

The state of the borough

May 2026

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Purpose of the report

- This report provides a snapshot overview of the current state of the borough, using key data available. The themes and data in the report have been selected to provide a broad and high-level understanding of Islington's population and key challenges, broadly mirroring the ambitions of our missions.
- The report focuses on how Islington is doing over time, compares the borough to London as a benchmark and provides information by inequality where available.
- The report is by no means exhaustive and links to further reports and analysis that explore the themes covered in this report in detail will be provided.
- The audience for the report includes everyone working across the council, local politicians, and our partners. The information is intended to frame discussions around our missions and support the development of policies and programmes.

Executive Summary

Summary - Current population and context

- Islington is home to approximately 224,700 people according to Greater London Authority estimates. Islington is a young borough, with a high proportion of residents aged 20-35.
- The borough's population is expected to slightly decrease (-1.1%) over the next decade. Some of this decrease is likely to reflect reduction in fertility rates and people moving out of the borough due to the cost of housing.
- The borough's population is ageing. The older population (aged 65+) will see the biggest percentage increase in population (30%) over the next decade but will remain the smallest in absolute numbers (currently around 22,000 people).
- As with other inner London boroughs, there is a high degree of churn amongst Islington's population, with young people arriving in the borough to study, but people aged 30-35 leaving the borough.
- Islington is an ethnically diverse borough with 60% of the population identifying as non-White British. We have a large Other White (19%) and Black African population (8%). Spanish is the most spoken language after English, but amongst children, Somali is the most common language after English.
- In a resident survey undertaken in 2025, the top 3 things that mattered most to residents in terms of living a good life were health (physical and mental), friendships and relationships, and financial stability. For the younger population (aged 16-34), financial stability was the most important.

Summary - Indices of multiple deprivation

- The English Indices of Deprivation (IMD) 2025 are the official measure of relative deprivation in England. They are constructed using 55 separate indicators, which capture different aspects of deprivation experienced by people living in small areas known as Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Each LSOA is ranked from 1 (most deprived) to 33,755 (least deprived), enabling comparisons across neighbourhoods and local authorities.
- Islington has moved from the 41st most deprived local authority in England in 2019 to 50th most deprived in 2025 (out of 153 local authorities). It is now the 8th most deprived local authority in London (it was 6th in 2019).
- The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures children aged 0-15 living in income deprived families and ranks Islington as the 6th most deprived in London, an improvement from most deprived in 2019.
- The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI), measures the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation and ranks Islington the 4th most deprived in London. Islington was also 4th most deprived in London in 2019.
- Out of the seven domains used to calculate deprivation, only the health domain and living environment domain have seen a worsening in deprivation ranking when compared to 2019 rankings.

Summary - Employment

- Financial stability is important to Islington residents to live a good life. Good quality and secure employment opportunities for residents are therefore important.
- Islington is a small, densely populated borough and currently home to 23,335 businesses the majority of which are small medium enterprises. The borough's businesses are largely concentrated in the south of the borough.
- The number of businesses establishing themselves in the borough have been growing over the past decade and generally there is a net gain in new businesses, i.e. more new businesses are established in the borough compared to closing.
- 81% of the working age (16-64) population in Islington are economically active. This is higher than London and England. Job density is also higher than London. The modelled unemployment rate has decreased from 5.8% in 2023/24 to 4.7% in 2024/25.
- For the first time since 2019/20, the main reason among Islington residents for not seeking employment is due to being long term sick. Previously it was being a student.
- Employment rates for people with a health condition or illnesses lasting more than 12 months has ranged between 40% and 70% since 2017. In June 2025 there was a 7% gap between employment in people with a health condition or illness and without.
- The percentage of young people Not in Education Employment or Training is higher than London but it has decreased over the past 6 years.

Summary - Income and poverty

- The official measure for poverty nationally is measured as households with income below 60% of the national median. For child poverty this translates into 19% (6,100 children) of Islington children living relative low-income before housing costs, which is the 5th highest in London. Once housing costs are taken into consideration, it is estimated that proportion of children living in poverty rises to 33% (10,500 children), making Islington the 9th highest in London.
- There are approximately 26,800 households, with 13,500 children, receiving Universal Credit, council tax support and/or housing benefits (i.e. classed as “low income”) in Islington.
- The proportion of children in Islington eligible for free school meals has increased from 28% in 2017/18 to 46% in 2024/25 and this is higher than in London overall (27%).
- The proportion of households in fuel poverty in Islington has decreased since 2019 from 15% to 9% in 2022. A similar decrease was seen for London (15% in 2019 to 10% in 2022).
- The proportion of Islington residents earning below the London Living Wage (LLW) decreased from 12% in 2020 to 9% in 2023. There is a lower proportion of Islington residents earning below the LLW compared to London in 2023 (9% versus 13%).

Summary - Housing

- Secure, affordable and decent housing is important to Islington residents. The 2025 Wellbeing survey found that 43% of Islington residents stated housing was important for a good life.
- Islington has a distinct tenure profile from London. Whilst the proportion of private rented properties is similar to London, Islington has a significantly higher proportion of properties that are socially rented. We are in fact the second largest landlord in London. These tenures collectively make up approximately 70% of housing tenure in Islington.
- In Islington, private rents rose to an average of £2,708 per month in September 2025, an annual increase of 4% from £2,576 in September 2024. Annual rent change, though still increasing, has been slowing down.
- In Q1 of 2025/26, 592 per 1,000 households in Islington were assessed for homelessness. Islington had the 6th highest number of assessments in London.
- Although Islington has seen an increase in households in temporary accommodation, the rate per 1,000 households' benchmarks significantly lower than London (17 per 1,000 vs 20 per 1,000).

Summary - Children and young people

- Islington's children and young people population is more diverse than the overall population with an estimated 65% being non-White British and around 65% children aged 0-17 living in social housing (Council and Housing association).
- School readiness in the early years and educational attainment are key to achieving good life chances across the life course. In Islington, as in London, differences in achieving 'Good Level of Development' in the early years are most significant across Special Educational Needs (SEN) status and Free School Meal status. This gap continues towards the end of the schooling period at Key Stage 4.
- The number of pupils in Islington schools with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan increased by 37% between 2019/20 and 2024/25 (35% in London). The most common primary need for pupils with EHC plans at Islington schools is Autistic Spectrum Disorders (56% of children with an EHC).
- Rates of children looked after and children in need are both higher than London and England.
- Approximately 4,000 children (22% of all pupils) in Islington in the past academic year missed 10% or more of school sessions.

Summary - Environment and Climate

- Islington is the borough with the second lowest proportion of green space in the country, with only 2.83 square metres per resident. Despite this, most residents can reach a public park or green space within a 15-minute walk, and 71% of households have access to a private outdoor space (includes private or shared garden, a patio or a balcony).
- The borough's fine particulate matter (PM2.5) level is 9.1 ug/m³, higher than the London level of 8.3 ug/m³ and England's 7.0ug/m³. The concentration of PM2.5 had been declining since 2018 in-line with London, with a slight increase in 2022 before falling again in 2023.
- The borough is doing well in terms of creating an environment that supports active travel. 50% of the borough is now a Low Traffic Neighbourhood, the second highest amongst inner London boroughs. The proportion of adults who walk or cycle for travel purposes at least 5 times per week is consistently higher in Islington compared to London throughout the years, although it declined during the pandemic it is back on the rise.
- In Islington, emissions from commercial and domestic buildings are responsible for 65% of total greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions have decreased in Islington over the past 10 years, with the biggest reduction seen in the public sector (64% decrease from 2010 to 2022).
- Islington has achieved a 29% reduction in GHGs emissions between 2017 and 2023, which is higher than that of London (23%) and 27% reduction in CO₂ emissions, also higher than that of London (23%).

Summary - Health and Wellbeing

- Life expectancy in Islington is higher for females than males (78.7 years for males versus 83.7 for females) and the gap has increased from 4.1 years in 2016-28 to 5 years in 2022-24.
- Cancer, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease remain the top causes of premature mortality in Islington and contributes to the inequality gap in life expectancy between males and females.
- The inequality in life expectancy is stark for males in Islington, with a 9-year gap between the least and most deprived areas of Islington. This gap has been largely driven by an exceptionally rapid increase in life expectancy among people living in the least deprived parts of the borough, particularly for men.
- Healthy life expectancy at 65 considers the quality of life for the older population. On average healthy life expectancy at 65 for males and females in Islington is lower than London and has decreased since 2019-20. For males it is 8.6 years, compared to 10.5 in London, and for females it is 9.2 years compared to 10.8 years in London.
- Approximately 31% of Islington's population has a long-term condition and at least 11% have more than one. Diabetes and hypertension are highly prevalent and contribute significantly to early death. Earlier diagnosis of these conditions, facilitating lifestyle advice and earlier medical management, will help to prevent disease progression and improve outcomes.
- Islington has the second highest prevalence of diagnosed serious mental illness and depression in London, second to Hackney. There are higher diagnosis rates of serious mental illness amongst our communities identifying as Black. For depression the rates are higher amongst White and Mixed communities.
- Overall, there is a higher prevalence of long-term conditions amongst our deprived communities.

Summary - Health and Wellbeing (2)

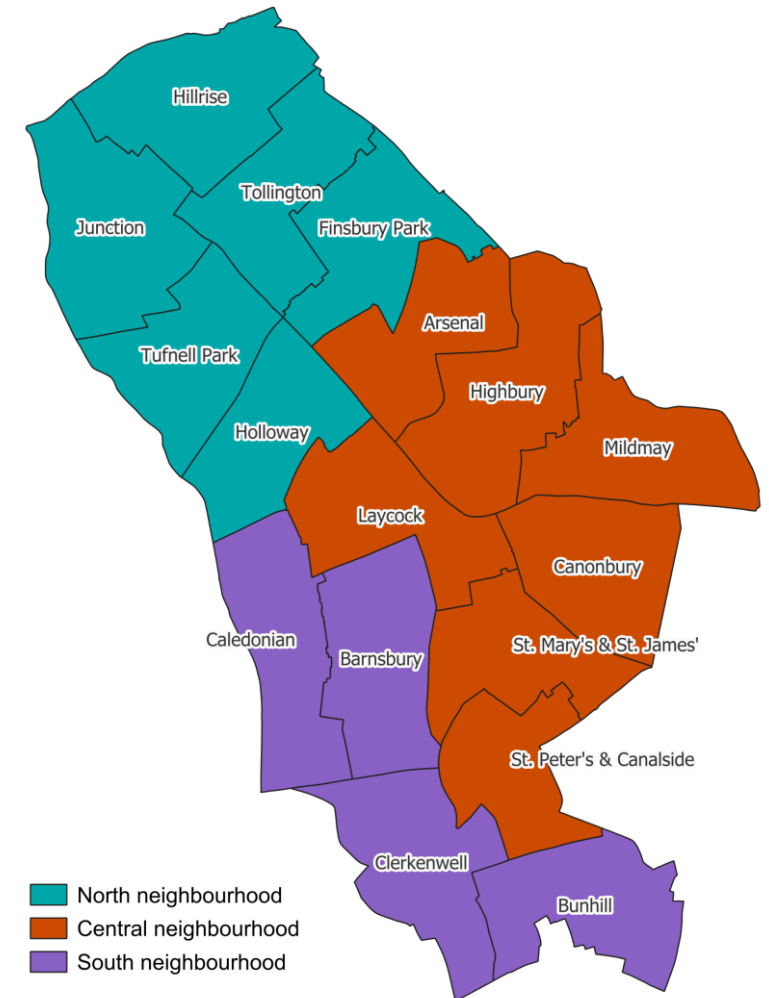
- Leading a healthy lifestyle can prevent illness or at least delay it for many years. Unlike other factors such as age and genetics, behavioural risk factors can be altered and in the medium term improve population health outcomes. Smoking, excess alcohol consumption, and excess weight caused by insufficient physical activity and diet are the key risk factors facing residents and disproportionately impact certain populations.
- Islington's adult social care supports 8,791 residents per 100,000 aged 65 and over. This gives Islington the 4th highest rate among all London boroughs. Islington's adult social care supports 785 residents per 100,000 aged 18-64. This gives Islington the 10th highest rate among all London boroughs. With an ageing population and potential increased morbidity there needs to be a continued focus on how we can keep people healthy and independent.
- 65% of children at 5 years old registered with an Islington GP have had all their vaccinations, with the lowest uptake amongst the Black community.

Summary - Crime and safety

- In 2024/25, there were approximately 31,429 offences reported to the police in Islington. Theft is the most common offence followed by violence against a person. This distribution has remained the same over the past 5 years and is similar to what is seen in London overall.
- Islington generally has lower rates of reporting hate crime compared to the London average. In 2024/25 there were on average 765 reported incidents of hate crime in Islington. Racist and religious offences were the most common type of hate crime reported, followed by homophobic crime.
- In 2024/25, there were 2,335 reported incidents of domestic abuse. The volume of reported domestic abuse incidents saw some increased levels during lockdown periods in Islington and have shown a reduction in the recent year. However, it should be noted that levels of domestic abuse tend to be under reported. Domestic abuse victims identifying as Black are overrepresented amongst victims.
- The rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system is higher than London and England but has been declining.
- Islington residents have a less positive perception of the police compared to London when asked about questions related to trust and confidence of the Metropolitan Police Service. 65% of Islington residents trust the police compared to 74% in London. In general, perceptions of the police have been declining overtime for Islington and for London as a whole.

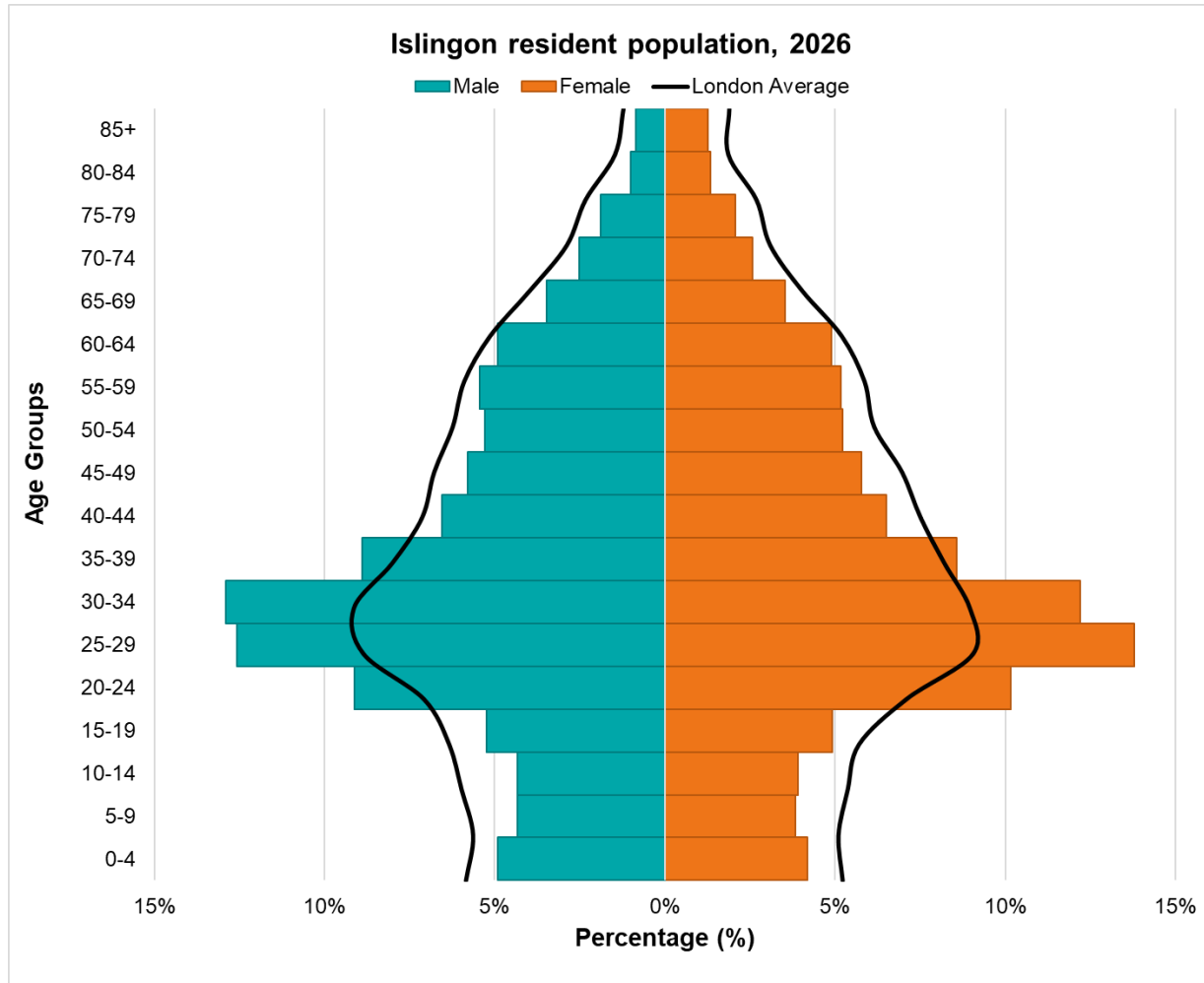
Summary - Neighbourhoods

- Neighbourhoods (previously called localities) are the way we split the borough into smaller areas to help direct services where they are needed. For example, a neighbourhood with high rates of unemployment will need different services to one with low rates of unemployment but high rates of cardiovascular disease.
- The approach focuses on partnerships between different organisations within the neighbourhood, as well as with its residents and community. It is underpinned by the information we hold about the area, both quantitative and qualitative.
- In Islington we have three neighbourhoods: North, Central, and South.
- The demographics, health, needs, and outcomes of residents in the three neighbourhoods are different.
- North has higher rates of people living in poverty, as well as higher rates of long term condition diagnosis and behavioural risk factors compared to Central and South.
- Central has the largest population with relatively low levels of homelessness.
- South is the smallest in terms of population size and also the youngest but has the highest proportion of children living in relative poverty (but the smallest relative number).



Current population

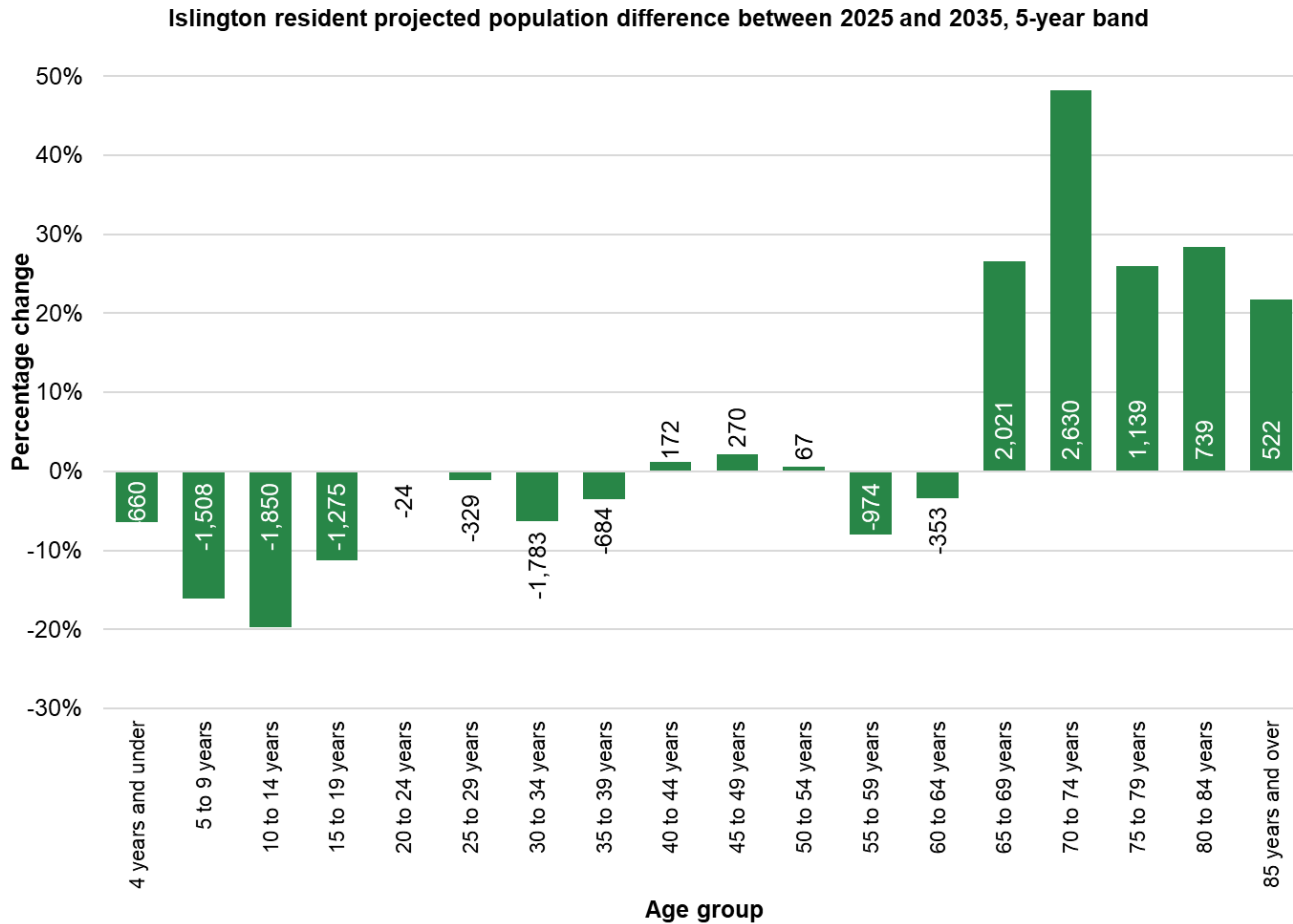
Islington is home to approximately 224,700 people.



The Greater London Authority provides population estimates for all London boroughs considering housing planning. Based on these estimates Islington's current population is estimated to be **224,745**.

Islington's population is young with a higher proportion of residents aged 20-35 (38%) compared to London (27%).

Overall, Islington's population is estimated to see a slight decrease (0.8%) over the next 10 years.



Islington's population is decreasing.

But the change will be different across different age groups. Over the next decade there are estimated to be **fewer school aged children** and a growing proportion of people aged 65+.

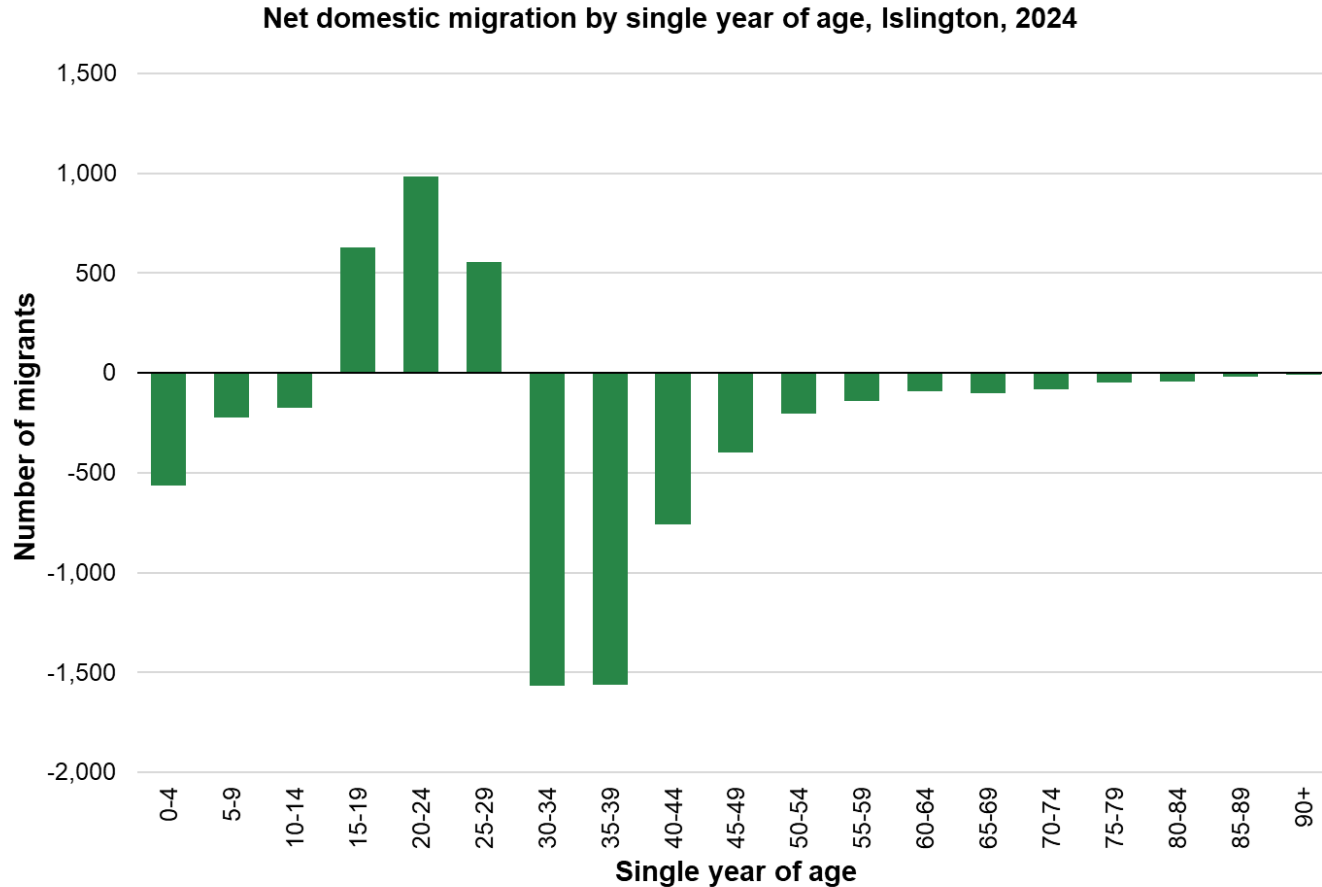
The working age population is projected to stay similar, but with churn (similar numbers but different people).



The biggest population increase is expected in those **over 65 years** growing by almost 7,000 or 10% by 2035



In the year ending June 2024, more people left Islington than arrived.



Source: ONS, estimates for year ending June 2024.

There is a high level of movement in and out of the borough.

In the year ending June 2024, more people moved out of the borough than into the borough (an outward flow of **3,826**).

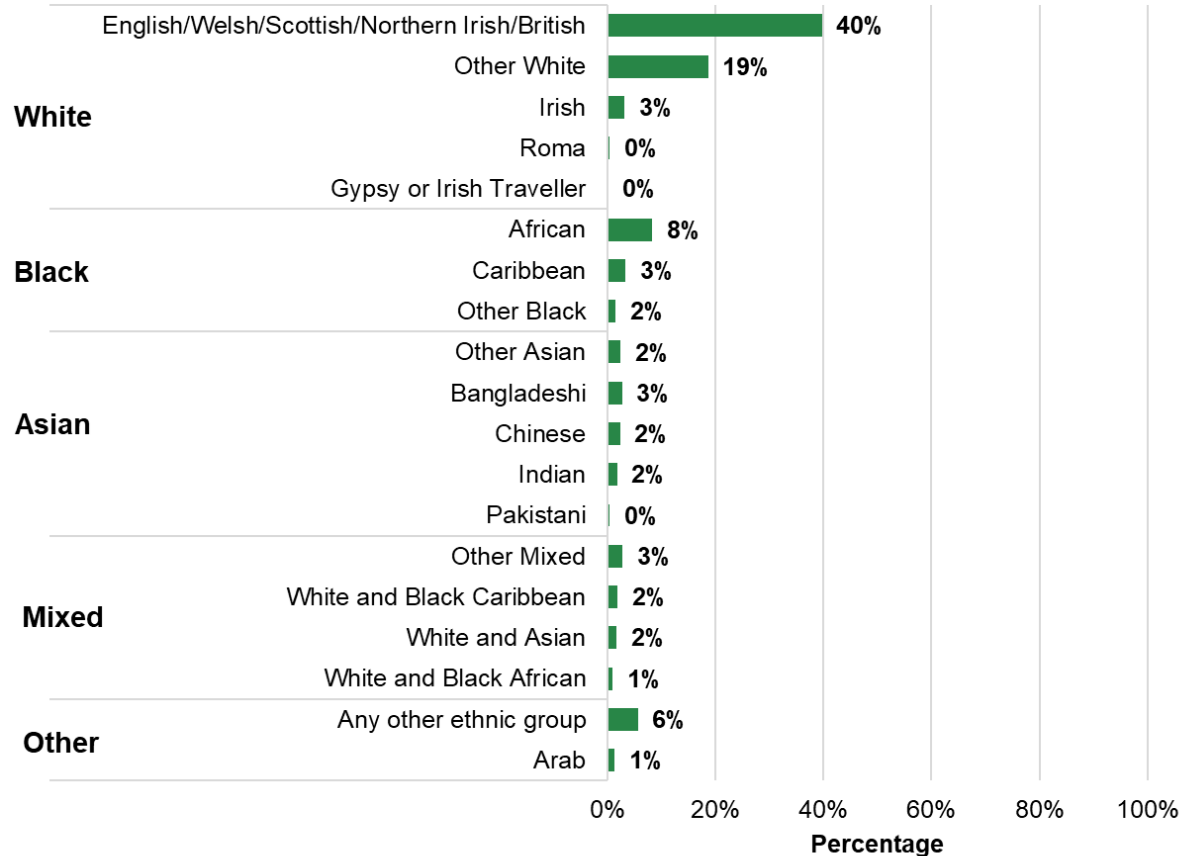
People aged 30-39 see greater movement out of the borough, which could be due to high housing costs and the limited availability of larger housing for families.

Younger adults aged 20-24 are more likely to move into the borough, likely due to education or work.

In children, the outflow reduces as children get older, as parents are less likely to relocate once children start attending primary school, and then again when they start secondary.

Islington has a highly diverse population, with residents from a wide range of ethnic and language backgrounds

Detailed ethnic group, Islington, 2021



Data from the 2021 Census tells us that 39% Islington's residents are from Black, Asian, Mixed or Other ethnic groups. 43% are White British and 23% are Other White.

60% of people living in Islington in 2021 were born in the UK. Most residents not born in the UK were born in the EU.

Main languages spoken in Islington

After English, Spanish is the most spoken language in Islington (2% of the population). This is followed by French, Italian, Turkish, and Somali.

In Islington schools, Somali is the most spoken language after English.

In Islington, 13% of residents cannot speak English well, and 2% cannot speak English at all.

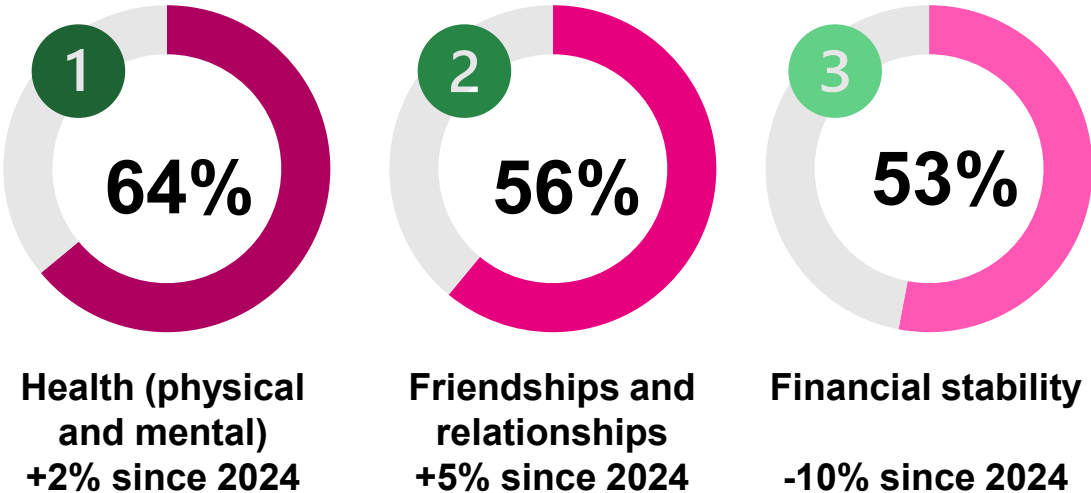


According to residents, health, relationships and financial stability are important to live a good life

Different age groups think different things are more important. 16–34-year-olds put financial stability as the most important factor, while residents aged 35 and over consider physical and mental health the most important.

In 2025 the most important factor for residents was physical and mental health (64% of residents thought this was most important). In 2024 financial stability was the most important factor for residents (63% of residents thought it was most important). In 2025 this dropped to 3rd most important, with only 53% of residents choosing this option.

Top three aspects important to living a good life



Top three aspects important to living a good life by age

	16-34	35-54	55-74	75+
Financial stability	58%	Health (physical and mental) 68%	Health (physical and mental) 74%	Health (physical and mental) 88%
Health (physical and mental)	56%	Financial stability 56%	Friendships and relationships 66%	Friendships and relationships 72%
Friendships and relationships	54%	Friendships and relationships 51%	Financial stability 40%	Financial stability 41%

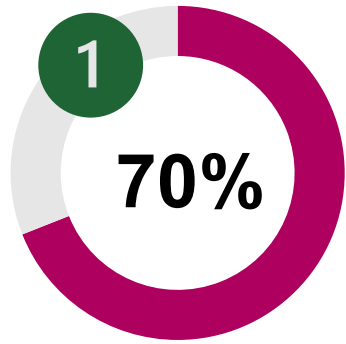
Q6. Thinking about your life at the moment, which of these do you feel are the most important to live a good life? (select up to 3)

Base: All respondents: 1,005.

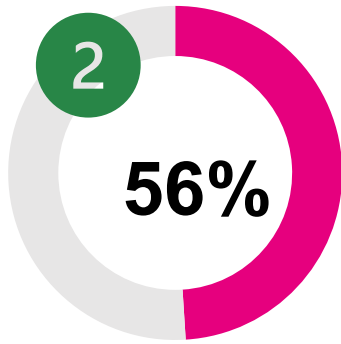
Source: Islington wellbeing survey 2025

Residents are most satisfied with their friendships and relationships, health, and housing

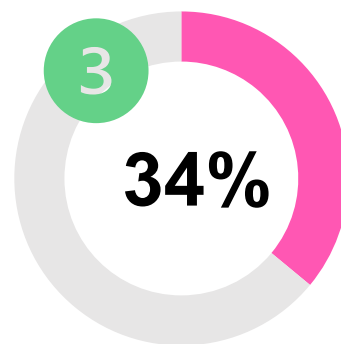
Top three areas of satisfaction



My friendships and relationships
+1% since 2024



My health (physical and mental)
+7% since 2024



Housing
-2% since 2024

In 2025, although residents stated that health (physical and mental) was the most important factor in living a good life, a lower proportion were satisfied with this area compared to 2024 (64% vs. 56%).

