

THE
BUREAU



High Peak Walk Derbyshire

Community Engagement Data and Insight Collation



active
derbyshire



High Peak Borough Council

The vision of Walk Derbyshire is to make **every day walking** the norm for residents of Derbyshire.

High Peak has funding to carry out a small-scale pilot that will focus on **community engagement and co-production.**

This will develop an understanding of the **barriers and opportunities** to support residents to walk more, with a focus on areas with the highest levels of inactivity and deprivation.

A High Peak Walking Consortium has been formed, made of cross-sector partners.

The scope of this work was to **gather findings** from the range of engagement that has taken place, and **produce a report** to aid our current understanding of what our communities are saying across the **High Peak**.

This will aid decision making about 'what' and 'where' our next engagement steps are.



- An overview of what walking and active travel community engagement has taken place in Buxton, Glossopdale, Hope Valley and New Mills. Information from the central area, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Chinley and Whaley Bridge could also be included.
- A summary of overall findings for each place and High Peak as a whole.
- Specific findings and understanding about our priority audiences and places:
 - People living with long term health conditions and disabilities
 - Young adults aged 16-34 including young people and families
 - People aged 35-54 within identified priority place
 - People who are unemployed
 - People living in Fairfield, Cote Heath, Gamesley, Hadfield, Whitfield and Ollersett.

