

Carers in the Region A profile of the North West

Carers at the Heart of 21st-century Families and Communities (the National Carers Strategy 2008) offered an ambitious new vision for carers, to be achieved by 2018. In doing so, it set a challenging agenda for health and local authorities and for other local and regional agencies across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

To succeed in rising to these challenges, all agencies with a role to play in delivering support for carers need good information – about who carers are, what the particular needs of carers living in their own region or locality may be, and about the different kinds of support and services for carers which are already in existence. The **Carers in the Region** profiles aim to meet this need for better information about carers at the regional level, and have been commissioned by the *Department of Health* from a team at the *University of Leeds* for each of the nine English regions.

The Government White Paper, **Our health, our care, our say (2006)** announced a New Deal for Carers which included a range of new measures to support carers, including:

- **The establishment of a national helpline for carers**
- **Specific funding for the creation of an expert carers programme**
- **Specific funding for short-term home-based respite care for carers in crisis or emergency situations**
- **An update to the Prime Minister's 1999 Strategy for carers**

The subsequent new **National Carers' Strategy** (2008) sets out the Government's agenda and vision for supporting carers. Underpinned by £255 million initially, plus medium and longer-term plans, it committed:

- **£150 million towards planned short breaks for carers**
- **Up to £38 million towards supporting carers to enter or re-enter the job market; and**
- **£6 million towards improving support for young carers**

Other commitments in the strategy include: pilots to explore annual health checks for carers, the ways in which the NHS can better support carers and ways to provide more innovative breaks for carers; training for GPs; a more integrated and personalised support service for carers; accessible information and targeted training for key professionals.

EXISTING STATUTORY RIGHTS FOR CARERS

Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 introduced the concept of a Carers Assessment

Employment Relations Act 1999 gave employees the right to 'reasonable time off' to deal with emergencies

Carers and Disabled Children Act (2000) gave carers the right to an Assessment (carers of adults and carers of disabled children). Allowed carers to receive services in their own right and introduced Direct Payments to purchase them. Direct Payments also offered to parents of disabled children to manage on their child's behalf.

Employment Act 2002 established the right to request flexible working arrangements for employed parents of disabled children under the age of 18.

Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 Local authorities have a statutory duty to inform carers of their rights and to consider their wishes re education, training and employment when conducting Carers Assessments.

Work and Families Act 2006 extended the right to request flexible working arrangements to all carers in employment.

Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on local authorities to provide sufficient childcare for working parents 'which includes provision suitable for disabled children'.

Pensions Act (2007) reduced the number of qualifying years carers need for a full basic state pension; introduced a new Carers Credit for those caring 20+ hours a week for someone who is severely disabled.

1. Carers in the North West: Summary

Carers are people who provide regular unpaid care to a relative, friend or neighbour who needs their help and support because of illness, disability or frailty in old age. They include parents of seriously ill or disabled children, as well as people supporting someone with physical or mental ill health/disabilities, and those looking after someone who is terminally ill. In 2001, the Census of Population revealed that in the UK about 6 million people were providing unpaid care of this type¹.

Carers in the North West region

In 2001 there were 722,122 carers in the North West region (11% of the region's population compared with 10% across England as a whole). However:

- 19% of men and 24% of women aged 50-64 were carers
- Almost half of carers aged 75 or over provided 50 or more hours care per week

Carers who provided 20 or more hours of care per week (35% of all carers in the region) were considerably more likely to:

- Live in social housing
- Live in a household with no working adult
- Live in a household with a person with a limiting long-term illness (LLTI)

Demand for care in the region is growing

Between 2008 and 2030 it is expected that in the region:

- The number of people aged 85+ will double to 285,600, increasing from 2.1% of the population to 3.7% (compared with an increase from 2.2% to 3.9% in England as a whole)
- The number of people with a limiting long-term illness (LLTI) will increase by one third, from 1.02 million to 1.8 million
- More than twice as many people aged 65 or over will have dementia: over 115,700 people
- The number of carers will increase by over 96,000 or 11%, compared with 15% in England as a whole

Personalisation and local services in the region

In 2007/8:

- 61,285 carers received a Carers Assessment
- 52,645 carers received carers' services or information
- 40% of those assessed and receiving services/information were aged 65 or older

Carers' health and wellbeing

The 2001 Census showed:

- 96,862 carers were themselves in poor health (14% of all carers, compared with 13% of carers in England)
- 36,991 carers in poor health provided 50 hours or more of care per week (38%)
- Up to 50 years of age, people in poor health were more likely to be carers than people whose health is good or fairly good
- Carers in poor health were more likely to provide 50 or more hours of care per week than other carers

¹ 2001 Census Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Support for carers in the North West

- Most local authorities in the region have developed Carers Strategy Steering Groups which include representatives of relevant local organisations, as well as carers themselves.
- All local authorities in the region are concentrating on delivering carers' breaks. All have also developed strategies for supporting young carers.
- Across the region, 75,660 people of working age have an entitlement to Carer's Allowance (CA), and among them 66,460 receive this benefit².

Carers' access to work

The 2001 Census showed:

- 585,008 carers were aged 16-64, which accounted for 81% of all carers in the region (80% of carers in England are aged 16-64).
- 38,073 carers were aged 16-24 (7% of carers aged 16-64 compared with 6% in England as a whole)
- In the region working age carers were much less likely than healthy non-carers (or than carers in England as a whole) to be in employment or to have any formal educational qualifications.

Carers and employment

In 2001:

- There were 359,980 carers of working age (65%) in employment. In England as a whole 65% of working age carers are in paid employment.
- 37,740 carers in employment also provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week
- 147,140 male carers and 103,800 female carers were people in full-time employment
- 16,780 male carers and 92,260 female carers were people in part-time employment

Young carers

- The region had 31,029 young carers under age 20
- Young carers were more likely than other young people to: live in workless households; be in lone parent families; have a limiting long-term illness
- Young adult carers (aged 16-19) were much less likely to have any qualifications or to be in employment or education than other people of this age

Older carers

- There were 122,572 carers aged 65 or over
- 48,300 older carers provided 50 or more hours of care per week
- 4,449 carers were over 85 years old

Care and support in the region: future challenges

The region covers some very rural areas as well as some of England's largest cities. Future challenges in supporting carers in the region include:

- Severe deprivation in some areas, where there are levels of illness and disability, poverty, worklessness and social exclusion, putting particular pressure on carers
- Delivering appropriate help and support for carers in black and minority ethnic communities, where rates of illness and disability are often high and the population is also ageing
- The particularly high proportion of people in rural areas who are over 65
- Providing better access to care and other services in a rural setting and developing the best ways of delivering these

² DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, February 2009. The difference between the number of carers entitled to CA and those who receive it may be due to carers being not paid CA because they receive an overlapping benefit equal to or greater than the weekly rate of CA.

Characteristics of carers in the North West region

In 2001 there were 722,122 carers in the North West region³. Carers thus formed 11% of the region's population. When compared with other people in the region, carers who provide 20 or more hours of care per week were considerably more likely to: live in social housing; live in a household with no working adult; and live in a household with a person with a limiting long-term illness (LLTI). However, they were less likely to have access to a car.

Table 1.1 Population by sex and weekly hours of care provided: North West region *numbers*

	Male non-carers	Males caring for:			Female non-carers	Females caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
All	2,704,829	201,696	34,432	66,615	2,793,719	269,449	52,684	97,246
Age								
5-15	501,819	5,576	522	469	477,733	6,620	717	638
16-24	331,018	12,590	1,940	1,415	331,203	16,020	3,085	3,023
25-49	1,017,109	80,893	13,461	19,715	1,000,973	121,538	22,807	36,689
50-64	481,694	73,886	11,631	21,488	456,660	93,535	19,168	32,124
65-84	225,960	20,749	4,434	13,764	261,913	23,320	4,893	16,303
85+	147,229	8,002	2,444	9,764	265,237	8,416	2,014	8,469
Ethnicity*								
White British	2,712,409	189,902	31,572	62,722	2,812,500	255,095	48,460	90,383
Indian	33,291	2,247	554	570	31,763	2,120	695	977
Pakistani	54,498	3,223	823	790	51,012	3,310	1,317	1,995
Bangladeshi	12,237	584	148	154	11,678	587	233	382
Black Caribbean	9,701	457	107	172	8,997	668	149	170
Black African	8,072	287	81	91	6,814	299	126	140
Other ethnic groups	124,496	6,098	1,314	2,350	127,494	8,204	1,825	3,410

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003. * 2001 Census Commissioned Tables, Crown Copyright 2003 (all people including those aged 0-4).

Note: Totals may differ as the 2001 Census Standard Table 25 is for people in households, whilst the commissioned table covers all people.

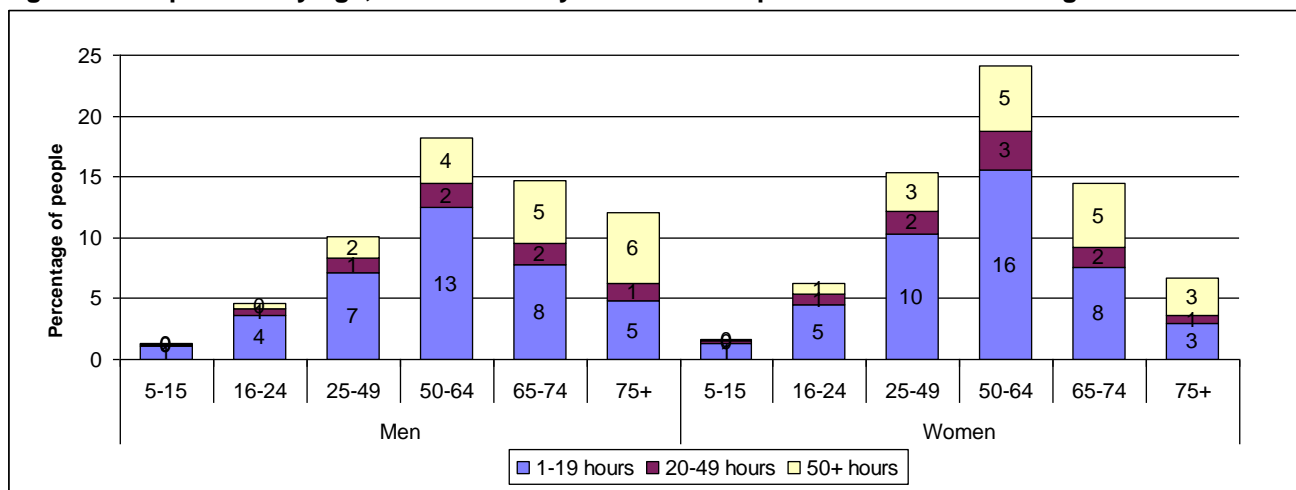
Table 1.2 Characteristics of carers: North West region *(% of people)*

	Male non-carers	Males caring for:			Female non-carers	Females caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
North West								
People in workless households	25	24	41	61	31	25	36	58
Co-resident with a person with LLTI	21	37	75	92	19	30	60	91
Social housing	17	11	22	27	19	13	23	28
No access to car	19	10	19	24	26	14	22	30
ENGLAND								
People in workless households	22	22	39	60	28	24	37	56
Co-resident with a person with LLTI	18	35	74	91	17	28	62	91
Live in social housing	17	11	24	28	19	13	23	29
No access to car	16	9	19	23	23	12	20	28

Source: 2001 Small Area Microdata, Office for National Statistics (2006a).

