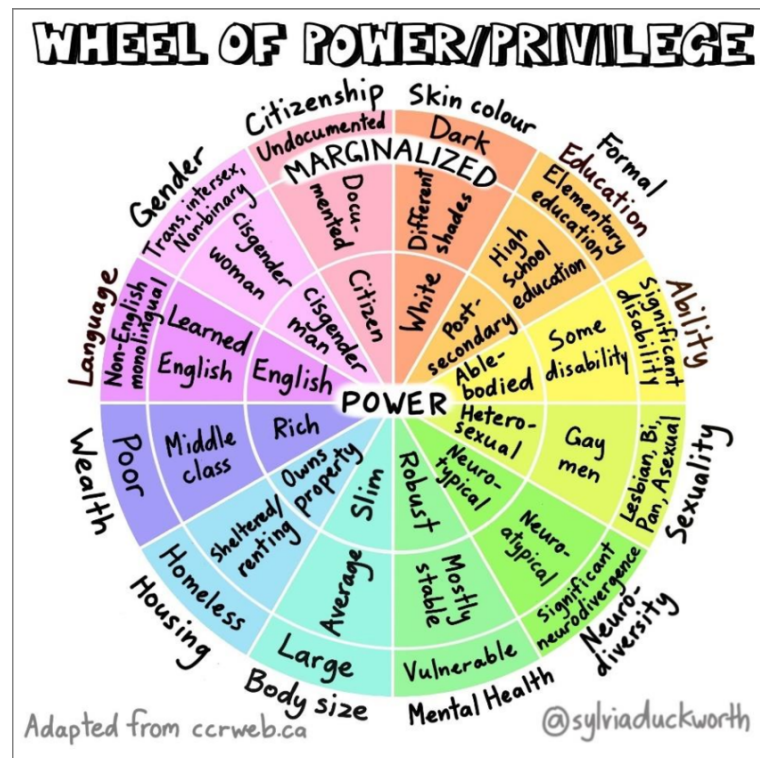


# BARNET

## LONDON BOROUGH

### STATE OF THE BOROUGH REPORT (OCTOBER 2023)



## INTRODUCTION

With people of many cultural backgrounds, faiths and life experiences living side by side, one of Barnet's biggest strengths is its diversity. We are proud of these diverse communities and of being a place where people feel welcomed and celebrated. In the Residents' Perception Survey 2021/22, 88% of residents agreed that their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.

But not everyone's experience of Barnet is the same, with some finding it easier to access services and take advantage of opportunities. Some people with protected characteristics<sup>1</sup> face structural discrimination when institutional and other common practices within society disadvantage them across many aspects of their lives. Others face inequalities and social exclusion as a result of low income and poverty.

<sup>1</sup> Protected characteristics are defined by the Equalities Act 2010 as disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Council recognises that care leavers also face barriers that impact them throughout their lives and that they are likely to face discrimination and disadvantage. Therefore, we treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic in addition to those groups defined in the Act.

However, as depicted by the Wheel of Power/Privilege above, people are shaped by a combination of multiple factors, including their age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation and socio-economic background. These characteristics combine to create different modes of discrimination and privilege and levels of advantage and disadvantage. We will develop our understanding of “intersectionality” to better understand the lived experience of residents and the issues they face and also shift our focus from personal responsibility to the structural, place-based drivers of inequalities.

Our plan for Barnet 2023-2026 sets out our vision for fighting poverty and tackling inequalities which affect everything from health, education to work opportunities. We want to ensure that no one is held back, whatever their background.

This report starts to build an understanding of residents’ experiences of inequalities in Barnet and the impact. Bringing together different themes, it provides an overview of what inequalities look like in important aspects of their lives. This is the first report of its type for Barnet and we know that there are gaps in our knowledge with a lack of quality data being available at a local level. For example, we have extensive information on outcomes for children and young people, but less detail about residents’ attitudes to and experiences of environmental services. We will seek to improve our understanding of sustainability through an equalities lens to assess how the ability to respond to climate change and environmental issues disproportionately affects our most disadvantaged communities.

The report will continue to evolve as an Equalities Index to ensure that we provide a more comprehensive picture of the issues our residents face.

Taking this report as an evidence base and using the outcomes of our continued engagement with residents and partners, we will refresh our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy to demonstrate how we can work together with partners and residents to address inequalities and poverty. This will embed our actions into activity and plans across the Council to ensure that tackling inequalities is a key part of everyone’s agenda.

## OUR RESIDENTS

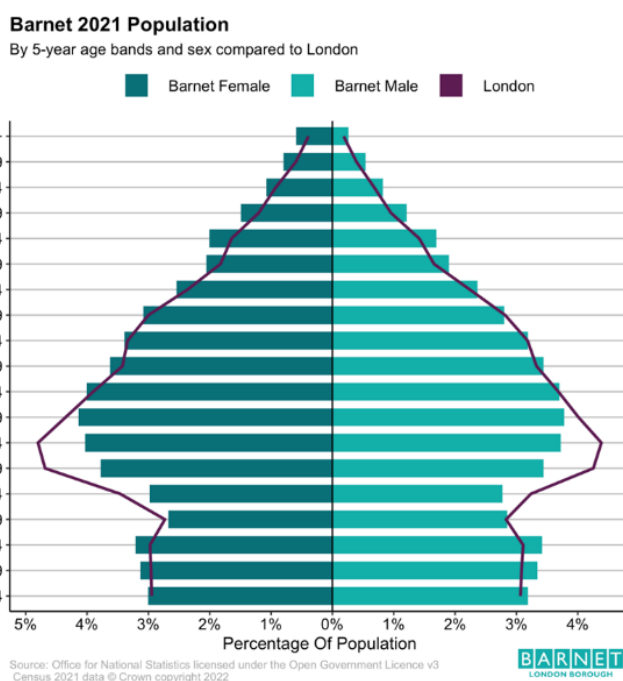
The 2021 Census<sup>2</sup> shows that Barnet is the second largest borough by population in London, home to an estimated 389,300 people. The population had grown by 9.2% since the 2011 Census compared to growth in London overall of 7.6%. 48.4% of residents were male and 51.6% female.

### Age Profile

The number of residents aged 0-19 years has increased by 38% to 96,600 since 2011 and they now make up a quarter of the population. About 83,400 residents aged five years and over were school children or full-time students. In contrast, there has been an 8% reduction in the number of children under five years old.

56,100 residents (14%) were aged over 65, a smaller increase of 18% over the previous ten years. 26,300 were aged over 75 years old, an increase of 10.9% since 2011. One-in-ten older residents was living alone. Working age adults (20-64 years) represented 61% of the population.

Figure 1: Barnet's population by five year age band



Compared to London overall, Barnet has a greater proportion of the population aged 0-15 and those aged 40 and over. The proportion of young working age people aged 20 to 39 living in Barnet is lower.

### Ethnicity, Language and Religion

57.7% of our population is from a white background, followed by 19.3% from an Asian background, 7.9% a black background, 5.4% a mixed background and 9.8% from other ethnic groups. Residents identifying as white British made up 36.2% of the population.

<sup>2</sup> The 2021 Census was based on pre-2022 ward boundaries.

221,293 of Barnet's residents (56.8%) were born in the UK. Residents born outside of the UK increased by 21.3% to 168,050. Those born in in the Middle East and Asia now make up 15.3% of Barnet's population, with the countries seeing the highest increases being Romania (200%) and Iran (55%).

There are large differences in the population of ethnic groups between neighbourhoods in Barnet:

- 74% of the population in High Barnet and Hadley identified as white compared to 36% in Colindale West and South.
- 37% of the population in Colindale West and South and 23% in Edgware Park identified as Asian.
- 24% of the population in Grahame Park identified as black, 23% as Asian and 7% as mixed ethnicity.

