

Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2027

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Table of Contents

1. Young People's statement
2. Foreword
3. Introduction
4. Vision
5. About Barnet
6. Developments and progress since 2019
7. What young people have said
8. What we are focusing on
9. Monitoring and governance

Appendices

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1. Young People's Statement – (To be added)

2. Foreword – (To be added)

3. Introduction

The Children and Young People's Plan 2023 – 2027 sets out our ambition, direction and goals in supporting children and young people in the coming years. It outlines the priorities, needs and aspirations of our local population with the intention of making Barnet an even more family-friendly place to live. We have developed this plan with children and young people who have been at the heart of its development from the start. Opinions and views have been taken from a range of young people forums including Barnet Youth Board, Barnet Youth Assembly, Barnet On Point and Barnet Young Carers, as well as parents, professionals and volunteers who support them.

Families are struggling with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that starkly exposed deep existing inequalities in society and the interconnections between them such as race, gender and disability, but it also showed what is possible when communities come together to provide support. We want to create a future that is family-friendly, where a collaborative partnership and community can work together to improve health and wellbeing, reduce poverty and tackle inequalities so that all children and young people achieve great outcomes.



This plan covers a wide range of organisations that are committed to making children's lives better. Our Children and Young People's Partnership board brings together representatives from different agencies across the borough who work with children, young people and their families. These include

- the North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) and its providers and commissioners (NHS)
- the Barnet Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector
- the London Borough of Barnet
- the Metropolitan Police
- Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS)
- Barnet Schools and settings
- Barnet Parent Carer Forum

Important issues that affect children, young people and their families are discussed by the Board and solutions sought. As a partnership we act to drive forward change that will deliver better outcomes for children, young people and their families in Barnet.

We have achieved a lot through the previous Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2023 and our regular Youth Perception Survey (YPS) results have reflected these improvements. However, it is clear that there are still specific areas to address and that there are still specific groups of young people that do not feel as positively about Barnet. Our focus remains to ensure that all children and young people across Barnet feel positive whether they are disabled children, young carers, looked after children, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children or children of families moving into Barnet.

There have been many changes to the children's landscape since 2019 - both challenging and complex. Earlier this year an Independent Review of Children's Social Care found the current system often weakens rather than strengthens a child's support networks, depriving them of long-term loving relationships. The recent publication of [Josh MacAlister's review](#) of social services discovered they are overly focused on "investigating" families struggling to care for their children rather than providing support to help them through their difficulties. The report identified a series of recommendations to improve the system which we will be taking forward.

At the end of March 2022, the government published its long-awaited [SEND review](#). It was commissioned to improve an inconsistent, bureaucratic, and complicated system which often means delays in children accessing the right support for their needs. The SEND Review green paper sets out the proposals for the future of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision



(AP) systems. It highlights the need for a system that offers children and young people the opportunity to thrive, with access to the right support, in the right place, and at the right time, so they can fulfil their potential and lead happy, healthy and productive adult lives.

We as a partnership have worked with children and young people to develop this latest version of our Plan. It sets out our ambition for the coming few years and provides a strategic partnership framework with a commitment to work in a joined-up approach to achieve our key outcomes.

4. Vision

Our vision is for children and young people in Barnet to have the best start in life and the right support, when they need it, to live their lives successfully into adulthood. We want Barnet to be the best place in London to raise a child and for all children to thrive, be healthy and achieve their potential – socially, emotionally, and academically. Our aim is to make Barnet the most Family Friendly borough, where children, young people and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to. We know that family has a huge impact on children's lives, wellbeing and chances of success.

We will achieve this by delivering universal services that are accessible, offer support to enable families to thrive and build on their strengths and resilience, recognising these as important protective factors. We have excellent schools achieving some of the best results in the country and our aim is for every school in Barnet to be good or outstanding. Tackling the gap by fighting inequalities will be a key driver in all that we do. We will also deliver high quality targeted and specialist services for our most vulnerable children and young people working together with our partners and strengthening our commitment to work together to secure the delivery of efficient, high quality and best value services.

Key to all of this is our focus on resilience - we want children, young people and their families to have the ability to bounce back from stress and hardship. To take on new challenges, which lead to better outcomes. Our aspiration for a Family Friendly borough is:

“Resilient children thriving in resilient families living in resilient communities”



To help us deliver the family-friendly vision, we want the children, young people and families that live here and use our services to tell us how well we are doing, what we need to do differently and help us make the changes that children and young people want to see.

[‘My Say Matters’](#) is what we have called our Child Participation and Family Involvement Strategy. It sets out the way we are going to work to involve children and young people so they can tell us what they think, help us make decisions, design and shape our services. We want to include children and young people of different ages, and up to 25 years, and parents for younger children, from different backgrounds and experiences so we can make sure that we get lots of different views and ideas. We want to include children and young people with SEND so that their views are central to what we do.

Co-production will continue to be central to our work and we will build on the strengths of the Parent Carer Forum and the Parent Champions in co-producing services for children and young people with SEND.

