

Executive summary

Introduction

- Health and wellbeing is shaped by the places and environments in which people live their lives.
- This chapter of the JSNA considers a number of these 'wider determinants' of health – including housing and transport, employment and living standards, as well as local people's sense of place and community.
- Each section (covering a different topic) is structured according to a consistent format, as set out below.
- Introduction
- Key local facts about the topic
- Health and wellbeing impacts
- Number of people affected locally
- Inequalities
- Comparisons with other areas and over time
- Evidence and best practice
- Services and support available locally
- Challenges and opportunities (where relevant)
- Comparisons are made throughout this chapter with Hackney's 'statistical peers' – these are local authority areas with a similar population make-up.

Section 1: Community cohesion and social networks

- This section describes how residents feel about living in Hackney and the City of London, how this impacts on their sense of wellbeing and the consequences for their physical and mental health. It covers issues including satisfaction with the area as a place to live, perceptions of the cohesiveness of the local community, as well as resident engagement with - and sense of connection to - their neighbours and acquaintances.
- An active and vibrant voluntary and community sector, and the contribution of volunteers to a local area, are valuable assets which help to promote cohesion and social connections. At an individual level, volunteering can boost self-esteem, confidence and employability, and has a positive impact on both mental and physical health. A significant minority of Hackney and City residents contribute to their local community through regular volunteering.
- Social relationships affect mental and physical functioning, health behaviours and the risk of mortality. Social isolation is detrimental to an individual's physical and mental health. It is also an inequality issue, as deprivation and disadvantage is linked to many of the life experiences that increase risk of social isolation.
- The vast majority (88%) of Hackney residents in a recent survey were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, with most agreeing that people

from different backgrounds get on well together. Similarly, a very high proportion of City residents, workers and business leaders (in a separate survey) also said they are satisfied with the local area as a place to live, work or run a business.

- A small, but significant, minority of Hackney residents report feeling isolated and around a quarter say that they know fewer people in the local area now than they once did. Social isolation among residents, especially the older generation, is a key priority for the City of London, although the actual number of people affected is unknown.
- Older residents (age 55+) are more satisfied living in Hackney than younger residents, while satisfaction among disabled residents is lower than average. More affluent residents, and those who moved into the area more recently, report higher levels of satisfaction in general.
- While Black Hackney residents are less likely than average to say they are satisfied with the local area, they are more likely to agree that the area has improved over the past five years. Asian residents are twice as likely to report feeling socially isolated as White residents. Other community insight suggests that social isolation and exclusion is experienced disproportionately by migrants, especially migrant women.
- While on average levels of social deprivation in Hackney are reducing, there is a sense that inequality within the area may be growing. In a recent survey, almost half of Hackney residents said they felt the borough had become more unequal over the past ten years.
- The Local Government Association has produced guidance for local authorities to assess how they are performing against various themes of community cohesion, as well as a range of resources. Public Health England and the UCL Institute of Health Equity have also produced guidance on reducing social isolation across the life course, and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has produced guidance on preventing social isolation in older people specifically. The main recommendations are outlined in Section 1.6.
- There are a number of local services in both Hackney and the City of London that support the needs of disadvantaged residents who may be experiencing social isolation, feeling excluded from the community, or lacking local networks. These range from targeted befriending services to community support available through libraries and Children's Centres, as well as various volunteering opportunities. One specific example is Connect Hackney, a Big Lottery funded project led by older people to address social isolation affecting their peers across the borough.
- Recent resident insight work shows that there is a strong desire among many local people in Hackney to participate in activities that support greater community cohesion.

Section 2: Places and spaces

- This section describes the health and wellbeing impacts of the buildings and public spaces where people work, study, shop, relax and socialise. It covers access to parks and green spaces, as well as the quality and design of local

high streets (with a focus on hot food takeaways, betting shops, payday lenders, night-time venues and cultural facilities).

