



InPLACE: Investigating Planning, Place-Making and Commuting

The Changing Spatial Relationship between Home and Work - Reflections from the Island of Ireland

Karen Keaveney, Caroline Creamer, Brendan O’Keeffe, Gavan Rafferty, & Des McCafferty

Research Assistants: Hannah Burke, Dominic Robinson, & Eva Hamilton



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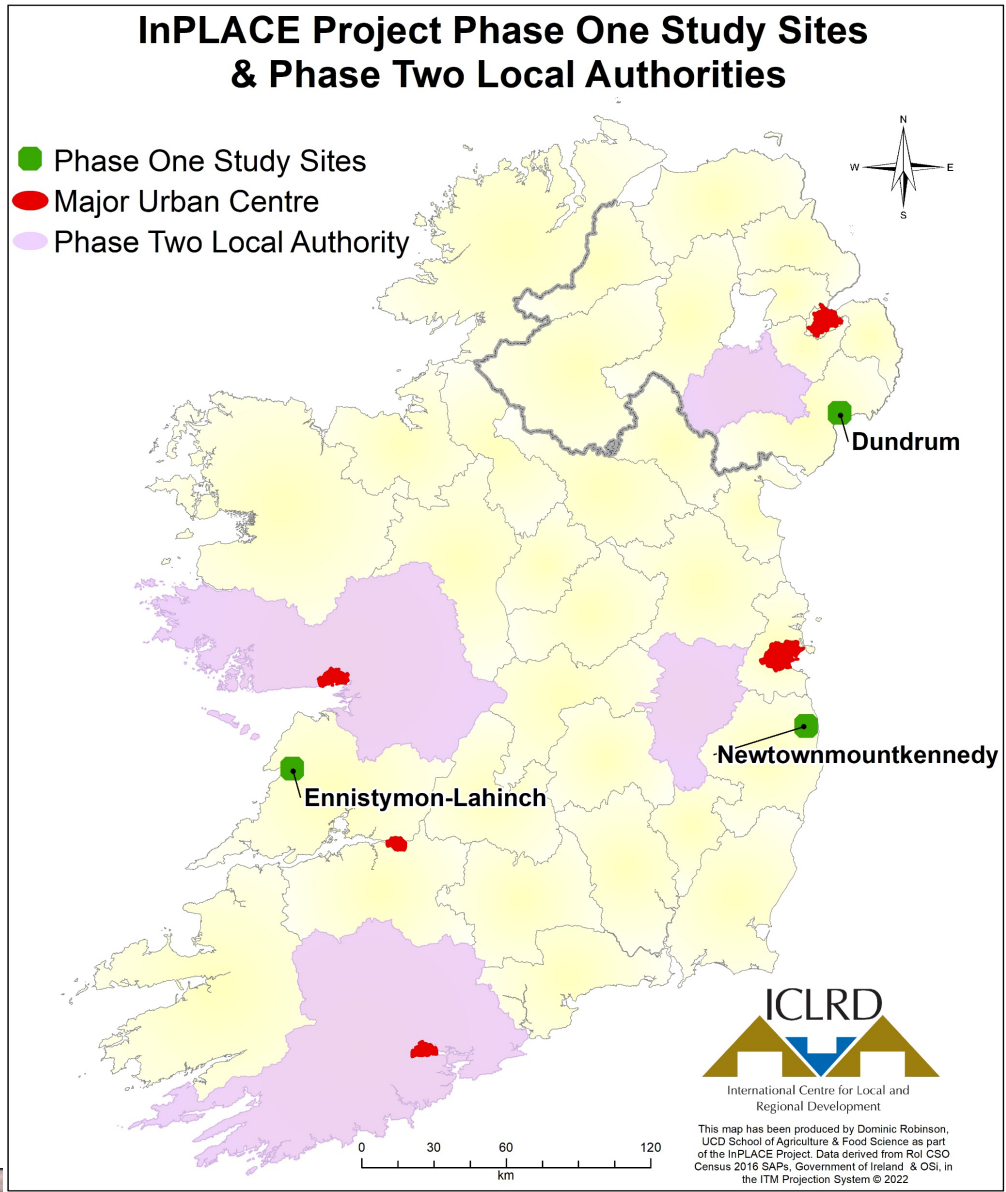
Main Findings - contents

- Perceptions of Place
- Places of work – pre-COVID and currently
- Commuting times – changes and implications
- Influences on the ability to work remotely
- Local Social Capital



Selection criteria included:

- Size of settlement
- Travel for 45 minutes plus to work
- Travel for 45 minutes plus to work, school or college
- Commuting by car
- Employment rate
- Younger age profile
- Prevalence of new (post-2000) housing



Respondents by Location

Case study location	No. completed questionnaires	% of total responses	No. Interviews	% of total responses
Newtownmountkennedy	149	41%	14	42%
Ennistymon-Lahinch	124	34%	7	20%
Dundrum	89	25%	13	38%
Island of Ireland	362		34	



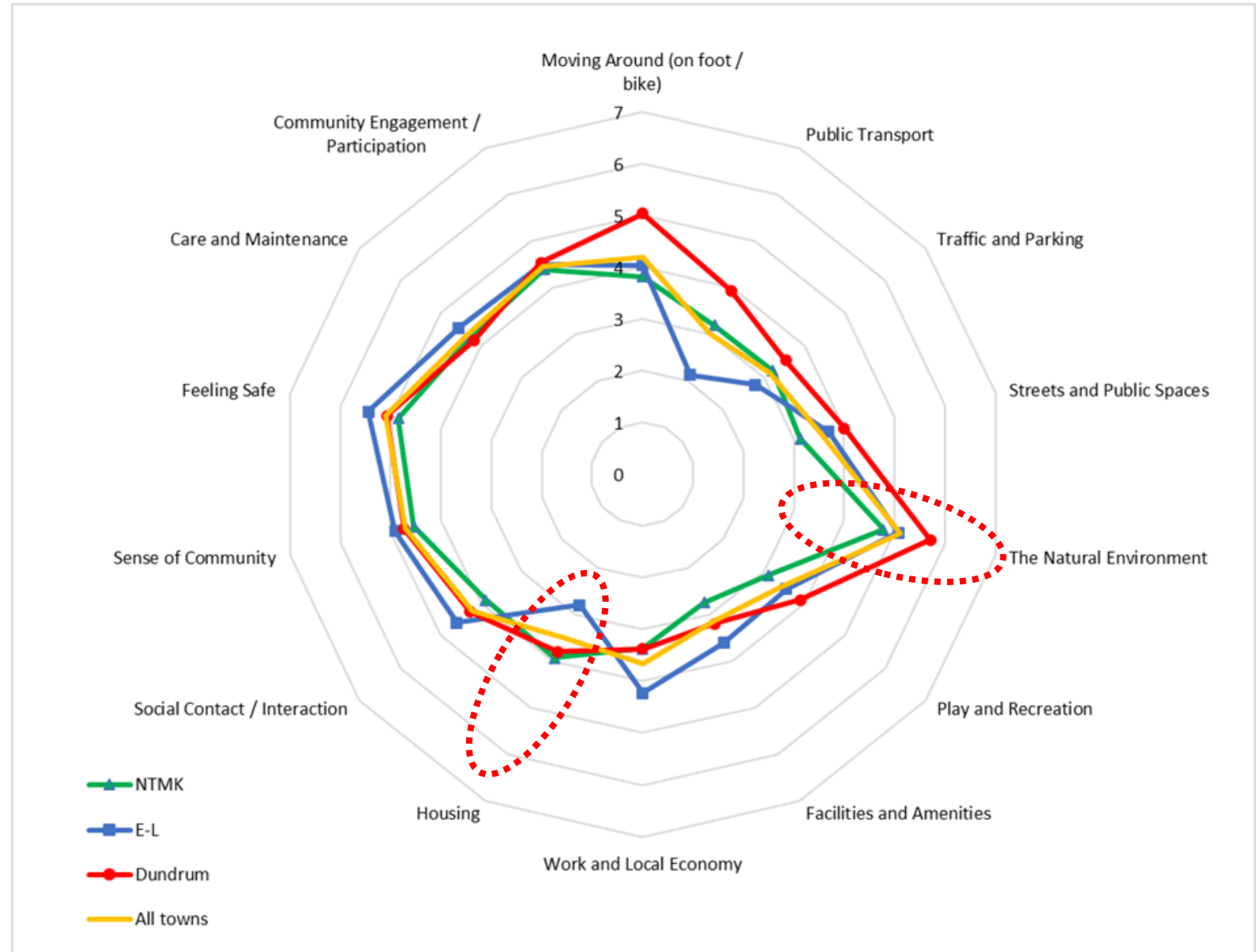
Selected Data from the Island of Ireland



