

Sheffield South East Connect

Survey results findings
2020/21

CONTENTS

Foreword by Clive Betts MP	4
Introduction	5
The Numbers	6
National Priorities	7
Crime	8
The NHS	9
Poverty and Inequality	12
Other Issues	14
Local Issues	17
Crime	18
Council Services	20
Local Environment and Green Spaces	22
Ward Breakdown	24
Looking Ahead to 2021	26
Concluding Remarks	29
Bibliography	30

FOREWORD

Welcome to Sheffield South East Connect's first constituency survey report.

I am delighted to be able share the results with you, offer an insight into the issues affecting my constituents and provide an overview of the work I will be doing to address them.

Sheffield South East Connect took form very quickly and I am incredibly pleased with the response it generated, and of those who dedicated their time to make it happen. Whilst 2020 was a difficult year for us all, I am delighted by the continued enthusiasm of my constituents and their passion for supporting our community despite the difficulties we have all faced.

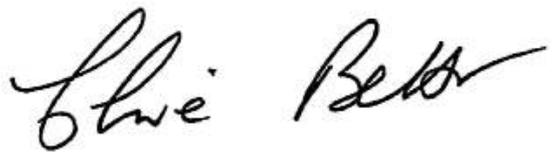
I hope this report goes some way to capturing the current mood and priorities of the Sheffield South East constituency, whilst at the same time exploring the background and context behind these problems. Further, I hope this report will also highlight the work I am doing to tackle the problems impacting my constituents.

Whilst this report is, of course, aimed at those who completed the survey, I also endeavour for it to be a useful resource for those who may have only recently come across the project, and want to know more about its origins, how it worked and its findings. Regardless of any background knowledge to the project you might have, I hope you find this report informative in helping you

understand the concerns of Sheffield South East's constituents.

Looking ahead, I do hope this survey can become an annual fixture for my constituents, and promote a positive, ongoing conversation across the cycle of this Parliament to ensure the priorities of Sheffield South East are heard and championed, both in Westminster, the city and right here in our constituency.

The feedback and data I have received throughout this process is utterly invaluable. I appreciate the time, effort and energy constituents have taken to let me know what issues they want me to tackle in 2021 and I look forward to addressing these.



Clive Betts
MP for Sheffield South East

INTRODUCTION

The Sheffield South East Connect online survey ran for the duration of November 2020.

The intention of this was to enable constituents to have their say about what issues they wanted to be prioritised in 2021 at both a local and national level.

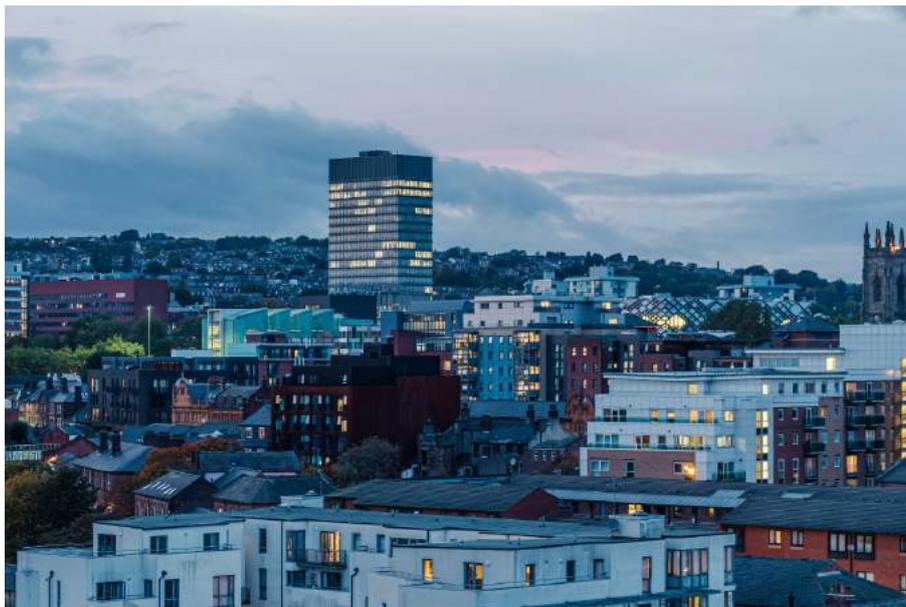
As well as this, I wanted to ascertain how best to improve my communications to constituents and so, alongside this survey, were questions included to help me better understand how residents of Sheffield South East wanted to hear from me throughout the year.

I will begin this report by analysing the numbers behind the report: how many responded, and from which areas of the

constituency they live. This report will then outline the priorities across the constituency, focusing on the top three, whilst also drawing upon other trends from the issues constituents' thought were important. The report will then break down the responses individually for the six wards within the constituency using graphs and data to highlight the trends I discuss in depth.

After discussing some further findings, I will then look ahead to 2021 and what work I will be doing to address these issues, along with broader reforms and changes that need to happen at a national level.

Finally, my concluding remarks will seek to offer a snapshot of the constituency at the end of 2020 and what we face in the new year.



THE NUMBERS

In total 697 constituents responded to Sheffield South East Connect over the 30-day campaign.

Of this number there was a roughly equal spread throughout the six wards that make up Sheffield South East constituency with the exception of Richmond and Darnall.

Only a part of Richmond is in the Sheffield South East constituency explaining the lower response rate, however the low level of response from Darnall suggests more work needs to be done with regard to outreach in the area, and something my office will be looking into over this year.

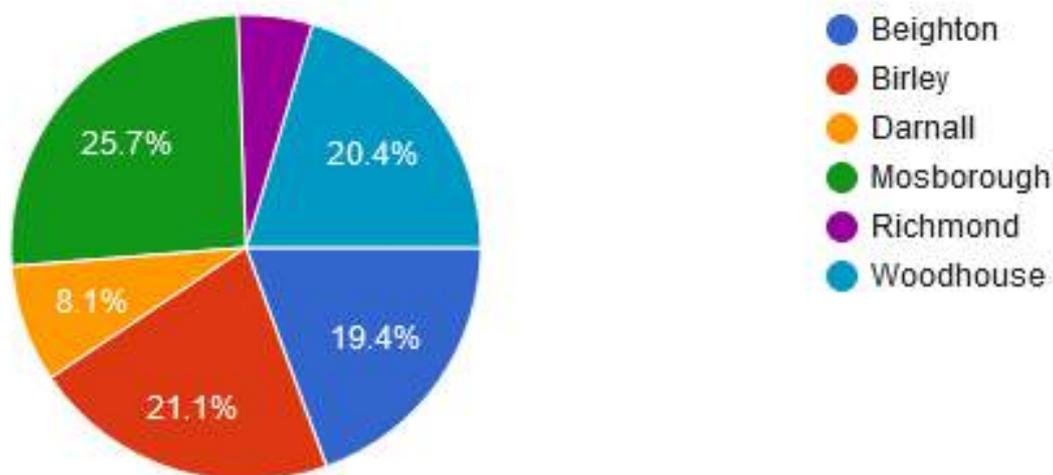
The survey was primarily publicised on Facebook, using a mixture of posts from my own Facebook page as well as using various

Facebook groups for the different areas of the constituency.

