



Figure 1: Balby Ward.



# Balby

## Community Profile

**Well Doncaster**

**Community Led Health and Wealth**

Empowering people in Doncaster to live better, healthier, and happier lives.

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Well Doncaster  
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**Be Well**



**City of  
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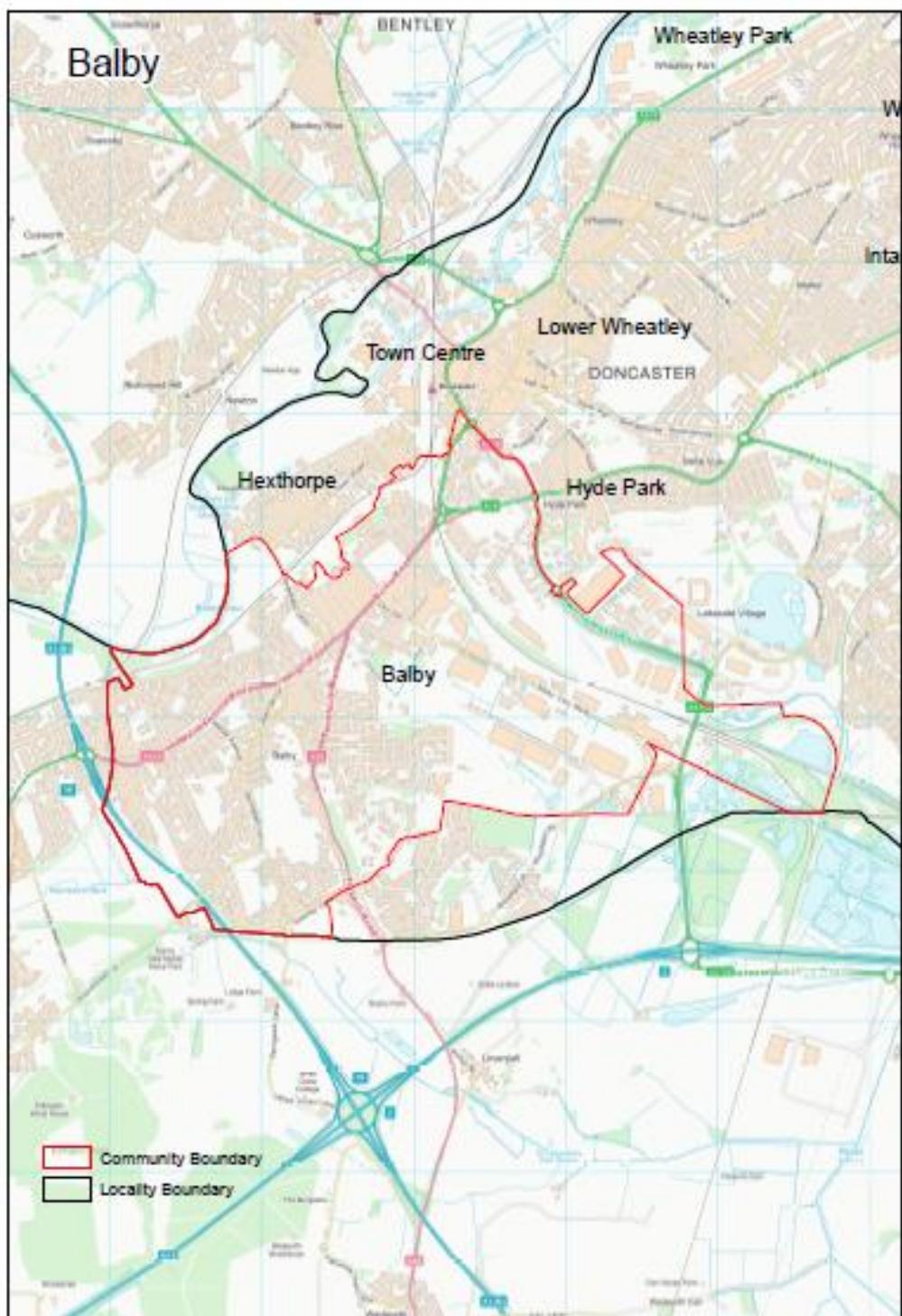


Figure1: Balby Ward

# This Report

This report uses a population health management approach to look at the health of a whole group of people—like a town, neighbourhood, or community—instead of just focusing on one person at a time. It is designed to help community leaders, services, residents etc. understand what strengths of both people and place, whilst also looking into what health problems are common in that group, what services are needed most, and where help is lacking.

By using data and trends, this Community Profile can inform tailored ways to keep people healthy, prevent illness, and make sure everyone gets the care they need. By focusing on prevention, early intervention, and coordinated care, together we can build healthier communities and support long-term, sustainable improvements in public health. The first Community Profile was written in 2023 and has been refreshed in 2025 to reflect the current opportunities and challenges of the community.

This report focuses on the community of Balby South and Balby North, part of the Hexthorpe and Balby North and Balby South wards in the Central locality of the city and begins with a summary outlining key information and priorities. This document includes conversations with communities, ward members, community organisations, faith groups, residents and other organisations who work in the area. This document is shared with the intention of supporting those conversations and sharing information that might not be readily available to local people.

To ensure each community is represented as accurately as possible, where possible, separate data and illustrations have been used. Data that is only available at ward level will be stated when included. Indirectly Standardised Ratios (ISRs) have been used throughout this document and have been used to compare data at community and ward level, against a reference population. ISRs show how often an event (such as deaths or hospital admissions) occurs in a population compared to what would be expected in a reference population, after adjusting for age differences. England is used as the reference population for ISR's throughout the document.



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# Balby North



**45.7% of Year 6 children are overweight or obese in Balby North**



**Balby North has 68.7% of child poverty. The highest in Doncaster**



**Balby North has the highest proportion of deaths in under 75's**



**Balby North is the 5<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Doncaster**



**13.5% of residents in Balby North are from the BAME community**



**35% of Balby North children are only active once a week**

# Balby South



45.8% of Year 6 children are overweight or obese in Balby South

Balby South has 53% of child poverty. The 5<sup>th</sup> highest in Doncaster

Balby South has the highest proportion of deaths in under 75's



Balby South is the 11<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Doncaster

Balby South has a younger-than-average population

31% of Balby South children are only active once a week

# One Page Summary

Balby community spans across two wards: Hexthorpe and Balby North and Balby South. Hexthorpe and Balby Bridge are part of the border that surrounds the City Centre. Balby has a younger than average population with over half being of working age. According to the Census 2020 87.4% of residents identify as 'White' in Balby North, this is higher than the national average (81%).

Many residents in Balby are living with multiple levels of deprivation including St Peter's Road, Balby, which ranks in the top 10 most deprived areas in Doncaster. Almost half of the population across Balby ward is living in deprivation.

A high number of children do not meet development milestones and there is a higher level of childhood obesity compared to the Doncaster and national average. Teenage pregnancies are the highest across Balby wards.

People in Balby have a lower life expectancy and many residents are living with conditions related to lifestyle choices, including smoking, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD), lung cancer and emphysema. A substantial number of preventable deaths occur in people aged 75 and under.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation is higher in Balby (44) compared to Doncaster (30.5) and ranks as the 11<sup>th</sup> most deprived community across the borough.

Development of green spaces is high on the local agenda, and there are different spaces available to explore and engage in physical activity. Westfield Park has been part of the Get Doncaster Moving Future Parks incentive and now features on one of the walks as part of Ride, Stride and Thrive, a program to get more people involved in active travel across Doncaster.

## Key Community priorities

- Poverty: Including child poverty, fuel poverty, poverty in older people, unemployment, and long-term unemployment
- Child development: Including weight management
- Preventing premature deaths specifically linked to lifestyle choices: COPD, Lung cancer, coronary heart disease
- Mental health awareness including self-harm, loneliness, and isolation.

## Assets

Well Doncaster use a community centred approach which allows investment in supporting, working with, and empowering communities to facilitate a healthy community. The voice and role of our communities and taking a strength/assets-based approach to work with individuals, families and communities is crucial to the achievement of our overall vision.

## Asset Maps

The maps seen in Figures 2, 3, and 4 show the different types of assets across Balby. These have been mapped using ward boundaries, therefore, some assets in Hexthorpe are included. Please refer to the [appendix](#) for larger maps.

This area covers any form of business open for trading, including betting shops, cafés, and supermarkets.



