

Understanding Equality and Diversity Gender Digest

Produced by the Corporate Research Team, Borough of Poole.



Purpose of this Paper

This paper has been written as one in a series of seven to inform service and policy planning, and focus the prioritisation of services. This series of papers provides available research and statistical evidence relating to the varying needs, experiences and outcomes of different equalities characteristics in Poole protected under the Equalities Act 2010. They provide a top-level view of this specific subject area and identify contacts and resources for people who would like more detailed information. National information is highlighted in grey throughout.

Structure of this Paper

Each [protected characteristic](#) has [10 domains](#) which focus directly on the most important aspects of life that people identify with, in terms of who they are and what they do. They are central to the [Equality Measurement Framework](#) which provides a baseline of evidence that enables the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to evaluate progress and decide priorities.

These papers combine the domains of 'Physical & Legal Security' and include the protected characteristics of 'Marriage and Civil Partnerships' and 'Pregnancy and Maternity' in the domain list to make it easier for the reader to interpret the data.

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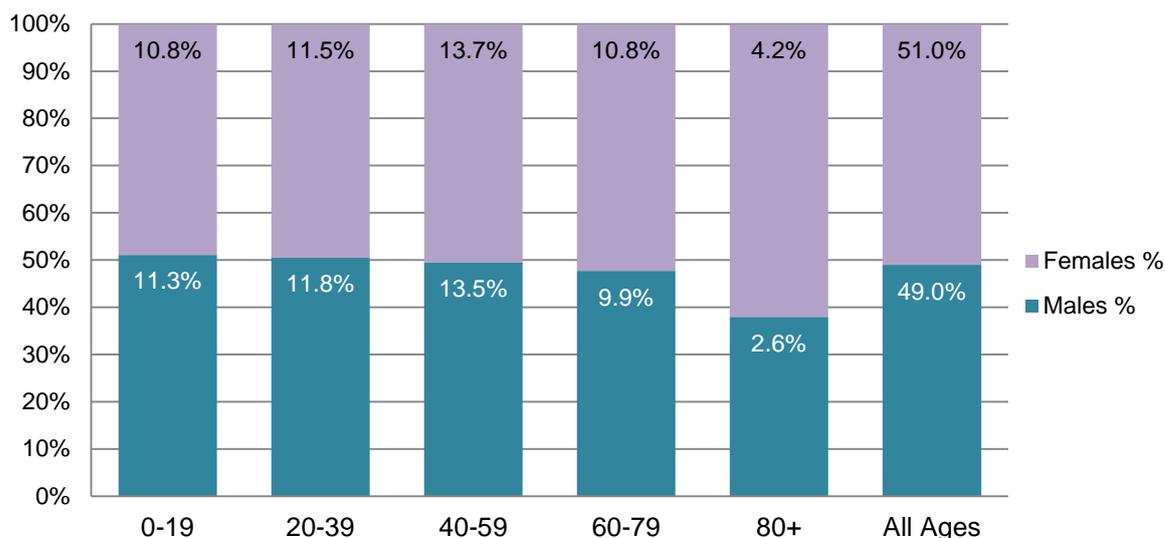
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The Population of Interest

In 2012, 51% of the UK population were females and 49% were males. From age 0-39, the number of males exceeded the number of females, however, from 40+ the number of females exceeded the number of males. This reflected the higher mortality rates of males in the older age groups, particularly from the age of 70 onwards (*Annual Mid-year Population Estimates for England and Wales, 2012, ONS*).

