

## Health and Social Care : Getting on

### Description

Demographic changes are significant for people working on planning provision in this sector.

#### Activity 1: Neighbourhoods

#### Activity 2: Population pyramid

#### Activity 3: Providing for the old

Population demographics vary considerably from neighbourhood to neighbourhood.

**Neighbourhoods** starts as a matching puzzle and then asks pupils to access data about their own neighbourhood from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) website. Unless the school catchment area is very small, interesting differences between pupils' data are likely to emerge and to provide the focus for a class discussion.

**Population pyramid** is a thinking and discussion activity. Pupils need to be discussing in small groups and then sharing their ideas with the whole class. They will need a copy of the pyramid to share and you will also need the pyramid displayed for the whole class, preferably on an interactive whiteboard. They will probably need some specific numerical questions to get started on interpreting the pyramid.

For example:

- How many women are 30 years old?
- Are there more men or women aged 80?  
How many more?
- When were people born who are now aged 70?

### Resources

Calculators, scissors, A3 paper, access to <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/index.html>

In each case, ask groups to illustrate their answer by annotating the displayed pyramid. Then they can consider which parts of the pyramid relate to some specific facts about the population.

For example:

- The Second World War ended in 1945 and a lot of married men returned to their families.
- Fertility rates dropped in the 1970s.
- In the 1920s and 1930s, many more men than women smoked.
- The birth rate is currently rising.

Finally ask if there are any other features they have observed.

**Providing for the old** shows how population pyramids can be used in planning and policy formation. It focuses on age demographics and asks pupils to carry out calculations on figures for 2000 and projected figures for 2025 and 2050, working out the ratio of working age and non-working age population groups. Encourage them to reflect on the trends in the data and the impact on policy.



### The Mathematics

This set of activities requires pupils to interact with a variety of data sets and to use logical thinking skills to interpret what they find. **Providing for the old** also involves interpreting scales, calculations and consideration of ratio and proportion.