- Local government planning functions are an important lever in shaping the built environment and have a major influence on a population's health. Licensing functions also influence the 'healthiness' of places and spaces - covering the sale of alcohol, as well as the provision of various forms of entertainment and late night refreshment.
- The night-time economy can have a positive and negative impact on health and wellbeing. Pubs and bars can act as hubs of community life, providing a space to socialise, promoting social interaction and reducing isolation. On the other hand, these venues can also contribute to noise, litter, harmful levels of alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour. The night-time economy has grown substantially in both Hackney and the City in recent years, with high concentrations of venues in areas such as Shoreditch, Dalston and Stoke Newington.
- Fast food outlets tend to sell food that is high in fat and salt, and drinks that are high in sugar. Higher concentration of fast food outlets, which is associated with area deprivation, has been linked to higher prevalence of obesity. There are almost 300 fast food outlets in Hackney (higher numbers in Dalston, London Fields and Hoxton) and an estimated 40 or so hot food takeaways in the City of London.
- There is strong evidence that greater opportunities for gambling (i.e. availability and accessibility of venues) increases the number of regular and problem gamblers in an area. Gambling may be harmful for some people, by exacerbating financial vulnerability and worsening mental health problems through addictive behaviour. Problem gambling is linked to poor health and a co-dependence on alcohol. The number of betting shops per head of population in Hackney is broadly in line with similar London boroughs, but higher than the national average. Meaningful estimates are not available for the City. The highest number of betting shops in Hackney are in Dalston and Haggerston wards.
- Payday loan shops provide high interest, short-term loans for people needing money to tide them over for short periods. Links have been established between severe debt and poor mental health, between debt and suicide, and debt and substance misuse. One conservative estimate suggests that Hackney has the eight highest rate of loan shops per head of population in London.
- Libraries, museums, theatres, cinemas and art galleries all make a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of local people. They promote education and learning, creativity and personal development, and provide opportunities for social interaction. Libraries in Hackney are used by people from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. Women tend to use libraries more than men and, in 2014/15, almost a third (31%) of Hackney library users were under 18 years of age. In the City of London's three community libraries, members are primarily City workers, reflecting the large daytime City worker population.
- Parks and open spaces are a vital part of public life. Attractive, safe and accessible parks and green spaces provide a wide range of social, economic,

health and environmental benefits. Hackney is one of the greenest inner London boroughs, with a network of 225 open spaces and 21 parks awarded 'Green Flag' status, but there are some areas of open space deficiency (such as Dalston). In the City of London, there are 376 open spaces (including numerous small civic and market squares), most of which are open to the public. According to a local survey, women in Hackney tend to use parks and green spaces more regularly than men.

- Evidence for the most effective approaches to improve population health through the planning and licensing systems is growing. For example, the Town and Country Planning Association's 'Reuniting Planning with Health' programme has produced a suite of resources to guide local action, and a recent report by the Royal Society of Public Health provides guidance on making local high streets more health promoting. Some actions can only be implemented at national level (e.g. legislative changes), but there are significant powers at local level.
- Efforts are being made through Local Plan policies to mitigate some of the health harming aspects of our places and spaces (including restricting the proliferation of hot food takeaways near secondary schools) and enhance the health promoting aspects (such as ensuring developments are designed to facilitate physical activity and protect open spaces). Health Impact Assessments are required in Hackney for larger developments.
- The local Public Health Team also play an active role in reviewing applications for some licensed premises in Hackney (including those which sell alcohol).
- Libraries and other cultural services in both Hackney and the City offer a wide range of activities that support positive wellbeing in local residents, including some of the most socially isolated (including a free book delivery service in Hackney and a therapeutic reading group for older residents in the City)

