Living in Batley and Heckmondwike: Research Report

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Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .......................................................................................................................... 2
SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................... 5
    Developing the Project ......................................................................................................................... 5
    Purpose ............................................................................................................................................... 5
    Research Aims ................................................................................................................................... 6
SECTION TWO: METHODOLOGY ........................................................................................................... 7
    Sample ................................................................................................................................................ 7
    Co-production/Collaboration .............................................................................................................. 7
    Training ............................................................................................................................................... 8
    Research Methods ............................................................................................................................... 8
        Interviews/Focus Groups .................................................................................................................. 8
        Psychogeography Walking Interviews ........................................................................................... 8
        Word Association/Sentence Completion .......................................................................................... 9
        CLiK (Currently Living in Kirklees) Data ......................................................................................... 10
SECTION THREE: FINDINGS ................................................................................................................... 11
    Analysis of the CLiK Data .................................................................................................................. 11
        Satisfaction, trust, and a sense of safety ............................................................................................ 11
        Disparities ....................................................................................................................................... 11
        Loneliness ..................................................................................................................................... 11
        Community Decision Making ......................................................................................................... 12
    Word Association Cloud Analysis ...................................................................................................... 12
    Conclusions and Formulation of Key Themes ..................................................................................... 14
    Synthesis of Key Themes .................................................................................................................... 16
        Theme 1: Town Centres .................................................................................................................... 16
        Theme 2: Anti-Social Behaviour and Lack of Safety ....................................................................... 17
        Theme 3: Activities, Belonging and Loneliness ................................................................................. 19
        Theme 4: Nostalgia ............................................................................................................................ 21
        Theme 5: Community Cohesion and Togetherness ........................................................................... 23
SECTION FOUR: ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION ................................................................................ 25
UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC TEAM .......................................................................................................... 27
    Emma Victoria Shiel .............................................................................................................................. 27
    Dr. Alex Bridger .................................................................................................................................. 27
    Dr. Andy Mycock ................................................................................................................................ 27
    Professor Paul Thomas ......................................................................................................................... 27
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .......................................................................................................................... 28
APPENDIX .............................................................................................................................................. 29
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Scope of the Project
‘Living in Batley and Heckmondwike’ was an exploratory research project carried out between March and June 2023 by a University of Huddersfield-coordinated Academic Team and Jo Cox Foundation (JCF) colleagues, with funding support and Practitioner involvement from Kirklees Council. The need for local ground-level research was first identified by the Jo Cox Foundation, who proposed a pilot study to the University of Huddersfield to deepen understanding of community members’ experiences of ‘place’, cohesion, togetherness, belonging, and loneliness.

Kirklees Council agreed to support the research process, as qualitative insights would provide additional depth and complexity to their pre-existing ‘Currently Living in Kirklees’ (CLiK) online survey data. Thus, the key objective was to obtain opinions and experiences from community members in Batley and Heckmondwike on:

- **Community**: How community members identified/felt about their community and how they described it.
- **Living in Batley and Heckmondwike**: How individuals feel about their town and ‘place’, exploring both positive and negative aspects.
- **Community Mixing and Cohesion**: How much mixing community members felt there was between different sections of the community and how they view this.
- **Participation**: Groups, places, and activities community members participate in and what their experience is of this, alongside concerns around loneliness in the community.

Methods

The Academic Team worked with Jo Cox Foundation colleagues and a group of community-based professional Practitioners¹ to gather views and experiences of community members.

After sessions to devise and test possible methods of carrying out research, practitioners then gathered research data within their normal working situations through various qualitative research methods: Focus Groups, Interviews, Psychogeography Walks, and Word Association/Sentence Completion (presented through Word Cloud Analysis). While certain setbacks had disrupted the research, this new approach offered the opportunity to capitalise on the working relationships practitioners have with community members and to develop new interesting and novel ways of gathering experiences and views from community members.

Key themes

The Academic Team devised an analysis approach that appropriately interpreted the broad range of data: semi-structured interviews conducted by the Practitioners,

¹ The community-based professional Practitioners (referred to throughout this report as ‘Practitioners’) worked in a variety of community-based roles within different parts of the area, some working for third sector organisations, and some working for statutory organisations such as Kirklees Council.
Living in Batley and Heckmondwike

psychogeographical walking interviews led by the Academic Team (EVS & AB), word association/sentence completion, and other external forms of data, i.e., CLiK. When analysing the data, the Academic Team took four main topic areas into consideration: 1) Perceptions of Community and Local Areas in Kirklees, 2) Community Cohesion and Mixing, 3) ‘Place’ and Boundaries, and 4) Participation/Loneliness. The Academic Team first conducted an initial pilot analysis of small sets of data, before embarking on analysis where five super-ordinate themes were developed:

1. Town Centres
2. Antisocial Behaviour and Lack of Safety
3. Activities, Belonging and Loneliness
4. Nostalgia
5. Community Cohesion and Togetherness

These five main themes map onto the four key topics of this report as they focus on how people feel about and perceive their local communities and town centres which they frequent on a regular basis, how connected, lonely, and/or engaged people feel in their local areas, and the extent of community mixing in various pockets of Batley and Heckmondwike.

Issues for consideration

This innovative pilot study obtained nuanced data on people’s experiences of living in Batley and Heckmondwike. There are a number of issues for consideration of government and non-government stakeholders interested in community engagement, place-based working, and policymaking:

- Existing community groups and activities are valued and appreciated, highlighting the importance of social infrastructure in shaping a connected place-based sense of community identity and belonging. It was noted that there had been a marked decline in community-based social infrastructure and that greater funding and support was essential to enable more opportunities to engage and participate in local community organisations and activities.

- Improved access to existing community-based social infrastructure was seen as important, as was a greater awareness of what groups, clubs, and activities are available, and their details such as where and when they meet is required. There is general interest in increasing the frequency, access, and types of events and activities. Heckmondwike in particular lacks places and opportunities for people to come together. Events around food would be particularly valued and can empower local businesses to participate. Increasing and diversifying opportunities and approaches to community cohesion are encouraged.

- Cohesion between different faiths and ethnicities was apparent and generally seen as positive. However, there is still existing demand to bring different communities together through shared community celebrations and activities. It was noted that there was less community engagement among residents from Heckmondwike, particularly those of Black and Asian heritage.
There are distinct disparities in how Batley and Heckmondwike were viewed. Batley town centre is generally viewed as rejuvenated with new food establishments and tends to be favoured over nearby towns like Heckmondwike, or Dewsbury. Whereas Heckmondwike town centre, is perceived negatively, referred to as ‘unsafe’ and ‘lonely’. In both cases, major supermarkets are both popular but also viewed as negatively impacting other local shops and thus referred to as the ‘death of the town’.

