



HAPPY CITY INDEX

2016 REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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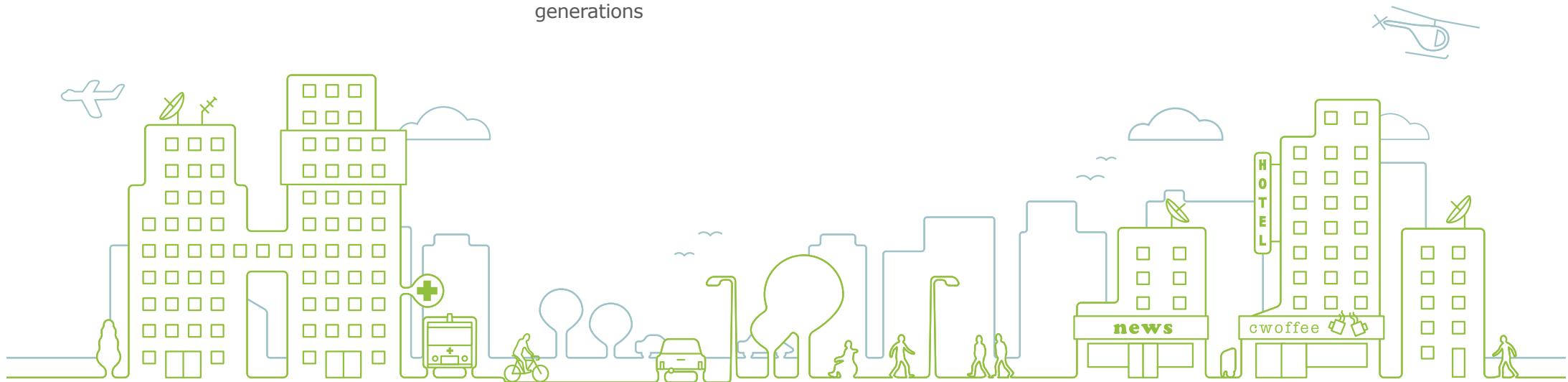


A NEW MEASURE OF CITY PROGRESS

Happy City Index is a progress report on the conditions for wellbeing at a city level. It helps decision makers understand and assess the determinants of wellbeing and establishes the foundation for better decisions and resource use for improving lives.

On a national and international scale, policymakers are beginning to focus on measures of prosperity beyond traditional economic indicators, such as GDP. In the UK, the National Wellbeing Programme uses national level indicators to “measure what matters”. These measures are used to monitor the nation’s progress and assess and develop policy. On a more local scale, however, there are no such wellbeing initiatives — a consistent framework that uses local authority level indicators to measure what matters for city wellbeing.

The Happy City Index (HCI) was developed by Happy City and the New Economics Foundation (NEF) in collaboration with an exceptional group of local, national and international experts. **It has been designed to monitor city progress, defined as a city’s success in providing the conditions that create ‘sustainable wellbeing’.** These conditions are what matter for individuals, communities and cities as a whole to thrive. We define sustainable wellbeing as providing equal opportunities to thrive for present and future generations





The HCI aims to be a practical tool that can help local policymakers understand how well their city is doing in comparison to the other cities and prioritise key policy areas.

These insights are currently delivered in three forms:

- CITY MAPS

With city scores and rankings for each of the England core cities on:

- a) City Conditions
- b) Equality
- c) Sustainability

This provides an instant picture of how major cities across England are doing at fairly and sustainably providing the conditions that create wellbeing.

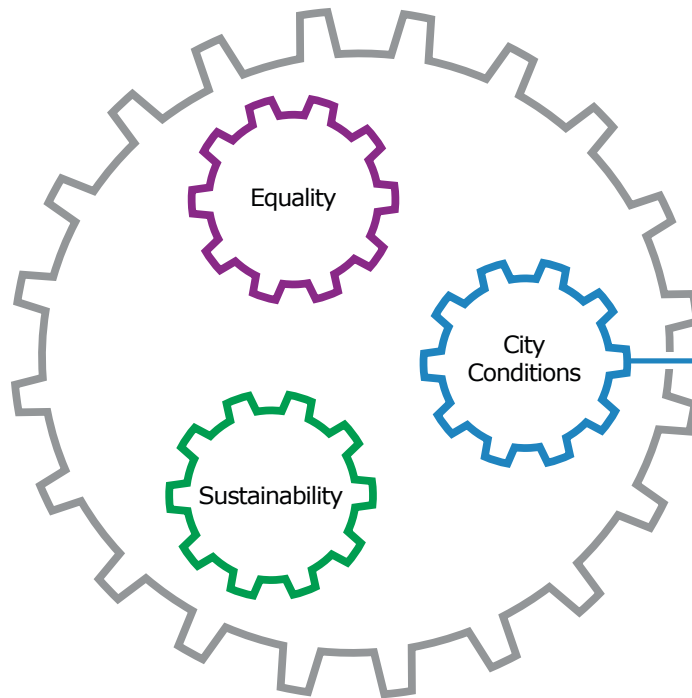
- CITY SCORECARDS & CASE STUDIES

Local policymakers and citizens can 'drill down' on the City Conditions scores for each city, which include scores and rankings for each of the City Conditions domains and sub-domains. This provides cities with a coherent picture of their strengths and weaknesses and the key policy areas that need to be prioritized to improve citizen's wellbeing.

The HCI Maps and Scorecards can provide a systematic, empirical foundation to guide city progress – to both benchmark, target and plan new initiatives at a strategic level and stimulate public discussion over what matters for local policy.

