

6.9 VULNERABLE ADULTS – PHYSICALLY DISABLED AND SENSORY IMPAIRED

6.9 NEEDS OF SPECIFIC CLIENT GROUPS

INTRODUCTION

People with a wide range of chronic or recurring health problems and impairments can be disabled by their condition. This section primarily considers the needs of physically disabled adults aged between 18 and 64 years and people with sensory impairments, but it is recognised that many of the needs of this age group will continue into old age. Under the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) a person must have (or had) a disability or impairment which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least a year, and substantially limits their ability to carry out day-to-day activities to be considered disabled.

A second definition of disability focuses on society. In this model disability results from the exclusive nature of society. Restricted access to services, employment and social life experiences, together with discrimination and prejudice, can be seen as disabling processes as they prevent an equal participation in society.

The information in this section is drawn from a number of sources, including the Social Care Plan and xxx. There is no single strategy or service framework for disabled people in Wales at the current time. Cardiff Council is working with partners to develop a commissioning strategy for those with physical disabilities. The Advisory Planning Group identified key principles for the Social Care Plan, in promoting the long term health and social care for people with physical disabilities:

- To safeguard people who are frail or otherwise vulnerable
- To provide seamless and complementary support from health and social care, housing and related services
- To ensure that the services on which people depend are organised to be responsive to their needs and are sustainably funded
- To address problems in respect of transport, access, mobility and living in rural areas
- To tackle discrimination against people with physical disabilities in the workplace and promote access to work opportunities
- To promote access to lifelong learning and extends awareness of Welsh culture, heritage and recreational opportunities
- To promote positive attitudes and inclusion towards people with physical

disabilities.

PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY

DISABILITY IN BRITAIN¹

Key facts about disability:

- There are 6.9 million disabled people of working age in Great Britain, accounting for nearly one fifth of the working age population.
- Disabled people are only about half as likely as non-disabled people to be in employment. There are currently over 3 million disabled people in employment: they make up 12% of all people in employment.
- Almost half the disabled population of working age in Britain are classified as economically inactive.
- The level of disability increases with age: some 10% of those aged 16-24 years have a current long-term disability compared with 34% of those aged 50 to state pension age.
- Asian and Asian British people aged 50+ (44%) and Black and Black British people aged 50+ (43%) generally have higher disability rates than the white population (33%).
- There are regional variations in the incidence of disability which may to some extent be due to differences in the age profile of the local population. Higher than average proportions of disabled people are found in Wales and the north of England. Disabled people make up one in six of Wales' population.²
- Disabled people are nearly five times as likely as non-disabled people to be out of work and claiming benefits. There are over 2.8 million disabled people out of work and on benefits.
- Overall, disabled people are twice as likely as non-disabled people to have no qualifications.

DISABILITY IN CARDIFF

The number of people registered disabled with the Council in Cardiff has changed little over the last three years:

31-Mar-01	31-Mar-02	31-Mar-03
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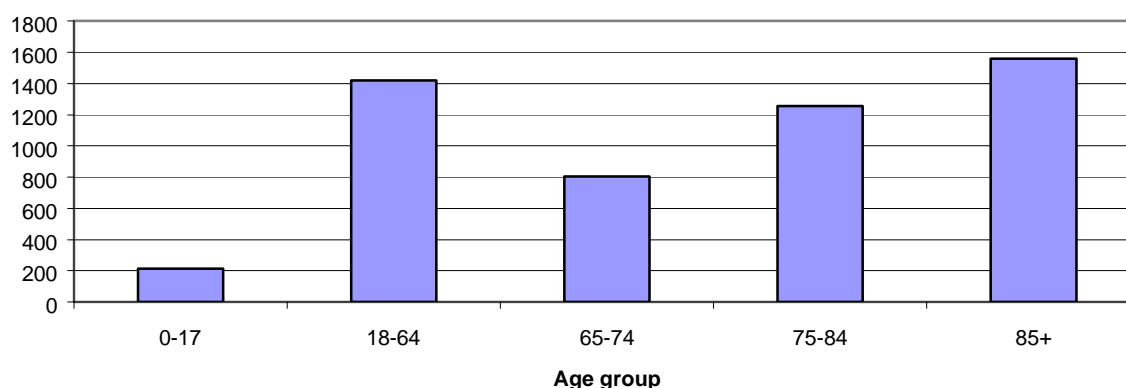
¹ Extract from the Disability Rights Commission Briefing February 2003

