

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Demographic trends and forecasts

Insight & Intelligence Team

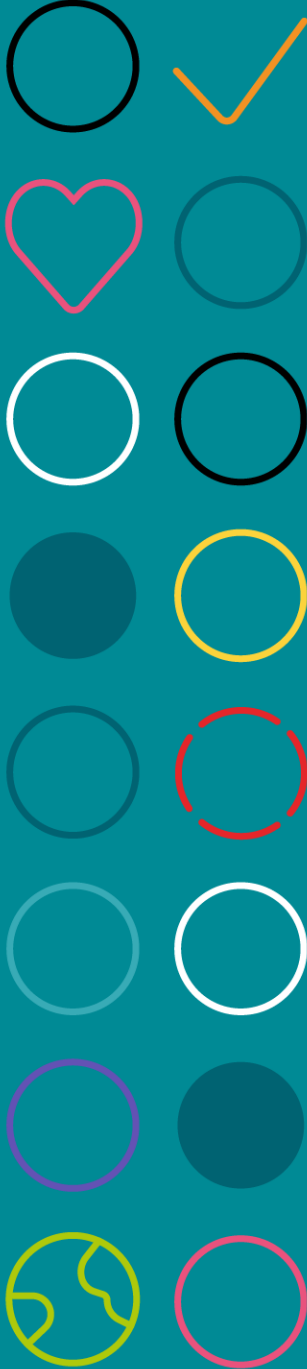
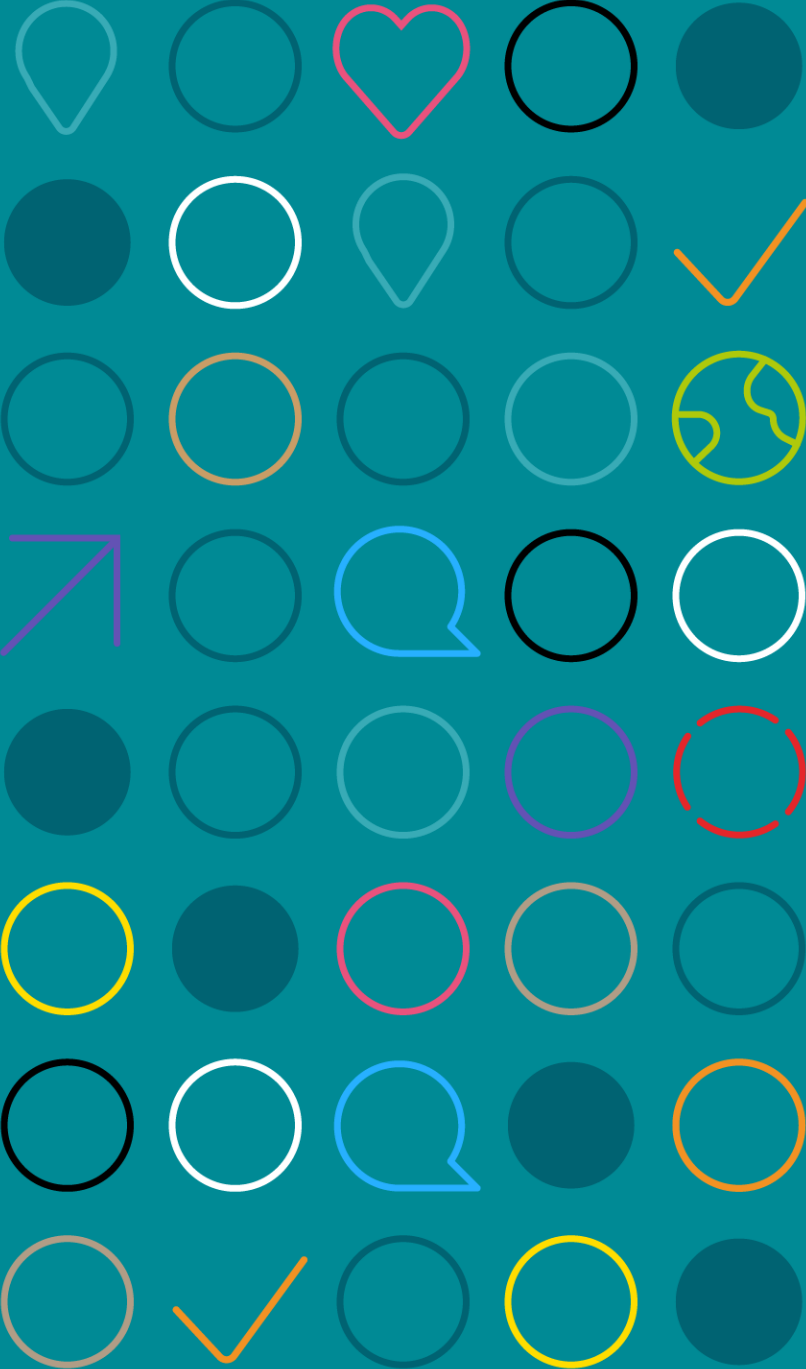
Jan 2025



Play your part towards
a Stronger Future



Cheshire West
and Chester





Introduction

- How and why the population is changing is important.
- The number of older people is increasing.
- Demographic shift has implications for healthcare, social care, the economy, and society as a whole.
- Opportunities for older people to contribute to the labour market for longer and to be involved in their communities through activities such as volunteering.
- Recent trends in fertility, mortality and migration help form a set of assumptions about how they will shape the future population.
- These trends are used alongside future housing plans to forecast the population and provide a view on how the population may look if these assumptions are true.
- 2021 Census = a check point and led to revision of past population estimates.
- **Interim forecasts (2023 to 2033)** – awaiting 2021 Census based ONS projections in 2025 which will enable production of longer term and local forecasts for localities and community partnership areas.





