



# How to navigate the document

## Best viewing experience

This document is best viewed downloaded on a laptop or desktop computer. The interactivity will not work as well on tablets, iPads and mobile phones. You will still be able to view, scroll through and use some functionality such as hyperlinks, however the main navigation buttons on the right may be less effective.

## Right hand navigation

The buttons on the right hand side take you to the different sections of the document. The 6 ambition sections each have their own contents for you to jump to a particular area with ease. Simply click on the button on the right to take you back to that section's contents. All other sections do not have a contents page.

## Endnotes

### Example:

In Camden in 2022, there were 6,389 children or 1 in 5 (19.8%) living in poverty, up from 13.5% in 2021.<sup>1</sup>

To go to the reference of a particular Endnote, click on the number at the end of the paragraph.

Click on the number in the Endnotes to take you back to the page which the reference number is on.

### Example:

- 1 Proportion of children living in low income households (60% of median income) before and after housing costs, Local indicators of child poverty, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University for End Child Poverty (2022); Children in low income families: local area statistics, DWP (2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2022>, [https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/report/Local\\_indicators\\_of\\_child\\_poverty\\_after\\_housing\\_costs\\_2021\\_22/23523453](https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/report/Local_indicators_of_child_poverty_after_housing_costs_2021_22/23523453).

Text which is in blue and underlined is an active link. This example is a URL hyperlink which will take you to a webpage. Others may open up another document or activate an email programme.

**Comparison group:** throughout the report, we have referred to the 'Comparison group' for simplification. This group consists of the inner London boroughs and neighbouring boroughs to Camden: Barnet, Brent, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster, Islington, Southwark, Newham, Hackney, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, City of London, Greenwich, Haringey, and Lewisham. We also compare to the London and England averages where possible.

List of chart and images  
Click on this link to bring you back to this description of the Comparison Group.

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# Good Life Camden

Camden’s State of the Borough report is published annually. It brings together data and evidence from quantitative and qualitative sources, and includes national level statistics, regional data, and locally collected data. It provides a **shared evidence base about the outcomes experienced by people in Camden**, and is intended for organisations, residents and the council to increase the understanding of people’s wellbeing in the borough. It is aligned to the structure of the [We Make Camden](#) vision for the borough, and uses the [Good Life Camden](#) framework to identify relevant data.

**A note on timings:** The 2026 report is published earlier than in previous years due to the local elections in May 2026. Due to the shorter timeline for producing the report, we did not include data that was not updated since the last report at the time of drafting.


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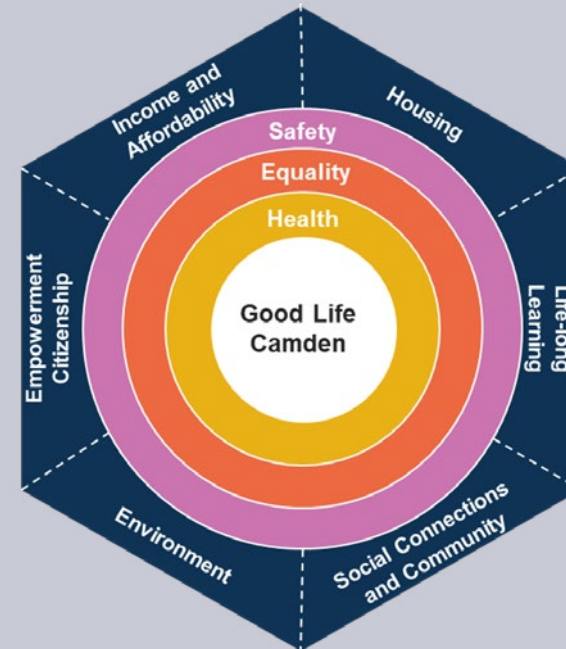
## Good Life Camden

The report focuses on the outcomes that are important for living a good life in Camden, based on the co-created [Good Life Camden](#) (GLC) framework. The GLC framework was developed with residents and staff in 2022. It breaks down the concept of living a good life into nine **themes**, which people told us are most important. These are: Safety, Equality, Health, Housing, Income and Affordability, Lifelong Learning, Social Connections and Community, and Environment. The themes of Safety, Health and Housing are identified as core cross-cutting themes. The framework also spells out the **signals** that tell us if we’re making progress against the different GLC themes (e.g. for Housing, a signal is that the quality of housing is high). The signals are underpinned by **measures**, which use data from a range of sources, such as official statistics or administrative data from schools, hospitals and transport.