There is considerable nostalgia among older community members across Batley and Heckmondwike. This is accentuated by the many fine old industrial buildings in the area, which tend to be empty and unused. The importance of the built environment in enhancing a sense of place-based belonging and pride in place was evident in our research. Renovating and rejuvenating these buildings was seen as important in bolstering the community’s perception of their towns and civic morale and pride.

Across respondents there was serious concern about safety (particularly within isolated greenspaces). Many young people have a strong sense of safe and unsafe ‘territory’. Many adults are wary of their safety in certain public spaces and avoid known crime ‘hotspots’, such as tunnels or town centres later in the evening. Allied was concern about anti-social behaviour, particularly speeding and racing cars that endanger pedestrians of all ages. There was substantial worry relating to traffic accidents, and blocked walkways, thus further pedestrianism would be valued.

The potential for research opportunities stemming from this pilot project are significant. The innovative mixed methods approach could be translated and used as a template across different areas of the UK, and beyond to understand the experiences and needs of communities and places, and how they form and express place-based identities, pride in place, and belonging.

**Research Note**

If similar research was to be conducted, researchers might consider how they would attract the interest of those who are isolated and/or do not participate in community events or clubs. Naturally, those who participate tend to be the same people that might be involved in local events or have interest in improving the area, therefore, those who are isolated tend to be left out. While the Practitioners were able to identify and reach out to particular individuals through their links with the Council, further research must consider inclusion of seldom-heard individuals.

Further consideration should be given to funding participation. Due to a lack of funds, it was not possible to pay practitioners, nor participants for their time. Reimbursement of participation might improve community research and participant retention and increase engagement within the research.

Additional limitations rest within the methods conducted. While practitioners’ efforts were invaluable, as research progressed, an imbalance in the utilisation of differing methods became clear as the project developed with some methods used more than others. In future, researchers might wish to organise small groups who are responsible for one method to avoid role confusion and overload, to simplify training requirements and obtain a broad range of data in a more efficiently.
SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

Developing the Project

‘Living in Batley and Heckmondwike’ was an exploratory research project carried out between March and June 2023 by a University of Huddersfield-coordinated Academic Team and Jo Cox Foundation (JCF) colleagues, with funding support and practitioner involvement from Kirklees Council.

Originally devised and designed in 2019, the research project was delayed firstly by the 2019 General Election and then by the successive COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns from March 2020 onwards. Having been delayed for such a length of time, the design and approach of the research study necessarily underwent several changes.

The pandemic regulations necessitated a change to the planned methods, with the original plans of door-to-door, face-to-face household surveys requiring modification. Instead, the Academic Team worked with Jo Cox Foundation colleagues and a group of community-based professional practitioners to gather views and experiences of community members.

After sessions to devise and test possible methods of carrying out research, practitioners then gathered research data within their normal working situations through various qualitative research methods: Focus Groups, Interviews, Psychogeography Walks, and Word Association/Sentence Completion (presented through Word Cloud Analysis). While certain setbacks had disrupted the research, this new approach offered the opportunity to capitalise on the working relationships practitioners have with community members and to develop new interesting and novel ways of gathering experiences and views from community members.

While this project was initially understood as a ‘Pilot’, it is believed that the methods used could be transferred and used in community-based studies across different areas of the UK, and beyond. Its methods suggest new ways of obtaining data/insights within community settings, drawing on ground-level research processes to present lived experiences and viewpoints from community members of different ages, backgrounds, and locations within Batley and Heckmondwike (See Table 1 for demographic insights).

Purpose

The need for local ground-level research was first identified by the Jo Cox Foundation, who proposed a pilot study to the University of Huddersfield, with the aim of deepening understanding of community members’ experiences of their local ‘place’, cohesion, togetherness, belonging, and loneliness.

Kirklees Council agreed to support the research, as the qualitative insights from this study insights would provide additional depth and complexity to their ‘Currently Living in Kirklees’ (CLiK) online survey data. Aligning with the programme of work of JCF and Kirklees Council, the key objective of this research was therefore to gather opinions and experiences from community members in Batley and Heckmondwike around the topics of:

- **Community**: How community members identified/felt about their community and how they described it.
Living in Batley and Heckmondwike:
How individuals feel about their town and 'place', exploring both positive and negative aspects.

Community Mixing and Cohesion: How much mixing community members felt there was between different sections of the community and how they view this.

Participation: Groups, places, and activities community members participate in and what their experience is of this, alongside concerns around loneliness in the community.

Research Aims
The specific aims of the research study were:

1. Investigate perceptions and experiences within communities of the research’s key themes, namely local belonging; contact across lines of difference; participation and loneliness.
2. Do this through participative research involving a group of frontline practitioners and community group members, who were recruited, trained, and supported to carry out research in their existing setting/s and to feed data back to the University for analysis.
3. Produce insights and findings from data and share in ways usable for a wide variety of community members and practitioners, as well as for JCF and Kirklees Council to feed into their wider picture of issues and concerns in local communities.
4. To disseminate insights and findings in appropriate formats to a range of policy and other stakeholders, academic audiences, and the local communities.
SECTION TWO: METHODOLOGY

Sample

This project researched with a sample of 74 individual community members, 50 of whom reside in Batley, and 24 in Heckmondwike. Despite place of residence, all participants tended to frequent both Batley and Heckmondwike.

The sample of respondents varied in age, ethnicity, faith, and gender, and were recruited via opportunity and snowball sampling. Most participants engaged in existing local groups/clubs, and those who were not involved in groups were recruited through the participating practitioners and their links with Kirklees Council to identify potential participants.

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Table 1: Participant Characteristics

Co-production/Collaboration

As part of the post COVID-19 revision to the project’s approach, the new research strategy was to collaborate with locally based frontline professionals to conduct and disseminate the research among different pockets of the community. Suitable ‘Practitioners’ were recruited and trained by the Academic Team through both online and face-to-face methods, teaching and practising a range of qualitative research methods which could be selected as appropriate to their work setting and used by practitioners (see the Training Section below for more details). By using this approach, practitioners could utilise their own work settings, existing relationships, and knowledge of the local community to gather research insights. Additionally, practitioners were given freedom within the research design to choose and shape their methods according to their sample, resulting in a number of creative and diverse approaches to data collection, including the JCF ‘Community lunch’.
Training

The Academic Team devised and conducted a programme of two face-to-face research training sessions, supported by online discussions and briefing materials. These training sessions focussed primarily on the methodology of the project: purpose, aims, and proposed research methods. Practitioners were introduced to and practised these different approaches under the assistance of the Academic Team. Building on this training, the Academic Team provided a briefing pack to consolidate their learning and all necessary materials for practitioners to undertake the research. Practitioners chose the method(s) most appropriate for their own work situations and relationships with community members. The available research methods are outlined below.

Research Methods

Interviews/Focus Groups

Semi-structured interviews were deemed as the most effective way of interviewing due to their flexible approach: allowing the researcher to ask questions, ensure clarifications, and encourage two-way conversation.

