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Neighbourhood Deprivation in Wakefield

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A Report to the Wakefield Local Strategic Partnership

Acknowledgements

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We would like to make clear that this report is based on research undertaken by the authors and that the analysis and comment contained within do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Wakefield Local Strategic Partnership or any of the organisations involved in the research. Of course, we accept all responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions in the text.

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Introduction

This report provides an overview of findings from the second stage of a research programme commissioned by the Wakefield Local Strategic partnership (LSP) exploring deprivation across the Wakefield District.

The stage one report, produced by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURs) at the University of Birmingham, drew on administrative data to quantify deprivation, identify the spatial location of deprived communities and detail the nature of deprivation within various communities of interest across the District. The report considered in detail the five key domains of the National Strategy Action Plan (housing, health, crime, education and training and employment) and revealed a number of discrete locations where the problems of deprivation were multi-dimensional. This report aims to complement the CURs study by looking beyond the patterns and profiles of deprivation and casting light on the experiences and situations of deprivation as experienced by households in Wakefield District.

1.1 Research Approach

The research approach focused on exploring the key dimensions of deprivation (housing, health, crime, education and training and employment) in five neighbourhoods of approximately 2,000 households. The selection of the case study neighbourhoods was designed to ensure the representation of three model types of deprived neighbourhood:

- 1) neighbourhoods located in acute, widespread concentrations of multiple deprivation
- 2) neighbourhoods located in isolated clusters of multiple deprivation
- 3) neighbourhoods with some aspects of deprivation located in areas with limited multiple deprivation

The selection process also attempted to ensure:

- the inclusion of geographically distinct, clearly defined neighbourhoods
- neighbourhoods located in different areas of the District (Wakefield city and outlying locations), affected by different issues and located adjacent to different opportunities (such as transport and employment)
- the inclusion of different population groups, including older people, younger people, unemployed people, lone parents and minority ethnic households
- neighbourhoods located within and outwith the boundaries of area-based regeneration programmes

The result of this selection process was the inclusion of the five neighbourhoods detailed in Table 1.1 and defined in Figure 1.1 (for detailed maps of each neighbourhood please see Appendix 1).

Table 1.1 Case Study Neighbourhoods¹

| Location | Definition | Neighbourhood Model Type |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Wakefield East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> area between Bridge Street and Doncaster Road | <i>1. Neighbourhood located in acute, widespread concentration of multiple deprivation</i> |
| Hemsworth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> area to the west of Kirkby Road and Wakefield Road | <i>1. Neighbourhood located in acute, widespread concentration of multiple deprivation</i> |
| Featherstone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> area south of Wakefield Road (A645) | <i>2. Neighbourhood located in isolated cluster of multiple deprivation</i> |
| Castleford Whitwood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> area adjacent to the town centre(north of the train line), Hightown (north of the High Street), Whitwood Mere and streets adjacent to Jin-Whin Hill | <i>2. Neighbourhood located in isolated cluster of multiple deprivation</i> |
| Ossett | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adjacent (west and east) of the town centre | <i>3. Neighbourhood with some aspects of deprivation located in area with limited multiple deprivation</i> |

The research approach in each case study neighbourhood centred on four main activities:

1. Resident Survey

A survey of 1,750 households resident in the five neighbourhoods, conducted in July and August 2002 by Market Research UK. 350 households were surveyed in each case study neighbourhood.

The questionnaire survey focused on the current situation and experiences of respondents in relation to five key domains or areas of interest:

- housing
- crime
- education and training
- health

¹ Detailed maps and profiles of the population in the case study neighbourhoods are provided in Appendix 1

- employment / worklessness

Questions also explored residents' attitudes regarding their neighbourhood, improvements they would like to see in their local area and household mobility and aspirations.

2. *Focus Group Discussions*

Following the household survey, some 15 focus groups were held in each of the five neighbourhoods and with various communities of interest across the District in an attempt to understand in more detail the issues raised by the survey and to capture the views and opinions of local residents regarding their local neighbourhood and priorities for action for improving their quality of life. The communities of interest surveyed were:

- minority ethnic households
- older people
- young people
- people with health problems and disabilities
- lone parents
- unemployed people

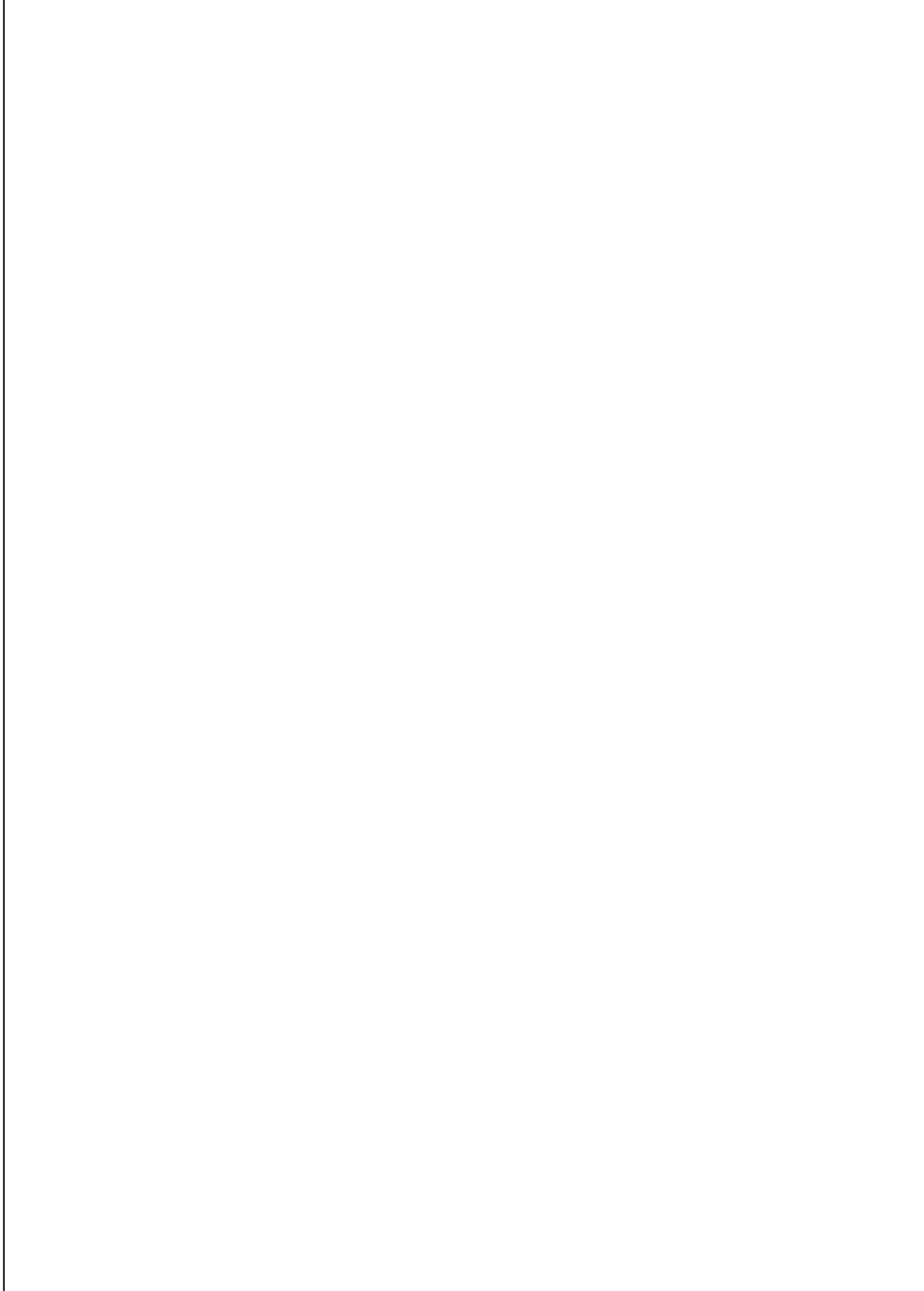
3. *Service Provider Interviews*

Awareness and understanding of deprivation at the neighbourhood level among key service providers was explored through face-to-face interviews with senior officers in a range of local agencies. Discussion centred on the awareness and understanding of deprivation at the neighbourhood level among agencies. The agencies surveyed were mainstream service providers working within and across the five key intervention themes of housing, health, crime, education and training and employment and agencies identified as having a strategic responsibility relevant to regeneration and renewal.

4. *Neighbourhood and Community of Interest Analysis*

The evidence collected through these various research activities was analysed and separate reports produced detailing the specific situations and experiences of residents in each of the case study neighbourhoods and within each of the communities of interest.

Figure 1.1 The Location of the Five Case Study Neighbourhoods Within Wakefield District



1.2 Report Structure

This report is divided into four distinct sections:

- Chapter 2 details the situations and experiences of local people living in some of the more deprived neighbourhoods within the District
- Chapter 3 goes on to explore residents' own priorities for action to improve the quality of life in their local neighbourhood
- Chapter 4 explores agency awareness and understanding of deprivation and priorities for action at the neighbourhood level
- Chapter 5 draws on the evidence presented in previous chapters to provide a series of key recommendations about the response to deprivation to be actioned at the neighbourhood level

The Situations and Experiences of Deprivation

Summary

Housing and Physical Environment

- although expressing relatively high levels of satisfaction with their current accommodation, many households reported major problems with their accommodation and the need for repairs
- asked what was likely to make them more satisfied with their current home, more residents were concerned about the state of the local area than the condition of their accommodation
- satisfaction with the local neighbourhood was particularly low in neighbourhoods in acute concentrations of deprivation and among unemployed, Pakistani, lone parents and young people
- 12.7% of residents indicated that they would be moving house in the next five years, although much higher levels of mobility were reported in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of deprivation
- the most common single reason given for wanting to move house was to live in a better area

Health and Disability

- one-third of all households surveyed reported at least one member with a health problem, long-term illness or disability
- the most common health problem was mobility difficulties
- three-quarters of the people self-reporting health problems were over 45 years old, just over one in ten were in work and a large proportion were council tenants
- many people with health problems reported being reliant on family or friends for care and support

Crime

- crime was commonly identified by residents as the number one issue affecting quality of life in their neighbourhood, even though crime statistics indicate a reduction in recorded crime in recent years
- more than one in three of the households surveyed had at least one member who had been the victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the previous 12 months
- young people were often blamed for crime and anti-social behaviour, but were more likely than other residents to be the victims of crime
- the perception of crime and anti-social behaviour as a problem far outstripped the actual experience of crime and many residents reported not feeling safe in their home and the neighbourhood. Young people and Pakistani residents reported were most likely to report feeling unsafe in their local neighbourhood
- the majority of residents reported that their behaviour was affected in some way by crime in their neighbourhood. Even though older people reported a lower experience of crime, the fear of crime was found to have a greater impact on their attitudes and behaviour

Education and Training

- over half of the residents surveyed reported possessing no qualifications
- young people and residents in employment were most likely to possess qualifications
- one-third of residents not retired from work expressed interest in undertaking further training or education. Unemployed people were particularly interested in training or education
- problems reported in accessing training included the associated costs, the lack of information about available opportunities, courses not being available at convenient times and the lack of childcare support

Employment

- the shifting nature and location of employment and the loss of traditional industries was an issue that respondents returned to time and again when discussing job opportunities and unemployment
- less than half of the residents surveyed were in or looking for employment. The majority of residents in employment were in the public sector, sales or retail and manufacturing
- over half of residents in employment (58.8%) were in manual occupations
- 7.1% of residents of working age were unemployed and looking for work. Over one-third of these respondents had been unemployed for more than one year
- unemployment levels were highest in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of multiple deprivation and among young people and Pakistani residents

2.1 Introduction

This chapter draws on evidence from the survey of 1,750 households resident in five neighbourhoods across the District (Wakefield East, Castleford Whitwood, Hemsworth, Featherstone and Ossett), selected on the basis of their severe or unique profile of deprivation as revealed by the CURs report, and a series of focus groups with local people drawn from within these neighbourhoods and from particular communities of interest (people with health problems or a disability, older people, younger people, lone parents, unemployed people and members of minority ethnic groups).

The chapter is divided into sections focusing on the five key domains or dimensions of deprivation recognised in the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal:

- housing and the physical environment
- health and disability issues
- crime
- education and training
- employment

Situations unique and particular to specific interests and locations are highlighted and common experiences detailed.

2.2 Housing and the Physical Environment

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) does not recognise housing deprivation as a problem within Wakefield District. None of the wards appear in the top ten per cent nationally for this dimension of deprivation, which draws on data regarding housing conditions, overcrowding and statutory homelessness. Analysis of the housing situations and experiences of local people through the survey and focus group sessions, however, reveals that, although expressing relatively high satisfaction levels with their current accommodation, many households are encountering major problems with their accommodation. Many people are also concerned about the local physical environment, are keen to move house and, in some instances, are keen to leave the neighbourhood, consequently raising questions about housing market weakness and the future sustainability of certain neighbourhoods.

2.2.1 Housing Situations, Experiences and Problems

Housing Situations of Local Residents

- 26.2% of residents surveyed owned their properties outright, 31.4% were purchasing their property with a loan or mortgage, 29.2% were council tenants, 2.1% were housing association tenants and 10.2% were private tenants
- 67.4% of residents had lived at their current address for more than five years
- 3.9% of residents had moved house in the previous 12 months, compared to a national mobility rate in England of 12% in 1999/2000
- 5.5% of residents were living in detached properties, 46.1% in semi-detached properties, 43.0% in terraced accommodation and 3.5% in flat accommodation
- 39.3% of residents reported that their accommodation was built before 1945 and 9.6% reported that their accommodation was built since 1980
- 2.9% of properties were reported to have one bedroom, 38.7% to have two bedrooms, 56.7% to have three and 1.7% to have four or more bedrooms

The vast majority of the households surveyed reported that they were satisfied with their current housing situation, 86.8% reporting that they were very or fairly satisfied with their current accommodation. Only 3.8% reported that their current accommodation was not adequate for their households needs, the majority of these households reporting that their accommodation was too small. Satisfaction levels were found to vary, however, between neighbourhoods and communities of interest. Figure 2.1 reveals that only 75.7% of residents in the Hemsworth neighbourhood were satisfied with the current accommodation and Figure 2.2 reveals that only two-thirds of young people and less than three-quarters of lone parents and unemployed people were satisfied with their current accommodation.

Figure 2.1 Respondents in the five case study neighbourhoods reporting satisfaction with their current housing situation

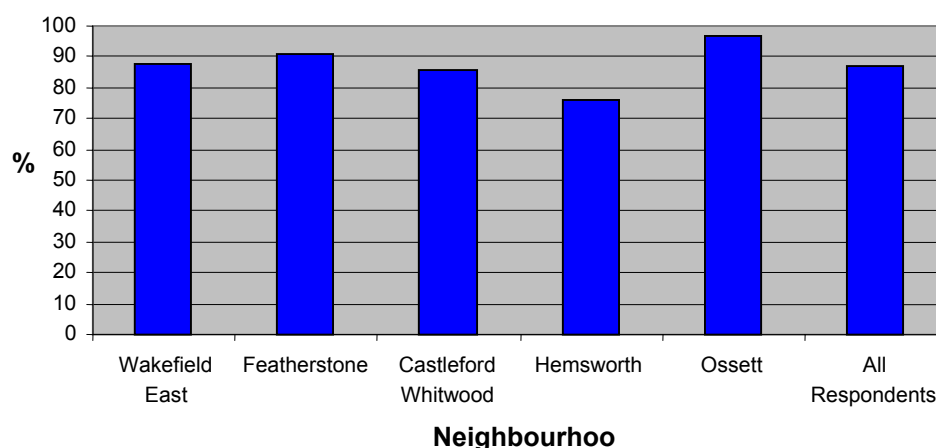
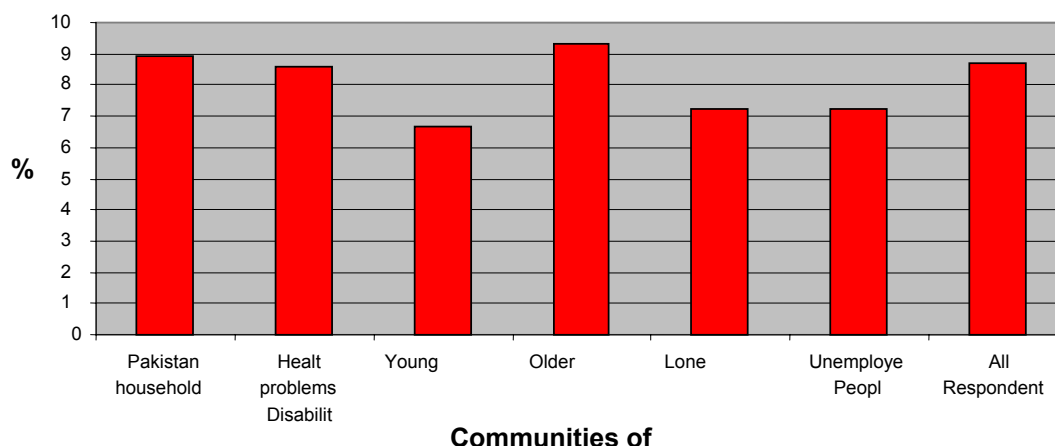


Figure 2.2 Respondents in community of interest groups reporting satisfaction with their current accommodation



It is important to remember that asking people if they are satisfied with their current accommodation does not represent an objective assessment of the physical conditions in which a household is living or the suitability of the accommodation to their needs. Rather, satisfaction levels record respondent perceptions about whether an issue represents a problem to them. This is an important point and analysis suggests that many households are living in situations which an objective assessment of housing conditions might determine to be unsuitable or unsatisfactory.

For example, although only 2.7% of respondents reported problems with lack of adequate heating facilities, 10.1% reported that their accommodation does not have central heating and a further 8.5% reported that they only have central heating in some rooms. Given that there is a positive correlation between lack of central heating and problems with damp (in Wakefield East for example, only 4.1% of households with central heating in all rooms reported problems with damp, compared to 17.4% of households with no central heating or central heating only in some rooms), it would appear that, perhaps because of low expectations, households are accepting conditions that might be reasonably regarded as problematic. The apparent acceptance of relatively poor house conditions also appears to be reflected in the fact that only 6.7% of households reported a shortage of space in

their current accommodation, even though 12.4% of households contained two or more household members than the number of bedrooms in their property, meaning that two or more people were sharing a bedroom.

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about the condition of and problems with their current accommodation. Table 2.1 details the proportion of respondents across the District reporting a range of problems.

Table 2.1 Respondents reporting problems with various aspects of their accommodation

| Problem | % |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Shortage of space | 6.7 |
| Too dark - not enough light | 1.7 |
| Lack of adequate heating facilities | 2.7 |
| Leaky roof | 1.6 |
| Damp walls, floors or foundations | 7.6 |
| Rotting window frames or floors | 8.6 |
| Mould | 4.4 |
| No place to sit outside | 1.3 |
| At least one of these problems | 21.9 |

In total, 21.9% of survey respondents reported a problem with at least one of the issues listed in Table 2.1. The problems most frequently reported were rotting frames and windows, damp floors, walls and foundations and shortage of space. Problems were most commonly reported by council tenants.

Figure 2.3 reveals that residents in the Hemsworth neighbourhood were more likely than residents in other neighbourhoods to report a problem with at least one of the issues listed. Figure 2.4 reveals that lone parents and unemployed people were more likely than other community of interest groups to report at least one problems with their current accommodation, over one-third of both communities reporting at least one problem. Lone parents and unemployed people are more likely than other households to spend more time in their accommodation, and are therefore more likely to be affected by the consequences of poor repair and maintenance. Respondents living in Hemsworth, lone parents and unemployed people were more likely than other households to be living in rented accommodation (council housing, housing association accommodation or a private rented property).

Respondents were also asked about the need for repairs to their accommodation. Table 2.2 details the proportion of households across the five neighbourhoods reporting that their accommodation required various repairs. The need for repairs was found to mirror the reporting of problems, with the greatest level of need being reported in Hemsworth and by lone parents and unemployed people.

Figure 2.3 Respondents in the five case study neighbourhoods reporting at least one problem with their current accommodation

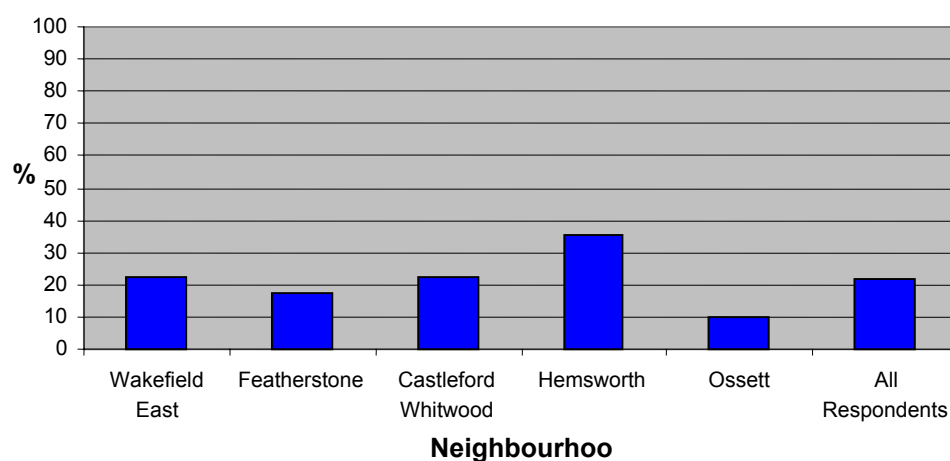


Figure 2.4 Respondents in community of interest groups reporting at least one problem with their current accommodation

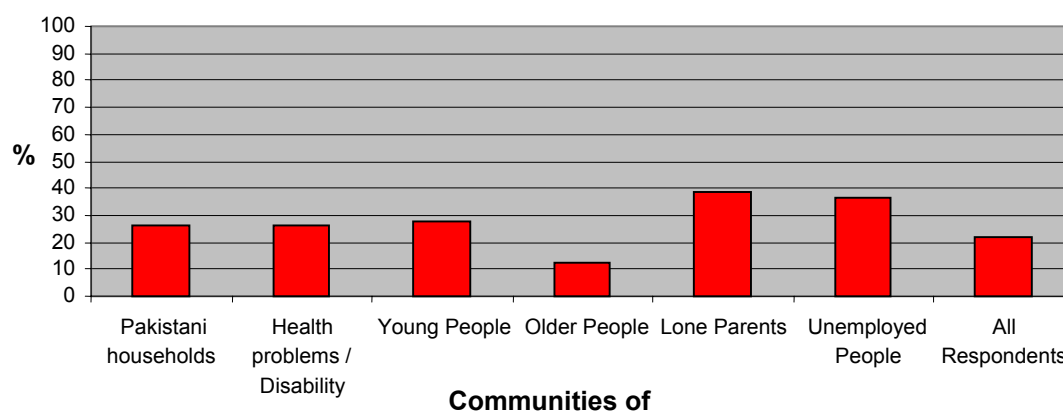


Table 2.2 Repairs required to accommodation

| Repairs Needed | % |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Roof repairs | 3.4 |
| Repairs to gutters/down pipes | 4.8 |
| Damp proof course | 2.6 |
| Window repairs | 11.7 |
| Security measures | 2.6 |
| Solution to condensation problems | 2.8 |
| Re-wiring | 2.4 |
| Replacement/repair of boiler | 2.1 |
| Re-pointing of brickwork | 5.1 |
| Structural repairs | 1.2 |
| At least one of these problems | 22.0 |

Housing Conditions reported by Lone Parents

- lone parents were more likely to report problems with their current accommodation, 38.5% reporting at least one problem compared to 21.9% of all residents
- lone parents were more likely to report the need for repairs, 32.4% reporting at least one aspect of their current accommodation requiring attention compared to 22.0% of all residents
- 61.5% of lone parents were looking after the family home and therefore likely to be spending more time in and around their home
- 62.8% of lone parents were renting their accommodation from the Council

Asked what was likely to make them more satisfied with their current home, respondents were more concerned about the state of the local area than their accommodation; 56.1% of respondents who offered an opinion said improvements in the local area would make them more satisfied with their home, while 17.9% referred to improvements in the condition of their accommodation.

