

Disability in Brighton & Hove - Summary

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Brighton & Hove City Council
Public Health Intelligence Team

Introduction

This report aims to provide an accessible overview of statistics about disabled people living, working or studying in Brighton & Hove, with an ultimate aim of creating a shared sense of priorities. The report provides trend data, where possible, and is based on a wealth of information, mainly collected routinely by the local authority and central government. This summary shows the key findings for each topic area addressed in the full report.

It should be noted that whilst this report focuses on disability and variations between groups, it may be misleading to think of disability as the main, or most likely, explanation for all differences. Other factors such as age, ethnicity, migrant or socio-economic status, cultural or religious differences and poor service delivery may be more important influences. Additionally, there is growing recognition of diversity within disabled communities, and other protected groups, and this makes it difficult to draw general conclusions based on a single protected characteristic alone.

The report is based on the social model of disability, which considers disabled people to be disabled by social barriers rather than their individual impairments or health conditions. However the report is limited by the data available: there is no one measure that adequately captures disability in an area.

The report would not have been possible without the cooperation and contributions of many analysts and support staff working across the city whose assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Population

- Sixteen per cent of Brighton & Hove residents have their day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months, lower than England (18%) and higher than the South East (15.7%).
- In 2013/14 there were 1,138 adults registered with local GP surgeries with a learning disability (0.5% of the total adult population).
- The population of Brighton & Hove residents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a health problem or disability is older (42% aged 65 years or over) than the population whose activities are not limited (7% aged 65 years or over).

Diversity

- A higher percentage of females have their day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability (17%) than males (15%).
- Higher proportions of residents who are White British (17%), White Irish (21%) and of an Other ethnicity (16%) have their activities 'limited a little' or 'a lot' when compared with other ethnic groups.

- Over a quarter (26%) of households in the city with more than one person living in them include someone whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a health problem or disability.

Older people

- Among all residents aged 65 or over in the city, just over a quarter (27%) had a disability or health problem that affects their day-to-day activities 'a lot' with a further 27% 'a little'.
- Of 2,865 older clients receiving Adult Social Care services in 2013/14, 71% (2,040) were receiving services because of a physical impairment.
- In 2013/14, 95% of the 369 safeguarding investigations for adults at risk aged over 65 years in Brighton & Hove were for residents with an impairment.

Children and young people

- Among children and young people aged 0-24 years, 5% have a long-term health problem or disability, significantly higher than the South East (4.1%) and similar to England (4.2%).
- Boys are more likely to have a long-term illness or disability at ages 5-9 (5% compared with 3% of girls), 10-14 (7% and 4%, respectively) and 15-19 (7% and 5%, respectively).
- A higher proportion of pupils have Special Educational Needs (SEN) across Brighton & Hove (22%) than across the South East (18%) and England (18%).
- 18% of primary school pupils and 21% of secondary school pupils are registered as having SEN on the school census.
- Among 400 young people aged 16-19 years who were not in education, employment or training in April 2015, 30% had recorded learning difficulties.
- In the 2014 Safe & Well at School survey, at ages 8-11 years, 25% (1,367 pupils) reported that they receive extra help from a person such as a teaching assistant. At ages 11-16 years this figure is 11%.

Families

- Among 1,111 individuals supported by the 'Stronger Families, Stronger Communities' initiative between April 2012 and August 2015, 17% (190) were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and 46% (146) of families had at least one member in receipt of DLA.

Neighbourhoods

- Residents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a health problem or disability were less likely to report being fairly or very satisfied with Brighton

& Hove as a place to live (68%) than those whose activities are not limited (82%).

- The wards with the highest percentage of residents with a long-term illness or disability are Queen's Park (22%), East Brighton (22%) and Hangleton and Knoll (21%).

Poverty and deprivation

- Approximately two-thirds of working age people receiving DWP benefits in Brighton & Hove in 2014 were in receipt of benefits due to poor health or disability (66%), this is above the South East (61%) and England (59%).
- In the 2012 Health Counts survey, 22% of those living in the least deprived 20% of areas in the city had a long-term illness or disability compared to 38% of those living in the most deprived 20% of areas.

Participation

- A similar percentage of those whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a health problem or disability (51%) reported they can influence decisions as those whose activities are not limited (53%).
- Among residents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a health problem or disability, 37% agreed that the City Council acts on the concerns of locals, statistically similar to 46% among those whose activities are not limited.

Transport

- Residents of Brighton & Hove whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a health problem or disability are less likely to own a car than the rest of the population.
- In the 2014 Safe and Well at School Survey, children receiving extra help from a teaching assistant were less likely to travel to school using active means (walk, cycle, scooter, skateboard) at both primary level (56% compared with 65% among those who do not) and secondary level (39% compared with 53%).

Accessibility

- Assessed annually against the parameters of a national indicator, the percentage of Council buildings considered accessible increased from 65% in 2006/07 to 90% in 2013/14.

