



State of Sheffield 2012

Executive Summary



State of Sheffield 2012 is an objective report which has been commissioned by the Sheffield First Partnership to assess what Sheffield is like as a place to live, learn and work in.

This document has been written to give a realistic and honest appraisal of the journey Sheffield has taken as a city, the improvements it has made in recent years and the challenges it faces in the future. The report sets out to explore the complexities and longer term outlook of Sheffield whilst also being a catalyst for discussion at a point of potential change.

The report discusses this in three sections – **Living in Sheffield, Working in Sheffield and Wellbeing in Sheffield**. Even though they are separate sections, each is dependant upon the other and should be read ‘in the round’ giving an overall impression of the city. A range of data sources and analyses have been used to put the report together and are not exhaustive but aim to give a meaningful insight into Sheffield in 2012.

Living in Sheffield

Sheffield is a city that is an increasingly vibrant and lively place to live with a lot to offer those who are born in the city and those who come to Sheffield for work or education.

The increase in the city’s population, which stood at 555,000 in 2010, is expected to continue and could rise to around 600,000 by 2020. Three factors combined to lead to this steady rise: more young adults living in the city as a result of more inward economic migration and a growing university student population, longer life expectancy which has seen a 24% increase in the number of people aged over 75 and more than a doubling of people aged over 85 and a continuing increase in the city’s birth rate.

There are more young adults living in the city thanks to the excellent offer of the city’s two universities and college and those looking for jobs that a modern and inclusive city attracts.

Sheffield is also increasingly a diverse city, both ethnically and culturally, and is becoming more cosmopolitan. There are 128 languages spoken in the city’s schools and community cohesion and community safety remain positive points for Sheffield so much so that the city did not experience the civil unrest or violence last summer that some other large cities experienced. Sheffield is still one of the safest cities in England with a drop in the number of recorded

crimes and has the lowest rate of recorded violence against individuals in Core Cities. People generally feel safe whilst in the city at night.

Sheffield's black and minority ethnic (BME) communities have increased in the last 10 years with 17% of residents being from these communities in 2009. Sheffield has long-standing, established ethnic communities and new BME communities have also emerged. The ethnic profile of the city will continue to change in the future reflecting the age profile and birth rates among some of the BME communities.

In line with national change, there has been a sharp increase in the number of smaller households in Sheffield. One of the main groups of people now living in the city are well-educated young people, who make up 32,000 households (13%). In common with other regenerated northern cities, the majority of these smaller and student households are found in areas in or near the city centre which has come to offer a distinctive lifestyle.

The two universities now have around 58,500 students and Sheffield College has some 26,600 students. The proportion of the population with a degree level qualification (27.7%) also compares well with many other cities. Similarly, the educational profile of the city's population has seen the proportion of residents with no qualifications falling from 16.6% in 2008 to 12.4% in 2009, bringing Sheffield in line with the national average.

Such wider education and early learning experiences provide a key link between individual aspirations and the city's demographic and socio-economic change. Educational attainment has been improving in the city at a similar rate to, or even faster than, nationally up to 2010. However, this rate of change is not as strong as other core cities recently and needs to accelerate.

Communities living in neighbourhoods in the north and east of the city are more likely to experience deprivation in respect to education, skills and training. Sheffield still has a higher number than the national average of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Sheffield has a geographical pattern of communities that experience differing levels of deprivation and affluence. Generally speaking, the most deprived communities are concentrated in the north and east of the city whilst the most affluent in the south and west. This pattern of affluence and deprivation has profound implications for inequalities within the city.

12% of households rely on benefits and 8% of older people are on some sort of state support. Around 24% of Sheffield's dependent children and 28% of the population over 60 years old live in households claiming Housing and/or Council Tax Benefit. There are 29 neighbourhoods in the city that are within the most 20% deprived within England, in total accounting for 28% of the



city's population, whilst there are seven neighbourhoods in the 10% of least deprived locations in England.

Sheffield also has a number of rural and smaller settlements, some of which are distinctively situated within the Peak District National Park. These communities are diverse in their characteristics and the challenges they face. Housing affordability is a common issue, and whilst many residents have made a lifestyle choice to live in remote areas, the difficulties of accessing shopping and other facilities can present a significant barrier for those on a low income and for people who rely on public transport, particularly younger and older people.

