

Barnet Children and Young People's Plan

2016 to 2020

Barnet Children and Young People's Plan 2016-20

Barnet's Children's Partnership Vision

We want Barnet to be the most Family Friendly borough in London by 2020. Children, Young People and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to.

Introduction

Working in partnership across Barnet is the only way organisations involved in the lives of children, young people and their families can be sure of jointly supporting the aspirations defined in our new Children and Young People's Plan. Barnet's strategic partners have high aspirations and believe that by working together we can continue to make a real difference to all our children and young people in Barnet, especially those who are most vulnerable.

This is a partnership plan, developed and shaped by partners from different sectors across the borough and represents our joint commitment to making Barnet London's most 'Family Friendly' borough where communities thrive and build their resilience.

Our focus on key priorities has helped target attention and resources on the most vulnerable, but there is still more that needs to be done.

Working in partnership and with children and young people from across the borough, we have produced a new child-friendly plan for 2016-20 that we think reflects the priorities, needs and aspirations of the local population and sets out how, together, we can make Barnet an even better, more Family Friendly place to live.

In Family Friendly Barnet, children and families are able to:

- keep themselves safe
- achieve their best
- be active and healthy
- have their say

This partnership approach to setting priorities is really important. Supporting families to address issues facing children and young people in Barnet is the responsibility of everyone who lives with, works with, and cares about them.

Our plan sets out how we will focus on increasing resilience in the community, helping families to help themselves. It focuses on how we will work in partnership with children, young people and their families, ensuring that we are helping them to do things for themselves, rather than to them or for them.

There is recognition however, that sometimes, for the most vulnerable in Barnet, there is a need for additional support from the partnership agencies. Where this is the case, partners will look at how they can build responses and services around these families' needs, and wherever possible intervene early, building family resilience to stop problems escalating.

Our hope is that by involving children and young people, their parents and carers in its development, this new plan will be something that is relevant and meaningful, and is something which children and young people in the borough read, engage with, and understand.

What is the Children and Young People's Plan?

The Children and Young People's Plan identifies the shared vision, priorities and objectives for partnership working for those across the borough who work with children and young people. The Plan sets out what those working with families in Barnet aim to do to help people improve their own lives.

Partners across the borough include the local authority, police authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Public Health, children, young people, parents and carers, schools, and the voluntary and community sector.

The Plan covers children and young people aged 0-19 years and up to 25 years for those with special educational needs and disabilities. The Plan is aimed at those working with children, young people and families so they are aware of the priorities that need to drive their work. We want this to be a Plan that can be easily understood by parents, carers, children and young people.

The Plan doesn't cover everything we are doing but concentrates on the outcomes and priorities which will make the biggest difference to children, young people and families in Barnet.

Children and Young People in Barnet: key facts

Barnet is part of a successful and thriving London economy and has the largest population of any borough, with an estimated 393,000 residents. The Borough's population of 93,590 children and young people aged 0-19 remains the second largest in London and this group makes up a quarter of the overall Borough's population. This is estimated to grow by 6% between 2015 and 2020 when it will reach 98,914.

Each year, Barnet publishes information that sets out a wide range of demographic data in relation to children and young people and this information can be found ([here](#)). Some key highlights are:

- In 2015, Golders Green had the highest population of children and young people of any ward in Barnet at 6,218, followed by Colindale with 6,055 children. Projections suggest that by 2025 Colindale's children and young people population will be the highest of any ward. Colindale also has 30.9% of children living in low-income families, the largest proportion of all wards in Barnet. Neighbouring Burnt Oak currently has the highest number of children from low-income families in Barnet, and the highest number of out of work families.

- 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.
- Figure 1 shows that couples with dependent children are the largest single type of family unit in Barnet, representing 40% of all One Family Households.

