



**Horden
Together**



Image by Terry Franks



Image by Keith Scott



Evaluation of the Horden Together Partnership

Tackling Multiple Disadvantage through Community Connection

FINAL REPORT | JUNE 2026

NIHR | Public Health Intervention
Responsive Studies Teams



THE UNIVERSITY
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Executive Summary

What is the Horden Together Partnership (HTP)?

Horden is a former colliery village of approximately 7,000 people in County Durham (1). Horden has been identified as a mission critical neighbourhood, signalling an increase in disadvantage coupled with a reduction in social infrastructure (2). The Horden Together Partnership (HTP) is a service innovation driving system change with three components: people, place and community.

The aim of the HTP is to: help individuals within the community through 1:1 support (people), improve the physical space (place), and foster community cohesion and partner working (community).

Aims and Objectives of the Evaluation

HTP connects the community and residents to over 60 public and voluntary sector services. Subsequently, attributing outcomes specifically to HTP would not be valid. Therefore, the aim of this evaluation was to understand how the HTP facilitates access to services and if this represents value for money (to the council and wider public services).

Evaluation Objectives - the evaluation set out to answer three main questions:

- 1. What services are accessed by people in Horden as a result of the HTP, and how quickly?
- 2. What is the monetary value of this, in terms of Social Return On Investment (SROI)?
- 3. How is the responsiveness achieved, and can this be transferred or scaled to other communities?



How did we conduct the evaluation?

We engaged the HTP staff partners (organisations including public and VSCE¹ sector working in Horden) and community members throughout this evaluation. This was to understand how the HTP facilitates access to services and if this represents value for money both for the council and wider public services.

We analysed anonymous data from 395 individuals who had used the HTP (2021-2025). Based on this data, we created three personas reflecting common examples of the situations Horden residents experience. The three personas developed from the data represented “low”, “medium” and “high” need.

The personas were then used in two workshops with key HTP partners and other crisis support staff to explore what someone in each circumstance would have to do if they did not live in Horden, and how their support pathway differs through the HTP. Insights from the workshops were used to inform Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis which was calculated for each of the three personas. The use of SROI aligns with the challenge of attributing outcomes and financial savings specifically to the HTP; SROI gives a broader sense of the benefit of the HTP, demonstrating the potential societal benefit from the person-centred interventions that the HTP enables. Finally, the workshops also explored the transferability of the HTP model to other communities.



¹ Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise

Key Messages

- The evaluation highlights the multiple disadvantage of Horden residents accessing the HTP.
- The 1:1 support through the HTP facilitates and supports access to **67** services across the public and VCSE sectors. The HTP have developed an effective framework that works across and integrates the people, place and community components of the innovation.

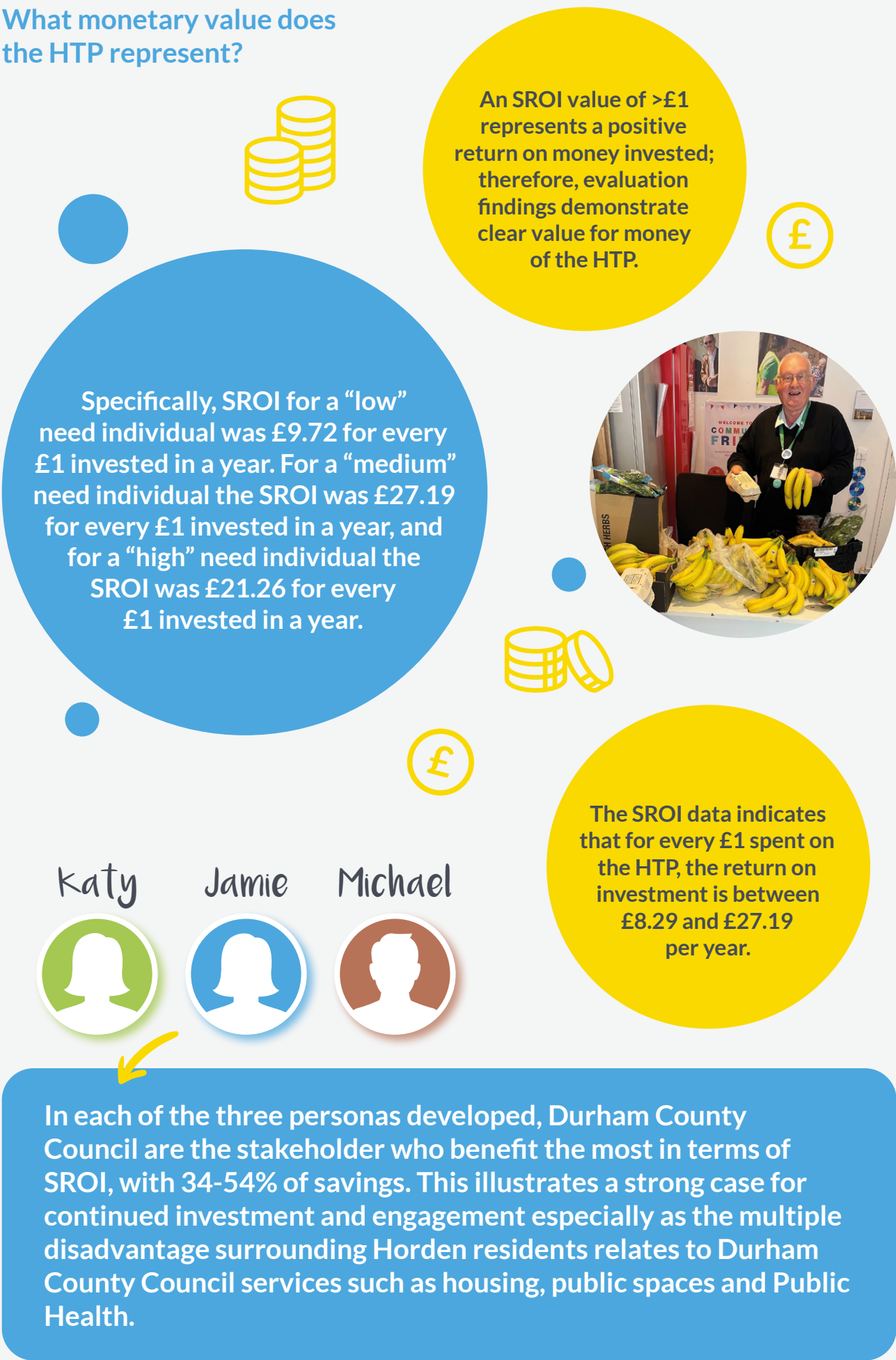
How the HTP enables access to services and addresses multiple disadvantage to improve the wellbeing of the people and community

1. Firstly, they start with what matters to the individual, supporting them to access the service(s) they need.
2. Secondly, the three components of HTP mean that they can address not just the individual's circumstances but the environment and social connections that contribute to wellbeing of the people and community.

These are both underpinned by the local knowledge, trust in delivery staff and practices being both **client-led** and **trauma-informed**.



What monetary value does the HTP represent?





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View the full report:

[Horden Together Partnership, Durham County Council - NIHR Public Health Interventions Responsive Studies Teams \(PHIRST\)](#)

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