Family Friendly Index

To assess whether we are delivering on our vision for a family friendly borough, we have developed a family friendly index, which sets out a range of aspirations for children and young people. These will be looked at annually to see if progress is being made against our vision for a family friendly borough. The aspirations are:

1. Children and young people feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live
2. There is a strong social care service that builds resilience
3. Children and young people are involved in decision making
4. There are low figures of crime involving children and young people
5. All schools are good or outstanding and children get good educational outcomes
6. There are good outcomes for children with SEND
7. Health outcomes for children and young people are good
8. There are low rates of children and young people living in temporary accommodation or unsuitable housing
9. Families are able to access the benefits and financial assistance that they need

What is different about this plan



We want all children and young people but especially those who are most vulnerable, to have access to a good education and to lead safe, happy and healthy lives. They have told us what's important to them and we have listened. Achieving the desired outcomes is not straightforward but as partners we have chosen to adopt four key drivers that underpin delivery of the Plan based on feedback.

- **Great Partnerships: Participation & co-production** - Means that children, young people, parents and carers can discuss and co-decide on all matters that affect them, like family, school, community matters, local government policies & legal policies. It means that their voices are being heard.
"Seeing young people not only as beneficiaries but also as partners" (YP age 18)
"Children and young people as equal and valued stakeholders in all processes" (age 15)
- **Inclusion** – We want to ensure that whatever benefits and opportunities there are in Barnet must be afforded to all. We want to make sure those with a perceived difference overcome barriers to participate in the community in accessing many things that others take for granted. This can include those with a disability as well as families migrating to Barnet.
"Access to a good school and education" (YP age 12)
"Quality and inclusive and accessible education, that students with any additional needs are supported to learn and not held back due to needing additional support" (YP age 13)
- **Great outcomes: Tackling the gap and fighting inequalities** –We aim to ensure that all residents have an equal opportunity to access quality services, at the right time and based on their needs. We are bringing together services to discuss and jointly challenge each other to address inequality, including health inequalities and drive forward better outcomes.
"Seeking help and understanding what's wrong and when to get help" (YP age 11)
"Having people to talk to about your wellbeing and adults/ friends/ family that you can trust" (YP age 15)
- **Children and young people having fun** - play is an essential right of childhood which stimulates brain development. For all young people it's the fun part that balances the stressful times. It's where important social skills are gained and healthy social development is learned through expression. It is our aim for Barnet to be place to live and enjoy being a part of, where there are opportunities to participate in sport, leisure and arts and cultural activities, as well as gain employment and build careers.
"Having access to outdoor space where young people feel safe" (YP age 11)



“Taking care of yourself and mental health” (YP age 11)

5. About Barnet

****INFOGRAPHIC CAPTURING DATA BELOW TO FOLLOW****

General

- 28% of the borough is green with over 200 parks and greenspaces
- 14 libraries and a digital library service centres
- 5 leisure centres
- 1,075 charities
- 149 private, voluntary and independent (PVI) early years establishments in Barnet and 148 registered childminders (January 2022)
- 4 nursery schools
- 90 primary schools
- 3 all through schools
- 25 secondary schools
- 6 special schools
- 2 pupil referral units/hospital schools
- 36 independent schools
- 47 Colleges
- 3 Early Help hubs that include a range of children centres

Our population



- Almost 390,000 according to the 2021 census. Around 25%, nearly 97,000 is under the age of 19 which has increased by almost 7% since the 2011 census and is expected to continue to grow into the next decade.
- Life expectancy at birth (2017-2019) Boys 82.9: 80.9: 79.8, Girls 86.0: 84.7: 83.4 (Barnet: London: England). Higher than England average. ([JSNA](#))
- The BME population in Barnet is 40.3%, and 182 languages other than English are spoken as a first language in our primary schools.
- We have an employment rate of 76.84%, higher than the London average, and the average salary is £37.7k, with Jobseekers Allowance claimants lower than the London average of 8%, at 7.1% of the population.
- Barnet has been home to four asylum seeker contingency hotels since 2020, housing 999 people, with the population as of 13 May 2022 standing at 888 people. Of these, 104 are aged under 18, with one hotel accommodating 32 children under five years old.
- The borough has also welcomed British Overseas Nationals from Hong Kong and more recently refugees from Ukraine via the Homes for Ukraine scheme, with 132 visas issued in Barnet as at April 2022.

The children and young people we work with

- At the time of writing, we have 1788 open Early Help Assessments, 365 children on Child in Need Plans and 238 children on Child Protection Plans. There are 323 children looked after, of which 20% are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs), and 320 care leavers, of which 40% are former UASC.
- The percentage of children at secondary school in receipt of free school meals is in line with the national average of 13.1%, in nursery and primary the percentage of Barnet children is higher at 16.7% against 14.5% nationally.
- There are fewer children in out of work households, 9.3%, than the national average of 14%, and there are fewer children in low-income families in Barnet at 13.5% against the national average of 16.8%.
- 52% of children and young people in Barnet are from black and minority ethnic groups, compared with 30% across England, and 52% of primary and 38.2% of secondary school pupils speak English as an additional language.
- In 2020/21, 12.6% of under 16s in Barnet were living in relative low-income families (London 16.6%, England 18.5%). For the same period, 10.3% of under 16s in Barnet were living in absolute low-income families (London 13.8%, England 15.1%).

