



Disability Digest

This paper is one in a series that informs service and policy planning. These papers provide available research evidence relating to different equalities characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010. They provide a top-level view of each subject area, identifying resources for people who would like more detailed information. Much of the information given is only available at the national or regional level. We provide data for Poole where it is available.

Structure of this Paper

Equality and Diversity Digests contain 4 sections. For each protected characteristic:

- **Terminology** – gives the definition of relevant groups with guidance about language.
- **Population** - indicates the size of related equalities groups within Poole.
- **Key Issues** - gives information on different aspects of life. This is structured using the 10 domains below identified by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in their Equality Measurement Framework. Sections are only included where information is available.
 - Life
 - Physical Security
 - Productive and Valued Activities
 - Health
 - Education and Learning
 - Standard of Living
 - Individual, Family and Social Life
 - Identity, Expression and Self-respect
 - Participation, Influence and Voice
 - Attitudes
- **Sources** - highlights relevant research reports and signposts readers to other sources of information.

1 Terminology

- The definition of disability has varied over time. However, according to the Equality Act 2010, a person has a disability if:
 - They have a physical or mental impairment.
 - The impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities.
- Not all data sources will define disability in this way, although many are moving towards it.
- Not all people who are legally considered disabled will consider themselves disabled.
- Table 1 provides guidance from The Office for Disability Issues and Department for Work and Pensions (2014) on the language to use when communicating with or about disabled people. Guidance on communicating with people with a learning disability is available from Mencap¹.

Table 1: Inclusive language to use when communicating with or about disabled people

(Office for Disability Issues and Department for Work and Pensions, 2014)

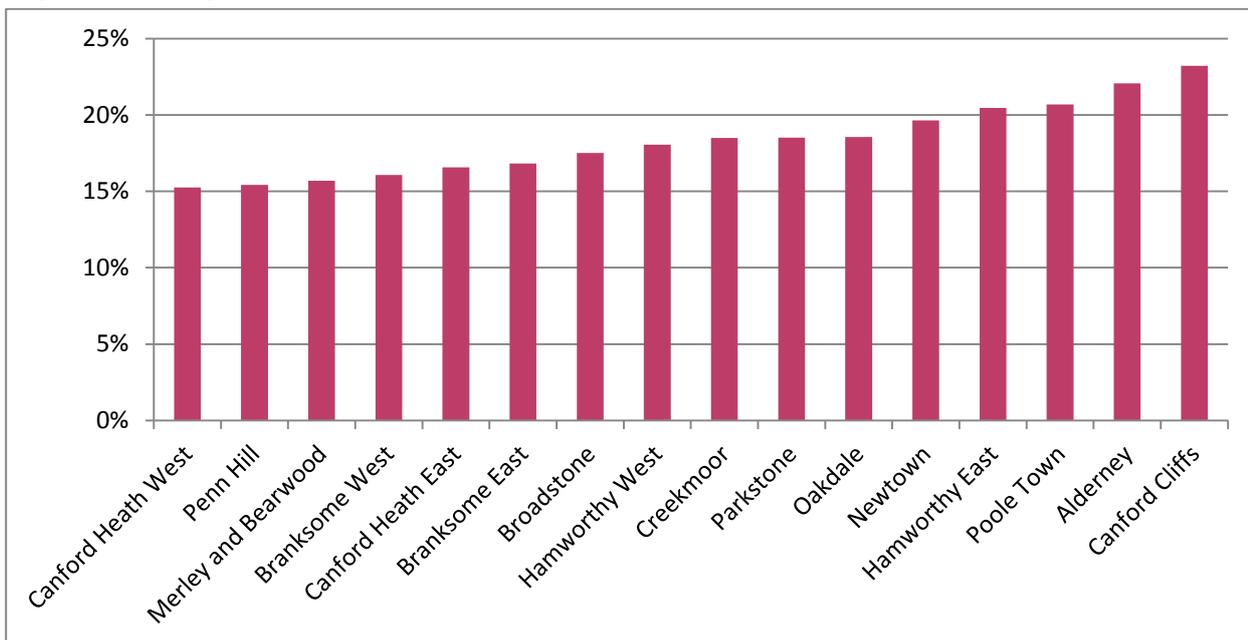
Avoid	Use
(the) handicapped, (the) disabled	disabled (people)
afflicted by, suffers from, victim of	has [name of condition or impairment]
confined to a wheelchair, wheelchair-bound	wheelchair user
mentally handicapped, mentally defective, retarded, subnormal	with a learning disability (singular) with learning disabilities (plural)
cripple, invalid	Disabled person
Spastic	person with cerebral palsy
able-bodied	non-disabled
mental patient, insane, mad	person with a mental health condition
deaf and dumb; deaf mute	deaf, user of British Sign Language (BSL), person with a hearing impairment
the blind	people with visual impairments; blind people; blind and partially sighted people
an epileptic, diabetic, depressive, and so on	person with epilepsy, diabetes, depression or someone who had epilepsy, diabetes, depression
dwarf; midget	someone with restricted growth or short stature
fits, spells, attacks	seizures