In 2012, the estimated population of Poole was 148,615 people of which, 49% were male and 51% were female. From ages 0-19 the number of boys outweighs the number of girls, but from 40+ females outweigh males. The much higher proportion of females at age 80+ reflects the higher mortality rate of older males which matches the national trends for gender:

Figure 1: Gender Distribution in Poole 2012



Source: ONS 2012 Mid-Year Estimates

Key Issues for this Characteristic

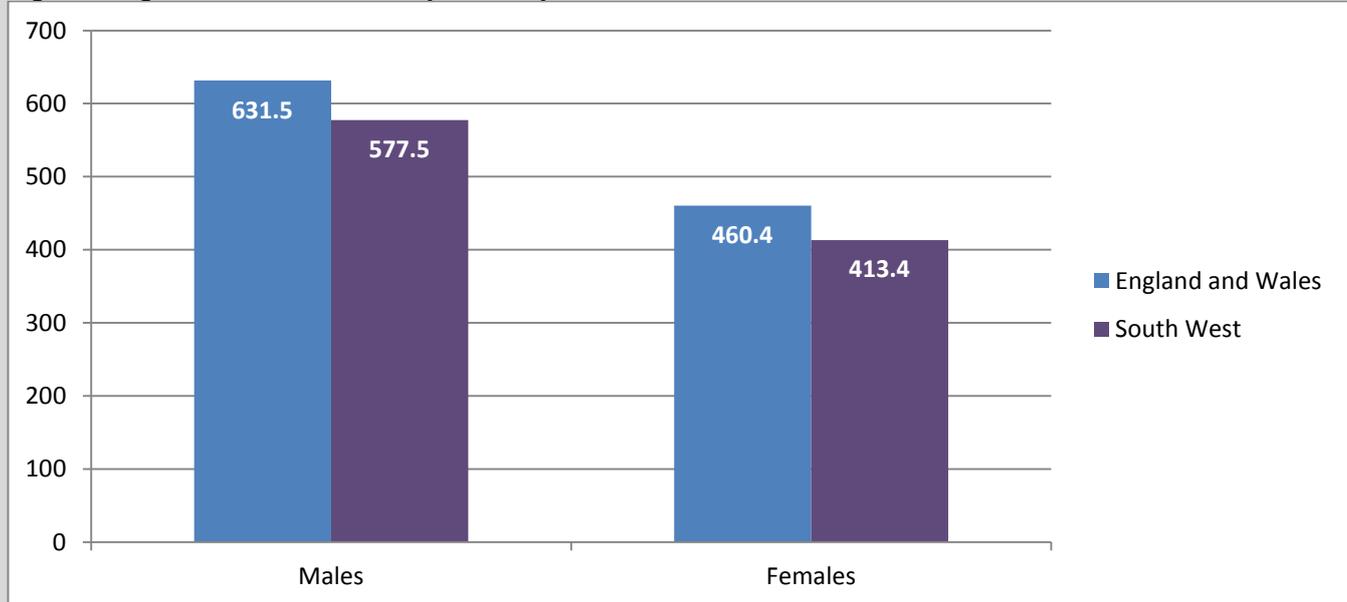
Life e.g. life expectancy, deaths

In the period 2010-2012, life expectancy at birth in England and Wales was 79.1 for males and 82.9 for females (*Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 for local areas in England and Wales, 2010-12*).

In 2010-12, male life expectancy was highest in East Dorset (82.9 years), while it was lowest in Blackpool (74 years). Female life expectancy was highest in Purbeck (86.6 years) and lowest in Manchester where they could expect to live for 79.5 years (*Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 for local areas in England and Wales, 2010-12*).

In 2012, the rate of deaths in England and Wales was higher for males than females per 100,000 population, as the table below demonstrates. However, males saw a sharper decline in mortality rates than females compared to 2001:

Figure 2: Age-standardised Mortality Rates by Sex 2012



Source: *Deaths (numbers and rates) by area of usual residence, 2012, ONS.*

The difference in mortality rates between males and females was largest nationally (171.1 per 100,000).

In 2011, almost 1,000 more males (3,700) aged 65 and over in Poole died compared to females (2,778) in the same age group. The largest difference was seen in the number of circulatory deaths¹, which was 1,240 for males compared to 787 for females (*The Older People's Health and Wellbeing Atlas 2011, Public Health England*).

The age standardised² mortality rate in Poole was 562.7 males and 410.1 females per 100,000 population which were both below the national and regional rates outlined above (*Deaths (numbers and rates) by area of usual residence, 2012, ONS*).

