

Key facts and information on inequalities experienced by Deaf and Disabled people



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Introduction

This fact sheet provides key facts about Deaf and Disabled people as well as information on the inequalities experienced by Deaf and Disabled people in areas such as education, employment, housing and health.

This factsheet uses the principles of the Social Model of Disability. The Social Model recognises that society creates barriers that 'disable' people with impairments or long term health conditions from participating fully and on an equal basis with others and that these barriers must be removed.¹ The barriers which exclude people with impairments can be physical, attitudinal, cultural, institutional or relating to information and communication.

The term 'Disabled people' in this factsheet includes people with physical, cognitive and sensory impairments; people with learning difficulties; Deaf people, deafened, and hard of hearing people; people with mental health support needs, and others.

Section 1: Population and impairment profile

1. Numbers of Disabled people

There were approximately 12.2 million Disabled people in the UK in 2012/13. This is about 1 in 5 people, or 19% of the population. This percentage has remained broadly stable over time.²

Below are estimates for the number of Disabled people by age and impairment group from the Family Resources Survey for 2012/13. The survey states that, 'the estimates for disabled people cover the number of people with a long-standing illness, disability or impairment which causes substantial difficulty with day-to-day activities. Everyone classified as Disabled under this definition would also be classified as Disabled under the general definition of disability in the Equality Act (EA) which has applied since 1 October 2010.'³

- 7% (0.9 million) of children are Disabled people.⁴
- 16% (6.1 million) of adults of working age are Disabled people.⁵
- 43% (5.1 million) of adults over State Pension age are Disabled people.⁶

There are more Disabled women than men in the UK: 6.6 million (21% of women) compared to 5.5 million Disabled men (18% of men).⁷

London

There are approximately 1.4 million Deaf and Disabled people living in London,⁸ of this figure just under 1.3 million are aged 16 to 64 years.⁹

2. Impairments

According to the Family Resources survey in 2012/13 there were:

- 6.9 million (57%) Disabled people with a mobility impairment.¹⁰
- 4.6 million (38%) Disabled people with difficulties with 'stamina/breathing or fatigue'.¹¹
- 3.4 million (28%) Disabled people with a 'manual dexterity' impairment.¹²
- 1.9 million (16%) Disabled people with a mental health support need.¹³
- 1.8 million (14%) Disabled people with a hearing impairment.¹⁴
- 1.6 million (13%) Disabled people with a visual impairment.¹⁵
- 1.4 million (12%) Disabled people with a learning difficulty.¹⁶

People with mental health support needs

- 1 in 4 people will experience a need for mental health support in any given year¹⁷
- 1 in 10 adults in Britain experience depression at any one time¹⁸
- Around 1 in 20 people at any one time experience major or 'clinical' depression¹⁹
- 349,000 (around 5%) of the total Disabled working age population have a mental health support need, other than depression or anxiety²⁰

People with learning difficulties

- There are approximately 1.5 million people in the UK with a learning difficulty. This includes 1 million adults aged over 20 and 410,000 children aged up to 19 years old who have a learning difficulty in the UK.²¹
- Around 2% of the total Disabled working age population have a learning difficulty.²²

People with hearing impairment

- 56,400 people were registered as Deaf in 2010.²³
- 156,500 people were registered as hard of hearing in 2010.²⁴
- Over half (53%) of people on the deaf register were aged 18-64.²⁵
- 69% of people on the hard of hearing register were aged 75 or over.²⁶
- There are more than 45,000 Deaf children in the UK.²⁷
- There are between 250,000 and 356,000 Deafblind people in the UK.²⁸

British Sign Language users

The results from the Scottish Census 2011, which asked a specific question about those “using BSL at home” showed that there are 13,000 British Sign Language (BSL) users in Scotland. Extended across the whole of the UK this is equivalent to 156,000 BSL users,²⁹ which is the figure acknowledged by the British Deaf Association and Royal Association for Deaf People as the most accurate estimate so far. Both organisations question the figures from the 2011 census of England and Wales, which showed that only 22,000 of ‘usual residents’³⁰ reported a sign language as their main language.³¹

Visual impairment

- 360,000 people in the UK are registered blind or partially sighted.³²
- 64% of blind and 66% of partially sighted people are aged 75 or over.³³
- 33%, (49,300) of those registered blind and 33% (50,400) of those registered partially sighted also recorded that they had an additional impairment.³⁴

Section 2: Inequalities experienced by Deaf and Disabled people

1. Access and inclusion

Accessing public services

More than a third (36%) of adults with an impairment reported experiencing that public services were not fully accessible, compared with about a quarter (24%) of adults without an impairment.³⁵

The most commonly reported barriers to accessing health services for Disabled adults are:

- difficulties getting appointments (64%)
- inaccessible telephone contact (38%)
- unhelpful or inexperienced staff (25%)
- inaccessible transport (13%).³⁶

The most commonly reported barriers to accessing justice services for disabled adults are:

- inaccessible telephone contact (45%)
- unhelpful or inexperienced staff (40%)
- lack of support with communication (23%)
- lack of accessible information (18%).³⁷

Civic involvement

Figures from 2010-11 show that disabled people were more likely to have been involved in civic participation and just as likely to have been involved in civic consultation and civic office compared to non-disabled people.³⁸

In 2010-11, 36% of Disabled people were engaged in civic participation compared with 33% of non-disabled people. In the same

period, 17% of both Disabled and non-disabled people were involved in civic consultation. 10% of disabled people and 9% of non-disabled people were involved in a civic office.