Practitioners were provided with an interview schedule (list of questions on key topics) and given freedom to deviate where they felt appropriate to gather data on community insights. Interviews could be individual or within a pair or group. They were electronically recorded, transcribed, and then deductively coded and analysed by the Academic Team. Informed consent from respondents was sought prior to recording through use of the Project’s Information Sheet.

See Appendix A1 for Interview Schedule.

Psychogeography Walking Interviews

This method was chosen for this project because it can provide ways to ‘spatially’ explore how we think about, feel and experience different places, communities, and our emotional responses to places. It is an approach used by many artists, activists and academics to document the changing forms of towns, cities and the countryside and our affective responses to such places. Psychogeographical walks can also allow us to ‘break’ from the routine ways in which we ordinarily go from ‘A to B’ in order that we can try to see and experience things in radically new ways. For this project we integrated the idea of psychogeography with an interview approach to enable a more ‘spatial’ focus on understanding peoples’ experiences of place and community.

Two walks were organised in the month of May 2023, one each in Batley and Heckmondwike, and were advertised through social media and email networks to specific individuals and groups. The first walk took place in Batley, meeting outside the Jo Cox centre with people drawn from a local history group and community cohesion team members. The Batley walk took participants through, in and around the town centre and the route plan was led by one of its members. The second walk took place in Heckmondwike, starting at the Morrisons supermarket and involved people from sectors including Kirklees Council and youth groups. For the Heckmondwike walk, we meandered through the town.
and around the suburban areas and this walk was largely led by one member that was familiar with the town. The walks were between 60-90 minutes in duration. Whilst the walks were taking place, two members of the Academic Team (ES & AB) asked interview style questions to participants. Examples of questions used were:

- How often do you take this route?
- What does it feel like to do this route?
- What is it like to go beyond your local area?
- What makes an area safe or unsafe?
- Are there any sites of conflict?
- What makes territory? Mental or physical?
- How do you create a sense of place?
- Tell me about the community and people that live here?
- What makes a community?
- What is community?
- How do borders and boundaries shape and construct your sense of belonging and identity?

The walks were recorded via Dictaphone and note-taking, while participants took pictures of what they considered to be key places or for points of discussion (See Appendix A4 for Images). Key ethical and practical issues were discussed with participants prior to the walks, i.e., informed consent. Recordings were transcribed verbatim, and deductively coded and analysed by the Academic Team. Data from the psychogeography part of this project was then drawn on in relation to analysing the key topics of this project focusing on community, living in Batley and Heckmondwike, community mixing and cohesion and finally participation.

**Word Association/Sentence Completion**

Heckmondwike Asian Women’s Group, Batley Community Members, Batley Youth and Batley Adults who attended a Jo Cox Foundation Community Lunch were asked to participate in associative exercises (See Appendix A2 & A3 for Hand Outs).

The aim of this method was to record a resident's feelings in response to the following trigger words or sentences: ‘Batley’, ‘Community’, ‘Diversity’, ‘Community Means…’ ‘My Community Includes…’, ‘The Best Thing About my Community is…’, and ‘The Biggest Problem in my Community is…’. This approach was utilised due to interest in community members’ immediate responses to and feelings about their local area and the communities and places within it.

Word Association was first used to unravel individual's sub-conscious ties to particular words. While this method was developed within a counselling environment, this associative method was found to be transferable to qualitative research. Speaking openly – especially in a research interview environment – can be difficult for some individuals, especially around sensitive subjects like the nature of the local area and how different sections of the community get on. This method helped to obtain participants’ sub-conscious thoughts of their community, offering a quick and easy method that yields interesting results.

Practitioners were responsible for disseminating and returning completed Word Association/Sentence Completion worksheets to the Academic Team where they were analysed using Word Cloud Analysis.
CLiK (Currently Living in Kirklees) Data

The research team also analysed relevant summaries of data relating to the electoral wards within Batley and Heckmondwike provided by Kirklees Council from their regular online CLiK survey. While the existing CLiK Data was quantitative in nature it is presented narratively to complement the qualitative data capture of the current project. The Academic Team felt synthesising the data in this way and presenting it alongside the project, rather making direct comparisons would avoid philosophical/methodological limitations that are typically encountered when trying to directly compare quantitative and qualitative data e.g., lack of pragmatic guidance, and requirement for a rigorous framework that would appropriately interpret combined methods.

That CLiK data mapped and related well to the four existing topic areas of this study 1) Perceptions of Community and Local Areas in Kirklees, 2) Community Cohesion and Mixing, 3) ‘Place’ and Boundaries, and 4) Participation/Loneliness:
SECTION THREE: FINDINGS

Analysis of the CLiK Data

Satisfaction, trust, and a sense of safety

Satisfaction, trust, and a sense of safety in one’s local communities appears to be key for many people. While seven in ten (72%) residents were satisfied with their local area, this level of satisfaction has fallen 7% points since 2016. Local area satisfaction in Kirklees is below the latest national benchmark of 78%. Within the borough, local area satisfaction is higher in areas of lower deprivation. Half of residents (52%) agreed that they feel safe when out in their local area after dark. Feeling safe in the local area (during the day, and after dark) has significantly decreased since 2016. Females were significantly more likely to feel unsafe in their local area after dark (34%) compared to males (22%), and this gap has widened since 2016. Younger residents and those living in the most deprived areas (Quintile 1) were also more likely to reporting feeling unsafe in their local area after dark.

Disparities

A fifth of residents have experienced discrimination in the past year, with higher prevalence amongst transgender individuals and those who didn’t want to say which gender they identified with, and BME residents. Females were significantly more likely to feel unsafe in their local area after dark (34%) compared to males (22%). The proportion of residents feeling unsafe after dark has increased by 14% in females and 8% in males since 2016. Younger residents aged 18 to 24 were the most likely to agree that they feel unsafe in their local area after dark (52%). 41% of residents living in the most deprived areas (quintile 1) said they feel unsafe in their local area after dark. The proportion of residents feeling unsafe after dark decreases as deprivation levels decrease. Just over half of the participants in the CLiK study (55%) indicated that their local areas were a place where people had trust in each other, representing a marginal increase in trust (up 2 % points) from 2016 – and was significantly higher among White residents (56%).

Loneliness

Most residents agree that they could rely on others if they needed help. Only 7% disagree that if they needed help there would be people there for them. Half of residents (50%) never, or hardly ever, feel lonely, with 6% saying they always or often feel lonely. Loneliness is also more common in younger residents, which may connect to the prevalence of mental health issues already identified among younger residents.

The proportion of residents who said that they did not get involved in their community during the last 12 months is highest among those at either end of the age spectrum, i.e., those aged 18-24 (46%) and those aged 75+ (51%). In total, 42% of those who said that they got involved in their community during the last 12 months felt that something positive came out of it.
Community Decision Making

Finally, the ability for residents in Kirklees to be able to influence decision making in their local areas was a key point for many. Twice as many Kirklees residents disagreed (42%) rather than agreed (20%) in being able to personally influence decisions affecting their local areas. Approaching two in five (38%) gave a neutral response on this issue. This negative balance of opinion on their personal influence was found among all age groups. Analysis by ethnicity shows that White and Mixed ethnicities most disagreed that they could influence local decisions (44% and 45% respectively disagree).