Our children's health

- An estimated quarter (24.5%) of Barnet's children have visibly decayed teeth by age five (Oral health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))



- In 2021/22, 10.7% of Barnet Reception children were overweight and a further 9% were living with obesity. In Barnet Year 6 children, 15.3% were overweight and a further 20.4% were living with obesity (NCMP 2021/22)
- In 2020, 2.61% of Barnet school pupils were identified as having social, emotional and mental health needs, marginally higher than the overall rate for London (2.4%) and lower than for England (2.7%) (JSNA)
- The rate of child inpatient admissions for mental health conditions in Barnet in 2020/21 was 68.7 per 100,000, which is lower than England as a whole, but higher than the regional average (JSNA)
- Only 20% of young people in Barnet eat the recommended 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables each day (Barnet Young People Survey 2022).
- The proportion of 15 years olds in Barnet who are regular smokers is 2.6% (5.4% nationally) (Local Health - Small Area Public Health Data - Data - OHID (phe.org.uk))

Our schooling

- Barnet has 130 schools serving 62,282 pupils (May 2022)
- Over 97% of Barnet pupils are at schools which were graded good or better at their last Ofsted inspection.
- 18.8% of the Barnet school population are entitled to Free School Meals (January 2022)
- 10.6% of school pupils in Barnet are identified as requiring SEN Support compared to 12.6% in England and 11.7% in London
- There were 3.6% of children and young people with Education, Care and Health Plans (EHCPs), in Barnet compared to 4% in England and 4.1% in London
- Ethnic breakdown of the school population is as follows (groups higher than 1%):
 - White British 28.8%
 - Any Other White Background 21.5%
 - Any Other Ethnic Group 10.5%
 - African 8.4%
 - Indian 5.6%
 - Any Other Asian Background 4.8%
 - Any Other Mixed Background 4.0%
 - Pakistani 1.8%
 - OHID)White and Asian 1.8%
 - White and Black African 1.7%



- White and Black Caribbean 1.6%
- Caribbean 1.4% Chinese 1.3%
- Any Other Black Background 1.1%
- White Irish 1.0%

6. Developments and progress since 2019

The past four years have seen significant progress and achievements in the support provided to children and young people in Barnet. Educational development and achievement have improved consistently in recent years in the borough. Over 97% of Barnet schools are good or outstanding and Barnet is now in the top 10% for many measures of achievement in schools and the top 5% for many of the measures.

Our Social Care, Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and Youth Justice Services have been subject to inspection by Ofsted and HM Probation Inspection, and judged to be making good progress with areas of improvement identified. Figures for our looked after children remain low when compared to the rest of London and we continue to put in place measures that divert children and young people away from entering the care system where possible. However, once in the care system we work to ensure they are well supported to have the best outcomes.

Concerns around crime, violence and exploitation are subject to a vigorous and joined up approach with partners working to ensure the most vulnerable are protected. In March 2022, the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy was launched. This strategy sets out our vision to see Barnet become a borough where everyone is free of domestic abuse and women and girls are safe from violence.

A multi-agency coordinated response has been developed to tackle increasing levels of mental and emotional well-being concerns for children and young people. The Barnet Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Board has been established, which focuses on strengthening support to children and young people experiencing problems.

Health and wellbeing of children and young people continue to be strengthened through preventative and resilience building programmes. Collaborative approaches enable whole system support for healthy diets, physical activity, sexual health, and emotional wellbeing -



creating health promoting environments and communities and empowering young people to make healthier choices now and into adulthood.

Our progress in achieving our vision of a family friendly borough is monitored and rated through a range of data and intelligence relating to changes over recent years that includes views of children and young people as well as social care, health, education, housing and crime data.

****INFOGRAPHIC CAPTURING DATA BELOW TO FOLLOW****

1. Children and young people feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live (DESIGN - NO TREND)

2016	2017	2019/20	2021/22
81%	84%	84%	89%

Source: YPS Survey

2. There is a strong social care service that builds resilience (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Children in Care/Care Leavers Numbers at Year End 2016 to Present		2018/2019	2019/2020	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	649	684	695	638
	Outer London	556	555	575	
	England				

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	60	63	72	68	52



Children Numbers at Year End 2016 to Present	Outer London	58	56	40	47	
	England					

Rate of Children in Need per 10000 children aged 0-17		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	207.8	214.3	203.3	208.9	237.9
	London					
	England					

Rate of Child Protection Plan per 10000 children aged 0-17		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	17.3	16.4	16.6	22.6	30.7
	London					
	England					

Rate of Children Looked After per 10000 children		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	34.7	31.9	33.6	34.7	32.8
	London					
	England					

3. Children and young people are involved in decision making (DESIGN - NO TREND)

2016	2017	2019/20	2021/22
46%	57%	60%	70%

Source: YPS Survey

4. There are low figures of crime involving children and young people

Serious Youth Violence measures (Data set to follow)



Concerns about crime

2016	2017	2019/20	2021/22
40%	53%	56%	41%

Source: YPS Survey

5. All schools are good or outstanding and children get good educational outcomes

Percentage of outstanding schools (data set to follow) (DESIGN - NO TREND)

Barnet	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement
	31%	65%	4%
	40	84	6

