

State of the Borough report 2013

Section 1

Encourage economic participation and reduce long term unemployment

Part 1: Summary of trends, issues and opportunities

Headline trends

1. Economic change in Hackney has increased the number of businesses in the borough, brought in new sectors and boosted the employment, qualifications and higher occupations rates (see section 4). However the employment rate and proportion of residents on key out of work benefits has remained fairly constant in recent years.
2. In 2011, 6% of the working age population were claiming Job Seekers Allowance compared to 4% in London and 3.5% in Britain. This rate has increased by 1.6% since 2008 when the recession began, compared with 1.4% in Britain and 1.5% in London. In absolute numbers, JSA claimants have increased by 41% from 7,340 to 10,370 between 2004 -2011 even though the unemployment rate has remained steady. This is because the overall population has grown and Hackney now has more residents who are employed. A reduction in Hackney's JSA rates, from 6% to 4% in line with the regional average, would entail a movement of around 3,450 claimants into work.
3. Between 2004 -2011, an average of 9% of the working age population is on IB/ESA. The numbers on this benefit have hardly changed since 2004; data going back to 2000 indicates that an average of 13,000 people have been on IB/ESA consistently over the past 12 years. The rate is 2% higher than Britain and 3% higher than London. A reduction in Hackney's IB/ESA claimant rate to bring it in line with the regional average would entail an estimated 3,000 IB/ESA claimants moving into work.
4. To achieve both of these ambitions, a step change in pre-employment support would be required by all partners. These figures are presented to show the scale of the challenge. There are many external factors which will affect benefit claimancy rates including what is happening at a national and international level, population growth and change, dynamics in the wider region and sub region and public policy. As an illustration, economic modelling carried out by Oxford Economics on behalf of the six host boroughs currently projects Hackney's unemployment to reduce to 5.1% by 2030.

Summary of opportunities and challenges

1. Harnessing opportunities

The economic change we have seen in Hackney presents major opportunities in promoting sustainable employment for the most disadvantaged residents in the borough. There are significant and ongoing opportunities sub-regionally for continued business and employment growth. Hackney will need to actively

pursue these opportunities for continued business and employment growth and use networks and influence to help progress this agenda.

A key challenge is harnessing this growth to ensure it benefits all residents, and translates into local employment and skills opportunities. This may be progressed by helping businesses to recruit local employees and develop apprenticeships, work placements and pathways into local employment in Hackney.

2. Welfare to work

There are other aspects that need to be addressed to harness this opportunity, in the context of welfare reform. Already robust responses have been put in place by the Council and a range of partners to mitigate the impacts of reform on claimants. However, to move people from benefits to work there needs to be a greater emphasis in pre-employment support programmes focusing on those more at risk as a result of welfare reforms. This could include people going through Incapacity Benefit reassessment and residents affected by the Benefit Cap, including disabled people or those more likely to have complex issues for example relating to their health.

Linked to this, there may be a need for a more structured approach across a range of services (including health care, social care, housing providers, schools, apprenticeships and business support) to support people who have been unemployed long-term and people who have low skills, to help them move closer to the labour market. For many residents who have experienced long-term disadvantage, the journey back to work may be lengthy and require intensive support from both specialist and universal services. This is particularly the case for vulnerable residents, who may experience multiple barriers to the labour market, for example relating to homelessness, substance misuse, or offending.

3. Opportunities for young people

To harness the opportunities from economic growth, there is also a need to ensure the next generation are able to take advantage of the employment chances in their area. More intensive work with local schools and colleges to prepare young people to work in London's knowledge based economy may be required. This might include skills training, but also practical careers support and advice on recruitment processes.