Word Association Cloud Analysis

This section details the key findings from the Word Association/Sentence Completion exercises, each presented within a ‘Word Cloud Analysis’. Word clouds show a visual representation of word frequency, with larger words symbolising the most common answer, and smaller words being less frequent. Word clouds are a creative way of representing written data, with their use increasing in popularity across politics, health, business, and education. Typically, Word Clouds have been critiqued for their likelihood of highlighting ‘filler’ words such as ‘and’ or ‘the’... However, using this method with the Word Association/Sentence Completion tasks has proven effective due to their brief – often singular word -- content.

Below, research data from 39 participants are analysed: Batley Adults who attended the Jo Cox Foundation Community Lunch (n=12), Heckmondwike Asian Women’s Group (n=10), Batley Youth (n=10), and Batley Community Members (n=2).

![Batley and Community Words Cloud](image)

**Figure 1:** Jo Cox Foundation Community Lunch – 12 Adults residing in Batley, Gender/Faith not specified.
Figure 2: Heckmondwike Asian Women’s Group - Ten Female Participants, Muslim, Age not Specified.

Figure 3: Batley Youth - Ten Teenagers living in Batley, Gender/Faith not specified.
Conclusions and Formulation of Key Themes

From using Word Cloud Analysis, it is apparent that community members of different ages, faiths, and genders, value their community differently. While the Asian Women’s Group tend to value their ‘community’ for providing social ties to family, friends and neighbours, Batley Youth reported a lack of ‘community’, using negative words such as: ‘vile’, ‘depressing’ and ‘hostile’. While both groups exist within the same constituency, these groups reveal stark differences between how they experience their towns, and possible differences between the two locations. Heckmondwike is suggested to be more family oriented, while Batley tends to attract more crime and anti-social behaviour. However, the Heckmondwike Asian Women’s Group did also highlight issues with traffic and cars, with ‘speeding’ and ‘parking’ being frequently used, words also echoed within the JCF Community Lunch data set.

A feeling shared across participants from Batley and Heckmondwike is the desire for more public activities and events. The Heckmondwike Asian Women’s Group data suggests that core issues within Heckmondwike can be linked to the lack of public spaces such as parks and public activities (both family and children’s activities were specified). The term ‘racism’ is also present within this data, which could suggest ties between these two issues and concerns around safety in the public spaces and events that do exist. While seemingly a tenuous link, this can be supported by data from Batley Youth, whose views offer strong correlations between being ‘bored’ and experiencing or witnessing antisocial behaviour. With reference to ‘underage drinking’, ‘vaping/smoking’, and knife crime, they suggest Batley to be rather unsafe, untrusted, and segregated. This narrative is further confirmed as

Figure 4: Batley Community Members: One Female, 59 Years Old, Church of England, and One Male, 48 Years Old, Muslim.
participants label other people in their community ‘delinquents’ and ‘idiots’. There were directly opposing comments offered by the participants involved in the JCF Community Lunch, where terms such as ‘shared’, ‘memories’, and ‘together’ are used, so highlighting a distinct difference in perspective across the age range. This difference in tone implies a sense of nostalgia among the older residents, further confirmed through terms such as ‘downhill’, ‘used to’, and ‘closure’, which suggests that they perceive the local areas to have degraded over time.

Despite evidence of disdain towards Batley among younger participants, rugby, and food (‘HFC’, ‘Food places’) are identified as seemingly positive aspects of the area, another commonality across the dataset. Batley Youth data suggests rugby to be a core focus and element to their community, however this is outnumbered by negative terminology such as ‘boring’, ‘segregated’ and ‘weird’. While sports are suggested to be a turning point for this town, its positive value is overshadowed by destructive and emotional vocabulary, suggesting a high prevalence of negative perceptions of their local environment and poor mental health within these areas, particularly among young people.

Expressed across the data sets, sports teams have met success within the typically more challenging demographics i.e., Batley Youth, facilitating feelings of ‘belonging’ and ‘togetherness’. Thus, future stakeholders and those with power to create change among Batley and Heckmondwike might focus on increasing sporting activities/events to decrease hostility, raise morale, and improve community cohesion among its residents.

Research has identified that poor mental health has seen a dramatic increase, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering the frequency of negative terminology within our Word Association/Sentence Completion dataset, as well as a national increase of poor mental health, investing in sports and exercise participation, community events and creative health – policy approaches related to what is known as ‘social prescribing’ -could prove advantageous for local people in these towns. As the Government and healthcare services begin to align with non-traditional methods like social prescribing, Batley and Heckmondwike could expect co-operation with the Government, NHS England, or potential funders in implementing such interventions.

Like sports, greenspaces are also seemingly valued by the residents of Batley and Heckmondwike. High frequency of words like ‘[Wilton] park’, ‘rural’, ‘green’ and ‘landscape’ suggest residents to be attracted to these spaces, and to value them. Found across all datasets, we can identify that enjoying greenspace is shared across all types of residents, suggesting a natural commonality, which, if utilised in the right way, could improve cohesion, inclusion, and behaviour across Batley and Heckmondwike.

The Academic Team discussed their approach to analysis which included data of several mediums: semi-structured interviews, psychogeographical walking interviews, word association/sentence completion, and other forms of external data, i.e., CLiK. In analysing the data from all the research methods and settings, the Academic Team took into consideration four main topic areas: 1) Perceptions of Community and Local Areas in Kirklees, 2) Community Cohesion and Mixing, 3) ‘Place’ and Boundaries, and 4) Participation/Loneliness.

Prior to analysis the Academic Team first met to conduct an initial pilot analysis of small sets of data. Following this, the remaining data was shared among the Academic Team to analyse where five super-ordinate themes were established:
1. Town Centres
2. Antisocial Behaviour and Lack of Safety
3. Activities, Belonging, and Loneliness
4. Nostalgia
5. Community Cohesion and Togetherness

Synthesis of Key Themes

Theme 1: Town Centres

There were many views, both positive and negative, expressed about local town centres. Some older people expressed the view that ‘Things aren’t what they used to be’, referring to the lack of amenities such as banks in towns like Heckmondwike. One person indicated that many of the local amenities had been ‘pulled down’ and that towns such as Heckmondwike were ‘going downhill’ … ‘there’s nothing to draw you into Heckmondwike. There’s nothing at the moment that’s good about it’. Other people indicated that the textile industries in towns such as Batley had gone into a long decline and, as a result, such places had become like a ‘ghost town’.

