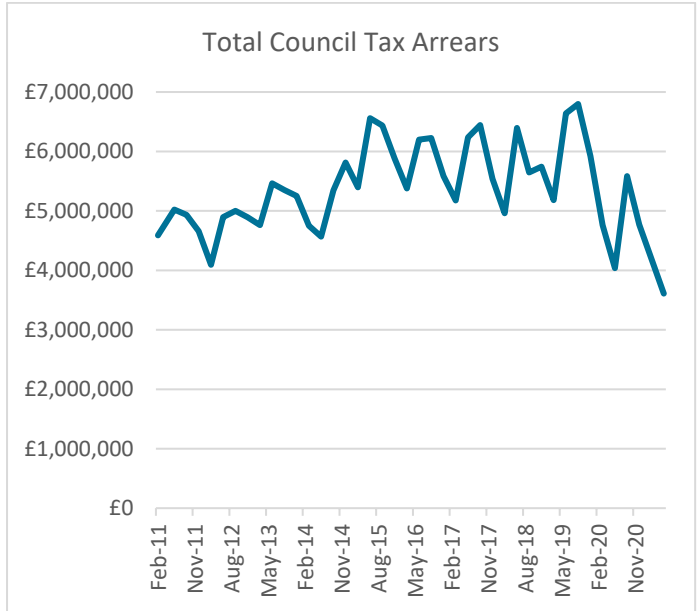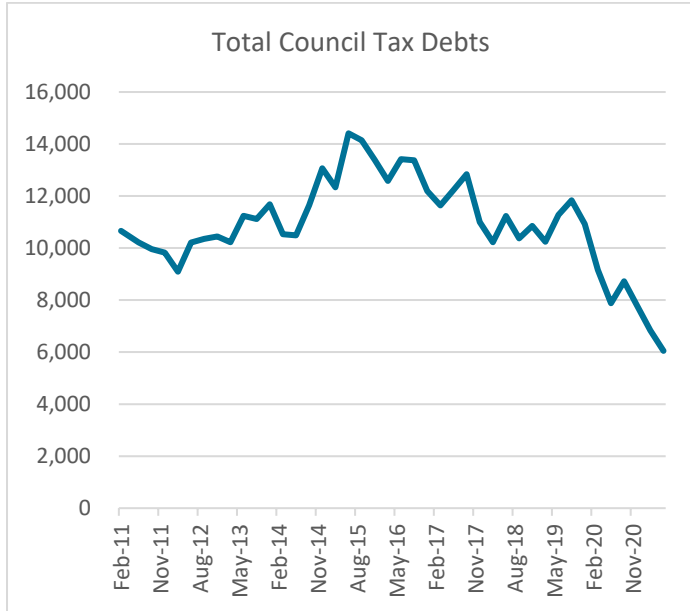## Individual voluntary arrangement rates per 10k adults
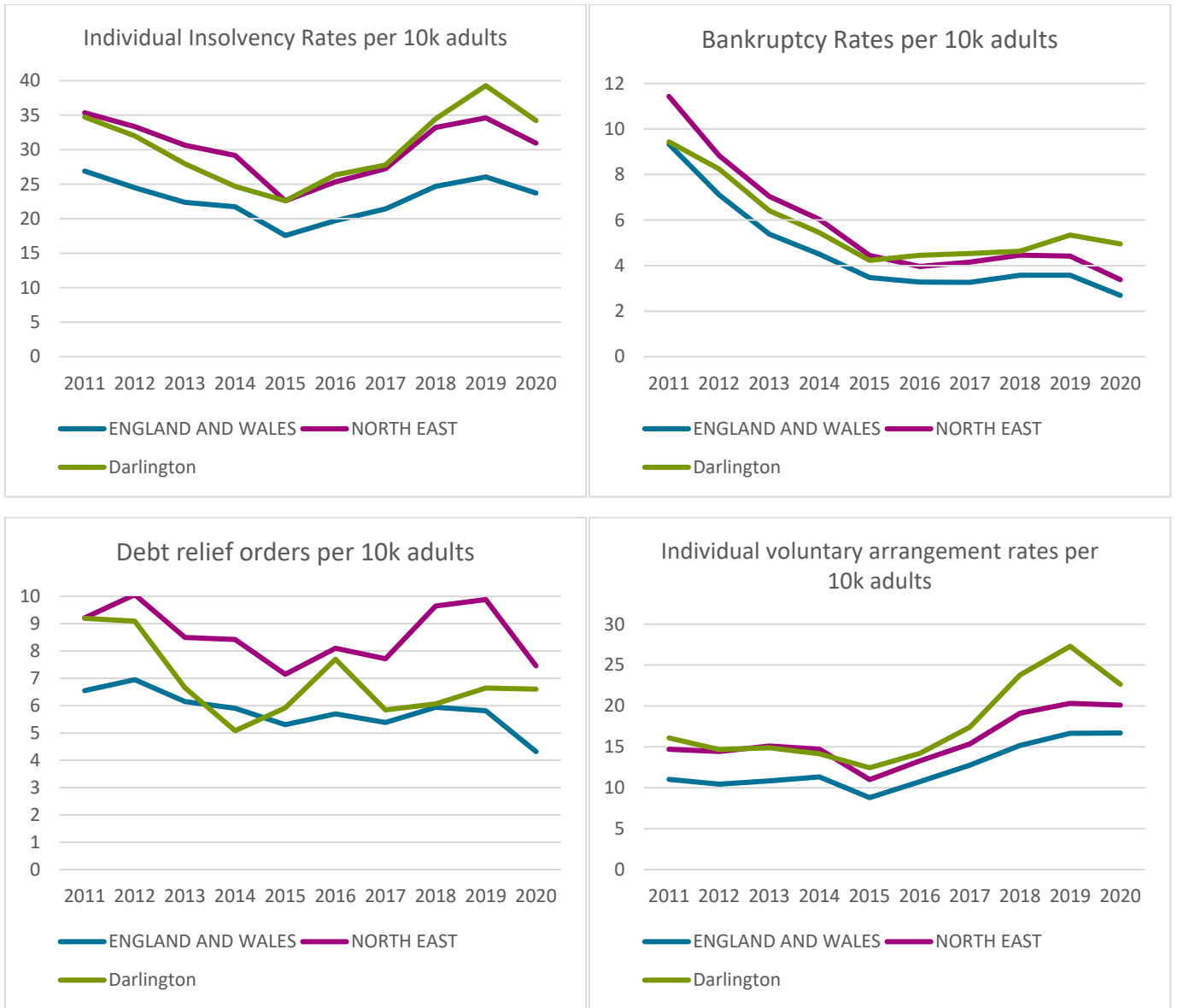
Breaking down individual insolvencies in 2020 by age and sex show that Darlington had higher than average rates of insolvencies for:

- 18–44-year-olds and over 65s
- Males and females

Individual insolvency rates per 10k adults, by age band

Individual insolvency rates per 10k adults, by sex

Legend: ENGLAND AND WALES, NORTH EAST, Darlington

Council Tax

Total Council Tax Debts

Total Council Tax Arrears

Average amount per debt

Number of Accounts in Debt

74
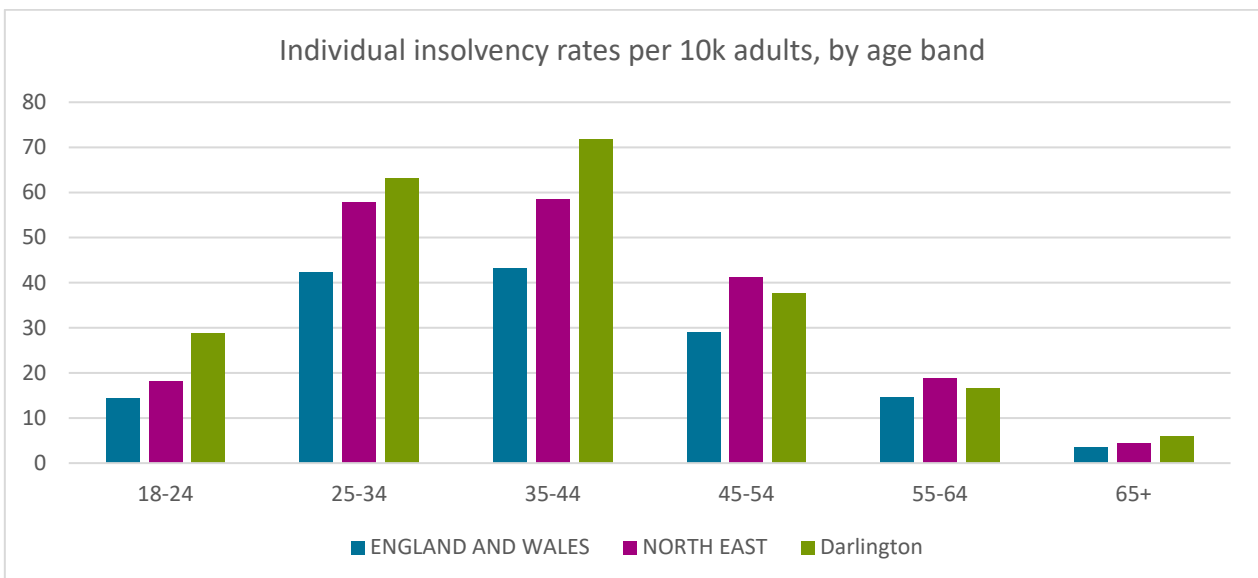
The number of council tax debts, accounts in debt, and total arrears have all fallen since the beginning of the pandemic, partly due to the government funding to support vulnerable families by reducing their council tax liability. The average amount per debt, however, has increased since the start of Covid, from £520 in March 2020 to £597 in June 2021, a rise of 15%, suggesting residents who were not eligible for hardship relief may be finding it harder to meet their financial commitments.

Housing Insecurity

Possession Actions

Possession actions by landlords increased 46% between 2015 and 2019, before falling dramatically in 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

Darlington Landlord Possession Activities by Type
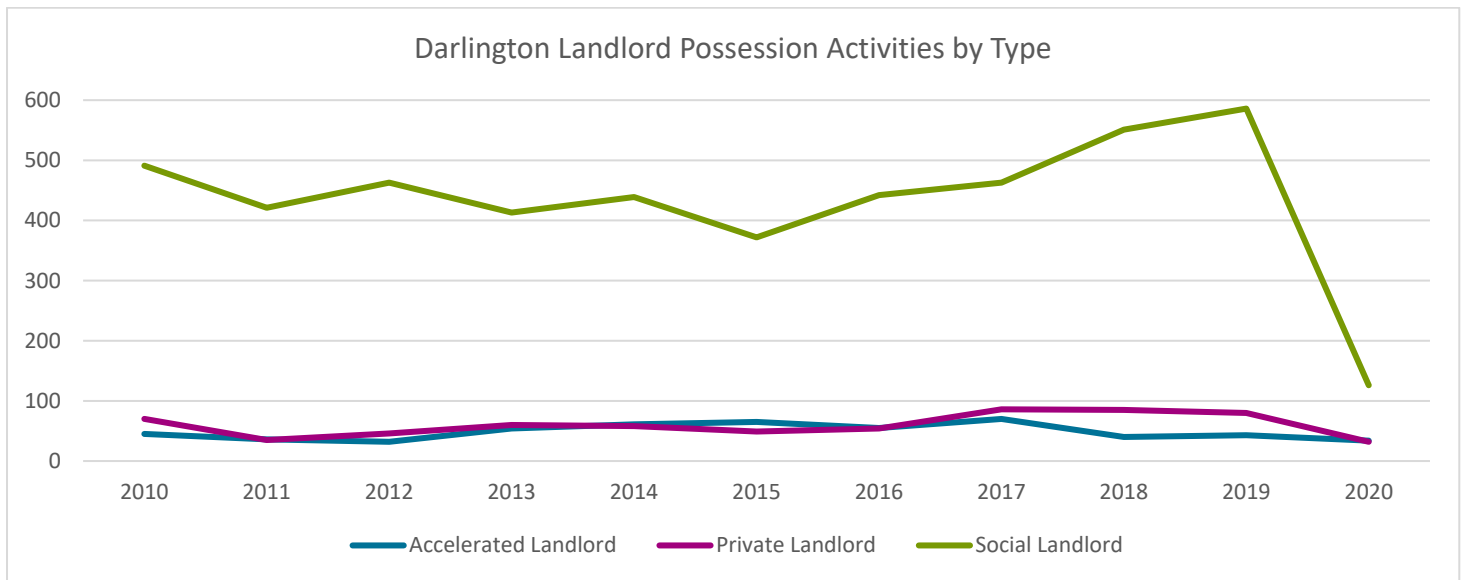
The most recent quarterly data shows landlord possession actions are still significantly below previous years' but starting to increase.
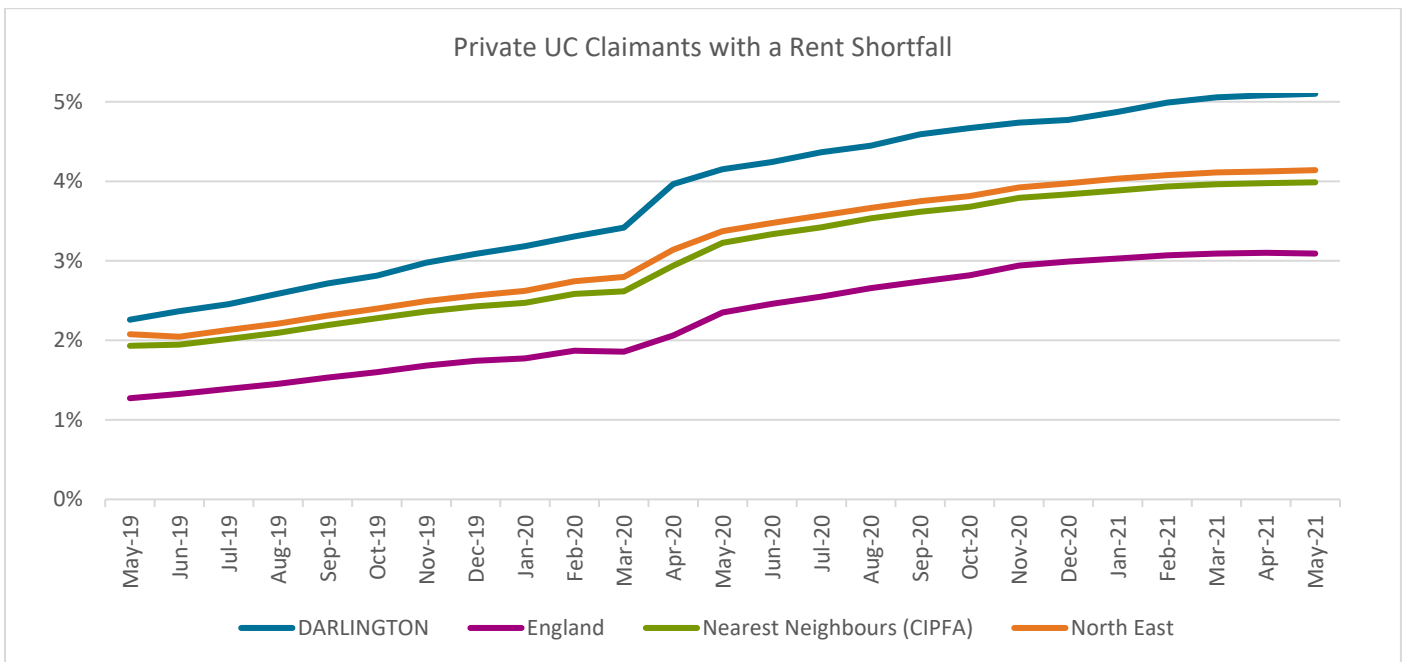

