

Croydon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2009-10

Future demand for services



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Key findings

Increases in age groups over 50 years will place greater pressure on health and social care services for older people such as residential care and treatment of chronic conditions.

Unequal geographical growth of the population in the next five years will impact on the local infrastructure and services of some wards more than others, especially Fairfield and Bensham Manor.

Planned housing development will impact on the community infrastructure requirements and increase the demand for local public services. It will also alter the mix of individuals using those services. Analysis of planned development sites and the type of housing units being built will help to assess what services will be needed. Current indications are that the greatest demand will be for family sized homes and socially rented properties, and these are likely to be built in the west of the borough and in and around central Croydon.

Due to increasing birth rates and increased housing provision and ethnic diversity including those groups who traditionally have larger families, the demand for school places in Croydon is likely to increase generally, but more so in the west of the borough.

Increased life expectancy of the population will increase the need for health care for a range of conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory disease.

As medical intervention improves, people live longer with chronic conditions. This will increase the number of people requiring care for associated disabilities and end of life care.

Ethnic diversity is set to increase. Certain ethnic groups are at increased risk of various conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, and low birth weight babies. This will further increase future demands placed on health services.

This chapter considers the main changes to Croydon's population that are expected to occur in the future, and the likely impact of those changes on demand for services.

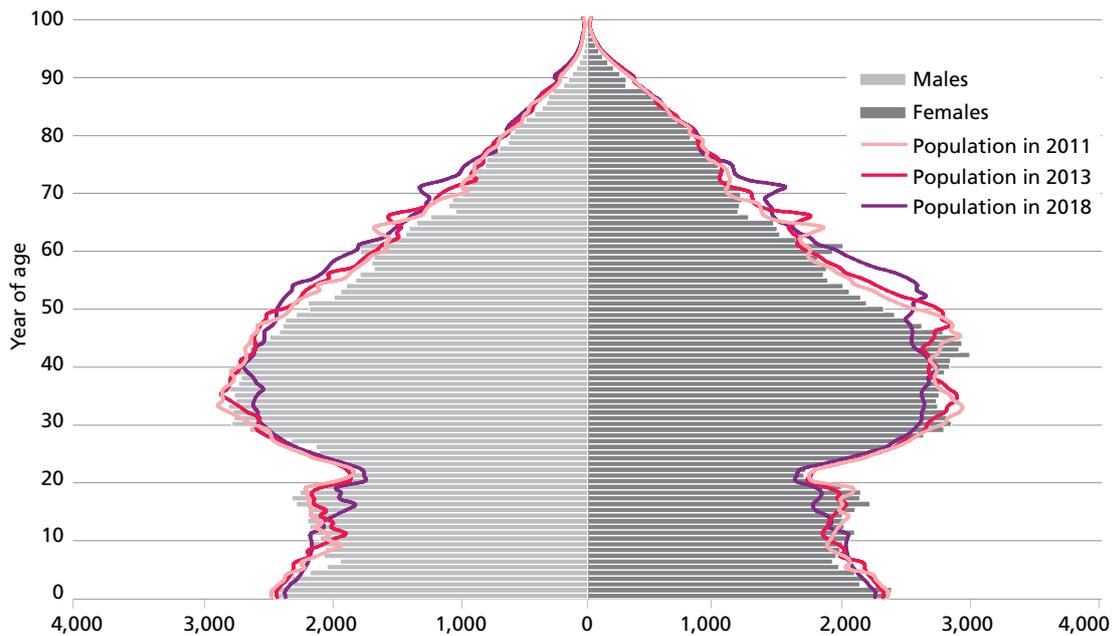
Change in population composition

Population size

The population projections published by the Greater London Authority (GLA) provide an indication of how the population is expected to change. These projections are calculated using a method that takes into account some of the naturally occurring change in the population and household sizes and the known supply of additional housing over the shorter term future.

With a resident population of 341,800, Croydon is the largest London borough in terms of population size. GLA projections indicate that Croydon's population is expected to grow by 1.7% by 2013. The greatest increases are expected in the age groups over 50 years, with declines anticipated in the numbers of children and young people (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Projected population change, Croydon, 2008-2018



Source: Population projections PLP Low, Greater London Authority, 2007

Statistics published by the GLA¹ indicate that past and future population increase in Croydon is likely to be a consequence of natural growth (that is, an excess number of births over deaths) as opposed to inward migration. In 2008, for example, there were 5,331 live births to Croydon residents, compared with 2,462 deaths. Population increase due to natural growth has risen from +1,800 in 1998 to +3,000 in 2008.