FRAMEWORK

Level 1



Level 2

domain

work

Health

Education

Place

Community

Level 3

sub-domain

quality of work
Income
Unemployment

mortality and life expectancy
Illness and disability
Healthy and risky behaviours
Mental health

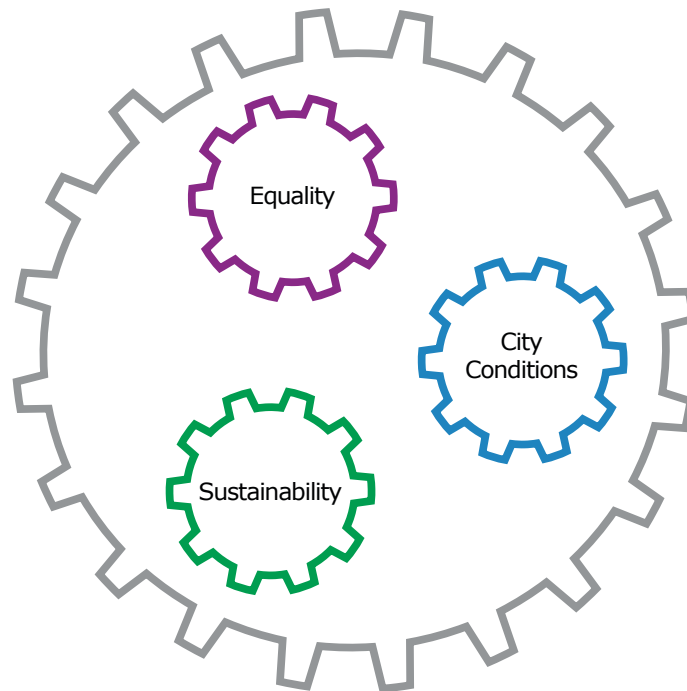
children's education
Adult qualifications

safety
Housing
Transport
Green space

culture
Participation
Social isolation
Local business

FRAMEWORK

This framework provides a systematic, empirical foundation to guide city progress. It collates a broad range of (60+) indicators from recognised national data sources, all of which are frequently updated and available at a local authority level for the England Core Cities (including London).



- The HCI framework is designed to show how well cities fairly and sustainably provide the conditions that create wellbeing. Cities are given overall scores and rankings in three dimensions: **City Conditions**, **Equality** and **Sustainability** (Level 1).
- **Equality** is assessed using indicators on inequalities in income, health and wellbeing across the city.
- **Sustainability** is assessed using indicators on CO2 emissions and household recycling and energy consumption levels.
- Cities can 'drill down' into the City Conditions dimension to see how well they are doing in five wellbeing domains – **Work**, **Health**, **Education**, **Place** and **Community** (Level 2).
- Each of these domains is further divided into sub-domains concerning key policy areas within each domain (Level 3).

2016 RESULTS

1. CITY MAPS

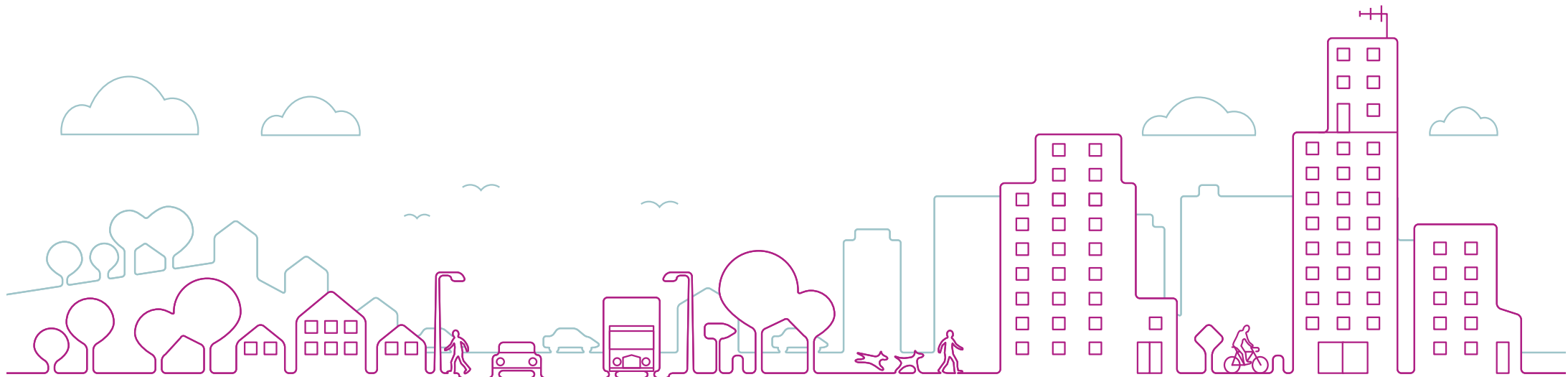
These maps show how two example Core Cities rank with providing conditions that create wellbeing in a fair and sustainable way.

2. CITY SCORECARDS

Nine City Scorecards demonstrate how each level of data can help guide more detailed policy and strategic planning. The details behind headline figures bring significant insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each city in providing the conditions that create sustainable wellbeing.

