



South Yorkshire's  
**Community  
Foundation**

**VitalSigns**<sup>®</sup>



South Yorkshire's Vital Signs  
Report 2017

**Local knowledge.  
Wise investment.  
Stronger communities.**

# Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S PRIORITIES - COMMUNITY VIEW	3 - 4
SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S PRIORITIES - STATISTICS	5 - 6
OUR IMPACT	7 - 8
EMPLOYMENT & LOCAL ECONOMY	9 - 10
STRONGER COMMUNITIES	11 - 12
EDUCATION & LEARNING	13 - 14
HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS	15 - 16
SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S VOICES	17 - 18



Welcome to your Community Foundation's first Vital Signs report. We decided to embark on this research to highlight current and emerging community needs. This report focuses on the views of our own communities regarding the issues they face every day, and combines their views with local and national statistics. This approach will create a well rounded picture of the state of South Yorkshire. It will allow us to make informed decisions, on where resources and local philanthropy are most needed and can be most impactful moving forward.

We aim to:

- report on the vitality of South Yorkshire communities through the combination of community views and national statistics
- highlight priority social issues for our region to allow for more targeted interventions
- propose ways in which local philanthropy can be directed to respond to social needs in the future

We will use this publication to inform our stakeholders, partners and donors and more importantly to start a conversation about targeted local philanthropy; and ways in which it can meet the aims and objectives identified by our own communities.

We aim to spark discussions, encourage connections, create partnerships and inspire action.

# Introduction

In this report you will find an outline of four themes considered to be most prominent in South Yorkshire.






These are:

**Employment and Local Economy**  
**Strong Communities**  
**Education and Learning**  
**Housing and Homelessness**

This report awards two grades to each of the themes:

Baseline grade	Community grade
This is calculated by analysing existing research relating to each of the indicators or utilising the existing Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) rank for that particular theme.	This is calculated by analysing the results of our Community Consultation.
<b>A</b> Better than 80% of comparable areas in relation to the core indicator	<b>A</b> Everything is great!
<b>B</b> Better than 60% of comparable areas	<b>B</b> Things are going well
<b>C</b> Better than 40% of comparable areas	<b>C</b> The situation is OK
<b>D</b> Better than 20% of comparable areas	<b>D</b> Things aren't going well
<b>E</b> Worse than 80% of comparable areas	<b>E</b> Things are going very badly

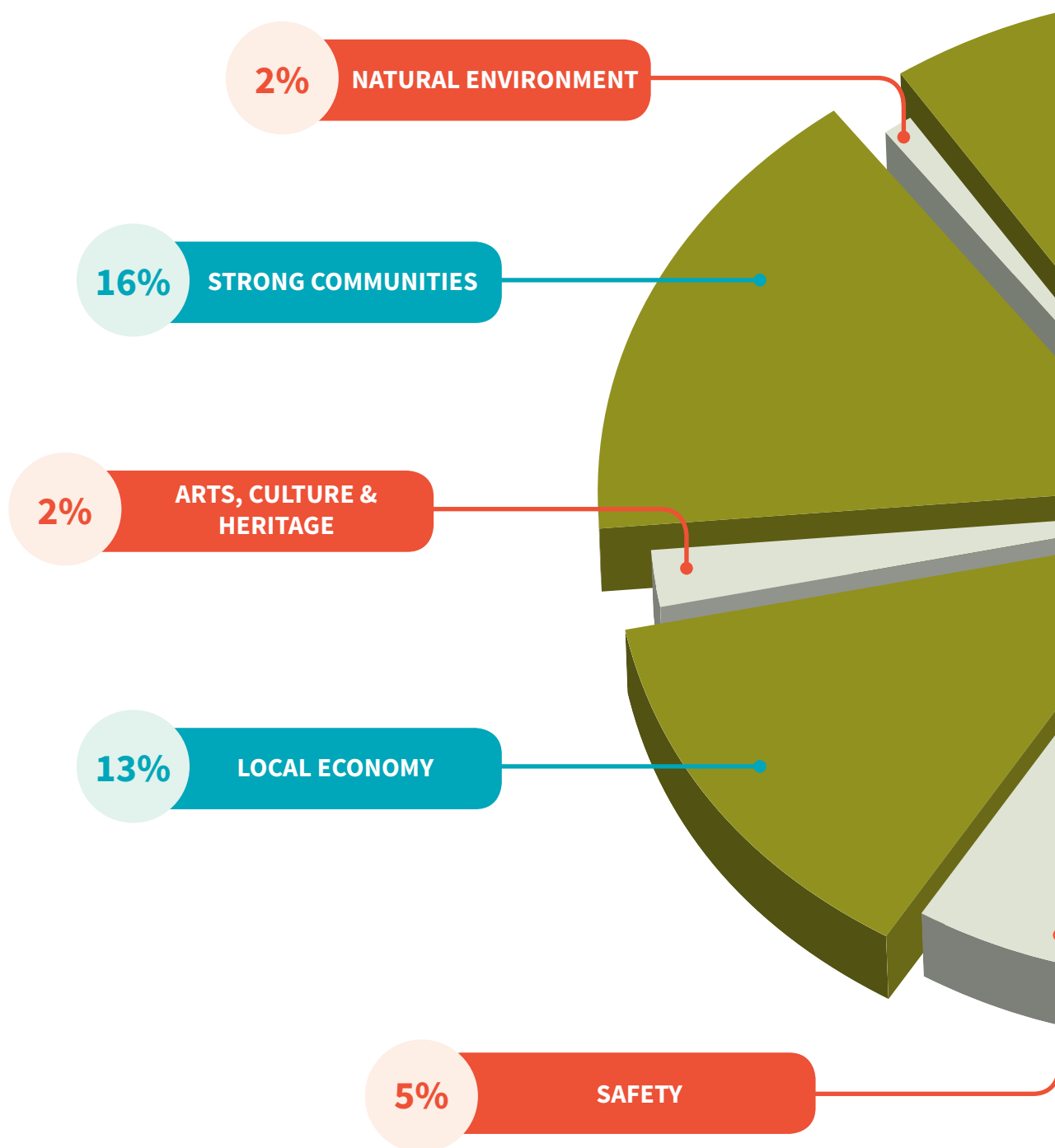
## Definitions:

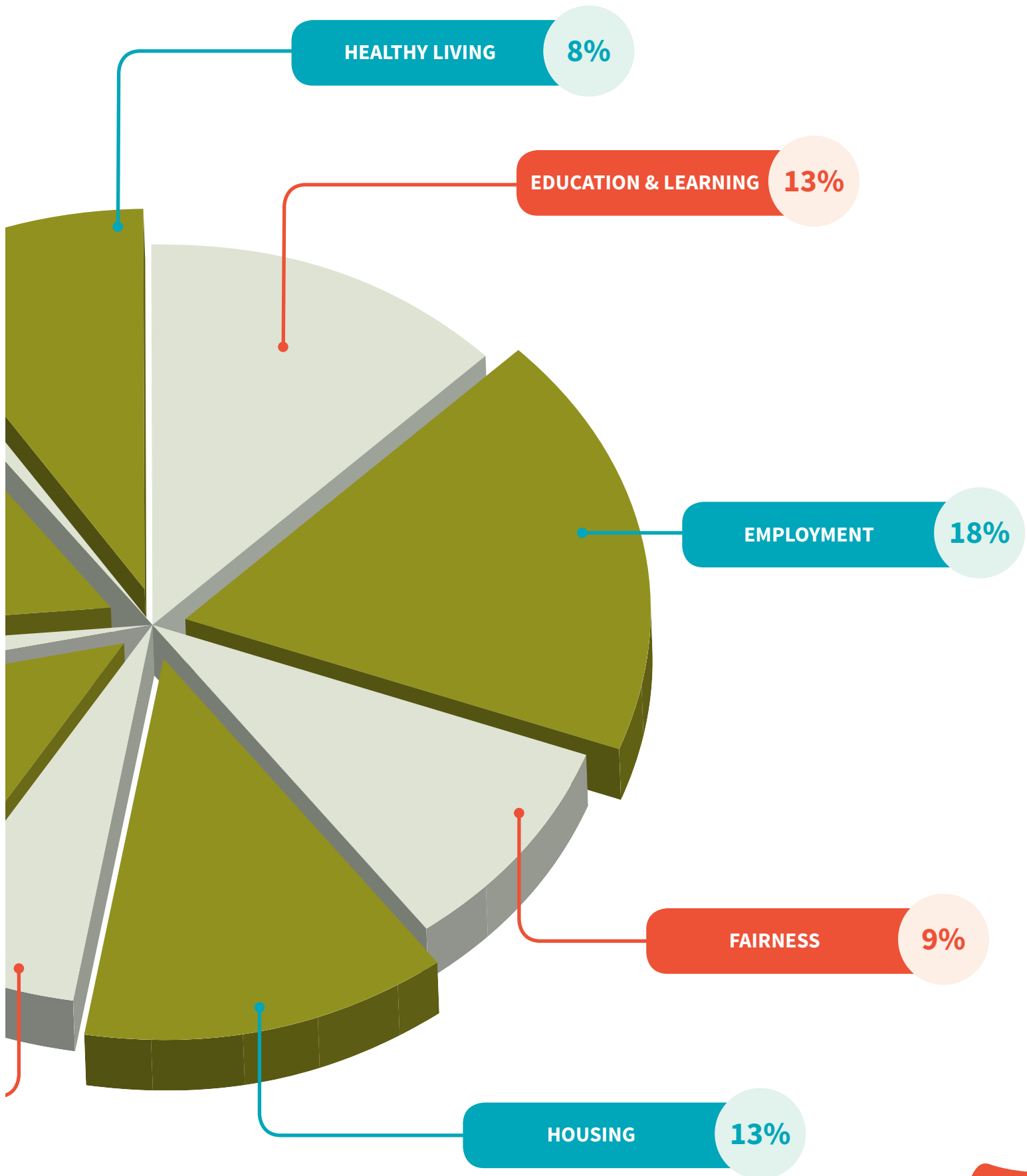
-  **Vital Issues** - full report analysing all ten social issues as outlined by the international research model and provides the evidence base for this report. It can be accessed on our website at [www.sycf.org.uk/impact](http://www.sycf.org.uk/impact)
-  **Vital Signs** - summary report of South Yorkshire's four priorities as identified by the participants of Vital Conversations and Community Survey
-  **Vital Conversation** - focus groups which took place in each of the four boroughs and formed a part of the community grade and some of the qualitative data used in this report
-  **Theme** - refers to any of the ten social issues from Vital Issues report
-  **Indicator** - measures used to calculate baseline grades and the region's performance against each theme