Health e.g. access to healthcare

In 2010, slightly more men (21%) smoked cigarettes than women (20%). However, more men (28%) were ex-regular smokers than women (22%). More women (58%) had never smoked or were occasional smokers than men (51%). The majority of both men (41%) and women (38%) started smoking at the age of 16 or under (*General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS*).

In 2010, men drank twice as much alcohol per week than women in the UK. The biggest difference was seen in the 45-64 age group where men drank 17.8 units per week compared 8.8 units for women. This age group drank the most per week across both genders. (*General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS*).

There was a clear relationship between smoking and alcohol consumption in the UK in 2010, with smokers (16.6 units) drinking more per week than ex-smokers (13.4 units) or people who had

¹ Circulatory death is the irreversible loss of function of the heart and lungs. Source: <http://www.lcnw.org/donation/understanding-brain-circulatory-death/>.

² Age-standardised rates allow for differences in the age structure of populations and allow valid comparisons to be made between geographical areas and through time. More details can be found [here](#).

never smoked (8.7 units). Male smokers (29.7 units) and female smokers (17.1 units) in the 16-24 age group drank the most per week (*General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS*).

In 2011, alcohol related deaths amongst men (17.2 per 100,000) were more than double the rate for women (8.3 per 100,000). There was a slight drop for men since 2010, while there was no change for women (*Alcohol-related deaths in the UK 2011, ONS*).

In 2011, 33% of females in the UK said they had a long-standing illness or disability, compared to 31% of males. The 75+ age group reported the most cases of long-standing illness or disability for both males and females. Females (27%) experienced higher rates of chronic illness than males (21%) (*General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS*).

On Census day in 2011, 11% of the population in England and Wales said they provided unpaid care on a weekly basis. 7% of females provided 1-19 hours of unpaid care a week, compared to 6% of males. 3% of females said they provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care a week, compared to 2% of males (*Provision of unpaid care by general health by sex 2011, ONS*).

In 2011, hospital admissions in Poole amongst the 65 and over age group were higher for men (68,000 per 100,000 population) than for women (52,500 per 100,000 population). However, these rates were below the national figures for both genders. This difference between the genders was particularly strong in the number of hospital admissions for strokes in 2011, where 1,100 men were admitted compared to 793 women. Both rates were higher than national figures, however, the rate for males in Poole was significantly higher than the total figure for males in England (787) (*The Older People's Health and Wellbeing Atlas 2011, Public Health England*).

In 2011, 11% of the total population in Poole said they provided unpaid care on a weekly basis. 8% of females provided 1-19 hours of unpaid care a week, compared to 6.4% of males. 3% of females said they provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care a week, compared to 2% of males (*Provision of unpaid care by general health by sex 2011, ONS*).

In 2012, boys in years 8-13 (31%) in Poole were much more likely than girls (18%) to be very happy with their health (*Children and Young People's Services Consultation 2012 (n=3,135 Years 1-13), Borough of Poole*).

Physical and Legal Security e.g. freedom from violence and discrimination

In 2011/12, young men were most likely to be victims of violence with more than two-thirds victims of homicide (68%). In contrast, women were more likely to be victims of domestic abuse. 7% of women and 5% of men were estimated to have experienced domestic abuse in the previous year which equated to 1.2 million female and 800,000 male victims. Also, young women were more likely to have been victims of sexual assault in the preceding year (*Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2011/12, ONS*).

In the same period, the relationship between victims and perpetrators also changed according to gender. Male homicides were most likely to be committed by a friend or acquaintance (39%), while female homicides were most likely to be committed by a partner or ex-partner (51%) (*Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2011/12, ONS*).

In 2013, girls' experiences of harassment and discrimination online appears to be widespread. 54% of those aged 11 to 21 said they had negative experiences online. For older girls aged 16 to

21, this has included sexist comments (26%) and threatening statements (25%) said about, or to, them (*Equality for Girls: Girls Attitude Survey 2013 (n=1,288), Girlguiding*).

