



Bessacarr

Community Profile

Well Doncaster

Community Led Health and Wealth
Empowering people in Doncaster to live better, healthier, and happier lives.

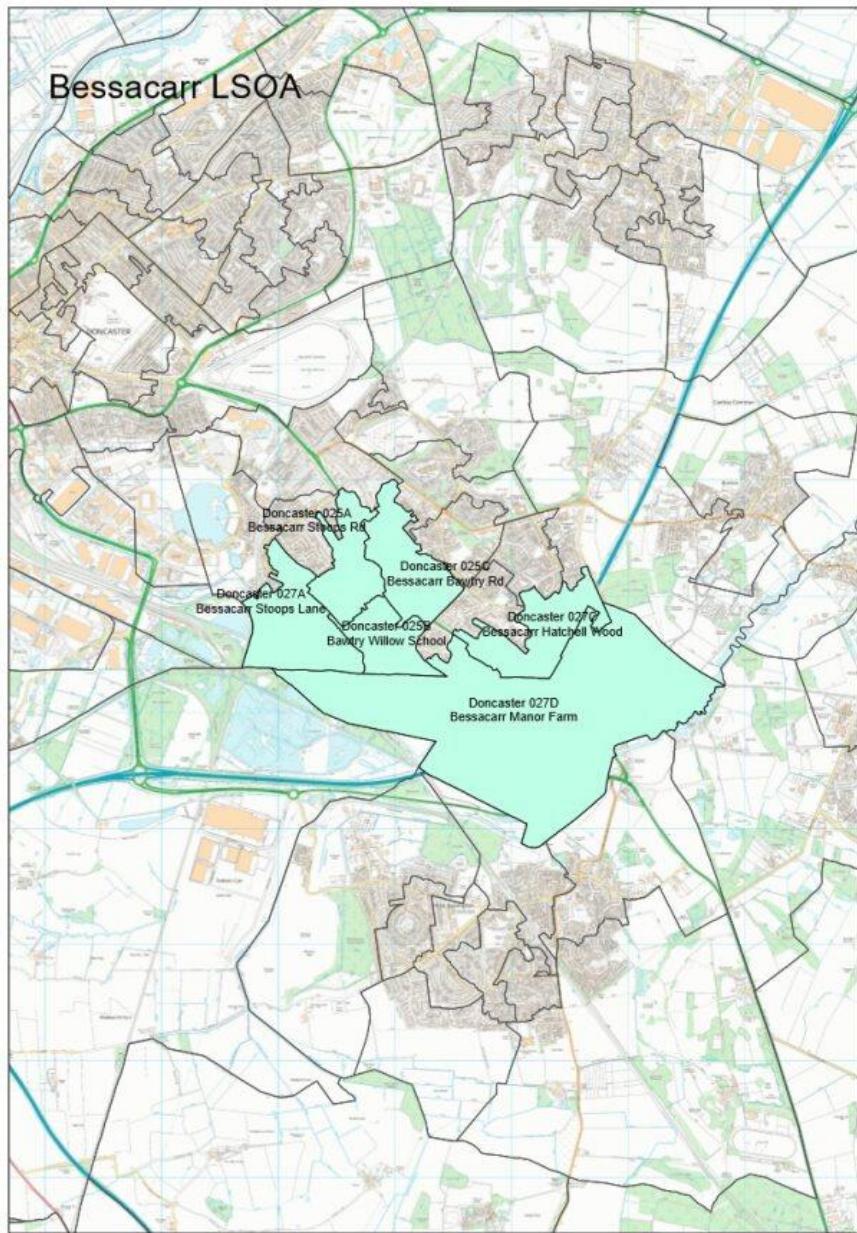
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Well Doncaster
**Community
Wealth Builder**

Well Doncaster
Be Well



**City of
Doncaster
Council**



This Report

This report uses a population health management approach to looking at the health of a whole group of people such as 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 the strengths of both people and place, whilst also looking into what health challenges 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 Bessacarr, part of the Bessacarr ward which includes Cantley and Bessacarr communities. Bessacarr is part of the Central locality of the city. This report begins with a summary outlining key information and priorities and 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.



Contents

This Report	3
One Page Summary	7
Community Priorities	7
Assets	8
Asset Maps	8
Population Health Management	9
Assets in the Community	10
Community Insight.....	11
Appreciative Inquiry	11
Community Conversations	12
Doncaster Talks	18
Ward Members	19
Health and Wealth	19
Deprivation	19
Wealth Inequalities.....	21
Employment	21
Fuel Poverty.....	22
Food Poverty.....	23
The Bread-and-Butter Thing	24
Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough.....	25
Health Inequalities.....	27
Life Expectancy.....	27
Long-Term Health Conditions	27
Incidence of Death.....	28
Alcohol	29
Smoking.....	30
Childhood Development.....	31
School Attainment.....	32
Pupil Lifestyle Survey.....	33
Family Hubs	35
Physical Activity.....	37
Physical Activity in Young People	37
Green Spaces/Parks	38
Community Information.....	38

Population and Diversity	38
Population Size.....	38
Age Profile	38
Housing.....	39
Community Safety.....	40
The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership	40
Community Voice / Key Safety Concerns	40
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	41
Vulnerable Victims	42
Wellbeing Service	43
Community Investment	44
References.....	45
Appendix.....	45



Bessacarr



**35.2% of
year 6
children are
overweight
or obese**

**11.6% are
living in
income
deprivation**

**Stroke is
the leading
cause of
death**



**44.8% of
homes are
outright
owned**

**2.7% of
residents
class
themselves
as not white
UK**

**44% of
children are
active more
than 5 times
a week**

One Page Summary

Bessacarr is part of the Bessacarr ward which includes Cantley and Bessacarr, located in the Central locality in Doncaster, and ranks 77th out of 88 communities for deprivation, making it one of the least deprived areas in the city. Despite this, pockets of deprivation exist, particularly affecting children and older residents. Employment levels are comparable to borough averages, and educational attainment is strong, with higher proportions of residents in professional roles and fewer with no qualifications.

Health outcomes are generally positive with life expectancy higher than Doncaster and national averages, and most residents report living in good or very good health. However, preventable health conditions remain a concern, with stroke ISR (104.8 per 100) above the national average and a significant number of deaths under 75 linked to lifestyle factors. Childhood obesity rates have improved, with Year 6 figures (35.2%) now below national and borough averages, but physical activity among young people has declined, dropping from 50% in 2023 to 44% in 2024 reporting activity five or more days per week.

Social wellbeing and community spirit are strong, supported by green spaces, local amenities, and active travel links. However, challenges include fuel poverty (13.7%), food insecurity, and rising demand for wellbeing services. Anti-social behaviour and social isolation are emerging issues, alongside concerns about mental health and access to timely healthcare.

Community Priorities

- Reduce poverty and financial insecurity, including child poverty, fuel poverty, and food poverty.
- Improve child health and development, focusing on weight management, physical activity, and emotional wellbeing.
- Prevent premature deaths by addressing lifestyle-related conditions such as stroke.
- Enhance mental health and reduce social isolation, with better access to wellbeing services and community support.

Assets

Well Doncaster uses community centred approaches that support 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 below show different types of assets across the City Centre. Please refer to the [appendix](#) for larger maps.

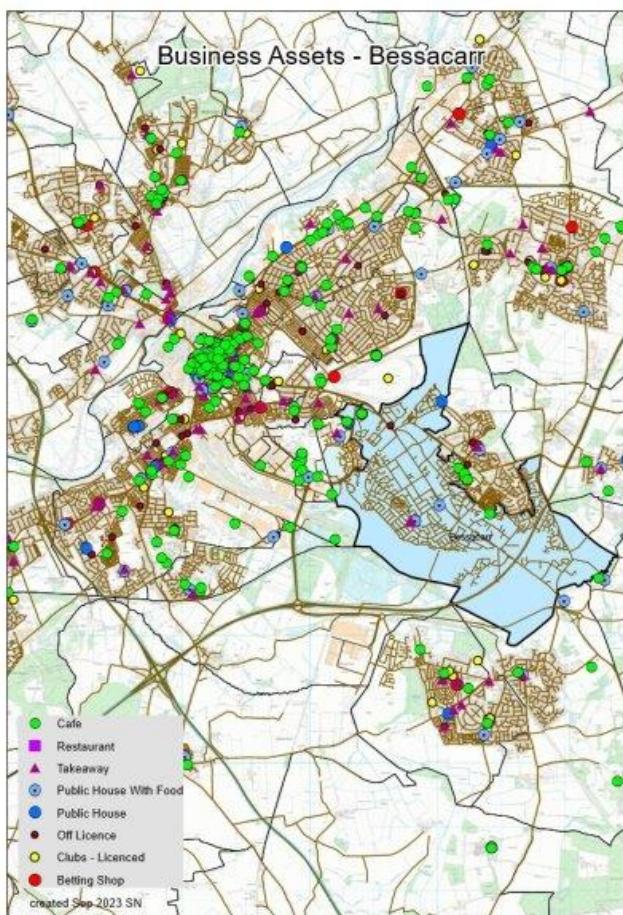


Figure 1. Bessacarr Health Assets (2024)

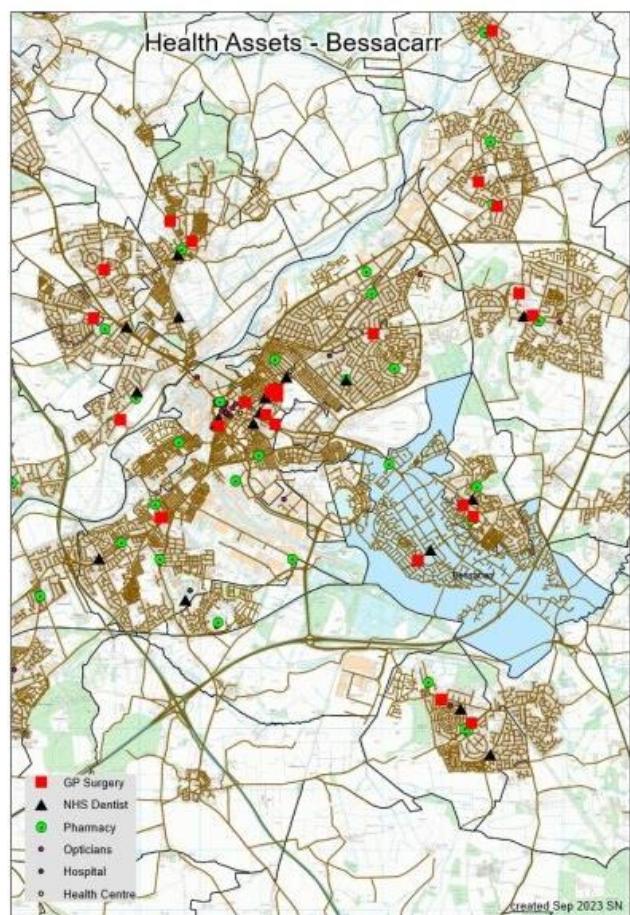


Figure 2. Bessacarr Business Assets (2024)

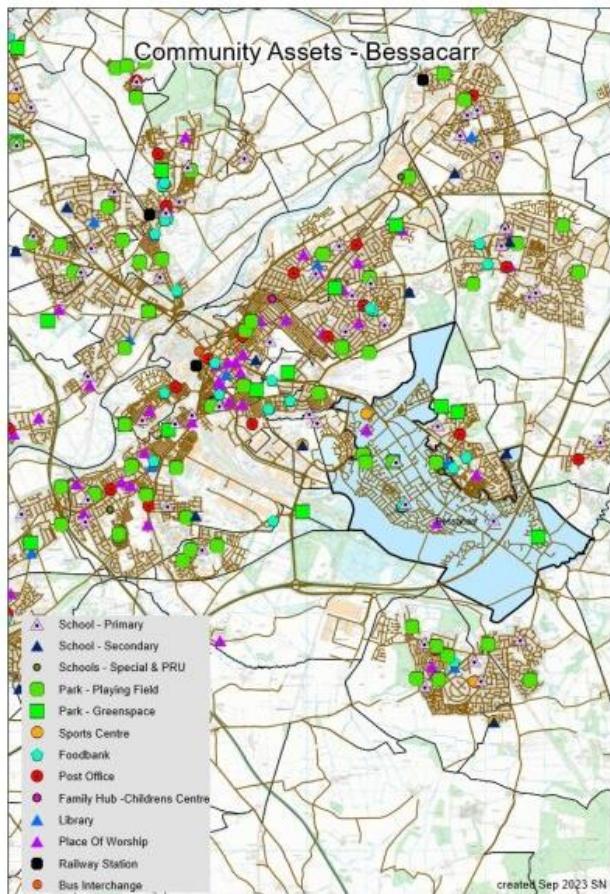


Figure 3. Bessacarr Community Assets (2024)

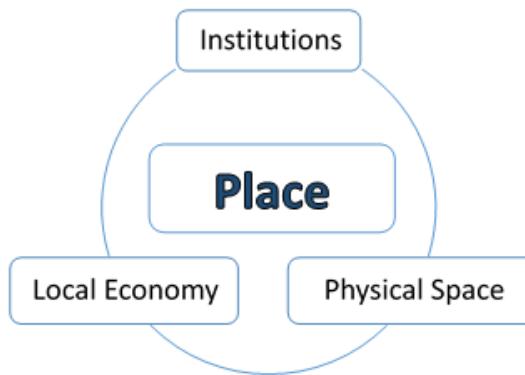
It is recognised that work is needed in the community to expand the understanding of who, how and what is accessed in the area. Greater knowledge of the identity of each community/ward will allow more appropriate and effective responses to community needs. Bessacarr remains a priority area for Central Doncaster and ongoing work will continue to support it.

