

BARNET
Life

Local Democracy Week

special edition

13-19 October 2001

www.barnet.gov.uk



Don't get
left out
Get involved

BARNET

LONDON BOROUGH

CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

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We're Looking To Listen

Everything the council does falls within the theme of 'creating opportunity for all'. The aim is to make Barnet...



modern

providing access to services in a way that matches people's needs.



involved

listening to and working with local residents, businesses, the public and voluntary sectors;



attractive

making Barnet a more attractive place to live and work;



revitalised

regenerating the borough, promoting tourism, culture, inward investment, town centre improvements and business growth;



educated

better education for all.

None of this means that your services will change. On the contrary, they should improve. You may be asking how a 'key message' can change street cleansing, say. The idea is that informing staff where they fit into the big picture will make them more efficient and effective in their work.

It's important that staff and the people we serve are informed and involved.

It means we do our job better, and you get a better service.

As part of this, we are making special efforts to be better listeners.

The council is currently consulting on ideas to modernise access to services.

A copy of this 'green paper' is on our website or you can

call 0208 359 2291 to get a copy sent to you.

It's your chance to tell us what you think about this vital issue. It's another example

of how we're trying to make every week 'Local Democracy Week!'



Don't get left out -get involved

What do you think about Barnet's sports centres?

How can the borough's parks be improved? Four forums have been arranged during local democracy week where you have the opportunity to express your point of view on the level and quality of sports centres and parks in Barnet.

The forums are open to everyone, especially young people. Check out the special advertisement for

customer forums in this edition. You'll find the dates, times and venues for each one. There is also a contact number for further information (020) 8441 2933. That number can also be used to phone through your comments in advance. Particularly if you can't get to any of the forums in person, but want to make sure your questions get answered.

Make sure you have your say!

LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK -

Young people can have a voice too!

You want to have a say?

then here's the day!

Wednesday 17 October

6.30 pm - 8.30 pm at the:

Rainbow Youth Centre, Dollis Valley Estate

What's happening?

A mini conference for young people

Who's organised it?

Barnet Council's Youth Work Team

What's it for?

To give young people in the borough an opportunity to participate in local democracy week, as well as the chance to go head to head on important issues with local service providers.

Refreshments will be served during the evening, followed by a workshop which will last for about 1 hour and 15 minutes. There's a final session of 30 minutes providing the conclusion to the conference.

A youth worker will facilitate the workshops, which will also include one Hood of Service, a group of young people, and where relevant a supporting officer.

The workshops provide the perfect opportunity to identify issues and barriers which young people are experiencing. They will explore the best ways to address the issues that are raised. These could include on going focus groups.

The final session of the conference will be facilitated by young people and will discuss the results of the workshops.

Local democracy week is an important event for young people in the borough. Come along and have your say - DON'T MISS OUT

Come and have your say!

We want your ideas.

What activities or changes would you like to see in the sports centres?

How do you think we can make our parks better?

All welcome - especially young people

Wednesday 17 October

6.30 to 7.30pm

Queen Elizabeth's Sports Centre

Thursday 18 October

6.30 to 7.30pm

Hendon Youth Sports Centre

Friday 19 October

6.30 to 7.30pm

Compton Sports Centre

Friday 19 October

8 to 9pm

Ashmole Sports Centre

Please advise in advance of any special access requirements

For more information please
telephone (020) 8441 2933

Customer Forums

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS!

Have you ever wanted the chance to let your council know what you really think, face to face?

The first in a series of officer and councillor walkabouts are also being launched during Local Democracy week. On Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th residents and businesses will have the opportunity to meet and discuss council issues with officers and councillors.

On Saturday 13th October, the group will be in Edgware between 10.30am and 11.30am before they move onto Cricklewood between 12noon and 1pm. The following Saturday will see them visiting North Finchley between 10.30am and 11.30am and High Barnet between 12noon and 1pm.

Everyone taking part, including the council's Chief Executive, Leo Boland and the Leader of the Council, Cllr Alan Williams, will be wearing high visibility clothing, so why don't you stop them and discuss any issues you have about the council or the borough in general.

A further series of walkabouts will be taking place later in the year, covering other areas of the borough.

The Things We Do For You!

Have you ever wondered what exactly it is you get for your council tax? The wheelie bin is emptied each week and the council provides schools and libraries but what else do they do and where does your money go?



