

# User Guide

## Introduction

This document was produced as the second part of a user guide for researchers using the GHS Social Capital question set in their own survey (to be published by the Health Development Agency). This explains some of the layout and explanation which data users may not require. However, since the guide employs the variable names used in the GHS data set, we have used the same document to act as a description of the social capital derived variables for users of the data set.

## Summary variables and the development of the scales

The GHS question set covered five aspects of social capital:

- civic engagement
- neighbourliness and reciprocity
- social networks
- social support
- views about the local area

The design of the question set and, therefore, the summary variables, allow separate identification of these five different aspects. Maintaining these aspects separately simplifies the interpretation of any relationships with possible outcomes, such as health. Thus, no overall summary variable of 'social capital' was developed. This also facilitates further use of the question set and the associated summary variables in different contexts, where it is possible that not all of these aspects would be relevant or carry equal weight.

Summary variables were derived for each of the five aspects of social capital examined in this study. In most cases more than one summary was derived.

Two forms of summary variables were derived. Where possible, scaling procedures were used to produce scales. Where this was not appropriate, because of the question design, composite variables were created.

## **Developing scales**

A scale combines variables which tend to vary together and that make conceptual sense to be grouped together. Thus, these variables can be interpreted as measuring some underlying concept.

Two scales were produced from the local area questions, one based on the perception of local facilities and the other on local problems. One scale was produced from the questions relating to neighbours to create a 'neighbourliness' score.

Since scales have been developed for the GHS module other researchers may recreate the scales without having to go through the development work (see next Section). A brief description of the development work is given here for background information.

Scales were derived using factor analysis. This makes it possible to see which questions 'fitted together' on a scale, by looking at the correlation between the variables. The analysis shows how many dimensions are contained within the data and the proportion of variance attributed to each. In the case of views on the local area, all the questions were initially analysed in the same factor analysis and this identified most of those relating to facilities and most of those relating to problems as two separate components.

Alpha reliability tests were carried out on potential scales. The coefficient alpha is widely used as a measure of reliability. It measures the proportion of a scale's total variance that is attributable to a common source, presumably the true score of a latent value underlying the items.<sup>1</sup> In other words it measures the degree of correlation between the variables, which it is assumed is due to the fact that they are measuring the same underlying concept.

In order to carry out the factor analysis, response categories for each question were converted to a score from zero to one, at the same time as ensuring that they were scoring in the same direction. Response categories were sometimes combined. For example, for the questions which related to potential problems in the area, such as traffic and graffiti, the response categories 'not at all a problem' and 'it happens but it is not a problem' were combined.

Some questions had a 'don't know' or 'have no experience' category. Two methods of assigning scores to these responses were used. When the 'don't know' option could be assumed to occupy the middle position this was coded as 0.5 (mid-way between zero and one), such as in the question, 'would you say this is an area you enjoy living in'. In cases where respondents said they could not answer because they had no experience, such as the

questions concerning facilities for teenagers, the imputed score was based on the mean score for those who had answered the question.

The development of the final scales was influenced by the results of the analysis, together with knowledge of which questions fitted together conceptually. Therefore, the formation of the scale was dependent on the researcher's judgement as well as the results from the statistical techniques.

Once the variables had been selected for each scale, the final factor score for each respondent was calculated by adding the score for each variable in the scale and dividing by the number of variables in the scale to give a mean score. Each variable within the scale carried the same weight. This method was used, rather than weighting the answers based on the loading scores from the factor analysis, as there is evidence that weighting makes very little difference to a scale (especially as those items which only have a small influence are eliminated).<sup>2</sup> Also weighting would have added complexity, making the scale more difficult to explain.

## **How to derive the scales used in the analysis of the GHS social capital module**

### **The local facilities score (variable name: lafscale)**

For each variable shown under the heading 'local facilities' in Table 1 convert the codes to values ranging from zero to one, using the conversion shown in Table 2. For code 6 'don't know or don't have any experience' assign the mean score for the questions based on those who gave an answer in the range 1-5. This is done by summing the converted zero to one scores for these people and dividing by the number of people. The final score for an individual is calculated by summing the new values for each variable and dividing by the number of variables in the scale.

### **The local problems score (variable name: lapscale)**

This is calculated in the same way as the local facilities score using the appropriate information from Tables 1 and 2.

### **The neighbourliness score (variable name: neiscal2)**

For each variable shown under the heading 'neighbourliness' in Table 1 convert the codes to values ranging from zero to one, using the appropriate conversions shown in Table 2. the score is then calculated in the same way as the local facilities score.

### **Grouping the scores for analysis**

As all the codes have been converted to scores of zero to one, the final mean scores are also within this range.

In order to present the data relating to each scale, GHS respondents were categorised into three approximately equal sized groups based on the ranked position of their mean score for the relevant scale. The 33rd and 67th percentiles were used as demarcation points.

In the case of the local area scales, analysis focussed on those in the lowest third for the local facilities scale and the highest third for the local problems scale. In both cases this identified the group who were least positive about their local area (ie poor local facilities and high local problems). For the neighbourliness scale, analysis focussed on the group ranked highest.  
(Variable names: lafscalg, lapscalg, neghbr)

Dichotomous variables were produced to identify these groups:

low local facilities/not (laflow)

high local problems/not (laphigh2)

high neighbourliness/not (neghbr)

