

Marginalised majority populations and social cohesion

Daniel Silver (@DanSilverSarf)

Social Action & Research Foundation



Social Action & Research Foundation

- Action-research think-tank co-producing policy to address poverty
- Some of our current work
 - ‘Everyday Life in Salford’
 - Challenging media stereotypes
 - Food Austerity with Salford University

Open Society Foundations: At Home in Europe Project

Through research and advocacy, the At Home in Europe project focuses on advancing equality for groups that are excluded from the mainstream of civic, political, and cultural life in Western Europe—including Europe's Muslim, Somali and white working-class communities

(Report part of Europe's White Working Class Communities, commissioned and designed by OSF)

EUROPE'S WHITE WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES



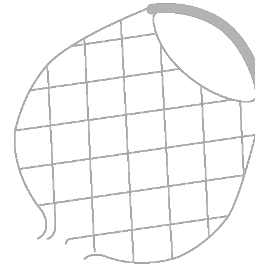
The Context



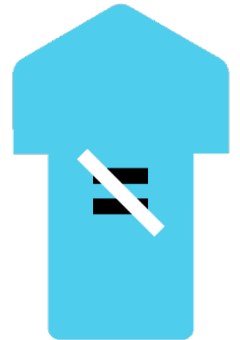
**RISE OF SERVICE
INDUSTRIES**



**ECONOMIC INSECURITY
AND PRECARIOUS WORK**

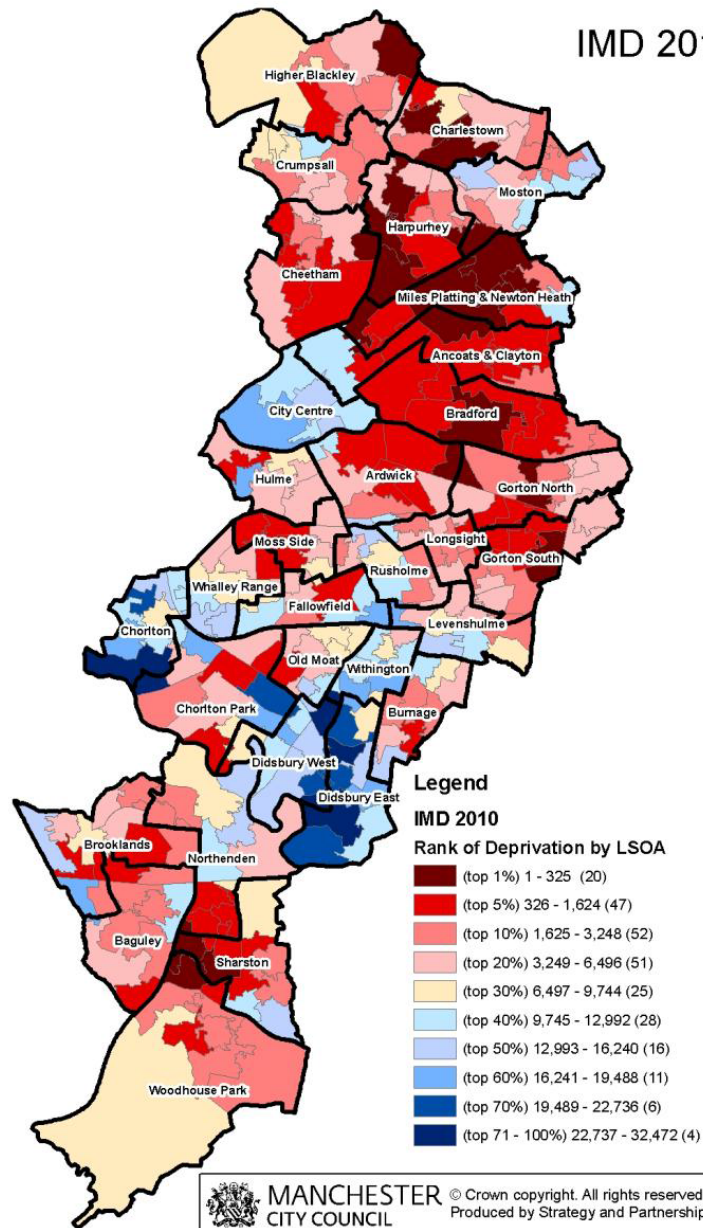


**EROSION OF WELFARE
STATE AND SOCIAL
SECURITY NET**



**INEQUALITIES
HAVE INCREASED**

IMD 2010



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

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Produced by Strategy and Partnerships

