

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

The Leader's video this week celebrates the achievements of the borough's youngsters on their A-Level and GCSE results, highlighting the many successes and the borough's excellent results.

He mentions concerns about news of increasing measles cases across London and the risk of children going back to school may lead to potentially more cases, so he is advising parents to check and make sure their children get the MMR vaccination.

The Leader ends with advice on how parents can book the vaccine for their children.

Parents can find out more [here](#).



Barking and Dagenham Resident's Survey 2023

Every year the council conducts a resident's survey to find out what residents think about the council, its services and the local area.

The Resident's Survey 2023 opens from 11 September to 8 October and will be available to complete on the council's consultation and engagement website One Borough Voice.

To ensure statistical accuracy, we have a target sample size of 1,100

responses. We will be sending letters to 6,000 households across the borough, selected at random, inviting them to respond.

However, residents who have not received an invitation will also have an opportunity to provide feedback. We will be advertising the survey on our website, social media channels and in locations across the borough.

Once the survey closes, the results will be weighted to make it representative of the borough's demographics.

The detailed findings will be available from January 2024, and the results shared with all services to help make improvements and direct resources at the issues that matter the most to our residents. The information we gather will also identify where further consultation and engagement may be needed.

The results for previous year's surveys can be found on the Council's website [Council performance | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/council-performance).

We have also published a frequently asked questions page on the intranet to help you answer any questions residents may have [here](#).

For further information contact the Strategy Team at ce-strategy@lbbd.gov.uk.



Result! Students celebrate their GCSE and A-Level results

Students across the borough celebrated another year of excellent GCSE and A-Level results despite an expected national decline in average grades.

For GCSEs, almost half (48.9%) of students achieved grade 5 – 9 in English and Maths – well above the 2019 England national average. The results are up by just under 6% compared to 2019 – the last time exams were set without special arrangements before Covid hit. We visited a few schools on the big day to hear from some of our borough's students – [take a look here](#).

For A-Levels, A* - B grades were up by 13% compared to 2019. For A* - C grades, Barking and Dagenham is above the national average at 78.6%, an improvement of 11.4% compared to 2019. We caught up with some of our local students on the day – [check it out here](#).

The poster features a teal and blue color scheme. On the right, there is a circular cutout of a young boy with dark hair wearing a blue t-shirt. The NHS logo is in the top right corner. The main title is in large white text on a teal background. Below the title, there are two paragraphs of white text on a teal background. At the bottom, there is a dark blue bar with a white link and the Barking & Dagenham logo.

Measles cases in London are rising

The virus is highly contagious and can cause severe disease which can result in complications and even death.

There is no cure and the MMR vaccination is the best protection.