Hackney has a level of population churn which is not unusual for an urban area. However, ongoing change in population can present challenges in securing lasting economic benefits for all residents. In ensuring this and the next generation are able to benefit from economic growth in the borough, housing is a key factor. This is particularly the case in relation to affordable housing supply for existing residents and future generations. The Council has made the decision to maintain secure lifetime tenancies for lettings to Council homes, and has encouraged Registered Housing Providers to adopt similar policies. Further consideration could be given to any creative ways to address housing affordability (intermediate markets, lettings policies) to enable the next generation of Hackney residents to stay in Hackney.

This link contains the full report for [section 1](#).

Section 2

Child Poverty and Family Well-being

Part 1: Summary of trends, issues and opportunities

Headline trends

1. About 37% of all children in Hackney are affected by child poverty, according to the standard national child poverty measure¹. This is a relatively high rate of child poverty and is currently the third highest rate in London, although Hackney's child poverty rate has been decreasing year on year since 2007. Data on Free School Meals entitlement also provides a reasonable indication of levels of child poverty in the borough: 35% of pupils in Hackney's primary schools and 36% of pupils in Hackney's secondary schools are eligible for free school meals, these levels are about double the national average.

2. Spatially, child poverty is more concentrated in the south and east of the borough. Wick ward has the highest rate overall, although Hoxton and Haggerston wards also have high concentrations of families in poverty but this is set alongside concentrations of households with higher incomes, which suggests there could potentially be greater risks of polarisation in these areas.

3. When we look more closely at the characteristics of these 36.8% of families in poverty in Hackney we can see that out of work poverty is a key issue. In 28.6% of these households where there is child poverty, the parents are out of work; where as 4.2% of these households are affected by in work poverty. For the remaining 4% of households where there is child poverty the data is unclear on whether the parents are in work or out of work.

4. One of the key means of alleviating child poverty is to improve the prospects of parents on low incomes to get and to sustain decent work. Having access to affordable, good quality childcare is an important factor that has a bearing on parents' decisions when they are in the process of returning to or entering work; it is also a significant factor affecting families already in work on low and modest incomes. There are a number of other important factors that can help families living in poverty to achieve their potential, including education, good health and personal safety.

5. In terms of education, the gap in educational achievement between local children who live in poverty and their peers in Hackney has narrowed and is 9.6% compared to the national average of 21%. However, in early years, children from the most deprived 10% areas score between 4 to 10 points less than those in the other 90% and they also perform less well at both Key Stage 2 and at GCSE. The outcomes gap widens by GCSE level with attainment amongst Hackney pupils who are eligible for free school meals dropping 14% lower than their non-Free School Meal counterparts.

¹ The national measure of child poverty is defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income.

6. However, schools in Hackney are performing very well and educational outcomes for all pupils have continued to improve over time. As of July 2013, 87% of primary schools and 92% of secondary schools were rated as “good” or “outstanding” by Ofsted and both nurseries graded as “outstanding”. GCSE results have also continued to improve with 61.3% of students obtaining 5 or more A*-C grades in 2013 (60.5% for 2012).

7. Most children raised in poverty do not become involved in crime, but national evidence shows that there are higher victim of crime and fear of crime rates in disadvantaged areas. Being involved in criminal activity whilst young has been shown to have a negative impact on later life chances. Furthermore, the children of young offenders are more likely to live in poverty themselves, reinforcing the ‘cycle of poverty’. Youth Crime rates are falling overall in Hackney, as are first time entrants to the Youth Justice System. However, re-offending rates have risen in the past 2 years and young black men remain disproportionately over represented in the youth justice system.

Summary of opportunities and challenges

1. Supporting parents to find and sustain work, including parents affected by welfare and housing reforms

Work is planned to examine employment support for parents with children, as part of the local child poverty assessment. This will include examining what the barriers to employment are, the groups particularly affected by these barriers and how far existing provision goes in addressing them. The Council also plans to take forward further work on Financial Inclusion towards the end of 2013, and will work with partners on a range of initiatives designed to enhance our support to residents, including families in poverty.