# South Yorkshire's Priorities - Community

**553** South Yorkshire residents were asked:

“Overall, which one of these issues do you consider to be the priority in South Yorkshire?”



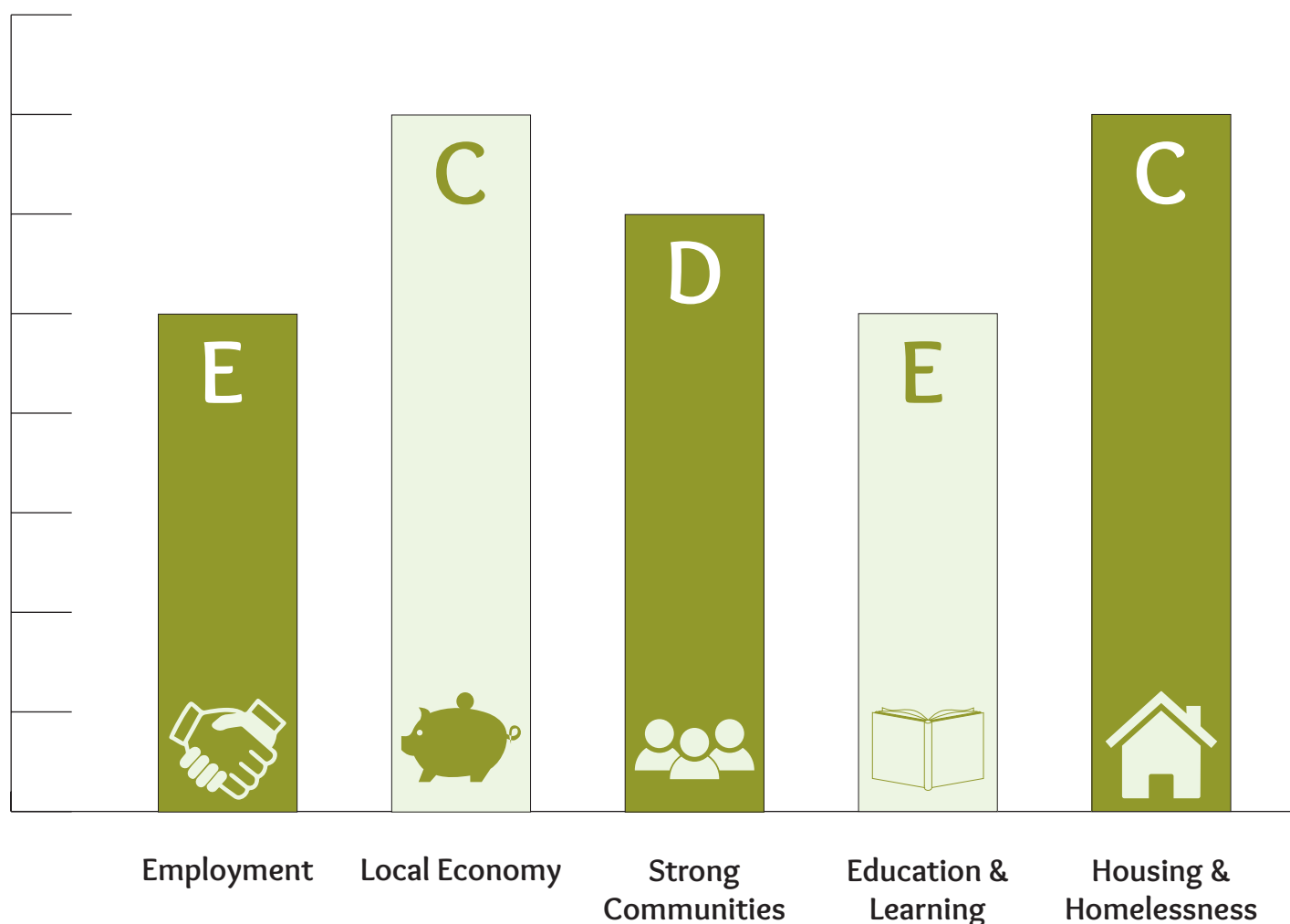


# South Yorkshire's Priorities - Statistics

In order to get a well rounded picture of local priorities, we have combined the region's priorities as perceived by local residents (community grade), with the existing body of research regarding the state of South Yorkshire (baseline grade).

The graph below is a summary of the baseline grade awarded to each of Vital Issue's ten themes. It is awarded by comparing South Yorkshire's performance with the performance of the rest of the United Kingdom.

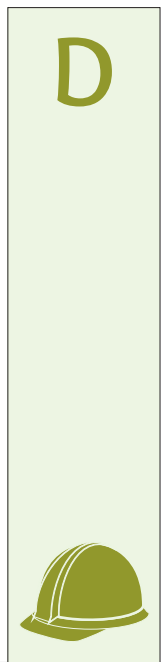
According to existing statistical data, South Yorkshire's local economy, housing and arts are performing well, but we need to urgently invest in the areas of employment, education, fairness and environment.





## Baseline grade

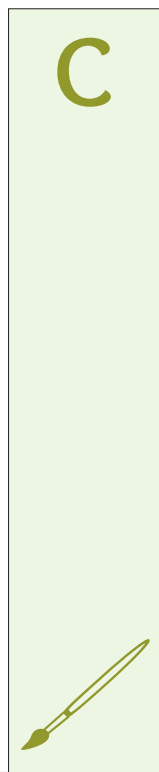
- A** Better than 80% of comparable areas in relation to the core indicator
- B** Better than 60% of comparable areas
- C** Better than 40% of comparable areas
- D** Better than 20% of comparable areas
- E** Worse than 80% of comparable areas



Safety



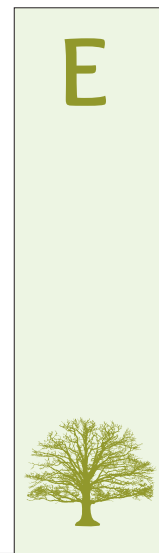
Fairness



Arts



Healthy Living



Environment

# Our Impact

Our grant making is divided into 6 IMPACT categories:

**I  
M  
P  
A  
C  
T**

Improve life skills, education, employability and enterprise

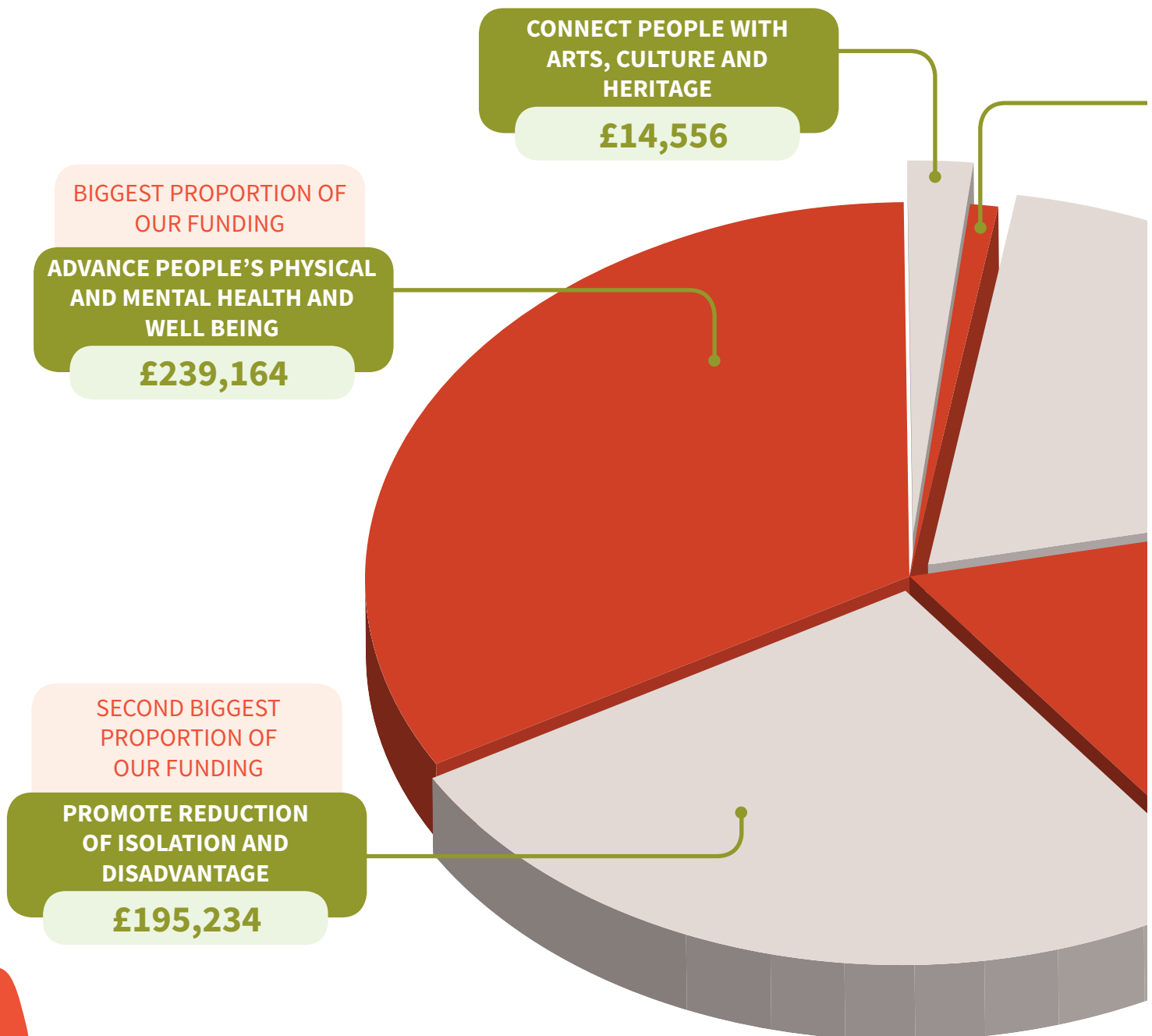
Maximise ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity

Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage

Advance people's physical and mental health and well being

Connect people with arts, culture and heritage

Transform access to, and engagement with, the environment and public spaces





In the last  
**12 MONTHS**

1st of October 2016 - 30th September 2017



South Yorkshire's  
**Community  
Foundation**

awarded

**£722,448**

worth of grants to

**250**

organisations in South Yorkshire.

**TRANSFORM ACCESS TO,  
AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC  
SPACES**

**£1,098**

**THIRD BIGGEST  
PROPORTION OF  
OUR FUNDING**

**IMPROVE LIFE SKILLS,  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYABILITY  
AND ENTERPRISE**

**£139,789**

**MAXIMISE ABILITY TO  
STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY  
COHESION AND BUILD SOCIAL  
CAPACITY**

**£132,611**

# Employment and Local Economy

Local Economy as a theme had a degree of overlap with the Employment theme, therefore we decided to combine them.

