

Ethnic Inequalities in Barking & Dagenham

Summary

This Briefing draws on data from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses and workshop discussions of academic researchers, community representatives and service providers, to identify patterns and drivers of ethnic inequalities in Barking and Dagenham, and potential solutions. The main findings are:

- Barking and Dagenham has had high levels of population change and a rapid increase in ethnic diversity over the 2000s. The ethnic minority population grew from 19 % in 2001 to 51 % in 2011.
- Barking and Dagenham is the London Borough with the lowest Index of Multiple Inequality and ranks 298th out of 348 in England and Wales (where 1 is most unequal).
- Housing inequality in Barking and Dagenham is marked and persistent, particularly for Black African, Pakistani and White Other ethnic groups. 33% of ethnic minorities live in overcrowded housing (compared to 12% of White British).
- Reasons that were identified for inequalities include, new housing developments not meeting needs of larger families and affordable housing not matching local income.
- Barking and Dagenham saw a reduction in employment inequality between 2001 and 2011.
- Unemployment amongst almost all groups increased, up from 6% in 2001 to 10% in 2011.
- The Mixed and Black Caribbean groups saw the biggest rise in unemployment between 2001 and 2011, 9% to 15% and 6% to 11% respectively.

Introduction

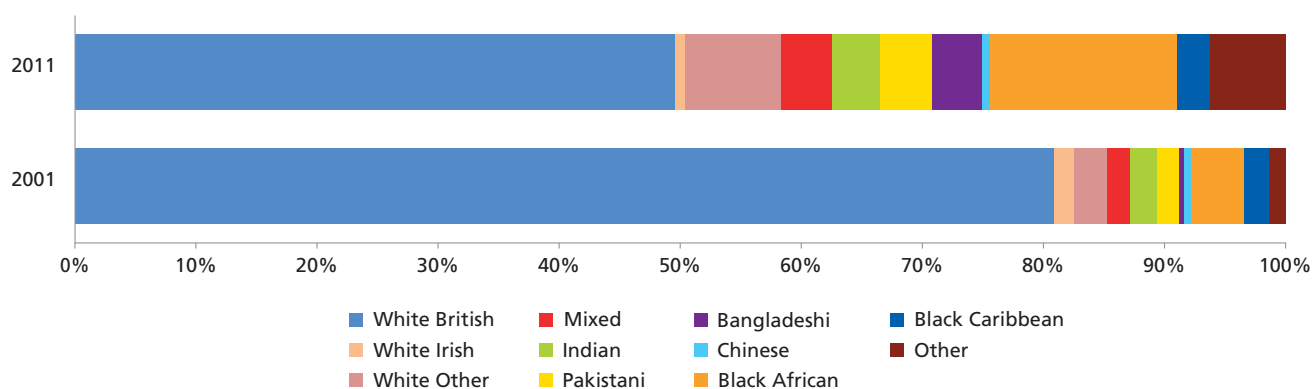
Half of Barking and Dagenham's population belonged to an ethnic group other than White British (In 2011, around 93,962 people), up from 19% in 2001 (Figure 1).

Barking and Dagenham is an outer East London borough which was ranked 298th, out of 348 boroughs in England and Wales in 2011, on the Index of Multiple Inequality (IMI).¹ It ranked 169 in 2001, indicating an improvement over the 2000s. In London, Barking and Dagenham ranked as the least unequal borough on the IMI in 2011 for the minority population as a whole.

Measuring Local Ethnic Inequalities

Inequality for ethnic minorities in relation to the White British in education, employment, health and housing has been calculated for districts in England and Wales using data from the 2001 and 2011 England and Wales Census. Ethnic inequality is calculated as the absolute difference in the proportion of the White British group and a particular ethnic minority group who experience disadvantage on key social indicators. The indicators of inequality are: percent aged 16-24 with no qualifications (Education); percent aged 25 and over who are unemployed (Employment). A negative value indicates inequality (disadvantage) for the minority group. Inequality was calculated for nine ethnic minority groups: White Irish, White Other, Mixed, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Black African, Black Caribbean. For full details see the national report.¹

Figure 1. Population 2001 and 2011.