The percentage of non-disabled people involved in civic participation and civic consultation has decreased since 2005:

- Civic participation fell by 2 percentage points from 38% in 2005 to 36% in 2010/11
- Civic consultation fell by 3 percentage points from 20% in 2005 to 17% in 2010/11.³⁹

Civic office, which includes being a local councillor, has increased by 2 percentage points from 8% in 2005 to 10% in 2010/11, possibly because of the Access to Elected Office fund.⁴⁰ The funds offered individual grants to disabled people who wanted to be considered for selection as candidates for an election, or are planning to stand for election. However, the fund closed in March 2015.⁴¹

Definitions

Civic participation

Contacting a local councillor, MP, local council official, government official, attending a public meeting or rally, taking part in a public demonstration, or protest, signing a petition.

Civic consultation

Taking part in consultation by completing a questionnaire, attending a public meeting or being involved in a group to discuss local services.

Civic office

Being a local councillor, school governor, a volunteer Special Constable or a Magistrate; being a member of a decision making group about local services e.g., local health services.⁴²

Number of Disabled MPs

The number of Disabled MPs is not formally recorded so it is difficult to know the exact number. Since the 2015 election only two Conservative MPs (Paul Maynard and Robert Halfon) self-describe as Disabled people, although further Disabled MPs may emerge in the first few months of the new parliament, while there are others who have spoken in past Commons debates of their own health conditions.⁴³ Approximately 19% of the population in the UK are Disabled: if this proportion was reflected in the House of Commons there would be about 123 Disabled MPs. The low numbers of Disabled MPs are worrying as government legislation will not be informed by a sufficient number of MPs with a lived experience of being Disabled.

Environment

29% of adults (over 16 years old) with impairments have found some buildings outside of the home are inaccessible, compared to 6% of adults without impairments.⁴⁴ The six most common buildings that present Disabled adults with access problems are:

- Shops (53%)
- Hospitals (35%)
- Bars or restaurants (23%)
- Other people's homes (21%)
- GP surgeries (19%)
- Theatres or cinemas (17%).⁴⁵

The most common barriers to accessing buildings for adults with impairments include:

- Moving around the building – inaccessible stairs, doors or narrow corridors (44%)
- Inadequate lifts or escalators (23%)
- Inaccessible approach areas (lack of ramps/handrails) (22%)
- Parking problems (21%)
- Inaccessible bathroom facilities (location, layout, size) (17%)

Leisure

In 2013/14, Disabled people had a lower engagement rate (72.4%) than non-disabled people (79.1%) in the arts, visiting heritage sites, museums, galleries and libraries, and digital participation in cultural sectors.⁴⁶ This can be due to barriers such as inaccessible transport and inaccessible buildings, lack of hearing loops or audio description. 72% of adults with an impairment have at least 1 barrier to playing sport, compared with 54% of adults without an impairment.⁴⁷ While 83% of Disabled people surveyed said they had been put off buying a ticket from a music venue after find the booking system inaccessible.⁴⁸ In 2011/12 35.3% of Disabled people had been to the cinema compared to 62.9% on non-disabled people.⁴⁹

Transport

Without accessible public transport Disabled people's choices, opportunities and independence is severely limited. Yet public transport in the UK is not fully accessible, for instance:

- Currently only 66 out of 260 underground stations in London have some degree of step-free access.⁵⁰
- Approximately one in five rail stations in the UK have step-free access.⁵¹
- Many areas in the UK still do not have audio description on buses.⁵²
- 75% of adults with an impairment experience barriers to using transport, compared to 60% of adults without an impairment.⁵³

Probably due to these barriers Disabled people travel a third less often than the general public.⁵⁴

Information about accessible transport is available at:

<http://www.transportforall.org.uk>

2. Education

Importance of inclusive education

As the Alliance of Inclusive Education (ALLFIE)⁵⁵ highlights:

"Inclusive education is a social justice issue because it creates a society that values ALL equally - not only does it benefit disabled students, but all students, because they learn the strength of diversity and equality, lose their fear of difference, and develop empathy for others"⁵⁶

ALLFIE goes on to say that, 'Inclusive education providers adopt attitudes, approaches and strategies that ensure no learners are excluded or isolated from mainstream educational opportunities. Disabled pupils and students work alongside their peers on mainstream courses with flexibility of teaching, learning and assessments that support ALL learners to reach their full potential'.⁵⁷

'Separating disabled learners from their non-disabled peer-group is discriminatory. It limits individual life-chances and produces an unfair and unjust society. Our experience of education shapes both who we are and the type of society we want. From early years, children learn about inclusion and segregation from their experiences whilst at school. The experiences of segregation and inclusion cannot be underestimated'.

'The UK has taken some proactive measures to end institutional discrimination, including the Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Families Act 2014, but it has stopped short of creating and embracing an inclusive education system. Since 2009 disabled people have had a 'human right' to mainstream education under Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has cross-political party support'.

