



Protected characteristic: Age

1 Introduction

This brief paper is one in a series that seeks to inform policy planning. Each paper deals with one of nine characteristics, such as age, disability, ethnicity, etc., protected under the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) gathers evidence across ten domains which are: **Life; Health; Physical security; Legal security; Education; Standard of living; Productive and valued activities; Individual, family and social life; Identity, expression and self-respect and Participation, influence and voice.**

Structure of this paper

This paper contains four sections.

- **This introduction**
- **Population data**
- **Key Issues across relevant domains**
- **Useful websites**

Note that much of the data on the domains' indicators are not available at local authority level. Where it is possible to do so, we compare Poole with the national averages.

2 Population Data

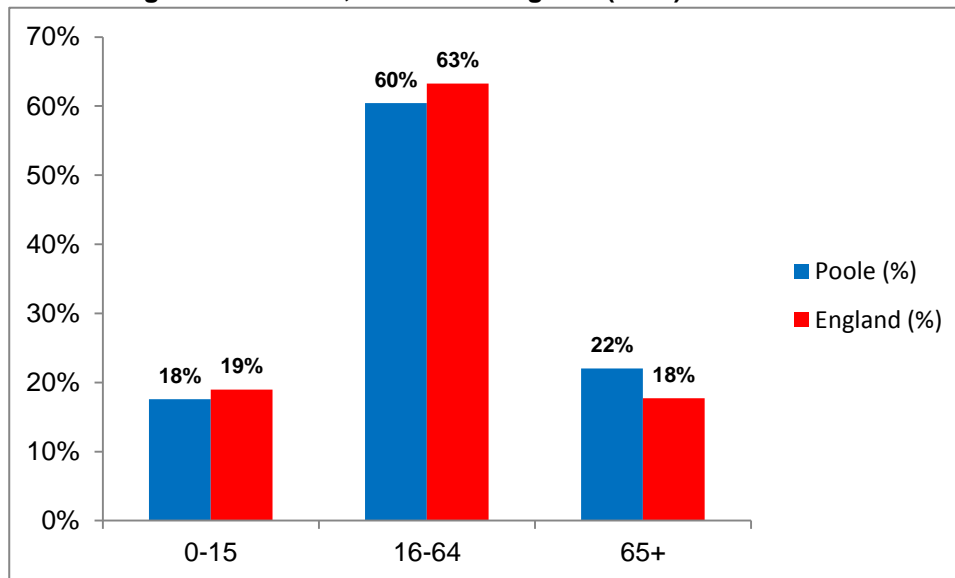
The broad age structure of Poole's residents is shown below (Table 1). The Borough has a higher proportion of older people than the national average. The broad distribution compared to England is shown in Chart 1. Note that Poole has a higher proportion of older persons than England. Chart 2 shows how the proportion of the population who are elderly is projected to increase over the next 15 years (2014-based projections).

Table 1: Poole's broad age structure, 2015

Age band	Count	%
0-15	26,454	17.6
16-64	90,987	60.4
65+	33,136	22.0
Total	150,577	100

Source: Office for National Statistics

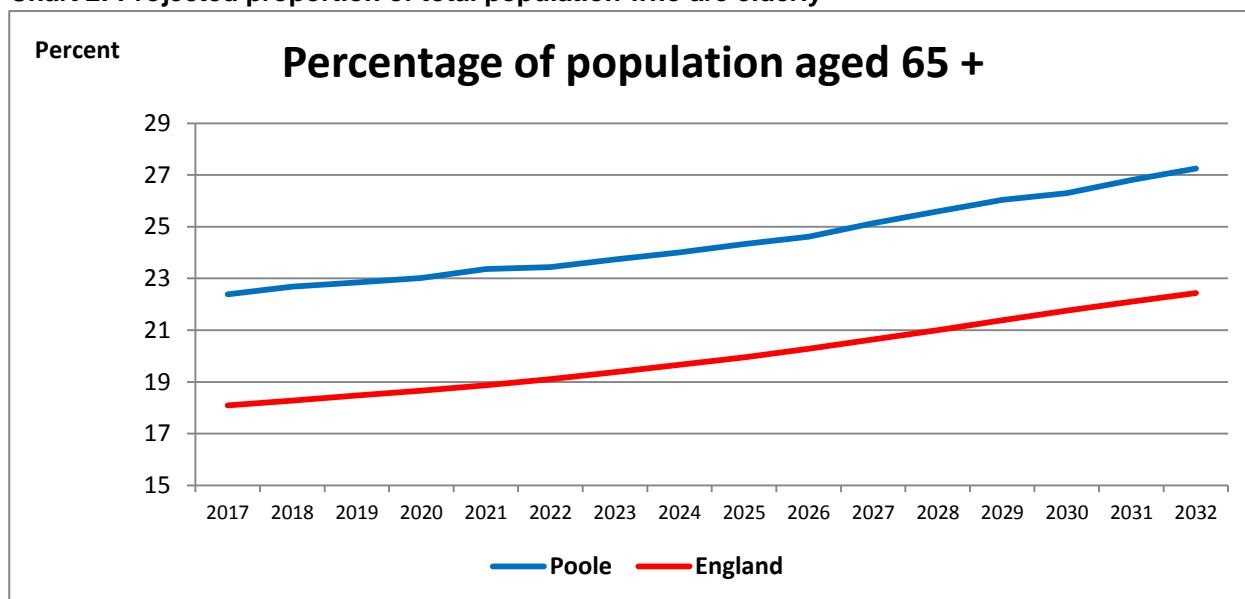
Chart 1: Age distributions, Poole and England (2015)



Source: Office for National Statistics

Chart 2 shows the how the proportion of the population who are elderly is projected to increase over the next 15 years (2014-based projections). Note that at the end of the period, England is projected to have the same proportion of elderly residents as Poole has at the start.

Chart 2: Projected proportion of total population who are elderly



Source: Office for National Statistics

In terms of counts, the population in Poole aged 65 or over is projected to increase from 34,300 to 46,000 between 2017 and 2032 or by 34%. **Both locally and nationally, the growth in the elderly population, together with longer life expectancies, will present challenges to those planning housing, social care and so on.**

3 Key issues across the relevant domains

3.1 Life Domain

This section examines age-specific homicide and suicide rates.

