

8 Children and Young People

8.1 Key Facts

- The Borough's population of 93,590 children and young people aged 0 – 19 remains the second largest in London and this group accounts for one quarter of the overall Borough's population.
- The population of children and young people in Barnet is estimated to grow by 6% between 2015 and 2020 when it will reach 98,914. Barnet will continue to be the Borough with the second highest population of children and young people in London.
- In 2015 Golders Green will have the highest population of children and young people of any ward in Barnet at 6,218, followed by Colindale with 6,055 children. However, projections suggest that by 2025, the population of children and young people in Colindale will be the highest of any ward.
- There are more children from all Black and Minority Ethnic groups in the 0 – 9 age group, than there are White children. Children and young people in the 10 – 19 age groups are predominantly White. This demonstrates a more diverse population shift in terms of ethnicity. Colindale, Burnt Oak, and West Hendon have populations that are more than 50% Black, Asian and Minority ethnic background. Over 50% of all 0-4 year olds in Barnet are from a Black, Asian and Minority ethnic background and this is forecast to increase.

8.2 Strategic Needs

- **The high rates of population growth for children and young people (CYP)** will occur in wards with planned development works and **are predominantly in the west** of the Borough. The growth of CYP combined with **benefit cuts will place significant pressure on the demand for services** from children's social care and specialist resources from other agencies (notably health).
- Domestic violence, parental mental ill health and parental substance abuse (toxic trio) are the most common and consistent contributory factors in referrals into social care. **Effective prevention and early intervention could help to reduce impact on CYP and their families** and referrals to children's social care and other specialist services within health and criminal justice system.
- **Child poverty is entrenched in specific areas of Barnet (notably in the west).** Targeted multi-agency, locality-based interventions could better support families.
- **The Young Carers Act and Children and Families Act 2014** represents a significant reform of care and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and those caring for others. It is expected to raise the expectations of parents and carers. This **will represent a challenge to the Local Authority and partner agencies.**
- The number of post-16 pupils remaining in special schools is causing **pressure on the availability of places for admission of younger pupils.**
- Overall, all **children in Barnet achieve good levels of educational attainment** against statistical neighbours and national averages. However, **the attainment for disadvantaged groups against their peers in Barnet has widened** compared to the London gap. Data shows the gap is wider for black boys in Barnet.
- **Neglect** is the primary reason for children and young people to have a child protection plan.
- The **rate of re-offending is decreasing** however; there has been **an increase in the seriousness** of offending by a small proportion of young people who are **associated with gangs.**
- 65% of known cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Barnet are females in their teenage years, 35% are male. **The pattern of CSE in Barnet is wide and varied.** Key characteristics

have been youth violence or gang related activity and, male adults ‘talking’ to young females and boys through the internet. There is a strong correlation between children who go missing and those known to be victims and or at risk of CSE.

- The **numbers of children in Barnet that go missing have remained fairly consistent** throughout 2014/15 averaging five or less children per month. This requires resources which can assess, collate and analyse information provided by the young people who go missing to determine what interventions are required to mitigate against this.

8.3 Demography

8.3.1 Overview - Population Growth

The children and young people population in Barnet will increase by 2.91% between 2011 and 2015. From 2011 – 2020, the population is projected to increase by 8.76%. The population is also estimated to grow by 6% between 2015 and 2020 when it will be 98,914, with Barnet continuing to have the second highest children and young people’s population of all London Boroughs. Year on year growth consistently projects a higher proportion of males than females in the 0-19 age range.

8.3.2 Age Bands in Wards for 2015

In 2015, the largest population of children and young people aged 0-19 years are in the wards to the west of the Borough: Golders Green with 6,218; Colindale with 6,055; Burnt Oak with 5,457 and Mill Hill with 5,501. High Barnet has the least number of children with 3,451. The wards with the highest number of 0-4 year olds are Colindale with 2,005; Golders Green with 1,712; Hendon with 1,626 and Childs Hill with 1,499. Golders Green has the highest number of children in the 5 – 14 age groups and Mill Hill has the highest proportion of 15 – 19 year olds.

8.4 Early Years

8.4.1 Early Years Demographics by locality

8.4.2 Deprivation 0-5 years

Whilst Barnet is generally an affluent Borough, approximately 16% of children under five live in the 30% most deprived Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs)¹²³. 19% of children under five (5,000 children) live in low income families, defined as those in receipt of Child Tax Credit and either on benefits (Income Support or Jobseekers allowance) or earning less than 60% of median the income¹²⁴.

8.4.3 Lone parents 0-5 years

Whilst there are high concentrations of lone parents in Barnet’s deprived LSOAs, it should be noted that there are also high concentrations of lone parents in the Borough’s more affluent LSOAs.

Central / East Locality: Within the locality, there are five LSOAs that have a relatively high number of lone parent household (over 80 households per LSOA). Four of the LSOAs are deprived with IMD scores ranging between 19%-26%.

¹²³ Index of Multiple Deprivation, DCLG, 2010

¹²⁴ HMRC, 2011

Table 8-1: Lone Parent Households by LSOA, Central/East Locality

LSOA	Children's Centre Reach	Locality	Ward	IMD score	Lone parent households with dependent children
E01000163	Coppetts Wood	Central/East	Coppetts	26%	102
E01000315	Coppetts Wood	Central/East	Woodhouse	23%	116
E01000171	St Margaret's	Central/East	East Barnet	49%	121
E01000289	Underhill	Central/East	Underhill	19%	118
E01000291	Underhill	Central/East	Underhill	26%	107

West Locality: the locality contains the three LSOAs with the highest number of lone parents in the Borough. These are deprived LSOAs with IMD scores of 12%-19%.

Table 8-2: Lone Parent Households by LSOA, West Locality

LSOA	Children's Centre Reach	Locality	Ward	IMD score	Lone parent households with dependent children
E01000189	Stonegrove	West	Edgware	12%	169
E01000125	Barnfield	West	Burnt Oak	18%	134
E01000152	Wingfield	West	Colindale	19%	153

South locality: Within the locality, there are six LSOAs that have a relatively high number of lone parent household. With the exception of one LSOA within Childs Hill ward, five LSOAs are deprived with IMD scores ranging between 17% - 27%. The two most deprived LSOAs within the south locality are also LSOAs with high numbers of lone parent households.

Table 8-3: Lone Parent Households by LSOA, South Locality

LSOA	CC Reach	Locality	Ward	IMD score	Lone parent households with dependent children
E01000245	Bell Lane	South	Hendon	23%	80
E01000137	Childs Hill	South	Childs Hill	24%	93
E01000141	Childs Hill	South	Childs Hill	27%	98
E01000142	Childs Hill	South	Childs Hill	42%	87
E01000221	Parkfield	South	Golders Green	17%	81
E01000308	The Hyde	South	West Hendon	17%	96

8.4.4 Ethnicity 0-5 years

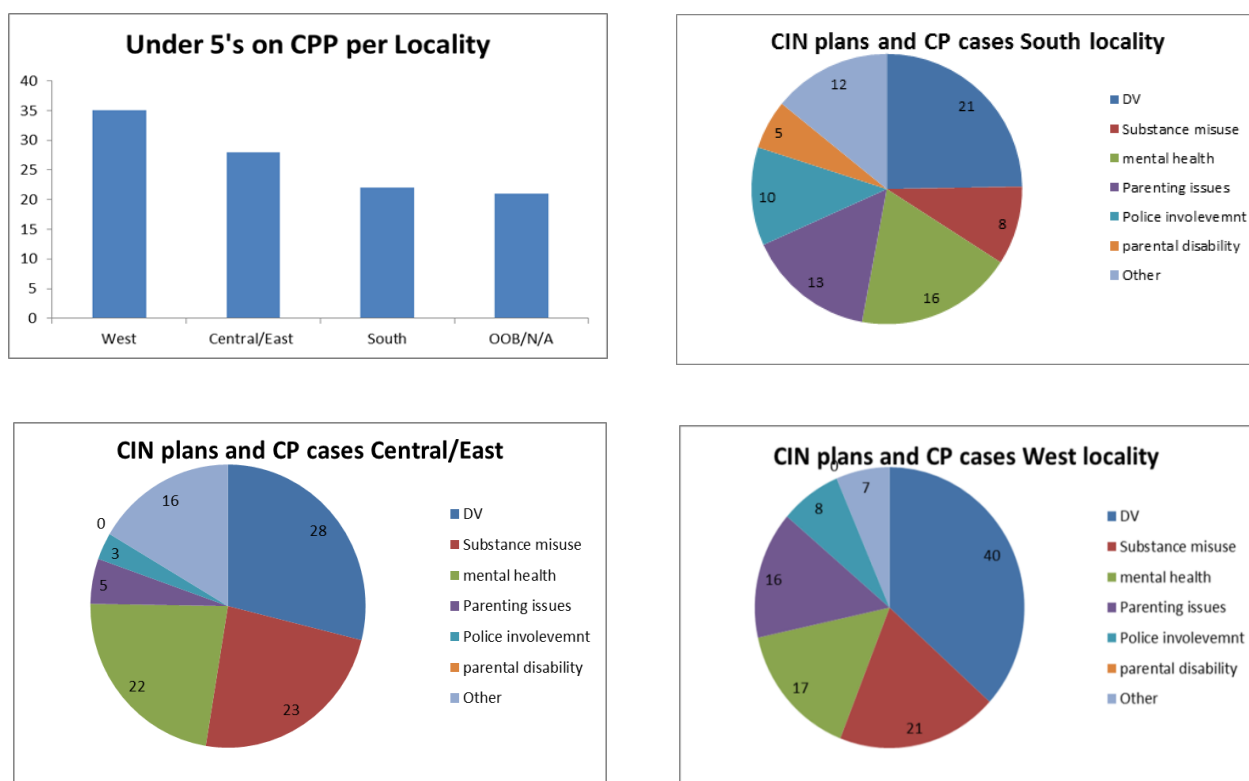
Barnet has 24 LSOAs with relatively high estimated number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children under five (over 90 households per LSOA). The West locality contains 17 of the LSOAs with high concentration of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic households with children under five. It should be noted that there are high numbers of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children in the wards of Burnt Oak and Colindale, which have pockets of deprivation. The Central/East locality has only two LSOAs with high number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic households with children under five, however, these are not deprived LSOAs.

8.4.5 Children In Need (CIN) and Children Subject of a Child Protection Plan (CP) aged 0-5 years.

The tables below demonstrate that there is a higher number of under-fives on a child protection plan in the West locality, despite this locality currently containing the smallest number of under-fives overall. CIN plans by locality excluding disability show 160 CIN plans in total (Central/East: 64 CIN

plans South: 33 CIN Plans West: 63 CIN plans). Primary concerns leading to CIN and CP plans are identified in the charts below.

Figure 8-1a-d: Under 5's on Child Protection Plans



Source: ICS October 31st 2014, under-fives on a Child Protection Plan

8.4.6 School Readiness by Locality

The quality of a child's early experience is vital for their future success. It is shaped by many interrelated factors, notably the effects of socio-economic status, the impact of high-quality early education and care and the influence of 'good parenting'. High-quality early education is crucial in countering the effects of socio-economic disadvantage¹²⁵.

Overall, attainment of good level of development (GLD) in Barnet is above the national average, including the development of children in receipt of free school meals (FSM) and SEN pupil attainment. However, attainment varies by locality. A higher percentage of children within the Central/East locality achieved a GLD (68.1%) with 65% attaining above the national average, whilst in the West locality, GLD attainment is lower (60.1%) but is in line with the national average.

The table below sets out GLD attainment by locality overall, and by the following characteristics:

- Children whose first language is other than English
- Children with Special Educational Needs
- Children eligible for Free School Meals
- Children born in the summer term.

¹²⁵ Are You Ready? Good Practice In School Readiness, Ofsted 2014

Table 8-4: GLD Attainment by Locality

	Central/East	South	West	Out of Borough	Barnet	National Average (DfE) ¹²⁶
No of children at EYFS	1,775	1,273	1,225	450	4,723	N/A
No of children achieving a GLD	1209 68.1%	845 66.3%	737 60.1%	297 66%	3088 65.4%	60%
No of children whose first language is English achieving a GLD	707 out of 958 73.8%	374 out of 510 73.3%	335 out of 512 65.4%	135 out of 184 73.3%	1551 out of 2164 71.6%	63%
No of children whose first language is other than English achieving a GLD	502 out of 817 61.4%	471 out of 763 61.7%	402 out of 713 56%	162 out of 257 63%	1537 out of 2550 60.2%	53%
No of children with SEN achieving a GLD	30 out of 145 20.7%	31 out of 97 32%	24 out of 152 15.8%	7 out of 40 17.5%	92 out of 434 21.2%	19%
FSM	144 out of 273 52.7%	84 out of 156 54%	113 out of 235 48%	38 out of 64 59.4%	379 out of 728 52%	45%
Term of Birth (summer babies achieving GLD)	369 out of 621 59.4%	233 out of 426 54.7%	211 out of 419 50.4%	98 out of 184 53.3%	911 out of 1650 55.2%	49%

Source: KEPAS 2014

8.5 Children's Centres

Children's Centre's aim to improve outcomes for families with children under five, ensuring that all children are properly prepared for school ('School Readiness'). Services are delivered, either by or through Children's Centres and include both Universal and Specialist services for families in greatest need - families living in deprived areas; workless families; those with low levels of English; and those experiencing the 'toxic trio' of domestic violence, mental health issues and/or substance misuse.