Book your vaccination at lbbd.gov.uk/measles

Barking & Dagenham

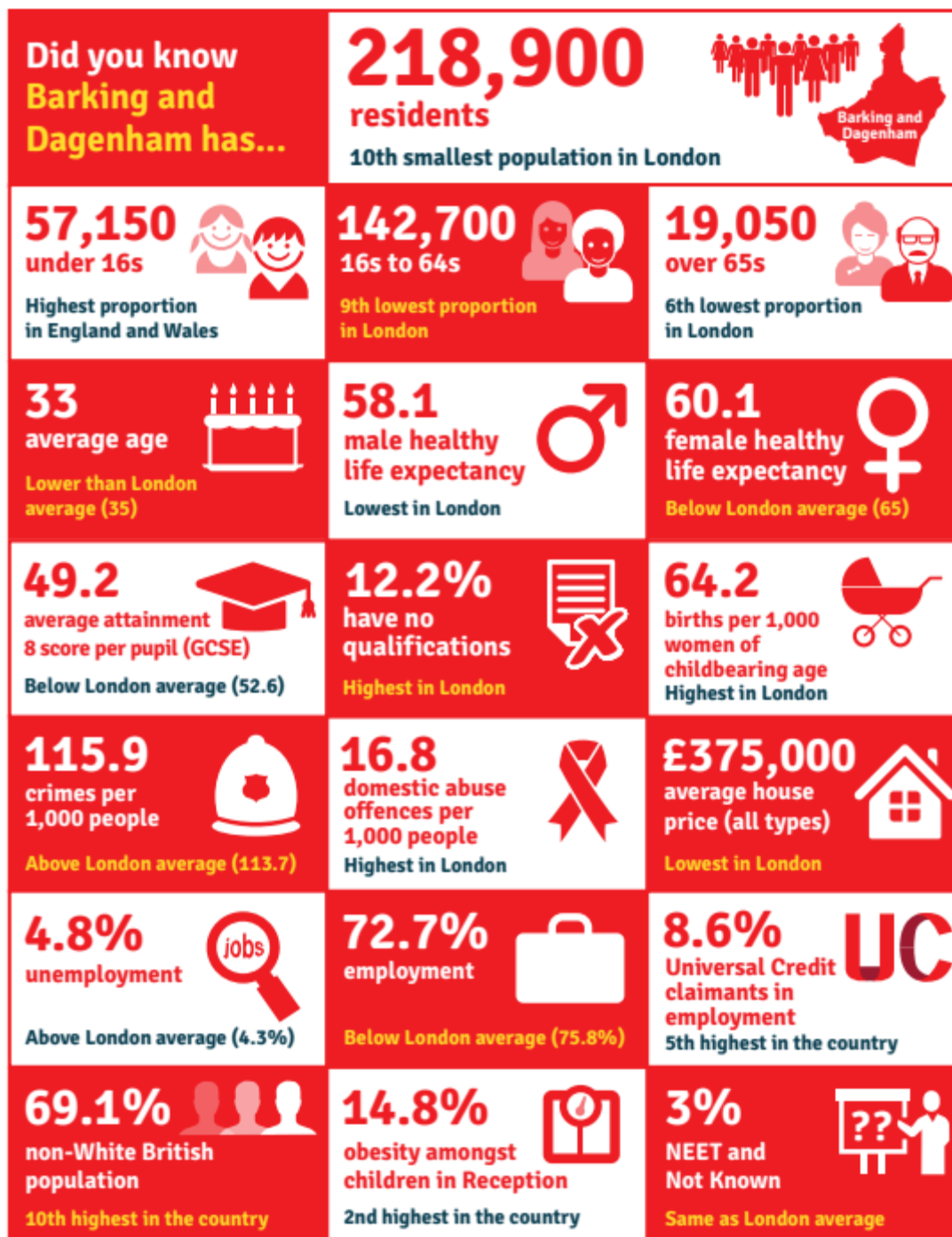
Rise in measles cases in London

There has been an increase in the number of cases of measles in London. Measles is highly contagious and can result in serious disease and even death.

There is no cure, and the MMR vaccination is the best protection.

It's important that children have two doses of the MMR. Schools are due to return this week, and we are likely to see an increase in cases.

Residents can find out how to book a vaccine for their child at a time and place that works for them by visiting lbbd.gov.uk/measles.



About the borough

Did you know that Barking and Dagenham has 218, 900 residents, making it the borough with the 10th smallest population in London, of which 57,150 are

aged under 16 – the highest proportion in England and Wales.

You can find out more borough facts and figures at www.lbbd.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/statistics-and-data/about-borough

Training updates for councillors

This week we have included details of a number of LGiU and LGA courses and events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members' Training section below.

Borough News



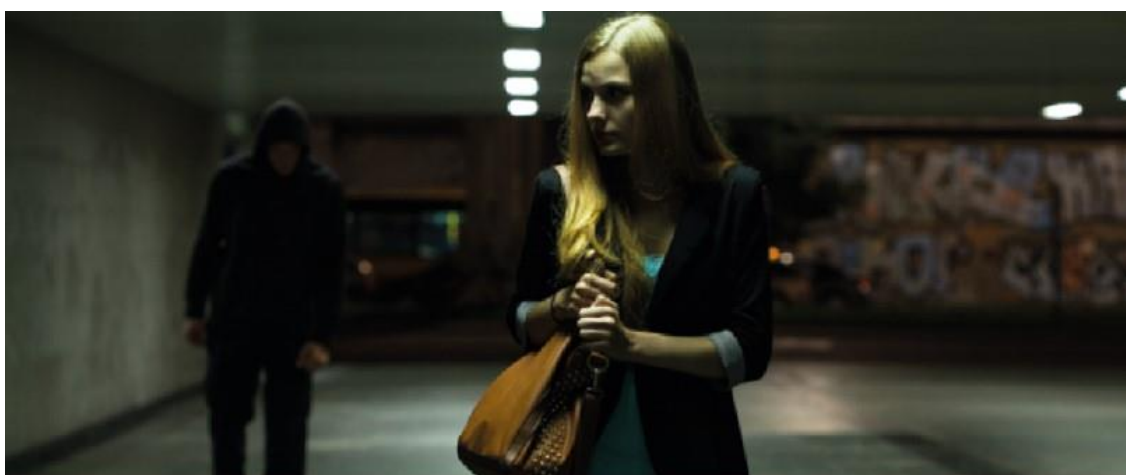
Eastbury Community Hub is now open!