Ethnic diversity

Croydon's population has become increasingly ethnically diverse, with 42% of the population being from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups. The growth in ethnic diversity is expected to continue, with projected increases to 43% in 2013, 47% by 2018 and 51% by 2026. These projections are likely to be an underestimate as they do not distinguish between the white British and white other population and thus fail to include the large numbers of recent arrivals from eastern Europe within the black and minority ethnic population. The largest increases over the next five years are expected in the Other (+17%), Pakistani (+15%), Black African (+13%), Bangladeshi (+14%), Black Other (+13%), Black Caribbean (+11%) and Indian (+10%) groups. White and Chinese groups are projected to decrease by 6% and 3% respectively.^{2, 3}

Geography of population change

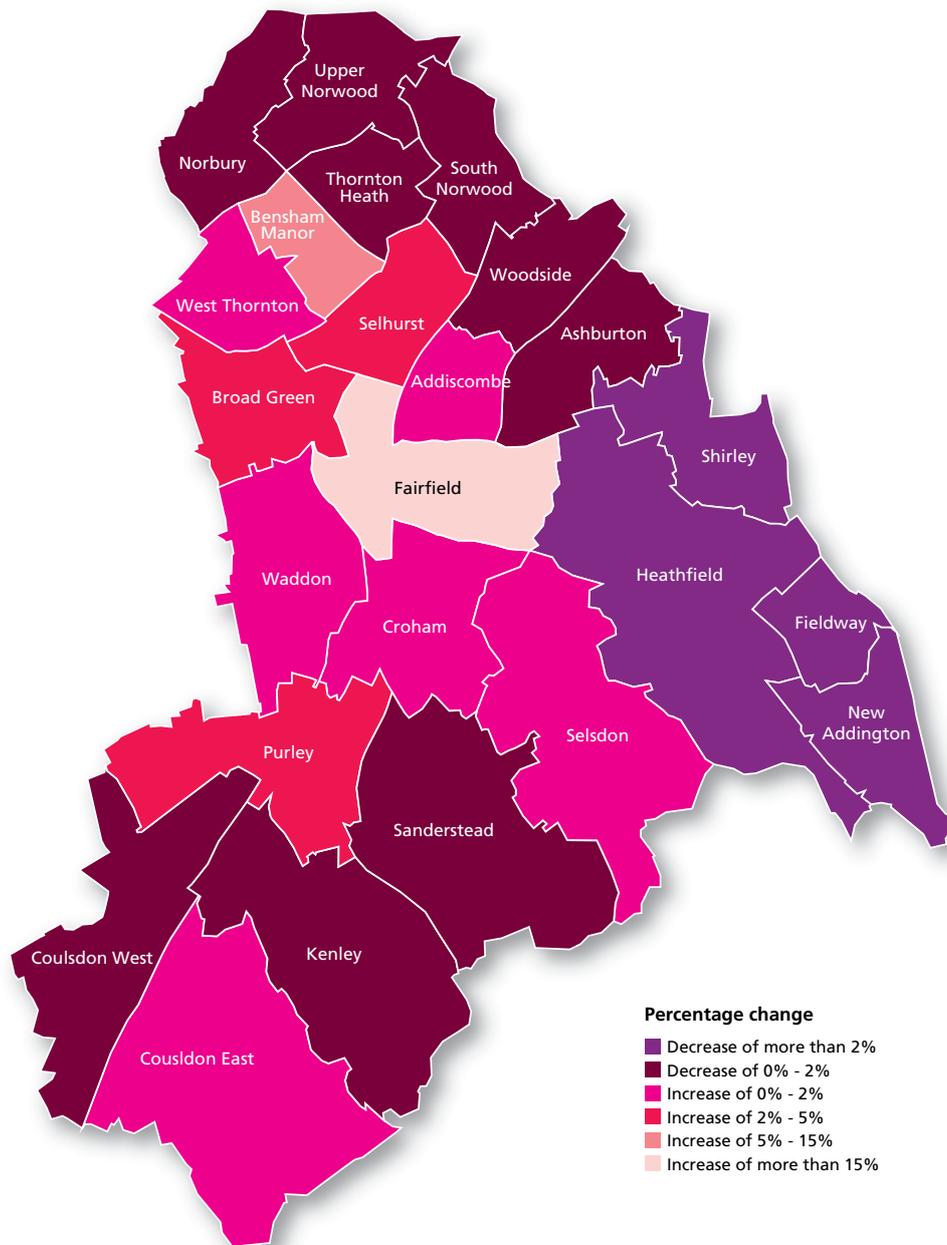
The rate of population increase will vary across Croydon. Published population projections indicate that the areas of greatest anticipated growth in the next five years are the Fairfield and Bensham Manor electoral wards where the increases are likely to be 19% and 6% respectively (Figure 2).

