

# Prevention Policy

*London Borough of Barnet*

**POLICY COVER SHEET**

<b>POLICY NAME</b>	Prevention Policy		
<b>Document Description</b>	This document sets out Barnet Council's broad responsibilities for prevention applicable to <i>all</i> adults in Barnet pursuant to the Care Act 2014.		
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## Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Key definitions applicable to this policy</b> .....	<b>4</b>
2.1 Prevention.....	4
2.2 Primary prevention (prevent) .....	4
2.3 Secondary prevention (reduce).....	5
2.4 Tertiary prevention (delay) .....	5
<b>3. Legal framework</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Scope of policy</b> .....	<b>6</b>
4.1. To whom does this policy apply? .....	6
4.2. Who will be involved? .....	6
4.3. Services, facilities and resources already available in Barnet.....	7
4.4. What about people who do not have any current needs for care and support? ..	7
<b>5. Assessment of adults’ and carers’ needs</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>6. Funding contributions for preventative support</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>7. Equality impact assessment</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>8. Related policies, procedures or strategies</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>9. Policy status and transition arrangements</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>10. Review of policy</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>11. Contact information / further guidance</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b> .....	<b>10</b>

## 1. Introduction

The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to provide or arrange for the provision of services, facilities or resources, which would contribute towards preventing, delaying or reducing the development of needs for care and support for adults and needs for support for carers. This policy document sets out Barnet Council's approach to meet this general duty

Barnet Council (the Council) will work with individuals and families as well as other local organisations and communities to promote wellbeing and independence, build resilience and give people access to the right information and advice and choice and control over the support they may need where they have eligible social care needs. Prevention will be an on-going consideration and not a single activity or intervention.

The Council remains committed to preventing and delaying the development of care and support needs for adults and support needs for carers and reducing the existing care and support needs for adults and support needs for carers. The Council's Prevention Strategy will set out its local approach in discharging this duty.

Inherent in this will be a collaborative strategy with the Council's statutory partners, including public health, the NHS, the children's service and housing as well as voluntary and community organisations to develop an integrated local approach to prevention.

## 2. Key definitions applicable to this policy

### 2.1 Prevention

This covers many different types of support, services, facilities or other resources. Although there is no single definition, the statutory guidance makes reference to three general approaches to prevention (primary, secondary and tertiary) to illustrate what types of services, facilities or resources and to whom and when they could be considered, provided or arranged.

### 2.2 Primary prevention (prevent)

These are generally universal services, facilities or resources provided or arranged that may help an individual avoid developing needs for care and support, or help a carer avoid developing support needs by maintaining independence and good health and promoting wellbeing. These services are available without an assessment or professional decision to access it and are aimed at individuals who have no current health or care and support needs. Examples include, but are not limited to interventions or advice that:

- provide universal access to good quality information

- promote healthy and active lifestyles
- reduce loneliness or isolation
- encourages early conversations in families or groups about future arrangements

### **2.3 Secondary prevention (reduce)**

These are more targeted interventions aimed at individuals who have an increased risk of developing needs. The provision of services, facilities or resources may help slow down or reduce any further deterioration or prevent other needs from developing. This type of early intervention or support will prevent an individual's needs reaching crisis point. Targeting interventions will require screening to identify individuals at risk (for example, those at risk of certain health conditions such as stroke or falls) as well as approaches to identify carers to help them develop their knowledge and skills and look after their own health and wellbeing. Examples may include but not be limited to:

- a fall prevention clinic
- adaptations to housing to improve accessibility
- telecare services
- equipment to support independent living
- fitness and exercise programmes
- handyperson service

### **2.4 Tertiary prevention (delay)**

These are interventions aimed at minimising the effect of a disability or deterioration for people with established, complex or progressive health conditions (such as dementia) and supporting people to regain skills, maximise independence and manage or reduce need where possible. Examples include:

- dementia cafes for people with dementia, their carers and family members in a relaxed social setting to participate in activities and share views
- rehabilitation to help individuals regain capabilities where they have been lost due to illness or disease to attain independence e.g. mobility training for individuals with visual impairment.
- reablement (also known as enablement) services provided in the person's home by care or support professionals to help people live independently.

