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2020

State of Dorset Older People



In this bulletin all data relates to statistics that pre-date Covid unless stated otherwise

The population of Dorset, mirroring that of the UK, is aging. It is happening more rapidly in Dorset due to our larger older population and declining birth rate. The median age in Dorset is 51, up by 4 years since 2009, compared to a median age of just 40 for England, up by less than one year in the last 10 years.¹ Typically Older People refers to those who are no longer of working age, so traditionally 65+. However with increased life expectancy an increasing number of people find themselves either having to work, or wanting to work beyond what was traditionally retirement age.

Big Numbers Box

31,000 Population of 80+ year olds in 2019

Aged 65+ in Dorset **29%**

In England & Wales **19%**

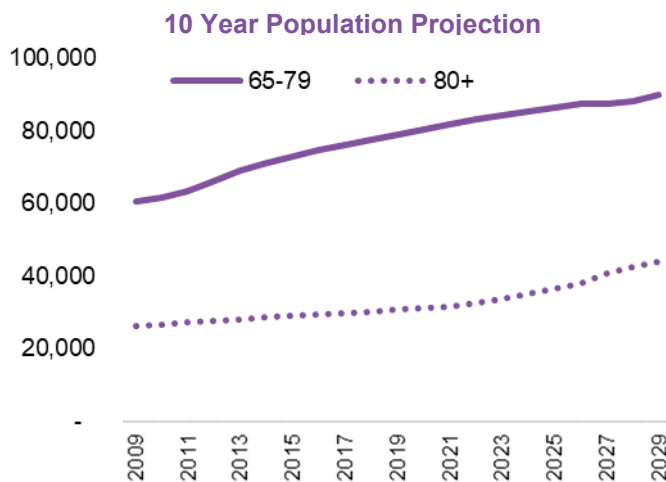
2% pa

Growth in those aged 65+ over next decade

81 years
Life expectancy males

85 years
Life expectancy females

Box 1: Population



The population of those aged between 65 and 79 has grown by 31% between 2009 and 2019 and is projected to grow a further 14% to 2029. Those aged 80+ have grown by 18% between 2009 and 2019 and is projected to grow by 43% to 2029^{1,2}.



Nationwide migration of older people is driven by movement out of urban areas to rural and coastal areas. Net migration figures in Dorset are highest for the 60-65 yr old age group³.

The Old Age Dependency Ratio (OADR) is the number of people over 65yrs old for every 1,000 people aged between 16 and 64 years old. In England there are 295 older people per 1,000 working age population in Dorset this figure is 527¹.



Nationally 64% of the total growth in the number of households over the next ten years is where the Household Representative Person is aged 75 year or over. In Dorset this figure is 102%.

The institutional population of those aged 75+ is projected to grow by 28% in Dorset, slightly above the average for England of 26%.⁴

Box 3: Life expectancy

Life expectancy over the last few decades has been steadily increasing nationally. At the age of 65 a woman in Dorset would expect to live for a further 23 years while a man 20 years.⁵

As well as living longer people are also living healthier lives. Dorset has above average healthy life expectancy; at age 65 females in Dorset can expect to live a further 12.6 years in good/fairly good health, males 11.6 years. Compared to 11.1 and 10.6 respectively for England.⁶

The life expectancy gap between Dorset's most and least deprived areas is 6.3 years for males and 5.3 years for females.⁷



With increases in life expectancy, no official retirement age and the state pension age rising, 65 as the start of older age could be becoming out of date⁸.

Nationally employment rate for those aged 65+ has risen over the past ten years from 7.4 in the Feb-Apr quarter of 2009 to 11.3 in the same quarter in 2020.⁹

6% of the total workforce in Dorset Council at the time of the last Census were aged 65 or over, compared to 3% for England.¹⁰



In England and Wales one in five carers is aged 50 to 69. In 2016 informal adult care was valued at £59.5 billion per year for the UK.⁸ According to Census 2011 30% of the 43,500 unpaid carers were aged 65 and over compared to 22% for England. As the population ages there will be increased need for informal care but also a need for older people to stay in the workforce longer.



What are we doing about it?

With the population of Dorset continuing to age, demand for both formal and informal care will also grow. It is already very difficult to recruit formal care workers, 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.

The availability of appropriate housing is key to supporting older people to maintain their health and wellbeing. 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

1. 2019 Mid-year estimates, Office for National Statistics
2. 2019-based trend population projections, DC
3. 2019 Population Components of Change, ONS
4. 2018 based Household Projections, ONS
5. Life expectancy at birth (2017-19), ONS
6. Health State Life Expectancy (2016-18), ONS
7. Dorset Health Profile 2019, Public Health England,
8. Living Longer Bulletins, ONS
9. Labour Force Survey, 2020
10. Census 2011