Population Health Management

It is vital to understand the impact on the community of nationwide influencing factors such as the COVID19 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 Bessacarr, identifying their current status and needs, and works 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.

Assets in the Community

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



Institutions (Schools / Colleges etc.)	Local Economy (Local Profit Business)
Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bessacarr Primary School• Willow Primary School• Hallcross Lower School Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bessacarr Medical Centre Religious: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bessacarr Evangelical Church• St Francis Church Supported Accommodation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oaklands Nursing Care Home	Shopping: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nostell Place = CO-OP• Veterinary surgery• Pharmacist• Bakery• Hairdressers• Hadward Store• Fish & Chips shop• Chinese Takeaway• Off license Food and drinks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Flying Childers• Toby Carvery



INDIVIDUALS (Key Individuals within the community and why)	ASSOCIATIONS Local Groups/Clubs
Community Leaders Ward Members Police, Community Support Officers Professionals Well Doncaster Officers	Small Local Community Groups: Further work will be done by Well Doncaster to gather further insight into this community. Sports Clubs: Bessacarr Golf Club Doncaster Lawn Tennis Club

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 that reframing the questions in light of a crisis like Covid-19 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 will include the following steps take:

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.

Residents were asked a series of questions which have been placed into themes. Community insight gathering has been ongoing in Cantley and Bessacarr ward since 2019. All responses have undergone a thematic analysis, and themes have emerged indicating key assets and strengths in the community. Insight has been gathered through multiple resident engagements including community events, Future Parks Surveys in collaboration with Get Doncaster Moving, focus groups and one to one conversation. Themes from the most recent Thematical Framework are shared below with commentary summarising resident's quotes in Bessacarr. The

framework has been created from 151 conversations with residents from 2022 to March 2025.

Community Conversations

Themes	Sub Themes	Quotes	Commentary
Community	Friendliness Mutual Support Feeling Safe Participation	<p>Living somewhere safe is important, moved to Doncaster 35 years ago from London [...] feel lucky to be in a safe community where neighbours look out for each other - BES-23-1</p> <p>Politeness of people in the community, cleanliness and community pride - BES-23-6</p> <p>There isn't a lot of ASB, so I feel lucky to live where I live -BES-23-18</p> <p>Nice area for kids to play out in - BES-23-21</p> <p>Welcoming environment, nice to be able to walk around on own - BES-23-24</p> <p>I love living in Bessacarr, really friendly area with nice neighbours, never had any problem with crime or 'naughty youths' despite living near the secondary school. A lovely area to live - (BES-23-28)</p> <p>Everyone works together to keep it a safe environment and look out for each other – BES-24-1976</p> <p>I have a close community, and we have several residents who talk to each other ad look out for each other, it's nice to live somewhere we feel that we look out for each other. - BES-24-3994</p> <p>To help the community get know each other, to have things to do together, help one another, provide a space for achieving community cohesion, being people together of all backgrounds - BES-24-4377</p> <p>It's a respectable area where most people are retired. I think it's a good area of doncaster, people look after their houses, it's generally well looked after. I have good neighbours who I am friends with. - BES-25-180</p> <p>An old friend brought me into the church community, café, nice staff in there. I heard music whilst i was in the café and found out they do dance on in the hall behind the café, they took me in, took care of me. Knit and knatter at the hub on a Monday,</p>	<p>Feedback from residents in Bessacarr highlights a strong sense of community. Friendliness is a common thread, with many people describing their neighbours and the general atmosphere as kind and welcoming. This helps create a place where people feel comfortable and at ease in their daily lives.</p> <p>Mutual support is also important. Residents often mention how people in the area help one another and keep an eye out for each other. This kind of everyday care builds trust and strengthens the bonds between neighbours.</p> <p>The idea of people as safety shows how much residents rely on each other to feel secure. Rather than just focusing on crime rates or policing, people feel safe because they know others are nearby who care and are looking out for them. This sense of safety is especially valued by those who live alone or are more vulnerable.</p> <p>Finally, participation plays a big role in community life. Local groups and activities—like social clubs, exercise classes, and community cafés—give people a chance to connect, feel included, and support one another. These spaces are not only enjoyable but also help people feel part of something bigger, especially when they're going through tough times.</p> <p>Together, these themes show how strong relationships, and shared activities help make Bessacarr a place where people feel they belong.</p>

		<p>JOY club - group for older people, there's things to do for younger kids too. - BES-25-364</p> <p>Dance on is important to me - they adapted to my chronic pain needs, it's a mini community, took care of me, it's really helped my mental health, started off with a visualisation of the exercise. it was a real lifeline, now i help others who are new to dance on. it's a non-judgemental group, - BES-25-364</p>	
Assets & Amenities	<p>Accessible Amenities</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Things to do</p> <p>Families</p> <p>Connection</p> <p>Communication</p>	<p>Bessacarr and Cantley Times Newsletter is good for the local community and when we've promoted sessions in it it has been effective - BES-23-1</p> <p>Lots of local amenities however some aren't up to standard (The Dome). Lots of nearby activities - part of a Badminton Club, Pickleball, Bowling Club - BES-23-3</p> <p>Travel to Wheatley Retail Park for shopping - BES-23-10</p> <p>Nice to know there will be something within walking distance if and when I want to. Good that activities like canoeing and kayaking are available, not all places have them and at such a low, affordable cost - BES-23-12</p> <p>Swings and slides for kids. Amenities are close. Close transport links, gp, dentists across the road. Good access to school. Number of eateries - BES-23-14</p> <p>Can walk everywhere to get what I need - BES-23-1</p> <p>Close to Lakeside to walk to and restaurants, schools are good - BES-23-21</p> <p>The post office in Cantley is excellent and provides a lot of support for people – BES-24-2245</p> <p>Tennis Club & Cricket Club, Scouts at St Francis, Sandall Park, Doncaster Rovers – BES-24-2778</p> <p>like to go to the golf course, feel safe, we've got the wildlife park, like to go there often with grandkids and go to some of the gigs they have on. Race course nearby, Like to go to the tennis club, there's nice pubs – BES-24-4349</p> <p>everything is on your doorstep. There's plenty of walks, nice walk in the</p>	<p>Residents in Bessacarr describe a community that is well-equipped, supportive, and full of opportunities for people of all ages. Accessible amenities are a major strength in the area. People value being able to walk to shops, schools, parks, and health services. Having everything close by—like dentists, post offices, and places to eat—makes daily life easier and more enjoyable. Even when some facilities could be improved, the overall access to services is seen as a big positive.</p> <p>The theme of support is also clear. Local places like the post office are appreciated not just for what they offer, but for the way they help people feel cared for. Community newsletters and friendly local businesses also play a role in keeping people informed and connected.</p> <p>There are plenty of things to do, which helps people stay active and involved. From sports clubs and walking trails to wildlife parks and music events, there's something for everyone. These activities give people a chance to enjoy themselves, meet others, and feel part of the community. Families benefit from all of this. The area is seen as a good place to raise children, with safe play areas, good schools, and fun outings like trips to the wildlife park or local events. Grandparents, parents, and children alike find things they enjoy, helping to make the area feel like home.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that residents in Bessacarr often draw on opportunities and resources in the Cantley area, and there are strong links between these two communities.</p>

		woods, Sandall park, I like to bring my dogs. I go to Branton nurseries, they have secret garden, open every day. really nice shop. Theirs hairdressers, travel agents in Bessacarr. really like Auckley fish and chips. - BES-25-159	
Environment	<p>Feeling Safe</p> <p>Green space</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>Family time</p> <p>Outdoor activities</p>	<p>Not much anti-social behaviour, in the summer some drink on the fields to the back of the house.</p> <p>There is some noise, and a bit of mess left over however that is all in comparison to other areas we feel lucky - BES-23-1</p> <p>Trees, green spaces, leafy areas - lots of places to walk that are easy to access. Haslam Park - nice and go bowling here which is well maintained but Tennis courts aren't - BES-23-4</p> <p>Accessing good places to walk like around the Lakeside or the fields - BES-23-4</p> <p>Really like the immediate area as lots of trees and greenery. Lots of wildlife. Really nice local park, good for family and dog walking - BES-23-14</p> <p>Lots of kids for my daughter to play. Let her play out because I feel it's safe. I enjoy the green space and use that a lot. I enjoy going for walks. There isn't a lot of ASB, so I feel lucky to live where I live - BES-23-17</p> <p>Low crime and quiet, good to raise a family - BES-23-13</p> <p>Nice place to walk my dog - BES-23-20</p> <p>I enjoy the green space and use that a lot. I enjoy going for walks - BES-23-18</p> <p>Use the red path to walk to Lakeside and the Outlet. - BES-24-2109</p> <p>the houses are nice, cycle lanes and the wildlife park nearby – BES-24-3681</p> <p>Quiet, Clean - lovely people & safe. Close to shops - nice environment. Green Spaces, Haslam Park - Bolton Hill (uses outdoor gym there) - BES-24-4443</p> <p>there's easy access to the lakeside, red and white paths for a circular walk – BES-25-106</p>	<p>Residents in Bessacarr describe their local environment as peaceful, green, and well-suited for spending time outdoors with family. People take pride in the local area and appreciate that it is kept clean and tidy by residents who care.</p> <p>Safety is a strong feature of the area. People feel comfortable letting their children play outside and enjoy the quiet, low-crime atmosphere. While there are occasional issues like noise or litter in the summer, these are seen as minor compared to other places. Overall, the area is viewed as a safe and calm place to live and raise a family.</p> <p>Green space is another major strength. Residents appreciate the many trees, parks, and walking paths that are easy to access. These spaces are not only beautiful but also well-used, offering places to relax, exercise, or simply enjoy nature. Parks like Haslam and areas around Lakeside are especially popular. Over the years, residents have consistently mentioned using the colour coded walkways connecting Lakeside with the TransPennine trail, demonstrating active lifestyles and connection with the area they live in.</p> <p>The presence of wildlife adds to the appeal. People enjoy seeing animals and birds in their local parks and green areas, which helps create a peaceful and natural environment. The nearby wildlife park is also a favourite spot for outings.</p> <p>Finally, family time and activities outdoors are a big part of life here. Whether it's walking the dog, cycling, using outdoor gyms, or visiting local attractions with grandchildren, residents value the chance to be active and spend quality time outside. These shared experiences help strengthen family bonds and make the most of the area's natural beauty.</p>

