

May
2019

State of Dorset Older People



The number of older people living in Dorset will continue to grow, adding to increased demand for health and care services.

Over the next decade, the number of those aged 85+ is expected to increase by 19%¹.

Big Numbers Box

375,100 Total population
in 2017

Aged 65+
in Dorset **28%**

In England
& Wales **18%**

1.8% pa
Growth in those
aged 65+ over
next decade

81 years
Life expectancy males

84 years
Life expectancy females

Box 1: Population Change

In the last year:

- Overall the population of Dorset has increased by 0.5% (1,800)².
- Deaths outnumbered births by about 1,500 so Dorset's net natural population declined².
- Migration gives a net gain of around 3,100. Around 24,400 people moved into Dorset from other parts of the UK and around 21,800 moved out. International migration gave a net gain of around 500².
- The greatest net migration gain is of children and those aged 60-69 whereas there is a net loss of 15-24 year olds².

Age profile 2017



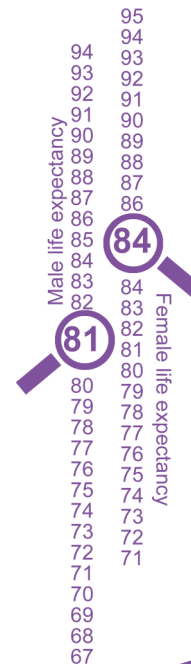
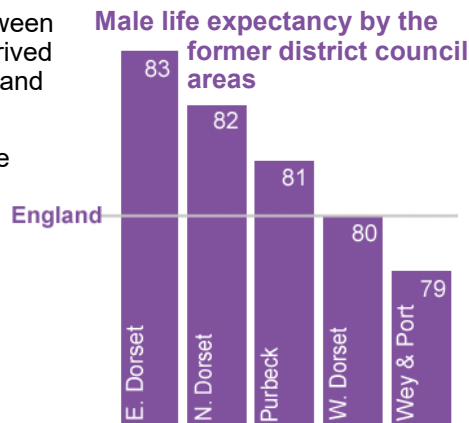
- Over the next ten years (2017 to 2027), the percentage of Dorset residents aged 65+ is expected to grow by 1.8% per annum. That's an increase of 20,700 people - and around 3,000 will be aged 85+¹.
- This isn't happening in Dorset alone but in Dorset we have a higher starting point. 28% of our population is aged 65+ (106,100) compared with 18% in England & Wales².

Sources

- 1 2017-based trend population projections, ONS
- 2 2017 Mid-year estimates, ONS
- 3 Life expectancy at birth (2015-17), ONS

Box 2: Life Expectancy

- Increased life expectancy and continuing migration - largely from other parts of the UK - account for the growing population of older people.
- Life expectancy at birth for both males (80.9 years) and females (84.4) is above the national average (England males 79.6 years and females 83.1).³
- Life expectancy varies throughout Dorset, with the former area of Weymouth and Portland slightly below England.
- The life expectancy gap between Dorset's most and least deprived areas is 6.0 years for males and 5.2 years for females.⁴
- Healthy life expectancy is the number of years a person would be expected to live in good health. In Dorset, there is a difference of 17 years between healthy life expectancy and overall life expectancy for men, and 19 years for women.⁵



What are we doing about it?

Over the next decade many more of us will move into the 65+ and 85+ age groups. More family members will find themselves acting as informal carers: in 2011 the Census identified 43,000 unpaid carers in Dorset, an increase of 18% since 2001. Demand for formal care workers will also grow – and it's already very difficult to recruit people, particularly in rural areas. Dorset has been working with councils across the South West to promote caring as a career under the banner 'Proud to Care'.

Staying fitter for longer improves people's physical and mental wellbeing. Dorset's councils maintain green spaces, fund services such as 'LiveWell Dorset'⁶ and support 'Prevention at Scale' through a multi-agency Sustainability and Transformation Plan. Information and advice for all has been enhanced via on-line resources, including a Carers Hub, but other formats are still provided. Dorset has launched a 'Prepare to Live Better' campaign, encouraging people to plan ahead by thinking about future needs and maintaining independence, how technology and equipment might help and building financial stability.

As older people live longer, feelings of loneliness and isolation can develop when they are supported to remain in their own homes. The availability of housing for younger people can also be impacted. The council produces population projections going forwards 25 years to anticipate housing need and inform local plans, including demand for specialist provision for older people. We work with developers to encourage and support the building of accessible and affordable housing options.

Sources

- 4 Dorset Health Profile 2018, Public Health England, 03 July 2018
 5 Health state life expectancy at birth by local areas, UK, 2015-2017, ONS
 6 <https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/>

DCC Adult Social Care Annual Report:
<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/making-it-real-pdfs/dorsets-local-account-for-adult-social-care-services.pdf>