



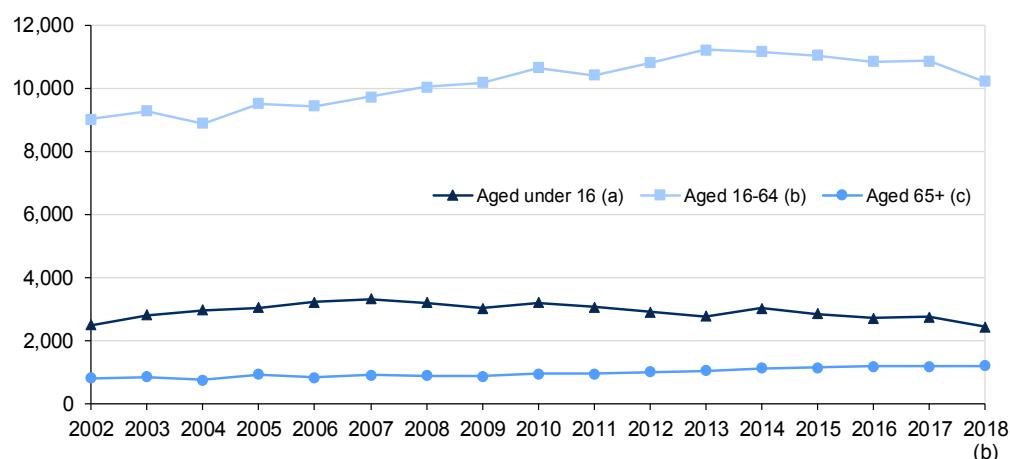
Local authority registers of people with disabilities, 31 March 2018

24 October 2018
SFR 100/2018

This annual National Statistics release summarises information on people with disabilities registered with local authorities in Wales. The return includes information on people recorded on local authority registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities and learning disabilities.

It was intended that new data requirements be collected for 2017-18 however the originally proposed return was not collected. Data was collected based on previous existing arrangements and future alternative arrangements are being considered (for further information see the [Key quality information section](#)).

Chart 1: Number of people with learning disabilities on local authority registers, by age (a)



(a) See footnotes in Table 2

Source: SSDA901

(b) Based on data submitted by 21 authorities.

Key results

The reported number of people on registers with learning disabilities:

- There were 13,843 people in total, of whom 11,843 (86 per cent) were living in community placements and 2,000 (14 per cent) were in residential establishments ([Table 1](#)).

The reported number of people on registers with physical or sensory disabilities:

- There were 66,620 people in total, of whom 39,284 (59 per cent) were registered as having a physical disability only ([Table 6](#)).

About this release

The release presents key results in Wales for registers at 31 March 2018.

Further information and full details for individual local authorities are published on [StatsWales](#).

Terms which have a special meaning in the provision of social services are further explained in the [Glossary](#).

One local authority (the Vale of Glamorgan) was unable to provide data for 2018 due to ICT issues.

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Registers of people with learning disabilities

Table 1: Number of people on local authority registers with learning disabilities by type of accommodation and age, at 31 March 2018 (a)

	Aged under 16	Aged 16-64	Aged 65+	Total
Placements in community settings	2,404	8,590	849	11,843
Own home	.	1,565	312	1,877
Living with parents or family	2,270	4,887	158	7,315
Foster home	134	72	4	210
Lodgings/supported living	0	2,066	375	2,441
Placements in residential establishments	29	1,634	337	2,000
Health service accommodation	1	89	13	103
Local authority care homes	9	47	29	85
Private or voluntary care homes	16	1,003	259	1,278
Other accommodation	3	495	36	534
All accommodation	2,433	10,224	1,186	13,843

Source: SSDA901

(a) Based on data submitted by 21 authorities. The Vale of Glamorgan was unable to provide the data due to ICT issues.

'.' The data item is not applicable.