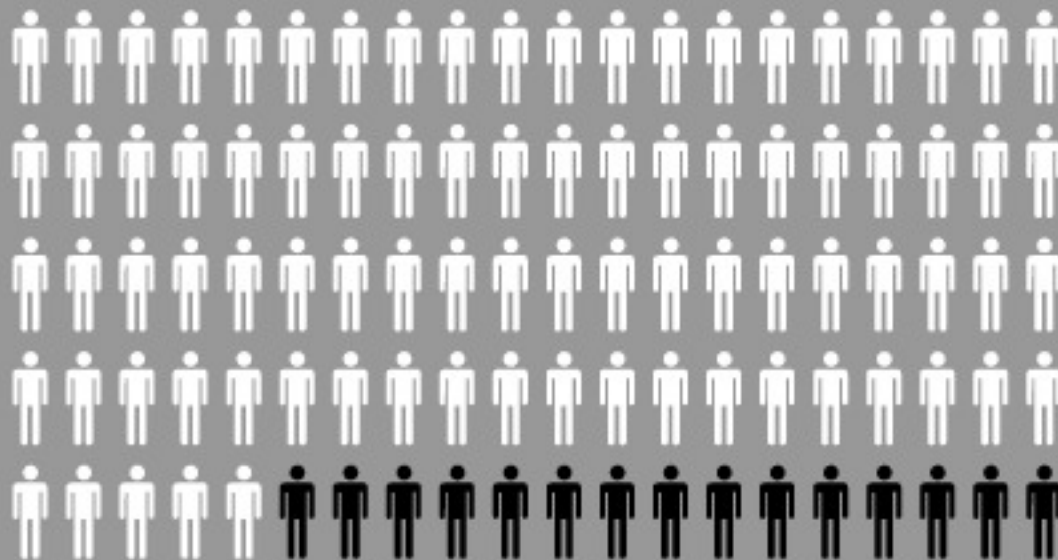
Why Higher Blackley?

Local Election Results in Higher Blackley 2006-2012

Percentages as a share of the vote



Higher Blackley Ethnicity



White



Non-White

Inequalities within the ward

Lower Layer Super Output Area's (LSOA)		Children in IS/JSA families		Children in families receiving WTC and CTC, and income <60% median income		Children in families receiving CTC only, and income <60% median income		Children in families in receipt of CTC (<60% median income) or IS/JSA		% of Children in "Poverty"	
		Under 16	All Children	Under 16	All Children	Under 16	All Children	Under 16	All Children	Under 16	All Children
E01005098	Manchester 001A	100	120	5	5	10	10	115	135	38.2%	38.3%
E01005099	Manchester 001B	270	300	15	15	15	15	300	335	57.2%	55.9%
E01005100	Manchester 001C	135	145	-	5	20	25	155	175	39.8%	38.5%
E01005101	Manchester 002A	155	180	5	10	25	30	185	220	43.3%	41.9%
E01005102	Manchester 001D	50	55	-	-	15	15	60	70	24.1%	24.9%
E01005103	Manchester 001E	135	155	-	-	25	25	160	180	49.8%	47.4%
E01005104	Manchester 004A	145	160	10	10	20	25	175	195	40.6%	40.1%
E01005136	Manchester 002C	65	75	-	-	15	20	80	95	26.3%	25.6%

HMRC Estimates mid 2010: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/statistics/child-poverty-stats.htm>

