

South Yorkshire Weekly Policy Briefing

27th January 2023

SYMCA Policy Team

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This Week's Policy Highlights:

- ❑ [Bloomberg UK](#) updated its Levelling Up scorecard and found that more than three-quarters of constituencies — especially those in the Midlands and North — were already behind London and the South East in 2019 and have since fallen even further behind.
- ❑ Data released from the [2021 Census](#) reveal trends in Housing, Health and Disability and Unpaid Care across England and Wales.
- ❑ Research from [Onward](#) shows that social trust levels vary from street-to-street across the country, with areas of Sheffield featuring in the highest and lowest categories.
- ❑ Local Transport Data from SYMCA shows the proportion of weekly bus use is 75.4% of pre-Covid figures and tram patronage is at 83.1% whilst the number of people counted overall at interchanges increased by +1,861 (+4.6%) to 42,516 from the previous week.

UK Levelling Up Scorecard



**LEVELLING
— UP —**

Is Levelling Up working?

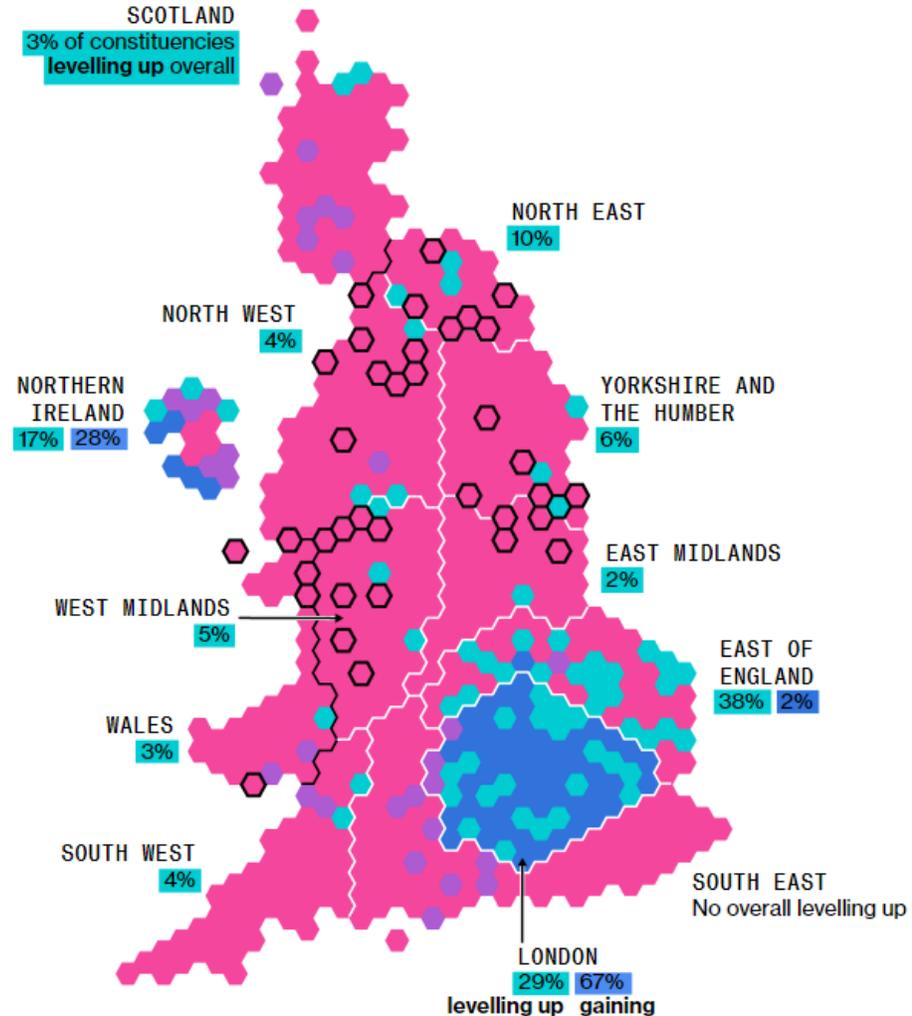
[Bloomberg UK](#) updated its Levelling Up scorecard that tracks whether constituencies outside of London and the South East had closed the gap on the capital since the 2019 election, based on the government's own set of socioeconomic metrics for levelling up.

The current Scorecard, shows that the country's productivity gap has widened since May, with just 6% of constituencies making an overall improvement since May and the vast majority continuing to struggle.

London Pulls Further Ahead as Most of UK Struggles to Level Up

Overall levelling up category as of December 2022

- Behind in 2019 and **falling or unchanged**
- Ahead in 2019 but **falling or unchanged**
- Behind in 2019 but **levelling up**
- Ahead in 2019 and **gaining**
- Red Wall constituencies that flipped to Conservative



Regional Breakdown

The Scorecard found that more than three-quarters of constituencies — especially those in the Midlands and North of England — were already behind London and the South East in 2019 and have since fallen even further behind.

It also shows that 97% of so-called Red Wall seats — former industrial heartlands that swung from Labour to Conservative in 2019, the constituencies targeted by the levelling up message — are classified as falling behind

Much of the improvement is in the East of England, where one in three seats are doing better since May 2022, thanks in part to shrinking pay and transport spending gaps — but these constituencies are closer to London, showing the challenge of spreading wealth and opportunity beyond the gravitational pull of the capital.

Source: Bloomberg



Key Indicators

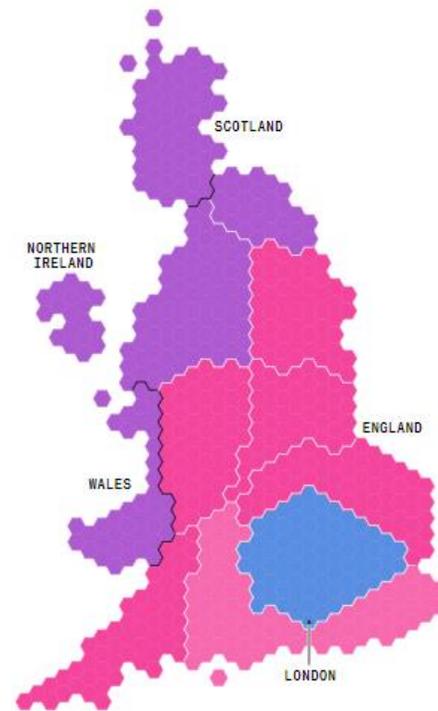
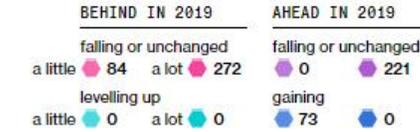
Disparities include:

Transport funding - London and the South East spent £905 per head on transport in the last fiscal year compared to £442 per head in the North East, a gap that's grown since 2019.