³ 2001 Census Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

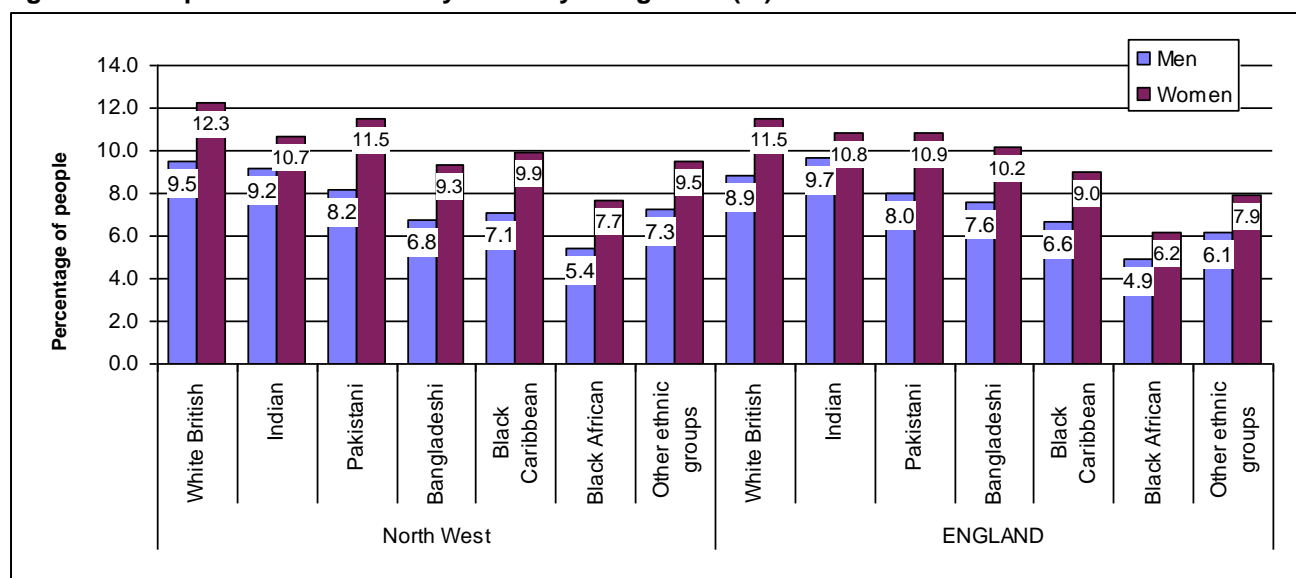
Figure 1.1 Population by age, sex and weekly hours of care provided: North West region



2001 Census Commissioned Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

The likelihood of being a carer peaks in the 50-64 age group for both sexes. In this age group 19% of men and 24% of women in the region were providing care. The incidence of caring was lower among people aged 65 and over, but carers in older age groups were more likely than younger carers to provide 50 or more hours of care per week. In the region, almost half of all carers aged 75 or over provided 50 or more hours of care per week (48% of men and 45% of women, compared with 45% of men and 43% of women in England as a whole). By contrast just 20% of men and 22% of women aged 50-64 (17% of men and 20% of women in England as a whole) provided 50 or more hours of care per week, figures which were nevertheless well above the national average.

Figure 1.2 People who are carers by ethnicity and gender (%)



2001 Census Commissioned Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

The proportion of people who are carers varies by both ethnicity and sex (Figure 1.2). The variation seen arises partly as a consequence of the different age structures; some black and minority ethnic groups having a much younger age profile than others. It is also associated with higher rates of illness and disability in some ethnic groups⁴. 46,657 carers in the region were from one of the region's ethnic minority groups.

⁴ Ethnicity and Health. Postnote No. 276, January 2007. The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/postpn276.pdf

2. Demand for care in the North West

Between 2008 and 2030 a significant increase in the demand for personal care and support in the North West is predicted, mainly as a result of the anticipated increase in life expectancy and rising numbers of people living with poor health or disability (Table 2.1). In particular:

- The number of people aged 85+ is set to double (similar to England as a whole)
- The number of people with a LLTI will increase by a quarter (24%), from almost 1.5 million to over 1.8 million (32% for England) (Figure 2.2)
- More than twice as many people aged 65 or over will have dementia
- The number of carers is predicted to increase by over 96,000 or 11% (compared with 15% across England as a whole) (see Figure 2.3)

Table 2.1 Projected demand for care: North West (numbers)

	2008	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
People aged 85+* <i>numbers</i>	142,200	147,900	167,300	195,100	238,700	285,600
<i>% of population 85+ (England)</i>	2.1 (2.2)	2.1 (2.3)	2.3 (2.5)	2.7 (2.8)	3.2 (3.3)	3.7 (3.9)
People with a LLTI** ALL	1,448,165	1,474,001	1,548,782	1,634,747	1,723,482	1,802,861
<i>% of population with LLTI (England)</i>	21 (18)	21 (18)	22 (19)	22 (19)	23 (20)	24 (20)
Age of men with a LLTI Men (ALL)	687,046	703,464	747,038	794,149	840,777	880,621
0-14	31,641	31,651	32,717	34,411	34,658	34,282
15-49	186,721	188,231	186,807	184,343	188,805	199,602
50-64	209,594	213,161	214,732	229,257	234,194	221,320
65-74	136,588	141,806	162,950	170,974	169,870	188,328
75-84	93,055	96,564	109,702	124,078	147,303	156,143
85+	29,447	32,049	40,130	51,087	65,948	80,945
Age of women with a LLTI Women (ALL)	761,119	770,537	801,744	840,598	882,705	922,240
0-14	22,261	22,264	22,980	24,174	24,359	24,093
15-49	182,153	182,176	176,193	169,261	169,435	177,145
50-64	204,547	208,124	213,068	227,805	229,605	212,236
65-74	140,599	144,822	163,500	172,138	171,000	190,507
75-84	136,214	136,363	143,441	155,696	180,149	191,112
85+	75,346	76,789	82,561	91,524	108,158	127,146
People in poor health**	717,812	734,476	778,488	826,001	870,710	909,853
<i>% of population (England)</i>	10.6 (8.7)	10.7 (8.7)	11.0 (9.0)	11.3 (9.3)	11.6 (9.5)	11.8 (9.8)
People with a LLTI who are also in poor health**	622,213	637,314	677,716	722,031	763,861	799,872
<i>% of population (England)</i>	9.2 (7.3)	9.3 (7.4)	9.5 (7.6)	9.8 (7.9)	10.1 (8.2)	10.4 (8.4)
People aged 65+ predicted to have a longstanding health condition caused by:						
A stroke***	35,663	37,152	42,073	48,554	52,375	57,516
<i>% of population 65+ (England)</i>	3.6 (3.7)	3.6 (3.7)	3.6 (3.6)	3.8 (3.8)	3.7 (3.7)	3.7 (3.7)
Dementia (people aged 65+)[#]	57,628	60,856	71,396	84,740	99,820	115,767
<i>% of population 65+ (England)</i>	5.9 (6.2)	6.0 (6.2)	6.1 (6.3)	6.6 (6.8)	7.1 (7.3)	7.4 (7.7)
Heart disease	88,553	92,169	104,834	117,927	124,803	137,378
<i>% of population 65+ (England)</i>	9.1 (9.0)	9.0 (9.0)	8.9 (8.9)	9.2 (9.1)	8.9 (8.8)	8.8 (8.8)

Source: Data have been taken from POPPI/PANSI, DH Crown Copyright

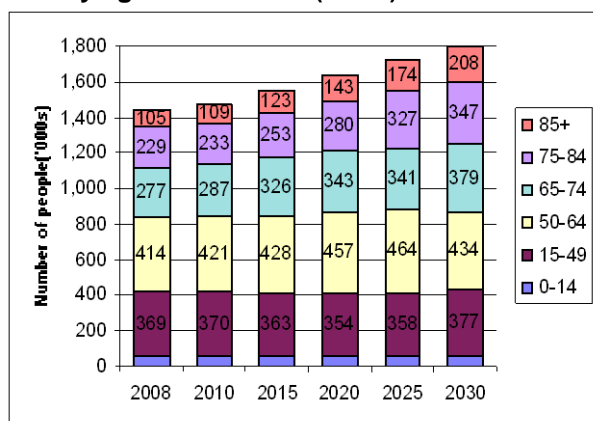
*2006-based sub-national population projections (Crown Copyright).

**Rates from 2001 Census Standard Tables (Crown Copyright 2003) applied to ONS, 2006-based sub-national population projections (Crown Copyright).

***Prevalence rates are based on the 2004/05 General Household Survey, National Statistics. The prevalence rates have been applied to ONS population projections.

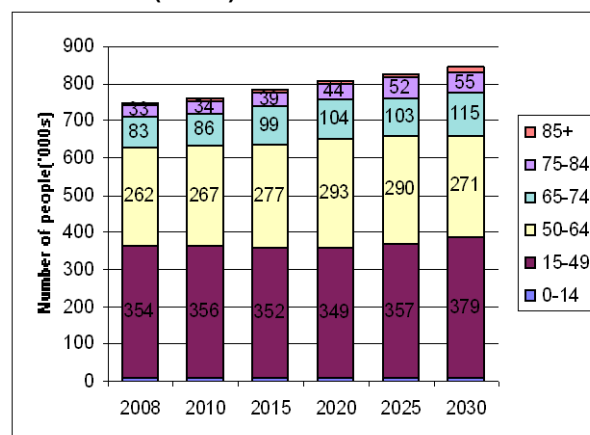
[#]Prevalence rates are taken from a report into the prevalence and cost of dementia prepared by the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the London School of Economics and the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, for the Alzheimer's Society, 2007. The rates have been applied to ONS population projections.

Figure 2.2 Projected numbers of people with a LLTI by age: North West ('000s)



Source: ONS, 2006-based sub-national population projections, Crown Copyright; 2001 Census Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