¹ Greater London Authority population projections, 2008

² For details see Figure 2 in JSNA: Summary of the core dataset.

³ Source: GLA (*PLP Low 2007 ethnic group population projections*)

Figure 2: Projected population change by ward, 2009-2014



Source: GLA PLP Low 2007 ward level population projections

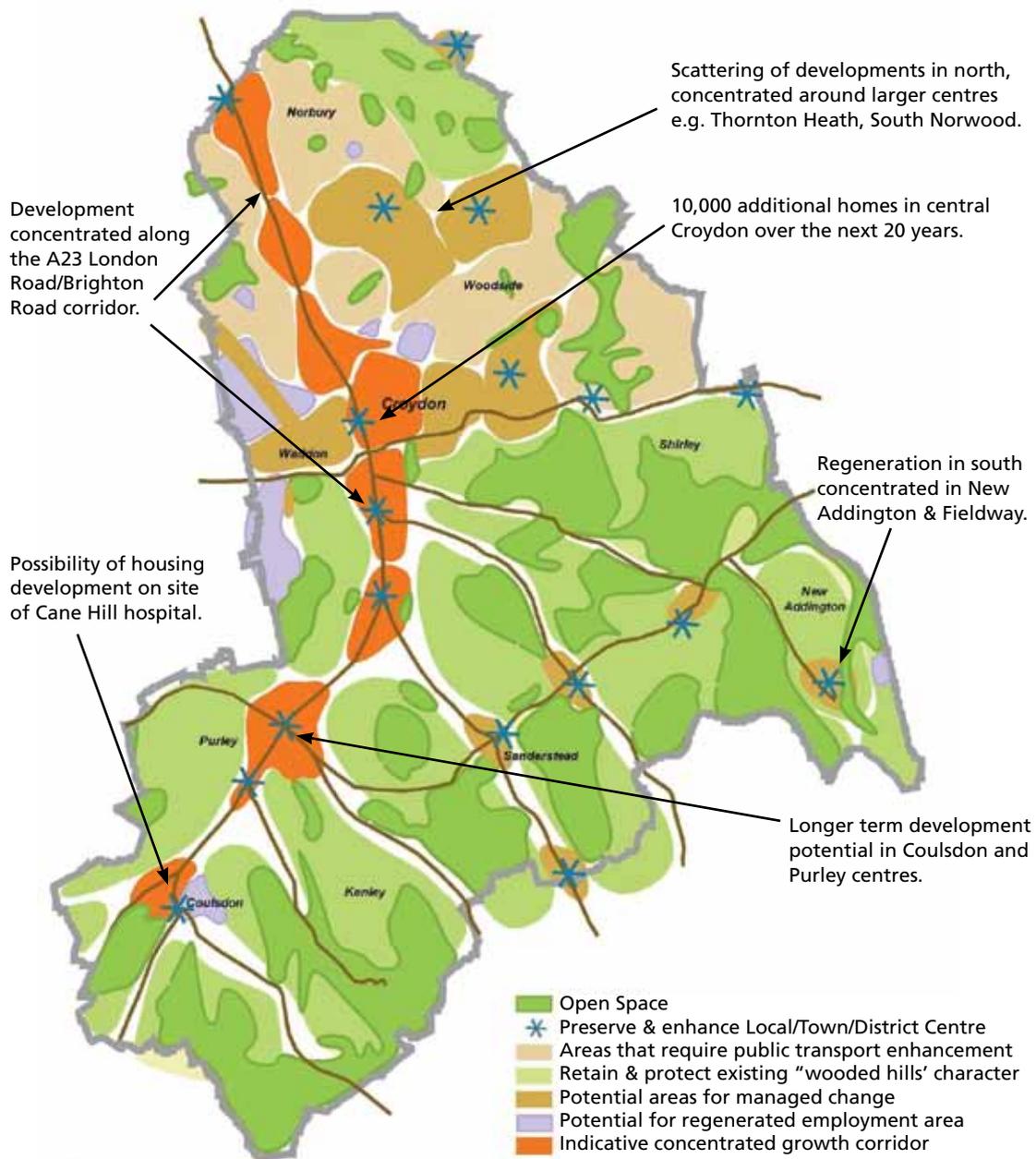
Development between now and 2021

Croydon Council's planning department is able to provide more detailed information about the areas in which new growth is anticipated in terms of the impact of housing developments, and the likely nature of that growth.