Productivity - A job in London and the South East generates an average £71,035 of economic output – versus £42,827 in the West Midlands, £45,942 in the East Midlands and £46,331 in the North East. Each of these gaps has grown since 2019.

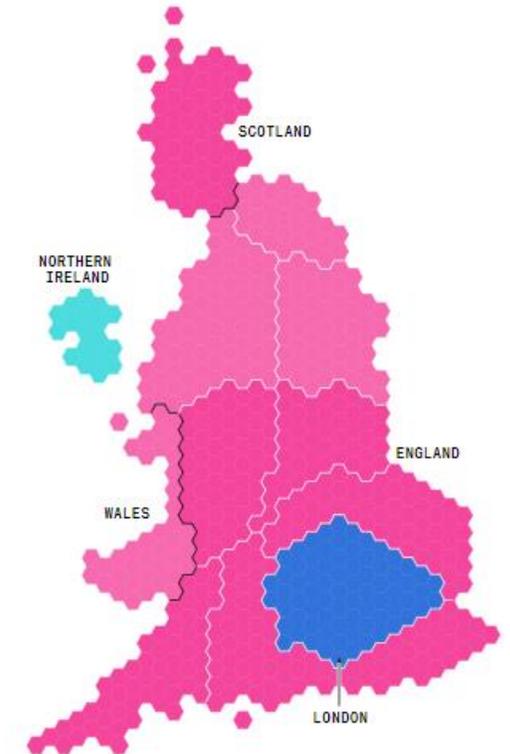
Broader government expenditures - Spending per head on public services has increased 16% in London and the South East since 2019, versus 12% or less in the North and South West.

Total Government Spending



Yorkshire and Humber behind in 2019 and falling a lot; gap grew by 3.9 percentage points

Productivity



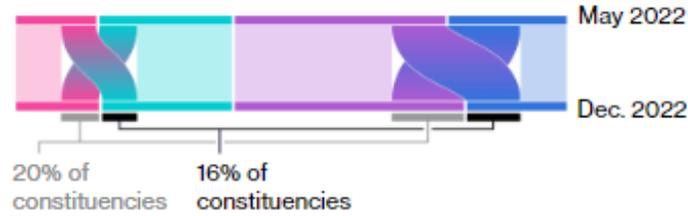
Yorkshire and Humber behind in 2019 and falling a little; gap grew by 1.8 percentage points 2019 – Q4 2021

Change Within Metrics Compared to Previous Scorecard

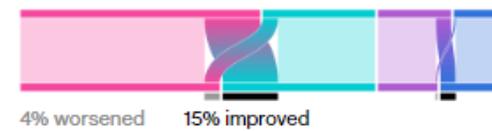
Levelling up category by metric for all constituencies from May 2022 to December 2022

- Behind in 2019 and **falling or unchanged**
- Behind in 2019 but **levelling up**
- Ahead in 2019 and **falling or unchanged**
- Ahead in 2019 and **gaining**

WELL - BEING



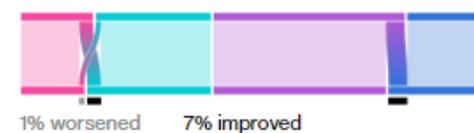
CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT



BROADBAND COVERAGE



CRIME



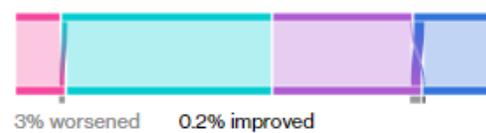
SALARIES



HOME AFFORDABILITY

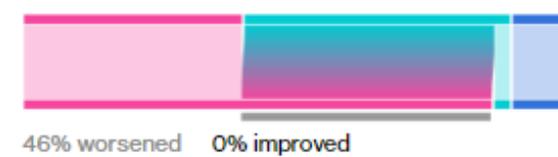


UNIVERSAL CREDIT

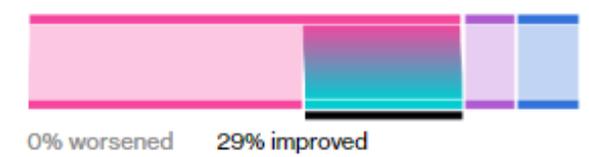


Metrics with the least granular data available

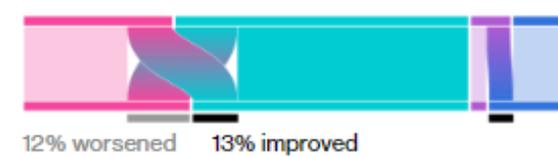
PRODUCTIVITY



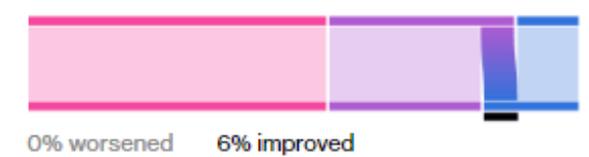
GOV. SPEND. ON TRANSPORT.



FOREIGN INVESTMENT



TOTAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING



Note: Change cannot be calculated for 27 constituencies for the Crime metric and for 3 constituencies for the Well-being metric because of lack of available data in either period. The Scorecard also tracks a Life expectancy metric, but the source data behind it hasn't been updated since our first story last May.

Scale of Levelling Up

There is clearly a need to deliver the massive reorientation of public spending and devolution of power necessary to stem rising regional inequality.

However, projects in London and the South East received £360 million, three times more than schemes in Yorkshire and the Humber.

This means that whilst across the UK, dozens of local areas have experienced an improvement in one or more indicators since May — such as additional civil service jobs or ultrafast broadband speeds, in other areas, such as productivity and well-being, many areas of the UK are worsening.

Source: Bloomberg



Census 2021: Housing & Health, Disability and Unpaid Care

census 2021

Housing – Type and Occupancy

The Office for National Statistics continue their roll out of Census 2021 data with information on [housing](#) in England and Wales.

77.9% of those surveyed (19.3 million) lived in a house or bungalow, 21.7% (5.4 million) lived in a flat, maisonette or apartment and 0.4% (104,000) lived in a caravan or other temporary structure. The biggest proportional increase is in flat accommodation, from 21.0% (4.9 million) living in these properties in 2011 to 21.7% (5.4 million) in 2021.

