

APPENDIX A: Communities Together Network (CTN) Annual Report

1. Introduction

This is the first annual report of Barnet's Communities Together Network (CTN). CTN was set up in October 2013 as part of the Council's continuing commitment to equalities. It is an important voluntary and informal communication channel and includes council representatives from Emergency Planning, Community Safety, Community Participation, Consultation and Engagement, and other strategic and community partners including Police, Fire, CommUNITY Barnet, Barnet Multi-Faith Forum, Barnet Homes, and Re, Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College, NHS and community groups. It is jointly chaired with CommUNITY Barnet and is open to all statutory, voluntary and community organisations in the borough, of all faiths and none. Councillors are also welcome to attend. Councillors Old and Longstaff have attended open network sessions while Councillors Slocombe, Kay and Langleben have attended meetings about specific issues in West Hendon. Councillors have also fed in issues from their wards. More detail about these is presented in section 4 of this report.

CTN is designed to operate at a proactive and reactive level in response to any emergency incidents, so that emergency services and the community can work together to monitor, understand, reduce and prevent community tension.

2. A growing borough , where people get on well together

Barnet is a place where residents from different backgrounds get on particularly well together, and we are justly proud of our diversity and the strength and cohesiveness of our communities. The Residents' Perception Survey (RPS) showed that 84 per cent of residents agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in Barnet, with 78 per cent of residents agreeing that people in Barnet treat each other with respect and consideration. 94 per cent of residents report that they feel safe in the daytime and 72 per cent in the dark.

By the end of 2015 Barnet is forecast to be the most populous borough in London. As the borough continues to grow and change, we need to ensure that we are tackling any issue. We are confident and celebrate the fact that our diversity will remain our strength. CTN will continue to bring together Barnet's strong local networks and build community capacity so that the Borough is well placed to respond to any emergency incidents and eliminate any community tension. Further demographic information is attached at Appendix One.

3. CTN's purpose and terms of reference

CTN's aims

The purpose of CTN is to promote community wellbeing and encourage cohesive and safe communities by sharing information and talking about what really matters to our communities and citizens. CTN promotes understanding and supports Barnet's communities to get on well together and maintain excellent community cohesion in the Borough. By supporting all our residents and businesses to live and work peacefully alongside one another, CTN helps to keep Barnet a great place to live, work and study for all our diverse cultural and faith communities.

In summary, CTN's aims are to:

- Improve understanding amongst the council, strategic partners and community groups of issues which matter to the different communities in the borough.
- Scan for early warning signs of community tensions to avoid escalation, respond to any incidents in a speedy and effective manner and prevent any future occurrences.
- Identify and use community expertise and resource to respond effectively to any incident by coming together, pooling support and offering a shared communication.
- Sustain good community relations.

CTN also plays an important role in partnership with the Borough Resilience Forum (including Police, Fire, utilities and health partners, multi-faith and security organisations) during any incident which requires a quick community response. Many members are common to both groups; for example emergency service and multi faith representatives and other community leaders can be included as necessary.

Background: why CTN was established

The importance of nurturing strong community networks was highlighted in May 2013 when a community centre, used by Barnet citizens from a Somali Bravanese background, was badly damaged in an arson attack. The group received many offers of support in response to the incident, including temporary accommodation, from local faith and community leaders, public sector organisations, individual residents and local and national charities. As a result, community and after school education activities were able to continue, with minimal disruption, from East Finchley Library and council premises in Whetstone. Barnet's Property Services Team is working closely with the Somali Bravanese Welfare group and community representatives to provide a longer term location which will provide shared and flexible facilities for the Bravanese group and others in the community.

Authority and terms of reference

Authority for CTN is outlined in a Barnet Council Cabinet meeting decision of September 2013 as part of a multi-agency/partnership approach.

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g7464/Printed%20minutes%2024th-Sep-2013%2019.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>.

CTN is designed to operate at a proactive and reactive level in response to any emergency incidents, so that emergency services and the community can work together to monitor, understand, reduce and prevent community tension. The terms of reference were agreed at the CTN meeting on 18th October 2013 and they are attached at Appendix Two.