**Table 1 Variables included in each scale**

Summary scale	Variable name	Question <sup>3</sup>
<b>Local facilities score (lafscale)</b>		
alpha coefficient: 0.6	Leisyou	Social & leisure facilities for people like yourself
	Leiskids	Facilities for young children up to the age of 12
	Leisteen	Facilities for teenagers (those aged 13 to 17)
	Lochlth	Local Health services (e.g. your GP or the local hospital)
	Schools	Local schools, colleges and adult education
	Police	Local police service
<b>Local problems score (lapscale)</b>		
alpha coefficient: 0.8	traffic	The speed or volume of road traffic
	parking	Parking in residential streets
	carcrime	Car crime (e.g. damage, theft and joyriding)
	rubbish	Rubbish and litter lying around
	dogmess	Dog mess
	graffiti	Graffiti or vandalism
	noisenbr	Level of noise
	teenager	Teenagers hanging around on the streets
	alcdrug	Alcohol or drug use
<b>Neighbourliness score (neiscal2)</b>		
Alpha coefficient: 0.7	Knownbr	Would you say that you know most/many/a few of the people in your neighbourhood or that you do not know people in your neighbourhood?
	Trustnbr	Would you say that you trust most/many/a few of the people in your neighbourhood or that you do not trust people in your neighbourhood?
	Neighlk	Would you say this neighbourhood is a place where neighbours look out for each other?
	Favdone	In the past 6 months, have you done a favour for a neighbour?
	Favrecd	And, in the past 6 months, have any of your neighbours done a favour for you?
	Spkneigh	How often do you do any of the following?... Speak to neighbours.

**Table 2 Recodes used for the scoring process**

**Local facilities** (leisyou, leiskids, leisteen, lochlth, schools, police)

Answer categories	original code	recode
very good	1	1
good	2	0.75
average	3	0.5
poor	4	0.25
very poor	5	0
don't know or have had no experience	6	mean score (see instructions)

**Local problems** (traffic, parking, carcrime, rubbish, dogmess, graffiti, noisenbr, teenager, alcdrug)

Answer categories	original code	recode
very big problem	1	0
fairly big problem	2	0.3333
minor problem	3	0.6667
not at all a problem	4	1
it happens but is not a problem	5	1
don't know	6	mean score (see instructions)

**Neighbourliness** (knownbr, trustnbr)

Answer categories	original code	recode
most of the people in your neighbourhood	1	1
many of the people in your neighbourhood	2	0.667
a few of the people in your neighbourhood	3	0.333
or that you do not know people in your neighbourhood	4	0

**Neighbourliness** (neighlk, favdone, favrecd)

Answer categories	original code	recode
yes	1	1
no	2	0
for Neighlk = don't know for Favdone and Favrecd = just moved into the area	3	0.5

**Neighbourliness** (spkneigh)

Answer categories	original code	recode
every day	1	1
5 or 6 days a week	2	0.86
3 or 4 days a week	3	0.71
once or twice a week	4	0.57
once or twice a month	5	0.43
once every couple of months	6	0.29
once or twice a year	7	0.14
not at all in last 12 months	8	0

## **How to derive the composite summary variables used in the GHS social capital module analysis.**

Composite summary variables were developed to summarise the data from sets of questions for which scaling techniques were not appropriate. This method was used for summary variables relating to civic engagement, social support and social networks. For each of the topics there is a written description of the composite variables, a table which shows all the questions relating to that topic and a table showing the derivation of the composite variables. Questionnaire variables are referred to in the text by their variable name and are in italics. Composite variable names are shown in bold. An additional summary variable was also derived for neighbourliness which is described at the end of this section

### **Civic Engagement (Tables 3 & 4)**

Four composite variables were derived relating to civic engagement. The final variable described is an overall summary.

The question *involved* was combined with its subsidiary question *active* to produce a composite variable categorising those who had not been involved in local organisations in the past three years, those who had been involved without responsibilities, and those who had been involved with responsibilities. (**Actinv**)

The answers to the multiple response question *Locact* were combined to create a variable classifying those who had taken action in the past three years to solve a local problem and those who had not. Those who said they had only thought about taking action were included in the 'had not' group. (**Locactgr**)

Answers to the questions *Informed*, *Influenc* and *Lserv* were combined to produce a summary variable classifying respondents as feels civically engaged / does not. People who answered yes to *Informed* and *Influence* and strongly agreed or agreed at *Lserv* were described as feeling civically engaged. In other words, these were people who felt that they could personally affect decisions in the area, that local people acting together could influence decisions in the neighbourhood and who were well informed about local affairs. *LocNews* was excluded as it was felt this was not measuring the same concept. (**Cefeel**)

The overall summary variable for civic engagement identified those who were described as 'not civically engaged'. Those who had not had involvement in a local organisation (*involve* ≠

1), who had not taken an action to solve a local problem (*LocActGr* ≠ 1) in the past three years and had not answered positively to *Informed*, *Influenc* or *Lserv* were classified as 'not civically engaged'. (**Notce**)

The negative value was taken because it seemed conceptually more simple and therefore easier to understand a summary variable which identified people who showed no indication whatsoever of being civically engaged. It should be noted that the converse of this did not necessarily identify those who could be described as 'civically engaged' since the remaining group encompassed a broad spectrum of the population.

### **Social networks (Tables 5 & 6)**

Three variables were created to summarise people's social networks. Two identified support by friends and support by relatives separately, as these have been found to show different relationships with respect to health<sup>4</sup>. A final summary combined these two.

Those who were described as having a 'satisfactory friendship network' were those people who saw or spoke to friends at least once a week (*Phonefri* = 1-4 OR *Seefrnd* = 1-4) and had at least one close friend who lived nearby (*Closefri* = 1, 2 or 3). (**Frndnet**)

Those who were described as having a 'satisfactory relatives network' were those people who saw or spoke to relatives at least once a week (*Phonerel* = 1-4 OR *Seerel* = 1-4) and had at least one close relative who lived nearby (*Closerel* = 1, 2 or 3). (**Relnet**)

Those who did not have a satisfactory friendship or a satisfactory relatives network were classified as having neither network (*Frndnet* ≠ 1 and *Relnet* ≠ 1). (**Nosnet**)

### **Social support (Tables 7 & 8)**

Three scenarios were described: needing a lift, being ill in bed and needing to borrow £100. Summary variables were created to look at the number of sources of informal help that respondents had for each of the scenarios. Informal help excluded help from voluntary or other organisations. In the report of the survey we reported on people who had at least 3 sources of informal help. (**Numlift2**, **Numill2**, **Nummony2**)



The questionnaire variable *Ncrisis* was used as a ‘summary’ variable, re-coded to identify those who had less than three people they could turn to in a crisis. (**Lowsuprt**)

A more detailed set of social support variables were also derived for use in further analysis. These identify grouped categories of sources of help, including formal help (household member, relative, friend or neighbour, organisation or other) for each scenario. See Table 9.

