

# BARNET

Children and Young People's Plan

2023 – 2027



Caring for people, our places and the planet



**BARNET**  
LONDON BOROUGH

# Welcome



I'm delighted to present to you the Children and Young People's Plan for Barnet 2023-2027.

Drawing upon our research data, what children and young people have told us, as well those that work with them, this Plan sets out our ambition for the coming years. It highlights what more we can do to support children, young people and their families to improve their outcomes.

Our vision is putting Caring for the People, our Places and the Planet at the centre of all that we do making Barnet a safer, affordable and family friendly place to live. We want to ensure all families benefit from services and have the support they need.

We want to enable them to celebrate and have fun together. This Plan will drive our decisions and actions for the next four years to help all children and young people in Barnet fulfil their potential.

**Cllr Pauline Coakley-Webb**

Barnet's Lead Member for Children



Welcome to the Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2027. From the outset this partnership plan has been driven and developed by the views of children, young people and their parents and carers. We aspire to enable all to achieve their potential. The plan brings together agencies in Barnet who work with children, young people and their families who remain committed to our vision to make Barnet a family friendly borough where children and young people are safe, happy, healthy, achieve well, have an influential voice and are at the heart of all decisions that affect them. Our commitment to a family friendly borough is a clear demonstration of how important we see children and young people to the future of Barnet.

It is critical that we perform our public duties to the best of our abilities. We celebrate our successes when things go well but reflect, learn, and respond in equal measure when they do not. As a partnership we act together to drive better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Children and young people face difficulties and challenges, and our partnership has a history of working together to support families increasing their resilience enabling them to thrive.

This Plan seeks to bring the changes required to enable us to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people in Barnet, while operating in a constantly changing and complex environment. We continue to be flexible and will remain so in meeting future challenges together.

I'd like to thank our children, young people, parents, carers and all those who work to support them, for help in developing this Plan. It has increased our understanding of what needs to happen to continue to make Barnet a great place for children and young people to grow up.

**Chris Munday**

Executive Director Children's Services



# Welcome



The Children and Young People’s plan is a comprehensive strategy designed to ensure that children and young people in Barnet will have the best possible start to life. As young people, we appreciate how the plan has stemmed from what children have told policy makers from the early stages of discussion before even a first draft of the plan was created.

Young people including members of Youth Board and Barnet’s Child in Care Council BOP were then consulted throughout and their ideas and recommendations used to make changes to the document. As one young person commented seeing the feedback included - “Wow they really listened”. You as the reader will also see this feedback highlighted in the plan which has adopted four ‘key drivers’ prioritised by young people themselves: participation and co-production, inclusion, fighting inequalities and having fun.

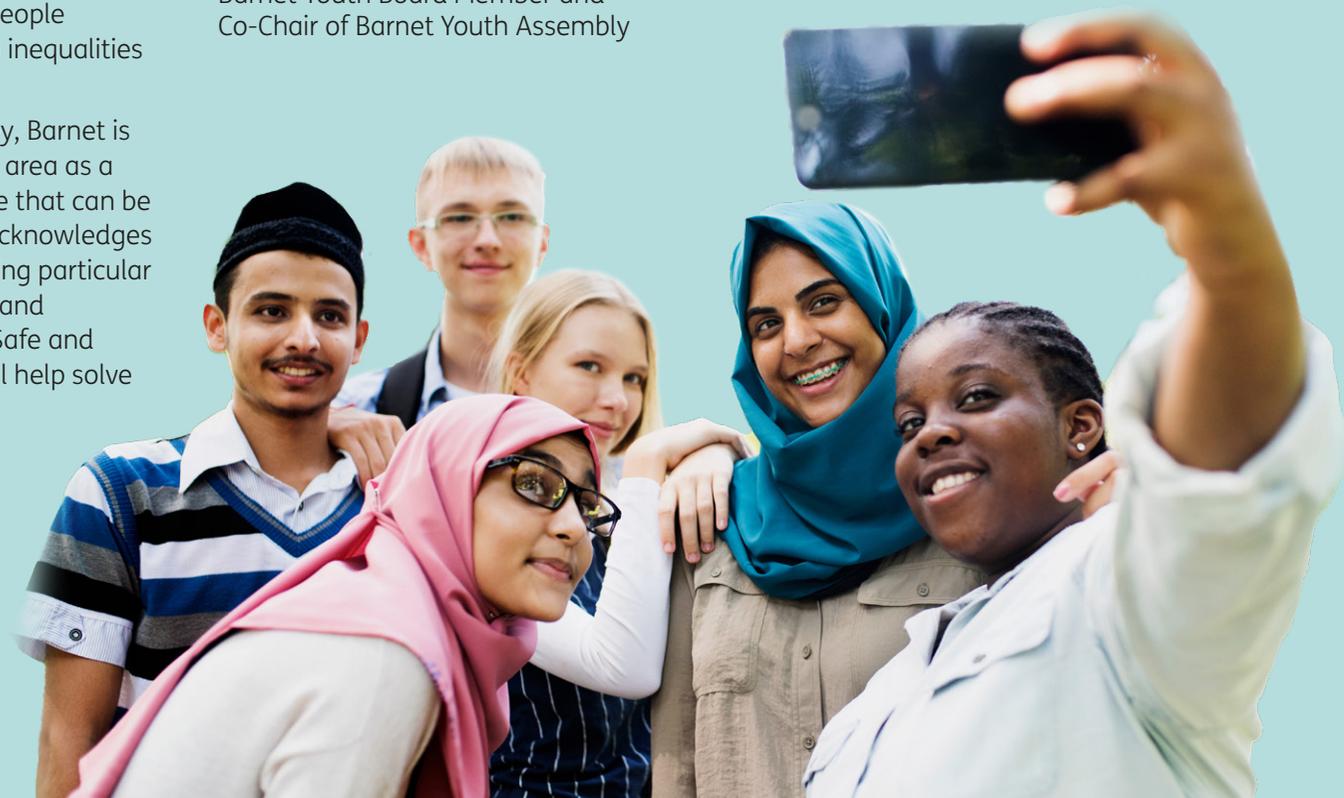
As shown by the results from the Young People’s resident survey, Barnet is a great place for children to grow up, we feel safe here and the area as a whole is very family friendly. Nevertheless, there is always more that can be done, particularly for young people with disabilities. This plan acknowledges the issues raised through the survey, identifies the areas requiring particular attention (drugs, knife crime, gangs and anti-social behaviour) and concludes with four key areas of focus (Family and Belonging, Safe and Secure, Health and Wellbeing and Education and Skills) that will help solve the issues raised.

Furthermore, not only has the plan set out the key areas of focus, but has also laid out how progress in these areas can be monitored (the Family Friendly Index) to ensure that this strong plan is delivered. As children and young people, we greatly welcome this plan and eagerly wait for its swift and effective implementation.

Overall the Children and Young Peoples Plan is impressive, bold and promising and we have high hopes for what it can accomplish.

## Suren Ramanakumar

Barnet Youth Board Member and  
Co-Chair of Barnet Youth Assembly





# Introduction

**The Children and Young People’s Plan 2023 – 2027 sets out our ambition, direction and goals in supporting children and young people in the coming years. It outlines the priorities, needs and aspirations of our local population with the intention of making Barnet an even more family-friendly place to live. We have developed this plan with children and young people who have been at the heart of its development from the start. Opinions and views have been taken from a range of young people forums including Barnet Youth Board, Barnet Youth Assembly, Barnet On Point and Barnet Young Carers, as well as parents, professionals and volunteers who support them.**

Families are struggling with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that starkly exposed deep existing inequalities in society and the interconnections between them such as race, gender and disability, but it also showed what is possible when communities come together to provide support. We want to create a future that is family-friendly, where a collaborative partnership and community can work together to improve health and wellbeing, reduce poverty and tackle inequalities so that all children and young people achieve great outcomes.

This plan covers a wide range of organisations that are committed to making children’s lives better. Our Children and Young People’s Partnership board brings together representatives from different agencies across the borough who work with children, young people and their families.

These include

- the North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) and its providers and commissioners (NHS)
- the Barnet Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector
- the London Borough of Barnet Council
- the Metropolitan Police
- Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS)
- Barnet Schools and Settings
- Barnet Parent Carer Forum

## Introduction

Important issues that affect children, young people and their families are discussed by the Board and solutions sought. As a partnership we act to drive forward change that will deliver better outcomes for children, young people and their families in Barnet.

We have achieved a lot through the previous Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2023 and our regular Youth Perception Survey (YPS) results have reflected these improvements. However, it is clear that there are still specific areas to address and that there are still specific groups of young people that do not feel as positively about Barnet. Our focus remains to ensure that all children and young people across Barnet feel positive whether they are disabled children, young carers, looked after children, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children or children of families moving into Barnet.

There have been many changes to the children's landscape since 2019 - both challenging and complex. Earlier this year an Independent Review of Children's Social Care found the current system often weakens rather than strengthens a child's support networks, depriving them of long-term loving relationships. The recent publication of Josh MacAlister's review of social services discovered they are overly focused on "investigating" families struggling

to care for their children rather than providing support to help them through their difficulties. The report identified a series of recommendations to improve the system which we will be taking forward.

At the end of March 2022, the government published its long-awaited SEND review. It was commissioned to improve an inconsistent, bureaucratic, and complicated system which often means delays in children accessing the right support for their needs. The SEND Review green paper sets out the proposals for the future of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) systems. It highlights the need for a system that offers children and young people the opportunity to thrive, with access to the right support, in the right place, and at the right time, so they can fulfil their potential and lead happy, healthy and productive adult lives.

