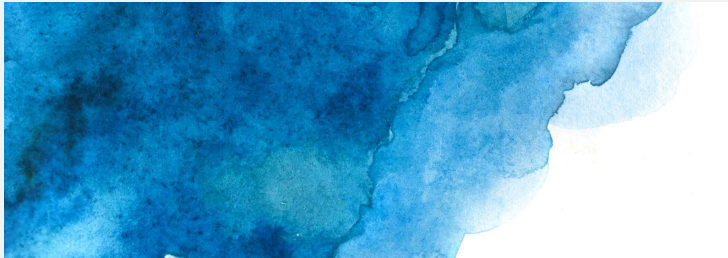




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Poverty And Inequality in Southwark

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and Development

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Lecturer:

Date:

Introduction

Community

- ❑ A community is a collective of individuals who inhabit the same geographical area and share a common interest or cultural heritage. It may be defined as a geographical area, such as a neighbourhood or a city, or it may be defined by shared attributes, such as a hobby or affiliation with an organization. (Quora, 2011)

Community Development

- ❑ Community development, or participation, is the process of engaging and leading community members in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of community activities or initiatives that are beneficial to them and the community.

(The Social Work Graduate, 2021)

Introduction

What is poverty and Inequality?

Poverty is when you can't afford to heat your house, pay rent, or buy the things you need for your kids. It's when you wake up every day with insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible financial decisions. It means you're at risk of being excluded – and even discriminated against – due to your financial situation. The stress that poverty brings can lead to issues that prevent people from playing their full role in society. (JRF, n.d.)

The concept of inequality, which is people not having rights and opportunities, is at the core of social justice theories. (UN, 2015)

Aim of community

The aim of this presentation is to identify poverty and inequality in Southwark and to outline possible recommendations to make life better for the community.

Demographics

- Situated on the southern bank of the River Thames, Southwark is a highly populated, multicultural, and vibrant area made up of a variety of communities, ranging from the leafy Dulwich area to the bustling Peckham, Camberwell, and the rapidly developing Rotherhithe peninsula.
- Population about 307,000 (2021 census). In 2025, Southwark is projected to have a population of 335,020, and by 2030, the population is projected to have increased to 342,903. (Varbes, 2022)

Salaries in Southwark



Average salary
£53,450

[View trend](#)



Average hours worked
37.9

[View breakdown](#)



Salary Growth
11.48%

[View trend](#)

Average Salary

Salary Growth



AREA TYPE

London Borough

POPULATION

306,374

AVERAGE MALE SALARY

£57,791

AVERAGE FEMALE SALARY

£48,106

AVERAGE MALE HOURS WORKED

38

AVERAGE FEMALE HOURS WORKED

37

GENDER PAY GAP

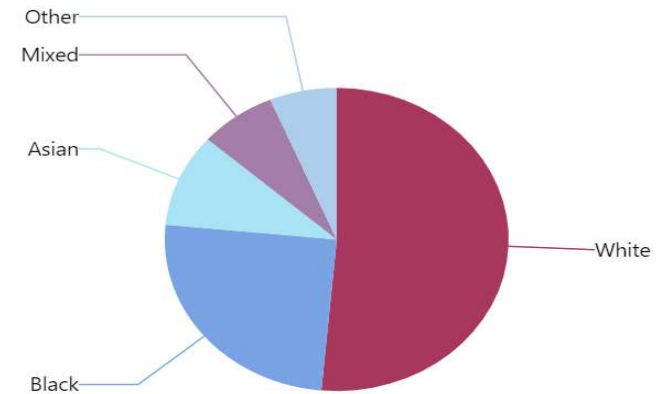
17.0%

(Varbes, 2022)

Ethnicity

- **White** - 158,220 people or 51.4%
- **Black** - 77,299 people or 25.1%
- **Asian** - 30,540 people or 9.9%
- **Mixed** - 22,151 people or 7.2%
- **Other** - 19,430 people or 6.3%

(Varbes, 2023)



Religion

Religion

■ Southwark | (England)

No religion **36.4%** (36.7%)



Christian **43.3%** (46.3%)



Buddhist **1.0%** (0.5%)



Hindu **1.1%** (1.8%)



Jewish **0.4%** (0.5%)



Muslim **9.6%** (6.7%)



Sikh **0.2%** (0.9%)



Other religion **0.7%** (0.6%)



Not answered **7.3%** (6.0%)



(ONS, 2023)

Credit: ONS

Poverty indicators in Southwark

- ❑ Child Poverty
- ❑ Deprivation
- ❑ Unemployment
- ❑ Homelessness
- ❑ Digital exclusion

Child Poverty

- ❑ According to a recent report, Southwark has the 6th highest rate of child poverty among UK local authorities.
- ❑ According to a study, 43.1% of kids in Southwark are living in poverty after paying for housing.
- ❑ Southwark has a child poverty rate of 20 percent after rent and associated costs.