3. CASE STUDIES

We have chosen Bristol and Nottingham as examples of cities where the details behind the headline figures bring significant insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each city in providing the conditions that create sustainable wellbeing

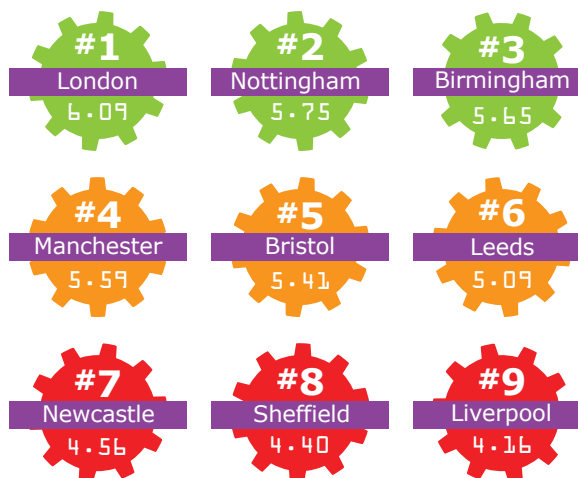


1. CITY MAPS

CITY CONDITIONS



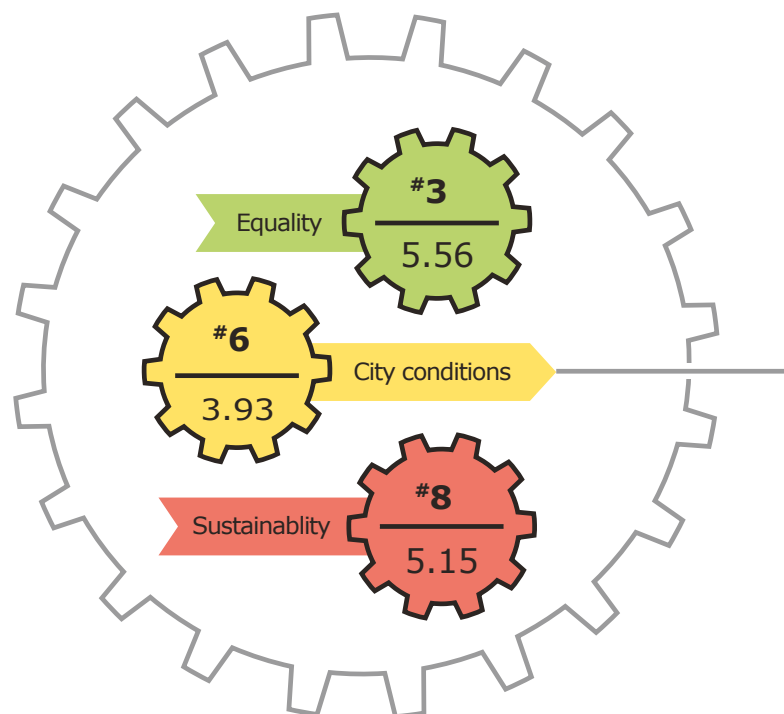
EQUALITY



SUSTAINABILITY

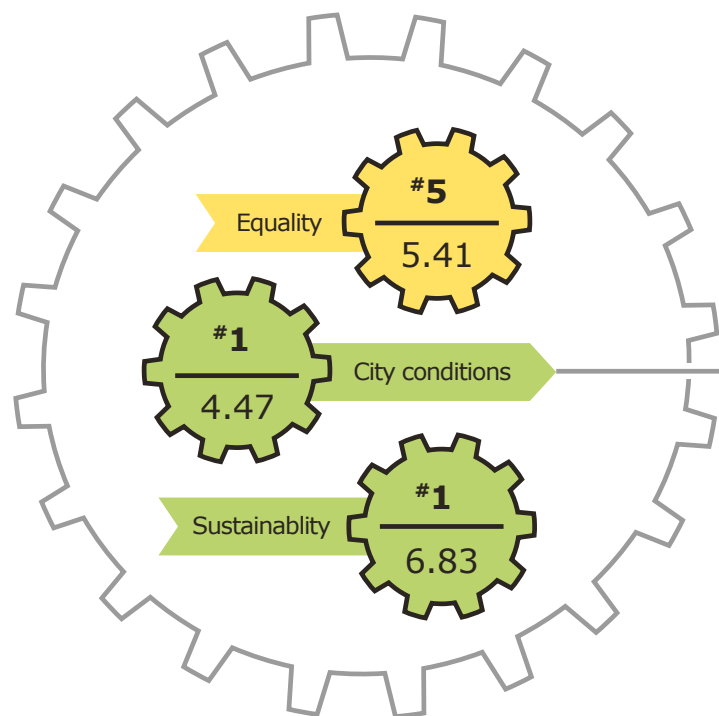


2.1 CITY SCORECARDS: **BIRMINGHAM**



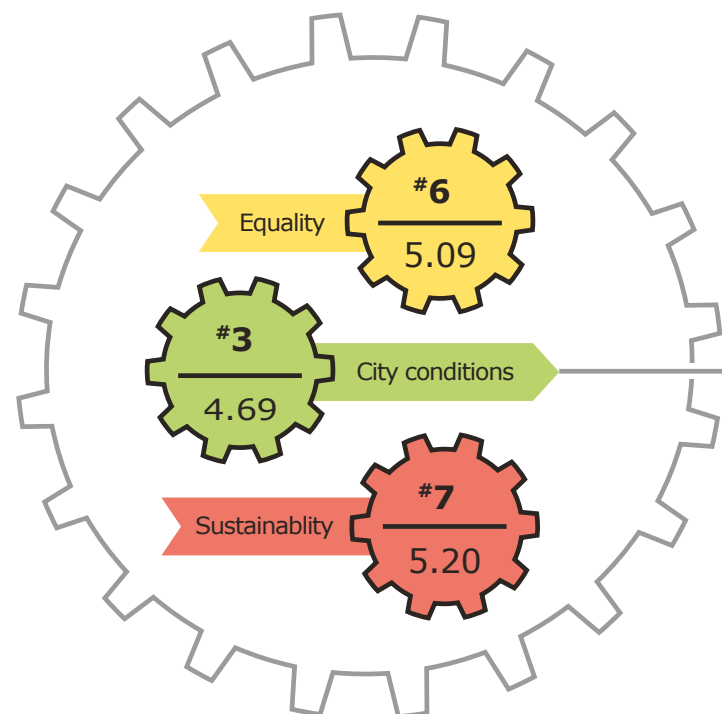
domain	score	rank	sub-domain	score	rank
Work	3.7	8	Quality of work	6.2	5
			Income	2.6	6
			Unemployment	2.2	9
Health	4.0	5	Mortality and life expectancy	3.9	5
			Illness and disability	4.1	6
			Healthy and risky behaviours	3.3	6
			Mental health	4.6	3
Education	3.7	6	Children's education	4.5	4
			Adult qualifications	2.9	9
Place	4.3	9	Safety	4.7	1
			Housing	3.6	8
			Transport	5.9	9
			Green space	4.1	9
Community	4.0	7	Culture	3.1	9
			Participation	4.3	6
			Social isolation	4.7	6
			Local business	4.0	5