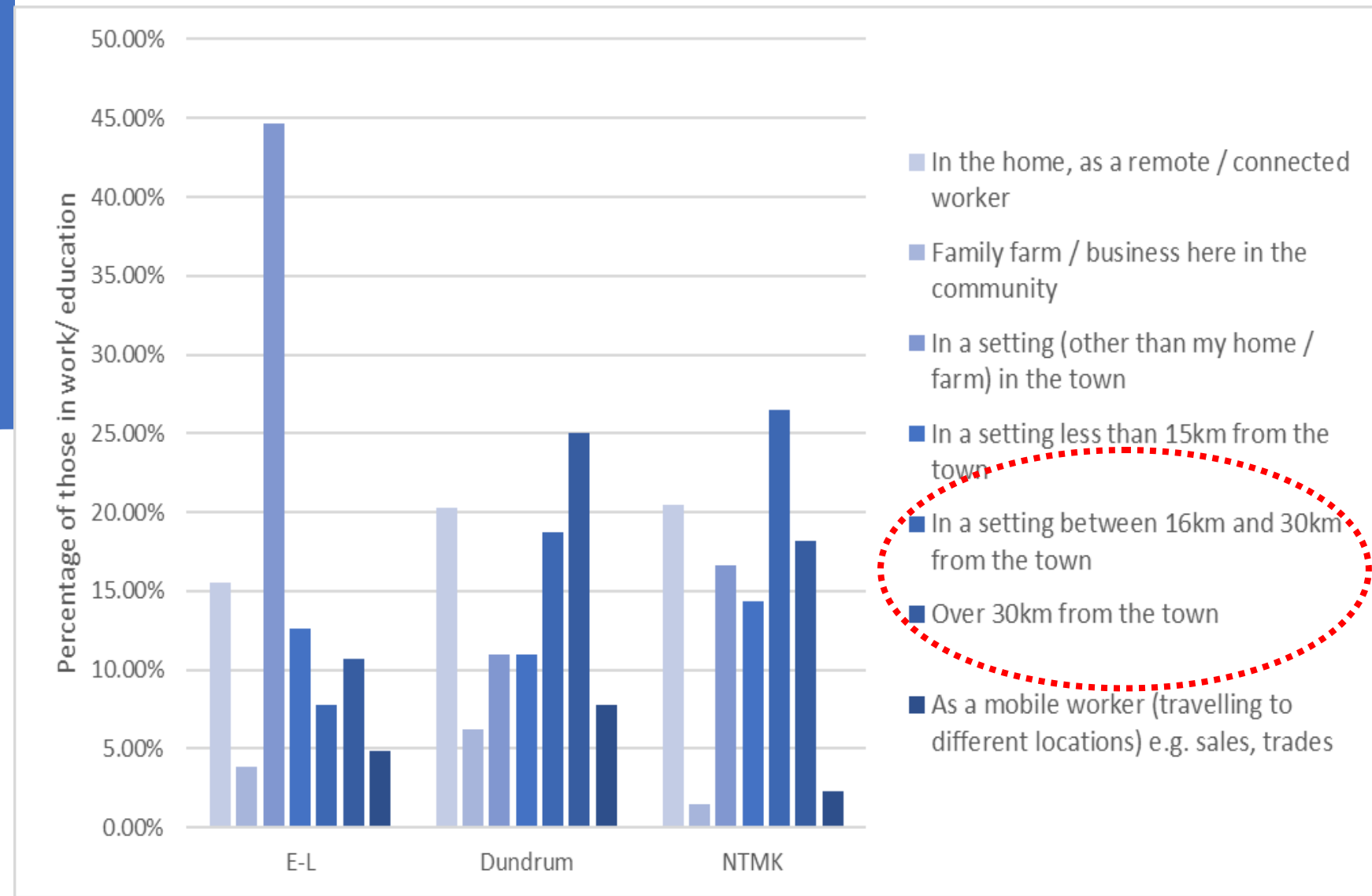
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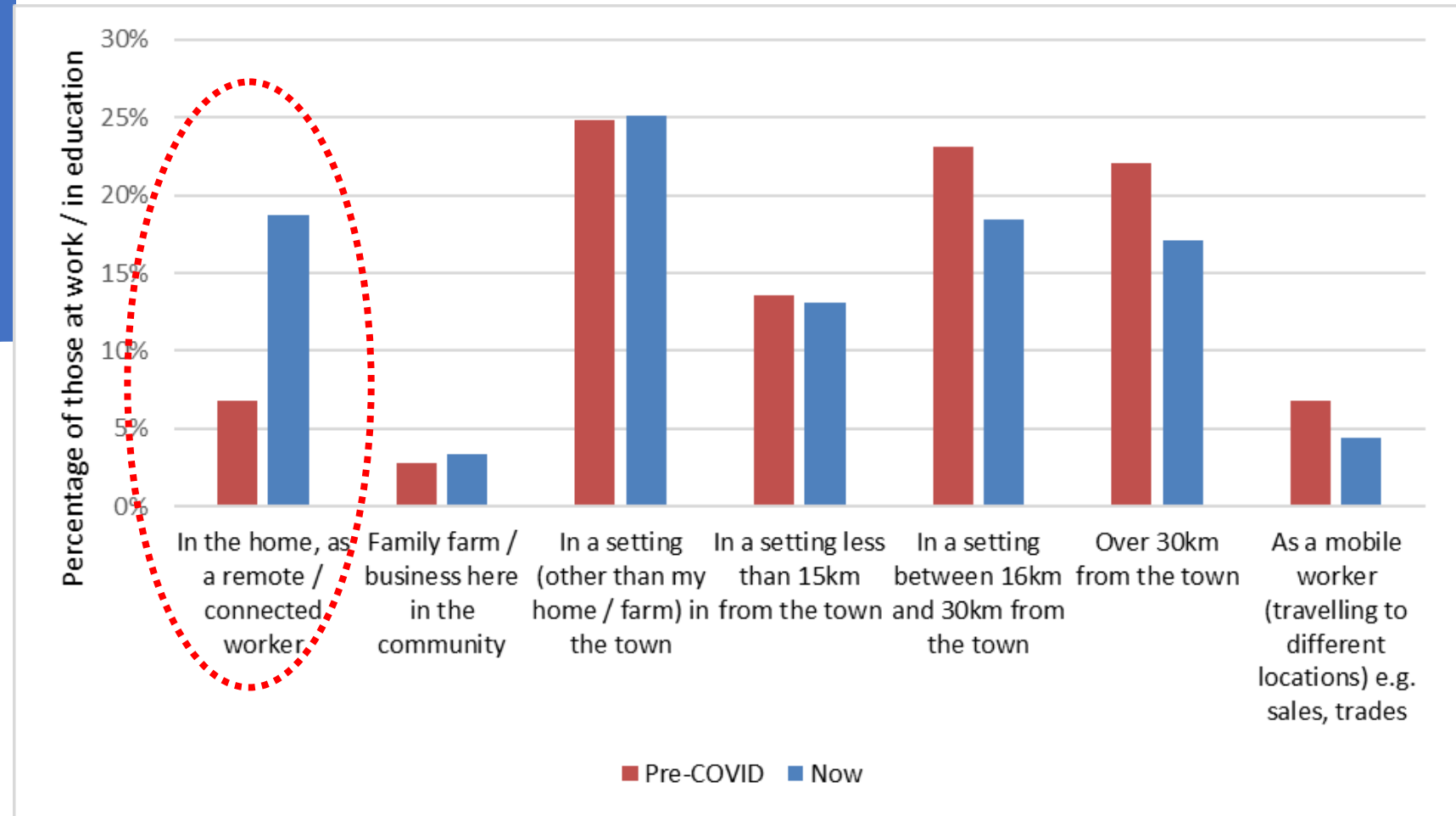
Mean (average) scores on the Place Standard



