

Disability

Evidence of health inequalities affecting disabled people

Demographics

This broad category includes people with physical and sensory impairments, mental health problems and long-term conditions.

The 2001 census states that the number of people with **limiting long-term illness** in Bradford was 86,486 (18.5%) out of a total population of 467,665.¹

Craven District Council estimate that 9241 people in the District have a limiting long term illness, which is 16.5% of the total population.

Local data show that there are over 3,000 people on Bradford Council's **visual impairment** register and 2,200 people on the **hearing impairment** register².

A **reasonable adjustment audit** was carried out between January 2010 and October 2010 within BDCT employment and services. The audit found that 709 were made to support service users to access care. Most adjustments made were using alternative communication formats, providing specific equipment and altered working hours.

"Being Positive in Bradford", conducted in 2009, was a strategic review of **HIV / AIDS** Services in the district. The latest Survey of Prevalent HIV Infections Diagnosed (SOPHID) Report showed that the number of patients accessing care for HIV in Bradford district has been rising steadily and more than doubled from 132 cases in 2003 to 290 in 2007, an increase of 119% over this 4 year period. These local prevalence figures differ from the national picture which is of a slow down leading to a plateau.³

Around 1 in 10 people in England, Scotland and Wales report potential **mental health problems**. Women are more likely to report potential problems, but under-reporting may mean that levels of mental health problems for men are higher than they appear.

Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups are more likely to experience poor mental health. The risk of mental health problems is nearly twice as likely for Bangladeshi men than for White men.

¹ Census data

² Bradford's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
<http://www.observatory.bradford.nhs.uk/pages/jsna.aspx>

³ Ibid

Some evidence suggests that lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) and transgender people, Gypsies and Travellers and asylum seekers, who are more likely to experience discrimination and prejudice all more likely to experience poor mental health.⁴

Men from African and Caribbean backgrounds are over-represented in mental health services. They are more likely to come to the attention of services via police and criminal justice system, and are more likely to receive harsher end services, such as seclusion, control and restraint.⁵

National data

Levels of satisfaction

In 2008, the Government's Office for Disability Issues published "Experiences and Expectations of Disabled People". 1,860 disabled people were interviewed about all aspects of their lives:

59% described their life as a whole as good but disabled people were less happy with their lives than other people. Levels of dissatisfaction were highest amongst younger disabled people, disabled people living alone, people with mental health problems, disabled people from BME communities, disabled people in urban areas and disabled people on lower incomes.

92% of disabled people had used a health service in the past three months, which is significantly higher than the general population.

Disabled people were satisfied with the staff in the health services used: 90% in terms of friendliness, helpfulness and understanding, 94% said they were treated with dignity and respect and 88% in terms of staff knowledge.

48% said there were barriers to using health services, in terms of transport difficulties, distance and needing someone to accompany them⁶.

Around a quarter of Deaf or hearing impaired people miss health appointments and 19% miss more than 5 because of poor communication⁷.

Learning Disabilities and Mental Health

In 2006, the Disability Rights Commission published "Equal Treatment: Closing the Gap", a formal investigation into physical health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities and /or mental health problems.

This showed that people with learning disabilities and people with mental health problems are much more likely to have significant health risks and

⁴ Equality & Human Rights Commission, "How Fair is Britain?" (2010) <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/triennial-review/online-summary/health/>

⁵ 'F.Keating, (2007) A Race Equality Foundation Briefing Paper' DCLG

⁶ Office for Disability Issues, Experiences and Expectations of Disabled People – Executive Summary (2008) .

⁷ RNID data

major health problems than other people. For people with learning disabilities, these particularly include obesity and respiratory disease and for people with mental health problems, obesity, smoking, heart disease, high blood pressure, respiratory disease, diabetes and stroke.⁸

“Six Lives” was published in March 2009 following the investigation into the deaths in hospital of six people with learning disabilities and described “Significant and distressing failures in service across health and social care”⁹

Just 3% of women aged 18 and over with learning disabilities/difficulties living within a family, and 17% of those in formal care have had [cervical] screening, compared to 85% for women aged 20-64 nationally.¹⁰

Local data

Local disabled people’s organisations and representatives on the Strategic Disability Partnership Board have identified four key issues for health services:

- Making information more accessible
- Making premises and services more accessible
- Employing more disabled people
- Disability confidence training for front-line staff
- Flagging disabled patient’s records with their access requirements

Staff:

There are many gaps in our staffing information in terms of disability¹¹:

Organisation	Yes	No	Undefined / Don’t Know / Prefer not to say
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	0.4%	0%	99.6%
Bradford District Care Trust	2.6%	41.5%	55.9%
Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust	1.4%	20.6%	78.07%
NHS Bradford and Airedale	5%	82%	13%

Staff surveys show that disabled staff may be less satisfied at work than non-disabled staff: for example in NHS Bradford and Airedale’s 2010 staff survey,

⁸ Disability Rights Commission, Equal Treatment: Closing the Gap (2006)

⁹ Six Lives: the provision of public services to people with learning disabilities

<http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/improving-public-service/reports-and-consultations/reports/health/six-lives-the-provision-of-public-services-to-people-with-learning-disabilities>

¹⁰ *The NHS – health for all? People with learning disabilities and health care*, Mencap, 1998

¹¹ Electronic Staff Record (ESR) data

85% of disabled staff believe that the trust provides equal opportunities for career progression or promotion, compared to 94% of non-disabled staff and 44% of disabled staff feel there are good opportunities to develop their potential at work compared to 51% of non-disabled staff.¹²

NHS Bradford and Airedale, Bradford District Care Trust and Bradford Teaching Hospitals have disabled **staff networks**.

¹² CQC 2010 National NHS Staff Survey Results for NHS Bradford and Airedale