Residents from the local community came along to celebrate the launch of Eastbury Community Hub on Friday 25 August and enjoyed a range of free family fun activities and demonstrations for all to enjoy.

Run by the council in partnership with local community organisation, Future M.O.L.D.S, the hub will provide a range of advice and support services for local residents and their families.

It will offer activities and services from a range of other local partners, from youth groups and sports clubs to family support and careers advice.

You can find out more about our Community Hubs [here](#).



Women's Safety Forum

**Wednesday 20 September,
6pm to 7.15pm**

If you would like to join
email csp@lbbd.gov.uk

In partnership with



Residents invited to join our Women's Safety Forum

Women's safety is a key priority for the council, and we want to understand more about any issues faced in the borough.

Residents are invited to join us on Wednesday 20 September from 6pm to 7.15pm on Microsoft Teams. Interested residents can find out more information by email to csp@lbbd.gov.uk



Cost of living survey

We're asking residents how the cost of living is affecting them so that we can improve the support on offer in Barking and Dagenham.

The survey takes just three minutes and residents who take part could be in for a chance to win £500.

Please help us spread the word – [the survey can be found here.](#)

Residents are also reminded there's a range of cost of living support available online and through our Community Hubs.

Residents can get advice, help and support with the cost of living, including money, energy, food and wellbeing support [here](#).



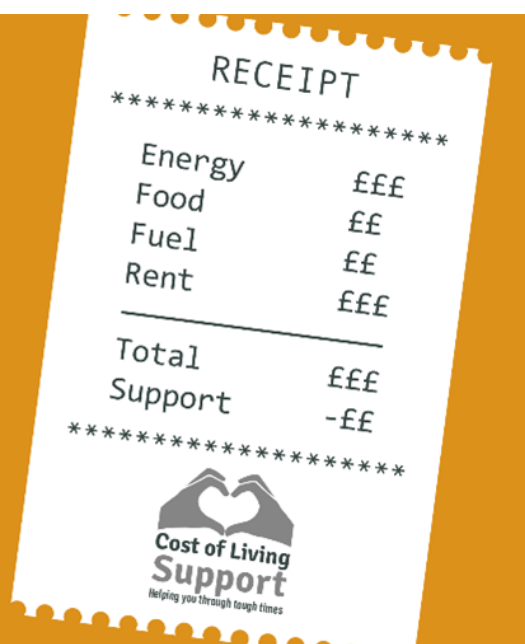
Protecting children against measles with the MMR vaccine

Residents are being reminded they can protect their children against measles through the MMR vaccine. Two doses of the vaccine provides the best protection against measles, mumps and rubella.

Measles can cause serious problems for children such as encephalitis (swelling of the brain), blindness, deafness, and intellectual disability. It is also dangerous to pregnant women and can cause miscarriage and stillbirth.

[Find out more.](#)

Cost of Living Support



Cost of living survey

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It isn't child's play – scooter dumped in Wall of Shame!

Our [grime-busting web-series](#) is back with more shocking fly-tipping caught on camera – and we need your help catching the culprits!

If you recognise someone we feature? Email grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk now so that our Enforcement Team can pay them a visit!

Around the council



Local people invited to train for a career in construction

Local residents are being offered the chance to train and get industry accredited qualifications in the construction industry.

The Barking Riverside Innovation in Construction Centre is offering residents the opportunity to train for CSCS courses. On completion, participants will be able to safely work in the construction industry.

Courses include a three-day Level 1 in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment; CSCS test and preparation ultimately leading to the award of a CSCS card. In addition, the service can also assist participants to acquire other construction industry related cards.

Interested residents can find out more by email at bric@lbbd.gov.uk or by telephone on 020 8227 2777 or 07977 017 133.



Residents invited to open a savings account today through Barking and Dagenham Money

Over £100,000 in affordable loans have so far been handed out to borough residents through our partnership with Leeds Credit Union.

The partnership aims to bring more affordable loans options and saving accounts to residents through Barking and Dagenham Money (BD Money).

The aim is to help local people become more financially resilient, keep more money in their pockets and access appropriate services to meet their financial needs and ambitions. This is not-for-profit, with all benefits staying in the community.

For residents considering opening a savings account through BD Money, it's straight-forward, hassle-free and there's also a wide range of trusted, low-interest loans available.

More information can be found at www.BDMoney.co.uk



Help and support available for residents through the Household Support Scheme

Residents who may be struggling with their finances or to make ends meet are being encouraged to get in touch.