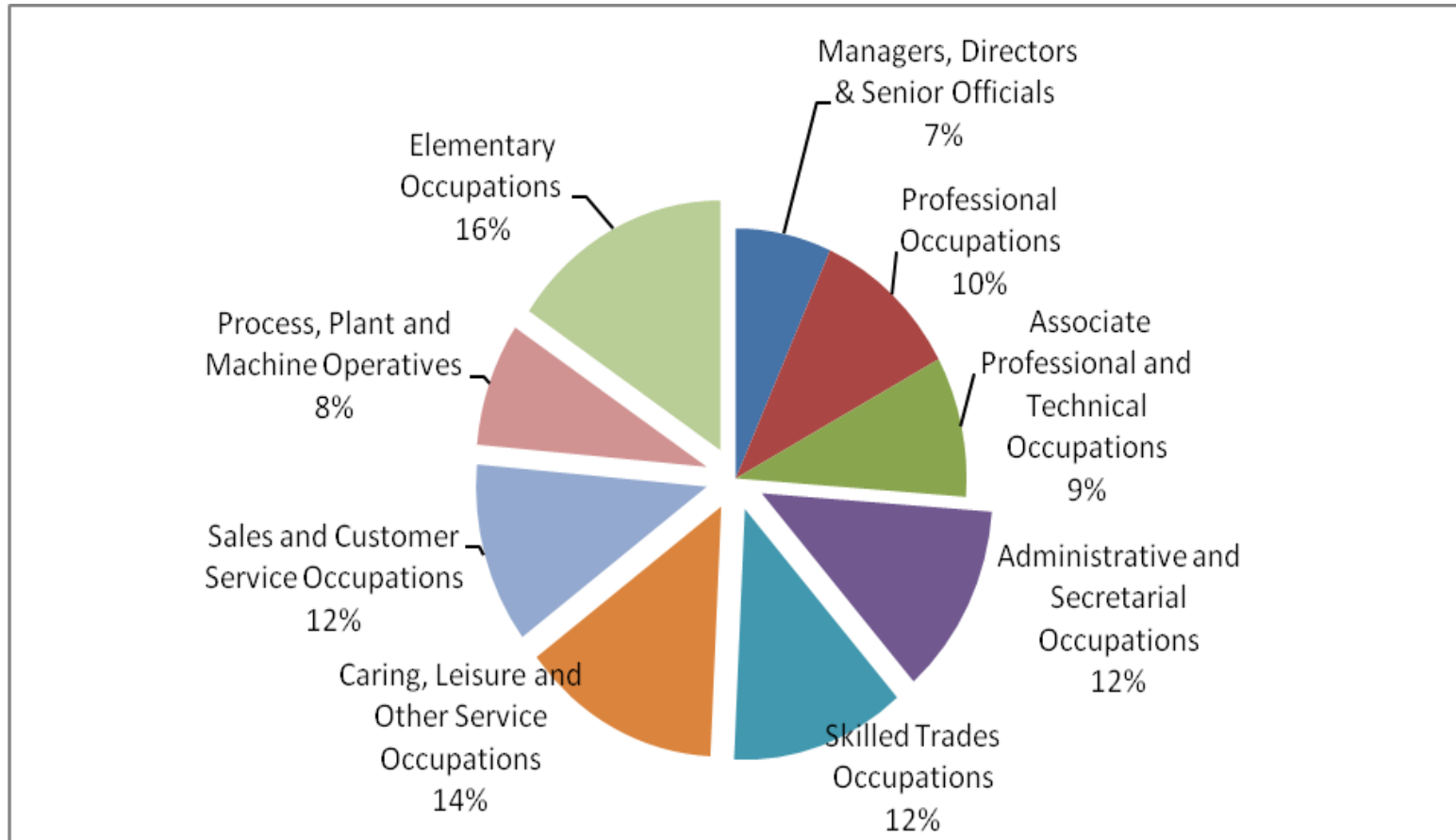


Employment



- ICI once employed 14, 000 people
- Main local employers now Tesco & Sainsbury's - low paid and insecure