Progress 8 measures (data set to follow) (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	0.57	0.57	-	-	0.49
Average score	+0.10	0.0	-	-	-0.08

*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21

Reading, Writing and Maths average progress score (data set Key stage 2) (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Barnet	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reading	1.76 (0.90)	1.8 (1.0)	-	-	1.47 (0.8)



(London average)					
Writing (London average)	0.56 (0.90)	0.62 (0.9)	-	-	0.78 (1.0)
Maths (London average)	1.83 (1.5)	2.0 (1.4)	-	-	1.9 (1.2)

*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21

6. There are good outcomes for children with SEND

Pupils with SEND outcomes (data set to follow) (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Barnet	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reading (London average)	0.72 (-0.4)	0.74 (-0.30)	-	-	-0.41 (-1.10)
Writing (London average)	-0.68 (-1.0)	-1.12 (-0.9)	-	-	-1.09 (-0.8)
Maths (London average)	0.35 (-0.1)	0.6 (-0.2)	-	-	0.06 (-0.6)

*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21

7. Health outcomes for children and young people are good (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Infant mortality rate (Crude rate per 1,000)		2016-18	2017-2019	2018/2020
	Barnet	2.2	2.7	2.8
	London	3.9	3.9	3.9
	England	3.3	3.4	3.4



Year 6: Prevalence of Obesity		2018	2019	2020	2021
	Barnet	19.3%	20.6%	-	19.9%
	London	20.2%	21.0%	-	23.4%
	England	23.2%	23.7%	-	25.8%

*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip 2020

Population vaccination coverage: MMR for one dose (2 years old)		2018	2019	2020	2021
	Barnet	81.9%	83.4%	82.5%	80.2%
	London	90.3%	90.6%	90.3%	89.2%
	England	83.0%	83.6%	82.4%	79.9%

School pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs: % of school pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs * Only relates to children with SEND		2018	2019	2020	2021
	Barnet	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%	2.6%
	London	2.4%	2.5%	2.7%	2.8%
	England	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%

8. There are low rates of children and young people living in temporary accommodation (TA) (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Number of families in TA at the end of a calendar year (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

2019	2020	2021	2022
1454	1325	1099	1062

Number of children (under 18s) in TA at the end of a calendar year (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)



2019	2020	2021	2022
2346	2565	2308	2272

9. Families are able to access the benefits and financial assistance that they need

BACE holiday activities with food programme – (Data set to follow) (NO TREND)

7. What young people have said

Children and young people provided us with feedback on the issues that are important to them. We are committed to listening and acting in their best interests. Regular surveys gave responses on what is important to young people. This data has been used alongside a range of engagement sessions with children and young people to drive improvements and develop this revised Children and Young People's Plan.

[The Young People's Resident Survey \(YPS\)](#) is a bi-annual face-to-face survey of Barnet young residents aged 11-18, undertaken by an independent research company. The survey has been undertaken since 2016 which gives indications of trends in young people's views over time. 500 Barnet young people were interviewed between November and March 2022.

The majority of young people feel Barnet (89%) is a family friendly place to live

"It is a safe place which feels secure, it is somewhere that she knows a lot of people and hasn't had a bad experience living in Barnet"
(14-15, female, white British, Jewish, Mill Hill Young People Focus Group)

"Very nice locals, great facilities, good schools, good transport links, great opportunities. Affordable housing, low crime rate." (14-15, male, Asian/Asian British, Hindu, High Barnet Young People Focus Group)

Children and young people with a disability are less likely to say they are happy with their local area as a place to live (77%) and say they are satisfied with local services.



“Barnet is inaccessible for wheelchairs and people are not that accommodating – has faced issues getting on and off the bus.People don’t take young people seriously so young carers feel doubly ignored” (Young carer SEND youth forum member, Young People Focus Group)

“People can be rude [to him] because of his autism which sometimes prevents him from speaking –he now wears a badge so that people in public know about his disability but that hasn’t helped much.” (Young carer, 16-17, male, SEND youth forum member, Young People Focus Group)

Those who have a disability are more likely to want the council to focus resources on supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities and those with emotional and mental health problems. Their top priorities are

- Protecting children and young people from harm (52%)
- Supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities (50%)
- Supporting those with emotional and mental health problems (43%)

Overall young people have said knife crime (51%) remains among their top personal safety concern, but the percentage putting it in their top three concerns is significantly lower than in 2019. Similarly, the level of concern over gangs (35%) is also significantly lower than in the last survey while people taking drugs has also fallen (34%)

“Scary at night –parents base your freedom on the goings on in the area. Next door app –makes us feel less safe – makes us think of the crime in the area more often and influences our parents into reducing our freedom” (16-17, female, White British, Woodhouse)

“Gangs are a problem but they are just out to make money...if you ignore them and keep yourself to yourself they won’t bother you” (YP aged 14-15, Black Female, Young People Focus)

“.. Drugs problem is not restricted to ‘parks and streets. Drugs are normalised, young people don’t seem fazed by it and it spreads. Drug talks in school backfire” (SEND youth forum member)

Young people’s top priority remains protecting people from crime and antisocial behaviour (41%) followed by protecting young people from harm (38%) as well as supporting people with mental health problems (29%).