Connectivity	Public transport Motorway accessibility Walking and active travel	Close to M18 - BES-23-22 Pretty central to everything - BES-23-22 A good bus route - BES-23-23 It has really good transport links [...] it has really good access to work so makes my life a lot easier - BES-23-25 I have good access link to transport links - BES-23-26 Improved outcomes mean rather than having to take cars, can walk to places, less pollution as a result. Safe for children to play and burn energy - BES-23-14 The schools are within walking distance – BES-24-3384 The airport close by, very pleased it will be opening up again. - BES-24-3869 I think it is good because my daughters can get to school, either by public transport or walking. - BES-24-3937 Access to things nearby as many of us are older and struggle with a poor bus service. - BES-25-226	Residents in Bessacarr value how well-connected their area is, both for getting around locally and for reaching destinations further afield. Three key aspects stand out: public transport, motorway access, and active travel. Public transport is appreciated for making daily life easier, especially for those commuting to work or school. While some mention challenges with service quality, many feel that having bus routes and nearby transport options gives them flexibility and independence. Motorway accessibility is another benefit. Being close to major roads like the M18 helps residents travel efficiently, whether for work, leisure, or visiting family. Residents also appreciated being close to the airport when it was open and look forward to its redevelopment. This convenience adds to the area's appeal, especially for those who travel regularly. Active travel—such as walking and cycling—is also a key part of life here. Many people enjoy being able to walk to schools, shops, and parks. This not only supports a healthier lifestyle but also reduces the need for car travel, which residents see as better for the environment and safer for children. Together, these forms of connectivity help residents feel more in control of their daily routines and more connected to both their neighbourhood and the wider region.
Social Wellbeing	Peer Support Social connections Caring for others	I am part of a camera club where I meet with likeminded people. we do competitions and themed photography challenges. I loved when I worked, and I like to keep busy. - BES-24-2968 Contact with other people is so important to me. I really like coming to the Friday men's club because I can be around other people like me and we all support each other and look out for each other. - BES-24-5422 Everything - to be fit for my family. - BES-25-229 I go to chronic pain group 1 a month. need exercise to move, helps with pain management, usually once diagnosed there's no follow-	When answering the question 'What is important to you about your Health and Wellbeing?', residents in Bessacarr describe social wellbeing as a key theme; something built through connection, purpose, and care for others. Peer support is especially important. People value spaces where they can meet others with shared interests or experiences—such as community groups and Be Well Peer support groups. These settings offer more than just social time; they create a sense of belonging and mutual care, where people look out for one another. Being there for family is also key to residents' social wellbeing. Some residents speak about

		on support, not many options – BES-25-364	wanting to stay fit and well so they can support their loved ones. This shows how personal wellbeing is often tied to the wellbeing of others, especially within families. Together, these experiences show how social wellbeing is shaped by meaningful relationships, regular activity, and a sense of responsibility to those we care about.
Services	Access Quality and variety Respect and compassion	As it'd been before covid. Seen practitioners. Phone calls shouldn't replace them. Having GP. Short waiting lists. Access to specialists & nurses - BES-23-7 Easily accessible, inclusive, efficient and thorough health services - BES-23-11 Accessibility and people focused. Approachable - BES-23-14 For me, it just really needs to be there when needed. For example, it would be great to be able to get an appointment when I actually need one. - BES-24-5422 That they want to work with you and aren't dismissive of you. Better wait times, and care in between if the wait is significant. Speaking to a real person, with continuity – BES-24-4922 I rate the NHS 100% after my knee replacement, the staff and service at the hospital was fantastic. - BES-25-180 Doctors are put under constraints, 1 symptom per appointment, not good for people with fibromyalgia, can't do double appointments, need to be able to see a specialist in the condition, access to a pain clinic. - BES-25-364	When asked 'What does good quality Healthcare look and feel like to you?', residents in Bessacarr share a mix of experiences, reflecting both appreciation and frustration. Access remains a top concern. Many people want to return to the kind of care they had before the pandemic—seeing practitioners face-to-face, with shorter waiting times and easier access to appointments. While some describe services as efficient and inclusive, others feel that delays and limited availability make it hard to get help when it's most needed. Quality and breadth of care also vary. Some residents speak highly of hospital care, praising the professionalism and outcomes of treatments like surgery. However, others feel that care needs to be broader and more holistic — especially for people with complex or long-term conditions. There is a desire for more joined-up support, including access to specialists, pain clinics, and longer or more flexible appointments that reflect real-life needs. Respect is central to how people experience healthcare. Residents want to feel listened to and taken seriously. They value continuity—being able to speak to someone who knows their history—and want to be treated as partners in their care, not just as patients. When services are dismissive or rushed, it leaves people feeling overlooked.
Healthy Environment	Green spaces Safety Community Healthcare Stability	Wildlife locally is good for family as better health and wellbeing outcomes - BES-23-14 It is important that I can access the benefits of being in nature, and have the opportunity to experience quiet and be away from the busyness of life - BES-23-11	Residents in Bessacarr have referred to a healthy environment as being key to their health and wellbeing throughout the years we have been carrying out Community Conversations. Being able to have a clean, safe, good environment that allows residents to walk, exercise and enjoy leisure time with

		<p>Feeling of security for family and feeling safe is also good for my wellbeing - BES-23-16</p> <p>Having safe places to visit to walk around and keep fit – BES-24-2557</p> <p>To be able to get out in nature for walks to unwind and recuperate. To have healthy eating options when i decide to eat out. - BES-24-3051</p> <p>being able to have local walks available from my doorstep – BES-25-106</p>	<p>the family is very important to residents.</p> <p>Residents appreciate the ability to access green space easily and appreciate its many benefits on their health outcomes.</p> <p>Residents are able to relax and spend time away from busy jobs and lives, with a feeling of safety and security. This ability to feel safe also impacts residents' ability to access the outdoors, having a positive knock-on effect on their health. Residents have also identified having easy access to good quality foods as beneficial to their overall health.</p> <p>Overall, residents in Bessacarr feel that the environment in which they live enables them to have good health outcomes.</p>
Healthy Behaviours	<p>Fitness and activity</p> <p>Independence</p> <p>Self-motivation</p>	<p>Being active is very important, like to run around after granddaughter and play pickleball and badminton 4 times a week - BES-23-1</p> <p>Going running and playing hockey. Physical activity - BES-23-13</p> <p>Keeping myself organised, focusing on having a positive mindset and trying to eat as healthy as possible – BES-24-1976</p> <p>Not relying on services and being independent – BES-24-4542</p> <p>Being able to play sports with others, being active, going outside, fresh air and nature is so good for you. I like social sports, the comparative side of it and the social side of it gives me a good boost, I like working towards goal. - BES-24-4922</p> <p>It's also important to stay healthy, I'm trying to eat more veg and less meat. I also force myself out rather than sitting around the house, trying to meet more people. That's why I've come to the library today. - BES-25-202</p>	<p>Residents in Bessacarr have identified that health is a personal responsibility, identifying a number of healthy behaviours as key to independence and good health outcomes.</p> <p>Throughout this framework and community responses it is key that residents in Bessacarr are an active population, spending a good amount of time in the outdoors. Residents have frequently referenced physical activity as important not only to their health and wellbeing, but to their lives in general. This is often mentioned alongside spending time with family members.</p> <p>Residents are able to identify the importance of self-motivation and independence in health. Some speak about keeping a positive mindset, socialising, being active and goal oriented, or simply pushing yourself to leave the house to improve your wellbeing.</p>
Health education	<p>Holistic understanding</p> <p>Mobility and independence</p> <p>Mental health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Everything, spiritual, physical, mental - BES-23-15</p> <p>Everything is important - mental and physical health. Being able to access the right services for me when need to. - BES-23-16</p> <p>Being active for as long as possible BES-23-12</p>	<p>Residents in Bessacarr have identified numerous factors which contribute to a general understanding of good health. This is a holistic understanding encompassing mental and physical health and living a long healthy life.</p> <p>One resident has identified the multiple pressures</p>

		<p>Being as fit and mobile as long as possible is the most important thing to me. - BES-24-4900</p> <p>Mental health support for mums - can be very demanding - pressure from others to enjoy every minute despite being a mum can be very hard and demanding – BES-25-229</p>	<p>which impact the mental wellbeing of mothers, including peer pressure and pressure to be a good parent. This resident calls on the need for more mental health support and peer support in this instance.</p>
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Doncaster Talks

In 2019, Doncaster Talks undertook an insight across the borough of Doncaster. Responses were separated into wards and thematically analysed. Across Bessacarr, there were 107 responses recorded. 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.



Like

- Safe and quiet
- Parks and greenspaces including benefit to health and wellbeing
- Access to amenities e.g. lakeside and town centre
- Good transport links e.g. motorways & airport

Improve

- ASB related to substance misuse and homelessness – feeling of safety
- Town centre empty shops and regeneration
- Cleanliness and litter

Focus

- Town Centre regeneration, improvement
- Crime, ASB, policing
- Community cohesion, and include younger people and older people – facilities and connections

Figure 4. Doncaster Talks Insight for Bessacarr Ward, City of Doncaster Council, 2019

Ward Members

Below are the ward members for Town Centre following the 2025 elections.



Councillor Nick Allen
Bessacarr
Conservative



Councillor David Carroll
Bessacarr
Reform UK



Councillor Chris Kidger
Bessacarr
Reform UK

Health and Wealth

Deprivation

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).

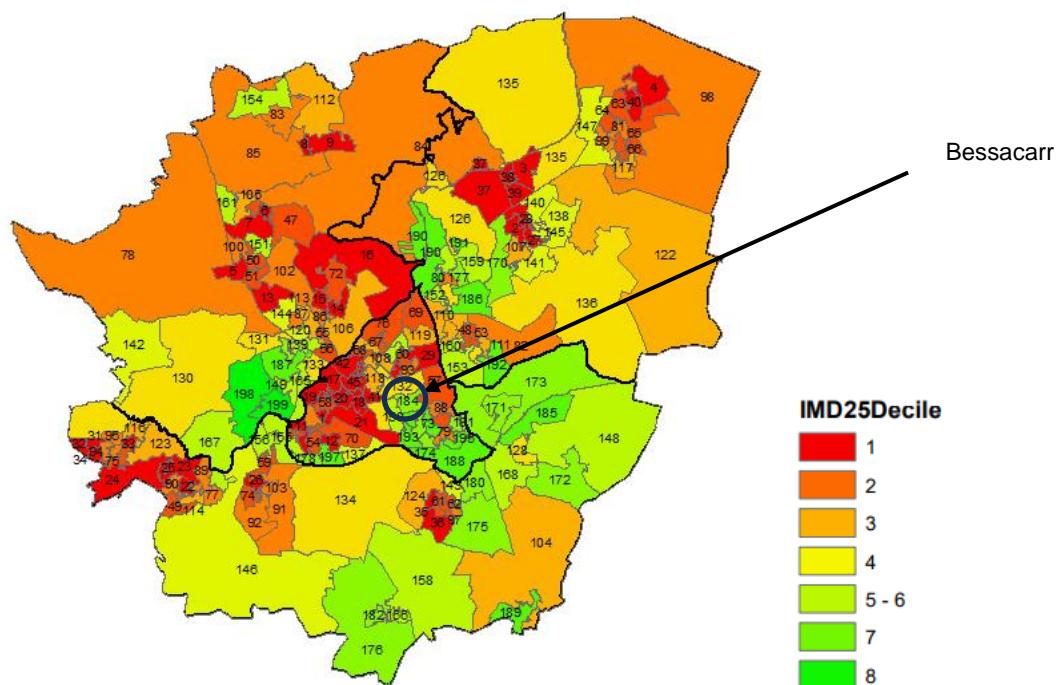


Figure 4. Index of Multiple Deprivation Deciles by LSOA, Doncaster, Office of National Statistics, 2025

As of 2025, the IMD score in Bessacarr stands at 11.57, ranking 77th out of 88 communities in Doncaster. This means that Bessacarr ranks within Decile 9 (across Doncaster) as one of the less deprived communities.

In 2025, 16.3% of Bessacarr Bawtry Road Middle-Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) residents are experiencing poverty, and 11% in Bessacarr Grange & Lakeside MSOA, both lower than the Doncaster average of 29.3%. This is a significant increase from 2019, from 8.6% and 4.9% respectively.

The proportion of older people in poverty in Bessacarr Bawtry Road MSOA (9.9%) and Bessacarr Grange & Lakeside MSOA (7.3%) are both lower than the Doncaster rate (19.4%), similarly to all people, this has increased since 2019.

Furthermore, 26.5% of children are living in poverty in Bessacarr Bawtry Road Middle-Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) and 19.1% in Bessacarr Grange & Lakeside MSOA, lower than the Doncaster average, 47.1%, an increase from 11.3% and 5.1% respectively since 2019.

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 14.4% of Bessacarr residents experiencing poverty, 9.7% of older people and 22.8% of children.