Section 3: Living standards

- This section describes the material circumstances in which people live and the impact this has on their health and wellbeing. It describes area deprivation in City and Hackney, as well as child poverty and the impact of recent welfare reforms on the local population.
- Living standards and health are inextricably linked. Poverty is both a cause and a consequence of poor health and wellbeing: people living in deprived circumstances are more likely to suffer from a range of physical and mental health problems; and being in poor health reduces employment and other opportunities to achieve a secure income and good standard of living.
- Children living in low income households are more likely than other children to die in the first year of life, have pre-school conduct and behavioural problems, experience bullying and engage in risky behaviours as teenagers, do less well at school and grow up to have low incomes in adulthood. These outcomes have cumulative health and wellbeing impacts over the life course.
- Hackney was the 11th most deprived local authority in England in 2015, which is an improvement since 2010. There are particularly high levels of deprivation towards the east and in the north west of the borough. The City of London has

relatively low levels of deprivation overall, but this marks significant within area variation (with pockets of high level deprivation towards the east). Four in ten older people in Hackney, and 9% in the City, live in income-deprived households.

- More than one quarter of Hackney's children were living in poverty in 2013,¹ the fifth highest level in London (but almost half the level in 2007) - equating to approximately 18,000 children. The highest levels of child poverty are in the south and east of Hackney, with significant poverty also in areas in the centre of the borough. The City has a small number of resident children and, in 2013, 11% were living in poverty - approximately 85 children in total. Three quarters of children living in low income households are in a lone parent family.
- Analysis has shown that children in the poorest families have lost out the most as a result of recent changes to the benefits system. By 2020/21, Hackney residents are estimated to have experienced the fourth biggest loss of income in London as a result of welfare reforms. There is already evidence of upwards pressure on homelessness and use of temporary accommodation in Hackney, which are linked to poorer health outcomes (see 'Housing and homelessness' section). An estimated 15% of local residents affected by the benefit cap have specific needs and/or are from vulnerable groups.
- Disability is strongly linked to deprivation, due to lower employment income and higher risk of benefit dependency among disabled residents. In Hackney, nearly a quarter of households with a disabled family member also include dependent children.
- Families with no resource to public funds are particularly vulnerable to multiple poverty-related risk factors. It is very difficult to estimate the number of such families locally, as many remain unregistered.
- Much of what needs to be achieved to reduce poverty needs to be set at a national level through tax and benefit policy. However, local can be taken to ensure that employers pay the London Living Wage, appropriate employment support is provided to help people find and stay in work, and schools and colleges provide high quality education to improve the life chances of all children and young people (see 'Education and training' section). A 'whole child approach' is recommended to tackle the social determinants of health and reduce inequalities.
- Hackney's Child Poverty and Family Wellbeing Plan sets out the council's approach to tackling child poverty, through a mix of universal and targeted support. The council also funds a number of advice services for people in disadvantaged circumstances. Similarly, the City of London's Children and Young People's Plan identifies four key priorities to reduce social inequalities among local families, and also grant-funds a number of projects to tackle poverty and improve access to education and employment support. In addition, the City Advice Service provides targeted information and advice on a range of issues including debt and employment rights. Both local authorities have established a Welfare Reform Working Group to develop a coordinated response to help mitigate the negative impacts on affected residents.

¹ Based on the percentage of dependent children under 20 living in families with household income below 60% of the national median income (before housing costs).

Section 4: Education and training

- This section describes educational outcomes across the life course – from early years through to adult education. It highlights the strong links between education and health at all ages - positive wellbeing improves academic progression and, in turn, a good education significantly improves health in later life (including reduced mortality).
- A good education provides opportunities for a better standard of living, with related wellbeing effects (see ‘Living standards’ section). It is also associated with higher uptake of preventative services and is linked to healthier lifestyles.
- There are 79 schools in Hackney’s maintained sector (including three special schools for children with complex needs), as well as a ‘virtual school’ (which provides tailored support for looked after children, care leavers and young people subject to youth justice orders). A significant proportion of pupils in Hackney attend independent schools, some of which are unregistered, which can pose challenges to ensuring consistency in the quality of education available to all children in the borough – and necessitates a tailored approach to delivering school-based health promotion interventions.
- The City of London has one state primary school within its boundaries and no state secondary schools. Three independent schools are located in the City and the Corporation is sponsor/co-sponsor of four academies in neighbouring boroughs.
- There have been marked improvements in educational performance in Hackney schools in recent years, with the latest results confirming Hackney to be among the highest performers in the country at GCSE level – this is despite relatively high levels of deprivation in the borough.
- The City of London has the highest proportion of residents qualified to level 4 or above of all local authorities in England.
- Hackney has a lower proportion than average of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) – and this proportion has been falling in recent years. The latest available data identified no NEET young people in the City of London.
- Girls consistently perform better than boys in school, from early years to GCSE; these inequalities tend to disappear at A-level and beyond. Inequalities are also observed by language (higher attainment in early years and adult education in those with English as their main language), ethnicity (Asian pupils do better at Key Stage 2 and GCSE, while adult qualifications are highest among White residents) and social disadvantage (lower attainment in those eligible for free school meals at Key Stage 2 and GCSE). Gypsy and Traveller children are subject to significant social exclusion and educational attainment is particularly low in this community.
- Ofsted have produced various education good practice guides and case studies covering areas including curriculum, learning, play and also Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). Schools play a key role as settings for promoting health.