The same report found that just over half of all girls felt that too much responsibility was placed on girls for their sexual safety (53%). In addition, most girls dealt with online abuse on their own and informally rather than reporting it (*Equality for Girls: Girls Attitude Survey 2013 (n=1,288), Girlguiding*). More information can be found [here](#).

In 2011, 58% of women said they felt safe when out and about in the local area compared to 70% of men. 24% of men felt their was a problem in their local area with people being drunk and rowdy, compared to 20% of women. 49% of women felt that police and local public services were dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area, compared to 42% of men (*2011 Shaping Poole Survey (n=2,265), Borough of Poole*).

In the same year, 75% of victims of domestic violence in Poole were female while 80% of offenders were male. In 67% of the cases, the offender was the partner, or ex-partner, of the victim. Alcohol was also a significant contributing factor to domestic abuse, peaking at New Year and around major football matches (*Briefing Paper: Domestic Abuse, Safer Poole Partnership 2011*).

In the Autumn 2013 Poole Opinion Panel, 90% of respondents (n=720) said they had not suffered any harassment related to their gender (*Disability Harassment Reporting: Autumn 2013 Poole Opinion Panel, Borough of Poole*).

Education e.g. attainment, access to life-long learning and training

In 2009, levels of participation in formal learning were similar between males and females aged 50-69 in the UK. However, men were less likely to participate in informal learning activities than women in the same age group (*Learning and Wellbeing Trajectories Among Older Adults in England, BIS, 2012*).

In 2013, there was a considerable gender divide in the subjects chosen by A-Level students in the UK. Female students tended to choose English and Psychology, while male students tended to lean towards maths and physics. For the second year running, male A-Level students achieved more A* grades than females with 8% of boys compared to 7.4% of girls (*Joint Council for Qualifications via Huffington Post 2013 – Full article available [here](#)*).

In 2012, girls outperformed boys at GCSE level in the UK. However, boys (8%) achieved more A* grades at A-level than girls (7.9%), although girls achieved more A-C grades at A-level (*Joint Council for Qualifications 2012*).

In 2013, the Girlguiding organisation found that girls aged 11 to 21 in the UK were just as likely to be harassed at school as on the street. 7 out of 10 girls aged 13 and over reported experiences of sexual harassment at school or college. This included sexual jokes or taunts (51%), unwanted sexual attention (28%), and touching (28%) (*Equality for Girls: Girls Attitude Survey 2013 (n=1,288), Girlguiding*).

The same study found that in school, 38% of girls aged 16 to 21 felt that sex education had not prepared them well. In addition, 64% of girls in this age group said sex education in school did not focus enough on relationships (*Equality for Girls: Girls Attitude Survey 2013 (n=1,288), Girlguiding*).

In 2011, 76% of females in Poole had a qualification (Level 1³ or higher), compared to 82% of males in this age group. The figures for England and Wales were that 80% of males had a qualification compared to 75% of females. 24% of females in Poole did not have qualifications, compared to only 18% of males. The gap between the genders without qualifications in England and Wales was smaller than in Poole, with 25% of females and 20% of males (*2011 Census: Qualifications by Age by Sex, Nomisweb*).

Standard of Living e.g. housing, transport, independence

In 2010/11, there were more female adults (24.6 million) living in low income households in the UK than men (23.4 million) (*Family Resources Survey 2010/11, DWP*).

In 2012, 7.6 million people in UK households lived alone, of which, 4.2 million were aged 16 to 64. The majority (58%) of people in this age group were male (*Families and Households 2012, ONS*).

Around 60% of people in the UK who were likely to have their benefit reduced (as part of the cuts introduced in 2013) will be single women, while only 10% will be single men. Most of the single women affected are likely to be lone parents, as the majority of households affected by the policy will probably have children and around 50% will be single parents (*Benefit Cap: Equality Impact Assessment 2012, DWP*).

In 2011, there were 3,585 lone-parent households in Poole compared to 5,947 in 2001 (*Lone Parent Households with Dependent Children 2001 and 2011, Nomisweb*).