2.2.2 The Physical Environment

More than three quarters (81.7%) of residents reported that they were very or fairly satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live, while 10.5% reported that they were very or fairly dissatisfied with the neighbourhood as a place to live. Satisfaction levels were found to vary, however, between neighbourhoods and communities of interest, with lower satisfaction levels being reported by residents in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of multiple deprivation (Hemsworth and Wakefield East neighbourhoods - see Figure 2.5) and by members of the unemployed, Pakistani, young people and lone parent communities of interest (Figure 2.6).

Figure 2.5 Respondents in the five case study neighbourhoods reporting satisfaction with their neighbourhood as a place to live

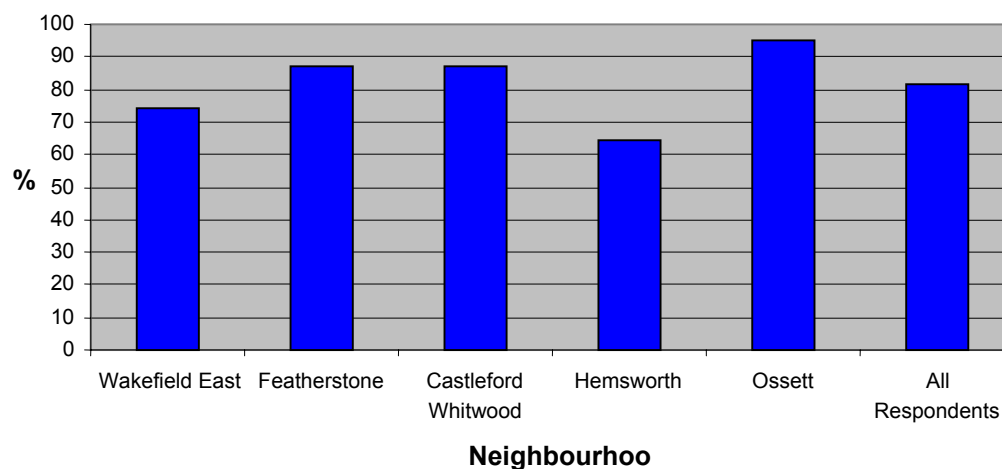
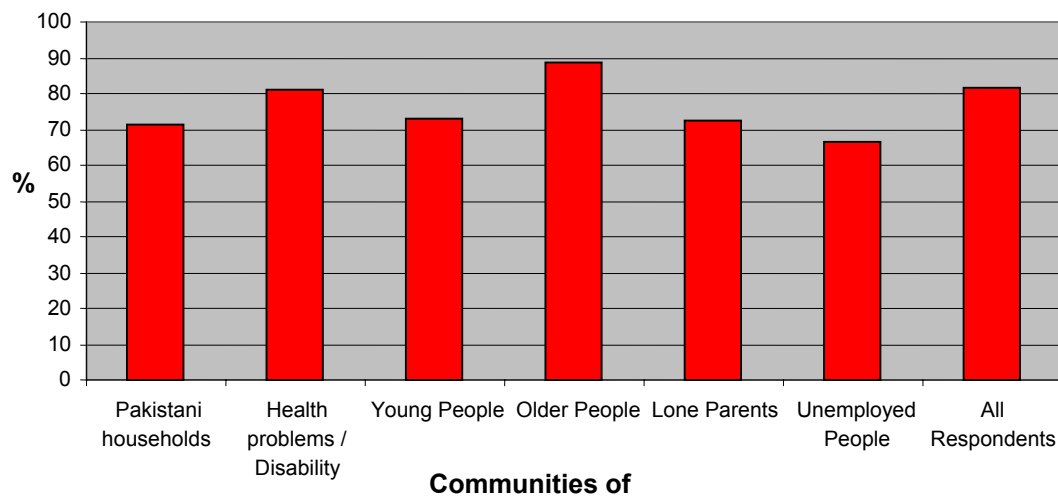


Figure 2.6 Respondents in community of interest groups reporting satisfaction with their neighbourhood as a place to live



Only 5.3% of respondents reported that their neighbourhood had got better in the last two years, 37.6% reporting that the neighbourhood had got worse over the last two years and half of all residents (50.9%) reporting that things had stayed pretty much the same. Two-thirds of all residents (62.1%) reported at least one of the problems listed in Table 2.3. The most common issues identified by residents were rubbish or litter lying around, teenagers hanging around the streets, dogs and dog mess and vandalism.

Table 2.3 Common problems in the neighbourhood

| Issue | % |
|--|------|
| Noisy neighbours or loud parties | 15.1 |
| Graffiti on walls and buildings | 14.3 |
| Teenagers hanging around on the streets | 35.8 |
| Homeless people and/or people begging | 6.2 |
| Rubbish or litter lying around | 36.9 |
| Dogs and dog mess | 32.3 |
| Homes and gardens bad condition | 14.3 |
| Vandalism and deliberate damage to property | 21.1 |
| Insults or attacks to do with someone's race or colour | 4.9 |
| None of these | 37.9 |

Questioned specifically about the physical environment, 42.6% of respondents reported at least one of the problems listed in Table 2.4, the most common concern being problems related to road traffic.

Table 2.4 Problems with the physical environment in the neighbourhood

| Issue | % |
|--|----------|
| Poor street lighting | 9.4 |
| Street noise (from traffic, factories etc.) | 11.9 |
| Pollution, grime or other environmental problems caused by traffic or industry | 4.4 |
| Lack of open public spaces | 6.5 |
| Risk from traffic for pedestrians or cyclists | 24.4 |
| None of these | 60.2 |

2.2.3 Households Aspirations and Intentions and Housing Market Weakness

The CURs report explored housing market weakness through an analysis of vacant properties and episodes of vacancy (the rate at which properties become empty and people flow through them). Combining these two measures, Wakefield East was identified as the 'most exposed' housing market within the district, with concentrated exposure to weak housing markets also being reported in Hemsworth and South Kirkby. Analysis of the attitudes and actions of local residents helps shed some light on experiences, aspirations and actions that are shaping the future trajectory of the housing market in these neighbourhoods.

Residents were asked if they were intending to move house in the next five years. Overall, 12.7% of residents reported that they would be moving. The intention to move was highest among residents of neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of multiple deprivation (Wakefield East and Hemsworth neighbourhoods) (Table 2.5). Among all residents intending to move, the main reason given for wanting to move house was to move to a better area (31%), other common explanations being the need for a larger home (14.5%) and the need for a property in better condition (8.7%). In Hemsworth, the main reason given for wanting to move was the desire to move to a better area (29.9%), whilst a relatively large proportion of residents referred to the need for a property in better condition (18.6%). In Wakefield East, the main reason given by almost half of all respondents was the desire to move to a better area (44.3%), with 21.5% referring to the desire to move into better or more suitable accommodation (larger, smaller, better condition, independent).

Table 2.5 Respondents in the five case study neighbourhoods intending to move house in the next five years

| Neighbourhood | % |
|----------------------|----------|
| Wakefield East | 15.7 |
| Featherstone | 13.1 |
| Castleford Whitwood | 11.4 |
| Hemsworth | 16.0 |
| Ossett | 7.1 |
| All Respondents | 12.7 |

All respondents, regardless of whether or not they were currently intending to move in the next five years, were asked where they would be most likely to move if they did leave their current address. 71.1% of residents reported that they were most likely to move somewhere else within their current neighbourhood. Asked where they would most *prefer* to move, 70.7% said within the neighbourhood. There is clearly a

relatively strong degree of loyalty among residents to their local neighbourhood, 60.5% of all residents reporting that living in their current neighbourhood is like being part of a community. Commitment to the local neighbourhood was found to vary between locations, however, and to be lowest in Wakefield East, Hemsworth and Castleford Whitwood (Table 2.6).

Table 2.6 Respondents reporting that they are most likely and would to prefer to stay in their current neighbourhood

| Neighbourhood | Most Likely (%) | Prefer (%) |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Wakefield East | 61.4 | 60.6 |
| Featherstone | 82.9 | 83.1 |
| Castleford Whitwood | 63.7 | 65.1 |
| Hemsworth | 67.1 | 63.1 |
| Ossett | 80.6 | 81.7 |
| All Respondents | 71.1 | 70.7 |

Pakistani Household Mobility

- Pakistani residents reported a low mobility rate in the previous 12 months
- Pakistani residents reported higher levels of household mobility in the last five years
- over half of the Pakistani households surveyed had lived in the District for less than five years
- young people were more likely to be intending to move house in the future
- a key factor driving the desire to move among Pakistani households is the desire to live in a better area

The prospect of increasing spatial mobility among the Pakistani population raises significant questions regarding the trajectory and future sustainability of neighbourhoods where the Pakistani population is currently resident. This is an issue demanding further and more detailed analysis, particularly in light of the preferences indicated by Pakistani households when asked where they would like to live if they were able to move in the next five years, regardless of intentions or actual ability to move. Pakistani residents reported a greater desire than other respondents to leave their current neighbourhood, 36.9% reporting that if they did move the likelihood was that they would leave the neighbourhood and 41.7% reporting that their preference would be to move outside the neighbourhood. move somewhere else in the District, compared to only 46.8% of the full sample. Asked what the main thing was that would attract them to another area, 27.4% of Pakistani residents referred to the quality of housing, 20.2% referred to the general appearance and cleanliness of the area and 15.5% referred to safety from crime.

Household Mobility and Unemployed Residents

- unemployed residents reported a high mobility rate in the previous 12 months (14.3% compared to 3.9% among all residents)
- 19.4% of unemployed residents expressed an intention to move house in the next five years, compared to 12.7% of all residents
- 36.7% of unemployed residents reported that if they did move it was likely to be somewhere outside their current neighbourhood, compared to 28.4% of all residents

Household Mobility and Young People

- households headed by young people (under 25 years old) reported a high mobility rate in the previous 12 months (13.1% compared to 3.9% among all residents)
- young households reported higher levels of mobility in the last five years (81.9% had lived at their current address for less than five years, compared to 44.3% of all residents)
- young households were more likely than other residents to be intending to move in the next five years (20.5% intending to move, compared to 12.7% of all residents)
- key factors reported to be driving the intention to move among young households were the desire to live in a better area and the desire to take up a job

2.3 Health and Disability Issues

Health deprivation is a major issue across the Wakefield District. As the CURs report recognises, Wakefield has eight of the ten most 'health deprived' wards in West Yorkshire and more than half of the District's wards are within the top ten per cent of health deprived wards according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Assembling small area statistics regarding low birth weight, admissions to hospital for cancers and cardiovascular disease and standardised mortality rates between 1999 and 2002, the CURs report profiles health deprivation across the District and highlights areas experiencing the most severe problems of deprivation related to health. Health deprivation is revealed to be widespread across the District, with particular 'hotspots' in Wakefield Central, Featherstone, Castleford Ferry Fryston, South Kirkby, Pontefract North and Castleford Whitwood. This section analyses the health related experiences and situations of local people through the survey and focus group work in an attempt to flesh out the indicative insights provided by analysis of administrative data. Discussion highlights the range of problems self-reported by local people, profiles the functional and social dimensions of health and reveals the service wants of local people.

2.3.1 The Self-Reported Health Status of the Local Population

All households were asked whether any of their members suffered from a health problem, long-term illness or disability that limits their daily activities or the work they can do. Table 2.7 details the responses to this question among survey respondents. In total, 31.5% of the households surveyed had at least one member who was experiencing a health problem, long-term illness or disability.

Table 2.7 Incidence of health problems in survey households

| Household Member Suffering From Health Problem | % |
|---|----------|
| Yes - respondent only | 16.3 |
| Yes - respondent and other household member | 7.1 |
| Yes - other household member only | 7.0 |
| No | 69.5 |
| Don't know | 0.1 |
| Total | 100.0 |

The 16.3% of respondents who reported that they themselves had a health problem, long-term illness or disability were asked about the nature of their condition. Table 2.8 details their responses. Respondents were also asked about if and how their health problems were impacting on their functional ability (see Table 2.9).

Profile of the Residents Self Reporting Health Problems

- three-quarters (72.5%) of people reporting a health problem were aged 45 years or over (compared to less than half of the full sample of residents surveyed)
- only 13.4% of people reporting a health problem were in full or part time employment (compared to 38.3% of the full sample). 31.2% were permanently sick/disabled and 37.3% were wholly retired from work
- residents with a health problem were more likely to be renting from the council – 39.0% were council tenants, compared to 29.2% of all residents surveyed
- one-third (32.7%) of people reporting health problems were living alone, compared to 19.5% of all residents surveyed
- residents in the Ossett neighbourhood were most likely to self-report a health problem or disability (33.4% of all residents reporting a health problem, compared to 16.3% of residents in Castleford Whitwood, 19.7% in Wakefield East, 22.0% in Featherstone and 25.7% in the Hemsworth neighbourhood)

Table 2.8 Nature of health problem, long-term illness or disability

| Nature of health problem, long-term illness, disability | % |
|--|----------|
| Mobility difficulties - wheelchair user | 16.1 |
| Mobility difficult - not in wheelchair | 41.2 |
| Learning difficulties/disability | 2.9 |
| Mental health problems related to age | 3.7 |
| Other mental health problems | 3.7 |
| Visual impairment | 2.9 |
| Hearing impairment | 0.7 |
| Breathing difficulties/asthma | 0.1 |
| Long-term/serious illness | 1.7 |
| Other | 3.9 |
| Total | 100.0 |

Table 2.9 Respondents with health problems reporting difficulties with various activities

| Nature of task | % |
|---|----------|
| Vigorous activities (e.g. running, lifting heavy objects) | 75.8 |
| Moderate activities (e.g. moving a table, pushing a vacuum cleaner) | 51.5 |
| Lifting or carrying groceries | 50.9 |
| Climbing several flights of stairs | 64.6 |
| Climbing one flight of stairs | 48.5 |
| Bending, kneeling and stooping | 56.6 |
| Bathing or dressing yourself | 29.3 |
| Walking more than half a mile | 55.8 |
| Walking 100 yards | 39.0 |
| Total | 100.0 |

Residents with health problems were asked a series of questions about the receipt of health or disability related benefits by members of their household, in an attempt to ascertain the extent to which the problems reported by respondents had officially been recognised by the state as limiting their functional ability and role in society. Table 2.10 details the proportion of respondents with health problems in receipt of various health related benefits. 61.6% of households with at least one member reporting a health problem, long-term illness or disability were in receipt of at least one health or disability related benefit.

Table 2.10 Households reporting members with health problems in receipt of various benefits

| Nature of task | % |
|---|----------|
| Disability Living Allowance | 32.1 |
| Incapacity Benefit | 29.3 |
| Invalid Care Allowance (Carers Allowance) | 8.1 |
| Disabled Persons Tax Credit | 1.5 |
| Attendance Allowance | 5.8 |
| Severe Disablement Allowance | 3.6 |
| Direct Payments for Carers | 0.9 |
| Carers Premium | 4.9 |
| Any other health or care related benefits | 5.4 |
| None of these | 39.4 |
| Total | 100.0 |

2.3.2 *The Need for Care, Support and Adaptations*

Households with at least one member with a health problem or disability were asked whether any member of the household may require, either now or in the future, various forms of care, support or adaptation because of health problems or a disability. In total, 16.9% of the households with at least one member with a health problem or disability (5.1% of all households surveyed) reported the need for some form of support or adaptation. 14.6% of households with at least one member with a health problem or disability reported that a member of the household required adaptations to the home, 7.1% reported the need for care or support and 3.0% reported the need for supported housing.

Care, Support and Adaptations to the Home

16.9% of households reporting at least one member with health problems or a disability were asked about their current receipt of care and support:

- 53.3% were receiving formal care from another household member
- 15.6% were receiving care or support from an external agency
- 38.9% reported that their home had been adapted to enable the person to cope more easily

These households were also asked about additional needs:

- 48.9% reported that their home requires further adaptation to allow a person with health problems to cope
- 18.9% reported that a household member needed to move to more suitable housing

2.4 Crime

Utilising data regarding domestic burglaries and robberies or violence against the person carried out between 1999 and 2001, the CURs report revealed particularly high crime rates in South Kirkby and Hemsworth. Other concentrations of crime were reported to include Wakefield East and Central and South Elmsall. In an attempt to look beyond the patterns of incidence revealed by these indicators of crime, this section draws on survey evidence and focus group discussions to explore in detail the experience and impact of crime on local residents and their feelings of security and safety.

2.4.1 The Experience of Crime

Focus group respondents repeatedly identified crime as the number one issue affecting the quality of life in their neighbourhood. Exploring this issue in more detail, survey respondents were asked whether, during the previous 12 months, a member of their household, including themselves, had experienced or been the victim of any of a number of types of criminal activity or anti-social behaviour. 38.8% of all households surveyed had at least one member who had been a victim of one or more of the problems listed in Table 2.11.

The reported experience of crime was found to vary across the District, as Figure 2.7 reveals. The greatest experience of crime and anti-social behaviour was reported in the Hemsworth, Castleford Whitwood and Wakefield East neighbourhoods, where residents reported an experience of crime more than double that reported by residents in Ossett.

Table 2.11 Experience of various criminal activities or forms of anti-social behaviour

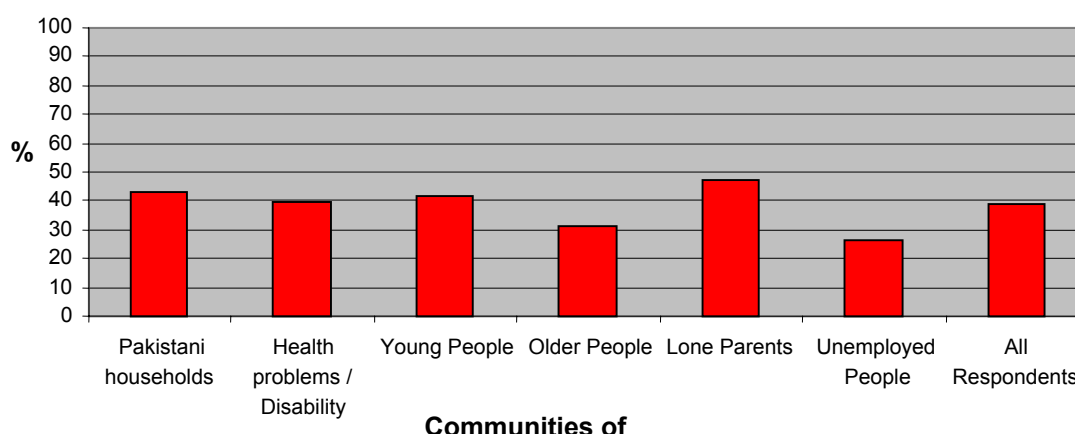
| Nature of Incident | % |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Vandalism and graffiti | 7.4 |
| Teenagers hanging around | 14.1 |
| Drinking in the street | 5.5 |
| Disturbance by your neighbour | 7.1 |
| Speeding traffic | 15.3 |
| Thefts | 1.9 |
| Assaults | 4.3 |
| Burglaries | 6.6 |
| People taking drugs | 6.6 |
| Drug dealing | 5.7 |
| Cars being broken into | 5.1 |
| Cars being stolen | 1.6 |
| Racial harassment | 1.1 |
| Other types of harassment | 2.7 |
| None of these | 61.2 |

Figure 2.7 Experience of criminal activities or anti-social behaviour within the five case study neighbourhoods



The reported incidence of crime was also found to vary between communities of interest, with a relatively high reported incidence being found among lone parents, Pakistani households and young people (Figure 2.8).

Figure 2.8 Experience of criminal activities or anti-social behaviour within the various communities of interest



Of the households who had experienced at least one of the problems listed in Table 2.11, 40.6% said that they had reported the problem to the police. Residents were most likely to have reported more serious criminal incidents to the police (for example, assault, burglary, a car being broken into, drug dealing and theft). In contrast, less than half all households that had experienced teenagers hanging around, drinking in the street and speeding traffic had reported these problem to the police. Young people were least likely to have reported a problem to the police, and residents in Castleford Whitwood were found to be less predisposed to report a problem to the police, only 31.3% of households reporting the last incident they experienced to the police, compared to 51.7% of residents in the Hemsworth neighbourhood. Half of residents who had reported the last incident they had experienced to the police reported that they were very or fairly satisfied with the response of the police. Lower satisfaction levels were reported by Pakistani residents.