3.1.1 Homicide rates by age and gender

- Homicide includes deaths by murder, manslaughter and infanticide. It is worth stressing that homicide rates in England & Wales are very low compared to many other countries.
- For the year ending March 2015 there were 518 homicides.
- The overall rate was 9.0 per million.
- However the rate among children under one year of age is relatively high at 35.8 per million. Most of these homicides are committed by a parent, step-parent, another family member or by a friend/ acquaintance. Data from 2005-2015 show that the count of 25 in 2015 was the highest over the decade.
- Across all age ranges, and particularly for those aged 16-29, males are more likely to be victims than females.

Table 2 summarises the data.

Table 2: Age-specific homicide rates: England & Wales, year ending March 2015

Age	Count persons	Count males	Count females	Rate (per million) persons	Rate (per million) males	Rate (per million) females
<1	25	16	8	35.8	44.7	23.5
1-4	13	7	6	4.5	4.7	4.2
5-15	16	9	7	2.2	2.4	2.0
16-29	132	99	33	12.6	18.6	6.4
30-49	172	113	59	11.1	14.7	7.6
50-69	101	60	41	7.4	9.0	5.9
70+	59	27	32	8.4	8.9	8.1
ALL	518	331	186	9.0	11.7	6.4

Source: Home Office. In 2015 one victim's gender was unknown for those aged less than one.

3.1.2 Suicide rates by age and gender

Suicide rates are available for those aged 10 or over. The latest data on age-specific rates is for 2014. For England & Wales the data are for deaths occurring in the year and not those registered in that year. Since cause of death may take some time to ascertain in some instances, these figures will be underestimates. Non-residents are included. All data are therefore estimates.

- The rate is highest among those of middle age.
- Across all age bands, males are significantly more likely than females to commit suicide.
- 4,699 residents of England & Wales committed suicide in 2014.
- Of registered deaths of persons in Poole in 2015, eleven were from suicide.

Tables 3 summarise the data for England & Wales.

Table 3: Age-specific suicide rates: England & Wales, 2014

Age	Count males	Count females	Rate (per million) males	Rate (per million) females
10-29	612	178	8.4	2.5
30-44	1031	270	18.3	4.7
45-59	1122	366	19.8	6.3
60-74	506	201	12.1	4.5
75+	304	109	15.7	4.0
ALL	3575	1124	-	-

Source: Office for National Statistics

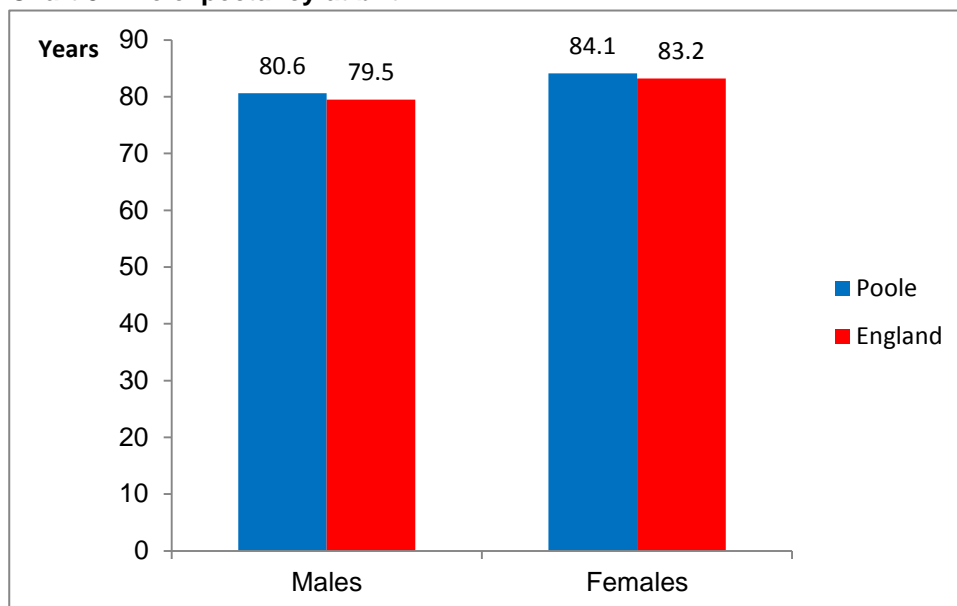
3.2 Health Domain

This section examines age-specific data with respect to some of the indicators in the Health Domain.

3.2.1 Life expectancy at birth and age 65

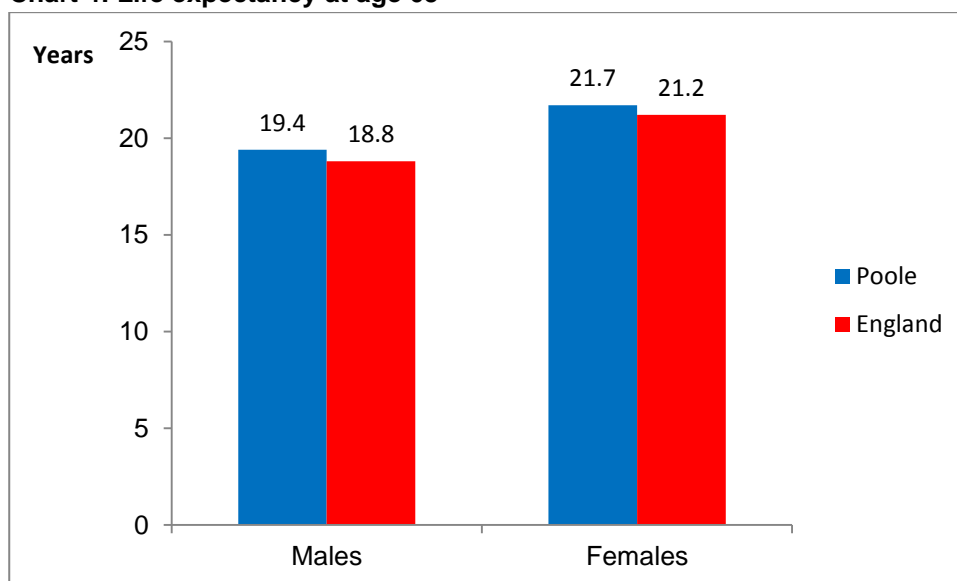
Women have a longer life expectancy than men, but the gap is decreasing. Life expectancies at birth and at age 65 for both men and women in Poole is greater than for England (Charts 3 and 4).

