

Understanding Equality and Diversity Disability Digest



Produced by the Corporate Research Team, Borough of Poole.

Purpose of this Paper

This paper has been designed to help inform and service and policy planning, and aid focus and prioritisation of services. A series of 7 guides provide available research and statistical evidence relating to the varying needs, experiences and outcomes of different equalities strands in Poole. It provides a top-level view of this specific subject area and identifies contacts and resources for people who would like more detailed information. National information is highlighted in grey throughout.

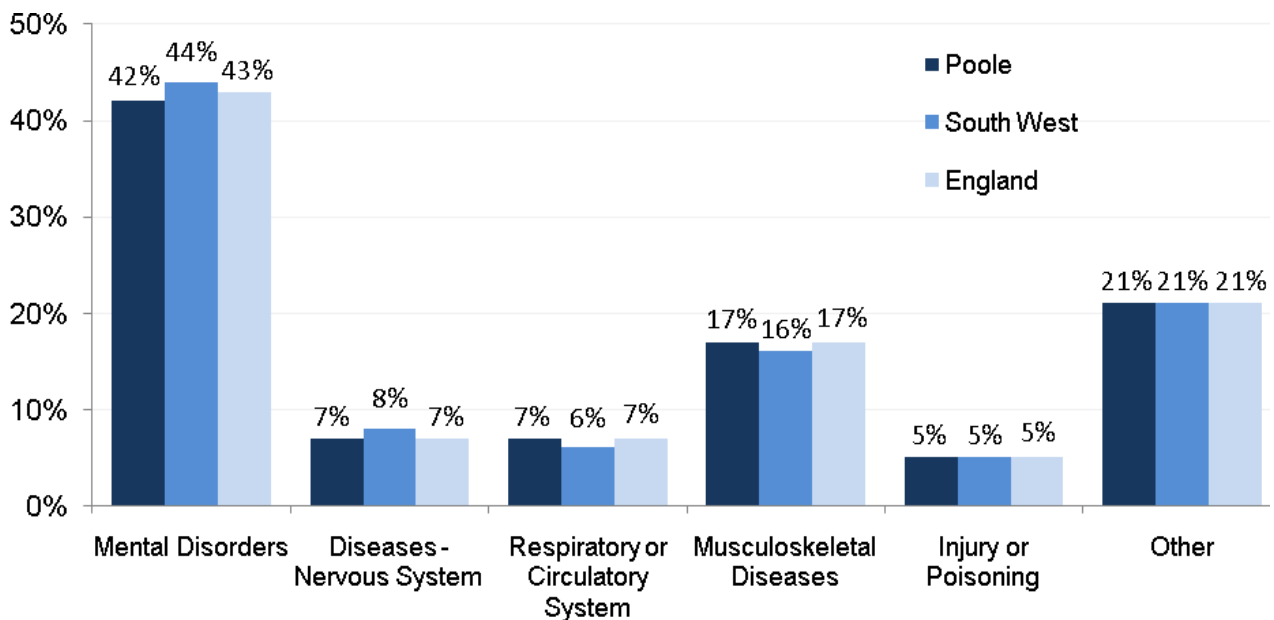
Contents

1. [The Local Population of Interest](#)
2. Key Issues for this Strand
 - a. [Health & Longevity](#)
 - b. [Physical and Legal Security](#)
 - c. [Education](#)
 - d. [Standard of Living](#)
 - e. [Productive & Valued Activities](#)
 - f. [Individual, Family & Social Life](#)
 - g. [Participation, Influence & Voice](#)
 - h. [Identity, Expression & Self-respect](#)
3. [Sources of Information](#)

The Local Population of Interest

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) defines disability as “a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on [the person’s] ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”. Examples include cancer, diabetes, hearing or sight impairments, significant mobility difficulty, mental health and learning difficulties. ([Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)).