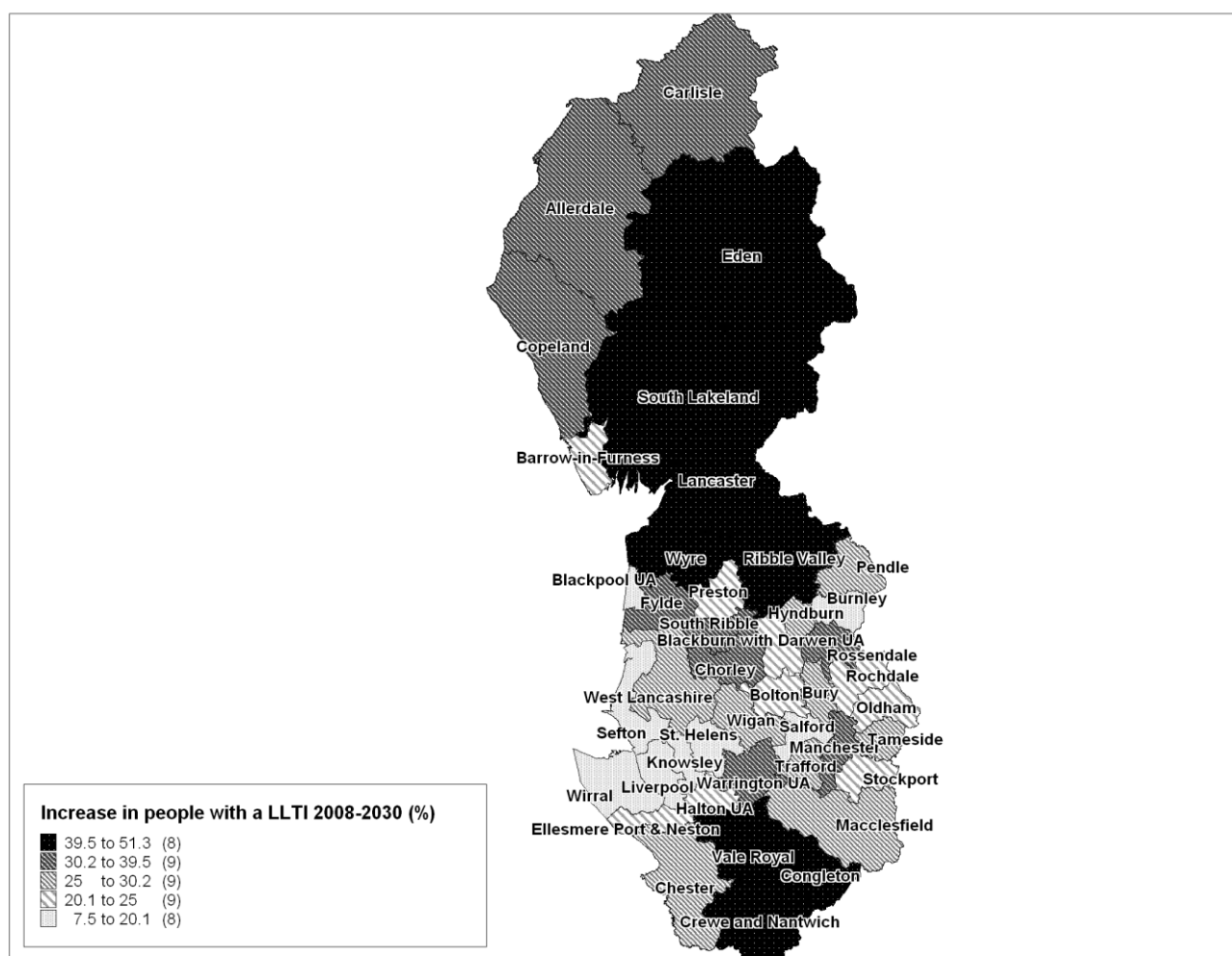
Figure 2.3 Projected numbers of carers by age: North West ('000s)



Source: ONS, 2006-based sub-national population projections, Crown Copyright; 2001 Census Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Across the region there is significant variation in the percentage increase in the projected numbers of people with a LLTI between 2008-2030, from just 7.6% in Liverpool (up 8,110) to 51% in Ribble Valley (up 5,227) (Figure 2.4). The greatest increase in numbers of people with a LLTI is expected in Manchester, where a rise of 28,941 (31%) is forecast, and in Wigan (17,904 or 25%).

Figure 2.4 Regional variation in the expected increase in the number of people with a LLTI, 2008-2030



Source: 2006-based sub-national population projections, 2001 Census Standard Tables. This work is based on data provided through EDINA UKBORDERS with the support of the ESRC and JISC and uses boundary material which is Copyright of the Crown.

3. Personalisation and local services in the North West

There are 22 CSSRs (councils with social care responsibility) in the region, and all have a statutory duty to provide support and services to carers and the sick and disabled people they care for. Latest figures show that within the region 61,285 carers received a Carers Assessment (Table 3.1) in 2007/8, representing about 8% of all carers, while 52,645 carers received carers' services or information (Table 3.2). Of these carers:

- 24,655 (40%) of all carers assessed were aged 65 or over
- 21,190 (40%) of all carers receiving services were aged 65 or over
- Carers aged 65 and over who received a service were more likely to get a carer's break or specific carer's service (60%) than carers aged 16-64 (58%), who were more likely to be offered information only. However, 65% of carers aged under 18 were offered a carer's break or specific carer's service
- Over 3,000 people had a Direct Payment in place (including some carers)

Table 3.1 Carers Assessments, reviews and services: North West region (numbers)

		Carers assessed or reviewed			Declining assessment or review
		ALL	Separately	Jointly	
All		61,285	15,005	46,280	4,925
By age	<i>Under 18</i>	465	200	265	20
	<i>18-64</i>	36,165	8,750	27,410	2,935
	<i>65-74</i>	11,810	2,900	8,915	960
	<i>75 and over</i>	12,845	3,160	9,690	1,010
	<i>Age not known</i>	0	0	0	0
By condition of cared for person					
	<i>Physical disability, frailty and sensory impairment</i>	44,710	8,930	35,780	3,900
	<i>Mental Health</i>	9,590	2,985	6,605	590
	<i>Learning Disability</i>	5,600	2,655	2,945	325
	<i>Substance Misuse</i>	185	90	95	35
	<i>Vulnerable People</i>	1,165	310	855	70

Source for Tables 3.1 and 3.2 is *Community Care Statistics 2007 - 08: Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care for Adults, England, National report and CASSRs, NHS Information Centre*. Figures may not add up because of rounding. The sum of the primary client types may not equal the number of carers offered an assessment or review. This is due to a number of carers where the primary client type of the person being cared for was unknown.

Table 3.2 Carers receiving services: North West region (numbers)

		Carers receiving services		
		ALL	Breaks for the carer and /or other carers' specific service	Information and advice only
All		52,645	31,015	21,630
By age	<i>Under 18</i>	385	250	135
	<i>18-64</i>	31,075	18,065	13,010
	<i>65-74</i>	10,060	5,980	4,075
	<i>75 and over</i>	11,130	6,720	4,410
	<i>Age not known</i>	0	0	0
By condition of cared for person				
	<i>Physical disability, frailty and sensory impairment</i>	37,985	21,425	16,560
	<i>Mental Health</i>	8,525	4,685	3,840
	<i>Learning Disability</i>	4,965	4,170	795
	<i>Substance Misuse</i>	145	100	45
	<i>Vulnerable People</i>	985	615	370

In 2007-2008, 86% of carers in the region who were assessed received services or information, compared with 89% in England as a whole. Of the carers receiving services (either carers specific services or information and advice), there was wide variation in the percentage of carers receiving a carer specific service following assessment or review, which according to published data ranged from just 28% in Cheshire to 100% in Halton (Table 3.3). Differences in reporting practises may partially explain this variation.

Table 3.3 Carers assessed and receiving services: Councils in the North West region

	Numbers of carers			Percentage of carers receiving services	
	Assessed or reviewed (A)	Receiving carers specific services (B)	Receiving Information only (C)	Following assessment or review (B+C)/A	Receiving carers specific services B/(B+C)
ENGLAND	377,635	208,730	128,265	89	62
NORTH WEST	61,285	31,015	21,630	86	59
Cheshire	8,150	2,245	5,905	100	28
Cumbria	7,305	3,925	325	58	92
Lancashire	8,400	6,165	625	81	91
Blackburn	1,510	390	675	71	37
Blackpool	655	510	145	100	78
Halton	1,470	825	0	56	100
Warrington	2,050	565	240	39	70
Bolton	2,500	890	1,205	84	42
Bury	700	635	25	94	96
Knowsley	1,325	575	750	100	43
Liverpool	2,995	1,505	1,210	91	55
Manchester	2,180	1,695	380	95	82
Oldham	760	565	95	87	86
Rochdale	1,550	670	860	99	44
Salford	2,315	1,675	640	100	72
Sefton	3,325	1,410	1,595	90	47
St Helens	1,740	1,545	30	91	98
Stockport	3,530	1,290	2,240	100	37
Tameside	4,085	1,475	2,610	100	36
Trafford	1,395	1,115	80	86	93
Wigan	1,555	620	940	100	40
Wirral	1,800	735	1,070	100	41

Source: Community Care Statistics 2007 - 08: Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care for Adults, England, National report and CASSRs, NHS Information Centre.

Note: '*' denotes missing data.

Use of Carers' Grant allocations

Carers' Grant is an annual sum of money made available to local authorities to dedicate to carers in their locality, with a particular focus on carers' breaks, young carers, promoting carers' well-being, and developing innovative services for carers. In 2009 the Department of Health allocated £26.9 million⁵ for this purpose to local authorities in the North West. A review of Carers' Grant expenditure by English local authorities in 2004-6 (conducted by the University of Leeds)⁶ showed that, using these funds, local authorities had dedicated funds to: promoting carer services region-wide, with a particular focus on hard-to-reach carers (e.g. among ethnic minority groups); promoting carer involvement in decision-making about carer services, via carers' forums and steering groups; attempting to increase the number of Carer's Assessments conducted annually by the local authority; increasing carers' breaks provision; developing young carers' support groups; setting up innovative services for carers (such as one-off payments for goods which would ease their caring role); supporting carers wanting to return to employment or education; and developing new or existing partnerships with voluntary sector and health-based organisations.

⁵ Carers' Grant allocation for 2006/2007 taken from 'Carers' Grant details and Guidance' from www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Carers/DH_079454 (accessed on 8th September 2009).

⁶ Local authorities' use of Carers' Grant by Gary Fry, Christopher Price and Sue Yeandle (Centre for Research on Care, Labour and Equalities, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds). Department of Health, August 2009.

4. Carers' health and wellbeing in the North West

The 2001 Census showed that in the North West 96,862 carers were themselves in poor health (14% of carers were in poor health compared with 12% of carers across England as a whole) (Table 4.1). Of these carers in poor health:

- 36,991 provided 50 hours or more of care per week. At all ages, carers in poor health were much more likely to care for 50 or more hours a week (38%) than carers with good/fairly good health (20%) (38% and 19% respectively in England as a whole)
- 1,441 were aged 85 or older

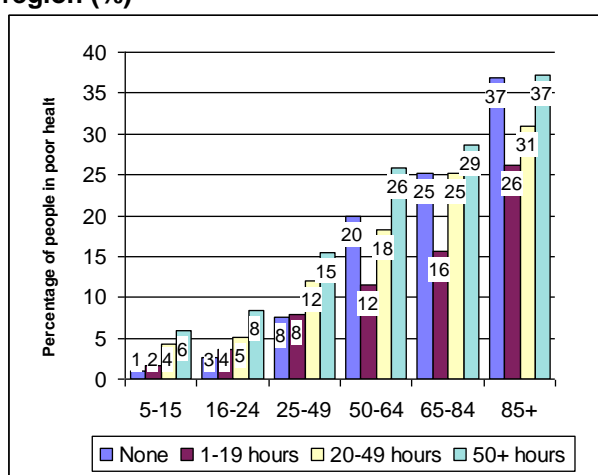
Table 4.1 People in poor health by age, sex and the amount of care they provide: North West

	Male non-carers	Males caring for:			Female non-carers	Females caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
All (numbers)	277,366	20,565	5,904	16,821	326,470	25,532	7,870	20,170
5-15	5,422	98	16	29	4,658	100	37	37
16-24	8,130	373	94	135	9,441	645	160	234
25-49	74,184	6,351	1,605	3,221	78,394	9,574	2,743	5,474
50-64	96,807	9,198	2,489	6,518	89,548	10,117	3,135	7,299
65-84	84,285	4,366	1,627	6,441	118,872	4,841	1,716	6,748
85+	8,538	179	73	477	25,557	255	79	378
All (% people)	10	10	17	25	11	9	15	21
5-15	1	2	4	6	1	2	3	6
16-24	3	4	5	8	2	4	5	8
25-49	8	8	12	15	6	7	11	14
50-64	20	12	18	26	16	10	16	23
65-84	25	16	25	29	22	13	22	27
85+	37	26	31	37	34	23	30	35

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

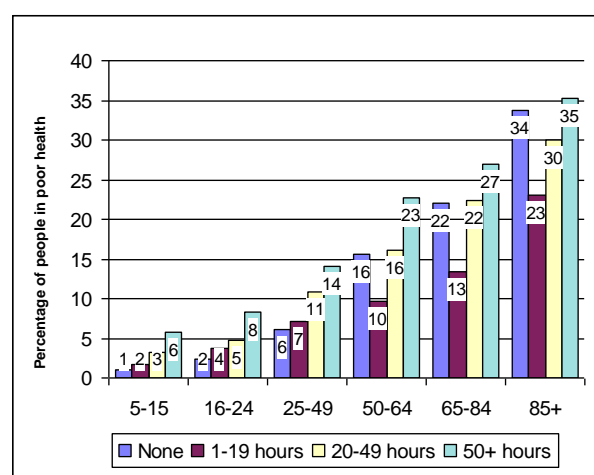
At all ages, with the exception of the oldest age group (people aged 85+), people regularly providing 50 or more hours of care each week were more likely to be in poor health than other people of the same age (Figures 4.2a and 4.2b).

