

2.10 Looking forward

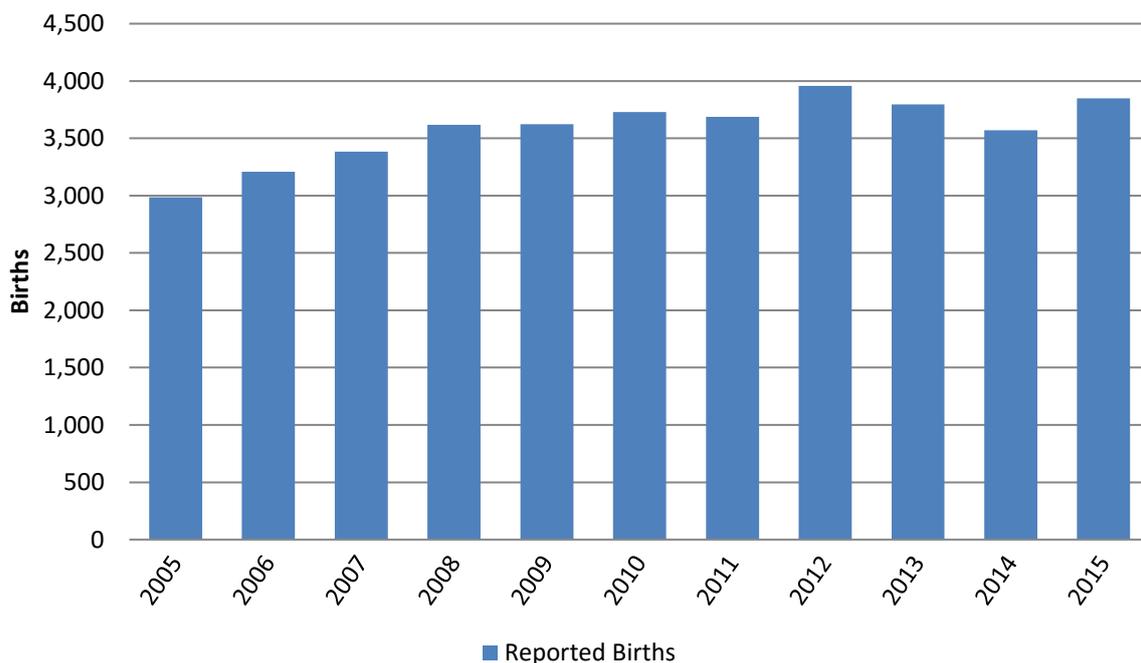
Anticipating service demand to enable every child to have the best start in life in Barking and Dagenham depends on which assumptions are made about future population growth and need. These assumptions can be grouped into three main categories:

- Substantial growth in complexity and scale.
- Substantial growth in scale but not complexity.
- No further growth.

The factors affecting the growth in the children's population are the increasing numbers of births and inward migration of children and young people being greater than outward migration. The complexity is a reflection of factors such as poverty and parental lifestyle factors such as obesity; smoking and substance misuse that impact on social circumstances and health inequalities.

The number of births to Barking and Dagenham residents had increased by 30% between 2005 and 2015. The number of births fell by 10% in 2014 compared with 2012 (3,957 in 2012, falling to 3,569 in 2014) with a 7% increase between 2014 and 2015 as shown in figure 2.10.1¹.

Figure 2.10.1 Barking and Dagenham reported births year 2000 to 2015



Source: ONS: Birth Summary Tables – England and Wales

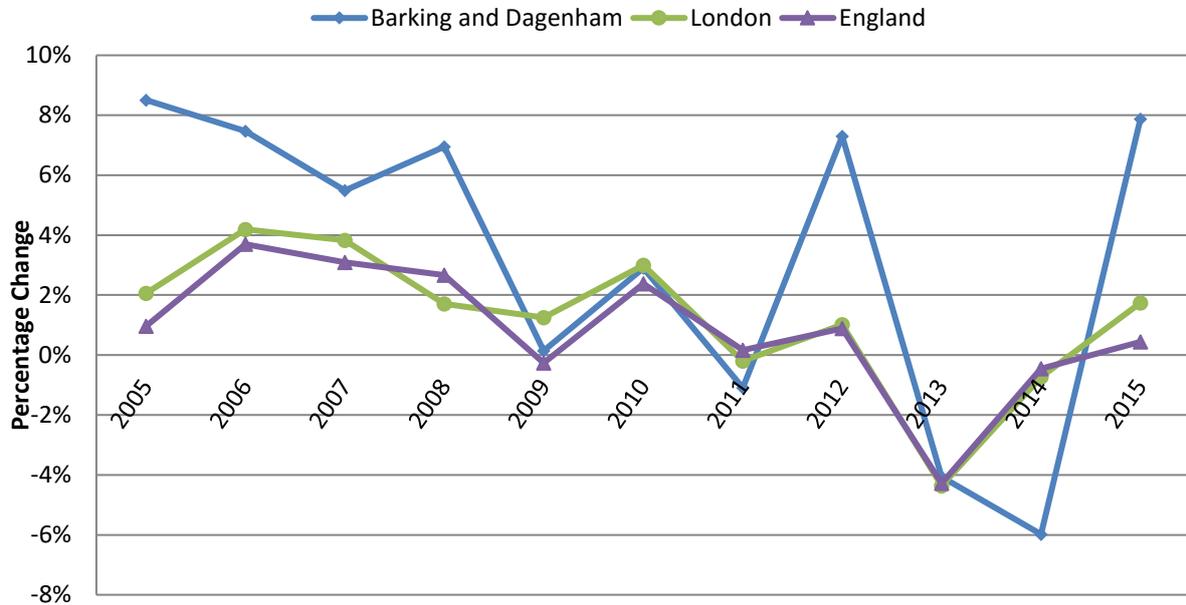
While the crude number of births from 2005 to 2015 show a general increase (figure 2.10.1), in reality there has been a sharp decrease in percentage change for 'year on

¹ ONS Birth Summary Tables – England and Wales

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/datasets/birthsummarytables> [Accessed 17 August 2016]

year' birth rate, this change has been faster for B&D when compared with London and England (Figure 2.10.2 below). Figure 2.10.2 shows large increases for 2012 and 2015 relative to the previous year, the first of which is likely to be a result of the government policy on housing (introduction of the cap on private housing).

Figure 2.10.2 Percentage change in births, year on year B&D, London and England 2005-2015



Source: ONS (Birth and Fertility rates by Boroughs)

Population growth predictions do change but predicting the complexity of demand is even more challenging as the key factors which influence complexity relate to patterns of adult behaviours and demographics, including:

- Ethnicity - linked to prevalence of conditions such as sickle cell and thalassaemia.
- Smoking and obesity in pregnancy - linked to increased risk for both mother and baby in pregnancy and into later life.
- Wider aspects such as household income, unemployment and engagement in community services and networks.

Changing patterns of need and their impact are further discussed in other sections of the JSNA.