In pulling together the data and evidence for the report, we started from the framework and looked for quantitative data that was available, preferably comparable across place and time. Mapping to the GLC framework also showed us where we have data gaps, whether for signals and measures (e.g. people feel safe in Camden) or in the breakdowns of averages (e.g. what is the experience of specific populations, like perceptions of safety of adults with learning disabilities).

Throughout the report, we have highlighted the relevant Good Life Camden signals where the data is presented.

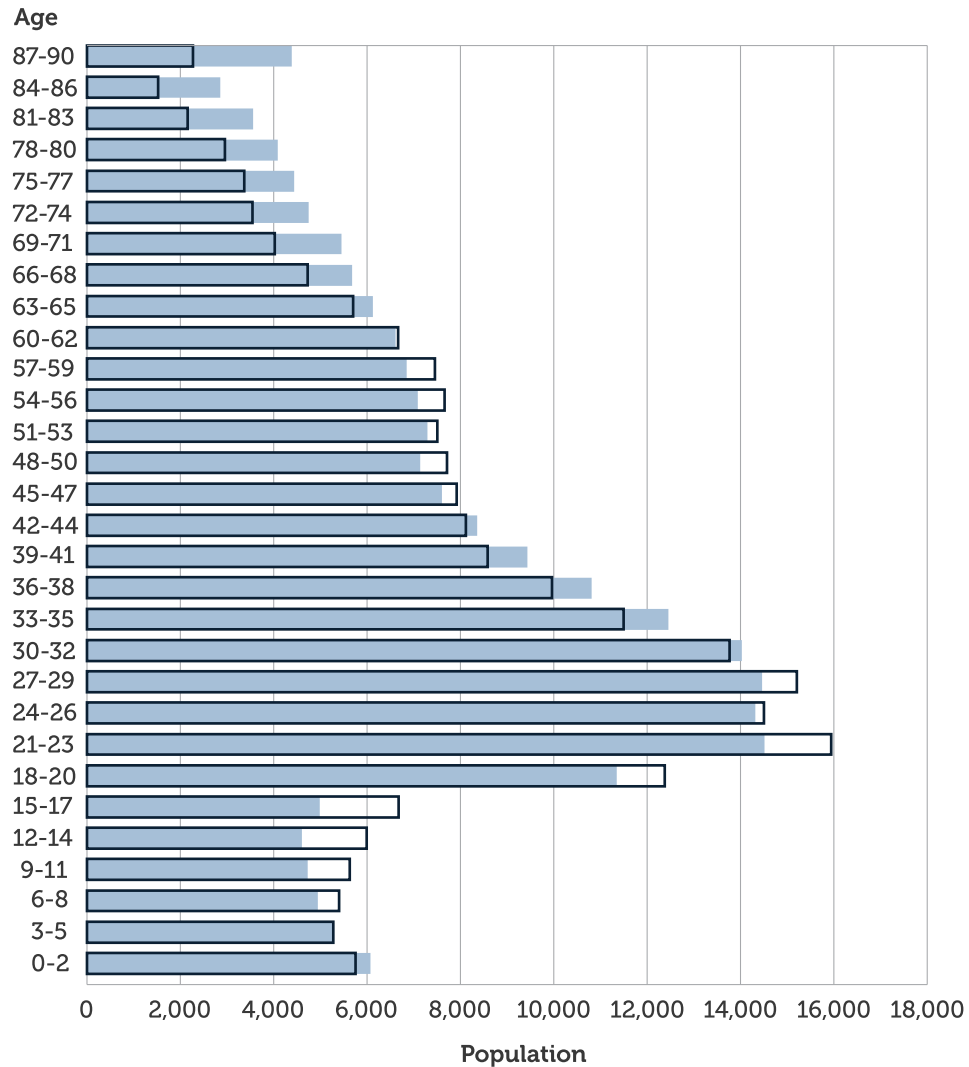
**Look out for these**  **throughout the report, presenting the relevant Good Life Camden signal in each section.**



# Key insights

## Camden population by age, across time

□ 2025 Population (Actual) ■ 2050 Population (Predicted)



Camden's population is projected to grow from 219k to 224k in 2050, and the age profile is expected to change, with over 65s set to become a larger proportion of our borough, while the proportion of children will shrink. The statistics below reflect some of the drivers and consequences of this changing profile.



### Dependency ratio

The ratio of over 65s to working-age adults will rise from 16:100 to 23:100 by 2050.



### Housing affordability & tenure

High house prices & demand for social housing are factors in why currently 47% of 25-50 year olds rent privately, versus 13% of 50+ year olds.



### Student "bulge"

Camden's higher education institutions means we have a large, but transient, younger adult population, currently 30,738 students.