We as a partnership have worked with children and young people to develop this latest version of our Plan. It sets out our ambition for the coming few years and provides a strategic partnership framework with a commitment to work in a joined-up approach to achieve our key outcomes.



# Vision

Our vision is for children and young people in Barnet to have the best start in life and the right support, when they need it, to live their lives successfully into adulthood.



**We want Barnet to be the best place in London to raise a child and for all children to thrive, be healthy and achieve their potential – socially, emotionally, and academically. Our aim is to make Barnet the most family friendly borough, where children, young people and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to. We know that family has a huge impact on children’s lives, wellbeing and chances of success.**

We will achieve this by delivering universal services that are accessible, offer support to enable families to thrive and build on their strengths and resilience, recognising these as important protective factors. We have excellent schools achieving some of the best results in the country and our aim is for every school in Barnet to be good or outstanding. Tackling the gap by fighting inequalities will be a key driver in all that we do. We will also deliver high quality targeted and specialist services for our most vulnerable children and young people working together with our partners and strengthening our commitment to work together to secure the delivery of efficient, high quality and best value services.

Key to all of this is our focus on resilience - we want children, young people and their families to have the ability to bounce back from stress and hardship. To take on new challenges, which lead to better outcomes. Our aspiration for a Family Friendly borough is:

*“Resilient children thriving in resilient families  
living in resilient communities”*

To help us deliver the family-friendly vision, we want the children, young people and families who live here and use our services to tell us how well we are doing, what we need to do differently and help us make the changes that children and young people want to see.

‘My Say Matters’ is what we have called our Child Participation and Family Involvement Strategy. It sets out the way we are going to work to involve children and young people so they can tell us what they think, help us make decisions, design and shape our services. We want to include children and young people of different ages up to 25 years, and parents for younger children, from different backgrounds and experiences so we can make sure that we get lots of different views and ideas. We want to include children and young people with SEND so that their views are central to what we do.

Co-production will continue to be central to our work and we will build on the strengths of the Parent Carer Forum and the Parent Champions in co-producing services for children and young people with SEND.



## Family Friendly Index

To assess whether we are delivering on our vision for a family friendly borough, we have developed a family friendly index, which sets out a range of aspirations for children and young people. These will be looked at annually to see if progress is being made against our vision for a family friendly borough. The aspirations are:



There is a strong social care service that builds resilience



Children and young people feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live



Children and young people are involved in decision making



There are good outcomes for children with SEND



All schools are good or outstanding and children get good educational outcomes



There are low figures of crime involving children and young people



Health outcomes for children and young people are good



There are low rates of children and young people living in temporary accommodation or unsuitable housing



Families are able to access the benefits and financial assistance that they need

# What's different about this plan

We want all children and young people but especially those who are most vulnerable, to have access to a good education and to lead safe, happy and healthy lives. They have told us what's important to them and we have listened. Achieving the desired outcomes is not straightforward but as partners we have chosen to adopt four key drivers that underpin delivery of the Plan based on feedback.

## Great Partnerships: Participation & co-production

Means that children, young people, parents and carers can discuss and co-decide on all matters that affect them, like family, school, community matters, local government policies & legal policies. It means that their voices are being heard.

*Seeing young people not only as beneficiaries but also as partners*  
(YP age 18)

## Inclusion

We want to ensure that whatever benefits and opportunities there are in Barnet must be afforded to all. We want to make sure those with a perceived difference overcome barriers to participate in the community in accessing many things that others take for granted. This can include those with a disability as well as families migrating to Barnet.

*That students with any additional needs are supported to learn and not held back due to needing additional support*  
(YP age 13)

## Great Outcomes: Tackling the gap and fighting inequalities

We aim to ensure we understand how children and young people experience inequality of opportunities and experiences in Barnet and why this might be, in order to start to tackle these inequalities. Our focus is on addressing inequality and driving forward better outcomes for groups that include ethnic minority communities, young people with a learning disability, young carers, looked after children/care leavers and those who come into contact with the justice system.

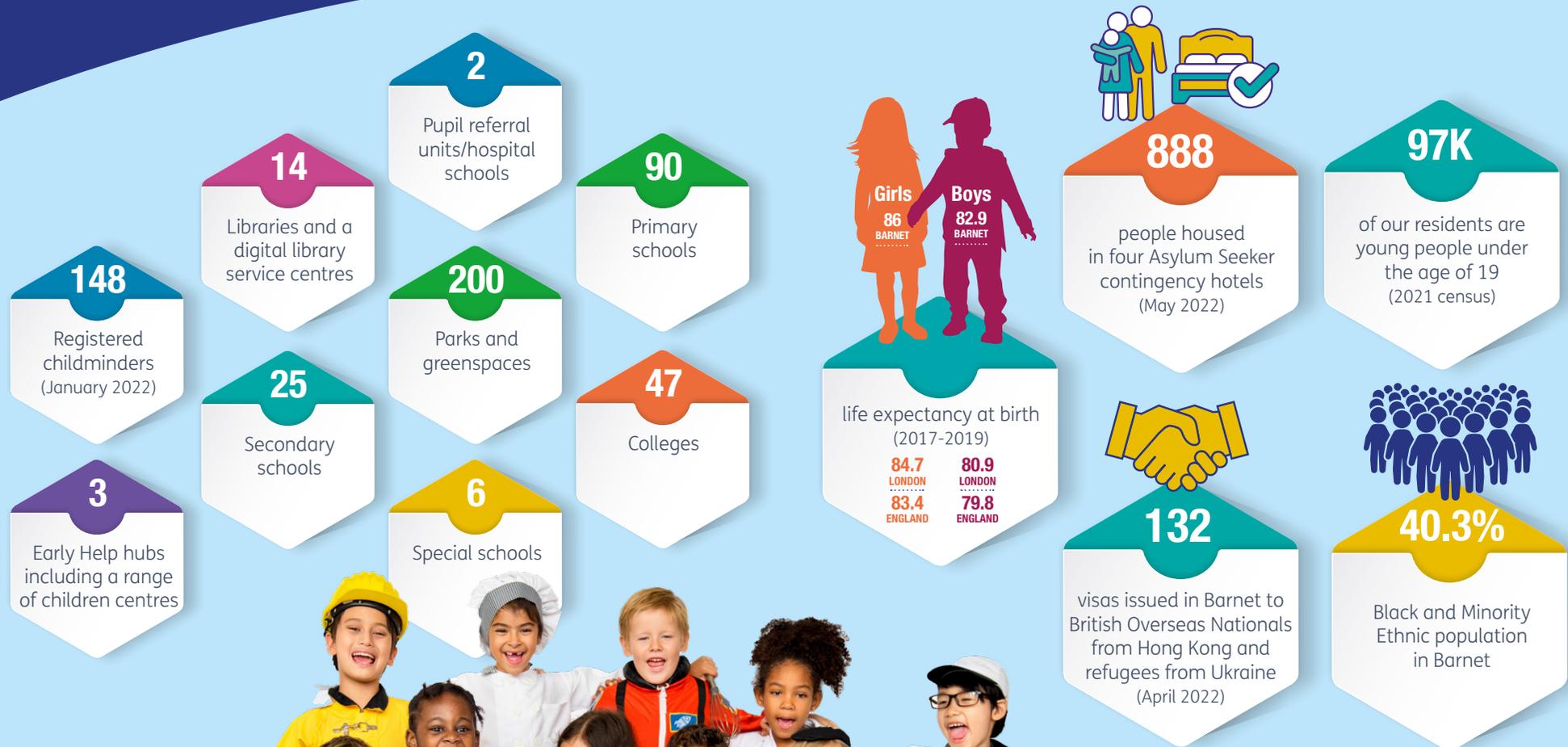
*You shouldn't be held back due to going to a school in a more deprived area which may lack resources.*  
(YP aged 15)

## Children and young people having fun

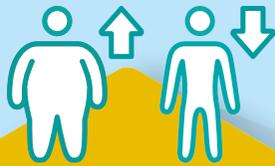
Play is an essential right of childhood which stimulates brain development. For all young people it's the fun part that balances the stressful times. It's where important social skills are gained and healthy social development is learned through expression. It is our aim for Barnet to be a place to live and enjoy being a part of, where there are opportunities to participate in sport, leisure and arts and cultural activities, as well as gain employment and build careers.

*Engage more with young people to produce fun activities*  
(YP age 11)

# About Barnet and its young people



# Barnet's young people and their health



in 2021/22, 8.6% of Barnet Reception children were overweight and a further 9% were living with obesity.



**20%**  
of young people in Barnet eat the recommended five or more portions of fruit and vegetables each day  
(Barnet Young People Survey 2022).



**24%**  
of Barnet's children have visibly decayed teeth by age five  
(Oral health - GOV.UK [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))



**free school meals**  
**13.1%** secondary schools (In line with national average)  
**16.7%** nursery and primary children (national average **14.5%**)

**2.61%**

of Barnet school pupils were identified as having social, emotional and mental health needs (London **2.4%**, England **2.7%**)  
(JSNA) (2020)

**238**

children on Child Protection Plans

**1788**

open Early Help Assessments



**52%** of primary and **38.2%** of secondary school pupils speak English as an additional language



**9.3%** children in out of work households (national average **14%**)  
**13.5%** children in low-income families (national average **16.8%**)

# Our schooling

97%

schools were graded good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection.