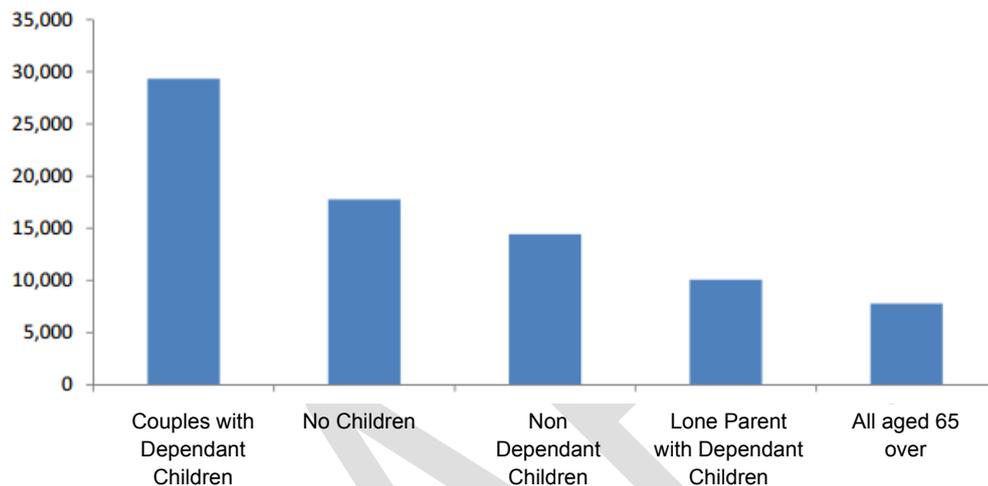


Figure 1: Barnet households by type, HMRC August 2010

- Data suggests that as a borough, Barnet has a larger proportion of families and has higher household incomes compared to the rest of London.
- Poverty is the most significant general indicator of risk and nationally it is recognised that children living in poverty and deprivation are more vulnerable to educational under-achievement, ill health, involvement in crime and social exclusion. There remain some children in Barnet that are at risk of poorer outcomes through poverty.
- 2010 HMRC data looked at all wards in London in terms of child poverty showing Barnet is the ninth least deprived borough in London, with a rate of around 21% (the least deprived has a rate of 10.7% and the most deprived 48.6%). Colindale and Burnt Oak have the highest proportion of children living in low-income families. Just over one third of the children in Burnt Oak and in Colindale are living in low-income families. East Finchley has an overall lower percentage at 18.9% despite having the most deprived LSOA in Barnet in the Strawberry Vale Estate. Golders Green, which has the highest number of children of all wards in Barnet has 14% of these living in low-income families. The Garden Suburb has the lowest percentage at only 7.9%.
- At any one time, there are around 315 children in care with around 800 children 'in need' at any one time, relatively low rates compared to elsewhere in the country.
- Around 5,912 pupils in Barnet have some form of Special Educational Need (SEN) with over 600 children and young people registered as having a disability. Almost

3,000 children and young people are known to provide unpaid care for their parents or other family members, although this is likely to be an underestimate.

What do we mean by Family Friendly?

We know that Barnet is a great place to live for most families, children and young people. Barnet has some of the best schools in the country, some of the best parks and open spaces in London, with low levels of unemployment among the adult population. The borough is benefitting from large-scale regeneration projects, which are creating more housing, infrastructure and opportunities for all. In Barnet, most children and young people achieve well and successfully transition into adulthood.

Our vision is focused on making Barnet an even better place to live for all families - whether a couple with dependent children, a single-parent family, a foster family, a blended family or any other kind of family. Our strategy to achieve this is to focus on developing families' resilience, which evidence tells us is pivotal to delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

Resilience is a term used to describe a situation when good outcomes occur for individuals or families in the face of adversity. An approach based on resilience involves looking for strengths and opportunities that we can build on, rather than for issues or problems to treat.

“Parents, or alternative caregivers, play a pivotal role in promoting the knowledge, skills and environment that can help children cope with adversity.

Parents play a vital part in mediating individual and community factors, directly or indirectly. They can buffer children from some of the worst effects of adversity in the surrounding environment.

Warm, authoritative and responsive parenting is usually crucial in building resilience. Parents who develop open, participative communication, problem-centred coping, confidence and flexibility tend to manage stress well and help their families to do the same”

Clearly there are strengths and opportunities in Barnet we can build on. There is a growing body of evidence which outlines ways that we can support parents and families to be more resilient and these will need to be incorporated into practice across the borough.

These include:

Parents' role in helping children to cope with adversity:

Schools' central role in promoting resilience in relation to both poverty and family difficulties:

“Community factors can also promote resilience. Children are likely to find it easier to access support outside the home when they live in cohesive neighbourhoods with formal facilities that encourage participation and achievement.”

“Voluntary sector organisations play an important part in building the social networks and ties (both strong and weak) that are required for a community to be resilient to change and cope with crises.”

