

State of the Borough 2011

Barnet Insight Unit

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Demographic change, 2011-16	3
Customers and citizens.....	7
A successful London suburb	9
Independent and healthy living	18
Investing in children, young people and their families	22
Conclusions	25
Further reading	26

Introduction

This document has been created by analysts from the Barnet Insight Unit with contributions from analysts and policy staff across the local public services. It draws on a wide range of existing work, as well as original analysis to summarise the strategic risks and opportunities facing Barnet – the organisations, the place and its people – over the coming five years.¹

The **One Barnet Sustainable Community Strategy** sets out the ten year vision for Barnet. This vision is framed around achieving four strategic outcomes which are:

- A Successful London Suburb
- Investing in children, young people and their partners
- Health and independent living
- Strong and safe communities for all.

Each of these outcomes will be delivered through multi-agency **partnership boards**. The analysis in this report has been structured to reflect these four themes with the purpose of supporting those making decisions about Barnet's transformation agenda for public services.

The One Barnet transformation was originally developed to address the multiple challenges facing the local authority of reducing budgets, finding new solutions to tackling long-standing problems and addressing customer satisfaction. But these challenges are now being faced by all public services including our local civil society, which is why a **shared understanding** of Barnet the borough is so important.

To explore the challenges facing each strategic outcome **two questions** were asked: 1) what is the likely impact of demographic change on this area of activity, and 2) what are the probable implications of recent policy changes?

¹ A list of further reading is included at the end of the document.

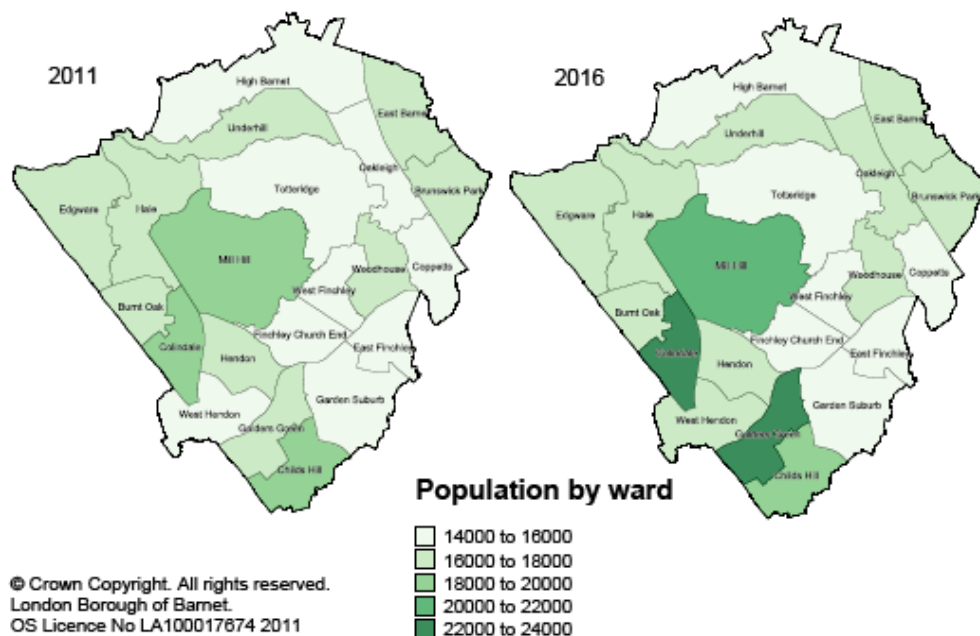
Demographic change, 2011-16

Already London’s most populous borough, with 349,800 residents in 2011 and a history of integrating diverse immigrant communities, Barnet’s story is one of **aspirant** growth. Since 2001, the local population has grown by 30,300 (9.5 per cent).² This growth is forecast to continue over the coming half decade as a consequence of regeneration and recent high birth rates. Understanding the complexities of this changing demographic landscape will be essential in designing and restructuring local public services.

The Barnet population is projected to grow by 5.5 per cent over next five years – an increase of 19,400 people. The greatest growth will be concentrated in Colindale (+10,900), Golders Green (+7,300), Mill Hill (+2,000) and West Hendon (+1,900) which are major **regeneration** and development **areas** in the borough. Meanwhile, the **central wards** – East and West Finchley, Woodhouse – are projected to experience a slight fall in population, as are Hale, Burnt Oak and Coppetts ward.

This net change in population masks an even higher rate of local **population churn**. Every year, 8 per cent of the population are new to the borough, replacing the 7.7 per cent of residents moving out each year. Almost 30,000 people are therefore being replaced every year.³

Total population by ward, 2011 and 2016



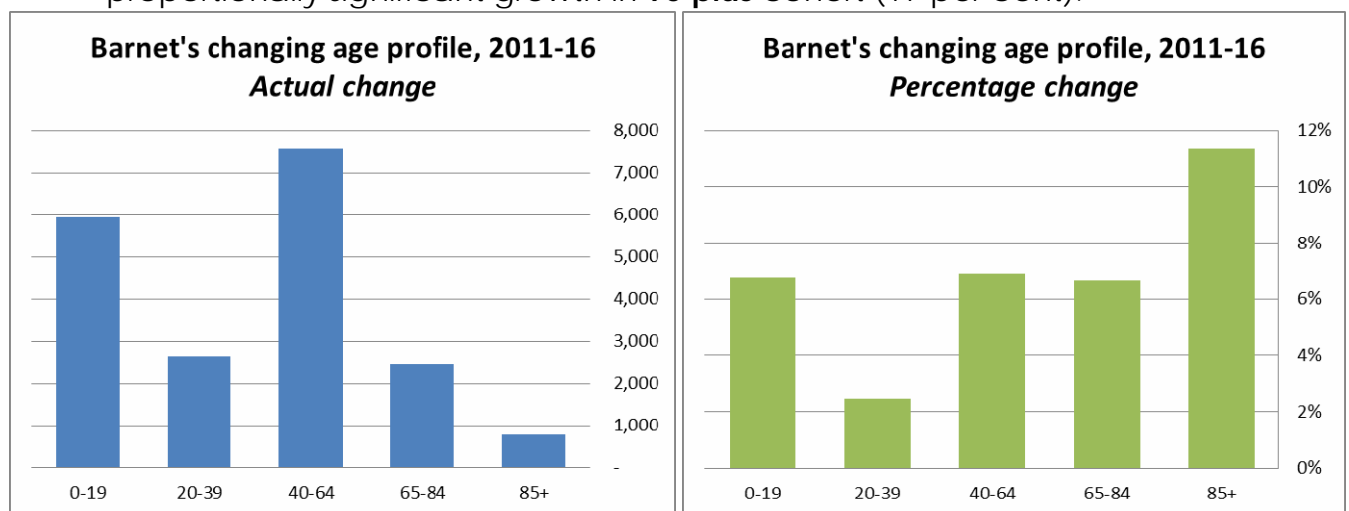
² Population Hybrid, Barnet Insight Unit, 2011 update

