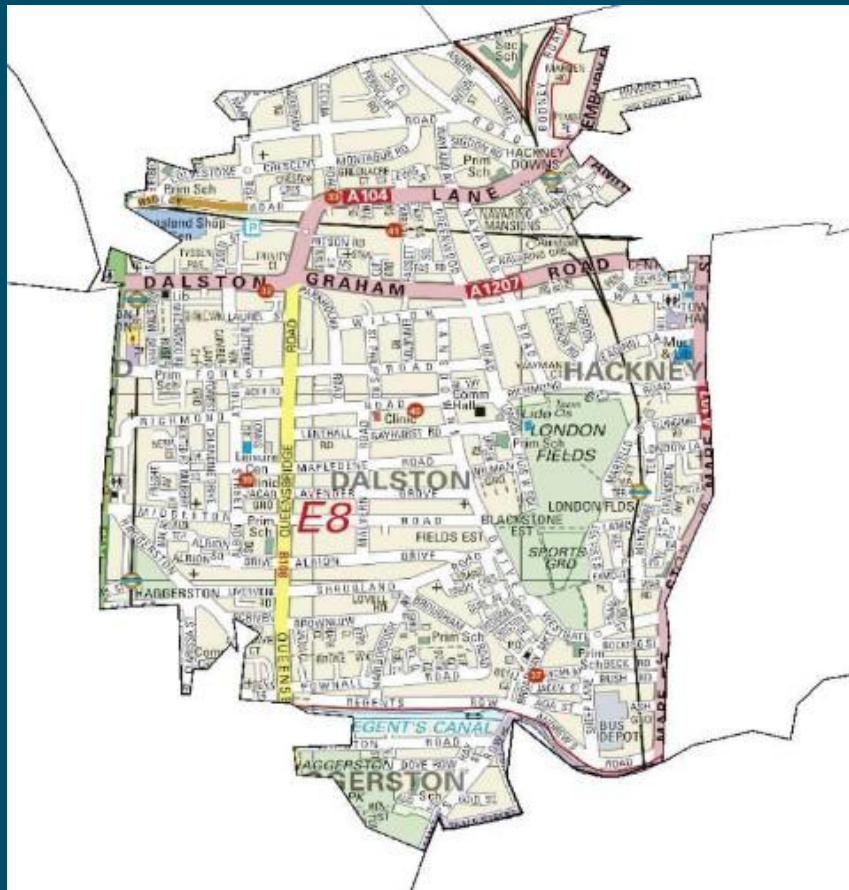




London Fields Neighbourhood Insight Report 2025



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Citizens Advice Hackney
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Neighbourhoods way of working

The Neighbourhoods way of working brings together residents, health and care services, local authorities and community organisations to improve the health and well-being of people living in Hackney and the City of London. It ensures that services work for local people by putting residents at the heart of decision-making.

Each of the eight Neighbourhoods in City and Hackney has its own strengths and challenges. We listen to residents, gather insights and work with partners to shape health and care services around the needs of local people. By focusing on what matters most to communities, we can help tackle health inequalities and strengthen (hyper)-local support networks.

By bringing people and services together, we aim to foster practical changes that improve access to services and enhance residents' quality of life.

2025 Update: Neighbourhoods Staff Handbook

The City & Hackney Neighbourhood Staff Handbook has recently been launched as a new resource to support staff in understanding and implementing place-based working within the Northeast London Integrated Care System (NEL ICS). The handbook includes useful insights, practical toolkits, frameworks, case studies, and evidence-based research from pilots, surveys, and resident engagement.

The handbook's content is structured around the Three Pillars of Neighbourhood Working:

- **Resident at the Centre**
- **Working Together**
- **Knowing Your Neighbourhood**

For further information, please contact Angela Clarke (angela.clarke70@nhs.net).

Purpose of this Insight Report

Produced annually by Healthwatch Hackney, the Neighbourhoods Insight Reports highlight key health and care issues affecting residents across Hackney and the City of London.

Commissioned by the Central Neighbourhoods Team, these reports bring together quantitative data, qualitative insights and case studies of local residents' experiences to help build a better understanding of health and well-being at the Neighbourhood level.

By highlighting key challenges, strengths and opportunities for collaboration, these insights aim to support Neighbourhood teams, service providers and local decision-makers in shaping services that better meet residents' needs.

About Healthwatch Hackney

Healthwatch Hackney is part of a national network of local Healthwatch organisations across England, dedicated to amplifying the voices of residents and service users. We listen to people's experiences—both positive and negative—of health and social care services and ensure their feedback reaches those with the power to create meaningful change.

As an independent champion for Hackney residents, our mission is to improve health and social care services and outcomes. We achieve this by making sure the voices of local people are heard, influencing decision-makers and working collaboratively to shape better services for everyone in the borough.

Content (select a title to jump to it)

Acknowledgements:	1
Neighbourhoods way of working	1
2025 Update: Neighbourhoods Staff Handbook	1
Purpose of this Insight Report	2
About Healthwatch Hackney	2
Content	3
Summary	5
Glossary	6
Introduction	7
Who lives in London Fields?	7
Summary of key Neighbourhood demographic statistics	8
Health outcomes in London Fields	11
Long-Term Health Conditions in London Fields	11
Shared caseloads and high-intensity users	13
Confidence in managing long-term conditions	14
Contact with a health care professional	15
Support from local services	16
Conversations with health care professionals Vs perceived support for LTCs	17
Health inequalities	17
Children and young people	17
Older people in London Fields	20
Case Study – Digital access and health management with LTCs in London Fields	23
General population in London Fields	24
Language Barriers	29
Barriers to GP registration in Hackney	30
Citizen's Advice	30
Access to health services and support	33

Access to mental health services	33
London Fields: Residents' mental health experiences.....	34
Availability of mental health services.....	35
Mental health service demand across Neighbourhoods	36
Barriers to mental health services access	36
Alternative routes to mental health support	37
Access to GP services	37
Barriers to GP access.....	38
Comparing datasets – IPSOS MORI Vs Healthwatch Hackney.....	41
Additional roles reimbursement scheme (ARRS).....	41
Access to sexual and reproductive health services (SRH)	42
Young People's Access to SRH Services	44
Access to pharmacy services.....	47
Sexual Health Community Pharmacy Project.....	48
Access to Adult Social Care.....	48
Access to Community Rehabilitation Services	51
Multidisciplinary Team Meetings in City and Hackney.....	52
Neighbourhood Assets in London Fields	54
Community hall hire	55
Community Health Champions.....	57
Social prescribing	58
London Fields VCS Services.....	60
Social Housing Providers in London Fields.....	62
Conclusion.....	63
Neighbourhood Challenges and Opportunities	64
Supporting Resident Engagement in City & Hackney Neighbourhoods	66

Summary

Hackney and the City of London are home to diverse and vibrant communities, each with distinct health and social care needs. At the Neighbourhood level, variations in demographic makeup, health outcomes and access to services are evident.

This report highlights key statistics and trends for London Fields Neighbourhood, drawing attention to differences compared to other Neighbourhoods. It integrates quantitative data from various sources, as well as insights from local Neighbourhood teams and feedback from Healthwatch Hackney's engagement with residents.

In addition to service data and resident experiences, the report also explores local assets, focusing on the role of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in addressing health inequalities and supporting residents. By combining data with lived experience, this Insight Report aims to inform service planning, policy decisions and community-driven solutions to improve health and well-being in London Fields.

Glossary

Acronym	Title	Description
ASC	Adult Social Care	Support provided by different organisations to help people stay independent, safe and well.
ASQ	Ages and Stages Questionnaire	A developmental and social-emotional screening for children between birth and age 6.
BMI	Body Mass Index	A measure of body weight compared to height.
GP	General practitioner	GPs treat common medical conditions and refer patients to hospitals and other medical services for urgent and specialist treatment.
MDM	Multi-disciplinary meetings	Regular meetings between different health care professionals to discuss individual patients.
NEET	Not in education, employment or training	Young people aged 16 to 24 years who are not education, employment or training.
NEL	North-East London	NEL covers eight local authorities in London: Barking & Dagenham, City of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.
NHS	National Health Service	The publicly funded healthcare systems of the United Kingdom.
PCN	Primary care network	Group of GP practices, community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital and voluntary services in a geographical area. There is one PCN in each Neighbourhood.
VCS	Voluntary and community sector	The VCS also referred to as the third sector includes organisations such as charities, social enterprises, not-for-profit organisations and voluntary and community organisation whose primary purpose is not profit driven.
PMI	Patient Master Index	A dataset that records information on patients registered at GP practices, including demographic details and diagnosed conditions, particularly in Primary Care. It provides insights into population health trends and service usage within a specific area.

Introduction

The London Borough of Hackney and the City of London form a single NHS health and care system, made up of eight Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Each area has its own characteristics and health needs. The eight Neighbourhoods in City & Hackney share their names and geographical boundaries with these PCNs. While structurally aligned, each Neighbourhood has distinct demographic profiles, health outcomes and levels of access to services.

In this report, the term *Neighbourhood* (with a capital 'N') refers not only to a geographical area but also to the wider network of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, resident groups and professionals working together to improve local health and well-being.

It is hoped that the insights in this report will help Neighbourhood teams identify key characteristics of each City and Hackney Neighbourhood. This will support efforts to ensure that services and priorities better reflect the needs of local residents.

In this report, we look at the London Fields Neighbourhood, its population profile, health outcomes and inequalities, access to services and key Neighbourhood assets. We end with recommendations for how Neighbourhood working could improve population health in London Fields.

Who lives in London Fields?

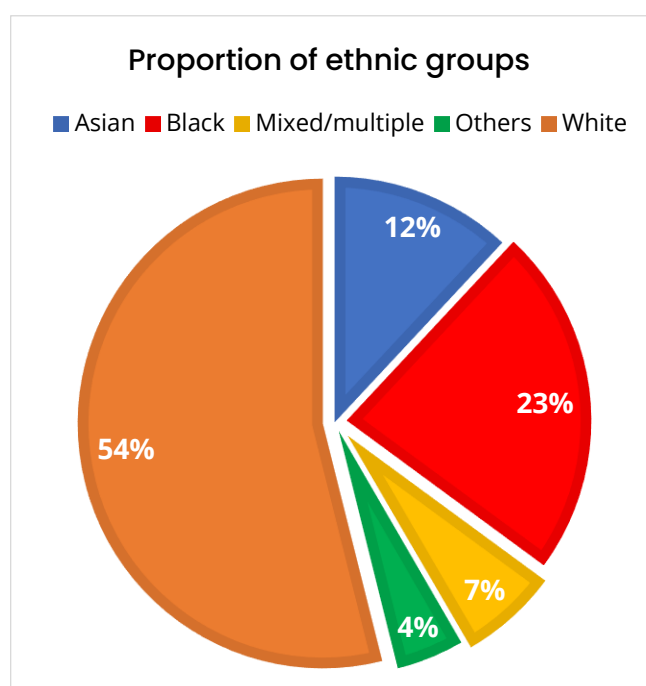
London Fields is a diverse Neighbourhood, with a particularly high number of younger adults. Almost half (45%) of the population is aged 25–39, which is in line with several other Neighbourhoods across City and Hackney. Children make up a smaller proportion of the local population, with just 14% aged under 18, and older adults (aged 65 and over) account for 6% of residents.

Digital exclusion may be more common here than in other Neighbourhoods: 21% of residents are likely to be rare or infrequent users of the internet. 78% of residents speak English as their main language, slightly below the Hackney average of 81%, and 5% either cannot speak English or cannot speak it well (see below table and graphs).

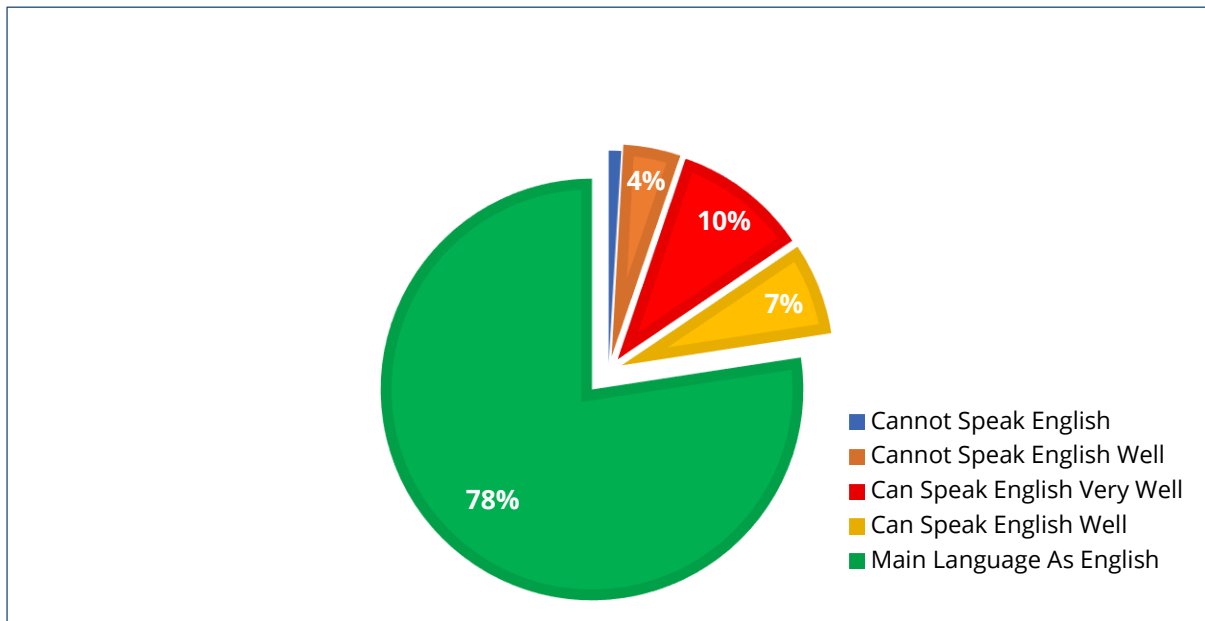
Summary of key Neighbourhood demographic statistics

The Neighbourhood has a high percentage of young adults aged under 40 years old. Similar to many other Neighbourhoods.	45% of the Neighbourhood population is aged 25 – 39 years old
The percentage of children aged under 18 is slightly higher than the majority of Neighbourhoods	1% of the population is aged under 18 years old
Neighbourhood has similar percentage of older people to other 8 Neighbourhoods	6% of the population is aged over 65 years old.
Digital inequalities are likely to be higher than in the other Neighbourhoods.	21% of residents likely to be rare or infrequent users of the internet.
Lower level of English proficiency in Neighbourhood compared to Hackney average.	78% of residents speak English as their main language 5% of residents cannot speak English or cannot speak English well.

Source: NEL Health and Care Partnership, Baseline Needs Assessment (Aug 2022)



Source: Breakdown of Ethnicity in the Neighbourhood, NEL Health and Care Partnership, Baseline Needs Assessment (August 2022)

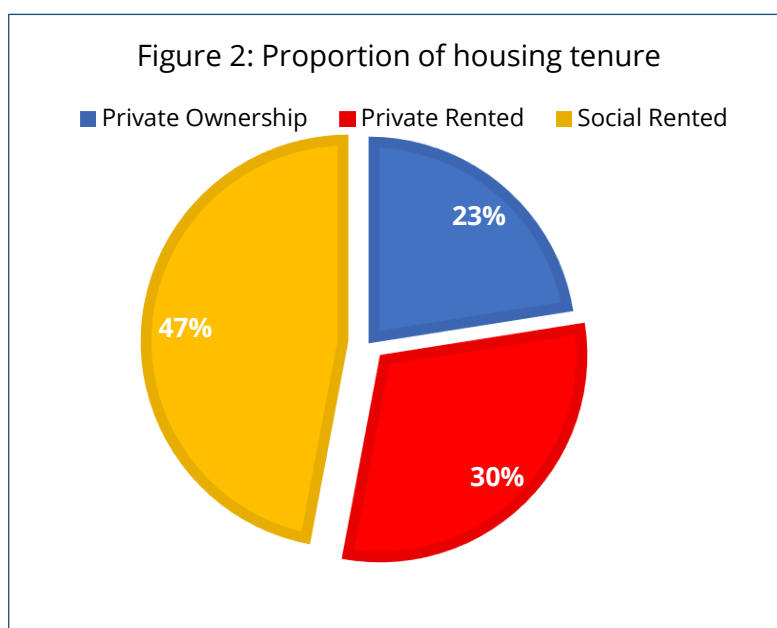


Source: English Proficiency in the Neighbourhood, NEL Health and Care Partnership, Baseline Needs Assessment (August 2022)

In London Fields Neighbourhood, 78% of residents stated that their main language was English, while about 5% reported having limited proficiency in English, either not speaking it at all or not speaking it well. This is in line with the Hackney average, where 80.1% of people speak English as their main language and 4.8% report limited proficiency ([ONS, 2021](#)).

According to the 2021 Census, 80.1% of Hackney residents speak English as their main language. Of the rest, 15% speak it well or very well, while 4.0% have poor English skills and 0.8% speak no English at all.

Residents in London Fields are less proficient than the borough average and may be more likely to need information and services in other languages. Healthwatch England's [Lost for words](#) report (2022) highlights inadequate interpreting provision nationally, with some patients turning to private services to communicate effectively.



Source: Breakdown of housing tenure, NEL Health and Care Partnership, Baseline Needs Assessment August 2022

London Fields Neighbourhood has one of the lowest rates of home ownership across the eight Neighbourhoods. Nearly three quarters of residents live in either social rented or private rented accommodation.

Some of these residents will experience poor-quality housing. This includes high housing costs contributing to poverty, fuel poverty, overcrowding, disrepair, safety hazards, a lack of accessible accommodation, damp and mould, energy inefficiency and a high proportion of residents in temporary housing. Beyond these physical conditions, residents have also highlighted the significant psychological toll of struggling to secure suitable housing.

The [Health and Housing Impact Network](#) addresses the link between poor housing and health inequalities, supporting professionals through place-based and Neighbourhood-level approaches. In 2023, it launched the [Housing and Integrated Care Programme](#) to strengthen collaboration between housing, health and social care. The network provides [resources](#), [training](#) and peer-learning to tackle housing-related health issues. More details are available on the [Future of London](#) website.

Health outcomes in London Fields

Long-Term Health Conditions in London Fields

About 15 million people in England have a long-term condition (LTC). Long-term conditions or chronic diseases are conditions for which there is currently no cure and which are managed with drugs and other treatments.

LTCs are more prevalent in older people (58% of people over 60 compared to 14% under 40) and in more deprived groups (people in the poorest social class have a 60% higher prevalence than those in the richest social class with 30% more severe disease).

