

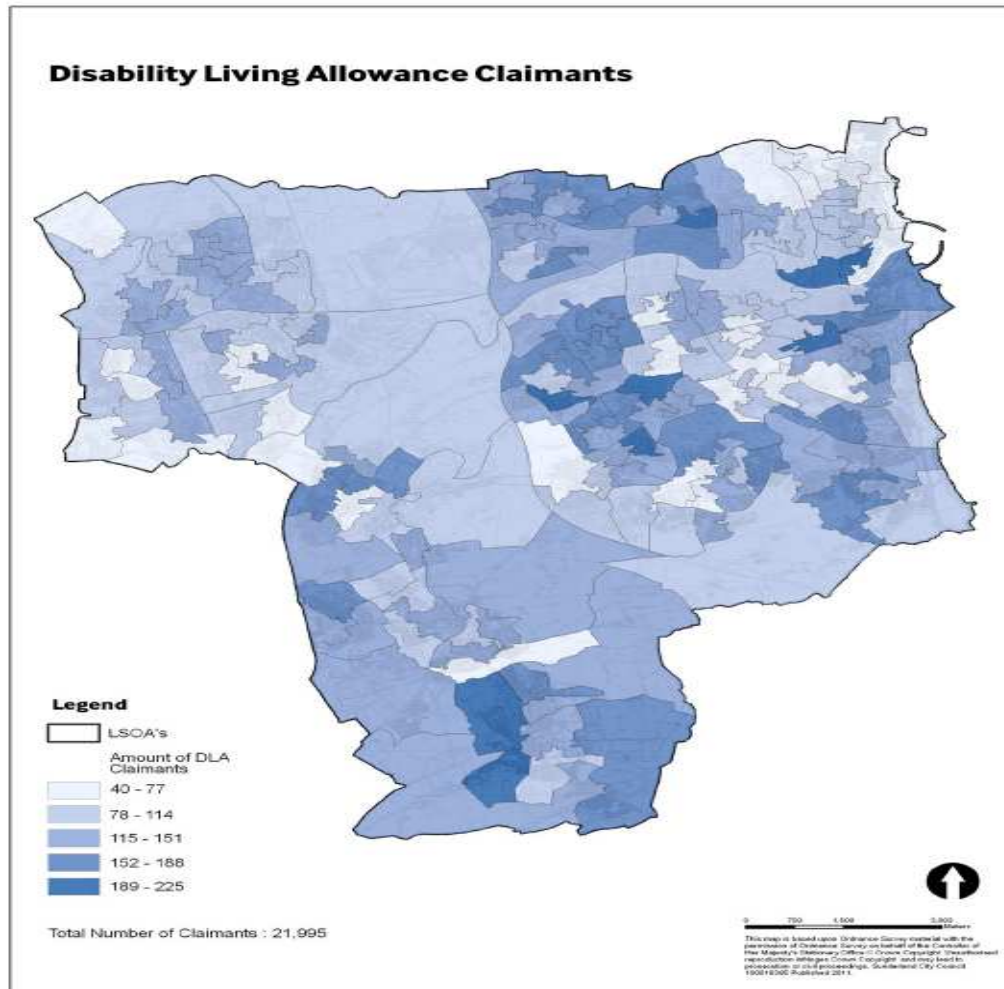
Equality & Diversity Profile – Disability

This profile presents the current information available. We would like your feedback. Does it reflect your understanding of key issues for disability? If not, what would you change or add?

The Population at Risk of Disadvantage & Their Experiences

Those with physical and learning disabilities are at risk of exclusion, for a number of reasons. This can be linked to an inability to access work or training opportunities, meaning that individuals can feel economically excluded, or being unable/finding it difficult to access universal mainstream services such as leisure facilities. This can result in feelings of social isolation, discrimination and stigma.

There are estimated to be 7.3% of the children's population aged 0 – 17 years with disabilities, which equates to 4,100 children in the city. There are estimated to be 52,800 adults aged 20+ in the city with physical or learning disabilities, with 33% of these (17,550) having severe disabilities. Of these 52,800 adults, 26,300 are aged 20 – 64 years, with the number of people with disability increasing with age. Information from the Department for Work and Pensions indicates that there are currently, 21,995 individual claimants of disability living allowance in the City. The distribution of claimants is shown in the map below, which expresses the proportion of people in the wards as a set of colours.



It is estimated 2.4% of the adult population have learning disabilities, of which 0.4% are thought to have more significant learning disabilities, those who are most likely to need help from others in daily living.

It should be recognised that not all people with disabilities will need help in daily living, particularly those with milder disabilities. However, those with significant/severe disability will be those that require, support in daily solutions. In the majority of cases this support is provided through family and friends. The MORI Survey 2010 highlighted that: 15% of people in Sunderland say they provide informal care for a friend or relative to help them with day to day tasks such as washing or cleaning, 57% of those undertaking care work gave more than 10 hours a week, with 38% devoting more than 20 hours a week.

