IPPR NORTH
State of the North 2018

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This summer I completed an 8 week Q-Step internship at IPPR North. My task was to research and analyse data using Microsoft Excel for the State of the North 2018, IPPR North's 5th annual State of the North report.

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) is Britain's leading progressive think tank. IPPR North is the partnered think tank, dedicated to the North of England.

Objectives

The aim of the State of the North 2018 report is to reprioritise the Northern Powerhouse agenda, to figure out the trajectory the North is on, and to illustrate what direction the Northern Powerhouse can and should be going in.
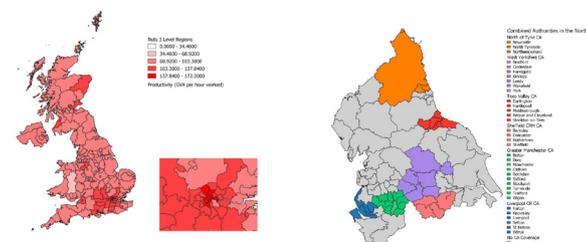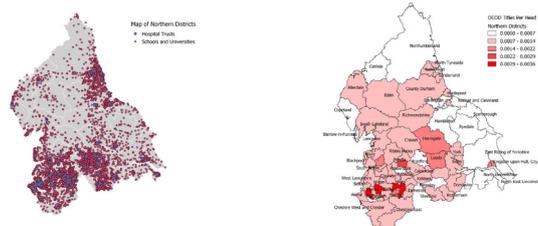

Method

I used data from a wide range of sources including the the Office of National Statistics/NOMIS, OECD, Eurostat, UK Data Service, and HM Land Registry.
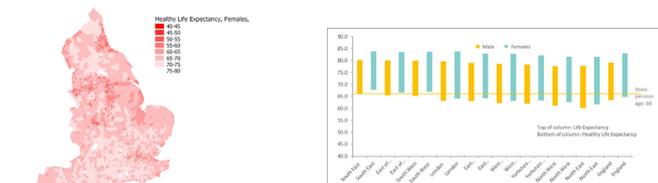
I then used Excel to analyse the data. I explored and utilised a mixture of statistical techniques study the data, such as: average levels, correlations between factors across the UK, regional disparities among key economic variables like, and comparisons with other countries by setting a median level to 100%.

With the analysis being focussed on the North of the country, for each factor I was analysing I was looking for regional data. To see the data broken down this way meant similarities and differences could be looked at between regions in the UK and the significance of place was seen. As an annual report it was also valuable to look for time series data, to be able to paint a picture in the report of the overall trajectory the is North on.
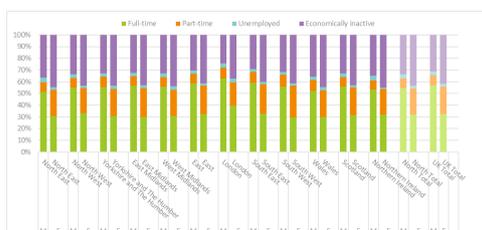
To present the data I used various Excel for various charts, and QGIS for mapping as the regional emphasis of the report meant visualising factors spatially in this format was useful.

Maps that show hospitals and schools, overseas company ownership per head, productivity (GVA) and combined authority coverage.

A map to show healthy life expectancies for females at MSOA level and a chart that shows regional breakdown for healthy life expectancies against the stage pension age line.

A bar chart that shows the gender disparity between part time and full time work and a graph that shows that London, the North East, East Midlands and Yorkshire are the most unequal regions (gini coefficient).

Results and Conclusions

Some of the many key results suggest the North's productivity is low in comparison to the national rate, poverty, inequality and work are major problems in the North, along with poor health and well-being.

The report is not yet released but the overall results illustrated a need to reprioritise the Northern Powerhouse agenda across several key aspects: to focus on both towns and cities— using the North's geography as an asset, to support both the frontier and the foundation sectors, to focus on reducing poverty and improving work, health and well-being, to consider the North's interconnectivity with the global economy and therefore be wary of national and global challenges, and to lead from the North, devolving further funding and power.