'Finding a school or college with good inclusive education practice is still not easy', in fact the Department for Education's own figures show

a steady increase of disabled children and young people going into special schooling and growing trend of increasing segregated education for disabled learners and to reverse the bias towards mainstream education. More and more families and young people are being forced to accept special school placements.⁵⁸

The Department of Education figures⁵⁹ which show the increase in the number of pupils in special schools are as follows:

Distribution of pupils with Statements of SEN (Special Educational Needs)⁶⁰

Proportion of pupils with statements of SEN attending maintained special schools continues to increase.

Pupils with statements of SEN by type of setting 2010 to 2014

SEN with Statements	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maintained nursery	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
State-funded primary	25.8%	25.8%	25.9%	26.0%	26.2%
State-funded secondary	28.8%	28.4%	27.7%	26.9%	25.7%
Maintained special	38.2%	38.7%	39.0%	39.6%	40.5%
Pupil Referral Units	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Independent	4.2%	4.3%	4.7%	4.9%	5.1%
Non-maintained special	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%

ALLFIE is also concerned that funding available for SEN support services for mainstream schools is being cut as is local authority budgets and that, 'Government is also placing mainstream schools under increasing pressure to deliver the higher and higher exam results for their students, to avoid the stigma of being labelled as 'failing' by OFSTED. Such pressure acts as a disincentive to admit disabled students unless they have the potential to pass the new Government 'success' target of 8 GCSEs. Despite the Government

UNCPD Article 24 obligations to promote inclusive education and to build the capacity of schools and colleges, the Government continues to create new laws and policies that undermine such obligations'.⁶¹

Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans

Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans for children and young people aged up to 25 were introduced on 1 September 2014 as part of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014.⁶²

From 1 September 2014, any children or young people who are newly referred to a local authority for assessment are considered under the new EHC plan assessment process. The legal test of when a child or young person requires an EHC plan remains the same as that for a statement under the Education Act 1996.⁶³

The figures for the number of children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and Special Educational Needs (SEN) statement in place at January 2015 are:

- 4,205 statutory Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans in place on 15 January 2015.⁶⁴
- 235,980 statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) in place on 15 January 2015.⁶⁵
- 2,765 EHC plans transferred from statements of SEN or Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs).⁶⁶
- 1,360 new EHC plans and 25,780 new statements were issued in 2014.

Disabled Students' Allowances

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are non-repayable grants that assist with the additional costs that a Disabled student incurs in relation to their study in higher education.⁶⁷ The grants finance a range of support, including the purchase of computers and specialised

equipment, assistance with travel costs and the provision of support workers where necessary.⁶⁸

In April 2014 the government announced changes to the Disabled Students' Allowances for higher education students.⁶⁹ The changes will mean restricting access to DSAs for many Deaf and Disabled students. The government stated that 'Students with Specific Learning Difficulties will continue to receive support through DSAs where their support needs are considered to be more complex', also the government 'will fund the most specialist Non-Medical Help'.⁷⁰

Universities will be therefore expected to fund support for Students with learning difficulties with less complex needs and non-medical support for Deaf and Disabled students.

The government also stated that, 'The additional costs of specialist accommodation will no longer be met by DSAs, other than in exceptional circumstances. DSAs will pay for higher specification or higher cost computers where a student needs one solely by virtue of their disability. DSAs would no longer pay for standard computers and no longer pay for higher specification and/or higher cost computers simply because of the way in which a course is delivered'.⁷¹ The government will ask Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to 'introduce changes to reduce reliance on DSAs and consider how they can reduce the need for support workers'.⁷² Deaf and Disabled students will be asked to contribute £200 towards their computer equipment funded by DSAs.⁷³

There are huge concerns that these changes will act as a disincentive to universities accepting Disabled students because of the cost involved in meeting Disabled students support needs. Also there is no information on whether DSA or the Universities will be expected to fund particular types of support such as British Sign Language Interpreters or the rights of Disabled students to challenge any decision making.⁷⁴

The government has delayed the introduction of the major changes involving 'accommodation, peripherals and consumables,' until the academic year 2016/17, while the consultations will take place. But students are still expected to contribute £200 towards the costs of a computer funded by DSA from the academic year 2015/16.⁷⁵

3. Employment

Nearly half (49%) of Disabled people in the UK are employed compared with 76.7% for non-disabled people, an employment gap of nearly 30 percentage points.⁷⁶ The employment gap between Disabled people and non-disabled people has been static for many years.⁷⁷

- BAME working age Disabled people are even less likely to be employed with less than 4 in 10 (less than 40%) in employment.⁷⁸
- Unemployment amongst Disabled men increased by 2.1 percentage points in England from 2007/08 to 2012/13, except for London where it increased by 2.9 percentage points.
- Unemployment for Disabled women rose in England by 2.3 percentage points, except for London where there was little change.⁷⁹
- Weekly full-time earnings were 14% lower for Disabled men and 10% lower for Disabled women looking at the period from 2007/08 to 2012/13.⁸⁰

London

Just above 48% of all Disabled residents in London are employed compared to 74% of non-disabled London residents, a difference of 26 percentage points.⁸¹ Trust for London research⁸² compares employment rates in 2007/08 with 2012/13. Their findings indicate:

- There was no significant change in full time working patterns in London amongst Disabled people.⁸³
- In London there was a 2.0 percentage point increase in part-time employment and a 0.6 percentage point increase in self-employment amongst Disabled people.⁸⁴

There are differences in employment rates between Disabled men and Disabled women in London:

- Unemployment amongst Disabled men in London increased by 2.9 percentage points, while there was no change for Disabled women.⁸⁵
- Part-time employment amongst Disabled women in London is more marked and has increased by about 4.6 percentage points.⁸⁶

Impairment groups with lower rates of employment

The employment rates for people with some impairments such as people with learning difficulties or people with mental health support needs remains consistently very low, for example:

- The employment rate of people with mental health support needs is only about 14% while it is 76.4% for non-disabled people.
- The employment rate of people with learning difficulties is under 15%, while it is 76.4% for non-disabled people.