Key points

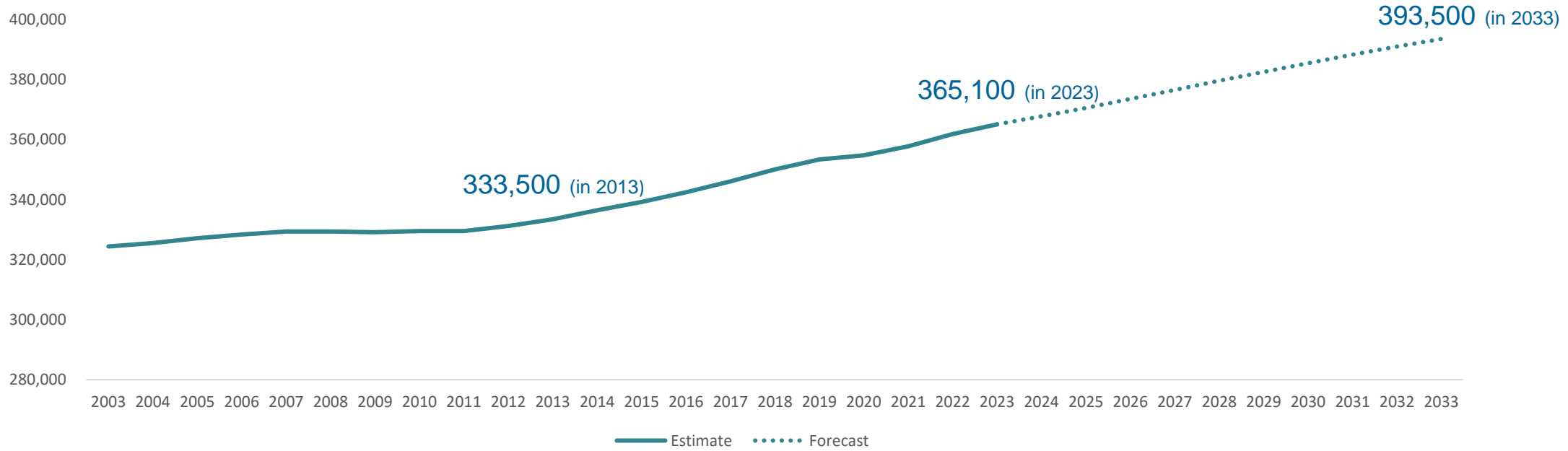
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Increasing total population

- Population has increased by 9% (31,600) over the last ten years (2013 to 2023) to 365,100 in 2023.
- Forecast to continue to increase but at a slightly slower rate, 8% (28,500) increase over the next ten years, to 393,500 in 20233.



Note: All numbers rounded to nearest 100.

Sources: Population estimates, Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Population forecasts, Insight and Intelligence Team, CW&C

Increasing dwellings

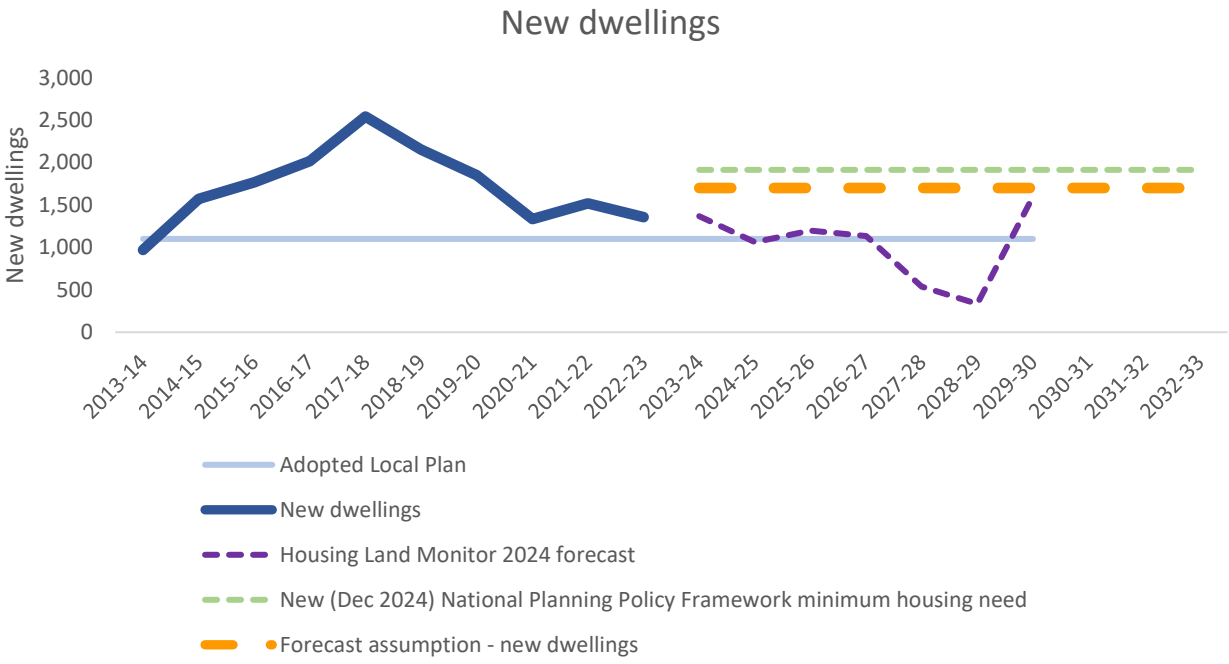


165,200 dwellings (2023)



365,100 population (2023)

New dwellings	Per annum
Adopted Local Plan (2010 to 2030)	1,100 (minimum)
New dwellings (2013 to 2023)	1,700 (actual built)
Housing Land Monitor 2024 forecast to 2030	1,000 (average pa)
New (Dec 2024) National Planning Policy Framework housing need (not included in current Adopted Local Plan)	1,914



Assumption new dwellings 2023-33 = 1,700 pa
 (includes judgements on realistic migration based on past trends and consideration of lead in time for new policy)