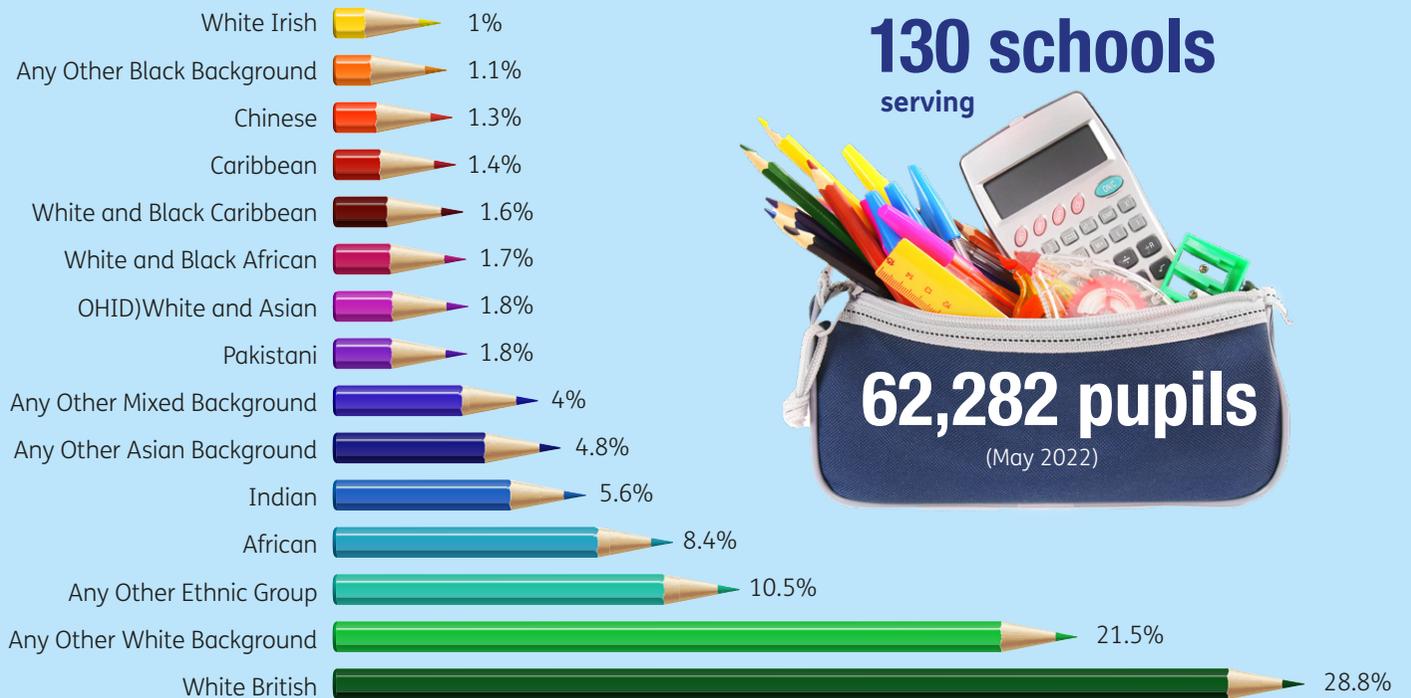
18.8% of the Barnet school population are entitled to Free School Meals (January 2022)

10.6%

school pupils are identified as requiring SEN support (11.7% London, 12.6% England)

3.6%

children and young people with Education, Care and Health Plans (EHCPs), (4.1% London, 4% England)



130 schools serving



62,282 pupils (May 2022)

# Developments and progress since 2019

**The past four years have seen significant progress and achievements in the support provided to children and young people in Barnet. Educational development and achievement have improved consistently in recent years in the borough. Over 97% of Barnet schools are good or outstanding and Barnet is now in the top 10% for many measures of achievement in schools and the top 5% for many of the measures.**

Our Social Care, Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and Youth Justice Services have been subject to inspection by Ofsted and HM Probation Inspection, and judged to be making good progress with areas of improvement identified. Figures for our looked after children remain low when compared to the rest of London and we continue to put in place measures that divert children and young people away from entering the care system where possible. However, once in the care system we work to ensure they are well supported to have the best outcomes.

Concerns around crime, violence and exploitation are subject to a vigorous and joined up approach with partners working to ensure the most vulnerable are protected. In March 2022, the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy was launched. This strategy sets out our vision to see Barnet become a borough where everyone is free of domestic abuse and women and girls are safe from violence.

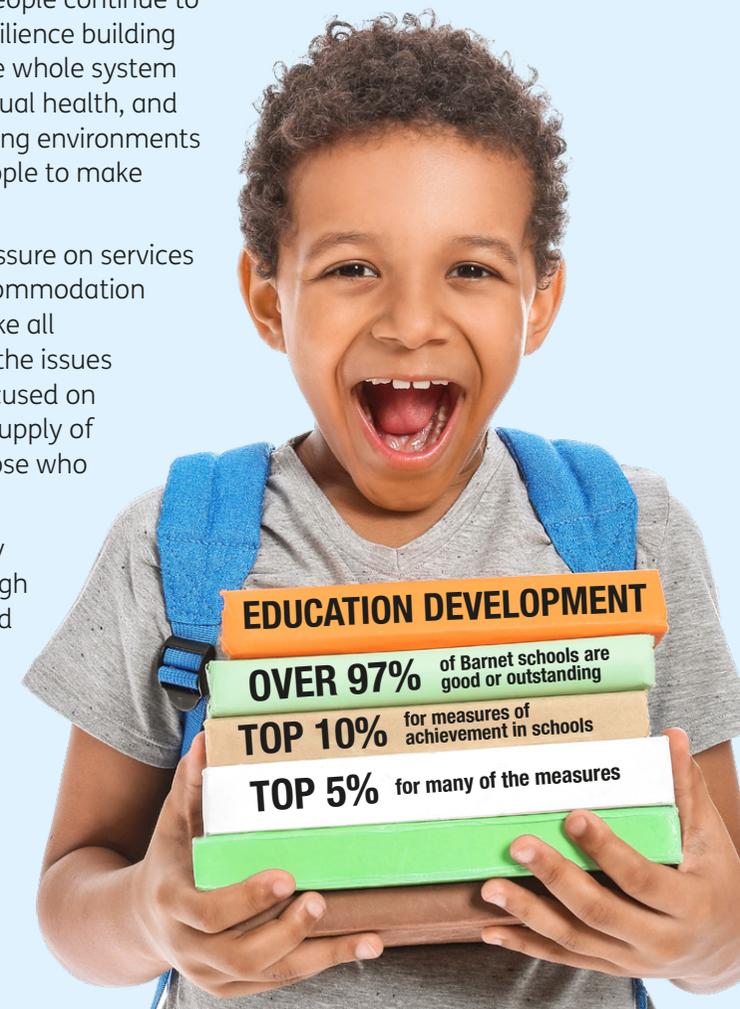
A multi-agency coordinated response has been developed to tackle increasing levels of mental and emotional well-being concerns for children and young people. The Barnet Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Board has been established, which focuses on strengthening support to children and young people experiencing problems.

Health and wellbeing of children and young people continue to be strengthened through preventative and resilience building programmes. Collaborative approaches enable whole system support for healthy diets, physical activity, sexual health, and emotional wellbeing - creating health promoting environments and communities and empowering young people to make healthier choices now and into adulthood.

Demand for housing has continued to put pressure on services with the number of families in temporary accommodation increasing significantly since the pandemic. Like all councils, we face a great challenge to reduce the issues that arise as a result. Coordinated action is focused on preventing homelessness, ensuring a steady supply of accommodation and providing support for those who are homeless.

Our progress in achieving our vision of a family friendly borough is monitored and rated through our Family Friendly Index – a range of data and intelligence relating to changes over recent years that includes views of children and young people as well as social care, health, education, housing and crime data.

**See Appendix for Family Friendly Index trend data (page 31).**



# Family Friendly Barnet



There is a strong social care service that builds resilience



Children in need in 2022 per 10000



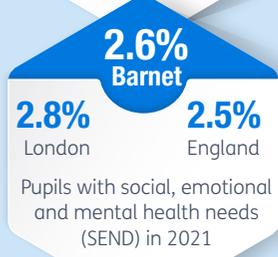
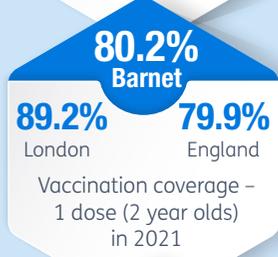
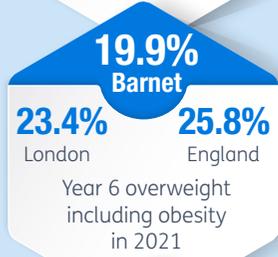
Children in care in 2022 per 10000



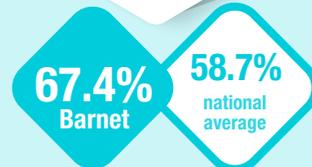
Rate of child protection in 2022 per 10000



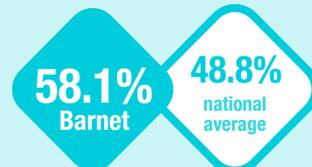
Health outcomes for children and young people are good



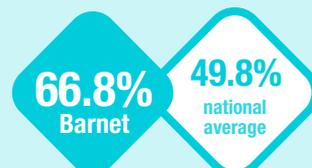
All schools are good or outstanding and children get good educational outcomes



Children reaching expected standard in Reading, Writing, Maths (KS2) – end of primary school



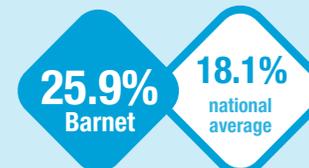
16 year olds attainment (KS4) achieved in 8 subjects



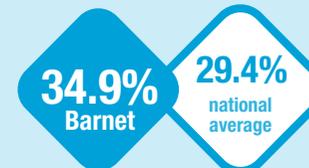
Children who achieved a 5 or better at the end of KS4 in English and Maths