Last year, Barnet Council spent **£304.163** million to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. That works out at **£833,332** spent each day, **£34,722** spent each hour and **£579** spent every minute on services for residents and businesses in the borough. And this doesn't include the amount needed to pay for police and fire services, emergency planning and the Greater London Assembly.

Well, what exactly is the London Borough of Barnet?

The borough covers an amazing **21,406** acres, or nearly **21,000** football pitches.



It is the largest London borough with a population of just over **300,000** with over **130,000** households.

It stretches from High Barnet and Arkley in the North, with postcodes in Hertfordshire, right down to Cricklewood, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Golders Green in the south, from Colindale, Burnt Oak and West Hendon in the West

to Southgate and Muswell Hill in the East. Barnet Council provides hundreds of services.

Many are obvious, such as street cleansing, waste collection or maintenance of roads and pavements. However, there are many services provided by the council that you would not even think are done by us. Did you know that last year we maintained **24,539** street lights which lit over **635 kilometres of roads**, over **2 million square metres of pavement** and **23,000 drains**.

The council also supported the education of **47,000** pupils in **119** schools

and served over **2 million** primary school meals last year. We issued over **3 million** library books, served over **400,000** Meals on Wheels and made over **10,000** visits to premises just to deal with all sorts of pests from mice to wasps.



Last year we removed **3,283** abandoned cars and received **3,731**



planning applications. The Council also looked after around **800** hectares of parks and open space and saw over **1 million** people visit its sports centres and swimming pools.

Wheelie bins were emptied by staff into dustcarts almost **seven million** times. And keeping in the high numbers, the council's website, *Barnet Online* is visited by thousands of people each month, from across the world.

The council also plants **thousands of trees and shrubs** making the borough an attractive place to live. Nearly **half a million** calls were made to the council's switch-board over the year, and the council's customer care unit deals with on average **1,800** calls each month. Barnet is one of the largest employers in the borough, with nearly half the council's workforce made up of local residents.

THE COUNCIL IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- trading standards,
- special educational needs,
- pupil support,
- social workers,
- youth centres,
- bridge repairs,
- school music service,
- building inspections,
- festivals,
- services for older people including the Lifeline programme,
- computers in libraries,
- information points,
- parking control,
- traffic calming,
- accident prevention,
- council housing,
- food safety inspections,
- health and safety inspections,
- transport for those in need,
- care homes,
- leisure activities,
- adoption services,
- support for children and their families,
- day centres,
- emergency planning, museums,
- building maintenance,
- engineering,
- cemeteries and crematoria,
- weddings and the registrar of births and deaths,
- housing benefit,
- neighbourhood management,
- animal wardens,
- park keepers,
- grounds maintenance,
- occupational health,
- education awards,
- services for homeless people,
- welfare rights and
- social inclusion.

and more!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

WWW.BARNET.GOV.UK
0208 359 4000

THE POLITICAL MAP OF BARNET HAS BEEN REDRAWN.

There are new wards, providing more representation for local people on your council.

The map shows the new boundaries and which parliamentary constituency they fall within.

The next local council elections are in May next year and we'll remind you of the new arrangements and where you can vote nearer the time.

Key to New Wards



If you have any queries about registering (or voting) please call our helpline on:
020 8359 2323

Barnet takes on a new look

as voting gets a make-over

WHY BOTHER TO VOTE?

That is a comment heard all too often as turnout figures at local and general elections continue to fall.

One of the aims of Local Democracy Week is to reverse this trend by urging people to take just a few minutes and get their name on the electoral roll. As well as being easy to do, registering to vote is a valuable opportunity to 'have your say' on decisions and choices which could affect your future - both at a local and a national level.

Not only that, but being on the electoral roll can open other doors for you in life. It is used by credit reference agencies so registering to vote can help you open a bank account, get a mortgage, other loans, a storecard or a mobile phone.



VOTING COULDN'T BE EASIER!

Voting is now being made even easier for everyone.

You can now register to vote at any time of the year so even if you move house you can apply immediately to be registered at your new address.

It takes about six weeks before the name is added to the register and applications should be made to the Electoral Registration Officer for the local authority area you have moved to.

Don't worry if your move is to an area with a completely different council because registration is still easy. The Electoral Registration Officers at your new council will be able to help and also make sure the old entry is removed.