“More work is needed to build trust so that people feel comfortable using the support. They advertise services that are not realistically going to be used. Yes, I know Childline exists but I’d never actually call them” (11-13, female, mixed white & black Caribbean” Young People Focus Group)

“You should have people to talk to keep you socially active to not feel too isolated, especially during school transitions.” (YP, aged 15 Youth Assembly)

“Bullying and name callings affects young people immensely.” (YP aged 14, BOP)

They want access to play opportunities, outside spaces and outdoor learning. They want to be able to safely travel around independently to activities and school using accessible footpaths, cycle-paths and public transport.

“Having access to outdoor space where young people feel safe and school playgrounds not affected by poor air quality if near busy roads.” (YP aged 11, Youth Assembly)

“We need to engage more with young people to produce fun activities –sports, skating etc. There needs to be more to do, and young people should be consulted when these activities are being produced.” (YP aged 11-13, Young People Focus Groups)

“Have space/ opportunities for families can be together with other families.” (YP, aged 13 Youth Assembly)

Our young people have told us that it is really important that the place they live is inclusive in all senses, where all young people are treated fairly regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, identity or disability. They want to have equality of opportunity and outcome.

“LGBTQ+ children and young people support for them both within their families as well as community and school.” (YP, aged 17 Youth Assembly)

“Equal education across areas and demographics, you shouldn’t be held back due to going to a school in a more deprived area which may lack resources.” (YP aged 15 Youth Assembly)

8. What we are doing



There are a wide range of strategies, plans and partnerships that enable us to do our work and they are all inextricably linked and critical to the delivery of our shared vision and objectives set out in this Plan. This Children and Young People Plan will routinely interface with other key plans and strategies affecting children and young people. These include

- Barnet Child Participation & Family Involvement Strategy 2022 – 2025
- The Barnet Plan tba
- Community Participation Strategy tba
- [SEND and Disabilities Strategy 2021 - 2024](#)
- Education Strategy 2021 - 2024
- Children & Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 -
- Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021 - 2023
- Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2022 – 2025
- Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy 2022 - 2025
- Youth Justice Plan 2022 – 2024
- 0-19 Early Help Strategy 2023 – 2026
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2016 – 2026
- Barnet Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25

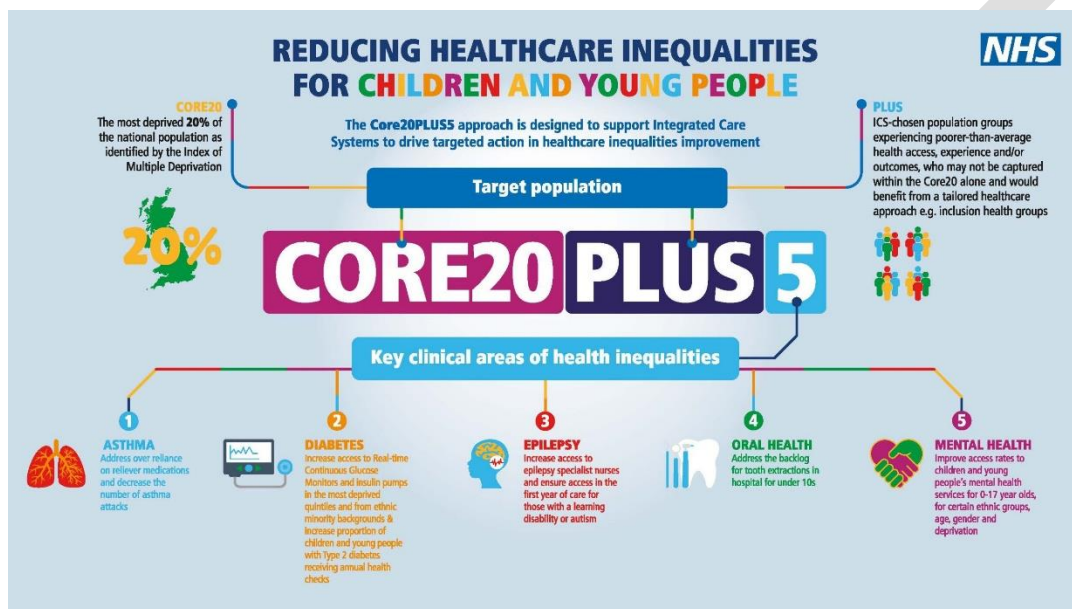
Reducing healthcare inequalities for children and young people is also an integral part of our approach as a partnership. The NHS England Core20PLUS5 approach (shown in the diagram below) is designed to support an integrated care system to drive action in health inequalities improvement.

It is a national approach which focuses on the following populations for children and young people:

- The nationally identified - 'Core20', which is the most deprived 20% of the national population as identified by the national [Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\)](#) and the "5" which is the five key clinical areas identified as areas of health inequalities (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, oral health, and mental health).
- The area specific - 'Plus', which are population groups identified within NCL as experiencing poorer-than-average health access, experience and/or outcomes, who may not be captured within Core20 alone and would benefit from a tailored healthcare approach.



As of February 2023, work is ongoing across North Central London (NCL) to identify which population groups will be included within the Plus populations for NCL.