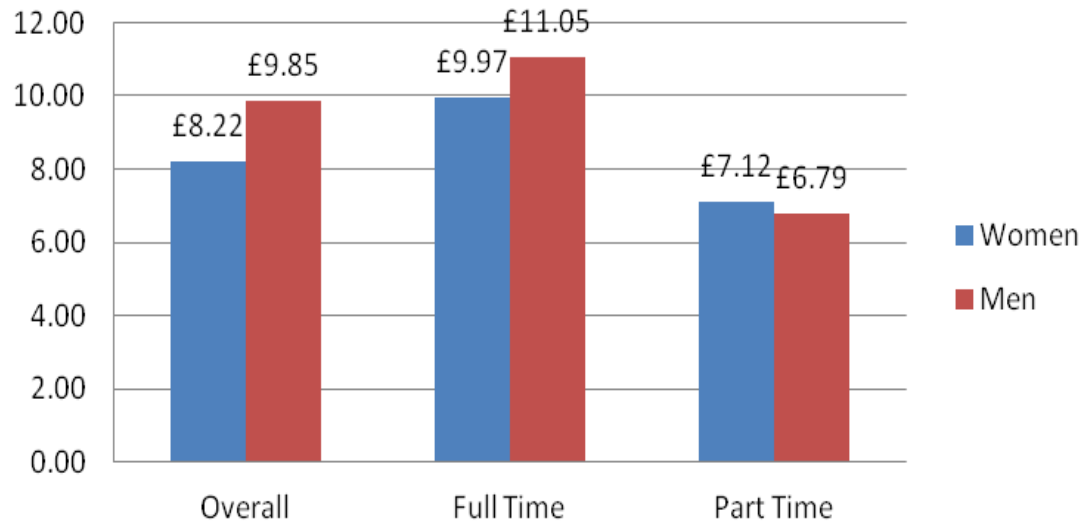
Low Pay and Insecurity



“I literally think that it’s all people who are working who are feeling the squeeze”

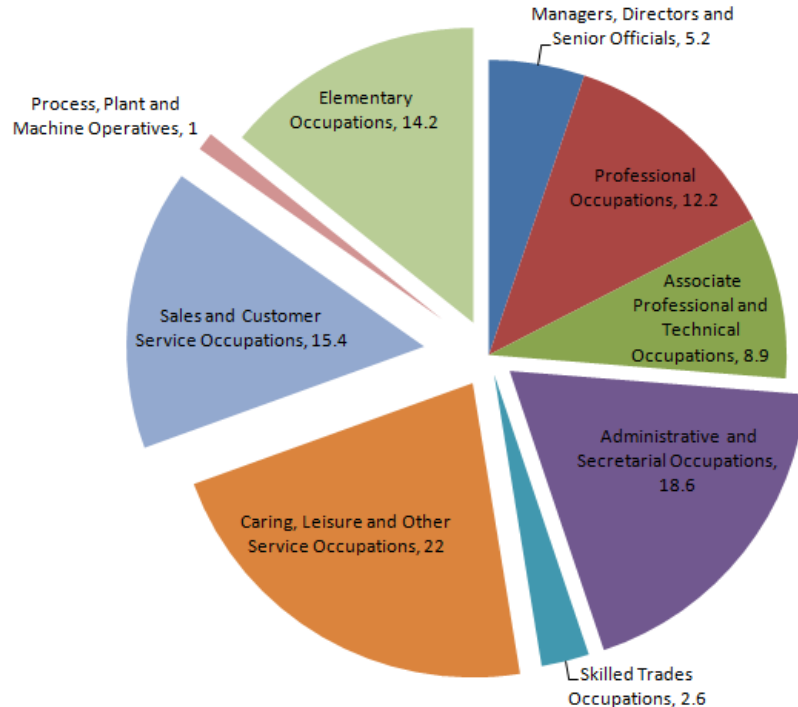
(Emma, aged 29)

