

Understanding Equality and Diversity

Gender Digest



Produced by the Corporate Research Team, Borough of Poole.

Purpose of this Paper

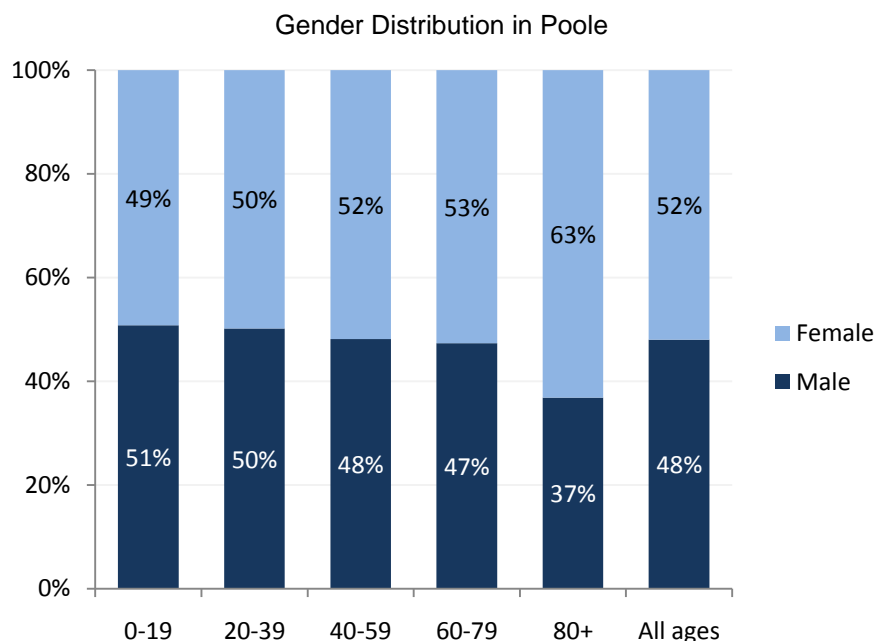
This paper has been designed to help inform and service and policy planning, and aid focus and prioritisation of services. A series of 7 guides provide available research and statistical evidence relating to the varying needs, experiences and outcomes of different equalities strands in Poole. It provides 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 Population of Interest

Of the 141,200 residents in Poole, 48% are Male and 52% Female. From ages 0-19 the number of boys outweighs the number of girls, but from 40+ females outweigh males. The much higher proportion of females at age 80+ reflects the higher mortality rate of older males. These reflect the national trends for gender.



(ONS 2009 mid-year estimates)

Transgender is an umbrella term, originating from the US, that describes a person who adopts the opposite gender role than that assigned to them at birth.

There is no publicly available statistical data on which firm estimates of the transgender population in the UK can be made. The 2000 Home Office report on 'Transsexual People' estimates the population as 5,000, based on the numbers of people who had changed their passport. This estimate is also given in 'Gender Reassignment – A Guide for Employers' (*Government Equalities Office, 2005*). The Gender Recognition Panel reports that 25 new applications for reassignment are received every month.

There is no data for the transgender population in Poole.

Key Issues for this Strand

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

Males experience higher mortality rates and have a lower life expectancy than females (76.9 years male, 81.3 years female for people born 2004-2006). Alcohol-related deaths and illnesses have increased for women and have doubled for men since 1991 (*Neighbourhood Statistics – Focus on Gender*).

Life expectancies at birth for males in Poole is 78 and for females is 82.2. 17% of males and 18% of females living in Poole in 2001 regarded themselves as suffering from a limiting long term illness (*Gender Analysis for Poole: A Briefing Paper*).

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

In 2006, 80% of offenders sentenced for criminal offences were male. Men are also more at risk of being a victim of violence from strangers and acquaintances, with young men aged 16-24 most at risk. Women have a higher risk of domestic violence incidents (*Neighbourhood Statistics – Focus on Gender*).

83% of people admitted to hospital for assault between April and November 2009 were men, and the average age for admittance was 29. Men were also more likely to be admitted due to the toxic effects of alcohol or for a condition related to alcohol (60%) (*Strategic Assessment 2010*). 79% of victims of Domestic Violence in Poole are female, 21% male (*Gender Analysis for Poole: A Briefing Paper*).

70% of women feel "very unsafe" when using Poole's car parks at night, compared to 30% of men (*Poole Opinion Panel, Autumn 2009*).

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

Generally, boys continue to be outperformed by girls at all levels of education in the UK (*Neighbourhood Statistics – Focus on Gender*).

The educational attainment of young people in Poole generally reflects the national trend for gender. However the percentage of GCE candidates with at least 3 A-levels at grade A (2005) was higher for males (9.4%) than females (8.2%) (*Gender Analysis for Poole: A Briefing Paper*).