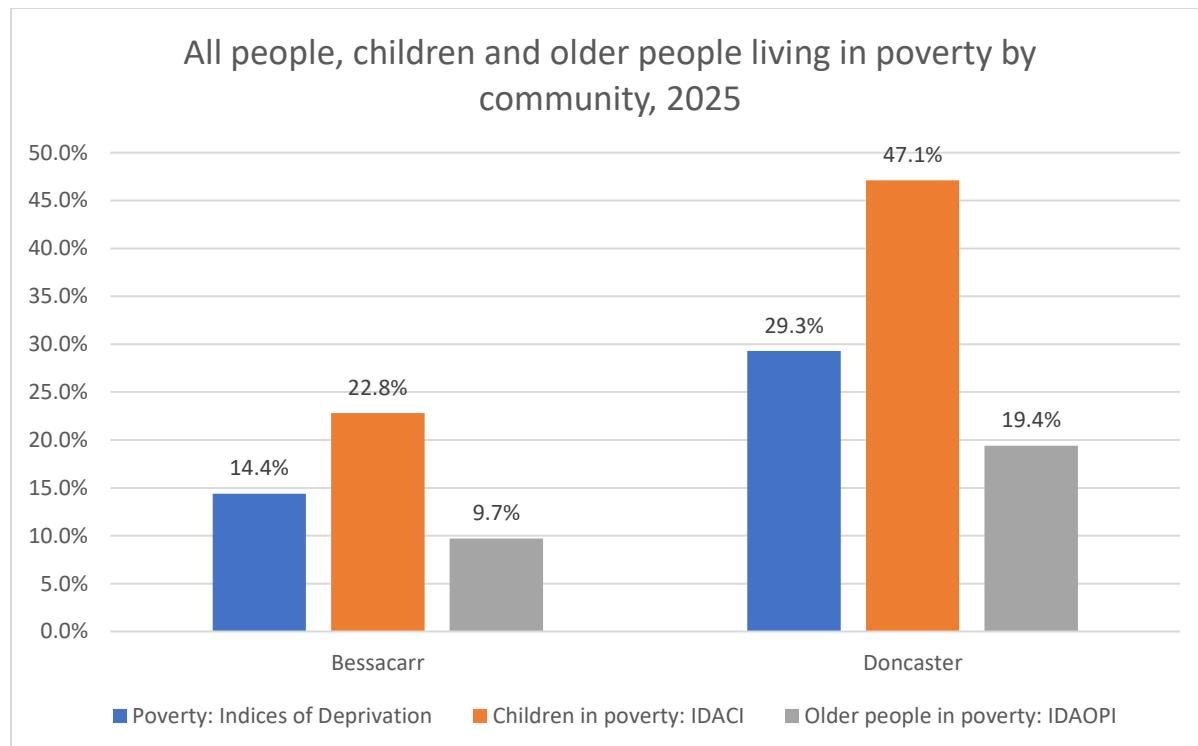


Figure 5. Poverty Prevalence using IMD25, Office of National Statistics, 2025

The 2021 Census data has classified households in England and Wales by four dimensions of deprivation: employment, education, health and disability and household overcrowding.

MSOA level data has been used in this instance, to represent the closest geographical area to the Bessacarr community. 53.9% of households in Bessacarr are not deprived in any dimensions which is higher than Doncaster (43.7%) and England (48.4%). Moreover, 32.3% of households are deprived in one dimension of deprivation, lower than Doncaster (32.3%). 11.4% of households are deprived in two dimensions, significantly lower than Doncaster (16.7%) and England (14.2%) and households deprived in three dimensions (2.4%) are also lower than Doncaster (4.6%) and England (3.7%). There are 0.1% residents living in all four dimensions, lower than the Doncaster average of 0.2%. This indicates Bessacarr is less deprived compared to the Doncaster and national average according to Census 2021 data.

Wealth Inequalities

Employment

The 2021 Census has given us new data based on the community of Bessacarr. 54.8% of residents are currently in employment, which is comparable to that of Doncaster (54.9%) and England at 57.4%. There is a considerable number (37.8%) of these residents who are employed who travel less than 10km to their place of work, which is slightly higher than the national rate (35.4%). Bessacarr also has a large number of residents who work from home (29.2%). Even so, 71.4% of people within Bessacarr have not been employed in the last 12 months which is higher than the national rate at 61.1%. The Census 2021 data revealed that 19% of the population of Bessacarr have been recorded as 'Never Worked' which is significantly lower than the rate of Doncaster (27.2%) and England (25.6%). Bessacarr has 45.2% of its population who are considered economically inactive, that is those not in employment and not actively seeking employment opportunities. It is important to note that this also includes students, retirees etc.

Of those who work, the majority of people work full time (59.2%) which is similar to that of Doncaster (60.7%) and England (59.1%). Part time working is of a similar picture, just slightly lower for Bessacarr (19.5%) than the Doncaster rate (20.7%) and England (19.5%).

The census has also showed us the professions of residents in Bessacarr. Professional occupations (22.4%) has more than double the levels of Doncaster (12.8%) and is on par with England (20.3%). This follows suit with the roles of – Managers, Directors and Senior Officials, and Associate Professional and Technical occupations.



Figure 6. Occupations for Bessacarr Residents, Office of National Statistics, 2021

Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty is directly linked to energy efficiency, energy prices and household income. Fuel poverty is distinct from general poverty: not all poor households are fuel poor, and some households would not normally be considered poor but could be pushed into fuel poverty if they have high energy costs. Evidence shows that living in cold homes is associated with poor health outcomes and an increased risk of morbidity and mortality for all age groups. Furthermore, studies have shown that more than one in five (21.5%) excess winter deaths in England and Wales are attributable to the coldest quarter of housing.

Modelled estimates of the proportion of households in fuel poverty shows that 18.8% of households in Doncaster are living in fuel poverty. 13.7% of households in the Bessacarr ward are experiencing fuel poverty, in line with the Doncaster and England (13.2%) rate.

The graphic below illustrates wards ranked by households in fuel poverty and shows Bessacarr ward falls outside the top fifteen most effected by fuel poverty.

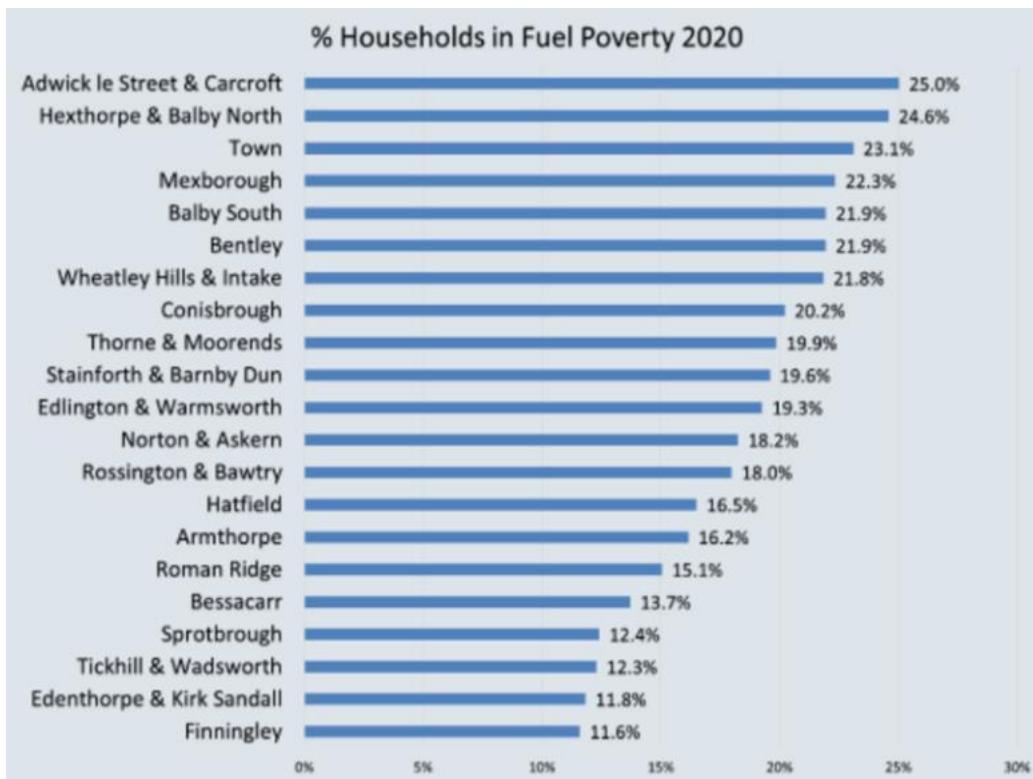


Figure 7. Households in Fuel Poverty Ranked by Ward, Office of National Statistics, 2020

Food Poverty

There are 7 active foodbanks in the Central locality of Doncaster. Across fiscal years 2024-2025, Central foodbanks supported 5102 individuals, 2333 single parents, 4170 families, 1488 couples and 91 'other' and ranked as the highest locality for relative level of foodbank support. The most recent data from 2025 shows that across the Central foodbanks the highest number of people supported by type were individuals and single parents. This has changed from fiscal year 2024-2025 data where there were significantly more couples seeking support.

The closest foodbank to residents in Bessacarr is located at Cantley Neighbourhood Centre and supports Cantley and Bessacarr.

The most recent foodbank data from 2025 shows the top five reasons for accessing foodbanks across the borough are: cost of living (602 residents), low income (524 residents), benefits delay (468 residents), debt (456 residents) and benefit changes (447 residents). The Figure below is a tree map chart showing an overview of the reasons residents are requiring foodbank support.



Figure 8. Reasons Residents are Accessing Foodbank Support, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

The Bread-and-Butter Thing

There are five 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 hub 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 the TBBT in the central locality. 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. Although TBBT is not close to residents in Bessacarr, it's open to any residents in Doncaster and may provide support to people from postcodes boroughwide.

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 via TBBT, but particularly residents from more deprived communities.

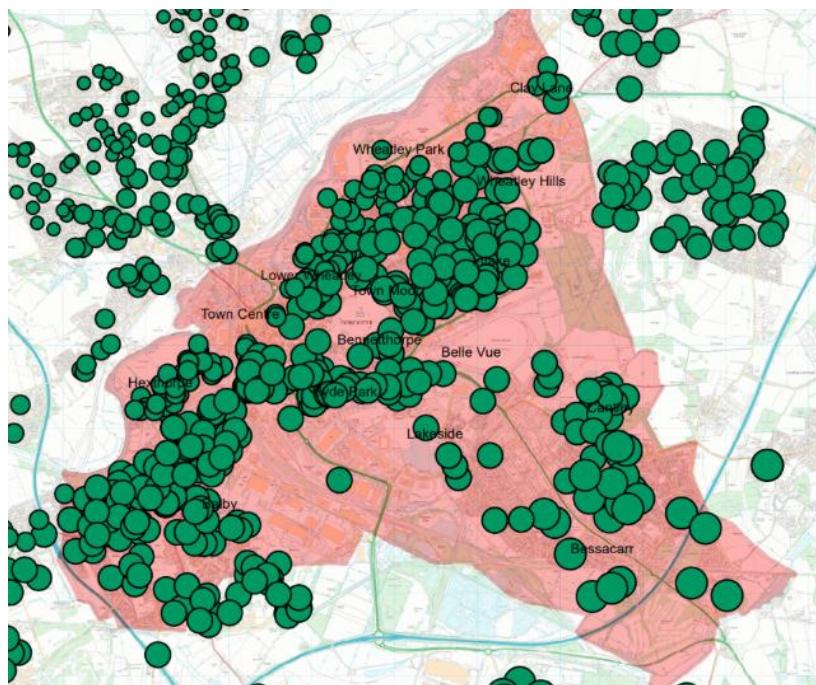


Figure 9. Postcode Map Showing Residents Accessing TBBT Throughout Fiscal Year 2024/25, The Bread and Butter Thing, 2025

Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough

Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough (CADB) is an independent, local charity and a member of the Citizens Advice network. They provide free advice and support to meet the needs of communities. This includes advice on a range of problems, such as with work, debt, benefits, immigration, housing and more.

In 2022 CADB established a network of community-based outreach sites where residents can access free, impartial information, advice, and guidance. There is an outreach site located in the Bessacarr ward at Cantley Community Library.

In the Fiscal Year 2024/25, data shows that in Bessacarr ward, 148 clients were supported across 108 postcodes. The total income gain, that is the amount of additional income that a client receives as a result of support or intervention from CADB, has increased to £20,616,502 across all of Doncaster, with £196,972 generated in the latest full fiscal year 2024/25 in Bessacarr ward. The postcode map below indicates where residents are accessing support from Bessacarr ward. The purple dots represent the postcodes of clients accessing support throughout fiscal year 2024/25 in Bessacarr showing an even spread across the north part of Bessacarr into Cantley.

