



# Voluntary Sector Prevention Services

## What we would like to see in the market

Our information shows that the Council is increasingly referring more people for community services such as housing support, employment support, advice, help with shopping and gardening and for social activity. However, we may not know enough about the benefits for those individuals or if the support meets their needs in a way that genuinely promotes their independence.

In 2013/14 and 2014/15 we will re-commission the remaining portfolio of voluntary sector services. These include:

- Preventative stroke and dementia services
- Services for people with a physical or sensory impairment
- Wellbeing services -including support to access mental health services and low level talking therapies
- Floating support services
- Information and advice services
- Learning Disability Support services

We will also support the voluntary sector's ambition to work more closely together through networks and partnerships. Some areas that the voluntary sector will be looking to develop are as follows:

- **Working in partnership-** Adults and Communities at Barnet Council are developing strategic relationships with a small number of providers of prevention services. These lead providers will work with other sub-contractors to provide support at a neighbourhood level. All providers need accessible and suitable community premises. We are encouraging all providers to work together
- **Assets-** all organisations require places to meet and places to hold drop-in sessions. CommUNITY Barnet is leading on mapping assets across the borough and understand the potential for organisations to co-locate.
- **Volunteers-** all services make the most of the contributions of volunteers. Organisations can support one another to recruit and support volunteering opportunities. CommUNITY Barnet also have an expert volunteer scheme to offer support to local organisations e.g. accountancy, governance support.
- **Sharing experience and best practice-** organisations can support one another with training and policy, IT and social media, sharing of neighbourhood activities,

events and practical support, support with fundraising techniques and support to understand commissioning and procurement processes

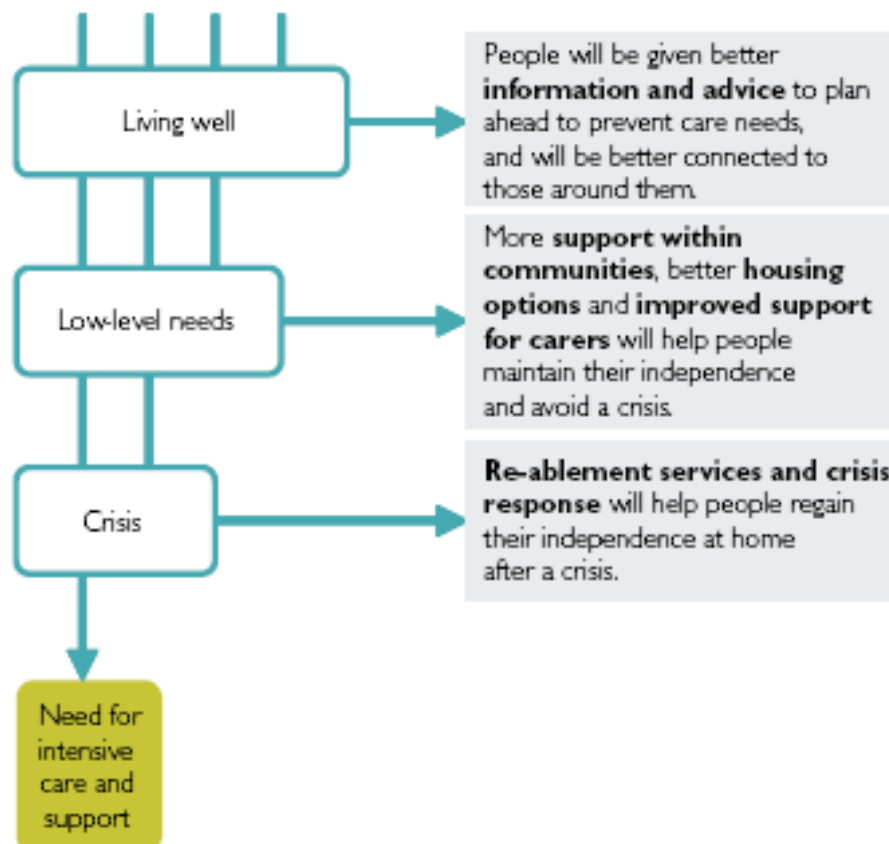
## What are prevention services?

A strong focus on health and wellbeing is essential if we are to live within our means. In line with most local authorities, we need think about how we ensure availability of high quality services with a significant reduction in funding from the public purse. Changing demographics means there is also a growing demand for social care services at a time when public spending is being reduced.

Preventative services aim to tackle the main reasons for social care need:

- Poor or inappropriate housing and environment
- Health, mobility and rehabilitation problems
- Lack or breakdown of informal care/ stress on carers
- Social reasons, loneliness, fear of crime, abuse.