They have served a vital community function and I am grateful they have allowed my office to conduct our outreach project on their spaces.

Being an entirely online exercise it has to be accepted that there were certain individuals and groups who will be excluded from these results.

This is important to consider when reading these results, however, given the pandemic and other considerations there were limits to what was possible. Going forward my office will be looking at ways to make outreach as accessible as possible, and there are many ways we are exploring to do this.



NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The first part of the survey focused on the national level, asking constituents what the three most important issues to them were.

For the purposes of the report I will be commenting primarily on the top three however if you wish to discuss any in further detail then please contact me via email for further information.

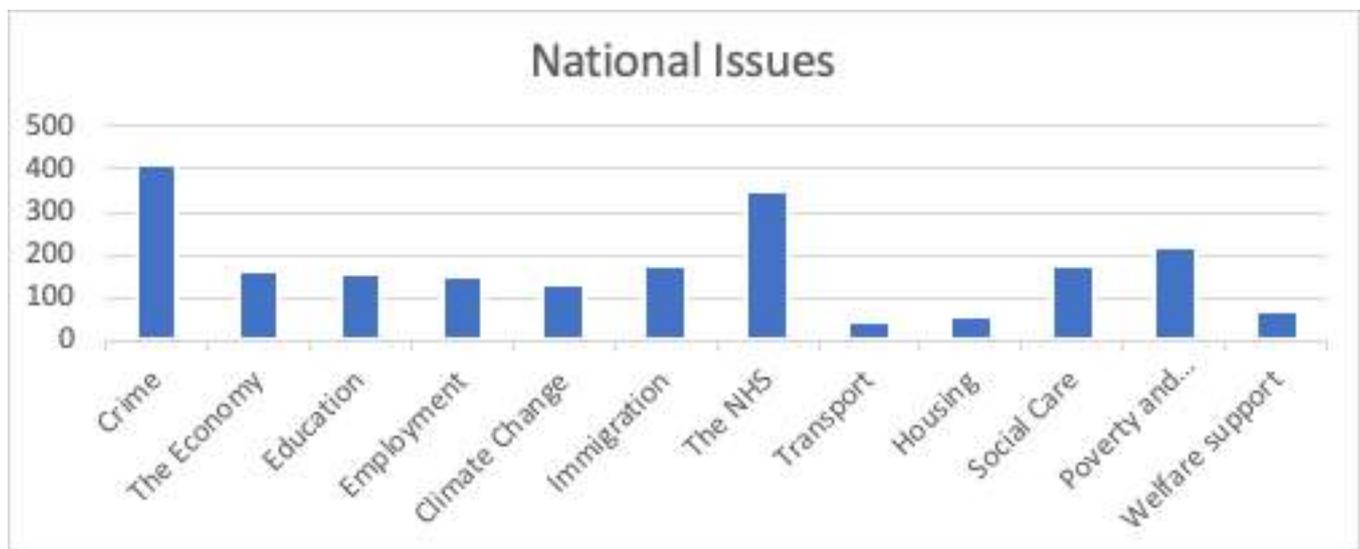
I will provide the context for many of these issues in this section before exploring what my plans for 2021 are to work on these issues

with Parliamentary colleagues.

The top three issues identified in the survey were Crime, The NHS and Poverty and Inequality.

As can be seen crime and the NHS prove to be the two dominant issues that respondents prioritised.

Poverty and Inequality came third but much closer to several other national issues.



CRIME



Therefore, to truly tackle this crime crisis we need a comprehensive and fully funded support system, that does not just rely on the police, but also focuses on services that will help prevent individuals turning to crime in the first place. An increase in police numbers is only the starting point for us to achieve these results.

Youth services are one of the key routes to comprehensively solving this, sadly since 2010-11 funding in this area has been cut by nearly a billion. Reinvesting in this area in particular will be vital for any future Government.

In the first decade of this century police funding increased by 31%, at the same time this saw a fall in crime from a rate of 110 per 1,000 down to 68.7 in the UK. However, between 2010-2018 police funding was cut by 16%, this has left our police force significantly underfunded both in terms of numbers and resources. Unsurprisingly this led to an increase in crime, particularly instances of theft, burglary and antisocial behaviour, all of which have caused considerable concern in the constituency in recent years.

In addition to this violent crime is now at the highest level in more than a decade, this has likely been exacerbated by the pandemic but this should again highlight the challenges facing our society.

The Government have recently announced new investment for the police; however, this investment only brings us back to the level it was in 2010. What is more, this return to 2010 levels will likely not be until 2023. This of course is simply not enough, 2010 was a decade ago and the situation has moved on, and is far more demanding.

We also need to recognise that cuts to support services and the welfare system will have also contributed to a rise in crime. As we have seen poverty increase across the country, so have we seen an increase in crime. These are directly linked and show that to lead a sustainable and concrete reduction in crime we need to ensure people are supported when vulnerable, so as not to slide into crime. This means being tough on crime as well as the causes of crime.

THE NHS



This year the value and importance of our National Health Service has been shown beyond measure. The Covid-19 pandemic has been without modern precedent and the work of the NHS and all those involved in the running of the service was one of the main reasons we managed to prevent the virus overwhelming us, particularly in March.

It is therefore unsurprising to see that many saw the NHS as one of the biggest national issues constituents have raised with me.

As we begin 2021 the NHS will be undertaking the largest vaccination programme in its history in order to get our lives back to normal and past the pandemic that has dominated 2020. At the same time, it is dealing with a third wave that is overwhelming parts of the service and proving far more deadly than the first wave, as well as dealing with the backlog of thousands of routine surgeries and treatments.

The service is incredibly resilient but it has, and will continue, to struggle to deal with the vaccination rollout, third wave and backlog of treatments and surgeries simultaneously. While this has been met by an increase in funding in the short-term a more long-term solution of an increased budget and recruitment programme will be needed to deal with the backlog the NHS now faces.