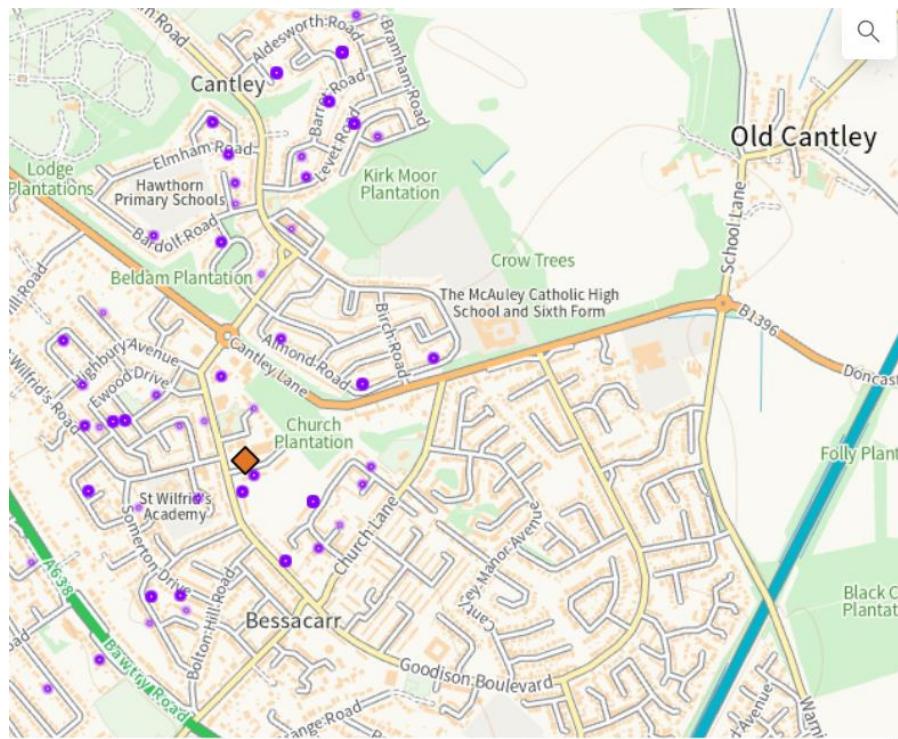


Figure 10. Postcodes of CABD Clients Accessing Support for Fiscal Year 2024/25, Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough, 2025

The top five reasons residents from Bessacarr ward access support are: debt, benefits and tax credits, utilities and communications, benefits universal credit and lastly consumer goods and services. More specifically in Bessacarr ward, residents report general benefit entitlement as the primary reason for seeking support. Bessacarr ward ranks as the fourth highest ward in the Central locality seeking support from CABD. The table below shows a breakdown of CABD data comparing Bessacarr ward to the other top five Central wards accessing support through CABD.

Data collation information	Town			Wheatley and Intake			Hexthorpe and Balby North			Bessacarr			Balby South		
Year	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25	22/23	23/24	24/25
Clients	463	617	421	318	408	237	283	434	349	142	183	148	133	159	140
Postcodes covered	230	272	228	181	197	152	133	174	142	93	115	108	80	102	79
Top Issue for advice/info	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt	Debt
Total Income gain	£239,509	£742,292	£333,828	£171,071	£589,869	£219,038	£243,610	£561,915	£284,999	£87,008	£270,573	£196,972	£63,323	£290,520	£302,413

Table 1. CABD Figures for Fiscal Year 2024/25 Showing the Top 5 Central Wards Seeking Support, Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough, 2025

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.

Life Expectancy

Life expectancies in males (80.9 y) and females (84.7) living in Bessacarr ward are higher than the rates of Doncaster (*m*: 77.9, *f*: 81.3) and England (*m*: 79.5, *f*: 83.2). Healthy life expectancy in Bessacarr ward is 65.9 years for males and 66.8 years for females, both are higher than the Doncaster average of 57 years for males and 56 years for females. Bessacarr ward also has higher healthy life expectancy than national averages which is 61.5 for males and 61.9 for females (ONS 2021-23).

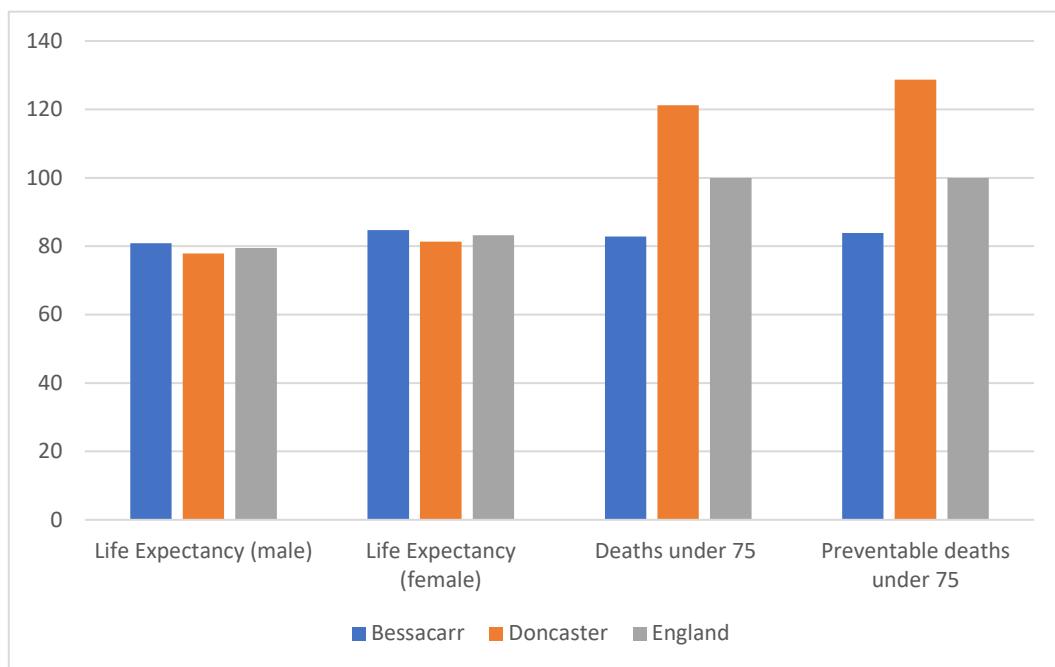


Figure 11. Life Expectancy and Deaths, Preventable Deaths Under-75 in 2020/21, Office of National Statistics, 2021

Long-Term Health Conditions

The 2021 Census shows us that 48.4% of residents live in 'very good health', which is higher than the rate for Doncaster 44.3%. 34.7% live in 'good health' (Doncaster 34.1%), 12.3% live in 'fair health' (Doncaster 18.2%), 3.6% live with bad health (Doncaster 5.3%) and 1% live with 'very bad health' (Doncaster 1.6%). Specifically, incidence rates of strokes (104.8 per 100 people) are considerably greater in Bessacarr.

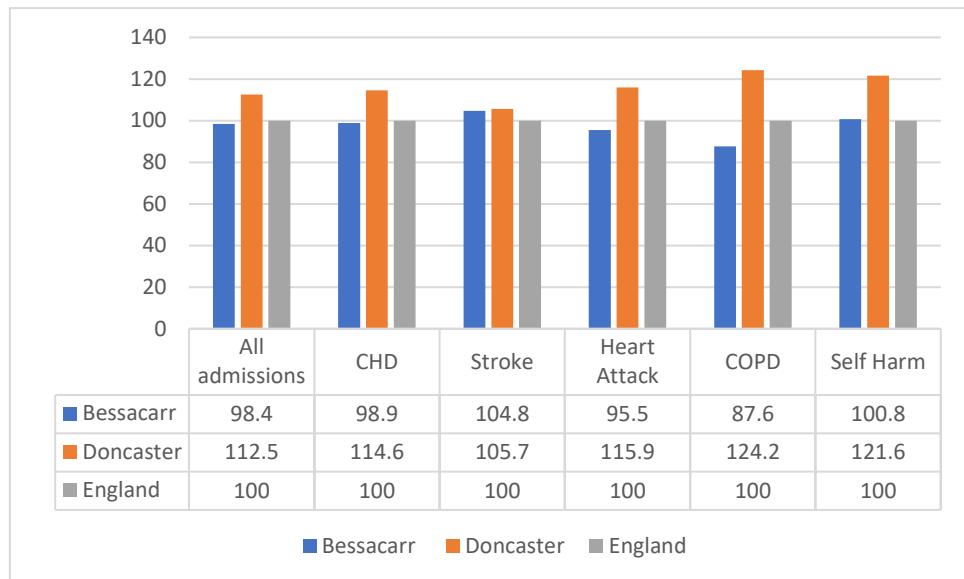


Figure 12. Comparison of Emergency Hospital Admissions by Ward 2016/17-20/21, Office of National Statistics, 2021

Emergency hospital admissions that are largely associated with health conditions related to poor lifestyle choices are also more likely across those severely deprived communities. Bessacarr is lower for all hospital admissions across the board compared to Doncaster and is on par with the national rates.

Incidence of Death

The leading causes of death within Bessacarr is Strokes with a ISR of 111.2 per 100. A considerable number of deaths are deemed preventable, suggesting work on measures to target healthy lifestyle choices may have an impact on these figures.

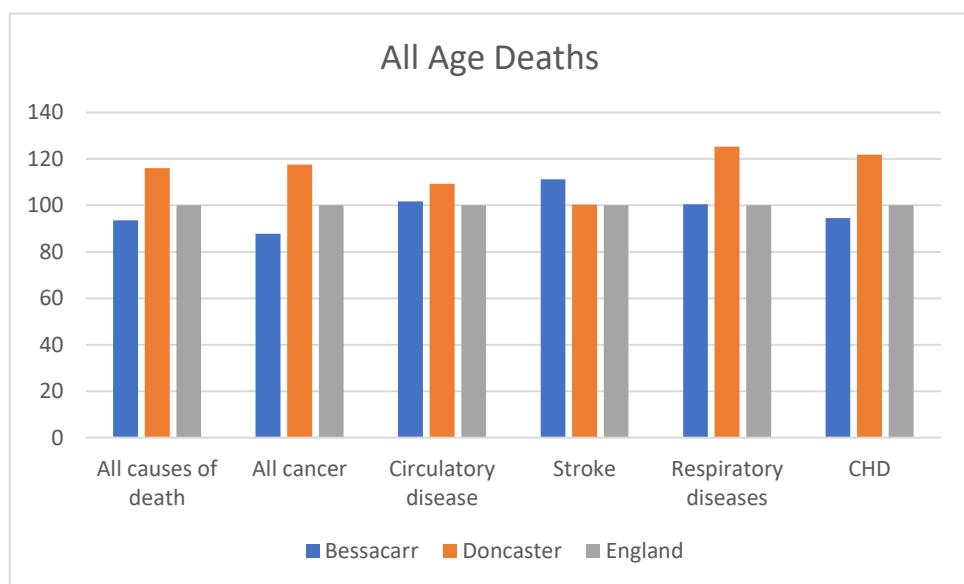


Figure 13. All Age Deaths 2020/21, Office of National Statistics, 2023

Death rates from all causes and all ages across Bessacarr, aside from Strokes are lower than those of for Doncaster and England.

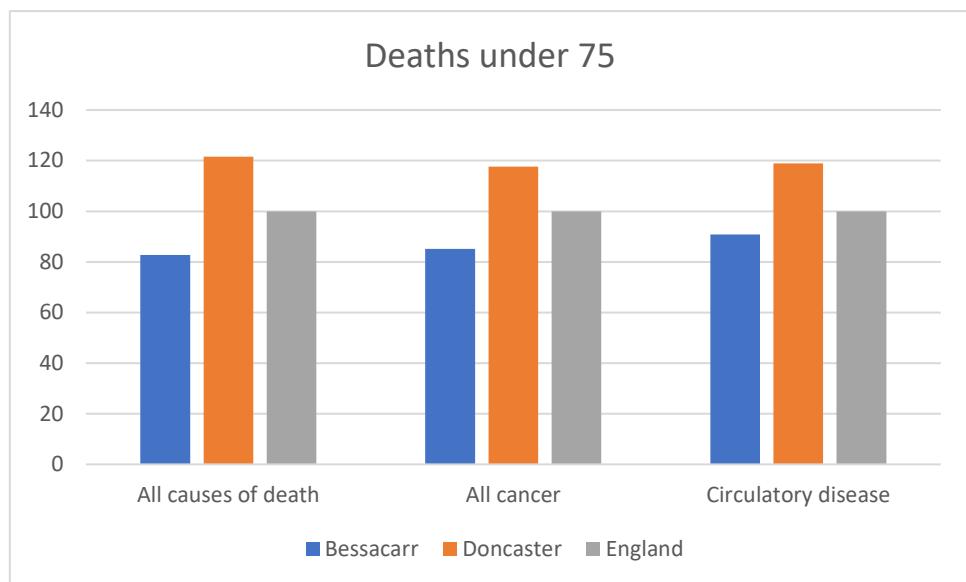


Figure 14. Preventable Deaths Under 75 2020/21, Office of National Statistics, 2021

Bessacarr has one of the lowest rates of deaths in under 75s across Doncaster. The chart shows that Bessacarr has a significantly lower death rate in all areas among under 75's compared to Doncaster and England.