Darlington Landlord Possession Actions by Quarter
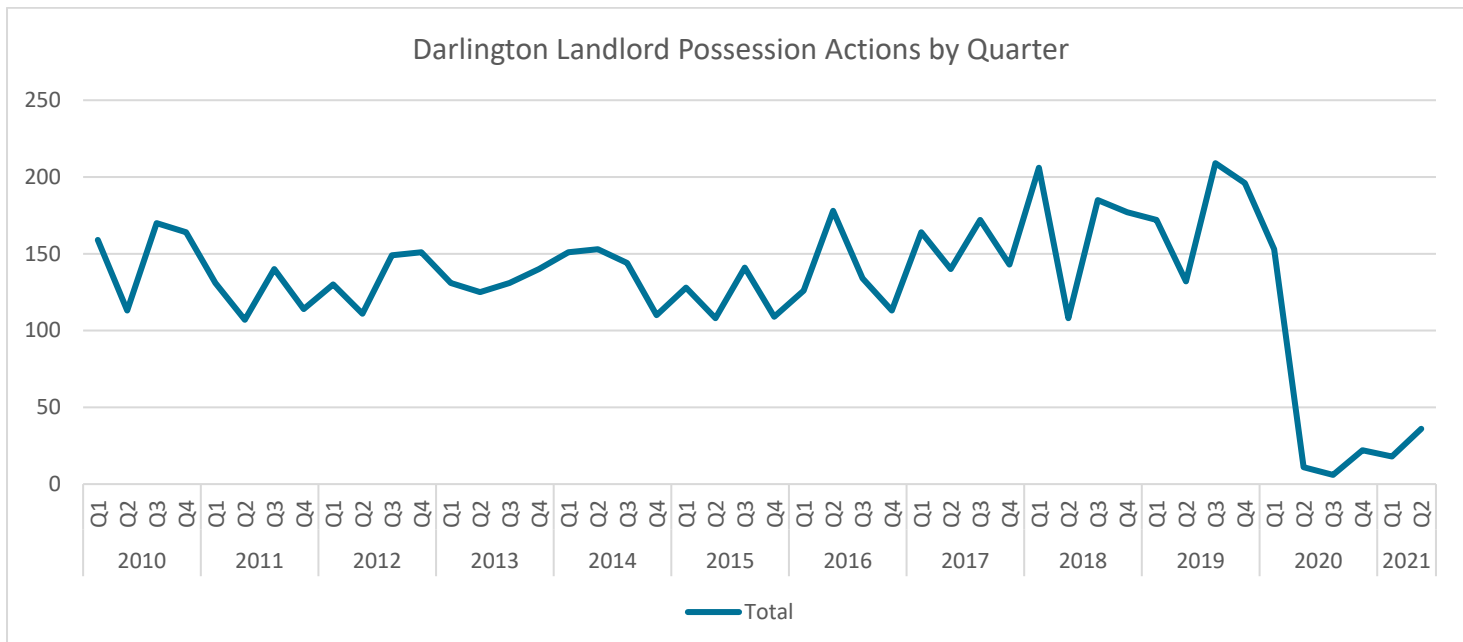
Breaking down by specific activities shows claims, warrants and outright orders have all started to increase again, however repossessions and suspended orders had yet to restart by the end of Quarter 2.

75

Darlington Landlord Possession Actions Breakdown, by Quarter

Legend: Claims, Outright_Orders, Repossessions, Suspended_Orders, Warrants
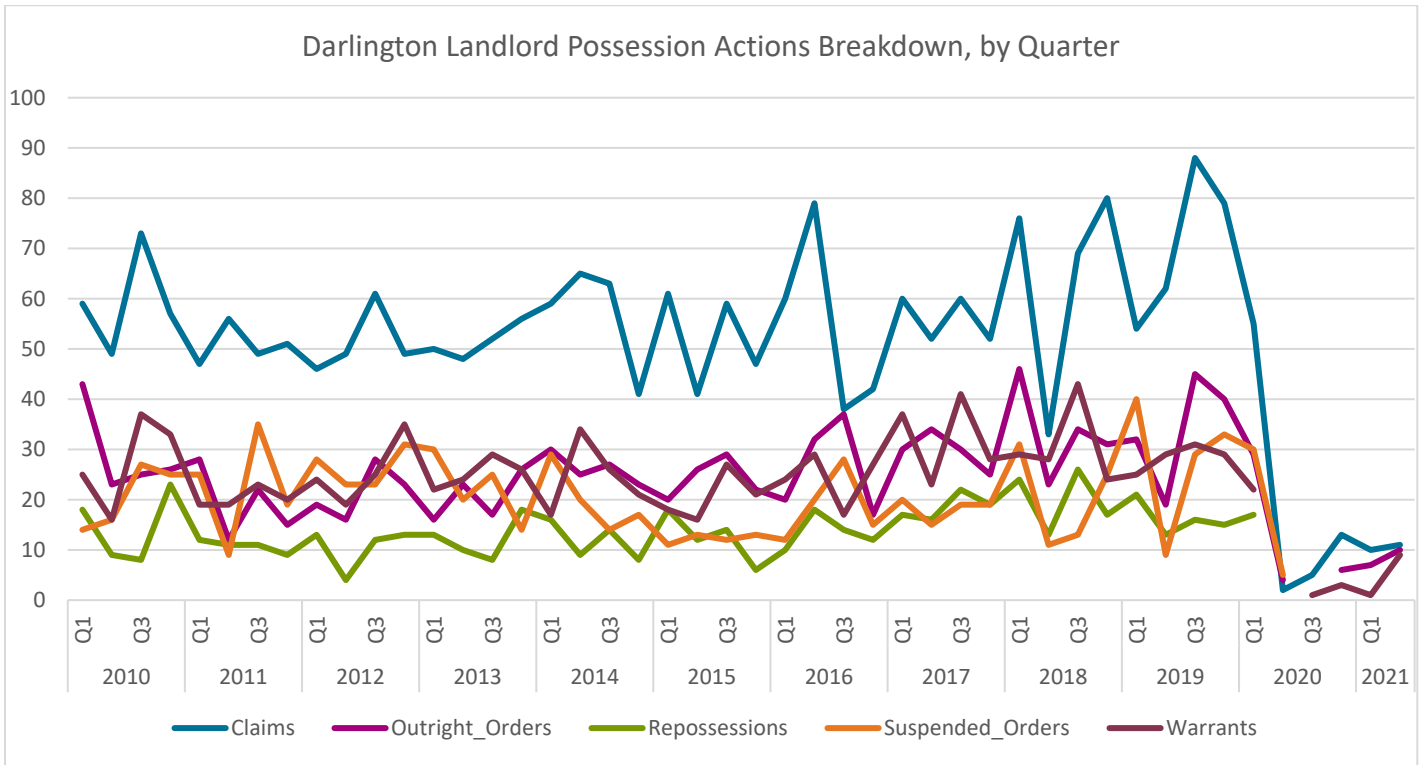
Private rent shortfalls

The graph below shows the proportion of private tenants in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) where the housing element of their UC doesn't cover their full rent liability. This has been increasing since the start of the pandemic, as elsewhere, but remains above average in Darlington (5.1% as of May, equating to 2,538 households).

Private UC Claimants with a Rent Shortfall

Legend: DARLINGTON, England, Nearest Neighbours (CIPFA), North East

Homelessness

Homelessness presentations fell during the pandemic, to a monthly average of 118 in 2020-21 from 146 the previous year.

Numbers have since recovered to be in line with pre-pandemic levels, and the monthly average for the first two quarters of 2021-22 is 153, an increase of 30%.
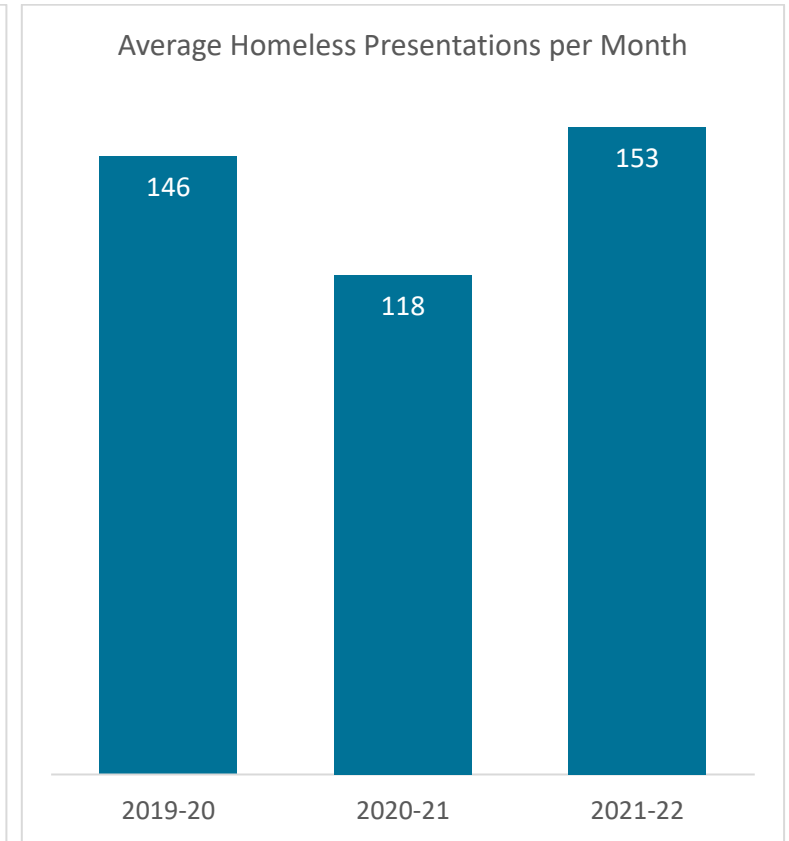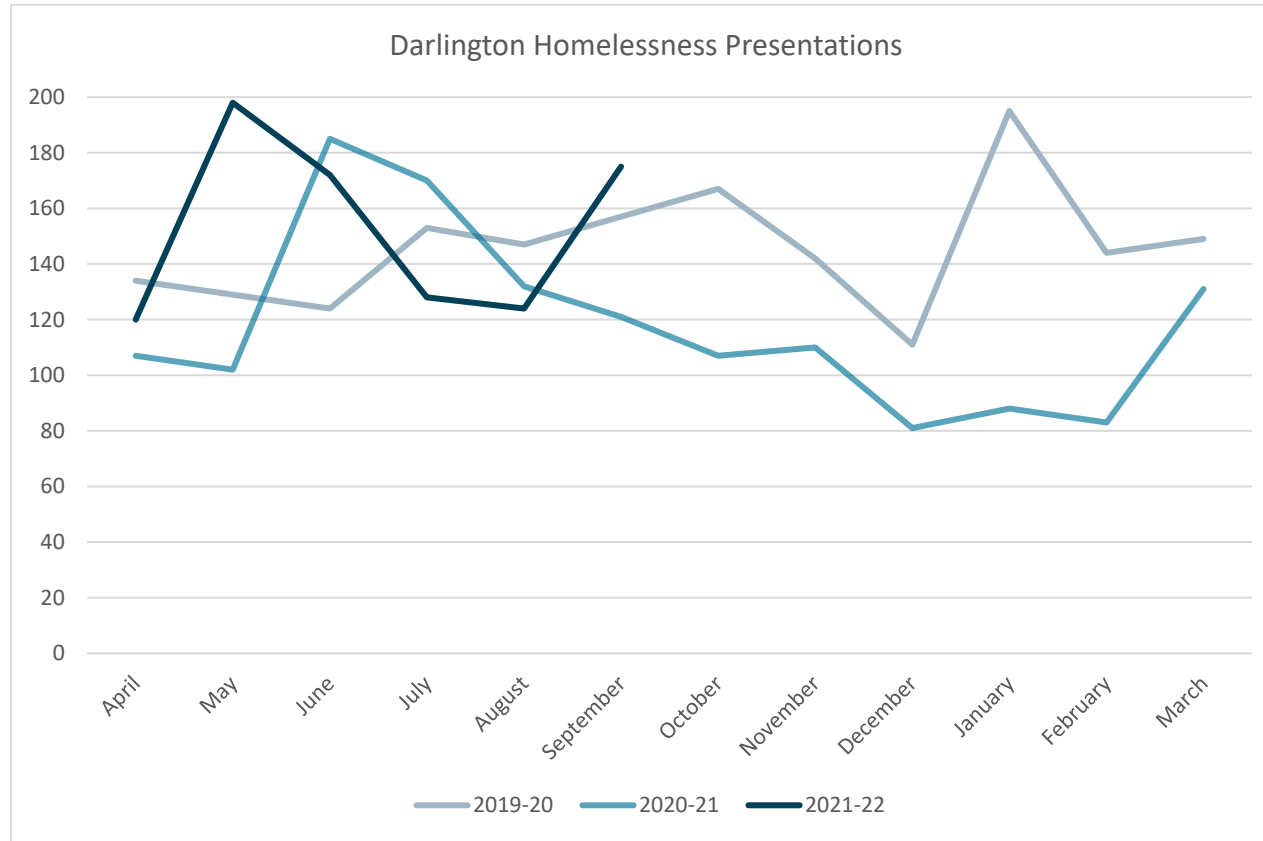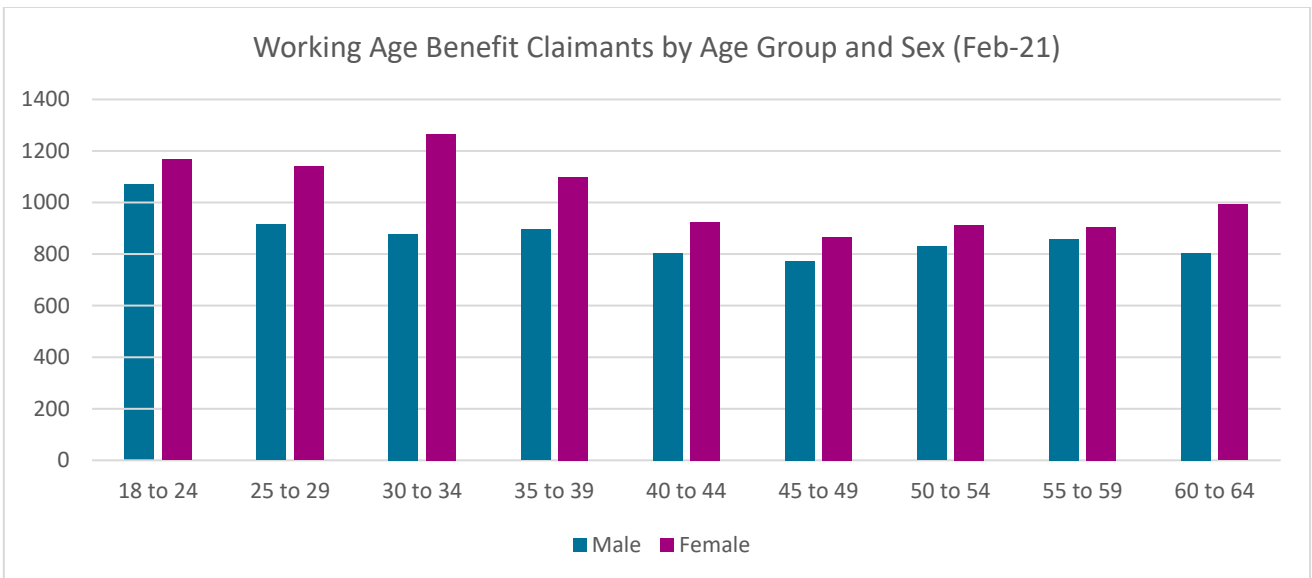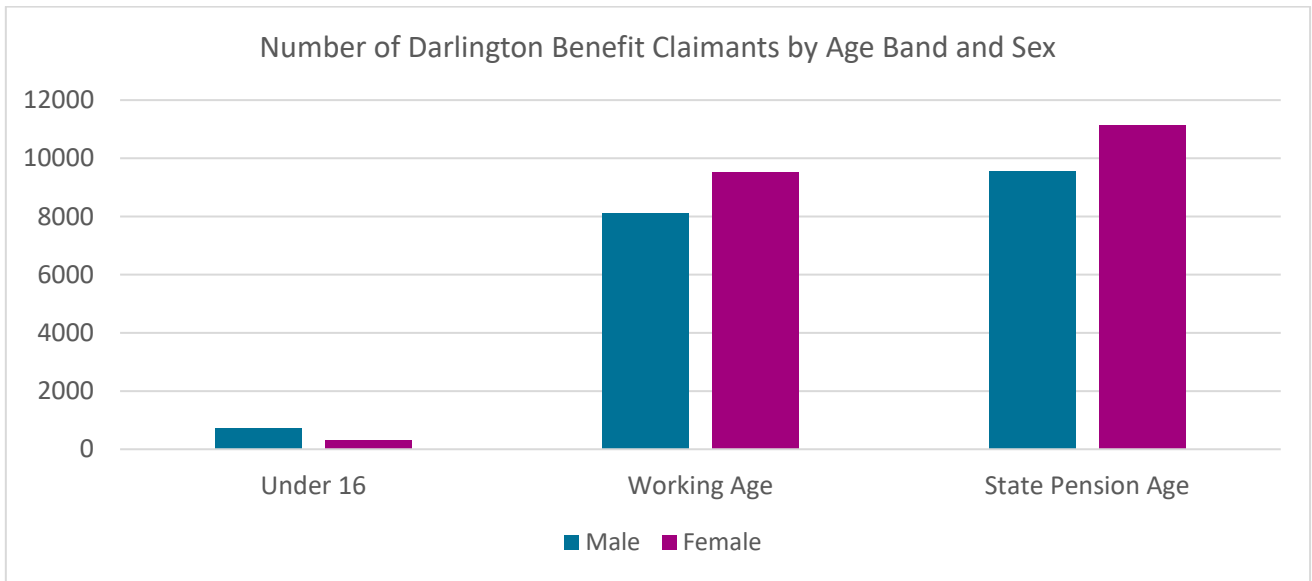
Breaking down homelessness presentations between 2018-19 and Q2 2021-22 by reason shows that whilst being asked to leave by family remains the most common reason for homelessness presentations, the number of residents asked to leave by family or friends remains below previous years.