The current *London Plan* requires the council to make provision for the development of at least 11,000 new homes over the next ten years. New plans for the borough must show how and where this figure can be delivered.

The council consulted on two strategic options for growth over the summer of 2009: 'concentrated growth' and 'dispersed growth'. The 'concentrated growth' option is most likely to be taken forward. This would see the majority of new homes provided along the A23 corridor and in Croydon town centre with some additional growth from smaller sites in the South Norwood area (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Areas in which new housing developments are expected



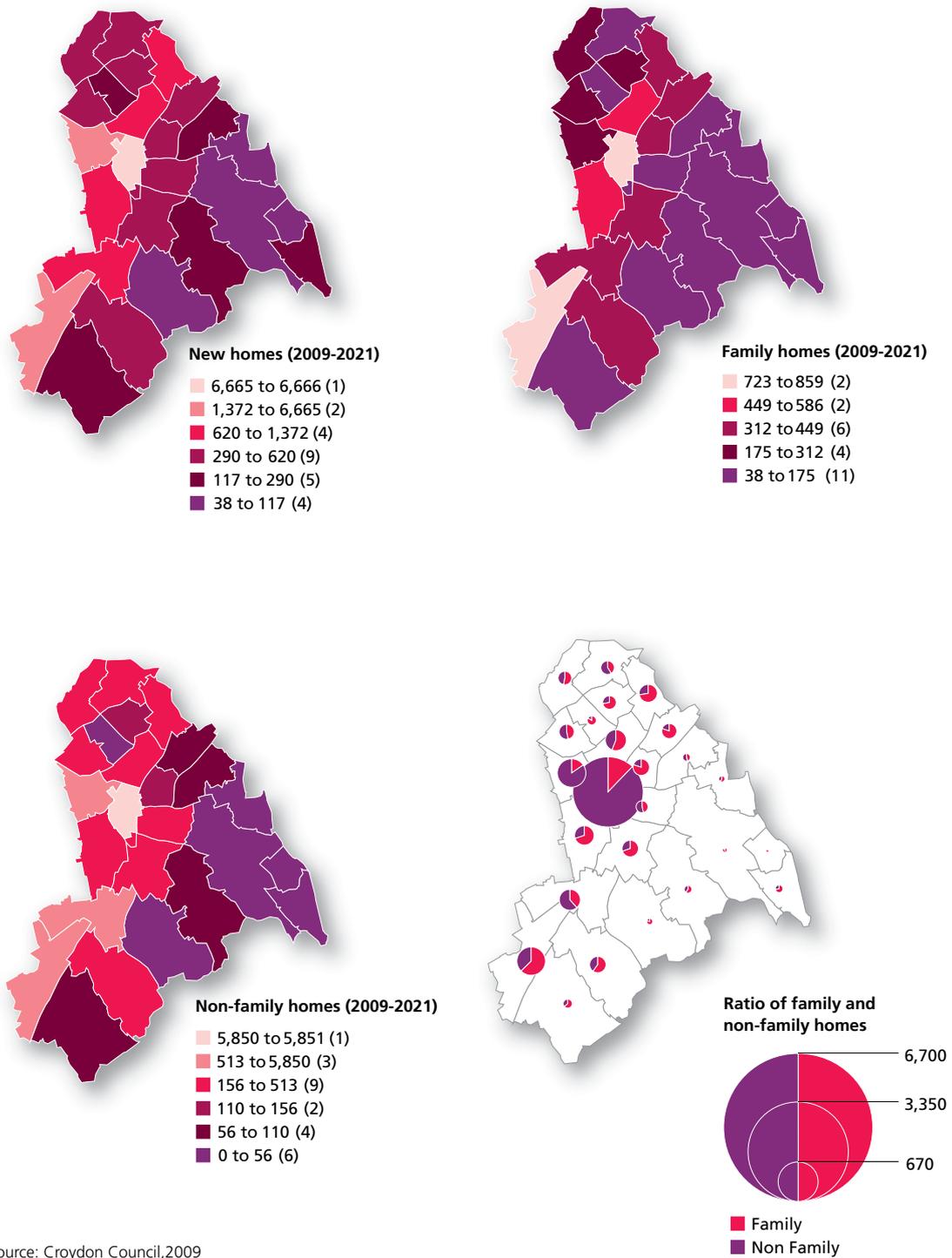
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Source: Croydon Council, 2009

The greatest areas of growth will be around Croydon town centre. Up to 21,000 additional homes could be built over the next 20 years, with about half of these in central Croydon. The *London Plan* includes a commitment to protecting the green belt, so all growth in London is to be accommodated by intensifying the use of existing developed areas. The *London Plan* also sets the target that 50% of new homes should be affordable housing.