## Business Assets

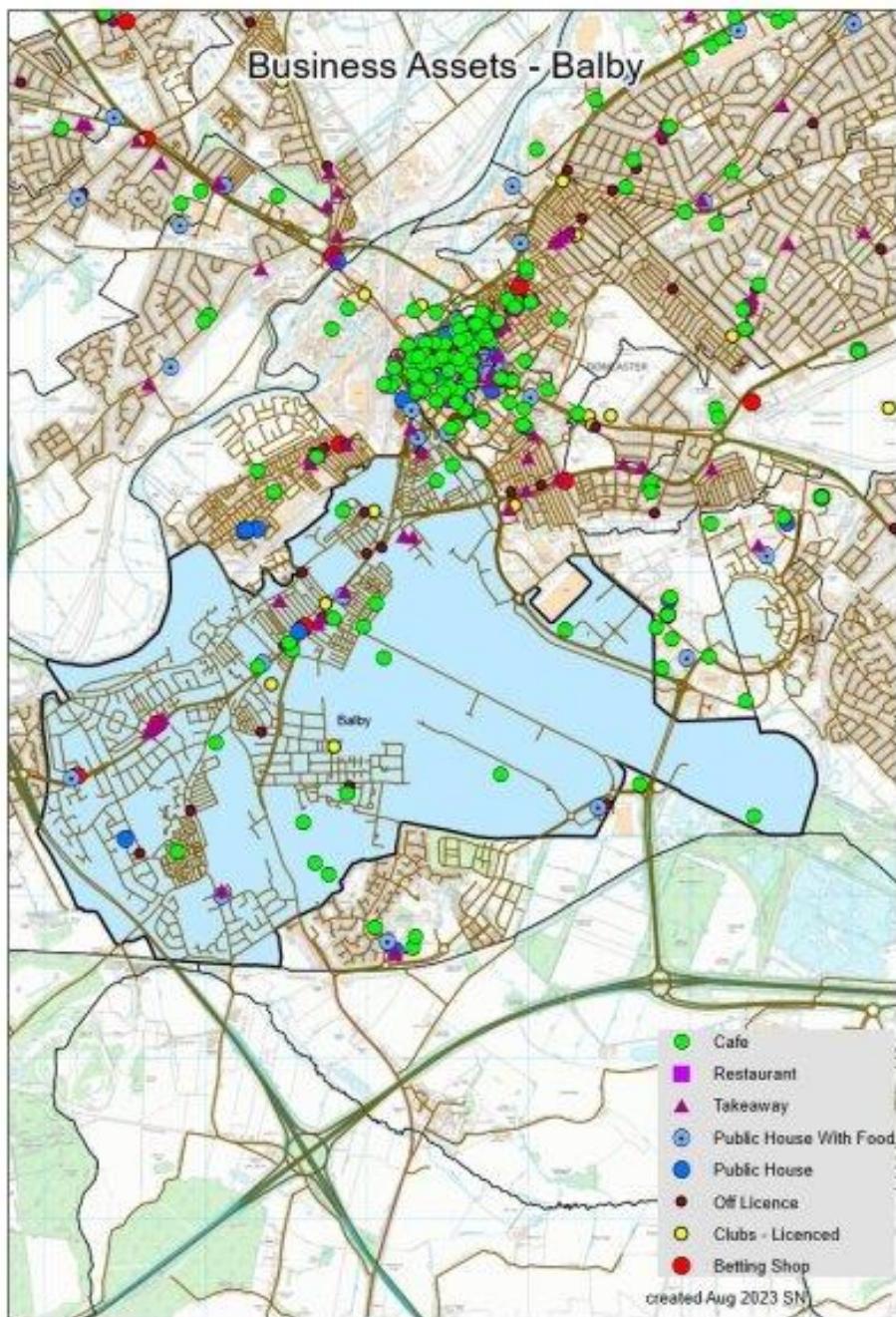


Figure 2: Business Assets – Balby Ward

## Community Assets

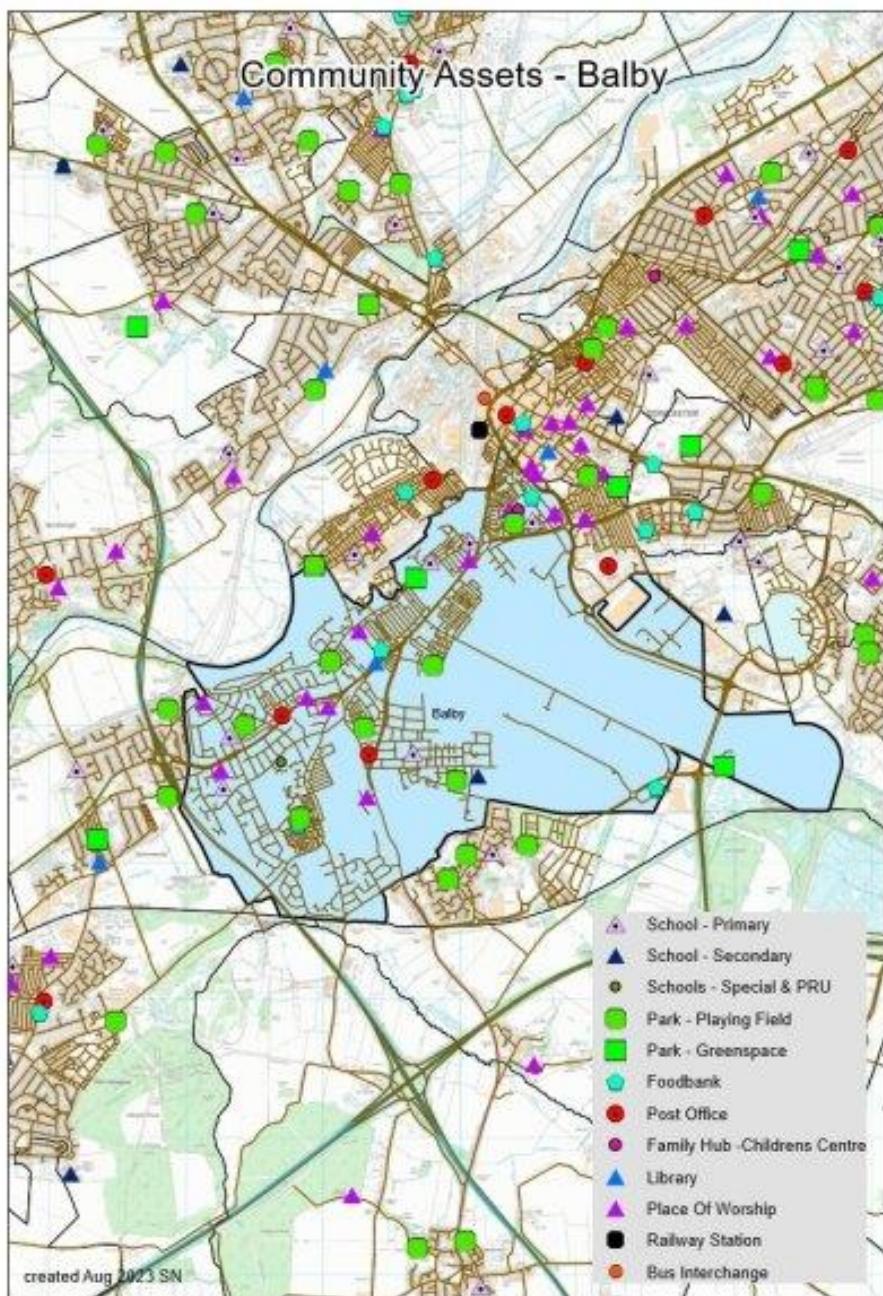


Figure 3: Community Assets – Balby Ward

## Health Assets

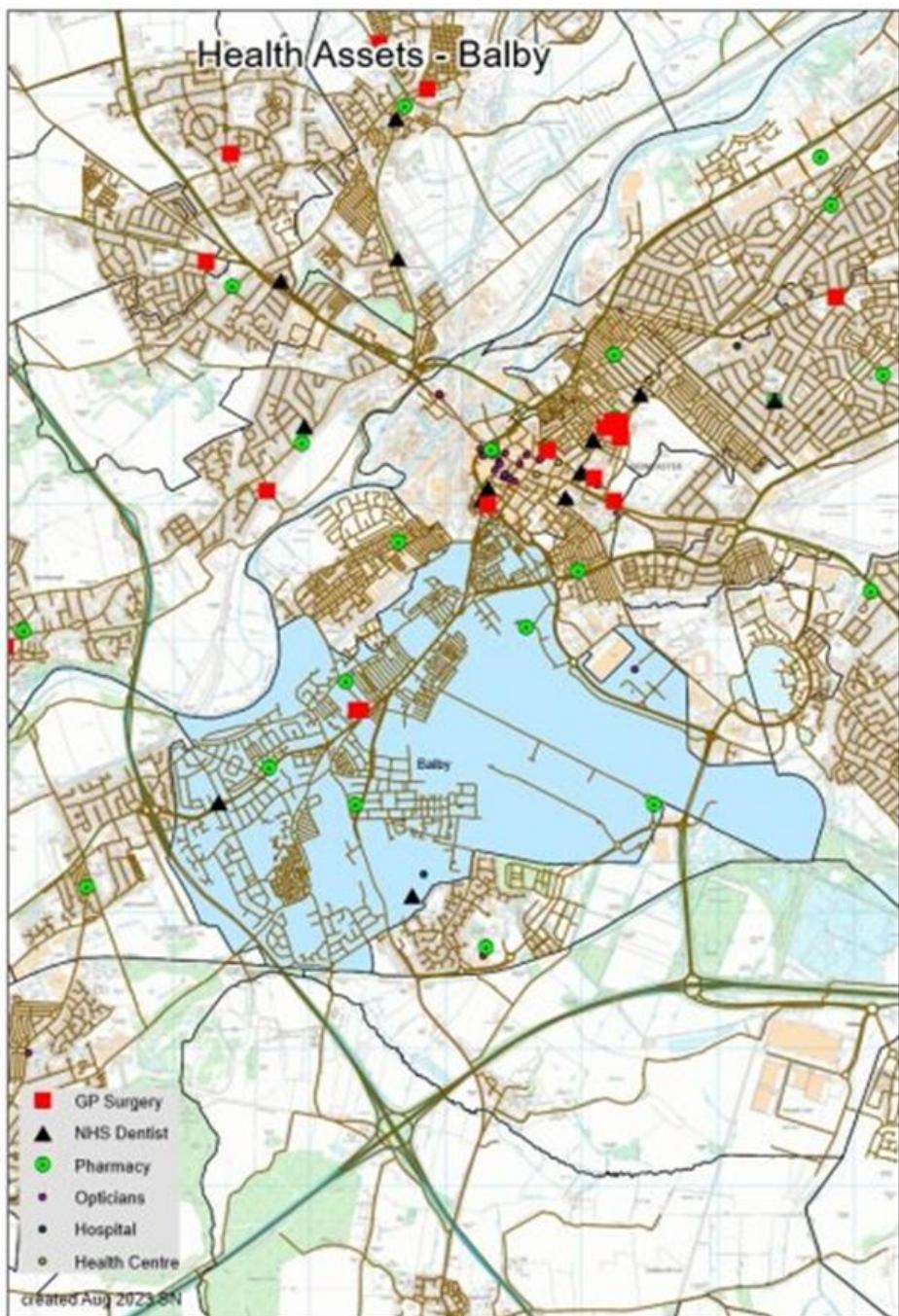


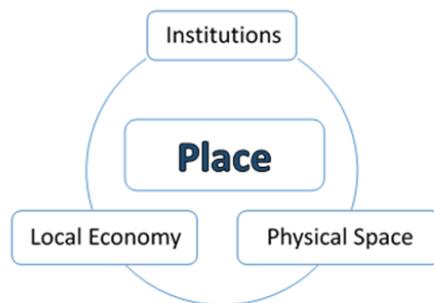
Figure 4: Health Assets – Balby Ward

## Population Health Management

It is vital to understand the impact on the community of nationwide influencing factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis as well as local and regional issues and opportunities. Understanding community organisations and other assets operating in the community helps us to ensure appropriate and targeted support can be offered, and work can be implemented to manage any gaps or risks associated with changes. Well Doncaster undertake regular population health management insight with community organisations in Hexthorpe, identifying their current status and needs, and work with each group and partners to meet their goals. This is a living document and will be updated and adapted as needs are met and change. If you would like more detail on this, please contact [welldoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:welldoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk)

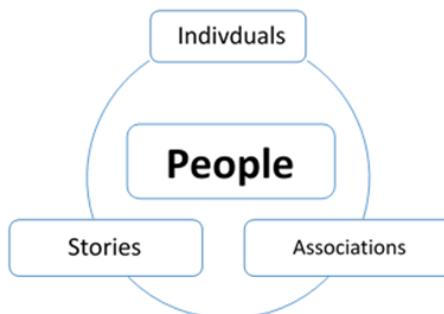
## Assets in the Community

As part of a population health management approach, the following assets have been identified and themed around place and people:



Institutions (Schools/colleges etc.)	Physical space (Parks, carparks etc.)	Local Economy (Local profit Businesses)
<p><b>Schools:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Woodfield Primary school</li><li>• Balby Central Primary School</li><li>• Mallard Primary school</li><li>• Astrea Academy Woodfield's</li><li>• Sycamore Hall Preparatory school</li><li>• Bright beginnings day nursery &amp; pre school</li><li>• Carr Lodge Academy</li><li>• Balby Carr Community Academy</li><li>• Waverley Primary Academy</li><li>• St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary school</li></ul> <p><b>Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Scott Practice</li></ul>	<p><b>Green space:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potteric Carr Nature Reserve</li><li>• Coronation Road Playground</li><li>• Westfield Park</li><li>• Oswin Avenue Play area</li><li>• Waverley Avenue Playground</li><li>• Woodfield Park</li><li>• Stirling street playground</li><li>• Bayford Road Park</li><li>• Stevenson Road Park</li><li>• Walpole Close Park</li></ul> <p><b>St Leger communal halls:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Westbourne Gardens</li><li>• Evanston Gardens</li></ul>	<p><b>Food &amp; Beverage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• McDonalds (Sandford Rd)</li><li>• Platform Café (Exemplar Health care)</li><li>• Woodfield Farm &amp; Carvery</li><li>• Balby Bridge Social club</li><li>• The Coffee Club</li><li>• The Roadside Café</li><li>• Café on the Corner</li><li>• The bakery shop- Averley</li></ul> <p><b>Shops/ Supermarkets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lidl (Sandford Rd)</li><li>• Various supermarkets, convenience stores &amp; takeaway shops (Balby Road)</li><li>• B &amp; Q</li><li>• Balby Boutique</li><li>• Balby Carpet Centre</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St John's Group Practice</li> <li>• St Catherine's hospital</li> <li>• James Cooper</li> </ul> <p><u>Other Community institutes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Library</li> <li>• Ashworth Barracks Museum</li> <li>• Scarborough Barracks</li> <li>• Doncaster Wheatsheaf Singers</li> <li>• The Platform Café</li> </ul> <p><u>Religious:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sikh temple</li> <li>• St John's church</li> <li>• Church of the Sacred Heart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galsworthy Close</li> <li>• Linney Centre</li> <li>• Waverley Community Centre</li> </ul> <p><u>Other:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balby Library</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Woodfield Park Community Hall</li> <li>• Doncaster BMX track</li> <li>• The Labour Hall</li> </ul> <p><u>Assisted Living</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedars Care home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Roman Party Shop</li> <li>• V&amp;A antiques shop</li> <li>• Balby Bridge food and wine</li> </ul> <p><u>Fitness &amp; Gym facilities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuffield Health</li> <li>• Fitness Village Balby</li> <li>• Woodfield Squash and Leisure Club</li> <li>• Balby Carr Sports Centre</li> <li>• Danum Cross fit</li> <li>• ACMAC Martial Arts Balby</li> </ul> <p><u>Care homes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ivy Court</li> <li>• Quarry fields Learning Disability Service</li> <li>• Heathcote's Care home</li> </ul> <p><u>Other:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amazon Warehouse</li> <li>• Holiday Inn</li> <li>• One Call Insurance</li> <li>• Industrial Business Park (Balby Carr Bank)</li> <li>• Various car dealerships/garages</li> <li>• J M McGill x 3</li> <li>• M I Weldricks</li> <li>• Rowlands Pharmacy</li> <li>• Balby Late Night Pharmacy</li> <li>• Post Office (Warmsworth Rd)</li> <li>• Doncaster Mail Centre</li> </ul>
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INDIVIDUALS (Key Individuals within the community)	ASSOCIATIONS Local Groups/Clubs	STORIES (Good news stories)
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Explorers</li> <li>Ward Members</li> <li>Community leaders</li> <li>Well Doncaster officers</li> <li>Stronger communities' team</li> <li>PCSO's</li> </ul>	<p><u>Support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DN4 Dominion Neighbourhood watch</li> <li>Balby South Community Engagement Society</li> <li>Pioneer Solutions Ltd</li> <li>Doncaster Live at Home Scheme</li> <li>Befriend</li> <li>Flourish Enterprise</li> <li>Wildings &amp; Wellbeing CIC (Community Interest Company)</li> <li>Live at home</li> <li>Dice</li> </ul>	<p>St John's Church, Balby have supported hundreds of families over lockdown, been successful with several funding applications which has enabled them to make the building covid secure and continue community support.</p>
	<p><u>Children:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spark Youth Club</li> <li>Pif Paf Children's Entertainment</li> <li>Balby Family Hub &amp; Children's centre</li> </ul>	<p>Alun says <i>"I want to thank you for the great support you have given during this time. The grants awarded have helped make us sustainable so that we are more confident going forward."</i></p>
	<p><u>TARA (Tenants and residents association) groups:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balby Bridge TARA</li> <li>Balby Littlemoor TARA</li> <li>Balby West TARA</li> </ul>	<p>More recently, St John's church have employed a foodbank manager, and Alun says <i>"We are very grateful for grants to enable us to employ Sharon from National Lottery Community Fund, Doncaster Council Fight Back Fund, and South Yorkshire Community Fund"</i></p>
	<p><u>Other groups/ activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knit and Natter</li> <li>Bingo</li> <li>Friends of Woodfield Park</li> <li>B:Friend History club</li> <li>Walk and talk around Woodfield Park</li> <li>Balby Community Arts</li> <li>Yorkshire Bike Shack</li> <li>Dadsley Crafting CIC</li> <li>Woodfield Binvincibles (litter picking group)</li> <li>Balby North PAG (Positive Action Group)</li> <li>Balby South PAG</li> </ul>	
	<p><u>Sport clubs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodfield Squash &amp; Leisure Club</li> <li>Balby Athletic</li> <li>ACMAC Martial Arts Balby</li> <li>Doncaster Grace Ju Jitsu</li> <li>Doncaster BMX Racing</li> <li>Eves trust Dynamos Juniors</li> </ul>	

# Community Insight

## Appreciative Inquiry

The Well Doncaster Team undertake Appreciative Inquiry (AI) within communities to gather insight to support co-designing action plans with the community. Armstrong (2020) suggests in his work 'A changing world, again, how Appreciative Inquiry can guide our growth' that reframing the questions and drawing on strengths and assets from past positive experience will help participants as they restructure their community. The AI questions are structured to pull on the successes of the past and present, to seek new potentials and possibilities and to build on those through the Dream and Design stages.

The Appreciative Inquiry includes the following steps:

1. **Discovery Phase** – This will involve engagement with the residents of Hyde Park to find out what is working well in the community. Responses will be themed to allow priorities of the community to be established.
2. **Dream** – Residents and key stakeholders will be invited to attend an initial workshop to discuss what ideas they have for their community and how these will meet the priorities highlighted in the discovery phase.
3. **Design** – All attendees are invited back for a second workshop to develop an action plan to direct work for the community.
4. **Destiny** – A collaborative way of working and investing resources to meet the actions from the previous phase.