Childcare is already identified as one of the factors that will impact on this. Parents have reported dissatisfaction with waiting times for nursery places with almost 25% of 0-2 year olds waiting over a year for a nursery place in 2010. At a time where we want to encourage parents back into work to help alleviate poverty, there would be benefit in reviewing and considering whether there are any means of enabling more flexible childcare provision in addition to the existing our core offer. In particular we could consider options for families affected by Welfare Reform, especially parents returning to work on shift work and on zero hours contracts. This could be looked at as part of the review of Child Care Sufficiency.

There is more detailed discussion of the issues and opportunities for supporting residents back into employment in section one of this report. There is also further discussion in section five, on the impacts that national welfare and housing benefit reforms will have on household incomes, including the impacts on claimants who have younger children.

2. Improving practical support for families and young people more at risk of poor outcomes, as a result of living in poverty

Evidence shows that there have been improvements in local services which support families: local schools are improving and along with children's and youth services they are securing better outcomes for many children and young people in Hackney, at a faster and higher rate than the national picture. However, it is still the case that children and young people living in poverty here tend to fair less well than all children and young people in Hackney do, in key areas such as health, education and community safety. Local partners will need to continue to look together at how we can further close these gaps and to consider how we can work with families, the wider community and other service partners to improve outcomes for families and increase resilience in the community. There is also potential to learn from recent successful efforts to involve and engage young people in design, delivery and commissioning in the youth service.

As part of this approach, in the last couple of years we have developed better awareness and support mechanisms for families, so that a wider range of local services can better consider and respond to the specific needs of families. For example the 'Thriving Families' partnership task group has developed a training offer for staff to encourage all services to 'think family'. This should better encourage staff in key front line services to consider the needs of both the children and the parents whenever we design a support package for a family member.

One area in particular where new approaches are being considered is on the issues young black men face and how best to support them as part of the local youth offer. This is of particular concern for a range of reasons including because young black people are over represented in the Youth Justice System and accounted for 57% of first time entrants in Hackney in 2012/13. The partnership is setting up a new task group to take forward the work scoped on addressing issues identified with Young Black Men.

3. Managing and preventing future demand on services for families

We have also established ways of working together as partners to help manage demands on services. As a result we are doing more preventative work with families for e.g. by targeting support for parents and young children in the early years and by working in partnership to support young people who need it most in their teens. This has the potential to better manage pressures and costs on services in future. One example of this is the recently established Health and Wellbeing Board partnership arrangements for children, young people and families, which should enable further integration of health services with the children's services offer. However, reduced national funding and budgetary cuts will continue to place greater pressures on services. Partners will need to innovate to manage demand for children's services and youth services in a climate of reducing resources.

This link contains the full report for [Section 2](#).

Section 3

Improve quality of life and promote safety and cohesion

Part 1: Summary of trends, issues and opportunities

Headline Trends

1. Residents' satisfaction with their local area as a place to live has risen sharply over the last five years from 71% in 2008 (Place Survey) to 89% in 2013 (IPSOS MORI survey). While there is no significant difference in levels of satisfaction between people from different ethnic groups there is some variation in views held. Residents who are more likely to be satisfied with the local area are those who moved into the area in the last five years and people in full time work.

2. Research with residents on our E-panel also shows that a majority of people are optimistic about many aspects of quality of life in the local area. Local people feel that many local services and amenities have changed for the better including cleaner streets, better schools, better housing, less crime and violence, an improved retail offer and improved transport and local services. Aspects that people feel has got worse over time are expensive housing, an increase in violent crime and gangs and unemployment and job prospects.

3. Compared to several other similar places in London, Hackney has a lower rate of crime in total, and much lower rates of personal robbery. However Hackney is performing less well in theft offences and the rate of violent crime is still high. In the last year confidence has grown in how local public services are tackling crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

4. When the Council last polled residents on our E-panel in 2011 to ask them whether they felt safe on our streets, a majority of residents surveyed said they feel safe during the day (93%), and a greater proportion of people said they felt safe after dark (66%) than in previous surveys. In Hackney fear of crime is greatest among people under 35, primarily at night and young people (aged 16-24) are the age group who are least likely to feel 'very safe' after dark.

