

## LEARNING DISABILITIES NEEDS ANALYSIS INFORMATION

**Summary of needs:** Based on national statistics, there are an estimated 5366 people not currently known to the Learning Disability Partnership. Of the 1326 who are known, 517 are in residential care (and some may want to move to more independent accommodation in the future), 596 are living with carers (and little is currently known of these people's future needs although it is appropriate to assume that a large number will require supported accommodation. Current provision of housing related support is 21 short term and 22 long term accommodation based units, and 13 short term, 82 long term floating support units. Unmet need is therefore potentially huge, and more research is needed to define what housing related support is needed by this client group now and in the future.

### 1. The scale of the problem

**Department of Health statistics:** (1998) Approximately 2% of the general population are thought to be people with different abilities, defined as significant impairments of intelligence and social functioning acquired before adulthood.

**SEVERE LEARNING DISABILITIES:** Around 145,000 adults in England have severe learning disabilities (0.28% of the total population), which may equate to around 14,500 in the South West.

**MILD TO MODERATE LEARNING DISABILITIES:** A further 1.25 million people (2.5% of the total population) have mild and moderate learning disabilities, or 125,000 in the south west.

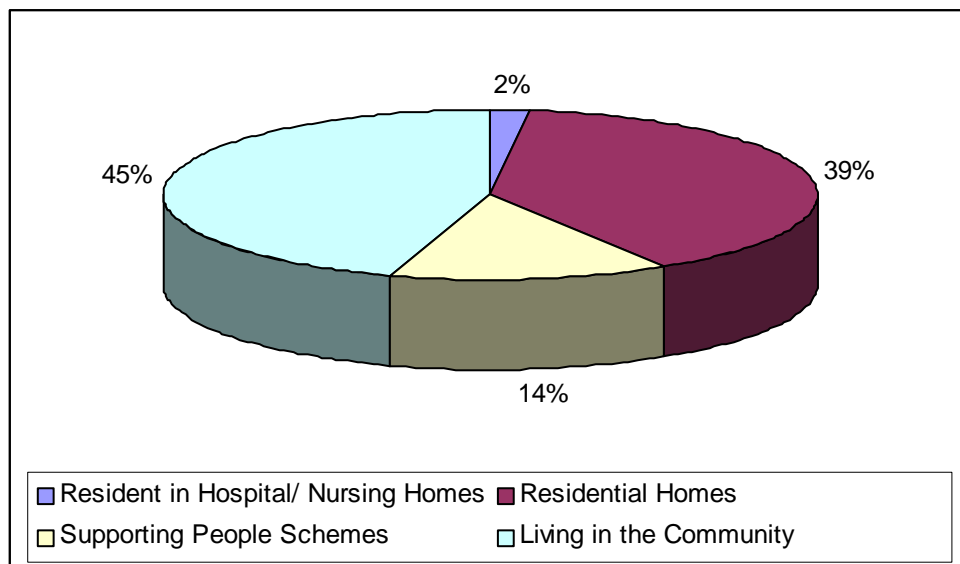
**England figures from Valuing People White Paper.**

**Adults in Plymouth with a learning disability:** There are 1326 learning-disabled adults in Plymouth known to the Learning Disability Partnership, but there are many more people who are not known to or supported by statutory services - who struggle to identify and secure suitable accommodation and to live independently.

The general adult population (18+) for the city is approximately 194,486 (Registrar General mid 2000 estimates) giving a prevalence of adults with different abilities known to Health and Social Services of 0.68% - much lower than would be expected from Department of Health figures. There may therefore be additional people living independently or semi-independently and not currently in touch with services.

**2. Where do people with a learning disability live?**

**LEARNING DISABLED ADULTS KNOWN TO THE LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP:**



**45% of the people known to the Learning Disability Partnership live in their own accommodation or with parents/carers in the community (the majority live with carers).** Nothing is known at present about how many of these people are likely to live independently, but work is underway to enable individuals and their carers to plan for the future.

14% of those known live in independent housing supported by staff from SP grant.

39% live in residential care and again a small proportion of these may be able to live independently or with friends.

Residential home placements costs the authority over 11 million pounds annually for 518 people.

The learning Disability Parenting Team is currently working with approximately 20 families (all referred in the last 6 months since the team started). All have a need for ongoing support as individuals as well as with their parenting skills.

