

March
2017

State of Dorset

Diversity



Dorset County Council

There are many definitions available for the term 'diversity' but they all cover the same fundamental issues. These include the recognition of differences, respecting those differences and appreciating the fact that different perspectives are valuable and can bring real benefits to society in general. There are nine protected characteristics within our strands of diversity.

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Religion & Belief
- Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Ethnicity

Big Numbers Box

27%

of Dorset's population is aged 65+

105 females for every **100** males

2,212

living in a same sex relationship

1 in 3 of Christchurch's population is aged 65+

One in five of all residents have a health condition that limits their day to day activities

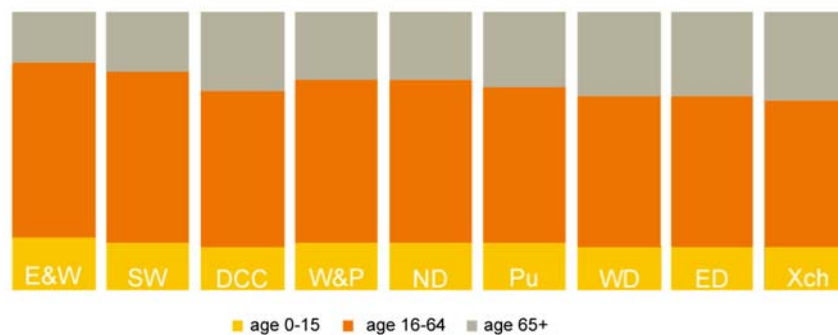
5,985

follow a non-Christian religion

4.5% of Dorset's population are Black or Minority Ethnic

Box 1: Age & religion¹

Age structure, 2015



- Dorset has a much greater proportion (**27%**) of the population aged 65 and over than England and Wales (18%).
- Some districts have almost one in three residents aged 65 and over.
- The five major non-Christian world religions Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism constitute **1%** of Dorset's residents' religious beliefs.
- Dorset's main non-Christian religious groups are concentrated in Dorset's towns. Weymouth has just over **300** residents of Muslim faith. There are also concentrations around military establishments such as Blandford Camp where the Gurkha's and their families live who are predominantly Hindu in their religious belief.

Please note: *Robust statistical data at a Local Authority level on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity does not currently exist apart from data on couples living in a same sex relationship from the Census 2011 (see Big Numbers Box).*

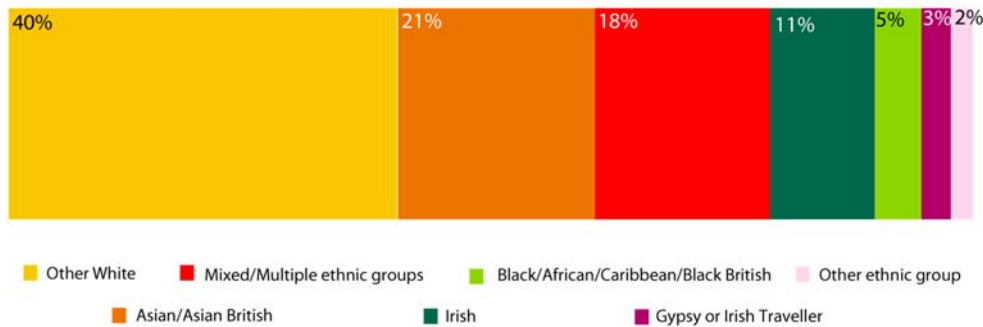
Sources

- 1 Census 2011, ONS
- Mid-year population estimates (2015), ONS
- Department of Work and Pensions 2015



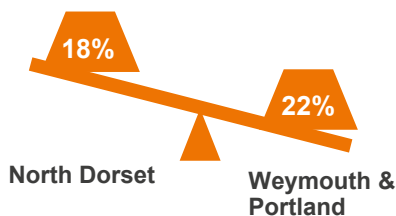
Box 2: BME and disability¹

Makeup of non-White British residents in Dorset



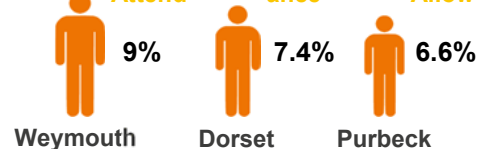
- Dorset has much lower levels (4.5%) of Black and Minority ethnic (BME) residents than the country as a whole (19.5%).
- The highest proportion of Dorset's BME population are classified as 'White Other' who make up approximately 40% of Dorset's BME population.
- One in five of Dorset's population consider that they have a long term health problem or disability.

% of Dorset residents with long-term health problem or disability.



- Another method for looking at the number of residents with a disability is to consider those claiming either disability living allowance or attendance allowance.

% of Dorset residents claiming Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance



Why does this matter?

The recognition of differences, respecting those differences and appreciating the fact that different perspectives are valuable and can bring real benefits to society is fundamental. Every community is made up of individuals and if we are to serve our residents to the best of our ability then understanding and respecting their different needs and perspectives is essential.

Sources

1 Census 2011, ONS
 Mid-year population estimates (2015), ONS
 Department of Work and Pensions 2015