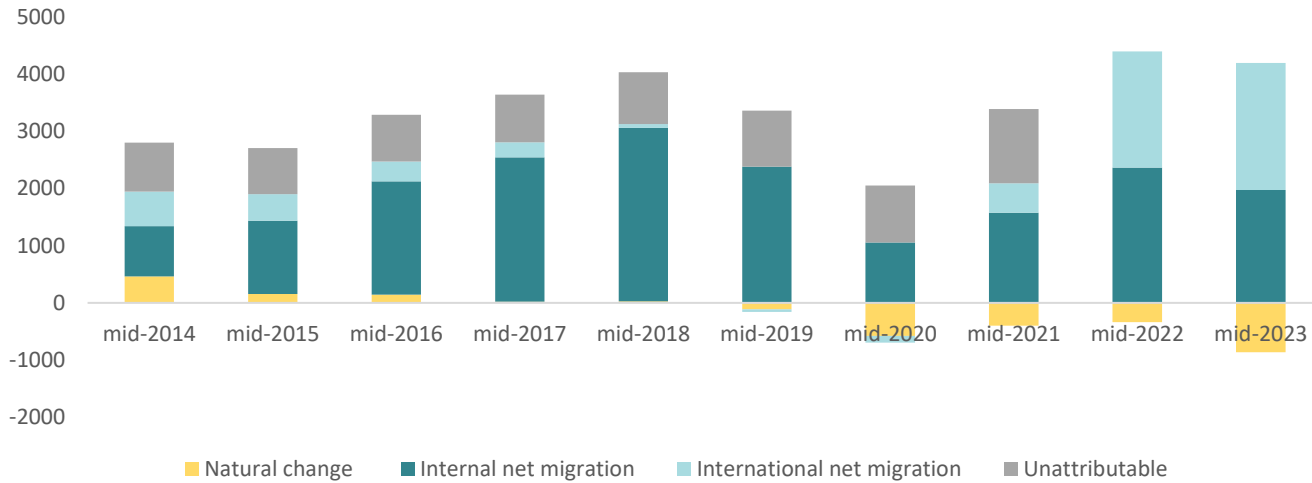
Sources:
 Table 100: Number of Dwellings by Tenure and district, England, 2023 (provisional), MHCLG
 Population estimates, Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0

Increasing population is driven by people moving into the borough

Over the last ten years (2013 to 2023):

- **Natural change** (births – deaths) has decreased (number of births has decreased, deaths have increased)
- Each year, an average 20,100 people moved into CW&C from elsewhere (**17,800** from UK and **2,300** international)
- Around 17,600 moved out of the borough each year (**15,900** to UK and **1,700** international)
- Net migration (mainly adults aged under 50 and children) is driving population increase

Drivers of population change



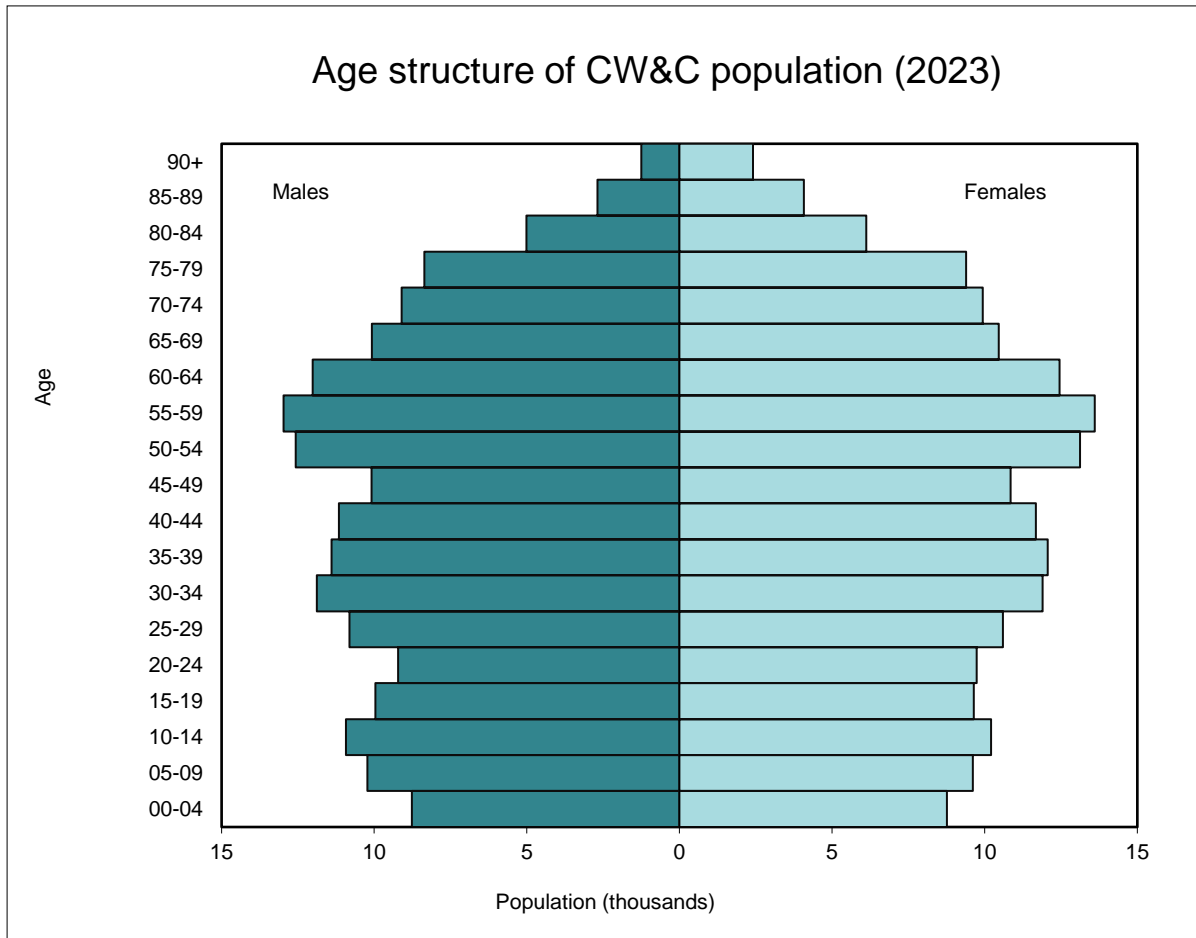
Recent factors affecting international migration:

- New immigration system - January 2021
- End of free movement from EU
- Easing of restrictions after COVID-19
- War in Ukraine
- Changes to policies - review of shortage occupation list, increase in the salary thresholds, eligibility of dependants.
- UK = mainly non-EU migrants (and dependents), coming for work – almost half came from India or Nigeria, most commonly to work in the health and social care sector.

Experts from Oxford University and LSE* expect net international migration to fall. Latest provisional ONS estimates show a decrease.

Grey area = Unattributable population change reflects adjustments needed to bring estimates in line with 2021 Census results, avg 900 pa.