Funding is available to vulnerable residents to support them with essentials over the coming months.

Residents can [apply online](#) or email benefits@lbbd.gov.uk.

There are also [a number of other support services](#) including:

- Our Community Food Clubs which are free of charge and can provide £20 worth of food per week for a period of either three or six months at www.lbbd.gov.uk/community-food-clubs
- Our money and debt webpages provide an income and expenditure calculator and budgeting tools that will help people understand how much money they have coming in and how much is going out, helping

them look at areas where they can make savings at

www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt

- Residents who are worried about their finances and need help to tackle debt can now get advice and support from our local Barking and Dagenham Money website at: www.bdmoney.co.uk
- People struggling with increasing energy costs should contact their energy supplier about possible funds they may be entitled to, to help them through difficult periods. They can also access the Warm Homes Grant at www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme
- People with disabilities who aren't claiming specific disability benefits may be able to take advantage of a number of benefits available, including Personal Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance (for children), and Universal Credit. For those caring for someone with disabilities they may be able to claim Carer's Allowance although this is means tested, at www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/disability-and-sickness-benefits
- People with a water meter who are experiencing financial difficulties may want to look into the Watersure scheme at www.ofwat.gov.uk/households/customer-assistance. Most water companies also have a fund to help those who are struggling, and it might be worth contacting their water provider.
- People who are out of work and looking to get into employment can get help and support from our Job Shops at www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work
- Anyone worried about a lack of skills can find courses and support on the Adult College website at <https://adultcollege.lbbd.gov.uk/>
- Residents who need help with emergency living expenses for food, fuel (gas and electric for customers who pay via a key meter), travel expenses and household appliances and/or clothing in exceptional circumstances can apply for help from our Hardship Fund (Individual Assistance Payment) at <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/discretionary-hardship-support/discretionary-financial-support-schemes>.

Residents can also contact our Homes and Money Hubs which are open for a drop in at Barking Learning Centre Community Hub and Dagenham Library

Community Hub from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday or via email at:
homesandmoneyhub@lbbd.gov.uk.



Jobs and training opportunities available from our Job Shops

Residents who need help and support to get into work can visit our Job Shops.

Jobs and training opportunities are advertised on the website every Monday, and residents can register with the service by completing the [online form](#). They will then be contacted by a member of staff.

Alternatively, residents can contact the shops by telephone: Dagenham Job Shop – 020 8724 8877; Barking Job Shop – 020 8724 8870.

For details of jobs available every week, residents can visit www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work.

Local Government News

Homeless situation requires urgent action at national level

London Councils has responded to [new research from the charity Crisis](#), revealing that nearly a quarter of a million households across England are experiencing homelessness.

This aligns with London Councils' [own research released last month](#) which showed that one in 50 Londoners are now homeless.

[London Councils' Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing & Planning, Cllr Darren Rodwell said](#): "The homelessness situation is fast becoming disastrous and requires urgent action from the government at a national level.

"There are at least 143,000 potential new homes we could be building immediately in London if the government addressed the barriers to delivery, including by providing additional infrastructure and affordable housing grant funding.

"We cannot afford to delay – this is an emergency situation needing an emergency response."

Stay in touch with progress on London's Climate Programme

London Councils is publishing a series of blogs that spotlight some of the work going on across London's boroughs to deliver London Councils' Climate Programme.

The climate programme covers every area London needs to achieve net zero, which includes:

- **Retrofitting** our buildings to make them cheaper to heat and reduce their impact on the environment;
- Increasing the number of Londoners employed in the **green economy**;
- Ramping up **local renewable power**;
- Ensuring that all **new developments have a minimal carbon footprint**;
- Advancing **low carbon transport**;
- Working with residents and businesses to reduce their **consumption-based emissions**;
- Developing the **resilience London needs to cope with the extreme weather events** that come more frequently and severely with climate change.

The most recent blog, posted by Hounslow Council's Head of Net Zero Neighbourhoods and Green Economy, Steven Wilding, explains how 'Heston in the Loop' is helping to provide a range of circular services for the neighbourhood, including free food growing and composting sessions, repair cafes and workshops, eco-refill stations, and apps that support a zero-waste sharing economy. [You can read Steven's blog here.](#)

London in Brief events

Councillors are invited to register for an upcoming London in Brief event.

