

Understanding Equality and Diversity

Age Digest

Produced by the Corporate Research Team, Borough of Poole.



Purpose of this Paper

This paper has been designed to help inform and service and policy planning, and aid focus and prioritisation of services. A series of 7 guides provide available research and statistical evidence relating to the varying needs, experiences and outcomes of different equalities strands in Poole. It provides a top-level view of this specific subject area and identifies contacts and resources for people who would like more detailed information. National information is highlighted in grey throughout.

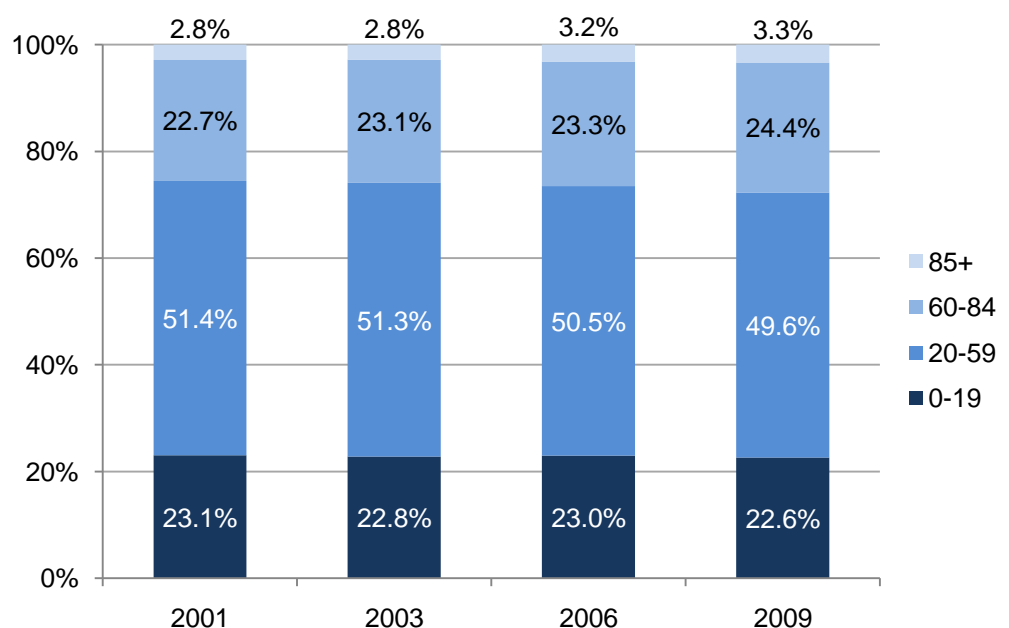
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The Local Population of Interest

Although age is a concept that encompasses everyone, equalities issues tend to arise from perceived and actual variations between age groups.

Most often, this affects people at the extreme ends of the life cycle – children, young people, and older people, whose needs and capabilities may differ from those of the much larger 'adult' population.



The population of the UK is ageing – over the last 25 years the population aged 65 and over increased by 1.5 million people to 16% (2008), and is predicted to rise to 23% by 2033. Over the same period the number of younger people (aged 16 and under) decreased from 21% to 19%. The fastest population increase has been in the number of people aged 85 and over, the ‘oldest old’ (Focus on older people – Office for National Statistics).

Of the 141,200 residents in Poole, 22.6% are under 19 years of age, 24.4% are aged between 60-84 years of age and 3.3% are over 85 years of age, as the chart above shows (ONS 2009 mid-year estimates).

In the next 20 years, Poole’s population will continue to age. It is expected that the proportion of older people living in the Borough will grow to 37% by 2026, whilst the number of young people in the Borough will decline to 15%.

Key Issues for this Strand – Older People (50+)

Health and Longevity e.g. mortality, access to healthcare

Rates of good health decrease steadily with age, whilst the proportion of older people with a long-term illness or disability that restricts their daily activities increases with age (*Neighbourhood Statistics - 2001 Census*). Mental health is a big issue for older people, with depression being the most common mental health problem in later life (*Age Concern & Mental Health Foundation*).
Source: 2001 Census/ ONS Resident Population Estimates

While for the UK, older people (65 and over) account for 16% of the population, they occupy almost two thirds of hospital beds and account for 50% of long-term admissions. NHS Bournemouth & Poole has the second highest rate of hospital admissions in the South West after age standardisation (JSNA, 2008).