Large cohorts in older age groups



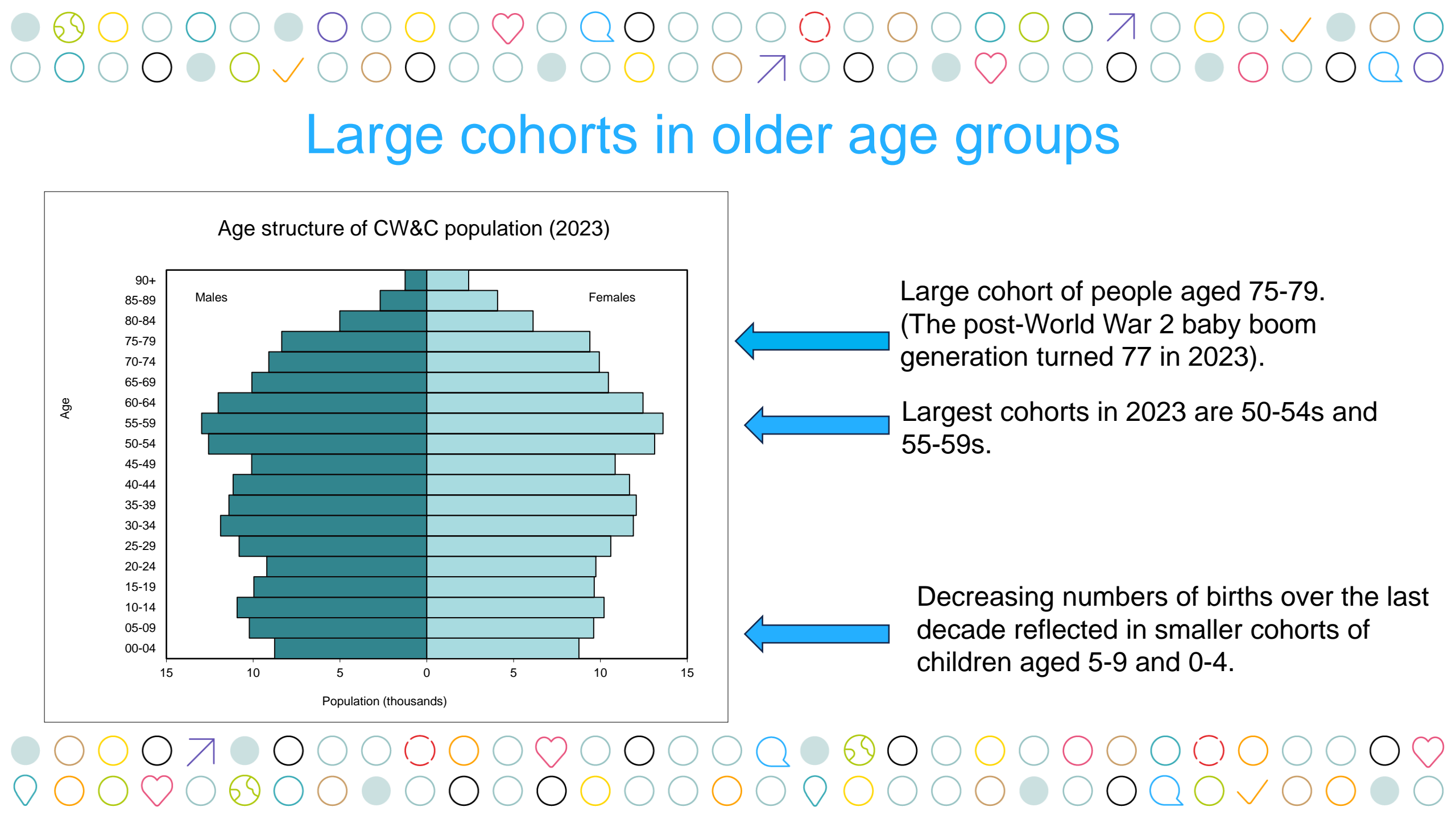
Large cohort of people aged 75-79. (The post-World War 2 baby boom generation turned 77 in 2023).



Largest cohorts in 2023 are 50-54s and 55-59s.



Decreasing numbers of births over the last decade reflected in smaller cohorts of children aged 5-9 and 0-4.



Population change in key age groups

Estimate:

Over the last 10 years (2013 to 2023):

- Population has increased by 9%
- Number of children (0-15) increased by 7%
- Largest increases in older age groups:
 - 20% (13,100) increase in number of people aged 65+
 - 25% (2,100) increase in 85+

	2013	2023	Change 2013-23	%
0-15	58,600	62,800	4,200	7%
16-64	209,100	223,400	14,300	7%
65+	65,800	78,900	13,100	20%
85+	8,400	10,400	2,100	25%
Total	333,500	365,100	31,600	9%

Note: Numbers independently rounded to nearest 100.

Forecast:

Over the next 10 years (2023 to 2033):

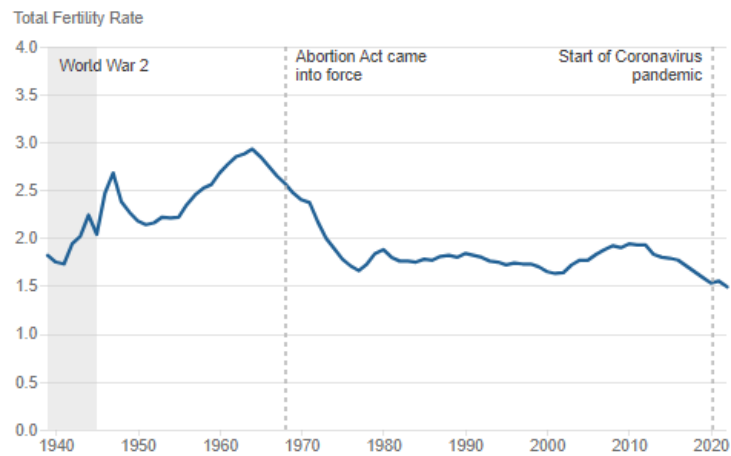
- Population is forecast to increase by 8%
- Number of **children forecast to decrease by 2%**
- Largest increases in older age groups:
 - **22% (17,300) increase** in number of **people aged 65+**
 - **50% (5,200) increase in 85+** (double the rate of increase in previous decade)

	2023	2033	Change 2023-33	%
0-15	62,800	61,600	-1,200	-2%
16-64	223,400	235,800	12,400	6%
65+	78,900	96,100	17,300	22%
85+	10,400	15,600	5,200	50%
Total	365,100	393,500	28,500	8%