¹ Mencap (2016) Communicating with people with a learning disability - <https://www.mencap.org.uk/learning-disability-explained/communicating-people-learning-disability> [accessed 20/12/2016]

2 Population

- In the 2011 Census, over 27,000 people in Poole (19% of the population) said that their day-to-day activities were limited by a long term health problem or disability. This is the same proportion as in the South West and 1% point higher than the national figure (18%).
- As Figure 1 shows, the level of limiting long term illness or disability varies between Wards. On Census day in 2011, Canford Cliffs Ward had the highest proportion of residents with limiting long term illness or disability (23%).

Figure 1: Proportion of people with a limiting long term illness or disability by Ward
(Census, 2011)



3 Key issues

Life

- The chances of someone being disabled increases with age.
- As shown in Table 2², males born in Poole between 2013 and 2015 are expected to live 80.7 years in total and 64.0 years (79%) of their life without disability.
- Females have a longer life expectancy. Those born in Poole 2013-2015 are expected to live 83.7 years in total and 66.6 years (80%) of their life disability-free.

² Office for National Statistics (2016) Health state life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by local areas, UK, <http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/healthstatelifeexpectancyatbirthandatage65bylocalareasuk> [accessed 06/12/2016]

Table 2: Life expectancy at birth and Disability-free Life Expectancy at birth for Poole residents 2013-2015 (Office for National Statistics, 2016)

	Life Expectancy	Disability-free Life Expectancy	Proportion of life disability-free
Males	80.7 years	64.0 years	79%
Females	83.7 years	66.6 years	80%

Physical Security (e.g. violent crime, fear of crime, trafficking and exploitation)

Hate Crime

- In Poole, between October 2015 and September 2016, there were 7 disability-related hate crime incidents reported to police. There were 2 instances of disability-related hate incidents. This is an increase from the same period in 2014/15 when only 1 disability-related hate crime was reported. Although, this may reflect greater willingness to report and record hate crime, rather than an increase in its incidence.
- Nationally, hate crime against disabled people is under-reported. Estimates for England and Wales suggest that only 1 in 28 disability-related hate crimes were reported to the police during 2012/13 and 2014/15³.

Threatening Behaviour

- According to research by Scope (2014)⁴, disabled people had faced a range of negative experiences within the previous 12 months when dealing with the public that they felt were a result of their disability.
- 4% had been physically attacked and 16% had faced someone acting in an aggressive or hostile way.

Productive and Valued Activities

Employment and Earnings

- Disabled people are more likely to be unemployed than non-disabled people; 11% of disabled people are unemployed compared to 6% of non-disabled people⁵.