Residents were able to choose the 3 areas they are most satisfied with.

Residents with a disability are less likely to be satisfied (compared to residents without a disability) with education (13% vs 23%), health (33% vs 59%).

However, they were more likely to be satisfied with housing (46% vs 33%).

Q7a. Thinking about your life at the moment, which of these areas are you most satisfied with? (select up to 3)

Base: All respondents: 1,005

Source: Islington wellbeing survey 2025

Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2025

About the indices of multiple deprivation

The level of deprivation in an area can be used to identify those communities who may be in greatest need of services. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of the level of deprivation in England. The index is constructed using 55 indicators, which capture different aspects of deprivation experienced by people living in small areas known as Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs).

These indicators are grouped into seven domains:

- Income
- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment

Comparisons using IMD are relative, not absolute

We cannot compare whether Islington has become more or less deprived over time due to changes in the methodology, geography, and data sources between 2019 and 2025.

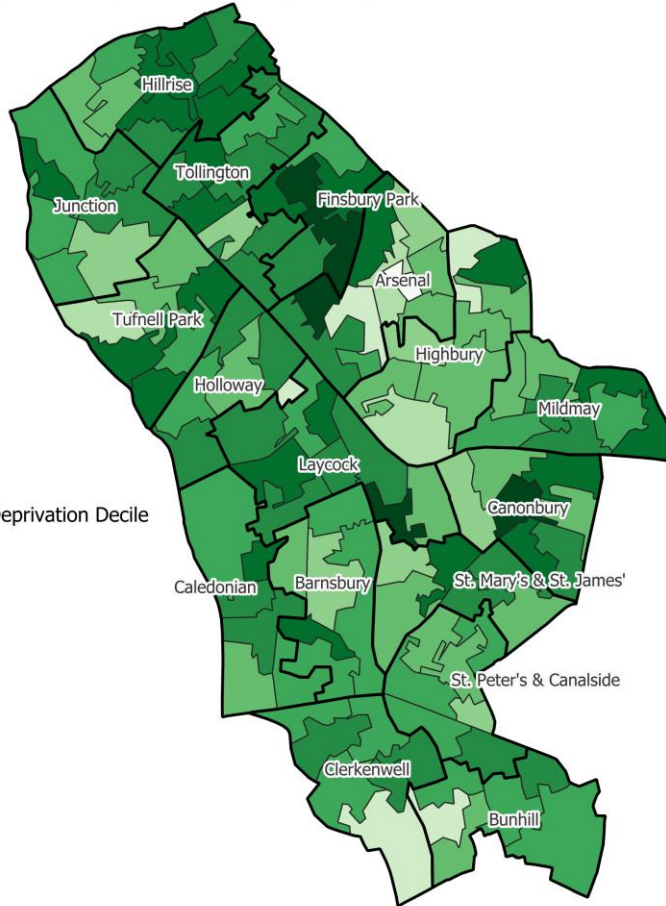
The index also measures deprivation alone; it does not assess wealth or affluence. Therefore, we cannot say Islington has become more affluent, only it is less deprived compared to other places.

Islington has moved from 6th most deprived borough in London, to 8th

Islington national ranking

41st	50th
2019	2025

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2025



In 2025, Islington was the 8th most deprived London borough, and the 50th most deprived in England out of 153 local authorities.

A quarter of Islington's population live in the most deprived areas (deciles 1-2), compared to just 1% in the least deprived areas (deciles 9 and 10).

The spread of deprivation across the borough is different from many other areas. Most boroughs have a clear distinction between poorer and more affluent wards. But Islington's mix of housing means that deprivation is spread across the borough, often residents in deprived areas live alongside areas of affluence.

The lower super output area which contains harvest estate is in the most deprived quintile. However, it sits adjacent to an area of low deprivation.

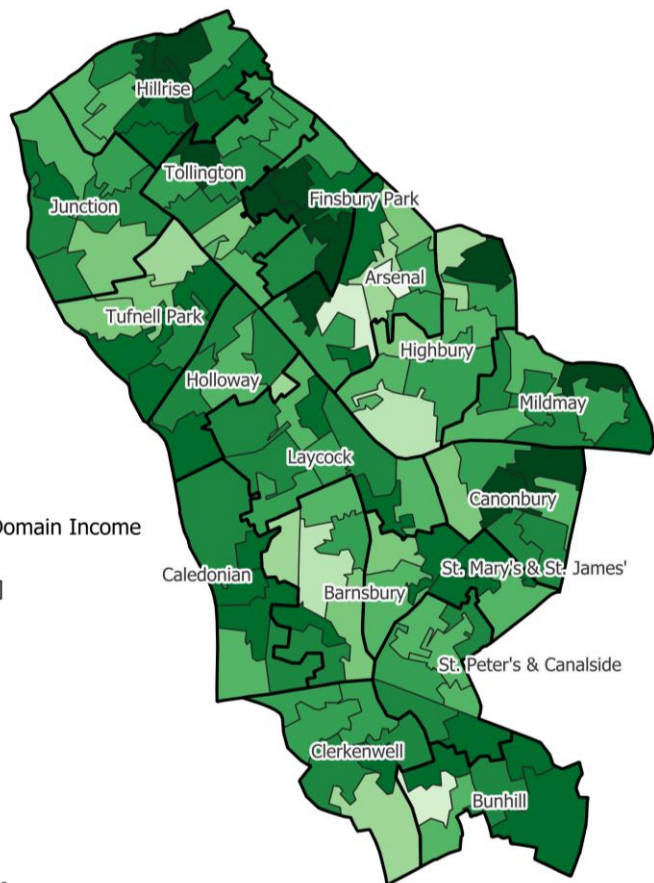
The most deprived areas are concentrated in Finsbury Park ward, close to some of the least deprived areas in Arsenal ward.

IMD Domain: Income

Islington national ranking

30th	33rd
2019	2025

IMD Domain Income Deprivation 2025



The income domain measures the proportion of people receiving certain means-tested state benefits, including Income Support, Jobseeker’s Allowance and Universal Credit.

Islington ranks as the 33rd most deprived local authority nationally, a relative improvement from 30th in 2019. It is the 9th most deprived in London.

There have been methodology changes in the income deprivation calculation since 2019 which may explain the increase in rank seen. These include changing the threshold for a household to be defined as ‘income deprived’ to be based on a monthly income of less than 70% of the national median monthly income after housing costs, instead of the previous 60% before housing costs. High rents in London can mean that residents are driven into poverty solely due to their housing costs, so we welcome the change to an after housing cost approach.

Income deprivation is spread across the borough but with the highest areas of concentration in the north and east of the borough.

Income Deprivation affecting Children and Older People

Islington national ranking

10th
2019

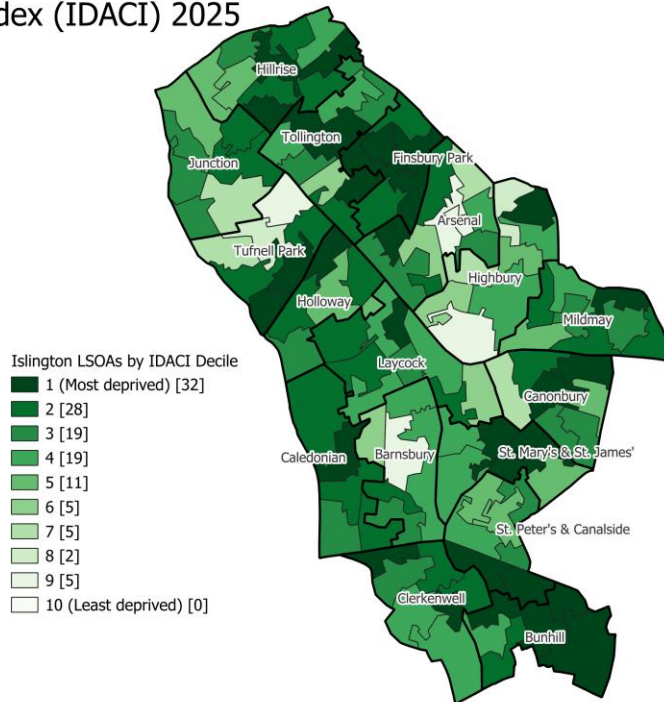
16th
2025

Islington national ranking

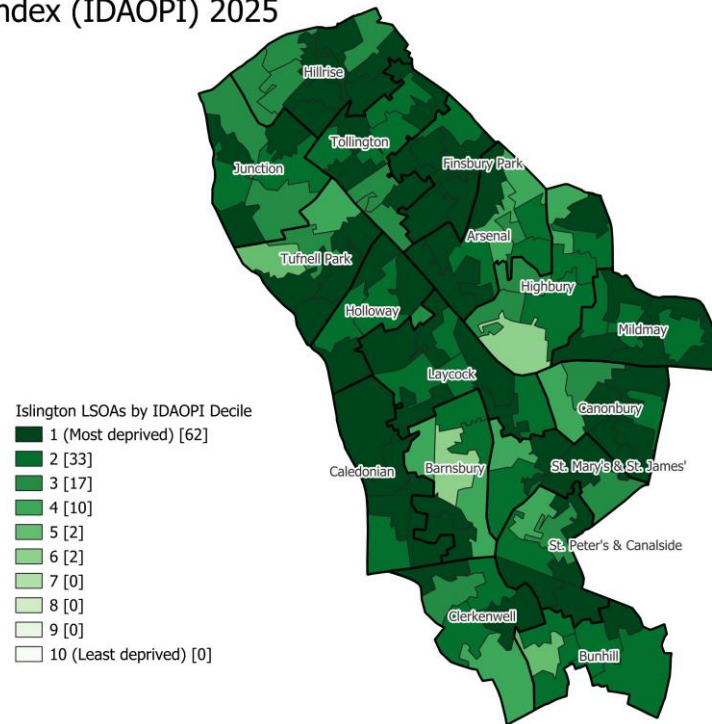
4th
2019

4th
2025

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2025



Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) 2025



Deprivation is strongly concentrated in children and families, and older people in Islington, who have among the highest deprivation levels in the country.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the children aged 0-15 living in income deprived families and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI), measures the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

In 2025, Islington ranked **6th most deprived in London for children** and **4th most deprived in London for older people**.

Generally, patterns of deprivation are similar across both subdomains, but Bunhill has higher levels of IDACI, while Caledonian has higher levels of IDAOPI

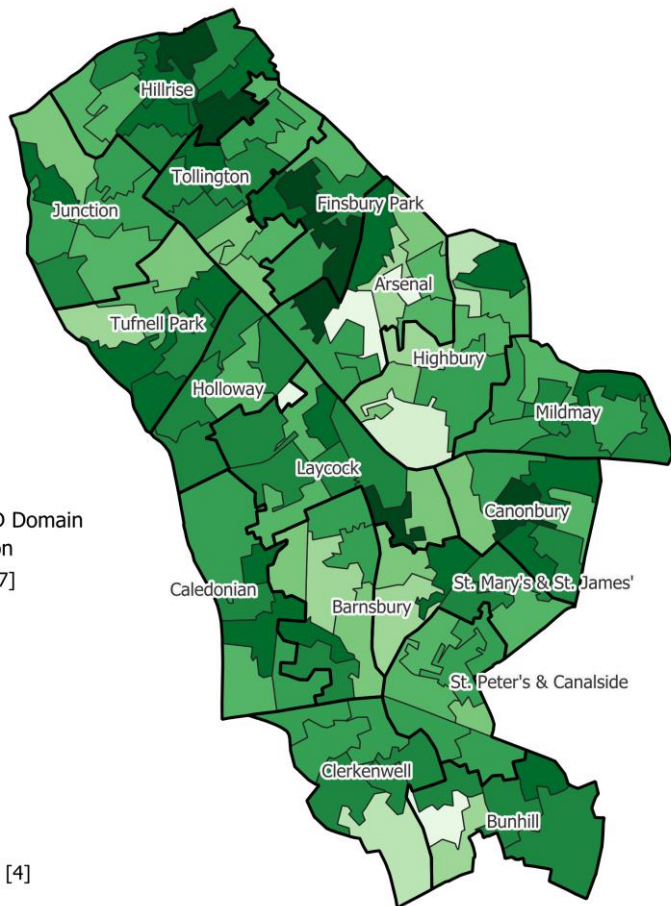
IMD Domain: Employment

Islington national ranking

56th
2019

56th
2025

IMD Domain Employment Deprivation 2025



The employment domain measures the proportion of the working age population who are out of work not by choice. This includes people who may want to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.

Islington ranks as the 56th most deprived local authority in the employment domain, which has not changed since 2019. It is the 5th most deprived in London.

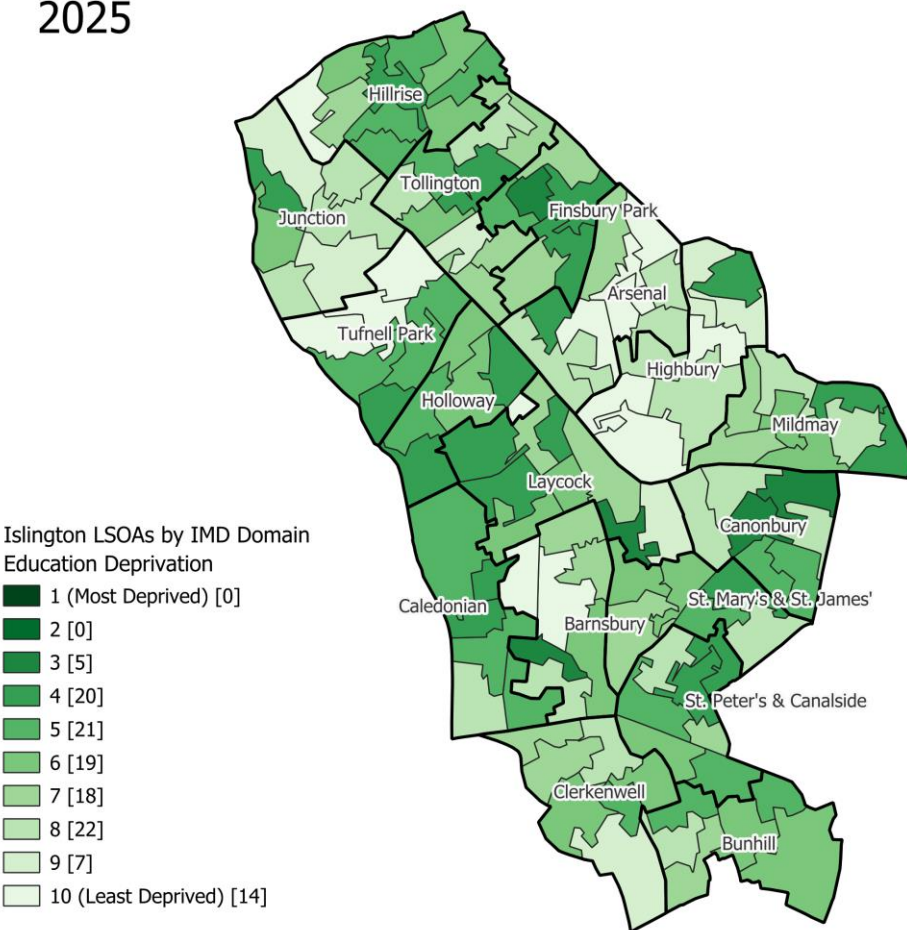
The key methodology changes include inclusion of new benefits, and a change in the definition of 'working age' to be 16-64 for both males and females, reflecting the changes in retirement age.

Employment deprivation is spread across the borough but with the highest areas of concentration in the north and east of the borough.

IMD Domain: Education, Skills and Training

Islington national ranking
128th 2019 **128th** 2025

IMD Domain Education Deprivation 2025



The Education, Skills and Training domain measures the lack of educational attainment and skills in the population. The domain is split into two subdomains, covering children in one, and adults in the other- using metrics like school performance, school absence, and adult qualifications.

Islington ranks as the 128th most deprived local authority in the education, skills, and training domain, which has not changed since 2019. It is the 17th most deprived in London.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a large impact on the collection of education statistics (exams were suspended, recording absences was difficult and different parts of the country had different levels of lockdown). School absence rates have continued to grow following the pandemic, resulting in the inclusion of persistent absence in the domain. This may have affected Islington's rank as Islington has higher levels of absenteeism compared to London and England.

There are no LSOAs within the most and second most deprived deciles for the overall Education, Skills and Training Rank. However, there are 2 LSOAs in the second most deprived decile for the Adult Skills Sub-domain and 4 LSOAs in the second most deprived decile for the Children and Young People Sub-domain.

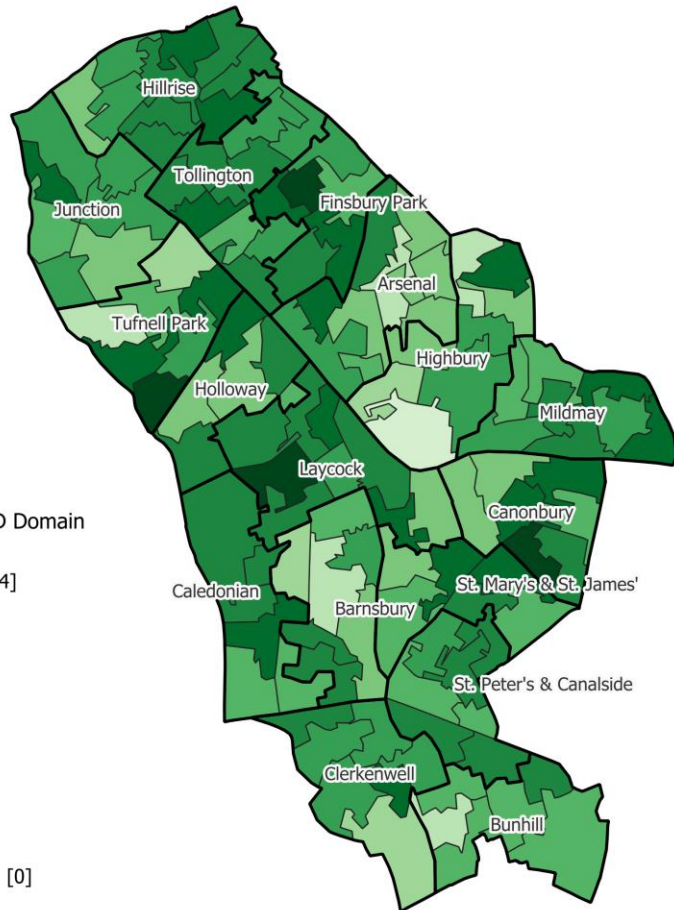
IMD Domain: Health and Disability

Islington national ranking

58th
2019

50th
2025

IMD Domain Health Deprivation 2025



The health and disability domain measures the risk of premature death and impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health

Islington ranks as the 50th most deprived local authority in the health and disability domain, a relative deterioration from 58th in 2019. It is the 2nd most deprived in London.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health was substantial, particularly for the most deprived communities. Years of life lost estimate the number of years a person would have lived if they had not died early. Research has shown that the increase in years of life lost during the pandemic was highest in younger age groups¹. Islington's population is relatively young, which may explain the increase in health deprivation ranking.

Health and Disability deprivation is evenly distributed in the borough, with only 4 LSOAs in the most deprived decile.

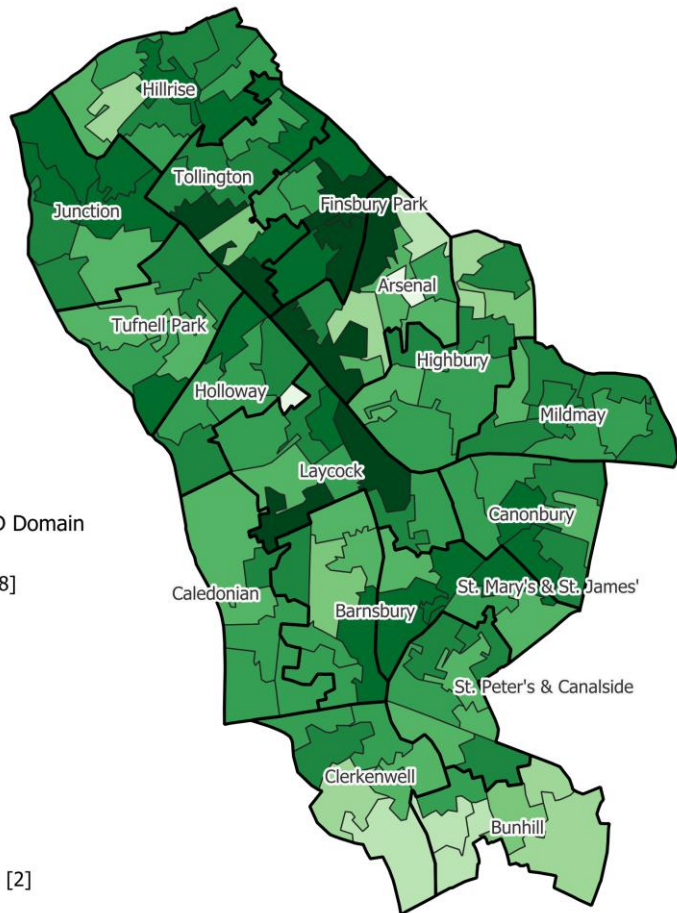
¹ Socioeconomic deprivation and ethnicity inequalities in disruption to NHS hospital admissions during the COVID-19 pandemic: a national observational study | BMJ Quality & Safety

IMD Domain: Crime

Islington national ranking

18th 2019
34th 2025

IMD Domain Crime Deprivation 2025



The crime domain assesses the rate of personal and material crime within the area. This includes violent crime, stalking and harassment, burglary, theft, criminal damage, possession of weapons, and anti-social behaviour reported to the police.

Islington ranks as the 34th most deprived local authority in the crime domain, a relative improvement from 18th in 2019. It is the 3rd most deprived in London.

The crime domain has seen improvements in data quality, as well as an increase in the number of indicators it draws on (from 4 in 2019 to 8 in 2025). This includes separating 'public order and possession of weapons' from a single 'violent crime' indicator. Prison populations are also no longer excluded from the index, as a concentration of violent crime is found around prison locations.

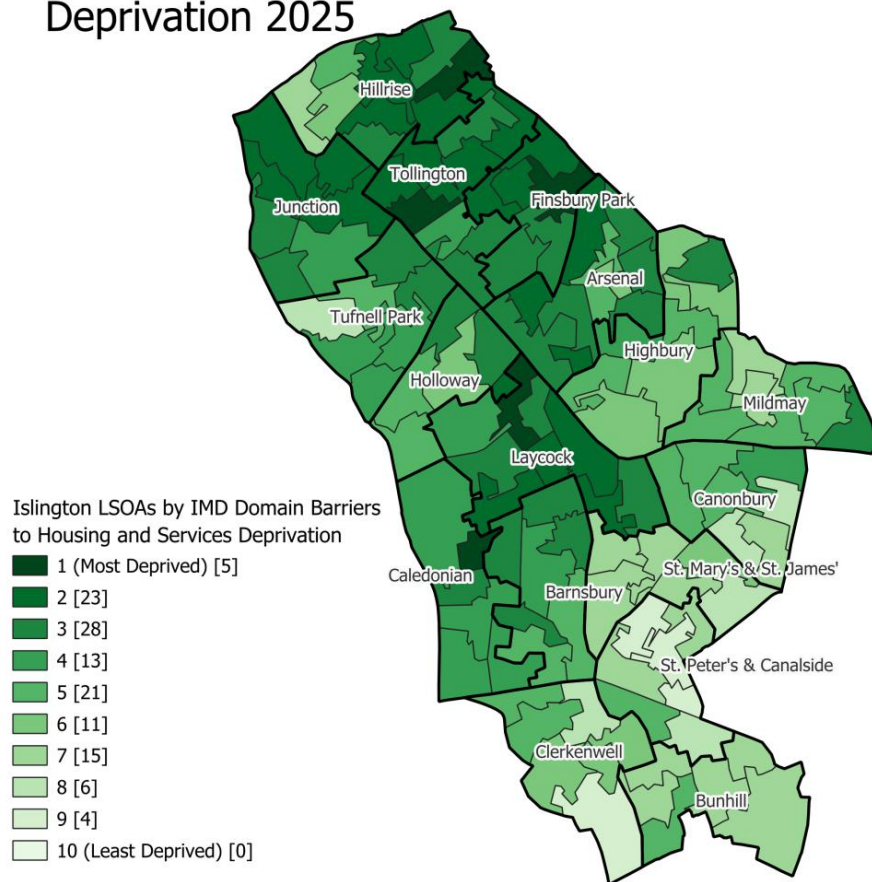
Crime deprivation is concentrated around Holloway Road and Finsbury Park, as well as the area around Pentonville prison.

IMD Domain: Barriers to Housing and Services

Islington national ranking

26th 2019
46th 2025

IMD Domain Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation 2025



The Barriers to Housing and Services domain assesses how easy it is for residents to access housing and local services. This includes both geographical barriers (such as travel time) and wider barriers (such as housing affordability, broadband speeds and availability of GPs) .

Islington ranks as the 46th most deprived local authority in the barriers to housing and services domain, a relative improvement from 26th in 2019. It is the 14th least deprived in London.

The domain has seen many changes, including walking, cycling, and public transport travel times to specific destinations added to the connectivity element (rather than assuming all households have access to a car). The housing affordability indicator has also been adjusted to account for social realities of bedroom requirements. For example, families with young children anticipate either additional children, or their children becoming teenagers which will require additional bedrooms, or post-COVID, many working households look for a study/additional workspace.

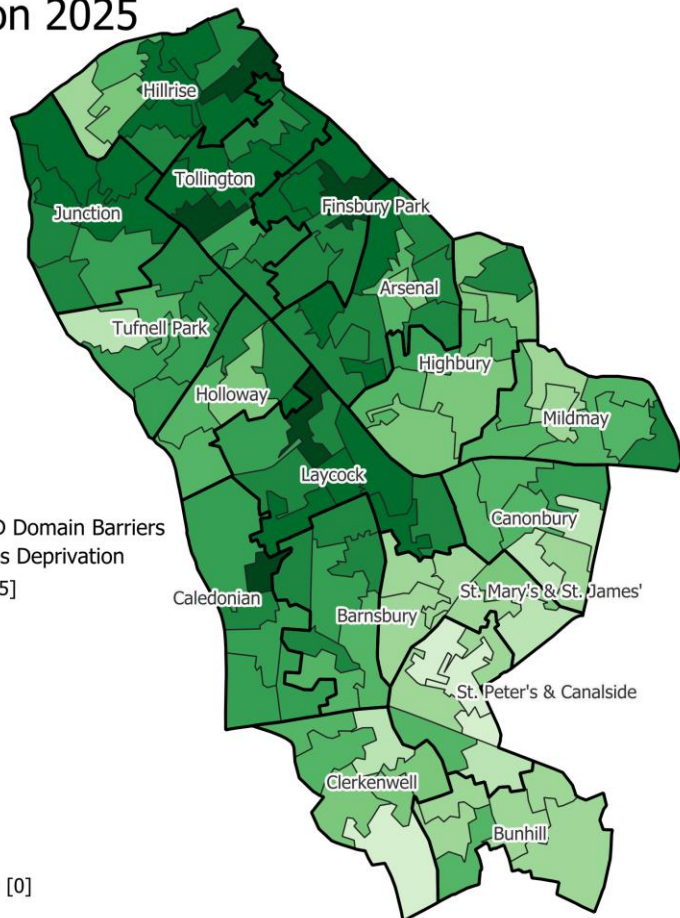
Barriers to accessing housing and services are concentrated in the northeast of the borough.

IMD Domain: Living Environment

Islington national ranking

17th 2019
12th 2025

IMD Domain Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation 2025



Islington LSOAs by IMD Domain Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation

- 1 (Most Deprived) [5]
- 2 [23]
- 3 [28]
- 4 [13]
- 5 [21]
- 6 [11]
- 7 [15]
- 8 [6]
- 9 [4]
- 10 (Least Deprived) [0]

The Living Environment domain measures the quality of the local environment, both indoors (the quality of the home), and outdoors (the quality of the local neighbourhood).

Islington ranks as the 12th most deprived local authority in the living environment domain, a relative deterioration from 17th in 2019. It is the 9th most deprived in London.

Three new indicators have been included in the 2025 IMD. Housing quality based on EPC data, the number of households lacking private outdoor space, and noise pollution from road, rail, and aircraft.

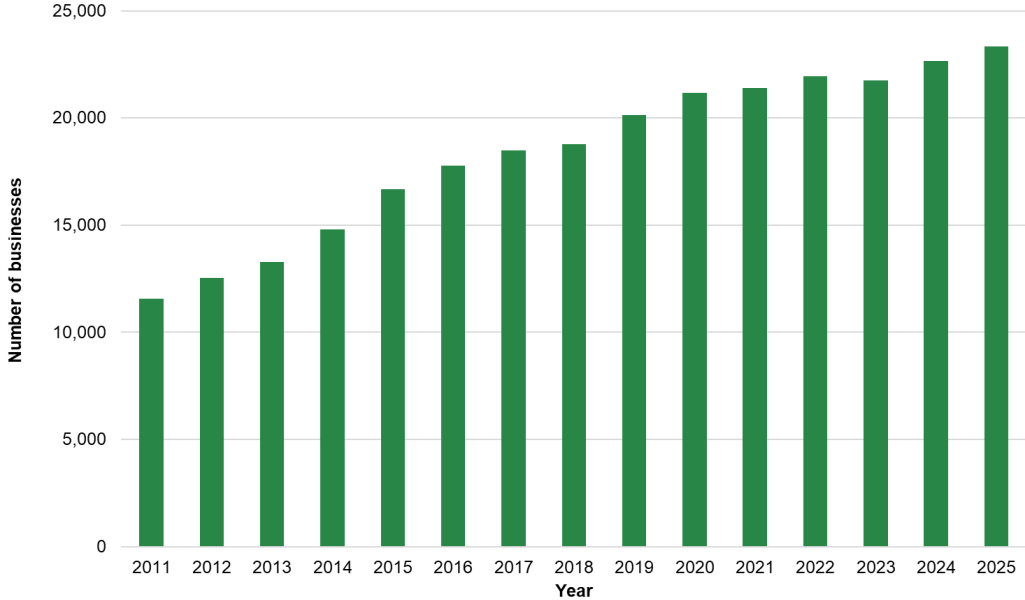
Economy and employment

Islington is home to approximately 23,335 businesses, largely consisting of small businesses.

Islington has seen a steady growth in new businesses over the last couple of decades. 81% of these businesses are small employing up to 4 people and only a few employ more than 250 people (making up less than 1% of all businesses).

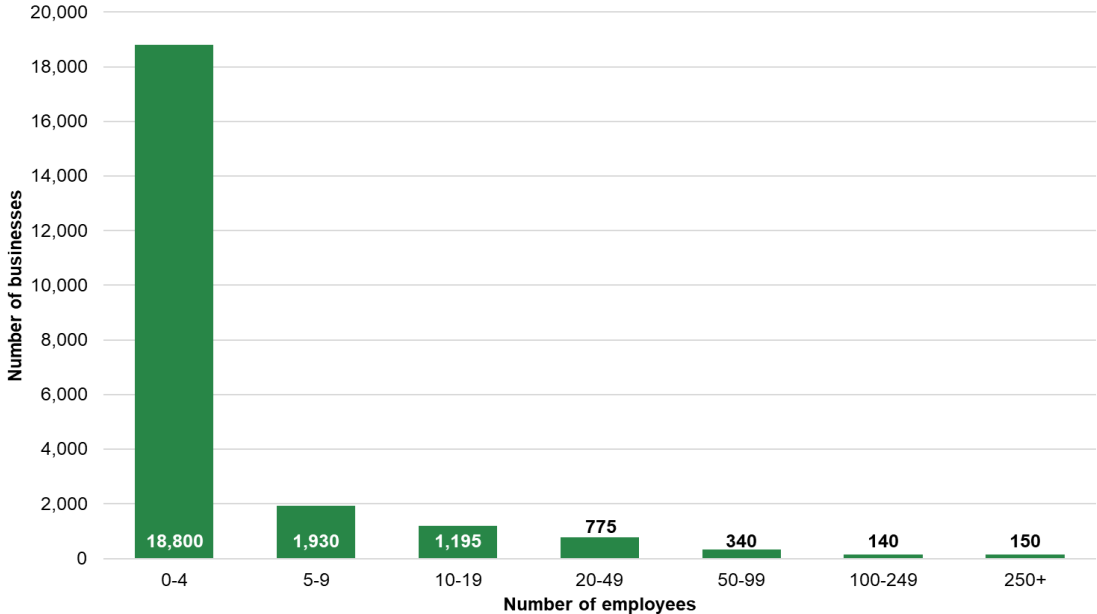
Job density (the number of jobs in an area relative to the number of people) is higher in Islington than in London, with more jobs than residents. Job density is increasing at a higher rate than in London. However, this doesn't mean that all jobs are accessible to all residents.

