

COMMUNITIES AFTER COVID-19: The impact of social inequality

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Communities after Covid-19

- ❑ **Strengthening** communities & neighbourhoods is proving crucial for tackling the first wave of C-19

But.....

- ❑ We need a new **community development policy** to protect neighbourhoods over the longer-term. Poorer communities are likely to make a **slower recovery** from the present crisis

Neighbourhoods are important...

- ❑ They can **support** people in periods of crisis and stress (Stockdale 2007)
- ❑ They are especially important for some groups
e.g. older people spend (pre-Covid) **70%**
of their time in their immediate neighbourhood
- ❑ Informal relationships – the ‘**natural neighbourhood network**’ – help to maintain well-being (Gardner 2011)

More neighbouring.....?

‘Making up with the Joneses: how Covid-19 has brought neighbours closer

In a strange and unsettling time, many people have been experiencing something similar: a greater sense of neighbourliness, new friendships forged and new communities stitched together. Across the country, people who previously shared only a postcode have joined together in [pavement aerobics classes](#), [singalongs](#) and [distanced street discos](#).

Others, less visibly, have texted neighbours, dropped off shopping or simply shouted good wishes from a distance’. (*The Guardian* June 5 2020)

But not all neighbourhoods are equal

- ❑ The ONS (2020) report that those living in the **poorest** parts of England & Wales are dying at **twice the rate** from Covid-19 as those in more affluent areas
- ❑ Covid-19 has had a disproportionate impact on **BAME communities**, reflecting cumulative inequalities of neighbourhood deprivation, high risk jobs, poor housing, and racism (PHE, 2020)
- ❑ Inequalities between neighbourhoods mean that some groups and individuals have been more **exposed** to the virus than others - raising questions of social justice.

Failure to protect communities from Covid-19

- ❑ Additional Gov funding was needed for areas with **high BAME populations** as well as additional funding to charities supporting BAME community
- ❑ **Poorest communities** bore the brunt of £900 million cuts to public health funding over 2014-2019 (IPPR, 2019)
- ❑ The Voluntary sector estimates losing **£4.3 billion income** over Spring/early Summer: significant impact on deprived areas (Charitytimes, 2020)

How can we 'shield' poorer communities from the consequences of Covid-19 &/or from a second wave?

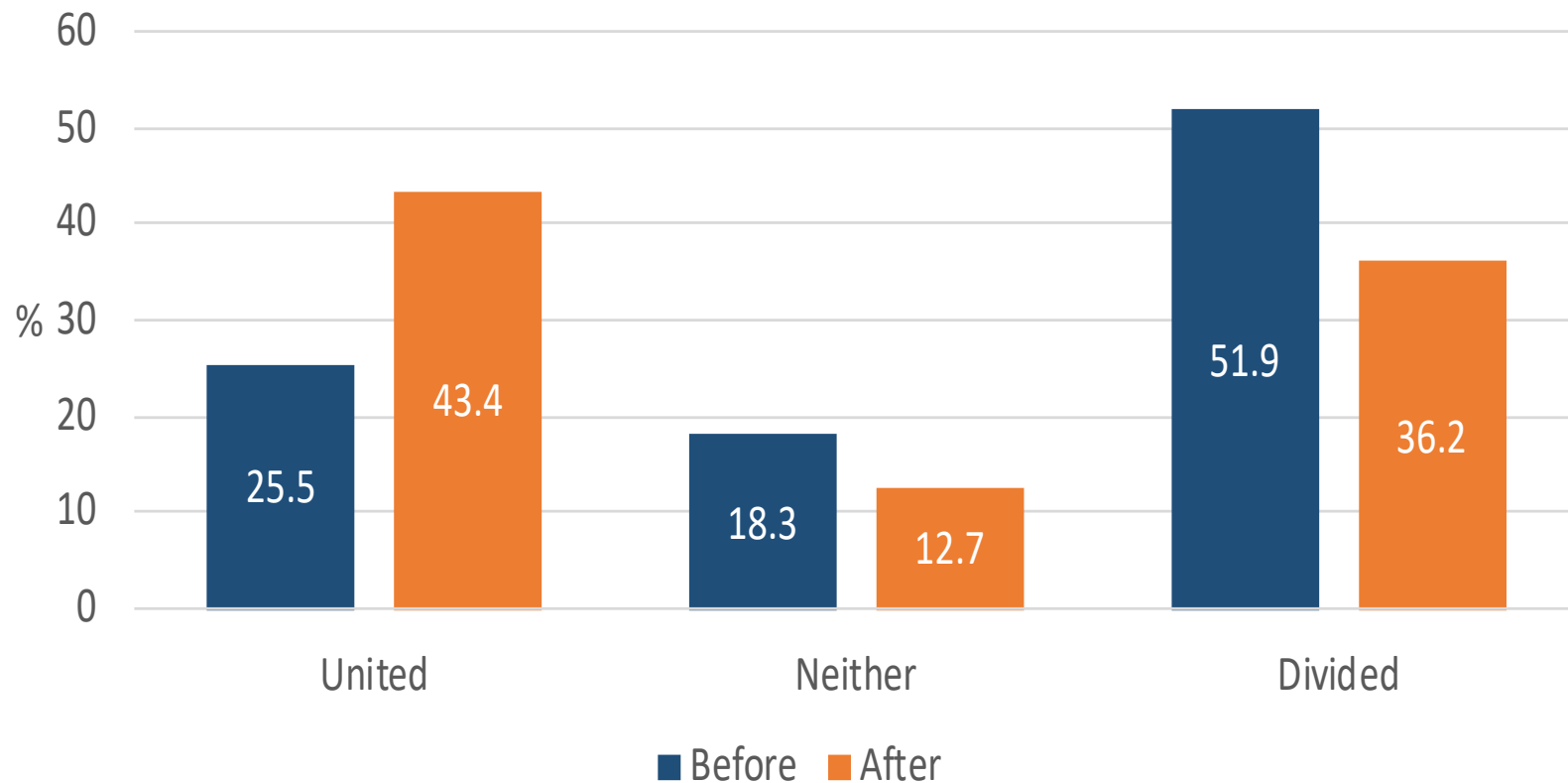
- ❑ **Natural neighbourhood networks** – develop their public health potential via e.g. *community workers*
- ❑ **Organisation** – develop stronger organisations at **neighbourhood level led by older people**, able to negotiate with local and national service providers (Goff et al. 2020)
- ❑ **Housing** – prioritise tackling **overcrowding** in multi-generational households (Kenway & Holden 2020)