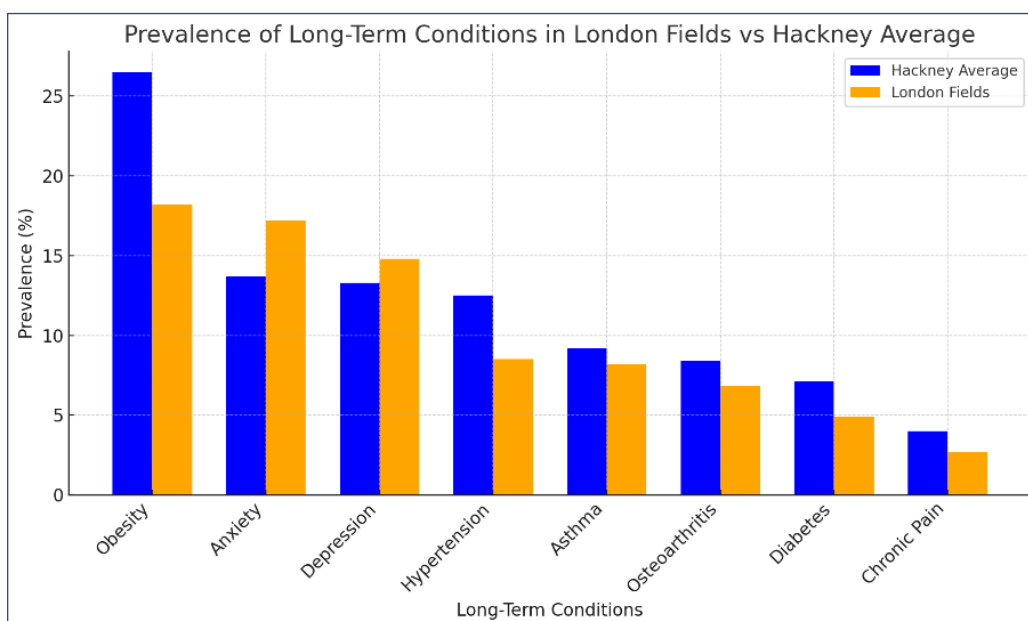
Existing evidence suggests that the number of people with at least one long-term condition as well as those with multiple long-term conditions is increasing nationally. This might further increase pressures on the health and care sector, as treatment and care for people with LTCs is already estimated to take up around £7 in every £10 of total health and social care expenditure.¹

Compared to the Hackney average, London Fields scores slightly lower for obesity, anxiety and depression. Other LTCs are broadly in line with Hackney averages.

According to the [NHS Quality and Outcomes Framework \(QOF\) - 2024-25](#), the prevalence of these conditions in London fields Neighbourhood is:

1) Obesity – 18.2%	5) Asthma – 8.2%
2) Anxiety – 17.2%	6) Osteoarthritis – 6.8%
3) Depression – 14.8%	7) Diabetes – 4.9%
4) Hypertension – 8.5%	8) Chronic Pain – 2.7%

¹ <https://cityhackneyhealth.org.uk/health-outcomes/long-term-conditions>



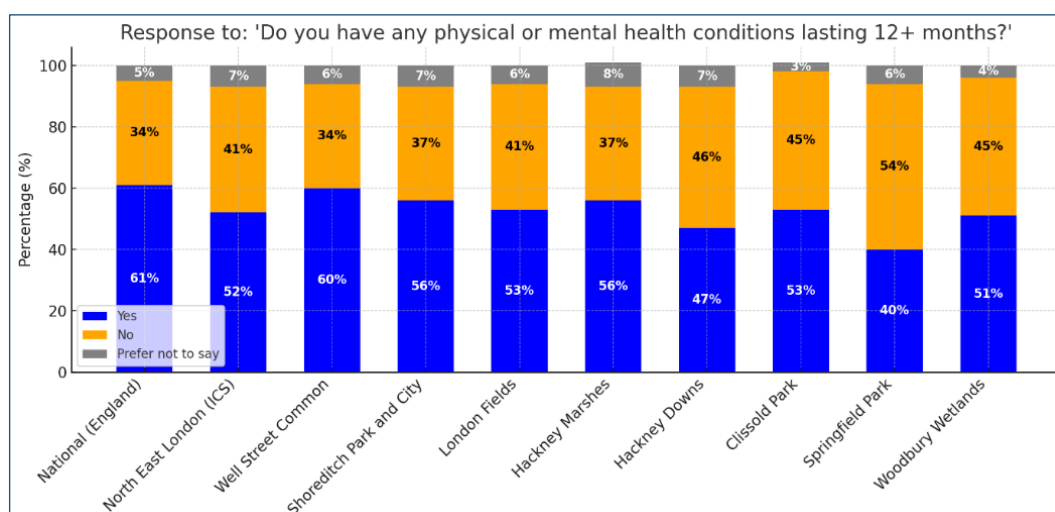
Source: NHS NEL Intelligence & Insights Team (Dec 2024)

Notably, two of the top three most prevalent conditions across all Neighbourhoods, anxiety and depression, are mental health related. This highlights the need for mental health support, which will be explored in more detail in a later section of this report.

IPSOS MORI GP Survey

The [IPSOS MORI GP Patient Survey \(2024\)](#) is an independent annual survey conducted by IPSOS on behalf of NHS England, covering access to GP services, appointment experiences, quality of care and support for managing LTCs.

In London Fields, 56% of respondents reported having at least one long-term condition. This is just above the NEL average of 52%, placing London Fields near the borough-wide midpoint.



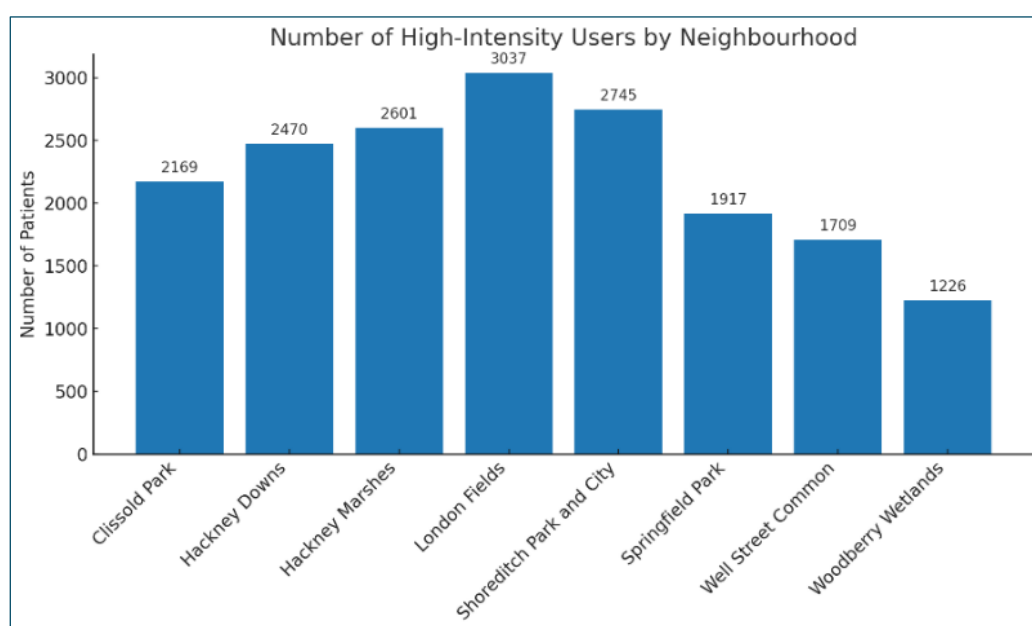
Source: Patients with Long-term Conditions by Neighbourhood (IPSOS GP Survey 2024)

Shared caseloads and high-intensity users

The following analysis focuses on people referred to community therapy, community nursing, mental health services and adult social care between July 2022 and June 2024. It helps identify people with multiple service needs and frequent use of health and care services.

High Intensity GP Users Across Neighbourhoods

High-intensity users are those with the most frequent GP appointments over the two-year period. This group is of particular interest due to their more complex health and care needs:



Source: City & Hackney Intelligence & Insights Team (Sept 2024)

London Fields had the highest number of high-intensity users (3,037), pointing to significant pressure on local primary care services and high levels of need.

Spotlight on London Fields

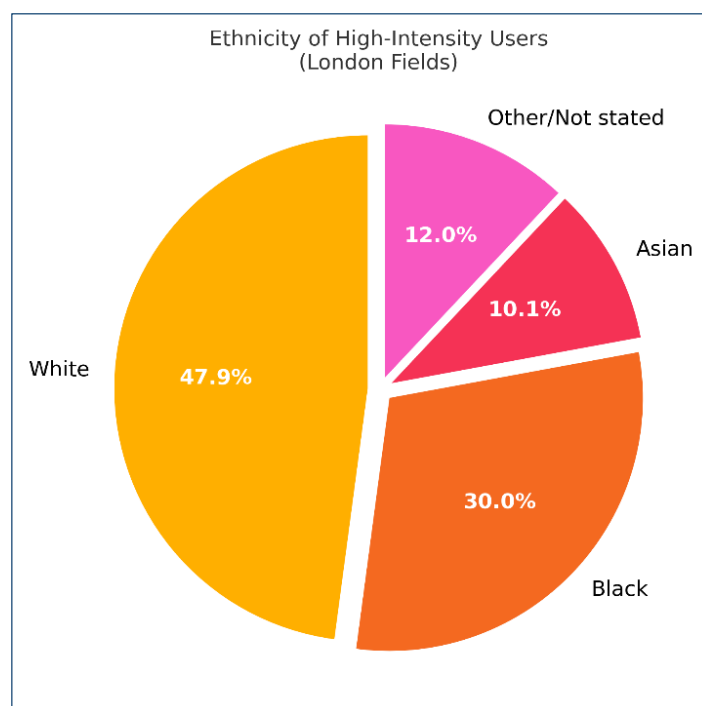
In London Fields, 3,037 residents were identified as high-intensity users:

- 53.1% live in the most deprived quintile
- 7.5% are housebound
- 29.2% have three or more long-term conditions

The most common conditions include:

- Hypertension (30.1%)
- Obesity (23.5%)
- Diabetes (19.3%)

With the highest overall number of high-intensity users, London Fields represents a major area of demand. The figures highlight the scale of need and the importance of ongoing, joined-up care delivery.

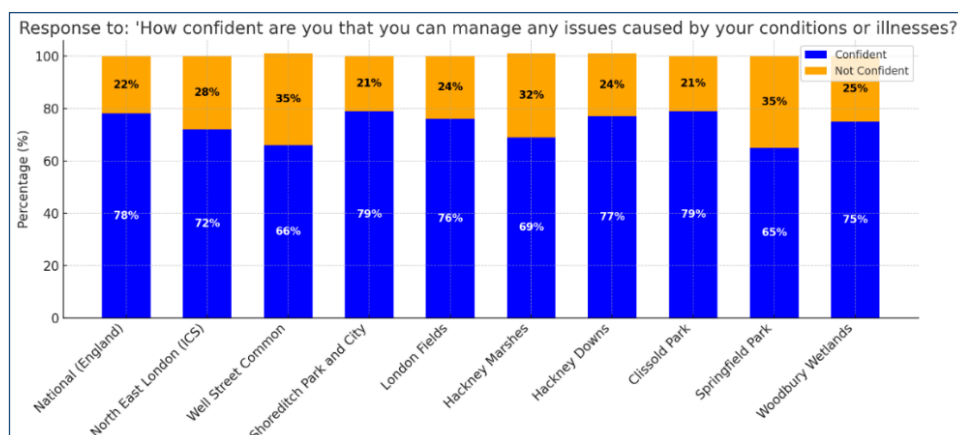


Source: City & Hackney Intelligence & Insights Team (Sept 2024)

The ethnic breakdown shows that nearly half of high-intensity users in London Fields were White, with around 30% identifying as Black and smaller proportions as Asian or Other/Not stated.

Confidence in managing long-term conditions

London Fields residents were asked how confident they felt in managing any issues caused by their conditions or illnesses. 76% reported feeling confident, compared to 24% who did not, above the City and Hackney average (71%).



Source: Confidence to manage LTCs by Neighbourhood (IPSOS GP Survey 2024)

*"People want to get active... but **can't afford it.**"*

— Hackney resident

*"I'd like to use Britannia Leisure Centre, it's free if you get a letter from the doctors but **I'm struggling to get this.**"*

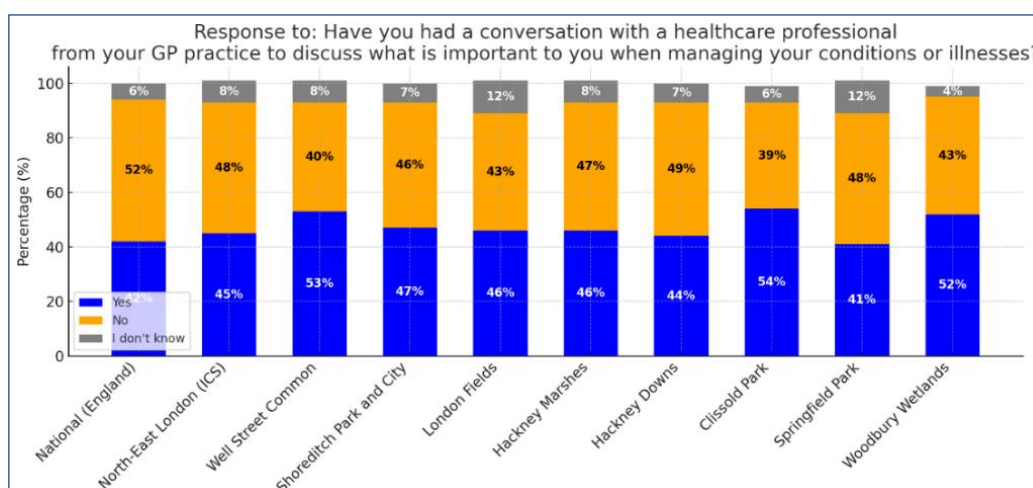
— Hackney resident

Contact with a health care professional

London Fields patients were asked if they had discussed what matters most to them in managing their health with a healthcare professional from their GP practice.

46% of respondents said they had, which is in line with the City and Hackney average (46%). This suggests that patients in London Fields are just as likely as those in other local Neighbourhoods to have these important discussions with their GP practice.

However, 43% of respondents said they had not had this conversation, while 12% were unsure. This highlights that, while London Fields is doing relatively well locally, there is still room for improvement to ensure more residents can discuss their health needs.



Source: Support with Long-term Conditions by Neighbourhood (IPSOS GP Survey 2024)

Patients shared (with Healthwatch Hackney) their positive experiences of contact with healthcare professionals in GP surgery across London Fields Neighbourhood, highlighting the impact of compassionate care:

*"A very **lovely, caring and attentive** team. I have never struggled to get an appointment and have always received a fast and polite service."*

*"Had my blood test taken and the nurse who did so was **very compassionate** (...) The reception/admin staff are professional and respectful too."*

—Patients from Richmond Road Medical Centre

*"I'm so grateful for the service received. Staff at the reception are **incredibly attentive, kind and patient**. with regard to doctors, same very positive experience (...) they have all been incredibly professional, helpful and sympathetic."*

-Patient from Queensbridge Group Practice

"I have been with this Practice for many years. [The GP] has been so efficient and always listens to my concerns (...) competent, reliable, and cares... He has been so supportive"

-Patient from Beechwood Medical Centre

"Excellent, have been here 20 years, always helpful, kind and caring."

-London Fields Medical Centre

"My Doctor is great. Always listens to me and respects the knowledge I have about my conditions."

-Patient from Sandringham Practice

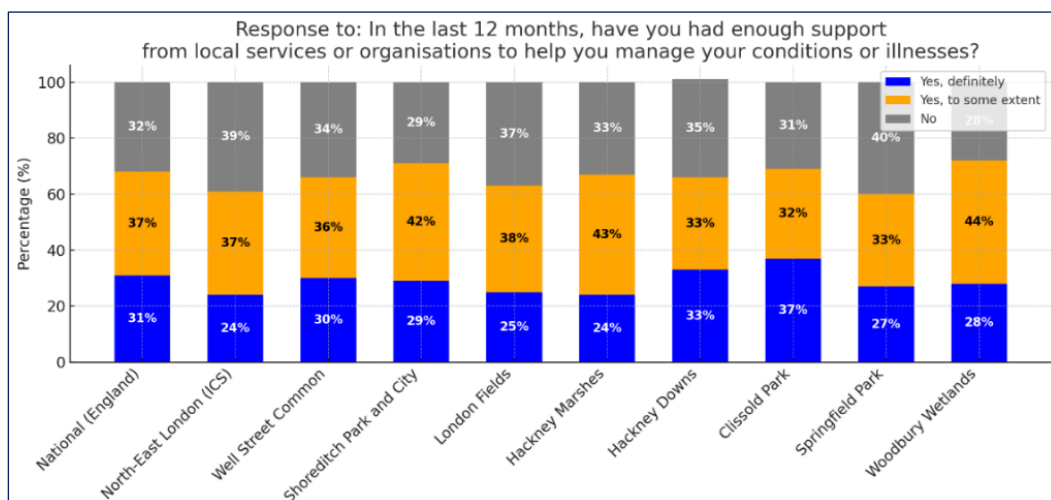
"All the doctors and staff are very helpful. Registered here 40 years back."

-Patient from The Dalston Practice

Support from local services

London Fields residents were asked whether they had received enough support from local services or organisations to help them manage their conditions or illnesses over the past 12 months.

25% of respondents said they had definitely had enough support, while 38% felt they had received some support, but not fully. However, 37% of respondents said they had not received enough support. While some residents in London Fields are benefiting from local service support, over a third feel unsupported.



Source: Support with Long-term Conditions by Neighbourhood (IPSOS GP Survey 2024)

Conversations with health care professionals Vs perceived support for LTCs

In London Fields, just under half of survey respondents (46%) said they had spoken with a healthcare professional about what matters to them when managing their conditions. However, only 25% said they had definitely had enough support from local services, and 37% felt they had not.

This suggests that while these conversations with health professionals are important, they may not be the only factor influencing how supported residents feel. Other services, such as social prescribing, support from the VCS, peer groups and accessible health information, are also likely to shape residents' experiences of managing their LTCs.

"When I felt like the world was falling apart, I felt like someone genuinely cared. I felt like I could trust them and genuinely find out what my options are."

-Family Action Social Prescribing service user

Health inequalities

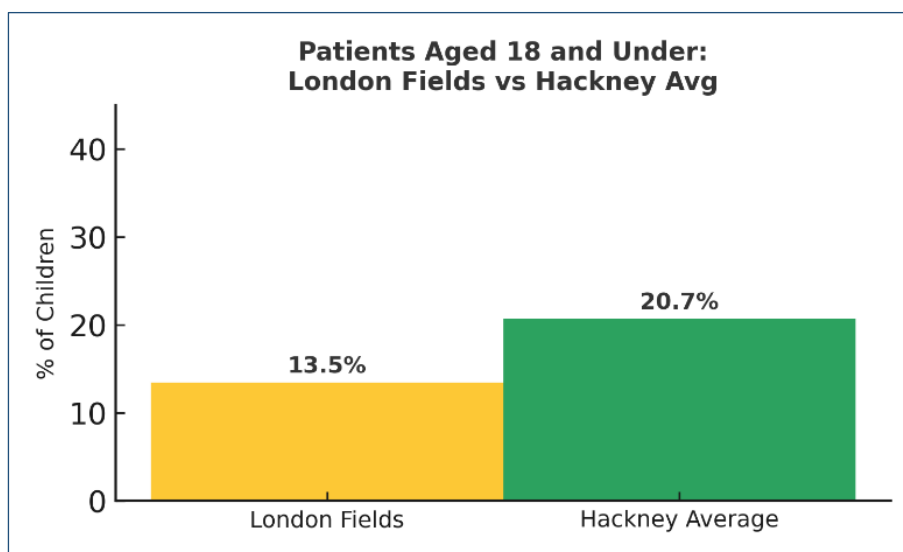
Health inequalities are avoidable and unfair differences in health between groups of people. They can show up in life expectancy, long-term conditions or access to healthcare. These inequalities are shaped by wider factors like income, housing, education, work and local environments (also known as the *wider determinants of health*).²³

Children and young people

This section explores health inequalities affecting children and young people in London Fields Neighbourhood, focusing on key indicators that influence early-life health outcomes. According to Patient Master Index (PMI) data, 13.5% of patients in London Fields are aged 18 and under.

