

Factsheet: population

Further detail on the public consultation proposals



May 2019

This factsheet sets out details about the projected growth of the population in Weston-super-Mare and the surrounding areas and the different factors we have considered as part of the Healthy Weston consultation.

Population and housing growth

- The current catchment population for Weston Hospital is around 152,000.
- This is based on the number of people registered with a GP in the 21 North Somerset and four Sedgemoor local government wards, who would primarily refer their patients to the Accident and Emergency department (A&E) and other services at Weston Hospital.
- This population is expected to grow by an average of 1% a year up to 2025, excluding housing development. This equates to just over 161,000 people by 2025.
- Half of this growth will be in people over the age of 70.
- An additional 14,000 houses are expected to be built across North Somerset by 2025, the majority of which will be in the Weston area.
- A further 12,000 homes are expected to be built across the Sedgemoor district. The majority of these new homes are anticipated to be in Burnham-on-Sea, Highbridge and Bridgwater, the latter of which is outside the Weston Hospital catchment.
- It is estimated that this could mean an average rise of 1.82% per annum in the Weston Hospital catchment area or a rise to just over 169,000 people by 2025.



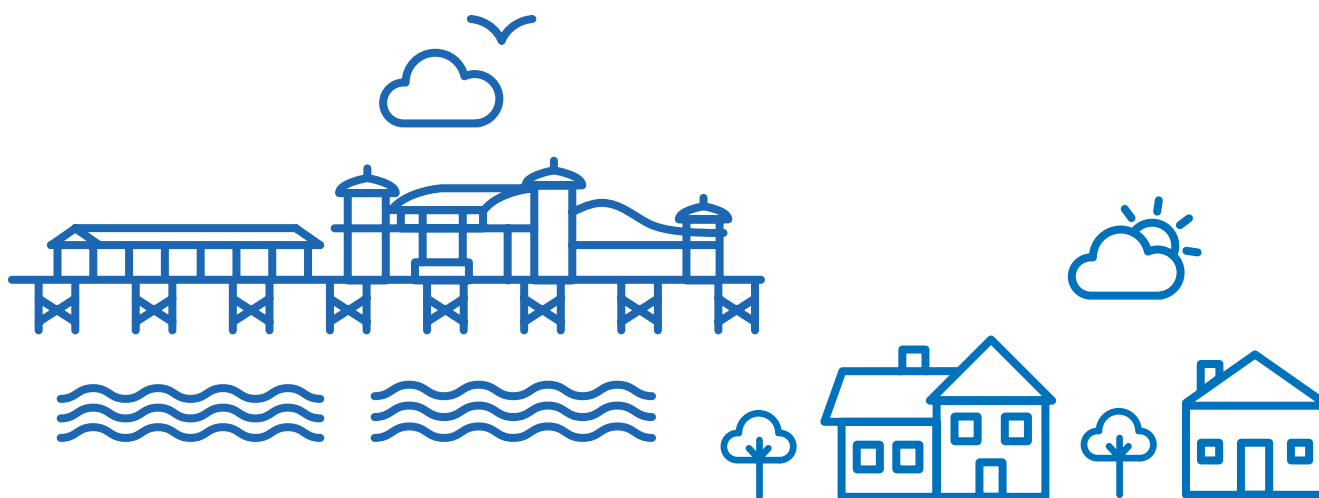
Growth of the population

- The birth rate is projected to fall by 0.2% per year until 2025 in both North Somerset and northern Sedgemoor.
- The number of children and young people under the age of 14 is expected to rise by 12% (4,000) largely due to these projected housing developments.
- The over 75 population currently accounts for 30% of all acute hospital admissions and occupies 60% of Weston's hospital beds.
- There is more than 15 years' difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived parts of the area – showing the stark health inequalities we need to address.
- Over a third of children in Weston-super-Mare South (38%) and Weston-super-Mare Central (36%) wards are living in poverty compared to 19% in North Somerset and 25% in England.
- There is a higher concentration of people living with mental health issues, learning disabilities and drug and alcohol addiction in the Weston area compared to North Somerset as a whole.
- More than one in five people in Weston Town (23%) and Worle (21%) are known to be living with a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities .
- By 2030 more than 10,000 additional local people are expected to be living with high blood pressure, 6,000 more will have diabetes and a similar number will be living with the serious lung condition, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.



Summer population

- In the summer months (May to August), the proportion of visitors attending A&E at Weston can increase by up to 16%. The most recent data from 2018 shows that average A&E attendances per month at Weston Hospital during this time are 4,428 – a combination of the local population and out of town visitors. This compares to an average attendance of 3,969 per month out side of the summer months.
- North Somerset attracts around 7.5 million day trippers every year. There are also around 500,000 staying visitors each year.
- Specifically, Weston-super-Mare attracts around 5.1 million day visits with around 250,000 staying visitors each year.



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