



The Dearne Approach Key Findings

Building on the previous work to develop Local Integrated Services, the Dearne Approach was developed as a pilot with the objective of changing commissioning of services at a neighbourhood level. This is to be achieved by identifying the needs of individuals and communities, and delivering on those outcomes using reduced resources in an innovative and cost saving way, through co-design and co-production with communities in the Dearne.

The Dearne Approach focuses on the communities living within; Thurnscoe, Goldthorpe, Bolton-upon-Dearne and Highgate.

22 local people living in the Dearne were recruited and trained as Community Researchers. They used a variety of methods to engage and collect the opinions of 541 adults and 84 young people.

What are the top issues that are having the most impact on your life?

Issue	Thurnscoe	Goldthorpe	Bolton-Upon-Dearne & Highgate	Total
Access to GPs	37.4%	19.8%	20.1%	26.8%
Housing issues	32.4%	35.7%	20.6%	25.8%
Debt & benefit problems	22.2%	29.8%	25.6%	25.5%
Unemployment & training	30.8%	23.8%	20.1%	25.3%
Teenage ASB & groups of Young People	27.4%	25.1%	18.4%	23.8%
Dogs mess & causing nuisance	15.6%	21.1%	25.6%	20.5%
Drug dealing and usage	18.9%	17.8%	19.5%	18.8%

Access to GPs

Access to GPs was ranked highest overall (26.8%) in terms of having an impact on people's lives, however this is significantly more of an issue for people in Thurnscoe (37.4%) in comparison to Goldthorpe (19.8%) and Bolton-Upon-Dearne & Highgate (20.1%).

Community perception

- New booking systems perceived not to be working
- Lack of availability of appointments
- Lack of continuity in care i.e. not seeing the same doctor
- Not enough GPs but practices still taking on new patients
- Some negativity felt towards patients

Impacts felt by community

- Loss of faith in the GP system as a reliable service
- Complaining seems unproductive
- People are going to A & E as they cannot get into their GPs
- Inability to access GPs causes stress to people who are unwell

Communities suggested solutions

- More staff training
- Extend opening hours
- Take complaints more seriously
- Stop taking on / advertising for new patients
- Provide walk in clinics

Housing Issues

Issues related to housing were ranked highest in both Thurnscoe (32.4%) and Goldthorpe (35.7%).

Community perception

- Private landlords not looking after properties
- Empty houses being vandalised
- Troubled families being placed in the area
- Tenants not looking after their properties

Impacts felt by community

- People having no pride in the area
- Creating divisions and tension within the community
- Not attracting new people to the area
- People living in substandard conditions
- Attracting fly tippers
- Causing pest problems
- Creating negativity between longstanding Dearne residents and new tenants
- Depression and stress

Communities suggested solutions

- More prosecutions for both bad landlords and tenants
- BMBC to work more closely with private landlords and monitor their practices
- Look into more ways to encourage tenants to take pride in their area
- Stop placing troubled families in the areas
- Prosecutions / fine fly tippers

Debt & Benefit Problems

Debt and benefit related problems are the highest in Goldthorpe (29.8%), 25.6% in Bolton-Upon-Dearne & Highgate with the lowest levels of 22.2% in Thurnscoe. These issues cover a wide spectrum of financial issues, in particular the needs of working families that are struggling financially on a day to day basis.

Community perception

- Lack of debt advice
- Community members unsure how to improve their financial situation
- Cost of living
- Changes in benefits and delays in benefit arrangements causing debt problems
- Lack of work
- Dependency culture on benefits
- Lack of help for working families
- Pay day loans too easy to access

Impact felt by community

- People struggling to feed their families
- Working families really struggling to make ends meet
- Depression and stress
- Use of loan sharks and pay day loans
- People turning to drink and drugs

Communities suggested solutions

- Work directly with families that are struggling
- Provide debt advice in the Dearne
- Ensure any help and guidance available identifies the penalties / costs of high interest loans
- Make it more difficult for loan organisations to operate in the area
- More help for working families

Unemployment & Training

The lack of employment and training opportunities was viewed as an issue across the Dearne as a whole. Thurnscoe (30.8%) compared with Goldthorpe (23.8%) and Bolton-Upon-Deerne & Highgate (20.1%). Just under a quarter of respondents (24.4%) have accessed local training courses – generally recreational in nature.