² [What are healthcare inequalities? – NHS England](#)

³ [National Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme – NHS England](#)

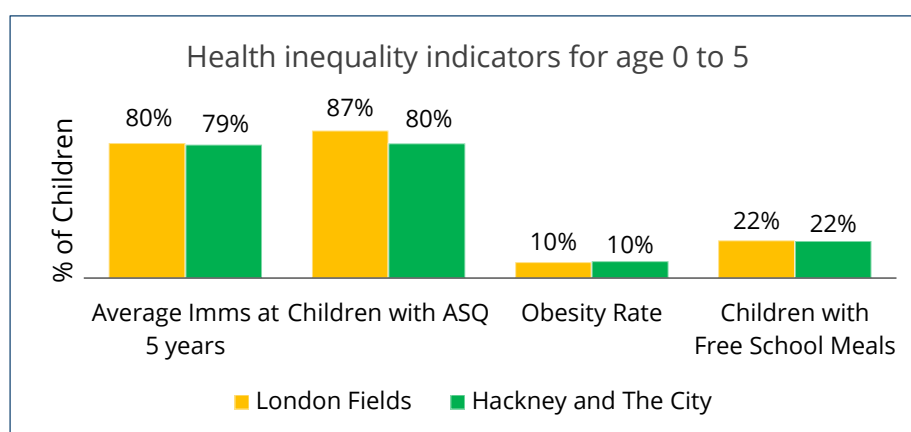


Source: NEL Intelligence & Insights Team, PMI Data (Dec 2024)

The next graph illustrates the percentage of children who:

- Have received all recommended immunisations by age 5
- Have met developmental milestones, as assessed by the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)
- Are classified as obese based on their Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Are eligible for free school meals, a common indicator of socioeconomic disadvantage

These factors provide insight into early childhood health disparities and the broader social determinants influencing wellbeing in London Fields.



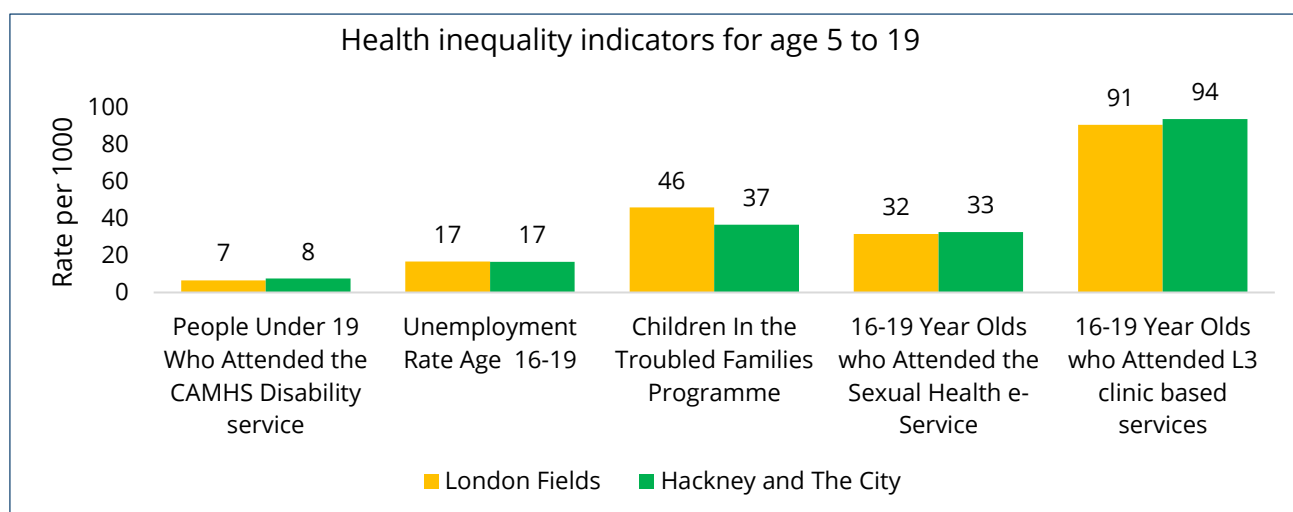
Source: Hackney Council (2023)

Health outcomes for under 5s in London Fields are largely in line with the City and Hackney average. The proportion of children receiving recommended immunisations and

reaching developmental milestones is comparable and obesity rates among this age group are low. However, around one in four children in London Fields are eligible for free school meals, signalling persistent levels of socioeconomic disadvantage. As in other Neighbourhoods, childhood immunisation coverage remains below the national target of 94%.

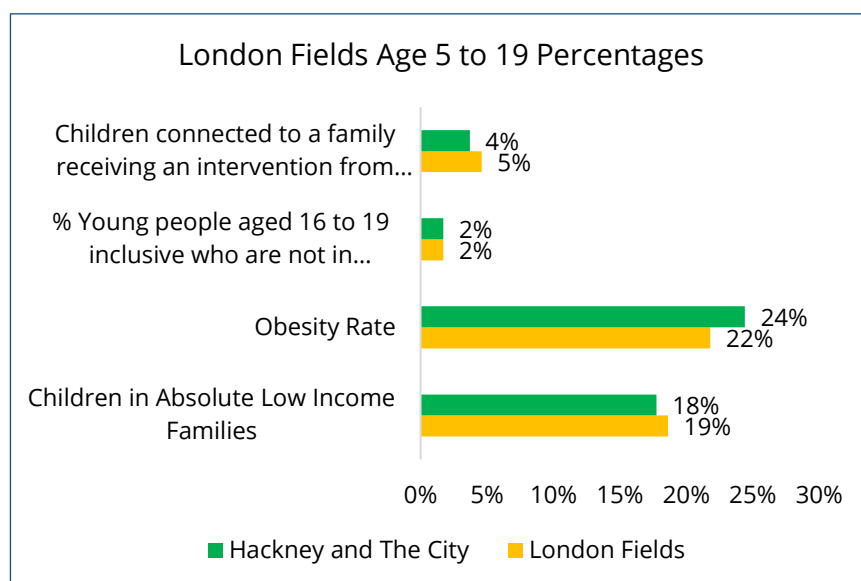
The next chart focuses on health service usage and outcomes for older children and teenagers in London Fields. Local attendance at Level 3 sexual health clinic services is only slightly below the City and Hackney average, suggesting consistent engagement.

Figures for e-service access, unemployment rates among 16–19-year-olds, and attendance at CAMHS Disability services are all broadly consistent with borough-wide trends.



Source: Hackney Council (2023)

Children, young people and families in London Fields face several ongoing challenges related to health inequalities and economic hardship, as the next graph shows.



Source: Hackney Council (2023)

Children in London Fields are slightly more likely than the City and Hackney average to be receiving interventions from the [Troubled Families Programme](#) (5% vs. 4%) and to be living in absolute low-income households (19% vs. 18%). The Year 6 obesity rate in London Fields stands at 22%, slightly below the borough average.

The proportion of young people aged 16–19 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is in line with City and Hackney overall, at 2%.

These figures indicate that economic hardship and health inequalities continue to affect families in this Neighbourhood, reinforcing the importance of early intervention and support services.

Neurodiversity among young people in London Fields

Feedback from residents and professionals across City and Hackney has highlighted a perceived rise in the number of children and young people who appear to be neurodiverse.

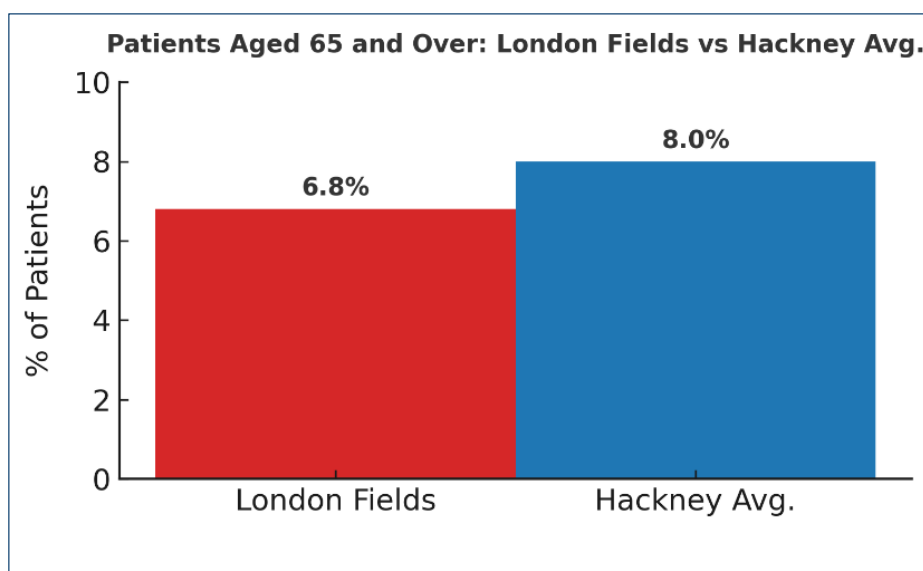
A key initiative supporting neurodivergent young people in Hackney is the [Targeted Health Outreach \(THO\)](#) service. This service provides group activities and one-to-one casework for young people aged 14–19 (up to 25 in the over-18s group) with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and neurodiversity, who are not eligible for adult disability services.

The service includes a [Nature Connection Group](#), specifically designed for young people with autism or those on the neurodevelopmental pathway. These nature-based activities allow young people to participate at their own pace. Parents are welcome to attend and referrals can be made by CAMHS, schools, Hackney Education, parents, or young people themselves.

Older people in London Fields

Ageing is not a uniform experience, older people's health and wellbeing are shaped by a lifetime of social, economic and environmental factors. According to Hackney Council's [Ageing Well Strategy 2020–2025](#), factors such as socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender and the environments in which people live all contribute to how well individuals age.

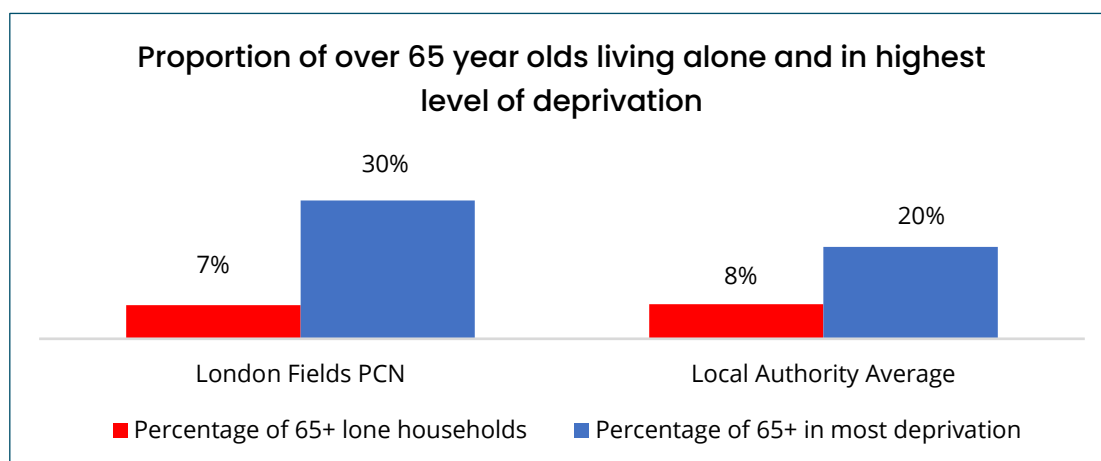
Older patients make up a smaller proportion of the London Fields population compared to the Hackney average. According to PMI data, 6.8% of patients in London Fields are aged 65 and over.



Source: NEL Intelligence & Insights Team, PMI Data (Dec 2024)

While this data provides insight into the proportion of older patients in London Fields, it does not capture the full extent of health inequalities faced by this group. Earlier data highlights two key indicators of inequality among older residents:

- A higher proportion of over-65s live alone, increasing the risk of social isolation and mental health challenges.
- A greater proportion live in the most deprived areas, where financial hardship and barriers to accessing healthcare and services can further impact health and wellbeing.



Source: Summary of Key Statistics from NEL Health and Care Partnership, Baseline Needs Assessment (August 2022)

Hackney Council's [Ageing Well Strategy 2020-2025](#) highlights the importance of recognising older people as a diverse and vital part of the community:

"The diversity that exists in Hackney is one of our borough's greatest strengths and recognising that this diversity still exists as people age is essential (...) Part of changing the narrative is

greater recognition that older people continue to give back to their communities and are supported in varied and different ways. **One of our greatest community assets are our older residents** (...) Challenges exist because of the way that society is run and organised. There is work happening all over the world to make places more age-friendly and to create cultural shifts in how older people are perceived, engaged, involved and treated.”

Cllrs Chris Kennedy & Yvonne Maxwell

Digital Exclusion – Impact on health

Older people are disproportionately affected by digital exclusion, which can further deepen health inequalities. This digital divide means that many older residents struggle to book GP appointments online, use NHS services such as the NHS App, or access important health and financial resources.

Digital exclusion is a significant issue in London Fields Neighbourhood, with 21% of residents likely to be rare or infrequent users of the internet. Those who lack digital literacy are at greater risk of fraud, misinformation and financial exploitation, which can contribute to stress, anxiety and worsening health outcomes.

*“I haven’t been able to get a follow up appointment for nearly 2 months and have no idea about the outcome of certain exams because I have not been able to see my doctor. They have now this e-consult and self-referral service that **isn’t user friendly for most patients, specially when they’re older...**”*

*“**My daughter** worked in a chemist so **knows this information**, otherwise I may not have gone.”*

Older Hackney residents

Local digital inclusion support: IT classes at Marie Lloyd Centre

To help bridge this gap, local initiatives such as the digital inclusion IT classes at the [Marie Lloyd Centre](#) on Queensbridge Road offer free support to older residents who want to develop their digital skills. These sessions cover online safety, using the NHS app and online banking and finance.

Case Study – Digital access and health management with LTCs in London Fields

Living with multiple long-term conditions

Lloyd (name changed to maintain confidentiality) is 70 and has lived in Hackney his whole life. He lives with several LTCs, including PTSD, type-2 diabetes, thyroid issues that affect his metabolism, depression and carotid artery stenosis. Lloyd said his PTSD began after a job loss and he stills experiences triggers, he has seen improvements over the years. He has had rounds of intervention, including CBT, which he found *“incredibly helpful”*, and is currently supported by a low-dose antidepressant.

He discovered his carotid artery stenosis by chance, through a health study. Scans revealed a 69% blockage in both arteries, surprising even the doctors:

*“They were **surprised I hadn’t had a TIA...** it gave me something else to think of.”*

Despite managing his diabetes well with regular six-month check-ups, Lloyd’s overall health challenges have made staying connected with the community more difficult at times, especially during periods of low mood.

Using digital services with support

Lloyd uses some digital health services but finds them difficult to navigate alone. He prefers to handle tasks like booking prescriptions and checking texts with his partner’s help:

*“It’s not that I can’t do things, but I **don’t want to deal with lots of different apps and websites again and again.**”*

He shares an email account with his partner and avoids setting up his own due to the perceived extra effort and duplication of information. He also prefers calling his GP surgery and praised the staff at [Queensbridge Group Practice](#):

*“The **receptionists are really great.**”*

Frustrations with online systems

While Lloyd can complete some tasks online, experiences with services like KliniQ have made him wary. He once waited over a year for a follow-up scan, only to find out there had been messages sent through KliniQ that he never saw:

*“It **makes it feel untrustworthy.**”*

He described KliniQ as complicated to navigate, with key information hidden or poorly presented. He also felt overwhelmed by the level of detail shown for test results, scans and conditions, which sometimes increased anxiety rather than supporting his understanding.

Lloyd also mentioned problems with online prescriptions, where asking a follow-up question delayed his medication:

*“Even though it’s supposed to make things easier, **it actually holds things up a lot of the time.**”*

He also reported receiving unwanted texts from Boots about prescriptions:

*“It **felt like I was trying to be sold something...** that’s not the GP’s place to do.”*

Building trust through in-person support

Lloyd highlighted the importance of face-to-face help in making digital tools more usable. After a period of isolation linked to his mental health, he reconnected with his GP surgery through the [Together Better programme](#), run by [Volunteer Centre Hackney](#). He described this as a turning point:

"Someone coming to show me exactly how to use [KliniQ] made me feel confident and doing it in a trusted setting helped."

The sessions helped Lloyd connect with others, discover local events and access health information in a supportive environment.

Improvement suggestions from Lloyd

Lloyd feels that digital services can be useful if they are simple, guided and backed by choice. He believes residents should be asked how they want to receive health communications and avoid duplication:

"People should be asked their choice in how they want to receive communications."

Lloyd also called for more transparency, clarity and in-person support to complement digital tools.

"I'll use digital services if I have to, if they're simple and easy, if I'm helped to use them and if I'm given the choices."

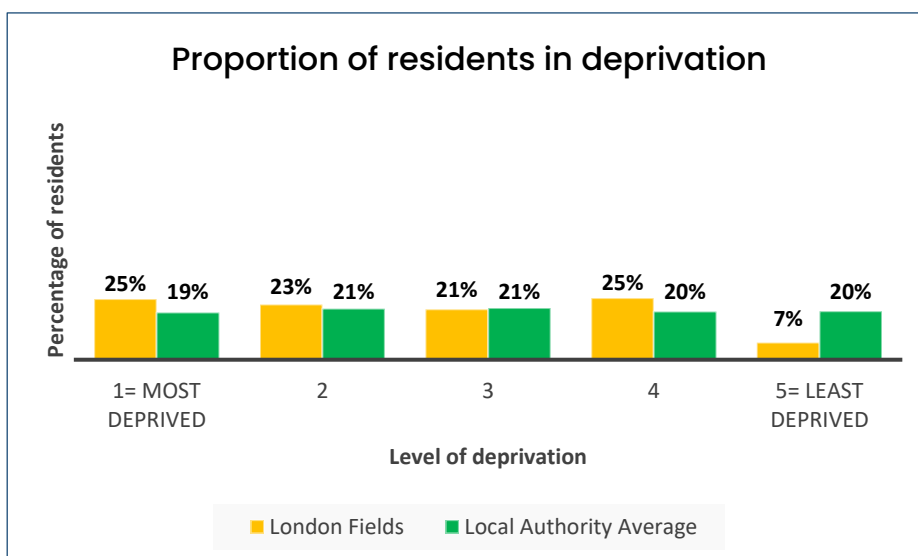
General population in London Fields

Deprivation

London Fields Neighbourhood shows a relatively balanced spread of deprivation across all categories but with a notable absence of residents in the least deprived group. The [Indices of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\)](#) measure deprivation across factors such as income, education, housing and crime.

