

Sheffield City Council

# Annual Equalities Report

2020/2021



**Introduction**

1.0 A Foreword ..... 4

1.1 About the report ..... 5

**The Heart Of Our City: Our Communities**

2.0 Understanding Our Communities through numbers ..... 5

2.1 Empowering Communities - introducing New Local Area Committees ..... 9

2.2 Community engagement and response to Covid19 ..... 10

**Improving Equality and Meeting Our Statutory Duties**

3.0 The Equality Act and Public Sector Duties ..... 20

3.1 Sheffield Equality Partnership ..... 21

**Progress and Challenges**

4.0 Demonstrating Our Commitment, progress, and priorities ..... 23


4.1 Supporting a diverse workforce: Employee Workforce Report ..... 41

4.2 Covid 19 response employment Survey ..... 42

**Reflections and looking ahead**

5.0 What next? One Year Plan ..... 46

5.1 Appendix ..... 47

Throughout this report, direct hyperlinks to the related subjects are **highlighted** 

Section 1

Introduction

1.0 A Foreword

This Annual Report covers the first year of the Coronavirus pandemic, from March 2020 to April 2021. The pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to our society with many of the things we took for granted such as seeing family, visiting restaurants and even going to work, becoming distant memories and while in the first few days and weeks of the pandemic we often heard that we were “all in this together”, as the pandemic rolled on it became obvious that it only exacerbated many inequalities that we were already aware of.

While the pandemic was extremely difficult, it also brought out the best in us with neighbours banding together to deliver food shopping, people volunteering in droves to support the NHS and many of us doing our jobs under considerable strain and at a heightened pace just to keep supporting our communities. This Annual Report details some of that exceptional work done by voluntary, community and faith sector organisations, mainstream services and businesses as well as work that has started and continued within the Council to minimise discrimination and increase equality of opportunity.

This year’s Annual Report includes information on our One Year Plan which clearly sets the Council’s intentions for the next year, with equality at its heart. We are aware of the enormous strain that the pandemic has been for our communities and the wonderful organisations that keep us going in this city and we want to ensure that they remain supported as we learn to live with Coronavirus ongoing.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report and all that remains is to say thank you to all the individuals and organisations doing important work to make Sheffield accessible, welcoming and full of promise for everyone who lives, works and visits our great city.



  
**Leader of Sheffield City Council**  
**Councillor Terry Fox**

1.1 About the report

This year’s Annual Equality Report will cover the period from March 2020 to April 2021. It will aim to capture our progress, new developments and outline our plans for the future, whilst also providing a snapshot of our response to Covid 19 and engagement activity carried out over the past year.

In 2020, at the peak of the pandemic it was incredibly difficult for us all. However, we know the pandemic exacerbated the already existing inequalities in our city. There have been disproportionate and uneven impacts on some groups of people and communities.

As society starts to slowly recover from this incredibly complex devastating global impact for many years to come. It is important we continue to acknowledge the support, solidarity, endless work, acts of kindness by our communities, local businesses, mainstream services, partners, voluntary and faith communities. Our localised collaborative effort in rolling out the Covid 19 vaccine program across Sheffield was a real success and we still have a lot more to do together.

We are whole heartedly and sincerely thankful for everything you have sacrificed to make sure we are kept safe and well.

Section 2

The Heart of Our City: Our Communities We all Make Sheffield

All our diverse community groups, individuals, partners, statutory services, businesses, stakeholders and Voluntary Community Faith Sector continue to make a significant contribution in enriching, supporting and empowering everyone’s lives in Sheffield.

Our diverse Communities across Sheffield are the heart of our city, they play a huge part to everyone, living, working, and visiting our vibrant city.

2.0 Understanding Our Communities through numbers

Population: Age and Sex

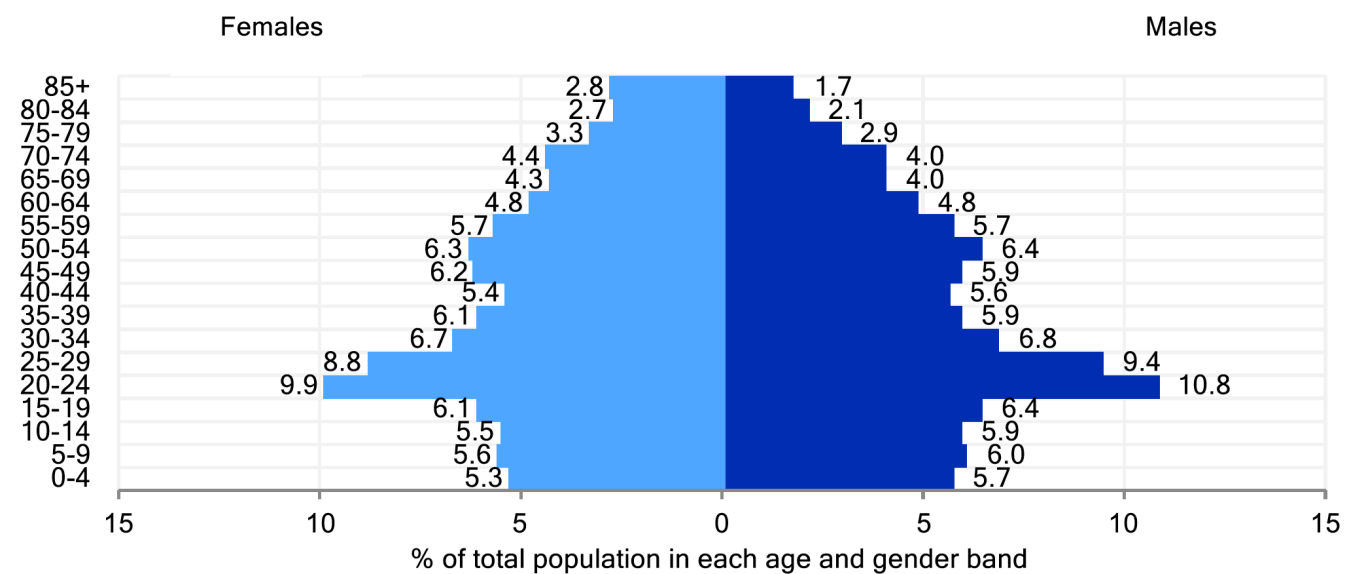
Sheffield is home to 584,847 residents across the city, with a slight difference between Male Residents (291,253) and Female Residents (293,593)

Total Population	Aged 0-15	Working age population	Aged 65+	Dependency ratio
584,847	105,80	384,606	94,438	0.52
49.8% male 50.3 female	18.1% England average 19.2%	65.8% England average 62.4%	16.1% England average 18.4%	England average 0.60

Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2019



The numbers by age, and the 'dependency ratio'. This is the ratio of non-working age (those aged 0-15 and over 65) to working age population and is useful in understanding the pressure on a productive population in providing for the costs of services and benefits used by the youngest and oldest in a population. For example, a ratio of 25% would imply one person of non-working age for every four people of working age.



The population pyramid compares the proportion of males and females by five-year age bands. The line chart shows how the population is changing over time in Sheffield and comparator areas.

The stacked bar chart, below, shows the age breakdown of the population in Sheffield and comparator areas by broad age band.

## Population: Ethnicity

### What information is shown here?

Asian	Black	Other ethnic group	Households with multiple ethnicities
44,385	20,082	12,398	22,233
8% England average 7.8%	3.6% England average 3.5%	2.2% England average 1.0%	9.7% England average 8.9%

Source: Census 2011  
Population by ethnic group (excluding White British)

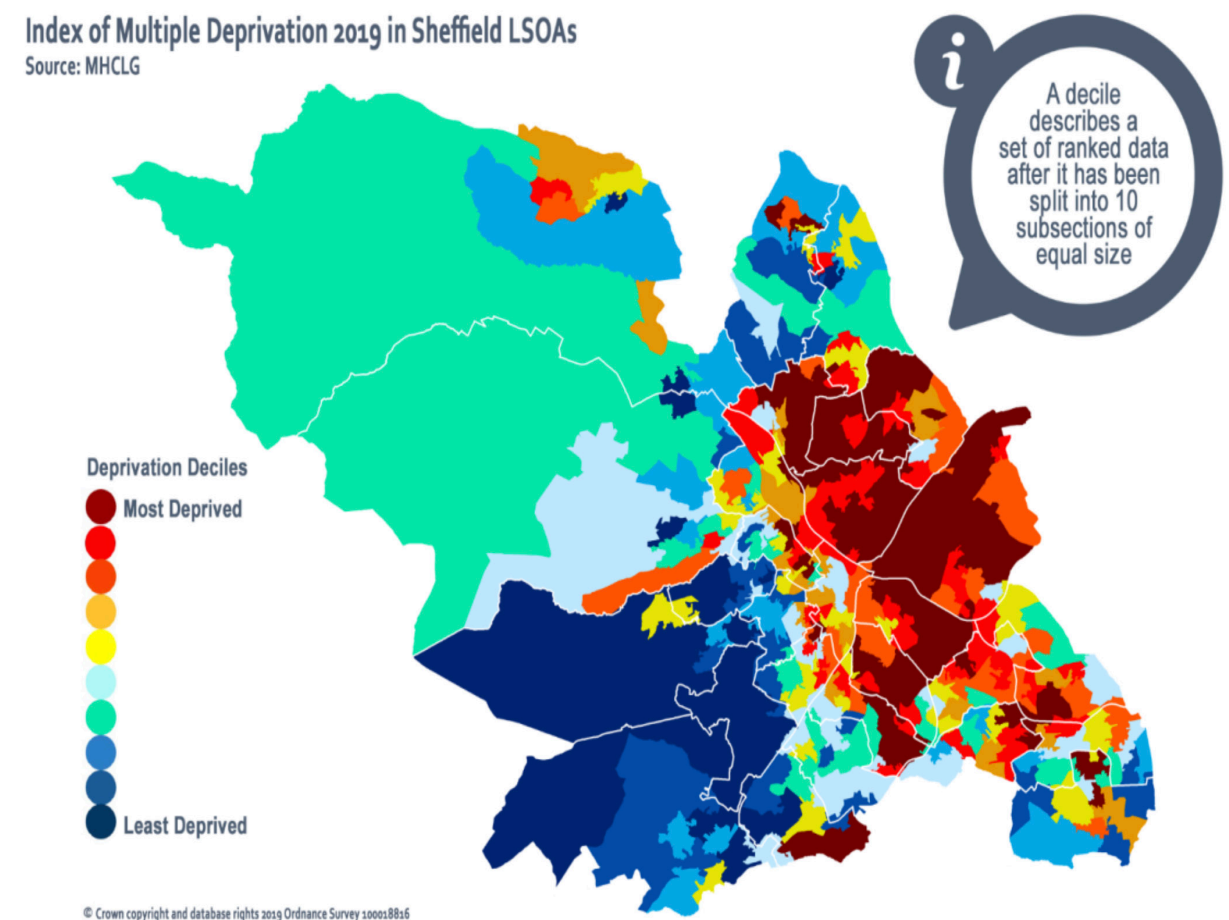
The information above shows the number of people in Sheffield by ethnicity, based on each person's perceived ethnic group and cultural background.

The information boxes display the number of people who have identified themselves as White British and the number from non-White ethnic minority groups, as well as the five broad ethnic minority groups (White non-British, Mixed, Asian, Black and other ethnic groups).

White British	Non-White	White non-British	Mixed
446,837	90,154	15,707	13,289
80.8% England average 79.8%	16.3% England average 14.6%	2.8% England average 5.7%	2.4% England average 2.3%

The final information box shows the proportion of households where not all household members are of the same ethnicity (households with multiple ethnic groups)

## Poverty/Deprivation



Sheffield is the seventh least deprived of England's eight core cities.

Sheffield has a total of 28 wards [4]. The five wards which rank as most deprived within Sheffield are Firth Park, Southey, Burngreave, Manor Castle and Park & Arbourthorne. Ecclesall, Fulwood, Dore & Totley, Graves Park and Crookes & Crosspool are the five least deprived wards in Sheffield.

Population: Religion

The information below shows the number of people living in Sheffield by religious belief, categorised by the six major religions, other religion, and no religion.

Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish
290,299	2,282	3,566	747
52.5% England average 59.4%	0.4% England average 0.5%	0.6% England average 1.5%	0.1% England average 0.5%
Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	No religion
42,801	942	1961	172,516
7.7% England average 5.0%	0.2% England average 0.8%	0.4% England average 0.4%	31.2% England average 24.7%

Source: Census 2011  
Population with non-Christian religion

Population: LGBT+ Community

National estimates for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer in the UK are roughly between 5%- 7% of the UK population. There are no official figures available for Sheffield but when we apply the national estimates the range in number of people is around 28,487 – 39,882.

For the first time, the Census 2021 have included a voluntary question about sexual orientation and gender identity. This may provide further information about the LGBT+ community both nationally and locally.

Source: Sheffield City Council Community Profiles and Source: ONS: Sexual Orientation, UK: 2019

However, these numbers vary substantially amongst age groups, region, marital, status, ethnicity, and social economic classification.

According to the ONS (Office of National Statistics) Annual Population Survey:

- Younger people (aged 16 to 24 years) were most likely to identify as LGB in 2019 (6.6% of all 16- to 24 year olds, an increase from 4.4% in 2018); older people (aged 65 years and over) also showed an increase in those identifying as LGB, from 0.7% to 1.0% of this age category.
- The proportion of the UK population aged 16 years and over identifying as heterosexual or straight decreased from 94.6% in 2018 to 93.7% in 2019.
- People aged 16 to 24 continue to be the most likely to identify as LGB, however the proportion of older adults identifying as LGB, while much smaller, is also increasing.
- Possible reasons for this pattern are that younger people could be more likely to explore their sexuality, combined with more social acceptability of different sexual identities and the expression of these today.
- However, for the first time, older people (aged 65 years and over) also showed an increase in those identifying as LGB. This rose from 0.7% in 2018 to 1.0% in 2019 of this age category (120,000, from a population of 12.0 million).

