

Tackling the cost-of-living crisis



Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022



**Barnsley – the place
of possibilities.**



BARN斯LEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

We all know about the cost-of-living crisis, its unavoidable. People are struggling to provide daily essentials such as food and keeping themselves warm. Our **Public Health Annual Report 2022** shows the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on people in Barnsley and how we have responded to help people through this most difficult time.



Our wages are not increasing at the same rate as the cost of everyday living. This is hitting all groups and on average means that an employed Barnsley person has **£101 a month less** in their pockets.

With less income to spend, we have less money to save. This means that we cannot save for unexpected bills, which leaves us even more vulnerable to financial pressures.



**Drop in
income**



**Rise in
inflation**



**A small decrease
in income can
make a significant
impact.**



94% increase
in the cost of food.



82% increase
in gas or electricity.



77% increase
in the cost of petrol and diesel.

Current position in Barnsley

69.1%

Working age residents in employment.



28.1%

Economically 'Inactive' of which **32.5%** are long-term sick.



16.9%

adults are identified as having debts that overtake their income.



24.5%

Children in relative low income families.



27.3%

pupils eligible for Free School Meals.



19.2%

Households in fuel poverty.



26,653

People claiming Universal Credit of which **38%** are in work.



11.5%

of population claiming Local Council Tax support.



11%

of households experiencing hunger.



- Most adults are **spending less** on non-essentials.
- Most adults are using **less fuel** such as gas or electricity in their home.
- Around one in 50 adults reported that they are **using support from charities including foodbanks.**

Impact

Reduced ability to access health care.



People living in poverty may make decisions that are **damaging for their health** in the longer term.



Tooth decay, obesity rates and diabetes are **set to get worse** if **food poverty** is not addressed.



Increase in the levels of **stress and anxiety**.



Increase in **mental health disorders, suicide and domestic abuse**.



Living in cold, damp, and unsafe homes can affect people's physical health and can increase the risk of ill health, injury or dying. Cold weather increases the risk of **heart attacks, strokes, respiratory conditions, flu, and falls**.



Pressures in cost of transport and fuel may prevent people from using key prevention services like attending **ante natal visits, vaccination and child immunisations or accessing screening**.



Our response to helping people through the cost-of-living crisis

We've really seen Barnsley **pull together over the last two years**, and we hope that this will continue.

We have a **borough-wide commitment** with our partners to support people through this period of uncertainty and in the longer term.



We can help you get the **financial support, information and advice** you need.



20% of the Barnsley population have visited our More Money in Your Pocket webpage as of December 2022.



We have provided support to help people stay **warm and well**.



Since **September 2022**, we have allocated **£1,150,000 to community organisations** to help people through the cost-of-living crisis.

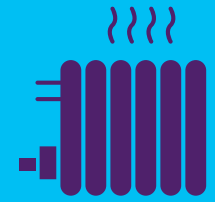
The money is being used to help people in lots of different ways.



Food



Hygiene



Fuel



MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

We have also developed services to help people in the long term.

Here are some of the schemes we have in place:

Community Shops

The shops are not just about food. They prepare people for work, offer volunteering and work placements, education through training and personal development and connect people to their communities.

[Click here](#) to find out more about Community Shops.



Community Shop On The Go

Bringing high quality, affordable food to people in their communities. It will provide affordable food from partner Ocado, along with cooking demonstrations, recipes, and advice.



Storehouse and Field

A community hub providing affordable food, food-related events, such as community lunches, cooking demonstrations and courses along with support and advice. [Click here](#) to find out more about Storehouse and Field.



Healthy Holidays

Providing a range of healthy holidays clubs that keep children active and fed throughout the school holidays. [Click here](#) to find out more about Healthy Holidays.



Warm homes

Funding boilers, first-time heating and improving property standards to help people keep warm. [Click here](#) to find out more about Warm Homes.



Rose Voucher Scheme

Helps families on low incomes to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. [Click here](#) to find out more about the Rose Voucher Scheme.



The difference support means to local people

“

We are one of the families that benefitted from your kind donation to **Station House** a couple of weeks ago and wanted to write to you to express our thanks. Like many families, we are feeling the impact of the cost-of-living price rises. We decided to use part of the voucher to purchase an air fryer; we have considered one before as a means of reducing the cost of cooking for a family but have struggled to find room in the budget for the initial outlay. Your gift has enabled us to reduce our ongoing energy costs, which is considerably helpful in the current climate. It is really nice to be reminded that there are people out there who want to help to do good; and it is our hope that one day we will be in a position to pay that forward in much the same way.



”

“

Feedback received following support from **Oakwell Rise Academy**:

I'm very happy for the help we received today and over the school holiday, it helped my family a lot and was very easy to use at the shop.



”

Healthy Holidays

What the parents said:

“

Lovely, friendly staff. Lots of activities for children, educational and fun for them, happy kids.

“

Deneka has been full of stories to tell and made lots of new friends. She would love to do more holiday clubs.

“

My son (age 5) took part in the nature detective activity at Worsbrough Mill. He enjoyed all the activities which were varied, appropriate and well supervised. The activities included arts and crafts, stories, games, and outdoor activities. The summer scheme was very helpful in keeping him occupied during the long holiday. The food was also fresh and nutritious. Many thanks.

“

Neekas really enjoyed this week!

What the children said:

“

Today I enjoyed making pictures, new friends and collages.

“

Today I enjoyed painting and I enjoyed bird watching.

“

Today I enjoyed painting my bug house and making my rubbings.



Keeping homes warm

Gillian, a homeowner in Barnsley in her 80s, lived with a number of health conditions including skin cancer and a broken back.

Gillian and her husband, who recently moved into a care home, had lived with solid fuel heating for many years. As the couple's health had declined, they found it harder and harder to manage solid fuel heating: "I broke my back and what not", Gillian said, "and we couldn't get down to [the fire]. We couldn't even get the ashes out, so I had to stop the coal being delivered because it was piling up." As a result, "the house was freezing ... I was freezing, and I got pneumonia."

Gillian was admitted to hospital in early 2020 with severe pneumonia. While in hospital, Barnsley Council's Warm Homes team began working with Gillian and supported her to apply for a replacement gas central heating system which was installed after she was discharged from hospital.

The central heating system has greatly benefitted Gillian. "It's been the best thing, that gas central heating; it's lovely". Her bills have reduced too and being able to be warm at home has had a significant impact on how she copes with her illnesses.

She is still unwell, but she now finds it much easier to manage. In her own words: "my health's not good, but it is better, it is better, you know. I'm not frightened of the winter now because I've got a warm house".



Final thoughts from Julia

We all need to step up to support those most affected in the borough. This includes employers looking at how they can support their staff and the government considering its response to key issues such as childcare.

We're optimistic though. We're proud of our partnerships in Barnsley, built on trusted relationships and honest conversations. We've worked hard to offer grants to community groups who have raised to the challenge. We couldn't have done this without the partnerships we have in place, and we thank every one of the community groups and organisations that continue to work tirelessly to support those who need it most.

The excellent work of the council, our partners, and the community and voluntary sector has been impressively responsive to the need we're seeing. We want our borough to be a place where we minimise the need for such extraordinary efforts because our residents already have decent incomes, good jobs, and warm homes.

Our Barnsley 2030 ambitions bring partners working across Barnsley together in recognising Barnsley as a place of possibilities where we can achieve this.



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