5. Over the last eight years, Hackney residents surveyed have consistently been more likely to say that the local area is a place where people from different background tend to get on well together, than residents polled for national surveys.

Recent data from 2013 shows that 90% of residents agree that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together; this was 83% in 2005. While the overall picture is very positive, there are some indications that there may be underlying differences in attitudes between newcomers and residents who have been here longer and between residents in different socio-economic groups.

Summary of opportunities and challenges

1. Resident's passion and commitment to Hackney is a big asset

The most recent findings from local residents' surveys reinforce what we already knew about the strength of community feeling about Hackney; there is a strong sense of community, pride and tolerance in Hackney and many local people are passionate about the area and the diversity of the community here. A good proportion of residents are also actively involved in local civic and community life and there is a vibrant community and voluntary sector locally. Residents' strength of feeling about the local area and their contribution to the local community is a great asset for the borough.

2. Expectations of excellent services in a climate of diminishing resources

Over the last 5 to 10 years Hackney has seen major improvements to many local services such as schools and public transport. Local streets and public spaces are also visibly cleaner, the crime rate has fallen and local people generally feel safer than they used to. Residents have noticed these improvements and there is now more confidence and optimism in the local community about the borough.

However cuts to public spending are expected to continue up to 2018. In this climate of diminishing resources it will be very difficult to maintain excellent local services and high resident satisfaction levels with the local area and local services. The Council, its partners and people in the wider community are also concerned about the potential cumulative impacts of spending cuts on the local area and on the community. Team Hackney Leadership Board and the wider partnership will need to continue to anticipate where the worst impacts may be felt and to consider practical steps we can take together to help mitigate negative impacts.

3. Reduce future demand on services and design more preventative services

The Council and other partners will need to continue to anticipate pressures on public and community services and find ways to reduce demands on public services. We will need to continue to work together to design and deliver smarter, preventative local services which encourage resilience in our community. Local services will also need to find effective ways to engage and involve the community in making these kinds of changes to local services.

4. Retain a focus on tackling violent crime, youth crime and anti-social behaviour

Despite local reductions in crime, residents remain concerned about crime and antisocial behaviour. We will need to continue work to reduce crime and make sure people feel safe in Hackney; in particular to continue to address violent crime and to ensure that young people in Hackney are safe and feel safer on our streets. At the same time, the borough is anticipating continued reductions in resources for policing and safer neighbourhood teams from regional and national government.

5. Pay attention to signals about quality of life and about low level tensions between residents

There are already some low level indications from the community that there may be underlying differences in attitudes about quality of life here between newcomers and residents' who have been here longer and also some concerns about how well local people get on together; in particular between residents in different socio-economic groups. It is important that we continue to keep an eye on any potential tensions and pick up and try and deal with problems before they escalate.

The Council and local services will need to continue to ensure that local people who are more vulnerable or who require more support from public and community services also feel that they benefit from improvements in services and local amenities. It is still a priority that the Council and its partners continue to design, deliver and programme local services to serve residents who might otherwise feel marginalised and excluded from recent investment and changes in the local area.

There is also appetite for Team Hackney partners to look at ways we can improve community engagement with our residents and with local grass-roots community networks and organisations. The partnership should also consider how it could better reach out to and encourage contributions from newer residents and at how it could help forge better connections between people who have more recently moved here and more established community networks.

This link contains the full report for [Section 3](#).

Section 4

Enable sustainable growth

Part 1: Summary of trends, issues and opportunities

Headline Trends

1. Hackney has seen almost a 20% increase in population in the ten years up to 2011, with much of this growth in the 25-34 age groups. Continued growth of the population is predicted: in the period up to 2041 growth of around m70,000 persons is expected, with most of this growth accounted for by the working age population.