Community factors can also promote resilience.

Voluntary and Community sector have a key role in building communities resilience.

At the heart of promoting resilience is effective relationships, positive behaviour and social connectedness. Partners across the borough play an important role in helping to build this.

The diagram below models our strategy, at the centre of which is improving outcomes for children. The model shows how we will focus on building strong resilient families and communities that care for themselves and are capable of coping with difficulties they may face, avoiding problems from escalating and the need to access statutory interventions. Statutory interventions, however, are still there for those children who need them.

“Schools can play a central role in promoting resilience in relation to both poverty and family difficulties. This can relate to factors such as academic stimulus, support by teachers, learning opportunities and access to friends and peers.”

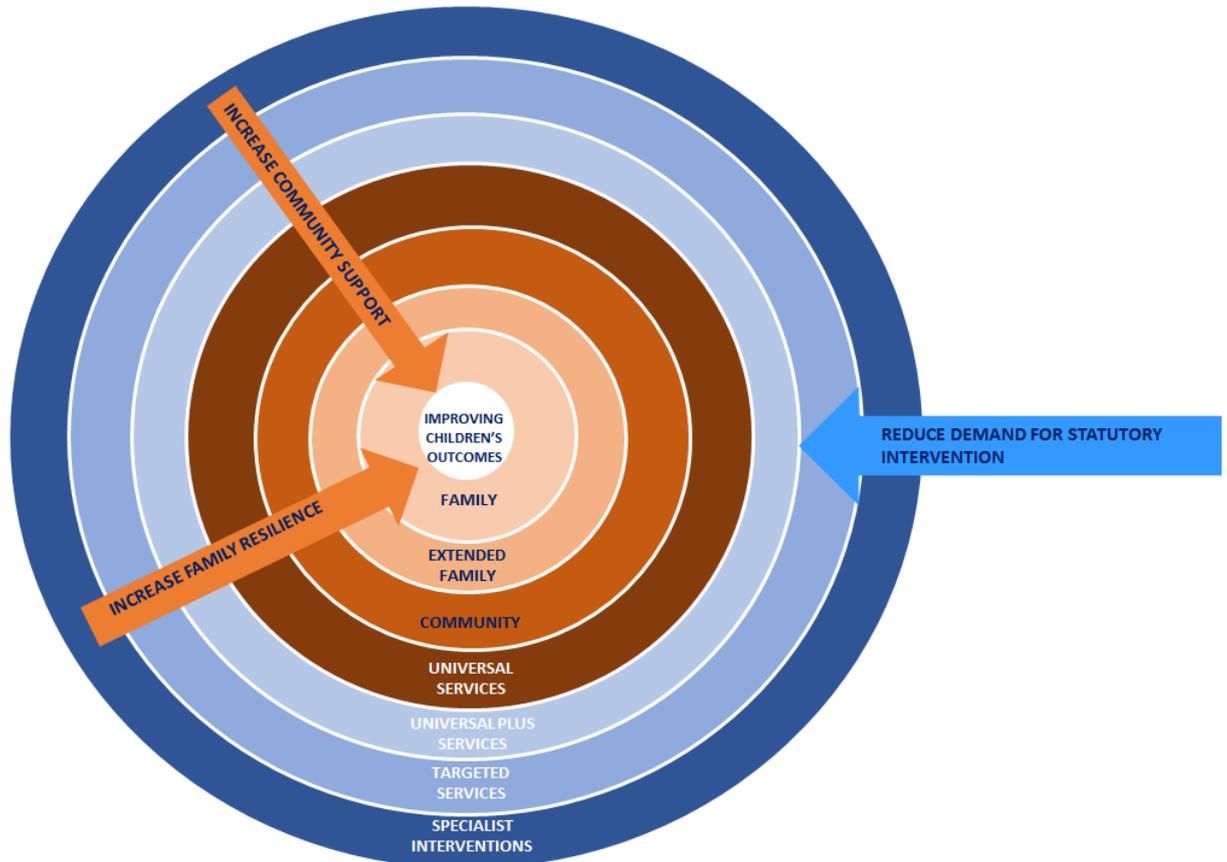


Figure 2: Family Friendly Barnet Model

More work will be done to understand how Family Friendly residents feel Barnet is so that we can measure how far we need to go to achieve our vision.

