

Appendix D – Proposed Task and Finish Group Review Topics for 2024-25

Review topic	Brief Scope	Estimated timeline/ notes
Youth Homelessness	What are the different avenues that Barnet can take to ensure that young people are supported prior to reaching crisis point (presenting as homeless) and refrain from seeing a problem of youth homelessness in the borough.	Due to complete in June 2024.
Primary Care (GP Access)	Improving GP access has been identified as a top concern for Barnet residents. Anecdotal information implies that residents are finding it increasingly difficult to see their GPs both in Barnet and in many other parts of the country, particularly since the pandemic, as demand has grown. This review will aim to highlight the voice of residents and provide a link between residents and the relevant individuals who coordinate digital and face-to-face GP services in the Borough to respond to the issues and make access to GPs as smooth and straightforward as possible. The review will reach out to communities that are found to not be accessing GPs by reviewing demographic data and will make efforts to include such groups in providing feedback on their experiences.	Due to complete in June 2024.
Elective Home Education	<p>Review the progress being made by the Council in supporting and safeguarding children who are home educated. Review the progress being made by the Council in supporting and safeguarding children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who are home educated. Review the impact of Covid-19 on EHE in Barnet and examine Mental Health impact/ additional support/ signposting needed.</p> <p>Focusing on children who are vulnerable to safeguarding risks if they are not at school. Consider how the Council can support the improvements of the Elective Home Education provision. How the Council supports parents with the EHE provision, case studies of successful EHE, and the support/ action taken for parents who do not engage in the EHE support.</p>	Due to complete in June 2024.
Discharge to Assess	To consider the impact of the discharge to assess model on the residents of Barnet and assess if there are any improvements that should be made. The	Due to complete in September 2024.

	<p>review will also consider the demand for services and the financial impact of support following hospital discharge for Barnet Council and the local NHS system.</p>	
Barnet Highway Network	<p>Review how funding is allocated for highways infrastructure asset management and review the synergy between reactive (pothole and small patching) and planned (sectional resurfacing, end to end resurfacing, reconstruction).</p> <p>To review how climate change has and will impact the condition of Barnet Roads and could advances in technology, new materials, alternative design approach be utilised to improve the quality of highways in the long term.</p> <p>Review how the Council communicates and consults with residents about highways infrastructure asset issues and how the Council can ensure that residents understand the processes. To review how scrutiny can support the development of the new Highways Investment Strategy.</p>	Due to complete in September 2024.
Mental Health	<p>The resident submission suggested looking into building up a mental health community; this could investigate the wider picture and opportunities for holistic/ wrap around support with the Council and other partners.</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group could consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current mental health provision. 2. The work of the voluntary and community services in supporting good mental health. 3. The role of libraries, leisure services, and green spaces in promoting wellbeing. <p>Note from officers: the topic as described is very broad and would create difficulties for a Task and Finish Group to add value. It is suggested that some</p>	Proposed to start in Quarter 1 of 2024-25.

	research/ reflection be undertaken and that a narrower topic within mental health is selected for a Task and Finish Group.	
Food Banks in Barnet	<p>The resident submission suggested that the real number of people using food banks and the current picture of food banks and other food suppliers in the borough (such as Barnet Food Hub) was not fully known. It was commented that the Department for Work and Pensions had recently moved away from referring clients to food services in favour of providing information and it was considered that this would result in reduced data.</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group could look at the existing numbers of local of food banks and the level of usage. A report could also consider the impact and alternative options when current funding for the Barnet Food Hub comes to an end.</p>	Proposed to start in Quarter 2 of 2024-25.
NHS (National Health Service) Dentists	<p>The resident submission suggested investigating NHS dental services with a special emphasis on the community dental service and provision of services to housebound patients.</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group could examine the availability of NHS dentists in Barnet, waiting lists, and community dental services.</p>	Proposed to start in Quarter 2 of 2024-25.
Cycle Lanes/ Sustainable Travel	<p>Several residents and local groups suggested looking into improving conditions for cyclists in the borough. One suggestion focused on repairing potholes but this is not recommended as a focus for this topic as it is subject to consideration by the Barnet Highway Network Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group could examine how the Council was promoting active travel and investigate methods to encourage more walking, cycling, and use of public transport.</p>	Proposed to start in Quarter 3 of 2024-25.
Foster Carers in Barnet	An officer suggestion was to review of the recruitment and retention of foster carers in Barnet.	Proposed to start in Quarter 3 of 2024-25.

	A Task and Finish Group could consider the current processes for recruitment and retention and investigate possible barriers or difficulties.	
Dog Fouling	<p>A number of residents suggested tackling the issue of dog fouling through education, enforcement, and the introduction of additional bins. This is an issue which is difficult to address but could have a significant geographical reach.</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group could focus on the issue of raising public awareness and/ or enforcement and whether any improvements could be made in this area.</p>	Proposed to start in Quarter 4 of 2024-25.