4. How CTN operates

CTN meets in open session three times a year with regular virtual communication. Meetings were held on 18/10/13, 26/02/14, 03/09/14 and 03/12/14. The open network meetings have discussed themes such as gangs, youth culture and violence, and how the CTN can be involved in delivering the priorities set out in Barnet's Corporate Plan. Good schools, education, health, homes, jobs, community safety and cohesion are, for example, high on the agenda. In 2015 CTN will determine a forward work programme including, for example, how regeneration schemes and schools can support cohesive communities.

The September 2014 CTN meeting also looked at hate crime, including crime based on disability, sexual orientation, and race and religious hate. This culminated in support for the Barnet Multi-Faith Forum's joint Jewish and Muslim statement on race and religious tolerance in the Borough.

A pop-up exhibition was organised for the September meeting to demonstrate how CTN can get involved in Barnet Council's work. This covered:

- the Community Asset Strategy
- Area Committees
- Barnet Partnership Boards and service user forums
- Practitioner networks
- Data about Barnet citizens, such as the Barnet customer segments; Re's Observatory; and the Community Safety data dashboard which includes information on hate crime.

CTN also operates at a virtual level to improve both the reach of and feedback on important Barnet consultations. Regular communications are sent to the CTN mailing list so that members are made aware of council and other consultations and have the opportunity to feed into decisions about strategic change, spending priorities and how services are delivered in the borough. Subjects covered have included Barnet's fostering arrangements, growth as set out in Entrepreneurial Barnet, council tax support scheme, Sports and Physical Activity which led to the involvement of citizens with learning disabilities and multi-faith input into the strategy, housing and the needs of older people, the future of Barnet Libraries, Education and Skills, the Housing Allocations strategy, the recommissioning of the Council's VCS development partner and parking.

Links about the new Area Committee structure and the availability of grant funding through the Area Committees' budgets were also communicated to CTN so that CTN members were aware of the opportunities this presented to apply for funding.

Responding to emergency issues

In any incident, the CTN responds alongside the Barnet Resilience Forum. For example, in January 2015, CTN worked with the Resilience Forum to respond to events at the offices of Charlie Hebdo in Paris. This resulted in the issue of a joint press release condemning acts of violence and demonstrated that the CTN emergency response model is working well in partnership with BRF.

Getting involved in community issues

CTN has responded to specific community issues in partnership with Community Safety, for example, discussing issues between residents of Montagu Road and parents at the Ayesha Community School (working with Cllrs Slocombe, Kay and Langleben), removal of racist graffiti (working with Cllr Davey), fly tipping at Northway/Fairway (working with Cllr Thompstone), and developing stakeholder engagement in the design and rebuild of The Old Barn so that it provides community space that is based on a common understanding of the issues and needs and facilities can be shared for joint and separate group activities for the mutual benefit of the whole community (working with Cllrs Longstaff, Rawlings and Moore).

A log is kept of all community issues where CTN has had an involvement.

5. Using data

CTN meetings have a standing item on crime statistics and use the LBB Community Safety data dashboard which can be found at:

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s13055/Performance%20Dashboard.pdf>.

This keeps CTN members informed about developments in the borough and can highlight any change in trends such as, for example, the increased reports of both anti-Semitic and anti-Islamic hate crime which were considered in September 2014.

6. Public Sector Duty to prevent people being drawn into terrorism (Prevent Duty)

The Prevent Duty is part of The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which received Royal Assent in February 2015. The Prevent Duty requires public bodies to pay due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and to provide support to those at risk of radicalisation. Barnet's Community Safety team lead on the Prevent Agenda and the Duty and CTN will continue to work closely with emergency partners in response to emergency incidents.

7. CTN successes

CTN has established excellent borough-wide working relationships and links with Council and community partners, including our strategic emergency service partners and voluntary and community groups of all faiths and none.

There is a good working relationship with the Barnet Resilience Forum in emergency response situations which is activated through Emergency Planning.

CTN works closely with Barnet Multi-Faith Forum in both CTN emergency and open meetings. As noted above, this has led to the adoption of two statements in September 2014 and January 2015 promoting religious tolerance and condemning acts of religious violence.

As shown at section 4, links have been established with Ward Councillors, and issues on schools, fly tipping and racist graffiti have been referred through the Barnet senior management team. We hope to build on this in future through ward level reporting.

8. Next Steps and Future Work Programme

We are reviewing the future plan for CTN and meetings, which are likely to be in May, September and December 2015, will be confirmed in due course.

