

An aerial photograph of Calderdale, UK, taken at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting long, golden rays across the sky and illuminating the town below. The town features a mix of historic stone buildings and modern structures. A prominent church with a tall, dark spire is visible on the left. In the foreground, a large building with a white, domed roof stands out. The background shows rolling hills under the warm glow of the setting sun.

INCLUSIVE RECOVERY PLAN FOR CALDERDALE

March 2021

#VISIONCDALE2024

Calderdale
Council

VISION 2024

Leaders Statement - Our Vision for Recovery

I am proud that as a partnership and Council, we have worked tirelessly over the past year to sustain essential services, support communities, businesses, and protect our most vulnerable residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have done this by working together and by being true to our vision: We have been enterprising, innovative, kind and shown great resilience. We have shown once again, that by working together with partners in the community, business and public sector we are better at dealing with difficult times.

Despite our best efforts we all know that Covid-19 and the resulting restrictions, including lockdowns, has had a profound impact on the health, wealth, and vitality of our Borough. Many of our residents, communities and businesses have suffered significantly. We also know that we will almost certainly be living with Covid-19 for the foreseeable future. Despite this it is important that we start work now on building back fairer together.

Over the last six months we have monitored the impact of the pandemic, reviewing the available data and evidence and – vitally – by listening to the experiences of local people and businesses about the effect that the pandemic has had on their lives. This plan is our response to that evidence. It will set out our vision for an inclusive recovery that aims to benefit everyone, recognising the increased challenges that we now face due to the pandemic. It will also identify some emerging opportunities for Calderdale's business and economy which give us hope for the future. It will set also out our headline areas of focus for the recovery of our Borough over the next five years.

Despite the challenges of the past year, 2024 remains an important year for Calderdale. It marks our 50th anniversary and has been the focus of our partnerships for several years. Honouring our ambition for 2024 is essential to our vision for recovery in Calderdale. Now even more so we have a compelling story to tell about the place of Calderdale. The Covid-19 pandemic has had global impacts and highlighted the impacts on the most vulnerable – magnifying inequalities, but

the people of Calderdale have risen to these challenges with characteristic distinctiveness, kindness, resilience, talent and enterprise. **This recovery plan will set out our proposition for Calderdale and our script for the future.**

Our vision for recovery is for Calderdale to build back fairer and for Calderdale to always be a place where:

- **You can realise your potential whoever you are.** We have heard from people across Calderdale about their experiences during the pandemic and their hopes for the future. We will continue to build on these Calderdale Conversations as we develop our detailed recovery plans. **Our plans must include everyone's story in the future.**
- **Talent and enterprise can thrive.** The past year has been extremely hard on all economies. It has created enormous challenges for many businesses, but also for people in work, looking for jobs and for people looking to get the right skills for jobs in the future. We have done all we can locally to help businesses survive during the pandemic and we recognise that the next year will continue to be difficult as we continue to find ways to live and work safely with Covid-19. However, Calderdale is a place of extraordinary resilience. Our experience of the devastating floods on Boxing Day 2015 shows that collectively



we have what it takes to recover. We have an amazing track record of rebuilding with hope and ambition for our communities. **We will strengthen existing sectors and create the conditions for new sectors to blossom across the economy to build our economic resilience, harness our talents and make the most of future opportunities for investment, enterprise, and growth.**

- **We are rightly proud of our innate kindness and resilience.** During the pandemic we have witnessed again how much people care for each other, can recover from setbacks and are full of hope. Right across Calderdale, people have stepped up to help one another; shopping for friends and neighbours, donating laptops for children who are home schooling and helping in food banks. **We will build on this community spirit and enable a community powered recovery, harnessing the ideas, innovation and creativity of local people who are developing new solutions across our communities.**
- **A place that stands out, is known and is distinctive. A great place to visit, but most importantly, a place to live a larger life.** Since 2015 our tourism economy has grown year on year -with the highest ever recorded visitors to the Borough in 2019 of 8.2 million – an increase of 26% from 2018. This is a testament to the innovation and creativity of local businesses and communities and the success of dramas like Gentleman Jack and Happy Valley which have raised our international profile. We know that even during the past year, new businesses have set up and are seeking to recruit local talent. Despite the challenges we know there is a pent-up demand for what Calderdale can offer. **Our rich and varied local economy has always been at the heart of our distinctive local towns and neighbourhoods but Covid-19 has also reinforced the importance of local connections in all our lives. We will work together to put Calderdale on the map, promote our unique offer and bring investment to build back fairer**



Image by Craig Shaw of Cargodale cyclist www.cargodale.co.uk

We are ambitious for our future and we want to build back fairer. We continue to review, listen and learn. We are clear that to deliver this vision we must build on our strong partnership with our business community, public sector and civic society to help us drive our plans for recovery. We are therefore recommending that this Plan is adopted by the Council and it is our intention to reinvigorate our partnership structures by creating an **Inclusive Economic Recovery Board** that will lead our response and drive forward our plans ensuring that we are delivering change and remain focused on rebuilding the economy and remain on track to deliver our vision for 2024.



Signed, Cllr Tim Swift, Leader of Calderdale Council and Chair of Calderdale's Inclusive Recovery Co-ordinating Group

Section 1: What has happened during the Covid-19 pandemic - the challenge and areas for action

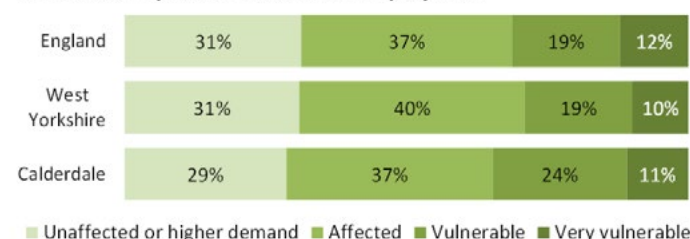
The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact globally on our health, wealth, and wellbeing. It has resulted in the loss of many lives, affected people's physical and mental wellbeing, and resulted in the greatest economic downturn in recent history. The pandemic has also hastened some pre-existing trends facing all economies, shone a light on, and widened inequality. In Calderdale we have mirrored many national trends in our local economy and wider society. In this section we set out some of the key challenges for Calderdale which must inform our recovery plans.

Covid-19 and the Calderdale economy

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the deepest recession on record. The Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR's) forecast expects GDP to shrink by 11.3 per cent in 2020 – the largest contraction in the economy for over 300 years. We have already seen some key measurable impacts on the Calderdale economy:

The pandemic has impacted across nearly all our business sectors It has also accelerated some economic trends like shopping on-line, automation and working from home. Whether the impact has been negative or positive has depended on the sector – for example food retail has continued to thrive in many places as has the construction of new homes. However, early analysis by [Centre for Cities](#) identified Calderdale as an area where the economy was potentially more vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic due to high levels of employment in sectors which have been particularly affected by the pandemic such as retail, tourism, hospitality, and parts of manufacturing. By June 2020 businesses surveyed by WYCA were initially estimating losses of £36 million, with 59% temporarily or indefinitely closed. 2020 also saw fewer business start-ups, with a 43% reduction between January and October, compared with 2019. There was however an increase in sole trader start-ups which may be an area for future growth.

Immediate impact of Covid-19 on employment

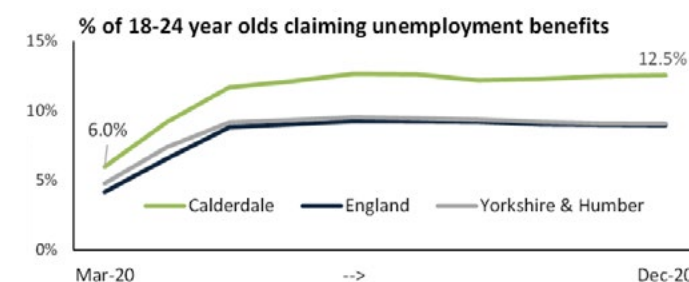


Unemployment has risen sharply. The impact on businesses has played out in employment figures and will continue to rise as businesses make redundancies as the Job Retention Scheme winds down. Compared to the pre-lockdown figures of March 2020. The number of unemployment benefit claimants has increased significantly from 3.6% in March peaking at 7% in August 2020. Calderdale has been 0.4% above the regional average since August 2020.



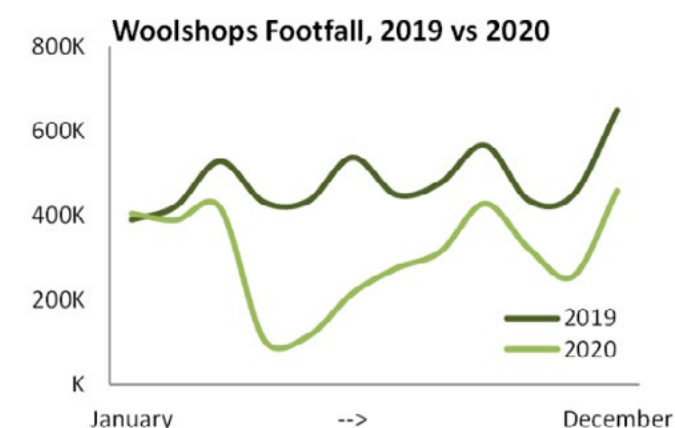
Proportionally, younger adults have seen the biggest impact on their employment opportunities and have seen largest increases in claimants. Calderdale already had a higher proportion for people aged 18 to 24 claiming unemployed benefits, compared to regional and national averages. That disparity grew significantly during the first wave and remained unchanged in December.

The pattern of previous recessions also shows that unemployment has a greater negative impact for young people, particularly in BAME communities and communities where there have been high levels of long-term unemployment and deprivation. That disparity grew significantly during the first wave and remained unchanged in December.



By December 2020 across West Yorkshire 10% of all employees remain furloughed, with Calderdale having the highest level at 11%. At this stage, it is still unclear what impact the second national lockdown, and subsequent extension of the furlough scheme, will have on employment locally and nationally. However, we know that key sectors still making use of the furlough scheme are in important sectors for Calderdale – particularly retail, hospitality, tourism and culture.

We have seen declines in town centre footfall, in line with national and regional trends. However, although early data showed significant lost footfall in our market towns, particularly Halifax, more recent trends in Halifax and Hebden Bridge that show footfall recovering to pre pandemic, indeed Hebden Bridge experienced the strongest retail sector recovery in West Yorkshire last Autumn before the November national lockdown. Local retailers have been particularly good at developing 'shop local' schemes, combining digital sales with local delivery. Building on these initiatives will help us develop our distinctive retail offer and bring multiple additional benefits to the health and wellbeing of our towns.



Opportunities for Recovery

Looking forward the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) expects the UK economy to grow by 5.5% during 2021/22, then 6.6%, then 2.3%, then 1.7% and then 1.8%. This means it could be the end of 2022 before UK GDP recovers to pre-Covid levels. However, this does give the basis for recovery and we need to ensure that our people and businesses are able to take the opportunities that will be available as our economy emerges from recession and begins to grow.

The Local Plan: During the Pandemic we have made significant progress towards adoption of our Local Plan, which sets out an ambitious blueprint for sustainable growth and development well into the 2030s. With the Local Plan adopted we will be able to proudly pursue a pro-growth agenda with the emphasis on good development that supports sustainable communities. Our Local Plan is predicated on jobs growth figure of 8,300 FTEs to 2032 and we should be on track to still achieve this with the right interventions – which are in hand: Specifically, the development of Clifton Enterprise Zone alone it is estimated will deliver 25% of these jobs.



Housing development will also be key to the growth ambitions of our Local Plan and recovery. The Home Builders Federation (HBF) reported that in 2017/18 19,986 new homes were built in the West Yorkshire region - which were responsible for sustaining 61,957 jobs and delivered over £3.39bn worth of economic activity ([Yorkshire and the Humber: Economic Footprint of Home Building 2019](#)). This includes the generation of tax revenues (e.g. Stamp Duty, Council Tax) but also contributes financially to the delivery of affordable housing, new or improved schools and community spaces. Similarly, a report by Arcadis '[Building Homes, Making Places](#)' estimates on national figures that the economic benefit of each home built to be approximately £316,000. This again considers job creation, tax revenues and supply chains.

A priority in the coming year will be to take forward master planning of new and existing communities across Calderdale. This will include making the most of investment in places like the proposed Garden Suburbs in our Local Plan and maximise the benefit of every new home built in Calderdale. This means improving the community and physical infrastructure, working with local schools but also insisting that we develop and use local supply to create and sustain local jobs and the wider economy.

Our tourism and cultural sectors have experienced particularly acute losses because of the pandemic. In July 2020 90% of creative sector businesses reported financial losses. Another study across the north of England estimated that 20% of hospitality and leisure business expected to cease trading before summer 2021. There will be considerable pent up demand because of the lockdown. Anecdotally we know that people are continuing to come and visit and enjoy Calderdale's stunning scenery and distinctive heritage town centres, which is shown by recovering footfall particularly in Hebden Bridge. We anticipate that if we can sustain our tourism, cultural, music and arts venues, food, and drink sectors through the lockdown we may see the benefit of pent-up demand as restrictions ease. Our most recent study of tourism's value to Calderdale's economy estimated that:

- **In 2019 over £396.7 million was spent in the local area because of tourism - an increase of 14% from 2018.**
- **We also estimate that in 2019 tourism supported 7,930 jobs - an increase in 14%.**

Supporting our tourism sector to build resilience, diversify and be ready to open in a Covid secure way during 2021 must be a priority to enable our economy to recover but also for future growth. Longer term our ambition will be to maximise the pull of our amazing visitor attractions, enabling more people to stay overnight and enjoy the Calderdale for longer holidays bringing more wealth and opportunities to the Borough.



The digital economy - In response to local restrictions many of our businesses have diversified at pace, often by moving to home working and using digital technology to reach their customers, in some cases this has enabled businesses to develop new markets for their products. This creativity and innovation is evidence of the talent and enterprise of our business community. Businesses have seen benefits through energy and premises savings, growing their diversity of customers to compensate from reduced physical footfall, and have been ambitious and taken risks to try new things, adapt and evolve their business models and remain viable. This type of adaptation is not without its challenge: Unreliable and patchy digital infrastructure is reported as an issue by businesses trying to recover and grow. We know that some areas, particularly our rural communities, are poorly served by digital networks. We also know that this shift has the potential to impact in the long term on the vitality of our towns and on employee health and wellbeing. This presents an opportunity for our plans for towns: In our Recovery conversations with residents and businesses, many have embraced home working but would also like 'touchdown' space where they can work nearer home but are still able to separate their work from rest and play. Creating places that support these new ways of working and living will be at the heart of our plans for sustainable towns. We are also seeing increasing issues with access to services from people who cannot afford or do not have the digital skills to use technology. This has highlighted a need for resources to address the digital divide, and the importance of digital inclusion for a strong recovery.



Major Infrastructure investment Calderdale has an unprecedented pipeline of current and proposed infrastructure and regeneration projects which will change the face of Calderdale in future years. This investment will create a new gateway and housing offer for Halifax, change the shape of our transport network, provide better cycling and walking routes, develop green wetland in Mytholmroyd and importantly bring flood resilience. Whilst much of this investment was planned prior to the pandemic, these developments and projects will revitalise our transport networks and greatly improve our towns and public spaces.

The Council has organised its extensive **Calderdale Next Chapter capital programme** into an integrated portfolio of regeneration activity with the needs of residents and the distinctiveness of our place at its heart. All schemes continue to be reviewed to ensure they deliver the opportunities for new businesses to develop and grow, create new jobs, and embed the skills that we need in Calderdale for the future. Moving forward we will be working closely with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to ensure that future investment opportunities through devolution, other programmes and private sector investment help us to rebuild the type of economy we want to see in Calderdale. As the 2020 report from The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) discusses in The Real Face of Construction 2020.

Towns Investment – Calderdale’s Town Boards are in the process of drawing down up to £75 million from the Government for towns across Calderdale. Rethinking our towns for the future will be a key foundation stone for recovery. Town centres are not just physical places; they anchor, belong and connect to us in ways that are both tangible and intangible. As we try to see a future beyond Covid-19, we must come to terms with how town centres have changed and the challenges and opportunities that this presents for all of us. Our proposed schemes, funded through Future High Streets or Town Deal funding, will see significant investment in the fabric of our towns. Celebrating our heritage assets but also creating vibrant spaces which will enable people to experience our towns in a way that isn’t just transactional. It is hoped that this will increase the dwell time of visitors to our towns, and in turn support the businesses on the high street, retail, hospitality, cultural and learning venues.

‘The construction industry is recognised as a vital cog within the economy. But it is far more than just an economic driver. As humans have developed, construction has shaped a built environment that has increasingly influenced how we live, the quality of our lives and the world we live in.’

In South East Calderdale Investment in the A641 corridor alongside other public and private sector investment in housing, education, town centre improvements and employment land will provide a sustainable future for this important area of the borough.



In North Halifax and the Upper Valley The Council continues to deliver 'corridor improvement' (road, rail and travel network improvements) work which is integrated into other key regeneration schemes (Towns investment for example) which will substantially improve Sowerby Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Todmorden town centres. This investment complements extensive flood alleviation activities along this important corridor and environmental and biodiversity improvements such as the development of wetland areas at Mytholmroyd.



In Halifax - We will deliver new railway and bus interchanges alongside significant improvements both to the wider A629 corridor and public realm within the town. The investment will support the recovery through opening land for development, and by improving the visitor experience for tourists and people doing business across the borough. This development will complement recent investment in the Halifax 6th Form Centre and mixed use (office/commercial) development at Northgate which will increase footfall significantly. Funding has also been secured from the Future High Street Fund which will look to improve facilities for local businesses, residents, and tourists within Halifax. External investment in the form of gigabit broadband will also shortly come into Halifax and will be implemented alongside highways and transportation improvements. The Council is also keen to promote active travel modes and will be carrying out significant improvements to enable large-scale cycling and walking as part of the works.

A Housing led recovery

Ensuring Calderdale continues to be a place people choose to live, have access to healthy, safe, and affordable homes in locations which enable them to work and prosper will be a key part of Calderdale's economic recovery. We already know from estate agents that people want to relocate to areas like Calderdale now that they don't have to go into the office every day. It is vital that we use the long-term capital programmes we have already drawn down to harness opportunities for job retention and creation, apprenticeships, and affordable homes for households to buy and rent for all ages. Our ambition is for Calderdale's homes to be at the centre of sustainable communities. Working closely with our partners, we will ensure that new homes reflect how we want to live now and in the future. That they will be designed to Good design standards, modern, energy efficient, contributing to carbon reduction.

Calderdale has historically seen low numbers of new homes being built. However, the adoption of Calderdale's Local Plan later in 2021 will act as a catalyst for new housing development through till 2032/33 seeing the development of circa 15,000 new homes - **an average of 997 new homes per year (a proportion of these being affordable).**

Calderdale being a more affordable place to buy a home is also an opportunity for housing growth. It will also draw in more families and employers to the Borough for the quality of life that we can offer residents, with distinctive town centres, local shops, quality infrastructure, good schools and diverse culture and leisure destinations. In the last recession in 2008 affordable housing delivery continued and even increase whilst private development largely stalled. This was made possible by Homes England's Affordable Homes Programme continuing to support delivery through grant funding.

Calderdale's Affordable Homes Programme continues to grow, with over 400 new affordable homes currently in construction

- vastly different to the challenges we have seen in recent years where only 64 affordable homes were delivered in 2016/17.

