

Barton Community Profile

Summary

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1 Introduction

Oxfordshire is one of the most affluent areas of the country. However, this hides the fact that, as reported by the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019¹, there are 10 wards in Oxfordshire which include areas ranked in the 20% most deprived in England.

To better understand the needs and priorities of these communities, Oxfordshire County Council's Public Health team is undertaking a programme of work with local partners to create community profiles, providing an in-depth understanding both of local health needs as well as supportive community assets. The community profiles use local data and community insight that was based on an asset-based community development model (ABCD).

This profile is focused on one of these wards – Barton and Sandhills.

The aim of this profile is to:

- Understand what the experience is of those living in Barton in relation to health and wellbeing,
- Outline the health outcomes and the factors which can influence these health outcomes and bring this to life through the voices of the community
- Provide information and recommendations for local organisations, stakeholders and residents working together to improve health and wellbeing in this area

Note that this report is a summary and highlights the key findings from two in-depth reports:

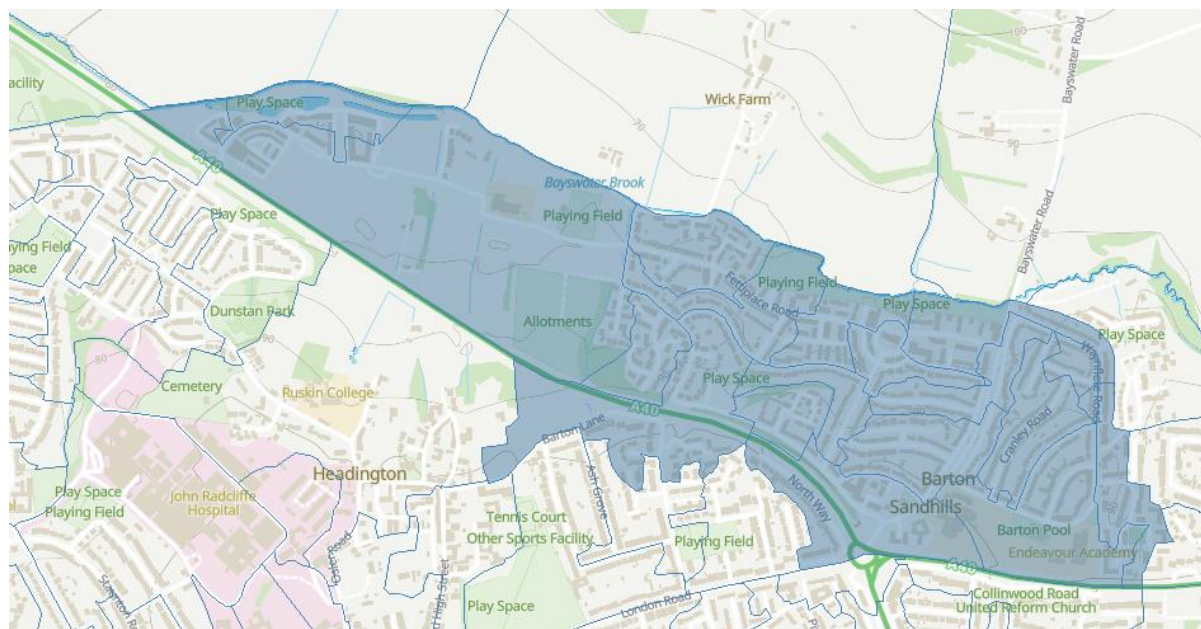
1. *Barton Community Insight Project Report* by Oxford City Council,
2. *Community (data) profile of Barton* compiled by the Public Health Intelligence team of Oxfordshire County Council.

With thanks to the Barton Community Profile Steering Group, Oxford City Council and especially to the Barton Community Health Development Officer who carried out the research as well as the residents who gave their time to share their views.

2 Location

Barton is a neighbourhood to the northeast of Oxford City within the Barton and Sandhills ward. The ward includes Barton Park, Barton and the Sandhills estates located to the north of the A40 ring road around Oxford and just over 3 miles from the city centre. The focus of the community insight is on the Barton neighbourhood. Where data is unavailable at small area level, ward level data has been used.