Figure 4.2a People with poor health by age and the amount of care they provide: North West region (%)



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

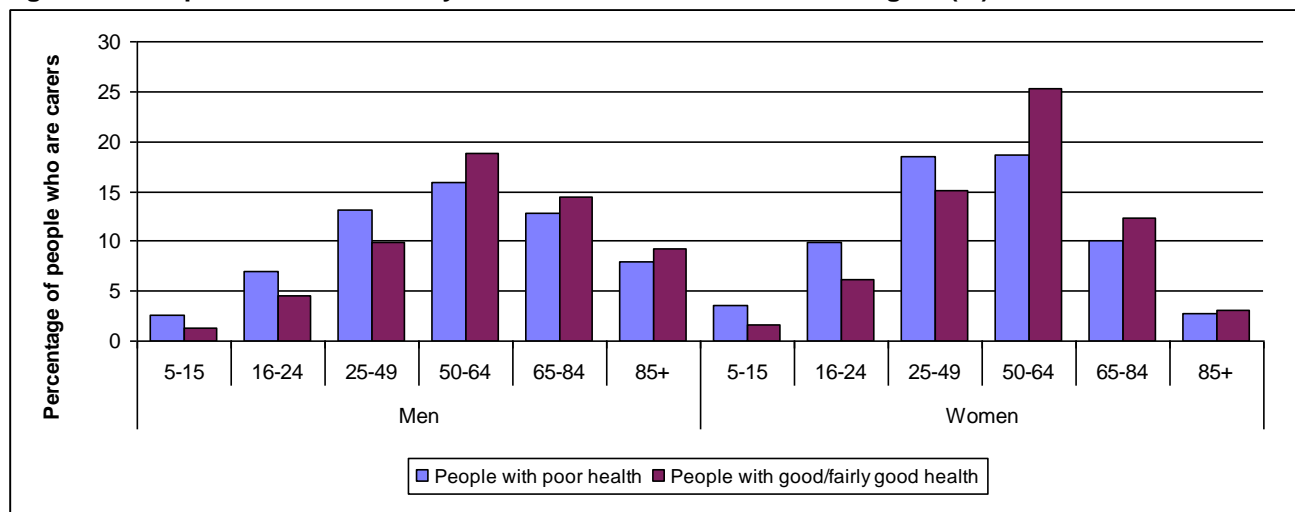
Figure 4.2b People with poor health by age and the amount of care they provide: England (%)



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Below 50 years of age, men and women in poor health were more likely to be providing unpaid care than those in good or fairly good health (Figure 4.3).

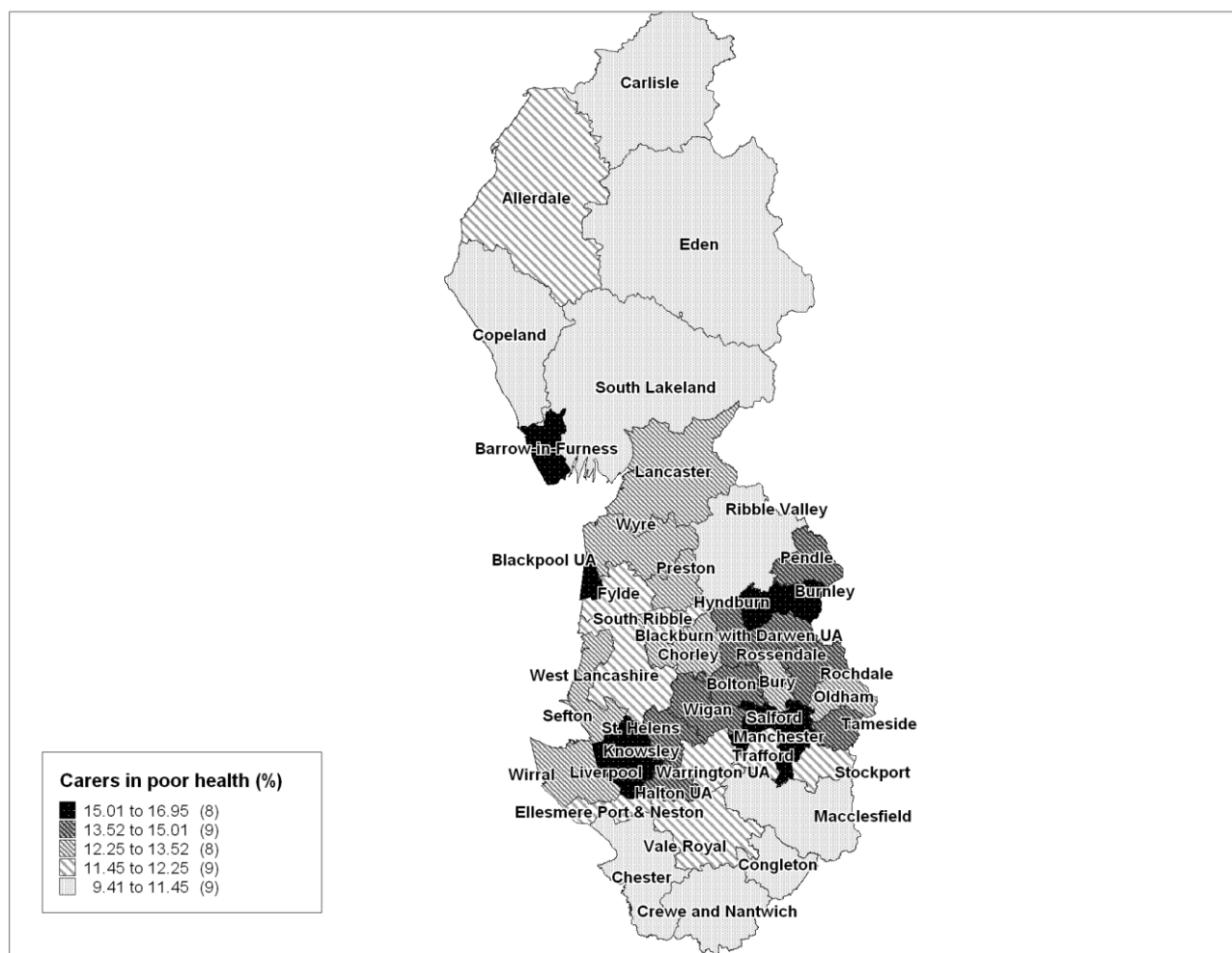
Figure 4.3 People who are carers by their health status: North West region (%)



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

A map of the proportion of carers who were in poor health (Figure 4.4) shows considerable variation across the region. In Congleton 9% of carers were in poor health, compared with 16% in Blackpool. The national average across England is 12%.

Figure 4.4 Distribution of carers in poor health in the North West region



Source: 2001 Census Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003. This work is based on data provided through EDINA UKBORDERS with the support of the ESRC and JISC and uses boundary material which is Copyright of the Crown.

5. Support for carers in the North West

Carers in the North West have access to a range of information, advice and services delivered by local authorities, voluntary sector agencies and other organisations, sometimes working in partnership. Some of the different types of support available to carers of sick, disabled, frail and vulnerable people in the region are outlined here.

Strategic approaches to support for carers

Each local authority in the region has an up-to-date Carers Strategy detailing its vision for carers in the immediate future. These local strategies, developed following the first National Carers' Strategy in 1999, outline how the local authority has responded, or plans to respond, to key legislation and recommendations from Joint Improvement Partnerships relating to carers, and also how local challenges are being addressed in their plans and activities. Among the key priorities indicated in the region's Carers Strategies are helping carers to have a life of their own, giving them a 'voice' in decisions about service development, promoting knowledge about carers' rights, offering support and training focused on employment and education, offering a range of breaks and respite, increasing the number of carers' assessments conducted annually, and increasing access to information. There is also a focus on achieving equality of access to support for diverse groups by ensuring they are fully included in both existing and new developments affecting carers.

Most local authorities in the region have developed Carers Strategy Steering Groups which include representatives of relevant local voluntary organisations, the local PCT, and local authority personnel from other directorates, including housing and leisure, as well as carers themselves, often representing Carers' Forums. These steering groups are generally tasked with decision-making and monitoring of new and existing carers' activities and schemes. Most groups have devised detailed Action Plans, which outline objectives and proposals for future development according to predetermined timescales. Regular meetings assess the progress of these ongoing developments.

In the North West, some of the local challenges identified include engaging with carers who are traditionally 'hard to reach', whether because they belong to an ethnic minority group (as in the case of several metropolitan and city councils), are young carers who have little or no awareness of any services available, or have never had any contact with social services in relation to their care needs. To reach these 'hidden' groups of carers local authorities in the region have worked with a variety of partners including the NHS (through GP surgeries and hospitals, for example, to access carers at 'first diagnosis' of the cared-for person) and voluntary organisations including specialist groups dedicated to supporting people with particular needs.

All local authorities with social services responsibility in the region receive an annual Department of Health Carers' Grant budget allocation, and it is with funds made available in this way, as well as with mainstream monies, that many carer-related innovations and existing services are now being initiated and supported. These are outlined below; several examples of each service are included to indicate some of the ways local authorities in the North West are tackling carers' needs.

Local authority support for carers

Advice and information for carers in the North West is available in a variety of ways. Literature promoting services available through local authorities is distributed using a range of outlets and can also be downloaded from the dedicated carer-related web pages of the local authorities' websites. All local authorities in the region include signposting to help carers identify other organisations specialising in services for people caring in a range of different circumstances. In many parts of the region there are also telephone advice lines/email addresses and/or advocacy services that allow carers to contact local authority staff who can advise them on receiving support. Examples include:

Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council offers a free helpline providing advice and information related to care issues, which is available seven days a week, including Bank Holidays, from 1pm to 10:30pm.

Halton Borough Council offers a free benefits enquiry line for carers which is available from 7:30am to 6:30pm, Mondays to Fridays.

Many local authorities in the region promote carers' services by hosting local events during Carers' Week (annually in July) and at other appropriate times of the year, such as Carers' Rights Day in December. In many areas, such as Wirral, the council produces literature promoting carers' services in different languages, to help reach out to local ethnic minority communities, traditionally considered 'hard to reach' on social care and carers' issues. As stated above, carers are also encouraged to take part in decision making on carers' issues. Examples include:

Warrington Borough Council has an open invitation for any carer to apply to join its Carer Forum and contribute to decision making on care-related local authority expenditure. The forum meets quarterly.

Liverpool City Council has developed a Parents and Carers Forum which is tasked with bringing together parents, carers and representatives of care-related organisations to discuss improvements to local services. There is a particular focus on working in partnership, supporting parents and carer involvement in service provision, and promoting access to information.