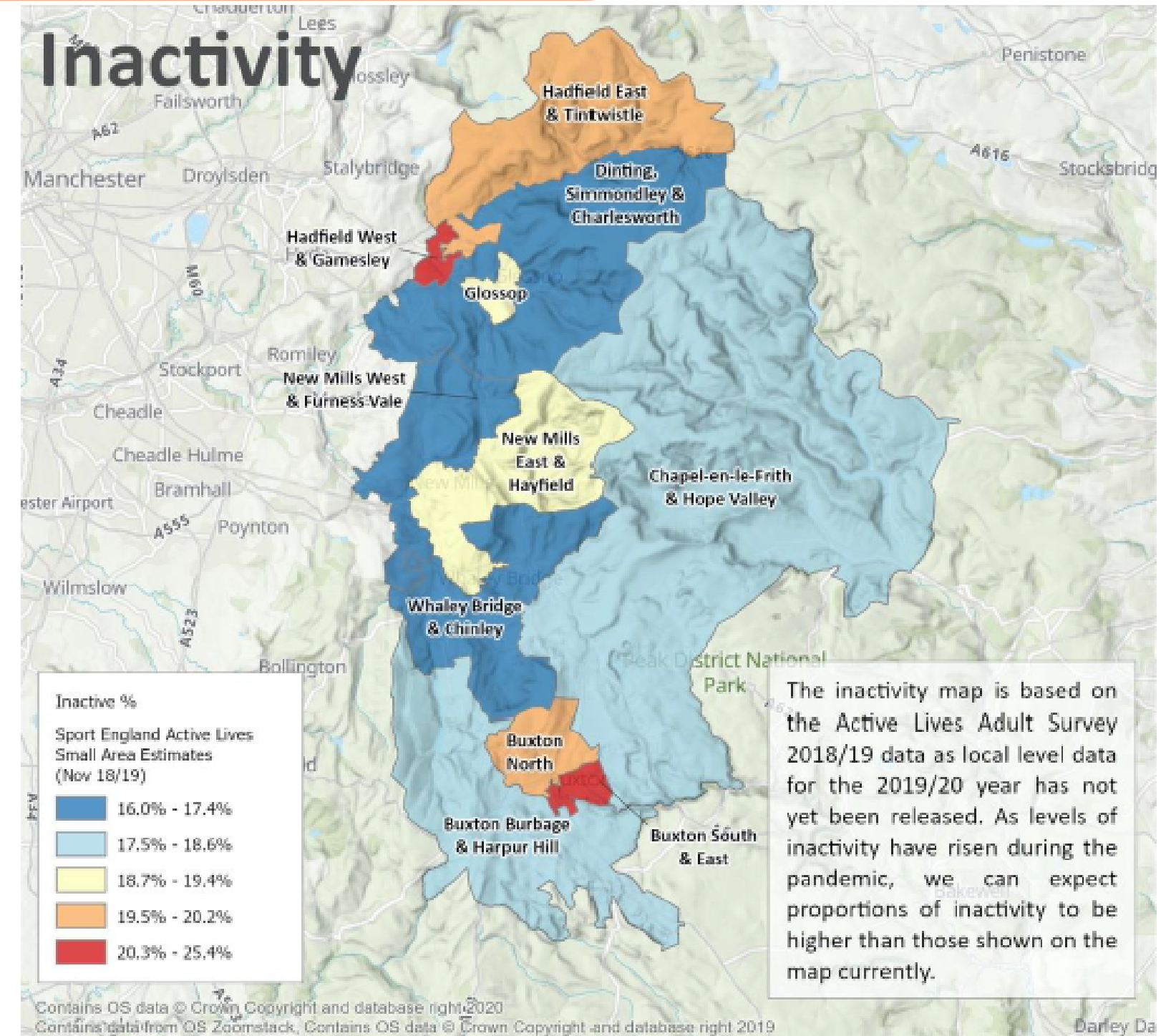


Why these places?

Gamesley, Cote Heath, Hadfield, Whitfield, Ollersett and Fairfield are all within the 10% most deprived areas in Derbyshire, which shows on the ground as high levels of child poverty and obesity, unemployment, low life expectancies, long term health conditions and many other worrying factors.

Gamesley North and South are the top 2 most deprived areas in the High Peak, followed by Fairfield.

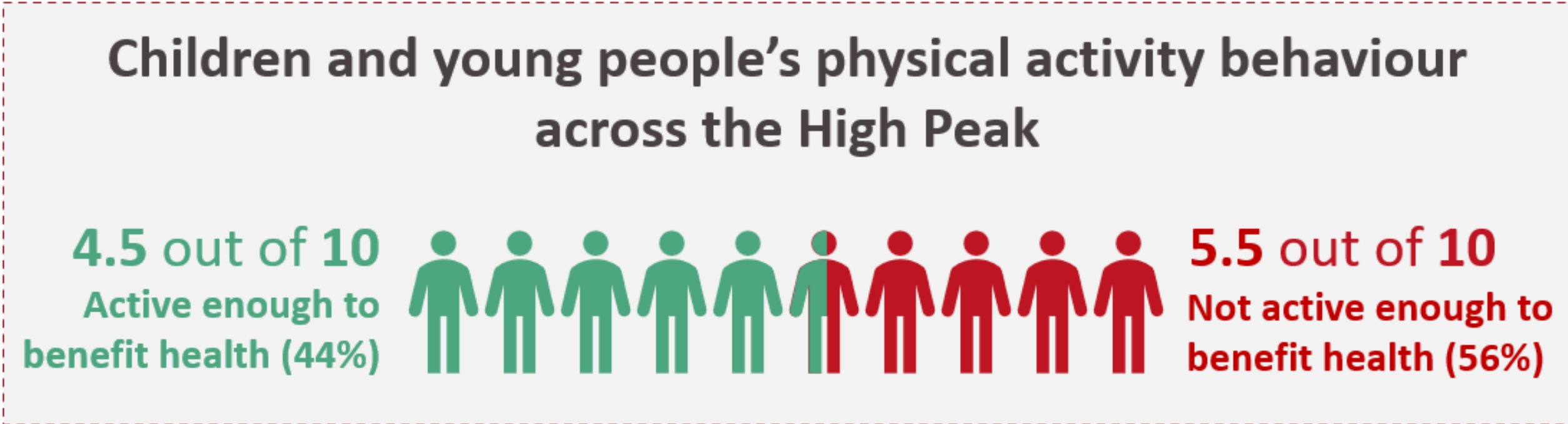
Glossopdale, Buxton, New Mills and Hope Valley are also a key focus of the Move More High Peak Strategy.



Why these people?

Greatest need in terms of inactivity is evident in these groups:

- People with a limiting illness or disability
- Older people
- People and families on lower incomes
- Children and young people



Source: Sport England Active Lives Children & Young People Survey 2017-2021



Methodology

Desktop research

1-1 meetings

General mithering

High Peak Borough Council (Sally Curley, Caz Whittle, Cllr Gill Scott)

Move More Glossop (Helen Thornhill, Scott Thompson)

Buxton Town Team (Andy Parker)

New Mills Volunteer Centre (Mark Allen)

Hope Valley Travelling Light

Peak District National Park (Jo Hanney)

Active Derbyshire (Sarah Rogers, Heather Clarkson)



Glossopdale



Let's Keep Glossop Moving Travel Survey

Walking as a method of transport around the area is popular, however there are clear issues that prevent or impede walking

44% of respondents said they didn't always find walking around Glossopdale easy due to pavement parking, dog poo, too much traffic or poor pavement conditions.