The themes that were identified during the discovery phase are below and strengthen previous insight:

- Green Spaces
- Connectivity
- Community
- Family Friendly
- Housing and amenities

Appreciative inquiry has continued in communities across Doncaster, helping to understand the priorities of each community, inform decision making and contribute to resident-led community development. The most recent thematical framework up to March 2025 is shared below with commentary and themes from 217 conversations with residents from Balby.

Theme	Sub theme	Quotes	Commentary
Connectivity	Public Transport	BP-23-54-Close to town, close to bus and train station.	When asked what is good about where they live, residents in Balby commonly refer to the connectivity of the area - shaping how they move, work, and engage with their

		<p>BP-23-60-the motorway is close so I can get to work quickly.</p> <p>BP-23-85-Close to trains and buses, a1 Close by, m1.</p> <p>BP-24-95 - In between town and countryside so best of both worlds for accessibility</p> <p>BP-24-114- Can get to pretty much anywhere where i live. I work in Edington. The transport links are good. Easy to get to work, Lidl, town. Very accessible.</p> <p>BP-24-4139 "Good roads. there have been changes to them and it is better. they cycle lanes are great I like to get around and travel and Balby is close to everything".</p> <p>BP-24-4921 "It is nice to be able to have access to different things and be able to get to places that are further away when I don't drive".</p> <p>BP-24-5149 - Close to town - walking there sometimes. Bus connection from old Hexthorpe.</p> <p>BP-25-504 - Access is important to get to work.</p> <p>BP-25-130 - It means I can walk to school with my friends and its easy and cos we are in the same class</p> <p>BP-25-1058- It is really close so the shops and to town.</p>	<p>surroundings. Many value the ease of accessing public transport, with nearby bus and train stations offering a sense of freedom, especially for those who don't drive. This access allows them to reach shops, workplaces, and services without hassle. Being close to the city centre is also seen as a major advantage, making it possible to walk or take a short ride into town. For those who commute, good road links and links to the A1 and M18 are appreciated for making travel to work quicker and more straightforward.</p> <p>Residents also express a strong appreciation for being able to walk or cycle locally. Whether it's walking to school with friends or using the recently developed cycle lanes, active travel is seen as both practical and enjoyable.</p> <p>It is important to note that residents in Hexthorpe have not felt as well connected as those in Balby, with some feeling that the link between these two areas is not supported by sufficient infrastructure for those unable to drive.</p>
Amenities		<p>BP-23-21- Yorkshire Bike Shack- take my bike to get fixed.</p> <p>BP-23-23- the Linney centre is great they look after us it's like coming to see your mother.</p> <p>BP-23-41-close to the city centre and local shops, everything I need is on my doorstep.</p> <p>BP-23-45-everything I need is close by and I don't have to travel too far.</p> <p>BP-23-52-Good school, good community facilities</p> <p>BP-23-55-Pioneer social enterprise - lots of work supporting people into employment or with skills development, foodbank. Lots of</p>	<p>Residents in Balby have frequently mentioned the variety, quality, and accessibility of local amenities in their area. These span from the shops on offer, to community groups and organisations, and to more structured support and facilities for families.</p> <p>There is a large selection of independent shops in Balby. Residents also have access to eateries and there are also local supermarkets. With the proximity to the City Centre and Lakeside they are located within easy distance of all major retailers within the area.</p> <p>Residents have also spoke highly of local community groups and organisations in providing support and community. These groups facilitate opportunities for residents to</p>

		<p>different activities going on and is working with Flourish, likes the St Cath's grounds.</p> <p>BP-23-76-Family hub, social groups, litter pickers.</p> <p>BP-24-4901 - I also enjoy being so close to the gym for Fit Forces as I really enjoy coming to this group every week.</p> <p>BP-25-370 - Having the good relationships with stronger communities means when we come to groups, we can show other residents them and they then explain what they do and how they support the community, even small changes make people within this group feel valued.</p>	<p>participate as active community members, whether through skills development or participating in litter picks – contributing to pride in their community.</p> <p>Though residents do mention support for families in terms of Family Hub services, and good quality, hyperlocal education, they note that there is a potential for more services aimed at young people.</p>
Community	<p>Safety</p> <p>Community Support</p> <p>Pride</p> <p>Multicultural Community</p>	<p>BP-23-36-I know every one of my neighbours, i know I can knock on their doors, and they will help me, and makes me feel needed, all my family live here too.</p> <p>BP-23-59-being a safe place to live, good relations between the people who live there.</p> <p>BP-23-63-I am retired but I am never at home because of all the groups I am involved with, it keeps me active.</p> <p>BP-23-86-it's a mix of English and foreign residents who are all helpful and friendly.</p> <p>BP-24-110-Take pride in my community, no matter where I live, and it is important that it is clean and tidy and local residents are polite, respectful, kind, and supportive to each other because it makes it a nicer place for everyone to live.</p> <p>BP-23-19- School is great (St Francis) - at school 52% of children, English is their 2nd language.</p> <p>BP-24-112- Area is really multicultural. Everyone knows everyone. they are very friendly and inclusive</p> <p>BP-24-5308 - Can discuss things with people in your community, manage things, help and protect each other, be aware of crime, look after each other</p> <p>BP-25-190 - Having good neighbours helps us to feel safe where we live, and we can all look after each other. It's very safe and the</p>	<p>A strong sense of connection and belonging runs through residents' responses in Balby, shaped by feelings of safety, mutual support, and shared identity. Many describe their area as a safe place to live, where good relationships with neighbours' help foster a sense of security. This safety is not just due to low crime but about knowing that others are nearby and willing to help, creating a reassuring and protective environment.</p> <p>Community support is a key part of this experience. Residents discuss being able to rely on those around them, whether it's through everyday interactions or more organised community groups. This support helps people feel valued and included, especially when they are actively involved in local life. It also strengthens resilience, as neighbours look out for one another and work together to manage local concerns.</p> <p>Pride in the community is another strong theme. Residents express a desire to keep their area clean and welcoming. This pride is tied to how people treat each other and their surroundings, reflecting a shared commitment to making the neighbourhood a better place for everyone.</p> <p>Balby is also seen as a multicultural community. People describe a mix of backgrounds and languages, with a strong sense of friendliness and inclusion, though this has been contended by some residents feeling isolated due to their heritage. Schools</p>

		people around us are all really helpful. It's a really inclusive community.	and neighbourhoods reflect this diversity, and many residents do value the richness it brings to daily life.
Environment	Green Spaces	BP-23-4- proximity to the River Don- good green space	Residents in Balby have frequently made reference to living in a good environment which supports their health, happiness and security.
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>			
	Active Lifestyles	BP-23-28-plenty of activities for my children, parks, walks along the river.	Green spaces are frequently mentioned, with parks, woodland, and riverside areas offering scenic, peaceful places to relax and recharge. These spaces serve as important settings for recreation and connection with nature, often described as beneficial for mental health and overall quality of life.
	Safety	BP-23-58-Come here for nice dog walks you can walk right through now it's been developed its scenic, being able to get out and keep active.	
	Family	BP-23-78-. Lovely walks, just a lovely feel to the estate. feels safe. Lovely green space around and a nice place to bring up my daughter.	
	Mental Wellbeing	BP-23-81-There are some lovely green spaces in Balby, I like to go for a walk it's good for my mental health.	Residents have often linked their use of green spaces to having an active lifestyle. Many residents enjoy walking, running, or exploring the outdoors, often choosing to do so for both health and environmental reasons. The availability of well-maintained paths and scenic routes encourages people to stay active, whether through dog walking, family outings, or solo exercise.
		BP-24-111-Lots of wildlife, parkland, and woodland on the doorstep.	
		BP-24-138-trying to use my car less for environmental reasons, I enjoy walking and running into the local woods	
		BP-24-4901 - It's a really nice area to live with lots of nice scenery and parks.	Living in a safe environment is also important to residents in Balby. Several comments reflect a sense of comfort and reassurance, whether through the general atmosphere of the area or in positive relationships with neighbours and friends. Feeling safe allows residents to enjoy their environment more fully and contributes to a sense of stability. It is important to note that though a feeling of safety is commonly mentioned, this is not a universal experience. Some residents have felt unsafe due to antisocial behaviour but do note that timely response from police is reassuring in these instances.
		BP-25-371 - the green space near us is great and perfect for walking with or without a dog. We have lots of nice parks and the river walk to Sprotbrough is lovely, the river is amazing and how you can get up and down the country by this river.	
		BP-25-370 - Usually if there is an issue in the community the police are very fast to respond which is comforting as one was broken into around 2 weeks ago.	Finally, families are at the heart of many responses. The presence of parks, child-friendly activities, and a welcoming atmosphere make the area feel like a good place to raise children.
Theme	Subtheme	Quotes	Commentary

Social Wellbeing	Support Networks	Getting checked up on and support being a first-time mum – BP-24-5067  Just socialising with people and being out and about. - BP-24-4895	When asked 'What is important to you about your Health and Wellbeing?', residents in Balby identified a number of different things, most notably a sense of Social Wellbeing.
	Socialising	Looking after my family and me. - BP-25-124	This presents in different ways, for some people this is as simple as getting out and socialising, and for others this means having real support networks around them, in their roles as carers, or support from peers when managing long term conditions.
	Peer Support	Getting out and about and being social helps us not isolate each other and we look forward to seeing each other – BP-25-370  Coming to this peer group. Support from my health care team. - BP-24-5406	Though the idea of Social Wellbeing presents differently from person to person, it is clear that residents in Balby heavily rely on connections with and support from others when it comes to their wellbeing.
Personal Responsibility	Self-Management	Being outdoors is good for mental and physical health. - BP-24-5406  Having strategies that uplift my mood. - BP-24-5406	Residents also identified personal responsibility and healthy behaviours as important to their Health and Wellbeing. This spans not only eating well and exercising, but more holistically encompassing accessing fresh air, and using self-management techniques in improving mood.
Healthy Environment	Safety	Feeling safe. - BP-24-5149	Residents speak about living in a healthy environment with a good quality of life. Safety is seen as a key indicator for better health outcomes, and being able to access green spaces.
Services	Access	Personal. Having time for patients. Not too busy. Kind. Polite. Overall supportive. Check when patient feels not well. Follow up. Refer to other clinicians. - BP-24-5149	Finally, when asked 'What does good quality healthcare look and feel like to you?', residents in Balby have identified a number of subthemes including access to services, quality of care and compassion in the care that is given.
	Compassion	It should be integrated with other services. - BP-25-16	
	Quality	Being able to access the GP or have them answer the phone – BP-25-370  Being treated very well is important as well as consistency in healthcare which is really needed. - BP-25-185  Sometimes it takes a long time to get an answer on the phone, but the care is good and it's a good service at the doctors. - BP-25-190	Residents in Balby most frequently refer to accessing GP services being key to good quality healthcare, and something that is not currently up to standard. Residents do, however, feel that once they are able to see a healthcare professional they are treated with care and respect, and the service is generally of a high quality.
			Residents note a need for services to be integrated, noting how this may improve both efficiency and access.

## Doncaster Talks

In 2019, Doncaster Talks undertook insight across the borough of Doncaster. Responses were separated into wards and thematically analysed. Across Balby and Hexthorpe, a total of 215 responses were recorded and the main themes on what people liked about the area, what could be improved, and what the borough should focus on are displayed in the table below. From this total, 144 were recorded in Balby North and 71 responses in Balby South.

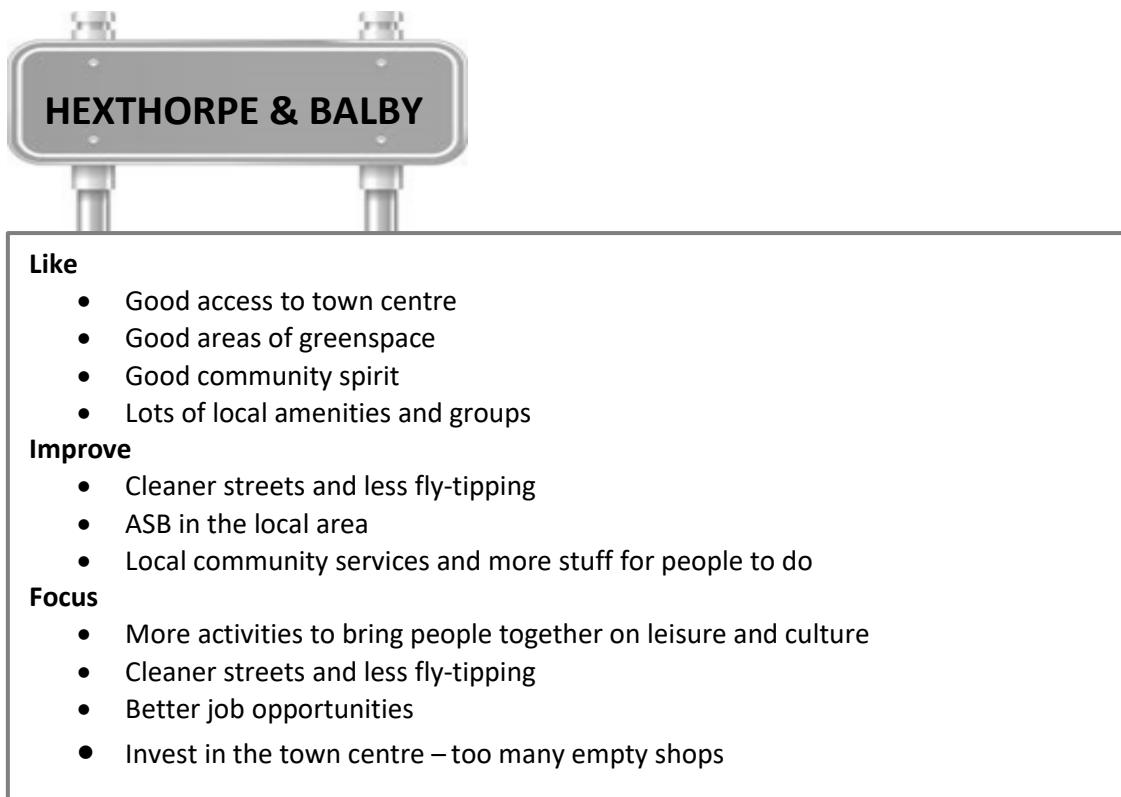


Figure 5. Doncaster Talks Insight Hexthorpe and Balby North, 2019



### Like

- Neighbours and community
- Quiet area
- Green spaces

### Improve

- Cleaner streets, less litter and fly-tipping
- ASB - including motorcycle nuisance
- Tackle crime through more visible policing

### Focus

- General maintenance, litter, and cleaning
- Regeneration in town centre (especially Waterdale)
- ASB including - crime, drugs, begging – tackled through more and better policing
- Help and support for homeless

Figure 6. Doncaster Talks Insight Balby South, 2019

## Ward Members

Below are the ward members for Balby North (including Hexthorpe) and Balby South following elections in 2025.