Multiple Impairments

Deaf and Disabled people with multiple impairments experience significantly worse barriers to employment: People reporting five or more impairments are 61 percentage points less likely to have a job than otherwise similar non-disabled people, for people reporting one impairment, the deficit is only 7 percentage points.

Pay gap

- The pay gap between Disabled women and non-disabled women is 22%, while between Disabled men and non-disabled men the gap is 11%.
- Since 2010 the pay gap between Disabled and non-disabled people has widened by one third.⁸⁷
- In 2012 the hourly wage rate of Disabled people was £12.15, while that of non-disabled people was £13.25.⁸⁸

Barriers to employment

There are many barriers that prevent Deaf and Disabled people from working,⁸⁹ these include:

- discriminatory attitudes of employers that result in Deaf and Disabled people not being recruited or promoted.
- inaccessible public transport
- inaccessible premises
- difficulties getting appropriate levels of access support
- lack of flexible and inclusive employment practices, which creates barriers to Disabled people obtaining and maintaining employment.⁹⁰

Economic, attitudinal, physical, communication and cultural barriers operating in society are the key causes of unemployment and economic inactivity amongst Deaf and Disabled people rather than impairments.⁹¹

According to EHRC research report published in 2013⁹² ‘18% of respondents said they had experienced some kind of unfair treatment, discrimination, bullying or harassment at work during the preceding two years. This is considerably higher among disabled people than non-disabled people: 27 per cent compared with 17 per cent’.⁹³

‘The main reasons given by disabled people for unfair treatment at work were the attitudes or personalities of other people (52 per cent) or relationships at work (43 per cent); 30 per cent said that the unfair treatment they had experienced was because of their disability or condition’.⁹⁴

Working practices and employer attitudes

Research⁹⁵ suggests that for workers in general the terms and conditions of employment have deteriorated since 2010, as well as workplace experiences and job quality and that this deterioration was having disproportionate adverse impact on Disabled workers for example:

- Employer attitudes towards Disabled workers have deteriorated in the last four years.⁹⁶
- Rhetoric about ‘disability benefits cheats’ seems to have spilled over into the workplace.⁹⁷
- There has been a reduction in organisational support for Disabled workers with a reduced willingness to make reasonable adjustments and an increased emphasis on discipline.⁹⁸

4. Health inequalities

Deaf and Disabled people continue to experience health inequalities and lack equal access to health services. Below are examples of health inequalities regarding Deaf people, people with learning difficulties and people with mental health support needs.

Deaf people

Deaf people often find their access to health services is hampered because of limited provision of British Sign Language interpreters (BSLI) and community language interpreters.⁹⁹ For instance in a survey of 607 people with hearing loss and tinnitus found that after attending an appointment with a GP¹⁰⁰:

- more than one-quarter (28%) of respondents had been unclear about a diagnosis
- around one-quarter (26%) had been unclear about health advice they were provided with
- approximately one-fifth (19%) had been unclear about their medication.¹⁰¹

This was largely due to the GP not facing the patient or not speaking clearly.

- just under half (44%) of respondents said that their GP surgery had a visual display screen
- one in seven respondents (14%) had missed an appointment because they had missed being called in the waiting room.¹⁰²

The lack of access to health services impacts on the health and wellbeing of Deaf people. Research has found that:

‘Deaf people’s health is poorer than that of the general population, with probable under-diagnosis and under-treatment

of chronic conditions, putting Deaf people at risk of preventable ill health.¹⁰³

Rates of obesity were high in the 298 Deaf people aged 20-82 years that were surveyed, especially in those over 65 and 48% were in the high risk group for serious illness.¹⁰⁴ Deaf people are twice as likely to have high blood pressure and proportionately more cases go undetected or are insufficiently treated.¹⁰⁵ Deaf people are four times more likely to develop diabetes and generally have a reduced life expectancy.¹⁰⁶

People with learning difficulties

The death rate for people with learning difficulties is more than twice that of the general population.¹⁰⁷

- Compared with the general population, men with a learning difficulty die on average 13 years earlier, while women with a learning difficulty die 20 years earlier.¹⁰⁸
- Respiratory disease is a leading cause of death for people with learning difficulties (46%- 52%), with rates much higher than for the general population (15%-17%).¹⁰⁹
- Coronary heart disease is a leading cause of death amongst people with learning difficulties (14%-20%)¹¹⁰. Almost half of all people with Down's syndrome are affected by congenital heart defects¹¹¹

Avoidable deaths

According to an inquiry which reviewed the deaths of 247 people with learning difficulties, 37% of the deaths of people with a learning difficulty were considered avoidable:¹¹² Based on the findings of the inquiry it was estimated that 1,238 children and adults die across England every year because they are not getting the right health care.¹¹³