³ Home Office (2015) Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2014 to 2015
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015/> [accessed 06/01/2017]

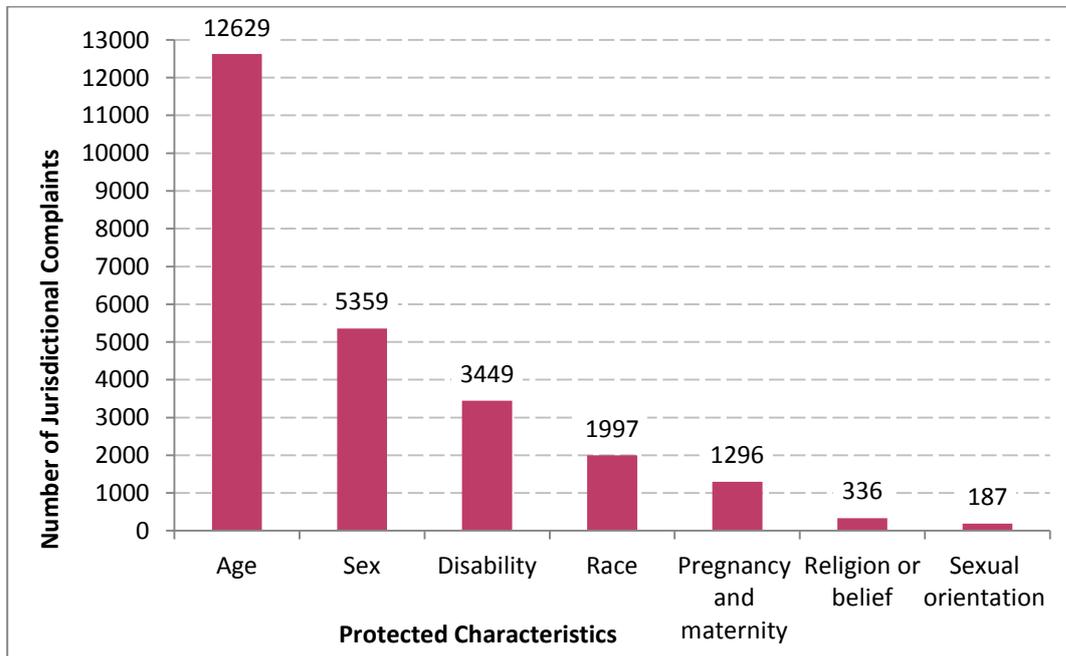
⁴ Scope (2014) Current attitudes towards disabled people, Scope, Available at:
<http://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/media/Images/Publication%20Directory/Current-attitudes-towards-disabled-people.pdf?ext=.pdf> [accessed 06/12/2016]

- 80% of all people who become disabled are employed at the time they develop a disability. Of those 80%, 60% are employed the following year and 36% the year after⁶.
- There is a difference in pay between disabled and non-disabled people; 30% of disabled people in work earn less than the living wage (26% for non disabled people) and 49% of disabled people earn more than £10.00 an hour (55% for non disabled people).
- In Poole, the proportion of adults with learning disabilities known to social care and in paid employment is 10% - higher than both the regional (8%) and national (7%) averages.

Workplace Discrimination

- As shown in Figure 2, in England and Wales, in 2015/16, there were almost 3,450 employment tribunal discrimination claims related to Disability, making it the 3rd most common type of protected characteristic discrimination claim⁷. It is not clear however how many of these claims were accepted as valid.

Figure 2: Types of Employment Tribunal Discrimination Claims in England and Wales in 2015/16
(Ministry of Justice, 2016)



⁵ Equality and Human Rights Commission (2015) Is Britain Fairer? The State of Equality and Human Rights 2015. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/is-britain-fairer-the-state-of-equality-and-human-rights-2015> [accessed 22/03/2017]

⁶ Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion (2014) Disability: A Research Study of Unconscious Bias. Available at: <http://www.enei.org.uk/publications.php/734/disability-a-research-study-on-unconscious-bias> Accessed [23/03/2017]

⁷ Ministry of Justice (MOJ) (2016) Tribunals and gender recognition certificate statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics> [accessed 11/11/2016]

Health (LLTI and mental health, health status, healthy living, vulnerability to accidents)

- The number of people in Poole who, on Census day 2011, said their day-to-day activities were limited to some extent due to an long term illness or disability was over 27,000 (19%).
- Disabled people, or those that share a household with someone who is disabled, are more likely to live in poverty (as is discussed in detail below). Living in poverty is shown to have significant impacts on life expectancy and therefore health. The Marmot Curve demonstrates this by plotting the deprivation of English neighbourhoods against their average life expectancy (LE) and also the disability free life expectancy (DFLE)⁸.
- Table 3 details the number of adults with learning disabilities in Poole who access adult social care services. Please note the figures given fluctuate through the year and if someone is in receipt of more than one service they will have been counted more than once.