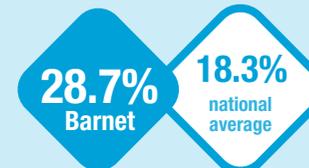
There are good outcomes for children with SEND



Children reaching expected standard in Reading, Writing, Maths (KS2) – (combined)



16 year olds attainment (KS4) achieved in 8 subjects



Children who achieved a 5 or better at the end of KS4 in English and Maths



There are low rates of children and young people living in temporary accommodation or unsuitable housing



# Family Friendly Barnet



Children and young people feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live

**89%**

84%  
(2019/20)

Young People Survey 2021/22



Children and young people are involved in decision making

**70%**

60%  
(2019/20)

Young People Survey 2021/22



There are low levels of crime involving children and young people

**24**

20  
(2021)

Serious incidents pertaining to violence involving young people (Met Police statistics)



Families are able to access the benefits and financial assistance that they need

**BACE**

**5,253** Spring

**13,098** Summer

**4,587** Winter

Participants in Barnet's Active, Creative & Engaging (BACE) holidays programme 2022



# What young people have said

**Children and young people provided us with feedback on the issues that are important to them. We are committed to listening and acting in their best interests. Regular surveys gave responses on what is important to young people. This data has been used alongside a range of engagement sessions with children and young people to drive improvements and develop this revised Children and Young People's Plan.**

The Young People's Resident Survey (YPS) is a bi-annual face-to-face survey of Barnet young residents aged 11-18, undertaken by an independent research company. The survey has been undertaken since 2016 which gives indications of trends in young people's views over time. 500 Barnet young people were interviewed between November and March 2022.

The majority of young people feel Barnet (89%) is a family friendly place to live.

Children and young people with a disability are less likely to say they are happy with their local area as a place to live (77%) and say they are satisfied with local services.

*Barnet is inaccessible for wheelchairs and people are not that accommodating – has faced issues getting on and off the bus. ...People don't take young people seriously so young carers feel doubly ignored.*

(Young carer SEND youth forum member,  
Young People Focus Group)



# What young people have said

Those who have a disability are more likely to want the council to focus resources on supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities and those with emotional and mental health problems.

Their top priorities are:



Overall young people have said knife crime (51%) remains among their top personal safety concern, but the percentage putting it in their top three concerns is significantly lower than in 2019. Similarly, the level of concern over gangs (35%) is also significantly lower than in the last survey while people taking drugs has also fallen (34%).

Young people's top priority remains:



*Gangs are a problem but they are just out to make money...if you ignore them and keep yourself to yourself they won't bother you.*  
(YP aged 14-15, Black Female, Young People Focus Group)

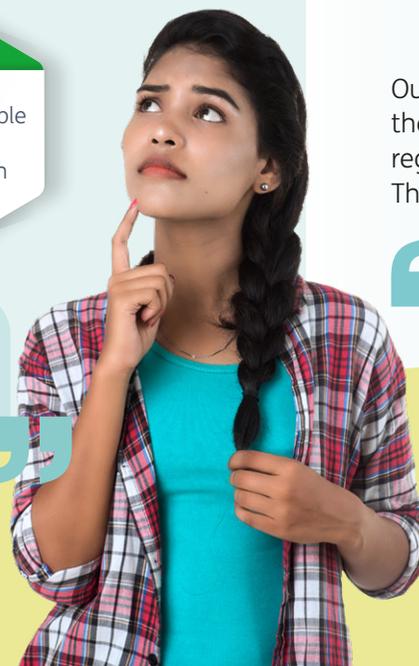


They want access to play opportunities, outside spaces and outdoor learning. They want to be able to travel safely around independently to activities and school using accessible footpaths, cycle-paths and public transport.

*Having access to outdoor space where young people feel safe and school playgrounds not affected by poor air quality if near busy roads.*  
(YP aged 11, Youth Assembly)

Our young people have told us that it is really important that the place they live is inclusive in all senses, where all young people are treated fairly regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, identity or disability. They want to have equality of opportunity and outcome.

*Equal education across areas and demographics, you shouldn't be held back due to going to a school in a more deprived area which may lack resources.*  
(YP aged 15 Youth Assembly)



# What we are doing

There are a wide range of strategies, plans and partnerships that enable us to do our work and they are all inextricably linked and critical to the delivery of our shared vision and objectives set out in this Plan. This Children and Young People Plan will routinely interface with other key plans and strategies affecting children and young people.

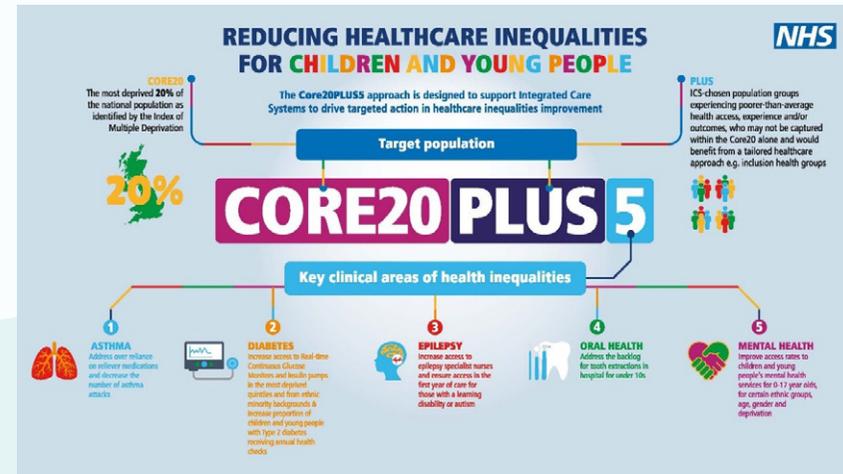


# What we are doing

Reducing healthcare inequalities for children and young people is also an integral part of our approach as a partnership. The NHS England Core20PLUS5 approach (shown in the diagram below) is designed to support an integrated care system to drive action in health inequalities improvement.

It is a national approach which focuses on the following populations for children and young people:

- The nationally identified – ‘Core20’, which is the most deprived 20% of the national population as identified by the national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and the ‘5’ which is the five key clinical areas identified as areas of health inequalities (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, oral health, and mental health).
- The area specific – ‘Plus’, which are population groups identified within NCL as experiencing poorer-than-average health access, experience and/or outcomes, who may not be captured within Core20 alone and would benefit from a tailored healthcare approach. As of February 2023, work is ongoing across North Central London (NCL) to identify which population groups will be included within the Plus populations for NCL.



The Partnership has a wide scope of activity and to deliver the outcomes identified, we will work together from now until the next plan by organising ourselves around four key themes resulting from our conversations with children, young people and parent carers as well as our own data and research. The themes are Family and Belonging, Safe and Secure, Health and Wellbeing and Education and Skills.



# What we are doing



## Family and belonging

- Support our children in care and care experienced young people to live their lives successfully
- Support children and young people with SEND to achieve well, be confident individuals, live fulfilling lives
- Provide support to young carers in carrying out their roles
- Provide support that encourages and builds resilience
- Children and young people develop a positive sense of identity
- Enable environments to allow children to have fun, play and explore the world



## Safe and Secure

- Ensuring children have the space and opportunity to build trusted relationships
- Ensure the most vulnerable are protected
- Children and young people are safe and helped to make good choices
- Ensure that there is sufficient placement choice that provides safe and secure homes for our children in care



## Health and Wellbeing

- Improve children's life chances by supporting their health and wellbeing from very early age and through to their transition into adulthood
- Promote good mental and emotional health across all ages and different communities and work together to prevent severe mental illness, substance misuse and suicide
- Improve choices for physical activities locally for all ages and abilities, and ensure residents know how to access it
- Provide integrated care by joining up services across health and social care



## Education and Skills

- Improve the educational progress and outcomes for all children and young people
- Diminish the differences in attainment and progress between the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils and their peers
- Ensure the provision of high quality local placements and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Ensure there are sufficient high quality school places to meet the needs of Barnet children including progress into Higher Education, Apprenticeships or Employment
- Ensure that every school and setting is good or outstanding



# Monitoring and governance

The monitoring of this Plan will be by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. Regular reports on progress will be presented to the Board for scrutiny, including an annual review of the Family Friendly Index. The Partnership, which includes young people representatives, will ensure that agreed priorities against objectives are reflected in partnership work to make certain the impact of the Plan is felt by children, young people and their families. Our efforts to implement this plan will be a key priority for the coming years.



# Appendix

## Plan engagement

There has been a range of engagement across Barnet at different stages of development that helped shaped this plan. This included conducting a series of face-to-face consultations with children and young people as well as input taken from a range of surveys capturing their views and talking with partners. From this, we have agreed new principles and priorities through and around which we will work to deliver our agreed outcomes.

### Young people engagement

- Barnet Youth board
- Youth Parliament
- Barnet Youth Assembly
- Barnet Youth Ambassadors
- Barnet Inclusive Next Generation (BING) – SEND Youth voice forum
- Barnet On Point (BOP) – Children in Care youth voice forum
- Barnet Young Carers Group

### Young People's views

- Young People's Survey
- Young People's Focus Groups
- Children in Care Survey - Your Life, Your Care Barnet
- Care Leavers Survey - Your Life Beyond Care Barnet

### Services and Partner engagement

- Mental Health
- NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB)
- Public Health
- Metropolitan Police Barnet
- Barnet Education and Learning Service
- Voluntary Sector
- Post 16/NEET
- SEND & Inclusion
- Libraries
- Business, employment, skills & training
- Housing
- Employment
- Food Security
- Corporate Parenting
- Green Spaces & Leisure
- Early Years/Resilience/Troubled Families
- Growth & Development
- Members
- Barnet Parent Carers Forum
- Community Safety



# Family & Belonging

Supporting all our children, including those in care and care experienced young people, to live their lives successfully, to develop a sense of identity, improve wellbeing and to have fun and play.