8.5.1 Gaps in Current / Future Provision or Unmet Need

There appear to be a good range of services targeting children's health and development, although better partnerships would ensure that these are more joined up. Key issues are:

- Development of an integrated service offer delivered through the centres for parents, with a particular focus on the needs of parents with mental health, drug and alcohol problems, and parents without literacy and basic skills required to progress into work. Improved partnerships with health and Jobcentre Plus would help facilitate this.
- Increased engagement with vulnerable families to support family learning: – engaging children and parents learning together, such as family literacy and numeracy, support for teenage parents and housing advice.
- Increase the take-up of adult education including courses leading to qualifications through access to child care at low cost, and a Service Level Agreement with Barnet College, leading to better evaluation and tracking of learners' outcomes.

¹²⁶ Early years foundation stage profile attainment by pupil characteristics, England 2014, DfE, Statistical First Release

8.6 Education and Skills

8.6.1 Primary Education in Barnet

Between 2016/17 and 2020/21, primary school rolls are projected to rise by an estimated seven to nine forms of entry (FE), and these school places will need to be commissioned through a series of temporary or permanent expansions and new provision. Barnet has a higher proportion of pupils on roll in primary schools with special educational needs (both statemented and without statements) compared to statistical neighbours, national and London, and the proportion of pupils on school action and school action plus has gradually declined since 2011 in line with statistical neighbours. Overall absence in Barnet primary schools is ranked in the 3rd quartile, at 94th nationally.

The proportion of Barnet's primary school pupils who speak English as an additional language is below the London average but above that of Barnet's statistical neighbours and the proportion of pupil's eligible for free school meals is above that of statistical neighbours.

8.6.2 Secondary Education in Barnet

Between 2010 and 2014, the number of children on roll in mainstream secondary schools increased by 6.1% to 22,853 pupils. Barnet currently has 24 secondary schools: 4% are community schools, 25% are voluntary-aided and 71% are academies. Assuming that a Free School, which is currently subject to planning, is delivered, an estimated 20 FE of additional need is projected between 2016/17 and 2020/21. These school places will need to be commissioned through a series of temporary or permanent expansions and new provision.

Barnet has a higher proportion of pupils on roll with a statement of special educational needs compared to London, England and statistical neighbours. The proportion of pupils on roll with special education needs (without a statement) has decreased for the past three years but remains above that of statistical neighbours. Overall absence in Barnet secondary schools is ranked in the top quartile, at 23rd nationally.

The proportion of pupils with English as an additional language is above statistical neighbours, but below the London average. The proportion has increased at a lower rate than London and statistical neighbours, but more than the national increase. Barnet has a lower proportion of Free School Meal pupils in secondary schools than London, but more than England and statistical neighbours.

At Key Stage 2, attainment and achievement in all subjects is in the top quartile nationally. The attainment and achievement of all pupil groups are in line with national averages, and most pupil groups attain significantly above the national average. Barnet's FSM and disadvantaged pupil attainment gaps have narrowed and the gap is now in line with the London average and smaller than the national average.

There is an 11 percentage point difference in attainment between disadvantaged (those who have been eligible for free school meals in the past six years or are in local authority care) and non-disadvantaged pupils, which is in line with the London average. Disadvantaged pupil attainment is high and is ranked 13th nationally.

Pupil progress in Reading and Mathematics is significantly above national averages, with Barnet ranked 6th and 12th nationally. The proportion of pupils making expected progress in Writing is in the third quartile, ranked 48th nationally.

At Key Stage 4, attainment of 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths and 5 A* - C grades is ranked in the top quartile nationally. Attainment of SEN, EAL and disadvantaged pupils is

significantly above the attainment of their national counterparts. The attainment gap for disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils increased to 28 percentage points in 2014, and is wider than the London attainment gap (21 percentage points).

8.6.3 Key Issues

- Teacher and head teacher recruitment is a key issue for primary schools, with a head teacher recruitment and retention working group set up in response to difficulties in securing permanent posts. Key barriers to recruitment in Barnet include: availability and cost of parking, public transport, cost of affordable housing/rentals and increasing pressure and responsibilities on teachers and head teachers.
- The capacity of schools in Barnet struggles to meet demand from the population each year, with temporary and permanent expansions being commissioned as part of a school expansion strategy, and the Council working in partnerships with Free Schools to develop new provision.
- Black pupils perform relatively poorly compared to other ethnic groups in Barnet across all key stages.
- Whilst disadvantaged children perform above disadvantaged children nationally, they continue to perform significantly below their non-disadvantaged counterparts.

8.6.4 Looked After Children

In 2014, the attainment of looked after children in Barnet is in line with or above that of looked after children nationally at Key Stage 1 (level 2+), is slightly below that of looked after children nationally at Key Stage 2 (level 4+) in RWM, Mathematics, EGPS, and in line with or above for Reading and Writing. A lower proportion of Barnet's looked after pupils attained the expected standard at GCSE compared to looked after children nationally (12% compared to 15%). However, the attainment of looked after children remains significantly below the attainment of their non-looked after counterparts (both nationally and in Barnet) across all key stages.

Value-added (the amount of progress made) between key stages 1 and 2 for looked after children in Barnet has remained below the progress seen in looked after children nationally since 2012, and remains below the progress of their non-looked after counterparts in all years. Value-added (the amount of progress made) between key stages 2 and 4 for looked after children in Barnet was below the progress seen in looked after children nationally in 2012 and 2014, and remains below the progress of their non-looked after counterparts across the past 3 academic years.

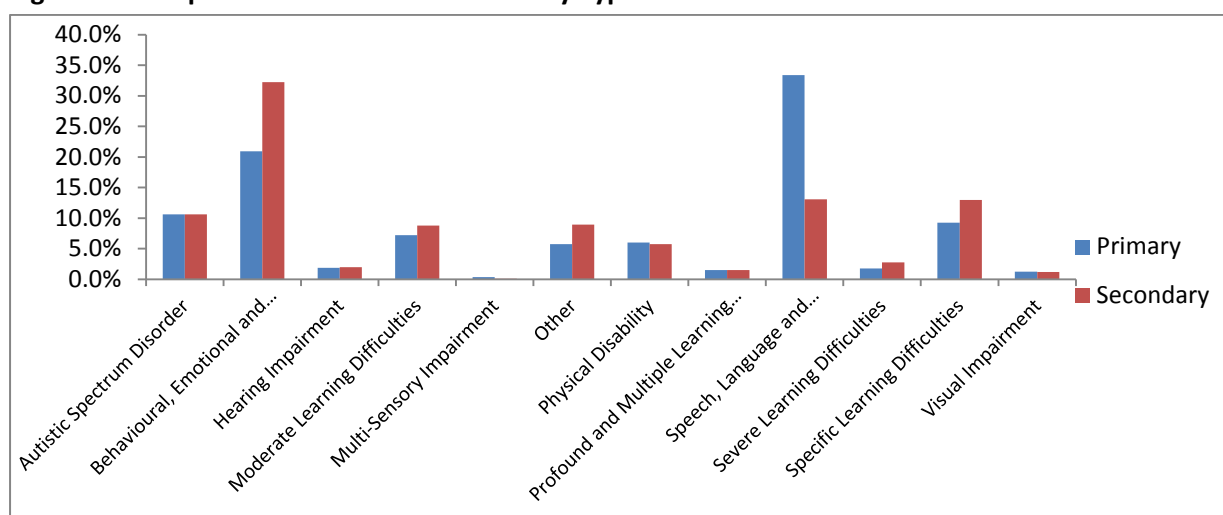
The virtual school has recently been re-located within the Barnet School Improvement Team and a permanent headteacher appointed in order to drive up educational standards within this cohort.

8.6.5 Special Educational Needs

Barnet has four State-funded special schools and three Pupil Referral Units. Across all pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Barnet, the highest proportion of needs in primary schools are Speech, Language and Communication; in secondary the highest proportion of needs are in Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties.

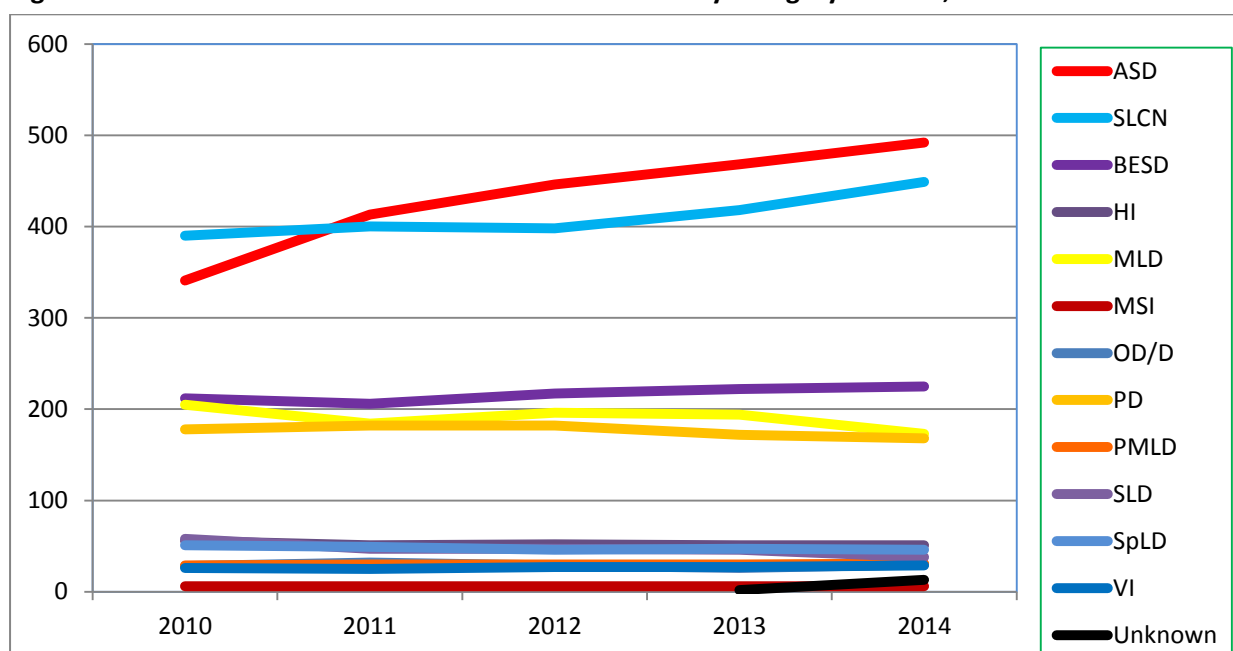
Primary Category of SEN Statement Type is shown in figure 7-2 and trend in the figure below.

Figure 8-2: Proportion of Total of SEN Need by Type



Source: January Census 2014

Figure 8-3: Trend DATA Barnet SEN Statement Numbers by Category of Need; 2010-2014



Barnet is an inclusive authority, given that 57% of pupils (997 of a total of 1751 in 2014) with a statement of Special Educational Needs maintained by the council are placed in mainstream settings. A level which is significantly higher than statistical neighbours and other Outer London Boroughs, where larger proportions attend specialist provision.

Specialist provision is required to meet the needs of the remaining children and young people. Some of this is offered by Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) in mainstream primary and secondary schools, with a greater number of places provided by the council's four special schools. Additionally, a number of pupils with SEN are placed in the special schools of other local authorities, whilst, in 2014, almost 10% (167) of pupils with a statement of SEN issued by the council were placed in a non-maintained or independent provision, including 35 in expensive residential settings.

A detailed assessment of the future needs of Barnet's SEN population established the following needs to be met up to 2019/20. The findings are displayed in Table 8-5.

Table 8-5: Future Needs of Barnet's SEND Population

	Primary ASD/SLCN*	Secondary ASD/SLCN*	Primary BESD**	Secondary MLD***
Demography	18	45	2	11
Reduce dependency on expensive placements	10	10	8	5
Total	28	55	10	16

* Autistic Spectrum Difficulties / Speech, Language and Communication Needs

** Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties

*** Moderate Learning Difficulties

8.6.5.1 Attainment of SEN pupils

Key Stage 2 attainment of Barnet pupils with a statement of SEN (at level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Mathematics) is in the top quartile in the country, ranked 13th nationally, whilst attainment of SEN pupils without a statement of SEN (those identified on School Action or School Action plus) is also in the top quartile nationally, ranked 12th.

Key Stage 4 Attainment of Barnet pupils with a statement of SEN (5 A*-C grades including English and Mathematics) is in the top quartile in the country, ranked 20th nationally, whilst attainment of Barnet SEN pupils without a statement is in the top quartile in the country, ranked 33rd nationally.