³ Based on analysis of ONS 2088-based sub-national population projections

Age profile

Between 2011 and 2016, the age profile of Barnet is forecast to develop in the following ways:

- Significant increase in **5-14 year olds** (+6,600). This includes 23 per cent more 5-9 year olds projected by 2016. This young cohort is the fastest growing group in the borough.
- General decline in **30-34 years olds** (-1,000, 3 per cent) and slower growth in **25-29 year olds** (600, 2 per cent).
- Sizeable growth in **40-59 year olds**, especially 40-45 (+2,200, 8 per cent) and 50-54 (2,400, 11 per cent) cohorts.
- Sizeable growth in **65-69 year olds** (+2,100, 18 per cent) and proportionally significant growth in **90 plus** cohort (17 per cent).



Changing ethnic diversity

With regeneration and demographic growth comes a shift in the ethnic profile of the borough. Over the next five years, the local **Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)** population is projected to increase from 33.1 per cent to 35.0 per cent of the total populace. This increase is at a slightly slower rate than other Outer London boroughs (5.6 per cent compared to Outer London average of 7.0 per cent) but faster than London as a whole (4.7 per cent).⁴

- Barnet's fastest growing ethnic group is **Other** (a classification with includes Iranians, Afghans, and Arab peoples) with 19 per cent growth (+4,400 people) over five years against an average growth rate of 5.5 per cent. In 2010, 2.8 per cent of children in Barnet schools speak Farsi as a first language – 1,395 individuals.⁵
- Although numerically smaller, the **Black Other** community is experiencing the second fastest proportional growth, with 15.1 per cent

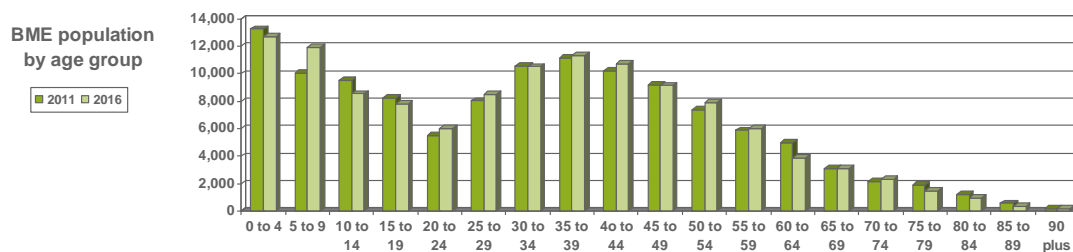
⁴ GLA 2010 Round ethnic group projections adjusted to Barnet Hybrid Model

⁵ School Census, January 2011

(1,000) more Black Other Barnet residents expected by 2016. In 2009, there were 250 applications for National Insurance Numbers from Barnet residents of Nigerian nationality, 50 from Ghanaians and another 50 from Somalians. 2010 figures look likely to match or exceed these levels.⁶

- Barnet's largest ethnic group, the **Indian** community, is expected to remain the most populous BME group over the coming half decade, but growth is slower than other groups at just 4.9 per cent (1,600 people). 700 residents of Indian nationality applied for a National Insurance Number in 2009.

Although Barnet continues to attract individuals and families from around the world, the rise in local diversity is predominantly **driven by births** in the existing BME community. The consequence of this is that, aside from a bump in the 30 to 44 cohort, each rising age band is progressively less diverse than the former; 21.9 per cent of the current 65 to 69 year old population are non-White compared to almost half of all 0 to 4 year olds (49.7 per cent).⁷



Deprivation

The third release of the English Indices of Deprivation (ID2010), a selection of small area level measures of deprivation, became available at the end of March 2011. Against the 2007 Multiple Index of Deprivation (IMD07), Barnet is **less deprived** than it was three years ago, ranked as the 165th of 326 most deprived Local Authority Area. Barnet is a particularly varied borough however, and although the Barnet average is averagely relatively deprived, there is a wide variance between different domains and different areas. No Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Barnet fall within the ten per cent most deprived nationally, six fewer than 2007. However, 35 of 210 (16.67 per cent) rank in the lowest ten per cent on at least one domain.

The two domains which have shown the greatest decrease in relative deprivation are *Barriers to Housing and Services* and *Health Deprivation and Disability*. In part the **housing domain** improvement is likely to be a change in the how data has been defined since the last release.⁸ No changes have

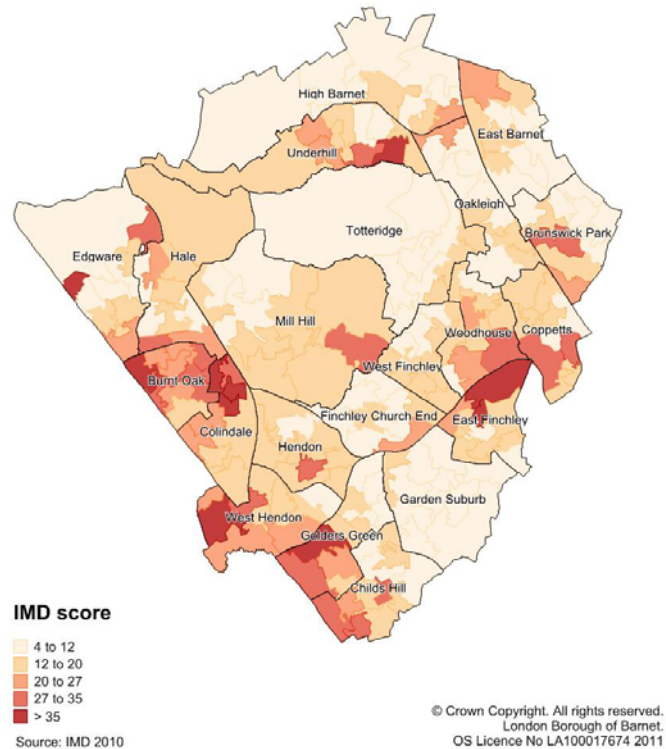
⁶ These figures paint only a partial picture, since they do not take into account non-working individuals or those who have been awarded citizenship from another European country before entering Britain.