Section 5: Work and worklessness

- Being in work - particularly work that is safe, rewarding and provides a sense of self-worth - is a major driver of positive wellbeing. This section describes local patterns of employment and the links with health. It also explores evidence-based approaches and local practice in creating healthy workplaces and helping people who have health problems to find and stay in work.
- There is growing evidence of the effectiveness of workplace health interventions in preventing, and supporting recovery from, a range of health conditions. It is estimated that, in London, over 6 million working days are lost each year as a result of stress, anxiety or depression alone. Musculoskeletal disorders are also a major cause of sickness absence.
- Unemployment is much more common among people with long-term health conditions (especially those with mental ill health or learning disabilities) and being unemployed significantly increases someone's risk of poor health. People in lower skilled jobs or with lower level qualifications are at increased risk of both unemployment and poor health.
- There has been significant economic growth in both Hackney and the City of London in recent years. Around two thirds of Hackney working age residents, and three quarters of the small City resident population, are employed. Most employed residents of Hackney work elsewhere, and virtually all of the 400,000+ City workers are non-residents.
- The most common sector of employment in both areas is banking/finance/insurance, with the public administration/education/health sector also a major employer in Hackney in particular. In line with London, more local people work in 'higher' occupations (e.g. as managers, directors, senior officials, or in professional occupations) than the national average.
- As elsewhere, earnings in Hackney and the City have fallen slightly in real terms in recent years, but are much higher for City workers than in Hackney or London as a whole. This reflects a larger proportion of jobs in higher managerial and professional occupations in the City.
- Unemployment rates in Hackney do not differ significantly from other similar areas – in 2015, 6% of the working age population were unemployed. A further 27% were economically inactive (for example due to sickness, retirement, caring responsibilities or studying).
- Employment rates are highest among 25-49 year olds, while unemployment and economic inactivity is highest among 16-19 year olds.
- Men are more likely to be in higher managerial jobs and routine occupations, while women are more commonly found in lower managerial, intermediate or semi-routine occupations. The large City worker population is male dominated. There is a significant gender wage gap in the City, but not in Hackney.
- Across London, White residents are more likely to be employed (and in higher grade occupations), and less likely to be unemployed or economically inactive, than almost all other ethnic groups.
- Effective workplace health interventions provide tailored support, combining positive health messages with changes to the working environment.

Employee engagement and participation is essential for success, as is visible senior leadership and commitment. Managers need to be supported to promote a positive and enabling environment. The London Healthy Workplace Charter provides an evidence-based framework to support investment in staff health and wellbeing programmes – both Hackney Council and the Corporation of London have achieved Charter status, as has Homerton hospital. In addition, the City of London's Business Healthy initiative provides resources and advice to member employers to support the promotion of employee wellbeing.

- NICE has published guidance on long-term sickness absence and incapacity to work, with a focus on supporting employees with musculoskeletal disorders and mental health problems in particular. The Department for Work and Pensions has also published practical advice for employers on employing people with disabilities and health conditions. A number of national schemes are in place to support these individuals to find and keep a job - including the Work Choice scheme, Fit for Health and Access to Work. Support can also be accessed via disability employment advisors in Job Centre Plus.
- A range of support is in place locally to help people who face particular barriers to finding and staying in work, including services which provide targeted help for people with mental health problems or learning disabilities.