The Partnership has a wide scope of activity and to deliver the outcomes identified, we will work together from now until the next plan by organising ourselves around four key themes resulting from our conversations with children, young people and parent carers as well as our own data and research. The themes are **Family and Belonging**, **Safe and Secure**, **Health and Wellbeing** and **Education and Skills**.



Family & Belonging - *supporting all our children, including those in care and care experienced young people, to live their lives successfully, to develop a sense of identity, improve wellbeing and to have fun and play*

“Family is when we can be with people who we love and feel safe” (Female,16)

“It encourages people to be together and be part of a community that is welcoming” (Female,13)

Objective	Priority	Service/Partner strategy
Support our children in care and care experienced young people to live their lives successfully	Develop mentor support to ensure that it meets the needs of care experienced young people	Barnet Corporate Parenting Strategy
	Recruit more Barnet based foster carers, so that care experienced young people can stay close to their school and other relationships, where that is in their best interest	
	Support for care experienced young people to have a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood whilst ensuring your health and wellbeing are considered in their wishes on how and where they want to live.	
	VCFSE groups support the capacity building to VCFSE groups that work with CIC	Barnet VCFSE strategy
Support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to achieve well, be confident individuals, live fulfilling lives	Ensure that all children and young people with SEND have their needs identified as soon as possible and receive the right support at the earliest opportunity	Barnet SEND Strategy
	Ensure that children and young people with SEND receive high quality, integrated and inclusive services through effective and timely decision making across partner agencies	
	Ensure services are delivered locally and as inclusive and close to home as possible so that children and young people with SEND can benefit from community integration and support from services in Barnet	
	Upskill providers within the VCFSE to ensure that services are more inclusive	Barnet VCFSE strategy



Provide support to young carers in carrying out their roles	Proactive identification of carers and young carers	Barnet Carers & Young Carers Strategy Young Carers
	Individualised support so that carers and young carers can maintain their own health and wellbeing	
	Recognising carers and young carers as key partners in care and support and recognising the important role they play	
	Ensuring respite care is provided to young carers to enable breaks when they need it	
	Ensure that the wider VCFSE work in partnership with Barnet Carers where possible to provide the best support pathways for young carers.	Barnet VCFSE strategy

Provide support that encourages and builds resilience	Meeting childcare sufficiency and providing families quality-assured childcare options	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Provide an inclusive service delivery that supports children with special educational needs or a disability	Barnet SEND strategy
	Ensure all children are supported to access free early years education offer	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Provide foster carers with therapeutic training to meet the emotional needs of children in their care	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	Our partners in the Police will make engagement with children and young people central in their use of powers in order to build trust	Barnet Metropolitan Police Strategy
	Ensure early help is provided as early in the life of a problem as possible to reduce problems and enable children & families to only tell their stories once.	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Work with partners and local communities, including hotels who are accommodating refugee families to offer support, advice and guidance	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Young Barnet Foundation continues to take the lead in helping to develop the VCFSE sector in creating safer, stronger and more connected communities for our young people to thrive	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy



Children and young people develop a positive sense of identity	Care experienced young adults to be supported accessing their files and understanding their care journey	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	All care experienced children and young people to have access to life story work and later life letters	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	Celebrate the diversity of young people in the borough and help them to develop their creativity through involvement in the forthcoming Culture Strategy.	Barnet Growth and Development Strategy
	Develop one of the first accessible and inclusive playgrounds for all ages in the UK.,	Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
	Support young people to have a stronger sense of self-worth and self-confidence through knowledge and understanding of gender, sexuality and healthy relationships	Barnet Public Health Strategy
	The VCFSE sector will work together to build a strong sense of community and belonging for all our children and young people through local participation/community activity.	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Enable environments to allow children to have fun, play and explore the world	Continue a high quality distinctive local programme to upgrade the borough's park playgrounds and ensure the inclusion of all schools and parks	Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
	Explore further funding for the development of local parks and open spaces	Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
	Develop a play strategy for children and young people in Barnet	Barnet Play Strategy
	All children and young people have access to our range of children centres and positive activities during term times and holiday periods	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Actively encourage young people's involvement in the development of public art and creative placemaking projects across the borough exploring play and discovery	Barnet Growth and Development Strategy
	Increasing the variety of play spaces for children and young people, by providing more informal play opportunities in our town centres (e.g. playful interventions, furniture, performance spaces and public art opportunities, safer social spaces to meet, etc.) through a programme of public realm improvement works.	