### Fertility rates

In Camden, 1.05 children are born per woman on average. Lower fertility drives the projection of fewer children and young people in 2050.

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Camden is a central London borough, almost 22 square kilometres in size – only about 1.4% of London by area but 9th highest in population density. It is home to internationally renowned institutions, a vibrant entertainment and nightlife scene, major transport hubs, and busy business and retail centres.

Camden is home to the Knowledge Quarter, bringing together organisations like Google, the Francis Crick Institute, the Wellcome Trust, and the British Library, alongside 11 higher education institutions. The student population is the third largest in London, with the highest share of student population in Bloomsbury (40%).

The rate of population churn, meaning the change in population from year to year with people moving in and out of the borough, is one of the highest in London. According to the Consumer Data Research Centre's Residential Mobility Index, 35% of households in Camden changed from 2010 to 2020, and 59% in the decade before that. Some of the transient nature of Camden's population is explained by the high share of students, but also an international workforce attracted by the global science and technology hubs.

Indeed, the Community Life survey (2023/24) shows that most Camden residents are happy to live in Camden. Almost 8 in 10 people in Camden said they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, higher than the London average, and around 6 in 10 people agree that they would like to still be living in their local area in five years' time.<sup>1</sup>

## Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025

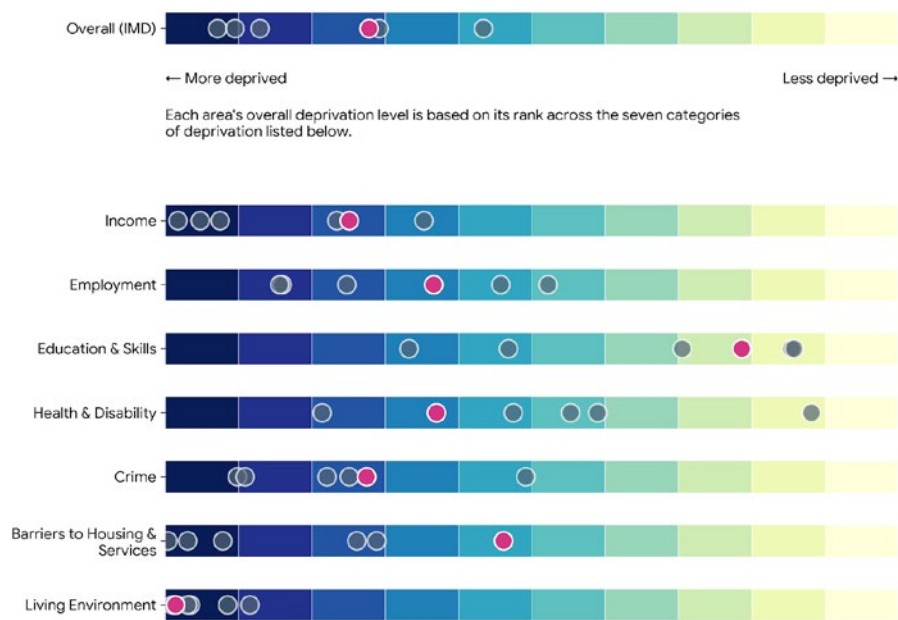
The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (IMD25)<sup>2</sup> is the UK Government's official measure of relative deprivation in England. It ranks every small neighbourhood (LSOA) based on seven types ("domains") of disadvantage – income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and the quality of the local environment – and then combines these into an overall score. Income and employment carry the greatest weight, reflecting their central role in shaping disadvantage. This was last updated in 2019 and has just been released for 2025.

IMD25 provides a snapshot of relative deprivation rather than absolute poverty, enabling comparisons between areas rather than quantifying exact levels of hardship. In practice, IMD25 is widely used by government departments, local authorities, and public services to target funding, design social programmes, and prioritise interventions in health and education. Since the last release in 2019, IMD25 incorporates updated data sources and refined indicators to better capture challenges such as digital exclusion, housing affordability, and evolving crime trends.

On the overall IMD25 measure, Camden is more deprived than around two-thirds of local authorities in England. Within London, Camden sits roughly in the middle of the 33 boroughs. Looking at the individual domains, Camden's stand-out strength is education: on this domain it is in the fifth least deprived of English local authorities. It also looks relatively better than many London boroughs on "barriers to housing and services" (which mixes accessibility and some aspects of affordability), sitting around the middle of the national rankings.