2. Alongside this growth in population, the number of households in Hackney has grown significantly in recent years, from 86,040 in 2001 to 101,690 in 2011, with much of this accounted for by the expansion of the private rented sector by around two thirds between 2003 and 2008. There have also been changes in household structure, including a 5% increase between 2001 and 2011 in 'other' multi person households i.e. an increase in sharers, renting rooms in properties. Growth in the overall numbers of households is predicted to continue with over 20,000 new households expected in the next thirty years.

3. Hackney has consistently exceeded its housing delivery targets with over 1160 new homes built in the borough in the last five years. Between 2006 and 2012, over 4300 new affordable homes have been delivered in the borough. Despite this growth in new homes and in households, the affordability of housing in Hackney is a key ongoing concern: although average incomes in Hackney increased by around 34% over the period from 1997 to 2011, over the same timeframe Land Registry data shows that house prices have increased by 500%.

4. Accompanying this growth in people and households, there has been employment growth in Hackney, particularly in professional careers such as media, technology and consulting; this trend is linked to recent changes in the commercial and business realm in the borough. Over the past five years the character of business has also changed. The number of new business starts grew by 9% between 2004 -2010 in Hackney, while the number of new startups in London as a whole decreased by 2% over the 6 year period. Hackney has a high proportion of business, finance, property, ICT and creative firms. The growth rate for businesses in Hackney was 13% between 2004 and 2011, slightly lower than the 17% in London as a whole. This economic growth is set to continue since Hackney's growth centres sit within two major sub regions that are the main corridors of expansion and growth for London. Based on a natural growth rate, approximately 110,000 jobs are forecast over the next decade in East London.

5. Evidence suggests Hackney is continuing to make strong progress in encouraging sustainable travel. The 2011 census shows that car ownership in Hackney has fallen by 9% over the last ten years and that Hackney now has

levels of car ownership that are considerably lower than the London average (36% vs 54%). Over recent years there has also been considerable growth in cycling levels in Hackney. The borough now has a strong cycling culture and the proportion of people cycling to work has increased from around 7% in 2001 to over 15% in 2011, the highest of all London Boroughs. However, challenges remain to maintain and advance this progress, and associated challenges with regard to energy consumption, recycling and air quality.

Summary of opportunities and challenges

1. Housing Growth

In recent years Hackney has seen significant growth and housing delivery. Despite this, affordability of housing remains a key concern for many residents, including the newer cohort of higher skilled residents. In the new funding environment and the current market, securing provision of new affordable and family homes will remain a challenge and requires innovation and careful consideration of the levers available to us.

In addition, the growth in the private rented sector, and the rise in rents seen in recent years means the Council and other partners should consider how best to engage with and influence private sector housing providers.

We should also consider how to best manage any anticipated demands that could follow as a result of the expected growth in the population and to consider what this means for housing and amenities; including anticipated growth in the older population which is projected to increase after 2021.

Although our Infrastructure Delivery Plan finds that investment plans for infrastructure are mostly sufficient at the moment, there could be some significant issues from 2015/16. Continued collaboration will be needed for infrastructure planning and demand management to anticipate likely demands on key infrastructure provision

2. Population Growth and Change

Residents continue to say that the diversity of people and the energy of people living in Hackney are the borough's greatest strengths; residents' passion about the local area and commitment to the community are key strengths that could help bridge between groups in the community.

It is clear that some residents have concerns, either because they feel that growth and change in the population and economy is putting a strain on amenities or because there is a sense that some people are being left behind. There are mixed feelings about the impact of growth on long term residents. Concerns about local housing affordability and pressures on some residents as a result of national welfare reforms add to this threat of polarisation. It will be necessary to continue to track residents' perceptions about the way the borough is changing and pay attention to any issues and potential tensions.

Additionally, partners will need to continue to collaborate to ensure there are wide social benefits from growth and investment for all residents and to guard

against polarisation in the community. For example, to ensure that new amenities benefit and appeal to the broadest range of residents².