Our Evidence Base

The Plan's priorities are based both on quantitative analysis (data) that the Council has done which informed the JSNA and qualitative research (what people have told us) with children, young people and families across the borough.

Who did we ask?

We have explored the idea of Family Friendly Barnet with children, young people, their parents and carers, as well as professionals involved in their care. Consistent feedback has confirmed support for this aspiration.

This began with Barnet's first ever Youth Convention where around 200 young people aged between 10 and 25 from schools, colleges and organisations across Barnet's gathered to help develop a new Charter for Children and Young People in Barnet (appendix A).

Following this, we ran a series of small targeted workshops to find out how local residents think Barnet can become a more 'Family-Friendly' borough. We ran similar workshops with the voluntary and community sector, colleagues from the partnership organisations.

All of this information, both the data we have about families in Barnet and what people have told us, has been analysed, and has informed the outcomes and objectives of this new Children and Young People's Plan for 2016-20.

What did they tell us?

a) Emerging themes for making Barnet Family Friendly included:

Making full use of resources in the Borough, e.g. through:

- promoting services and activities provided by the Partnership
- utilising spaces and buildings, including schools, to their full potential
- harnessing people power through encouraging volunteering

Making some improvements to what's on offer in Barnet to make it more Family Friendly:

- making information about what is going on in the borough more accessible
- improving the local parks
- developing the cycle infrastructure
- more activities for youths
- increasing provision of childcare places

Where possible, making living in the borough affordable, especially in the following areas:

- housing
- child care
- leisure activities

b) Emerging themes from children and young people at the Youth Convention:

Making living in the borough more young people friendly e.g. through:

- free or subsidised travel for young people
- more and affordable youth activities
- space for studying
- taking steps or measures to make young people feel safer on the streets

Promoting active lifestyles and healthy living, e.g. through:

- raising awareness about healthy living
- improved health education for young people
- access to healthcare and support early, and at convenient times
- developing network of cycle lanes

Support young people to prepare for adulthood, e.g. through

- develop more opportunities to improve employability skills
- ensure there are enough houses for young people/ families to live in



*"I'm worried about not being able to afford a house when I am older."
(Young person)*

How are we addressing these in the plan objectives?

The priorities and objectives of the Plan are evidence based and have been informed by a range of factors, including:

- Reviewing the profile of children and families in Barnet (JSNA)
- Consultation/ Participation activities with children and young people, parents and carers, the voluntary and community sector
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Reviewing priorities in Children and Young People plan (2012-16)

From the analysis undertaken, there continues to be a group of children, young people and families in the borough who are struggling to achieve good outcomes.

The shared priorities set out below will refresh our collective determination across the borough to unravel the issues facing some of our children, young people and families, particularly those who are most vulnerable or who face significant challenges and, wherever possible, enable families to effectively meet those needs.

This sections sets out the four key outcomes, as well as identifying a number of key objectives, to strengthen our Family Friendly Borough in line with the vision of this plan.

Outcome 1: Families and Children are kept safe

Partnership objectives:

- We will work with families to build their resilience, providing information, advice and support
- Ensure we deliver the best outcomes for children in need of social care, looking at the models which promote an understanding of family strengths to achieve this.
- Help children to live in safe and supportive families, including increasing the percentage of children in care in Barnet foster care as a percentage of all children in care.
- Review and ensure that there is effective sharing of information between agencies
- We will review the targeting of early intervention and prevention work to ensure that the focus is on building family resilience, that needs are met and clearer pathways developed across the partnership
- Explore the development of Early Intervention hubs which focus on supporting family resilience.
- We will seek to work with families to ensure they help prevent young people from getting involved in violence, crime and anti-social behaviour.
- We will work to increase awareness of, and responsiveness to, Child Sexual Exploitation in the borough.

- We will work to increase awareness within our families and communities of, and responsiveness to the key factors that at young people at risk of radicalisation in the borough through PREVENT.

