State of Dorset

May 2019

Diversity
Economy

Older People
Deprivation

Children
Population

Health and Wellbeing
Crime

Natural and Historic Environment
Leisure and Culture

Produced by Intelligence, Insight & Performance
Introduction

Welcome to the State of Dorset for the new Dorset Council area. Following Local Government Reorganisation, Dorset Council came into effect on 1st April 2019, and covers the area previously under West Dorset District Council, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, North Dorset District Council, East Dorset District Council and Purbeck District Council. The new area comprises a population of 375,100 which is around 49,600 fewer people than the Dorset County Council area.

This compendium of bulletins brings together statistical and contextual information relating to ten themes important to Dorset: Children, Crime, Deprivation, Diversity, Economy, Health and Care, Leisure and Culture, Natural and Historic Environment, Older People and Population.

These themes cover most aspects of life affecting people living or working in Dorset. In many ways they are inter-related with trends identified in one theme also appearing across the others. For this reason, the bulletins should be looked at as a whole rather than as discrete topics. For example, the increasing number of older people living in Dorset is a factor that directly appears in four of the bulletins and arguably indirectly affects a couple more.

We hope that the bulletins will help inform understanding of other reports and data analysis relating to the issues identified. Users may also find the bulletins useful sources of evidence when budget setting, writing funding applications, writing policies and identifying areas for further research.

The bulletins are by their nature snapshots of the situation in Dorset at a particular time and do not attempt to provide detailed explanations for the statistics or findings. If you require further information on a topic we would encourage you to look at the many other reports and data sources on Dorset Statistics.

It is hoped that by identifying Dorset’s weaknesses and strengths, the new council and its partners will be able to work together for a strong and successful Dorset, enabling economic growth and promoting health, wellbeing and safeguarding.

For DORSET STATISTICS, see https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/
Change in Dorset’s demographic make-up can have an impact on service demands and provision but can also affect housing demand and business needs.

Changes in our population are shaped by both natural change (births and deaths) and by migration into and out of Dorset.

By projecting future population change, we can plan to target services and resources to the places where they will be needed most.

In the Dorset Council area, deaths outnumber births giving net decline in the natural population.

Growth in Dorset’s population therefore arises from positive net migration, with in migration normally greater than out migration each year.

Over the period 2007-2017, Dorset’s population grew by 12,000, growth of about four per cent compared with eight per cent nationally.
Dorset's working age population is expected to see a marginal decline over this period compared with marginal growth nationally. Corresponding with the national trend, the greatest part of this growth is among those aged 65+, increasing at 1.5% pa. Dorset’s working age population is expected to see a marginal decline over this period compared with marginal growth nationally. The 85+ age group is projected to double between 2017 and 2042. However, the population of working age dropped by 9,100 in Dorset – and the number of children fell by 1,400. There was also a net loss of 15-19 year olds from Dorset to other parts of the UK, with net gains mostly among those aged 30+.

Over the next 25 years, Dorset’s population is projected to grow at a slower rate to the national average at about 0.3% per annum compared to 0.6%.

The 85+ age group is expected to continue to grow. The 65+ age group is projected to double between 2017 and 2042.

**What are we doing about it?**

The council produces population projections which look forward 25 years and are revised on an annual basis. These projections can be used to anticipate local housing need and inform local plans which identify land for housing. The projections also help with school place planning - a growing population of children creates a demand for school places and support services. The ageing population can affect housing supply and demand by continuing to live in under-occupied homes, either from preference or because they require or requiring specially designed dwellings.

An ageing population has an impact on the economy as more employees move into retirement with a potential loss of skills from the workforce, unless employers up-skill other workers and train apprentices. The council works with partners to secure and deliver European Social Funds for initiatives to upskill the workforce and help people into employment. It also provides adult learning courses and promotes the benefits of retaining and training older staff. The Dorset Mentoring Scheme enables experienced business people to help fledgling companies by sharing their experience and mentoring through the early years.

To support the growing number of older people, Dorset is helping people plan for their future care needs with a campaign: Prepare to Live Better. The council also provides advice and support to carers. Keeping fit and healthy into old age improves people’s physical and mental wellbeing and reduces the demand for public services. Investing in green spaces and providing information through services like ‘Live Well Dorset’ can be much more cost effective than clinical interventions and other support.