62.5% (15.5 million) of households owned the accommodation they lived in, 37.3% (9.3 million) rented their accommodation and 0.1% (33,000) of households lived rent free. A similar but smaller proportion of households had fewer bedrooms than required (4.3%, 1.1 million), compared with 2011 (4.5%, 1.1 million).

Figure 1: Accommodation type, 2021, England, Wales, all households

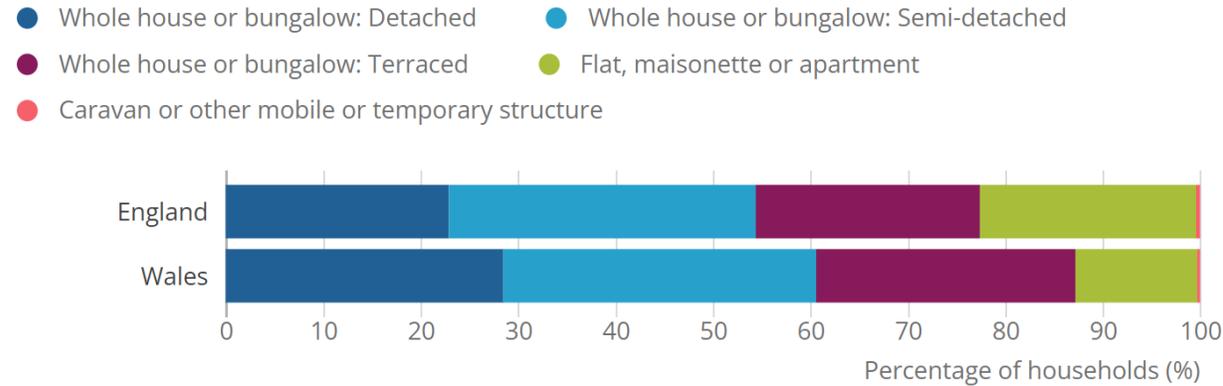
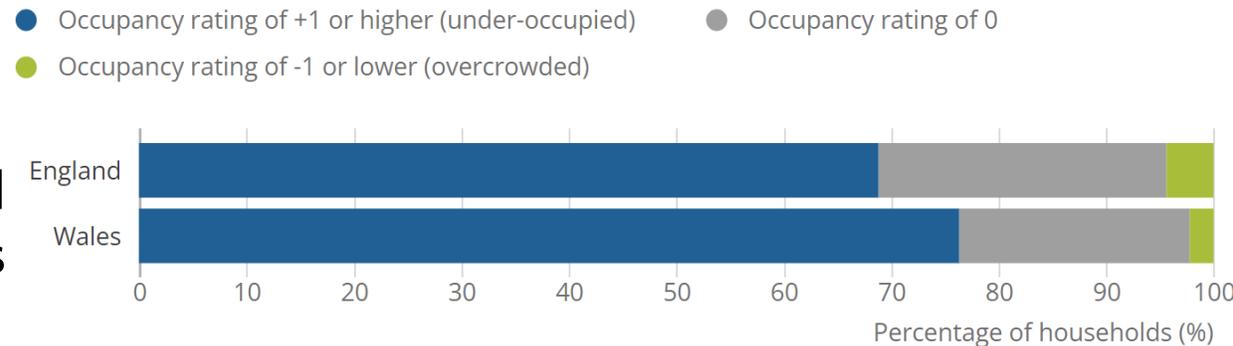


Figure 4: Bedroom occupancy rating, 2021, England, Wales



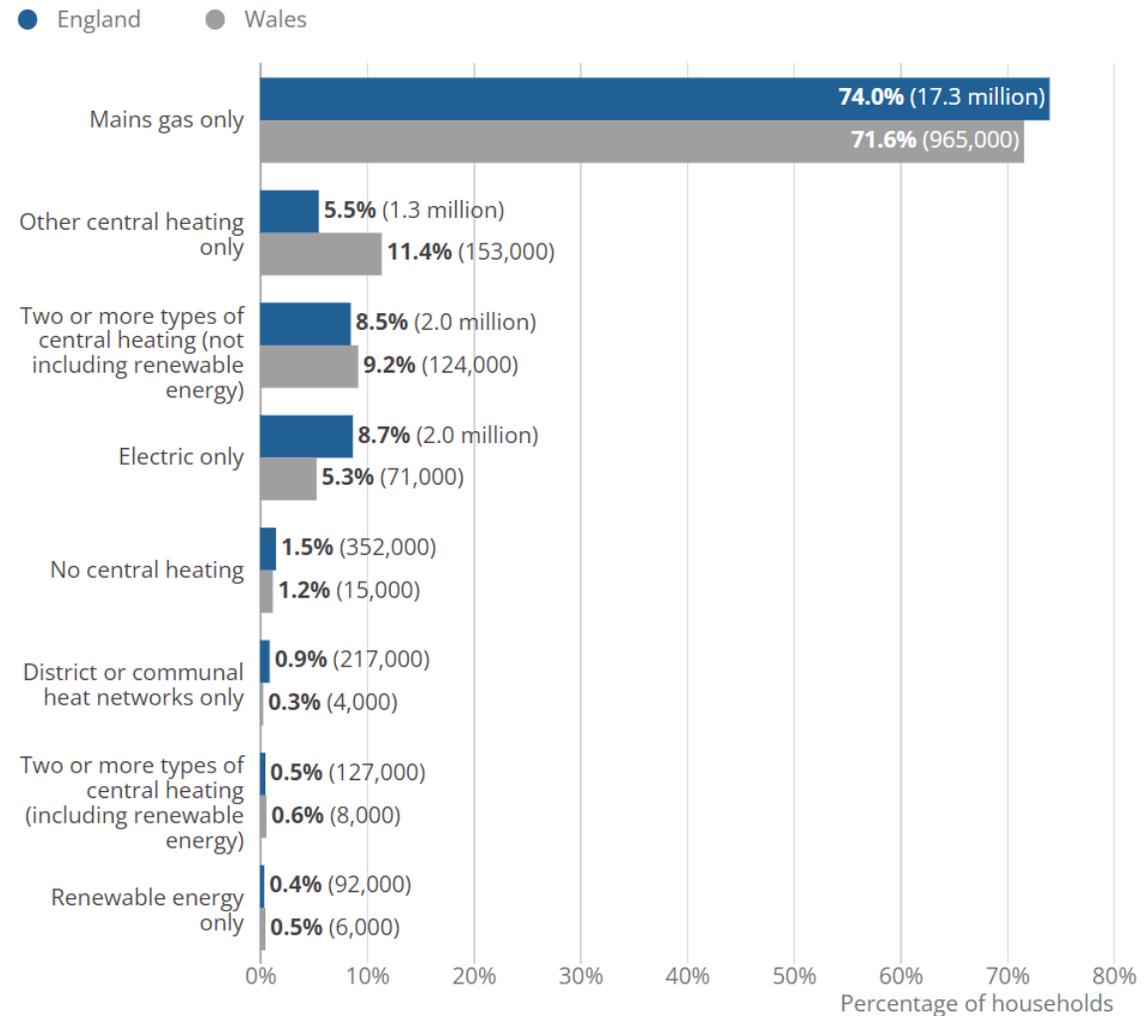
Housing – Central Heating and Vehicle Ownership

Almost all households reported that they had central heating in 2021 (98.5%, 24.4 million); of these, 0.9% (233,000) used at least one renewable energy source. However, 1.5% (367,000) of households had no central heating. This is higher than the figure for South Yorkshire of 1.03% (6,023).