In this period of recovery, the Council will work with partners to ensure our local housing market does not become depressed and instead work hard to continue to make Calderdale an attractive place to live and invest. We will do this through:

- Working closely with West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Homes England to maximise opportunities to secure investment and grant funding through programmes such as the Brownfield Housing Fund and Affordable Homes Programme
- Adopting our Local Plan, releasing new opportunities for housing development in sustainable locations
- Ensuring place making and masterplanning is at the forefront of any change and maximising the wider investment this can create for our communities



Covid-19 in the community

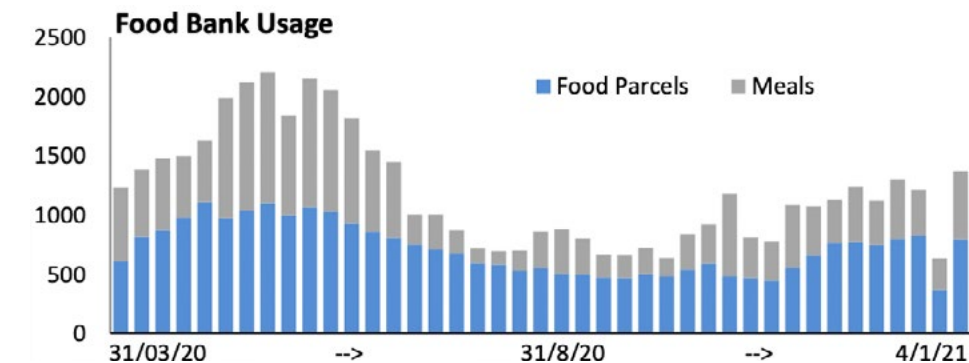
All parts of Calderdale have been affected by the pandemic. We have seen infections across every age group and in every neighbourhood. However, there is significant evidence that people in poorer areas and in lower paid public facing and customer service roles have been most impacted by Covid. This is supported by local data which shows that higher rates of infections have been in our most deprived wards and smaller neighbourhood areas. These communities are areas of persistent poverty and inequality in Calderdale, especially our most deprived wards in Halifax. People in these communities also live with considerable health inequalities compared with other parts of the Borough – the average life expectancy of someone living in Park ward for example is nine years less than our most affluent wards. These neighbourhoods are typified by smaller, mainly Victorian terraced housing where it is harder to self-isolate. Additionally, local employment is mainly in sectors like health care, local shops, manufacturing, and taxi hire where it has been impossible to work from home and people have had frequent contact with other people.

Health Inequalities We already know that poor health is a significant barrier to work. Good health and wellbeing is also key to productivity. Covid-19 has highlighted pre-existing health inequalities, but it has also worsened pre-determinants for ill health. For example, prior to the pandemic, levels of physical activity in Calderdale were high, with decreasing inactivity. Data collected during the pandemic, both locally and nationally, suggests a split in the population, with a third of people being more active, but nearly half (49%) less active. People from BAME communities and those with long term health problems or disabilities tend to be less active.

- **In 2018 Inclusive Economy Strategy we estimated that lost productivity due to ill health could be estimated at £300m a year.**
- **ONS data shows that almost a fifth of the population experienced depression during first lockdown - younger adults, women, key workers, and disabled people were most likely to experience depression.**
- **Calderdale has seen an increase in mental health referrals for adults of 18% compared with last year.**

Tackling health inequalities must be a priority for action for across the partnership if we are to rebuild our economy fairly. In the coming year it is likely that we will see an increased need to support people with a variety of health conditions into positive employment. Employers from all sectors are recognising that more inclusive, flexible, and supportive work environments have less sickness absence, are more creative and improve productivity. The challenge to all employers going forward will be to support good workplace health and develop more inclusive employment and recruitment practices in the future. There are also significant opportunities to collaborate more across services to create 'active communities' - for example, Public Health, planners and transport planners working together to create quality environments that encourage active lifestyles, encouraging walking or cycling to work, creating outdoor spaces which feel safe and welcoming and encourage play. Working together on wider approach to tackling poor health will help us tackle the widening inequalities we have seen accelerated in our poorer neighbourhoods.

Rising Poverty Levels Our data shows that more people have fallen into poverty during the pandemic. There has been considerable increased pressure on Calderdale's fragile emergency food support provision. At the peak of lockdown in 2020 foodbanks saw three times the demand for food parcels compared to 2019. Although demand has now dropped it remains consistently higher than pre-Covid levels, with food banks reporting more families with children needing support on a regular basis.



Financial insecurity and wider impacts on opportunity and aspirations The potential financial impacts we are expecting to see once all the additional Covid support funding is removed, for example, the removal of the current £20 uplift in Universal Credit, the current scheme of Covid Winter Grants, support with food and heating costs, the business grants, furlough scheme and halt on evictions, CTR Hardship, has some profound implications for people's long term financial security. This is already being seen at our **Calderdale Citizens Advice Service who are supporting nearly four times as many people with debt**, with their overall caseload more than doubling in the past year. We are also beginning to see an increase of families living in temporary accommodation despite the current stop on evictions. There will be challenges in sustaining current temporary accommodation, preventing homelessness, and providing future affordable housing for the Borough going forward. Working to support our residents to manage the impact of these pressures and ensure that we continue to tackle wider inequalities and particularly inequality of opportunity and aspirations will be of critical importance as we recover our economy. **This reflects the stories we have heard about the impact of Covid-19 on economic inequalities through our recent Scrutiny Review. This work will be used to inform our detailed plans for recovery.**

Some opportunities for recovery

The voluntary and community sector and wider communities and volunteers have played a massive part in helping mitigate the impact of the pandemic especially on our more vulnerable residents and communities.

This has demonstrated the potential for communities and VCS sector to play a key role in delivering a community powered recovery. However, the pandemic has exposed the financial vulnerability, future funding and sustainability of the voluntary and community sector and demonstrated the value of investment in strong communities. According to research in '[Community, Connection and Cohesion during COVID-19: Beyond Us and Them](#)' report, people who live in places that invest in social cohesion are twice as likely to volunteer, have a higher sense of neighbourliness and a greater level of trust in local government's response to COVID-19.

'Impressive statistics from Belong found that people in Calderdale are 140% more likely to have been volunteering throughout the pandemic than people elsewhere in the UK, and 41% more likely to donate money to charity – demonstrating Calderdale's kindness in action.'

In Calderdale, from the outset of COVID-19, the Council recognised the need to help those most at risk and set up a virtual support hub, working closely with community organisations. This harnessed the existing kindness across the borough, enabled hundreds of people to volunteer safely, and supported the most vulnerable residents.

Ongoing community engagement and other work to boost social cohesion remains a priority for the Council and its partners, including shielding and interfaith work, the COVID Champions scheme and flood support. The 'Community, Connection and Cohesion during Covid-19' report shows that this kind of investment helps people feel happier, more resilient, and more connected to others and where they live. It also helps to reduce community tension.



Covid-19 has demonstrated that we really are all in this together. We need to make sure of this for the future too.

Our pioneering arts and health programme - Calderdale is at the forefront of employing the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Group in to Creativity, Health and Wellbeing and our ICS (WY&H) will be one of four hubs connected to the new National Centre for Creativity. The partnership work we are carrying out can have a profound impact on health inequalities and helping to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

There is a profound connection between wealth and health. It is possible to make a relationship between these two agendas, create roles in our system and invite people from our communities in to undertake those roles. In other words, there is a clear link between the arts and health agenda and the inclusive growth agenda. **Arts, culture and creativity will be embraced by our citizens in their everyday lives and incorporated into health sector approaches resulting in longer lives better lived and stronger, more connected communities.**

Evidence presented in APPG report shows that 'creative activity is a powerful tool in overcoming anxiety, depression and stress' and that overall physical health can also be improved: 'after Engaging with the Arts: 79% of people in deprived communities ate more healthily; 77% engaged in more physical activity; 82% enjoyed greater wellbeing.'[1]

'arts activities can provide opportunities for emotional expression, emotion regulation and stress reduction. Emotion regulation is intrinsic to how we manage our mental health, while stress is a well-known risk factor for the onset and/or progression of a range of health conditions including cardiovascular diseases and cancers'[2]

Our Recovery plans will need to reflect on how we can sustain and grow the resilience of our community and cultural sectors and build community cohesion going forward. This must a shared ambition across the partnership - moving beyond a funder and funded relationship, to a shared aspiration to bring investment into Calderdale from the region and from Government for community wealth building, recovery, regeneration and cultural renewal. It is also about working with the private sector and other partners to use our own investment to maximise social value and community benefits, through our commissioning and procurement and integrating the VCS into our delivery plans where we know this will benefits for our communities and sustain vital local organisations.



[1] Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing (All Party Parliamentary Group on Arts Health and Wellbeing)

[2] What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? A scoping review. (World Health Organisation)

Covid-19 and Climate

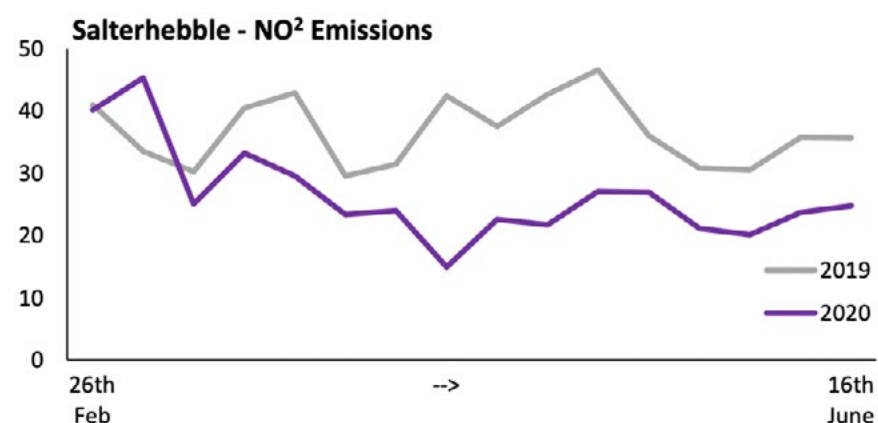
Our experience of flooding has given the people of Calderdale a stark understanding of the impact of climate change on our health and well-being. This is not an abstract threat in the future but a very real one which has devastated people's lives and businesses. Continuing to build flood resilience after Storms Ciara and Dennis and preventative work to reduce the risk of future flooding across the Calder Valley remain imperative for Calderdale. Covid-19 has only made us more aware than ever of tackling the greatest challenge facing all communities: climate change. In the first lockdown, quieter roads and working from home gave many of us the opportunity to explore our local environment and notice the impact that we are having on our environment.



Transport use changes -

Lockdown restrictions reduced the volume of traffic on Calderdale's roads. But traffic volumes have since returned to pre Covid-19 levels. Given that fact that a significant number of workers are now based at home, the traffic volumes reflect a significant shift from public transport to personal cars. Covid-19 has seen public transport services and capacity reduced, and public confidence diminished in response to public safety messaging. The West Yorkshire Covid-19 Transport Survey which suggests that nearly 50% of people may use the public transport less over the coming weeks, compared to before lockdown. A sustained fall in demand could mean that unviable bus services are lost. Cuts to bus services will impact most seriously on our more disadvantaged communities and our rural areas, and restrict opportunities to access existing jobs, future job opportunities, and skills training. Years of positive behavioural change is being eroded and Public transport services are at risk, for instance Halifax bus company TJ Walsh has closed leaving communities stranded without public transport and 30 drivers without a job.

Energy usage and energy efficiency - Data provided by WYCA indicates that 64% of people expect to work from home more after Covid-19 with a fifth (22%) of businesses expecting the move to home working to be in place permanently. Modelling undertaken by the Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit predicts that home boiler use will rise by 56% and energy bills will rise on average £32 a month as a result of home working. Calderdale Council's own organisational emissions from buildings have reduced by approximately 25% due to the shift to home working, equivalent to around 1,500 tonnes of CO₂. It is estimated that the impact on household emissions from Calderdale Council's home workers will be around 1,500 tonnes CO₂ a year negating that reduction.



Opportunities for Recovery:

As a borough, Calderdale aims to be carbon neutral by 2038 at the latest, with significant progress by 2030.

Jobs, training and upskilling for a low carbon economy

The transition to a low carbon economy will unlock significant economic benefits, new jobs, training and upskilling opportunities and a range of new business opportunities. It will also reduce harmful emissions, help nature to recover and improve our longer-term climate resilience. Up to 70,000 new jobs in West Yorkshire could be created through climate investments by 2050 (LGA 2020). Calderdale will be capitalising on this, working across all sectors to identify the opportunities for growing more green jobs. **We will work with our local business to identify the new jobs for the future and invest in innovation to create new products and services which are more sustainable and meeting the future needs of the climate and the economy.**

We have some skills in local communities and the business sector which we can build on such as our nationally recognised Natural Flood Management work with Slow the Flow and Calder Greening - but also areas where we could do more, for example with our local manufacturing sector and developing more sustainable construction skills and jobs.

Carbon Neutral Fund The 2021 Council budget included £1million for a 'carbon neutral fund' to help combat the impact that climate change is having on the borough. Along with cultural and behaviour change, significant national investment is required to fully address the impacts of climate change. However, local spending can support important initiatives such as energy efficiency measures and projects to accelerate the pace of Council and community environmental projects. To use the £1million funding to its full potential, the funding is being split between spend on Council projects and on external projects in Calderdale's communities. This will support some Council projects such as the continued roll out of electric/hybrid vehicles to replace petrol and diesel models

in the Council fleet and the installation or retrofitting of energy efficiency measures in Council facilities. Internal schemes will support a carbon reduction and reduce running costs and present long-term savings.

Community solutions The fund will also support community projects that will contribute towards tackling climate change, continuing our partnership with the Community Foundation for Calderdale. The partnership with the Foundation will also allow options around loan agreements to be explored and for the potential to build a permanent endowed Climate Change fund to maximise its longevity and reach. This will help us to build on the success of projects funded by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund - Moors for the Future, Todmorden Learning Centre which are building local community skills and solutions to tackling climate action.

Our Covid-19 Impact assessment has been prepared and has been published alongside this plan. all the data we have used is publicly accessible on our [Open data here](#). This includes links to all the data sources. We are keen to build on this resource and our understanding of the impact on people's lives with local people. Key data will be monitored throughout recovery



Section 2: Recovery Conversations

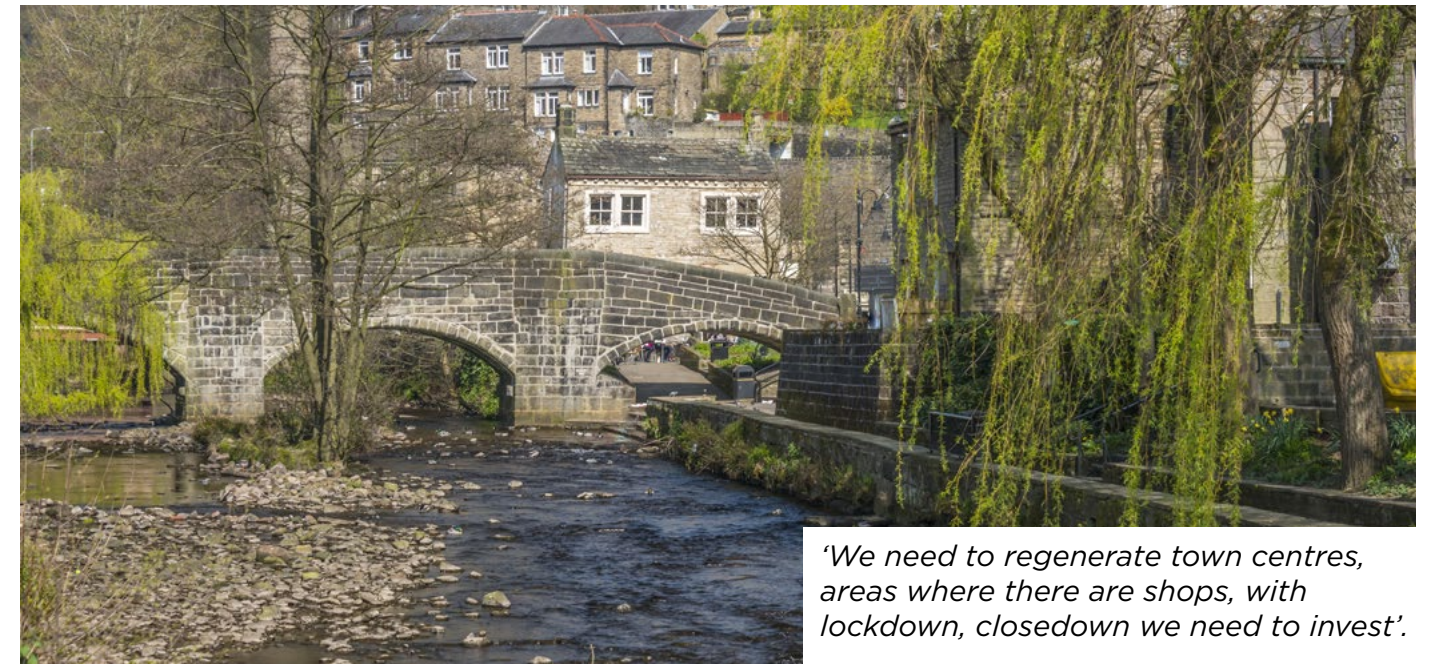
Listening to communities and hearing the stories of the impact of Covid-19 on people's lives has played an important part in the development of the Inclusive Economic Recovery Plan and will continue to do so. The Plan has been developed in partnership with the business sector, public sector and civic society partners all of whom are talking to and listening to residents, customers, patients, people they live work and care for.

Healthwatch Calderdale has been bringing together the key lessons and insights from this activity by on behalf of the Silver Covid partnership and this will continue to inform our recovery plans across the system going forward.