Councillor Glyn Jones  
Hexthorpe and Balby North  
Labour  
Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member  
for Housing and Safer Communities



Councillor Russ Linley  
Hexthorpe and Balby North  
Reform UK



Councillor Sue Farmer  
Balby South  
Labour  
Cabinet Member for Children,  
Young People and Families



Councillor Ioan-Emanuel Craciun  
Balby South  
Reform UK

# Health and Wealth

## Health Inequalities

Health inequalities are avoidable differences across the population, and between different groups within society. Health inequalities arise from the conditions in which we live, work and play. These conditions influence our opportunities for good health, how we think, feel and act, therefore shaping our health and wellbeing.

Evidence shows that people living in our most deprived areas face the worst health inequalities in relation to health access, experiences, and outcomes. Deprivation covers a range of issues and refers to unmet needs caused by a lack of resources, including but not limited to finances, housing, and education. It is measured in different ways including the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

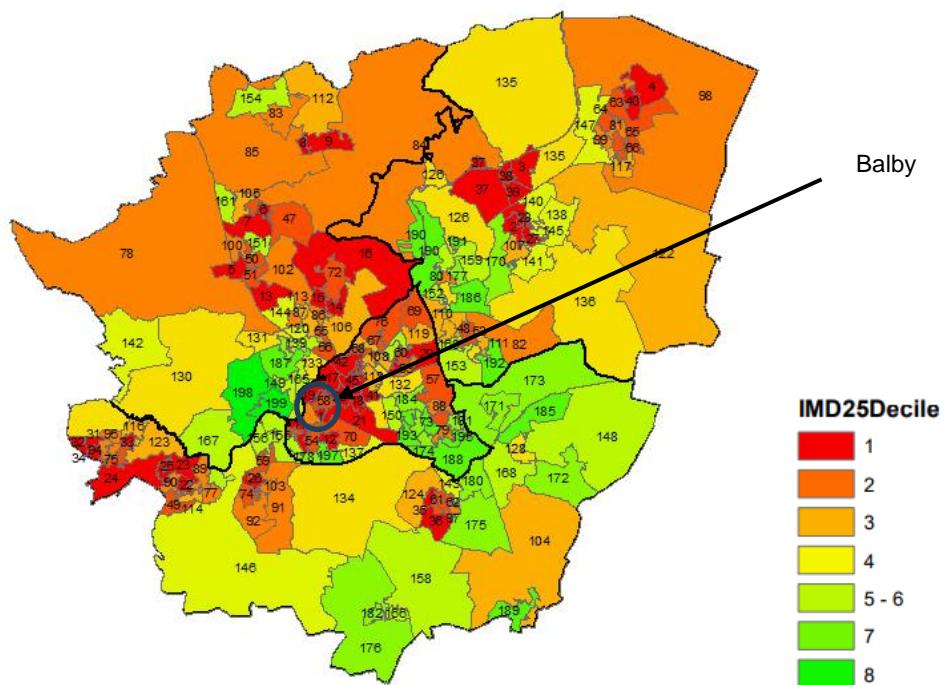


Figure 7. Index of Multiple Deprivation Deciles 2025, Doncaster ,Office of National Statistics, 2025

As of 2025, the Balby IMD stands at 44 which ranks as the 11<sup>th</sup> most deprived community in Doncaster. When looking at ward level data; Hexthorpe and Balby North has an IMD of 53.64, which is the highest deprivation score across the borough and has increased from 47.35 in 2019. Balby South's IMD is 36.38, placing 7<sup>th</sup> among the most deprived wards in Doncaster but sees a decrease in deprivation score from 37.63 in 2019.

## Deprivation

In 2025, Balby residents are experiencing high levels of poverty across all people, children and older people, compared to Doncaster averages, set out at Middle-Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) level in the table below.

	Hexthorpe & Balby North MSOA		Balby South MSOA		Balby Carr MSOA		Doncaster	
	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025
<b>All people</b>	24.9%	48.7%	21.6%	34.9%	19.5%	33.5%	16.6%	29.3%
<b>Children (IDACI)</b>	27.3%	68.7%	31.5%	53%	24.7%	48.4%	22.7%	47.1%
<b>Older people (IDAOP1)</b>	28.1%	35.3%	18%	23.3%	23.8%	26.5%	15.9%	19.4%

*Table 1: Percentage of Population Living in Deprivation Across Balby and Doncaster 2025*

When considering the change from 2019 to 2025 data, it is important to note that there have been changes to the calculation of the source data, the income deprivation domain in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. While it can be inferred that there has been an increase in the proportion of people living in poverty, the changes in this indicator may contribute to the significance of this change.

At community level, the data differs slightly, with 41.2% of Balby residents experiencing poverty, 28.5% of older people and 60.4% of children.



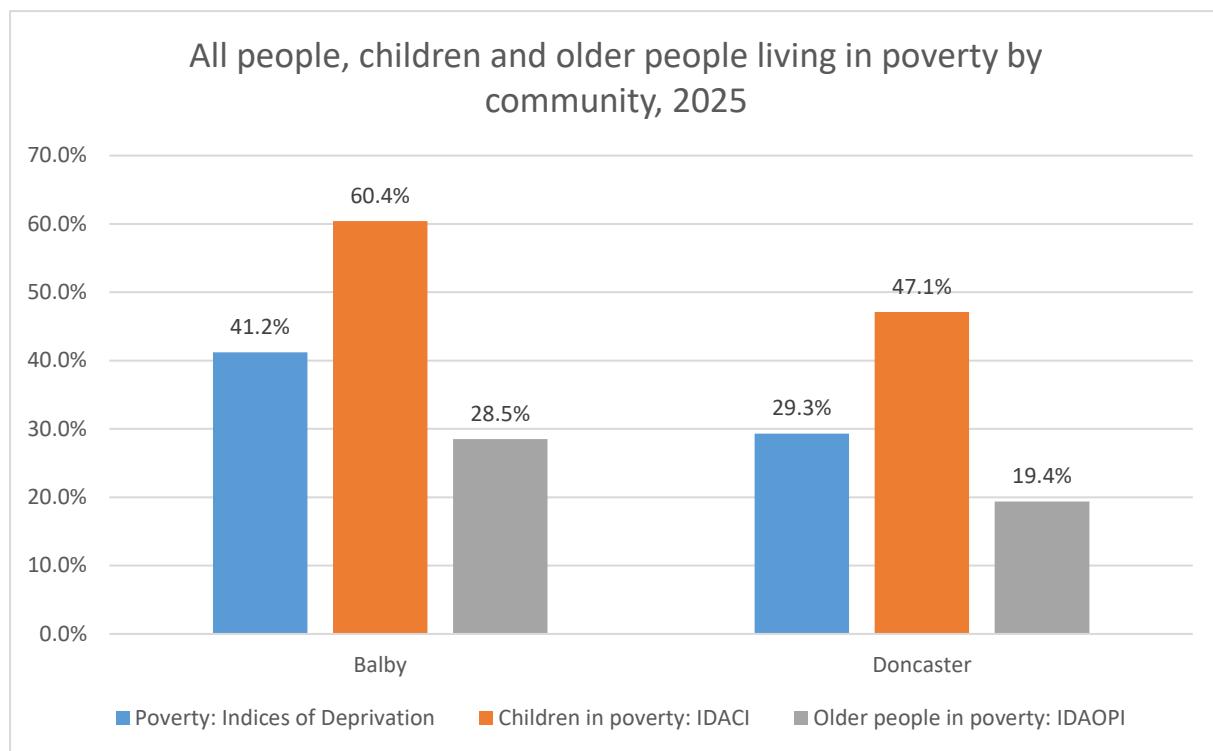


Figure 8. Poverty Prevalence Using IMD25, Office of National Statistics, 2025

## Employment

The 2021 Census has given us new data based on the community of Balby as a whole. 54.3% of residents are currently in employment, which is comparative with that of Doncaster (54.9%) and England at 57.4%. There are a considerable number (50.6%) of these residents who are employed who travel less than 10km to their place of work. This significantly higher than the national rate (35.4%), which shows there are a sizeable proportion of jobs on their doorstep. Even so, 54.5% of people within Balby have not been employed in the last 12 months which is lower than the national rate at 61.1%. The Census 2021 data reveals that 32.5% of the population of Balby have been recorded as Never Worked which is significantly higher than the rate of 25.6%.

Of those who work, the majority work full time (61.9%) which is similar to that of Doncaster (60.7%) and England (59.1%). Part-time working is of a similar picture, just slightly higher for Balby (20.8%) than the Doncaster rate (20.7%) and England (19.5%).

2021 Census data indicates 43% of residents in Balby are considered economically inactive, which is residents who are not employed and not actively seeking employment. Balby ranks as the 11<sup>th</sup> highest economically inactive rate across the 88 communities in Doncaster.

The census shows the professions of residents in Balby with Elementary occupations (simple and routine tasks/first skill level roles) being the highest (25.9%) which is higher than that of Doncaster (16.5%) and England (10.5%).

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA 2022) data shows the percentages of residents claiming universal credit. In the Balby North/Hexthorpe ward 9.38% of residents are claiming this benefit, this is highest percentage in the whole of Doncaster. In Balby South 5.02% of residents are claiming universal credit, this is 5<sup>th</sup> highest in Doncaster.

## Food Poverty

There are 7 active foodbanks in the Central locality of Doncaster. On average 514 people receive a food parcel from the foodbanks in the Central locality per month. The most recent data from 2025 shows that across the Central foodbanks the highest number of people supported by household type was individuals and single parents. This has changed from 2024 data where there were significantly more couples seeking support. The closest foodbank for Balby residents is Pioneer Social Enterprise. Throughout 2023 and 2024 the foodbank has mostly accessed by individuals, followed by couples, as demonstrated in figure 7.

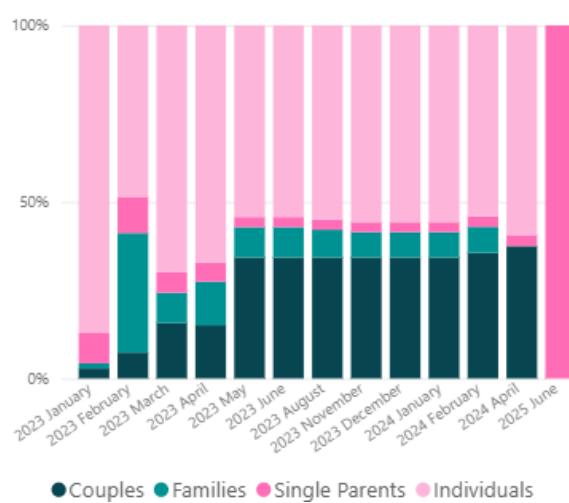


Figure 9. Type of People Accessing Pioneer Social Enterprise Foodbank, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

Figure 8 indicates the reasons residents are accessing foodbanks across the borough up to 2025. The top five reasons residents are using foodbanks are: cost of living (602 residents), low income (524 residents), benefits delay (468 residents), debt (456 residents) and benefit changes (447 residents).

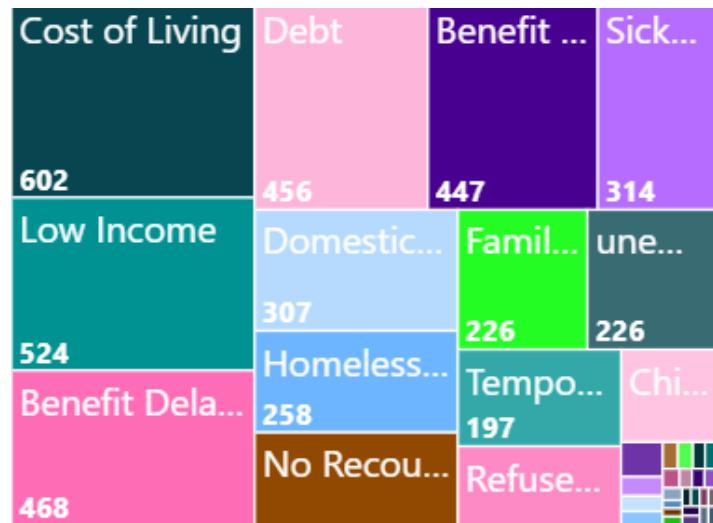


Figure 10. Reasons Residents are Requiring Foodbank Support 2025, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

## The Bread-and-Butter Thing

There are five The Bread-and-Butter Thing (TBBT) Hubs based in the following communities across the borough: Mexborough, Rossington, Carcroft, Thorne and Hexthorpe. Each site offers 80 residents the opportunity to access affordable food, ensuring 400 residents per week get the help they need. The purpose is to reduce poverty premiums that families in low-income areas can face, to reduce waste by identifying edible surplus food in the UK food sector and redistributing it, and to build resilience within the communities.

The mobile food club gives access to nutritious and affordable food taken into the heart of communities starved of money, food, and resources. The food parcels are based on a weekly shop providing essential produce for families including fresh fruit and veg, chilled goods and cupboard staples. By discounting a family's shopping, a members average weekly saving is £26.50

The King's Cross Church in Hexthorpe operates TBBT Hub in the central locality. The TBBT provides residents with food parcels from surplus food at an affordable price and aims to help people move up the food ladder by acting as a financial bridge and helping with cost of living. TBBT is close to residents in Balby and open to any residents in Doncaster, it's likely residents from Balby will access this additional service.

In 2024 across the five sites, 3241 residents accessed TBBT and 1596 volunteering opportunities were filled. The map below shows the postcode areas of residents in Central Doncaster accessing TBBT throughout fiscal year 2024/25 and indicates dense clusters in areas of higher deprivation including Intake, Wheatley, City Centre, Clay Lane, Hexthorpe and Balby with some postcodes accumulated in less deprived areas such as Cantley and Bessacarr. The access data suggests residents from various areas in Central Doncaster are receiving support from discounted food parcels.