Crime and Young People

Young people were often regarded by focus groups respondents as being disproportionately responsible for crime in their local neighbourhood, although residents were often sympathetic about the factors thought to be driving young people into crime (lack of opportunities, poor educational attainment, limited leisure and recreational facilities). Discussion about the incidence and nature of crime often centred on the perceived link between crime and drug use and dealing, which were reported to involve young people and to be a major problem in many neighbourhoods. Concern was also expressed about what was perceived as a rising tide of anti-social behaviour, which was blamed on young people and was recognised to be undermining the quality of life in the neighbourhood.

The survey evidence reveals, however, that young people were more likely to have been the victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, reporting a greater experience of all forms of criminal activities and anti-social behaviour listed in Table 2.11 compared to other residents, other than disturbance by a neighbour, burglaries, cars being stolen and other types of harassment. Young people were also found to be far less likely than other residents to report an experience of crime or anti-social behaviour to the police, only 28.5% confirming that the last incident they experienced was reported to the police, compared to 40.6% of all residents surveyed.

2.4.2 Perceptions of Crime and Feelings of Safety

It is a well worn truism that the perception of crime and anti-social behaviour in an area is often greater than the actual experience of crime. This point is well illustrated by the opinions of residents surveyed in the five case study neighbourhoods. Comparing resident perceptions of various issues as either a major or minor problem (detailed in Table 2.12) with the actual experience of these issues in the previous 12 months (as indicated in Table 2.11) emphasises how perception can far outstrip experience.

Table 2.12 Perception of various criminal activities or forms of anti-social behaviour as a major or minor problem in the local neighbourhood

| Nature of Incident | Major Problem (%) | Minor Problem (%) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Vandalism and graffiti | 21.9 | 28.8 |
| Teenagers hanging around | 28.6 | 30.7 |
| Drinking in the street | 22.2 | 20.3 |
| Disturbance by neighbours | 13.2 | 19.5 |
| Speeding traffic | 30.9 | 27.9 |
| Thefts | 22.0 | 27.6 |
| Assaults | 11.4 | 20.1 |
| Burglaries | 25.4 | 26.5 |
| People taking drugs | 28.2 | 19.6 |
| Drug dealing | 27.9 | 19.4 |
| Cars being broken into | 18.9 | 27.8 |
| Cars being stolen | 17.6 | 27.1 |
| Racial harassment | 5.0 | 14.2 |
| Other types of harassment | 5.3 | 16.6 |

* Respondents were asked whether each problem represented a major or minor problem or no problem at all

The perception that crime is a problem in an area, even if not related to recent direct experience of crime or anti-social behaviour, should not be dismissed. Perceptions about crime can have a corrosive affect on feelings of safety and the well-being of an individual or household in their home and local neighbourhood and can be a key driver of household mobility, which can undermine neighbourhood sustainability

16.5% of residents reported feeling 'not so safe' or 'not safe at all' from crime in their neighbourhood, a figure rising dramatically in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of deprivation (25% in the Wakefield East neighbourhood and 36.3% in the Hemsworth neighbourhood). Residents aged less than 25 years old and Pakistani residents were most likely to feel unsafe in their local neighbourhood.

Respondents were asked a series of questions about how safe they feel in various situations during the day and at night-time. As Table 2.13 reveals, more than one in ten residents reported that they do not feel safe from crime in their home during the night and 30.8% reported not feeling safe outside in the neighbourhood at night. The highest levels of concern about safety were evident among residents aged less than 25 years old. In Wakefield East, for example, 53.8% of young people reported not feeling safe in the neighbourhood at night and 17.3% reported not feeling safe in the neighbourhood during the daytime.

Table 2.13 Feelings of safety from crime in various situations

| Situation and Time | Not So Safe (%) | Not Safe At All (%) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| At home during the day | 3.1 | 2.3 |
| At home at night | 7.3 | 5.7 |
| Outside in the neighbourhood in day | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| Outside in the neighbourhood at night | 15.8 | 15.0 |

Safety from Crime in Hemsworth

Over one-third of residents of the Hemsworth neighbourhood reported not feeling safe from crime in the neighbourhood:

- 9.7% reported not feeling safe at home during the day
- 24.6% reported not feeling safe at home during the night
- 17.5% reported not feeling safe outside in the neighbourhood during the day
- 53.2% reported not feeling safe outside in the neighbourhood at night

2.4.3 The Impact of Crime on Behaviour

Concerns about crime and safety issues were found to be impacting on the behaviour of local residents. Table 2.14 details responses to a series of questions regarding how residents are affected by crime in the neighbourhood. Two-thirds of residents reported that they are affected in some way by crime in their neighbourhood, a figure rising to 92.6% in the Hemsworth neighbourhood. One in five residents reported that they do not go out alone after dark and one in eight residents reported avoiding certain streets in the neighbourhood at all times.

Table 2.14 The affects of crime on attitudes and behaviour

| Affect of Crime | % |
|---|----------|
| Don't like leaving the house empty | 18.9 |
| Avoid areas or streets in the neighbourhood | 12.6 |
| Don't go out on own after dark | 19.2 |
| Don't go out after dark at all | 11.8 |
| Don't go out on own at all | 3.5 |
| Affected by crime in the neighbourhood | 65.0 |

Fear of Crime Among Pakistani Residents

Crime or fear of crime was found to be having the greatest impact on Pakistani households, 88.1% reporting that they are affected in some way by crime in the neighbourhood. Pakistani households were also found to be more concerned about leaving the house empty, going out on their own and going out at all after dark.

The Affect of Crime on the Attitudes and Behaviour of Older People

Older people reported a lower experience of crime than other residents and were less likely than other residents to report feeling unsafe in their home or neighbourhood. Crime and safety issues were, however, found to impact to a greater extent on the attitudes and behaviour of older people:

- 19.2% of older reported being unhappy leaving the house empty, compared to 18.9% of all residents
- 24.9% reported not going out after dark at all, compared to 11.8% of all residents
- 5.4% reported not going out on their own at all, compared to 3.5% of all residents
- 67.6% reported that they were affected by crime in their neighbourhood, compared to 65.0% of all residents

2.5 Education and Training

Education is a key floor target for neighbourhood renewal and education deprivation is a major issue within the Wakefield District. According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, seven wards within the District are in the top ten per cent of educationally deprived wards in the country, a measure which takes into account a range of measures, including working age adults with no qualifications, children aged 16 years and over not in full time education and Key Stage 2 primary school performance. The CURs report analyses Key Stage 2 pass rates across the District in more detail and reveals particularly low pass rates, compared to the District average, in Wakefield East, Castleford Glasshoughton, Knottingley, Pontefract North, Castleford Ferry Fryston, Castleford Whitwood, Hemsworth and South Kirkby. Evidence from the survey and focus group discussion reviewed in this section casts further light on educational attainment within the District and also reveals the differential experience of different communities of interest.

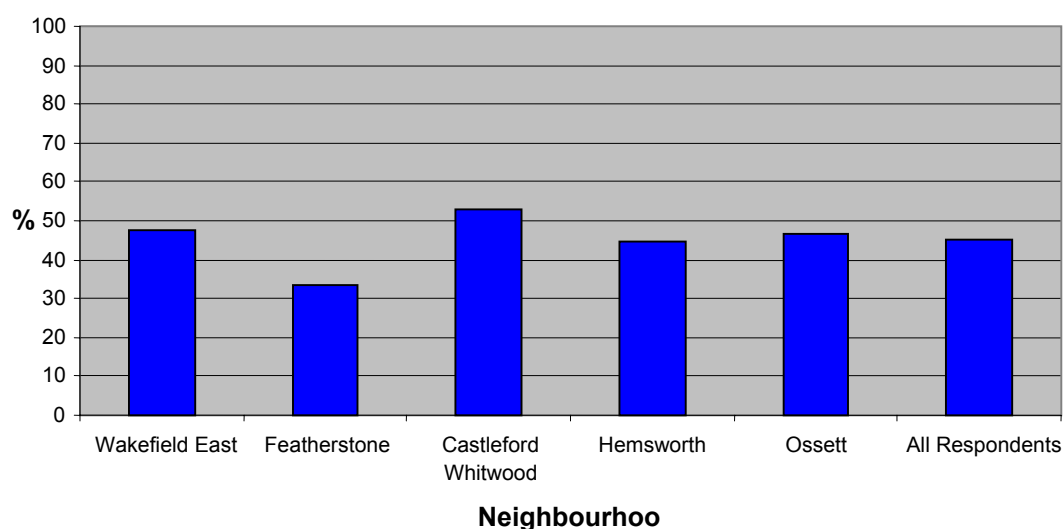
2.5.1 Educational Attainment and Qualifications

Over half of the residents surveyed across the District reported that they have no qualifications (Table 2.15).

Table 2.15 Educational attainment and qualifications

| Qualification | % |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| CSEs | 8.6 |
| O-Levels | 9.6 |
| GCSEs | 18.5 |
| A-levels | 5.9 |
| Degree | 3.2 |
| Higher degree | 1.2 |
| GNVQs | 1.5 |
| NVQ - 1 | 3.5 |
| NVQ - 2 | 3.2 |
| NVQ - 3 | 2.8 |
| BTEC | 2.3 |
| RSA | 2.5 |
| Pitman's | 0.8 |
| Other diplomas | 3.4 |
| Trade or professional qualifications | 11.0 |
| Other qualifications | 5.8 |
| No qualifications | 54.9 |

Figure 2.9 Possession of qualifications in case study neighbourhoods



Possession of qualifications varied dramatically depending upon employment status, with people in employment being most likely to possess qualifications and people permanently sick or disabled and unemployed people being least likely to possess qualifications. In Wakefield East, for example, 74.6% of residents in full- or part-time employment possessed some qualifications, while, in contrast, 84.4% of permanently sick/disabled residents and 72.7% of unemployed residents reported having no qualifications. Possession of qualifications was also found to vary among residents of working age, 18 to 24 year olds being most likely to have qualifications and 45 to 64 year olds being least likely to possess qualifications. Women residents were

slightly more likely to have qualifications than men. No variations in the possession of qualifications was evident between ethnic groups.

2.5.2 Interest in Undertaking Education or Training

One-third (30.4%) of residents not wholly retired from the work place indicated that they were interested in undertaking further training or education. The 69.6% of residents not wholly retired from work who were not interested in further training or education were asked why they were not interested. Most residents saw training as unnecessary, either because they were not intending to seek work or improve their employment situation, because gaining qualifications would not improve their prospects or because they have the skills and qualifications they require.

Interest in undertaking further training or education was found to vary depending upon the employment status of residents. In particular, high levels of interest in undertaking further training or education were apparent among unemployed residents and people looking after the family home.

Interest in Further Training Among Unemployed People

Half of the unemployed people surveyed expressed an interest in further training or education:

- younger unemployed people were particularly interested in further training or education, 67.3% of unemployed people under 25 years old expressing an interest, compared to 41.4% of unemployed people aged between 25 and 44 years old and only 22.2% of unemployed people over 45 years old
- one-quarter of unemployed people interested in further training reported problems obtaining the education or training they need, all citing lack of information about available options and access as the main problem

2.5.3 Problems Obtaining Education and Training

15.8% of residents interested in undertaking further training or education reported problems obtaining the training or education they require. Asked to explain these problems, the most common reasons given were that available training was too expensive, there was not enough information available about the training residents require and courses were not available at suitable times.

Table 2.16 Problems obtaining training or education

| Problem | % |
|---|----------|
| Not enough information on training required | 35.2 |
| Not know what would be suitable | 14.1 |
| Not available within reasonable travelling distance | 12.7 |
| Written/spoken English not good enough | 0.0 |
| Courses too expensive | 38.0 |
| Racial discrimination | 0.0 |
| Sexual discrimination | 0.0 |
| Courses not available at suitable times | 23.9 |
| lack of adequate transport | 2.8 |
| Available training does not lead to well paid work | 5.6 |
| No one to look after children | 15.5 |
| No one to look after sick or elderly relative | 0.0 |
| Lack of confidence | 2.8 |
| Other problems | 23.9 |

2.6 Employment

According to the claimant count, unemployment disparities across Wakefield District are not extreme, the highest levels of unemployment being recorded in the former mining communities of Hemsworth, Pontefract North, South Kirkby and Knottingley and standing at between five and six per cent. As the CURs report points out, however, these areas are characterised by under-employment and low economic activity rates, related to long term sickness and disability. Furthermore, six of the District's wards (Hemsworth, South Kirkby, Castleford Ferry Fryston, Wakefield East, South Elmsall and Featherstone) are ranked in the top ten per cent on the employment deprivation domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, while Castleford Whitwood lies just outside the top ten per cent. This section highlights some of the experiences and situations that lay behind these headline figures, including the incidence of unemployment and the differential experiences of unemployment across the communities of interest.

2.6.1 Nature and Location of Employment

The shifting profile of employment opportunities in the local area was an issue that focus group respondents returned to time and again when talking about problems in their neighbourhood and the challenges faced by local people. In particular, respondents drew attention to the sudden and recent loss of traditional employment opportunities on which the local community had long relied. The result was reported to have been a reorientation of the employment profile of the local population, which appears to be supported by the survey evidence.

Figure 2.10 Residents in full or part time employment in case study neighbourhoods



Less than half (43.9%) of local residents were in or looking for work, 37.9% of residents being in full or part-time employment. The majority of residents in work were employed in the public services, sales and retail or manufacturing (Table 2.17).

Table 2.17 Employment sector of residents in paid work

| Employment Sector | % |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Manufacturing | 18.7 |
| Sales and retail | 17.6 |
| Wholesale and warehousing | 6.1 |
| Transport and distribution | 7.8 |
| Construction | 3.4 |
| Banking, finance and insurance | 3.6 |
| Public services | 27.0 |
| Other | 15.8 |
| Total | 100.0 |

The most common job type among residents was unskilled manual work. In total, 58.8% of residents in employment were engaged in manual work (skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled), whilst 17.6% were engaged in management work or professional or technical work (Table 2.18).

Table 2.18 Job type of residents in paid work

| Job Type | % |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Management | 7.2 |
| Professional or technical | 10.4 |
| Clerical or secretarial | 17.6 |
| Skilled manual | 21.0 |
| Semi-skilled manual | 14.8 |
| Unskilled manual | 23.0 |
| Other | 6.0 |
| Total | 100.0 |

The vast majority (93.0%) of residents in employment were working within the Wakefield District. Only 3.7% reported travelling to work in Leeds, compared to 17% of the workforce across the Wakefield District, according to the CURs report.

2.6.2 Experience of Unemployment

At the time of the survey, 7.1% of the population of working age (5.6% of all residents) were currently unemployed and looking for work. Of these 98 residents, one-third (32.7%) had been unemployed less than six months, one-quarter (24.5%) had been unemployed between six months and one year and one-third (35.7%) had been unemployed for more than one year (7.1% for more than three years). 18.4% of unemployed residents reported that they had never previously been employed.

Unemployment among the population of working age was found to vary between neighbourhoods. As table 2.19 reveals, Hemsworth and Wakefield East reported the highest unemployment levels among residents of working age.

Table 2.19 Unemployment among residents of working age

| Neighbourhood | % |
|---------------------|-----|
| Wakefield East | 8.5 |
| Featherstone | 7.9 |
| Castleford Whitwood | 4.8 |
| Hemsworth | 8.8 |
| Ossett | 6.3 |
| All Respondents | 7.1 |

Profile of Unemployed Residents

- the majority (52%) of unemployed residents were less than 25 years old and young people were far more likely than other residents to be unemployed (21% of residents less than 25 years old were unemployed)
- 13.2% of unemployed people were from a minority ethnic group (compared to only 5.7% of all residents surveyed) and 12.3% of Pakistani residents of working age being currently unemployed and looking for work.
- unemployed residents were far more likely to be living in rented accommodation (30.6% were council tenants and 28.6% were private tenants)
- 28.6% of unemployed people were living on their own, compared to 19.5% of all residents surveyed
- 36.7% of unemployed residents reported living in a household receiving income from earnings, compared to 52.6% of all households surveyed

Two-thirds (68.8%) of the 80 unemployed residents who had previously been employed were last employed in manual work (51.3% in unskilled manual work) and one-quarter (25.0%) were last employed in secretarial or clerical work.

All unemployed people actively looking for work were presently looking in Wakefield District. Only six (7.5%) of unemployed people reported looking for work outside Wakefield District. Asked about available job opportunities, 52% of unemployed residents reported that suitable job opportunities were not available within easy travelling distance and one in five unemployed residents reported that they were not able to access job opportunities. These residents were asked to explain the

difficulties they encounter accessing job opportunities. Key reasons given were the lack of opportunities within easy travelling distance and the lack of information about available opportunities.

Focus group respondents related relatively high levels of unemployment in the neighbourhood to the decline of traditional industries and the failure to protect the local skills base and, where necessary, reorientate it toward new opportunities. There was also concern that the decline of the traditional industrial base had not been countered by the developed of alternative job opportunities. Some respondents suggested that a worrying consequence of rising and long term unemployment was a growing culture of low expectations regarding employment prospects among some local residents, which were percolating down through the generations. A particular problem reported to be limiting access to the workplace for women was the relative dearth in the area of affordable and accessible childcare. Faced with the additional cost of childcare, respondents suggested that lone parents found themselves in a poverty trap and could often not afford to work.

Unemployment Among Pakistani Residents

A relatively high proportion of Pakistani respondents of working age (less than 65 years old) were unemployed and looking for work; 12.2% of Pakistani residents of working age were unemployed and looking for work, compared to 7.1% of all respondents of working age and a District wide claimant count in July 2002 of 3.5%.

The relatively high proportion of Pakistani respondents unemployed and looking for work does not appear to be related to place of residence or possession of qualifications:

- the vast majority of Pakistani households surveyed were resident in the Wakefield East neighbourhood, where 7.8% of all residents were unemployed. Unemployment among Pakistani residents of working age in neighbourhood, however, was 13.2%
- Pakistani respondents were more likely than other respondents to have some form of qualification (48.8% of Pakistani respondents of working age possessed a qualification of some kind, compared to 47.2% of the full sample of respondents of working age) and a greater proportion of Pakistani respondents reported having GCSEs, A-Levels, a degree, GVNQs, NVQs, BTEC, RSA and other diplomas. The absence of qualifications was more common among unemployed Pakistani respondents (60% possessing no qualifications), but this situation mirrors closely the situation among the full sample (62.2% of all unemployed respondents possessing no qualifications)

The profile of the unemployed Pakistani residents varied in certain ways from the profile of unemployed respondents across the full sample:

- all unemployed Pakistani respondents were men (compared to 69.9% of the full sample of unemployed respondents)
- 70% of unemployed Pakistani respondents were aged less than 45 years old (compared to 81.6% of the full sample of unemployed respondents)
- 70% of unemployed Pakistani respondents previously worked in sales and retail and 30% in wholesale and warehousing (compared to 18.7% of the full sample of unemployed respondents who worked in manufacturing, 17.6% in sales and retail, 6.1% in wholesale and warehousing, and 27% in public services)
- 60% were in unskilled manual positions (compared to 23% of the full sample of unemployed respondents)
- all unemployed Pakistani respondents reported that they own their property outright (compared to 17.3% of all unemployed residents who were purchasing their house on a mortgage and 13.3% who owned their property outright)
- the majority (70%) of unemployed Pakistani respondents reported that their household included three or more adults aged 16 years or over (compared to 25.5% of the full sample of unemployed respondents)

Unemployment Among Young People

- a high proportion of young people were currently unemployed (21% compared to 5.6% of all residents and 7.1% of resident of working age)
- nearly half of young unemployed people had some qualifications
- a large proportion of young unemployed people were interested in undertaking further training or education
- a high proportion of young people reported that suitable job opportunities were not available within easy travelling distance
- the vast majority of young people were looking for work within the Wakefield District

Tackling Deprivation: The Views of Local Residents

Summary

Satisfaction with Neighbourhood Attributes

- the largest satisfaction gaps reported by local residents regarding various aspects of the local neighbourhood related to employment opportunities for local people, the opportunities for local people to take part in decisions about the local area, the general appearance of the neighbourhood and recreational or sports
- a consensus was found to exist across the neighbourhoods regarding the importance of certain key issues (employment opportunities, opportunities to take part in local decision making and safety from crime), but the concerns of local residents were also found to vary between neighbourhoods
- certain key issues (safety from crime, employment opportunities and the general appearance of the area) were important to all or most communities of interest, whilst other issues were particular concerns to certain communities (high schools were a key concern among Pakistani residents, recreational facilities were a key concern among young people and pre-school provision was a key concern among unemployed people)

Priorities for Action

- crime was identified as a the top priority for action. Other key priorities for improvement included the general appearance of the area, anti-social behaviour, the quality of housing, local health services and employment opportunities
- crime was the only key priority for action identified in all neighbourhoods. A majority of neighbourhoods also identified the general appearance of the neighbourhood and the quality of housing as key priorities for action
- the level of importance attached to improvements in all aspects of the neighbourhood was greatest in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of multiple deprivation
- crime was the only key priority for action identified by all communities of interest, although a majority of interest groups also recognised quality of housing, the general appearance of the neighbourhood and anti-social behaviour as a key priority

Making a Difference: Community Involvement and Engagement

- residents were typically unaware of any improvements that had taken place in their neighbourhood in the last five years around the issues of housing, health, crime, education or employment
- less than one in twenty residents reported that they had been consulted about initiatives to regenerate or improve the quality of life in their neighbourhood
- focus group respondents were often aware of initiatives in their neighbourhood intended to improve the quality of life but suggested that little difference had been made to the experience of living in the area
- respondents explained that the in-flow of regeneration money into their area had failed to make a significant difference because the money had not found its way to local people and groups who understood what needed to be done

3.1 Introduction

When talking about problems and challenges faced by their local neighbourhood, residents participating in the focus group sessions returned time and again to the issue of the local economy and the restructuring over recent years of the District's economic base. Residents recounted how traditional employment opportunities in mining, textiles and engineering, on which local communities had been so reliant, had disappeared and bemoaned the perceived failure of the District to generate or attract alternative employment opportunities through growth in other sectors. This analysis appears to be supported by the conclusions offered by the CURs report regarding the District's growth potential and the prospects for generating new employment opportunities. The CURs report relates the function of the District's economy to the health and future trajectory of neighbourhoods and argues that deprivation in Wakefield District is coalescing in parts of the north-eastern and south-eastern extremities of the District. Arguing that employment opportunities in the near future will be generated by two routes – inward investment, linked to opportunities offered by the M1/A1 corridor and/or through the social economy, for example, involving community economic development – attention is drawn to regional, sub-regional and District wide interventions, related to economic development, spatial planning and regeneration initiatives. This chapter seeks to complement this structural analysis of the foundations of deprivation by exploring the priorities identified by local people for tackling deprivation and improving quality of life at the neighbourhood level.

