

'Left behind' neighbourhoods in Bishop Auckland, County Durham

There are three wards identified as 'left behind' in Bishop Auckland: Woodhouse Close; Shildon and Dene Valley; and Coundon. They all suffer from significantly worse social and economic outcomes across a range of metrics when compared to the English average, with local residents experiencing worse health outcomes, poor educational attainment, higher levels of worklessness, lower living standards and poorer connectivity to access employment opportunities. In many instances, outcomes are also worse than other deprived areas, although unlike them being identified as 'left behind' means that they are lacking in the vital social infrastructure (such as accessible community places and spaces, and local civic institutions, networks and organisations) needed to mitigate the impacts of the challenges they face.

	Woodhouse Close	Shildon and Dene Valley	Coundon	Other deprived areas	England average
Community Needs Index 2019 Score*	137.69	132.72	145.09	78.12	68.40
Children aged 0-19 in relative low-income families (%)	39.8	42.4	31.8	33.5	18.7
Unemployment benefit (JSA and Universal Credit) (%)	5.5	5.9	5.4	7.6	4.1
Indices of Deprivation 2019 Education, Skills and Training Rank	5,831	7,253	5,093	6,186	16,446
People receiving Disability Benefits (%)	13.8	12.2	12.8	9.7	6.0
Community Needs Index: Connectedness score*	73.5	90.8	88.2	33.7	21.3

Source: Local Insight by OCSI/Local Trust.

*Higher performing scores for these composite indices indicate higher levels of need.

Gaunless Gateway Big Local

Named after the River Gaunless which flows through Bishop Auckland, the area is also one of 150 communities to each be given £1.15m as part of the [Big Local programme](#). It has benefitted from Local Trust investment over the long-term, and has employed a resident-, community- and asset-led approach to tackling local issues. Gaunless Gateway Big Local is one of 36 Big Local areas with a geographical footprint that overlaps wholly or partially with a ward identified as 'left behind'. (In total, 25 Output Areas in Gaunless Gateway fall within Woodhouse Close, 64% of the total Output Areas in the Big Local area).

Please see [this link](#) for more information on the indicators used in table above

As a result, like other areas identified as 'left behind', Gaunless Gateway Big Local suffers from high levels of deprivation across all metrics. Despite these challenges, community members have directed Big Local funds towards a wide range of successful projects that have created places to meet, build connections in the community, and addressed cost-of-living pressures faced by people in the area:

- A long-term partnership focused on creative arts (Daisy Arts) "I just feel better for being here"
- An employment hub for disabled young people (Bridge Creative CIC)
- Table tennis club
- Bursary scheme for college leavers to complete apprenticeship element of trade qualifications
- Employment workshops
- Support to a Crisis and Welfare service

The investment has made a considerable difference to what is happening in Woodhouse Close, in strengthening the local community and improving local outcomes, and in providing assistance for local people. Jobs have been created, volunteer opportunities have been enabled and groups have been formed allowing the community to meet up in a safe space. Within these local community hubs educational outreach drop in sessions have been held, along with crisis intervention such as debt management and credit union services.

The Big Local group of residents has also succeeded in ensuring that funded projects meet the needs of local residents, and has formed strong partnerships with other organisations and agencies. This contrasts with the other 'left behind' wards of Counden to the east of Bishop Auckland, and Shildon and Dene Valley which borders Woodhouse Close, which have not benefitted from the same investment to support a community-led approach as seen in Gaunless Gateway.

Appendix: 'left behind' neighbourhood ward overviews

Woodhouse Close

Home to 8,542 residents.

Deprivation

Woodhouse Close is notably more deprived than the national average with an Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019: Score of 45.74, compared with 21.76 across England as a whole.

Community

Woodhouse Close has higher needs on the Community Needs Index with a score of 137.69 compared with an average score of 68.40 across England as a whole. This area therefore has higher social infrastructure challenges in addition to higher levels of deprivation.

Child poverty

39.8% of children are in households which experience relative low income in Woodhouse Close, compared with 18.7% across England. Relative low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs

(BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

Employment

5.5% of working age adults in Woodhouse Close are unemployed (economically active but out of work and in receipt of unemployment benefits - Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit – in the searching for work category). This is notably higher than across England as a whole (4.1%).

Education

The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 Education Skills and Training Domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills. The 'Children and Young People' sub-domain measures levels of pupil attainment, absence, and participation in further and higher education and the 'Adult Skills' sub-domain measures the lack of qualifications in the resident working age adult population. Woodhouse Close experiences higher levels of education deprivation than elsewhere in England, with an average rank on the Education Skills and Training domain of 5,831, compared with 16,446 across England.

Health

13.8% of working age adults (ages 16-64) are in receipt of Disability Benefits in Woodhouse Close. This is considerably above the average across England as a whole (6%). The two disability benefits included in this measure are Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment (PIP). PIP helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health. DLA is payable to children and adults who become disabled before the age of 65, who need help with personal care or have walking difficulties because they are physically or mentally disabled.

Connectivity

Woodhouse Close suffers from issues with connectivity. The Connectedness score is 73.5, compared to 21.3 across England as a whole (meaning the area is likely poorly connected).

Shildon and Dene Valley

Home to 13,364 residents

Deprivation

Shildon and Dene Valley is notably more deprived than the national average with an Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019: Score of 42.68, compared with 21.76 across England as a whole.

Community

Shildon and Dene Valley has higher needs on the Community Needs Index with a score of 132.72 compared with an average score of 68.40 across England as a whole. This area therefore has higher social infrastructure challenges in addition to higher levels of deprivation.

Child poverty

42.4% of children are in households which experience relative low income in Shildon and Dene Valley, compared with 18.7% across England.

Employment

5.9% of working age adults in Shildon and Dene Valley are unemployed (economically active but out of work and in receipt of unemployment benefits - Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit – in the searching for work category). This is notably higher than across England as a whole (4.1%).

Education

The ward experiences higher levels of education deprivation than elsewhere in England, with an average rank on the Education Skills and Training domain of 7,253, compared with 16,446 across England.

Health

12.2% of working age adults (ages 16-64) are in receipt of Disability Benefits in Shildon and Dene Valley. This is considerably above the average across England as a whole (6%).

Connectivity

Shildon and Dene Valley suffers from issues with connectivity. The Connectedness score is 90.8, compared to 21.3 across England as a whole (meaning the area is likely poorly connected).

Coundon

Home to 4,417 residents

Deprivation

Coundon is notably more deprived than the national average with an Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019: Score of 42.83, compared with 21.76 across England as a whole.

Community

Coundon has higher needs on the Community Needs Index with a score of 145.09 compared with an average score of 68.40 across England as a whole. This area therefore has higher social infrastructure challenges in addition to higher levels of deprivation.

Child poverty

31.8% of children are in households which experience relative low income in Coundon, compared with 18.7% across England.

Employment

5.4% of working age adults in Coundon are unemployed (economically active but out of work and in receipt of unemployment benefits - Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit - in the searching for work category). This is notably higher than across England as a whole (4.1%).

Education

Coundon experiences higher levels of education deprivation than elsewhere in England, with an average rank on the Education Skills and Training domain of 5,093, compared with 16,446 across England.

Health

12.8% of working age adults (ages 16-64) are in receipt of Disability Benefits in Coundon. This is considerably above the average across England as a whole (6%).

Connectivity

Coundon suffers from issues with connectivity. The Connectedness score is 88.2, compared to 21.3 across England as a whole (meaning the area is likely poorly connected).

July 2022