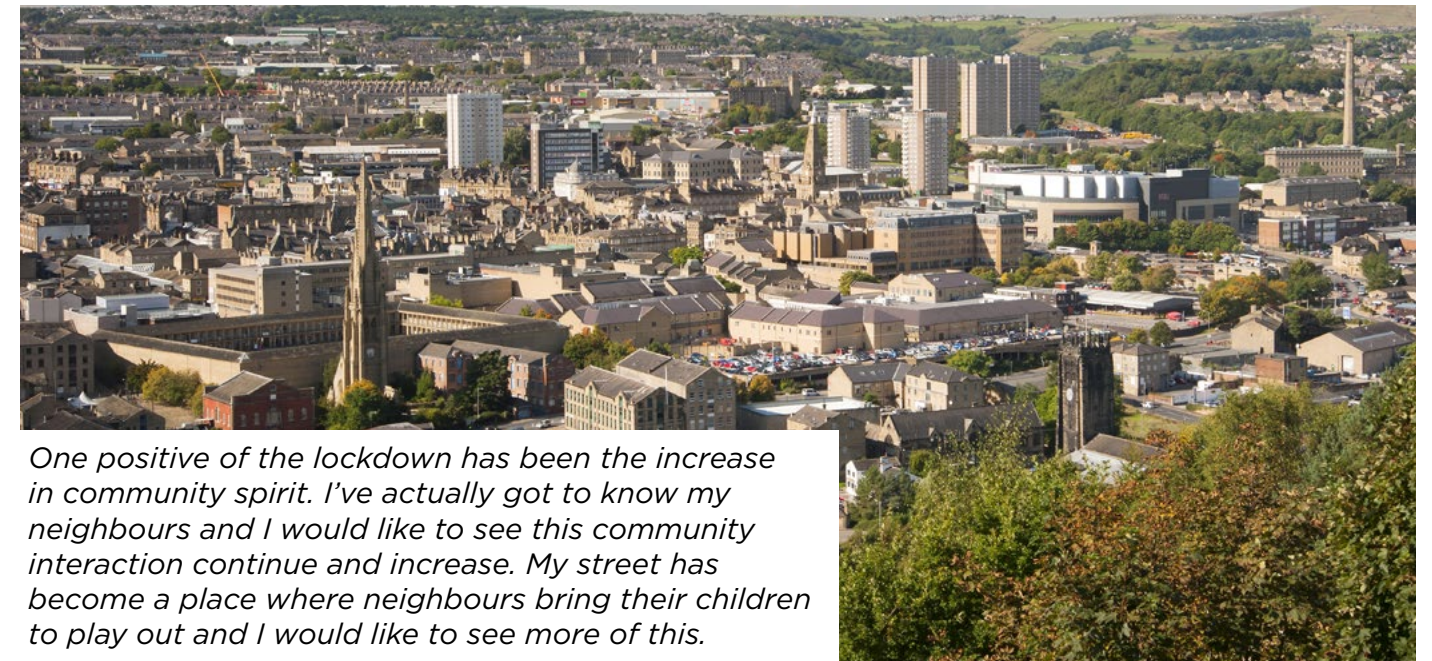
The Inclusive Economic Recovery Plan has been informed by this work but also by some specific engagement activities into the impact of Covid-19 on people's health, wellbeing, and economic futures. These are:

- **The Economic Inequalities Arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic Detailed Review Report led by the Place Scrutiny Board**
- **Council officers have undertaken a series of Recovery Conversations with people attending ward forums and in other partnership meetings to help identify the priorities of local people for the future post Covid-19 – see quotes,**
- **We have also set up an ongoing focus group of young people attending Calderdale College to help us understand the impact of Covid-19 on their lives and aspirations going forward.**

The outcomes from these and ongoing engagement will be considered by the new Inclusive Economic Recovery Board to ensure that detailed actions being developed address the concerns and economic aspirations of communities



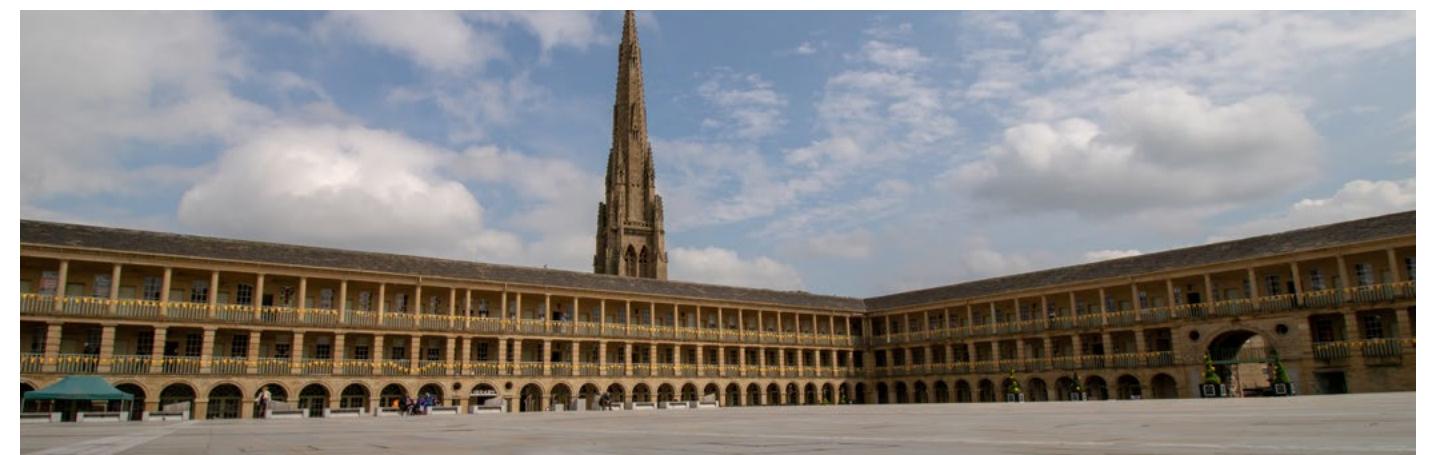
'We need to regenerate town centres, areas where there are shops, with lockdown, closedown we need to invest'



One positive of the lockdown has been the increase in community spirit. I've actually got to know my neighbours and I would like to see this community interaction continue and increase. My street has become a place where neighbours bring their children to play out and I would like to see more of this.



'The local businesses have done amazingly over the last few months and people really supported at the start and hope it continues now people are back out in their cars and travelling a lot more. The local bike delivery has been a good local initiative and great to see happening and needs supporting'



'It has been helpful having more things delivered than in the past, supermarkets have adapted themselves to this. For people who live on the outskirts home deliveries especially in winter have been a lifesaver, an improvement that I hope will continue. The way that a lot of food shops and restaurants etc. have adapted to deliver what they provide rather than expect the customer to come to them has not only been realistic in terms of Covid but is also a different kind of model that is being tested out and I think we need to evaluate the benefits of that'

Section 3: Working together to rebuild the Calderdale economy - Our approach to recovery

- We believe that the current economic crisis can be turned to our advantage and create an opportunity to build back better. By supporting change in the economy and encouraging new ways of working, we have a narrow, but real, opportunity to position Calderdale in the region as a distinctive, innovative, and creative place where talent and enterprise can thrive. But also, a place where the kindness and resilience of individuals, businesses and communities is recognised as a powerful asset that can help drive our recovery. We can in short - deliver our Vision for 2024 and build on this.
- We have demonstrated our capacity to do this in the incredible response to repeated flood events and together we need to harness this grit, determination, and energy to recover our economy and wider communities following the pandemic.
- Our ability to do this will be helped by the changes in people's opinions and priorities that we have seen since Covid-19. Bolder economic and social strategies are gaining force in debates around the world. The stories we have heard as part of engagement with local people about the impact of Covid-19 on their lives and reflections on how together we can move forward will give us the chance to reset our economy to create a healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable future.
- We will use all the levers at our disposal, including taking advantage of devolution and the levelling-up agenda. Investment in our own capacity and capabilities will be strengthened to enable capital and revenue projects be developed so that we are ready to submit compelling plans that meet the needs of our economy and communities - when the funding becomes available. We will invest in the future for Calderdale - looking to ensure we are ready to compete with other localities to secure future funding.
- We have responded with speed and agility during the crisis to ensure our communities and businesses are supported through this extraordinarily difficult unprecedented time. We are already taking forward some immediate actions that our approach identifies, and that our Vision for 2024 commits us to. Other actions will require collective action across the district, working collaboratively with the mayoral West Yorkshire Combined Authority to leverage support and funding and making the case for additional support from Government



Working with our partners We are clear that to deliver this vision we must build on our strong partnership with our business community, public sector, and civic society to work with us on developing and driving our plans for recovery. We are therefore recommending that once the Plan is finalised and adopted by the Council that we establish a new partnership Inclusive Economic Recovery Board that will take responsibility for taking our plans forward.

We will work on detailed governance proposals for this new board but it is our intention to ensure that it reflect the key economic sectors and establishes clear links to other partnerships and forums (Construction partners- both infrastructure and housing, Town Boards, Health and Wellbeing Board, Cultural Destinations programme and others) who will be critical to us delivering an economic recovery for the whole of Calderdale.

These arrangements and this plan will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and focused on how together we can rebuild the Calderdale economy and keep on track to deliver our vision for 2024.

Working with our resources The levels of investment needed to deliver economic recovery are likely to be huge. The government has so far provided Calderdale with over £70m of grant funding to support businesses affected by Covid. the Council has worked with community partners, particularly the Community Foundation for Calderdale to fund critical voluntary and community organisations throughout the emergency response. Other national funders like Arts Council England and Sport England have supported many local cultural organisations, sports clubs, and venues. **We will continue to work together to get the resources we need to rebuild our economy.**

The interventions in the Inclusive Economic Recovery Plan will be for the partnership, including the Council to consider the delivery of. Many of the interventions are for the private sector and wider partners to support. The financial impact of actions arising from the Plan will also be considered at future Cabinet meeting as required.

However in summary, this plan will include actions that we **WILL** do but will also include actions we **WANT** to see happen that may not yet be resourced but that we believe will address economic underperformance or obstacles to growth or participation.

We will do this in three ways: by harnessing existing budgets and resources, leverage of existing funds and investment and by working with partners to lobby for more we need to find more funds to do critical things.

Regional recovery priorities

- **A recovery that produces resilient and thriving businesses, boosted by innovation, high skills and entrepreneurialism**
- **A clean growth recovery that grasps the opportunity to deliver sustainability across all our places**
- **A recovery that delivers inclusive growth and a decent standard of living, where good work and well-being allow as many as possible to contribute to, and benefit from the region's economy**

Working together as a West Yorkshire Region

The Council and local business partners have been working closely with colleagues across the region to develop a regional Economic Recovery Plan led by the West Yorkshire combined Authority (WYCA). The regional [WYCA Economic Recovery plan](#), sets out key employment, skills, business support and infrastructure investment which will be delivered across the region including Calderdale. In the coming months this agenda will evolve with the establishment of the Mayoral Combined Authority, under the leadership of the new West Yorkshire Mayor. It is vital that Calderdale leaders can use our Inclusive Economic Recovery Plan to position ourselves as important players in the region's recovery.

Moving forward we will work to bring in the investment we need for Calderdale from the region through the proposed Devolution deal, Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up agendas.

Working our infrastructure investment Calderdale has a huge pipeline of current and proposed infrastructure projects which has the capacity change the face of Calderdale in the coming years. This investment will create a new gateway to Halifax, change the shape of our transport network, provide better cycling and walking routes, develop new homes, develop green wetland in Mytholmroyd and importantly bring flood resilience. We will harness the potential from our [Next Chapter capital investment programme](#) as part of our recovery - ensuring that it delivers opportunities for new businesses to develop and grow, creates new jobs, and the skills that we need in Calderdale for the future. Moving forward we will be working closely with the region to ensure that future investment opportunities through devolution and other programmes help Calderdale to rebuild the type of economy we want to see in Calderdale.

Our ask from WYCA

To develop additional local targeted programmes for business/community enterprise to complement these building on our 3 priority themes & targeting critical sectors, e.g. business mentoring schemes to stimulate and grow enterprise in key sectors: creative and cultural sector, visitor economy, green entrepreneurs, self-employed and/or people furthest from employment (inclusive mentoring programmes)



Calderdale Inclusive Economic Recovery Plan Framework

The Inclusive Economic Recovery Plan have been informed by our existing Inclusive Economy Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Calderdale. It proposes a series of actions to take now and over the next four years to accelerate our recovery from Covid-19 by growing the economy sustainably in line with the Local Plan, boosting productivity whilst continuing to build a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient economy for the longer term.

The plan is informed by what we already know about Calderdale – its challenges, significant assets and potential – the known impact of Covid-19, what we can reasonably assume about the future, by the opportunities afforded through regional devolution and by our ambitions to deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth to which more people can contribute and benefit from. It also builds on our engagement with partners, with local businesses and skills providers during the Covid-19 pandemic which has helped us to identify key gaps and challenges and opportunities to rebuild and develop our local inclusive economy.

The plan is also aligned to the priorities outlined in the wider West Yorkshire Economic Recovery plan.



Section 4: Our Ambition

Despite the unforeseen impact of Covid-19, our long-term ambition for Calderdale remains unchanged.

We will stay true to our vision for 2024; build back fairer and be a distinctive place of enterprise and talent, kindness and resilience.

We will achieve this by focussing on our **main strategic aim:**

To grow our business base and build business resilience so that talent and enterprise can thrive.

This means that we will:



Build social value and community wealth.

Working together with other large public, private and third sector partners we will encourage procurement approaches that deliver benefits locally wherever possible develop supply chains with the aim of keeping more of our spend in our local economy, supporting local employment and community enterprise.



Support our people to get the skills they need for the future.

The impact of the pandemic on young people's opportunities and aspirations cannot be overstated. It has also impacted massively on access to skills and opportunities for a huge number of people who have lost work and now need to retrain. We will be working with all our local partners and at the region to develop a range of support and skills programmes that get our people ready for the future.



Work with our business community to rebuild following Covid but also build the capacity to weather future shocks.

Wider global trends such as the increasing importance of the digital economy, changing exports and import markets and the impact of leaving the EU, but also societal shifts in work and employment, lifestyle and travel will require all our local business to diversify, adapt and evolve in coming years. Together we need to position our economy so that we can thrive in the future.



Work with employers to create the good jobs and opportunities that are essential for an inclusive recovery.

Covid-19 has already led to job losses for many local people, particularly for those already in low skilled and low paid roles. In addition, Covid-19 has been a wake-up call to many employers, recognising the health and wellbeing of their staff has a massive impact on productivity and performance. We will aim to work with all employers to tackle health and wider inequalities head on. We will work with employers to understand the real implications of health barriers and wider inequalities for the way they recruit and operate, helping employers to develop new ways of working, better ways to recruit to a wider audience of people, and link more practical solutions to local business operations.

Beyond this our recovery plan is organised around our three priority areas for action and resetting the Calderdale economy. These priorities have emerged in discussion with all key partners from the police, businesses, housing providers, the NHS, residents, and communities as being critical to our ambition for Calderdale's future recovery.

Our recovery must help us to deliver three priority areas for action:

1) Reduce Inequalities and address local poverty: Tackling inequalities in employment head on and making sure that our economic recovery targets those businesses, communities and residents who have been most affected by the pandemic is critical. This includes making sure that local people and businesses are resilient and able to access the support and skills they will need to prosper in the future. It has also shone a light on the important of good health for our economic wellbeing. Key to success in this area will be linking closely with wider health partners with their recovery and reset plans.

2) Develop Sustainable Towns: Our towns will become vital sustainable economic hubs, that support thriving independent retail, diverse local businesses and a rich cultural and artistic life that builds on Calderdale's heritage and landscape setting. We are keen to work with all our partners to realise the enormous potential we believe can be brought from expanding our tourism offer, developing better sustainable travel options Diversifying our town will also provide partners with opportunities to increase the supply of suitable, affordable housing - another key priority. More places for people to live good lives within our towns will also help us to re-invigorate our towns).

3) Act on the climate emergency: Calderdale Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has an established working partnership taking action to address the big challenge of moving to a Net Zero Carbon economy. Our experience of flooding has given the people of Calderdale a stark understanding of the impact of climate change on our health and well-being. This is not an abstract threat in the future but a very real one which has devastated people's lives and businesses. Continuing to build flood resilience after Storms Ciara and Dennis and preventative work to reduce the risk of future flooding across the Calder Valley remain imperative for Calderdale. Covid-19 has only made us more aware than ever of tackling the greatest challenge facing all communities: climate change. In the first lockdown, quieter roads and working from home gave many of us the opportunity to explore our local environment and notice the impact that we are having on our environment. We will rebuild by creating and supporting opportunities for a greener economy; job, skills, homes, and transport which will deliver an economic future that is carbon neutral. It is vital that we position Calderdale firmly at the heart of regional plans to build a recovery that is sustainable and carbon neutral.

Timescales: It is important that we recognise that this is a long journey that we need to take together with partners.

Phase 1: During the next 6-12 months we still be living and working with Covid-19. As a place our focus will be on supporting our economy to reopen safely guided by the national Roadmap for recovery. This will include making use of rapid testing and other tools, as the Covid-19 vaccination programme rolls out. We will focus on working/ living and visiting safely and building resilience in our key sectors. We will also lay the foundation for wider reset of the local economy to put us in strong position for future growth and investment. Our places will need to adapt to reflect the way people want to visit and work in the future. We will work together with businesses to review how our buildings and towns will be reshaped, making spaces for a more varied ways of trading and operating day to day - creating businesses that are fit for the future



Phase 2: Over the next 1-2 years we will start seeing the foundations of recovery. Developing new skills programme, re-training supporting development of new or growth industries/ low carbon infrastructure & transition. Our investment in our Towns and surrounding business parks will include the creation of incubator and trading spaces which will encourage start up and testing of new business ideas to help develop the new jobs for the future.



Phase 3: Over the next 2-4 years we will be building back better. Delivering future prosperity & wellbeing, with future skills and career pathways well established, establishing Calderdale as place for innovation and investment, with strong flourishing communities and cleaner, greener environment.

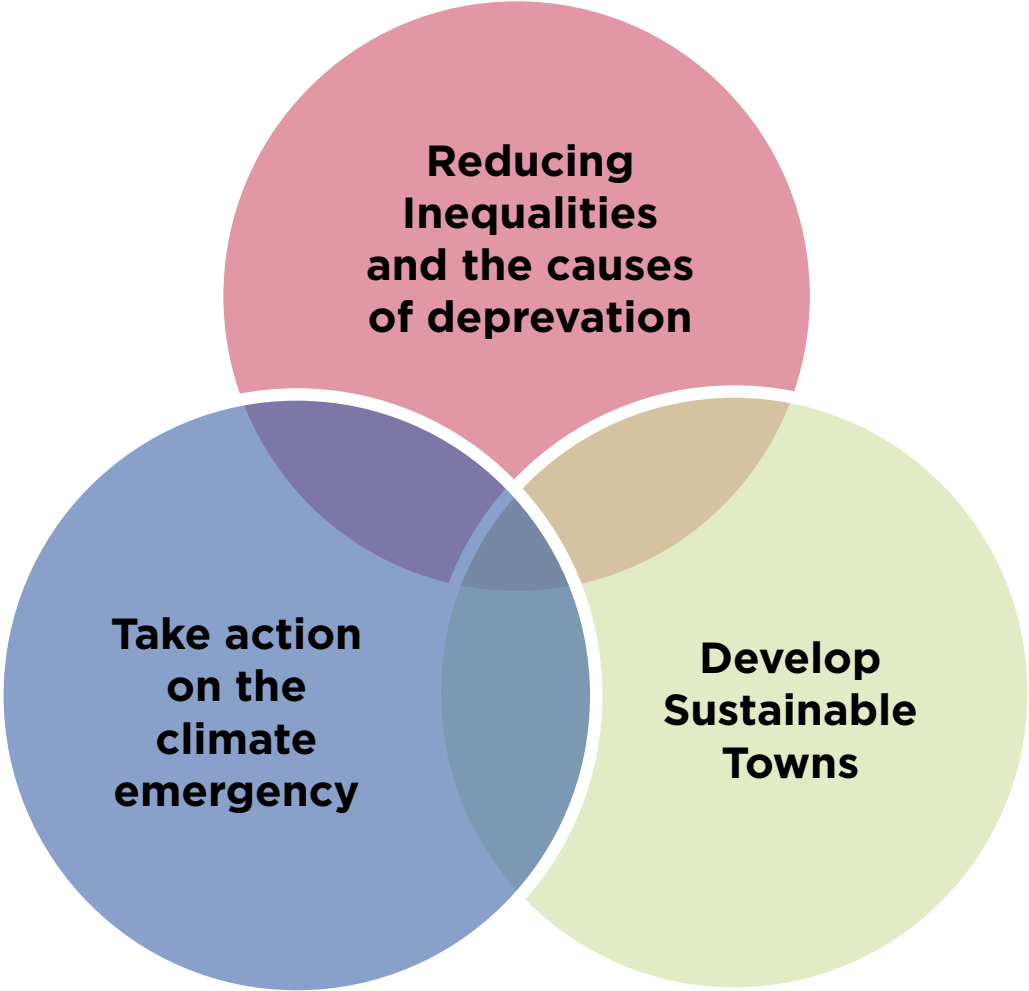
This plan will set out some identified actions for Phase 1 which are emerging from our ongoing response. We will develop detailed action plans and success measures for later phases with partners as we establish our new governance arrangements for the Inclusive Economy Recovery Board.



Our main aim: to grow our business base and build resilience so that talent and enterprise can thrive

Everyone to realise their potential

Build on our kindness and resilience



Develop our enterprise and talent

Be distinctive, a great place to visit

Phase 1:
During the next 6-12 months

Living and working with Covid

Acting now to support communities, build business resilience, getting people into jobs, infrastructure projects that can be started or delivered now

Phase 2: Next 1-2 years

The foundations of recovery

New skills, re-training supporting development of new or growth industries/ low carbon infrastructure & transition

Phase 3: Next 2-4 years

Building back fairer

Delivering future prosperity & wellbeing - skills and career pathways, innovation, stronger communities, better environment



Section 5: Headline plans for an Inclusive Economic Recovery

Our main aim is to grow our business base and build business resilience so that talent and enterprise can thrive

Wider global trends such as the increasing importance of the digital economy, changing exports and import markets and the impact of leaving the EU, but also societal shifts in work and employment, lifestyle and travel will require all our local business to diversify, adapt and evolve in coming years. Together we need to position our economy so that we can thrive in the future.