Alcohol

The data supplied by Public Health Fingertips data shows that Bessacarr is the 6th lowest population of Doncaster with hospital admissions of alcohol attributable conditions (broad definition).

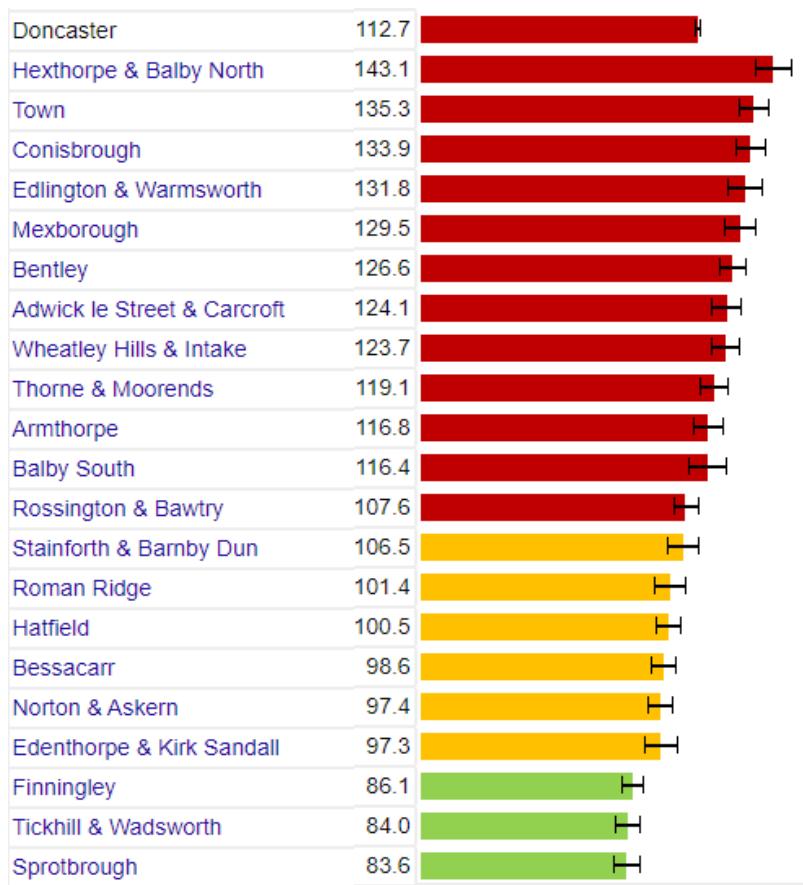


Figure 15. Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions by Ward 2016/17-20/21, Office of National Statistics, 2021

Bessacarr has a ISR of 98.6/100 compared to Doncaster at 112.7/100 and is lower than England as the reference population (100/100).

Smoking

Data from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH, 2024), indicates smoking rates in Bessacarr ward stand at 10.1%. This is lower than the Doncaster (15.7%) and England (10.4%) rates.

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) estimates smoking costs Doncaster £335 million per year, and 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 Bessacarr ward, the gross annual cost of smoking as of Spring 2024 was £9.75 million and 10.1% of the wards population are smokers (the fourth lowest ward across the borough). An estimated £2.95 million is spent annually on tobacco products in Bessacarr ward and the national average spend on tobacco per smoker now stands at £2486. Smoking has a significant impact on employment and productivity, and in

Bessacarr the total cost due to lost productivity from smoking was estimated at £5.48 million which is lower than the borough average of £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 Bessacarr, 22.8% of children are classed as living in child poverty, which is significantly lower than the Doncaster rate (47.1%).

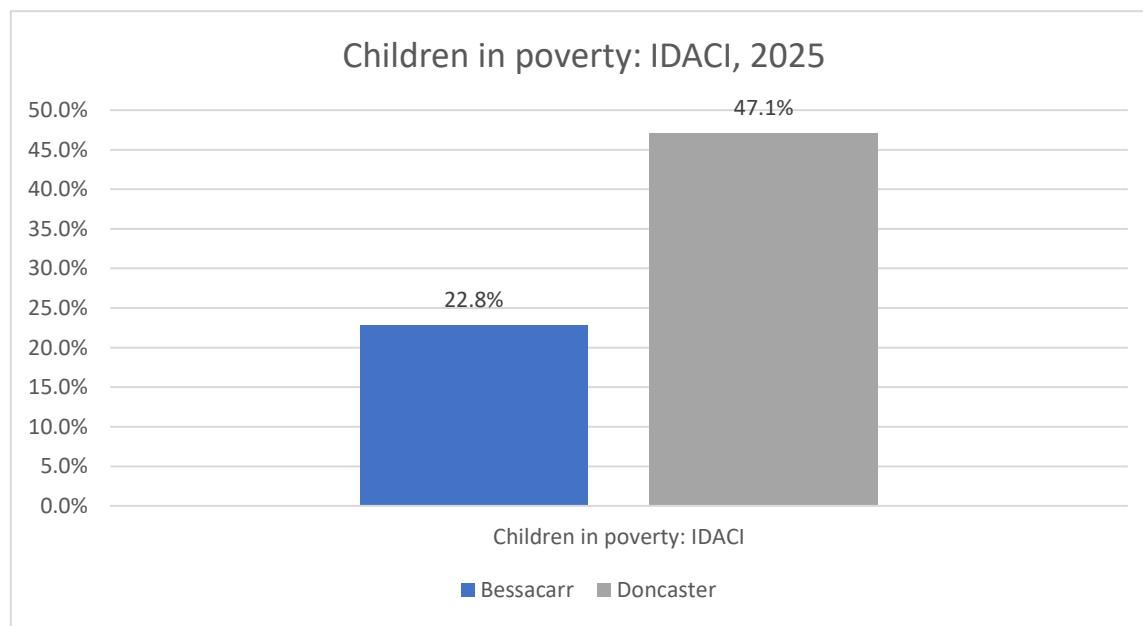


Figure 16. Children in Poverty: Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (aged 0 to 15) Office of National Statistics, 2025

The number of children born with low birth weight is slightly higher than the national average in Bessacarr. Around 7.9% of babies born after 37 weeks are classified as weighing less than 5.5 lbs or 2.5kg compared to only 6.8% in England.

Healthy development milestones from early to middle childhood are monitored across Doncaster. Children classified as overweight (including obese) in reception is lower in Bessacarr (24.7%) compared to Doncaster (25.8%) but higher than England (21.9%). Figure 17 indicates childhood overweightness and obesity comparing Bessacarr ward to Doncaster and England at Reception and Year 6. Bessacarr has

fewer overweight and obese children compared to Doncaster. When comparing against national rates, Bessacarr also has lower levels of overweight and obesity, excluding overweight children at reception age.

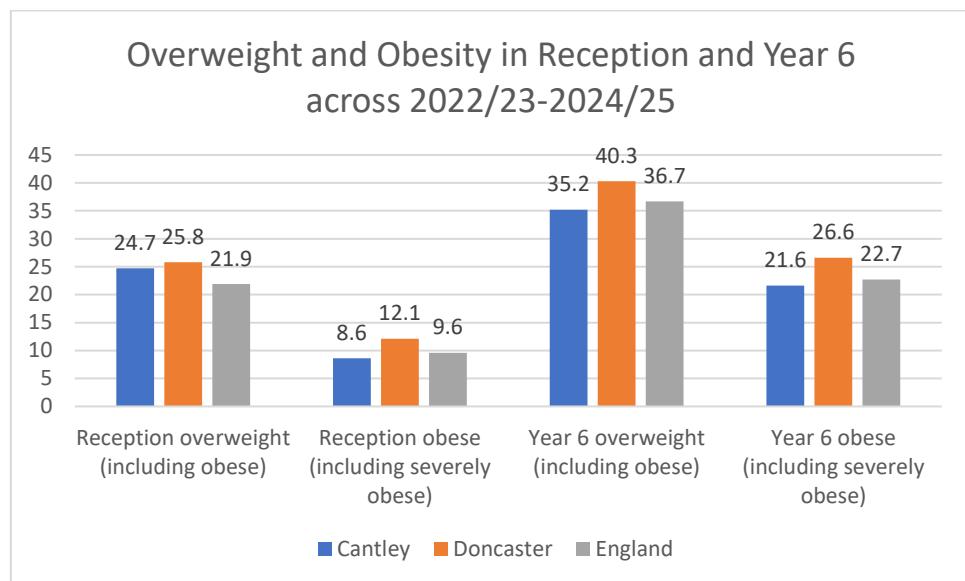


Figure 17. Overweight and Obesity in Reception and Year 6 Age Children Across Years 2022/23-2024/25 in Bessacarr ward, Office of National Statistics, 2025

During adolescence and young adulthood, hospital admissions amongst individuals aged 15-24 years of age are the 8th lowest in Bessacarr (148.1 people per 10,000) compared to the rate of Doncaster (161.66 people per 10,000).

School Attainment

The Department for Education supplies each local authority with the school attainment grades for those in Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 4 (KS4).

At KS2, in 2022 68% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics in Bessacarr compared to 56% across Doncaster and 59% nationally. In 2023, Bessacarr increased performance, with 70% of children achieving expected scores which was significantly higher than Doncaster (55%) and national (60%) averages. In 2024, 69% of pupils from Bessacarr achieved expected standards, higher than Doncaster (59%) and England (61%).

At KS4, each pupil is given an Attainment 8 score (a score out of 90) based on their 8 best GCSE grades including English, Maths and at least 3 other traditional academic GCSEs (sciences, languages, and humanities). Other qualifications at an equivalent level (e.g. BTECs) can also count towards the score. In 2019, the average GCSE attainment 8 score per pupil (out of 90) was 54.5 in Bessacarr, which is higher than Doncaster (44) and nationally (46.7). In 2022 the results had a slight decrease at an average of 51.4 for Bessacarr but remained higher than Doncaster at (44.9) and the national rate (48.8). In 2022 Bessacarr pupils achieved an average score of 49.7,

which was higher than Doncaster (44.4) and national rates (46.3). Most recently in 2024, Bessacarr continued to perform well, achieving an average score of 53.2, higher than Doncaster (44) and national scores (45.9).

In Bessacarr, 33 pupils have been recorded as receiving Elective Home Education and seven as missing from education (City of Doncaster Council, 2023).

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. The 2024 Pupil Lifestyle Survey had 3810 participants with 119 from Bessacarr ward. Bessacarr had a relatively equal split of boys and girls take part, with 49% and 47% respectively. 68% of Bessacarr pupils reported themselves as white ethnicity and 27% as ethnic minority. 34% of pupils reported English as their second language, the fourth highest ward in the borough, and significantly higher than Doncaster (23%).

The 2024 Pupil Lifestyle Survey indicated 12% of students in Bessacarr as having a long-standing illness, lower than Doncaster (14%). 13% reported having a disability, higher than the Doncaster average (9%).

When looking at data on healthy eating and wellbeing, Bessacarr reported higher numbers of pupils that have breakfast (96%) compared to Doncaster (86%) and fewer students have free school meals (16%) compared to the Doncaster average (19%).