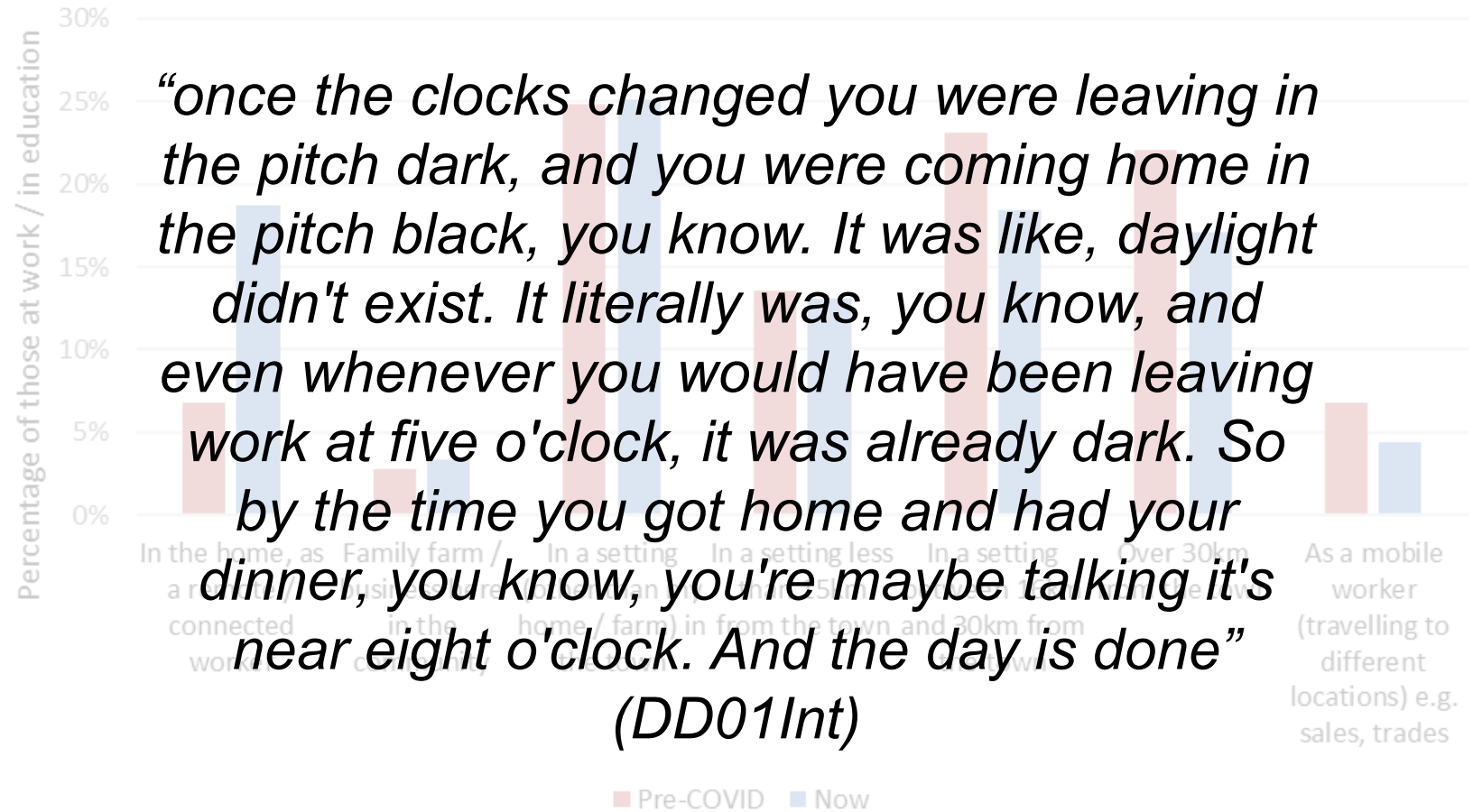
Current place of work or study



Place of work or study pre- and post-COVID



Place of work or study pre- and post-COVID



“once the clocks changed you were leaving in the pitch dark, and you were coming home in the pitch black, you know. It was like, daylight didn't exist. It literally was, you know, and even whenever you would have been leaving work at five o'clock, it was already dark. So by the time you got home and had your dinner, you know, you're maybe talking it's near eight o'clock. And the day is done”
 (DD01Int)