The most common religion is Christianity. 36.6% of the population self-identified as Christian, 14.5% as Jewish and 12.2% as Muslim. 20.2% of residents described themselves as having no religion. Barnet is home to London's largest Jewish community.

Again, there are large differences between neighbourhoods with, for example, 53.1% of residents of Golders Green North and 44% in Hendon Park describing themselves as Jewish and 27.1% of people in Brent Cross and Staples Corner as Muslim.

77.1% of residents aged over three years old stated that English was their main language, with 95.9% of the population identifying themselves as being proficient in the English language. Over 90 languages are spoken, including Romanian by 3.0 % of residents, Persian or Farsi (2.3%), Polish (1.5%), Gujarati (1.4%), Portuguese (1.0%) and Arabic (1.0%).

### **Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation**

8,633 residents (2.8%) identified with a LGB+ orientation (gay or lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation). 2,550 residents (0.8%) did not identify with the same gender as their sex registered at birth.

### **Disability**

49,679 (12.8%) residents self-identified as having a disability that either limited their day-to-day activities a little (7.1%) or a lot (5.7%). This is 1.4% lower than the average of all local authorities in London. The highest levels of disability are found in Ducks Island and Underhill (16.0%), Hadley Wood (15.6%), Fallow Corner (14.6%), North Finchley (14.5%) and High Barnet and Hadley (14.1%).

### **Health**

85.9% of Barnet's population considered themselves to be in very good or good health, which is 1.9% above the average of all local authorities in London. 5.4% of residents described their health as bad or very bad. The highest level of very bad health is found in

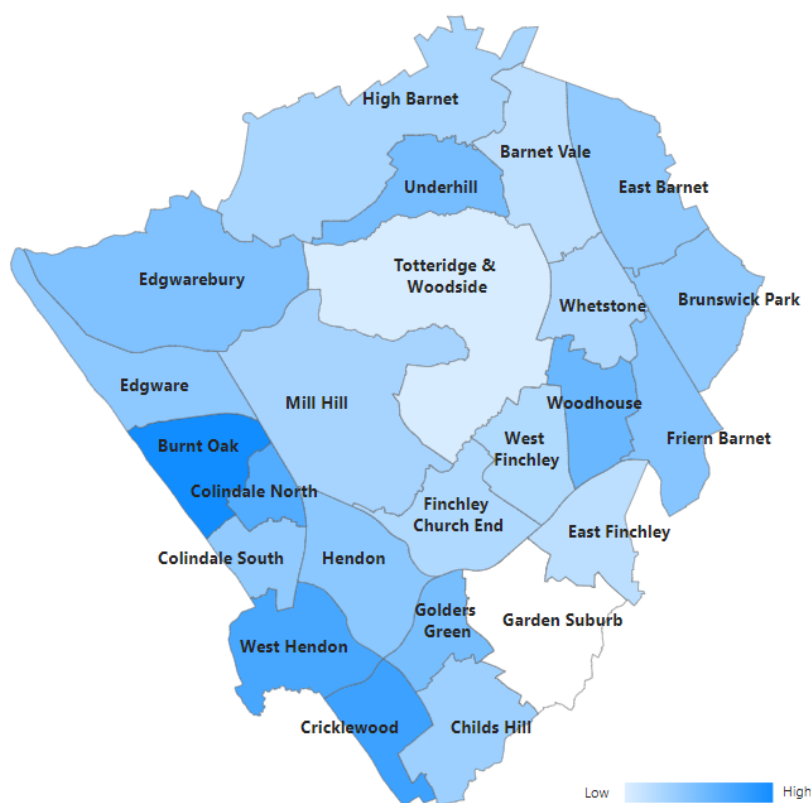
Ducks Island and Underhill (1.4%) followed by North Cricklewood, Mill Hill Broadway, Childs Hill and Brent Cross and Staples Corner (all 1.3%).

### Education and Qualifications

49% of people have the highest Level 4 qualifications or above<sup>3</sup>. This is similar to the London average and an increase of 33.2% since 2011. Hampstead Garden Suburb (64.4%) had the highest proportion of residents with at least Level 4 qualifications, followed by West Finchley (61.6%), East Finchley (61.2%), Golders Green South (60.7%) and Church End (57.5%).

15.4% of residents have no qualifications. This is similar to the London average (15.7%) and represents an increase of 9% since 2011. Burnt Oak and Watling Park (24.0%), Brent Cross and Staples Corner (22.9%), West Hendon (20.9%) and Mill Hill Broadway (20.3%) had the highest prevalence of residents with no formal qualifications.

Figure 2: Residents with no qualifications by ward (2021)



### Employment

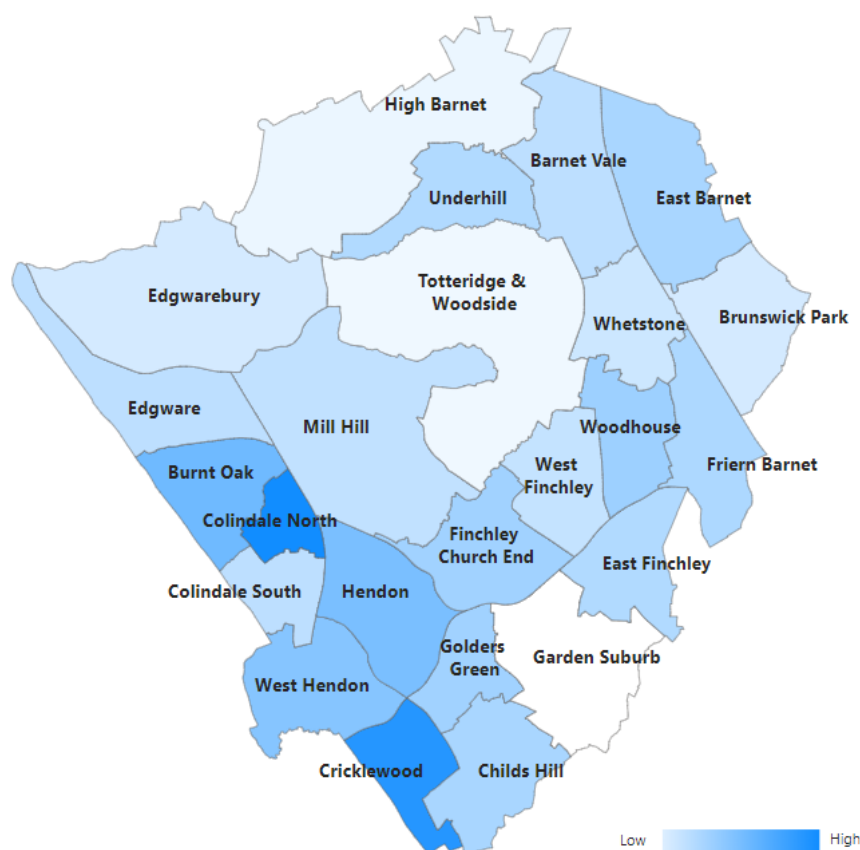
The Census 2021 took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change that had a significant affect on employment and the labour force across the country. The economically active population includes people who were put on furlough at the time, who were considered to be temporarily away from work. 32,900 people were furloughed in Barnet.

<sup>3</sup> Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelor's degree or post-graduate qualifications

64.6% of residents were classified as economically active, which is a reduction of 6.8% from the 2011 Census. Residents classified as being 'economically inactive due to retirement' had the largest increase with 14.9% of Barnet's population being retired. Of the overall population, the reasons for economic inactivity were retirement (15%), student (7%), looking after a home or family (6%) and long-term sickness or a disability (3%).

68% of the Barnet workforce were in full-time employment, with 32% in part-time roles. Unemployment was 4.4%, which is in the top third in the country. The highest unemployment rate was 6.8% in Colindale East.