On Wednesday 13 September, **Cllr Claire Holland, London Councils' Executive Member for Communities (Welfare, Empowerment and Inclusion)**, will host an event that will explore the Borough of Sanctuary movement, part of a national initiative to create a network of towns and cities throughout the UK that are proud to be places of safety and inclusion for people seeking sanctuary. Speakers will include Helena McGinty, LB Lambeth, Operations Manager, and Head of Asylum Support and Maggie Filipova-Rivers from City of Sanctuary. [Members can register to attend the online event here.](#)

The London in Brief online events are designed exclusively for councillors and feature a broad range of London issues. You can find out more about the

London in Brief events at www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/events

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 1 September – [Data reveals 781% rise in homeless families staying in B&Bs longer than legal limit](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Landlord Today, 1 September – [Landlord repays thousands in rent after second incident in seven months](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 1 September – [When is Wilko closing down and how many branches are in London?](#) Mentions Barking

LBC Radio, 31 August – [Schizophrenic man who believed he was the 'King of Africa' killed his mother for 'cursing him with black magic'](#). Mentions Dagenham.

National World, 31 August – [The UK's smoking hotspots revealed as medical director links coughing to COPD](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Guardian, 29 August – [Homeless families evicted as landlords quit London emergency housing sector](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

BBC, 29 August – [Harben House: Plan to house migrants at convicted criminal's hotel stopped](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

DNYUZ, 28 August – [London housing crunch leaves 1-in-10 living in overcrowded space](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Local Authority Building & Maintenance, 25 August – [Homelessness 'is an emergency situation needing an emergency response' – London Councils responds to Crisis report](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Sport Parks & Leisure, 25 August – [Alliance Leisure awarded £13m to develop new sports facility in Barking.](#)

Media Releases

[Protect your children against measles with the MMR vaccine.](#)

[Barking and Dagenham GCSE students celebrate results.](#)

[Cigarette thrown from car window ends up costing nearly £650.](#)

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[Strategic Thinking](#): Wednesday 6 September, 10am to 3pm (Online)

Creative, strategic thinking is massively important to a politically led and fast-changing organisation. That's why we're taking you beyond the buzzwords and confusing jargon to focus on how to think strategically and apply that mindset to a coherent vision for your organisation's future. Get the tools you need to influence your team and implement your plans in this highly interactive training session.

[Make a difference as a Councillor](#): Tuesday 12 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

This interactive workshop will give you some of the tricks of the trade from an experienced councillor and democratic services officer and leave you with actions to make a difference for your community. This workshop will also help you keep hold of the bigger picture and achieve your goals for your community.

Scrutiny: Wednesday 27 September, 9.30am to 11.30am (Online)

Asking questions and actively listening is, of course, a crucial skill for elected members. But this is most intensely highlighted when it comes to scrutiny, probing, and questioning in a local authority. This engaging training will keep you on the edge of your seat in anticipation while providing comprehensive tools and frameworks to implement moving forward.

Managing casework: Thursday 28 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

Sustainably carrying out multiple roles and working with a variety of people requires resilience and a healthy work-life balance.

Personal resilience is about maintaining a sense of well-being, being mentally strong, effectively meeting different demands and performing at one's best on behalf of individuals, and communities as well as being an effective leader. This is a very practical seminar that will provide each participant with methods and helpful ideas to manage the pressures they face and enable them to be able to maximise the positive aspects of being an elected member.

Training from Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA are offering the following session:

Recycling fit for the future: Monday 18 September, 2.30pm to 4pm

Local flexibility is key to effective waste and recycling services. Catering for people in urban areas with many flats will require a different approach to rural, less populated communities. With this in mind, this session will look ahead to the implementation of government's reform of recycling services (the consistent collection framework for households and businesses), the new extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging, and the deposit return scheme for drinks containers. It will look at practical ways to increase participation in recycling schemes and consider what needs to be done to tackle the "hard to recycle" items in household waste. This will require viable end markets for materials that are not currently recycled at scale, such as flexible plastics.

One to One Development Sessions

The LGA are offering councillors the opportunity to have one-to-one development conversations with one of the Leadership Academy Facilitators. This will be available to councillors in leadership positions for the next three months. These sessions are not political and will be provided by tutors from the LGA's Leadership Academy programme who a number of councillors might have met from participation on the programmes. They will be focussed on helping councillors adapt their personal leadership style through three structured coaching calls. For more information, please contact Leanna McPherson at: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk
If you are interested in joining any or all of these courses, please email: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk or lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk

The LGA also offers help for new Councillors via the New Councillor Hub, which can be found [here](#).

And finally...

The Members' Briefing is intended to keep you up to date with what is going on in the council, in the borough and in the world of local government. Please email von.edomi@lbbd.gov.uk if you have any suggestions on items for inclusion in future bulletins and any feedback you may have on how it can be improved.