Median Hourly Pay Blackley and Broughton Constituency

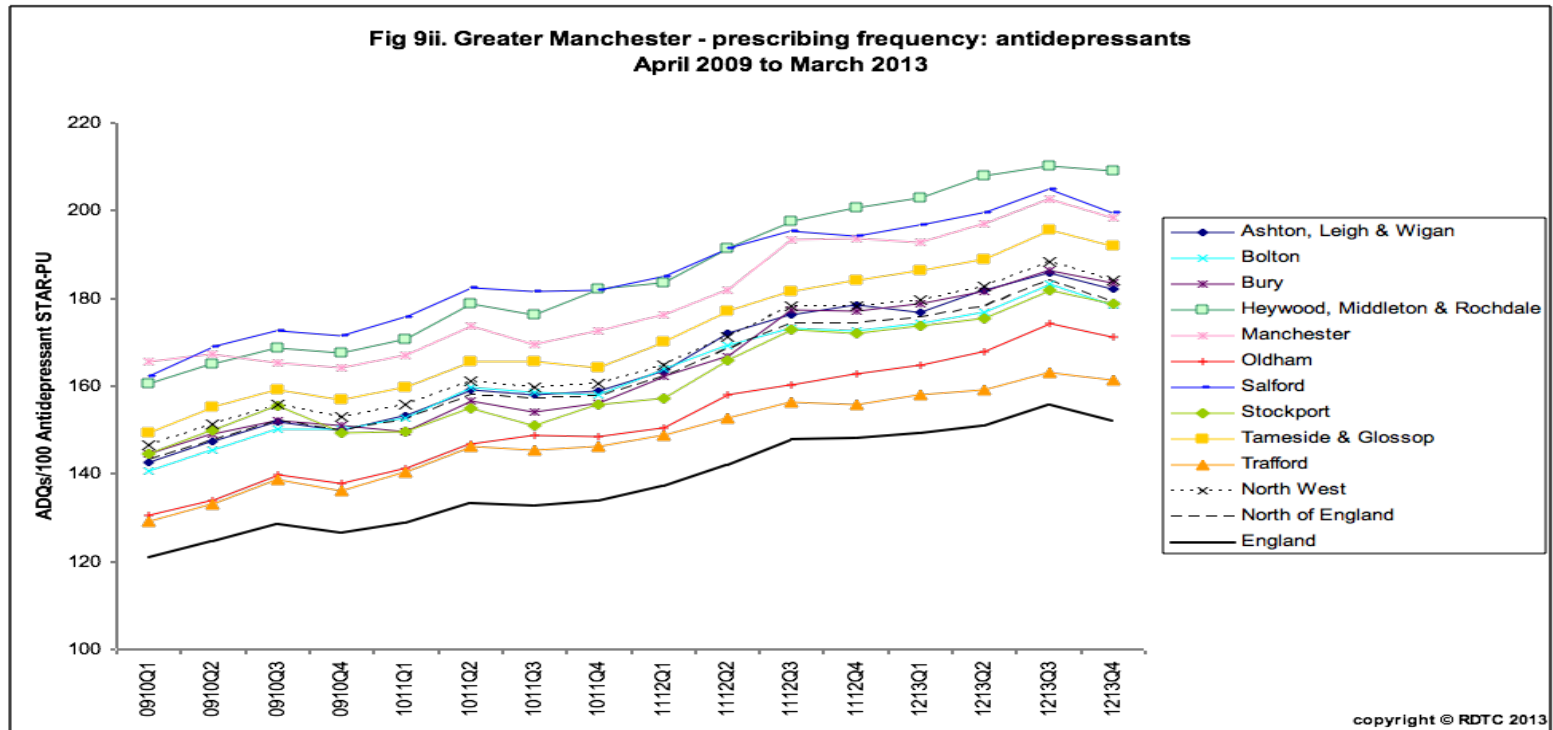


“Men can just go out and get a job can't they. We've got to be at home with the kids...they can travel as far as they want. They don't have a problem going to town to find a job and they don't have to wait around for school for the kids...”