3. Economic Growth

Growth and changes in the borough have resulted in a significant number of younger residents living here now, who tend to be employed and to have high skills levels³. Alongside this, the borough has experienced business growth in recent years and entrepreneurial activity is strong. However, this growth in local business activity does not necessarily translate into higher employment rates for all our residents.

We recognise that there is a need to enable some residents to improve their confidence and skills and to encourage people to take up new employment opportunities, and to enable residents to take up work experience, apprenticeships and employment opportunities in and around the borough, including for people who are currently in a more disadvantaged position in the labour market. This might include helping businesses recruit local employees and develop apprenticeships, work placements and pathways into local employment. Or, more could be done to work with schools and colleges to prepare young people to work in London's knowledge based economy.

In addition to these opportunities, there are a significant development sites in the sub-region and transport improvements should help unlock residents' access to these employment opportunities.

4. Sustainable Growth

There are strong advocates for sustainable ways of living in the community and a good track record in local services such as transport in encouraging sustainable lifestyles. There is a need to learn from this and make the most of the rich insight the borough has, to help us to manage the impacts of growth and to address demand pressures in future.

Growth could place some pressure on the environment and environmental services for example, there may be a rise in carbon emissions from home energy use, or more waste generated. To minimise this, Hackney will need to continue to use our influence to help shape plans for longer term investment in strategic transport and energy infrastructure in London, for the benefit of the borough.

This link contains the full report for [Section 4](#).

² Section 3 has addition detail on this topic

³ See Section 1 for a full consideration of the trends on employment and unemployment

Section 5

Help and protect those residents who most need support, and work with them to improve their lives and capacity for independence

Part 1: Summary of trends, issues and opportunities

Headline trends

Economic and Social Inclusion

1. A majority of local residents who claim welfare and housing benefits will be affected in some way by the complex range of welfare reforms brought in by central government. All claimants will see some changes in their benefits with the new universal credit in future years and many have already, or will be, significantly affected by other reforms. The scale and nature of the impacts of the various reforms on different households vary considerably.

2. Those more likely to be significantly affected include: larger families with children; those claiming housing benefits living in the private rented sector, Incapacity Benefit claimants as they are put through a reassessment of their entitlement; and claimants of lone parent benefit who since 2008 have seen their eligibility for this benefit change with the lowering of the age threshold for the youngest child from 16 to 5.

- Recent data shows that there are still broadly the same numbers of residents claiming incapacity benefit or Employment Support Allowance than there were 9 years ago. It is also still the case that the most common reasons for claiming these benefits are mental behavioural and emotional issues, which in 2012 accounted for 47% of all local claims.
- Lone Parent claimants have decreased from 8,000 residents in 2004 to 4,850 residents in 2011 due to changes in eligibility. However, the first major decrease is evident in 2009 following the introduction of significant conditionality changes to this benefit, and between 2008 and 2011 Lone Parent claimants have reduced by 2, 240 people. Some corresponding increases have been seen in claimant rates for benefits such as Jobseekers Allowance.
- Local Housing Allowance (Housing Benefit) reform has affected around 5,000 households in Hackney who rent accommodation in the private sector. These claimants have either seen a reduction in their weekly income which they have had to meet through cutting spending elsewhere, or have had to move to cheaper accommodation.
- The introduction of the Benefit Cap in Hackney in summer 2013 has affected around 700 claimants in the borough, some of who will see almost completed withdrawal of their housing benefit.

3. In terms of overall financial impact of the national welfare and housing reforms, Hackney experiences the 7th highest loss per year of all London boroughs, with a reduction of almost £120m in benefit payments. Newham, Brent, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, and Westminster are the only boroughs with higher losses. Hackney also experiences the third highest loss per working

age adult after Barking and Dagenham and Brent, with an average of £677 per year.

