The Steel City Stained by Division: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Socio-Economic Inequalities in Sheffield

MSc Economic Geography Thesis

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Abstract

Previous studies have highlighted the deep-rooted socio-economic inequalities that continue to exist in the city of Sheffield. However, in order to provide analysis that reflects the needs of locals, previous studies have also called for the execution of bottom-up, in-depth research into the socio-economic divides that remain in the city. The aim of this thesis is to deliver on the requests of previous research, conducting a mixed-methods approach on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. This includes interviews with key stakeholders in the city, coupled with the distribution of online surveys to provide a rich mix of qualitative and quantitative data that reflects the perspective of locals. The research from this paper reinforces the fact that there are socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield in factors such as annual income and education. This report also highlights that there are inequalities in area-specific concerns, with different areas of the city having contrasting concerns regarding social mobility, poverty, access to investment and the quality of educational services.

Following the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data, the concerns of residents were prioritised into 4 main categories: education, employment, community cohesion and politics. Subsequent to this, policy solutions were provided that adhere to these categories, taking inspiration from success stories that are both internal and external to Sheffield. It is hoped that following this research that the voices of local people can be further represented in the policies that impact their everyday lives, and that Sheffield can become a flourishing city for all who call it home.

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1. Introduction

Sheffield, The City of Steel. The fourth largest city in England, and the fifth largest in the UK (Etherington and Jones, 2016). Home to the Arctic Monkeys, Human League and Def Leppard, as well as accommodating two professional football clubs and being birthplace to the beautiful game (Erezi, 2018; The Yorkshireman, 2020; Welcome to Yorkshire, 2021). However, despite the divisions that may exist between Sheffield's two football teams there is a much greater rift dividing this great city. Socio-economic inequalities are an aspect of life that has plagued Sheffield for decades, with divides running through the city "like the Berlin wall" (Thomas et. al., 2009; Gregory, 2018). The wealthier half of Sheffield historically represents the flight of mill owners migrating away from the smog produced by steel mills in the Don Valley (Gregory, 2018). But in recent years the institutionalised, deep-rooted nature of these inequalities is becoming increasingly apparent, with divides between east and western areas deepening year on year (Thomas, et. al., 2009).

Sheffield historically boasted a manufacturing-based economy fixated around the production of specialist metals, stainless steel and cutlery, resulting in the city receiving its nickname 'The City of Steel'. The majority of steel mills were established in the Don Valley, located in the east of Sheffield, resulting in the formation of working-class communities in these areas. As a result, the affluent professionals migrated to the west of Sheffield away from the pollution and into the green, rolling hills of the outer Peak District (Thomas et. al., 2009). However, a string of neoliberalised policies in the 1970s introduced by Margaret Thatcher saw the dismantlement of Sheffield's manufacturing industries, with the city losing 70,000 industrial sector jobs as a direct result (Lane, et. al., 2016; Madanipour, et. al, 2018). This set-in motion a process of rapid deindustrialisation, something that is still clearly visible in Sheffield today marked by valleys of ruinous steel mills that now spate the Don Valley (Lane et. al., 2016). Like many cities in the UK there is no doubt that Sheffield is a victim to globalisation, with hordes of workers being replaced by the process of mechanisation (Lane et. al., 2016). Sheffield has seen recent developments in its knowledge and service economies, with links to the city's two universities providing a source of economic activity (Etherington and Jones, 2016). However, Sheffield still underperforms in almost every socio-economic category, being

recently branded as the 'low pay capital' of the UK (Newsroom, 2017; Gregory, 2018; Sheffield City Partnership, 2018).

1.1. Motivation

Previous research has outlined socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, primarily using a single method approach to do so. However, there is increasing concern amongst both locals and academics that this type of approach ignores the detail an issue such as this requires, with many calling for more contextual, mixed-methods research. These are calls made in a variety of different contexts, with academics such as Madanipour et. al., (2016), Dabinett et. al., (2016), Raco (1998) and Sissons and Jones (2016) advocating for this approach. The calls of locals for more of a community-led approach are also seen in studies such as 'Making Sheffield Fairer', the 'Sheffield Fairness Commission' and the 'State of Sheffield' reports, as well as in local media (Pidd, 2013; Sheffield Fairness Commission, 2013; 2017; Sheffield City Partnership, 2018; 2020). Because of this, this thesis is going to use a mixed-methods approach to adhere to the calls of academics for more community led, bottom-up studies on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield.

As well as this, socio-economic inequalities are becoming an increasingly relevant issue throughout the UK. This is highlighted in the Conservative Party's 2019 election manifesto, where their policy of 'levelling up' was seen as a particularly popular approach throughout (West-Knights, 2020). 'Levelling up' is seen in the context of promoting equality in several socio-economic indicators, such as education, healthcare and employability on inter and intra-city scales (West-Knights, 2020; Morris, 2021). 'Levelling up' has since become more pressing in recent times, with the COVID-19 pandemic exposing how entrenched inequalities are in modern Britain (Williams, 2020; Blundell, et. al., 2021; Butler, 2021; Sample, 2021). This is why the execution of bottom-up, contextual analysis is particularly important at the time writing, with inequalities being at the forefront of the national agenda now more than ever.

However, perhaps the most pertinent motivation is that the author of this thesis is a proud Sheffielder. It becomes increasingly clear when growing up in Sheffield that the levels of socio-economic inequalities are stark, with these inequalities being, at times, visible at the street

level. Socio-economic inequalities were seen as 'normal' when growing up in Sheffield, and it has taken a lifetime to realise that their institutionalised nature has resulted in generations of pain for those who are impacted. The local knowledge this author has will ensure that the results presented accurately represent what has been researched, thus allowing for this local capital to be translated into high quality analysis. This is a topic with strong personal connections to the author, ensuring that they will explore all that they can to uncover the in-depth, local viewpoints on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield.

1.2. Research Questions

The research questions for this thesis are as follows:

1. How does the mixed-methods, bottom-up approach change the perspective on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield?
2. What do both stakeholders and locals believe is the best approach to reducing socio-economic issues in the city, and how can these approaches be applied?
3. How connected are social mobility and socio-economic inequalities in the context of Sheffield?
4. What policies have been successful in reducing socio-economic inequalities in other case studies, and could these be applied to the bottom-up perspective seen in Sheffield?

The research questions profile the application of this thesis, focusing on using the mixed-methods approach and applying this to socio-economic phenomena such as social mobility. Social mobility is key to this thesis and can be defined as "the phenomenon of shifting from one social position to another, either in comparison with family background or with previous employment (Social Stratification, Occupational Status, Class Identification, Socioeconomic Status (SES))" (Falcon and Joye, 2014, pp. 6123-6124). This will be expanded on later, with the literature review providing a more in-depth investigation into how social mobility is applied.

It is also necessary to define what a mixed-method approach is. A mixed-methods approach is defined as "studies that are the product of the pragmatist paradigm, and that combine the qualitative and quantitative approaches within different phases of the research process"

(Tashakkori and Teddlie, 2008, p22). In the case of this thesis, the qualitative approach is seen in the form of interviews and open-ended survey questions, with a quantitative approach in the form of closed survey questions.

The qualitative approach will aim to address these questions by providing the context they require. They will aim to highlight the opinions both locals and stakeholders have regarding issues surrounding social mobility, how previous policies have been applied and how interviewees believe socio-economic issues should be addressed. Expert knowledge will be provided by stakeholders, with the experiences of locals being reflected in open-ended survey questions. The provision of context in this regard will also aim to provide a fresh perspective on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, with the aim of mutually complementing data collected through the quantitative approach. The quantitative approach will of course aim to accompany the data collected in the qualitative data, but will primarily be used to address research questions 3 and 4. This will be shown using statistical analysis to highlight how individuals feel on issues involving social mobility, widening socio-economic inequalities, and policies that have attempted to address economic issues in Sheffield. In order for this to be executed, descriptive and logistical statistical methods will be applied, aiming to highlight relevant socio-economic issues found in the data. The results and methodology sections will highlight this in further detail, showing how these methods were implemented.

Alongside this, the bottom-up approach that is attempted in this thesis must also be expanded on. The bottom-up approach se will use community-based data collection methods through the distribution of online surveys and interviews to outline Sheffielders' experiences with socio-economic inequalities from the bottom up (Shalowitz et. al., 2009. Reich, 2010). The mixed-methods approach will use both qualitative and quantitative data to provide analysis that shows this in different areas of Sheffield, producing insight that directly reflects what is seen in the various communities (Shalowitz et. al., 2009; Kung, et. al., 2013). This is particularly important when evaluating socio-economic indicators due to the significant number of variables involved in socio-economic phenomena seen here and is an approach that is becoming increasingly favourable during policy development stages (Crescenzi and Rodriguez-Pose, 2011). It is also essential to provide bottom-up analysis when assessing and producing policies related to socio-economic inequalities, as the community-focused lens will

allow locals to address issues that impact them directly (Turner, 2009; Isidiho and Sabran, 2016). The concepts surrounding bottom-up approach used in this thesis will be expanded on further throughout the sections, with this being a core concept to final outcome of this paper.

These research questions provide a perspective on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield that is not seen in previous research. The application of previous policies has been seen before, but not in combination with mixed-methods analysis. The social mobility aspect is one that has been touched on in previous studies, but this thesis will render social mobility as key within the realm of socio-economic inequalities and how the policies are shaped within this analysis. Using a mixed-methods approach will provide the answers to these questions, delivering the bottom-up analysis this thesis is aiming to achieve.

1.3. Research Objectives

Both the motivation and research questions allow for the research objectives to be outlined:
- To interview key stakeholders, providing an overview of how inequalities in Sheffield interact with different aspects of society, delivering community-specific analysis into socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield.
- Design and distribute online surveys to express how residents in different areas of Sheffield view socio-economic inequalities in the city, researching where the effects are felt most and what locals believe should be done to resolve them.
- Apply data collected from primary sources, alongside previous academic research to produce policy solutions that address socio-economic inequalities in the city, allowing for the mixed-methods approach to create policies from bottom-up research.

These objectives adhere to the demand for more community-focused research on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, using a mixed-methods approach of interviews and surveys to do so. With the objectives focused primarily on the application of the mixed-methods approach, it is important to note that this approach follows a concurrent triangulation strategy, in which the two methods were conducted simultaneously (Terrel, 2012). The design and implementation were also sourced from external influences, which will be expanded on

further in the methodology section. From this approach, bottom-up analysis will be used to produce policies that address socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, using a perspective that reflects local voices. This aims to provide a new perspective on socio-economic inequalities, with previous research analysing this phenomenon from a top-down approach. Using online surveys will allow for a quantitative approach to the way locals view inequalities, with the context provided in the interviews allowing for this data to be effectively analysed. Policies that have reduced socio-economic inequalities in other countries will be used to provide policies that adhere both to concerns outlined from the surveys and demands from the interviews to suggest effective policies that respect the bottom-up agenda.

1.4. Thesis Structure

Following this chapter, an empirical framework and literature review will be used to introduce and analyse the pool of reports that currently exist on this topic. This will be separated into four sections: bottom-up approach, socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, socio-economic inequalities in the UK, and research surrounding the concept of social mobility. Succeeding the literature review, the methodology will outline how the mixed-methods approach was executed, as well as justifying this approach. The methodology will thus be separated into two sections, showing how both the interviews and surveys were conducted and paying particular attention to how research such as this was performed during COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The methodology will also investigate the analytical methods used in this thesis.

The results section will then follow, presenting both the quantitative and qualitative data in the form of quotes, descriptive statistics and regression analysis. The discussion section will then analyse these results and combine what is produced with previous research to suggest policies that follow the bottom-up approach. A conclusion will then end the thesis, summarising the analysis shown throughout the report.

2. Empirical Framework and Literature Review

There is a significant pool of literature that will be used to support the topics conversed in this report. Socio-economic inequalities are a developing issue not just in Sheffield, but on national and international scales, providing a diverse range of academic approaches to be made on the subject. As well as this, aspects relating to socio-economic inequalities are prevalent throughout the literature, with issues such as social mobility and political instability being discussed throughout. This literature review will aim to analyse previous research on the topics supporting this thesis, as well as highlight areas where this thesis contributes towards. It will also explore where concepts in this thesis take inspiration from, using theoretical and empirical examples to do so.

This chapter will begin with an analysis of literature specific to mixed-methods approaches on socio-economic inequalities, investigating how this approach can be used to produce the bottom-up analysis this paper aims to replicate. The literature review will then assess literature relating to socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, exploring relevant research that has been partaken on this subject. Following this, previous research on socio-economic inequalities in the UK will be studied, exploring the relationship between these papers and this thesis. The final section of this chapter will examine works relating to social mobility, a key concept when addressing socio-economic inequalities. From this, all topics that are important to this thesis will be outlined, allowing for auxiliary analysis to take place in further chapters.

2.1. Bottom-Up Approach

One of the key aspects of this thesis is how the mixed-methods approach is utilised to provide analysis that reflects the 'bottom up' perspective. In the case of this thesis, 'bottom-up' emphasises the community participation and local capital that is used to both analyse socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield and produce policies that directly address their consequences (Finger, 1994; Nikkah and Redzuan, 2009). Pike et. al. (2006) emphasises that studies surrounding community development and socio-economic inequalities must always be executed from the bottom up in order to utilise the indigenous economic potential of an area. This in turn allows for local communities to be empowered, catalysing the desire for

radical social change that issues involving socio-economic inequalities require (Isidiho and Sabran, 2016). Because of this, this thesis will focus on the bottom-up perspective reflecting the experiences of Sheffield's communities, producing analysis and policies that represent the city's inhabitants (Torres, 2006).

Nikkah and Redzuan's 2009 paper titled 'Participation as a medium of empowerment in community development' accentuates the necessity of bottom-up approaches when studying community development initiatives. The authors here stress that ignoring the voice of locals and prioritising top-down approaches can result in a community becoming reliant on decisions that may not necessarily be the best for them. This perspective is echoed in a paper by Gans (2016), in which the author expresses the importance of bottom-up approaches when assisting the poorest in society. Using a community-focused approach when assessing socio-economic inequalities ensures that the needs of the entire community are prioritised, rather than introducing 'one size fits all' initiatives that can often be a detriment to society (Aschauer, 1989; Ascani et. al., 2012). This is why this thesis will focus on the bottom-up approach to ensure that the analysis is representative of all on the socio-economic hierarchy, producing policies that are effective within the context of Sheffield (Turner, 2009; Ascani et. al., 2012; Bleynat and Segal, 2021).

With this in mind, the question arises as to how a mixed-methods approach can be used to produce bottom-up analysis? Bleynat and Segal's 2021 paper 'Face of inequality: a mixed-methods approach to multidimensional inequalities' uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to provide insight into multidimensional inequalities in Mexico City. Here, the authors commend the mixed-methods approach for allowing different variables to be included when assessing inequalities, and praise this for allowing the complex nature of inequalities within these communities to be examined. This will be particularly relevant to this thesis, where different variables such as politics, community cohesion and education are used as lens's when observing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. Using mixed-methods approaches to analyse socio-economic inequalities is also praised in Louie's 2016 article 'Identifying responses to inequality: the potential of qualitative and mixed-methods research'. Here, the mixed-methods approach is commended for the context it provides within the realm of socio-economic inequalities, with the qualitative approach being

particularly acclaimed for the experience it provides when developing policy solutions. The mixed-methods approach is also praised as it allows for the validity of the results to be calibrated, especially when qualitative and quantitative methods yield similar results. This is a strength of the mixed-methods approach which is commended in similar reports, such as in papers by Hesse-Biber's (2010) and Timans et. al. (2019). These cases provide examples that support the use of the mixed-methods approach in this thesis, a sentiment that will again be reflected in the methodology of this thesis. However, it is also important to reflect on papers related to the topic this thesis is investigating, and how these will inspire the final outcomes of this paper.

2.2. Socio-Economic Inequalities in Sheffield

When examining literature on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield there is one paper that stands out on this topic. A Tale of Two Cities: The Sheffield Project, authored by Thomas et. al. and published in 2009 provides a substantial overview of all topics relating to socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. This report uses both macro and micro socio-economic viewpoints to assess how inequalities in the city have evolved over time, using criteria such as poverty, education, health and unemployment to do so. It is significant in the fact that it covers a large amount of research, discussing and showing how figures have changed over time, and often for the worse. One of the most shocking statistics, for example, is that in 2007 for every 3 men dying under the age of 75 in Hallam, 7 were dying in Sheffield central, highlighting the extent of health inequalities in the city (Thomas et. al., 2009). Another relevant statistic is that unemployment in Hallam in its worst years has never exceeded 6% despite reaching over 3x that level in Central (Thomas et. al., 2009). These statistics provide only a brief snapshot of the comprehensive quantitative analysis that encapsulates this report, a testament to how substantially it contributes to the pool of literature on the topic.

Alongside this, the Tale of Two Cities report provides an overarching historical context to socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. It offers an in-depth timeline, stretching from the 19th century on how the dual economy of the city evolved and then was dismantled in the 1970s. What is often overlooked in other studies is how Thatcherite policies were used to undo institutionalised industries in the city within the context of socio-economic inequalities,

with only a study by Raco (1998) propounding this. This shows how the Tale of Two Cities report provides an exemplar background to socio-economic inequalities in the city, offering a much-needed historical context to the topic in hand.

It also outlines how the topography of Sheffield has contributed to socio-economic inequalities in the city, another aspect that is absent in other papers. The west of Sheffield, where many of the more affluent areas are located is situated upwind from the pollution produced by the steelworks in the Don Valley. As a result, many wealthy residents migrated west to live away from the pollution, providing the groundwork to the socio-economic polarisation seen in the city today. As well as this historical context, the Tale of Two Cities report uses quantitative analysis to outline how inequalities in terms of education, employment, poverty and health are prevalent throughout the city.

Figure 1
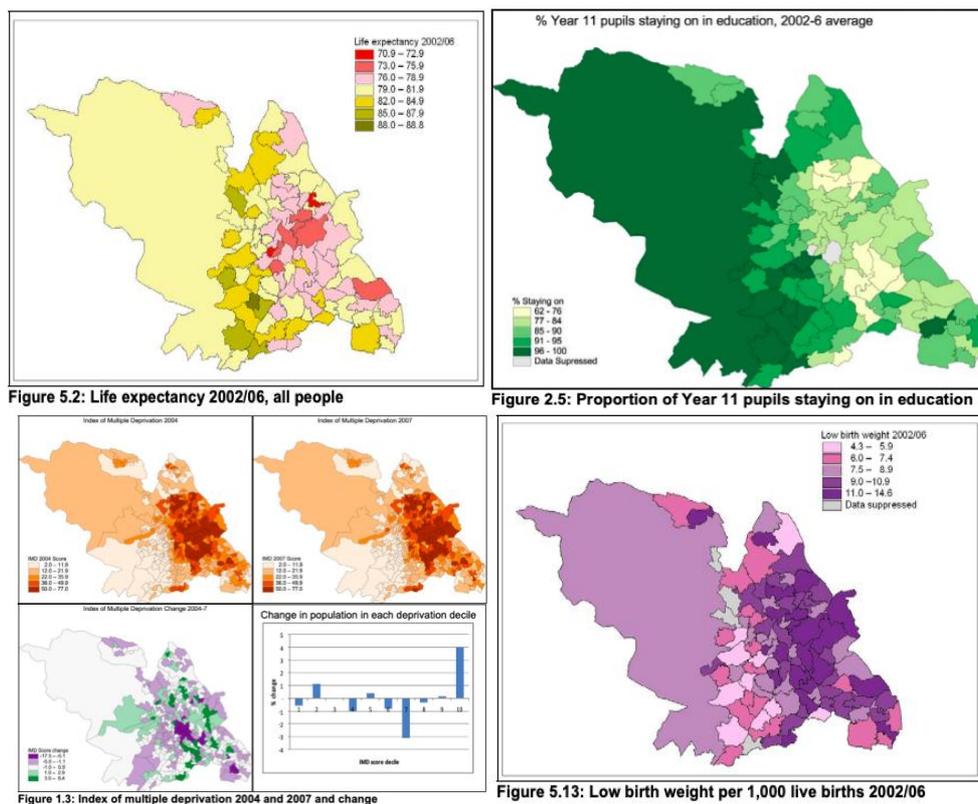
(Thomas et. al., 2009)

The inequalities shown in Figure 1 provide only a snapshot of the in-depth analysis offered in the Tale of Two Cities report, and despite being relatively outdated, these results are still consistent with inequalities in the present day as shown by Figure 2.