Productive and Valued Activities e.g. employment, workplace experience

In 2010/11, women were more likely than men to leave work when they started drawing down their private pension (*The Dynamics of Ageing: ELSA Wave 5, IFS, 2012*).

In 2011/12, rates of participation in employer-sponsored schemes were the same for males and females at 23%. However, participation in individual personal (including stakeholder) pensions was lower for females (3%) compared to males (7%). Differences in personal pension participation between males and females will be affected by differences in economic status (self-employment is more prevalent for males, while inactivity is more prevalent for females) (*Family Resources Survey 2011/12, DWP*).

In 2012, considerably more men (61.4%) were made redundant in the UK compared to women (38.6%). However, re-employment rates were higher for men (31.2%) than they were for women (24.8%) (*Labour Force Survey 2012, ONS*).

Between December 2012 and February 2013, almost twice as many men (44.5%) were in full-time employment than women (24.4%) in the UK (*Labour Market Statistics April 2013, ONS*).

In 2013, the gender pay gap, ie. The difference between men and women's median hourly pay excluding overtime for full-time employees, rose from 9.6% in 2012 to 10% (*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – Workplace Analysis 2013, Nomisweb*).

³ Qualification breakdown can be found [here](#).

In 2011, 43.6% of female lone parents in Poole were in part-time employment, while 38.9% were not in employment. More than half (52.8%) of male lone parents in Poole worked full-time, while 26.4% were not in employment (*Lone Parent Households with Dependent Children 2011, Nomisweb*).

In the same period, greater proportions of males in Poole were Managers or Professionals (14.5%) than females (6.6%), whereas more females were in lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations (23.6%) than men (20.6%). This gender difference was even wider for intermediate occupations⁴ in Poole, with 21.4% of females working in these roles compared to only 6.7% of men (*NS-SeC by sex 2011, Nomisweb*).

In the 2012 “Youth Survey”, 16% of girls in Years 8-13 said they volunteered, while a further 31% said they would like to (*Children and Young People’s Services Consultation 2012 (n=3,135 Years 1-13), Borough of Poole, Borough of Poole*).

In 2012/13, the rate of unemployment amongst the male population aged 16-24 in Poole was higher (24.6%) than the previous year (23.3%). However, the rate amongst males aged 25-49 shrunk by more than half to 1.6% in 2012/13. The rate amongst females aged 25-49 also fell to 2.3% in 2012/13 from 4.3% in 2011/12 (*ONS Annual Population Survey 2013*).

In 2012/13, the number of men in Poole who were in employment increased by 2,200 people compared to the previous year. Similarly, the number of women who were in employment in 2012/13 increased by 2,600 people compared to the previous year (*ONS Annual Population Survey 2013*).

In 2013, the gender pay gap in Poole, ie. The difference between men and women’s median hourly pay excluding overtime for full-time employees, rose from 10% in 2012 to 15% (*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – Workplace Analysis 2013, Nomisweb*).

