**Some Equality and Diversity Facts about Rotherham Residents**

Rotherham has a population of 260,800 (2015) with an age profile broadly similar to the national average. However, there are relatively fewer young people aged 18-24 as a result of people leaving the area to study or work. Older people are the age group growing most rapidly, especially those aged 75+ whose numbers are projected to grow by 8,350 or 38% over the next 10 years.

Gender balance mirrors the national average with a fairly even split between male and female across most age groups. There are slightly more boys than girls reflecting higher numbers of male births. However, in the oldest age groups, women significantly outnumber men, resulting in 51% of the population being female. The average number of maternities is 3,117 per year resulting in 3,152 births, with 6.5% of women aged 16-45 having a maternity each year. Average number of pregnancies is 3,683 per year which illustrates that not all conceptions not result in a live birth.

There is no data on the sexuality or sexual identity of Rotherham people but based on national research (2009 and 2013) it is estimated that 3,100 people (1.5%) aged 16+ are Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual and 1,300 people (0.6%) are Transgender.

At least 75 ethnic groups were recorded in Rotherham by the 2011 Census. The Census found that 91.9% of the population were White British and 8.1% were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups, a much smaller proportion than the English average of 20%. 7,912 (38%) of Rotherham’s 20,842 BME residents were from Pakistani or Kashmiri backgrounds. “Other White” was the second largest BME group, covering Roma and other Eastern Europeans. Multiple Heritage (Mixed), Black Africans, Indians, Irish, Chinese and Arab (including Yemeni) are also significant. 29.3% of the population in Rotherham’s three central wards was BME in 2011 whilst in the rest of the borough only 4.1% were BME. In Rotherham schools, 16.7% have a BME background whereas only 2.6% of pensioners (65+) are BME.

A relatively high proportion of Rotherham’s population have a long term condition and a disabled. The 2011 Census showed that 56,588 people had a limiting long term health condition or disability, 22% of the population compared with the English average of 17.6%. Over 22,105 people (8.5% of the population) claimed a disability benefit, well above the English average of 5.4%. Two thirds of disability benefit claimants have a physical disability and a third have a mental health condition. The most common disabling conditions are arthritis (18.6%), learning disability (15%) and psychosis (6.6%).

The 2011 Census showed that two thirds of the Rotherham population were Christians and 4.4% belonged to other faiths, mainly Islam. 22.5% of residents had no religion and 6.6% did not answer. Almost all members of minority faiths belong to BME communities whilst 96% of Christians are white British. 45% of BME residents are Muslim, a third are Christians and one in ten has no religion.

Half of people aged 16+ were married or in a civil partnership in 2011. 35% of households included a married couple, rising to 53% in South Asian households.

A more detailed statistical breakdown of Rotherham’s equality group statistics is below:

|  |
| --- |
| Rotherham Equality Group Statistics |
| Age | **Number** | **Percentage** |
| All Ages 2014 | 260,100 | 100% |
| Aged 0-15 | 51,100 | 19.6% |
| Aged 16-24 | 26,600 | 10.2% |
| Aged 25-39 | 45,500 | 17.5% |
| Aged 40-64 | 88,000 | 33.8% |
| Aged 65+ | 48,900 | 18.8% |
| Disability |  |  |
| Limiting Long Term Disability or Health Condition 2011 | 56,588 | 22.0% |
| Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment 2015 | 22,105 | 8.5% |
| Sex / Gender (2014) |  |  |
| Females | 132,300 | 50.9% |
| Males | 127,800 | 49.1% |
| Women (18+) | 104,600 | 51.4% |
| Men (18+) | 99,100 | 48.6% |
| Race / Ethnicity (2011) |  |  |
| White British | 236,438 | 91.9% |
| Other White (European) | 3,418 | 1.3% |
| Multiple Heritage / Mixed | 2,551 | 1.0% |
| Pakistani / Kashmiri | 7,912 | 3.1% |
| Indian | 961 | 0.4% |
| Other Asian | 1,707 | 0.7% |
| Black African | 1,672 | 0.6% |
| Other Black | 440 | 0.2% |
| Arab | 581 | 0.2% |
| Other Ethnic Group | 708 | 0.3% |
| Religion (2011) |  |  |
| Christian | 171,068 | 66.5% |
| No Religion | 57,783 | 22.5% |
| Muslim | 9,614 | 3.7% |
| Other Faiths | 1,785 | 0.7% |
| Religion not stated |  | 6.6% |
| Pregnancy (2009-14) |  |  |
| Average Number of Births Per Year | 3,150 |  |
| Married or in Civil Partnership (2011) |  | **% of 16+** |
| Married | 103,287 | 49.7% |
| Civil Partnership | 283 | 0.1% |
| Sexual Orientation (pro rata estimate) |  |  |
| Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender | 4,400 | 2.1% |