There has, however, been an increase in presentations due to non-violent relationship breakdowns and domestic abuse as well as an expected reduction in the end of private tenancies due to the national suspension of evictions.

	2018-19				2019-20				2020-21				2021-22		% change from Q1-2 2019-20	% change from Q1-2 2020-21
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2		
Family no longer willing or able to accommodate	47	54	34	43	58	68	53	53	61	45	63	42	49	37	-32%	-19%
Relationship with partner ended (non-violent)	27	26	29	38	20	20	20	22	30	14	33	22	29	36	63%	48%
Domestic abuse	22	24	16	21	14	28	11	20	21	26	21	23	28	28	33%	19%
End of private rented tenancy	46	42	32	35	41	40	46	41	23	38	23	18	27	28	-32%	-10%
Friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	14	15	25	22	32	24	22	36	30	28	25	14	26	19	-20%	-22%
Other	33	28	43	41	46	35	28	20	8	9	19	16	11	12	-72%	35%
Violence or harassment	7	9	4	2	5	7	2	12	6	5	3	9	5	10	25%	36%
Eviction from supported housing	8	5	8	6	6	4	10	7	7	5	4	11	4	9	30%	8%
Left institution with no accommodation available	14	16	8	8	11	19	10	11	13	13	21	23	15	9	-20%	-8%
End of social rented tenancy	3	6	6	5	5	10	8	5	3	0	5	2	4	5	-40%	200%
Mortgage repossession	1	4	0	2	2	2	6	0	1	0	0	3	1	2	-25%	200%
Property disrepair	5	5	3	4	0	1	3	2	5	3	4	5	5	1	500%	-25%
Fire or flood / other emergency	7	1	1	3	0	1	1	3	0	0	3	0	4	0	300%	

Benefits

Working age and older women are more likely to be in receipt of welfare benefits than men, largely due to women in general being more likely to be carers and/or single parents and earn less.

Number of Darlington Benefit Claimants by Age Band and Sex

Male | Female

Working Age Benefit Claimants by Age Group and Sex (Feb-21)

Male | Female

Welfare reforms

Anticipated loss in 2020-21

Household Type	Average financial loss £ p.a.
Pensioner couple	40
Single pensioner	40
Couple - no children	200
Couple - 1 dependent child	900
Couple - 2+ dependent children	1,450
Couple - all children non-dependent	200
Lone parent - 1 dependent child	1,400
Lone parent - 2+ dependent children	1,750
Lone parent - all children non-dependent	250
Single person working age household	250
Other - with 1 dependent child	1,130
Other - with 2+ dependent children	1,360
Other - all full-time students	0
Other - all aged 65+	50
Other	300

- Annual loss to Darlington residents of WR is estimated to be £53m per year by 2020-21
- 83% of impact anticipated to fall on households with children, with average annual loss 8x higher (at approximately £1,330) than for those without children
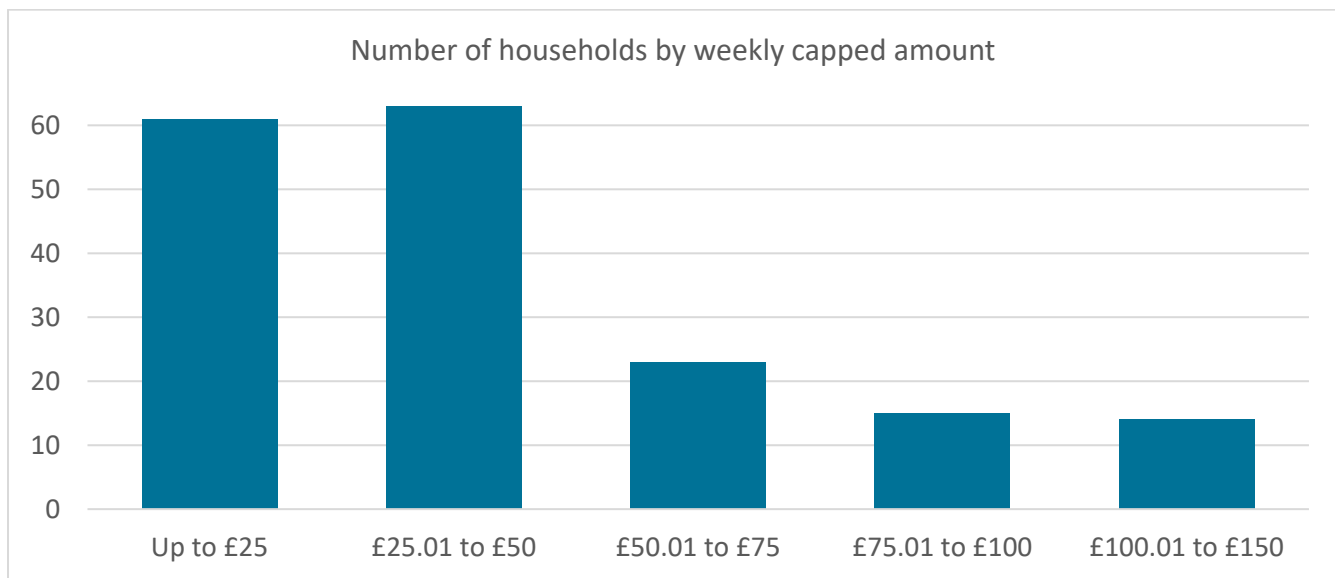
Benefit Cap

The original benefit cap was introduced in 2013 and limited the amount in state benefits households could receive at £26,000 for families with children, and £18,200 per year for single people. The cap was then lowered to £20,000 in 2016 for families living outside of London, which accounts for the significant spike in the number of Darlington households shown in the below graph.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of households subject to the benefit has increased further, from 118 in February 2020 to 173 in May 2021, a growth of 47%.

Darlington Households Subject to the Benefit Cap

Number of children per capped household
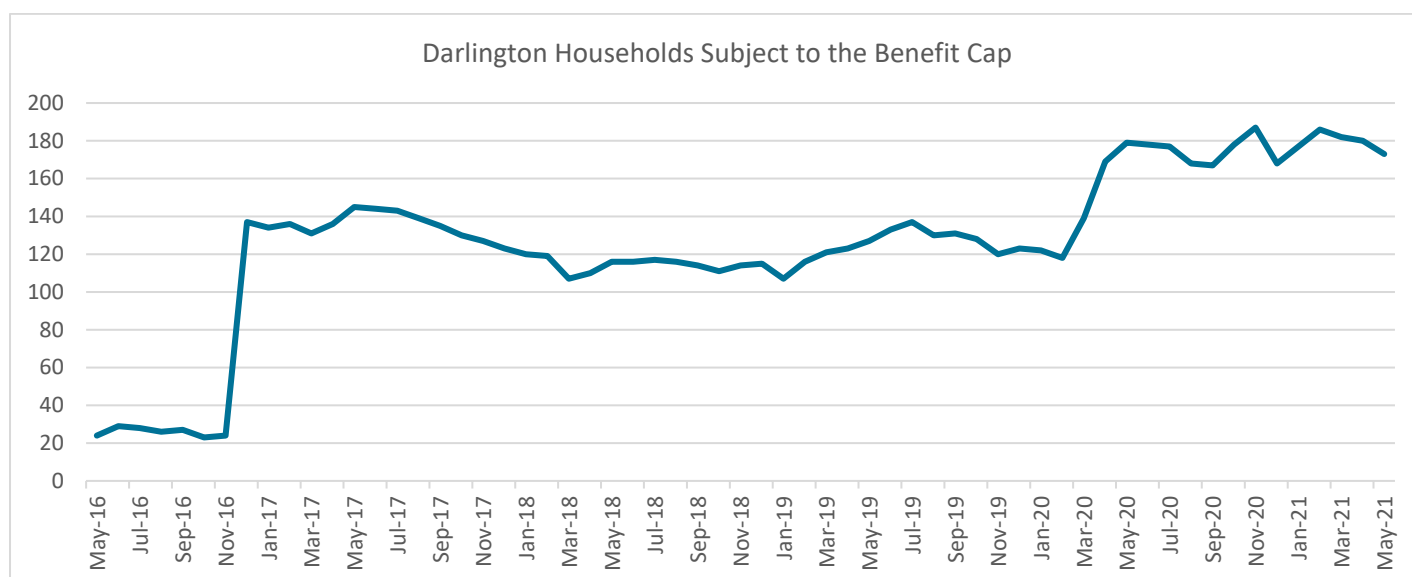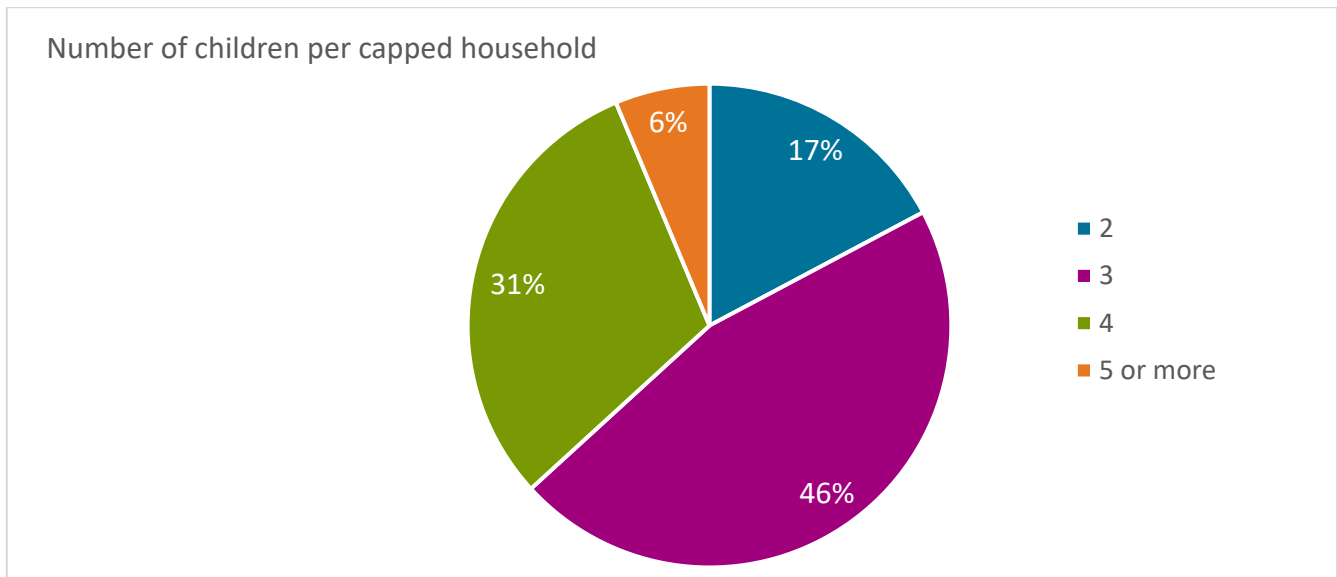
At least 512 children were living in households subject to the benefit cap in May 2021 in Darlington.

Number of households by weekly capped amount

The benefit cap is applied to relevant household's housing benefit, meaning that an increase in arrears is a likely outcome as affected residents find their rent support cut by nearly £2,700 per year, on average.

Universal Credit (UC) Claimants

The number of UC claimants increased by a half in the early stages from the pandemic, from 6,544 to 9,849 between March and May 2020.

The number of claimants continued to rise to a peak of 10,879 in May 2021, before beginning to fall very slightly to an estimated 10,734 in August 2021.

Total Darlington UC Claimants
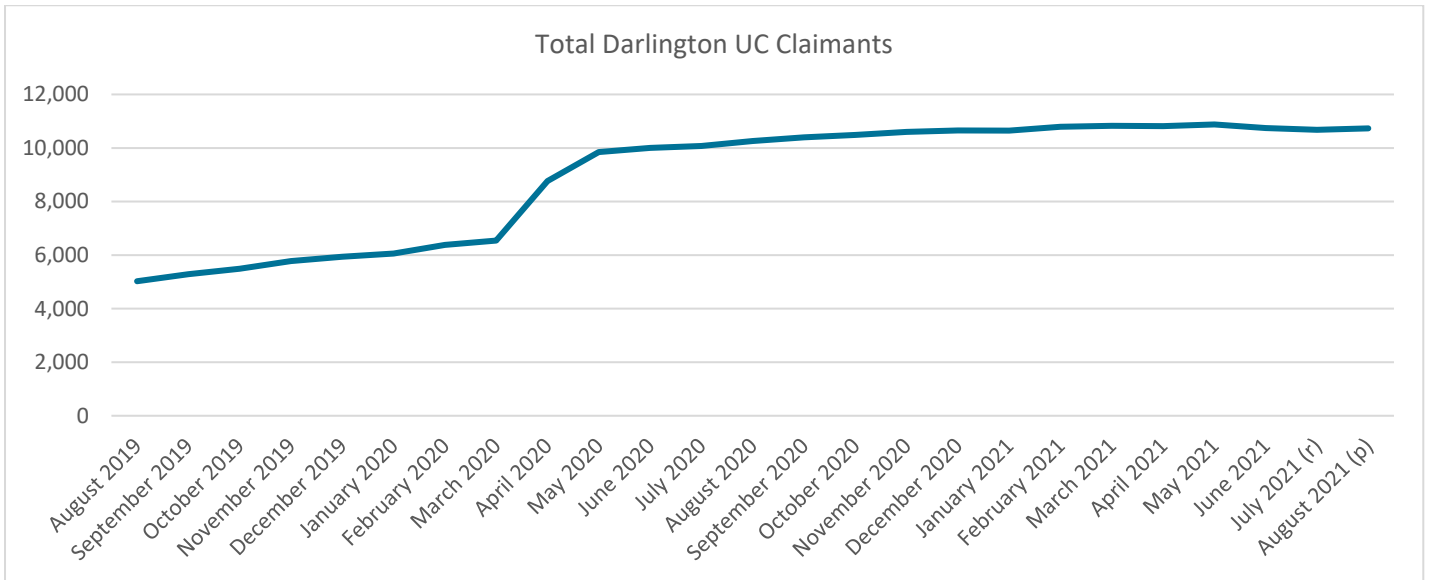
Breaking down claimants by their employment status shows that whilst the number of out-of-work claimants has been falling since March 2021, the number of in-work claimants has been rising over the same period, suggesting that whilst residents are starting to be able to find employment, a significant proportion are not able to get sufficient pay and/or hours in their new roles and are continuing to have to rely on UC to top up their earnings.