⁷ GLA Intelligence 2010 Round Ethnic Group Projections adjusted to fit Barnet Hybrid Population Model

⁸ LB Barnet Business Intelligence Team, Deprivation in Barnet: results from the English Indices of Deprivation 2007, <http://www.barnet.gov.uk/deprivation-in-barnet.pdf> pgs 6-7

been made to the methodology for the **health domain**. However, this is a complex weighted measure in part based on prescription data.⁹

Deprivation in Barnet, 2010



The Coalition has recently published both a **Social Mobility Strategy** and a **Child Poverty Strategy**, which have a strong focus on transitions at key life stages and on improving outcomes for children from the most deprived backgrounds.¹⁰

⁹ CLG, English Indices of Deprivation 2010: Technical Report, <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1870718.pdf> pgs 25-31

¹⁰ Full analysis of the ID2010 will be available shortly.

Customers and citizens

Customer information

In the 2010-11 financial year, the Council received an estimated **1.5 million** phone calls, **21,000** emails and **1,100** letters from residents.

Our call centre data for most Council services indicates that the number of daily phone calls has generally decreased over the past year. This may be attributed to a **channel shift** of some users towards the self-service features of the Council's website. Integration of the Council's website with *fixmystreet.com* and the use of web forms means that residents are more able to engage with the Council at a time that suits them. Conversely, there has been increased call centre activity for Registrars and Housing Benefit enquires. This may be due to recent changes to the Housing Benefit system and marriage legislation, but also reflects the more traditional contact preferences of the communities using these services.

Mosaic profiling of customer data indicates that households found in the west of the borough – where the majority of population growth and migration is taking place – have a lower inclination to use self-service tools.¹¹ Barnet's more commonly found Mosaic Groups are much more receptive to new methods of engagement over traditional means.

Channel shift will be easier to achieve for service areas whose main customers (or a large proportion of them) have a preference to using self-service tools, for example Council Tax and Parking.

What do customers think?

During spring 2011, local public services conducted a **Residents Perception Survey** to improve understanding of the opinions and priorities of local people.¹² The local services with which customers are **most satisfied** are refuse collection (81 per cent), street lighting (75 per cent), recycling facilities (73 per cent), doorstep recycling (72 per cent) and public transport (64 per cent). Just over half of respondents (55 per cent) cited that they were satisfied with the service they received when contacting the Council. Conversely, repairs of roads received the **most critical** assessment from respondents (51 per cent), followed by parking services (44 per cent) and quality of pavements (43 per cent).

Compared to 2007-08, six service areas have experienced a downward trend in satisfaction ratings: repairs of roads (-25 per cent); quality of pavements (-11 per cent); collection of Council tax (-8 per cent); social services for children's

¹¹ Mosaic is a geo-demographic tool which uses modelled data to profile populations into character Groups, allowing the development of services that reflect the preferences and needs of a given community.

¹² This survey took the form of 2,400 telephone interviews across a demographically representative sample. Further information on the methodology and findings of the consultation can be found online at <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>.

and families (-6 per cent); parking services (-5 per cent) and social services for adults (-4 per cent).¹³

What do residents care about?

According to the latest Residents Perception Survey, the issues that are of **most concern** to Barnet residents are:

- Condition of roads and pavements (31 per cent)
- Crime (29 per cent)
- The economy – rising prices / interest rates, lack of jobs (27 per cent / 24 per cent).

Concern about Crime is a recurring theme for Barnet's residents as seen in the previous Place Survey (2008-09), but the economic concerns are significantly elevated this time around reflecting the change in national consciousness. The roads and pavements option was introduced for the first time in this survey, so trend analysis is not yet available.

Participation and localism

Barnet residents feel less involved in Council decision-making than residents of other London boroughs (39 per cent versus 50 per cent) and 60 per cent of citizens believe that the Council does not listen to their concerns. However, a greater proportion of residents are satisfied with opportunities for participation than in previous years (50 per cent versus 29 per cent in 2008-09).¹⁴

The **local blogging community** has expanded during 2010-11. In the last six months, almost 1,000 stories about Barnet have been posted on local blogs, and roughly 300 **tweets** make reference to Barnet (the Council, the place or other areas within the borough) every day.¹⁵

An active and involved citizenry should be regarded as a valuable asset. The challenge for the Council and its partners is how to engage productively with residents to develop a balanced dialogue using new channels.

¹³ Comparing the 2010/11 Residents Perception Survey to the 2008/9 Place Survey

¹⁴ Residents Perception Survey 2010/11

¹⁵ Hyp3rlocal: <http://tr3ndy.ixishosting.co.uk/>

A successful London suburb

Housing capacity and population change

Barnet's population over the next decade is in part a direct consequence of the extensive regeneration programme being conducted across the borough. There are currently five major redevelopment sites within Barnet as well as the new Town Centre project at Brent Cross, Cricklewood.

Scheduled to be completed by 2026, these combined projects expect to deliver an additional **28,500 homes** within the borough and the new town centre at Brent Cross Cricklewood will create of over **22,500 new jobs**.

Assuming current timescales are met, by 2012, regeneration will have delivered 194 new homes in **West Hendon**, of which 43 will be affordable. By 2016, 795 new homes will have been completed in **Grahame Park** – a net gain of 598 new homes in Grahame Park, of which 8.4 per cent will be affordable. By March 2017, all units will have been built in **Stonegrove and Spur Road**, of which 479 will be affordable – a net increase of 396 properties.