Deprivation levels in London Fields are distributed as follows:

- 25% of residents live in the most deprived category (Level 1).
- 23% in Level 2, and 21% in Level 3.
- 25% in Level 4.
- Only 7% of residents are in the least deprived category (Level 5).



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities English indices of deprivation 2019.

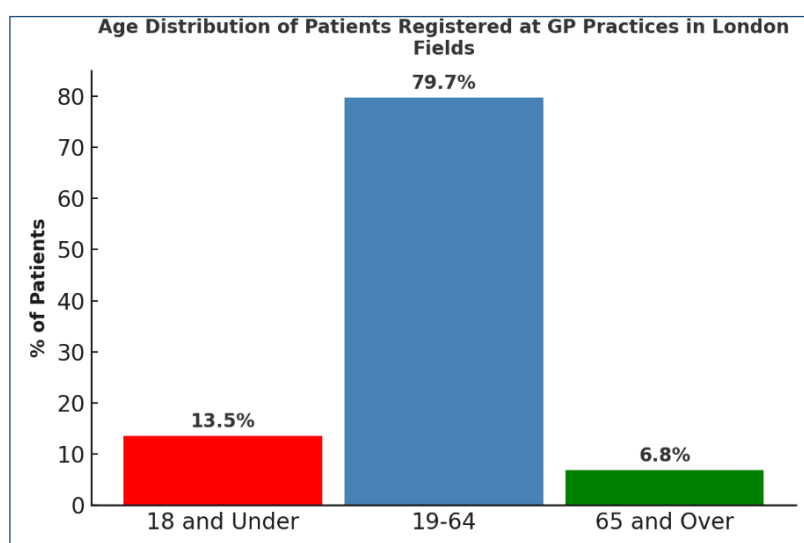
These figures indicate that while deprivation is not sharply concentrated in London Fields, there is a clear lack of residents in the most advantaged group. Persistent levels of deprivation contribute to poorer health outcomes, reduced service access and greater financial vulnerability, all of which play a role in sustaining health inequalities.

The demographic profile of GP-registered patients in London Fields helps shed further light on these local challenges.

Age distribution of registered patients

London Fields has the highest proportion of working-age residents and the smallest proportion of older people, pointing to a predominantly young, working-age population.

- 13.5% of patients are aged 18 and under
- 79.7% are aged 19-64
- 6.8% are aged 65 and over

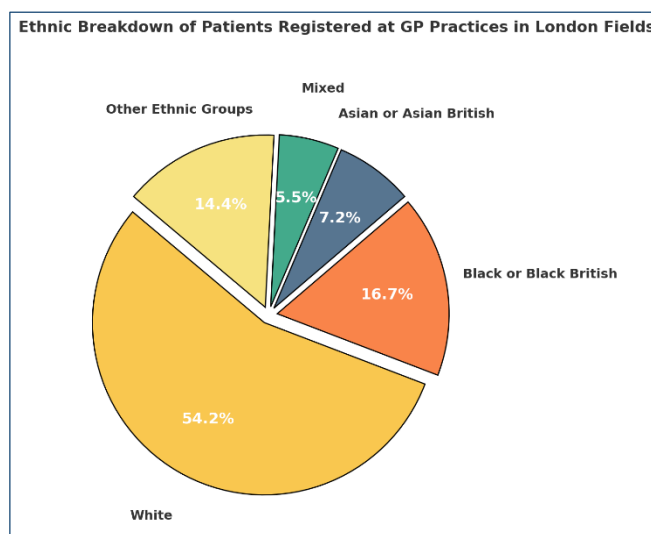


Source: NEL Intelligence & Insights Team, PMI Data (Dec 2024)

Ethnic breakdown of registered patients

PMI data for London Fields shows the following ethnic breakdown among registered patients:

- White – 54.2%
- Black or Black British – 16.7%
- Asian or Asian British – 7.2%
- Mixed Ethnic Background – 5.5%
- Other Ethnic Groups – 14.4%



Source: NEL Intelligence & Insights Team, PMI Data (Dec 2024)

London Fields has a higher proportion of White patients compared to the wider City & Hackney population. This is significant as:

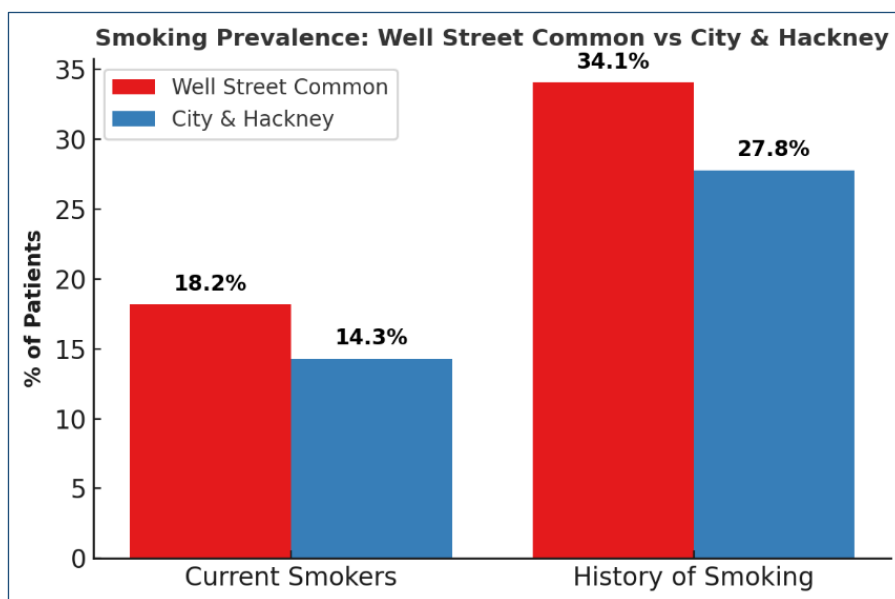
- Ethnic differences in health outcomes should still be acknowledged, even in less diverse populations.
- Mixed and Other Ethnic Groups may still face barriers related to access, trust and culturally sensitive care.
- Ongoing efforts to reduce inequalities must remain inclusive of all communities.

Smoking and health risks

Smoking remains one of the biggest causes of preventable illness and death in City & Hackney, contributing to significant health inequalities. According to the [Tobacco Needs Assessment for City & Hackney 2024](#), smoking prevalence varies widely across the borough, with between 14% and 21% of adults in Hackney estimated to be smokers and 10% to 11% in the City of London. This equates to up to 51,700 adult smokers in Hackney and 900 in the City.

Smoking rates are highest among men (27% in Hackney, 13% in the City) and are particularly elevated in specific ethnic groups, including Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean, Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot men. Residents in more deprived areas are disproportionately affected, both in terms of smoking prevalence and the associated financial burden.

Encouragingly, 32% of those who successfully quit smoking through local cessation services are from the most deprived areas.



Source: NEL Intelligence & Insights Team, PMI Data (Dec 2024)

The health impact is stark. Smoking-related deaths and lung cancer rates in Hackney exceed London averages and smoking costs Hackney an estimated £101.9 million per year. Around 3,000 local households are pushed into poverty due to tobacco expenditure.

Efforts to reduce smoking include the [Gloji SmokeFree City & Hackney Service](#), which has seen 60% of people quitting at four weeks and 64% of those who quit at four weeks and were followed up remaining smoke-free at 12 weeks. However, young adults, men and some ethnic groups are underrepresented in cessation programmes, highlighting the need for better-targeted outreach.

In January 2025, the [Gloji SmokeFree City & Hackney Service](#) reported that:

- 60% of those who set a quit date successfully stopped smoking after 4 weeks (exceeding the 50% target).
- 64% of those followed up after a successful 4-week quit remained smoke-free at 12 weeks, showing the impact of targeted cessation.
- 32% of those quitting are from the most deprived areas.

Residents who accessed the Gloji SmokeFree service from October to December 2024 highlighted the challenges of quitting but praised the support available:

*"The lady we had (...) was amazing, very encouraging and praised our journey. She was very friendly and kept checking in with us. **Completed the journey without a relapse—1st time ever as I had tried giving up several times.**"*

*"I'd tried to quit smoking several times previously by myself but failed. This time your support has been giving me **more confidence and determination** (...) My adviser is very friendly and weekly, biweekly calls are very enjoyable and nice to hear praises when I am progressing..."*

*"Victor was incredible! **I'm smoke free for 130 days now!** Can't believe it"*

*"I was **so happy with the help** I was given."*

*"Can I just say what a **brilliant service**. It has been such a **tremendous help with stopping** to smoke. Very **much appreciated** all the support given. Thank you."*

*"**Very good support** throughout"*

As of December 2024, PMI data revealed that smoking rates in London Fields (15.7%) exceeded the City & Hackney Neighbourhood average (14.3%). Ensuring that accessible cessation services continue to reach residents is therefore vital for improving local health outcomes.

Dedicated clinics in the Neighbourhood, such as those at [Sandringham Practice](#), [St Mungo's](#), and [Forest Road Youth Hub](#), provide crucial support for residents looking to quit smoking (see below weekly schedule of clinics).

Gloji SmokeFree City & Hackney Clinics – Q3 Report 2024–25

Neighbourhood	Venue	Address	Postcode	Clinic Day	Start Time	End Time
Clissold Park	St Mungo's	16 Neville Rd	N16 8SR	Wednesday	14:00	17:00
Clissold Park	Somerford Grove GP Hub	Somerford Grove	N16 7UA	Friday	9:30	17:30
Hackney Downs	Clapton Library	Northwold Rd	E5 8RA	Monday	10:00	12:00
Hackney Marshes / Well Street Common	Homerton Library	Homerton High Street	E9 6AS	Tuesday	10:30	13:00
London Fields	St Mungo's	144–148 Lansdown Drive	E8 4NF	Wednesday	14:00	16:30
London Fields	Sandringham Practice	1a Madinah Rd	E8 1PG	Thursday	13:30	16:00
London Fields	Forest Road Youth Hub	29 Forest Rd, London	E8 3BY	Friday	15:00	18:00
Shoreditch Park & City	Shoreditch Park Surgery	8–10 Rushton St, London	EC4A 3JR	Monday	9:00	12:00
Shoreditch Park & City	Shoreditch Library	80 Hoxton St, London	N1 6LP	Monday	12:30	14:00
Shoreditch Park & City	Shoe Lane Library	Hill Hse, 1 Little New St	N1 5DR	Wednesday	12:00	15:00
Well Street Common	Turning Point	102 Mare Street	E8 3SG	Monday	13:00	16:00
Well Street Common	St Mungo's	146 Mare St	E8 3SG	Wednesday	11:00	13:00
Well Street Common	Elsdale Street Surgery	28 Elsdale street	E9 6QY	Friday	9:00	12:00
Woodberry Wetlands	Allerton Road Surgery	34a Allerton Road	N16 5UF	Tuesday	13:00	16:00
Woodberry Wetlands	Statham Grove Surgery	Statham Grove	N16 9DP	Tuesday	14:00	17:00
Woodberry Wetlands	The Heron Practice	Green Lanes	N4 2NU	Friday	9:00	12:00
Woodberry Wetlands / Clissold Park	St Mungo's	136 Church Walk	N16 8QQ	Wednesday	14:00	16:30

Language Barriers

Language barriers are a significant factor contributing to health inequalities in London Fields, particularly among ethnic minority communities. Findings from Healthwatch England's '[Lost for Words](#)' report highlight that people with limited or no English face difficulties at every stage of their healthcare journey, including:

Registering with a GP

Many non-English speakers struggle to complete registration forms or communicate with reception staff, leading to delays in accessing primary care (see below for Healthwatch Hackney's 4th review of GP registration in Hackney).

Understanding medical advice

Patients may not fully comprehend their diagnosis, prescribed medications, or treatment plans, increasing the risk of poor health outcomes.

Access to interpreters

Many residents do not know that NHS interpreter services exist or find it difficult to request one. Even when interpreters are available, they may not speak the correct dialect or provide clear medical translations.

Emergency care navigation

Language barriers can make it harder for individuals to explain their symptoms during urgent care visits, leading to misdiagnoses or delayed treatment.

The inequality of language can significantly impact access to GP services, as illustrated by one Spanish-speaking patient:

*"It is **absolutely different with an interpreter** because then I can fully express myself understand everything I am told and be able to follow instructions better. But **when there is no interpreter then it is really difficult**. And although all doctors are good and caring, some will allow me more time while others will rush a bit to see the next patient. One time I called in to book an appointment and I spoke to one receptionist who struggled to understand me. Then another one took over and she also struggled. Finally, one of the doctors took the phone and it was very difficult for him to understand me too, so I wasn't able to book an appointment. I had to call back again a couple of days later and try again."*

-Spanish speaking Hackney resident

Barriers to GP registration in Hackney

A 2024 Healthwatch Hackney review of GP registration accessibility⁴ found that barriers persisted, despite NHS policies ensuring universal access. While some receptionists displayed warmth, reassurance and a clear understanding of NHS registration policies, others insisted on proof of address or ID when this is not required by NHS guidelines:

"She picked up on my anxiety about not having documents and she was reassuring and compassionate. She told me, 'don't worry, we don't want to see any papers'."

-Mystery shopper, on the phone

"The receptionist was nice and warm, she even laughed with me when I told her I forgot my postcode as I have just moved in."

-Mystery shopper, in-person visit

"When I asked for a paper form, she told me to "go next door, they take paper registrations, we don't"."

-Mystery shopper, in-person visit

"She told me I must record the exact date I entered the UK. She said it was very important and my application would be refused without this information."

-Mystery shopper, on the phone

Since the report was published, Healthwatch Hackney has carried out follow-up work with GP surgeries previously identified as not following NHS registration guidelines. A subsequent round of targeted mystery shopping revealed a marked improvement: all GP practices in Hackney are now compliant and no longer request proof of ID or address.

However, we remain concerned that the NHS's increasing emphasis on digitalisation may create new barriers to registration for patients who are digitally excluded or experiencing data poverty.

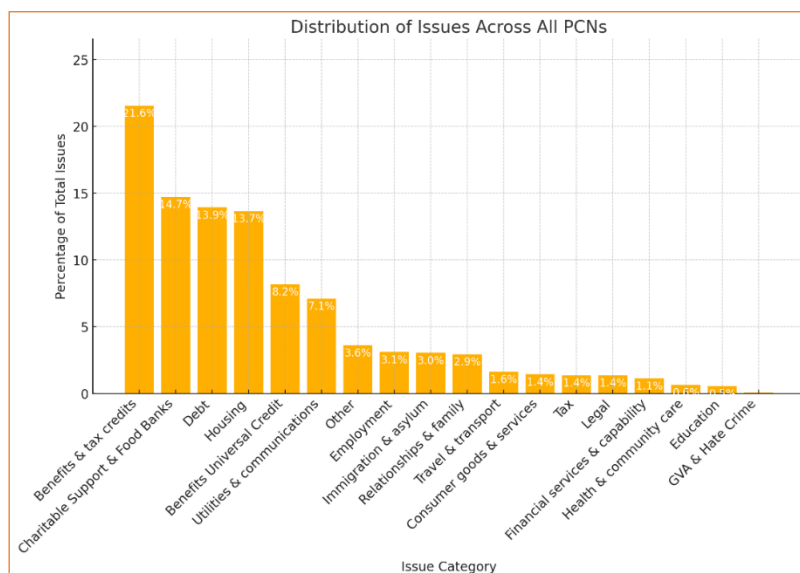
Citizens Advice

[Citizens Advice Hackney](#) provides support to residents across the borough, assisting with a range of social and economic issues. Many of these, such as housing insecurity, financial hardship, employment difficulties and legal challenges, relate directly to the wider determinants of health, influencing residents' well-being beyond medical care.

⁴ [GP registration in Hackney – The right to access healthcare \(4th review\) \(2024\)](#)

The data from Citizens Advice covers only the borough of Hackney and not the City of London. We will therefore refer to PCNs rather than Neighbourhoods to analyse this dataset.

Issues raised across Hackney PCNs



Source: Citizens Advice Hackney, 2025

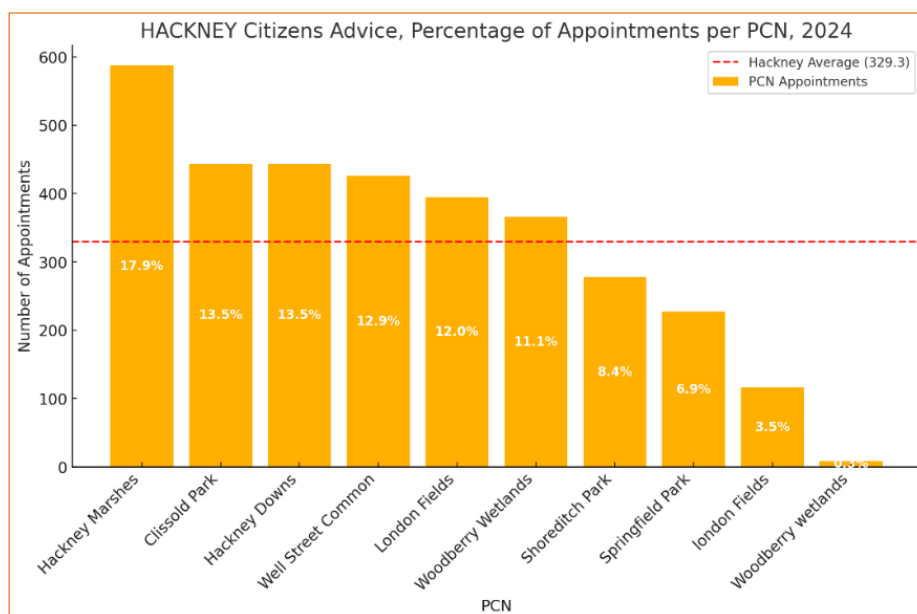
Benefits & Tax Credits (21.6%) is the most frequently raised concern across Hackney, followed by Charitable Support & Food Banks (14.7%) and then Debt (13.9%). These trends suggest financial insecurity is a major driver of residents seeking advice, with many requiring support for benefits and even food assistance.

This aligns with insights shared by [Family Action](#) regarding the top referral issues to social prescribers (see below). In the years since the Covid-19 pandemic, housing, financial challenges and mental health have been the three most common concerns among those referred for support, with many residents struggling with rent arrears and financial distress.

This trend is supported by data from Citizens Advice, which identifies financial insecurity as a key reason residents seek support. Family Action has also reported that demand for help with these issues exceeds service capacity across City & Hackney, indicating that some individuals using social prescribing services may also be turning to Citizens Advice for additional support.