UC Claimants by Employment Status

Not in employment — In employment
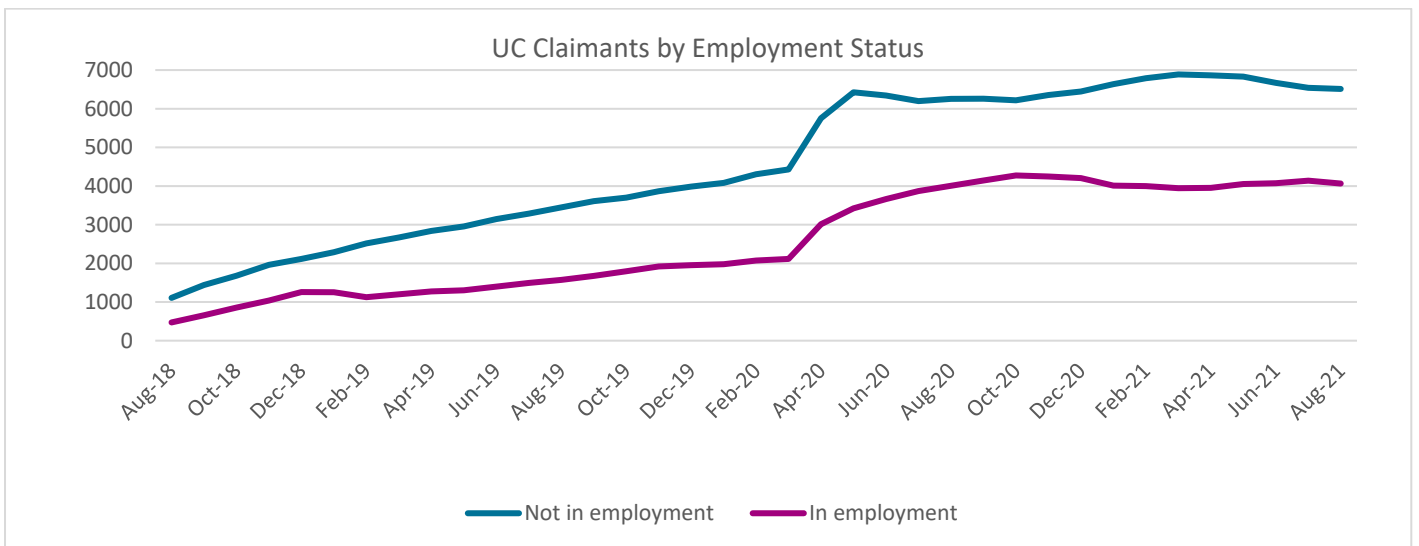
The Impact of Covid-19 on Income and Debt[30]

GDP dropped by 10.8% in 2020-21, but household incomes remained remarkably resilient on average. This reflected extensive government spending on income support programmes, which effectively doubled the size of the UK's welfare system to 9% of GDP.

The labour market shock, however, was large and much more likely to affect workers in low-income households than higher-income households – 47% of respondents in the bottom fifth of families who were working pre-pandemic have been negatively affected, compared to 20% in the top income quintile. In real-terms, median non-pensioner household income growth remained low in 2020-21 (with growth of just 1.5%).

Families are beginning to see income gains as the economy recovers from Covid-19. Just over 25% of respondents to a Resolution Foundation survey in June 2021 reported an increase in income between February and May 2021, more than the 13% who reported a fall. Despite this, around one-quarter of people are still spending less than before the pandemic, and higher-income households are the least likely to have returned to (or exceeded) pre-Covid spending.

As the welfare supports implemented to support household incomes, including the furlough scheme and £20 a week Universal Credit uplift, are removed there is likely to be negative income effects for some groups. Households in the bottom fifth of the income distribution lost an average of 5.7% of their weekly incomes when the uplift was withdrawn in October, amounting to £800 on an annual basis. At the same time, increases in living costs are increasing as firms have seen the cost of raw materials and other inputs increase by 10% which are likely to be passed on to consumers in the coming months; by some estimations, inflation could reach 4% this winter. These prices rises will further affect lower-income households' spending power. Ultimately, the Resolution Foundation has predicted that average household disposable income, after adjusting for inflation, will be 2% lower than OBR forecasts made in March 2021 for the end of 2022, equating to households having £1,000 less on average.

In terms of savings, in June 2021, individuals with the lowest incomes were much more likely to have seen savings fall from pre-crisis levels (32%) than rise (12%), whilst the situation for higher-income individuals was the reverse – only 10% saw a savings fall, whereas four times as many people (46%) saw their savings rise.

The enforced cut in household spending during the pandemic means that overall debt levels are down since pre-pandemic, but not for everyone. A labour market shock or a pandemic-driven increase in costs without the flexibility to reduce outgoings or to draw on savings has inevitably resulted in more debt for some households. 13% of families are estimated to have seen their debt level rise during the pandemic – rising to 21% for those with incomes in the second lowest quintile. A large proportion of this increased debt was not through choice: increased spending pressures were at least partly responsible for over 40%, rising to over 60% for those on the lowest incomes. Separately, almost half of individuals who saw increasing debt during the pandemic have cited lower earnings (or lower partner earnings) as a reason.

A recent survey by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation[31], conducted in September/October 2021, has found 33% of low-income household respondents are in arrears on essential bills and 38% have taken on new borrowing or increased their existing borrowing during the pandemic. Of those with household arrears, a large proportion (87%) state they were always or often able to pay all their bills in full and on time before the pandemic.

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[30] https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2021/06/Living-standards-audit-2021.pdf
[31] https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/dragged-down-debt-millions-low-income-households-pulled-under-arrears-while-living-costs-rise

Place

The final section of this profile focuses on the immediate environment in which residents live, work and spend time across the borough, and which we know affect their wellbeing. Covering crime, transport and mobility, and the local environment, this section seeks to prove a clear sense of how people's local surroundings, and how they perceive them, varies across areas and compares to other places to help inform activity by the council, and relevant partners, and ensure interventions are effectively designed and targeted to deliver the best possible outcomes.

Crime

Trends in Crime Types

	Sept-2017 - Aug 2018	Sept-2018 - Aug 2019	Sept-2019 - Aug 2020	Sept-2020 - Aug 2021	Change in last 12months	% Change
Anti-social behaviour	3,991	3,579	4,004	3,278	-726	-18.1%
Bicycle theft	169	133	120	79	-41	-34.2%
Burglary	882	699	746	460	-286	-38.3%
Criminal damage and arson	1,808	1,634	1,342	1,410	68	5.1%
Drugs	241	376	354	373	19	5.4%
Other crime	360	244	289	274	-15	-5.2%
Other theft	1,094	914	836	677	-159	-19.0%
Possession of weapons	62	82	71	84	13	18.3%
Public order	1,041	945	1,162	1,159	-3	-0.3%
Robbery	69	49	64	43	-21	-32.8%
Shoplifting	1,031	838	792	588	-204	-25.8%
Theft from the person	91	85	64	65	1	1.6%
Vehicle crime	777	757	601	581	-20	-3.3%
Violence and sexual offences	4,792	4,962	5,224	4,943	-281	-5.4%
TOTAL	16,408	15,297	15,669	14,014	-1,655	-10.6%

Overall reported crime fell by nearly 11% between Sept 2020-Aug 2021 and the previous year, with particular drops for thefts and anti-social behaviour. Increases were recorded for drugs, criminal damage and possession of weapons offences.

Monthly figures, however, show total crime incidents began to rise again from February 2021, as the most recent lockdown restrictions eased, and were back at level comparable with earlier years from May.

Total Darlington Reported Crimes by Month
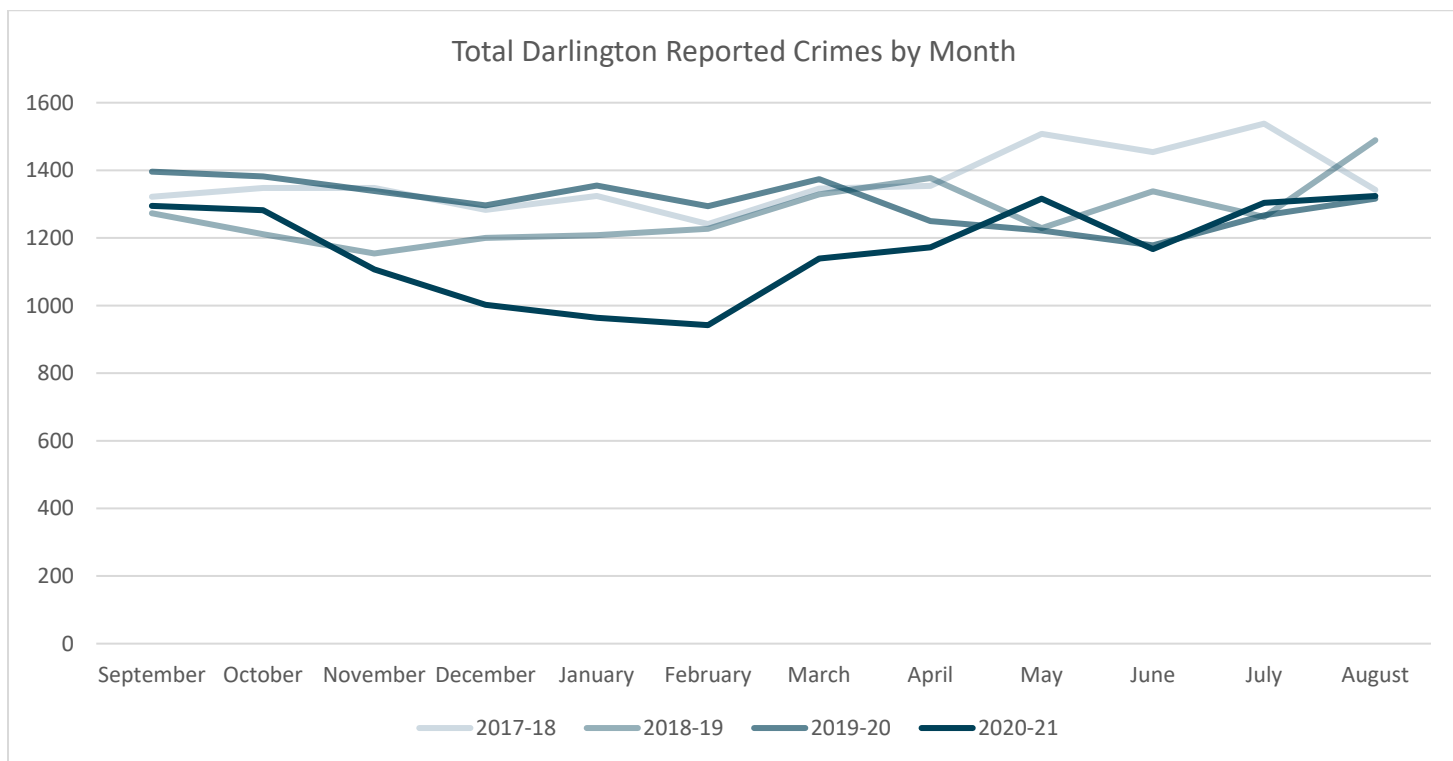
Comparing February and August crime incidents by type shows the 41% total increase in monthly incidents was largely due to rises in violence and sexual offences (up 111 a month to 458), anti-social behaviour (up 74 to 298), public order offences (up 53 to 131) and vehicle crime (up 52 to 72).

Domestic Abuse Incidents

Despite national concerns around the pandemic leading to an increase in domestic abuse, the number of reported incidents in Darlington has so far continued to stay in line with pre-Covid levels.

Darlington Reported Domestic Abuse Incidents
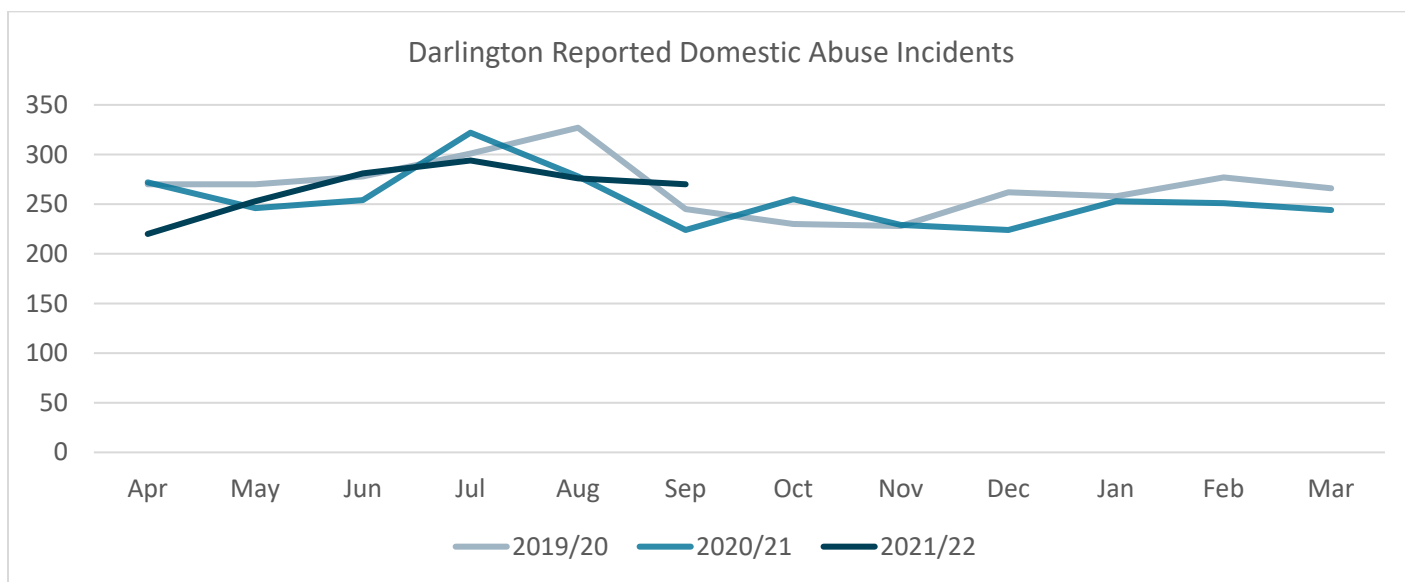
Trends in Different Areas

	Sept-2017 - Aug 2018	Sept-2018 - Aug 2019	Sept-2019 - Aug 2020	Sept-2020 - Aug 2021	Change in last 12months	% Change
Bank Top & Lascelles	1421	1220	1290	1281	-9	-0.7%
Brinkburn & Faverdale	557	631	642	661	19	3.0%
Cockerton	745	724	766	672	-94	-12.3%

85

College	264	286	288	289	1	0.3%
Eastbourne	829	694	664	775	111	16.7%
Harrowgate Hill	481	476	551	437	-114	-20.7%
Haughton & Springfield	377	306	350	322	-28	-8.0%
Heighington & Coniscliffe	172	192	215	157	-58	-27.0%
Hummersknott	164	150	134	86	-48	-35.8%
Hurworth	243	217	230	270	40	17.4%
Mowden	157	191	150	162	12	8.0%
North Road	1549	1442	1531	1216	-315	-20.6%
Northgate	900	838	910	719	-191	-21.0%
Park East	3616	3249	3150	2443	-707	-22.4%
Park West	969	874	871	792	-79	-9.1%
Pierremont	1097	963	1001	905	-96	-9.6%
Red hall & Lingfield	763	757	766	717	-49	-6.4%
Sadberge & MSG	663	681	766	775	9	1.2%
Stephenson	935	932	849	829	-20	-2.4%
Whinfield	506	474	545	506	-39	-7.2%

Numbers of reported crimes since 2019/20 also vary across the borough: wards seeing particular reductions in the number of overall incidents reported included Park East and North Road.

In other areas, however, the number of crimes reported have increased. Eastbourne ward had the largest absolute increase, with reported crimes increasing by 111. Hurworth also saw a significant proportional increase of 17.4%.

Overall, however, the areas which have historically had the highest levels of crime incidents remain the same, with Park East, North Road and Bank Top & Lascelles the wards with the highest numbers of incidents for all of the last four years.