Baseline Grade  
**E/C**

Community Grade  
**D**

Core Indicator:  
**Employment rate (E)**

Secondary Indicator:  
**Share of national Gross Value Added (C)**



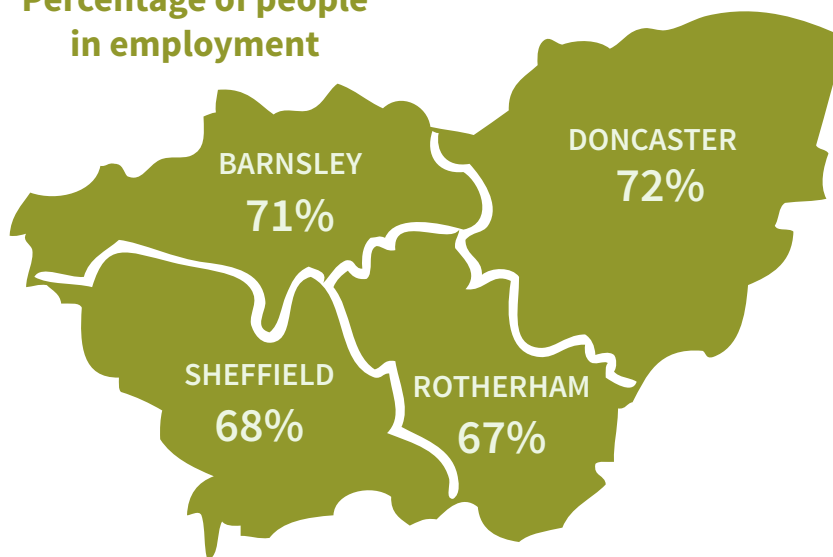
Refer back to page 2 for information on how to read the gradings

The South Yorkshire average percentage of those aged

**16-64**  
in  
**employment**  
is currently

**70%**  
UK average is 75%

## Percentage of people in employment



All four local authority areas in South Yorkshire have a higher percentage of economically inactive population aged

**16-64**



On average **15%** of all UK households are workless.

Both **Sheffield** and **Rotherham** have a **4%** higher average of **19%**.

**Barnsley** has **21%**.

**Doncaster** has **17%**.

Local economy in particular focuses on the share of Gross Value Added (GVA), which measures the productivity that underpins growth.

There has been a continuous growth in GVA across all four local authority areas from **2013 - 2015**.

**South Yorkshire's** total contribution to the UK economy in **2015** was **£24,316m** which accounted for just under **1.5%** of the total UK figure for that year. That's an increase of **£718m** on the previous year and **£1,439m** on **2013**.

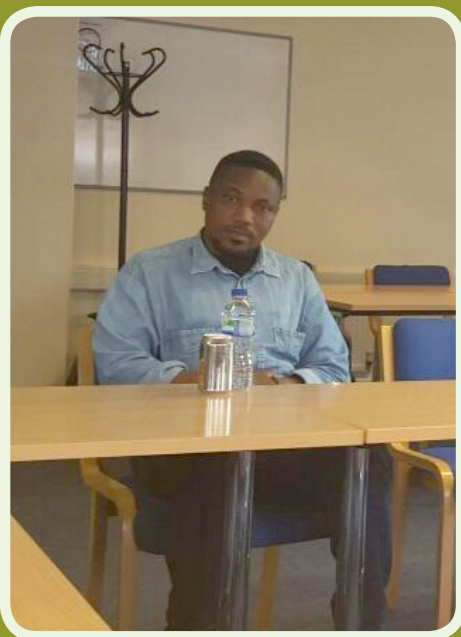
Between **2012 and 2014** the number of new enterprises opening in **South Yorkshire** has **increased** steadily across all four local authority areas.



## How we help

From September 2016 - September 2017 we awarded **43** grants worth **£139,789** to local community groups and projects working to improve **life skills, education, employability** and **enterprise**.

## Case Study - Afri Green Centre



Founded in 2015, Afri Green Centre was set up to support members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community in Doncaster. The aim of the group is to provide a safe space for local residents to meet new people, learn new skills and get directly involved with their local community.

A grant of £800 was awarded to help Afri Green promote their LEECH Programme (Learning, Employment and Enterprise Champions), which offered practical, work-related support using volunteer mentors from some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Doncaster.

The project helped 20 unemployed individuals of which 7 have since gained employment and 3 went on to start on apprenticeship schemes.

Chairman Marcus Ilunga-Nikhata said:

*“The funding from SYCF really helped our community. We were able to deliver a successful project which was greatly received by our members”*

# Strong Communities

Baseline Grade

D

Community Grade

D

Core Indicator:  
Hate crime levels

Secondary Indicator:  
Public perception about  
personal well-being



Refer back to page 2 for information on how to read the gradings



Strong communities  
are the core of our society.