Figure 3: Unemployment by ward



10% more men (65.4%) resident in Barnet were in employment compared to the proportion of women (55.4%). 0.6% more men (4.7%) were unemployed compared to women (4.1%).

28% of disabled residents were in employment, slightly higher than the national average (27.3%).

42.8% of Barnet's workforce stated that they mainly worked from home, an increase of 35.4% from the 2011 Census. Combined public transport use decreased by 22.3% and those who drive to work by 11.3% since the previous Census.

### Housing

Purpose-built blocks of flats or tenements continued to be the most common type of accommodation (36.6% of total households) followed by semi-detached (27.5%). Colindale

had the highest increase in residents living in purpose-built blocks of flats or tenements (239.4%), followed by Mill Hill East (69.0%) and Oakleigh Park (42.5%).

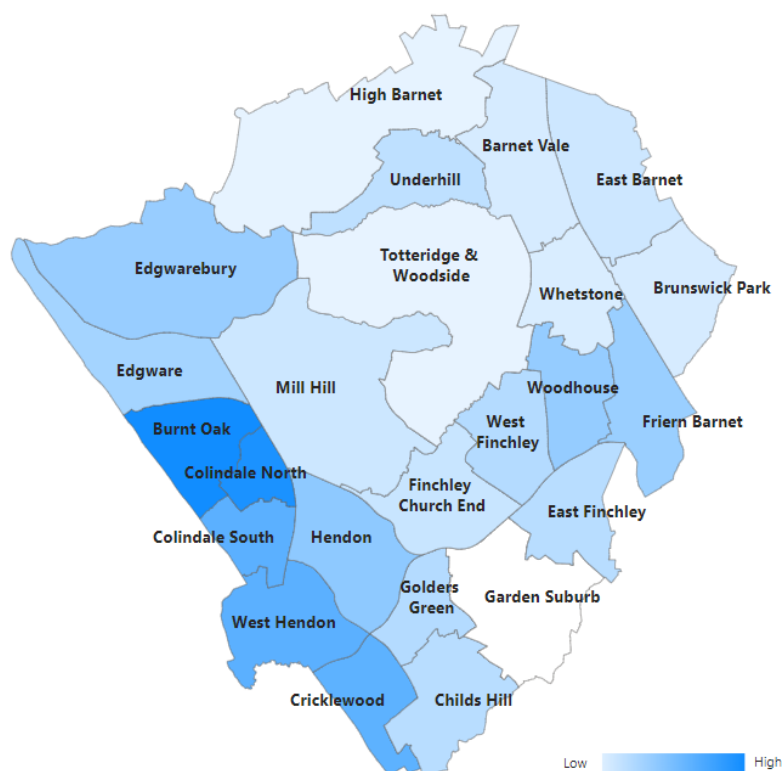
Two bedroom properties have become most prevalent (29.8%), followed by three bedroom (27.4%) and four-or-more-bedroom (25.4%).

Owned accommodations were the most common type of tenure (52.7%), followed by private rented (32.7%) and social rented (13.5%). Privately rented accommodation recorded growth of 39.7% compared to 2011.

Grahame Park (50.6%), Burnt Oak and Watling Park (31.0%), Ducks Island and Underhill (29.0%), Mill Hill Broadway (27.5%) and Brent Cross and Staples Corner (27.4%) had the highest percentage of residents in socially rented accommodation. Colindale had the highest growth of residents in socially rented accommodation (170.3%) and privately rented accommodation (189.7%) over the last decade.

Occupancy rating for bedrooms, which refers to the difference between the number of bedrooms needed and the number available per household, indicated that 9.4% of households in Barnet were overcrowded. This is a slight decline from 10% at the previous Census and lower than the London average (11.1%). Burnt Oak and Watling Park (20.8%), Grahame Park (19.3%), Brent Cross and Staples Corner (16.0%), Mill Hill Broadway (15.9%) and Colindale (15.1%) recorded the highest rates of overcrowding.

Figure 4: Overcrowding by ward (2021)



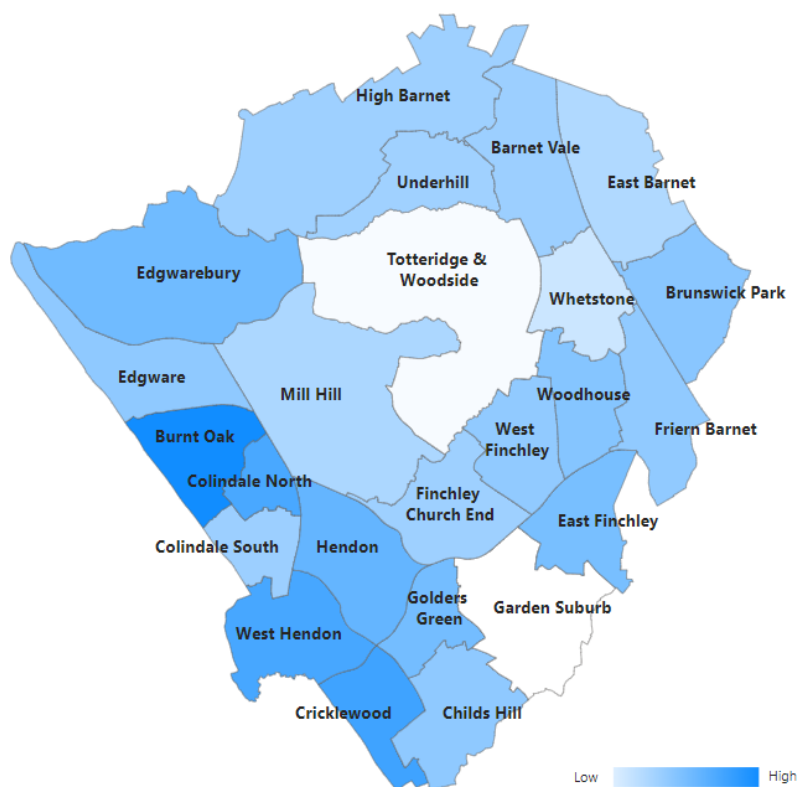
### Households

There were an estimated 148,917 households in Barnet, an increase of 9.6% since 2011 and the second largest of any borough in London. The average number of people per household remained the same at 2.6. 61% of all households were single family households (47% of which included dependent children), 28% were one person households and 11% were multiple family households.

The number of households with at least one dimension of deprivation (based on employment, education, health and disability and housing status) decreased by 6.4% compared to the 2011 Census with 50% of all households in Barnet having at least one dimension of deprivation. 25,960 households (13%) recorded two or more dimensions of deprivation, a reduction of 18.2% from 2011.

Burnt Oak and Watling Park (66%) Brent Cross and Staples Corner (64%), Grahame Park (62%), Mill Hill Broadway (60%), West Hendon (58%) and Hendon Central (58%) recorded the highest levels of households having at least one dimension of deprivation.

Figure 5: Households having at least one dimension of deprivation by ward



The percentage of households in Barnet owning at least one car or van (70.1%) declined by 1.2%. Brent Cross and Staples Corner (53.3%), Childs Hill (53.9%), Colindale (55.4%), Golders Green South (58.4%) and Hendon Central (59.1%) had the lowest rates of car ownership.



## INEQUALITIES IN BARNET

In this section of the report, we start to build a picture of the inequalities faced by our residents under the Our Plan for Barnet 2023-26 themes of People, Places and Planet. We recognise that there are limitations and that we need to do more to enhance our understanding. It has not been possible to source high quality local data on several topics for those with certain protected characteristics. For example, there is little data on the experiences of members of the LGB+ community.