In the 2001 Census, just over 25,000 people stated that they had a Limiting Long-term illness (LLTI) – 19% of the Poole population. In 2002, 4,130 people in Poole were claiming disability living allowance. This has steadily risen to 5,730 as of November 2009 (*Nomisweb*). The chart below shows the breakdown of conditions for claimants of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance in 2009.



ONS Neighbourhood Statistics – Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance August 2009

Key Issues for this Strand

Health and Longevity e.g. mortality, access to healthcare

Fewer than one in five (18 per cent) of disabled people describe their health as good, compared with two in three (68 per cent) of the general population. (*Experiences and Expectations of Disabled People, Office for Disability, 2008*).

In the UK people with Learning Disabilities (LD's) experience an increased risk of early death and life expectancy is shortest for those who have the most support needs. People with LD's also experience a greater variety, complexity and range of health problems than the general population. Less than 10% of adults with an LD eat a balanced diet, and more than 80% do less physical activity than is recommended (*Mencap - Treat me right, 2004*).

Diagnostic Overshadowing refers to a medical professional dismissing changes in behaviour, personality or ability as a part of the person's disability, that would be taken very seriously in a person without a disability" (*Mencap – Treat me right, 2004*).

In 2008 there were 1093 people registered on GP Learning Disability registers in Poole and Bournemouth, an increase from 865 in 2007. However, expected natural prevalence estimates suggest that there may be 4,312 people with learning disabilities in Bournemouth and Poole (*Health and Well-being in Bournemouth and Poole, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2008*).

Parents of children with disabilities in Poole would like better early year support, co-ordination and 1 lead practitioner. Children with a disability would like to have cleaner hospitals (*Children and Young People's Plan, 2006-2009*). Children in Need with a Disability, Children with a SEN statement and A&E attendance was found to be a common combination of linked risks in the Children and Young People's Needs Analysis (2007/08).

The number of older people in Poole with long term limiting illnesses is expected to rise by 29% between 2005-2020, from 13,000 to 17,000 (*A Time of Our Lives – Poole's Older Peoples Strategy, 2008*). Rates of dementia in over 65's are predicted to rise by 27% between 2006-2020, with an estimated 3,500 people suffering from dementia by 2020. (*Poole in Profile: Older People in Poole – Health*).

Education e.g. attainment, access to life-long training and learning

In 2005, at age 18/19 the highest level of qualification achieved by 48% of disabled young people was at NVQ 1 or below (G.C.S.E. level D-G), including those with no qualifications, compared to 28% of non-disabled young people (*The Education and Employment of Disabled Young People 2005, Joseph Rowntree Foundation*).

Of 696,710 UK first year undergraduate students 47,490 have a disability (6.8%). 43% of these disabled students have dyslexia, 5.7% have mental health issues, 420 are autistic (0.9%), 5% are deaf, 4% are wheelchair users and 2.5% are blind (93,615 were not known) (*Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2006/07*).

In Poole, children with disabilities would like more ramps and lifts, more male staff and more making and building things in schools (*Children and Young People's Plan for Poole, 2006-2009*).

Physical and Legal Security e.g. freedom from violence and discrimination

In the year ending March 2008, 183 defendants were successfully prosecuted for crimes involving disability incidents. 53% of disability crime prosecutions were offences against the person. Offences against the person were higher for female victims (56%) than for men (52%). 80% of defendants of offences against the person were male. Compared with other hate crimes, there are fewer offences against the person but higher proportions of theft and handling (*Crown Prosecution Service – Hate Crime Report, 2008*).

People with a learning disability are particularly vulnerable to abuse. Between April and December 2009 the BoP received 132 safeguarding alerts for adults with a learning disability, 46 of which were found to be substantiated. 40 protection plans were put in place to safeguard these people. Only 3 disability hate crimes were reported to the police in April to December 2009, and none were reported to BoP (Strategic Assessment 2010)

In the Poole Opinion Panel, Autumn 2009, residents were asked about Community Safety and Involvement. Respondents with a disability or LTLI were more likely to think that the following issues were a problem in Poole; Cycling on pavements (73% thought this was a problem compared to 51% of all residents), Car crime (57% disabled compared to 48% average), Burglary (54% disabled compared to 43% average), violent assaults (37% disabled compared to 31% average) and hate crime (29% disabled compared to 21% average).