Although local residents were quick to relate problems of crime and anti-social behaviour, poor health and limited educational attainment to unemployment, rising economic inactivity and income poverty, which many residents, in turn, related to economic restructuring, when asked for their views about tackling deprivation and improving the quality of life in their neighbourhood, residents often focused attention on the social and physical dimensions of deprivation. In particular, the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour and the quality of the physical environment were found to be particular concerns. This chapter explores these concerns in detail.

3.2 Satisfaction with Neighbourhood Attributes

Residents were asked to grade the importance of various aspects of the local neighbourhood to the quality of life in the area. Table 3.1 reveals the proportion of residents reporting that various attributes were very and fairly important to the quality of life in their neighbourhood. The most important attributes were reported to be:

- safety from crime
- local health services
- quality housing
- good general standards of appearance and cleanliness

Table 3.1 Importance of attributes to the quality of life in the neighbourhood

| Neighbourhood attribute | Very Important % | Fairly Important % |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Good quality housing | 80.3 | 12.5 |
| Safety from crime | 85.2 | 8.0 |
| Good employment opportunities for local people | 68.7 | 14.9 |
| Good local health services | 81.7 | 10.9 |
| Religious and cultural facilities | 36.0 | 14.3 |
| Good pre-school provision | 60.2 | 14.3 |
| Good primary schools | 64.3 | 12.8 |
| Good high schools | 64.5 | 12.9 |
| Good local shopping facilities | 66.1 | 24.6 |
| Good public transport provision | 66.4 | 22.2 |
| Good recreational or sports facilities | 54.9 | 18.1 |
| Opportunities for local people to take part in decisions affecting the area | 52.5 | 21.1 |
| Less traffic congestion and noise | 58.9 | 23.0 |
| Good general standards of appearance and cleanliness in the area | 78.1 | 16.3 |

Table 3.2 Rating of various attributes in the neighbourhood as good

| Neighbourhood attribute | Very Good % | Fairly Good % |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| The quality housing | 9.9 | 63.5 |
| Safety from crime | 5.6 | 52.2 |
| Employment opportunities for local people | 2.9 | 29.3 |
| Local health services | 12.3 | 65.4 |
| Religious and cultural facilities | 3.3 | 35.5 |
| Pre-school provision | 6.1 | 45.8 |
| Primary schools | 7.9 | 50.5 |
| High schools | 7.8 | 49.5 |
| Local shopping facilities | 7.9 | 63.2 |
| Public transport provision | 7.5 | 66.2 |
| Recreational or sports facilities | 1.4 | 31.1 |
| Opportunities for local people to take part in decisions affecting the area | 1.1 | 26.1 |
| Traffic congestion and noise | 2.0 | 45.4 |
| The general standards of appearance and cleanliness in the area | 4.8 | 48.9 |

Table 3.2 details the proportion of respondents rating these same attributes as very or fairly good within their neighbourhood. The lowest satisfaction levels reported related to the following attributes:

- opportunities for local people to take part in decisions affecting the area
- employment opportunities for local people
- recreational and sports facilities
- religious and cultural facilities

A more informative picture of resident satisfaction is provided by taking into account the importance attached to various aspects of the neighbourhood when reviewing the

rating attached to each attribute. Table 3.3 details the satisfaction gap reported by local residents with various aspects of their local neighbourhood, this is the gap between the proportion of residents reporting an issue to be very or fairly important to quality of life in their neighbourhood and the proportion rating that attribute as fairly or very good within their neighbourhood. The largest satisfaction gaps were found to relate to:

- employment opportunities for local people
- the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area
- the general appearance of the neighbourhood
- recreational or sports facilities

Table 3.3 Satisfaction gap relating to various neighbourhood attributes (i.e. gap between proportion of residents rating an attribute as 'important' and proportion reporting an attribute to be 'good')

| Neighbourhood attribute | Satisfaction gap % |
|---|-----------------------|
| The quality housing | 19.4 |
| Safety from crime | 35.4 |
| Employment opportunities for local people | 51.4 |
| Local health services | 14.5 |
| Religious and cultural facilities | 11.5 |
| Pre-school provision | 22.6 |
| Primary schools | 18.8 |
| High schools | 20.1 |
| Local shopping facilities | 19.6 |
| Public transport provision | 15.2 |
| Recreational or sports facilities | 40.5 |
| Opportunities for local people to take part in decisions affecting the area | 46.4 |
| Traffic congestion and noise | 34.5 |
| The general standards of appearance and cleanliness in the area | 40.7 |

3.2.1 Neighbourhood Variations

The satisfaction gap between the importance attached to each neighbourhood attribute and the proportion of residents reporting the attribute to be very or fairly good was found to vary between neighbourhoods. Table 3.4 details the four attributes with the largest satisfaction gap in each of the case study neighbourhoods:

- two attributes appear in each neighbourhood and might therefore be considered issues of universal importance across deprived neighbourhoods: employment opportunities for local people and opportunities for local people to take part in decisions affecting the area
- safety from crime appears in three of the five neighbourhoods
- recreational and leisure facilities appear in two

A consensus therefore appears to exist across the neighbourhoods regarding the importance of certain key issues, but the concerns of local residents were also found to vary between neighbourhoods. It is therefore important that any strategy for countering deprivation attends to these local concerns and priorities.

Table 3.4 The attributes with the largest satisfaction gaps in the five case study neighbourhoods (with the size of the gap in brackets)

| Neighbourhood | Attributes |
|---------------------|--|
| Wakefield East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (54.0%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (47.2%) • safety from crime (44.9%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (42.6%) |
| Featherstone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (73.4%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (55.8%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (32.9%) • safety from crime (31.7%) |
| Castleford Whitwood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (50.3%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (48.6%) • recreational or sports facilities (43.6%) • safety from crime (24.2%) |
| Hemsworth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (73.7%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (65.4%) • employment opportunities for local people (63.8%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (51.1%) |
| Ossett | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational or sports facilities (35.4%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (29.1%) • traffic congestion and noise (28.3%) • employment opportunities for local people (20.4%) |
| All Respondents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (51.4%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (46.4%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (40.7%) • recreational or sports facilities (40.5%) |

The relative importance of different attributes, indicated by the size of the satisfaction gap, was found to vary dramatically between neighbourhoods. A particular contrast is apparent between the relatively large satisfaction gaps recorded in Hemsworth, when compared to other the neighbourhoods, and the relatively small satisfaction gaps recorded in Ossett, when compared to the other neighbourhoods. One reading of these figures is that there are certain areas where attention appears to be more urgently required, a fact supported by the evidence presented in Chapter 2 and the detailed analysis of CURs report, which reveals discrete locations, including Hemsworth, where the problems of deprivation are most severe and multi-dimensional.

3.2.2 Satisfaction Across Communities of Interest

Table 3.5 profiles the attributes with the largest satisfaction gaps identified by different communities of interest.

Table 3.5 The attributes with the largest satisfaction gaps as identified by different communities of interest (with the size of the gap in brackets)

| Community of Interest | Attributes |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Pakistani Households | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (52.4%) • employment opportunities for local people (42.8%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (40.5%) • high schools (23.8%) |
| People reporting Health/Disabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (73.4%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (55.8%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (32.9%) • safety from crime (31.7%) |
| Young People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (51.0%) • safety from crime (40.7%) • recreational or sports facilities (32.9%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (28.4%) |
| Older People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (32.7%) • safety from crime (21.9%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (21.6%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (16.8%) |
| Lone Parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (40.6%) • employment opportunities for local people (35.8%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (26.2%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (22.3%) |
| Unemployed People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (57.2%) • safety from crime (44.9%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (40.8%) • pre-school provision (25.6%) |
| All Respondents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities for local people (51.4%) • the opportunity for local people to take part in decisions about the local area (46.4%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (40.7%) • recreational or sports facilities (40.5%) |

Table 3.5 reveals a number of common attributes indicated as being important to all or most communities of interest:

- safety from crime was recorded as a top concern for all communities of interest
- employment opportunities for local people were recorded as a top concern for all six communities of interest
- the general appearance of the neighbourhood was recorded as a top concern for five of the communities of interest

- opportunities for local people to take part in decisions about the local area was recorded as a top concern for four of the communities

Alongside these more common attributes were concerns particular to certain communities:

- high schools were recorded as a top concern for Pakistani households
- recreational and leisure facilities were a top concern for young people
- pre-school provision was recorded as a top concern for unemployed people

3.3 Priorities for Action

In an attempt to cast further light on the issues that local people want to see addressed, the survey asked all residents to indicate whether various attributes of the local neighbourhood were a high medium or low priority for action. Whereas the analysis of the satisfaction gap reported by residents represented an attempt to identify key concerns on the basis of dissatisfaction, the evidence presented in Table 3.6 indicates the priorities identified by residents themselves when asked directly what priority they would assign to improvements in different aspects of their neighbourhood.

Although there was a tendency for residents to report most issues as a high or medium priority, there was one issue that emerged above all others as a priority for action; crime. Other key priorities for improvement identified by local residents matched the issues identified through the satisfaction gap analysis and included:

- the general appearance of the area
- anti-social behaviour
- the quality of housing
- local health services
- employment opportunities for local people.

Table 3.6 Priorities for improvement

| Aspect | High Priority % | Medium Priority % | Low Priority % |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Quality of housing | 54.0 | 35.9 | 7.9 |
| Anti-social behaviour | 56.5 | 29.0 | 10.1 |
| Safety from crime | 71.7 | 22.4 | 4.6 |
| Employment opportunities for local people | 51.8 | 40.7 | 5.1 |
| Local health services | 51.9 | 32.9 | 13.4 |
| Religious and cultural services | 14.3 | 33.0 | 40.6 |
| Pre-school provision | 43.9 | 33.1 | 12.2 |
| Primary schools | 48.1 | 30.4 | 10.7 |
| High schools | 49.3 | 30.3 | 9.4 |
| Training | 41.6 | 44.6 | 7.8 |
| Local shopping facilities | 32.7 | 49.9 | 16.1 |
| Public transport provision | 35.8 | 44.9 | 16.2 |
| Recreational or sport facilities | 37.8 | 38.9 | 17.5 |
| Opportunities for local people to take part in decisions affecting the area | 34.6 | 43.1 | 15.7 |
| Traffic congestion and noise | 39.7 | 42.7 | 15.1 |

| | | | |
|---|------|------|-----|
| General standards of appearance and cleanliness | 57.5 | 37.0 | 3.5 |
|---|------|------|-----|

3.3.1 Neighbourhood Variations

Priorities for action were found to vary between neighbourhoods.

Table 3.7 High priorities for improvement identified by residents in the five case study neighbourhoods (with the percentage of local residents identifying issues as a high priority in brackets)

| Neighbourhood | Attributes |
|---------------------|---|
| Wakefield East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (85.1%) • high schools (67.1%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (66.3%) • primary schools (66.0%) |
| Featherstone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality of housing (68.6%) • safety from crime (65.4%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (62.9%) • local health services (61.7%) |
| Castleford Whitwood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (61.1%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (62.9%) • employment opportunities for local people (48.9%) • quality of housing (48%) |
| Hemsworth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (87.7%) • anti social behaviour (75.7%) • quality of housing (64.9%) • general appearance of the neighbourhood (64.9%) |
| Ossett | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (58.9%) • local health services (51.1%) • employment opportunities for local people (49.7%) • high schools (44%) |
| All Respondents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (71.7%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (57.5%) • anti-social behaviour (56.5%) • quality of housing (54.0%) |

Table 3.7 details the top four priorities for action identified in each of the case study neighbourhoods:

- crime is the only top priority for action identified in each neighbourhood
- the general appearance of the neighbourhood was a top priority in four of the five neighbourhoods
- the quality of housing was a top priority in three neighbourhoods
- employment opportunities for local people, local health services and high schools were each identified as a top priority in two neighbourhoods
- anti-social behaviour and primary schools were each identified as a top priority in one neighbourhood

Once again, a consensus appears to exist across the neighbourhoods regarding the importance of certain issues (in particular, crime), although the concerns of local residents also vary between neighbourhoods. Clearly, there is a need for the local renewal and community strategies to take account of the different priorities for action among local populations.

Table 3.7 also reveals that the importance attached to various issues varies between neighbourhoods. In particular, the relative importance attached to action to improve safety from crime, in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of deprivation (85.1% in Wakefield East and 87.7% in Hemsworth) stands out in comparison to the priority attached to safety from crime in other neighbourhoods.

3.3.2 Communities of Interest Priorities

Table 3.8 profiles the priorities for action identified by the different communities of interest. Immediately apparent is the similarity between the priorities identified by different groups:

- all six community of interest groups identified safety from crime as the number one priority for action
- five out of six communities of interest groups identified quality of housing as a top priority
- four community of interest groups identified the general appearance of the neighbourhood as a top priority for action
- four community of interest groups identified anti-social behaviour as a top priority for action
- three community of interest groups identified employment opportunities for local people as a top priority for action

Although there was a general consensus regarding the importance of a number of priorities for action, there were also found to be some issues that were particular and unique concerns among certain communities:

- Pakistani residents identified primary schools as a top priority for action
- older people identified local health services as a top priority for action
- lone parents identified high schools as a top priority for action

Table 3.8 High priorities for improvement identified by residents belonging to various communities of interest (with the percentage of residents identifying issues as a high priority in brackets)

| Community of Interest | Attributes |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Pakistani Households | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (92.9%) • anti-social behaviour (64.3%) • primary schools (64.3%) • employment opportunities for local people (63.1%) |
| People reporting Health/Disabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (63.4%) • anti-social behaviour (53.9%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (52.0%) • quality of housing (47.3%) |
| Young People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (74.1%) • anti-social behaviour (66.7%) • quality of housing (62.1%) • employment opportunities for local people (58.8%) |
| Older People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (69.2%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (60.5%) • local health services (51.6%) • quality of housing (51.1%) |
| Lone Parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (79.7%) • anti-social behaviour (72.3%) • quality of housing (69.6%) • high schools/general appearance of neighbourhood (61.5%) |
| Unemployed People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (77.6%) • employment opportunities for local people (72.4%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (70.4%) • quality of housing (70.4%) |
| All Respondents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from crime (71.7%) • the general appearance of the neighbourhood (57.5%) • anti-social behaviour (56.5%) • quality of housing (54.0%) |

3.4 Making a Difference: The Role of Community Involvement and Engagement

During recent years various strategies and initiatives intended to secure improvements in relation to crime, housing, education and training, employment and health have been developed and implemented in particular neighbourhoods and across the whole of Wakefield District. Despite these and other numerous strategies and initiatives, which have involved the support of various on-the-ground projects, local residents were typically unaware of any improvements that had taken place in their neighbourhood in the last five years around the issues of housing, health, crime, education or employment (Table 3.9) and only 4.6% of residents reported that they had been consulted about initiatives to regenerate and improve life in their neighbourhood.

Examples of recent initiatives relevant to key dimensions of deprivation

Housing and the physical environment:

- joint working between housing associations and the local authority, involving the demolition of unwanted housing (for example, in Fitzwilliam)
- SRB 5 Hemsworth Coalfield Partnership support for a community development officer and community environmental officer to cover Kinsley, Fitzwilliam and Havercroft
- Wakefield WMDC and Chantry housing association working in partnership, with NRU funding, to provide training places for local people with building contractors
- Wakefield LSP Environmental Well Being and Housing actions, including efforts to renew the worst areas of housing and to improve housing quality

Health

- Health Action Zone initiatives and projects, focused on community involvement and improving health services, promoting positive health and facilitating social inclusion
- East and West Wakefield Primary Care team involvement in delivery of Wakefield LSP Health and Social Well-Being key actions, including focusing attention on the health of people in the most deprived communities
- Drugs Action Team activities, including the commissioning of substance misuse services across the District
- SRB 5 (Hemsworth Coalfield Partnership) Healthy Living project

Crime

- West Yorkshire Police TARGET initiative, a two year programme to decrease crime and disorder involving a large scale arrest programme, community campaigns and exhibitions
- Wakefield Community Safety Partnership, which is responsible for the production of the Community Safety Strategy, supported by a series of tasks groups focusing on specific aspects of crime and the fear of crime, and is also a lead player in responding to Wakefield LSP key action points relevant to crime. Activities range from the development of provision for women experiencing violence at home to the installation of CCTV in Castleford
- local community safety projects supported by SRB 5 (Hemsworth Coalfield Partnership)

Education

- Education Action Zone, which works with an independent budget to improve performance and achievement in particular schools
- Wakefield MDC Lifelong Learning Plan, implemented through the Lifelong Learning Partnership, which aims to make education more widely available and accessible
- West Yorkshire and Humberside Learning and Skills Council activities designed to support the planning and funding of post-16 education and training
- Connexions Partnership activities, focusing on people aged 13 to 19 years old and providing personal support, development and advice
- Wakefield Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, which aims to increase access to training and employment for parents through the provision of affordable and accessible quality childcare and to provide childcare and early learning of a high quality and open to all
- Wakefield LSP Education and Learning Well-Being key actions, which include the development of the community based learning infrastructure

Employment

- Wakefield LSP key actions, implemented by agencies including Wakefield MDC and FIRST Development Agency, relating to the local economy and employment, including support for small business development, opening up access to jobs through community transport schemes and developing local centres of enterprise
- SRB 5 (Hemsworth Coalfield Partnership) Building Bridges to Work projects and Community

Table 3.9 Awareness of improvements in the last five years regarding various neighbourhood issues

| Theme | Area of Improvement | % |
|------------|---------------------------|------|
| EDUCATION | Training | 4.9 |
| | Schools | 10.1 |
| | Skills | 2.9 |
| EMPLOYMENT | Opportunities | 5.0 |
| | Training | 5.5 |
| HEALTH | Primary care services | 7.8 |
| | Hospitals | 5.9 |
| HOUSING | Housing conditions | 10.9 |
| | Housing services | 3.3 |
| | New housing | 11.3 |
| CARE | Social Services | 6.0 |
| | Advice services | 3.0 |
| CRIME | Vandalism and graffiti | 2.5 |
| | Speeding traffic | 7.8 |
| | Thefts | 2.8 |
| | Assaults | 2.1 |
| | Burglaries | 4.0 |
| | People taking drugs | 2.2 |
| | Drug dealing | 3.5 |
| | Cars being broken into | 2.1 |
| | Cars being stolen | 2.2 |
| | Racial harassment | 0.8 |
| | Other types of harassment | 0.8 |

During focus group discussions, some residents reported that they were aware of a number of initiatives designed to improve the quality of life in their neighbourhood that had been implemented in recent years and sometimes agreed that large amounts of money had flown into the local area. The consensus, however, was that these funds had made little difference to the problems and challenges faced by local people. Some residents were therefore concerned that funding agencies would decide that their area had received its fair share and that it was time to focus attention elsewhere, even though the neighbourhoods problems were far from being resolved.

Asked to explain why, despite the in-flow of regeneration funding into the neighbourhood, there had been little improvement in the quality of life and situations of local residents, respondents all agreed that a major problem was that the money was not finding its way down to local people and groups who understood what needed to be done on the ground to make a difference to the lives of local people. Much was made of this point in focus group discussions. Some people explained the failure of funding to percolate its way down to local groups with reference to the limits of community empowerment in their local area. Service providers also picked up on this point and argued for the need for capacity building initiatives in deprived neighbourhoods to facilitate the engagement of communities in discussions about priorities for action and forms of intervention relevant to their area and the needs of local people.

Three quarters of residents (73.5%) surveyed in the case study neighbourhoods reported that opportunities for local people to take part in decisions affecting the area were important to the quality of life in the neighbourhood. However, only 27.1% rated

the opportunity to take part in local decisions in their area as good, only 9.8% reported that they had been involved in a local group and only 11.4% reported that they felt able to influence decisions taken about the neighbourhood and. Table 3.10 details the involvement of local residents in various community groups, meeting and forums.

Table 3.10 Resident Involvement in community groups and meetings

| Meeting/Group | % |
|---|----------|
| Attended meeting of tenants' / residents' group | 3.0 |
| Attended meeting of neighbourhood assoc/forum | 3.8 |
| Attended a Community Involvement Team meeting | 1.3 |
| Attended meeting of other community group | 2.6 |
| Spoken at meeting of local group | 1.3 |
| Been elected to local committee or organisation | 1.3 |
| Played active role in place of worship | 2.3 |
| None of these | 90.2 |

Despite the importance attached to opportunities to inform decisions about the local area as an influence of quality of life in the neighbourhood, few residents expressed interest in attending any of the meetings or groups listed in Table 3.10. Only 6.7% expressed an interest in becoming involved in local community groups and only 6.3% expressed interest in becoming a member of helping set up a tenants' or residents' association. Low levels of interest in getting involved in local groups appears, in part, to be explained by assumptions about the power of such groups to influence local decisions. As Table 3.11 reveals, a majority of residents reported that none of the activities listed would help influence decisions about the local area.

Table 3.11 The potential for membership of various groups and meetings to influence decisions about the local area

| Meeting/Group | Positive Influence % |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Being part of tenants' association | 7.9 |
| Being part of residents' association | 10.3 |
| Attending Area Panel meetings | 4.5 |
| Being part of community group | 8.5 |
| Talking to local councillor | 15.1 |
| None of these | 48.3 |

Community Group Problems Engaging with Neighbourhood Renewal

Community groups were aggrieved about the difficulties that they encountered accessing regeneration funds through the bidding process and complained that, as a consequence, the community was being effectively disempowered. There was also anger at how the criteria employed to inform the bidding process targets money at issues that were not believed to match with the priorities for action identified by local people and groups. Many respondents reserved particular anger regarding funding processes for the role played by councillors, suggesting that councillors were hijacking community agendas and bids, or making decisions insensitive to the needs of all their constituents.