Change in home working during the pandemic, selected cohorts

Cohort	Pre-COVID	During COVID
Females	5.9%	18.2%
Males	8.6%	20.4%
Persons with secondary education	0.0%	10.8%
Persons with postgraduate education	6.9%	23.9%





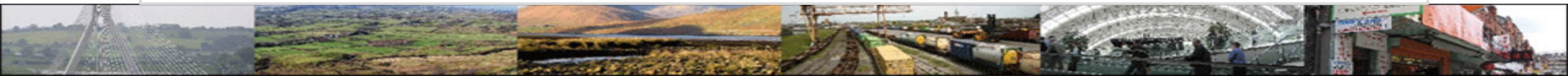
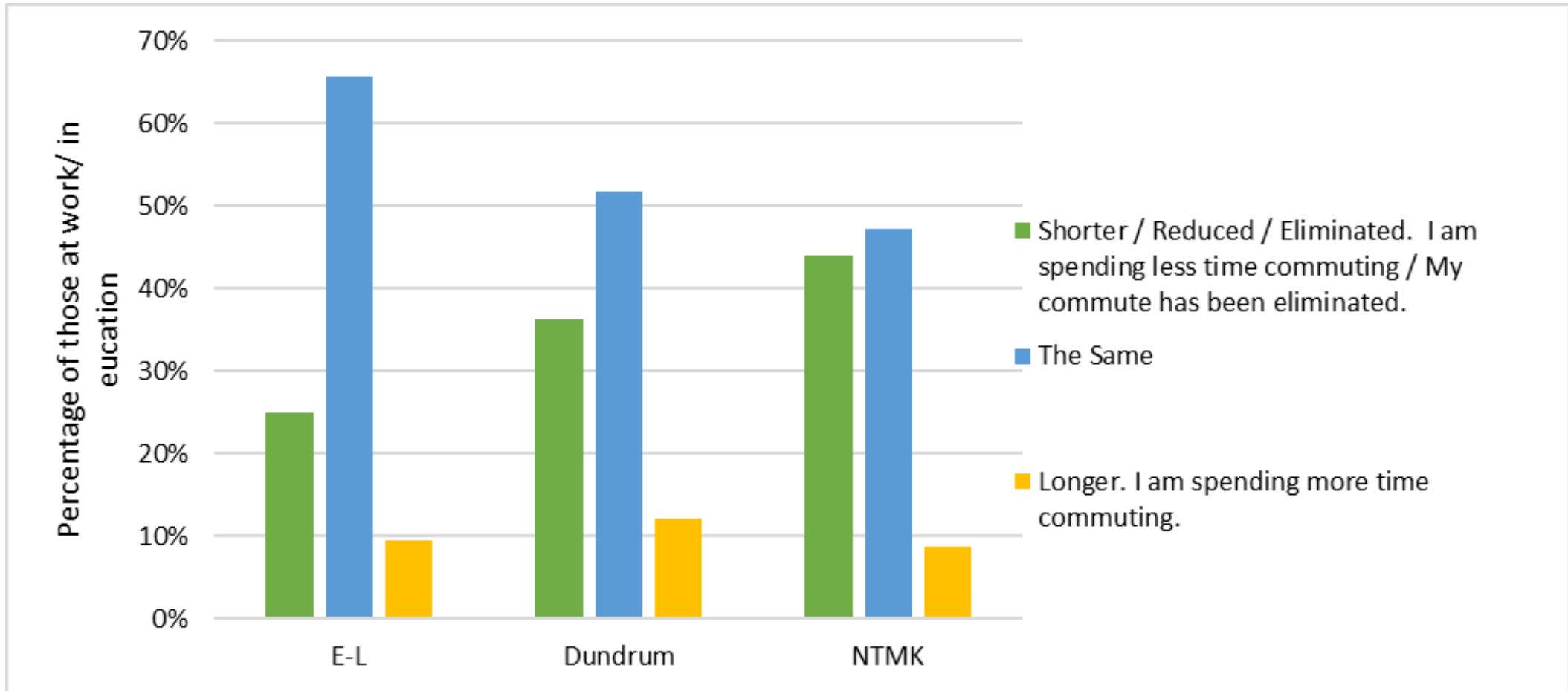
Remote Working

“the only disadvantage is that connection with your workplace. So I really do have to make an effort to go down and connect with individuals and make sure that I'm connecting with teams with the company so that I'm not isolating myself and in terms of just sitting out here and being forgotten about it and forgetting what the culture and what the experience of work is”. (DD05Int)