**Rotherham Equality Profiles**

**Age**

Rotherham has a population of 260,800 which is increasing mainly as a result of the growing number of older people living in the Borough, placing increasing demand on council and health services. Rotherham has 49,600 people aged 65 years or over and increasing life expectancy is the main factor resulting in a growing older population. The number of older people aged 75 years or more is projected to grow by 8,350 or 38% over the next 10 years. Changes to the age of retirement means that people are likely to remain in employment longer, which will impact on the employment opportunities available for young people.

There is evidence to show that young people were most affected by the last economic downturn although the number unemployed has fallen in recent years. The inequality gap in the Borough is growing; the number of people living in areas with both high and low deprivation has been increasing according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015. The most deprived areas have a younger than average population whilst the least deprived areas have older than average populations. Although house prices are 46% below the national average at £102,048 in March 2016 (HM Land Registry), rising house prices and rents are particularly affecting young people. A relatively low proportion of 18-24 year olds live in Rotherham as many young people move away from the area to study or to work.

**Disability**

A relatively high proportion of Rotherham’s population are disabled. The 2011 Census showed that 56,588 people had a limiting long term health condition or disability, 22% of the population compared with the English average of 17.6%. Over 22,105 people (8.5% of the population) claim a disability benefit (DLA or PIP), well above the English average of 5.4%.

Two thirds of disability benefit claimants have a physical disability and a third have a mental disability. The most common disabling conditions are arthritis (18.6%), learning disability (15%) and psychosis (6.6%). An estimated 6,240 people in Rotherham have a learning disability and there are an estimated 4,380 people with a visual impairment in the Borough. A high proportion of people of working age who claim long term sickness benefits have mental health issues.

Some disabled people report feeling vulnerable or avoid venturing out alone in Rotherham Town Centre. Recorded hate crime against disabled people increased from 11 in 2014 to 79 in January-December 2015, although this may reflect increased reporting. 46% of people with a limiting disability feel unsafe outside after dark compared with 32% of people with no disability (Place Survey 2008). According to the Rowntree Foundation report (Housing and Disabled Children, 2008) families with disabled children were less likely to be living in decent accommodation when compared to families with a non-disabled child. Around 50% of these families lived in crowded homes that were found to be in poor state of repair. Another area of concern for disabled residents is the frequency and reliability of public transport and their lack of confidence in using buses and trains.

**Ethnicity**

According to the 2011 Census, the majority of Rotherham’s population is White British (91.9%) with a 8.1% Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population, well below the English average of 20.2%. Rotherham’s BME population has been growing and becoming increasingly diverse, especially since 2001. The BME population more than doubled between 2001 and 2011, increasing from 10,080 to 20,842. The largest BME groups in Rotherham are Pakistani / Kashmiri (3%) and Slovak/Czech Roma (1.5%). Smaller communities are Black African, Indian, Chinese, Yemeni, Irish, Polish and Romanian Roma. 2,550 people (1% of the population) have dual or multiple heritages, with parents from different ethnic groups. In central Rotherham 38% of residents are from BME communities compared with only 4% in the outer areas of the borough.

The majority of Rotherham’s BME residents were born abroad (55%) and these people are more likely to lack English language skills than those born in the UK. 19% of those born outside the UK cannot speak English well. Of those born outside the UK, 30% arrived as children aged 0-15 and 57% arrived as young adults aged 16-34. Ethnic groups where more than two thirds were born outside the UK in 2011 were Other White (63% born in Eastern Europe), Black African (73% born in Africa), Arab (54% born in the Middle East) and other ethnic groups. 81% of people with Mixed or Multiple Heritage were born in the UK. 61% of Rotherham’s Pakistani community were born in the UK and 36% were born in South Asia (Pakistan and Kashmir).

In the 2011 Census, unemployment rates were highest for Black Africans whilst Pakistani women had the lowest employment rates at 29%. The employment rate for BME women is only 37% compared with 66% for White British women (2015). Formal volunteering is low among most minority ethnic groups and they are also likely to be less active and involved in mainstream local groups. BME residents are likely to be less well informed about local public services, especially those who have not lived in the UK very long. The majority of hate crimes relate to ethnicity with an average of around 300 per year being recorded in Rotherham 2013-15. People from BME backgrounds have a greater fear of crime with 48% feeling unsafe outside after dark compared with 35% of White British people (Place Survey, 2008).