2.2 CITY SCORECARDS: **BRISTOL**



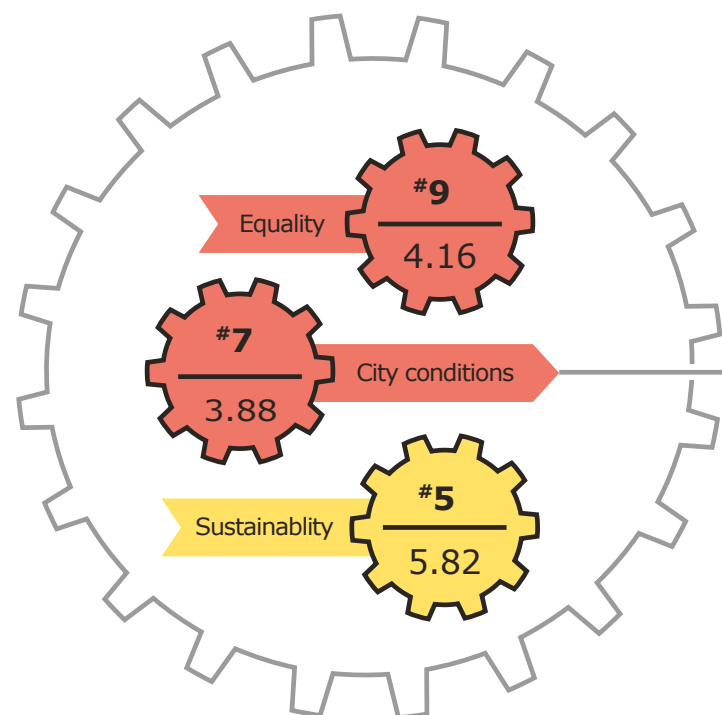
domain	score	rank	sub-domain	score	rank
Work	4.9	1	Quality of work	5.8	7
			Income	3.9	3
			Unemployment	5.0	1
Health	4.4	2	Mortality and life expectancy	4.7	2
			Illness and disability	5.0	3
			Healthy and risky behaviours	4.4	2
			Mental health	1.0	7
Education	5.3	2	Children's education	6.2	1
			Adult qualifications	4.4	5
Place	5.2	1	Safety	3.9	7
			Housing	4.2	7
			Transport	5.3	4
			Green space	7.5	1
Community	4.5	3	Culture	3.7	6
			Participation	4.0	2
			Social isolation	5.2	3
			Local business	4.0	3

2.3 CITY SCORECARDS: LEEDS



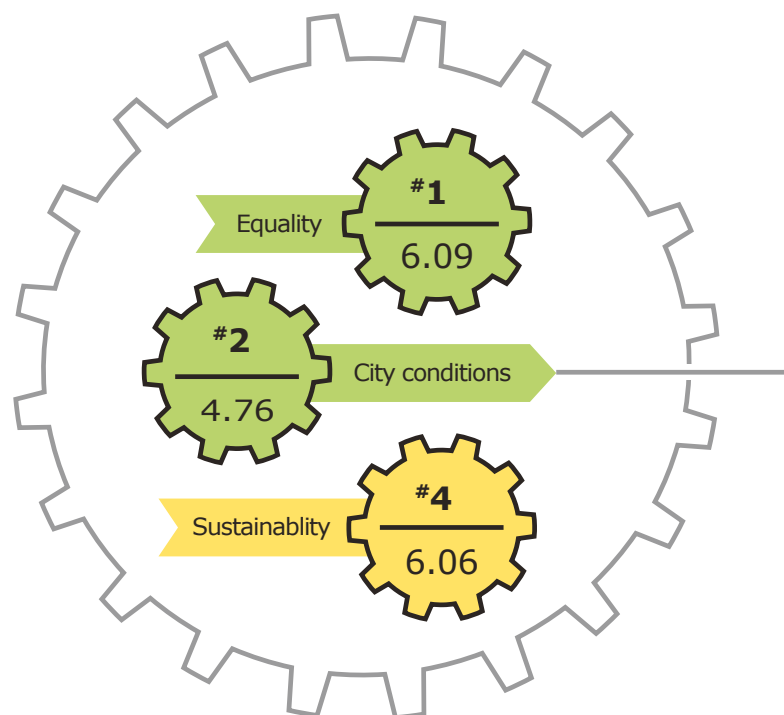
domain	score	rank	sub-domain	score	rank
Work	4.8	2	Quality of work	5.7	8
			Income	4.3	1
			Unemployment	4.5	3
Health	4.4	3	Mortality and life expectancy	4.4	4
			Illness and disability	5.2	2
			Healthy and risky behaviours	3.4	5
			Mental health	4.5	4
Education	4.9	3	Children's education	4.7	3
			Adult qualifications	5.1	3
Place	4.9	3	Safety	4.1	4
			Housing	4.9	2
			Transport	5.1	6
			Green space	5.6	4
Community	4.4	4	Culture	3.8	5
			Participation	5.0	4
			Social isolation	4.9	5
			Local business	4.0	4