Section 6: Housing and homelessness

- Access to appropriate, affordable housing is one of the most important factors in supporting positive health and wellbeing, and is a major concern among local residents. This section describes four overarching housing-related 'drivers' of health – housing conditions, affordability and availability, housing tenure, and homelessness.
- Most properties in the local social rented sector meet the Decent Homes Standard. While problems with housing are more likely to be reported by social renters, many properties in the private rented sector are in poor condition and contain some of the most vulnerable residents – one estimate suggests that around 10,000 privately rented properties in Hackney have at least one health hazard. Overcrowding is also a major concern in both Hackney and the City.
- As in other parts of London, both Hackney and the City face significant future challenges in terms of supply of affordable housing – driven by a combination of rising costs (local increases in private rents and house prices are among the highest in the country), the historical impact of Right to Buy and rapid population growth, as well as more recent welfare reforms. A significant minority of respondents to a recent survey in Hackney identified difficulties with meeting housing costs. Inadequate supply of affordable housing is expected to impact on levels of homelessness and tenure insecurity in the private rented sector.
- Hackney has one of the largest social housing stocks in the country, a growing private rented sector and a comparatively small owner-occupied sector. Conversely, the City has a relatively small social rented housing

sector, but higher than average owner occupied and privately rented accommodation as a share of the total stock.

- Statutory homelessness is a growing problem, especially in London. Hackney has a significantly higher rate than average of both homeless acceptances and households in temporary accommodation, and these numbers are growing. Despite its small resident population, the City faces major challenges in terms of homelessness, especially rough sleeping.
- Housing circumstances have a major impact on people's physical, mental and social wellbeing. For example, damp and cold homes are linked to respiratory and cardiovascular disease, noise and overcrowding can affect child development and family relationships, and problems meeting housing costs are the source of significant stress and anxiety. People who are homeless experience by far the worst health outcomes, especially street homeless – the average age of death of a street homeless person is just 47 years.

It is important to note, however, that it can be difficult to separate out the direct health effects of housing from other confounding factors (such as socio-economic status and age) which are strongly associated with both health and housing circumstances.

- Many housing-related health harms are particularly damaging for the youngest and oldest age groups. In relation to age, there is also evidence that the rough sleeping population (which is predominantly male) is getting younger.
- Tenure patterns in both Hackney and the City show that private renting is most common among White British residents. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) residents are more likely to live in social rented housing in general. There is also some evidence to suggest that BAME families are more likely to live in severely overcrowded accommodation.
- People living in the private rented sector have the highest levels of self-reported general health overall (social renters have the lowest). However, this marks significant variation in the profile of this sector, which houses vulnerable families living in poor housing conditions as well as younger affluent single people living in more expensive rented accommodation.
- National and local action is required to ensure an adequate supply of appropriate, affordable housing. Hackney Council built the second highest number of homes between 2011 and 2015, but significant challenges remain as described above.
- Specific evidence-based guidance has been produced on local action to reduce the health risks of cold homes, and a Housing Health Cost Calculator is available to quantify the health impact of measures to reduce health hazards in the home more generally.
- Occupiers of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) have the least control and choice over their housing circumstances. Hackney has one of the highest proportions of HMOs (as a share of total housing stock) in London. To improve standards in this sector, Hackney Council recently launched its '10 steps to better private renting for tenants and landlords' campaign, and administers a Mandatory Licensing Scheme for larger HMOs. In the City of London, minimum standards are set out for HMOs in relation to fire protection, room sizes, management and amenity provision.