Figure 2
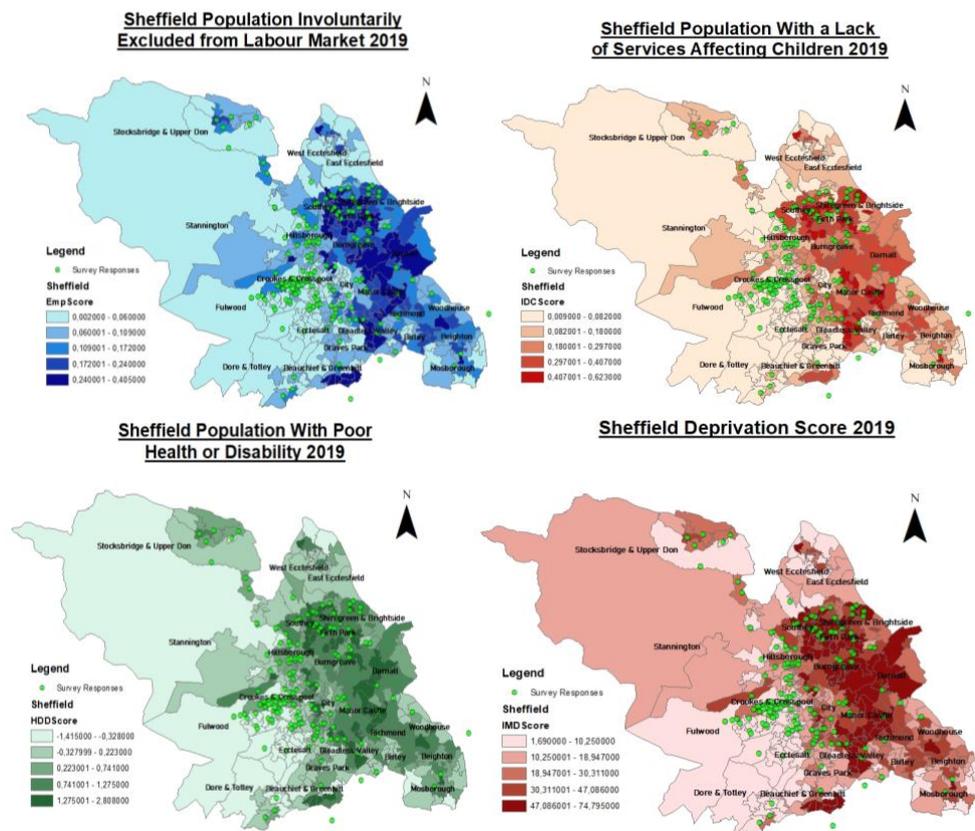
(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

Figure 2 highlights the significance of the Tale of Two Cities report, as it allows for a comparison with data presented in the present day. As is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield are still prevalent throughout the city today and have not abated since the Tale of Two Cities report. This shows that more work still needs to be done on the subject, with the scale of inequalities being unacceptable in a developed country such as the United Kingdom (Joyce and Xu, 2019). Despite the importance of this report for the completion of this thesis, it was also necessary to explore other literature on this subject.

Another piece of literature that forms the backbone of this thesis is 'Promoting Fairness in Sheffield', authored by Dabinett et. al. and published in 2016. This report is the inspiration of

this thesis, as it calls for a more place-based, bottom-up approach to socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield (Pugalis and Bentley, 2014; Dabinett et. al., 2016). This article outlines many of the issues that have prevented action from being made in Sheffield, such as the 65% reduction in local government funding in recent years restricting public intervention. Despite this, the article also outlines examples as to how public bodies are attempting to tackle inequalities in the city. This includes Sheffield City Council, The University of Sheffield and the Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS trust who have adopted the living wage, as well as outlining the work of the Our Fair City Campaign. The Our Fair City Campaign has aimed to make residents more aware of the inequalities they experience every day and actively encourages people to take action towards reducing them (Dabinett et. al., 2016). It forms somewhat of a social movement against inequalities in Sheffield and is a prime example of how public bodies are taking action against socio-economic polarisation in the city. This, alongside the demand for a bottom-up approach is why this article is the inspiration to this thesis.

The final core report providing a backbone to this thesis is 'City-regions: New Geographies of Uneven Development and Inequality', authored by Etherington and Jones and published in 2013. This article provides an in-depth analysis into how New Regionalism has attempted, and somewhat failed to give Sheffield more decision-making power in relation to addressing socio-economic inequalities in the city. It shows how the formation of city-regions as part of the 'Northern Way' initiative aimed to stimulate resource generation in Sheffield, allowing for a more place-specific approach towards issues in the city (Goodchild and Hickman, 2006; Etherington and Jones, 2013). Etherington and Jones highlight that Sheffield needs 120,000 more jobs, with an annual GDP growth rate of 5% by 2024 in order for the city to close its productivity gap with the rest of the UK. However, as is also outlined in this article, New Regionalism approaches often fail to address issues of everyday politics, collective consumption and social reproduction, all aspects that are necessary if socio-economic inequalities are to be reduced (Donald, 2001; Etherington and Jones, 2013). These are factors that are required when aiming to increase economic productivity, with the New Regionalism approach failing to replicate the natural developmental paths seen throughout history.

As well as this, Etherington and Jones' article outlines the Sheffield First Partnership (SFP), a scheme aimed at marketing Sheffield in order to attract external investment. Etherington and Jones admit that more bottom-up analysis on socio-economic conditions in Sheffield is required in order for the SFP to be successful, an approach that this thesis aims to fulfil. The New Regionalism viewpoint this article uses makes it a great addition to the pool of literature on this subject, and thus positions it as a core piece of literature on this subject.

Alongside these papers, there are other articles that also contribute to the pool of literature on the subject. An article by Payne et. al. (2015) analyses how education in Firth Park is key to improving the lives of residents here. Payne et. al.'s article is particularly relevant to this thesis as Firth Park is an area of focus here. The article shows how flexibility in the educational curriculum, as well as teacher-parent networks are vital in ensuring Roma populations in Firth Park engage with their education, ensuring that they achieve the best outcomes possible. These are viewpoints that will be key to the analysis conducted in this thesis, emphasising this as a key piece of literature.

Another noteworthy article related to the topic of this thesis is 'Economic Resilience and Entrepreneurship: Lessons from the Sheffield City Region', written by Williams and Vorley and published in 2014. This article is significant in how it outlines economic resilience and entrepreneurship as vital to economic growth in Sheffield, suggesting that Sheffield is not prepared for economic shocks due to the city's over-reliance on public sector investment (Dawley et. al., 2010; Simmie and Martin, 2010; Williams and Vorley, 2014). It shows how Sheffield is ranked 38th out of 39 local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) in terms of its economic resilience, and that Sheffield is lacking the entrepreneurially focused, diverse economy needed in order to survive the ever-globalising environment (Hospers et. al., 2014; Williams and Vorley, 2014). What this article does mention however, is the long-term approach needed when resolving socio-economic issues in any city, and that institutional barriers have prevented Sheffield from prospering in the past. This is seen in regard to political institutions restraining the socio-economic prosperity of Sheffield over a long period of time, instead opting for 'short-term fixes' to issues in the city. Examples of this are shown with the 'city-region' scheme outlined previously, with political institutions failing to effectively respect the deep-rooted nature of inequalities in the city (Etherington and Jones, 2013). This is why a

long-term revelation is required in order for change to be seen in Sheffield's socio-economic landscape, with quick fixed being inadequate when addressing an issue such as this.

This is a viewpoint also emphasised throughout Raco's 1998 article 'Assessing 'institutional thickness' in the local context: a comparison of Cardiff and Sheffield'. As mentioned previously, this article outlines how Thatcherite policies reduced the institutional thickness of Sheffield, resulting in an exodus of economic activity in the 1970s. This involved the separation of governing bodies through intense devolution practices, resulting in institutions that were once the backbone of Sheffield's economy being torn apart. As well as this, huge top-down pressure was being exerted on Sheffield City Council by national governmental bodies, resulting in the city failing to cope with intense changes it was made to endure. The political aspects of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield are a viewpoint that will be examined throughout this thesis, with their implications being explored further.

The final article to be noted on this subject is 'Master Plans and Urban Change: The Case of Sheffield City Centre', written by Madanipour et. al. and published in 2018. This article assesses the three masterplans aimed at generating economic activity in Sheffield. Masterplan2000 was a £1 billion investment directed at improving accessibility in the city, built on momentum following the completion of the Peace Gardens and Heart of the City projects in the 1990s. It aimed at promoting economic growth and social inclusion, however failed to capitalise on community development approaches by ignoring popular urban living influences seen in continental Europe (Jones et. al., 2003; Punter, 2007, Vickery, 2007). Masterplan2008 and Masterplan2013 were significantly hampered by the 2008 global financial crisis, with Sheffield's reliance on public sector funding resulting in the demise of these projects. This was especially the case with the Sevenstone shopping centre, aimed at creating 2000 city centre-based jobs and attracting much needed private investment to the city. However, the Sevenstone shopping centre was never built due to the huge public investment gaps left by the economic crisis, proving to be a huge hit to the city as emphasised throughout the report.

As is shown by this collection of literature, there appears to be a lack of modern, mixed-method research that produce the level of contextual research this thesis is aiming to achieve.

The mixed-methods approach used in this thesis will attempt to appease the requests of these articles, providing a perspective that reflects those directly impacted by inequalities in the city. However, without the pool of existing literature relevant to this subject, this would not have been achievable, stressing the importance of these reports to the final outcomes of this thesis.

2.3. Socio-Economic Inequalities in The United Kingdom

Whilst it is not necessary to include general studies on socio-economic inequalities in the United Kingdom, assessing relevant policies and articles that could be useful to Sheffield are important. This thesis, as well as measuring socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, is aiming to provide policy solutions that abate socio-economic issues in the city. The reports here outline policies specific to the UK which could be used to promote positive change if effectively implemented in Sheffield and introduces some of the approaches that will be explored in this thesis.

When examining policies that aim to reduce socio-economic inequalities in the UK, 'Addressing Economic Inequalities at Root: 5 Goals for a Fairer UK', authored by Kersley and Shaheen in 2014 provides a thorough overview on this topic. It emphasises the need for jobs that employees value, allowing them to maximise all forms of employment capital. While this can be quite a demanding endeavour to achieve, the authors suggest ways in which to do this. This includes dynamically endorsing active labour market policies (ALMPs), such as human capital development schemes and economic incentives that improve the employability of disadvantaged individuals (Andersen and Svarer, 2007). This could be funded through the formation of a state investment bank with a community focus, aimed at optimising a region's human and economic capital.

Kersley and Shaheen also emphasise the need for high quality childcare that is affordable to all in order for life opportunities to be improved, ensuring that all children have an equitable start in life. This is coupled with the policy emphasis of an equal wage distribution, utilised by the strengthening of trade unions and the formation of a Department for Labour. These would both be tasked with restoring wages to above poverty levels and enforcing that pay ratios are

transparently known, encouraging collective action that promotes more economically equitable conditions. The policies Kerlsey and Shaheen encourage are similar to those seen in Scandinavian countries, where socio-economic inequalities are at some of the world's lowest levels (OECD, 2021). This is especially the case in Denmark, where trade union membership, ALMPs and equitable childcare are all promoted in order to achieve equitable socio-economic conditions for all (Andersen and Svarer, 2007; Andersen, 2012; Grönlund et. al., 2017 Larsen and Mailand, 2018). This is a viewpoint that will be expanded on in the discussion section of this thesis, taking influence from case studies that have tried (and sometimes failed) to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

When researching literature on socio-economic inequalities in the UK, it became clear the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) is a significant player regarding research on the topic. As has been shown before, socio-economic inequalities are increasing in Sheffield. However, this is also a national issue, being emphasised in detail by the IFS. Browne and Hood (2016) and Joyce and Xu (2019) both show that socio-economic inequalities are increasing in the UK in relation to health, poverty, income and education, supported by graphics such as Figure 3.

Figure 3

Figure 9. Average annual growth in economic output (real gross value added) by region, 1998–2017
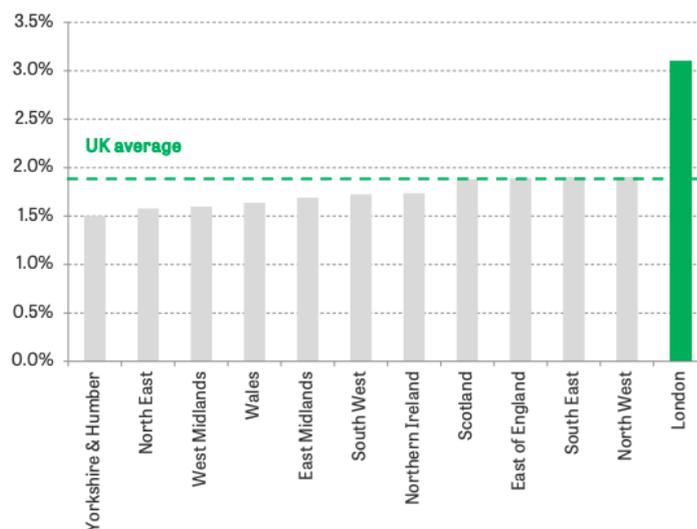
(Joyce and Xu, 2019)

Figure 3 shows that there are significant inequalities throughout the UK, especially between Yorkshire and the Humber, where Sheffield is located, and the rest of the UK. This is data that is also reflected in public opinion, as well as recent research emphasising it as an issue that is still relevant to the UK (Partington, 2019; Williams, 2020; Sample, 2021). What Joyce and Xu also stress throughout their report is how economic crises can expose and widen socio-economic inequalities in regions. This is particularly relevant to modern times with lockdown restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing the UK to experience its worst economic crisis on record (Hart, 2021). Because of this, research on socio-economic inequalities, especially in cities such as Sheffield is particularly relevant today as any positive change introduced now could potentially stop much greater divisions in the future.

Reports from the Institute for Fiscal Studies also suggest ways in which the UK could implement policies that reduce socio-economic inequalities in the UK, policies which could be used in Sheffield. This is the case with the report 'Inequalities in education, skills and incomes in the UK: The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic', authored by Blundell et. al. and published in 2021. This report highlights inequalities in an ex-post context following the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting policies in which to reduce inequalities in education and income. Previous IFS reports have shown how government funding in education has decreased since 2010, creating a segmented and complicated pathway into the vocational courses frequented by disadvantaged groups (Britton et. al., 2020; Hupkau and Petrongolo, 2020). Blundell et. al. suggests a significant emphasis on increasing funding into education, with a particular focus on vocational courses in order to close the gap not just in education, but socio-economic conditions as well. The authors stress the importance of small group training, covering skills that can be translated into different roles in order to avoid economic lock-ins. This is particularly relevant to Sheffield, where education and cultural stigmas have resulted in many residents being worried about entering economic lock-ins following the provision of poor training schemes (Williams and Vorley, 2014).

Another key point outlined in this report is that a majority of the UK's population has low private liquid savings, with a large share of families having to rely on the state to insure them against economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Blundell et. al., 2021). Blundell welcomes a reduction in the conditionality of social welfare as a result of measures aiming to

reduce the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Blundell also emphasises that relaxed conditionality is key when aiming to reduce socio-economic inequalities, using Scandinavian nations as examples again to show how this is utilised. This is again relevant to Sheffield, with the city being 'punished' for its historical over-reliance on public spending, with increasing welfare conditionality contributing to the deepening inequalities the city has experienced since the 1970s (Williams and Vorley, 2014; Madanipour et. al. 2018). Policies promoting public spending, focused on subjects such as education and social welfare will be key to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, moving away from the kleptocracy being encouraged throughout the British elite (Cockburn, 2021).

The final pieces of literature to be examined in this section aim to highlight policies specific to other issues key to this thesis, in relation to community cohesion and economic growth. Community cohesion is vitally important when attempting to achieve socio-economic equality in an area, an aspect which is emphasised throughout Archer and Steven's 2018 article 'Housing, Integration and Segregation: A Rapid Literature Review'. In this article, Archer and Stevens outline how poor community cohesion results in socio-economic segmentation, explaining how a divided community will never be able to maximise its economic potential. It shows how most policies introduced by the UK always have an emphasis on social cohesion, but that these policies are often cosmetic and rarely attempt to address issues at their core (Iceland, 2014; Archer and Stevens, 2018).

Archer and Steven's article is especially relevant to Sheffield, with Firth Park, an area investigated in this thesis having particularly poor levels of socio-ethnic segregation between Roma, White-British and Pakistani communities (Pidd, 2013, Pidd, 2018). If socio-economic inequalities are to be reduced in Sheffield, poor community cohesion in areas such as Firth Park must be resolved for the area to economically develop. Ward (2018) suggests using tax increment financing (TIF) schemes to fund community projects, ensuring that any tax generated in Sheffield can be re-invested back into the community. The Sheffield Fairness Commission also suggests the promotion of community enterprise schemes, using social enterprises such as SOAR in Parson Cross to cultivate social capital through festivals and community projects (Sheffield Fairness Commission, 2017). These are ideas that will be

discussed further in this thesis, with community cohesion being a key aspect of this thesis's analysis.

Another important aspect towards reducing economic inequalities is the promotion of economic growth within an area. Whilst the State of Sheffield 2018 report stresses that economic activity by itself does not reduce inequalities, it is an important factor to contemplate, especially when considering that Sheffield is the 'low pay capital of the UK' (Newsroom, 2017; Gregory, 2018; State of Sheffield, 2018). An interesting angle highlighted throughout the literature was the underutilisation of Sheffield's cultural economy (Long, 2014). Pratt's (2010) article 'Creative cities: Tensions within and between social, cultural and economic development: A critical reading of the UK experiences' provides a fascinating approach as to how cultural economic growth can provide holistic economic development. It shows how tourism is rapidly becoming a significant economic tool for cities and highlights the 1991 World Student Games in Sheffield as an example of how tourism can be used for economic development. This viewpoint is further exclaimed by Long (2014), who stresses the huge potential for a successful cultural economy in Sheffield, that if grown from the bottom-up could result in significant economic growth for the city. This is also a lens that will be explored throughout this thesis, with Sheffield's cultural economy being of particular interest to the author, and the outcome of the thesis as a whole.

2.4. Social Mobility

Whilst this literature review has analysed papers relating to concepts surrounding inequalities, education, community cohesion and politics, it would be unwise to conclude without examining a concept key to socio-economic inequalities, social mobility. Social mobility can be defined as "the phenomenon of shifting from one social position to another, either in comparison with family background or with previous employment (Social Stratification, Occupational Status, Class Identification, Socioeconomic Status (SES))" (Falcon and Joye, 2014, pp. 6123-6124). Essentially, it refers to improving one's socio-economic status, either through education, employment or other means. In order to achieve socio-economic equality, social mobility is key to improving the life course of disadvantaged individuals.

Brown's 2013 article 'Education, Opportunity and the Prospects for Social Mobility' provides an in-depth analysis into social mobility within a British context. It shows how social mobility in the UK is unacceptably low, failing to achieve all social mobility indicators resulting in the government abandoning it as a political project (Payne, 2012; Brown, 2013). Education is key to increasing one's social mobility, and this is a viewpoint that is emphasised throughout virtually all literature on the subject. However, Brown shows how the over-consumption of education in the UK has resulted in a reduction in social mobility, with social congestion becoming an issue as an excess in people aim for the same socio-economic status. The neoliberalisation of education in the UK as a result of extensive privatisation and curriculum streamlining has resulted in too many people going through the same educational pathways and creating social congestion (Ball, 2012).

Due to this social congestion, schools, universities and employers are having to raise entry requirements, resulting in individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds having to endure an increasing number of obstacles in order to reach the same socio-economic status as those from more privileged backgrounds. Brown also shows how a winner-takes all mindset within the British education system means that an individual can graduate with a university degree but will be looked-down on if the university is not ranked above a certain level (Frank and Cook, 1996). The viewpoint Brown uses in this paper is fascinating and is especially relevant to Sheffield regarding the huge divides in educational opportunities across the city (see Figure 4).

Figure 4

**Sheffield Population With a Lack
of Educational Attainment or Skills 2019**
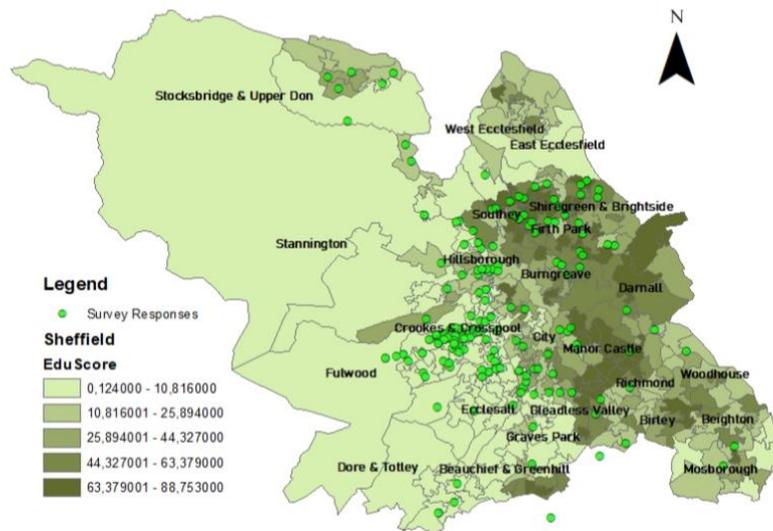
(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

As mentioned by Brown, the political hierarchy a nation inhibits can determine its social mobility. This is often due to the management of education, and in the case of the UK it has been particularly troublesome. The expansion of grammar schools, as well as private schools has resulted in individuals from disadvantaged groups being excluded from achieving their highest educational attainments (Boliver and Byrne, 2013). Boliver and Byrne emphasise this throughout their 2013 paper 'Social mobility: The politics, the reality, the alternative'. This paper focuses on how recent privatisation of education in the UK has excluded huge amounts of people from tertiary education options, in particular attending university.

They pay particular attention to the increase in university tuition fees, with an annual tuition fee for an undergraduate student now being £9,250 in the UK. This would represent approximately 40% of the median household income for a household with children, highlighting how problematic these fees would be for disadvantaged households. The lack of alternatives to tertiary education in the UK is also an issue, with disadvantaged individuals having fewer options to improve their educational attainment and thus their social mobility (Hupkau and Petrongolo, 2020). Social mobility is a significant political issue in the UK, and

without political stability, especially in politically volatile cities such as Sheffield, areas will struggle to maximise their social mobility and progress towards socio-economic equality.