4. Other local intelligence from partners such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau and feedback from other agencies has provided an important indication of how local people have responded to and felt as a result of rising rent or benefits shortfalls. Partners, including frontline health services have flagged concerns about the residents who are presenting in their services who are struggling to cope with stress associated with the changes, and concerns about the strains on family budgets where people are cutting back on essentials such as food and utility bills as they try to meet shortfalls from already low household budgets. Resident feedback has also highlighted that some residents experience an ongoing fear of homelessness and a sense of fragility in their housing circumstances.

5. Levels of digital exclusion in Hackney are the highest in London, with 26% of the population estimated to have never used the internet. This is particularly significant given the 'Digital by Design' approach of the introduction of Universal Credit.

6. Recent analysis by the GLA indicates that Hackney's residents have a higher demand for debt advice than those in Islington, Tower Hamlets or Newham. Closer analysis shows that demand for debt advice is greater in the north and east of the borough and that the majority of those seeking debt advice are living in social rented accommodation.

7. Other groups who are likely to require more complex wrap-around support and intervention from public services include around 1,000 'Troubled Families' in Hackney; in the 2012/13 just over 400 of these families were offered support to help address complex often inter-related issues including persistent involvement in criminal or anti-social behaviour, truancy and long term unemployment.

8. Local services are also assessing and providing treatment for drug users and ex-offenders who commit crimes, and there is a continued drive to reduce levels of re-offending, whilst providing support and treatment through the Integrated Offender Management scheme locally. Reductions have been seen in Hackney's re-offending rate since 2007/8, and the borough has a lower rates of re-offending than many London comparators, and than would be predicted given the characteristics of offenders within the borough.

Health, wellbeing and independence

9. Good progress has been made in improving the life expectancy of our residents, and for women in Hackney this is now above the national average and for men the gap has fallen to less than a year. This is likely to be as a result of concerted intervention, and demographic changes. However, Infant mortality has risen in Hackney for the last three years (2008-11) and is now significantly higher than the national average.

10. Childhood obesity levels in Hackney remain above national average. Over the last five years the rate of overweight and obese children has been stable among Reception Year children but consistently rising among Year 6 pupils.

11. Smoking prevalence is declining but remains high; a National Survey in 2009-10 found that 27% of all Hackney residents are smokers. This is higher than the average for London and neighbouring boroughs. Local quitting targets were exceeded in 2010/11 and in 2011/12.

12. The recorded prevalence of severe mental health conditions and depression in general practice in Hackney remain among the highest in London. The prevalence of depression in Hackney GPs surgeries was 10%, the third highest prevalence in London.

13. An assessment of the long-term trends in ill health predicted that the prevalence of dementia and depression would increase significantly amongst older people. This includes a 35% increase in older people living with dementia in Hackney and the City between 2010 and 2030⁴.

14. For several years the local authority has been transforming local social care services to help manage increased demand on services and to enable individuals to have greater choice and control over their care support. In 2011/12 over 2900 people (mainly older people) have benefited from local reablement services. During 2012-13 the number of older people permanently admitted to residential care has almost halved from 116 during 2011-12 to 62 in 2012-13.

15. We have also seen a rise in the last year in the numbers of people using social care support who say they felt they had control over their daily life; in 2011/12 66% of all respondents felt this was the case compared to 32% in 2010-11.

16. Dialogue with community networks has flagged a wide range of other factors that older people, people with long term conditions and people from black and minority backgrounds feel affects their health; the kinds of issues that commonly came up included stress, isolation, housing problems and money and poverty.

Summary of opportunities and challenges

Economic and Social Inclusion

1. Co-ordinated support for residents affected by welfare reform

There has been strong collaboration between the Council and local partners and this has enabled us to build and share intelligence on the local impacts of national reforms to welfare and housing benefits. There has also been a robust response locally to help mitigate the negative impacts of the reforms on those residents most affected and to coordinate local support.