In many cases, local data is only available on a place basis and we are only able to present information on inequalities by geographical area rather than by protected characteristics. Where this report has highlighted gaps in our knowledge, we will explore future opportunities to gather information to present a more comprehensive picture of inequalities, including by engaging residents about their own experiences.

## PEOPLE

### Education and Children



Children's health and education have a critical impact on their future life chances. Factors such as deprivation, living conditions and family lifestyles in the early years have a profound impact and can entrench inequalities later in life. There are significant disparities between the childhood experiences of different demographic groups.

Children who grow up in poverty are likely to suffer poorer education and health outcomes throughout their lives compared to children who do not. In Barnet, 11.9% of children live in relative poverty, significantly lower than the comparable rates for London (16.4%) and

England (20.1%). 9.5% of children live in absolute poverty. Again, this is lower than comparable rates for London (13.1%) and England (15.3%).

Whilst this is generally positive, there are pockets of higher deprivation in parts of the borough. Deprivation affecting children is highest in Burnt Oak (22.4%), Colindale (19.2%) and Golders Green (15.1%)<sup>4</sup>.

There were over 4,000 children classified as in need during 2022/23 across the borough. In 2022/23, there were around 11,450 pupils eligible for free school meals across both primary and secondary schools (21.3%). Disproportionality studies show that black children and children from “other ethnic groups” are 2.9 times more likely to receive free school meals than white children and those from a mixed or multiple ethnic background are 1.8 times more likely. Those who identify as Asian or Asian British are slightly less likely to receive free school meals than the majority population.

There were 499 looked-after children in Barnet in total during 2022-23. Black boys are 3.2 times more likely to be represented in this cohort than white boys. Boys from other ethnic groups (2.6) and a mixed or multiple ethnic background (2.2) are also over-represented. Black girls are 2.7 more likely to be in the looked-after group, followed by those from a mixed or multiple ethnic background (2.0) and other ethnic groups (1.4). The Council has recognised that care leavers face discrimination and disadvantage that impacts them throughout their lives and treats care experience as if it were a protected characteristic.

Disproportionality is less stark for those accessing early help support in the borough. Black children are 1.8 times more likely to have an early help referral, with children from mixed or multiple ethnic groups 1.6 times more likely to receive such support. Black children in the 0 to 4 year age range are 2.6 times more likely to experience an early help episode than white children. Those who identify as Asian or British Asian and other ethnic groups are in-line with the majority population for referrals to early help. However, for ages 0 to 4, all minority ethnicities are twice as likely to have an early help episode than white children.

Obesity in childhood can lead to the early onset of various health conditions and an increased risk of obesity and associated poor health in later life. 7.6% of Barnet’s students are obese or severely obese in Reception, rising to 20.4% in Year 6. Both figures are lower than for London overall at 10.0% and 23.7% respectively.<sup>5</sup>

The prevalence of obesity is not distributed equally. The highest rates of obesity in Year 6 are found in Burnt Oak (26.7%), Colindale (24.3%), Childs Hill (23.5%), West Hendon (23.1%) and Edgware (21.9%)<sup>6</sup>. In 2019-20 in England, children in the most deprived areas were more than twice as likely as children in the least deprived to be obese, while the Black African group had the highest prevalence of obesity in both Reception and Year 6.<sup>7</sup>

School readiness is a key measure of early years development across a wide range of areas. Children from more disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to achieve good development

<sup>4</sup> [Children in low income families \(2022\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Prevalence of childhood obesity \(2019-20\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [PHE Fingertips – Child and Maternal Health \(2021\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Health Profile for London 2021](#)

and the evidence shows that differences by social background emerge early in life. Within Barnet in 2022/23, 70.4% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of Reception. This was above the overall average for London (69.1%) and England (67.3%). 58.2% of pupils receiving free school meals achieved a good level of development which was above England's attainment (52.2%) and in line with London (58.4%). In 2023, there remained a large gap between free school meal recipients in Barnet (58.2%) and national attainment for non-free school pupils (69.8%), although this was lower than in 2022. All ethnic groups achieved higher than their national comparators for school readiness, except for black pupils, who were in line with the national position, and any other ethnic group who were 1.3 percentage points below.

Attainment 8 scores measure students' average GCSE grades across eight subjects. In 2021-22, students in Barnet achieved an attainment score of 58.1 compared to 52.7 in London and 48.9 in England. Girls (59.5) had on average a higher score than boys (56.9), although the gap was less than in London or nationally. Asian students attained the highest Attainment 8 score at 71.5, with pupils from black groups (51.9) and those receiving free school meals (45.1) on average performing less well.<sup>8</sup>

The worst educational outcomes are often among children excluded from school. Exclusion is also linked with a higher risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime. In the school year 2020-21, Barnet (2.33%) had a lower proportion of children being temporarily excluded from school than the average for England (4.25%). However, black children (4.23%) and those from mixed ethnic groups (3.17%) were more likely to be excluded than other groups.<sup>9</sup> Of the 82 young people involved with the Youth Justice Service between April 2022 and March 2023, 29 were white, 24 were black and 14 were from other ethnic groups.

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<sup>8</sup> [GCSE results by borough \(2021-22\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Permanent exclusions and suspensions in England \(2020-21\)](#)

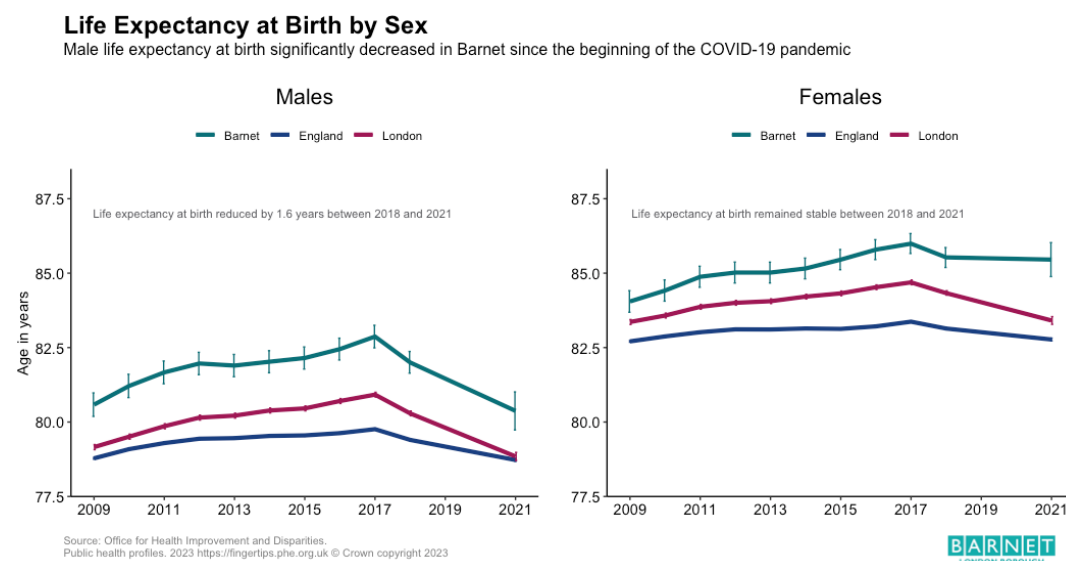
## Health and Social Care



Health inequalities in Barnet vary across the borough and are often related to people’s education, homes, employment, environment and behaviours. Differences in life expectancy between population groups often provide a clear indicator of health inequalities. Access to good quality services is an important way to reduce such inequalities.

There has been a significant decline in male average life expectancy in Barnet since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fall has been influenced largely by excess deaths due to COVID-19 and cardiovascular diseases. There has been a smaller decline in female life expectancy since 2017.