Appointments by PCN

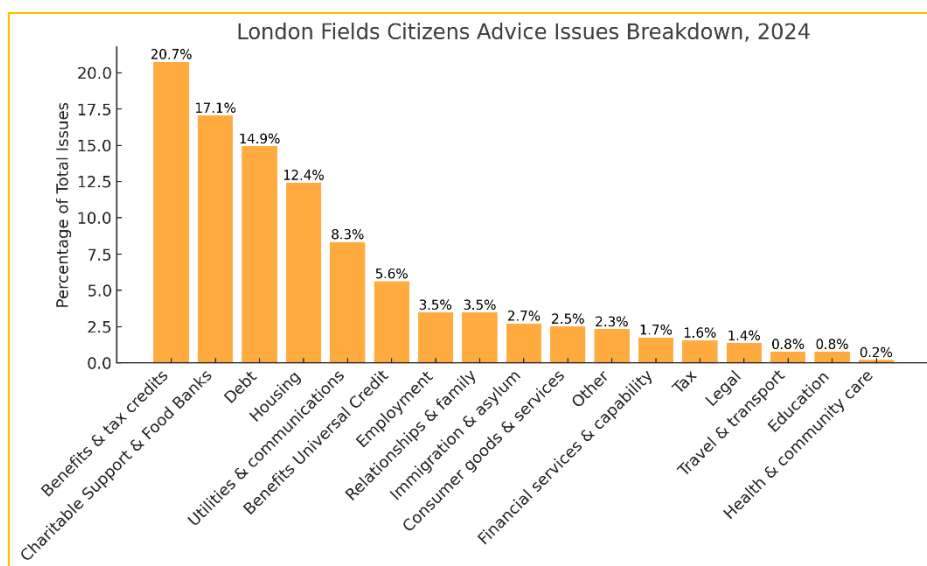
The next graph compares the number of appointments booked per PCN, giving insight into the demand for the Citizens Advice service across Hackney. London Fields accounted for 12% of all Citizens Advice appointments across Hackney, placing it in the mid-range compared to other Neighbourhoods.



Source: Citizens Advice Hackney (2025)

Issues raised in London Fields

The next graph details the breakdown of issues raised in London Fields. The most common issues raised in London Fields were Benefits & Tax Credits (20.7%), Charitable Support & Food Banks (17.1%), and Debt (14.9%). These are closely followed by Housing concerns (12.4%), pointing to continued financial pressure on local residents.



Source: Citizens Advice Hackney (2025)

This data clearly highlights that financial hardship remains a serious concern for many residents in London Fields. Issues such as benefits, debt, housing insecurity and reliance on charitable support indicate the economic distress faced by many residents. These financial pressures directly impact on residents' physical and mental health.

Access to health services and support

We now explore how local residents access key health care and support services, focussing on the following services:

- Mental Health Services
- GP Services
- Sexual Health Services
- Pharmacy Services
- Adult Social Care
- Adult Community Rehabilitation Services
- Multidisciplinary Team Meetings (MDMs)

Access to mental health services

One in four people in England experience a mental health problem each year.⁵⁶ Mixed anxiety and depression is Britain's most common mental disorder, with 7.8% of people meeting the criteria for diagnosis.⁷

Anxiety and depression rank as the second and third most prevalent LTCs in City & Hackney, underscoring the widespread impact of mental health challenges across the Neighbourhoods.

Groups disproportionately affected by mental health issues:

Black/Black British individuals: More likely to experience severe mental health problems and face barriers to accessing appropriate care.⁸

- **People living in high levels of deprivation:** Economic hardship linked to increased mental health issues, with structural inequalities exacerbating.⁹
- **Disabled individuals:** Higher rates of mental health problems due to social isolation and discrimination.¹⁰
- **LGBTQIA+ community:** Faces unique stressors, including discrimination and stigma.
- **Young women aged 16–24:** Demographic has seen rising mental health concerns.

⁵ [Priory Group – Mental health statistics UK 2025](#)

⁶ [University of Oxford – Mental illnesses reduce life expectancy more than heavy smoking](#)

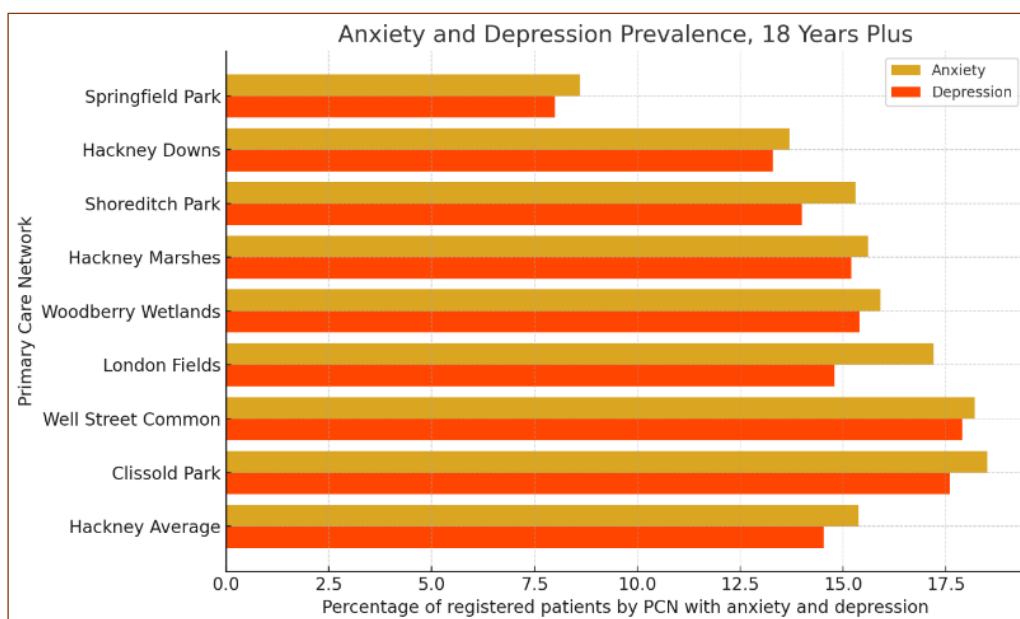
⁷ [NICE \(2011\). Common mental health disorders | Guidance and guidelines | NICE](#)

⁸ [Understanding ethnic inequalities in mental healthcare in the UK: A meta-ethnography – PubMed – 2022](#)

⁹ [Structural racism leading to stark health inequalities in London, report shows – The Guardian Oct 2024](#)

¹⁰ [Mental Health Foundation – The most common diagnosed mental health problems: statistics](#)

The following graph illustrates the prevalence of diagnosed depression among residents aged 18 and over, highlighting the need for mental health support in Hackney:



Source: NHS Quality and outcomes Framework (QOF - Dec 2024)

London Fields: Residents' mental health experiences

Mental health remains a significant concern in London Fields Neighbourhood, with high recorded rates of diagnosed depression among residents aged 18 and over.

Historically, Hackney residents have expressed frustration with long waiting lists for CAMHS. Families share experiences of delays in referrals and uncertainty over treatment timelines, often leaving them feeling unsupported:

*"Holding out for a referral just made my son worse. We learnt that **it's no use asking for help** because you won't get it."*

-Hackney parent

*"CBT was offered, but we don't know when. It felt like **we were put on hold** until he ages out of the system."*

-Hackney parent

*"I think my GP was trying to warn me it would be a long wait and that services were very pushed. It seemed that **unless she was actually suicidal, there would be no help.**"*

-Hackney parent

Despite challenges, when residents manage to access mental health support many have positive experiences with compassionate professionals. However, many residents remain unaware of alternative ways to access mental health support beyond GP referrals (see

below for the III – ‘option 2’ service). Concerns have also been raised about specialist mental health services, with some reporting poor communication and a lack of empathy.

Residents highlight the need for a more preventative approach:

“I felt like I knew about everything too late. It was only after a crisis that I found out what services were available.”

–Patient at Together Better Coffee Morning

Availability of mental health services

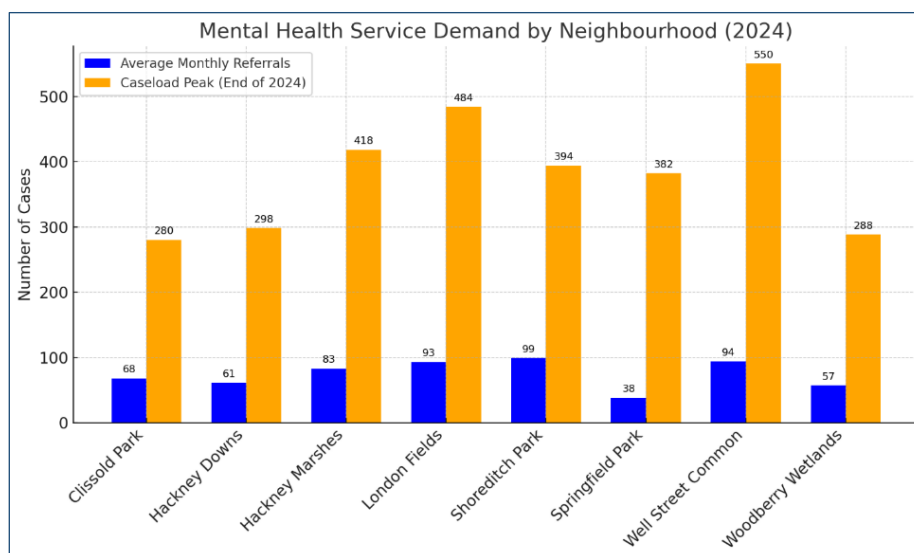
Residents in London Fields can access a range of mental health services, including GP-led mental health support, talking therapies, crisis intervention teams and specialist secondary care services.

Local services include:

- **GP Services** – Often the first point of contact for individuals experiencing mental health difficulties, with [options for referrals to specialist care](#).
- **Hackney NHS Talking Therapies** ([IAPT – Improving Access to Psychological Therapies](#)) – Providing CBT, counselling and guided self-help for common conditions like anxiety and depression.
- **City and Hackney Crisis Assessment Hub (Walk-in)** Providing immediate support, guidance and care. A trained [crisis assessment team](#) offers a safe, compassionate environment, assessments and referrals to further services.
- **Specialist Mental Health Services** – The [East London NHS Foundation Trust \(ELFT\)](#) delivers specialist care for individuals with complex or severe mental health needs through Community Mental Health Teams and psychiatric inpatient services.
 - Demand for mental health support in London Fields has been steadily rising, with an average of 93 referrals per month in 2024 (see below graph)
 - Caseloads in the neighbourhood peaked at 484 by the end of 2024.
 - Neighbourhood teams collectively handle an average of 593 referrals per month.
- **VCS Support** – Charities and local organisations offer peer support, social prescribing and advocacy for mental health service users (see [City & Hackney Wellbeing Network](#)).

Mental health service demand across Neighbourhoods

In 2024, London Fields recorded the second highest caseload across the Neighbourhoods, peaking at 484 individuals, indicating a high demand for mental health services. The Neighbourhood also saw an average of 93 new referrals per month, reinforcing the ongoing pressures on local mental health services.



Source: East London Foundation Trust (2025)

Barriers to mental health services access

Despite availability of services, many residents face challenges in accessing timely and appropriate mental health care.

Common barriers include:

- **Long waiting times** – Delays reported in accessing therapy and specialist mental health care, often waiting several months.
- **GP appointment difficulties** – Challenges in securing timely GP appointments can delay referrals.
- **Digital exclusion** – Increased reliance on online mental health services and virtual therapy can be a barrier for residents without reliable internet access or digital literacy.
- **Stigma and cultural barriers** – Some residents, particularly from ethnic minority communities, report stigma surrounding mental health that discourages from seeking help.
- **Limited crisis support** – Out-of-hours crisis services not always accessible when urgently needed.

Alternative routes to mental health support

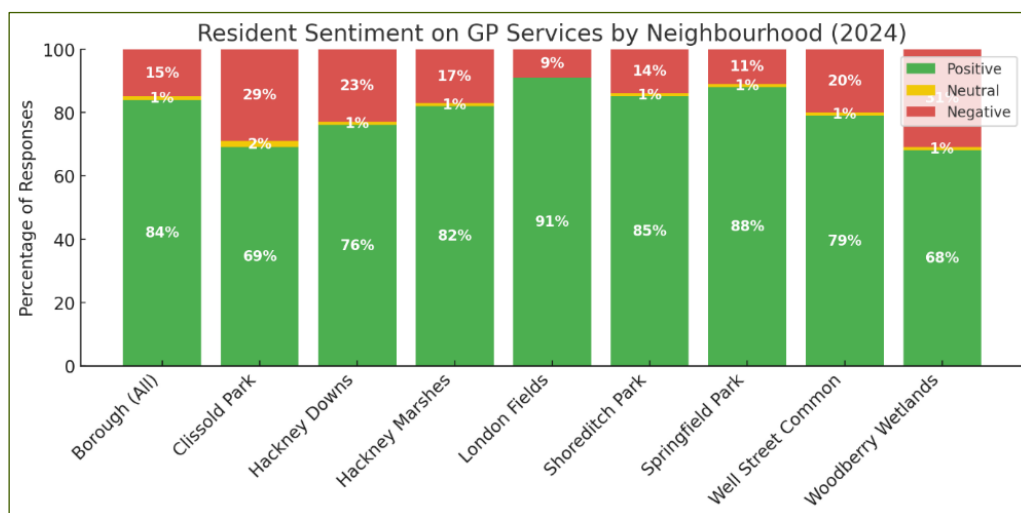
111 Mental Health Crisis – ‘Option 2’ Service

In 2024, [NHS 111's mental health crisis option](#) was introduced. Residents experiencing a mental health crisis can now select ‘option 2’ when calling 111, connecting them directly to local mental health services without needing a GP referral. Hopefully this will address some of the barriers to seeking help with a mental health crisis.

Access to GP services

Healthwatch Hackney compiles resident and GP patient feedback gathered through outreach, surveys, [NHS Choices](#), [Care Opinion](#) and across social media.

Healthwatch Hackney's [2024 GP Experience Report](#) highlights a range of resident experiences in London Fields. While feedback varies, many reviews continue to express appreciation for the quality of care received. The report also reflects ongoing challenges in accessing services.



Source: Overall Patient Sentiment: Healthwatch Hackney GP Experience Report (2024)

Some patients in London Fields reported difficulties accessing GP appointments. Booking systems were at times described as confusing or inconsistent. Telephone-only booking remains a barrier for some people in poor health, those with non-traditional working hours, caring responsibilities or living with mental health conditions or neurodiverse needs.

Many commented on positive interactions with staff and the quality of care received:

*"For many years, my experiences have always been nothing less than exceptional. It is easy to book appointments via the on-line app or via the wonderful reception team. The reception team are **always professional, caring** and provide an efficient service."*

Patient from Beechwood Medical Centre

*"I've been coming to this surgery for over 20 years and despite the huge influx into the neighbourhood the **care remains excellent.**"*

Patient from London fields Medical centre

*"I have had nothing but help and assistance when I've need this. With my health and or forms, letter, and understanding. **Staff are professional.**"*

Patient from Queensbridge Group Practice

*"Super friendly and quick! Really helpful, clear communication and very informative. I **always feel like I'm getting great care!**"*

Patient from Richmond Road Medical Centre

*"Amazing service. Love the staff and the team are **always so attentive and kind!**"*

Patient from Sandringham Practice

*"Doctor was very nice and respectful, made sure to let me know everything i needed to so I **felt secure and comfortable.**"*

Patient from The Dalston Practice

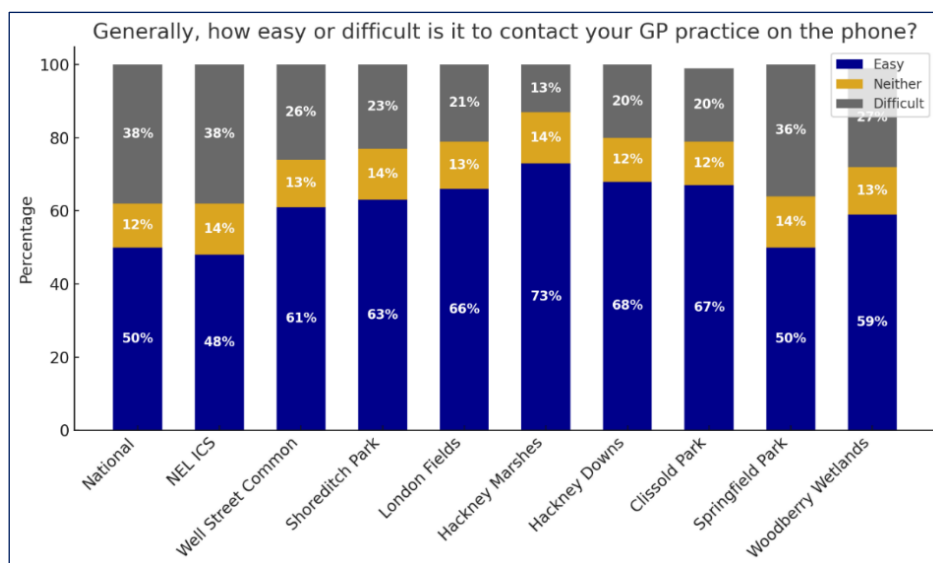
Barriers to GP access

Feedback collected by Healthwatch Hackney indicates that most residents are satisfied with the care provided by healthcare professionals at their GP practice. However, access remains a significant concern, with many residents reporting difficulties in contacting their practice, highlighting this as a widespread and persistent issue.

