2014 Mid-Year population estimates in Dorset

Welcome to this ourcommunities bitesize bulletin on mid-year population estimates for Dorset. This edition will include the current population in Dorset, its changes and why this matters. The mid-year population estimates are the official statistic produced annually by the Office of National Statistics.

The total population has increased by 1,500 since 2013 with those aged 65+ increasing in particular. Births are at the lowest since 2006 whilst net migration is at the highest for seven years.

Box 1: What has caused the population to increase 2013-14?

- There were more deaths than births between 2013 and 2014 resulting in a net natural decline in the population.
- More people moved into the area than out, meaning that the population still increased.
- Without this positive net migration the population would have declined.

Box 2: How has the population changed over the last ten years?

- Migration into the country was at its highest between 2006-07, influenced by the EU expansion in 2005
- There was a significant drop in net migration between 2008-09 this was as a result of the financial crisis and a drop in moves in and out of the area
- There was an increase in births across the time period 2008 to 2012 but these were still outweighed by deaths
- Births decreased between 2013-14 and deaths remained higher leading to a larger negative net natural change
Box 3: How has the age structure changed since 2004?

- The greatest gain since 2004 has been in those aged 65-69, a result of the ageing of the baby boomers.
- The number of those aged 5-19 has dropped since 2004 whilst those aged 0-4 have increased. This is a result of the recent increase in births in Dorset.

2004 males
2004 females
2014 males by age
2014 females by age

Box 4: Why does it matter?

These demographic changes are likely to have an impact on the needs of residents and demand for services, in particular the over 85s. Whilst ageing of the population will also occur nationally, this is more pronounced in Dorset due to the already significantly older age structure. This highlights the urgency for Dorset in planning services for older people and supporting carers. Associated with this is the rise in one person households, increasing challenges for council services and putting additional pressure on housing. Loneliness and isolation is a particular issue in Dorset and further information can be found at www.dorsetforyou.com/article/339524/Research-and-data-bulletins.

Our shrinking population aged between 30 and 44 will impact on employers looking to recruit staff and replace the growing numbers of those retiring. Whilst these losses are partially offset by gains in those aged 25-29 and 50-59, there is still potential for considerable impact on the local economy.

Further challenges also exist in the previous year on year increase in birth rates leading to growth in the number of children aged 0-4 years impacting on school provision. The previous trend of an increase in births may have come to an end as births between 2013-14 are the lowest since 2006. Nonetheless, gains in previous years will be reflected throughout school years and so pupil place planning should consider when and where demands will be at their highest, impacting on school roll numbers, staffing and travel to school.