(London News, 2021)

DEPRIVATION

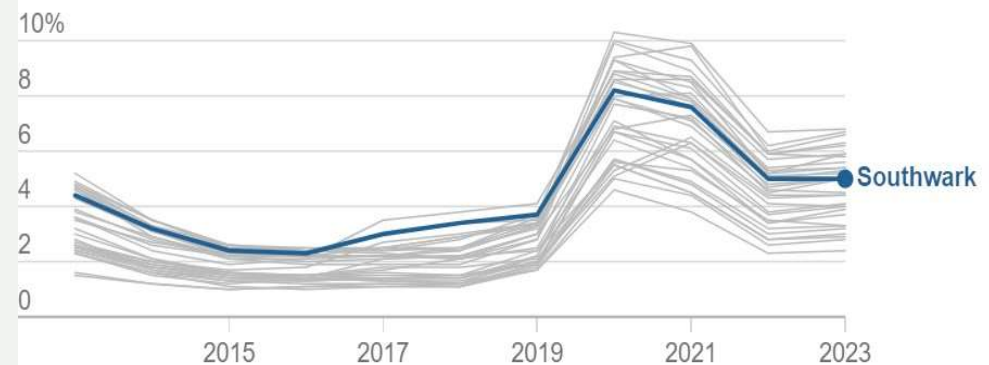
- ❑ Southwark is currently ranked 40th out of 326 local authorities in England and 9th out of 32 local authorities in London in terms of deprivation.
- ❑ Southwark is one of the least deprived areas in the UK, with two in every hundred people living in a community that's considered to be in the top 20% of deprivation in the UK. (Southwark Council, 2019)
- ❑ In Southwark, almost half of all kids were living on less than the poverty line at the time of the pandemic, according to new data from End Child Poverty. It's also one of the highest rates in the UK in the period from April 2019 to March 2020.
- ❑ Recent research conducted by End Child Poverty has revealed that, as of April 2019, 47.4% of children living in Southwark City were experiencing poverty, after taking into account housing costs, during the period from April 2019 to March 2020. (End Child Poverty, 2021)

Unemployment

- ❑ In Southwark, the unemployment rate at the end of March 2023 was 4.6% for those aged 16 and over, which is very similar to the 4.6% recorded in the previous year, i.e. in March 2022.
- ❑ In Southwark, approximately 51,000 (21.6%) of the 16-64-year-old population were 'economically inactive' at the end of March 2023, compared with 48,100 at the same time in 2022.

Claimant Count (%) for areas in London

Among those aged 16 to 64 years, July 2013 to July 2023



Source: Claimant Count from Department for Work and Pensions

(ONS, 2023)



(Katherine, 2020)

Homelessness

- ❑ Southwark has the 8th highest rate of homelessness in England, with over 1 in 46 people living without a home.
- ❑ Southwark is one of the boroughs with the highest number of homeless children, according to a new report from Shelter. They found that 2,784 kids are in temporary accommodation, making it the ninth worst borough in London.
- ❑ The report indicates that in 2022, an average of ten individuals were found to be sleeping rough on the streets of Southwark on any given night. (Herbie, 2023)

DIGITAL EXCLUSION



(Carnegie UK, 2021)

- ❑ Digital exclusion is adding to the inequalities that already exist in Southwark.