The most common responses were, mains gas (73.8%, 18.3 million), two or more types of central heating (not including renewable energy; 8.5%, 2.1 million) and electric (8.5%, 2.1 million). However, South Yorkshire is particularly reliant on mains gas, with 81.1% (476,653) of households reporting that they solely rely on this for heating their homes.

In 2021, 23.3% (5.8 million) of households had no cars or vans (down from 25.6%, 6.0 million in 2011). This figure is higher in South Yorkshire though, at 25.7% (151,169).

Figure 5: Types of central heating, 2021, England, Wales



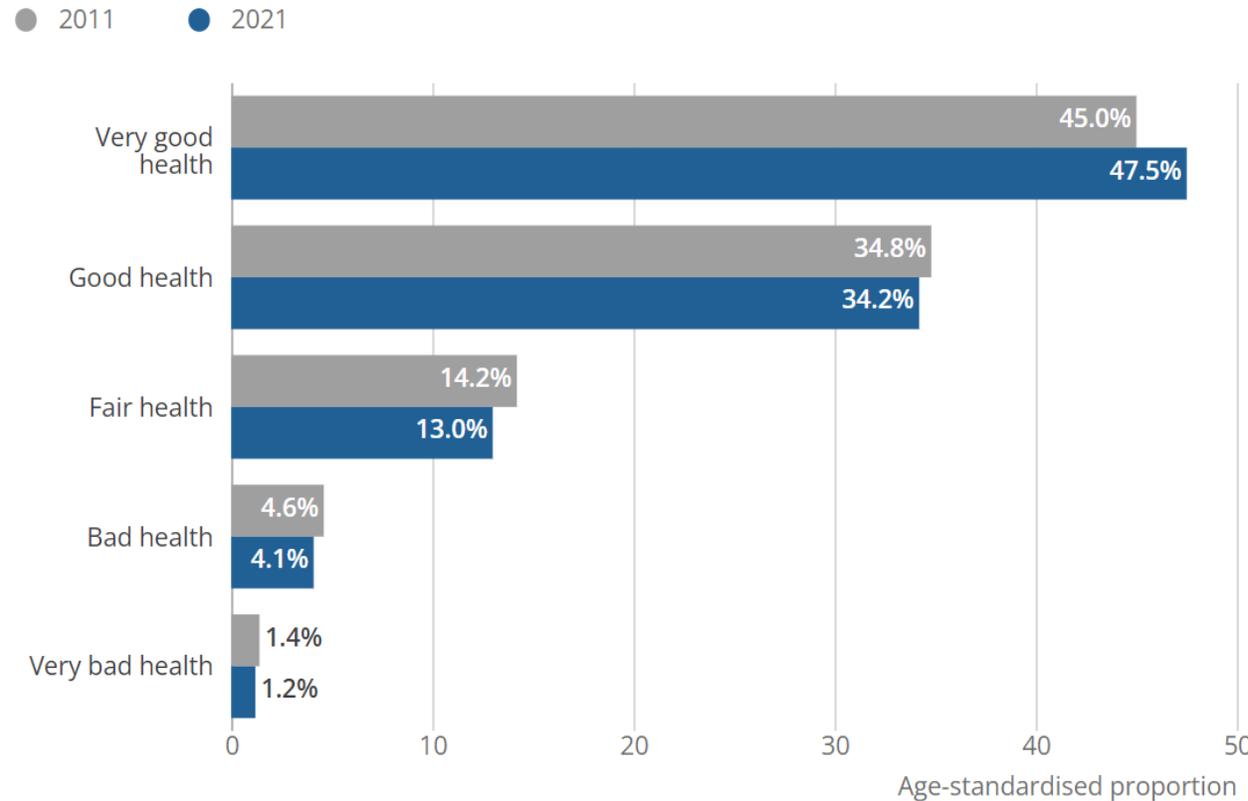
Health

Despite the pandemic, the proportion of people reporting very good **health** in England increased from 45% in 2011, to 47.5% in 2021, whereas there were decreases in the proportion of people reporting good, bad, and very bad health (1.4% in 2011, to 1.2% in 2021).

In South Yorkshire, only 45.1% of people reported very good health in 2021 – the highest local authority being Sheffield at 46.7% (259,654). Moreover, 1.52% reported having very bad health, which is 0.3% higher than the national average. The local authority with the worst health was Barnsley at 1.68% (4,117) of the population.

Areas with the highest proportions of very good health were Kensington and Chelsea (58.0%), Elmbridge (57.7%), and Richmond-upon-Thames (57.6%). The lowest proportion was in Stoke-on-Trent (40.2%).

Figure 2: Age-standardised general health, 2011 and 2021, England



Disability and Unpaid Care

Insights into [disabilities](#) and [unpaid care](#) show that a smaller proportion but larger number of people were disabled in England in 2021 (17.7%, 9.8 million), compared with 2011 (19.3%, 9.4 million). Meanwhile, an estimated 5.0 million usual residents aged 5 years and over provided unpaid care in 2021, this is 9.0% of total respondents, a decrease from 11.4% in 2011.

The local authorities with the highest and lowest proportions of disabled people in 2021, respectively, were Blackpool (24.7%) and London (11.8%). In South Yorkshire, 20.53% (282,380) of people have a disability. This is nearly 3% higher than the national average, with Barnsley faring worst at 22%.

In all English regions, there was a smaller proportion of unpaid carers in 2021 compared with 2011, though the amount working 50hrs or more remains unchanged.