### **Neighbourliness (Table 10)**

Respondents were described as having ‘high reciprocity’ if they had done or received a favour from a neighbour (*favdone* =1, *favrecd* =1) and thought that they lived in a place where neighbours looked out for one another (*neighlk* =1).

**Table 3 Civic engagement questionnaire variables**

<b>Variable name</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer categories</b>
Informed	Would you say that you are well informed about local affairs?	1. Yes 2. No
Influence	Do you feel you can influence decisions that affect your area?	3. Don't know
Lserv	By working together, people in my neighbourhood can influence decisions that affect the neighbourhood.	1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree
LocNews	Local newspapers are a reliable source of information about local issues.	4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree 6. Don't have an opinion
Involved	Have you been involved in any local organisation over the last three years?	1. Yes 2. No
Active	<b>Ask if have been involved in a local organisation (Involved = 1)</b> In the last three years, have you had any responsibilities in this (these) organisation(s), such as being a committee member, raising funds, organising events or doing administrative or clerical work?	1. Yes 2. No
LocAct	In the past 3 years, have you taken any of the following actions in an attempt to solve a local problem?	1. Written to local newspaper 2. Contacted the appropriate organisation to deal with the problem 3. Contacted a local councillor or MP 4. Attended a protest meeting or joined an action group 5. SPONTANEOUS Thought about it, but did not do it 6. None of these

**Table 4 Derivation of civic engagement composite variables**

<b>Composite variable</b>	<b>Derivation</b>	<b>Answer categories</b>
<b>Actinv</b> Whether been involved in a local organisation over the last 3 years, and whether had responsibilities.	If Involved = 2 ActInv = 0 If Involved = 1 and Active = 2 ActInv = 1 If Involved = 1 and Activ = 1 ActInc = 2	1. Not involved 2. Involved, without responsibilities 3. Involved, with responsibilities
<b>Locactgr</b> Whether took action to solve a local problem	If LocAct = 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 LocActGr = 1 If LocAct = 5 or 6 LocActGr = 0	0. No action taken 1. Took action
<b>Cefeel</b> Feels civically engaged	If informed = 1 AND influenc = 1 AND (Iserv = 1 OR Lserv = 2)). CEfeel = 1.	1. Feels civically engaged 0. Does not
<b>Notce</b> Not civically engaged	If informed = 1 or influenc = 1 or Iserv = 1 or Iserv = 2 or involved = 1 or locactgr = 1. NotCE = 0. ELSE NotCE = 1.	1. Lacks civic engagement 0. Does not

**Table 5 Social networks questionnaire variables**

<b>Question name</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer categories</b>
Phonerel	How often do you speak to relatives on the phone?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Every day</li> <li>2. 5 or 6 days a week</li> <li>3. 3 or 4 days a week</li> <li>4. Once or twice a week</li> <li>5. Once or twice a month</li> <li>6. Once every couple of months</li> <li>7. Once or twice a year</li> <li>8. Not at all in the last 12 months</li> </ol>
Seerel	How often do you see relatives?	
Phonefri	How often do you speak to friends on the phone?	
Seefrnd	How often do you see friends?	
Closerel	How many relatives that you feel close to live within a 15-20 walk or a 5-10 minute drive?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One or two</li> <li>2. Three or four</li> <li>3. Five or more</li> <li>4. None</li> </ol>
Closefri	How many friends that you feel close to live within a 15-20 walk or a 5-10 minute drive?	

**Table 6 Derivation of social network composite variables**

<b>Composite variable</b>	<b>Derivation</b>	<b>Answer categories</b>
<b>Frndnet</b> Whether has a satisfactory friendship network.	IF Closefri=1, 2 or 3 AND (Phonefri = 1-4 OR Seefrnd = 1-4) THEN Frndnet = 1.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has a satisfactory friendship network</li> <li>0. Does not</li> </ol>
<b>Relnet</b> Whether has a satisfactory relatives network.	IF Closerel=1, 2 or 3 AND (Phonerel = 1-4 OR Seerel = 1-4) THEN Relnet = 1.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has a satisfactory relatives network</li> <li>0. Does not</li> </ol>
<b>Nosnet</b> Whether has neither a satisfactory relatives or satisfactory friendship network.	IF Frndnet=0 AND Relnet=0 THEN Nosnet= 1.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has neither network</li> <li>0. Has one or other or both</li> </ol>

**Table 7 Social support questionnaire variables**

<b>Question name</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer categories</b>
Lifts	You need a lift to get somewhere urgently. Could you ask anyone for help?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know / It depends
Lifhelp	Who would you ask for help?	1. Husband/wife/partner 2. Other household member 3. Relative (outside household) 4. Friend 5. Neighbour 6. Voluntary or other organisation 7. Other 8. Would prefer not to ask for help
Illbed	You are ill in bed and need help at home. Could you ask anyone for help?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know / It depends
Illhelp	Who would you ask for help?	1. Husband/wife/partner 2. Other household member 3. Relative (outside household) 4. Friend 5. Neighbour 6. Voluntary or other organisation 7. Other 8. Would prefer not to ask for help
Money	You are in financial difficulty and need to borrow £100. Could you ask anyone for help?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know / It depends
Monyhelp	Who would you ask for help?	1. Husband/wife/partner 2. Other household member 3. Relative (outside household) 4. Friend 5. Neighbour 6. Voluntary or other organisation 7. Other 8. Would prefer not to ask for help
Ncrisis	If you had a serious personal crisis, how many people, if any, do you feel you could turn to for comfort and support?	RECORD NUMBER 0.. 15 IF MORE THAN 15 CODE AS 15
NearNcri	How many of these people (Does this person) live within a 15-20 minute walk or a 5-10 minute drive?	RECORD NUMBER 0.. 15 IF MORE THAN 15 CODE AS 15