**CORE DATA: Learning Disabled clients that were allocated supported housing accommodation during 2003-2004: 2 (1% of lettings).** The accuracy of this data is queried.

**3. Commissioned research regarding needs:**

**EKOS Plymouth Vulnerable Groups Housing Research 2004:** (telephone survey including: Bay Training and Support Services, Caretime Services, Carewatch, Discovery South West, Durnford Society Limited, First

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**Steps, Havencare Plymouth, Lifeway, Mencap, Plymouth Homeside Society, Plymouth Independent Living, Salvation Army, Scope, The Dove Project, The Ship, The Walkway).**

Total number of clients receiving services from organisations who were surveyed: 275+ (6%+) (some organisations could not say how many clients they served – therefore the + figure indicates where the actual number is likely to be higher).

Total number of addresses/points of service available to learning disabled: 34 (18% of total addresses/points).

Client Type	Number of Clients	Support required	Type of support where stated	Number
Learning Disabled	275+++  (Current client demand as defined by EKOS – organisations surveyed reported a shortfall in provision.	No – Zero Low – 55 Medium – 124 High – 89 Not known – 7	Floating	219
			Visiting	105
			Warden	4
			Peripatetic warden	5
			Alarm/on call system	105
		(Low support = 1-2 hours; medium 3-6 hours; high 6+ hours)	Day time staff on site with emergency call out	14
			24 hour cover with sleeping staff	22
			24 hour cover with waking night staff	8
			Live in landlady/landlord	0
			Anything else	0

### 4. Partnership work to identify and address needs in the city re. learning disability:

#### **Learning Disabilities Services Commissioning Priorities 2004/05 – Evidence Based Approach (July 2004).**

##### **SUPPORT / ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED**

Work with the Learning Disability Partnership strategy group has highlighted the following needs:

- Housing support for parents, but where staff are trained in the needs of families. People often experience problems when children are born as the focus shifts from managing independently to managing the child. Children often trigger housing/support needs – with the need to move to more suitable housing or for support due to reasons above. The service should meet needs of all parents not just those people with a learning disability. No specialist

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housing required, just good quality in a good area, with access to facilities. It is important to enable access to wider facilities, e.g. Sure Start.

- Short-term transition accommodation providing assessment / (intensive) training in life skills. Approx 6 flats developed on a core and cluster model, with staff room and communal area. Stay approx 1/2 years then move-on to permanent accommodation.
- Core and cluster supported permanent accommodation with sleep-in for staff – for more vulnerable individuals. Small numbers in each cluster.
- 'Home finder' service to facilitate access to a range of housing options.
- A rent deposit scheme to enable people to access the private sector. The PATH service in the City caters only for single people who are/will be homeless and funds are limited.
- Community based support, such as the Key Ring service. Support to those people living in the community by staff and via linking with peer group in vicinity.
- Extra care housing – not for those people now in residential care or who are developing health needs, but for those people coming through the system who will need this type of support in the future and who will also have the skills to cope when they first move in. Approx 5 – 10 units. Turnover would be low, so further provision would need to be planned.
- Accommodation should be fully accessible to meet the needs of people with a physical / sensory impairment. Not many come through the service (1 / 2 a year), but those who do are difficult to place.
- Develop adult placement scheme.
- 'Hostel' style accommodation with high levels of care and support to meet the needs of 16/17 year olds with chaotic behaviour who currently don't fit into any service and are unlikely to develop sufficient skills to live independently.

**Social Services residents in residential and nursing care at October 2004:** 289 – higher than comparator (i.e. average levels of residential and nursing care for 15 comparators if they had an identical population to Plymouth). Reasonably stable over year with an average of 286.9 (taken over 10 months between Jan 04 and Oct 04).

**Social Services completed assessments for new clients between 1.4.03 and 31.3.04:**

Total assessments completed = 4 (of which all were aged between 18-64).