Figure 1 Barton neighbourhood area used in the community insight research



Map from [Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)

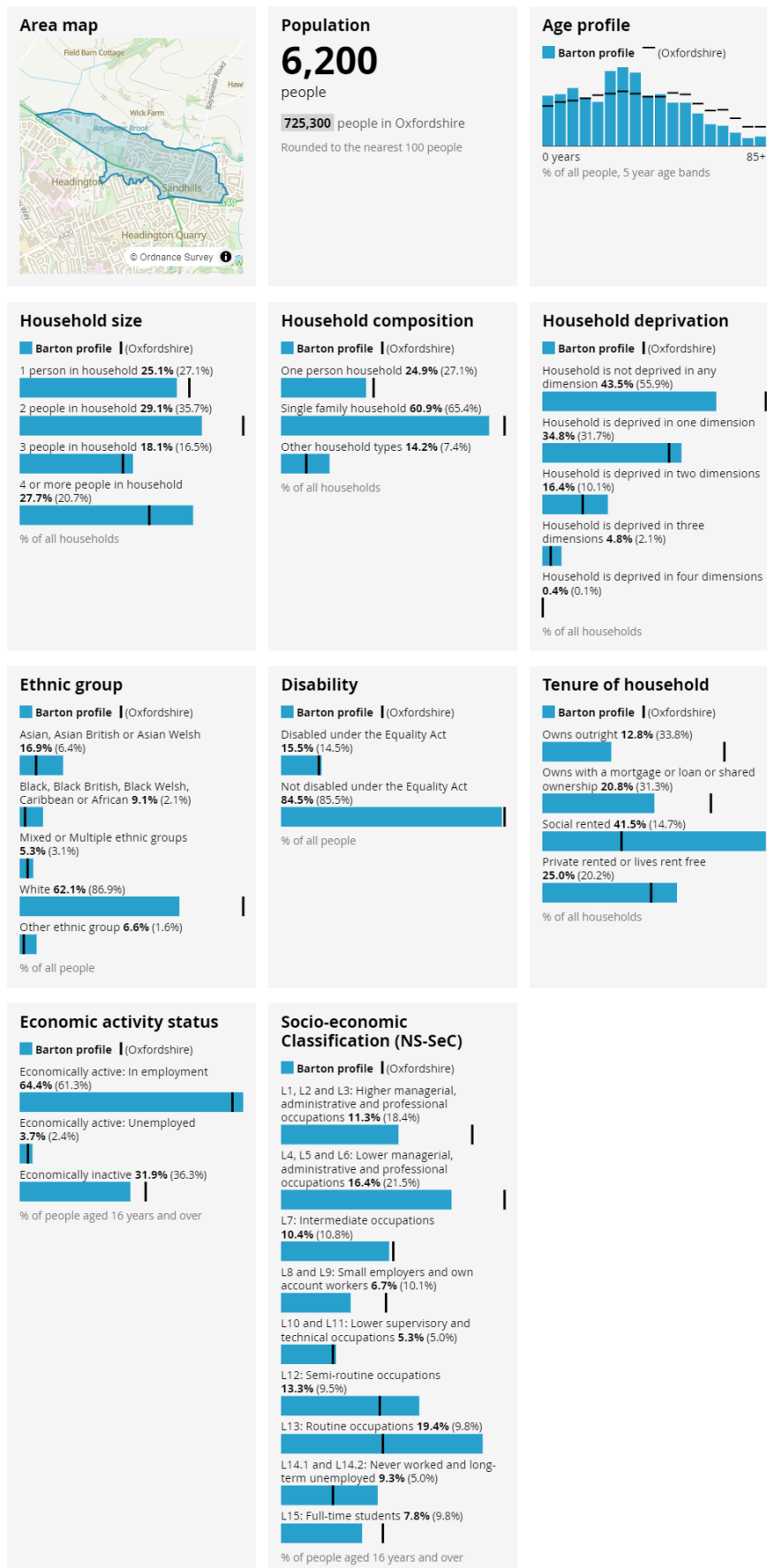
3 Summary of population and health data

Census 2021 data shows that, compared with Oxfordshire as a whole, the Barton area¹ had an above-average proportion of:

- Young residents (0 to 15 years old) and working age residents (30 to 40 years old);
- People from an Asian ethnic background (17% vs 6%) and a Black background (9% vs 2%);
- People living in social rented households (42% vs 15%) and privately rented households (25% vs 20%);
- People economically active in employment (64% vs 61%);
- People in Routine (19% vs 10%) and Semi-routine occupations (13% vs 11%).

¹ The Barton and Sandhills ward excluding the Sandhills estate to the east, as in figure 1

Figure 2 Census 2021 profile of the Barton area



From [Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)

Employment and poverty

The three largest employment (industry) sectors² for Barton & Sandhills ward were:

- Health and social work (28% of residents in employment)
- Education (14%)
- Retail (11%)

A range of statistics shows that the Barton area (not including Sandhills) has higher rates of unemployment and poverty than the Oxfordshire average.