8.6.5.2 The Review of Future Needs, Key Issues

A review of future needs mapped the current provision against the range of needs of children with SEN in Barnet. It found that:

- The current pattern of provision of specialist places provided through a mix of special schools and resourced provisions within mainstream schools no longer best meets the geographic spread of demand across the Borough. This is resulting in a significant and growing transport cost and for some children, long journeys to school.
- The consistency in the current pattern of provision within the ARPs, particularly for children with Autistic Spectrum Difficulties and Speech, Language and Communication needs could be improved, both in the types of need catered for and the nature of the offer with regard to levels of inclusion within the mainstream setting in which the ARP is located.
- There is some overlap in the nature of needs that are being met within the four special schools and this is an increasingly common feature nationally.
- The number of post-16 pupils remaining in special schools is causing pressure on the availability of places for admission of younger pupils.
- There is an opportunity to improve the offer for children with significant SENs in the area of behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (now described in the new SEN Code of Practice as "social, emotional and mental health difficulties").

8.6.5.3 Key Issues

- Future needs have considered how best to invest in order to both meet the increased demand and the increase in local provision, to meet parental aspirations and reduce transport costs. The review considered the cost, site availability, and range of pupil needs and concluded that future provision should be shaped through:
 - developing a pattern of smaller localised new provision within existing or newly commissioned mainstream schools;

- working with mainstream schools to improve provision within existing resourced provision, whilst sharing expertise across the network of provision;
- re-shaping provision within existing special schools;
- re-shaping the current offer for children with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties;
- developing an increased range of options for young people post-16.

8.6.5.4 Conclusion

Initial engagement with head teachers regarding the findings of the review has established some shared principles so far:

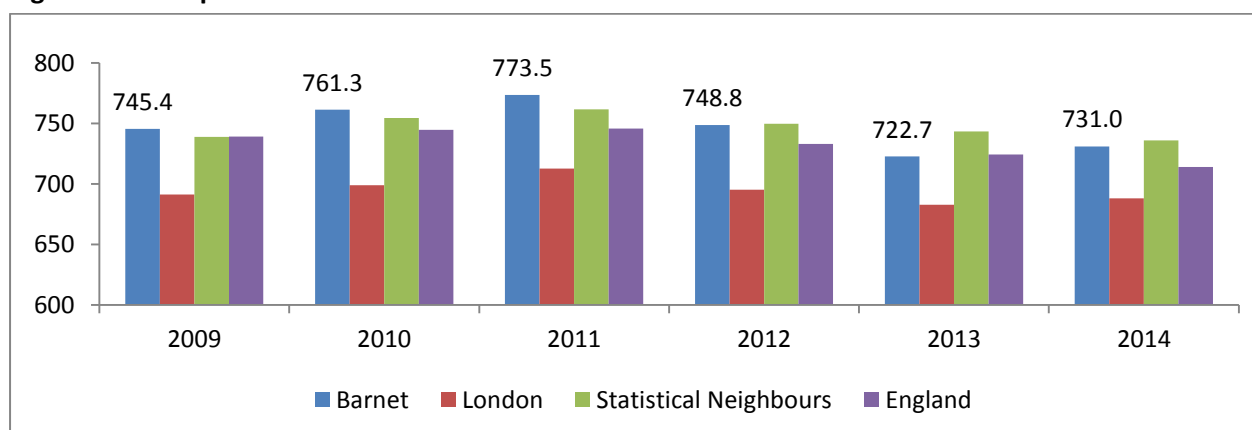
- The strategy for meeting the future needs of children with SEN should focus on the requirement to develop the right type of provision in the right place.
- The objective should be to develop local provision wherever possible.
- Flexible models of delivery should be considered.
- The current balance between mainstream and specialist provision is appropriate and should be maintained.
- Funding mechanisms should be designed to provide stability and enable planning for quality provision.
- The strategy should ensure equity of provision for SEND in and between schools and equity of funding based on outcomes.

It is expected that there will be a continuing programme of support and environmental improvement for mainstream schools and academies, to respond to complex needs of pupils in those schools.

8.6.6 Post-16 Education, Employment and Training

Key Stage 5 attainment (average point score per pupil) in Barnet is ranked in the top quartile, 26th nationally. By age 19, 89.3% of pupils attain a level 2 qualification (ranked 13th nationally), and 68.3% attain a level 3 qualification (ranked 11th nationally).

Figure 8-4: APS per Candidate

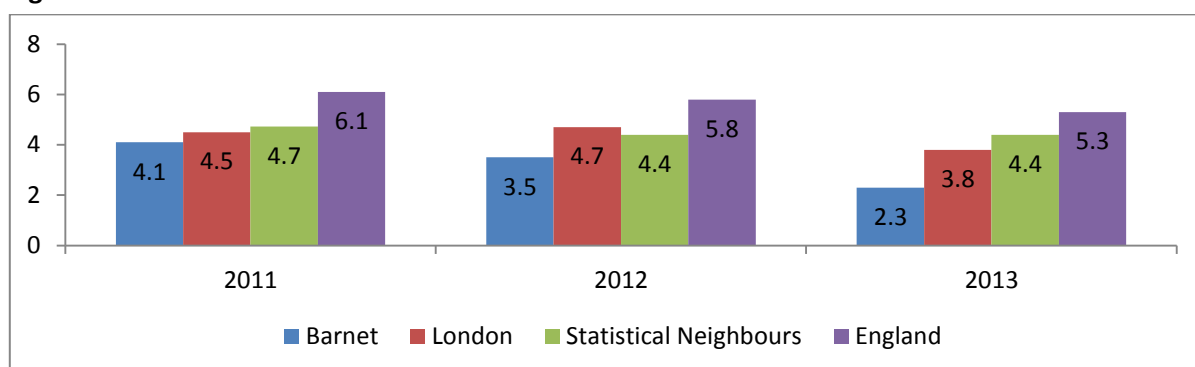


Source: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-level-3-results-2013-to-2014-revised

Barnet performs particularly well at ensuring all young people engage in education, employment or training up until age 19 with the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or

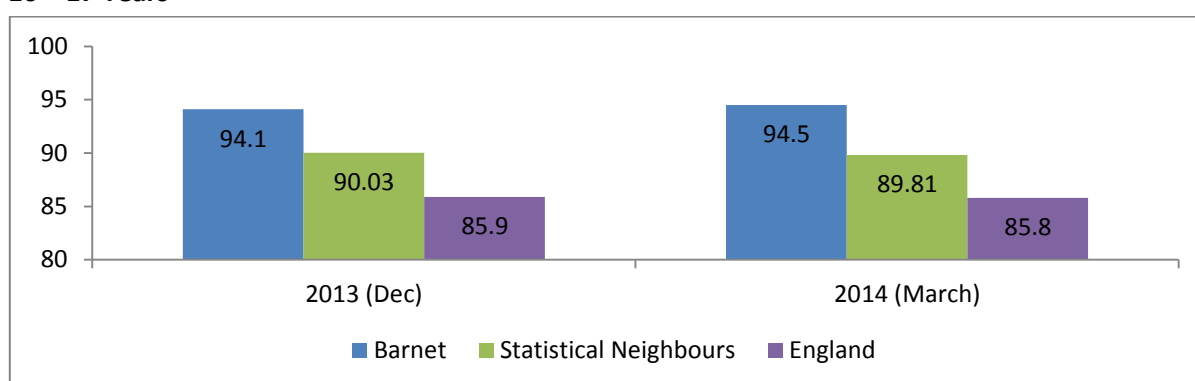
training (NEET) ranked 4th nationally. This success is continued for those pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities, where participation rates are ranked 9th nationally.

Figure 8-5: % NEET



Source: Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT)

Figure 8-6: % Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) Recorded in Education and Training Aged 16 – 17 Years



Source: Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT)

8.6.7 Raising Participation

The Education and Skills Act 2008 places a duty on all young people to participate in education or training until their 18th birthday. The first phase was introduced in 2013; young people are now required to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 years. From September 2015 they will be required to continue until their 18th birthday. Participation may be:

- full-time education at school, college, other provider
- an apprenticeship
- employment, self -employment or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week with part-time education or training

The Local authority is required to:

- promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 years olds resident in Barnet.
- make arrangements to identify young people resident in Barnet who are not participating.
- provide advice and guidance to young people aged 16-18 who are not on the roll of an institution and who are deemed vulnerable.

- these new duties complement existing duties to:
 - secure sufficient and suitable education and training provision for all 16-19 years olds
 - track young people's participation.

Participation in Barnet - June 2015

The figures below demonstrate Barnet's progress towards full participation at June 2015 and the current level of NEET and 'Not Known' (the destination of the person is unknown and no information can be gained from other reliable sources).

Table 8-6: In Learning

Year 12			Year 13			Year 14			Year 12-14		
Jun14	Jun15	Variation	Jun14	Jun 15	Variation	Jun14	Jun15	Variation	Jun14	Jun15	Variation
97.2%	97.9%	0.7%	94.1%	97.5%	3.4%	80.2%	83.0%	2.8%	90.7%	93.1%	2.4%
3404	3438	34	3118	3487	369	2584	2677	93	9106	9602	496

Data Source: West London Partnership Support Unit

Table 8-7: NEET

Year 12			Year 13			Year 14			Year 12-14		
Jun14	Jun15	Variation	Jun14	Jun15	Variation	Jun14	Jun15	Variation	Jun 14	Jun 15	Variation
2.1%	1.7%	-0.4%	2.6%	2.2%	-0.4%	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	2.9%	2.6%	-0.3%
73	60	-13	86	77	-9	127	129	2	286	266	-20

Data Source: West London Partnership Support Unit

Table 8-8: Not Known

Year 12			Year 13			Year 14			Year 12-14		
Jun14	Jun15	Variation	Jun14	Jun15	Variation	Jun14	Jun5	Variation	Jun14	Jun15	Variation
0.3%	0.0%	-0.3%	1.6%	0.0%	-1.6%	6.5%	3.8%	-2.7%	2.7%	1.2%	-1.5%
9	0	-9	52	0	-52	209	121	-88	270	121	-149

Data Source: West London Partnership Support Unit

Barnet is performing better in all three categories against statistical neighbours. The mean Indicator for statistical neighbours in May 2015 is 86.2% in year 12-14 in learning, 3.9% NEET and 5.9% Not Known.

8.7 Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention and Early Intervention is about tackling problems experienced by children and families as early as possible to improve outcomes, and to lower costs. Barnet's approach to Prevention and Early Intervention has been organised according to three guiding principles: i) to intervene as early as possible; ii) to take a whole family approach; and iii) to use evidence-based monitoring systems.

A local needs analysis identified eight 'themes' or problems which are most likely to drive poor outcomes for Barnet families:

- Domestic violence
- Alcohol and/or drug misuse
- Mental health
- Parenting and neglect
- Unemployment
- Involvement with police

- Missing from school
- Child sexual exploitation

The needs analysis found that the ‘toxic trio’ of domestic violence, alcohol/drugs and mental health were significant factors triggering referrals to social care. Aligning early intervention and assessment to these themes will help to counteract projected pressures on social care services and other targeted and specialist resources.

The Barnet Early Help Offer consists of a set of services which deliver a Prevention and Early Intervention approach; it is formed of the following key components:

1. A Front door/triaging service- which assesses and signposts cases to early help services
2. A core set of council early help services including Children’s Centres, the Intensive Family Focus Team and Youth Services
3. A set of commissioned services, where the council procures early help services from third parties – for example Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
4. Services provided by partners, such as services provided by the voluntary sector which are not commissioned by the council.

The Council is reviewing the above offer to ensure it is line with the eight themes identified in the needs analysis and is better integrated with partner agencies. Children and families fall into four categories of need, identified in the table below. Early identification of problems, assessment and intervention is achieved through the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).

Table 8-9: Levels of Need

Level of need	Definition of this type of Need
Level 1	No identified additional needs. Response services are universal services
Level 2	Child’s needs are not clear, not known or not being met. This is the threshold for beginning a Common Assessment. Response services are universal support services and/or targeted services
Level 3	Complex needs likely to require longer term intervention from statutory and/or specialist services. High level additional unmet needs - this will usually require a targeted integrated response, which will usually include a specialist service
Level 4	Acute needs, requiring statutory intensive support. This in particular includes the threshold for child protection which will require Children’s Social Care Intervention

8.7.1 Key Issues

- Strengthen the Barnet integrated offer of services across partner agencies to support children and families.
- Continue to build on work which has already started in remodelling services. Barnet has prioritised early years as part of its prevention and early intervention approach and has completed a comprehensive 18 month ‘Early Years Review’. The review has recommended a locality model which is currently being developed. Barnet’s 13 children’s centres will be grouped into three ‘localities’ with the aim of focusing on identifying and supporting the most vulnerable and allowing staff and resources to be used more flexibly.

- Development of services to support children on the edge of care, specifically in the 10-15 age group, which support children and their families in the community and prevent the need for children to become looked-after.
- Update and strengthen the monitoring of CAFs and outcomes to ensure more needs are being met via the introduction of e-CAF; this will join up with phase II of the Troubled Families programme.
- Expand the reach of the CAF in some of the most deprived schools. For example, four schools with moderate to high deprivation percentages initiated zero CAFs in 2012/13 and 2013/14. As part of the Early Intervention Strategy a strategic approach to schools and Early Intervention is currently being developed, including considerable use of the pupil premium.
- Improve practice in relation to obtaining the voice of the child and working with diversity
- Increase the percentage of needs met/successful interventions in family support work and ensure plans are purposeful and interventions are focused.
- Improve the quality assurance processes from 'good' to 'best in class', by drawing on best practice in other Boroughs.