*“Local areas with a higher sense of community, political trust and sense of belonging show significantly lower levels of all reported crime”*

Dr E. Wedlock,  
Crime and Cohesive Communities,  
Home Office (2006)



Positive engagement

of local people in the decisions that affect them and the extent to which they feel they **‘belong’** often have an effect on levels of **happiness, health and safety.**



We have used  
**hate crime**

as the core indicator as it gives an overview of the state of **community relationships.**

The results show that the total number of recorded **hate crime incidents in South Yorkshire** between

**June - September 2017**

was

**974**

with a total for Yorkshire and the Humber being

**5,404.**

**South Yorkshire**

had the

**second highest rate**

of hate crime incidents in the region.

We have used the public perception indicator about personal well-being as a measure.

This indicator is measured by looking at people’s self-scoring result to the question ‘Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? 0 being ‘not at all anxious’ and 10 ‘completely anxious’.

The average rating for the United Kingdom between 2012 and 2015 was 2.93 out of 10 which is a low anxiety level across the nation.

Yorkshire and the Humber average rating for that same period was 2.67, so overall people are feeling less anxious in our region than they do across the UK.

However, South Yorkshire’s average level of anxiety varies between 3.01 in Doncaster and 3.16 in Sheffield (Rotherham – 3.03 and Barnsley – 3.05).

This means that the levels of anxiety and the perception about personal well-being are therefore worse across South Yorkshire than they are in both the Yorkshire and the Humber region and nation wide.



## How we help

From September 2016 - September 2017 we awarded **£132,611** to **28** organisations working to strengthen **community cohesion** and **build social capacity**.

## Case Study - Open Kitchen Social Club



Based in Sheffield, the social club opens its doors every Monday and welcomes anyone along. They can join in cooking, playing games and enjoying a hot meal.

The club began as a resource for asylum seekers to socialise and to gain support from volunteers.

Organisers soon opened it up to anyone who wanted to come along. The club now has a diverse range of attendees, from all walks of life. Between 40 to 50 people attend each week, ranging in age from teenagers to retirement age. Those who attend help to support the club, by washing up in the kitchen, helping to cook meals or setting up the tables and chairs.

Funding from the AESSEAL Charitable Trust Community First Endowment Fund for South Yorkshire has enabled the group to cover core costs. This means they are able to continue the Monday club relied on by so many.

Sessional worker Katelyn McKeown said:

*“It is always great to see the people who come along becoming friends. Two regulars have become best friends even though they don’t speak the same language.”*

# Education and Learning

Baseline Grade

**E**

Community Grade

**D**

**Core Indicator:  
Percentage of pupils  
achieving five or more  
GCSEs**

**Secondary Indicator:  
Fixed term pupil  
exclusions**



Refer back to page 2 for information on how to read the gradings

For individuals the acquisition of **knowledge and skills** will have a **strong impact** on their life chances, whilst levels of **education and skills** in an area's workforce will be a key determinant of its prosperity.



In comparison to the rest of England all four local authority areas are performing better than average on this indicator.

A very good result which means that at the young age of **under 16**, the percentage of pupils achieving **5 or more GCSEs of A\* - C** is at least **0.2% higher** than the average across England.

However, at **college level (16-18 year olds)** educational attainment is **lower than the national average** in all four local authority areas.

All four areas also fall within the **top 30% most deprived areas** in terms of IMD ranking for **education, skills and training**.

All four areas have a **higher rate of fixed term pupil exclusions** with **Barnsley** performing at almost **5 times higher the national average rate (15.82% vs 3.88%)**.



## How we help

From September 2016 - September 2017 we awarded **43** grants worth **£139,789** to local community groups and projects working to improve **life skills, education, employability** and **enterprise**.

## Case Study - TESOL UK



Begun in 2015, TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) was set up to benefit people learning English as a second language in Barnsley.

All lessons are delivered for free to asylum seekers and £2 is asked of those who are on a steady income. The recent funding of £1,500 from the Stanley Race Community Fund has enabled the classes to continue.

The one and a half hour lessons take place three times a week and are attended by asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers.

Students come from all over the world, including countries such as Syria, Sudan, Romania, Portugal and Poland.

Chair of TESOL UK, Jeff Platts said:

*“We have delivered English language classes for the past nine months.*

*There have been 1,179 attendances – 647 of these since the funding from SYCF was granted. Initially there were about ten to twelve students attending each class.*

*However, since receiving the funding from SYCF the classes have had to move to bigger premises due to the increase of students attending.”*

# Housing and Homelessness

Baseline Grade

C

Community Grade

D

Core Indicator:  
Affordability Ratio

Secondary Indicator:  
Non-decent homes\*

Tertiary Indicator:  
Rough sleeping rate per 1000  
households



Refer back to page 2 for information on how to read the gradings

South Yorkshire has relatively **affordable housing** in comparison to the rest of **Yorkshire and the Humber** and England and Wales too.