Number of businesses, Islington, 2011-2025



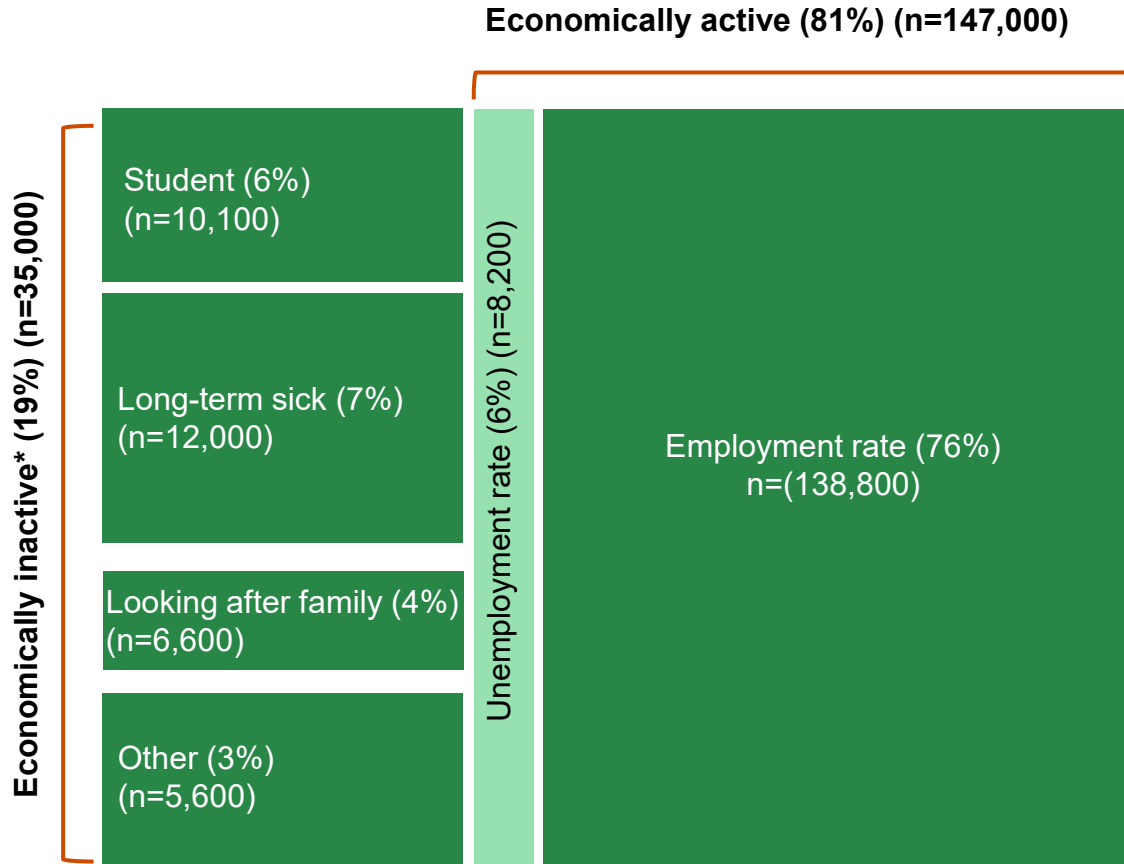
Source: Office for National Statistics

Number of businesses by number of employees, Islington, 2025



Source: Office for National Statistics

81% of the working age population in Islington are economically active.



Note: Rounding of values means they do not add to 100%

81% of the working age population in Islington are economically active (employed or unemployed but actively looking for a job). This is higher than both London (80%) and England (79%). Employment rate fluctuates year on year.

Of these 81% economically active people, 6% are unemployed and looking for a job (according to the Labour force survey). This is significantly higher than England (4%), though in-line with London (6%).

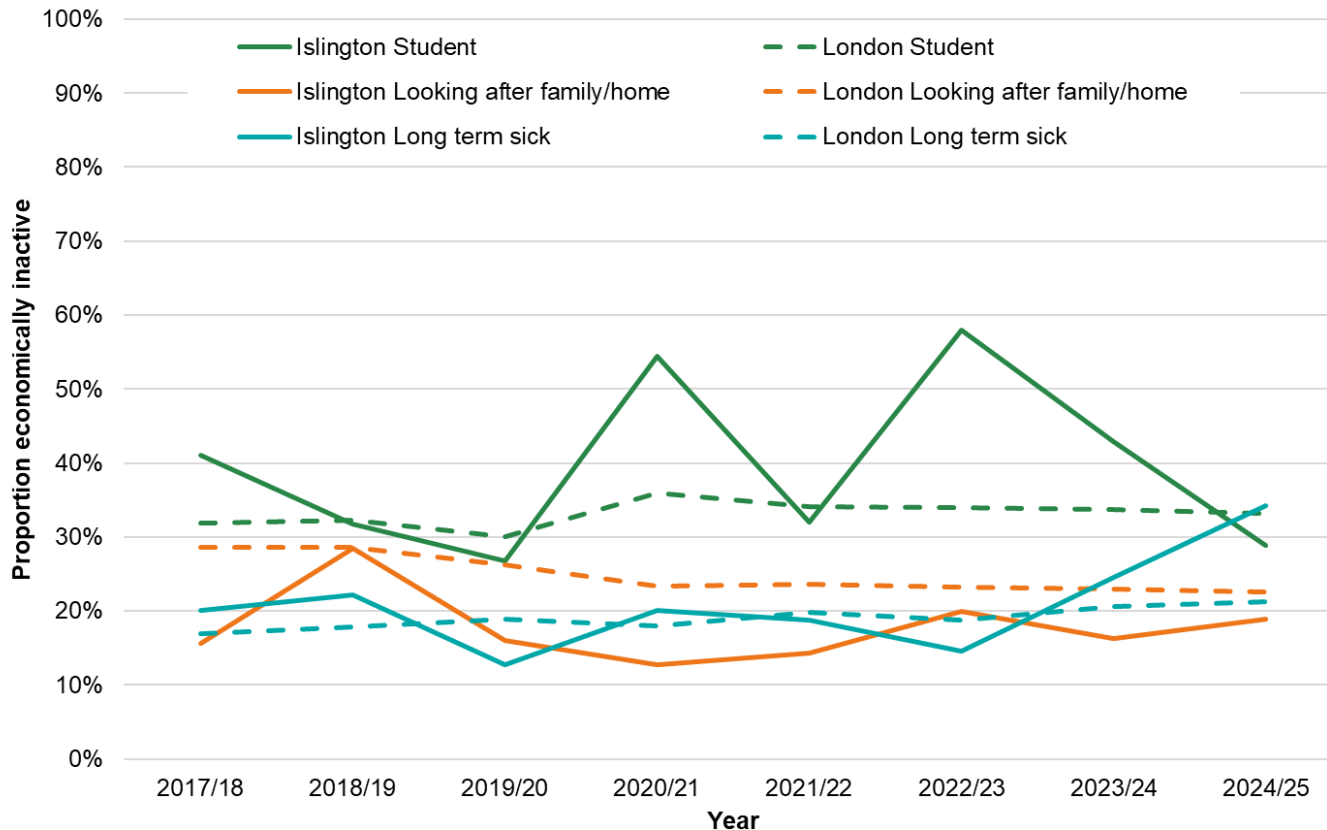
19% of people are economically inactive (those not actively seeking work, e.g. students, family carers, early retirement). 7% are economically inactive due to long term sickness.

Islington has a higher proportion of residents with a level 4 qualification compared to London (78% vs 62%) and a lower proportion of people with no qualifications (3% in Islington vs 6% In London).



The main reason for people not being in employment or seeking employment in Islington is due to long term sickness.

Economic inactivity by reason, Islington compared to London average, 2017/18 - 2024/25



Source: Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey

Economic inactivity has increased in Islington in 2024/25, after a period of decrease. **Around 35,000 people (19% of the population aged 16-64) in Islington were economically inactive in the year ending September 2025.**

In Islington, the main reason for not seeking employment is due to being long term sick. This reason has been increasing in both proportion and number since 2022/23.

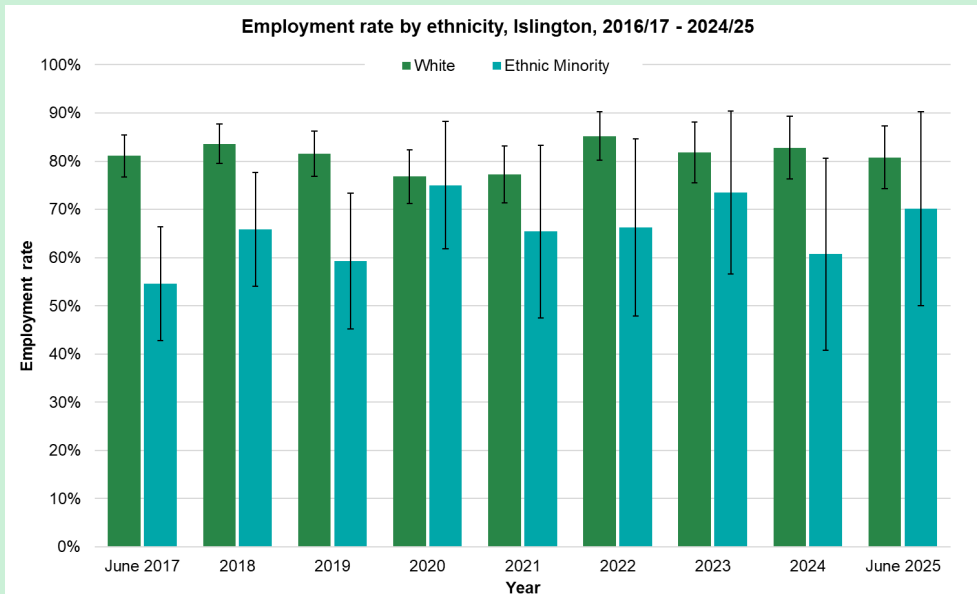
Before 2024/25 the main reason for economic inactivity was due to being a student. The number of economically inactive students has decreased since 2020/21. This could be because of reducing number of students aged 16-18 or more students working alongside their studies.

Inequalities in employment are decreasing

These data come from the Annual Population Survey which has a relatively small sample size. Year on year changes should be interpreted with caution, as small changes in sample can have a big impact.

Ethnicity

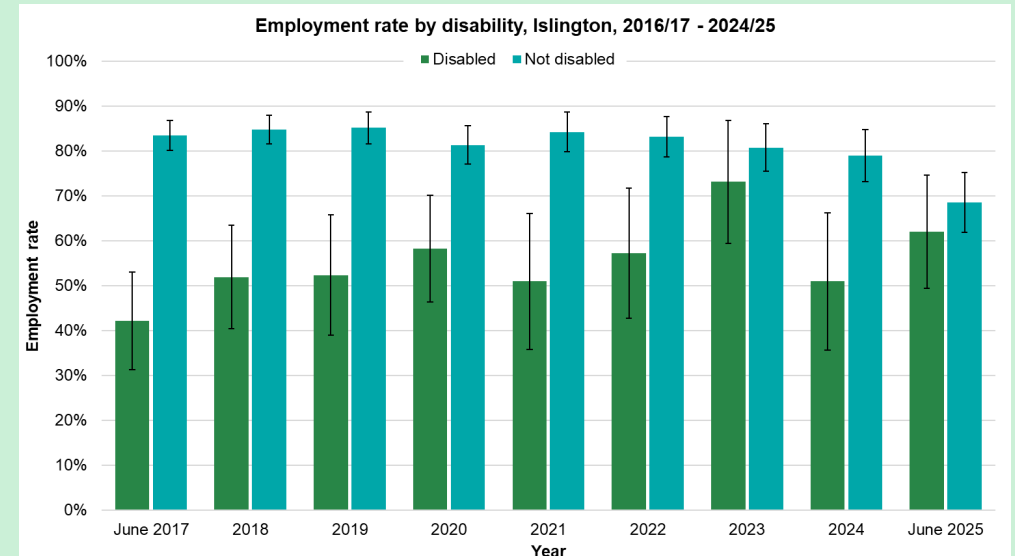
The Annual Population survey only provides estimates for White and Minority ethnic groups. We know that experiences vary between different ethnic groups. However, this data gives us an idea of differences between ethnic groups. Over the past few years the gap in the employment rate between White and Ethnic Minority groups has been decreasing and is no longer significant (27% in 2017 down to 11% in 2025).



Note: In the NOMIS Annual Population Survey (APS), the term "ethnic minority" refers to all ethnic groups except the "White British" group
Source: Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey

Disability

The gap in employment rate for people with a disability and those without has decreased from 28% in 2024 down to 7% in June 2025 and is no longer statistically significant.

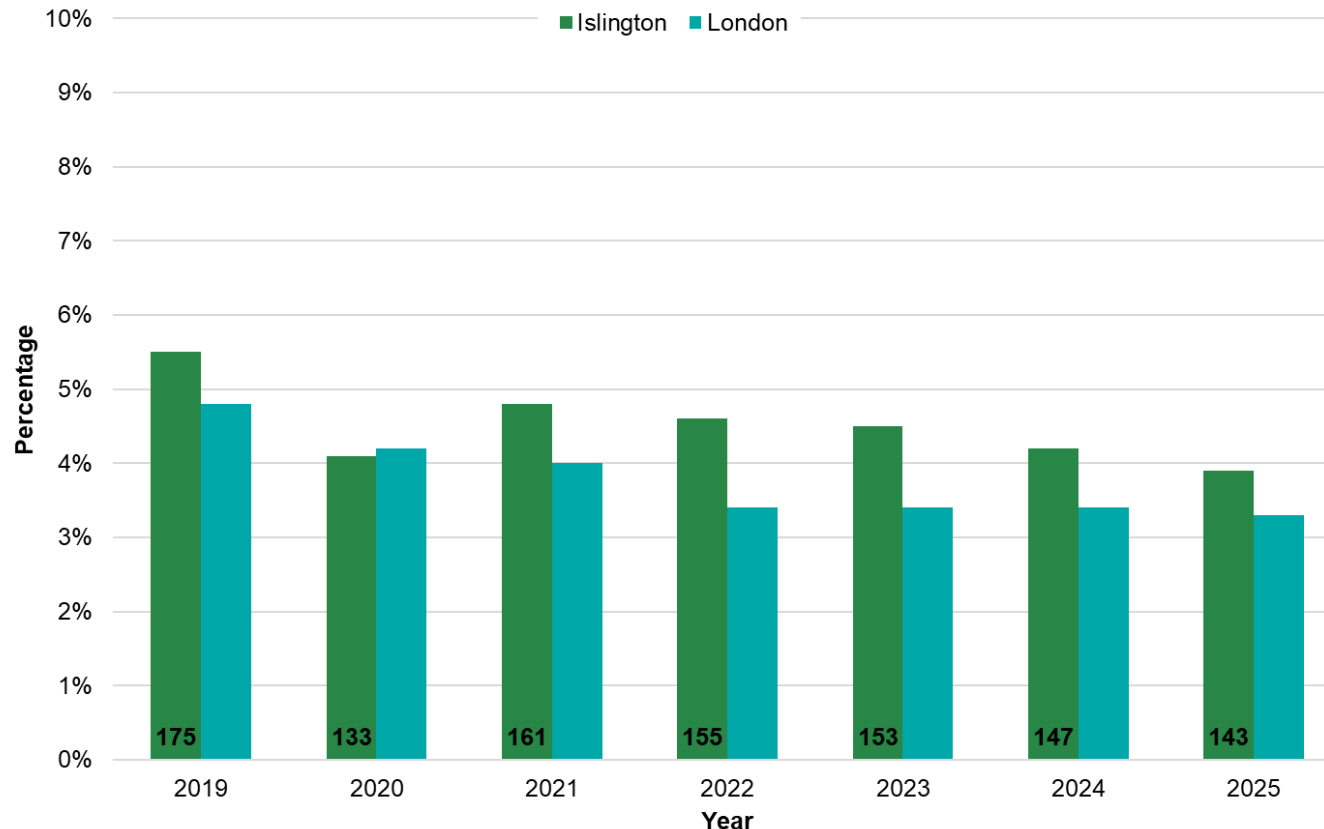


Note: Disability is defined as being either of the following 2 categories: Equality act core disabled includes those who have a long-term disability which substantially limits their day-to-day activities or Work-limiting disabled includes those who have a long-term disability which affects the kind or amount of work they might do.

Source: Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey

The percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) is higher than London.

Percentage of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or activity not known, Islington compared to London average, 2019 - 2025



Every year, an average proportion of 16–17-year-olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training is taken across December to February.

The level of NEETs has gradually reduced in Islington over the last few years.

The level of NEET in Islington is similar to the London average (3.9% vs 3.3%) but is significantly lower than the national average (5.6%).

Note: Numeric data has been rounded to the nearest 10 for national and regional figures to avoid secondary disclosure.

Source: Department for Education

Source: Department for Education

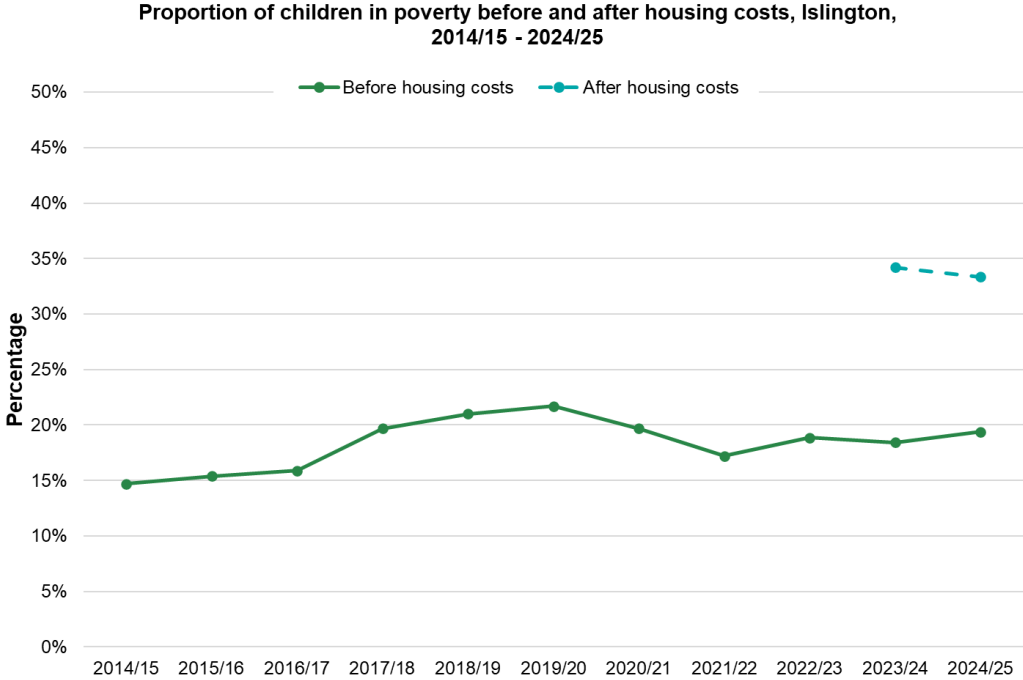
Income and poverty

Approximately 6,100 children aged 0-16 live in relative poverty, and this rises to over 10,500 children after housing costs.

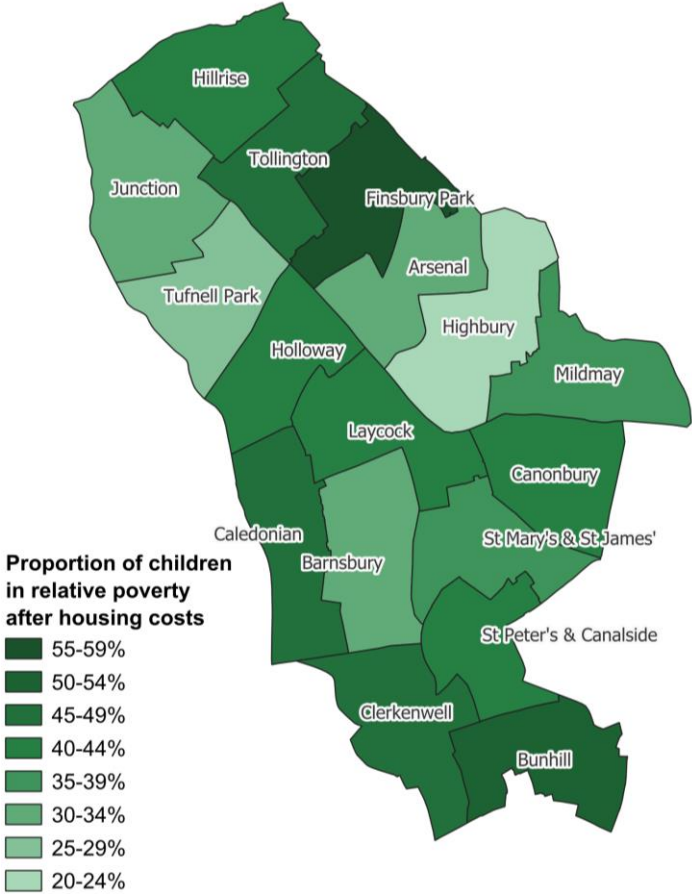
Child poverty is measured as the share of children living in households with income below 60% of the median.

19% of Islington children live in poverty before housing costs which is the 5th highest in London. Once housing costs are taken into consideration it is estimated that proportion of children living in poverty rises to 33%, which is the 9th highest in London.

Proportion of children aged 0-16 living in relative poverty after housing costs, 2024/25



The highest proportion of children in poverty live in Finsbury Park ward, followed by Bunhill.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

Note: Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

Source: Department for Work and Pensions

Levels of poverty vary by definition

Poverty definition	Islington households	19 boroughs (mixture of inner and outer London)
Relative poverty line. Households with income below 60% of the median income in that year	30%	31%
Social Metric Commission poverty line. Households whose total resources available (net income plus liquid assets minus inescapable costs) are less than 54% of the three-year smoothed national median for available resources.	23%	23%
Households below the Minimum income standard. Minimum Income Standard shows what households need to spend to have an acceptable standard of living, as judged by members of the public	58%	61%

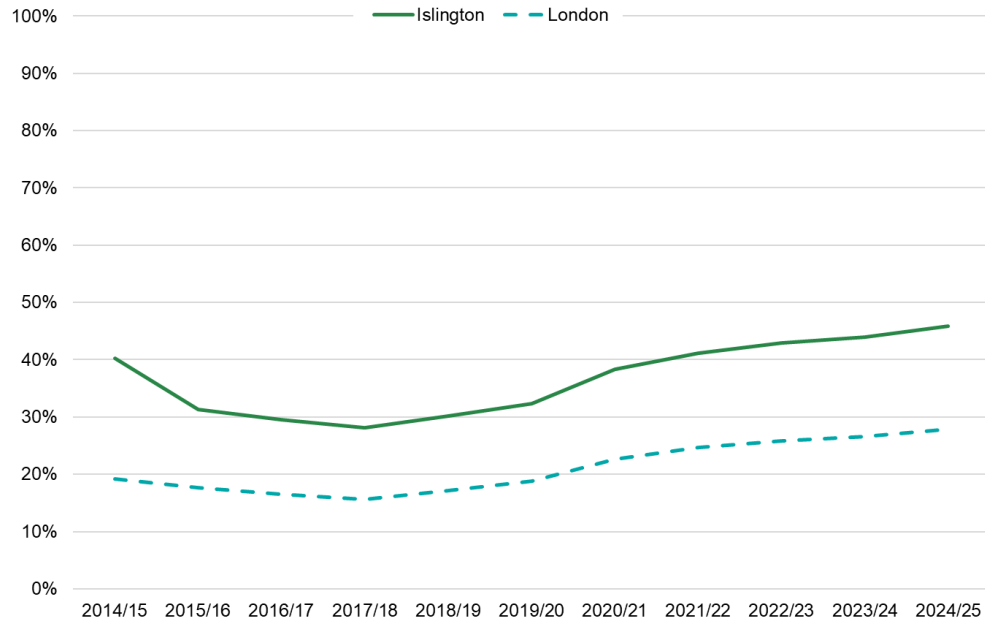
- There are approximately 26,800 households, with 13,500 children, receiving Universal Credit, council tax support and/or housing benefits (i.e. classed as “low income”) in Islington based on the Low-Income Family Tracker dashboard developed by Policy in Practice as of December 2025.
- 6,669 of these households are below the poverty line, with 6,651 children. These data are based on households in receipt of benefits only and therefore we might expect benefits recipients to be more likely to experience lower standards of living and higher rates of poverty than the population as a whole.

The proportion of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) has increased in Islington and the rest of London.

In 2024/25, 46% of Islington pupils across all phases of school were eligible for free school meals. There has been a steady increase in the proportion eligible since 2019/20 (32%). This is at least in part due to a change in recording. Since 2018, if a child is found to be eligible, they remain eligible until the end of their current phase of schooling (e.g. primary school pupils remain eligible until they start secondary school).

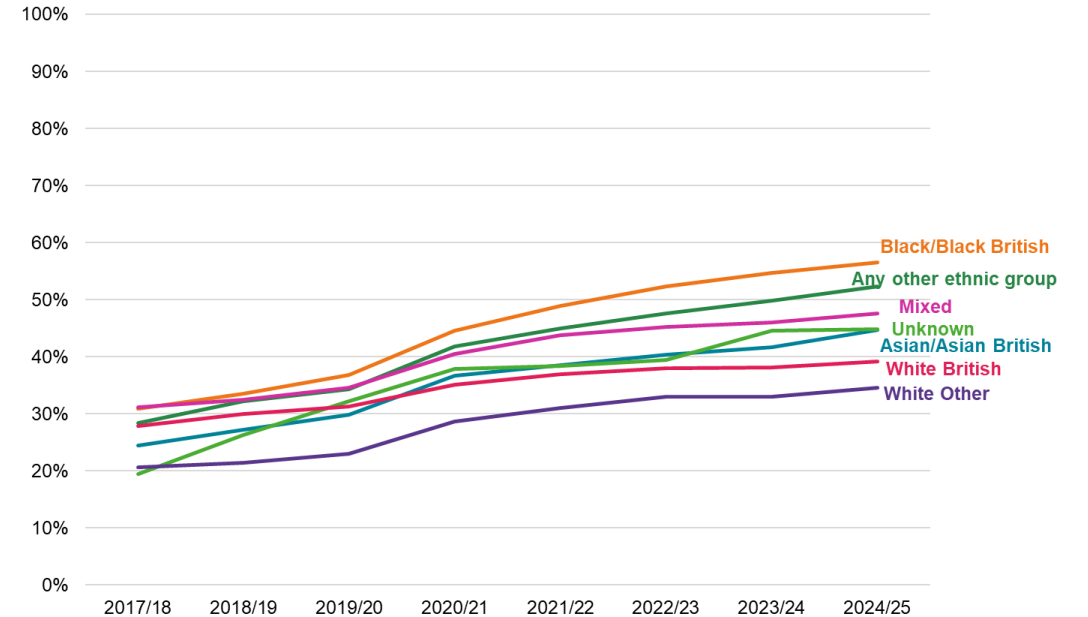
Eligibility has increased among all ethnic groups, but the proportion of eligible children has increased slightly more among Black/Black British children, whereas there has been less of an increase among White British children.

Proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals, Islington compared to London, 2014/15 - 2024/25



Source: Department for Education

Proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals by ethnic group, Islington, 2017/18 - 2024/25

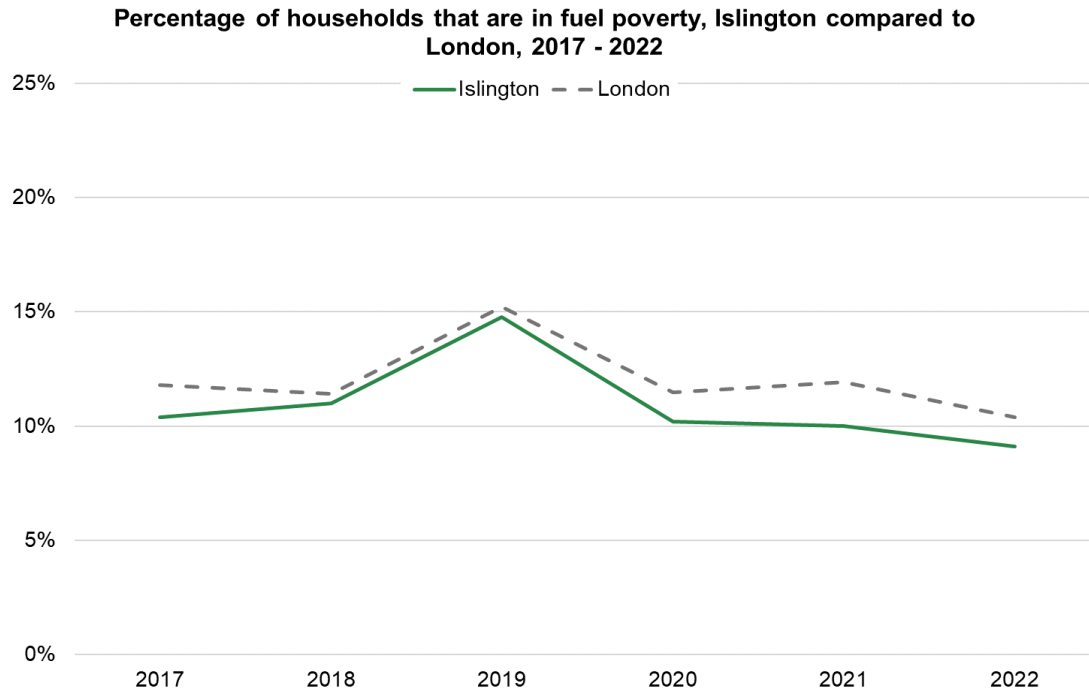


Source: Department for education

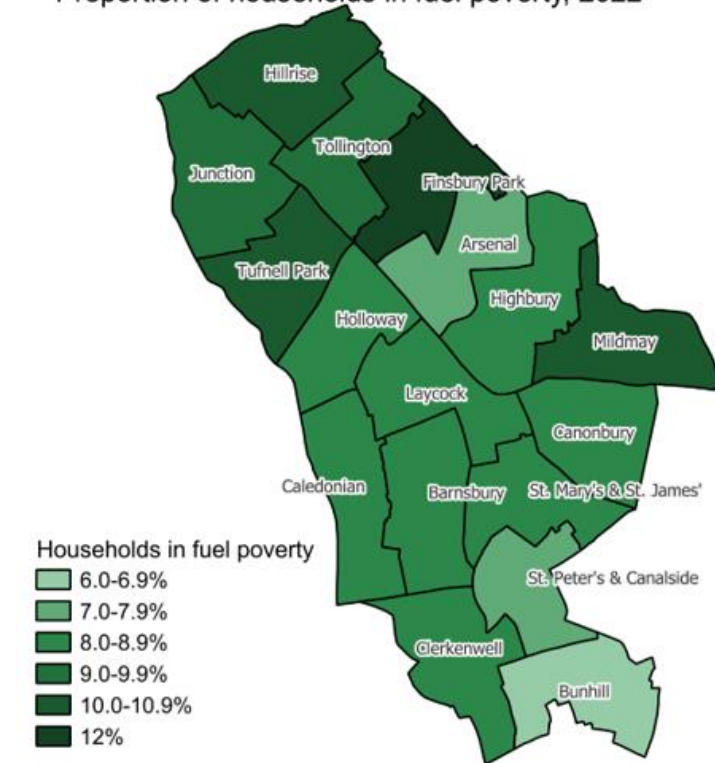
The percentage of households that are fuel poor has been decreasing in both Islington and London since 2020.

Fuel poverty is measured using the Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator. Under this indicator, a household is fuel poor if they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below AND when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line (defined as 60% of the median equivalised disposable income)

In 2022, 9% of Islington residents were in fuel poverty. Fuel poverty is concentrated in the north of the borough with the highest rates seen in Finsbury Park

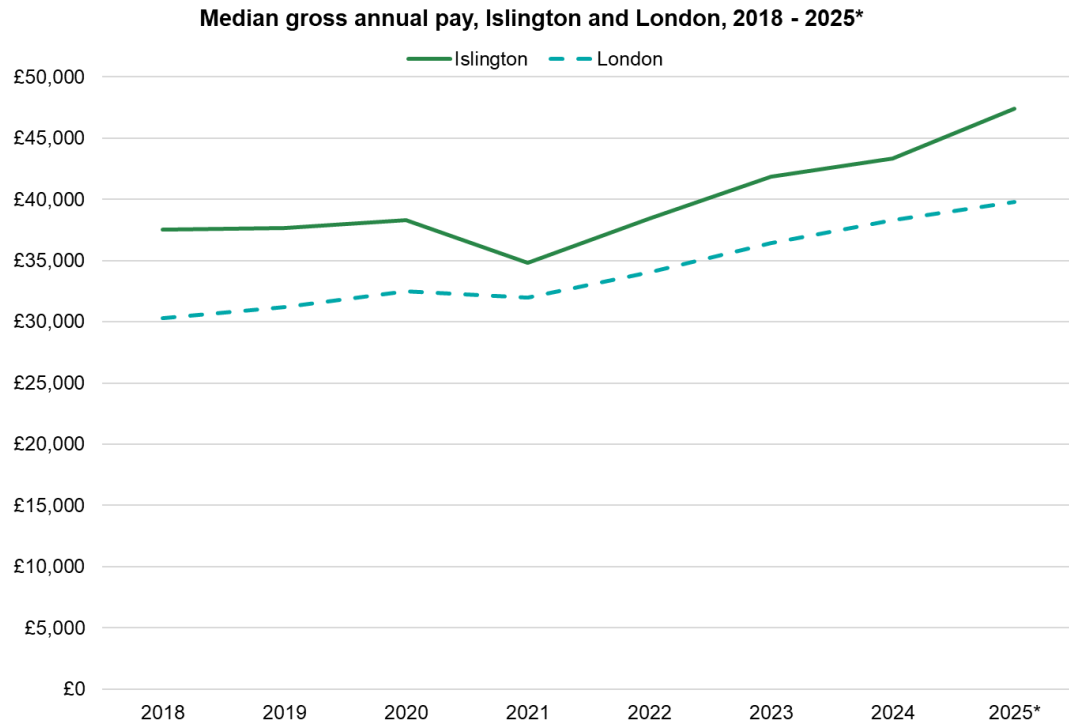


Proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2022



Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business

The median gross annual pay of Islington residents is higher than London overall and shows an increasing trend since 2021. However, there are significant differences across the borough with some areas having double the average income of others

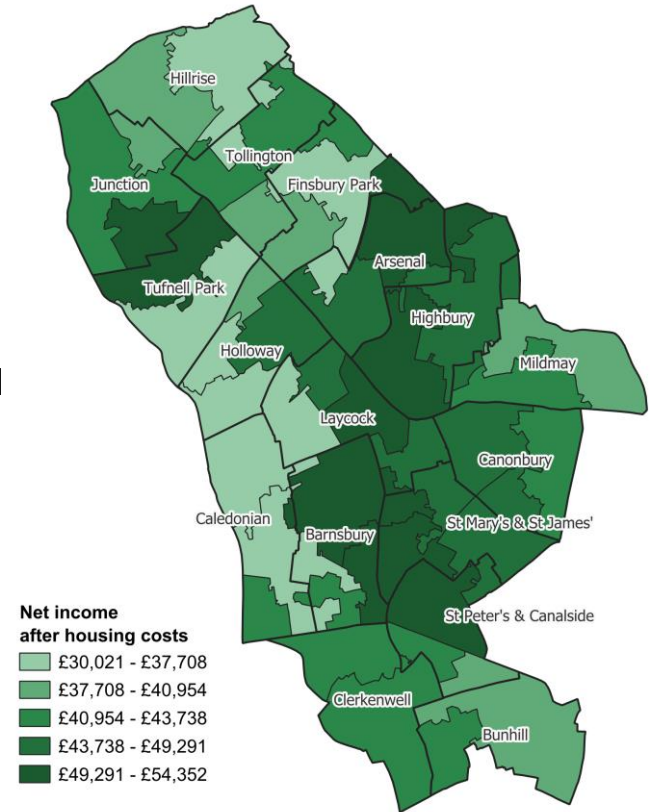


Net equivalised income after housing costs, means that household size and housing costs have been accounted for to allow for comparison between local areas.

