

Chipping Barnet Insight and Evidence Review

Executive Summary

1 Overview of Findings

1.1 Challenges of an ageing & isolated population

Chipping Barnet has the largest population of people aged 65 or over and this is the only broad age group that is projected to grow over the next five years (see page 11).

This could be a major issue for the area as the Department of Health estimates that the average cost of providing hospital and community health services for a person aged 85 years or more is around three times greater than for a person aged 65 to 74 years.

Within Adult Social Care, there is a shift towards helping people who want to remain at home for longer to do so, before moving into care. Although this can offer reduced care costs, it can lead to higher cases of social isolation, which in itself is a driver of demand for health and social care services. A recent insight report suggests that social isolation is especially prominent in elderly women who live alone, especially in areas of higher affluence and lower population density¹. Social isolation is a concern across the whole of Chipping Barnet; however Totteridge, High Barnet and Brunswick Park have been identified as potential hotspots.

Charitable and community groups can help alleviate some of the challenges faced by an increasingly elderly population. The sector offers significant value for money by engaging residents as volunteers and bringing external funding into the Borough.

Voluntary and community sector organisations offer a way of reducing the impact that an increasingly elderly population may have on the Council. Currently, almost a third (50) of the charities registered in Chipping Barnet, are registered to work with elderly people. High Barnet has one of the highest levels of charities that work with the elderly population (11), although Brunswick Park and East Barnet have smaller numbers; 6 and 5 respectively.

An ageing population can also have an impact on the local labour market. On average 50-64 year olds have comparatively fewer qualifications than their younger counterparts, and there is a sharp decrease in the participation in training once

¹ Source; CSG Insight Social isolation in Barnet, May 2015

workers reach their mid-50s (The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, 2011).

1.2 Pockets of relative deprivation

In general the residents of Chipping Barnet have favourable health compared to many other parts of Barnet. However, this is not the case across the whole of the area, as Coppetts and Underhill have some of the shortest life expectancies of anywhere in the borough (see page 25).

Both Coppetts and Underhill wards were also identified in the 2015-2020 Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) as having of the highest incidences of cancer in the borough.

Life expectancy provides a good indicator of overall health and has been found to be closely linked to deprivation, with the most deprived areas often experiencing shorter average life expectancies than less deprived areas.

One of the best ways to improve levels of deprivation is to move people into work. Underhill, East Barnet and Coppetts have some of the highest levels of benefit claimants across the constituency (see page 21). Underhill also has the joint highest number (26) of 16-19 year olds who are not in employment, education or training across the whole borough.

Voluntary and community sector organisations relating to economic development and unemployment are well developed in some of the most deprived areas of the borough, such as Colindale and Burnt Oak, however there is weaker voluntary and community sector provision in areas of Chipping Barnet which also have some noteworthy levels of deprivation.

1.3 Obesity and Participation in Sport

In the JSNA Underhill was identified as having one of the highest rates of child obesity across Barnet. Child obesity can lead to more severe health conditions later in life such as, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and stroke. Targeted prevention and early intervention can help to reduce the impact that this has on health care services in the future.

Being active at a young age is the basis for creating an active adult and thereby reducing health risks associated with inactivity later in life. It can act as a cost effective measure to combat obesity and improve people's overall health and lifestyle.

Throughout Barnet there is a fairly even distribution of sports provision; however areas around Underhill have been found to have some of the lowest levels of participation in sports.

Encouraging people to use parks is a great way to promote healthy lifestyles. The 2014 Parks and Green Spaces needs assessment found that although residents in Underhill have comparatively high satisfaction levels with parks; residents in the most deprived areas of Underhill are amongst the people least likely to use parks across the whole borough. It also found that people in Underhill were more unlikely to volunteer in parks than in other areas of the constituency.

This suggests that residents may feel disengaged with parks, which could result in residents missing out on the health benefits that parks provide. Increasing the use of parks as a space for exercise may help to tackle some of the issues surrounding poor health in the ward.