The number of older people in Poole with long term limiting illnesses is expected to rise by 29% between 2005-2020, from 13,000 to 17,000 (*A Time of Our Lives – Poole’s Older Peoples Strategy, 2008*). Rates of dementia in over 65’s are predicted to rise by 27% between 2006-2020, with an estimated 3,500 people suffering from dementia by 2020. (*Poole in Profile: Older People in Poole – Health*).

Older people aged 65+ are the least likely to use the Borough’s Leisure centres than other age groups (76% of 65+ year olds never use the facilities, compared to 55% of all residents)(*Poole Opinion Panel, Spring 2009*).

Physical and Legal Security e.g. freedom from violence and discrimination

Older people’s lifestyles can be affected by fear of crime, for example, being afraid of walking alone after dark. Abuse is a risk for older people, 500,000 older people are believed to be abused at any one time in the UK, with two thirds of abuse committed in the home by someone in a position of trust (*Help the Aged*).

Poole has been recognised as the second safest town of it’s size in England, and crime levels are actually falling, however in 2007 more older people believed that crime had gone up a little, or stayed the same, than in 2006 (*Poole Opinion Panel 2007*). In 2009, residents aged 60+ were the most likely to feel that burglary is a problem in Poole (55% of 60-64 & 49% of 65+ year olds thought it was a problem compared to 43% of all residents)(*Poole Opinion Panel, Autumn 2009*).

Education e.g. attainment, access to life-long training and learning

Nationally, only 9% of 65-74 year olds and 7% of over 75 year olds participate in adult education (*Help the Aged*).

The Spring 2007 Poole Opinion Panel Survey found that more people aged between 60 years and over (49%) have participated in Poole Adult Learning courses than 18-29 yr olds (4%). However, of the respondents that did not participate in courses, 40% were aged 60 years and over and 35% were 45-59 years of age.

Standard of Living e.g. housing, transport, independence

In 2001, a third of older households lived in non-decent housing, the most common reason for this being insufficient heating. This proportion increases with age. Nearly two million older people in the UK live in poverty (*Age Concern & Mental Health Foundation*). Household spending priorities change with age, with an increasing proportion of total household spend going on food, housing and fuel (*National Statistics*).

Within the Borough there are several pockets of people who struggle to meet their fuel bills, with 3,940 vulnerable households suffering from fuel poverty in areas such as Poole Town, Oakdale and Penn Hill (*A Time of Our Lives – Poole's Older Peoples Strategy*). In 2001, approximately 6% of older people living in private households in Poole were without central heating, although this figure varies considerably by ward. Branksome West has the highest percentage of older people without central heating at 14% (*Poole in Profile: Older People in Poole – Housing*).

In consultation carried out since 2008, older people in Poole have said that there needs to be clear lines of communication across agencies, and a single place that provides access in a range of services and signposting information should be available in a range of places. It was also expressed that information should be readable, understandable and available in different formats (*A time of our lives 2010: Poole's Older People Strategy*).

Productive and Valued Activities e.g. employment, workplace experience

The proportion of people in work falls sharply with age, from 72% amongst those aged 50-54 to only 10% of people aged 65-69. On average people plan to retire at around 63 years of age. Employees over 55 are twice as likely to be made redundant when a company restructures. (*DWP*)

In the UK there are over 1.5 million people aged 60+ providing unpaid care and over 8,000 carers are aged 90+, 4,000 of these very aged carers provide 50 or more hours care each week (*Carers UK*). 60% of UK childcare is provided by grandparents at a saving to the economy of £4 billion each year (*Age friendly Bournemouth, 2008*).

In 2009 the employment rate in Poole for older people aged 50 to state pension age was 77%, with 4% unemployed (an increase from 1.3% unemployed in 2008) (*nomisweb.co.uk – annual population survey*).

One in four respondents to the 2008 Place Survey were carers. Age was significantly associated with being a carer, with 37% of those aged 50 – 59 and 30% of those aged 60-79 being carers. Respondents aged 80+ were least likely to be carers (13%), followed by those aged 18 – 49 (20%).