**Family is when we can be with people who we love and feel safe.** (Female,16)

| Objective   | Priority  | Service/Partner strategy                              |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Support our children in care and care experienced young people to live their lives successfully</b>  | Develop mentor support to ensure that it meets the needs of care experienced young people   | Barnet Corporate Parenting Strategy                   |
|   | Recruit more Barnet based foster carers, so that care experienced young people can stay close to their school and other relationships, where that is in their best interest                                   |   |
|   | Support for care experienced young people to have a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood whilst ensuring your health and wellbeing are considered in their wishes on how and where they want to live |   |
|   | VCFSE groups support the capacity building to VCFSE groups that work with CIC   | Barnet Together Alliance                              |
|   | Continue to support foster carers and social workers with specialist library tickets and learning resources   | Barnet Libraries Delivery Plan                        |
| <b>Support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to achieve well, be confident individuals, live fulfilling lives</b> | Ensure that all children and young people with SEND have their needs identified as soon as possible and receive the right support at the earliest opportunity   | Barnet SEND Strategy                                  |
|   | Ensure that children and young people with SEND receive high quality, integrated and inclusive services through effective and timely decision making across partner agencies                                  |   |
|   | Ensure services are delivered locally and as inclusive and close to home as possible so that children and young people with SEND can benefit from community integration and support from services in Barnet   |   |
|   | Explore ways to improve the accessibility of library services for children and families with SEND   | Barnet Libraries Delivery Plan                        |
|   | Upskill providers within the VCFSE to ensure that services are more inclusive   | Barnet Together Alliance                              |
| <b>Provide support to young carers in carrying out their roles</b>  | Proactive identification of carers and young carers   | Barnet Carers & Young Carers Strategy<br>Young Carers |
|   | Individualised support so that carers and young carers can maintain their own health and wellbeing  |   |
|   | Recognising carers and young carers as key partners in care and support and recognising the important role they play  |   |
|   | Ensuring respite care is provided to young carers to enable breaks when they need it  |   |
|   | Ensure that the wider VCFSE work in partnership with Barnet Carers where possible to provide the best support pathways for young carers   | Barnet Together Alliance                              |
|   |   |   |



# Family & Belonging

Supporting all our children, including those in care and care experienced young people, to live their lives successfully, to develop a sense of identity, improve wellbeing and to have fun and play.

**It encourages people to be together and be part of a community that is welcoming.** (Female,13)

| Objective   | Priority  | Service/Partner strategy                    |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Provide support that encourages and builds resilience</b>          | Meeting childcare sufficiency and providing families quality-assured childcare options  | Barnet Child and Family Early Help Strategy |
|   | Provide an inclusive service delivery that supports children with special educational needs or a disability   | Barnet SEND strategy                        |
|   | Ensure all children are supported to access free early years education offer  | Barnet Child and Family Early Help Strategy |
|   | Provide foster carers with therapeutic training to meet the emotional needs of children in their care   | Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy            |
|   | Our partners in the Police will make engagement with children and young people central in their use of powers in order to build trust   | Barnet Metropolitan Police Strategy         |
|   | Ensure early help is provided as early in the life of a problem as possible to reduce problems and enable children and families to only tell their stories once                     | Barnet Child and Family Early Help Strategy |
|   | Work with partners and local communities, including hotels who are accommodating refugee families to offer support, advice and guidance   | Barnet Child and Family Early Help Strategy |
|   | Young Barnet Foundation continues to take the lead in helping to develop the VCFSE sector in creating safer, stronger and more connected communities for our young people to thrive | Barnet Together Alliance                    |
| <b>Children and young people develop a positive sense of identity</b> | Care experienced young adults to be supported accessing their files and understanding their care journey  | Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy            |
|   | All care experienced children and young people to have access to life story work and later life letters   | Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy            |
|   | Celebrate the diversity of young people in the borough and help them to develop their creativity through involvement in the forthcoming Culture Strategy                            | Our Plan for Barnet                         |
|   | Develop one of the first accessible and inclusive playgrounds for all ages in the UK  | Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy       |
|   | Support young people to have a stronger sense of self-worth and self-confidence through knowledge and understanding of gender, sexuality and healthy relationships                  | Barnet Public Health Strategy               |
|   | The VCFSE sector will work together to build a strong sense of community and belonging for all our children and young people through local participation/community activity         | Barnet Together Alliance                    |
|   | Ensure that library resources and events and activities reflect the diversity of the borough, and help to build strong positive identities for children and young people            | Barnet Libraries Delivery Plan              |



## Family & Belonging

Supporting all our children, including those in care and care experienced young people, to live their lives successfully, to develop a sense of identity, improve wellbeing and to have fun and play.

**Families and children coming together as a community so they have the support around them and don't have to go through rough times on their own.** (YP aged 17)

| Objective  | Priority   | Service/Partner strategy                    |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Enable environments to allow children to have fun, play and explore the world</b> | Continue a high quality distinctive local programme to upgrade the borough's park playgrounds and ensure the inclusion of all schools and parks  | Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy       |
|  | Explore further funding for the development of local parks and open spaces   | Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy       |
|  | Develop a play strategy for children and young people in Barnet  | Barnet Play Strategy                        |
|  | All children and young people have access to our range of children centres and positive activities during term times and holiday periods   | Barnet Child and Family Early Help Strategy |
|  | Explore ways to extend and enhance the range of cultural activities and services available for children and young people in Barnet's libraries   | Barnet Libraries Delivery Plan              |
|  | Actively encourage young people's involvement in the development of public art and creative placemaking projects across the borough exploring play and discovery   | Our Plan for Barnet                         |
|  | Increasing the variety of play spaces for children and young people, by providing more informal play opportunities in our town centres (e.g. playful interventions, furniture, performance spaces and public art opportunities, safer social spaces to meet, etc.) through a programme of public realm improvement works |   |
|  | Developing individual town centre play strategies, through a series of Town Centre Public Realm Design Framework documents, to support coordinated delivery of play and youth infrastructure in public spaces across our town centres  |   |
|  | Supporting independent mobility of children and young people across the borough by improving wayfinding and access to walking and cycling routes in our town centres   |   |
|  | The VCFSE sector will work together to ensure that spaces occupied by children and young people – home, School and community are safe and nurturing  | Barnet VCFSE sector                         |



## Safe & Secure

ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected, safe and supported to make the best choices and to build trusted relationships

**This is very important to me because it can be scary not to be protected from harm as a young person.** (Female, 13)

| Objective  | Priority   | Service/Partner strategy  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Ensuring children have the space and opportunity to build trusted relationships</b> | Engaging and inducting a young person representative as a member of the Youth Justice Management Board   | Barnet Youth Justice Plan                                       |
|  | Embedding opportunities for care experienced young people to feedback into everyday activities   | Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy                                |
|  | Care experienced children and young people to know their social worker and be supported with regular contact and visits  | Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy                                |
|  | Strengthening links between home, school and community to ensure that adequate opportunities to build trusted relationships with their peers and trusted adults within schools and the wider community | Barnet Together Alliance  |
| <b>Ensure the most vulnerable are protected</b>  | Violence against women and girls is eliminated   | Barnet Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy |
|  | Prevent children and young people from being exploited and exposed or drawn into violence and crime  | Barnet Youth Justice Plan                                       |
|  | Ensure the needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are met through a partnership approach   | Barnet Family Services Strategy                                 |
|  | We will support Police to work with partners to reduce the criminal victimisation of those who are most disadvantaged  | Barnet Metropolitan Police                                      |
|  | Work together with the Youth Justice Board to make plans to address disproportionality of different groups of young people in the justice system   | Barnet Youth Justice Plan                                       |
|  | Ensure that our town centres are welcoming and safe for young people   | Our Plan for Barnet   |
|  | Through a home, school, community approach, work with partners to create safer, stronger, more connected communities for our CYP to thrive   | Barnet Together Alliance  |



## Safe & Secure

ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected, safe and supported to make the best choices and to build trusted relationships

**A safe place to me is somewhere I don't feel afraid about being there.** (Female, 16)

| Objective  | Priority   | Service/Partner strategy               |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Children and young people are safe and helped to make good choices</b>  | Work effectively together to ensure children feel safe, are safe and supported at home, in school and in the communities in which they live  | Barnet Family Services Strategy        |
|  | Continue reducing the number of First Time Entrants, young people who reoffend and young people who are handed down custodial sentences  | Barnet Youth Justice Plan              |
|  | Police will work proactively with communities to reduce violence by building trust   | Barnet Metropolitan Police Strategy    |
|  | Regular reviews with children and young people with their network to support them in making good decisions and learning from their decisions   | Barnet Family Services Strategy        |
|  | Working with the Police design out crime and Community Safety officers to deliver public space and safety improvements in our town centres   | Growth and Development Strategy        |
|  | VCFSE to work proactively with CYP, families and Partners to create a safer, stronger, more connected communities where CYP are supported to make better choices                                     | Barnet Together Alliance               |
| <b>Ensure that there is sufficient placement choice that provides safe and secure homes for our children in care</b> | To lead the development of a secure children's home provision in London  | Barnet Placements Sufficiency Strategy |
|  | Work in partnership to deliver the Pan London Pathfinder supported accommodation provision for young people as a positive alternative to custody   | Barnet Youth Justice Plan              |
|  | Refresh Barnet's Placement Sufficiency Strategy in line with the needs of Barnet Children and develop local placement provision in accordance with needs, best practice and new regulation standards | Barnet Placements Sufficiency Strategy |
|  | Development of solo provision to meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people who are new into care  | Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy       |
|  | Ongoing recruitment of foster carers and supported lodgings hosts to meet the diverse needs of looked after children and young people  |  |
|  | Care experienced young adults to be supported in accessing the right accommodation to meet their needs   |  |
|  | VCFSE to signpost community members towards fostering recruitment  | Barnet Together Alliance               |