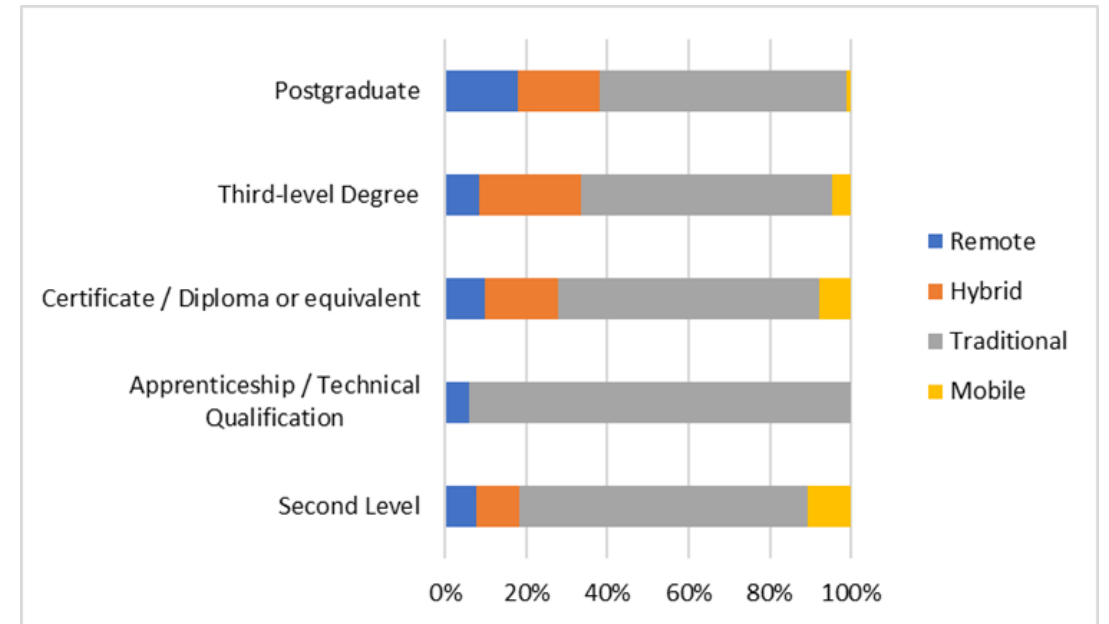
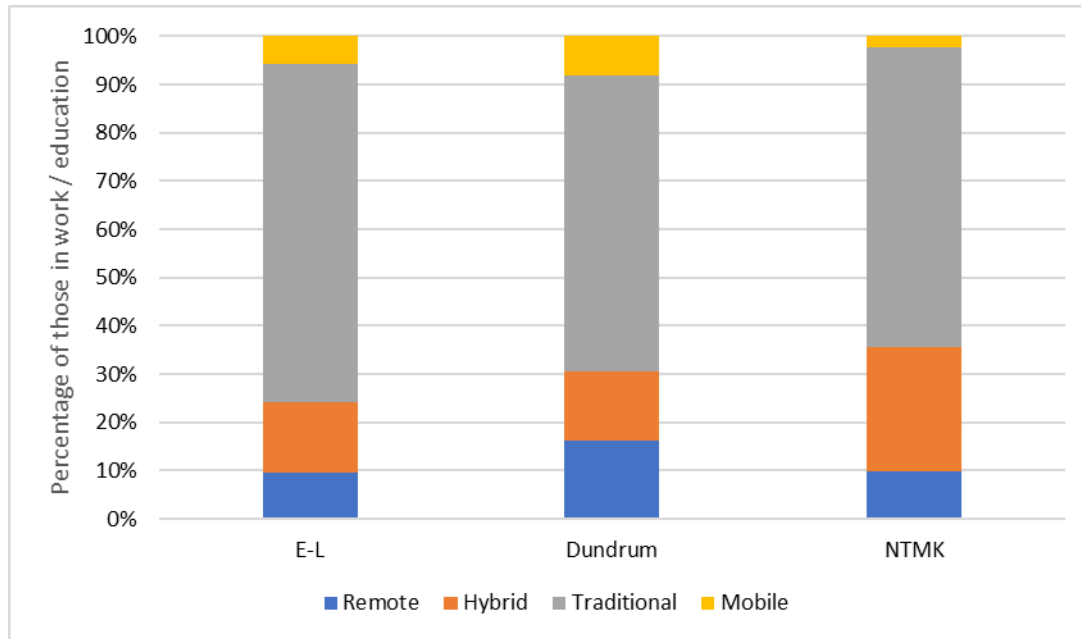


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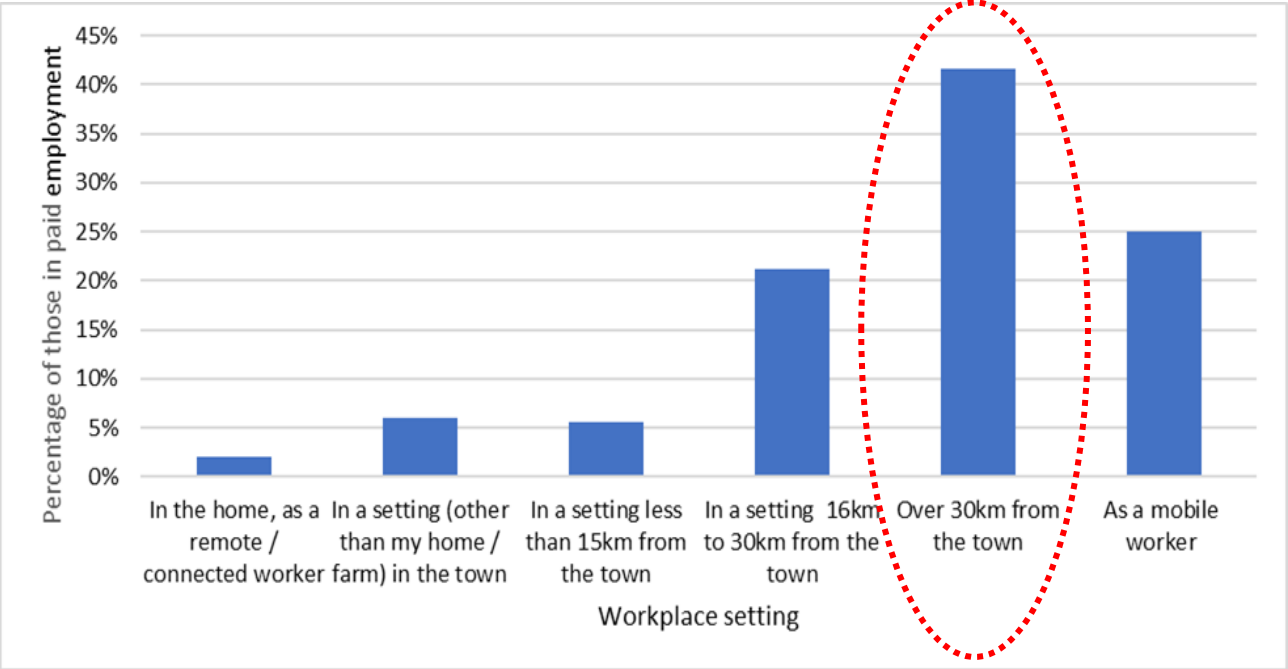
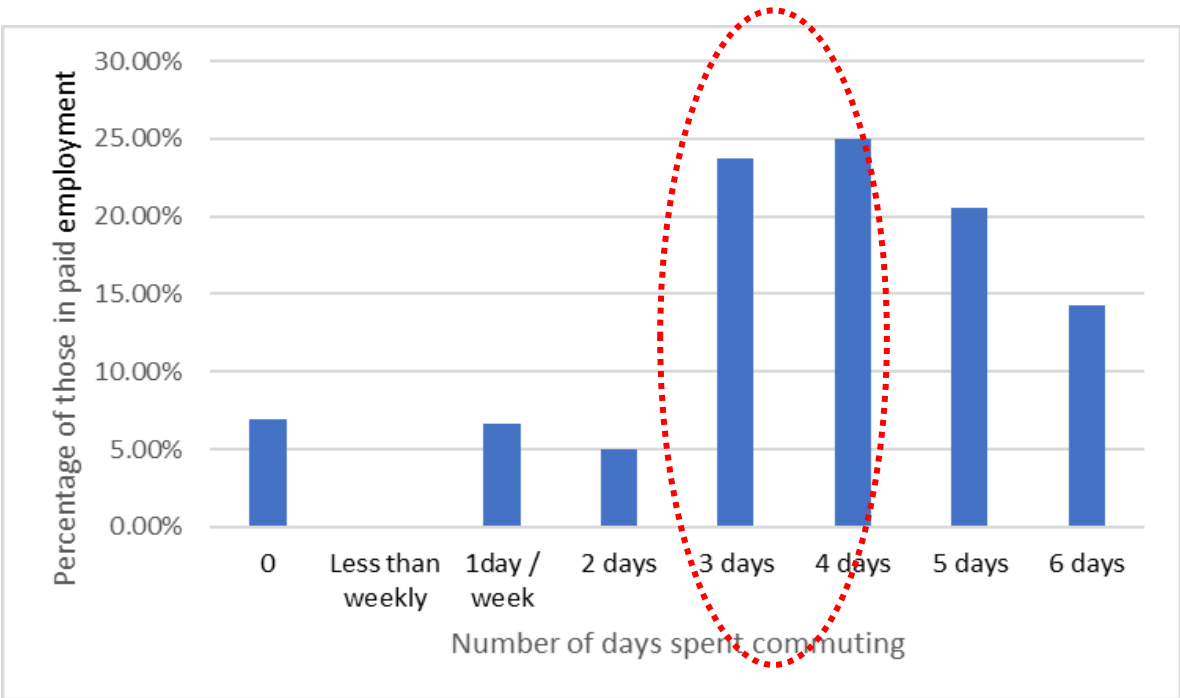
Change in time spent commuting by town