Finally, there is a collection of literature that highlights how community cohesion is vital towards ensuring maximum social mobility is maintained in an area. Li's 2016 article 'Social mobility, social network and subjective well-being in the UK' shows how social networks are vitally important for social mobility. Li shows how community cohesion can be linked to health, happiness and overall life satisfaction when analysed in the context of social mobility, with strong community cohesion causing areas to have a collectively increased social mobility. As well as this, Li emphasises the role social capital has in improving socio-economic conditions in an area, with social capital facilitated through strong cohesion allowing for social mobility to flourish and thus allow a region to prosper. Again, this links to previous studies on community cohesion which emphasis its importance in promoting socio-economic equality, with the relevance to Sheffield being shown throughout this chapter (Iceland, 2014; Archer and Stevens, 2018).

These three aspects encapsulate how social mobility is viewed in this thesis and have also heavily influenced policies that have aimed to increase one's social mobility. One of the policies that will be key to the final outcome of this thesis is the Sure Start programme. Sure Start was established in 1999 with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of children in disadvantaged areas with the aim of reducing inequalities in poverty, health and educational performance (Melhuish et. al., 2008). The programme was a publicly funded, community-specific project that targeted disadvantaged children with direct, preventative measures such as home visiting, the provision of good quality childcare and support for disabled children (Rutter, 2006; Melhuish et. al., 2010). The consensus amongst academics is that, despite differing levels of success amongst different socio-economic groups, Sure Start was successful in buffering the social mobility of disadvantaged children and improving the life chances of those involved (Belsky et. al., 2006; Rutter, 2006; Melhuish et. al., 2008). However, it was a heavily politicised project, with much criticism from right-wing media sources in the UK coupled with austerity measures, which resulted in Sure Start being disbanded by 2017 (Rutter, 2006; Min et. al., 2021). This highlights how political; community and educational aspects are intertwined within social mobility policies. However, with the

community-focused approach of Sure Start, alongside the programmes' focus on education this significantly contributed to Sure Start's effectiveness amongst disadvantaged groups (Belsky, 2006; Rutter, 2006; Melhuish, et. al., 2008). Sure Start is a programme that will re-emerge in this thesis, with interviewees in particular praising it as key towards reducing socio-economic inequalities, with Sure Start's links to improving social mobility also being commended.

Another policy that will be key to the outcome of this thesis is the introduction of a universal basic income (UBI). A UBI is a policy proposal that aims to provide a monthly income grant to all citizens regardless of conditionality, ensuring that all who needs it can have access to it (Bidadanure, 2019). The concept of a UBI was once seen as radical, with many failing to see the applicability of such as policy within the constraints of modern-day capitalism (Bidadanure, 2019). However, especially since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the concept of a UBI has become increasingly relevant, with aspects of UBI programmes being seen in policies such as the furlough scheme in the UK (Bidadanure, 2019; Johnson, et. al. 2020). The concept of a universal welfare state can be seen in many Scandinavian countries, such as Denmark, whose relaxed conditionality to welfare such as generous unemployment benefits have been attributed to the country's low levels of inequality (Andersen, 2012; Haagh, 2019). This is due to a UBI allowing individuals to invest in their human capital, using funds that were once inaccessible to improve their socio-economic status by improving their social mobility (Heckman and Mosso, 2014; Lacey, 2017).

However, the concept of a universal basic income is heavily politicised, with it having links to community cohesion and education also (Sloman, 2018). Many believe the introduction of a UBI would disrupt labour market dynamics, with people becoming unwilling to work as the UBI exceeds one's reservation wage (Tondani, 2009; Boeri and van Ours, 2013). To combat this stigma, it is accepted that UBIs should be used to fund pro-work strategies related to income support and employability schemes, aimed at improving the employability and working conditions of disadvantaged individuals (Kearney and Mogstad, 2019). This is something that will further developed in this thesis, combining a UBI with additional welfare measures in order to maximise the human capital of disadvantage individuals and improve their socio-economic status.

This literature review has attempted to discuss the plethora of literature relating to socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. It provides a backbone to the analysis shown in further chapters within this thesis and highlights the great amount of work that has been done on this topic already. It is clear there is a demand for more bottom-up approaches to socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, and this thesis will attempt to adhere to these demands. However, it is clear through the studies already completed on this subject that there are significant divides in the city, with the institutionalised nature of these divides preventing them from being dimished. The literature on socio-economic inequalities in the UK paints a similar picture, with divides being shown on both regional and national scales. This is then linked within the context of social mobility, a key concept to this thesis that will be revisited throughout the chapters. The next chapter, the methodology, will show how a mixed-methods approach was used to analysis socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, building on the great work that has been done before.

3. Methodology

One of the key aspects of this report is its use of a mixed-methods approach to ensure that bottom-up perspectives are incorporated within the final analysis (Terrell, 2012). Mixed-method approaches are "studies that are the products of the pragmatist paradigm, and that combine the qualitative and quantitative approaches within different phases of the research process" (Tashakkori and Teddlie, 2008, p22). In this case, it uses interviews with key stakeholders and online surveys, including both closed and open-ended questions to execute an effective data collection. The quantitative, positivist paradigm ensures that the researcher can remain emotionally detached from the data collected, and in this case ensures a bottom-up perspective collecting data from the residents in Sheffield (Johnson and Onwuegbuzie, 2004; Terrel, 2012). On the other hand, the qualitative data supports a constructivist paradigm, providing context that would be immeasurable using a closed-question approach, allowing for the researcher themselves to form part of the data through methods such as interviews (Salmons, 2012; Terrel, 2012).

The mixed-methods approach used in this report features a concurrent triangulation strategy, where the two data collection phases are executed concurrently and are given equal priority (Terrel, 2012). For a research project such a this, this is advantageous as it provides time efficiency and requires minimal resources to execute (Grafton et. al., 2011). On the other hand, a limitation to this approach is that data from the interviews cannot be used to shape survey questions, and vice versa (Grafton et. al., 2011). However, as will be shown in this chapter this was not a problem with other sources being used to inspire the questions included throughout the methods.

This chapter will explain the processes involved in the development and execution of the interviews and online surveys used in this report. Of course, with this paper being completed during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was important to use approaches that respected social distancing guidelines such as online methods (Dodds and Hess, 2020; Lobe et. al., 2020). This provided a unique challenge that few researchers will have previously experienced, opening up an exciting opportunity to conduct research during a time where online communications are at their highest relevancy (Lobe et. al., 2020). These factors will also be explored during

this chapter, with the advantages and disadvantages of the methods used being discussed in this context throughout.

3.1. Interviews

Online interviews offer a suitable alternative to in-person interviews and were necessary in order to respect the social distancing guidelines introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic (Lobe et. al., 2020). As well as this, online interviews offer flexibility on time and financial restraints, allowing for an efficient use of resources (Cater, 2011). What was especially important was their ability to not be geographically constrained, allowing for interviews to occur with people in Sheffield despite the researcher being unable to travel due to travel restrictions (Lobe et. al., 2020). It was essential to make the online interviews as flexible and efficient as possible (Malteud, 2001). Google Meet was the online platform used for the majority of interviews as it is free and easy to calibrate with online calendars, thus making it a very flexible option (Dodds and Hess, 2020).

Alongside this, the interviews were recorded using a mobile device and stored using anonymous identifiers in order to ensure the confidentiality of data and remove any potential personal links (Anderson and Corneli, 2018). Due to the online interviews involving the use of a camera, a mobile device ensured that only the voice of the interviewee was recorded in an attempt to safeguard their anonymity to the highest level. (Lobe et. al., 2020). The recordings were then used in the transcription process in order for the interviews to be analysed (DiCicco-Bloom and Crabtree, 2006; Lobe et. al., 2020). Ensuring confidentiality during the online interviews was necessary as the impacts of socio-economic inequalities are a sensitive topic, especially when the interviewees are directly affected by them. When contacting the interviewees an initial email was sent outlining that the interviews would be completely anonymised and confidentially held to ensure that their anonymity would be upheld (Lobe, 2017). As well as this, the email outlined the purpose of the interview and what the data was to be used for. Again, this ensured complete transparency during the early stages of the interview set-up and thus built confidence between the interviewer and the interviewee (Hewson et. al., 2016; Lobe, 2017; Ess and Ha˚rd af Segerstad, 2019).

Interviews as a qualitative method are able to provide a high level of context analysis that quantitative methods alone are unable to provide (DiCicco-Bloom, 2006). This context can be used to calibrate data collected from quantitative research, providing an explanation to the survey data from individuals who have first-hand knowledge on this topic (Timans et. al., 2019). Interviews are an influential method in this sense as they unveil information hidden behind the graphics provided from the online surveys (Pekrun et. al., 2002; DiCicco-Bloom, 2006). As mentioned in the introduction, as a method interviews are particularly important when collecting research on the effect of policies regarding socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, allowing for 'How' and 'What' questions to be answered (Louie, 2016). From this, it allows for the voice of Sheffielders to be heard and translated into the policy solutions this thesis aims to produce.

In total, 5 online interviews were conducted, with durations ranging from 30 minutes, 53 seconds to the longest of 61 minutes, 17 seconds. Due to the researcher already having a connection to Sheffield, it was straightforward when building a rapport with the interviewees whom themselves had strong connections to Sheffield (Salmons, 2012). Alongside using local knowledge to build a rapport, before the interview the researcher would ask for consent for the interview to be recorded and informed the interviewee that the recording and transcription process would be completely anonymised. The interviewee was also made aware that they could leave the interview at any time, again building trust between the researcher and interviewee (McGuirk and O'Niell, 2016).

The interviewees were chosen based on their expert knowledge of socio-economic conditions in different areas of Sheffield. This ensured that the information they were providing could be trusted as specialist knowledge, certifying their reliability when being used during the analysis process (Winchester, 1996). Health, education, community development and academia were areas in which the interviewees were experts, allowing for a particular focus to be made on these during the interviews. As well as this, the expert local knowledge that the interviewees had allowed for the information they provided to be translated into community-focused policies, allowing for the bottom-up approach of this thesis to be upheld.

In order for the interviews to flow easily, and for authentic, in-depth information to be given, the interviews followed a semi-structured format (DiCicco-Bloom and Crabtree, 2006). Semi-structured interviews offer a powerful tool for exploring certain experiences, using a formal structure of pre-planned questions, but allowing follow-up questions to be asked when needed (DiCicco-Bloom and Crabtree, 2006; Rabionet, 2011). In this case, each interview would aim to follow three questions that were specific to the interviewee, with two other questions being asked in every interview. In between each question, follow-up questions were asked that related to what the interviewee has said, allowing information to be gathered that was not originally said (Leech, 2002). These follow-up questions would allow both the researcher and interviewee to elaborate when needed, using questions such as "What do you mean by that?". It would also be used to gain greater insight into the answers originally provided, using follow-up questions such as "Do you think social mobility has decreased as a result of this then?" or "Do you think there will be a real economic change from that in Parson Cross?". This proved to be great approach to use during the interviews, as essential insight was issued when using the follow-up questions, highlighting their importance as part of this method.

As mentioned previously, the semi-structured format of the interviews meant that pre-planned formal questions were also included. In order for these questions to stay relevant to the research, many took inspiration from questions asked in previous research surveys. The researcher took inspiration from questions asked in polls such as the British Social Attitudes Survey 2018, the 2020 Community Life Survey and the European Quality of Life Survey 2003-2016. Of course, the questions were then shaped to be specific to the subject, but many of the questions used here provided the backbone to those asked in the interviews. The two questions that were asked to every interviewee were the first and last questions. These were "What do you think are the three biggest issues facing Sheffield at the moment and why?" and "What is the best approach you would take to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield and why?". Using an opening question such as this allowed for the interviewee to begin thinking about socio-economic issues in Sheffield, with the final question allowing for information relevant policy section to be examined. This delivered a useful format, with the interviewees providing similar ideas to both questions, relating back to issues such as education, community cohesion, politics and employment.

Other more interviewee-specific questions could include "Are there any changes you would make to the education system in Sheffield, in terms of structure or funding, to further help children in the most deprived areas?" or "If you were in charge of redistributing resources, what would you do to help an area like Firth Park?". This again proved especially useful, as it allowed for the interviewees to open up on areas that they specialised in, resulting in them providing information that was ensured as reliable. Despite the essential, in-depth context that was highlighted throughout the interviews, it was also important to analyse more quantitative data as part of this report. In order for this to be achieved, surveys were also used.

3.2. Online Surveys

The second feature of the mixed-methods approach used in this thesis is the implementation of online surveys. Online surveys provide a time and cost-efficient approach to collecting data from individuals distributed over large areas, which is the case in a city like Sheffield (Ward et. al., 2014; Regmi et. al., 2016; Nayak and Narayan, 2019). As mentioned previously, online surveys offered a valuable tool when collecting data during the COVID-19 pandemic as it adheres to social distancing guidelines and allows for research to be done without the need for in-person methods (Lobe et. al., 2020).

Using surveys as a quantitative method were vital due to the small area level data they provide, data to a level that is not available in alternative datasets such as the British Social Attitudes Survey. They allow for the extent of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield to be measured, complementing the qualitative research and providing measurable data that can be used comparatively in future research, as has been done with previous research in this thesis (McGuirk and O'Neill, 2016). As well as this, the survey allowed for the community to engage with the research conducted, gaining insight into the experiences Sheffielders have had with socio-economic inequalities, contributing significantly to the final aims of the thesis (Reich, 2010). This includes allowing for divides in perceived social mobility, experiences individuals have had with previous policies and what change individuals believe should be delivered to be measured, respecting the research questions that are asked in this project. The questions asked in this survey also provide a new insight in socio-economic inequalities

in Sheffield that is not found in previous research. In particular, these are questions that again follow what is requested from the research questions, related to topics such as perceived social mobility and opinions surrounding the delivery of previous policies. This underlines surveys as a necessary tool when extracting new data from a larger sample than interviews alone, providing a new perspective on divides within Sheffield and for the community-focused approach of this thesis to be respected (Hesse-Biber, 2010; Reich, 2010; McGuirk and O'Neill, 2016).

Figure 5

Map of Sheffield with Survey Responses
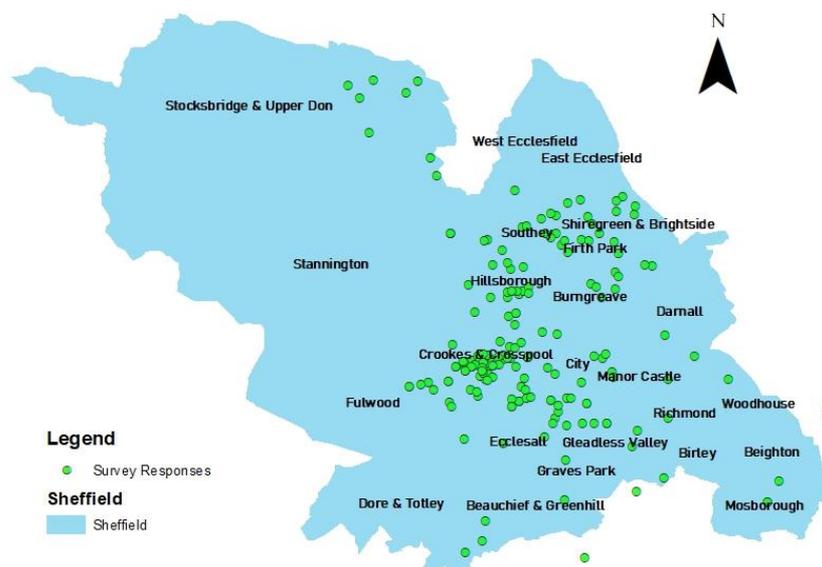
In total, 210 surveys were completed, with the location of respondents being shown in Figure 5. The distribution of the survey focused on two areas, S10 and Firth Park. Due to the personal social network of the researcher, there is a cluster of respondents located in the Crookes and Crosspool area of Sheffield which could suggest sampling bias. However, as is also shown in Figure 5, there is still a large number of respondents being located in the North of Sheffield providing the statistical significance shown in the subsequent data analysis section. The sampling strategy involved targeting community groups on the social media network Facebook, distributing the survey to individuals on these groups. This allowed the survey to

be accessed by people with knowledge on the areas involved, ensuring that the accuracy and reliability of the survey data was safeguarded to the highest degree.

When collecting online survey responses, ease of access to the survey was of paramount importance as it allowed for an increased response rate with people being more willing to complete the survey (Carbonaro and Bainbridge, 2000; Daikeler et. al., 2020). With this in mind, the online surveying tool Google Forms was used when conducting the online survey due to its approachable interface and ease of use (Nayak and Narayan, 2019). Alongside this, survey data collected from Google Forms can be exported directly into data analysis software, such as STATA, eliminating the possibility of transcription errors arising (Regmi et. al., 2016). Google Forms also allows for the addition of a cover page, a vital addition to any online survey (McGuirk and O'Neill, 2016). The cover letter for this thesis outlined the use of the survey, introduced the researcher and the thesis, and explained how the survey was to be stored and analysed. It also emphasised that the survey was voluntary, and that the respondent could leave anytime as is mandatory for online research such as this (Van Gelder et. al., 2010; Daikeler et. al., 2020). In doing so, it ensured the respondent that all answers were to be strictly anonymised allowing the respondent to answer honestly without the fear of any repercussions (Van Sem and Jankowski, 2006).

However, there can be some issues when distributing online surveys that can obstruct their effectiveness. Using local Facebook groups to access individuals in certain areas using social media can be, at times, problematic (Grossman et. al., 2018). Distributing the survey using this method meant individuals without a Facebook account were unable to access the survey, a concern in areas such as Firth Park where 'digital poverty' can be an issue (Kelly, 2020). To the researcher this was a significant concern as the local capital Firth Park residents have was vital to the results of the survey. However, as will be seen in the results section a statistically significant number of residents were able to answer the survey, with the use of personal social networks allowing for the effective distribution of surveys throughout the city.

Before distributing and developing the final survey, a pilot survey was used to test a large pool of questions within a sample group. The pilot survey allowed for questions to be tested, with the respondents being asked whether the questions were clear, effective and relevant

(Dworschak and Campbell, 2015). This again proved to be valuable, with many of the pilot respondents noting that the original questions were often too open-ended, with others remarking that some of the questions were not entirely clear (Dwoschak and Campbell, 2015). From this, the pool of questions was streamlined to ensure only the most effective questions were included in the final survey, with other essential questions being modified to increase their efficiency.

Similar to the process used in the interview questions, many of the questions used in the survey section were inspired from previous survey studies. Inspiration was taken from the British Social Attitudes Survey 2018, the 2020 Community Life Survey and the European quality of life survey 2003-2016, with certain questions being included to extract essential information. The beginning of the survey asked questions such as "What is your gender?", "What is your age?" and "What is your postcode?". These were essential, as it allowed for the demographics of the survey to be measured, determining whether the survey was representative of Sheffield's population. "What is your postcode?" was perhaps the most important question in the whole survey as it allowed for geographical data analysis to occur, comparing characteristics in different areas of the city as is the aim of this paper (Beale et. al., 2010). The postcodes were then converted into coordinates, allowing for GIS to visualise the location of the respondents, as well as to observe how socio-economic conditions vary in the different respondent locations.

Figure 6

Sheffield Deprivation Score 2019
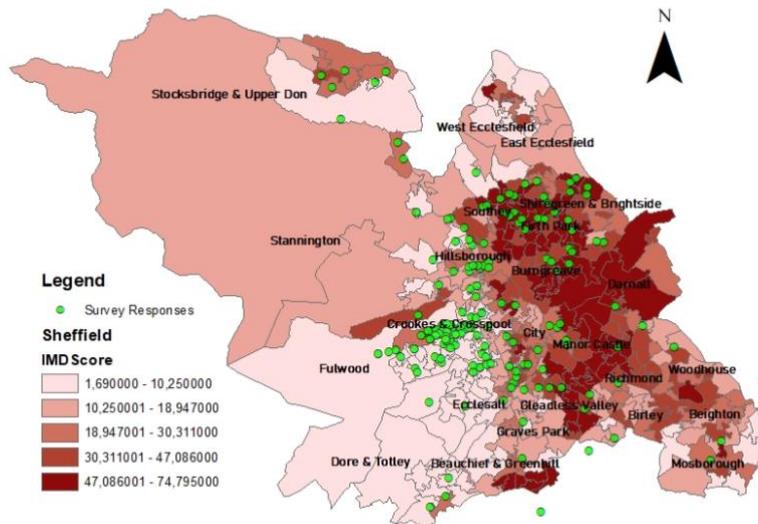
(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

This can be highlighted, for example, in Figure 6. This map shows the contrasting deprivation scores for survey respondents in different area of the city, where deprivation is calculated by measuring various socio-economic categories, such as income, education, health and access to employment. Following this, the questions "What is your annual household income?" and "What is the highest level of education you have attained?" were asked. Both of these questions provided an 100% response rate. This allowed for a comparison to be made regarding the annual incomes and educational levels of respondents in different areas of the city, seeing if the research here matched with previous research on the subject (Thomas et. al., 2009; Dabinett et. al., 2016). These questions proved to be a useful, as the comparisons used were valuable in shaping the data analysis section of the thesis.