Individual, Family and Social Life e.g. independence, equality in relationships

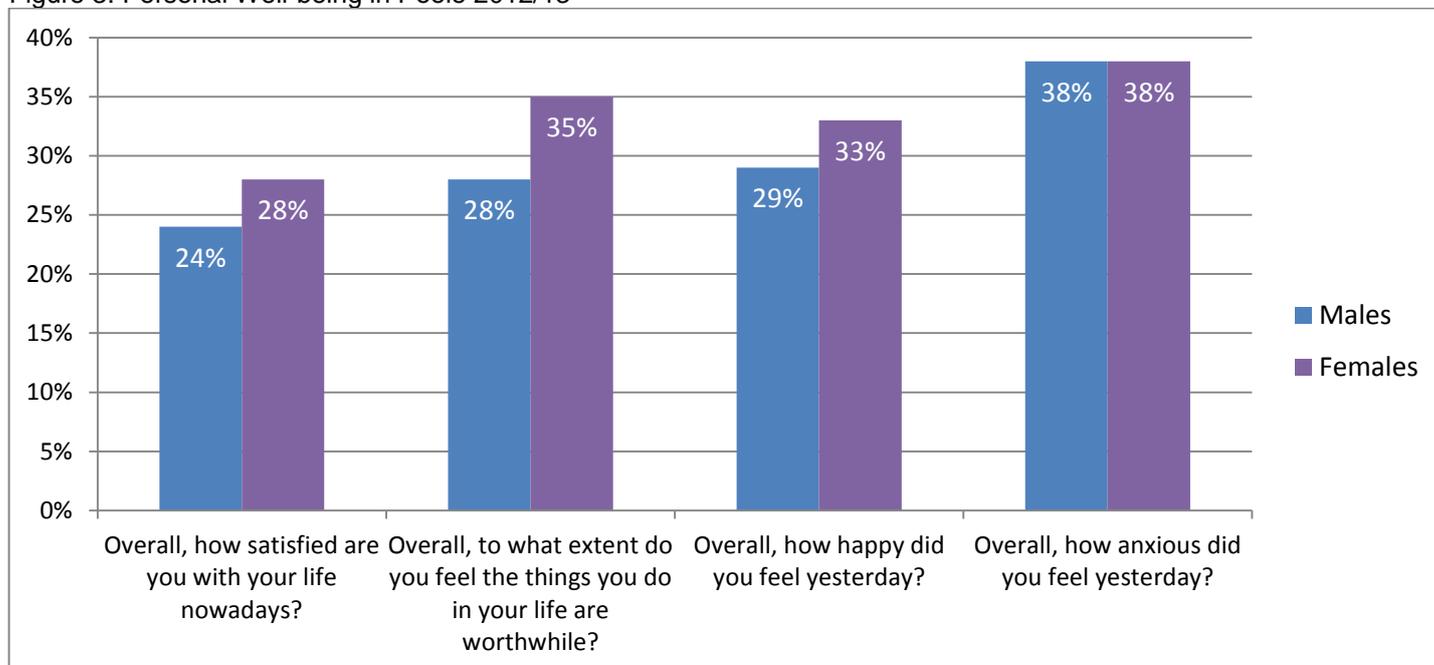
In 2011, 20% of families with dependant children were headed by a lone mother. The rise in this family type was mainly due to an increase in the proportion of lone mothers who had never married. The number of families headed by a lone father had consistently been between 1% and 2% between the early 1970s and 2011 (*General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS*).

In 2011, 89.4% of lone parent households in Poole were headed by women compared to 91.6% in 2001. While 10.6% were headed by men compared to 8.4% in 2001 (*Lone Parent Households with Dependent Children 2001 and 2011, Nomisweb*).

The Annual Population Survey explores how personal well-being varies across counties, regions and local areas of the UK with people aged 16 and over who live in residential households. The results according to gender for Poole in 2012/13 are outlined in the chart below. Please note that these figures represent those people who selected 9 or 10 for each question (the most positive ratings on the scale):

⁴ Definition : Positions in clerical, sales, service and intermediate technical occupations that do not involve general planning or supervisory powers (www.ons.gov.uk).

Figure 3: Personal Well-being in Poole 2012/13



Source: *Estimates of personal well-being from the Annual Population Survey (APS,) 2012/13 ONS*

The largest differences were seen in the extent to which people felt their activities in life were very worthwhile, with females 7% higher than males. Overall, Life satisfaction was also higher amongst females in Poole, while anxiety levels were the same for both genders.

Identity, Expression and Self-Respect e.g. Religion, Belief

Today, girls in the UK witness unprecedented levels of personal and public/media scrutiny over women's body shape, size and overall looks which influences them from a young age. 80% of 11-21 year olds feel that there is too much discussion about women's weight in the media and 71% said they would like to lose weight. 1 in 5 girls in primary school (aged 7 to 11) say they have been on a diet, while girls feel that their behaviour is judged by different standards to those of boys. 76% said girls are judged harshly for sexual behaviour deemed acceptable in boys (*Equality for Girls: Girls Attitude Survey 2013 (n=1,288), Girlguiding*).