Worker / Commuter Type by Town and Level of Education



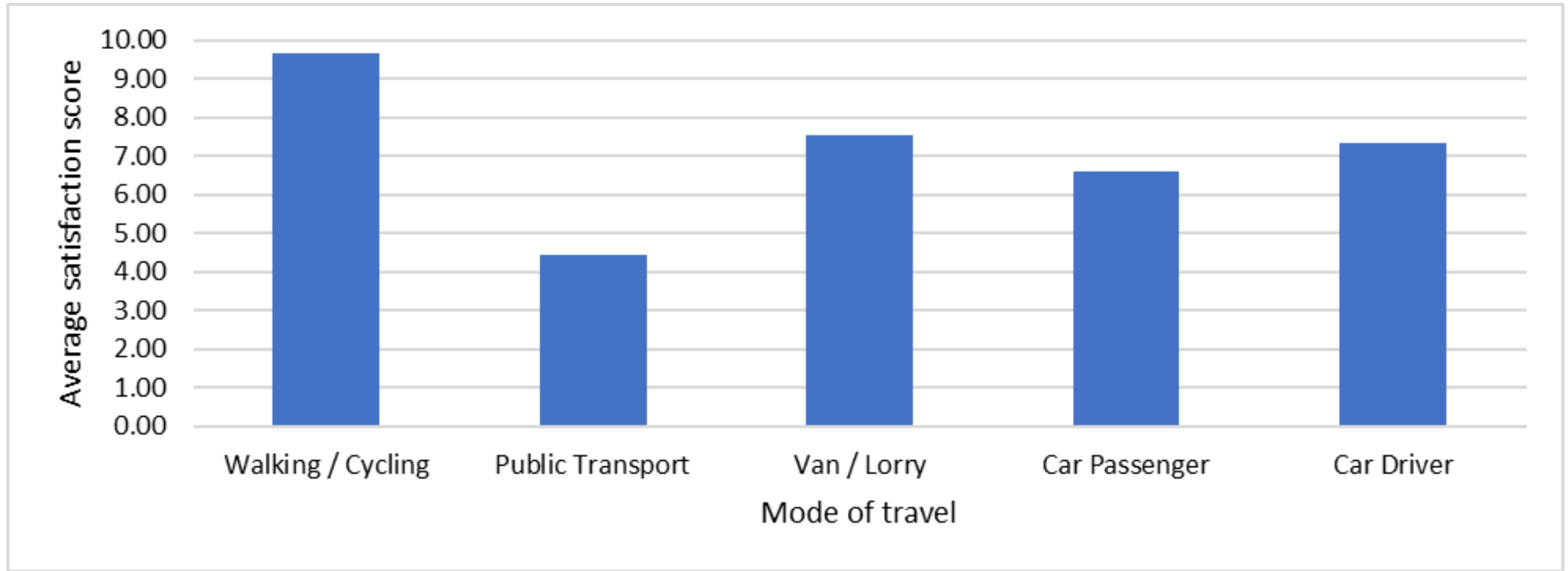
Frequent impacts of commuting time on family responsibilities