Outcome 2: Families and Children achieve their best

Partnership objectives:

- Support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning by ensuring sufficient high quality early years places through working with partners to manage supply/ demand
- Promote free early education places to those that are eligible and increase take up
- Ensure all schools in Barnet are good or outstanding, maximising the opportunity presented by new partnership with Cambridge Education
- Working with partners to ensure there are sufficient high quality school places to meet demands
- Improve attainment for all young people, closing the attainment gap – highlighted in Barnet’s Education Strategy
- Assess provision to children with SEND and make sure this is meeting changing needs
- Improve outcomes for CYP with special educational needs and/or disabilities and support families access care through the new 0-25 disability service
- Support young people with the transition into adulthood providing advice and support for young people on options available for further education and/ or employment.
- Working with partners to develop more opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships.
- Working with partners to support Barnet’s looked after children (LAC) to achieve their goals and aspirations – as outlined in the Pledge for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

Outcome 3: Families and Children are active and healthy

Partnership objectives

- Focusing on specific areas of the health of children and young people identified as having poor outcomes in Barnet - including reducing incidence of dental cavities, reducing obesity and promoting sexual health

- Support families to access healthcare services, promoting support offered in a variety of settings such centres for children
- Education and health settings to promote health in young people and enable easy access to the school nursing service, advertising the School Health Matters website in schools and on the web
- Making healthcare accessible for children and young people by ensuring families can access to good quality Primary Care outside of school hours
- Encourage education settings to promote Healthy Living and encourage schools and early years settings to embed health and well- being measures, and achieve Healthy School/ Centre status
- Improving experiences and outcomes for Barnet's children, young people and their families with complex disabilities - demographic trends show a growth in the population of children and young people with complex disabilities, in parallel with better life chances for young people with complex disabilities as healthcare improves.
- Ensure the new 0-25 disability service fosters working together between agencies, and that children and young people using the services are supporting to become more independent and achieve their goals.
- Consider the expansion of special school provision in Barnet
- Consider whether there is a business case for a Child Development Centre in Barnet to more effectively work with families to intervene earlier for children with developmental delay
- Raise awareness of mental health and promote mental well-being across Barnet – adopt a new approach to promoting mental well-being across Barnet in line with the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health
- Review and re-commission Child and Adolescent Mental Health services
- Encourage physical activity, providing quality spaces for children, young people and families to be active and safe that are designed around their needs– highlighted in Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
- Provide play, leisure, culture and sporting opportunities.
- We will work with partners to provide opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to get involved in a range of activities that are affordable.

- Ensure future development of open spaces is informed by needs and requirements of children, young people and families, and accessible to them. Ensure these groups are also actively involved in the design of open spaces.
- We will develop in partnership a holistic youth offer, including through the new Youth Zone in Burnt Oak/Colindale area of Barnet
- We will seek to ensure the places where children, young people and families live promote active and healthy lifestyles – striving to increase housing supply, delivering homes that people can afford.

Outcome 4: Families and Children have their say and are active citizens

Partnership objectives

- Recognise and promote the rights of children as embedded in UK law Through Implementing the new Charter for Children and Young People which set out commitments to involving and engaging with children and young people
- Increase the numbers of disadvantaged children and young people participating through youth voice forums
- Promote opportunities for young people to be involved in volunteering, education settings to actively encourage volunteering
- Ensure children, young people and families have opportunities to have their say on how we are doing through resident perception surveys.
- Ensure children, young people and families have opportunities to be involved in decision making that will affect them, including the design of new housing developments and parks and open spaces.
- Working with UNICEF promote the voice of children and young people in decision making, increasing the number of opportunities for children, young people and families to participate and have their say –and embed the rights of the child through championing the voice of those children who are hard to reach.

How will we work together to achieve our vision?

The CYPP sets out our ambition to make Barnet the most Family Friendly borough in London by 2020. Our partners bring the plan to life, translating the CYPP into improved outcomes for our children and young people, their families and their communities.

Across Barnet there are a whole host of services, agencies and settings responsible for looking after children and young people. These come together in a diverse range of formal and informal partnerships, including through:

- Safeguarding Children's Board
- Health and Well-being Board

How we will know how well we have done?

We have set four key outcomes to drive our work over the next four years to improve the lives of Barnet's children, young people and families as we strive to achieve our vision of making Barnet the most Family Friendly Borough by 2020.

The difference the Plan is making will be monitored by:

- A detailed Action Plan with clear and measurable indicators for each priority.
- Children and Young people through the Young Commissioners
- Children's Partnership Board
- Asking residents how well they think we are doing through the Resident Perception Survey

Further information and advice for Parents, Carers, Children and Young People

If you would like advice on accessing any of the services that relate to the Priorities and Objectives detailed in this Plan please contact XX.