**Sources**

1 https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/adultlearning
2 Lifelong learning for an ageing workforce available at https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/
3 http://www.dormen.org.uk/
4 https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/
5 2016-based 25-year national population projections, ONS

Throughout: 2017 Mid-year estimates, ONS; 2017-based trend projections, 2017-2042, Dorset Council

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Experiences in a child’s early years lay a foundation for health and wellbeing and our services for children and families have an important role in building future resilience.

By identifying those most at risk of poorer outcomes later on, our resources can be targeted where they are needed most so that we can respond to risk and vulnerability.

The number of 0-4 year olds is expected to decrease by about 600, but the number of 5-15 year olds will increase by about 800 between 2017 and 2027¹.

59,800² total children
415 children and young people in care in Dorset
2.2% primary school children with a SEN or EHC plan
44 child protection rate per 10,000 children
61 looked after children in every 10,000 in Dorset
43% of deprived children achieved the Basics measure at GCSE

Box 1: Vulnerable children

- Vulnerable groups include:
  - those from deprived socio-economic backgrounds;
  - those with special educational needs;
  - children from particular ethnic groups.

- As of January 2019, 405 pupils are designated with a Special Educational Need defined as Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and with an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan)³.

- In April 2019, there were 415 children and young people in care in Dorset⁴.

The child protection rate in April 2019 was 44 per 10,000 children compared with 45 in England (2018)³.

The rate of looked after children was 61 per 10,000 children in April 2019, compared to 64 in England (2018)³.

Sources
1 2017-based trend population projections, ONS
2 2017 Mid-year estimates, 0-15 year-olds, ONS
3 Dorset Council, Children’s Services
Box 2: Education

- In 2018 71% of pupils achieved a ‘Good Level of Development’ at the end of Reception year, an increase of 2% on 2017, but 1% below the national3.
- Schools are now scored on pupil progress between KS2 and KS4 (Progress 8). A score above zero shows that pupils made more progress than the national average (England=0). Dorset scored 0.04 in 2018, a big improvement on 2017 when it scored below average6.
- 65% of pupils achieved the ‘Basics’ measure (standard pass or higher in English and Maths GCSE), this is above the national figure of 64%. For pupils eligible for Free School Meals the figure was 43% compared to the national figure of 40%3.
- 15% of primary pupils claim Free School Meals, marginally below the national average7.

What are we doing about it?

There is evidence to show that what a child experiences in early years, starting in the womb, affects health and wellbeing in later life. Early intervention is therefore key and cutbacks in spending on this for short term financial gain can lead to greater long term costs, both financial and social5.

By creating Family Partnership Zones, the council is working with partners and communities to ensure children get the right help, at the right time and in the right place, to prevent difficulties for families from becoming bigger problems. The idea is that organisations work together to ensure positive outcomes for children and young people and support them all the way from birth to getting a job.

Through working with our partners to ensure that we all take a ‘whole family approach’, the council uses early intervention programmes, such as the Troubled Families programme, which aims to reduce demand and dependency on costly reactive public services by families experiencing complex issues, and deliver better value for the taxpayer.

The council works with partners to support parents and children in the early years through a range of Early Childhood Services. This includes information and advice; parenting support; group work activities; support to access childcare; help with preparing for school; and education and training opportunities.

Evidence suggests that smarter working with the whole family leads to improved outcomes and better value for money and, as some will need ongoing support, there needs to be a continuum of services to support vulnerable people over time.

Sources
4 Pupil Census January 2019, DC
5 Dorset Achievement Update Summary, 2019, Dorset County Council
6 C4E0 Grasping the Nettle: early intervention for children, families and communities
7 Pupil Census January 2019, DCC (excludes special schools)

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In a national context, crime in the Dorset Council area is consistently very low, well below the average in England.