We plan to consult with CTN on a future work plan which helps to identify community issues and how CTN can share practical solutions and be involved in delivering the priorities of Barnet's Corporate Plan. The following issues may be covered:

- Regeneration and locality projects which promote community cohesion.
- How communities are responding to issues for older people.
- Examples of community programmes with an intergenerational approach.
- Youth work to promote understanding and tolerance.
- Community issues and policing.

9. Celebrating our differences: key events

In June 2015 the work of CTN will be promoted in Barnet First.

On 21st September 2015 the CTN will adopt an intergenerational approach to mark International Peace Day in partnership with the Barnet Multi Faith Forum, Peace One Day and young people in the borough. The theme of the event will be 'Who shall I make peace with?' The event will show how international principles for UN Peace Day affect the everyday lives of communities in Barnet. It will mark the borough's proposal to adopt the All Party Parliamentary Group for Faith and Society covenant on community engagement between local authorities and faith based organisations, (<http://www.faithandsociety.org/covenant/full/>), the joint statement on peaceful religious coexistence and show how the neighbourhood justice programme has

helped communities to work together to understand and accommodate different needs to keep Barnet a great place to live work and study, building on CTN's achievements of greater interfaith support and community resilience.

In 2016 CTN will work with Barnet Multi Faith Forum on a faith and culturally inspired festival to celebrate the diversity and richness of the faith and cultures of Barnet residents. This will involve all strategic partners, CTN stakeholders, the business sector, arts, sports and other civic organisations and all the faith communities.

Annex A

Equalities and cohesion data summary

Barnet's population in 2014

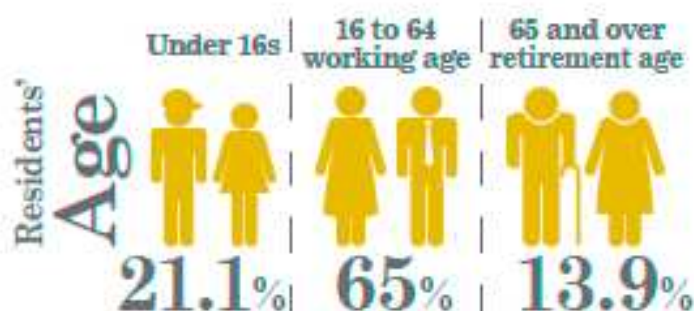
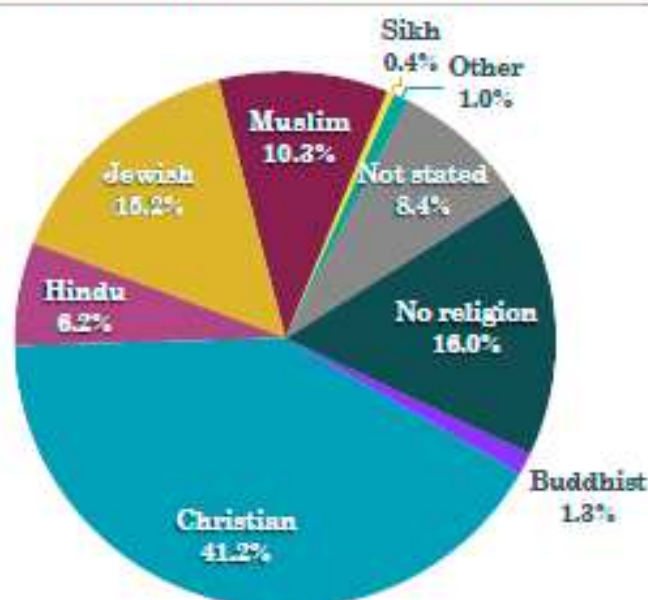
364,481

An increase of 1.9% from 2011 (6,829).
Between 2014 – 2018 5.0% increase in
under 16s and 6.6% increase in 65+

Households in Barnet
141,386 in 2013

↑33,819

Barnet population expected
to increase by 2011-21 (Source: GLA)