There is an almost 2-fold difference in the local areas with the lowest and highest mean household disposable income within the borough (Lowest mean disposable income = £30,021 and Highest = £54,352).

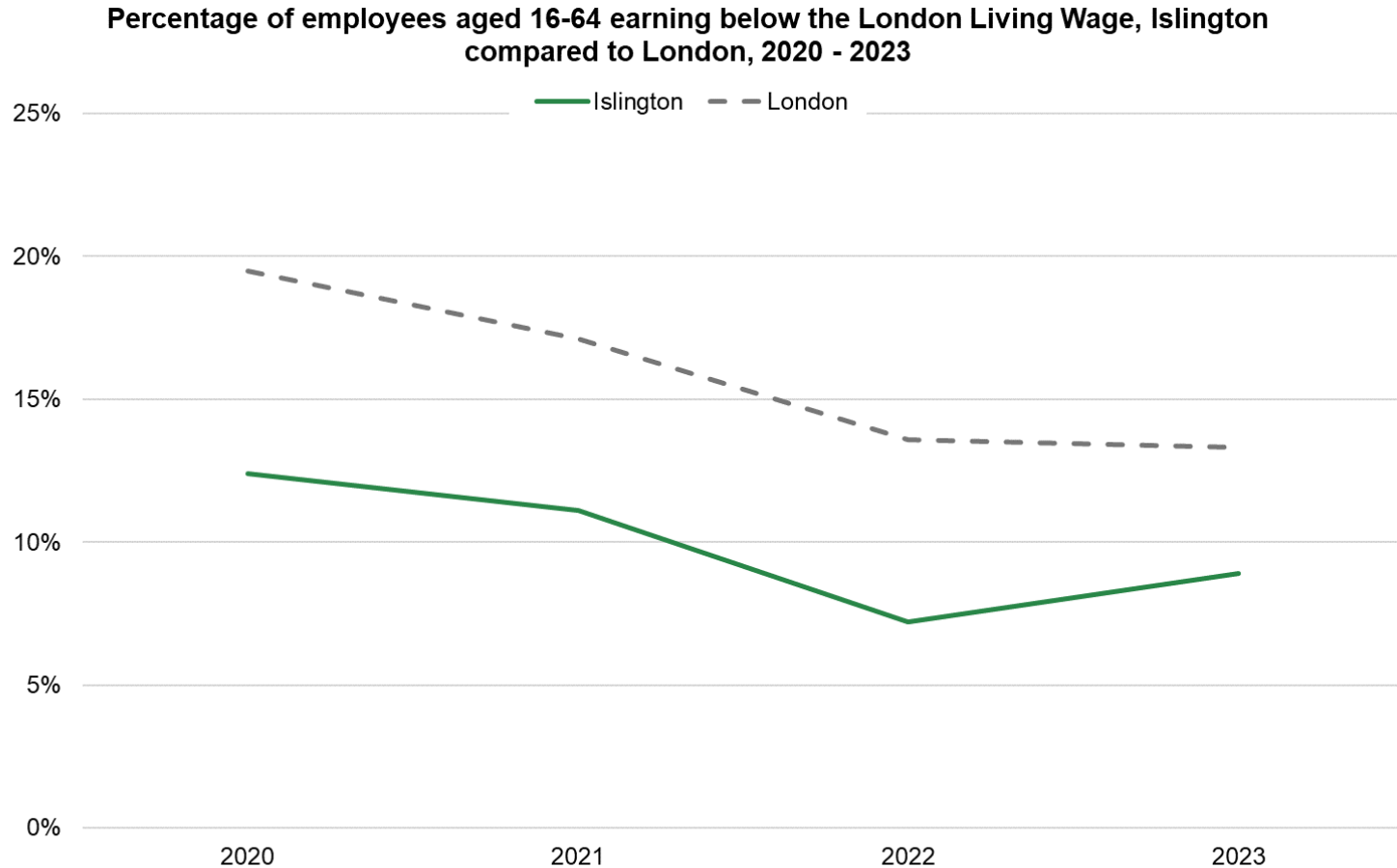
The areas around Angel and Highbury have the highest average income, while parts of Finsbury park, Caledonian, Holloway and Tufnell park have the lowest.

Net equivalised income after housing costs, Islington, 2023



Note: *2025 figures are provisional
Source: Office for National Statistics

Fewer employees in Islington earn below the London Living Wage compared to London



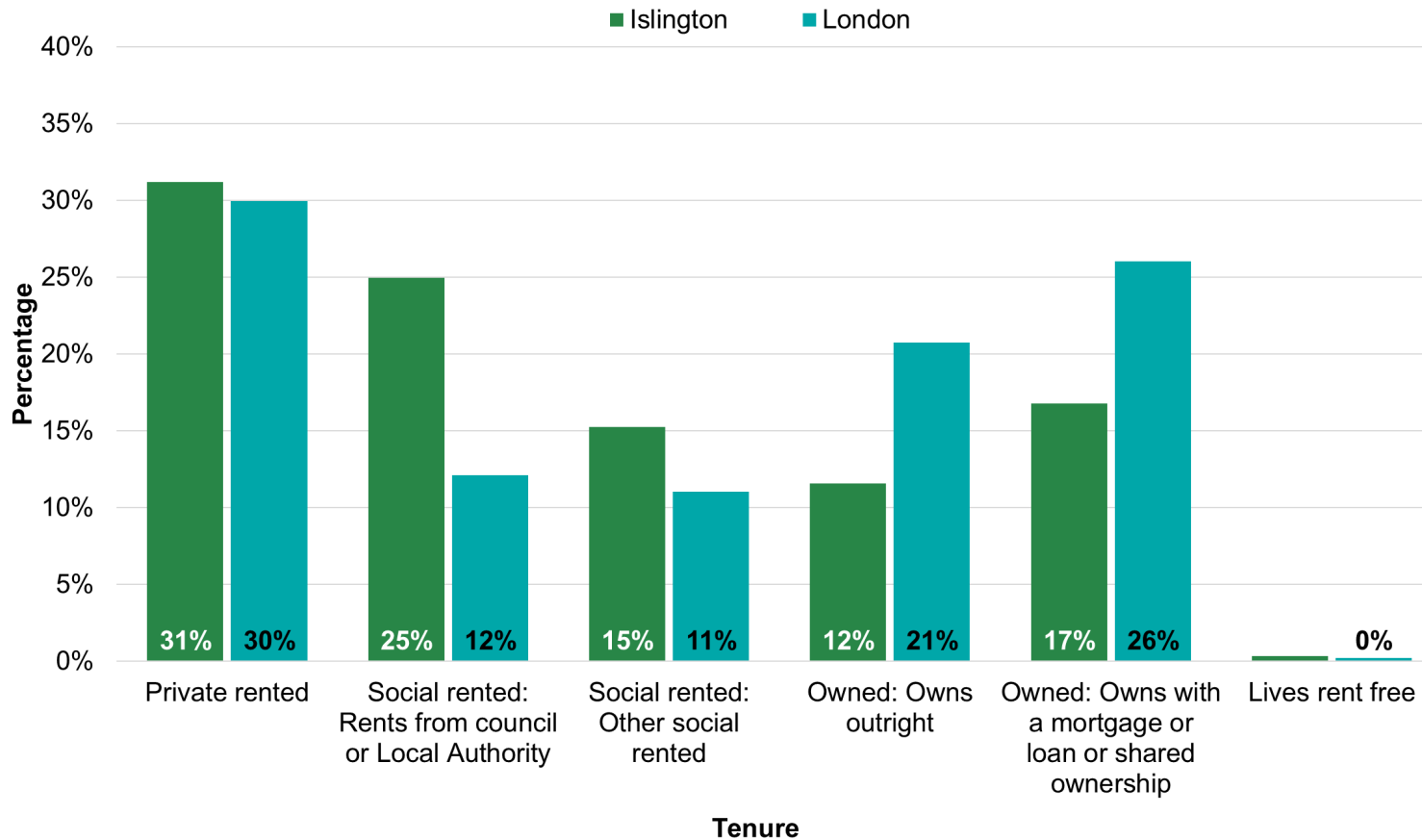
Source: Office for National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earning

- Approximately 9% of employee-jobs in Islington were paid below the LLW in April 2023, a lower proportion than for London (13.3%).
- The proportion of Islington employees earning below the LLW gradually declined between 2020 and 2022, but the more recent trend shows an increase in the proportion of employees earning below the LLW.
- The decrease observed between 2020 and 2022 may be due to pandemic-related job losses which disproportionately affected low-pay sectors, resulting in people on lower incomes being more likely to be unemployed.

Housing

A third of Islington's households are private rented and a further 40% are social rented from the council or housing association.

Tenure Type, Islington and London 2021



- There are just under 112,000 residential properties in the borough, of which 25% are social rented accommodation from the council and 15% are socially rented from a housing association.
- Black and Black British ethnic groups are overrepresented in social housing: 22% of social rented household from the council comprise of Black ethnic groups, compared to only 2-8% in other tenures.
- There is mixed evidence for the change in the availability of private rented homes:
 - Local statistics using deposit scheme data shows that privately rented accommodation has not significantly changed.
 - Active rental listings have decreased in Islington by 21% between 2018/19 and 2023/24. (Savills research funded by Trust for London).

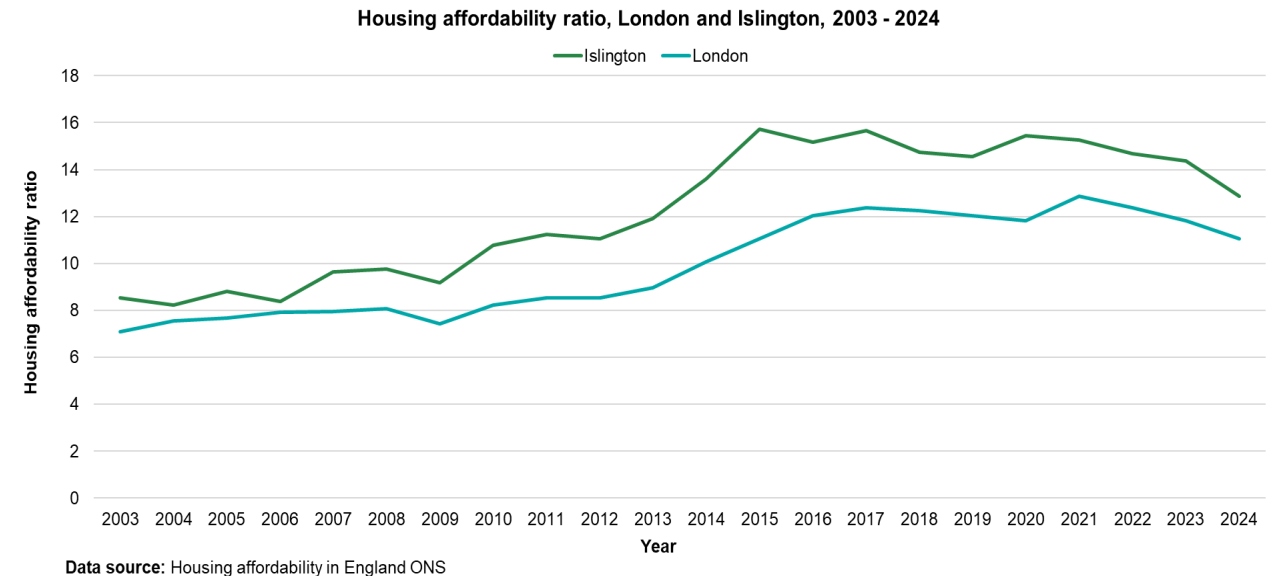
Rent and property prices in Islington are high and rising

- **Private rents in Islington rose to an average of £2,708 per month in September 2025**, an annual increase of 4% from £2,576 in September 2024. In London, rent rose from £2,147 in September 2024 to £2,260 in September 2025 (5% increase)
- The annual change in rental price in Islington has begun to slow down in the last year from 15% in June 2024 to 5% in June 2025.

- Given the high proportion of people living in private rental accommodation in Islington this has implications for unequal vulnerability to the cost-of-living crisis, and subsequent tenure insecurity, as rents rise faster than inflation



- In 2024, Islington residents in full-time work when buying a property in the borough could expect to spend around 12.9 times their annual earnings. The equivalent figure in London is 11.1 times their annual earnings.
- Over the past three years, the housing affordability ratio has declined, indicating an improvement in affordability



Housing affordability ratios calculated by dividing house prices by gross annual workplace-based earnings. Based on the median and lower quartiles of both house prices and earnings in the area.

Proportion of social housing households in rent arrears has decreased from 35% in 2023/24 to 33% 2024/25 and the average rent arrears per tenant has remained the same in the past 2 years.

% of LBI housing in rent arrears (includes partner properties)

33%

Total Rent arrears

£10,598,285

Rent arrears as a % of rent

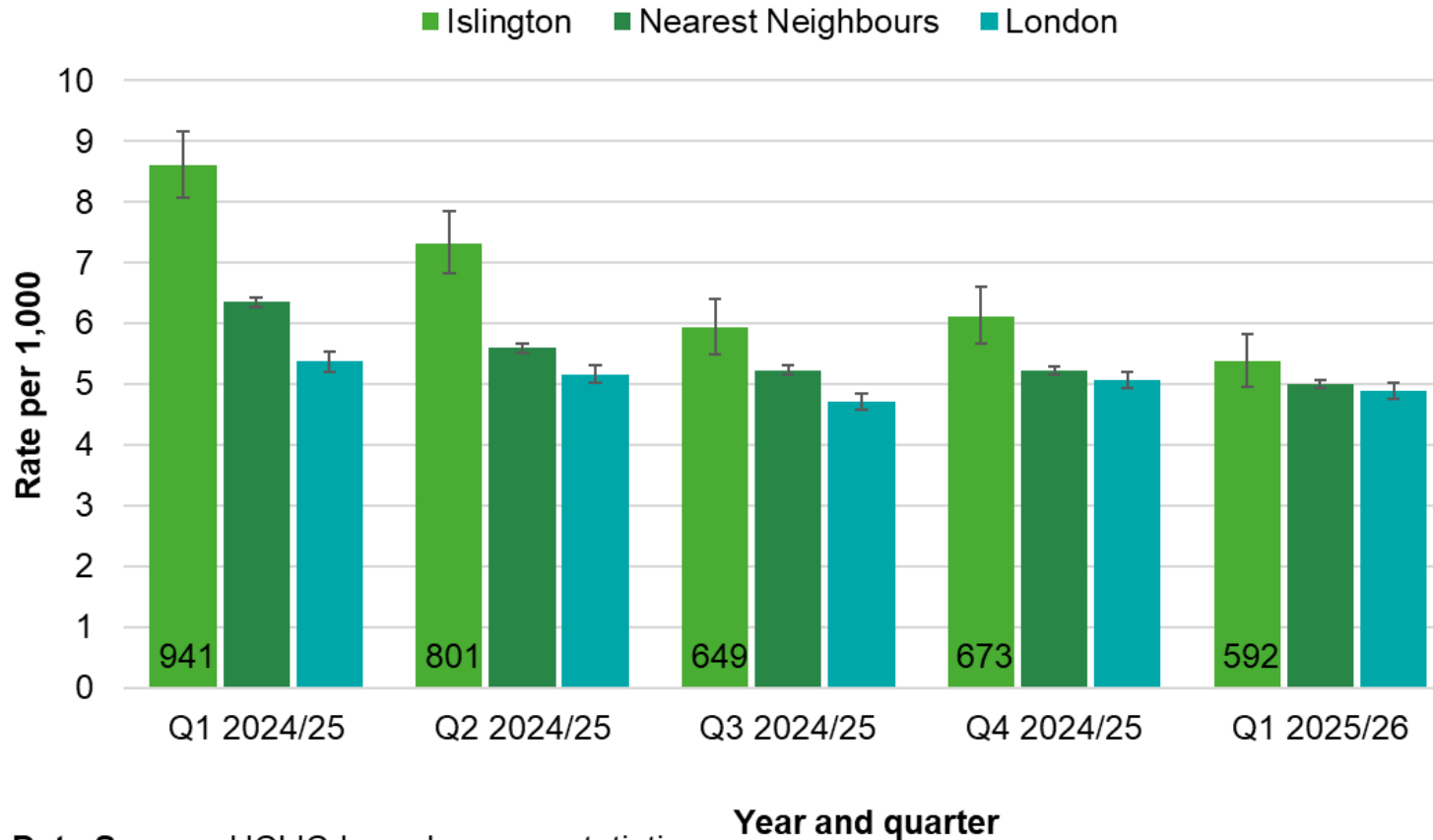
5%

Average rent arrears per tenant

£421

Initial Homeless Assessments have decreased significantly in Islington from Q1 in 2024/25 to Q1 in 2025/26

Households Receiving an Initial Homeless Assessment, Rate per 1,000 Households, 2024/25 - Q1 2025/6



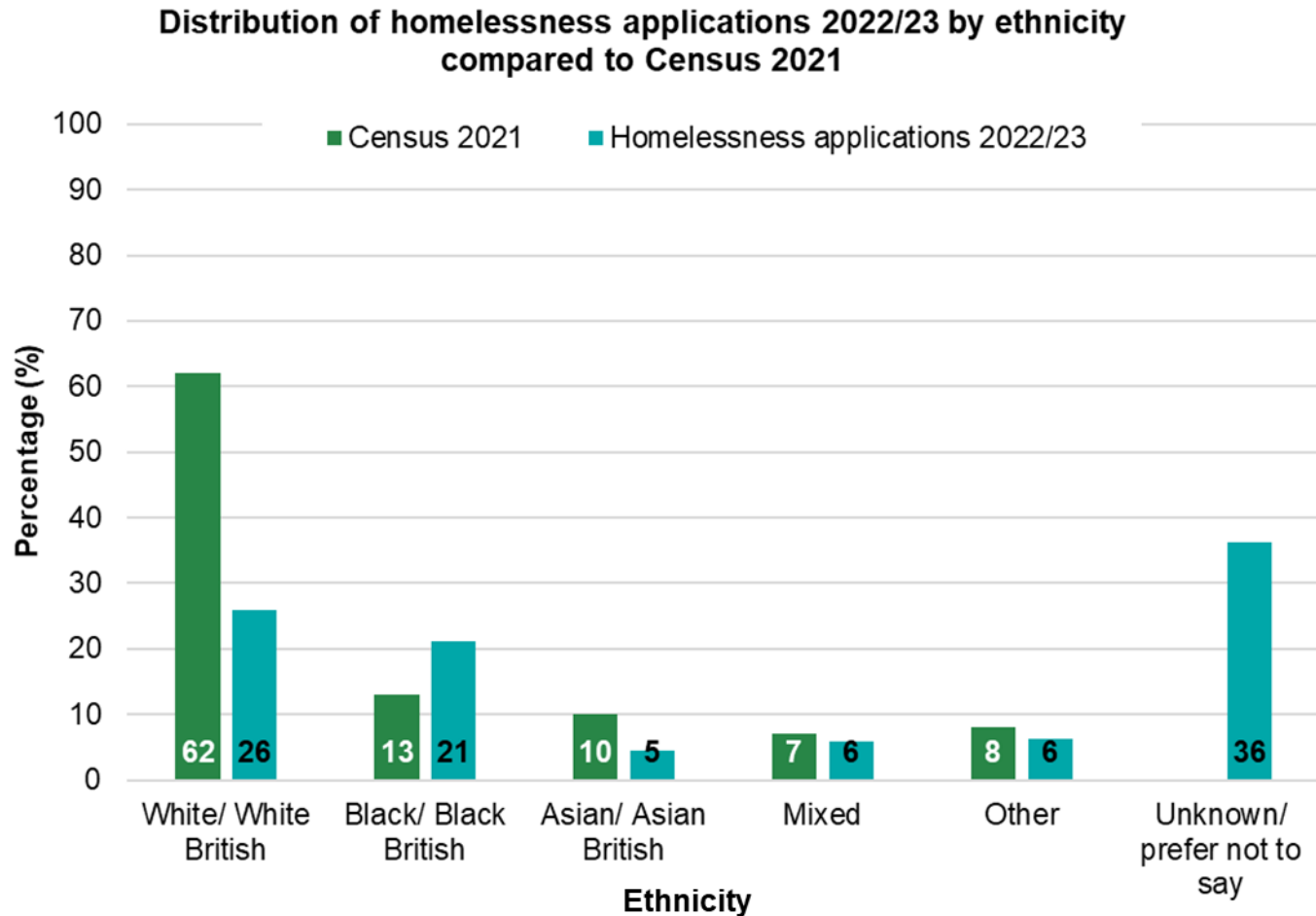
Data Source: HCLIC homelessness statistics

- At the start of 2024, the number of households being assessed as homeless reached a record high.
- Since then, the rate of applications has been decreasing in Islington, which mirrors trends seen across London and England.
- Of the 592 assessments in Q1 2025/26, 585 households progressed to being owed a prevention or relief duty from being homeless (99%).

Note: Nearest neighbours are Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hackney, Westminster, Camden, Southwark, Haringey and Tower Hamlets

Source: HCLIC homelessness statistics

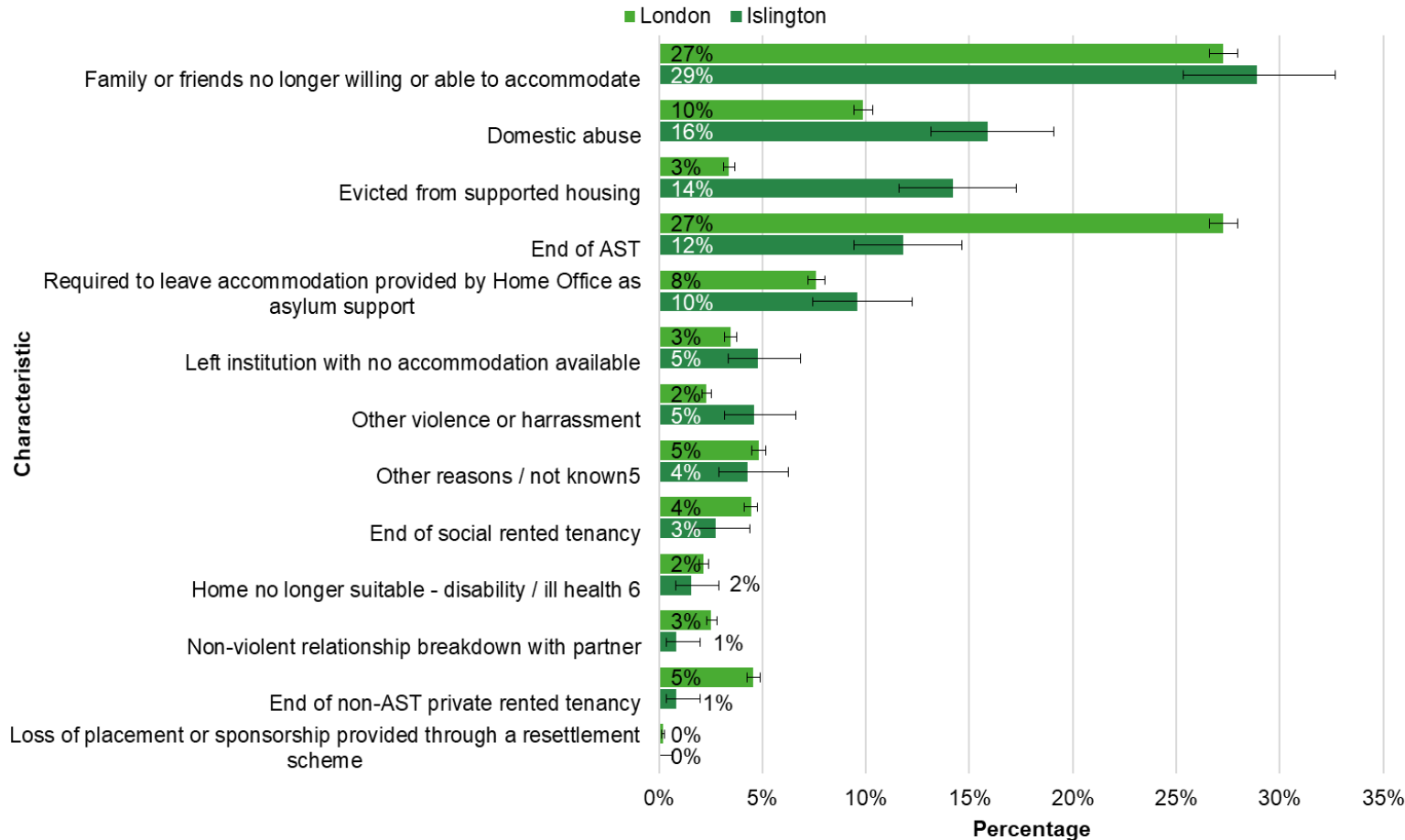
Black/Black British households are over-represented with respect to homelessness applications.



- The proportion of homelessness applications with unknown ethnicity is very large (36%), meaning it is not possible to draw robust conclusions about disaggregated ethnicity data.
- Excluding the unknowns, when comparing Islington Council's data on homelessness applications with the Census 2021 population, the data shows that Black/Black British households are over-represented (21%) compared to the overall population profile (13%).

The main reason for homelessness, was due to friends or family no longer being willing or able to accommodate them

Percentage of homeless households by reason for homelessness, Q1 2025/26

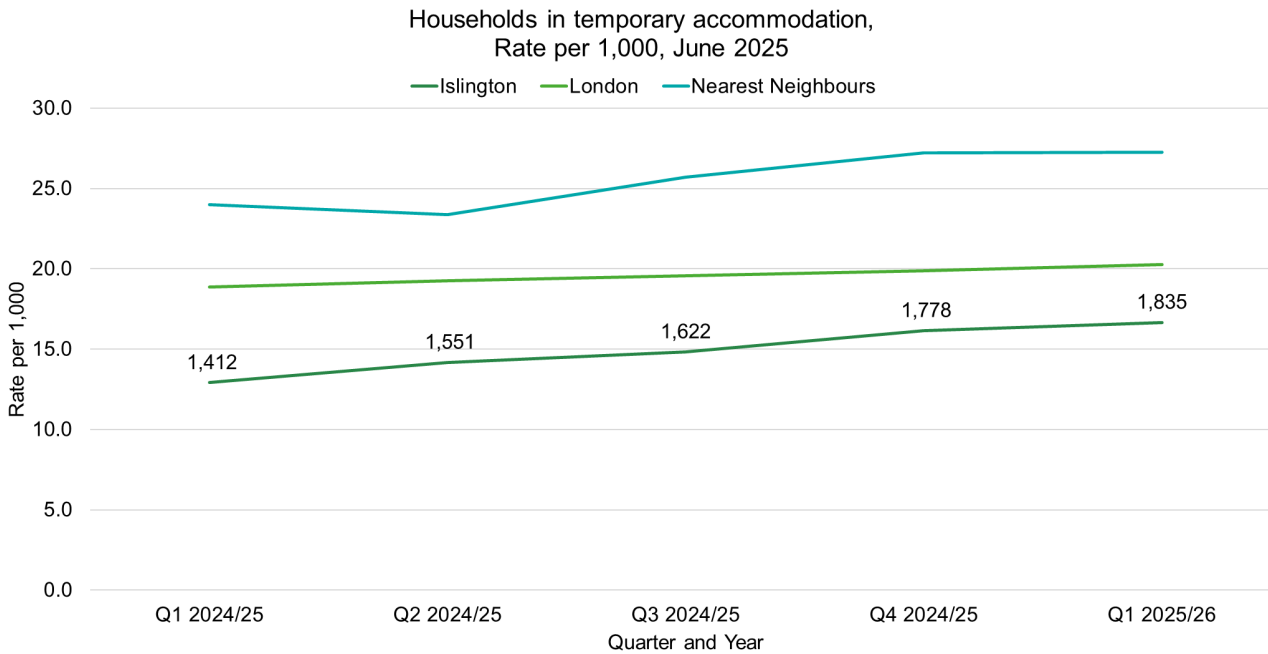


Data Source: HCLIC Homelessness Statistics A5P and A5R

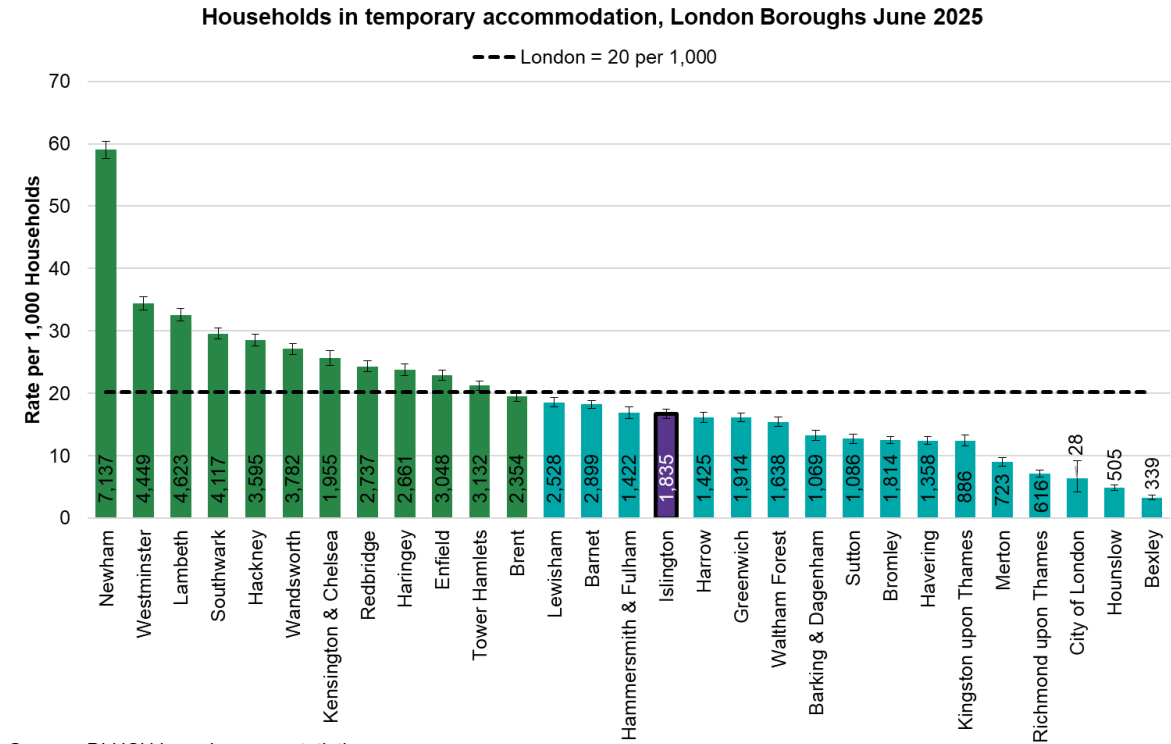
- Of the 585 households assessed and deemed owed a prevention or relief duty this chart shows the reason they were homeless.
- 29% had a reason of homelessness that family or friends were no longer able to accommodate them.
- In Q1 2025/26 domestic abuse, evicted from supported housing and other violence or harassment were significantly higher in Islington as a reason for homelessness compared to London.
- The majority of Islington residents who owed a prevention or relief duty were single men (51%). This was significantly higher than in London (34%).

Temporary Accommodation has increased over time but remains below the London average

- Total households in temporary accommodation continues to rise locally and nationally.
- Although Islington has seen an increase in households in temporary accommodation, the rate per 1,000 households' benchmarks significantly lower than London (17 per 1,000 vs 20 per 1,000). As of Q1 2025/26, 1,835 households in Islington were in temporary accommodation.

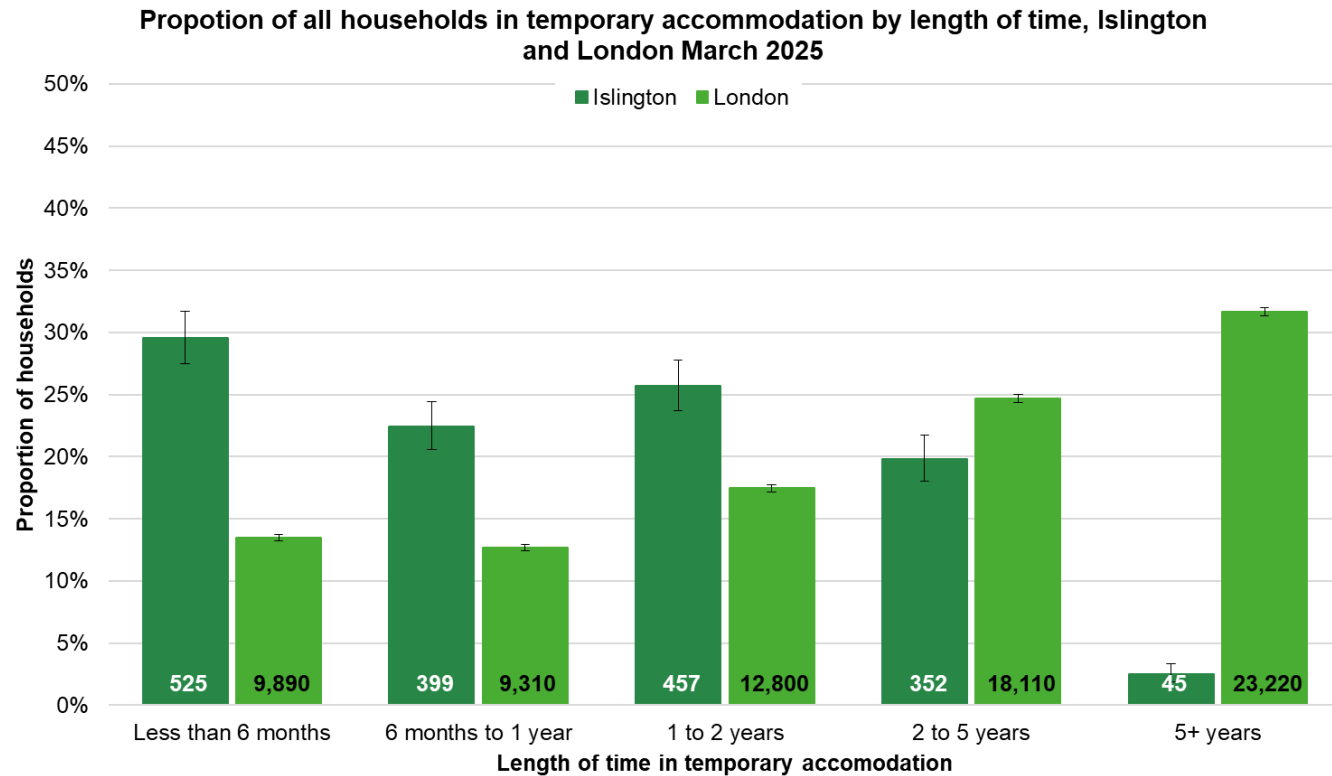


Note: Nearest neighbours data is incomplete due to Camden not submitting data



Source: DLUCH homelessness statistic

The majority of people in temporary accommodation in Islington are staying for 6 months as of March 2025 data



- In Islington, households spend less time in temporary accommodation than in London. As of March 2025, 29% of Islington households in temporary accommodation stayed for up to 6 months compared to 13% of London households.
- In London significantly more households are in temporary accommodation for over 5 years (32%) compared to in Islington (3%).
- The same trend is seen when looking at both adult-only households and households with children.