8.7.2 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

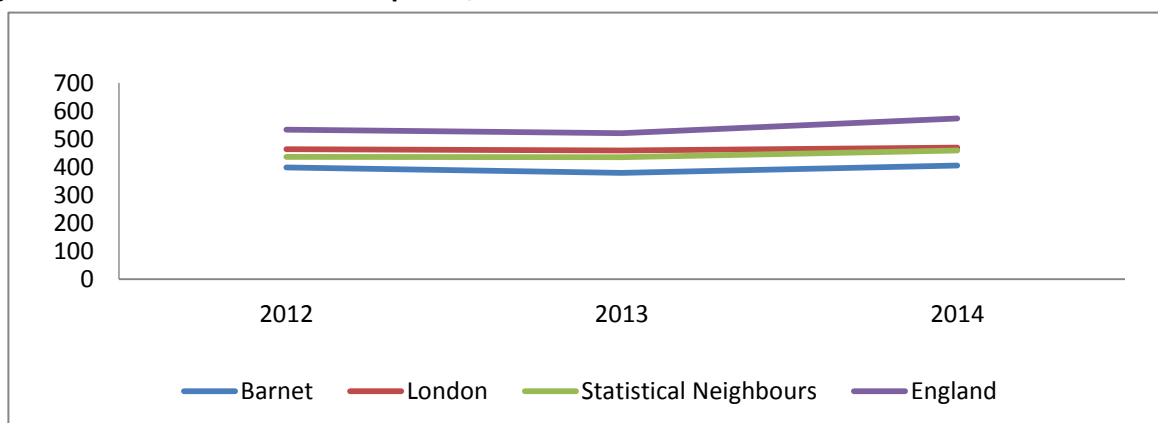
All agencies or individuals contacting Family Services with information, concerns or a query about a child or family are received through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). A number of these contacts will meet the threshold for a social care referral. In Barnet, contacts received into the MASH consistently exceed 3,000 per quarter. Contact rates nationally and across London have been increasing since 2013.

8.7.3 Children Supported by Social Care - Children in Need (CIN)

Children in Need are assessed as in need of support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, and due to challenging family situations or other forms of disadvantage are entitled to a range and level of services appropriate to their needs.

Barnet's Children in Need numbers saw a marked increase in 2010/11, but have remained consistently stable for the past 5 years. The graph below shows the Children in Need rate per 10,000 children.

Figure 8-7: Children in Need Rates per 10,000 of Referrals to Children's Social Care



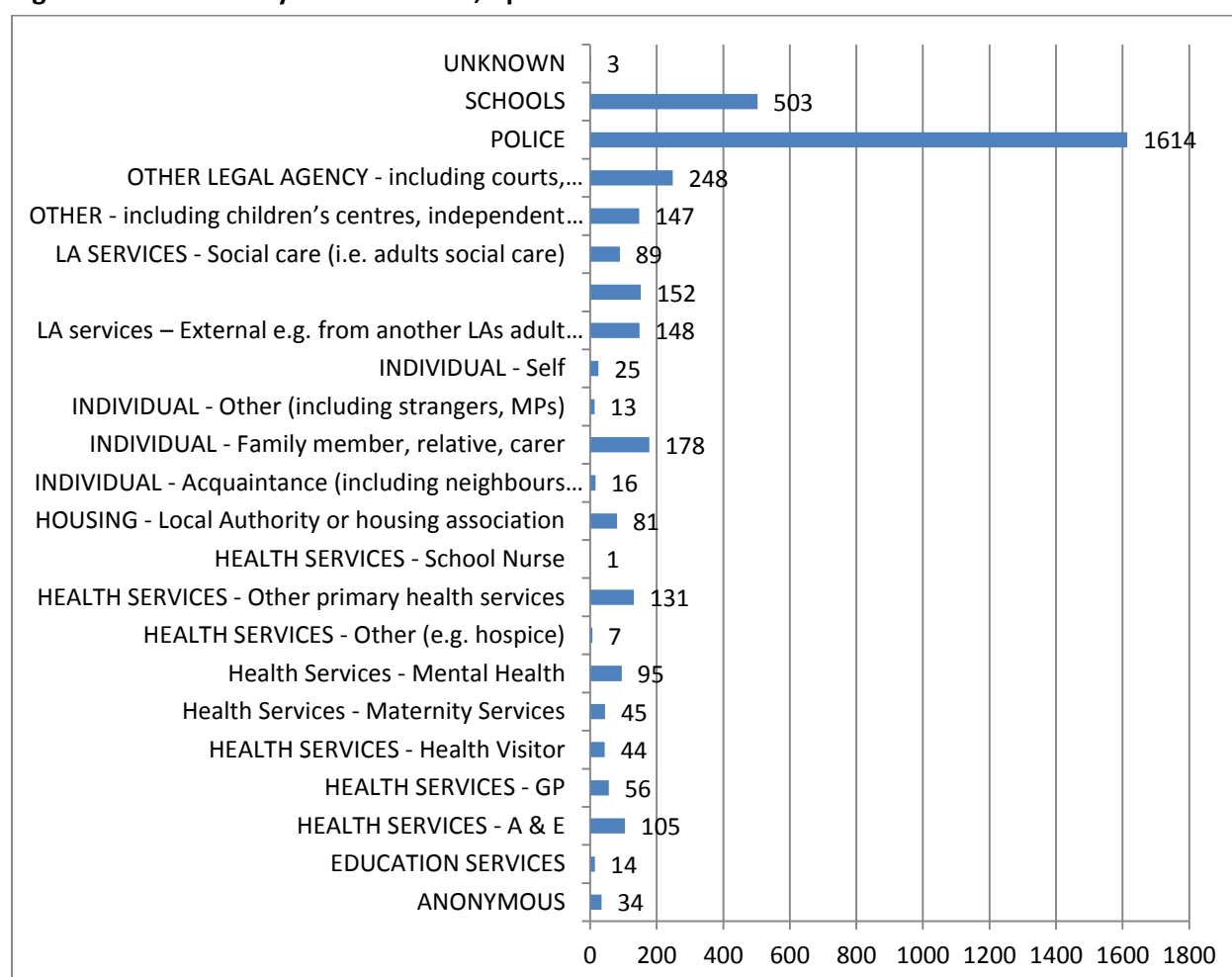
Source: Local Authority Interactive Tool

Since 2009, Barnet's rate of Children in Need, when compared to London, England and its Statistical Neighbours, has remained low. The trend for London, England and statistical neighbours has shown increased rates.

Children aged between 5 - 9 and 10 - 15 are the largest age group within this population, each making up 29% of the total population. This is closely followed by 1 - 4 years, who make up 25%. Overall, the age of Barnet's Children in Need is skewed towards younger age bands.

The figure below shows the number of referrals by referral source for the quarter 1 April – 30 June 2015.

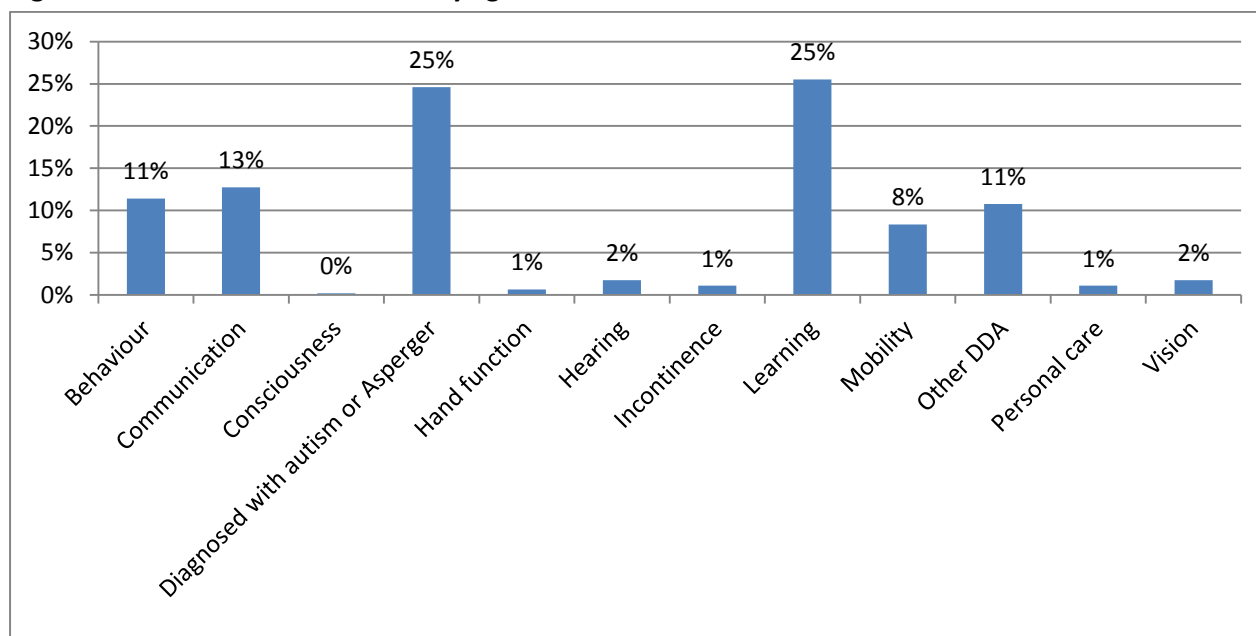
Figure 8-8: Referrals by referral source, April-June 2015



There are currently (June 2015) 455 service users aged 0-25¹²⁷ who have noted a Disability as an Active Category of Need.

¹²⁷ Data source ICS (includes all teams)

Figure 8-9: CWD - Nature of Disability aged 0-25



Source: ICS June 2015

Of those Children in Need with a disability, the highest percentage had a learning disability (25%) or autism (25%).

8.7.4 Children Supported by Social Care - Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan

A child at risk may be subject to a Child Protection Plan, which is intended to keep the child safe, promote their welfare and support their wider family to care for them. As of February 2015, 234 children in Barnet were subject to a Child Protection Plan. The largest category of abuse is shown to be neglect, at 47%, followed by emotional abuse (30%), physical abuse (19%), and sexual abuse (4%). Neglect has risen at a slightly higher rate than other categories in recent years.

The table below illustrates that the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan has increased since 2009, with a peak in 2012.

Table 8-10: Number of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	As at 28 February 2015
Number of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan	152	201	210	256	206	208	234
Neglect	70	76	97	97	81	94	109
%	46%	38%	46%	38%	39%	45%	
Emotional	62	86	77	93	66	67	71
%	41%	43%	37%	36%	32%	32%	
Physical	17	33	28	51	44	42	45
%	11%	16%	13%	20%	21%	20%	
Sexual	2	6	6	15	11	4	9
%	1%	3%	3%	6%	5%	2%	

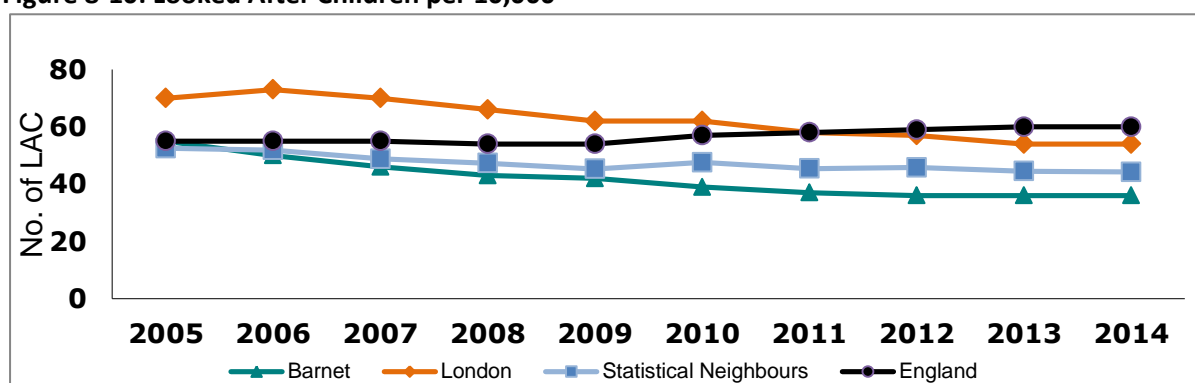
Source: Data extract from ICS data pulled 28 February 2015

8.7.5 Looked After Children (LAC)

Barnet's rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 children under 18 is low when compared to London, England, and statistical neighbours. The numbers of LAC over the past seven years has remained relatively stable, with an average of 308 children. In 2014, Barnet had a rate of 36 children in care per 10,000.

The trend over the past ten years shows Barnet's rate gradually reducing year on year, from a rate similar to England to a rate significantly lower. Barnet's rate of Looked After Children (36 children per 10,000 under 18) is low when compared to London, England, and statistical neighbours. This suggests that children in Barnet are supported effectively to remain with their families, where possible. However, in relation to actual number of Looked After Children, as opposed to the rate, Barnet has one of the highest numbers. This is due to the Borough's population size, which is predicted to be the highest in London in 2015.