The [IPSOS MORI GP Patient Survey \(2024\)](#) begins by assessing patients' ability to contact their GP practice. It asked patients three key questions on accessing their GP:

- Via telephone
- Via the practice website
- Using the NHS app

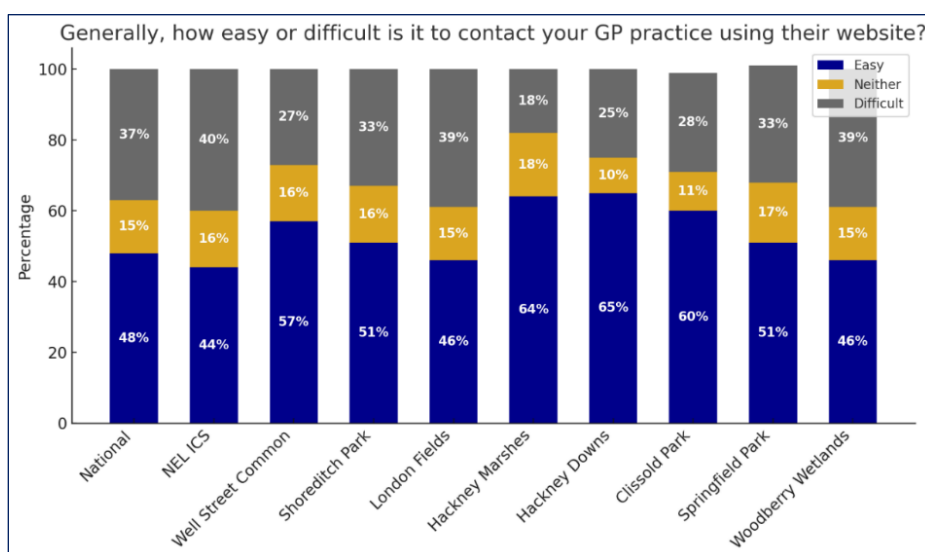
Question 1: GP Access via telephone



Source: Contact with GP practice by phone (IPSOS GP Survey 2024)

In London Fields, 66% of respondents said it was easy to contact their GP practice by phone. However, access by phone remained a challenge for around one in five residents (21%), highlighting persistent barriers to GP access. This suggests there is still room to improve telephone booking systems:

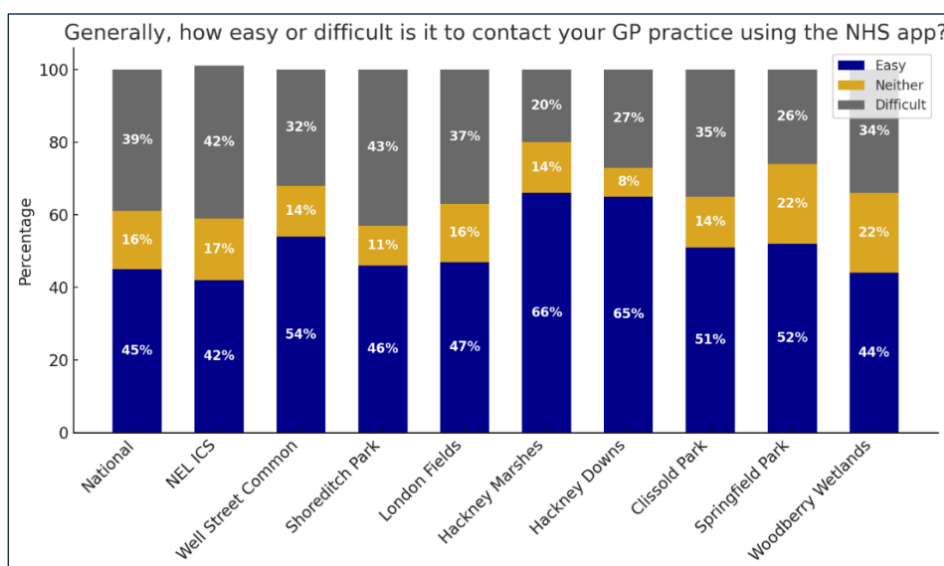
Question 2: GP Access via practice website



Source: Contact with GP practice via website (IPSOS GP Survey 2024)

In London Fields, 46% of respondents said it was easy to contact their GP practice online. However, 39% still reported difficulties with online access, pointing to ongoing issues with digital exclusion and website navigation. Further improvements are therefore needed to ensure everyone can confidently use these digital access routes.

Question 3: GP access via NHS app



Source: Contact with GP practice using NHS App (IPSOS GP Survey 2024)

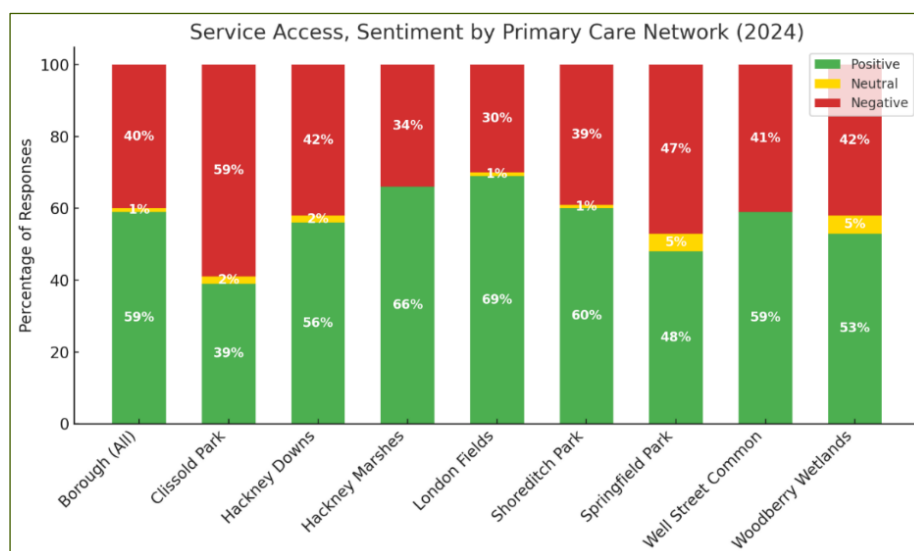
47% of respondents in London Fields found it easy to contact their GP practice via the NHS app. However, 37% still faced difficulties using the app, highlighting ongoing digital barriers, particularly for residents with limited digital skills or access to technology.

Taken together, the findings on telephone, website and NHS app access suggest that most residents in London Fields can contact their GP practice without major difficulties.

However, a significant minority still report challenges across all three methods, particularly when accessing services online. These findings highlight the need for ongoing improvements to ensure that digital and telephone systems are accessible and reliable for everyone.

Healthwatch Hackney feedback on GP access

In 2024, feedback collected by Healthwatch Hackney showed 69% of respondents from London Fields felt positively about their GP access, while 30% shared negative experiences. This reflects a generally positive view of local access to GP services.



Source: Overall GP Access Sentiment: Healthwatch Hackney GP Experience Report (2024)

Comparing datasets – IPSOS MORI Vs Healthwatch Hackney

The 2024 IPSOS MORI GP survey and Healthwatch Hackney GP feedback largely align in assessing GP access across City & Hackney. Both indicate that while many residents find access relatively easy, experiences vary by Neighbourhood.

For London Fields, the two data sets show broad alignment. The IPSOS survey reports that 66% of residents found it easy to contact their GP by phone, 46% via the website and 47% via the NHS app.

Similarly, Healthwatch Hackney feedback shows that 69% of those who shared their experiences reported a positive experience of accessing GP services, reinforcing that GP access is generally well-regarded. However, there is a noticeably poorer experience with online services, where challenges persist (approx. 50% negative sentiment).

Additional roles reimbursement scheme (ARRS)

The Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) has enabled practices to recruit a broader range of healthcare professionals, such as pharmacists, physiotherapists, mental health practitioners and social prescribers. The aim is to improve patient access to care, alleviate pressure on GPs and provide a more holistic, multidisciplinary approach to healthcare.

The ARRS workforce in London Fields has been developed with a focus on local population health needs and health equity. Roles have been introduced based on identified service gaps. Some staff are directly employed by the PCN, while others are integrated through partnerships with third-party providers, fostering a flexible approach to care.

Access to sexual and reproductive health services (SRH)

Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) remains a priority across City and Hackney, where rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) continue to be among the highest in the country. In 2023, there were 7,693 new STI diagnoses in City & Hackney, with particularly high rates of gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia in younger age groups.

The chlamydia detection rate among females aged 15 to 24 in City & Hackney was 3,388 per 100,000 in 2023, significantly higher than the England rate of 1,962. This suggests effective local screening and strong uptake of sexual health services among young people.

See table below for a summary of key indicators for Hackney, updated March 2025¹¹:

Sexual and Reproductive Health Indicators – Hackney (2023)

Indicator	Hackney	England	Comment / Rank
New STI diagnoses (all ages)	2,942 per 100,000	704 per 100,000	Significantly higher; ranked 3rd highest
STI diagnoses excl. chlamydia (under 25s)	2,547 per 100,000	520 per 100,000	High rate; ranked 3rd highest
Chlamydia detection (females 15–24)	3,388 per 100,000	1,962 per 100,000	High detection, good testing coverage
Gonorrhea diagnoses	867 per 100,000	149 per 100,000	High burden; ranked 3rd highest
Syphilis diagnoses	67.3 per 100,000	16.7 per 100,000	Ranked 9th highest
HIV testing rate (all services)	14,103 per 100,000	2,771 per 100,000	Very high testing coverage
New HIV diagnoses	75 (Prevalence: 6.8 per 1,000)	— (Prevalence: 2.4 per 1,000)	High prevalence; ranked 9th highest
Late HIV diagnoses (2021–23)	38.9%	43.5%	Slightly better than England

¹¹The data in this UKHSA report refers to Hackney or both Hackney and the City of London combined. Unfortunately, the UKHSA automated report does not highlight which of these options applies for each data item.

LARC rate (excl. injections)	42.2 per 1,000	43.5 per 1,000	Stronger provision in SHS; lower in primary care
Abortion rate (2021)	19.5 per 1,000	19.2 per 1,000	Similar to England
Repeat abortions (under 25s)	34.1%	29.7%	Slightly higher repeat rate
Births to mothers under 18	Data suppressed	0.6%	No local figure available

Source: [Summary profile of local authority sexual health \(Hackney\) – UKHSA \(Mar 2025 update\)](#)

Public Health Hackney and Homerton Healthcare provide a range of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including contraception, STI testing and treatment, HIV prevention and specialist care.

Residents can access free SRH services through various providers:

- **Online:** [Sexual Health London \(SHL\)](#) offers at-home STI testing kits, routine contraception (oral contraceptive pill) and emergency hormonal contraception (EHC).
- **Clinical Services:** The [Homerton Sexual Health Service](#) operates four clinics, including the Clifden Centre and John Scott Health Centre, which accept walk-in patients. Specialist services include PrEP for HIV prevention and LGBTQIA+ support.
- **Pharmacies:** [Pharmacies in City & Hackney](#) should provide free EHC, condoms for under-25s and chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing/treatment. However access varies and a 2025 campaign by LBH City & Hackney SRH Team aims to improve visibility of these services.
- **GPs:** All [local GP practices](#) offer sexual health advice, STI and HIV testing and Long-Acting Reversible Contraception ([LARC](#)), such as implants and coils.

Accessing pharmacy-based emergency hormonal contraception (EHC)

From October 2025, EHC will be available free of charge nationally. This will address issues of the inconsistencies in access that have been reported.

A [NEL-wide Patient Group Direction](#) now enables more pharmacists to provide EHC and chlamydia treatment, helping to reduce variation across the system. A City & Hackney sexual health awareness campaign is also planned for 2025 to improve visibility and understanding of pharmacy-based sexual health services.

For a full overview of available SRH services in City & Hackney, including clinic locations and pharmacy services in London Fields, see the [interactive SRH services map](#). For those

seeking LARC, such as implants and coils, City & Hackney service locations can be found on the [LARC access map](#).

Young People's Access to SRH Services

Addressing Barriers to Access

Consultation findings from the City & Hackney [Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy \(2024\)](#) identified several key barriers to SRH access:

- **Confidentiality Concerns** – Many young people worry about parents or peers knowing about their visits.
- **Service Awareness Gaps** – A lack of knowledge about available SRH services remains a challenge.
- **Limited Walk-in and Evening Services** – Young people expressed a need for more flexible clinic hours.

The City and Hackney Participatory Research Project Report 2023, provided by LBH's Children, Young People, Maternity and Families, gathered the views of over 100 young people aged 16–25 from across the borough. While not specific to London Fields, the insights offer valuable context on the barriers young people face when accessing SRH services.

Findings reinforce the importance of culturally competent care, confidentiality, accessible information, and inclusive environments. Many young people reported uncertainty about what services were available, fears around being judged and concerns about privacy when accessing support close to home.

Young people commented:

*"I wouldn't go to my GP for stuff like that – it's **too awkward**, especially **if your parents go there too**."*

*"It's **hard to know what's out there** – no one talks about it unless it's in school, and even then, they don't go into much detail."*

*"**Some places just feel off** – like you're being judged or they're not used to dealing with people like me."*

*"I'd go if there was someone more like me there, or even if my friends said it was okay. **It's not just about access, it's about how safe it feels**."*

Key Hackney SRH Services for Young People:

- [Health Spot Clinic \(Forest Road Youth Club\)](#) – Provides weekly SRH clinics (Tuesdays 3–7 PM) offering STI testing, contraception and health promotion for young people.
- [Clifden Centre Walk-in Clinics](#): (Homerton University Hospital) Hosts dedicated walk-in SRH clinics for under-19s every weekday, offering contraception, PrEP, vaccinations and STI treatment.
- [Young Hackney Health Services](#): Includes sexual health drop-ins and outreach initiatives across the borough, focusing on youth-friendly and accessible services.
- [Positive East](#): Specialises in HIV prevention, testing and support for young people at higher risk.
- [Body & Soul](#): Provides a trauma-informed support network for young people living with or affected by HIV.
- [Pharmacies Offering SRH Services](#): 36 pharmacies across all eight Neighbourhoods should offer free condoms, STI testing and emergency contraception to young people.

Condom distribution scheme – Mystery shopper findings

The [Condom Distribution Scheme \(CDS\)](#) provides free condoms and lubricant to young people aged 13–25 across City & Hackney, available from participating pharmacies after in-person or online registration. A [Mystery Shopper exercise \(2024\)](#) assessed service quality across 22 pharmacies, including Guardian Pharmacy and Haggerston Pharmacy in London Fields.

Findings highlighted good staff engagement and confidentiality in many locations but also inconsistencies in condom availability, lack of visible CDS materials and limited privacy options. Some pharmacies did not actively signpost young people to other SRH services, such as STI testing or emergency contraception. .

Digital & Mapping Resources

A new [online interactive map](#), developed by the LBH SRH Team, is being introduced to help young people easily locate sexual health clinics, pharmacies, GP practices and youth hubs. This tool enhances accessibility and visibility of SRH services, ensuring young people can quickly find confidential and youth-friendly support near them.

This interactive map complements existing service directories and addresses a key challenge identified in mystery shopper exercises: the lack of clear signposting to SRH services.

Insights from young people across City and Hackney

As part of ongoing efforts to understand young people's needs and knowledge gaps regarding sexual and reproductive health (SRH), workshops were conducted across schools and academies in City and Hackney from June 2023 to December 2024. This work was carried out by LBH's [Young Hackney](#) Health and Wellbeing team, providing valuable insight into young people's awareness and concerns.

Key findings:

- A total of 775 students participated in 39 sessions across City and Hackney.
- Surveys conducted before and after the sessions demonstrated a significant improvement in students' understanding:
- On average, 51% of students rated their knowledge as 'Good' or 'Very Good' before the sessions.
- This increased to 90% after the sessions, highlighting the effectiveness of the workshops.

School staff comments:

*"Very likely to have a **positive impact**."*

*"**Great videos, good examples**, very approachable facilitation."*

*"Very good. Kind and firm, **helpful, approachable and knowledgeable**."*

*"My group was very **interested and engaged**."*

*"Well structured and planned, **right approach for the age of the students**, warm welcoming questions, **encouraging to share**, supporting all students."*

*"I enjoyed the session and I am sure my students too. The **facilitator was very approachable and kind** in answering all questions, which **encouraged greater participation**."*

Topics young people most wanted to learn more about (when asked):

- Drugs and Alcohol
- Smoking and Vaping
- Stress and Anxiety
- Sex and Pleasure
- Relationships
- Personal Hygiene
- Puberty
- Sex and Consent

Access to pharmacy services

Pharmacies provide vital community healthcare, offering medication, health advice and minor ailment treatments.

London Fields has [five community pharmacies](#). However, the number of pharmacies alone does not guarantee accessibility; factors such as service availability, opening hours and language support still impact whether residents can effectively access pharmacy services.

According to a [Healthwatch England report \(2024\)](#), to which Healthwatch Hackney contributed, a nationally representative poll found that 72% of respondents had used a pharmacy in the past three months, demonstrating their critical role in local healthcare. However, unexpected closures due to staff shortages disrupted access for 7% of patients. Some pharmacies operate with only one pharmacist, leading to closures at lunch or during absences.

Medication Shortages

Pharmacists report difficulties in obtaining drugs, which result in patients experiencing problems receiving their prescribed medication. This can include common medicines such as HRT and painkillers.

*"You **need to keep on top of your medication** or you're not going to have anything for the weekend. Two days can be a really long time and it can be quite detrimental for our condition..."*

-Hackney pharmacy user

Language and Translation Barriers

The [Hackney Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(2022\)](#) states that all Hackney pharmacies *should* have access to [Language Line UK](#) for interpreting services. However, a Healthwatch Hackney audit of 18 pharmacies (Dec 2023) found that many relied on Google Translate, multilingual staff or asked patients to bring an English-speaking friend, compromising patient confidentiality.

*"I **had to bring my teenage son with me to translate, which was embarrassing**. There should be a better system for people who don't speak English well."*

-Hackney pharmacy user

Limited Awareness of Available Services

Many residents are unaware that pharmacies offer contraception, blood pressure checks and minor illness consultations, leading to underutilisation.

"People talk about primary care and just automatically think GPs and that's not the case."

-Pharmacist, Hackney

Sexual Health Community Pharmacy Project

The Neighbourhoods Programme has partnered with local pharmacists and residents to enhance sexual health services, focusing particularly on understanding emergency contraception use and young women's contraceptive choices.

Through collaborative efforts, including focus groups with community pharmacists and young residents, and a borough-wide survey developed with Hackney Council, the project aims to gather valuable insights and address misconceptions about contraception options.

Special attention is being given to culturally sensitive outreach, particularly engaging Bengali women through community-led peer research, facilitated by [Volunteer Centre Hackney](#). Additionally, resident advisors from diverse backgrounds have been instrumental in mapping local sexual health resources and supporting tailored engagement strategies.

March 2025 Update: Next steps include hosting a co-design workshop with residents and pharmacists to improve communication, awareness, and referral pathways for contraception and sexual health services.

Access to Adult Social Care

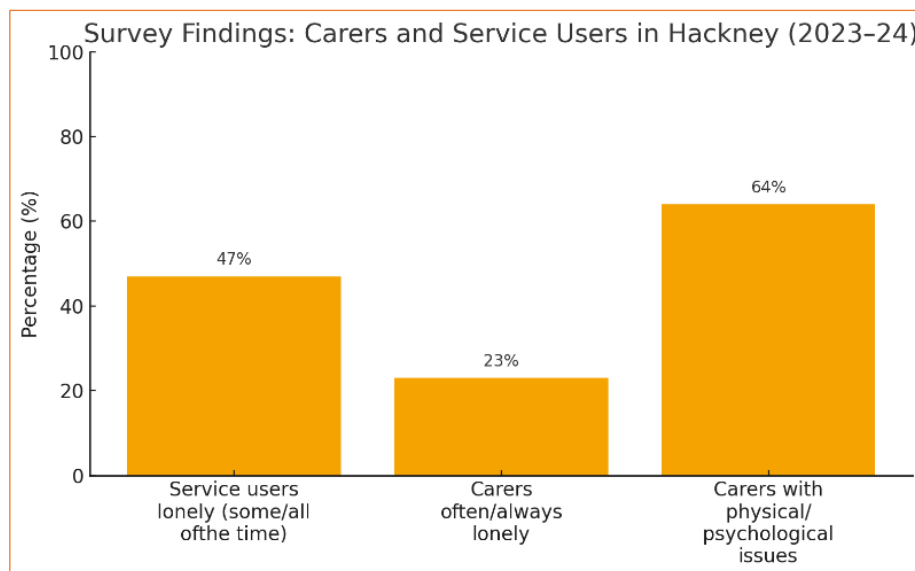
Adult Social Care (ASC) supports residents in City & Hackney who need help due to age, disability or LTCs. The goal is to help people live independently and with dignity. Services are provided through a mix of council teams, NHS partners, voluntary sector organisations and private care providers.