88% respondents had no health conditions, and the majority of respondents were between 30 and 70, which means that the views of certain groups have potentially been missed, such as young people and those with long term disabilities or conditions.



Young People of Glossop Survey

Engaged with local young people aged 11-19 to examine attendance at clubs, physical activities, and general safety for young people.

The majority of respondents said they traveled around Glossopdale on foot.

Most said they felt safe walking to activities, but identified some areas that they felt less safe in, or that they felt safer when they were with their friends, or in the day time.

When asked 'what would encourage you to walk more', most said either better routes, better weather, walking with friends or having something fun to walk to, doing a game like PokemonGO, or if it were safer.

Walking Survey

Collated some general observations and community engagement in Gamesley.

- Cost of living impacts walking activities
- Education impairs walking generally
- Many respondents felt some social anxiety about going out walking
- Safety was a big issue
- However, 1/3 of respondents walked for more than an hour a day
- The things that stop people from walking are mostly the weather and a lack of time.

Hope Valley Travelling Light



Are undertaking 3 main surveys, speaking to both residents and visitors, focusing on travel habits. A draft report of an initial 344 respondents (an event split of visitors and residents) showed some key findings:

- Very few Hope Valley residents live within 10-15 minute walk, wheel or cycle from key amenities such as schools, supermarkets, dentists and pharmacies.
- Specific concerns regarding uneven pavements and inaccessible transport were identified by people with mobility issues
- Majority of respondents said that they travelled to Hope Valley by car, and once in the valley, most people stated that they walked or wheeled around
- Measures that would make people more likely to walk, wheel and cycle include improved public transport services, more easy access paths, more traffic-free routes, park and ride facilities etc.



Active 4 Life - New Mills Insights 2020

Shift Together undertook a piece of research to gain an understanding of what's going on in New Mills, what's strong, and what matters to people.

Some mapping of the social infrastructure took place, with a focus on well-being - physical, social, mental, individual and economic.

Some next steps to 'build on what's strong' include:

- Encouraging local people to use their parks and open spaces more widely
- Encouraging and connecting small organisations to create a strong network of providers of physical activity
- Identify the hidden inequalities that exist in parts of the town where residents are not as engaged as others, and there are perhaps lower levels of health and wellbeing.



New Mills 2030.

7 key themes: Transport, local economy, waste, mindsets, nature, energy, food and farming.

The community valued:

- Their footpath network
- Their public transport
- Their leisure facilities

They did not value:

- Pavement parking
- Fixed working hours
- Formal dress codes

They wanted to further research human behaviour, and what might influence positive change.

Throughout this document there is a clear thirst for change, to improve the local area and to work together as a community to overcome barriers. They did identify 'next steps' but it isn't clear who is the owner of these and whether there was any follow up.



New Mills Primary School

Undertook an Active Travel survey in January 2020. At the time:

- 80% parents walked their children to school
- 50% of parents who travelled by car said they did so because they drop their children at school on the way to work, and 68% said they lacked the time to walk.
- 43% of parents said an earlier drop off time would allow them to walk their children to school.

Some issues highlighted were

- Bad parking and driving on Meadow St
- Idle engines polluting the roads
- No lollipop person

A second survey was carried out in 2023 by their Sports Captains who surveyed the whole school over one week. These results showed a decrease in walking to school, now at 50%.



Buxton is served really well by Buxton Town Team - a voluntary group made up of around 300 dedicated volunteers undertaking a range of activities, all aiming to improve their local area.

Buxton on the Move was a consultation document, aiming to provide a whole town sustainable travel plan.

Buxton is a pleasant place for leisure walking, although every day walking can be hazardous:

- streets are cluttered (problematic for accessibility)
- dominated by traffic
- narrow footpaths.
- signage has been found to be insufficient and in need of updating
- most maps of Buxton do not clearly indicate footpaths and ginnels.