Working aged people and families

- 4% (count=190) of working aged residents in Barton were claiming unemployment-related benefits as of February 2023³, double the rate for Oxfordshire of 2%. Note that this value is from DWP and is updated every month and differs from the self-declared unemployment data from the Census (as in figure 2 above).
- The latest fuel poverty data⁴ for 2020 showed that the Barton area had 336 households estimated to be in fuel poverty, equivalent to 14% of households and above the average for Oxfordshire (8%).

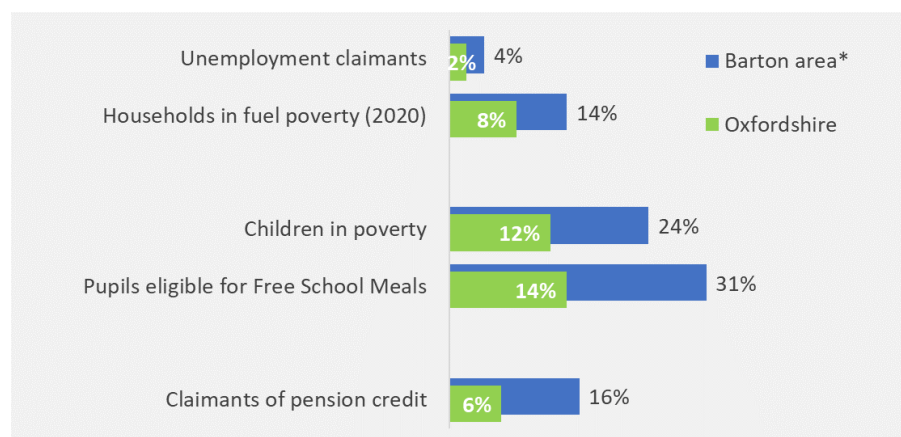
Children and young people

- 24% (count=343) of children were living in poverty⁵ in Barton, double the average for Oxfordshire (12%).
- 31% (count=369) of primary and secondary pupils living in the ward were eligible for Free School Meals⁶, over double the average for Oxfordshire (14%).

Older people

- 16% (count=110) of older residents were claiming pension credit in Barton as of August 2022, over double the average for Oxfordshire (6%).

Figure 3: Indicators of low income



*Barton area = 3 LSOAs Oxford 005A, 005B and 005C, not including Sandhills

² ONS Census 2021 table TS060 - industry

³ DWP claimant count February 2023 from nomisweb.co.uk including Job Seeker Allowance and Universal Credit claimants who are out of work

⁴ Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2020 Dept for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; fuel poverty refers to households living in a property with fuel energy efficiency rating of band D or below as well as households which after paying their energy bill to heat their home the residual income is below the official poverty line

⁵ DWP statXplore, children aged 0-15, 2021/22

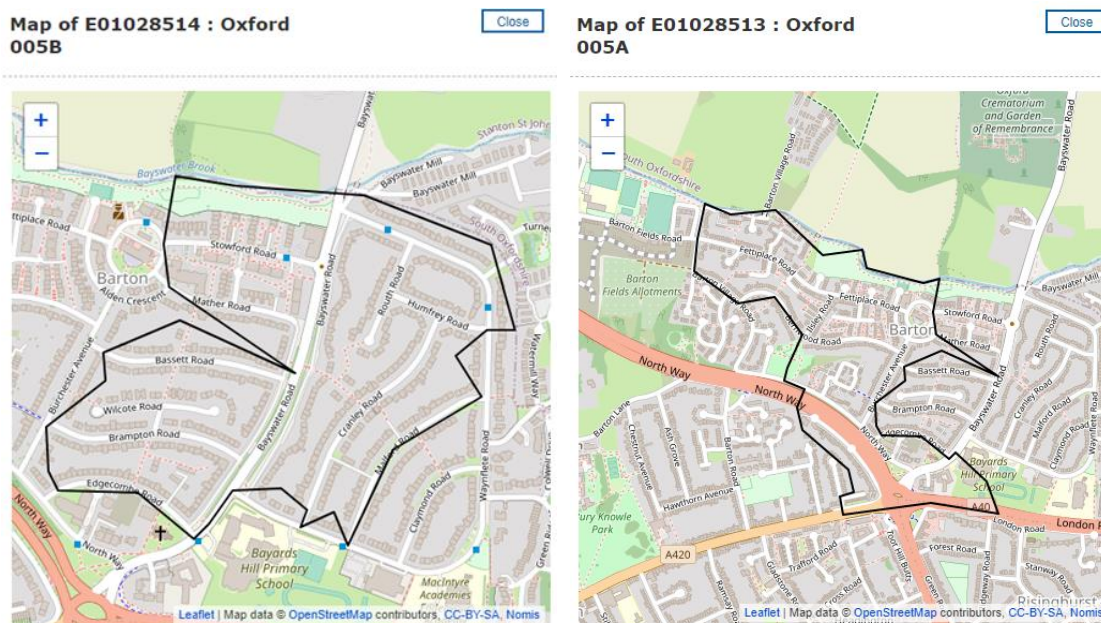
⁶ January 2022 pupil census, Oxfordshire County Council