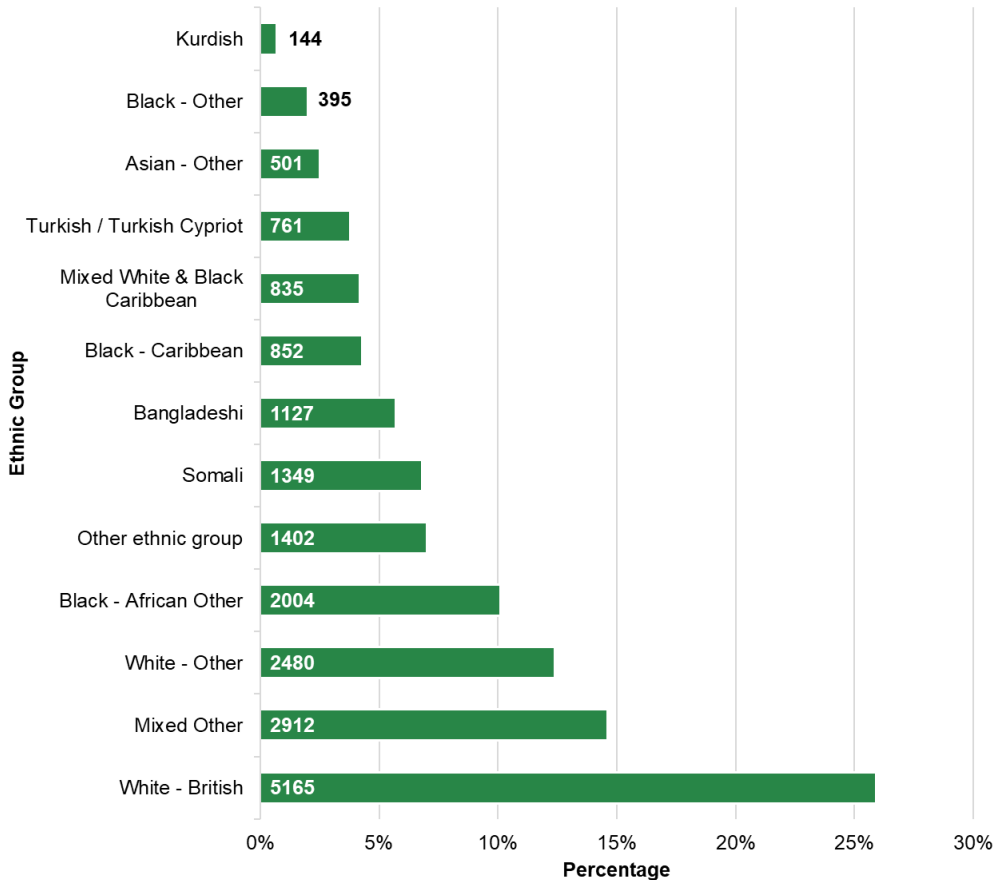
Source: DLUHC homelessness statistics

Note: The numbers in bars on chart indicate total number of households
Source: DLUHC Homelessness statistics

Children and young people and education

Islington children and young people population is diverse

Percentage of Islington residents aged under 18 on the Early Years and School Census by ethnicity, January 2025



Source: School census, January 2025

There are an estimated 67,559 children and young people aged 0-25 years in Islington, making up 30% of the total population.

Aged 5 and under

12,128 (5%)

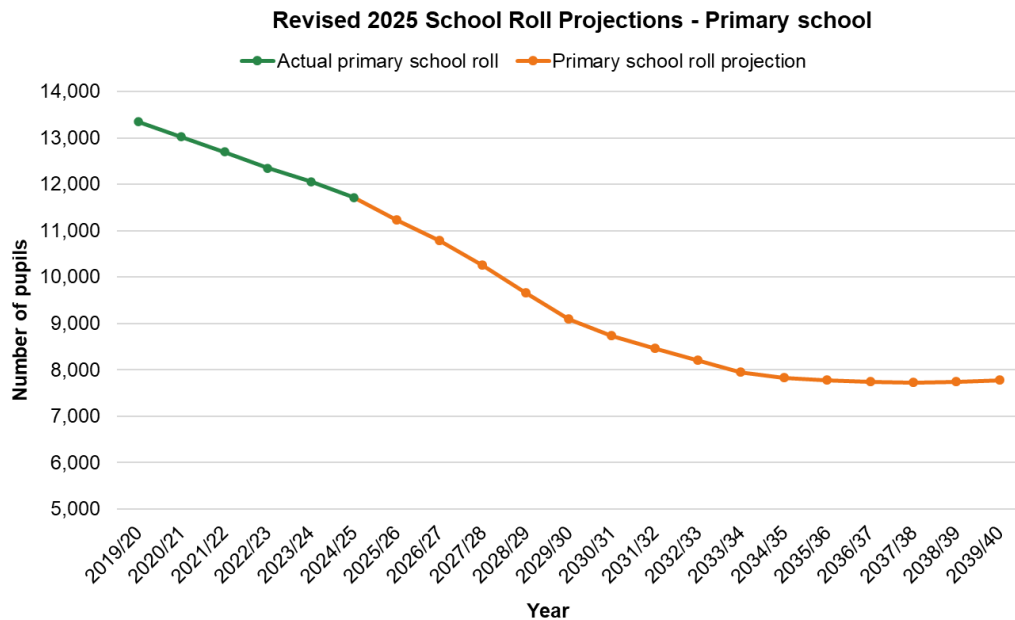
Aged under 18

35,202 (16%)

- Islington's population of children and young people is projected to fall in future years. This is due to a combination of declining birth rates and the unaffordability of inner London for families.
- Islington's children and young population (Under 25) is more ethnically diverse than the overall Islington population with an estimated 65% identifying as non-White British compared 46% of under 25s in London.
- Internal data shows that 65% of children in Islington aged 0-17 live in social housing.

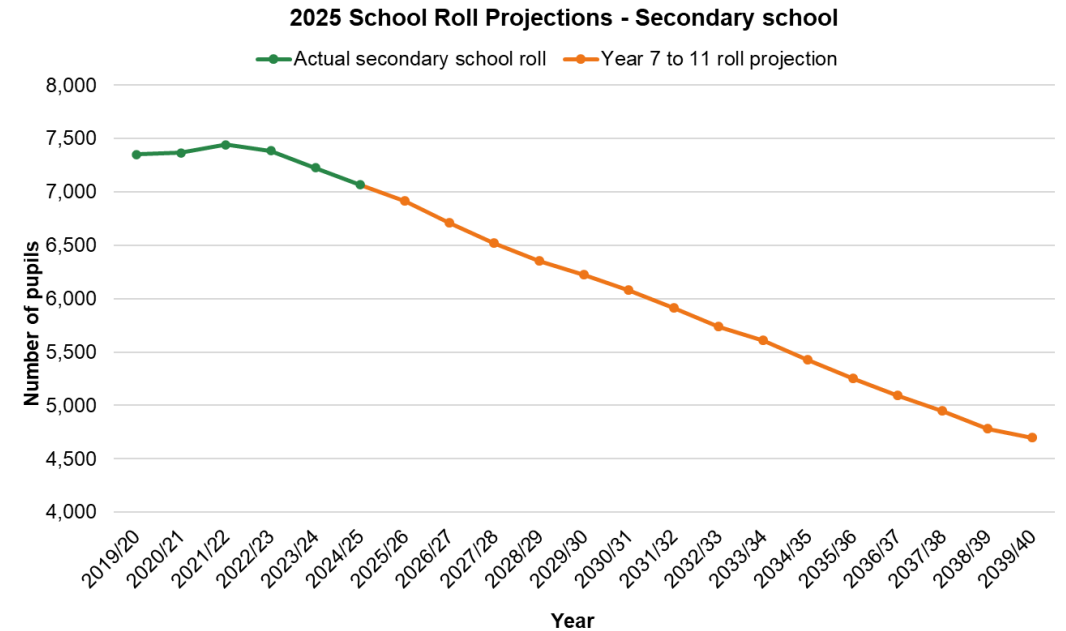
The number of children in Islington schools has been decreasing

The number of pupils in Islington primary schools has been falling steadily over the last five years, and is projected to continue to drop, from over 13,300 in 2019/20 pupils to around 11,700 2039/40. The number of pupils in primary schools are projected to fall year on year resulting in a 31% decrease in the next 10 years.



Source: Islington Data & Performance Team

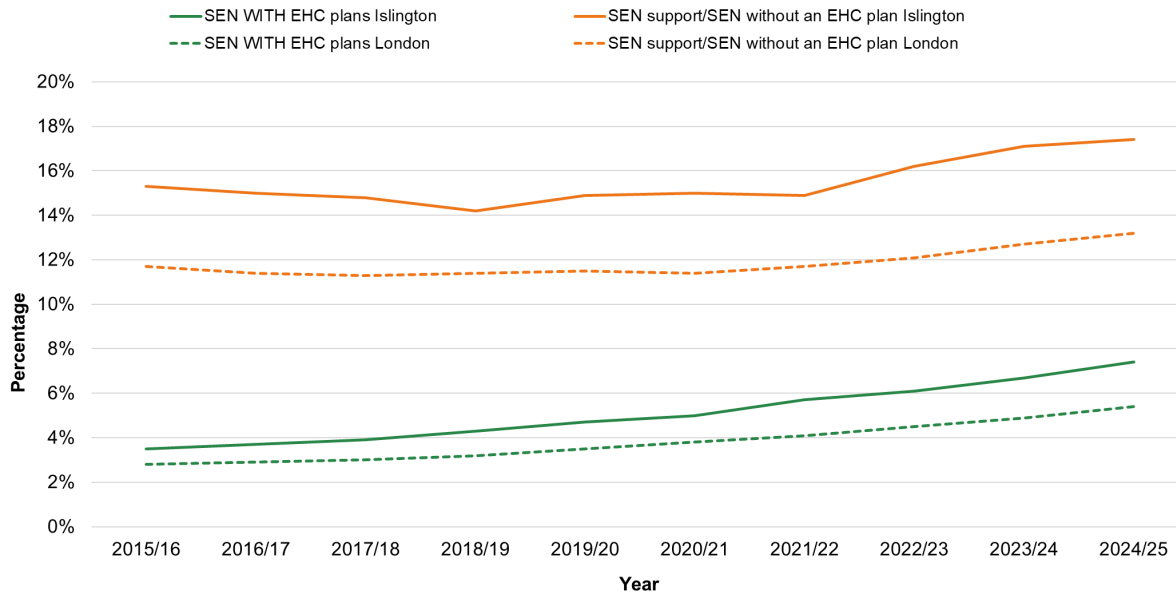
The number of pupils in Islington secondary schools rose from 2019/20 to a peak in 2021/22, but has since fallen. The number of pupils in year 7 to 11 classes are projected to decline year on year and by 24% in the next 10 years.



Source: Islington Data & Performance Team

Islington has a higher proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs compared to London.

Percentage of pupils in school with and without an Education Health Care (EHC) plan, Islington compared to London, 2015/16 - 2024/25

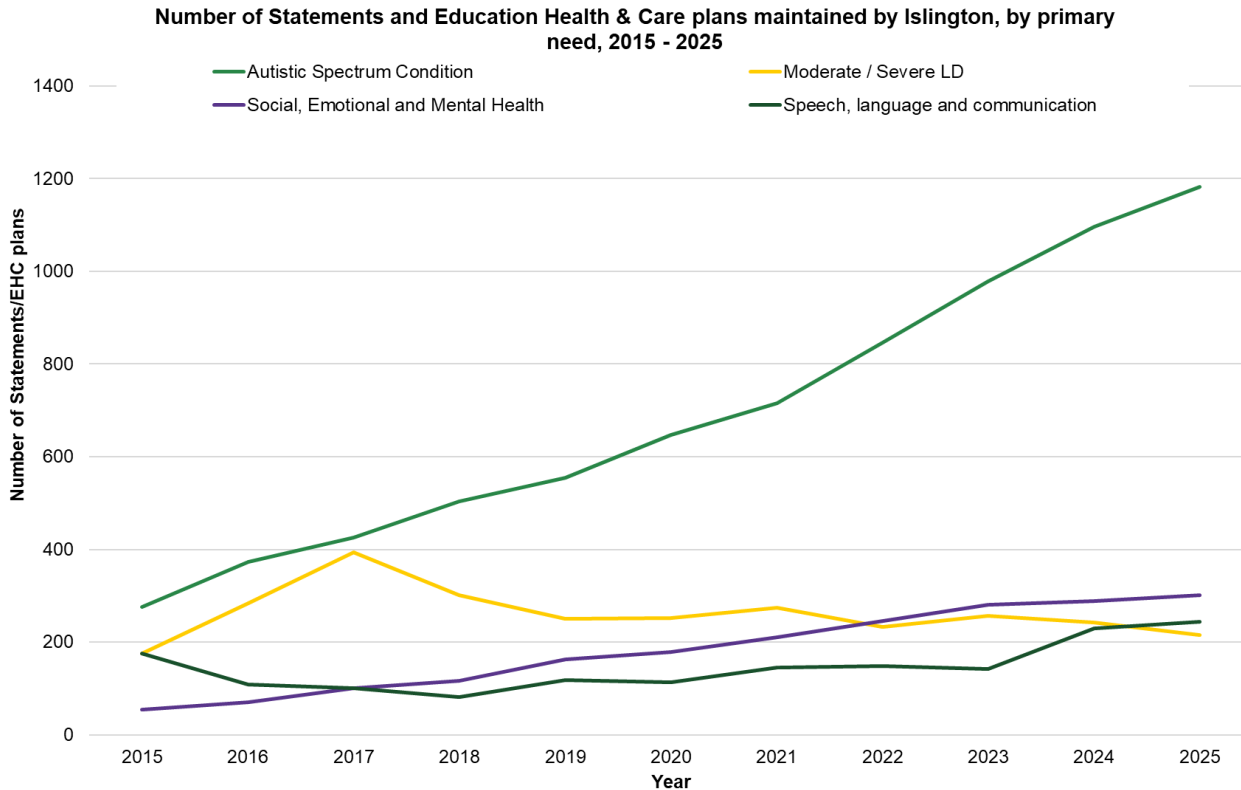


Note: Includes pupils with SEN support in state-funded schools and pupils with SEN without an EHC plan in Independent schools
Source: Department for Education - Special education needs in England, 2025

- In 2024/25, 7.4% of pupils in Islington had Special Educational Needs (SEN) with an Education Health and Care (EHC) compared to 5.4% in London. 17.4% have SEN without an EHC plan in Islington compared to 13.2% in London.
- The proportion of pupils with an EHC plans has risen since 2015/16, mirroring trends seen across London. These figures include out of borough residents who attend Islington schools.
- While the proportion and number of pupils with EHC plans have increased, the total number of children attending Islington schools has decreased by 1% on average.
- The number of children in Islington with SEN support without an EHC plan has also shown an overall increase from 15.3% to 17.4% and in London from 11.7% to 13.2% between 2015/16 to 2024/25.

Significantly more children in primary school have an EHCP (6%) compared to secondary school (4%).
 Black African children are significantly more likely to have an EHCP compared to White British children (6% vs 5%).

Most children with an education health and care plan need support with Autistic Spectrum Disorders.



Source: Islington EHCP data

- The most common primary need among children with a statement or an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) maintained by Islington is Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The number of pupils with an EHCP for ASD increased by 627 between 2019/20 and 2024/25, rising from 555 to 1,182.
- Following ASD, the next three most common needs are:
 - Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (301 children)
 - Speech, Language, and Communication (244 children)
 - Moderate/severe learning disability (216 children).
- Both Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and speech, language and communication needs have seen year on year increases.

The rate of children in need and children looked after is higher in Islington than in London

Children in need

- Children known to social care is a good indication of the increasing level of needs amongst families in the borough. The children in need rates looks at all children and young people with an open referral to children's social care. Authorities with higher levels of deprivation tend to have higher rates of children in need.
- The Islington rate of children in need has been consistently above the London and England rates from 2018/19 to 2024/25.

The rate of Children in Need per 10,000 in 2024/25



Children looked after

- In 2025, the rate of children looked after in Islington was higher than London and England. Whilst the rate for London and England has remained consistent, in Islington, the trend has shown a downward trajectory from 89 per 10,000 in 2023 down to 79 per 10,000 in 2025, though this change is not statistically significant.
- Across the country, local authorities with higher rates of deprivation affecting children tend to have higher rates of children looked after.

The rate of Children Looked After (excluding short term placements) per 10,000 in 2025

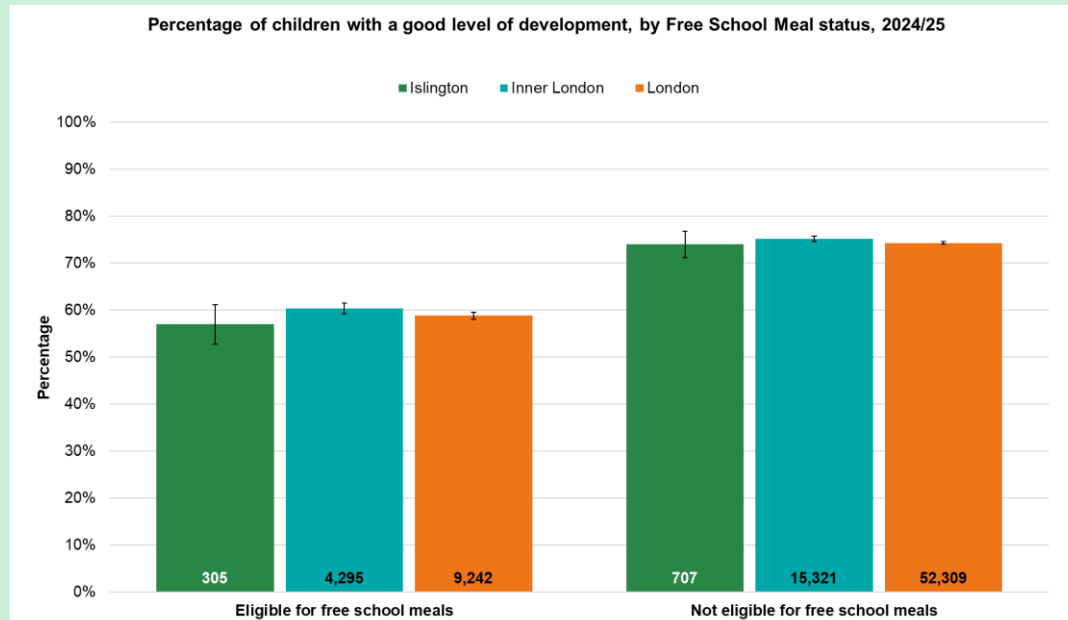


68% of Islington children had a Good Level of Development at age 5

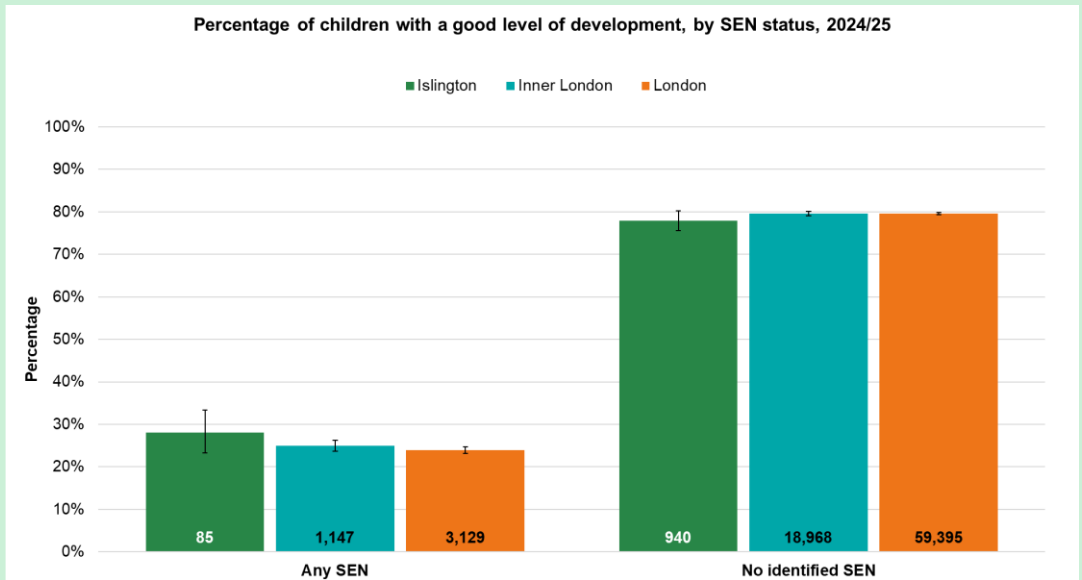
In 2025, the proportion of children in Islington achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at age 5 increased to 67.8% from 65.1% in 2024. However, this change is not statistically significant and remains below England (68.3%) and Inner London figures (70.3%).

However considerable inequalities exist:

57% of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) in Islington meet the expected school readiness standard, significantly lower compared to 74% for children not eligible. This is similar to Inner London and London.



Children with a Special Educational Need are also significantly less likely to meet the standard (28%) than children without SEND (78%). This pattern is also seen in Inner London and London.



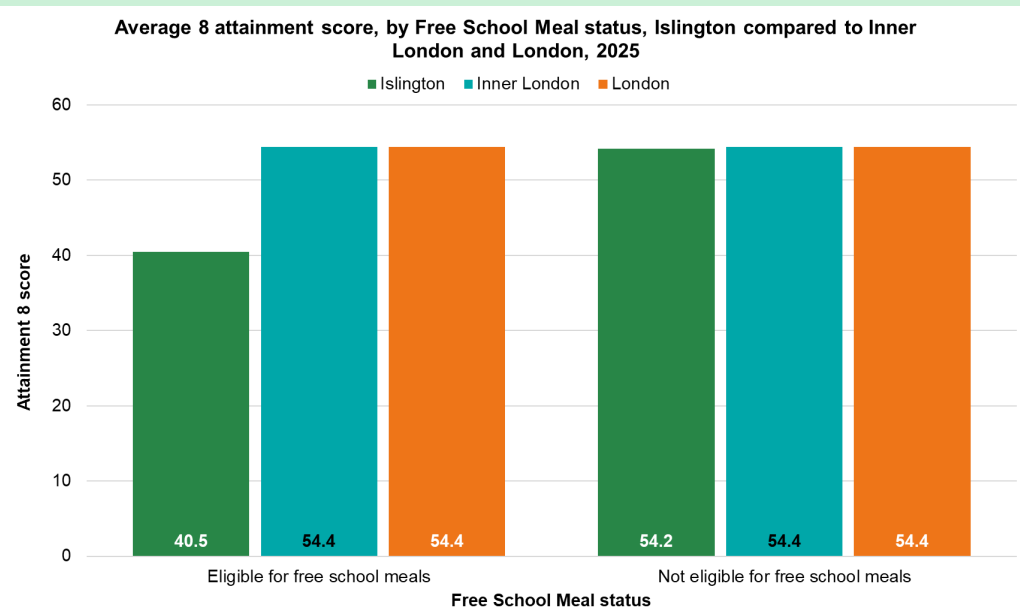
Note: 'Any SEN' indicates whether a pupil has learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age. This includes 'SEN with a statement', 'EHC plan' or 'SEN support'.

Key stage 4 (GCSE) attainment gaps exist by Special Educational Need and Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility.

Attainment 8 shows a student's average score across their 8 best GCSEs. In 2025 pupils in Islington schools had lower average 'Attainment 8' score compared to Inner London (47.0 vs 49.9) but a slightly better average score than the England (46.0) average.

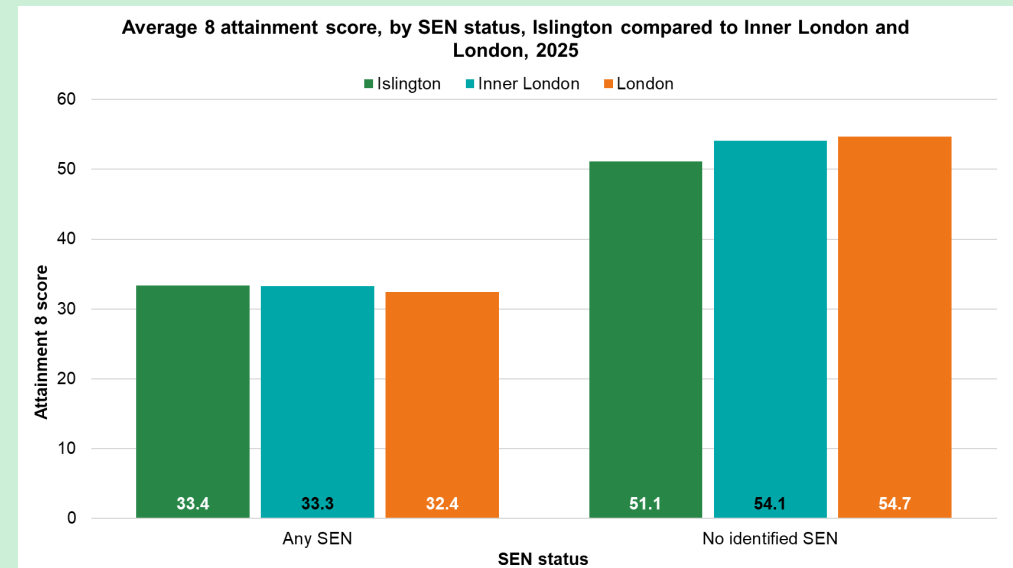
However considerable inequalities exist:

Children who are eligible for Free School meals have, on average, a lower Attainment 8 score (40.5) compared to children not eligible for FSM (54.2).



Source: Department for Education - Education Statistics England

Children with a Special Educational Need have, on average, a lower Attainment 8 score (33.4) compared to children with no identified Special Educational Need (51.1)

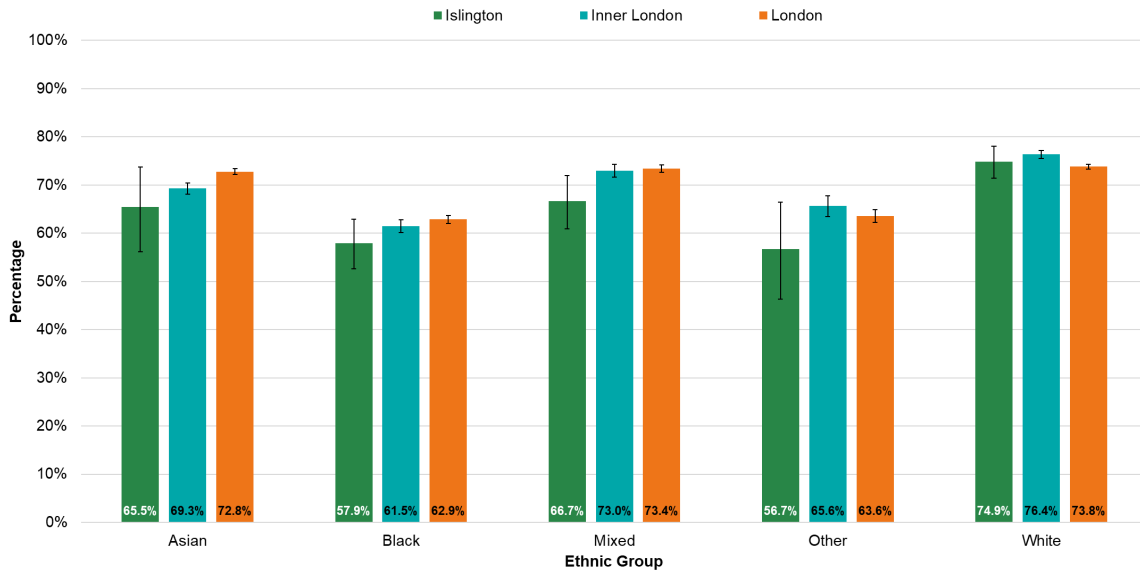


Note: 'Any SEN' indicates whether a pupil has learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age. This includes 'SEN with a statement' 'EHC plan' or 'SEN support'.
Source: Department for Education - Education Statistics England

There is an attainment gap between ethnicities, throughout primary (age 5) and secondary school (age 16)

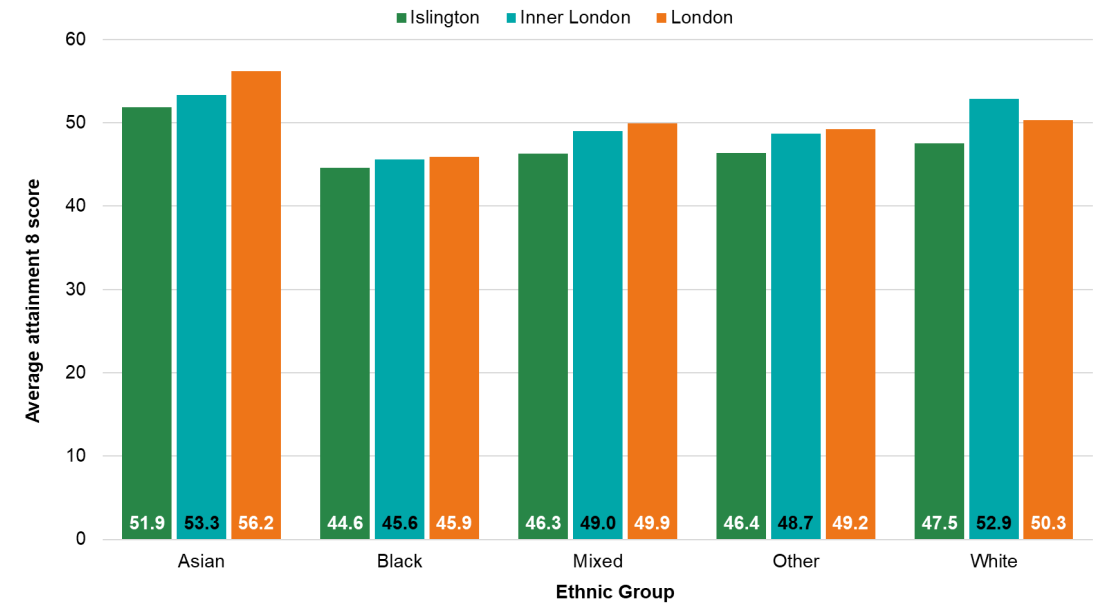
- Reception children identifying as White in Islington had the highest proportion of good level of development, whilst those identifying as Asian, Black and other in Islington are less likely to have a good level of development at age 5. Across all ethnic groups, attainment is lower in Islington than both Inner London and London.
- At Key Stage 2, significantly more Asian students achieve a good level of development compared to the ethnic group Other. All other ethnic groups showed no significant differences (White, Black, Mixed).
- By the end of the school period, Asian students outperform all other ethnic groups for average attainment 8 scores which is seen in Islington as well as London.

Percentage of children with a good level of development, by broad ethnic category, Islington compared to Inner London and London, 2024/25



Source: Department for Education - Education Statistics England

Average attainment 8 scores, by broad ethnic category, Islington compared to Inner London and London, 2025

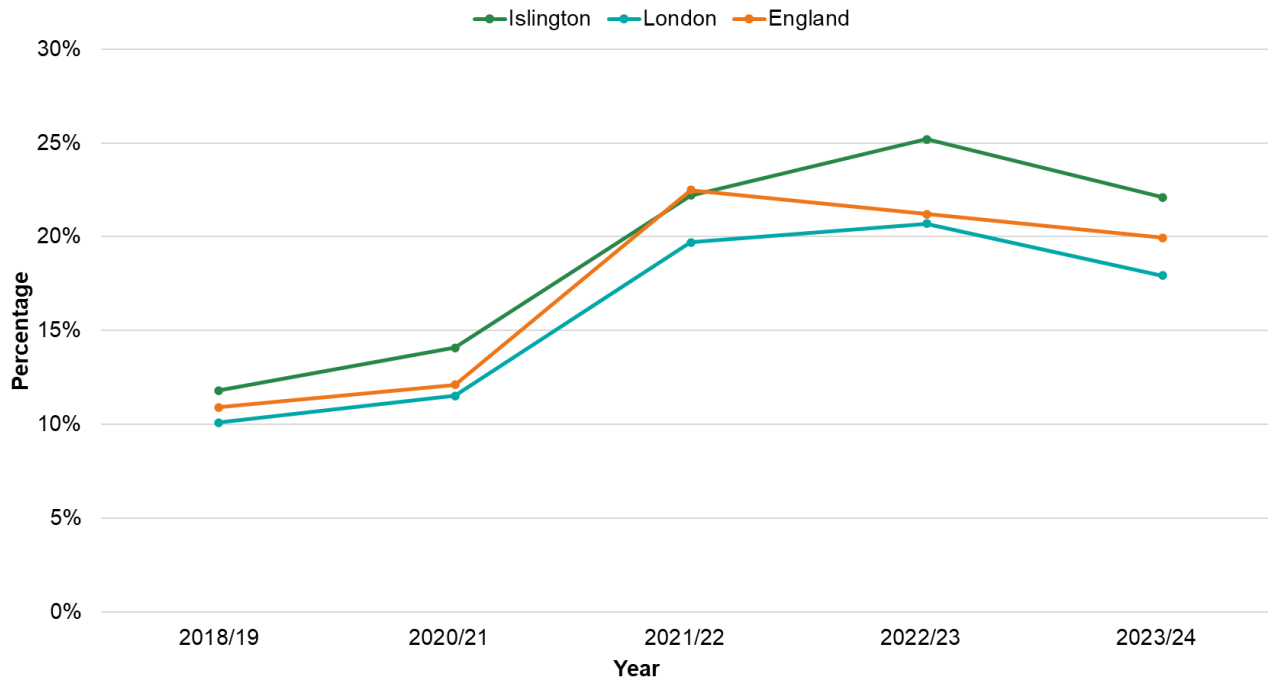


Source: Department for Education - Education Statistics England

Attainment 8 shows a student's average score across their 8 best GCSEs.