2.4 CITY SCORECARDS: LIVERPOOL



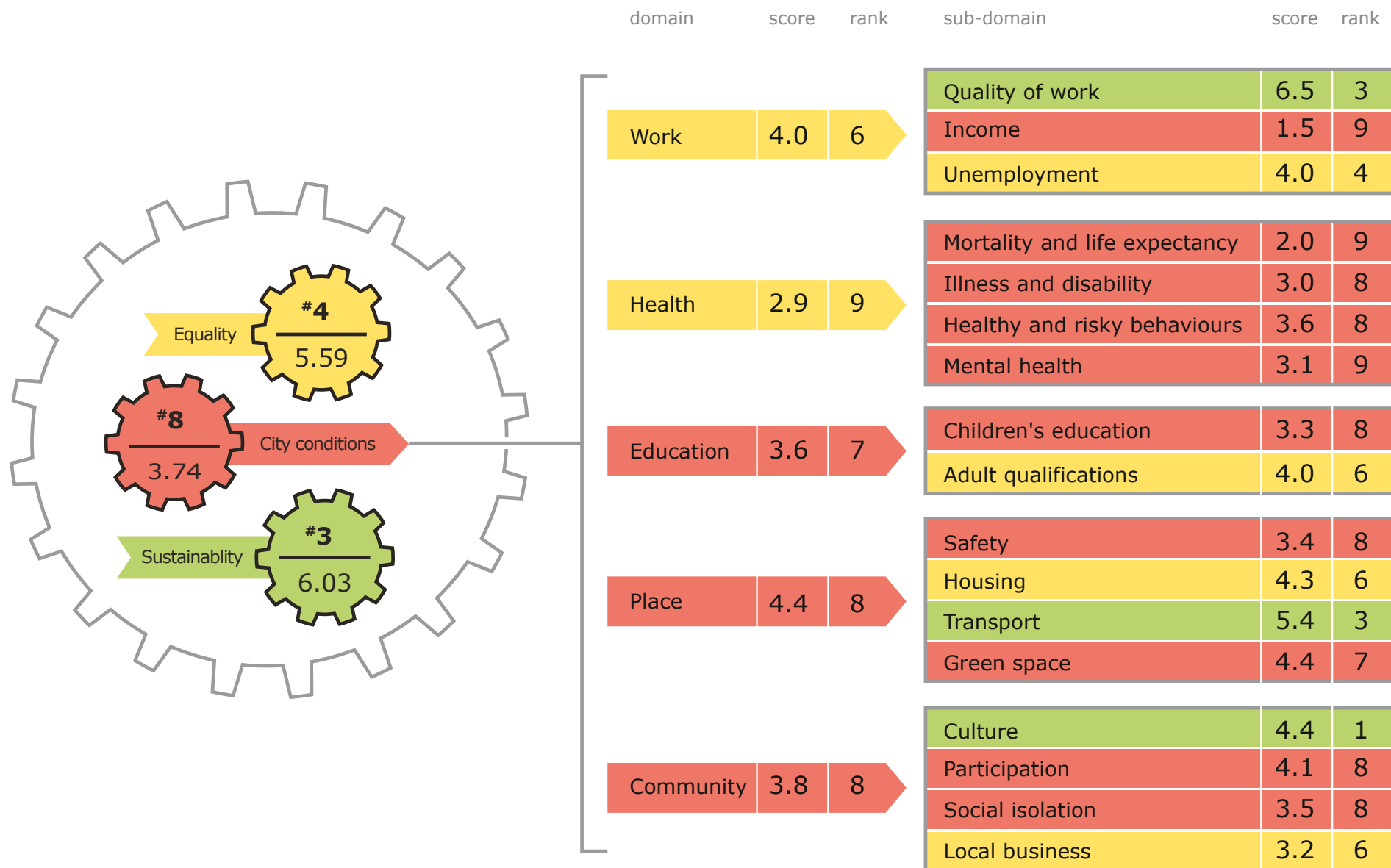
domain	score	rank	sub-domain	score	rank
Work	4.1	5	Quality of work	6.5	1
			Income	1.9	6
			Unemployment	3.9	5
Health	3.0	8	Mortality and life expectancy	3.0	8
			Illness and disability	2.2	9
			Healthy and risky behaviours	3.6	3
			Mental health	3.2	8
Education	3.5	8	Children's education	3.5	7
			Adult qualifications	3.6	8
Place	4.5	6	Safety	4.0	6
			Housing	4.5	6
			Transport	5.1	5
			Green space	4.4	8
Community	4.3	5	Culture	3.7	8
			Participation	4.1	7
			Social isolation	6.2	1
			Local business	3.1	7