Indices of Deprivation

One small area of Barton (Oxford 005B) falls within the 20% most deprived in England on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019).

This area and another (Oxford 005A) each fall within the 10% most deprived on the education, skills and training domain.

Figure 4 Maps of Oxford 005B and Oxford 005A



Maps from www.nomisweb.co.uk

Health and Wellbeing indicators

Barton MSOA has one of the lowest life expectancies at birth for males in Oxfordshire (76.6 years compared to 81.5 years). Life expectancy for females (81.2 years) was also lower than the Oxfordshire average (84.8 years).

The rate of preventable mortality⁷ for Barton was more than double the rate for Oxfordshire (155 vs 73.6).

Between March 2020 and March 2022 Barton MSOA (39.9) had a higher rate of COVID-19 cases per 100 compared to Oxford (30.3) and Oxfordshire (29.2).

The local health profile of 32 indicators of health and wellbeing shows that the Barton Middle Layer Super Output (MSOA) area has a relatively poor health profile, with over half (19 out of 32) of indicators ranked **as worse** than the England average including:

- Life expectancy (lower than average for males),
- Emergency hospital admissions for all causes and deaths for all causes,
- Premature deaths from all causes,
- Preventable deaths.

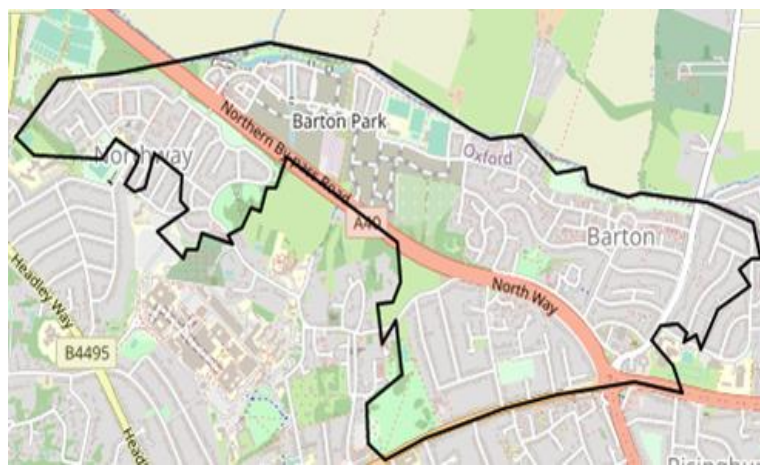
⁷ Age specific mortality rate per 100 of observed deaths divided by expected deaths