Community perception

- Lack of local jobs – Both skilled and unskilled
- Cost of travel stops people looking for jobs out of the local area
- Lack of skills due to apprenticeships no longer being available
- Lack of work for the younger generation
- Better off on benefits
- Recession – respondents believe the recession has hit the Dearne hard in particular regarding employment
- Lack of education
- More local work should be available

Impacts felt by community

- People earn more money growing and selling drugs
- People choose benefits over work
- People getting in debt
- Depression and stress has emerged in the research as having a considerable impact on the unemployed in particular the long term unemployed

Communities suggested solutions

- Make sure training courses are relevant and will lead to employment
- Work more with local employers to look at ways of providing work experience / apprenticeships
- Become tougher on people not seeking work
- Relevant training and employment services work together

Teenage ASB & Groups of Young People

ASB and groups of young people is a higher priority in Thurnscoe (27.4%) compared to Goldthorpe (25.1%) and Bolton-Upon-Dearne & Highgate (18.4%).

Community perception

- People feel intimidated by groups of teenagers particularly at night
- Groups of young people hanging out on streets verbally abusing people
- Motorbike and quad bikes are speeding around the streets day and night as there is nowhere else to ride them
- Bad parenting
- No repercussions from relevant services
- Nothing for young people to do / lack of aspirations
- Older children wreck younger children's play areas
- There is a perceived threat rather than an actual one
- Younger groups feeling intimidated

Impact felt by community

- People are afraid to go out at night
- Children left to their own devices and getting into more trouble
- Area being vandalised
- Drugs and Alcohol being used on the streets
- Bullying and intimidation of people of all ages including people who are being victimised by known individuals or more general anti social behaviour aimed at random individuals

Communities suggested suggestions

- Services need more powers to deal with the problem
- People need to feel confident that they will be safe if they report crimes
- Target the troubled families and work closely with them
- Talk to the younger members of the community and see what they want to occupy them

Dogs Mess & Dogs Causing Nuisance

Dog mess and associated anti-social behaviour was a slightly bigger problem in Bolton-Upon-Dearne & Highgate (25.6%) compared to Goldthorpe (21.1%) and Thurnscoe (15.6%).

Community perception

- There was the suggestion that fines are not being issued to the offenders
- People do not pick up after their pets
- Dog bins not in the right places
- Dogs left to roam

Impact felt by community

- Children cannot be left to play out
- Makes the place look a mess
- People too scared to say anything to offenders
- People feel stressed and unhappy

Community suggested suggestions

- Dog wardens
- More on the spot fines
- Put the bins in the places where people walk their dogs
- Ban dogs in certain areas

Drug Dealing and Usage

Drug dealing and usage was ranked as the 7th priority issue overall for people living in the Dearne (18.8%).

Community perception

- Concerns about drug usage being on the increase
- Very open use of drug use and dealing
- Many people growing drugs in houses
- Fear of reprisals in reporting awareness of drug growing and usage
- People can smell the drugs in their street
- Feeling that authorities know of drug growing and are not dealing with the problem
- Attracting drug dealers and users to the area
- People feel it's easier to make money by growing / selling drugs than work
- Caused by high unemployment in the area
- Concerns around the younger members of the community getting involved
- Young people concerned about intimidation in relation to drugs

Impact felt by community

- People afraid to report to police
- Drug use leading to debt and health issues
- People are committing crimes such as burglary to buy drugs

Communities suggested solutions

- More raids on houses (there is a general feeling that everyone knows who is doing the growing and they are left alone)
- Make people more confident in the system when they report a crime (fear of reprisals)
- Have more police on the streets
- Outreach work in the Dearne to target users offering them support, help and guidance
- Both services and the community need to work together.

Youth Questionnaire

We asked 84 young people what issues are a concern for you living in the Dearne?

Issue	Percentage
Facilities and activities for teenagers	69.0%
Street litter and broken glass	67.9%
Bullying and intimidation	64.3%
Drug and alcohol use	63.1%
Drug dealing	54.8%
Lack of employment opportunities	52.4%
Financial problems	50.0%
Crime and ASB	48.8%
Lack of children's play facilities	41.7%
Education	36.9%
Public transport	33.3%
Health problems	14.3%
Learning and physical disabilities	14.3%

Base 84

Drug dealing:

"See it around all the time" Goldthorpe

"Police do nothing" Thurnscoe

"I can't believe there are kids of my age dealing drugs" Thurnscoe

Drug and alcohol use:

"Too many young people taking drugs" Goldthorpe

"Causes anti-social behaviour" Bolton-Upon-Dearne

Street litter and broken glass:

"Looks a mess, the council try to keep it clean but people cause the problem" Thurnscoe

"Broken glass everywhere, it's really dangerous" Thurnscoe

Bullying and intimidation:

"I walk around the streets and me and my friends get called names" Thurnscoe

"Causes stress, don't think people understand how bad someone can feel when bullied"
Bolton-Upon-Dearne

Facilities and activities for teenagers:

"Nothing to do, nowhere to go" Bolton-Upon-Dearne

"Nowhere to go that's age appropriate" Goldthorpe

Lack of employment opportunities:

"Afraid that when I leave school I won't have a job" Goldthorpe

"No jobs or training schemes for young people" Thurnscoe