As a quick snapshot, until 2008 funding for the NHS had increased on average by 3.7% in order to keep ahead of inflation, fund improvements to treatments, as well as deal with a growing demand and population. However, from 2009 this increase was cut to 1.4% which represents a 50% cut of the usual increase. This increased slightly in 2018 though remained below the pre-2008 average.

More recently there has been an increase in capital spending, this means money for refurbishment and new buildings. It was originally announced that this would mean 40 new hospitals, however this is not true and only a potential four projects could be classed as new hospitals.

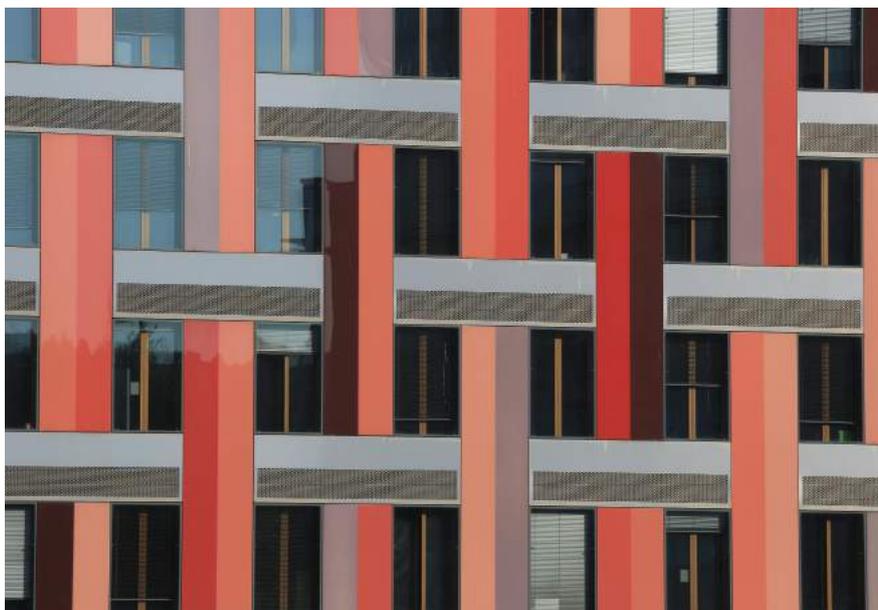
The remaining 36 are refurbishments to existing hospitals, or hospitals already being built.

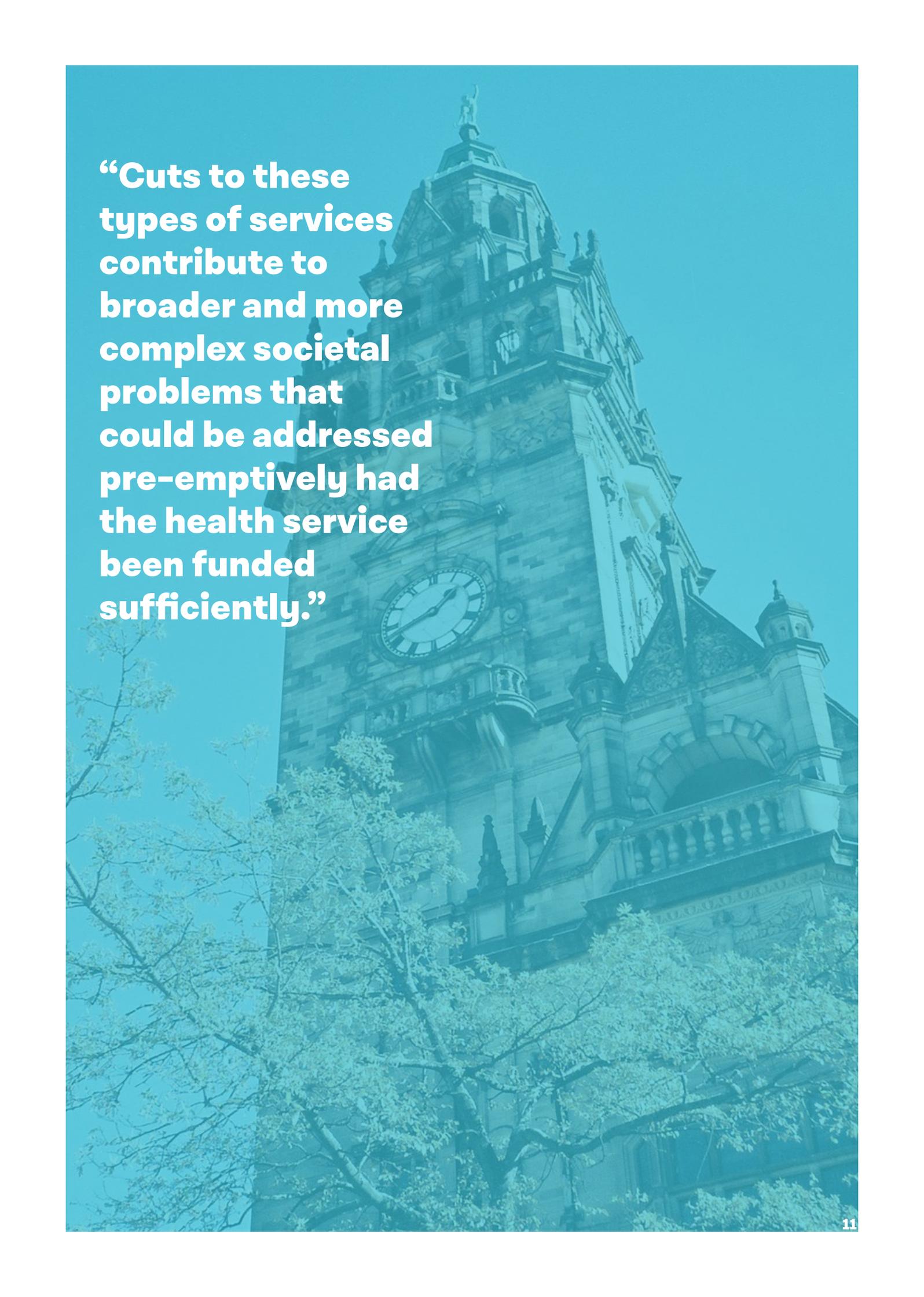
As important, the money spent on day to day services is still below where it should be, this is the most concerning and something I have been working on trying to increase. The pressures and strain facing our NHS cannot be solved by simply building and refurbishing buildings; to deal with them properly we need to invest in the staff and services so they are expanded and improved.

The result of these long term funding cuts has meant many frontline services the NHS provides has had to be scaled back. Especially around services such as alcohol and drug rehabilitation to name just two, these cuts

have far reaching societal effects that are not just simply a case of treating diseases or conducting surgery. Cuts to these types of services contribute to broader and more complex societal problems that could be addressed pre-emptively had the health service been funded sufficiently.