Figure 8-10: Looked After Children per 10,000



Source: LAIT

The most common ethnicity for Barnet's Looked After Children is White (49%), followed by Mixed and Black or Black British ethnicity (18%). Barnet and London both have a much lower proportion of White children in care than across England, shown in Figure 3 below, which reflects the more ethnically diverse population across London. Compared to London, Barnet has a slightly higher proportion of Mixed and White Children in Care, and slightly lower proportions of Black or Asian Children.

Table 8-11: Ethnicity of Barnet's Looked After Children

Ethnicity as at 28 February 2015	Number of Children	%
White	148	48%
Mixed	56	18%
Black or Black British	55	18%
Any Other	20	6%
Asian or Asian British	15	5%
Not stated	13	4%
Gypsy/Roma	1	0%

Source: Data extract from ICS data pulled 28 February 2015

The predominant age for children becoming Looked After is 10 – 15 years (38% of the Barnet cohort fall into this age band). Children aged 5 – 9 years make up 25% of the cohort. 60% of children currently in Barnet's care are males, compared to 40% of females. This is reflective of the national picture.

Barnet has a high proportion of Children in Care in residential placement¹²⁸ which stands at 22% (March 2014), this is both higher than London and national averages. 25.4% of children and young people are placed out of Borough. Children placed in foster care as at March 2014 was 69%, which is below statistical neighbours (73%) and the England average (75%). There is considerable demand for increased foster placements locally and significant demand pressures relating to the cost of out of Borough placements and specialist placements for children and young people with complex needs. Gaps in the provision of in-house foster placements are identified as: children over the age of 11, sibling groups, and children with complex emotional and behavioural needs.

SEN rates for Barnet Looked After Children are much higher than for Barnet pupils generally and higher than the England rate. At key stage4 (2010-14) attainment of Barnet pupils who are Looked After Children (5 A*- C including English and Maths) is better than the national attainment for Looked After Children, but well below that of all pupils in Barnet and nationally.

8.7.6 Care Leavers

A Care Leaver is a young person who has been looked after away from home by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who was still in care on their 16th birthday. Barnet's number of Care Leavers has remained relatively unchanged since 2010. As of February 2015 there were 279 Care Leavers in Barnet.

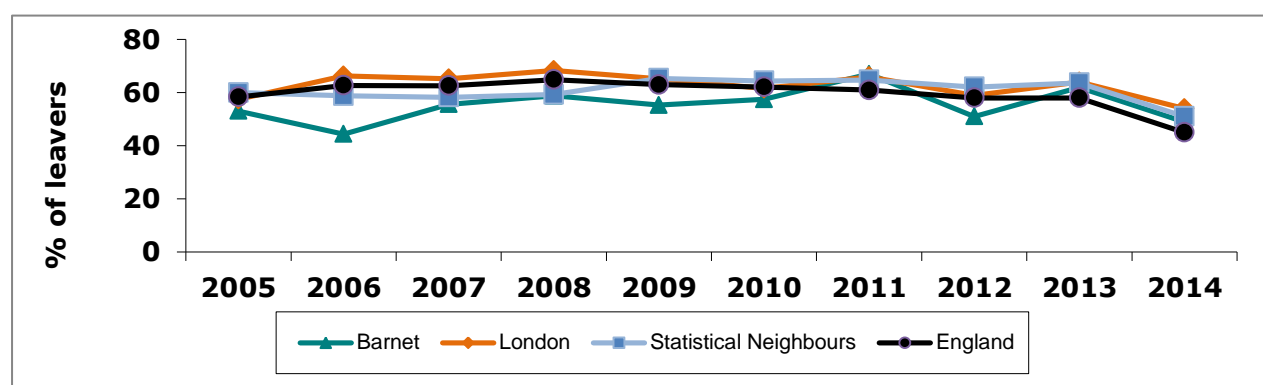
For the past 2 years, Barnet's rate of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation has been higher than that of London, England and statistical neighbours.

Table 8-12: Number of Care Leavers in Barnet

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Feb 2015
Number of Care Leavers	297	278	266	274	267	266	279

The graph below shows that Barnet's Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has fluctuated since 2005. In 2014, Barnet's rate was similar to London and statistical neighbours and higher than England. All comparators have seen a decline in figures, with one of the lowest percentages of Care Leavers in EET when compared to the past nine years.

Figure 8-11: Care Leavers (aged 19, 20 and 21) – Education, Employment and Training



Source: LAIT

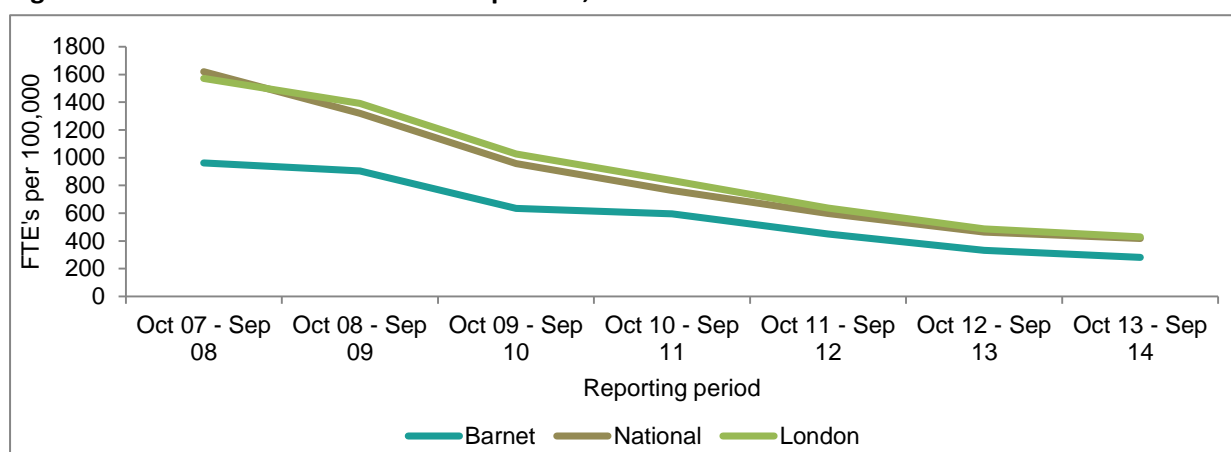
¹²⁸ Residential placements as defined in OFSTED social care data 31st March 2014

8.8 Young People who Offend or Reoffend

8.8.1 First Time Entrants (FTE)

A first time entrant is defined as a young person aged under 18 at the time of their offence entering into the justice system for the first time. The data in Figure 8-12 represents the most recently published figures from the Youth Justice Board. Barnet continues to have a lower FTE per 100,000 rate compared to National and London figures.

Figure 8-12: Rate of First Time Entrants per 100,000



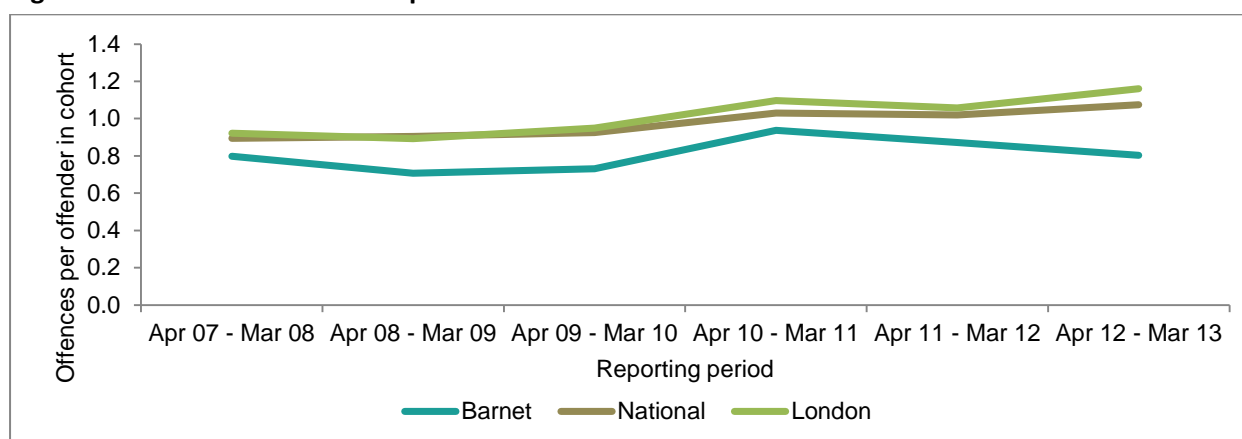
Source: Youth Justice Management information System

There is a need to improve access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Speech & Language Therapy and school nurse provisions as well as additional access to mentors. If these provision issues were resolved, the service would be better equipped to engage with young people before they enter the justice system and become FTEs. This is likely to have a positive impact on Barnet's already low FTE numbers.

8.8.2 Re-Offending

A young person aged 17 or under at the time of their offence, is tracked for 12 months and their re-offending behaviour is reported on. The data in Figure 2 represents the most recently published figures from the Youth Justice Board. Barnet continues to perform well compared to National and London figures, particularly in regard to the number of offences the tracked offender commits in the 12 month period.

Figure 8-13: Number of offences per offender



Source: Youth Justice Management information System

An increase in suitable education provision in schools has been identified for hard-to-reach young people which should include the following to improve outcomes:

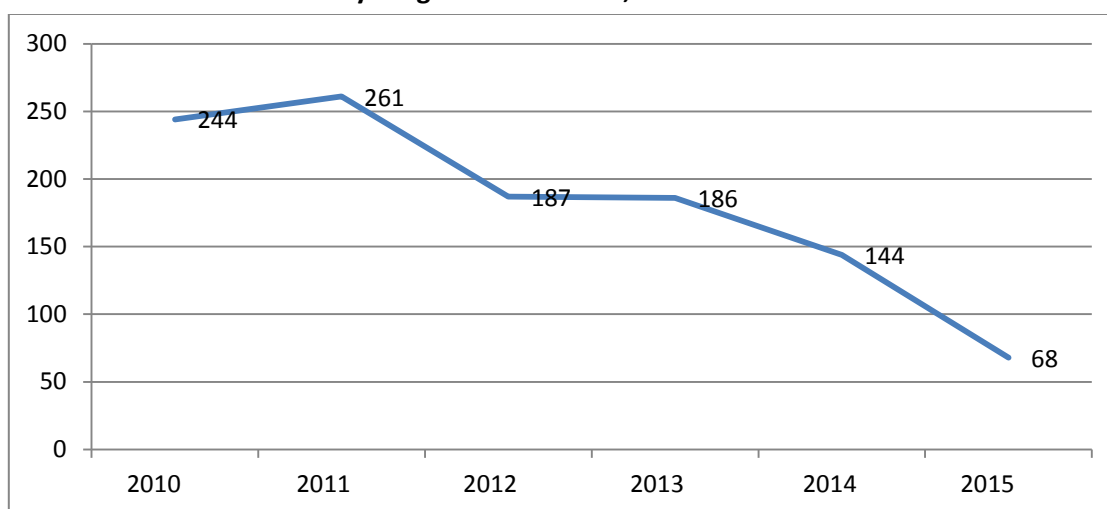
- additional support and mentoring.
- interventions which target the needs of the male BME population.
- physical health provision in the form of a school nurse who can deliver training in first aid/sexual health.
- CSE screening.

The rate of re-offending is decreasing; however, there has been an increase in the seriousness of offending by a small proportion of young people who are associated with gangs. This small cohort of young people has been targeted for support and turnaround through multi –agency interventions and evidence-based intervention.

8.8.3 Number of Statutory Programmes

A young person is sentenced to a statutory order at court and their order is overseen by the Youth Offending Team (YOT). Whilst the number of young people supervised by the YOT has fallen over the years due to more preventative work, those young people under supervision are very complex and high risk offenders. This graph refers to the number of statutory programmes started¹²⁹, by year of start date (the 2015 figure is as at June 2015).

Figure 8-14: Number of Statutory Programmes started, 2010-2015



8.9 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. A range of recent reports, national media coverage and recent convictions of perpetrators highlight that this form of child abuse is often hidden from sight and preys on the most vulnerable in the society. CSE is a priority of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board.

In 2014/15 there were 129 referrals to the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) reporting concerns about CSE, of these 73% (94) were female. A report from Barnardo's based on evidence from over 9,000 records for CSE in England found that 66% of records belonged to girls, which is broadly in line with the gender split of Barnet MASH contacts. However, the report points out that

¹²⁹ Number of programmes started, rather than number of young people

there are a number of barriers to disclosure specific to boys and young men, such as discriminatory social attitudes and expectations of 'masculine' behavior, so the figures may not accurately reflect the realities of CSE locally or nationally. Further analysis of the profile of child at risk of CSE is ongoing.