Proposals for solving these problems and ensuring that funding was more effectively spent on responding to the priorities of local people focused on the engagement of community interests in strategic decisions, discussions regarding delivery instruments and local interventions. In particular, the group suggested the need for:

- increased awareness among funding agencies and councillors of the realities in which community groups are working (difficulties relating to the bidding process etc.) and the priorities for action of local people
- those responsible for allocating funds to visit the local communities and the projects and schemes requesting support, in order to understand their activities and the relevance of their work to the needs of the local community (recognising that community groups are not always skilled at putting forward their case on paper)
- endowment payments, to allow ongoing, medium or long-term support, rather than piecemeal, short-term assistance
- community groups to come together and identify priorities for the wider area, agreeing between them the priorities within their area and where and when limited resources should be spent, the logic being to counter the divide and rule of the funding process that pits neighbourhoods against each other

Tackling Deprivation: The Views of Service Providers

Summary

Collection and Analysis of Deprivation Data at the Neighbourhood Level

- neighbourhood level data regarding some key themes for intervention (employment and adult training) was reported to be patchy
- responding to the limits of current understanding, some agencies had commissioned specific studies
- a minority of agencies reported that information and evidence was readily available and monitored on an ongoing basis
- concern was expressed regarding the lack of a cross-cutting programme of data collection and trend analysis regarding deprivation at the neighbourhood level

Key Concerns and Priorities for Action

- agencies typically related various aspects deprivation, in all its various manifestations, to the state of the local economy and the failure to restructure effectively following the decline of traditional industries
- respondents repeatedly talked across themes (housing, physical environment, health, crime, education and training and employment) when discussing what they regarded as the key aspects of deprivation in the District
- the District was described by many respondents as becoming increasingly socially polarised, with poverty and deprivation reported to be increasing acute in the southeast and east of the District

Joint Planning and Working at the Neighbourhood Level

- there was limited evidence of co-ordinated and ongoing joint strategic planning and working between agencies and across sectors at the neighbourhood level
- barriers identified as limiting joint practices included historical hostilities between certain key agencies within the District, the local authority's reported poor record of partnership working, the history among some agencies of centralised service provision and the limited capacity of and difficulties of engaging with voluntary and community sector groups

Priorities for Action

- many of the priorities for action identified by agencies mirrored the priorities of local residents. Interestingly, however, the issue that emerged as a top priority for residents - crime - was rarely mentioned by the agencies surveyed, other than those actively involved in tackling or preventing crime
- as well as identifying priorities for action, agencies also detailed a series of strategic and organisational level priorities for action, including capacity building to facilitate more community engagement, the development of more community based services in touch with local wants, needs and priorities, the countering the 'silo' mentality that was reported to characterise the work of many agencies in the District, the need for the LSP to strengthen its capacity to plan at the neighbourhood level and the need for more strategic co-operation to overcome confusion and conflict

4.1 Introduction

Numerous agencies across Wakefield District are involved in the delivery of mainstream services tackling the concerns and priorities identified by local residents in Chapter 3. Many of these agencies have also been actively involved in various initiatives and interventions designed to tackle different aspects of deprivation across the District and to regenerate particular neighbourhoods. This Chapter focuses on the awareness and understanding of deprivation at the neighbourhood level among these key agencies, focusing on agencies responsible for service delivery within and across the five key intervention themes of housing, health, crime, education and training and employment.

The evidence drawn on in this Chapter was collected through semi-structured interviews with senior officers in services including:

- the local authority housing department
- the main housing association active within the District
- the local authority social care department
- the Health Action Zone
- a Primary Care Trust
- the Police
- Wakefield College
- the Adult Education Service
- the Education Action Zone
- Groundwork Trust
- FIRST
- the local authority development department
- the local authority community strategy team
- VOX (the community empowerment network of the LSP)
- Wakefield Voluntary Action
- Wakefield Community Assembly

Discussion starts with a review of the collection and analysis of evidence relating to deprivation at the neighbourhood level among service providers, before going on to explore the understanding of deprivation among the various agencies, the experience of joint planning and working with other agencies at the neighbourhood level and, finally, agency opinions regarding priorities for action in responding to neighbourhood deprivation. Attention is paid throughout to views and opinions specific to the five key intervention themes and regarding the situation and challenges faced in particular neighbourhoods.

4.2 Collection and Analysis of Deprivation Data at the Neighbourhood Level

The information and evidence base regarding deprivation at the neighbourhood level was reported to be limited. The situation was, however, found to vary between intervention themes, there appearing to be three models or approaches to information collection and analysis at the neighbourhood level:

1. *Neighbourhood level information regarding some key themes for intervention, such as employment and adult training, was reported to patchy or absent all together.* Some sectors and services appear unable to draw on resources to counter this lack of information through commissioned research and so reported relying on ad hoc consultation and gut instinct to prioritise actions
2. *Recognising and responding to the limits of current understanding, some agencies reported commissioning specific studies,* for example, the local authority development department, in conjunction with FIRST, reported commissioning a study of local economic capacity, skills and job generation opportunities. Agencies working in other fields could point to similar one-off research exercises. The local authority housing department, for example, reported undertaking surveys of tenants and residents to establish priorities for works and environmental improvements and analysis of stock data and housing management performance. There was reported, however, to be a lack of reliable data about wider housing market trends, including housing demand and supply and the relative health and trajectory of different neighbourhoods, essential to the early identification of neighbourhood decline. Underlining the fragmented nature of the evidence base at the neighbourhood level, there was evidence, however, of individual housing agencies carrying out their own neighbourhood sustainability analysis, to inform their own stock investment decisions
3. *Some agencies reported that information and evidence was readily available and was being monitored on an ongoing basis.* Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), for example, have access to data on health issues, mortality and morbidity rates. Concerns were expressed, however, about whether data were robust at the neighbourhood level and whether the capacity and commitment to analyse data at the neighbourhood level existed, given the dominant ethos regarding standard levels of service. It was suggested by more than one respondent, however, that the activities of the Health Action Zone (HAZ) had overcome some of these traditional preoccupations and one PCT also pointed out that strategic planning groups have been established to prepare service plans and strategies targeted at particular population groups and are planning to undertake mapping of health issues at the neighbourhood level

In addition to concerns about the availability, comprehensiveness and robustness of neighbourhood level data within the various intervention themes, concern was also voiced regarding the lack of a cross-cutting programme of data collection and trend analysis regarding deprivation at the neighbourhood level. A number of respondents criticised the local authority for not having a central research and data monitoring capacity to analyse trends and inform planning at the neighbourhood level. It was suggested, however, that agencies are being forced to consider the development of an evidence base of deprivation among communities of interest and across neighbourhoods by the emphasis increasingly being placed on evidence-based programmes, such as the Health Action Zones and Education Action Zones. Attention was also drawn to the formation of a multi-agency information group, under the auspices of the LSP, which is intended to provide a central forum for information management and sharing across the District, and to efforts by the LSP to develop a

'data warehouse', designed to get agencies to customise their data to agreed boundaries.

4.3 Key Concerns and Priorities for Action

Despite the relative dearth of information about various aspects of deprivation in the District at the neighbourhood level, agencies were quick to point to key issues and particular concentrations of problems at the neighbourhood level. Table 4.1 details the issues identified by agencies, organised under the five key intervention themes.

Agency responses were characterised by a series of common issues:

- in common with local residents, agencies typically related deprivation, in all its various manifestations, to the state of the local economy and the recent restructuring of the District's economic base
- respondents repeatedly talked across themes when discussing key aspects of deprivation in the District. Health was related to housing, which was related to community tensions and problems with anti-social behaviour, which were related to low aspirations and unemployment, which were related to low levels of educational attainment
- the District was described as being, and increasingly becoming, socially polarised. In particular, poverty and deprivation were reported to be concentrated in the east and south east of the District and the consensus opinion was that, despite numerous initiatives focused on the most deprived areas of the District, these areas were yet to secure a sustainable upward trajectory. Some agencies, in fact, suggested these neighbourhoods were continuing to fall further behind more affluent areas of the District

Table 4.1 Key aspects of deprivation identified by agencies and service providers

| THEME | KEY ISSUES |
|---|---|
| Housing and the Physical Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social polarisation and the concentration of poverty, particularly in the east of the District, related to the operation of a twin-speed housing market • tensions within neighbourhoods between settled, older residents and younger households moving • poor quality housing, particularly in the south east of the District - street line terraces particularly unpopular • the destabilisation of neighbourhoods through large scale purchase of properties by private landlords • poor housing exacerbating poor health, particular concerns being raised about Wakefield East |
| Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • link between poor housing and health in Wakefield East – increasing respiratory problems among young people • the health related consequences of poor housing in south east of the District • the health status and access to health care services of travellers, asylum seekers and Pakistani households • residual health problems related to mining in the east of the District • pockets of problems in the west of the District, including teenage pregnancy rates and the aging population in certain neighbourhoods |
| Crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fear of crime and experience of anti-social behaviour undercutting neighbourhood sustainability and feeding a downward spiral of neighbourhood decline in certain locations • crime and anti-social behaviour related to drug dealing and use • loss of sense of community • crime and anti-social behaviour among young people with low expectations, with low educational achievement and living in poverty • the increasing concentration of problems in the south east the District and the five towns • rising fear of crime |
| Education and Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing polarisation between good and worst schools • limited qualification base among people previously employed in manufacturing • difficulties motivating men to retrain • poverty of aspirations among local (young) people, limiting the take-up of educational and training opportunities • disinterest among low skill employers in education and training • scepticism about whether higher level training and education leads to high quality jobs |
| Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited skills base in the local population • the limited profile of job opportunities within the District • isolation of many communities from available job opportunities • limited transport infrastructure restricting access to job opportunities • economic inactivity, particularly in the south east of the District • unemployment and low aspirations among young people |

4.4 Joint Planning and Working at the Neighbourhood Level

Although agencies were quick to recognise the inter-connectivity of different aspects of deprivation and the concentration of problems in particular neighbourhoods, there was only limited evidence of co-ordinated and ongoing joint planning between

agencies and across sectors at the neighbourhood level. Most of the joint working that was reported was centred on project work and was located within regeneration programmes. Certain sectors and agencies appeared more likely than others to be involved in joint working at the neighbourhood level. Involvement appeared to, in part, be determined by the organisational structure of agencies – the local authority housing department, for example, has a strategic interest and presence in neighbourhoods across the District and is therefore both well placed and has a vested interest in working in partnership at the neighbourhood level to tackle the various issues impacting on their housing management function and the sustainability of their stock (crime and anti-social behaviour, low incomes and unemployment, neighbourhood unpopularity and deteriorating physical environment and such like).

There was little evidence of joint strategic planning at the neighbourhood level and little evidence of joint working between mainstream services at the neighbourhood level. There were reported to be some exceptions to this model, one example referred to by a number of agencies being the South East Strategy, which was held up by a number of agencies from different sectors as an example of a cross-sector strategy for neighbourhood level intervention in a specific area of the District.

A number of agencies saw cause for optimism regarding the future of joint strategic planning at the neighbourhood level, given the development of Area Panels, which were regarded as providing an infrastructure across the District capable of supporting partnership working at the local level. In sharp contrast, however, a number of agencies were critical of Area Panels, arguing that they were focusing too closely on the local authority's agenda and were dominated by councillors.

Agencies were asked to explain the barriers currently restricting joint planning and working at the neighbourhood level. Key themes included:

- historical hostilities between certain key agencies within the District, which have prevented joint planning at the strategic level and undercut effort by staff to work in partnership at the local level
- the poor record of partnership working by the local authority, which was accused by some agencies of being paternalistic and unwilling to cede the control and power necessary to build effective partnerships at the District and neighbourhood level
- the history among some agencies of centralised, district-wide service provision, which has mitigated against partnership working at the neighbourhood level
- difficulties of agencies agreeing common objectives and modes of intervention
- the limited capacity of and difficulties engaging with voluntary and community sector groups
- hostility among certain agencies to new structures and programmes developed with the express intent of fostering joint working at the neighbourhood level

Voluntary sector service providers identified a series of additional factors and concerns that were reported to limiting engagement of the voluntary sector in neighbourhood working and renewal activities:

- the voluntary sector within Wakefield District was reported to be composed of a number of disparate organisations with different agendas, partly as a result of the lack of clear voluntary sector strategy within the District, increasing the complexities of engaging the sector into neighbourhood and local area initiatives
- the voluntary sector organisations with the greatest capacity were reported to have a District, rather than a neighbourhood or area focus, making it difficult for these agencies to become involved in strategy development or service delivery at the neighbourhood or area level
- engagement with area panels was reported to be undermined by the perception that panels represent "*formal sub-committees*" of the local authority or "*collective councillors' surgeries*", which have no real community agenda
- voluntary sector agencies reported concerns about the process for determining priorities for the first round of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, reporting that there was little community or voluntary sector involvement and suggesting that it was a local authority and health service 'stitch-up'
- BME-led agencies and organisations were reported to be isolated and marginalised from existing networks and partnerships within and involving the voluntary sector

4.5 Priorities for Action

Agencies were asked to identify their priorities for action in response to the issues and problems they identified when talking about deprivation in the District. Table 4.2 details their responses, organised under the five key intervention themes.

As well as identifying priorities for action, agencies also detailed a series of strategic and organisational level priorities for action which were considered important to any effort to tackle deprivation:

- capacity building at the neighbourhood level to facilitate more community engagement in regeneration and neighbourhood renewal activities
- the development of more community based services to identify, understand and respond to the particular needs of vulnerable groups
- the fulfilment of the LSP's key role in countering the 'silo' mentality that characterises the work of many agencies in Wakefield District
- the need for the LSP to strengthen its capacity to plan at the neighbourhood level
- the need to shift the focus in the work of the LSP away from internal procedures and process and toward action and product
- the need for more joined up working at the strategic level to overcome confusion and conflict between the priorities and the objectives of provision and intervention within and between sectors
- the need for strategic planning over longer cycles, supported by the pooling of resources, to counter short-termism

Table 4.2 Priorities for action to tackle deprivation identified by agencies and service providers

| THEME | PRIORITIES |
|---|--|
| Housing and the Physical Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of allocation policies and their role in undermining community sustainability in certain neighbourhoods • realistic appraisal of local housing markets, capable of signalling early the need for intervention, including the need to manage decline • the demolition parts of the stock of housing in Fitzwilliam and demolition and buying out of private landlords in Hemsworth and South Kirkby |
| Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased emphasis on preventative work by mainstream health providers and strategists • the freeing of resources to target deprivation, rather than focus on centrally determined and locally less important objectives • continuing efforts to tackle health inequalities among the Pakistani and traveller populations • attention to teenage pregnancy, respiratory problems and coronary heart disease • securing the involvement of alternative agencies in the provision of at-home support and services • enhancing the provision of personal care services in community settings |
| Crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short-term priority of implementing the Community Safety Strategy, which was described as dealing with short-term issues and buying time while longer term renewal strategies 'kick in' and tackle the root causes of crime • development of a local economy that gives communities and individuals a sense of purpose and self respect |
| Education and Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up-skilling local people to enable them to pursue higher status employment in surrounding Districts • working with communities to raise expectations, with an emphasis on the importance of securing higher qualifications • tackling issues of disengagement from education and training among younger people • working with the higher education sector to open up opportunities for local people to pursue higher qualifications |
| Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more effective transport planning and provision, in order to bind isolated communities into the opportunities available in surrounding areas and districts • more effective implementation of economic regeneration initiatives, to tackle the District's failure to compete with surrounding areas for inward investment • more effective leadership and performance in the economic development field • support for local business through investment in a centre of management training with an emphasis on entrepreneurship and creativity • tapping into economic growth in the Leeds economy and working to divert higher skilled jobs into the District |

Responding to Deprivation: Key Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

Previous chapters have detailed the situations and experiences of local people living in different types of deprived neighbourhood within the District (Chapter 2), explored residents own priorities for action to improve the quality of life in their local neighbourhood (Chapter 3) and explored agency awareness and understanding of deprivation and priorities for action at the neighbourhood level (Chapter 4). This chapter draws on this evidence base to provide a series of key recommendations about the response to deprivation to be actioned at the neighbourhood level.

Discussion starts by reviewing the principal challenges faced by local residents under the five key themes identified by the National Strategy for neighbourhood renewal - housing, health, crime, education and training and employment. Attention then turns to the challenges identified and prioritised by residents and stakeholders in different areas of the District. Finally, discussion provides a series of overarching recommendations, drawing on the research evidence and pertinent to the development of a local programme of neighbourhood renewal.

5.2 The Dimensions of Deprivation

The discussion below summarises the key issues (experiences and situation) revealed by the research and the priorities for action relating to each of the five key dimensions of deprivation (housing and the physical environment, health, crime, education and training and employment) and attempts to draw out key conclusions and recommendations relevant to each. Where relevant, attention is drawn to the locations exhibiting the most severe problems and the greatest need in relation to the themes discussed.

5.2.1 Housing and the Physical Environment

Although the survey recorded relative satisfaction with current accommodation among local residents, examination of resident priorities for action through the survey and focus group discussions and agency concerns and priorities for action through stakeholder interviews revealed housing to be a key concern and priority for action in particular neighbourhoods and among certain communities of interest. Resident concern centred on two core issues: the physical condition and maintenance of accommodation and the impact of low demand and abandonment on the physical environment. Service providers echoed these concerns and also highlighted the impact of various practices (allocations, property purchasing and management practice of private landlords etc.) on local housing markets, the poor quality of certain stock types and the impact of poor housing on health.

| Key Issues: |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relatively high levels of satisfaction with housing but evidence of low expectations one in five residents reporting problems with accommodation and the need for repairs higher incidence of problems and need for repairs among council and private tenants neighbourhood factors reported as more important than housing in determining satisfaction with home as a place to live relatively high levels of commitment to local neighbourhoods low levels of mobility but an increasing intention to move |
| Neighbourhoods in Need |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lower satisfaction levels were recorded in Hemsworth problems and the need for repairs were greatest in Hemsworth satisfaction with the physical environment was reported to be relatively low in Hemsworth prospective mobility and the intention to leave the neighbourhood was highest in Hemsworth and Wakefield East |
| Community of Interest Variations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> satisfaction levels were lower among young people, lone parents and unemployed people problems and need for repairs were greatest among lone parents and unemployed people (who were more likely to be tenants) satisfaction with the physical environment was relatively low among unemployed people, Pakistani households, lone parents and young people prospective mobility was higher among Pakistani households, young people and unemployed people |
| Resident Views about Housing as a Priority for Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> despite relatively high satisfaction levels with the quality of housing, compared to other neighbourhood attributes, housing was identified as one of the top priorities for action by residents the quality of housing was identified as a key priority for action by residents in Featherstone and Hemsworth the quality of housing was identified as a key priority for action by unemployed people, young people and lone parents |
| Service Provider Views about Housing as a Priority For Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agencies recognised a number of problems with the operation of the local housing market, including the markets role in reinforcing social polarisation, the poor quality of housing in the south east of the District and tensions at the neighbourhood level between longer term, more settled residents and more mobile, younger households priorities for action included a review of allocation policies and their impact on the well-being and sustainability of communities, intervention to tackle or manage neighbourhood decline and partial demolition of the stock in unpopular and low demand areas |

5.2.2 Health

The survey recorded relative satisfaction with the provision of local health services among residents. Examination of resident priorities for action through the survey and focus group discussion, however, revealed health service provision to be a key concern, if not a top priority for action. Resident concern focused on the provision, availability and accessibility of health services (primary care, personal care, social support and adaptations). Stakeholders reiterated many of these concerns and also referred to the importance of health agencies targeting deprivation and focusing on local health problems. Health problems were most commonly reported by older residents and by residents in the Ossett neighbourhood.

| Key Issues: |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one-third of households surveyed reported that at least one household member had a health problem or disability over three-quarters of residents with a health problem or disability were over 45 years old, only one in ten were employed, one-third being permanently sick and one-third being retired from work a large proportion of residents with health problems were renting from the local authority two-thirds of people with health problems were in receipt of a health related state benefit almost one in five households with at least one person with a health problem reported the need for some form of care, support or adaptation, the vast majority reporting the need for adaptations to their home. People with health problems or a disability participating in focus group sessions raised concerns about availability and access to aids and adaptations. Concerns were also expressed about attention to the needs of disabled people among local housing providers over half of people with health problems or a disability were receiving care from a fellow household member, but less than one in five were receiving care or support from an external agency |
| Neighbourhoods in Need |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health problems were most common among residents in the Ossett neighbourhood, where the age profile of the population was older than in other neighbourhoods a higher than average incidence of health problems among the households surveyed was also reported in Hemsworth |
| Community of Interest Variations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the incidence of health problems, disability and long-term illness was found to be closely related to age, older people being more likely to report health problems than younger residents |
| Resident Views about Health Related Priorities for Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a relatively high degree of satisfaction was recorded among residents regarding local health service provision. Local health services, however, were identified by over half of the residents surveyed as a high priority for improvement local health services were identified as one of the top priorities for improvement by residents in Featherstone and Ossett among communities of interest, only older people identified local health services as one of the top priorities for improvement in focus group sessions, people with health problems, disabilities and long-term illness reported a series of concerns regarding various aspects of health care provision and social care, including the availability of aids and adaptations, the availability of and access to primary health care and the availability of respite care |
| Service Provider Views about Health Related Priorities For Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> preventative work by mainstream health providers attention to health in relation to deprivation and its geographical concentration in particular locations improving the provision of personal care services and social support continued attention to teenage pregnancy, respiratory problems and coronary heart disease improving access to health services for key groups, including Pakistani households |

5.2.3 Crime

Crime (or the fear of crime) was the number one concern and priority for action identified by residents in the survey and during focus group discussions. Residents often blamed young people for crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as relating the perceived rise in crime to increasing drug related activity in many neighbourhoods. In response, residents argued for improved leisure and recreational facilities, the engagement of young people in discussions about what they want and need, and the provision of training and job opportunities to tackle the poverty of expectation that was perceived to be endemic among young people in many neighbourhoods. In contrast to concern among residents, few service providers, other than those with an active interest in policing or community safety, identified crime as a key concern or priority for action.