# Health Inequalities

## Life Expectancy

Life expectancies in males (75.7 y) and females (79.7) living in Balby North are lower than the rates of Doncaster (m: 77.9, f: 81.3) and England (m: 79.5, f: 83.2), as are those for Balby South (m 76) (f 81.4). Healthy life expectancy at birth for males in Balby is 60.5 years for men and 60.4 years for women compared to 57.4 for males and 56.1 for women across Doncaster and 61.5 for Males and 61.9 for Females in England.

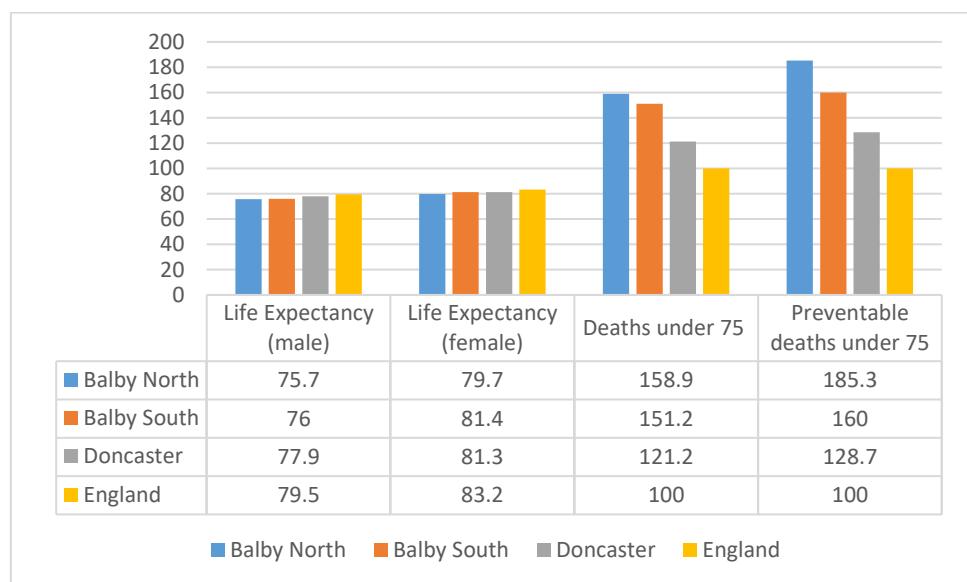


Figure 10. Life Expectancy and Deaths, Preventable Deaths Under 75 2016-20 Office of National Statistics, 2025

## Long-Term Health Conditions

The proportion of residents with poor health in Balby is considerably higher than the national average. Over 22.4% and 19.3% of residents in Balby South and Balby North, respectively, reported to be living with a limiting health condition as per the 2021 Census.

Hospital admissions for those living with limiting illnesses or health conditions largely associated with smoking are significantly higher across Balby. Admissions associated with COPD are significantly higher than the national ratio when England is used as the benchmark (100/100) in Balby North, with an ISR of 219.7/100. Admissions related to self-harm are also significantly higher in Balby North (240.1/100) compared to Doncaster (121.6/100) and England (100/100).

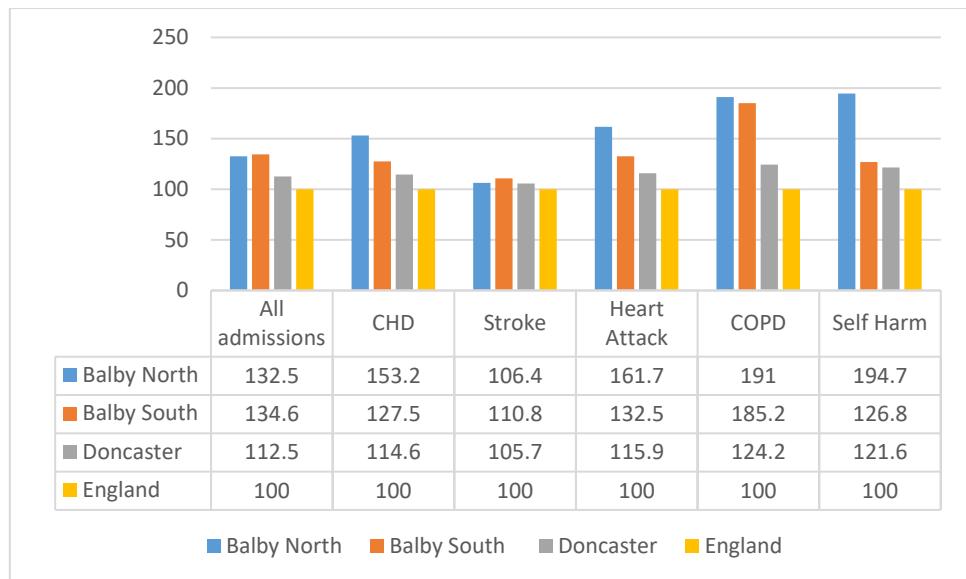


Figure 11. Comparison of Hospital Admissions by Ward as a Ratio Compared to England 2016/17-20/21, Office of National Statistics, 2021

## Incidence of Death

Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death of all ages in both Balby North & Balby South. Respiratory disease follows closely. The risk of the former diseases increases with the following factors: poor lifestyle choices, living conditions and lack of physical activity.

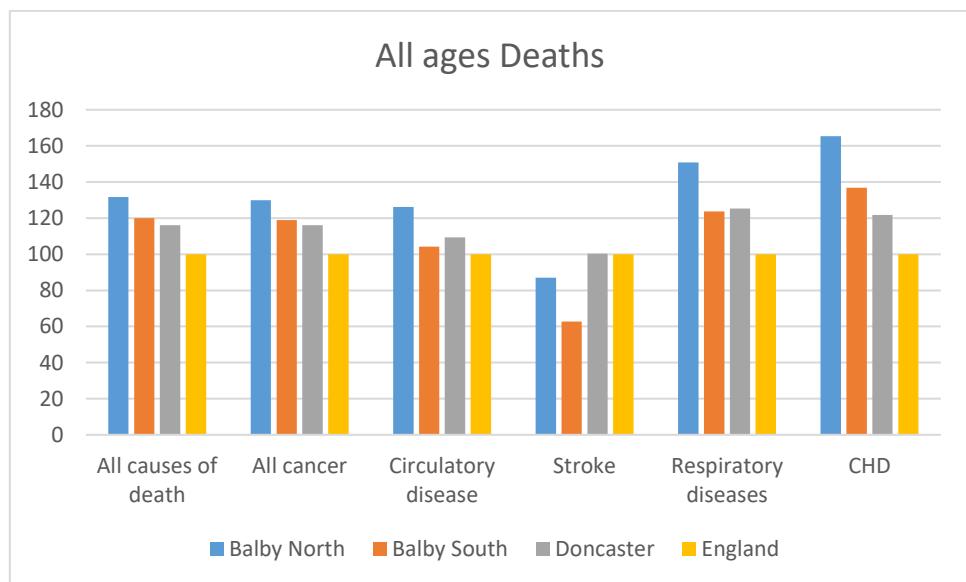


Figure 12. Comparison of Causes of Deaths, all Ages Between 2016-20, Office of National Statistics, 2023

Deaths rates from all causes and all ages across City Centre ward (123.5 per 100) are greater than those of for England (100) measured as an ISR.

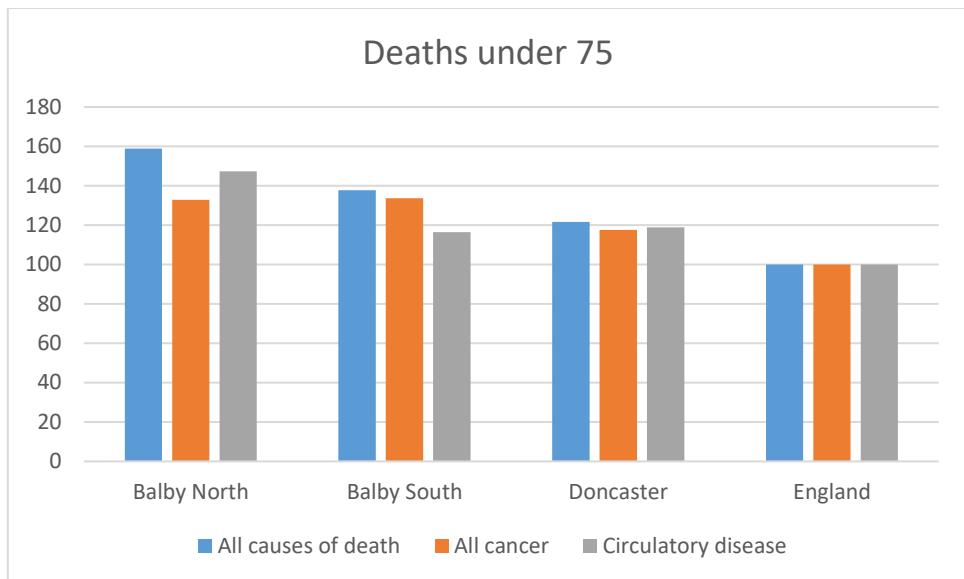


Figure 13. Deaths of all Causes for Individuals Ages Under 75 Years of Age Between 2016-20, Office of National Statistics, 2023

Balby North and Balby South have significantly more deaths occurring in under 75s than the borough and national rate. Circulatory disease is the leading cause of death in under 75s in both wards. Preventable deaths, measured as a ISR, occurring in Balby North (185.3 per 100 people) are considerably higher than Doncaster (144.7 per 100 people) and England (100 per 100) which is used as the reference population. Balby South also reports a higher ratio of preventable deaths (146.9 per 100).

## Alcohol

The data supplied by Office of Health Improvement and Disparities data shows that and Hexthorpe and Balby North ward have the highest rate of hospital admissions of alcohol attributable conditions (broad definition) in Doncaster, with Balby South 11<sup>th</sup>.

Balby North/Hexthorpe has an ISR of 172.9 per 100 and Balby Carr at 136.1 per 100, both are higher compared to Doncaster at 125.1 per 100, and is significantly higher than England at as the reference population (100 per 100).

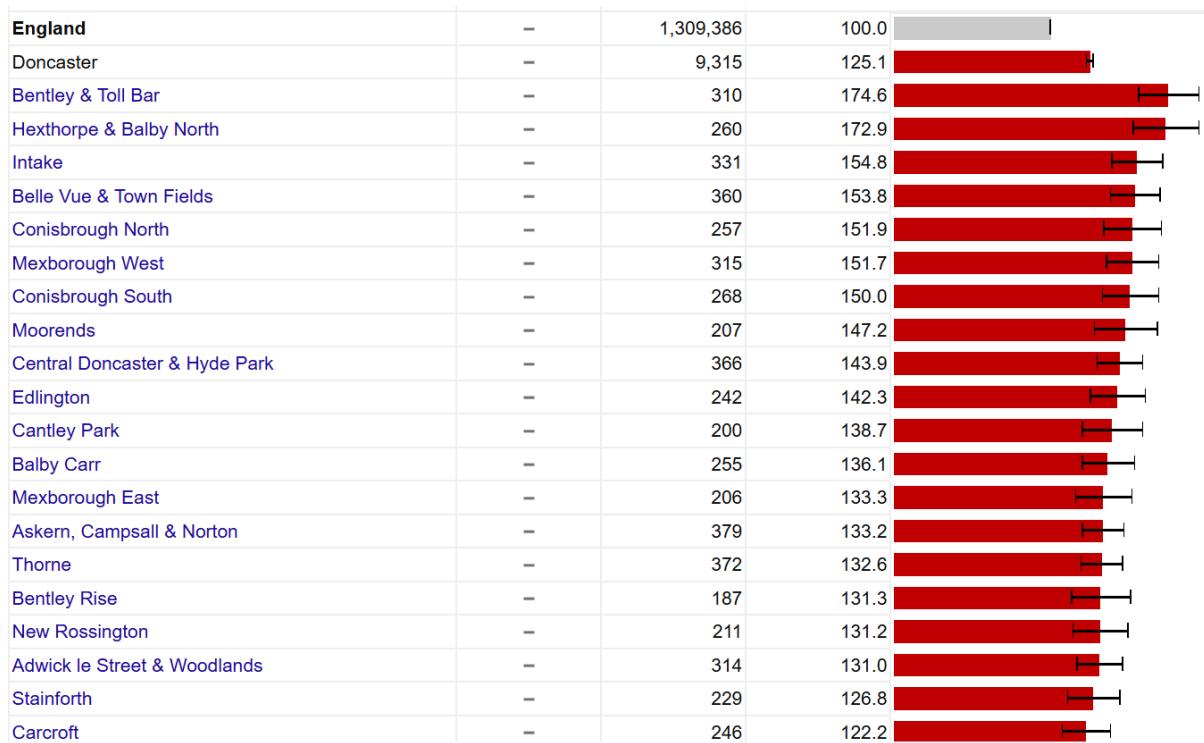


Figure 14. Top 20 MSOA's for Rate of Hospital Admissions Due to Alcohol Attributable Conditions 2017-2021,  
Office of National Statistics, 2021

## Smoking

Data from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH, 2024), indicates smoking rates in Hexthorpe and Balby North stand at 14.5% and 13.6% of Balby South's population are smokers. According to the latest data from the ONS, both are lower than the Doncaster (15.7%) rate but significantly higher than England (10.4%).

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) estimates smoking costs Doncaster £335 million per year, the combined cost of smoking-related medical treatment via hospital admission and primary care services is £16.5 million. Social care costs due to smoking amounts to an estimated £115 million annually in Doncaster with the majority being lost to informal care costs from friends and family (£64.3 million).

In Hexthorpe and Balby North Ward, the gross annual cost of smoking as of Spring 2024 was £10.4 million, this figure is slightly lower than the Balby South ward (£7.92M). Hexthorpe and Balby North, and Balby South have a high rate of smokers. Both wards fall into the top 10 for the highest rate of smokers in the borough with 14.5% and 13.6% of smokers respectively. An estimated £3.68 million is spent annually on Tobacco products in Hexthorpe and Balby North, closely followed by Balby South (£2.5M), the national average spend on tobacco per smoker now stands at £2486. Smoking has a significant impact on employment and productivity, in Hexthorpe and Balby North the total cost due to lost productivity from smoking was estimated at £6.85 million which is significantly higher than Balby South (£4.66M) and higher the borough average (£6.5M) (ASH 2024).