Applications from properties in the London Borough of Barnet should be addressed to:
Electoral Registration Office
London Borough of Barnet
Ravensfield House
The Burroughs
Hendon
NW4 4BE

ALL CHANGE

Full council elections will take place on May 2, 2002 and since Barnet's voters last went to the polls there have been a number of changes.

With the new electoral arrangements which have come into force for these elections the borough will now be divided into 21 wards instead of 20 and some of these will have new names.

Consequently many polling station venues will have changed and the details of where you can go to cast your vote will be printed on polling cards.

REGISTER TO VOTE NOW

Canvass forms - the new name for the old registration forms - have now been delivered to every home in the borough.

To make sure your voice is heard and you don't miss out on your right to vote fill the forms in and return it straight away.

The new electoral register will be published on December 1. But don't worry if you move home after that date because remember you can now apply to be registered for your new address immediately.

If you need any help completing your registration form, or have any questions about the electoral roll, our Helpline will be able to help.

Enquiries to the helpline can be made on (020) 8359 2323

The vision of the Civic Forum

By 2005, we want to ensure that Barnet is a safer, healthier and more thriving place to live, work and visit - for everyone.

Taking Action for All

THE FIRST YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN

It's now a year since we published Barnet's first Community Plan (in the pages of this newspaper), so we thought it was time to update you with what has been going on to turn the words of the Plan into actions.

Having agreed and published the Plan in October 2000, the Barnet Civic Forum immediately set up nine Action Teams, each given the task of carrying out specific aims from the Community Plan. The work of these nine Teams is outlined over the next few pages.

As with the Civic Forum, each of the Action Teams is made up from a range of organisations and groups across Barnet working in partnership - and the key task for each Team is to work closely together and break down boundaries so that services are delivered in the most effective way possible.

These Teams are led by different organisations across the borough and concentrate on different priorities, but they all share the same

aim of working together to create a better Barnet. Each Team tackles one of the following important issues for local people:

- 1 IMPROVING ACCESS
- 2 CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
- 3 SKILLS TRAINING
- 4 TOWN CENTRES
- 5 COMMUNITY SAFETY
- 6 YOUTH FORUM
- 7 HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
- 8 LOCAL EMPLOYMENT
- 9 COMMUNITY PRIDE

You'll see in the following that membership of the Teams includes a wide range of community and faith groups, as well as the business community and the public services.

Partnership and collaboration in the community are the key words, because the problems of today cannot be solved by the council alone. We all have to work together to find solutions, make sure they happen - and ensure that the effects are long lasting.

The Community Plan is a strategy for the people of Barnet, put together and agreed by a wide range of groups and organisations in the borough, who have signed a Statement of Intent to work towards its aims. It must be a dynamic plan, open to change to meet new needs and priorities. The Civic Forum will be updating the Plan in 2002, and will be holding a major consultation programme involving the whole borough to find out what you feel should be the new priorities.

Barnet Civic Forum Action Team 1:

1 IMPROVING ACCESS

The Team brings together people in organisations concerned with the issue of access - but not just access to buildings, it's about access to services and facilities as well.

Access for some people is restricted because of obvious physical disability, but access can just as easily be restricted because of factors which can't instantly be seen - such as mental health problems or deafness.

The Team aims eventually to tackle access issues across the whole spectrum, but has started its work by targeting a number of specific areas:

Raising awareness to change attitudes: the Team took a stand at the council's 'Environment Week' Fair, held at the Spires Shopping Centre in July and spent a very successful day talking to visitors at the Fair about access issues for people with disabilities. As well as information, the Team offered advice on a wide range of disability issues.

Meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act: By 2004 service providers will have to take 'reasonable steps' to enable disabled people to use their services. Working with the Barnet Chamber of Commerce, the Action Team is holding workshop sessions for local companies to help them prepare for the Act, by taking simple steps to improve access.

The Team are also looking at transport issues, access to council buildings and a borough-wide survey of the issues for disabled people in Barnet.

If you have any comments to make about Improving Access, the Team

would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to Jaspal Dhani at:
Disability Action in the Borough of Barnet,
Pyramid House,
954 High Road,
North Finchley,
N12 9RX.

Access isn't just about doors and ramps, it's about people.