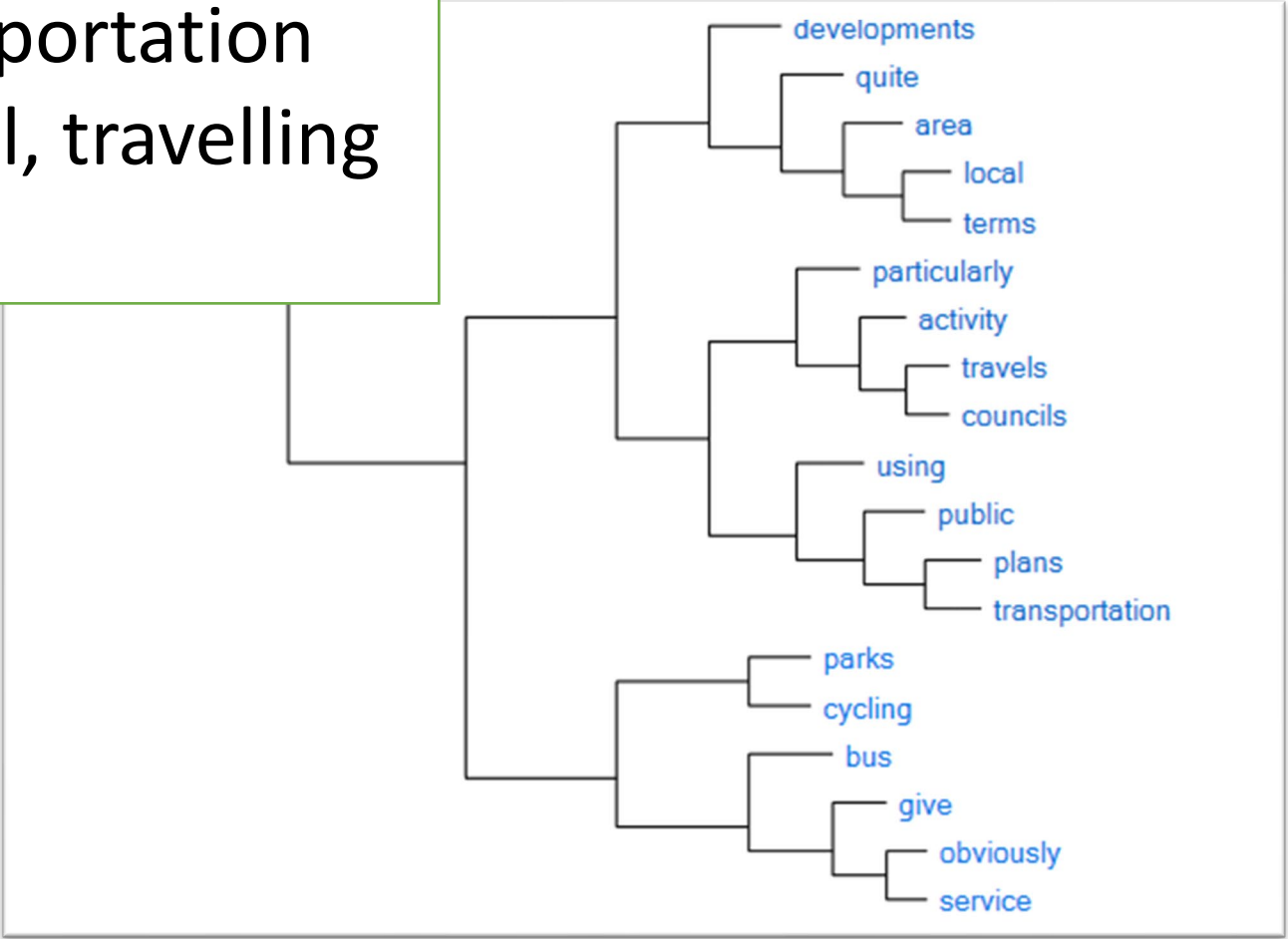
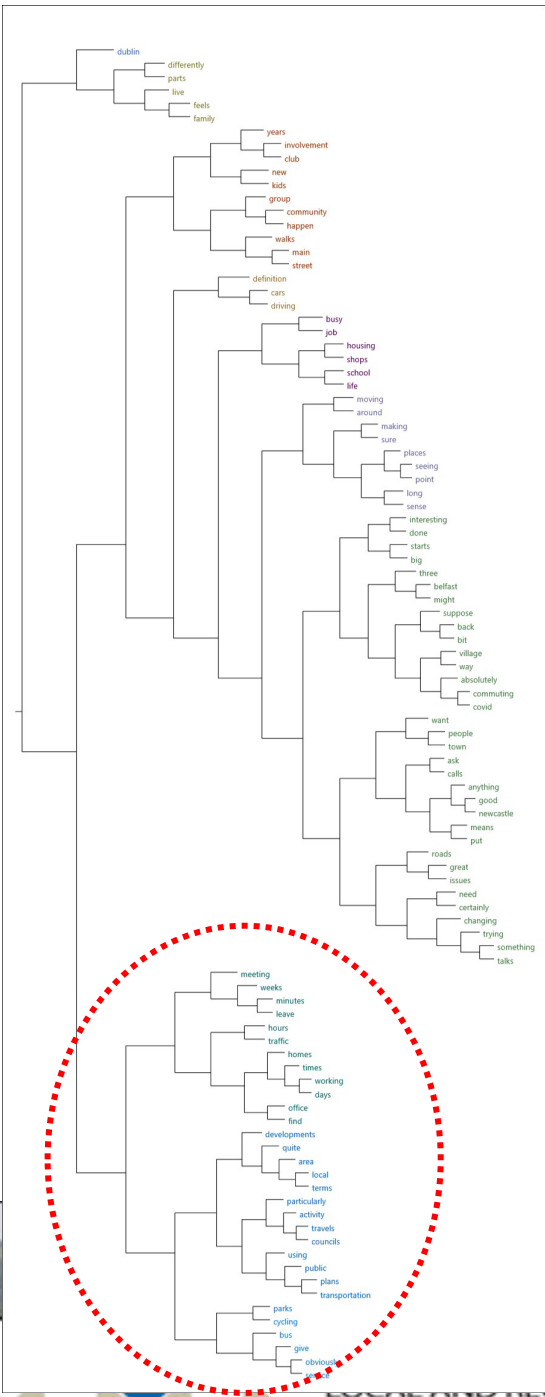
Respondents are those who reported the following as occurring either daily or several times per week :
“It has been difficult for me to fulfil my family responsibilities because of the amount of time I spend commuting”



Satisfaction with commute by mode of travel



Word Frequency –
stemmed words e.g.
Transport, transportation
(n=105) or travel, travelling
(n=156)