Buxton Town Team would like to create a shared space, recognising that everyone has an equal right to move around the town by their preferred mode of travel.

They are currently working on a 'Walk and Ride' network:

- 5 routes from the centre of Buxton outwards
- Will also link specific villages together - including Cote Heath and Fairfield.
- These routes are based on local knowledge of commonly used routes, simply seeking to connect them and make it official.



In order to support the creation of this report, they created a range of surveys. In 2021, a consultation process was initiated, speaking to residents, visitors, train travellers and local businesses. There were 280 responses, mostly aged between 40 and 79.

Some suggestions identified as 'important' to encourage walking:

- Encourage walking to school
- Ensuring walkers' needs are incorporated into any neighbourhood/town plans
- Determining main pedestrian routes through the town and their accessibility
- Making walking safer in the evening with improved lighting and CCTV
- Better pavements (cleaning/repairing)
- Better signposting for pedestrians
- Fully pedestrianised areas





Although Sustainable Hayfield haven't undertaken specific research, they do plan to engage in some community engagement regarding barriers in access to public transport and active travel, particularly as a result of their #takethebus campaign. They will be working with Glossop Action for Sustainable Transport and Hope Valley Travelling Light on this project as there's some similarities to their approach.

Cllr Gill Scott has also been instrumental in coordinating a walking bus for the schools of Hayfield which was well attended pre-Covid but interest dropped off during the Covid-19 pandemic. She hopes to revitalise this in the future.



Active Lives Surveys



5 schools within High Peak are taking part in these surveys which will be analysed in March 2024.

While the majority of these questions are based around sports and planned physical activities, they also explore walking as part of everyday life:

- Which of these have you done in the last 7 days?
 - Walking to get to school or other places such as friends' houses or a park
 - Going on a walk (among a long list of other sporting activities)
- How did you get to school today?
- Whether they have any disabilities, special needs or illnesses.



Received some funding from High Peak Public Health Locality Fund to pilot a series of supported health walks in the PDNP.

The areas of focus were Buxton, Chapel, Whaley Bridge and Chinley, and then New Mills, Hayfield, Glossop and Gamesley.

Some interesting feedback from this pilot was that in areas where there are no place-based Move More officers, it was hard to connect with individuals - such as in Whaley Bridge and Hope Valley, despite engaging with local social prescribing teams.



General Summary

- Residents of the High Peak generally appreciate the idyllic surroundings and beauty spots we have at our front doorstep.
- High Peak benefits hugely from a large number of passionate, dedicated individuals who are working incredibly hard to make it easier to walk around our local areas, as well as preserving our environments for many years to come.
- There is no shortage of community engagement, and activity within High Peak is vibrant!
- There appears to be, however, a lack of specific research regarding walking without it being added into surveys about public transport and the climate, for example. This is because these topics do generally go hand in hand.
- There also appears to be lack of engagement with disability groups/representatives, as well as other specific cohorts identified (i.e. young families, specific locations).
- Most of the engagement seems to be lacking data about who is answering the survey, where they live, what challenges they might face in life etc.



Recommendations

- Initiatives to improve active travel would also benefit from considering accessibility and public transport options - which will help remove barriers for people.
- Improving the maintenance of paths and pavements.
- Creating local maps with details regarding ginnels and shortcuts through specific areas would help people to feel more confident in walking around their local areas, and also make it more convenient.
- Educating people regarding the benefits of walking and supporting individuals to remove barriers within their own lives to facilitate activity would be beneficial (i.e. helping people to change their mindsets and habits).
- Remember that areas within the High Peak are disparate and what works for one area may not work for others - each locality faces different challenges.



Suggested Next Steps

- Some specific engagement within priority areas Hadfield, Whitfield, Ollersett, Fairfield and Cote Heath. Gamesley has a specific survey but, as this area experiences some of the highest levels of deprivation in Derbyshire, there could be further engagement and enhancement of existing learning.
- Some specific engagement with target groups (which could be place-based, or more general across High Peak) such as disability groups, young families, or groups of unemployed people.
- Ensuring that any further engagement will seek to delve a little deeper into who is completing the survey/activity/engagement - rather than basic data.
- Engaging community leaders at an early stage, to help identify target groups within target areas.
- Getting employers on board with future engagement to understand how they can encourage walking to work.
- Work closely with key people in the councils to remove aforementioned barriers

