

Draft

Achieve Economic Well-being Summary

The following key issues have been identified :

Deprivation, worklessness and income poverty

- Greenwich is the 24th most deprived local authority in England and the 8th most deprived London borough. This represents a relative increase in deprivation since 2004. Over half of all children living in Greenwich come from low income households, with over a third of Greenwich children living in households where there is no adult in work. Thamesmead, Peninsula, Woolwich and Eltham West are experiencing the greatest population increases by 2021, and the regeneration of these areas may have implications on demand for local services.

GCSE attainment by deprivation factors

- GCSE results improved overall in 2009, and the attainment gap between young people eligible and not eligible for free school meals at GCSE narrowed (13.5% gap from 17.2% in 2008).

Young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

- Improvement in KS4 outcomes has occurred alongside a reduction in the percentage of Greenwich 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET (6.6%), however the NEET rate remains higher than East London (5.6%), London (5.2%) and England (6.2%) comparators.
- A local cohort study of Year 11's who became NEET found that White British pupils were overrepresented, as were young people with special educational needs, those who had been persistently absent from school and the majority (82%) had been known to social care. Almost one in five (18%) of the total young people within the NEET cohort were pregnant or teenage mothers, which is over a third of the young females within the NEET cohort (35%).

Looked after children and care leavers

- The proportion of care leavers who are NEET has risen over the last three years, and although the vast majority of care leavers move on to suitable accommodation, this has reduced each year for the past three years.

Housing and homelessness

- Youth homelessness continues to present a major challenge for Greenwich. Over half of all homeless households are young people aged 16 to 25, of which more than a fifth are aged 16 or 17. Within a year roughly 200 young people disclose a need to Housing, and this figure is expected to rise due to the recent recession and the growing number of young people in care approaching 18 years of age.
- Of those young people aged 16 and 17 who submitted a homeless application during 2008/09, more than a fifth (22%) were a parent or expectant parent, a third (of the total) had no GCSE qualifications and over half (55%) had been known to social care. Young women, particularly White women from the 20% most deprived areas dominate the sample (31% of total), and outnumber young men in disclosing a housing need even among childless applicants.
- More suitable accommodation is needed for young people with complex needs, including the growing number of young people leaving care, and expectant mothers or young parents.