**Table 8 Derivation of social support composite variables**

<b>Composite variable</b>	<b>Derivation</b>	<b>Answer categories</b>
<b>Numlift2</b> number of sources of informal help for lift	Count number of answers where LiftHelp = 1 to 5.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help
<b>Numill2</b> number of sources of informal help if ill	Count number of answers where IllHelp = 1 to 5.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help
<b>Nummony2</b> Number of sources of informal help for lending money.	Count number of answers where MonyHelp = 1 to 5.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help
<b>Lowsuprt</b> Has low social support	IF Ncrisis=0-2 THEN Lowsuprt=1.	1. Has low social support

**Table 9 Additional social support composite variables**

<b>Composite variable</b>	<b>Derivation</b>	<b>Answer categories</b>
<b>Lifthhld</b> Whether can ask household member for a lift	If LiftHelp = 1 or 2 LiftHhld = 1 ELSE LiftHhld = 0	1. can ask household member for a lift 0. can't ask household member for a lift
<b>Liftrel</b> Whether can ask relative (outside household) for a lift	If LiftHelp = 3 LiftRel = 1 ELSE LiftRel = 0	1. can ask relative (outside household) for a lift 0. can ask relative (outside household) for a lift
<b>Liftfrne</b> Whether can ask friend or neighbour for a lift	If liftHelp = 4 or 5 LiftFrne = 1 ELSE LiftFrne = 0	1. can ask friend or neighbour for a lift 0. can't ask friend or neighbour for a lift
<b>Liftoth</b> Whether can ask voluntary or other organisation for lift, or answered other.	If liftHelp = 6 or 7 LiftOth = 1 ELSE LiftOth = 0	1. can ask organisation/other for a lift 0. can't ask organisation/other for a lift
<b>Numlift</b> number of sources of help for lift	Count number of answers where LiftHelp = 1 to 7.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help
<b>Numlift2</b> number of sources of informal help for lift	Count number of answers where LiftHelp = 1 to 5.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help
<b>Illhhd</b> Whether can ask household member for help if ill	If IllHelp = 1 or 2 IllHhld = 1 ELSE IllHhld = 0	1. can ask household member for help if ill 0. can't ask household member for help if ill
<b>Illrel</b> Whether can ask relative (outside household) for help if ill	If IllHelp = 3 IllRel = 1 ELSE IllRel = 0	1. can ask relative (outside household) for help if ill 0. can ask relative (outside household) for help if ill
<b>Illfrne</b> Whether can ask friend or neighbour for help if ill	If IllHelp = 4 or 5 IllFrne = 1 ELSE IllFrne = 0	1. can ask friend or neighbour for help if ill 0. can't ask friend or neighbour for help if ill
<b>Illtoth</b> Whether can ask voluntary or other organisation for help if ill, or answered other.	If IllHelp = 6 or 7 IllOth = 1 ELSE IllOth = 0	1. can ask organisation/other for help if ill 0. can't ask organisation/other for help if ill
<b>Numill</b> number of sources of help if ill	Count number of answers where IllHelp = 1 to 7.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help
<b>NumIll2</b> number of sources of informal help if ill	Count number of answers where IllHelp = 1 to 5.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help

<b>Monyhhld</b> Whether can ask household member for £100.	If MonyHelp = 1 or 2 MonyHhld = 1 ELSE MonyHhld = 0	1. can ask household member for £100 0. can't ask household member for £100
<b>Monyrel</b> Whether can ask relative (outside household) for £100.	If MonyHelp = 3 MonyRel = 1 ELSE MonyRel = 0	1. can ask relative (outside household) for £100 0. can ask relative (outside household) for £100
<b>Monyfrne</b> Whether can ask friend or neighbour for £100.	If MonyHelp = 4 or 5 MonyFrne = 1 ELSE MonyFrne = 0	1. can ask friend or neighbour for £100 0. can't ask friend or neighbour for £100
<b>Monyoth</b> Whether can ask voluntary or other organisation for £100, or answered other.	If MonyHelp = 6 or 7 MonyOth = 1 ELSE MonyOth = 0	1. can ask organisation/other for £100 0. can't ask organisation/other for £100
<b>Nummoney</b> Number of sources of help for lending money.	Count number of answers where MonyHelp = 1 to 7.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help
<b>Nummony2</b> Number of sources of informal help for lending money.	Count number of answers where MonyHelp = 1 to 5.	0. No sources of help 1. One source of help 2. Two sources of help 3. At least three sources of help
<b>Helphhld</b> Number of types of help from household members.	Compute the sum of (LiftHhld, IllHhld, MonyHhld) Recode: (0=4), (1=3), (2=2), (3=1)	1. 3 types of help from household members 2. 2 types of help from household members 3. 1 type of help from household members 4. No help from household members
<b>Helprel</b> Number of types of help from relatives (outside household).	Compute the sum of (LiftRel, IllRel, MonyRel) Recode: (0=4), (1=3), (2=2), (3=1),	1. 3 types of help from relatives (outside household) 2. 2 types of help from relatives (outside household) 3. 1 type of help from relatives (outside household) 4. No help from relatives (outside household)