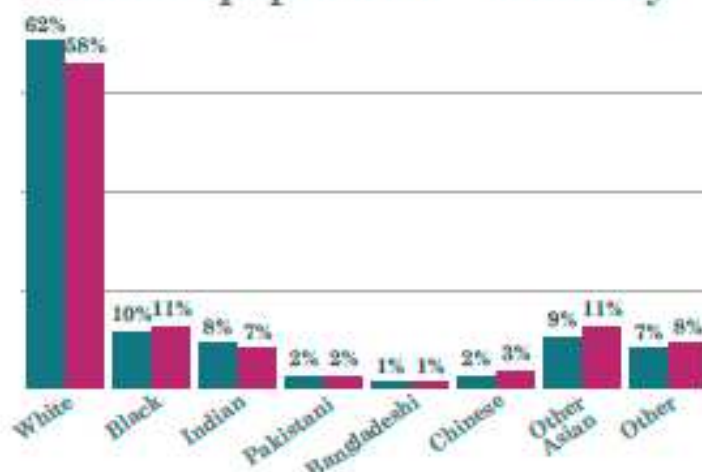


Barnet female population in 2014



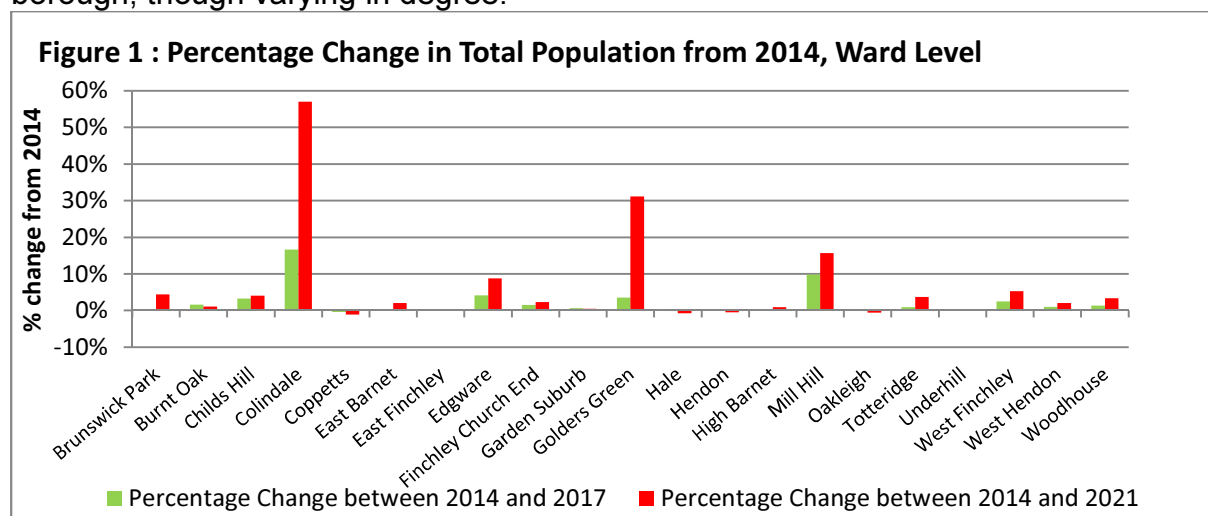
However **57%** in the over **64s**

Barnet's population – ethnicity

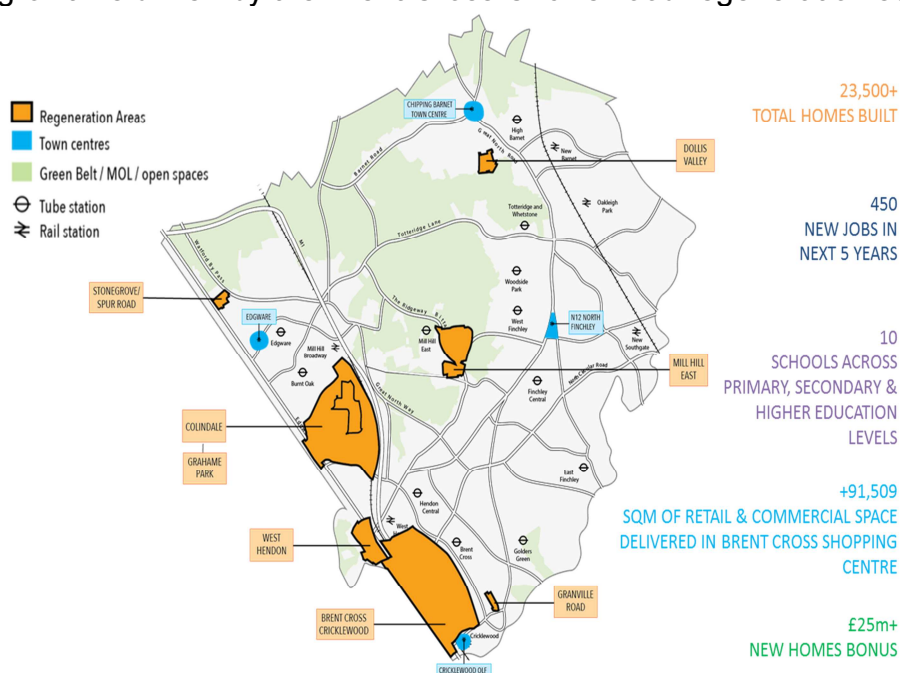


A growing borough

The 2013 round of GLA ward level projections estimated the population of Barnet to be 364,481 by the end of 2014, making it the second most populous borough within London¹. Barnet is forecast to continue to grow and by the end of 2021 the population is expected to reach 391,472. Growth is forecasted to spread across the borough, though varying in degree.



Barnet is an attractive place for young families and Inner Londoners who move away from Inner London as lifestyle changes and the cost of housing increases. Between 2014 and 2017, Colindale and Mill Hill are projected to show the greatest increase in total population. Between 2014 and 2021, Colindale is projected to increase by over 50%; while Golders Green is projected to grow by almost 30%. This population growth is driven by the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration scheme:



Age Structure

Barnet's projected population can be broken down into age groups. The age groups are:

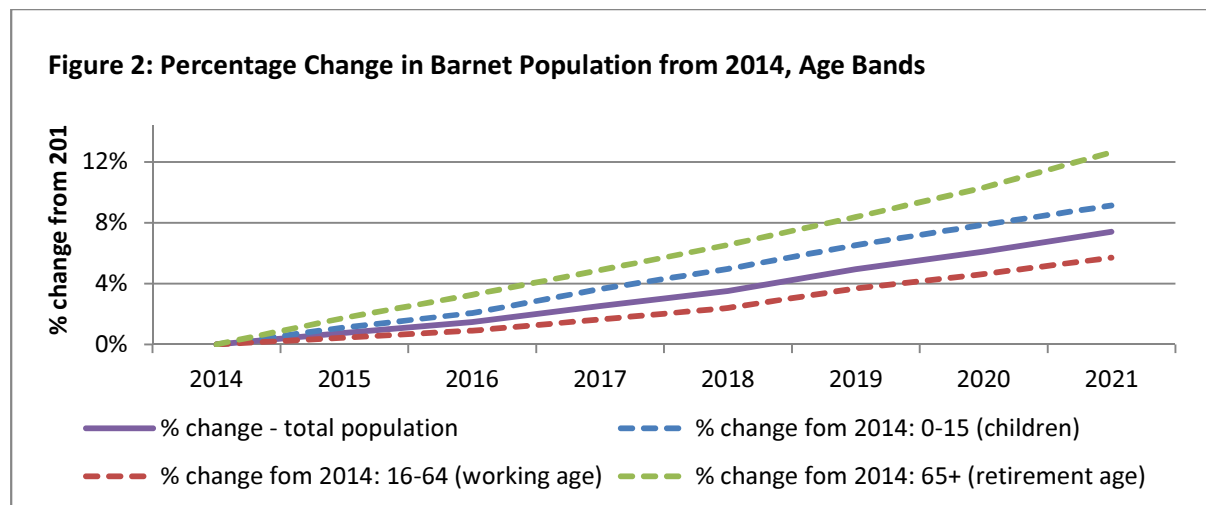
¹ The latest Barnet population projections can be accessed [here](#).

- 0-15 (children)
- 16 – 64 (working age population)
- 65+ (retirement age)

The proportion of children in Barnet is projected to remain broadly the same from 2014 (21.1%) to 2021 (21.4%). Wards which see the biggest increase in the proportion of children are Hendon (1.7%), Colindale (1.5%) and West Hendon (1.2%). Wards which see a significant decrease in the proportion of children include: Golders Green (-1.8% (the population increase in this ward is likely driven by an increase in the population aged over 15)) and Brunswick Park (-1.1%). Golders Green already has the highest proportion of children (25.8%), and it is likely that this population of children is expected to age into working age before the next generation of children are born.