Shielding communities for the second wave

- ❑ **Care homes** - must be **integrated** with, not isolated from, the community (Phillipson, 2020)
- ❑ **Discrimination** – challenging **racism, sexism, and ageism** is central to shielding communities & the vulnerable groups within them
- ❑ **Funding** – funding from central government needs **re-distributing** in favour of poorer areas (Harris et al., 2019)

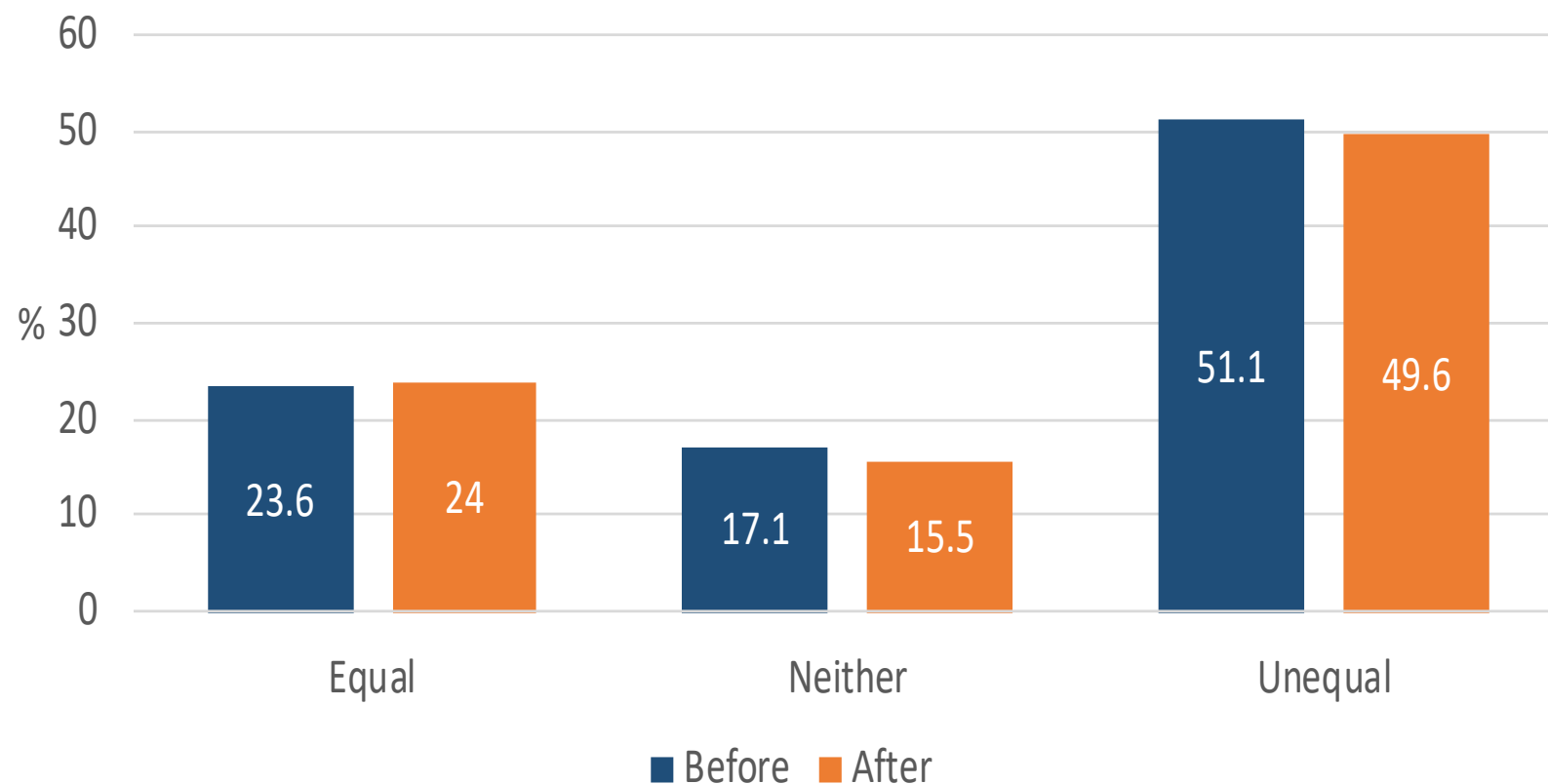
COVID-19: United vs Divided [ONS Opinion & Lifestyle Survey 28-31 May]

How united or divided do you think Britain was before, and will be after we have recovered from the COVID-19 outbreak?



COVID-19: Equal vs Unequal

How equal or unequal do you think Britain was before, and will be after we have recovered from the COVID-19 outbreak?



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