Table 3: People in Poole with learning disabilities accessing adult social care services in 2014

(Public Health Dorset, 2014) (Please note people in receipt of more than one service will have been counted more than once)

Care/ Service	Count	%
Residential Care	51	9%
Supported Living	33	6%
Home Care	61	11%
Direct Payments	91	16%
Day Services	186	32%
Short Breaks/ Respite	18	3%
Shared lives	33	6%
Supported People/Housing Related Support	106	18%

For further information on learning disability services in Poole please see: *Learning Disability: Summary of Health Needs in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole*⁹

⁸ Further information on the Marmot Curve is available at: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/inequalities-life-expectancy?gclid=CN3nxZa779ICFVYW0wode30IZA> [accessed 24/03/2017]

⁹ Public Health Dorset. (2014) *Learning Disability: Summary of Health Needs in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole*. Available at: <http://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/jsna/supplementary-papers/> [accessed 10/04/2017]

Education and Learning (basic skills, qualifications, participation in lifelong learning, use of the internet, treated with respect in education)

Treated with respect in education

- In a survey of parents of disabled children, conducted by Mumsnet and Scope (2014), 72% of those surveyed felt that more positive attitudes and greater understanding of disability among school staff would make services in their area more inclusive. Attitudes of other parents were also identified as an area for improvement ¹⁰.

Absence and Attainment

- Table 4 shows absences from school and the percentage of pupils who are defined as persistent absentees in Poole. Pupils with a statement of special needs score highest for the amount of sessions missed and the percentage of pupils classed as persistent absentees. The lowest percentage for both categories is pupils who have no special educational needs (SEN).

Table 4 : Absence rates and pupils defined as persistent absentees by special educational needs in Poole (Department for Education, 2016)

Educational Needs Group	Number of pupils enrolled (count)	Percentage of sessions missed due to overall absence	Percentage defined as persistent absentees
All Pupils	16,250	5%	4%
No SEN	12,875	4%	3%
SEN (no statement)	2858	6%	7%
SEN (with statement)	429	8%	12%
School Action (SA)	1771	6%	6%
School Action Plus (SA+)	1087	7%	9%

- Pupils with SEN do not perform as well as children with no SEN across all stages of schooling. At early years foundation stage 14% of children with SEN, and 56% of children without SEN, achieved a good level of development (GLD).
- This trend remains the same through KS1 and KS2 where a lower percentage of pupils with SEN attain levels 2 (KS1) and 4 (KS2) when compared with pupils without SEN.

¹⁰ Scope (2014) Current attitudes towards disabled people, Scope, Available at: <http://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/media/Images/Publication%20Directory/Current-attitudes-towards-disabled-people.pdf?ext=.pdf> [accessed 06/12/2016]

- In KS4 the amount of pupils with SEN who achieve 5 GCSE's A*-C (including maths and English) is 23.4% - 47% less than pupils without SEN.

Standard of Living (housing quality and security, poverty and security of income, access to care, quality of the local area)

Poverty, Security of Income and Access to Care

- Disability is contributing to poverty amongst older population due to extra costs associated with it (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2016).
- Attendance Allowance (AA) is a benefit claimed by those who are physically or mentally disabled and over the age of 65. In Poole the total number of cases claiming AA was, as of May 2016, 4,300. AA is paid at two rates, a higher and lower rate. The number of cases for each these rates as of May 2016 was 2,200 and 2,100 respectively¹¹.
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) are two forms of income support available for disabled people. Nationally, the number of people claiming DLA or PIP at August 2016 was 2% higher than it was a year earlier. Table 5 shows the award rate for Poole in comparison with the South West and the UK.

