

Solution

For Bar Chart 1

Pupils should recognise that there has been an increase for each year group (apart from 'Under 5').

This would suggest that more people in Northern Ireland required emergency care in September 2016 than they did in September 2015.

Furthermore, there has been a greater increase in people requiring emergency care who are aged 65 and over.

While the dual bar chart suggests that more and more people in Northern Ireland are requiring emergency care, it only shows an increase from 2015 to 2016. There could have been higher attendances in 2014, or lower attendances in 2017, for each year group.

Pupils should also recognise the fact that the dual bar chart only shows data for September 2015 and September 2016. Other months may not show the same increase from 2015 to 2016, or any increase at all.

Therefore, while the statement is true for the data displayed in the dual bar chart, it may not be true in general.

For Bar Chart 2

Pupils should recognise that Tuesday and Wednesday have had the biggest increase in average attendances from 2015 to 2016. These days also show the second and third greatest demand.

This suggests that if extra staff were available for three days, they could then be useful on these two days for 2018, if the data was repeated.

Pupils can go on to discuss what other day the extra staff could be useful on:

- They may suggest Monday, as this day has had the greatest average attendance for the previous two years and therefore has the most demand, which might be repeated in 2018. While other days show a greater increase, they have a smaller demand.
- The pupils could also suggest Thursday, as this day has the fourth greatest average attendance and a bigger increase in attendance in September 2016 when compared to Monday.
- Both of these days are fine as long as the pupils provide a logical argument for or against, based on the information they have.

However, Bar Chart 2 once again only shows data for September 2015 and September 2016. The staff might be most useful on the extra three days chosen in September 2018 – but during other months, they may be most useful on other days.

The pupils can only make their decision based on what information they have, but they should be mindful of the limitations of this information, and they could suggest improvements.