Housing structure and demand

The Department for Communities and Local Government have produced some basic long-term projections for household structure and size.¹⁶ These suggest a 69 per cent (+33,000) increase in the number of **single person households** in Barnet by 2033, echoing the trend across London.¹⁷ This means that by 2033 43 per cent of all Barnet households are expected be occupied by single persons, compared to just 25 per cent in 2008.

However, the fastest growing household type is **Lone Parents**, with 82 per cent more households of this type projected by 2033 (+9,000), resulting in a rise from 8 per cent to 11 per cent of all households between 2008 and 2033. London is already proportionally over represented in this category and the projected rise, if correct, will make it even harder to reduce the proportion of children living in poverty in London.

Whilst there is a total increase of 12 per cent in households composed of a **couple with and without other adults**, these types are diminishing in their overall proportion (from 48 per cent to 39 per cent).

As a result of these changes, the **average household size** is projected to fall, both nationally and in London. Starting from 2.33 at 2008 in both England and London the fall in England is faster than projected for London, reaching 2.16 by 2033 compared with 2.19 in London. This difference is largely a function of London's population having relatively fewer persons over retirement age; a group that tends to live in smaller households.

¹⁶ DCLG, 2008-based household projections to 2033 for England and the regions, published 26 November 2010. Available to download from <http://data.london.gov.uk>

¹⁷ Projections with shorter horizons are not available.

Barnet's recent housing developments differ from the **housing stock** historically found within the borough; over 80 per cent of new homes in Barnet are flats and of these less than ten per cent have three or more bedrooms.¹⁸ New developments are being marketed at a younger cohort of individuals than those typically found within the borough. The focus is on small apartment style living with good amenities for shops and entertainment, along with strong transport infrastructure – in short, painting Barnet as ideal **commuter territory** for professionals working in central London or asset rich older people looking to downsize to a high-status apartment.

However, anecdotal insight has revealed that due to the high cost of housing in Barnet, many of these single person flats have in fact been bought by couples and young families, placing unexpected burden on local amenities such as schools. Likewise, there is on-going demand for social housing capable of accommodating larger, multi-generational families. There are some programmes in place to encourage housing associations and disadvantaged residents to benefit from these new developments, but the reality is we have little control who buys the new stock. The risk is that new houses intended to raise existing residents out of poor conditions will be snapped up by others, keeping housing out of the reach of the average resident and alienating those displaced by the regeneration programme.

The other factor to be considered is the impact of the Government's proposed **changes to Housing Benefit** (including the cap on rent allowance). It is hard to forecast the exact scale of this impact but there is a risk that the local housing service may face pressure for accommodation from those no longer able to afford housing in the central boroughs.

Changes to national planning policy

Following the 2011 Budget, the Government is consulting on simplifications to the process for **converting commercial properties for residential use**. If these changes go ahead, it may create additional housing stock to meet local housing demand but could also impact Council revenues from planning charges and the availability of affordable commercial premises for local businesses.

Although the national economy remains weak, Barnet has a history of **entrepreneurialism and enterprise** which needs commercial space to grow. As if to illustrate this reality, after a 2.8 per cent fall in the number of active businesses at the start of the recession (2005 compared to 2007), there was a 4.3 per cent increase in new start-ups 2007-8.¹⁹ While additional housing capacity promises to provide wealth to some and homes to others, there is a risk that overzealous commercial to residential conversions could hinder the

¹⁸ LDF Annual Monitoring Report, 2010

¹⁹ ONS, Business Demography 2009: Count of Active Businesses, 2004-8

local economy, forcing new businesses and their benefits over the border into other boroughs.

Employment and economy

In the year to September 2010, 69.2 per cent of the Barnet population was in **employment** – slightly above the London average (68.0 per cent) and just below the national average (70.4 per cent). Five years earlier, in the year to September 2005, employment in Barnet was marginally higher at 70.4 per cent, against 68.4 per cent in London and 72.8 per cent nationally. During that same period, the rate of self-employment has risen from 13.6 per cent in 2005 to 15.9 per cent in 2010 – the highest rate in five years. Across the capital, **self-employment** has stayed largely unchanged at 10.8 per cent in 2010, up from 10.6 per cent in 2005.

In terms of **occupations** of local workers, the majority of residents are employed as *professionals* (including senior and associate professionals). This group represents 58.0 per cent of local workers, higher than the London and national averages. The proportion of *senior managers and professionals* locally has fallen since 2005 (from 20.6 per cent to 15.1 per cent), but ordinary professionals have seen a corresponding increase from 19.4 per cent in the year to September 2005 to 16.4 per cent in the year to September 2010.²⁰ This shift towards more junior professionals is also reflected in the displacement of **affluent senior executives** by younger, **educated high-achievers** as Barnet's dominant Mosaic Group.²¹

By contrast, latest **unemployment** figures (that is to say, people actively but unsuccessfully seeking work) reveal that a greater proportion of Barnet's population are struggling to find work than almost any time in the last half decade. In the year to September 2010, 7.4 per cent of the local population was believed to be unemployed – below the London average (8.9 per cent) but up from the equivalent period in 2005, when local unemployment stood at 6.7 per cent.²² Meanwhile, the proportion of Barnet residents employed in *elementary occupations* (that is to say, the most basic positions) almost doubled between 2005 and 2010 (3.8 per cent against 6.4 per cent).²³

The median **household income** in Barnet is £36,200 (2011), almost £2,800 above the London median of £33,400.²⁴ Since 2006, household income in Barnet has increased faster than the London average – by 28 per cent (£7,900) compared to 18 per cent (£5,200). In 2011, 5.3 per cent of local households received incomes of £100,000 or more, compared to 3.8 per cent in 2008.

²⁰ NOMIS, ONS Annual Population Survey

²¹ Experian, Mosaic Public Sector 2010 (legacy)

²² NOMIS, ONS Annual Population Survey

²³ NOMIS, ONS Annual Population Survey

²⁴ CACI Paycheck Data, unequalised. Median income used for comparability to GLA Intelligence outputs.

However, there has also been a recent rise in households earning £5,000 to £15,000.²⁵

Is the economic footprint of town centres changing?