	Developing individual town centre play strategies, through a series of Town Centre Public Realm Design Framework documents, to support coordinated delivery of play and youth infrastructure in public spaces across our town centres.	
	Supporting independent mobility of children and young people across the borough by improving wayfinding and access to walking and cycling routes in our town centres.	
	The VCFSE sector will work together to ensure that spaces occupied by children and young people – home, School and community are safe and nurturing.	Barnet VCFSE sector

Safe & Secure - *ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected, safe and supported to make the best choices and to build trusted relationships*

“This is very important to me because it can be scary not to be protected from harm as a young person” (Female, 13)

“A safe place to me is somewhere I don’t feel afraid about being there.” (Female, 16)

Objective	Priority	Service/Partner strategy
Ensuring children have the space and opportunity to build trusted relationships	Engaging and inducting a young person representative as a member of the Youth Justice Management Board	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Embedding opportunities for care experienced young people to feedback into everyday activities	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	Care experienced children and young people to know their social worker and be supported with regular contact and visits	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy



	Strengthening links between home, school and community to ensure that adequate opportunities to build trusted relationships with their peers and trusted adults within schools and the wider community	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
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Ensure the most vulnerable are protected	Violence against women and girls is eliminated	Barnet Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy
	Prevent children and young people from being exploited and exposed or drawn into violence and crime	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Ensure the needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are met through a partnership approach	Barnet Family Services Strategy
	We will support Police to work with partners to reduce the criminal victimisation of those who are most disadvantaged	Barnet Metropolitan Police
	Work together with the Youth Justice Board to make plans to address disproportionality of different groups of young people in the justice system	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Ensure that our town centres are welcoming and safe for young people	Barnet Growth and Development Strategy
	Through a home, school, community approach, work with partners to create safer, stronger, more connected communities for our CYP to thrive	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Children and young people are safe and helped to make good choices	Work effectively together to ensure children feel safe, are safe and supported at home, in school and in the communities in which they live	Barnet Family Services Strategy
	Continue reducing the number of First Time Entrants, young people who reoffend and young people who are handed down custodial sentences	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Police will work proactively with communities to reduce violence by building trust	Barnet Metropolitan Police Strategy
	Regular reviews with children and young people with their network to support them in making good decisions and learning from their decisions	Barnet Family Services Strategy
	Working with the Police design out crime and Community Safety officers to deliver public space and safety improvements in our town centres	Growth and Development Strategy



	VCFSE to work proactively with CYP, families and Partners to create a safer, stronger, more connected communities where CYP are supported to make better choices.	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
Ensure that there is sufficient placement choice that provides safe and secure homes for our children in care	To lead the development of a secure children's home provision in London	Barnet Placements Sufficiency Strategy
	Work in partnership to deliver the Pan London Pathfinder supported accommodation provision for young people as a positive alternative to custody	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Refresh Barnet's Placement Sufficiency Strategy in line with the needs of Barnet Children and develop local placement provision in accordance with needs, best practice and new regulation standards	Barnet Placements Sufficiency Strategy
	Development of solo provision to meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people who are new into care	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	Ongoing recruitment of foster carers and supported lodgings hosts to meet the diverse needs of looked after children and young people	
	Care experienced young adults to be supported in accessing the right accommodation to meet their needs	
	VCFSE to signpost community members towards fostering recruitment	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Health & Wellbeing - *supporting our children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent avoidable illness and improve their social, physical and mental wellbeing, including through integrated health and social care*

“Being a young carer can be mentally draining at times, need encouragement to have a healthy lifestyle” (Female, 13)

“Important taking care of yourself and mental health (Male, age 11)



Objective	Priority	Service/Partner strategy
Improve children's life chances by supporting their health and wellbeing from very early age and through to their transition into adulthood.	Implementation of the Barnet Food Plan to ensure good quality, healthy and sustainable food for all Barnet families with a strong emphasis on tackling cost of living crisis	Barnet Food Plan Strategy
	Conduct air quality audits and implement measures on all schools with high air pollution (as identified by TfL).	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Promote oral health by building on the findings of the oral health needs assessment and developing a collaborative action plan.	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Provide information and education to boys and girls about periods, period poverty and hygiene to help address period stigma	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Continue to support sexual health education and healthy relationships among young people	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Continue to implement whole setting health promoting approaches to achieve and maintain healthy weight	Public Health Strategy
	Ensure that we continue to grow opportunities within the community/VCFSE for CYP to feel that they belong to a safe, strong, connected community	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Promote good mental and emotional health across all ages and different communities and work together to prevent severe	Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS) to provide a range of interventions to support children and young people's mental health & wellbeing	Barnet Mental Health Strategy
	Ensure that a universal approach including supporting the Resilient Schools Programme, is delivered to all schools to raise awareness of mental health and reduce stigma.	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Work with partners to improve access to mental health support for CYP	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Work with partners to promote parity of access to mental and physical health services for children, young people with mental illnesses or SEND	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Develop and implement a refreshed Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy



mental illness, substance misuse and suicide	VCFSE to work to ensure that we continue to grow our community offer for early mental health support, (EIP) backed up with increased wellbeing activities	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
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Improve choices for physical activities locally for all ages and abilities, and ensure residents know how to access it	Provide information for access to a range of activity programmes including free swimming, junior park run, after school clubs	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Deliver the Fit & Active Barnet (FAB) Framework to focus on wider engagement for physical activity	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Maximise the use of facilities and identify opportunities for co-location and community hubs, widening access to ensure that facilities and open spaces are better used by the communities they serve	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Provide integrated care by joining up services across health and social care	Commitment to develop a child development centre where children with disabilities and their families can access assessment and a range of services from the same location.	Barnet Integrated Health Strategy
	Continued development of our existing programme of work based around integration of GP networks with paediatricians enabling closer contact for children and young people.	Barnet Integrated Health Strategy
	Embed collaborative work between borough partners to identify and proactively support children to manage asthma in the school environment	Barnet Integrated Health Strategy