Although total recorded crime has risen by 8% this year compared to last year, this reflects a national trend and is partly due to improved crime recording practices and changes to Home Office recording standards. This applies to violent crime (particularly violence without injury offences), sexual offences, stalking and harassment and public order offences.3

**Big Numbers Box**

- **624** serious sexual offences in Dorset last year
- **1 in 7** of all anti-social behaviour incidents in Dorset occur in Melcombe Regis in Weymouth
- **78%** of sexual assaults are committed against women
- **8,358** anti-social behaviour incidents
- **1,831** domestic abuse incidents

**Box 1: Dorset Community Safety Partnership Priorities**

- **Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence**
- **Serious Violence and Criminal Exploitation**
- **Acquisitive Crime**
- **Public Order and ASB**
- **Non-domestic Violence**

- In 2018-19 there were 8,358 incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Dorset Council area.
- 73% of these were classified as nuisance, 17% personal and 10% environmental.
- Weymouth has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour across the Dorset Council area.
- The Melcombe Regis area accounts for 14% of all anti-social behaviour incidents in the Dorset Council area.
- There were 624 serious sexual offences in the Dorset Council area last year.
- There were 1,831 domestic abuse incidents in the Dorset Council area last year.

**Sources**

1 Dorset Police statistics for the Dorset Council area
2 Comparing 2017/18 to 2018/19
3 For more information on changes to the way the police record crime: ‘Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2018’, Office for National Statistics, 25/04/19
**Box 2: Other Crime**

Crimes in the Dorset Council area

- Total crimes were higher this year than in previous years.
- Purbeck is the former district with the lowest crime rate in Dorset... and Weymouth and Portland has the highest.
- The summer usually sees the most crime each year. This could be because of the better weather over summer, the holidays and the longer daylight hours.
- Last year 84% of residents surveyed across Dorset said that they felt safe walking alone after dark.

**In the last year**:
- Violent crime rose by 24%
- Theft rose by 1%
- Dwelling crime fell by 10%
- Drug offences rose by 4%
- Compared to other areas, crime in the Dorset Council area is consistently low. Last year, Dorset had a lower crime rate than most council areas.

**What are we doing about it?**

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together local authorities, the police and other key partners to tackle crime and community safety issues. The CSP aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime; address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities; and facilitate the strengthening of Dorset's communities in the delivery of local initiatives.

Crime and the fear of crime have a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of residents. The CSP undertakes annual assessments of local community safety issues and puts in place plans to address them.

**Sources**

2 Comparing 2017/18 to 2018/19
Deprivation has a significant impact on health and wellbeing. The Dorset Council areas of deprivation are largely located in the most urban areas - in particular the former borough of Weymouth & Portland - but many of Dorset’s rural communities could also be considered deprived in terms of barriers to housing and essential services. The English Indices of Deprivation divides the Dorset Council geography into 219 areas.

As the number of older people living in rural areas grows, the challenge of access to facilities and pressure on health and care services will accelerate.

**Box 1: Social deprivation**

- There are ten areas (out of a total of 219) in Dorset within the top 20% most deprived nationally for multiple deprivation, down from 12 in 2010¹.

- Nine of these are within the former borough of Weymouth and Portland, one is in the former West Dorset District area.

  10 areas in Dorset suffer high deprivation

- 46% of Dorset’s population lives in rural areas³. Barriers to housing and essential services are significant in Dorset reflecting rurality and distance from services. 66 Dorset neighbourhoods fall in the 20% most deprived nationally for this measure: in the former council areas, 21 are in West Dorset and 20 in North Dorset¹.

- The gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of the former Dorset County Council area is 6.0 years for men and 5.2 years for women⁴.

- 20 of Dorset’s neighbourhoods are in the 20% most deprived nationally in relation to education¹.

**Sources**

1 English Indices of Deprivation (2015), DCLG
2 Dorset Health Profile 2018, Public Health England, 03 July 2018
3 Census of Population, 2011

*Most deprived = an area falls within the top 20% nationally
Box 2: Economic deprivation

In the former local authority areas:

- Seven neighbourhoods in Dorset fall into the top 20% nationally for income deprivation (up from five in 2010) - seven of these are in the former borough of Weymouth and Portland.

- Weymouth and Portland residence based weekly earnings are £503 per week compared with £571 in Great Britain.

Weekly earnings for people living in Weymouth and Portland are 88% of national earnings.

- In Dorset, about 15,400 people aged 16-64, plus 2,800 children live in 12,900 workless households. 12% of Dorset households were workless, slightly below the national figure.