Individual, Family and Social Life e.g. independence, equality in relationships

Social Isolation is experienced by one million older people in the UK, and can be a risk factor for poor mental health. (*Age Concern & Mental Health Foundation*)

Anecdotally, we are aware that there are a number of older people who do not engage with statutory or community services within the Borough of Poole. However, more research is required to help identify more specifically who these people are and where they live.

Participation, Influence and Voice e.g. participation in decision making

Election turnout is much higher amongst older people than amongst the rest of the adult population. For example, over 70% of people aged over 55 years voted in the last General Election, compared to 44% of 18-24 year olds (*MORI: How Britain voted in 2010*).

Levels of formal volunteering also vary significantly with age. The Cabinet Office's 2007 project 'Helping Out', found that the proportion of formal volunteers was highest among people in the 35–44 and 55–64 age brackets, with 64% of these groups saying they had helped in some way over the last year. Levels of volunteering were lower among those aged 34 or younger (57%) and lowest in the 65 or over age group (53%) (*Cabinet Office, 2007*)

Older people in Poole are clear that they wish to have more opportunity to engage in voluntary activity (*A time of our lives 2010*). 28% of older respondents to the 2006 Community Involvement Survey (60+years) had volunteered in the previous 12 months, but many others felt that age is a barrier to volunteering. This feeling increases with age, with 32% of 65-74 year olds and 83% of 75+ year olds locally feeling that age is a barrier to volunteering. (*Community Involvement Survey 2006*)

Since 2008, older people in Poole have told us that they would value affordable and accessible opportunities to keep mind and body active, and learning and social opportunities based in local communities (*A time of our lives 2010*).

Key Issues for this Strand – Children and Young People 0-19

Health and Longevity e.g. mortality, access to healthcare

Mental Health is becoming an issue for children and young people in the UK. In 2004, 1 in 10 children aged 5-16 had a clinically recognisable mental disorder such as a conduct disorder or emotional disorder (anxiety or depression). Other health issues include obesity and dental problems (*Neighbourhood Statistics*).

Locally, the number of children referred to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is relatively low, however there are areas in Poole which have a high number of CAMHS referrals (*Poole Profile – Children and Young People*). In general the health of children in Poole is good and improving.

Physical and Legal Security e.g. freedom from violence and discrimination

The most common offences committed by 10-25 year olds in the Offending, Crime and Justice Home Office survey included assault and anti-social behaviour. Young people aged 10-15 were more likely to be the victims of crime, most often at school/college. (*Young*

People and Crime – Home Office Statistical Bulletin). Other issues include Child Protection/abuse and knife crime.

Young people, particularly students, remain especially vulnerable to crime. Young people are also targeted in thefts, particularly of bank cards, cash, and mobile phones. 66% of victims of theft from the person are female, and 43% are aged 15 to 24. People aged 16 to 24 years are more likely than any other age group to be victims (and offenders) of violent crime, especially men aged 18 to 21. Females aged 16 to 24, especially students, are most at risk of being victims of rape and are vulnerable to other forms of sexual assault (*Strategic Assessment 2010*).

Consultation with children and young people has revealed that the vast majority of young people feel safe. 93% feel safe in their homes, and 89% feel safe in play areas. Bullying remains a concern for children and young people, although repeat incidents of bullying reduced from 61% in 2005 to 19% in 2008 (*Improving Opportunities for Children and Young People in Poole 2009-2012*).

Education e.g. attainment, access to life-long training and learning

In the academic year 2007/2008, 66% of young people at the end of KS4 achieved 5 or more grade A* to C G.C.S.E.'s (*Neighbourhood Statistics*). In 2008, 10.3% of 16-18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (*DCSF*).

In Poole the percentage of KS4 pupils in 2007/08 achieving 5 or more A* to C G.C.S.E.'s was 64% (*Neighbourhood statistics*). The percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training in 2008 was 5.4%, lower than the national percentage (*DCSF*).

Standard of Living e.g. housing, transport, independence

In 2006/07, 2.9 million children were living in households below average income, which rose to 3.49 million after taking into account housing costs (*DWP*).

In Poole, research had found that poor outcomes are linked to child poverty and deprivation. In 2007, almost one quarter of Super Output Areas (SOA's) fell within the least deprived quartile of Super Output Areas nationally (*Based on Income Deprivation Affecting Children – IDACI*). In these areas there are high levels of children requiring extra support (*Children & Young People's Needs Analysis, 2007/08*).