PARTNERS INCLUDE:

Access in Barnet
AWARE Barnet
Baker's Community
Barnet Action 4 Youth
Barnet African Caribbean Association
Barnet African Health Organisation
Barnet Asian Old People's Association
Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Health Authority
Barnet Borough Watch
Barnet College
Barnet Council
Barnet Education Business Partnership
Barnet Federation of Residents' Associations
Barnet Headteachers' Conference
Barnet Magistrates
Barnet Mencap
Barnet Multi-cultural Community Centre
Barnet People's Voice
Barnet Primary Care Trust
Barnet Racial Equality Council
Barnet Voluntary Service Council
Barnet Youth Against Racism
Connexions
Disability Action in the Borough of Barnet
Drugs and Alcohol Action Team
Employment Service
Finchley Youth Theatre
Hampton Garden Suburb Institute
Hindu Cultural Society
Jewish Community
Learning and Skills Council (North London)
Local Agenda 21 Partnership
London Business Link
London Development Agency
London Probation Board
McDonald's Restaurants
Metropolitan Police
Middlesex University
Muslim Community
Natal Networks plc
North London Business Alliance
North London Chamber of Commerce (including Barnet Branch)
North London Enterprise Club
North London Strategic Alliance
People's Choice
Prospects Careers Services
Small Community
Seva/Young London
331 Project
Waltham
Youth Offending Team

2 CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

The Team is made up of people from across Barnet's diverse communities and has a very clear purpose: to challenge discrimination and celebrate diversity. Under the leadership of Joyce Chiwela (from Barnet's Multi-cultural Community Centre in West Hendon) the Team has produced a short 'Statement Against Racism' which was recently presented to the Civic Forum.

We commit ourselves to challenge discrimination in any form, stand up to racism and promote equality

This Statement will form the basis of a borough-wide campaign to involve the wider community in celebrating diversity and standing against discrimination. The Team is currently working on the details of the campaign for 2002, which is likely to involve a competition in schools followed by signing ceremonies where organisations and individuals will be able to 'Sign up' to the statement. Those who sign up will be given a certificate to put on their wall. Eventually, it is hoped that this certificate will be seen across the length and breadth of Barnet, as more and



more organisations commit to celebrating diversity and challenging racism. Alongside this, the Team aims to co-ordinate a series of multi-cultural events to celebrate the rich diversity of Barnet's communities.

Signing a piece of paper is only the starting point for this campaign that will seek to build bridges between communities and build opportunity for all.

If you have any comments to make about Celebrating Diversity, the Team would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to Joyce Chiwela at the Barnet Multi-Cultural Community Centre, Algernon Road, West Hendon, NW43TA.

3 SKILLS TRAINING

The Skills Training Action Team aims to give all people - especially young people, people of working age and older people - the opportunity to access learning and acquire new skills. These skills can be used either in paid or voluntary work. Doing so is essential to building strong communities, improving people's quality of life and boosting a successful local economy.

We want to widen participation and strengthen the skills base of the borough.

All education providers locally share the mission of providing high-quality learning and improving access to it for all sectors of the community.

For example, Barnet College has developed a network of neighbourhood learning, by providing advice and establishing guidance centres in three of the borough's most deprived wards. A new London North Learning and Skills Council has recently been established which funds the majority of adult learning activity.

An Adult Learning Plan for Barnet sets out our partners' commitment to high-quality services and to widening access. Priorities in the Plan include:

- Widening participation in learning
- Developing 'outreach' work in community settings to improve access to training (leading to NVQ Levels 2 and 3)
- Developing family literacy and numeracy work
- Enhanced information and communication technology provision
- Increased basic skills provision

All of these priorities are targeted at 'socially excluded' residents, including those in deprived neighbourhoods, unemployed people, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. The Team want to widen participation in learning of all kinds, raise attainment, broaden and strengthen the skills base of the borough for the benefit of everybody.

If you have any comments to make about Skills Training, the Team would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to Tony Nakhimoff at Hendon Town Hall, Room 83, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG.



The partnership Team have written a strategy with very clear goals: to create a network of complementary town centres across the borough, offering core shopping and a unique identity through specialist shops and their appearance. The network aims to achieve high standards of customer care, a safe environment and a range of shops that satisfy local needs.