There appears to be a lack of role models for young women in the UK which may adversely affect some girls' aspirations. 66% of girls aged 11 to 21 think there are not enough women in leadership positions in the UK. 54% felt they had less chance of succeeding themselves because of this deficit, with 29% believing this strongly. However, 46% said that this made them more determined to succeed, with 29% saying this strongly (*Equality for Girls: Girls Attitude Survey 2013 (n=1,288), Girlguiding*).

In 2012, 1.5% of adults identified themselves as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual. In addition, 1.5% of adult males identified themselves as Gay, while 0.3% of adult males said they were Bisexual. In contrast, 0.7% of adult females said they were Lesbian or Gay, while 0.5% said they were Bisexual. 93.2% of females and 93.7% of males said they were heterosexual (*Integrated Household Survey 2012 (Experimental Statistics; n=approx. 340,000), ONS 2013*).

In 2012, girls in years 8-13 in Poole (19%) were three times more likely than boys (6%) to be unhappy or very unhappy about their appearance (*Children and Young People's Services Consultation 2012 (n=3,135 Years 1-13), Borough of Poole, Borough of Poole*).

In the same year, 1.4% of adults in the South West said they were Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual, while 92.8% said they were heterosexual (*Integrated Household Survey 2012 (Experimental Statistics; n=approx. 340,000), ONS 2013*).

Participation, Influence and Voice e.g. participation in decision making

In 2010/11, older women were more likely to be socially detached from leisure activities than men, but less likely to be detached from civic participation⁵, cultural engagement and social networks (*The Dynamics of Ageing: ELSA Wave 5, IFS, 2012*).

A study by BBC News in 2012 found that men outnumbered women in Parliament four to one and only a third of local councillors were women. Women occupied on average 30.9% of the most senior positions across 11 key sectors including business, politics and policing (*Women in Top Jobs in the UK, BBC News 2012*).

In 2014, 45% of Councillors in Poole were women (*Borough of Poole*).

Marriage and Civil Partnerships

In 2011, 52% of people who were married in the UK were men and 49% were women (*General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS*).

In 2011, there were slightly more males (50.7%) entering into civil partnerships in the UK than females, whereas in 2010 there were slightly more female (51.2%) civil partnerships than male. Since 2007, the numbers of male and female civil partnerships have moved closer together (*Civil Partnerships in the UK 2011, ONS*).

Pregnancy and Maternity

In 2011, one in five women in England and Wales had not given birth to a child by the time they reached the age of 45, reflecting the increasing trend of childlessness (*Cohort Fertility 2011, ONS*).

Conception rates in 2011 increased for women aged 30 years and over, stayed the same for women aged 25–29, and decreased for women aged under 25 years (*Conceptions in England and Wales 2011, ONS*).

Generally speaking, fathers tend to be older than mothers. In 2012, nearly half of babies born in England and Wales (49%) had mothers aged 30 and over, but nearly two-thirds (65%) had fathers aged 30 and over. The percentage of fathers aged 30 and over has remained relatively unchanged over the last decade (*Live Births in England and Wales by Characteristics of Mother 1, 2012, ONS*).

Sources of Information Regarding Gender:

The following section provides links to local reports and datasets that offer further insight into the diverse nature of the varying age groups in Poole. However, it should be noted that due to

⁵ Definition: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civic_engagement.

population sizes and inconsistent data monitoring, the information available at local level is often limited. For more robust, national sources of equality information, please refer to the Local Government Association '[Equality Evidence Base](#)', and the Equality and Human Rights Commission '[Review of Equality Statistics](#)'. If you are aware of any further local information please contact research@poole.gov.uk.

Most reports in this section are available from our website, www.boroughofpoole.com. For access to older reports not available on our website, please contact the Corporate Research Team by email: research@poole.gov.uk, or on (01202) 633086.