## Childhood Development

A child's early experiences are vital in providing the foundations for children to develop healthily and happily. Children being born into deprivation and living amongst deprivation in their early years are more likely to experience a wide range of health problems, fall behind their peers and face employment problems in adult life. The quality of early experiences is important as children develop, providing opportunity for motor (physical), intellectual (language and communication), cognitive and socio-emotional development.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. In Balby, 60.4% of children are classed as living in child poverty, this is higher than the Doncaster rate (47.1%).

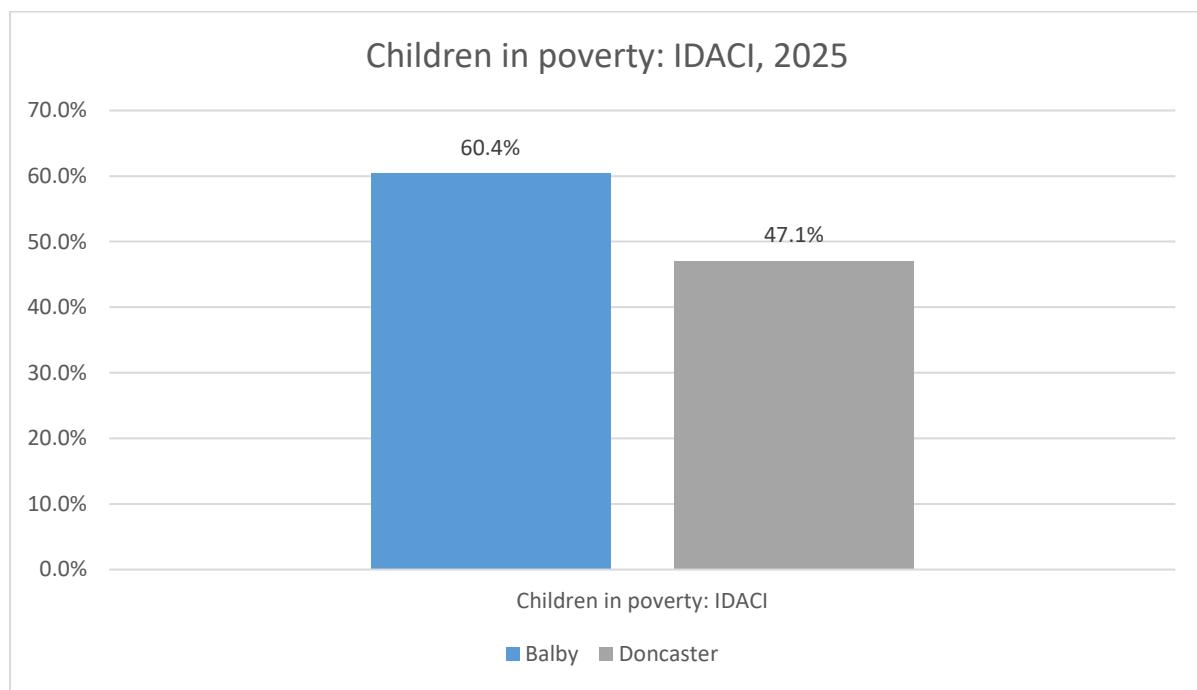


Figure 15. Children in poverty: Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) (aged 0 to 15) Office of National Statistics, 2025

The number of children born with low birth weight is greater in Balby South (11.1%) than in Balby North/Hexthorpe (8.2%). The number of births to teenage mothers is more than double in Balby North/Hexthorpe (2.8%) and Balby South (2%) than it is in Doncaster (1.1%) and is nearly 3 times more than England (0.7%).

During adolescence and young adulthood, hospital admissions amongst individuals aged 15-24 years of age in Balby North/Hexthorpe 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (214.3 people per 10,000) compared to the rate of Doncaster (161.66 people per 10,000). Balby South stands at the 9<sup>th</sup> highest community in Doncaster (159.7 per 10,000).

The percentage of children classified as overweight (including obese) in reception has decreased in recent years in Balby North/Hexthorpe and Balby South. Data from

combined years 2021/22-23/24 indicates 25.5% and 22.4% of children are overweight (including obese) in Balby North/Hexthorpe and Balby South respectively. This has fallen from 27.6% in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 25.5% in Balby South. Although overweight and obesity is decreasing among reception age children in Balby, numbers still fall above the national average. When looking at obesity (including severe obesity) in reception age children, Balby North/Hexthorpe (14.9%) is significantly higher than the Doncaster (12.1) and England (9.6) average. Balby South is much closer to the Doncaster and England average at 11.9%, indicating disparities between neighbouring wards and across communities.

The level of overweight and obese Year 6 children is significantly higher in Balby compared to Doncaster and England. The percentage of children in Year 6 who are classified as overweight (include obese) stands at 45.7% in Balby North/Hexthorpe ward and 45.8% in Balby South compared to 40.3% in Doncaster and 36.7% for England. The figure below summarises overweight and obesity across four categories in reception and Year 6 age children.

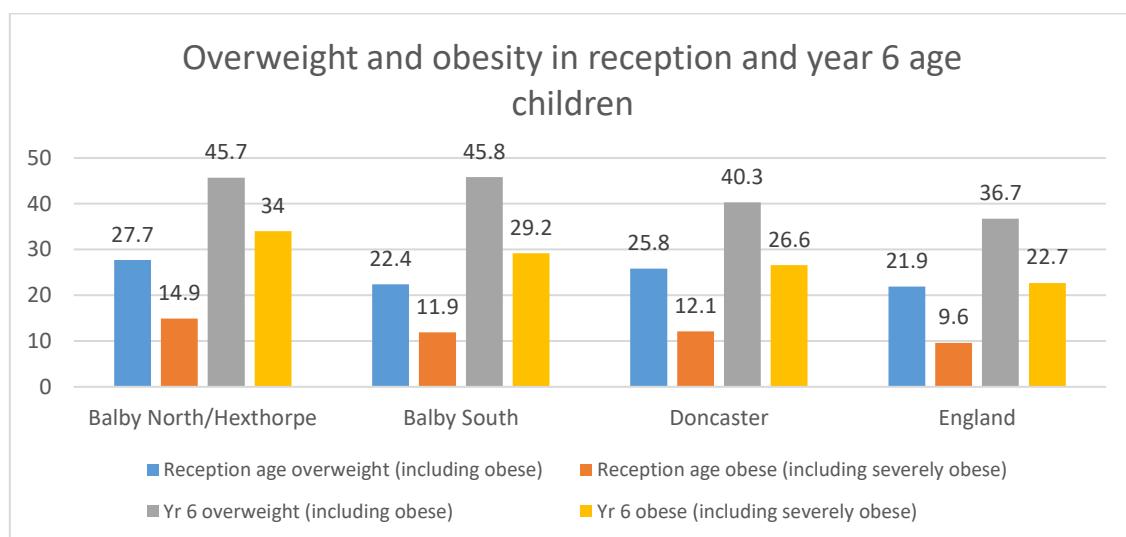


Figure 16. Percentage of Overweight and Obese Reception and Year 6 Age Children from Combined Years 2021/22-23/24, Office of National Statistics, 2025

## Pupil Lifestyle Survey

The Pupil Lifestyle Survey is conducted by Doncaster City Council to provide valuable data on children and young people's health-related behaviour, through an anonymous school-based questionnaire. Data from the survey has provided a set of Doncaster-wide figures at key points in children and young people's development; KS2, 3 and 4.

Data from the 2024 Pupil Lifestyle Survey is unavailable from Balby South with no Pupils participating, 127 pupils participated from Hexthorpe and Balby North consisting of 49% girls and 48% boys. 13% of students reporting themselves as having Special

Educational Needs, a decrease from 16% in 2022 and now on par with the Doncaster average. When asked if they receive extra help in school, 72% of pupils reported they did, significantly higher than Doncaster 43%. This is particularly notable for Hexthorpe and Balby North as the Doncaster average has fallen from 48% to 43% whilst Hexthorpe and Balby North has still increased significantly. In the 2024 Pupil Lifestyle Survey 13% reported having a long-standing illness, similar to the Doncaster average of 14%, and 7% reported having a disability which is lower than the Doncaster average of 9%. Hexthorpe and Balby North has a significantly higher number of pupils where English is their second language (49%) compared to Doncaster (23%).

In 2022 when asked about healthy eating and wellbeing, 86% report having breakfast and school dinners, this is in line with Doncaster. In 2024 94% of pupils reported to having a regular breakfast, higher than the Doncaster average of 86% and 61% have school dinners with 34% receiving free school meals, the second highest in the borough and significantly higher than the Doncaster average of 19%. Pupils receiving free school meals has risen from 30% in 2022

Data for Balby South is available from 2022 and follows a similar trend to Hexthorpe and Balby North. When asked about healthy eating and wellbeing, 86% of children in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 85% in Balby South report having breakfast. 55% and 51% respectively reported having school dinners, which is in line with Doncaster. There is an extremely high proportion of children accessing free school meals with 30% in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 31% in Balby South compared to the rate across Doncaster at 19%.

In 2022 96% reported feeling warm and comfortable at home in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 97% in Balby South. 88% feel they can clean themselves at home in Balby North/Hexthorpe, and slightly higher in Balby South at 90%. 80% of children reporting they have a restful night's sleep in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 78% of children in Balby South. These are all in line with Doncaster. In 2024, pupils were asked about feeling safe at home, and only 80% of pupils in Hexthorpe and Balby North reported feeling safe at home, the lowest in the borough and significantly lower than the Doncaster average of 88% indicating safety for young people as a potential community priority.

## Attainment

In 2019, the average GCSE attainment 8 score per pupil (out of 90) was 39.3 in Balby, which is lower than Doncaster overall (44) and England (46.7). In 2022 the results are lower at a rate of 37.7 for Balby, compared to Doncaster at 45.2 and nationally at 48.8. Since 2022, GCSE attainment 8 score has trended upwards with pupils achieving an average score of 39.8 in 2023 and 40.4 in 2024. However, this is still significantly lower than the Doncaster and national average for 2024 at 44 and 45.9 respectively.

In 2023 for KS2, 47% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing, and mathematics in Balby, this has dropped by 4% since 2022. Data from 2024 indicated pupils achieving expected standards is remaining stable at 47% but still significantly lower than the Doncaster average (55%) and national average (60%) for that year.

As of 2024, 83 children have been recorded as receiving Elective Home Education, which is the highest number from all communities in Doncaster and 29 are recorded as missing from education in Balby which has decreased from recent years.

## Family Hubs

Family Hubs are local, community based, centres that offer integrated services for families from the early stages of life covering conception and early childhood up to adolescence, and up to age 25 for individuals with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Family Hubs offer early years and parental support including antenatal and postnatal care, baby and toddler classes, infant feeding, parenting programmes, SEND pathways and specialist support for mental health, domestic abuse, welfare and substance misuse. Family Hubs provide welcoming community spaces for families, bringing together education, health, social care, and wellbeing services in one facility and cater for a broad spectrum of needs. There are twelve Family Hubs across Doncaster, with three located in the Central locality: Central, Balby and Wheatley Family Hubs.

Membership data shows the percentage of eligible children signed up to Family Hubs. In Q4 of fiscal year 2024-2025 Balby Family hub membership was 61% for children aged 0-8 weeks, 80% for 0-1 year and 11-month-old children and 86% for children aged between 0-4 years and 11 months. Balby has the highest population of eligible children at 0-4 years and 11 months old (1288) with 86% of these children being signed up for Family Hub membership. In comparison, average membership across all Family Hubs in Central across all ages for fiscal year 2024-2025 was 84%.

Access data includes the percentage of children using Family Hubs services once or twice and engagement figures indicate the number of children seen three or more times. Engagement is lower in Balby compared to other wards, especially at age 0-1 years and 11 months (39%). Engagement increases to 67% when including all ages up to 0-4 years and 11 months but Balby figures remain lower than the average when compared to other Family Hubs. When looking at the average yearly access and engagement figures for Central Family Hubs which includes all ages, the data shows access (81%) is higher than in Balby and engagement (66%) is similar to Balby.

	0-8 weeks	0-1 year and 11 months	0-4 years and 11 months
<b>Membership</b>	61%	80%	86%
<b>Access</b>	NA	62%	80%
<b>Engagement</b>	NA	39%	67%

Table 4. Balby Family Hub Children's Membership, Access and Engagement Figures Fiscal Q4 2024-25

	Central Family Hubs
<b>Membership</b>	84%
<b>Access</b>	81%
<b>Engagement</b>	66%

Table 5. Central Locality Family Hub Children's Membership, Access and Engagement Figures Across all Ages Fiscal Year 2024/25

There are several factors that could contribute to membership, access and engagement figures which must be considered when interpreting data. A complex relationship exists between socioeconomic, cultural, education, deprivation and independence as well as other factors and indicators which can influence these rates. Data across all recorded age groups is available in the table below.

Family Hubs facilitate 2-Year-Old Funding Entitlement for families which provides up to 15 hours of free early education or childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year. The latest data from Summer 2025 indicates 62.4% of eligible children in Doncaster have taken up 2-year-old funding when recorded at the start of term, this was 69% for Balby. When looking at late starters for the same year, Doncaster saw 64% take-up in comparison to 70.6% in Balby. 2-year-old funding uptake is lower across Central Family Hubs in Summer 2025 at the beginning of term (54.5%) and for late starters (56.4%) compared to Doncaster 62.4% and 64% respectively.

## Physical Activity

Mosaic data shows a high percentage of the population in Balby North and a higher percentage of Balby South do not engage in any moderate intensity physical activity. Please see [appendix](#) for more information on mosaic data. This falls in line with Acorn data which shows 44.2% of residents in Balby South have reported never engaging in moderate intensity physical activity and 42.9% in Balby North. Therefore, nearly half of the population is leading a sedentary lifestyle. More information on the Acorn profile can be found in the [appendix](#).