Chart 3: Life expectancy at birth



Source: Office for national Statistics, 2012-2014

Chart 4: Life expectancy at age 65



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2012-2014

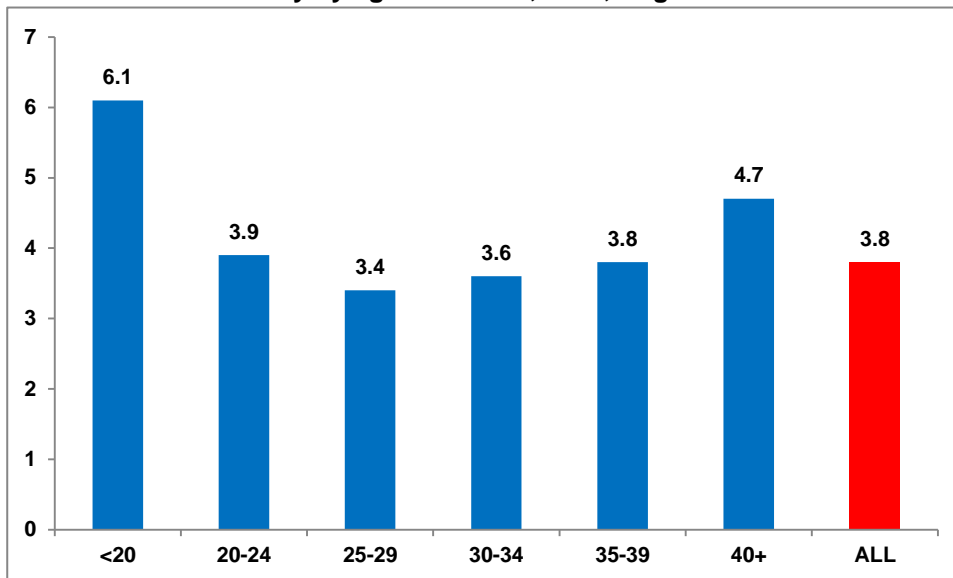
3.2.2 Infant mortality

Infant mortality rates are rate of deaths in infants aged less than one year per 1,000 live births.

- For Poole this is 3.0, which is not significantly different from that of England which is 4.0, based on data from 2012-2014.

Infant mortality rates by age of the mother are available for England & Wales. The latest data are for 2013. The rate is highest for the youngest mothers. See Chart 5.

Chart 5: Infant mortality by age of mother, 2013, England & Wales



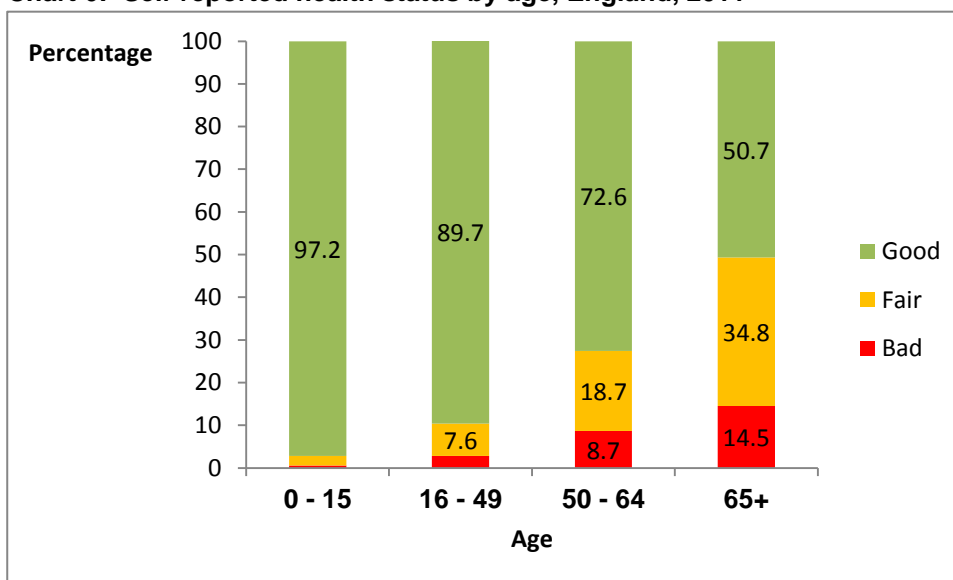
Source: Office for National Statistics

3.2.3 Self-reported health status by age

Charts 6 and 7 show the percentage within each age group whose health is bad, fair or good, for England and Poole, respectively. This is “self-reported” (or reported on their behalf if not an adult).

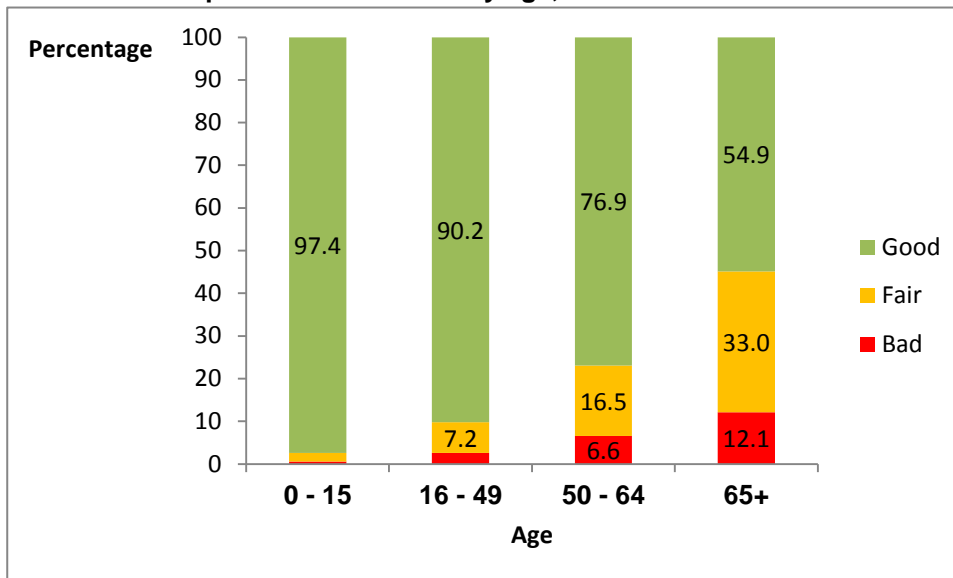
- For each age range, and particularly for those in the older age bands, Poole has a higher percentage in good health than for England.