In addition the health service is also suffering from an acute staff shortage that will likely get worse due to staff quitting from lack of support while treating patients with Covid-19. Again, as another snapshot, as of late 2020 the NHS was facing a shortage of 84,000 full time equivalent staff, this is most acute amongst nurses and midwives. There is also a shortage of 2,500 GPs.





“Cuts to these types of services contribute to broader and more complex societal problems that could be addressed pre-emptively had the health service been funded sufficiently.”

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY



Constituents also raised poverty and inequality as their third most important issue nationally. Even before 2020 this was always a burning issue, but after the pandemic and lockdown measures it is obvious why people will be incredibly worried about this, even more so than before.

As a headline figure to set the scene, we are the sixth richest country in the world (by GDP) yet 22% of the population are classed as in poverty. This is acutely felt particularly in the North East, North West and here in Yorkshire. It is also vital to understand the various ways people find themselves in poverty. There are many throughout the UK who are unable to find work with the recent economic damage from Covid-19, those who due to serious health conditions need support that is no longer there and those who (despite being in work) are unable to make ends meet due to low wages. These are just a few of the ways poverty is blighting our society.

Two forms of poverty that I think are particularly deserving of focus with the context of the pandemic are child poverty and in work poverty. Child poverty is absolutely devastating, not only can it rob a child of their formative years, but it can also have a huge impact on their later life through a lack of career prospects. As of 2019 approximately 4.2 million children are living in poverty, that is 30% of all children. Concrete figures are yet to be available for 2020, though given the events of last year it will have gone up since then.

Recent research has even indicated that living in poverty during childhood can even have a physical effect on brain structure. It does not have to be underlined just how harmful a start to life in poverty is, but the UK has a serious problem with it rising amongst our children.

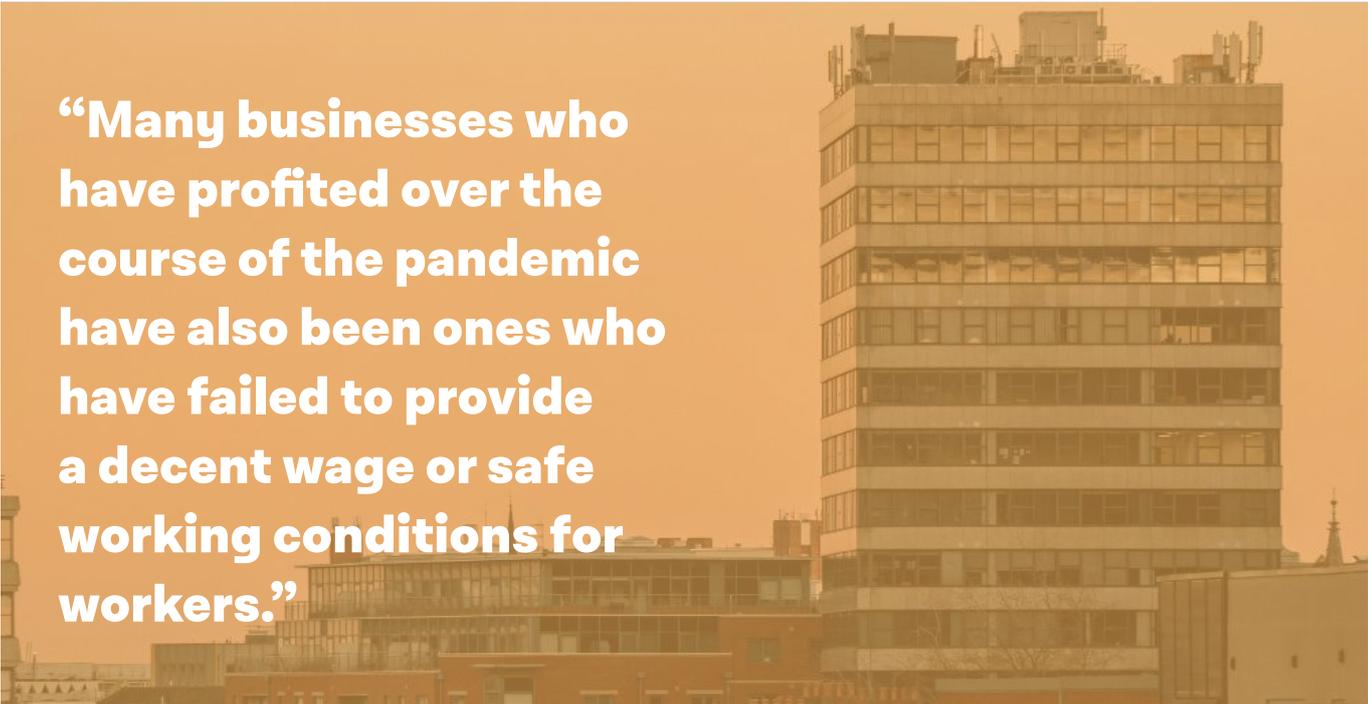
A very clear start to driving down child poverty is of course

universal free school meals and food vouchers, this has been a particular source of contention for the Government this year and it has been bewildering why they have been so resistant to accepting this move. Despite their initial opposition it was welcome that through pressure from Marcus Rashford, charities and the Labour Party they finally conceded (for now) on this point.

This is only the beginning though, and much more is needed, including far better investment in schools, not just in terms of capital spending, but also operational costs. This means recruiting passionate and engaging teachers and providing them with a fair salary for the work they do. Beyond education youth services (as previously mentioned) needs to be properly refunded, allowing those safe environments for social mobility to flourish.

The recent scandals over fashion retailer Boohoo revealed a shocking failure to look after workers, not only perpetuating work poverty, but also allowing the virus to spread throughout communities.

While there remains a completely inaccessible housing market with no affordable homes available, significant pressure on incomes, precarious work and large gaps in the welfare safety net poverty will continue to be a defining problem for the UK. At the same time the wealthy minority of individuals and companies have seen record profits while contributing very little of it to society during this awful year. I hope that Covid-19 will therefore be a turning point and that the fierce inequality and poverty in this country can be addressed so we can move towards a fairer society in the coming decade.



“Many businesses who have profited over the course of the pandemic have also been ones who have failed to provide a decent wage or safe working conditions for workers.”

OTHER ISSUES



While the above three issues proved the most concerning for the majority of correspondents the remaining issues of the economy, education, employment, climate change immigration and social care all came very close together.