² Disability Rights Commission - Wales

5205	5191	5163
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Source; SSDA900 return

Number of people on the register of the physically disabled, as of 31/3/2003



In common with national trends³ the prevalence of disability is shown to increase with age in this snapshot of the register, with only 27% of the disabled on the register in Cardiff being of working age.

Few people, apart from those registered with a sensory impairment, wish to be registered with “social services” these days. Better measures of the number of disabled people are people claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA), paid to people who are disabled, and who, as a result, have either personal care needs or mobility needs or both.

The total number of people in Cardiff claiming DLA and Mobility Allowance was 27,200 in August 2000⁴. The percentage of people claiming these benefits (of all ages) is higher in the south of Cardiff , as is shown in the mapped data from the previous year’s figures.

Disability Living Allowance and Mobility Allowance (Attendance Allowance) Benefit Recipients August 2000		
Pre March 1999 Electoral Divisions	DLA & Mobility Allowance [1]	DLA or Mobility Allowance Benefit Recipients as % of Total Population [A]
Caerau	1,505	14.0
Splott	1,670	13.3
Llanrumney	1,560	12.8
Ely	2,035	12.4
Llandaff North	965	11.7
Grangetown	1,685	11.0
Rumney	965	10.8
Adamsdown	890	10.7
Butetown	640	10.5

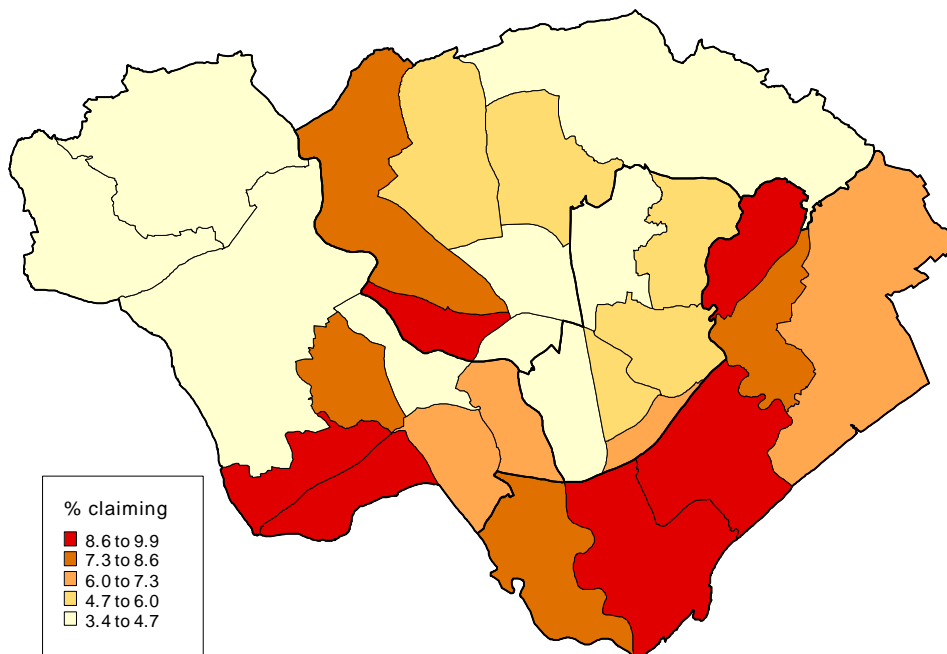
³ NHS Executive(1997) *Burdens of Disease*

⁴ ONS Neighbourhood Statistics August 2000

Fairwater	1,425	10.4
Trowbridge	1,765	10.1
Riverside	1,305	9.9
Canton	1,140	8.5
Pentwyn	1,455	8.3
Whitchurch and Tongwynlais	1,180	7.7
Llanishen	990	6.4
Plasnewydd	1,090	6.3
Rhiwbina	610	5.4
Roath	670	5.3
Pentyrch	195	5.3
Heath	605	5.2
Radyr and St. Fagans	325	5.2
Llandaff	450	5.0
Gabalfa	385	4.6
Cyncoed	470	4.5
Lisvane and St. Mellons	485	4.3
Cathays	625	4.3
Creigiau	115	4.0
Cardiff Total	27,200	8.4

Source: (1) ONS Neighbourhood Statistics 2000 (A) Population base from Cardiff Research Centre mid-year estimates 1999.