Figure 1: Age-standardised disability, 2011 and 2021, England and Wales

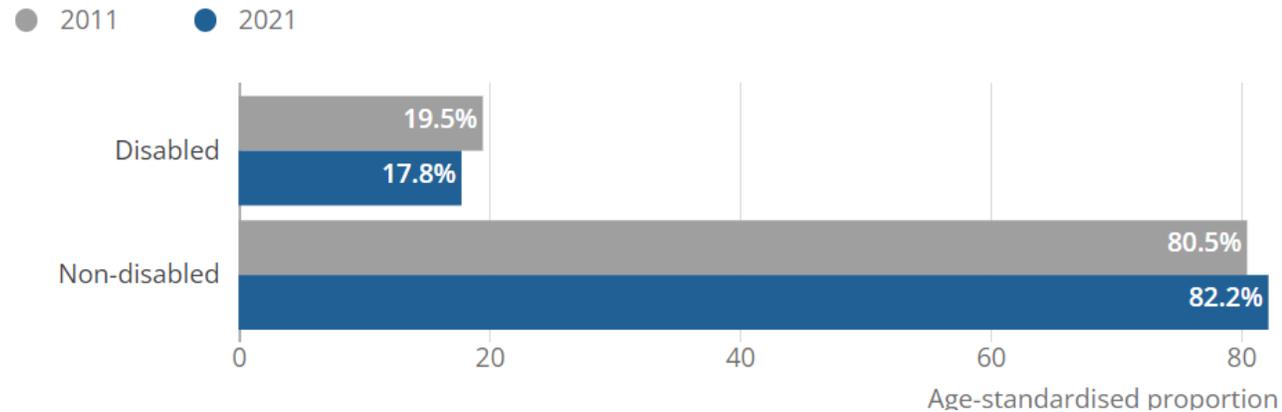
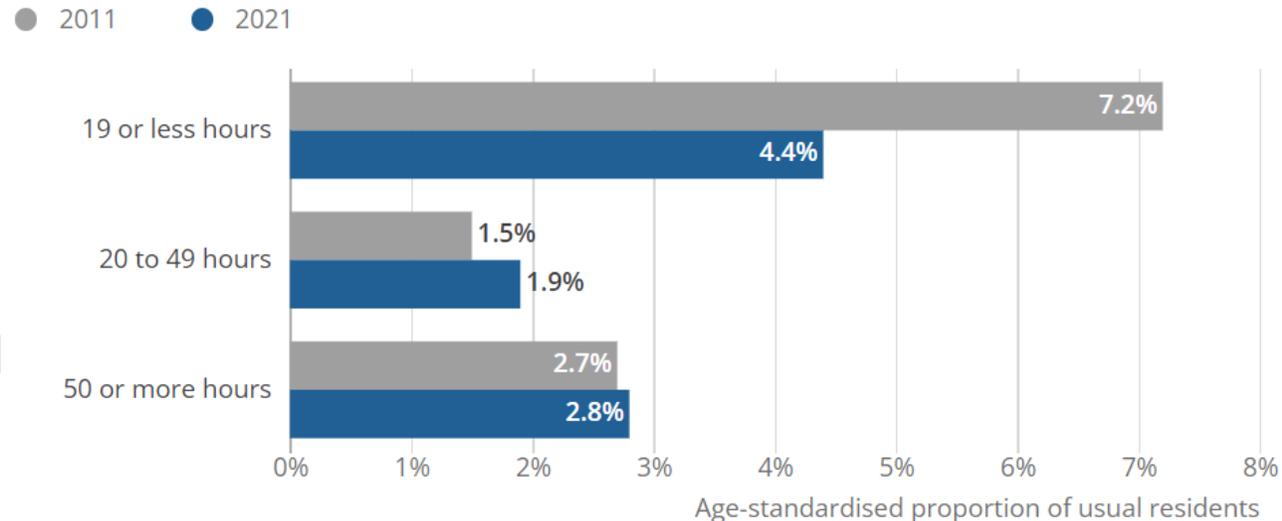


Figure 1: Number of hours of unpaid care provided per week, usual residents aged 5 years and over, age-standardised proportions, 2011 and 2021, England and Wales



Social Trust



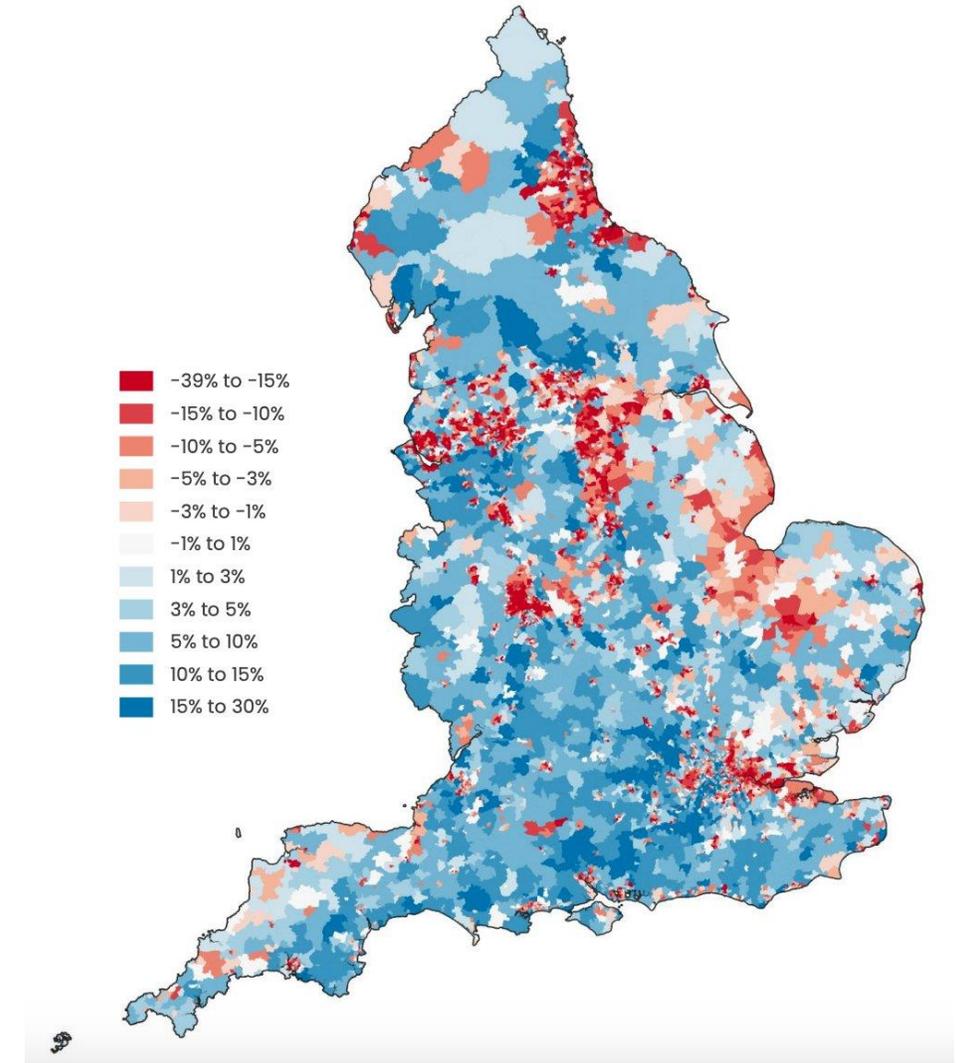
Most Trusting Neighbourhood

Research from [Onward](#) shows that social trust levels vary from street-to-street across the country. Key themes include:

- Density predicts lower social trust, with those living in urban areas, on average, are less likely to trust people than those living in rural areas.
- Prosperity predicts higher social trust, with people living in the least deprived areas of England reporting higher social trust.
- Quality of education, average incomes, and rates of employment are all strong predictors of whether a neighbourhood is trusting or not.
- However, a local area's productivity has no relationship with levels of social trust, likely because not everyone lives and works in the same area.

Figure 1.2: Social trust by Middle-Layer Super Output Area (MSOA), England

Source: Onward analysis of FocalData, 2022



Variations within Communities

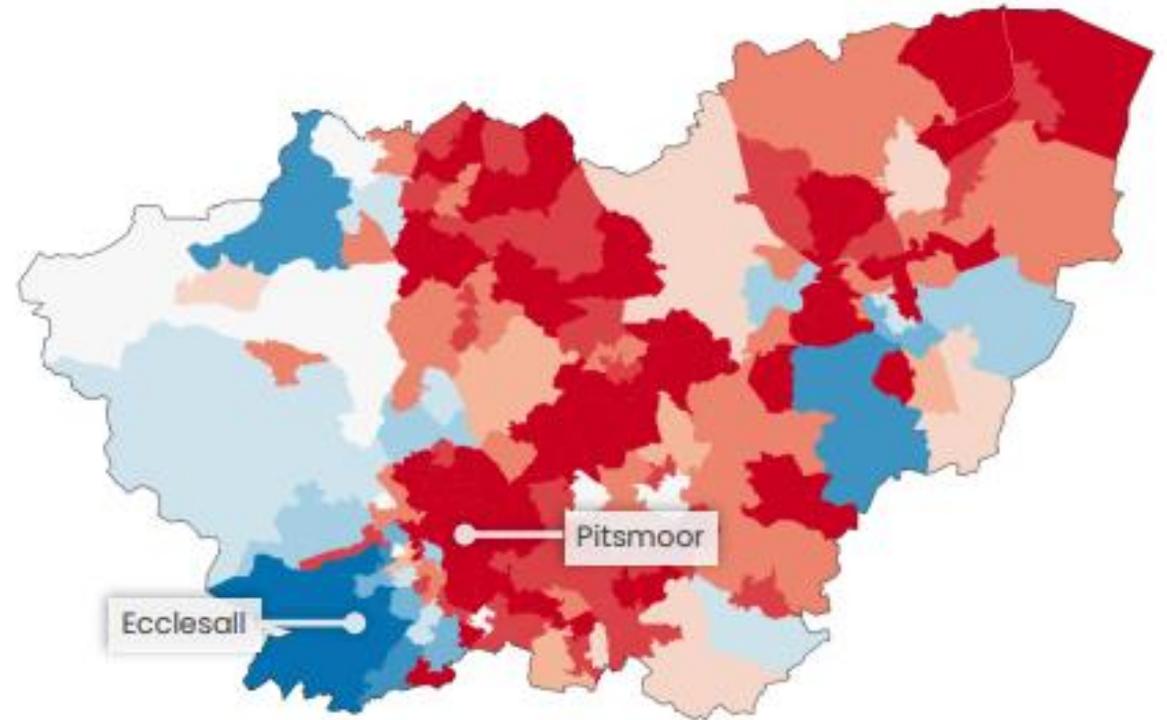
The data also reveals shocking levels of variation within parts of the country, with Sheffield containing neighbourhoods that are in the top 5% and bottom 5% for levels of trust.

It is the most unequal local authority in England, with net trust scores ranging from +29% to -31% (a gap of 60 percentage points).

Some high-trust neighbourhoods exist right alongside low-trust neighbourhoods here in South Yorkshire, as the diagram shows.

For instance, around Ecclesall, 60% say they trust generally trust other people. But in Burngreave and Pitsmoor, only 35% say they trust others.