Change in Number of Reported Crimes by Ward

Sept-2017 - Aug 2018 Sept-2018 - Aug 2019 Sept-2019 - Aug 2020 Sept-2020 - Aug 2021
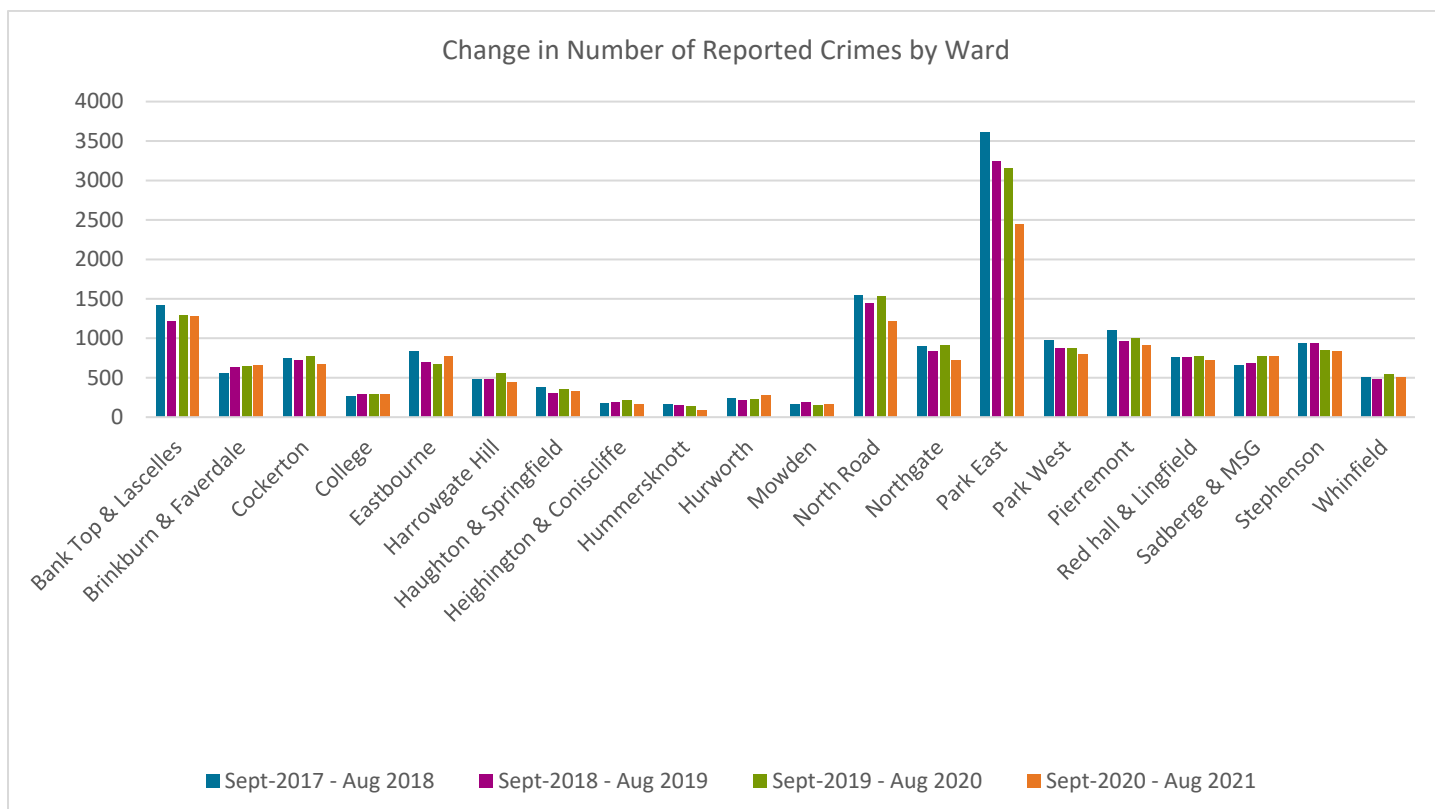
Sept 2020 to Aug 2021 Reported Crimes	2019 IMD Score	Anti social behaviour	Bicycle theft	Burglary	Criminal damage and arson	Drugs	Other crime	Other theft	Possession of weapons	Public order	Robbery	Shoplifting	Theft from the person	Vehicle crime	Violence and sexual offences	Grand Total
Park East	50.5	479	23	79	212	160	45	94	21	254	13	249	12	59	743	2443
Bank Top & Lascelles	42.4	309	1	34	139	29	25	45	6	93	2	10	9	59	520	1281
Northgate	41.7	153	5	34	76	18	10	46	5	74	3	4	5	28	258	719
North Road	41.1	294	6	30	127	29	27	54	6	100	7	98	7	24	407	1216
Stephenson	37.3	175	1	5	51	2	9	23	3	29	1	22		11	174	506
Red Hall & Lingfield	36.4	191	7	18	51	9	6	29	4	50		55	1	60	236	717
Cockerton	36.2	178	2	11	58	8	15	20	3	56	4	5	1	10	301	672
Eastbourne	31.2	250	5	20	95	14	17	27	1	53	5	2	2	31	253	775
Haughton & Springfield	28.7	76	1	10	40	9	8	13	4	19		1	1	11	129	322
Pierremont	23.7	158	7	36	115	33	13	48	6	85	1	10	10	32	351	905
Whinfield	19.6	160	5	28	99	6	21	46	4	79	2	1	3	59	316	829
Brinkburn & Faverdale	14.8	114	5	19	47	5	6	16	4	58	1	25	1	36	324	661
Harrowgate Hill	14.6	95	1	16	44	9	19	20	1	27		1	2	14	188	437
Park West	14.5	261	5	33	69	14	8	45	6	75	4	38	5	43	186	792
Heighington & Coniscliffe	12.1	29	1	10	30		2	5		12		4		7	57	157
Sadberge & Middleton St George	11.8	150	4	31	76	16	23	93	7	57		44	4	43	227	775
Hurworth	11.5	67		12	33	5	6	14	1	14		1	2	10	105	270
College	7.1	51		19	26	7	8	27		19		15		21	96	289
Hummersknott	5.9	35		3	8		1	4	1					5	29	86
Mowden	4.1	53		12	14		5	8	1	5		3		18	43	162

- Comparison of wards with numbers and types of crime shows, again, a significant correlation with deprivation.
- Park East is a significant outlier (more than twice the total number of crimes of the next highest ward were reported here, and for every crime type with the exception of vehicle crime the highest number of reported offences were in Park East)
- After Park East, Bank Top & Lascelles and North Road wards had the highest number of total crimes and were also 2 of the 3 next most deprived wards.
- In terms of the most common types of crimes in these areas, violence and sexual offences was the most common crime type reported, followed by antisocial behaviour.
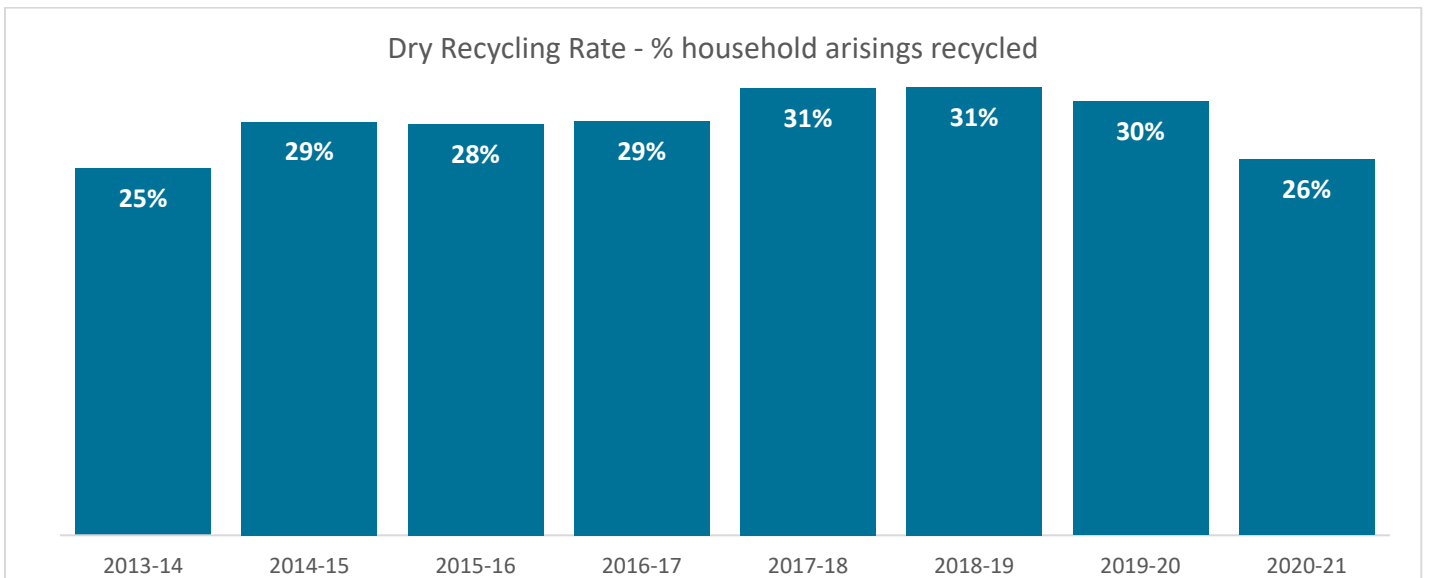- Red Hall & Lingfield was the ward with the highest number of vehicle crimes reported.
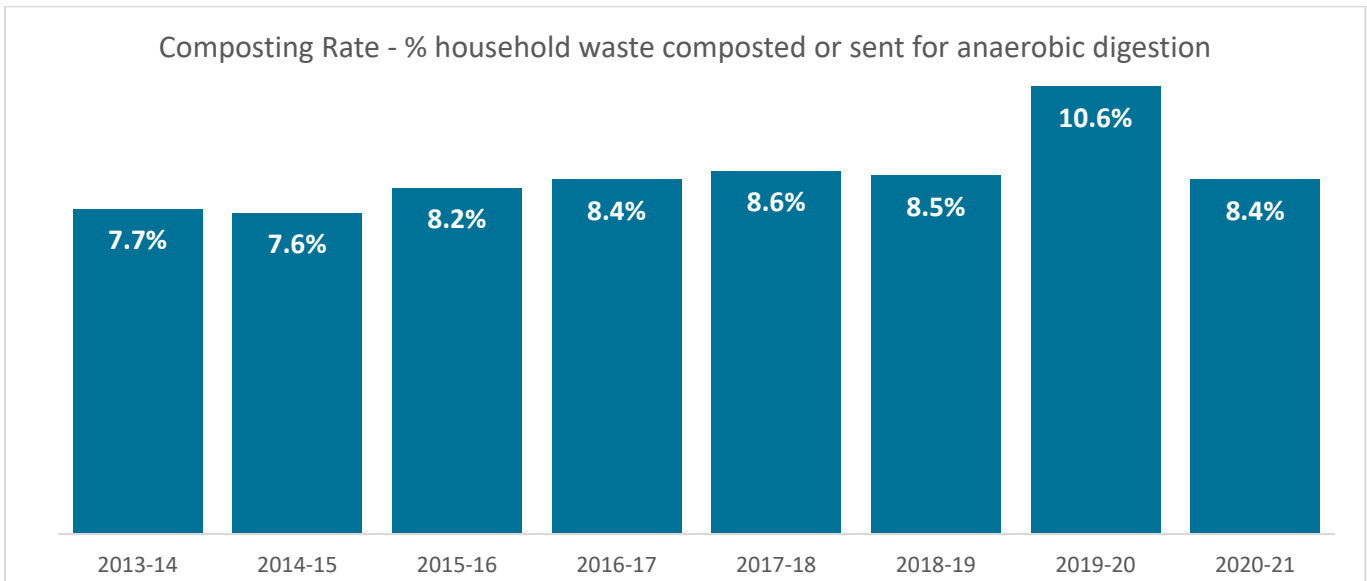
Waste

Recycling

There was a significant increase in refuse from all households in 2020-21, and a decrease in waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting due to the pandemic meaning residents spent significantly more time at home than normal and the Household Waste and Recycling Centre was closed for extended periods.
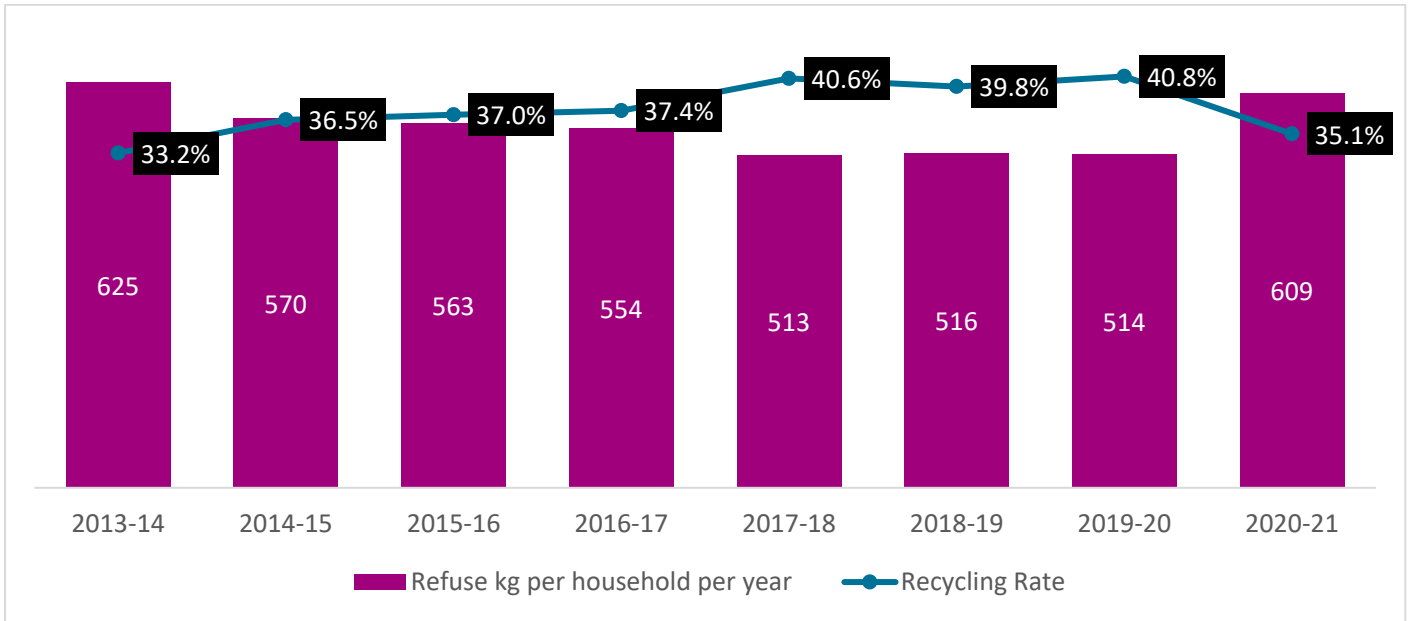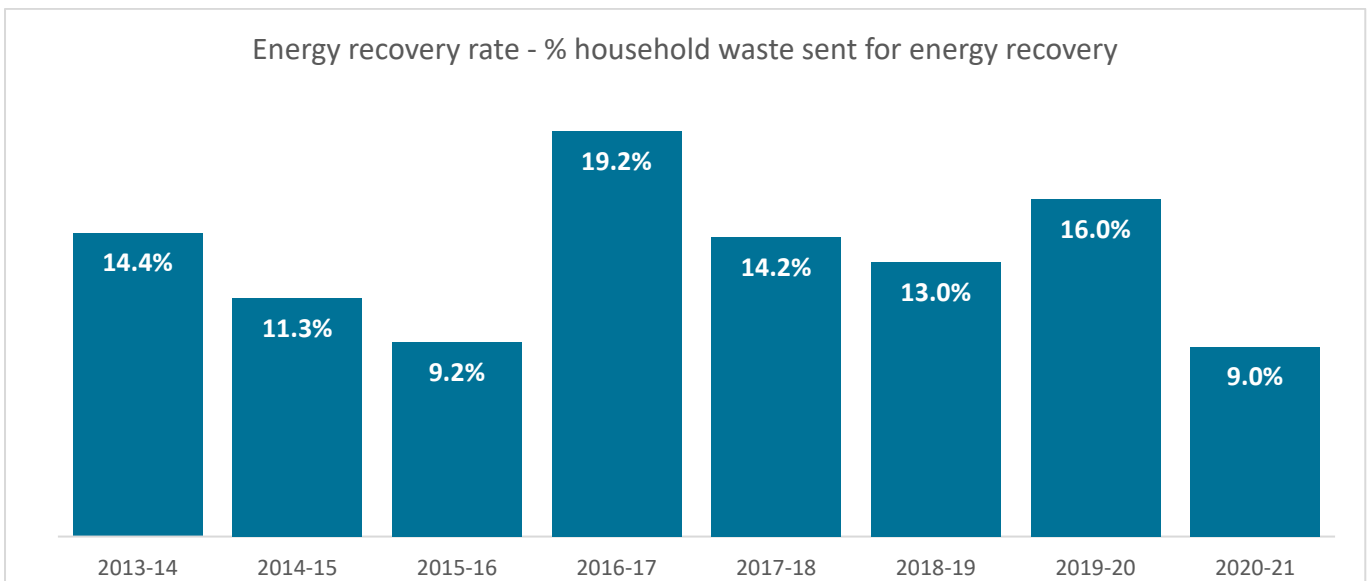

The dry recycling rate also fell, to 26% in 2020-21 from 30% in 2019-20.