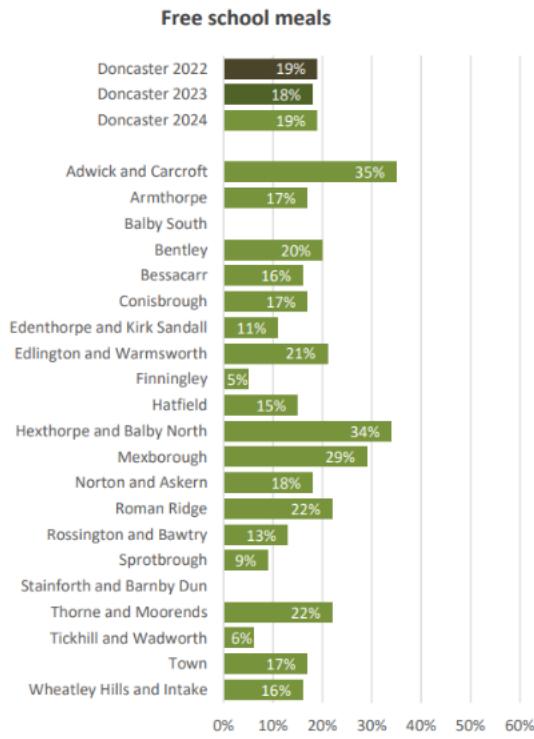


Figure 18. Free School Meals Pupil Lifestyle Survey, City of Doncaster Council, 2024

Pupils from Bessacarr ward had the lowest percentage of pupils that had taken days off in the last year according to 2024 data. This was 32% in Bessacarr ward compared to 56% of pupils across the borough. Figure 19 shows the comparison by ward.

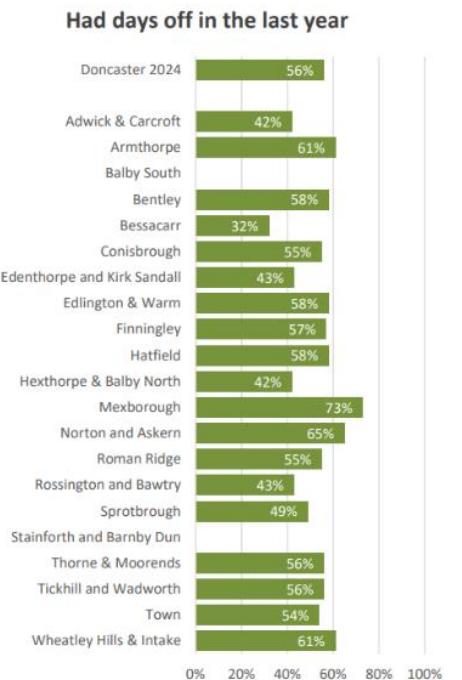


Figure 19. % of Pupils Who Have Taken a Day Off School in the Last Year Pupil Lifestyle Survey, City of Doncaster Council, 2024

62% of pupils in Bessacarr feel they get love and support at home compared to 77% on average for Doncaster. Bessacarr was the lowest reported ward across the borough. Bullying is reported to be higher in Bessacarr ward with 32% experiencing bullying in the last 12 months compared to 28% for Doncaster. Conversely, 73% of Bessacarr pupils felt that their school takes bullying seriously, the highest response across the borough.

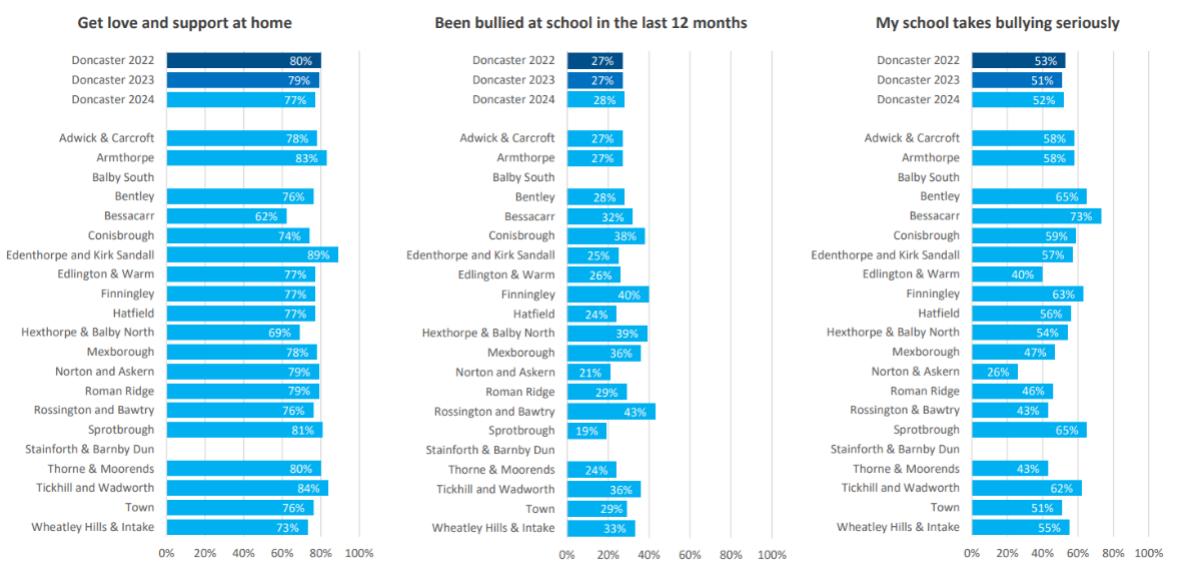


Figure 20. Pupil Lifestyle Survey 2024 responses on bullying, Pupil Lifestyle Survey, City of Doncaster Council, 2024.

When asked about safety in the community, Bessacarr had the second lowest percentage of pupils that have seen knives used as a threat (11%) compared to other wards, with the Doncaster average standing at 21%.

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 which include 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 membership of children in Bessacarr was 61% for children aged 0-8 weeks, 64% for 0-1 year and 11-month-old children and 75% for children aged between 0-4 years and 11 months. In comparison, average membership

across all Family Hubs in Central across all ages for fiscal year 2024-2025 was 84%, and Bessacarr falls lower than this across all ages.

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. Access data from the most recently available period (Q4 fiscal year 2024-2025) was 53% in ages 0-1 year and 11 months, and 82% when looking at ages 0-4 years and 11 months. Engagement in Bessacarr for ages 0-1 years and 11 months in the most recently available data taken from Q4 of fiscal year 2024-2025 was 36%. Engagement increases to 74% when including all ages up to 0-4 years and 11 months.

When looking at the average yearly access and engagement figures from Central Family Hubs across all Central communities, including all ages, access stands at 81% and engagement 66%.

	0-8 weeks	0-1 year and 11 months	0-4 years and 11 months
Membership	61%	64%	75%
Access	NA	53%	82%
Engagement	NA	36%	74%

Table 2. Family Hub Membership, Access and Engagement Figures From Bessacarr Q4 Fiscal Year 2024-25, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

	Central Family Hubs
Membership	84%
Access	81%
Engagement	66%

Table 3. Central Locality Family Hub Children's Membership, Access and Engagement Figures Across all Ages Fiscal Year 2024/25, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

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 factors including deprivation, as well as other indicators which influence these rates.

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, and this was 76.5% for Bessacarr. When looking at late starters for the same year, Doncaster saw 64% take-up compared to 76.5% in Bessacarr. 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 small percentage of the population in Town Centre 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 19% of Town Centre residents have reported never engaging in moderate intensity physical activity. More information on the Acorn profile can be found in the [appendix](#).

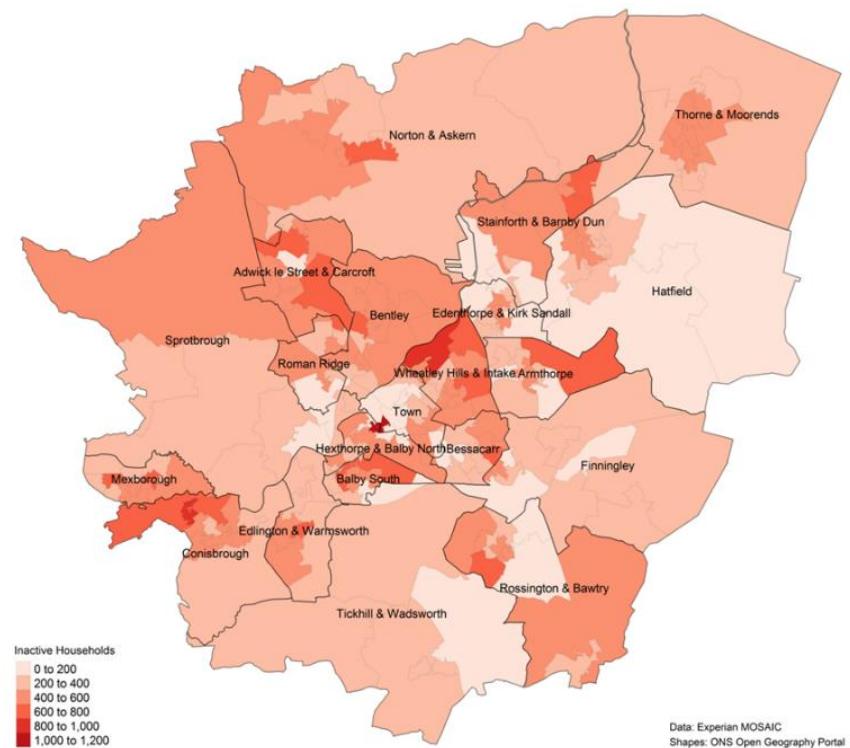


Figure 21. Levels of Inactivity Within Households Across Doncaster, Get Doncaster Moving, 2023

Physical Activity in Young People

Data from the Pupil Lifestyle Survey 2024 reports 20% of children are physically active one or two days a week, whilst 34% reported being active on three or four days and 44% five or more times during the week. The main reason reported why children did not take part in physical activity is that they get too hot and tired (43%) and that they feel shy about their body (35%), followed by preferring to do other things (26%).

Green Spaces/Parks

There are 3 parks located in Bessacarr – Cornflower Drive Park, Haslam Park and Bessacarr Park. All are easily accessible to residents. The parks consist of toddler and junior play areas, multi-use games areas, playing fields, tennis courts, sports pitches, a bowling green and outdoor gym equipment. Cantley Park is also located in the Bessacarr ward and serves residents in this community.

Cantley Park has recently undergone consultation over the Summer 2025. A survey from residents and stakeholders has been used to plan and deliver changes to the park including improvements to Cantley Park Pitch and Putt Golf Course. Work is planned for Spring 2026 to install winter trees, improve tee maps and instal new putt flags.

Over summer 2025, a number of pop-up disc golf events took place within Cantley Park with Get Doncaster Moving and Well Doncaster which were positively received by the local community.

The addition of disc golf – and the improvements being made to the pitch and putt facility - will allow more people to use the space, have more choice of activities to choose from within the park, and contribute to making Cantley Park a more vibrant place for all park visitors.

Community Information

Population and Diversity

Around 12.7% of residents in Bessacarr stated their ethnicity as “not White UK”, (although the specific categories and languages spoken are unknown) closely followed by ‘not white’ at 9.3%. This community has a low percentage of non-English speakers (1.1%).

Population Size

- 15,900 - Bessacarr

Age Profile

Working age adults make up the largest proportion of the population, followed by the 3rd highest proportion of people at retirement age. The census 2021 data shows that Bessacarr has a higher rate of elderly residents living in the community.

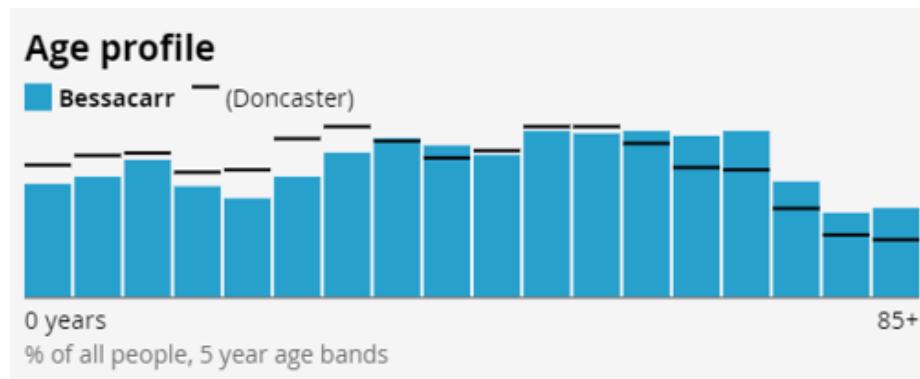


Figure 22. Age Profiles of Bessacarr Community, Office of National Statistics, 2021

Housing

The majority of housing in Bessacarr are large houses, mostly detached. There is an extremely high percentage of residents that outright own their house (44.9%) compared to that of Doncaster (33.6%). Socially rented is also low (6.2%) compared to Doncaster (17%). Private renting is also lower in Bessacarr (14%) compared to Doncaster (19.7%) and England (20.6%).