Whilst social cohesion has to date remained positive in the city, the continuing financial and economic crisis is beginning to impact on the people who live in Sheffield. New housing completions have fallen by two thirds since 2007 and the number of affordable homes provided through developer contributions has also declined. Despite a previous decline, the number of people becoming homeless has increased in the past year. A key concern is the number of young people becoming homeless with almost half of priority homeless cases aged 16 to 24 years old. There is also a developing issue for the city where people live in asset rich but income poor households. Many older residents might be living in high value homes but unable to afford to adequately maintain them. Also, 19% of private households in the city experience fuel poverty compared to 13% in England as a whole.

Working in Sheffield

Sheffield has been transformed over the last 15 years. The city has successfully altered its economic path. New employment opportunities and businesses have been created and the city's image has been radically reshaped with a series of high profile investments which have led to improvements to how the city looks.

Around 240,000 people work in Sheffield in approximately 20,000 businesses, of which some 80% employ ten or less people. Just over 30% of people work part time. 11% of employees now work in manufacturing businesses, close to the national average. The majority of people work in services, with the 85% of workers in this sector also being close to the national average, but the highest in the wider City Region in which Sheffield plays an important role.

One of Sheffield's distinctive features is that 85% of Sheffielders live and work in the city and are employed in 72% of the jobs, which contrasts with Manchester, for example, where 73% of the population work and live there but take only 31% of the jobs. Some 35% of jobs in the City Region are within Sheffield, compared to 31.5% of the working age population. More people travel to Sheffield to work each day than other parts of the City Region.



Sheffield's recent transformation was boosted at a time when the growth in jobs was strong leading to an increase of 22% between 1995 and 2008. This economic recovery was based on the strong performance of business services (16,000 new jobs), and retail, real estate and software consultancy services also grew. There were also more managerial, professional and technical skilled occupations alongside a larger number of people in sales occupations. The number of people in skilled manual and semi-skilled occupations fell as did administrative and clerical jobs.

Perhaps unexpectedly, private sector employment began to fall at an average rate of 2% between 2006 and 2008 before the recession. The number of new businesses was below the national average and Sheffield is not as strong as other cities in business investment in research and development (R&D).

Sheffield has a higher number of employed graduates than any other Core City suggesting that graduates in Sheffield are more likely to find jobs here. This would also correlate with the initial high retention of graduates in Sheffield which appears to occur for two years after graduation before people leave the city to seek employment elsewhere.

In common with the rest of the UK's cities, the 2008 economic crisis has created a severe challenge to continuing transformation. The recession has in particular brought an end to the long property investment boom that helped to revitalise the city centre and run down areas of the city. Sheffield's immediate economic future will be largely influenced by how resilient this transformed economy can be in reacting to further economic shocks and the growing global competition.

Furthermore, given the contribution of public sector jobs to past employment growth, the city is vulnerable to losses in this sector as a result of public expenditure cuts and there could be between 6- 8,000 jobs lost in the city by 2014/15. These estimates exclude any knock-on effects in the private sector through direct contracts and their supply chains.

Creating new jobs is a test of how Sheffield can rise to the economic challenges ahead in light of a 14% fall in new vacancy notifications between 2007 and 2010. Sheffield has promoted 'Priority Sectors' – advanced manufacturing, creative and digital and healthcare technologies – which aim to boost and diversify the city's economy. Advanced manufacturing remains the city's core specialism.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefits in Sheffield has doubled in less than three years since 2007 and the level of long-term unemployment has significantly increased both in the City Region and nationally. Youth unemployment has also increased but less than the England average.

More recent data shows growing stress for individuals in the labour market, now that around 23,500 people in Sheffield are unemployed and seeking work, and of these some 16,225 are currently claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). The remainder either choose not to claim benefit or are not eligible due to being newly unemployed. There are also 30,700 people who are economically inactive or workless, including those who cannot work due to health problems or social circumstances such as being carers or single parents.

11,000 people in Sheffield claim Employment Support Allowance because of mental health conditions and 87% of these have been claiming for over two years. It is likely that these problems will be concentrated in those neighbourhoods of the city which were already experiencing employment and income deprivation.



Wellbeing in Sheffield

The general health of the city is improving. Compared to the other Core Cities, Sheffield has the longest overall life expectancy and the lowest levels of early deaths from cancer, heart disease and strokes. People in all parts of the city are living longer. Deaths from major illnesses, especially heart disease and cancer, have reduced markedly and there has been a reduction in the number of people, particularly children, killed or seriously injured on the roads.