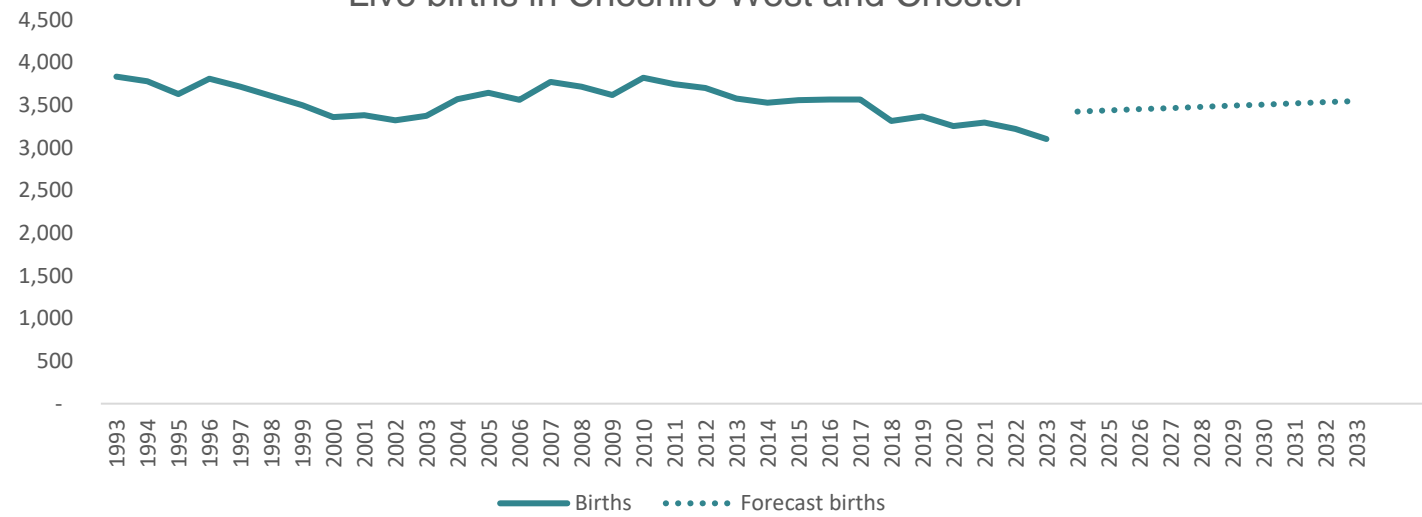
Lower number of births and fertility

- Number of live births have (generally) decreased in Cheshire West and Chester over the last ten years from around 3,600 in 2013 to around 3,100 in 2023. Total fertility rates have also decreased to a record low (1.38 in 2023).
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) project the fertility rate will remain at a long-term low level (around 1.5), this assumption (with a CW&C adjustment factor) is used in the CW&C population forecasts.
- This may be an optimistic assumption given recent decreases in fertility rates.

Total fertility rate in England and Wales



Live births in Cheshire West and Chester

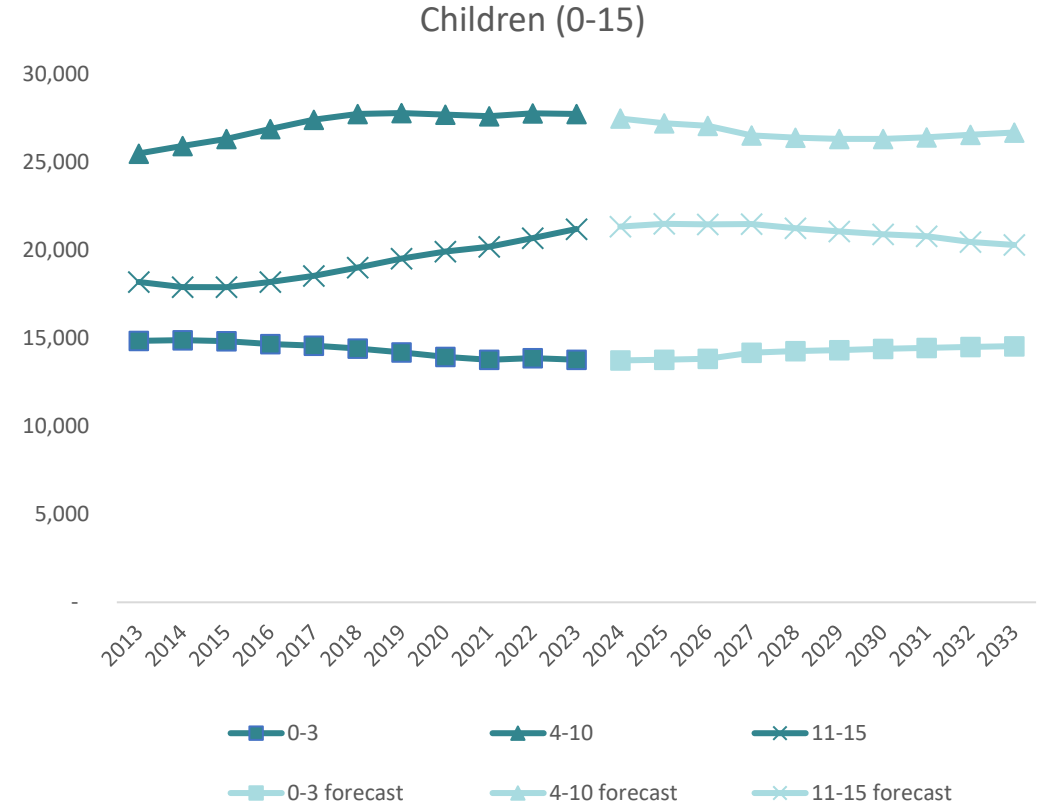


Source: Births in England and Wales from the Office for National Statistics

Note: Fertility assumptions sourced from ONS 2021-based Interim National Population Projections (ONS).

Children (0-15) will decrease over next ten years

- Numbers of children increased by 7% (4,200) over the last decade (2013 to 2023), with 17% increase in children aged 11-15.
- Over the next ten years (2023 to 2033):
 - 2% (1,200) decrease in children.
 - Pre-school children (aged 0-3) will increase by 6% (800).
 - Children aged 4-10 will decrease by 4% (1,100).
 - Children aged 11-15 will decrease by 4% (900).



