
NEWHAM

Greater London

Recent population changes

“The 2001 Census shows that Newham has the largest proportion of non-White ethnic groups in the country. Almost two-thirds (61%) of Newham's population is from a non-White ethnic group (Brent has the highest percentage of ethnic minorities, when White-Irish and Other-White are grouped with ethnic minorities). Newham has the second highest percentage of Asians in England and Wales, with the second largest percentage of Bangladeshis in England and Wales (Tower Hamlets leads in both these statistics). It also has the second highest percentage of Black Africans in England and Wales.” (borough website) However, these populations are not evenly scattered over the borough.

The arrival of significant numbers of Lithuanians, displacing Indians as the largest group applying for national insurance numbers in 2005, is mirrored in neighbouring boroughs but not in service usage generally. The numbers of new applications from Indians and Pakistanis, however, have also doubled in the last three years, and since these are new workers or benefit applicants, they are likely to be new migrants into the UK rather than people relocating from other parts of the UK. Some may be people who have arrived as a result of 2002 changes which finally allowed overseas and other “second class” British citizens to come to the UK, and agencies note numbers of elderly people arriving to join families in the borough. In fact, Newham is the local authority with the third largest number of non British national insurance registrations in the country (after Brent and Ealing), and so continues to be a major focus for in-migration within the UK. Newham has been a “superdiverse” borough for many years and continues to be, with communities from almost every corner of the world. The large numbers of asylum seekers living with friends or families reflect this as well, with Pakistan and Sri Lanka (Newham is home to a large Tamil population and several organisations) predominating.

Statistics

Total population: 2001 (Census): 243,891; 2005 (Pop. Survey): 246,200. The borough, however, contests these figures and is in discussions with government over them. Newham estimates that the population has been undercounted by at least 5,000 people since 2002.

Non UK born (2001)

Total: 92,292 (37.84%)

Top ten countries:

India	12,701
Bangladesh	11,724
Pakistan	9,856
South and Eastern Africa (1)	6,023
Central and Western Africa (4)	5,441
Nigeria	5,423
Caribbean and West Indies (3)	4,131
Sri Lanka	3,591
Far East (2)	3,399

Notes: (1) Other than Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Zimbabwe; (3) Other than Jamaica; (4) Other than D.R.Congo, Nigeria, Sierra Leone

Somalia

3,163

Source: Census 2001

Non 'white British' population: 2001 (Census): 161,501 (66.21%)

Registration for NINOs (national insurance numbers) from non British residents

2002/03	#	2005/06	#
Total:	8,510	Total:	14,880
Top ten countries:		Top ten countries:	
India	1280	Rep of Lithuania	2690
Pakistan	770	India	2460
Bangladesh	610	Pakistan	1580
Sri Lanka	400	Poland	1450
South Africa	330	Bangladesh	940
Ghana	320	Nigeria	530
Rep of Lithuania	310	South Africa	420
Nigeria	270	Ghana	310
Bulgaria	250	Rep of Latvia	280
Philippines	250	Sri Lanka	260

Number of refugee status granted in 2005: 256 (Source: Home Office)

Asylum seekers receiving NASS support (June 2006)

Dispersals	#	Subsistence only	#
Total:	35	Total:	785
Top 10 countries:		Top 10 countries	
Congo	5	Pakistan	325
Iran	5	Sri Lanka	75
Jamaica	5	Somalia	55
Kenya	5	Afghanistan	30
Sri Lanka	5	Bangladesh	20
Turkey	5	Ecuador	20
Congo	5	India	20
Iran	5	Turkey	20
Jamaica	5	Angola	15
Kenya	5	China (Peop. Rep.)	15

NB: dispersals are only placed in London if they have an overriding need to stay in London, and figures are rounded up to the nearest 5.

Top ten industries of employment

April 2001	#	%
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	14,372	16.6
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	13,406	15.5
N. Health and social work	9,573	11.1
I. Transport, storage and communications	8,210	9.5
D. Manufacturing	7,159	8.3
M. Education	6,867	7.9
H. Hotels and restaurants	6,275	7.3
J. Financial intermediation	5,471	6.3
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	4,918	5.7
L. Public administration and defence, social security	4,835	5.6

Source: National Statistics 2001

Labour market

The predominance of the wholesale/retail trade and financial and business services (which account for a much lower proportion in the borough than in East London as a whole) as employers in Newham mask the fact that construction, health and social care and hotels and restaurants are key growth sectors. "Employment growth between 1998 and 2002 resulted in an increase of 1,744 jobs (2.8%) (Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) 1998 and 2002 figures). The 5,748 employers' establishments in Newham employed 63,593 employees in 2002.In Newham, the proportion of small, medium and medium-large business is higher than the proportions for London. The proportion of large businesses in Newham (24%) is less than the proportion seen in London as a whole (35%). Newham's current economic development is partly due to the strong employment growth during the 1990s that led to a shift in the UK economy away from the manufacturing and primary sectors to financial and business services, hotels and restaurants and health and social care. While this has occurred throughout the UK the pace and extent of change has varied considerably, none more so than in London which now has more knowledge intensive sectors than any other region in the UK (GLA, 2003)." (from borough website)