2 Recommended Areas of Focus

- Challenges of an ageing & isolated population
 - Managing social isolation
 - Reducing health care costs
 - Utilising the skills and experiences of this population – volunteering
 - Improving community cohesion
 - Retraining opportunities

- Pockets of Deprivation
 - Employment and Education
 - Targeted employment support across specific areas of the constituency

- Obesity and Participation in Sport
 - Health and Lifestyle
 - Increasing participation in sports
 - Increasing usage of parks and open spaces

3 Summary of Key Facts

3.1 Population

- The current population of Chipping Barnet is 112,274. This is the smallest population of all three constituencies in the borough.
- Between 2015 and 2020, the Chipping Barnet population is projected to increase by 0.7%, although the 65 and over population is projected much higher growth of 7.4%. Although the other Barnet constituencies are projected similar or even higher rates of growth, it is only in Chipping Barnet where the other age groups are projected to decrease in size. This therefore means that the 65 and over population in Chipping Barnet will become proportionally larger over this period, increasing from 16.2% of the population to 17.2%.

3.2 Employment

- Compared against the other two Barnet constituencies, Chipping Barnet has one of the strongest labour markets. It has the highest proportion of economically active residents in employment; 97.6% compared to 92.4% in Hendon and 92.9% in Finchley and Golders Green.
- However, not all areas in the constituency are performing quite as well. Over 10.0% of working in residents in Underhill, East Barnet and Coppetts are currently claiming benefits and Underhill has the second highest rate of claimants across the whole of Barnet (12.4%) only slightly behind Burnet Oak (14.8 %).
- Underhill also has the joint highest number (26) of 16-19 year olds not in employment, education or training across the whole of the borough.
- The most frequently claimed benefit in Chipping Barnet is Employment Support Allowance (ESA), a sickness related benefit, which accounts for 4.5% of all claims. At one time, JSA made up the highest level of claims but in recent years this has and now only accounts for 1.5% of claims in Chipping Barnet. Residents claiming ESA this benefit may have health barriers to employment, amongst other barriers such as lack of skills, experience or long periods without work.

3.3 Deprivation

- Households in Chipping Barnet have an average household income of £43,295. This is the second highest average income of all three constituencies and is above the Borough average of £41,468.
- Average incomes are rising across Chipping Barnet; however this is not uniform across the area. The average household income in Totteridge (£49,800) is over £15,000 above the income in Underhill (£34,300), which results in higher income inequality between different areas.
- Underhill has the highest rate (18.0%) of households living below the poverty line in Chipping Barnet; this is the third highest rate across the whole of the borough.
- Underhill and Coppetts also have high some of the highest rates of children living in low income families 26.2% and 25.0% respectively.

3.4 Health

- Average life expectancy is a good measure of the overall health of a population. Across Chipping Barnet most areas compare favourably to other parts of the borough with higher than average life expectancies.
- However, this is not the case in Underhill and Coppetts which have some of the shortest life expectancies in the whole of Barnet. Both of these areas were also identified in the 2015-2020 Barnet JSNA as having of the highest incidences of cancer in the borough.
- In addition to this, alongside Burnt Oak and Colindale, Underhill has some of the highest rates of child and adult obesity in the borough, combined with some of the lowest levels of participation in sports.

3.5 Crime

- The Chipping Barnet constituency has the lowest rate of reported crimes of all three constituencies; 53.2 reported crimes for every 1,000 people in the population, compared to Hendon with 68.7 and Finchley and Golders Green with 59.8.
- Across most of Chipping Barnet crime rates have been falling. Despite this, Coppetts has the third highest reported crime rate in Barnet; 75.6 reported crimes per 1,000 of the population.
- The highest type of reported crime in Coppetts is theft and handling, which accounts for 47.6% of all crimes. This is the highest reported type of crime across five of the Chipping Barnet wards, whereas violence against the person is the highest reported crime in two wards.

3.6 House prices

- The average house price in Chipping Barnet is £516,044; £36,380 above the overall Barnet average of £479,664.
- House prices vary across the constituency with average houses in Totteridge £340,000 above those in Brunswick Park.
- Over the past year, average house prices in Oakleigh have increased by over 36.4%, whereas homes in High Barnet and Brunswick Park have reduced, -9.2% and -9.6% respectively.