



Joint area review

Report for children and young people
Barnet

Report for children and young people about the services they receive in Barnet

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and doing well at school and as they grow up
- Making a positive contribution to society
- Being successful in whatever they choose to do when they are adults

Why should I read this?

The law says that inspectors must look at and then report on how well local services serve children and young people in an area. This is called a "review". Inspectors visited your area recently. You might like to read this, or the full report which you can find on Ofsted's website, to find out what they had to say.

What did the inspectors do?

Eight inspectors visited Barnet in May 2006 so that they could get a feel of what life is like for children and young people in the area. They:

- ❖ talked and listened to a number of children and young people they met at youth centres, community centres and schools, especially in the Colindale area
- ❖ talked with adults working with children and young people (like social workers, teachers, youth workers, nurses, doctors, police officers and councillors)
- ❖ spoke to parents and other people caring for children
- ❖ met with school councils' representatives and members of the Youth Board
- ❖ heard from the council and other agencies what they think about the services they provide for children
- ❖ read many reports; and
- ❖ visited services used by children and young people, to see things for themselves.

The inspectors also looked at how well particular children are doing, like those children in council care or those who have a learning difficulty or disability.

How well are children and young people doing in Barnet?

The inspectors found that:

- ❖ most children and young people are healthy, but fewer than elsewhere are immunised against some diseases
- ❖ young children under five have more tooth decay than is usual;
- ❖ most do very well at school, including those children looked after by the council and children with learning difficulties or disabilities. However, not all children and young people from minority ethnic groups do as well as others

- ❖ more young people over 16 are staying on in education and training
- ❖ the youth and Connexions services support young people well
- ❖ most young people are prepared well for working life
- ❖ if you live in Barnet you are less likely to be victims of crime than in many other parts of London and the rest of the country; and
- ❖ children and young people are very involved in making decisions about their schools and the wider community.

What were the main things children and young people told inspectors about your area?

- ❖ They feel safe in school but, despite knowing that Barnet is safer than many other areas, some are worried about safety in their local neighbourhood.
- ❖ It is easy to get help and advice at school.
- ❖ Some would like better housing in their neighbourhoods.
- ❖ There are lots of interesting clubs and after-school activities, but many would like a greater range of things to do and places to go outside of school.
- ❖ They are asked about changes that need to be made but are not told what has changed or why some of their ideas have not been used.
- ❖ The young people's centre (331) is a good one-stop-shop for many teenagers to get advice and support.

These views were an important source of evidence for inspectors.

What things did the inspectors say are good for children and young people in my area?

- ❖ The council and other agencies work together well and have made a lot of progress recently in improving services quickly. They want the best for children and young people.
- ❖ Healthy eating is encouraged and school meals are getting healthier.
- ❖ There are some good services to help children and young people with emotional and behaviour problems.
- ❖ Work to combat drug misuse is good.
- ❖ Children and young people are kept safe from abuse.
- ❖ Schools are good and work well to try to ensure that children and young people are happy and achieve well.
- ❖ There are many opportunities through 'buddy schemes' for children and young people to support one another.

- ❖ Crime and anti-social behaviour are reducing.

What things are not so good for children and young people?

- ❖ Support for young people leaving care and teenagers with learning difficulties and disabilities are not good enough. These young people need more help to stay in education or to find training courses and jobs.
- ❖ Children's attendance in primary schools needs to improve.