*The Business Support Team in Calderdale have been supporting many businesses and individuals as a result of the Covid-19 crisis, managing the rollout of Covid-19 Recovery Grants and accessing other funds available to the region such as Local Growth Deal which has supported 1,100 small firms in West Yorkshire to adjust their operation during the pandemic – funding ICT kits, safe-working investments, and consultancy advice and support with business resilience and pivoting of products and services to reach new customers and markets. **This has included ensuring that. £4.5 million of Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grant Fund and Local Authority Discretionary Grants have been paid to over 2716 businesses across Calderdale throughout the crisis.***

The engagement that has taken place with businesses during the pandemic has given us a unique platform to base our recovery on. We have a clear picture of the challenges facing our diverse sectors and what they will need to build resilience, thrive, and grow.

Working with our partners our focus in the next 6-12 months will be to maximise the support that is available to our businesses from the region – including supporting our economy to reopen safely as vaccinations are rolled out during 2021. This will be in line with national guidance and advice as this lockdown restrictions are eased. This is central to our recovery and will be a focus of our new **Inclusive Economy Recovery Group** who will oversee the investment and help plan partnership approaches to the delivery of business and skills growth support.

A creative, flexible, resilient business community that has adapted and mobilised to help others as part of our partnership response to Covid-19

Blackhorse Inn at Clifton have been delivering fruit and veg from suppliers to local people and also used their kitchen to do restaurant meals at home for takeaway service.

Craggies Mytholmroyd have adapted their café and farming produce store to be a delivery service across Calderdale. They have developed a click and collect and online order services.

Origano in Hebden Bridge has become so popular as a takeaway they have recruited drivers and other food apps to allow order and delivery locally. They have really thrived through the recent lockdowns.

Cottage Foods have changed their market from wholesale supplying businesses with staff facilities, cafes, bars and restaurants to home deliveries for the general public as well as helping food banks.

Quickslide Windows have managed to manufacture their windows on 20% staffing levels by introducing a night shift, providing flexible hours to suit their staff.

Hot House Beauty Ltd based in Brighouse switched production from beauty products to hand sanitizers.



Objective 1 Work with our business community to rebuild and build back the capacity to weather future shocks.

KEY ACTIONS FOR PHASE 1 – NEXT 6-12 MONTHS

- **Maximise take up by Calderdale businesses of existing schemes including**

- **Small Business Membership Scheme** supporting small firms across West Yorkshire with the cost of joining the Federation of Small Businesses, the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce for a 12-month period. New members are benefitting from valuable support with such matters as legal, HR, financial, health and safety, and physical and mental wellbeing.

- **Peer Learning Networks scheme** being delivered by the University of Leeds Business School. This delivers action learning support for SMEs via a cohort model providing both group-based learning sessions and additional one-to-one coaching. Discussions are ongoing with Government about a continuation/expansion of the scheme in 2021/22.
- **Cyber Security Support Scheme** This is providing practical help and advice to small firms on how to operate safely and securely within the digital environment. Delivery is by the Home Office-backed North East Business Resilience Centre and has been developed in consultation with the National Cyber Security Centre. To date, over 60 small firms across the region have benefitted from the support.

- **Link into the Leeds City Region business support, BREXIT services** and access to finance to enable businesses to maximise on all the public support available.

- **Develop local sector specific schemes for business recovery**

- **Work with partners to develop bespoke resilience packages** that support business to access advice and support they need help them manage their recovery in a structured and sustainable way specifically and maximise tax break made available through Budget 2021 -
- Business support provision focussed on highly impacted/vulnerable sectors, retaining and safeguarding jobs that are critical to our business base and future growth, particularly: Childcare providers, hospitality, leisure, retail, accommodation, and tourism, cultural, arts, events and creative sectors.
- An investment package of support to help business adapt existing buildings to be more resilient in how their workspaces can be used for the future, to encourage more collaborative working within buildings to help with creative thinking.



- Develop an innovation programme to help with more product design, jointly developed with the manufacturing sectors to address global opportunities for growth, and also more UK markets to fill the gaps in supply chain decline.
- Growth support for the sectors who have thrived, and who have recruitment, workforce development and access to finance needs, these include food and drink manufacturers, home improvements, engineering and manufacturing developing more into UK markets, health and social care, and the sectors around green technology.
- Supply Chain development to identify gaps and diversification to feed into the growth sectors, and to encourage more 'buy local' models, to help local towns see growth in their footfall and trade. (Link to Social Value work)

- Incentivise the use of incubator spaces and occupation of empty properties within the towns to encourage start-up businesses.
- A business mentoring programme to help business recover and move forward post pandemic.
- An events programme for each of the towns to encourage promotion of each distinctive aspects of the local economy.



Objective 2 Support our people to get the skills they need for the future.

Working with our partners our main focus in the next 6-12 months will be to maximise the support available to local people to grow their talent from the region – provided with WYCA – and develop local skills and employment offer, particularly making best use of the newly devolved Adults Skills Budgets that have been allocated to Calderdale.

KEY ACTIONS FOR PHASE 1 – NEXT 6-12 MONTHS

- Engage with job seekers across Calderdale to support with their needs and identify & provide interventions to address barriers.
- Develop local enterprise support to help people look at business start-ups.
- Building skills and employability programmes into Future Towns fund for Brighouse and Todmorden.
- Improve access to employment, debt and financial advice via digital and face to face in communities (co-locating with local VCS orgs where possible) to share skills and knowledge.
- Maximise impact of Kickstart Scheme locally - The £2bn 'kickstart scheme' to create 350,000 six-month work placements for 16-24-year olds announced in the summer continues to be developed by DWP with many employer's keen to engage. Calderdale Council will take the Gateway role supporting businesses with the programme, and encouraging recruitment of local unemployed young people.
- Develop local Youth Hub and Youth Guarantee Schemes for Calderdale - The West Yorkshire councils and the Combined Authority are working closely with Jobcentre Plus on the Youth Guarantee offer, which will include local coordination of support for young people through a Youth Hub.
- Develop a local prestart up programme which celebrates being an entrepreneur.
- The Combined Authority's adult re-training programme, [re]boot, is targeting individuals currently furloughed or looking for opportunities to re-train. These are aligned to areas with greatest growth opportunities and new courses are being developed with employer involvement.
www.futuregoals.co.uk/lep-skills-support-during-lockdown
- Mapping local adult skills provision, and identify gaps to inform new programme.



Case Study – Building back fairer - The Inspire programme

is a new employment support programme that will link Council teams with VCS partners supporting people furthest away from work. The partners will join the Council programme in February and consist of New Ground, Halifax Opportunities Trust, Alpha house, Noah's Arc and Disability Support Calderdale. it will include:

- *Business engagement and enterprise support from tourism officers, business and inclusive economy teams.*
- *Client Support Officers from Business and Skills, and Family Intervention Team, Newground and Halifax Opportunities Trust.*
- *Work Wellness officer working in Beechwood Surgery.*
- *Mentors working within ISCAL factory*
- *Specialist partners who will offer Inspire clients bookable one to one support and group sessions in their expert fields (Noah's Ark – counselling and budgeting, Alpha House and Disability Support Calderdale).*



PHASE 2 NEXT 1-2 YEARS *Developing skills programmes for new growth areas, innovation and employment recovery*

- Skills plan for priority areas and growth sectors – green skills, tourism hospitality, health, also emphasis on digital inclusion/ digital skills programmes ...
- Expand the Employment hub to ensure all provision for employment and job brokerage is co-ordinated and all partners fully communicate across the needs of the economy.
- Review Adult Education curriculum so that new growth and transferable skills can be introduced as soon as possible, this includes the introduction of level 3 qualifications.
- Use all skills commissioning across the borough and through WYCA to secure new skills provision to address skill gaps.
- Map level 3 provision, and seek to deliver new curriculum to meet skill transfer needs into new growth sector.
- Secure more funding to evolve the change programme so it can support small business to recruit staff from a wider diverse network.
- Develop better careers information for adults to show case how skills can be transferred to wider employment sectors.

PHASE 3: OVER THE NEXT 2-4 YEARS *WE WILL BE BUILDING BACK FAIRER*

- Shared vision for maximising employment, skills and training for Calderdale across partnership.
- Funding model in place with WYCA support for securing sustainable, mixed economy provision of skills and employment support.
- Shared knowledge bank that enable all partners to provide up to advice, support that helps people into employment and skills offer, as well as signposting to intensive support from specialist providers.



Objective 3 Build social value and community wealth.

Working together with other large public, private and third sector partners we will change the way we procure services so that we embed added social value in our contracts and commissioning which will keep more of our spend in our local economy, supporting local employment and community enterprise.

KEY ACTIONS FOR PHASE 1 - NEXT 6-12 MONTHS *Establish our Social Value mission*

- Build on the enormous community spirit demonstrated through the pandemic but working with the business community to harness skills and assets of local businesses and organisations including through partnerships and co-mentoring, skills-relevant volunteering, sponsoring community initiatives etc.
- Embed new procurement rules following EU exit, continue to develop Suppliers Forums and Social Value training taking place across the Council and with partners.
- Take a leading role in the Keep it Local council network working with Locality especially across the West Yorkshire region.
- Social Value Summit planned for Summer 2021 with objective to agree mission across all anchor partners and planning practical opportunities to get social value in big projects.

PHASE 2 NEXT 1-2 YEARS *Social Value becomes business as usual for Calderdale*

- Routinise spend analysis and reporting of all local anchors.
- Targeted work on HR and inclusion.

- Market shaping to grow local supply chain through procurement, capital expenditure and commissioning and engagement with local providers.
- Embed social value opportunity assessments within contract procedure rules, tenders and scoring systems.
- Work with businesses to develop 'Good Work' principles - linked to regional programme.
- Embed a simple and effective Social Value impact measurement to help us better understand the wider benefits that are being delivered through commissioned services and contracts.



PHASE 3: OVER THE NEXT 2-4 YEARS *WE WILL BE BUILDING BACK FAIRER*

- Invest in apprenticeships and support career progression.
- Increase the percentage of anchor spend with local businesses.
- Build a social value menu for future commissioning which contractors can invest within to build stronger and more directed support into local communities and areas which need addressing. The package will involve links to young people development, mental health support, grants for start-up support and investment in local community organisations to build capacity in our most deprived wards.



Objective 4 Work with good employers to create the good jobs and opportunities that are essential for an inclusive recovery.

Covid has already led to job losses for many local people, particularly for those already in low skilled and low paid roles. Covid has been a wakeup call to many employers, recognising the health and wellbeing of their staff has a massive impact on their own productivity. We need to work with all employers to tackle health and wider inequalities head on.

KEY ACTIONS FOR PHASE 1 - NEXT 6-12 MONTHS

- Learning from the impact of Covid-19 develop healthy workforce initiatives across the partnership: developing existing networks, technology-based support for employees, emotional wellbeing activities, promote access to occupational health support and a business health promotion package.
- Continue to develop and promote Active workplaces across Calderdale.
- Inclusive Economy pilot projects in Park and Warley to develop good practice around breaking down barriers into work, supporting employment opportunities and progression in our most deprived communities.
- Continue to integrate the Work Wellness pilot working with GP practices to support people the mental health issues secure positive employment.
- Work with Trade Unions and local business partnerships, such as the Federation of Small Business to promote the idea of Good Work and identify how we can help partners promote this more widely with their members.

PHASE 2 NEXT 1-2 YEARS *Good Work becomes standard for Calderdale*

- Build on successful models e.g. Project Search (supporting young people with additional physical or intellectual support needs into training and employment) and at Eureka with paid placements and access to work schemes co-designed to meet the needs of all our communities.
- Work with employers to fully understand the benefits of being a Good Employer. Provide support which helps address underrepresented groups within the workforce, building on the support required to address health and mental health issues, and support them to enhance their salary and performance packages to home grow talent which is local and resourceful.

PHASE 3: OVER THE NEXT 2-4 YEARS *WE WILL BE BUILDING BACK FAIRER*

- Continue to co-design pathways to address barriers to employment, supporting people with health issues and in particular mental health issues into work.



Section 6: Our priority areas for action



1. Reducing Inequalities and the causes of deprivation

Covid 19 has affected everyone but not everyone has been impacted equally. Covid 19 has shone a light on underlying inequalities and intensified these. Working with our communities to ensure that our residents who have been most affected by the pandemic are supported into positive economic activity will be a priority for our Recovery Plan.

Case Study - building back fairer: The Never Hungry Again campaign was Calderdale's response to national calls to extend free school meals beyond term times. The aim of the campaign is to end child hunger in the borough. Partners include Calderdale Council, the Community Foundation for Calderdale, the Piece Hall Trust, and many others.

Never Hungry Again aims to support children and young people and eradicate local food poverty – not only during the school holidays, but forever.

Since October 2020 nearly £100,000 of grants have gone to community organisations to provide food to struggling families, including The Halifax Academy, Focus4Hope, Calder Community Cares, Noah's Ark Centre, Together We Grow, Cornholme Food Bank, Luddendenfoot Community Association and Elland & District Food Bank and Support Drop-In. Their phenomenal joint efforts are providing a vital lifeline to many families, through healthy meals, food parcels, recipes and cooking guidance.

The Piece Hall is working with local businesses to offer free food and drinks to children who rely on free school meals at its Blondins restaurant during the October half term. People are invited to donate to cover the cost of food.

This campaign and programme will continue during 2021 and beyond – linking to other projects that rebuild resilience and hope for the future.

KEY ACTIONS FOR PHASE 1 - NEXT 6-12 MONTHS

- Establish clear picture of demand for food support and develop a coordinated response via Food Poverty Forum
- Build on Never Hungry Again Campaign and deliver a new Holiday Food and Activity programme during 2021
- Partnership commitment to Better Mental Health - Prevention Concordat and all age Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy,
- Join up support for people experiencing multiple conditions and at risk of exclusion from accessing support with employment, debt, housing, education - all staff trained and able to support with debt, repossessions, and eviction
- Work with Housing providers to agree local protocols to avoid eviction with Registered Providers,
- Secure more permanent accommodation including increase action on empty homes
- Increase opportunities for energy efficiency to reduce fuel poverty and deliver carbon neutral homes.
- Community Impact Assessment Group (CiAG), the Hate Crime Partnership, Inter Faith Council and others to feed insight into recovery plans as these develop to ensure these are appropriate and targeted to meet needs
- Prioritise support for critical local VCS organisations struggling financially with programme of support for VCS sector and mutual aid groups, formal and more informal sector - positions sector to be resilient and responsive part of future delivery in Calderdale
- Volunteering hub transition to VCS- build on capacity developed through COVID 19

PHASE 2 NEXT 1-2 YEARS Harnessing community assets to help recovery

- Co-ordinated system approach to tackling food poverty with shared vision and pledge for action
- Work with partners to develop mental health and wellbeing programme that target groups most impacted by Covid 19 – including BAME communities
- New protocols in place with all supported housing providers,
- New Homelessness Strategy aimed at preventing rough sleeping, link to more affordable housing in towns work.
- Continue to create connected and more resilient communities through Staying Well programme
- Review civic engagement processes to ensure fit for future (use of digital) so that local people able to influence future direction of our services and plans
- Support for integration of new arrivals and refugees into Calderdale communities and positive economic opportunities
- Integration of VCSE sector within re-designed delivery pathways – post Covid as part of health reset plans and all pillars of recovery
- Review of grant funding for the VCSE across Calderdale Council/CCG to inform future funding strategy and strategic commissioning priorities
- Continue community action/community response across Calderdale – building on the mutual aid activity during the Covid 19 pandemic

PHASE 3: OVER THE NEXT 2-4 YEARS WE WILL BE BUILDING BACK FAIRER

- Reduce reliance of food banks through clear pathways to wider support for families and individuals
- Public Mental Health approach is embedded across partnership including promotion of good mental health, active lifestyles and support for positive choices – supporting positive workplace health and productivity
- Supporting people at risk of/or already homeless including education and coaching to enable resilience including better links with employment, skills advice, and support via Inspire Programme
- Early development of Council owned sites for affordable housing provision – link to Towns work
- Create strong cohesive communities that play active role in shaping economic future
- Support place-based well-being networks – building on the Staying Well service
- Broader engagement and embedding of Calderdale Conversations
- Continued and expanded community development to strengthen and increase community action and community enterprise in townships
- Social prescribing embedded and is sustaining and investing in the sector and communities – Inclusive and economic model building on staying well



2. Tackling Climate Action

Calderdale Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. We will work closely within the West Yorkshire region to develop and implement programmes to help us realise a carbon neutral recovery Supporting the recovery after Storms Ciara and Dennis and preventative work to reduce the risk of future flooding across the Calder Valley also remain priorities for Calderdale..

KEY ACTIONS FOR PHASE 1 – NEXT 6-12 MONTHS

- Deliver rescue phase of the WYCA transport recovery plan
 - Build confidence in the safety of the network;
 - Build on the increase in cycling and walking;
 - Mitigate the health economic & environmental impacts of a rise in car use.
- Support existing green businesses and community enterprise - Ensure that existing green business and community enterprises are accessing business support
- Jobs and training opportunities through accelerating a range of zero emission capital projects
- Green skills identified as priority area within skills programme in region and locally
- Climate action training - Continue successful council programme to build awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities - and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions
- Active Calderdale cycling and walking strategy - Develop more support for short-term green infrastructure initiatives including cycling and walking. Our vision is to be the most active borough in the north by 2024; encourage everyone to include cycling as part of their everyday activities whether they are commuting to work shopping looking to improve their health or taking part in sport.

Case Study - Building back fairer - Liveable Neighbourhoods

Planning, Urban design, Greenspace and Health

- Planning and public realm urban design affects a multitude of health issues including physical inactivity: the design and quality of the environment is one major factor that determines the choices made by individuals and communities in how they use their local environment.
 - A growing body of evidence shows clear associations between the neighbourhood-built environment and physical activity behaviours. Reviews of the literature have shown that environments characterised as more walkable - facilitating walking through higher destination accessibility, street connectivity, presence and quality of active transport and public realm infrastructure, are associated with physical activity accumulation for both children and adults.
 - Evidence clearly shows that living in areas with higher amounts of green spaces is associated with reduced all-cause and cardiovascular mortality in adults.
 - There is consistent evidence showing a positive association between greener living environments and self-reported health, lower heart rate and diastolic blood pressure, and lower incidence of type 2 diabetes. Greatest benefits were found to be in groups with lower socioeconomic status and those living in the most deprived areas.
- Liveable Neighbourhoods project:**
- We are now working with Calderdale communities to create streets and neighbourhoods that are welcoming and attractive.
 - The interventions will be shaped by the creativity, energy and drive of local citizens and will lead to safer, more attractive, more inclusive and accessible streets, public realm and green spaces to enable residents to lead healthier lives.

PHASE 2 NEXT 1-2 YEARS

- Develop a Calderdale emissions reduction pathway and climate emergency action plan
- Work with WYCA transport to re-imagine transport – Network adapted to changes in travel behaviour, employment and lifestyles; financial equilibrium of bus and rail sectors restored; maintain and enhance access to employment & training; maintain momentum on reducing climate change and air quality impacts of transport;
- New green entrepreneurs (businesses and community enterprises and support existing ones to develop or scale up - ensure that green business and community enterprises are accessing business support and innovation opportunities
- Develop zero-carbon pipeline and funding proposition including low carbon, energy, flooding and nature recovery projects
 - Create skills and jobs in low carbon and digital sector - Access opportunities via developing WYCA digital programmes and green new deal to develop bespoke package for Calderdale
 - Green & healthy streets - Local plan streets and neighbourhoods identified to pilot development of liveable streets prioritised for community growing, walking, families, cycling etc. Schemes
 - Ultra-low emission vehicles & infrastructure strategy – Work with WYCA increase electric vehicles infrastructure and usage on Calderdale roads
 - Develop home energy efficiency improvement strategy – Increase take up of grants and opportunities for (link fuel poverty)



PHASE 3: OVER THE NEXT 2-4 YEARS WE WILL BE BUILDING BACK FAIRER

- DELIVER RE-IMAGINING PHASE OF THE WYCA TRANSPORT RECOVERY PLAN - Network adapted to changes in travel behaviour, employment and lifestyles; Financial equilibrium of Bus and Rail sectors restored; Maintain and enhance access to employment & training; maintain momentum on reducing Climate Change and Air Quality impacts of transport
- LOW CARBON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND IN PROGRESS - As part of WYCA programme
- FLOODING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME DEVELOPED AND IN PROGRESS - including Natural Flood Management/Nature recovery as part of WYCA programme
- MAXIMISE GREEN SPACES FOR PEOPLE TO USE - identify opportunities and promote these with partners and communities
- IMPLEMENTING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (LOW CARBON TRANSITION)
- HELP BUSINESSES TO DEVELOP MORE RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS, WORKING TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINTS OF TRADE HELP BUSINESSES TO DEVELOP MORE RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS, WORKING TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINTS, and build on growth opportunities for more UK markets as well as onshore manufacturing.



