Summary

- The percentage of those over 16 and claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) (any disabling condition) has increased from 5.96% in 2007 to 7.30% in 2012 on the Isle of Wight, whilst the England rate has also increased from 5.10% in 2007 to 6.89% in 2012. Both these increases are statistically significant as is the difference between the Island and England.
- The Isle of Wight has statistically significantly higher (worse) rates than the England average and all of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) comparator areas for those registered hard of hearing.
- The Isle of Wight is statistically significantly worse than the England average for preventable sight loss certifications.

Background

This fact sheet considers Physical and Sensory Impairment (PSI).

The term ‘physical impairment’ refers to one or more conditions which affect someone’s ability to carry out daily living activities. These impairments may be congenital or acquired at any age, be temporary, long-term, or fluctuating. People with physical impairments often have unique & multi-dimensional requirements. They require tailored services to address their needs in a person-centred approach.

The term ‘sensory impairment’ encompasses visual impairment (including blind and partially sighted), hearing impairment (including those who are profoundly deaf and hard of hearing) and dual sensory impairment (deaf/blindness).

Sensory impairments may, like physical impairments, be congenital or acquired at any age. They are more prevalent with age as are additional sensory or other impairments. Most sensory impairments develop gradually and are often secondary to other disabilities (RNIB, 2012).

Defining disability is complex. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines disability as an impairment, which has a substantial long-term adverse effect, on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities (Department of Work and Pensions, 2011).

To “qualify” as disabled, under the Disability Discrimination Act, an individual must satisfy three conditions:

- The impairment’s adverse effect is substantial
- The impairment’s effect is long-term
- The impairment adversely affects the person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities (Department of Work and Pensions, 2011).

The social model of disability makes the important distinction between ‘impairment’ and ‘disability’. It argues that barriers or elements of ‘social organisation’, that take little or no account of people who have impairments, cause disability (SCOPE, 2013).

The level of population need

General Impairment and Disability

In 2014 it is estimated that the Isle of Wight will have 8,647 people aged between 18 and
64 with a moderate or serious disability, the greatest number of these were 55-64 (46% of total). This figure is predicted to rise by 12.3% to 9,713 by 2020 (PANSI, 2013).

Table 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>1,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>2,504</td>
<td>2,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>3,954</td>
<td>4,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,647</td>
<td>9,713</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 shows the trend for Isle of Wight residents aged 16 and over claiming DLA between 2007 and 2012. The number of claimants has steadily risen increasing significantly from 6% in 2007 to 7.3% in 2012. The 2012 rate was statistically significantly higher (worse) than the England average of 6.9%.

Figure 2 shows the trend for DLA claimants under 16 between 2007 and 2012. In 2012, the crude rate was 4.1 per cent, statistically significantly higher (worse) than the England average of 3.4%. Although the number of persons aged under 16 has decreased (by just over 6% from 2001-2011) the number claiming DLA has continued to rise and is statistically significantly higher (worse) than the 2007 rate of 3.2%.

Figure 3 shows the proportion of people registered blind as at March 2011 by Local Authority. The Isle of Wight is not statistically significantly different from the England average, but has a statistically significantly lower registration rate compared to 2 of its comparator areas.

Visual Impairment

Blind

At 31 March 2011, 395 people were on the blind register, an increase of 30 people (8.22%) from March 2008. In 2011 there were 50 new additions to the register of blind people, a fall of 9% compared to 2008.

The discrepancy between those on the register and the number of new cases can be accounted for by migration to and from the Island.
NB It should be noted that registration is voluntary and this may affect the accuracy of this analysis.

**Partially Sighted**

On 31 March 2011 430 people were on the partially sighted register, a decrease of 40 people (8.5%) from March 2008. In 2011 there were 40 new additions to the partially sighted register, representing an increase of 33.3% compared to 2008.

Again the discrepancy between those on the register and the number of new cases can be accounted for by migration to and from the Island.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of people registered as partially sighted by Local Authority. The Isle of Wight has a statistically significantly lower registration rate compared to 1 of its comparator areas but is not statistically significantly different from the England average.

**Preventable sight loss**

The government will measure the rate of preventable sight loss from 1 April 2013. It will do this by measuring the numbers of all people who are certified sight impaired (partially sighted) or severely sight impaired (blind) and the numbers of these who have lost their sight from one of the three major causes of preventable sight loss: glaucoma, wet age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy (UK Vision Strategy, 2013).

Tackling these three conditions is the primary public health challenge in eye care. They are the biggest causes of certifiable blindness in England but with the right care, at the right time, in the right place, people can be treated effectively and in many cases their sight saved (UK Vision Strategy, 2013).