⁴ Projecting Older People Population Information System, Department of Health 2010

2. Promoting financial inclusion

However, we will need to continue to work as a partnership to support residents who do find they are subject to benefit sanctions and reductions in welfare payments as a result of reforms, to help them manage and deal with their new circumstances. This includes continued coordination of information, advice and guidance provision and practical support to help people with household budgeting, managing money and dealing with debt (i.e. financial inclusion and financial literacy). As we move nearer to the national roll out of the new Universal Credit benefit system, it will also be important to provide practical support to help people who do not currently use the internet, so they can access the new system, which will be online. Partners also need to continue to find effective means to support people more affected by pressures associated with these kinds of changes in circumstances, and with poverty and debt, to better deal with stress and to build greater resilience. Taking this kind of preventative approach could help alleviate pressures on other services such as health.

3. Improving employability and employment support

One of the ways we provide support to help people more affected by benefit reforms to deal with their new circumstances is to provide employment support and to help people to improve their employability. The partnership is in the process of setting up an Employment task group. This will aim to better co-ordinate and focus partners' activity on employment support, and to look at how we develop more effective support and pathways into work for those residents who are further from the labour market.

4. Support for people with more complex needs

Partners have collaborated and developed better service support in recent years, to 'wrap around' the specific needs of individuals and families who have more complex issues and difficult circumstances to deal with in their lives and who have higher support needs as a result (examples include the Troubled families work and the Integrated Gangs Intervention etc). It is worth considering whether there is additional benefit to be gained locally, from accelerating early intervention programmes such as the 'Troubled families' work, if these approaches prove to be effective over the medium term. We will need to continue to assess whether these approaches prove to be effective in preventing poor outcomes for children, young people and families over the longer term and also whether they reduce demands and pressures on local services in time too.

Health, wellbeing and independence

1. Managing and reducing demand for health and social care services

The local Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed its priorities and work programmes are already in place to address key inequalities in health in the early years, to reduce childhood obesity, to look at how to achieve better mental health for everyone, to continue to support people to stop smoking and to encourage young people not to start in the first place and also to provide better support for people with dementia and older people in need of care support. The Health and Wellbeing Board will also continue to look at how we can continue to better integrate services and to develop smarter ways to

address demand for health and social care support through greater preventative work

2. The Council has an ongoing programme of work to transform social care support services in the borough and within that there is an emphasis on enabling residents with complex long term health conditions and impairments to take more choice and control over their personal care and support packages.

3. However, continued improvement and innovation is needed to meet high ongoing demands for health and care support. On key issues such as managing the future impacts of an ageing population, the Team Hackney Leadership Board will need to support colleagues on the Health and Wellbeing Board and work together with them to consider how local services in the borough can better manage these kinds of longer term pressures. Local services and the community will need to collaborate and encourage a more preventative approach: one which improves residents' general wellbeing, promotes their independence and reduces their reliance on or need for health and social services.

4. Creative options of affordable housing for older and younger people
Access to affordable, decent housing is an important component, which can have a significant impact on people's wellbeing and independence. Older people and young adults may find their options are constrained in the current environment as a result of the resilience of the local housing market and changes in eligibility for housing benefit for households. There are also broader questions about the kinds of housing provision that might better meet the needs of young people in newly formed households, or households of older people around and above retirement age, and about whether more creative options for affordable housing might also help achieve other ambitions for services to reduce dependence on social care, or on health and welfare.

5. Enabling inclusion and reducing social isolation
More broadly, there is also merit in the Team Hackney partnership exploring how local services and the community can collaborate and find ways to prevent social isolation and to enable social inclusion. This should benefit residents whose day to day lives are limited by poor health, older residents who currently have more limited social contact and social networks, residents with communications barriers and residents who have lower levels of trust in public services etc. As a partnership, we will need to continue to find ways to encourage individuals to take control of their lives and to achieve greater independence and a positive sense of wellbeing. There are projects already underway looking at aspects of this, and it is likely to remain an important issue for the partnership, given the kinds of pressures on local services to manage demand pressures and to promote greater resilience in the community.

This link contains the full report for [Section 5](#).