**5. Other issues that affect housing related support for learning disabled:**

**(a) Increased likelihood of Downs Syndrome adult developing Alzheimers Disease.**

**DEALING WITH LEARNING DISABLED ADULTS WITH ALTZEIMERS DISEASE:**

**(Judith McBrien, Clinical Psychologist, Learning Disability Partnership. McBrien, Whitwham, Olverman, Masters, October 2004.)**

- There is an increased risk of Alzheimers Disease amongst people with Downs Syndrome – come to light recently as life expectancy of people with DS has extended.
- Early detection is important for care and treatment decisions – e.g. can the current care package be adjusted over time to cope with increasing needs or will a move be necessary.
- Highlighted a total of 164 adults with DS (representing about 11% of the LD population in Plymouth – lower than the 20% often cited).
- Alberman et al (1992) states that people with Downs Syndrome make up an estimated 0.11% of the general population nationally – and on this basis, based on a population within Plymouth of 240,720 that would mean we might expect 264 adults with Downs Syndrome living in Plymouth. Children will make up some of this number, but the question arises whether there is a hidden population (though research suggests that there is little evidence of hidden populations).
- Ages of those with Downs Syndrome:

Age Group	Number
18-29 years	32 (22%)
30-39 years	35 (24%)
40-49 years	41 (29%)
50-59 years	26 (18%)
60-69 years	8 (6%)
70+ years	2 (1%)

As the 'at risk' group of around 40 years of age constitute the majority group, this constitutes a potential sudden rise in demand. However, of those who were screened as having probable alzheimers, 91% were already living in residential care, with 10% living with relatives (2).

29% of those with a diagnosis of AD have experienced a move of accommodation since their first screening, compared to only 7% of the non-AD group – what is the capacity of residential homes to provide care for people (see extra care section).

**(b) Difficulties in accessing health provision:** Only 15% of women with learning disabilities receive cervical smears, compared to a national average of 80%. **Services for Vulnerable Adults, GOSW, 2004.**

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### (c) High incidence of offending or 'risky' behaviour:

**There is a high incidence of offending or 'risky' behaviour with the known intellectually disabled population: 26% (McBrien et al 2003) –** however it is not known whether housing support needs are reasons for such behaviour.

### (d) Factors influencing the ability of parents with a learning disability to bring up their children (Power and Hodgetts, June 2002):

Retrospective study or referrals to a learning disability parenting service 1993 – 2000.

- There is a significant link between learning disabled parents living in the most deprived areas, and them experiencing 'chaotic' lives which may affect ability to live independently (i.e. poverty, lack of access to services, partners separated often due to violence, frequent home moves, difficulties sustaining adult relationships etc.).
- 2/3rds of the families lived in the poorest city neighbourhoods.

## 6. Consultation about needs:

### (a) Consultation with service users

Service users, through the focus group, prioritised the following support tasks:

- **Priority 1**
  - Help to claim benefits & to manage personal finances
  - Help to develop life skills like cooking, cleaning and budgeting
  - Making sure they took medication and monitoring health
- **Priority 2**
  - Helping to keep the home clean
  - Help to find other accommodation
  - Befriending/peer group support
  - Help to develop skills to socialise and deal with other people
- **Priority 3**
  - Advice and support on repair work or home improvement work
  - Help, advice or support to feel safe and secure
  - Practical help from a handy person

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### (b) Consultation with Learning Disability Partnership:

Consultation with service users, providers and other stakeholders through the Learning Disability Partnership highlighted the following type of service provision as a priority:

- **Priority 1**
  - Adult placements
- **Priority 2**
  - Short-term transition accommodation providing assessment / life skills training. Cluster flats with communal space and staff accommodation.
  - Rent deposit scheme to help people access private rented housing.
  - Floating support for parents, with staff trained in the needs of families.
- **Priority 3**
  - Supported accommodation suitable for people with physical disabilities.
  - Community based support, like the key-ring scheme.
  - Extra care housing.
  - 'Home finder' service.
- **Priority 4**
  - Core and cluster supported permanent accommodation with sleep-in staff for more vulnerable individuals.
  - Supported accommodation for people with offending behaviour.

Stakeholders also commented that support towards employment and social inclusion were of significant importance.

NB Not all priorities identified by stakeholders meet the strategic aims of the Supporting People programme. These include the development of adult placements, and hostel style accommodation with high levels of care and support for people that are unlikely to develop sufficient skills to live independently. Although not a strategic priority for Supporting People, the programme could work with partner agencies with a view to contributing towards the development of such services to meet their priorities.