Families and Young People Information Service

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/children-young-people-and-families/fyi-families-and-young-peoples-information-service.html>

Glossary

Who are Barnet's most vulnerable Children and Young People?

- **Children in Need (CIN)** - Barnet has a relatively low rate of CIN but there are around 346 CIN per 10,000 children.
- **Children subject to a child protection plan (CP)** – again Barnet has a relatively low rate of CP but there are around 42.1 children who are subject to a projection plan per 10,000 children.
- **Children In care (CIC)** - once more Barnet has a relatively low rate of CIC, with around 60 children in care per 10,000 children.

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Appendix 1

Review of Child Poverty

The 2010 Child Poverty Act states that a child is defined as being in poverty when they live in a household with an income below 60% of the UK's average. Whilst a new national definition of child poverty is currently being developed, for the purposes of this review child poverty will be defined based upon the definition put forward by the 2010 Child Poverty Act.

It is estimated that third of all children in the UK live in poverty¹. 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.

Scale of the problem in Barnet

- 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%). 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.

Who most affected

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 households² 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 children³. A higher proportion of families from ethnic minority groups can be found in Barnet's more deprived wards. Furthermore, there is a minority of families living in Barnet, particularly in and around the Golders Green ward, where family sizes are typically larger.
- Families affected by disability - Four in every ten disabled children live in poverty⁴.

¹ 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

² 2011 Census

³ Palmer and Kenway (2007), 'Poverty Rates among Ethnic Groups in Great Britain'

⁴ <http://www.childrengsociety.org.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-lobbying/child-poverty/disabled-children-and-poverty-0>

- 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%. 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.

Partnership working

All services across the borough share a commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people and families in poverty. 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.

Child Poverty Action Plan

Priority	Action
Closing education gap	Continue to monitor and review attainment and achievement data for a school Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools so that they can support disadvantaged pupils and close the attainment gap between them and their peers
Getting families back to work	Support to find work experience, training, volunteering and paid employment – eg Job Centre Plus Adult education
Targeted intervention	Review impact of Welfare reform on most vulnerable families Targeted support through multi-agency working in localities e.g. Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team Provide decent homes for Barnet families

Appendix 2

Barnet Youth Charter

Hearing the voices and views of children and young people is at the centre of our Family Friendly Barnet approach.

When setting out our vision to ensure that Barnet is truly Family Friendly we knew that we would need to listen to the ideas of hundreds of children and young people of all different ages and backgrounds.

They told us what their priorities were and what we would need to do through our partnership arrangements in order to make sure that Barnet is the best borough in London for families to be and for children and young people to thrive. This information was then blended with our desire to passionately promote a children's rights approach through our partnership working.

Within a Family Friendly Barnet...

Education, Training & Employment

The right to have the best education will be available for every child and young person. Our places of learning will identify and address barriers that prevent progress and the enjoyment of learning.

Children and young people will have the opportunity to learn about the values of democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect, tolerance and liberty in order to promote community togetherness and develop aspirations.

Health

The physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people will be supported by information which is presented in a way that is accessible and easy to understand and where appropriate providing access to good quality care and support.

There will be plentiful opportunity for children and young people to stay healthy and to participate in recreational and leisure activities during term time and school holidays in order to make new friends and to bring families together.

Recreation & Leisure

There will be plenty of high quality parks and open spaces for children and young people to come together, play and make friends within a safe environment.

We will seek to deliver cultural events that showcase and celebrate the talent of children and young people within the borough in order to encourage community cohesion and resilience.

Listening to Children

Every child and young person in Barnet will have the opportunity to have his or her voice heard, feel empowered and be involved with important decision making.

Safer Communities

Children and young people can feel safe and protected from harm within our communities. Education and raising awareness of risks will be at the forefront of our approach to supporting families to support one another and to stay free from harm.

Housing

Children and young people will be afforded a good standard of living within housing that is safe and where it is possible affordable.

Equality & Diversity

Children and young people's race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality or disability will not be a barrier to accessing services.

We will celebrate religion and children and young people's freedom of faith, so long as they do not affect the freedom of others.

Transport and Planning

Children and young people can make safer and easier journeys across the borough in order to explore what our borough has to offer.

Children and young people's views will be considered within re-generation projects to ensure that transport infrastructure is child and family friendly.