% persons claiming Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance August 1999⁵
(pre March 1999 boundaries)

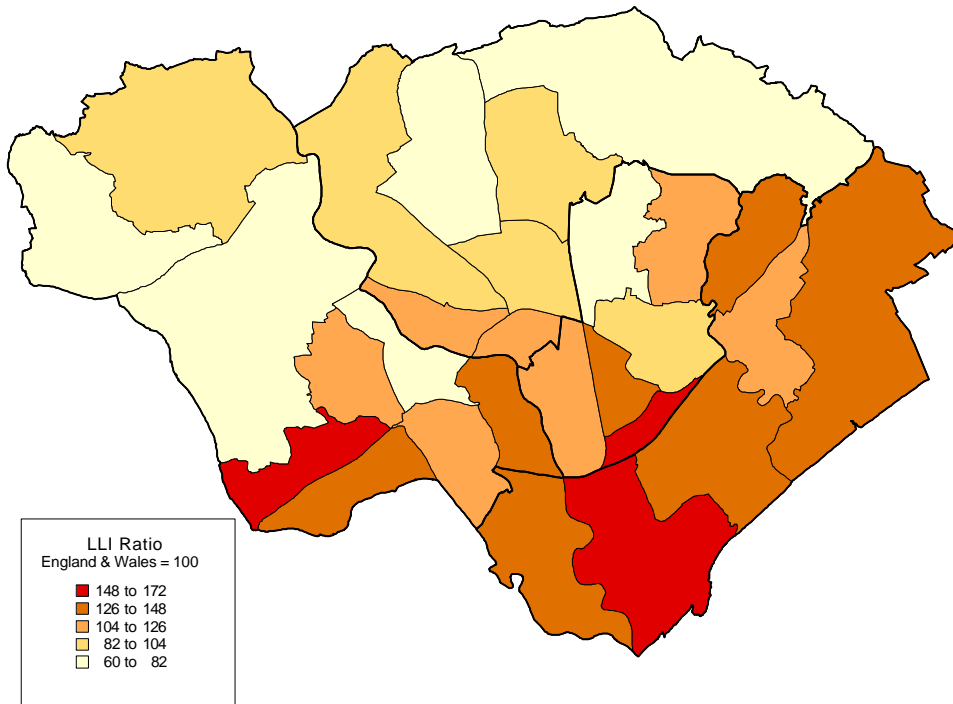


Source: © National Statistics 2001

⁵ Cardiff Community Profile 2002

A second measure of disablement is the limiting long term illness ratio, a self-reported measure of long term illness, health problems or handicap which limit the person's daily activities or employment options. In Cardiff, 18 of the electoral divisions have levels of limiting long term illness above the England and Wales average.

Limiting long-term illness ratio 1991 (pre March 1999 electoral divisions)⁶



Another measure of the number of disabled people in Cardiff is the number of vehicle badges in circulation. The Council issues vehicle badges for people who are physically or visually disabled (Blue Car Badges). Applicants who are in receipt of the higher rate of the care component of DLA, or who are registered blind, are entitled to a vehicle badge without further assessment. Most badges are issued for a three year period, and then renewed. The number of badges on issue is shown below, 36% to people of working age.

