

Equalities Monitoring – Services

Appendix I – Libraries

Annual Report - 2015-16



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1. Introduction

The library service has nine libraries located throughout the Borough. They provide a wide range of resources to their local communities and visitors to the area. These resources include books, spoken word CDs, DVDs, computer games, newspapers, free internet access via public computers, photocopying, faxing and a wide range of activities and events.

Libraries also offer a wide range of online information resources as well as e books and e audio.

Residents and visitors to the area can apply for an e+ smartcard that acts as a membership card to access the resources. Each time the card is used a transaction is recorded to enable usage to be monitored.

The purpose of equalities monitoring is to ensure the Council is providing a fair and equitable service to all its residents.

To ensure the service is fair and equitable, monitoring has been undertaken in terms of:

- Access to the service

It has been analysed by the following equality groups:

- Age
- Race
- Sex
- Religion

A satisfaction survey of the library services was undertaken in November 2015, however the data recorded did not provide sufficient suitable information with which to analyse the views and effects on equalities monitoring.

When sufficient data for analysis is available for the other protected groups in the Equality Act 2010, these will also be included.

The data below has been taken from:

e+ smartcard database – enrolments and transactions for libraries (1/04/15 to 31/03/16).

Office for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates unit published tables. Crown copyright.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) - Census 2011.

2. Access to the service

Access to the library service can be measured by enrolments and transactions using the e+ smartcard at the nine libraries. Although people who do not use the e+ card may also use the service, the e+ card numbers are sufficiently high to make this a viable measurement of access to the library services.

As people may enrol for the e+ card but not use it, transactions have also been analysed. The tables below show the age, gender, ethnicity and religious belief of those who are using the library facilities.

All data is for residents of Bracknell Forest only. Enrolments for access to library facilities by non-residents were 713 in the year; transactions were 15,561 in the year.

Table 1 – Enrolments by age

Enrolments in e+ card - Libraries 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016 (Bracknell Forest residents only)					
Age Range	Enrolments in e+ card	E+ card %	Bracknell Forest population Mid-2015	Bracknell Forest population Mid-2015 %	Variance
Under 18	1,199	34%	28158	24%	10%
18 to 34	886	25%	24999	21%	4%
35 to 49	707	20%	27348	23%	-3%
50 to 64	526	15%	22199	19%	-4%
65 to 79	209	6%	12058	10%	-4%
over 80	31	1%	4220	4%	-3%
Total	3,558	100%	118982	100%	

N.B Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Table 2 – Transactions by age

Transactions - Libraries 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016 (Bracknell Forest residents only)					
Age Range	Library transactions	Library transactions %	Bracknell Forest population Mid-2015	Bracknell Forest population Mid-2015 %	Variance
Under 18	31,798	31%	28158	24%	7%
18 to 34	5,573	5%	24999	21%	-16%
35 to 49	15,995	15%	27348	23%	-8%
50 to 64	16,627	16%	22199	19%	-3%
65 to 79	26,181	25%	12058	10%	15%
over 80	7,497	7%	4220	4%	4%
Total	103,671	100%	118982	100%	

N.B Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Comments

The number of enrolments within each age range is broadly in line with the Bracknell Forest population, with the exceptions being the 'under 18' group where there is a positive variation of 10%, this is a continuing trend from the previous year where there was a 7% variance. This is outweighed by a negative variance in all age groups over 35.

The number of transactions varies considerably amongst each age range, with significant negative variances within the 18-34 (-16%) and 35-49 (-8%) brackets, whilst the opposite is the case within the 65-79 age range with positive variance of 15%. This is a similar trend that was noticed the previous year.

Table 3 – Enrolments by Race

Enrolments in e+ card for Libraries - Race 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016 (Residents of Bracknell Forest only)					
	Resident	% (exc. 'unknown')	BF pop. Census 2011	BF pop. Census 2011 %	Variance
White	1493	81%	102,554	91%	-10%
Mixed	25	1%	2303	2%	-1%
Asian	247	13%	5664	5%	8%
Black	69	4%	2189	2%	2%
Other	19	1%	495	1%	1%
Not known	1705				
Total (exc. not known)	1853	100%	113,205	100%	

N.B Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Non-specific data included under not known