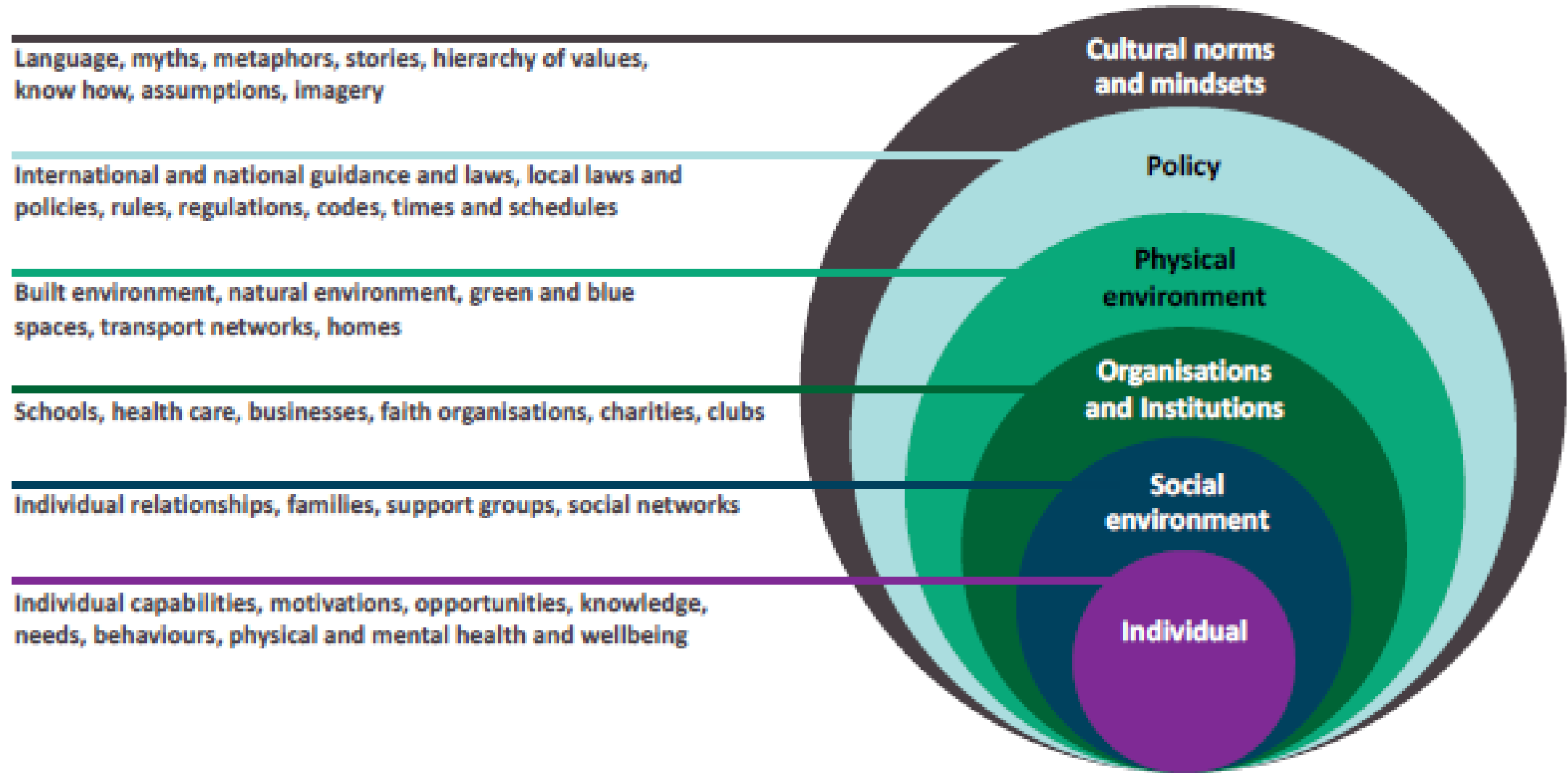


Any Questions?

https://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/reports/infographics/deprivation/ID_2019_High_Peak.pdf

<https://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/poverty-and-deprivation-imd/>

[Area Profile Tool 2023 0.02.xlsm](#)
(derbyshire.gov.uk)



Adapted from the Socio-Ecological Model by Hayley Lever and Scott Hartley

