



Social Care: Past and Present

Living in Tinsley

V/o:

Two miles east of Darnall, this is Tinsley. Every day Shafaq Mohammed travels home from his business studies course at Sheffield University. For several years now Shafaq has taken an active role in community affairs. As the tram makes its way to Tinsley, he has time to think about a range of pressing issues that need to be addressed. One of these is obvious every day on his way home. Tinsley is not easy to get to.

Shafaq:

Supertrams stop at Tinsley; although it's signposted Tinsley, it's actually quite a far distance away, but unfortunately it's located near the canal, and it's not very well lit, particularly in the evenings.

V/o:

To reach their homes from the tram stop, Tinsley people have to pass under the M1, along the towpath of the Sheffield and Tinsley Canal. Although the area faces a lot of the same problems as Darnall, people at Tinsley tend to see things in their own way.

Shafaq:

Tinsley's much smaller than Darnall. Darnall's community is much more diverse, you know, there's people from a lot of backgrounds, people from Somalia, the Yemen, Bangladesh, where Tinsley is predominantly either white or they're Asians from Pakistan, and we suffer from different problems. The main issues that are facing people in Tinsley I would say were unemployment, that's a major issue, particularly since the decline of the steel industry; a lot of people still haven't been able to get jobs. A lot of developments around Darnall and Tinsley, with the Meadowhall shopping centre, and the developments near the airport, unfortunately we don't seem to have benefited in terms of jobs for any local people, regardless of whether they're older. Some people say that there's this S9 postcode discrimination. I'm not sure yet, I've not yet to see any figures actually, but quite a few people in Tinsley and Darnall feel they're discriminated against, not on the grounds of race, but just because of where they live.

V/o:

Over a hundred thousand cars and trucks thunder across here every day. For locals air pollution is a serious issue.

Safaq:

Health is a really big issue in Tinsley because it's isolated, and it's surrounded by either the motorway at one end, and then steel plants either side, and we consistently get readings done, we're running something in the air, and they're above the standards, and we're campaigning along with other people, such as the Friends of the Earth, campaigning to get these lowered.

Man:

(Subtitles) You see smoke from cars and noise – at night you can't sleep. If you open your window, and then shut it at night, there's so much dirt on the window ledge.

V/o:

Mohammed Ayoub has more reason than most to be bothered by the traffic. He suffers from asthma. He's lived in this street since 1968.

Mohammed:

(Subtitles) Honest, there is so much pollution I can't describe. There is noise as well. At night, when vehicles stop at the traffic lights, you can hear the brakes, and vehicles make loud noises, and it feels as if the house is going to move.

V/o:

Mr Ayoub is also a former steelworker but he was made redundant ten years ago. Local people are trying to improve things in the area. Tinsley Forum holds regular meetings. Safaq is the Chair.

Safaq:

OK, can we just move on to this graph at the back. I'm looking for Neil Parry. Do you want to speak on this quickly, Neil?

Yeah, I get this sense of community spirit. Sometimes in people might not acknowledge you, but particularly elsewhere in the city we always get the comment that you all for such a small area seem to shout the most and seem to get things done.

People don't really want to move out which seems surprising to people that don't live in Tinsley, but it doesn't for me because it's such a close-knit community, particularly the young Pakistani community, you know people like myself typically, I don't really want to move out, I want to move down five or six doors from where my mum lives, and I think that's quite a common thing.

V/o:

Surrounded by the reminders of the distant and more recent past, the people of this area of Sheffield know that whatever help they get from outside, their ability to work together is key to achieving common goals in the future.

Shafaq:

If we were to split into separate groups such as young people's groups, or minority groups, then I think we would probably spread ourselves too thin, and that's what actually keeps us together, which is really surprising for people that don't know Tinsley, they expect it to be really divided and separate, but we're not.