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

Women are less likely than men to own their own home either outright or with the help of a mortgage. In 2006 women headed 9 out of 10 lone-parent families, with 45% of households in temporary accommodation being female lone parent households with dependent children (*Neighbourhood Statistics – Focus on Gender*). A half of all people in lone parent families are in low income, two and a half times the rate for couples with children (*Poverty.org.uk – Households below average income, Sep 2008*).

In Poole, in 2001, there were 3,277 lone-parent households, 315 of which were headed by a male and 2,962 headed by a female (*Gender Analysis for Poole: A Briefing Paper*).

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

In 2007 the pay gap between women's median hourly pay and men's was 12.6%, with men's hourly rate being £11.96 and women's £10.46 (*Neighbourhood Statistics – Focus on Gender*).

In Poole, data suggests that full-time female workers have a median income of 72% of the corresponding figure for men. However, this data is not statistically reliable (*Gender Analysis for Poole: A Briefing Paper*).

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

Women with children are less likely to be in employment than women without children, whereas men with dependent children are more likely to be in work than those without children (*Neighbourhood Statistics – Focus on Gender*).

In Poole, 64% of male single parents are employed compared with 51% of female single parents (*Gender Analysis for Poole: A Briefing Paper*).

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

Women are under-represented in many jobs and positions with power and influence; 18% of MPs and 24% of UK MEPs are women (*Neighbourhood Statistics*).

Greater proportions of males in Poole are Managers or Professionals than females, whereas more females are in admin, secretarial, personal service occupations and sales and customer service roles than men. (*Gender Analysis for Poole: A Briefing Paper*).

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

Men form the majority of the 'no religion' group at 56% (*Neighbourhood Statistics*).

Key Issues for this Strand – Transgender

Very little data exists on transgender issues, and it is important to consider how representative the existing data is – there are many small sub-communities under the title of transgender and data collected in relation to trans-women may not be representative of data from trans-men. The data in this section is all taken from The Equalities Review report 'Engendered Penalties', published in 2007.

Health and Longevity

Confidence in the NHS can sometimes be low, with issues arising with help provided from GPs, funding available for treatment, long waiting times, and refusal of services. Mental health problems may also be an issue, although this area is under-researched.

Physical and Legal Security

Research has highlighted high levels of victimisation in relation to Transphobia, including harassment by strangers on the street, verbal abuse and physical assault. Other issues raised include confusion and problems with changing documentation, for example, the gender recognition certificate.

Education

Incidents of bullying/harassment experienced by transgender young people in schools has been found to be higher than those in studies of gay and lesbian young people.

Standard of Living

Issues arise around the use of public social and leisure facilities due to a fear of receiving discriminatory treatment.

Productive and Valued Activities

Issues that arise around employment can be a fear of threat to employment status or feeling obliged to change jobs, being made to use an inappropriate facilities during early stages of transition and receiving verbal abuse.

Individual, Family and Social Life

Transgender people can feel isolated, and can often lose the support of a family network, home or friendship circles during the transition to their chosen gender.

Participation, Influence and Voice

Transgender people sometimes report feeling informally excluded from their local community and neighbourhood after their transition.

Identity, Expression and Self Respect

There is a possibility that there are more issues/harassment experienced by trans-women than trans-men due to limitations of surgery and medicine.

Sources of Information Regarding Gender:

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](#)'.

Strategy Team / Corporate Research Team – Updated October 2010

Reports Providing Specific Information on Gender

Poole Profiles – Gender Analysis for Poole – provides information on men and women in Poole with respect to a range of socio-economic indicators. Where appropriate, national comparisons are made. Available [here](#).

Fairness for all Equalities Scheme, 2009 - 2012 – outlines the Borough's vision for positively promoting equality and respecting diversity in the community, in service delivery and employment practice. Available [here](#).

Reports Which Contain Analysis of Information By Gender

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](#).

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](#)

Community Involvement Survey 2006 - Survey covering voluntary activities people get involved in and the extent to which residents feel they can influence decisions in their area. Available from the Corporate Research Team.

Census Ward Bulletins – provide information from the 2001 Census at Ward level, including data on population, ethnic and religious make up, health, dwelling, households, vehicle availability and economic activity. Available from the Corporate Research Team.

Equality and Diversity, 2005 – an overview of the population in Poole highlighting differences across age, disability, gender, race, faith, and sexual orientation. 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 people think about living in Poole and what needs improving. Available [here](#).

Poole Health Profiles (annual) – give a snapshot of the health of Poole's population. The profiles are designed to support action by local government and primary care trusts to tackle health inequalities and improve people's health. Available [here](#).

Poole Opinion Panel Survey (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.

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](#).

Gender Information Sources

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>

Pride, Progress and Transformation – Equality South West – A survey conducted in 2010 to identify the real issues for LGB and Trans people living, working and visiting the South West Region. The results of this survey will be available [here](#).

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 disability, age, ethnicity, faith, social inequalities and sexual orientation [here](#).

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