More closed questions were then asked, such as "What needs to be improved most in the area you live in? (Pick 3 maximum)", "Over the last 10 years, how do you think the wealth gap between the richest and poorest areas in Sheffield has changed?" and "How would you say your financial situation is compared to residents in the more affluent areas of Sheffield? (e.g., Ranmoor, Dore and Totley etc.)". As was the case with the previous closed questions, these questions again boasted an 100% response rate, highlighting the surveys' coherence

and the benefits a pilot survey can provide to a research project. These questions provide a more subjective view of the inequalities that exist in the city and were inspired directly from the British Social Attitudes Survey 2018. This, alongside questions such as "Would you say the area you live in allows people to maximise their life chances?" and "Do you think children born in your area have a good chance of living and working in a prosperous environment when they are older?" were also vital in terms of measuring a bottom-up perspective of social mobility in Sheffield, again a key aim of the thesis. All questions included in the online surveys are available in the appendix of this thesis (See Appendix 8.1).

The survey then ended with three open-ended questions. These were "What evidence have you seen of public agencies attempting to improve socio-economic conditions in Sheffield?", "What is the best approach you have seen towards improving socio-economic conditions in Sheffield?" and "What do you think is the best approach to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield?". These questions allow for a more contextual approach to the survey responses and provided a qualitative addition to the surveys. The response rate of these questions (68%, 64% and 70% respectively) was slightly lower however, as they were less accessible than the previous questions as they required the respondent to write in a text box. From the pilot survey, many of the responses saw these questions as vital to the overall effectiveness of the results, as they deliver a community perspective on the potential policies that locals want in order to abate inequalities in the city. In total, the survey included 22 questions, keeping it concise and allowing it to extract the maximum amount of information without being too long (McGuirk and O'Neill, 2016).

3.3. Analytical Methods

3.3.1. Qualitative Analysis

Thematic content analysis was the method used for analysing the qualitative data collected throughout this thesis. Following the completion and recording of the interviews, the recordings were used to transcribe the interviews in order for them to be analysed. This transcription was done manually in order to avoid any inaccuracies that may arise from software transcription, and to fully safeguard the data files created when recording the interviews (Basit, 2003; Ose, 2016). The transcripts were then coded using Microsoft Excel, in

which different sections of the transcript were assigned a tag depending on what theme that section discussed. Microsoft Excel is a powerful tool for carrying out thematic content analysis as it simplifies the sorting and formatting processes involved in qualitative analysis as the transcript can be transferred directly from Microsoft Word (Bree and Gallagher, 2016; Ose, 2016).

The thematic content analysis process used in this thesis takes inspiration from a paper authored by Ose (2016). The interview transcripts were first converted into a table format with three columns, with the left-hand column indicating who spoke, the middle column including the text, and the right-hand column being for the code. The transcripts were then read through first, to remind the interviewee of its content and then transferred into Microsoft Excel in order to store the transcripts contents and to begin the analysis process. Each line of the transcript was then assigned a number, a code, depending on what the line was talking about. Example of this could be regarding social enterprises, political injustice or social mobility, with each of these topics being allocated a number. This allowed for the transcript to then be sorted depending on its contents, rather than the sequential ordering it had been in before. The codes were then broadened into the categories seen in the results section of this thesis, with categories such as 'healthcare' and 'transport mobility' being examples of categories that arose but were not relevant to the final outcomes of this thesis.

Using this method of coding was an effective method of sorting and analysing the contents of each interview. The resourceful nature of this method allows for the transcripts to be sufficiently examined in a time efficient way, one of the reasons why it is so highly commended in Ose's 2016 article. It increases the repeatability of this thesis as it is does not require expensive coding software yet is a more time efficient than manual coding using a highlighter and paper (Bree and Gallagher, 2016; Ose, 2016). The transcripts in this thesis were also coded with the thematic content analysis software NVivo. However due to the complex nature of the interview transcripts the software struggled to interpret much of what was said, a disadvantage also outlined in Dollah et. al.'s 2017 paper. In relation to the research questions of this thesis, this analytical method meant that the opinions stakeholders had on the effectiveness of policies, and the general topic of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield could be investigated easily, adhering to the aims of this thesis. Qualitative methods are

powerful tools for providing context to data and respecting the 'How' and 'What' questions that underline the focus of this thesis (Louie, 2016). Using a method such as this allows for the information imbedded in these transcripts to be extracted with ease, providing answers to the questions this thesis aims to solve (Ose, 2016). This proclaims this method as the most applicable to a thesis such as this, allowing it to be repeated in similar research projects in the future.

3.3.2. Quantitative Analysis

The analytical methods used for the quantitative data collected in this thesis comprise of descriptive statistics and logistic regressions. The aim of the quantitative analysis shown here is to outline the level of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield and correlate this with the qualitative data. Quantitative analysis complete here also pursues a new approach to inequalities by showing divides in issues surrounding social mobility and access to services. Both the descriptive statistics and logistic regression analysis were completed using STATA, a statistical analysis computer software. This ensured that all analysis could be consistently presented, as well as allowing the author to build on skills learnt throughout their postgraduate degree.

The descriptive analysis aims to outline inequalities in terms of income, health and education, highlighting how the mixed-methods approach can be used to provide not only context to the subject, but can outline inequalities in a clear, presentable way. This was done through the use of pie charts, which highlight proportions of certain socio-economic categories in the different areas of Sheffield. This adheres to the thesis's research questions, as it highlights different socio-economic inequalities by using the mixed-methods approach. The descriptive statistics also obey to the research questions through the use of bar charts which highlight survey respondents' experience regarding the evolution of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. This outlines how effective policies have been that have aimed to confront socio-economic issues in the city, complementing similar results found in the qualitative results (Timans et. al., 2019). The key statistics found from this research are outlined in the results chapter of this thesis, however all the statistics created from the surveys can be found in the appendix (See Appendix 8.3).

One aspect of the descriptive statistics not created using STATA are the GIS maps shown throughout this paper. GIS maps were created using data from the indices of multiple deprivation 2019, with this data being publicly available from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The software used to create these maps was ArcGIS, with the data being cut in order to show the socio-economic divides that exist in Sheffield. This was against important to the outcomes of this thesis in order to see if the results collected here differ from data collected in 2019, as well as investigating whether levels of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield have changed from previous studies on the subject. From this, research questions over whether the mixed-methods approach provide alternative outlooks on inequalities in Sheffield, and the effectiveness of previous policies can be studied by examining the changing socio-economic landscape of the city. All GIS maps produced as part of this research are available in the appendix section of this thesis (See Appendix 8.2).

Finally, logistic regression is used in this thesis to predict how levels of concern relating to issues of social mobility, education, access to investment and other variables differ in different areas of Sheffield. The regression analysis seen in this thesis is similar to that seen in papers by De Figueiredo and Ziegelmann (2010) and Rahman (2013), in which the characteristics of different groups are compared to predict inequalities in different socio-economic variables. In the case of this thesis, logistic regressions are used to predict the differing levels of concern regarding individuals in Crosspool, Firth Park and Central, which in turn can predict the extent to which these variables contrast across the city. Because of this, the independent variable in each logistic regression is the survey population from each area, as the dependent variable is used to predict the socio-economic characteristics of each population. The dependent variable was transformed from the survey responses into a binary variable. For example, from Table 1, 1 would represent 'yes' and 0 represent 'no', and for Table 2, 1 would represent choosing social mobility as a concern, and 0 for not choosing social mobility. This allowed for the research questions to be answered as the level of division regarding social mobility could be observed, showing a different perspective to socio-economic inequalities provided by the mixed-methods approach. The logistic regressions are used to complement the descriptive statistics, providing a more analytical lens on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield and widening the potential for policies to be developed.

4. Results

4.1. Qualitative Research: Interviews

Five semi-structured interviews were completed with a variety of stakeholders from Sheffield in order to contribute to the qualitative aspect of this thesis. Interviewing relevant stakeholders ensured the reliability of the answers, certifying that they could be translated into robust analysis and policy recommendations (Anderson, 2010; St. Pierre and Jackson, 2014). The stakeholders included a school headteacher, a public health official and a university academic, as well as shareholders in successful social enterprises in the city. As mentioned previously, semi-structured interviews provide context when answering the research questions, and the semi-structure of this approach ensures a high level of flexibility when conducting this method (Roulston, 2011). This allowed the interviewees to open up on experiences specific to Sheffield, but also on knowledge key to themselves, safeguarding the collection of insight into socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield (Green et. al., 2007; Roulston, 2011). As a result, the semantic validity of the answers was safeguarded, allowing the information collected be reused in further research if required (Krippendorff, 2012).

As mentioned previously, all interviews were transcribed in order for them to be analysed (McLellan, et. al, 2003). Following the thematic analysis, four key themes were identified that were prevalent throughout the responses (St Pierre and Jackson, 2014). These themes are **education, employment, community cohesion** and **politics**. These are themes that were repeatedly mentioned as key to the subject of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield and were also regarded as important when reviewing relevant literature on the topic. Because of this, it felt necessary to prioritise the focus of this thesis within the lens of these categories, ensuring that the analysis and policy solutions are streamlined to respect the communities' priorities.

4.1.1. Education

The first theme, education, was represented in a number of different ways. Education is key to increasing social mobility in deprived areas (Brown, 2013), and this was emphasised in many of the answers. "Education, education is what moves people forward, if you want to have tall social mobility you need to invest in education" (Interview A1); "Education is kind of, I would not say my way out but my way forward" (Interview A2). These are two quotes that emphasise the importance of education in order to increase social mobility, and thus improve their socio-economic position in Sheffield.

Alongside this, there was also criticism of the current academic curriculum in schools, suggesting that is does not prioritise children in areas such as Firth Park. "Critical thinking, the ability to critically analyse anything people tell you, to evaluate it, digital literacy in the most generic sense. So, I think they need to mentally change, fundamentally change the curriculum" (Interview A1); "… we need a more hands on practical curriculum and therefore provided in a different way, I think there needs to be the option of a parallel curriculum that runs hand in hand" (Interview A3). This was a continuous theme throughout many of the answers, with stakeholders in the education sector especially emphasising the need for increased freedom in how schools structure their curriculum, with the potential need for area-specific curricular.

The position of stakeholders in Sheffield, especially in regard to the influence the University of Sheffield has, and the funding structure of schools was also criticised for failing to address inequalities. "… how connected are they [students at the university] to the city if you live in Shirecliffe or Firth Park? What has this got to do with your city, … segmentation, economic and social and cultural segmentation has grown as a consequence of Sheffield's position in the hierarchy of global high education market" (Interview A4); "next year your leafy suburb schools are going to get a funding increase compared to schools in not those areas. I am not sure that is the right time to do that especially when the inequalities across the city are the biggest, they have ever been I am not sure changing the funding formula now is the best idea" (Interview A3).

4.1.2. Employment

The importance of employment and increasing area-specific economic activity in Sheffield were also highlighted by all of the interviewees. "Where are those jobs in the big factories that employ thousands of people in well paid regularised work, how do we create those jobs and how do we create them in a sustainable economic agenda?" (Interview A4); "I have spent quite long periods of my life on the dole (welfare benefits), and it is just…, it is draining psychologically just not having any money in your pocket, it is just impossible, so jobs, employment, and to generate jobs locally it is really [important]" (Interview A2). This is in context to the creation of "work that [gives] people a sense of place and identity" (Interview A2), again an aspect the interviewees believed was key to improving the socio-economic profile of an area such as Firth Park.

Alongside this, there was emphasis on the necessity to generate employment in the more deprived areas of the city. "25% of people in Sheffield being on the minimum wage, it is a low wage economy so if we are really serious about that then we need to bring other businesses in or create incentives on attracting start-up businesses in Sheffield" (Interview A1); "… what is happening in Leeds, you look at what is happening in Manchester, in Newcastle there is nothing that is going on in those cities that is not going on in Sheffield. They shout about it much more and so get more profile therefore that attracts more investment private and government investment and that perpetuates the forward motion" (Interview A5). The comparison to other northern cities was paramount throughout the interviews, with people seeing the successes there as inspiration to what could happen in Sheffield.

There were some examples provided as to how to generate economic activity and funding towards regeneration in Sheffield. "… the biggest source of endogenous capital in South Yorkshire is the South Yorkshire pension fund, worth billions, tens of billions which none of it is invested in South Yorkshire" (Interview A4); "people keep telling me it has got the biggest theatre sector outside of London …, it is a strength, I do not know to the extent to which we capitalise on that" (Interview A5). There was also weight towards where Sheffield is losing sources of economic activity. "The Coles [John Lewis, a high-quality Department Store] was shut and I need to go to Sheffield city centre that was the key thing I went for, there are other

businesses but that is the key thing I went for" (Interview A1) showing the impact the closure of John Lewis will have on Sheffield city centre.

4.1.3. Community Cohesion

Poor Community cohesion was seen as a significant barrier towards achieving socio-economic equality in Sheffield, especially between ethnic minority groups in the city. "…about 25-30 years ago the audience were white people, and the people they were complaining about coming in were the Asians, I find myself at this meeting today with an audience of Asians talking about the Roma, so this just gives you a flavour for the area" (Interview A1); "…all the ethnic groups were lobbying for their own ethnic group all that kind of stuff, so it was not well thought out and managed" (Interview A1). Quotes such as these show the racial segmentation that exists in the north of Sheffield, and how community cohesion would allow for the better management of regeneration investment and projects (Interviews A1, A2, A4)

Despite community segmentation being highlighted in the interviews, examples of how social enterprises have attempted to reduce this segmentation were also stressed. "[in relation to community events] because they could not speak the same language, so they use a variety of interactive tools to start off a conversation about the neighbourhood the event was about, and they proved really successful, loads of people came and so the strategies they produced came from the bottom up" (Interview A1). This highlights the importance of bottom-up initiatives in Sheffield, involving all communities in order to achieve positive change throughout the city.

4.1.4. Politics

Despite the emphasis on bottom-up, community led initiatives in Sheffield, it was clear the top-down influence of political action was substantial in the city. "…we are punished and then we are punished again because we keep doing the wrong thing by voting Labour" (Interview A2); "Southey Ward, if they (The Labour Party) put a monkey up, they would get in as an MP, the Tories are not going to give a shit about the people who live there, they could not care less because they are never going to elect a tory so why should they bother" (Interview A1). Local and national political action has a clear impact on socio-economic inequalities in

Sheffield, with quotes such as this showing that Sheffield suffers for voting against the national agenda.

There were quotes that went against this sentiment, however. "Sheffield has not fared any worse than anywhere else so, the difference between our town and lots of other big northern towns, that is not austerity, I cannot imagine why that would be austerity" (Interview A5). This again makes reference to other cities in the north of the England in terms of their successes compared to Sheffield. Comparisons were also made to other areas of England. "… so, for example someone was telling me the other day, the level of deprivation that Sheffield has got, they [the government] are giving the same amount of money to Richmond, which is one of the richer boroughs in London, and that is quite clearly wrong" (Interview A1). This again highlights how political preferences in Sheffield damage the city, as they vote against the interests of the Conservative Party.

Alongside this, there was emphasis on the fragmentation of political parties within Sheffield. "Sheffield Labour have had their fingers burnt electorally in the past by the Lib Dems, they basically said to the voting public in the west of the city Sheffield labour is giving your resources to people in the east of the city, and that significantly hurt them at the ballot box" (Interview A5); "The labour party's argument was that they would target need, it just so happened that that need was geographically expressed, so when the Lib Dems were in power they redistributed the money more widely across the city so that Whirlow, Crosspool got what they wanted" (Interview A2).

4.2. Open-Ended Survey Responses

Alongside the interviews, open-ended research questions were provided in order to gauge a more contextual insight on inequalities in Sheffield from residents in the city (Roulston, 2011: Popping, 2015). Open-ended questions were included in the survey aspect of the mixed-methods approach, with questions focusing on the experiences locals in Sheffield have had regarding socio-economic inequalities in the city. As mentioned in the introduction, open-ended questions offer context to the responses provided in the survey, improving the usefulness of the survey in this mixed-methods approach (Abowitz and Toole, 2010). These are used to complement both the quantitative aspect of the surveys, as well as accompany the responses provided by the interviewees (Popping, 2015). The open-ended questions were presented towards the end of the survey. This was to allow the respondents to think about inequalities throughout the survey, and then be able to provide accurate experiences regarding inequalities when asked to provide more qualitative responses (Roulston, 2011).

The first open-ended question was "What evidence have you seen of public agencies attempting to improve socio-economic conditions in Sheffield?". As is shown in the quantitative section, a surprising number of respondents indicated that they had not seen any evidence of attempts to improve socio-economic conditions in Sheffield, perhaps indicating failures in previous attempts to improve conditions.

It was clear that residents were aware of recent developments that have arisen in areas such as The Moor and Kelham Island Area. "Renovation of the Moor in town and gentrification of Kelham Island" (B1); "Redevelopment of the city centre to attract more investors and creating more jobs in the city centre" (B2); "The heart of the city 2 programme, inviting more outside investment from companies to generate income and jobs are examples of people noticing redevelopment efforts" (B3). Despite this, answers such as "Council image is poor, and promotion of the city is woeful" (B4) show that people are also noticing where public agencies are failing in their promotion of socio-economic development in Sheffield.

The second open-ended question, "What is the best approach you have seen towards improving socio-economic conditions in Sheffield?". This produced a similar story, with many respondents feeling like they have not seen enough to name examples. "I have not been

aware of any" and "Not sure if I have seen any" (B2, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B10, B11, B12, B13, B14, B15, B16, B17, B18, B19, B20, B21, B22, B23, B24, B25, B26, B27) providing a consensus of where respondents failed to suggest examples. Despite this, respondents who had seen examples were very complementary of the evidence they had seen. Many believe that bottom-up initiatives, catalysed by social enterprises were the best approaches to reducing socio-economic inequalities. "Total bottom-up initiatives - SOAR and Parson Cross Initiative" (B28); "SOAR - charity in the north of the city providing services to improve people's health and wellbeing" (29); "Manor and Castle Development Trust and all their different projects" (B30); "Third sector work like that of Big Brother Burngreave and Unity Gym to offer young men and boys safe spaces to connect and grow, and therefore taking them away from getting involved in crime and gangs. Amazing collaborative efforts to address the needs of BAME communities through the work of Faithstar. Manor Castle development Trust also does amazing work" (B31) are some examples of successful community-led programmes.

Alongside this, throughout these two questions there was acclaim for child services, such as Sure Start, a programme that was commended in the literature and praised throughout the interviews. "Sure Start and investment in child services towards the city centre" (B32); "Sure start scheme was nation-wide and that seemed to be helping, but it was cut during austerity" (B33); "Sure start centres were great. They had a number of different services in one place and so people came for one thing and could access other, more intimidating services. Therefore, social services, parenting classes, help with employment, education, financial support etc. were considered as support rather than criticism" (B34) as some examples of respondents appreciating the work of Sure Start.

The final open-ended question, "What do you think is the best approach to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield?" provided a similar outlook to that seen in the interviews. The majority of the answers focused around the four main themes identified throughout the interviews. A significant number of respondents identified **education** as key to reducing inequalities in the city. "I think it all comes down to education. By that I mean that schools should educate students on opportunities that do not just involve how to get into universities." (B5); "Equalising educational opportunities across the city" (B35); "Outside of S11, S10 and S17, there are few "good"/ "outstanding" secondaries, Ofsted-wise. Children

living in less affluent postcodes are being given a lesser education which will impact upon their social mobility" (B36); "The secondary schools in the North of the city are nowhere near as good as the schools in the south. Seems to be a distinct lack of expectation or opportunity to better yourself in certain parts of the city" (B37) providing a summary of the many respondents who identified education as a vital instrument to reducing inequalities.

Alongside this, **employment** was also identified as key. "Generate more entry level, low skilled jobs rather than jobs which require specific skills" (B38); "Local authority and SCR (Sheffield City Region) encouraging more investment in high quality jobs in the city" (B39); "Improve housing stock, create more jobs that are not just zero contract insecure contracts" (B40) are examples where employment was seen as important. **Community cohesion**, in terms of promoting bottom-up, community-led developments was also seen as important. "Community based - needs to be what people actually need, not top-down approaches" (B34); "Engaging with the communities themselves and asking what is important to them. Not having something done to them or for them, but the community owning it and being supported with whatever resource is needed to develop the idea" (B31); "Empower local people to take ownership of their own community and come up with their own solutions which can supported (not imposed from above)" (B41) are examples of the incentive of local people for increased community cohesion.

Finally, **politics** was prominent throughout the answers to this question. "UBI. Anything that reduces poverty levels in the most deprived - a third of children (and by extension their families) in this city live in or close to poverty and food bank attendances have soared" (B2); "Having a Labour government" (B43); "From government we need initially a national living wage and then much more affordable housing" (B33) as some examples were residents believe political incentives can reduce inequalities in the city.

4.3. Quantitative Research: Closed Survey Questions

4.3.1. Descriptive Analysis

In total, 210 surveys were completed following their distribution throughout Sheffield. In order for these to be effectively analysed, the postcode of each respondent was required to allow for the socio-economic characteristics of each area to be compared. Individuals with an S10 postcode were grouped in the category "S10". Individuals with an S5 postcode were categorised as "Firth Park". Individual with an S1 or S2 postcode were classified as "Central", with any other postcode being classified as "Other".