- In 2017, lower end house prices were more than ten times higher than lower end earnings in Dorset - and even higher in the former local authority areas of East Dorset and Purbeck.

What are we doing about it?

Deprivation can be thought of as a lack of the basic necessities. It covers a wide range of factors that impact heavily on both individuals and families and consequently on council services, as those likely to suffer deprivation rely more heavily on intervention and support from the public sector.

Deprivation is also a key challenge to health and wellbeing with levels of obesity and other lifestyle related conditions higher amongst those living in deprivation. One way that the council promotes healthy living is by providing information on local sports clubs, gyms, cycle routes and leisure activities.

Dorset’s economic strategy and vision recognises the links between economic prosperity and health and wellbeing and the council aims to help create the right conditions for economic and jobs growth.

Early intervention can prevent problems from escalating. For example, by working with deprived families early on, the council’s Troubled Families programme is intended to reduce demand for costly reactive public services.

Areas of high deprivation also correlate strongly with higher levels of certain types of crime such as anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and burglary. The council and its partners work together through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership to tackle crime.

Sources

4 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2018), ONS (full time gross weekly earnings)
5 Annual Population Survey (2017), Households by combined economic activity status, ONS
6 Ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings (2017), DCLG

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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
- Sex
- Religion & Belief
- Gender reassignment
- Sexual Orientation
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Ethnicity

Big Numbers Box

- 28% of Dorset’s population is aged 65+ of Dorset’s population is aged 65+
- 105 females for every 100 males in Dorset
- 1,866 living in a same sex relationship
- Almost 1 in 3 of the former East Dorset area’s population is aged 65+
- One in five of all residents have a health condition that limits their day to day activities
- 4.4% of Dorset’s population are Black or Minority Ethnic
- 5,266 follow a non-Christian religion

Box 1: Age & Religion

Age structure in the former district council areas, 2017

- Dorset has a much greater proportion (28%) of the population aged 65 and over than England and Wales (18%)\(^1\).
- Some of the former districts have almost one in three residents aged 65 and over\(^2\).
- The five major non-Christian world religions Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism constitute 1% of Dorset’s residents’ religious beliefs\(^3\).

**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 Mid-year population estimates (2017), ONS
2 Census 2011, ONS
Dorset has much lower levels (4.4%) of Black and Minority ethnic (BME) residents than the country as a whole (19.5%)². The highest proportion of Dorset's BME population are classified as 'White Other' who make up approximately 41% of Dorset's BME population². This classification includes people who identify as white but who do not have UK national identity (English, Welsh Scottish, Northern Irish and British). An example would be Polish.

One in five of Dorset's population consider that they have a long term health problem or disability².

Another method for looking at the number of residents with a disability is to consider those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance

What are we doing about it?
The council is committed to equality of opportunity, promoting diversity and eliminating discrimination. The recognition and respect of differences, and appreciating different perspectives along with the valuable benefits they can bring to society is fundamental.

We believe that people have a fundamental right to fair treatment regardless of their age, disability, ethnicity or race, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief. We aim to support diversity by the way we deliver our services, employ people and in our role as community leaders.

We undertake research with residents to identify needs, so that, if necessary, we can tailor services to meet those needs. We also publish workforce profiles which provide an accurate picture of the makeup of the workforce within each local authority. It allows us to consider how our activities as employers affect our staff with different protected characteristics. It also enables us to identify future work which will assist us in continuing to support our employees.

Sources
3 Stat-Xplore, Department of Work and Pensions, February 2018 & 2017 Mid-year estimates, ONS

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The UK has a productivity gap with output per hour below the average for the rest of the G7 major industrialised countries. In Dorset, for every hour worked we produce almost 19% less than the UK average.