While not going into each issue individually the common theme across all the responses was that there were deep seated issues and a huge lack of confidence that the country is working the way it should do. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the devastating cuts, fierce inequalities and a complete absence of investment in large parts of the UK.

Now our economy has entered a recession that it may not recover from until 2023 the lack of funding to local authorities and services are clear.

This is at the same time as having to deal with existential, long term problems like climate change as well as the question of how to look after our elderly with the current social care system clearly not fit for purpose.

These sorts of issues cannot just be solved with the promise of new money to solve, but a Government that is brave enough to address the underlying systemic issues.

The scope is therefore appropriately massive, although this should not deter elected representatives to propose radical rethinks in how we structure our political and economic system.

Personally, I believe this must be done through greater devolution to local areas, as well as appropriate funding. By diffusing political power across the country and away from London we will be able to deal with our collective problems more flexibly with a localised approach. This will need cross-

The scope is therefore appropriately massive, although this should not deter elected representatives to propose radical rethinks in how we structure our political and economic system. Personally, I believe this must be done through greater devolution to regional areas, as well as appropriate funding.

By diffusing political power across the country and away from London we will be able to deal with our collective problems more flexibly with a localised approach.

party support and a radical rethink on how we run our country, but this year has highlighted more than ever the need for this move.

With decision making closer to the issue we can then have greater political will power and accessibility. Many of the issue's respondents are concerned about would benefit from this kind of approach and will help solve these issues far more efficiently than from London.





LOCAL PRIORITIES

The second part of the survey asked constituents to reflect on their priorities at a more local level. There are some similarities in concerns, and continuations in the issues drawn upon.

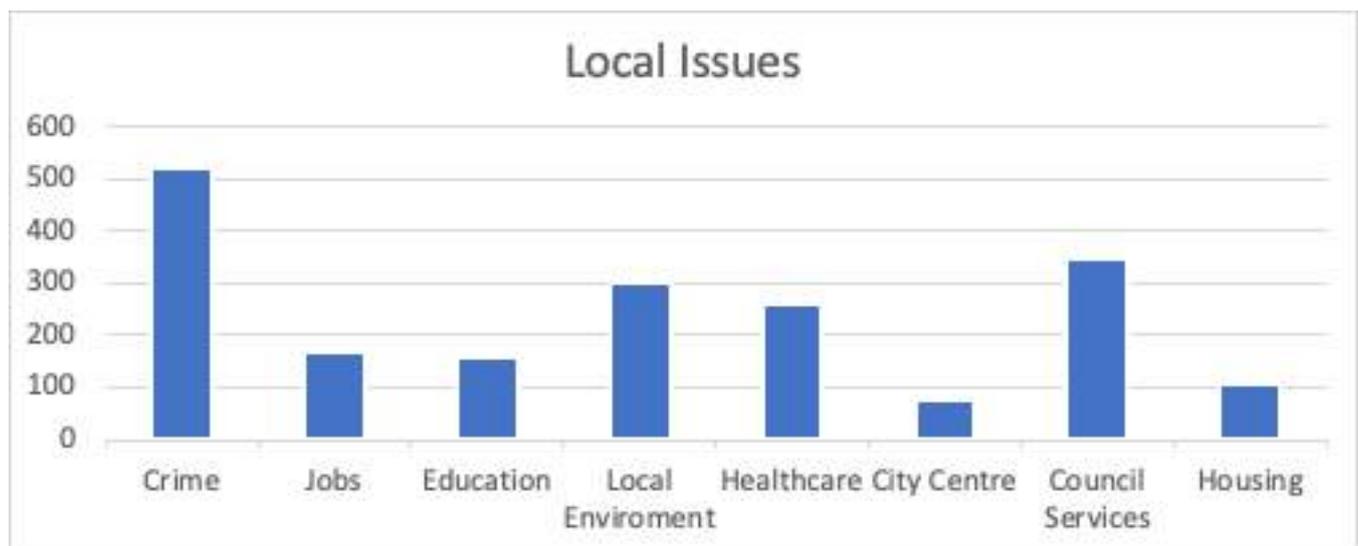
As well as the national level I also asked constituents about what their concerns were more closer to home.

From the results I think it is quite clear that there are many links between the national and local issues, and much of it has to do with a chronic lack of funding over the past ten years.

I will go into detail about the top three issues locally and explore some of their unique qualities relating to Sheffield South East specifically, but these links to the national level are important.

In terms of issues raised crime, council services and the local environment came out as the top three issues constituents were concerned about.

Housing, healthcare, education and jobs also received a lot of attention with over 100 constituents picking each of them.



CRIME



Since 2010 our police service has suffered sustained cuts from central government. I have outlined the national picture in the previous section, and while the situation for South Yorkshire Police (SYP) who cover the Sheffield South East constituency is similar it is worth exploring their specific predicament.

In 2010 there were approximately 3,000 police officers serving South Yorkshire, this number now stands at 2490 police officers who are currently in post, meaning there has been a decrease of 17% amounting to a loss of 510 police officers. This cut to police numbers has had the exact response one would expect in South Yorkshire, an increase in crime.

This is reflected in a significant portion of the casework my office deal with, in particular anti-social behaviour, burglaries, car break-ins and off road bikers. To this end what is needed fundamentally is an increase in police funding and numbers that doesn't just restore us to the levels of 2010 but exceeds it.

There are some positive steps when it comes to police recruitment, SYP are currently in the middle of a significant recruitment drive where they hope to bring in 707 new officers, 220 of which are funded by council tax from residents. This will bring us just above the numbers we saw in 2010 which still is not enough, but any increase is welcome given the greater ability it will give the police to crack down on crime.

When it comes to actual crime itself within the constituency the most common reported by constituents in the survey, was antisocial behaviour and burglaries. This was a common theme across all the wards.

I know also from recent work that there has been a spate of car break-ins in the Woodhouse and surrounding area. I have been liaising with the police with this issue and was happy to hear that their investigations have been successful and arrests have been made. I will continue to monitor the situation and have been asking the local police force to provide more patrols around the area to deter future crime.

Having spoken to members of our police force I should also note that often crimes like these take time to investigate and provide a watertight case against the perpetrators.

This means that it cannot always be the case of instant arrests, but over time they do build up enough evidence to catch those responsible. In regards to this reporting crimes to the police is vital in helping their investigations, even if it does not necessarily lead to an immediate arrest.