Voluntary sector and other support for carers

All local authorities in the North West have devoted resources to delivering breaks to carers, sometimes in partnership with voluntary agencies. These usually take the form of respite, sitting services and access to day care centres. Such services are often specifically tailored towards carers of people with particular conditions, including disabled children and adults, older people, those suffering mental health problems, and those with learning difficulties. Some local authorities have developed culturally sensitive breaks services specifically geared towards ethnic minority groups.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council provides a respite care voucher scheme for people who care for an elderly person, an adult with physical or learning disabilities, or someone with mental health issues. A short breaks scheme for carers of people with disabilities is also available.

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council works through a number of voluntary organisations, including those dedicated to providing help and information to ethnic minority groups, to provide a range of breaks such as days out, social events, and sitting services organised at the cared-for person's home.

Collaboration with voluntary sector organisations is a crucial part of carer activities for many local authorities in the North West. Many of these organisations have long experience of supporting carers and also have other sources of funding with which they provide support, advice, and information to carers. With the money made available through Carers' Grant, as well as other sources of social care funding, local authorities have been able to invest in a wider range of carer-related projects. These are often developed in close collaboration with voluntary sector organisations, and based on their 'grass roots' engagement with carers.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council works closely with Age Concern to provide information and advice to people over the age of 60 and their carers. The organisation has staff who can speak Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Bangla, which makes the service available to black and ethnic minority communities.

Salford City Council works with a number of voluntary organisations dedicated to providing support and advice to people with mental health difficulties and their carers. It has helped develop an Alzheimer's Resource Centre in the area, and has recently supported Rethink and MIND in consultation events relating to mental health issues.

Voluntary sector carers' centres exist in many parts of the North West, offering valued support, information and services to carers; details of these are available from the Carers Direct website, which includes an interactive map showing the location of nearby centres, with contact details and a summary of the services they provide. Often affiliated to national carers' organisations including the Princess Royal Trust for Carers (PRTC), Carers UK and Crossroads, many of these agencies are well established and can draw on many years experience of advising and supporting carers.

Carers Direct

Free confidential Information and advice for carers, set up as a national service in 2008.

Find addresses, phone numbers and websites for services for carers near you.

www.NHS.uk/CarersDirect

Call Carers Direct on **0808 802 0202**

Lines are open 8am to 9pm Monday to Friday, 11am to 4pm at weekends.

Calls are free from UK landlines

Or email CarersDirect@nhschoices.nhs.uk

Supporting young carers

All local authorities in the North West have developed services specifically geared towards young carers. Young carers are particularly vulnerable to the demands of caring which can have a major impact on their lives. Many voluntary sector carers' centres have prioritised this type of support, which has been a particular focus of centres linked to the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

Sefton Council has developed a Complementary Education Service for young carers which uses ICT as a way of providing access to the latest software designed to enhance learning. This service can be accessed by young carers from their home or any other place where there is suitable equipment.

Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council has a Young Carers Project which works with 60 young carers at any one time, and aims to work with 100 / 120 annually. It attempts to identify 'hidden' young carers via awareness-raising schemes conducted in schools.

Services to help carers combine caring with employment or education

Some local authorities in the North West have developed projects to help carers who want to combine caring with paid work or who are seeking employment and further education. These projects provide support and advice to enable carers to access training and funding opportunities, to revise job application and interview skills, and to address work-related issues, including advising them about new rights given to carers in recent legislation.

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council has developed a Carers Resource programme designed to provide support to carers by the delivery of one-stop advice and information. A significant part of this scheme is the provision of free training to help carers who are planning to return to the workplace. Among the courses available are first aid at work, beginning computers, literary and numeracy, confidence building, and personal development.

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council is committed to supporting working carers and has developed a Working Carers Employee Group whose principal aim is to "work towards ensuring that the carer's perspective is proactively incorporated within the council's policy and planning process and procedures; and to assist with developing good practices." Working carers can apply to join and to contribute to the group, which meets quarterly.

Telecare

Since 2006, offering telecare equipment to help carers deal with their caring situation has also been a developing area of local authority activity in the North West, with new funds available through the Preventative Technology Grant⁷. Where telecare equipment is installed in the home of a person needing care or support, it often offers significant benefits for carers as well. Available equipment includes personal alarms, fall detectors, smoke, gas and spillage/flood alerts and automatic lighting and door entry controls. In 2006/2007 an estimated 22,000 new service users aged 65 or over in the region were provided with items of telecare, giving carers' peace of mind and more freedom in their everyday lives.

⁷ Through the Preventative Technology Grant, £80 million was invested to help English local authorities develop telecare programmes.

Cheshire West and Chester Council provides carers and cared for people with the opportunity to visit one of four demonstration flats in the area which have telecare equipment fitted. The council reports that many people only truly understand the benefits of telecare once they see it in operation and that this is a popular and effective way of promoting their telecare service.

Cumbria County Council has developed a detailed Telecare Strategy which outlines local care-related challenges and how telecare can be used to tackle some of these, especially helping carers to remain in their own home if they wish to. In this rural county, a significant number of people are elderly, and telecare is planned to play a major role in future care-related service developments.

Courses for carers

A number of courses for carers have been developed by local authorities in the North West. These include learning to care for themselves, improving health and wellbeing, facilitating access to services and specific skills (e.g. lifting and handling), as well as teaching relaxation and similar techniques.

Manchester City Council organises regular education and leisure events for carers in the region. The purpose of these activities is to allow carers to have a break from their caring role as well as to develop new skills and interests. Four hours of respite care can be provided to the carer, in addition to travel costs on public transport. Among the many activities available are meditation, exercise classes, holistic therapies, theatre breaks and woodland walks.

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council offers a wide range of courses designed to help carers take a break from their caring responsibilities and to learn new skills related to both caring and general interests. One of the courses on offer is a regular class which helps carers access the City and Guilds Learning for Living online carer training course.

The nationwide **Caring with Confidence** programme for carers is working with four providers in the North West. Carers can select and attend specialised modules relating to different aspects of caring. There is also an online version of the course, and a self-study version which carers can complete at their own convenience and pace. The service began operating in the region in summer 2009.

The Caring with Confidence programme

This is a knowledge- and skills-based programme, funded by the Department of Health, which aims to help carers make a positive difference to their life and that of the person they care for. Delivered by specially trained facilitators, often carers themselves, it offers a range of modules in a flexible programme of free carer support. Carers can mix and match how they develop their knowledge and skills - taking part in free local group sessions, using self-study workbooks or accessing the programme online. www.caringwithconfidence.net

Call: **0800 849 2349** (Carer Information Line) or **0113 385 4491**

or email: cwc.info@caringwithconfidence.net

State benefits for carers

Across the North West, 75,660 people of working age have an entitlement to Carer's Allowance, and of these 66,460 receive this state benefit. Carer's Allowance is a weekly payment of £53.10p (the maximum claimable in 2009), available to carers providing 35 or more hours of weekly care to someone receiving specified sickness or disability benefits. A further 59,080 people who have reached state pension age also have an 'underlying entitlement' to Carer's Allowance, which qualifies them for the Carer Premium, linked to Pension Credit; of these, 3,910 receive this element. Carer's Allowance is available through the Department for Work and Pensions and the rules governing it are set at the national level⁸.

⁸ DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, February 2009. Intended to be an 'income replacement' benefit, Carer's Allowance (CA) 'overlaps' with other benefits and is not *paid* to people receiving a state retirement pension (and some other benefits paid at a higher rate). Eligible claimants nevertheless retain any linked entitlements (e.g. to housing benefit). CA was 'renamed' in 2003, replacing Invalid Care Allowance (established 1975).

Carers' access to paid work in the North West

In the region, there are 585,008 carers aged 16-64 (Table 6.1). These account for 81% of all carers in the North West. (In England as a whole 80% of carers are aged 16-64.) Of these carers, 114,454 regularly provide 50 or more hours of care each week (20% of carers in the region, compared with 18% in England as a whole), and 38,073 are aged 16-24.

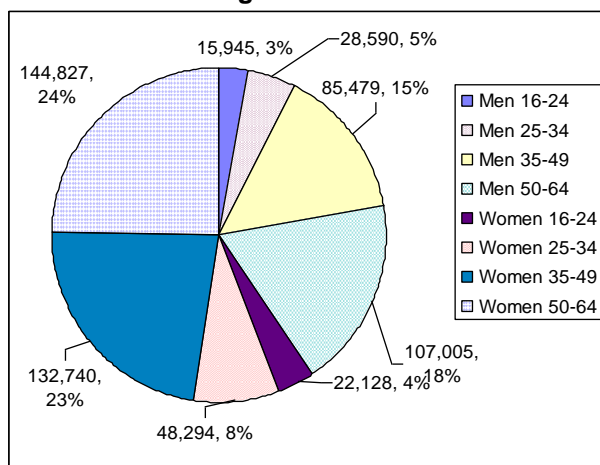
Table 6.1 People of working age (16-64) by age, sex and the amount of care they provide: North West
(numbers)

	Male non-carers	Men caring for:			Female non-carers	Women caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
All 16-64	1,829,821	167,369	27,032	42,618	1,788,836	231,093	45,060	71,836
16-24	331,018	12,590	1,940	1,415	331,203	16,020	3,085	3,023
25-34	408,476	20,361	3,675	4,554	416,618	31,655	6,078	10,561
35-49	608,633	60,532	9,786	15,161	584,355	89,883	16,729	26,128
50-64	481,694	73,886	11,631	21,488	456,660	93,535	19,168	32,124

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

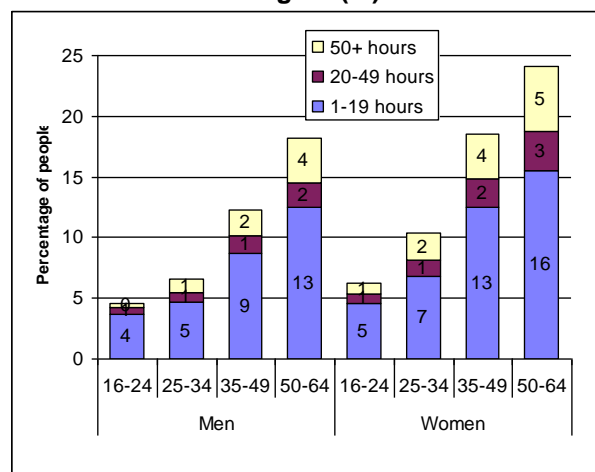
Of carers aged 16-64, 59% are women and 42% are people aged 50-64 (Figure 6.2). Almost a quarter of all women aged 50-64 and almost a fifth of men in this age group are carers (Figure 6.3). Women are more likely to be carers than men at all ages between 16 and 64.

