1. **Purpose of this paper**

This paper describes the provision of unpaid care in Poole in 2011. We examine how unpaid care, an important voluntary undertaking, varied across gender, age groups and by employment status and how it might be impacting on the health of carers. We show that women took on a higher share of the unpaid care burden at all age bands except those aged 65 and above. We also include a section on “Young Carers”, which we define as carers aged up to and including age 24.

The first three sections are “top-level” results, based on Census 2011 second release data. Subsequent sections, which are more detailed, are based on third release data.¹

**Key points:**

- There were 16,212 people providing unpaid care in Poole in 2011 representing approximately 11% of the population.
- The number of unpaid carers in Poole has grown by 1,825 since 2001.
- The number of unpaid carers in Poole has increased at a faster pace than population growth between 2001 and 2011 (Table 1).

2. **Introduction**

The provision of unpaid care is increasing as the proportion of the population who are elderly increases. This provision has social policy implications. Unpaid carers make a vital contribution to the total supply of care. However, such provision may negatively impact on the health and the social and economic life of the providers. Census 2001 and Census 2011 each asked the same question about unpaid carers, so results can be compared between them. The precise question is shown below in Figure 1.

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¹ The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has carried out similar analyses at a national/regional level. These can be read [here](#).
The number of unpaid carers in Poole grew by nearly 13%, from 14,387 to 16,212 over the decade. The growth in the number of unpaid carers locally exceeds general population growth. It also exceeds the growth rate of the elderly population and the growth in the numbers with a limiting long-term illness (LLTI).\(^2\)

The growth in numbers over the decade is summarised in Table 1 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unpaid Carers</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>75+</th>
<th>LLTI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+12.7%</td>
<td>+6.8%</td>
<td>+9.2%</td>
<td>+6.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows the time spent caring each week by Poole’s unpaid carers. The percentages are percentages of all unpaid carers. A higher proportion of unpaid carers provided at least twenty hours of care per week in 2011 (34%) compared to 2001 (28%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours of care per week</th>
<th>1-19</th>
<th>20-49</th>
<th>50+</th>
<th>Total unpaid carers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>10,294 (71.6%)</td>
<td>1,316 (9.1%)</td>
<td>2,777 (19.3%)</td>
<td>14,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census 2011</td>
<td>10,761 (66.4%)</td>
<td>1,846 (11.4%)</td>
<td>3,605 (22.2%)</td>
<td>16,212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Comparisons across Poole

Poole has 16 Wards; it also has 93 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of roughly equal populations.

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\(^2\) The question on LLTI in 2011 differs slightly from that in 2001, but they are broadly comparable.
Key points:

- Across the Wards, the proportion of the population who were unpaid carers varied from 9.5% in Poole Town to 13.0% in Merley & Bearwood.

- Across the LSOAs the proportion of the population who were unpaid carers varied from 7.4% for an LSOA in Penn Hill Ward to 16.3% for an LSOA in Merley & Bearwood.

Figure 2 below shows the percentage in each ward reporting that they were unpaid carers and Figure 3 shows a thematic map for carers across the LSOAs.

*Figure 2. Unpaid carers, Poole, 2011*

Source: Census 2011
4. **Unpaid care by age and gender**

Females were more likely to be unpaid carers than males. In 2011, in Poole, 9.5% of males resident in households provided unpaid care, compared to 12.7% of females. (The figures for England and Wales were 9.0% and 11.9%, respectively.)
Of all carers in Poole, 58.0% were females and 42.0% were males. (These are very close to the corresponding figures for England and Wales of 57.7 % and 42.3%, respectively.)

Figure 4 shows the distribution of carers by broad age band.

**Figure 4. Poole’s carers by age band.**

![Poole's carers by broad age band](chart)

*Source: Census 2011*

By age and gender, those in Poole most likely to be unpaid carers were women aged 50-64, one in four of whom were carers.

Figure 5 shows the percentage of males and females in each age band that provided unpaid care, together with level of weekly provision. The biggest gap in provision was between men and women aged 50-64, a difference of 7.8 percentage points. Research suggests that women in their fifties are more likely than men to leave the labour market in order to provide unpaid care for family members.

For all age bands except that of 65+, women were more likely to be carers than men. Women have longer life expectancies than men and are therefore more likely to be predeceased by their male partners. The death of the male partner removes the caring function if it existed. This might explain the apparent discrepancy.

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5. Health of unpaid carers

The 2011 Census asked people to rate their general health on a five category scale: ‘Very Good’, Good’, ‘Fair’, ‘Bad’ and ‘Very Bad’. In this analysis, when we refer to those whose health is ‘Not Good’ we mean those who chose something other than ‘Very Good’ or ‘Good’ as a response.

For both males and females the likelihood of being in ‘Not Good’ health increases as the level of provided care increases (Figure 6). Male carers seem to be in worse health than female carers across all levels of provision and the gap was widest for those providing at least 50 hours of care each week (Figure 6).

Observe that males providing at least 50 hours of care per week were nearly three times as likely to be in the “Not Good” health category than their non-carer counterparts (45.2% compared to 16.1%) , while women providing this level of care were twice as likely to be in this health category than their non-carer counterparts (38.9% compared to 18.1%).
6. Unpaid care by employment status and gender

The burden and extent of unpaid care delivered by people of working age can affect their participation in the labour market. They may be more likely to work part-time rather than full-time, or become economically inactive as a consequence of caring for family members.

We have seen that, overall, women were more likely to be carers than men. This remains the case across the three employment categories we examined: full-time employees, part-time employees and the unemployed. Figure 7 summarises, by gender, the percentage of each group who were carers and Table 3 gives additional data on level of provision.
Table 3. Percentage of employees and the unemployed providing care, by gender, Poole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of unpaid care</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 19 hours unpaid care</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 49 hours unpaid</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 hours or more unpaid</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides unpaid care:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 2011

7. Young Carers

As we have already seen, 6% of Poole’s carers are “Young Carers”, which we define as a carer aged up to 24 years. There were 1,001 of them in Poole in 2011. Of the young carers, 45% were males and 55% were females.

Of all females aged 0-24, 2.9% were carers compared to 2.2 % of males in this age range (Figure 5).

The level of weekly care provided by these young carers is shown below.

Table 4. Young carers, Poole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of care</th>
<th>Number of young carers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-19 hours</td>
<td>773 (77%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 49</td>
<td>134 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+</td>
<td>94 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1001 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 2011

Figure 8 shows how the likelihood of their health being ‘Not Good’ varies with the level of care young carers provide. Young carers providing at least 50 hours of care a week were more than four times as likely to report that their health is ‘Not Good’ than those of the same age who are not carers (14.9% compared to 3.5%). Given the small number of young carers providing 50+ hours of care, we have grouped male and female carers together when considering this question.
8. **Key data source**

This report has concentrated on what seems to us to be the most interesting questions around unpaid care. However, readers will have their own questions. Those wishing to download 2001 or 2011 data for their own use are strongly advised to visit the Nomis website – choose the “advanced query” option and then the Census option required. All of the data used in this report was extracted from this site.

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*Source: Census 2011*