Productive and Valued Activities e.g. employment, workplace experience

The 2001 census showed that there are 175,000 young carers in the UK, 13,000 of whom care for more than 50 hours a week. More than half of young carers live in one-parent families and almost a third care for someone with mental health problems.

In Poole approximately 390 5-18 year olds provide unpaid care, around 1.4% of dependent children in Poole. Of those dependent children who provide unpaid care in Poole, 86.2% provide between 1 and 19 hours per week; 6.2% provide between 20 and 49 hours; and 7.7% provide more than 50 hours of unpaid care a week (*Census Bulletin – Dependent Children*).

Individual, Family and Social Life e.g. independence, equality in relationships

Nearly one in four dependent children live in lone-parent families, 91% of which are headed by the mother. (*Census 2001*)

Lone Parent households with dependent children make up around 5.5% of households in Poole (*Corporate Research Facts & Figures – Household Composition, 2001*).

Participation, Influence and Voice e.g. participation in decision making

In general people who are aged under 34 are less likely to vote than those in older age groups. This voting behaviour may be linked to young people's attitudes. In 1998 the British Social Attitudes Survey found that a third of those aged 18 to 24 said everyone has an obligation to vote, compared with four-fifths of the 65 and over age group (*Office of National Statistics*).

Voting turn-out for the 2010 General Election was 44% for 18-24 year olds (an increase of 7% since 2005) (*MORI How Britain voted in 2010*).

37% of the 13-19 year old respondents to the 2008 Youth Survey feel valued as a young person. Those who didn't feel that young people were stereotyped, and that adults did not respect their opinions. Yet despite their perceptions, young people (57%) were almost twice as likely than adults (34%) to feel that they could influence the local decision making process (*2008 Youth Survey*).

17% of the Youth Survey respondents had volunteered during the past month, and 21% had done so within the past 6 months. 49% of these young people would like more opportunity to participate in volunteering. (*2008 Youth Survey*)

Identity, Expression and Self Respect e.g. Religion, Belief

Younger people are more likely to not belong to a religion than older people. Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus have the youngest national age profiles (*Neighbourhood Statistics*).

Only half of the respondents to the 2008 Youth Survey (aged 13-19 years) felt that young people from different backgrounds could get on well together in Poole (51%).

Sources of Information Regarding Age:

The following section provides links to local reports and datasets that offer further insight into the diverse nature of the varying age groups in Poole. However, it should be noted that due to population sizes and inconsistent data monitoring, the information available at local level is often limited. For more robust, national sources of equalities information, please refer to the Improvement and Development Agency '[Equality Evidence Base](#)', and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission '[Review of Equality Statistics](#)'.

Reports Providing Specific Information on Age Groups

A Time of Our Lives – Poole's Older People Strategy - This strategy examines how the quality of life can be improved for all older people in Poole. It is based on the views and ideas put forward by the older population in Poole. It looks at both long and short term actions. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Dependent Children – provides information on dependent children from the 2001 census covering population, accommodation, car or van availability, family type, health, unpaid care and the economic activity of both dependent children and their parents. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Older People 50+ - provides information from the 2001 census on people aged 50+ and covers the population makeup, accommodation, family type, access to cars or vans, health, qualifications and economic activity. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Young People 16-29 – provides information from the 2001 census covering population, tenure, qualifications, economic activity, car or van availability, ethnicity and health. Available [here](#).

Children and Young People’s Needs Analysis, 2006/07 - outlines information about the needs of children and young people in terms of their health, safety, achievement, behaviour and economic wellbeing, and shows where these combine to increase the likelihood of poor outcomes. Available [here](#).

Children and Young People’s Plan – plan to improve opportunities for Children and Young People in Poole. Available [here](#).

Poole Profiles - Children and Young People – outlines information relating to Children and Young People in Poole. It considers demographics, health, safety, education, crime and deprivation, and raises the key issues facing the Borough and its partners as they strive to deliver improved public services that meet local need. Available [here](#).

Poole Profiles – Older People - a series of reports profiling older people covering the following topic areas; demographics, economic wellbeing, health, housing and transport. Available [here](#).