3. Sustainable Towns

Our towns will become vital sustainable economic hubs, that support thriving independent retail, diverse local businesses and a rich cultural and artistic life that builds on Calderdale's heritage and landscape setting

KEY ACTIONS FOR PHASE 1 – NEXT 6-12 MONTHS Safe reopening of our towns, cultural and tourism economy, secure investment for the future

- Support businesses and community enterprise in towns
 - Continue to develop and administer discretionary grant schemes for businesses suffering economic loss due to covid
 - Ensure targeted business support for most effected sectors –with particular focus hospitality, retail, cultural sector, tourism sector and manufacturing
- Support residents/visitors to confidently use towns
 - Support market traders through advice, provision of social distancing roped areas/barriers/signage
 - Deliver pilot parklet scheme in Brighouse, using funding from accelerator programme, towns fund
 - Deliver wheels park scheme in Todmorden using funding from accelerator programme, towns fund
- Cultural economic recovery programme - Develop rescue fund and recovery programme for the cultural and visitor economy sector (working with WYCA)
- Create an enterprise programme which includes prestart up advice to help fill short term gaps in the early stages of the recovery leading to a more detailed package of support for mentoring and business growth linking into the Growth hub work of the Leeds City Region

Case Study – Building back fairer - Sowerby Bridge Heritage Action Zone

Following a successful bid to the government's High Streets Heritage Action Zone fund, Sowerby Bridge is to receive a share of £95million to help improve and retain its heritage features.

The money will be used to preserve and celebrate the distinctive character of the town, with several improvement options proposed as part of ongoing work to create a Sowerby Bridge masterplan.

The masterplan is being produced with the community-led Sowerby Bridge Town Development Board and following a preliminary consultation in 2018 is now being developed to a detailed design stage.

Aspects of the masterplan which could benefit from the High Streets Heritage Action Zone funding include planned improvements to the Fire and Water community hub on Hollins Mill Lane. Formerly the Sowerby Bridge fire station, swimming pool and council offices, the building would benefit from a new roof and windows as well as improvements to the nearby public areas.

Improvements are also planned around the Tuel Lane lock canal towpath with additional plans for a new market square around the lock's car park.

To complement the Council's continued commitment to tackling the climate emergency, there are also plans to introduce a Sunday Street in the town, restricting car access to Hollins Mill Lane on Sundays to encourage walking and cycling on this popular route.

The High Street Heritage Action Zone fund will be used to preserve the historic centre for future generations. This "work will complement the ongoing development of the Sowerby Bridge masterplan which aims to deliver a full programme of improvements in the town. As well as making the most of the town's many heritage elements, this will include changes to the transport network, more green space areas and initiatives to reduce the potential for flooding.

Section 7: Measuring our Recovery

PHASE 2 NEXT 1-2 YEARS Build confidence in our towns as resident, business or visitor put Calderdale on map

- Secure funding for new public realm, improved high streets
 - Secure future high streets funding, Halifax & Elland: including proposed refurbishment of Halifax Victoria market hall. Outcome – access to reasonably priced food – link to reduced inequalities
- Sowerby bridge heritage action zone scheme developed with community and cultural partners
- Secure town investment plan funding, Todmorden and Brighouse – including £1million MHCLG Todmorden town investment plan for centre vale park & Brighouse industry 4.0 scheme for apprentices, in partnership with KITs
- Work with towns to continue masterplans and identifying opportunities for further investment in priority areas for recovery
 - Work with region on future opportunities through levelling up and shared prosperity fund to develop fundable projects
- Deliver cultural programme & support visitor economy
- Enterprise support and partnership developed with cultural sector including festivals programme to generate footfall, economic activity, visitors and hope for recovery in communities (subject to regional funding)
- Identify key asks and develop business recovery programme for tourism and visitor sector linked to town plans
- Develop a recovery programme for encouraging independent retailers, building on the market traders model moving into local business premises within our villages and towns.

- Develop schemes to help adapt buildings for the future workforce needs, encouraging more enterprise sites and links to more flexible trading using inside and outside venues.

- Create an inward economic investment function to help assess the buildings already empty and look at finance incentives to bring those back into use for the most appropriate uses which may include conversion to housing.

PHASE 3: OVER THE NEXT 2-4 YEARS WE WILL BE BUILDING BACK BETTER

- DELIVERY OF CAPITAL REGENERATION SCHEMES
 - Halifax Town Centre Delivery, Elland, Brighouse and Todmorden capital schemes
 - SE Calderdale Masterplan – including Clifton Enterprise Zone & Garden suburbs
 - Sowerby Bridge Heritage High Street Action Zone
 - Corridor Improvement Plan
- EMBED CULTURAL AND VISITOR ECONOMY INVESTMENT INTO TOWNS PLANS
- HOUSING NEEDS FOR TOWNS REGNRATION PLANS
 - Work with housing providers to Identify opportunities in local towns
 - Mechanism in place to increase the supply of affordable housing, including via Council owned sites, work with region to Scale up Better Homes Yorkshire and develop energy efficiency work

We have identified indicative success measures for Inclusive Economic Recovery Plan. Once the proposed interventions are confirmed with the new Inclusive economic Recovery Board - we will use them to track our progress and adjust our approach if we need to. These will be linked to our detailed plans within the Council and partners and the Covid Impact assessment

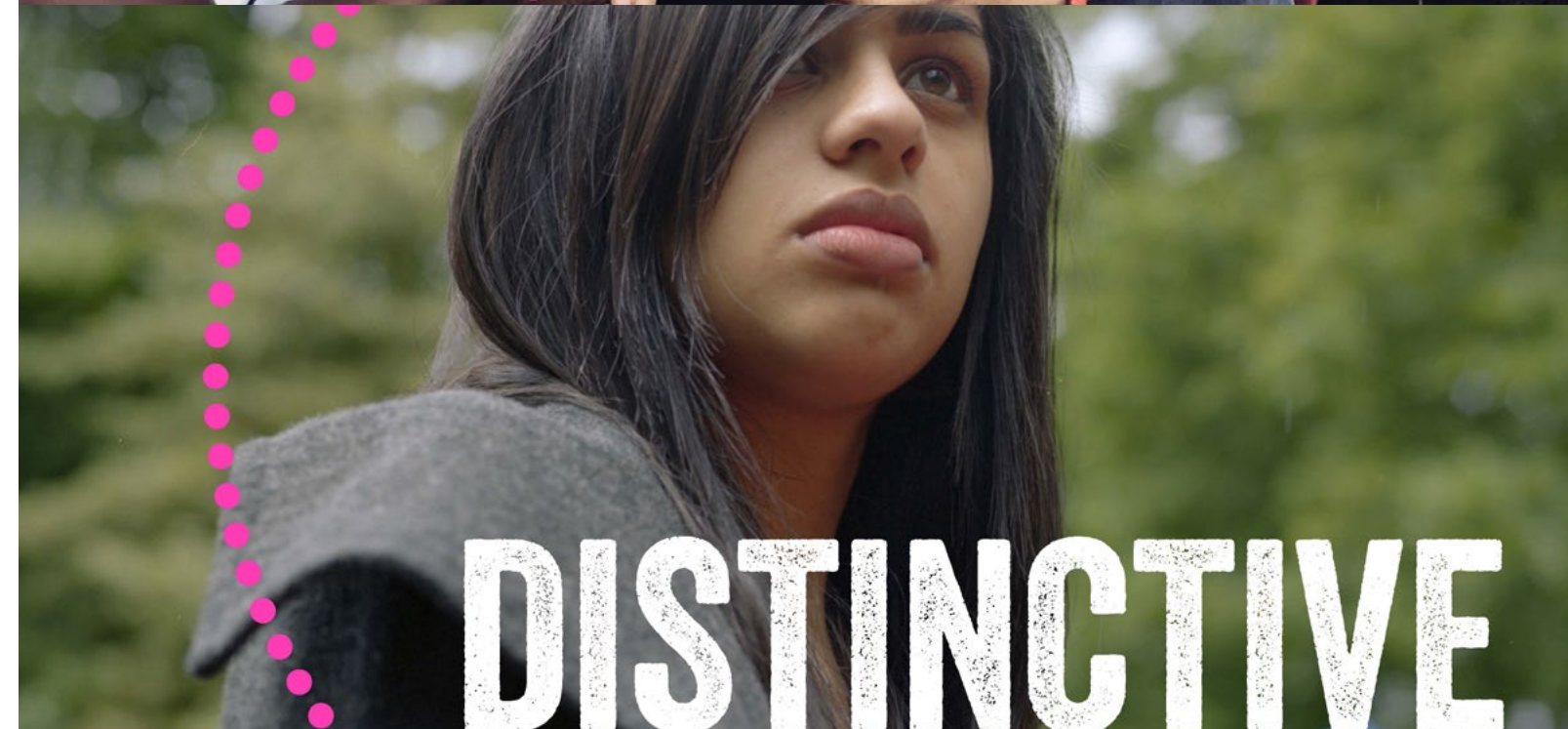
Priority Areas of action	Success measures
Grow our business base and build business resilience so that talent and enterprise can thrive	Work with our business community to rebuild and build back the capacity to weather future shocks Increase take up of business support • Increase satisfaction with business support • Increase number of business start-ups • Increase business growth rates • Create new spaces for living, work and leisure and enhance existing ones Support our people to get the skills they need for the future Reduce proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) • Maximise Kickstart locally • Reduce proportion of working age population with no qualifications • Increase levels of digital literacy • Increase support for adult learners accessing further and higher education. Increasing spend in the Calderdale economy through developing local supply chains, contracts and investment from the Council and other partners Work with good employers to create the good jobs and opportunities that are essential for an inclusive recovery • Support the development of a healthy workforce to generate economic and social value
Sustainable Towns	Enhance our towns public realm • develop new housing • Enhancing connectivity – both physical and digital. Building our reputation as a great destination for tourism and culture, especially outside the region - Leverage Calderdale's diverse cultural assets and distinctive places to drive economic growth. • Improve the visitor and citizen experience • Increase visitor numbers and spend • Increase the value of cultural and creative sectors and the number of jobs in these sectors.
Tackling Climate Action	• Improve the quality and energy efficiency of homes and public buildings • Reduce levels of fuel poverty • Comply with UK air quality limits • Reduce CO2 per capita emission levels • Develop local green skills offer • Increase the value of environmental and low carbon sectors and the number of jobs in these sectors



**ENTERPRISING
AND TALENTED**



**KIND AND
RESILIENT**



DISTINCTIVE

CALDERDALE INCLUSIVE RECOVERY

COVID-19 Impact Assessment

January 2021

COVID-19 Impact Assessment

This Calderdale COVID-19 Impact assessment contains a wide ranging dataset, agreed by the Inclusive Recovery Co-ordinating Group. Unless stated otherwise, all data is specific to Calderdale and is up to date as at 31 January 2021.

The Impact Assessment will continue to change as we find out more about the impact of COVID-19 and more data become available. The combination of various data sources and contextual information will, over time, produce a full insight into the issues and opportunities Calderdale can seize to build back better. We will provide exception reporting at future meetings where there are significant changes.

Calderdale Inclusive Recovery Group set out a clear intention to have a focus on economic recovery, but also to consider the wider impacts of COVID-19 on Calderdale and its communities. The impact assessment begins with an overview of COVID-19 infections and related mortality, with the rest of the document aligned with our key priorities:

- Reducing Inequalities and the causes of deprivation
- Developing Sustainable towns
- Take action on the climate emergency

We will use this alongside Calderdale Recovery Conversations. This will ensure the voice and experience of our diverse communities brings insight to the data and frontline knowledge, providing a holistic oversight of the impact of COVID-19 locally.

The assessment will also seek to identify the impact of COVID-19 on the Council's longer-term priorities of reducing inequality, building stronger towns and combating climate change, and how it might affect the wider partnership activity necessary to achieve Vision 2024.

- The Calderdale Recovery Group has reviewed the Calderdale Covid Impact Assessment at key points and has used this to inform our partnership recovery planning.
- The COVID-19 Impact assessment will be formally included as part of the Inclusive Recovery Plan when it is published in Spring 2021.

Calderdale Key Messages

Covid 19 across Calderdale

- The 7 day COVID-19 infection rate increased significantly in late 2020, peaking at 493 per 100,000 in November, although the actual figure may have been higher.
- Infections in local care homes increased significantly in the second wave. Deaths also increased, but to a lesser extent than seen in the first wave.

Reduce Inequalities and the causes of deprivation

- The pandemic will impact on levels of physical activity and obesity locally, with people from BAME communities and those with disabilities, or long term health problems, most affected.
- The pandemic will have a long term impact on mental health, particularly for young people, women, disabled people, people on low incomes and those living in urban areas. Early data suggests an increase in requests for mental health assessments, as well as increased urgent crisis referrals.
- Increased demand for free school meals and food banks highlights the impact of the pandemic on poverty.
- The eviction ban was re-introduced for the third lockdown. Although bailiffs were instructed to limit evictions last summer, some did take place. The number of children in temporary housing is increasing.
- The long term impacts on educational and employment outcomes for children and young people are unclear. However, it is likely those from disadvantaged backgrounds will be most affected.
- The childcare sector has experienced significant financial losses, alongside reduced parental demand. Each lockdown has compounded concerns about financial sustainability.
- Anti-social behaviour incidents have increased significantly during the pandemic to a three year high in August 2020. Hate crimes have also increased. This is thought to relate to public concerns over social distancing. Lockdown will have made it harder to report domestic abuse and access support.
- We have seen an incredible response from communities volunteering and the VCS sector, with over 1000 people coming forward to volunteer to support us. However, more generally, the sector resilience and funding has been negatively impacted by lockdown.

Calderdale Key Messages

Developing Sustainable Towns

- The number of unemployment benefit claimants has increased significantly from 3.6% in March peaking at 7% in August 2020. Young people have been disproportionately affected, with 12.5% of 18 to 24 year olds claiming unemployment benefits locally in December.
- The take up of Universal Credit has increased by 62%.
- Centre for Cities identified Calderdale as an area where employment could be more vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic. Local businesses responding to our survey estimated initial losses of £36 million, with 59% temporarily or indefinitely closed during the first lockdown.
- A reduction in property sales suggests a slowdown in the local economy.
- Footfall recovered following a significant drop during the first lockdown, but remains below 2019 levels.
- Central Government allocated £65 million in grant funding to support businesses locally.

Taking action on the Climate Emergency

- The first lockdown led to a reduction in traffic, with a corresponding fall in NO2 emissions and road traffic accidents. Traffic has since returned to previous levels, and national data suggests dramatic reductions in the use of public transport.
- Cycling increased during the first lockdown, with continued increases throughout 2020.
- The volume of recycling increased significantly during lockdown. However, levels of fly tipping also increased.
- The shift to home working resulted in a 15% reduction overall in CO2 emissions through council property energy usage. Home energy bills are estimated to have risen nationally by £32 a month on average.

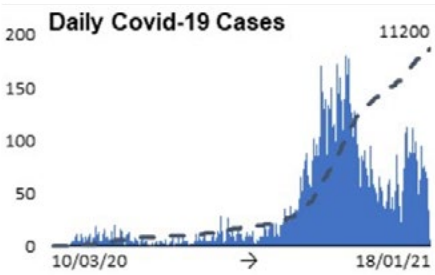
Covid in the Community

Summary

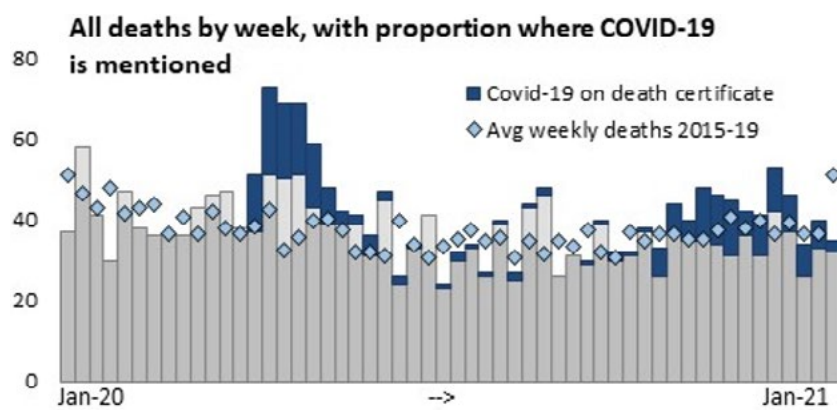
To date, 11,200 people have been confirmed as having Covid-19 infections in Calderdale during the course of the pandemic. Of those, 254 deaths have been confirmed. Hospitals and care homes were the most common locations of deaths.

The local rate of infection increased significantly from mid September onwards, before falling as a result of the second national lockdown. Rates locally have not matched the national trend during the third lockdown.

This underlines need for our approach to be focussed on 'living with' COVID-19 until the roll out of the vaccination programme is completed.

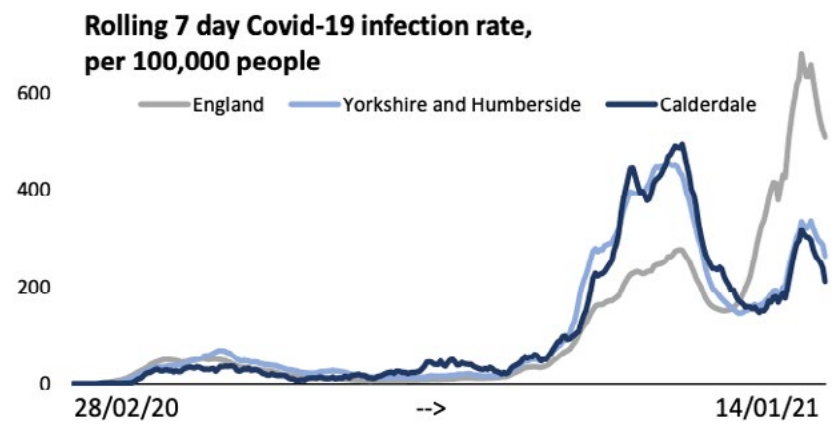


This chart shows the daily and cumulative trend for positive infections in Calderdale. This highlights the significant increase in the Autumn. Accurate comparisons with the first wave are not possible, due to the lack of community testing at that time. [Follow link for further detail.](#)

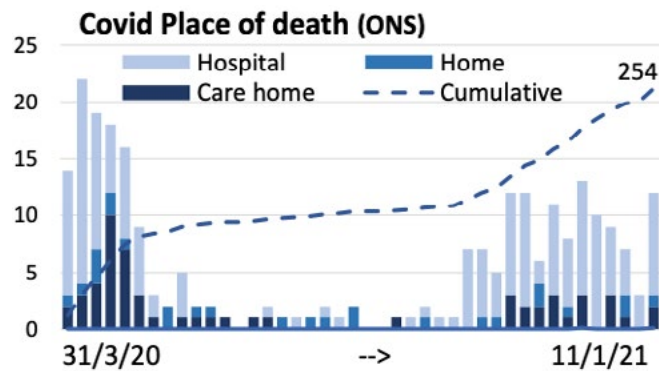


The Office for National Statistics publish weekly mortality statistics, highlighting the impact of Covid-19. The chart above shows an initial peak of Covid-19 related deaths in the spring, in line with the first wave. A further increase is now clearly identified, beginning in the Autumn, corresponding with the second wave.