The composting rate fell from a record 10.6% the previous year, to 8.4% in 2020-21

Composting Rate - % household waste composted or sent for anaerobic digestion

Year	Rate
2013-14	7.7%
2014-15	7.6%
2015-16	8.2%
2016-17	8.4%
2017-18	8.6%
2018-19	8.5%
2019-20	10.6%
2020-21	8.4%

The energy recovery rate in Darlington dropped from 16% in 2019-20 to 9% in 2020-21

Energy recovery rate - % household waste sent for energy recovery

Year	Rate
2013-14	14.4%
2014-15	11.3%
2015-16	9.2%
2016-17	19.2%
2017-18	14.2%
2018-19	13.0%
2019-20	16.0%
2020-21	9.0%

Landfill

Despite increases in the last year due to the pandemic, landfill rates have fallen significantly over the past decade:

- The proportion of municipal waste sent to landfill has fallen by nearly a half since 2006/07, from more than 60% to 37%
- The proportion of household waste sent to landfill has fallen by more than a half since 2006/07, from 80% to 38%
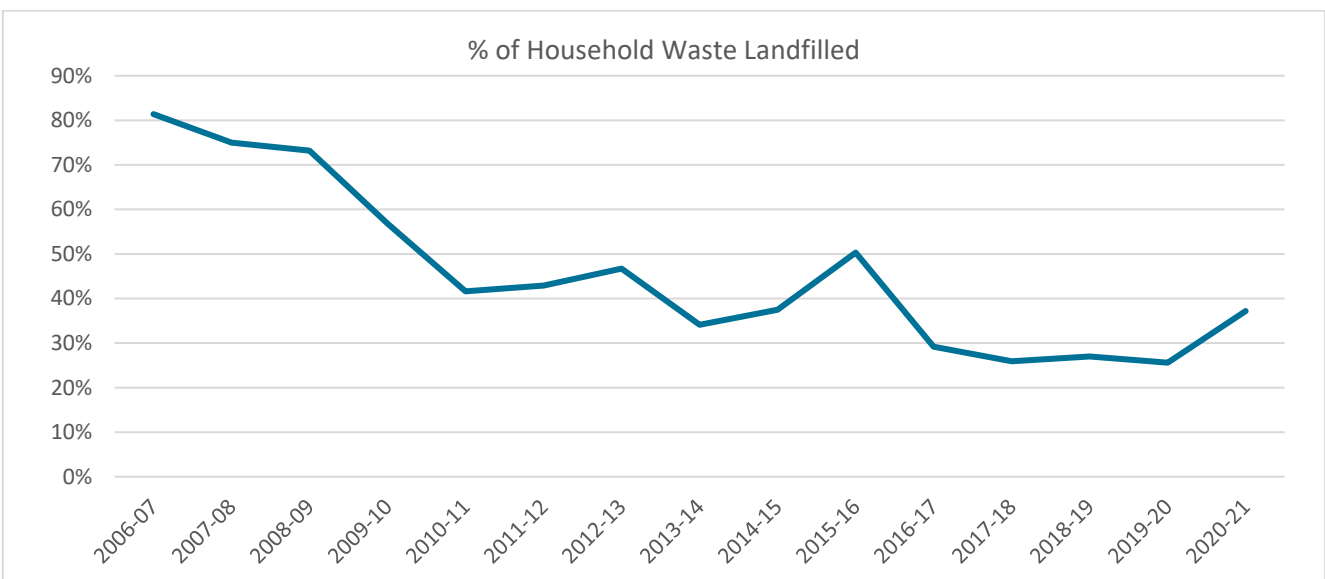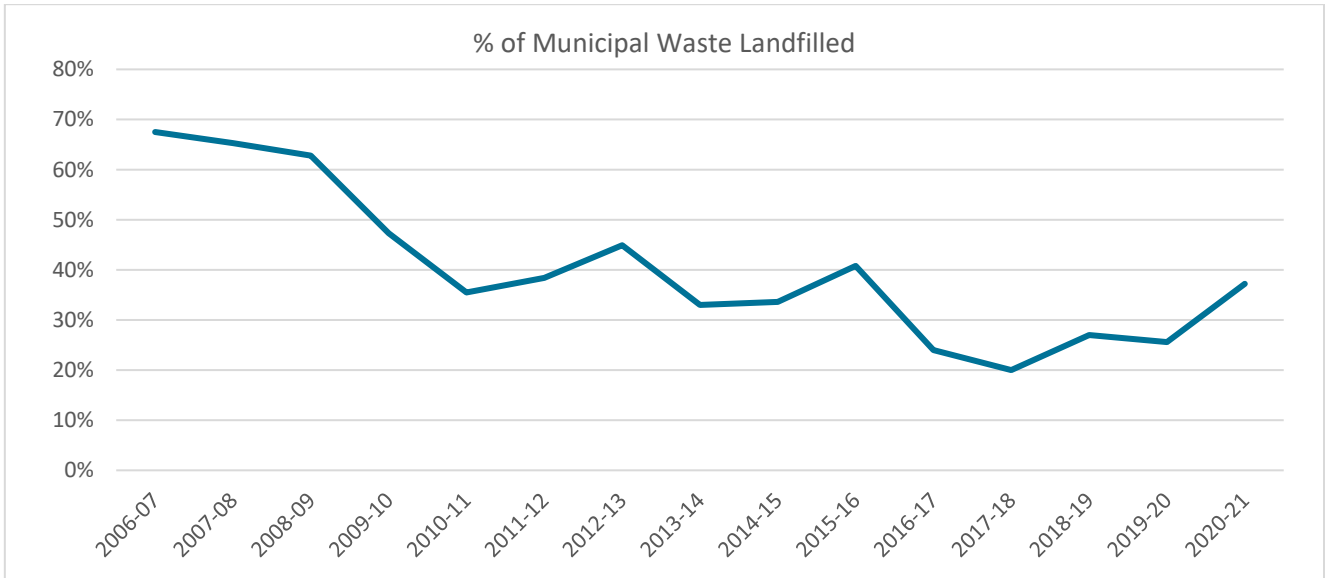
Environmental Crime

Street Cleaning

The number of street cleaning requests received by Street Scene was not notably affected by the pandemic, but average monthly reports have increased since the end of 2020/21.
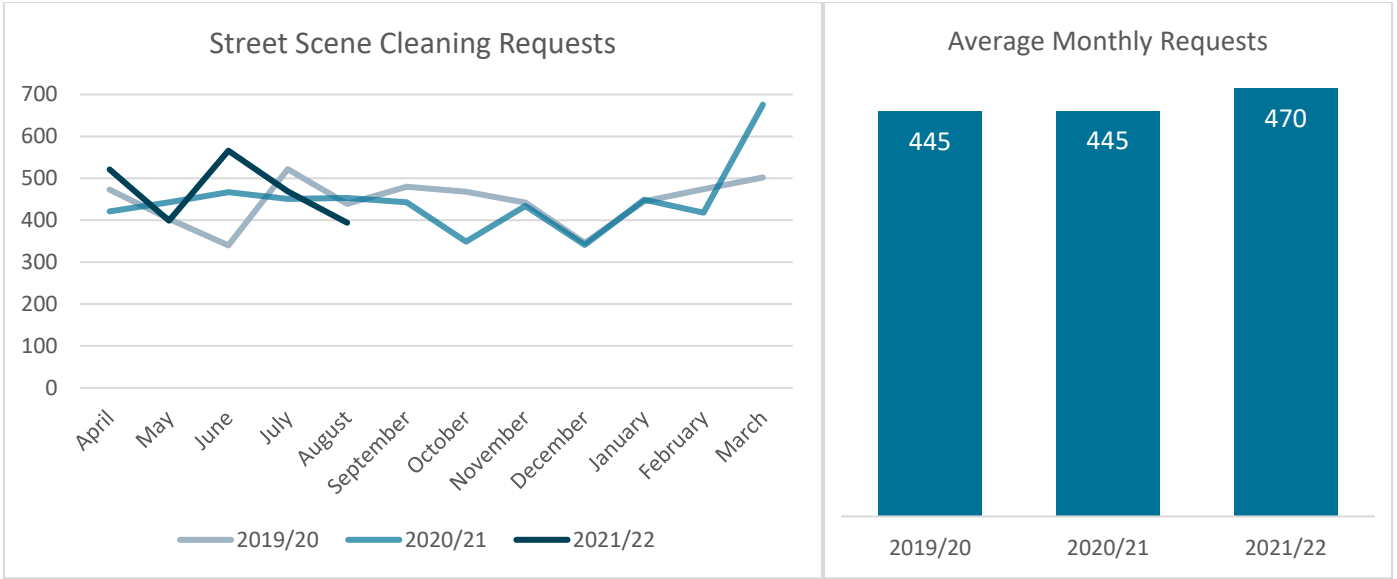
The number of cleaning received for graffiti, whilst still a relatively low number of total requests, seems to show a correlation with the various lockdown periods, and spiked considerably in June 2021 before returning to typical levels in July and August.
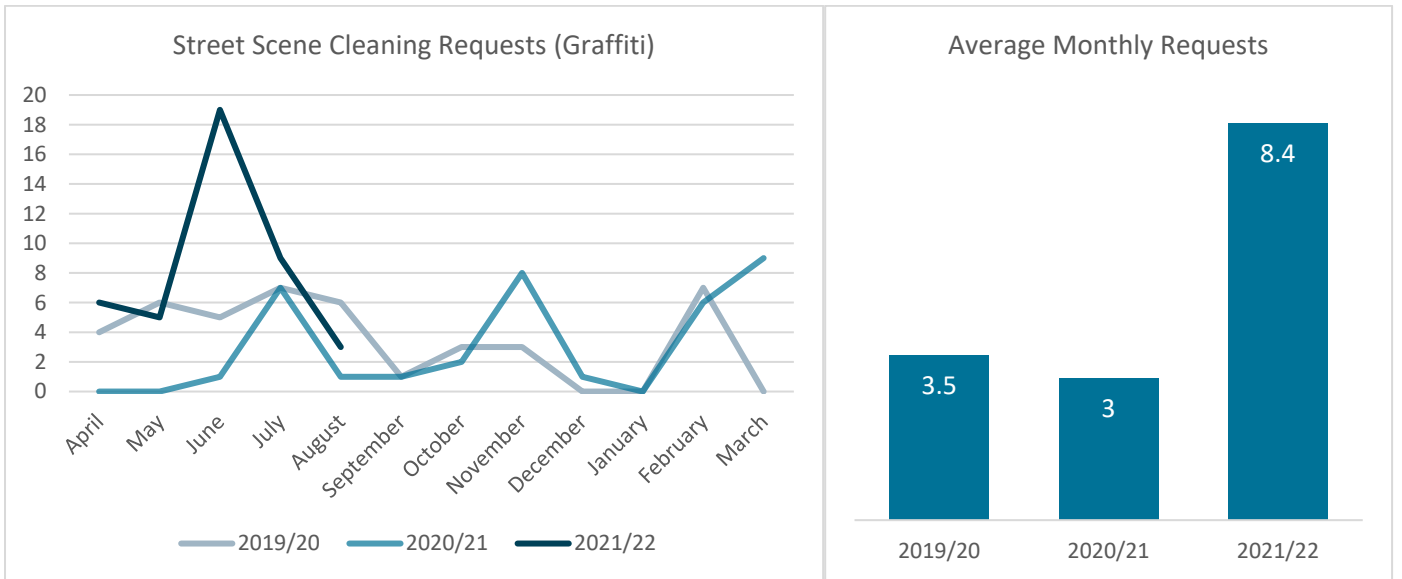
Flytipping

The number of flytip reports increased by 20% between 2019/20 and 2020/21, from 2,838 to 3,406.
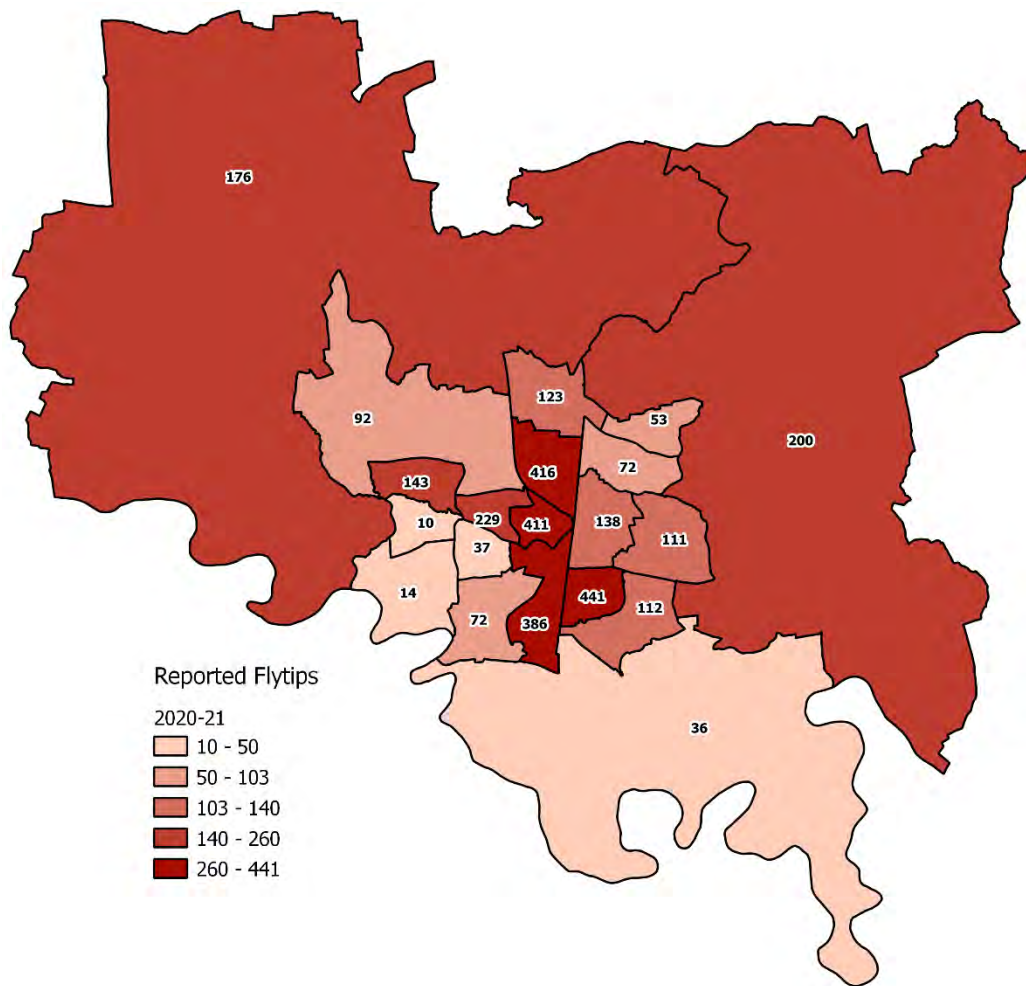
Areas around the town centre were the most common areas for flytip reporting, specifically Bank Top & Lascelles, Northgate, North Road and Park East wards.

Heighington & Coniscliffe and Sadberge & Middleton St George wards also had relatively high numbers of flytip incidents reported.

Community Mobility

Data released by Google chart movement trends over time by geography, across different categories of places such as retail and recreation, groceries and pharmacies, parks, transit stations, workplaces, and residential to provide insights into how visits to different community venues has changed over the course of the pandemic. The below graphs show average monthly visits to each venue type up to the 12th October 2021, compared to a baseline value of the median recorded between January and February 2020.