6% of disabled respondents stated that they do not feel safe out and about during the day in their local area (2% of all residents to not feel safe), and 40% do not feel safe after dark (compared to 29% of all residents). Only 25% of disabled respondents feel safe using car parks at night, compared to 72% of all residents (*Poole Opinion Panel, 2009*).

Standard of Living e.g. housing, transport, independence

Families with a disabled child are less likely to be living in decent accommodation compared to families with a non-disabled child, and are around 50% more likely to live in crowded accommodation, to rate their home as being in a poor state of repair and to report problems with wiring, damp and draughts in the child's bedroom (*Housing and Disabled Children 2008, Joseph Rowntree Foundation*)

In 2001 disabled children and adolescents cited lack of money (37%) and unsuitability of local sports facilities (37%) as some of the reasons for experiencing difficulties in accessing leisure facilities out of school (*Neighbourhood Statistics*).

Within Poole, Children in Need with a disability, CAMHS cases and Children with SEN statement are among the top 10 needs/risks with the highest proportion of children with 4 or more risks. This can be linked to poverty/deprivation. Children in Poole living within the most deprived quartile of super output areas nationally are three times more likely to experience 4 or more needs/risks than those children living within the least deprived quartile of SOA's (*Children and Young People's Needs Analysis, 2007/08*).

Parents of children with a disability or SEN statement in Poole are less likely to use formal childcare options, and comments reflect a general concern about the lack of childcare that can cater for the specific needs of their child (*Childcare Sufficiency Survey, 2007*).

In Poole, usage of the Dial a Bus and Voluntary Driver services was assessed by the Community Transport Survey (2008). 55% (115 people) of survey respondents used the Dial a Bus service on a regular basis, most commonly 1-2 days a week (34%). 44% of respondents used a voluntary driver service, to retain their independence and to attend health related appointments (37%). 63% of respondents would like the Dial a Bus survey to visit other locations, and many respondents commented that they were not aware of all the services that these community transport options offered.

'Fair Say' was a consultation event held in 2009, asking residents of Poole how their quality of life could be improved for those who experience barriers. Residents who took part in discussions around Disability told us that there needed to be more training of and understanding from staff, and that the Council needed to provide better communication and information. A particular issue was raised by deaf residents, who told us that written information is difficult to access and very dry.

Issues were also raised around transport, with bus passes being limited, and people with mental health needs not being supported. Safety and security on transport was raised, with the bus station being mentioned (*'Fair Say' consultation 2009*).

A consultation was held in 2009, with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Users. It was found that 48% disagreed that they felt welcome at the Council, 11% felt that staff were able to understand them and 13% agreed that they are able to understand staff (*Improving Front Line Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 2009*).

Respondents to the Positive about Disability survey and consultation (2006) were generally positive with 73% indicating that they were satisfied or very satisfied with Poole as a place to live.

Productive and Valued Activities e.g. employment, workplace experience

In 2005, disabled people were nearly four times more likely to be unemployed or involuntarily out of work, at age 26, than non-disabled people. Among those in employment, earnings were 11% lower than their non-disabled counterparts with the same qualifications (*The Education and Employment of Disabled Young People 2005, Joseph Rowntree Foundation*).

Nationally, in 2006/07, 5,533 disability discrimination claims were accepted by the employment tribunals service. This increased from 4,585 in 2005/06 and 4,942 in 2004/05 (*Employment Tribunal and EAT statistics 2006/07*). 4% of LTI/Disabled respondents to the Citizenship survey felt that they had experienced discrimination because of their disability when turned down for a job (*Citizenship Survey April-September 2008*).