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**Figure 0-1: Camden ranking in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025**



By contrast, Camden faces significant challenges in the quality of the living environment – things like housing conditions, overcrowding, air quality and other environmental factors. On this domain Camden is one of the most deprived local authorities in England and in the bottom few within London. Income deprivation and crime are also notable pressure points: Camden has a higher-than-average share of neighbourhoods with low incomes and higher crime risk when compared to both England as a whole and the London average. Health and employment deprivation in Camden sit around the middle nationally, but look more concerning when viewed against London, where averages are generally better. See further analysis on the [Camden JSNA](#) webpage.

A recent analysis by the GLA<sup>3</sup> showed that in London, the IMD25 shows that the share of relative deprivation is lower than in England: of the

almost 5,000 LSOAs in London there are 33 which are among the most deprived 5% across England, representing 0.7% of LSOAs in London, and 168 among the most deprived decile (10%), representing 3.4% of London LSOAs. In the IMD25, the income index changed from the previous IMD19 so that it now incorporates the after-housing-costs income not the before-housing-costs. This change, which is more appropriate for people living in a high housing cost environment, means that the number of people counted as facing income deprivation in London has almost doubled, from 1.1 million in 2019 to 2.2 million in 2025.<sup>4</sup>

### Who lives in Camden?

It is hard to confidently say exactly how many people actually live in Camden. The 2024 ONS estimate places it at about 217,000 people. However, these figures are based on the 2021 Census, which occurred during COVID restrictions – likely undercounting residents. Camden was one of just three London boroughs showing population decline, dropping 4.6% from 220,300 (2011) to 210,100 (2021), while London overall grew by 7.7%. The GLA population projections at the time for Camden were closer to 280,000, meaning the 2021 Census results were a drop of 70,000 from what we expected the population to be.

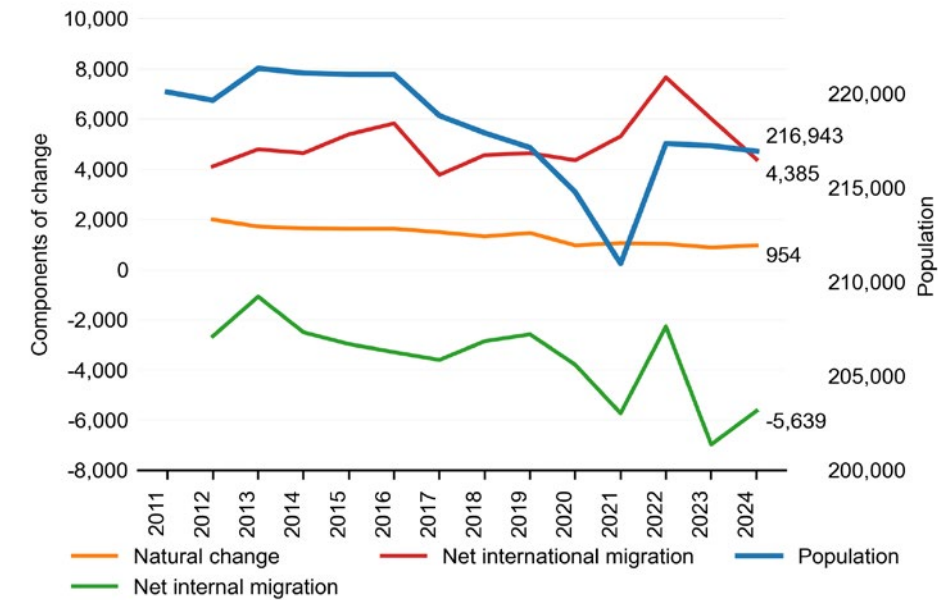
Other indicators suggest a larger population:

- GP registrations show about 260,000 people (2024) (although people don't update these regularly)
- Council tax properties increased from 103,000 to 113,000 since 2011 (while the number of households in the Census was estimated at around 93,000)
- Electoral roll numbers fluctuated between 152,000 and 146,000, but it may be affected by political changes and new voter ID requirements

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These conflicting data sources show why determining Camden’s exact population remains challenging. While we think there was an underestimation in the 2021 Census for the population of Camden, we do not know what the precise number should be. However, the Census remains an important source of data for understanding the makeup of Camden’s population as well as experienced outcomes, so we are confident in using these statistics throughout the report as they are the most reliable source available.

**Figure 0-2: Population change in Camden, 2011-2024**



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011–2024

## Endnotes

- 1 Considering error margins, the Camden average may be the same as the London average.
- 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025-statistical-release>
- 3 <https://data.london.gov.uk/blog/indices-of-deprivation-2025-an-exploratory-analysis/>
- 4 <https://www.onlondon.co.uk/richard-brown-londons-distinctive-patterns-of-deprivation/>

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