8.10 Gangs

A gang is a 'relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who:

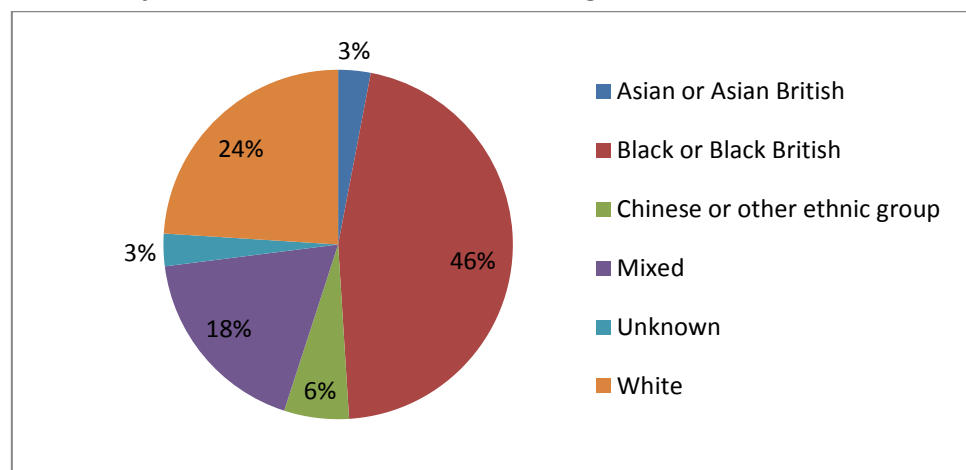
- (1) See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, and
- (2) Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence'

In Barnet there are some localised issues of young people affected by serious youth violence and gangs mainly in the west of the Borough.

Evidence has suggested that there is strong correlation with the supply of drugs and gang affiliation in Barnet. However the activities of particular gangs have also generated youth violence.

In Barnet, 59% of the most serious gang offenders rated as Red or Amber (red being the most serious) are aged 19 or younger. 45% of offenders are Black or Black British and all are male.

Figure 8-15: Ethnicity of known children in Barnet in Gangs



All young people in Barnet known to be in gangs are male. Although there are no gang members currently known to services who are girls, there is a cohort that is likely to be linked to or associated with gang members. The majority of young people identified as being at risk of entering a gang or being a victim of gang activity are white, although this group is under-represented when compared to the Barnet population. However, black young people in Barnet are over-represented and nearly three times more at risk of being affected by gang activity than young people outside of this cohort.

The following principles underpin the Barnet Youth Crime Prevention Strategy and are based on the Home Office assessment against the national and international experience and learning from working with gangs:

- strong local leadership;
- mapping the problem;
- assessment and referral;

- targeted and effective interventions; enforcement, pathways out and prevention;
- criminal Justice and breaking the cycle;
- mobilising communities.

8.11 Missing

Recent research by The National Missing Persons Helpline has revealed that nationally, one child runs away from home or is forced to leave home every five minutes.

Approximately 77% of those children are under 16 years and running away for the first time. Around a third of children in care run away three times or more. Children may run away from a problem (e.g. abuse or neglect at home) or to go somewhere they want to be. They may also have been coerced to run away.

It is thought that approximately 25 per cent of children and young people that go missing are at risk of serious harm. There are particular concerns about the links between children running away and risk of sexual exploitation. Missing children may also be vulnerable to other forms of exploitation such as violent crime, gang exploitation, or drug and alcohol misuse.

In Barnet, known children and young people of all ages go missing, though the likelihood increases when children are in their teenage years. Of the known cohort, missing children are predominantly white and marginally more likely to be female.

Figure 8-16: Ethnicity of known children missing from care or home

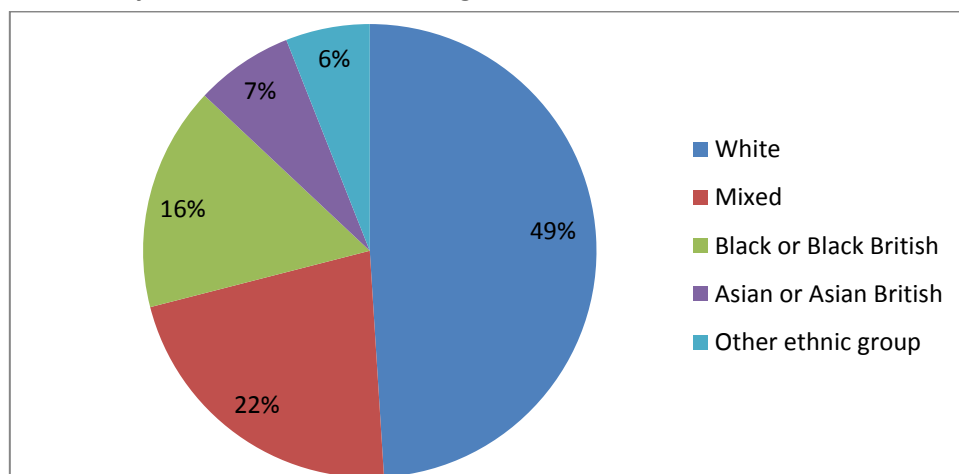
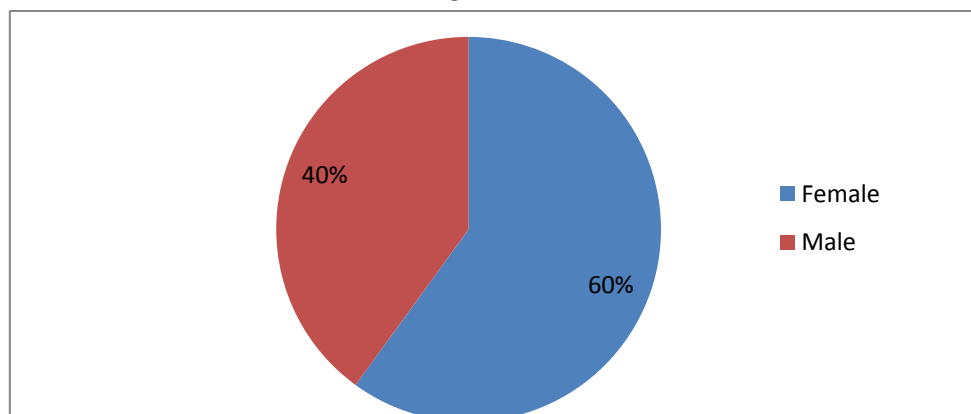


Figure 8-17: Gender of known children missing from care or home



Of those children identified as being most at risk of going missing in Barnet, 40% are male and 60% are female. White children are most at risk of going missing from home, care, or school, although this group is under-represented when compared to the Barnet population, as is the Asian cohort of children. The black and mixed populations are over-represented and therefore more at risk.

The age profile of children at risk of going missing is similar to that of known missing cases. A larger number of children are at risk of going missing between the ages of six and ten and at the age of 16.

8.12 Domestic Violence, Parental Substance Misuse, Parental Mental Ill Health (Toxic Trio)

An analysis of random samples of CAFS in Barnet found the 'toxic trio' of domestic violence, mental ill-health and drug and alcohol misuse in families amongst the most prevalent causes of poor outcomes for children. From the sampled CAF cases, DV featured in 90% of the cases, substance misuse in 40%, and 20% of cases had significant mental ill-health concerns. Since April 2014 and when MASH started recording presenting issues, nearly a quarter were identified as having domestic violence present in the family. Of these domestic violence cases, 13% progressed under the social care threshold to CAF whereas over double that amount progressed over the threshold to social care (28%).

8.12.1 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

In the last three financial years, there has been a steady increase in the number of referrals of domestic violence to the MARAC (2012-13 = **175**, 2013-14= **234**, 2014-15= **311**) which is interpreted as the impact of the interventions that have been put in place to heighten the awareness of agencies and the public.

Of the 311 cases discussed by Barnet's MARAC between 1 January and 31 December 2014, 95% were a female victim of domestic violence, and 5% male. The predominant age band of victims of domestic violence in Barnet is between 21–30 years in 38% of cases, followed by those aged between 31–40 years in 25% of cases. The most common ethnicity is White with 58%, followed by any Other and Black with 12%. Police data and referral data highlights Burnt Oak, Colindale and small pockets of Mill Hill to the west and Brunswick Park ward to the east as primary areas for incidences of domestic violence.

Parental alcohol or substance misuse was present in 20% of Child Protection and 40% of Looked After Children cases (for reference Barnet has circa 238 Child Protection cases and circa 300 Looked After Children cases).

Substance misuse among parents of children and young people referred to social care is spread around the Borough, though Grahame Park and surrounding areas have the highest concentration in the Borough. Other areas where parental substance abuse is a problem are pockets in Brunswick Park, East Barnet and Edgware.

A national study found that around three in ten adults will experience mental health problems every year but only three quarters of these will access services. This year (2015) around 16% (58,600) of adults in Barnet have a mental health condition. This is expected to increase by 6% to 62,300 by 2020. Mental health conditions among parents of children referred to care is of particular concern in the more deprived areas of the Borough. The Dollis Valley estate in Underhill, pockets in Brunswick Park and the A5 corridor from Colindale to Edgware are the worst affected areas.

Barnet commissions a number of services to provide support for those affected by domestic violence, mental ill-health and drug and alcohol misuse. Domestic violence support services include refuges, perpetrator and partner programmes and an advocacy service. Barnet Drug and Alcohol Service provide advice and information, drop-in services, psychiatric treatment, psychological therapies, social interventions and complementary therapies. Parenting support services include five Parenting Programmes for hard-to-reach families. The community coaching service recruits and trains community coaches to provide targeted support to vulnerable families in crisis. Since April 2014 there have been increases in the number of MASH contacts for 'toxic trio' cases being referred to Early Intervention services.

8.12.2 Key Issues

- The Barnet Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) strategy identified that CAFs are not identifying or intervening early enough in cases of domestic violence, mental ill-health and drug and alcohol misuse.
- A need to refresh and strengthen referral pathways as the issues of domestic violence, mental ill-health and drug and alcohol misuse are still present in social care referrals
- Increase the numbers of CAFs across the partnership to deliver Barnet's key principles of intervening as early as possible and taking a whole family approach.
- Continue to strengthen the interface between Family and Adult Services to address the issues of domestic violence, mental ill-health and drug and alcohol misuse. This is particularly to ensure children of parents receiving substance misuse treatment are known to Family Service and/or signposted to services appropriately to encourage de-escalation and step down.
- Working alongside the Safeguarding Children's and Adults boards to address the overlap of issues and adapting services and referral pathways.
- Working to bring in more referrals in line with CAADA's Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse estimation of cases, per Borough population.
- A comprehensive process to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews

8.13 Child and Adolescent Mental Health

8.13.1 Prevalence of Mental Health Disorders in Barnet children and young People

Prevalence rates are based on the ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders with strict impairment criteria – the disorder causing distress to the child or having a considerable impact on the child's day to day life. Prevalence varies by age and gender, with boys more likely (11.4%) to have experienced or be experiencing a mental health problem than girls (7.8%). Children aged 11 to 16 years olds are also more likely (11.5%) than 5 to 10 year olds (7.7%) to experience mental health problems. Using these rates, the table below shows the estimated prevalence of mental health disorder by age group and gender in Barnet. Note that the numbers in the age groups 5-10 years and 11-16 years do not add up to those in the 5-16 year age group as the rates are different within each age group.

Table 8-13: Estimated Number of Children with Mental Health Disorders by Age Group and Sex

	Aged 5-10 yrs.	Aged 11-16 yrs.	Aged 5-16 yrs.
All	2,155	2,965	5,160
Boys	1,470	1,695	3,175
Girls	695	1,275	2,020

Source: General Practice (GP) registered patient counts aggregated up to CCG level (CCG report); Office for National Statistics midyear population estimates for 2012 (local authority report). Green, H. et al (2004)

It is important to note that Barnet has a higher number of children and young people in mainstream school with a special educational need than London; 21% in Barnet primary schools against 17% in London's, and for secondary schools in Barnet 22% against 21% in London. Therefore CAMHS services may be well placed in schools.

8.13.2 Prevalence Rates of Mental Health Disorders¹³⁰

The estimated proportion of children and young people to have conduct, emotional and hyperkinetic and less common disorders in Barnet are as follows:

- conduct disorder: 5.8% (3022, 5 – 16 year olds¹³¹)
- emotional disorder: 3.8% (2,014 5- 16 year olds)
- hyperkinetic disorder: 2.2% (1,149, 5 – 16 year olds)
- other less common disorders¹³² (730)
- overall admission rate (per 100,000) for mental disorders for under 18 years in Barnet is 167.6, which is 2nd highest in London compared with London at 87.1 and England at 87.6 (see below).
- expenditure rate on child and adolescent mental disorder was £1.1m which was mid-range compared to most other London Boroughs
- **total spend on child and adolescent mental disorder in 2012/13: £3.7m.**
- a study conducted by Singleton et al (2001) has estimated prevalence rates for neurotic disorders in young people aged 16 to 19 years inclusive, living in private households. The tables below show how many 16 to 19 year olds would be expected to have a neurotic disorder if these prevalence rates were applied to the population of Barnet.
- the most prevalent conditions are Conduct Disorder at an estimated 3,095 5-16 year olds and Mixed Anxiety and Depressive disorder at an estimated 1,405 16 – 19 year olds.
- greater incidence of Mental Health Problems are found in young people with Learning Disabilities; with Special Educational Needs; who are looked after; homeless or sleeping rough; who attempt suicide or self-harm or; who are in the youth justice system.