In recent years there has been some changes at SYP that seem to recognise these types of crime. Most prominently they have set up off-road teams who specialise in catching those who use off-road bikes and quads, this has been something Westfield in particular has had problems with recently. When the team has been in the area, they have produced good results; the issue however is that the two teams cover the entirety of South Yorkshire and therefore are not regularly available. Despite the pressure cuts have caused Alan Billings as police commissioner should be credited for doubling the off-road teams in response to an increase in this type of crime. More long term however this is something that more funding and recruitment can only solve and it is desperately needed to invest in these

specialist teams.

Most tellingly the independent inspectorate for police forces have changed their 2016 rating from 'requires improvement' in 2016 to 'good' in more recent years. There is clearly still far more progress to be made but I believe SYP are moving in the right direction. The biggest issue raised in conjunction with crime and local policing was officers having a presence and seen to be responsive to crime. Currently this is very difficult, as the more time they spend patrolling communities the less time they can spend on following up reports of crime. At the same time a presence in the community is important to ensure there is an ongoing conversation between residents and police officers as well as a visible deterrence for potential criminals. Right now though, due to constraints I have highlighted above, only an increase in funding and officers will be able to address this issue.



COUNCIL SERVICES



The majority of the casework my constituency office deal with is related to council services, so I did expect constituents to place it quite high as an issue they were concerned with.

It is important to highlight just how much local authorities are tasked with delivering. This includes large parts of social care to council housing, waste management, green spaces and road management.

With this large portfolio of responsibilities local authorities need the appropriate funding to ensure they can deliver in all these areas. This is sadly not the case with the last decade having seen Sheffield City Council (SCC) dealt £475 million in funding cuts from Central Government. This amounts to 50% of SCC budget. Nationally this is not an exception either and has sadly been an issue local authorities have faced up and down the Council.

The problem then becomes twofold, firstly this means a deterioration of services which cannot be sustained on 50% of their budget, and secondly an increase of Council Tax in order to fill the funding gap. This is unfair on residents who are already suffering from austerity and the implications of the pandemic on jobs and the economy.

Over these ten years the spending power of local authorities has also been hit. Sheffield City Council in particular now has 30% less to spend than in 2010, even after the Council tax increases that have had to be made. This means that the Council is unable to invest in as many new projects such as highway safety schemes.

A final comment that is important to make is the cost of social care. As people live longer, and our population ages, the cost local authorities have to spend on social care has gone up. Being such a vital service, it is one that cannot be cut back to cope with funding cuts, this means that other services have to be scaled back even further to just keep social care going. This has been no different for Sheffield City Council. It should

also be highlighted that the Government promised to fix the issues facing social care in 2017, and the Prime minister repeated this after the last General Election, this has still not materialised, despite the situation worsening with Coronavirus.

The global pandemic has exacerbated this and local authorities across the country are facing bankruptcy after the promised support from Government did not materialise. Sheffield is fortunate that we are in a stronger financial position than others, but it is still very precarious.

So, first and foremost, to improve Council services we must restore funding, to not only provide better services, but also to take the burden off SCC having to increase Council Tax to make up for the Government spending cuts. In association with these pressures has been a chronic lack of affordable or council housing projects for well over thirty years. This has meant that while demand has grown for council properties has grown, there has been no corresponding increase in supply as this has been something the Government has simply not invested in. I am happy to see that despite this SCC is committed to 3,100 new council homes over the next ten



years. It is not nearly enough but without wider Government support it is a solid effort to address this issue and I will always be supportive of any scheme to build good quality social housing.

Despite these difficult financial circumstances SCC has also managed to raise an additional £2 million for Sheffield Youth Services which I fully support. The past ten years of austerity and the economic repercussions of Covid-19 have hit our youngest hardest, and in the absence of any real investment from the Government it is reassuring our local authority doing their best to fill this gap.

This is also part of the Council's bid to return more of its services in house, rather than outsourcing them to private companies. This was something that happened at the beginning of the last decade when the Council was run by the Liberal Democrats and overall faced crippling cuts that prevented it from sustainably running its services in house.

I know this is not an exhaustive list and assessment of every council service so if you have any specific questions or issues with one not mentioned please contact my office. Fundamentally the chronic and substantial lack of funding has caused huge harm to our local authority and their ability to undertake the services to the best of their ability.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACE



Sheffield remains one of the greenest cities in the country which is something we should be immensely proud of. However, there are many issues that remain a problem.

In particular the survey response shows issues with maintenance of green spaces particularly with regards to fly tipping and dog mess. This of course is a very difficult issue to manage as ultimately the perpetrators are individual members of the public deliberately disregarding the rules. However, it is important to ensure that every opportunity is presented for the public to dispose of waste properly.

A related problem also raised are various traffic and parking issues that cause a great deal of disruption. In particular Mosborough Moor where speeding has been a real problem. These issues are not only unpleasant but also hazardous and is something I am currently working on trying to address.

There have been recent related successes however, Councillor Tony Downing, myself and others managed to finally succeed in securing funding for a crossing outside Halfway Infant School. These sorts of issues have to be dealt with on a case by case basis, but we can get positive results over time. Residents should not have to worry about congested roads or dangerous driving, and this has been noted in response to the survey and the associated areas where it is happening.

In other positive developments in the area, £22 has been invested into keeping the city from flooding, over the past few years in particular I have been working to ensure large parts of the constituency at risk of flooding have been protected. While it still remains an isolate problem in certain areas I am happy that much has been done to keep the area safe from floods.

In addition to this 100,000 new trees will be planted over the next ten years to ensure we maintain our reputation as a green city. Better still, SCC have maintained their commitment to anti-fracking having been the first local authority to ban fracking applications on council land. Complimenting this SCC now

purchases all its electricity from 100% renewable sources which are big steps being more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

It is clear that while these city wide developments are welcome there does need to be a refocusing on the areas on peoples doorstep and more hyper-localised issues.