Chart 6: Self-reported health status by age, England, 2011



Source: Census 2011. Base: All those living in households

Chart 7: Self-reported health status by age, Poole 2011



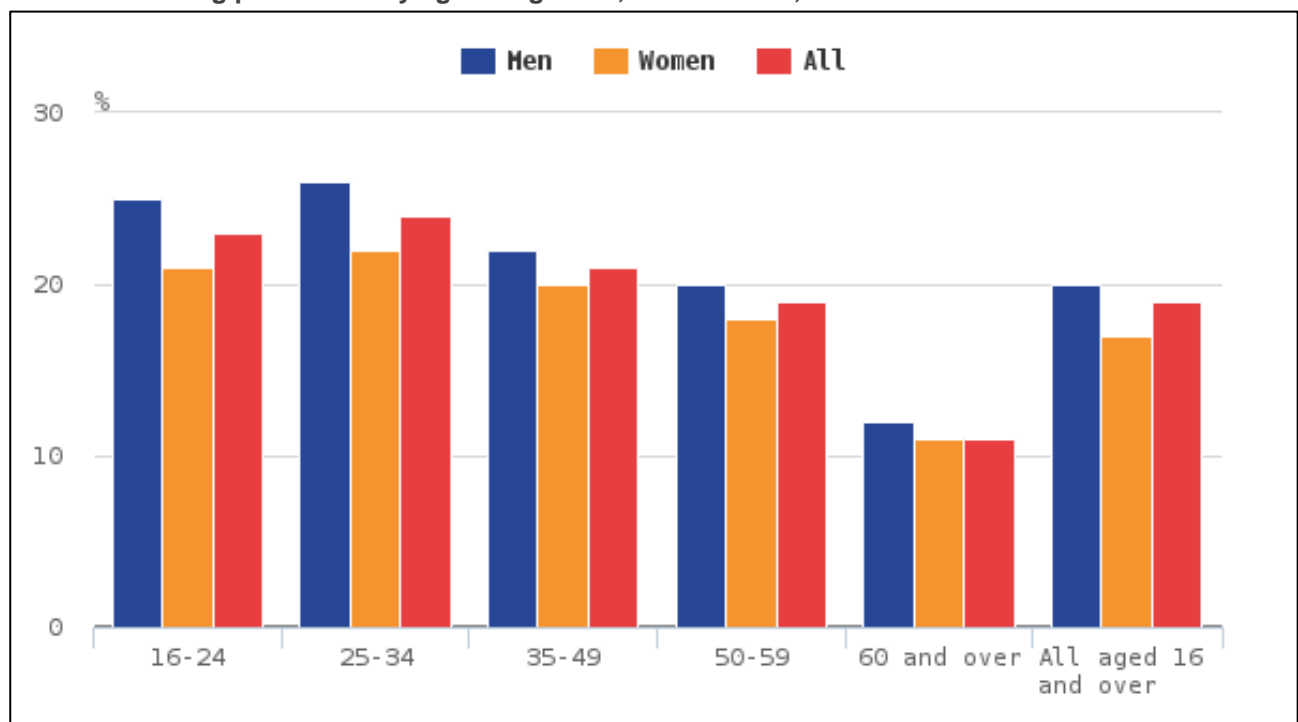
Source: Census 2011. Base: All those living in households

3.2.4 Smoking prevalence in adults by age

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in Great Britain. Chart 8 shows the prevalence rates for smoking by age bands and gender.

- In 2014 nearly one in five (19%) adults aged 16 or over smoked cigarettes.

Chart 8: Smoking prevalence by age and gender, Great Britain, 2014



Source: Opinions and Lifestyle, 2014, Office for National Statistics

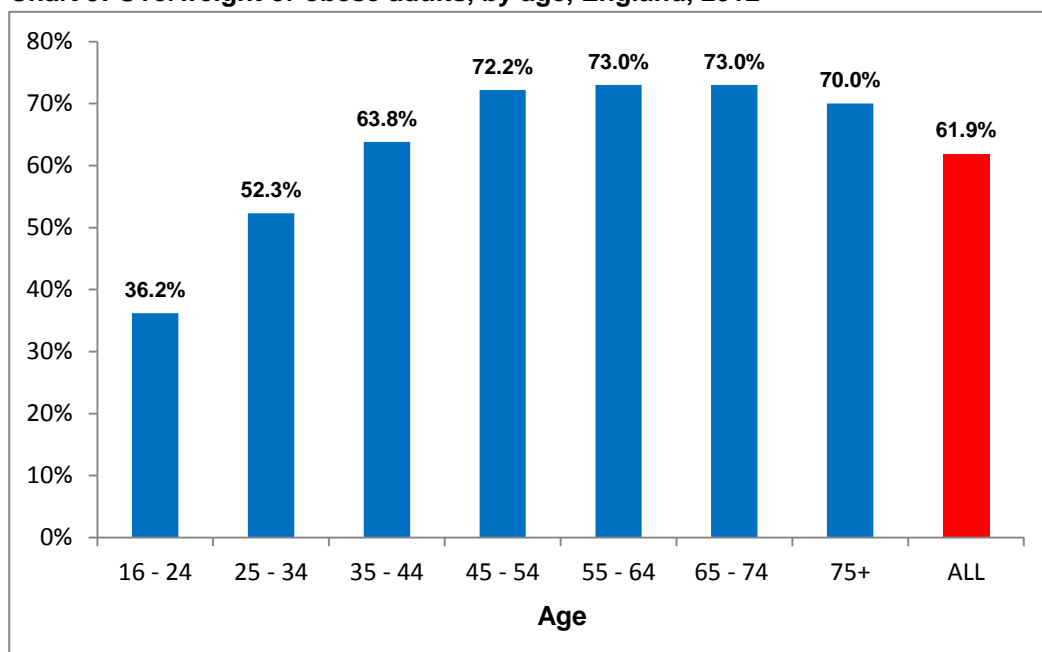
Data from the Annual Population Survey (2015) suggest that the rates have fallen further and that:

- 16% of adult residents of Poole smoke (compared to 17% for England).

3.2.5 Overweight or obese persons, by age

While prevalence rates for smoking have declined significantly since records began, the prevalence of being overweight or obese has risen. Indeed, most adults in England are either obese or overweight according to the body mass index (BMI) definition. Overweight persons have a BMI Index of at least 25 but less than 30. Obese persons have a BMI of at least 30. Generally speaking, the likelihood of being overweight or obese increases with age. See Chart 9 below.