[Table 1](#) shows there were 13,843 people registered with learning disabilities in Wales, a decrease of 944 people when compared to the previous year at 31 March 2018.

86 per cent were living in community placements and 14 per cent were living in residential establishments. 53 per cent of all people on registers were living with parents or family and 18 per cent were in lodgings or supported living.

Table 2: Number of people on local authority registers with learning disabilities by age, at 31 March

	Aged under 16 (a)	Aged 16-64 (b)	Aged 65+ (c)	Total (d)
2002	2,493	9,021	798	12,312
2003	2,805	9,284	841	12,930
2004	2,962	8,887	741	13,156
2005	3,039	9,524	926	13,489
2006	3,215	9,437	821	13,473
2007	3,318	9,724	891	13,933
2008	3,206	10,054	877	14,137
2009	3,022	10,184	862	14,068
2010	3,193	10,647	931	14,771
2011	3,068	10,421	934	14,423
2012	2,898	10,802	1,001	14,701
2013	2,769	11,214	1,046	15,029
2014	3,025	11,165	1,107	15,297
2015	2,842	11,039	1,129	15,010
2016	2,715	10,846	1,168	14,729
2017	2,743	10,861	1,183	14,787
2018	2,433	10,224	1,186	13,843

Source: SSDA901

(a) 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2018 based on data submitted by 21 authorities. 2003 and 2004 based on data submitted by 20 authorities.

(b) 2004, 2006 and 2018 based on data submitted by 21 authorities.

(c) 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2018 based on data submitted by 21 authorities.

(d) For 2004 the total will not match the breakdown as 1 authority was unable to provide a full breakdown.

[Table 2](#) shows that, of those people registered with learning disabilities, 18 per cent were aged under 16, 74 per cent were aged between 16 and 64, and 9 per cent were aged 65 and over at 31 March 2018. The proportions have remained fairly stable since 2002 for each age group.

Registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities

The registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities include all persons registered under [Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948](#). However, registration is voluntary and figures may therefore be an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities.

At 31 March 2018, 15,041 people were registered with a visual impairment, of whom just under half (49 per cent) were registered as severely sight impaired and just over half (51 per cent) as sight impaired.

Table 3: Number of severely sight impaired people on local authority registers, at 31 March 2018 (a)

	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Severely sight impaired with hearing impairment	18	145	736	899
Severely sight impaired without hearing	135	1,991	4,392	6,518
Total severely sight impaired	153	2,136	5,128	7,417

Source: SSDA900

(a) Based on data submitted by 21 authorities. The Vale of Glamorgan was unable to provide the data due to ICT issues.

[Table 3](#) shows, 7,417 people were registered as severely sight impaired at 31 March 2018. 12 per cent of people with severe sight impairment also had a hearing impairment. 69 per cent of people on the register with severe sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

Table 4: Number of sight impaired people on local authority registers, at 31 March 2018 (a)

	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Sight impaired with hearing impairment	12	71	624	707
Sight impaired without hearing impairment	236	2,072	4,609	6,917
Total sight impaired	248	2,143	5,233	7,624

Source: SSDA900

(a) Based on data submitted by 21 authorities. The Vale of Glamorgan was unable to provide the data due to ICT issues.

[Table 4](#) shows 7,624 people were registered as sight impaired. 9 per cent of people with sight impairment also had a hearing impairment at 31 March 2018. 69 per cent of people on the register with sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

People who have sight impairment in addition to hearing impairment are excluded from Table 5 below, but are included in Tables 3 and 4. See the [Glossary](#) for information on the classifications.

Table 5: Number of people with hearing impairment or only a physical disability on local authority registers, at 31 March 2018 (a)

	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Deaf with speech	32	684	650	1,366
Deaf without speech	28	412	211	651
Hard of hearing	76	2,103	8,099	10,278
Total with hearing impairment	136	3,199	8,960	12,295
Physical disability only (a)	399	8,821	30,064	39,284

Source: SSDA900

(a) Based on data submitted by 21 authorities. The Vale of Glamorgan was unable to provide the data due to ICT issues.

