



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Public Health

Annual Report 2022/23

Public Health Report



"It has excluded the population who don't have access to social media, the digitally unaware."

**Director of Public Health
Penny Spring**

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a difficult and dramatic time for many people, for many different reasons. People have lost loved ones, had their families torn apart, and struggled financially and emotionally. Some have been stressed by overwork while others have faced sudden unemployment. Some have had to shield from the outside world while others have been reluctantly obliged to mix with it. Coronavirus has fuelled feelings of loneliness, anxiety and fears for the

future for many people. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), people with depressive symptoms were more likely to feel that their finances were being impacted, as well as access to care and essential goods. They also were more likely to feel like their personal relationships were being impacted by the virus.

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"I felt quite isolated working from home."

Hayley Agnew—Emotional resilience nurse

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on children and families. A recent government report highlights some challenges including isolation from friends, learning from home, or worries that family or friends might get sick. However, many parents also reported improved relationships with their children and that the majority of children spent time in outside green spaces at least a couple of times a week during lockdown. The annual report is formed around stories of local people and how the pandemic has impacted on them.

Many people have experienced similar struggles and have had to find ways to cope with the unprecedented challenges brought on by Covid-19.

The impact of the measures to protect the population from COVID, such as the lockdowns, had an immediate effect on how people went about their lives. It had profound effects overnight on how people earned a living as well as changing the way they went about their family and social lives.

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"For me it was about embracing all the technology out there."

Justine Watson

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"There are a lot more mental health issues nowadays especially among young people."

GP Dr Kirsty Walker



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“We got to establish breastfeeding really well.”

Breastfeeding attendee

Once over the initial shock people began to show resilience and they started to work out how best to cope with the situation.

“ This is a marathon and not a sprint”

The pandemic and the associated restrictions lasted longer than anyone would have anticipated at the outset. It became apparent that these changes had become the New Normal and people were living and working in completely different ways but also found unexpectedly positive aspects to their lives. These are all examples of how

people and families living through the pandemic made adjustments, took the initiative and adapted to the new situation. They show that the lockdown and other restrictions did have some negative impact but also provided some positives. It allowed families to bond and come together and people had time away from the usual pressures of work and society through the enforced isolation. It was also a time of worry and concern about their own health and the health of their families and friends.



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“It was hard, really, really hard.”

Emma Robertson

This isolation also caused some of our most vulnerable people significant problems with evidence of negative impact on physical, mental, social and financial health.

Some of these impacts, both positive and negative, are not yet all apparent and may take some years to manifest themselves.

“Cannot believe how it was”

Time is a great healer and also provides a different perspective. It has been three years since the beginning of the pandemic and the lockdowns and restrictions. People are looking back appraising their thoughts, feelings and experiences with the luxury of time and without the pressures of living in that moment.

These were just some of the experiences and feelings of people

who lived through the pandemic in Darlington. There will be many more stories, of course, but these do highlight common experiences, both good and bad, of Darlington residents during an extraordinary time.

This report has shown how the pandemic, and the measures put in place to manage the spread of COVID-19, had a different effect on people. Most people got through it and should be really proud of their achievements. It tested everyone's resolve, showed that they are resilient and many people emerged on the other side with a whole new set of skills and values. While society faced unprecedented challenges, enduring a period that will go down in history, the experience left the community stronger and better prepared for anything that the future may hold.



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“We couldn't deliver our service to the full potential.”

Hollie Graham – Darlington Breastfeeding Awareness support worker

COVID-19 Inequalities in the Wider Determinants

High	Medium	Low	Food vulnerability score	COVID-19 vulnerability score	Hardship fund vulnerability score	At risk jobs (due to COVID-19)	At risk employees (due to COVID-19)
National Comparator							
England	198	21.6	131	25	8.5		
Uncategorised							
Darlington	245.8	28.3	132.9	24.4	6.4		
Wards							
Bank Top and Lascelles Ward	442.1	36.7	153.6	18.3	6.7		
Brinkburn and Faverdale	263.8	25.4	110	23.2	6		
Cockerton Ward	289.9	28	167.6	19.6	6.5		
College Ward	143.2	29.3	29.2	12.8	5.4		
Eastbourne Ward	191.4	19.7	123.4	27.2	6.9		
Harrowgate Hill Ward	122.5	19.2	101.8	23.3	6.2		
Houghton and Springfield Ward	260.9	39.6	90.6	14.4	6.5		
Heighington and Coniscliffe Ward	236.6	22.6	50.2	28.8	5.8		
Hummersknott Ward	220.1	38.3	85.2	12.5	5.6		
Hurworth Ward	295.2	27	120.3	40.2	6.5		
Mowden Ward	220.1	38.3	85.2	22	5.6		
North Road Ward	254.9	35	231.5	26.4	6.7		
Northgate Ward	274.4	24	188.5	16.9	7.7		
Park East Ward	237.1	20.9	220.5	30.4	7.2		
Park West Ward	189.9	30.6	94.7	26.2	5.9		
Pierremont Ward	132.5	20.5	135	18.6	6.2		
Red Hall and Lingfield Ward	282.5	32	144.9	22.6	6.8		
Sadberge and Middleton St George Ward	280.4	25.9	102.6	24.4	6		
Stephenson Ward	306.6	33.2	142.9	18.8	6.7		
Whinfield Ward	187.1	25	157.3	19.5	5.9		

COVID-19 Premature mortality

Indicator	Period	Darlington			Region England			England	
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Best	
Mortality rate for deaths due to COVID-19, all ages (Persons)	2021	--	102	88.4	104.8	116.7	295.6		45.1
Mortality rate for deaths due to COVID-19, all ages (Male)	2021	--	47	90.6	132.2	148.7	376.9		58.4
Mortality rate for deaths due to COVID-19, all ages (Female)	2021	--	55	84.9	83.3	91.8	229.5		33.1
Under 75 mortality rate for deaths due to COVID-19 (Persons)	2021	--	32	30.5	39.4	42.2	142.3		13.3
Under 75 mortality rate for deaths due to COVID-19 (Male)	2021	--	16	30.9	49.8	54.1	193.5		16.8
Under 75 mortality rate for deaths due to COVID-19 (Female)	2021	--	16	30.2	29.7	30.9	97.7		6.3
Mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19, all ages (Persons)	2021	--	131	113.4	121.9	134.5	313.6		54.0
Mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19, all ages (Male)	2021	--	65	127.3	152.6	170.8	405.5		69.9
Mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19, all ages (Female)	2021	--	66	100.6	97.6	106.4	251.9		40.6
Under 75 mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19 (Persons)	2021	--	38	36.5	44.5	48.0	151.1		16.0
Under 75 mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19 (Male)	2021	--	20	39.3	56.3	61.5	200.5		22.9
Under 75 mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19 (Female)	2021	--	18	33.7	33.4	35.3	104.7		8.6

Data provided by:



Suzy Hill - Darlington libraries manager



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