Retail and Recreation
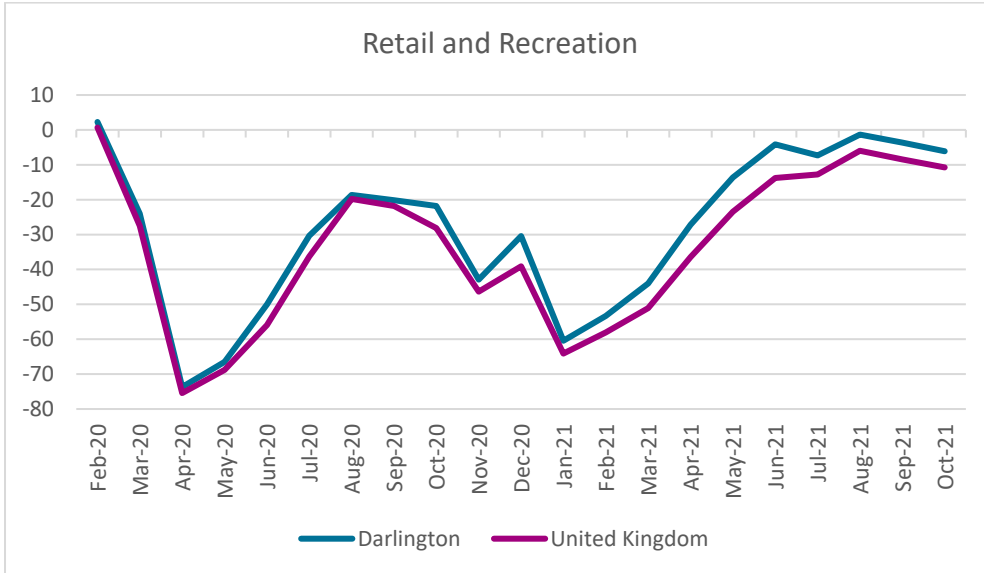
Mobility trends for places such as restaurants, cafés, shopping centres, theme parks, museums, libraries and cinemas:

Darlington visits in October 2021 were -6% compared to baseline (UK = -11%)

Supermarket and Pharmacy
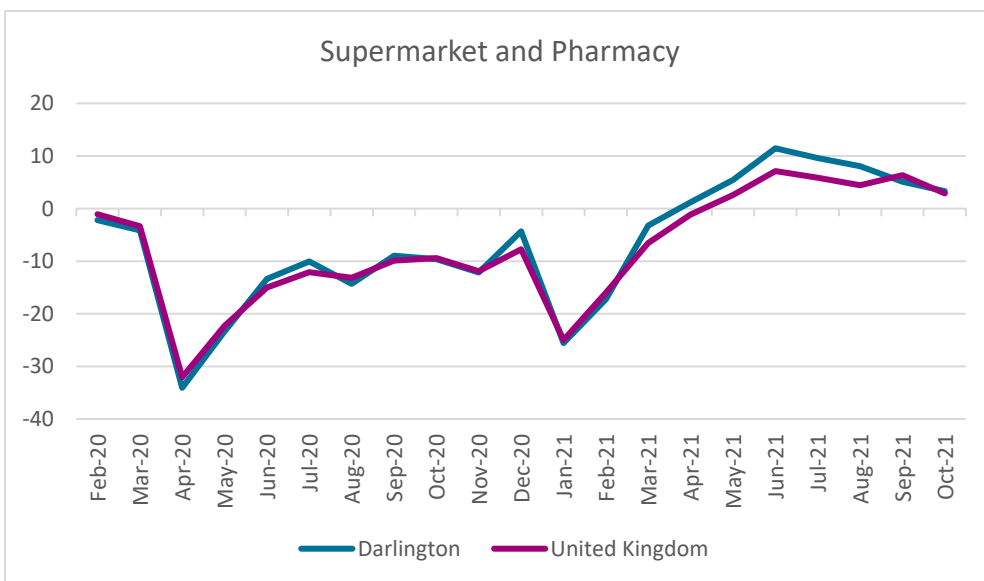
Mobility trends for places such as supermarkets, food warehouses, farmers markets, speciality food shops and pharmacies:

Darlington visits in October 2021 were +3% compared to baseline (UK = +3%)
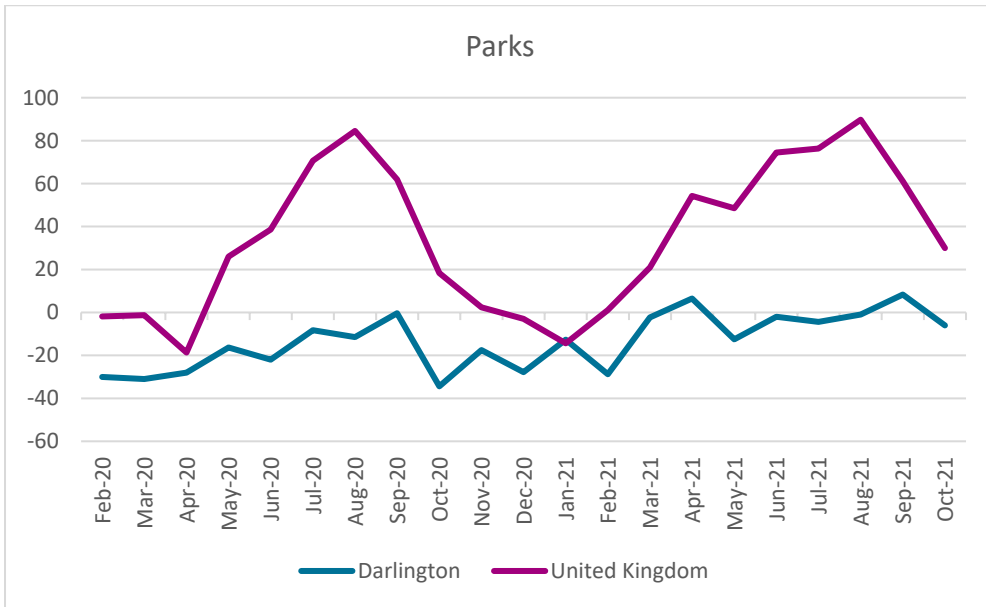
Parks

Mobility trends for places like parks and public gardens:

Darlington visits in October 2021 were -6% compared to baseline (UK = +30%)

The large disparity with the UK average for this metric is likely to be partly due to the clear seasonal trend nationally for visiting parks, compared to a much more consistent pattern locally.
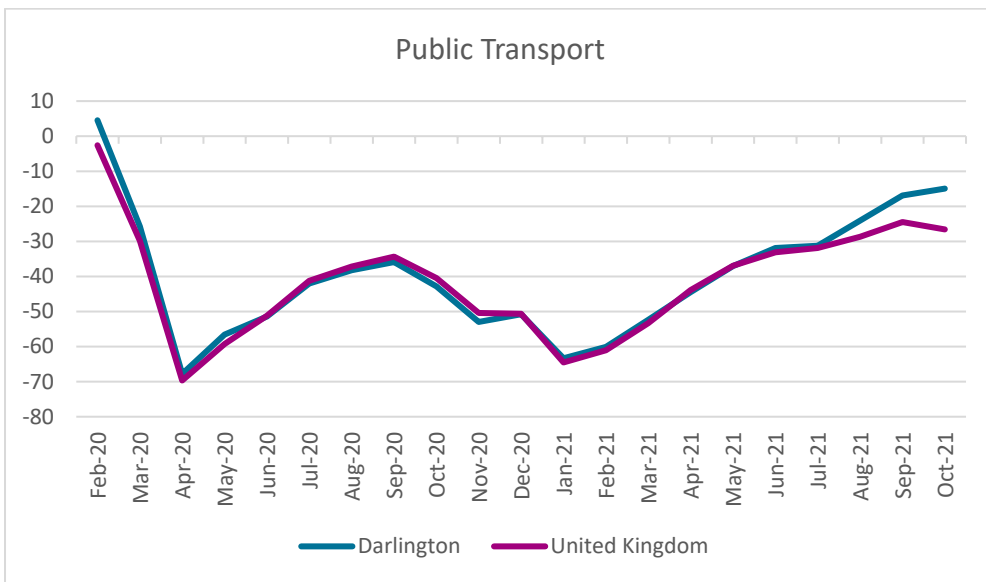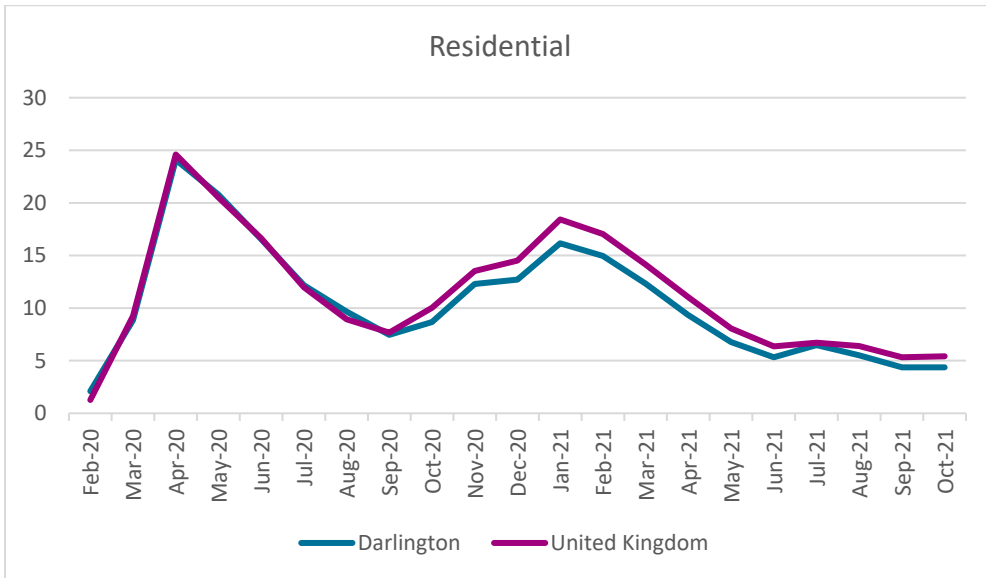
Public Transport

Mobility trends for places that are public transport hubs, such as underground, bus and train stations:

Darlington visits in October 2021 were -15% compared to baseline (UK = -27%)

Workplaces
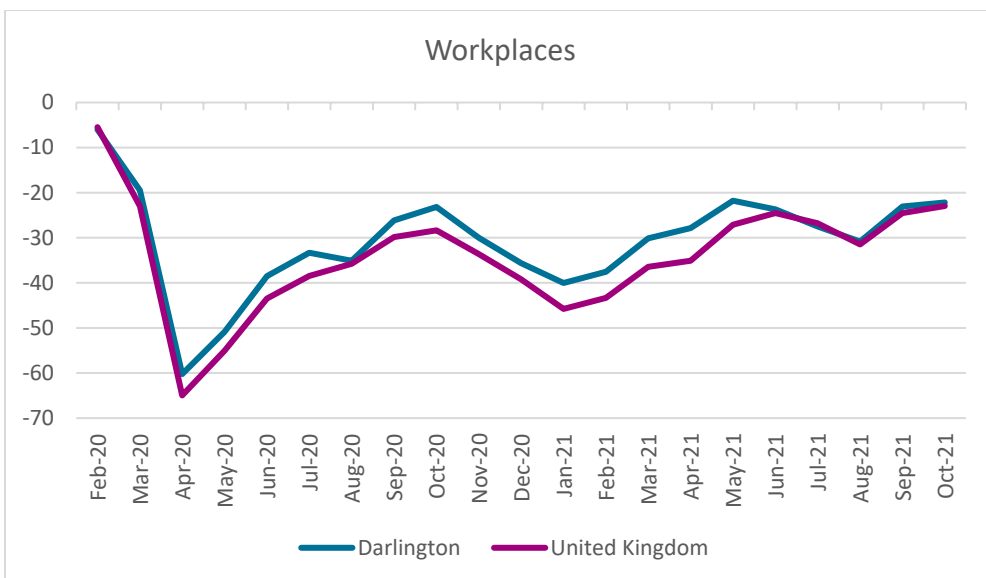
Mobility trends for places of work:

Darlington visits in October 2021 were -23% compared to baseline (UK = -23%)
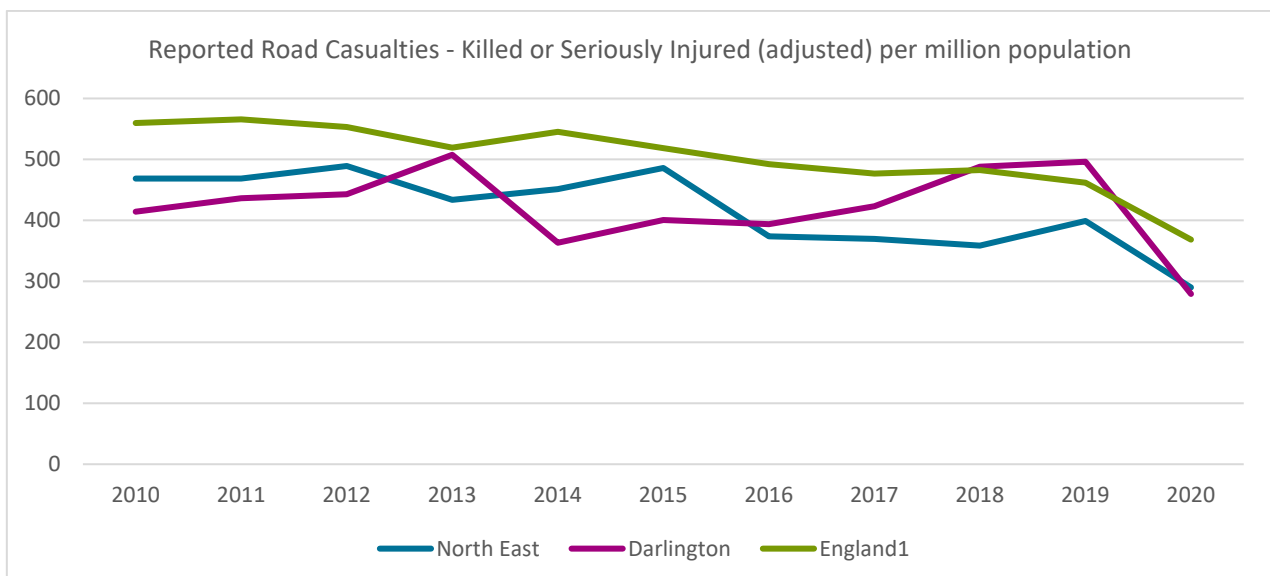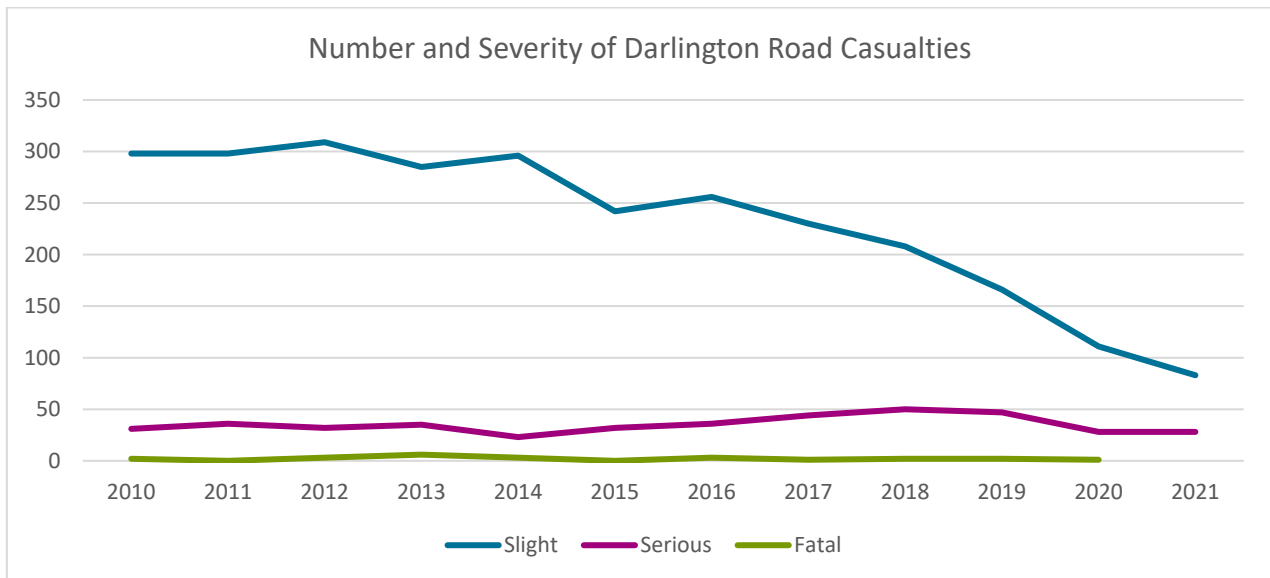
Residential