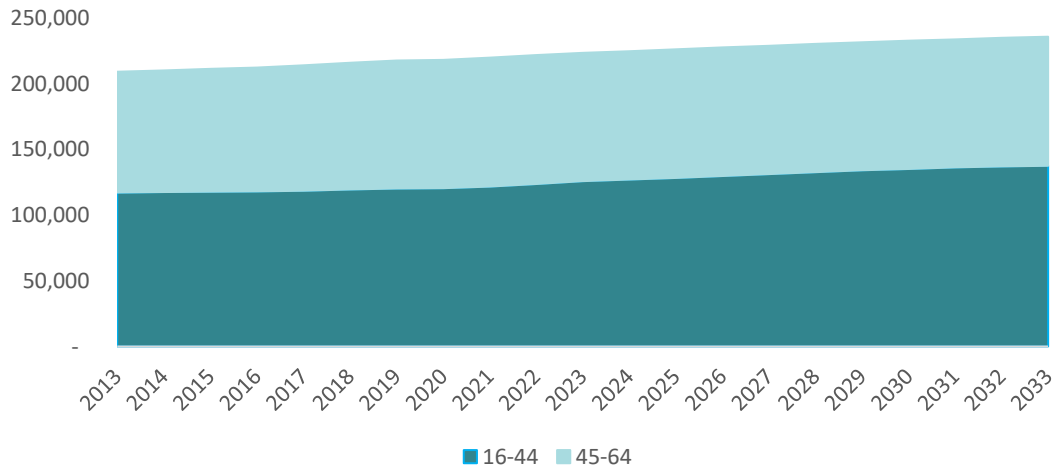
	2013	2023	2033	Change 2013-2023	%	Change 2023-2033	%
0-3	14,900	13,800	14,600	-1,100	-7%	800	6%
4-10	25,500	27,800	26,700	2,300	9%	-1,100	-4%
11-15	18,200	21,200	20,300	3,000	17%	-900	-4%
0-15	58,600	62,800	61,600	4,200	7%	-1,200	-2%

Note: Cohorts generally reflect past birth trends (plus annual net migration). Over the past decade each cohort of children has grown year on year due to positive net migration. This is forecast to continue. Future fertility assumptions in the forecasts may be overly optimistic. If there was a lower number of births over the next ten years than forecast there would be a lower number of children aged 0-10.

Increasing numbers of people of working age

- Slightly lower increase in people of working age compared to the previous decade.
- From 2013 to 2023 the number of people aged 16-64 increased by 7% (14,300), between 2023 to 2033 it is forecast to increase by 6% (12,400).
- Numbers of people of younger working age will increase over the next ten years (partly due to net migration in younger age groups), whilst numbers of people of older working age, will remain fairly constant.

Working age population

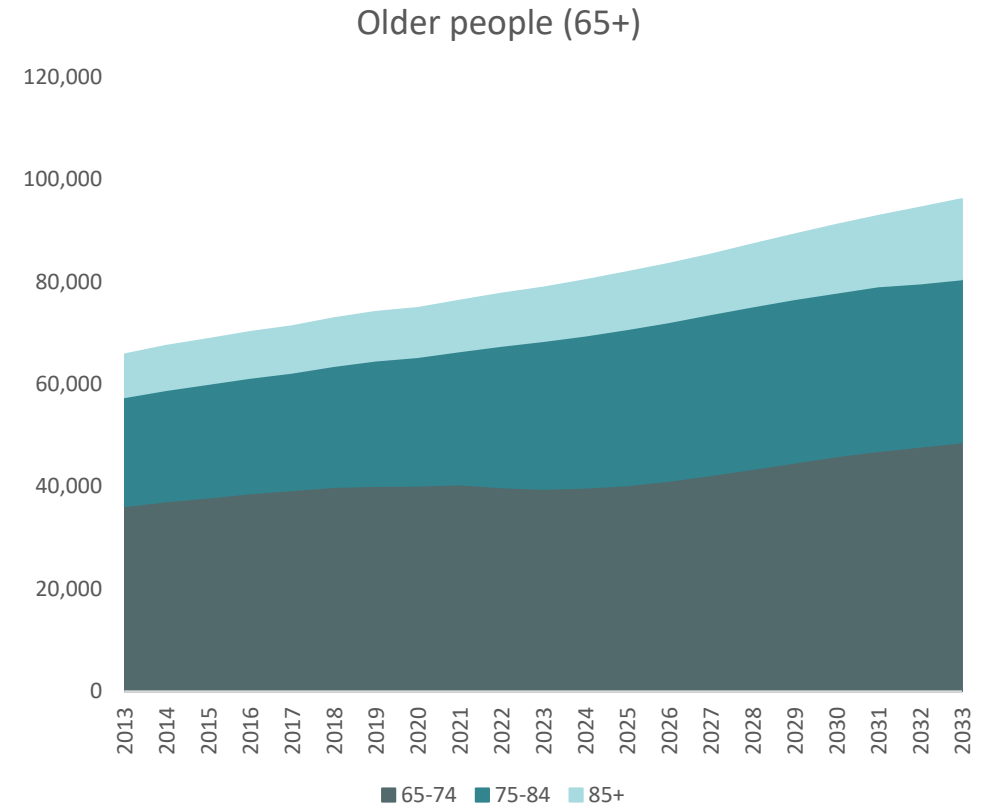


	2013 estimate	2023 estimate	2033 forecast	Change 2013-2023	%	Change 2023-2033	%
16-44	117,200	125,800	137,600	8,600	7%	11,900	9%
45-64	91,900	97,700	98,200	5,800	6%	500	1%
16-64	209,100	223,400	235,800	14,300	7%	12,400	6%

Ageing population – large increase in numbers of older people

- The number of people aged 65+ increased by 20% over the last decade (2013 to 2023).
- Number of people aged 65+ is forecast to increase by 22% (17,300) over the next ten years.
- Largest percentage increase of around 50% (5,200) is in 85+ population as WWII baby boomers move into this age group.