Number of Blue Car Badges on issue to individuals at a given date

31-Mar-01	31-Mar-02	31-Mar-03
17199	18197	18493

⁶ Cardiff Community Profile 2002

TYPES OF IMPAIRMENT

In a recent study of attitudes to, and experiences of, disability⁷ the authors classify physical impairments in their survey, (using the Disability Discrimination Act definition of disability), as follows:

Mobility problems

difficulties getting around or moving from place to place

Lifting/dexterity problems

difficulties lifting or carrying everyday objects or with using their hands

Severe disfigurement

a severe disfigurement, such as a malformed limb, a facial scar or a skin disease

Hearing impairment

a hearing difficulty

Visual impairment

difficulty seeing, so that they find it hard to read, even with glasses

Speech impairment

a speech impairment which affects their ability to take part in a spoken conversation

Progressive illness

a progressive illness, such as cancer, multiple sclerosis or Alzheimer's disease

Long-standing condition

a long standing condition such as diabetes, epilepsy or a heart condition

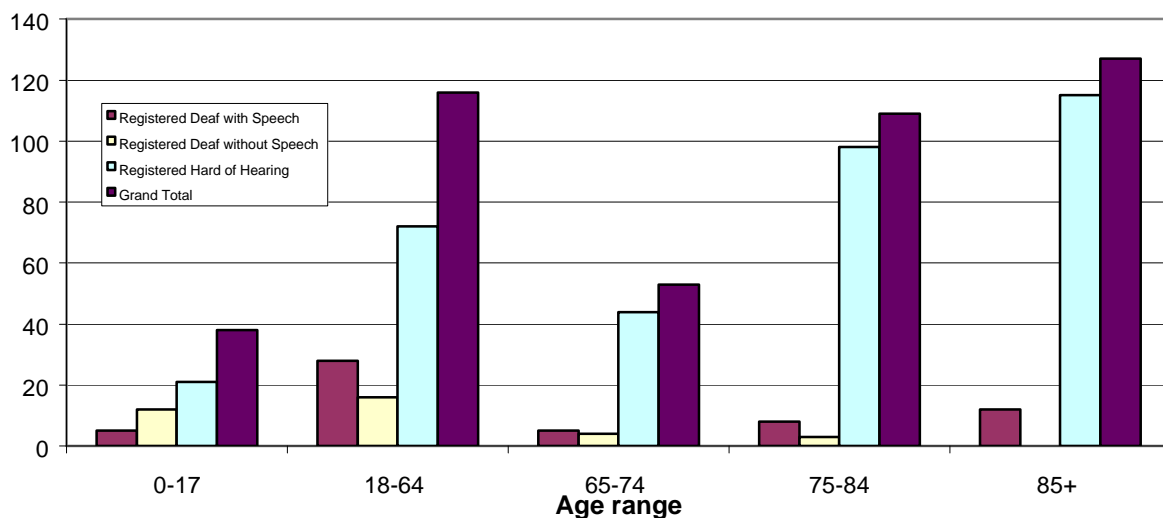
Past disability

a disability or long-standing illness such as cancer or mental illness in the past, (now recovered).

Hearing impairment

People with sensory impairments are registered within the register of people with physical disabilities. The following tables show the number of people with sensory impairments registered in Cardiff by age range.

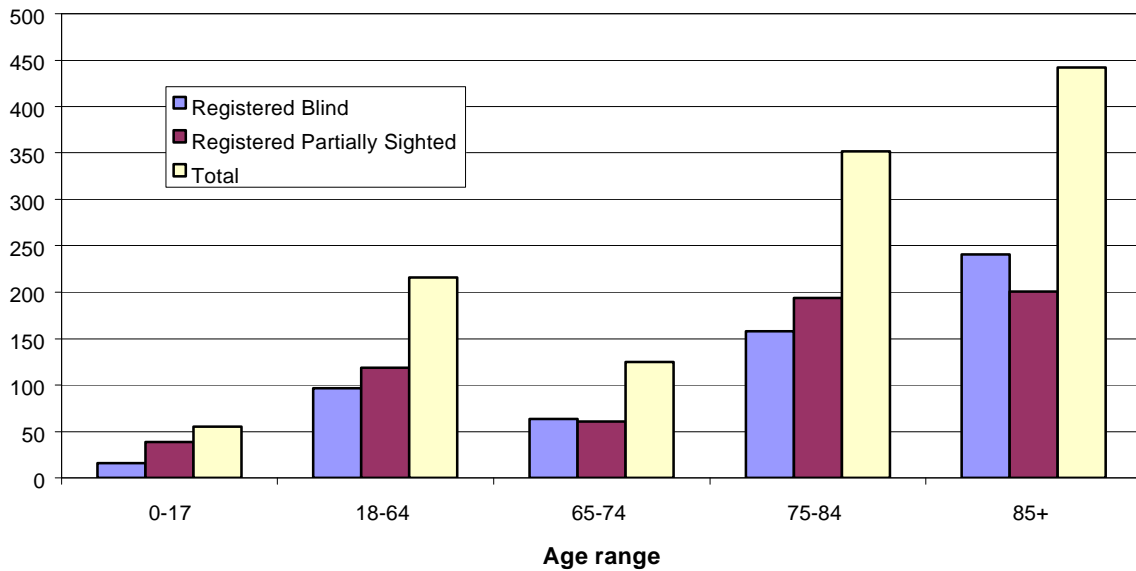
Number of people registered with Hearing impairment June 2003