Homes

- In 2014/15, 62 people were accepted as statutorily homeless by the City Council whose priority need was classified as 'physical disability', 15% of all homeless acceptances.
- Fifty-six per cent of residents whose day-to-day activities are 'limited a little' and 45% of those whose day-to-day activities are 'limited a lot' own their homes outright in Brighton & Hove, compared to 56% among the rest of the population.
- Eighty per cent of working age adults (18-64 years) in Brighton & Hove who have a learning disability live independently or with their family, above the percentage across England (75%) and the South East (71%).
- In the 2012 Health Counts survey, respondents who have a long-term illness, disability or health problem that limits their daily activities or the work they can do were more likely to have difficulty keeping their home warm enough in the winter (24%) than those who do not (14%).

Health and wellbeing

- In 2011, 9% of all residents were providing unpaid care in the city and 15% of those whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long-term health problem or disability.
- Residents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long-term health problem or disability are significantly more likely to self-report poor general health than those whose activities are not limited.
- The 2012 Health Counts survey indicates that more people with a long-term illness, disability or health problem are overweight or obese (57%) than people without (39%).
- The 2012 Health Counts survey showed lower levels of physical activity at the recommended levels among those with a long-term illness, disability or health problem (17%) than those without (29%).
- Residents with a long-term illness, disability or health problem were more likely to report that they currently smoke (28%) than those without (21%).
- Disability free life expectancy is similar in Brighton & Hove as in England, though it is slightly higher for women (63 years) than men (62)

Public services

- In the 2012 – April 2014 City Tracker survey there was no difference reported between those whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long-term illness or disability and those without in terms of levels of satisfaction with the City Council (64% and 65%, respectively), Sussex Police (85% and 87%, respectively), East Sussex Fire & Rescue (96% and 94%, respectively) or local charities and community groups (89% and 91%, respectively).

- Questions about use of services were only included in April 2014 when there was no difference in use of any of the above services between those with or without a long-term illness or disability.

Culture & leisure

- In the 2012 - April 2014 City Tracker survey, residents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long-term illness or disability were less likely to have attended any creative, artistic, theatrical or musical events in the past 12 months (34%) than those without (57%). Among residents who have attended events there was no significant difference in terms of the number of events attended.
- Residents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long-term illness or disability were less likely to have visited a museum in the last 12 months (33%) than those without (52%).

Community safety

- In Brighton & Hove there were 40 police recorded disability hate incidents and crimes in 2014/15, compared with 25 the previous year.
- City Tracker respondents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long-term health problem or disability were less likely to feel safe outside in their local area both during the day (81%) and after dark (44%) than those whose activities are not limited (95% and 75%, respectively).
- 2012 Health Counts respondents who had a long-term illness, disability or health problem were more likely to feel anxious or stressed by crime in their area, specifically relating to burglary (26%) and car crime (21%), than those without (16 and 14%, respectively).
- Primary school pupils who receive extra help were less likely to feel safe at school (93%) than those who do not (95%). This is also the case at secondary level (82% and 92%, respectively).

Employment, skills & adult qualifications

- Brighton & Hove residents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long-term health problem or disability are far less likely to be in employment than the rest of the population.
- Residents in Brighton & Hove whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long term health problem or disability were more likely to be in routine occupations (12%) than those whose activities are not limited (6%).
- In the 2011 Census, residents whose day-to-day activities are limited because of a long-term illness or disability are slightly more likely to gain level 4 qualifications and slightly less likely to receive no qualifications than residents of the South East and England.

Gaps and weaknesses in the evidence base

There are gaps and weaknesses in our evidence base about communities with impairments in Brighton & Hove, although we are not unique in experiencing these issues.

Examples of key areas where there are weaknesses in our evidence base generally, including about people with impairments, are outlined below:

- Overall numbers of people, adults and children, with disabilities of different types and severities, including people with learning disabilities; the census does include a question about health and whether day to day activities are limited by a health problem but it's not possible to determine how many people, say, with sensory impairments, live in the city.
- Numbers of lesbian, gay and bisexual residents and the issues they experience; there have been two large scale projects about the issues that LGB residents experience in the city (Count me in and Count me in too) but these were not designed to quantify the number of LGB residents or to analyse particular issues that LGB residents with impairments experience.
- The number of transgender residents; again, the Count me in projects and the more recent trans needs assessment identified the nature of the issues transgender residents face but not the number of transgender residents living in the city. As transgender people are known to face particularly acute issues it is a concern that we do not know how many transgender residents there are, however, we are unlikely to ever have an accurate gauge.
- The number of people, including children, living in poverty in the city and how this affects their day-to-day lives.
- Understanding of migration as a factor influencing outcomes and vulnerabilities.

It is also important to note that there is a lack of available information on the key areas focused upon in this report relating to residents with sensory impairments.

Other key documents that provide valuable information about disability either in Brighton & Hove or the UK as a whole include:

- Papworth Trust report 'Disability in the United Kingdom 2014', available from: <http://www.papworthtrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/UK%20Disability%20facts%20and%20figures%20report%202014.pdf>
- Various chapters in the Brighton & Hove Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, available from: <http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/content/needs-assessments>
- Reports from Community Insight focused on all equalities groups, available from: <http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/content/local-intelligence>