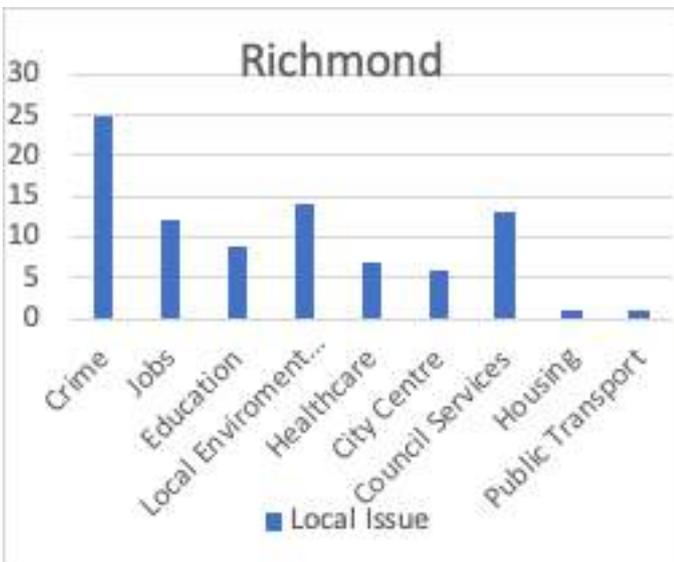
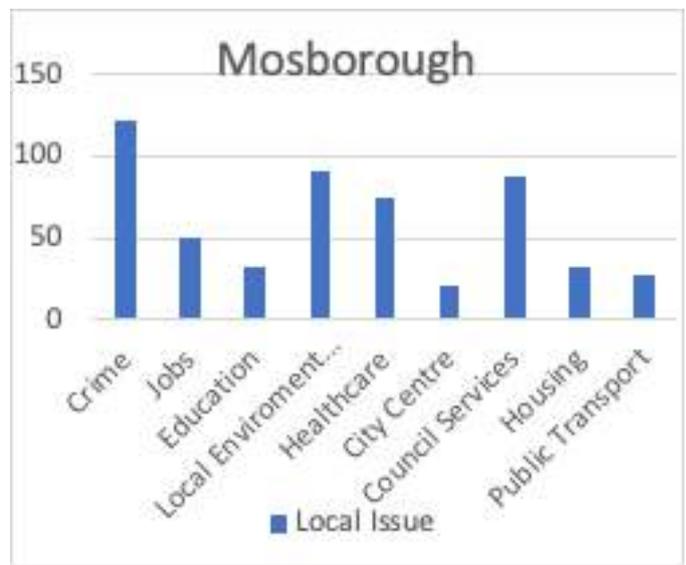
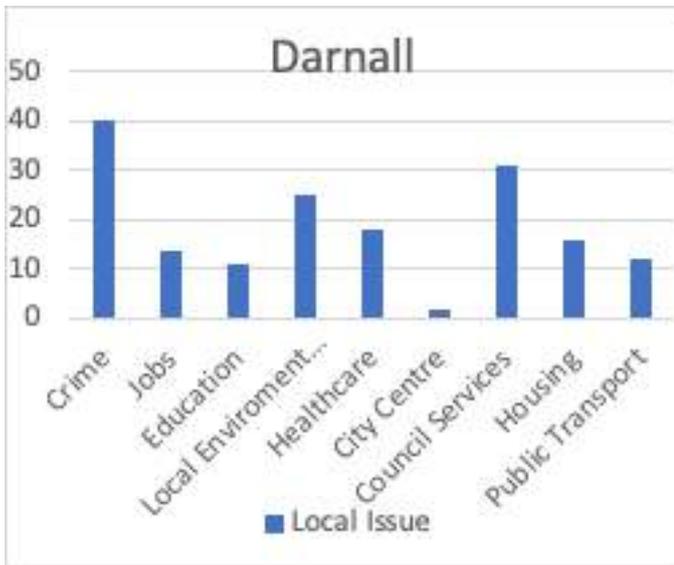
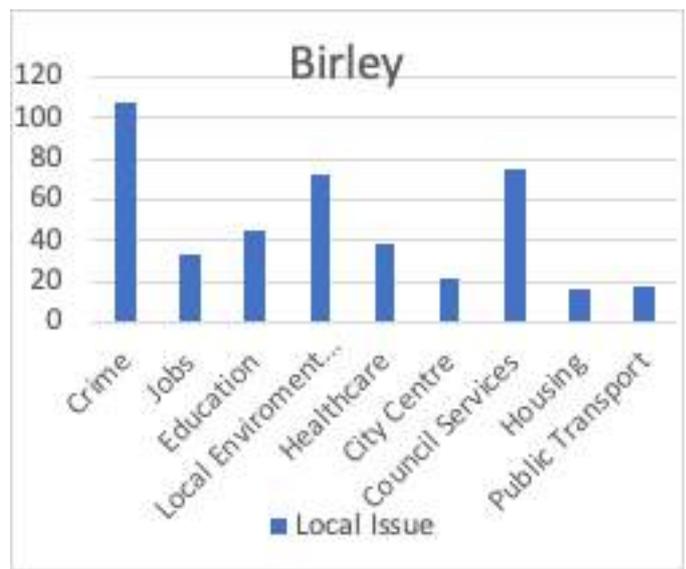
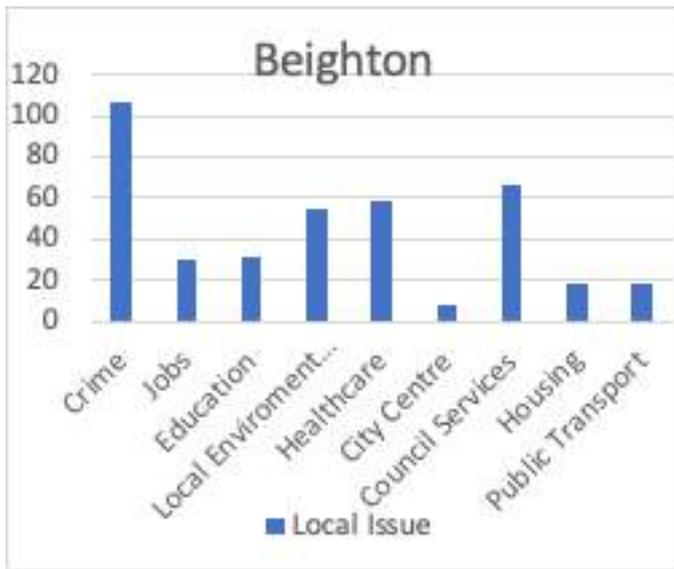
Ensuring residents immediate surroundings is as important as the more ambitious developments, especially trying to make sure everyone has a local green space they can visit and enjoy.



WARD BREAKDOWN

Below you will find further data which breaks down the response to local issues by Ward. While there are small variations across the different areas of Sheffield South East the issues constituents are most concerned with are similar, though my office have taken note of particular differences between the constituency wards.





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

This survey has really helped inform what my work will focus on in 2021 and while the following will not be a comprehensive account of what I will be doing as your elected Member of Parliament next year, I hope it will offer some indication of where my focus will be, in particularly to the issues constituents have raised.

When it comes to crime I will continue pushing for further funding, not just for new police officers, but also for their resources budget to be improved. We need to know our officers are not only there but have the appropriate resources to tackle crime.

I also welcome that the Government has finally recognised that they should stop cutting the police budget, but all they have done so far is return it to the level of spending it was a decade ago. We can and must go further and I will be using my time in Parliament to argue the case for an increase in their budget.