Research suggests that there are a range of contributory factors that increase the risk of people with disabilities needing care, support and assistance in daily living. These factors include:

- Socio-economic factors associated with the individual, including whether they have any other conditions which limit daily living;
- Individual or household circumstances; whether the individual has an informal carer (particularly supporting them at home) and the

- circumstances of this arrangement, communication difficulties, opportunity (or otherwise) to develop social networks and relationships; and employment opportunities;
- Analysis also suggests the population of people aged 18 – 64 years with daily living problems is broadly associated with the level of deprivation within that area of the city, e.g. more people self-identify problems with daily living in Coalfields than in Washington;

The number of people likely to have functional dependencies aged 20+ years between 2010 and 2025 are projected to be 63,137. This is an increase of 19.6%. Over the same period, the numbers with “significant” or “very significant” dependencies, who are those most likely to need some help with daily living, particularly from the public sector are projected to be 21,762, an increase of 24%. The prevalence level of 2.5% of the overall population with learning disabilities is unlikely to change over the next 15 years. However, research suggests that whilst the incidence of people with learning disabilities isn’t increasing, individuals, particularly those with severe disabilities, are surviving longer with their conditions both into adulthood and older age. There is an increased risk of dementia for some people with learning disabilities, furthermore increasing the need for public sector care and support.

This presents challenges not only to health and social care services, but also raises questions as the extent to which the city as a whole is shaped around meeting the varied needs of people with disabilities, e.g. in terms of housing, physical infrastructure etc.

Some of the issues reported to be facing people with disabilities include:

Equitable access to services/Infrastructure of the City

- § The city aims to assure people with disabilities and/or vulnerabilities are enabled to access universal services, however, despite this, many vulnerable people and their carers report access to such services is mixed in the city. 3 main barriers were often cited:
 - Lack of meaningful information and advice available to them and/or professionals working with them about these opportunities;
 - Practical issues, or perceptions of barriers, relating to access to these services. This includes physical, economic, social and/or cultural access to services or these locations despite the improvements made to citywide services;
 - Lack of individuals’ self-confidence or self-motivation in accessing these services, which increased their social isolation, but also linked to externalised concerns about societal stigma about disabilities, which may relate to issues associated with community safety;
- § When examining attitudes to the amenities and infrastructure of Sunderland, the 2010 MORI survey found that people with a long term illness were more critical about aspects relating to disabled access and support. They were more dissatisfied than average with resting places, disabled car parking and disabled access to public buildings;

- § The survey also found individuals to be generally less satisfied with the quality of leisure centres, within their local area than all residents;
- § These findings were consistent with more recent consultation activities, which also highlighted, other issues faced by disabled residents in 'getting around' the City with specific feedback relating to pavements, buses, metro's and access to lifts;
- § It was suggested by this group that a dedicated website outlining disabled facilities and venues across the City, such as accessible restaurants would help to improve some of the issues faced by disabled people;
- § Consultation activities to gain an understanding of customers preferences when accessing council services, found that;
 - disabled respondents are less likely than non-disabled respondents to prefer to use the website and internet in general – 37% of disabled respondents do not use the internet compared to 12% of non-disabled respondents;
 - In terms of an automated telephone system, again the most important factor was the option to speak to a real person followed by the list of options to be kept short. There were however concerns about its use for specific groups such as those with sensory impairments and people with learning disabilities;
 - When asked about their experience when they last contacted the council, respondents with a disability are also more likely to rate information received as poor/very poor (16.1%) than non-disabled respondents (9.5%);

Shaping Policy

- § Evidence from the 2010 MORI Survey, found that 41% of residents with an Illness/Disability agreed that the Council asks for the views of local people, but only 24% felt they could influence decisions, affecting their local area only, this was slightly lower than all residents;

Economic contribution

- Some people also reported they experience discrimination, in terms of employment opportunities;
- § Local and national research suggests vulnerable individuals, particularly those with complex needs, need to be supported to develop a greater sense of self-confidence and self-esteem to help them become "job-ready" to enter or re-enter employment that's suited to their skills, experience and preferences;
- § The impact welfare reform will have on individual residents is relatively unknown, however, initial local analysis has indicated that there will be a large proportion of people who will see significant changes to the help they receive in the form of benefits. This may further increase, the number of people who feel financially isolated;

Perception on community safety

- § The MORI Survey found that 20% of people with disabilities felt unsafe in Sunderland;
- § In 2011 (April onwards), there were 275 hate incidents reported to the ARCH partnership, 16 incidents related to disability. It should be

recognised however that the number of incidents that actually take place are likely to be under reported;

Housing

- § Currently there are a number of people with learning disabilities, who are residing in residential care, outside of the area. This can result in feelings of isolation if people are not able to access appropriate social support networks and there is a need for appropriate accommodation support to be available within Sunderland to allow those people to return to the City;
- § Feedback from the 'Valuing People Now' consultation, highlighted that people with a learning disability;
 - Felt there was a lack of options available to them in terms of housing;
 - Where housing was available, it was often considered to be in less desirable parts of the City;
 - Although the type of housing and support people would prefer or need is quite individual there was a consensus around wanting to live in a safe area close to friends and families;
- § The city has identified a need to improve supported accommodation options for people with learning disabilities, given the anticipated pressure for supported accommodation over the next 15 years;