Persistent absence increased from 2018/19 to 2022/23 and then declined in 2023/24

Proportion of persistent absentees (missed 10% or more of possible sessions), Islington, compared to London and England, 2018/19 to 2023/24



Note: From April 2022 onwards, absence related to illness due to Covid was included in the absence statistics.

Source: Department for Education - Education Statistics England

- In 2023/24, over 4,000 children in Islington schools (22%) missed 10% or more of school sessions (persistent absence). This is significantly higher than the London (18%) and England (20%) averages.
- Generally, Islington pupils had a high proportion of persistent absences than London and England throughout the period 2018-19 to 2023-24
- A number of initiatives are under way working with schools, pupils and families to address low attendance levels (e.g. attendance mentors meeting children whose absence is a cause for concern). Initial data from 2025/26 suggests, these have started to have an impact.

Persistent absence is higher in secondary schools. But rates in Islington are above its comparators in both primary and secondary school.

Children who are open to Islington's targeted services are more likely to be persistently absent, with those open to Youth Justice most likely, followed by Targeted Youth Support and then Bright Futures. But this makes up a small number of pupils.

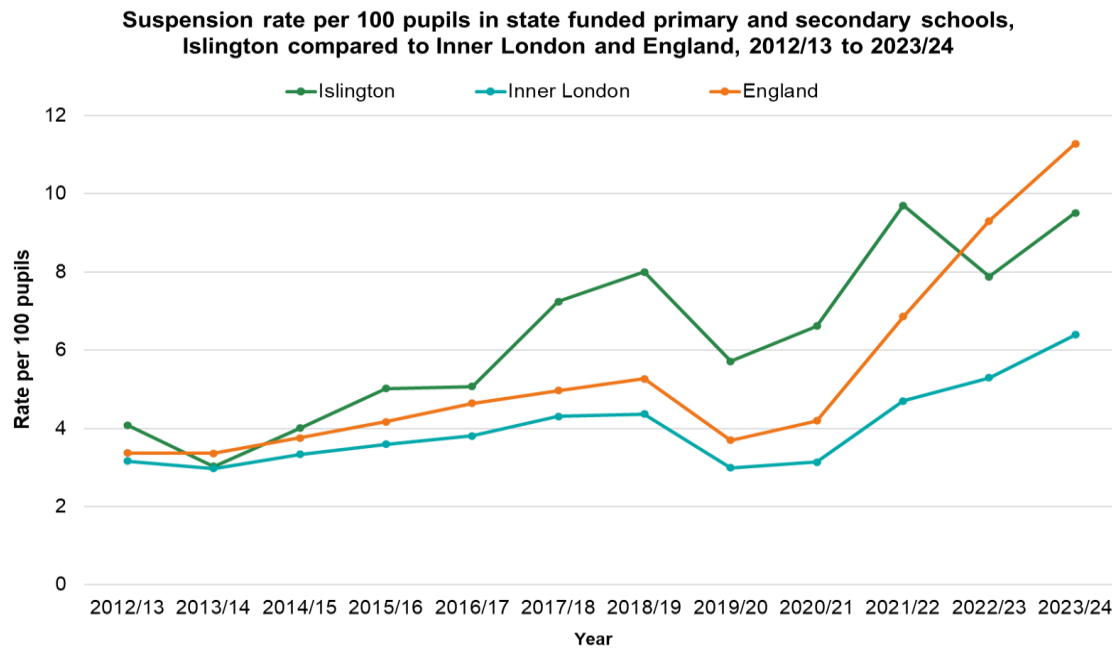
Children on free school meals and from specific ethnic groups are also more likely to be persistently absent than average.

Note: From April 2022 onwards, absence related to illness due to Covid was included in the absence statistics. Previously this was excluded

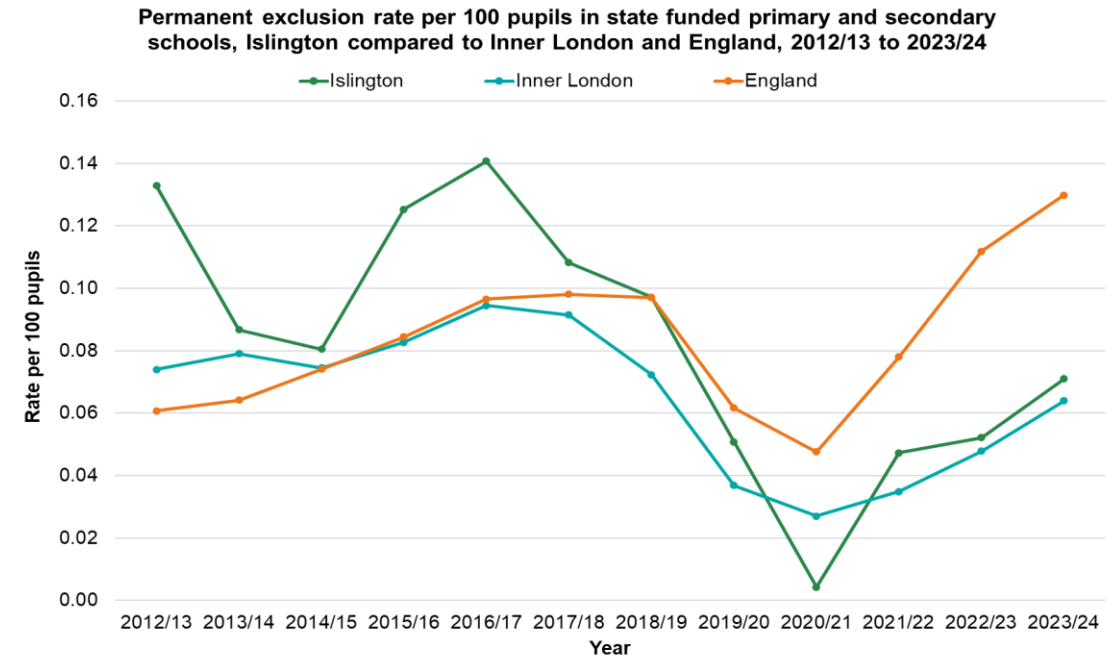
Source: Department for Education

School suspensions and exclusions in Islington are now below London and England

- The rate of suspensions from Islington schools has tended to be above the Inner London and England rates in recent years. However, in 2022/23 the rate in England overtook Islington. In 2023/24, the rate of suspension in Islington was 9.5 per 100 significantly higher than in Inner London (6.4 per 100) but significantly lower than in England (11.3 per 100).
- The most common reason for suspensions is 'persistent disruptive behaviour', both in Islington and across England. In Islington in summer term 2023/24, 50% of pupils suspended were suspended for persistent disruptive behaviour, followed by 17% for physical assault against a pupil.
- Suspension rates tend to be higher for pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals, pupils with Special Education Needs and pupils from the Black-Caribbean and Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean ethnic groups, both in Islington and across England.
- The rates of permanent exclusions are generally based on relatively low numbers of exclusions, so can be volatile year on year. However, the Islington rate has been significantly below the national rate in each of the last five years



Source: Department for Education - Education Statistics England



Source: Department for Education - Education Statistics England

Note: For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Source: Department for Education

Environment and climate

Islington residents have some of the lowest access to green spaces in London.



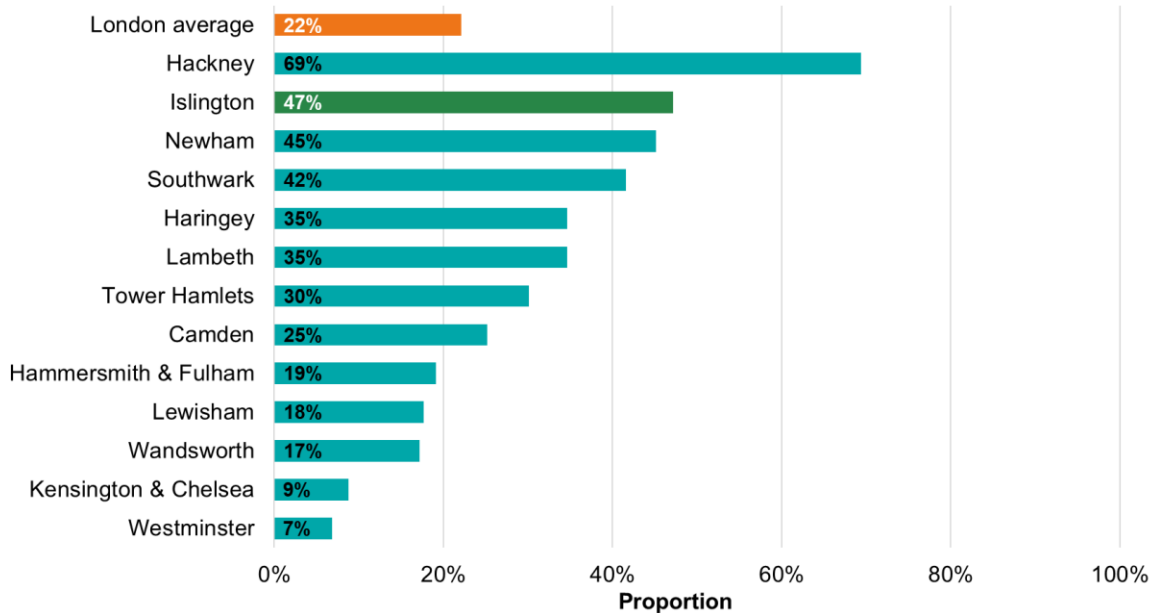
Green spaces
Map of green spaces in and around Islington

- Green spaces in Islington, such as parks and gardens, play a vital role in supporting health and wellbeing, but access in the borough is limited.
- Islington has the second lowest proportion of green space in the country, with only 2.83 square meters per resident.
- However, there are several large areas of greenspace in neighbouring boroughs which Islington residents have access to. This includes Finsbury Park, Hampstead Heath, Highgate wood, and Regent's Park
- Despite this, most residents can reach a public park or green space within a 15-minute walk, and 71% of households have access to a private outdoor space (includes private or shared garden, a patio or a balcony).

Air quality is improving across Islington


The concentration of PM_{2.5} * has declined from 12.9 ug/m³ in 2018 to 9.7 ug/m³ in 2024. This is similar to the trend in London. Islington's PM2.5 concentration is higher than London (8.3 ug/m³) and England (7.0 ug/m³). Road traffic is a significant source of this pollution.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) as proportion of borough area, Islington compared to Inner London boroughs and London average, 2025




Source: Healthy Streets Scorecard data, 2025

The decrease in PM_{2.5} concentrations between 2018 and 2024 may be attributed to the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. As of 2025, almost half of the borough is covered by a low traffic neighbourhood (47.2% for Islington versus 22% for Greater London). In addition, car ownership is decreasing and active travel is increasing.



↓

Car ownership is lower in Islington (29 cars per 100 households) compared to London (76 cars per 100 households). Islington rates have decreased from 34 cars per 100 households in 2019 to 29 in 2025.



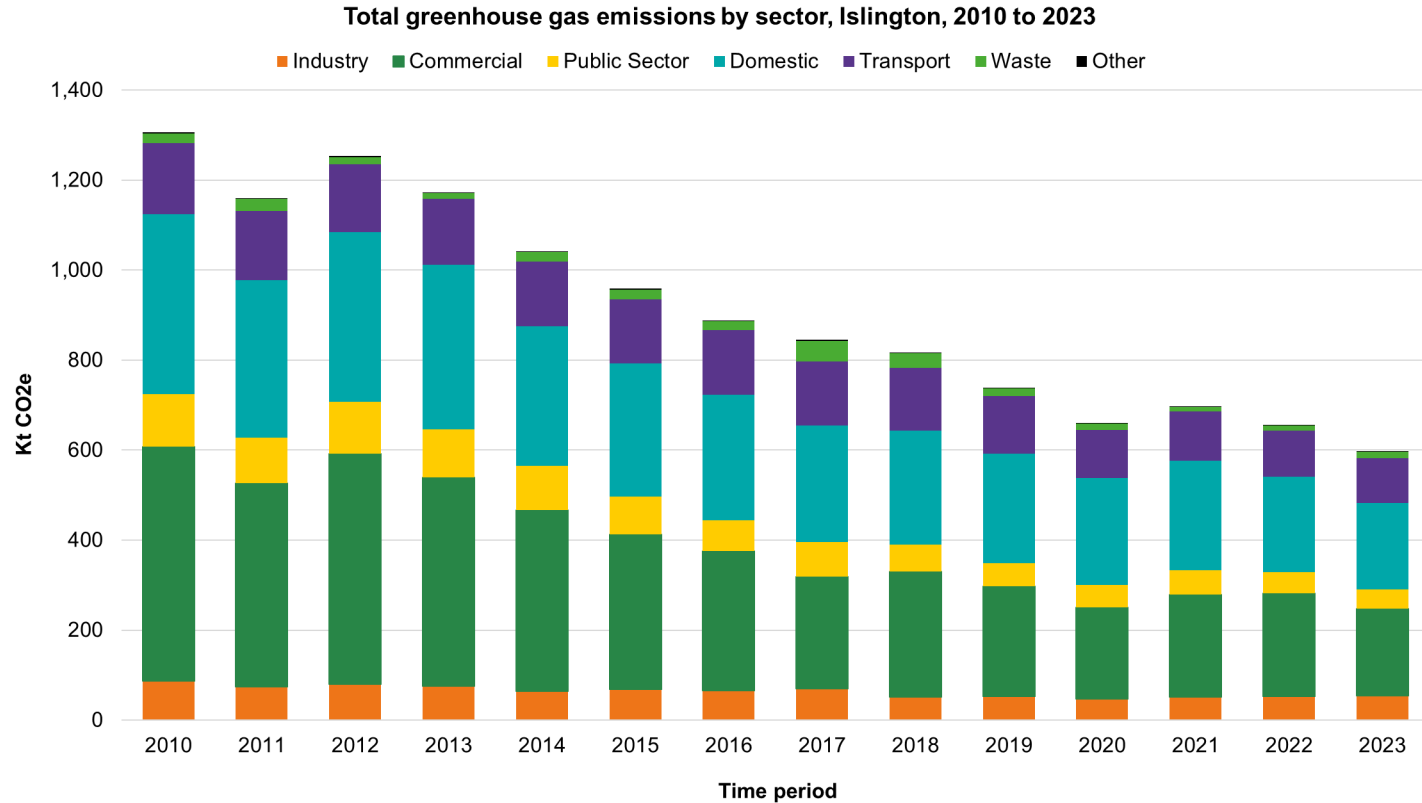
↑

The proportion of adults who walk or cycle for travel purposes at least 5 times per week is consistently higher in Islington compared to London (32% vs 22%) (Active lives survey)

Note: *PM_{2.5} means the mass (in micrograms) per cubic meter of air of individual particles with an aerodynamic diameter generally less than 2.5 micrometers. PM_{2.5} is also known as fine particulate matter.

Source: Islington Air Quality Annual Status Report 2023. Fingertips OHID, 2025. Active Lives Survey, 2023.

Greenhouse gas emissions have decreased in Islington over the past 10 years, with the biggest proportional reduction seen in the public sector.



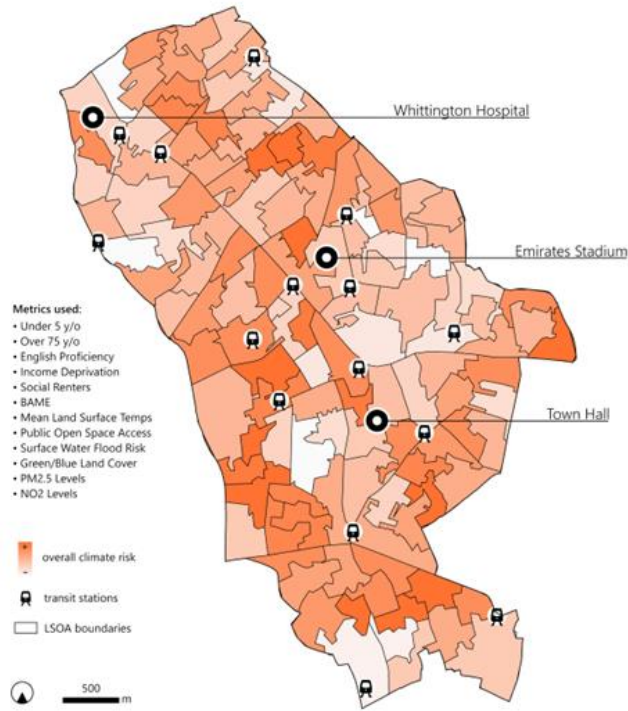
- In Islington emissions from Commercial and domestic buildings are responsible for 65% of total greenhouse emissions.
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have decreased in Islington over the past 10 years, with the biggest reduction seen in the public sector (64%) followed by the commercial sector (63%) from 2010 to 2023.
- Islington has achieved a 29% reduction in GHGs emissions between 2017 and 2023 and a 27% reduction on CO2 admissions, a greater reduction than London: 23% reduction in GHGs and 23% reduction in CO2 emissions.

Note: Emissions are reported in kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Kt CO2e); 'Other' includes emissions from Agriculture and Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero - UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023

Climate risk varies across the borough with the south having a higher flooding risk

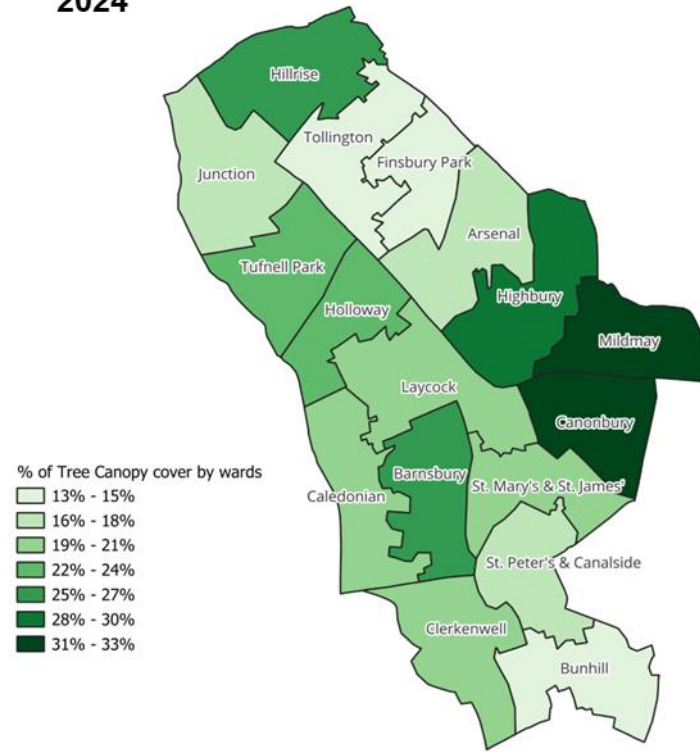
Overall climate risk map by LSOA, Islington, 2024



These maps prepared by Bloomberg Associates aggregate datasets at various geographies and are limited by the available data.

Source: [GLA and Bloomberg Associates, Climate Risk Mapping 2024](#)

Tree canopy cover by ward, Islington, 2024



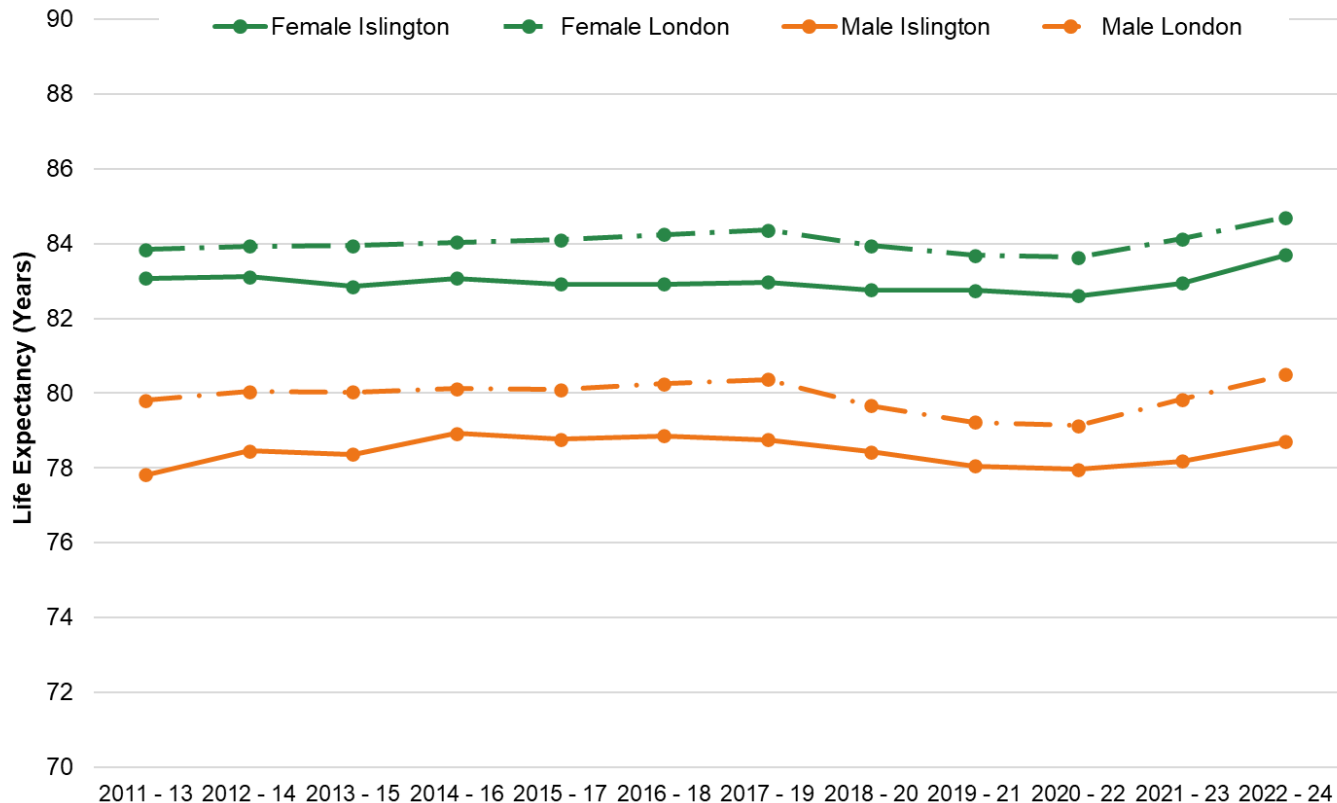
Source: [GLA, Tree Canopy Cover 2024](#)

- Recent climate vulnerability mapping uses a variety of metrics on vulnerability (age, income, ethnicity matched against risks of surface water flooding, tree cover, air pollution measures)
- These maps show that Islington (in particular the south of the borough) is at particularly high risk of impacts from surface water flooding and overheating ([Mayor of London, 2021](#)).
- There are additional high-risk areas in the central part, including Laycock Ward, and the northern region, including Finsbury Park Ward.
- The London Environment Strategy 2018 set out targets to increase tree canopy cover in London by 10% by 2050. Islington currently has a higher tree canopy cover across the borough than the target.

Health and Wellbeing

Life expectancy in Islington is increasing though remains below the London average

Life expectancy at birth, female and male, Islington compared to London, 2011-13 to 2022-24



- Life expectancy is improving in Islington for both males and females. However, it remains below the London average.
- The gap in life expectancy between males and females in Islington has been increasing since 2016-18 from 4.1 years to 5 years in 2022-24.

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2022-24



Islington: 78.7 years
London: 80.5 years
England: 79.5 years



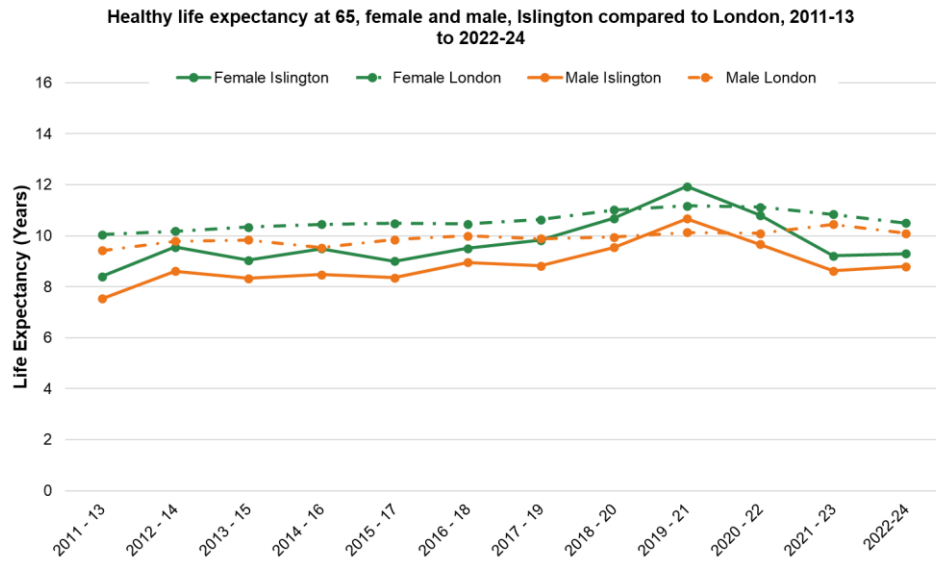
Islington: 83.7 years
London: 84.7 years
England: 83.3 years

Source: OHID Fingertips, August 2025

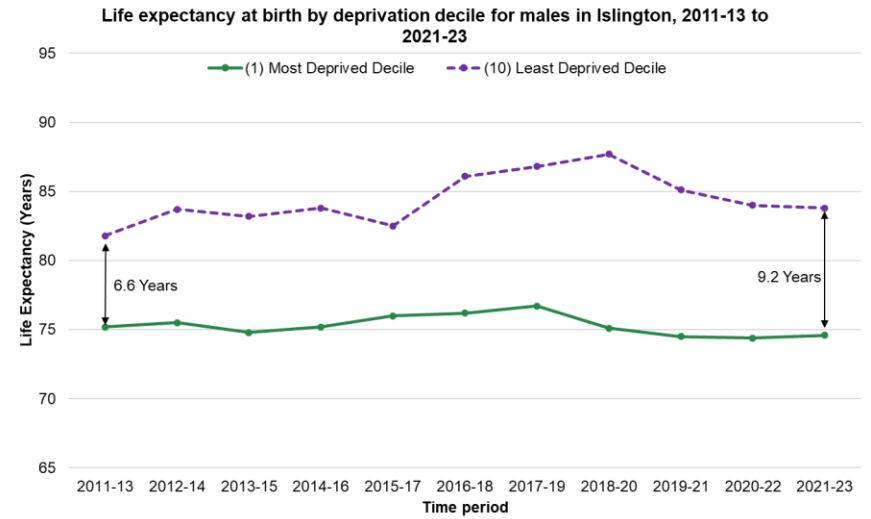
Healthy life expectancy for males and females aged 65+ in Islington had been increasing until 2019-21, it subsequently dipped and continues to fall.

- Healthy life expectancy at 65 provides an estimate of lifetime spent in good health, without suffering from significant illness or disability in those aged 65 and over. It considers both the length of life and the quality of life.
- For Males in Islington healthy life expectancy at 65 years is 8.8 years versus 10.1 years for London and for females it is 9.3 years compared to 10.5 years in London. The difference between London and Islington is not statistically significant

- Breakdown by each local deprivation decile shows that the widening inequality gap within Islington for males has been driven by a steady increase in life expectancy among people living in the least deprived parts of the borough, and a slight decrease in life expectancy among people living in the most deprived areas.
- For females, the gap is less stark and has not changed significantly over the last decade (3.1 years as of 2021-23).
- In 2021-23 Islington's gap in Male life (9.2 years) expectancy is similar to London's (8.3) but significantly lower than England's (10.5).



Source: ONS February 2026. Healthy life expectancy measure taken from 65-69 age group.

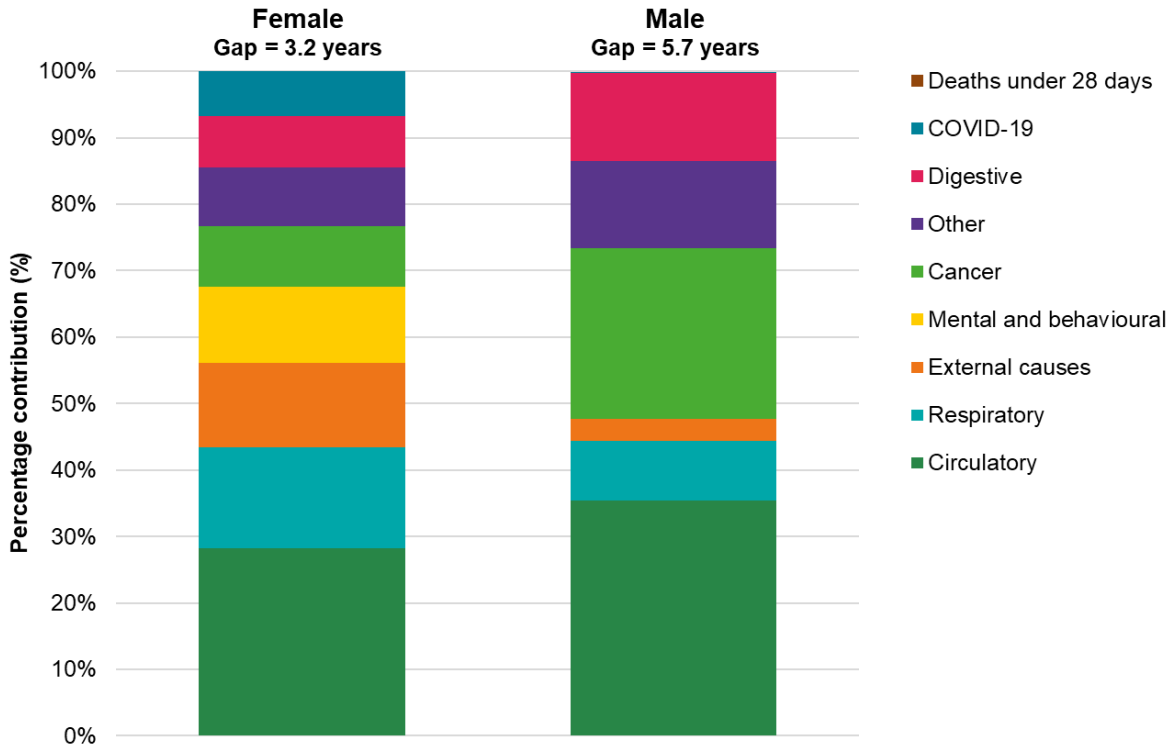


Note: (1) Most deprived decile refers to the most deprived 10% of LSOAs and (10) Least deprived decile refers to the least deprived 10% of LSOAs within the borough

Source: OHID Fingertips, August 2025

Cancer, circulatory disease and COVID-19 were the biggest contributors to the inequality in life expectancy gap.

Breakdown of the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived quintiles of Islington by cause of death, 2022 to 2023



Source: OHID Segment Tool

Top 5 contributors to the life expectancy gap, by contributing years

Overall, the male gap is more heavily driven by circulatory disease and cancer, while the female gap is smaller and more spread across several causes.

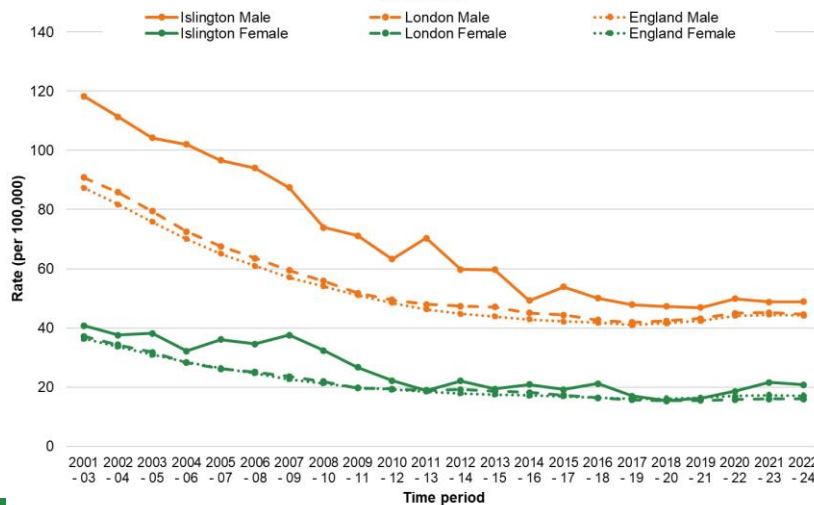
Male		Female	
Cause	Year(s)	Cause	Year(s)
Circulatory	2.1	Circulatory	0.9
Cancer	1.53	Respiratory	0.49
Digestive	0.79	External causes	0.41
Other	0.78	Mental and behavioural	0.37
Respiratory	0.54	Cancer	0.29

Circulatory disease, cancer and respiratory disease are the main causes of early death in Islington

Cardiovascular diseases

- In Islington, males are significantly more likely to die from preventable cardiovascular diseases than females (49 per 100,000 compared to 21 per 100,000 in 2022/24).
- Preventable circulatory disease mortality rate is similar to London and England in 2022-24 for both males and females.
- There has been a significant decrease in the rate of preventable mortality over the past 20 years among males from a peak of 118 per 100,000 in 2001-2003.