Amy, 25 years old



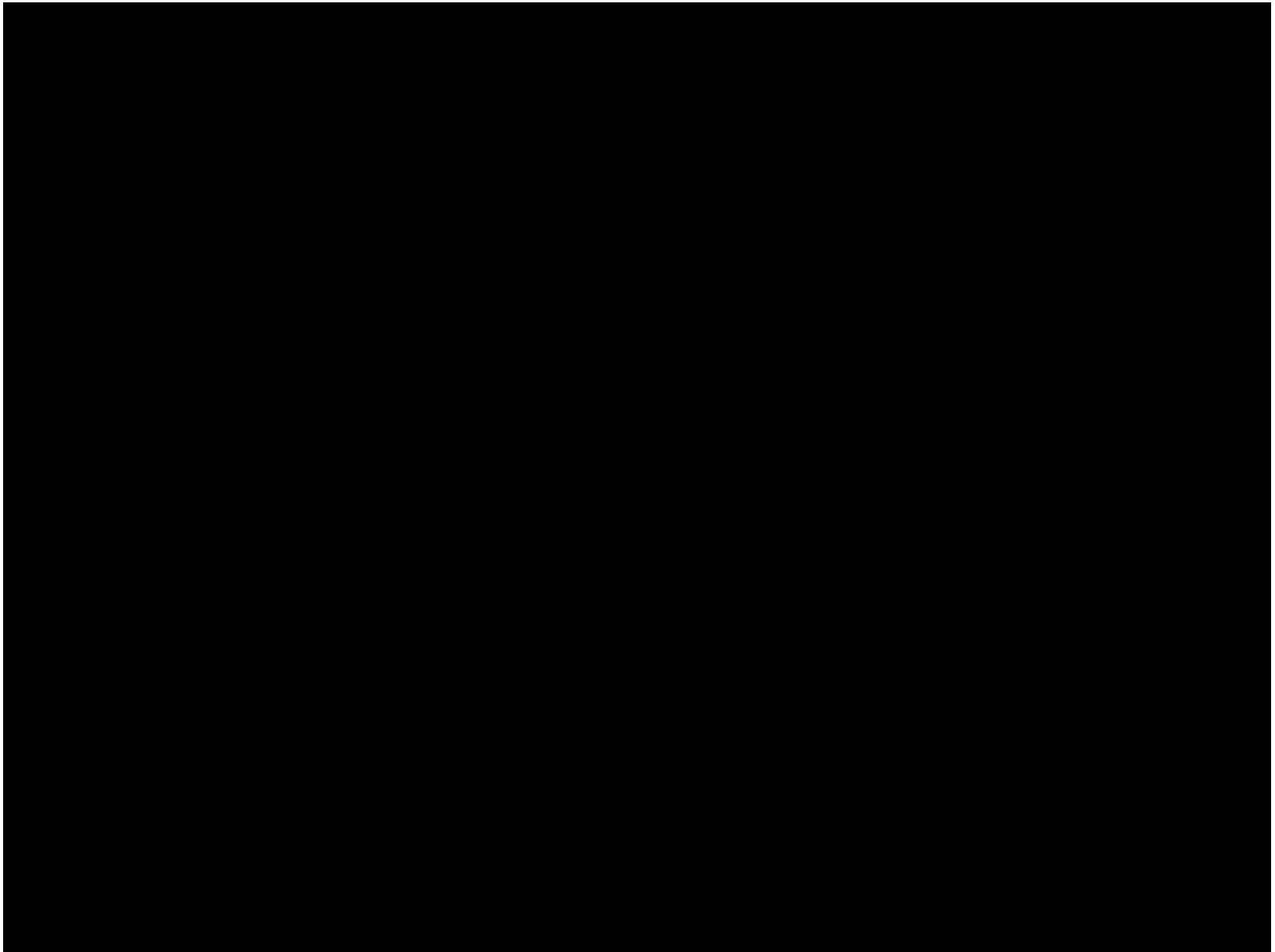
Widespread mental health problems



“I was referred from my doctor to mental health because of severe depression. So the mental health team phoned me and said...we'll get in touch with you as soon as possible. This was over six months ago.” (Shirley, aged 60)

Community support networks

- Generations of families have lived in Higher Blackley
- "The community is a safety net to people. You know the faces, you know the people." (Danny aged 34)
- "When you are raising two children and don't have much money, it's always convenient to [support] have on your doorstep" (Sue – aged 47)



Attitudes to Immigration


“They don't want to fit in with us. They segregate themselves from us. They want to be different.” (Sally, aged 45)

“...there should be certain standards to say at least you should be able to speak the bloody language...this is the only country in the world where you can go on a bus journey and you speak a different language at the end of it.” (Joe, aged 72)

“...we're not racist, just resentful.” (Caroline, aged 37)

Housing: A major source of tension

- Nearly 40% of Higher Blackley households are social rented housing (compared to Manchester average of 13.5%)
- Allocation policy a major cause of tension
- Changes to housing benefit rules likely to make situation more challenging



“you've got a white family here and a black family here, they're going to go for the black family. And that's 99.9% certain they're gonna do that. Only because, a lot of blacks, a lot of Asians will turn round and say they've been racially abused to get their own way.” (Doreen, aged 60)

A lack of space to debate?

- “Just cos your opinions differ from the mainstream, doesn’t mean you’re a racist. We’re just very, very worried.” (Steve, aged 50)
- “I don’t think they live in the real world, the do-gooders...” (Dorris, aged 82)

Concerns raised by this group have been “silenced by the tendency of liberals to dismiss the articulation of grievances as motivated by narrow-minded prejudice and ethnically charged nationalism.”

[Michael Kenny (2011), The Political Theory of Recognition: The Case of the ‘White Working Class’
The British Journal of Politics & International Relations 14 (1), p.25]

Conclusions

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- A photograph of a residential street. On the left, there is a row of brick houses with red-tiled roofs and white window frames. A paved sidewalk runs alongside the houses. To the right of the sidewalk is a grassy area. In the background, there are power lines and a distant town or city under a cloudy sky.
- Cultural anxieties and social insecurity
 - Disconnected institutions
 - Inequality