Table 5 : PIP Award Rate: New & Reassessed Claims (Department for Work and Pensions 2016)

	New PIP Claim Award Rate (%)	Reassessed PIP Claim Award Rate (%)
Poole	51%	77%
South West	48%	73%
United Kingdom	47%	73%

- Of those people who live in poverty, 28% of them are disabled. The rate of poverty for disabled people varies according to circumstance; 44% of disabled young adults (16-24) and 66% of single, disabled people live in poverty. Lastly, 20% of the 7 million people who live in poverty share a household with a disabled person¹².

¹¹ Department for Work and Pensions (2016) Attendance Allowance- All Entitled Cases Caseload (Thousands): Local Authority of Claimant by AA Award Type. Available at http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/aa_ent/ccla/ccaaawd/a_carate_r_ccla_c_ccaaawd_may16.html [accessed 31/03/2017]

¹² New Policy Institute (2016) Why Disability Must be at the Centre of Poverty Reduction. Available at: <http://www.npi.org.uk/publications/income-and-poverty/disability-and-poverty/> [accessed 21/03/2017]

- In Poole, the percentage of eligible adults with learning disabilities having a GP health check and the number of disabled adults (per 1000) in receipt of long term support from local authorities both fall into the worst quartile in England¹³.

Individual, family and social life (availability of support, free from domestic abuse, participate in key social and cultural occasions that matter to you, able to be yourself, form and pursue relationships you want)

- Mencap sent freedom of information (FOI) requests relating to the provision of day services to 152 councils, of which 151 replied. Of the respondents, 32% had closed day services since 2010 with 1 in 5 respondents not saying they'd set up alternative services. Furthermore the results of the FOI request show fewer people with learning disabilities are accessing services, while those that do, do so less frequently.
- Scope (2014) report that 49% of people with disabilities have experienced discrimination in shops and 31% have experienced the same behaviour while pursuing leisure activities such as the theatre or cinema¹⁴.

Identity, expression and self-respect (freedom to practice religion or belief, cultural identity, self respect, freedom from stigma and stereotyping)

- The suitability of different languages varies between disabled people and there is limited data on the extent to which disabled people are able to communicate in a language of their choice.
- Nevertheless, on Census day 2011, 52 people in Poole said that sign language was their main language (0.04% of those aged 3 and over). This is the same proportion of the population as in the South West more generally and England as a whole.

Participation, influence and voice (political activity, taking part in civil organisations, treated with dignity and respect while accessing and participating in decision-making forums)

Political Participation

¹³ Public Health England (2014/2015) Learning Disability Profiles. Available at <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/learning-disabilities/data#page/1/qid/1938132703/pat/6/par/E12000009/ati/102/are/E06000029/iid/92118/age/183/sex/4> [accessed on 22/03/2017]

¹⁴ Scope (2014) Better Living, Higher Standards: Improving the Lives of Disabled People by 2020. Available at <https://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/.../Scope-report-Better-living,-higher-standards.pdf> . Accessed [23/03/2017]

- A 2015 House of Commons Report identified engaging disabled people in political registration and voting as an ongoing issue. Contributors to this report identified the accessibility of polling stations as a particular concern.
- In Poole, disabled residents can request the following to enhance their ability to participate politically:
 - **Assistance to mark the ballot paper** - This can be obtained from the Presiding Officer or they can bring an immediate family member over 18 years old or a qualified elector with them to do this.
 - **Use of a Tactile Voting Device** - This is a plastic device that is fixed onto the ballot paper so visually impaired people or those with limited dexterity can mark their ballot paper in secret
 - **A large-print version of the ballot paper** - This is always displayed inside the polling station and a copy can be taken into the polling booth by voters if they need it. A voter can't vote on the large-print version, but it can be used for reference.
- As of November 2016, however, there had been no requests from residents for these accessibility measures.

