

SERVICE PROFILES – HOME SUPPORT SERVICE

The tenant profile is collected on a quarterly basis, analysing age, medical condition and ethnicity. The following profile of tenants in supported accommodation is extracted from the data for the period in the quarter January to March 2007:

Service user distribution by age

AGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Under 60	269	15
60-70	448	25
71-80	532	30
81-90	443	25
91-100	79	4
Total	1771	100%

63% of tenants are aged 70 or over, 30% are aged over 80. Greater age is not in itself an indicator of support need for an individual and there are those in the younger age groups who will have equivalent needs to some in the over-80 groups. However, it is safe to say, in a generalised way, that increasing ill-health and frailty come with increasing age.

Service user distribution by medical condition

MEDICAL CONDITION	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Generally well	358	20
Arthritic	413	23
Cardiovascular problem	520	29
Degenerative condition	305	17
Sensorily impaired	102	6
Mental Health problem	73	4
Total	1771	100%

This diagram represents the principal presenting medical condition of the people served. Naturally a large number of these people are likely to suffer from more than one condition that affects their mobility or ability to live independently without support. Just under one fifth are considered to be generally in good health, although that in itself does not mean that they are fully able to function without support.

80% of tenants suffer from a significant medical condition, which is likely to affect their ability to manage on their own, particularly in terms of mobility. The incidence of medical issues is likely to mean a greater dependence on the interventions of other agencies, such as general practitioners, district nurses, or aids and adaptations services.

Service user distribution by ethnicity

ETHNICITY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
White European	1743	98.42
White/American	1	00.06
Black/Caribbean	16	00.9
Black/African	1	00.06
Asian	0	00.00
Indian	0	00.00
Pakistani	9	00.51

Bangladeshi	0	00.00
Chinese	1	00.06
Total	1771	100%

The Housing Needs Survey 2006 indicated a likely 92.3% of the population were of British origin, and 7.5% of other ethnic origins. The total minority ethnic element receiving older persons' housing and support is by contrast a mere 1.35%.

The largest single group in the Borough are those of Pakistani origin, representing 2.2% of the population, but with only 9 service users among 1771 they constitute only 0.51% of service users.

This echoes the findings of the Housing Corporation's 'Tenants Survey – Older People' which contrasted the BME population in housing association older persons' housing at 1%, against the 4% in general housing and 7% in tenancies.

This is an area that the Strategy proposes is addressed, whilst recognising that structural change is involved and that there are unlikely to be short-term measures that can quickly improve this profile.

While age and identified health problems are likely to increase the level of support needed by a tenant, the basic statistics are unable to identify a range of unquantifiable attributes for which older tenants may need assistance and support. Loneliness, for example, is not a measurable condition but can blight the daily life of someone who feels socially isolated. Similarly, low self-esteem, borderline depression, poor coping skills, low levels of literacy or numeracy or a mild learning disability are unlikely to be a diagnosed condition, but can affect someone's ability to manage their homes successfully and independently. The Community Warden Service will assess each individual and put in place an appropriate needs-based level of support.