| Key Issues: |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> almost 40% of households surveyed reported that at least one household member had been the victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the previous 12 months less than half of the incidents reported by local residents had been reported to the Police the perception of crime as a problem far outstripped the experience of crime two-thirds of residents reported that they were affected in some way by crime in their neighbourhood |
| Neighbourhoods in Need |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the greatest reported incidence of crime was in the Hemsworth, Castleford Whitwood and Wakefield East neighbourhoods over one-third of residents in Hemsworth reported feeling unsafe from crime in the neighbourhood |
| Community of Interest Variations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lone parents, Pakistani households and young people reported an above average experience of crime young people were often blamed for crime and anti-social behaviour, but were more likely than other age groups to be the victims of crime and anti-social behaviour young people were least likely to report an incident to the police crime and the fear of crime was found to be having the greatest impact on Pakistani households, 88.1% that they were affected by crime in the neighbourhood in some way old people reported experiencing fewer incidents and reported feel more safe than other groups in their home and the neighbourhood, but crime and safety issues were found to be having a greater impact on the attitudes and behaviour of older people |
| Resident Views about Crime as a Priority for Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> crime was the number one priority for action among the full survey sample and was the top priority for action in all the neighbourhoods, except Featherstone, where quality of housing was the top priority and crime was second greatest priority was attached to action on crime by resident in Hemsworth and Wakefield East all communities of interest recognised safety from crime as the top priority for action in their neighbourhood focus group discussion related the incidence of crime to a series of related issues, including the incidence of drug use and dealing in certain neighbourhoods, and argued for the need to provide opportunities and facilities for young people, including leisure facilities, as well as training and job opportunities to raise expectations and aspirations |
| Service Provider Views about Crime as a Priority for Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and countering the fear of crime were related to the task of securing the sustainability of neighbourhoods relationship between high crime levels and drug related activities particular problems were identified as existing in the south east of the District and the five towns |

5.2.4 Education and Training

Despite less than half of the residents surveyed possessing qualifications, education and training was not identified as a top priority for action by residents, although there were some exceptions to this overall picture; Pakistani households and residents of the Wakefield East neighbourhood identified primary schools and high schools as top priorities for action. Unemployed people and lone parents were particularly keen on pursuing further training. Service providers were, however, concerned about what was referred to as the poverty of expectation, which was reported to be undercutting attempts to increase participation in education and training, particularly among young people. A relative lack of interest in education and training was related by a number of agencies to the relative dearth of higher skilled jobs in the District and the unwillingness of many people to look further a field to find such employment.

| Key Issues: |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> just over half of the residents surveyed had no qualifications few residents had post-16 qualifications, the most common qualification among local residents being GCSEs young people were more likely to have some qualifications one-third of residents not wholly retired from work expressed interest in further training or education residents not interested in training explained that training or qualifications would not improve their employment situation or job prospects problem accessing education and training were reported to include the lack of information about available courses and that training courses were not available at suitable times |
| Neighbourhoods in Need |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possession of qualifications among residents of working age was most common in Castleford Whitwood and Wakefield East and least common in Featherstone and Hemsworth interest in further training was highest among residents in Wakefield East and Featherstone and lowest in Castleford Whitwood and Ossett |
| Community of Interest Variations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two-thirds of unemployed people and three quarters of people with a health problem or disability possessed no qualifications Pakistani residents were more likely to possess qualifications and more likely to possess post-16 qualifications unemployed residents and lone parents were the communities of interest most interested in further training or education |
| Resident Views about Education and Training as a Priority for Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> almost half of all residents identified high schools and primary schools as a priority for action primary schools and high schools were identified as top priorities for action by Pakistani residents and by residents in Wakefield East residents in Ossett identified high schools as a top priority for action lone parents in the focus group session recounted difficulties accessing available training because of childcare costs and because of the timing and duration of courses |
| Service Provider Views about Education and Training as a Priority for Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> service providers expressed concern about, what some perceived as, a widening gulf between the best and worst schools in the District a key concern was the poverty of aspiration among young people, which was reported to be limiting interest in training and education and requires urgent attention older men who had previously worked in traditional industries were reported to be difficult to motivate to retrain central to increasing participation in education and training was reported to be the provision of more and better job opportunities, in order to give local people a reason to pursue qualifications |

5.2.4 Employment

Less than half of the residents surveyed were in full or part time employment. Unemployment was well above the District average in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of deprivation (Hemsworth and Wakefield East) and was relatively high among young people and Pakistani residents. The largest single employment sector was among residents was reported to be the public sector and the majority of residents in employment were working in manual jobs. Residents and service providers both argued that the District was still struggling to readjust to the relatively recent loss of its traditional employment base. Residents and service providers, alike, also both bemoaned the perceived failure of the District to successfully generate or attract high skill jobs. Tackling employment was recognised as a top priority for action by residents and identified by resident and service providers as a key factor informing other dimensions of deprivation.

| Key Issues: |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> less than half of residents were in or looking for work just over one-third of residents were in full or part time employment, 5.6% were unemployed and looking for work, 8.3% were permanently sick and unable to work, 16.7% were looking after the family home and 27.7% were wholly retired from work the majority of residents in employment were working in the public services (27.0%), manufacturing (18.7%) and sales and retail (17.6%) over half of residents in employment were working in manual jobs the vast majority of residents in employment were working within the Wakefield District one-third of unemployed residents had been out of work for more than one year over half all unemployed residents were less than 25 years old few unemployed people were looking for employment outside Wakefield District problems accessing job opportunities were reported to include the lack of opportunities within easy travelling distance and the lack of information about available opportunities |
| Neighbourhoods in Need |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the unemployment level was highest in Hemsworth and Wakefield East and lowest in Ossett |
| Community of Interest Variations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> young people were more likely to be unemployed (21%) Pakistani residents were more likely to be unemployed (12.2%), despite being more likely to possess qualifications |
| Resident Views about Employment as a Priority for Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the largest satisfaction gap reported by local residents related to employment opportunities the satisfaction gap regarding employment opportunities was particularly high in Featherstone, Hemsworth and Wakefield East and among people with health problems and unemployed people employment opportunities for local residents was identified as a top priority for action high priority was given to employment opportunities for local people in Wakefield East, Castleford Whitwood and Hemsworth employment opportunities were ranked as a top priority in Ossett and Castleford Whitwood and among unemployed people, Pakistani households and young people |
| Service Provider Views about Employment as a Priority for Action |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> service providers concerns centred on the limited profile of job opportunities across the District and the isolation of many communities from job opportunities, both because of the physical location of neighbourhoods and poor transport links and because of the perceived unwillingness of local residents to travel greater distances to work an improved local transport infrastructure was suggested to assist isolated neighbourhoods to tap into job opportunities within and outwith the District (e.g. in Leeds) criticism was levelled at economic regeneration initiatives and the perceived failure of the District to compete with surrounding districts for economic development opportunities more effective leadership in the economic development field was considered to be needed by some agencies, including improved support for local businesses |

5.3 Priorities for Action in Case Study Neighbourhoods

Local residents and service providers touched on many issues when discussing neighbourhood deprivation and considering key priorities for action. This section attempts to draw these various strands of opinion together to provide a summary of the key issues and priorities for action in each of the case study neighbourhoods. No doubt, some local people and agency staff will disagree with the issues and priorities identified. What this research programme has attempted to do, however, is to draw together the disparate views and opinion of residents and service providers in an attempt to identify some common themes. A more lengthy list of issues and priorities is provided in relation to some neighbourhoods, in recognition of the more extreme and severe problems encountered in these locations.

5.3.1 Neighbourhoods Located in Acute Concentrations of Multiple Deprivation

| Neighbourhood | Key Issues | Priorities for Action |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Wakefield East Neighbourhood</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crime and the impact of the experience or fear of crime on feelings of safety and security and on attitudes and behaviour • unemployment • the quality of the physical environment • the intention or aspiration of many local residents to leave the area, raising questions about the future sustainability of the neighbourhood • poor house conditions • the particular problems of faced by Pakistani households, which reported higher levels of unemployment, more concern about crime and a greater desire than other residents to leave the area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crime and anti-social behaviour and addressing the fear of crime • unemployment and economic inactivity • increasing participation and satisfaction with pre- and post-16 education and training • improving the physical environment |
| <i>Hemsworth Neighbourhood</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high incidence of problems with house conditions and problems with the physical environment, in part related to abandoned properties • relatively high level of health problems and disability reported by local residents • high incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour, which was found to be having a major impact of crime on the attitudes and behaviour of local residents • high level of unemployment compared to other deprived neighbourhoods and the District average • many residents wanting to and intending to leave the neighbourhood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime, which was found to be having a major impact on local residents • the condition of housing and the quality of the physical environment • employment opportunities for local people • engagement with the community about the future for the area |

5.3.2 Neighbourhoods Located in Isolated Clusters of Multiple Deprivation

| Neighbourhood | Key Issues | Priorities for Action |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Featherstone Neighbourhood</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relatively high levels of unemployment low levels of educational attainment / possession of qualifications crime levels relatively average, compared to the other case study neighbourhoods, but crime and safety from crime a major concern among local residents quality and condition of housing and the physical environment strong commitment to the neighbourhood among local residents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quality of housing and the physical environment crime and the fear of crime unemployment and economic inactivity educational attainment and participation in training |
| <i>Castleford Whitwood Neighbourhood</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relatively high incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour, which residents often related to drug use and dealing the quality / deterioration in the physical environment relatively high proportion of lone parents, who are more likely than other residents to be economically inactive, mobile and concerned about the condition of their accommodation health problems and, specifically, the relatively large proportion of people with long term/serious illness employment opportunities for young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> crime and anti-social behaviour employment opportunities house conditions and the quality of the physical environment local health service provision |

5.3.3 Neighbourhoods with Some aspects of Deprivation Located in Areas with Limited Multiple Deprivation

| Neighbourhood | Key Issues | Priorities for Action |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Ossett Neighbourhood</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relatively high incidence of health problems and disability, which appear to be related the older profile of the local population the impact of the fear of crime on attitudes and behaviour, which was greater than in areas reporting a higher incidence of crime high level of commitment to the area among local residents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of health and social care the fear of crime, particularly among older people |

5.4 Key Lessons for the District

More recent efforts to tackle deprivation and regenerate communities have tended to address problems in defined areas. Analysis of the spatial location of deprived communities presented in the CURs report appears to validate this approach, revealing that there are particular concentrations of multi-dimensional deprivation within certain locations across the District. The validity of focusing regeneration efforts on particular geographical locations also appears to be validated by evidence presented in Chapter 2 of this report. The Hemsworth neighbourhood and the Wakefield East neighbourhoods are both located within acute concentrations of multiple deprivation and residents in both neighbourhoods were found to be experiencing more extreme situations in relation to virtually all dimensions of deprivation, compared to residents in neighbourhoods located in isolated clusters of deprivation (Castleford Whitwood and Featherstone neighbourhoods) and residents in a neighbourhood with only limited aspects of deprivation (Ossett).

This evidence would appear to support the strategy of concentrating regeneration investment on the most deprived neighbourhoods in the District. Other findings detailed in this report, however, question the wisdom of this approach:

- there are pockets of deprivation located beyond the focus of area-based initiatives. These include the Castleford Whitwood neighbourhood studied in this report, whose residents are experiencing major problems with crime and anti-social behaviour, a poor quality physical environment and a relatively high incidence of people with long term/serious illness
- residents in neighbourhoods exhibiting below average levels of deprivation can still be prone to particular dimensions of deprivation. Residents in the Ossett neighbourhood, for example, despite living in one of the least deprived wards in the District, reported the highest incidence of health problems, disability or long term illness across the five case study neighbourhoods
- members of a community of interest can share distinctive and unique experiences, regardless of where they live, including the experience of particular dimensions of deprivation

These variations complicate the challenge of targeting interventions designed to tackle deprivation and raise the perennial question of whether the focus of attention should be on people rather than places; not all households in deprived neighbourhoods are deprived and not all deprived households are in identified and prioritised areas of need.

Area-based initiatives have many advantages. It can often prove more resource efficient to focus interventions on certain locations and locality based work can provide greater opportunities for engagement with the local population and can help to create and sustain wider benefits through synergies between front-line service provision. On the other hand, however, as well as neglecting deprived households living outside the most deprived areas, area based initiatives can generate a kind of postcode politics, whereby communities and their representatives compete against each other for resources and can be left resenting the allocation of funding to particular areas if they perceive that they have lost out. In extreme situations, these tensions can lead to the mistrust, suspicion and perception of unfair treatment at the hands of local services that, in part, underpinned the recent disturbances between communities in Bradford, Oldham and Burnley.

Recommendation: A key lesson to be drawn from the findings of this particular research exercise is that regeneration and renewal initiatives in the Wakefield District focusing on both people and places have a role to play in tackling deprivation. It is important, however, that the rationale and evidence base supporting the allocation of resources and directing interventions toward the needs of particular groups or locations are clearly articulated to statutory, voluntary and community sector agencies, as well as the general public.

It is not possible on the basis of the research contained in this report to make firm recommendations about the specific focus and content of initiatives designed to tackle deprivation in neighbourhoods across the Wakefield District. A number of principles can be identified, however, of either overarching significance or relating to particular types of neighbourhood.

1. The CURs analysis identified Wakefield East, Hemsworth, Castleford Ferry Fryston, South Kirkby and Wakefield Central as wards within the Wakefield District containing acute and concentrated deprivation. Two of the case study neighbourhoods were located within these wards (Wakefield East and Hemsworth). Local residents in these neighbourhoods were found to be living in situations and experiencing difficulties similar in nature but more extreme in degree than residents in other case study neighbourhoods. In relation to virtually all dimensions of deprivation explored (housing, health, crime, education and employment), the situation in these two neighbourhoods was found to be the more extreme and more widely experienced than in the other case study neighbourhoods and to be undercutting the future sustainability of the neighbourhoods, with a relatively large proportion of local residents declaring an intention to move out of the area. It is therefore imperative that regeneration and renewal programmes recognise and focus attention on these acute concentrations of deprivation within the District.

Recommendation: Regeneration and renewal funding should be made available to support area-based initiatives, designed to tackle multi-dimensional deprivation in particular deprivation 'hotspots'.

2. Any efforts to tackle multiple deprivation and improve the situations and quality of life of local residents must be sensitive to the particular priorities for action of local people. Analysis has revealed that, although certain key issues are recognised as priorities for action by residents across the District, the priorities of local residents can vary considerably between neighbourhoods. Take for example the two case study neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of deprivation. While the top priorities for action in Wakefield East were identified as safety from crime, high schools, the general appearance of the neighbourhood and primary schools, residents in the Hemsworth neighbourhood identified safety from crime, anti-social behaviour, the quality of housing and the general appearance of the neighbourhood as top priorities (see Table 3.7).

Recommendation: Area based initiatives must recognise that the experiences and situations and priorities for action of local residents vary between and within neighbourhoods. It is therefore vital that initiatives consult with local people, understand their wants and needs and respond to their priorities. The development of Local Compacts between agencies and local communities, as indicated in the Wakefield District Local Renewal Strategy, could provide a framework for discussion, which could also generate targets to be contained in Local Public Service Agreements.

3. As well as being sensitive to the wants and needs of local people, residents and service providers, alike, emphasised the importance of improving the mechanisms and methods of engaging, as well as involving, local people in the development and implementation of regeneration programmes.

Residents and agencies both recognised that hundreds of thousands of pounds had been spent in certain neighbourhoods, but questioned whether these neighbourhoods were now on an upward trajectory and benefiting from a virtuous circle of regeneration. Local residents suggested that the limited impact of previous regeneration initiatives was a consequence of the failure to engage local people in determining priorities for action and modes of intervention. Service providers, meanwhile, recognised the need for greater engagement with the local community in the strategic development and the implementation of local regeneration initiatives.

Recommendation: A funding source will need to be made available to encourage and support capacity building in community and voluntary groups, in order to enable their representatives to work together to identify and agree priorities for their area and for groups to become more involved in the strategic planning and delivery of neighbourhood renewal initiatives.

Recommendation: Renewal funds should be allocated according to need, rather than competition, and not be determined by whether or not groups, organisations or communities have the ability, resources and capacity to negotiate complicated bidding requirements. It will therefore be necessary for capacity building activities and ongoing assistance to be provided to ensure that the bidding process is open and available to all on an equal basis.

Recommendation: Well-funded arrangements must be in place from the start of local renewal programmes to monitor and evaluate the relative success and failure of initiatives, from the point of view of local residents, community groups and service providers, and to ensure that programmes address failings and maximise their potential in order to provide lasting improvements.

4. Analysis of the attitudes and commitment of local residents to their neighbourhood and prospective household mobility confirms the presence (as suggested in the CURs report) of housing market weakness in the case study neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of deprivation (the Hemsworth and Wakefield East neighbourhoods). Residents in these areas reported higher recent mobility rates, higher levels of intention to move house and a greater desire and commitment to move out of the neighbourhood when they next move. It is vital that regeneration and renewal programmes face up to the challenge of countering housing market failure for two key reasons. First, housing market failure can undercut efforts to tackle neighbourhood level deprivation. For example:

- the physical environment has been revealed as an important determinant of quality of life and a key influence on various dimensions of deprivation, including crime and safety. Housing market failure is a major contributory factor to the deteriorating physical environment in a number of neighbourhoods across the District, where vacant and abandoned properties represent an eyesore and provide opportunities for criminal and anti-social activity
- housing market decline can increase poverty and deprivation, with the collapse of the local housing market resulting in falling house prices and trapping home owners in negative equity

Second, efforts to tackle neighbourhood level deprivation can assist in limiting or countering housing market decline:

- housing market failure is more than a housing issue. Housing demand does not exist in a vacuum, but is intimately linked to wider social and economic trends and is affected by the policy environment. The reasons why households choose to move out or not move into a neighbourhood are largely outside the control or influence of housing agencies and relate to issues such as the reputation, physical environment and service provision within an area. Indeed, in many instances the task of countering housing market decline and tackling deprivation will be one and the same thing. The involvement of regeneration and renewal agencies and initiatives in efforts to counter housing market 'failure' is therefore vital
- the logic of focusing on acute concentrations of deprivation in order to assist large numbers of households experiencing multiple deprivation could be undermined by housing market decline, which could involve increasing numbers of people abandoning a neighbourhood before any significant benefits have been accrued through the renewal process

Recommendation: Area-based initiatives must recognise and respond to housing market weakness in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations of deprivation, given both the potential of low demand to impact on the aims and objectives of area-based initiatives and the potential for area-based initiatives to assist in countering the factors driving housing market decline. This will demand strategic and operational partnership working at the neighbourhood level between renewal partnerships and agencies and housing providers (public and private).

5. Few agencies were found to actively collect and analyse data or operate strategically at the neighbourhood level. The delivery of services through mainstream programmes also appears to lack a neighbourhood focus. It was not, therefore, surprising that service providers had little understanding about the constitution of local neighbourhoods. In contrast, local residents had very specific views about what constitutes their neighbourhood and to attached great importance to the neighbourhood as a determinant of their quality of life. Local residents typically perceived their neighbourhood to be something smaller than the physical unit of 2,000 or so properties that the research team had defined as the case study neighbourhood. Many of the priorities for action identified by local residents require intervention at the very local level. It is therefore vital that agencies are sensitive to these localised concerns and requirements.

Recommendation: Developing and actioning a programme of interventions to tackle neighbourhood deprivation demands appreciation of resident perceptions of the local neighbourhood and shared concerns and priorities for action at the local level. To this end, service providers should collect and share service user and needs data which can be disaggregated and analysed at the neighbourhood level, thereby facilitating the development of a neighbourhood level evidence base. This activity might be co-ordinated through the multi-agency information group developing the cross-sectoral data library, facilitated by the LSP.

6. When discussing different dimensions of deprivation and priorities for action residents often distinguished between different geographical scales at which intervention was required to tackle particular issues:

- concerns and priorities for action at the *local neighbourhood level* typically related to specific aspects of the physical environment (cleanliness and appearance of the local area, the quality of housing, the availability of recreational facilities, the existence of opportunities for crime)
- concerns and priorities for action at the *wider area* (defined as either the case study neighbourhood or a larger entity, such as a village or town) typically cut across the physical, social and economic dimensions of deprivation (the quality of the physical environment, the quality of housing, the incidence of crime and the fear of crime, the availability and quality of local service provision, including schools and adult education and training, local employment opportunities)

- concerns and priorities for action at the *District level* centred on the economic dimension of deprivation (availability and access to job opportunities, the quality and status of available employment, education and training opportunities)

This geographical typology of scales of intervention provides a useful conceptualisation of the neighbourhood that renewal activities might usefully employ when designing, organising and directing interventions intended to tackle neighbourhood level deprivation.

Recommendation: Consideration should be given to dividing acute concentrations and isolated clusters of deprivation within the District into distinct, clearly defined units or neighbourhoods of 2,000 to 5,000 households. The research evidence suggests that many of the dimensions of deprivation impacting on the quality of life and identified by residents as priorities for action are common to and most effectively addressed at this level. It is essential, however, that interventions are also sensitive to both the unique and particular problems and priorities for action apparent at the local level at which people live their day-to-day lives AND to the importance of interventions at the District level, in order to tackle the economic dimensions of deprivation, including the availability of job opportunities.

7. Analysis of the situations and experiences of different communities of interest has revealed that certain groups are prone to particular aspects of deprivation, regardless of whether or not they reside in acute concentrations or isolated clusters of deprivation or in neighbourhoods exhibiting limited deprivation. Pakistani residents, for example, were found to experience higher levels of unemployment, even accounting for place of residence and educational attainment, and unemployed people were found to be less likely to be in possession of qualifications.

Recommendation: In addition to area-based initiatives, renewal activities should support thematic programmes, designed to address the difficulties faced by particular groups known to be at greater risk of various aspects of deprivation. Facilitating this process will involve sensitivity to the experiences of different communities of interest in research and analysis and action to ensure that the views and opinions of communities of interest, as well as neighbourhood groups, are heard and inform the focus and content of strategies and interventions.

8. Particular dimensions of deprivation can exist in neighbourhoods exhibiting below average levels of multiple deprivation. The incidence of health related problems among residents of the case study neighbourhood with limited multiple deprivation (Ossett neighbourhood), for example, outstripped the incidence of health problems in neighbourhoods located in acute concentrations and isolated clusters of multiple deprivation. In this instance, the relatively high incidence of health problems appears to be explained by the disproportionately large number of older residents in the area, who were more likely to report health related problems.

Recommendation: It is important that neighbourhood renewal acknowledges the presence of isolated pockets of deprivation in neighbourhoods exhibiting low levels of multiple deprivation. In some instances, the incidence of a particular dimension of deprivation might be related to the over representation in a neighbourhood of a particular group or section of society prone to suffer from particular aspects of deprivation. In such instances, thematic programmes may prove a satisfactory response. There may also, however, be a need to extend neighbourhood level interventions into areas located outside acute concentrations or isolated clusters of deprivation.