⁷ National Centre for Social Research (2002) *Disabled for Life?*

Visual impairment

Number of people registered with visual impairment, June 2003



Mobility

Wheelchair users?
Self assessment?
Adapted properties

Progressive illnesses

Health input

Longstanding conditions

e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions

Health input

Speech impairment

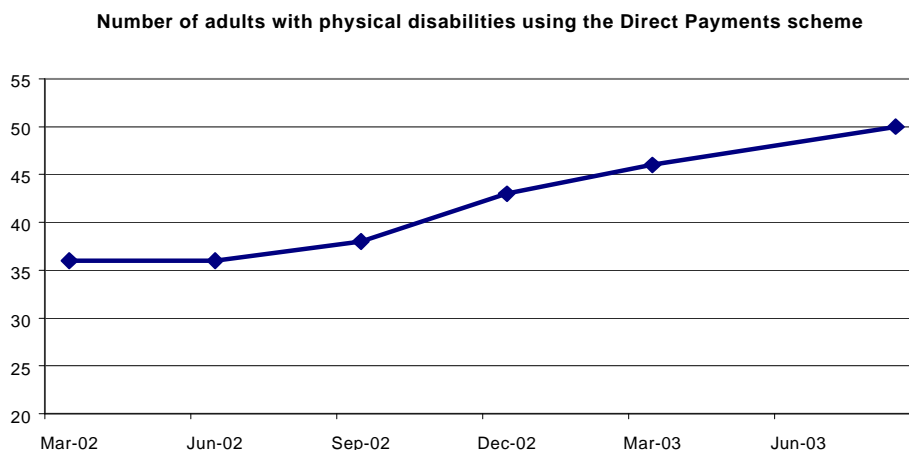
Health input

6.6.7 PROVISION OF SERVICES AND IDENTIFIED GAPS - PHYSICALLY DISABLED AND SENSORY IMPAIRED

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROVISION OF SERVICES

A range of services are offered to people with physical disabilities and their carers, that are age appropriate, and that are designed to help them live as independently as possible in their own homes, for example, through the Direct Payments Scheme. Services are arranged including home care, day care, and residential care, from in-house providers and the independent sector. It is important to ensure that services are age appropriate: for example, people are supported in work, or to have ordinary family lives.

Direct Payments



Direct Payments offers funding to physically disabled people for them to purchase their care and employ personal assistants, rather than using domiciliary care arranged by Adult Services. The scheme is seen as empowering disabled users, as they have the opportunity to commission a wider range of flexible care than is often possible in mainstream domiciliary care. The number of people who are on the scheme has increased steadily over the past year.

Initially the Direct Payments Scheme was for people of working age but has been extended to people with learning disabilities and older people (2 users). Although the numbers of physically disabled people using the Direct Payments is currently small, the Disability Coalition is working with other people who are potential users of the service.

Services to People with Physical Disabilities also addresses the needs of people with sensory impairments, such as hearing or sight impairment. People with these impairments have their needs identified and addressed by specialist social workers. A significant number of people will have more than one disability. The prevalence of disabilities, severity and likelihood of having more than one form of disability increases significantly with age.