Population: Disability

It is important to note the intersection of disability and poverty. 50% of people in poverty are either disabled or living in a household with a disabled person. Working-age carers also face higher poverty rates than average if they provide over ten hours of informal care a week. Most long-term (two years or more) unemployed couple families with children have at least one disabled adult in the household.

According to the Census 2011...

103,715	people in Sheffield have a long- term health condition or disability, this equates to...
19%	of the population in Sheffield.
80,217	of Sheffield's households have at least one member with a long-term disability or health condition which is 35% of Sheffield's total population.
50,470	day to day activities are limited, this equates to 9% of the total population
22,500	people hold Blue Badges in Sheffield (Department of Transport 2013)

2.1 Empowering Communities – introducing New LocalArea Committees

The views and opinions expressed in the Big City Conversation in 2019, has clearly indicated that citizens would like to feel more connected with decision makers, stakeholders, partners and all sectors across the city on key local issues. This new development aims to empower and facilitate people in Sheffield to make sure the best possible decisions are made within each locality are fair, meaningful and at the core interest of communities.

The primary purpose of the Local Area Committees is to enable, encourage and support local people in the democratic process for change.

Committee Areas

Sheffield is grouped into 28 areas called wards. There are seven Local Area Committees, and each one will be made up of four wards. Each committee is composed of the Elected Members for those Wards.

The Local Area Committees are divided into 7 geographical areas across Sheffield:

- Central Local Area Committee
- East Local Area Committee
- North East Local Area Committee
- North Local Area Committee
- South East Local Area Committee
- South Local Area Committee
- South West Local Area Committee

There are three councillors per ward, representing you, a resident of that area. Councillors will work with residents, businesses, and community groups at these public meetings to discuss how money can be spent and how the area can be improved.

More information can be found here and the cabinet report will be available in the appendices.

The Sheffield Equality Partnership supporting organisations will also work with the Local Area Committee model across the city to further ensure that communities that also share protected characteristics are represented, engaged with key issues, feel supported and influence the policy making process. We have started the conversation and plan to work on this in more depth in the next coming months.

In the next Annual report 2021/2022, more information on LACs will be made available in greater depth as the committees were set up in May 2021.

## 2.2 Community engagement and response to Covid19

The impact of Covid19 is unprecedented but Sheffield's response has demonstrated the true meaning of collaborative working, commitment, togetherness and innovation in extremely challenging times.

The pandemic has undoubtedly brought together mainstream service providers, communities, statutory services, policy makers, businesses, and people across the city. Wider and closer collaboration with community groups and various partners has been crucial in supporting diverse needs of all Sheffielders.

The following paragraphs will include case studies of community based engagement activity by the VCF sector, emergency Covid 19 response work supported by Sheffield City Council, other statutory services with real life case studies.

### Research and lived experience

#### Sheffield's diverse ethnic minority communities

The BAME Public Health Communities group was established by Sarah Hepworth (Public Health) and Shahida Siddique (Faithstar) to understand the lived experiences of BAME communities/ organisations and what the positive and negative impacts of Covid19 have been locally during the epidemic.

25 culturally diverse organisations attend and represent the following communities in broad terms:

- Black - African, Caribbean and Somali
- Asian - Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese
- Arabic - Yemeni
- Roma Slovak

The group have worked collaboratively with statutory services within the health care sector, other mainstream service providers and communities to improve dialogue across all sectors, provide a deeper understanding of individual community needs and shaping various Covid 19 communications/programmes across the city. The input of community groups tailored cultural appropriate services and expertise has been invaluable.

For more information, the Covid 19 Health Impact Assessment will be available in the appendices to provide a greater insight into the variety of experiences communities faced during pandemic.

### The Carers Centre

Sheffield City Council currently fund Sheffield Carers Centre to provide a range of support to carers including section 10 Care Act (2014) carer's assessments. The Carers Centre also provides information and advice, emergency planning, grants to support carers to take a break from caring, long-term support planning, the Carer Card (which is a discount card) and guidance to help negotiate health and social care systems; for more information please see their website which can be found [here](#).

In response to Covid 19, the Carers Centre were responsive, flexible and adjusted their setup to enable working from home at the start of the pandemic; this meant there was minimal disruption to the service being provided. It was vital that the Council continued to support carers during Coronavirus, as factors such as lockdowns, service closures and shielding have placed additional pressures onto carers.

This was evident from responses to a questionnaire for carers that Sheffield City Council undertook in April 2021.

There were 313 respondents, and the key findings were:

- 58% of carers said the person/people they care for needed more help since the start of Coronavirus.
- Only 30% of carers said they felt they had enough breaks from caring before the start of the pandemic and lockdowns have made the situation worse.
- 28% of carers reported their health as either bad (18.4%) or very bad (9.2%).
- 51% of carers indicated that their physical health has got worse since the start of the pandemic.
- 33% of carers described their mental wellbeing as bad (25.7%) or very bad (7.6%).
- 68% of carers feel that their mental wellbeing has got worse since the start of the pandemic.
- 22% of carers reported that they found it difficult to find the information they need.
- 56% of carers would like more help in order to manage their caring role.
- 11% of carers said they didn't feel they could provide care safely.
- 67% of carers don't have an emergency plan in place.
- 11% of carers indicated they don't have enough money for essentials.

From April 2020 to the end of July 2021 the Carers Centre have:

- registered 1809 new carers taking the total to 12,962
- Delivered 869 Tier 1 assessments
- Delivered 41 Tier 2 assessments

This has meant that carers have continued to receive support when they have needed it the most. As restrictions have continued to ease though the impact of the pandemic on the mental health and general wellbeing of carers is still obvious. The Carers Centre have reported that the carers they work with continue to experience more complex and challenging circumstances due to Coronavirus.

Additionally, in response to the pandemic the Carers Centre has increased its capacity to provide weekly social and check-in phone calls via Community Connect, zoom small group meetings and support for carers to try out Zoom. With the help of the Community Liaison Worker, several support groups have moved to the outdoors such as woodland walks. The sessions have been very well received and will continue over the winter.

The Community Connect service provides human contact and support for carers who would otherwise experience heightened social isolation during this difficult time

**Domestic Abuse** has been a particular concern during the COVID 19 pandemic because of:

- Increased time at home
- Increased time in close proximity to the person causing harm
- Increased emotional and financial stress
- Increased isolation
- Reduced family and social support
- Increased risk of debilitating illness



The pandemic has highlighted the importance of understanding the dynamics of coercive control when responding to domestic abuse. The lockdowns that began at the end of March 2020 had the unintentional effect of enabling perpetrators of domestic abuse to increase their control over their victims/survivors, and their children (many of whom were not at school), as their tactics of isolation, removing independence and regulation of behaviour, usually backed up by threats and intimidation, were now effectively legitimised by the state. People living in domestic abuse situations felt that their routes for accessing support had been closed off - they could not contact agencies, see the professionals they may have been in touch with, family and friends were out of bounds, they may have been working from home or furloughed and the perpetrator may have been too. The Council's Employee Domestic Abuse policy was updated in order to enable better support staff working from home as a result.

## People Keeping Well Community Partnerships

People Keeping Well is sometimes known as Social Prescribing or community referral. It is all about 'making every contact count' and connecting people to a range of local non-medical services to improve health and wellbeing. The partnerships meet regularly to consider how they can work together to support the community to live well and tackle local issues. Each partnership is led by a local voluntary sector organisation which works with a wide range of people who live or work in that community.

## Sheffield Community Dementia

This support is provided by People Keeping Well dementia workers in various local areas across Sheffield.

**Case Study:** We initially supported people by phone offering weekly, fortnightly, or monthly wellbeing calls. Our Memory Cafés moved onto Zoom – including reminiscence topics, 'show and tell', singers/entertainers, at-home chair exercise/tai chi sessions, breathing exercises, quizzes with pictures, holiday photos and Pictionary. In total we had about 26 online dementia groups and dementia carers groups. Other online groups included e.g. Men's Health, Singing for the Soul, Frontal Temporal Dementia Group, Love Sport and a social Group. As restrictions gradually eased, we organised socially distanced visits at doorsteps and gardens for our general wellbeing face to face check-in's and/or to deliver dementia-friendly activity packs. Dementia-friendly activity packs were sent by post or hand-delivered with personal social-distanced interaction – including VE Day bunting, nostalgic sweets, sunflower seeds for a growing competition, personalised jigsaws, Yorkshire Tea bags, colouring pages, origami, gloves/mask/sanitiser for those ending Shielding, willow letter rack ('non-craft' for men!), step-by-step guides for Zoom, puzzles, birdspotting, personalised Playlist for Life CD, design-and-build-a-scarecrow, painting sets, making a bird feeder, decorating Easter bonnets, cake mixes and wordsearches.

A lot of dedicated time throughout the pandemic has been allocated in supporting people to get online if they wanted to or were able to.

## Let's take a snapshot:



## In their own words:

"Three years ago I was getting depressed. I was looking after a wife that gabbled to me because she couldn't understand half of it. To have something to get up for and go out to every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday [to the Memory Cafés] made it brilliant.

We saw people in the same boat we were in, and we could communicate amongst ourselves to find out the best ways of doing things. It has brought me out of my shell a little bit. Alright [my wife] doesn't seem to take part in much of it, but she smiles at people and that's the main thing. Now we're in lockdown I'd have gone in a mental asylum if it hadn't have been for this Zoom programme [online Memory Cafe] because without this I'd only have had communication with my daughter and nobody else and she would only have talked to me on the phone" - Memory Cafe attendee

"It's just lovely to be in a [virtual] room with likeminded souls that have trod the same boards as you're treading really. None of this is easy, none of us have got a manual.

We adapt to our loved ones or else. We have to do this. Some of it is horrible. Some of it is loveable. It's just nice to know we can speak, and we can trust that it's happening [this group] and we're in a big [virtual!] hug together and it's just lovely"

## Online Dementia Carers Group attendee

Comments from people living with Dementia and their carers who attend Sheffield's online Dementia groups

"It's a right laugh every week"

"I've got to know people better; it has been one of the best things (about lockdown) for me"

"I get all my Dementia information from the Dementia Cafes, that's all I need, speaking to other people"

"We saw people in the same boat and we could communicate amongst ourselves to find out the best ways of doing things"

"I feel sorry for the people who are left out because they don't want to join the online dementia groups"

"In lockdown I'd have gone into a mental asylum if it hadn't been have for the Zoom (online) programme - without this I'd only have had communications with my daughter and no-one else"

## Communications: Health Support during the pandemic

Regularly updated Public Health information specific to Sheffield was available and made accessible across different platforms. Our collaborative approach and support from a wide range of groups such as Disability Sheffield, Age UK, BAME organisations, faith communities and other partners helped us identify and understand in greater depth, the potential barriers to public health related information sharing at early stages of the pandemic.

Greg Fell, Director of Public Health in Sheffield, continues to produce accessible regular weekly **video** updates which outlines Sheffield's weekly position with the latest epidemiology figures, time specific updates, guidance and answers any addressed questions. The PH videos have subtitles available, a British Sign Language interpreter and videos can be translated into other languages.

## Covid 19 community resources

Key public safety information was made available to support communities, supplied in various languages and formats. The Council communication team, partners, public health and the BAME Public health group worked together to identify the various needs of community groups and co-produce resources.

For example: Public Health postcards included general community helpline information, testing, self-isolating, handwashing, rules and restrictions.

Each household in the city has received a postcard through their letterbox with information about how to get help and support from Sheffield City Council if they or a friend or relative is shielding or self-isolating

## Covid 19 response line and website

We have established a dedicated Coronavirus community helpline for Covid-19 related concerns and enquiries. From 8:45 – 4:45pm seven days a week, members of the public can call 0114 273 4567 and select option 0 to ask any questions relating to the virus. Over 17,000 calls made to the covid community helpline

Also, a dedicated **Covid-19 website** was set up with an email alert to make sure people and businesses have a simple way to access a wide range of information and support

## Local Community Response Teams

In response to Covid 19, the Council set up seven Local Community Response Teams (LCRTs), which involved multi agency support and coordination across a wide range of service providers, VCF sector, communities, schools, the fire service, public health, social care services, commissioning & inclusion services.

Aims of LCRTs:

- To ensure that individuals are kept safe and well and supported through the pandemic
- To coordinate the provision of multi-agency support that is accessible and meets the needs of individual/ families
- To co-ordinate support for community organisations e.g. Community Hubs, Food Banks
- To provide clear and effective two-way communications with target groups e.g. 'shielding', isolating
- To provide briefings to MPs and Elected Members



## Outbreak Control / Test Trace Isolate

During July / August 2020 LCRT's have been working closely with public health, project leads and multi-agency partners to ensure that the city's outbreak control plans are effective and well co-ordinated. Various options for how a 'boots on the round' approach to local outbreak control issues have been considered. The final approach has yet to be agreed, however it is expected that resource will be required in LCRT's to ensure a joined up local community response.