<b>Helpfrne</b> Number of types of help from friends or neighbours.	Compute the sum of (LiftHhld, IllHhld, MonyHhld) Recode: (0=4), (1=3), (2=2), (3=1)	1. 3 types of help from friends or neighbour 2. 2 types of help from friends or neighbour 3. 1 type of help from friends or neighbours 4. No help from friends or neighbours
<b>Numhelp</b> Number of sources of help for all 3 situations.	Compute the sum of (NumLift2, NumIll2, NumMony2) Recode: (7, 8, 9 =1), (5, 6=2), (3, 4=3), (0, 1, 2 = 1)	1. 7+ 2. 5-6 3. 3-4 4. 0-2
<b>Numcris</b> Number of people they could turn to in a crisis (recoded).	Recode NCrisis (7 or more =1) (5,6=2) (3,4=3) (0,1,2=4)	1. 7+ 2. 5-6 3. 3-4 4. 0-2
<b>Numnear</b> Number of people living nearby they could turn to in a crisis (recoded).	Recode NearNcri (5 or more =1) (3,4=2) (1,2=3) (0=4)	1. 5+ 2. 3-4 3. 1-2 4. 0

**Table 10 Derivation of neighbourliness variable**

<b>Composite variable</b>	<b>Derivation</b>	<b>Answer categories</b>
<b>Recip</b> Number of forms of 'reciprocity' out of do favour, receive favour, neighbours look out for each other	If favdone=1 & favrecd=1 & neighlk=1; recip=1 If one of favdone, favrecd, neighlk ≠ 1; recip=2 If only one or none of favdone, favrecd, neighlk= 1; recip=3	2. 3 forms of reciprocity 3. 2 forms of reciprocity 4. 0/1 -9 missing
<b>Recip2</b> Had done a favour and received a favour from a neighbour and thought that neighbours looked out for one another.	If favdone=1 and favrecd=1 and neighlk=1  recip2=1	1. high reciprocity

#### Notes and references

<sup>1</sup> DeVellis R F (1991) *Scale development. Theory and applications*, SAGE: London.

<sup>2</sup> Streiner D L and Norman G R (1995) *Health Measurement Scales. A practical guide to their development and use. Second Edition*, Oxford University Press: Oxford, p 86.

<sup>3</sup> For more details of the question see:

Coulthard M, Walker A and Morgan A. (2001) *Assessing people's perceptions of their neighbourhood and community involvement. Part 1: A guide to questions for use in the measurement of social capital based on the General Household Survey module*, Health Development Agency: London.

The web address is: <http://www.hda-online.org.uk/downloads/pdfs/peoplesperceptions.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Cooper et al (1999) *The Influence of Social Support and Social Capital on Health*. HEA

**A note on the weighting of the social capital data.**

The weight variable is called SCFINW. This weight is different from that used for the main GHS data set. Only one person per household was selected for the social capital questions. This meant that weighting was required to redress the unequal probabilities of selection. This weighting procedure was incorporated into the calculation of the non-response weights (as used in the main data set). The weight used on the social capital data set produces population estimates in 1000's.

A second version was derived SCFINW2 which was scaled to a mean of one for use in the logistic regression analysis.

This documents gives the SPSS syntax used to recode GHS variables for use in the social capital report.

```
RECODE hhtypf1 (1=1) (2=2) (8=2) (3=3) (4=4) (5=5) (9=5) (10=3) (11=4) (12=5) (6=6) (7=7)
(ELSE=Copy) INTO famkids.
VALUE LABELS famkids 1'1 person' 2 'non related' 3 'mar/cohab with dep kids' 4 'mar/cohab
with nondep kids' 5 'mar/cohab with no kids' 6 'lone parent with dep kids' 7 'lone parent with
nondep kids'.
MISSING VALUES famkids (-6,-8,-9).
FORMAT famkids (F2.0).
EXECUTE .
```

```
RECODE
  ethnic1
  (1=1) (2=2) (3=3) (4=3) (5=4) (6=-8) (ELSE=Copy) INTO ethnic2 .
VARIABLE LABELS ethnic2 'ethnic recoded'.
VALUE LABELS ethnic2 1 'white' 2 'black' 3 'Asian' 4 'Other'.
FORMAT ethnic2 (F2.0).
MISSING VALUES ethnic2 (-6,-8,-9).
EXECUTE .
```

```
RECODE
  ethnic
  (2 thru 9=0) (ELSE=Copy) INTO ethwhite .
VARIABLE LABELS ethwhite 'ethnic group - white'.
VALUE LABELS ethwhite 1'white' 2 'other ethnic group'.
MISSING VALUES ethwhite (-6,-8,-9).
FORMAT ethwhite (F2.0).
EXECUTE .
```

```
RECODE segead3 (1 THRU 4=1) (5 THRU 7=2) (-8, -9, -6=3) INTO manualb.
VALUE LABELS manualb 1 'NON MANUAL' 2 'MANUAL' 3 'no category'.
VARIABLE LABELS manualb 'manual & no category'.
FORMAT manualb (F2.0).
EXE.
```

```
recode age (lo thru 29=1)(30 thru 39=2)(40 thru 49=3)(50 thru 59=4)
(60 thru 69=5)(70 thru hi=6) (ELSE=COPY) into age10.
value labels age10 1 '16-29' 2 '30-9' 3 '40-9' 4 '50-9' 5 '60-9' 6 '70+'.
EXE.
```

```
recode numveh (2 thru hi=1)(1=2)(0=3)(else=-9)into carj.
value labels carj 1 '2+cars' 2 '1 car' 3 '0 car' -9 'missing'.
missing values carj (-9).
EXE.
```

```
recode tenure1 (1=1)(2=3)(3=2)(-8,-9=-9)(else=copy)into tenj.
value labels tenj 1 'owner' 2 'private renter' 3 'social renter' -9 'missing'.
missing values tenj (-9).
EXE.
```

```
RECODE
  dvmardf
  (1=1) (2=2) (7=2) (3=3) (4=4) (5=5) (6=5) INTO dvmardf2 .
VARIABLE LABELS dvmardf2 'dvmardf grouped'.
VALUE LABELS dvmardf2 1 'married' 2 'cohabiting&SSC' 3 'single' 4 'widowed' 5 'div/sep'.
FORMAT dvmardf2 (F2.0).
MISSING VALUES dvmardf2 (-6,-8,-9).
EXECUTE .
```

```

compute ftpt=-9.
if (dvilo3a eq 1 and ftpte eq 1)ftpt=1.
if (dvilo3a eq 1 and ftpte eq 2)ftpt=2.
if (dvilo3a eq 1 and stat eq 2)ftpt=3.
if (dvilo3a eq 2)ftpt=4.
if (dvilo3a eq 3)ftpt=5.
value labels ftpt 1 'FT employee' 2 'PT employee' 3 'self-emp'
  4 'UE'5 'not in labour market' -9 'missing'.
missing values ftpt (-9).
EXE.