However, these more critical views were contrasted by more positive views. First, some of the younger people talked about specific town centre amenities which they liked: “We enjoy it at McDonalds, this is a good place for us to meet. It’s lighter here and Lidl have cheap sweets and we just walk through the park” (Batley Adolescents).

On the positive perception of town centres, there was also discussion by older people of places of interest such as Batley Park, the Batley Focus Group, and Batley Museum. Others indicated that towns such as Cleckheaton have ‘everything you need’, but that there were ‘too many takeaways and vape shops’.

Furthermore, there was also a positive view that towns such as Batley and Heckmondwike were ‘up-and-coming’ and that there was a decent range of reasonably priced housing and dining establishments in Batley, whilst Heckmondwike was perceived as a calm place. However, others indicated that towns such as Batley did not have a great range of shopping options due to the expansion of supermarket chains. Some people considered that large supermarket chains were irrevocably changing the form of town centres such as Heckmondwike and Batley:

Max – Everyone in Heckmondwike blames Morrisons.
Lisa – YES, I have heard that.
Max – For the death of the town. (Heckmondwike Walk).

Some of the positive perceptions of supermarket chains was contrasted with negative impacts on town centres:

Morrison is nice and helpful, but it killed all the little businessmen. There used to be hundreds of stores and businesses and they’ve all died … Now it’s only big companies … the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. (Heckmondwike Walk).

Such sentiments were echoed in other data sets, where one person discussed how they enjoyed going to the local markets, that it instilled a real sense of ‘community’ and that
Morrisons ‘has ruined it’. There was also a further argument building on this critique of supermarkets in that it wasn’t simply their fault (the supermarkets) but rather that people weren’t choosing to shop at local stores such as the butchers and bakers: “You don’t shop at the local bread shop anymore, so I can blame you” (Heckmondwike Walk).

Other people explained how they tried to support small local businesses: “I like trying to go to independent cafes trying to support local places rather than big companies” (Batley Supermarket).

Locations such as Batley Plaza were seen by some people to have ‘failed miserably’ and that the plaza used to have ‘lots of independent different shops but now it’s just women’s or wedding clothing’. However, others explained that the Asian community had rejuvenated the economy in Batley: ‘if we didn’t have the Asian community, Batley would be dead!’.

Among some of the younger people in the project, they explained that they chose to frequent larger cities and towns such as Leeds and Huddersfield, rather than Batley and Heckmondwike: “I normally stay around Leeds or Huddersfield. There is a lot more stuff to do there” (Heckmondwike Walk).

There was also discussion as to the lack of free public conveniences in town centres... “There’s no public convenience in Batley either, other than Tesco. You have to pay 20p to use the toilet” (Batley Focus Group).

Though some people expressed solutions to these problems, such as using the bushes:

...plenty of bushes. People use them ... there's bushes all the way. They should open up the town hall for us to use the toilet there. They do in Ossett. They also have an indoor charity market. (Batley Focus Group).

Finally, there was discussion of a need for a distinct centre to towns such as Batley and Heckmondwike.

Heckmondwike has a town centre, but it doesn’t really have a focus other than the bus station, it lacks a centre, it's soulless really. They have a lovely park which Batley hasn’t … (Batley Café).

Some people suggested that there was a need to put on local events for everyone without a specific religious or cultural focus. There are some specific indicators for ways in which to improve and build on a sense of a central or focal point to town centres such as Batley and Heckmondwike by putting on events which would bring people together and to consider the role and impact of large companies such as supermarket chains in relation to existing small business and local amenities.

**Theme 2: Anti-Social Behaviour and Lack of Safety**

Anti-social behaviour and lack of safety in public spaces were prominent worries across the data, particularly associated with younger male members of the community. A sense of loss and hurt was present throughout the data sets, as participants tended to mourn their town, suggesting the community to be unfamiliar and hostile: “You know the area, but you don’t know the people anymore” (Heckmondwike Focus Group).
This sentimental feeling is ever-present throughout the dataset, linked with feelings of sadness and fear. In both Batley and Heckmondwike, young males have become a symbol of danger, clearly indicated as the root of criminal activity.

…it’s just lads terrorising people in Poundstretcher, throwing stones at people as they come out of the shops. They had police down by the doctors because they’re terrorising it. (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

Participants used strong, emotive words when discussing the impact of young males across Batley and Heckmondwike. Clear boundaries and ‘territory’ have been drawn, evoking a sense of ‘us’ and ‘them’. These beliefs were common across all ages, certainly among younger participants who commented on the presence of gangs and knife crime.

The group felt staying locally in Healey was best for their safety. There is now too much trouble with gangs such as ACG in Staincliffe, so they avoid it as those members carry knives (Batley Adolescents).

Boundaries were significant in this data set, as participants identified hotspots where criminal activity would manifest. The borders of community boundaries were both rhetorical and physical as boundaries were drawn between community members and physical land like housing estates.

In Heckmondwike, yeah, the two big estates are dangerous. (Batley Café).

I used to walk under the tunnel from Tesco all the time but it’s not safe to (do that) now. (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

Wouldn’t go past Wilton Park and stayed locally. (Batley Adolescents).

Areas such as Staincliffe, Westfield, Commercial Street, the Tesco Tunnel, and Ravensthorpe, were highlighted as problem areas, places that people would now avoid. Crime hotspots are presented in Figure 1.
When individuals had no choice but to enter these problem areas, participants tended to put on a façade to deter dangerous individuals: “I look assertive, so they don’t mess with me” (Batley Focus Group).

This was common among older participants that relied on public transport, often having to enter these unsafe zones as part of their daily routine. While crime seems to have increased in the last decade, a notable response from a female participant suggests that these towns had always harboured issues, it is just now also happening to males, naturally bringing attention to this matter: “I feel like as a woman it’s always been there” (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

This response was poignant as it takes away the notion that crime is new to these towns, and instead, more visible due to the victims now also including men. This narrative suggests women to be most at risk, evidenced further through Figure 1 which shows substantially high rates of sexual violence across both Batley and Heckmondwike. Further, the data shows crimes to often be spontaneous, perhaps a result of boredom due to lack of activities in the area (see Theme 3).

When you hear that a poor woman is parked in Morrison’s and gets her windscreen smashed, just for the fun of it… it makes you nervous of going out. I would never go in the car on a night shopping anymore. I used to pop down to Morrisons regularly, but I wouldn’t do it now (Heckmondwike Female).

Interestingly, a bidirectional relationship was identified, as a lack of community activities increases the likelihood of crime, while crime itself decreases the amount of community events due to fear and hostility: “The antisocial behaviour is such a problem, it has a knock-on effect, and everything gets worse” (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

The residual fear left behind from anti-social behaviour has been suggested to be the reason for the town’s downfall, declining further because of hostile interactions inducing hesitance around resolving issues, and in some circumstances, even leaving the house.

She (daughter) goes in and out locks the door and that’s it. Levels of crime and drugs. She has drug dealers next door to her, sat out on the doorsteps till all hours, boozing. (Heckmondwike Couple).