Figure 7
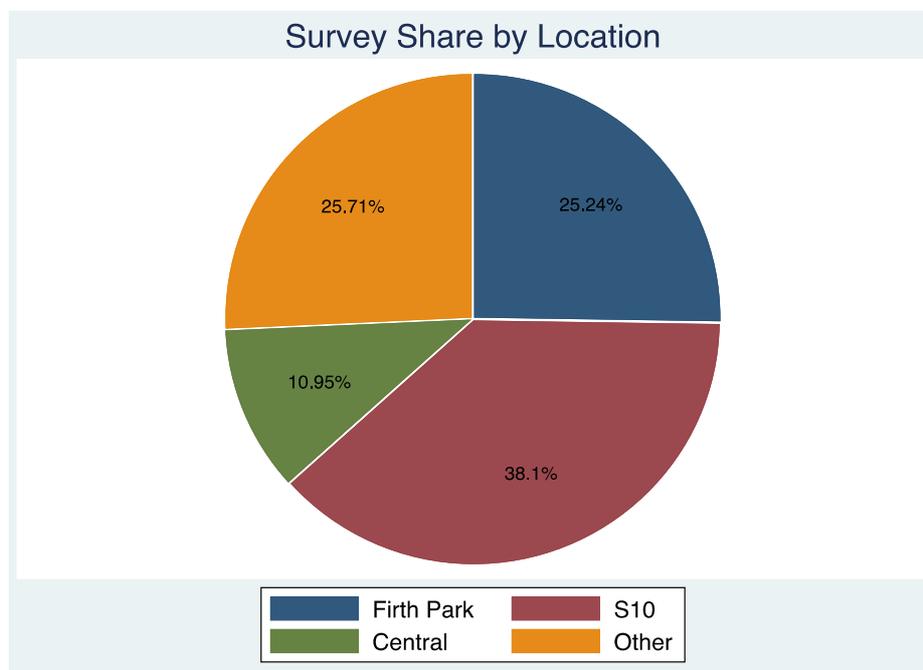
Figure 7 shows the geographical proportion of survey respondents in this study. Despite the large share of respondents coming from the S10 category, 53 of the respondents came from Firth Park, ensuring statistically significant results when completing further analysis.

The socioeconomic characteristics of respondents were asked in order to analyse how these differed between areas.

Figure 8

Survey Share by Location and Household Income
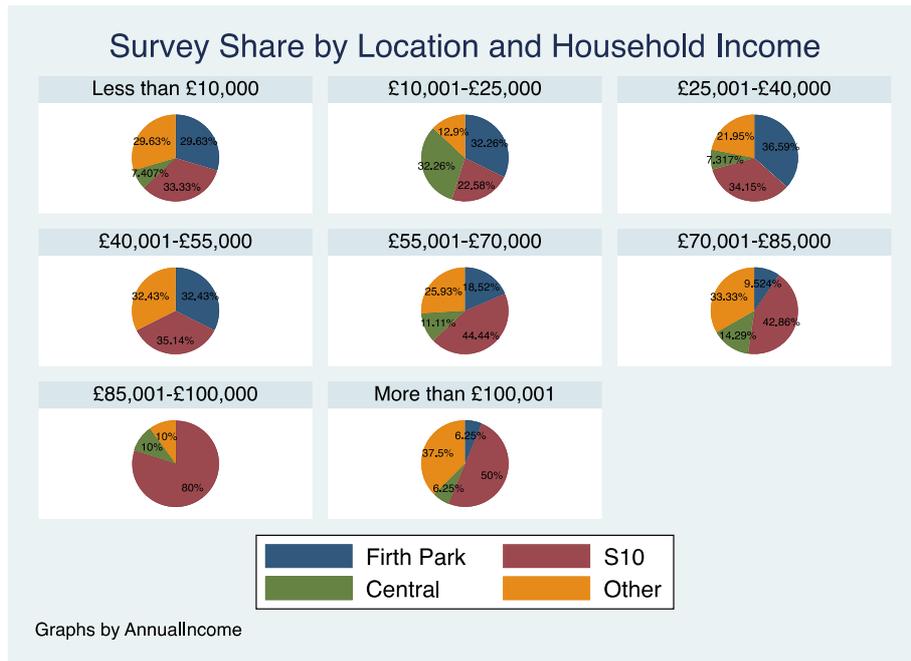
As is shown here, the greater annual income categories are more prevalent in S10, with over 50% of respondents for "More than £100,001" living in S10. In contrast to this, the lower income brackets were more prevalent in areas outside of S10, with 32.26% of individuals within the £10,001-£25,000 being located in Firth Park, and only 6.25% of individuals from Firth Park falling within the £100,001 category.

Figure 9

Survey Share by Education and Area
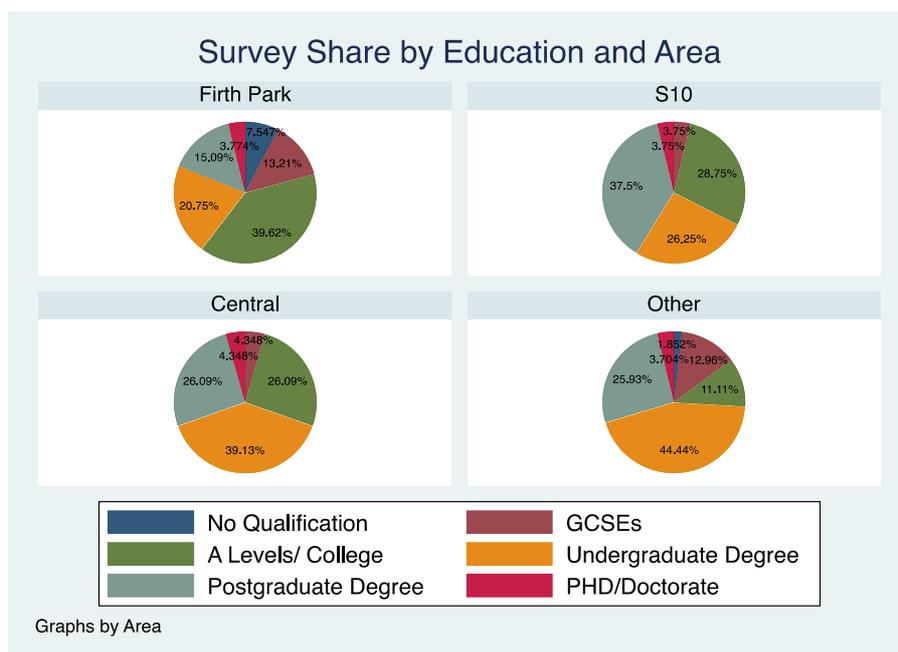
Alongside enquiring the annual income of individuals in Sheffield, the educational attainment of residents was also obtained. Almost 100% of all individuals with "no qualifications" were located in Firth Park, with 0% being located in either S10 or Central. Despite this, a surprising observation is that there are greater percentages of individuals with "PHD/Doctorate" levels in Firth Park and Central compared to those in S10. This goes against previous research (see Meagher, 2013), and could suggest bias in the survey distribution. Despite this, there are still large percentages of individuals with "Postgraduate Degree" levels in S10, with the trend suggesting a greater prevalence of lower educational levels in areas other than S10.

Following this, it was important to analyse if the relationship between education and income in Sheffield followed previous research on the relationship between education, social mobility and socio-economic inequalities (Rodríguez-Pose and Tselios, 2009; Hertel and Groh-Samberg, 2019; Stryzhak, 2020). Because of this, it was useful to use a binned scatterplot in order to visuals the means of the annual incomes at each educational level, examining if any relationship exists here (Starr and Goldfarb, 2020).

Figure 10

Binned Scatterplot of Education and Annual Income
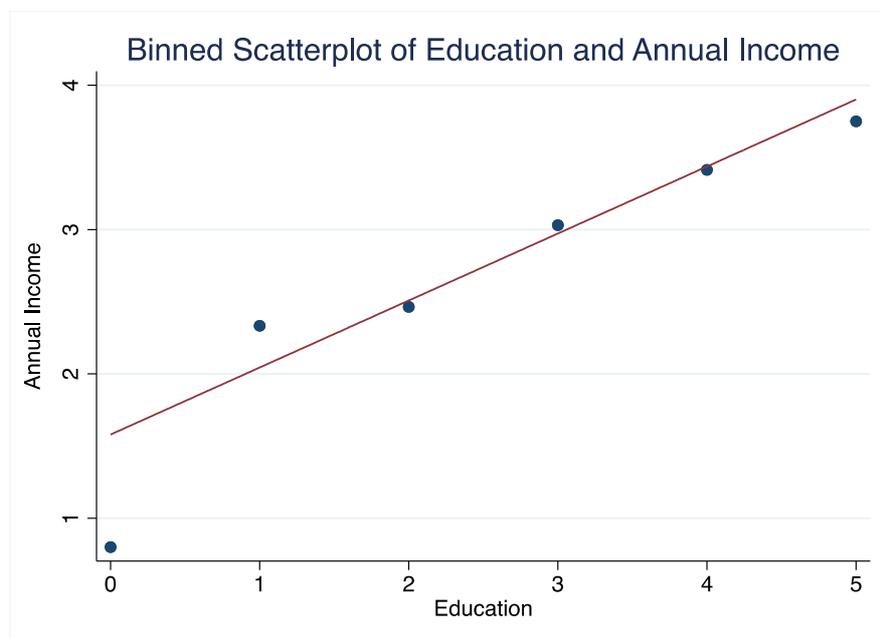
The positive correlation between education and annual income is clearly shown here, with individuals at level 5 (PHD/Doctorate) on average having a considerably higher annual income than individuals at level 0 (No qualification).

Following this, a subjective viewpoint of inequalities in Sheffield was enquired, with the question "Which area of Sheffield would you prioritise for extra public/private investment?", and "Which area of Sheffield would you least prioritise for extra public/private investment?", with the individual having the option to choose 3 areas.

Figure 11

Over the last 10 years how do you think poverty in Sheffield has been changing?

Figure 12

Over the last 10 years how do you think the wealth gap in Sheffield has changed?
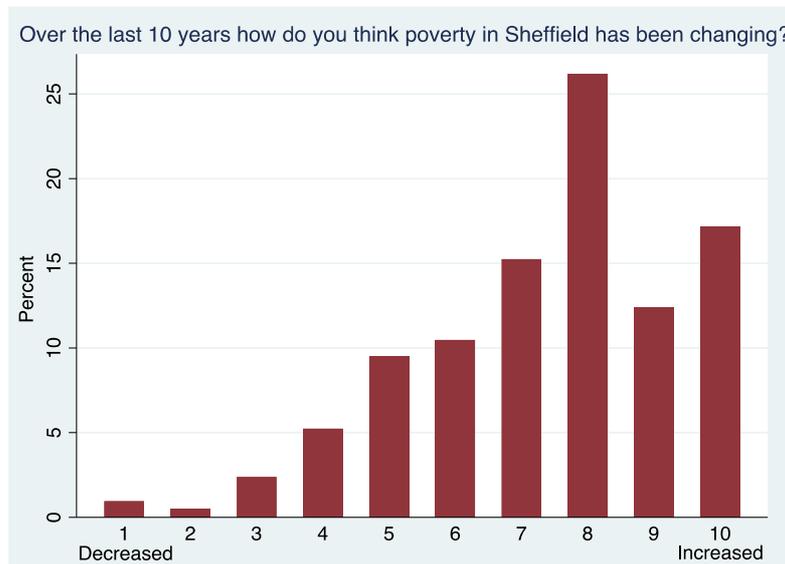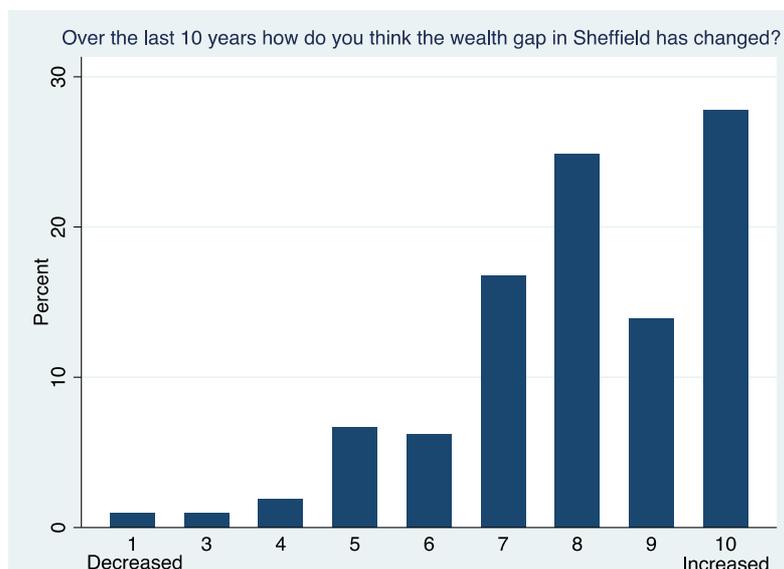
This shows that residents in Sheffield believe that inequalities, and poverty in Sheffield are increasing under the current circumstances, providing a bottom-up, subjective view of the changing socio-economic characteristics of Sheffield. From this, it is clear that change needs to happen, and that people are aware of their circumstances.

4.3.2. Regression Analysis

Following these questions, the survey then aimed to investigate subjective viewpoints on social mobility in Sheffield. The first question to this regard was "Would you say the area you live in allows people to maximise their life chances?". The answers for this question were then transformed into binary categories, with 0 equalling 'No', and 1 equalling 'Yes'.

Table 1

Life Chances	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	-3.648	.675	-5.40	0	-4.971	-2.325	***
1base.S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	-3.535	.768	-4.60	0	-5.04	-2.029	***
3.Other	-2.015	.692	-2.91	.004	-3.371	-.659	***
Constant	3.178	.589	5.39	0	2.023	4.333	***
Mean dependent var		0.728	SD dependent var			0.446	
Pseudo r-squared		0.277	Number of obs			173.000	
Chi-square		56.080	Prob > chi2			0.000	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		154.302	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			166.915	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1*

This logistic regression shows statistically significant results, with a P value significant to the 99.9% confidence interval for the categories "Firth Park" and "Central". This provided alarming results, with the probability of an individual answering "yes" being 2.5% in Firth Park compared to S10. A surprising result is shown here, with very low confidence in life chances being shown in "Central", with the probability of answering "yes" being 2.8% here compared to S10. This shows huge differences in the perceived life chances of people in S10 and other areas of Sheffield, showing the significant divides in socio-economic opportunities that exist in the city.

Following this question, another question regarding social mobility was asked. This was "Do you think children born in your area have a good chance of living and working in a

prosperous environment when they are older?" which was converted into a binary variable, with 1 equalling "yes", and 0 equally "no".

Table 2

Social Mobility	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	-2.063	.537	-3.84	0	-3.115	-1.01	***
1.base S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	-1.967	.619	-3.18	.001	-3.18	-.754	***
3.Other	0	.	.	.	.	.	
Constant	1.872	.439	4.27	0	1.012	2.731	***
Mean dependent var		0.630	SD dependent var			0.485	
Pseudo r-squared		0.141	Number of obs			108.000	
Chi-square		20.129	Prob > chi2			0.000	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		128.248	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			136.294	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Again, this logistic regression produces statistically significant results, significant to the 99.9% confidence level. The result of this logistic regression is concerning, with the probability that an individual in Firth Park answered yes being 11.3% compared to an individual in S10. What is also surprising is the low confidence in social mobility in the centre of Sheffield, with the probability than an individual here answering yes being only 12.3% compared to an individual in S10. This again produces stark results of the inequalities and concerns regarding social mobility in Sheffield, suggesting change must happen in order to increase the prospects of these areas.

In order to prioritise the concerns of individuals in different areas of Sheffield regarding the implementation of policy solutions, the question "What needs to be improved most in the area you live in? (Pick 3 Maximum)" was asked. As a closed question, the respondent was given different categories to choose from, such as "crime", "education", "affordable housing", "poverty", and "access to investment". These categories where then transformed into binary variables, with 1 equalling if the individual chose the category, and 0 representing if this category was not chosen.

Table 3

Improve Education	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	1.684	.557	3.02	.003	.592	2.776	***
1.base S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	1.427	.685	2.08	.037	.085	2.769	**
3.Other	1.099	.589	1.87	.062	-.055	2.253	*
Constant	-2.708	.462	-5.86	0	-3.613	-1.803	***
Mean dependent var		0.157	SD dependent var			0.365	
Pseudo r-squared		0.062	Number of obs			210.000	
Chi-square		11.307	Prob > chi2			0.010	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		179.352	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			192.740	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

This regression analysis again shows the alarming divides in services provided on either side of the city. The odds that an individual chooses education as something that needs to be improved in their area is 5.4 times higher in Firth Park than is in S10, to a confidence interval of 99.99%. Despite the lower statistical significance of the Central and Other categories, it is interesting to observe the subjective educational divide between S10 and the rest of the city. The odds that an individual choose education as a service that needs to be improved being 4.2 times higher in Central, and 3.0 times higher in Other when compared to S10. This highlights the stark socio-economic inequalities in educational services on either side of the city, and complements worries in previous regressions regarding the levels of social mobility in areas outside of S10.

Table 4

Improve Investment	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	1.684	.557	3.02	.003	.592	2.776	***
1.base S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	.811	.772	1.05	.294	-.703	2.325	
3.Other	.959	.6	1.60	.11	-.217	2.135	
Constant	-2.708	.462	-5.86	0	-3.613	-1.803	***
Mean dependent var		0.143	SD dependent var			0.351	
Pseudo r-squared		0.061	Number of obs			210.000	
Chi-square		10.527	Prob > chi2			0.015	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		169.722	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			183.111	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

The socio-economic divides in the city are further accentuated here, with this variable representing if the individual chose "Access to investment" as a concern. This regression shows that the odds that an individual chose this concern is 5.4 times greater in Firth Park than in S10, showing clear divides across the city in the amount of investment entering areas. This again rebuffs the concerns regarding socio-economic opportunities on different sides of the cities, with access to investment opportunities appearing greater in S10 than Firth Park.

Table 5

Improve Poverty	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	2.824	.652	4.33	0	1.546	4.102	***
1.base S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	2.803	.727	3.85	0	1.378	4.229	***
3.Other	1.496	.702	2.13	.033	.12	2.872	**
Constant	-3.245	.588	-5.51	0	-4.399	-2.092	***
Mean dependent var		0.195	SD dependent var			0.397	
Pseudo r-squared		0.166	Number of obs			210.000	
Chi-square		34.513	Prob > chi2			0.000	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		180.854	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			194.242	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1*

Perhaps the most concerning results from the regression analysis are shown here. The regression results here show that the odds that an individual in Firth Park choosing poverty as a concern is 16.8 times higher than in S10, with the odds being 16.5 times greater in Central than S10. This highlights the view of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, and that individuals throughout the city are significantly concerns with the impacts of these inequalities in the city, such as poverty and a lack of investment. The levels of concern regarding socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield show that action is required to address these issues, with odds as great as this suggesting it is an issue that has had an ineffective response for a considerable amount of time. Potential policies, as well as further analysis of these results will be shown in the subsequent discussion section.

5. Discussion

As was shown in the results section, there are clear socio-economic divides that exist in Sheffield, in terms of poverty, education, social mobility, income and access to investment. Using information from the qualitative section, these results were then sorted into 4 categories: education, employment, community cohesion and politics. This chapter will aim to discuss these results within the outlined contexts, using previous academic studies to examine the results presented in this thesis. It will also suggest policy solutions that address the issues highlighted here, increasing the applicability of this thesis to real life scenarios. From this, it is hoped that the combination of primary research and previous academic studies will produce policies that reflect the experiences of people in Sheffield, making the city a more prosperous environment for all.

This chapter will begin by analysing the results within the context of education, focusing on social mobility as a major player to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. Following this, the employment aspect of these results will be explored, examining how economic activity can be generated in an equitable, sustainable way. Community cohesion will then follow this, a factor that is necessary if Sheffield is to be a fairer city for all. To finish this chapter, the political aspects of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield will be assessed, investigating how political stability on local and national scales would increase the socio-economic equitability of the city. Following this chapter, the main policies suggested from this analysis will be outlined in a list, ensuring that the anticipated outcomes from this thesis are as clear as possible.

5.1. Education

As was outlined in the literature review, education is key to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield (Lindley and Machin, 2012; Brown, 2013). The inequalities outlined in perceived social mobility, life chances and quality of education provide a new perspective on how individuals view social mobility in areas such as Firth Park. This alongside the interviews delivers a contextual, bottom-up viewpoint on education in the city that is not found in other reports on this topic. However, these results are also consistent with previous research on educational inequalities in Sheffield as well as being coherent with previous data collected on

the subject (Thomas et. al., 2009; Etherington and Jones, 2013; Sheffield Fairness Commission, 2017) (see Figure 4).

The importance of education was also emphasised in the qualitative aspect of the results section. The consensus in both the interviews and surveys is consistent with the literature, in the fact that increasing social mobility is key to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. This was seen in first-hand experiences, with people originally from the area seeing education as vital in order for them to improve their socio-economic position in life, consistent with academic theories on social mobility (Brown, 2013). As well as this, there was criticism of the current curriculum in the UK, with stakeholders emphasising that it does not prioritise the social mobility of disadvantaged individuals. This is a rhetoric outlined by Payne et. al (2015), with this study on Firth Park also highlighting the importance of a flexible curriculum towards optimising one's social mobility. Research by Boliver and Byrne (2013) also follows the consensus made from the qualitative research, with social mobility within disadvantaged groups not being seen as a political priority by the British Government.