Attitudes

- According to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey 2014, 92% of people thought of disabled people as the same as everyone else¹⁵.
- A report published by Scope in 2014¹⁶ explored attitudes towards disabled people. Key results from this report are detailed below. For a more detailed picture, please read the full report. The report suggested that:
 - Some individuals continued to have negative attitudes towards disabled people. 38% of those surveyed, for instance, thought of disabled people as less productive than non-disabled people.
 - When given a range of scenarios, respondents to this research also indicated that they were more uncomfortable with disabled people being in positions of authority. Here, for instance, more people were comfortable with the idea of a relative marrying a disabled person than with the idea of their MP or boss being disabled.

¹⁵ Department for Work and Pensions (2015) Fulfilling Potential – Outcomes and Indicators Framework: Second Annual Progress Report. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fulfilling-potential-outcomes-and-indicators-framework-second-annual-progress-report/> [accessed 05/01/2017]

¹⁶ Scope (2014) Current attitudes towards disabled people, Scope, Available at: <http://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/media/Images/Publication%20Directory/Current-attitudes-towards-disabled-people.pdf?ext=.pdf> [accessed 06/12/2016]

- People were identified as more comfortable around those 'visible' disabilities (physical or sensory disabilities) than they are around people with less visible disabilities (mental health conditions and learning disabilities).
 - Communication was identified as an issue. For instance, 67% of people surveyed felt uncomfortable talking to disabled people, often worrying that they would seem patronising or say the wrong thing.
 - When disabled people were asked whose attitudes they would most like to see change, 3 key groups were identified. These were: the general public (29%), local authority / government staff (23%) and health and social care staff (23%).
- A 2015 report published by Mencap¹⁷ reviewing evidence on '*Changing Attitudes to Learning Disability*' highlighted that, while there is some evidence of negative attitudes towards those with a learning disability, there is very limited representative data to look at attitudinal change.

¹⁷ Scior, K. and Werner, S. (2015) *Changing Attitudes to Learning Disability: A review of the evidence*,

4 Sources

Research Reports on Disability or Disability-Related Services

- The Corporate Research Team has produced a number of Needs Assessment reports for disabled groups and disability-related services. These include: a **Supported Housing Needs Assessment** (2016); an **Extra Care Housing Needs Assessment** (2012) and a **Dementia Needs Assessment** (2011). These are available here: www.poole.gov.uk/your-council/how-the-council-works/research/reports.
- In 2014, the council invited 6,000 residents to give their views on life in Poole and a range of local services in the **Shaping Poole Survey 2014**. Extra analysis, related to equalities groups including disabled people, was conducted. The results of the survey are available here: www.poole.gov.uk/your-council/haveyoursay/consultation/shaping-poole/

Information Sources

- **Age UK** – a UK charity working to support those in later life. They produce research reports and advice papers on a variety of issues affecting older people, including disability <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/>
- **Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)** - an independent statutory body with the responsibility to encourage equality and diversity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, and protect and promote the human rights of everyone in Britain. - www.equalityhumanrights.com/
- **Government Statistics** – a portal to access official statistics from UK Government departments. - www.statistics.gov.uk/
- **Neighbourhood Statistics** – allows you to find detailed statistics for a range of specific geographic areas including Local Authority, Ward and Lower Super Output Area. www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/
- **Office for National Statistics (ONS)** – The Office for National Statistics produces independent information to improve our understanding of the UK economy and society. - www.ons.gov.uk/
- **Mencap** – a UK charity working on behalf of those with learning disabilities. They offer a range of information on learning disability, including information for employers. <https://www.mencap.org.uk/>
- **NOMIS** – a data portal providing official labour market statistics including information on disability-related benefits - <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

- **The Papworth Trust** – a UK disability charity who produce an annual summary of key disability-related statistics - <http://www.papworthtrust.org.uk/>
- **Scope** – a UK disability charity who provide support and information. They produce a range of research and policy reports on disability-related issues - <http://www.scope.org.uk/>

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