Finally, while both Batley and Heckmondwike have pockets of crime, Heckmondwike tended to be perceived as most dangerous and volatile.

I feel so much safer in Batley than I do Heckmondwike. Especially with all the food places being open at night, there’s families around. (Batley Café).

Batley’s commitment to town centre regeneration has proven successful in increasing feelings of safety around this area. Notably, the presence of late-night food establishments has increased footfall in late hours, helping community members to feel more comfortable in the dark, an aspect that might be effective in Heckmondwike centre also.

**Theme 3: Activities, Belonging and Loneliness**

Several issues around community activities, belonging and loneliness were identified by respondents. The need for more public events and activities in Batley was highlighted:
I know they are doing some more pedestrianising, which is good, but we need more activities. We have a few cultural things, but we need more events, more fun things, things to attract people that isn’t just about food. (Batley Café).

Respondents in Heckmondwike, though, felt that there were less activities there than in Batley:

They used to have fun fairs and stalls and bands on at one time. They had the farmers market once a month I think but it’s just not enough to draw people in. we could do with something happening. I’ve never heard anything happening, even at the coronation. But in Batley they did afternoon tea on the marketplace! Why couldn’t we have got anything like that? (Heckmondwike Female)

Heckmondwike was viewed as generally lacking in social gathering spaces and places:

If you were just walking around in Heckmondwike, where do you go? I don’t even think there’s a library anymore, maybe you could go to Morrisons, there’s no central place to find out about these things. We need a hub where people can know about these things. (Batley Cafe interview).

…but they built a new indoor market, it lasted a few years but it’s gone now. (Couple Interview Heckmondwike).

Some people saw this as made worse by a more general decline in togetherness and neighbourliness:

…everyone seems to be withdrawing into their own… I don’t know what the right word is. But they’re just not seeing each other. I think it was heading this way before Covid, but Covid accelerated it. Covid was a catalyst. (Batley Couple Interview).

The same respondents mentioned the marked decline of traditional ‘nightlife’ venues of pubs and clubs in the area. There was, though, considerable praise for the activities and community groups that are available:

I feel most comfortable here [at the social club/group]. This is specifically for women which is good, we also have an Andy’s Man Club. (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

The sense of belonging and community from participating in groups and activities is evident:

When I go to luncheon club, I’ll see someone is not there and when I see them, I’ll say, “We missed you” and just saying that and we sent a birthday card too and he came back the next week, we have to get people out of their habits especially after Covid (Batley Focus Group interview).

This positivity was echoed by other respondents:

I volunteer for West Yorkshire ADHD support group. We support everybody that is affected by neurological conditions, ADHD, autism, Tourette’s, and the different comorbidities that go along with that. We have a wide range of service users, I hate that term, we have Muslim families, White families, all different classes and we mix them all together and spend time as a community and it’s absolutely brilliant….Being out and about and speaking to people, letting them know what help is out there because having children with these problems can be really isolating and we have come to the conclusion that we are also probably on the spectrum as we explore it all. (Batley Couple).
One respondent echoed this positivity about the group they participated but highlighted that:

There should be an easier way of accessing them (community groups), a timetable of all the community groups would be great, because people don’t realise what’s out there. (Individual Interview, Batley).

Other respondents focussed on the lack of activities and groups for some people in the community:

I don’t mean to be disrespectful...but for over fifties there’s luncheon clubs like this. You can get a friend to go with you. But I’m not that age and for three years I’ve been sat on my own in my house and I don’t have a friend, there’s a grey area for people like me… Batley is very limiting to people like me…because I’m not classed as elderly. (Batley Focus Group).

Others highlighted how lack of funding limited the activities that their group could run:

All we need is some regular coffee mornings, but we don’t have the money. You think someone like Mind would have eventually set something up, but they haven’t. I’ve contacted so many companies and all of them say no. (Heckmondwike Focus Group)

The need for more accessible groups and activities was highlighted in response to levels of loneliness within the community.

There are so many lonely people. The amount of people that don’t see anybody week to week. I’m lucky, I live on my own, but I’ve got a lot of family, I can see them if I want to. But others don’t have that choice. (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

This led the same group to propose that:

The community could do more. We need somebody or some organisation who can find out who’s lonely and help. If GPs could put something in pace and help. People with cancer have their own centres specifically where they can grab a drink and chat with people, but we need it for people who are just lonely too. It’s really hard for them to break that cycle and it’s hard to admit that you’re lonely. It’s like being at an Alcoholics Anonymous (group). People won’t say it. (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

Theme 4: Nostalgia

Nostalgia was a core theme that ran across much of the data set and was linked to the long-term loss of the industry that shaped life and place locally in Batley and Heckmondwike, alongside the increasing multiculturalism, the ethnic and faith diversity, of the modern community. Here, there was a sense of loss and nostalgia expressed amongst the older participants about what towns such as Batley and Heckmondwike used to be like, ‘45 years ago, the only thing that were good was that you knew you had a neighbour’ who could be relied on everyday support. Another example discussed was:

It’s a different atmosphere now though. If there was music, we danced in the street, but now the only time we dance in Batley is if there’s a festival day, we don’t have any buskers or anything. It’s a completely different atmosphere to places like Leeds than there is in Batley or Heckmondwike. (Batley Focus Group).

Nostalgia was linked to place but also to a sense of community:
Practitioner: Do you think you lose community now, since people are distracted with other things and issues?

Participant 1: Oh yes. Back in the day if someone died there would be someone with a clean white sheet ready to help, if there was a new baby your neighbour helped you deal with it, people did talk more and get on much better in those days because they were all in the same boat. They all had not much. (Batley Focus Group).

Nostalgia was also presented in terms of local amenities that used to be available including the local butchers, bakers, and grocery stores:

It was a real thriving town’ ... ‘It was a very parochial town (Heckmondwike), in terms of... everyone doing the same thing, they went to work ... everybody worked, a lot of men worked, the women stayed at home with children, work at home and then on a Sunday, people went to church. (Heckmondwike Walk).

However, this was often contrasted by some people to a sense of sadness in how things were and how things are now...

People did communicate more in those days. The trouble is there are more things for people to do today, loads of people have cars, TV, sports or football and various things, it’s a busy life for young people with kids, the world has changed a lot. (Batley Focus Group).

Also, some people discussed how the use and function of some buildings had changed over time, particularly in relation to buildings such as churches which people used to frequent on a regular basis, and which denoted important life events such as weddings and christenings:

Practitioner – How do you feel about all that now? (Referring to Heckmondwike).

Max – Quite sad, quite sad that they couldn’t sustain it as uh, as an actual Church. (Heckmondwike Walk).