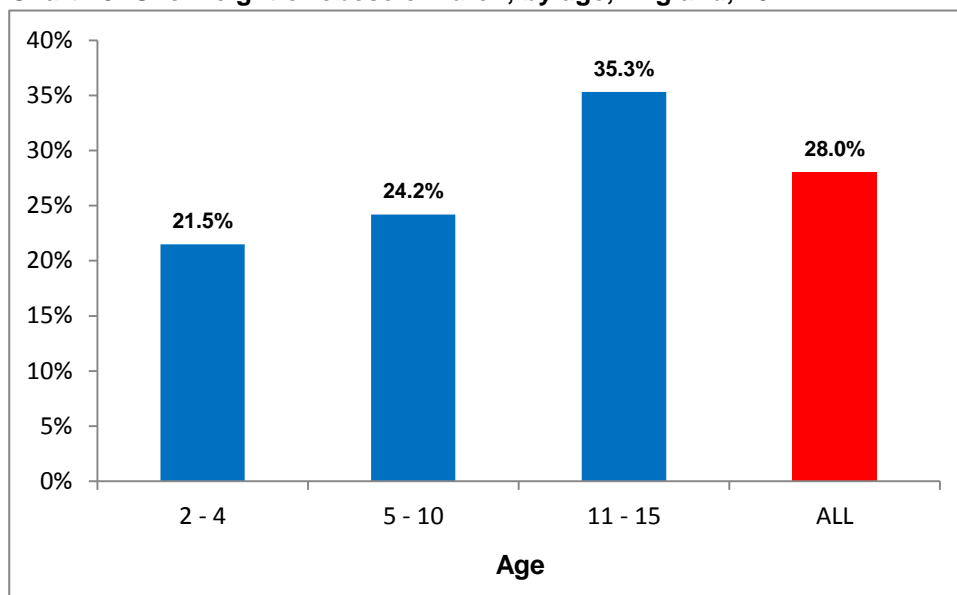
Chart 9: Overweight or obese adults, by age, England, 2012



Source: Office for National Statistics

In Poole, 62.3% of adults are overweight or obese (Public Health England data 2012-2014).

Chart 10: Overweight or obese children, by age, England, 2012



Source: Office for National Statistics

- In Poole, 16.6% of pupils in Year 6 were obese (PHE data 2014/15). The figure for England was 19.1% which is significantly worse.

3.3 Physical Security Domain

This section examines age-specific data with respect to some of the indicators in the Physical Security Domain. This Domain covers the capability to live in physical security, which means being safe and feeling safe and being able to go about daily life free from harm, and free from the fear of harm.

3.3.1 Adult victims of violent crime, by age

- Adults aged 16-24 are significantly more likely to be the victim of a violent crime than any other adult age band considered. Also, within this age group males were twice as likely to be victims as females. See Table 4 below.

Table 4: Percentage of adults who were victims of a violent crime, England and Wales, 2012/13.

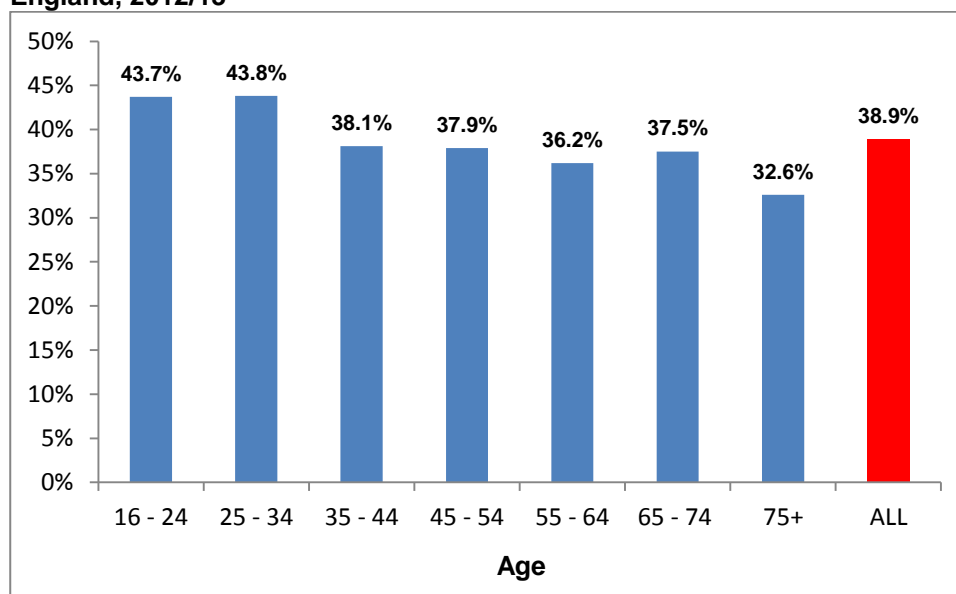
	Men and Women	Men	Women
All	2.6	3.2	1.9
16–24	7.0	9.4	4.6
25–34	3.0	3.6	2.3
35–44	2.8	3.0	2.5
45–54	2.0	2.3	1.8
55–64	1.2	1.3	1.1
65–74	0.4	0.5	0.4
75+	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2014

3.3.2 Adults' fear of physical attack/acquisitive crime, by age

Those aged 16-24 or 25-34 were more worried or very worried about being the victim of a physical attack or an acquisitive crime. See Chart 11.

Chart 11: Percentage who feel worried or very worried about physical attack or acquisitive crime, England, 2012/13



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales

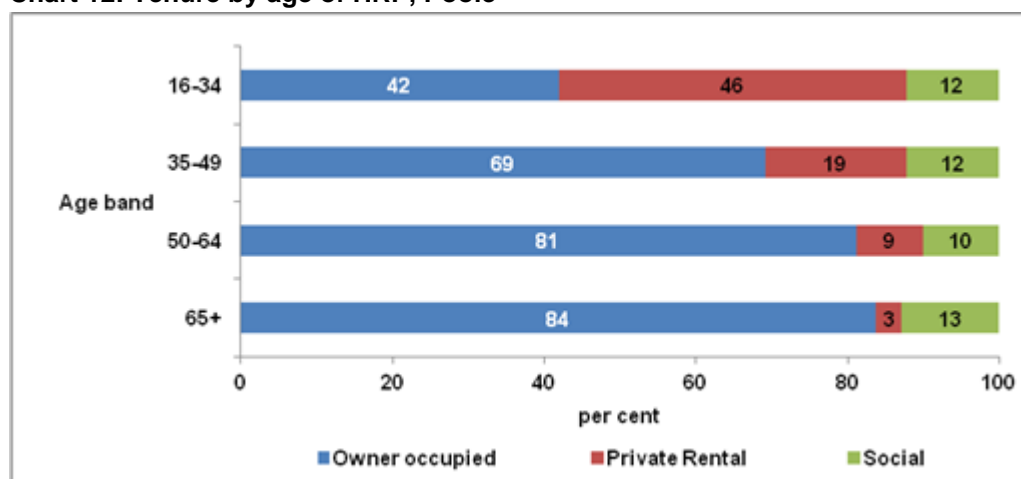
3.4 Standard of Living Domain

This section examines age-specific data relevant to the Standard of Living Domain.