Across Barnet, the proportion of retirement aged residents is expected to increase from 13.9% (50,691) in 2014 to 14.6% (57,098) in 2021. Most wards are projected to see an increase in the proportion of retirement aged populations; Colindale and Golders Green are the only wards to have a decrease in the proportion of retirement aged residents.

Figure 2 shows the percentage change in the Barnet population for each age group during the period 2014 - 2021. It shows that even though a rise is projected in all age groups, the rise is not uniform. The 65 and over age group is projected to increase by 12.6% (6,407), whereas the 0-15 age group is projected a 9.1% (7,038) increase and the 16-64 age group is projected a 5.7% (13,546) increase.



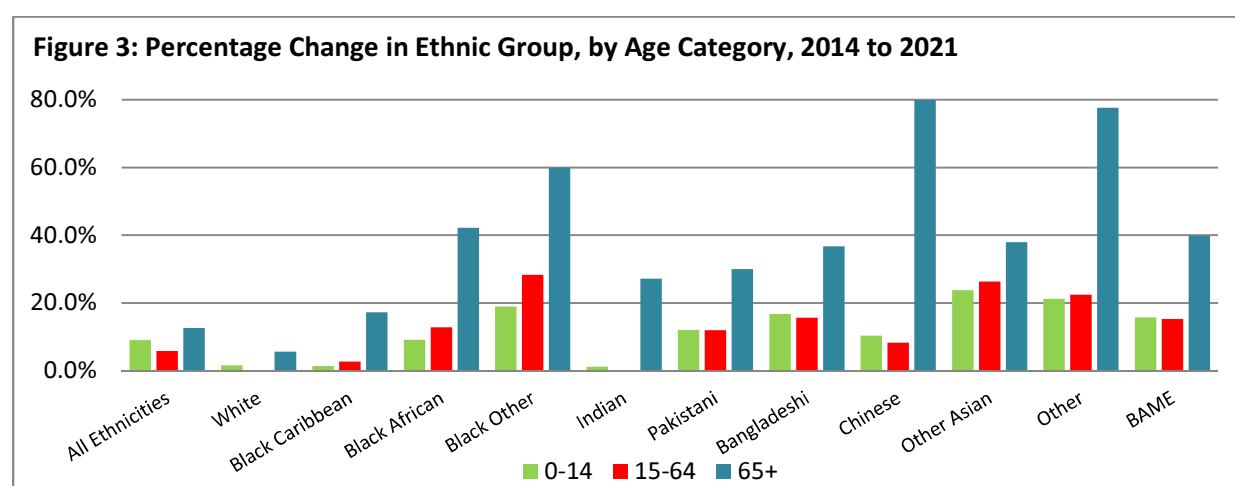
A borough that continues to be diverse

In 2014, 61.9% (225,697) of the Barnet population were from the White ethnic group ; with the remaining BAME population comprised of Other Asian (9.0% (32,904)), Indian (7.6% (27,586)), Other (6.9% (25,109)), Black African (5.7% (20,759)), Black Other (3.1% (11,161)), Chinese (2.4% (8,669)), Pakistani (1.5% (5,618)), Black Caribbean (1.3% (4,578)) and Bangladeshi (0.7% (2,400)).

Barnet's population is more diverse in the south of the borough than the north. Barnet has a high percentage of households with multiple ethnicities and multiple languages spoken suggesting a higher level of ethnic integration than other parts of London, particularly other Outer London boroughs.