The **new system** will promote wellbeing and independence at all stages to reduce the risk of people reaching a crisis point, and so improve their lives



## **Current market position**

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In Barnet there are a range of services to promote people's independence, health and well-being. There are some well-established services which do not need to be accessed through adult social services, often provided by voluntary organisations in the borough. These support people with lower/medium level needs and play an important role in ensuring that there is appropriate support for vulnerable people living within the borough. Preventative services of this type tend to be open to all. Some services may charge a small fee to help cover their costs.

Many organisations work without support from the council or other statutory services. CommUNITY Barnet (the umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector in Barnet) found over 800 organisations active locally.

The council has 5 lead provider arrangements for preventative services:

- **Barnet Centre for Independent Living**- delivering information, advice, advocacy on an outreach basis
- **Working for You, led by Dimensions**-delivering practical support to people with a Learning Disability on an outreach basis
- **Barnet Carers' Centre**-delivering assessment and breaks service, practical and emotional support to carers at a neighbourhood level
- **Eclipse, led by Richmond Fellowship**- providing targeted support to people recovering from mental ill health, peer support and mental health awareness raising activities
- **Older Adult's Neighbourhood model led by Age UK Barnet** – providing a network of neighbourhood level activities, events and practical support for older people

The Appendix at the end of this factsheet describes some of the work these organisations are doing working within the principles of the Prevention Framework, including:

- Achievement of savings through efficiencies that avoid or minimise the impact on service users, for example by reducing back-office expenditure and overhead costs
- Greater emphasis on services that are able to achieve good outcomes by providing practical support for short-term periods rather than support which is provided long-term or indefinitely
- Joining up similar services so that they are better able to respond to the common needs of different customer groups
- Increased use of volunteers and other social capital, both in supporting service users directly and in service management and administration

- Innovation in enabling people and communities to define and find solutions to their own support and well-being needs
- Development of a user-led market that provides affordable services for direct purchase by Personal Budget holders as well as by people who do not qualify for support under Adult Social Services' eligibility criteria

## Strategic relevance

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Transforming social care requires a shift in practice and investment that will support activities that reduce the impact of barriers experienced by people with disabilities and ill-health and to improve social well-being. This includes activities that build up and grow personal and physical resilience, develop and maintain social networks, increase skills and employment opportunities, encourage healthy lifestyles and support families and friends who provide care.

Part of this shift needs to be towards supporting communities (defined by geography, background or interests) to build up their own capacity and resilience. In practical terms this means self-help initiatives, volunteer support networks, local community organisations offering assistance and non-traditional support. A key focus also covers preventative services that help people maintain their independence and prevent or delay the need for more intensive services in the future. Services such as Telecare enable older people to retain their independence for as long as possible allowing users to maintain their quality of life and to reduce the increasing pressure on local authority and NHS budgets.

The preventative vision is a key theme running through current government and local care and health strategies<sup>1</sup>.

As some voluntary sector organisations had received funding from the council over a long period of time a review of prevention concluded that change was necessary to ensure delivery of ambitions and priorities.

## Key contacts

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- [adults.commissioning@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:adults.commissioning@barnet.gov.uk) for queries relating to: the provision or future plans, de-registration or new opportunities relating to assets or capital funding.
- Barnet's [Social Care Connect](#) online directory to market your services online to people who fund their own care or to search for available local providers
- [Barnet Centre for Independent Living](http://www.barnetcil.org.uk) <http://www.barnetcil.org.uk> to get information, advice, advocacy, brokerage and support or if you are a provider to inform independent support planners about your services

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<sup>1</sup> JSNAOpCit 2011

## Useful resources

There are a number of resources below for organisations looking to measure outcomes and describe the value they are adding:

- Proving and improving: A quality and impact [toolkit](#) from the [New Economics Foundation](#).
- [Research from the New Economics Foundation](#) covers social return on investment, measuring wellbeing and evaluation of different techniques for demonstrating impact.
- [New Philanthropy Capital](#)'s work on [transforming the sector](#) shows that they really understand the values of charities and the priorities of funders – and how the two need to communicate.
- [The National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#)' have a list of [practical and easy to use tools](#) on their website including a planning pyramid, outcomes star, and balanced scorecard.
- The [Social Impact Analysts Association](#) is a relatively new organisation dedicated to building a network of impact analysts and promoting impact analysis as a discipline. Have a look through their resource pages for easy to use methodologies.

## Appendix- Prevention Services in Barnet