Education & Skills - *supporting children and young people to reach their educational and academic potential, by closing attainment gaps and reducing exclusion*

“Schools should be teaching us more about adult life and how to do things when we leave school” (Female 13)



“I think education and learning is very important in preparing you for the outside world” (Female, 13)

Objective	Priority	Service/Partner strategy
Improve the educational progress and outcomes for all children and young people	Support children to reach their educational and academic potential	Barnet Education Strategy
	Support schools to improve attendance and reduce exclusion	Barnet Education Strategy
	Support children to have their best start in life and be ready for learning	Barnet Education Strategy
	Ensure that robust planning and support is in place to enable all young people to return to education and training following the disruption of COVID 19	Barnet Education Strategy
	Work collaboratively to embed preparing for adulthood outcomes from an early age	Barnet Education Strategy
	Support CYP to access opportunities within their communities (VCFSE) that will complement their educational and emotional development.	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
	Grow partnerships between education and the VCFSE to address needs within schools	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Diminish the differences in attainment and progress between the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils and their peers	Proactively enabling families with young children to access children centres and the free early education entitlement	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Working across the partnership to address the impact of the pandemic on the development of our youngest children and support the transition into school	Barnet Education Strategy
	Listen, communicate and make decisions with our children in care and care experienced young people and ensure educational provision is strong	Barnet Education Strategy
	Continue to support schools, settings, children and young people in recovery from the impact of the pandemic on learning and mental health/well-being	Barnet Education Strategy
	Minimise the number of young people who are NEET, by developing the employability skills and resilience	Barnet Education Strategy
	Barnet YJMB will develop a tracker to measure progress against actions to reduce exclusion of Black boys from education	Barnet Youth Justice Plan



	Ensure that we continue to seek to hear the voices of the seldom heard to improve their engagement with the services that need to support them	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
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Ensure the provision of high-quality local placements and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities	Improve outcomes for CYP with special educational needs and disability	Barnet SEND Strategy
	Develop greater confidence, skills and competencies in mainstream schools to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND	Barnet SEND Strategy
	Develop skills, knowledge and understanding across the workforce and local area to create supporting environments that promote community integration and independence	Barnet SEND Strategy

Ensure there are sufficient high-quality school places to meet the needs of Barnet children including progress into Higher Education, Apprenticeships or Employment.	Supply of school places are available to satisfy demand	Barnet Education Strategy
	Ensure the provision of high-quality local placements and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged from 3 to 25	Barnet SEND strategy
	Increase the number of young people who are engaged in learning and work post 16 and increase supported internship opportunities	Barnet Education Strategy
	Develop further opportunities in education, employment and training for care experienced young people	Barnet Education Strategy
	Increase the opportunities for disadvantaged young people to progress to suitable education, training and employment, including care leavers and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.	Barnet SEND strategy
	Minimise the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the attainment, achievement and psychological wellbeing of children and young people with SEND	Barnet SEND strategy
	Work with wider partners to ensure that there are pathways to employment for YP with SEND	Barnet VCFSE sector strategy

	Focus on meeting the needs of vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND, children looked after, children in need and children eligible for free school meals.	Barnet SEND strategy
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Ensure that every school and setting is good or outstanding	Good relationships with schools and settings enabling rigorous monitoring, challenge and support for all schools and settings and the targeted support for schools and settings causing concern.	Barnet School Improvement Strategy
	Strengthen high levels of attainment and progress in all phases	Barnet School Improvement Strategy

9. Monitoring and governance

The monitoring of this Plan will be by the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board. Regular reports on progress will be presented to the Board for scrutiny, including an annual review of the Family Friendly index. The Partnership will ensure that agreed priorities against objectives are reflected in partnership work to make certain the impact of the Plan is felt by children, young people and their families. Our efforts to implement this plan will be a key priority for the coming years.

Appendices

There has been a range of engagement across Barnet at different stages of development that helped shaped this plan. This included conducting a series of face-to-face consultations with children and young people as well as input taken from a range of surveys capturing their views and talking with partners. From this, we have agreed new principles and priorities through and around which we will work to deliver our agreed outcomes.

Young people engagement

- Barnet Youth board
- Youth Parliament



- Barnet Youth Assembly
- Barnet Youth Ambassadors
- Barnet Inclusive Next Generation (BING) – SEND Youth voice forum
- Barnet On Point (BOP) – Children in Care youth voice forum
- Barnet Young Carers Group

Young People's views

- Young People's Survey
- Young People's Focus Groups
- Children in Care Survey - Your Life, Your Care Barnet
- Care Leavers Survey - Your Life Beyond Care Barnet

Services and Partner engagement

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health • Public Health • Barnet Education and Learning Service • Post 16/NEET • Libraries • Housing • Food Security • Green Spaces & Leisure • Growth & Development • Housing • Barnet Parent Carers Forum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) • Metropolitan Police Barnet • Voluntary Sector • SEND & Inclusion • Business, employment, skills & training • Employment • Corporate Parenting • Early Years/Resilience/Troubled Families • Members • Community Safety |
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