Source: Census 2001 & 2011

In April 2016 The Runnymede Trust co-hosted a workshop on ethnic inequalities in Barking and Dagenham, with support from RAMFEL, CoDE and Barclays. The purpose was to discuss data from the Local Ethnic Inequalities project in order to understand the drivers of ethnic inequality in Barking and Dagenham.

Ethnic Inequalities in Housing

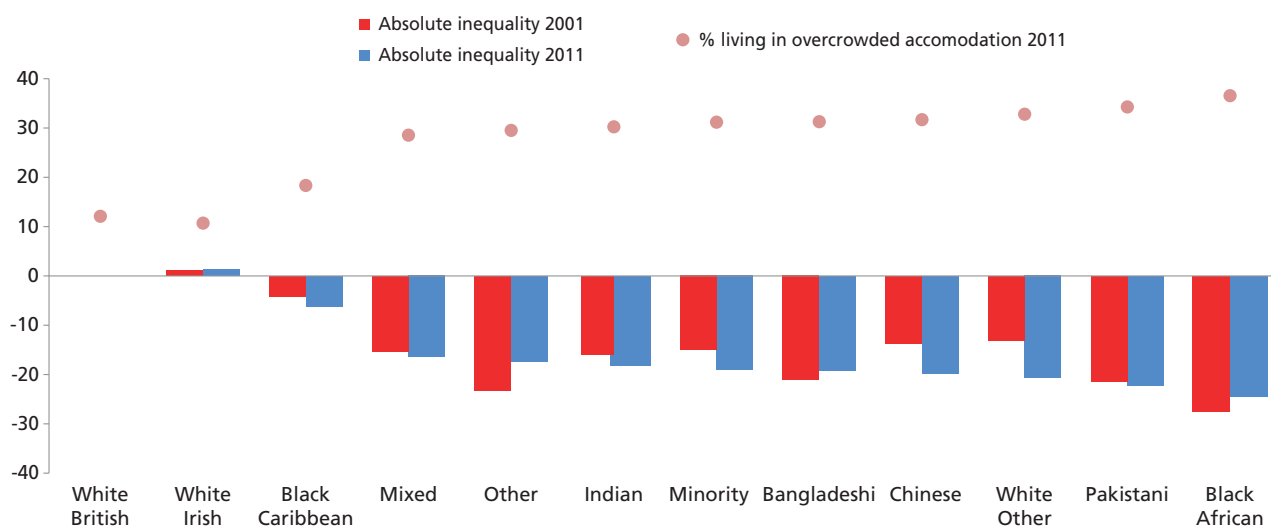
The most severe ethnic inequalities in Barking and Dagenham were in terms of housing with nearly a third of households from ethnic minority groups as a whole (31%) being overcrowded compared with almost an eighth (12.1%) of

White British households. In terms of housing inequality, in 2011 Barking and Dagenham ranked as the 5th worst district in England & Wales for ethnic minorities as a whole.

Between 2001 and 2011 housing inequality saw a net deterioration. The number of households experiencing overcrowding increased by 8%. This reflects a wider trend in London.² The most significant increase in overcrowding occurred for the White Other group, an increase of 10%.