Adult Social Care in the London Borough of Hackney (Oct 2024)

As of October 2024, approximately 3,300 residents were receiving ASC support across the London Borough of Hackney (LBH). In the year from September 2023 to August 2024, around 800 unpaid carers also received a service either directly from ASC or through its commissioned partner at the time, [Carers First](#) (now delivered by [City & Hackney Carers Centre](#) – April 2025).

Survey findings from the [Adult Social Care User Survey \(ASCS\) 2023-24](#) and the [Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England, 2023-24](#) highlight challenges faced by both carers and service users in Hackney:

- 47% of service users said they felt lonely some or all of the time.¹²
- 23% of carers reported feeling often or always lonely, with some describing feelings of isolation and depression.¹³
- 64% of carers said they had physical or psychological health issues.¹³



Information provided by Adult Social Care (Oct 2024)

These figures reflect the extent of social isolation and health challenges faced by many people supported by Adult Social Care.

Local Strategy and Vision

The [Hackney Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26](#) promotes a strengths-based, holistic approach to health and social care. It supports prevention, early intervention and a 'no wrong door' model to ensure people can access the right help at the right time, particularly those with complex needs or acting as unpaid carers.

The [Hackney Adult Carers Strategy \(2024-2027\)](#) recognises the vital role of unpaid carers. While there are an estimated 19,000 unpaid carers in Hackney (including young carers and carers of children), only a proportion are eligible for support from ASC, which supports adult carers of adults.

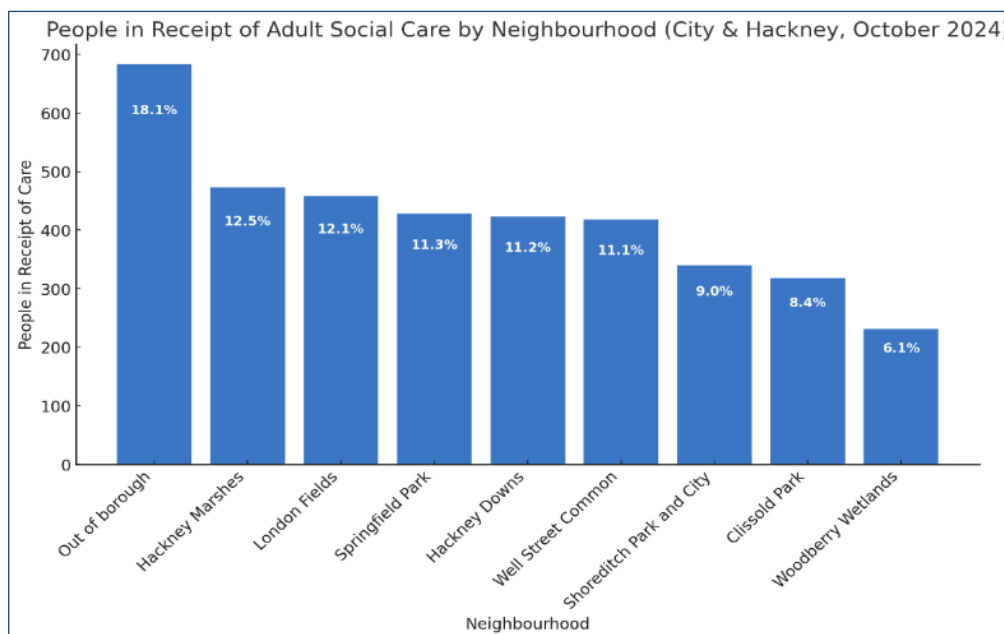
One way the strategy commits to improving support for carers who do engage with ASC is by increasing the number of carers' assessments. Between the first and second half of 2024, Hackney Council increased the number of carer assessments by 19%.

¹² [Adult Social Care User Survey \(ASCUS\) 2023-24](#)

¹³ [Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England, 2023-24](#)

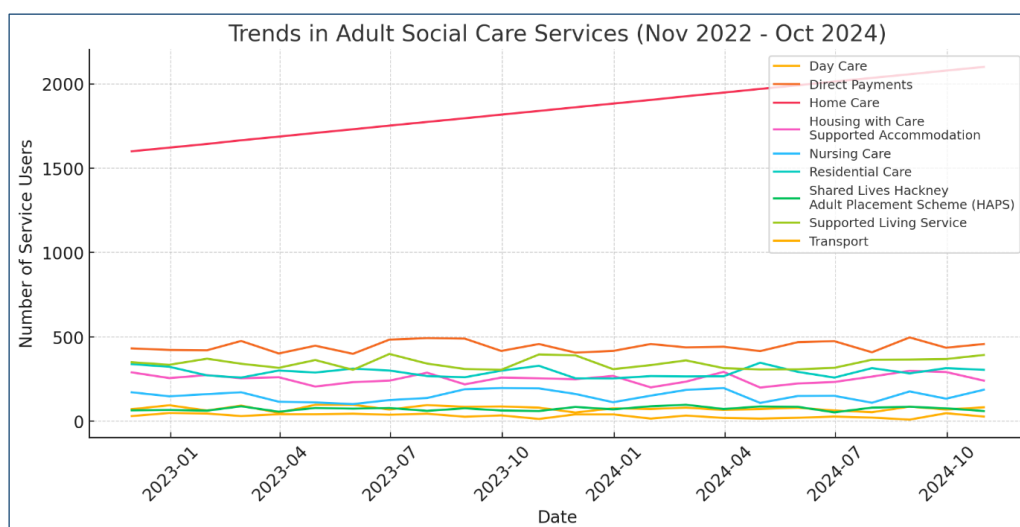
Neighbourhood-Level Data

Neighbourhood-level data is only applicable to long-term ASC services (not carers). As of October 2024, 12.1% of all long-term ASC service users in Hackney lived in London Fields, placing it among the higher-ranking Neighbourhoods.



Information provided by Adult Social Care (Oct 2024)

Trends in Adult Social Care Services (Nov 2022 – Oct 2024)



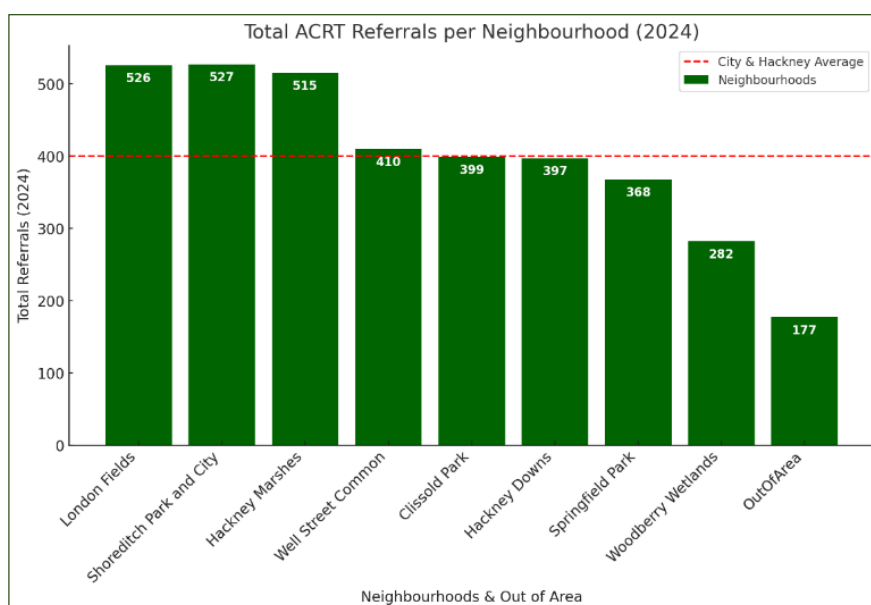
Information provided by Adult Social Care (Oct 2024)

Between November 2022 and October 2024, the number of people receiving home care in City & Hackney rose from 1,626 to 2,138, reflecting rising demand and a shift towards preventative care, reablement and support at home after hospital stays.

Loneliness and social isolation remain significant concerns, especially among service users and unpaid carers.

Access to Community Rehabilitation Services

The [Adult Community Rehabilitation Team \(ACRT\)](#), based at St Leonard's Hospital, is a multidisciplinary service including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists, dietitians, and rehabilitation assistants. ACRT supports residents to set individual goals and provides tailored [group programmes](#), run by specialists throughout the year.



Source: City & Hackney [ACRT](#) (2025)

In 2024, there were 526 referrals from London Fields, placing the Neighbourhood above the City and Hackney average. A total of 3,959 clinical activities were delivered to local residents, including assessments, therapy sessions and reviews, provided at home, in clinics and community settings.

New Community Assessment Clinics

To improve access and reduce wait times, new Community Assessment Clinics have opened at Frampton Park Baptist Church and St Leonard's Hospital. Open to residents across all Neighbourhoods, these clinics prioritise high-demand areas such as walking aid provision and neuro-physiotherapy, helping to streamline care pathways.

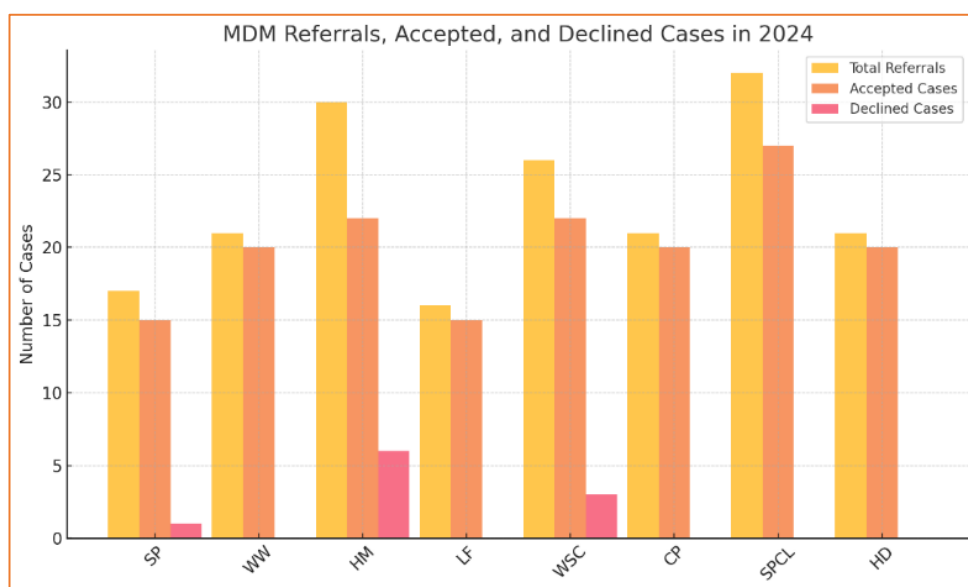
Multidisciplinary Team Meetings in City and Hackney

[Multidisciplinary Team Meetings \(MDMs\)](#) play a key role in City and Hackney's Neighbourhoods way of working by facilitating collaborative, multi-agency working. Residents with complex needs often require support from various services, organisations and professionals, each addressing different aspects of their care.

MDMs bring together the people supporting a resident, including professionals, families, carers and those close to them, on a regular basis to develop a holistic, person-centred plan. These meetings help address not only medical needs but also wider social determinants of health, such as housing, financial difficulties and safeguarding concerns. By reducing siloed working and enhancing information sharing, MDMs promote a more coordinated and effective approach to care.

Cases referred in 2024

In 2024, there were 16 referrals to the London Fields MDM team. The acceptance rate in 2024 stood at 100%. Out of 15 referrals, 15 cases were accepted.

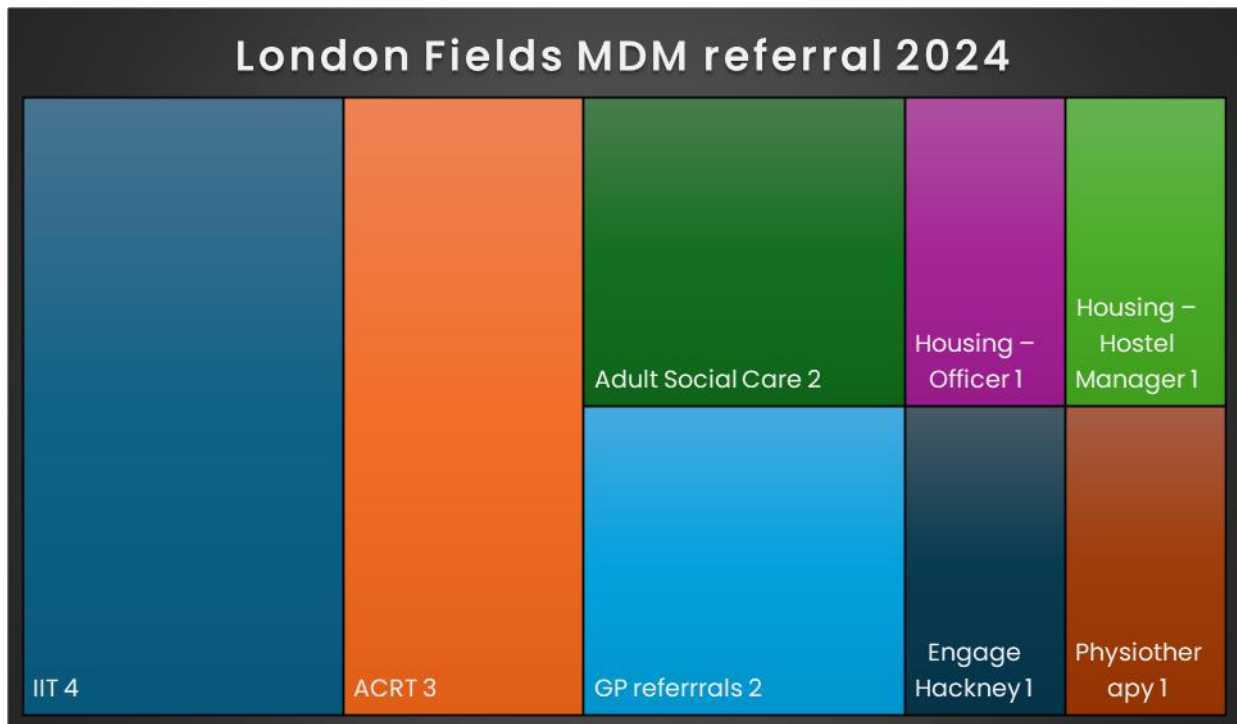


Source: Homerton Healthcare NHS Trust, MDM Team (2025)

London Fields had a relatively low number of referrals, with a 100% acceptance rate. The percentage of declined referrals in London Fields fell significantly between 2023 and 2024.

Referral Sources

The following tree map of referral sources provides insight into which agencies were most engaged in the MDM process.



Source: Homerton Healthcare NHS Trust, MDM Team (2025)

Insights from the MDM Team

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness of MDMs, the following key observations regarding impact, professional feedback and challenges were shared by the MDM Team (2025):

Impact on Residents

While historical data on outcomes has not been systematically collected, GPs and ACRT report that residents discussed at MDMs often experience positive changes. From the new tax year, a new system will be introduced to track outcomes more consistently and effectively.

One recent case involved a resident with multiple risks (post-stroke), non-adherence to medication, facing eviction and language barriers. Through the MDM, professionals coordinated input from District Nurses, mental health services and a social prescriber, while the chair liaised with the housing association. This joint effort reduced the risk of homelessness and improved care access.

Feedback from Professionals

Health professionals across City and Hackney have expressed strong support for MDMs, noting that they foster collaborative problem-solving and holistic care. However, one recurring challenge shared was the low number of referrals.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement

Inconsistent attendance from some services limits the full potential of MDMs. To address this, the new MDM team lead is actively visiting local teams to boost engagement, increase referrals and ensure more residents benefit from coordinated support

Future Developments

City and Hackney MDMs are moving towards an Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) model to deliver more coordinated care closer to home and reduce pressure on health and social care services. Each Neighbourhood will bring together district nursing, therapy and social care teams, working alongside voluntary and community sector organisations for the first time.

INTs will also develop tailored strategies to address local health inequalities by drawing on community networks. A dedicated City of London group will meet its specific needs and plans are underway to explore integrating children's services into the INT model.

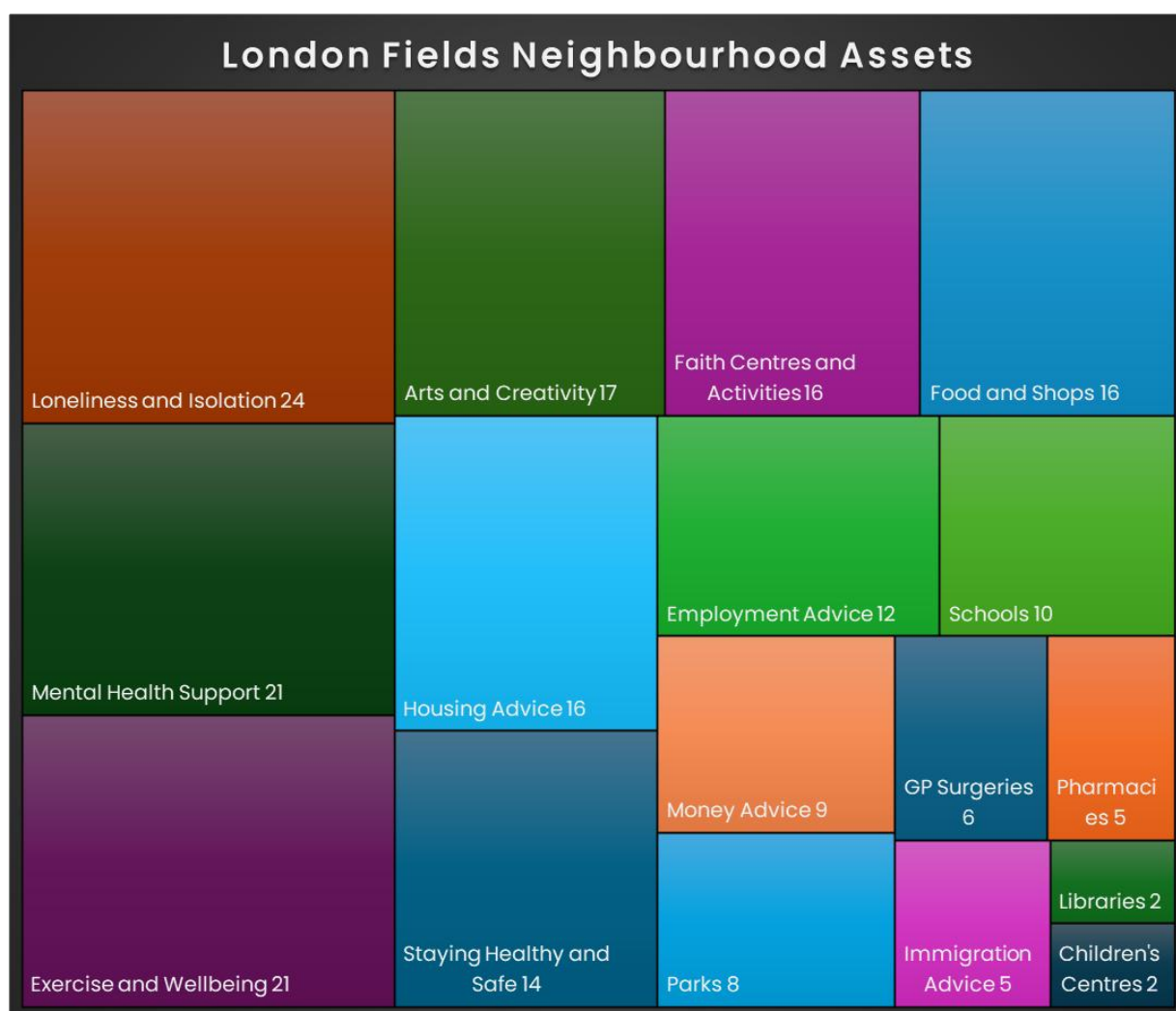
Neighbourhood Assets in London Fields

London Fields Neighbourhood benefits from a diverse range of voluntary and community organisations that provide essential services to local residents. These organisations play a crucial role in supporting health and well-being, addressing social inequalities and fostering a sense of community.