```

```

***recode ftpte (full-time/part-time).
RECODE
  ftpte
  (1=1) (2=2) (ELSE=-9) INTO ftpte2 .
VARIABLE LABELS ftpte2 'ftpt only'.
VALUE LABELS ftpte2 1 'full time' 2 'part time' -9 'no info'.
FORMAT ftpte2 (F2.0).
MISSING VALUES ftpte2 (-9).
EXECUTE .
CROSSTABS
  /TABLES=ftpte BY ftpte2
  /FORMAT= AVALUE TABLES
  /CELLS= COUNT .

```

```

****GOR were recoded to combine Merseyside with the North West.
MISSING VALUES govreggb ().
recode govreggb (3=2) (ELSE=COPY) into GOR2.
VARIABLE LABELS GOR2 'GOR recoded'.
value labels GOR2
  1 'North East'
  2 'North West (inc Merseyside)'
  4 'Yorks and Humber'
  5 'East Midlands'
  6 'West Midlands'
  7 'Eastern'
  8 'London'
  9 'South East'
  10 'South West'
  11 'Wales'
  12 'Scotland'.
FORMAT GOR2 (F2.0).
EXE.
MISSING VALUES govreggb GOR2 (-6,-8,-9).

```

Variable	Description
1-2	Serial number
3	Schedule type
4	Whether selected for the social capital module. Note everyone on this file has been selected (therefore has a value of 1), but it is useful if this file is combined with the main GHS file
5	Whether they answered the GHS module
6-7	Social capital weights, one of which has been scaled so it has a mean of one (which was used in the logistic regression analysis) (See Appendix E of the Social Capital Report for information on weighting) (See Appendix D of the Social Capital Report for information on using weights with logistic regression analysis)
8-22	Variables from the main GHS which were used in producing the Social Capital Report (See 'GHS recodes'). NOTE. A variable 'Teenager', which is referred to in the social capital report and the user guide was changed to 'teenstre' in the data as a variable called 'Teenager' already existed on the GHS data base.
23-87	Questionnaire variables in the order they appeared, see User guide part 1, pp8-15 for more info.
88-99	Derived variables on Civic Engagement (Chapter 2 in the Social Capital Report)
100-107	Derived variables on Neighbourliness (Chapter 3 in the Social Capital Report)
108-116	Derived variables on Social Support (Chapter 4 in the Social Capital Report)
117-164	Derived variables on Social Networks (Chapter 5 in the Social Capital Report)
165-179	Derived variables on Local Area (Chapter 6 in the Social Capital Report)

## SOCIAL CAPITAL

### Ask selected adult

1. AskNow (NAME) HAS BEEN PICKED TO ANSWER THE SECTION ON SOCIAL CAPITAL. DO YOU WANT TO ASK THIS SECTION FOR (NAME) NOW OR LATER?

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY ASKED THIS SECTION FOR (NAME), DO NOT CHANGE FROM CODE 1.

Yes, now/already asked..... 1  
Later .....2

### Ask if they want to be asked now (AskNow = 1)

2. SOCIALAreaint Now I would like to ask you some questions about your local area. (By area I mean within about a 15-20 minute walk or 5-10 minute drive from your home).

### Ask selected adult

3. Arealive How long have you lived in this area?

CODE YEARS  
IF LESS THAN 1 CODE AS 0

0..97

### Ask if they have lived in the area for less than a year

#### (Arealive = 0)

4. Areamth How many months have you lived in this area?

0..11

### Ask selected adult

5. Enjyliv [\*]

Would you say this is an area you enjoy living in?

Yes .....1  
No .....2  
Don't know .....3

6. Locserv [\*]

Thinking generally about what you expect of local services, how would you rate the following

7. Leisyou [\*]

Social & leisure facilities for people like yourself

SHOW CARD F

Very Good.....	1
Good .....	2
Average .....	3
Poor .....	4
Very Poor.....	5
Don't know or have had no experience.....	6

8. Leiskids [\*]

Facilities for young children up to the age of 12

SHOW CARD F

Very Good.....	1
Good .....	2
Average .....	3
Poor .....	4
Very Poor.....	5
Don't know or have had no experience.....	6

9. Leisteen [\*]

Facilities for teenagers (those aged 13 to 17)

SHOW CARD F

Very Good.....	1
Good .....	2
Average .....	3
Poor .....	4
Very Poor.....	5
Don't know or have had no experience.....	6

**10. Bins**            [\*]

Rubbish Collection

SHOW CARD F

Very Good.....	1
Good .....	2
Average .....	3
Poor .....	4
Very Poor.....	5
Don't know or have had no experience.....	6

**11. Lochlth**            [\*]

Local Health services (e.g. your GP or the local hospital)

SHOW CARD F

Very Good.....	1
Good .....	2
Average .....	3
Poor .....	4
Very Poor.....	5
Don't know or have had no experience.....	6

**12. Schools**            [\*]

Local schools, colleges and adult education

SHOW CARD F

Very Good.....	1
Good .....	2
Average .....	3
Poor .....	4
Very Poor.....	5
Don't know or have had no experience.....	6

**13. Police**            [\*]

Local police service

SHOW CARD F

Very Good.....	1
Good .....	2
Average .....	3
Poor .....	4
Very Poor.....	5
Don't know or have had no experience.....	6



14. Transprt

What is your main form of transport?