3.4.1 Housing Tenure

Both locally and nationally the pattern of housing tenure is changing. In particular, less dwellings are owner-occupied and more are privately rented. Younger people are less likely to be owner-occupiers than was formerly the case. Chart 12 shows tenure by age of the Household Reference Person, in Poole, in 2011. Note that 46% of this age group rented privately.

Chart 12: Tenure by age of HRP, Poole



Source: Census 2011

- In England, in 2013/14, there were around 22.6 million households: 63% were owner-occupied, 19% privately rented and 17% socially rented (DCLG). Thus, privately rented accommodation has become the second largest sector.
- In England between 2008 and 2014 there was a fall of just over 200,000 in the size of the LA rented housing stock and an increase of a little under 300,000 in the size of the housing stock rented from private registered providers (DCLG).
- In 2014 in England nearly one in two (49%) of privately rented properties had a HRP aged 16-34.

3.4.2 Poverty

Poverty among adults

A household is in relative poverty if its (equivalised) income is 60% below the median. Income distributions can be either before or after housing costs. Youngest adults are more likely than other adults to be living in relative poverty, after housing costs (AHC). For example, in 2012/13, 29.4% of those aged 16-24 in England were in AHC poverty compared with 12.3% of those aged 65-74 (EHRC). Pensioner poverty has been declining (triple lock protection) and the income gap between pensioner and working age households has been increasing. One in five pensioner households has at least one member in work and pensioner benefits have grown in real terms by 8% since 2001. Recent research by the Resolution Foundation¹ suggests that pensioner households are now better off, on average, than working age households.

Poverty among children

There has been a slight steady decrease in the proportion of children (aged 0-15) living in relative (before housing costs) poverty households. In 2009 the figure for Poole was 18.5% (compared to 21.9% in England). This fell to 14.6% in 2013 (18.6% for England).

¹ As *Times Goes By*. *Shifting incomes and inequality between and within generations*, February, 2017. This report can be downloaded from [here](#).

However, research by the Institute of Fiscal studies suggests that recent changes to benefits will result in increases in child poverty levels. “Households in the bottom quintile of the child income distribution received 61% of their income from benefits in 2014–15. This means that the working-age benefit freeze represents a substantial cut to the real incomes of poor households, as do the roll-out of universal credit and the phased introduction of the two-child limit in tax credits (which is mirrored in UC). Second, low-income households with children gain less from real earnings growth than households around the median, as a smaller share of their income comes from employment. Thus if real earnings rise as projected, median income will grow faster than the incomes of low-income households with children.” The IFS estimates that AHC child poverty rates for the UK will rise significantly from 29% in 2014-2015 to 36% by 2021-2022.²

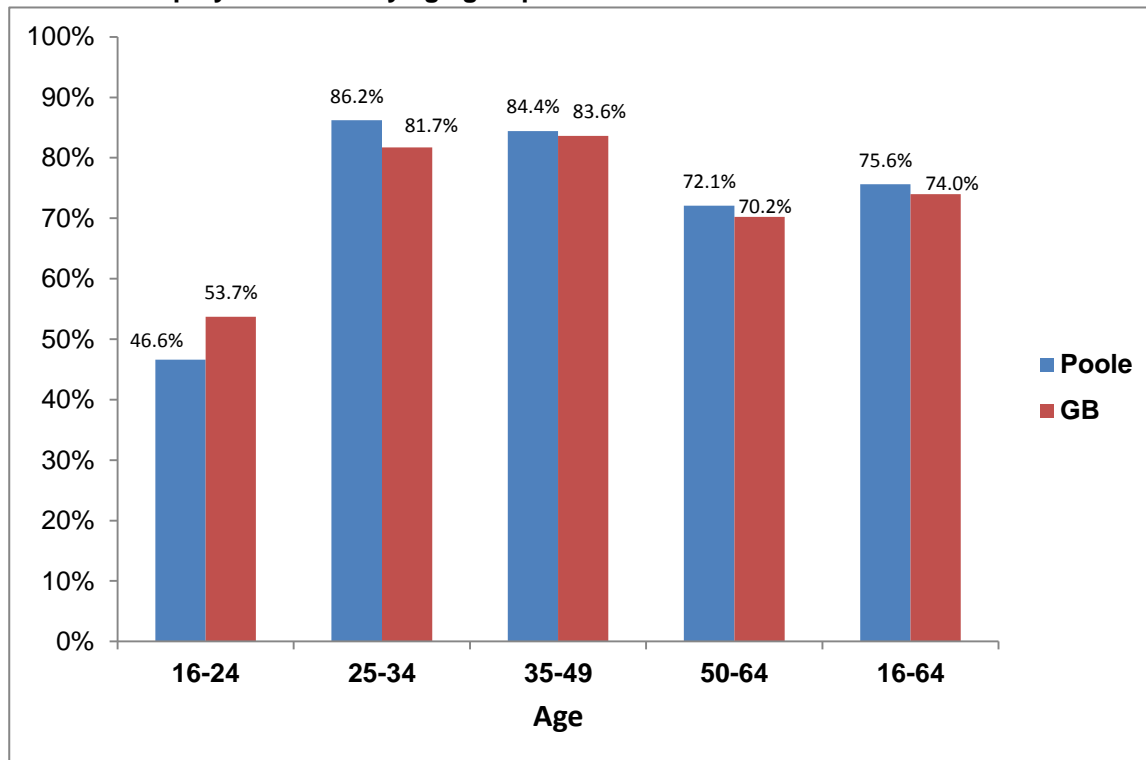
3.5 Productive and valued activities Domain

In this section we examine employment statistics by age.