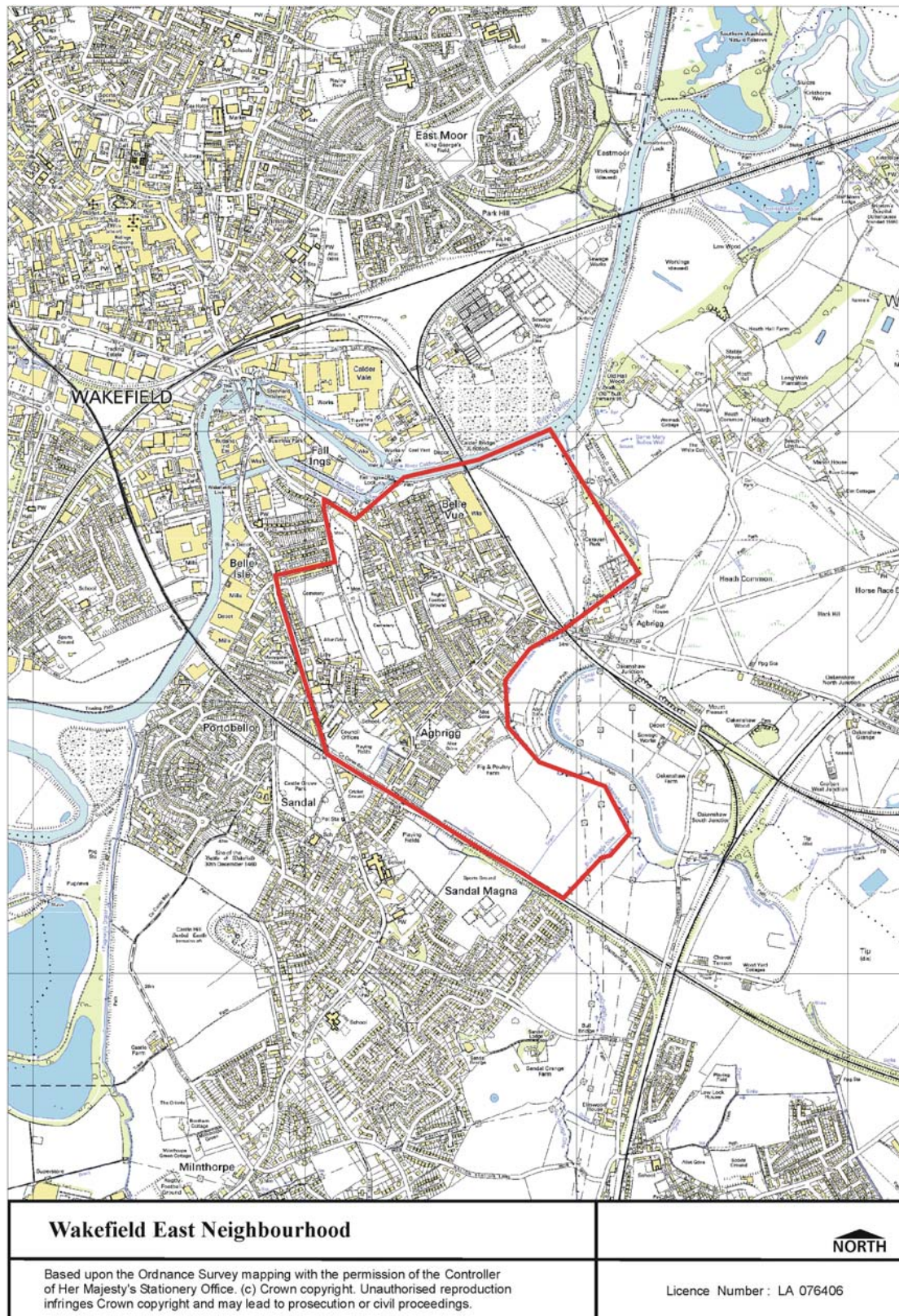
In conclusion, there are five key observations that can be drawn from the findings, conclusions and recommendations presented above:

- neighbourhood renewal is about people and places
- effective renewal requires intervention at different geographical scales (local/town/District)
- close synergies are required between the top-down agendas of mainstream agencies and bottom-up priorities emerging from neighbourhoods
- neighbourhood renewal must be premised on an appreciation and understanding of the wants, needs and priorities for action of local people
- the renewal process should emphasise community engagement, rather than community involvement

Appendix 1: Case Study Neighbourhood Profiles

1. Wakefield East Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood located in acute, widespread concentration of multiple deprivation



1.1 Age

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting age profile for the Wakefield East neighbourhood is detailed in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Age of Respondents in Wakefield East neighbourhood

| Age | Wakefield East (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Under 18 years | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| 18-24 years | 14.9 | 12.7 |
| 25-44 years | 37.4 | 36.5 |
| 45-64 years | 26.9 | 28.5 |
| 65-74 years | 8.9 | 12.4 |
| 75-84 years | 10.3 | 7.8 |
| 85 years or over | 0.6 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1.2 Employment Status

- 36.0% of respondents in the neighbourhood were in full or part time employment
- 26.3% of respondents in the neighbourhood were wholly retired from work
- 6.3% of respondents were unemployed and available for work, compared to a District wide claimant count in July 2002 of 3.5% (ONS, 2002)
- 9.1% of respondents were permanently sick or disabled

Table 1.2 Employment Status of Head of Household in Wakefield East and Across the Five Survey Neighbourhoods

| Employment Status | Wakefield East (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Full time job | 27.7 | 25.7 |
| Part time job | 8.3 | 12.2 |
| Self employed | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Full time education | 4.3 | 2.3 |
| Unemployed and available for work | 6.3 | 5.6 |
| Permanently sick/disabled | 9.1 | 8.3 |
| Wholly retired from work | 26.3 | 27.7 |
| Looking after family home | 18.0 | 16.7 |
| Caring for friend/relative | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1.3 Ethnic Origin

The Wakefield East neighbourhood was unusual in the survey, having a relatively large proportion of households of minority ethnic (and specifically Pakistani) ethnic origin (see Table 1.3).

Table 1.3 Ethnic Origin of Respondents

| Ethnic Origin | | Wakefield East (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| WHITE | British | 75.7 | 94.3 |
| | Irish | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| | Other | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| SOUTH ASIAN | Indian | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| | Pakistani | 22.3 | 4.8 |
| | Bangladeshi | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| BLACK | African | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| | Caribbean | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | British | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | Other | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| CHINESE | | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| OTHER | | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| Total | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1.4 Housing Tenure

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting tenure profile for the Wakefield East neighbourhood is detailed in Table 1.4.

Table 1.4 Housing Tenure of Respondents

| Housing Tenure | Wakefield East (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Owned outright | 26.9 | 26.2 |
| Being purchased with mortgage or loan | 31.1 | 31.4 |
| Part owned and part rented | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Rented from Council | 22.6 | 29.2 |
| Rented from housing association | 1.4 | 2.1 |
| Rented from private landlord | 17.1 | 10.2 |
| Tied accommodation | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Other | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1.5 Property Type, Age and Size

The housing stock in the Wakefield East neighbourhood contains a relatively high proportion of pre-1945 terraced properties. 52% of properties surveyed in the neighbourhood were reported to have been built before 1945, compared to 39% of properties across the five neighbourhoods, and 32% were reported to be pre-1919 properties, compared to 19% of properties across the five neighbourhoods. Of these older properties, 84% were terraced houses. In total, 64% of properties in the

neighbourhood were terraced houses, compared to 43% across the five neighbourhoods. The neighbourhood, meanwhile, had a relatively low proportion of detached (2%) and semi-detached (26%) properties, compared to the situation across the five neighbourhoods (5.5% detached and 46.1% semi detached). Only 6% of the stock in the neighbourhood was flat accommodation.

The majority of accommodation in the neighbourhood are two (42.9%) or three bedroom (52.3%) properties. Only 1.7% of properties have one bedroom and only 3.1% of properties have four or more bedrooms. The majority of council properties in the neighbourhood are two bedroom properties (58.2%). 6.3% of council properties have one bedroom and 34.2% have three bedrooms. In contrast, the majority of private sector housing has three bedrooms. 59.6% of owner occupied (owned outright or being purchased with a mortgage) and 58.3% of private rented accommodation has three bedrooms.

1.6 Household Size

- the majority of households in the neighbourhood were one (21.4%) or two person (32.9%) households
- the Wakefield East neighbourhood, however, had a higher proportion of larger households than the other neighbourhoods; 31.7% of households in the Wakefield East neighbourhood contained four or more members, compared to 25.8% of households across the five survey neighbourhoods, and 16.3% of households had five or more members in Wakefield East, compared to 9.9% across the five neighbourhoods
- council tenants were more likely to be smaller households; 36.7% of council tenants in the neighbourhood were single person households (compared to 24.3% of council tenants across the five neighbourhoods) and 40.5% were two person households (compared to 32.3% of council tenants across the five neighbourhoods)

1.7 Household Type

- 32.6% of households in the neighbourhood contained one or more child (compared to 35.2% of households across the five neighbourhoods). The largest single household type in the neighbourhood were two parent families with at least one child under 16 years of age (24.6%)
- 10.3% were single person households under 60 years of age and 11.1% were single person household over 60 years of age
- 12.9% of households in the neighbourhood were two adults both under 60 years old and 16.6% were two adults at least one of whom was over 60 years old
- 13.7% of households contained three or more adults (compared to 12.2% across the five neighbourhoods)

1.8 Household Income

- half of all households surveyed in the neighbourhood received income from earnings
- 14.6% received income from a works pension, compared to 18.1% of households across the five neighbourhoods

- 26.0% of households received Income Support, compared to 19.7% of households across the five neighbourhoods

Table 1.5 Income from Various Sources

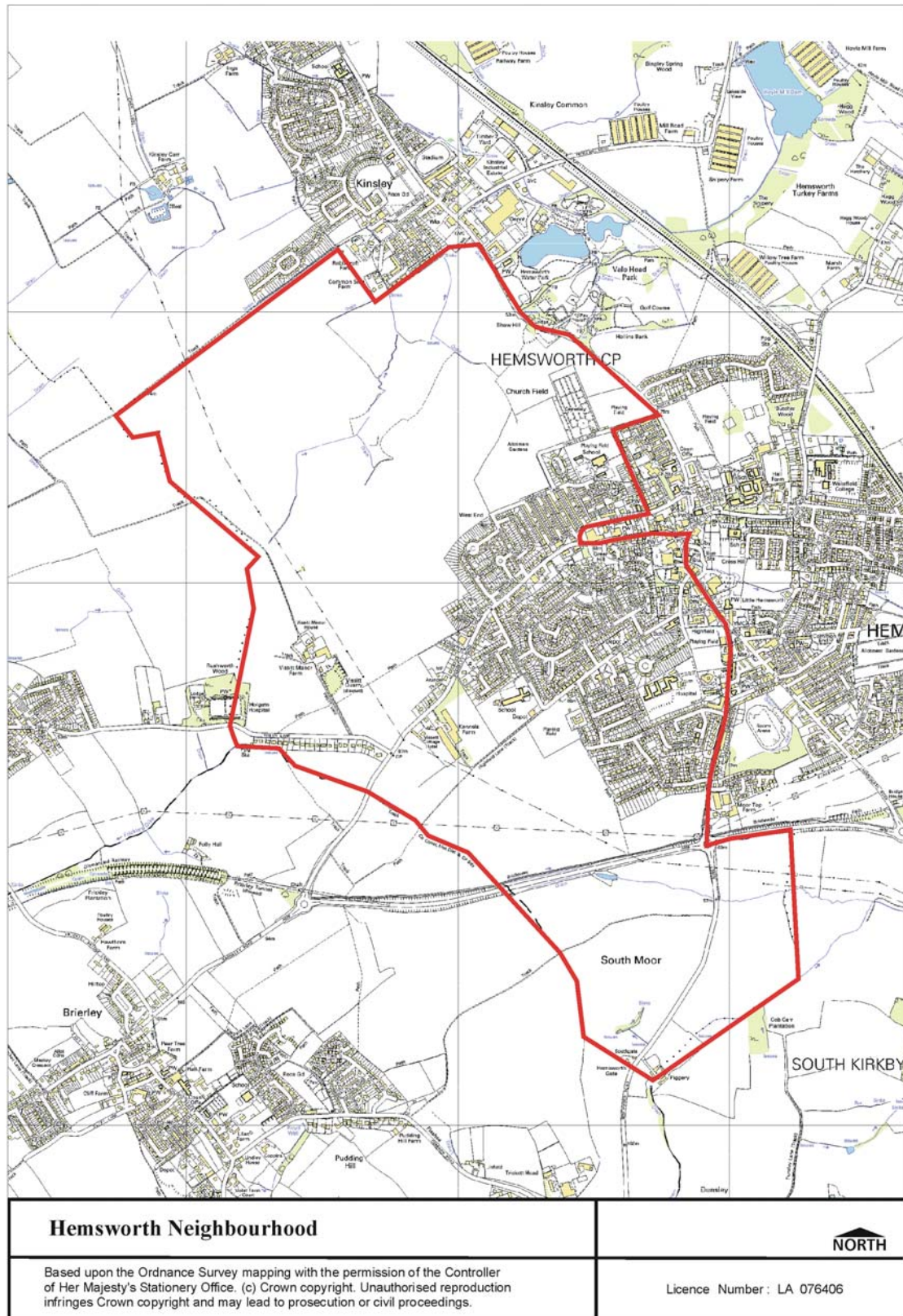
| Source of Income | Wakefield East (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Earnings | 50.6 | 52.6 |
| Works Pension | 14.6 | 18.1 |
| State Pension | 25.4 | 24.5 |
| Income Support | 26.0 | 19.7 |
| Jobseekers Allowance | 3.7 | 3.1 |
| Other Benefits | 27.7 | 22.6 |
| Student Grant or loan | 2.0 | 0.7 |
| None of the above | 3.1 | 1.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1.9 Mortgage / Rent Payments

- 45.7% of respondents in the neighbourhood reported paying nothing in rent or toward a mortgage. 58.8% of these respondents were outright owners. 38.8% were living in council housing, association or private rented accommodation and had all their housing costs met in full by Housing Benefit
- 36.6% of respondents in the neighbourhood paid less than £80 per week, compared to 43.6% across the five neighbourhoods
- 6% paid more than £100 per week, compared to 3.1% across the five neighbourhoods
- 4.5% of respondents in the neighbourhood reported regularly or sometimes having problems paying the mortgage/rent, compared to 3.7% across the five neighbourhoods

2. Hemsworth Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood located in acute, widespread concentration of multiple deprivation



2.1 Age

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting age profile for the Hemsworth neighbourhood is detailed in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Age of Respondents in Hemsworth neighbourhood

| Age | Hemsworth (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Under 18 years | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| 18-24 years | 16.0 | 12.7 |
| 25-44 years | 37.7 | 36.5 |
| 45-64 years | 26.9 | 28.5 |
| 65-74 years | 14.0 | 12.4 |
| 75-84 years | 4.3 | 7.8 |
| 85 years or over | 0.3 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

2.2 Employment Status

- 33.5% of respondents in the neighbourhood were in full or part time employment
- 23.7% of respondents in the neighbourhood were wholly retired from work
- 7.1% of respondents were unemployed and available for work, compared to a District wide claimant count in July 2002 of 3.5% (ONS, 2002)
- 11.1% of respondents were permanently sick or disabled

Table 2.2 Employment Status of Head of Household in Hemsworth and Across the Five Survey Neighbourhoods

| Employment Status | Hemsworth (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Full time job | 22.3 | 25.7 |
| Part time job | 10.9 | 12.2 |
| Self employed | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Full time education | 2.0 | 2.3 |
| Unemployed and available for work | 7.1 | 5.6 |
| Permanently sick/disabled | 11.1 | 8.3 |
| Wholly retired from work | 23.7 | 27.7 |
| Looking after family home | 20.3 | 16.7 |
| Caring for friend/relative | 1.1 | 0.5 |
| Other | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

2.3 Ethnic Origin

The ethnic origin of households in the Hemsworth neighbourhood was overwhelmingly white British (see Table 2.3).

Table 2.3 Ethnic Origin of Respondents

| Ethnic Origin | | Hemsworth (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| WHITE | British | 98.9 | 94.3 |
| | Irish | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| | Other | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| SOUTH ASIAN | Indian | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| | Pakistani | 0.6 | 4.8 |
| | Bangladeshi | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| BLACK | African | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| | Caribbean | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | British | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | Other | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| CHINESE | | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| OTHER | | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Total | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

2.4 Housing Tenure

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting tenure profile for the Hemsworth neighbourhood is detailed in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Housing Tenure of Respondents

| Housing Tenure | Hemsworth (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Owned outright | 18.6 | 26.2 |
| Being purchased with mortgage or loan | 18.9 | 31.4 |
| Part owned and part rented | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Rented from Council | 44.9 | 29.2 |
| Rented from housing association | 0.6 | 2.1 |
| Rented from private landlord | 16.6 | 10.2 |
| Tied accommodation | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Other | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Residents in the Hemsworth neighbourhood were more likely to be council tenants and private tenants than residents in the five neighbourhoods, and less likely to be owner occupiers.

2.5 Household Size

The majority of households in the neighbourhood were two (32.0%) or three person (26.0%) households

2.6 Household Type

- 44% of households contained one or more child (compared to 35.2% of households across the five neighbourhoods). The largest single household type were two parent families with at least one child under 16 years of age (30.9%)
- 8.3% were single person households under 60 years of age and 5.7% were single person household over 60 years of age
- 9.1% of households in the neighbourhood were two adults both under 60 years old and 19.4% were two adults at least one of whom was over 60 years old
- 10.3% of households contained three or more adults (compared to 12.2% across the five neighbourhoods)

2.7 Household Income

- 48% of all households received income from earnings
- 20.6% received income from a works pension, compared to 18.1% of households across the five neighbourhoods
- 31.1% of households received Income Support, compared to 19.7% of households across the five neighbourhoods

Table 2.5 Income from Various Sources

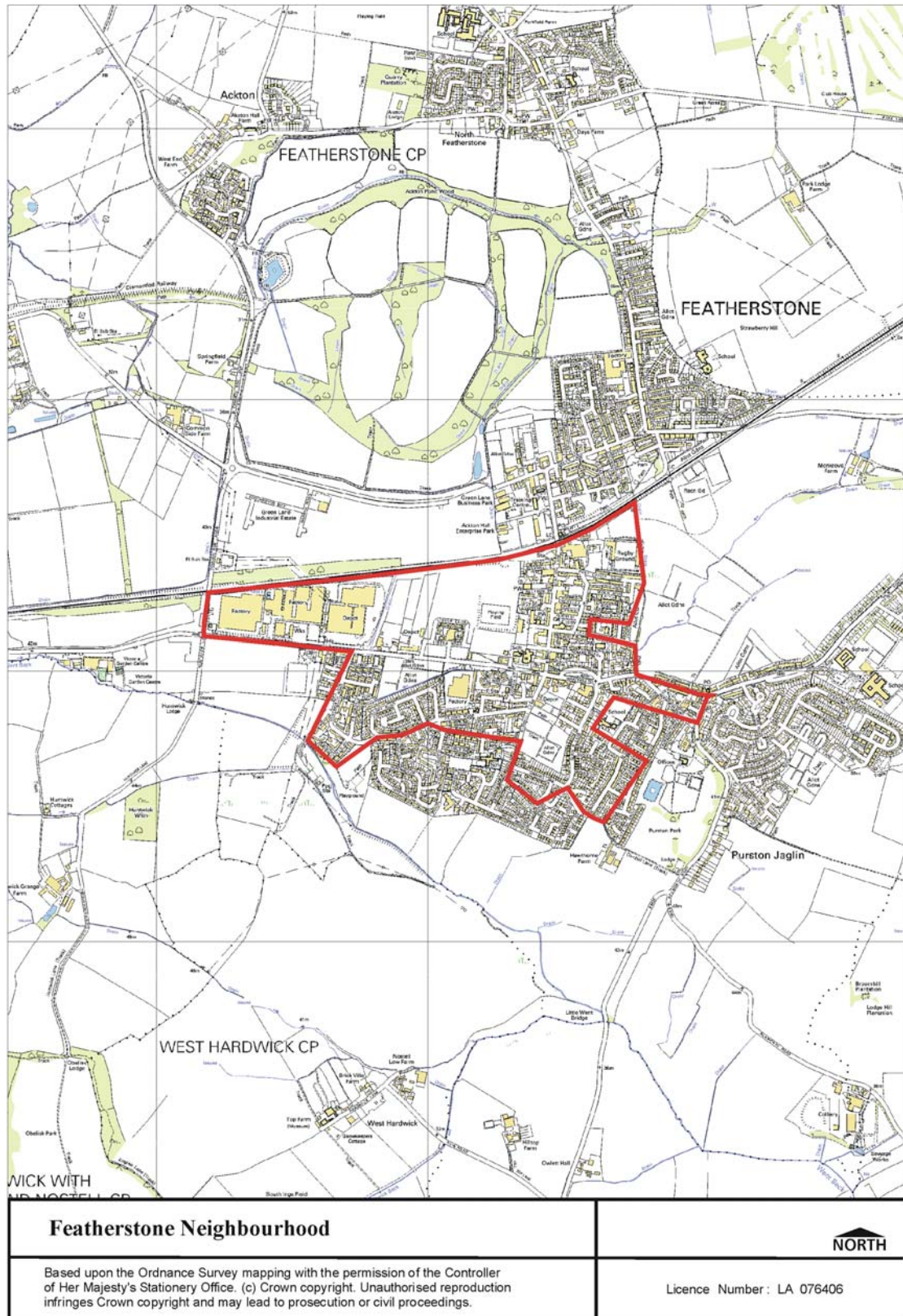
| Source of Income | Hemsworth (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Earnings | 48.0 | 52.6 |
| Works Pension | 20.6 | 18.1 |
| State Pension | 20.0 | 24.5 |
| Income Support | 31.1 | 19.7 |
| Jobseekers Allowance | 0.0 | 3.1 |
| Other Benefits | 27.1 | 22.6 |
| Student Grant or loan | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| None of the above | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

2.8 Mortgage / Rent Payments

- 40.0% of respondents in the neighbourhood reported paying nothing in rent or toward a mortgage
- 95.4% of respondents in the neighbourhood paid less than £80 per week, compared to 43.6% across the five neighbourhoods
- 4.6% paid more than £800 per week, compared to 3.1% across the five neighbourhoods
- 0.7% of respondents reported regularly or sometimes having problems paying the mortgage/rent, compared to 3.7% across the five neighbourhoods

3. Featherstone Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood located in isolated cluster of multiple deprivation



3.1 Age

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting age profile for the Featherstone neighbourhood is detailed in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Age of Respondents in Featherstone neighbourhood

| Age | Featherstone (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Under 18 years | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| 18-24 years | 10.9 | 12.7 |
| 25-44 years | 34.3 | 36.5 |
| 45-64 years | 29.4 | 28.5 |
| 65-74 years | 14.0 | 12.4 |
| 75-84 years | 9.1 | 7.8 |
| 85 years or over | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

3.2 Employment Status

- 31.7% of respondents in the neighbourhood were in full or part time employment
- 32.3% of respondents in the neighbourhood were wholly retired from work
- 6.0% of respondents were unemployed and available for work.
- 9.1% of respondents were permanently sick or disabled

Table 3.2 Employment Status of Head of Household in Featherstone and Across the Five Survey Neighbourhoods

| Employment Status | Featherstone (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Full time job | 17.4 | 25.7 |
| Part time job | 14.3 | 12.2 |
| Self employed | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Full time education | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| Unemployed and available for work | 6.0 | 5.6 |
| Permanently sick/disabled | 9.1 | 8.3 |
| Wholly retired from work | 32.3 | 27.7 |
| Looking after family home | 17.7 | 16.7 |
| Caring for friend/relative | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Other | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

3.3 Ethnic Origin

The vast majority (98.9%) of the residents interviewed in the Featherstone neighbourhood sample defined their ethnic origin as White British. One person defined their ethnic origin as Black and two people defined their ethnic origin as Chinese.

