



## Briefing Note Demographic Change

Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Action	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 1. Introduction

This briefing summaries major demographic changes impacting locally and across London and provides some insight to the characteristics of that change.

### 2. Lewisham and London are growing rapidly

Lewisham's population currently stands at 292,000, an increase of some 16% over the past 10 years. Since 2004 the number of people who call Lewisham home has increased by some 40,000. In terms of size, Lewisham is the fifth most populous borough in Inner London and the 13<sup>th</sup> most populous in London. Driven primarily by the birth rate, Lewisham's population is forecast to reach 318,000 by the time of the 2021 Census and rise by a further 34,000 to reach 352,000 by the 2031 Census.

The 2014 MYE (Mid-Year Estimate) reveals that over the last year, Lewisham's population growth has been particularly notable in the age group of 35 to 39 which saw a net increase of 1,283 residents on the year. Also of note is the 50 to 54 age group, saw a net increase of 841 residents over the period 2013-14 and five to nine year olds, which saw a net increase of 721 residents. There were however decreases for certain ages, for example those aged 20 to 24 years declined by 525 residents over the period 2013-14.

Table 1 presents data by broad age band, whilst Table 2 illustrates the composition of this change.

**Table 1: ONS 2014 Mid Year Population Estimates for Lewisham**

All ages Mid-2013	Children 0-19	Residents 20 to 64	Older people 65 and over
291,933	72,782	191,776	27,375

**Table 2: Components of Change since Mid 2013**

Mid-2013 population	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Net migration & other changes	Total change	Mid-2014 population
286,180	4,753	1,461	3,292	2,461	5,753	291,933