Analysis of future housing need in Croydon indicates that the greatest needs between now and 2021 are for family sized homes and social rented properties. There has been a considerable increase in the provision of smaller market units since 2001 which has helped to meet the need for this property type in the short to medium term.

The maps in Figure 4 show the possible location of new development in the borough between 2009 and 2021 including sites currently under construction.

Figure 4: Development of homes across the borough 2009-2021



Source: Croydon Council, 2009

Figure 4 also illustrates the distribution of family and non-family houses across the borough and how the ratio between family and non-family homes varies in different areas. Approximately 30% of these homes would be affordable homes for social rent.

The location of development in the longer term is centred on a few larger sites which are likely to become available after 2021. These are concentrated in Croydon town centre and areas around it. A total of nearly 7,000 new units are projected from these larger sites with 60% likely to be in Croydon town centre. A further 30% of the additional homes would be in the five wards surrounding Croydon town centre (Waddon, Broad Green, Addiscombe, Selhurst and Croham). Many wards in the south and east of the borough have no large sites at all. Approximately one third of the new homes would be family sized units although this would fall to one quarter in Croydon town centre itself. Again 30% of the new homes would be affordable properties for social rent.

The current down turn in the housing market will not continue indefinitely. Many developments are likely to halt as a result of market forces but have the potential to be promptly completed once the economy strengthens. This means that in anticipating future demand for services, it is necessary to be aware that there may be sudden influxes to certain areas when completed units are made available. This future development will impact upon community infrastructure requirements and increase the demand for services. It will also alter the mix of individuals using those services.

Future demand for school places

Future demand for school places will be affected by local birth rates, migration trends and, to a lesser extent, activity in neighbouring boroughs. Consideration needs to be given to the locations of these school places in addition to total numbers, as changes in the numbers of children and young people will not be evenly distributed across the borough.

The traditional basis for calculating the expected number of children entering school at reception level (age 4+) is to carry out a conversion on the birth rate data for the corresponding year (Figure 5). This conversion has been possible because the other factors that determine the actual number of children have been relatively constant. These factors include housing provision, migration, and ethnic diversity with some black and minority ethnic groups traditionally having larger families. The difficulty all councils face is quantifying the extent of the changes due to these factors and whether the current situation will continue. In the past three or four years the additional factors have changed markedly with the result that many more children have needed school places than were predicted by standard methodology.

Figure 5: Estimated increase in numbers of four year olds in Croydon

	Births	Change since 2009 (%)
2009 (births 2005)	4,704	-
2012 (births 2008)	5,331	+627 (13%)
2014 (births 2010*)	5,415	+711 (15%)
2019 (births 2015*)	5,905	+1,201 (26%)

* births 2010 and 2015 are projections based on ten year trend to 2008

Source: Office for National Statistics

If changing birth rates were the sole factor influencing demand for reception places, this would increase by 13% between 2009 and 2012. The actual increase is expected to be closer 15% due to the influences of housing provision, migration and increasing ethnic diversity. Although the majority of new homes completed in this period will be one and two bedroom units not designed for families, the high cost and low availability of family sized units means that, in reality, families are occupying two bedroom homes in significant numbers. With regard to migration, Croydon remains a net exporter of people aged 16 to 44, but the numbers exported have declined by over one thousand people per year. Croydon is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse, with increases anticipated in ethnic groups that traditionally have larger families.

The above factors are combining to produce a period of very rapid growth in pupil numbers to the extent that the school estate is very close to its capacity. In the west of the borough (the A23 corridor), schools are well over capacity but in the east there remains a falling demand for places. This trend is most likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The result is that many pupils have to travel much further to primary schools. Over the next few years the challenge will therefore be to meet the increased demand by removing surplus places in order to increase provision in the areas of greatest need.