Inequalities exist within this equality strand too. The 2007 Experiences and Expectations of Disabled People Survey found that whilst 43% of respondents of working age were in work, this applied to just 16% of those with mental health conditions. For comparison, the general population figure was 79%. (*Office for Disability Issues 2008*)

Individual, Family and Social Life e.g. independence, equality in relationships

Nationally, 92% of disabled people surveyed by the Office for Disability Issues had taken part in some social activities in the month previous to the survey, and 90% had taken part in activities outside their home. Older disabled people were less likely than younger disabled people to have taken part in activities outside their home. 5% of disabled people seldom had contact with people outside their household, but most had daily contact. For many of the participants, belonging to a group or club provided them with a social network which offered them support and friendship (*Experiences and Expectations of Disabled People, Office for Disability Issues, 2008*).

Isolation, loneliness and inability to get around can cause problems for disabled people in Poole (*Positive about Disability, 2006*).

Participation, Influence and Voice e.g. participation in decision making

Nationally, 32% of LTI/Disabled respondents to the citizenship survey completed formal volunteering compared with 43% of non-disabled respondents (*Citizenship Survey, April – September 2008*). The proportion of disabled people who had engaged in civic participation (27%) was significantly lower than among the general population (38%). The youngest, oldest, poorest and those disabled people from ethnic minorities were the least likely to have engaged in civic participation (*Experiences and Expectations of Disabled People, Office for Disability Issues, 2008*).

Children with disabilities want to be more involved in school councils and planning activities (*Children and Young People's Plan for Poole 2006-2009*).

Identity, Expression and Self Respect e.g. Religion, Belief

In a survey conducted by the Office for Disability 55% of respondents said they could not lead a full life because of their impairment. 5% said that they could not live a full life due to their disability and because attitudes and barriers in society prevented them from doing so (*Experiences and Expectations of Disabled People, Office for Disability, 2008*).

Sources of Information Regarding Disability:

The following section provides links to local reports and datasets that offer further insight into the diverse nature of the varying age groups in Poole. However, it should be noted that due to population sizes and inconsistent data monitoring, the information available at local level is often limited. For more robust, national sources of equalities information, please refer to the Improvement and Development Agency '[Equality Evidence Base](#)', and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission '[Review of Equality Statistics](#)'.

Reports Providing Specific Information on Disability

Adult Social Services Survey – 2007/8 survey of Adults aged 18 and over Receiving Community Equipment and Minor Adaptations. For more details contact Elaine Strathern on 01202 261158.

Direct Payments Survey – a survey of Direct Payment Users covering experiences of engaging and using the service. Available [here](#).

Fairness for all Equalities Scheme, 2009 - 2012 – outlines the Borough's vision for positively promoting equality and respecting diversity in the community, in service delivery and employment practice. Available [here](#).

'Fair Say' Consultation 2009 – Consultation with residents that focused on how quality of life could be improved from those people who may experience barriers. This fed into the Fairness for All scheme. Available [here](#).

Improving Front Line Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 2009 – Consultation with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Users regarding satisfaction with Customer Services and accessibility of services. A report of the findings was presented to the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, available [here](#).

Positive about disability survey and consultation 2006 – a consultation of disabled people living and working in Poole. Available [here](#).

Reports Which Contain Analysis of Information By Disability

Active People Survey 2008 – identifies how participation in sport varies from place to place and between different groups in the population. The survey also measures; the proportion of the adult population that volunteer in sport on a weekly basis, club membership, involvement in organised sport/competition, receipt of tuition or coaching, and overall satisfaction with levels of sporting provision in the local community. Available [here](#).

A Time of Our Lives – Poole's Older People Strategy - This strategy examines how the quality of life can be improved for all older people in Poole. It is based on the views and ideas put forward by the older population in Poole. It looks at both long and short term actions. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Dependent Children – provides information on dependent children from the 2001 census covering population, accommodation, car or van availability, family type, health, unpaid care and the economic activity of both dependent children and their parents. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Health – provides a summary of 2001 Census data covering health indicators, dependent children and families. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Older People 50+ - provides information from the 2001 census on people aged 50+ and covers the population makeup, accommodation, family type, access to cars or vans, health, qualifications and economic activity. Available [here](#).