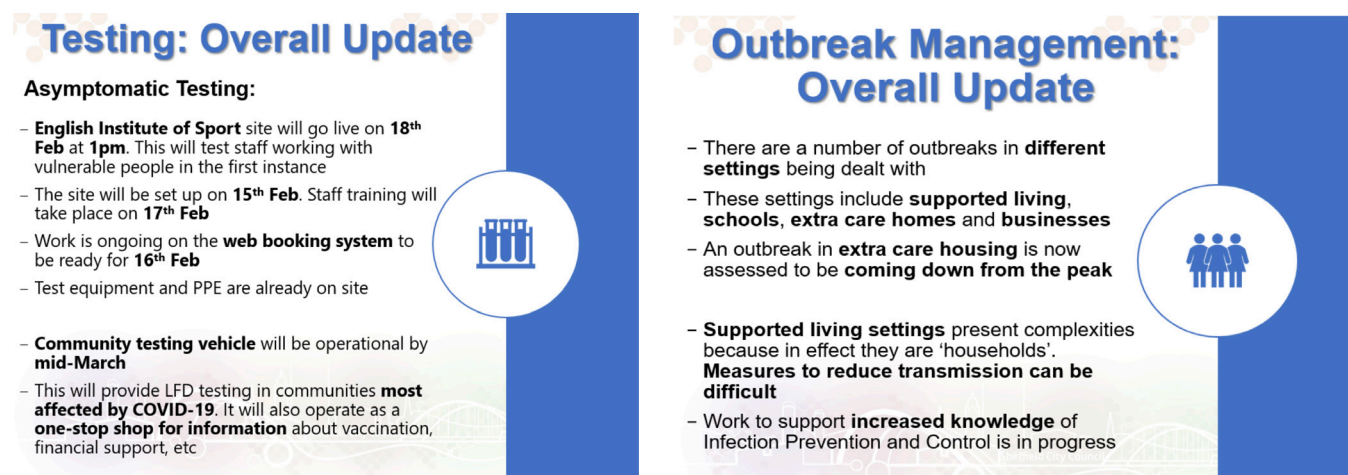
This work includes:

- Developing the 'ask' of the LCRT's around supporting people (whether they have Covid-19 or are a 'contact') to self-isolate. Delivering key messages: stay at home if symptomatic, get a test, help to isolate.
- Ensuring Ward Councillors and VCS are briefed and involved at a community level in the TTI work.
- Supporting VCS to deliver an enhanced community presence with locally based "COVID-confident" volunteers, myth busters, info givers, sign posters.
- Linking with partner agencies and local businesses to ensure social distancing and community safety issues are addressed.
- Providing an enhanced presence in communities, for example Page Hall where more intensive community cohesion work is required.
- Organising volunteers to support individuals where there was a need for shopping, befriending, medicines, public health information sharing.
- Co-ordinated offers of help from local businesses and groups and support other groups such as Food Banks in the Locality.

The Response Teams were supported by a Central Team, co-ordinating Communications, providing Legal and Financial advice and guidance, IT, Data and intelligence.

The Incident Management Group provided a strategic overview, enabling the Teams to work at capacity and respond to escalated issues.

### A snap shot of weekly team updates:



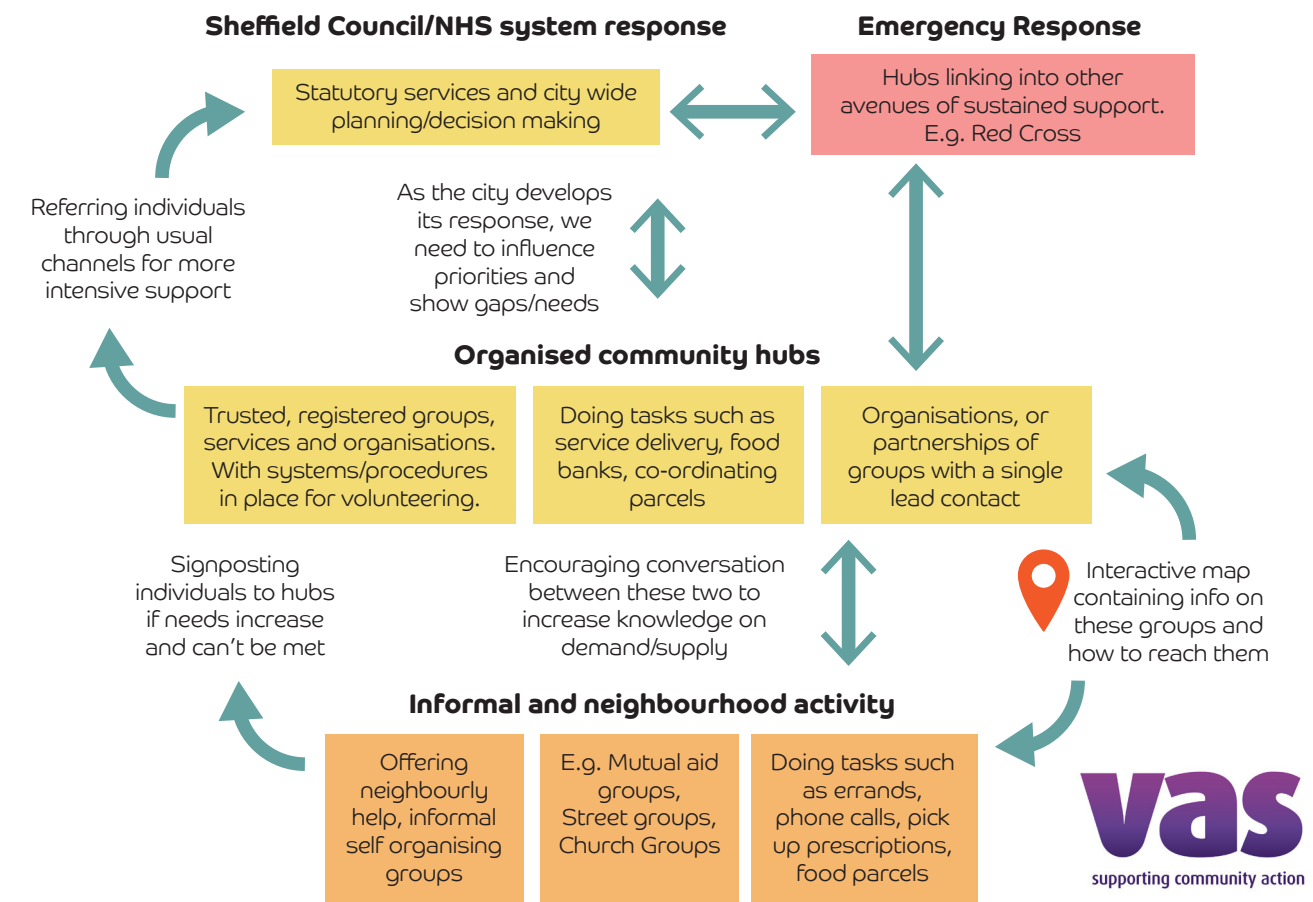
## Voluntary Community Sector Community Hubs

A network of VCS community hubs were established in response to Covid 19 to this played a key part in the city wide VCS response to Covid in Sheffield.

The three-tiered response:

- Informal and neighbourhood activity - street-level support
- Organised community hubs - trusted, registered organisations with systems/procedures in place for volunteering.
- Statutory/city wide approach - for the emergency response and planning.

The framework below provides a brief overview of the hubs in practice:



## Covid 19 Grants and support

In response to Covid 19, various grants and tailored support were made available to respond to the needs of our city. For example, business grants, community support grants, hardship grants, public health community funding, self-isolating support, and various other assistance.

Supporting the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCF) –additional funding of over £156k to our vital voluntary, community and faith organisations, working with VAS to help those organisations most at risk.

Supporting active travel – developed and identified a number of schemes to support active travel and support social distancing. These include temporary cycling measures, temporary footway widening, and reducing pedestrian wait times at crossings.

## The Emergency Food response

A wide range of different departments across the Council which include employees that traditionally do not work in community engagement, stepped up and all worked together to ensure we purchased, coordinated, packed and delivered emergency food parcels. In total Sheffield City Council has delivered 4,500 food hampers to some of our most vulnerable children and families across the city.

Regular dialogue with Sheffield's schools and various networks was crucial to make sure that the option of Free School Meals were made available across the city.

We are also part of the ongoing conversation regarding food provision, each week **Together for Sheffield** hosts a forum where a wide range of Voluntary sector organisations, vital food provision services and other agencies share expertise to help them work more jointly across the city.

These meetings have:

- Helped coordinate donations and resources
- Increased front line effectiveness through knowledge sharing
- Helped facilitate new partnerships
- Created a forum for the sharing of best practice

We deeply value the relationships and cooperative working with a variety of stakeholders across the city including food banks, businesses, schools, mainstream services, faith, and community groups. We worked together to respond to the Emergency Food crisis that our city faced.

**Sheffield's businesses** – 6,198 businesses in Sheffield have been allocated grants totalling over £174m and providing expert advice to businesses through the Sheffield Business Gateway answering over 200 calls a day.

## Ethnicity data of businesses accessing Business Sheffield (Pre Covid)

Business Sheffield Customer Relationship Management (CRM) includes data collection from individuals and businesses, including ethnicity information. This helps the service to understand if it is providing an accessible service that is reflective of the business population in Sheffield. As an example, from the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 Business Sheffield recorded working with 835 businesses, of which 23.3% identified themselves as BAME.

Please note: 22% of respondents chose not to disclose their ethnicity.

Ethnic Group	Numbers	%	Description of ethnic group
Asian or Asian British	48	7.3%	includes any Asian background (for example Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani or other East or South Asian)
Black, African, Black British or Caribbean	52	8%	includes any black background
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	35	5.3%	includes any mixed groups
Another ethnic group	18	2.7%	includes any other ethnic group (for example Arab)
White	497	76.4%	includes any white background
Preferred not to say/declined/blank	185	22.16%	Did not provide ethnic group and preferred not to say
	<b>835</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	
BAME	153	18.32%	

The Business Sheffield service has consistently been accessed by a diverse client base from across all of Sheffield. BAME businesses attended our workshops and networking events and added value to these sessions. For businesses who did not speak English as a first language, we would offer a 1-2-1 with a business advisor with a business colleague or family member to help translate.

The table (on page 18) shows the information businesses provided when asked about their ethnicity. Please note that this data reflects how people self-identified their ethnicity rather than a set list:

## Housing and Neighbourhoods service

Customer engagement has always been important, but the Covid pandemic encouraged us to look at different ways of reaching out to our tenants. During the last 12 months we have developed our Facebook page, greatly increasing the number of followers. At the height of the pandemic, we were sending email updates to customers weekly and then fortnightly, with important news and information. We have also proactively contacted people to update or get new email addresses for our distribution list. Like many others, we used technology to keep in touch and engage with others, including Zoom coffee mornings and meetings. We used digital channels to ensure important consultations, competitions and projects went ahead as usual.

Almost 1,200 customers helped us review our Customer Standards, which set out priorities for each service area that we can measure our performance against.

Although many of our face-to-face services had to stop, we continued to support tenants through proactive telephone welfare checks and by working closely with the Community Response Team. Some housing staff were temporary re-deployed to help support isolated and vulnerable people. Our 1,200 sheltered residents have continued to receive on-site support and activities in a Covid-safe way. We have continued to offer free IT support and training to Tenants and Residents Associations (TARAs) and any customer who needs help to improve their digital skills through our partnership with Heeley Trust.

- We contacted by telephone 35,444 (19 out of 20) households during the pandemic to offer support
- We carried out 173 adaptations in 2020/21, with half of fast-track applications completed in 17 weeks
- We completed 121,521 repairs, including 13,167 emergency repairs
- More than 9 out of 10 tenants thought the Housing Plus visit was useful and that any support needs were identified and addressed

For more information and an outline of our priorities for the next year please read our **Housing and Neighbourhood Service Annual report 2020/2021**



## Section 3

# Improving Equality and Meeting Our Statutory Duties

### 3.0 The Equality Act and Public Sector Duties

Fairness and tackling inequality is at the heart of our values, we believe that everyone should have a fair chance to succeed but recognise that some people and communities need extra support to reach their full potential, particularly when they face barriers or multiple layers of deprivation.

We are committed to providing fair and accessible services, which meet the needs of all our communities in Sheffield.

The **Equality Act 2010 and associated Public Sector Duties (PSED)** require the Council to have due regard to three areas in the way it works:

1. To **'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation'**, and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
2. To **'take forward (advance) equality of opportunity'** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who don't.
3. To **'foster good relations'** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

According to the Public Sector Equality Duty, advancing equality of opportunity and ensuring all social groups can thrive involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics include:

- Age
- Disability
- Race (includes ethnic or national origins, colour, or nationality)
- Religion or belief (or no belief)
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership (only in relation to eliminating discrimination)

In essence, everyone has protected characteristics, so the Act protects everyone against unfair treatment. Understanding intersectionality is an important part of practicing inclusion, promoting equality, and reducing discrimination.

Sheffield City Council carries out Equality Impact Assessments (EIA'S) as one of the ways to meet our Public Sector Duties. An EIA is an evidence-based tool and through it, we seek to ensure that all proposals, policies, practices, projects, and processes promote fairness and remove any barriers to participation or potential disadvantage for a particular social group.

Our EIA process also enables us to consider **cumulative impacts**, which could be cumulative year on year or due to different proposals impacting on the same group. Our approach helps us identify these impacts and to make positive changes where possible.

We take a **proportionate approach** to carrying out EIAs, focussing on those areas of high impact and risk. Through our 'live' EIA process we monitor closely any adverse equality impacts, as reductions and changes in provision can occur during implementation and delivery.

In addition, as a Council we have taken a decision to go **beyond our statutory duty** and the protected characteristics and assess the impact on the voluntary and community and faith sector (VCF), poverty, carers, armed forces and health and wellbeing. We believe this approach gives us a wider understanding of the potential impacts of policies and projects in the city. EIAs are attached to relevant decisionmaking documents and are published as part of the meeting documents e.g. **meetings of the Council's Cabinet**. All EIAs are also available on request.

There were about 182 EIAs carried out over the year on areas such as all budget proposals and one overarching budget which again identified cumulative impact, especially on disabled people. There were a number of Covid related including changes to bereavement services. Another EIA which was started within the year and has developed is the one on Local Area Committees. This has developed from the one overarching to now one for each area, especially looking at issues around accessibility.

### 3.1 The Sheffield Equality Partnership

The Sheffield Equality partnership (SEP) formerly known as the Equality Hub Network (EHN) was set up in 2014 to support the Council in meeting our Equality duties under the 2010 Equality Act, with a specific focus on individuals and communities with protected characteristics. As a local authority, we have a Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, victimisation, and harassment; improve equality of opportunity; and foster good relations in relation to the protected characteristics outlined in the Act.

The Sheffield Equality Partnership brings under-represented communities and decision makers together, to ensure a more diverse range of voices are heard city wide. The Partnership holds decision makers to account with the shared goal of creating a more inclusive and representative society for all.



The Sheffield Equality Partnership represents 7 communities and groups:

- Disability
- BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic and Refugees)
- Women
- LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, diverse sexual orientations and identities)
- Religion and Belief (including no belief)
- Carers
- Age (intergenerational)



Every year we conduct a review and make the necessary changes to align with the need of our city. We recognise society is constantly evolving.