Figure 6.2 Carers of working age by age and sex: North West region



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Figure 6.3 People of working age who are carers: North West region (%)



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

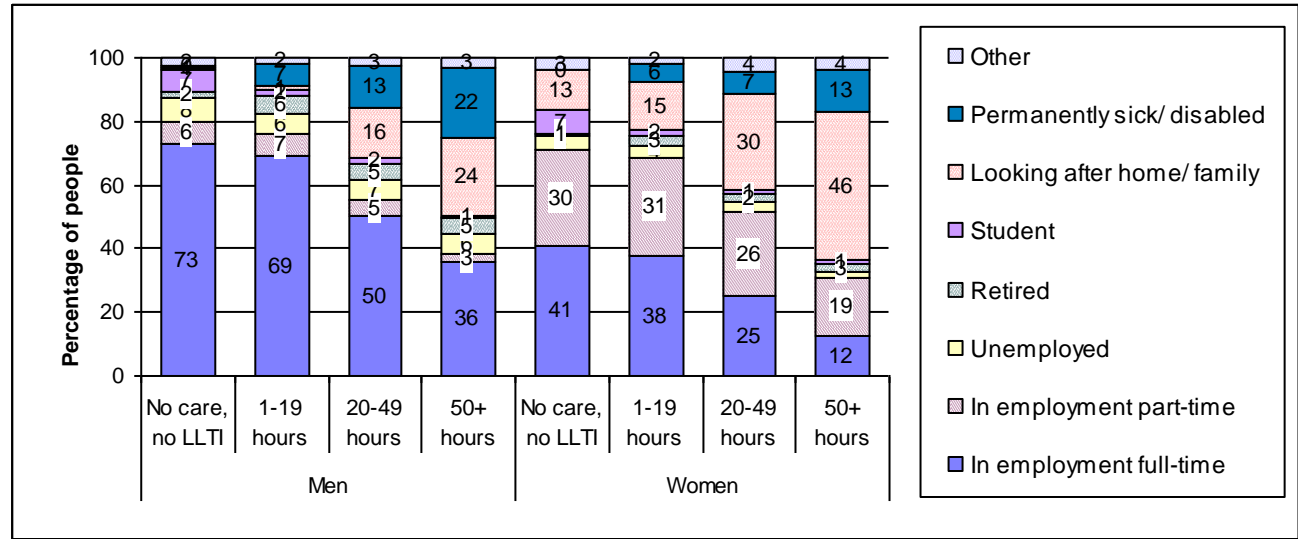
Table 6.4 Characteristics of carers of working age: North West region

	North West				ENGLAND			
	Non-carers without LLTI	People caring for:			Non-carers without LLTI	People caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
No qualifications								
Men	21	21	37	45	20	20	34	43
Women	21	21	38	44	19	21	36	43
Degree-level qualifications								
Men	20	22	12	9	23	23	14	11
Women	19	22	12	10	23	23	14	11
In paid employment*								
Men	82	77	58	40	84	80	63	46
Women	73	73	48	35	73	73	53	34

Source: 2001 Small Area Microdata, Office for National Statistics (2006a). *2001 Census Individual SAR, Office for National Statistics (2006b).

Comparing carers of working age with healthy non-carers (those without an LLTI), Table 6.4 shows that carers are much more likely to have no qualifications and are much less likely to be qualified to degree-level or above, especially if they are committing 20 or more hours per week to their caring role. They are also much less likely to be in paid employment. Data on the 'economic activity' of carers and a comparator group of healthy non-carers is shown in Figure 6.5. As regular weekly hours of care increase, the likelihood rises that a carer will be either 'looking after their home or family full-time', or 'permanently sick or disabled' themselves.

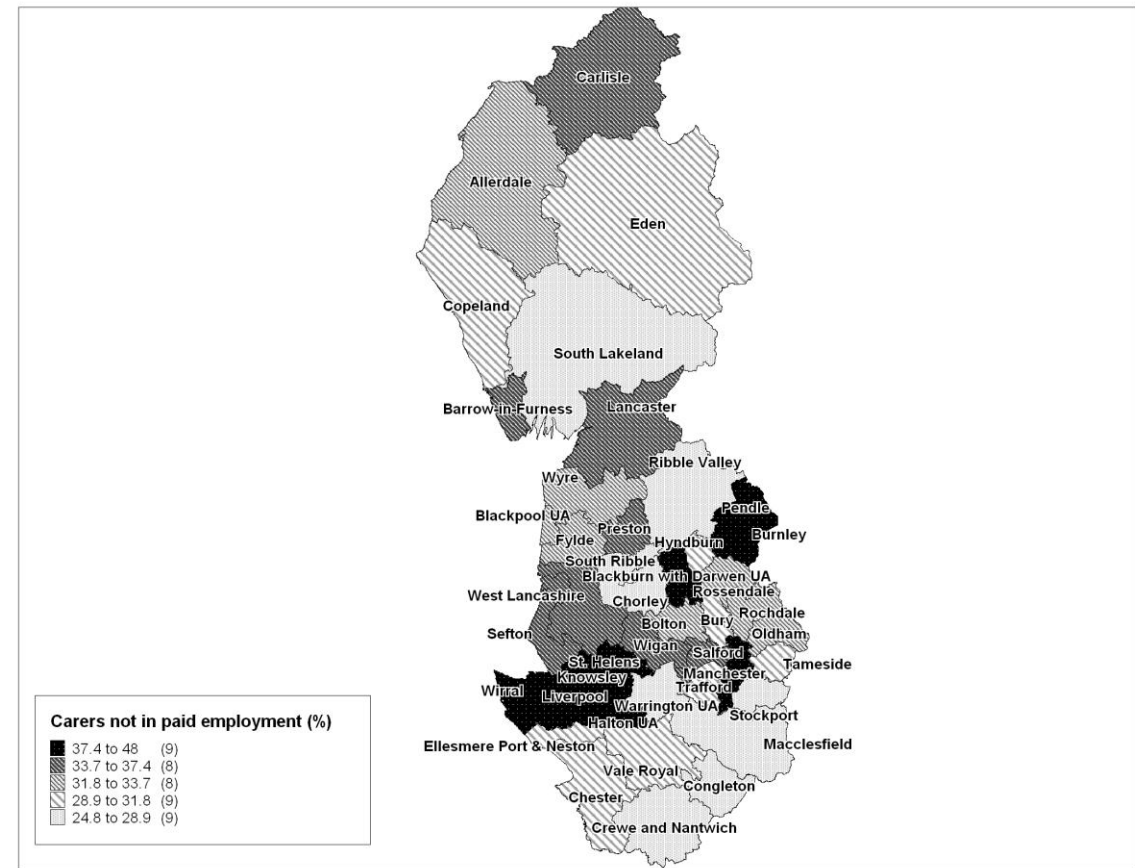
Figure 6.5 People of working age by sex, and amount of care: North West region



Source: 2001 Census Individual SAR, Office for National Statistics (2006b).

The proportion of carers who are not in paid employment varies across the region, from the lowest level (25%) in Macclesfield, to a much higher figure (48%) in Manchester (Figure 6.6).

Figure 6.6 Carers of working age who are not in employment: North West region (%)



Source: 2001 Small Area Microdata, Office for National Statistics (2006a). This work is based on data provided through EDINA UKBORDERS with the support of the ESRC and JISC and uses boundary material which is Copyright of the Crown.

7. Carers in employment in the North West

In 2001, there were 359,980 carers of working age in paid employment in the region (aged between 16 and state pension age; 64 for men and 59 for women in 2001). Of these carers:

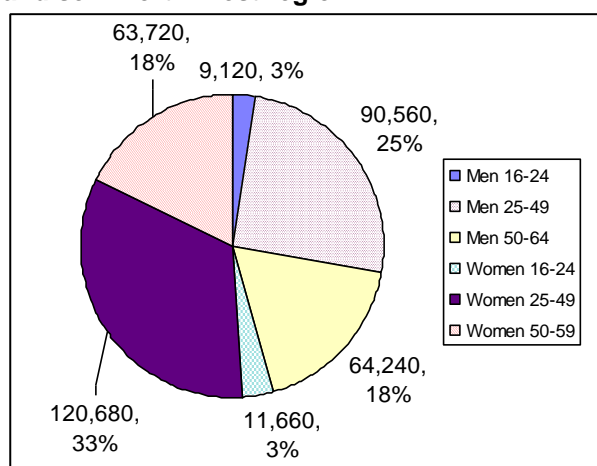
- 147,140 male carers and 103,800 female carers were in full-time employment
- 16,780 male carers and 92,260 female carers were in part-time employment
- 37,740 (10%, compared with 10% in England as a whole) provided 50 or more hours of care per week

Table 7.1 People of working age (16-64 for men and 16-59 for women) in employment by employment status, age, sex and the amount of care they provide: North West region

	Male non-carers	Men (16-64) caring for:			Female non-carers	Women (16-59) caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
All full-time	1,237,640	118,200	13,800	15,140	646,860	84,100	10,500	9,200
16-24	155,060	5,700	760	300	110,320	5,240	680	220
25-49	807,120	67,000	7,960	9,260	435,780	54,840	6,240	5,560
50-64/59	275,460	45,500	5,080	5,580	100,760	24,020	3,580	3,420
All part-time	125,420	12,820	2,020	1,940	456,440	69,600	11,200	11,460
16-24	47,780	1,800	340	220	77,880	4,320	740	460
25-49	45,520	4,640	900	800	289,360	40,180	6,660	7,200
50-64/59	32,120	6,380	780	920	89,200	25,100	3,800	3,800

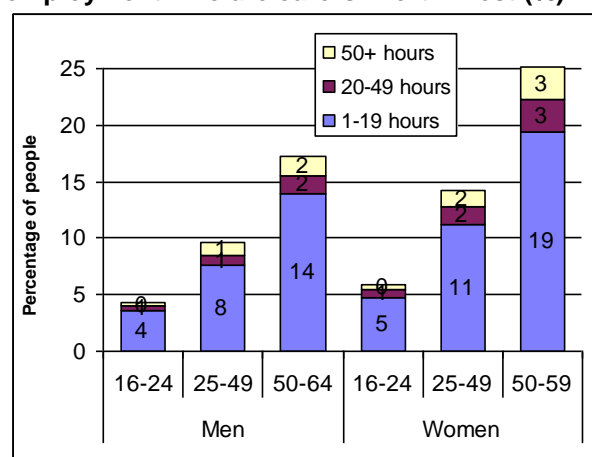
Source: 2001 Small Area Microdata, Office for National Statistics (2006a).

Figure 7.2 Carers in paid employment by age and sex: North West region



Source: 2001 Census Commissioned, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Figure 7.3 People of working age in paid employment who are carers: North West (%)



Source: 2001 Census Commissioned, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Almost half of all carers who were in paid employment in the region were men (46%, Figure 7.2), and combining work and care is quite a common experience, especially for men and women over 50 (Figure 7.3). Carers in employment, particularly women, were more likely than others in paid work to work part-time (Table 7.4). The percentage of carers working part-time increases with the amount of care provided. A high percentage of women carers who provided 50 or more hours of care each week as well as having a paid job were employed for less than 16 hours per week.

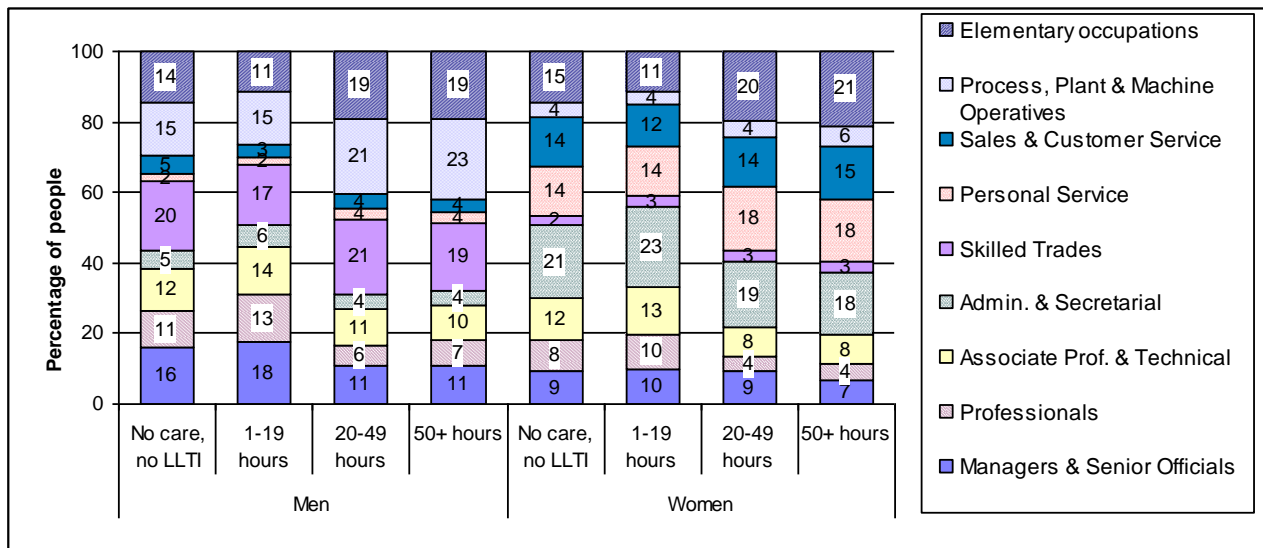
Carers were much more likely to work either at home or very close (within 2km) to where they live. This often limits the jobs available to them making them more likely to be employed in low-skilled, low-paid elementary or process, plant and machine operative jobs, and much less likely to be in managerial or professional occupations (Figures 7.5 and 7.6). Carers in employment were also much more likely than healthy non-carers in employment to be the only person in the household who is working.