Preventable circulatory disease mortality rate (persons aged under 75 years), per 100,000 population, Islington compared to London and England, 2001-2003 to 2022-2024

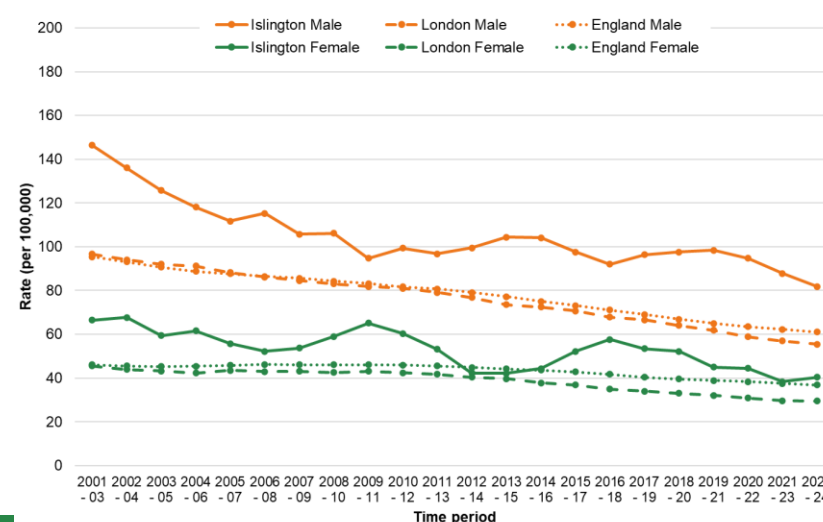


Source: OHID Fingertips, November 2025

Cancer

- Deaths from many cancers can be prevented by effective early intervention. These include lung, liver, skin, cervical, and female breast cancers.
- In Islington, males are significantly more likely to die from preventable cancers than females (82 per 100,000 compared to 40 per 100,000 in 2022-2024).
- Preventable cancer mortality rate is similar to London and England in 2022-24 for both males and females.
- For both, the rate of mortality from preventable cancers has significantly decreased since 2001-2003.

Preventable cancer mortality rate (persons aged under 75 years), per 100,000 population, Islington compared to London and England 2001-2003 to 2022-2024

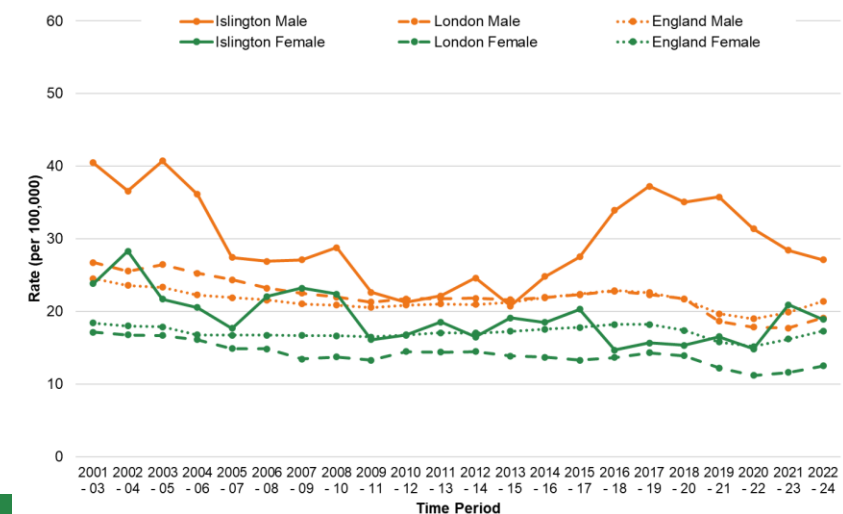


Source: OHID Fingertips, November 2025

Respiratory Disease

- In Islington, males have a significantly higher mortality rate from preventable respiratory diseases than females, with rates of 27 per 100,000 compared to 19 per 100,000 in 2022–2024.
- Preventable respiratory mortality rate in Islington in 2022-24 is significantly worse than London for both males and females but is similar to England.
- The mortality rates in Islington and London have not significantly changed over the past 20 years.

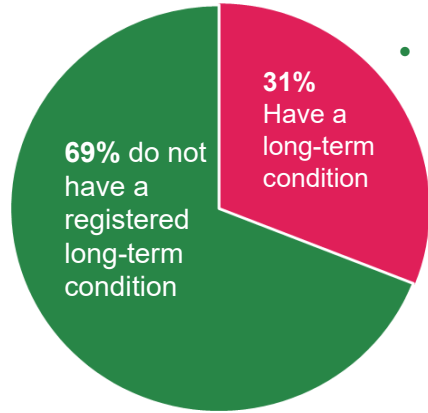
Preventable respiratory disease mortality rate (persons aged under 75 years), per 100,000 population, Islington compared to London and England, 2001-2003 to 2022-2024



Source: OHID Fingertips, November 2025

Long Term Conditions in Islington affect around 1 in 3 people

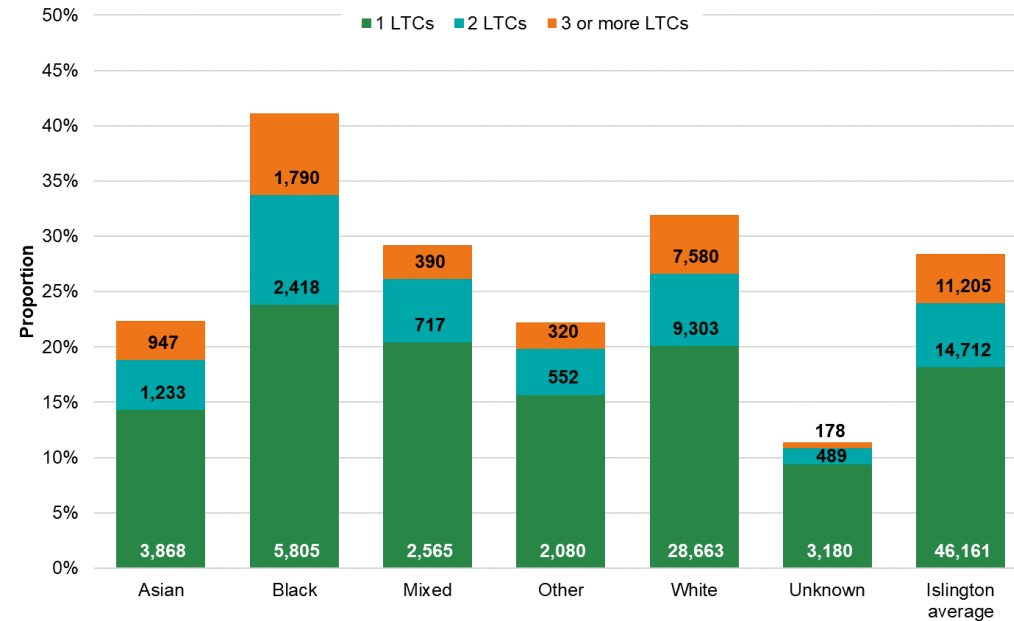
Proportion of Islington residents with at least one Long-term condition (HealthIntent 2024 data)



- Around a third of people in Islington have at least 1 long term condition.

41% (5,805) of people from a Black ethnic group have at least one long term condition, with 17% having 2 or more long term conditions (4,208).

Proportion of people living with long term conditions, by ethnicity, Islington, 2024



Source: HealthIntent [date accessed: 03/09/2024]

Proportion of people living with long term conditions, by deprivation, Islington, 2024

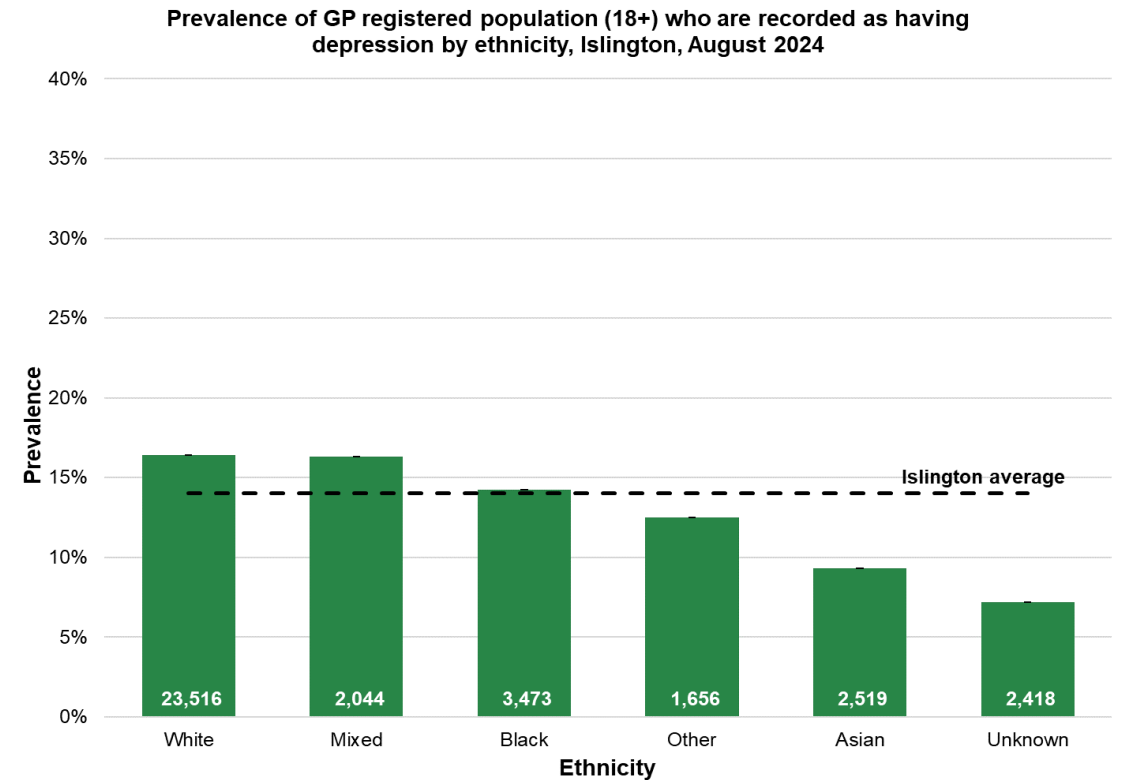
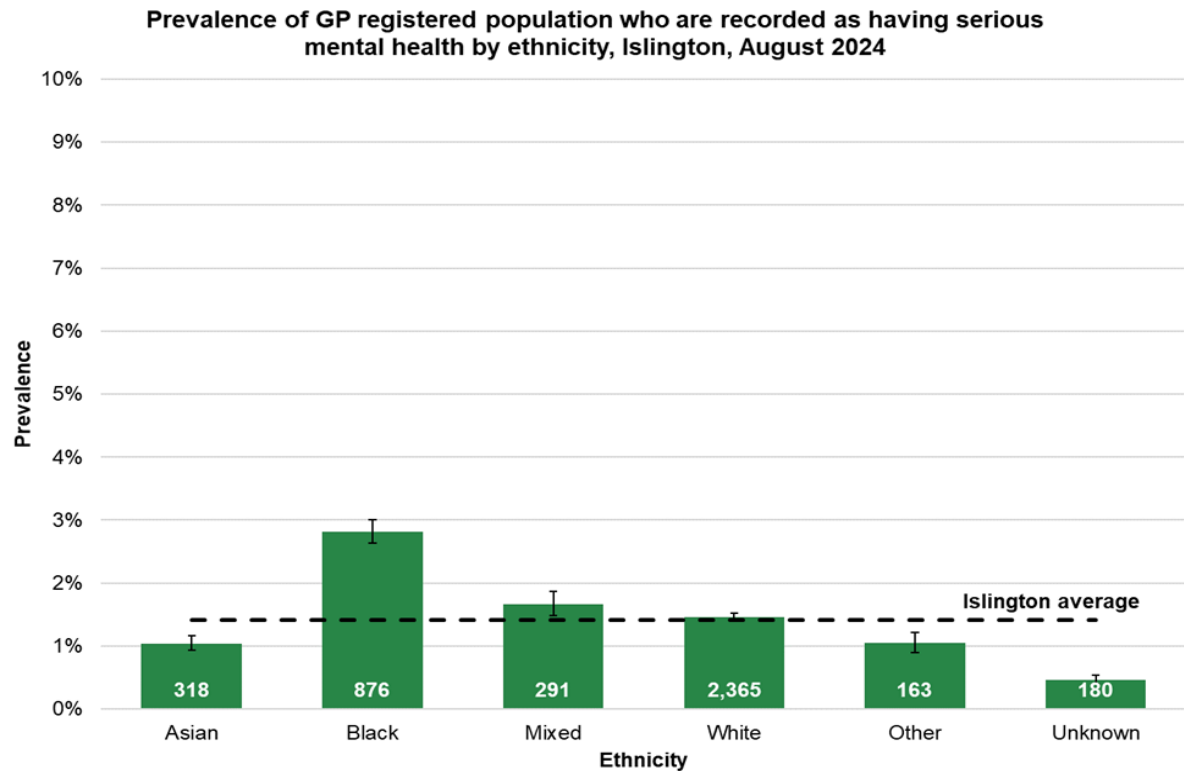


- The proportion of people living with at least one long term condition is highest in the most deprived areas.
- 34% of people in the most deprived quintile have at least one long term condition compared to 23% of people in the least and 2nd least deprived quintile.

Source: HealthIntent [date accessed: 03/09/2024]

Islington has the second highest prevalence of people diagnosed with Serious Mental Illness and Depression in London. Second to Hackney.

- People from a Black ethnic group (2.8% prevalence) are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with a serious mental health condition (schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses) than all other ethnic groups.
- People from a White ethnic group or Mixed ethnic have a higher prevalence of diagnosed depression compared to the Islington average (16% vs 14%).



Note: Data label refers to count.

Source: HealthIntent Population Health Needs and Inequalities dashboard [Data accessed on 06/08/2024]

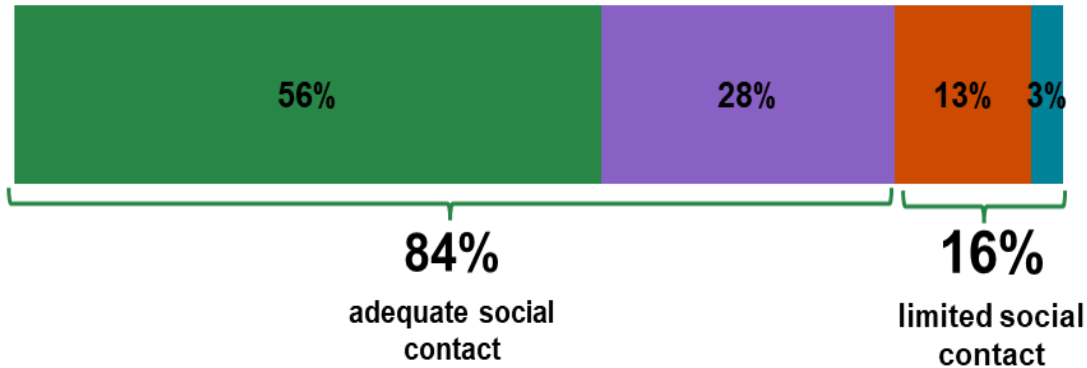
Social contact levels are generally positive and loneliness is not widespread, though a minority of residents remain socially isolated and feel lonely

3% of Islington residents say that they feel socially isolated. Social isolation is higher among residents who:

- Have an illness or disability that affects their day-to-day activities a lot (16%)
- Have a household income under £20,000 (7%)
- Residents who are social renters (5%)
- Residents who are unable to work (16%)
- Those living in Highbury or Tollington ward (11% each)

Thinking about how much contact you've had with people you like, which of the following statements best describes your social situation?

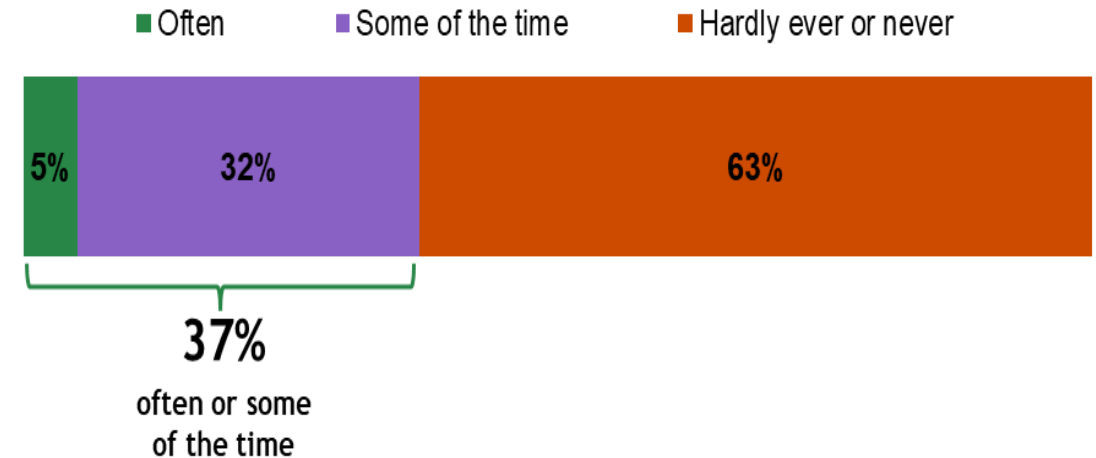
- I have as much social contact as I want with people I like
- I have adequate social contact with people I like
- I have some social contact with people I like, but not enough
- I have little social contact with people I like and feel socially isolated



5% of Islington residents feel lonely often, and a further 32% feel lonely some of the time. Those who report often feeling lonely is higher among residents who:

- Are unemployed (16%) or unable to work (23%)
- Are Muslim (10%)
- Have an illness or disability that affects their day-to-day activities a lot (21%)
- Have a household income over £100,000 (12%) or under £20,000 (10%)

How often do you feel lonely?



Q17. Thinking about how much contact you've had with people you like, which of the following statements best describes your social situation?

Q18. How often do you feel lonely?

Respondents: 1,005

Source: Islington Wellbeing survey 2025

Behavioural risk factors in Islington vary by demographic factors

Smoking

- In 2024/25, significantly more people smoked in Islington than the London average (15% vs 13%). Smoking in Islington has significantly decreased over the last decade (22% in 2014/15 down to 15% in 2024/25) but remains high in certain populations².
- Smoking prevalence varies by 7.8% across the different ethnic groups, with 19.5% of people from a White ethnic group recorded as smokers, compared to 11.7% in an Asian ethnic group (2024 data).¹

The highest proportion of people who smoke are 50-60 years old (22%)¹

Alcohol dependency

- In 2024, 2.4% of Islington's population are recorded by their GP as being dependent on alcohol (2% of men and 3% of women).¹
- Alcohol related admissions in Islington in 2023/24 were significantly higher than London and England (730 per 100,000 vs 564 and 612 per 100,000 respectively).²
- The largest number of people with alcohol dependency live in the more deprived areas of Islington.
- People from a White ethnic background have the highest rate of alcohol abuse or dependency at 3.5% whereas people from an Asian ethnic background have the lowest at under 1%.¹

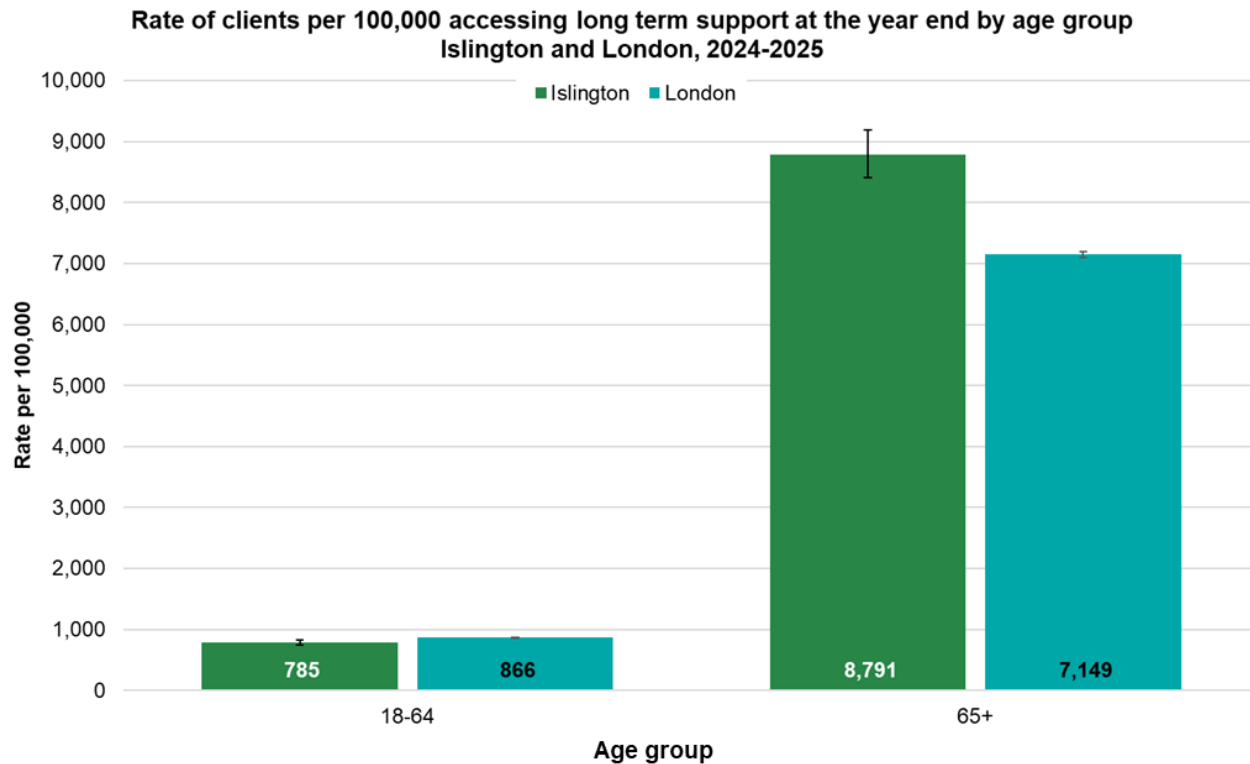
Obesity

- In 2024, GP records showed that 20% of Islington's registered population are overweight, 12% are recorded as obese and 2% as severely obese according to NICE BMI guidelines (see note).
- Prevalence of overweight, obese and severely obese increases with age, with around a quarter of people aged 50+ above normal weight.
- The prevalence of obesity increases as deprivation increases, with almost half of people living in the most deprived areas of Islington recorded as obese.¹

40% of people from a Black ethnic group are obese or very obese. This is significantly higher than all other ethnicities¹

Note: BMI is adjusted for ethnicity according to [NICE guidance](#)

Islington adult social care supports significantly more residents over 65 with long term support compared to London.



Source: Adult Social Care Activity Data 2024/25

Note: Rates are calculated per 100,000 of the resident population aged 18-64 and 65+

In 2024/25, Islington supported 8,791 per 100,000 of over 65s with long term support. This was significantly higher than in London (7,149 per 100,000).

Islington supports significantly less 18-64 year olds with long term support compared to London (785 per 100,000, 866 per 100,000 respectively).

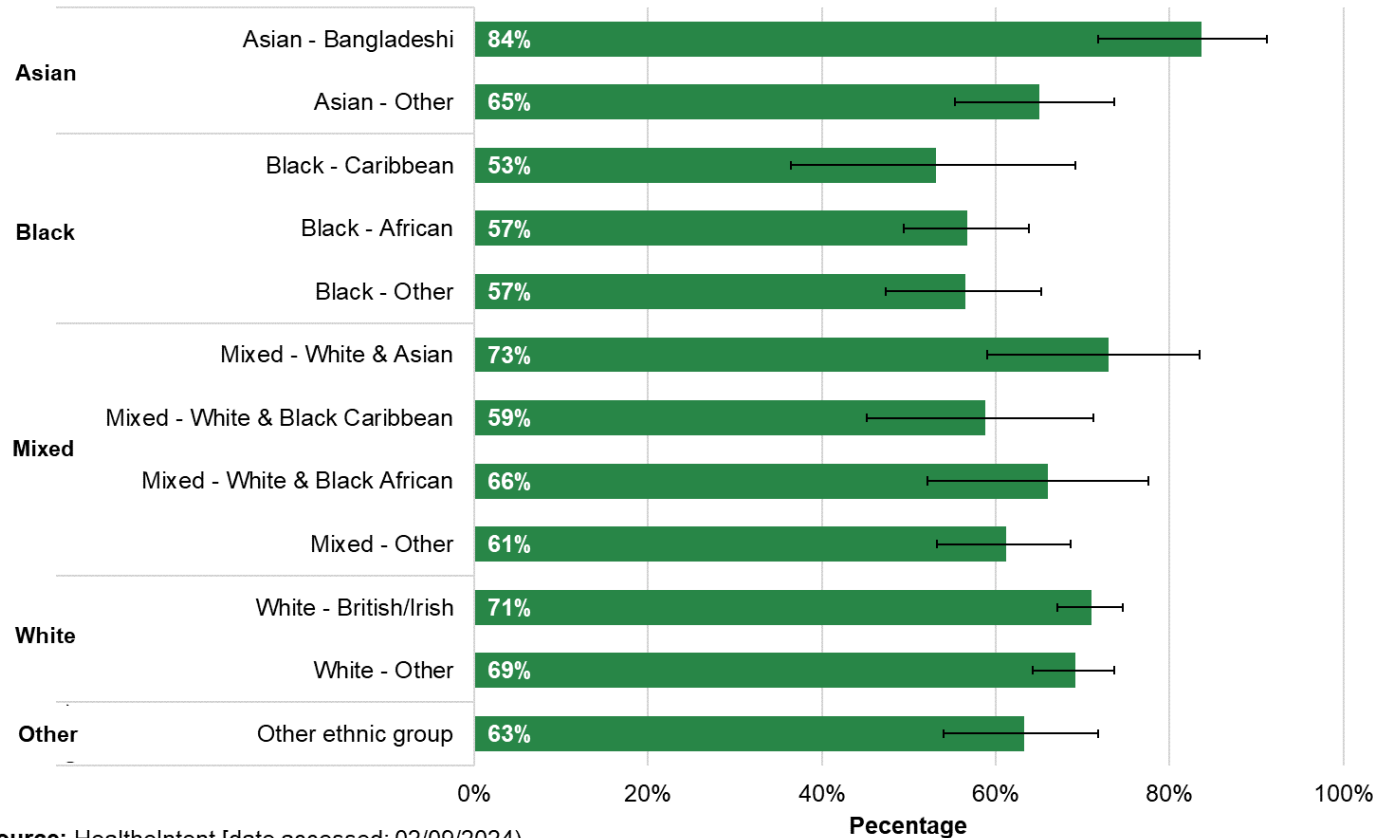
The reasons people aged 18+ receive adult social care support include:

- Physical Support – 60%
- Learning Disability – 24%
- Mental Health – 11%
- Memory and Cognition – 5%
- Sensory < 1%
- Social Support < 1%

65% of children at 5 years old registered with an Islington GP have had all their vaccinations, with the lowest uptake amongst the Black community.



Uptake of all childhood vaccinations at 5 years old by ethnicity, Islington, 2024



Source: HealthIntent [date accessed: 02/09/2024]

- There were 11 vaccines children in Islington are offered including MMR, Pneumococcal (PCV) and Dtap IPV Hib HepB (6- in-1).
- In 2024/25, 77% of children aged 2 in Islington had been vaccinated with the first dose of the Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, compared to 81% in London and 89% in England. Only 64% of children aged 5 had been vaccinated with 2 doses of MMR. This is compared to 70% in London and 84% in England.
- At 5 years old, 1,365 children out of an eligible 2,098 had all their childhood vaccinations in Islington (65%).
- There are significant differences in the uptake of childhood vaccinations by ethnicity amongst children registered with Islington GPs in 2024.
- Only around half of children from Black ethnic groups have received all of their vaccinations by age 5. Coverage ranges from 53% among Black Caribbean children (17 children) to 57% among Black African (101 children) and Other Black (65 children) groups. This is significantly lower than among White British/Irish children (71%, 392 children).

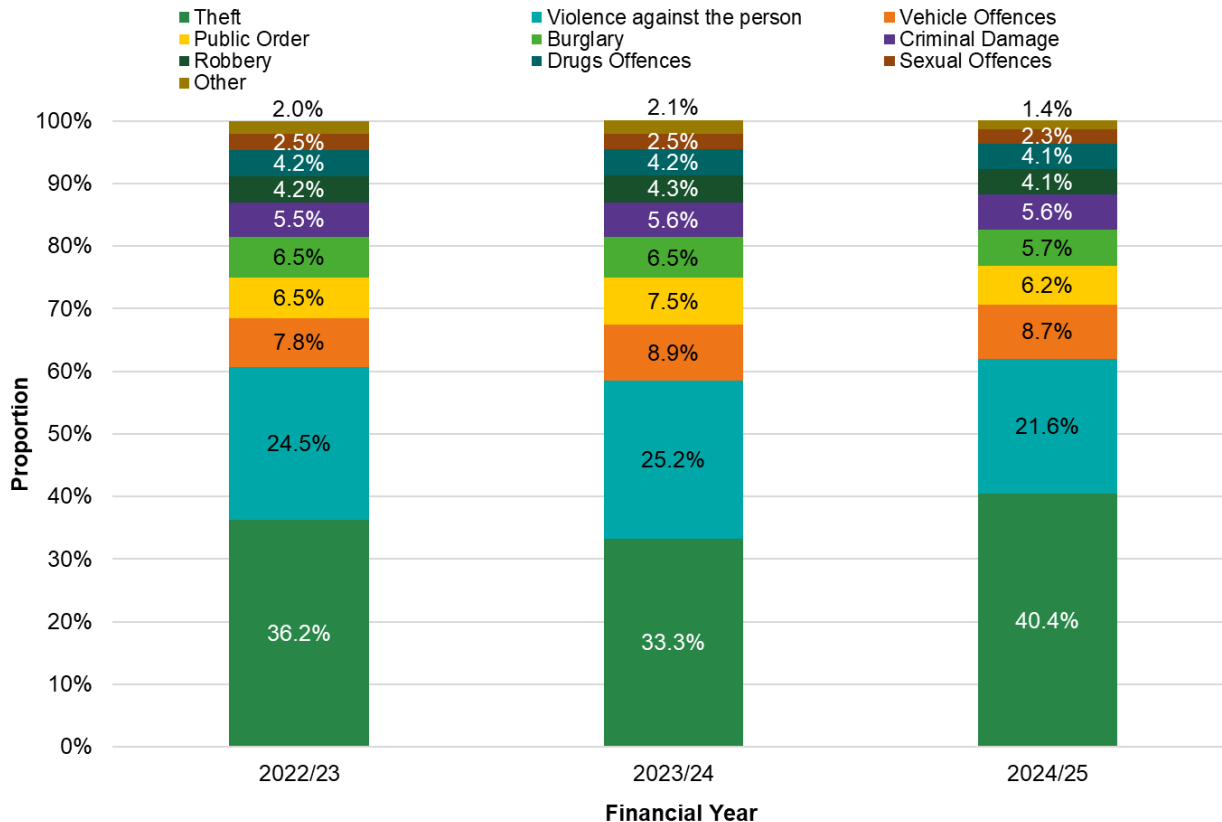
Note: Data label refers to count.

Source: HealthIntent Childhood vaccinations dashboard [Data accessed on 02/09/2024]

Crime and safety

Theft and violence against a person make up 62% of notified crimes in Islington in 2024/25

Proportion of total notifiable offences by type and crime, Islington 2022-2025



Source: Met Police Crime Data

The number of offences and the rate of offenses occurring in Islington has increased over the past 3 years:

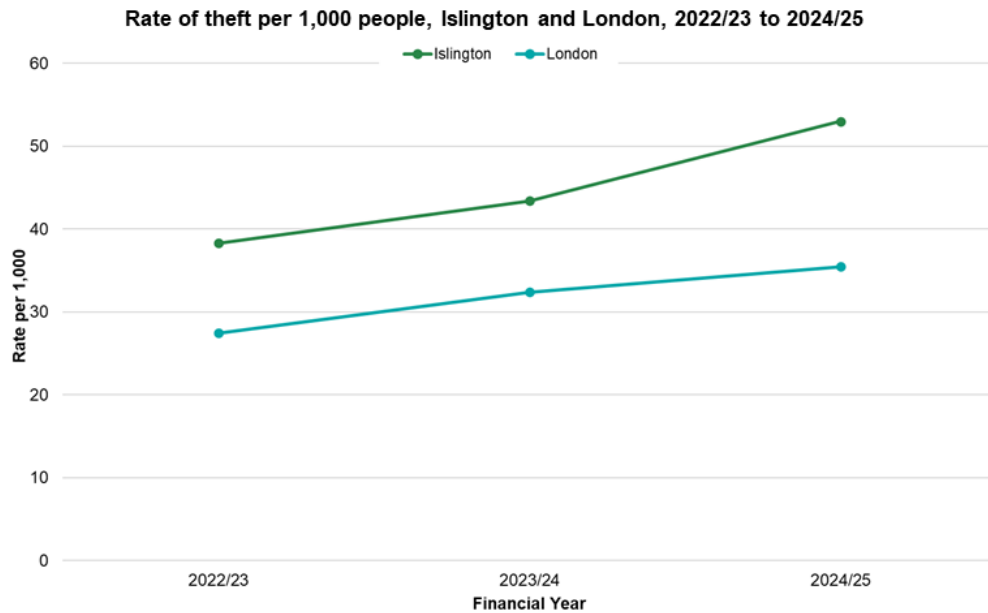
- 2022/23: 27,402 (115 per 1,000)
- 2023/24: 28,532 (120 per 1,000)
- 2024/25: 31,249 (131 per 1,000)

Theft makes up most reported offences (40.4%) followed by violence against a person (21.6%). This distribution has remained the same over the past 3 years

Theft has been increasing, violent crime has remained steady, and hate crime is decreasing

Crime data for Islington 2024/25

Theft is mostly the stealing of belongings while the owners are distracted or have left them unattended. Theft does not include robbery which is a more direct and aggressive crime. Islington is one of the most densely populated areas in the UK per square metre, and theft and population density are strongly related.



Source: Met Police Crime Data

Rate of theft in Islington

53 per 1,000 people

5th highest in London (London = 36 per 1,000)

38% increase from 38 per 1,000 in 2022/23 to 53 per 1,000 in 2024/25 which mirrors London trend (28 per 1,000 in 2022/23 to 36 per 1,000 in 2024/25)

Rate of hate crime in Islington

3.2 per 1,000 people

4th highest in London (London = 2.3 per 1,000)

Rate has decreased between 2022/23 and 2024/5 in both Islington (from 3.8 per 1,000 to 3.2 per 1,000) and London (from 2.6 per 1,000 to 2.3 per 1,000).