2.5 CITY SCORECARDS: LONDON

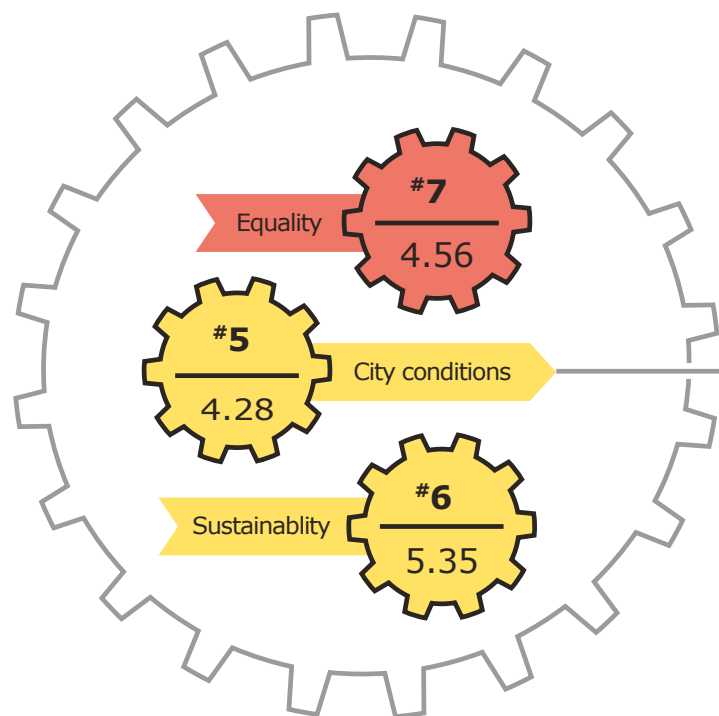


domain	score	rank	sub-domain	score	rank
Work	3.6	9	Quality of work	3.3	9
			Income	2.8	9
			Unemployment	4.7	2
Health	5.2	1	Mortality and life expectancy	5.1	1
			Illness and disability	5.5	1
			Healthy and risky behaviours	4.5	1
			Mental health	6.6	1
Education	5.7	1	Children's education	5.7	1
			Adult qualifications	5.6	2
Place	4.5	5	Safety	4.1	5
			Housing	3.4	9
			Transport	5.9	1
			Green space	4.8	6
Community	4.8	1	Culture	3.9	3
			Participation	5.6	2
			Social isolation	4.2	7
			Local business	5.6	1

2.6 CITY SCORECARDS: **MANCHESTER**

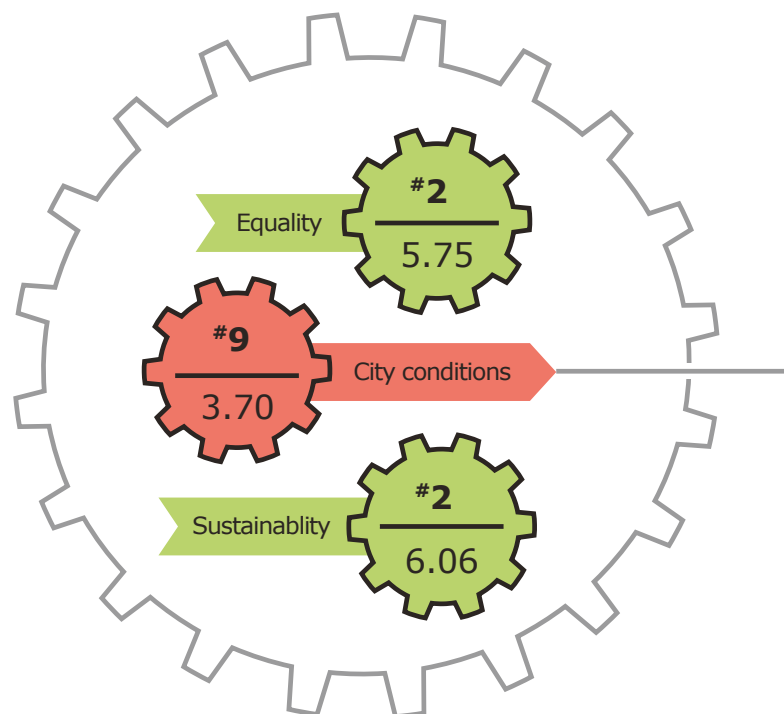


2.7 CITY SCORECARDS: **NEWCASTLE**



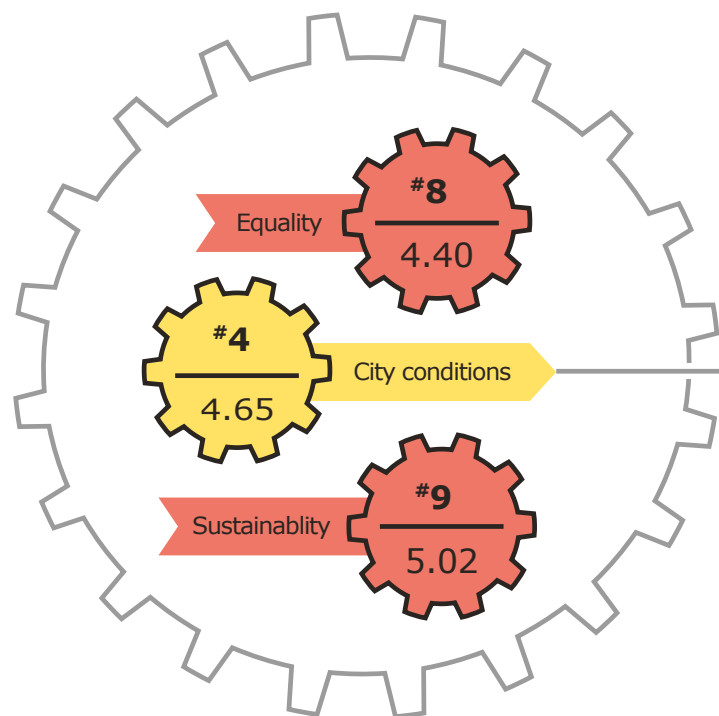
domain	score	rank	sub-domain	score	rank
Work	4.2	4	Quality of work	6.0	6
			Income	3.2	4
			Unemployment	3.5	7
Health	3.5	7	Mortality and life expectancy	3.8	6
			Illness and disability	4.1	7
			Healthy and risky behaviours	2.8	9
			Mental health	3.6	6
Education	4.6	5	Children's education	4.7	2
			Adult qualifications	4.4	5
Place	5.0	2	Safety	4.5	3
			Housing	4.7	3
			Transport	5.4	2
			Green space	5.4	3
Community	4.0	6	Culture	4.3	2
			Participation	4.5	5
			Social isolation	5.2	2
			Local business	2.1	9