Some of Barnet's town centres have been significantly affected by the recession, with a particular rise in **retail vacancies** in Edgware, Brent Street (Hendon) and New Barnet (2003-10).²⁶ Elsewhere in the borough, restaurants, cafes (A2) and financial service outlets (A3) have expanded at the expense of traditional retailers (A1).²⁷ This may be explained in part by the ongoing popularity of large shopping centres like Brent Cross and Westfield, as well as the rise of internet shopping.

There may be opportunities for improving the economic vitality of Barnet's town centres through additional investment available via the **London Town Centre Renewal Initiative**. This £50m Mayor of London project aims to redistribute the direct economic advantages that boroughs hosting the 2012 Olympic Games and new CrossRail stations will receive, to those parts of London benefiting less directly from them. It will aim to support the improvement of current local businesses districts, and the develop local retail, leisure, culture and arts provision for the community.

Sustainability and Waste

Recycling rates in Barnet are marginally higher than the London average; in 2009-10 Barnet's recycling rate was **33 per cent**, ranking it 14th in London and one per cent higher than the regional average. While Barnet continues to have slightly higher recycling rates than most neighbouring boroughs, Harrow achieved a 46 per cent recycling rate last year.

While recycling rates have seen a vast improvement in the past ten years, rising from eight per cent in 2001-2 to 33 per cent in 2009-10, much of the success behind the increase can be put down to providing new recycling opportunities. The introduction of tin can and green waste recycling in 2001 and compulsory recycling of bottles and cans introduced in 2006 both provided opportunities to increase the percentage of recycled waste.

Developing local infrastructure

With the vast amount of redevelopment that is taking place within the borough, there is an expectation that traffic and number of vehicles on the road will also increase. Current trouble spots and areas surrounding redevelopment sites are being reviewed to ensure that Barnet keeps moving. Over the next five years there will be major **junction improvement works** taking place in and around Colindale and Graham Park, a full redesign of Henley's Corner and many more junctions around the borough where peak time congestion is already causing problems.

²⁵ A more detailed report on Barnet's local economy can be found in *Barnet Economic Insight*, available online shortly.

²⁶ PHR, Barnet town centre survey analysis, August 2010

²⁷ PHR, Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report, 2009/10

A number of public transport projects are underway, with the **Northern line** undertaking improvements which will allow increased capacity and speed of service, and also to the Thameslink line where improvements will allow more trains per hour. **Bus routes** will be modified to deliver service to new areas and station redesigns will provide better access and facilities. These projects will be vital to ensure sufficient transport links are provided as pressure will be increased from growth of Brent Cross and Colindale areas.

Increased use of **utilities** is to be expected as more homes are built, and ensuring that demand can be met is a critical part of large planning applications. Mill Hill East will require significant improvements to the surrounding gas, electricity and water infrastructure. Other services will continue to be improved across the borough, notably the Installation of **Superfast Broadband** by BT and Virgin Media. This resource will enable Barnet to remain competitive for Small and Medium sized enterprises, as well as keeping up with demands of homeowners. The Council will also aim to double the number of small-scale domestic/local **electricity generation** by 2020 (to 15GW nationally).

Strong and safe communities for all

Barnet is regarded as a safe borough to live in; it currently has the ninth lowest level of reported crime in London and the total reported crime per capita has fallen by 20 per cent over the past ten years.²⁸ Despite this downward trend however, some aspects of crime continue to grow and with a projected growth in population and a reduced budget, there are several strategic facing the Council and its partners over the coming years.

The 2011 **Safer Communities Strategy** outlines that the Council and its partners will continue to aim to reduce the total number of offences within the borough, as well as focus on the crimes that are most damaging to the community and have greatest impact individuals, namely:

- Acquisitive crime with a focus on Residential Burglary
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violent Crime with a focus on Domestic Violence.

Crime trends

In the last financial year overall crime in Barnet has remained level (April 2009 - March 2010). However, this masks changes within individual crime types. Of greatest concern is **Residential Burglary**, which is at a five year high and now represents 11.6 per cent of recorded offences in Barnet (Total Notifiable Offences, TNO) compared to approximately 10 per cent in the two years prior and 8 per cent during 2006-07 and 2005-06.

Other crime types have seen significant **proportional increases** in the last 12 months. However the **actual** numbers of these offences are relatively minimal:

- Rape (164.1 per cent, 39 offences last year to 103 this year) – 0.4 per cent of total crime
- Knife crime (19.1 per cent, 340 offences last year to 405 this) – 1.5 per cent of total crime
- Other serious sexual offences (17.4 per cent, 115 offences last year to 135 this).

The **largest reductions** in reported crimes were for:

- Hate crime (-31.8 per cent reduction last year, 448 offences down to 298)
- Most serious violence offences (-29.3 per cent reduction, 290 offences down to 205)
- Theft of Motor Vehicles (-17.1 per cent reduction, 1,006 offences down to 834).

In terms of volume of reported offences, theft of motor vehicles (now only 3 per cent of Barnet offences), thefts from motor vehicles (now only 11.4 per

²⁸ Safer Communities Strategy 2011 Draft document currently undergoing departmental review

cent of Barnet offences compared to 13 per cent the previous year), **Domestic Violence** offences (now only 5 per cent of Barnet offences) and Racist offences (1 per cent of Barnet offences) are at a five year low.²⁹ However, there is concern that in the case of Domestic Violence, this low represents **under reporting**, rather than actual decline so remains a significant concern for local safety.

Children and Young People

The **peak victim age** in Barnet is for individuals aged between 13 and 18 years old, with the majority of instances relating to assault and robbery. The risk of becoming a victim of crime as a younger individual is twice that of people in their 30s and for some offence types the victimisation rate is even greater – a male aged 13 to 18 years is around 12 times more likely to be robbed than a male in his 30s.³⁰

Furthermore, the **peak age for offenders** in Barnet is for 16 to 22 years old and there has been a number of emerging gangs and youth peer groups involved in robbery. This has repercussions for long term crime prevention; many repeat offenders are drawn into relatively low level crime and anti-social behaviour from an early age. If their offending is not checked there is a risk they progress into being more serious offenders who are part of organised criminal networks. **Early intervention** will be important in making sure that many of these young offenders do not continue to become entrenched in crime.

As the population of young people is set to increase and if these trends are set to continue, we can expect there to be higher numbers of individuals becoming both offenders and victims over the coming years.

