

# APPENDIX A – Finchley and Golders Green Insight and Evidence Review

## Executive Summary

### 1 Overview of Findings

#### 1.1 Increasing Diversity and Community Cohesion

The Finchley and Golders Green constituency is one of the most diverse in the borough, with residents coming from a variety of different ethnic and religious backgrounds, such as Christian (34.8%), Jewish (21.1%) and Indian (7.2%).

Within the Finchley and Golders Green constituency, the main driving factor for growth over the next five years is the redevelopment work around Brent Cross Cricklewood. It is likely that a large proportion of residents who move into these new homes will be from outside of the area. This could further increase the diversity of the population.

Within such a diverse population, it is important to support and encourage community cohesion across the area. Community cohesion is important, as without it different groups can work against one another, which can cause tension, violence and discrimination.

#### 1.2 Inequality across Areas of the Constituency

The Finchley and Golders Green constituency is the most affluent constituency in the borough, with some of the highest earners of all Barnet residents (see page 21). However, this masks areas of deprivation within the area.

Deprivation levels across the whole constituency are quite low; however the 2010 indices of multiple deprivation indicated that the most deprived location in the whole borough was the Strawberry Vale estate in East Finchley (see page 21). When looking at household income, although Garden Suburb and Finchley Church End have the highest average incomes across all three constituencies, East Finchley and Golders Green have the fifth and sixth lowest incomes across the borough (see page 21).

Overall the Finchley and Golders Green constituency also has the lowest rate of benefit claimants of all three constituencies; 8.4% of the working age population. However once again, specific areas of the constituency have much higher rates than the constituency average. By ward Golders Green (11.3%) and Child's Hill (10.8%) have the third and fourth highest rates of benefit claimants across all wards in the

borough. These two wards also have the joint second highest number (22) of 16-19 year olds who are not in employment, education or training across the whole borough.

It is also useful to look at health at the ward rather than the constituency level due to wide ranging differences across different areas. Once again, the high life expectancies of areas such as Garden Suburb and Finchley Church End act to mask some areas of concern, as West Finchley, Golders Green and Childs Hill are amongst the five wards with the lowest life expectancies in the borough (see page 25).

These pockets of deprivation across the constituency create high levels of inequality across the area. In order to combat these it may be necessary to prioritise support at smaller geographical areas, rather than taking a whole constituency approach.

One of the best ways to improve levels of deprivation is to move people into work. 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 Finchley and Golders Green which also have some noteworthy levels of deprivation.

### **1.3 High Levels of Theft and Handling**

Despite Finchley and Golders Green having the second highest crime rate of all three constituencies, (63.0 reported crimes per 1,000), the majority of wards within Finchley and Golders Green compare quite favourably to other areas of the borough.

However reported crime levels in Child's Hill are the second highest across the borough; there are 90.5 reported crimes for every 1,000 people in the population. This is the second highest of all wards in the borough, although there has been some progress with this over the past three years with the level of reported crime in Child's Hill reducing from 98.3 in 2012.

Across all wards in the constituency, theft and handling is most frequently reported crime, accounting for around two fifths of all reported crimes. Violence against the person and Burglary are also quite prominent types of crime in the constituency, accounting for around one fifth each of all reported crime.

## **2 Recommended areas of focus**

- Increasing Diversity and Community Cohesion
  - Improving community cohesion
  - Supporting people as they move into the area
  
- Inequality across areas of the constituency
  - Placed based commissioning, to target specific areas with:
    - Tackling deprivation and unemployment
    - Improving health and lifestyle
  
- High Levels of Theft and Handling

### 3 Summary of Key Facts

#### 3.1 Population

- The total population of the Finchley & Golders Green constituency is 122,930. Over the next five years this population is projected to increase by 4.7% taking the population to 128,731. This is the second highest rate of growth out of all three Barnet constituencies behind Hendon.
- Across most wards within the constituency population growth is projected to be between 0-3.0 per cent over the next five years. However, Golders Green is projected to increase by 21.9%, taking its population to 23,129. This will make it the most populous ward in the constituency, overtaking Child's Hill. Growth in Golders's Green is being driven by the redevelopment works taking place around Brent Cross Cricklewood.
- Finchley & Golders Green has the largest community of Jewish residents in the borough, 21.1% of the total population. The Jewish community is largest in Golders Green, Garden Suburb and Finchley Church End. In these wards Judaism is the most common religion.