Figure 6: Life expectancy at birth by sex in Barnet

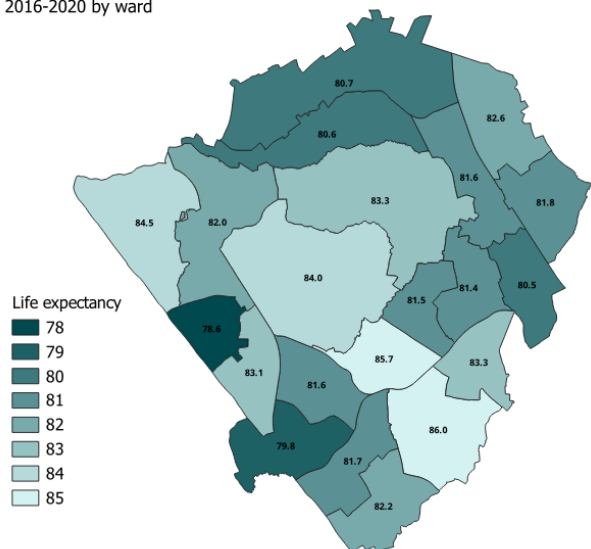


There are marked differences in people’s life expectancy across Barnet. The difference between people living in the most and least deprived areas of the borough is 5.7 years for females and 6.7 years for males. This gap has narrowed over the last decade for men by 1.3 years, but has increased for women..

Figure 7: Life expectancy at birth by ward

**Barnet Male Life Expectancy at Birth**

2016-2020 by ward

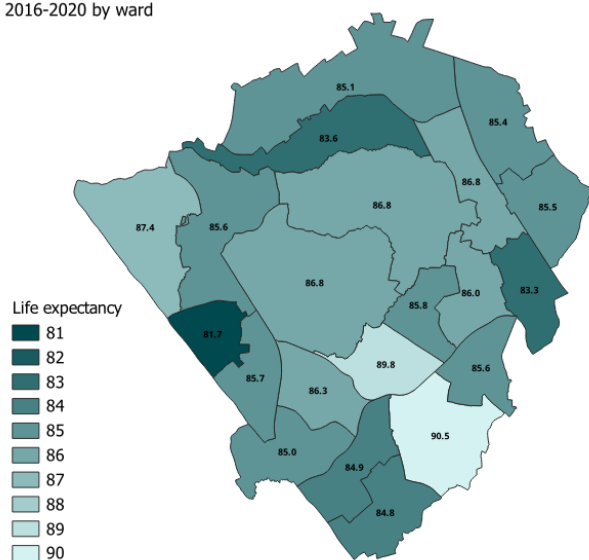


Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Public health profiles. 2023 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2023



**Barnet Female Life Expectancy at Birth**

2016-2020 by ward



Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Public health profiles. 2023 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2023



There is no local data on life expectancy for particular demographic groups. The most recent reliable national figures for life expectancy by ethnicity are for 2011-14. These showed that white and mixed ethnic groups in England and Wales had lower life expectancy at birth than

all other ethnic groups, while the black African group had statistically significant higher life expectancy.<sup>10</sup>

For males, the main conditions that affect inequality of life expectancy between those living in the most and least deprived areas are other causes<sup>11</sup> (22.6%), cancer (18%) and circulatory diseases (14.5%). For females, the main conditions contributing to the gap are circulatory diseases (27.2%), COVID-19 (24.1%) and respiratory diseases (19.6%).

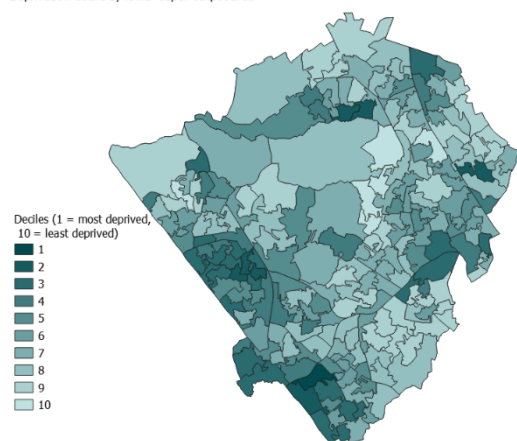
Overall, people in Barnet tend to have a comparatively long life-expectancy, but both men and women now spend more years in worse health than ten years ago. However, the increase for men has been greater. Healthy life expectancy at birth is 62.9 years for men and 67.1 for women, compared to 63.8 for men and 65.0 for women in London overall.<sup>12</sup> Poor health in later years of life is mostly attributable to long-term conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, respiratory diseases and mental ill health.

Wider determinants and the circumstances in which people live affect health and influence the formation of unhealthy behaviours and health inequalities. The prevalence of obesity, alcohol abuse or dependence and smoking differs across Barnet and mostly mirrors the map of deprivation, with the highest prevalence of these behavioural risk factors observed in more deprived parts of the borough.

*Figure 8: Obesity, alcohol use and smoking prevalence compared to deprivation*

#### Barnet 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation

Deprivation decile by lower super output area

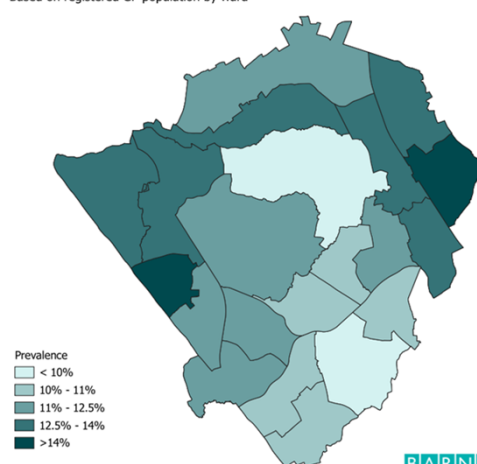


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government licensed under Open Government Licence v3 Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 © Crown copyright 2022

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#### Obesity or Severe Obesity Prevalence in Barnet

Based on registered GP population by ward



Source: North Central London Integrated Care System, HealthIntent. 2023 © Crown copyright 2023

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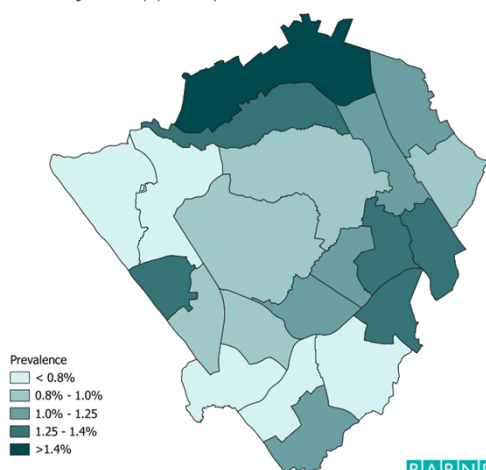
<sup>10</sup> [ONS Ethnic Difference in Life Expectancy \(2011-14\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> Other causes include all causes of death not included in the defined categories (e.g. unspecified infectious diseases, diseases of the blood, metabolic diseases etc.)

<sup>12</sup> [PHE Public Health Outcomes Framework - Healthy life expectancy at birth \(2018-20\)](#)

**Alcohol Abuse or Dependency Prevalence in Barnet**

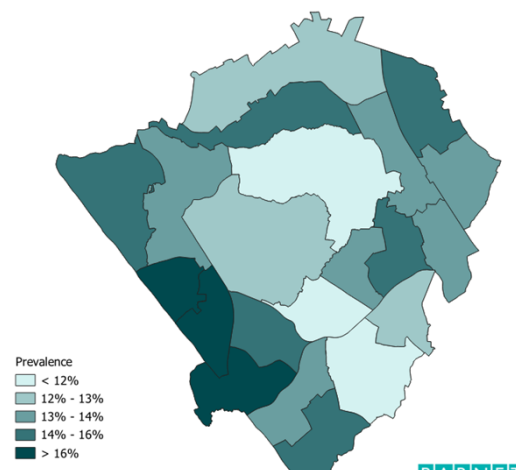
Based on registered GP population by ward



Source: North Central London Integrated Care System, HealthIntent. 2023 © Crown copyright 2023

BARNET  
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Based on registered GP population by ward



Source: North Central London Integrated Care System, HealthIntent. 2023 © Crown copyright 2023

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More disadvantaged groups experiencing inequalities are also more likely to have a cluster of unhealthy behaviours, such as smoking, drinking, low consumption of fruit and vegetables and low levels of physical activity<sup>13</sup>.