- intermediate care services provided by health and social care for a limited period of time to people after they have left hospital or when they are at risk of being sent to hospital to help them maintain or regain the ability to live independently.
- the Network model which provides support to people with mental health problems, for example skills for living session.

### 3. Legal framework

The Care Act 2014 imposes a duty on local authorities to provide or arrange for the provision of services, facilities or resources, or take other steps, which it considers will:

- (a) contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by adults in its area of needs for care and support;
- (b) contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by carers in its area of needs for support;
- (c) reduce the needs for care and support of adults in its area;
- (d) reduce the needs for support of carers in its area;

This policy is written in accordance with the statutory framework and guidance. The relevant provisions are set out in Appendix 1 of this document.

### 4. Scope of policy

#### 4.1. To whom does this policy apply?

The duty with regard to preventing needs for care and support applies to *all* adults in Barnet, including:

- people who do not have any current needs for care and support;
- adults with needs for care and support, whether their needs are eligible and or met by Barnet Council or not;
- carers, including those who may be about to take on a caring role or do not currently have any needs for support, and those with needs for support which may not be being met by Barnet Council or other organisation;

#### 4.2. Who will be involved?

The Council will aim to ensure that prevention services are developed and co-produced as appropriate with individuals, families, friends, carers, the community

and voluntary groups and the right professionals to develop the individual's strengths and resilience and promote independence.

### **4.3. Services, facilities and resources already available in Barnet**

The Council already has a range of prevention services, facilities and resources in place that it will continue to build upon. These are all available via Social Care Connect (see page 10 of this document for the weblink). The Council will carefully consider the breadth of local resources that are already available in order to identify what further steps to take to promote the market or provide or arrange services, facilities or resources. The Council's understanding of current and future demand of preventative support and supply of services, facilities and resources will inform its prevention strategy and commissioning of existing and new services. The local approach to prevention will build on resources of the local community, including local support networks and facilities provided by partners and voluntary organisations. By promoting diversity and quality in provision of care and support services the Council will ensure that individuals have a variety of options to choose from including the provision of sport and physical activities across the borough and library and education services.

### **4.4. What about people who do not have any current needs for care and support?**

As well as considering those with existing needs and those at risk of developing needs in the future and what can be done to prevent, delay or reduce those needs now and in the future, the Council will consider how to identify those who may benefit from preventative support. This relates to people with needs which are not currently being met by Barnet Council or anyone else. Access to preventative support when they need it could have a significant impact on their long term health and wellbeing as well as potentially delay or reduce the need for care and support from the Council. Understanding these 'unmet needs' will inform the Council's long-term approach to prevention that reflects the true needs of the local population in Barnet. This important information will be shared with the Council's partners, through forums such as the Health and Wellbeing Board to inform wider strategies.

## **5. Assessment of adults' and carers' needs**

The assessment and eligibility process will form a key part of the Council's prevention strategy. During the assessment process assessors will identify needs that can be reduced, or where escalation can be delayed and help people to improve their wellbeing by providing preventative services, or information and advice on other universal services available locally. By providing early intervention (such as enablement services) the Council remains committed to preventing or delaying a person's needs from escalating, helping to sustain their independence and wellbeing and preventing long-term needs from developing.

When the Council assesses whether adults have care and support needs or whether carers have support needs the assessors will specifically consider whether the person concerned would benefit from preventative services, facilities or resources currently provided by the Council or which might otherwise be available in the community. This is regardless of whether the adult is assessed as having any care or support needs or the carer is assessed as having any support needs. This ensures that as part of the assessment process, the Council considers the capacity of the person to manage their needs or achieve the outcomes which matter to them and allows for access to preventative support whilst eligibility for care and or support is determined.