**Big Numbers Box**
- **20,000** businesses
- **143,000** employees
- **11,000** expected employment growth by 2027
- **36%** workers in high productivity employment
- **£523** weekly pay for full-time employees working in Dorset
- **£1.7bn** Value of Dorset's productivity gap
- **36%** of workforce aged 50+
- **18%** self-employed
- **5,100** Expected fall in the working age population over the next 10 years

**Box 1: Businesses**
- Although business survival is good, we have fewer than average business births: 72 to every 10,000 residents aged 16-64 compared with 97 in England¹.
- And we have smaller business units: just 7.2 employees per business unit compared with 9.6 in England².
- Whilst large firms represent less than one per cent of Dorset's business stock, they employ about a fifth of the workforce. Ensuring the availability of suitable employment land like the Dorset Innovation Park to offer larger sites and units gives local firms the chance to expand and relocate here, rather than leave the area. It also offers choice to new businesses considering a move to Dorset, bringing new jobs with them.
- Dorset is less competitive than the national average. In recent years competitiveness has worsened, with all parts of Dorset becoming less competitive. Only the former district areas of East Dorset and West Dorset rank at or above the median for the country. The former area of Weymouth & Portland ranks 372 out of 379 localities and Purbeck is among the ten areas reporting the greatest fall in competitiveness ranking⁴.
- Whilst we have above national average representation of advanced engineering and of manufacturing as a whole, we have low representation of businesses in high productivity sectors⁵ and also below average representation in high R&D spending sectors⁶.
- Self-employment is high in Dorset: about 18% of economically active residents compared with 14% in England⁷.

**Sources**
1. Business Demography 2017, ONS
2. UK Businesses 2018 and BRES 2017, ONS
4. UK Competitiveness Index 2019, Centre for International Competitiveness
5. UK Gross domestic expenditure on research and development: 2017, ONS
6. Census of Population 2011, ONS
Box 2: People

- Employment is expected to grow by more than 11,000 in Dorset over 2017-27\(^7\) - but most of this new employment will be part time.
- Manufacturing, health, retail, education and hospitality are all big employers in Dorset.
- 45% of skills required by employers over the next decade are for level 4 and above\(^7\).
- 10 neighbourhoods in Dorset are in the most deprived 20% nationally for employment\(^8\) - nine of these are in the former borough of Weymouth & Portland.

![Weekly earnings for people working in Dorset](image)

- Earnings are below average. Median gross weekly pay for full time employees was £523 for Dorset workers compared with £571 in Great Britain\(^9\).
- 36% of the Dorset workforce is aged over 50 compared with 28% in England\(^10\). Older workers have experience and skills and, as more people retire, other workers need training to fill the gaps.
- Over the next decade (2017-2027), the population in Dorset aged 16-64 will shrink by 0.2% per annum. That’s a net loss of over 5,100 people in this age group. The old age dependency ratio, which is the number of people aged 65+ compared to the number of people of working age, is expected to increase from 507 per 1000 in 2017 to 621 per 1000 in 2027\(^11\).
- Around 4,500 apprenticeships were started in Dorset in 2017/18\(^12\). It is estimated that for every £1 of public monies spent on apprenticeships, an economic benefit of £21 is created\(^13\).

What are we doing about it?

The council manages investments in digital and physical connectivity through projects like Superfast Dorset. This project involves the council working with contractors to upgrade the communications infrastructure across the area that will enable most people and businesses to get superfast broadband speeds (24Mbps+).

Dorset County Council, working with Purbeck District Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership, supported the establishment of an enterprise zone located between Dorchester and Wareham called Dorset Innovation Park. The initial phase to create 20 new employment units alongside the existing advanced engineering businesses already in situ, is complete. Dorset Innovation Park Enterprise Zone is an advanced engineering cluster of excellence for the South West, building on strengths in marine, defence and energy.

By means of local procurement, the council can add to social and environmental wellbeing as well as economic value, for example through contracts with firms that ensure sustainable working practices and those offering quality Apprenticeships.

**Sources**

7 LEFM 2017/Dorset County Council  
8 English Indices of Deprivation (2015), DCLG  
9 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2018), ONS  
10 Census of Population (2011), workplace statistics  
11 2017-based trend population projections, 2017-2027, Dorset County Council  
12 Apprenticeship starts, The Department for Education  
13 The Economic Impact of Apprenticeships, 26/11/2014, Centre for Economic and Business Research
Dorset residents are generally healthy, have a high life satisfaction rating and feel that the things they do in their lives are worthwhile. The growing number of older people will increase demand for health and social care services so it is important to use local evidence to anticipate need and target service provision as effectively as possible.