#### **Some of Sheffield Equality Partnership Aims...**

- To amplify underrepresented voices, empower individuals and communities who may share a diverse range of protected characteristics.
- To encourage joint working on shared themes or issues with policy makers, officers, and partners within the Sheffield Equality Partnership. We recognise the importance and value in accountability and intersectionality.
- To contribute, challenge and hold the Council's and other organisations to account
- Disability
- BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic and Refugees)
- Women
- LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, diverse sexual orientations and identities)
- Religion and Belief (including no belief)
- Carers
- Age (intergenerational)
- To work with the Council and other organisations to ensure that due regard to equality and diversity is given to services, strategies, policies, and employment opportunities
- To raise issues of concern, create meaningful relations and engage with the wider public to further ensure we continue to promote equality, understand the challenges from their perspective, reduce barriers to accessing opportunities and creating a fairer society for all

#### **Our Current Partner Organisations**

- Together Women
- Carers Centre
- Disability Sheffield
- Faith Star
- LGBT Sheffield
- Age UK (intergenerational SCC youth service formerly Sheffield Futures)

### **Equality Partnership Organisations Engagement Activity**

Throughout the peak of the pandemic to present uncertain times, community led organisations, faith communities' mainstream services and society in general have faced very challenging times. It is vital that we acknowledge and continue to value the local voluntary community and faith (VCF) organisations, community leaders, local businesses, statutory mainstream services and the kindness of the citizens of Sheffield, for all their hard work, dedication and support throughout this unprecedented time.

Sheffielders, partners, stakeholders, VCF organisations, local businesses have all responded in various ways and continue to work tirelessly in the face of the disproportionate impact of COVID 19 on particular social groups that are already experiencing a range of inequalities.

#### **Brief update from Together Women's Centre April - Sep 2021**

Since the inception of the Sheffield Equality Partnership grant, Together Women has faced various challenges, mainly due to staffing issues, with a change in management and some members of the team leaving the organisation for other employment opportunities.

This impacted on the overall capacity of the newly formed team in getting the Women's hub up and running as we emerged slowly from the third lockdown.

The centre reopened to the women and girls at the end of June, when staff also returned working from the office for the majority of the time.

The new manager began attending the SEP meetings to get to know the other partners and better understand the priorities of the partnership and the work already under way.

In July and August TW therefore focused on reviewing its contractual obligations for this grant; more specifically on how to redevelop and re launch the Women's Hub that we are tasked to coordinate across the city. The centre manager held 2 meetings with the Leeds Women's Hubs coordinator and her team, facilitated by TW Head of Strategic Development, which were very productive and generated some good ideas based on their best practice and successful run of the hub in their area.

The learning and suggestions offered, have helped drafting an initial plan of activities and the design and launch of a survey aimed at all women across the city, to seek their views on what issues have been affecting them the most during the pandemic, and what services and initiatives would they like to see being on offer under the hub and beyond to meet their specific needs. The engagement levels with the survey over a few weeks has been high and the responses it generated have provided us with quantitative and qualitative data that we can pull on, to further develop the hub, but also for bidding for future services to complement the work of the hub. It has also given us access to a pool of women from different walks of lives, that could become Champions for the hub and for the work TW does across the city with women and older girls.

In July we also designed and delivered a creative writing course for young women to address the effects the Covid-19 pandemic has had on their mental and emotional wellbeing, which was well received. We are now planning to have this course running on a regular basis and to open it up to women referred to the service via the Probation pathway in the autumn.

Alongside the above, with the focus remaining on Covid 19 and how this impacted our community of interest, throughout the past 6 months we have carried out Covid vaccine engagement activities with our service users in the form of 121 awareness raising sessions on the benefits of the vaccine and where to get the jab. We also developed a 'COVID- 19, everything you need to know' leaflet for the women attending our centre; advertised drop in clinics set up across the city during this time, and provided regular feedback our work to the NHS Sheffield CCG. We proposed to support delivering a safe, women-only vaccination drop in clinics and we are in talks as to whether this is still required in the autumn.

## **Section 4**

### **Progress and Challenges**

#### **4.0 Equality Objectives: Demonstrating Our Commitment, progress, and priorities**

Our Equality Objectives are a written commitment centred at the core of our organisation. We are committed to tackle and challenge inequality in all its forms. It is important that we continue to collectively work together across the city with partners, communities, and stakeholders to promote a fair and inclusive Sheffield for all people.

The Equality Objectives 2019- 2023 guide and help us prioritise the work we will focus on throughout the forth coming years. It also provides a clear framework for meeting our equality duties whilst also demonstrating our compliance with the Public Sector duty. Equalities should be embedded in everything we do and to further ensure this the Equalities Annual report aims to highlight our progress over the past year and focus on areas that requires more in-depth focused work.

The following paragraphs will highlight some of the current and ongoing work that has taken place across the Council in partnership with the Voluntary Community and faith sector, various stakeholders, partners, and citizens from March 2020- April 2021.

For further information please see [here](#)

Please note that the aims under the equality objectives can be used as a guide and are not limited to the below suggestions.

## Objective 1:

### Strengthen knowledge and understanding of our communities

**Aim 1:** We will improve the data we hold about people who use our services in terms of consistency and robustness. This will include capturing improved equality monitoring data to enable us to better understand people's needs and levels of satisfaction.

**Update:** The Customer Services Team, together with the Digital Services and Equalities & Engagement teams, have developed an Equalities monitoring form to capture information about the people using our online services. The form is now being piloted across several areas of the Council's website, ranging from the corporate complaints form to applications for Council Tax discount and self-isolation payments. All people using these services are encouraged to fill in their equalities information, helping us to understand if we are reaching the people that need our services and identify when we are not. Take-up of the form is being monitored and evaluated in real-time to inform decisions about future roll-out.

To accompany the online form, a new equality monitoring toolkit for Council staff has been produced to help raise awareness of the importance of the exercise and encourage standard practice across the authority. Discussions are also underway about how we can improve equalities monitoring across other channels that people use to access our services, such as our telephone contact centre and face-to-face customer points. Ensuring a consistent approach is a key priority and we are keen to embed the principles of effective equalities monitoring in all areas of the Council, through working closely with networks such as the Staff Equality & Inclusion Network.

Additionally, we have started the dialogue and raised awareness around the importance of capturing equality monitoring data within various departments across the Council. We understand that having accurate data regarding individuals who may access our services at one point during their lives, will contribute positively to their personal experience. Understanding the areas where further targeted work is required to ensure that all residents in Sheffield are receiving a service that meets their needs is invaluable.

## Culture, Parks and Leisure

Public Health commissioned services include sports, physical activity projects, programmes, contracts, and funding with sports facility providers across the city are expected to collect Equality monitoring information. The data is collected, and a report is produced which is reviewed by leisure operators and senior members of staff. This is regularly compared against expected uptake and health needs of each population group to ensure equitable access. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are used to ensure equitable access. It is important that we prioritise and collect data on protective characteristics as it establishes an evidence base for policies, engagement activities, practice and progress. Equality monitoring data helps us to assess whether our policies, practices and general services are equitable and fair. This also helps us understand our service users better and make targeted improvements in our services.

The parks and countryside service do not currently capture specific user group data related to protective characteristics. However, equality monitoring data is collected for specific events and activities.

The Indices of Deprivation also informs our allocation of support and public health resource, but we do acknowledge equality monitoring needs to be captured at a more consistent and granular level. Consultation and creative ways of engagement with our communities in Sheffield is key for the development of the Council's new Sport, Leisure and Active Strategy alongside more focused city-wide partnership working and research. We are working towards more consistent equality monitoring data across all Council departments.

**Aim 2:** We will work with the people of Sheffield and our partner organisations, including the voluntary, community and faith sector, to ensure data and knowledge are used to deliver joined up approaches to the big challenges that affect the city and our communities. Data on equalities will also be used to ensure we set a fair and evidence-based budget for the council.

### Update:

**Sheffield Joint Health & Wellbeing Board:** This is a partnership between Sheffield City Council, the NHS and a range of partners in the city that aims to deliver a single approach to improving the health & wellbeing of Sheffield residents. The Board has a formal public meeting, normally four times per year, interspersed with engagement events and strategy development meetings.

Over the past year, a lot of the Board's work has focused on the pandemic, which has further exposed and exacerbated existing health inequalities in Sheffield. At their April 2020 meeting, the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to commission a rapid health impact assessment to help understand and document people's experiences throughout the pandemic. This work has helped to identify key issues and make recommendations to address these, to reduce health inequalities resulting from the pandemic and in the future.

**Sheffield City Partnership Board (SCPB):** The aim of the SCPB is "working together to build a Sheffield that works for everyone". The partnership is committed to effective collaboration, bringing together key partners from the private, voluntary and public sector. There is a shared focus on driving down inequality to make the Sheffield economy work better for its people. Over the past year, the Board has focussed on shaping and supporting Sheffield's recovery from Covid-19, the impact of VCS in Sheffield during the pandemic and beyond, as well as improving voice and representation on the Board and engagement around equalities.

**Strategic Equality and Inclusion Board (SEIB):** This is the main Council Board with oversight of equality. It meets every 3 months and is chaired by a Senior Officer and is attended by a Co-op Executive Member.

**Health and BAME Communities work:** As a response to COVID 19, there have been numerous groups set up in relation to the impact of on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. There are 3 main groups which the Equalities and Engagement team attend are, the Communities group, co-chaired by Faith Star and Public Health, a staffing group led the Equality and Diversity leads in Sheffield eaching Hospitals and Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust meeting fortnightly and a Strategic Racial Equity Group coordinated by the Health and Care Partnership (HCP formerly ACP).

There are a number of important actions.

- The action from the staffing group identifies a range of actions under 5 overarching objectives: Challenge and address racism and discrimination, increase workforce diversity at all levels, improve diversity data collection, support staff networks and make the recruitment process more inclusive and accessible.
- The Communities group has informed the Covid19 Health Impact Assessments (as part of a wider set of Health Impact Assessments being completed by our Public Health team) and mitigating actions and has identified and distributed funding to support the Covid response work of the community organisations in protecting our city's most vulnerable.



- The Strategic Group Co-chaired by Co-chaired by Abiola Allinson (Chief Pharmacist at Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS FT) and Shahida Siddique (CEO, Faithstar), this group was established in April 2020, initially in response to the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities. It was quickly identified that the role of the group would be longer term than originally anticipated, and there was a need for some areas of specific focus. Two subgroups, focusing on communities and staffing, were established in May 2020.

The strategic group has led to the development of an action plan that the HCP has signed up to, which has the aim of ensuring that health and care across Sheffield is equitable and accessible for all our citizens, and that our workforce is representative of our population at all levels. Its concentrates on 5 areas Data, Leadership, Staffing, Commissioning and Community engagement.

- **Operational Equality Lead Group** - Our Equality Lead Officers from across the Council meet at least monthly. The group discuss a wide range of issues relating to equality and diversity, including upcoming items for SEIB and feedback from staff networks (SEIN's) and events
- **Supporting Vulnerable people** - The Income Management & Financial Inclusion Team (IMFIT) played an important role in setting up the supporting vulnerable people group to support people affected by covid – attended by Sheffield City Council teams, other housing providers in the city, NHS staff, Support agencies, (inc Citizens Advice, Shelter, SOAR) and voluntary community sector. This group shared information and helped to provide communications and advice to people affected by covid, as well as work through the many challenges faced by the Government's introduction of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

## Census 2021: Digital first

"Once every decade, the census provides an opportunity to build the most detailed and comprehensive picture of the population. The information the census collects underpins decisions on planning and provision of public services, including transport, education, and healthcare. Getting the best possible response rate for the census in your area will make sure that decisions for your local authority area are based on accurate, high-quality data" - Census ONS, 2021.

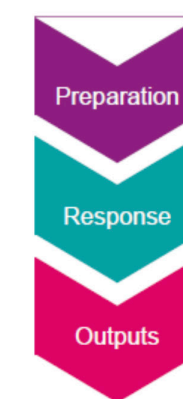
A local Area Partnership (LAP) between Sheffield City Council and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) provided localised knowledge of various community groups, identify initial barriers to participation/engagement and promote the importance of completing the Census. For example, sharing information about communities with localised knowledge from Council officers and partners across the city allowed ONS Community Engagement Officers to tailor community engagement and inform their large field operations.

Navigating through a pandemic whilst asking people to take part in the first digital Census was challenging in parts, it was critical in the early stages that in depth mapping in preparation of Census Day (March 21st, 2021) was carried out. The LAPP (Local Area Partnership Plan) is a living document used to plan and record census engagement activity in Sheffield. It takes into account the local knowledge and expertise provided both at weekly meetings between ONS and SCC, and via correspondence between meetings.

Three ONS Community Engagement Mangers (CEMs) worked across 3 large areas across the city in partnership with Council officers, voluntary community faith sectors, mainstream services, service providers and care homes to encourage and support Census Completion.

Support was available for those who needed help to complete the census online and by the phone, including paper questionnaires. A dedicated help line, contact centres across the country, community advisors and local census support centres were made available for people to access various forms of support in completing the Census. An online media communication campaign by ONS and the Council communications team helped raise awareness, highlight the consequences of not participating and targeted specific groups to encourage participation.

## How Sheffield City Council is helping



### The nine strands of partnership activity

1. Develop an address index to ensure the fullest coverage.
2. Provide local information to identify and target local challenges.
3. Identify and share local community contacts.
4. Help us to recruit field staff.
5. Provide practical support to the field operation (for example, meeting rooms).
6. Support online completions and our Census Support Centres.
7. Support local publicity and media relations activity.
8. Provide local information to support quality assurance.
9. Maximise use of census information in local authorities and support use of census data by local communities.

Office for National Statistics

10

**Aim 3:** We will improve the information we hold about our diverse communities including around influence, engagement, and cohesion. We will continue to undertake a broad range of consultation and engagement activities to inform decision making and will support underrepresented communities to raise issues and put forward solutions.

### Update:

**Access Liaison Group (ALG)** is a group that is a group supported by the Council and has Councillors as attendees but is independently chaired. It works closely with the Council to consider new projects and service delivery to give pan-disability input on accessibility. ALG also, where necessary, looks to work through issues where things are not currently working for disabled people. ALG meetings have successfully taken place online over the past year and the group has given valuable input into consultations such as the Connecting Sheffield strategy and the Clean Air Zone plans.