# Health & Wellbeing

supporting our children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent avoidable illness and improve their social, physical and mental wellbeing, including through integrated health and social care

Being a young carer can be mentally draining at times, need encouragement to have a healthy lifestyle. (Female, 13)

| Objective   | Priority   | Service/Partner strategy            |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Improve children’s life chances by supporting their health and wellbeing from very early age and through to their transition into adulthood.</b> | Implementation of the Barnet Food Plan to ensure good quality, healthy and sustainable food for all Barnet families with a strong emphasis on tackling cost of living crisis | Barnet Food Plan Strategy           |
|   | Conduct air quality audits and implement measures on all schools with high air pollution (as identified by TfL)  | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy  |
|   | Promote oral health by building on the findings of the oral health needs assessment and developing a collaborative action plan   | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy  |
|   | Provide information and education to boys and girls about periods, period poverty and hygiene to help address period stigma  | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy  |
|   | Develop a needs bank at Chipping Barnet Library, with free hygiene resources for young people  | Barnet Libraries Delivery Plan      |
|   | Continue to support the mental health and wellbeing of new parents through rhymetime and other Early Years library activities  | Barnet Libraries Delivery Plan      |
|   | Continue to support sexual health education and healthy relationships among young people   | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy  |
|   | Continue to implement whole setting health promoting approaches to achieve and maintain healthy weight   | Public Health Strategy              |
|   | Ensure that we continue to grow opportunities within the community/VCFSE for CYP to feel that they belong to a safe, strong, connected community                             | Barnet Together Alliance            |
|   | Continue to deliver our School Streets Programme to provide Healthier Routes to Schools  | Barnet Long Term Transport Strategy |



# Health & Wellbeing

supporting our children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent avoidable illness and improve their social, physical and mental wellbeing, including through integrated health and social care

**Important taking care of yourself and mental health.** (Male, age 11)

| Objective  | Priority  | Service/Partner strategy           |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Promote good mental and emotional health across all ages and different communities and work together to prevent severe mental illness, substance misuse and suicide</b> | Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS) to provide a range of interventions to support children and young people's mental health & wellbeing   | Barnet Mental Health Strategy      |
|  | Ensure that a universal approach including supporting the Resilient Schools Programme, is delivered to all schools to raise awareness of mental health and reduce stigma                              | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy |
|  | Work with partners to improve access to mental health support for CYP   | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy |
|  | Work with partners to promote parity of access to mental and physical health services for children, young people with mental illnesses or SEND  | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy |
|  | Develop and implement a refreshed Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy  | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy |
|  | VCFSE to work to ensure that we continue to grow our community offer for early mental health support, (EIP) backed up with increased wellbeing activities   | Barnet Together Alliance           |
| <b>Improve choices for physical activities locally for all ages and abilities, and ensure young people know how to access it</b>   | Provide information for access to a range of activity programmes including free swimming, junior park run, after school clubs   | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy |
|  | Deliver the Fit & Active Barnet (FAB) Framework to focus on wider engagement for physical activity  | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy |
|  | Maximise the use of facilities and identify opportunities for co-location and community hubs, widening access to ensure that facilities and open spaces are better used by the communities they serve | Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy |
| <b>Provide integrated care by joining up services across health and social care</b>  | Commitment to develop a child development centre where children with disabilities and their families can access assessment and a range of services from the same location                             | Barnet Integrated Health Strategy  |
|  | Continued development of our existing programme of work based around integration of GP networks with paediatricians enabling closer contact for children and young people                             | Barnet Integrated Health Strategy  |
|  | Embed collaborative work between borough partners to identify and proactively support children to manage asthma in the school environment   | Barnet Integrated Health Strategy  |



# Education & Skills

supporting children and young people to reach their educational and academic potential, by closing attainment gaps and reducing exclusion

**Schools should be teaching us more about adult life and how to do things when we leave school**  
(Female 13)

| Objective   | Priority   | Service/Partner strategy                    |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Improve the educational progress and outcomes for all children and young people</b>  | Support children to reach their educational and academic potential   | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Support schools to improve attendance and reduce exclusion   | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Support children to have their best start in life and be ready for learning  | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Bid for funds to deliver a Festival of Stories in Barnet's libraries   | Barnet Libraries Delivery Plan              |
|   | Enhance study facilities for children and young people in Barnet's Libraries   | Barnet Libraries Delivery Plan              |
|   | Ensure that robust planning and support is in place to enable all young people to return to education and training following the disruption of COVID 19  | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Work collaboratively to embed preparing for adulthood outcomes from an early age   | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Support CYP to access opportunities within their communities (VCFSE) that will complement their educational and emotional development                    | Barnet Together Alliance                    |
|   | Grow partnerships between education and the VCFSE to address needs within schools  | Barnet Together Alliance                    |
| <b>Diminish the differences in attainment and progress between the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils and their peers</b> | Proactively enabling families with young children to access children centres and the free early education entitlement                                    | Barnet Child and Family Early Help Strategy |
|   | Working across the partnership to address the impact of the pandemic on the development of our youngest children and support the transition into school  | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Listen, communicate and make decisions with our children in care and care experienced young people and ensure educational provision is strong            | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Continue to support schools, settings, children and young people in recovery from the impact of the pandemic on learning and mental health and wellbeing | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Minimise the number of young people who are NEET, by developing the employability skills and resilience  | Barnet Education Strategy                   |
|   | Barnet YJMB will develop a tracker to measure progress against actions to reduce exclusion of Black boys from education                                  | Barnet Youth Justice Plan                   |
|   | Ensure that we continue to seek to hear the voices of the seldom heard to improve their engagement with the services that need to support them           | Barnet Together Alliance                    |



# Education & Skills

supporting children and young people to reach their educational and academic potential, by closing attainment gaps and reducing exclusion

**I think education and learning is very important in preparing you for the outside world** (Female, 13)

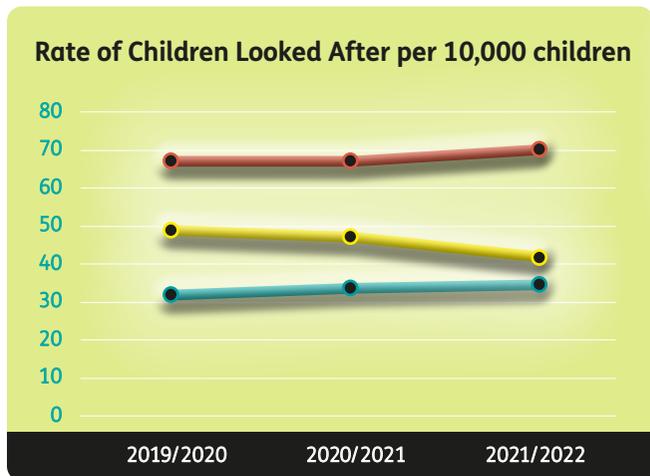
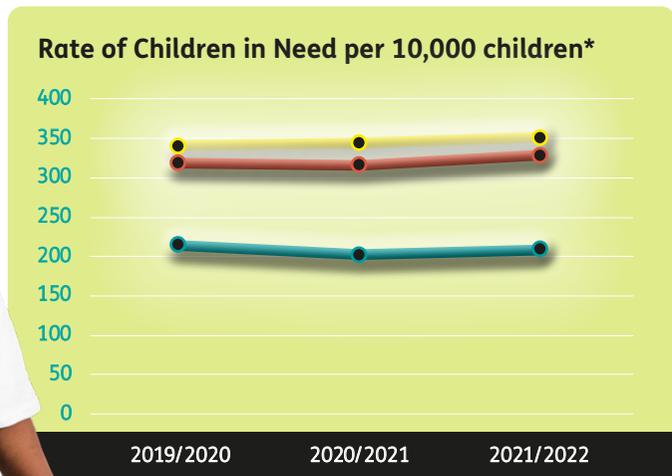
| Objective   | Priority  | Service/Partner strategy           |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Ensure the provision of high-quality local placements and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities</b>                      | Improve outcomes for CYP with special educational needs and disability  | Barnet SEND Strategy               |
|   | Develop greater confidence, skills and competencies in mainstream schools to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND  | Barnet SEND Strategy               |
|   | Develop skills, knowledge and understanding across the workforce and local area to create supporting environments that promote community integration and independence   | Barnet SEND Strategy               |
| <b>Ensure there are sufficient high-quality school places to meet the needs of Barnet children including progress into Higher Education, Apprenticeships or Employment.</b> | Supply of school places are available to satisfy demand   | Barnet Education Strategy          |
|   | Ensure the provision of high-quality local placements and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged from three to 25   | Barnet SEND strategy               |
|   | Increase the number of young people who are engaged in learning and work post 16 and increase supported internship opportunities  | Barnet Education Strategy          |
|   | Develop further opportunities in education, employment and training for care experienced young people   | Barnet Education Strategy          |
|   | Increase the opportunities for disadvantaged young people to progress to suitable education, training and employment, including care leavers and young people with special educational needs and disabilities | Barnet SEND strategy               |
|   | Minimise the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the attainment, achievement and psychological wellbeing of children and young people with SEND  | Barnet SEND strategy               |
|   | Work with wider partners to ensure that there are pathways to employment for YP with SEND   | Barnet Together Alliance           |
| <b>Ensure that every school and setting is good or outstanding</b>  | Focus on meeting the needs of vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND, children looked after, children in need and children eligible for free school meals   | Barnet SEND strategy               |
|   | Good relationships with schools and settings enabling rigorous monitoring, challenge and support for all schools and settings and the targeted support for schools and settings causing concern               | Barnet School Improvement Strategy |
|   | Strengthen high levels of attainment and progress in all phases   | Barnet School Improvement Strategy |