Mobility trends for places of residence:

Darlington visits in October 2021 were +4% compared to baseline (UK = +5%)

## Transport

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

95

- The number of all types of reported road casualties in Darlington fell in 2020, from 215 to 140
- The rate of serious reported road casualties fell more drastically than comparator groups
- Car occupants were the most common casualty type, at 75, followed by pedestrians at 30

The heatmap below shows the location of road user casualties in Darlington in 2021 to date, with particular concentrations observable around the town centre, up North Road, Yarm Road and the A66 near Great Burdon.
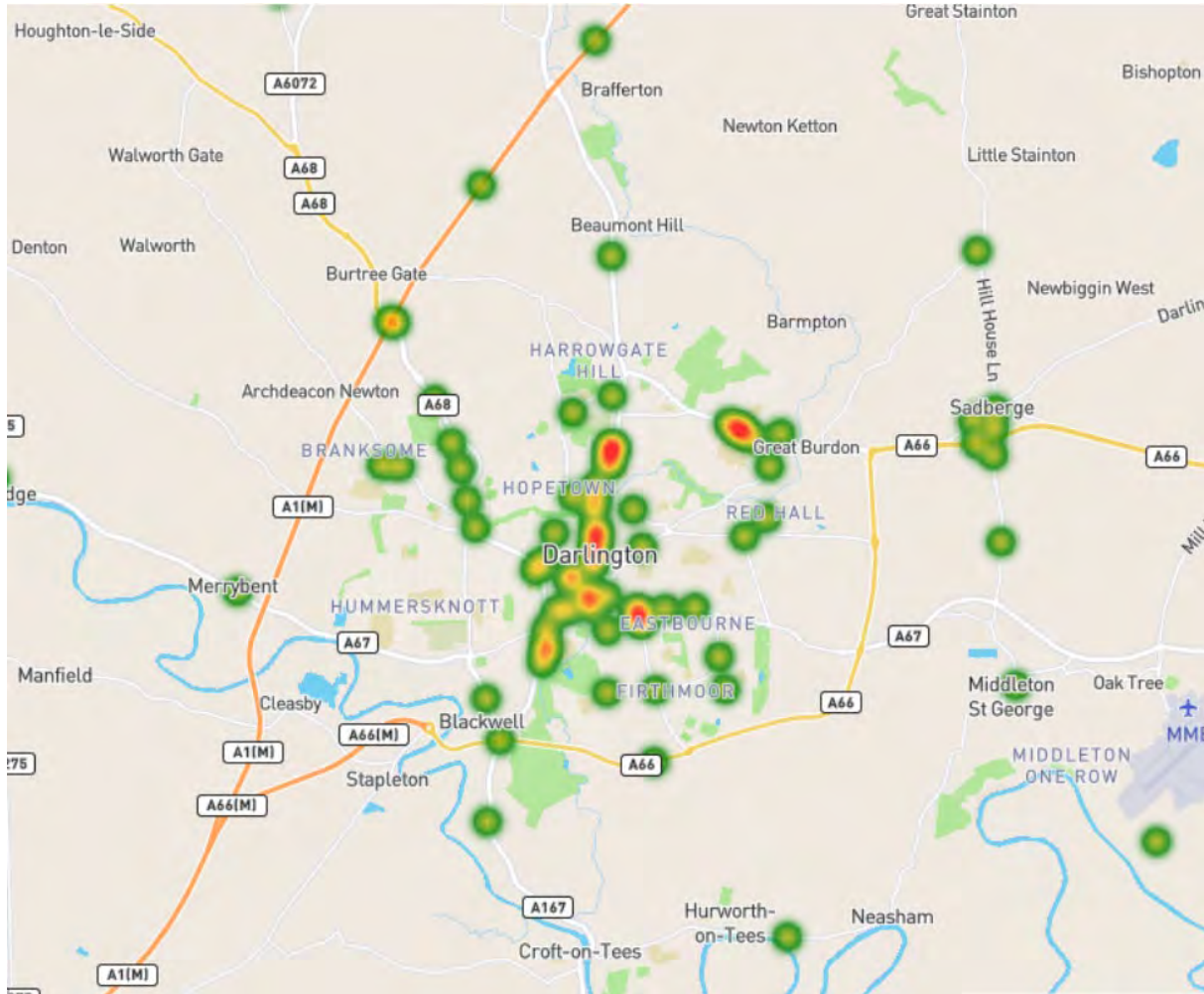

Road Traffic

0.46 billion vehicle miles were travelled on roads in Darlington in 2020, a fall of nearly 20% from 0.57 billion in 2019.
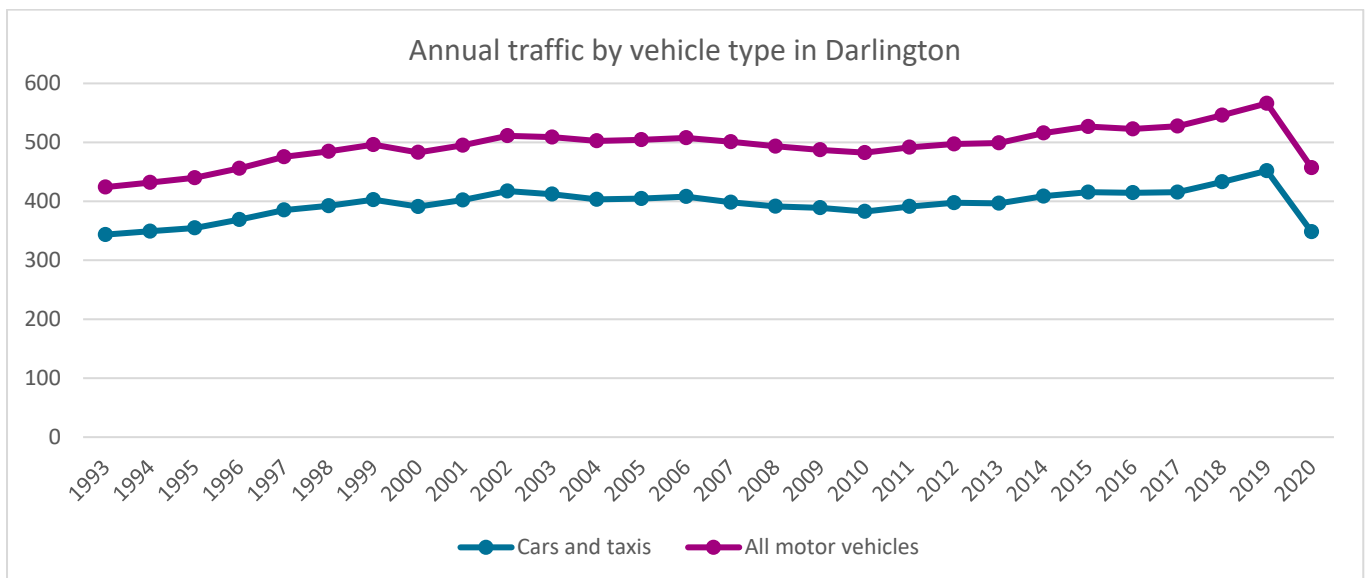
The number of motor vehicles passing Darlington count points (in both directions) on an average day fell significantly in 2020 on both major roads (by 22%) and minor roads (by 61%).

Average Annual Daily Flow of Motor Vehicles on Darlington Roads by Type
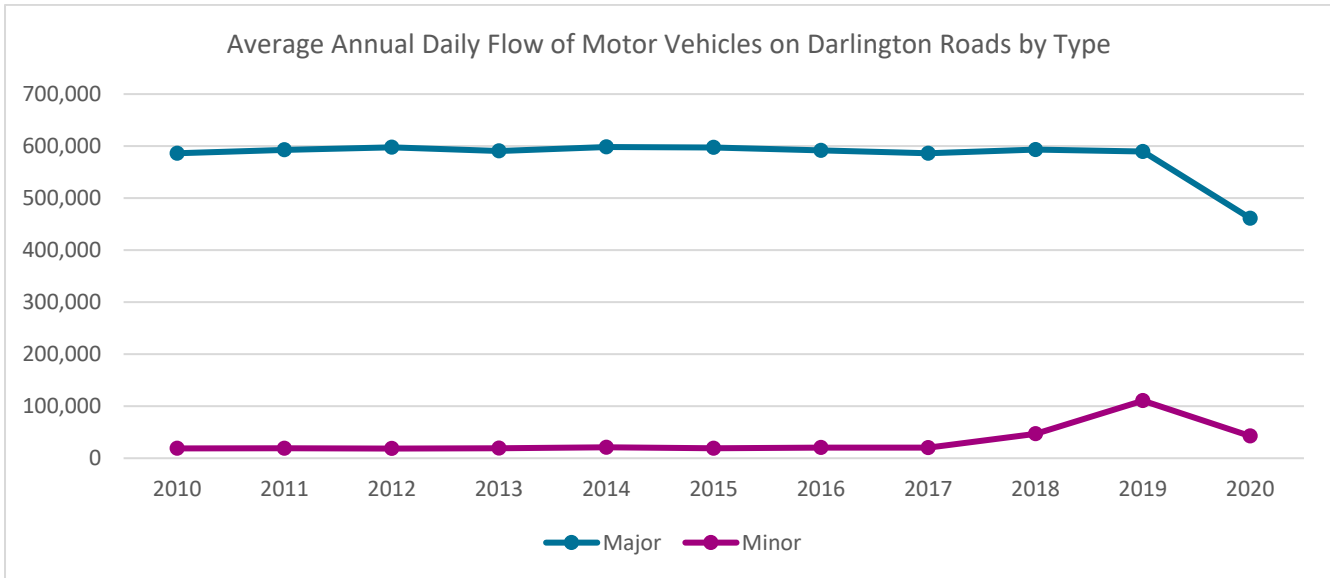
The average number of pedal cycles passing Darlington count points, however, fell significantly on minor roads (by 62%) but continued to increase on major roads (by 17%) in 2020.

Average Annual Daily Flow of Pedal Cycles on Darlington Roads by Type
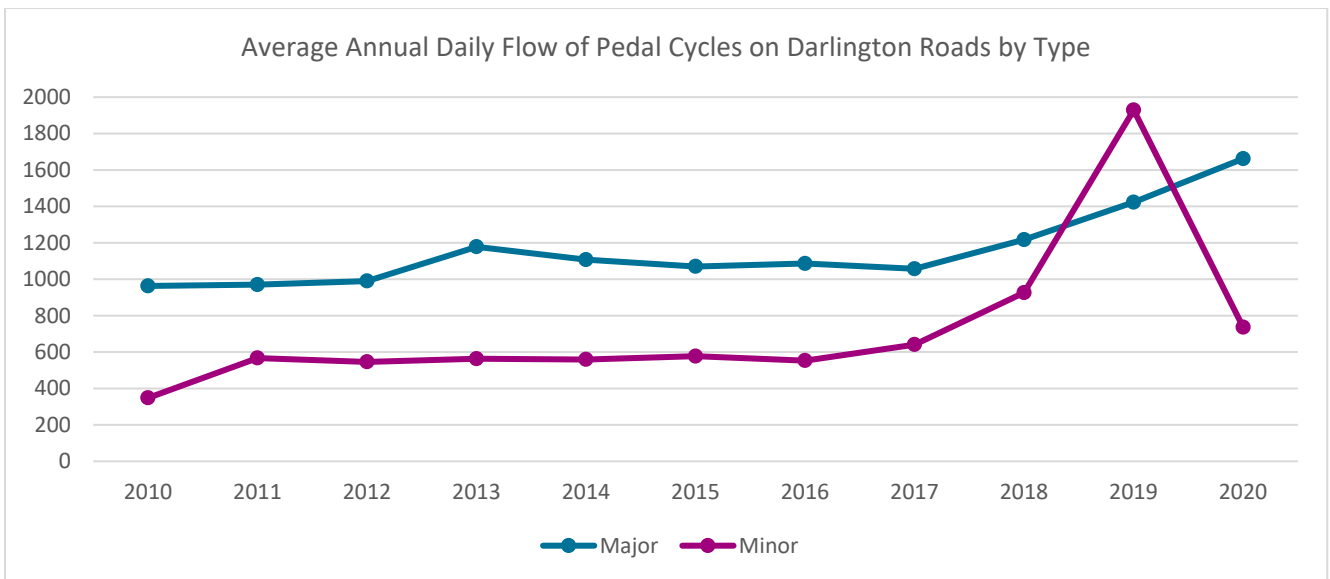
The Impact of Covid-19 on Place

Nationally and globally there is evidence that Covid-19 has led to increases and/or new forms of cybercrime[32], counterfeiting and fraud[33], and hate crime[34]. Nationally, 22% of people are estimated to have had emails, texts, phone calls or other contact from what appear to be legitimate companies mentioning Covid-19 which they believe to be fraudulent, with suspect communications relating to products including health, life and car insurance, investments, pensions and annuities. Some councils have recorded a 40% increase in reported scams since the start of the Covid-19 emergency[35].

More broadly, whilst intuitively it might seem reasonable to expectation a growth in certain crime types during recessions, there is no academic consensus on the relationship between unemployment and crime[36]. A link between relative poverty and crime, however, is supported by numerous studies with higher income inequality associated with higher levels of property crime and violent crime[37]. There is also some evidence that young people who leave school during recessions are more likely to become involved in crime than those who leave school to more buoyant labour markets[38]. Given anticipated increases in inequality and youth unemployment resulting from the pandemic and subsequent economic shock, an increase in these types of crime may therefore be expected in the future.

More people being at home due to the pandemic led to increases in the amount of material being collected at the kerbside by local authorities nationally, including recycling which – according to some estimates – rose by 10 to 20% during the first lockdown[39]. Recycling contamination, however, also seems to have increased in some areas, with the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, for example, reporting an increase of 15 percentage points in certain areas due to the pandemic[40]. Officers have consequently concluded that the additional household waste residents generated during lockdowns was placed in residents recycling once their general bins filled up. Whether this is likely to be an ongoing issue is not yet known.

In terms of environmental crime, the 2021 national waste crime survey[41] found that 62% of respondents (comprised of waste industry stakeholders, local authorities, landowners and farmers) believed Covid-19 had led to increased waste crime, with closures of waste recycling centres, court backlogs and reduced Environment Agency site visits all cited as causal factors. Whether there are longer-term impacts on behaviour etc. that endure once these lockdown-specific issues are resolved remains to be seen.

Nationally, transport statistics[42] show that whilst roads usage by goods vehicles now exceed pre-pandemic levels, the total road usage for all motor vehicles was still below baseline as of 18th October 2021 at 96%, with car usage still at 91%. This is likely to reflect the significant proportion of employees continuing to work from home (the commute accounts for 20% of distance travelled on UK roads[43]). Public transport usage was even lower relative to pre-pandemic, at 62% for National Rail passenger journeys and 76% for non-London bus travel. Again, this likely reflects the continuance of homeworkers; however, hesitancy in using public transport due to concerns around infection may also be a factor.

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[32] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51838468
[33] https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/how-criminals-profit-covid-19-pandemic
[34] https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-hate-crimes-against-chinese-people-soar-in-uk-during-covid-19-crisis-11979388
[35] https://metro.co.uk/2020/07/22/fifth-people-suspect-targeted-coronavirus-scams-13020389/
[36] https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/17578041111171050/full/html?skipTracking=true
[37] https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/crime
[38] https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/03/do-recessions-increase-crime/#:~:text=Using%20data%20on%20self%2Dreported,ever%20being%20arrested%20in%20life.
[39] https://www.circularonline.co.uk/news/working-from-home-boosts-plastic-recycling-rate-report-finds/
[40] https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/bradford-sees-15-rise-in-contamination-during-pandemic/
[41] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-waste-crime-survey-report-2021-findings-and-analysis
[42] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-use-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic
[43] https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/covid-19-impact-transport/