Get Doncaster Moving's Local Delivery Pilot (LDP) conducted three insight phases to establish how inequalities affect physical activity levels of Balby residents. Phase 2 insight reports COM-B (Capabilities, Opportunities, Motivation and Behaviour) (Capabilities, Opportunities, Motivation and Behaviour) factors that can affect an individual's levels of physical activity. Lack of capabilities reported were typically centred around structured sport and exercise sessions. Resident knowledge of physical activity and its benefits were strong amongst both active and inactive residents. However, it was highlighted that they were far less familiar with what constitutes physical activity, suggesting guidance around 'what counts' as physical activity. For more information on the LDP study please find the link in the [appendix](#).

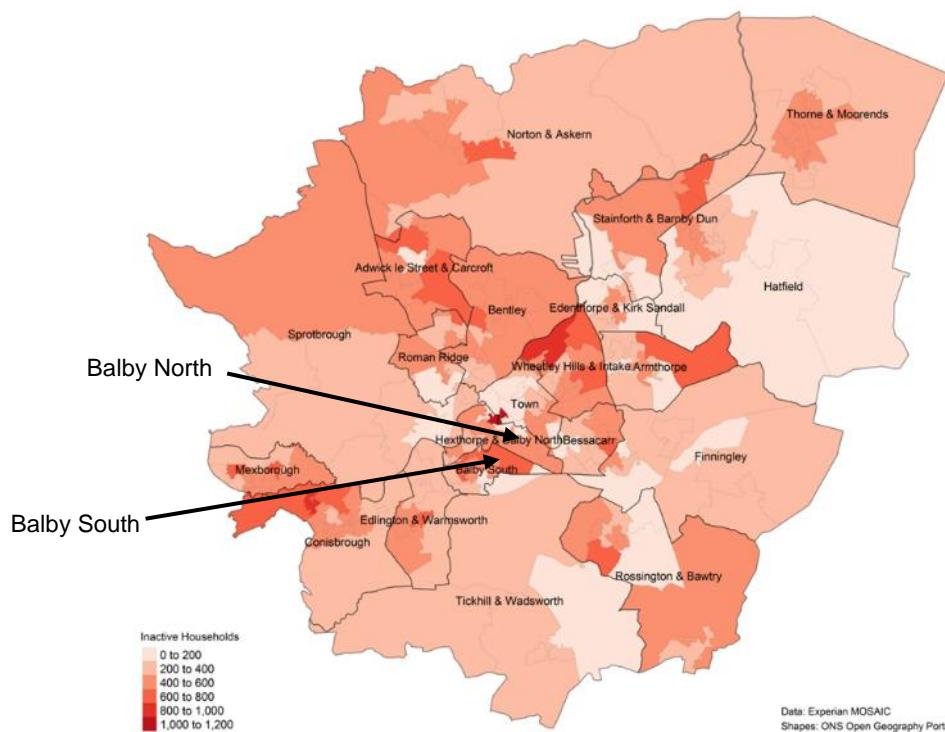


Figure 17. Levels of Inactivity Within Households Across Doncaster, Get Doncaster Moving, 2024

## Physical Activity in Children and Young People

Data from the Pupil Lifestyle Survey (2022) reports an average of 35% of children being physically active on only one or two days a week in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 31% in Balby South, 23% were said to be active on three or four days a week in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 20% in Balby South. 39% of children in Balby North/Hexthorpe were active on five or more occasions during the week with Balby South at 46%.

Getting hot, tired being outdoors in cold weather and preferring to do other things were the three residing answers given by pupils in Balby North/Hexthorpe when asked why they did not participate in physical activity and for Balby South the top reasons were the same. In 2024 96% of pupils in Hexthorpe and Balby North reported as having engaged in physical activity in the last 7 days, slightly lower than the Doncaster average of 97%, 2024 data is unavailable for Balby South.

## Green Spaces/Parks

There are multiple children's play parks situated in Balby – Brayford Road, Woodfield Way, Woodfield Road, Coronation Road, Oswain Avenue, Magenta Crescent, Waverly Avenue, Stevenson Road and Walpole Close Park, all are easily accessible to residents in the Balby community.

# Community Information

## Population and Diversity

The Census 2022 data shows that most residents in Balby class themselves as "white UK" but Balby does have a large BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) community with more figures more than double that compared to Doncaster.

Ethnic Group	Balby	Doncaster	England
Asian	4.2%	2.9%	9.6%
Black	3.8%	1.2%	4.2%
White	86.5%	93.1%	81.0%
Other Ethnicity	5.5%	2.7%	5.2%

*Table 6. Percentage of the Population Identifying as Each Ethnicity*

## Population size

- Balby (overall): 20,000

## Age Profile

The age profiles of Balby are younger than that for England, with higher proportions of children, young people and working-age adults and lower proportions of older people. This could be driven by a lower life expectancy linked to greater levels of deprivation and associated health conditions. It could also possibly be explained by the increasing numbers of families with children moving into the area in recent years and the transient nature of BAME communities.

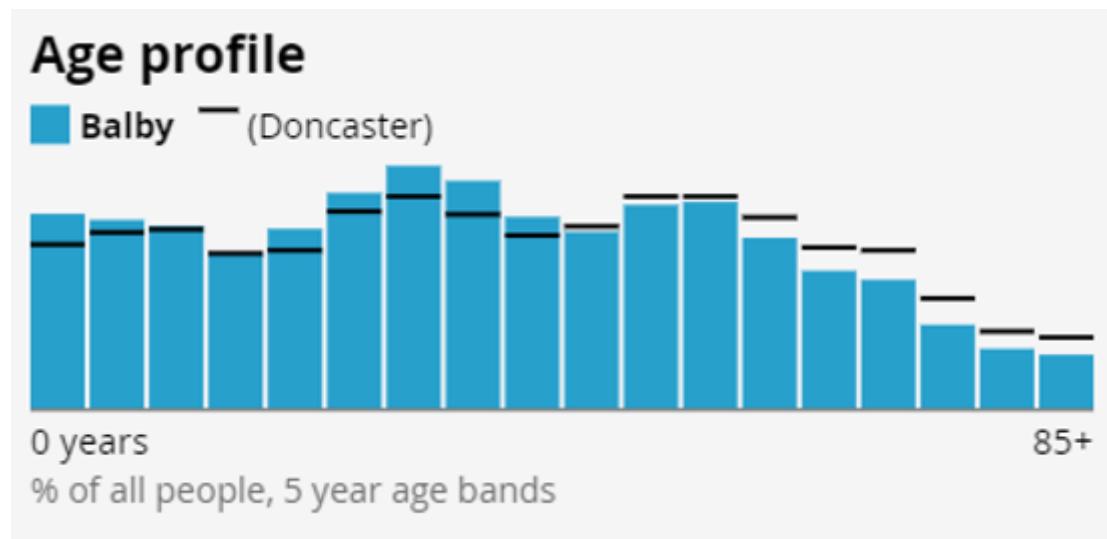


Figure 18. Age Profiles of Balby Communities, Office of National Statistics, 2021

## Housing

The area has a high density of housing. There is a mixture of traditional terrace housing, some bungalows and some newer build properties, with a few single person flats.

Outright owning a house in Balby is lower (24.8%) compared to that of Doncaster (33.6%). The remaining residents living in Balby are equally split by private renting or live rent free (27.4%) socially renting (26.4%) and owns with a mortgage/loan (21.4%). They are all higher compared to Doncaster's rates (19.7%), (17%) and 29.6% respectively.

St Leger Homes is the main provider of Doncaster's of Social Housing. St Leger homes own 1633 properties across Balby North/Hexthorpe (287) and Balby South (1346) and this compromises of 1 bed bungalows (112) (276), 2 bed bungalows (26) (196) 3 bed (0) (3), 1 bed flats (55) (109), 2 bed flats (1) (0), 2 bed houses (15) (140), 3 bed houses (76) (605), 4 bed houses (1) (16), 5 bed houses (1) (0), 6 bed houses (0) (1) and homeless family properties (2) (19).

The majority of the social housing renters are aged 66+ years in Balby North/Hexthorpe and between 46-65 years in Balby South.

St Leger homes also have an outstanding amount of rent arrears from those living in Balby North/Hexthorpe, 2021/2022 the amount owed is £16,023 and for 2022/2023 the amount is £18,832. For Balby South the rent arrears is extremely high, for 2021/2022 the amount owed is £119,769 and for 2022/2023 the amount is £123,090.

The 2021 Census data has produced estimates that classify households in England and Wales by four dimensions of deprivation: employment, education, health and disability and household overcrowding. Balby has a slightly lower proportion of households not in any deprived dimensions (37.7%) compared to Doncaster (43.7%) and England (48.4%). It also has higher proportion of households in all other dimensions: one dimension: Balby (37.2%,) compared to Doncaster (34.7%) and England (33.5%). Two dimensions; Balby (18.4%) Doncaster (16.7%), England (14.2%). Three dimensions; Balby (6.2%) Doncaster (4.6%) and England (3.7%) and four dimensions: Balby (0.5%), Doncaster (0.2%) and England (0.2%).

## Community Safety

Community safety remains a top priority for residents and stakeholders across Doncaster. Feedback from a range of engagement activities consistently highlights concerns around anti-social behaviour (ASB), crime, and perceptions of safety. People want cleaner, more vibrant and welcoming neighbourhoods, supported by effective policing, youth engagement, and thoughtful environmental design.

To help achieve this, we're committed to a city-wide approach that combines proactive and reactive measures through a layered crime prevention strategy—primary, secondary, and tertiary—designed to make every community safer.

If you'd like to stay informed or take action, you can find detailed crime statistics for your neighbourhood at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). To report issues or concerns, visit [www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/safer-city-how-to-report-issues](http://www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/safer-city-how-to-report-issues).

## Key Community Safety Priorities

The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership is working together to make Doncaster a safer, stronger place for everyone. The partnership focuses on six key priorities that tackle issues affecting our communities:

- **Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB)** – making our streets and public spaces welcoming for all.
- **Reducing crime and re-offending** – supporting people to make positive choices and preventing repeat offences.
- **Tackling serious and organised crime** – protecting our communities from organised criminality and criminal networks.
- **Reducing substance and alcohol misuse** – helping people access support and reducing harm.

- **Tackling domestic and sexual abuse** – ensuring victims get the help they need and holding perpetrators to account.
- **Reducing violence and violent crime** – creating safer neighbourhoods for families and young people.

Together, these priorities aim to build a Doncaster where everyone feels safe and supported.

## Community Voice / Key Safety Concerns

Residents in Balby told us they are concerned about anti-social behaviour and crime, which they feel is affecting the sense of safety in the area. People spoke about issues like intimidation, vandalism, and visible drug use, alongside worries about repeat offending and property damage. Poor lighting and neglected streets add to these concerns, and many said they want more visible policing and quicker responses to incidents. Fear of reporting crime is common, with some residents believing nothing will change or fearing retaliation. There's also a call for more youth activities and safe spaces to reduce disruption and give young people positive options. Overall, the community wants cleaner streets, stronger enforcement, and opportunities to bring people together and restore pride in Balby.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Data provided by City of Doncaster Council Community Safety team shows that the number of Anti-Social behaviour, early intervention, hate crimes and low-level crime in the Central locality is the second highest for Doncaster.

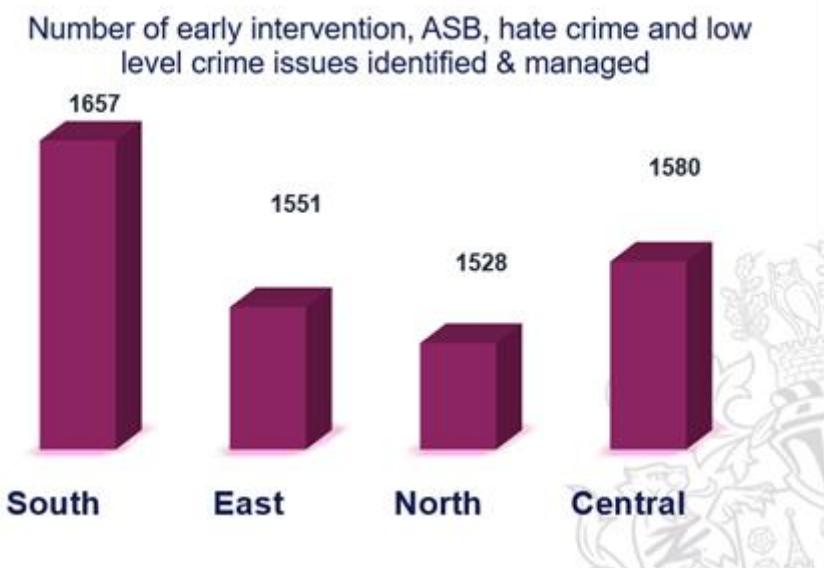


Figure 19. Stronger Families Crime/ASB Behaviour 2023, City of Doncaster Council, 2024

Upon further breakdown the data shows that from 1580 incidents/report 409 of them are reported in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 270 are recorded as being in Balby South.

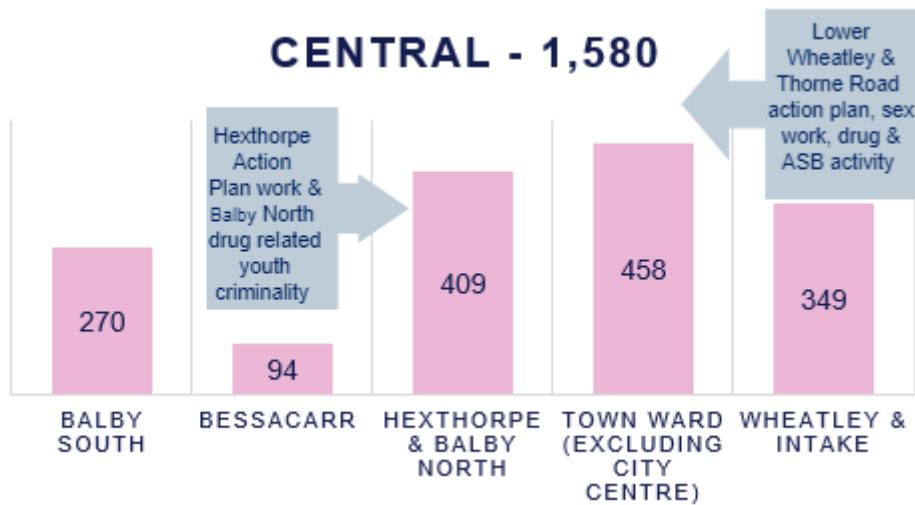


Figure 20. Further Breakdown of Locality Data into Communities 2023, City of Doncaster Council, 2024

Through partnership working with South Yorkshire Police data has been provided of ASB incidents reported to the police. The Central Locality currently has the highest ASB reports with 604 recorded.