**Citizenspace** is our online engagement platform ran by Delib. We use Citizenspace as just one way that we ensure we are engaging with a wide range of people in the city and representing a variety of people's views and meets national online accessibility guidelines to ensure a wide range of people can participate.

Citizenspace hosts a large variety of consultations and informal surveys from across the organisation and over the past year has hosted the Budget Consultation, LAC survey and Covid Rapid Response Survey. We are currently reviewing our online engagement platform provision and information about any changes to this will be shared in the coming year.

**Sheffield Equality Partnership** – We have reviewed the Equality Hub Network and have started to relaunch as the Sheffield Equality Partnership however we still have further work to do. We are meeting with the support organisations jointly on a at least a 6-weekly basis. Grants will continue for a further year. This year the work has focussed on the impact of and recovery from COVID 19 and working with Local Area Committees. As a result, we are reviewing our website and social media for the relaunch. Our twitter handle is @SCCEqualityPart



**Race Equality Commission** – The Commission was established in 2020 in response to the impact of the COVID 19 on BAME communities and the Black Lives Matter Movement. The Commission has an Independent Chair Professor Emeritus Kevin Hylton and 24 Commissioners however the Council are assisting the Commission by providing all of the support and funding.

The Commission's aim was to make a non-partisan strategic assessment of the nature, extent, causes and impact of race inequality in the city and to make recommendations for tackling them.

We have set up the website and a **campaign page**. There is also an information page on the **website** and some FAQ's. The Commission has 6 themes, Health, Education, Civic Life and Communities, Business and Employment, Sport and Culture and Crime and Justice. We held a call for evidence which had over 150 responses. All of the themes held 2 all day public hearings which were by zoom in 2020/21. There were also a number of private hearings requested and held. We are currently working on getting the videos of the sessions and evidence online.

All Portfolios submitted evidence on areas such as on Education and Skills; Community Safety and Youth Justice; Workforce Diversity and Business and Employment. In addition, some of our key Partners such as Learn Sheffield, Sheffield CCG, Health Trusts, Police and Crime Commissioners Office, South Yorkshire Police and Schools also submitted evidence to the Commission.

The Chair and Commissioners are working towards the final report, which is likely to be early in 2022. The report will detail the nature, extent, causes and impact of racism and race inequalities and make recommendations to the Council and other key bodies about what short- and long-term measures are required to reduce those inequalities. The priority will be to identify those actions that can be taken by the city itself and those which require external intervention or a combination of both.

To keep up to date please sign up to the **mailing list**.

## **Objective 2:**

### **Ensure our workforce reflects the people that we serve**

**Aim 1:** We will work towards achieving Disability Confident at Level 3 (currently level 2). We will also undertake work to further understand and respond to lower morale scores for disabled staff to try and bring them in line with non-disabled staff.

**Update:** We have established a Disability Confident working group that is currently assessing the Disability Confident Level 2 criteria to identify areas of improvement and actions for the organisation. The group's remit is being extended to ensure it provides the necessary feedback to the organisation on such issues as low morale, attraction, recruitment, progression, development, the current 'reasonable adjustments' process/approach plus more and will therefore align to the DC Level 2 assessment. This group will become an influential voice that receives the attention and visibility for the work it is undertaking. It will be communicated across the organisation to highlight its agenda and targets and the promotion of its open membership to the group. The role of this group will include a longer-term piece of work to submit an application for Sheffield City Council to become DC Level 3 member – Leader Status. The work of this group is outlined as an action on the current equality diversity and inclusion action plan.

**Aim 2:** We will work to increase the diversity of top earners from the following groups, BAME (Black Asian Minority Ethnic), Women, Disabled People and LGB+ and trans people; based on Chief Officer grade and equivalent.

**Update:** Currently a review and focused work is taking place within Human Resources and other Council departments across all grade profiles to ensure that vacancies are advertised in a much wider arena to maximise the potential to obtain a diverse pool of applicants. The recruitment process is also being reviewed alongside our overarching approach to advertisement,

attraction, selection, progression, retention, development, targeted development for all protected characteristics, career opportunities, talent management, learning and development, website design (jobs/career pages), promotion of employee benefits and the use of social media.

Work is to commence on the completion rates for all managers to undertake the Recruitment and Selection and EDI 'required learning' courses in order to develop their awareness, understanding and skills around attraction, recruitment and selection and all EDI related issues. The timeline for this piece of work is to be established.

**Aim 3:** We will increase awareness about the support available to carers within our workforce. In response to lower morale scores, we will undertake further work to understand the challenges carers are facing and what can be done in response, with a view to bringing scores in line with non-carers.

**Update:** we are re-establishing a Carers' working group from September to understand how our employees who are carers are feeling in the organisation following feedback from employee surveys, SEINs, the Equality Leads and other routes that their morale is low. We launched a new Carers' Policy in April 20 that offered up to 6 days' paid carers' leave but this did not potentially reach its target audience due to Covid 19 and working from home for many employees. The Carers' Policy will be reviewed with some urgency as this one a priority area.

We promoted Carers' week in June (2021) this year with a wide range of supportive information, internally and externally, including our Equality Champions, the Carers' Policy, EDI training products and a reminder for our employees to update their workforce census if they have become a carer or if their caring responsibilities have come to an end.

## **Objective 3:**

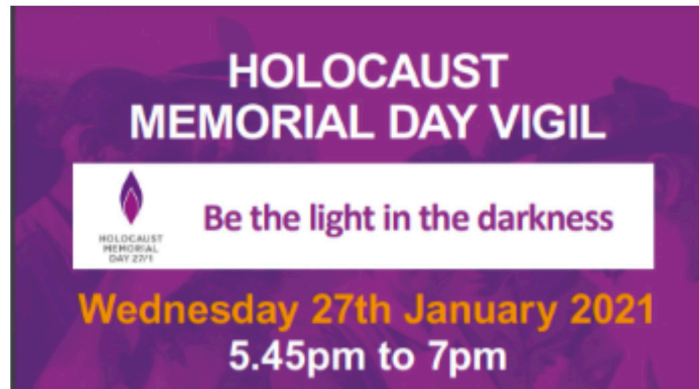
### **Lead the city in celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion**

**Aim 1:** We will work with our partner organisations across all sectors, to celebrate and promote our diverse city locally and nationally. We will support and promote events and activities that celebrate and raise awareness with our diverse communities.

**Update:** We work closely together across all sectors and within our organisation to promote, celebrate and raise awareness of specific events throughout the year.

These events are communicated on the Manager Bulletin, Other News, the Chief Executive's weekly blog, through the Equality Leads, Staff Equality and Inclusion Networks (SEINs), internal department specific newsletters and externally to organisations and on various social media platforms. We also share and promote our new EDI training products to further develop employee knowledge, learning and awareness in the Council.

The Equalities and Engagement team have developed an Equalities Awareness Day Calendar and work collaboratively with different departments such as HR, Communications, the Staff Networks, Race space Network, Sheffield Equality Partnership Organisations/members, city wide EDI leads, external community groups and other mainstream service providers. We are approaching equality awareness days collectively with various community groups, stakeholders, and partners across Sheffield. To ensure it is impactful, relevant and co-produced through delivering workshops, webinars, projects, events, and live interactive discussions. An organisational draft equalities awareness day calendar will be shared with partners and employees by the end of the year.



### Holocaust Memorial Day

To commemorate **Holocaust Memorial Day** we will held an online vigil on Wednesday 27 January 2021, from 5:45pm to 7pm via Zoom. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic we have had to move away from the usual public gathering in the Winter Garden. A diverse range of speakers were present who positively contributed to the success of this online vigil. The speakers included, the Lord Mayor and Council Leader, Sheffield Jewish Orthodox Community, Sheffield Jewish Reform Community, Disability Sheffield and Burton St, SAYIT, Youth Cabinet Members and Sheffield Cathedral. We also showed the video 'My Escape from the Holocaust' in memory of Sue Pearson MBE.

### International Women's Day 8th March 2021



#### #choosetochallengecampaign

Council colleagues and people across Sheffield joined us by sharing a photo of themselves with their hand raised on Monday 8 March, demonstrating their commitment to challenging gender-based discrimination and sexism. People wishing to strike the #ChooseToChallenge pose and share on social media can tagged us in their posts and we reposted them across our platforms to highlight Sheffield's commitment to forging an inclusive world.

Another strand of this year's theme was based around seeking out and celebrating women's accomplishments. In collaboration with Together Women, we hosted a virtual celebration to share stories and listen to a range of inspirational speakers from diverse backgrounds draw upon a time in their life where they chose to challenge.

### LGBT History



Earlier in year we teamed up with Lambeth Libraries for LGBT History Month. There were several events and activities over the month, with participation figures totalling 3580. The partnership with Lambeth Libraries was a key contributor to success, and we received positive feedback and media/social media attention. A wide range of our events were aimed at all different ages to improve inclusivity and raise awareness.

### Windrush Grant funding

National Windrush Day and the Windrush Day Grant Scheme are part of Department for Levelling up, Housing and communities work to create more resilient communities, where different religions, cultures and opinions are celebrated, underpinned by a shared set of values that champion tolerance, freedom and equality of opportunity. In the spring of 2020, we were successful in the grant bid for funding of £15k. £10K was allocated to community projects and £15K to creating a permanent resource for the city with Sheffield Archives. However due to Covid 19, a change occurred and as a result the Council set up a new expression of interest and match funding the £15K available. **Nyara Arts** were successful in the grant process.

More information on the various Windrush and Black History Month projects will be captured in next year's Annual Equalities Report.

**Red Wednesday Campaign 24th November** – standing up against the devastating persecution of faith communities and people of faith all around the world in solidarity. A **statement** with support from the Council and the Faith communities in Sheffield was promoted and produced to recognise RedWednesday. The face of the town hall was also lit up in red.

**Aim 2:** We will continue our work to tackle poverty and promote social justice, including through the Fairness and Tackling Poverty Partnership and Making Sheffield Fairer Campaign Group. We will raise awareness of the Fair Employer Charter and Living Wage with employers in the city; and will ensure our commissioning processes are fair and inclusive.

**Update:** Continuous collaborative working with our partners, services and providers to promote the Council's commitment and membership of the Living Wage Foundation and further work has been undertaken as part of the Ethical Procurement process to strengthen the tendering process regarding the payment of the living wage and expectations around EDI training within our providers/supply chain.

The Ethical Procurement Framework is a clear commitment to maximising the Council's ability to use its discretion to apply ethical standards to behaviour throughout its supply chain including to invest in the talents of their employees through good training and healthy, safe working conditions and encourage our providers to think about the wider social impact on Sheffield communities of their activity. The Procurement team continues to work with our providers with regard to the paying of the living wage, promote fair and flexible contracts of employment, and deploy recruitment and employment practices that identify and support talent, value diversity and promote aspiration and social mobility.



The Income Management & Financial Inclusion Team (IMFIT) in Sheffield City Council's housing department has responded to Covid 19 in the following ways:

- Supporting the provision of additional hardship funding to support SCC tenants through covid, helping them to pay their rent and ultimately sustain their tenancy
- Early and intensive support provided to all new Universal Credit claimants – early contact and advice about budgeting and managing money, suitable payment methods including potential application for managed payments (paid to SCC direct from DWP), setting up direct debit, access to advance payments available from DWP
- Early and intensive support to all new SCC tenants – helping to claim Universal Credit/ Housing Benefit if appropriate, agree suitable payment method including setting up direct debit, support to claim other funds available SCC tenants received over £675k in Discretionary Housing payments awards in 20/21
- An agreement made with Yorkshire Water to refer tenants with higher water charges to their Support scheme – helping tenants to claim over £500k in 20/21 towards their water costs
- Contract with insurance broker to provide low-cost household insurance scheme for SCC tenants – at end of 20/21 4,067 tenants were members of the insurance scheme, paying low premiums included in their weekly rent charge, with accidental cover and no limit on claims made. IMFIT are also working with national Government, and a small number of other large authorities, to identify ways to improve further the take up of household insurance for social housing tenants
- Played an important role in setting up a 'Vulnerable persons group' to support people affected by covid – attended by SCC teams, other housing providers in the city, NHS staff, Support agencies (inc Citizens Advice, Shelter, SOAR) Voluntary sector. This group shared information and helped to provide communications and advice to people affected by covid, as well as work through the many challenges faced by the Government's introduction of the Coronavirus Act 2020
- Promoting preventative measure to avoid legal recovery action wherever possible. This includes most tenants having the opportunity before legal action commences of a pre-legal interview/ appointment with a member of IMFIT's Court Team, to try and avoid legal action wherever possible. This approach saw the number of tenants evicted for rent arrears in 19/20 (precovid impact) at their lowest level for over 20 years
- Additional resources provided by IMFIT to support the increase in tenants being housed in temporary/ interim accommodation during the pandemic – helping people to claim housing benefit and pay any charges due
- Continue to provide tailored support to other particular vulnerable groups – elderly tenants in sheltered schemes, gypsy and travellers, Housing First tenants etc
- Continue to fund a dedicated debt support worker via Citizens Advice and refer those tenants with the most challenging financial needs.

**Aim 3:** We will continue to support citywide work to ensure our city is an inclusive and accessible place to live and visit. We will work with our partner organisations to raise awareness of hate crime and how it can be reported; and will continue to challenge discrimination, bullying and harassment.