Figure 5: Health and Wellbeing profile of Barton MSOA

Indicator name	Value	Worst	Med	Best	
(D1) Deprivation score (IMD)	28.8	86.9	18.2	2.2	
(D2) Children under 16 yrs living in poverty (%) (IDACI)	23.4	64.7	13.7	0.9	
(D3) Adults over 60 yrs living in poverty (%) (IDAOP1)	20.6	76.0	13.0	2.0	
(D4) Households in Fuel Poverty (%)	13.7	54.1	12.4	2.5	
(D5) Income deprivation (%)	17.6	48.8	10.6	0.9	
(D6) Unemployment, ages 16-64 years (%)	7.1	20.8	4.0	0.7	
(CH1) Emergency hospital admissions, ages 0-4 years (crude r...	151.7	352.2	137.9	24.8	
(CH2) Emergency hospital admissions for injury, ages 0-4 year...	157.3	363.7	114.3	0.0	
(CH3) Obesity: Reception year (%)	8.3	21.4	9.5	2.6	
(CH4) Obesity: Year 6 (%)	19.2	39.0	19.6	4.3	
(CH5) Emergency hospital admissions for injury, ages 0-14 yea...	125.6	251.2	89.2	18.7	
(CH6) Emergency hospital admissions for injury, ages 15-24 ye...	294.3	733.3	126.9	14.4	
(H1) Emergency hospital admissions for self-harm (SAR)	201.3	541.4	88.3	10.2	
(H2) Hospital admissions for alcohol-attributable conditions (SA...	125.9	391.1	95.4	35.9	
(H3) Emergency hospital admissions for all causes (SAR)	152.1	215.6	96.5	31.5	
(H4) Emergency hospital admissions for COPD (SAR)	147.2	554.5	88.2	9.3	
(H5) Emergency hospital admissions for CHD (SAR)	118.7	396.1	96.2	23.0	
(H6) Emergency hospital admissions for Stroke (SAR)	82.3	260.9	99.0	28.4	
(H7) Emergency hospital admissions for heart attack (MI) (SAR)	149.6	318.7	97.0	21.4	
(H8) Emergency hospital admissions for hip fracture, over 65s (...)	91.9	527.4	96.6	29.3	
(M1) Life expectancy at birth (Males)	76.6	66.6	79.8	94.1	
(M2) Life expectancy at birth (Females)	81.2	72.0	83.6	97.5	
(M3) Deaths from all causes (SMR)	120.1	251.0	97.5	36.0	
(M4) Deaths from all cancer, age under 75 years (SMR)	112.5	231.0	98.0	29.2	
(M5) Deaths from circulatory disease, age under 75 years (SM...	167.9	374.4	95.5	12.6	
(M6) Deaths from respiratory diseases (SMR)	153.2	335.4	96.8	21.8	
(M7) Deaths from stroke (SMR)	126.9	415.7	95.4	0.0	
(M8) Deaths from all causes, age under 75 years (SMR)	139.5	309.2	95.8	26.1	
(M9) Deaths from all cancer (SMR)	120.8	200.8	99.0	32.2	
(M10) Deaths from circulatory disease (SMR)	114.9	244.7	98.9	32.1	
(M11) Deaths from coronary heart disease (SMR)	146.9	307.5	98.0	16.6	
(M12) Preventable mortality (SMR)	155.0	378.4	93.3	17.3	

Source: OHID Local Health from Oxfordshire JSNA inequalities dashboard [Workbook: Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard \(tableau.com\)](#)

Figure 6 Area Map of Barton MSOA



from www.nomisweb.co.uk

4 Community assets and local groups

Barton has a variety of facilities and physical assets with a large selection of activities for the community hosted within or around the Barton Neighbourhood centre, the local churches and schools.

Further details of these are provided in the community insight report.

Figure 7 Overview of community facilities in Barton



Image produced by Oxford City Council.

"It's the Barton community, the residents. Everywhere you go people are really helpful. In other areas the community feels isolated, it's not the same they are not real communities. I know I can say hi to everyone in Barton and they will say hi. When I come into Barton it always feels like I'm coming home."

5 Community Research

5.1 Research methodology and sample

A mixed methods approach was adopted encompassing a community consultation, an online survey and focus groups in order to maximise reach and depth of the research including:

- Participatory community engagement at events reaching 200 residents
- An online survey completed by 95 respondents
- 7 focus groups with local organisations with a total of 39 people present

The research was carried out between September 2022 and January 2023.

The majority of respondents to the online survey were of white ethnicity (over 90%), female (66%) and the highest percentage of total respondents were in the 35-44 years age grouping (38%) followed by those in the 55-64 year age grouping (18%).

The majority of those participating in the online survey were from Barton (60%) compared to Barton Park (30%) which is a new development to the west of Barton estate.

5.2 Living in Barton

The majority of participants (75%) expressed being either satisfied, more than satisfied or very satisfied with Barton as a place to live.

- The proportion satisfied participants was slightly lower than respondents to the Oxfordshire residents survey (2022) where 78% of respondents county-wide were fairly or very satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- Responses showed a high value placed on local community groups and activities, the quietness of the neighbourhood and the diversity of the community.
- 76% of participants felt satisfied, more than satisfied or very satisfied with their housing situation.

Houses are nice. People are nice. And diverse backgrounds which is great

Green spaces were the most mentioned by respondents when asked about what they liked about living in Barton and were mentioned as being frequently used.

The location of Barton and its accessibility to the city and local amenities including hospitals and transport links was also mentioned several times as highly valued by respondents

The green spaces surrounding the development and close links to the natural environment. The linear path linking Barton Park to Barton is a nice addition too

Travel and Transport

- Walking was the most preferred typical mode of transport followed by cars and buses.
- Several comments were made about the bus service and general accessibility of transport.