Table 8-14: Estimated number of 16 to 19 year olds with neurotic disorders

	Males	Females
Mixed anxiety and depressive disorder	435	970
Generalised anxiety disorder	135	90
Depressive episode	80	215
All phobias	55	165
Obsessive compulsive disorder	80	75
Panic disorder	45	50
Any neurotic disorder	730	1,500

Source: Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for 2012.

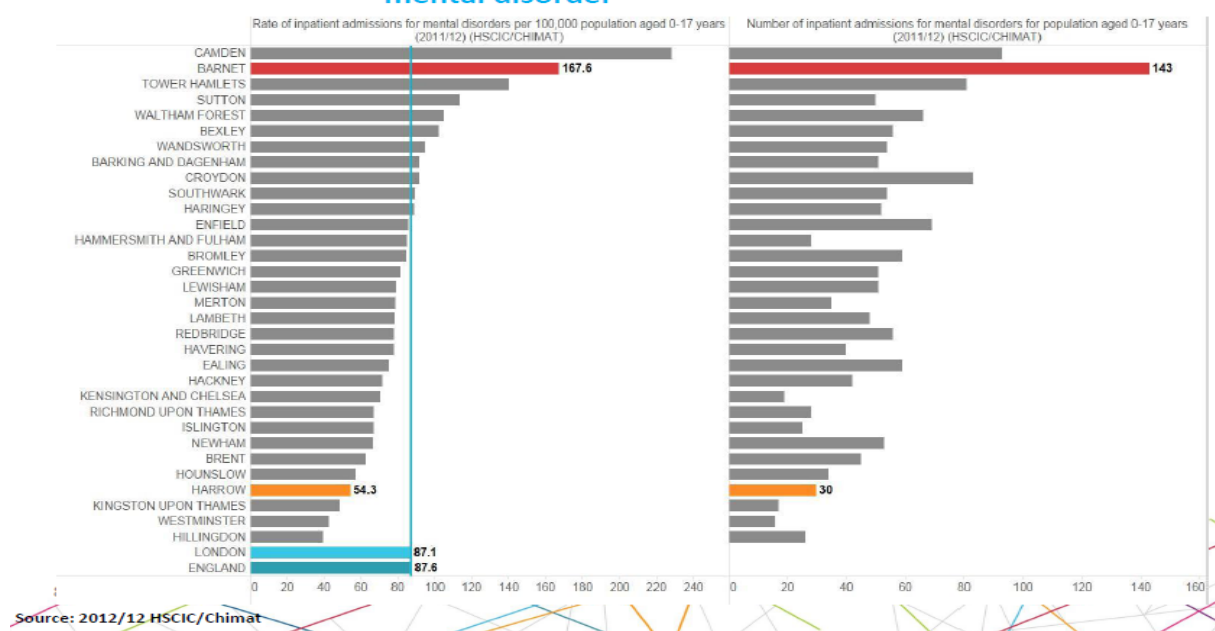
¹³⁰ Extracted from Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) – Barnet (26.01.2015) Dr Neel Bhaduri, Draft V2

¹³¹ Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – Barnet DRAFT (14.01.2015) Dr Neel Bhaduri, Draft V1

¹³² Barnet CAMHS NEEDS ASSESSMENT V2

Figure 8-18: Admission for under 18 year olds in Barnet with mental disorder

B.1.3.1 Rate and number of under 18 year olds admitted with mental disorder



8.13.3 Key Issues/Challenges

- young people voted mental health as one of their top service/needs priorities at a Children's Trust Board event.
- implementation of the CAPA and improving Access to Psychological Therapies
- re-modelling of CAMHS through a jointly developed specification with CCG and public health that invests in prevention and early intervention
- transition to adult services is a challenge

Although Barnet appears to be providing a range of good services, there remains considerable challenge to transform the service. The CAMHS core group is working to implement recommendations from previous Barnet reviews and national recommendations

8.14 Young Carers

According to the 2011 census there are 166,363 young carers living in Barnet, which is an increase of 20% from the 139,000 in 2001. However this figure does not reflect the scale of young carers in Barnet. Many young carers remain hidden for many reasons including family loyalty, stigma, bullying or not knowing where to go for support. The Children's Society estimates there could be up to four times more young carers, approximately 700,000¹³³. This research also suggests 4.5% of children and young people identify themselves as having a caring responsibility. In Barnet this would equate to around 3,900 young carers. Currently the lead provider of support services for young carers in Barnet has a register of approximately 540 children and young people with a caring responsibility.

A young carer is likely to:

- be Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, have a disability, long-term illness or Special Educational Needs.

¹³³ The Children's Society (2013), *Hidden from view*, http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/hidden_from_view_-_final.pdf

- care for siblings and adults with physical or mental problems, or a learning difficulty
- care for up to 15 hours per week, but some even up to 30
- miss out on school, have lower GCSE results than peers and be NEET, or if employed be in a lower skilled occupation
- have parents who are not in work, one with a disability and a mother with no educational qualifications
- have a lower family income and more than three children in their family
- not be in contact with support agencies.

The current lead provider in Barnet of support services to young carers provides support through respite clubs, counselling and mentoring. A school liaison service is provided which delivers support using leaflets, 1:1's and group work, as well as presentations to increase the awareness of, and identify young carers. There is also a service to provide help to young carers affected by drug or alcohol misuse by parents or siblings and a service which provides specific assessments and focuses on transitional issues such as education, training and work.

The Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 together provide a framework to ensure inappropriate caring for young people is prevented or reduced and whole family needs are met. The Acts give young carers and parents similar rights to assessment as other carers have under the Care Act. For the first time carers are being recognised by law in the same way as those they care for and are eligible for assessment and support.

In line with recent legislative changes, Barnet will develop a strategy for the vision and future delivery of young carers' services alongside a needs analysis to ensure service delivery is needs led. Barnet will continue to improve outcomes for young carers and their families. Priorities in order to do this include:

- Proactive identification through training and raising awareness amongst key practitioners and partner agencies to ensure young carers do not remain hidden
- Strengthening referral pathways.
- Joint working with Adults and Communities delivery unit to undertake appropriate whole family approach assessments to prevent young carers providing inappropriate levels of care and ensure whole family needs are met.
- Providing individualised, tailored and appropriate support to young carers so each young carer can achieve their potential and have the same opportunities to progress in life as their peers.
- Ensuring young carers are signposted to and access existing mainstream as well as specialist support services.
- Provide transitions assessments and planning to support young carers prepare for adulthood and raise and fulfil their aspirations.

8.14.1 Scale

- The number of young carers in the UK has increased by 20% from 2001 to 2011.
- However, in Barnet the numbers of young carers has increased by 30% to 1,191 young carers which is 2% of the under 18 population.
- Research estimates that there could be up to four times more young carers. Using these estimates, young carers as a percentage of the 0 - 18 population in Barnet increases from to

2% to 8%. This would mean nearly 1 in 10 children and young people are providing some level of unpaid care.

- The provider of young carers' services in Barnet has 627 young carers registered (April 2015).

8.14.2 Age

- In Barnet there are high proportions of young carers under the age of ten and between 16 and 24:
 - One in eight are under ten years
 - Two thirds of 0 – 24 year olds were aged 18 - 24
- Provider data shows good identification of children and young people under 15 years old. However, there is a large gap in identification of 16 – 17 year olds. Evidence shows a clear association between being a young carer at 16 – 19 and being NEET.
- There is a need to ensure sufficient support for young carers under nine as well as increased identification and support for young carers in transition age. This needs to be addressed in a joint commissioning process.

8.14.3 Ethnicity

National research shows young carers are 1.5 times more likely to be Black, or Minority Ethnic and less likely to identify as a young carer. In Barnet younger cohorts are more diverse than older age groups. This confirms the need to ensure sufficient identification and support for children under 10.

8.14.4 Disability, long term illness, SEN

- National research shows young carers are 1.5 times more likely to have a disability, long term illness or special educational needs.
- The largest age cohorts on Barnet's Disabled Children's Register and classed as SEN on Barnet's school rolls are 5 – 9 and 10 – 14 years old. This confirms the need to ensure sufficient identification and support for children under ten years old.
- Provider data shows the number of young carers with a disability has been increasing and is now over a third of all young carers registered.
- According to census figures, one in five young carers would describe their health as poor or fairly good.
- This shows the importance of young carers having their own needs assessed and supported.

8.14.5 Caring responsibilities

Research shows young carers providing unpaid care who are not in contact with services are likely to be caring for siblings and grandparents. Therefore:

- Identification should focus on services which siblings and grandparents access
- A section on what types of needs young carers are supporting is currently being developed

8.14.6 Impact of caring responsibilities

- Evidence shows a clear association between being a young carer at 16 - 19 years old and having low job prospects and educational opportunities. As well as being a young carer at 20 to 21 years and being in lower skilled occupations.

- In Barnet the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET is ranked 4th nationally and 9th nationally for participation rates for pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities.
- It is therefore important that the provision of this support is inclusive and accessible for young carers.

8.15 Child Poverty

8.15.1 Headlines:

- 21.2% of children living in Barnet live in poverty; a total of 17,330 children.
- Barnet has a lower level of child poverty than the London average (36%), but a slightly higher rate than the England average (20.6%). However, there are geographic variations across Barnet, ranging from just 7.7% in Garden Suburb to 37.5% in Colindale.
- In general there is a propensity for a greater number of areas in the west of the Borough to be affected by child poverty and the factors that directly and indirectly influence it.
- The following groups are likely to be more at risk of poverty than others: lone parents, large families, families affected by disability, and black and minority ethnic groups.

According to the 2010 Child Poverty Act, a child is defined as being in poverty when he/she lives in a household with an income below 60% of the UK's average. Although at the time of writing a new national definition of child poverty is currently being developed, throughout this JSNA child poverty will be defined based upon the definition put forward by the 2010 Child Poverty Act.

A third of all children in the UK live in poverty¹³⁴. Child poverty touches all areas of a child's life, from the home they live in to their health, educational attainment, involvement in crime and social exclusion. Indeed, poverty is the most significant general indicator of risk. The Government has a statutory requirement, enshrined in the Child Poverty Act 2010, to end child poverty by 2020.

Families living in poverty can have as little as **£12 per person per day** to buy everything they need such as food, heating, toys, clothes, electricity and transport.

Research at the national level indicates that the following groups are more at risk of poverty than others:

Lone parents

In Barnet, there are 10,026 lone parent households¹³⁵ with dependent children. Of these lone parents, 46% are not in employment. National statistics show that women accounted for 92% of lone parents with dependent children and these percentages have changed little since 2001.

Large families

Around half of Bangladeshi and Pakistani children, and around a third of black African children, are in families of three or more children compared to around a sixth of white British children¹³⁶. A higher proportion of families from ethnic minority groups can be found in Barnet have more deprived wards. Furthermore, there is a minority of ultra-orthodox Jewish families living in Barnet, particularly in and around the Golders Green ward, where family sizes are typically larger.

Families affected by disability

¹³⁴ Using the measure of household income less than 60 per cent of current median income. Source: HMRC snapshot as at 31 August 2012, IMD 2010, DoE Child Poverty Dataset

¹³⁵ 2011 Census

¹³⁶ Palmer and Kenway (2007), 'Poverty Rates among Ethnic Groups in Great Britain'

Four in every ten disabled children live in poverty¹³⁷. The Children's Society has warned that the new Universal Credit benefit system may have an adverse impact on families affected by disability.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups

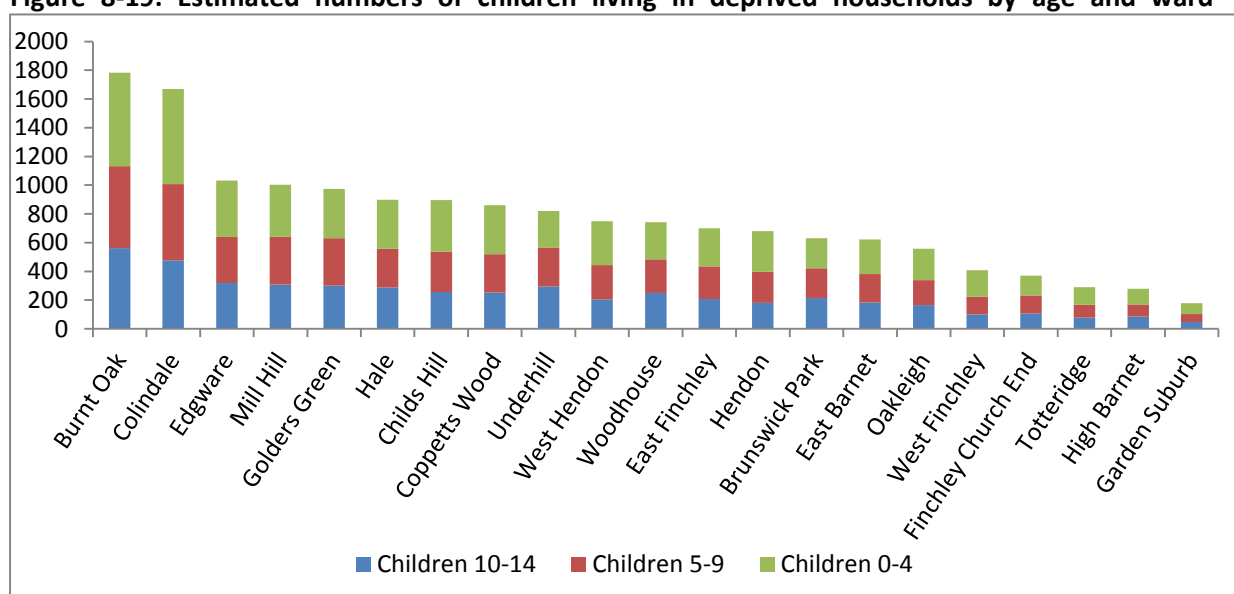
Nationally in 2010, nearly three-quarters of seven-year-old Pakistani and Bangladeshi children and just over half of those black children of the same age were living in poverty. Barnet has a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic average of 39%. However, in Colindale, Burnt Oak and Hendon, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic residents make up over half of the population.