Although smoking prevalence in London fell from 16.3% to 12.9% between 2015 and 2019, it remains London's leading cause of premature death killing 8,000 people each year. Levels of smoking in Barnet also continue to fall, but we know rates are higher in more deprived areas, amongst those with routine and manual occupations and for men. This creates a level of disproportionality across wards in Barnet.

Hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions and alcohol related mortality in Barnet are lower than the London and England average. The prevalence of 'increasing or higher risk' drinking in England is generally greatest in the highest household income group. However, the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions is highest in the most deprived areas. This is believed to be due to interactions with other health behaviours in more deprived areas, such as smoking, poor diet and lack of exercise.

In 2019-20, over half (57%) of adults in Barnet were estimated to be overweight, higher than the London average (55.7%) but lower than that for England (62.8%). Across London, for both men and women, obesity was lowest in those aged under 25 with a gradual increase by age through to 55-64 years, after which prevalence decreases. Obesity prevalence was lowest in the least deprived and highest in the most deprived areas. Diet and physical activity are key risk factors for being overweight or obese<sup>14</sup>.

In 2019-20, the proportion of the population meeting the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables on a 'usual day' in London was 55.8%, similar to England (55.4%). National data indicates that five-a-day consumption is lower in people who are unemployed (45.2%), living with a disability (52.1%), Asian (47.2%), black (45.7%) or living in the most deprived areas (45.7%)<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> [Global Burden of Disease Tool for London](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Health Profile for London \(2021\)](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Health Profile for London \(2021\)](#)

Around a quarter of adults in Barnet (23.7%) took part in less than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per week during 2019-20. This is similar to the London average (23.8%), but higher than the England average (22.9%). Findings from Sport England found wide inequalities in physical activity in adults. The proportion of physically active adults is lower for people who are in routine or semi-routine jobs (52%), long-term unemployed or have never worked (52%), living with a disability or long-term health condition (45%), Asian (48%) or black (52%).

In Barnet, black residents are twice as likely to use Adult Social Care services than white residents, with the age range of 18 to 40 years having the highest percentage of service users. Other populations are in line with the majority white population for accessing services. Wards that have the highest disproportionality are West Finchley, Finchley Church End and Hendon.

Learning disability support is accessed less by all ethnic minority groups compared to white residents, although there is higher usage by those in the 20 to 39 range identifying as black. Black residents are twice as likely to access mental health support services than the majority white group. This rises to three times more likely for those in the 20 to 39 age range. Those identifying as black are twice as likely to use physical support services than white residents.

White residents are 1.3 times more likely to have substance misuse issues than those from an ethnic minority background. However, black residents and those from a mixed or multiple ethnic background are twice as likely to have a substance misuse issue between the ages of 20 to 29. White residents in Burnt Oak and Cricklewood have the highest disproportionate number of people with substance misuse issues.



## Employment



Those who experience the greatest income inequality are more likely to have poorer outcomes in education, housing, health and life expectancy. Low-income households also have a disproportionate over-representation of people with one or more protected characteristic. In London, those at highest risk of living in deprived areas include young people, disabled people and people in black, Asian and other ethnic minority groups.

Working and earning a reasonable wage are a crucial part of many of our lives helping us to support our families and have a decent quality of life. Some residents face inequalities that limit their ability to find a job and make a decent living.

24.3% of Barnet's working age population is economically inactive. The rate for women (30.9%) is significantly higher than for men (19.2%). Both are higher than the respective rates for London at 24.6% for women and 15.9% for men. The rate of economic inactivity for residents with disabilities is 37.5%<sup>16</sup>. The most common reasons given for economic inactivity are long-term sickness (32.5%) and looking after a family or home (19.3%). 79.7% do not want a job.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> [Employment rates by disability \(2021\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Economic inactivity by gender \(2022\)](#)

Working age economic inactivity varies significantly between broad ethnic groups.<sup>18</sup>

	Barnet	London
Indian	11.6%	16.9%
Other Ethnic Group	20.9%	25.1%
White	21.8%	17.2%
Mixed Ethnic	24.3%	28.5%
Black or Black British	35.3%	26.3%
Pakistani/Bangladeshi	Not available	33.8%

Unemployment rates in Barnet are lowest for white residents not born in the UK (4.0%), followed by white UK born residents (4.7%) and residents from ethnic minorities born outside the UK (6.8%). The highest rate is for residents from ethnic minorities born in the UK (8.9%).<sup>19</sup>

In 2020/21, the estimated median income of taxpayers in Barnet was £32,200, higher than London (£31,500) and England (£26,600).<sup>20</sup> Median weekly earnings for full-time male workers (£654) are higher than those for women (£594).<sup>21</sup> Men (17.3%) are twice as likely as women (8.5%) to be classified as managers, directors and senior officials, although a greater proportion of women are in professional occupations than men.<sup>22</sup>

Across London, there is a difference in the earnings of white employees compared to those of other ethnicities. In 2019, the median hourly wage of black workers was 19% lower, followed by workers from other ethnic backgrounds (11%) and Asian workers (10%).<sup>23</sup> The disability pay gap was 16.6%<sup>24</sup>.

<sup>18</sup> [Economic inactivity rate by broad ethnic group](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Unemployment rate by ethnic group and nationality](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Average income of taxpayers \(2020-21\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Earnings by workplace \(2022\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Employment by occupation type and gender \(2021\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Ethnicity pay gaps in London \(2020\)](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Disability pay gaps in London \(2020\)](#)

## PLACES

We are working to better understand residents' different experiences of places. This will include analysis of inequalities in access to services and amenities, such as parks, playgrounds and open spaces, public conveniences, transport and car parking. This section of the report currently focuses on inequalities in housing, deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour across the borough.

### Housing and Deprivation



High house prices and rents have long created challenges for households in Barnet. Costs have risen unexpectedly fast compared to incomes exacerbating the problem. The ongoing cost of living crisis, with inflation outstripping earnings growth, brings with it a risk of increased poverty and inequality.

In the 2021 Census, the number of households with at least one dimension of deprivation (based on employment, education, health and disability and housing status) decreased by 6.4% compared to 2011, with 50% of all households in Barnet having at least one dimension of deprivation. 25,960 households (13%) recorded two or more dimensions of deprivation, a reduction of 18.2% from 2011. Burnt Oak and Watling Park (66%) Brent Cross and Staples Corner (64%), Grahame Park (62%), Mill Hill Broadway (60%), West Hendon (58%) and Hendon Central (58%) recorded the highest level of households having at least one dimension of deprivation.

7,766 (13.4%) of pensioners are living in poverty.<sup>25</sup> The highest rates are found in Colindale North (38.0%), Burnt Oak (25.8%), Cricklewood (23.5%), East Finchley (22.7%) and West Hendon (21.2%).

<sup>25</sup> Defined as pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit (2022).

15,188 (10.4%) of households in Barnett are estimated to be living in fuel poverty<sup>26</sup>. The highest levels of fuel poverty are found in Burnt Oak (17.6%), Colindale South (17.1%), Cricklewood (15.1%), West Hendon (13.3%) and Colindale North (12.6%).