- Car/Motorcycle/Moped..... 1
- Public transport (ie buses and trains).....2
- Cycling .....3
- Walking .....4
- Other .....5
- Never goes out .....6

15. Loctrans

[\*]

Would you say this area has good local transport for where you want to get to?

- Yes .....1
- No .....2
- Don't know .....3

16. Walkday

[\*]

How safe do you feel walking alone in this area during daytime?  
Do you feel ...

RUNNING PROMPT

- very safe.....1
- fairly safe.....2
- a bit unsafe.....3
- very unsafe.....4
- or do you never go out alone during daytime?.....5

17. Walkdark

[\*]

How safe do you feel walking alone in this area after dark? Do you feel ...

RUNNING PROMPT

- very safe.....1
- fairly safe.....2
- a bit unsafe.....3
- very unsafe.....4
- or do you never go out alone after dark?.....5

**18. Informed**

[\*]

Thinking of the same local area.....

Would you say that you are well informed about local affairs?

- Yes .....1
- No .....2
- Don't know .....3

**19. Influenc**

[\*]

Do you feel you can influence decisions that affect your area?

- Yes .....1
- No .....2
- Don't know .....3

**20. Lserv**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[\*] By working together, people in my neighbourhood can influence decisions that affect the neighbourhood.

SHOW CARD G

- Strongly agree.....1
- Agree .....2
- Neither agree nor disagree.....3
- Disagree.....4
- Strongly disagree.....5
- Don't have an opinion.....6

**21. LocNews**

[\*]

Local newspapers are a reliable source of information about local issues.

SHOW CARD G

- Strongly agree.....1
- Agree .....2
- Neither agree nor disagree.....3
- Disagree.....4
- Strongly disagree.....5
- Don't have an opinion.....6

**22. Involved**

Have you been involved in any local organisation over the last three years?

- Yes .....1
- No .....2

Ask if they have been involved in a local organisation

**(Involved = 1)**

**23. Active** In the last three years, have you had any responsibilities in this/these organisation(s), such as being a committee member, raising funds, organising events or doing administrative or clerical work?

Yes .....1  
No .....2

**Ask selected adult**

**24. Traffic** Still thinking about the same area, can you tell me how much of a problem these things are

[\*]

The speed or volume of road traffic

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....1  
Fairly big problem.....2  
Minor problem.....3  
Not at all a problem.....4  
It happens but is not a problem.....5  
Don't know.....6

**25. Parking**

[\*]

Parking in residential streets

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....1  
Fairly big problem.....2  
Minor problem.....3  
Not at all a problem.....4  
It happens but is not a problem.....5  
Don't know.....6

**26. Carcrime**

[\*]

Car crime (e.g. damage, theft and joyriding).

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....1  
Fairly big problem.....2  
Minor problem.....3  
Not at all a problem.....4  
It happens but is not a problem.....5  
Don't know.....6

**27. Rubbish**

[\*]

Rubbish and litter lying around

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....	1
Fairly big problem.....	2
Minor problem.....	3
Not at all a problem.....	4
It happens but is not a problem.....	5
Don't know.....	6

**28. DogMess**

[\*]

Dog mess

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....	1
Fairly big problem.....	2
Minor problem.....	3
Not at all a problem.....	4
It happens but is not a problem.....	5
Don't know.....	6

**29. Graffiti**

[\*]

Graffiti or vandalism

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....	1
Fairly big problem.....	2
Minor problem.....	3
Not at all a problem.....	4
It happens but is not a problem.....	5
Don't know.....	6

**30. NoiseNbr**

[\*]

Level of noise

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....	1
Fairly big problem.....	2
Minor problem.....	3
Not at all a problem.....	4
It happens but is not a problem.....	5
Don't know.....	6

**31. Teenager**

[\*]

Teenagers hanging around on the streets

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....	1
Fairly big problem.....	2
Minor problem.....	3
Not at all a problem.....	4
It happens but is not a problem.....	5
Don't know.....	6

**32. Alcdrug**

[\*]

Alcohol or drug use

SHOW CARD H

Very big problem.....	1
Fairly big problem.....	2
Minor problem.....	3
Not at all a problem.....	4
It happens but is not a problem.....	5
Don't know.....	6

**33. LocAct**

In the past 3 years, have you taken or considered taking any of the following actions in an attempt to solve a local problem?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

SHOW CARD I

Written to local newspaper.....	1
Contacted the appropriate organisation to deal with the problem e.g. the council.....	2
Contacted a local councillor or MP.....	3
Attended a protest meeting or joined an action group.....	4
SPONTANEOUS Thought about it, but did not do it.....	5
None of these.....	6

34. Victim Have you personally been a victim of any of the following crimes in the past 12 months?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

SHOW CARD J

- Theft or break-in to house or flat.....1
- Theft or break-in to car parked in the area.....2
- Personal experience of theft or mugging in the area.....3
- Physical attack in the area (i.e. hit or kicked in a way that hurt you)...4
- Racist attack in the area (either verbal or physical).....5
- None of these.....6

35. KnowNbr Now I would like to ask you a few questions about your more immediate neighbourhood (by which I mean your street or block).

[\*]

Would you say that you know....

RUNNING PROMPT

- most of the people in your neighbourhood.....1
- many of the people in your neighbourhood.....2
- a few of the people in your neighbourhood.....3
- or that you do not know people in your neighbourhood?.....4

36. TrustNbr

[\*]

Would you say that you trust..