Figure 1.5: Variation in neighbourhood-level trust in South Yorkshire

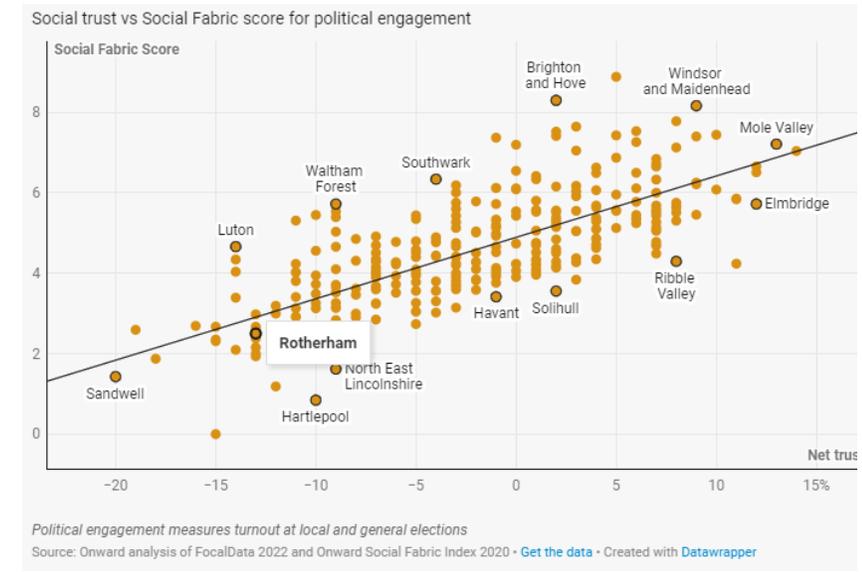
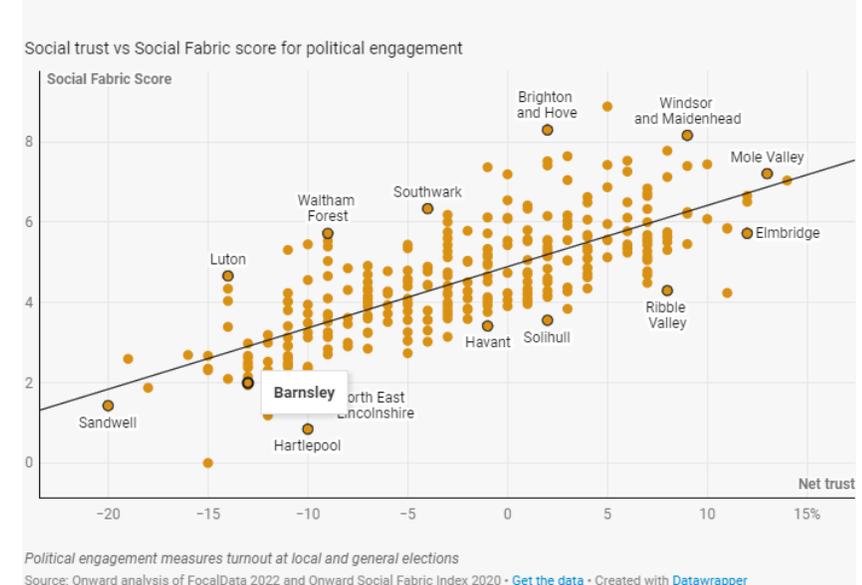
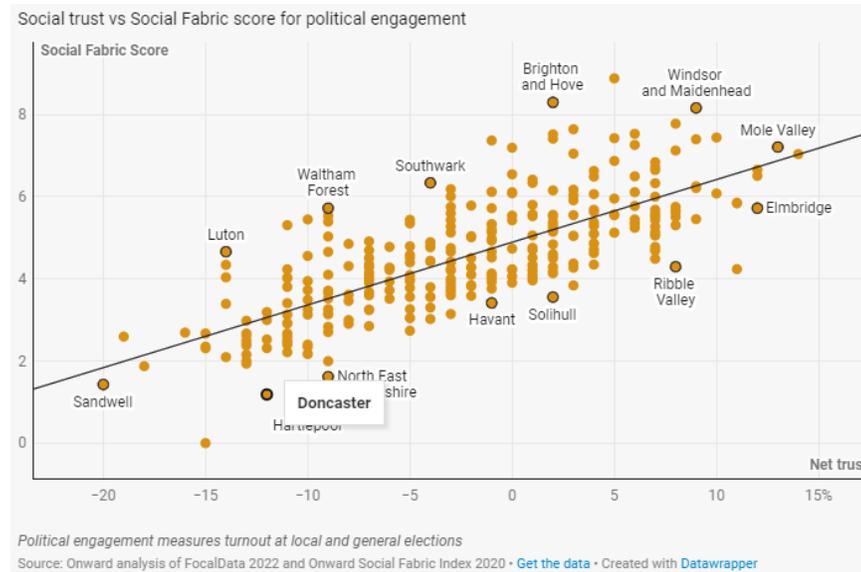
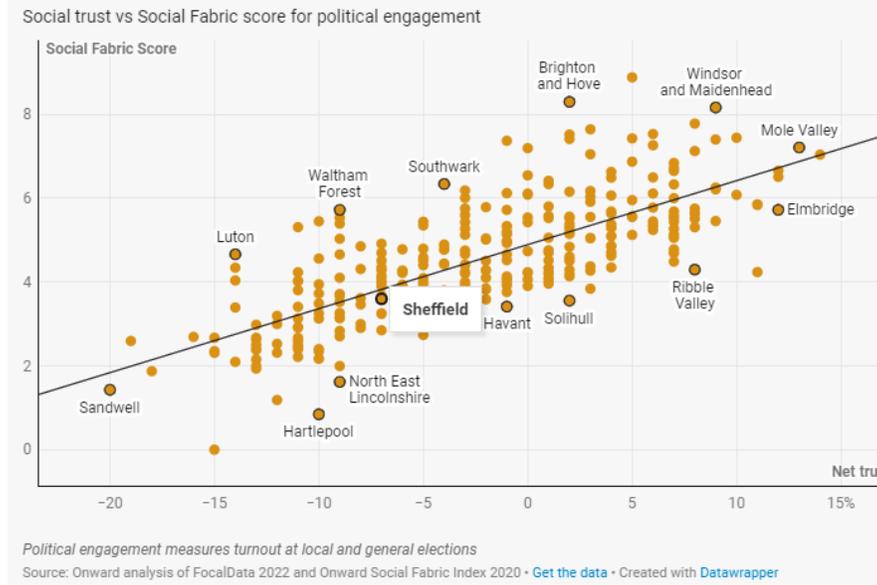


Source: Onward

Impact in South Yorkshire

As shown in the diagrams, the districts within South Yorkshire feature low down in [Onward's UK Social Fabric Index](#), which show a low level of physical Infrastructure and Economic Value with strong Civic Institutions and Positive Social Norms.

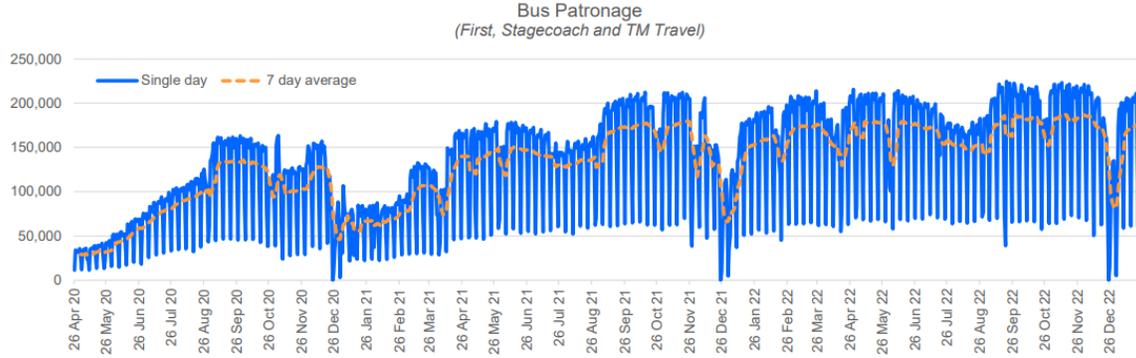
This shows a growing sense of social and cultural inequality alongside economic factors, particularly in large towns and city suburbs.