Future demand for primary health care services

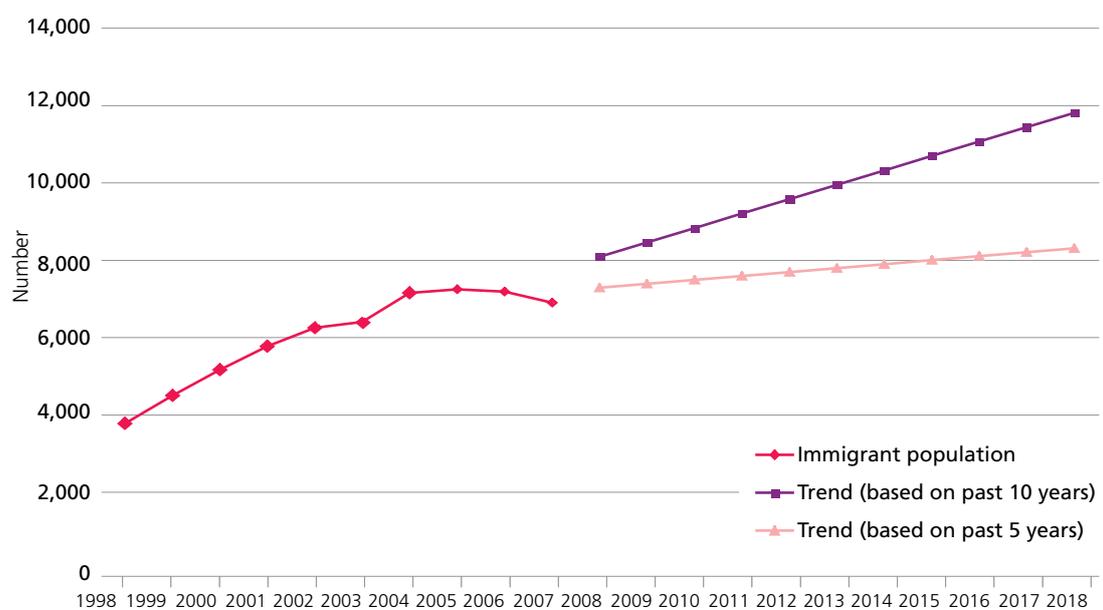
The nature and location of housing development will have a notable impact on future requirement for health services. The nature of the housing developments in particular areas will determine the type of people most likely to move to those areas, for example families, single professional adults or older people. This then influences the likely level of need for health services.

The future health needs of the population are a consequence of three key factors: demographic change; health status and changing health behaviours; and changes in the likelihood of seeking healthcare for any given condition. Quantitative analysis of future demand is limited to the first two categories.

Alongside increases in life expectancy come increases in the need for health care. Increasing age is a major, and unavoidable, risk factor for a range of conditions, particularly cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and musculoskeletal disorders.

Population projections also indicate that the population will become increasingly ethnically diverse, and immigration data from general practice registers suggests that numbers of new arrivals will also continue to rise (Figure 6). Certain ethnic groups are at increased risk of various conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, and low birth weight babies. This will further increase future demands placed on health services.

Figure 6: Projected increase in number of immigrants registered with Croydon general practices



Source: Exeter system

As advances continue to be made with regard to the effectiveness of medical interventions, people diagnosed with many conditions live longer, resulting in increased prevalence of those conditions. Public health observatories have estimated the size of the increase that we might expect for the prevalence of hypertension, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and coronary heart disease (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Projected prevalence increases for some common long term conditions

	2009 actual (diagnosed cases only)	2009 projected	2010 projected	2015 projected	2020 projected
Hypertension	44,281	78,057	79,144	83,395	87,630
Diabetes	15,940	26,794	19,209	21,922	24,737
COPD	3,089	10,679	10,786	11,371	12,028
CHD	8,725	12,028	12,188	13,076	14,078

Source: Information Centre for Health and Social Care for actual diagnoses; Association of Public Health Observatories for projections.

Almost one in four of the population aged 65 or over has more than one chronic condition. This currently represents 10,900 people, and would constitute 11,400 by 2012, 11,900 by 2015 and 12,700 by 2020.

As people live longer with long term conditions, the numbers of people with associated disabilities are likely to increase, as are the numbers of people requiring end of life care.

The extent to which people in Croydon are engaged in taking responsibility for their own health will have a major impact on future health needs. For example, it has been estimated that by 2050, if no action is taken, almost 90% of adults and 66% of children will be overweight or obese. This would result in major health impacts across a range of conditions and significantly increased demand for health and social care services.