The chart below shows the rolling 7 day infection rate since the start of the pandemic, for Calderdale, Yorkshire & Humber and England. This highlights the impact of the initial peak of the second wave last Autumn, but also the comparatively lower infection rate locally and regionally in December and January.



ONS mortality data also includes a breakdown by place of death. The chart above highlights high mortality from Covid-19 in care homes during the first wave. Since last Autumn, most deaths have occurred in hospital.



Covid in the Community: Key Impacts on health and social care

Summary

At the outset of the pandemic, hospitals across the country attempted to increase bed capacity through safe discharges.

Locally, this led to a significant increase in residential and nursing care admissions in March. Subsequently, infections in care homes increased throughout April, locally and nationally, before falling over the summer.

There was a sharp rise in infections in care homes during the second wave.

The overall care home population has fallen, as a result of increased mortality, as well as fewer permanent admissions into care.

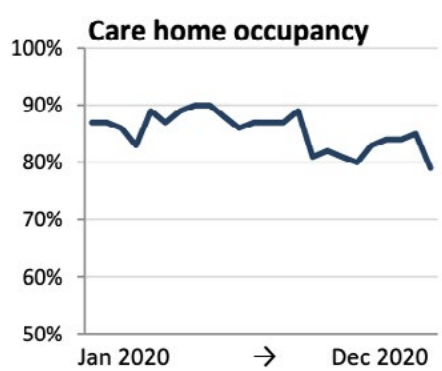
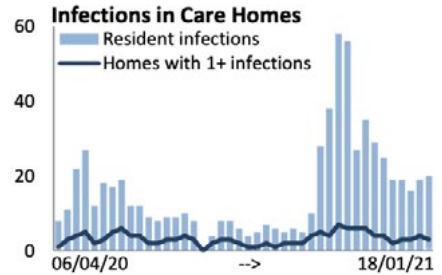
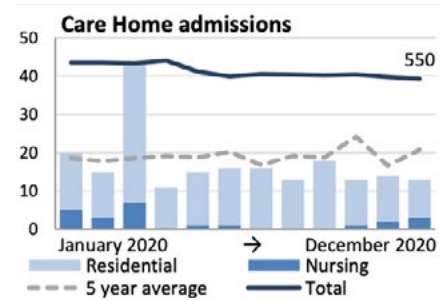
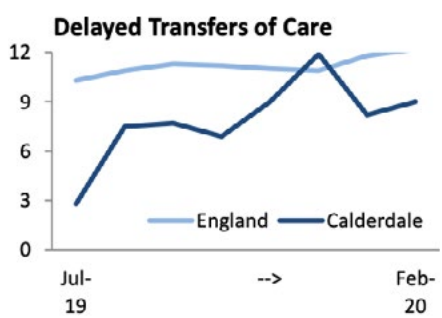
Continued reduced occupancy of care homes will impact on their financial sustainability.

Prior to the outset of the pandemic, daily delayed discharges from hospitals in Calderdale were increasing. The national collection of this data was stopped in April 2020, and is unlikely to recommence.

March 2020 saw a significant increase in care home admissions, following a national effort to increase capacity in hospitals through safe discharges. In subsequent weeks, the rate of Covid-19 infections in care homes started to increase, leading to increased mortality.

Infections fell over the summer, before increasing significantly during the second wave. Each week since the start of 2021 has seen roughly 20 infections in care homes, above most weeks during the first wave.

As a result of the pandemic, there has been a reduction in the number of people being permanently admitted into care homes. Correspondingly, care home occupancy has decreased, falling to 79% in December 2020, the lowest occupancy in the last 2 years. If occupancy does not increase, the long term sustainability of care home providers will be threatened.



[Please note, data on infections in care homes and care provider occupancy can be subject to some delays in reporting and may not reflect the final position.]

Covid in the Community: Physical activity

Summary

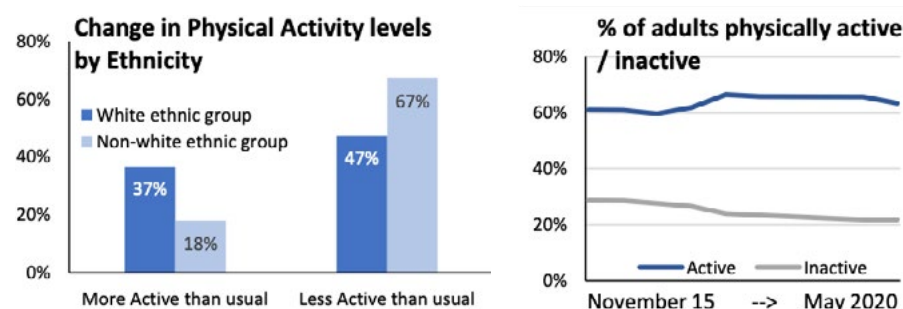
Prior to the pandemic, levels of physical activity in Calderdale were high, with decreasing inactivity. Data collected during the pandemic, both locally and nationally, suggests a split in the population, with a third of people being more active, but nearly half (49%) less active.

Local data suggests those already least likely to be active are disproportionately affected, including BAME people and those with long term health problems or disabilities.

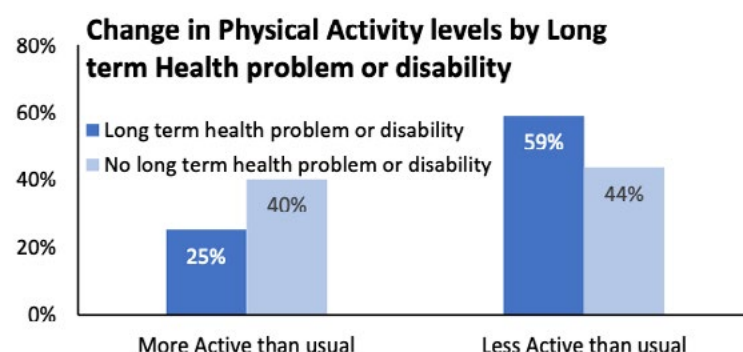
Sport England estimate that 44% of children nationally were doing no activity or less than half an hour nationally during the first lockdown.

Levels of excess weight in Calderdale children are in line with the national average. Excess weight amongst adults is above the national average.

We expect the pandemic to impact on levels of physical activity and obesity locally. Local survey findings, covering the first lockdown, suggest a massive disruption in physical activity behaviour in adults. This shift could lead to greater inequalities, with the largest reductions in activity levels seen amongst the BAME population and those with a long term health problem or disability. National data, which covers some of the first lockdown period, shows a decrease in physical activity levels locally, although some of our more affluent comparators did not see similar decreases.

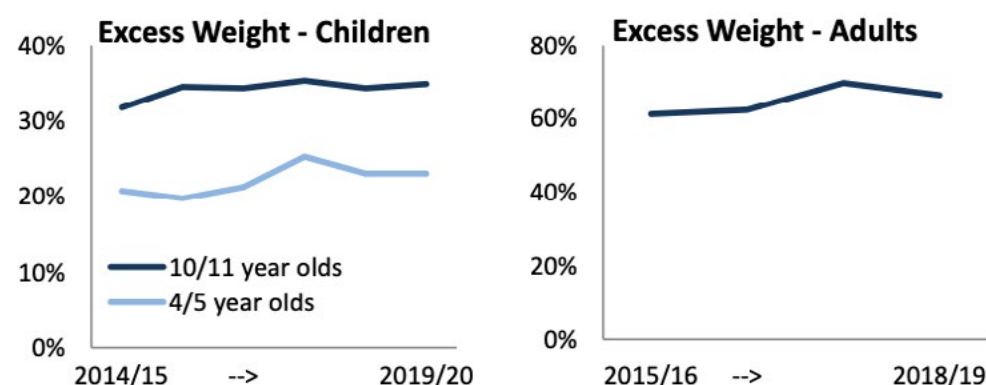


National Sport England data on children's activity levels, during the first lockdown, highlighted that before the pandemic, around two thirds were doing the recommended 60 minutes a day. Since the onset of the pandemic, it's thought 44% of all children nationally are either doing no activity, or less than half an hour each day.



Statistics from the National Child Measurement Programme show the prevalence of obesity amongst Calderdale children (at 4/5 and 10/11 years old) to be broadly in line with national average.

For adults, obesity levels remain above the national average. It is unclear what impact the pandemic will have locally on obesity. However, it is likely that households that were already struggling to access healthy foods would experience the greatest impact.



Covid in the Community: Mental Health

Summary

The pandemic will have a long term impact on mental health, particularly for the young, women, disabled people and people on low incomes living in urban areas.

Locally, the majority of council staff reported changes in their mental health during the first lockdown.

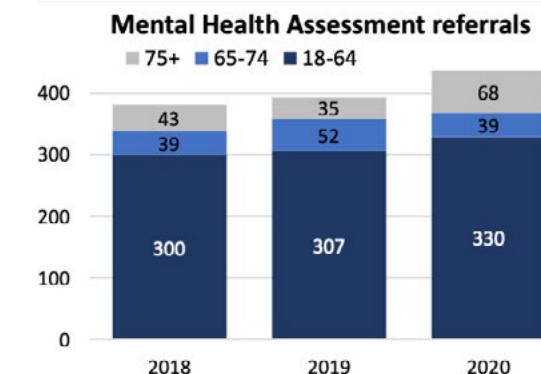
Referrals to adult social care for mental health assessments increased by 14% in 2020, compared with the previous year.

NHS data on mental health services shows a local increase in urgent referrals to crisis care. The data also shows a rise in perinatal mental health contacts.

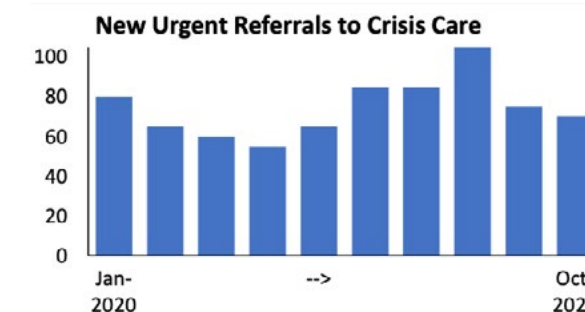
Covid-19, the associated lockdown and longer term social and economic effects are expected to have a long term impact on mental health. Living through a pandemic could worsen existing mental illness, or cause mental illness for the first time. ONS data shows that almost a fifth of the population experienced depression during first lockdown. The findings identified that younger adults, women, key workers and disabled people were more likely to experience depression. With the exception of key workers, those groups are more likely to experience poor mental health.

Locally, a survey of council employees during the first lockdown offers insight into the short term affects of the lockdown:

- 83% identified the Covid-19 had 'somewhat to completely' impacted on their feelings, general mood and emotions
- 42% had felt lonely during the past week
- Over a third (38%) reported very high anxiety



There was a 14% increase in requests to the council for mental health assessments in 2020, compared with 2019. Referrals fell during the first lockdown, before increasing in the second half of 2020. Although the majority of the referrals relate to people of working age, there was a 96% increase in referrals for the over 75s. Nationally, charities supporting the elderly are reporting significant impacts on those with dementia. Restrictions on visitors in care homes have been in place since March 2020 in most settings.



NHS data on access to statutory mental health services in Calderdale shows a similar picture to the local data above. The chart to the left shows a decline in urgent referrals for crisis care during the first lockdown, with a subsequent increase over the summer, peaking at 105 referrals in August 2020.

The NHS data also shows a 52% increase in perinatal contacts related to mental health in September.

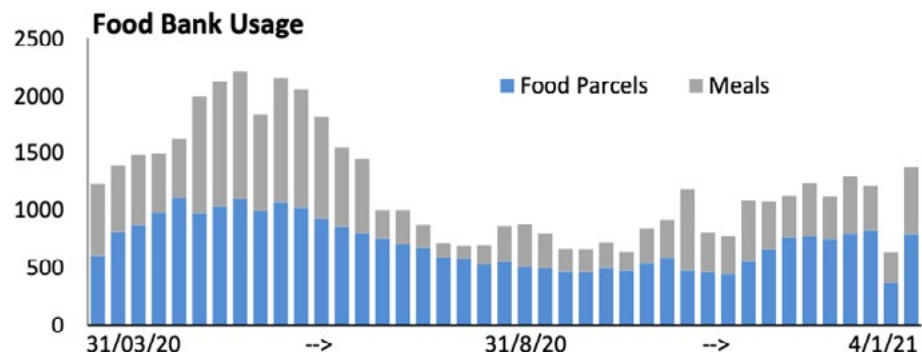
Covid in the Community: Food Poverty

Summary

The pandemic has led to an unprecedented rise in the use of food banks nationally and locally. Demand peaked during the first wave, but has increased in recent months, following the two subsequent national lockdowns.

The highest levels of foodbank referrals through the Volunteering Hub have been in North Halifax and South PCN (Sowerby Bridge and Elland).

The proportion of Calderdale school pupils eligible for Free School Meals rose to 21.8%, an increase of 596 children between January and October 2020.



The pandemic has led to an unprecedented rise in the use of food banks. Nationally, the Trussell Trust reported an 81% increase in emergency food parcels in the second half of March 2020, compared to the same period last year. Data collected locally highlights a significant increase during the first lockdown, with over 2000 food parcels and meals distributed in some weeks. Demand has continued, with over 500 food parcels provided most weeks, rising to 829 in the week before Christmas. A further 3 new providers have been added in recent weeks

Signposting to foodbanks is the most common outcome of referrals for support to the volunteering hub. North and South PCNs have seen the largest number of foodbank cases, but Central has the highest proportion of people requiring ongoing support with 42% (45 people).

Free School Meals

In October 2020, 21.8% (7166) of Calderdale children attending schools in the borough were eligible for free school meals, an increase from 19.8% (6570) in January 2020. An extra 596 children became eligible in 2020.

Every ward saw an increase, ranging from 3.3% for Ovenden to 0.8% for Northowram and Shelf. The rollout of Universal Credit will impact on FSM eligibility. We won't know the full extent of this until summer 2021.

Social Care Hub

At the peak of the pandemic, the hub received just over 250 requests for help in one week. The volume of requests has since reduced significantly.

Outcome of Completed requests		Total
Refer to Volunteer Hub / Other		1072
Advice and NFA		750
Refer to Volunteer Hub & Social		44
Further Social Care Needed		35

Covid in the Community: Financial Resilience

Summary

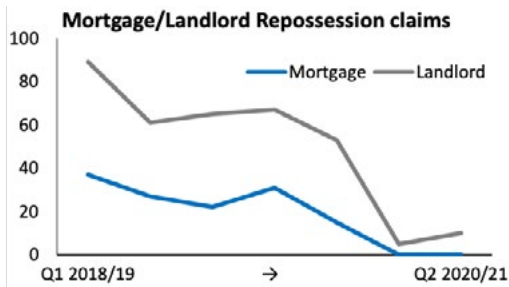
A range of support measures have been put in place during the pandemic, such as a ban on evictions. However, households may struggle when measures are ended, and we could see an increase in people in crisis during in 2021.

This could lead to an increase in mortgage and landlord repossessions, with a subsequent increases in homelessness and/or households in temporary accommodation. A small number of landlord repossessions took place over the summer of 2020.

Citizen's Advice Calderdale are now supporting nearly four times as many people with debt, with their overall caseload more than doubling.

More local data on poverty related indicators available via [this link](#)

Data to the end of September 2020 on repossessions shows the impact of the suspension of evictions during the pandemic. No mortgage lender evictions have taken place since April 2020. However, there were 15 landlord possession in that period.



A combination of factors suggest we may see more people in crisis in 2021:

- A national eviction ban was not reintroduced for the second lockdown, but is in place now. Bailiffs were instructed to limit evictions during the second lockdown, but some did happen.
- Nationally, it is estimated that 227,000 private renters have fallen into arrears and may be at risk of eviction. A BBC FOI to local authorities highlighted that up to 20,000 people may have been made homeless nationally, despite the ban.
- A survey undertaken by the housing charity Shelter suggests the proportion of people in rent arrears has doubled.
- Universal Credit sanctions were lifted during the first lockdown, but not for subsequent lockdowns. Calderdale has seen a 62% increase in claimants as a result of the pandemic.
- Similarly, the recovery of benefit overpayments was paused in April 2020, but is now in place.
- Local take up of the council tax reduction scheme rose by 11% at the end of June. This indicates households beginning to experience financial hardship.
- Research by the Resolution Foundation highlighted inequality in relation to living costs during the pandemic, with those on low incomes struggling to make ends meet, compared with more affluent households saving money through reduced expenditure on commuting, holidays etc.
- Citizen's Advice Calderdale supported 888 people with debt in Q3 this year, an increase from 204 in the same period last year. Their caseload more than doubled over the same period, increasing from 680 to 1427
- The Government extended the Coronavirus Job Retention scheme until April 2021. The impact of the second national lockdown on furlough usage remains unclear. A study by Which? suggested furloughed workers were three times more likely to default on payments.
- The self employment income support scheme has been extended to cover November 2020 to April 2021.

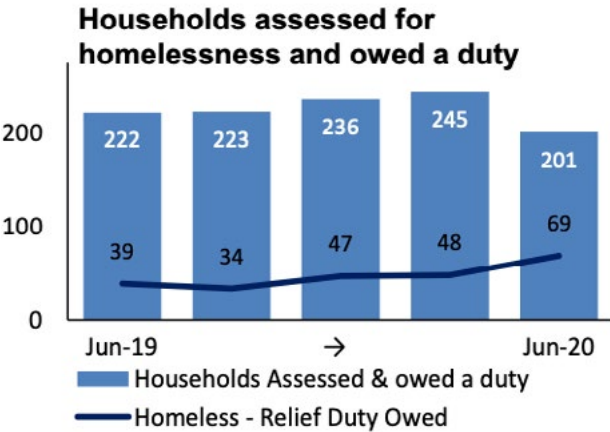
Covid in the Community: Homelessness and households in temporary accommodation

Summary

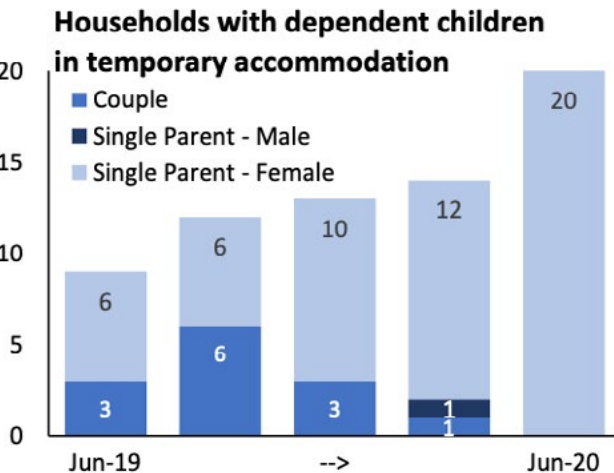
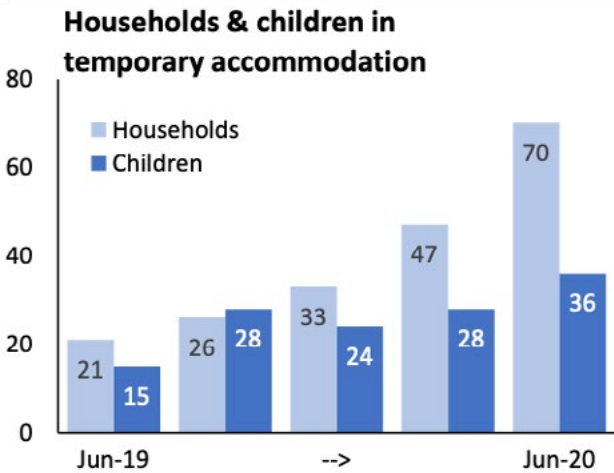
Although fewer households were assessed for homelessness between April and June 2020, the proportion assessed as being owed a relief duty increased.