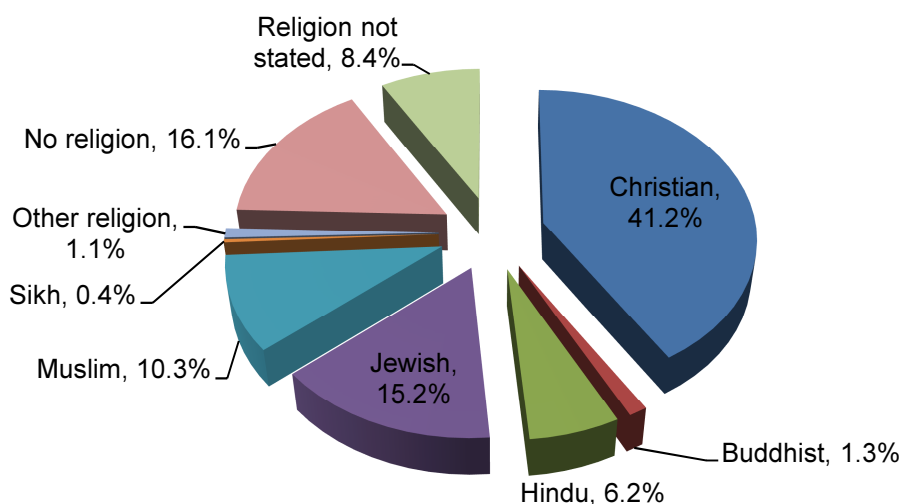
Barnet's population is projected to become increasingly diverse and by 2021 the White British population is projected to decrease in proportion to the total population (from 62.9% to 58.4%). All other ethnic groups show a slight increase, except for Indian, which decreases slightly in proportion from 7.6% of the total population in 2014 to 7.3% of the total population in 2021. The "Other Asian" ethnic group is projected to see the greatest percentage increase (from 9.0% to 10.6%) between 2014 and 2021.

Figure 3 shows the percentage change in ethnic group, by age category during the period 2014-2021. The "Indian" ethnic group is the only ethnic group with a projected decrease in the number of residents aged 15-64 (-0.2%) and minimal change in the 0-14 population (1.2%). This is countered by an increase in the 65+ population of 27.2%. This indicates Barnet's Indian population may already be in their late 50s, and are likely to move into retirement age by 2021 without having any more children. The "Chinese" ethnic group sees the greatest increase in its aged 65+ population (79.9%), whilst the "Other" ethnic group is projected to increase by 77.6% in this age range.



Those wards with a bigger ethnic minority population also have bigger migrant communities. In West Hendon and Colindale less than half of residents were born in the UK, while wards in the north of the borough have a higher proportion of UK born residents. The majority of people immigrate to the UK in early adulthood, for reasons of education, work and sometimes asylum and tend to stay in the country long term. Based on the 2011 census data, Christianity remained the majority religion in Barnet with 41.2% (146,866 people) of the population identifying themselves as Christian. The next most common religions are Judaism (15.2%), Islam (10.3%) and Hinduism (6.2%). Barnet continues to have the largest Jewish population in the country. 16.1% (57,297) of the population said that they have no religion up from 12.8% in 2001.

Figure 5: Barnet's Population by Religion



Barnet Communities Together Network and Multi Faith Forum

The Communities Together Network, a group of partners representing Barnet's statutory (including police and fire services), community and faith organisations, work together to promote community cohesion in Barnet.

Barnet has a strong Multi Faith Forum which works with Communities Together Network. Together, we are determined that Barnet's diverse cultural communities should continue to live and work peacefully alongside one another and we will stand united in keeping Barnet as a great place to live. We will challenge all forms of religious and racial hatred and intolerant language or behaviour.

We will continue to work closely together to encourage and maintain the excellent work to promote and maintain our community cohesion in the Borough and promote the peaceful co-existence of the borough's community and faith groups.