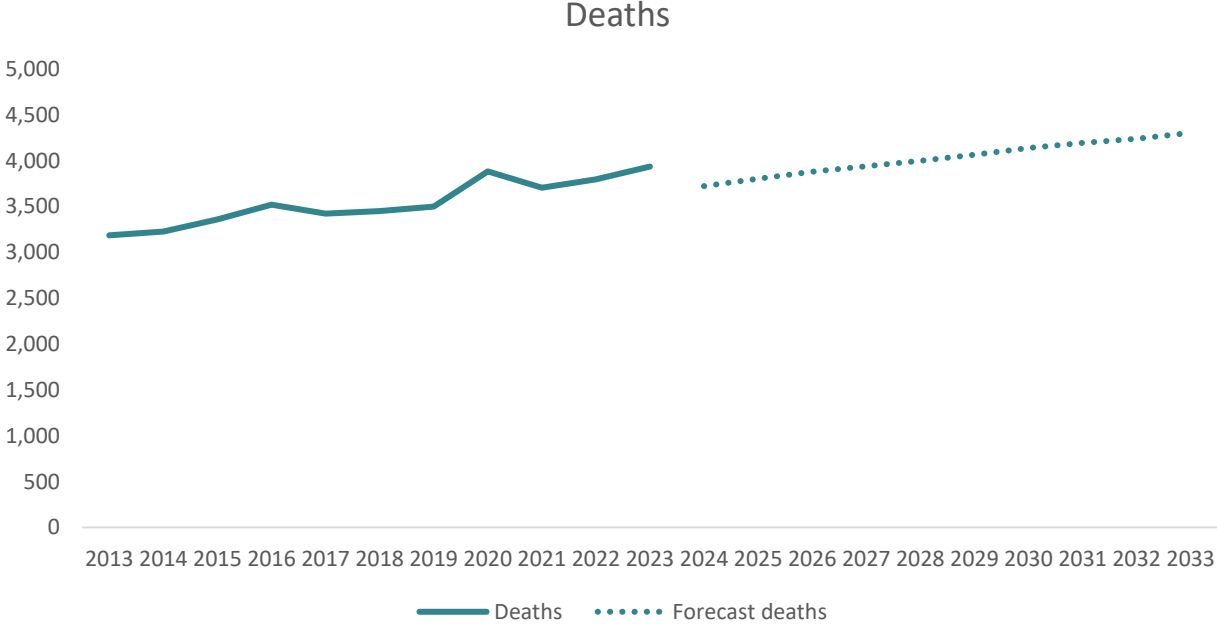
	2013 estimate	2023 estimate	2033 forecast	Change 2013-2023	%	Change 2023-2033	%
65-74	36,200	39,600	48,600	3,400	9%	9,000	23%
75-84	21,300	28,900	31,900	7,600	36%	3,000	10%
85+	8,400	10,400	15,600	2,100	25%	5,200	50%
65+	65,800	78,900	96,100	13,100	20%	17,300	22%



Note: ONS assume there will not be a step change in future mortality improvement rates as a result of COVID-19. The forecasts assume the same mortality improvement factors as the 2021-based Interim National Population Projections (ONS).

Increase in numbers of deaths

- The number of deaths has increased from around 3,200 in 2013 to 3,900 in 2023.
- The number of deaths will continue to increase over the next ten years, as the older population increases.
- By 2033, there are forecast to be over 4,300 deaths a year.
- There may be implications and pressure points for end-of-life care, services and support.



Health implications of increasing number of older people – increase in dementia



One in two of us will be affected by dementia in our lifetime.

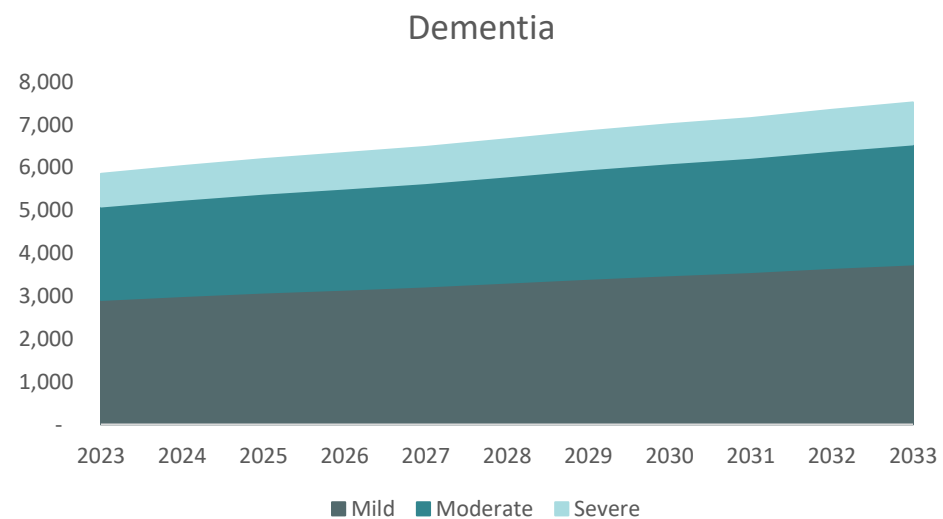
Either by caring for someone with the condition, developing it ourselves, or both.



Source of prevalence: [The annual cost of dementia](#), Alzheimer's Society, 2024

- The number of people with dementia in the borough is forecast to increase by 29% (1,700) over the next ten years.
- More than half this increase (1,100) will be in people aged 80+.
- Around 200 additional people are forecast to have severe dementia by 2033 – this may increase demand for residential care. The Alzheimer's Society estimate two-thirds (66%) of people with severe dementia live in residential or nursing care settings.
- The largest increases are most likely in deprived areas – national prevalence rates are nearly twice as high for those living in the most deprived areas compared to those in the least deprived areas.

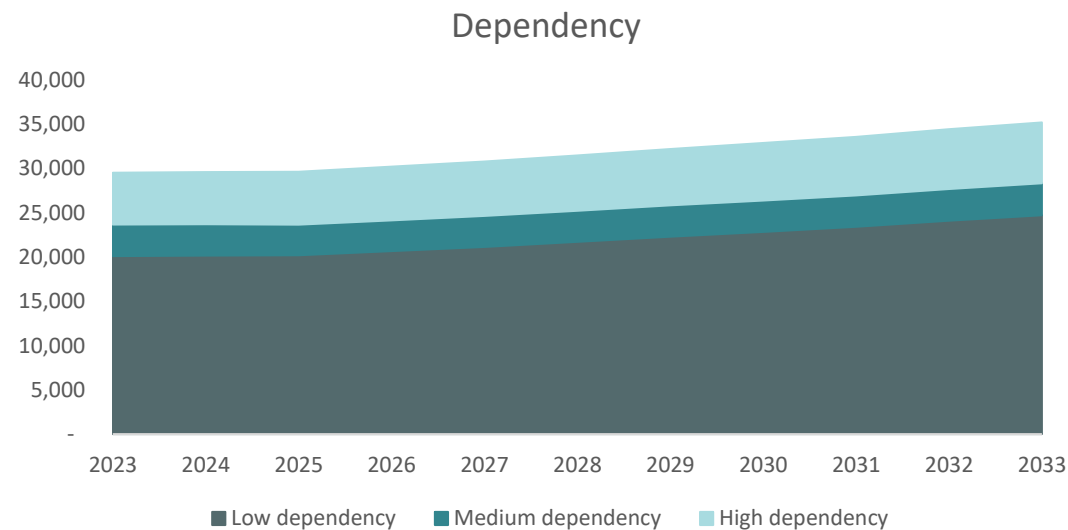
	2023 estimate	2033 forecast	Change 2023-2033	%
Mild	2,900	3,700	800	29%
Moderate	2,200	2,800	600	29%
Severe	800	1,000	200	29%
Total	5,800	7,500	1,700	29%