9.4% of households in Barnet were overcrowded based on the number of bedrooms being less than needed. This is a slight decline from 10% at the previous Census and lower than the London average (11.1%). Burnt Oak and Watling Park (20.8%), Grahame Park (19.3%), Brent Cross and Staples Corner (16.0%), Mill Hill Broadway (15.9%) and Colindale (15.1%) recorded the highest rates of overcrowding. Across London, those from black, Asian and other minority groups are around twice as likely to live in overcrowded conditions as white residents<sup>27</sup>.

There has been a rapid increase in the number of people approaching Barnet Homes as homeless over the last six months. This places additional strain on the limited social housing available and has increased the number of households in temporary accommodation. Homelessness in Barnet is most keenly felt amongst minority ethnic groups. Those identifying as black are 4.2 times more likely to present as being homeless than those identifying as white. Those from mixed ethnicity or multiple ethnic backgrounds are 2.3 times more likely to approach Barnet Homes for this reason.

Over a fifth of Barnett's residents aged over 16 (21.2%) feel lonely always, often or some of the time compared to figures of 23.7% for London and 22.3% for England.<sup>28</sup> In terms of personal characteristics, those at high risk of feeling lonely include those whose gender identity is different from their sex at birth, who identify with a lesbian, gay or other sexual orientation, who are from minority ethnic groups and those with a disability. People who live alone, are widowed or surviving a civil partnership partner, provide care or rent accommodation are at higher risk of loneliness.

74.2% of those facing deprivation in Barnet are also likely to be considered digitally isolated or excluded. Digital exclusion compounds the complexity of a person's needs and the inequality they are likely to face when accessing services. 11% of Barnet residents have never used the internet compared to 7% in London. This was similar across all ethnic groups, but 51% of Londoners aged over 75 had never used the internet.<sup>29</sup>

20% of households in Barnet do not have access to private outside space, compared to 21% across London and 12% in England<sup>30</sup>. The highest proportion of households without access to gardens are found in Hendon Central (36%), Childs Hill (35%), Colney Hatch (31%) and North Finchley (31%). Across London, lower income and black residents are least likely to have access to a garden. Ethnic minority Londoners and those living in more deprived neighbourhoods are also more likely to have poor access to high quality local green spaces.

<sup>26</sup> Based on the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) fuel poverty metric (2022)

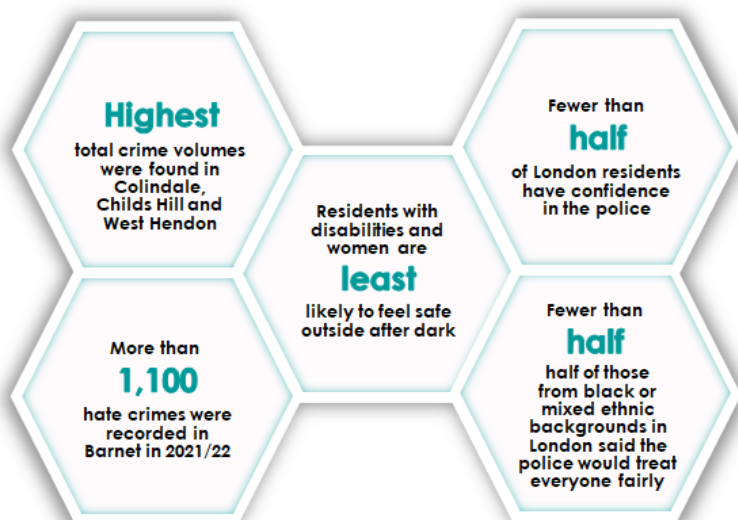
<sup>27</sup> [State of London Report - Dashboard](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Active Lives Adult Survey, Sport England \(2021\)](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Internet use by borough and population sub-groups](#)

<sup>30</sup> [ONS Access to gardens and public green space in Great Britain \(2020\)](#)

## Crime and Community Safety



Across London, trust and confidence in the police have seen sustained declines over recent years. In 2021-22, confidence was 45%, a fall of 14% percentage points over the previous three years. Trust in the police stood at 66%, a decline of 17% over the same period. The lowest levels of trust and confidence were expressed by those who are of mixed ethnicity, black, LGB+ or aged under 25. Overall, 62% of respondents said the police would treat everyone fairly. Londoners aged under 25 (56%), those from black (46%) or mixed ethnic backgrounds (44%) or LGB+ (50%) are far less likely to feel the police would treat everyone fairly<sup>31</sup>.

In the 12 months to March 2022, there were 10,746 anti-social behaviour calls made to the police in Barnet. Some of these would have been related to breaches of Covid regulations. The wards with the highest number of calls were Colindale (2,424), Golder's Green (2,139), Childs Hill (1,661); Burnt Oak (1,627) and West Hendon (1,254). Over the same period, the wards with the highest crime volumes were Colindale (3,161), Childs Hill (2,834), West Hendon (2,713), Burnt Oak (2,523) and Golders Green (2,272).

There were 2,332 incidents of burglary across Barnet between April 2021 and March 2022, a decrease of 10.2% compared to the previous year. The highest number of incidents occurred in Childs Hill (201), Hendon (185) and Colindale (169). The lowest volumes were found in Underhill (53), Totteridge (65) and Oakleigh (74).

Over the same time period, there were 127 possession of weapons incidents in the borough, with the highest numbers occurring in Burnt Oak (17), Childs Hill (12) and West Hendon (10).

Some geographical areas of London experience much higher rates and concentrations of violence than others. However, some groups are disproportionately overrepresented as victims and offenders. Research has found that young black males are disproportionately

<sup>31</sup> A Better Police Service for London MOPAC London Surveys (2021-22)

more likely to be either a victim or a perpetrator of serious violence than any other category of young people<sup>32</sup>.

In the period 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2023, there were 2,420 recorded convictions or cautions in Barnet. 48% of perpetrators were white European, 24% Afro-Caribbean and 9% Asian. Over the same period, where ethnicity was recorded, 51% of the victims of crime were white European, 16% Asian and 16% Afro-Caribbean.

3,446 stop and searches were undertaken by the police in Barnet in 2022. 46% of the subjects were white European, 29% were black and 11% Asian.

There were 2,890 domestic abuse offences in Barnet in the 12 months to March 2023, a reduction of 3% compared to the previous years. The rate of domestic abuse offences in Barnet (7.2 per 1,000 population) was lower than the rate for London overall (9.8)<sup>33</sup>. The substantial majority of victims of domestic abuse are women.

There has been an increase in most forms of hate crime in Barnet over recent years, with 1,114 offences recorded in 2021-22<sup>34</sup>.

Hate Crime Offences in Barnet	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Race and Religious	654	787	787	786	823
Antisemitic	122	190	165	128	155
Islamophobia	55	30	36	11	33
Disability	19	12	22	14	23
Homophobia	39	39	75	72	67
Transgender	4	6	3	5	13

Over three fifths (64%) of residents feel safe when outside in their local area after dark. However, residents with a disability (51%), women (55%), Jewish residents (58%), people living in areas of higher deprivation (57%) and those aged over 65 (59%) are significantly less likely to say this. Residents living in Edgware (50%) are the least likely to feel safe in their area after dark.