2.8 CITY SCORECARDS: **NOTTINGHAM**



domain	score	rank	sub-domain	score	rank
Work	3.8	7	Quality of work	6.5	2
			Income	2.3	7
			Unemployment	2.6	8
Health	3.8	6	Mortality and life expectancy	3.5	7
			Illness and disability	4.1	5
			Healthy and risky behaviours	3.4	4
			Mental health	4.2	5
Education	3.1	9	Children's education	4.0	6
			Adult qualifications	2.3	6
Place	4.4	7	Safety	3.0	9
			Housing	4.6	4
			Transport	4.9	8
			Green space	5.1	4
Community	3.3	9	Culture	3.8	4
			Participation	2.9	8
			Social isolation	2.9	9
			Local business	3.9	9

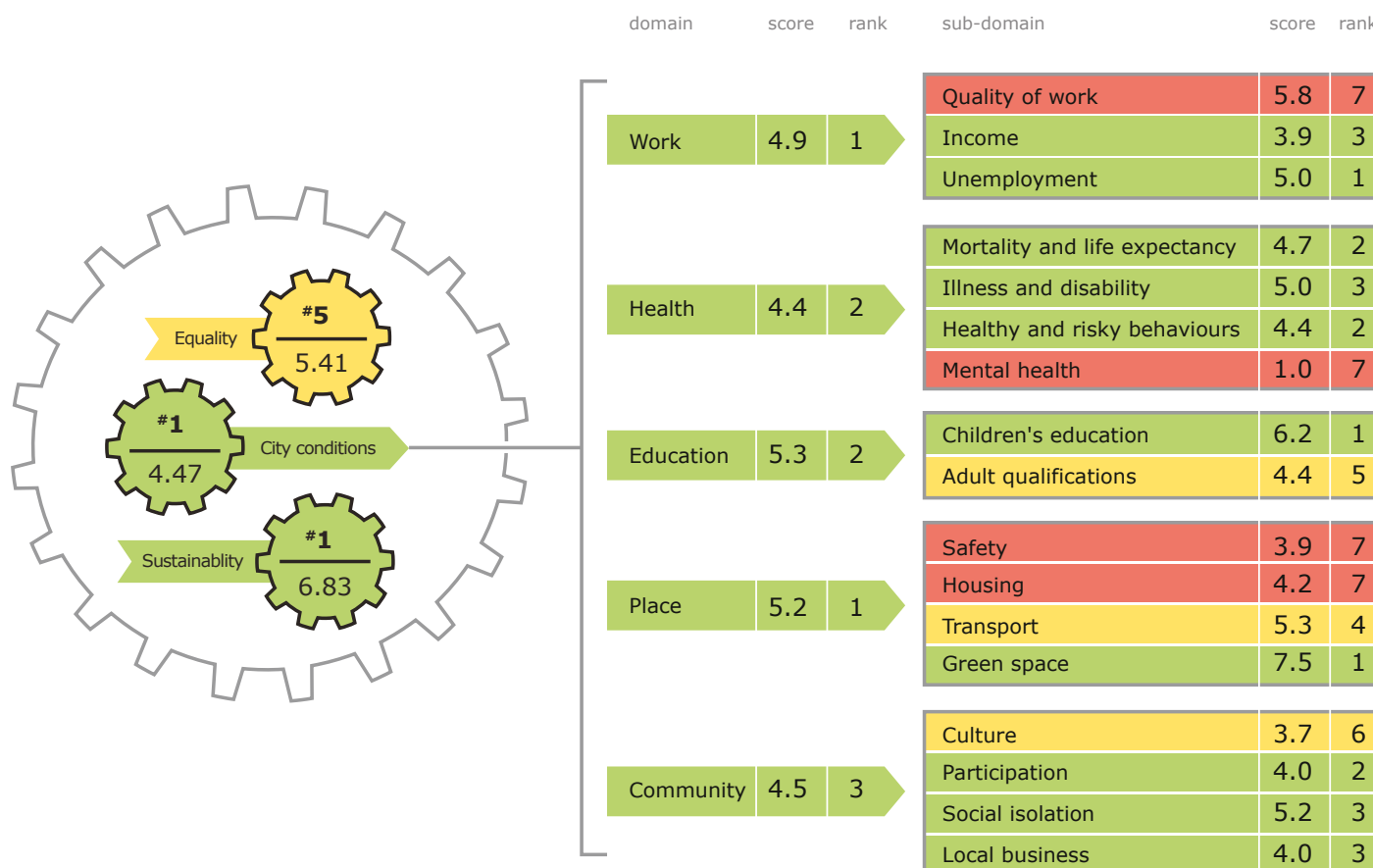
2.9 CITY SCORECARDS: **SHEFFIELD**



domain	score	rank	sub-domain	score	rank
Work	4.6	3	Quality of work	6.3	4
			Income	3.9	2
			Unemployment	3.6	6
Health	4.3	4	Mortality and life expectancy	4.6	3
			Illness and disability	4.5	4
			Healthy and risky behaviours	3.3	7
			Mental health	5.0	2
Education	4.6	4	Children's education	4.4	5
			Adult qualifications	4.7	4
Place	4.9	4	Safety	4.6	2
			Housing	5.1	1
			Transport	4.9	7
			Green space	4.9	5
Community	4.8	2	Culture	3.7	7
			Participation	6.4	1
			Social isolation	5.0	4
			Local business	4.0	2

