

**Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011 – Barking & Dagenham Partnership**

**Executive Summary**

**About the Barking and Dagenham Partnership**

The Barking and Dagenham Partnership brings together all of those who want to make Barking and Dagenham a better place to live, work, study and visit. The Partnership was established in 2001 to work together to develop a strategic and co-ordinated approach to delivering services, and improving the quality of life for local people and communities in the borough.

The Partnership brings together the statutory bodies within the borough, as well as representatives of the voluntary and community sector and members of the local community.

**The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

This is the fourth Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which has been developed by the Barking and Dagenham Partnership.

This document analyses local health and wellbeing needs, through a comprehensive digest of statistics and data. It identifies clear strategic priorities for the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy which is being developed by the Partnership.

The approach of the JSNA is based on Sir Michael Marmot's independent review into health inequalities in England.

The Marmot report highlighted key policy objectives to:

- Give every child the best start in life.
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.
- Create fair employment and good work for all.
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all.
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention.

The JSNA shows that there has been much progress in Barking and Dagenham in tackling health inequalities and driving up outcomes. However, substantial inequalities remain and the challenges are many – not least those posed by a rapidly growing population. That changing demographic is placing exceptional strain on already challenged resources and facilities at a time of severe financial constraint.

There are significant challenges in the area of health in pregnancy (both of the mother and of the child), smoking cessation, obesity the use of drugs & alcohol and the need to increase physical activity across all social groups in the borough.

Barking and Dagenham also faces significant challenges in making sure that employment and educational opportunities are available for all. The JSNA demonstrates that far too many local residents are struggling to find work. There are more people living at or below the poverty line in the borough than both the London and national average.

Much work also needs to be done on the ‘bricks and mortar’ issues in the borough. In a borough where there is such a high prevalence of social and council housing, changes in policy aimed at housing benefit claims will hit many of the poorest hard. The Partnership will also need to develop strategies to increase housing opportunities and effectively tackle fuel poverty, especially at a time of reduced income and raised costs.

Fear of crime far exceeds the likelihood of being a victim of it in Barking and Dagenham. While research shows that the fear of crime is reducing overall, the numbers of respondents to research shows that the view that the Council and local Police are effectively dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour is actually increasing.

Health outcomes will be a major focus for the Partnership going forward. The JSNA demonstrates that Barking and Dagenham’s rates of teenage pregnancy, levels of sexual transmitted diseases, rates of good dental health as well as cardiovascular disease are all higher than both the London and national average. There has been a significant increase in rates of diabetes in the borough.

Despite these challenges, the Partnership is determined to work hard and positively to make sure that the delivery of outcomes is driven by local need.

## **Key Findings**

In Barking and Dagenham:-

- The most up-to-date data available shows that Barking and Dagenham remains England’s 22<sup>nd</sup> most deprived local authority area.
- There is more deprivation, child poverty, childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy and a lower life expectancy than the England average.

- Areas that are more deprived in the borough have a wider gap in life expectancy at birth between males and females.
- Mortality rates are higher than the England averages for all ages, including in death rates from stroke, heart disease and cancer.
- Immunisation rates in Barking and Dagenham remain lower than the national average and below target uptake.
- The 2011 school census identified 7,098 children and young people with special educational needs, equating to 20.3% of the entire school population.
- As of March 2011, there were 439 people aged 16-18 not in employment, education or training or 7% of all 16-18 year olds in the borough.

There are however, areas of success which demonstrates that our joint work is achieving outcomes to celebrate:-

- While Barking and Dagenham has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the Outer North East London (ONEL) boroughs, the trend is now downwards.
- GCSE results are improving – more young people in the borough achieved five (or more) A\* - C grades than the national average in 2010.
- Barking and Dagenham has consistently reduced overall adult reoffending and is one of the few London boroughs to reduce crime in 2010/11.
- Barking and Dagenham has one of the lowest rates of reported infectious disease in North East or North central London.

### **Key Recommendations**

A comprehensive list of recommendations to be followed in procuring services to meet the demands of the borough's population is enclosed in Appendix 2 of this report.

In outline, the recommendations call for a strategic approach to commissioning, governed by the needs of this JSNA across each of the priority outcome areas as outlined in page 1 of this Executive Summary.