<sup>32</sup> [Understanding serious violence among young people in London - London Datastore](#)

<sup>33</sup> MPS Crime Dashboard

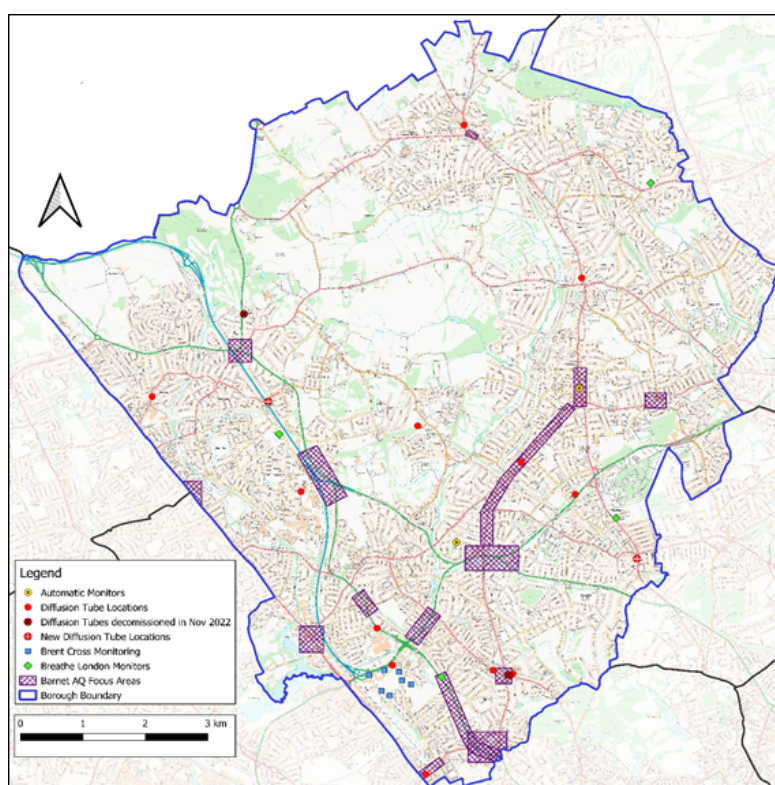
<sup>34</sup> Barnet Community Safety Strategic Assessment (September 2022)

## PLANET

Further work is being undertaken to explore inequalities issues in relation to sustainability and environmental issues. This will include consideration of the experiences of residents with services, such as waste collection and recycling, street cleanliness, tree-planting and access to electric vehicle charging points.

However, the effects of air pollution on health are well established with impacts on lung development in children, heart disease, stroke, cancer, exacerbation of asthma and increased mortality.<sup>35</sup> Air quality mapping of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) for Barnet suggests higher air pollution in more deprived parts of the borough and along main roads, although this is improving in most locations. The chart below identifies the current areas of focus with the poorest air quality and monitoring locations.

Figure 9: Air quality priority areas

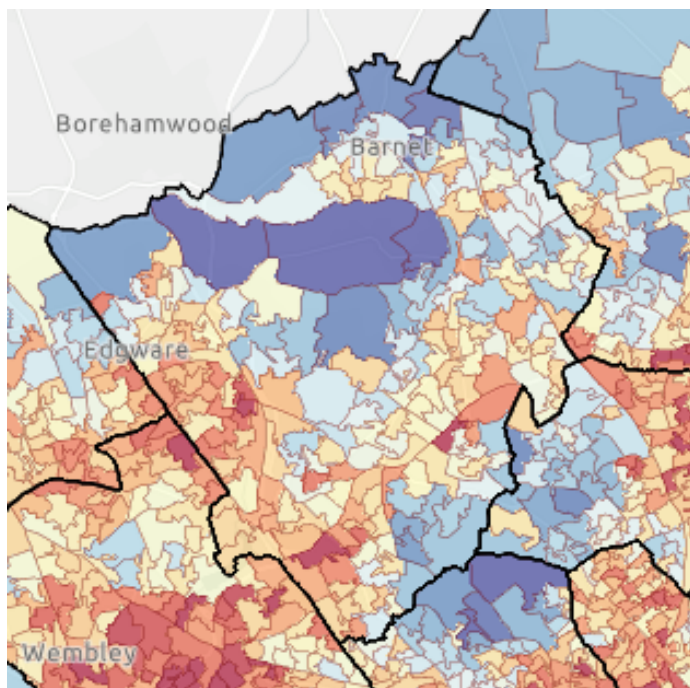


Climate risk maps have been produced to analyse climate exposure and vulnerability across Greater London.<sup>36</sup> Climate vulnerability relates to people's exposure to climate impacts like flooding or heatwaves, but also to personal and social factors that affect their ability to cope with and respond to extreme events, such as age, income and ethnicity. High climate risk coincides with areas of income and health inequalities demonstrating that climate impacts will not affect all communities equally. Areas with high concentrations of vulnerable populations are most exposed to climate impacts such as heatwaves or floods.

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chief-medical-officers-annual-report-2022-air-pollution>

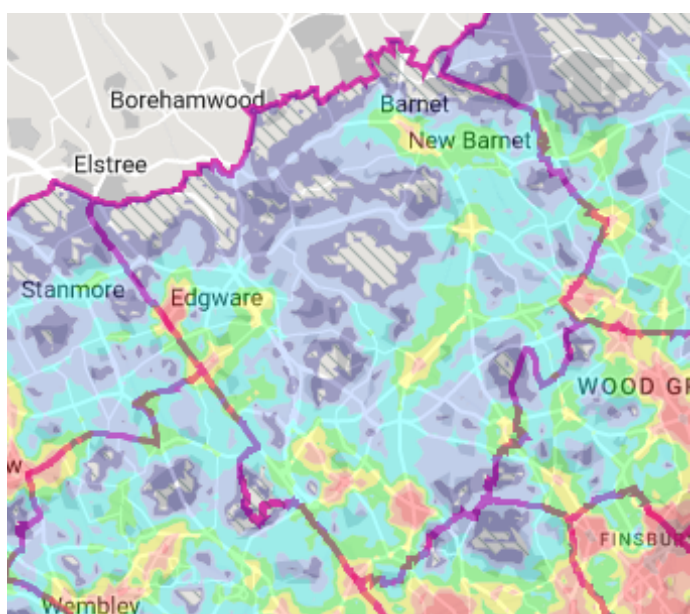
<sup>36</sup> [Climate Risk Mapping - London Datastore](#)

Figure 10: Climate risk map for Barnet



Public transport accessibility is crucial to alleviating traffic congestion and promoting urban sustainability. It also has a key role in helping to tackle inequality, by improving access to opportunities such as jobs, education and other key services. WebCAT provides information on London's transport system and assesses public transport access levels. The map below rates locations in Barnet by distance from frequent public transport ranging from dark blue (worst) to red (best). Access to public transport is high across our growth areas, town centres and main road corridors, but orbital connections remain lower.

Figure 11: Public transport access levels in Barnet





## NEXT STEPS

Our Plan for Barnet 2023-26 commits us to fighting inequality and improving life chances for a good quality, healthy and long life. Wherever we find that people have experienced inequality or disproportionate impact due to their background or identity, we will work to tackle this and eradicate it. Working in partnership, we will ensure that no one is left behind and enable our communities and residents to take advantage of new and existing possibilities.<sup>37</sup>

There is much current good practice across the Council and our future focus will be to:

- Improve outcomes for our residents by tackling the gaps between different communities. This will include shifting our focus from personal responsibility to developing a better understanding of the structural, place-based drivers of inequalities.
- Improve our understanding of our communities and residents' experiences to ensure services are fair, equitable and accessible to all. This includes developing a focus on intersectionality to understand how combinations of equality characteristics influence their experiences of the borough.
- Use our new community participation strategy to better engage residents from all communities, including minority, seldom heard, protected and vulnerable groups.
- Promote and celebrate the diversity of our borough and foster community cohesion.

We recognise that these are long-term challenges, requiring systematic, joint working with partners. Some of the issues will need to be addressed at national or regional levels, but we have a crucial role to play.

There is a need for structural change and new policies to address inequalities, not just one-off interventions. There is much we can do locally, working with our residents to change how we deliver our services. Our initiatives and actions will be informed by ongoing engagement work with our communities.

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<sup>37</sup> Caring for people, our places and the planet: Our plan for Barnet 2023-2026