The strategy is divided into strands, which are being developed with individual partners in their town centres. Each strand concentrates on a specific issue: identity, customer care, community safety and access.

Team members are working together to deliver training programmes on customer care, set up more business watch groups, start specially-themed events to emphasise identity and get involved in town square

Barnet Civic Forum Action Team 4:

4 TOWN CENTRES

projects. We're off to a good start, but there are still project areas to explore, such as working with commercial agents to widen the range of shops in town centres to meet the needs of customers.

So far, North Finchley is benefiting most from this work, with two events being planned: a Christmas event and a Fashion Week next year. We are also holding a customer care seminar in October to link with the existing 'Upbeat' retail training scheme and wider retail training

that is offered by Barnet College.

This work gives extra impetus to the cross-borough work

of the Team and is an example to other town centres of the possibilities that are there for the taking.

If you have any comments to make about Town Centres, the Team would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to Alan Everitt at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ.

Making town centres a lively focus for local communities, where small businesses can flourish.

Barnet Civic Forum Action Team 5:

5 COMMUNITY SAFETY

Making our community safer requires close working between the council, police, criminal justice agencies and the community.

Barnet's Community Safety Partnership brings together the council, police and many other agencies to tackle crime and disorder. It takes joint action to make Barnet a safer place, including targeting areas where criminals operate, tackling all forms of anti-social behaviour, providing security measures for vulnerable members of society, diverting young people from crime and preventing crime through better design.

Our key achievements in the past year have been:

- Crime rates fell in 2000/2001, particularly burglary and vehicle crime. There was an increase in the number of racial incidents, though this may result from an increased willingness to report such crimes. In line with national trends, there was a substantial increase in street crime, largely the theft of things such as mobile phones. The Police have set up a Safer Streets Group, which brings a number of agencies together to try and tackle this problem.
- We successfully bid to the Government for £470,000 funding to help set up a CCTV scheme in North Finchley and a Control Centre for the whole Borough.
- We also received grants for IT equipment and data analysis software, as well as for awareness-raising activities, and are hopeful of funding to support the growth of Barnet Borough Watch.

- The Council is also introducing Neighbourhood Wardens and has worked very closely with the Police to ensure that the two roles complement each other.
- Over £250,000 has been allocated to the partnership by the Government to tackle the supply of drugs and support communities affected by drugs.

At present we are preparing an Audit of Crime and Disorder in the borough. Along with extensive consultation, this will help us develop a Strategy to combat crime and reduce the fear of crime for the next three years.

If you have any comments to make about Community Safety, the Team would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to Andrew Nathan at Hendon Town Hall, Room 80, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG.

6 YOUTH FORUM

After months of planning and preparation, Barnet's Youth Forum was set up at a very successful conference attended by young people in April. A number of Youth Action Groups have now been established by young people to tackle the priority issues identified by the Forum, including bullying, racism, education, leisure, street crime, and young people's rights.

- The Forum has received a grant from the Youth Justice Board to help produce a newsletter, with the first issue produced in May and over 1000 copies distributed.
- On Saturday 21 July, the Youth Forum took part in the Finchley Carnival procession. The float was designed and created by young people and was 'Highly Commended' by the organisers.
- The Youth Forum has been invited to help establish a Youth Police Community Consultative Group, to 'effect good relations between the community and the police,' and enable local views to be taken into account by them. From October, the Youth Forum will also be working with the Police to develop a 'peer education programme' focusing on personal safety and reducing street crime.

A borough-wide Youth Forum, where young people can have a voice.

Taking account of young people's views is an important aim of the Forum. The Arts Council recently consulted Barnet's youth on the idea of a Youth Music and Arts Festival, to run from

January 2002 and culminate in a street festival in summer 2002. Seven young people attended a conference to give their views on how the new 'Connexions' advice and guidance service should operate.

- During October, members of the Youth Forum will be meeting with staff from the council's leisure services to pass on and discuss the views of young people about the facilities available to them in the borough.

If you have any comments to make about the Youth Forum, the Team would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to Alison Kira at *Barnet Action 4 Youth, Grahame Park Youth Centre, Corner Mead, Grahame Park Way, Colindale NW9 5RA.*

We will shortly be arranging a meeting between sub regional partners and the LDA.