People with mental health support needs

- People with a mental health support needs will typically die between 15 years (for women) and 20 years (for men) earlier than someone without.¹¹⁴
- One in three of the 100,000 people with ‘avoidable deaths’ every year have a mental health support need.¹¹⁵

People with schizophrenia are more likely to die of other health conditions for instance:

- 28% of people who have had a stroke and have schizophrenia die, compared with 12% of people without schizophrenia.¹¹⁶
- 28% of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) who have schizophrenia have died, compared with 15% of people without schizophrenia.¹¹⁷
- 37 per cent of people with a long standing mental health support need are smokers.¹¹⁸
- People with schizophrenia are more likely to smoke but less likely to be offered support to quit.¹¹⁹

London

Adults in London

An estimated 914,300 adults of working age in London are affected by conditions such as anxiety and depression. Many more experience a ‘severe and enduring’ mental health support need.¹²⁰

Children in London

- At least 1 in 10 children is thought to have a ‘clinically significant’ mental health support need, meaning 111,000 young people in London.
- Forty five per cent of looked after children aged 5 to 17 experience a mental health support need.¹²¹

Mental health services: physical restraint:

- There were at least 13 restraint-related deaths of people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. Eight of these occurred in a single year (2011).¹²²
- In 2012 restraint was used over 3,000 times resulting in almost 1,000 incidents of physical injury.¹²³
- There is a huge variation in the use of physical restraint across England: In a single year, one trust reported 38 incidents while another reported over 3,000 incidents

BAME mental health

Inpatient admission rates under the Mental Health Act are 9 times higher for the 'other black group' and over 3 times higher than average among 'mixed white/black and black groups'.¹²⁴

- Black patients are also less likely to receive non-coercive treatments such as psychotherapy and counselling than other groups, and more likely to receive higher doses of medication.¹²⁵

There is a long-standing and serious failure by mental health services and other statutory agencies to appropriately deal with 'racial inequalities'¹²⁶

Disabled people from BAME communities and Refugees/Asylum Seekers

The levels of long term illness are higher in most BAME groups than in the general population, especially for older age groups.¹²⁷

Unfortunately, there is a lack of data on the prevalence of impairments and chronic illness amongst refugees and asylum seekers in Britain¹²⁸

5. Housing & the environment

Housing

Research in 'The Hidden Housing Crisis' report¹²⁹ revealed that people with mobility impairments are often forced to wash themselves at the kitchen sink, sleep in the lounge and experience falls which require hospital treatment because their bathrooms, bedrooms, stairs, doorways and halls are not accessible.¹³⁰

Over one in ten people (6.9 million people) in Great Britain report some kind of mobility problem¹³¹ and are likely to need wheelchair accessible homes, yet only 5% of homes in England can be visited by someone using a wheelchair.¹³²

- One in six Disabled adults and half of all Disabled children live in housing that isn't suitable for their needs.¹³³
- Three quarters of British adults (75%) report that they live in a home without an accessible front door, so hundreds of thousands of people who acquire a mobility impairment every year will have to move house or risk falls.¹³⁴

Also the quality of housing can be poor - one in three households with a Disabled person live in non-decent accommodation.¹³⁵

The need for new housing to be built to Lifetime homes standards¹³⁶ is urgent as is the implementation of the Mayor of London's policy to build at least 10% wheelchair accessible homes.¹³⁷

Many Disabled people live on low incomes¹³⁸ and need low cost housing, yet the local authority housing stock in London is diminishing¹³⁹ and the government has proposed a policy to extend the right to buy to housing association properties, which is unlikely to improve the situation.¹⁴⁰

People with learning difficulties

Less than a third of people with a learning difficulty have some choice of who they live with, and less than half have some choice over where they live.¹⁴¹ People with learning difficulties can be sent far away from home to hospital assessment units for long periods. The government has failed to meet its target made following the Winterbourne view hospital scandal that:

‘... all current placements will be reviewed by 1 June 2013, and everyone inappropriately in hospital will move to community-based support as quickly as possible, and no later than 1 June 2014’.¹⁴²

Efforts to stop Disabled people from being sent to live far away from home and community is being made through the Disabled People (Community Inclusion) Bill 2015 known as the Laughing Boy Bill (LBBill). Draft 2 of the LBBill is available at:

<https://lbbill.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/lbbill-draft-2.pdf>

6. Disability hate crime

Disabled people have experienced hate crime for many years yet the majority of disability hate crimes go unreported.¹⁴³ In many instances disabled people have not been supported to report disability hate and also there has been a failure to investigate, prosecute and sentence such crimes for what they are.¹⁴⁴ In some cases the initial reaction from frontline police can prevent the recording and investigation of a hate crime. A survey of 361 people ‘severe mental illness’ who received community mental health services in London revealed negative experiences reported by participants in their engagement with the police. These were:

- not being believed when they reported crimes
- being blamed for the incident
- being perceived as unreliable or not credible; and not being taken seriously.¹⁴⁵

Some participants associated this poor treatment with the police having attitudes of prejudice or being misinformed about mental health problems.¹⁴⁶

The number of disability hate crimes reported to the police, and recorded by the Home Office, remains low, at only 1,985 in 2013-14. However, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates 62,000 disability motivated hate crimes, a difference of 60,015.¹⁴⁷ Only around 3% of incidents are recorded by the police as hate crimes and just 1% lead to convictions.¹⁴⁸