Reports Providing Specific Information on Gender

Fairness for all Equalities Scheme, 2009 - 2012 – outlines the Borough's vision for positively promoting equality and respecting diversity in the community, in service delivery and employment practice. Available [here](#).

Equality for Girls: Girls Attitude Survey 2013 (National) – this is the Girlguiding charity's fifth girl's attitudes survey that provides an overview of the state of equality for girls in the UK today. The survey was conducted with girls aged 11 to 21 and addressed topics such as body image, sexual harassment, online abuse, role models, and aspirations for the future. Available [here](#).

Reports Which Contain Analysis of Information By Gender

Childcare Sufficiency Survey, 2010 – aimed to gain a greater understanding of parents' experiences and views of childcare provision, in order to identify parents' concerns and needs for childcare. Available [here](#).

Domestic Violence Briefing Paper 2011 - provides a summary of research and analysis regarding domestic abuse in Poole. This includes why it is an important issue for Poole and the extent and nature of the problem, including geographic variations. Available [here](#).

Ward Profiles – provide an ongoing information update on social and economic data for all of Poole's sixteen wards. Available [here](#).

Poole Health Profiles (annual) – give a snapshot of the health of Poole's population. The profiles are designed to support action by local government and primary care trusts to tackle health inequalities and improve people's health. Available [here](#).

Poole Opinion Panel (biannual) – surveys residents in Poole covering topical issues that may affect the town and services. Available [here](#).

Poole's Population Theme Paper – Report outlining the current population profile of Poole and exploring the key predicted changes over the next 5 years. Available [here](#).

Shaping Poole Survey 2014 - asked for opinions about what it's like living in Poole, experiences of local public services and issues such as community safety. It updates the 2011 Shaping Poole Survey to provide valuable, robust evidence to the Council and its partners (including the police, health, business and community representatives) about what is important to people in Poole and where improvements are needed to shape service planning and policies. Available [here](#).

Children and Young People's Services Consultation 2012 - provides a snapshot into the views of Poole's children and young people. The priorities for children and young people emerging from the findings of this large scale consultation will provide an updated action plan so that the Borough of Poole listens to what children and young people say and act upon their views. Available [here](#).

Pride, Progress and Transformation: Health and Wellbeing, 2012 – the survey was designed by the South West Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB) and Transgender (Trans) Equality Networks, supported by Equality South West (ESW). The purpose of the survey was to identify the real issues for LGB and trans people living, working and visiting the South West region. Its planning and launch coincided with the final stages of the drafting of the Equality Act, 2010. Available [here](#).

Gender Information Sources

How Fair is Britain? Equalities and Human Rights commission – The first review that examines how far what happens in people's real lives matches up to the ideals of equality in Britain. The report brings together a range of sources including Census data, surveys and research. Report and supporting evidence available [here](#).

Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Independent development and social research charity, supporting a wide programme of research and development projects in housing, social care and social issues. <http://www.jrf.org.uk/>

Knowledge Base, Equality South West Data Tool - collates and disaggregates (where possible), by local area and by equality strand and socio-economic status, existing data from a wide range of reliable and widely used national data sets, and is capable of detailed interrogation and analysis for a range of local equality purposes. Available [here](#).

Neighbourhood Statistics – Allows you to find detailed statistics within specific geographic areas e.g. Local Authority, Ward, Super Output Area.
<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

Nomisweb.co.uk - service provided by the Office for National Statistics providing detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Office for National Statistics - The Office for National Statistics produces independent information to improve our understanding of the UK's economy and society.
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

The Gender Trust – a national charity helping Trans people and all those affected by gender identity issues. <http://gendertrust.org.uk/>

This paper is one in a series of seven profiling the protected Equality Characteristics produced by the Corporate Research Team, Borough of Poole. These reports have been produced in line with [LGA guidance \(2012\)](#) on measuring equality at a local level. The papers on Age, Ethnicity, Disability, Religion/Belief, Sexual Orientation and Social Inequality can be viewed [here](#).

For more information on research and consultation reports for Poole, please contact the Corporate Research Team on (01202) 633086 or research@poole.gov.uk.