3.4 Housing Tenure

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting tenure profile for the Featherstone neighbourhood is detailed in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 Housing Tenure of Respondents

| Housing Tenure | Featherstone (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Owned outright | 28.6 | 26.2 |
| Being purchased with mortgage or loan | 26.3 | 31.4 |
| Part owned and part rented | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Rented from Council | 32.3 | 29.2 |
| Rented from housing association | 1.7 | 2.1 |
| Rented from private landlord | 10.3 | 10.2 |
| Tied accommodation | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Other | 0.3 | 0.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Residents were asked about the type of property they live in. Over half (52.9%) of properties in the neighbourhood were terraced and over a quarter (28.3%) were semi detached (compared to 43.0% properties across the five neighbourhoods being terraced and 46.1% being semi-detached). 9.1% of properties in the Featherstone neighbourhood were detached and 6.9% were flats.

3.5 Household Size

- 31.7% of households in the neighbourhood were two person households, 22.6% single person, 22.3% three person and 16.0% four person.
- outright owners and households renting from the council were more likely to be smaller households (21% of outright owners were single person households and 49.0% were two person households)
- 36.3% of council tenants in the neighbourhood were single person households (compared to 24.3% of council tenants across the five neighbourhoods) and 22.1% were two person households.
- households purchasing their home with a mortgage or loan were more likely to be larger households (35.9% of households purchasing their home with a mortgage or loan were three person households and 40.2% of households purchasing their home with a mortgage or loan were four or more person households).

3.6 Household Type

- the Featherstone neighbourhood had a higher proportion of single person households aged 60 years or over (16.0%) compared to households across the five survey neighbourhoods (10.8%). Of these households, 53.5% rented from the council and 37.5% owned their property outright
- a relatively high proportion of households contained three or more adults aged 16 years old (14.9%) compared to households across the five neighbourhoods (12.2%). Of these households, 48% owned their property outright
- 33.1% of households in the neighbourhood contained one or more children. The largest single household type in the neighbourhood were two parent families with at least one child under 16 years of age (26.0%)
- 14.9% of households were two adults at least one of whom was over 60 years old and 14.6% of households in the neighbourhood were two adults both under 60 years

3.7 Household Income

- 48.3% of households in the neighbourhood received income from earnings
- 20.0% of all households received income from a works pension, compared to 18.1% of all households across the five neighbourhoods
- 29.4% of households received a state pension, compared to 24.5% of households across the five neighbourhoods
- 16.3% of all households received Income Support
- 36.6% of all households in the neighbourhood have a total weekly income of £199 or less compared to 30.3% across the five neighbourhoods.

Table 3.5 Income from Various Sources

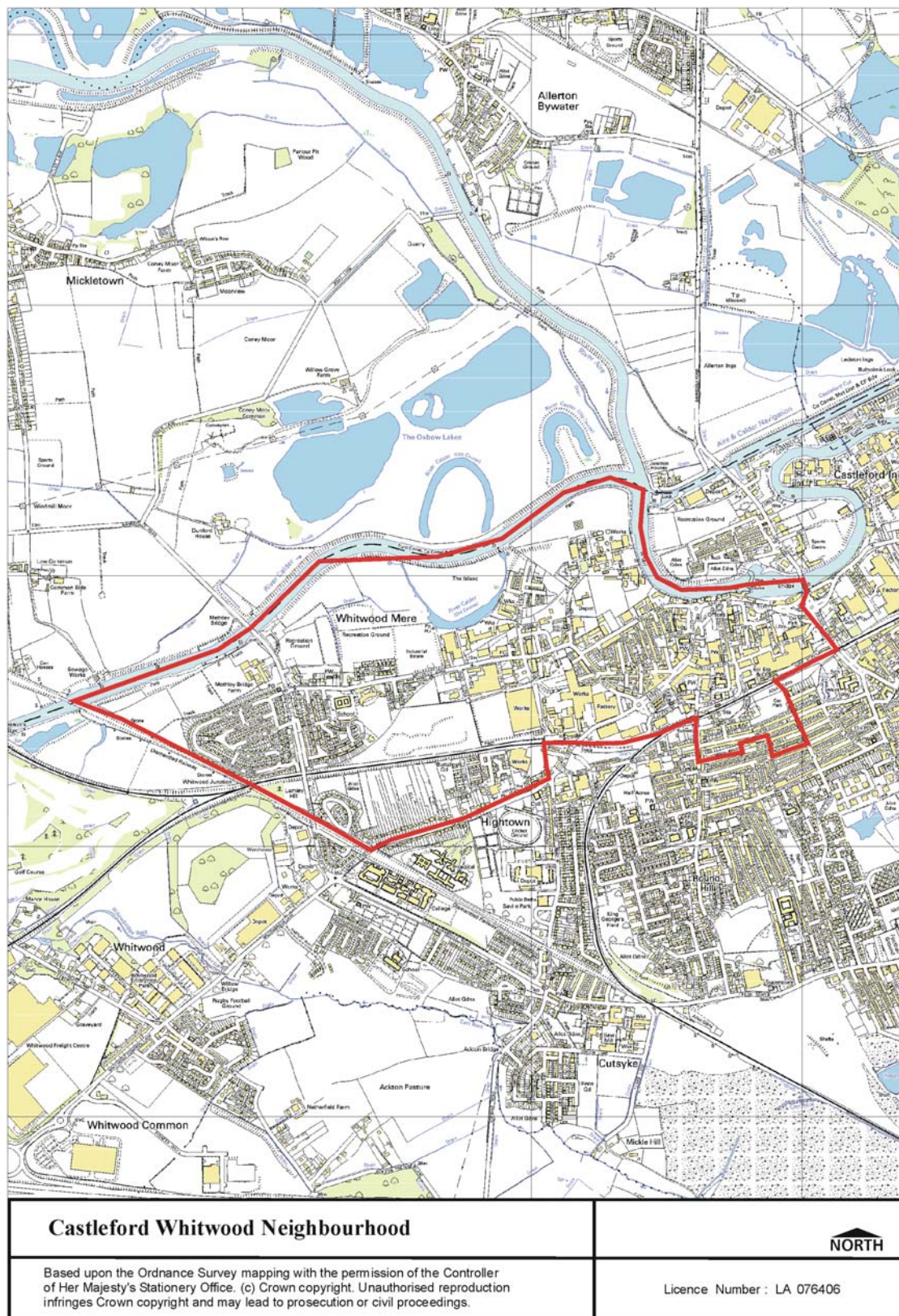
| Source of Income | Featherstone (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Earnings | 48.3 | 52.6 |
| Works Pension | 20.0 | 18.1 |
| State Pension | 29.4 | 24.5 |
| Income Support | 16.3 | 19.7 |
| Jobseekers Allowance | 6.6 | 3.1 |
| Other Benefits | 27.1 | 22.6 |
| Student Grant or loan | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| None of the above | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

3.8 Mortgage / Rent Payments

- 42.3% of respondents reported paying nothing in rent or toward a mortgage. 67.5% of these respondents owned their property outright and 21.6% were renting from the council.
- 22.3% of respondents in the neighbourhood paid between £40 - £59 per week
- 11.7% of respondents in the neighbourhood paid less than £20 per week
- 2% of respondents reported regularly or sometimes having problems paying the mortgage/rent, compared to 3.7% across the five neighbourhoods

4. Castleford Whitwood Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood located in isolated cluster of multiple deprivation



4.1 Age

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting age profile for the Castleford Whitwood neighbourhood is detailed in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Age of Respondents in Castleford Whitwood neighbourhood

| Age | Castleford Whitwood (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Under 18 years | 0.6 | 1.1 |
| 18-24 years | 12.3 | 12.7 |
| 25-44 years | 38.6 | 36.5 |
| 45-64 years | 28.0 | 28.5 |
| 65-74 years | 12.6 | 12.4 |
| 75-84 years | 6.6 | 7.8 |
| 85 years or over | 1.4 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

4.2 Employment Status

- 31% of respondents in the neighbourhood were in full or part time employment
- 26.3% of respondents in the neighbourhood were wholly retired from work
- 3.7% of respondents were unemployed and available for work.
- 8% of respondents were permanently sick or disabled

Table 4.2 Employment Status of Head of Household in Wakefield East and Across the Five Survey Neighbourhoods

| Employment Status | Castleford Whitwood (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Full time job | 24.3 | 25.7 |
| Part time job | 16.6 | 12.2 |
| Self employed | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Full time education | 0.6 | 2.3 |
| Unemployed and available for work | 3.7 | 5.6 |
| Permanently sick/disabled | 8.0 | 8.3 |
| Wholly retired from work | 26.3 | 27.7 |
| Looking after family home | 18.0 | 16.7 |
| Caring for friend/relative | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Other | 2.0 | 0.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

4.3 Ethnic Origin

The Castleford Whitwood neighbourhood sample was 100% white British similar to the five neighbourhoods with 94.3% of the total sample being white British.

4.4 Housing Tenure

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting tenure profile for the Castleford Whitwood neighbourhood is detailed in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Housing Tenure of Respondents

| Housing Tenure | Wakefield East (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Owned outright | 31.1 | 26.2 |
| Being purchased with mortgage or loan | 34.6 | 31.4 |
| Part owned and part rented | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Rented from Council | 29.7 | 29.2 |
| Rented from housing association | 0.9 | 2.1 |
| Rented from private landlord | 2.0 | 10.2 |
| Tied accommodation | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| Other | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Residents were asked about the type of property they live in. 72% of properties were semi-detached and 25.4% terraced in the neighbourhood compared to 46.1% and 25.4% respectively across the five neighbourhoods.

4.5 Household Size

- 34% of households in the neighbourhood were two person households, 22% three person, 27.8% four or more persons and 14.6% one person.
- Home owners (outright owners) were more likely to be smaller households; 23.8% of home owners in the neighbourhood were single person households (compared to 20.1% of home owners across the five neighbourhoods) and 53.2% were two person households (compared to 47.1% of home owners across the five neighbourhoods). Larger households were more likely to be purchasing their home with a mortgage or loan; 53.2% of three person households; 49.1% of four person households and 60.5% five or more person households.

4.6 Household Type

- the Castleford Whitwood neighbourhood had a higher proportion of one parent family households (10.3%) compared to 8.5% of households across the five survey neighbourhoods. Of these households 72.2% rented from the council compared to 62.8% across the five neighbourhoods. The remaining one parent families either owned outright (2.7%) or were purchasing their home with a loan or mortgage (25%).
- 43% of households in the neighbourhood contained one or more children (compared to 35.2% of households across the five neighbourhoods). The largest

single household type in the neighbourhood were two parent families with at least one child under 16 years of age (32.6%) compared to 26.7% across the five neighbourhoods.

- 17.1% were two adults at least one of whom was over 60 years old and 12.6% of households in the neighbourhood were two adults both under 60 years

4.7 Household Income

- 58% of all households surveyed in the neighbourhood received income from earnings compared to 52.6% across the five neighbourhoods
- 22.3% of all households received income from a works pension, compared to 18.1% of all households across the five neighbourhoods.
- 17.4% of all households received Income Support, compared to 19.7% of households across the five neighbourhoods
- 18.9% of all households in the neighbourhood have a total weekly income of £400 or more compared to 8.9% across the five neighbourhoods.

Table 4.5 Income from Various Sources

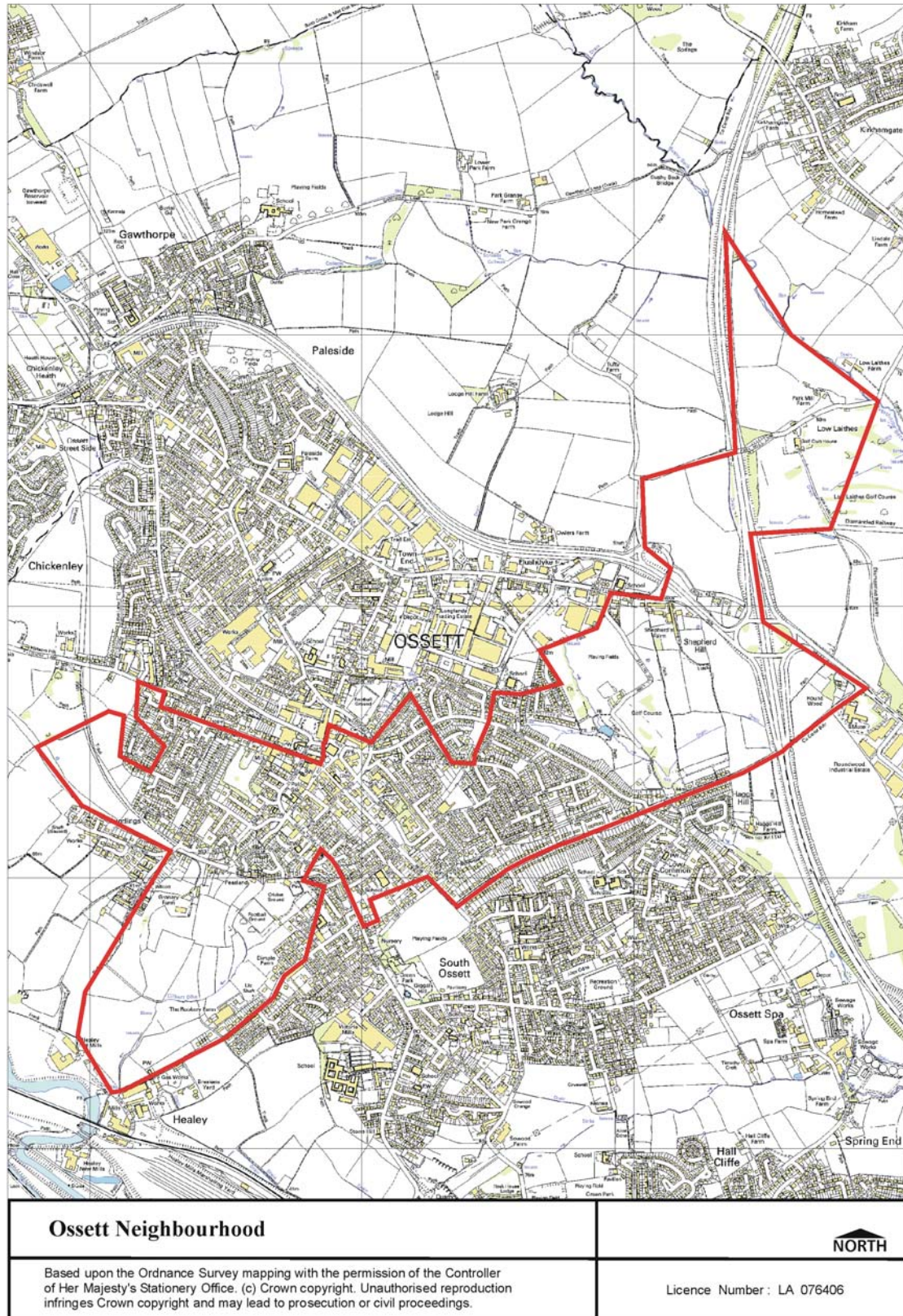
| Source of Income | Castleford Whitwood (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Earnings | 58.0 | 52.6 |
| Works Pension | 22.3 | 18.1 |
| State Pension | 23.1 | 24.5 |
| Income Support | 17.4 | 19.7 |
| Jobseekers Allowance | 1.7 | 3.1 |
| Other Benefits | 26.3 | 22.6 |
| Student Grant or loan | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| None of the above | 0.6 | 1.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

4.8 Mortgage / Rent Payments

- 44.6% of respondents in the neighbourhood reported paying nothing in rent or toward a mortgage. 34.5% of these respondents were purchasing their home with a loan or mortgage and 31.1% were outright owners.
- 24.3% of respondents in the neighbourhood paid between £40 - £59 per week
- 2% of respondents in the neighbourhood reported regularly or sometimes having problems paying the mortgage/rent, compared to 3.7% across the five neighbourhoods

5. Ossett Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood with some aspects of deprivation located in area with limited multiple deprivation



5.1 Age

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting age profile for the Ossett neighbourhood is detailed in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Age of Respondents in Ossett neighbourhood

| Age | Ossett (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|------------------|------------|------------------|
| Under 18 years | 1.7 | 1.1 |
| 18-24 years | 9.7 | 12.7 |
| 25-44 years | 34.6 | 36.5 |
| 45-64 years | 31.1 | 28.5 |
| 65-74 years | 12.6 | 12.4 |
| 75-84 years | 8.9 | 7.8 |
| 85 years or over | 1.4 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5.2 Employment Status

- 48.8% of respondents in the neighbourhood were in full or part time employment
- 30% of respondents in the neighbourhood were wholly retired from work
- 4.9% of respondents were unemployed and available for work, compared to a District wide claimant count in July 2002 of 3.5% (ONS, 2002)
- 4% of respondents were permanently sick or disabled

Table 5.2 Employment Status of Head of Household in Ossett and Across the Five Survey Neighbourhoods

| Employment Status | Ossett (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Full time job | 36.6 | 25.7 |
| Part time job | 11.1 | 12.2 |
| Self employed | 1.1 | 0.4 |
| Full time education | 2.9 | 2.3 |
| Unemployed and available for work | 4.9 | 5.6 |
| Permanently sick/disabled | 4.0 | 8.3 |
| Wholly retired from work | 30.0 | 27.7 |
| Looking after family home | 9.4 | 16.7 |
| Caring for friend/relative | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5.3 Ethnic Origin

The ethnic origin of respondents in the Ossett neighbourhood was overwhelmingly white British (see Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Ethnic Origin of Respondents

| Ethnic Origin | | Ossett (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|---------------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| WHITE | British | 98.0 | 94.3 |
| | Irish | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| | Other | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| SOUTH ASIAN | Indian | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| | Pakistani | 1.1 | 4.8 |
| | Bangladeshi | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| BLACK | African | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| | Caribbean | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | British | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | Other | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| CHINESE | | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| OTHER | | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Total | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5.4 Housing Tenure

The survey sample was quota sampled on the basis of age, gender and tenure to reflect the situation in each neighbourhood according to the 1991 Census. The resulting tenure profile for the Ossett neighbourhood is detailed in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4 Housing Tenure of Respondents

| Housing Tenure | Ossett (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Owned outright | 25.7 | 26.2 |
| Being purchased with mortgage or loan | 46.3 | 31.4 |
| Part owned and part rented | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Rented from Council | 16.6 | 29.2 |
| Rented from housing association | 6.0 | 2.1 |
| Rented from private landlord | 4.9 | 10.2 |
| Tied accommodation | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Other | 0.3 | 0.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5.5 Household Size

The majority of households in the neighbourhood were one (24.9%) or two person (37.7%) households

5.6 Household Type

- 23.1% of households in the neighbourhood contained one or more child (compared to 35.2% of households across the five neighbourhoods). The largest single household type in the neighbourhood were two parent families with at least one child under 16 years of age (20.9%)
- 12.3% were single person households under 60 years of age and 12.6% were single person households over 60 years of age
- 20.9% of households in the neighbourhood were two adults both under 60 years old and 14.9% were two adults at least one of whom was over 60 years old
- 12% of households contained three or more adults (compared to 12.2% across the five neighbourhoods)

5.7 Household Income

- 58.3% of all households surveyed in the neighbourhood received income from earnings
- 12.9% received income from a works pension, compared to 18.1% of households across the five neighbourhoods
- 7.4% of households received Income Support, compared to 19.7% of households across the five neighbourhoods
- 24.3% of households received the State pension

Table 5.5 Income from Various Sources

| Source of Income | Ossett (%) | Five N'hoods (%) |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------|
| Earnings | 58.3 | 52.6 |
| Works Pension | 12.9 | 18.1 |
| State Pension | 24.3 | 24.5 |
| Income Support | 7.4 | 19.7 |
| Jobseekers Allowance | 3.4 | 3.1 |
| Other Benefits | 4.6 | 22.6 |
| Student Grant or loan | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| None of the above | 2.9 | 1.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5.8 Mortgage / Rent Payments

- 34.3% of respondents in the neighbourhood reported paying nothing in rent or toward a mortgage.
- 69.4% of respondents in the neighbourhood paid less than £80 per week, compared to 85% across the five neighbourhoods
- 4.8% paid more than £80 per week, compared to 3.1% across the five neighbourhoods
- 4.5% of respondents in the neighbourhood reported regularly or sometimes having problems paying the mortgage/rent, compared to 3.7% across the five neighbourhoods



Neighbourhood Deprivation in Wakefield

ROBINSON, David, COWARD, Sarah and LARKIN, Andrew

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