The assets in the Neighbourhood include services focused on mental health, loneliness and isolation, physical activity, faith-based support and social prescribing, among others.

A wide network of community venues, food services, children's centres and arts initiatives further enriches the area. Many of these organisations collaborate with healthcare providers, local authorities and voluntary sector partners to ensure residents receive holistic support.

An interactive map of these local services is available via the '[Find Your Neighbourhood](#)' function of the [City and Hackney Neighbourhoods](#) website. Users can enter a postcode to geographically locate services within the identified Neighbourhood, including detailed information such as addresses and contact details for each organisation.



Source: <https://cityandhackneyneighbourhoods.org.uk/neighbourhoods/london-fields/>

Community hall hire

The following table presents the community hall hire spaces available in the London Fields area, as listed on the [Hackney Council's community halls directory](#). These venues offer a variety of facilities suitable for events, meetings and activities, catering to the diverse needs of the local community.

London Fields Neighbourhood Community Hall Hire			
Venue	Type of venue	Capacity	Wheelchair access
Haggerston Community Centre 8 Lovelace Street, London, E8 4FF	Vinyl floor. Used for classes, meetings or training.	35	No
Haggerston Community Centre 8 Lovelace Street, London, E8 4FF	Full kitchen with 2 cookers, 2 dishwashers, 3 sinks + service area.	8	No
Haggerston Community Centre 8 Lovelace Street, London, E8 4FF	Wooden floor with high ceiling, natural light. Used for dance, martial arts, exercise classes or weddings.	100	Yes
Haggerston Community Centre 8 Lovelace Street, London, E8 4FF	Vinyl floor. Venue used for meetings or worship.	20	Yes
Morland Community Hall Gayhurst Road, Morland Estate, London, E8 3EY	120m ² hall, wooden floors, stage (22m ²). Venue used for classes, meetings, events, parties or long-term arrangements.	100	Yes
Regents Community Hall 60 Brougham Rd, London, E8 4PD	97m ² hall, apex roof. Used for classes, meetings, events, parties or social gatherings.	70	Yes
Regents Community Hall 60 Brougham Rd, London, E8 4PD	65m ² hall, kitchen access, garden/play area. Used for classes, meetings, events, parties or social gatherings.	30	Yes
Whiston & Goldsmith Community Centre Goldsmith Square, London, E2 8SB	230m ² hall with kitchen, outdoor space. Venue used for events, meetings, classes or social gatherings.	100	No

Community Health Champions

The [City & Hackney Community Health Champions](#) (CHC) programme empowers local residents by training volunteers (known as Community Health Champions) to be trusted sources of health information in their communities.

Delivered in partnership by [Volunteer Centre Hackney](#) (VCH) and City & Hackney Public Health teams, the programme recently awarded [Community Health Champion Network Grants for 2024-2025](#) to local voluntary, community, and faith-sector organisations to strengthen their involvement in promoting community health.

Each year, the programme collaborates with Champions to identify health priorities reflecting residents' most pressing issues.

For 2025, these priorities are:

- **Physical Activity**
- **Diet, Nutrition, and Food Poverty**
- **Vaccinations and Immunisations**
- **Long-Term Health Conditions** (focusing specifically on cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer)

In addition, the CHC programme recognises cross-cutting themes such as Mental Health and Wellbeing, the Cost-of-living, Health Literacy, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and adopting a Whole Person Approach.

To effectively address these priorities, the CHC team provides Champions with ongoing support, through tailored training, peer support sessions and targeted communication resources.

Champions also play a crucial role in gathering insights into local health needs, which the CHC team shares with health and care partners to inform service design and help reduce health inequalities.

For more information, or to explore collaboration opportunities with Community Health Champions, please contact:

- Ros Jones (rosalind.jones@cityandhackneyph.hackney.gov.uk) or
- Jo Hunt (joanne@vchackney.org).

Social prescribing

Social Prescribing is a service that connects residents with community resources to enhance their health and well-being. In City and Hackney, [Family Action](#) delivers [Social Prescribing](#) across eight PCNs and 41 GP practices. This initiative aims to improve mental health and well-being by linking individuals to community support, reducing reliance on traditional health services.

Social Prescribers assist service users in accessing a wide range of community-based activities, including social groups, arts and creative sessions, physical activities, smoking cessation, weight management, healthy lifestyle programs, skills development and volunteering opportunities. In addition, [volunteer befrienders](#) support service users in overcoming barriers and engaging with local support networks.

Who is Social Prescribing for?

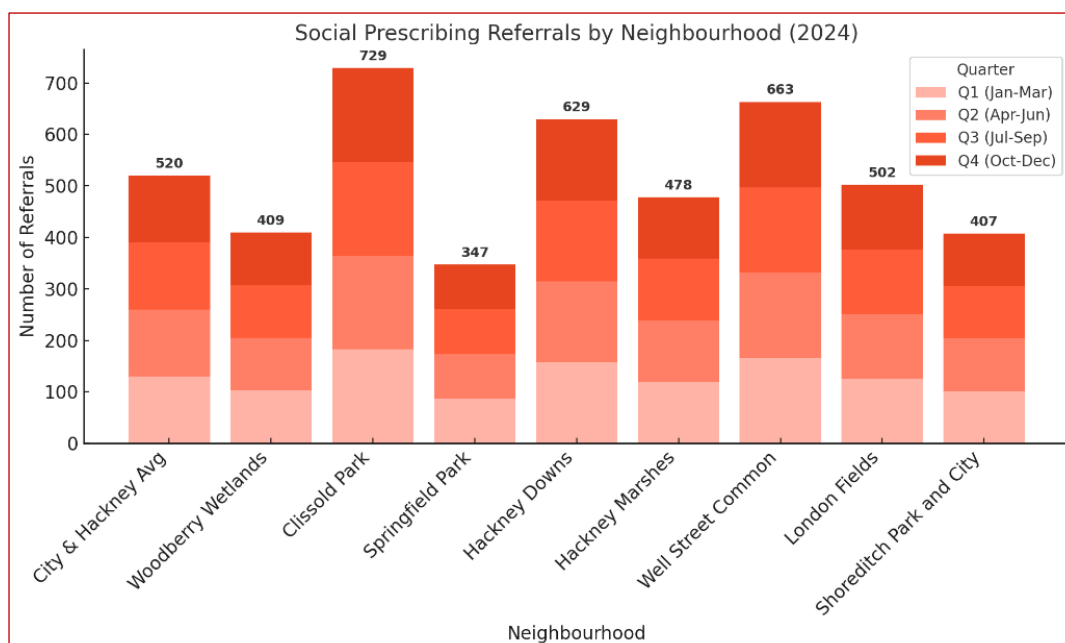
The service is available for residents aged 18 and over who may be experiencing:

- Social isolation
- Mild to moderate mental health issues
- Long-term health conditions (LTCs)
- Social or financial challenges
- Limited engagement with healthcare services
- Disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Barriers due to language, disability, or cultural background

Additionally, the [Macmillan Social Prescribing Service](#) supports individuals aged 18 and over who have had a previous cancer diagnosis, providing a person-centred approach to enable them to live well during and after cancer treatment.

Referral Trends Across Neighbourhoods

In 2024, 4,164 referrals were recorded across City and Hackney. London Fields Neighbourhood recorded 502 referrals, slightly below the Neighbourhood average of 520.



Source: [Family Action](#), 2025

Key themes from referrals include:

- Mental health difficulties (particularly anxiety and depression).
- Social isolation, particularly among older adults and single-parent households.
- Financial hardship and housing insecurity, with many residents needing foodbank access, financial aid or housing support.

Service User Insights

Feedback from residents highlights the impact of Social Prescribing in London Fields:

*"...Since seeing you, I'm better able to chase things up. Before, I felt I couldn't. **Nothing can replace human contact.**"*

*"I started to feel that **someone knows I exist**. My mind is starting to be alive now, I'm not as lonely."*

*"**It's been amazing**, just having that regular session and someone to help make a plan with—I had no idea those resources were out there and for free!"*

*"My **social prescriber helped me** access foodbanks, money vouchers and the benefits system when I was at my lowest and struggling and has helped me begin to work on myself through art and counselling'.*

London Fields VCS Services

Neighbourhood Forums and Action Groups

The [Neighbourhood Forum programme](#) runs across all City & Hackney Neighbourhoods. It offers a structured way for residents and professionals to connect, share information and co-produce service improvements aimed at reducing health inequalities.

Each Neighbourhood has an [Action Group](#), made up of residents and professionals, who work together on agreed health and wellbeing priorities each year. In 2024, London Fields's action group decided on:

- **Long term health conditions** – digital inclusion effects on health isolation/inequalities for over 65s and global majority residents.
- **Health support for children and young people** – obesity & nutrition.

Bi-annual Forums provide accessible spaces for residents to meet with local services, share experiences and gather insights to influence change at the hyper-local level.

In London Fields, the Forum is facilitated by [Hackney CVS](#), whose mission is to support City and Hackney's VCS to engage and collaborate with each other and local decision-makers in the health and care system.

An Viet Foundation Lunch club

The An Viet Foundation Lunch Club is a Vietnamese-inspired lunch club based at [Hackney Chinese Community Services](#), 28–32 Ellingfort Road, London E8 3PA. It serves lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 1pm, costing £4 for members and £6 for non-members. Annual membership is £10. In addition to the lunch club, the centre offers a range of activities and support services for the community, including health advocacy and welfare advice.

Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund

Hackney Council introduced the Community Infrastructure Grant scheme to support organisations that have the capacity and reach to bring together and strengthen other local voluntary and community groups.

In the London Fields Neighbourhood, the grant was awarded to [Idia's Community Kitchen](#). The organisation uses surplus food donations from local shops and businesses to provide hot meals cooked with care, a food bank with essential groceries and social support to anyone in the neighbourhood experiencing food insecurity.

CARIS Families

[CARIS Families](#) is a London-based charity supporting families at the sharp end of the housing crisis. They offer hostel accommodation, advocacy and family support services

in Camden and Hackney. According to [CARIS Families' 2023 Annual Report](#), the organisation supported 342 newly homeless families in Hackney during the 2022–23 financial year, an increase from 319 families in the previous year. The report continues to highlight that racially minoritised groups and lone parent families remain disproportionately represented among the homeless population.

Coffee Afrik CIC

[Coffee Afrik](#) is a Hackney-based organisation working to reduce health inequalities, provide practical support and information to communities of African heritage, and promote lived experience and coproduction in the development of local services.

Shelter Hackney

[Shelter Hackney](#) is a local service run by the national charity Shelter, offering free housing advice and support to Hackney residents facing housing issues or homelessness. The service provides help with eviction, rent arrears, disrepair and homelessness and is open to anyone living in Hackney.

Support is available via a helpline or at the drop-in service. The aim is to help people secure safe, stable housing and prevent homelessness. Shelter Hackney works across multiple Neighbourhoods.

Hackney Playbus:

[Hackney Playbus](#) operates a converted double-decker bus, bringing early years play environments to housing estates and public parks in East London. Their free sessions cater to children aged 0–4, offering activities that support early learning and development.

Hackney Quest

[Hackney Quest](#) works with young people and families to help them build confidence, develop life skills and reach their full potential. The charity offers youth mentoring, after-school activities, family support services and tailored programmes that nurture resilience, leadership and emotional wellbeing.

Food Banks

[Hackney Foodbank](#) is dedicated to providing emergency food parcels to individuals and families facing crises or poverty within the Hackney community. Operating on a voucher referral system, they ensure that those in need receive essential support with dignity and compassion. Their services are available six days a week at various locations:

- **Monday:** Homerton Food Bank Centre at Kingsmead Kabin, Kingsmead Way, Homerton, E9 5QG, open from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- **Tuesday:** Dalston Food Bank Centre at Our Lady and St Joseph Church, 100a Balls Pond Road, Dalston, N1 4AG, open from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

- **Wednesday:** Upper Clapton Food Bank Centre at St Andrews Church, 106 Bethune Road, Stoke Newington, N16 5DU, open from 5:00 pm to 6:45 pm.
- **Thursday:** Stoke Newington Food Bank Centre at St Mary's Church, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 9ES, open from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.
- **Friday:** Hoxton Food Bank Centre at the Museum of the Home, Fire Gate 3 Entrance, Geffrye Street, Hoxton, E2 8EA, open from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- **Friday:** Hackney Quest provides free community meals twice a week and distributes food parcels every Friday to support those experiencing food insecurity.
- **Saturday:** Pembury Food Bank Centre at Pembury Community Centre, 1 Atkins Square, Dalston Lane, E8 1FA, open from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Social Housing Providers in London Fields

As highlighted above, around half of residents in London Fields live in socially rented accommodation (47%). Social housing providers (also known as Registered Social Landlords) operate across multiple Neighbourhoods, managing properties for individuals and families in need of affordable housing.

These providers often reflect the diverse needs of local communities. Some offer sheltered accommodation for older residents (e.g. [Anchor Hanover](#)), while others have strong cultural or faith-based links, such as the [Industrial Dwellings Society](#) (IDS), which has longstanding ties to the Jewish community; the [North London Muslim Housing Association](#); and [Shian Housing Association](#) (a Black Minority Ethnic-led organisation).

Several providers also deliver wider services that support resident wellbeing, including employment programmes, financial inclusion support, youth activities and health and wellbeing initiatives. The chart below provides a selection of the key social housing providers operating across City & Hackney Neighbourhoods.

Network Housing Association	One Housing Group	Newlon Housing Association	London and Quadrant Housing Association	Southern Housing Association
Anchor Hannover	Peabody Housing Association	North London Muslim Housing Association	Clarion Housing Association	IDS
	Guinness Trust	Sanctuary Housing Association	Shian Housing Association	
		Notting Hill Genesis		

Conclusion

London Fields has high levels of deprivation and the highest proportion of high-intensity GP users in City and Hackney. Nearly a third of residents live with three or more long-term conditions.

While most residents report positive experiences with their GP and confidence in managing their health, access remains uneven, particularly online. Mental health needs are high, with long waits and low awareness of alternative support.

Digital exclusion and language barriers affect older residents and minoritised groups. Children and young people face challenges linked to poverty, neurodiversity and sexual health, though early years outcomes are generally strong.

The Neighbourhood benefits from active community support, including social prescribing, food networks and digital inclusion projects but awareness and access remain inconsistent.

Neighbourhood Challenges and Opportunities

Snapshot summary of key themes emerging from this year's Neighbourhood Insight Report

Challenges	Opportunities
Mental Health	Mental Health
Anxiety/depression among most common LTCs in Neighbourhood. Key barriers: Long waiting times, crisis-driven pathways and poor awareness of available support.	Promote direct access NHS Talking therapies. Promote NHS 111 'Option 2' mental health crisis line + peer support to improve access / earlier intervention.
Access to GP Services	Access to GP Services
Resident frustration with appointment systems / inconsistent communication. Digital exclusion / lack of confidence using online systems common barriers.	Upskill residents on use of NHS app. Promote digital inclusion initiatives like IT classes at Age UK's Marie Lloyd Centre and GP practice-based digital inclusion champions.
Long-Term Conditions (LTCs)	Long-Term Conditions (LTCs)
Obesity, anxiety, depression and hypertension prevalent + not all residents feel confident managing them.	Strengthen follow-up care and referral pathways. Improve signposting to social prescribing and community support programmes. Encourage local self-management groups and peer networks.
Children and Young People	Children and Young People
Year 6 obesity rates are above average. Young people face mental health access barriers and some are	Promote early intervention through schools and youth services. Strengthen links with local youth providers and mental health services.

overrepresented in sexual health clinic attendance. Many live in low-income households.	
Housing and Health	Housing and Health
Poor housing conditions, overcrowding and temporary accommodation are major health-related challenges. Residents in unstable housing report poorer access to services.	Promote Housing + Integrated Care Programme. Use cross-sector partnerships offer to align housing + health support more effectively through place-based models.
Economic Hardship	Economic Hardship
Food insecurity, debt, and low income remain widespread issues. Residents affected by the cost-of-living crisis are often unaware of available support.	Social prescribing / Citizens Advice Hackney play critical role in helping residents access financial, legal and housing support. Promote coordination between statutory and voluntary services.
Community Assets and the Voluntary Sector	Community Assets and the Voluntary Sector
Many residents and frontline staff are unaware of the full range of local services. Information is often fragmented and hard to navigate.	Promote interactive services map on Neighbourhoods website, offering postcode-based navigation.
Sexual and Reproductive Health	Sexual and Reproductive Health
Young people face barriers to accessing SRH services including stigma, confidentiality concerns + lack of clear signposting. Quality of pharmacy-based SRH services varies.	Promote online interactive map + borough-wide awareness campaign and pharmacist training to improve visibility and access.

Supporting Resident Engagement in City & Hackney Neighbourhoods

Involving residents is essential to successful Neighbourhood working. Without residents sharing their experiences to shape local priorities and service delivery, addressing health inequalities effectively becomes challenging. Resident engagement requires thoughtful planning to ensure everyone has opportunities to participate, especially those who might otherwise face barriers, such as digital exclusion.

Healthwatch Hackney runs monthly [resident engagement surgeries](#) for Neighbourhood professionals, providing peer guidance and support on effective resident involvement. These meetings are open to those engaging with residents across City and Hackney. To learn more or attend a session, email info@healthwatchhackney.co.uk.




Neighbourhood Forum meetings continue to provide a valuable space for discussing local challenges with those who live and work in the Neighbourhood. These forums are now held quarterly in each Neighbourhood and are further supported by Neighbourhood-specific Resident Action Groups. These groups bring together residents and professionals to explore forum issues in greater depth and determine how best to implement insights gained through resident engagement.

To [find out more](#), contact: VCSNeighbourhoods@hcv.org.uk or visit the [Resident & Community Engagement](#) page of the City & Hackney Neighbourhoods website.



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North East London