**Update:** **AccessAble** is a digital directory detailing the access information for a variety of venues across the country. Sheffield City Council has a contract with AccessAble to review a number of venues across the city ranging from Council buildings, leisure venues, restaurants, shops and many more. As an organisation we understand that accessible means different things for different people which is why we think AccessAble is an important resource for our city and why we appreciate

AccessAble's approach of giving factual information without judgement. They currently work with 110 Local Authorities including all in South Yorkshire and 60 NHS Trusts and 101 education settings including Sheffield University and Sheffield Hallam University

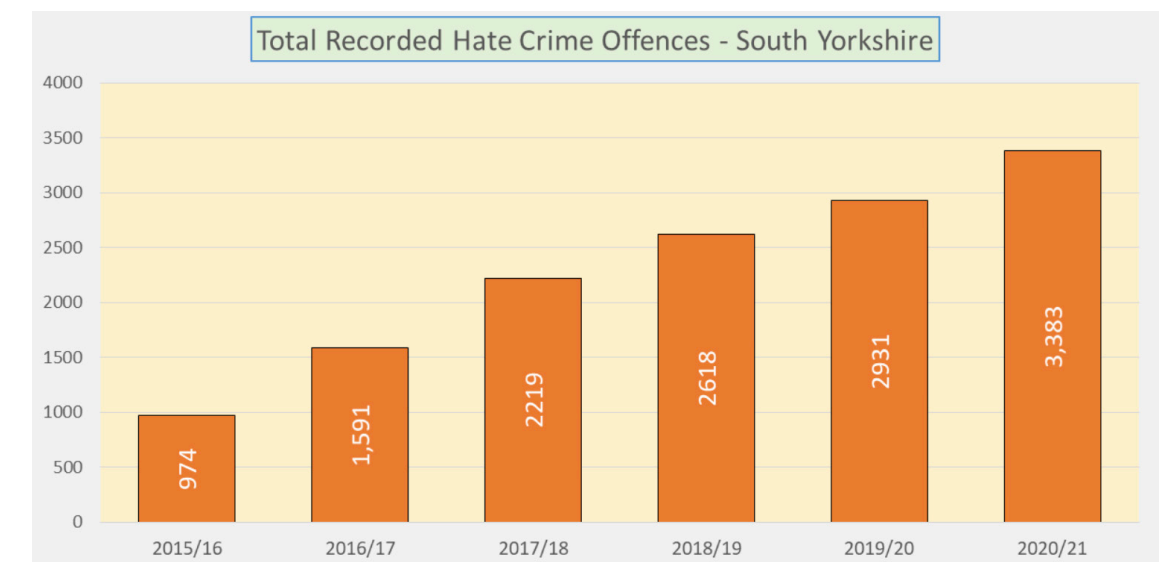
We are working with Disability Sheffield and AccessAble, to embed the guides across the Council to ensure people can access the guides efficiently. Work is ongoing with colleagues across the Council, and we are in discussion with the Business Improvement District. There are 359 reviewed venues across Sheffield

Last year there were 48,000 page views and 12,000 individual hits to the Sheffield Council part of the website. This has risen in the past year already.

**Transport 4 All** is a city-wide pan-disability group of disabled transport users that meets quarterly with the City Council, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and public transport operators in the city. The group advises on how to improve access to transport services for disabled people and move towards equal access. You can view and download the meeting minutes on the City Council website – after they have been approved by the next quarterly meeting. The group has continued to meet during Covid-19 but online - which has had its' pros and cons.

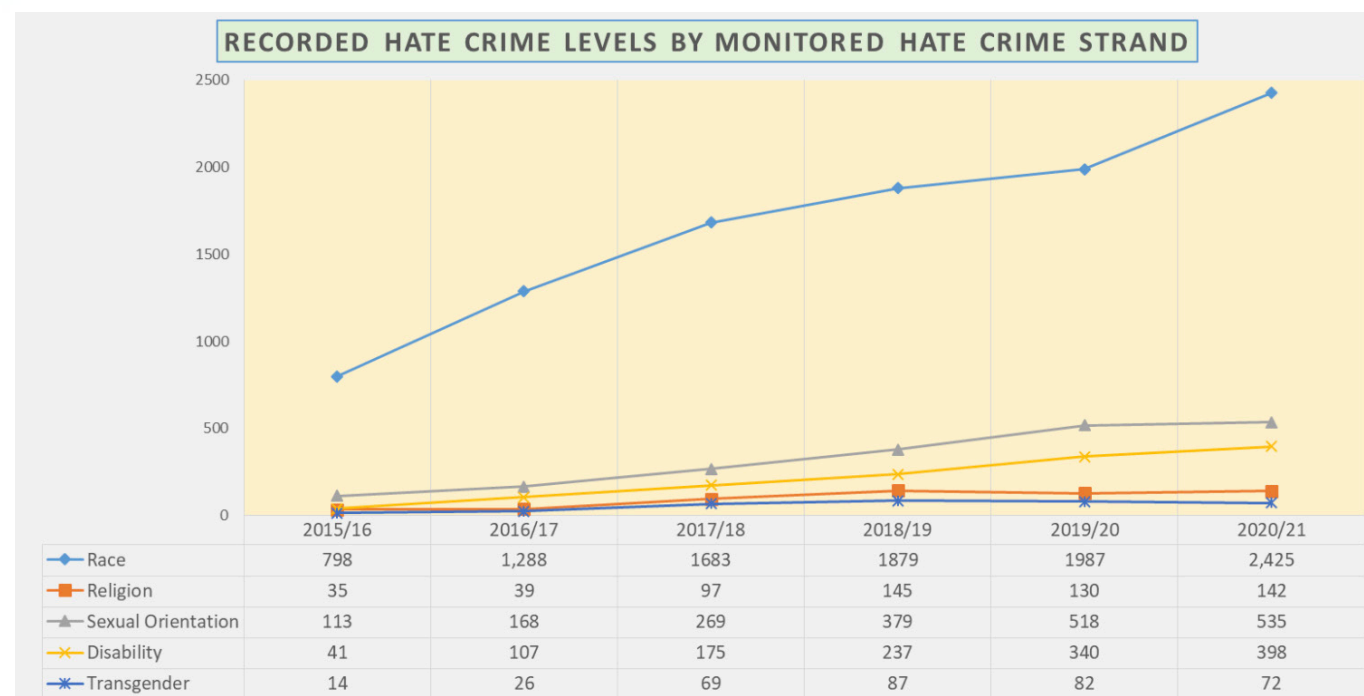
Public transport has been affected significantly by the pandemic, both in terms of existing passengers moving to work from home and self-isolation, social distancing, face covering etc requirements leading to a fall in patronage and therefore in service viability, as well as staffing issues as public transport staff themselves have been directly impacted. So there has been a lot of talk about in terms of day-to-day travel for disabled transport users. Looking ahead to 2022, the forthcoming Clean Air Zone and the South Yorkshire Bus Services Improvement Plan could provide an opportunity to input to improved access to better, cleaner, greener transport so long as this is properly resourced. Also the group has provided input to the Connecting Sheffield programme of projects to enable sustainable travel by public transport and active travel (cycling and walking).

#### Hate Crime in South Yorkshire 2020/2021

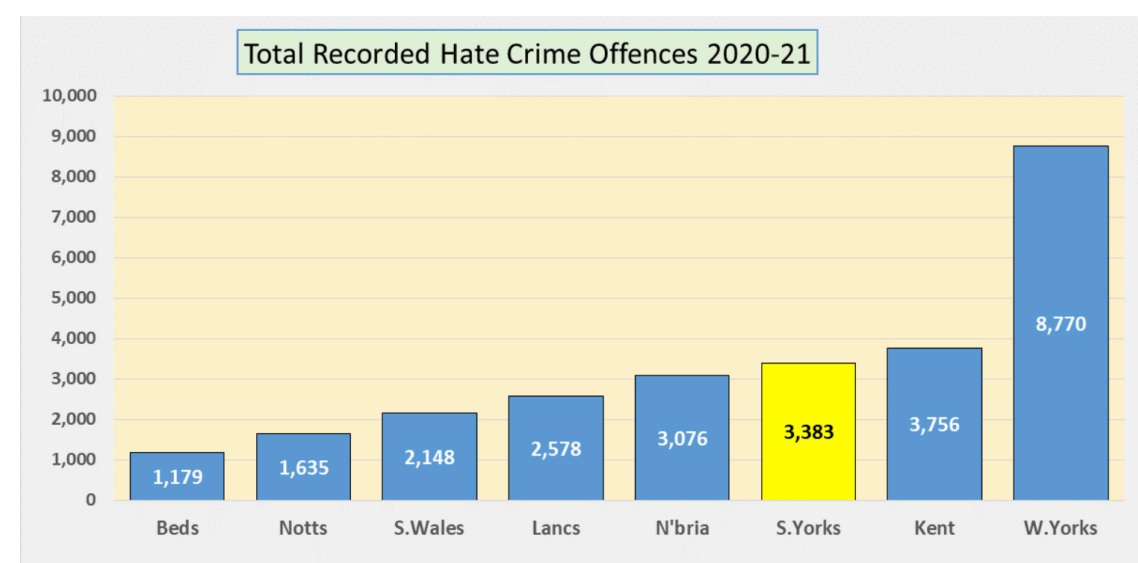


- The level of police recorded hate crimes in South Yorkshire has been increasing since 2015/16.
- In the year 2020/21 there were 3,383 hate crimes recorded in South Yorkshire.





- In the year 2020/21 racially motivated hate crimes accounted for 72% of the total recorded hate crimes.
- With the exception of transgender hate crime, all monitored strands of hate crime saw an increase in recorded levels in 2020-21 compared to the previous year



Source: ONS

- The chart above shows how South Yorkshire compares to our most similar police force areas for recorded levels of hate crime.
- South Yorkshire has the 3rd highest volume of these crimes compared to our most similar forces.

Sheffield City Council undertake internal hate incident and hate crime reporting for its employees (including third party reporting). More information is available on the internal our intranet with regard to the process, approach and contact details. Further work to be undertaken in HR on the role of the Contact Advisers in SCC and the support they offer to employees especially around dignity and respect issues.

## Objective 4:

### Break the cycle of inequality and improve life chances

**Aim 1:** We will focus on improving health and wellbeing in the city, especially for groups that experience poorer outcomes. We will ensure decent, inclusive, and accessible housing that promotes wellbeing. Health inequalities will also be a key focus of our revised Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and we will continue to join up and improve health and social care services to provide high quality and accessible care.

**Update:** continue to work with a wide range of partners on issues around healthy relationships, bullying and the wellbeing of young people and these are picked up by several groups working across Sheffield, for example the Healthy Relationships Group, the Sexual Health Network, RSE Forum, and the Domestic Abuse Steering Group. There has been ongoing work to support vulnerable children and families through our Strengthening Families Change Programme which includes families facing domestic violence. We recognise the increase in domestic violence following the pandemic and are responding to this through workstreams. We published a report of findings from a survey with Sheffield's children and young people on their experiences of Coronavirus and life in lockdown. 299 secondary school aged children took part in a questionnaire to allow us to understand the impact of Covid-19 on the wellbeing of children and young people in the city and utilise their thoughts and experiences to inform future service provision.

We insourced our Youth Services in October 2020 and as part of the commitment to Sheffield's young people have pledged to invest £2 million into our youth services to ensure that all young people make a successful transition from their teenage years into confident, happy, and successful young adults.

As part of our Covid-19 emergency response, we provided food vouchers to families during the October, Christmas, and February holidays as a recognition that many families continue to face financial difficulties because of the pandemic and in response we have committed to also provide vouchers for the children who are eligible for free school meals and those who access social care or MAST, or get income assessed Early Years support over the upcoming Easter holidays. Alongside providing food vouchers, a range of free holiday activities was made available for children and families to take part in as part of the Sheffield Healthy Holidays scheme.

As part of the Laptops for Kids project, the Council worked with Learn Sheffield and schools across the city to identify those children and young people who did not have access to a device. This identified a shortfall in computers and internet connectivity despite the Department of Education funded machines. The Council committed 1,000 pre-used laptops to school children of all ages and funding was made available to purchase at least a further 5000.

We launched a New Inclusion Strategy to support inclusion and the development of this included wide ranging engagement with stakeholders, parents and carers.

There has been ongoing work to support vulnerable children and families through our Strengthening Families Change Programme which includes supporting children on the edge of the care systems, families facing domestic violence and increasing the number of local foster carers

The Great Start in Life early years' strategy has refreshed Sheffield's previous early years' strategy and sets out Sheffield's ambitions for enabling all children aged 0 to 5 years are able to fulfil their potential including the city's most vulnerable families.

This strategy is integral to Sheffield's wider health priority of enabling good health and wellbeing throughout life.

We are key partners in the new South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency that brought four local authority services together to benefit children and their adoptive families through improving

access to a wider pool of adopters and children, as well as providing more timely matching, and consistent and comprehensive adoption support services across the region.

**Aim 2:** We will work with partners to ensure there are effective pathways into education, training, and employment (including apprenticeships) to enable young people to fulfil their ambitions. We will continue to work with schools and partner organisations from early years onwards, to ensure children have a great start in life and to close attainment gaps for disadvantaged pupils and children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

**Update:** we continue to work with partners to ensure there are effective pathways into education, training, and employment (including apprenticeships) to enable young people to fulfil their ambitions. We will continue to work with schools and partner organisations from early years onwards, to ensure children have a great start in life and to close attainment gaps for disadvantaged pupils and children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

- We work in partnership with the Department of Work Pensions on careers initiatives and activities to support young people and those who need additional support to gain access to employment
- We offer a wide range of apprenticeships as career routes into the Council
- We are developing virtual career events in partnership with the NHS to support young people into social care careers
- We are working with the Department of Education and other employers across the city to provide an interactive resource into schools showcasing key Council jobs to children from junior school upwards

We are working with the NHS on opportunities to offer Project Choice placements within the Council. We have established employment and skills programmes which have been designed to help and guide and support vulnerable and marginalised adults towards and into sustained employment. We work with partners in the community, voluntary and private sectors to deliver programmes for us. Our apprenticeships scheme incentivises employers to recruit disadvantaged 16-18-year-olds and other vulnerable people who may otherwise encounter difficulties accessing the labour market and our apprenticeship programmes encourages and supports the creation of on-the-job-training roles, helping to generate approximately 250 new employment opportunities every year.

We started a major consultation on our draft education strategy setting out nine priorities for the future of education in Sheffield: CoVID-19 Recovery; Curriculum development; Disadvantaged; Early Years; Inclusion; Innovation Hub; Leadership; School Improvement and Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). The draft strategy focusses on better outcomes for our pupils, particularly those from more disadvantaged background. The consultation is informing the Councils' final Education Strategy which will be published early in the new year.