Table 4 – Transactions by Race

Transactions for Libraries using e+ card - Race 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016 (Residents of Bracknell Forest only)					
	Library transactions	Library transactions % (exc. unknown)	BF pop. Census 2011	BF pop. Census 2011 %	Variance
White	48069	88%	102,554	91%	-2%
Mixed	904	2%	2303	2%	-1%
Asian	4074	7%	5664	5%	2%
Black	1211	2%	2189	2%	0%
Other	73	0%	495	1%	0%
Not known	49338				
Total (exc. not known)	54331	100%	113,205	100%	

N.B Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Non-specific data included under not known

Comments

Race enrolments and transactions using the e+ card are broadly in line with the population. However the enrolments for the Asian population group have risen with the White population showing a corresponding decrease. This is a continuing trend from last year.

Table 5 – Enrolments by Sex

Total enrolments by Gender for Library Service 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016 (Bracknell Forest Residents only)					
Gender	Resident	Library enrolments % (exc. unknown)	Bracknell Forest population Mid-2015	Bracknell Forest %	Variance
Female	779	55%	60,123	51%	4%
Male	642	45%	58,859	49%	-4%
Unknown	690				
Total	2,111	100%	118,982	100%	

N.B Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Table 6 – Transactions by Sex

Transactions - Libraries 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016 (Bracknell Forest residents only)					
Gender	Library transactions	Library transactions % (exc. unknown)	Bracknell Forest population Mid-2015	Bracknell Forest %	Variance
Female	58,823	64%	60,123	51%	13%
Male	33,182	36%	58,859	49%	-13%
Unknown	11,666				
Total	103,671	100%	118,982	100%	

N.B Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Comments

Enrolments show slightly more women than men are enrolling for the e+ card however this is an improvement in the variance from last year with the positive female variance reducing from 7% to 4%.

Females are also shown to have completed more transactions during the year with a variance of 13%, this is an increase on the 12% from the previous year.

It is a national trend that women are the majority of users of a library service. Bracknell Forest is clearly reflecting this.

Table 7 – Enrolments by Religion

Enrolments in e+ card - Libraries 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016 (Bracknell Forest residents only)					
Religion	Enrolments in e+ card	E+ card %	Bracknell Forest population Census 2011	Bracknell Forest population Census 2011 %	Variance
Christian	471	47%	68,524	65%	-18%
Buddhist	10	1%	825	1%	0%
Hindu	55	5%	1,824	2%	4%
Jewish	5	0%	176	0%	0%
Muslim	27	3%	1276	1%	1%
Sikh	9	1%	455	0%	0%
Other religion	4	0%	490	0%	0%
No religion	425	42%	32184	30%	12%
Prefer not to say	2,550		7451		0%
Total	1,006	100%	105,754	100%	0%

*N.B Percentages may not sum due to rounding
Non-specific data included under prefer not to say*

Table 8 – Transactions by Religion

Transactions - Libraries 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016 (Bracknell Forest residents only)					
Religion	Library transactions	E+ card %	Bracknell Forest population Census 2011	Bracknell Forest population Census 2011 %	Variance
Christian	7,999	60%	68,524	65%	-5%
Buddhist	84	1%	825	1%	0%
Hindu	520	4%	1,824	2%	2%
Jewish	159	1%	176	0%	1%
Muslim	168	1%	1276	1%	0%
Sikh	31	0%	455	0%	0%
Other religion	17	0%	490	0%	0%
No religion	4,399	33%	32184	30%	2%
Prefer not to say	90,294		7451		0%
Total	13,377	100%	105,754	100%	0%

*N.B Percentages may not sum due to rounding
Non-specific data included under prefer not to say*

Comments

Religious group enrolments and transactions using the e+ card are broadly in line with the population, with only exceptions being the negative variance with regards to Christian enrolments, and a positive variance towards the enrolments of those who

declared themselves to have no religion. However it should be noted that in comparison with other data groups there is a limited amount of specific data from which to draw conclusions.

3. Actions from last year's equalities monitoring

As mentioned earlier a library user survey was carried out but the data provided was insufficient to help assess the Library Service from an equalities perspective. The Library Service is one of the first to undergo a review as part of the council's Transformation Programme. The review began earlier this year and has included consultation with all members of the community. This consultation will continue onto the next stage when the transformation choices are communicated to customers and staff.