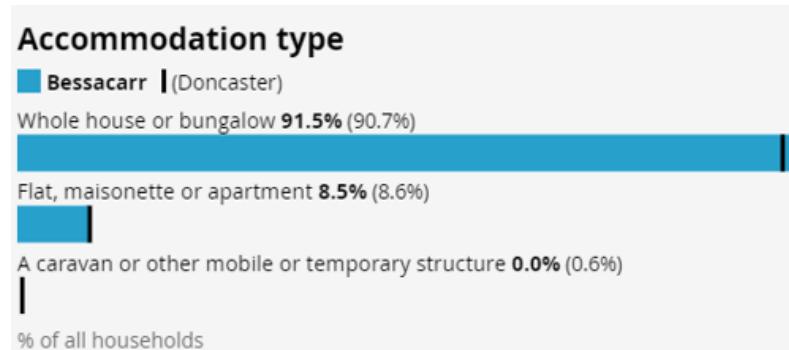


Figure 23. Accommodation Type in Bessacarr – Census 2021

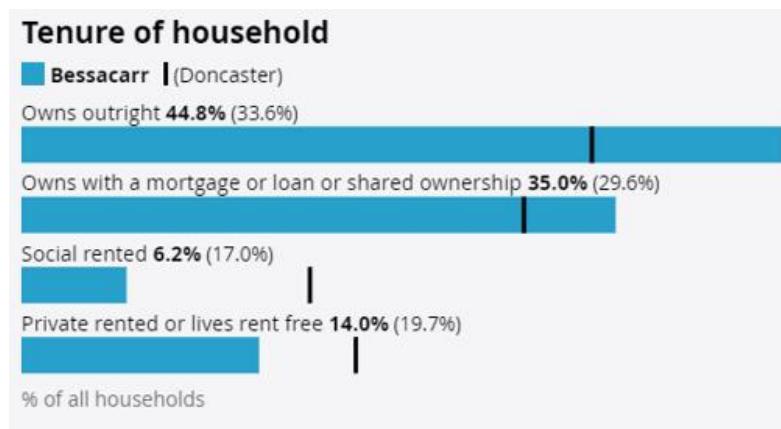


Figure 24. Tenure of Household in Bessacarr, Office of National Statistics, 2021

St Leger Homes is the main provider of Doncaster's Social Housing. However, there are currently no St Leger Homes owned properties in Bessacarr.

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, 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. To report issues or concerns, visit www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/safer-city-how-to-report-issues.

The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership

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**— 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

People in Central Doncaster told us that safety feels very mixed—some areas feel secure, while others are struggling with anti-social behaviour and environmental issues. Residents spoke about loitering, street drinking, and intimidation in certain hotspots, alongside concerns about fly-tipping and poorly maintained public spaces. Many said they want more visible policing and enforcement to tackle these problems

and restore confidence. There's also a call for better youth services and safe spaces to reduce disruption and give young people positive options. Overall, the community wants cleaner streets, stronger enforcement, and more opportunities to bring people together and rebuild pride in Central Doncaster.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

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

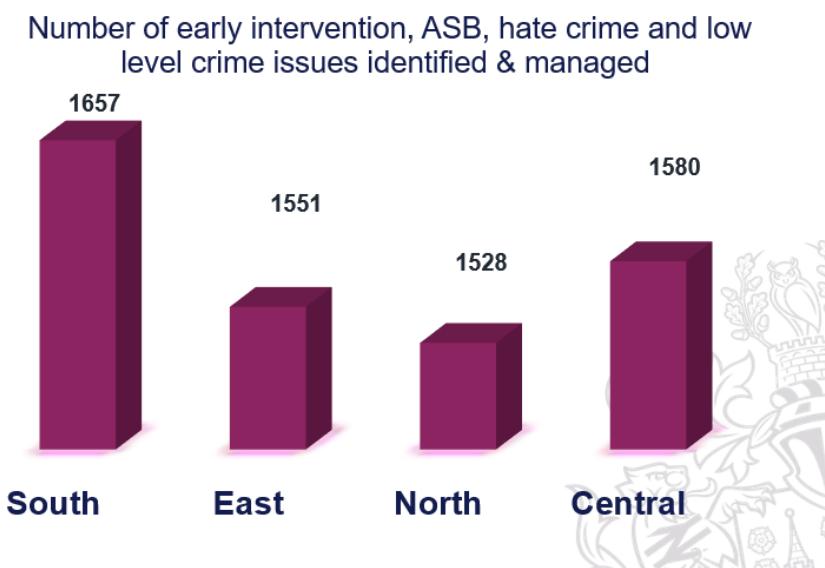


Figure 25. Number of Early Intervention, ASB, Hate Crime, and Low-Level Crime, City of Doncaster Council, 2024

The report shows that the Central Locality is the second highest locality in Doncaster for early interventions, ASB, hate crime and low-level crime. Of these incidents 94 of them are recorded in Bessacarr.

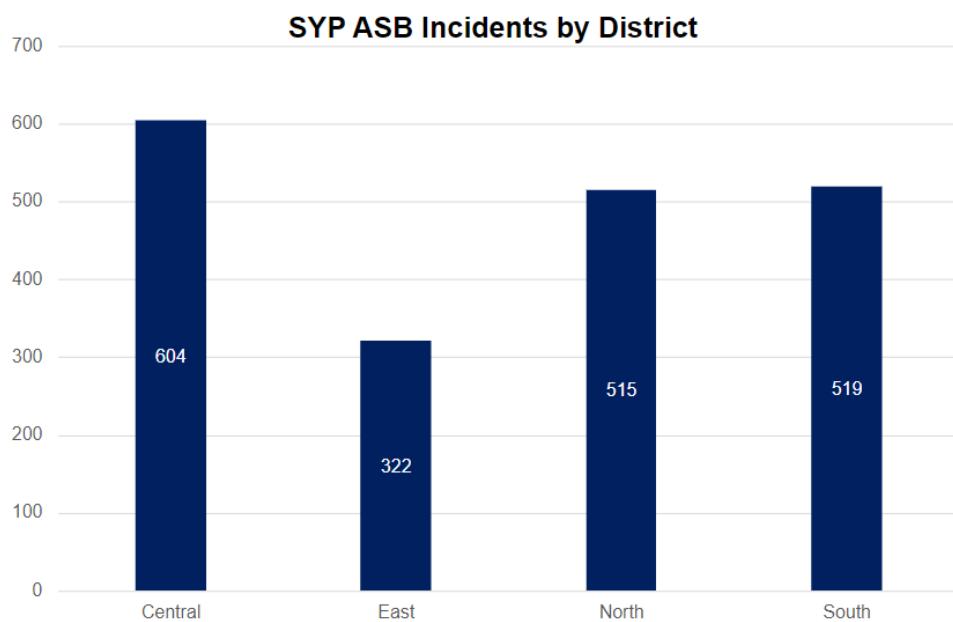


Figure 26. Number of ASB incidents for localities, City of Doncaster Council, 2024

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

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).

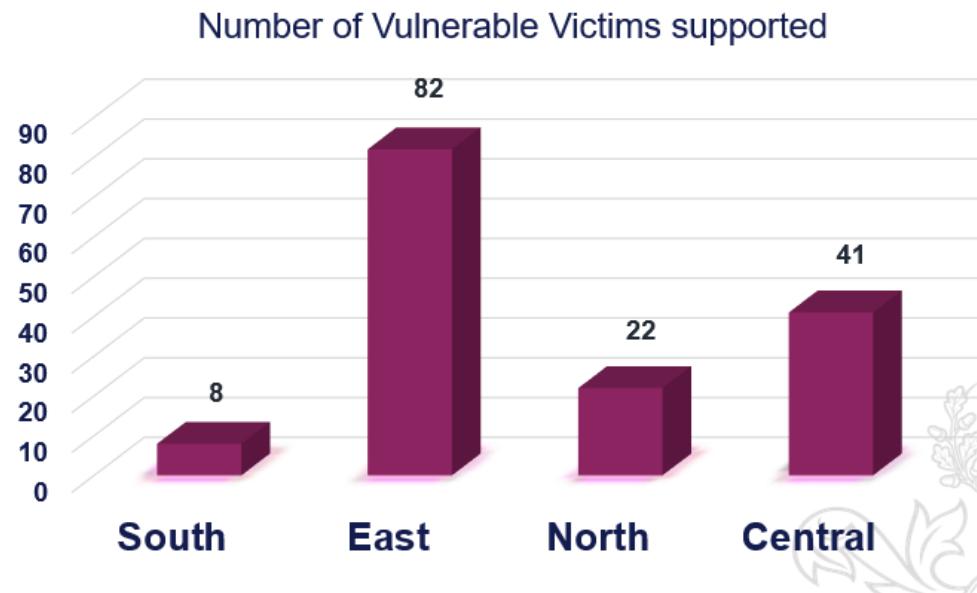


Figure 27. Number of Vulnerable Victims Recorded by Locality, City of Doncaster Council, (2024)

Wellbeing Service

This service is run by CDC Stronger Neighbourhood Team. The Wellbeing Service helps residents with financial support, physical and mental health, housing, and social isolation.

The table below show the top 5 wards accessing the Wellbeing Service for support from 2021-2025. Cantley and Bessacarr were within the top 5 wards seeking support in 2022-23 and the second highest in 2023/24, but have since fallen out of the top 5.

Community Ranking for using service	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
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 4. Top 5 Wards Using the Wellbeing Service, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

Cantley and Bessacarr	Theme Supported
1	Physical Health
2	Finances
3	Social Isolation

Table 5. Top 3 Most Common Themes for Wellbeing Service Support, City of Doncaster Council, 2025

Community Investment

As of July 2025, there has been £12.3 million worth of investment delivered in the Central locality from Public Health and Doncaster Delivering Together partnerships. This investment has been successfully applied for by partners and Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) groups. The top 3 areas of funding spend are increasing community spirit (£879,798.09), mental health support and awareness (£594,269.79) and using and improving community assets (£562,444.14).

Bessacarr ward has had investment over the last few years, and as of November 2025 the ward has received £221.25 worth of delivered projects. The top four areas of investment in Bessacarr have gone towards increasing community spirit, financial security, enabling positive lifestyle choices and mental health support. Some examples of community investment in Bessacarr ward are monies towards foodbank support, health and wellbeing support for adults, funds to provide warm spaces, youth activities through scouts groups, and funding to support employability skills and wellbeing. The map below shows the areas of investment across Bessacarr ward, with the size of each point indicating the scale of investment.



Figure 28. Bessacarr Ward Community Investment Map 2025, 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

More information about Well Doncaster [Home | Well Doncaster](#)

Well Doncaster Approach: More information about how Well Doncaster has been meeting outcomes and objectives can be found in past and present annual report:
<https://welldoncaster.wordpress.com>

Census data 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](#)

Acorn profiles

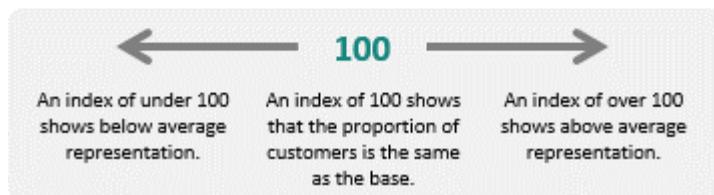
Wellbeing Acorn segments the population into 4 groups (Health Challenges; At Risk; Caution; Healthy) and 25 types describing the health and wellbeing attributes of each

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.

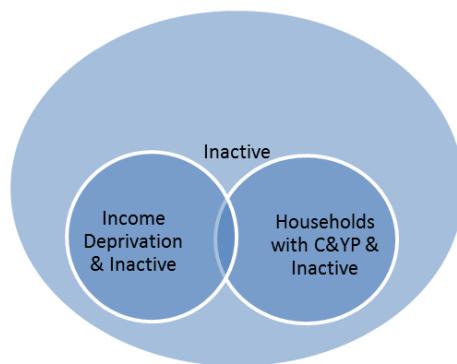
Get Doncaster Moving survey

<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 , and 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 2022

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

Pupil Lifestyle Survey 2024

[Pupil Lifestyle Survey - Healthy Schools](#)

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](#).

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](#)

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>