Poole Youth Consultation 2008 – This consultation developed greater understanding of children and young people’s lifestyles and related needs across the Borough to help inform planning across services for this age group. Available [here](#).

Reports Which Contain Analysis of Information By Age Group

Active People Survey 2008 – identifies how participation in sport varies from place to place and between different groups in the population. The survey also measures; the proportion of the adult population that volunteer in sport on a weekly basis, club membership, involvement in organised sport/competition, receipt of tuition or coaching, and overall satisfaction with levels of sporting provision in the local community. Available [here](#)

Census Bulletin – District Population, 2001 – provides a summary of Census 2001 data, covering population data at a district level. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Health – provides a summary of 2001 Census data covering health indicators, dependent children and families. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Population Structure – provides a summary of Census data from 2001 and 2003 covering population structure within Poole by age. Available [here](#).

Community Involvement Survey 2006 – covers voluntary activities Poole residents get involved in and the extent to which they feel they can influence decisions in their local area. Available [here](#)

Deprivation, 2007 – includes analysis based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (the proportion of 0-15 year olds in each LSOA living in income-deprived households) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (the proportion of people aged 60+ in each LSOA living in income-deprived households). Available [here](#).

‘Fair Say’ consultation, 2009 – consultation with residents of Poole to find out how quality of life could be improved for those who may experience barriers. Available [here](#).

New Builds Evaluation, 2008 – summarises the findings of the 2007 New Builds Evaluation, looking at new build housing occupied in the Borough of Poole between 2004-2007. Available [here](#).

Place Survey, 2008 – statutory consultation exercise to find out about what residents think about living in Poole and what needs improving. Available [here](#).

Poole Opinion Panel (biannual) – surveys residents in Poole covering topical issues that may affect the town and services. Available [here](#).

Population projections / demographic data (annual) – highlight annual changes to the local population by age and gender and projected information about the size of the population in future years. Available from the Corporate Research Team on 01202 633361.

Strategic Assessment 2010 – identifies and explores current and emerging threats and gaps that affect Poole in respect of crime, disorder and substance abuse. Available [here](#).

Reports on Age Related Services

Childcare Sufficiency Survey 2007 – aimed to gain a greater understanding of parents' experiences and views of childcare provision, in order to identify parents' concerns and needs for childcare. Available [here](#)

Health and Wellbeing in Bournemouth and Poole – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008 - provides a picture of the current and future needs of the local population to enable comprehensive and better managed care that results in real improvements in health and well-being. Available [here](#).

Poole Community Transport Survey 2008 – This survey aimed to learn more about the experiences of engaging and using the Community Transport Service, and to measure user satisfaction with the current arrangements, in order to guide future development. Available from the Corporate Research Team.

Age Information Sources

Children and Young People’s Needs Analysis - Thirty-six datasets obtained from the Borough and its Strategic partners feed in to the Analysis, providing information about the health, wellbeing and lifestyles of children and young people in the Borough. A full list is available [here](#)

How Fair is Britain? Equalities and Human Rights commission – The first review that examines how far what happens in people’s real lives matches up to the ideals of equality in Britain. The report brings together a range of sources including Census data, surveys and research. Report and supporting evidence available [here](#).

Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Independent development and social research charity, supporting a wide programme of research and development projects in housing, social care and social issues. <http://www.jrf.org.uk/>

Knowledge Base, Equality South West Data Tool - collates and disaggregates (where possible), by local area and by equality strand and socio-economic status, existing data from a wide range of reliable and widely used national data sets, and is capable of detailed interrogation and analysis for a range of local equality purposes. Available [here](#).

Neighbourhood Statistics – Allows you to find detailed statistics within specific geographic areas e.g. Local Authority, Ward, Super Output Area.

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

Nomisweb.co.uk - service provided by the Office for National Statistics providing detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Office for National Statistics - The Office for National Statistics produces independent information to improve our understanding of the UK's economy and society.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

This paper is one in a series of seven profiling the Equalities Strands produced by the Corporate Research Team, Strategy Team, in line with I&Dea guidance on measuring equality at a local level. You can view the papers on ethnicity, disability, faith, gender, social inequalities and sexual orientation [here](#).

Contact the Corporate Research Team on (01202) 633357 or research@poole.gov.uk