Care implications – increasing number of older people with care needs

- Largest increase forecast in the number of older people (aged 65+) living independently
- Large increase in number of older people with low dependency needs
- People with medium or high dependency and requiring substantial care (daily or 24 hour) will increase with greatest increase (1,000) in high dependency (24 hour care needs).
- Increasing needs are predominantly in people aged 85+ reflecting population increases in this cohort

	2023 estimate	2033 forecast	Change 2023-2033	%
Independent	49,300	61,000	11,600	24%
Low dependency	20,100	24,700	4,600	23%
Medium dependency	3,600	3,600	100	2%
High dependency	5,800	6,900	1,000	17%



Source of prevalence: Lancet Public Health article - Forecasting the care needs of the older population in England over the next 20 years: estimates from the Population Ageing and Care Simulation (PACSim) modelling study, Andrew Kingston, Adelina Comas-Herrera, Carol Jagger for the MODEM project, [Forecasting the care needs of the older population in England over the next 20 years: estimates from the Population Ageing and Care Simulation \(PACSim\) modelling study - The Lancet Public Health](#). The MODEM project is also used by Alzheimer's Society for prevalence rates.

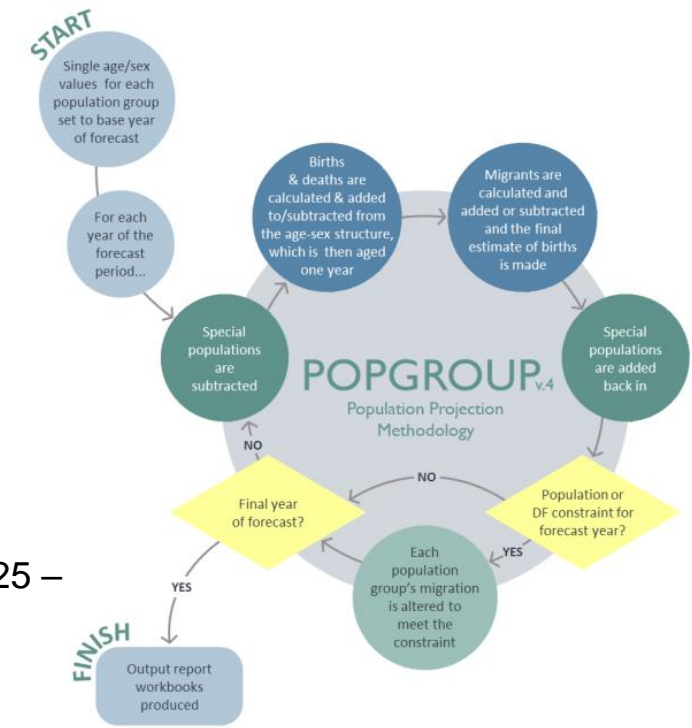
Increasing number of older people living alone

- 10% (16,200) additional households forecast by 2033, less than growth in previous decade (12%).
- Highest growth is in lone pensioner households, with an additional 5,000 older people living alone by 2033.
- 18% (4,600) increase in other household types (households that are neither single person or family households).

	2013	2023	2033	Change 2013-2023	%	Change 2023-2033	%
One-person household Aged 0 to 65	23,800	26,100	27,100	2,200	9%	1,000	4%
One-person household Aged 66 years and over	18,300	22,600	27,600	4,300	23%	5,000	22%
Couple family household - All children non-dependent	9,500	10,600	11,100	1,100	12%	500	5%
Couple family household - Dependent children	28,300	29,700	32,300	1,400	5%	2,600	9%
Couple family household - No children	25,900	29,000	30,200	3,100	12%	1,200	4%
Single family household - Lone parent household	14,700	16,000	17,300	1,300	9%	1,300	8%
Other household types	21,500	25,700	30,300	4,200	20%	4,600	18%
Total	142,000	159,700	175,900	17,700	12%	16,200	10%

Technical detail and links to national research

- Particularly difficult time to produce forecasts due to a range of factors – changes in planning policy, immigration trends, fertility trends
- Ten years – Interim forecasts
- Forecasts become less accurate the further into the future they go
- Produced using Popgroup model (LGA owned) = cohort component model with derived forecasts model
- Caveats – forecasts based on a range of assumptions (some pre 2021 Census)
 - 2021-based Interim National Population Projections (ONS) – trends in fertility, mortality – adjusted to local rates
 - 2021 Census
 - 1,700 new dwellings pa = average 2012/13 to 2022/23
- New demographic information (National and Subnational population and household projections) due in 2025 – opportunity to update borough forecasts and produce local forecasts

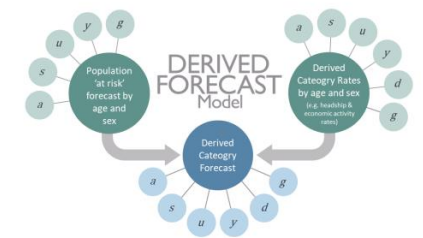


National research on implications of ageing population:

- [Future of an ageing population - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2023: health in an ageing society - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Health in 2040: projected patterns of illness in England - The Health Foundation](http://www.healthfoundation.org.uk)

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Population forecasts, Insight and Intelligence Team, CW&C.

Contact: insight@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk Insight & Intelligence Team, Cheshire West & Chester Council.



$$D_{a,s,u,y,d,g} = \frac{P_{a,s,u,y,g} R_{a,s,u,y,d,g}}{100}$$

D	Derived Category Forecast	y	Year
P	Population at risk Forecast	d	Derived category
R	Derived Category Rates	g	Group (usually an area, but can be an ethnic group or social group)
a	Age-group		
s	Sex		
u	Sub-population		