Perceptions of Safety

Preliminary results from the 2010-11 Residents Perception Survey suggest that public concern about anti-social behaviour has fallen, particularly in relation to 'teenagers hanging around the streets'. However, with a significant cohort of local boys entering their teenage years over the coming half decade (+9.8 per cent aged 10-14) it is possible that this positive trend will reverse. This spike in teenagers is particularly significant in West Hendon (+23.4 per cent), Edgware (+15.9 per cent) and Finchley Church End (+12.7 per cent), where the increases are above both the ward and borough growth rates.

Safeguarding

More children are being brought to the attention of **children's social services** and are subsequently being assessed to determine if they are in need or at risk and the services they may require. Between July and September 2010, Barnet Children's Service received 842 referrals, carried out 706 initial assessments and 183 core assessments. This was almost twice the number of referrals and initial assessments, and six and half times as many core assessments as during that

²⁹ Barnet Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Strategic Assessment, 2010 refresh

³⁰ Barnet Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Assessment 2010

same quarter in 2006.³¹ Likewise, referrals into the **Adults Safeguarding Team** have increased steadily over the last few years, from 289 in 2007-08 to 420 in 2009/10, reflecting focused efforts to raise awareness of the service and improve procedures.³²

The increase in children's social care activity is placing increasing pressure on resources. More assessments are required, and there has been a significant increase in the number of care proceedings. A Family Justice Review is currently underway, which may help to address some of the weaknesses in the current court system.

As health and social care services come under increasing pressure (due to rising demand and falling resources), it will be essential that local public services continue to invest in protecting the most vulnerable residents against harm.

Barnet's Big Society

72 per cent of residents feel a strong **sense of belonging** to their local neighbourhood – significantly more than in 2008/09 (57 per cent, +15 per cent). However, this sense of belonging is attached more to their immediate neighbourhood than the wider borough of Barnet (64 per cent, - 8 per cent).³³

Nearly two thirds of respondents (64 per cent) agree that people pull together to help improve their local area and in the last twelve months around a quarter of respondents (24 per cent) say they have got together with others to help improve their local area. CommUNITY Barnet has identified around 1,000 local **community and faith-based organisations** which are active in Barnet's Big Society, fuelled by 40,000 local volunteers.³⁴ Evidence shows that new organisations are springing up all the time, especially among Barnet's new communities.

Barnet has already begun the process of partnering with the third sector to prototype innovative **Big Society solutions**, including the Community Coaches Programme, PledgeBank and the Strawberry Vale interns funding through Connecting Communities. Over the coming years, we need to build on these small steps to develop models that enable residents to be more independent thereby delivering lasting social change, not simply social services. One tool in our efforts to achieve this will be the creation of the **Barnet Innovation Bank**, which is offering £600,000 over the next three years to support the development of innovative Big Society solutions.

With an acknowledged growth in the older population, there will be an increasing number of **retired professionals**. This represents an opportunity to

³¹ Barnet Children and Young People Profile 2010

³² JSNA 2011

³³ Residents Perception Survey 2010/11. The survey is undergoing a QA process and results are not final

³⁴ CommUNITY Barnet, On Your Doorstep, 2010

harness the experience and capacity of this group to support the development of local civil society.

Independent and healthy living

Barnet residents enjoy better than average health and higher life expectancy. However, this experience is not universal across the borough and there is a seven year difference in life expectancy between the most deprived and most affluent areas. Moreover, with a growing population, limited resources and changes planned in the provision of health services, there are a number of challenges facing Barnet. Further details can be found in the [2011 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#).

Implications of demographic change

Barnet's rising local population (especially at the youngest and oldest extremes) will place pressure on all health and social care services, with a number of implications for health and wellbeing.

The projected increase in children, especially **5 to 9 year olds** will place demands on health, social care and education services. In addition to the general increase in children, improved survival rates also means that there will be more children with complex needs which need supporting.

45-64 year olds – another expanding age group – are most at risk of developing long-term conditions, including obesity, raised cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke and heart failure.

While many **older people** are living independent lives, many will be dependent on care provided by family or public services. Over the next five years, there will be 3,250 more residents aged over 65 (+7.4 per cent) and 783 more residents aged over 85 (+11.3 per cent). Both of these increases are above the average growth rate (5.5 per cent). In addition to the traditional health risks of old age, **dementia** is a particular issue that we can expect to see increase in prevalence as more people live into old age.

Different communities have differing health needs and susceptibilities. Over the coming years, Barnet is forecast to become **increasingly diverse** (from 33.1 per cent non-White in 2011 to 35.0 per cent in 2016), creating new and complex health needs.

Increases in the total population and improvement in medical expertise means that the number of residents with **complex needs** is likely to increase over the coming years. There are an estimated 4,600 people ages 18-64 in Barnet with a **serious physical disability**, of which 1,700 are predicted to have a serious personal care disability. By 2015 this group is estimated to increase by around five per cent (in line with total population growth). By contrast, the number of residents over 65 with serious physical disabilities is forecast to increase by ten per cent over the same period – twice the average rate of growth.

Additionally, there are an estimated 5,360 residents aged 18-64 with a **learning disability** in Barnet. People with learning disabilities are more likely to have significant health risks and major health problems, and are more likely to be exposed to poverty, poor housing conditions, unemployment, social disconnectedness and discrimination. However, evidence shows that these vulnerable residents also fail to receive appropriate screening and advice for other health and lifestyle conditions. Improved survival, rising birth rates and growth among communities at higher risk of learning disabilities all mean that this is likely to be an area of growing need locally.

Specific health trends

While medical expertise continues to advance, some health issues remain significant obstacles. These may be exacerbated by changes in lifestyle, the economic climate and the local population profile.

The incidence of **cancers** is showing a downward trend in Barnet. However we should not be complacent as this remains a significant health issue and as life expectancy and the number of older people increases, so the number of cancers diagnosed locally each year is likely to increase. Although mortality remains relatively low, improving take-up of **screening** (particularly breast screening) could ensure that more cancers are identified and treated earlier, improving outcomes for residents.