This means mortality rates for men have halved since 1975 and for women reduced by 40%. Life expectancy, at 81.8 years for women and 78.2 years for men, is only a little below the national average. Overall health in Sheffield continues to improve, including a narrowing of the gender gap but improvements in women's health have slowed over the last few years. This may be due in part to changing employment and lifestyles, since levels of smoking and drinking alcohol to excess have been increasing in young females.

Although the city is becoming healthier for most people, health inequalities across neighbourhoods remain and are in some cases widening, with particular individuals and groups remaining or increasingly vulnerable, in particular older people, the young and some women and some ethnic minority groups. People in the most deprived parts of Sheffield still experience poorer health and die earlier than people living in the rest of the city. This reflects the key issue that inequalities in health and wellbeing are intrinsically linked with wider social, cultural and economic conditions.

Compared to the national average and the Core Cities, Sheffield has high diabetes and obesity rates and low levels of healthy eating. Sheffield has the lowest level of physical activity in adults of the major cities. However, teenage pregnancy rates have been falling since 2004 and Sheffield now has the lowest teenage pregnancy rate of all Core Cities, close to the national average. More women are choosing to breastfeed their babies and give them the best possible health start in life – around 78% of new mothers in 2010 – although this does vary across the city from 40% to over 90% in some communities.

Ageing is a key component of overall wellbeing, and as stated earlier, it is likely that Sheffield will have many more older people in the future than it does now. More work needs to be done to understand how an ageing population will impact on the city and as the report states: "Without doubt our understanding and notion of wellbeing in later life is going through a re-assessment, and what constitutes 'old age' will continue to change, as will notions of 'career', 'retirement' and 'independent living'."

Currently around 9,000 older people (12% of all in city) receive support, and by 2025 it is estimated that there will be a 23% increase in people aged over 75 years living alone, and an increase of 21% in people over 65 years old unable to manage at least one self-care activity (such as washing or dressing) on their own.

The 'health' of a city not only refers to people but also to other measures such as its environment and its future sustainability.

The Sustainable Cities Index published by Forum for the Future ranks the UK's 20 biggest cities by tracking their progress on sustainability. Although the composite index placed Sheffield 7th overall in 2007 but 10th in 2010, the city has improved its overall environmental performance ranking from 10th in 2007 to 4th in 2010, and its overall quality of life ranking from 13th in 2007 to 5th in 2010.

Sheffield's green space is recognised as a positive asset for the city and Sheffield's scores in the index are also encouraging for air quality and the levels of household waste – as with all other cities the waste generated by the average person has been reduced. However the city scores poorly for recycling. The city benefits from an award winning City Centre District Heating Scheme, a low carbon energy source, which provides heating and hot water to over 140 buildings in the city centre.

Getting around the city is changing with more people using Supertram and walking and cycling although bus travel is declining and motor vehicles are still used by most people to travel.

In line with other cities, Sheffield needs to do more to tackle climate change. Carbon emissions from transport, industry, commerce and domestic activities, a more general indicator of sustainability, have declined in total in Sheffield over the period 2005 to 2009, from 3.8 million tonnes to 3.1 million tonnes. Sheffield has more micro-generation of electricity by households and small businesses from renewable resources than any other core city, mainly from solar production.

Looking to the Future

This report has shown that over the last five years the population of Sheffield has grown, and will continue to grow in the immediate future; new businesses and new jobs have been created in significant numbers; Sheffielders generally are healthier and living longer; and the city has become more cosmopolitan and more safe, with many neighbourhoods and communities seeing marked improvements in their quality of life and environments. Measured by many indicators and individual achievements, Sheffield has improved relative to other cities and other areas of Europe.

However, these positive trends and changes have also been associated with persistent challenges alongside the emergence of new ones. Sheffield has some of the most affluent communities in the country and also some of the most disadvantaged socially and economically. Health inequalities also persist, and new problems such as dementia and obesity show increases, as a result of demographic trends and changes in wider social and cultural behaviours.

This report has also been prepared at a point of time when the UK and Europe are faced by continuing financial and economic uncertainty. Most immediately this sees the living standards falling for many residents and workers in Sheffield and recent improvements for some households threatened. The descriptors of living, working and wellbeing reveal a city with many positive attributes and welcome trends, but it also shows a city, like many urban areas in the UK, on the cusp of potentially important and longer-term changes.

Immediately new job creation, public sector contraction, youth unemployment and maintaining social cohesion are emergent challenges. In the longer term, trends suggest continued shifts in the demographic structure and the growing need for long term care will create new demands; the improvements in people's education and housing will need to be continued; and it is important to ensure the city of the future is resilient to global change and becomes more environmentally sustainable.

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