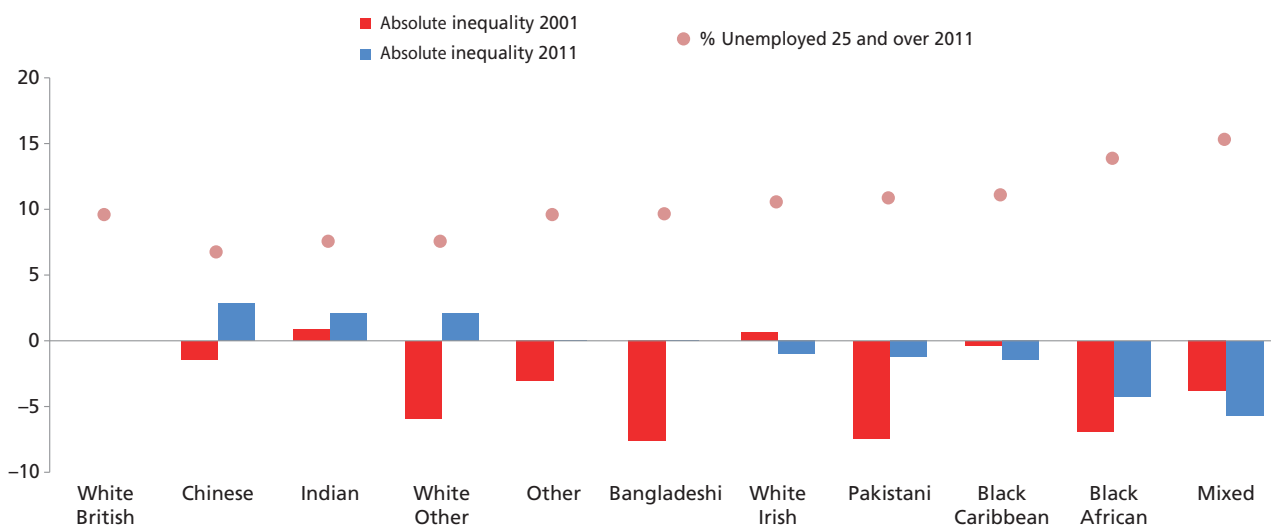
Figure 2 highlights that all groups face a disadvantage in housing when compared to the White British group, except for White Irish people. Between 2001 and 2011 the

Figure 2. Housing inequality, 2001 & 2011.



Source: Census 2001 & 2011

Figure 3. Employment inequality 2001 & 2011.



Source: Census 2001 & 2011

inequality between White British and all minorities increased by 4 percentage points. The most significant inequality is experienced by Black African people, followed closely by Pakistani and White Other groups. Some of the key points raised at the workshop were:

"There is a need to look at neighbouring boroughs, such as Tower Hamlets, where councils are building larger houses to accommodate families."

"Many families are breaking away from the traditional ethnic minority family structure of the extended family, it is not always practical for extended families to live together"

"Barking and Dagenham has been noted as a key locality in discussions of white flight"

"Housing allocation and the local housing allowance are a hindrance for some communities. And there is a difference between the local housing allowance and market rents."

Ethnic Inequalities in Employment

Barking and Dagenham saw a reduction in employment inequality between 2001 and 2011, and the absolute inequality in employment rank improved from 50th to 221st for minority groups on the whole. The most significant improvements were for the White Other (4th to 342nd) and Asian (121st to 323rd) groups. However, the absolute inequality rank is a relative measure and so although

Barking and Dagenham has improved relative to other boroughs unemployment amongst almost all groups has increased, up from 6% in 2001 to 10% in 2011.

Calculating absolute inequality in employment highlights that almost all minorities, except White Other, Indian and Chinese people faced a disadvantage in employment in 2011. The Mixed and Black Caribbean categories were the only two to see a rise in inequality from 2001 to 2011, from -4.0 to -6.0 and -0.4 to -1.45 respectively. Although the Black African population saw a decrease in relative inequality, there remain high levels of unemployment second only to the Mixed population. Some of the key points raised at the workshop were:

"The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has run an initiative to help more ethnic minority communities into employment, but these activities need to be carefully marketed so as not to fuel local racism"

"Families with the right to remain in the country but no recourse to public funds face particular challenges"

"Amongst some communities there is widespread reluctance to travel out of the borough into the city to seek employment, despite very good public transport connections."

"Young people need more apprentice opportunities, and schools need to prepare young people for different trades that match the local employment market"

¹ Finney, N. and Lymperopoulou, K. (2015) *Local Ethnic Inequalities*. Runnymede Trust <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Inequalities%20report-final%20v2.pdf>

² London Poverty Profile 2015, p. 46. Available at: <http://www.londonpovertyprofile.org.uk/>

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