



Project Town Dalkeith

– what we're hearing in our communities

As part of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme's data journey in 2022-2024, a Community Link Lead in each Project Town connected with local practitioners and representatives of local groups, organisations and services.

A comprehensive quantitative data exercise had already identified four key issues in Dalkeith:

Poverty, including child poverty

Substance use

People experiencing barriers including income and accessing services

Crime

The data gathered by the Community Link Lead aimed to bring the above data to life and understand Dalkeith communities' experience of the place they live, work and relax, with a focus on those facing the greatest inequality. The information gathered was shared with our Steering Group, key decision makers and brought into four [Place and Wellbeing Assessments](#) undertaken in Dalkeith.



This infographic summarises some of the key things we're hearing as they relate to the [Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#).

The principles of equality, net-zero emissions and sustainability underpin all of these themes.



Poverty is a priority - including children, older people and ethnic minority groups

Mental Health is a priority - including those with a long-term diagnoses, older people, carers, single men and those experiencing unmet housing needs.

Movement

Public transport
Active travel
Traffic and parking

- **Public transport** is costly for those living in poverty and difficult for older people and those with mobility problems to access. Community Transport solutions are limited. Young people congregating on buses is an issue.
- **Connectivity** to transport links could be improved in some areas.
- **Bike use** limited due to lack of direct, safe cycling routes in the town centre.

Spaces

Streets and spaces
Natural spaces
Play and recreation

- **Green spaces** are valued including self-organising volunteers maintaining garden areas.
- The local country park is regarded by locals as for visitors with cars due to limited transport links for some and access costs.
- Residents of Woodburn area report that it feels forgotten.
- Lack of recreational spaces for young people is a concern.

Resources

Services and support
Work and economy
Housing and community

- Key **Third Sector** organisations are delivering reduced services due to funding reductions with some choosing not to advertise as they could not cope with an increase in demand.
- There is a need for more opportunities targeting men.
- Reported lack of appropriate and affordable **housing**.
- Opportunity to increase awareness of **social enterprise**.

Civic

Identity and belonging
Feeling safe

- There is a recognised good level of **community spirit** including the Conversation Café - to welcome and support new residents from Ukraine.
- Heritage trails valued but could be better publicised.
- **Young people** congregating on buses is an issue while 'night-time' venues don't always feel safe.
- Desire for more family friendly or community oriented opportunities.
- Some perception of playparks feeling unsafe.

Stewardship

Care and maintenance
Influence and control

- Disillusionment from individuals and groups relating to **consultation processes** leading to disengagement.
- **Communities** are creating their own solutions: Green space volunteering and creation of food pantry.
- Opportunity to increase community led activity utilising **Community Empowerment** legislation and social enterprise creation.

Learning

Across the seven Shaping Places for Wellbeing Project Towns, we've identified some key learning from our conversations:

- Communities value joint working and partnership approaches
- Communities want strong communications between all stakeholders
- Collective decision making by all stakeholders will strengthen partnerships

You can read more, including the process for identifying the ideas captured in this infographic, in a report [here](#)



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