Data on households in temporary accommodation suggests numbers were increasing before the pandemic, with a further increase seen following the end of the first lockdown.

Children in temporary accommodation in Calderdale has more than doubled in 15 months, with the cohort shifting from a mix of single and couple households, to entirely single female parent households last summer.



This chart highlights an increase in households assessed as homeless and owed a duty, which pre-dates the pandemic. Data for Q1 (April to June 2020) shows a reduction in numbers assessed, but an increase in the number owed a relief duty.



Over the 15 months to the end of June 2020, the number of households in temporary accommodation in Calderdale increased. Part of this period pre-dates the pandemic, but the data covering the first lockdown (April to June 2020) highlights a significant increase in the overall number, as well as an increase in households with dependent children.

The number of children in households in temporary accommodation reached a high of 36 in June 2020, all of whom were in single female parent households.

Covid in the Community: Homelessness and households in temporary accommodation

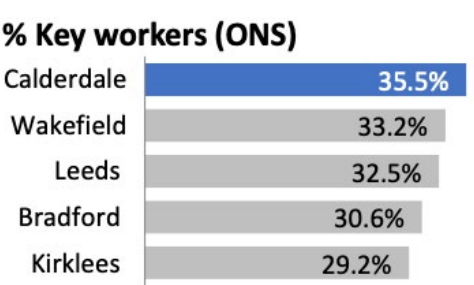
Summary

Schools are currently closed, except to children of key workers and vulnerable children. Attendance has increased, compared to the first lockdown, and some local schools are having to prioritise access.

The long term impacts on educational outcomes will remain unclear for some time. It is likely those from disadvantaged backgrounds will be most affected.

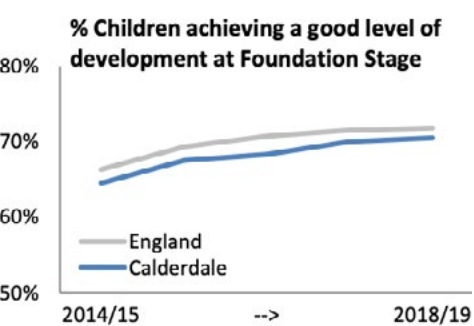
The long term sustainability of the childcare sector is at risk, following the implementation of three national lockdowns. A continuing lack of parental demand and confidence in childcare may also impact on child development.

The impact of lockdown on children and young people is likely to vary across Calderdale. The attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their classmates is expected to grow. In particular, a lack of access to laptops has created a digital divide between pupils. Those most likely to be negatively affected include vulnerable children, those with special educational needs or disabilities, and young carers.



All schools are currently closed, except to children of key workers and vulnerable children. Special schools and alternative provision remains open. As has been the case nationally, Calderdale has seen an increase in school attendance from key worker families, with local schools having to prioritise access to ensure safe operation. Statistics from the ONS (see chart) suggest Calderdale has the highest proportion of the workforce classed as key workers in West Yorkshire.

Children at the start of their academic journey could be amongst the hardest hit by the pandemic. Following the first lockdown, some local childcare providers reported increased issues relating to children's emotional health and behavioural responses. Conversely, some children will have benefited from increased time with their parents.



As a result, we could expect to see inequality in child development in year to come. The Foundation Stage Profile is a key national data source on child development. The collection of that data was cancelled last year, and is not mandatory in 2021. We may therefore not have a full understanding of the impact of the pandemic for some time to come.

Only 79 of Calderdale's 350 childcare providers remained open during the first lockdown. Some providers experienced significant financial losses, with two settings closing altogether, a loss of 116 places. Subsequent lockdowns have seen a resurgence in financial sustainability concerns. Providers have been allowed to remain open during the current lockdown, but parental demand is significantly reduced.

The council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficient supply of childcare places, a task will now be much more difficult. Changing parental demand, reduced parental and challenging funding levels could have long term impacts on the sector. At this stage, it is not possible to forecast how many childcare places could be lost as a result of the pandemic.

Covid in the Community: Community Safety

Summary

Levels of anti-social behaviour have increased significantly during the pandemic, with August 2020 showing the highest figures in over three years.

Hate crimes started to rise after the easing of the first lockdown, ending the year 21% higher than 2019. Race incidents make up the majority of hate crimes in 2020.

Acquisitive crime fell significantly throughout lockdown.

Recorded domestic abuse fell during the first wave, but is now showing signs of increasing. Lockdown made it harder to report domestic abuse and support victims.

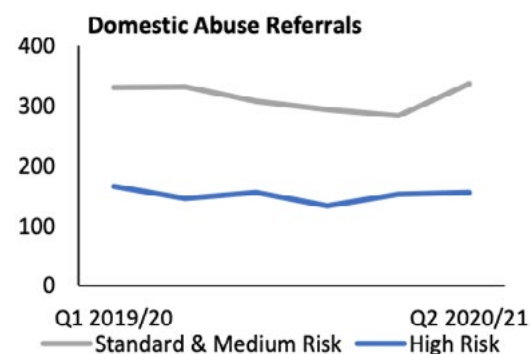
Further details on most types of crime in Calderdale available via this [link](#)

Acquisitive crime fell dramatically from April 2020, levelling off until July 2020. After a gradual increase, November shows a reduction to 365 incidents. By comparison, there were 602 incidents recorded in November 2019.

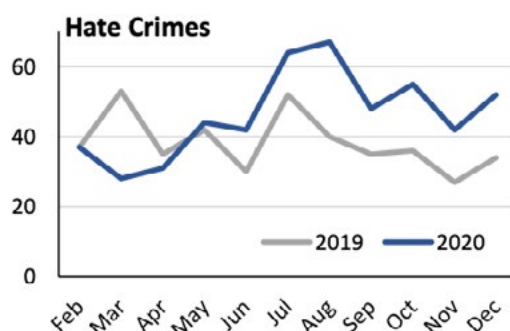
Total recorded crime in Calderdale shows a decrease of 12.2% compared to the same period last year, however, there has been a 20% increase in Hate Crimes.

From May 2020 there has been a significant increase in the volume of anti-social behaviour incidents, reaching 546 in August compared to 393 in August 2019. Although November data shows a reduction to 357 incidents, this is still higher than 263 recorded in November 2019.

Domestic abuse referrals fell during the first lockdown. More recently, there has been an increase in Standard & Medium risk referrals. Poor mental health, strained finances and increased alcohol consumption are likely contributory factors. Schools reported an increase in referrals after the start of the academic year. Working practices have been affected by lockdown, e.g. fewer opportunities for face to face discussions. As a result, complex cases are now taking longer to process. Court delays have also resulted in a significant backlog of cases. Working from home is also impacting on case workers.



Between February and December 2020, hate crimes increased by 21%, compared with the same period in 2019. Figures reported from June 2020 onwards were all well above previous trends. Race related incidents makes up the bulk of the hate crimes reported, with 68% in 2020.



Covid in the Community: VCS and cultural sector

Summary

The 3 key issues affecting VCS organisations at this time are:

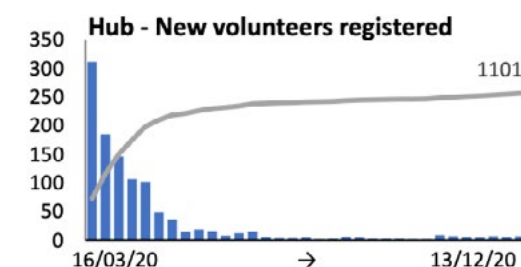
- Financial Support / Funding
- Inability to run activities
- Furloughed staff / volunteering / retention

Over 1,000 people have come forward to volunteer and support us.

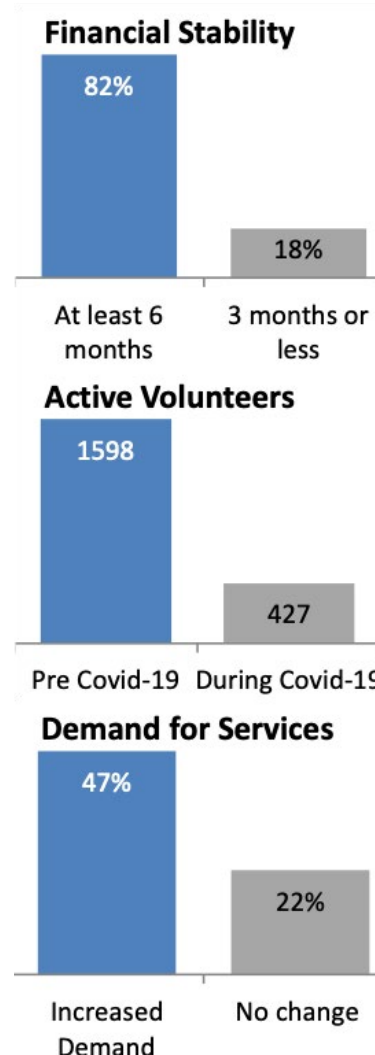
Calderdale Sector Resilience Survey highlights

67 voluntary and community sector organisations responded to the resilience survey in May 2020. Highlights include:

- 68% were from micro/small voluntary and community sector organisations, with turnover under £100k
- 73% decrease in active volunteers across the Calderdale VCS, falling from 1598 to 427. However, 31% of respondents have been linking in with volunteer programmes e.g. CMBC, VSI Alliance, NHS.
- 8% of staff have been furloughed.
- The 3 key issues affecting organisation at this time are: financial support / funding, inability to run activities and furloughed staff / volunteering / retention
- 47% of respondents have seen an increase in demand for their services, with 22% reporting no change in demand.
- 82% could remain financially stable for at least another 6 months in the current environment. The remaining 18% could remain stable for 3 months or less.
- Approximately a quarter of respondents earn over 50% of their income from trading, room hire etc.
- Out of the 29 respondents who applied for funding during Covid-19, 64% were successful.
- 69% of respondents were seeing no change or increased service delivery demand, but a significant decline in active volunteers, adding pressure to the organisation's capacity.



We have seen an incredible response from the VCS sector. Over 1,100 people have come forward to volunteer to support us since March 2020 (see chart opposite). Around 770 are still active volunteers. However, more generally, the sector has been negatively impacted by lockdown.



Covid in the Economy: Unemployment

Summary

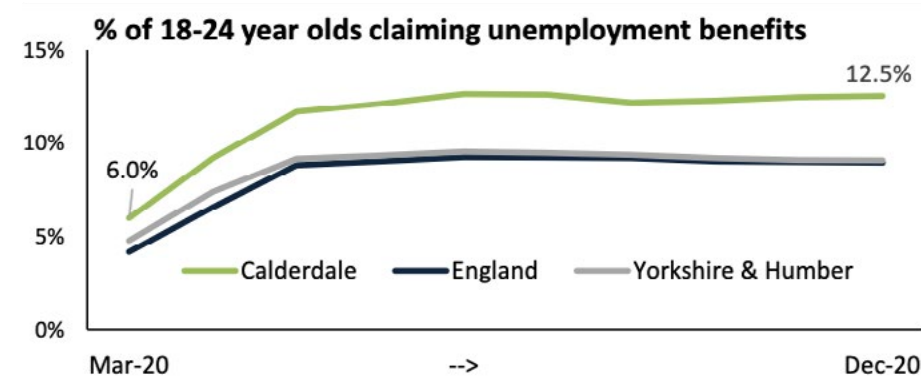
Employment has been falling in Calderdale since 2018.

The number of unemployment benefit claimants has increased significantly from 3.6% in March peaking at 7% in August 2020. Calderdale has been 0.4% above the regional average since August 2020.

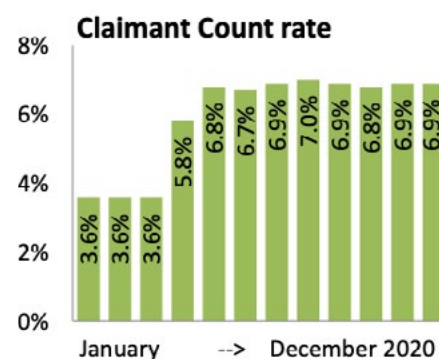
Proportionally, younger adults have seen the largest increases in claimants. Calderdale already had a higher proportion for people aged 18 to 24 claiming unemployed benefits, compared to regional and national averages. That disparity grew significantly during the first wave and remained unchanged in December.

Those with the lowest qualifications will experience the biggest impact of any economic downturn.

The number of people in employment in Calderdale has been falling since 2018. At that time, 104,800 people were in employment. Before the start of the pandemic in March 2020, that had reached 97,000. The latest data, covering the year to the end of September 2020, shows a further fall to 95,000 people.



These charts highlight significant and sustained increases in claimants, from March 2020 onwards. The overall unemployment claimant level has risen from 3.6% in March to 6.9% in December 2020. At ward level, Northowram and Shelf showed the biggest increase in the claimant count rate (160%), rising from 100 in December 2019 to 260 in December 2020. The chart above right confirms that young people in Calderdale are disproportionately affected, with 12.5% of all 18-24 year olds in Calderdale claiming unemployment benefits in December 2020.



The Impact on the Labour Market briefing (6th November) states, according to the IFS, employees aged under 25 were about 2½ times as likely to work in a sector that is now shut down as other employees. Nationally, those under 18 have experienced the highest proportion of furloughed jobs. The IFS find that those under 25 are more exposed to jobs that cannot be worked from home with the difference across age groups larger for those with GCSE qualifications or less. Youth unemployment, June to August 2020, is at the highest level since 2016. The Resolution Foundation suggests that many graduates will delay their entry into the labour market by staying in education.

Impact on Apprenticeships

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, the number of apprenticeship starts was declining, both nationally and locally. In 2017/18, 1750 apprenticeships started in Calderdale, a 33% reduction from 2015/16. This corresponds with the introduction of the Apprenticeships Levy in April 2017. This is thought to have led to a shift towards higher level apprenticeships, which impacted more heavily on those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Further reductions in apprenticeship starts are expected as a result of the pandemic. Those already on apprenticeships are also affected, with just 39% continuing as normal nationally in April 2020.

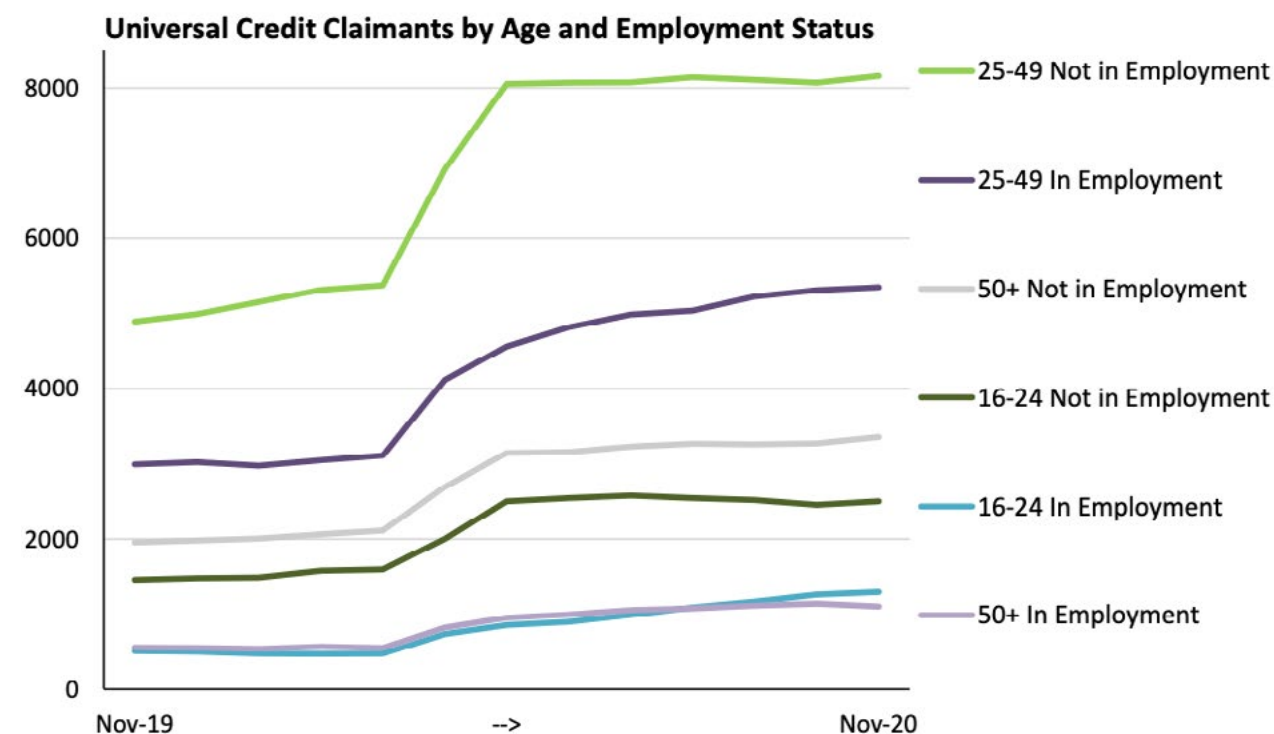
Research is underway with students at Calderdale College. This will provide a better understanding of the impact of Covid19 on young people's aspirations, access to learning opportunities, employment prospects etc.

Covid in the Economy: Universal Credit

Summary

2020 saw a marked increase in Universal Credit claimants, with the largest numbers of claimants being in the 25 to 49 age group. Claimants aged 16 to 24 saw the largest proportional increase, rising by 172% between March and November.

More local data on Universal Credit take up is available via [this link](#).



There were significant increases in Universal Credit claimants in 2020, with the initial increase corresponding with the first lockdown. Those increases have since been sustained, with some groups seeing further increases later in the year, most notably those aged 25 to 49 in employment. Overall, there was a 65% increase in claimants in Calderdale between March and November 2020.

Those aged 16 to 24 in employment experienced the largest proportional increase in claimants, rising from 475 in March to 1294 in November, an increase of 172%.

Covid in the Economy: Universal Credit continued

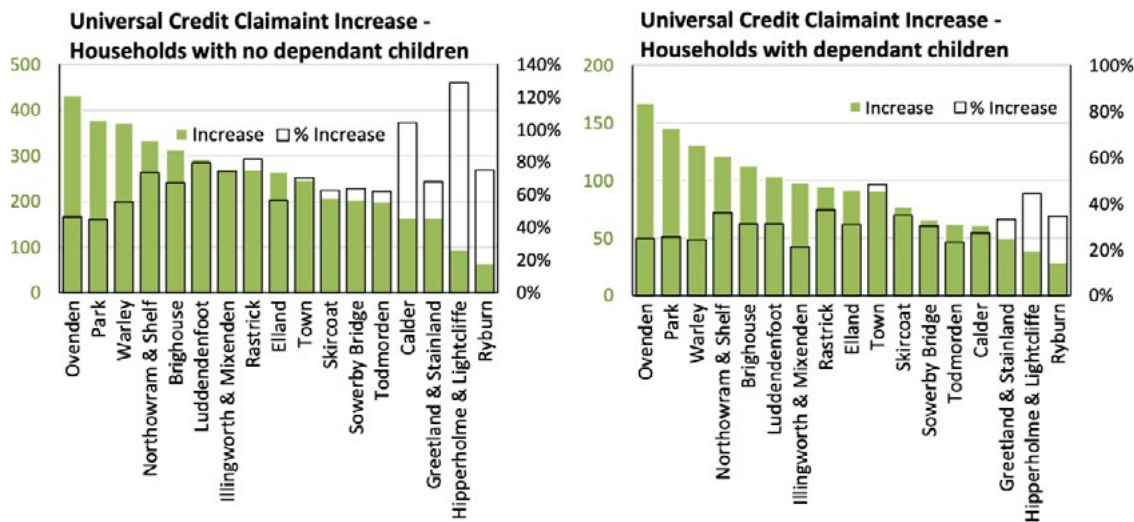
Summary

Most new Universal Credit claimants in 2020 lived in households with no dependent children. Ovenden ward saw the largest increase in claimant households with no dependant children. Hipperholme and Lightcliffe ward saw the largest proportional increase.