The police do not break data down by impairment so figures from the police on the levels of hate crime on people with learning difficulties or people with mental health support needs or any other impairment are not available.¹⁴⁹

Research commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission revealed that harassment is a commonplace experience for Disabled people.¹⁵⁰

- Disabled people and adults with a long-standing illness were more likely to be a victim of violence than those without (11.3% compared with 7.3%).¹⁵¹
- More than half of Disabled people say they have experienced hostility, aggression or violence from a stranger because of their condition or impairment (56%).
- Disabled people say they experience discrimination on either a daily or weekly basis.¹⁵²
- Unfortunately, Disabled people continue to be abused, tortured and murdered.¹⁵³

People with learning difficulties

- An estimated 9 out of 10 people with a learning difficulty have been a victim of hate crime and bullying.¹⁵⁴
- 70% of women and 32% of men with learning difficulties experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives.¹⁵⁵
- Children with a learning difficulty are often socially excluded and 8 out of 10 children with a learning difficulty are bullied.¹⁵⁶

Initiatives by public bodies

Hate crime

There is a national hate crime reduction strategy, which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hate-crime-action-plan-challenge-it-report-it-stop-it>

In London the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) also has a strategy, which is available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/MOPAC%20Hate%20Crime%20Reduction%20Strategy%20.pdf>

Disability hate crime

Regarding the reduction of disability hate crime, two joint reports by the inspectorates for the police, the crown prosecution service and the probation service have called for improvements in:

- a. improving awareness of disability hate crime,
- b. increasing the reporting of disability hate crime and
- c. embedding disability hate crime processes within the routine working practices of police, CPS and probation staff.

The first report 'Living in a different world', published in March 2013, made seven recommendations to achieve the aims above, which included strategies to increase the reporting of disability hate crime and training for the police, CPS and probation service front line staff.

The report is available at:

<http://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmic/media/a-joint-review-of-disability-hate-crime-living-in-a-different-world-20130321.pdf>

A review was published in May 2015 which found that there has been, 'insufficient progress made against the recommendations'. The review is available at: <http://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/joint-review-of-disability-hate-crime-review.pdf>

Impact of hostile portrayal of Disabled people

Since the 2010 election there has been a significant increase in the use of pejorative language by the media to describe Disabled people. Research found that terms such as 'scrounger', 'cheat' and 'skiver' were found to have increased.¹⁵⁷ The hostile media portrayal of Disabled people has continued and it is having a negative impact on the public's attitude towards Disabled people, with incidences of disability hate crime increasing month by month as the statistics indicate below show:¹⁵⁸

- In September 2011, 66% of Disabled people said they have experienced aggression, hostility or name calling, compared with 41% in May 2011.¹⁵⁹
- 47% said people's attitudes towards them have got worse over the past year compared with 37% in May 2011.¹⁶⁰

Two years later, attitudes had not improved. In 2013:

- 84% thought media coverage of benefit claims and the welfare system has had a negative effect on public attitudes.¹⁶¹
- 81% of Disabled people said that attitudes towards them had not improved in the last 12 months, 22% saying that things had actually got worse.¹⁶²

7. Discrimination and equal protection before the law

Legal aid changes

There are serious concerns that the changes to legal aid have negatively impacted on Disabled people's access to justice. Government's own statistics show that Disabled people and people from the BAME community are disproportionately effected by the changes in legal aid because a greater proportion of those claiming civil legal aid are from 'BAME origin and with a disability.'¹⁶³ 'The hardest hit are those in receipt of means tested benefits and low incomes who since April 2013 have been subject to a maximum limit of £8000 for legal aid eligibility.'¹⁶⁴

It is also very concerning that the number of 'new matters' or new cases involving discrimination has dropped by 80% from 2,429 in April-June 2012 to 552 for April-June 2013.¹⁶⁵ The number of new civil legal aid cases (new matter starts) has also fallen by over 80% between 2009-10 and 2013-14.¹⁶⁶

Serving prison sentences – inequalities

There are serious concerns regarding the disproportionate percentage of people with learning difficulties and mental health conditions that are in prison:

- 72% of male and 70% of female sentenced prisoners have two or more mental health conditions.¹⁶⁷
- People with learning difficulties are five times as likely as other prisoners to have been subjected to control and restraint techniques and three times more likely to have spent time in segregation on in prison.¹⁶⁸

People from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities are also over-represented at all stages of the criminal justice process, and

make up 25% of the prison population yet are just 11% of the general population¹⁶⁹.

8. Independent living

Due to cuts in social care and support Disabled people's independent living, choice and control is being severely damaged. A survey of 600 of Disabled adults between the ages of 18 and 64 in the summer of 2012 revealed that due to the cuts in social care and support:

- nearly half (47 percent) say they are withdrawing from society because the services they receive do not enable them to take part in community life¹⁷⁰.
- over one third (34 percent) being unable to work or take part in volunteering or training activities after losing support services¹⁷¹.