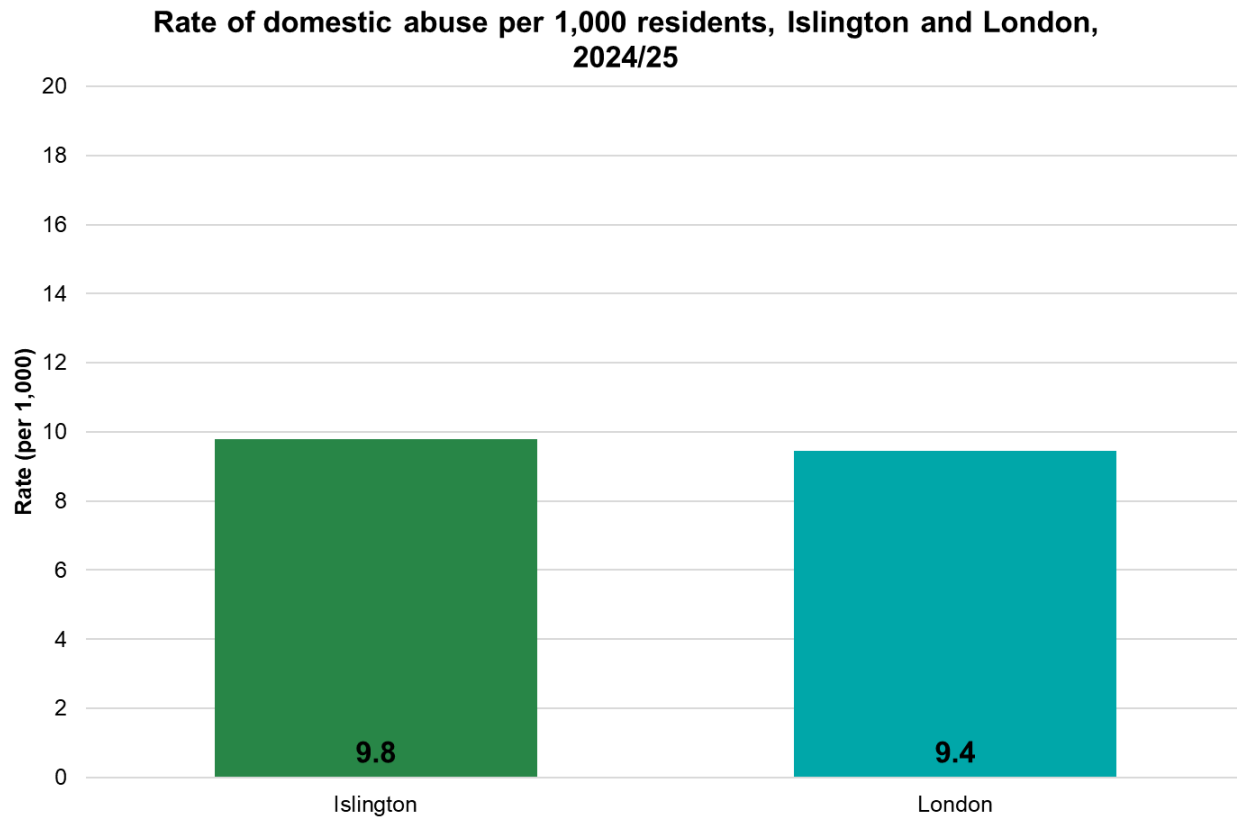
Rate of violent crime in Islington

28 per 1,000 people

9th highest in London (London = 26 per 1,000)

Rate in Islington and London have remained steady from 2022/23 to 2024/25.

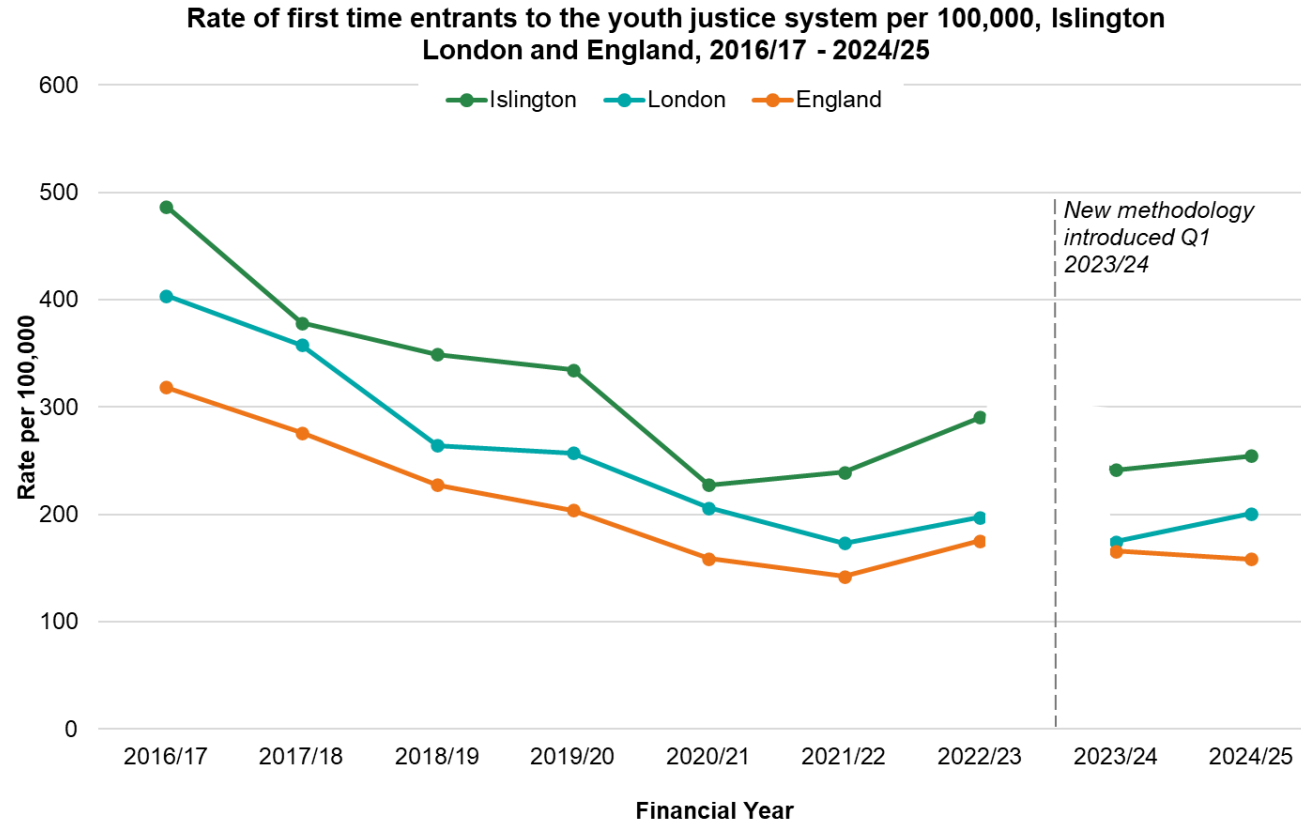
The rate of domestic violence is similar in Islington as in London overall.



Source: Met Police Crime Data

- In 2024/25, there were 2,335 reported incidents of domestic abuse in Islington, a rate of 9.8 per 1,000 population.
- Due to changes in how occurrences of domestic violence are counted, direct comparisons cannot be made to previous years.
- In 2024/25 Islington ranked 14th in London (out of 32 boroughs), an improvement from 8th in 2022/23. However, it should be noted that levels of domestic abuse tend to be under reported.
- Domestic abuse victims identifying as Black are overrepresented.

The rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system is higher than London and England but has been declining.

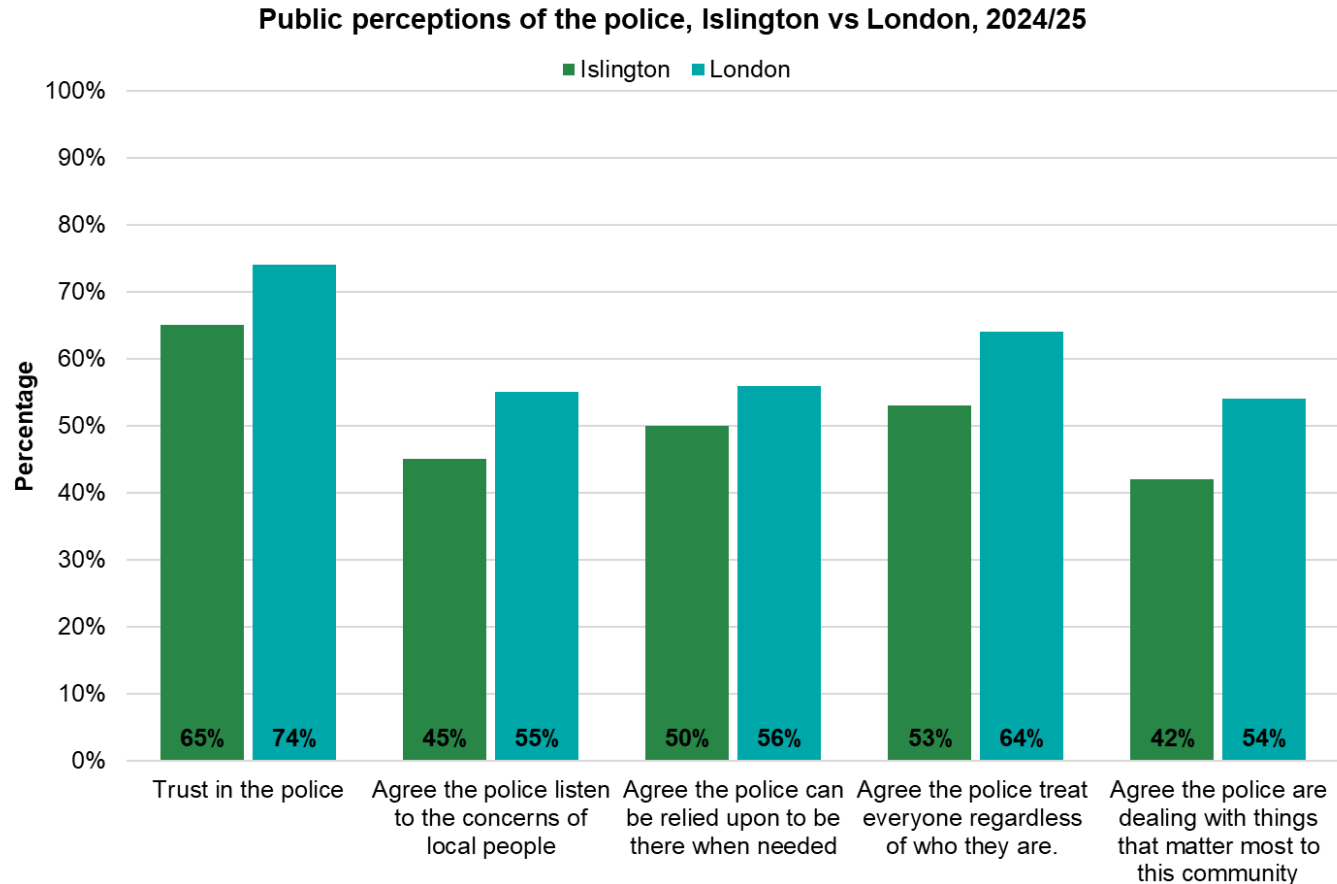


- Around a decade ago, Islington had one of the highest rates of First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System in the country (487 per 100,000 in 2016/17).
- Islington's FTE rate has decreased since 2016/17 but did increase slightly in the past year (241 per 100,000 in 2023/24 up to 253 per 100,000 in 2024/25).
- Islington has also seen reductions in the levels of re-offending amongst under-18-year-olds and the rate at which Islington young people are given custodial sentences has also reduced over time from historical high levels.
- From Q1 2023/24, FTE data is being sourced from the quarterly case level data submissions, instead of an annual publication. As such, comparisons from Q1 23/24 against earlier periods should be made with caution, as they are two different data sources.

Note: First Time Entrants are children who receive a youth caution or court conviction for the first time within the period. Data is recorded April to March of each year.

Source: Police National Computer (PNC). Ministry of Justice (MoJ) responsible for publication of dataset (prior to 23/24). YJS

Islington has a lower positive perception of the police compared to London as a whole



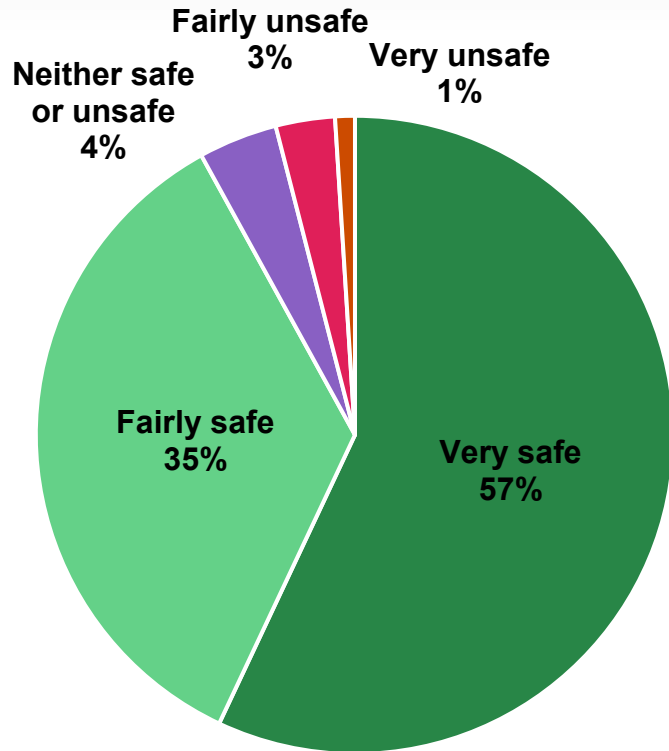
- In general, Islington has a lower positive perception of the police compared to London. When asked about questions related to Trust and Confidence of the Metropolitan Police Service, 65% of Islington residents trusted the police compared to 74% in London overall.
- The positivity of perceptions have all decreased for Islington from 2023/24 to 2024-25 except for the percentage of people who “Agree the police treat everyone regardless of who they are.” which remained the same at 53%.

Source: MOPAC Public attitudes survey

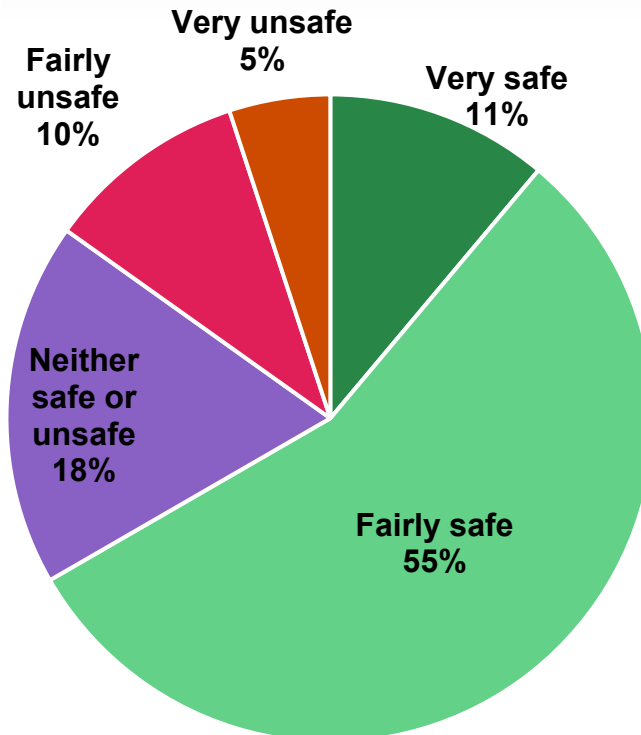
Feelings of safety are very high during the day but fall sharply after dark



During the day **92%**
Very/ fairly safe



After dark **67%**
Very/ fairly safe



- In line with the previous year's surveys, in 2025 **women** are significantly more likely to feel unsafe after dark than **men** (21% vs 15%). More than one in ten **men** report feel very safe (15%) after dark where as, this was only felt by 8% of women.
- **Social renters** were significantly more likely to feel unsafe after dark (24%) when compared to **homeowners** (19%) and **private renters** (19%)
- Households with **dependent children** are also significantly more likely to feel unsafe after dark when compared to those without (28% vs. 19%)

Q16. How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area?

Respondents: 1,005.

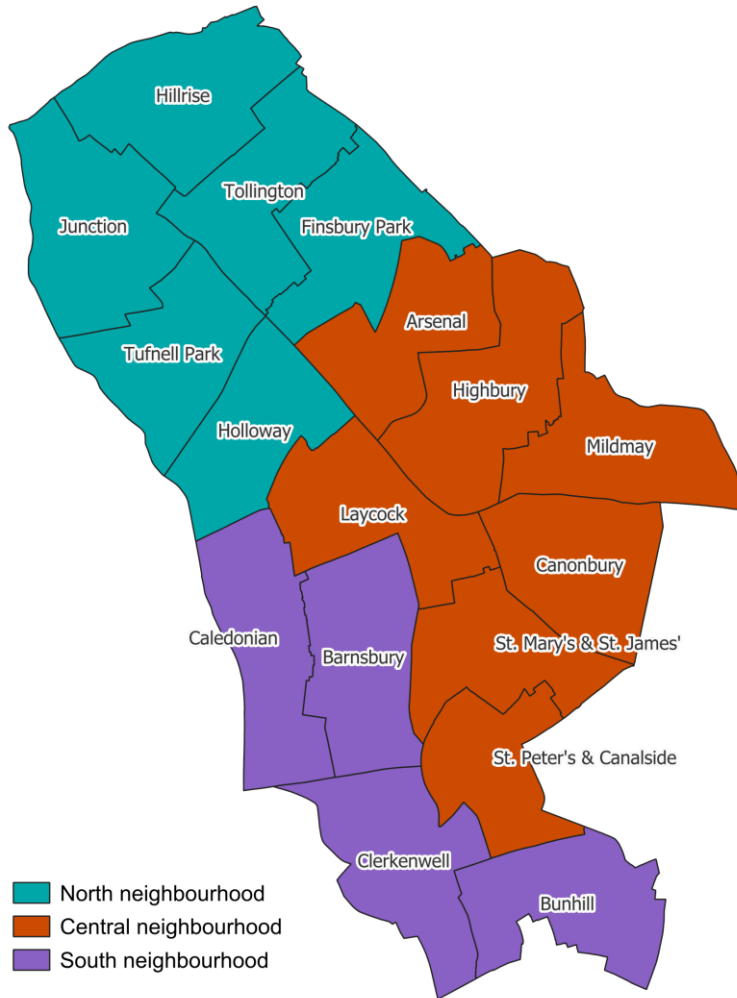
Source: Islington Wellbeing survey 2025



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Neighbourhoods

What is a neighbourhood



Neighbourhoods (previously called localities) are the way we split the borough into smaller areas to help direct services where they are needed. For example, a neighbourhood with high rates of unemployment will need different services to one with low rates of unemployment but high rates of cardiovascular disease.

The approach focuses on partnerships between different organisations within the neighbourhood, as well as with its residents and community. It is underpinned by the information we hold about the area, both quantitative and qualitative.

In Islington we have three neighbourhoods

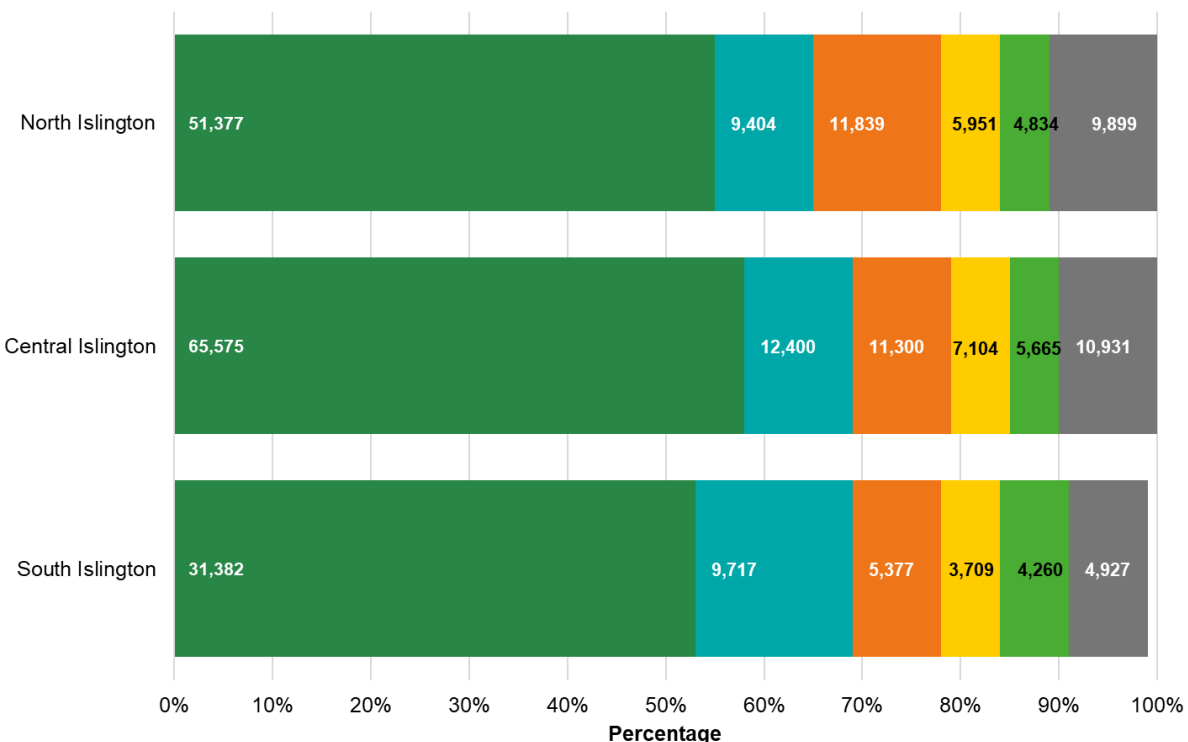
- North
- Central
- South

The demographics, health, needs, and outcomes of residents in the three neighbourhoods are different and are described on the following three slides.

The North neighbourhood has a higher proportion of residents identifying as Black, whilst the South neighbourhood has a higher proportion of residents identifying as Asian

Resident population by ethnicity

White Asian Black Mixed Others Unknown



Excluding English, the top 6 languages spoken by residents, 2021

North		Central		South	
Any other European languages	5%	Any other European languages	4%	Any other European languages	5%
Spanish	2%	Spanish	2%	French	2%
African languages	2%	French	2%	Spanish	2%
Turkish	2%	Turkish	2%	Mandarin, Cantonese and other Chinese languages	2%
French	1%	African languages	2%	African languages	2%
Mandarin, Cantonese and other Chinese languages	1%	Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya)	1%	Turkish	1%

Note: Spanish likely driven by high South American population

North Summary



Demographics

- 98,105 residents
- 40% born outside of UK
- Higher proportion of people from Black background relative to other neighbourhoods (North:12.7%, Central:10%, South: 9.2%)
- Age distribution similar to Islington.
- 15,624 children registered with a GP (0-19 years old).



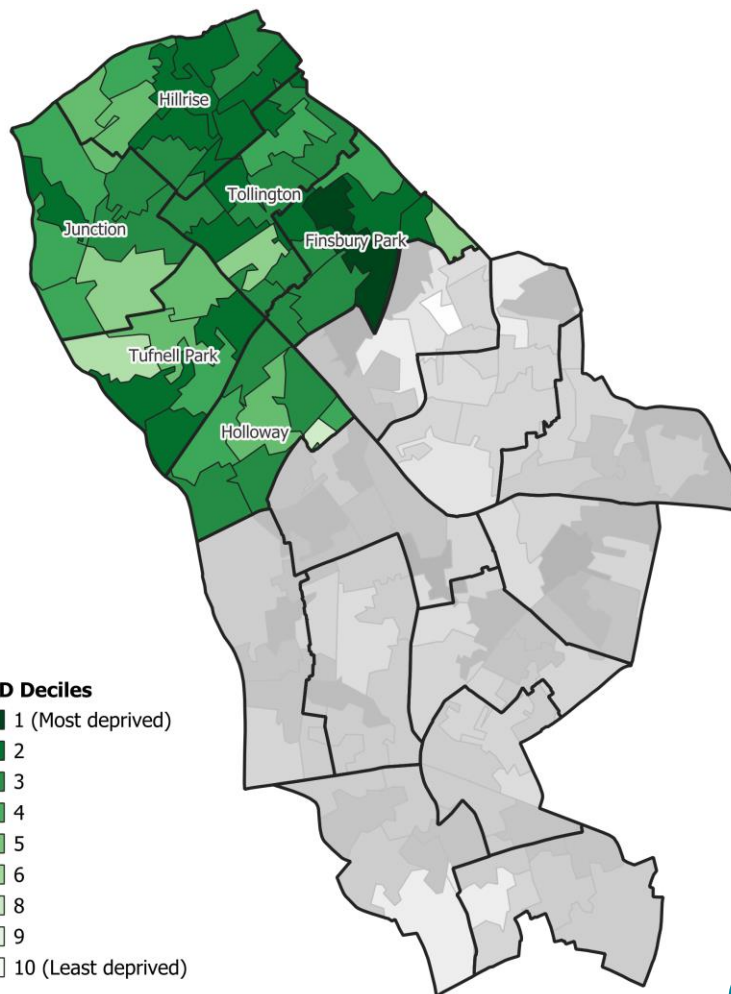
Housing

- Similar rate of homelessness (121 per 100,000) to Islington overall (117 per 100,000)
- 18% of households are overcrowded
- 9% of households are in fuel poverty (same as Islington)



Poverty

- 38% live in most the most deprived quintile (compared to 23% for Islington).
- 26% (n=3,362) of children live in relative poverty. Finsbury park has the highest rate of childhood poverty in Islington (37% compared to Islington 21%).
- 9% of households are in fuel poverty (compared to 8% in Islington)



Risk factors

- 16% are current smokers (Islington: 14%)
- 17% are obese/severely obese (Islington: 15%)
- 3% have alcohol dependency (Islington: 3%)
- Low early cancer diagnosis rates (53%, Islington: 63%)
- Below average childhood vaccination rates compared to NCL but similar to Islington (North: 60%, Islington:61%, NCL: 65%)



Health

Long term conditions

- 15% diagnosed with depression – highest in Islington (Islington:14%)
- 9% diagnosed with hypertension – highest in Islington (Islington: 8%)
- 5% diagnosed with asthma (Islington:4.7%)
- 2% diagnosed with Serious Mental Illness – highest in Islington (Islington: 1%)
- High proportion of population with a Long-Term Condition (81%): – high rates of COPD

Service utilisation

- Higher GP referrals (318 per 1,000, Islington average: 298 per 1,000)
- High A&E attendance (308 per 1,000, Islington average:298 per 1,000)

Outcomes

- High treatable mortality relative to NCL

Crime

- Below average rates of crime compared to Islington (130 per 1,000, Islington average: 143 per 1,000)



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Central Summary



Demographics

- 125,337 residents
- High proportion of White residents compared to the other neighbourhoods (Central: 58%, North: 55%, South: 53%).
- 38% born outside of the UK
- High 65+ population (10%, Islington average: 8%)
- 18,107 children registered with a GP (0-19 years old).



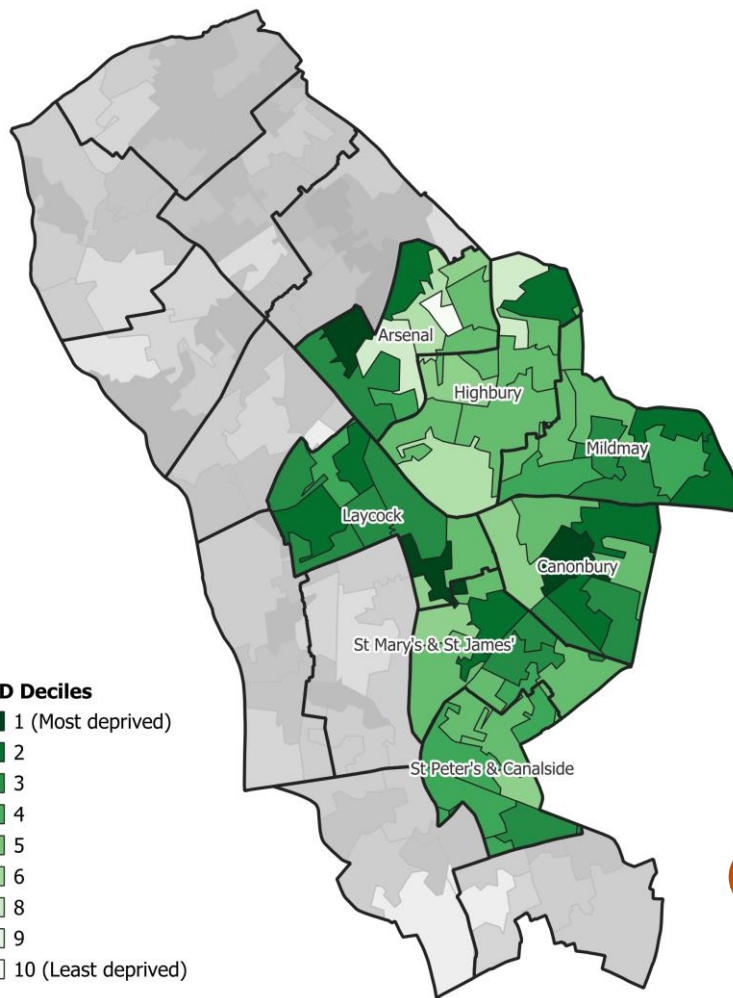
Housing

- Low homeless rate (78 per 100,00) compared to Islington average (117 per 100,000).
- 14% of households are overcrowded
- 7% of households are in fuel poverty (Islington average 9%)



Poverty

- 22% live in most deprived quintile (similar to Islington, 23%)
- 24% (3,396) of children live in relative poverty.
- 7% of households are in fuel poverty (compared to 8% in Islington)



Risk factors

- 14% are current smokers (Islington: 14%)
- 15% are obese/severely obese (Islington: 15%)
- 3% have alcohol dependency (Islington: 3%)



Health

Long term conditions

- 14% diagnosed with depression (Islington: 14%)
- 8% diagnosed with hypertension (Islington: 8%)
- 5% diagnosed with asthma (Islington: 4.7%)
- Long Term Condition cohort: 12,316 – above average rates Asthma; COPD; Learning Disabilities

Service utilisation

- High GP referrals (310 per 1,000, Islington: 298 per 1,000)

Outcomes

- High Avoidable Mortality



Crime

- Below average rates of crime compared to Islington (120 per 1,000, Islington average: 143 per 1,000)



South Summary



Demographics

- 65,986 residents
- 16% are from an Asian ethnic group (higher than Islington average of 10%).
- 44% born outside of the UK
- Higher proportion of 20-24 (11.5%) compared to Islington (8.3%).
- 8,506 children registered with a GP (0-19 years old).



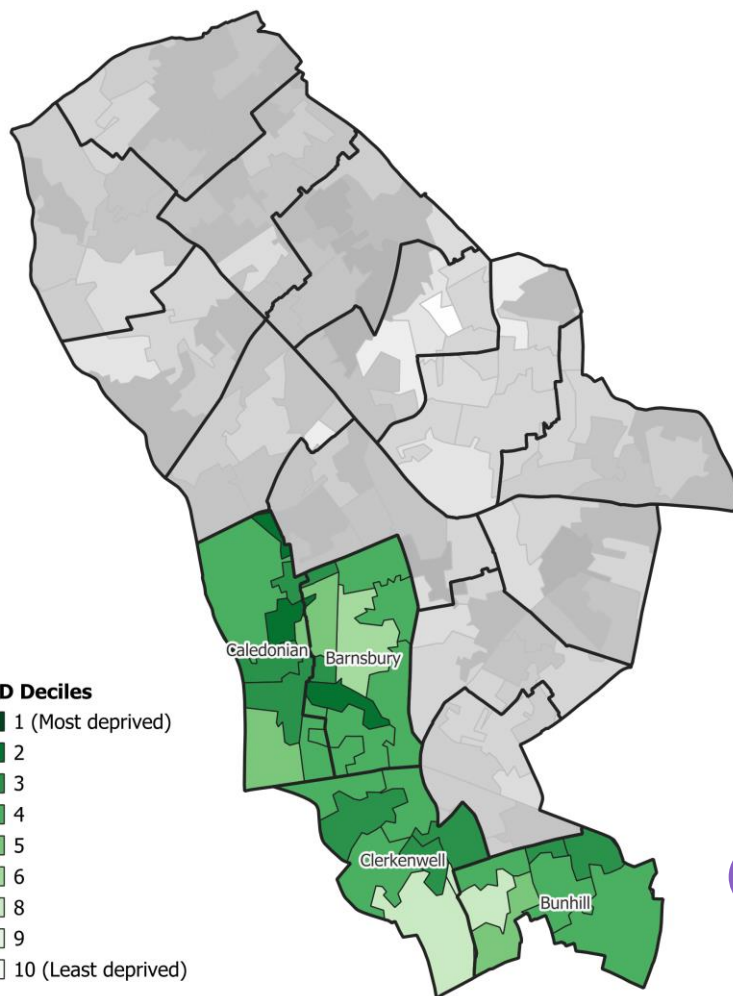
Housing

- High rate of homelessness (165 per 100,000) compared to Islington average (117 per 100,000).
- 15% of households are overcrowded
- 7% of households are in fuel poverty (Islington 9%)



Poverty

- 10% live in most deprived quintile (lower than Islington 23%).
- 28% (n=1,777) of children live in relative poverty. However, this is neighbourhood with the lowest number of children.
- 7% of households are in fuel poverty (compared to 8% in Islington)



Risk factors

- 13% are current smokers (Islington; 14%).
- 14% are obese/severely obese (Islington: 15%)
- 3% have alcohol dependency (Islington: 3%)
- High early cancer diagnosis (66%, Islington average: 63%)
- Below average childhood vaccination rates (North: 60%, Islington: 61%, NCL: 65%)



Health

Long term conditions

- 13% diagnosed with depression (average: 14%)
- 8% diagnosed with hypertension (average: 8%)
- 5% diagnosed with asthma (average: 4.7%)
- Long Term Condition cohort - high rates of Heart Failure; Osteoporosis; Peripheral Artery Disease

Service utilisation

- Low A&E attendance (287 per 1,000, Islington : 298 per 1,000, NCL: 250 per 1,000)

Outcomes

- High Avoidable Mortality and High Treatable Mortality relative to NCL

Crime

- High rates of crime compared to Islington (202 per 1,000, Islington average: 143 per 1,000)



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