RUNNING PROMPT

- most of the people in your neighbourhood.....1
- many of the people in your neighbourhood.....2
- a few of the people in your neighbourhood.....3
- or that you do not know people in your neighbourhood?.....4

37. Neighlk

[\*]

Would you say this neighbourhood is a place where neighbours look out for each other?

- Yes .....1
- No .....2
- Don't know .....3

**38. Favdone** In the past 6 months, have you done a favour for a neighbour?

Yes .....1  
 No .....2  
 SPONTANEOUS Just moved into the area.....3

**39. Favrecd** And, in the past 6 months, have any of your neighbours done a favour for you?

Yes .....1  
 No .....2  
 SPONTANEOUS Just moved into the area.....3

**40. Phonerel** The next few questions are about how often you see or speak to your relatives and friends.

Not counting the people you live with, how often do you do any of the following? Please choose your answer from the card.

Speak to relatives on the phone...

SHOW CARD K

Every day.....1  
 5 or 6 days a week.....2  
 3 or 4 days a week.....3  
 once or twice a week.....4  
 once or twice a month.....5  
 once every couple of months.....6  
 once or twice a year.....7  
 not at all in last 12 months.....8

**41. Seerel** See relatives...

SHOW CARD K

Every day.....1  
 5 or 6 days a week.....2  
 3 or 4 days a week.....3  
 once or twice a week.....4  
 once or twice a month.....5  
 once every couple of months.....6  
 once or twice a year.....7  
 not at all in last 12 months.....8

42. Phonefri

Speak to friends on the phone...

SHOW CARD K

Every day.....	1
5 or 6 days a week.....	2
3 or 4 days a week.....	3
once or twice a week.....	4
once or twice a month.....	5
once every couple of months.....	6
once or twice a year.....	7
not at all in last 12 months.....	8

43. Seefrnd

See friends...

SHOW CARD K

Every day.....	1
5 or 6 days a week.....	2
3 or 4 days a week.....	3
once or twice a week.....	4
once or twice a month.....	5
once every couple of months.....	6
once or twice a year.....	7
not at all in last 12 months.....	8

44. Spkneigh

Speak to neighbours...

SHOW CARD K

Every day.....	1
5 or 6 days a week.....	2
3 or 4 days a week.....	3
once or twice a week.....	4
once or twice a month.....	5
once every couple of months.....	6
once or twice a year.....	7
not at all in last 12 months.....	8

**Ask if they see or speak to relatives regularly ( i.e. at least once every couple of months)  
(Phonerel = 1-6 or Seerel = 1-6)**

45. Closerel

(Apart from the people you live with,) how many relatives that you feel close to live within a 15-20 minute walk or 5-10 minute drive, if any?

One or two.....	1
Three or four.....	2
Five or more.....	3
None .....	4



**Ask if they see or speak to friends regularly (i.e. at least once every couple of months)**  
*(Phonefri = 1-6 or Seefrnd = 1-6)*

- 46. Closefri**                      How many close friends live within a 15-20 minute walk or 5-10 minute drive, if any?
- One or two.....1  
 Three or four.....2  
 Five or more.....3  
 None .....4

**Ask selected adult**

- 47. Lifts**                              I am going to read a list of situations where people might need help. For each one, could you tell me if you would ask anyone for help?
- You need a lift to be somewhere urgently. Could you ask anyone for help?
- Yes .....1  
 No .....2  
 Don't know / It depends.....3

**Ask if could ask for lift or answers don't know/depends**  
*(lifts = 1 or 3)*

- 48. Lifthelp**                              Can you look at the card and tell me who you would ask for help
- CODE UP TO 3 ANSWERS
- SHOW CARD L
- Husband/wife/partner.....1  
 Other household member.....2  
 Relative (outside household).....3  
 Friend .....4  
 Neighbour.....5  
 Voluntary or other organisation.....6  
 Other .....7  
 Would prefer not to ask for help.....8

**Ask selected adult**

- 49. Illbed**                              You are ill in bed and need help at home. Could you ask anyone for help?
- Yes .....1  
 No .....2  
 Don't know / It depends.....3

**Ask if could ask someone for help if ill in bed, or answers don't know/depends**

*(Illbed = 1 or 3)*

50. Illhelp Can you look at the card and tell me who you would ask for help

CODE UP TO 3 ANSWERS

SHOW CARD L

- Husband/wife/partner..... 1
- Other household member..... 2
- Relative (outside household)..... 3
- Friend ..... 4
- Neighbour..... 5
- Voluntary or other organisation..... 6
- Other ..... 7
- Would prefer not to ask for help..... 8

**Ask selected adult**

51. Money You are in financial difficulty and need to borrow £100. Could you ask anyone for help?

- Yes ..... 1
- No ..... 2
- Don't know / It depends..... 3

**Ask if could ask someone for help if in financial difficulty, or answers don't know/depends**  
*(Money = 1 or 3)*

52. Monyhelp Can you look at the card and tell me who you would ask for help

CODE UP TO 3 ANSWERS

SHOW CARD L

- Husband/wife/partner..... 1
- Other household member..... 2
- Relative (outside household)..... 3
- Friend ..... 4
- Neighbour..... 5
- Voluntary or other organisation..... 6
- Other ..... 7
- Would prefer not to ask for help..... 8

**Ask selected adult**

**53.** Ncrisis

If you had a serious personal crisis, how many people, if any, do you feel you could turn to for comfort and support?

RECORD NUMBER 0..15

IF MORE THAN 15 CODE AS 15

**Ask if they could turn to someone for comfort and support**  
(*Ncrisis* > 0)

**54.** NearNcri

How many of these people (Does this person) live within a 15-20 minute walk or 5-10 minute drive, if any?

RECORD NUMBER 0..15

IF MORE THAN 15 CODE AS 15