- Social landlords play a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing needs of their residents, by providing a broad range of services over and above repairs and maintenance - including employment support, learning and skills, as well as help to enable people to remain independent in their own home. The main social housing providers in Hackney are all members of the local Financial Inclusion Steering Group. There are also local schemes in place to provide home adaptations for disabled and elderly home owners and private residents.
- Early intervention is required to prevent homelessness, including targeted support to vulnerable families and tenancy sustainment schemes. However, evidence on effective approaches to primary prevention is lacking in this area. Relevant local support includes advice services, housing support and a new Multiple Needs Service for high risk groups, as well as a Homeless Healthcare service in partnership with St Mungo's Broadway. The City funds a number of innovative projects to address the complex needs of its large street homeless population.

Section 7: Health and the environment

- Summary to be added when main section published.

Section 8: Transport and travel

- This section explores the links between transport and travel and health. These links are both positive (incidental exercise through active modes of transport, such as walking and cycling) and negative (air pollution, noise and road traffic accidents).
- As well as impacting on health directly, transport plays an important role in driving other socio-economic drivers of health, by supporting the local economy and facilitating access to employment and essential services.
- There are excellent public transport links in both Hackney and the City of London. Car ownership is low (approximately one third of households have a car), while levels of cycling and walking are high (walking is the most dominant form of transport in both local authority areas; levels of cycling in Hackney are the highest in London).
- Men in London are typically more likely than women to cycle, while women are slightly more likely than men to walk. There are also notable differences across London in the types of transport used by different ethnic and socio-economic groups. Locally, particular barriers to cycling have been identified among residents of social housing estates.
- The City has the highest rate of exposure to road, rail and air transport noise in the country, but there have been significant improvements over the past 10 years.
- Air pollution is also a particular problem in the City. In general, older adults and children are at increased risk of the health effects of air pollution, as too are residents of more deprived neighbourhoods.

- Around half of traffic casualties in Hackney are on roads controlled by Transport for London (TfL). The high rate of casualties in the City reflects the large daytime worker population. Across London, older residents and children (who take the fewest trips) are disproportionately the victims of road traffic accidents, and the outcomes of these accidents are more likely to be fatal in these groups. Road users from BAME groups, and people living in more socially deprived areas, are also more likely to be killed or seriously injured on the roads than average.
- Both Hackney and the City of London continue to prioritise investment in public realm improvements to enhance the local environment for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence have produced various pieces of guidance relevant to transport and health. TfL's transport and health action plan also includes recommendations on how to make the transport system healthier. A summary of this detailed guidance is provided in Section 8.6.
- Hackney has a reputation for being a cycling borough and its comprehensive Transport Strategy addresses most evidence-based recommendations for a 'healthy' transport system. The City of London's Local Plan similarly includes a range of measures to mitigate against key transport-related health risks and enhance the health-promoting aspects of the local transport system. In addition, the City's Noise Strategy aims to address the significant problems of noise pollution in the local area.

Section 9: The 'food environment'

- This section describes the elements of the food environment that influence people's choices over the food and drink they consume. These influences include the affordability, availability and desirability of different foods. Most food and drink advertising and pricing promotes unhealthy options.
- Dietary factors (along with tobacco) are the leading cause of preventable disease and death in England, contributing to growing problems of obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. Diet plays a major role in a child's development and is strongly linked to risk of tooth decay.
- In both Hackney and the City, there is a high concentration of out-of-home food outlets (including takeaways, restaurants and cafes) and relatively easy access to cheap 'unhealthy' food and drink options. There are almost 300 takeaway outlets in Hackney. In the City, such outlets mostly serve the daytime worker population.
- The cost of healthy food was cited in a local survey as the most important barrier to a better diet in adult (age 16+) Hackney residents. In the City, food prices at local outlets (including supermarkets) are often high as their main focus is daytime workers rather than local families.
- Some groups have poorer access to a healthy diet and are, therefore, at increased risk of diet-related ill health. This includes people on low incomes, households with dependent children, older people, people with disabilities and certain Black and minority ethnic communities. The proliferation of takeaways

near local secondary schools is of major concern as a risk to the health of children and young people.