Figure 5 shows the crude rate for sight loss certifications that are considered preventable. The Isle of Wight has a directly standardised rate of 60 per 100,000 (2011/12) this is statistically significantly worse than the England average which is 44.5 per 100,000 (2011/12) but is not statistically significantly different to its statistical neighbours.

**Hearing Impairment**

**Deaf**

In 2012/13 there were 29 people registered deaf on the Isle of Wight, this is a slight increase from March 2010, when 25 people were registered; however due to the small number, this increase is not statistically significant.

The number of people registered deaf on the Isle of Wight has been verified by the local branch of Action on Hearing Loss the new
name for Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID). Action on Hearing Loss has also verified that those registered deaf (a voluntary process) fairly represents the picture on the Isle of Wight as the Island does not have a large deaf community.

Figure 6 shows when comparing those registered deaf on the Isle of Wight with its ONS comparator areas, the Isle of Wight has a statistically significantly lower (better) rate of deaf registrations than the England average and the majority of the comparator areas.

Figure 6:

**Hard of Hearing**

In 2012/13 there were 1,597 people registered as hard of hearing (a term used to describe people with mild to severe hearing loss, it is also quite often use it to describe people who have lost their hearing gradually) this is a slight increase from March 2010 when 1,545 people were registered.

The local Action on Hearing Loss have stated that those registered hard of hearing on the Island is an underestimation. Action on Hearing Loss stated that the figure is closer to 2,500; this represents the number of clients either active or dormant who are hard of hearing and use their equipment loan service, but who have not necessarily registered as hard of hearing.

Figure 7 shows when comparing those registered hard of hearing, the Isle of Wight has statistically significantly higher (worse) rates than the England average and all of the comparator areas.

Figure 7:

NB For figure 7 the age standardised rate has not been calculated therefore the higher crude rate of those aged 75+ could be due to the higher than average population of 75+ on the island. It also should be noted that registration is voluntary this therefore may affect the accuracy of any analysis.

**Summary**

In 2012/13 those in the 18-64 age group accounted for 51.7% of those registered deaf and 70.8% of those registered hard of hearing were in the 75 + age group. This shows that hearing loss is largely age related and that deafness can be congenital or experienced at any age.

**Learning Disabilities**

This is a summary of learning disabilities as this area is complex and will be covered in a dedicated factsheet.

A Learning disability includes the presence of:

A significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with;
A reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning) which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development (Department of Work and Pensions, 2013).

Table 2 below shows the numbers of people with baseline learning disabilities.

Table 2:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Learning Disability Estimates</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2605</td>
<td>2747</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows the estimated numbers of people with moderate to severe learning disabilities on the Isle of Wight. The definition of moderate to severe is likely to be organic in basis and due to specific genetic or physical abnormalities (Department of Work and Pensions, 2013).

Table 3:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moderate or severe Learning Disability Estimates</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The peak in numbers of people with learning disabilities around the age groups 45-64 (table 3) can be explained by research which has shown that people with learning disabilities died at younger ages than other people. They also die more commonly of some particular causes. Two causes stood out because they resulted in a strikingly large number of deaths of people with most sorts of learning disabilities and they might be preventable. They were; problems caused by solids or liquids in the lungs or windpipe, epilepsy or convulsions (Glover & Ayub, 2010).

Disability free life expectancy

Disability free life expectancy is the average number of years a person from birth would live disability free (no limiting long term illness).

Figure 8 shows Disability Free life Expectancy (DFLE) at birth. For males on the Isle of Wight in period 2010–2012 this was 63.3 years, statistically significantly lower than the England average of 64.1 years and for females it was 65.2 years, slightly higher than the England average of 65 years but not significantly.

Figure 8:

Effect on daily activities

Figure 9 shows the percentage of people living with a long term health problem or disability who consider their condition affects their everyday activities. The data includes problems that are related to old age.

The Isle of Wight has a statistically significantly higher percentage (23%) of people who consider their disability affects their daily life than the England average (18%) and the South East average which is 16%.
Service use

Figure 10 shows the number of people with a main category disability accessing council services. This is a snapshot from November 2013 and shows that the majority of people accessing council services are elderly, which is in line with the higher than average older population on the Isle of Wight.

Disabled Facilities Grant

The Disabled Facilities Grant is a statutory entitlement that helps disabled people to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their own home through the provision of adaptations. For further information on grants please visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-disabled-facilities-capital-grant-determination-2013-to-2014.
References


Useful Links

LD profiles for the Isle of Wight: www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/profiles/