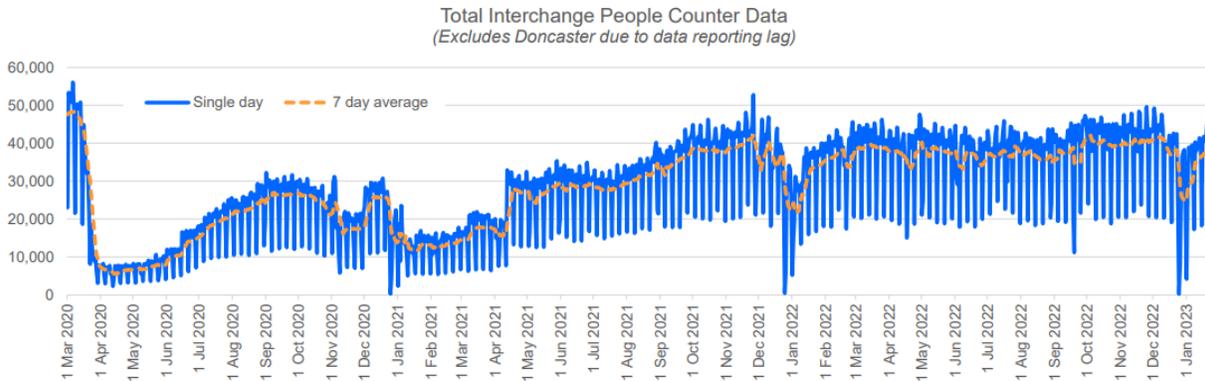
Local Data



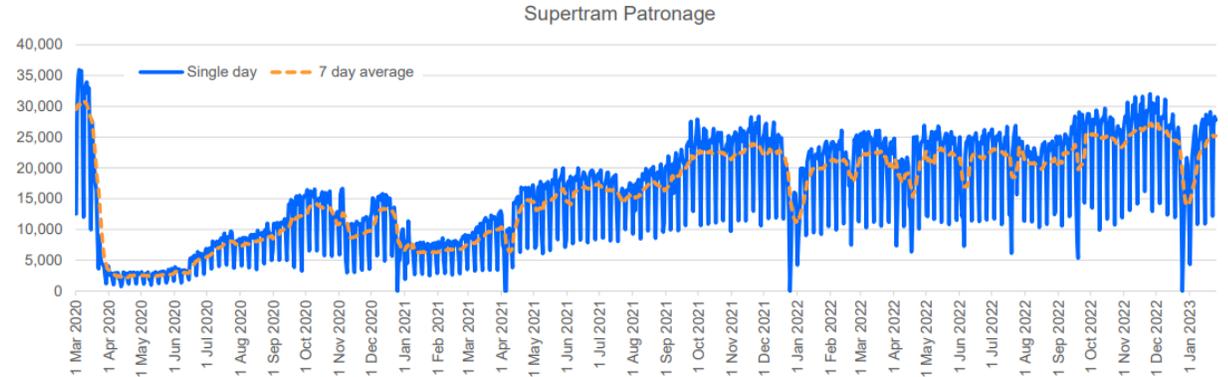
Public Transport Tracking



Latest day compared to same day last week: **+624** **+2.3%**
 7 day average compared to previous 7 day average: **+704** **+2.9%**
 Latest week proportion of pre-Covid: **83.1%**
The pre-Covid value is defined as the weekly total for January 19th to 25th 2020



Latest day compared to same day last week: **+5,341** **+2.7%**
 7 day average compared to previous 7 day average: **+2,495** **+1.4%**
 Latest week proportion of pre-Covid: **75.4%**
The pre-Covid value is defined as the weekly total for January 19th to 25th 2020



Latest day compared to same day last week: **+1,861** **+4.6%**
 7 day average compared to previous 7 day average: **+2,381** **+6.4%**

And in other news.....

South Yorkshire Data & Intelligence Hub

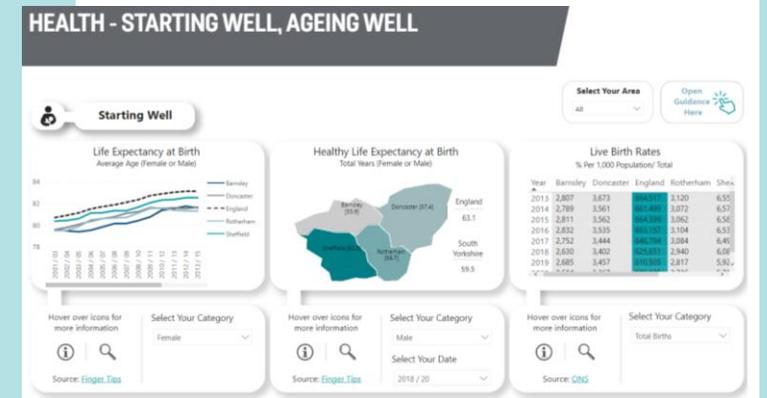
Want to access data and trends relating to South Yorkshire?

Head to the [South Yorkshire Data & Intelligence Hub](#), which provides a range of data useful for understanding the local economy, as well as social and environmental outcomes.

It also helps to understand relative performance and changes in data. See how it works on YouTube [here](#).

Whether you're a resident, employer, academic, researcher or just interested in data, this can help you understand South Yorkshire's economy and develop evidence-based solutions.

Visit the dashboard now at <https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/Data-Intelligence-Hub>



Return of 1850's Vintage Clothing?

A jacket thought to be more than 170 years old turned up in a Barnsley vintage shop this week.

It is believed indigenous tribes from western Canada made it in the 1850s, probably by someone from the Métis or Cree nations.

The jacket made its way to the Glass Onion vintage warehouse in Dodworth after travelling thousands of miles from the US during one of the store's regular imports.

Hopefully it sets a precedent for high-profile, prestigious things that want to locate here in South Yorkshire.



Self-Driving Buses

The first self-driving bus in the UK successfully undertook a test journey over the Forth Road Bridge near Edinburgh, with a group of 22 volunteers riding an autonomous single-decker run by operator Stagecoach.

It is part of the CAVForth project which is expected to have five self-driving buses run timetabled services between Ferrytoll park-and-ride in Fife and the Edinburgh Park train and tram interchange via the bridge from the spring.

Buses will travel in mixed traffic at speeds of up to 50mph, with capacity for around 10,000 journeys per week, with a bus captain to help passengers with boarding, buying tickets and any queries.

If the smiles on the faces of travellers are anything to go by, then adopting it here in South Yorkshire might be a potential solution.....



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