Table 7.4 Characteristics of people of working age (16-64 for men and 16-59 for women) in employment: North West region (%)

		North West				ENGLAND			
		Non-carers without LLTI	People caring for:			Non-carers without LLTI	People caring for:		
			1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
Work part-time	Men	9	10	12	11	8	10	11	11
	Women	41	46	50	55	40	47	50	58
Work <16 hours per week	Men	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Women	11	12	17	22	13	14	18	26
Elementary occupations	Men	14	11	19	19	13	11	18	18
	Women	15	11	20	21	13	11	19	21
Distance to work <2km	Men	25	26	29	33	25	27	29	30
	Women	32	34	41	40	32	35	40	42
Only working adult	Men	28	32	54	52	29	32	53	52
	Women	23	25	40	41	22	24	37	38

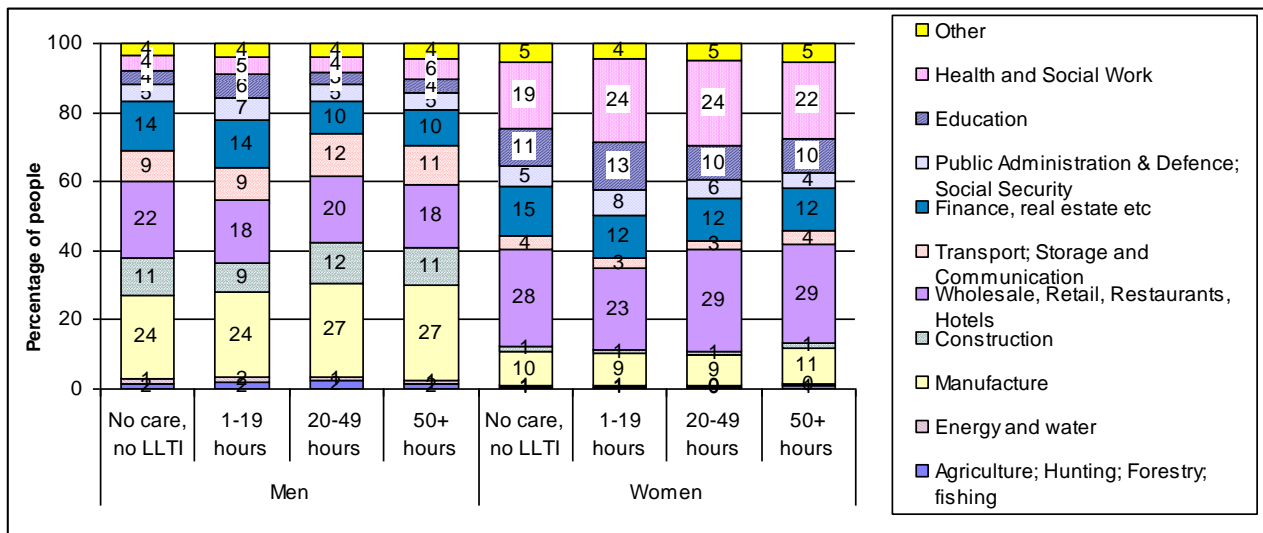
Source: 2001 Census Individual SAR, Office for National Statistics (2006b).

Figure 7.5 Occupations of people of working age, by sex and amount of care: North West



Source: 2001 Census Individual SAR, Office for National Statistics (2006b).

Figure 7.6 Industrial distribution of people of working age by sex and amount of care: North West



Source: 2001 Census Individual SAR, Office for National Statistics (2006b).

8. Young carers in the North West

In 2001, there were 31,029 carers in the region aged 5-19 (Table 8.1). Of these young carers:

- 2,586 provided 50 or more hours of care per week
- 14,542 were under 16 years old
- 810 were themselves in poor health
- 4.3% of Indian, 4.3% of Pakistani and 4.8% of Bangladeshi children provided unpaid care, compared with just 2.2% of White British children (Figure 8.6)

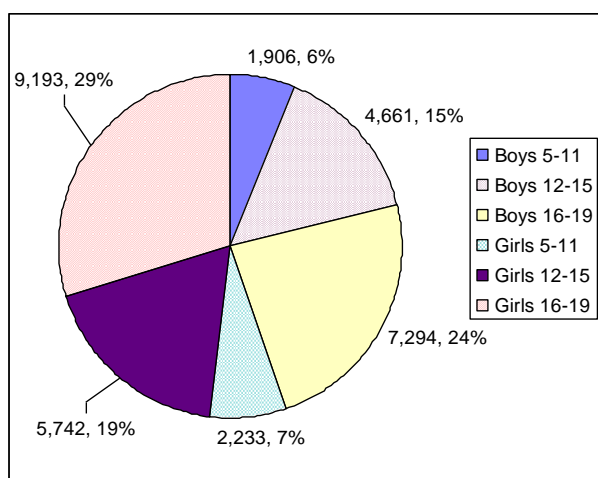
Table 8.1 Young people aged 5-19 by age, sex and the amount of care they provide: North West

	Male non-carers	Boys caring for:			Female non-carers	Girls caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
All aged 5-19	660,592	11,485	1,378	998	630,668	13,565	2,015	1,588
5 to 7	129,863	257	31	47	123,470	278	33	64
8 to 9	94,122	400	46	53	89,105	449	41	66
10 to 11	95,059	886	95	91	90,390	1,093	97	112
12 to 15	182,775	4,033	350	278	174,768	4,800	546	396
16 to 17	86,216	3,074	411	250	82,181	3,664	610	369
18 to 19	72,557	2,835	445	279	70,754	3,281	688	581

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

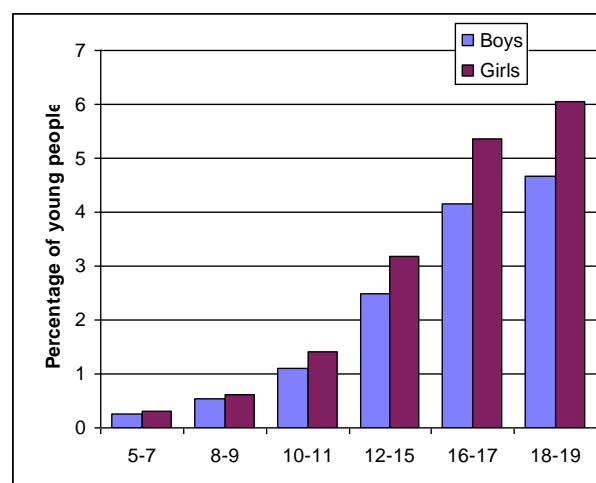
53% of all young carers were aged 16-19 (Figure 8.2). Across all ages, girls were more likely to be carers than boys (Figure 8.3). The data in Figure 8.3 suggest that all schools, colleges and universities in the region are likely to have some young carers among their students.

Figure 8.2 Young carers by age and sex: North West region



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Figure 8.3 Young people who are carers: North West region (%)



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Young carers are more likely to live in households with no working adult and are also more likely to live in socially rented housing (Table 8.4). Young carers who regularly provide 20 or more hours of care each week are significantly more likely than other children both to live in lone parent families and to have a limiting long-term illness.

Young carers aged 16-19 are much more likely than other young people to be unemployed and are more likely to be 'not in employment, education or training' (NEET) (Table 8.5). Young carers aged 16-19 who provide 20 or more hours of care per week also face potential disadvantage in the labour market for many years to come, as they are less likely to have any formal qualifications.

Young people in the Asian ethnic groups are considerably more likely than other young people to be carers (Figure 8.6).

Table 8.4 Characteristics of young people (aged 5-19) by amount of care provided: North West (%)

Young people aged 5-19	North West				ENGLAND			
	ALL	Non-carers	People providing:		ALL	Non-carers	People providing:	
			1-19 hours	20+ hours			1-19 hours	20+ hours
All (<i>numbers '000s</i>)	1,347.3	1,315.5	25.6	6.2	9,569.0	9,186.8	159.3	34.6
Ethnic group								
<i>White British</i>	1,221.1	1,193.8	22.0	5.3	7,941.6	7,789.9	126.0	25.7
<i>Mixed ethnic groups</i>	29.0	28.2	0.6	0.2	293.9	287.1	5.7	1.1
<i>Indian</i>	19.3	18.4	0.6	0.2	240.4	231.4	7.2	1.9
<i>Pakistani</i>	39.1	37.4	1.4	0.2	221.9	212.5	7.3	2.1
<i>Bangladeshi</i>	9.1	8.7	0.4	0.1	94.9	90.7	3.0	1.1
<i>Black - Caribbean/African</i>	7.2	7.0	0.1	0.0	235.0	229.8	4.0	1.2
<i>Other ethnic groups</i>	22.6	22.0	0.5	0.1	299.8	293.4	5.1	1.3
No working adult in family	19	19	27	45	16	16	25	39
Household tenure*								
<i>Rents - from LA/HA</i>	22	22	25	37	23	23	27	40
Family type								
<i>Lone parent</i>	26	26	27	46	23	23	26	39
<i>Couple with children</i>	71	71	69	50	74	74	70	57
<i>Other family (no children)</i>	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	4
Limiting long-term illness	5	5	7	12	5	5	7	12

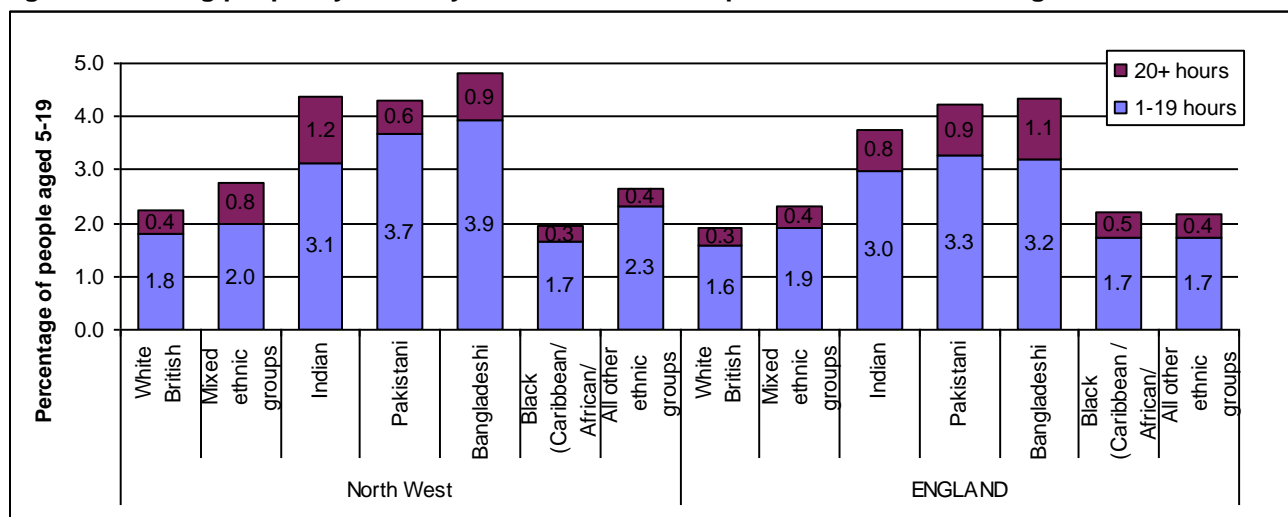
Source: 2001 Small Area Microdata, Office for National Statistics (2006a).