Assessment and care management services to People with Physical Disabilities are provided from six resource centres in the community, from the University Hospital of Wales and from Rookwood Hospital. The caseload (keyworker responsibility only) by electoral division is shown in following table, showing that the heaviest caseloads for the younger age group are in the south of Cardiff.

Electoral Division	Number of users aged 18-64, at 30/6/03	Rate per 1000 population aged 18-64⁸
Grangetown	203	21.2
Riverside	178	20.2
Plasnewydd	176	13.5
Ely	176	18.8
Splott	172	23.0
Pentwyn	165	14.5
Trowbridge	158	15.2
Caerau	155	24.7
Whitchurch	136	15.4
Fairwater	130	15.9
Llanrumney	130	19.5
Adamsdown	122	20.9
Canton	113	13.2
Llanishen	108	11.8
Butetown	102	27.4
Llandaff North	88	18.4
Rumney	84	16.4
Cathays	69	5.7
Heath	66	9.4
Penylan	64	7.6
Cyncoed	59	9.3
Rhiwbina	57	9.1
Pontprennau/Old St. Mellons	46	8.3
Gabalfa	38	5.9
Llandaff	36	6.4
Radyr & Morganstown	33	10.8
Lisvane	16	7.2
Pentyrch	15	6.3
Creigiau	12	4.4
Living outside Cardiff boundary	301	
No fixed abode, etc.	69	

⁸ Population base: Cardiff Research Centre Mid 1999 population estimates

There is one day centre for physically disabled people at Highfields (Heath), and day care facilities are also provided at Cord House in Fairwater.

Sensory impairment

Services in Cardiff

The Cardiff County Council has a Sensory Impairment Team working within Adult Services. The team works to enable those over 18, whose lives are affected by Sensory Impairment to maximise their abilities. Currently there are three full-time Specialist Social Workers for Visually Impaired People, One Rehabilitation Officer for the Blind, Two full-time Social Workers for Hearing Impaired People, and two part-time Social workers for Hearing Impaired People.

In the period 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003, 533 people were referred to the Team. In 31st May 2003, 223 people were currently allocated to the Team.

When individuals have a dual impairment a social worker from both specialisms will undertake a joint assessment of need, and will work together to provide services. This aspect of the service has been enhanced by the team having been brought together in one base in 2002.

One element of work is enabling individuals to maximise their remaining abilities, through assessment, provision of equipment, and through rehabilitation to encourage independence. Another element is providing support and counselling to enable adjustment to sensory loss, especially those whose hearing loss has cut them off from the "hearing world".

Social Workers in the Child Health and Disability Team provide a service to children and young people under 18. A protocol is being developed for the transfer of these young people at 18.

Facilities

The Sensory Impairment Team is based in Whitchurch. The Centre has an equipment demonstration room, where those able to come to the Centre, may be assessed for equipment which will alleviate the difficulties brought about by their sensory loss. Domiciliary visits are made to those unable to access the Centre.

The Rehabilitation Officer for the Blind undertakes mobility training for individuals in and around their homes. In addition some courses are provided at the Centre.

Insight, a self-help group for visually impaired people, is supported to meet weekly at the Centre in order to provide peer support.

Some information is routinely available on tape. All other information is provided in alternative forms on request.

Current Service gaps (Headline level only)

Current Service Gaps

Only small amount of general information is available to those who are pre-lingually deaf and have limited use of English.

The prevalence of sensory loss increases with age. With a growing elderly population the demands on the service are increasing. This may lead to a time delay before individuals who are referred may be seen for assessment.

Although technical advances have resulted in more types of equipment being available, the range of equipment which may be provided is limited by the budget available. The ability to meet all assessed needs in a timely manner is threatened by the increasing demand.

There is a need for provision of Home Carers able to work with the small but growing number of older people who are reliant on sign language to communicate.

Projected Development

Although specialist social workers work together with individuals with dual sensory loss no individual member of staff is employed or trained to work specifically with this group of people. This area has potential for development, not solely for assessment and care management purposes, but in terms of provision e.g. guide-helpers able to communicate and provide services to those who are deaf-blind.