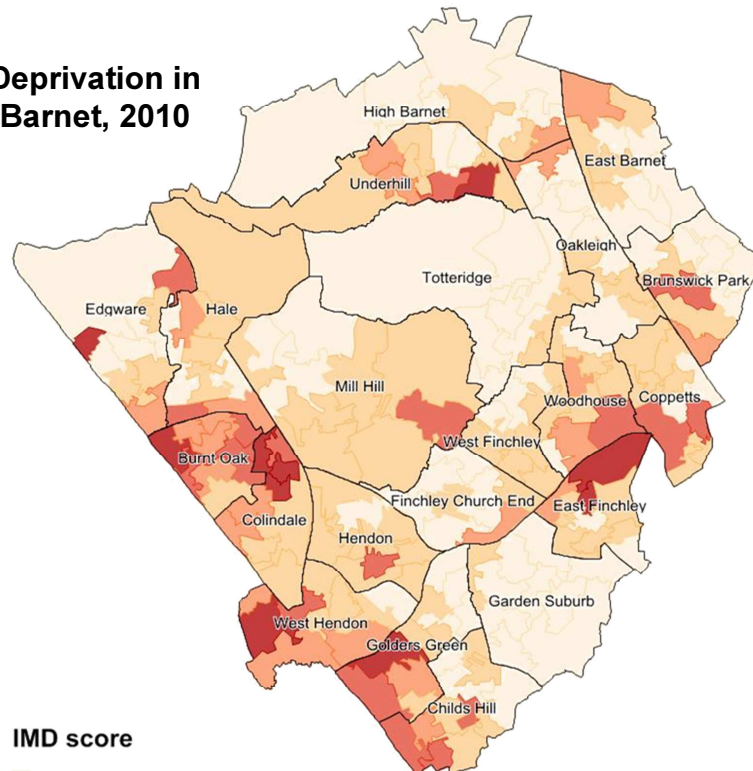
Deprivation

The 2010 update to the Index of Multiple Deprivation², ranks 176th out of the 326 local authorities in England and Wales for deprivation – just slightly below the average (163; the authority ranked 1 is the most deprived). This is 48 places higher than 2007 (128th) and 17 places lower than 2004 (193rd).

Within Barnet, the 2010 figures show the west of the borough still has higher levels of deprivation in Colindale, West Hendon and Burnt Oak. These areas also include large scale regeneration projects. Under this index the Strawberry Vale estate in East Finchley is identified as the most deprived area of the Borough and falls within the 11% most deprived in the country.

² The deprivation figures for 2010 can be found at the following address
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/indices2010>

Deprivation in Barnet, 2010



IMD score



Source: IMD 2010

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London Borough of Barnet.
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Health, wellbeing and lifestyle

The 2011 census data suggests that the lifestyles of Barnet residents are typical of an Outer London borough. Marital status, occupation and health data all closely match the average Outer London borough profile. 47.2% (64,204) of Barnet residents aged 16 and over are married and 8.2% (28,889) of residents live in a lone parent family.

Self-reported health has improved across all parts of Barnet since 2001. 14.0% of Barnet residents suffer from a long term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activity. Of those people of working age 10% are affected daily by a long term illness or disability.

Barnet has a highly educated population and the occupations of Barnet residents match this profile. 40.3% of the population (aged over 16) are educated to degree level or higher which is above the London average (37.7%). Working residents tend to be in higher management roles in industries such as public service and health and a large proportion are self-employed.

These figures support data from the ONS on Business Demography that suggest Barnet has a high level of entrepreneurialism. This was demonstrated by an above average number of business start-ups (3,735 in 2013). However, Barnet also has an above average level of business failures (2,845 in 2012); the second highest in London. Only 53.4% of Barnet businesses currently survive more than 3 years, compared to 54.8% for Greater London and 57.1% for England. This is addressed in Entrepreneurial Barnet which aims to make the Barnet the best place for a small business in London.

According to the latest Annual Population Survey (June 2013 – June 2014), 168,300 (71.9%) of Barnet's working age population are currently employed, which is slightly higher than the London average of 71.8%. Breaking this down by ward, according to data from the 2011 Census, the wards with the highest levels of employment were East Finchley and West Finchley. The lowest rates of employment were in Colindale, Burnt Oak and West Hendon.

A safe and cohesive community

Feeling safe and accepted are important features of a cohesive community. Survey data suggests that the majority of people in Barnet feel safe in their local area. 72% of residents feel safe walking alone in the dark and 94% of residents report that they feel safe in their local community during the day. Barnet has cohesive communities; with 84% of residents agreeing that people from different backgrounds get on well together in Barnet. 78% of residents also feel that the police in Barnet can be relied on to be there when you need them.

Within Barnet, 22% of residents report being worried about anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their local area, whilst 72% of residents report being satisfied with the way that the Barnet police and the Local Authority are dealing with ASB in their area. For the 12 month period ending 25th February 2014, Barnet police received 11,798 calls regarding anti-social behaviour (ASB), which equated to 32 calls per 1,000 residents. This is the 8th lowest rate of ASB calls within London. This data, along with data on hate crime and national trends, especially around feelings to one particular community, provide a key tool to analysing areas where there may be a risk of increased community tension.

Advice

Please contact Lesley Holland, Equalities and Policy Officer if you require further information.

Barnet will use the data within this report is for completing Equalities Impact Assessments. Other useful sources of guidance and data are:

[Barnet's public equality pages](#)

[The Residents' Perception Survey](#)