Numbers of Disabled people using care services

According to government figures¹⁷² 1,273,000 adults received care services in 2013-14 (down 29 per cent from 1,782,000 in 2008- 09 and down four per cent from 1,328,000 in 2012-13). Of these:

- 1,052,000 received community based services (a fall of 5% from 2012-13)
- 204,000 received residential care (a fall of 2% from 2012-13).
- 85,000 received nursing care (which is 2% down from 2012-13).
- 647,000 people received self-directed support in 2013-14 (64% of all adults, up 6% from 2012-13).
- Of those receiving community based services not in the form of direct payments in 2013-14, 470,000 received home care, 358,000 received equipment, 195,000 received professional support, 128,000 received day care, 66,000 received short term residential care (excluding respite care), 32,000 received meals and 75,000 received other services.¹⁷³

Community based services

The number of adults receiving community-based services has fallen by 32% since 2008-09 and 5% from 2012-13.¹⁷⁴

During 2013-14 community-based services (for example, home care, day care and meals) were provided to 1,052,000 adults aged 18 and over during 2013-14. Many of these adults received more than one of the components of community-based services.¹⁷⁵

Adults in receipt of community-based services accounted for 83 per cent of all adults receiving services; this is the same percentage as last year.¹⁷⁶

- From 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 there were 470,000 adults in receipt of home care, of which 79% were aged 65 and over.
- There were 358,000 adults receiving equipment and adaptations with over three-quarters (76%) of those adults aged 65 and over.
- There were 195,000 adults in receipt of professional support of which almost two-thirds (66%) were aged 18 to 64.
- There were 128,000 adults who received day care services with the majority of these adults (54%) aged 18 to 64.¹⁷⁷

Funding and resources

In the spring of 2015¹⁷⁸ social care has a funding gap of £4.3 billion¹⁷⁹

- Resources have fallen by 26% since 2010, as a result 400,000 fewer people have received social care support.¹⁸⁰
- Local authorities spend 35% - £14 billion of their budget on care and support, while individuals spent £10 billion each year.¹⁸¹
- Adult Social Care funding will reduce by a further 1.9% in 2014-15 (equivalent to £266 million). This is the third year of cash reductions and the fifth year of real terms reductions in spending.¹⁸²
- Since 2010 spending on Social Care has fallen by 12% at a time when the population of those looking for support has increased

by 14% requiring savings of 26% to be made, totalling £3.53bn over last 4 years¹⁸³

The majority of Directors of Adult Social Services agree that:

- Fewer people will be able to access support;
- Councils will face increasing legal challenge;
- Providers will face financial difficulty with increasing risks of provider failure or worse;
- The NHS will come under increasing rather than reducing pressure.¹⁸⁴

More resources are also needed to increase investment in prevention. £3.53bn of savings over the last four years has left no scope for such investment.¹⁸⁵

9. Poverty

Using the standard poverty measure: (with those with less than 60 per cent of median income in the UK)¹⁸⁶:

- In 2012/13, there were around 4.7 million people in poverty who lived in a household with a Disabled person.¹⁸⁷
- People living in families with a Disabled member make up one in three of all people living in income poverty.¹⁸⁸
- Disabled adults are twice as likely as non-disabled adults to live in persistent poverty, defined as spending three or more years in any four-year period in poverty.¹⁸⁹
- Disabled adults, aged from 25 years to retirement, are twice as likely as non-disabled people to be living on a low income.¹⁹⁰
- 19% of individuals in families with at least one Disabled member live in relative income poverty, compared to 15% of individuals in families with no Disabled member.¹⁹¹

Disabled children and poverty

- Four in ten Disabled children in the UK, or 320,000 are living in poverty¹⁹²
- 21% of children in families with at least one Disabled member are in poverty, compared with 16% of children in families with no Disabled member¹⁹³
- The average income of families with Disabled children is £15,270, which is 23.5% below the UK mean income of £19,968¹⁹⁴
- About 60% of children and young people with learning difficulties and mental health support needs live in poverty.¹⁹⁵

Extra costs of being Disabled

Disabled people have both low incomes and the extra costs of being disabled to contend with. Disabled people spend about £550 a month on disability-related expenditure, which can include higher heating bills, buying specialised equipment or paying for taxis to get around.¹⁹⁶ Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and now Personal Independent Payments (PIP) are benefits that contribute to the extra costs Disabled people face daily. However, the official income poverty calculation includes DLA as income but does not take account of the extra costs.¹⁹⁷ As the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) highlights, removing DLA and AA (Attendance Allowance) from incomes doubles the number of people in poverty who receive these benefits. For children, the number rises to 390,000 from 240,000, for working-age adults there is an increase from 730,000 to 1,300,000 and for pensioners the number in poverty trebles, from 180,000 to 560,000.¹⁹⁸ Therefore it is likely the level of income poverty experienced by Disabled people and their families is seriously underestimated.

Loans

The 'Breaking the link between disability and poverty,' report¹⁹⁹ reveals that:

- 27% of households where at least one person has an impairment report that they find making loan repayments a heavy burden (compared with 14% of households where no one has an impairment).
- One in four people with a mental health support need also has debt problems which can seriously affect their well-being.
- Disabled people are three times more likely to draw on doorstep loans.²⁰⁰
- A fifth of Disabled people have been unable to make the minimum payment on their credit card in the past year.
- Disabled people are less likely to have a current account and almost one in ten have been turned down for insurance, with 22% cent believing their impairment drives up their premiums.²⁰¹

Disabled people from the BAME community

- 44% of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Disabled people live in household poverty, compared with 32% of all Disabled people and 17% of the population as a whole.²⁰²
- Individual incomes for BAME Disabled people are 30% lower than for the general population.²⁰³

10. Welfare Benefits

Only around half (6 million) of Disabled people covered by the disability provision in the Equality Act are in receipt of disability-related benefits²⁰⁴. It is likely that many Disabled people eligible for welfare benefits are not claiming them: In a poll of 350 welfare benefit advisors nine in ten, (90 per cent) said that too many Disabled people are slipping through the net and are left without adequate support by the welfare system.²⁰⁵ Trying to cover the extra costs of living without the support of DLA or PIP will cause more Disabled people to live in poverty.

