

	Health and Wellbeing Board Thursday 19th January 2022
Title	Impact of Cost of Living pressures on residents' Health and Wellbeing
Report of	Director of Public Health and Prevention
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	<p>Appendix A – Summary Presentation: Impact of Cost of Living Pressures on Residents' Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Appendix B – London Winter Resilience and Prevention Framework (Draft), October 2022</p> <p>Appendix C – ALDCS, How London borough children's services are supporting families through the cost of living crisis (Dec 2022)</p>
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Summary

A comprehensive report on Cost of Living initiatives delivered locally was presented to Policy and Resources Committee in September and the report can be accessed here: [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

This report outlines the health and wellbeing impact of Cost of Living pressures in particular, and the measures being undertaken to avoid or reduce these impacts.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Board comments on, notes the report and recommends any further actions, if needed.

1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 There is extensive evidence on links between Cost of Living Crisis and its impact of the overall health and wellbeing (British Medical Journal, May 2022, The Health Foundation, October 2022, Local Government Association, October 2022). Families and individuals on lower income are most at risk, they spend almost 37% of their income on food, housing, fuel and power. Those families are also at risk of poorest health; in the UK nearly half (48%) of the poorest 40% of families in the UK contain at least one person with poor health.
- 1.2 Furthermore, being unable to afford sufficient food leave people malnourished; inability to heat homes leave people at risk of developing respiratory diseases and, for the most vulnerable, at risk of death. Alongside this, worrying about having enough money can lead to stress, anxiety, and depression. This impacts on people's health both in the short and long-term and can weaken immune system (BMJ, May 2022).
- 1.3 In Barnet, Census 2021 suggest that 50% of all households are deprived in at least one dimension (four dimensions are education, employment, health and disability and housing conditions). This equates to over 75, 000 households, most of them are residing in most deprived areas of Barnet.
- 1.4 This report describes potential impact of Cost of Living on local residents and what has been done so far across the system to alleviate or prevent worsening of residents' health and wellbeing outcomes.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 This report is for noting and the Board is asked to propose further possible actions, if needed.

3. Alternative options considered and not recommended

- 3.1 No alternative options are provided.

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 The measures outlined in this report are currently being delivered in Barnet through a number of programmes of work, e.g. Cost of Living Programme, Barnet Food Plan, Digital Inclusion, or Suicide Prevention Strategy. The progress of projects and their impact will be monitored through these programmes.

5. Implications of decision

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The work to reduce or avoid the health and wellbeing issues that are directly associated with current cost of living impact.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 All the work and resources needed to deliver the work outlined in this report have already been approved through their umbrella programmes (e.g. Cost of Living, Suicide Prevention). Therefore, this paper presents no new resources requirements.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Article 7 of the council constitution sets out the functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board. These functions are:

- To jointly assess the health and social care needs of the population with NHS commissioners and use the findings of a Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to inform all relevant local strategies and policies across partnership.
- To agree a Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) for Barnet taking into account the findings of the JSNA and strategically oversee its implementation to ensure that improved population outcomes are being delivered.
- To work together to ensure the best fit between available resources to meet the Page 4 of 6 health and social care needs of the whole population of Barnet, by both improving services for health and social care and helping people to move as close as possible to a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing. Specific resources to be overseen include money for social care being allocated through the NHS; dedicated public health budgets; the Better Care Fund; and Section 75 partnership agreements between the NHS and the Council.
- To provide collective leadership and enable shared decision making, ownership and accountability
- To promote partnership and, as appropriate, integration, across all necessary areas, including joined-up commissioning plans and joined-up approach to securing external funding across the NHS, social care, voluntary and community sector and public health.
- To explore partnership work across the North Central London area where appropriate.

5.3.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board has specific responsibilities for: overseeing public health and promoting prevention agenda across the partnership and developing further health and social care integration.

5.4 Insight

5.4.1 Interventions and actions outlined in this paper builds off evidence from the previous Policy and Resources paper dated 8 June 2022, Cost-of-Living approach: Debt and Financial Vulnerabilities workstream, conducted by the Insights and Intelligence team including quantitative research and qualitative research with residents, services and voluntary and community sector. Impact of the interventions has been monitored and tracked.

5.5 Social Value

5.5.1 All interventions outlined in this report will support most vulnerable residents in the borough.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 Each project/programmes outlined in this report have their own risk management in place.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 The latest NOMIS statistics for Barnet (July 2021 – June 2022) show that Barnet has higher proportion of people in the following groups, when compared to London and Great Britain. These groups are important, as they are most likely to have low incomes.

	Barnet	London	Great Britain
Economically Inactive - Long Term Sick	28.2%	19.8%	25.4%
Unemployed	5.6%	4.7%	3.8%
Proportion of households that are workless	15.0%	12.2%	14.0%
No qualifications	6.9%	5.5%	6.6%

5.7.2 The latest Child Poverty rates by Local Authority (2019/20) show that 31% of children live in a Household Below Average Income (HBAI), which is a measure of relative poverty. Children in lone parent families, who are in larger families and/or who are from a Black and Minority Ethnic background have a greater risk of living in poverty. (Source: www.cpag.org.uk, quoting Department of Work and Pensions HBAI statistics, 1995 – 2021)

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 Appendix I and Appendix III of this report specify interventions that take into consideration both residents who are already financial vulnerable and those at risk. By doing this we hope to improve circumstances and provide better outcomes to households impacted by the rising cost of living and thus, the children and young people that are part of these households. From our research, we understand the stress from debt and financial vulnerabilities in a household can have a negative impact on children and young people. if not addressed, especially those who are looked after by the borough.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 Not applicable as this is a discussion paper for Health and Wellbeing Board.

5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations.

6. Background papers

- 6.1 Barnet Council Report: Financial Vulnerabilities – Cost of Living Workstream,
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s74331/Financial%20Vulnerabilities%20Cost%20of%20Living%20workstream.pdf>