In 2009-10, 3,650 people were registered as having **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** (COPD) on GP lists in Barnet. Although death rates from COPD are generally falling, it is estimated that there are as many undiagnosed cases as there are diagnosed. A challenge for the coming years is how to identify more incidences of COPD and sooner, thus reducing the severity of its impact on the patient and public services.

Reductions in smoking and improvements in treatments for heart attack and stroke mean that death rates from **cardiovascular disease** (CVD) have improved in recent years and prevalence is lower in Barnet than nationally. However, the problem of **obesity** and the growth in Barnet's middle aged population mean that we can expect more people to be at risk of CVD than before. Without active steps to help people to reduce lifestyle risks then the downward trend in death rates is likely to reverse.

Almost 25,000 Barnet residents aged 18 plus are **obese**. Although this represents a lower prevalence than nationally (6.8 per cent versus 24.5 per cent) it is still a significant number, especially considering that those who are obese are at greater risk of premature death and are more likely to suffer from conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, cancers, musculoskeletal diseases, infertility and respiratory disorders. Among the younger population, obesity is more of an issue, with 17.7 per cent of Barnet children Year 6 considered obese in 2009/10 and 10.7 per cent of Reception

classes. Tackling obesity is an important step towards slowing the rising prevalence of diabetes locally.

Nationally and locally, the prevalence of poor **mental health** is numerically significant but often overlooked; during 2009-10, there were almost 23,000 residents suffering from depression recorded on local GP lists. Even taking death from suicide into account, people suffering from poor mental health tend to have poor physical health and die young. Poor mental health is also associated with personal and social problems, such as someone's ability to go to work and stay in employment. In Barnet, almost half of all Incapacity Benefit claimants are receiving benefit due to mental health issues (4,040 people). With ongoing economic uncertainty and changes to the benefit system, it is important that mental health is adequately understood and managed.

Independence

With the increased pressures from a burgeoning population and reduced financial resources, it will be essential to **enable more people to manage their own health** responsibly.

Immunisation is second only to a clean drinking water supply as a way of improving and maintaining the health of the population. Take-up of the MMR vaccine has increased in recent years following some ten years of significantly low take-up. Among adults, take-up of the flu vaccine is equally important but has seen a decrease in recent years. Promoting the importance of immunisations through schools, community and faith groups might support improved vaccination rates going forward.

With the rate of alcohol related admissions to local hospitals more than doubling between 2004-05 and 2009-10, **alcohol misuse** is an expensive habit for both the misuser and public services. Educating the public about responsible consumption would reduce the cost and social burden on the health, social care and criminal justice systems.

Tobacco use is the most important preventable risk factor for death from cancer and cardiovascular disease, making **smoking cessation** the most significant *secondary* disease prevention measure. Even though Barnet's smoking prevalence is one of the lowest in London, there remain some 62,300 smokers in the borough. Supporting pregnant mothers to stop smoking is especially important, as **smoking during pregnancy** is estimated to contribute to 40 per cent of all infant deaths, a 12.5 per cent increased risk of a premature birth and a 26.3 per cent increased risk of intrauterine growth restriction.

Commissioning informed by insight

In addition to helping residents improve their own health, there are several ways that we can ensure that our limited resources are best used. In a time of financial shortage, it will simply not be possible to meet every demand on the

health and social care services. In light of this, it will be essential to **prioritise need and manage demand**. Services must be commissioned based on evidence to tackle the areas of greatest need and where the investment is most cost effective – for example the pockets of deprivation. In most cases, **identifying problems early** can reduce the severity and burden of the problem on both the individual and the state.

In light of this there should be a continued, reinvigorated emphasis on prevention. Where possible, this preventative action may be delivered through **innovative solutions** which tackle the underlying causes of health and wellbeing problems in partnership with the community and faith sector. Increasing choice for residents around their care, for example through the use of personal budgets is likely to become more important. This was a key area for development identified in the Disability and Special Education Needs green paper (March 2011).

Investing in children, young people and their families

Increasing birth rates

Over the past ten years the number of annual births in Barnet has increased by 28 per cent - there are now close to **5,300 live births** in the borough each year. This rate of increase is far higher than found in other London boroughs, where numbers of newborns have risen by only 23 per cent and nationally where numbers born have increased by 17 per cent.³⁵

Interestingly, while the numbers of births has increased faster than London, the actual birth rate of the borough (the number of births per 1,000 people) is still at a similar level; Barnet's General Fertility Rate is 70.4, whereas London's is 69.6.

The number of **under 10s** in the borough in 2011 is estimated at 47,000 individuals, making up 13 per cent of the borough's total population. As this group ages we can expect increased pressure on Council and other public services, and we are already experiencing increased pressure on reception and primary **school places**. The annual number of children in Barnet **primary schools** (including nursery classes in these schools) had been fairly constant at around 26,000 per year until 2007, but by 2010 the population of primary school places had risen by an additional 1,200 individuals, or five per cent overall.³⁶ Meanwhile, the population in local **Reception classes** has grown by 16 per cent since 2006/7. The latest projections based on births, migration trends and regeneration plans for the borough show that demand for primary school places will continue to increase, and a programme of investment is being developed to ensure that there is sufficient space in our primary schools to accommodate these children.

Over the same time period, **secondary school populations** have only increased by some 300 places. Although it may reasonably be expected that not all children in the local school system today will remain in Barnet throughout their education, we can expect to see an impact on secondary school populations as this younger cohort enters the first stages of secondary education. Current projections indicate that additional Year 7 places will be required by September 2015. There is likely to be further demand for education in sixth forms and colleges as the participation age (the age until which young people must be in education or training) is due to rise to 17 by 2013 and to 18 by 2015.

Successes and attainment

The number of individuals obtaining good passes for their GCSEs in Barnet is continuing to increase each year; In 2010, 66 per cent of Barnet students

³⁵ Office for National Statistics Birth Statistics: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408>

³⁶ Profile of Children and Young People in Barnet, November 2010

obtained 5 GCSEs at A*-C (including English and Maths), higher than both national rates and those of statistical neighbours.

Children who typically do less well with these forms of assessment also do significantly better in Barnet than elsewhere:

- 21 per cent of children with **Special Educational Need** achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C compared with only 15 per cent nationally³⁷
- 34 per cent of children receiving **free school meals** achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C compared with only 27 per cent nationally.³⁸

Although those children and young people who may require more support achieve significantly higher than national averages, it remains a challenge to narrow the attainment gap between these children and their higher-achieving peers in Barnet schools.