Taking these factors into consideration, what is the best action to take in order to improve one's social mobility and reduce socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield? It is clear a democratisation of the school curriculum would be significantly beneficial to the life chances of individuals here (Ball, 2012; Payne et. al., 2015). Sheffield could be used as a pilot study, in which an alternative curriculum, tailored to the specific needs of students is provided as Sheffield is a case study where the greatest impacts of this would be seen (United Nations, 2020). A curriculum that prioritises more applicable skills, such as critical thinking, focused on digital literacy and the ability to evaluate different sources would be a good starting place in terms of helping students engage with the world around them. Empowering students is vital in order for cultural changes in education to occur, and due to the institutionalised nature of inequalities in Sheffield a cultural change is needed in order for inequalities to be reduced.

As well as this, early years education is again seen as vitally important to increasing one's social mobility as it provides a solid background for an individual's life chances. Services such as Sure Start were obviously key in helping support children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and services such as this have been found to increase social mobility in

countries such as Denmark (Grönlund, et. al. 2017). Re-investing in services such as this is vitally important to improving the life chances of individuals in disadvantaged areas and will be a key area of significance if public bodies are serious about reducing socio-economic inequalities in the city (Belsky et. al., 2006; Rutter, 2006, Melhuish et. al., 2008).

As well as services like Sure Start, the results show that social enterprises such as SOAR are key players in offering educational support to individuals in areas such as Firth Park and Parson Cross. More support must be given to these enterprises as they offer bottom-up, area specific services that are specifically relevant to local's needs, factors that are often ignored in services provided from top-down sources (Gans, 2016). Funding cuts have resulted in social enterprises, such as SOAR losing vital resources. But despite these cuts, social enterprises still provide vital services to disadvantages communities in Sheffield, highlighting their importance throughout the city (Sheffield Fairness Commission, 2017). This is why more faith must be placed in the hands of these enterprises, as they provide support that is unmatched by public services and so they must be invested in in order for them to expand on the work they have already done.

Educational empowerment and support from social enterprises are both linked to the final issue outlined here. A lack of tertiary educational options and clear economic pathways for people from disadvantaged areas in Sheffield in a real issue, significantly hampering the social mobility of locals. Funding cuts to educational services, such as Sheffield College has resulted in a reduction in vocational courses frequented by disadvantaged students being offered (Etherington and Jones, 2016). As well as this, the institutionalised privatisation of education in the UK has resulted in students from disadvantaged backgrounds being excluded from higher education, severely reducing any social mobility they once had (Frank and Cook, 1996; Ball, 2012). This has ended in the formation of complex pathways out of poverty for many young people in areas like Firth Park due to the institutional barriers created by years of austerity measures (Hupkau et. al., 2017). More investment must be pumped into tertiary education, not just in Sheffield, but in the whole of the UK in order to provide more options for people who are unable, or do not want to attend university. An expansion in vocational courses is also necessary in order to increase the social mobility of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, as these are courses more desirable to people from areas such

as Firth Park (Britton et. al., 2020; Blundell et. al., 2021). The specialised nature of these courses frequently produces unclear post-educational pathways, which is why the specialisation of such courses must be alleviated in order to reduce the chances of economic lock-ins when entering the job market.

The work Sheffield City Council have done to make educational access more equitable in the city, such as changing catchment area sizes has had little to no affect. As is shown in the data, children from affluent families still have access to the best education in Sheffield, a trend that has resulted in the social congestion seen in recent years. Social mobility is still a significant concern amongst disadvantaged groups in the city, highlighting the deep-rooted socio-economic inequalities that continue to plague Sheffield. This shows that a truly generational, cultural change in the way education is viewed in relation to disadvantaged groups is required in order for issues in these areas to be relieved.

Disadvantaged children need to be empowered, being shown that they can improve their life chances through prosperous educational pathways that suit their priorities. They need more options to improve their social mobility, with current institutionalised barriers negatively impacting the most impoverished in Sheffield to the highest degree. Education is the most important factor if socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield are to be alleviated and this analysis clearly shows more needs to be done if current trends in educational inequalities are to be reversed.

5.2. Employment

As the results show, there are significant divides in perceived poverty and access to investment, with odds around poverty concerns being 16.8 times higher in Firth Park than in Crosspool. The results highlight inequalities in annual income, results which are consistent with previous research on this topic (see Figure 2). The gulf in perceived poverty and access to investment provides a new perspective on poverty in Sheffield, providing both a bottom-up and statistical approach that is not seen in other papers. Despite previous studies measuring poverty and deprivation using pre-determined scales, this approach has allowed for the voices of Sheffielders to be reflected in the data providing a bottom-up viewpoint on

poverty in the city. These results are, however, consistent with previous top-down studies on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, with studies such as the Sheffield Fairness Commission highlighting inequalities in terms of income and affluence (Sheffield Fairness Commission, 2013; Sheffield Fairness Commission, 2017). As well as this, results highlighting the perceived increase in socio-economic inequalities are also consistent with previous research on this topic (Thomas et. al., 2009, Etherington and Jones, 2013, 2016).

The qualitative research provides a similar picture, with many respondents emphasising the need for more investment in the city. It is clear from these results that there is great potential for economic growth in Sheffield, with pools of untapped endogenous capital and underutilised economic sectors combined with inadequate marketisation. However, what is also clear from the results is that generating economic growth does not reduce socio-economic inequalities, and in some cases can deepen existing divisions in an area (Piekut, et. al., 2018). The institutionalised nature of inequalities in Sheffield has meant generating economic growth in the city is a significant challenge, and with Sheffield being a victim to globalisation, marketing the city is always an uphill battle (Sheffield City Parentship, 2017, 2020). Austerity measures in recent years have hindered projects designed to stimulate economic growth in the city, and Thatcherite policies that purged the city's economic capital are still felt in Sheffield today (Raco, 1998; Thomas et. al., 2009; Lane et. al., 2016). This is why policies aimed at generating economic activity and reducing unemployment must focus on long term goals, rather than the quick fixes seen in the past.

What was made clear throughout the results, as well as in the literature is that Sheffield is a low capital economy with weak economic resilience and poor industrial diversity (Dabinett et. al., 2016; Gregory, 2018; Sheffield City Partnership, 2018). The city does not capitalise on its economic potential, with many tertiary sectors being underutilised in the city. Many in Sheffield embrace the fact the city has a strong sense of place and feel cultural regeneration projects seen in other cities has resulted in a loss of identify (Long, 2014). However, it is difficult to ignore the success of cultural regeneration projects in place like Liverpool and Manchester, with little success being seen in Sheffield.

Sheffield is the birthplace of football, an aspect of the city which is underutilised with regard to the economic capital this could provide (Rudkin and Sharma, 2020). In relation to this, the expansion of the tourism industry in Liverpool, through cultural regeneration schemes and the European Capital of Cultural project has rejuvenated the city, providing a blueprint for cultural redevelopment that Sheffield could follow (Daramola-Martin, 2009; Houghton, 2018; Kapeller et. al., 2019). It is clear there is a huge potential for economic growth within Sheffield's cultural sector (Long, 2014). However poor marketisation and deployment has meant it is underutilised with the city's economy portfolio (Pratt, 2010; Long, 2014). If economic activity is to be generated in the city, this could be a way of producing bottom-up economic growth, as long as developments are made following community consultation (Long, 2014). It is a policy option that stakeholders should take into consideration if the economic potential of Sheffield is to be fully achieved.

Despite the benefits economic activity can bring to a city like Sheffield it is important to note that as a stand-alone policy it can often deepen inequalities, with gentrification and economic polarisation potentially resulting from developmental mismanagement (Piekut et. al., 2018; Ward, 2018). With this in mind, it is vital to improve the employability of individuals in deprived areas of Sheffield in order to increase their chances of entering more affluent job markets. The promotion of active labour market policies (ALMPs) is vital to increasing the probability of an individual entering the job market and would be especially beneficial for a city such as Sheffield. ALMPs could complement the increased focus on education, and despite being a service provided by social enterprises already, could be expanded with increasing investment. These policies take the form of job training, subsidised employment, public employment services or activation measures, and receive significant attention in nations with low socio-economic inequalities, such as Sweden (Boeri and van Ours, 2013). The funding from this should originate from public sources, however, with austerity measures and further cuts likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic this is unlikely.

Endogenous capital sources could instead be used to invest in policies such as this, with the formation of a regional investment bank focused on Sheffield having the possibility to utilise the labour market potential of the city (Kersley and Shaheen, 2014). Examples of endogenous capital include the South Yorkshire pension fund, outlined by one of the interviewees as a

significant source of capital in the region. ALMPs must focus on full employment, working with existing institutions such as the University of Sheffield to provide training to individuals that prevent economic lock-ins, and increase the social mobility of disadvantaged individuals. These policies could also be implemented within public employers, with The University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMRC) in Sheffield having the potential to be used for this. ALMPs are vitally important in order for employment to be increased in a sustainable way and would undoubtable be a prosperous method if promoted in Sheffield.

Finally, despite the analysis here suggesting ways of promoting economic growth and increasing one's employability, Sheffield desperately needs to become a more attractive place for businesses to invest in. Sheffield should begin to build on its revitalising manufacturing industry, with a need for the new AMRC and McLaren factory to be used as flagship developments. As well as this, incentives must be provided in order to attract businesses specific to skills developed through ALMP and educational policies. As is emphasised throughout the results and academic literature, in order to reduce inequalities, there must be the creation of jobs that benefit not just workers, but society as a whole (Sheffield Fairness Commission, 2013; Kersley and Shaheen, 2014).

What is also emphasised in the results, however, is that investment coming into the city, especially as a result of the university is increasing the economic polarisation in Sheffield. Guidelines must be introduced that enforce incoming businesses to consider local communities when investing in Sheffield, ensuring that locals from disadvantaged groups have access to the employment opportunities this investment provides. This again could be supported by ALMPs, with incentives being provided to businesses if they employ a certain number of locals in full-time employment, as well as incentives being provided if they choose to invest in disadvantaged areas (Boeri and van Ours, 2013). These incentives could be provided by the pool of endogenous capital that exists in Sheffield, allowing for the people of Sheffield to invest in the success of their city. This requires a long-term vision of success in Sheffield, and as was mentioned before, without this long-term vision these policies will fail. Faith must be placed back into the hands of locals in Sheffield, and with the analysis outlined here, it is hoped Sheffield can move away from being the "low pay capital of the UK" into an economically prosperous city for all (Gregory, 2018).

5.3. Community Cohesion

Community cohesion has been highlighted as a major issue within the realm of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. Outlined primarily in the qualitative results, and especially throughout the interviews, improving community cohesion in Sheffield is vital in order to reduce socio-economic inequalities in the city. This is seen in the context of improving ethno-racial relationships in areas such as Firth Park, with an emphasis on reducing segregation in all forms across the whole city. The level of segregation in Sheffield is also reflected throughout the quantitative analysis, with stark divisions in all socio-economic indicators being seen throughout.

Literature on this subject also reflects the discourse underlined in the results, with poor community cohesion being a key topic of interest in local media platforms. This is shown with headlines such as "Slovakian Roma in Sheffield: 'This is a pot ready to explode'", or "'A Time Bomb': How social tensions are rising in a corner of northern England", highlighting racial tensions in Firth Park (Pidd, 2013; 2018). Headlines such as this, as well as the context shown in the qualitative research highlights how volatile community relations are in Sheffield. Despite social instability in areas such as Firth Park, Sheffield, for a city of its size, has one of the lowest crime rates in the UK highlighting a trend that would not be expected in a city as divided as this (Laurence, 2015; Sheffield City Parnership, 2018). It is a topic that has been on the forefront of policy agendas for decades, with many understanding the need to improve community cohesion throughout the city (Rotherham and Flinders, 2019). With this in mind, this report will attempt to suggest policies that promote a synergy between improving community cohesion and socio-economic inequalities, highlighting areas that could be built on in order to see positive change in the city.

One way of promoting both community cohesion and economic equitability in areas such as Firth Park would be through pool funding streams (Sissons and Jones, 2016). Establishing a tax increment financing scheme, managed by local stakeholders such as SOAR would allow for tax generated in the area to be reinvested back into the community in the form of community events or projects (Ward, 2018). This could also be implemented alongside the idea of a regional investment bank, a structural change that was suggested in previous sections of this thesis. Using a method such as this would provide a financial tool for growth,

as well as promote community cohesion through the management of funds from bottom-up sources, a discourse that is emphasised throughout the results (Sissons and Jones, 2016; Ward, 2018). Many in the qualitative sections of the results demand increased independence in how their communities are managed, and a community fund would adhere to these desires. The role of local stakeholders would be key to the management of these funds, with a focus on establishing trust between different groups in order for the funds to be utilised in an equitable way. These funds would then be reinvested back into the community, endorsing projects that promote community cohesion such as festivals and events.

Due to the significant racial segregation not only in Firth Park, but in Sheffield as a whole, projects that promote the diverse range of cultures that exist in the city is key to improving community cohesion (Dean et. al., 2018). In 2007, Sheffield branded itself as the City of Sanctuary with the aim of influencing policy makers and public attitudes throughout the city (Squire and Bagelman, 2012). It intended to create a 'culture of sanctuary' through collaborative policies designed to welcome international immigrants to the city (Barnett and Bhogal, 2009; Darling, 2010). To some extent the City of Sanctuary movement was successful, encouraging active engagement through a series of events aimed at strengthening community relations (Darling, 2010; Squire and Bagelman, 2012). However, as a publicly funded scheme, the City of Sanctuary movement was often criticised for being politically charged and othering migrants, with some policies seeing immigrants as a problem to be solved (Shuster, 2003; Squire and Bagelman, 2012). As well as this, the movement promoted the movement of immigrants into areas where community cohesion is deemed to be its worst, somewhat worsening segmentations in the city (Aden et. al., 2007; Shahid et. al., 2017).

The monumental changes required from projects such as the City of Sanctuary movement highlight why improving community cohesion in Sheffield is such as challenge (Shahid, et. al., 2017). The institutionalised nature of segregation in the city means that promoting integration in all forms requires the cultural shift the City of Sanctuary movement aimed to achieve (Shahid et. al., 2017). What was introduced as part of the City of Sanctuary movement can, however, be built on. The City of Sanctuary movement aimed to promote a culture of sanctuary by introducing different events but appears to have no long-lasting effect on

community cohesion in Sheffield (Squire and Bagelman, 2012). There must be active engagement between locals and stakeholders, ensuring that the voices of all are considered when producing policies on social inclusion. The results from the qualitative studies show that locals have not been sufficiently consulted on community issues, a factor that will have contributed to the segregation seen in Sheffield today. Guidelines must be introduced that build on the legacy of the City of Sanctuary movement, strengthening relationships between different groups in the city (Darling, 2010). Developments in the city, whether from private investors or community led initiatives should always involve local consultation, ensuring that the bottom-up voices of locals are respected in order to strengthen ties in the community.

The City of Sanctuary movement provides a legacy for the conversations that need to be had on community cohesion in Sheffield (Barnett and Bhogal, 2009). However, as has been emphasised throughout this chapter, improving community cohesion in Sheffield is a significant challenge that requires the kind of institutional changes not yet seen in the city's history. Sheffield is an incredibly diverse city, an aspect that should be valued due to the cultural capital it produces (Squire and Bagelman, 2012). However, with this diversity brings deep-rooted segmentation, made worse by years of institutional mismanagement from top-down sources (Shahid et. al., 2017). The voices of locals must be increasingly respected, the results from this report highlight this fact with many calling for more community-led policy development in Sheffield. But as has been emphasised, top-down constraints have silenced voices, and the changes outlined in this thesis are unrealistic due to the entrenched socio-economic barriers in Sheffield. Serious political change is required in Sheffield, which if implemented successfully would allow for a cultural change to at least begin. This will be outlined in the section below.

5.4. Politics

Political instability on local and national scales was repeatedly emphasised as a contributor to socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. Many believe that the divide between the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties in the city has resulted in policy priorities repeatably shifting from the west to the east of the city. The political divide on a national scale was also emphasised as an issue, with locals in Sheffield choosing to vote against the national agenda.

Many believe that Sheffield is punished because of this, with the Conservative government choosing to prioritise areas who vote in their favour. There is historical evidence of this, with Margaret Thatcher choosing to sacrifice northern cities like Sheffield in order to prioritise the economic development of areas in the south (Raco, 1998; Lane et. al., 2016). This has created a cultural of scepticism surrounding the Conservative party, with historic roots to the "Socialist Republic of South Yorkshire" resulting in Sheffielders choosing to vote against political conservatism in the UK.

The discourse provided in the qualitative section of these results is reflected in academic literature on the subject. A Tale of Two Cities, regarded as the most significant piece of literature on socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield focuses greatly on political instability in the city. It explains in great detail how political indifferences on both local and national scales have punished Sheffield, with political parties being unable to organise or optimise resources in the city. This can be seen in recent events, with a tree felling scandal in Endcliffe Park highlighting divisions between locals and Sheffield City Council due to a lack of communication between either party when designing policies for the city (Rotherham and Flinders, 2019). The political scandal surrounding the tree felling highlights the calls for co-creation in policy making processes, with the volatility of Sheffield's political structure being easily exposed during this event (Flinders and Wood, 2018; Rotherham and Flinders, 2019). This is why thesis's such as this are so important, with the rhetoric provided by locals having the ability to be transformed into policy solutions, re-engaging local communities with their city and triggering democratic innovation (Smith, 2009).

With these viewpoints placed into consideration, what is the best option to creating a synergy between political stability and socio-economic equality in Sheffield? As was made clear throughout the results, voting for the Conservative party is not the answer, nor should it be. Sheffield is an independent city and should not feel blackmailed by the national government for voting against the national agenda. However, at the same time there is undoubtable political instability that is holding the city back. Fierce divisions between the Liberal Democrats and Labour party are preventing the collective action required when reducing socio-economic inequalities (Joyce and Xu, 2019). It is clear locals are aware that political instability is hindering the economic equitability of Sheffield, suggesting that parties need to

find common ground in order for a constructive relationship to be built between the two (Squire and Bagelman, 2012).

There must be a push towards increasing the collective voice of individuals in the workplace. The dismantlement of trade unions in the 1980s severely weakened Sheffield's institutional thickness, contributing significantly to the decline in economic development seen in the city. It is unlikely that trade unions will ever have the same collective power that they once had (Culpepper and Regan, 2014). However, the formation of a Department of Labour, with the task of restoring wages above poverty levels and addressing national wage inequalities would begin to give more power to workers in cities like Sheffield (Kerlsey and Shaheen, 2014). Nations where there is increased unionisation, with a strengthened employee collective bargaining power have lower socio-economic inequalities due to workers having more say in how their employment is managed (Boeri and van Ours, 2013; Høgedahl and Kongshøj, 2017; Joyce and Xu, 2019). The formation of a Department of Labour with a community focus would allow for the collective bargaining power of individuals within a city like Sheffield to be implemented. Raising wages above poverty levels in the UK being a significant step forward to reducing socio-economic inequalities, and a move such as this it would allow for more action to be made towards levelling socio-economic conditions throughout the country (Joyce, 2018).

As well as this, there needs to be further action towards encouraging a more progressive, fairer tax system in the UK. Recent developments at the G7 2021 summit show that nations are becomingly increasingly serious around the issue of tax avoidance and evasion (Partington, 2021a). However, it is clear more must be done to ensure there are enough resources to reduce the levels of poverty seen in Sheffield, with tax schemes having the potential to provide more services to those in need. Establishing a land-value tax in Sheffield would significantly contribute towards levelling socio-economic conditions, with the money from this tax being able to fund policies suggested in this thesis, such as Sure Start or ALMPs (Boeri and van Ours, 2013; Kersley and Shaheen, 2014). Denmark, a country that has influenced many of the policies seen in this thesis has a progressive tax system such as this which has significantly contributed to reducing socio-economic inequalities in the country (Allan and Hovsepyan, 2019). If the British government is serious about 'levelling up', a serious

emphasis in their 2019 election manifesto, the introduction of something like a land-value tax would contribute significantly to reducing socio-economic inequalities (Partington, 2021).

Shifting tax burdens onto environmentally unfriendly developments through the formation of a green tax would also allow for economic developments in Sheffield to become increasingly sustainable, an ethos that was stressed throughout all interviews. Changes such as this could be coupled with the tax increment financing scheme introduced in the community cohesion aspect of this report, allowing for an emphasis on sustainable economic development to be made. There is evidence that Sheffield is not deprived in terms of its greenspaces, with deprived individuals being more likely to live closer to parks than affluent individuals (Mears, et. al., 2019). Introducing a green tax would allow for the environmental legacy of the city to be built on, ensuring that socio-economic inequalities are reduced in a sustainable way.

The changes introduced here would be able to, as mentioned previously, fund projects like ALMPs and Sure Start. However, an increase in public resources would also increase the incentive for a universal basic income (UBI) to be introduced in the UK, a scheme that was pressed in many of the qualitative studies outlined in this thesis. Research has shown that a modified UBI, focused on raising wages above poverty levels would greatly reduce socio-economic inequalities in areas with low economic capital, such as Sheffield (Reed and Lansley, 2016; Martinelli, 2017; Sheffield City Partnership, 2018). A UBI must only be introduced, however, if its conditionality is reduced in order to undo the institutionalised nature of inequalities in Sheffield, providing an economic backbone for those looking to improve their socio-economic status (Blundell, et. al., 2021). This comes back to increasing one's social mobility, with the introduction of a UBI as well as the funding of other projects introduced here having the ability to significantly increase the social mobility of locals in Sheffield (Calder, 2010; Reed and Lansley, 2016).