Table 8.5 Characteristics of young people (aged 16-19) by amount of care provided: North West (%)

Young people aged 16-19	North West				ENGLAND			
	ALL	Non-carers	People providing:		ALL	Non-carers	People providing:	
			1-19 hours	20+ hours			1-19 hours	20+ hours
No qualifications								
<i>Males</i>	25	25	22	30	24	24	19	28
<i>Females</i>	21	21	17	23	21	21	17	29
Economic activity								
Males								
<i>In employment</i>	45	45	44	41	47	47	46	38
<i>Unemployed</i>	12	12	11	23	10	10	12	19
<i>Student</i>	39	39	43	27	40	40	40	31
<i>Other</i>	4	4	2	9	3	3	3	11
Females								
<i>In employment</i>	46	46	48	36	47	47	44	35
<i>Unemployed</i>	8	8	9	11	7	7	10	10
<i>Student</i>	38	38	37	32	39	39	39	30
<i>Other</i>	7	7	6	20	6	6	6	24

Source: 2001 Small Area Microdata, Office for National Statistics (2006a).

Figure 8.6 Young people by ethnicity and amount of care provided: North West region



Source: 2001 Small Area Microdata, Office for National Statistics (2006a).

9. Older carers in the North West

In the region, there were 122,572 carers aged 65 or over. This figure amounts to 17% of all carers in the region. Of these older carers:

- 48,300 (39% compared with 36% in England as a whole) regularly provide 50 or more hours of care per week
- 4,449 were over 85 years old (among them 2,295 providing 50+ hours of care)
- 27,180 (22% compared with 20% in England as a whole) were themselves in poor health
- 14,044 (52% compared with 50% in England as a whole) older carers in poor health provided 50 or more hours care per week

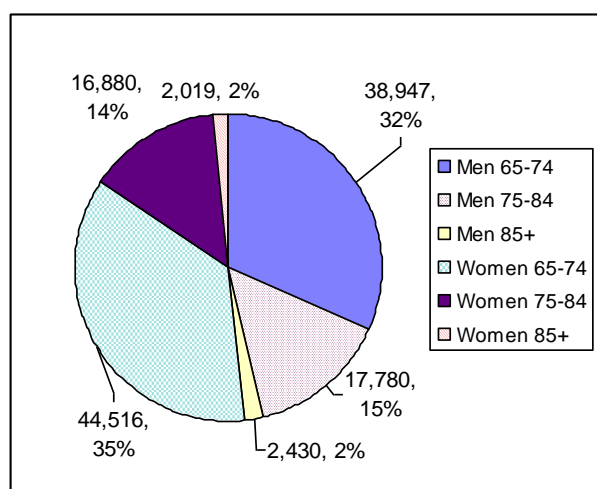
Table 9.1 Older people aged 65+ by age, sex, health status and the amount of care they provide:
North West region

	Male non-carers	Men caring for:			Female non-carers	Women caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
ALL (numbers)	373,189	28,751	6,878	23,528	527,150	31,736	6,907	24,772
65-74	225,960	20,749	4,434	13,764	261,913	23,320	4,893	16,303
75-84	121,923	7,217	2,157	8,406	198,207	7,539	1,809	7,532
85+	25,306	785	287	1,358	67,030	877	205	937
Poor health (numbers)	92,823	4,545	1,700	6,918	144,429	5,096	1,795	7,126
65-74	50,648	3,032	1,040	3,917	59,733	3,276	1,155	4,140
75-84	33,637	1,334	587	2,524	59,139	1,565	561	2,608
85+	8,538	179	73	477	25,557	255	79	378
Poor health (%)	25	16	25	29	27	16	26	29
65-74	22	15	23	28	23	14	24	25
75-84	28	18	27	30	30	21	31	35
85+	34	23	25	35	38	29	39	40

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

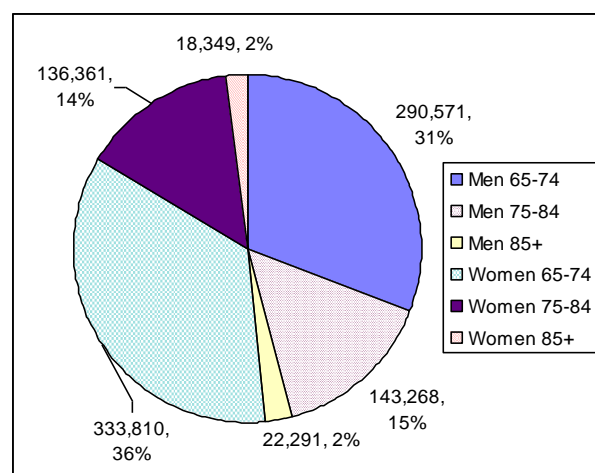
Over two thirds of older carers are aged 65-74 (Figure 9.2a,b). In the older age groups, men are more likely to be carers than women, although people aged 85 and over are less likely to be carers than people aged 65-84 (Figure 9.3). However, men and women aged 85 and over who are carers are more likely regularly to provide 50 or more hours of care each week (56% of men carers and 46% of women carers), compared with 35% and 37% of men and women carers aged 65-74.

Figure 9.2a Older carers by age and sex:
North West region



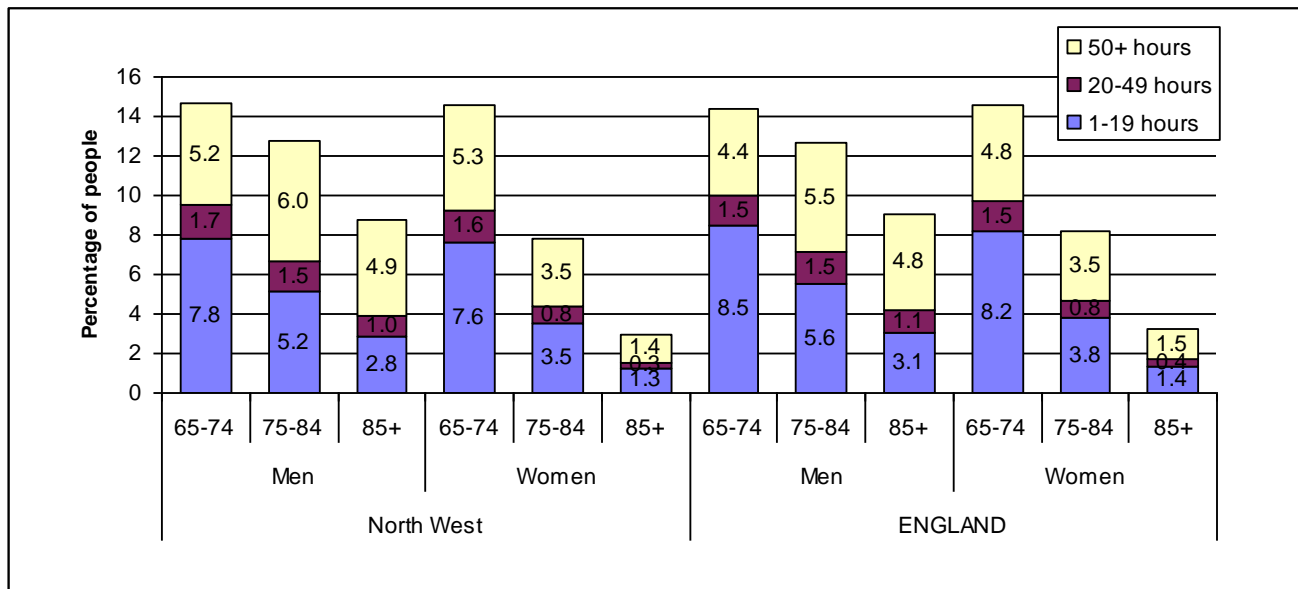
Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Figure 9.2b Older carers by age and sex:
England



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Figure 9.3 Percentage of older people who are carers: North West region (%)



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003.

Table 9.4 presents some of the characteristics of people in these older age groups by the amount of care they provide. This shows that older carers are more likely than non-carers to:

- Live with a person who has a LLTI
- Live in housing that is rented from the local authority or Housing Association
- Live with one other person aged 65 and over

Table 9.4 Household/family situation of older people: North West region (%)

	North West				ENGLAND			
	Non-carers	People caring for:			Non-carers	People caring for:		
		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours		1-19 hours	20-49 hours	50+ hours
Co-resident with a person with a LLTI	24	41	77	95	22	40	79	94
Household tenure								
Owns/buying with a mortgage	67	85	74	72	67	84	75	70
Rents - from LA/HA	21	11	20	22	21	11	19	24
Rents - private	7	4	6	5	7	4	5	6
Communal establishment	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Family type by sex								
Men								
Lives in CE	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Live alone	27	15	8	2	24	14	7	1
Lives with one other person 65+	43	50	58	65	45	50	61	69
All other types of household	27	34	34	33	28	35	32	30
Women								
Lives in CE	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Live alone	48	34	13	3	46	31	13	2
Lives with one other person 65+	30	50	52	64	32	52	59	70
All other types of household	16	16	35	33	16	17	28	28
No access to car	45	23	30	34	41	19	28	35

Source: 2001 Census Individual SAR, Office for National Statistics (2006b).

Note: CE – Communal Establishments such as a retirement/nursing homes.

10. Care and support in the North West region: future challenges

The North West region is very diverse covering both very rural areas and some of England's largest cities. Some of the urban areas within the region suffer very high levels of deprivation. The 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation (DCLG 2007) shows that over a fifth (20%) of the North West's 4,459 small areas (each small area covers on average 1,500 residents) were among the 10% most deprived areas of the country. In the region the most deprived areas are found in Liverpool, Manchester, Blackpool and Knowsley, with one of the areas in Liverpool being the most deprived in the country. People living in deprived areas have lower life expectancy at birth than people in other areas, and are more likely to experience long periods in poor health at the end of their lives (Rasulo et al. 2007). Deprivation is associated with a higher prevalence of unpaid care (Young et al. 2005), as well as with high levels of illness, poverty, worklessness and social exclusion. While recent advances in health and medicine mean that people with long-term health problems have longer life-expectancy, and enable a higher proportion of children with chronic poor health or serious disabilities to survive into adulthood, these welcome developments also bring increasing demand for care.

In urban areas, the region's relatively diverse population also presents other challenges: with the numbers of older people in ethnic minority groups rapidly increasing (from 9,133 in 1991 to 21,666 in 2001, and now thought to be 29,500 (ONS 2009)), meeting their needs and those of their carers presents some providers and the health and social care system with a growing demand for sensitive, appropriately tailored support.

The region's rural areas present particular challenges which include a relatively high proportion of older people, more limited access to services, and challenging transport issues, as public transport may be infrequent or costly, and many sick and disabled people and their carers do not have private cars.

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