Why can't half the buses go the other way, why do they all go one way? The people on the right side can't get to the left side without going to Headington and coming back on themselves. So many people would benefit from having buses going two directions through Barton. There are people who don't go to the community centre because they can't get there, or to the shops.

Crime and feelings of security

- 75% of respondents to the online survey reported feeling safe in their neighbourhood.
- 40% of respondents aged 25-34 and 27% of those aged 35-44 felt unsafe in their area compared with 18% of respondents aged 55 and over.

I feel safe during the day and when at home etc, but I don't often go out around Barton at night unless with others as I feel less safe then

I do [feel safe] but that is only because I know majority of people who live here but I can see why others wouldn't feel safe

Worries about safety were linked to groups congregating outside shops and feelings unsafe at night. Respondents also mentioned that they felt some of the feelings of insecurity were due to perception rather than actual threat.

Police-recorded crime data shows that as of January to December 2021, Barton (MSOA) ranked 12th out of the 86 MSOAs in Oxfordshire on overall rate of crime and had the 4th highest rate of Anti-Social Behaviour crimes per 1,000 population.

Vulnerability, loneliness, identity and belonging

From the responses to the survey there appears to be a stronger sense of community in Barton than in the new development of Barton Park:

- 43% of people living in Barton Park felt they are part of the local community compared with 48% of people living in Barton
- 40% of people living in Barton Park knew where to get information about their local area compared with 54% of people living in Barton
- 36% of people living in Barton Park felt they participated in community consultations about their area compared with 39% of people living in Barton
- Some respondents felt there is a stigma attached to living in Barton and this can affect their willingness to attend community activities
- Less than 5% of respondents stated feeling lonely all the time, 38% of respondents stated feeling lonely sometimes with a similar number saying they rarely feel lonely

Social isolation and mental health issues I think are the main issues we are struggling with in our community. It affects all ages and people from all backgrounds

Education

- 77% of participants from Barton Park felt they have the skills and/or qualifications to find employment compared with 66% from Barton.

5.3 Health and Wellbeing

The vast majority of respondents to the Barton community survey consider themselves to be healthy.

- Over 80% of respondents reported that they consider themselves healthy.
- Those who consider themselves unhealthy reported experiencing a range of health problems including obesity and diabetes.

I am in a better place with my personal health management nowadays and that's thanks to the BCA and my doctors. I've got plenty of access to the things I need

I am looking after myself as well as I can afford

Themes emerging that support respondents self-care include strong social support networks and relationships, physical activity and movement and spending time outdoors or in nature

Barriers to looking after health included cost and affordability, healthy and affordable food and health conditions.

- 70% of respondents reported being able to access affordable and healthy food and 60% reported maintaining healthy habits around food and eating
- Majority of respondents reported observing smoking, alcohol and drug related activity in the area.

Without the larder I wouldn't be able to access healthy and affordable food

Impact of COVID -19

- Over 30% of residents felt well supported during the pandemic and the role of the community played an important part in this.
- Around a quarter of respondents reported experiencing loneliness and isolation while also allowing them to slow down the fast pace of life.
- Access to nature and green spaces was a strong emerging theme reported as helping with maintaining physical and mental health.

All thanks to Barton Neighbourhood Centre, this building and the people who work here helped me through Covid. Always someone to support me. Received food packages and prescriptions

I was fortunate to be living with someone healthy who could do shopping and provide company and that when we had Covid we had a contact who could shop for us. I felt stuck at home, not being able to go and see people until able to sit inside a cafe

6 Recommendations

A range of recommendations derived from the community insight results are summarised in brief below. A detailed discussion on these can be found in the recommendations section of the insight report.

1. New models of care

- More resourcing to support social prescribing in Barton
- Development of a link worker role

2. Built and physical environment

- Long term funding for community programmes that engage the community with their surrounding physical environment
- Community litter picks and more bins around green spaces
- Communal spaces where everyone feels welcome
- Existing facilities offering activities that meet the needs of the community

3. Community activation and cohesion

- Informal spaces where residents can socialise and that can offer opportunities for volunteering across age groups
- Nurturing relationships between different groups to address perceptions of crime
- Community events that encourage cohesion
- Reinstating a community newsletter

4. Collaboration and co- production

- Explore development of joint funding bids
- Fully involve residents in programme design
- Targeted engagement of young people

5. Active Travel

- Initiatives to further support active travel
- Explore opportunities for a two-way bus service for the area