In summer 2020 over 2000 children and young people from 64 schools across the city took part in the first ever Sheffield Children's University virtual ceremony which celebrate young people who have taken part in over 100 hours of learning activity in their own time.

To help parents, a home learning booklet for children, young people and families across the city was distributed in 2020 by the Sheffield Star. The resource was put together by schools across the city, Learn Sheffield, Sheffield City Council and Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust and included learning activities for all age ranges, as well tips and activities to support mental health, physical activity and healthy eating.

Opportunity Sheffield, (Sheffield City Council employment and skills service) have been working with the Voluntary, Community and Faith organisations in Sheffield over several years to target employment support for people with barriers to employment. Working closely with our partners Opportunity Sheffield were able to bid successfully for European social funded money to deliver the Pathways Programme.

The Pathways programme has been designed to support under-represented residents of Sheffield into or closer to employment

The programme addresses barriers to work and mitigation of the deterioration in skills and employability that takes place during extended periods of worklessness.

Programme outcomes include:

- Support for re-engagement with the labour market,
- progression into sustained paid employment, education or training and
- Tailored in work support

There have been a number of targeted projects offering bespoke employment support for BAME women, people with mental health conditions, people with learning and or physical disabilities, ex-offenders, care leavers, homeless, disadvantaged 18 -24 years.

The table below represents delivery from 2020 to 2021:

2020 - 2021 Pathways Adult Programme Outputs			
Indicator	P2P	P2S	Total
Total Participants	167	864	1,031
Unemployed, including long-term	89	462	551
Economically Inactive	78	402	480
Participants who are Ethnic Minorities	69	323	392
Participants with disabilities	26	232	258
Participants over 50 years of age	12	152	164
Positive outcome (active/employment/training)	92	443	535

The success of the Pathways programmes has led to closer collaboration with South Yorkshire Police and Sky.

Since the Apprenticeship Levy was introduced in April 2017 Sheffield City Council has been actively looking to increase its uptake of apprentices across all portfolio and service areas. A steering group was established in 2017 to include dedicated portfolio leads that work within Human Resources and Lifelong Learning Skills and Employment (LLS&E) in implementing their respective apprenticeship programmes.

These apprenticeships have been available for both new entrants and existing members of staff with an overall target of 179 apprenticeship starts annually, with no firm target set for new entrant vs existing staff.

We actively work with the voluntary community sector and various stakeholders across the city to ensure we are recruiting new apprentices from diverse communities. We record our equality monitoring data to further learn and understand what is working and how we can improve.



Demographics data report

	Candidates	Apprenticeship	Ratio		As % of Sheffield Poulation	As & % of Candidates	As % of successfully into Apprenticeships
Pakistani	14%	42.9%	44.44%	Pakistani	4%	9.27%	7.26%
Indian	5%	33.3%	42.86%	Indian	1.10%	0.90%	0.68%
Bangladeshi	2%	33.3%	57.14%	Bangladeshi	0.60%	0.90%	0.91%
Other Asian	3%	33.3%	100.0%	Other Asian	1%	0.26%	0.45%
African	4%	28.6%	63.64%	African	2.10%	1.42%	1.59%
Caribbean	5%	22.2%	22.22%	Caribbean	1.00%	1.16%	0.45%
Other Black	12%	20.8%	100.00%	Other Black	0.50%	0.13%	0.23%
Mixed	10%	20.0%	60.61%	Mixed	2.40%	4.25%	4.54%
Arab	31%	18.3%	66.67%	Arab	1.50%	0.77%	0.91%
Other	6%	18.2%	100.00%	Other	0.70%	0.64%	1.73%
White	3%	16.7%	57.85%	White	84%	80.31%	81.86%

The above demonstrates a distribution of ethnicity across SCC apprenticeship provision/support since August 2018. Our Programmes/Positions attract more candidates than would be expected against City indicators for Pakistani, Caribbean, and Mixed-Race backgrounds. This carries forward to “successful candidates” in all these demographics with the exception of Caribbean backgrounds where over double the number of starts is required to bring in-line with overarching City demographics. While the proportion of White background starts sits below the citywide population statistics, the data suggests that this group (along with Other, Arab, Mixed, Other Black, African, Other Asian, and Bangladeshi) are more likely to be successful in gaining an Apprenticeship as a proportion of overall candidate demographics.

An individual from a Pakistani, Indian, or Caribbean background is statistically less likely to secure an apprenticeship within Sheffield City Council provision.

The table below shows the make-up of learners since 2018/19 recording Learning Difficulties/Disabilities. The main two being Mental Health Issues and Dyslexia, both of which record unacceptable non-completion rates.

	Total (all LLD)	Withdrew/ Non-Completion
Mental Health Difficulties	14%	42.9%
Moderate Learning Mobility	5%	33.3%
Disabilty Affecting Mobility	2%	33.3%
Social/Emotional Difficulties	3%	33.3%
Hearing Impairment	4%	28.6%
Visual Impairment	5%	22.2%
Other Medical Conditions (ie. Epilepsy, Asthma, Diabetes)	12%	20.8%
Prefer not to say	10%	20.0%
Dyslexia	31%	18.3%
Other Physical Disability	6%	18.2%
Asperger's	3%	16.7%
Speech, Language and Communications	2%	0.0%
Dyspraxia	1%	0.0%

What have we learnt?

- Supporting young people into apprenticeships with disabilities, learning difficulties, low levels of prior attainment, from deprived areas and underrepresented ethnic groups is clearly a driving imperative of our existing activities and should be acknowledged.
- Candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds are statistically and significantly more likely to attain an apprenticeship within SCC provision than candidates from non-disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Acting on the impressive conversion rates recorded, more needs to be done to attract increased levels of candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds and so push the total volume of these learners/employees up within the SCC provision.
- There are lessons to be learned from our external employer partners around SCC and schools recruiting increased levels of learners with disabilities and those with an Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Schools need to be tasked with improving the volume of BME apprentices they recruit.
- SCC recruitment needs to improve specifically for Candidates from Caribbean and Other Black backgrounds.
- Retention of female learners from BAME backgrounds, Learning/disability backgrounds and those reporting mental health issues needs to become a priority within the service. Digging further into the data, these are often the same learners reporting these multiple characteristics.

It is important to note at this stage that recruiting services are given the option to recruit via a “pre apprenticeship course” (which we refer to as a “traineeship”) or through direct advertisement and application as would be the case for a standard graded position. Other than unique traineeships we have operated to target solely care leavers there is no specific criteria in place as to the background demographics of young people applying for SCC apprenticeship entry. As the demographic report highlights, we do attract and recruit above average volumes of learners from challenging backgrounds, but this is largely due to LLLS&E links to schemes and projects dedicated to supporting such young people perhaps more so than any corporate wide intention.

Through LLLS&E links and projects a greater volume of challenging candidates “ether the mix” than would occur organically and as a result more than would be statistically expected progress to an apprenticeship with SCC.

As a result of Covid-19 and its impact on employment opportunities for young people in Sheffield there is significant drive and funding within LLLS&E to support employers in creating opportunities for young people. However, the reality is that regardless how effectively LLLS&E can support employers in creating positions, there will be ess employment opportunities for young people in the near future than at any other time for over a decade. Young people that are most at risk within the labour market will be affected disproportionately.

**Aim 3:** We will work with the Police, health, specialist providers and other partner agencies to tackle domestic and sexual abuse. We will work with communities and interest groups on prevention, and ensuring key messages about healthy relationships, consent and sexual harassment are included in ‘relationships and sex education’ in the city. We will develop whole family working on domestic abuse that supports victims and children and holds perpetrators to account; and ensure services are accessible and meet the needs of our diverse communities.



**Update:** Sheffield Domestic Abuse Coordination Team (DACT) worked closely with providers to ensure that access to support could be maintained and options for access were promoted. A covid 19 information page was created on the DACT public facing website including a wealth of local and national information and initiatives. Campaigns were launched with Sheffield City Council Communications team promoting Crimestoppers for people worried about neighbours, the silent solution for people who needed to call the police discreetly, and the extended webchat offer from providers such as **IDAS**.



In order to understand need the DACT began monitoring referrals and helpline calls to IDAS (the key community based service on a weekly basis enabling live reporting to Safeguarding and Community Safety Boards. At the end of 2020/21 it was clear that lockdowns meant a drop in referrals as victims found it harder to access support, but these rose again when restrictions lifted so over all the increase appeared minor, however helpline calls and the proportion of cases assessed as being at high risk of serious harm or homicide had increased significantly:

Cases	52 week (08/04/19-05/04/20)	52 weeks (06/04/20-04/04/21)	0% increase
Helpline Contacts	3913	4738	21%
Referrals in	5352	5363	0.2%
High risk	840	978	16%

In response, the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference process which works to safeguard victims and their children who are high risk moved to operating as a conference call and additional meetings were scheduled most months to ensure cases were discussed in a timely manner.

In response to concerns that Black, Asian and other minoritized victims and survivors would face even greater barriers to accessing support during the pandemic, information cards (in English and a range of community languages) promoting council services and the Domestic Abuse Helpline were distributed to food banks.

The Council also worked closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that covid 19 related funding from central government (mostly the Ministry of Justice) was focussed on the right community based services including those serving the Black and Asian communities such as **Ashiana** and **Roshni**, and sexual abuse services. The Council also supported accommodation providers such as Sheffield Women’s Aid with guidance and practical assistance such as the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

A new dispersed safe accommodation project was launched in May 2020 thanks to central government funding – Safe Zones. This was designed to enable safe accommodation to male and LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse and for women with complex needs for whom refuge was not suitable. This began with 11 family units with intensive support but increased to 18 during the year.

A new model of working with families affected by domestic abuse started to be introduced during the year because of the concerns that domestic abuse would be escalating for some families, but that engagement was becoming more difficult. Therefore, professionals needed to increase their skills and become more domestic abuse informed in the current circumstances. The **Safe and Together** model that children’s and domestic abuse practitioners started to be trained on in spring /summer 2020 is one that is a child centred and a strengths based approach that seeks to develop the capacity and understanding of practitioners to safely respond to domestic abuse by partnering with the non-abusing parent. The model responds to domestic abuse by removing victim blaming and instead placing a specific focus on the perpetrator’s behaviours. It strengthens the ability of services to understand how the perpetrator is creating harm or the risk of harm to children and ensures that fathers who are perpetrators will be held to the same standard of parenting expectations as mothers. Setting high standards for fathers helps children because it guarantees a more comprehensive assessment of risk, safety and protective factors and increases the effectiveness of the system in engaging men to become better fathers. The programme continues to be rolled out across the city by trainers from SCC’s Strengthening Families specialist domestic abuse team working with social care in the council and trainers from IDAS.

**4.1 Supporting a Diverse Workforce: Employee Workforce Report**

As a Council we recognise the importance and value of employing staff which truly represent the diverse makeup of our city. Difference helps us thrive and we become a better Council by engaging with and including the different experiences and expertise of all our communities. We are committed to promoting fairness, equal opportunities, respect, and inclusion for all, across the entirety of Sheffield City Council.

Our workforce report 2020-2021 allows us to ensure that our employment practices are aligned with our Equality Objectives, and that we know where to prioritise equality initiatives, so they make the most impact. It is important that we continue to analyse and collate data to further our understanding and continue to improve our workforce diversity.

In addition to this, we have an Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) action plan in place to help us to achieve this.

The workforce report provides a detailed overview of our employee’s workforce data and we also produce specific reports on protected characteristics. Our data is compiled from our Workforce Census and we use the 2011 Population Census to determine if we are reflective of the city’s 16-65 population.

**Please note:** We are aware and have taken into consideration the upcoming ONS 2021 Census data, as we expect to see changes in population growth together with an increase in declaration which may mean we will need to do even more to fully reflect the city population.

According to the current data, our workforce does not reflect the demographics of the city in relation to all protected characteristics shown above. This under representation is particularly reflected at Chief Officer Level where there is also a disproportionately low percentage of BAME, disabled, LGBT+ and female employees.

Sheffield City Council Workforce Diversity Figures 2020-2021									
Carers	14.2%	Disabled	11.6%	BAME	15.7%	Male	39.2%	LGB+	4.3%
Non-carers	85.8%	Non-disabled	88.4%	White British	84.3%	Femaie	60.8%	Hetro-sexual	95.7%

The Sheffield City Council workforce at the **31st March 2021 is 8,212 employees**.  
This is an increase of 358 employees from last year

Our analysis shows that our overall workforce diversity during 2020-21 has slightly increased across all protected characteristics, with a particularly notable rise in the number of our staff who are unpaid carers, though as above, is likely to no longer be keeping pace with city demographic trends.