Health and wellbeing influences - and can be influenced by - most aspects of our lives including how and where we live, our behaviours, our work and our leisure activities. Health behaviours impact on both physical and mental health - and many people may be affected by more than one health behaviour. Healthy populations live longer, are more productive and save more thus making a contribution to economic progress as well as maintaining personal wellbeing.

**Box 1: Health**

- 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
defined as overweight or obese; similar to the national average and a great concern due to the life-threatening conditions it can lead to.
- Residents in Dorset are more likely to be unpaid carers: 12% of residents compared to 10% in England. There are now around 3,000 registered carers in Dorset.
- Incidence of ‘skin cancer’ in those under 75 is above the average in Dorset at 28.0 incidences per 100,000 people compared with 18.9 in England.
- Smoking prevalence continues to fall both nationally and locally. 12% of adults in Dorset currently smoke compared to 15% in England.
- The rate of people killed and seriously injured on the roads continues to be above average, possibly due to Dorset’s high proportion of rural roads. Nationally more than half of all fatal collisions occur on rural roads.

**Sources**

1 Health state life expectancy at birth by local areas, UK, 2015-2017, ONS
2 PHE Public Health Outcome (PHOF) Indicators, 2017/18 data
4 PHE Public Health Outcome (PHOF) Indicators, 2017 data
5 PHE Public Health Outcome (PHOF) Indicators, 2015/17 data
7 PHE modelled prevalence estimates
Box 2: Mental health

- By 2025, we expect to see more than 10,000 people aged 65+ living with dementia. It is likely that an additional 3,000 carers will be needed to cope with this increase.
- Nationally, one in ten children and young people need support or treatment for mental health problems.
- Research suggests that the rate of Armed Forces veterans with mental health conditions could be as high as 10%, compared to around 3% for the general population.
- During the course of a year, almost one in four of us will suffer from some form of mental health condition.

People aged 65+ with dementia

Box 3: Substance abuse

- In Dorset, admission rates for alcohol related harm continue to rise year on year.
- In Dorset, for every £1 invested in adult drug treatment services, a social return of £4 is generated.
- Domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse have been termed a ‘Toxic Trio’ commonly found in families where harm to children has occurred. 1,831 domestic abuse incidents were reported in Dorset last year.

What are we doing about it?

Public Health Dorset aims to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of the population across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole with an emphasis on reducing inequalities in the health of those living and working in our local communities. We want to help as many people as possible stay healthier for longer by coordinating action across the whole health and care system.

Caring affects mental and physical health as well as employment potential and the ability to maintain relationships, often leading to poorer life outcomes and increased use of health and social care interventions. Dorset Council recognises the huge value that carers add to the local economy and offers support and advice to carers and families by providing breaks for carers and help in an emergency. The Council will be appointing a Carers Lead Organisation (CLO) which will work with the Young Carers Service to improve the support network for carers.

The council in partnership with Dorset Armed Forces Covenant Programme is working to ensure that the Armed Forces Community in Dorset has access to the services and assistance it requires.

The council works to supports people in making healthy lifestyle choices and leading active lives. The Live Well Dorset service, funded by Dorset’s councils, is just one of the ways in which this support is provided.

Sources

9 Pan Dorset Local Transformation Plan: Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing, 31/10/17
10 Government’s response to the five year forward view for mental health, 9 January 2017
11 PHE Public Health Outcome (PHOF) Indicators, 2017/18 data
12 Alcohol and drugs prevention, treatment and recovery: why invest?, Public Health England, 12/02/18
13 Dorset Police, 2018/19: https://www.dorset.police.uk/
14 https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/
15 2011 Census, KS301
16 Adult and Community Services, Dorset Council, April 2019
17 House of Commons Defence Committee, Mental Health and the Armed Forces, Part One: The scale of mental health issues, 11th report 2017 - 19

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Participation in arts and culture makes communities feel safer and stronger, adds to health and wellbeing and reduces social isolation\(^1\), but funding cuts are a significant threat to culture and leisure activities, particularly in the third sector.

Cultural and recreational activities can help people access the natural environment through healthy lifestyles. Sport is evidenced to result in significant savings to health costs and yet there are concerns that many of Dorset’s young people are physically inactive.