The Council's holistic approach to assessments will ensure that proper account is taken of the person's own capabilities and the potential for them improving their skills as well as the role of any support from family, friends or others that help the person achieve the outcomes they wish to achieve in their day to day life. The appearance of needs for support now or in the future by any carers will of course trigger a carer's assessment. Similarly, where an assessor identifies that a child is undertaking a caring role this will trigger a young carer's assessment and the assessor will consider how supporting the adult with needs for care and support can prevent the young carer from taking excessive or inappropriate care and support responsibilities. The Council recognises the importance of considering the support from family, friends or others in the context of an individual's support network and understanding how their needs may be prevented, delayed or reduced by others in the community rather than by more formal services.

## **6. Funding contributions for preventative support**

Barnet Council may charge for the provision of certain preventative services, facilities or resources. When deciding whether to charge for a particular service, the Council will weigh up the outcomes of the relevant needs, carer's and or financial assessment, affordability and viability of the activity with the likely impact that charging may have on uptake.

When charging for any type of preventative support, the Council will take reasonable steps to ensure that any charge is affordable for the individual concerned. In such circumstances, a light touch approach to financial assessment will be adopted to ensure that those who can afford to pay are charged appropriately.

As with the existing arrangements, care and enablement will be provided to those who need it free of charge for a period of up to 6 weeks. This is for all adults irrespective of whether their needs for ongoing care and support are eligible or not.

Where intermediate care or enablement is provided as part of a package of care and support to meet eligible needs this will be provided free of charge for up to 6 weeks.

Minor aids and adaptations up to the value of £1000 will also be provided free of charge.

## **7. Equality impact assessment**

This Prevention Policy is one of a number of policies flowing from the Care Act 2014. The Equality Impact Assessment in respect of these policies can be found here: [EqA on Local Care Act policies](#).

## **8. Related policies, procedures or strategies**

- Prevention Strategy
- Information and Advice Policy
- Information and Advice Strategy
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Fairer Contributions Policy

## **9. Policy status and transition arrangements**

This Prevention Policy will apply when the relevant commencement order brings into force relevant statutory provisions. It is intended that this commencement order will be made in April 2015.

## **10. Review of policy**

This Prevention Policy will be reviewed annually or earlier as required by policy or legislation changes or in line with the proposed Prevention Strategy. Any proposed significant amendments to this policy will be subject to consultation.

## **11. Contact information / further guidance**

Further advice and guidance is available from the Prevention and Wellbeing Team via email on [preventionandwellbeing@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:preventionandwellbeing@barnet.gov.uk)

Barnet Social Care Direct: 0208 359 5000

Barnet Social Care Connect: [www.barnet.gov.uk/socialcareconnect](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/socialcareconnect)

## Appendix 1

Subject Area	Statutory framework	Regulations	Guidance
<b>Wellbeing</b>	<a href="#">Care Act 2014</a> Section 1		<a href="#">Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014</a> : Chapter 1: Promoting wellbeing
<b>Preventing needs for care and support</b>	<a href="#">Care Act 2014</a> Section 2	<a href="#">The Care and Support (Preventing Needs for Care and Support) Regulations 2014</a>	<a href="#">Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014</a> : Chapter 2: Preventing, reducing or delaying needs
<b>Charging for providing or arranging for the provision of services, facilities or resources</b>	<a href="#">Care Act 2014</a> Section 2	<a href="#">The Care and Support (Preventing Needs for Care and Support) Regulations 2014</a>	<a href="#">Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014</a> : Chapter 2: Preventing, reducing or delaying needs
<b>Charging for intermediate care and reablement</b>		<a href="#">The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014</a>	<a href="#">Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014</a> : Chapter 2: Preventing, reducing or delaying needs
<b>Information and Advice</b>	<a href="#">Care Act 2014</a> Section 4		<a href="#">Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014</a> : Chapter 3: Information and advice