# Family Friendly Index trend data





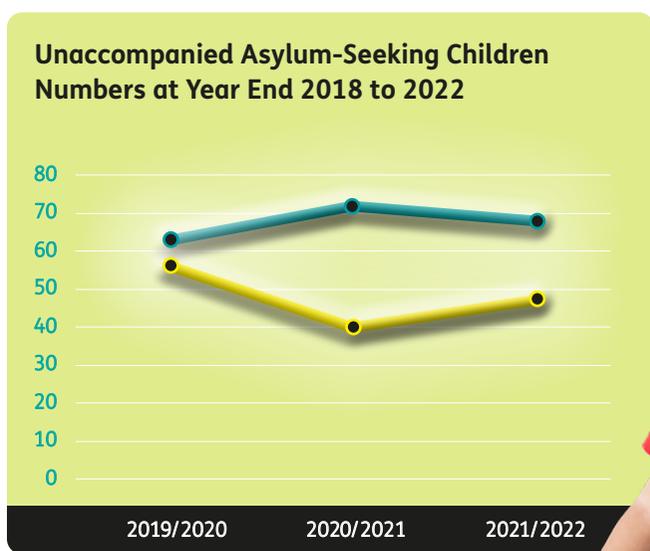
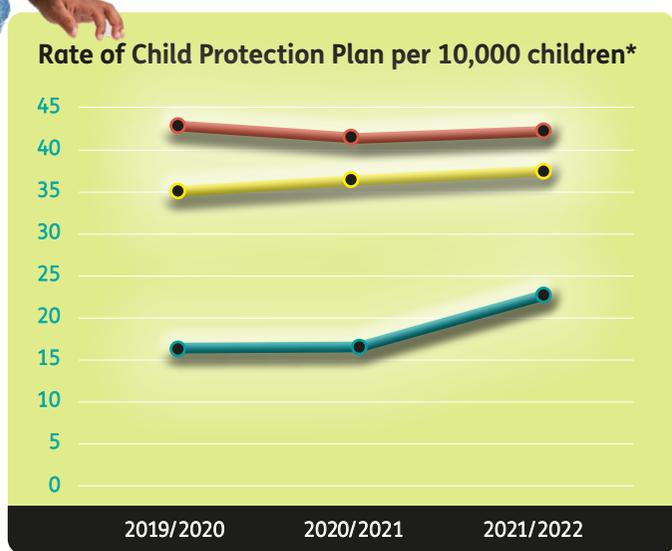
There is a strong social care service that builds resilience



Legend:

- Barnet
- London
- England

\*children aged 0-17  
Source: DfE statistics





Children and young people feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live

89%  
2021/22

84%  
2019/20

Source: Young People Survey



Children and young people are involved in decision making

70%  
2021/22

60%  
2019/20

Source: Young People Survey



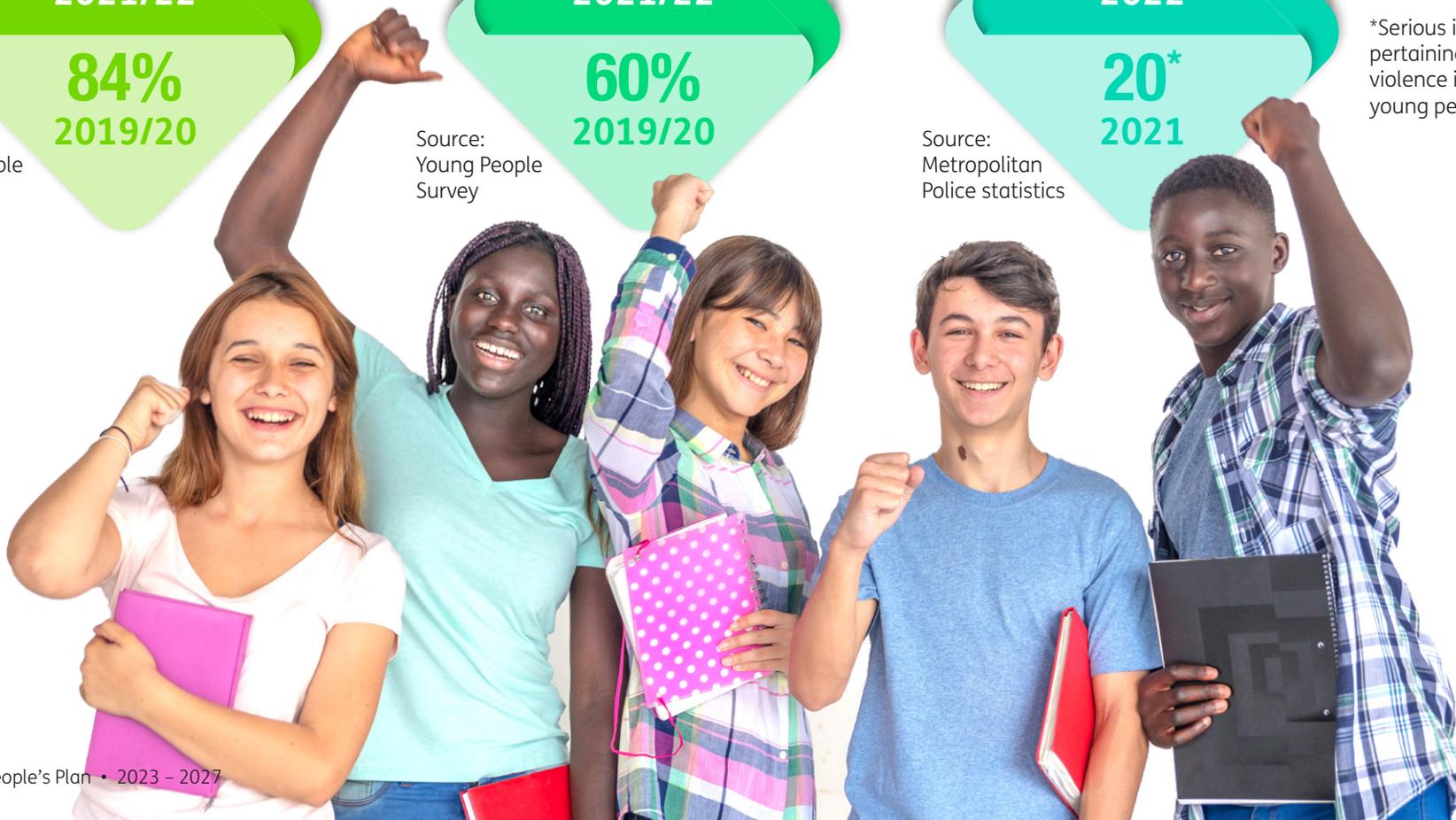
There are low figures of crime involving children and young people

24\*  
2022

20\*  
2021

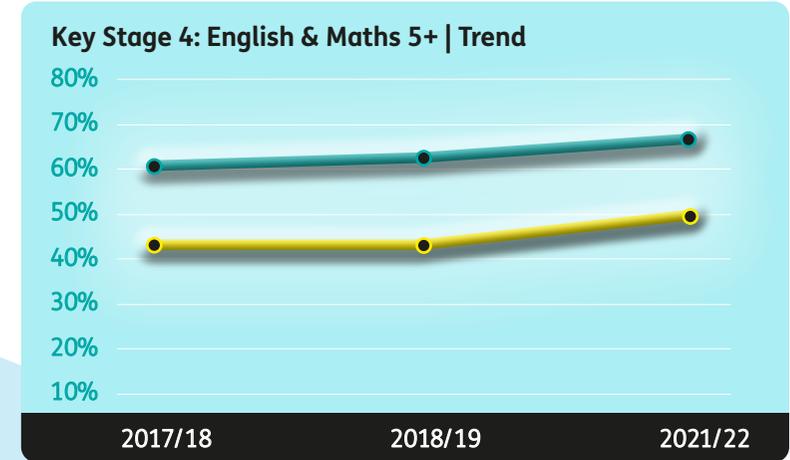
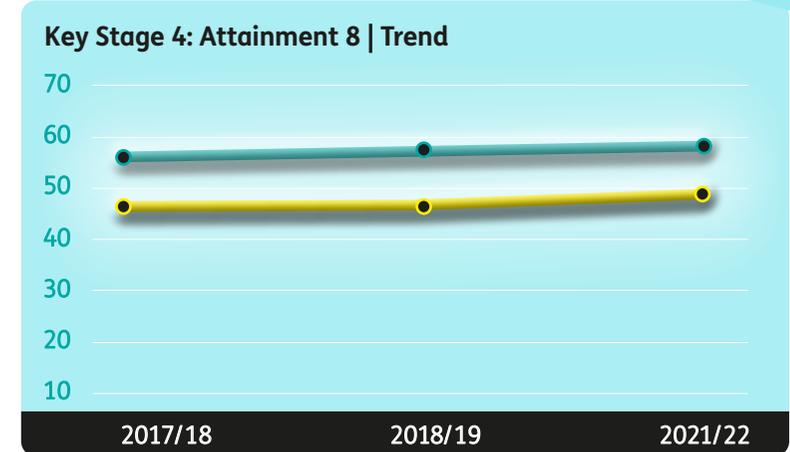
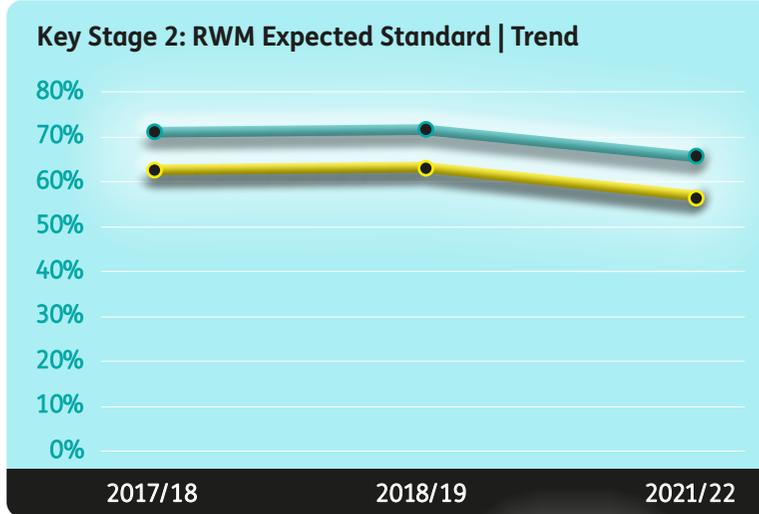
Source: Metropolitan Police statistics