**Box 1: Health and wellbeing value**

- Arts and cultural intervention can have a positive impact on specific health conditions such as dementia, Parkinson’s and depression\(^1\). The BSO and arts in hospital partnership saw the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performing live to patients living with dementia to increase their wellbeing. The project found that dementia patients benefitted through fewer falls, reduced medication, and reduced hospital stays\(^1\).

- Students who study art subjects are more employable and more likely to stay in employment than graduates from other disciplines and children from low income families who take part in arts at school are three times more likely to get a degree\(^1\).

- Nearly half of older people (43\%) say that accessibility is an important factor when they choose arts venues to attend\(^2\).

- Overall 76\% of people aged 65+ say that arts & culture is important to making them feel happy. And nearly as many (69\%) say that arts and culture is important in improving their overall quality of life\(^2\).

**Sources**

3. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/physical-activity
Leisure and Culture

Box 2: Engagement & Economic Value

- Last year 39% of people in the SW attended a live music event compared to 31% nationally. Carnivals are also very popular in the SW, with 19% of people saying they attended one in the last year, compared to only 10% nationally\(^4\).
- 33% of adults in the SW had used a public library service at least once in 2016/17. This is a decline on 6 years ago when it was 39%, and slightly below the national average\(^5\).
- The value of Creative Industries is about £425m pa in the Dorset LEP area\(^6\). GVA of the Creative Industries increased by 3.6% between 2014 & 2015 in the UK\(^7\).
- The number of businesses in the Creative Industries in Dorset has been growing rapidly. Between 2010 and 2017 there has been a 27% increase, compared to 8% for all industries\(^8\).
- The Creative Economy has grown by a quarter since 2010, at a rate faster than the whole of the UK economy, which grew 17.4%\(^9\).
- For every £1 invested in the Arts Development Company by the council there is a return of £4 secured in external investment into the area\(^8\).

What are we doing about it?

Leisure centres provide affordable access to exercise classes, gym equipment, sports facilities and swimming. There are currently 9 in Dorset, overseen by local authorities, with many more operating independently. By using public money in this way, demand for expensive health interventions can reduce as the public stay fit and healthy both physically and mentally.

Dorset Council supports local sports clubs through providing advice such as how to set up a club, fund it, and train staff. Sometimes grants are available to cover some of the costs.

The council supports local events such as the IRONMAN triathlon which came to Weymouth in 2016 and 2017 with plans for an event in 2018. Over the year, visits to Dorset by the entrants and their supporters adds more than £1million to the local economy.

Community facilities such as skate parks and public green spaces, which may have outdoor gym equipment, are other examples of the council providing leisure facilities for public use.

The council recognises the benefits that arts and culture bring to people, including improved health and wellbeing, as well as economic gains. The council supports the arts and culture by providing free access to books, learning and local history via libraries and also financial support for the Arts Development Company. Work is currently taking place on a three year business and creative industries growth project with the Dorset Growth Hub called Culture+. This has been funded by the EU with a further £482,000 from Arts Council England.

Sources

4 Taking Part 2016/17: South West, Arts Council England
5 aGVA dataset from Annual Business Survey 2014, ONS
6 DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates, August 2016, Department for Culture, Media and Sport
7 UK Businesses 2017, Local Units, ONS, 2015
8 The Arts Development Company

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Dorset’s natural and historic environment makes a huge contribution to health and personal wellbeing.

Dorset’s natural systems provide a wide range of essential goods (food, fuel, productive soil, clean air and water) and beneficial services (pollination, flood alleviation, climate regulation and tranquillity). These are taken for granted, but they need a combination of public, private and voluntary action to maintain them.

The contribution of our natural and historic environment to the economy is often overlooked. The high quality natural environment that is so cherished by people living and working in Dorset means that we work hard to deliver mechanisms such as the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework to ensure that development is led sustainably.