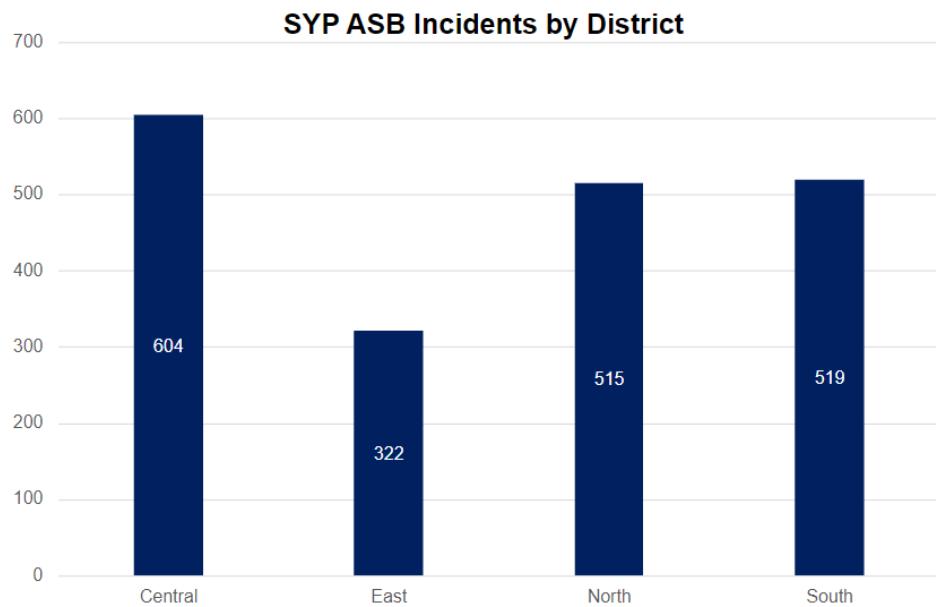


Figure 21. SYP ASB Incidents for Localities 2023, City of Doncaster Council, 2024

## Vulnerable Victims

The number of vulnerable victims for each Locality is also recorded from the table below you can see that Central is again the second highest area of Doncaster. East Locality (82) has double that of Central (41) but likewise Central has more than double of the North Locality (22).

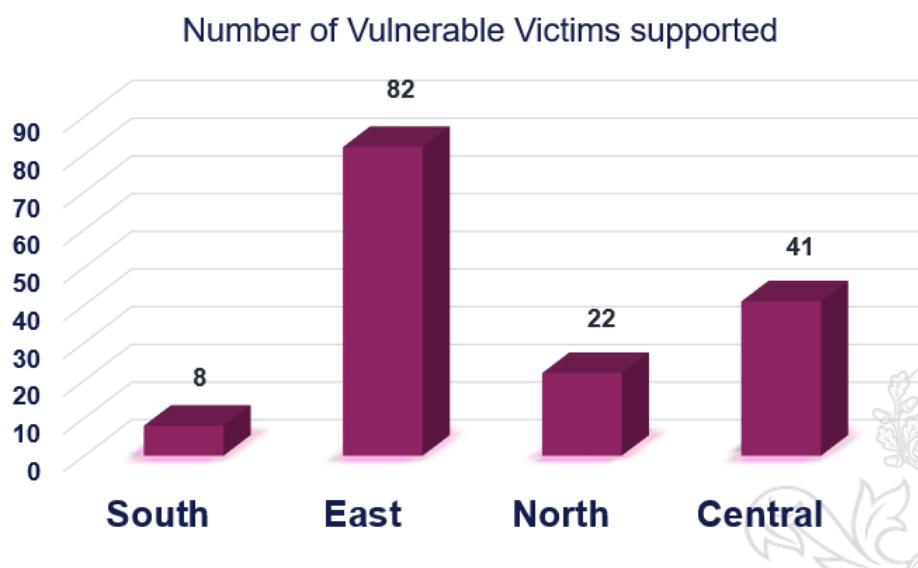


Figure 22. Vulnerable Victims Recorded by Locality 2023, City of Doncaster Council, 2024

Of the 41 vulnerable residents recorded in Central Doncaster, 12 of them are based in Balby North/Hexthorpe and 2 in Balby South.

## Wellbeing Service

The Wellbeing Service is run by the Stronger Neighbourhood Team, the service covers helping residents with financial support, physical health, housing, mental health and social isolation.

Table 7 indicates residents from Town ward have accessed the Wellbeing Service most frequently from the latest available data from Q4 fiscal year 2024/25. In the most recent full fiscal year 2023-2024, Town ward was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest ward accessing the Wellbeing Service.

Community Ranking for using service	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025 Q4
1	Wheatley & Intake	Wheatley & Intake	Wheatley & Intake	Town
2	Rossington & Bawtry	Rossington & Bawtry	Bessacarr & Cantley	Hexthorpe and Balby North
3	Thorne & Moorends	Mexborough	Mexborough	Rossington

4	Adwick & Carcroft	Adwick & Carcroft	Hexthorpe & Balby North and Bentley	Thorne and Moorends
5	Town/City Ward	Bessacarr & Cantley	Rossington & Bawtry and Town/City Ward	Norton & Askern

Table 7. Top 5 Wards Using the Wellbeing Service, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

Hexthorpe and Balby North falls within the top 5 wards accessing the Wellbeing Service in Q4 of 2024-25, the table below shows the top 3 themes that residents are receiving support.

Hexthorpe and Balby North theme Ranking	Theme Supported
1	Housing and Living Environment
2	Physical Health
3	Financial

Table 8. Top Three Most Common Themes Residents are Accessing the Wellbeing Service for Support, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

## Community Investment

Over the last 3 years there has been £2.42 million of investment into the Central Locality from Public Health and partnerships. This investment has been successfully applied for by partners and VCFS (Voluntary Community and Faith Sector) groups. The top 3 areas of funding spend has gone to support Youth Activities (£348,604), Community Engagement employment (£287,915) and Mental Health (£234,312).

The top 3 areas of spending in Balby North are: Community Engagement Worker (£94,560), Health & Wellbeing for adults (£144,072) and Physical Activity (£27,400)

The top areas of spending in Balby South are Health and Wellbeing for Adults (62,104), Improving Community Spaces (£58,000) and one to one support (£32,800).



Figure 25. Community Investment Hexthorpe and Balby North, Doncaster Delivering Together, 2025

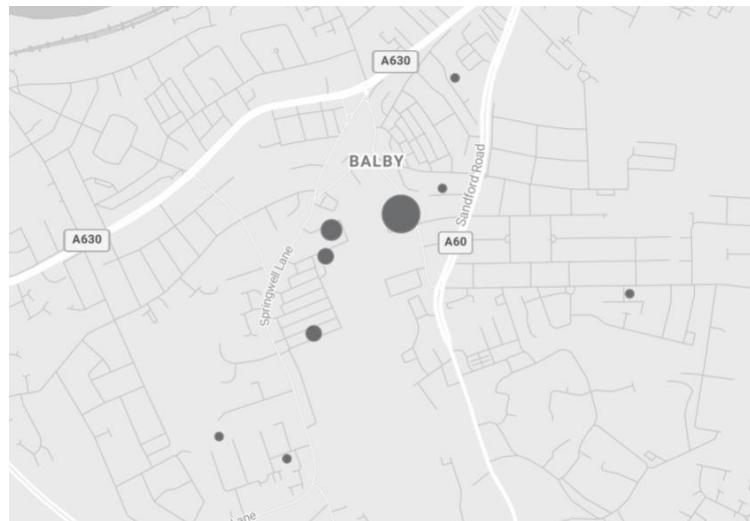


Figure 26. Community Investment Balby South, Doncaster Delivering Together, 2025

## References

Armstrong, A.J., Holmes, C.M. and Henning, D., (2020). A changing world, again. How Appreciative Inquiry can guide our growth. *Social Sciences & Humanities Open*, 2(1), p.100038.

Ritchie, J., Spencer, L., O'connor, W., & Lewis, J. (2003). Carrying out qualitative analysis. *London: Sage*.



# Appendix

## Well Doncaster

More information about Well Doncaster can be found on our website:

[Home | Well Doncaster](#)

## Census 2021

The census is undertaken by the Office for National Statistics every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

[Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)

[Census Maps - Census 2021 data interactive, ONS](#)

## Public Health Data

### Fingertips

This is a new Fingertips profile that uses data from Local Health an existing PHE data tool. Local Health is a collection of quality assured health information presented for small geographical areas. By presenting data for small areas, Local Health provides evidence of inequalities within local areas. It supports targeted interventions to reduce such inequalities.

Local Health contains indicators related to:

- Population and demographic factors
- Wider determinants of health
- Health outcomes

It presents data for middle super output areas (MSOA), electoral wards, clinical commissioning groups (CCG), local authorities, and England as a whole.

Please note, as the Local Health tool was designed to allow users to map small area data, a mapping option has not been provided in this profile.

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/local-health/data#page/0>

[Local Health - Public Health England - Reports: get a dashboard on a custom area](#)

Link to data- [Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy by ward: [Life expectancy by census ward](#)

Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2025 – statistical release, data files and reports: [English indices of deprivation 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025)

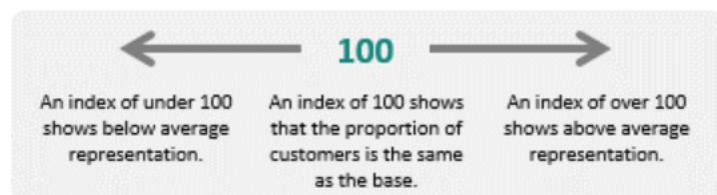
## Acorn profiles

Wellbeing Acorn segments the population into 4 groups (Health Challenges; At Risk; Caution; Healthy) and 25 types describing the health and wellbeing attributes of each postcode across the country. By analysing significant social and health related behaviour, it provides precise information and an in depth understanding of upstream issues affected by current lifestyle traits

## INTERPRETING THE REPORT

The Wellbeing Acorn profile report helps you understand the underlying demographics, lifestyle and health attributes of your customers and service users by comparing their Wellbeing Acorn profile to a base (e.g. UK population, area or other customer groups).

## INDEX



The Wellbeing Acorn Profile contains 12 variables that are indicators of Disability or Infirmity in the population and 9 variables related to unhealthy Behaviours. The average score measured against the base profile of Yorkshire and the Humber is 100. A value above 100 indicates that the area population is overrepresented for this characteristic, below 100 the value is less than the average or underrepresented.

## Physical Activity

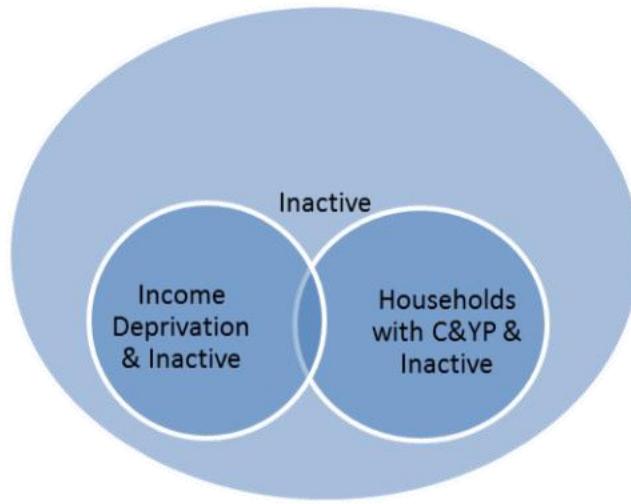
Get Doncaster Moving survey

<https://getdoncastermoving.org/uploads/behavioural-insight-phase-one-summary-report.pdf?v=1644581925>

Mosaic data

Mosaic Public Sector classifies the UK population into one of 66 types and 15 groups through a detailed and accurate understanding of each citizen's demographics, lifestyles, behaviours and location.

The Physically Inactive Population of Doncaster



The MOSAIC types who “Do not exercise” and “Do not take part in Sport” were searched and three priority groups have been identified through work with strategic partners as part of the development of Doncaster’s Physical Activity Strategy. The three priority groups are:

- The Inactive
- Families with children and young people
- People living in income deprivation

These groups are cross-referenced against the inactivity list allowing for the identification of MOSAIC types which are both likely to be inactive and living in deprivation as well as inactive and from households with children and young people.

Link to the Get Doncaster Moving strategy; [Let's Get Moving! | Get Doncaster Moving](#)

### **Pupil Lifestyle Survey**

[Pupil Lifestyle Survey - Healthy Schools \(healthylearningdoncaster.co.uk\)](#)

### **Power BI – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a process that identifies the current and future health and wellbeing needs of a local population. The dashboards show information about the employment, health, and wellbeing of people in Doncaster. We use this information to inform our policies and strategies to improve the lives of everyone in the Doncaster area.

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessments - Team Doncaster](#)

### **Community Safety**

The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership Community Safety Strategy can be found at - [The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership - City of Doncaster Council](#)

If you'd like to stay informed about crime and ASB in your community, you can find detailed crime statistics for your neighbourhood at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

If you would like further information about making Doncaster a Safer City, please see - [Making Doncaster a Safer City - YourLifeDoncaster](#)

To report issues or concerns, visit [www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/safer-city-how-to-report-issues](http://www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/safer-city-how-to-report-issues)

### **Community Investment:**

Investment Map: [Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan - Team Doncaster](#)

### **Population Health Management**

#### **Interactive Map**

To access and identify assets at ward and locality level please use the following interactive

map: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/d/viewer?mid=17BayPsliJ1OUq6U4OFbk9FKLYL2-wDZN&ll=53.50909620569456%2C-1.1365028000000032&z=14>