Later in the discussions, some people indicated that a particular church had been converted into residential flats and that another religious building around the corner was being used as a ‘Saving Food Initiative’. So, there were some positive upsides to the changing form of towns and cities with historical buildings being used by volunteers to support people with food expenses during the ‘cost of living crisis’, as well as other places of interest to people such as Batley Park, the Batley Focus Group and Batley Museum, ‘Lots of heritage’.

There were also important generational views about what life is like now, compared to older generational views ‘They are not living more in the Yorkshire way’. Other people indicated that whilst nostalgia was a good thing, that people needed to ‘move on’, that society needs to ‘change’ and that we need to build on the ‘history of the past’.

For example, one older participant indicated that whilst they loved their childhood, he thought that ‘15-year-olds of today will reminisce about Chicanos’. It is thus important not to assume that older generational views should be the same as younger generational views. It could be argued that we need a dialogue across generations and communities to consider what future form of towns and cities that people want. The final point seems important to consider when reflecting on generational differences in perceptions of place and nostalgia and the future design, form and function of our towns and cities.
Theme 5: Community Cohesion and Togetherness

Some respondents highlighted how people of different ethnic and faith backgrounds got on:

Well, we seem to get on alright together, don’t we? A good mix of communities (Batley Walk Respondent 1) …. Yeah! A good mix of people. (Batley Walk Respondent 2).

Other Batley residents ‘felt some communities got on well near them but further out they felt it was still divided’… and that ‘most people get on well if you’re part of the community’ (Batley Adolescents). Some residents highlighted that they had always got on in the Batley and Heckmondwike areas:

I had lots of different groups of friends. We played cricket and football on the field at the back. There were about thirty of us, me and my brother and the rest were all Asian lads off the street. We used to have a laugh and a joke. I still keep in touch with him now. When I first moved here, one of the lads I first knocked about with, he saw my wife and said tell your husband that if he needs anything I’m only three doors down, just give me a knock and I hadn’t seen him for 14 or 15 years and still remembered me. (Older Couple, Batley).

In terms of cohesion, mixing of different ethnicities was commonplace in the data. While some participants embraced cohesion:

We’ve seen Asian families grow and get married; I’ve helped them with three passport applications. They have lovely kids, lovely family. We get on absolutely superbly. We don’t have a problem with anybody… It’s a really good cross section of everybody here. (White interviewee, Batley Focus Group).

Some participants highlighted how the older community might have prejudiced views:

I’m not sure where I live there’s never been any trouble or racism. Maybe the older end could be better, but I think it’s pretty fine (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

This prejudice was evidenced in various areas of the data when discussing the changing demographic balance of the area.

A community-based business in Batley highlighted how investment by the South Asian background community was helping to rejuvenate Batley town centre and create social spaces for mixing:

People just need to understand that when communities come into areas, they bring advantages, and they bring investment which a lot of the South Asian people are doing. We have a lot of customers that we get along with too…. It’s all happened through food really. It’s done a lot for this place. (Batley Café).

The importance of food in community sharing was emphasised by others:

The lady next door to me used to cook a lot and she asked if I wanted some food and I’m not joking, I absolutely love Eid; I don’t need to cook for a week, I’m stuffed! (Heckmondwike Focus Group).

Respondents did highlight:

We just need more events together to understand each other more’. Also, ‘to make people mix more, it would take quite a while but to do more community and music
outside in summer, people love music, games for children, Yorkshire day, barbecues'. (Batley Focus Group).

A similar view about the need for community events to bring people together was identified in a Heckmondwike interview:

It used to happen when we had the park events, there would be everybody in there, but I don’t know if it’s going to open this year. We could do with that happening again because it does bring everyone together. (Heckmondwike Female).

Further, some respondents felt that community togetherness and mixing generally across all communities had declined in the area:

I think recently, it seems to have gone off. During Covid everyone pulled together, and we had a right community spirit going all around Heckmondwike and other local areas, but since Covid, people are just getting on with their own lives… everyone’s gone back into their boxes, and no one seems to go out and help anyone anymore… In other areas people are out there doing a lot for the community, but we just don’t seem to have anything in Heckmondwike. (Heckmondwike Female).

Some older residents saw this as symptomatic of a loss of neighbourliness more generally, “no one talks these days…we used to know everyone on the street. But now we don’t know who they are - not a clue” (Heckmondwike Couple).
SECTION FOUR: ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

This innovative pilot study obtained nuanced data on people’s experiences of living in Batley and Heckmondwike. The research approach adopted in this project utilised practitioners’ work settings and relationships with existing community groups and contacts to gather experiences and insights from residents in a variety of ways. Community-based practitioners enabled this research and deserve credit for making this research and its insights possible.

The small scale of this research study means that our findings are indicative and cannot lead to firm recommendations. However, a number of issues for consideration of government and non-government stakeholders interested in community engagement, place-based working, and policymaking are given:

- **Existing community groups and activities** are valued and appreciated, highlighting the importance of social infrastructure in shaping a connected place-based sense of community identity and belonging. It was noted that there had been a marked decline in community-based social infrastructure and that greater funding and support was essential to enable more opportunities to engage and participate in local community organisations and activities.

- **Improved access to existing community-based social infrastructure** was seen as important, as was a greater awareness of what groups, clubs, and activities are available, and their details such as where and when they meet is required. There is general interest in increasing the frequency, access, and types of events and activities. Heckmondwike in particular lacks places and opportunities for people to come together. Events around food would be particularly valued and can empower local businesses to participate. Increasing and diversifying opportunities and approaches to community cohesion are encouraged.

- **Cohesion between different faiths and ethnicities** was apparent and generally seen as positive. However, there is still existing demand to bring different communities together through shared community celebrations and activities. It was noted that there was less community engagement among residents from Heckmondwike, particularly those of Black and Asian heritage.

- **There are distinct disparities in how Batley and Heckmondwike were viewed.** Batley town centre is generally viewed as rejuvenated with new food establishments and tends to be favoured over nearby towns like Heckmondwike, or Dewsbury. Whereas Heckmondwike town centre, is perceived negatively, referred to as ‘unsafe’ and ‘lonely’. In both cases, major supermarkets are both popular but also viewed as negatively impacting other local shops and thus referred to as the ‘death of the town’.

- **There is considerable nostalgia among older community members across Batley and Heckmondwike.** This is accentuated by the many fine old industrial buildings in the area, which tend to be empty and unused. The importance of the built environment in enhancing a sense of place-based belonging and pride in place was evident in our research. Renovating and rejuvenating these buildings was seen as important in bolstering the community’s perception of their towns and civic morale and pride.

- **Across respondents there was serious concern about safety** (particularly within isolated greenspaces). Many young people have a strong sense of safe and unsafe ‘territory’. Many adults are wary of their safety in certain public spaces and avoid known crime ‘hotspots’, such as tunnels or town centres later in the evening. Allied
was concern about anti-social behaviour, particularly speeding and racing cars that endanger pedestrians of all ages. There was substantial worry relating to traffic accidents, and blocked walkways, thus further pedestrianism would be valued.