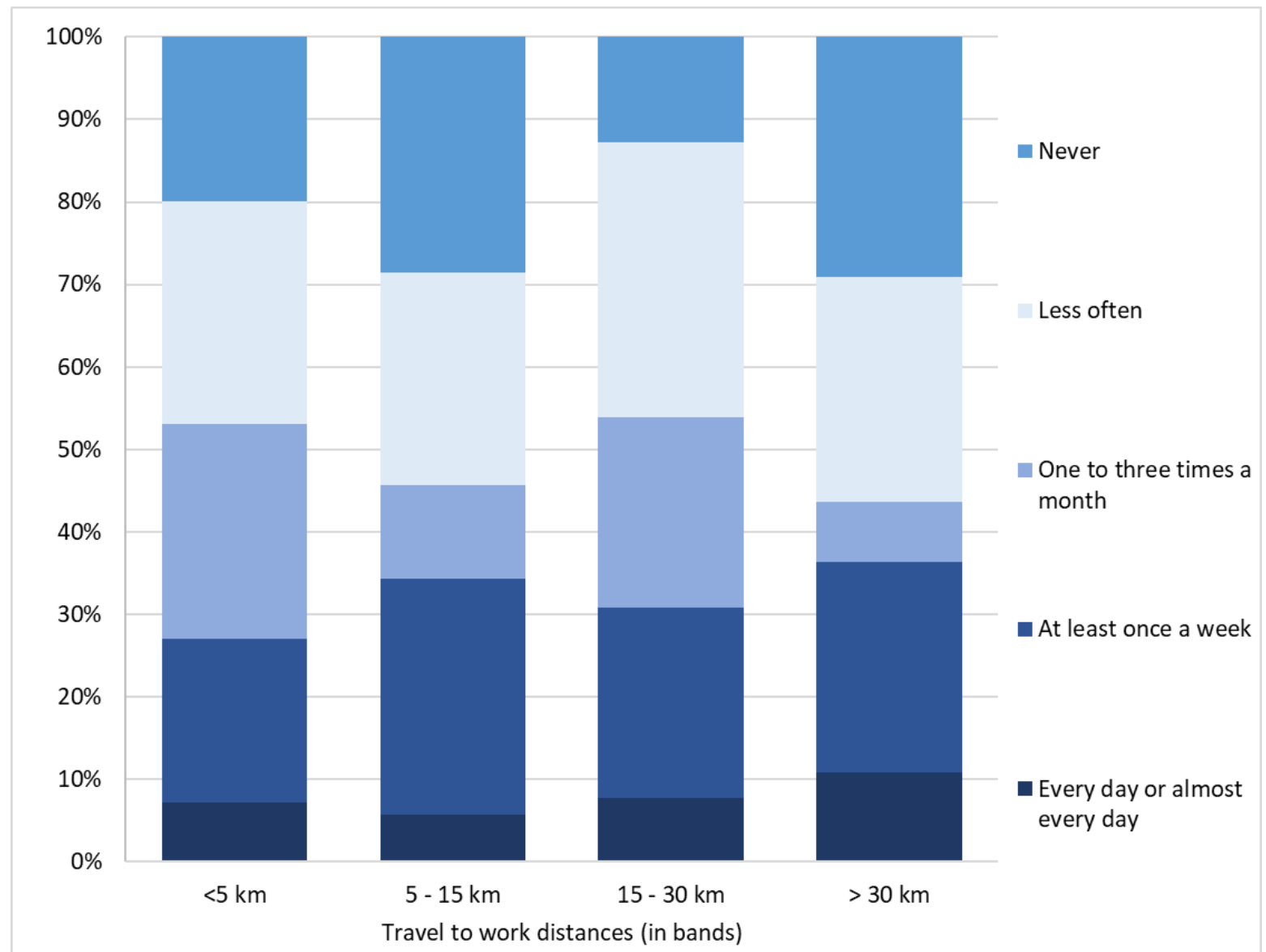
Traffic/Transport

*“The housing has increased which has increased traffic but the facilities have been completely been ignore”
(NTMK-S14)*

*“Lots of houses with not enough playgrounds or green spaces. We definitely need another playground and a park. More people living here with no extra public transport, link to dart meaning over crowding on buses, not enough room on bus, or people parking on the street all day while they get the bus to work. Would be great to have a link bus to dart and a carpark for the bus goers”.
(NTMK-S19)*



Percentage of persons who participate in social activities daily, almost every day and / or at least once a week by commuting distance





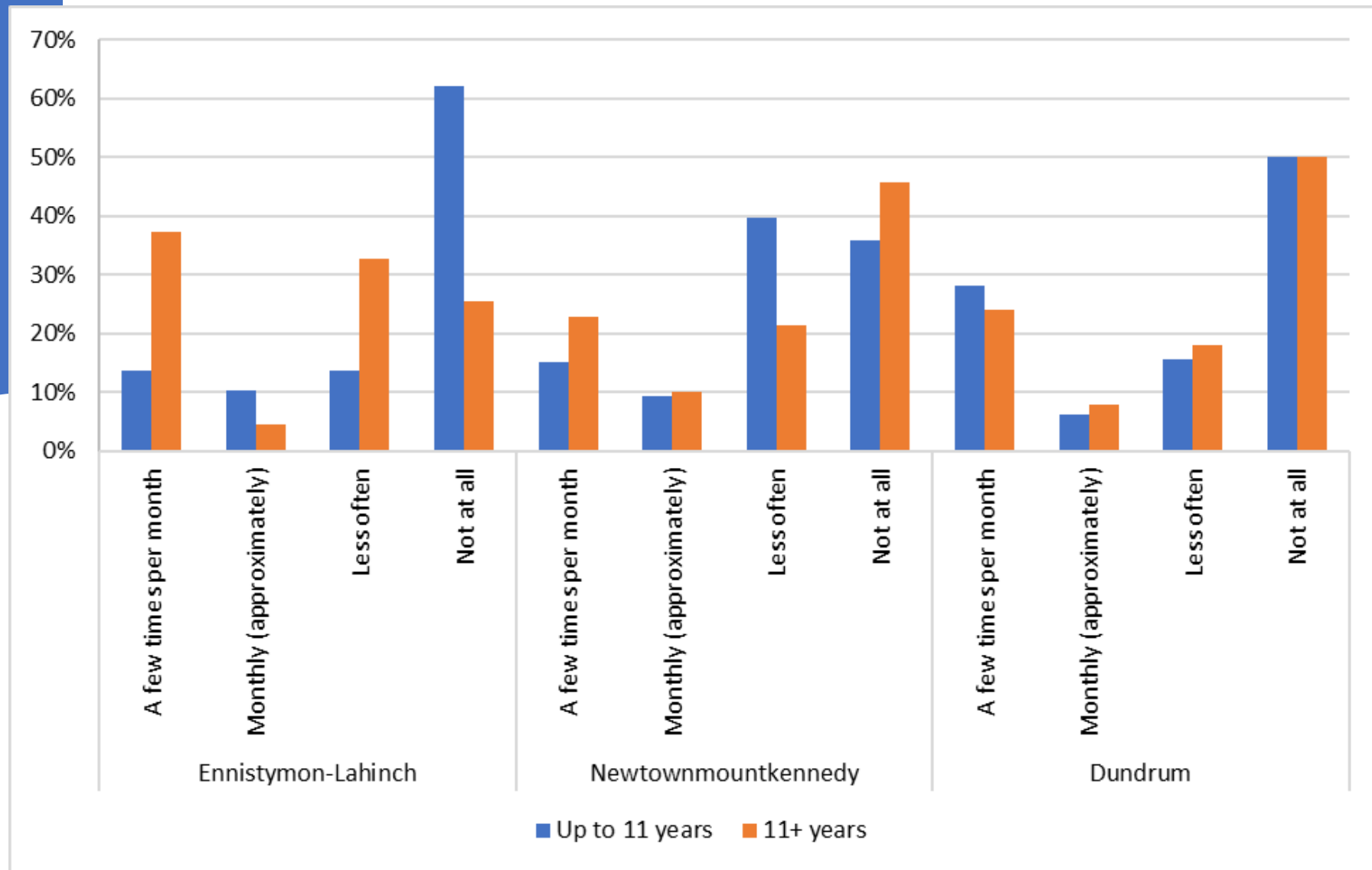
Remote Working

“Now that we have the working from home thing, it leaves people with opportunities to do more. You can't expect people who leave their houses at 7am and get back at 7:30pm to contribute. Also, the phenomenon of both members of the family working away from home is so alien to how things used to be. They are major changes within the fabric of our community”. (NT07Int)



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Frequency of participation in voluntary work by length of residence (<11 yrs. / 11+yrs.) and case study town





Housing

“it’d be a mixture of local families that yes, have grown up and they are now living in Dundrum and have started their own families, but also because there were housing developments. Say, for example, the closest sort of town to Dundrum would be Newcastle. So house prices in Newcastle would be more expensive. So probably more the likes of my own age, whenever we would have come to the stage of buying houses and starting our own families, it was more expensive to buy in Newcastle so maybe people from the Newcastle area were coming down and buying in Dundrum. Okay, because it was cheaper”. (DD01Int)

Conclusions: Commuting and Place – Its Complex!

Long-distance commuting is driven by:

- Income – travel cost trade-off
- Housing affordability
- Transport / connectivity

Commuting impacts negatively on subjective well-being

Impact on community needs further unpacking:

- Need to disentangle growth effect from commuting effect
- What are the commuter narratives telling us?

Commuting practices have significant implications for place:

- What role of remote working/WFH in the 'future models of work'? And what does this mean for place?
- Housing policy
- Climate change
- Quality of life