- The third element of our work relates to expanding local job opportunities. We plan to start from December and our work on this will include a range of initiatives aimed at improving access to work. This will include the development of a programme of Job

Promote sustainable economic development and support the creation of new enterprises

Fairs and other local labour initiatives.

By September 2002, the Group aim to create a strategy for improving training in skill shortage areas, as well as looking at establishing a recruitment agency for major regeneration projects, such as the one planned for Cricklewood.

If you have any comments to make about Local Employment, the Team would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to David Tabernacle at *Barnet College, Grahame Park Centre, Grahame Park Way, Colindale NW9 5RA.*

Barnet Civic Forum Action Team 8:

8 LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

An existing partnership forum, the Barnet Economic Development Group, has taken on the role of the Local Employment Action Team. We have identified three projects to take forward as part of our work programme: to develop high-quality business support services, encourage inward investment and expand local job opportunities.

- As a starting point to develop business support services, the council is currently undertaking an analysis of marketing activity relating to its own services. Following the analysis, we plan to publish a review of business support services by March 2002.
- A key initiative in supporting the local economy relates to encouraging inward investment. We are currently identifying development site opportunities and plan to produce a draft 'Inward Investment strategy' by April 2002. We have met with other boroughs in North London and the North London Strategic Alliance to start a process of investigating sub-regional partnership work. This sub-regional grouping is also looking at how it should respond to the London Development Agency (LDA)'s review of Inward Investment activity.

Barnet Civic Forum Action Team 9:

9 COMMUNITY PRIDE

Our Action Team is a multi-agency partnership involving a wide range of people who live and work in Barnet. We have all come together to deliver a key part of the Civic Forum agenda, taken from the Community Plan: to encourage and revitalise community involvement and develop a sense of community pride and spirit.

Since the Team started work in earnest in February, we have set up two sub-groups, one of which is developing and co-ordinating activities designed to improve the local environment and the other is using the Queen's Golden

Jubilee as the focus for developing a community spirit.

- Plans are developing which include a competition for young people to design a poster (with a prize of IT equipment, donated by McDonald's - a key partner on the Team). This poster will then be used to publicise a competition for locally-based projects held across the borough for groups of all ages who wish to make a difference to the environment of their local communities.
- The Jubilee Working Group has been working on plans to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. Plans include a series of community-based events, a CD-ROM celebrating

50 years of Barnet (produced in collaboration with local community groups) and a co-ordinated approach which brings the community festivals together into a series of celebrations to run from June to October.

If you have any comments to make about Community Pride, the Team would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to Julie Hawkins at *Barnet Voluntary Service Council, Britannia House, 960 High Road, North Finchley N12 9RY.*

A co-ordinated approach involving communities and the public/private sectors will encourage people to take pride in their neighbourhood.

PUTTING THE COMMUNITY PLAN INTO ACTION

7 HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

Partnership working within local communities is the key to addressing health needs and promoting independence.

Over the last year, the health service in Barnet has been re-organised, with a new Health Authority (covering Barnet, Enfield and Haringey) and local Trusts. The largest of these is the Barnet Primary Care Trust, which aims to improve health by bringing services together in partnership, addressing health inequalities and promoting good health practices.

Some of the programmes and projects to meet these goals include:

- a stroke services booklet to give patients, families and carers a comprehensive list of services available
- working together to reduce heart disease through the 'HAPPY' Project, Barnet Healthy Schools Scheme, the Heartbeat Award and the 'Fit for Life' project
- a multi-agency Barnet Accident Prevention Group, with a number of programmes targeting all age groups
- a multi-agency Drug Action Team to co-ordinate prevention programmes and clinical services
- appointment of a part-time co-ordinator and the development of a strategy to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies. Two pilot projects are currently underway: working with secondary schools, and reviewing family planning to make them more 'user friendly' for young people
- extensive training programmes to help people stop smoking, with advisers in GP surgeries, health centres, clinics and pharmacies. Over the last 12 months, the programme has helped over 200 people give up smoking.

Improving health means helping people to live healthier lives, as well as building healthy communities by improving living conditions. Further developing health services will also improve health by preventing disease, detecting it early and treating it to prevent it progressing.

If you have any comments to make about Health Improvement, the Action Team would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your comments to Andrew Burnett at *Barnet Primary Care Trust, Hyde House, The Hyde, Edgware Road, NW9 6QQ.*