3.5.1. Employment rates

Chart 13 shows employment rates by age in 2016. For all age bands except the smallest, employment rates in Poole are higher than GB. The youngest are less likely to be in employment due to further/higher education. The difference between the rates for the youngest age group (16-24) for Poole and GB is probably due to Poole having a larger proportion of residents in this age group who are students.

Chart 13: Employment rates by age group



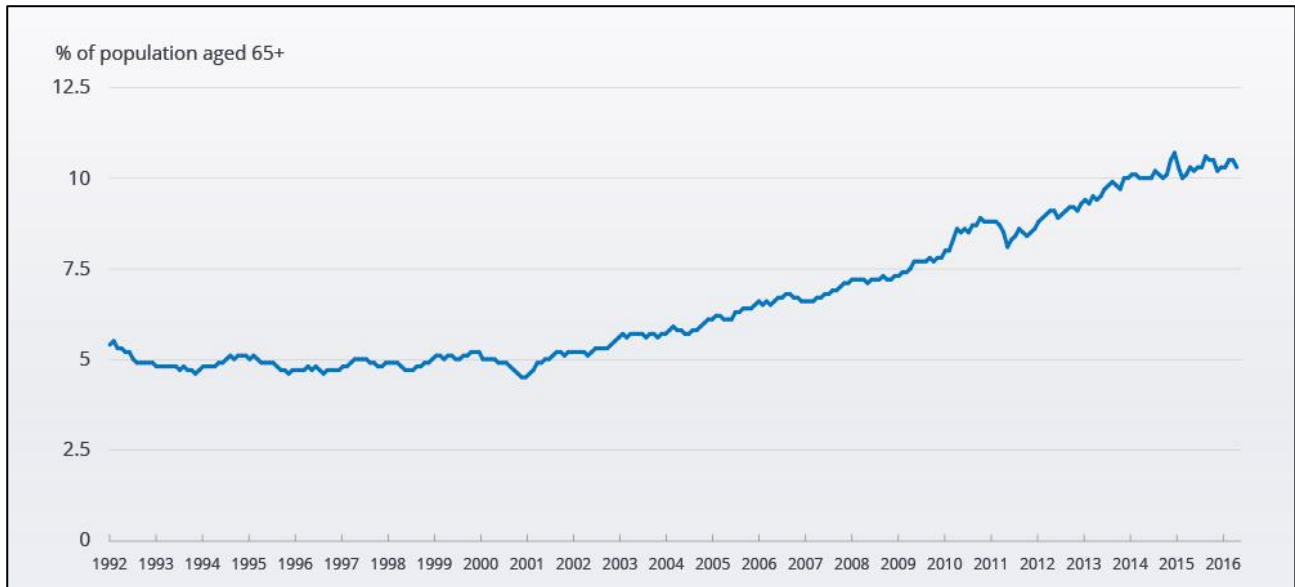
Source : Annual Population Survey, Jan - Dec 2016.

² Living Standards, Poverty and Inequality in the UK: 2016-2017 to 2021-2022, IFS, March 2017. This report can be downloaded from [here](#). The quoted passage comes from this report.

The government has expressed its wish that employment rates among older people should increase. To some extent this has been the case.

Chart 14 (from ONS) shows employment rates among those aged 65+ since Labour Force Survey records began. The rate has more than doubled over the period from 1992-2016

Chart 14: Employment rate, 65+

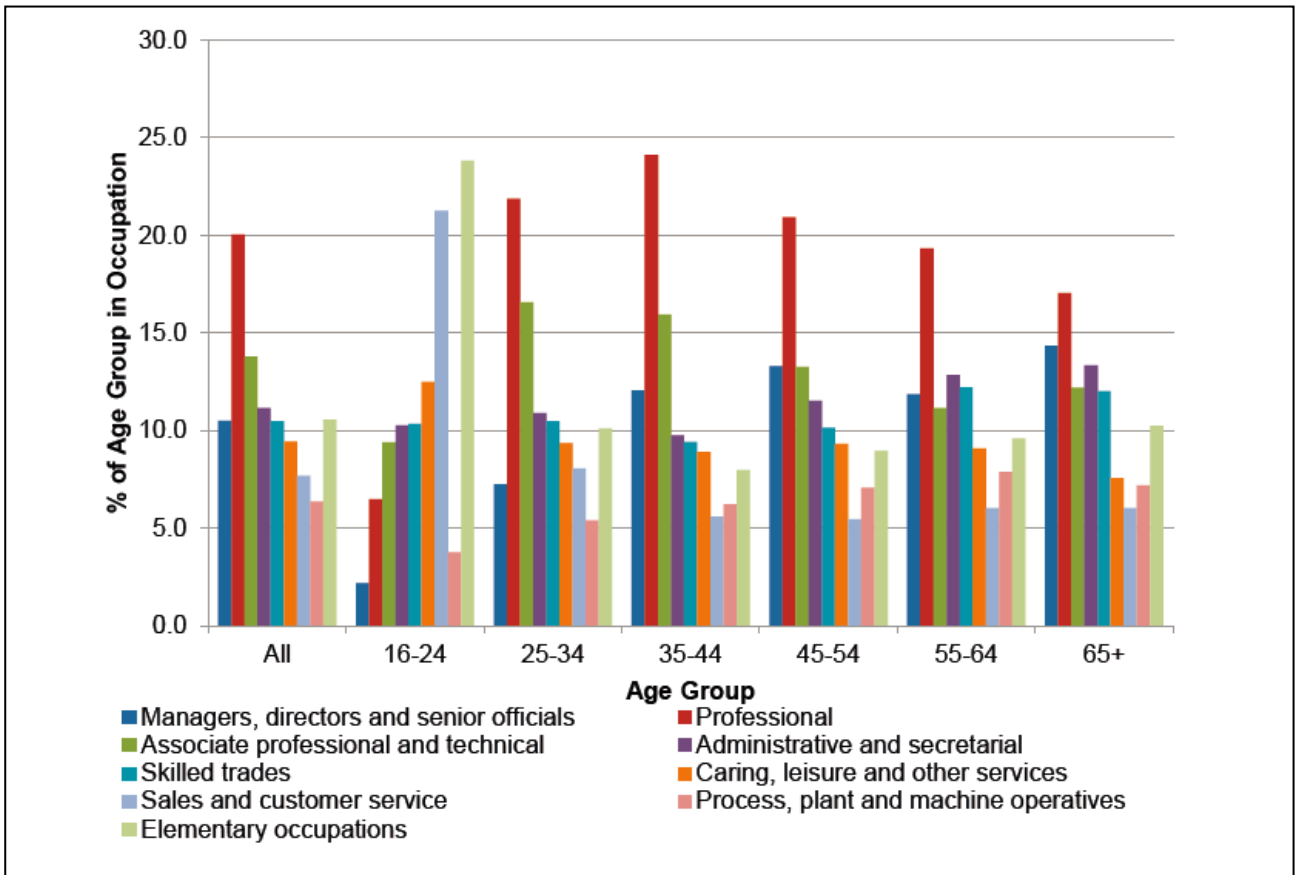


Source: Labour Force Survey

3.5.2 Occupational profile by age

Chart 15 shows, for those in employment in each age group, the type of employment they engage in. Thus younger people, if employed, are most likely to work in elementary occupations. The distribution among the elderly (65+) is more uniform than among other groups but Professional is the dominant type.