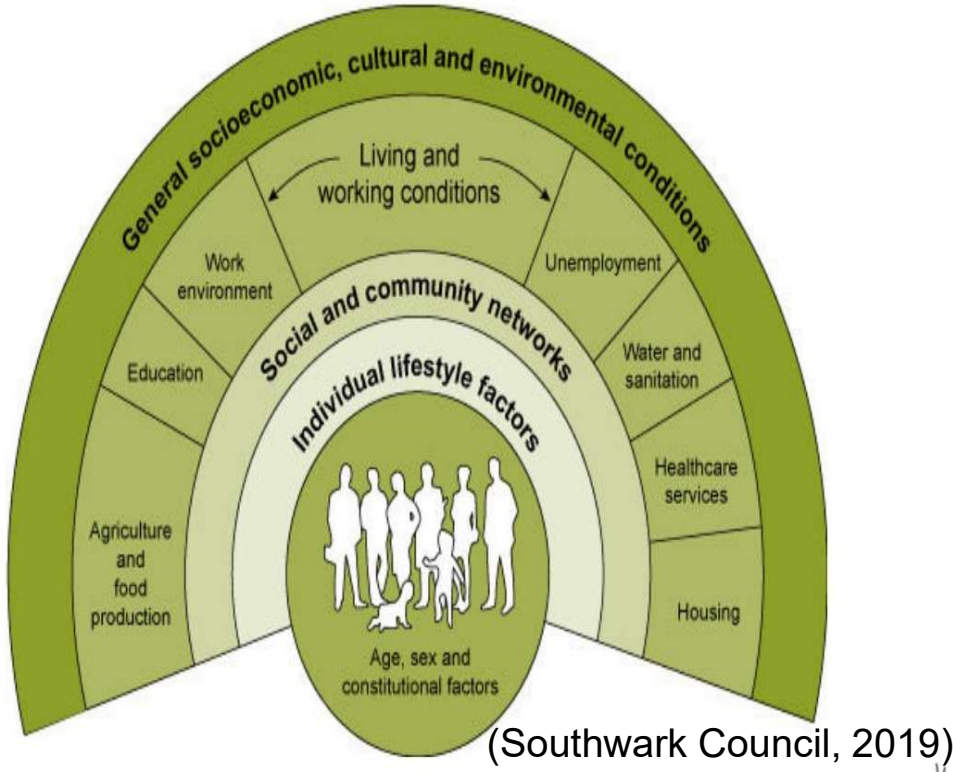
Causes

- ❑ People who are in some kind of financial situation and are either getting benefits, making a small amount of money or don't have access to any public money.
- ❑ Connectivity is a monthly expense, and people are having a hard time figuring out what they can afford.
- ❑ There's a lot of mistrust for online platforms, so people are being careful.

Economic and Social Impact of Digital Exclusion

- ❑ It makes it harder for people to access services that have gone online.
- ❑ Can significantly reduce access to employment
- ❑ They are having difficulty claiming benefits they are entitled to, especially Universal Credit. Because it requires an online account.
- ❑ Difficulty with access to GP, counsellors, and mental health support services.
- ❑ They face challenges in reporting hate crimes and discrimination.

Poverty and inequality indicators.



- **Poverty Rate** – 25% (22.2% in England)
 - **Unemployment** - 4.6% (3.7% in England)
 - **Housing** – 53% of income (England average 25.6%)
 - **Out of Work Benefit** – 13.3% (12.8% in England)
 - **Child poverty** - Is at 36% (31% England average)
 - **Homelessness** - 1.4 in any 1000 worse compared to England average of 0.9
 - **Digital Exclusion**
 - **Education** – 75.4% better than England average of 69%
- (Trust for London, 2023)

Stakeholders

- Government departments
- Southwark Council
- Community organizations
- Voluntary sector organizations
- Faith communities
- Large and small businesses
- Those who live and work in the Borough



(Southwark Council, 2022)

Use of digital media and technology for community development

- ☐ Facebook,
- ☐ WhatsApp
- ☐ Twitter,
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ Snapchat



(Big Think, 2022)

Importance of Social Media for Community Development

- ❑ The use of social media can be utilized to encourage community members to take part and contribute to your community development efforts.
- ❑ Social media can be utilized to carry out community evaluations, which are critical for the planning and implementation of community development initiatives.
- ❑ Building community trust and connection by making sure everyone feels like they belong, have their own unique identity and are part of the same community.
- ❑ You can use a blog, podcast, or video on social media to share your findings, ideas, and recommendations.
- ❑ Social media can also be used to connect, share, and encourage other groups or networks that are interested in the same or similar topics or objectives. (Linked In, 2023)

Legislation and policy

- ❑ The Child Poverty Act 2010
- ❑ Human right Act 1998 – Dignity, Respect, Fairness
- ❑ Equality Act 2010
- ❑ Care Act 2014



(DSDWEB, 2019)

Barriers to Community Development

- ❑ The Lack of Stakeholder Engagement.
- ❑ Funding – Initial, ongoing, short-term funding
- ❑ Infrastructure deficiency
- ❑ Limited or no public participation
- ❑ Communication and language barriers
- ❑ The Failure of Competency-Based Leadership
- ❑ Lack of public participation

Recommendations

- ❑ Empower Black, Asian, and minority ethnic people in secure employment with pay at or above the London Living Wage.
- ❑ Empower residents to find meaningful employment, especially those who are jobless and vulnerable to long-term unemployment and financial uncertainty.
- ❑ Providing more accessible housing to help lower housing costs as a percentage of income
- ❑ Help people who are struggling with money or other kinds of poverty, like food or fuel poverty, get the help they need without going through the wrong doors.
- ❑ Double the efforts to deliver high-quality apprenticeships, traineeships, paid internships, and work experience programmes for young people. (Southwark Council, 2022)

- ❑ Empower young people from low-income backgrounds in the most deprived areas of the borough who are most likely to fall behind in terms of engagement, career, and employment opportunities.
- ❑ Empower digital access, connectivity, motivation, and skills for marginalized communities. (Southwark Council, 2022)
- ❑ Weekly benefit cap for children should be increased
- ❑ Free school meals for all kids
- ❑ Abolish the two-child limit to help families in need

Conclusion

- ❑ The UK even though considered as a developed country has poverty and inequality, and it's often something that needs to be fixed in order for society to move forward. Poverty and inequality exist for a variety of reasons, some of which can only be seen from the perspective of the future.
- ❑ Government departments, local authorities, and the community should always work together if they are to address poverty and inequalities.

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