[Table 5](#) shows there were 12,295 people registered with hearing impairment, of whom 84 per cent were hard of hearing at 31 March 2018.

Table 6: Number of people with physical or sensory disabilities on local authority registers, at 31 March (a)

	Severely sight impaired (b)	Sight impaired (b)	Hearing impairment (c)	Physical disability only (d)	Total
2002	9,321	10,294	902	.	.
2003	9,356	10,278	939	.	.
2004	9,643	10,565	970	.	.
2005	9,905	10,751	978	.	.
2006	9,677	10,287	946	.	.
2007	8,657	8,890	12,211	50,680	80,438
2008	8,889	8,925	12,219	51,790	81,823
2009	8,723	9,352	12,742	50,217	81,034
2010	8,003	8,078	12,278	46,469	74,828
2011	7,904	8,336	12,582	45,401	74,223
2012	7,972	8,524	12,600	44,695	73,791
2013	7,978	8,513	13,056	47,771	77,318
2014	8,263	8,676	13,217	47,150	77,306
2015	7,800	8,105	13,640	47,335	76,880
2016	7,790	8,248	13,480	46,235	75,753
2017	8,413	8,581	13,828	44,363	75,185
2018	7,417	7,624	12,295	39,284	66,620

Source: SSDA900

(a) People with multiple disabilities are counted only once from 2007 onwards.

(b) 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2018 based on data provided by 21 authorities, 2015 based on data provided by 20 authorities.

(c) 2003, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2018 based on data provided by 21 authorities.

(d) 2007, 2005 and 2017 based on data provided by 21 authorities. 2008 based on data provided by 20 authorities. 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2018 based on data provided by 19 authorities.

‘.’ The data item is not applicable.

[Table 6](#) shows there were 66,620 people reported on local authority registers with physical or sensory disabilities at 31 March 2018. This was a decrease of 8,565 people when compared to the previous year but 2018 data is not based on a full submission from all authorities.

Glossary

Deaf

People who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing. This is a definition based on hearing ability and not on choice of language. It includes both Deaf people who are Culturally Deaf, British Sign Language Users and those with other methods of communication.

Deaf with speech

People who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing but whose normal method of communication is by speech and lip-reading.

Deaf without speech

People who have no useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by signs, finger spelling or writing.

Hard of hearing

People who (with or without a hearing aid) have some useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by speech, listening and lip-reading.

Residential accommodation

A communal establishment where an inclusive package of care including accommodation, personal care and other services is provided, usually commissioned by the local authority.

Supported living

People who are accommodated in an individual's own home or in a shared house; support services such as the provision of personal care are provided separately, and not as part of an inclusive package of care.

Notes

The registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities include all persons registered under [Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948](#). However, registration is voluntary and figures may therefore be an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities. Registration of severe sight impairment is, however, a pre-condition for the receipt of certain financial benefits and the numbers of people in this category may therefore be more reliable than those for partial sight impairment or other disabilities. These factors alongside uncertainties about the regularity with which councils review and update their records, mean that the reliability of this information is difficult to determine and so it cannot be thought of as a definitive number of people with disabilities.

A more detailed breakdown of people with visual and other disabilities has been collected from 2007 than in previous years in order to identify the numbers of people with multiple disabilities. Some of the decrease between 2006 and 2007 may be due to double counting in earlier years.

People with sight impairment are registered by local authorities following certification of their sight impairment by a consultant ophthalmologist. [The Certificate of Vision Impairment \(Wales\)](#) formally certifies someone as partially sighted or as blind (now using the preferred terminology 'sight impaired' or 'severely sight impaired', respectively) so that the Local Authority can register him or her.

Registration is voluntary and access to various, or to some, benefits and social services is not dependent on registration. If the person is not known to social services as someone with needs arising from their visual impairment, registration also acts as a referral for a social care assessment.