**Figure 1: Population Pyramid for Lewisham residents by Gender & Age Group**

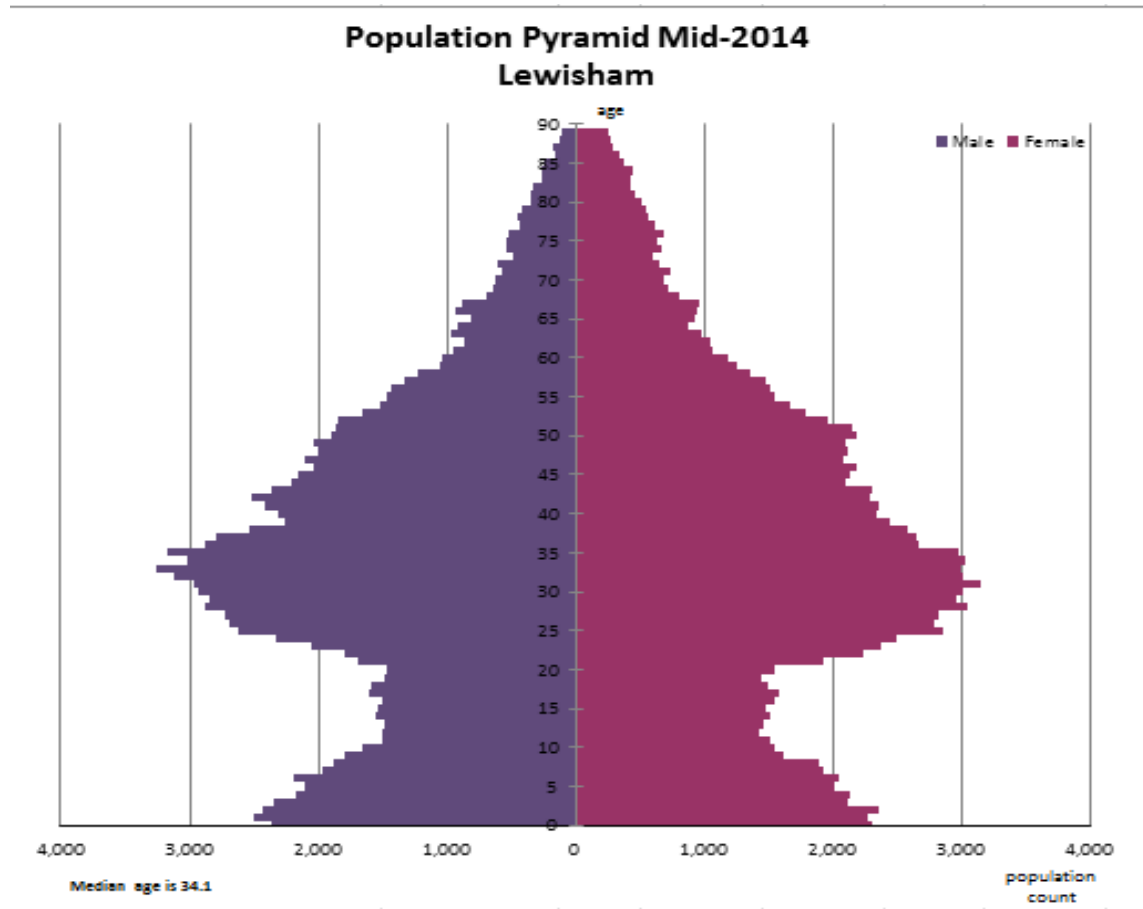


Figure 1 highlights the continuing male bias of those residents in their 30s, whilst older residents are, as expected, still more likely to be female.

For London, the population for mid 2014 stood at 8,538,689, a rise of over 122,154 since mid 2013. Over the past 10 years the number of people who make their home in the capital has increased by more than one million (14%). According to the Office for National Statistics, by the time of the Census in 2021 the capital's population will reach some 9.3 million and rise again to 10.1 million by 2031.

### 3. The pressure on infrastructure and services

The attraction of London as a major world city means that the capital's population is expected to grow significantly over the next two decades.

This rapid growth will inevitably place great pressure on the capital's infrastructure and services particularly affordable housing and schools. Recent data published by the Land Registry revealed that the average house price in London is now £475,961 (up 9% on the year). This represents the highest as well as fastest rising house price increase of any region in the country. Whilst this is undoubtedly a particular and pressing challenge for London, the effects are most acute in Inner London, which is home to more than one in three of the capital's 8.5 million residents.

The impact of the buoyant London housing market has, in recent years, meant that comparatively affordable boroughs such as Lewisham have also seen significant house price rises. In June 2015, the Land Registry reported that the average house price in Lewisham was £400,000 up 15.3% on the year. This is well above the London average and behind only Croydon (15.9%) and Newham (17.5%) amongst London boroughs.

Aside from the fact that rising house prices make home ownership increasingly unaffordable, instability in the housing economy is also driving up the cost of private sector rents. According to the 2011 Census, some 25% of Lewisham residents now reside in the private rented sector (up from 14% in 2001). The sector is now the fastest growing in the borough.

In addition to the challenge of housing, the capital also faces challenges relating to the provision of suitable school places to meet demand fuelled by the London's high birth rate. A report published by London Councils in 2014, forecast that London needed 133,000 more primary and secondary school places by 2018 to meet current demand. According to London Councils, the boroughs with the biggest projected shortfall in primary school places are Hounslow, Harrow, Newham, Greenwich and Croydon.

Pressures on social care and health care services continue to increase as people live longer, treatments and interventions for health care grow and expectations rise for care in older age. Life expectancy is increasing across the London Borough of Lewisham; Ten years ago life expectancy in the Borough for women was 79.1 (2001-2003) and 74.5 for men (2001-2003). According to the Office for National Statistics latest statistics, life expectancy at birth for female residents of the London Borough of Lewisham is 83 years (2011-13), and for males life expectancy is 78.7 years (2011-13). This is an increase in life expectancy for women of nearly four years and for men an increase of over four years.

## **4. Conclusion**

Existing and forecast demographic pressures raise a number of questions for public agencies already facing significant pressures to cut budgets. These questions arise in relation to not just the scale of the financial challenge but the impact of such financial challenges on the delivery of services and what might be done to mitigate the potential for harm.

---

Queries or comments to:

Policy, Service Design and Analysis on extension: 47148