\*Serious incidents pertaining to violence involving young people

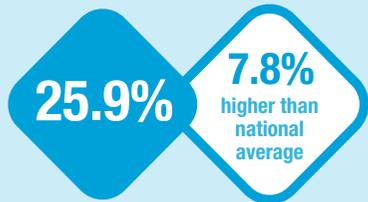




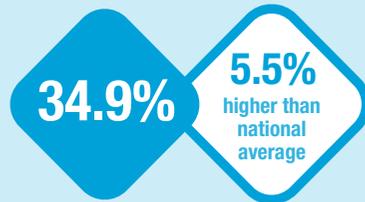
All schools are good or outstanding and children get good educational outcomes



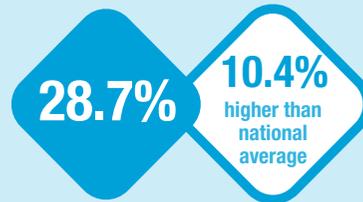
There are good outcomes for children with SEND



At the end of primary school. 25.9% achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (combined)



At the end of Key Stage 4 (16 year olds) the Attainment 8 figure was 34.9

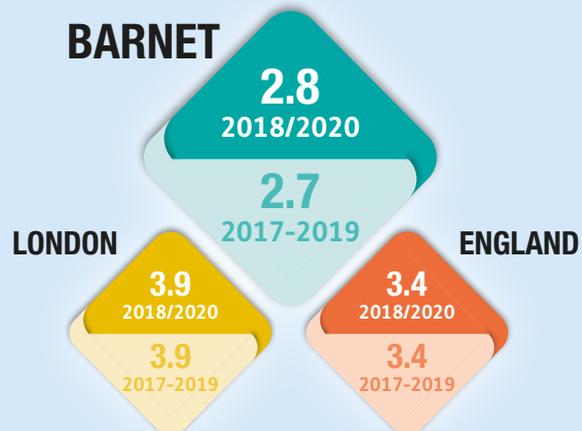


At the end of Key Stage 4 (16 year olds) 28.7% achieved a 5 or more in English and Maths

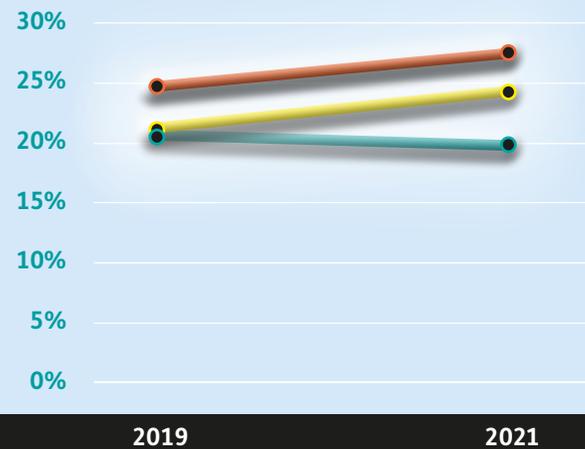


Health outcomes for children and young people are good

Infant mortality rate (Crude rate per 1,000)



Year 6: Prevalence of Obesity

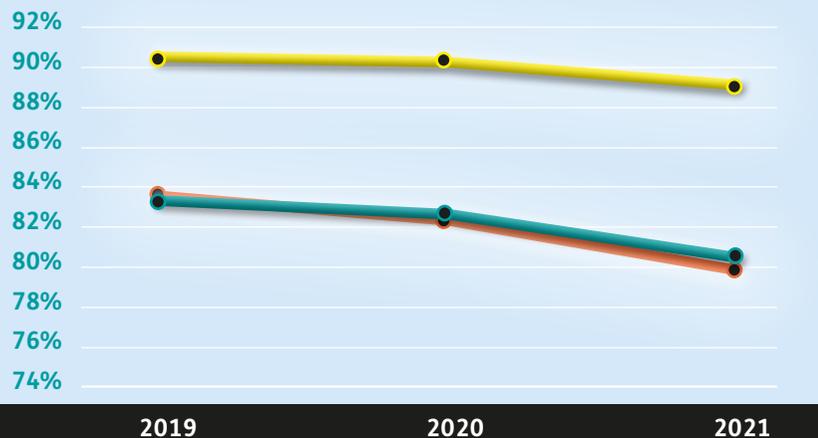


Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities statistics

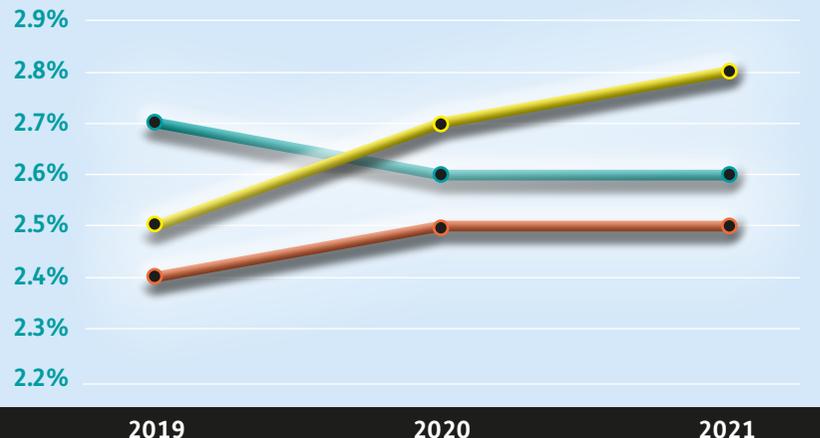


\*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip 2020

Population vaccination coverage: MMR for one dose (2 years old)



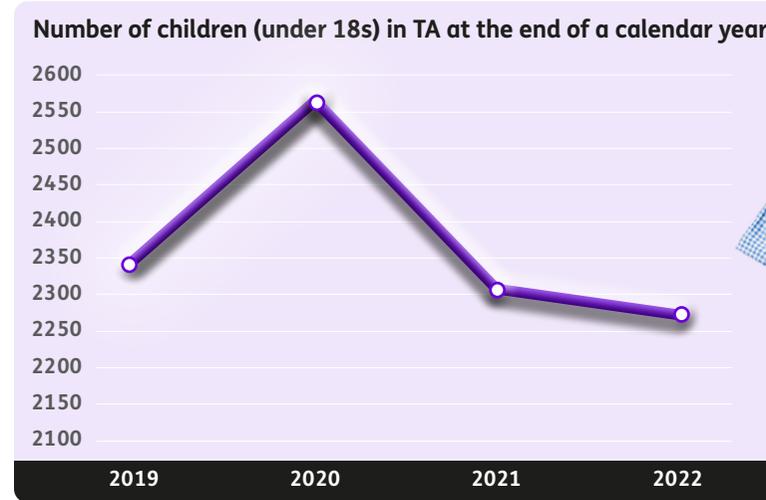
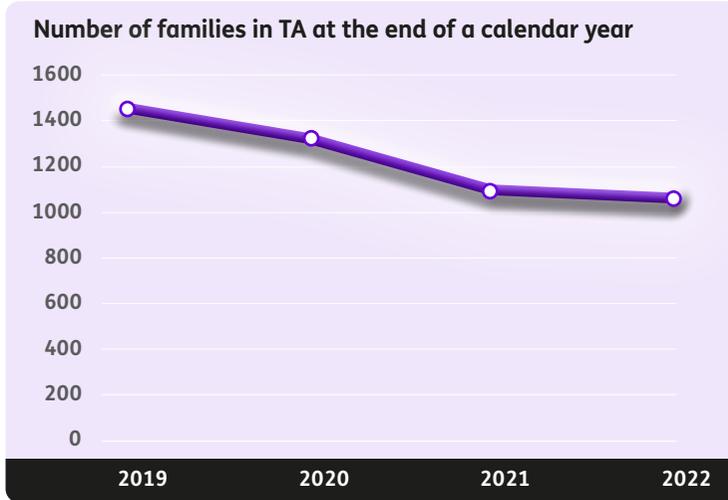
School pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs



\*Only relates to children with SEND



There are low rates of children and young people living in temporary accommodation (TA)



Source: Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities data



Families are able to access the benefits and financial assistance that they need



| Spring                   | Summer                    | Winter                   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 35 Programmes            | 47 Programmes             | 32 Programmes            |
| 1,373 Unique CYP         | 2,871 Unique CYP          | 2,035 Unique CYP         |
| 5,253 Total participants | 1,3098 Total participants | 4,587 Total participants |

Source: Barnet Council data

