

A stronger and more sustainable VCSE

Pivotal partners in health and care
transformation



Thriving Communities



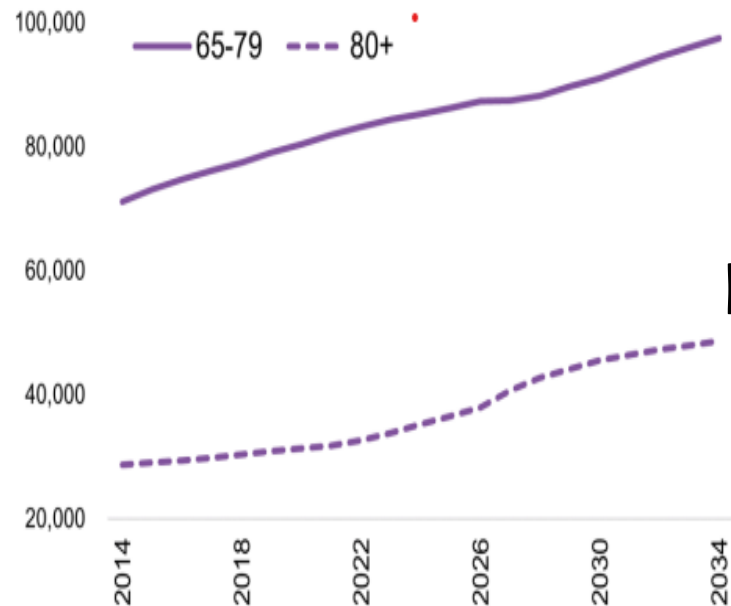
November
2024

State of Dorset

Older People



Population projection of older people



The population of those aged 80+ in Dorset is projected to grow by 38% to 2034



Nationally, 29% of household growth from 2018 to 2043 will involve householders over 75. In Dorset, this figure is 110%. This suggests that Dorset will see a doubling in households in this age group whilst for age groups under 55 household growth will fall.

The life expectancy gap between Dorset's most and least deprived areas is 6.3 years for males and 5.3 years for females.⁷



According to Census 2021, 32% of the 35,500 unpaid carers were aged 65 and over compared to 23% for England & Wales. As the population ages there will be increased need for informal care.



Thriving Communities



Research and Engagement

- National to local
- Community focus
- Evidence based
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector
- Collaborative engagement



Collaborative Engagement



Our Partners:

Community Action Network

Dorset Community Action

Help and Kindness

Volunteer Centre Dorset



Collaborative Engagement

"It seems much is available where we are: but, if figures for, say, dementia, are correct we are only reaching a tiny fraction of people who may benefit."

Volunteer

"Think about the loneliness and it's not just in rural communities, where is the care for people who are alone? People I see could sit in their homes for weeks on end and no-one would care"

Volunteer

"It would be good if doctors' surgeries and social services providers would help people to contact groups that they would perhaps find helpful, especially to their mental health."

Volunteer

"Who is going to take over when we're too old to do it? All our volunteers are in their 70's.....People will be very lonely".

Volunteer

"..always remember that the person you are helping has a younger person at their heart.."

Volunteer

"By working together, we are able to develop our services and deliver so much more, making a positive difference to our environment and people's lives."

VCS CEO

"Working in partnership with other local support and care organisations appears to have been pivotal in successfully delivering support to the local community. This collaboration has resulted in multiple benefits."

Cornwall Community Hubs Evaluation Report



Collaborative Engagement & Key Findings



Engagement phase:

- 4 Voluntary and Community Infrastructure Groups involved
- Over 250 individual contributions to the engagement (volunteers, charities, older people, carers)
- Over 75 organisations were represented in the feedback
- Over 50 interviews took place
- 5 focus groups held
- 2 surveys , 1 webinar, 1 group session, 1 case study

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- **Key issue 1:** The need for local ‘trusted people’ in delivering support for older people to attract higher levels of participation.
- **Key issue 2:** The use of known local, readily accessible and sustainable ‘trusted places’ helps older people keep connected and healthy whilst reducing transport difficulties.
- **Key issue 3:** The benefit of a clear communication mechanism to allow swift dissemination of risk issues, opportunities, learning and best practice.
- **Key issue 4:** The momentum developed through ‘connectivity and partnership working’ at a local level.
- **Key issue 5:** A fundamental gap in the coordination of VCS activity and networking

- **Key issue 6:** The need to value and support volunteers to ensure retention and involvement of the next generation.
- **Key issue 7:** Bureaucracy in funding, evaluating and reporting requirements hinders VCS delivery of activities and support.
- **Key issue 8:** The need to share best practice across groups supporting older people.
- **Key issue 9:** Well-known, led, connected and 'trusted groups' can amplify their local messaging.
- **Key issue 10:** The infrastructure foundations for local groups supporting older people need to be solid.

Delivering Thriving Communities for Older People in Dorset

A **Thriving Communities Network** model led by the VCS, supported by a partnership of Dorset Council, NHS Dorset, Public Health Dorset, and other partners.

A network coordinated by the VCS to strengthen delivery of health and wellbeing services at a community level.



Thriving Communities