**Big Numbers Box**

- **70%** Reduction in waste sent to landfill in Dorset in the last 10 years
- **6%** Of energy production from renewable sources
- **5%** Of all nationally protected ancient monuments are in Dorset
- **90%** Low carbon economy growth faster than the wider economy by 4x
- **54%** Of county covered by Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation

**Box 1: The Natural Environment**

- 90% of the former DCC area’s residents surveyed said the environment was an important, very important or crucial factor in their decision to live in Dorset. In addition, businesses report a demonstrable positive impact from both the Jurassic Coast and the AONB.¹

- Dorset contains part of England’s only natural World Heritage Site and two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, covering 54% of the Dorset Council area.²

- Whilst making up only two per cent of the area of England, Dorset holds five per cent of its nationally protected ancient monuments. However, a quarter of these are ‘at risk’.³

- All of the Dorset coast (excluding the town seafronts) is recognised in national or international designations for its unique landscape, scenic quality, wildlife and geological formations.²

**Dorset is home to...**

- Nearly all reptile species living in Britain
- 53% birds
- 93% mammals
- 90% butterflies
- 74% dragonflies

**Sources**

1 ‘Dorset’s Environmental Economy’, Ash Futures for Dorset County Council, Dorset AONB, Jurassic Coast WHS, Dorset LNP, 2015
2 Dorset Databook 2011, Dorset County Council (recalculated)
3 The National Heritage List for England (NHLE), Historic England, [Searched 10/04/19]
4 The Clean Growth Strategy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 12/10/2017
5 2007/08 compared to 2017/18, Dorset Waste Partnership
6 Public Health and Landscape, Creating healthy places, Landscape Institute, November 2013
Natural and Historic Environment

Box 2: Economy and wellbeing

- The former DCC area’s environmental economy is worth between £0.9bn and £2.5bn per annum, about 8-10% of the overall economy. It also supports between 17,000 and 61,000 jobs in the economy.¹

- The low carbon economy has the potential to grow by 11% per year between 2015 and 2030 - four times faster than the rest of the economy.⁴

- The amount of waste sent to landfill in the former DCC area has dropped by around 70% in the last 10 years and continues to decline year on year.³

- The physical and mental health benefits of access to nature are well documented, as are the negative impacts of environmental inequality. Improving access to green infrastructure therefore offers the potential to extend these benefits, particularly in areas where access is poor.

- The landscape can reduce the need for expensive public health interventions. Local public health spending on the landscape can be 27 times more cost effective than clinical interventions.⁵ Greater wellbeing also contributes to higher productivity and economic gain.

Box 3: Energy

- Climate change will continue and whilst CO² emissions in Dorset are falling, in line with the government’s targets for 2020⁲, further reductions are required to meet tougher emission targets for 2050⁶. The Paris Agreement aims to limit warming to well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

- Renewable energy production has increased in the Dorset LEP area from 0.95% of local energy consumption in February 2011 to 5.5% in March 2016. However, Dorset still lags behind Cornwall and Devon who continue to lead on renewable energy generation in the SW.⁹

What are we doing about it?

The council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. As our buildings make up a significant proportion of this, renewable energy solutions have an important role to play in our overall strategy, alongside energy efficiency measures.

The Dorset Waste Partnership promotes recycling by running promotional campaigns and providing incentive schemes for composting bins and ‘real’ nappies.

The Dorset AONB is hosted by the council and undertakes projects such as ‘Stepping into Nature’ which is helping to deliver health and wellbeing benefits for Dorset’s older people, including those living with dementia.

We employ a team of Rangers who work to conserve Dorset’s natural environment and keep public rights of way open. There is also an apprentice scheme to help young people kick-start a career in environmental conservation.

The council’s Natural Environment Team manage the Dorset Biodiversity Protocol. This scheme ensures that protected species which may be affected by planning applications are protected from harm by agreeing a particular methodology to avoid impact or on-site mitigation.

Sources
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%.

**Big Numbers Box**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population in 2017</th>
<th>Life expectancy males</th>
<th>Life expectancy females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>375,100</td>
<td>81 years</td>
<td>84 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 65+ in Dorset</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>1.8% pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In England &amp; Wales</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In the last year:**
- Overall the population of Dorset has increased by 0.5% (1,800).
- Deaths outnumbered births by about 1,500 so Dorset’s net natural population declined.
- 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 500.
- The greatest net migration gain is of children and those aged 60-69 whereas there is a net loss of 15-24 year olds.

**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+.**

**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 & Wales.**

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

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