Local activities and developments

The borough has become attuned to new migration and is cited by others as at the forefront of attempts to plan for new arrivals, contributing to GLA discussions about counting migrants and combining health, schools, NINO and other data to triangulate more reliable estimates, in order to argue for the basis of funding to be changed. The borough describes the "Newham factor":

"Newham sits in the heart of the east-end of London and has long been associated with high levels of deprivation. The housing stock within the private sector is amongst the worst in the London and by virtue of its size and relatively low market rents has become used as an entry point into London by economic migrants. This has meant that a large, diverse cultural population has developed within the borough. The combination of a large transient population and poor housing conditions has placed great strains on local housing market"¹.

The high levels of mobility in and out of the borough (the highest in London) is even more marked among children and young people. 27.5% of Newham's pupils speak English as a first language, although a majority of 0 -15 year olds (85%) were born in the UK. 61% of Newham's residents are from non-white ethnic groups, with black Africans constituting the largest single group.

For some time, Newham also had the highest number of asylum seekers living in any local authority area in the UK, and although dispersal has reduced this, many refugees and former asylum seekers remain in the borough, the latter often destitute or depending on the support of community and friends. The borough is home to many migrant and refugee community organisations, representing both older settled communities and newer ones, and those, like the Tamils, which span both.

Faced with such "superdiversity", the borough has tended to take an approach which is typified by the Supporting People strategy (2005) which proposes:

¹ From Homelessness Strategy 2003

“To consider the housing related support needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in mainstream categories of needs in Newham, rather than as a separate issue. “

The PCT is similarly ahead of the game, and describes the issue of access as a key policy objective: it is about being responsive, “because with so many arrivals we cannot restructure around all new communities.” It is about to launch research it commissioned on health access in response to proposals to restrict access to primary health care, which it regards as raising significant public health and equalities issues.

Newham is an Olympic borough and part of the Thames Gateway and the focus for many construction projects over the next five years. The Construction Industry Training Board reckons that east London will need a further 2,370 construction workers by 2010, and if they move into London a high proportion of them are likely to do so in Newham. They are now researching how many of these are likely to be migrants and how many recruited from those already settled in the UK (including, of course, previous migrants and refugees).

Needs, gaps and priorities

In this context, it is difficult to identify specific needs of new migrants since arrival, diversity and migration are the norm in Newham. Organisations working with new migrants report feeling undervalued and lacking in resources and are concerned that statutory services do not deal well with some new groups. The arrival of large numbers of eastern Europeans, especially Lithuanians, has tended to be overshadowed by the needs, on the one hand, of large numbers of asylum seekers and refugees (for whom the borough has had a statutory responsibility in the past) and, on the other, of those arriving (especially as family members) to join existing settled communities who may have better structures in place to enable at least the gaps in provision to be identified.

Needs among new migrants are identified as

- Housing, with severe overcrowding, homelessness, including that caused by relationship breakdown, and destitution
- Health care, with access as a particular problem for some who are excluded from non-urgent treatment
- ESOL
- Employment advice and support for new migrants and those working without authorisation

One particular set of needs is of note. By 2012 the Asian older population in Newham will have doubled, with the existing population ageing and also bringing older people to join them (citizenship changes in 2002 now make it possible for people expelled from east Africa in the 1970s to use their British passports). New arrivals, in particular, often face great problems in adjusting and have particular mental and physical care needs. Carers already find that support may be difficult to access, and there are issues of overcrowding, poverty and illness. There is only one residential unit for Asians in the borough, which also offers respite, but there is no nursing care available for Asian elders in services specifically for them.

Documents

LB Newham **Focus on Newham (2006)** available on borough website

LB Newham **Supporting People Partnership 5 Year Strategy** (2005) available on borough website

LB Newham **Household Panel Survey** (2006) Wave 4 Report

LB Newham **Homelessness Strategy 2003- 8** (2003)

Hargreaves, Friedland, Holmes and Saxena **The identification and charging of Overseas Visitors at NHS services in Newham: a Consultation, final report** 2006

Imperial College, Newham PCT and LB Newham

London Refugee Economic Action (LORECA) (2006): *LORECA Mapping Exercise: Examining the numbers, locations, and employment, training, and enterprise needs of London's refugee and asylum seeker communities*

www.loreca.org.uk/downloads/LORECA_Mapping_Exercise.doc