Chart 15: Occupational Profile by age group, Great Britain

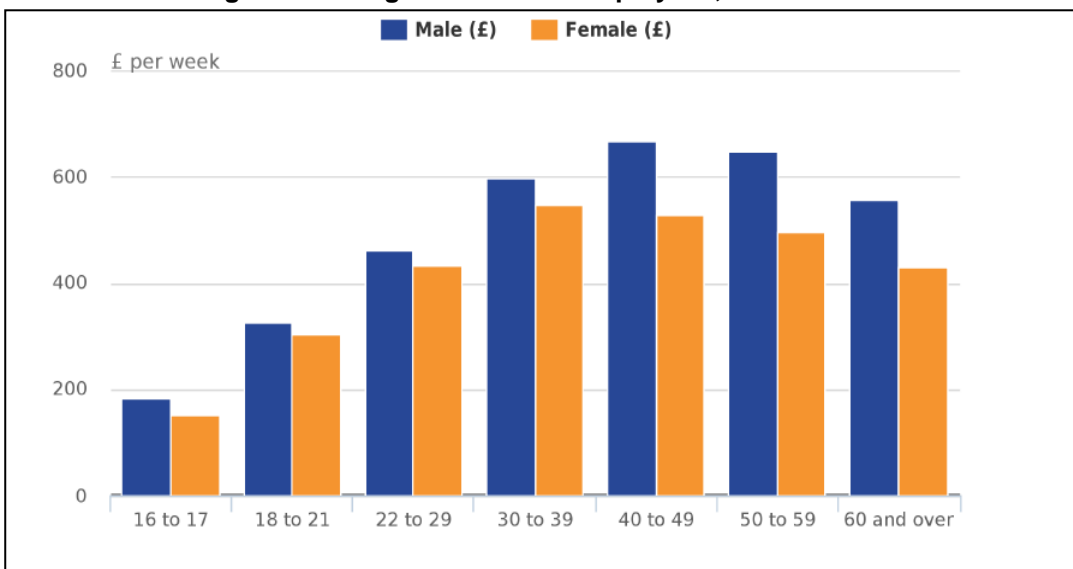


Source: Labour Force Survey, 2013. (Taken from the EHRC report Domain G: Productive and valued activities.)

3.5.3 Earnings by age (and gender)

Chart 16 shows median gross earnings for full-time³ employees in the UK by age and gender. For each age group, men’s median earnings exceed women’s. Men’s median earnings peak for those aged 50-59 while women’s peak at age 30-39.

Chart 16: Median gross earnings for full-time employees, 2016



³ Full-time is defined as working more than 30 hours per week or at least 25 hours per week if in the teaching profession.

3.6 Participation, influence and voice Domain

This Domain is concerned with formal political participation, political activity and participation in civil organisations.

3.6.1. Formal political participation

Voter turnout in the 2015 General Election was 66.1%, up from 65.1% in the 2010 General Election. Participation was highest in Scotland.

Table 5: Voter turnout

Election year	UK %	England %	Scotland %	Wales %
2010	65.1	65.5	63.8	64.7
2015	66.1	65.8	71.1	65.7

Source: UK Political Info, 2015

Voters in General Elections are 18 or over. The EHRC evidence paper on this domain points out that:

“Despite continued campaigning, young people aged 16 and 17 do not ordinarily have the vote, with the exception of the Scottish Referendum. They remain disenfranchised for general, national and local elections. However, the Scottish Elections (Reduction of Voting Age) Act 2015 has now extended voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds in Scottish elections from 2016. The National Assembly for Wales will also have powers over the voting age for Welsh Assembly and local government elections devolved to it later this Parliament. There are no plans to introduce similar amendments for the proposed European Union (EU) referendum, local elections in England or general elections.”

The Scottish referendum in 2014 was the first time in the UK that 16 and 17 year olds could vote. The Electoral Commission found, in keeping with other elections, that young people were less likely to have voted than older ones: 69% of 16-34 year olds compared with 85% of those aged 35-54 and 92% of those aged 55 and above. However, a significantly higher proportion of young people aged 16 and 17 said they had voted than those aged 18-24; 75% and 54% respectively.

A recent study⁴ found that young people in Scotland were considerably more interested in politics and voting than those in England and Wales. Around two-thirds (67%) of those aged 16 and 17 in Scotland said they would have voted in the 2015 general election if they had the opportunity, compared with 39% in the rest of the UK. Furthermore, 66% of young people in Scotland felt they should have that right compared with 50% in the rest of the UK.

⁴ Eichhorn, J., Kenealy, D., Parry, R., Paterson, L. and Remond, A. (2015) *Elite and mass attitudes on how the UK and its parts are governed – Voting at 16 – what next? 16-17 year olds' political attitudes and civic education*. Academy of Government. University of Edinburgh. Available at: http://www.aog.ed.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/175339/BRIEFING_-_Voting_at_16.pdf

Electoral registration tends to increase with age; those aged 65 or over are the most likely to register.

4 Useful websites

- [Age Concern](#) – the country’s largest charity dedicated to helping older people.
- [Equality and Human Rights Commission \(EHRC\)](#) - an independent statutory body with the responsibility to encourage equality and diversity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, and protect and promote the human rights of everyone in Britain. The driving force behind this paper. Details on the Domains and Protected Characteristics can be found here.
- [Nomis](#) - offers free access to the most detailed and up-to date statistics on the UK labour market. It also offers the best free (and easy to use) Census interrogation tool.
- [Office for National Statistics](#) – The UK’s premier source of official statistics.

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