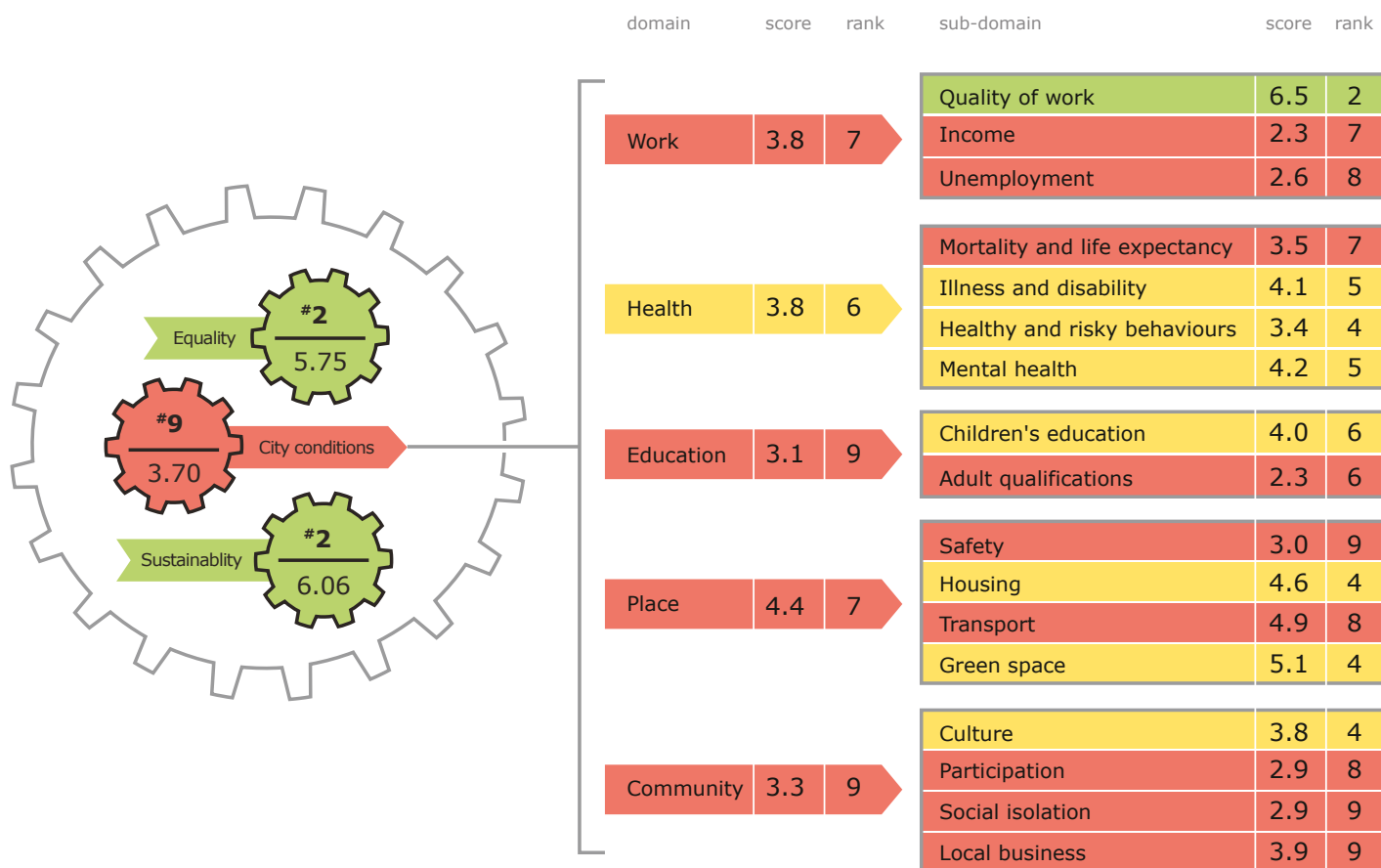
3.1 EXAMPLE CASE STUDY: BRISTOL

This scorecard shows that it is the highest ranked England Core City at providing the conditions that create wellbeing. It is also providing these conditions in a sustainable way. However, although Bristol has a high overall City Conditions score, this does not mean it is providing all the conditions that matter for people's wellbeing. Bristol has low scores in four of the City Conditions sub-domains, namely quality of work, mental health, safety and housing. Mental health in particular has been shown to be one of the largest determinants of personal wellbeing (Fleche and Layard 2015).



3.1 EXAMPLE CASE STUDY: **NOTTINGHAM**

In contrast to Bristol, Nottingham's Scorecard shows that it is the lowest ranked England Core City at providing the conditions that create wellbeing. However, although the average level of quality of life in Nottingham is low, the city is providing some of the conditions that create wellbeing (in particular quality of work) in a way that is both fair and within environmental limits. Nottingham is the only highest ranked city for both Equality and Sustainability, which is a major achievement and important foundation for future improvements in wellbeing.





WHAT NEXT?

The Happy City Index will be published on an annual basis and a range of exciting new digital ways for decision makers and citizens to explore and use the data are being developed.

In parallel to developing the Happy City Index, Happy City has also developed a ground-breaking new personal measurement tool, the Happiness Pulse, a world leading interactive survey getting to the heart of how people feel and function in their lives, work and communities. The Pulse can be used by organisations and cities to uncover far more detail about the reality of wellbeing in the lives of those they support. Bespoke versions are in development for various sectors.

We have also launched the WellWorth Policy Tool which assesses the impact and cost benefits of wellbeing interventions across key policy areas. The WellWorth tool converts wellbeing data into social & economic policy outcomes and demonstrates long-term worth and cost-effectiveness of wellbeing improvements on the wider city system.

To find out more about any of these tools, please get in touch:

info@happycity.org.uk

www.happycity.org.uk



FIND OUT MORE AT

Web happycity.org.uk
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Facebook [happycitybristol](https://www.facebook.com/happycitybristol)
Office mobile 07474 408024
HQ 1st Floor, Canningford House
38 Victoria St, Bristol BS1 6BY

Company no. 0788984 Charity no. 1143037



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