

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 01 December 2022

2021 Census Briefing

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note the contents of the report.
- b. Note the contents of the background briefing note.
- c. Support a more in-depth investigation of the potential issues raised as the focus of this year's DPH Annual Report.

Background

1. The 2021 National Census took place on the 21st of March 2021. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the first of a series of data outputs in late June 2022 which contained high level population information. This report, and associated background briefing note, contains key messages from this release for Staffordshire.

Census Results

2. Since the last census in 2011, Staffordshire's population has grown by 3.3% - just under 28,000 additional residents:
 - a. The number of children and young people (aged 0-19) has reduced by around 3.5% – around 7,000 fewer residents.
 - b. The working aged population (aged 20-64) has remained fairly stable, reducing by less than 1% - just under 3,000 fewer residents.
 - c. The trend of population ageing has however continued, with numbers aged 65-79 increasing by 22% and those 80+ increasing by 27% - over 37,000 additional residents aged 65+ in total.

Future Population Projections

3. Projections by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggest that Staffordshire's working aged population (aged 20-64) will remain fairly stable to 2041 with just a slight increase of 0.7%.
4. Projections however suggest that the trend of population ageing in Staffordshire will continue; with numbers aged 65-79 and 80+ projected to increase by a further 19% and 62% respectively by 2041.

Implications

5. The increasing older population, combined with a fairly stable working aged population, may have implications for the provision of informal and unpaid care.
6. An ageing population has increased demand for NHS and Adult Social Care services. In addition, the number of working aged adults, the pool from which the health and care workforce is drawn, has fallen slightly (0.6%). This has led to growing difficulties with recruitment and retention in all sectors, including health and care, especially in the face of increasing demand.
7. If the ageing population can be encouraged to plan for their later years and live a healthy life, so that their additional years in retirement are in good health, the demand on public services may not be as great. We need to consider how we can encourage residents to take greater care of themselves and each other as they approach their sixties and beyond. We will also need to consider different ways of providing health and care services using new technologies, so that they are less reliant on a dwindling workforce.
8. The older age group also provide many positive benefits to society such as supporting working aged families with caring responsibilities and volunteering and contributing to their local communities. An increase in numbers in this age group could therefore also bring positive impacts on the local area.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Census 2021 Briefing Note

Contact Details

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