

2011 Census – Help tomorrow take shape

Census 2011 is working with local communities to ensure that everyone understands what the Census is and why it's important for everyone to be counted. We also want to recruit local residents for local Census jobs to make sure that our field teams are as knowledgeable and diverse as possible.

The national Census takes place every ten years and is a count of every person living in the UK. The next Census will take place on 27th March 2011. The Census matters to everyone. Census population counts are used to allocate money to services such as the local authority, health service, police, housing, education, transport, etc. for years to come. You may not think this is relevant to you, but in the future you may need a job or training, health care or want to rent or buy a home. For example businesses use Census information to plan where to provide shops and employment. Students use it for research and genealogists use it to trace their family tree.

The Office for National Statistics has started to work with our communities to ensure a good rate of return in this area. Jan Esson is the Area Manager for Bedford and Central Bedfordshire, and she will be working with key partners as well as engaging with local community groups, to promote the Census and to encourage everyone to be counted. If you belong to a group that would like information, or might be able to help promote the Census, Jan can be contacted by email at G106@census.gov.uk

In addition, recruitment to key Census roles starts on 20 September. Many full and part time jobs are available starting from February, going through to November 2011. Jan says "These jobs will be vital in making sure everyone is counted, and I would like to encourage people of all abilities and backgrounds to get involved and apply."

For full details of all the jobs, as well as how to apply, visit the Census jobs website at www.censusjobs.co.uk.

As we get nearer to Census day, more information will be provided, including about how to get help if needed, to complete the Census form on-line or by post. The Census website contains lots of information about the Census at www.census.gov.uk