Since 2005 there has been a steady increase in the percentage of pupils who speak **English as an additional language** in Barnet schools; 43 per cent of pupils in primary schools and 39 per cent of those in secondary schools speak another language at home.³⁹ Despite this, reading ages for Key Stage One children in the borough are similar to those found across London and nationally. The recent **Libraries Review** supports the view that providing excellent facilities for early stages literacy and reading skills is a priority and funding will continue to support early stage learning.

Further and Higher Education

The number of students studying at **Middlesex University** is increasing, with 11 per cent growth between 2007 and 2009 across their London campuses. As part of the deficit reduction plan, the Government has placed caps on undergraduate admissions, but it is not known for how long these limits will last. As a result, it is hard to forecast the future student population. However, plans to consolidate Middlesex University's facilities into the borough will concentrate the existing student population, even if it does not expand significantly over the coming years. Likewise, the university's commitment to offering students at its overseas campuses a season in London will continue to inform the multi-ethnic character of Barnet.

Between 2009-10 and the current enrolment for 2011-12, the student population at **Barnet College** expanded by just over 4 per cent. This includes a 40 per cent increase (+2,000) among students aged 16 to 18 and an 11 per cent (-1,300) fall in students over 18.

Fostering and children in need

As at March 2010, just over 2,000 children in Barnet were considered '**children in need**' (requiring services under section 17 of the Children Act 1989). This is

³⁷ National Indicator 105 Special Educational Needs 2009

³⁸ National Indicator 102 Free school meals 2009

³⁹ School Census, January 2010

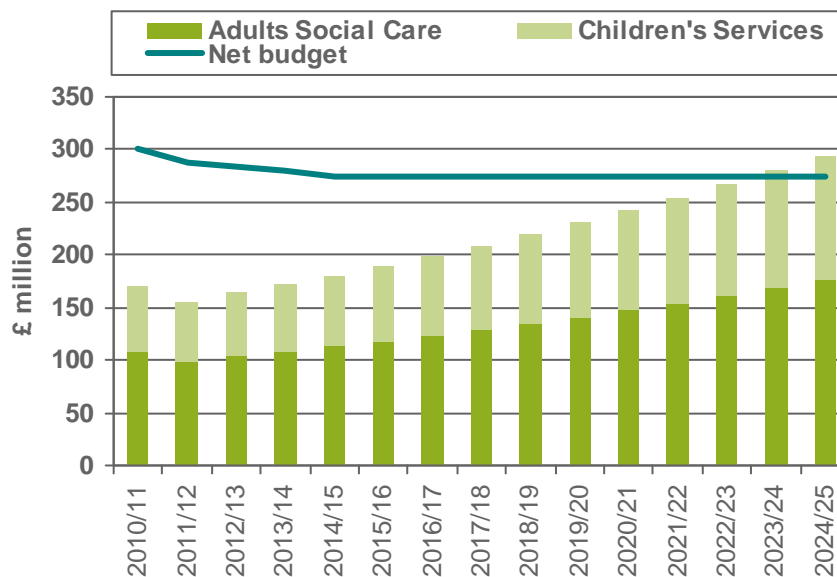
usually because they have additional needs requiring integrated targeted support, for example there may be a high risk of family breakdown. Over 300 children are currently in care of the local authority.

As is the case nationally, Barnet finds it a constant challenge to recruit enough **foster carers** to support the children that enter into its care. This means that some children have to be placed out of borough with other care organisations. This is difficult for the children, who may be placed far away from social and other ties, and it is also a costly solution; placing a child outside of the borough requires almost twice the maintenance allowance of housing them with a Barnet family.

With an increasing young population and a sustained rise in the numbers being referred to children's social services, there is a high possibility that the number of children taken into care may also continue to rise in the coming years. In order to help reduce this possibility, the Children's Service is investing in **early intervention and prevention** to improve the identification of those at risk and work with families to address problems before they escalate. There has also been an increased national focus on early intervention and prevention, with Graham Allen review (January 2011), which emphasised the importance of the early years and evidence-based early intervention programmes.

Conclusions

Three key themes emerge from this review. Firstly, there is an urgent need to identify ways to **mitigate the cost pressures** related to the rising child and older adult populations. Based on a crude projection, if current spend on these areas rises in line with population growth and overall budgets are reduced in line with central government deficit reduction plans, the Council will have no money for any other services by 2023/4.⁴⁰



The second key theme is to **get the basics right**, that is to say, understanding what our residents want. We need to get our service delivery in order and ensuring that we are concentrating our limited resources on issues that are of greatest concern to citizens. In the language of One Barnet, this is about valuing our residents' time highly enough that we invest our time making accessing services as simple and pain-free as possible. This is not all about flashy new websites and gadgets – boring but broken processes need attention too.

The third and final theme is about **managing growth to keep Barnet successful**. If the second theme is about residents want, this one is about what the community needs. With a rising population, effective demand management will be vital. In a time of financial constraint, this is likely to require agile and innovative solutions delivered in collaboration between partners and the third sector. Courage and organisational humility will be essential for us all to work better together as we seek to prototype new models of service delivery, learn from each other's strengths, and make difficult decisions about the future of local public services.

⁴⁰ The Insight Unit are collaborating with Finance to develop a more detailed projection for use in discussion with the Treasury.

Further reading

Sustainable Community Strategy

<http://www.barnet.gov.uk/community-strategy>

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Health and Social Care)

http://engage.barnet.gov.uk/consultation-team/jsna2011/consult_view

<http://www.barnet.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment>

Safer Community Strategy

<http://www.barnet.gov.uk/community-safety>

Children and Young People's Profile

<http://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-young-people-profile-2010.pdf>

Local Development Framework, Annual Monitoring Report

<http://www.barnet.gov.uk/annual-monitoring-report>

On Your Doorstep (Report on the Third Sector in Barnet)

http://www.communitybarnet.org.uk/data/files/oyd_master_file.pdf

Residents Perception Survey, 2010-11

http://engage.barnet.gov.uk/consultation-team/residents_perception_survey/consult_view