

# Equalities Monitoring – Services

## Appendix I – Libraries

**Annual Report - 2013-14**



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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

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 (1/04/13 to 31/03/14)

## 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, sex and ethnicity 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 691 in the year; transactions were 16682 in the year.

**Table 1 – Enrolments by age**

<b>Enrolments in e+ card - Libraries 01/04/2013 - 31/03/2014 (Bracknell Forest residents only)</b>					
<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Enrolments in e+ card</b>	<b>E+ card %</b>	<b>Bracknell Forest population Mid-2013</b>	<b>Bracknell Forest population Mid-2013 %</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Under 18	1,409	31.9%	27389	23.4%	8.5%
18 to 34	1,049	23.7%	25397	21.8%	1.9%
35 to 49	908	20.5%	27220	23.4%	-2.9%
50 to 64	685	15.5%	21004	18.0%	-2.5%
65 to 79	302	6.8%	11560	10.0%	-3.2%
over 80	57	1.3%	3997	3.4%	-2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,410</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>116567</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

*N.B. Source: Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (ONS): Crown Copyright June 2013*

*Percentages do not sum due to rounding*

**Table 2 – Transactions by age**

<b>Transactions - Libraries 01/04/2013 - 31/03/2014 (Bracknell Forest residents only)</b>					
<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Library transactions</b>	<b>Library transactions %</b>	<b>Bracknell Forest population Mid-2013</b>	<b>Bracknell Forest population Mid-2013 %</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Under 18	30,908	26.8%	27389	23.4%	3.4%
18 to 34	9,234	8.0%	25397	21.8%	-13.8%
35 to 49	18,226	15.8%	27220	23.4%	-7.6%
50 to 64	19,693	17.0%	21004	18.0%	-1.0%
65 to 79	29,684	25.7%	11560	10.0%	15.7%
over 80	7,422	6.4%	3997	3.4%	3.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,167</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>116567</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

*N.B. Source: Population Estimates Unit, ONS: Crown Copyright June 2013*

*Percentages do not sum due to rounding*

## Comments

The proportion of enrolments for those aged 18 years and under was higher than the Bracknell Forest population, (31.9% versus 23.4%).

This shows libraries are popular with young children and the annual Summer Reading Challenge attracts new members each year.

There is a slight increase in the proportion of enrolments in the 18 to 34 age group 23.7% compared to Bracknell Forest population of 21.8%.

However, enrolments have dropped for the age groups between 35 – 80+ and transactions have also dropped compared to Bracknell Forest population for age groups between 18-64. This is continuing a trend seen last year.

These age groups are also more likely to download e-books and access online resources from the library web pages. Electronic devices, such as Kindles, tablets and smart phones, continue to be popular.

To respond to this trend the amount of material available from libraries to download has increased, including the opportunity to download magazines. This has resulted in issues doubling since 2012; in 2012-13, 3722 e-books and e-audio books were downloaded and this increased to 8016 in 2013-14, including magazines.

Conversely the proportion of transactions for the 65 to 79 age group is very healthy at 25.7%. This shows retired people have more time to read and to use the library service.

**Table 3 – Enrolments by Race**

<b>Enrolments in e+ card for Libraries – Race</b> <i>(Residents of Bracknell Forest only)</i>					
	<b>Resident</b>	<b>% (exc. 'unknown')</b>	<b>BF pop. Census 2011</b>	<b>BF pop. Census 2011 %</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>White</b>	2866	87.7%	102554	90.6%	-2.9%
<b>Mixed</b>	64	2.0%	2303	2.0%	0.0%
<b>Dual Heritage</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Asian</b>	249	7.6%	5664	5.0%	2.6%
<b>Black</b>	87	2.7%	2189	1.9%	0.8%
<b>Chinese/Other</b>	1	0.0%	495	0.5%	-0.5%
<b>Total (exc. not known)</b>	3267	100%	113205	100%	

*N.B. Source: ONS - Census 2011-*

*Percentages do not sum due to rounding*

**Table 4 – Transactions by Race**

<b>Transactions for Libraries using e+ card – Race</b> <i>(Residents of Bracknell Forest only)</i>					
	<b>Library transactions</b>	<b>Library transactions %</b> <i>(exc. unknown)</i>	<b>BF pop. Census 2011</b>	<b>BF pop. Census 2011 %</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>White</b>	49617	89.3%	102554	90.6%	-1.3%
<b>Mixed</b>	1061	1.9%	2303	2.0%	-0.1%
<b>Dual Heritage</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Asian</b>	3040	5.5%	5664	5.0%	0.5%
<b>Black</b>	1577	2.8%	2189	1.9%	0.9%
<b>Chinese/Other</b>	288	0.5%	495	0.5%	0.0%
<b>Total (exc. not known)</b>	55583	100%	113205	100%	

*N.B. Source: ONS - Census 2011 – Percentages do not sum due to rounding*

**Comments**

Race enrolments and transactions using the e+ card are broadly in line with the population. However the enrolments and transactions for the Asian and Black population group have risen with the white population showing a corresponding decrease.

**Table 5 – Enrolments by Sex**

<b>Total enrolments by Sex for Library Service</b>					
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Library Enrolments %</b>	<b>Bracknell Forest population Mid-2013</b>	<b>Bracknell Forest %</b>	<b>Variance %</b>
Female	2,175	58%	58,657	50%	8%
Male	1,591	42%	57,910	50%	-8%
Total	4,410	100%	116,567	100%	

*Source: Population Estimates Unit, ONS: Crown Copyright June 2013*

**Table 6 – Transactions by Sex**

Transactions - Libraries 01/04/2013 - 31/03/2014					
Sex	Library transactions	Library transactions %	Bracknell Forest population Mid-2013	Bracknell Forest %	Variance %
Female	67,438	62%	58,657	50%	12%
Male	40,853	38%	57,910	50%	-12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>108,291</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>116,567</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*Source: Population Estimates Unit, ONS: Crown Copyright June 2013*

### Comments

Enrolments show slightly more women than men are enrolling for the e+ card and accessing the library service. More women than men traditionally use libraries and when young children visit with an adult they are more likely to do so with their mothers.

## 3. Actions from last year's equalities monitoring

Sandhurst Library was completely refurbished during November 2013. The layout of the library has improved wheelchair access and the children's area was re-sited away from the external doors making it safer.

The Bracknell Town Centre regeneration continues, isolating Bracknell Library on the far side of town. However, comparing visitor statistics for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14, shows that visits have not been affected. In 2012-13, there were 85,185 visitors and 87,846 in 2013-14, an increase of 3%.

The report this year does not contain any recommendations since the findings did not support any.