Welfare Benefit Reform

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 brought in multiple welfare benefit changes, as a result many Disabled people's incomes will be reduced. The reforms include:

- The end of Disability Living Allowance, which is being replaced with Personal Independence Payment
- Time-limiting and means-testing Employment Support Allowance
- Universal Credit a new benefit that will replace 6 other benefits.
- Changes to Housing Benefit, including the removal of the spare room subsidy more commonly known as the 'bedroom tax'.
- The over-all benefit Cap.

The government is also proposing more reforms in a Bill announced in the Queen's speech in May 2015.

Cumulative impact welfare reform and tax reforms

Research conducted by Demos for Scope, published in 2013, estimated that up to 3.7 million disabled people will be affected in total by the reforms and will lose £28.3bn of support by 2018.²⁰⁶ The research also estimated that:

- 26,600 people will have 'a triple whammy of losing their ESA (through changes that time limit it), DLA (through PIP reform), and having their ESA uprating capped at 1% (before they lose it). This loss is worth £17,000 to £23,000 over the five years depending on when they lose their DLA: either at the beginning or end of the transition to PIP.'²⁰⁷
- 120,000 will experience some form of triple cut and 99,000 who will have a quadruple cut. At best, these represent a loss of £6309 per person by 2017.²⁰⁸
- 12,500 people who are in receipt of DLA, ESA (Work Related Activity Group) and living in social housing will be hit by five cuts, losing £11,517 each, or £481m as a group.²⁰⁹

- An estimated 3,000 people will be hit by six different cuts, each losing £23,000 as a household by 2017 (or £4,600-a-year).²¹⁰

Research conducted for the Equality and Human Rights Commission published in the summer 2014 showed that regarding the ‘Impact of tax, spending and benefit changes 2010-15:

‘The impacts of tax and welfare reforms are more negative for families containing at least one disabled person, particularly a disabled child, and that these negative impacts are particularly strong for low income families’.²¹¹

11. Cumulative impact of all cuts

The cumulative impact of the welfare benefit cuts and cuts to care and support hit Disabled people more than other people. Research estimates that:

- Disabled people will be hit 9 times more than most other citizens by welfare reform and cuts to care and support.²¹²
- Disabled people (8% of the population) will bear 29% of all cuts.²¹³
- Disabled people with high support needs will lose on average 19 times more than most other citizens.²¹⁴

12. Multiple discrimination / intersectionality

People with more than one protected characteristic often experience multiple discrimination, below are some examples:

LGBT Disabled people

There is sexuality-based discrimination on the sexual and reproductive health of Disabled Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) women.²¹⁵ Also Disabled LGBT people are often actively discouraged from seeking a social life that others would take for granted, especially when reliant on homophobic family or carers. This can lead to social isolation.²¹⁶

Disabled women

Healthcare

Disabled women can often experience dual discrimination because of their status as both 'Disabled' and 'women,' for instance healthcare providers can question Disabled women's right to have children even suggesting abortion or sterilisation, particularly if the Disabled woman is said to have any degree of learning difficulties.²¹⁷ There is also a lack of data specifically about Disabled women.²¹⁸

Disability hate crime against women

- 29% of women seeking advice from the Rights of Women telephone helpline on sexual violence issues identified as Disabled.²¹⁹
- Disabled women are more likely than average to have experienced an abusive partner compared with non-disabled women.²²⁰

- Disabled people and especially women are particularly vulnerable because an abusive partner may be providing 'care'.²²¹
- A lack of accessible information can prevent women from finding alternative accommodation. Also in some areas of the UK, funding to rape crisis and domestic abuse refuge services has been removed and services have had to close.

Impact of welfare reform on Disabled women

Disabled women are likely to receive a double impact from the welfare and tax reforms put in place between 2010-2015 for example, cuts to benefits for pregnant women and families with new babies, freezing of child benefit, cuts to childcare tax credit.²²²

Research published in 2014 looked at the impact on a person's life of having multiple protected characteristics and presents case studies of VCS organisations in London that are working in this area, which is called intersectionality. Contributors to the report drew attention to 'the particular impact on people with intersectional identities of cuts to legal aid, and to advice services generally. Suggestions of the part that London's voluntary sector can play in supporting people with intersectional identities include the provision of 'safe spaces' where individuals can be themselves'. The report is available at:

<http://www.lvsc.org/londonforall/launch-of-hear-intersectionality-research-report/>

Conclusion

As can be seen from the information above Deaf and Disabled people continue to experience systemic barriers and inequalities across many areas of life from health inequalities to inaccessible transport. These barriers continue to undermine Deaf and Disabled people's human and civil rights and participation and inclusion in society.²²³

That concludes this factsheet giving key facts and information on inequalities experienced by Deaf and Disabled people.

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