More locally I will be working with the local inspector to help report crimes and crime hot spots so they have the full information to undertake any actions. I will also be seeing what more can be done to improve police engagement within the community so their work can be better known, and their presence felt throughout the constituency.

To improve council services I will continue to campaign for proper funding of local authorities, after Covid-19 this is more urgent than ever given that it has been local authorities who have been part of the front

line dealing with this growing pandemic. In addition to this I will continue with individual casework if constituents are encountering issues with any particular council service and I would encourage anyone in my constituency to make use of myself and my team in trying to solve the difficulty they have encountered.

I also remain committed to my work as Chair of the Local Government, Communities and Housing Select Committee. In this position I scrutinise Government legislation relating to local authorities and housing among other issues with a group of cross-party MPs.

Early in 2021 the Select Committee and I will be looking at the homelessness crisis that is still growing across the country. We will be publishing a report on this in due course which will offer a review of the current Government policy and where it must go further.

As well as this we will also be continuing our work around the cladding scandal which has burdened current leaseholders with huge debts that it is completely unfair to ask them to pay. This was a huge part of 2020 for myself and the Select Committee, but we must keep up the pressure on the Government to stand up for leaseholders.

As chair of a Select Committee this means I also sit on the Liaison Committee which the Prime Minister attends throughout the year to face questioning from MPs. In this role I will continue to hold the Government directly to account.

The nature of the meetings means I cannot say exactly what I will be questioning the Prime Minister on as the issues for discussion are decided nearer the time to ensure the most urgent and relevant topics are put to the PM, but I will ensure constituents can read about my contributions via my social media pages.

As a brief example last year I used my time to question the Prime Minister on the failure of track and trace, and what was being done to improve the service.

I have also launched a monthly newsletter this year to improve communication and outreach between myself and constituents. The newsletter will contain a mixture of what I will be doing both locally in the constituency as well as representing constituents in Westminster through the Commons and Parliamentary Select Committees.

If you have not subscribed and would like just to email my office and say you would like to be added to the mailing list. This is one of the ways I want to engage constituents in conversation rather than just broadcasting my work, so I will also be incorporating ways constituents can let me more easily know their views and thoughts on issues.

Like last year, a significant part of my work will be revolving around the Covid-19 pandemic, though hopefully this will diminish with time with the vaccine being rolled out. In this capacity I will again be pushing the Government for further economic support to those that need to self-isolate who are on

low incomes, as well as doing more for the hospitality sector which continues to suffer with a lack of financial assistance.

Additionally, as we leave the European Union with no deal, I will be working to assess the impact it will have for constituents and the local economy, and championing Sheffield South East as a prime manufacturing base for the UK economy in the coming decade and beyond.

I will continue to work with businesses in the constituency on this basis to fight for Sheffield in any levelling up agenda the Government wish to put forward. They have promised significant investment in the area and I will be scrutinising any policy in ensuring it meets the needs of Sheffield South East residents.

Despite how awful 2020 was, there continue to be businesses looking to operate in the constituency, which I will be working with to help set up and employ local people wherever possible.

Throughout this year I will also maintain the regular briefings with Sheffield City Council, South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group, Fire Service and Chamber of Commerce. All of these helps me stay abreast of the evolving situation in their respective areas and where I as an MP can most help them.

Despite only being January I have been working with South Yorkshire Police regarding the recent spate of vehicle break-ins which

has already found provisional results with arrests and charges being brought against the suspected perpetrators. Additionally, I have been supporting the funding application made by Sheffield City Council from the Future High Streets Fund, which has recently secured £15.8 million to develop and invest in Fargate.

With relation to the pandemic I have also managed to push the Government and NHS England to publish more data for local authorities and the public which is sorely needed, though it remains a continuing problem which I will keep fighting so we have the relevant data to understand how the vaccine rollout is going.

As mentioned above I will also be continuing to work on individual casework that constituents want to raise with me. My office deal with thousands of cases every year on all sorts of issues, from views on Government policy to specific issues with the Council or other organisations.

If there are any issue my office can help with through enquiries, representations or other help you can always phone or email and we will see what we can do.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

I hope this report has been useful and informative to constituents, highlighting trends across the area as well as specific Council Wards.

It has certainly provided my office a clearer and robust snapshot of the constituency than we see through our regular casework and confirms many of my beliefs about what Sheffield South East needs to deal with the various issues facing the area.

As well as the quantitative data informing my priorities for 2021 I have also taken on board individual comments left by respondents, and where possible will look into issues further.

My office has also passed on the responses to Sheffield City Council to the Ward councillors to take on board.

I am looking forward to this coming year as we return to normal following Covid-19.

There is still plenty of work to be done and my team and I will continue to do our utmost in working for constituents on issues be them local or national.

Of course if you want to discuss any of the findings in the above report, or have any further questions please email me at **officeofclivebettsmp@parliament.uk** and I will be in touch.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Crime rate per 1,000 population in the United Kingdom from 2002/03 to 2019/20, by country. (2020, November). Retrieved from Statista: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1030625/crime-rate-uk/>

Elliott, L. (2020, May 21). Top 1% of British earners get 17% of nation's income. Retrieved from The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2020/may/21/top-1-of-british-earners-get-17-of-nations-income>

End of Year Stats. (2020). Retrieved from The Trussell Trust: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/>

How many people use food banks? (2017, April 28). Retrieved from Full Fact: <https://fullfact.org/economy/how-many-people-use-food-banks/>

Lanau, R. H. (2017). In-Work Poverty In The UK: Problem, policy analysis and platform for action. Cardiff: Nuffield Foundation

Performance Tracker 2019: Police. (2019). Retrieved from Institute for Government: <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publication/performance-tracker-2019/police>

Peter Walker, D. C. (2020, October 2). Most of Boris Johnson's promised 40 new hospitals will not be totally new. Retrieved from The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/oct/02/johnsons-37bn-for-40-new-hospitals-in-england>

Police funding in England and Wales. (2018, September 28). Retrieved from Full Fact: <https://fullfact.org/crime/police-funding-england-and-wales/>
(2020). Sheffield City Council Briefing Note. Sheffield

Sophie Wickham, E. A.-R. (2016). Poverty and child health in the UK: using evidence for action. *British Medical Journal*, 759-766

(2020). Summary of Policing Matters 2010-20

The NHS budget and how it has changed. (2020, December 11). Retrieved from The King's Fund: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/nhs-in-a-nutshell/nhs-budget3.6>

(2020). UK Poverty 2019/20: The Leading Independent Report. Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Photos provided by artists on Unsplash

Report designed by Reena Staves