Although the prices of homes are relatively low, with a much lower average price than the rest of England and Wales many of these homes are considered to be non-decent.

In England 7% of all homes are considered non-decent. Worryingly, Doncaster has over double the amount of non-decent homes in comparison. With the current figure for the area at 16%. The other three local authority areas are performing relatively well, with much lower averages. Barnsley has 3% non-decent homes, Sheffield 5% and Rotherham just 1%.

The lowest rough sleeping rate can be found in Barnsley at just 0.02, followed by Rotherham at 0.05, Sheffield at 0.06 and lastly Doncaster with the highest rate per 1000 households of 0.10.



**Affordability ratio** is calculated by dividing house prices by gross annual residence based earnings.

In England and Wales the affordability ratio is **7.72** and in Yorkshire and the Humber it is **5.70**.

What this means is that on average in England a person **spends 7.72 times their annual earnings on their home.**

The lowest affordability ratio, and therefore the **most affordable homes** can be found in **Barnsley** with the ratio of just **4.71**.

In **Doncaster** you could buy a home at just over **5 times your earnings.**

In **Sheffield** **5.36** times your gross residence earnings **will enable you to buy a property.**

The **least affordable homes** in South Yorkshire can be found in **Rotherham** with the affordability ratio of **5.39**.





## How we help

From September 2016 - September 2017 we awarded **79** grants worth **£239,164** to South Yorkshire groups advancing people's **physical** and **mental health, well being** and **safety**.

## Case Study - Target Housing



Rotherham based Target Housing helps vulnerable adults and families to live independent lives.

As well as housing, they also offer social inclusion activities, lunch club provisions and arts and crafts sessions.


A grant of £5,000 was awarded to fund an arts project in Canklow for homeless offenders and ex-offenders. Art lends itself to freeing the mind from personal troubles and provides a welcome distraction to attendees from their everyday troubles.

The project directly benefited 100 people who were able to design, create and manufacture their own art pieces out of metal. The finished pieces will be presented to The Mayor of Rotherham and auctioned off to further support similar causes.

Mark Allen, a member of the executive team said,

*"In the 19 years I've worked in this sector I have not seen a project more successful in terms of human impact"*

# South Yorkshire's Voices

A young man with dark hair, wearing a light blue polo shirt and a high-visibility yellow and grey safety vest, is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The background is a brick wall with a window. Another person in a similar vest is partially visible in the background to the right.

*“It is vital that we consider strong communities to be the paramount priority here in South Yorkshire. We should celebrate our diversity and also our traditions.”*

Opinions and views of the Community Survey respondents:

*“It is shocking the number of people living on the streets in this day and age. There should be more government help instead of relying on overstretched charities”*

*“There is a clear divide between affluent communities and those long standing areas of deprivation, there is a growing feeling that this divide is becoming entrenched, emerging diverse communities tend to match these areas of deprivation and this social divide is very worrying. Community cohesion must become a focus.”*

*“Most of South Yorkshire is a pleasant place to live.”*

*“Unemployment is the root cause for other social issues, hence people need to be given opportunities to learn and engage in some productive learning and employment which will keep them engaged and allow to contribute to the society.”*

*“Sense of community varies from area to area. Loneliness/isolation and mental ill health are a great concern. Zero hours contracts are effecting mental health and the economy. Government cuts are now hitting very hard and the effects on our environment and roads is evident. Most working class people think they’re being ignored.”*

*“I have seen an increasing need for mental health services especially for young people and lack of support for employment of people with mental health or similar diagnosis.”*

*“If we build strong communities people can be proud of then other issues should fall into line naturally. If a community has strong community spirit then they will support each other and work together.”*

*“We need to ensure that people with disabilities are given 1:1 support from the local job centres/training providers to enable them to successfully apply for jobs and remain in employment.”*

Vital Signs is a community philanthropy guide from your local community foundation, measuring the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is supported by UK Community Foundations.

The creation of this report was possible thanks to the help and support of our valuable volunteers. We also wanted to extend our sincere thanks to each of the 553 local residents who participated in our online survey and focus groups.

For more information about the South Yorkshire's Community Foundation please visit [www.sycf.org.uk](http://www.sycf.org.uk)

 @SYCF1986

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