#### 3.2 Employment

- 92.9% of the economically active people in Finchley and Golders Green are in employment. Only Hendon has the lower rate of 92.4%, whereas Chipping Barnet has a rate of 97.6%.
- Although by benefit claimants, Finchley and Golders Green has the lowest rate of all three constituencies, with only 8.4% of working age residents in receipt of benefits.
- The most frequently claimed benefit is Employment Support Allowance (ESA), a sickness related benefit, which accounts for 4.4% 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 1.6% of claims in Finchley and Golders Green. 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.
- At ward level there is significant variance across the constituency. Garden Suburb (4.6%), Finchley Church End (6.5%) and West Finchley (7.3%) have some of the lowest levels of benefit claimants in the whole borough. Whereas, over 10.0% of working age residents in Golders Green and Childs Hill are currently claiming benefits – the third and fourth highest rates of benefit claimants across the whole of the borough.
- At constituency level, Finchley and Golders Green has the lowest number of 16-19 year olds who are not in employment, education or training (78). Although by ward, Child's Hill and Golders Green have the joint second highest number (22) of 16-19 year olds who are not in education, employment or training across all wards in the borough.

### 3.3 Deprivation

- Households in Finchley and Golders Green have an average household income of £45,400. This is the highest average income of all three constituencies and is above the Borough average of £41,468.
- The Finchley and Golders Green constituency has a wide spread of incomes. Garden Suburb and Finchley Church End have the highest average incomes of all wards in the borough, with incomes of £55,491 and £49,814 respectively. However, East Finchley and Golders Green have average household incomes below the Barnet average of £41,468.
- At ward level the highest areas of deprivation are generally located towards the west of the borough; however data from the 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation identified the Strawberry Vale estate in East Finchley as having the highest rate of deprivation within the whole of Barnet.
- 13.5% of households across Barnet have an average household income below the national poverty threshold of £17,500. Across Finchley & Golders Green, East Finchley has the highest rate of households with income poverty, 14.5% this is the fourth highest rate across the borough.

### 3.4 Health

- Average life expectancy is a good measure of the overall health of a population. It is quite difficult to compare Finchley and Golders Green with other areas of the borough as there is a wide range of life expectancies across the different wards.
- Garden Suburb (86.9) and Finchley Church End (86.3) have the two highest average life expectancies from birth of all Barnet wards. Whereas, West Finchley, Golders Green and Childs Hill have among the shortest. This indicates a high level of inequality across different areas of the constituency.
- Childs Hill was also identified in the 2015-2020 Barnet JSNA as having some of the highest rates of mortality from stroke in the borough, along with Burnt Oak and Colindale.
- Despite one of the highest life expectancies of all wards, Finchley Church End has the highest proportion (9.1%) of babies born with a low birth weight (i.e. less than 2500 g).

### 3.5 Crime

- The Finchley and Golders Green constituency has the second highest rate of reported crimes of all three constituencies; 63.0 reported crimes for every 1,000 people in the population, compared to Hendon with 68.7 and Chipping Barnet with 53.2.
- The highest reported crime rate is in Childs Hill, where 90.5 crimes are reported for every 1,000 people in the population, although since 2012/13 the number of reported crimes in Child's Hill has decreased by 7.9 reported crimes for every 1,000 people in the population.

- The most frequent type of reported crime across all wards in the Finchley and Golders Green constituency is theft and handling, which accounts for approximately 39.0% of all reported crimes.

### **3.6 House prices**

- Finchley and Golders Green has the highest house prices in Barnet. Only Woodhouse has average house prices below the Barnet average of £479,664 and the five out the top six most expensive wards are within Finchley and Golders Green.