There is also a strong link between child poverty and unemployment or low levels of income. The percentage of low income families has decreased in Barnet since 2007 to 17.3% in 2012, a trend in line with the London and UK picture.

The number of children living in poverty in Barnet is 21.2%¹³⁸ - which is slightly higher than the UK average (20.6%). This makes Barnet the Borough with the 25th highest rate of child poverty of the 33 London Authorities.

Children living in poverty are not distributed equally across the Borough and there is a strong correlation between child poverty and deprived LSOAs in Barnet. In turn, the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents is higher in these areas.

Figure 8-19: Estimated numbers of children living in deprived households by age and ward



Source: HMRC, 2010

The highest rates of child poverty are in the west of the Borough, in particular Burnt Oak (36%) and Colindale (37.5%)¹³⁹, which exceed the national and London averages. Colindale and Burnt Oak also have the highest proportion of children living in low-income families, with just over one third of the children living in low-income families.

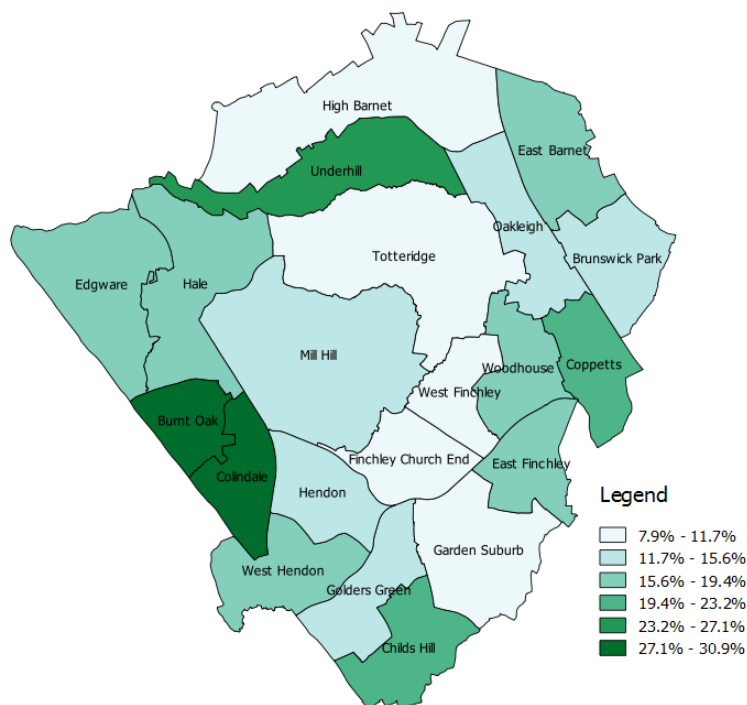
Underhill, Child's Hill and Coppetts are the wards with the next highest rates of poverty, with Underhill at 26.2% and the other wards both at 25%

¹³⁷ <http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-lobbying/child-poverty/disabled-children-and-poverty-0>

¹³⁸ 2010 HMRC data

¹³⁹ HMRC data 2010

Figure 8-20: Child Poverty by Ward



Child poverty is particularly low in the more central wards running from north to south of the Borough: High Barnet, Totteridge, West Finchley, Finchley Church End and Garden Suburb. Garden Suburb has the lowest percentage at only 7.9%. These are also the wards in which the percentage of all children living in a low-income family is at its lowest in the Borough.

There are a number of factors that directly and indirectly influence child poverty, which are set out in more detail below.

8.15.2 Housing

Housing costs are a factor which can push families below the poverty line. In turn, bad housing means lower educational attainment and greater likelihood of unemployment for children¹⁴⁰. Private sector rents have increased faster in Barnet than in other parts of London and they are the 4th highest of 16 Outer London Boroughs.

Increased housing costs can contribute to 'in work poverty', where families who are in work find that housing, bills, childcare costs and living costs mean that there is little leftover from their wages. Income is also depends on the skills and qualifications of the workforce and the level of income.

This means that more low-income households may approach the council for assistance with their housing. 12% of new issues to the Barnet Citizen's Advice Bureau in 2012/13 were related to housing, second to debt (16%) and benefits (35%).

The number of young people being displaced who live within a family unit is increasing. These are young people and children who have to move out of Borough due to homelessness and or the lack of affordable housing. This has implications for school attendance and sustaining family support networks.

8.15.3 Education

Children growing up in poverty are less likely to do well at school. This can put them at a disadvantage in later life which, in turn, can affect their children.

¹⁴⁰ 'Chance of a lifetime: The impact of bad housing on children's lives' (Shelter, 2006): https://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/39202/Chance_of_a_Lifetime.pdf

Nationally, only 48% of five year olds entitled to Free School Meals have a good level of development at the end of their reception year, compared to 67% of all other pupils. Less than half of pupils entitled to Free School Meals (just 36%) achieve 5 GCSEs at C or above, including English and Maths, which compares to 63% of pupils who are not eligible.

In Barnet, disadvantaged children continue to perform significantly below their non-disadvantaged counterparts. In 2014, 28 percentage points separated disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils at Key Stage 4. The number of children entitled to Free School Meals progressing to Level Two has increased steadily over the past ten years, in line with London levels.

The percentage of young people in Barnet progressing to higher education exceeds the London average by nine percentage points (58%). However the gap for children on Free School Meals is far smaller, at six percentage points below (43%) the London average.

8.15.4 Health

Poverty has been the major determinant of child and adult health and it remains a major cause of ill health with huge public health consequences¹⁴¹. A report from End Child Poverty states the following:

- the effects of poverty are passed across generations through pregnancy.
- poor infants are more likely to be born small and/or early.
- acute illnesses are more likely to affect poor children and they are more likely to experience hospital admission.
- child abuse and neglect appear to be more common among poor families, possibly related to the adverse effects of poverty on child rearing.
- breastfeeding is strongly socially patterned.

In Barnet, 7% of live births are under 2.5kg and 1% of children in reception year are underweight, which is largely in line with the London and England averages. Life expectancy for males and females is higher than the London average. However, life expectancy is 7.8 years lower for men and 5.6 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Barnet than in the least deprived areas.

8.15.5 Employment

The government's [Child Poverty Strategy](#) states that tackling the 'root causes' of child poverty means job creation, labour market programmes helping parents into employment and 'making work pay'. However, benefits and tax credits also play a role.

¹⁴¹ 'Health Consequences of Poverty for Children', End Child Poverty:
http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/files/Health_consequences_of_Poverty_for_children.pdf

Table 8-15: The proportion of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work (means-tested) benefits or in families in receipt of tax credits whose reported income is less than 60% of median income

Year	Barnet		London		England	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2006	17,690	23.8%	531,700	31.5%	2,298,385	20.8%
2007	18,555	24.6%	552,725	32.5%	2,397,645	21.6%
2008	18,195	23.7%	534,095	30.8%	2,341,975	20.9%
2009	18,120	22.7%	531,970	29.6%	2,429,305	21.3%
2010	17,330	21.2%	512,185	28.0%	2,367,335	20.6%
2011	16,640	20.1%	495,625	26.7%	2,319,450	20.1%
2012	14,600	17.3%	442,275	23.5%	2,156,280	18.6%

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-tax-credits-children-in-low-income-families-local-measure>

Table 8-16: Children living in a low income family

Ward	Number of all children living in a low-income family	% of all children living in a low-income family	% of all children living in poverty
Brunswick Park	565	14.1%	18.0%
Burnt Oak	1595	28.5%	36.0%
Childs Hill	940	22.3%	25.0%
Colindale	1460	30.9%	37.5%
Coppetts	815	21.1%	25.0%
East Barnet	680	17.4%	19.7%
East Finchley	630	18.9%	22.8%
Edgware	725	15.9%	23.7%
Finchley Church End	300	9.6%	12.2%
Garden Suburb	255	7.9%	7.7%
Golders Green	825	14.0%	17.5%
Hale	800	17.0%	21.2%
Hendon	515	11.9%	16.5%
High Barnet	310	9.5%	10.7%
Mill Hill	720	15.5%	21.9%
Oakleigh	555	15.5%	18.0%
Totteridge	355	11.3%	12.8%
Underhill	940	24.8%	26.2%
West Finchley	345	11.4%	15.7%
West Hendon	655	16.8%	21.6%
Woodhouse	640	17.3%	20.9%

Source: HMRC snapshot as at 31 August 2012

The percentage of children in workless households in Barnet (13%) has decreased to below both the London and England average¹⁴², and the percentage of children in working households has reached 52%, which is the highest level seen in the past ten years. Although employment across Barnet has increased, the highest rates of unemployment are located towards the west of the Borough, in Colindale (8.4%) and Burnt Oak (8.1%).

Table 8-17: Children in Workless Households

	Barnet	London	England
Children in Workless Households (%)	13%	17%	14%

All services across the partnership share a commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people and families in poverty. However, reduced public sector spending will have a significant implication on the delivery of front line services, in particular the amount of preventative services and early intervention programmes that can make a difference and create efficiencies. Services need to work together on a whole family basis in order to improve outcomes and wellbeing for children living in poverty. Evidence suggests that single agency responses are unlikely to affect the change a child and family requires to escape deep-rooted poverty.

8.16 Voice of the Child

Barnet delivers a diverse range of participation forums which enable children and young people to have their voices heard.

- **Barnet Youth Board** - A representative panel of young people aged 13- 24 years acting as a voice for the wider youth community of Barnet.
- **UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)**
- **Role Model Army (RMA)** - The RMA is Barnet's Children in Care Council.
- **Youth Shield** - Youth Shield is Barnet's Youth Safeguarding Panel for young people aged 14-25 years run by CommUNITY Barnet on behalf of Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB).
- **Young Commissioners** – A group of children and young people embedded within the commissioning cycle providing their unique voice and insight in to service specification and design.

In addition, a programme of work targeting young people engaged with the YOS team, PRU, and foyer is also under way. Some of the key / top priorities that children and young people have already told us are:

- Mental health services for children and young people.
- Improved access to, and quality of, mental health provision at the earliest possible opportunity for children and young people.
- Reducing child poverty.
- Helping disadvantaged children and young people to do well in school.
- Making sure everyone can read and write at primary school.
- Protecting young people from bullying, violence and sexual exploitation.
- Youth centres and activities for teenagers.
- Young girls have increasingly spoken out about relationships and how they can support each other. They would seek help initially from their GP.

¹⁴² Labour Force Survey (Household and Labour Market Division) ONS2012

- A commitment from all employers to pay the London Living Wage to young people.
- Improved quality of extra-curricular activities with a focus on sport and fitness.
- Improved road safety across Barnet.
- Improvement in young people's participation with politics and local democracy.
- Looked After Children to receive a more thorough and considered induction into care and a more flexible approach to their care reviews.
- Looked After Children to be able to receive concise information upon their entitlements upon receipt of Looked After Children status.
- More effective work experience programmes.
- Wider and more vocal campaigning for votes at 16.
- Improvement to community cohesion and the breaking down of barriers based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality and demography.

8.16.1 Participation

'The State of the Children's Rights in London' report highlights the importance of ensuring that local authorities place children and young people at the heart of the decision-making process. This highlights the importance of not only listening to the 'voice' of children and young people, but also ensuring that they participate in the planning, delivery and improvement of services that matter to them.

Participation means talking to, listening to and hearing from children and young people whilst encouraging and supporting them to contribute, participate in discussions and have their voices heard. It is then important to act on the views and ideas presented whilst being open, honest and realistic with them on the levels of involvement that they can have.

Barnet has a large population of children and young people and despite the range of engagement forums, there is still an opportunity for improving the way in which they participate with the council.

One area in particular where there is room for improvement is around crime. It is known that children and young people are more likely to be victims of crime, however they are often less likely to report it to the police when they are.

Following the publication of 'The Voice of the Child Strategy Action Plan 2015-17', work is currently underway to identify ways in which the council can enhance its understanding and avenues for engagement with children and young people. This section of the JSNA will be updated in the future to represent this work.