However, all of these factors relate back to whether public bodies are truly serious about reducing socio-economic inequalities in cities such as Sheffield. The solutions suggested here provide a blueprint for political parties in Sheffield to come together and rally for collective action. But the institutionalised nature of inequalities in Sheffield mean that bottom-up

policies are ineffective without the wholescale cultural shifts required when addressing socio-economic inequalities in the city. It is now time for stakeholders to act, and with the affect COVID-19 has had on exposing the extent of socio-economic inequalities in the UK, time will tell as to how leaders prioritise an issue plaguing much of modern Britain. Time is ticking, and without the sufficient attention socio-economic inequalities in the UK needs, this is a generational issue that will continue to persecute generations to come.

5.5. Policy Solutions Summary

1. **Increased flexibility in the education curriculum. Running a pilot, alternative curriculum for disadvantaged children in Sheffield to assess how effective it is.** This originates from calls for an increased flexibility in the curriculum in the qualitative data (Interview A1, A2, A3, A4) (B35, B37), as well as concerns surrounding social mobility and access to educational opportunities in the quantitative analysis.

2. **Reintroduction of programmes such as Sure Start to ensure that children's human capital is nurtured from early years onwards.** Sure Start is a project that was mentioned throughout the qualitative results (Interview A3, A4, A5) (B32, B33, B34) with its impact on improving one's social mobility becoming apparent throughout the analysis.

3. **Expansion of vocational courses provided by educational establishments through the reversal of funding cuts. Make courses less specialised to prevent economic locks-ins.** Again, this links to divides involving social mobility in Sheffield, with calls from stakeholders and locals to diversify educational opportunities in the city (Interview A1, A2, A3, A5).

4. **Increased utilisation of Sheffield cultural economy in order to expand tertiary industries such as tourism in the city.** Sheffield needs to diversify its economy, with this sentiment coming from in both the interviews and open-ended questions to (Interview A1, A2, A3, A4) (B1, B2, B3, B4).

5. **The promotion of ALMPs in Sheffield by giving more power to social enterprises, such as SOAR, to enable them to provide bottom-up, area-specific services**. The importance of increasing the employability of Sheffielders was emphasised

throughout the results, giving more power to social enterprises to allow for a more community-led approach to issues such as this (Interview A1, A2, A3, A4, A5).

6. **Incentivise the creation of jobs that local's value through collaborations with key stakeholders. This could also be coupled with the promotion of ALMPs.** An approach that was echoed throughout the interviews (Interview A1, A2, A4), improving the employability of locals as well as empowering them through the expansion of economic opportunities.

7. **Formation of a tax increment financing scheme, managed by local stakeholders to encourage community cohesion by organising community events.** Improve community cohesion with locals having the option to reinvest back into their area (Interview A1, A2, A3, A4, A5) (B31, B34, B41), increasing funds for both hard and soft projects aimed at alleviating socio-economic issues.

8. **Encourage the formation of a national Department for Labour, increasing the collective bargaining power of workers in Sheffield.** Empowering workers in Sheffield through increasing their collective bargaining power is a sentiment emphasised throughout the qualitative results (Interview A1, A2).

9. **Introduce a land-value tax and green tax not just in Sheffield, but for the whole of the UK which, alongside TIF, could be used to fund projects such as ALMPs and Sure Start.** The land-value tax would directly address the increasing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield outlined throughout the quantitative results, with ALMPs and Sure Start addressing issues surrounding social mobility. The green tax would allow for this to be deployed in an environmentally sustainable way.

10. **There is a necessity to initiate a universal basic income in the UK, with low conditionality to provide an economic backbone and increase the social mobility of disadvantaged individuals.** The need for a universal basic income was emphasised in the majority of interviews (Interview A1, A2, A4, A5) as essential if socio-economic inequalities are to be reduced.

6. Conclusion

This thesis has used a mixed-methods approach to provide a bottom-up insight into issues surrounding socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield. Online surveys were distributed to provide a quantitative approach, collecting the experiences of individuals from throughout the city. Interviews were also conducted with key stakeholders, providing context to issues on socio-economic inequalities. These results offered an academic perspective, highlighting inequalities in topics such as social mobility, life chances and concerns such as perceived poverty, quality of education and access to investment. This is consistent with previous research that outlines inequalities relating to education and deprivation in Sheffield. The mixed-method, bottom-up approach used here has been called for in previous studies on the subject of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, allowing for this thesis to adhere to the requests of others.

The results also show that individuals in both affluent and deprived areas of Sheffield are aware that levels of poverty are increasing, and are concerned over Sheffield's widening socio-economic gap. The combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods has allowed for this to be shown, combining both statistical analysis and contextual results to highlight this. This is again consistent with previous research that shows increasing economic polarisation in the city. However, the bottom-up approach provides a viewpoint not seen in previous research, allowing for locals to comment on the evolving socio-economic landscape of Sheffield. The survey allowed for distinctive issues in Sheffield to be highlighted, with interviews providing context to these issues.

Four main themes were highlighted throughout the results: education, employment, community cohesion and politics. Education focused primarily on issues involving social mobility in the city, with the consensus being amongst all interviewees that this was key to reducing the socio-economic gap in Sheffield. The context of employment followed the theme of social mobility, with many stressing that more initiatives need to be provided in order to improve the employability of disadvantaged individuals in the city. Issues surrounding community cohesion fixated on issues of racial segregation, not only in Sheffield, but in specific areas such as Firth Park. Many believed than in order for holistic socio-economic

issues to be resolved, addressing community segmentation was key, with this being highlighted as an issue plaguing Sheffield for decades. The political aspect of the interviews stressed that political instability in Sheffield is preventing economic growth, with political parties failing to collaborate on constructive initiatives for the city. As well as this, many believe that locals in Sheffield choosing to vote against the Conservative party has resulted in the national government punishing the city, deciding to prioritise areas who vote in their favour.

Following this, the results were analysed and policy solutions provided that adhere to both the survey and interview results, as well as taking inspiration from regions with low levels of socio-economic inequalities. These policies included the expansion of vocational courses in Sheffield, alongside promoting active labour market policies (ALMPs) that improve the social mobility of disadvantaged individuals in the city. Tax changes were also suggested, with proposals on introducing a TIF to fund community projects, as well as a Land-Value tax to level the socio-economic landscape in Sheffield. This was coupled with the re-introduction of the Sure Start programme, providing a backbone to one's social mobility from a young age. The introduction of a universal basic income (UBI) was also stressed, again providing the backbone to social mobility in Sheffield. These are policies found in nations with low social-economic inequalities, such as Denmark and Sweden, and adhere to the suggestions outlined in the qualitative results section. They also centre in on the four main categories whilst focusing on the overarching concept of social mobility, a concept that is vital to promote in order to reduce socio-economic divides not only on city scales, but on national scales also.

The mixed-methods approach has provided the bottom-up, community-focused insight that an issue such as this requires. However, if policy makers are truly serious regarding the topic of reducing socio-economic inequalities in the UK, they need to accept that revolutionist changes are required in order for gaps to be reduced. The worry is that inequalities become an issue that is trivialised, used to generate media headlines that ignore the challenges they enforce on people every single day. This is why more research needs to be conducted in order to shine a light on the individuals negatively impacted by inequalities, allowing for more community-focused approaches to stimulate the change an issue like socio-economic inequalities requires.

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7.2. Survey and Interview References

A1 Social Enterprise Representative, 26th March 2021

A2 Social Enterprise Representative, 22nd March 2021

A3 School Headteacher, 14th May 2021

A4 University Academic, 5th March 2021

A5 Public Health Official, 19th March 2021

B1, Male, 18-24, Crosspool, #172, 22nd March 2021

B2, Male, 18-24, Crosspool, #12, 15th March 2021

B3, Male, 18-24, Crosspool, #24, 15th March 2021

B4, Female, 45-54, Other, #132, , 17th March 2021

B5, Male, 18-24, Crosspool, #6, 15th March 2021

B6, Male, 18-24, Crosspool, #10, 15th March 2021

B7, Female, 25-34, Central, #37, 15th March 2021

B8, Female, 55-64, Firth Park, #39, 15th March 2021

B9, Female, 45-54, Firth Park, #44, 16th March 2021

B10 Female, 45-54, Other, #47, 16th March 2021

B11, Female, 45-54, Crosspool, #69, 16th March 2021

B12, Female, 65+, Firth Park, #70, 16th March 2021

B13, Female, 65+, Crosspool, #85, 16th March 2021

B14, Male, 35-44, Central, #102, 16th March 2021

B15, Female, 45-54, Central, #118, 17th March 2021

B16, Female, 45-55, Firth Park, #125, 17th March 2021

B17, Female, 35-44, Firth Park, #135, 17th March 2021

B18, Female, 65+, Firth Park, #157, 18th March 2021

B19, Female, 25-34, Central, #158, 18th March 2021

B20, Male, 18-24, Firth Park, #163, 18th March 2021

B21, Female, 45-54, Firth Park, #174, 23rd March 2021

B22, Female, 55-64, Firth Park, #179, 24th March 2021

B23, Female, 65+, Firth Park, #184, 25th March 2021

B24, Female, 25-34, Firth Park, #186, 26th March 2021

B25, Female, 35-44, Firth Park, #187, 26th March 2021

B26, Male, 25-34, Firth Park, #188, 26th March 2021

B27, Male, 35-44, Central, #190, 1st April 2021

B28, Male, 65+, Firth Park, #145, 18th March 2021

B29, Female, 35-44, Crosspool, #93, 16th March 2021

B30, Male, 35-44, Central, #149, 18th March 2021

B31, Female, 25-34, Central, #180, 24th March 2021

B32, Male, 18-24, Crosspool, #1, 15th March 2021

B33, Male, 18-24, Firth Park, #19, 15th March 2021

B34, Female, 35-44, Crosspool, #30, 15th March 2021

B35, Female, 18-24, Crosspool, #18, 15th March 2021

B36, Female, 25-34, Firth Park, #57, 16th March 2021

B37, Female, 65+, Firth Park, #141, 18th March 2021

B38, Male, 18-24, Firth Park, #14, 15th March 2021

B39, Female, 45-55, Crosspool, #20, 15th March 2021

B40, Female, 45-55, Firth Park, #35, 15th March 2021

B41, Male, 45-54, Firth Park, #164, 18th March 2021

B42, Non-binary, 55-64, Firth Park, #126, 17th March 2021

B43, Female, 55-64, Crosspool, #109, 17th March 2021

8. Appendix

8.1. Online Survey

Socio-Economic Inequalities in Sheffield Survey

My name is James Shirt and I am a postgraduate student studying a degree in Economic Geography at the University of Groningen. For my postgraduate thesis, I am conducting a project called "A Neo-Endogenous Approach to Socio-Spatial Inequalities in Sheffield", whereby a survey must be conducted to collect an insight of what residents in Sheffield think about inequalities in the city. The objective of this project is to produce place-specific policies that address the effects of socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield, achieving outcomes that reflect the ambitions of local residents to strive towards positive change in the city.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and you may leave the survey at any time. The survey should take around 5 minutes to complete. All answers collected from the survey will be stored confidentially, and will be destroyed following the completion of the thesis. The data is to be used only for my postgraduate thesis, and will not be accessible or used by any additional individuals/organisations.

If you have any questions about the survey, or would like information about my thesis, feel free to email me at j.shirt@student.rug.nl, or my thesis supervisor d.ballas@rug.nl.

1. What is your gender?

   Mark only one oval.

   ◯ Female

   ◯ Male

   ◯ Prefer not to say

   ◯ Other: _____

2. How old are you?

   Mark only one oval.

   ◯ 18-24

   ◯ 25-34

   ◯ 35-44

   ◯ 45-54

   ◯ 55-64

   ◯ 65+

3. What is your postcode? (This is important for geographical analysis so would greatly appreciate full postcode)

_____

4. What is your occupation? (If unemployed what was your occupation before?)

_____

5. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

   Mark only one oval.

   ◯ No qualifications
   ◯ GSCEs
   ◯ A levels/ College
   ◯ Undergraduate Degree
   ◯ Postgraduate Degree
   ◯ PHD/Doctorate
   ◯ Prefer not to say
   ◯ Other: _____

6. What is your annual household income?

   Mark only one oval.

   ◯ Less than £10,000
   ◯ £10,001-£25,000
   ◯ £25,001-£40,000
   ◯ £40,001-£55,000
   ◯ £55,001-£70,000
   ◯ £70,001-£85,000
   ◯ £85,001-£100,000
   ◯ More than £100,001
   ◯ Don't know
   ◯ Prefer not to say

7. What area of Sheffield would you identify yourself from?

_____

8. Which area of Sheffield would you prioritise for extra public/private investment? (Pick 3 Maximum)

Check all that apply.

- [ ] S1 (City Centre)
- [ ] S2 (Manor, Woodthorpe, Arbourthorne, Heely)
- [ ] S3 (Netherthorpe, Burngreave, Broomhall)
- [ ] S4 (Pitsmoor, Brightside)
- [ ] S5 (Firth Park, Shiregreen, Parson Cross, Wincobank)
- [ ] S6 (Hillsborough, Upperthorpe, Middlewood)
- [ ] S7 (Abbeydale, Millhouses)
- [ ] S8 (Jordanthorpe, Beauchief, Woodseats)
- [ ] S9 (Darnall, Tinsley, Attercliffe)
- [ ] S10 (Crosspool, Fulwood, Ranmoor)
- [ ] S11 (Ecclesall, Hunters Bar, Nether Edge)
- [ ] S12 (Intake, Hackenthorpe, Gleadless)
- [ ] S13 (Handsworth, Woodhouse)
- [ ] S14 (Gleadless Valley)
- [ ] S17 (Dore and Totley)
- [ ] S20 (Halfway, Owlthorpe, Crystal Peaks)
- [ ] S35 (Oughtibridge, Grenoside, Chapeltown)
- Other: [ ] _____

9. Which area of Sheffield would you least prioritise for extra public/private spending? (Pick 3 Maximum)

Check all that apply.

- [ ] S1 (City Centre)
- [ ] S2 (Manor, Woodthorpe, Arbourthorne, Heely)
- [ ] S3 (Netherthorpe, Burngreave, Broomhall)
- [ ] S4 (Pitsmoor, Brightside)
- [ ] S5 (Firth Park, Shiregreen, Parson Cross, Wincobank)
- [ ] S6 (Hillsborough, Upperthorpe, Middlewood)
- [ ] S7 (Abbeydale, Millhouses)
- [ ] S8 (Jordanthorpe, Beauchief, Woodseats)
- [ ] S9 (Darnall, Tinsley, Attercliffe)
- [ ] S10 (Crosspool, Fulwood, Ranmoor)
- [ ] S11 (Ecclesall, Hunters Bar, Nether Edge)
- [ ] S12 (Intake, Hackenthorpe, Gleadless)
- [ ] S13 (Handsworth, Woodhouse)
- [ ] S14 (Gleadless Valley)
- [ ] S17 (Dore and Totley)
- [ ] S20 (Halfway, Owlthorpe, Crystal Peaks)
- [ ] S35 (Oughtibridge, Grenoside, Chapeltown)
- Other: [ ] _____

10. What do you think are the 3 biggest concerns facing Sheffield at the moment? (you can expand answer in 'other' section if needed)

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Homelessness
- [ ] Poverty and Deprivation
- [ ] Transport infrastructure
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Healthcare
- [ ] Concentration of wealth
- [ ] Immigration
- [ ] Students
- [ ] Crime
- [ ] Image of the city
- [ ] Environmental issues
- [ ] Lack of jobs
- [ ] Lack of retail options
- [ ] City centre decline
- [ ] Racial Divides

Other: [ ] _____

11. Over the last 10 years, how do you think poverty in Sheffield has been changing?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Poverty has decreased	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Poverty has increased

12. Over the last 10 years, how do you think the wealth gap between the richest and poorest areas in Sheffield has changed?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Gap has decreased	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Gap has increased

13. How would you say your financial situation is compared to residents in the more affluent areas of Sheffield? (e.g. Ranmoor, Dore and Totley e.t.c.)

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Much worse	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Much better

14. Would you say the area you live in allows people to maximise their life chances?

Mark only one oval.

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ Don't know

◯ Prefer not to say

15. Do you think children born in your area have a good chance of living and working in a prosperous environment when they are older?

Mark only one oval.

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ Don't know

◯ Prefer not to say

16. What needs to be improved most in the area you live in? (Pick 3 Maximum)

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Crime
- [ ] Environmental quality
- [ ] Transport infrastructure
- [ ] Affordable housing
- [ ] Access to retail services
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Healthcare
- [ ] Homelessness
- [ ] Public image
- [ ] Racial divides
- [ ] Access to investment
- [ ] Poverty

Other: [ ] _____

17. What do you think is the biggest barrier to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield?

Mark only one oval.

- ( ) Poor education
- ( ) Crime
- ( ) Poor image of the city
- ( ) Students
- ( ) Private investment
- ( ) Lack of aspiration in deprived areas
- ( ) Lack of services for those in need
- ( ) Immigration
- ( ) Public transport infrastructure
- ( ) Access to other cities (e.g. motorways, train lines)
- ( ) National government
- ( ) Racial divides
- ( ) Poor access to healthcare
- ( ) Other: _____

18. What evidence have you seen of public agencies attempting to improve socio-economic conditions in Sheffield?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

19. Do you think private companies investing in Sheffield have the best interests of the city as a whole? Could you explain your answer in the 'Other' section?

Check all that apply.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Other: ☐ _____

20. What is the best approach you have seen towards improving socio-economic conditions in Sheffield?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

21. What do you think is the best approach to reducing socio-economic inequalities in Sheffield?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

8.2. GIS Maps
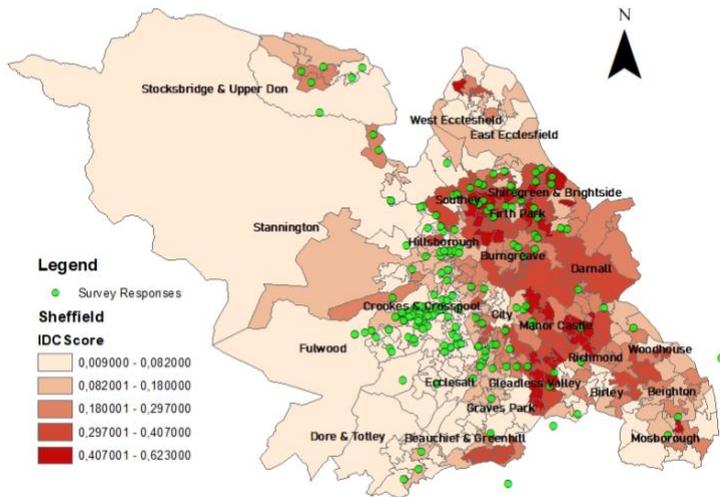
(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)
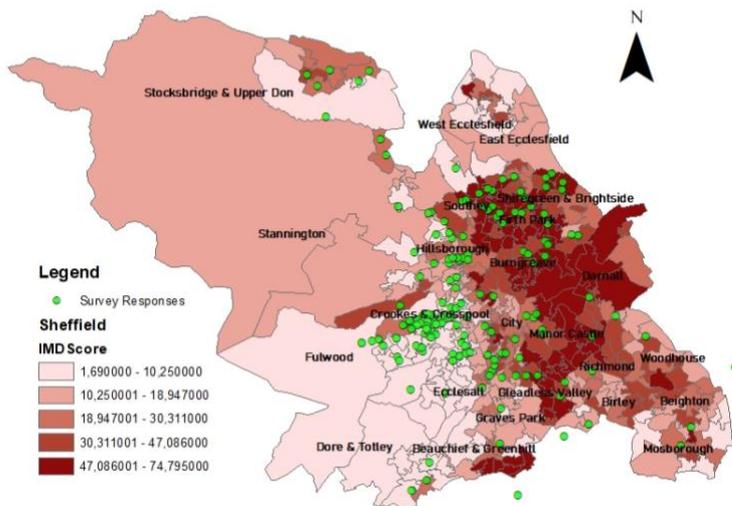
(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