**Religion**

The 2011 Census showed that 171,068 people or 66.5% of Rotherham’s population described themselves as Christians, a fall from 79.4% in 2001. The proportion of Christians remains above the national average of 59.4%, mainly because of the relatively low proportion belonging to minority religions. There is no local data on the balance of Christian denominations but national estimates and local intelligence suggest that the majority associate with the Church of England and that Roman Catholics are the second largest denomination.

In 2001, 2.6% of Rotherham’s population belonged to minority religions and by 2011 this had increased to 4.4%, still well below the national average of 8.7%. The largest minority religion in Rotherham is Islam with 3.7% of the population stating they are Muslims, below the English average of 5%. 22.5% of the local population say they have no religion compared to 24.7% nationally and the number of people in this category has more than doubled since 2001.

72% of Muslims in Rotherham are of Pakistani ethnicity, 9% are other South Asian and 5% are Arabs. Rotherham has 433 Hindus, 73% of Indian ethnicity, and 293 Sikhs of whom 75% are Indian. There are 401 Buddhists, mainly White British, Chinese or “Other Asian”. Other religious groups with between 50 and 200 followers in Rotherham are Jewish, Pagan, Wicca and Spritualist. 17,030 people (6.6%) did not state their religion in the 2011 Census.

A third of BME residents in Rotherham are Christians whose numbers have increased following the arrival of migrants from Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania and other eastern European countries since 2004. Most of these are Roman Catholics or Eastern Orthodox. For example, it is estimated that approximately 90% of Polish people are Roman Catholic with over 50% attending church regularly.

**Gender**

Life expectancy in Rotherham is below the national average at 78.1 years for males and 81.4 years for females with national figures being 79.4 years and 83.1 years respectively. Women are more concerned about crime than men, with 40% saying they felt unsafe outside after dark compared with 31% of men (Place Survey 2008). However young men aged 16-24 are actually most at risk of acquaintance and stranger violence.

In Rotherham in 2014, boys did less well than girls at secondary school, with 52.7% achieving 5+ GCSE A\*-C including English and Maths compared with 57.6% of girls. This echoes the national trend whereby girls outperform boys at all levels of education, with a larger gender gap of 9.9% at GCSE.

The 2015 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings found that median earnings for men in Rotherham were £495.50 per week, far higher than women’s average earnings of £273.40. Women with children are less likely to be in employment than those without and in Rotherham 51% of male lone parents were in full time employment compared to 20% of female lone parents (2011 Census). Over twice the proportion of men in Rotherham are managers, directors or senior officials (13.3%) compared with women (5.6%). Women are much more likely to work in admin or secretarial positions (19.2% female and 5.1% male) and in sales and customer services (15.2% females, 6.3% males). Employment monitoring of the Council’ staff have identified similar trends in the workforce.

**Sexual Orientation and Identity**

There are no statistics on the number of people in Rotherham who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LBGT). The national Integrated Household Survey 2012 found that 1.5% of the UK population aged 16+ were Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, which would equate to 3,150 people in Rotherham. The Transgender population has been reliably estimated at 0.6% nationally which would equate to 1,250 people aged 16+ in Rotherham, giving a LGBT population of 4,400.

A survey on 112 LGBT people in 2010 found that 38% of LGBT respondents were Gay men, 35% were Lesbians and 12% were Bisexual. 10% of LGBT respondents lived in a different gender role to that assigned at birth including 6% who had changed gender. 14% of those surveyed considered themselves to be disabled. Few people felt part of any local LGBT community and many relied on networks elsewhere, notably Sheffield. LGBT people are more likely than average to be in employment although homophobia is a problem in some workplaces. Discrimination remains an issue with 40% having experienced harassment in the last 2 years and 73% feeling unsafe in Rotherham, compared with 41% of the general population. Between 10% and 20% had experienced discrimination by police, health or council services.

According to the Equality and Human Rights Commission Report – Beyond Tolerance (2009) 51% of gay men, 61% of lesbians and 25% of bi-sexual people felt they had experienced disadvantage as a result of their sexual orientation and 70% of lesbians and gay men felt they are unable to be open about their sexual orientation in the workplace. Gay young people may experience accommodation problems as they may be thrown out of the family home. Transgender people often experience victimisation in relation to transphobia, including harassment by strangers on the street, verbal abuse and physical assault. Transgender young people in school experience a higher incidence of bullying/harassment. Transgender adults of working age often fear discrimination in employment from either employers or co-workers.