Where claimant households did have dependent children, the highest increase in claimant numbers were in Ovenden ward. The largest proportional increase was seen the Town ward.

In October 2020, men not in employment were the largest group claiming Universal Credit in Calderdale. Men in employment saw the largest proportional increase between March and October.

More local data on Universal Credit take up is available via this [link](#).



The charts above show the increase in Universal Credit claimants between February and August 2020. Households without dependant children saw the largest increases in claimant numbers.

The chart above left shows by ward the increase in the number of claimant households without dependent children. It also highlights the percentage increase in claimant households over the same period. This identifies Ovenden as the ward with the largest increase in claimant households with 432, and Hipperholme & Lightcliffe as the ward with the largest proportional increase at 129%.

For claimant households with dependent children, Ovenden also saw the largest increase in claimants between February and August, with 167. The largest proportional increase was seen in the Town ward with 48%.

Analysis of October 2020 Universal Credit data by gender shows that men not in employment were the largest claimant group, with 7134 claimants. The largest proportional increase between March and October, relates to men in employment. This group increased by 1797 claimants, a proportional increase of 133%.

Covid in the Economy: Employment

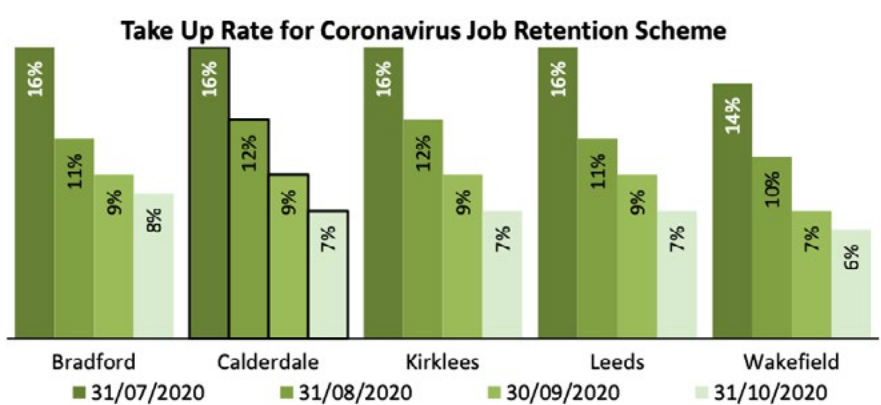
Summary

Centre for Cities identified Calderdale as being more exposed to the immediate economic affects of the pandemic.

The proportion of employments furloughed fell from July to October, across all five West Yorkshire local authorities.

Local take up of the Self Employment support scheme in October 2020 was below the average for West Yorkshire.

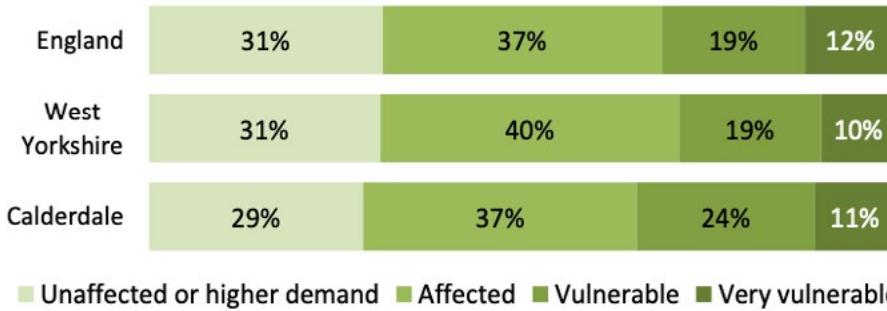
No data covering the second national lockdown has been made available yet.



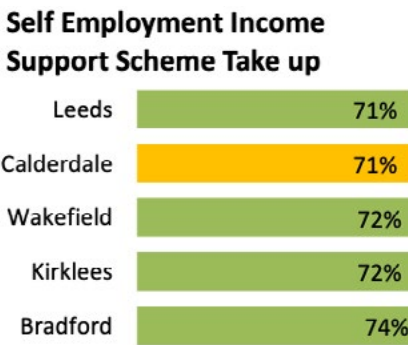
This chart, based on a Centre for Cities report, suggests the initial phase of the pandemic had a more significant impact in Calderdale, compared to our West Yorkshire neighbours.

The chart below shows the most recent local authority level take up data from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which covers the period up to the end of October 2020. Reflecting the national trend, the use of furlough fell across West Yorkshire in the late summer and early autumn. No data as yet has been made available covering the two most recent national lockdowns. The scheme will remain open until 30 April 2021

Immediate impact of Covid-19 on employment



Data for second round of the Self Employment Support scheme below (October 2020) shows take up of 71% in Calderdale, slightly below the West Yorkshire average of 72%. Bradford had the highest take up at 74%.



Covid in the Economy: Business Sectors and Surveys

Summary

The make up of the economy locally is broadly similar to regional and national averages. However, Calderdale retains a high proportion of jobs in manufacturing roles, as well as higher proportions of the workforce in services related businesses (particularly financial and insurance services).

A recent regional business survey identified stronger recovery amongst manufacturing businesses, although many had been forced to reduce their workload and increase prices. Service sector businesses also experienced financial losses and workforce reductions, but to a lesser extent.

The table opposite outlines the number of local jobs by industry type. The distribution of jobs is broadly similar to the picture regionally and nationally, although there are some notable differences locally:

- Calderdale has a higher proportion of manufacturing roles, with 14% compared with 11.4% regionally and 8% nationally.
- Financial & Insurance, combined with Administrative & Support services, make up 17.4% of jobs locally. This is compared with 11.2% regionally and 12.4% nationally.
- Just under 11% of local jobs are in health and social care roles, compared with 14.2% regionally and 13.1% nationally.

Industry	Employees	%
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles	14000	15%
Manufacturing	13000	14%
Health & Social Work	10000	11%
Administrative & Support Services	9000	10%
Education	8000	9%
Financial & Insurance	7000	8%
Accommodation & Food Service	6000	7%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	5000	5%
Construction	5000	5%
Transportation And Storage	3500	4%
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	3000	3%
Other Services	2500	3%
Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	2000	2%
Information & Communication	2000	2%
Other - real estate, water, mining etc	1710	2%

The Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce recently published their Quarterly Economic Survey for quarter 4 of 2020. Based on a sample of over 400 businesses across West and North Yorkshire, the findings offer useful insight on the impact of Covid-19, as well as leaving the EU, particularly given the make up of the economy locally:

- Manufacturers saw a 4% recovery in UK sales at the year end, compared with a 4% loss for services. Linked to this, business confidence for manufacturers improved from 20% to 30%, whereas services industries only improved to 21%.
- Although cashflow improved at the year end, the manufacturing sector reported a 4% loss, compared with 8% for services.
- Cost pressures increased over the year, with manufacturers affected by decreased freight capacity, both within the UK and internationally. This could be further exacerbated by the UK's departure from the EU.
- Continued cost pressures will lead to higher prices as business are less able to absorb additional costs; 32% of manufacturing businesses responding expect to increase their prices, compared with 15% of service sector businesses.
- Despite the increased sales and confidence in the manufacturing sector, they experienced a 14% reduction in their workforce between October and December 2020, compared with just 8% in the services sector. Given manufacturing is the second largest employer in Calderdale, this could potentially impact on local employment.

Covid in the Economy: Business Surveys - Local

Summary

The findings from a business survey, completed during the first lockdown, indicated that the vast majority of those replying had been negatively affected by the pandemic. 15% had to close indefinitely, while a further 44% closed temporarily.

Total estimated losses in May 2020 stood at £36 million.

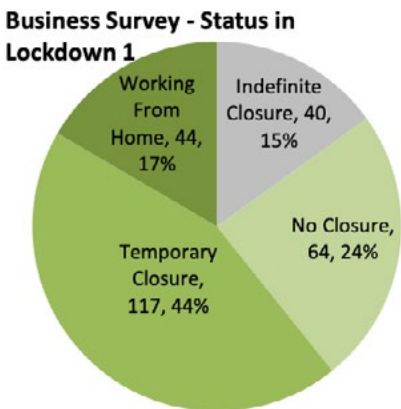
A key issue for businesses had been securing appropriate PPE. However, this demand has since been met.

WYCA are carrying out a business survey in January 2021, with results expected by April.

Some local business participated in a survey during the first lockdown. This aimed to develop an understanding of the impact on local companies, as well as the most appropriate types of support.

The survey estimated total initial losses to be in the region of £36 million, with businesses from the administrative and support services sectors set to lose over £8 million in total.

The chart below demonstrates the scale of the impact on the working practices of local companies. A relatively small proportion of companies were able to shift their operations to home working, but a much larger proportion have had to close, either on a temporary basis or indefinitely. Just 24% were operating without any closures



In addition to accessing grants, 56 local businesses had been able to access Government loans; representing 81% of those applying.

59 local businesses struggled to access appropriate PPE during the first lockdown, representing 23% of those responding. Face masks were the most common item of PPE that those companies struggled to source.

Business Survey Findings - Estimated Losses (May 2020)

Sector	Estimated Losses (May 2020)
Administrative And Support Service Activities	£8.145 M
Manufacturing	£7.579 M
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles	£7.204 M
Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities	£4.768 M
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	£2.013 M
Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	£1.802 M
Not stated	£1.633 M
Construction	£.875 M
Other Service Activities	£.528 M
Education	£.491 M
Human Health And Social Work Activities	£.441 M
Financial And Insurance Activities	£.274 M
Transportation And Storage	£.223 M
Agriculture, Forestry And Fishing	£.100 M
Information And Communication	£.080 M
Real Estate Activities	£.030 M

Covid in the Economy: Business environment

Summary

The six months leading up to the start of the pandemic saw a fall in the volume of property sales. The first lockdown led to a sharp fall, with some increase over the summer. Sales fell again as local restrictions and subsequent lockdowns were implemented.

Footfall data for the Woolshops shows a steep decline in April and May 2020, compared with 2019. After a steady recovery at the end of 2020, the third lockdown will again see reduced footfall.

Regional data suggested the retail sector in Hebden Bridge experienced a strong recovery in the Autumn.

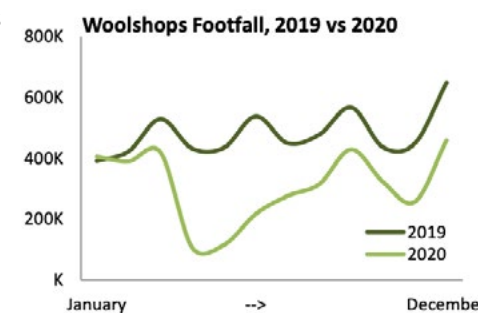
Nationally, data suggests towns in areas with lower average wages have seen the strongest retail recovery.

The chart opposite suggests the beginning of a shift in the local economy, prior to the onset of the pandemic. This indicates a fall in activity from November 2019 onwards. Property sales revived after the March 2020 lockdown, but further local restrictions in September may have stalled sales again. The most recent data is likely to reflect the impact of the pandemic. However, the previous trends are likely to relate to other issues, such as the UK leaving the European Union.

Footfall data for the Woolshops centre shows a significant reduction in April and May 2020, compared to 2019, falling by over 70%. There was a steady recovery between June and October. Local and national restrictions had an inevitable impact in November, reducing by 43% compared to the same period in 2019. The improvement in December will be short lived due to the current lockdown.

Data shared by WYCA suggested that Hebden Bridge experienced the strongest retail sector recovery in West Yorkshire last Autumn, before the November national lockdown. The same data for urban centres suggests the retail sector in Halifax recovered strongly after the November lockdown, almost returning to levels seen in October by the end of 2020.

Nationally, data suggests areas with lower average wages experienced faster recovery in town centre spend, compared to more affluent areas. This may reflect a higher proportion of spend on essential items, which will have been sustained through the pandemic, compared to spend on non-essential items. The distinctiveness of particular towns may also play a role in recovery, such as Hebden Bridge.



Covid in the Economy: Business environment

Summary

The Government allocated £65 million to Calderdale from the Coronavirus business grant fund during the first lockdown, supporting 5,231 businesses. Further grants have been made available during subsequent lockdowns.

2020 saw fewer business start-ups, with a 43% reduction between January and October, compared with 2019. There was however an increase in sole trader start-ups.

The tourism and creative sectors are likely to have experienced significant losses as a result of the pandemic. 90% of creative sector businesses, responding to a West Yorkshire survey, reported financial losses. A regional study, undertaken across the north of England, estimated 20% of hospitality and leisure business expected to cease trading before summer 2021.

Business Grants

The Government have made a range of measures available to support local businesses during the pandemic. Local Restrictions Support Grants were introduced during the November lockdown and subsequent restrictions.

The grant provides support for both open and closed businesses. Locally, over 3000 applications have been received. Of those, 2716 had been paid by the 21st of January, totalling almost £4.5 million. The bulk of applications approved relate to businesses that are currently closed.

Creative Sector

A survey undertaken in West Yorkshire of 40 creative sector organisations, between May and June last year, identified the following:

- 30% had already, or were planning to, make changes in respect of employment
- 90% had suffered financial losses
- 56% of those continuing to trade reported risks to long term (12 months) viability without financial assistance.

Business Start-ups

Data shared regionally, based on new business bank accounts, shows a 43% reduction in start-ups between January and October 2020, compared with the same period in 2019.

Although there was a 61% increase in sole trader start-ups, all other business types saw significant reductions.

Tourism

The local impact of the pandemic on tourism, following three national lockdowns and local restrictions, may take some time to become apparent. A recent study (NatWest North of England Tourism Business Barometer), using data covering the period between July and October last year, highlights the following potential impacts:

- Half of hospitality and leisure businesses surveyed were trading at a loss of over 60%, for 10 weeks out of 16 weeks.
- Half of the businesses surveyed were reducing their permanent staffing levels.
- Businesses expect revenue to recover by January 2022, with a third reporting significantly reduced bookings for 2021.
- A fifth of businesses surveyed unsure that they will be trading by summer 2021.

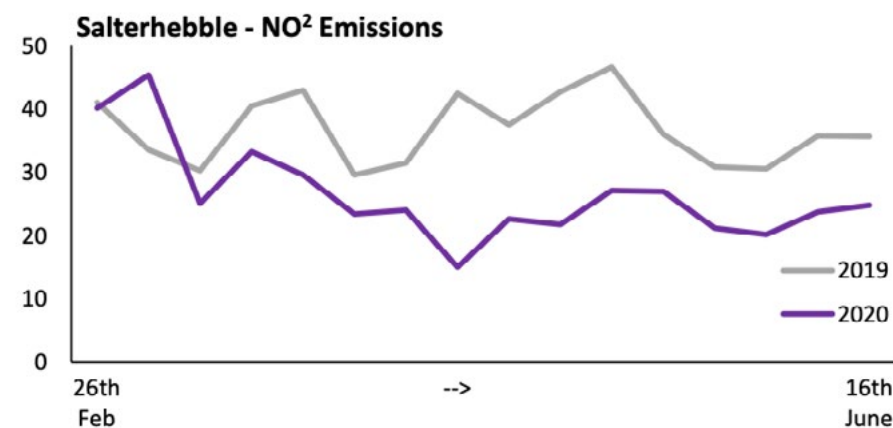
Covid and the Climate: Traffic, Emissions and Active Travel

Summary

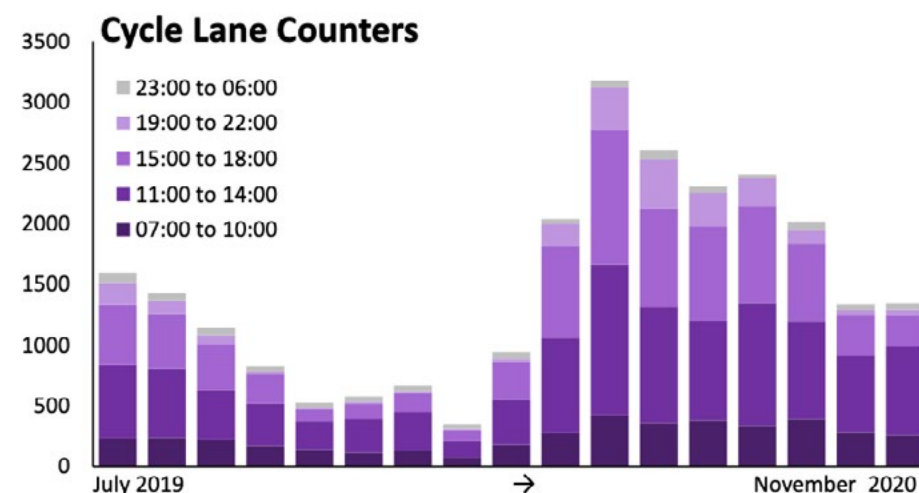
The first lockdown led to a dramatic reduction in the volume of traffic on Calderdale's roads, with a corresponding fall in levels of NO2 emissions. Traffic levels have since increased, with a shift away from public transport to personal car use.

The number of people cycling increased during the first lockdown and remains above levels seen in 2019. This is likely to relate to an increase in cycling for leisure, with Saturdays seeing the highest increases.

Further local insight required into the impact on modes of transport.



The emission of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) is associated with the combustion of petrol and diesel. The chart to the left compares NO₂ emissions at Salterhebble, between February and June, 2020 and 2019. This shows a significant drop in NO₂ emissions in 2020. This is associated with reduced traffic flow during the first wave of the pandemic. Although traffic levels have since returned to pre pandemic levels, NO₂ emissions have remained at lower levels. However, national and regional data suggests a significant shift towards personal car use. If this trend continues, there may be long term impacts on the sustainability of public transport.



There are 3 cycle lane counters in locations on the canal towpath in Mytholmroyd, Friendly and Sowerby Bridge. The chart to the left shows the number of cyclists travelling eastwards, captured by the Sowerby Bridge counter. This shows a significant increase in cycling from April 2020 onwards. The chart is shaded by time of day, which highlights large increases in cycling during the middle of the day. The largest increase by day of the week was for Saturday, which has seen cycling more than double. October and November 2020 show lower volumes, but this still represents a significant increase on 2019.

Covid and the Climate: Recycling, Flytipping & CO2 emissions

Summary

Recycling increased in 2020, compared to 2019, with glass and cardboard seeing the largest increases in tonnage.

Fly tipping incidents in Calderdale increased by 25.7% in 2020, with large increases after the first lockdown and over the summer.

Greenhouse gas (CO₂) emissions from energy consumption in council buildings has fallen by 16%. Home workers are estimated to be spending an extra £32 a month on utility bills.

CO₂ emissions have been falling in West Yorkshire for a number of years. The pandemic is likely to have impacted on CO₂ levels, but data covering 2020 is not expected to be available for some time.

The total volume of recycling between April and July 2020 was 34% higher than the same period in 2019. Glass and cardboard saw the largest increases proportionally, with 53% and 44% respectively. August 2020 data is more comparable with 2019, but September data suggests a further increase.

Locally collected data on fly tipping incidents shows an overall 25.7% increase in 2020, compared to 2019. The largest proportional increases were seen after the first lockdown, before most of the household waste recycling sites had reopened. Although just over half the incidents are in central areas of Calderdale, the upper and lower valleys have seen proportionally higher increases.

Data for April to November 2020 and 2019 highlights a 21% reduction in CO₂ emissions from CMBC buildings. The overall reduction in council energy usage corresponds with a shift towards homeworking for a significant proportion of the workforce. The Energy & Climate Unit estimates home boiler usage will increase by 56% as a result of home working, with monthly energy bills increasing on average by £32.

Published data on CO₂ emissions, which is subject to a significant time lag, highlights a continual decreasing trend. In 2017, Calderdale had the second highest CO₂ emissions in West Yorkshire.