Sheffield Population Involuntarily Excluded from Labour Market 2019

(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

Sheffield Population With Poor Health or Disability 2019
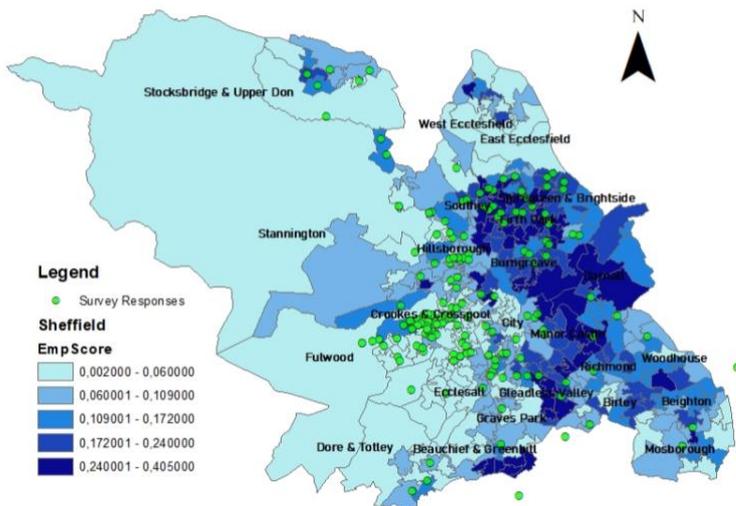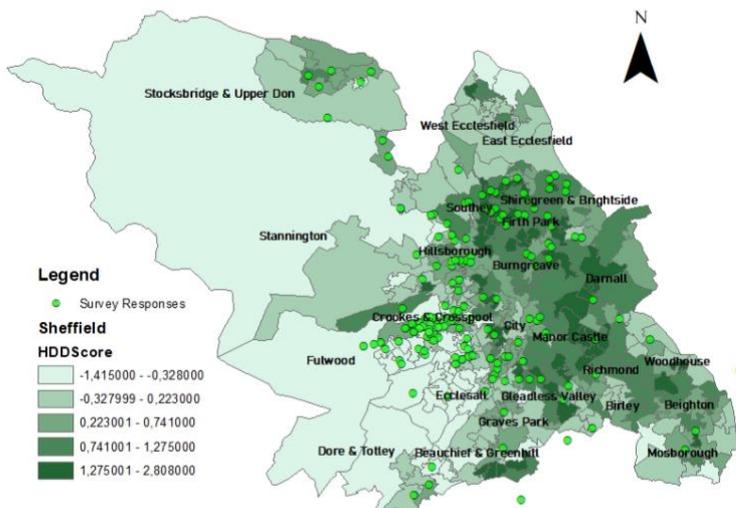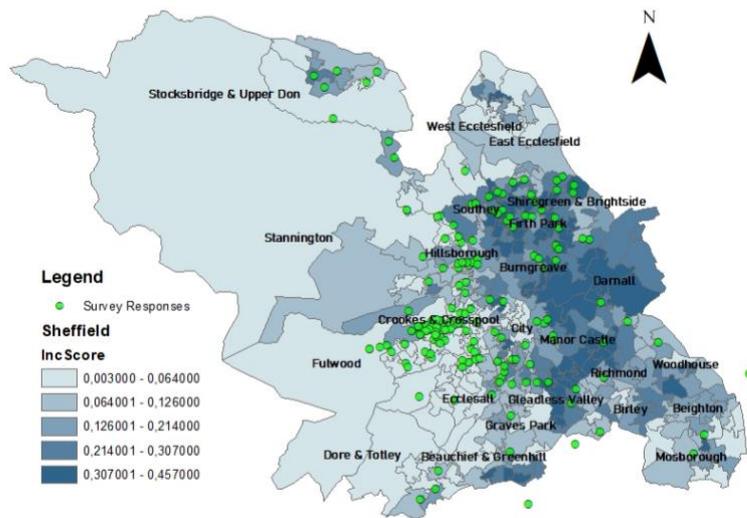

(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

Sheffield Low Income Deprivation Score 2019

(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)
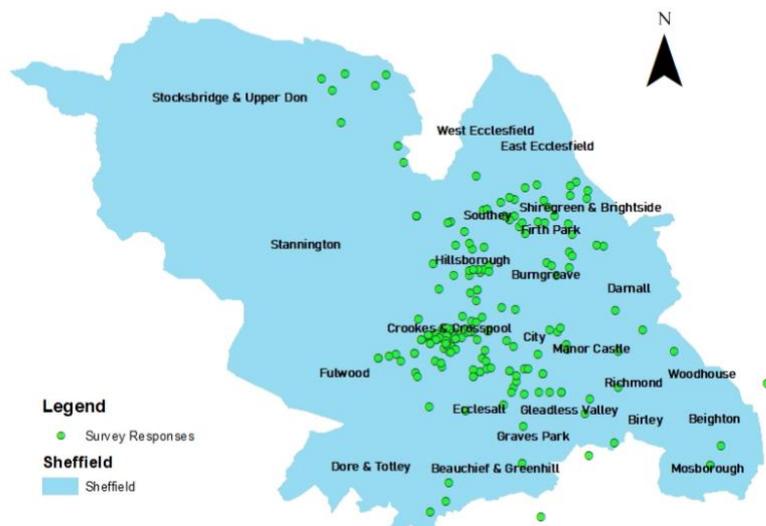
Map of Sheffield with Survey Responses

(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

Index of Multiple Deprivation Rank Sheffield 2019
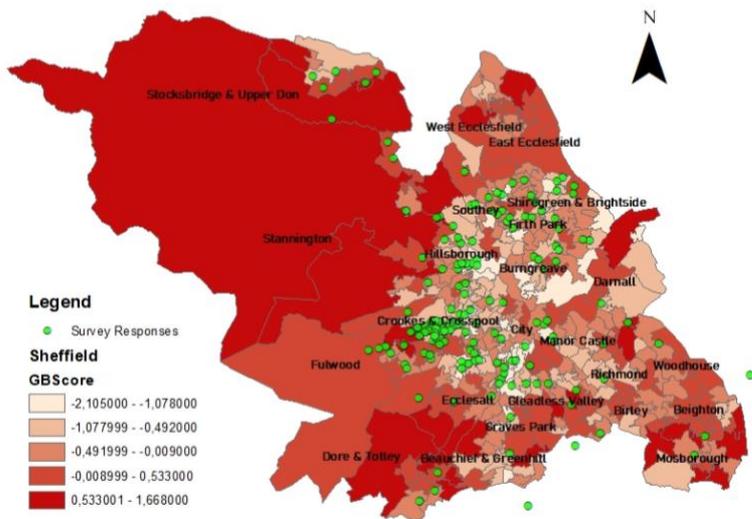
(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

Sheffield Population With a Lack of Educational Attainment or Skills 2019
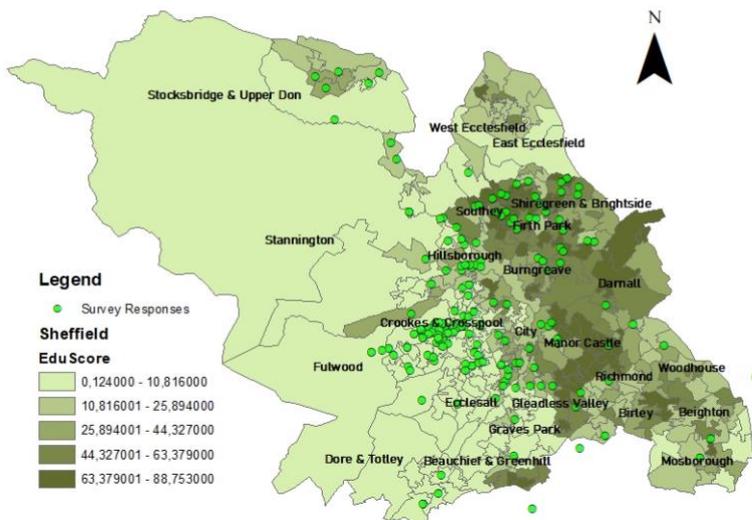
(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

8.3. All STATA output
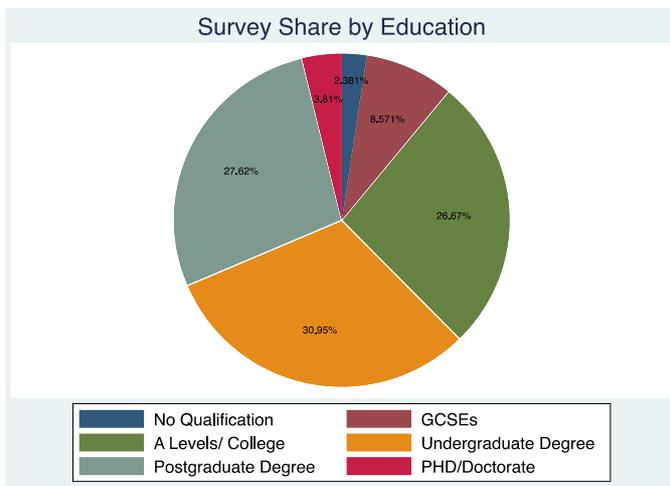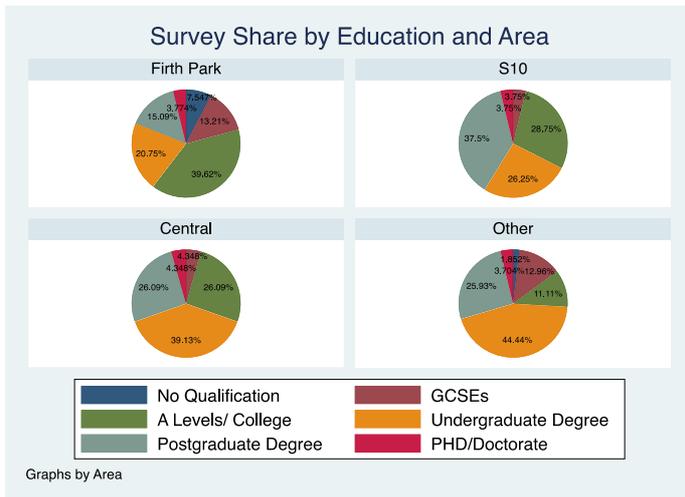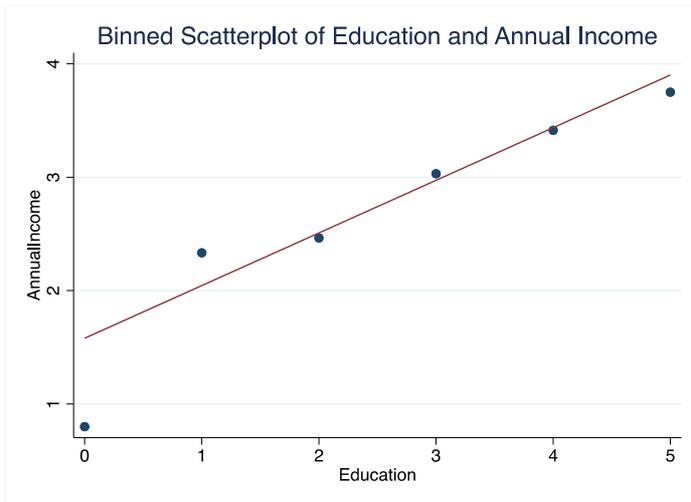
Over the last 10 years how do you think poverty in Sheffield has been changing?
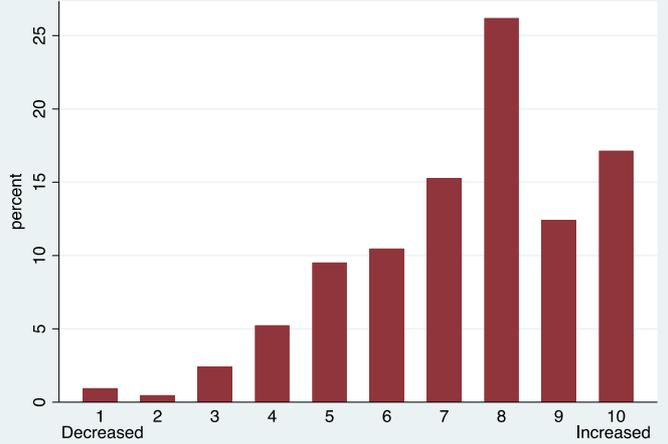
Over the last 10 years how do you think the wealth gap in Sheffield has changed?
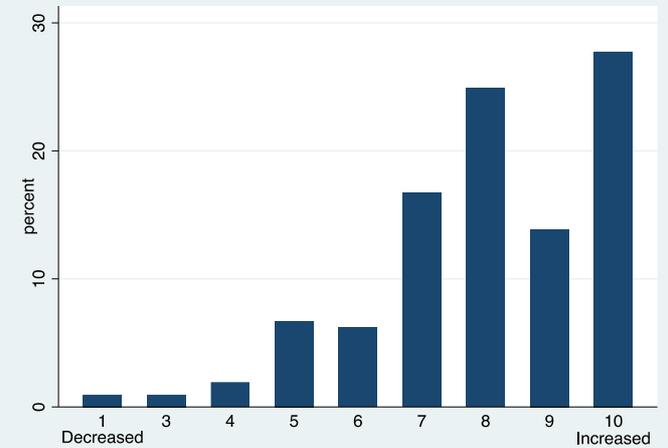
Survey Share by Location and Household Income
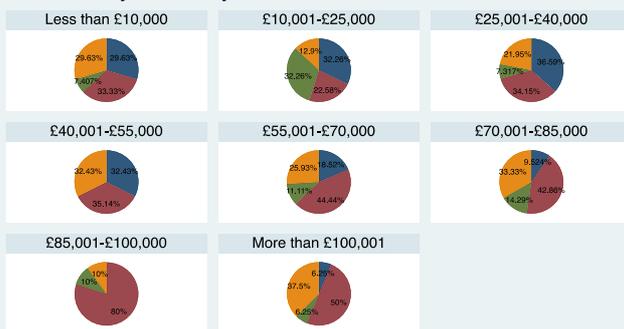
Graphs by AnnualIncome

Survey Share by Location

Firth Park		S10	
Central		Other	

25.24% — 38.1% — 10.95% — 25.71%
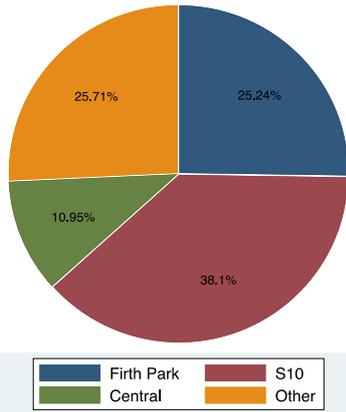
Survey Share by Age

18-24   25-34   35-44
45-54   55-64   65+
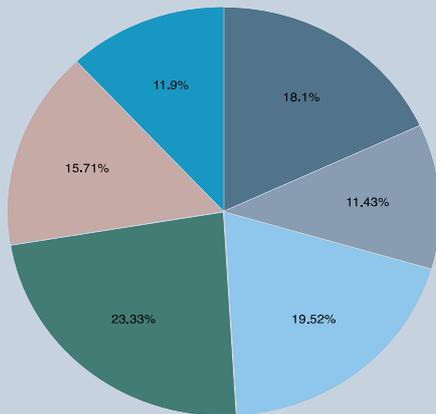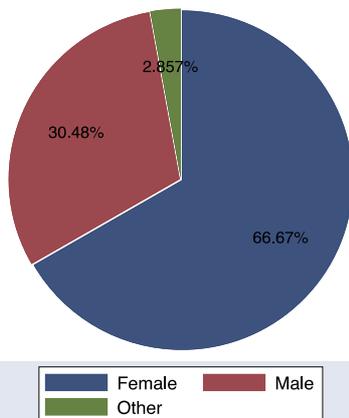
18.1% — 11.43% — 19.52% — 23.33% — 15.71% — 11.9%

Survey Share by Gender

Female		Male	
Other			

2.857% — 30.48% — 66.67%

Survey Share by Income

Less than £10,000 · **£10,001-£25,000** · **£25,001-£40,000** · **£40,001-£55,000** · **£55,001-£70,000** · **£70,001-£85,000** · **£85,001-£100,000** · **More than £100,001**

12.86% · 14.76% · 19.52% · 17.62% · 12.86% · 10% · 4.762% · 7.619%
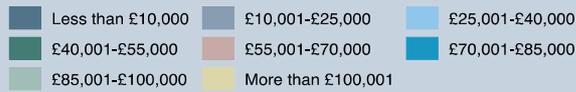
Tabulation

Over the last 10 years, how do you think poverty in Sheffield has been changing? (1=poverty has decreased, 10=poverty has increased)	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
1	2	0.95	0.95
2	1	0.48	1.43
3	5	2.38	3.81
4	11	5.24	9.05
5	20	9.52	18.57
6	22	10.48	29.05
7	32	15.24	44.29
8	55	26.19	70.48
9	26	12.38	82.86
10	36	17.14	100.00
Total	210	100.00	

Tabulation

Over the last 10 years, how do you think the wealth gap between the richest and poorest areas in Sheffield has changed? (1=Gap has decreased, 10=Gap has increased).	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
1	2	0.96	0.96
3	2	0.96	1.91
4	4	1.91	3.83
5	14	6.70	10.53
6	13	6.22	16.75
7	35	16.75	33.49
8	52	24.88	58.37
9	29	13.88	72.25
10	58	27.75	100.00
Total	209	100.00	

Tabulation

Do you think children born in your area have a good chance of living and working in a prosperous environment when they are older?	Area				
	Firth Park	S10	Central	Other	Total
Don't know	10	4	2	9	25
No	22	0	11	6	39
Yes	20	76	10	39	145
Total	52	80	23	54	209

Tabulation

Would you say the area you live in allows people to maximise their life chances?	Area				
	Firth Park	S10	Central	Other	Total
Don't know	14	5	6	12	37
No	24	3	10	9	46
Yes	15	72	7	32	126
Total	53	80	23	53	209

Tabulation of Socialmobility Area

	Area				
Socialmobility	Firth Park	S10	Central	Other	Total
No	22	0	11	6	39
Yes	20	76	10	39	145
Total	42	76	21	45	184

Tabulation of LifeChances Area

	Area				
LifeChances	Firth Park	S10	Central	Other	Total
No	24	3	10	10	47
Yes	15	72	7	32	126
Total	39	75	17	42	173

Logistic regression

LifeChances	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	-3.648	.675	-5.40	0	-4.971	-2.325	***
1base.S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	-3.535	.768	-4.60	0	-5.04	-2.029	***
3.Other	-2.015	.692	-2.91	.004	-3.371	-.659	***
Constant	3.178	.589	5.39	0	2.023	4.333	***
Mean dependent var		0.728	SD dependent var			0.446	
Pseudo r-squared		0.277	Number of obs			173.000	
Chi-square		56.080	Prob > chi2			0.000	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		154.302	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			166.915	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Tabulation of Haveyouseenevidence

	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
No	136	64.76	64.76
Yes	74	35.24	100.00
Total	210	100.00	

Logistic regression

Improveeducation	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	1.684	.557	3.02	.003	.592	2.776	***
1.base S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	1.427	.685	2.08	.037	.085	2.769	**
3.Other	1.099	.589	1.87	.062	-.055	2.253	*
Constant	-2.708	.462	-5.86	0	-3.613	-1.803	***

Mean dependent var	0.157	SD dependent var		0.365
Pseudo r-squared	0.062	Number of obs		210.000
Chi-square	11.307	Prob > chi2		0.010
Akaike crit. (AIC)	179.352	Bayesian crit. (BIC)		192.740

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Linear regression

AnnualIncome	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	-1.255	.35	-3.59	0	-1.946	-.565	***
1b.S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	-.953	.468	-2.04	.043	-1.875	-.031	**
3.Other	-.258	.348	-0.74	.46	-.944	.428	
Constant	3.387	.221	15.33	0	2.952	3.823	***

Mean dependent var	2.900	SD dependent var		2.032
R-squared	0.067	Number of obs		210.000
F-test	4.956	Prob > F		0.002
Akaike crit. (AIC)	886.088	Bayesian crit. (BIC)		899.477

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Logistic regression

improvepoverty	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	2.824	.652	4.33	0	1.546	4.102	***
1b.S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	2.803	.727	3.85	0	1.378	4.229	***
3.Other	1.496	.702	2.13	.033	.12	2.872	**
Constant	-3.245	.588	-5.51	0	-4.399	-2.092	***

Mean dependent var	0.195	SD dependent var		0.397
Pseudo r-squared	0.166	Number of obs		210.000
Chi-square	34.513	Prob > chi2		0.000
Akaike crit. (AIC)	180.854	Bayesian crit. (BIC)		194.242

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Logistic regression

improveinvestment	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	1.684	.557	3.02	.003	.592	2.776	***
1b.S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	.811	.772	1.05	.294	-.703	2.325	
3.Other	.959	.6	1.60	.11	-.217	2.135	
Constant	-2.708	.462	-5.86	0	-3.613	-1.803	***
Mean dependent var		0.143	SD dependent var			0.351	
Pseudo r-squared		0.061	Number of obs			210.000	
Chi-square		10.527	Prob > chi2			0.015	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		169.722	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			183.111	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Logistic regression

Improveimage	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	2.194	.591	3.71	0	1.035	3.353	***
1b.S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Centrak	2.503	.668	3.75	0	1.194	3.811	***
3.Other	.419	.73	0.57	.566	-1.012	1.85	
Constant	-2.944	.513	-5.74	0	-3.95	-1.939	***
Mean dependent var		0.162	SD dependent var			0.369	
Pseudo r-squared		0.153	Number of obs			210.000	
Chi-square		28.405	Prob > chi2			0.000	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		165.577	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			178.966	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Linear regression

Education	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Firth Park	-.748	.191	-3.92	0	-1.124	-.372	***
1b. S10	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Central	-.088	.255	-0.34	.732	-.59	.415	
3.Other	-.18	.19	-0.95	.343	-.554	.194	
Constant	3.087	.12	25.65	0	2.85	3.325	***
Mean dependent var		2.843	SD dependent var			1.111	
R-squared		0.074	Number of obs			210.000	
F-test		5.464	Prob > F			0.001	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		630.953	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			644.342	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Logistic regression

Socialmobility	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
0.Area	-2.063	.537	-3.84	0	-3.115	-1.01	***
1b.Area	0	.	.	.	.	.	
2.Area	-1.967	.619	-3.18	.001	-3.18	-.754	***
3o.Area	0	.	.	.	.	.	
Constant	1.872	.439	4.27	0	1.012	2.731	***
Mean dependent var		0.630	SD dependent var			0.485	
Pseudo r-squared		0.141	Number of obs			108.000	
Chi-square		20.129	Prob > chi2			0.000	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		128.248	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			136.294	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1