- The potential for research opportunities stemming from this pilot project are significant. The innovative mixed methods approach could be translated and used as a template across different areas of the UK, and beyond to understand the experiences and needs of communities and places, and how they form and express place-based identities, pride in place, and belonging.

**Research Note**

If similar research was to be conducted, researchers might consider how they would attract the interest of those who are isolated and/or do not participate in community events or clubs. Naturally, those who participate tend to be the same people that might be involved in local events or have interest in improving the area, therefore, those who are isolated tend to be left out. While the Practitioners were able to identify and reach out to particular individuals through their links with the Council, further research must consider inclusion of seldom-heard individuals.

Further consideration should be given to funding participation. Due to a lack of funds, it was not possible to pay practitioners, nor participants for their time. Reimbursement of participation might improve community research and participant retention and increase engagement within the research.

Additional limitations rest within the methods conducted. While practitioners’ efforts were invaluable, as research progressed, an imbalance in the utilisation of differing methods became clear as the project developed with some methods used more than others. In future, researchers might wish to organise small groups who are responsible for one method to avoid role confusion and overload, to simplify training requirements and obtain a broad range of data in a more efficiently.
UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC TEAM

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Emma Victoria Shiel is a Postgraduate Researcher (PhD) affiliated with the University of Huddersfield, Department of Psychology. She is a Social Scientist with specific interest in phenomenology, particularly experiences of chronic illness, with a long-term interest in type 1 diabetes. Emma recently published: ‘Self-Management of Type 1 Diabetes in Young Adults: is it impeded by aspects of everyday life? A Scoping Review’ within the journal of Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research & Reviews. Available on open access: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S187140212300214X

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Dr Andy Mycock is Chief Policy Fellow of the Yorkshire and Humber Policy Engagement and Research Network (Y-PERN) based in the Leeds University Business School. He is a political scientist with extensive experience of research-led academic policy engagement, collaborating with a wide range of government and non-government stakeholders across the UK and internationally. He sits on the executive committee of the University Policy Engagement Network and is an elected trustee of the Political Studies Association. His key research interests and publications focus on democratic and community engagement and participation in public policy, and devolution politics and policy in the UK. He chaired the Kirklees Democracy Commission in 2016-18 and has sat a number of UK Government and devolved commissions and evidence inquiries.

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APPENDIX

A1: Interview Schedule

Living in Batley and Heckmondwike: Individual / Group Interview Guidance

Information:
- This interview can be carried out with individuals or with a small group.
- This interview should run for a MAXIMUM OF 15 MINUTES.
- We do not need to know the names of the interviewees.
- This interview is semi-structured in style, therefore you are encouraged to follow participant nuances and ask relevant spontaneous questions, for
  further data, or discussion purposes.
- This interview will involve an informal chat, participants must be comfortable
  and feel supported.
- You do not have to ask ALL questions, feel free to skip questions as you see
  fit... Some participants may only cover a few.

Recording:
- Please be mindful that these interviews are being recorded, try not to talk too
  fast and speak clearly.
- The interview can be recorded through your mobile phone using the "Voice
  memo" feature on iPhone or "Voice recorder" on Android.
- Please return audio recordings and any notes to:
  Emma (emma.shaw@hud.ac.uk)
  or
  Andy (andy.palsho@hud.ac.uk).

General Tips:
- Allowing the participants to talk freely. Focus on the quality of the answers
  rather than quantity, however, take control if answers start to deviate too far.
- Try not to speak too much, other than when necessary, participants voice
  should remain around 70% of the recording.
- Facilitators can be powerful, despite the interview being quite short, allow silence
  to speak, this may push participants to think or talk more.
- Feel free to have a small chat prior to introducing yourself can be effective for
  building rapport.

Tips for Group Interviews:
- Your role as the interview advisor is to ensure the group interact with each other
  equally, respectfully and do not drift off-topic.
- Ideally, the interviewer is accessible to participants in terms of appearance.
  Knowledge of the tools and should be mild and unobtrusive to all participants yet
  being able to control over dominant talkers.

Living in Batley and Heckmondwike: Interview Schedule

Interviewer:

Date carried out:

Required Information:
1. What do you call your local area?
2. How would you describe your identity?
3. How would you describe your faith?
4. Do you need anyone else in your life?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Area</th>
<th>Examples of Questions and Probes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Batley/</td>
<td>- Can you tell me about your local area?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heckmondwike</td>
<td>- Tell me about some things you like or dislike about the area...</td>
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<td>- How well do you feel comfortable in your local area?</td>
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<td>- Are there any parts of the local area that you don’t feel comfortable in, why?</td>
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<td>- From your perspective, how well do people from different backgrounds get on together in your area?</td>
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<td>- What could help to improve good interactions between different communities in the area?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Loneliness</td>
<td>- Can you tell me about any groups or places in your local area? Do you participate?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Are there enough opportunities for people to join in things locally?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Can you tell me about loneliness in Batley?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tell me about your friends. Describe your social group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Do you have any friends of a different church or faith background to you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Do you have friends of different ages?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- How often do you socialise outside your home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What do you consider when visiting someone’s home?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## A2: Sentence Completion Worksheet

Please write down the first FIVE things that come to mind to complete the sentences below. Once you’ve written your answers, please don’t change them!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community means...</th>
<th>The best thing about my community is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community means...</td>
<td>The best thing about my community is...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community means...</td>
<td>The best thing about my community is...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community means...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community means...</td>
<td>The best thing about my community is...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My community includes...</th>
<th>The biggest problem in my community is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My community includes...</td>
<td>The biggest problem in my community is...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My community includes...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>My community includes...</td>
<td>The biggest problem in my community is...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A3: Word Association Worksheet

Living in Batley and Heckmondwike: Word Association

Please write down the first FIVE words that come to mind for each of the words below. Once written, DON'T CHANGE THE WORDS THAT YOU WRITE!

Batley... Kinties...
Batley... Kinties...
Batley... Kirklees...
Batley... Kirklees...
Batley... Kirklees...

Community... Diversity...
Community... Diversity...
Community... Diversity...
Community... Diversity...
Community... Diversity...
A4: Content/Images from Psychogeographical Walks

Take part in a Walking Interview!

We are interested in walking around your local area to explore your thoughts on: community, place, identity and togetherness.

Walking interviews help us to explore our relationship with environments: including how we think, feel and experience different places and spaces. If you are interested in taking part, please let us know! Your participation is appreciated.

Batley Walks to meet at: Jo Cox House.
Heckmondwike Walks to meet at: Morisson’s Entrance, WF18 0DD.

11th May Batley: 4-6pm
24th May Batley: 1-3pm
25th May Heckmondwike: 4-6pm.

a) Flyer
b) Heckmondwike Psychogeography

c) Photos from the Psychogeographical walking route in Batley

d) Photos from the Psychogeographical walking route in Heckmondwike