Key findings from the survey show:

- The overall diversity of the staff profile has marginally improved in all areas.
- The diversity of the city and the workforce in general is not reflected at senior levels. While the proportions of senior leaders who identify as BAME and LGB+ has increased this year, they still do not match with the overall staff profile and the percentages of female, disabled and senior leaders with caring responsibilities has fallen.
- Employee diversity tends to be better represented at our lowest grading banding. There has been an increase of women, disabled people and carer at this banding.
- Women are significantly over-represented in all parts of the workforce except senior roles (where they are however more in line with the city profile). The number of female employees has stayed relatively stable at approx. 60% of the workforce. Women tend to have lower ranking roles however and are disproportionately likely to work part time (79% of the part time workforce is female, and more than half of female employees work part time).
- Employees who have declared themselves as disabled has stayed stable at now at 11.6%. We know that high proportions of our disabled employees are in the higher age ranges (46+).
- Employees who identify themselves as unpaid carers has risen significantly 14.2% from 12.8% last year.
- Since 2015, employees who identify themselves as LGB+ has slightly risen to 4.3%
- There are different staff profiles in the three portfolios in Sheffield City Council. People has the most female, BAME and unpaid carer employees while Resources has the most disabled and LGB+ employees Place portfolio has the least diverse staff profile

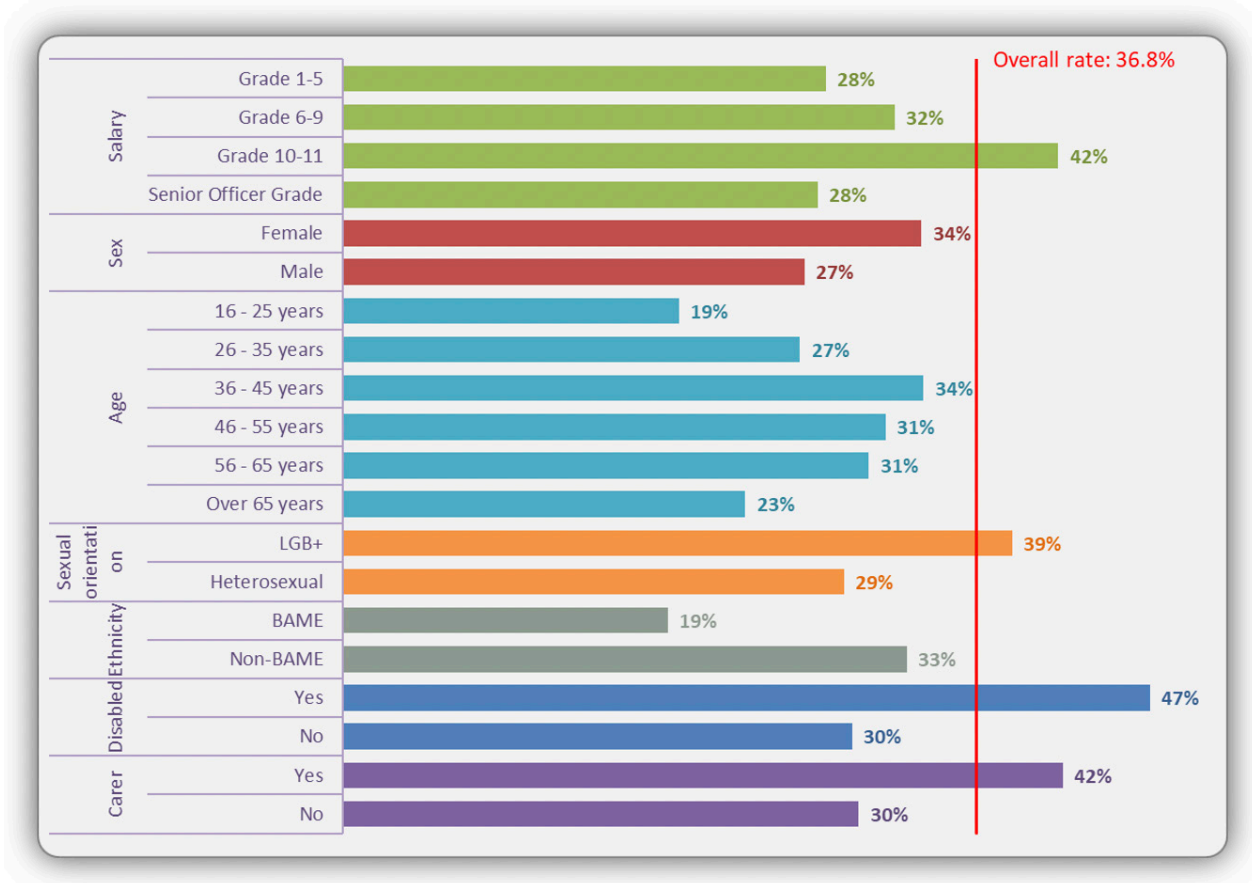
Portfolio	Proportion of Female Employees	Proportion of BAME Employees	Proportion of Disabled Employees	Proportions of LGB+ Employees	Proportion of Unpaid Carer Employees
People	77.3%	19.5%	12.4%	4.9%	15.7%
Place	41.5%	11.8%	10.1%	3.2%	12.7%
Resources	64.8%	14.6%	13.2%	5.4%	13.7%
SCC	60.8%	15.7%	11.6%	4.3%	14.2%

4.2 Covid 19 Response Employee Survey 2020

In place of the Annual Employee Opinion Survey, we felt it was important to get a real sense of how our employees were feeling during this incredibly different and difficult moment in history. This new unique way of working for many of our services, partner organisations and majority of sectors locally and nationally has ultimately transformed the way of working for years many years to come.

The main themes in this survey focused on communication, changes to IT, management support and health and wellbeing.

Response rate by grade and characteristics



Grade	Female		Male		BAME		Disabled		LGB+		Carer	
	SCC	Resp.	SCC	Resp.	SCC	Resp.	SCC	Resp.	SCC	Resp.	SCC	Resp.
Senior Officer Grade	48%	31%	52%	69%	7%	<10	5%	<10	3%	<10	17%	<10
Grades 10 to 11	57%	54%	43%	46%	13%	7%	10%	10%	6%	8%	11%	13%
Grades 6 to 9	59%	62%	41%	38%	15%	10%	11%	16%	4%	5%	13%	16%
Grades 1 to 5	62%	74%	38%	26%	17%	11%	12%	20%	4%	5%	12%	20%
SCC	60%	66%	40%	34%	16%	10%	11%	17%	4%	5%	13%	17%

Characteristics by grade

The table above shows breakdowns by grade for different protected characteristics, for SCC as a whole (SCC) and in Employee Survey responses (Resp).

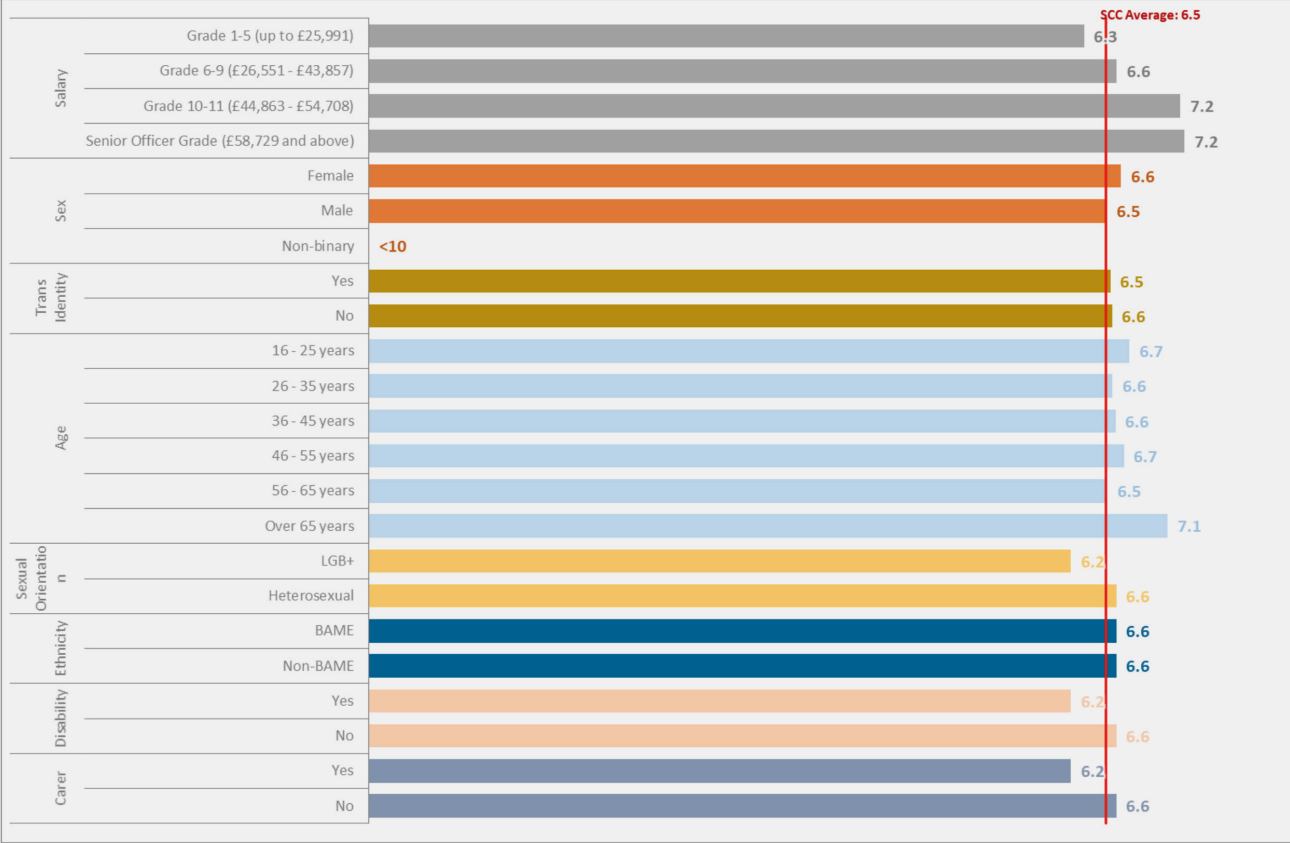
- For example, while females make up 48% of employees at senior officer grade within the council, only 31% of respondents at so grade stated their sex was female.
- At Grades 1-5 however, females were more likely to respond than males. Respondents at these grades were also more likely to state that they were disabled or that they were carers compared to both the SCC average and those who responded at higher grades.
- BAME respondents were under-represented at all grades.

These response rates are important because scores on many questions correlate with grade, and particular protected characteristics are more common in those at lower grades

Note: Respondents who did not answer, or selected 'Prefer not to say' are not included in percentages



Morale



Generally speaking, do you feel happy with your work?’ has been used as a proxy for morale

\* Indicates fewer than 50 responses in this group, highly positive or negative responses can have a great impact on overall scores where there are smaller numbers of respondents

Happiness with work increased with grade. Respondents who are LGB+, have a disability, are carers or employed in roles grade 1-5 scored below SCC average.

Respondents employed in grades 10 and above (including SO grades), and those over 65 years scored the highest.

Work Location and Morale

On average, those working from a combination of home and a worksite scored slightly higher than average (6.6), and those working entirely or mostly from a worksite scored slightly lower (6.4).

Females scored 0.3pt higher than males working mostly or entirely from home.

As with almost all questions, respondents who preferred not to state their characteristics or did not answer the question scored lower than those who did

Morale is correlated with grade, and grade is correlated to work location

- All Senior Officers were either working entirely from home or a combination of home and a worksite, and 92% of staff at Grade 10 or 11.
- In contrast, 24% of staff at Grade 1-5 were working entirely or mostly on a worksite.

	Female	Male	Non-binary	Not answered	Prefer not to say	Average
A combination of working from home and on a worksite	6.7	6.7	<10	5.8	5.5	6.6
Entirely or mostly from home	6.7	6.4	<10	6.0	5.5	6.5
Entirely or mostly on a worksite	6.4	6.5	<10	<10	5.8	6.4
Not answered	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Not currently working (eg. maternity leave, long term sickness, unable to work due to shielding)	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Average	6.6	6.5	<10	6.0	5.6	6.5

Covid 19 and Wellbeing

- 87% of respondents were aware of the COVID-19 health and wellbeing support pages on the Development Hub, and 30% had accessed them.
- 26% of BAME respondents had accessed the pages, compared with 31% of non-BAME respondents. 33% of respondents with a disability had accessed the pages, compared with 30% of respondents who did not have a disability
- Almost 99% of respondents were aware of the reasons why they might need to self-isolate. Awareness was high across all categories of characteristic.

Emerging Themes

- Scores on most questions for most protected characteristics are general comparable or slightly lower than averages for the organisation as a whole.
- A number of groups gave notably low scores for some of the questions around recognition and value, and while scores for recognition and value from customers tended to be similar across different groups, there was greater variation and scores in recognition from senior managers and elected members.
- This may be partly a result of the previously identified under-representation of particular groups at higher grades in the organisation, and the different ways of working during the Covid pandemic that have meant that some groups and employees in lower grades feel less visible to senior managers and elected members.

Staff Equality and Inclusion Networks (SEINs)

Our current staff networks are open to all employees that are interested in equality, diversity, and inclusion. It is a great way to stay updated with new organisational developments, share ideas and engage with different members of staff. The current staff networks also have subgroups which are characterised by the protected characteristics. These structures may be reviewed as we are aware that there is currently not a space for general wider staff engagement mechanisms that go beyond an employee’s identity. A hybrid approach to staff networks may be more suited, however further consultation/engagement with our employees is a necessity as we would like to understand what they would like to see across the organisation.

This is a potential piece of work, as conversations around these themes have started to emerge.

## Section 5

### 5.0 Reflections and looking ahead

The previous Annual Equalities Report (2019-2020) was written during the first national lockdown, since then we have successfully rolled out the Covid 19 vaccine, eased restrictions and life has slowly started to feel “normal” again.

Over the past year, we have experienced a wide array of changes in the way that we live, study, travel and work, society has adopted to new ways of operating whilst still navigating through the pandemic. The past 20 months has not been easy to say the least. We are starting to really understand and unpick the immense long-term impact

Covid 19 has had across every facet of our city. The gradual inclusive recovery phase of Covid 19 in Sheffield means continuous strong, long term, sustainable genuine partnership working with all sectors, organisations, communities, and businesses. The pandemic has really reinforced the invaluable resource of real community spirit, community action, togetherness, and collaborative working across our city.

As an initial step, we have designed the **One Year Plan** to build back better, empower our communities and create an even brighter fairer future for all people in Sheffield. A lot of work needs to be done, but the main foundations for long term change as well as immediate actions have been laid. The development of a 3–5-year corporate plan for the Council is an important step to ensure that all parts of the city is involved to create a longer inclusive and fair longer-term plan for Sheffield.

As a council we are also going through various changes, which is an opportunity to rebuild and strengthen our relationship with all our communities, review our decisionmaking processes which include Local area committee’s and the internal governance system - **transition to committees**. Further information will be available in next year’s Annual Equality Report.

Earlier this year, we also welcomed our new Chief Executive Kate Joseph’s to the Council. We are feeling optimistic and excited for our journey together in working towards a more inclusive, fairer, and equal Sheffield for us all.

Team Sheffield, we can do this.

## 5.1 Appendix

### Secondary references

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### Attached documents

Sheffield Equality Partnership Engagement work during Covid 19 (see attached)

Sheffield City Council Draft Workforce report (see attached)



This document can be supplied in alternative formats,  
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