Census Bulletin – Young People 16-29 – provides information from the 2001 census covering population, tenure, qualifications, economic activity, car or van availability, ethnicity and health. Available [here](#).

Children and Young People’s Needs Analysis, 2006/07 - outlines information about the needs of children and young people in terms of their health, safety, achievement, behaviour and economic wellbeing, and shows where these combine to increase the likelihood of poor outcomes. Available [here](#).

Children and Young People’s Plan – plan to improve opportunities for Children and Young People in Poole. Available [here](#).

Place Survey, 2008 – statutory consultation exercise to find out about what residents think about living in Poole and what needs improving. Available [here](#).

Poole Opinion Panel (biannual) – surveys residents in Poole covering topical issues that may affect the town and services. Available [here](#).

Poole Profiles - Children and Young People – outlines information relating to Children and Young People in Poole. It considers demographics, health, safety, education, crime and deprivation, and raises the key issues facing the Borough and its partners as they strive to deliver improved public services that meet local need. Available [here](#).

Poole Profiles – Older People - a series of reports profiling older people covering the following topic areas; demographics, economic wellbeing, health, housing and transport. Available [here](#).

Poole Youth Consultation 2008 – This consultation developed greater understanding of children and young people’s lifestyles and related needs across the Borough to help inform planning across services for this age group. Available [here](#).

Strategic Assessment 2010 – identifies and explores current and emerging threats and gaps that affect Poole in respect of crime, disorder and substance abuse. Available [here](#).

Reports on Disability Related Services

Annual School Profiles - Each profile summarises features of the school and its intake, including the catchment area, age-range, number on roll, socio-economic characteristics, pupil projections and other useful data. Available from the Corporate Research Team on 01202 633361.

Childcare Sufficiency Survey 2007 – aimed to gain a greater understanding of parents' experiences and views of childcare provision, in order to identify parents' concerns and needs for childcare. Available [here](#)

Health and Wellbeing in Bournemouth and Poole – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008 - provides a picture of the current and future needs of the local population to enable comprehensive and better managed care that results in real improvements in health and well-being. Available [here](#).

Poole Community Transport Survey 2008 – This survey aimed to learn more about the experiences of engaging and using the Community Transport Service, and to measure user satisfaction with the current arrangements, in order to guide future development. Available [here](#).

Local Disability Relevant Datasets and Sources

Age UK – Charity working for older people (was Age Concern & Help the Aged). www.ageuk.org.uk

Children and Young People's Needs Analysis - Thirty-six datasets obtained from the Borough and its Strategic partners feed in to the Analysis, providing information about the health, wellbeing and lifestyles of children and young people in the Borough. A full list is available [here](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Independent development and social research charity, supporting a wide programme of research and development projects in housing, social care and social issues. <http://www.jrf.org.uk/>

Knowledge Base, Equality South West Data Tool - collates and disaggregates (where possible), by local area and by equality strand and socio-economic status, existing data from a wide range of reliable and widely used national data sets, and is capable of detailed interrogation and analysis for a range of local equality purposes. Available [here](#).

Mencap – Charity working in partnership with people with a learning disability. www.mencap.org.uk

Neighbourhood Statistics – Allows you to find detailed statistics within specific geographic areas e.g. Local Authority, Ward, Super Output Area. <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

Nomisweb.co.uk - service provided by the Office for National Statistics providing detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Office for National Statistics - The Office for National Statistics produces independent information to improve our understanding of the UK's economy and society. <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

This paper is one in a series of seven profiling the Equalities Strands produced by the Corporate Research Team, in line with I&DEA guidance on measuring equality at a local level. You can view the papers on age, ethnicity, faith, gender, social inequalities and sexual orientation [here](#).

Contact the Corporate Research Team on (01202) 633357 or research@poole.gov.uk