Changes in legislation

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act set out significant changes in policy, which in turn impacted on the current national social services data collections. In order to understand and develop requirements in relation to these changes, the Welsh Government set up the Social Services Technical Information Network in November 2014. The Network includes representation from the Welsh Local Government Association, Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Welsh Government.

The Network reviewed all of the national social services data returns submitted by local authorities and requirements for data have been developed in line with the implementation of the Act. In relation to the main data sources for this release SSSA901 (Registers of people with learning disabilities) and SSSA900 (Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities), new data requirements were expected to be collected from April 2017 through the Disabled people receiving care and support return, however data was collected based on previous existing arrangements and future alternative arrangements are still being considered.

Future developments

Data requirements in relation to measuring the impact that the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is having on people who need care and support and carers who need support are currently being reviewed. It is intended that new data will be developed for the 2020-21 reporting year.

Key quality information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and punctuality, Accessibility and clarity, and Comparability and coherence.

Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor adult and children's social services trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales
- the Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government
- other areas of the Welsh Government
- local authorities
- the third sector (e.g. charities)
- the research community
- students, academics and universities
- individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- the Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- the Scottish Government, Analytical Services Division
- the Department of Health in England
- the Department for Education in England.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers
- to inform the social services policy decision-making process in Wales
- local authority analysis
- to inform the Care Inspectorate Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
- to assist in research on adults and children receiving social services.

Accuracy

The Welsh Government worked with local authorities to collect statistics on the people on disability registers through the [SSDA900](#) (Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities) and [SSDA901](#) (Registers of people with learning disabilities) returns. Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with local authorities between submissions to ensure coherence of the data received, and before tables are published. Data adhere to the national standards and guidance, thus ensuring coherence within and across organisations. Local

authorities are expected to comply with the guidance notes for completion that accompany the data collection form.

The figures in this release reflect the final position of the 2017-18 data year, and are correct as at 31 March 2018. Quality assurance was undertaken with local authorities. One local authority (the Vale of Glamorgan) was unable to provide any figures due to ICT issues.

Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release. Where changes are not deemed to be significant, figures will be corrected if they appear in future releases. However minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the StatsWales tables prior to the next release.

Symbols and rounding conventions

The following symbols may have been used in the tables:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half the final digit shown
- . the data item is not applicable
- .. the data item is not available
- * the data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication.

Timeliness and punctuality

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected data, for the year 2017-18 i.e. from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018, between May and July 2018. Data in this release refers to final 2017-18 data. Once submitted data has been validated, this release is drafted and published as soon as possible. This release was published in October 2018, meeting the planned date of publication.

Accessibility and clarity

This statistical first release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics and Research section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

Comparability and coherence

The registers of people with learning disabilities data may be an underestimate of the total number of people with learning disabilities as registration is voluntary. Local authorities submit numbers of all persons identified as having a learning disability currently known to the authority and included in a register of records for the purpose of planning or providing services.

Statistics collected in each United Kingdom country may differ and the detailed guidance available from each country's website should be consulted before using these statistics as comparative measures.

People with learning disabilities in England: [Learning Disability Statistics - Annual Overview, England 2015-2016](#)

People with sensory disabilities in England: [Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People, England](#)

People with learning disabilities in Scotland: [Learning Disability Statistics Scotland, 2017](#)

People with visual disabilities in Scotland: [Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons, Scotland 2010](#)

Additional information on eye care in Scotland: [ISD Scotland, Ophthalmic Statistics](#)

Statistics on Community Care for Adults in Northern Ireland: [Community care statistics for adults, Northern Ireland](#)

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at:

<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-registers-people-disabilities/?lang=en>

Data at local authority level is available on [StatsWales](#).

Further information is available in other [Social Services statistical releases](#) from our website.

Next update

October 2019 (Provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.pss@gov.wales.

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