Disabled facilities: equipment provided by the local authority

	2001/2	2002/3
Adaptations to property	1778	1958
Telephone equipment and rentals	209	362
Television and radio equipment	97	64
Other personal equipment e.g. kitchen equipment, special chairs, hoists	6230	6147

Source: AS3 return

Disabled Services

The Disabled Service provides a one stop shop in enabling disabled

service users and carers to receive a complete package of assistance, from an assessment of their need to the provision of equipment or adaptations to their home.

Disabled Services provide three main services:

- Occupational Therapy Service
- Grants Service
- Small works and community equipment loan service.

The integration of these three previously independent services at the Council's last re-organisation has brought improvements in communication and quality of service across the three areas. Waiting times have been cut for the clients initial assessment of needs, the delivery of equipment and the provision of grant aid for major adaptations.

Disabled Facilities Grants Approximately 770 grants are successfully completed every year. The demand for this type of assistance is large and there are consequently waiting lists to receive grant aid. The number of people waiting for a grant at 1st August 2003 was 1,400 with a further 98 clients joining the list every month. The waiting list is prioritised to ensure that the available money is effectively targeted at those with the most urgent needs.

Small works and equipment The small works and equipment service provides specialist equipment on a loan basis (such as bathing aids, portable hoists). In 2002/03 this service delivered equipment and fitted small adaptations (such as grab rails, additional stair rails etc.) to 3,996 service users. The small works service (adaptations up to the value of £500 to provide measures such as external handrails, ramping, relaying of unsafe paths etc.) was provided to approximately 1,276 residents in 2002/03.

Occupational therapy The occupational therapy service visits residents in their own homes to make an assessment of their needs. A range of services can be provided as a result of this assessment from advice only, to a request for specialist equipment or major adaptation through the Disabled Facilities grant programme. The service made approximately 6,300 assessments of peoples' needs in 2002/03. Residents waiting for assessment are prioritised ensuring that those with the most urgent needs are seen first. The re-organisation and subsequent recruitment drive by the therapy service has seen the list of people waiting for an assessment reduce from 975 in 2000 to 491 in 2003.

Community occupational therapists work closely with their health service counterparts especially around situations such as hospital discharges. This collaborative working together with the timely provision of specialist equipment helps to alleviate the pressures on the health service by helping to get patients discharged early and preventing admissions in the first place.

The disabled facilities service covers disabled residents of all ages, however the majority of our clients are elderly. The percentage of clients receiving a grant who were aged 65 or over is 61% and the percentage of clients over the age of 65 who received the equipment loan or small works service was 74%. The increase of the elderly population will put an ever increasing pressure on the disabled facilities service.

Current Service Gaps

- We are unable to achieve parity on the length of time residents must wait for a grant in the private and public sectors. This is due to the fact that funding sources are different for the public and private sectors with investment levels lower in the public sector than those in the private sector.
- There is a pressing need for a specialised Paediatric occupational therapy service that is currently not provided.
- There is a wide pay differential between community occupational therapists and NHS occupational therapists. Until this differential is addressed, we will continue to experience problems with recruitment and retention of quality community occupational therapists.
- Central Government are calling for equipment loan services nationally to be provided to substantially more people than at present (in England this is 50% more people than currently receive the service). In addition to providing the service to more people, it is a further target of central Government to provide most equipment within a five day period. Without a substantial increase in the resources available to provide this service we will be unable to achieve these targets.

Independent Living Fund

Information to come from Adrian Williams

GAPS IN GENERAL SERVICE PROVISION

Residential Care

- Lack of specialist provision
- Need for placements that can cope with complex needs

Respite

- Lack of provision
- Service users and their carers don't like current provision
- Current provision disabling

Day Care

- Lack of clarity about purpose of day care
- Provision from one only 'in-house' centre that causes transport problems
- Provision for returning to work
- Lack of flexibility around opening hours

Direct Payments

- Re-launch and expand service

Other

- Transition from children's services to adult
- Need for residential re-ablement unit
- Extra provision for community based re-ablement and crisis intervention
- Provision of services to regional units