- Food poverty is a growing problem nationally, with an ‘explosion’ in the number of food banks and users of foodbanks over the past 10 years. The number of people accessing foodbanks in Hackney and the City of London is unknown.
- Detailed evidence is lacking on perceptions of and attitudes to food and diet of the various communities living in Hackney and the City, on which to be able to design appropriately tailored healthy eating messages.
- Interventions to improve the local food environment are required at national and local level. Local tools available include: use of planning powers (to restrict further proliferation of takeaway outlets); work with food businesses to reformulate recipes and redesign menus; improving catering in the public sector; advice and support services to families at risk of food poverty; improving nutrition through school meals; programmes to improve food skills; and food growing schemes.
- Many of these tools are being used in Hackney and the City and other opportunities are being pursued. For example, Hackney’s Local Plan includes a policy to restrict proposals for hot food takeaways from locations in the vicinity of secondary schools. The Healthier Catering Commitment award scheme is also being rolled out across the borough, to encourage hot food takeaway outlets to adopt healthier food and cooking practices. In addition, the Eat Better, Start Better programme has been taken up by numerous early years settings, and there are various food growing schemes in operation locally.

Section 10: Community safety

- This section examines crime-related incidents and other influences on community safety, highlighting some of the most direct impacts on the health and wellbeing of those affected. It covers levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related incidents, gang involvement and violence against women and girls (including domestic violence).
- Experience, and fear, of crime has wide-reaching physical and mental health consequences for local residents, victims, families, witnesses and perpetrators. At the same time, mental health problems and exposure to related health risks (such as drug and alcohol misuse) increase the likelihood of someone committing a crime.
- Crime, anti-social behaviour and violence do not affect everyone in the same way. For example:
 - people with disabilities and mental illness, and also people from ethnic minority groups, are more likely to be victims of crime
 - social deprivation and mental illness are both associated with increased risk of being a victim (and perpetrator) of domestic violence, with women more likely to be victims than men
 - intimate partner violence and domestic abuse affect gay, lesbian and bisexual people disproportionately

- alcohol-related ambulance call-outs are most common among men and younger age groups (under 35)
- in general, gang membership is predominately made up of boys and young men, with the higher representation of members from Black/Black British communities believed to reflect the over-representation of these groups in deprived areas (where gangs are more prevalent).
- Levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Hackney are slightly higher than the London average, but overall there has been a decrease in the level of crime in recent years. In the City of London, crime levels are generally low and many crimes are committed by visitors (the visitor population is much larger than the small resident population). Reflecting the relatively high rates of cycling locally (see 'Transport and travel' section), incidents of bicycle theft are quite high – this has been identified as a strategic priority in both areas, with some success already realised in the City.
- In general, perceptions of community safety are quite high in both Hackney and the City.
- Noise and nuisance neighbours are commonly reported problems. The rate of complaints about noise in Hackney and the City is higher than the London or national average. A local survey also identified the impact of the night-time economy to be of particular concern to Hackney residents. Findings from this same survey suggest that the majority of anti-social behaviour incidents are not reported. In Hackney, the Troubled Families programme helps to tackle criminal and anti-social behaviour through a whole families approach.
- Over the past 15 years, alcohol-related incidents have increased significantly in both local authority areas, which may be linked to the growth of licensed premises over this period (but may also be due to improved data recording, population growth and/or easier access to cheaper alcohol). A significant proportion of these incidents in Hackney are in Hoxton East and Shoreditch.
- The estimated local costs of domestic violence are considerable. As elsewhere, it is likely that domestic violence is significantly under-reported locally – only a very small proportion of cases are thought to be reported to the police.
- Gang-related crime is also believed to be under-reported to authorities. While only affecting a small proportion of local young people, youth crime and gang involvement can have a substantial and detrimental impact on participants' wellbeing and that of their family and friends.
- Current evidence and good practice relevant to preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and youth crime involving gangs is also described in this section. The section concludes with an overview of the wide range of partnerships, programmes and interventions in place in Hackney and the City of London to tackle crime and community safety at the local level - including many strongly evidence-based and innovative approaches.